

*Santa Barbara County*

*Juvenile Justice  
Crime Prevention Act*

**Comprehensive Multiagency  
Juvenile Justice Plan**

**2012**

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## **1. Executive Summary**

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) provides funding to local jurisdictions to support initiatives and strategies that target juvenile crime and delinquency, and juvenile offenders and at-risk juveniles. The JJCPA requires counties to annually review and approve their individual Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and update it as necessary. The CMJJP identifies priorities, discusses strategies, and reports on the programs utilized. The JJCPA was created in 2000 and is codified in Section 30061 of the Government Code, et seq.

This document is Santa Barbara County's 2012 CMJJP. It describes the County's juvenile justice system and provides State and local juvenile crime information. It identifies and discusses the strategies the County employs to address juvenile crime and related funding capabilities.

The 2012 CMJJP seeks to positively impact the rate of juvenile crime and delinquency through efforts established in previous years. These include efforts to address gang crime, improve school safety and attendance through School-Based Officer (SBO) caseloads, mental health services, and gender-responsive interventions. These efforts will collaboratively involve agencies and professionals from various disciplines in the public and private sectors. The Probation Department (Probation) continues to seek funding sources to bolster existing resources, maintain current initiatives, or create new opportunities.

Santa Barbara County received \$1.46 million at the inception of the JJCPA and has seen that amount decrease over time to \$991,491 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12. As a result of the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act, the FY 2012-13 JJCPA allocation has increased to \$1.21 million. Through the use of other funding sources such as Title IV-E and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), Probation has been able to fund personnel and services. This has helped maintain JJCPA funded programs and services, and prevented reductions to community-based programs. However, allocations from those sources have also decreased over time, further limiting Probation's ability to be flexible with funding and resources. Overall, Probation's Juvenile Division has experienced a nearly 34 percent decrease in sworn and non-sworn positions since FY 2007-08.

JJCPA funds are used to provide Early Intervention (EI) Officers and SBOs in each of Probation's regional areas. Funds also support counseling services by community-based organizations (CBO). Referrals are made by Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) for juveniles who may benefit from a counseling program that addresses the juvenile's specific needs and challenges. When an established counseling program is not available to meet the needs of a juvenile in certain cases, Probation has been able to develop an individual intervention to meet those needs. These are usually short-term interventions provided to detained youth or youth with mental health needs, and are not funded by JJCPA.

## **2. Santa Barbara County**

Santa Barbara County is the 19<sup>th</sup> largest county by population with a total of 425,840 residents, or 1.13 percent of the State's total population. In this respect, it is between Tulare and Monterey

Counties. From July 1, 2010, to July 1, 2011, the County experienced an increase of 1,549 residents making it the 24<sup>th</sup> largest county in terms of numeric change. In this respect, it is between Santa Cruz and Marin Counties. For the same period, the County was 30<sup>th</sup> in total percentage change with an increase of .37 percent. In this respect, it is between San Luis Obispo and Mono Counties (*July 1, 2011 County Estimates Ranked by Size, Numeric, and Percent Change Since July 1, 2010; State of California, Department of Finance*).

There are eight incorporated cities in the County, noted here by name, population, and State size rank out of 480 cities:

Santa Maria	100,062	#68
Santa Barbara	89,253	#82
Lompoc	42,262	#190
Goleta	30,032	#234
Carpinteria	13,104	#339
Guadalupe	7,115	#405
Solvang	5,289	#421
Buellton	4,878	#429

Except for Lompoc and Guadalupe, each city experienced an increase in population between July of 2010 and July of 2011 (*State of California, Department of Finance, January 2011, Tables of City Population Ranked by Size, Numeric and Percent Change, Sacramento, CA, May 2011*).

The net growth in the County population from 2000 to 2010 was 6.5 percent, most notably in the Santa Maria area, which grew by 28.5 percent.

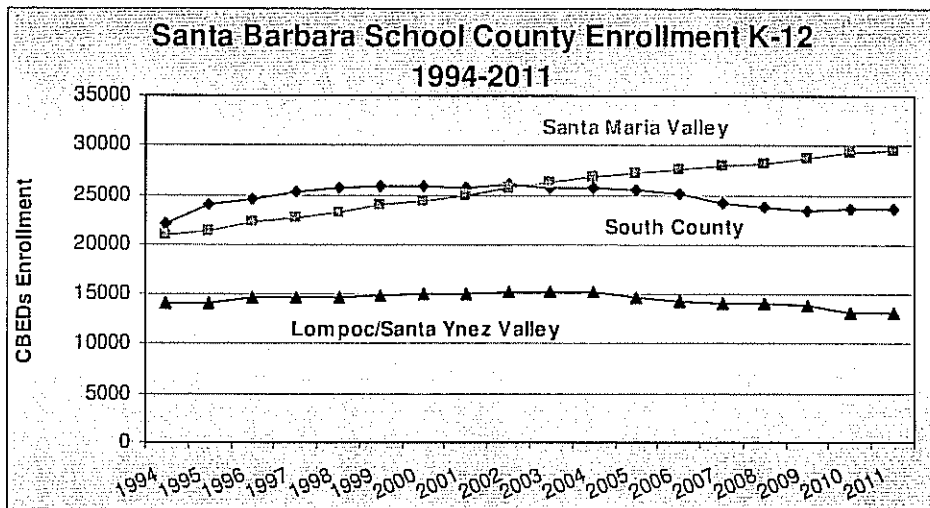
In terms of the youth population, it is estimated that there were a total of 35,239 persons in the 13 to 18 age-range, inclusive, residing in the County in 2011. Most were males (18,023) and most were Hispanic (17,768). The estimate for 2012 shows a total of 34,696 persons in this age range residing in the County. Again, most are males (17,700) and Hispanic (17,632). It is estimated that in 2015 there will be a total of 34,894 persons residing in the County. Most will be male (17,669) and Hispanic (18,780). It is estimated that for the year 2020, there will be a total of 37,527 persons in this age range residing in the County. Most will be male (18,980) and Hispanic (22,091) (*State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000 – 2050, Sacramento, California, July 2007*).

These State estimates of population growth indicate an increase of 2,288 persons in the 13 to 18 age range over the course of 10 calendar years. This represents only an increase of about 6.5 percent. In terms of the male population in this age range, the estimates indicate an increase of 957 persons, or 5.3 percent since 2011. Conversely, the female population is projected to increase by 1,331, or 7.7 percent. The number of Hispanic youth is projected to increase over this time by 4,323, or 24.3 percent, while the number of White youth is projected to decrease over this time by 2,500, or nearly 18 percent.

It is estimated that in the 2011–12 school year, there are a total of 20,326 students enrolled in public schools in the 9 through 12 grade levels in the County. This number is projected to be

19,877 students in 2015–16. This represents a decrease of 449 students, or 2.2 percent. For the 2019–20 school year the number is expected to decrease by 199 to 20,127 students, or just under one (1) percent. The number of high school graduates is expected to be 4,409 for 2011–12, 4,202 for 2015–16, and 3,838 for 2019–20 (*State of California, Department of Finance, California Public K -12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2011 Series, Sacramento, California, October 2011*).

As a percentage of the grade 12 enrollment for these years, the number of high school graduates is expected to decrease with non-graduates representing approximately 16, 17, and 18 percent respectively.



School population continues to show growth only in the Santa Maria Valley through school year 2010-11 based on the official school enrollment data released by the Santa Barbara County Office of Education in April of 2010. South County appears to be leveling out while the Lompoc/Santa Ynez Valley area continues to decline.

### 3. Santa Barbara County Juvenile Justice System

Numerous State and local agencies perform various duties and functions that either directly or indirectly support the objectives and efforts of the juvenile justice system. Some are detailed here.

#### Probation Department

Probation is the primary agency responsible for handling matters relating to juvenile crime and delinquency in the County. Through legal mandates, formal arrangements, and informal coordination, it balances the needs of the individual offender and the community, and develops appropriate case plans that meet those needs. It also plays a prominent role in many other venues where the general welfare of juveniles is the focus. Officers from all levels within Probation

participate in a number of initiatives and programs geared toward improving opportunities for young people.

Probation maintains intake, investigations, and supervision functions in the three largest communities in the County, making Probation services accessible to all residents. Supervision caseloads are kept at low levels whenever possible to enable officers to devote the time and attention necessary to meet the needs of juvenile offenders and their families. There are specialized caseloads in each area office including EI, SBO, Juvenile Drug Court (JDC), and YOBG cases. Some regional offices have been able to maintain other specialty caseloads including those with a serious mental illness, students at community schools, or female offenders.

A centralized placement unit is responsible for supervising all offenders placed with relative and non-relative caregivers, and in group homes. Foster care placement is sought only after other options have been attempted or considered. While Probation actively seeks to limit placement into foster care, the number of offenders in foster care programs has risen in the last year for the first time in many years. The high number of sex offenders in foster care is one reason for this increase. They tend to remain in treatment for lengthy periods and often times cannot readily return home because of victims remaining there.

The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) houses detained offenders from all regional jurisdictions. Probation also operates the Santa Barbara Receiving and Transport Center (RTC). Offenders brought to the facility requiring continued detention are transported to the SMJH by Probation personnel. Presently, the SMJH is staffed to accommodate 110 detained offenders. The Alternative Report and Resource Center (ARRC) is operated by the SMJH and includes home supervision and the use of electronic monitoring. Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) surveillance technology is also utilized by the SMJH and the Juvenile Division for specified offenders.

Probation operates two Camp programs for male offenders 13-18 years old in a rural location on land subject to a conditional use permit with the United States Forest Service. The Los Prietos Boys Academy (LPBA) is designed to meet the needs of younger, less sophisticated offenders, whereas the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) is designed for older, more sophisticated offenders. Both are commitment programs with aftercare components. In July 2009, the capacity of the programs was increased from 75 to 85 in order to shorten the waiting period for Camp admission. Since 1998, the Camp programs have consistently maintained an 85 percent to 90 percent successful completion rate.

### Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Court maintains two courtrooms in the County, one in Santa Barbara and one in Santa Maria, with a judicial officer hearing delinquency and dependency matters at both locations. The majority of cases are heard in the northern portion of the County as it draws matters from two of the largest communities, Santa Maria and Lompoc. The JDC calendars are heard in all locations of the County. The Juvenile Court in Santa Barbara County received 1,580 filings in FY 2009-10 for delinquency matters. These resulted in 1,502 dispositions, 1,465 of which were reached following a hearing. (*Judicial Branch Statistical Information System, 2011*)

*Court Statistics Report of Statewide Caseload Trends, 2000-2001 through 2009-2010, Judicial Council of California).*

### District Attorney

A Deputy District Attorney (DDA) is assigned to each juvenile court location and a third DDA is assigned to exclusively prosecute gang cases. DDAs review referrals from probation and will file a formal petition with the Juvenile Court, refer a matter back to Probation for informal handling, or refer a matter back to the referring law enforcement agency for additional investigation. They argue cases at trial, disposition, subsequent hearings, and in probation violation hearings. In addition to their traditional role as prosecutor, DDAs will regularly consult with law enforcement and Probation on matters regarding the handling of a case or a disposition. DDAs participate in various collaborative efforts including collaborative treatment courts, partnership with education providers on truancy efforts, and membership in the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC).

### Public Defender and Defense Counsel

Santa Barbara County maintains a Public Defender's Office that assigns attorneys to represent qualified juvenile offenders, and the court maintains a contract for conflict counsel. Private attorneys will also represent offenders when retained for that purpose. Similar to their DDA counterparts, Public Defender attorneys are active participants in collaborative efforts and are active members of the JJCC.

### Law Enforcement

There are eight incorporated cities in the County that are provided police services by four municipal law enforcement agencies. The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO) provides police services to four contract cities (Buellton, Solvang, Carpinteria, and Goleta) and the unincorporated areas of the County. The SBSO also operates the County Jail. These agencies are the source of most referrals to Probation. There are also three State law enforcement agencies in the County that make limited referrals (California Highway Patrol, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Allan Hancock College). The SBSO, Santa Maria Police Department, and Lompoc Police Department devote some resources to juvenile delinquency matters, most notably in the form of School Resource Officers (SROs) at middle school, junior high, and high school campuses. These officers perform traditional law enforcement services in the school setting and conduct outreach in the form of crime prevention and education, and truancy intervention. Agencies may have a specific unit or officer dedicated to gang issues in the respective jurisdictions. Most officers are familiar with juvenile members of local gangs and often coordinate suppression activities with Probation and other agencies. Law enforcement officers are active in a number of initiatives and programs, such as restorative justice efforts, police activity leagues, and DARE, to name a few.

## Education

There are twenty-three K-12 school districts in the County that include 122 schools and a total public school student enrollment of 66,048. The Santa Maria–Bonita Unified School District is the largest district in the County with 14,182 students while the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHSD) has the largest 9-12 grade student enrollment with 7,793 students. Total 9-12 grade level student enrollment for the County is 20,706 (*California Department of Education, 2010-2011 Enrollment by Grade*). Schools participate in mitigating juvenile crime and delinquency primarily through truancy reduction efforts, as well as special educational settings that cater to the specific needs of at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders. They also maintain regular contact with and coordinate education activities with law enforcement and DPOs. The different districts have programs in place to address truancy issues at their respective schools and exercise their discretion in removing students from their campuses that are subject to suspension or expulsion because of criminal or delinquent acts.

The Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) maintains community schools in the County that specifically target at-risk juveniles and juveniles who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. They provide educational services to detained offenders at the SMJH and the Camp programs; of note is the implementation of a credit-recovery program at both sites that tailors courses specified to the needs of the student. This one program alone has increased the number of offenders graduating high school from an average of two graduates a year to 28 graduates a year at the Camp programs between 2007 and 2011. The increase at SMJH has been an average of one graduate a year to three graduates a year. The SBCEO participates in a number of community efforts targeting juvenile crime and at-risk students through collaboration with partner agencies in efforts to improve school attendance and performance.

## Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provides services that seek to prevent child abuse and neglect, and coordinates treatment for children who have been abused. They provide family maintenance and family reunification services, and other mandated and voluntary services to persons subject to dependency laws. DSS licenses foster families and supervises children placed in foster care as dependents. DSS is responsible for coordinating the financial reimbursement of various programs that benefit delinquent youth and for which Probation receives funds. Through this statutory function, DSS has limited oversight for some activities performed by Probation, including Title IV-E and Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (AFDC-FC) entitlement payments. DSS holds the contracts for many programs that benefit at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders, including SB 163 Wraparound services, the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP), and the Independent Living Program (ILP). In addition to the investigations they conduct for dependency cases, DSS conducts investigations with DPOs in specified cases to determine the appropriate venue for their handling. DSS personnel also provide technical assistance regarding various foster care related programs and legislation, and coordinates the development of local responses to State and Federal mandates.



### Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services

Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) operates the County's various substance abuse and mental health programs, or holds the contracts for private vendors who provide similar or other counseling services. In that capacity, and as the entity responsible for Medi-Cal compliance, ADMHS maintains oversight of various programs that service at-risk children or juvenile offenders. Mental health clinicians provide direct service to Medi-Cal eligible youth, including those supervised by Probation. Probation contracts with ADMHS to provide clinicians assigned to SMJH to provide crisis counseling to detained youth and consult with Probation regarding the care and maintenance of offenders exhibiting suicidal, aggressive, or other problem behaviors. The contract includes clinicians assigned to the Camp programs to provide individual and group counseling sessions, an ADMHS manager to coordinate treatment services for probation-involved youth, and a clinician to provide assessment services to Probation-referred youth on a countywide basis. A psychologist also conducts in-depth evaluations on referred youth for the benefit of the Juvenile Court and concerned parties. In addition to the contract with ADMHS, Probation contracts with Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth (SAFTY) to provide after-hours crisis management.

### Medical Services

Prison Health Services (PHS) merged with Correctional Medical Services (CMS) in 2010 to become Corizon and continues to provide quality health care services to detainees that surpass the community standards. A Pediatrician serves as the institutions Medical Director. Medical staff members are consistent in the delivery of services and aftercare follow-through with detainees.

The Medical Director is allotted 33 hours per week and is on-call. She is on site at SMJH five days per week and Camp two days a week. The Nursing Coordinator is bilingual, Spanish-speaking. Corizon has seven part-time Registered Nurses (RN) to cover the seven day per week schedule at SMJH and the five day a week schedule at Los Prietos. Medical Assistant, Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) and Administrative Assistant positions are assigned to SMJH and an RN is assigned to Los Prietos. The Administrative Assistant assigned to SMJH is bilingual, Spanish-speaking. The services provided by Corizon are certified through the Institute of Medical Quality (IMQ).

### Community-Based Organizations

Members of various CBOs provide most of the interventions and services offered to at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders in the County. Private vendors provide the direct services for the Wraparound program (SB163), THPP, ILP, Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), and diversion services. Additionally, various private organizations provide life skills training, mentoring, substance abuse counseling, and individual, family, and group counseling throughout the County. All of the foster care programs used by Probation are operated by privately run organizations located within and without the County. The following are CBOs that Probation relies on to provide services to offenders: Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center (SMVYFC), Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA), Zona Seca, Coast Valley

Substance Abuse Treatment Center (CVSATC), Family Service Agency (FSA), Casa Pacific, Community Action Commission (CAC), and Family Care Network.

#### **4. California Juvenile Justice Information**

Each year the California Attorney General's Office publishes a compilation of juvenile justice data provided to it by counties via the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS). This report, *Juvenile Justice in California*, provides specific information on juvenile offenders and crimes that provides an overview of the work of the juvenile justice system. It also allows local jurisdictions to compare themselves against State data and draw some conclusions where they may be had. The most recent report for 2010 indicates the following.

As reported by law enforcement agencies, the majority of juvenile arrests in California end up being a referral to a probation agency. In fact, of the 185,867 arrests in the State in 2010, 147,052 of them, or 79.1 percent were referred to a probation agency. This represents a decrease of 18,829 arrests from the 2009 total of 204,696.

Similarly, as reported by probation agencies, the majority of referrals on juvenile offenders received are from law enforcement agencies. In 2010, Probation agencies processed 186,019 referrals that resulted in some sort of action by the agency. Most, 160,122 (or 86.1 percent) were from law enforcement agencies. About half of those referrals, or 95,212 of them, resulted in formal petitions being filed with the juvenile court. Others were closed at intake, given informal probation or diversion, were transferred, or were direct-filed in the criminal courts. For those 95,212 referrals where a petition was filed, 54,769 resulted in the offender being declared a ward of the juvenile court. In those cases, the outcome was most likely that the offender was allowed to return home or reside with a relative. In fact, 31,274 offenders who were declared a ward fell into this category while another 16,513 were sent to secure county facilities. Together, these two categories account for 87.3 percent of all offenders who were declared wards. A total of 356 offenders were committed to the Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF) (the former Youth Authority). In 2009, 60,891 juvenile offenders were declared wards of the Juvenile Court, representing a decrease of 6,122 for 2010.

Statewide in 2010, there were a total of 715 offenders who were direct-filed in the criminal court or were subsequently remanded after a juvenile court petition. Most of them, 607 (84.9 percent), were convicted of a criminal charge; in those cases, a commitment to either a State juvenile or adult detention facility occurred in 384 (or 63.3 percent) of them. Others were placed on probation, had their case dismissed, received jail time or a fine, or had some other disposition.

There were 52,020 juvenile felony arrests in California in 2010. Most, 19,614 (or 37.7 percent) were for property offenses while another 13,200 (or 25.4 percent) were for violent offenses. About the same amount, 13,009 (or 25 percent) were for other felony offenses, while another 6,197 (or 11.9 percent) were for drug offenses.

There were 73,384 referrals to probation agencies for felony offenses. The majority, 27,440 (37.4 percent) were for property offenses, followed by 17,702 (or 24.1 percent) for violent offenses,

and 6,801 (or 9.3 percent) for drug offenses. The remainder, 21,441 (or 29.2 percent) were for other offenses.

There were 106,253 misdemeanor arrests during the same year. Most, 26,092 (or 24.6 percent) were for drug offenses while another 22,087 (or 20.8 percent) were for theft offenses. About the same amount, 21,824 (or 20.5 percent) were for all other offenses while 18,825 (or 17.7 percent) were for malicious mischief and 17,425 (or 16.4 percent) were for assault and battery.

There were a total of 123,683 referrals to probation agencies for misdemeanor offenses. From this amount, 28,460 (or 23 percent) were for assault and battery, 21,890 (or 17.7 percent) were for malicious mischief, 21,434 (17.3 percent) were for drug and alcohol offenses, and 19,416 (or 15.7 percent) were for theft offenses. The remainder, 32,483 (or 26.3 percent) were for other offenses.

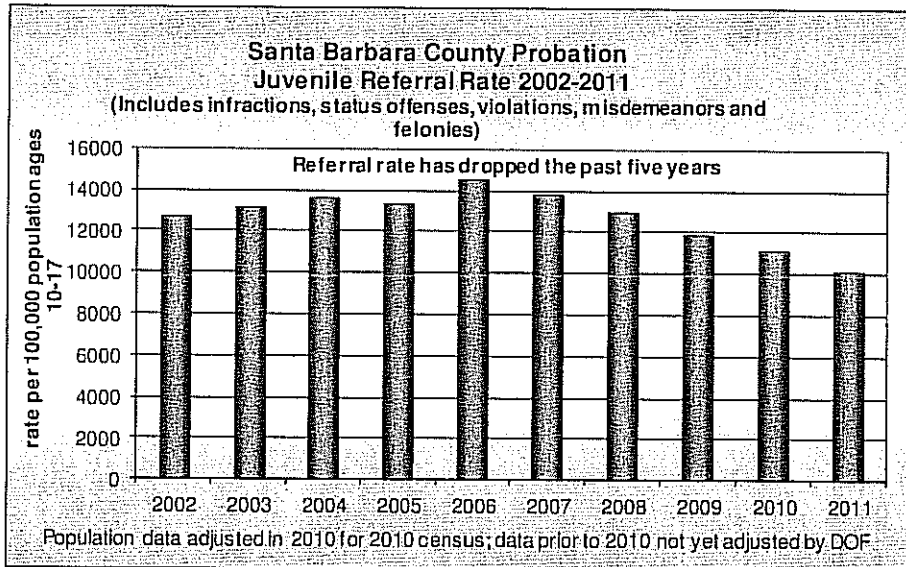
In terms of gender, male offenders accounted for 135,795 of all juvenile arrests (or 73 percent; in 2009 they represented nearly 74 percent of all arrests). Females accounted for 50,072 (or 27 percent). Males were arrested mostly for misdemeanor offenses with 74,314 (or 54.7 percent) of such arrests, followed by 43,164 felony arrests (or 31.8 percent), and lastly 18,317 (or 13.5 percent) status offenses. Females were also mostly arrested for misdemeanor offenses with 31,939 (or 63.8 percent), but were arrested more often for status offenses than felony offenses with 9,277 (or 18.5 percent) and 8,856 (or 17.7 percent) such arrests respectively.

Female offenders were referred to probation for a violent felony at a slightly higher rate than male offenders; 24.6 percent versus 24 percent. They had a notably higher referral rate for felony property crimes than males; 45.3 percent versus 36 percent. Females were also referred at a higher rate for assault and battery than males (26.4 percent versus 21.8 percent) and had a much higher referral rate for theft than males (26.4 percent versus 11.9 percent). Males were more likely to have a filed petition proceed to juvenile court than were female offenders; 55 percent versus 38.6 percent.

Females were more likely to be found fit for juvenile court than males (40 percent compared to 18.3 percent), while a finding of unfit for juvenile court increased with age. For 15 year old offenders, 63.2 percent were found unfit and for 16 year olds, 84.6 percent were found unfit. In the case of 17 year olds, 83.9 percent were found unfit. White offenders were the least likely to be found unfit at 42.2 percent, while Hispanic offenders were found unfit in 87.7 percent of cases. Black offenders were found unfit in 92.6 percent of cases. Hispanic offenders were the most likely to be declared a ward of the juvenile court; 62.2 percent of the time.

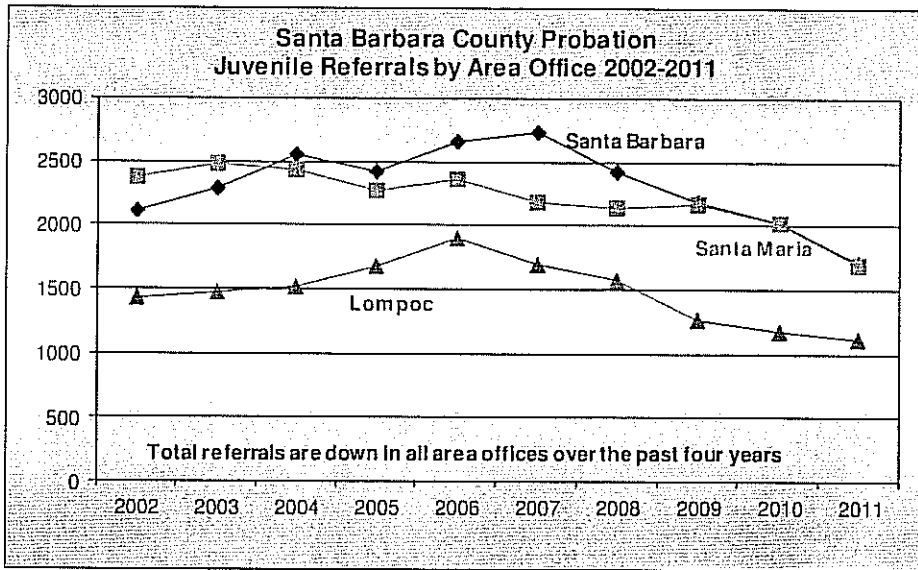
For those offenders aged 12 and younger who were referred for a misdemeanor offense, 30.5 percent were referred for assault and battery. Conversely, for those in the 15-17 age range, 22.3 percent were referred for assault and battery. Those 12 and under were referred for drug and alcohol offenses in 7.9 percent of cases while those in the 15-17 age range were referred for those offenses in 17.7 percent of cases. Those in the 15-17 age range were also most likely to be declared a ward of the juvenile court, having been so declared in 60.2 percent of all their cases.

## 5. Santa Barbara County Juvenile Justice Information

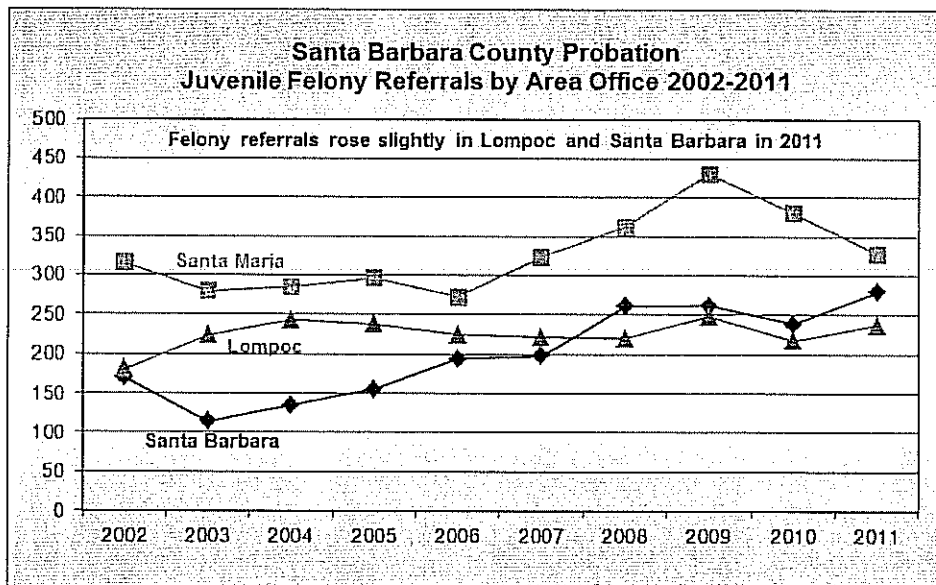


Law enforcement referrals to Probation continue to decline, decreasing 32 percent between 2007 and 2011 (6,618 referrals to 4,503 referrals). Felony referrals, however, have increased during that time by nearly 14 percent (744 to 845). Referrals for female offenders increased slightly during this time as well. In 2007 they constituted almost 26 percent of all referrals (1,689) and nearly 27 percent in 2009 (1,185). Although the growth of referrals for female offenders has slowed in recent years, they continue to show an upward trend. In 1998, they made up slightly less than 22 percent of all referrals.

The highest percentage of Probation supervision cases (47 percent or 419 cases in March 2012) is located in the Santa Maria office, with most cases primarily in and around the City of Santa Maria. Felony referrals were also the highest in the Santa Maria office in 2011, with 328 or 39 percent of all felony referrals in the County. Santa Maria is the largest city in the County and the only municipality in which the juvenile population is increasing. As a result, most Probation resources for juveniles are concentrated in Santa Maria.

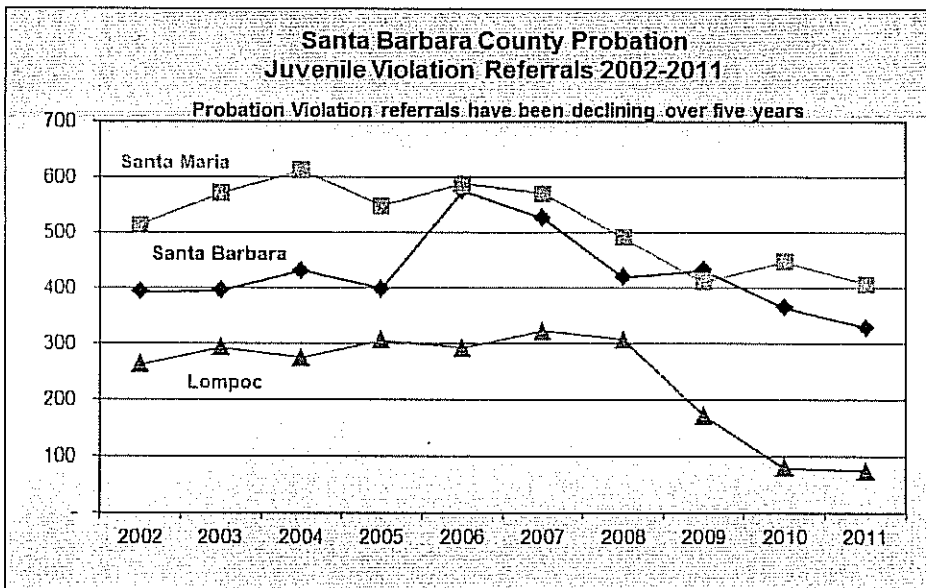
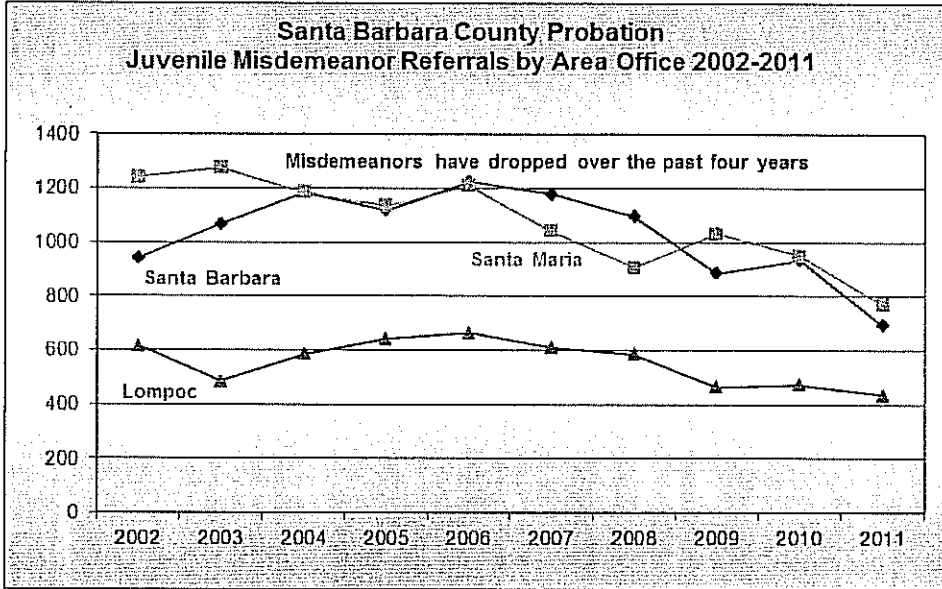


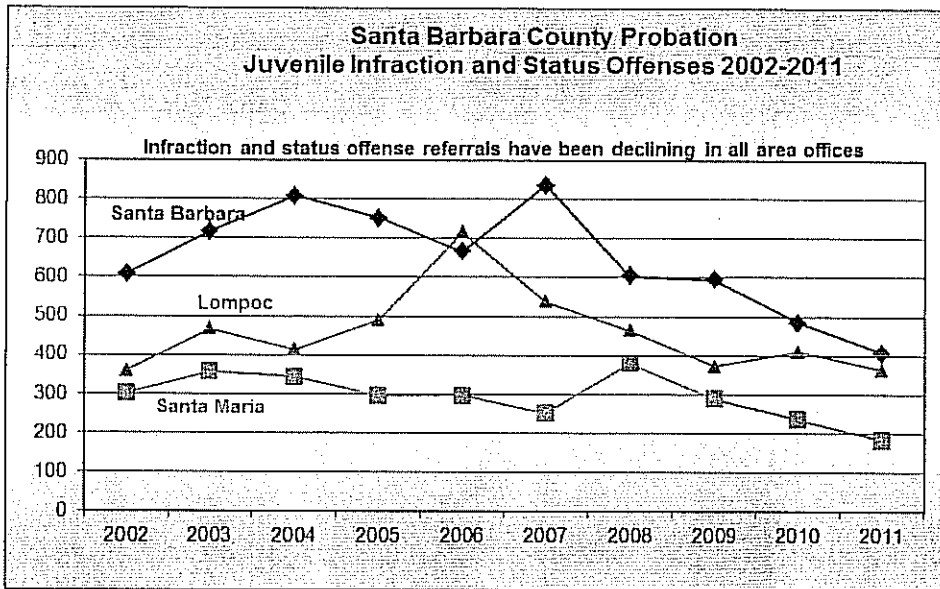
It is noted that overall, juvenile referrals have decreased in all areas of the County. There are, however, some significant differences in specific trends, as illustrated by the following charts.



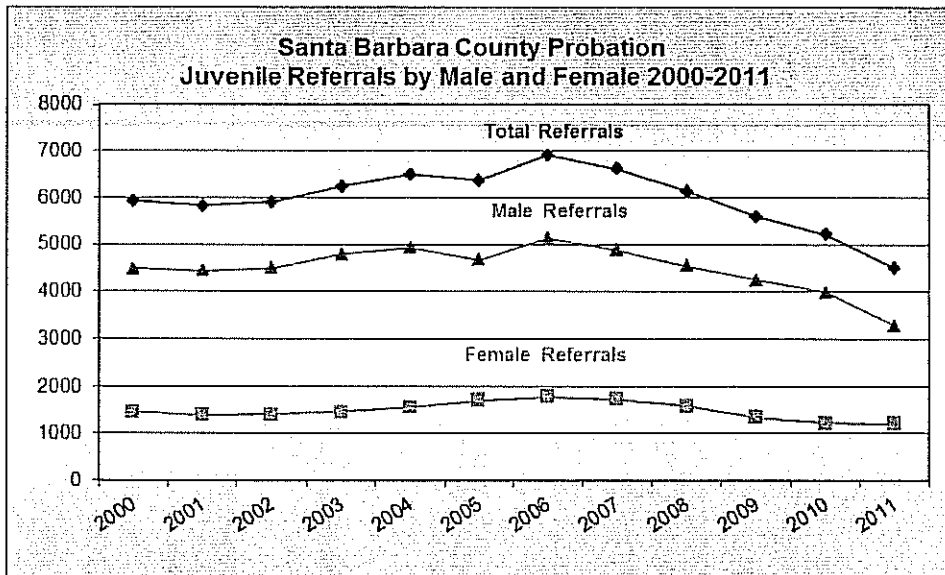
Felony referrals have been increasing over the past four years, but most notably Santa Maria has declined the past two (2) years 24 percent from 430 to 328 while felony referrals have continued to increase slightly in Lompoc and Santa Barbara. When looking at the sustained felony petition rates, however, only about 25 percent of felony referrals are sustained as felonies in Santa Barbara and Lompoc, while about 45 percent of felony referrals are sustained in Santa Maria.

All other types of referrals including misdemeanors, probation violations, infractions, and status offenses, have dropped in all regions over the past four to five years, with all referrals decreasing by another 19 percent (5,571 to 4,503) from 2009 to 2011.

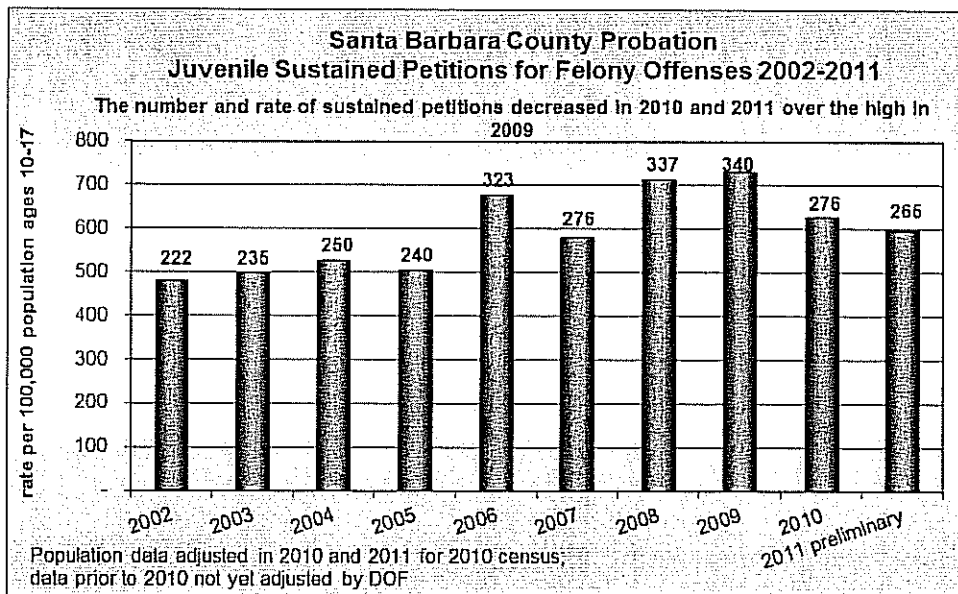
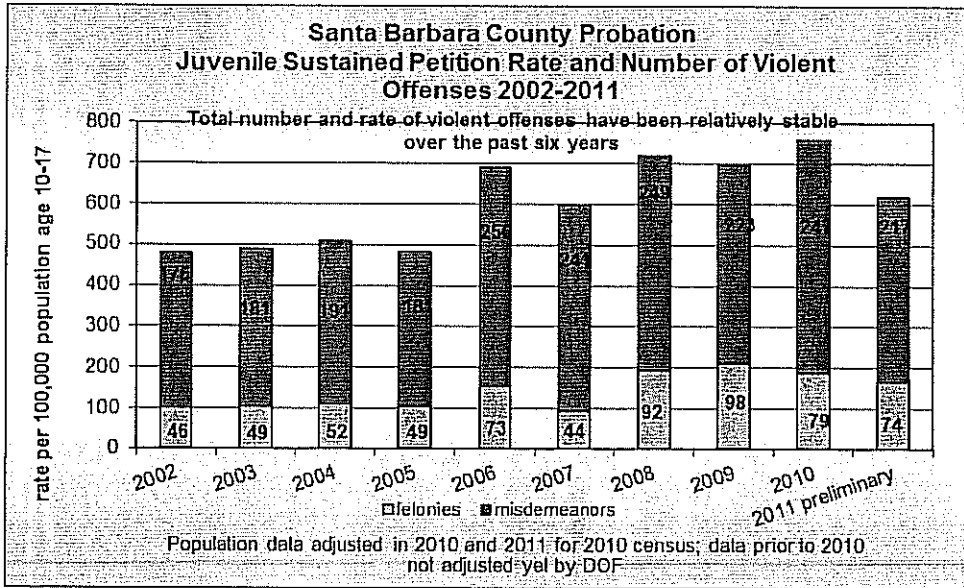




Overall, the total number of juvenile referrals in 2011 was the lowest level in 17 years and has declined 35 percent from 6,920 to 4,503 over the past 11 years. In concert with the slowly declining population of younger youth, there has been a significant decrease of first time offenders by 39 percent from 2,305 to 1,398 during the same period. The number of female referrals has declined but their percentage of all referrals has increased. Female referrals in 2011 were almost 27 percent (1,206) of all referrals while in 2009 they represented 24 percent.

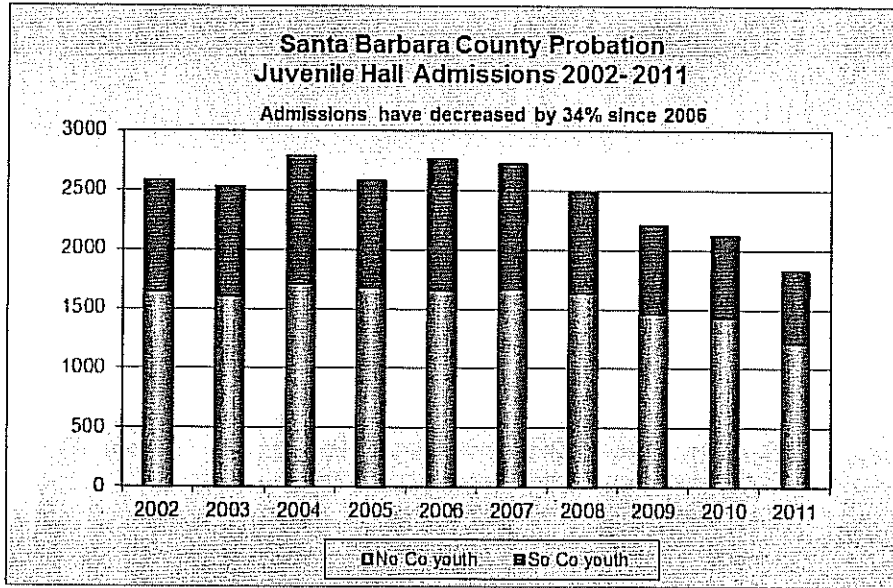


Violent crime for juveniles, as measured by number of sustained petitions for violent offenses, reached its highest point during the past ten years in 2006. The number has decreased by 15 percent, down from 256 in 2006 to 217 in 2011. However, the rate of violent offenses has remained high over the past six years based on the population estimates of youth age 10 to 17. Just as violent offenses have remained high over the past six years, so have the number of sustained felony offenses. In 2008 and 2009 the number peaked at between 337 and 340. Over the past two years the numbers have dropped to 276 in 2010 and 285 in 2011. The rate of felony offenses, however, remains high compared to the period 2002-2005. Proposition 21 cases (juvenile cases filed directly in the criminal courts) are always felony offenses and often are violent; however, while they are counted in the referral totals, they are not included in sustained petitions counts. The number of direct file cases also peaked in 2007 and 2008 and have declined since then.

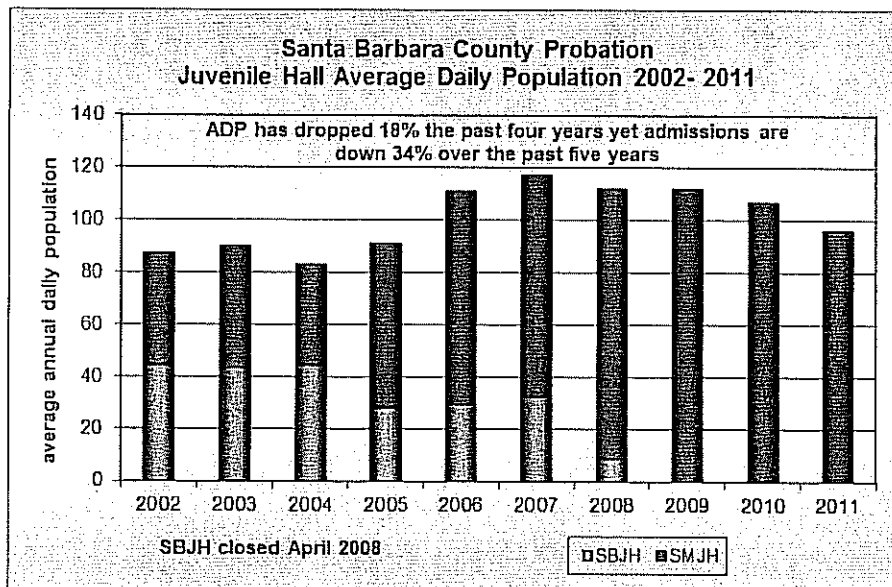




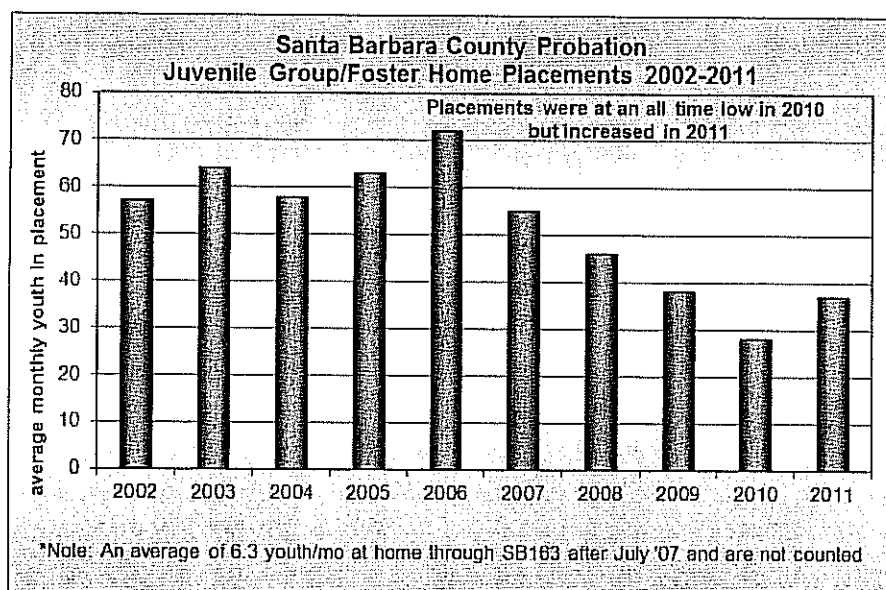
The drop in law enforcement referrals over the past five years has contributed to a 34 percent drop in the number of admissions at the SMJH from 2,771 in 2006 to 1,829 in 2011. However, due to an increase in felony adjudications and juveniles being remanded to the criminal court, the average length of stay has increased. As a consequence, the average daily population of SMJH has only dropped 14 percent during the same period.



Admissions to SMJH in 2011 (1,829) were down approximately 33 percent from 2007, yet the average daily population of 96.6 was only down 18 due to an increase of youth in longer term commitments. Admissions are down primarily due to the reduction in juvenile referrals over the same period (32 percent) but also partially due to the implementation of the Alternative Detention Program in 2008. In 2009, two SMJH staff was redirected to expand the operational beds at LPBC. As a result, the capacity of the SMJH was reduced from 120 to 110. Currently, efforts are being made to maintain capacity at 90 for FY 2012-13.



Foster care placements decreased 61 percent from 2006 through 2010, from a monthly average of 72 in 2006 to 28 in 2010. Fewer referrals and the advent of local treatment options (such as SB163 Wraparound) have contributed to this decrease. The average monthly number of Probation youth in foster care and group homes had dropped to its lowest level in more than 20 years at the beginning of 2011, but increased during the year. Currently, about 40 juvenile offenders are in out-of-home placements at any given time.



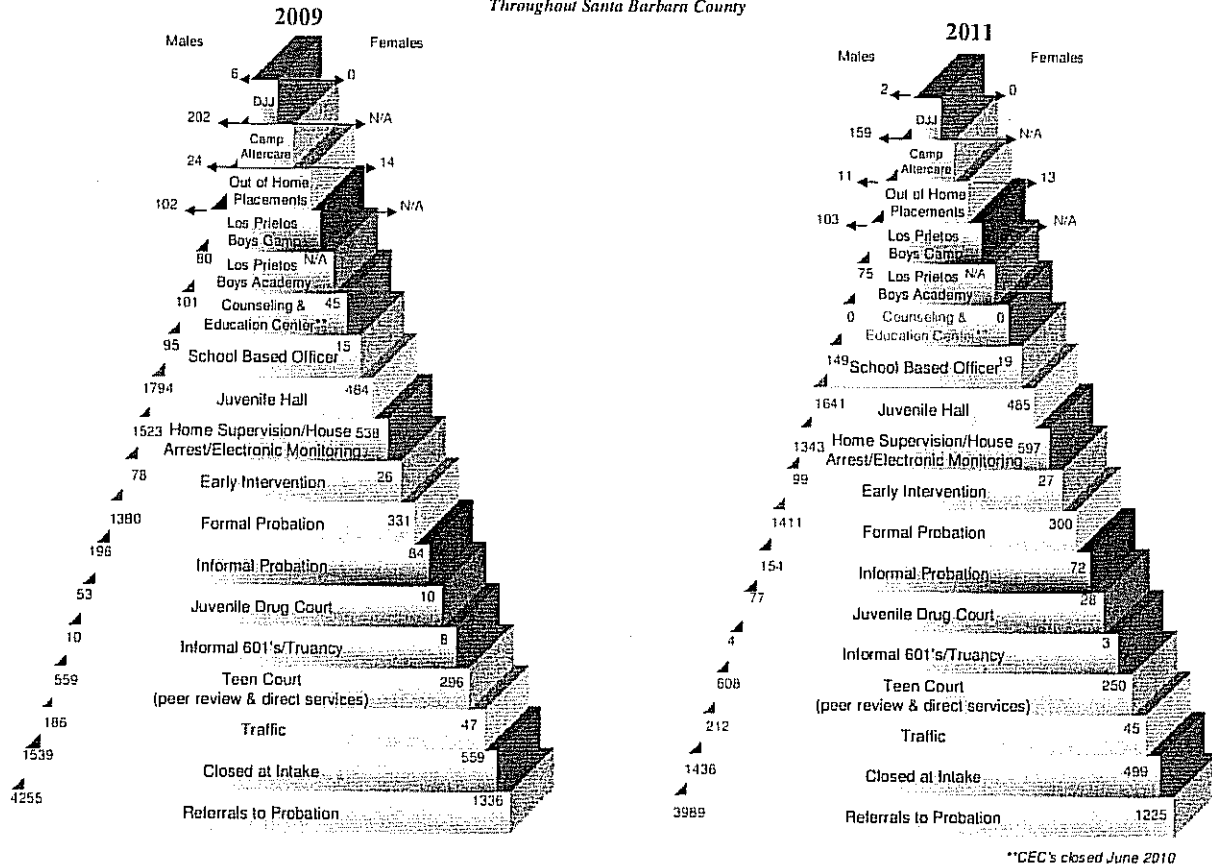
## 6. Juvenile Justice Continuum

The County's juvenile justice continuum has gone through a number of iterations over time, but has not changed dramatically since first developed over 15 years ago. The chart on the next page shows changes in certain system components between 2009 and 2011. The processing of juvenile delinquency cases is controlled by a number of Federal and State laws, regulations, codes, and other requirements that standardize many juvenile justice processes. There remain some discretionary actions that further influence case outcomes, most notably in the decision to proceed with a petition or not. Santa Barbara County adheres to a general practice where lower risk, younger first-time offenders are handled informally through diversion options. Higher risk, older, more sophisticated offenders, or offenders who are accused of committing violent acts, are subject to more formal handling that may include wardship, probation supervision, long-term commitment, placement into foster care, or commitment to DJF.

The information in this chart illustrates the County's continuum of responses to juvenile crime. The numbers represent the disposition of referrals, not necessarily individual offenders. There have been notable changes in recent years including decreases in referrals, DJF commitments, and the number of youth on informal probation. There have been changes in the interventions available to youth, and increases in the number of referrals to diversion programs, and in the percentage of female offenders.

← Continuum of Responses to Juvenile Crime

Throughout Santa Barbara County



The continuum clearly indicates that most referrals to Probation do not result in formal handling and are diverted or otherwise handled informally. For those cases that do result in probation supervision, most are supervised in the community with the offender remaining in the home. Few are actually placed in foster care or commitment programs, and many are not detained, especially for lengthy periods. DJF commitments remain relatively rare.

The continuum and the numbers associated with it include the use of direct filing pursuant to Proposition 21 for serious or violent criminal acts committed by a juvenile offender. Direct filing in the criminal courts removes some of the more serious or violent offenders from the juvenile justice system. The limited access to DJF mandated by law also impacts dispositions in the juvenile justice system by reducing the use of State resources. The advent of community alternatives and the expanded use of other options have reduced the number of juvenile offenders committed to institutions or placed in long-term foster care.

### Community Diversion

Probation agencies may elect to not refer certain law enforcement referrals to the District Attorney's (DA) Office for the filing of a petition. Instead, Probation may handle a case informally through community diversion pursuant to §654 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). If an offender successfully completes a program of diversion, Probation may close the matter without referring it further. In cases where an offender does not successfully complete a program of diversion, Probation can refer the matter to the DA's Office for the filing of a petition. A program of diversion may include specific activities directed by Probation, such as community service work or education classes, or a more structured program such as those provided by *Teen Court* through CADA or restorative justice through Conflict Solutions Center. The *Teen Court* program provides consequences for lower level, first-time offenders in a court-like environment involving peers and professionals who act as judges during hearings. Restorative justice relies on a voluntary mediation process where an offender and a victim participate in direct services aimed at restoring the loss incurred by a criminal or delinquent act. Offenders must meet specific eligibility and suitability requirements for participation in the program.

### SB163 Wraparound

The SB163 Wraparound program provides State AFDC-FC funds to local jurisdictions to use to keep youth at risk of placement in foster care in their homes in the local community instead. The idea behind Wraparound is that money spent at the local level to provide services to a youth in their own home will have greater impact and better outcomes than the same amount of money spent for group foster care. Intensive in-home services, support, and case management are provided to participating families and cover a broad range of services designed to keep a family intact and in a safe home. A multidisciplinary team provides administrative oversight to the program operated by Casa Pacifica. Presently, Probation, DSS, and ADMHS share 25 slots for these services. In some cases, the services can be started while an offender is detained (but nearing release) or as an offender is preparing to leave a local foster care placement. In 2011, Probation had 23 juvenile offenders participate in these services at various times. Presently, 16 offenders are participating. While 20 of the slots for the program are reserved for Medi-Cal eligible youth, the County has set aside five (5) slots for non-Medi-Cal eligible offenders who may benefit from the services.

### Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

Probation has a YOBG caseload in each region of the County that together serve up to 75 juvenile offenders countywide. Generally, offenders on these caseloads have a history of gang involvement, have a sustained petition for a violent offense, and have not been successful in other treatment or commitment programs. Offenders on these caseloads are assigned a case manager from the CAC, a local service provider. These case managers work closely with the assigned YOBG Officer and assist offenders with life skills issues, school enrollment, pro-social choices, and other needs, as well as acting as mentors. YOBG funds also support a long-term commitment program at SMJH in which offenders who might otherwise been committed to DJF are detained locally for up to 15 months. Participants receive *Aggression Replacement Training* (ART) instruction and individual, family or group mental health counseling. A Juvenile

Institutions Officer (JIO) at SMJH is assigned to work closely with the offenders and collaboratively develops and manages their case plans while they are in custody. During 2011, there were 26 participants in the commitment program at the SMJH. Most were Hispanic (24) and male (22); of those participants exiting the program in 2011 five (5), two (2) exited successfully and three (3) exited unsuccessfully. In terms of the YOBS supervision component, during 2011, there were 100 participants in the program. The majority were Hispanic (85) and male (88); of the thirteen (13) participants exiting the program in 2011, six (6) exited successfully and seven (7) exited unsuccessfully.

### Juvenile Drug Court

Probation participates as one of the collaborative team members in a JDC program in each area of the County. A DPO in each area supervises JDC cases. The assigned Officer appears in Court with offenders and discusses treatment progress and probation compliance with the Juvenile Court Judge. Local treatment providers in each region are responsible for conducting the individual and group counseling services for the program. The JDC program accommodates participants in both pre-adjudication and post-adjudication case statuses. The program is voluntary and participants must meet eligibility and suitability requirements. During 2011, there were 140 participants in JDC. Most were Hispanic (104) and male (89); of those participants exiting JDC in 2011, 42 exited successfully and 35 exited unsuccessfully.

## **7. Programs Funded by JJCPA**

### School- Based Officer Program

Probation continues to assign DPOs to act as SBOs for various school sites throughout the County in an effort to address truancy, delinquency, and criminal behavior. While not physically stationed at the school sites, the SBOs spend the majority of their time on school campuses engaging students, school faculty and administration, and coordinating efforts with local police SROs. SBOs primarily serve area high schools while maintaining some presence at junior high and middle schools. Probation continues to deploy five (5) JJCPA funded SBOs at Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Lompoc schools. Each SBO maintains a caseload of up to 30 students assigned to a school or group of schools, and meets regularly with those students at the school sites and in their homes. Additionally, SBOs regularly contact other students not on probation, some of whom are exhibiting truant or other problematic behavior. Probation continues to use JJCPA and Federal Title IV-E entitlement revenue to fund SBOs.

Probation has one SBO position funded entirely through a Federal *Safe Schools/Healthy Students* (SSHS) initiative. It has been managed by Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, a local service provider. The DPO assigned to the SSHS grant position participates in all SBO duties as well as some additional grant-specific responsibilities for the SMJUHS. The SSHS position will not be funded after December 2012. Additionally, Probation has a SBO assigned to the Peter FitzGerald Community School in Santa Maria. This position is funded entirely by Federal Title I-D funds provided through the SBCEO. The DPO assigned to the school maintains an office at the site and has a caseload that consists entirely of community school students. Due to education funding reductions, this position will be eliminated June 30, 2012. Probation also has a SBO assigned to

the El Puente Community School in Santa Barbara. This position is funded by traditional probation funding and will be maintained in the foreseeable future subject to other resource demands.

Participants supervised by the SBOs may be referred to individual counseling and mentoring programs provided by local CBOs. The counseling component is provided by CADA in Santa Barbara, FSA in Lompoc, and SMVYFC in Santa Maria. The mentoring component is provided by CAC countywide.

The SBO program served 246 youth during FY 2010-11, an increase in total youth served from FY 2009-10, when 208 youth were served. The average length in the program for FY 2010-11 increased to 159 days compared to 145 days for FY 2009-10.

In FY 2010-11, 124 juveniles exited the SBO program versus 121 in FY 2009-10. Sixty-three juveniles exited the program successfully in FY 2010-11 for a completion rate of 51 percent. This was a significant increase from 40 percent (49/121) in the previous year.

The new felony or misdemeanor arrest rates for youth while they were in the program in FY 2010-11 was 49 percent, up from 47 percent in FY 2009-10.

The overall probation completion rate for SBO participants increased to 79 percent in FY 2010-11, from 71 percent in FY 2009-10. Completion of community service work and restitution completion rate decreased slightly in FY 2010-11 over FY 2009-10; however, the total number of offenders actually required to complete community service work and restitution was relatively small.

JJCPA will fund five (5) DPOs for the SBO Program, and counseling services provided by CBOs.

### Initial Assessment

In 2011, Probation received 4,503 referrals from law enforcement agencies for felony, misdemeanor, status or infraction offenses. Included in this total were approximately 1,398 first-time offenders. The *Santa Barbara Assets and Risk Assessment (SBARA)* is a validated risk-needs assessment instrument. It exists in two forms; an initial screener and a full version. One or both of the instruments is used on most referrals to Probation. Some referrals are handled informally, without the benefit of an assessment, but these are generally lower level infractions or ordinances violations with no custody time associated with them. Most referrals will be assessed with the SBARA screener. In 2011, Probation Officers conducted 1,005 such assessments. This instrument is designed to provide a brief and quick, but reliable assessment to determine what referrals may be diverted at the initial Intake point. The SBARA screener is currently being examined for its continued validity in collaboration with the University of California, Santa Barbara. For those cases that are handled in a formal manner, the SBARA full assessment is used. The full assessment is in its second version and was revalidated in February 2010. Probation Officers conducted 577 assessments with the full version. Three Officers currently perform the majority of assessments done at the Intake level. They were previously funded

through JJCPA, however, with funding reductions the Intake Officer positions were eliminated. Currently they are being funded with YOBS funds. Other Officers perform the assessments at the Investigations level.

Offenders who demonstrate a need for a mental health evaluation are referred to a mental health assessor who conducts an assessment to determine what, if any, mental health services may be needed. The assessor will also assist in determining if a comprehensive psychological evaluation is needed. The mental health assessor is a JJCPA funded staff position from ADMHS that performs assessments countywide. In 2011, the assessor conducted 110 mental health assessments on juvenile offenders referred by DPOs.

### Early Intervention

Each region in the County maintains one DPO for early intervention efforts. These Officers are funded by JJCPA. While Probation supervises principally those youth who are wards of the Juvenile Court, some youth are on court-ordered diversion or Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) and are also subject to supervision. Offenders in this program are generally younger, less sophisticated, first-time offenders who nevertheless have demonstrated a high risk for re-offending. Thus, as EI cases, they are subject to closer supervision and intervention. Offenders participating in this program may be referred to the same JJCPA funded counseling and mentoring programs available for participants in the SBO program.

In FY 2010-11, the EI program served 228 juveniles, a small increase from 216 in the previous fiscal year. The average length of time in the program decreased from 166 days to 128 days from the previous year.

One hundred and thirty-one juveniles exited the EI program in FY 2010-11, as opposed to 120 in FY 2009-10; 72 exited successfully, for a successful completion rate of 55 percent. Fifty-nine juveniles exited the program unsuccessfully. The completion rate of 55 percent was above the completion rate of 47 percent (56/12) in FY 2009-10.

The new felony or misdemeanor arrest rates for youth while they were in the program in FY 2010-11 was 41 percent down slightly from 44 percent in FY 2009-10.

The overall probation completion rate for EI program participants decreased slightly from 78 percent in FY 2009-10 to 74 percent in FY 2010-11. Both the completion of community service work and restitution rate declined in FY 2010-11 from FY 2009-10.

## **8. Service Gaps**

In the 2010 report, the County identified gangs, substance abuse, mental health services, and gender-specific treatment as areas in which services were lacking, needed improvement, or missing altogether. All four issues remain challenges for agencies and organizations in addressing juvenile crime and delinquency, and rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

## Gangs

While it is generally accepted that gang issues present challenges and problems for local communities, there continues to remain no coordinated countywide effort to address the impact of juveniles and juvenile offenders who participate in gang-related activity or associate with gang members. There have been ongoing and periodic efforts at the local level such as the South Coast Youth Gang Task Force serving Santa Barbara and the South County, and the *FutureSearch* initiative targeting the Santa Maria Valley. Additionally, most police agencies have some resources devoted to gang crimes and activity. There continues to be strong collaboration between Probation and local law enforcement agencies in terms of individual gangs, gang members, or gang-related crimes, but countywide collaboration is generally limited to periodic information sharing. Local service providers continue to offer interventions with offenders who are involved with gangs. While some interventions, such as ART and the *El Joven Noble* curriculum used by CAC, have shown promise in mitigating gang involvement, there is presently no specific gang intervention strategy employed countywide to address the problems associated with gangs. Successful strategies should include a combination of enforcement, intervention, and prevention, and target those involved in gangs or at risk of becoming involved in gangs across various age ranges. Close collaboration with education providers in developing school-based interventions targeting at-risk students may also prove to be effective.

Currently, 382 of the 876 (43.6 percent) of youth on Probation are subject to gang terms and conditions. This is down 5.2 percent from 2010 in which 499 of the 1023 (48.8 percent) of youth on Probation were subject to gang terms and conditions.

## Substance Abuse

Substance abuse among juvenile offenders remains a concerning problem and contributes to continued delinquency, interpersonal problems, and poor school performance. Marijuana (and synthetic variations of marijuana), alcohol, methamphetamine, and prescription drugs, among other drugs, continue to be used by juvenile offenders. Local interventions do exist to address this problem. Counseling services are available in all areas and are provided by CBOs who work closely with Probation and who are familiar with juvenile offenders and their needs. Additionally, the JDC program remains a viable option for addressing this problem more formally. ADMHS has also established Youth and Family Treatment Centers in each region, which provide consistent substance abuse treatment services throughout the county to juvenile offenders and other youth. These services are contracted through ADMHS with CBOs; Zona Seca in Lompoc, CADA in Santa Barbara, SMVYFC in Santa Maria, and Coast Valley located in Santa Maria and Lompoc. Juvenile offenders may be referred to CBOs for substance abuse issues specifically or for any of the myriad underlying issues that may contribute to substance abuse. These opportunities are primarily provided on an individual basis although there are some group interventions offered as well. Attendance and participation in these counseling services can be sporadic because of the nature of adolescent clients in general, but can be further impacted by an offender's custody status, interest in obtaining treatment, ability to attend, and maturity level.



## Mental Health

Probation and ADMHS have been challenged in recent months by the number of juvenile offenders who have exhibited troubling and self-injurious behavior. This is especially true in the custody setting at the SMJH. At any given time, there may be four or five offenders detained who are suffering from one or more severe mental health issues. These include active psychosis, personality disorders that cause significant acting out behaviors, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and impaired cognitive functioning. Several of these disorders increase the risk of suicide attempts and aggression toward others, which require closer monitoring by Probation and mental health staff. They can also be a dual-diagnosis case if they have serious substance abuse issues as well. Frequently, these offenders enter the facility in withdrawal, which also increases the demands on medical and mental health resources. While Probation and ADMHS have resources in place to meet the mental health needs of detained offenders, the impact these more severe cases have on time and personnel resources is significant. The behavior of some of these offenders has periodically required hospitalization and specialized care locally and outside of the area. Despite the severity of their mental health needs, some needing hospitalization must remain in juvenile hall due to their flight risk at a hospital. The SMJH is not equipped to provide the level of care and treatment that these offenders require on an ongoing basis. Additionally, these offenders may not be suitable for higher level foster care programs if they are eligible due to the severe nature of their mental illnesses. Transitioning these offenders to a community setting is a significant challenge as resources to treat, supervise, and house these offenders is limited in availability or duration, don't exist, or are not equipped to address their needs. Often times, family members are similarly ill equipped to handle these offenders and may not be fully aware of the implications of the mental illness. Probation and ADMHS have been successful in creating community-based alternatives to detention, specialized care, or hospitalization through collaboration, creativity, and resourcefulness. Some offenders have been able to take advantage of local mental health programs that offer oversight, medication compliance checks, emergency consultation, and housing. Programs are provided through the Medi-Cal program and a participant must be Medi-Cal eligible to receive most programming. Programs include Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), SPIRIT, New Heights, and Prevention/Early Intervention – Transitional Age Youth (PEI-TAY) services. In some cases, an offender's mental health needs are not known or clearly understood until they commit an offense and are committed to either a Camp program or the SMJH. Through staff observation and interview, assessment with such tools as the Massachusetts Youth Screening Inventory (MAYSI-2), and the exhibited behavior of a detained youth, previously undiagnosed mental health issues are made known to mental health professionals who can then follow up with other providers and family members for an appropriate treatment plan. Unfortunately, in many cases these offenders are handled in the juvenile justice system augmented by mental health services when they are most appropriate for a distinct mental health system of care.

## Gender-specific services

Santa Barbara County's juvenile justice system remains without a distinct gender-specific component to address the unique needs of female offenders. Despite this, there is recognition among professionals who work with juvenile offenders that gender-specific interventions should be used whenever possible. To that end, Probation maintains gender-specific counseling groups

for female juvenile offenders. The groups are available in each regional area of the County and are provided by local CBOs. Additionally, groups are offered at the SMJH for detained youth. While attendance at and participation in these groups have been inconsistent since their inception they remain a valuable option for female offenders. Efforts will be made in the next fiscal year to improve this service offering. Additionally, a gender-specific supervision caseload has been created in Santa Maria. The caseload has shown promise as an effective supervision strategy for the female offenders as they are able to participate in regularly scheduled gender-specific group activities. These activities provide not only education and recreation, but have also provided opportunities for exposure to unfamiliar people, places, and topics, and have allowed for meaningful discussions to take place between offenders with a common history. Resource limitations have prevented similar caseloads from being developed in Santa Barbara and Lompoc; however, individual officers in both locations have provided occasional informal gender-specific activities for female offenders there. Many of the female offenders under probation supervision have experienced trauma earlier in their lives, engage in behaviors that place them at high risk for harm, have been victims of or witness to family violence, and make poor choices and decisions in relationships. In addition to the group counseling, the SMJH offers *Girls Circle* sessions provided by a JIO. This supplements other efforts with this population. Additionally, CBOs that provide counseling services to juvenile offenders are well versed in gender-specific intervention strategies.

## **9. Strategies to Bridge Gaps**

Santa Barbara County and the State of California have experienced a decrease in the number of juvenile offenders referred to and placed on probation. While involvement in violent acts has not decreased, the downward trend is promising. There has also been a downward trend in the amount of resources available to Probation to meet the needs of those remaining offenders. Additionally, gang, drug, and mental health issues that continue to permeate many of the cases and offenders handled by the juvenile justice system pose a persistent challenge in mitigating further delinquent acts. Meeting these challenges requires a great deal of coordination and collaboration among the professionals who work with juvenile offenders. Fortunately, the County has demonstrated its capacity to do so through its long history of successful partnerships with allied agencies and service organizations.

Strategies that aim to impact juvenile crime and delinquency need to include effective and evidence-based treatment programs, services, and strategies. Appropriate assessment of an individual offender's recidivism risk, treatment needs, mental health issues, and family history can only aid in the understanding of an offender and will contribute greatly to case management decisions. Probation already utilizes two versions of the SBARA for this purpose. ADMHS uses its own mental health assessment and psychological evaluations to determine mental health issues and needs, and together use the MAYSI-2 at the SMJH and Camp.

In addition to assessment, strategies to address juvenile delinquency and crime should be based on effective evidence-based models. Private organizations and the Federal Government maintain resources that identify and describe models for addressing delinquency in various ways, in various venues, and at various ages. These should be examined, considered, and adopted where possible to bolster the County's efforts at mitigating delinquency and providing opportunities to

juvenile offenders to change. These models can be employed in strategies that target gang offenders, substance abusing offenders, mentally ill offenders, and female offenders. Additionally, they describe how collaborative efforts that include probation, law enforcement, mental health agencies, community organizations, education providers, or child welfare agencies can be effective in addressing delinquency and at-risk behavior. Strategies that appear applicable to the County's offender population and which may be realistically implemented will be considered by Probation and pursued where possible.

The availability of meaningful and appropriate treatment options for juvenile offenders is an important consideration when discussing how to curb juvenile offending and cannot be understated. The current availability of various counseling options for juvenile offenders has provided some community-based solutions. However, these options need to be augmented, expanded, and even further developed to meet the needs of offenders with mental health issues and histories of trauma and abuse. Probation will work with CBOs and allied agencies in developing strategies that focus on specific populations and interventions.

Diversion efforts should also be expanded where possible and utilized more fully so that only those offenders who truly need to be brought into the juvenile justice system are handled formally. The use of programs such as *Teen Court* allow for expanded use of diversion options. The ability to appropriately handle more cases at the community diversion level allows Probation to focus on high risk offenders. The use of restorative justice and other victim-centered programs may also create additional opportunities at the community diversion level. The concept of restorative justice has broadened locally and with greater familiarity with it may come wider use of it. Diversion strategies not currently in use will be considered for implementation when they appear to be applicable and offer a meaningful alternative.

## **10. Conclusion**

Juvenile offenders commit delinquent and criminal acts for a variety of reasons. The extent to which agencies and professionals can successfully respond to juvenile offending relies on their ability to marshal resources, collaborate, develop impactful strategies, and be flexible and creative. An overall strategy that includes close supervision, prevention initiatives, and intervention programs should provide the comprehensive approach needed to impact juvenile offending. Specific programs and resources to address the impact of gang involvement, mental health and gender-specific issues, and substance abuse should also be developed to provide both short and long-term solutions for detained offenders as well as those in the community. JJCPA funding provides the opportunity for local jurisdictions to respond to needs in their communities in these and other areas.