

PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISION LICKING COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



2009 Annual Report

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PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISION
LICKING COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT



LICKING COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT
PROBATE – JUVENILE DIVISION

Courthouse, Newark, Ohio 43055 – Phone (740) 670-5624

JUDGE
ROBERT H. HOOVER

MAGISTRATES
JEFFREY A. PLUNKETT
CHRISTOPHER A. STREFELT

June 25, 2010

To the Citizens of Licking County:

This annual report is a summary of the activities, efforts and achievements of the Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court and its partners. It includes facts and statistics of the Court and those we serve.

The Court applauds you, the citizens of Licking County, for your continued support of our community's youth and families! Without collaboration and partnerships with many other agencies and individuals, we would be unable to accomplish our mission.

Thank-you for allowing me the privilege of continuing to serve as your Probate-Juvenile Court Judge!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert H. Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judge Robert H. Hoover



The Licking County Juvenile Court administers justice and provides quality services to offenders and their families, to victims, and to the citizens of the community. The court's services focus on:

- Holding youth accountable for their actions.
- Providing victims with a voice in the justice process.
- Providing community safety for all citizens.
- Building healthy communities for healthy youth.

The efforts of our Court reflect a proactive approach to developing and supporting partnerships in all facets of the Licking County community. The following pages will provide an overview of the Probate-Juvenile Court services for Licking County citizens.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LICKING COUNTY PROBATE-JUVENILE COURT

Our mission is to provide effective, efficient and professional services for our community to enhance its quality of life.

We accomplish this **by:**

- √ Treating people with dignity and respect.
- √ Developing holistic, goal-oriented, individualized, customer-driven, and community-based plans organization wide.
- √ Being very organized! (automation)
- √ Efficiently implementing plans, including clear and honest communication.
- √ Being a partner in the development of a shared sense of community responsibility.
- √ Developing a culture of continuous improvement through ongoing evaluation and professional development.
- √ Prioritizing and developing resources.
- √ Meeting basic responsibilities, including: timely justice, providing services to victims, community protection, reduction of recidivism and development of healthy families.
- √ Supporting treatment efforts and being more visible in the community.
- √ Developing a proactive, open and participatory organizational structure that supports and guides quality services and high standards.

JUDGE ROBERT H. HOOVER
& Staff

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year of 2009 was re-adjustment and re-examination for the Juvenile and Probate Courts of Licking County. Our community continues to grow and evolve with every passing year, yet resources to meet these changes are scarce. We believe that it is our duty to rise to these challenges as Licking County continues to move forward. Collaborating with community partners in efforts such as *Our Futures in Licking County* will impact our community for years to come. Utilizing the recently released Ohio Youth Assessment System to assess court involved youth will help in addressing the immediate needs of our youth.

The year of 2009 saw several statistical trends level off and one drop significantly. Total adjudications and more specifically, felony adjudications, showed only a slight downward trend. Adjudications for felony rape dropped significantly, with a decrease to 14 counts in 2009 compared to 36 counts adjudicated in 2008. Total felony adjudications remained somewhat constant at 59, but the number of youth committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) increased to 27. Sexually oriented offenses continue to account for a significant percentage of felony commitments to ODYS.

The Court continued its work with the “*Our Futures in Licking County*” Drug Free Coalition. 2009 showed a large growth in this effort with implementation of several strategic, evidence based, approaches such as the *Positive Parenting Program*, *Reward and Reminder* and the *Good Behavior Game* in local schools. Plans for 2010 include the implementation of the *Families United* campaign and increasing the capacity of the other existing environmental strategies. Combined, these strategies should prove to dramatically decrease drug abuse, juvenile crime and child abuse across Licking County. Court personnel have played an integral part in taking *Our Futures* to its next stage in eliminating drug and alcohol abuse in Licking County. The coalition will apply for another grant in 2010 that may bring over \$600,000 into Licking County over the next 5 years for the coalition’s efforts.

By understanding early on the underlying issues that court involved youth face, we are better equipped to prevent their return to the court system. Assessment of risk and needs continue to be a priority at intake for our court, with each youth that was charged with the equivalent of a felony having an in-home assessment prior to adjudication. Over the past several years, the Licking County Juvenile Court has worked with the University of Cincinnati, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, and partner courts in the development of a new comprehensive assessment instrument. The Juvenile Court acted as a pilot site for the implementation of this new statewide initiative in 2009 and will continue to use it in 2010.

This past year has been a one of change and progress. We thank our staff, community partners and families for working together toward our common goals of Licking County continuing to be a safe and healthy community to raise a family and in the improvement of our county as a whole.

We fulfill our role in our community through our most important asset, our staff....

LICKING COUNTY PROBATE-JUVENILE COURT STAFF

Judge Robert H. Hoover

Court Administrator

David Edelblute

Administrative Office

Vivian Zigan

Judge's Paralegal/Assistant

Sue Knight

Administrative Assistant

Melanie Spangler

Part-Time Intermittent Law Clerk

Youth Responsibility Project

Cora Fulton

Director

Rita Revercomb

Assistant

Dustin Sorrell

Americorps Volunteer

Beth Underwood

Americorps Volunteer

Teresa Hurst

Secretary

Diversion Department

Debbie DePaso

Director

Nikki Debo

Diversion Officer

Kristie Bush

Diversion Officer

Dave Vozzella

Diversion Officer

Finance Department

Brad Cottrell

Director

Rebecca Kirk

Staff Accountant

Magistrates

Jeff Plunkett

Christopher Strefelt

Juvenile Clerks Office

Vicki Frick

Chief Deputy Clerk

Rhonda Sorrell

Senior Deputy Clerk

Dawn Cochran

Deputy Clerk

Rose Lindsey

Deputy Clerk

Mary Wilson

Deputy Clerk

Sally Keck

Part-time Deputy Clerk

Donna Gosnell

Receptionist/Deputy Clerk

Family Intervention Services

Sue Hebert, MSW, LSW

Lead Clinician

Gary Williams, Ph.D., MA

Clinical Director

Donna Layton, MSW, LISW

Counselor

Sara Burton, MSW, LISW

Counselor

Cecil M. Miller, Ph.D.

Psychologist

Jennifer Eagle

Administrative Secretary

Julie Green

Temporary Administrative Secretary

Sharon Holman

Part-time Secretary

Jennifer Long

Part-Time Secretary

Mediation Program

Lesley Hill
Coordinator/Mediator
Jeffrey Gill
Part-time Mediator

Probation Department

Kandy Humphrey
Director
Richard Christian
Senior Probation Officer
Adam Arcuri
Probation Officer
Michael Evans
Probation Officer
Sarah Grady
Probation Officer
Alan Hunt
Probation Officer
Bryan LaBrake
Probation Officer
Steven Mercer
Probation Officer
Thomas Metcalf
On-Call Officer
Joshua Saylor
IVE Placement Coordinator/Officer
Anthony Wedemeyer
Probation Officer
Jessica Wetzel
Probation Officer
Megan Yannie
IVE Placement Coordinator/Officer
Linda Eisel
Administrative Secretary
Rebecca Hile
Administrative Secretary

Probate Clerk's Office

William Fisher
Chief Deputy Clerk
Shannon Edwards
Senior Deputy Clerk/Bookkeeper/Bailiff
Amista Buxton
Deputy Clerk
Cathryn Helton
Deputy Clerk
Melinda Maines
Deputy Clerk
Amanda McWilliams
Part-Time Deputy Clerk
Jennie Richards, L.S.W.
Court Investigator/Adoption Specialist

Security

Brian Debo
Director/Bailiff
Ryan Bush
Bailiff
Linda Farrell
Bailiff
Michael Deegan
Senior Court Security Officer
Brandy Bline
Court Security Officer
Shane Patterson
Court Security Officer
David Goodman
Transportation Officer
Robert Sensabaugh
Transportation Officer
Thomas Metcalf
Asst. Transportation Officer
Lawrence Stock
Asst. Transportation Officer
Richard Robson
Asst. Court Security Officer
William Tiebout
Asst. Court Security Officer
Jerry Kaneff
Part-Time Intermittent Bailiff

Collaboration:

Understanding that we share the responsibility to achieve our mission with many associations, organizations, departments and individuals in Licking County; we value the collaborative working relationships in which we have been privileged to engage. Below are a few of these partnerships.

GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL SERVICE

Our Futures in Licking County:

In 2004 and again in 2005, the Licking County Juvenile Court assisted the Licking County Children and Families First Council in an application for a federal "Safe and Drug Free Communities" grant. In the fall of 2005, Licking County's application was accepted and funded for approximately \$500,000 over 5 years, which can be renewed for a total of 10 years.

By combing the resources of this grant and other community funds (including the Licking County United Way and the Community Mental Health and Recovery Board), Our Futures in Licking County has evolved. This effort gathers both the public and private sectors around the common concerns of substance abuse and child abuse in Licking County.

In 2008, the community initiative partnered with the United Way and the Licking and Knox Counties Community Mental Health and Recovery Board in the utilization of Dr. Dennis Embry's Paxis Institute concepts.

Through the guidance of Dr. Embry, low cost, proven strategies called "kernels" are being implemented across Licking County. The Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court is proud to be a partner in this effort and we believe that by working

together we will effectively reduce substance abuse, child abuse and juvenile delinquency in all of Licking County.

In 2010 the Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court will give leadership in the application for a five year continuation Drug Free Communities Grant Application. More information regarding Our Futures can be found at: www.ourfutures.org.

Licking County Juvenile Intervention Roundtable, Collaboration Taskforce:

The multiple challenges facing youth and families in the juvenile justice system have always been a major concern of the Probate and Juvenile Courts, especially those families that are concurrently involved in multiple government and treatment systems. With the goal of increasing the effectiveness and coordination of services in Licking County, Judge Hoover convened a "roundtable" of treatment, judicial and social service providers and funders in 2004. This work continues on today.

The taskforce charter statement is: *Creating a more Comprehensive Treatment Continuum in Licking County*. As a result of this group's work, there has been a coordinated effort to facilitate more effective interventions. Work continued in 2005 as the Court actively became involved in the Ohio Supreme Court's Beyond the Numbers Initiative. Work continued through 2006 and on into 2007 with periodic meetings of behavioral health providers and other youth/family serving entities. Some of the local accomplishments include the availability of emergency

psychiatric evaluations for both the Juvenile Court and Children's Services, integration of efforts into the Licking County Community Blueprint Strategic Plan, development of a co-occurring (substance abuse/addiction and mental health issues) homebased treatment strategy, coordination of and greater collaboration of cases involving multiple entities.

2008 saw the implementation of a new team process for youth and families involved with multiple service providers. A new team facilitator was hired by the Licking County Children and Families First Council to facilitate intervention teams that wrap around the identified families and children. This process has been developed and implemented by the expertise of Dr. Richard Shepler of the Center for Innovative Practices. 2009 saw the incorporation of the Roundtable into the Our Future's in Licking County initiative.

Teamworks!:

The Court recognizes a need to provide support for alternative educational and/or vocational assessment and intervention services to high-risk youth who continue to struggle in the traditional educational settings. The Court contracts with Kairos Academy to assess and develop an educational success plan for identified youth that are at significant risk of not achieving academic success. An educational evaluation includes assessment of the student and family including definition of roles, expectations, motivation, asset evaluation, assessment of learning styles, educational achievement and expressed interests. Utilizing information gathered from the assessment an individual educational plan is developed. The Plan encourages fam-

ily involvement and includes the following life domains: academic, social, vocational, psychological, emotional, and spiritual. The Plan includes goals, steps to attain the goals and projected deadlines. The Individual Learning Plans identify a venue (school, family, work experience and community interest areas) for each goal and activity identified.

Licking County Children and Families First Council:

The Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court is an active member of our "Council." The mission of the Licking County Children and Families First Council is: *Connecting, strengthening and building resources into a caring community which promotes the well-being of our children and families.*" The Council consists of representatives from all social service systems; as well as education, religion, and parent representatives.

Some of the collaborative projects of the Council include the *Our Futures in Licking County, the Wellness Block Grant, Clinical Committee, Early Start, Safe and Drug Free Communities, Partnerships for Success and various foundation grants.*

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS & INITIATIVES

Volunteers have become integral in taking the mission of the Court forward. Parents, dedicated teachers and compassionate and concerned citizens give their time, talents and resources to assist the Court in improving the quality of living in Licking County.

Helping Hands, Garden of Hope Program:

Since 1999, the Juvenile Court,

Denison University and various community agencies have operated a unique organic gardening program for girls involved in the juvenile justice system. Combining skill building, nutritional education, community service and mentoring, young women plan, plant, maintain and harvest vegetables from this community garden that is located on the south side of the City of Newark. Much of the harvested vegetables are then donated to local food pantries. Over dozens of girls have provided thousands of hours of community service through their participation in the garden over the past 11 years. Together, they have donated over one ton of produce to local pantries.

EDUCATION

The Juvenile Court partners with school districts and private school systems in Licking County to support school attendance and success for students. Court staff participates on task groups with school staff, working to develop initiatives to reduce challenges and increase students' school success.

Probation and Diversion Officers are assigned geographically by school district and work formally and informally with school buildings and administration.

Services provided to local schools include regular Truancy Court sessions, conducted by Judge Hoover; truancy mediation; and in-school counseling.

Student Internship Programs:

Fieldwork is a collaborative partnership between the school, community, and social work professionals and students. The Court has partnered with various institutions of higher learning to provide an opportunity for the student to apply theory acquired in the classroom with real life experiences.

The students provide tutoring, mentoring, information and referral, and counseling services to a number of youth and families involved with the Court system.

Emergency Psychiatric Services:

Licking County reflects many communities across the state struggling with limited psychiatric services for children and adolescents. Acknowledging that the Court serves many high-risk mentally ill youth in the county, Moundbuilders Guidance Center offers the Juvenile Court regular emergency psychiatric appointment slots for Court involved youth. This provides the Court the ability to access psychiatric services for youth who are critically in need of evaluation and medication. These services have also been extended to Children Services. Licking County is truly blessed to have these services available for our youth and families.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Integration:

As a result of collaboration between the Sheryl L. Kraner, Esq. Youth and Family Behavioral Health Campus and the Licking County Juvenile Court, an on-site Drug and Alcohol Dependency and Abuse specialist is currently working with the Court's forensic assessment and treatment team. Many of the youth and families that come into contact with the Juvenile Court have significant alcohol or other drug issues. It is not uncommon for these issues to co-exist with significant mental health issues. Through this collaboration, Kraner Behavioral Health is able to provide an on-site specialist that works directly with Court staff to assess and address these issues. This increased capacity allows a truly integrated approach when working with families.



COMMUNITY SERVICE SITES

Restorative Justice is based on the principle that the community must be involved in holding offenders accountable. The following is a listing of community groups in Licking County that assisted in supporting the offender in the obligation to make restoration.

4-H CarTeens
 Buckeye Lake Street Dept.
 C-Tec
 Center for Disability Services
 Charlie Franks
 City of Newark
 Cemetary and Parks Dept
 Coalition for Housing
 Excel Academy
 Family Connections Center
 Garden of Hope, Denison Univ.
 Goodwill Indust. (Licking/Knox)
 Granville Fellowship Sinnett
 House
 Hanover Fire Department
 Heath Eagles Softball League
 Heath High School
 Heath Parks Department
 Helping Hands Outreach
 Heartbeats
 Johnstown Water Plant
 Johnstown-Monroe High School
 Kairos Academy
 Kirkersville Elementary School
 Lakewood High School
 Licking County Habitat for
 Humanity
 Licking County Public Library
 Licking Heights Central Middle
 School
 Licking Park District
 Licking Valley High School
 Licking Valley Intermediate
 School
 Licking Valley Middle School
 Mary Ann Township
 Mary Ann Vol. Fire Dept.
 Mound City Little League
 Newark Catholic High School

Newark High School
 Northridge High School
 Northridge Middle School
 Ohio Department of Agriculture
 Ohio Department of
 Transportation
 Ohio State Highway Patrol
 Granville Post
 Pataskala Cemetary
 Pataskala Elementary School
 Perry Township
 Reynoldsburg High School
 Reynoldsburg Jr. High School
 Reynoldsburg Thrift Store
 Southwest Licking Bus Garage
 The Ridge Museum
 The Teen Center (Granville)
 Utica High School
 Utica Squad House
 Village of Alexandria
 Village of St. Louisville
 Washington Square Apts.
 Watkins Memorial High School
 Watkins Memorial Middle School
 Wilson Cemetary
 Woodlands
 YES Program
 YMCA of Gahanna
 YMCA of Licking County,
 Newark
 YMCA Western Branch,
 Pataskala

Churches and Religious Organizations

American Baptist Church of
 Westerville
 Children of Mary Convent
 Christian Apostolic Church
 Christian Life Center
 Crossway Community Church
 Fallsburg Baptist Church
 Family of Faith Community
 Church
 First Baptist Church (Heath)
 First Baptist Church (Newark)
 First Presbyterian Church of
 Granville
 First Southern Baptist Church
 (Johnstown)
 Jacksontown United Methodist
 Church
 Jersey Baptist Church
 Marne United Methodist
 Church
 New Life Community Center
 New Life Pentecostal Church
 Newark Baptist Temple
 Northside Baptist Church
 Old Stone Church of Christ
 Refuel Ministries
 St. Vincent DePaul Donation Ctr
 Salvation Army, Newark
 Second Baptist Church
 Tailgate Ministries
 Vineyard Church of Licking
 County
 Water's Edge UM Ministries
 Youth for Christ



Prevention:

We understand that our resources are most effective when utilized to prevent undesirable behavior or situations before they happen. Under the Ohio Revised Code, Juvenile Courts are given the latitude to address and facilitate prevention efforts within their jurisdiction. Along with many community partners, the Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court works to provide all families and youth with the opportunity, skills and resources to have a satisfying and fulfilling life.

Fostering School Success:

Academic failure, lack of commitment to school, and early and persistent antisocial behavior in school are risk factors for substance abuse, delinquency, violence, teenage pregnancy, and school dropout. Early interventions targeting the reduction of these risks and promoting protective factors are fundamental in developing healthy children.

The Licking County Juvenile Court is committed to supporting each school system to assist in building school success and to ensure that children have the opportunity to become capable and responsible citizens. The Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court is represented on Licking County School's Community Engagement Committee.

Truancy Mediation:

Truancy Mediation includes the student, parent(s), teacher and/or school administrator, and attendance officer, all working with a mediator to identify and resolve issues that are negatively affecting school attendance. Together, they work to develop a solution that will promote school success. Truancy mediation is offered to all schools in the Licking County.

School Attendance Officers:

Monitoring school attendance, coupled with contingent reinforcement of attendance, effectively reduces truancy in elementary, middle and high schools.

The Licking County Juvenile Court assists county and city schools by supporting student attendance. Court staff work directly with School Attendance Officers to address school attendance issues. School Attendance Officers work with schools and families in resolving problems of youth who are, or are at risk of, becoming habitually truant. Through intervention efforts, the area's school systems provide



alternatives for the use of probation services for truant youth.

School Unruly Program:

The Diversion Department and area schools have joined efforts to promote school success by:

Supporting communication between home, school and community.

Linking community resources to family and youth.

Providing Court services.

Officers schedule regular meetings with school administrators, teachers, attendance officers, and guidance counselors to address and prevent Court involvement due to behavioral issues.

Truancy Court:

Truancy Court has been in existence since 1997. Truancy Court is available to all school districts in Licking County.

Judge Robert Hoover presides over informal meetings at the various schools with habitually absent and truant students and their parents on issues contributing to continued absence from school.

There are two levels of informal involvement with Truancy Court. The first level is a group meeting in which the Judge discusses the importance of school attendance and the potential consequences to the student and parent for not attending class. Following the meeting with the Judge, each individual family meets with Court staff or school officials to develop an intervention plan with the objective of increased school attendance. In the case where the student's attendance continues to be an issue, the family is requested to attend an individual family meeting with the Judge. At this second level, the Judge addresses the individual family issues concerning the student's continued absence from school. If problems continue, the school attendance officer may pursue charges against the juvenile and/or the parent.

Secondary Level Prevention - *Informal Intervention Services:*

Many times the underlying issues that bring a youth or family to the attention of the Juvenile Court can be addressed prior to becoming "officially" involved. The Court, working with community partners, engages family and youth in secondary prevention interventions to prevent future undesirable behavior.

The Diversion Department:

Many youth and families that come into contact with the Juvenile Court have no history of involvement. Their offenses may be relatively minor in nature (misdemeanant or status offenses). Experience and research has shown that future Court involvement can be prevented through the development of a comprehensive plan that utilizes the resources of the community and family. This process "diverts" the youth from formal Court involvement. The Diversion Department's program provides an alternative, non-judicial method of working with the youthful offender. The goals of the diversion program are to:

- **Allow the youth to take responsibility for his or her actions with appropriate consequences.**
- **Provide the youth and family with needed resources.**
- **Prevent future involvement of the youth with the juvenile justice system.**

Youth eligible usually have no prior official or unofficial records and are generally alleged to have committed "status" (unruly, truancy, or curfew violations) or misdemeanor-level offenses.

Once referred, the Diversion Officer sets a diversion interview with the youth and parent (guardian). At the interview, the Diversion Officer asks

the youth and parent to provide information concerning the youth, the family, and the alleged offense. The Diversion Officer reads the complaint or the police report to the youth. At this time, the youth can admit or deny the offense. The youth is encouraged to share his or her side of the story. If the youth admits to the offense, the diversion interview will continue. If the youth denies the offense, the diversion interview will end. The youth has the right to an adjudicatory hearing, therefore, the report will be referred to the prosecutor for the youth to respond to the charges in court when he or she denies the charge.

The Diversion Officer assesses the youth and family for concerns in areas such as school, peer relations, and drug/alcohol involvement. They also provide the youth and their family with information about court and community resources to resolve problematic issues. The final stage of the interview involves the youth accepting responsibility for the offense by complying with certain conditions and consequences, which are written into a contract. The agreement is signed by both the youth and the parent. Contract terms are highly variable and depend on the offense, the youth, and family needs. Some examples of terms utilized in the past are community service, counseling, mediation, essays, drug/alcohol treatment, restitution, and apology letters. If a youth does not fulfill the agreements of the Diversion Contract, the offense report may be referred to the Prosecutor's Office for review and

formal prosecution.

In 2009, the Diversion Department served a total of 334 youth and families. This total included 194 males and 140 females.

Diversion Unruly Program:

This program has been developed specifically to address unruly youth and their families.

The Unruly Program is a three-tier process empowering the family to resolve their issues by utilizing community support services. This voluntary program requests that the family complete the first two phases before utilizing traditional diversion services.

Programmatic goals are as follows:

1. **Decrease the number of inappropriate referrals to the traditional diversion program.**
2. **Provide information about community services to families.**
3. **Empower the family to resolve their own issues.**
4. **Create an ongoing family support group.**
5. **Identify and connect with multiple levels of community resources in an effort to reduce the number of unrulies transferred to official status.**

This tiered process for unruly youth developed by the Licking County Juvenile Court's Diversion Department has served as a model for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Active Parenting of Teens:

In 1997, the Court collaborated with The Woodlands to develop a parent education and support program for families with teens. The Woodlands of Licking County provides a six-week educational series for parents and their teenage children that is taught by professional facilitators. The program accomplishes its goals by: promoting a positive approach to raising responsible children; utilizing lectures, group discussion, video vignettes, homework, and role-plays to increase the parent's knowledge, insight, and skills.

Substance Abuse Screens:

Adolescent substance use and abuse continue to be concerns of the Court. The Court refers youth to local treatment and educational programs for assessment and intervention. In 1996, the Court began utilizing

trained Court staff to conduct in-house drug screening. Having test results immediately provides the staff the ability to hold the juvenile accountable at the time of testing. Judge Hoover has provided parents who attend Truancy Court the opportunity to utilize the Court's screening program to enable them to make informed intervention choices for their child.

Mediation:

Mediation is a process used through-out the continuum of Court services, from prevention through re-entry to the community out of the Ohio Department of Youth Services. This process is designed to promote reconciliation, create well-crafted settlements, or find compromise.

In this Court, mediation has evolved as an effective tool for resolving issues between family members and among peers; mediation also works for those victimized by offenses to reach restitution with offenders. Schools, students, and family find mediation helpful in identifying and resolving issues that can lead to truancy.

This developing model of mediation moves the process from a "settlement driven" model of problem solving to a "dialogue driven" participant centered approach that promotes peacemaking

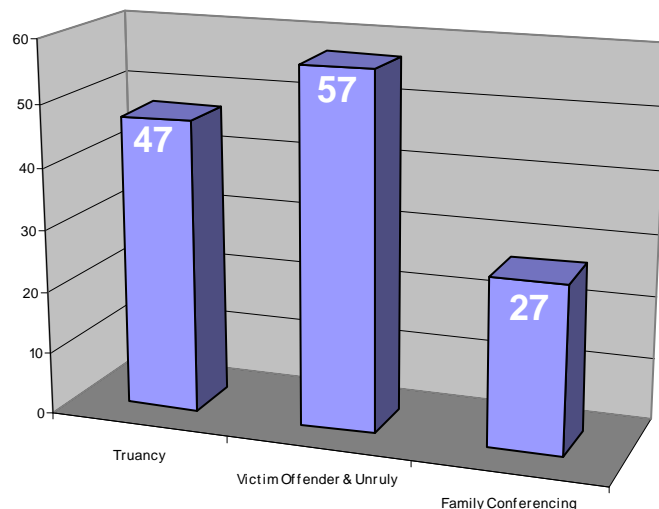
and the healing of relationships in the community. The emphasis is on making a space for dialogue, that allows each party to the mediation to discuss the full impact of the conflict, lets them help each other in determining the most suitable resolution, and to recognize each other as fellow members of a connected community, despite the conflict.

Mediation is a facilitated process, helping individuals work together to create their own solutions, and take responsibility for working out an agreement, both at the mediation, and afterwards, back out in the community.

In Truancy Mediation, the mediator facilitates dialogue between the school, attendance officer, parents, and student, to develop a solution that will promote school success. Truancy mediation is provided to all schools in the county from elementary through high school. There were 47 completed truancy mediations in 2009.

Parent/Child (Unruly) Mediation provides a place for child and parent to communicate their needs and resolve how the family together can meet needs of each member. This type of mediation can involve multiple sessions where the family chooses to work on a few issues at a time, building a base for themselves of increased

Juvenile Court Mediations in 2009



trust, responsibility, and independence.

Victim/Offender Mediation involves the community and especially the person(s) victimized by an offense in the working of the juvenile justice process. It can be one process where restorative justice is promoted, allowing the victim to meet face-to-face with the offender involved, and share with that young person the full impact of the event, as well as have a say in the reparations. It provides the offender an opportunity to fully understand, from the victim's perspective, the impact of their actions beyond even what they realized. For some offenders, this may be the first time he or she had an awareness of the personal suffering caused to another human being, and the ripple effects of what they have done.

Mediation is an effective method to reach resolution and make restitution when appropriate. Participants gain valuable skills for handling future issues, and report positive feedback on the process from their perspective in follow-up surveys.

One hundred and thirty-one mediations were completed in 2009.

Family Conferencing:

Since 2002, in response to House Bill 57 and in collaboration with Licking County Job and Family Services, a pilot project began in Licking County Juvenile Court to serve a population that does not fit neatly into any existing service category.

For juveniles whose acts are not criminals, are not clearly cases of abuse or neglect, or are not severely mentally disabled, some obvious paths to assistance are not readily available to them or their families. The family may deal with multiple issues like conflict, lack of supervision, drug and alcohol use, mental health, and/or lack of school success. These are the settings for youth whom the family and community ask the juvenile court system: "Do something!"

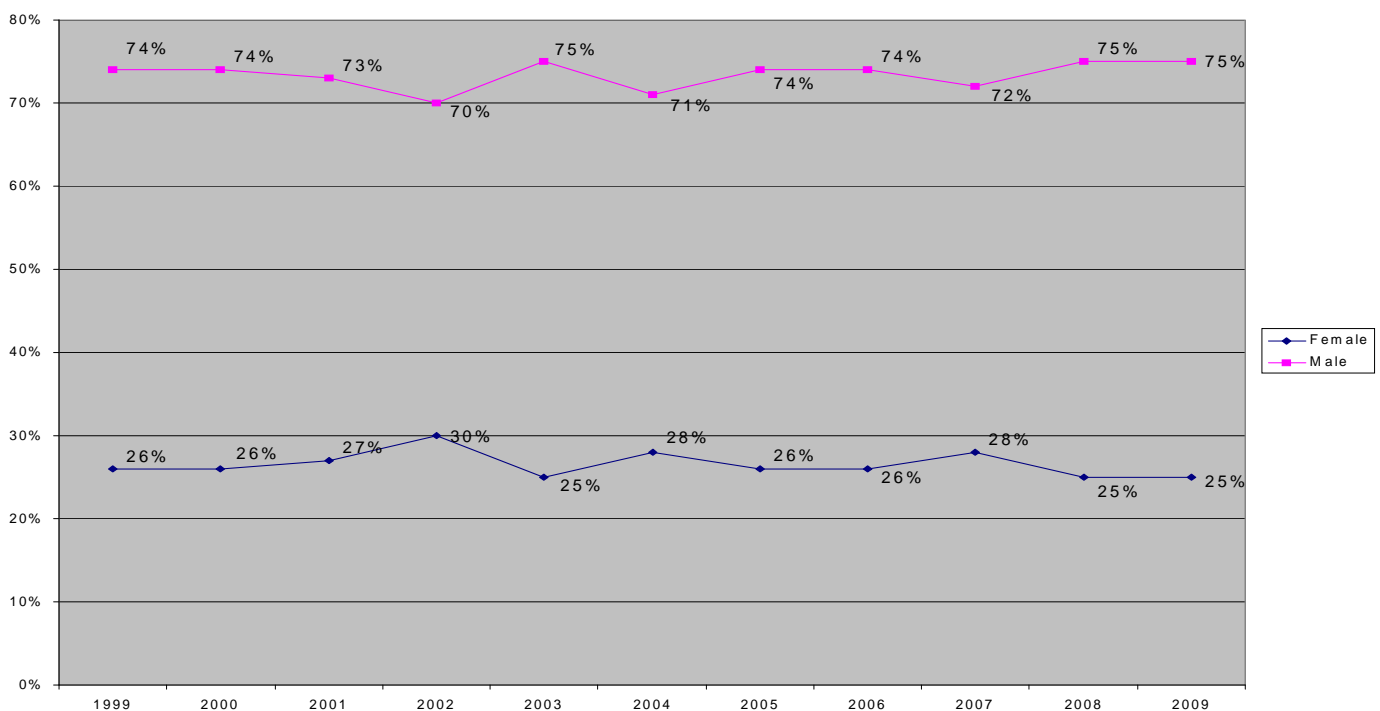
Traditionally, these youth have been under the umbrella of Court services through the Diversion Program, and they tend to move quickly from unofficial diversion status to official probation status. Putting these youth into detention is neither an option, nor a solution; we want to address the often complicated underlying issues confronting the youth and their family. One way to do that is called "family

conferencing."

Twenty-seven families chose to make use of family conferencing in 2009, addressing their own unique concerns and needs, using a mediator and therapist working in tandem. A Diversion Officer of the Court may recommend family conferencing, using a current counselor/therapist the family is working with, or asking for a staff therapist to be included in the mediation. Using the continuum of family services under the Court "umbrella," the idea is to divert the youth from official Court involvement, and to provide the family with services that will reduce the unruly behaviors of the youth.

The focus is on promoting self-determination and skill-building, providing a place where the family can work constructively on resolving the issues that brought them to the Court staff's attention. When healthy conversation gets started, problem solving will begin and the conference participants can work on a family plan that makes sense in the family's particular setting. They are provided support and encouragement by the mediator and therapist that often leads to referral and linkage with other community support systems.

Percentage of Adjudications by Gender



Therapeutic Services:

It is primary to our operations to address the underlying issue or issues that brings a family to the Licking County Juvenile Court. Utilizing evidenced-based therapeutic interventions and assessments allows the Bench and our staff the ability to comprehensively address the issues that may cause a family to return to our system.

Individual and Family Therapy:

In the early 1980s, the Court developed a small clinical department to provide free assessment and counseling services to the population of juvenile offenders and their families. Over the past 27+ years, the services have evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of the adolescent and family. Today, services are family focused vs. child focused; interventions are driven by comprehensive family assessments utilizing a number of different tools, and children and adolescents are served at all levels of Court involvement (pre-diversion, diversion, probation, and in-placement). The Court's treatment unit provides clinical assessments, individual and family counseling, participates in family conferencing and provides follow-up services, case management services, emergency suicide and homicide risk assessments, and consultative services. The counselors team with Mediation staff, Probation, and Diversion Officers to provide holistic case planning for youth.

In an effort to meet the unique needs of each family, clinical staff visits the youth and their family in their home, school, employment, and in the office in order to address all areas affecting the youth and family's life. Clinicians provide services in the evening as well as on the weekend to reduce the need to remove adolescents from school or the parent from his or her workplace.

The clinical staff utilizes several different treatment modalities while working with youth and family. Utilizing *brief cognitive therapy*, the counselor and family develop goals in the initial sessions and work towards overcoming barriers in the thinking process towards achieving goals.

Ideally, the counseling process would last no longer than five to eight sessions. *Family systems therapy* examines the family as a functioning system operating with other systems (school, work, and community). This modality also examines the family dynamics and looks to change dysfunctional patterns through restructuring family communication patterns and utilizing external systems.

In addition to working with youth referred from the Bench, probation, and diversion, clinicians accept referrals from School Attendance Officers and Truancy Court as well as the Department of Youth Services' Aftercare Division. In 2009, the clinical unit provided individual, family, and group counseling to 233 youth and their families and participated in 27 family conference meetings. The clinical staff conducted 114 clinical assessments for the Bench.

Psychological Assessments:

In an effort to gain a clear understanding of the underlying issues that promote criminal or unruly behaviors and through that understanding provide meaningful and potentially effective interventions, psychological evaluations are provided at the request of Court staff. Psychological evaluations are utilized to aid in the final disposition of a youth in regards to Court-ordered treatment and placement decisions. The Court contracts service from a licensed psychologist with forensic, adolescent and family work experience and knowledge of community resources and services. Contracting on a weekly basis greatly reduces time lag between adjudication and disposition. The psychologist bases his final recommendations on information from MMPI test results, face-to-face interviews with youth and family, phone interviews and written records from

Court, staff, schools, and other systems involved with youth and family.

In 2009, there were 40 psychological evaluations prepared.

Pro-Social Skill Building/AFAM:

In 2006, the Court adopted a family-based Pro-Social Skill Building program designed for youth and family members to learn appropriate social skills, new ways to control anger, and to help improve moral development. This has evolved into what is now known as the Adolescent Family Management program (AFAM). It utilizes many of the concepts found in Goldstein's Prepare Curriculum (Goldstein, 1999) including components of Aggression Replacement Training (Goldstein, et. al., 1998).

In AFAM, parents and child are asked to participate in a group session with five other families, one night per week for a period of eight to ten weeks. Groups are divided by gender, with different sessions for male and female children. The families are taught sets of skills they can use at home and in their everyday life, such as Listening, Negotiating, Understanding the Feelings of Others and Keeping Out of Fights. Trainers model each new skill, have the participants practice the skill, and then provide feedback. Parents and children are given homework to practice the new skill and asked to report back each week.

Family participation is an important key to the success of AFAM. Focusing on the whole family, instead of just the child, enables learning to be accelerated and practiced regularly in a "real world" environment and allows the family to reinforce new positive behaviors together.

In 2009, there were 68 families and children who participated in Adolescent and Family Management program through the Licking County Juvenile Court.

Community Service & Victim Services:

The Juvenile Court is charged to "remove the taint of criminality" from the juvenile offender. By addressing the needs of the victim and allowing them to participate in the justice process, we are assisting in moving the individual and family forward. By giving the juvenile offender an attempt to give back to the victim and community, they have an opportunity to begin to "make right" what they have done wrong.

Youth Responsibility Project Community Service Components:

The Youth Responsibility Project (YRP) provides the Court-involved youth of Licking County the opportunity to participate in community service work. The Court sends a clear message to the youth that his or her actions have violated public trust. Community Service provides the opportunity to regain that trust by giving back to the community through service. This project provides the opportunity for youth to develop new skills and build quality relationships with adult mentors. In 2009, the Project worked with numerous nonprofit organizations throughout Licking County to provide 369 youth the opportunity to volunteer. A total of 19,081 hours were contributed to community service. Twenty youth, under Court jurisdiction, performed five hundred and ninety-eight hours of community service during their school suspensions/expulsions. Based upon the State minimum wage of \$7.30 an hour, \$139,291.30 was given back to the community through this program.

Adopt-A-Highway Program:

Licking County Juvenile Court is a member of the Adopt-A-Highway Program sponsored by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Our two designated areas are located on Routes 13 & 40 in the Jacksontown area. YRP's staff maintain this area with Court-involved youth during the months of March through mid-November.

YRP Restitution Program:

Juvenile offenders are held directly accountable for their actions. As part of the youth's probation, he or she may be ordered to provide restitution to a specific victim for any out-of-pocket losses the victim may have incurred.

Packets are mailed to each victim providing them with information on their rights, a loss verification statement, and the opportunity to write a victim impact statement. Victims are notified at a later date in regards to the restitution which they will be receiving from the juvenile. In 2009, a total of \$17,716.00 was returned to victims. During this year, 56% of the youth ordered to pay resitution paid their victims in full by the end of the year.

Bridge to Employment

Bridge to Employment is a program that works with Licking County youth that are eager to earn wages and contribute to their communities. The program provides these youths with the skills necessary to assist them in becoming the kind of highly employable young people that businesses want to hire. All of those involved in the program go through an intensive training program that teaches them how to be a successful member of the workforce.

When a business hires a "Bridge to Employment" youth, they gain an enthusiastic and skilled employee, while the youth gains the opportunity to learn a craft and contribute to their community in a positive way.

Victim's Advocate (Prosecutor's Office):

Since 1998, the Licking County Probate-Juvenile Court has housed a Victim's Advocate that is employed by the Licking County Prosecutor's Office. The Victim's Advocate works directly with victims and their families and acts as a liason to the Court.

Community Safety:

To provide community safety and hold the youth accountable for his or her actions, it may become necessary for the youth to be placed on community-based surveillance or removed from his or her home and placed in a detention facility, treatment facility, or foster home. The Court uses a variety of options to meet the varied needs and risk levels of adjudicated youth.

Probation:

The primary role of the Probation Officer is to monitor and enforce Court orders of youth who are officially involved with the Court (youth who have been adjudicated delinquent). All youth placed on probation are given specific Court orders tailored to the youth and to the offense. The Officer is charged with monitoring these Court orders, assessing the youth, and formulating a plan to assist the youth in his or her rehabilitation as a youthful offender.

Risk of reoffending determines the level of supervision and monitoring conducted by the Officer. Probation Officers work in the field, spending time in their assigned schools working with administrators, teachers, and youth; in homes with the youth and his or her family; and in the community.

According to computer records, youth

were adjudicated delinquent or unruly in 662 cases (not including probation violations). Twenty-seven of these youth were committed or recommitted to the Department of Youth Services. At any given time throughout the year, there were approximately 355 youth on probation, with each Probation Officer carrying an average caseload of between 40 and 60 youth.

On-Call Officer:

The Court provides evening and weekend emergency services to the community through the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP). A full-time, On-Call Court Officer provides curfew monitoring, surveillance and emergency services to the community and will answer requests from local law enforcement and citizens on an urgent or

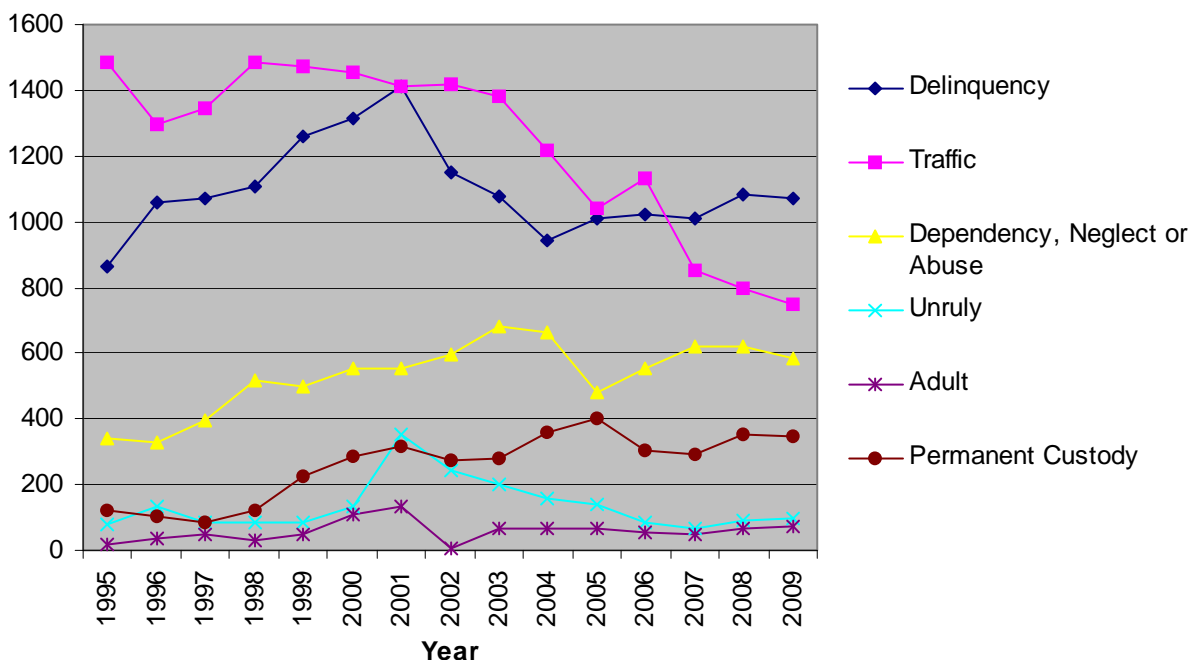
emergency basis pertaining to issues of public safety.

This On-Call Officer, through the use of electronic monitoring, is able to place an offender on electronic house arrest and monitor his or her compliance. Youth sentenced to electronic monitoring by the Court will also be monitored throughout non-business hours.

Electronic Monitoring Device (EMD):

Electronic Monitoring Devices have been utilized by the Court for over 15 years. The Court orders a youth to be placed on EMD when it is an appropriate alternative to detention, when a youth is being released from detention and the Court wishes to limit his or her activities, or when detention space is not available. Through this monitoring device, the youth's movement outside the home is

Historical Juvenile Court Filing Comparison



recorded. If the recorded time does not correspond to school or job hours, then the youth is in violation and further Court action will be required. In 2008, the Court began the utilization of GPS aided systems.

Juvenile Detention:

Licking County is a member of the Fairfield, Hocking, Licking and Perry County Multi-County Juvenile Detention District. In 2004, the District opened a new, state of the art, detention facility in Lancaster, Ohio. The detention center is a 50 bed facility, of which Licking County utilizes an average of 20 beds a day. The detention center is utilized when there is a need to confine a youth for his/her safety or for the safety of others, or as a result of a court disposition.

Foster Care:

Foster Care is utilized as a last resort for youth who are adjudicated delinquent, but also lack the care, guidance, and support at home to change this behavior.

Foster Care has also been utilized on a short-term basis for respite services for youth.

The Court contracts with various foster care networks in the area who are licensed by the State Department of Human Services to provide these services.

Perry Multi-County Juvenile Facility

The Perry Multi-County Juvenile Facility is the product of a collaboration between seven counties and the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Opening in 2002, it is a 20-bed community corrections facility for youth that have been adjudicated delinquent on a felony offense as an alternative to a commitment to a Department of Youth Services Facility.

Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS):

The Department of Youth Services' role is to enhance public safety by

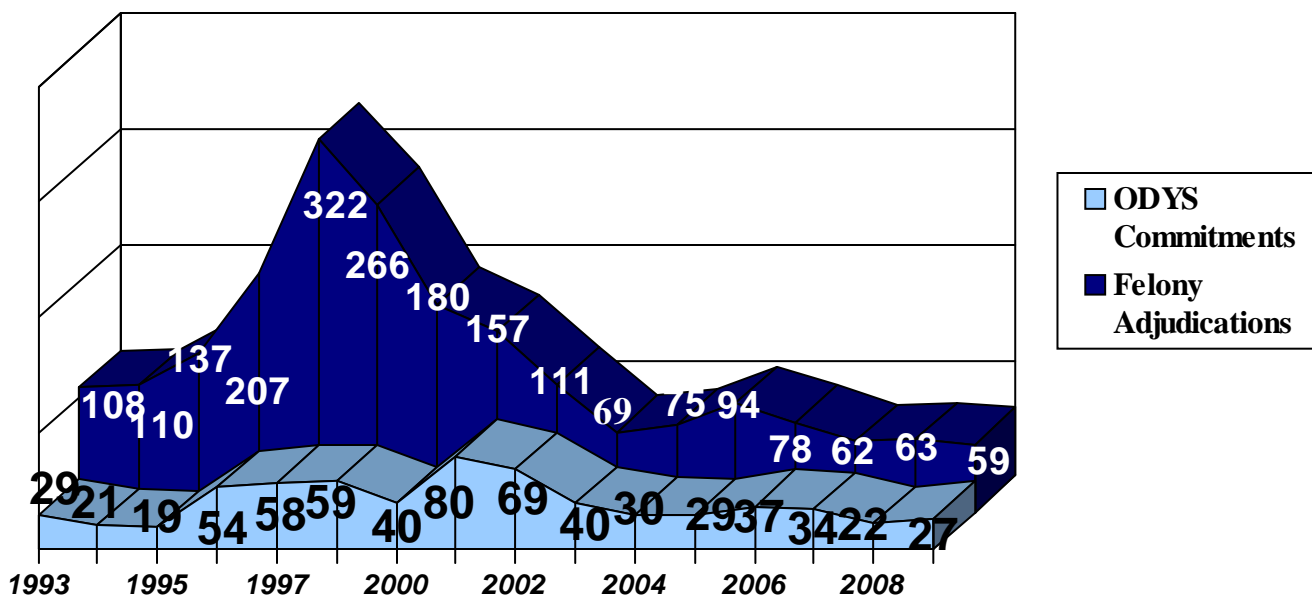
confining serious juvenile offenders. DYS institutions provide a variety of services, which include educational, psychological, vocational, and counseling services. The Department provides specialized services to youth who have committed sex offenses or who have a history of substance abuse or drug trafficking.

In 2009, Licking County Juvenile Court committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services 27 youth.

Sargus Gender Specific Program:

The Licking County Juvenile Court recognizes the unique needs of females in the juvenile justice system. Intervention and care strategies should be designed to meet these unique needs. To aid in this process, the Juvenile Court utilizes the Sargus Gender Specific residential program in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Comparison of Felony Adjudications to Commitments to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS)



2009 Adjudications/Dispositions
Licking County Juvenile Court

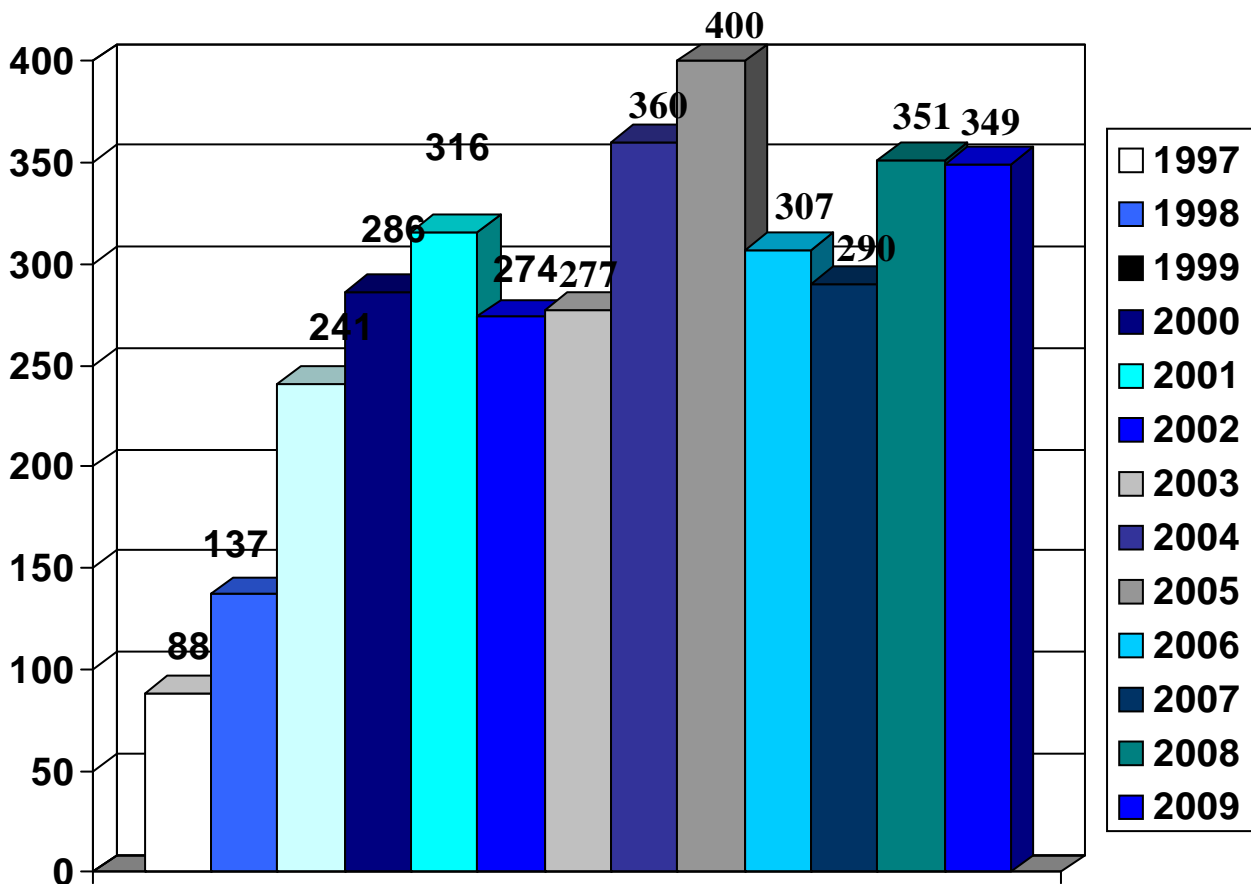
Offense	Female	%	Male	%	Total
Aggravated Menacing	0	0.00%	8	100.00%	8
Aggravated Robbery	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Aggravated Felonious Assault	1	20.00%	4	80.00%	5
Arson	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	4
Assault	29	44.62%	36	55.38%	65
Attempted Burglary	1	100.00%		0.00%	1
Attempted Breaking and Entry	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
Breaking & Entering	0	0.00%	16	100.00%	16
Burglary	2	8.70%	21	91.30%	23
Chronic Truancy	5	33.33%	10	66.67%	15
Complicity	1	20.00%	4	80.00%	5
Criminal Damaging	3	7.69%	36	92.31%	39
Criminal Mischief	1	12.50%	7	87.50%	8
Criminal Trespassing	2	14.29%	12	85.71%	14
Disorderly Conduct	16	41.03%	23	58.97%	39
Domestic Violence	17	41.46%	24	58.54%	41
Escape	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Failure to Comply with a Peace Officer	0	0.00%	3	100.00%	3
Falsification	6	42.86%	8	57.14%	14
Forgery	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
Gross Sexual Imposition	0	0.00%	5	100.00%	5
Habitual Truancy	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
Hunting without a licenses	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Illegal Possession of a Weapon	0	0.00%	3	100.00%	3
Improper Use of a Firearm	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Intimidation	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
Menacing	5	45.45%	6	54.55%	11
Negligent Homicide	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Obstruction of Official Business	6	50.00%	6	50.00%	12
Possession of Criminal Tools	3	60.00%	2	40.00%	5
Possession of Dangerous Ordinance	0	0.00%	7	100.00%	7
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	2	16.67%	10	83.33%	12
Possession of Drugs	8	27.59%	21	72.41%	29
Possession of Wild Animals	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
Probation Violation	64	24.24%	200	75.76%	264
Public Indecency	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Rape	0	0.00%	14	100.00%	14
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0.00%	11	100.00%	11
Reckless Hunting	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Resisting Arrest	2	33.33%	4	66.67%	6
Robbery	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Safe Cracking	0	0.00%	3	100.00%	3
Sexual Imposition	0	0.00%	7	100.00%	7
Tampering with Evidence	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Telephone Harassment	1	50.00%	1	50.00%	2
Theft & Petty Theft	22	27.50%	58	72.50%	80
Tobacco Violation	8	27.59%	21	72.41%	29
Trafficking in Drugs	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	4
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle	1	25.00%	3	75.00%	4
Underage Alcohol Violations	11	26.19%	31	73.81%	42
Unlawful Restraint	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
Unruly	22	46.81%	25	53.19%	47
Vehicular Assault	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
Vandalism	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	4
Vehicular Manslaughter	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Violation of a Protective Order	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
TOTALS	239	25.81%	687	74.19%	926

Abuse, Neglect & Dependency Cases:

"The victimization of the weak by the strong—in this case, of children by adults—is one of the most shameful constants in human history. Unfortunately, contemporary American society is not immune from this repugnant behavior. The National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse estimates that one million children suffered maltreatment in the United States in 1995." (Shay Bilchik, Administrator - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)

The Licking County Juvenile Court processed 176 new neglect, abuse, and dependency cases in 2009. These cases are managed by the Licking County Department of Job and Family Services, Children's Services Division. The Court reviews these cases on a bi-annual basis ensuring that relevant, safe, quality services are being provided. In each case filed, the Court provides additional support through appointed Guardians ad Litem (GAL's), whose responsibility is to represent the best interest of the children.

Total Permanent Custody Filings



Juvenile Traffic:

The Licking County Juvenile Court holds Traffic Court once a week. The Court is responsible for processing all citations issued to individuals under the age of 18 who live in Licking County, or who were cited in Licking County.

Youth who admit or who are adjudicated a traffic offender, are Court ordered to one of two county programs offered to teen drivers: 4-H CARTEENS and the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course.

4-H CARTEENS:

The CAR in CARTEENS stands for **C**autious **A**nd **R**esponsible, which are two of the objectives of the program.

The Ohio State University Extension's 4-H CARTEENS Program is a traffic safety education program for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. The Ohio State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Office collaborated with the Juvenile Court to provide this valuable program. The program's primary goal is to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders.

The unique quality of the 4-H CARTEENS Program is that teens, sixteen to nineteen (16-19) years of

age, will serve as the instructors for a two-hour session. This class is for first-time offenders who must attend as part of their disposition. The teens facilitate, develop lesson plans, course format, and conduct the program for teen traffic offenders. Juvenile Court and Officer Perry Broseus of the Heath Police Department are also involved, serving as guest speakers to the teens.

The program includes the following topics:

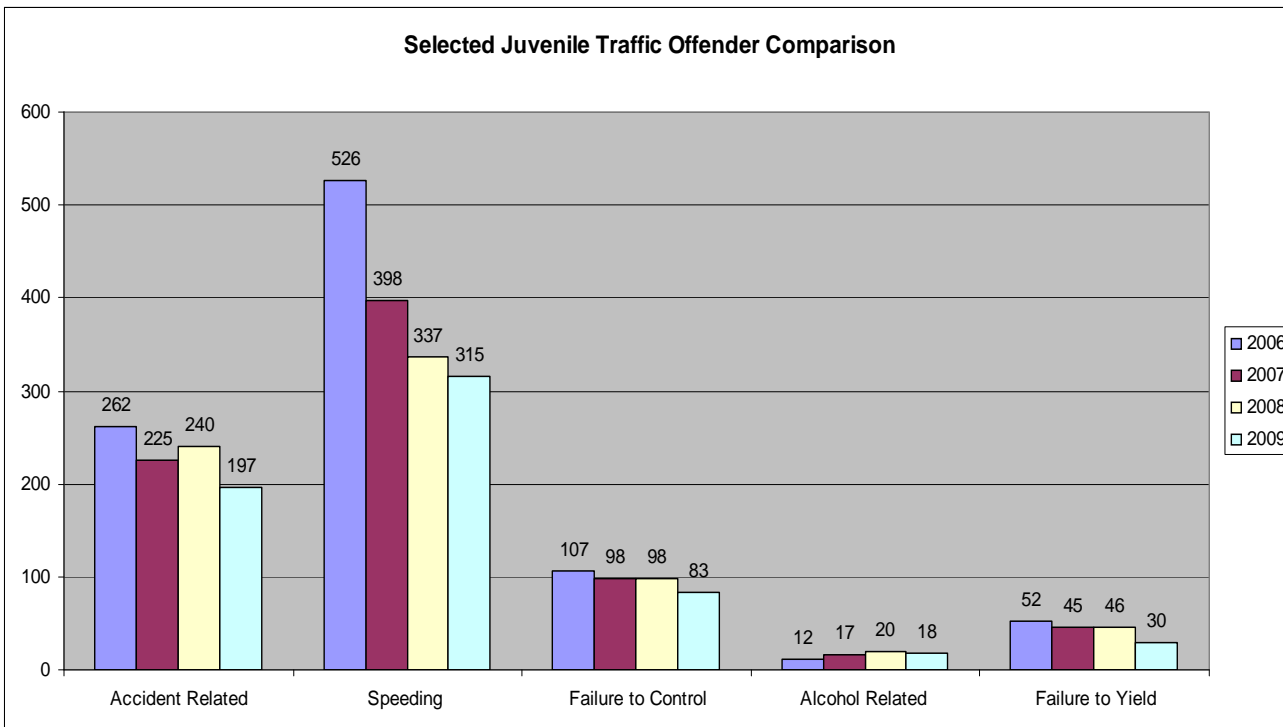
- Drinking and driving
- Seat belt safety
- Insurance rates
- Peer pressure

- Safe driving tips
- Consequences of unsafe driving

The program format utilizes visuals, videos, guest speakers, group discussion, skits, statistics, and an evaluation instrument.

Defensive Driving Course:

The Court refers youth to a Defensive Driving Course conducted by the National Safety Council at CTEC. The course is eight hours long. The course provides classroom instruction on defensive driving skills.



Probate Court:

The term “probate” comes from the Latin word *probation*, meaning, “to prove”, wherein matters in early English religious courts were proven before an ecclesiastical judge. Early American probate courts may be traced back to English courts of Chancery and ecclesiastical, or religious courts, which had jurisdiction over the probate of wills, administration of estates and guardianships. (Taken from “The Ohio Court System,” published by the Judicial College of the Supreme Court of Ohio.)

The Probate Division of the Licking County Common Pleas Court has jurisdiction of over 200 duties in the local legal system. These areas include, but are not limited to:

- The administration of estates, wills.
- Consent for medical treatment.
- Guardianships.
- Conservatorships.
- Adoptions.
- Birth certificates (delayed registration and correction).
- Changes of name.
- Marriage licenses.
- Land appropriations.
- Testamentary trusts.
- Appointments to boards and commissions.

The Probate Court is also a well-used resource for genealogical research.

Administration of Estates:

The Court is responsible for the “probating” of wills and the administration of estates and trusts of deceased persons. It is the Probate Court’s task to interpret last wills in the event of uncertainty or conflict over the will’s meaning or to determine rights to an estate where the person has died “intestate” (without a will). In 2009, there were 729 new estate filings in the Licking County Probate Court. Seven hundred and three filings were closed, and there were 473 estates pending as of December 31, 2009.

Guardianships:

The Probate Court may appoint, after appropriate legal investigations and proceedings, a guardian for a minor or an adult who is found incompetent to take care of himself/herself or his/

her property. Under Court supervision, the guardian is responsible for making personal and/or financial decisions for the ward. In 2009, there were 97 new filings, with 101 closed and 560 pending on December 31, 2009.

Conservatorships:

Conservatorships are granted when the conservatee, person subject to conservatorship, agrees to the action. The conservatee must be mentally competent but physically infirm.

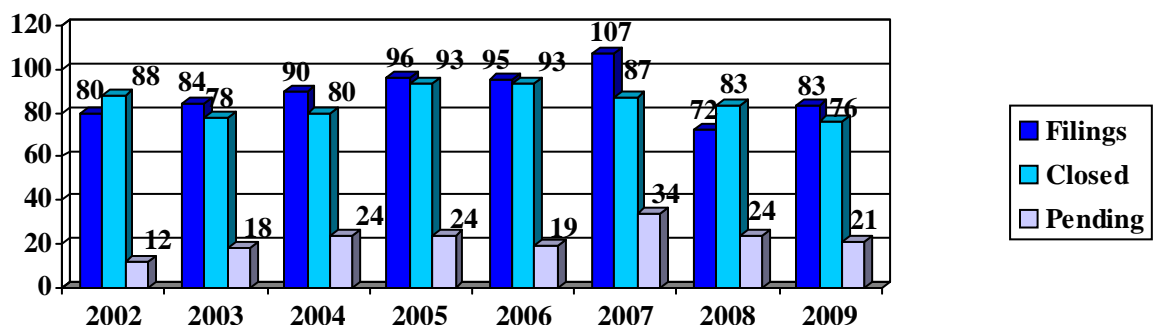
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation:

Civil involuntary commitments of retarded and mentally ill citizens to state hospitals are the responsibility of the Probate Court. Hearings must be held to determine the appropriateness and length of treatment. In 2009, there were 6 new filings.

Adoptions:

All adoptions must be approved by the

Adoptions



Probate Court before finalization. The person or persons applying for adoption must submit to an investigation to ensure a suitable placement.

Changes of Name:

The Probate Court receives applications for a change of name. The hearing date for the request of a name change must be published. If good reason and proper cause exist, the Court may grant the name change. In 2009, the Court received 54 filings for name changes.

Testamentary and Inter Vivos Trusts:

The Probate Court is responsible for ensuring the compliance with the terms of testamentary trusts (those created by a will). Periodic

accountings to the Court are submitted to accomplish this duty. Questions involving interpretation and enforcement of both testamentary and inter vivos trusts (those created during a person’s lifetime) may be submitted to the Court. At the end of 2009, there were 180 pending trusts.

Land Appropriations:

The Probate Court has concurrent jurisdiction with the General Division of the Common Pleas Court to hear land appropriation cases. In a land appropriation, real property is being taken by the state, city, county, or a public utility under the laws of eminent domain, for a public purpose such as highway or power line construction.

Wills:

The Probate Court has a variety of responsibilities for wills. These

include the safekeeping of wills that are filed with the court, the probating of wills as described above, and the determining of the validity of a will if it is contested.

Birth Certificates (Registration and Correction):

In cases where a birth has not been recorded or the birth certificate has been lost, destroyed or is not recorded accurately, the Probate Court has the power to require recording or correction of the certificate. In 2009, there were 6 filings.

Marriage Licenses:

The Probate Court has exclusive jurisdiction to issue marriage licenses. After an application has been submitted, a license can be issued by a deputy clerk.

Marriage Licenses

