

MONTANA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Youth Court At-A-Glance

January 2011 through December 2011



MONTANA SUPREME COURT
Office of the Court Administrator
301 South Park Ave., STE 328
Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 841-2950



MONTANA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Youth Court At-A-Glance *January 2011 through December 2011*

I am very pleased to share the 2011 Youth Court report card with you. We continue to see very positive trends in the number of youth coming in contact with the juvenile justice system. Since 2008, the number of youth involved with Youth Court has decreased by one-third. Much of this decrease can be credited to prevention and intervention programs established within local communities by the Youth Courts. While most news is positive, Youth Courts continue to manage difficult youth with mental health issues as evidenced by the number of youth placed in residential treatment facilities and the amount of funding spent on counseling, evaluations and other mental health services. Providing appropriate interventions for these high-cost youth and maintaining the overall system successes are the focuses for the future.

Mike McGrath
Chief Justice

JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERVIEW

Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system through contact with law enforcement, although they may be referred to juvenile probation by other agencies and parents. Juvenile probation is an integral part of the Youth Court and is overseen by the Youth Court judge within each of the 22 Judicial Districts. Most referrals to the Youth Court's juvenile probation office are in the form of a ticket accompanied by a report from law enforcement. Juvenile probation officers may handle any referral except traffic and fish and game violations, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Justice, Municipal, City, and District Courts.

Youth referred to probation must appear in front of the juvenile probation officer with a parent or guardian to answer to the allegations against them. Most youth will never see the Youth Court judge and will work solely through the Youth Court juvenile probation officer to resolve the ticket in what is referred to as the informal process. If the referral is forwarded to the county attorney and a petition is filed on the alleged charges, the youth will appear before the Youth Court judge in what is referred to as the formal process.

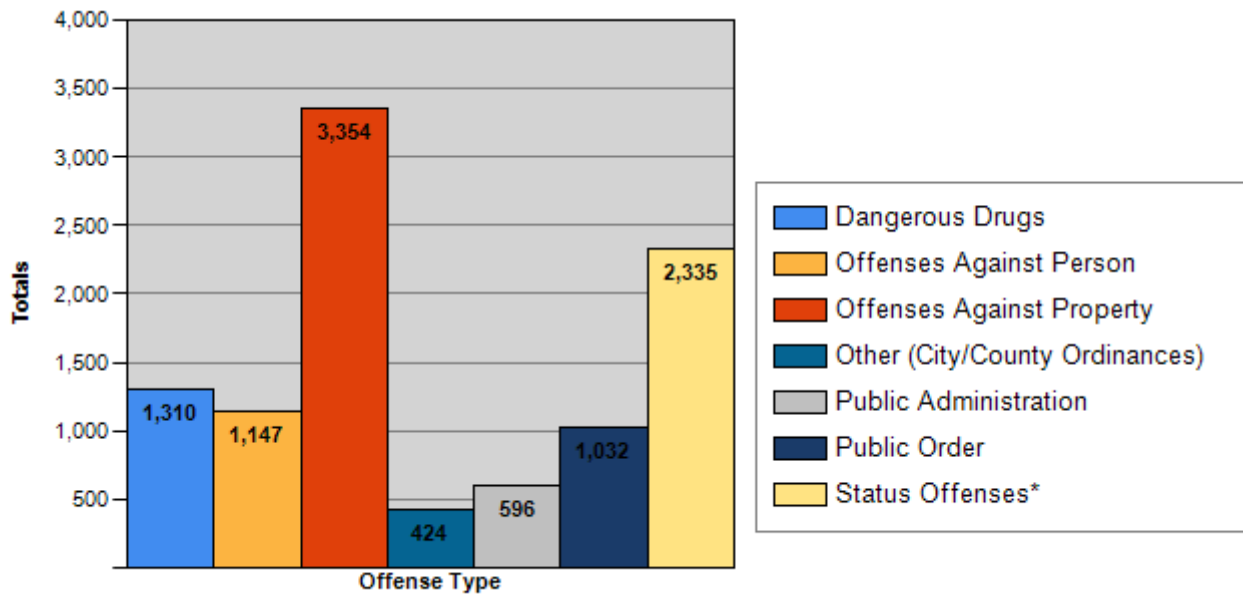
Approximately 20% of the youth referred to juvenile probation each year are handled formally.



REFERRALS TO MONTANA'S YOUTH COURTS

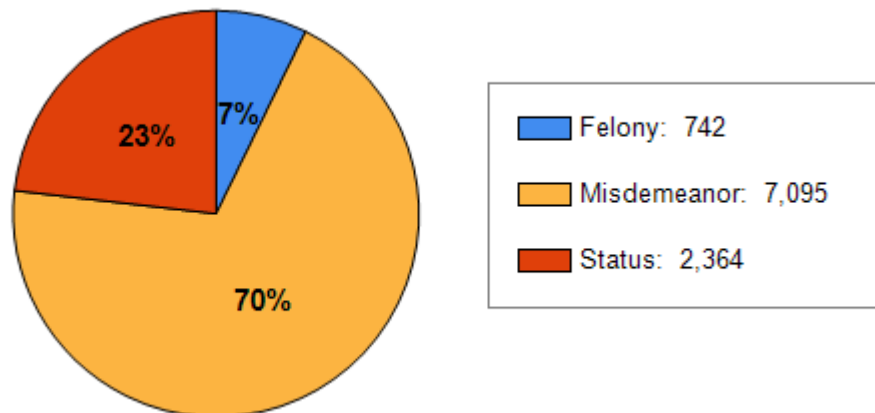
Youth Referred to Youth Court	4,837
Referrals (a youth may have multiple referrals)	7,652
Offenses (a referral may have multiple offenses)	10,201

OFFENSE CATEGORIES

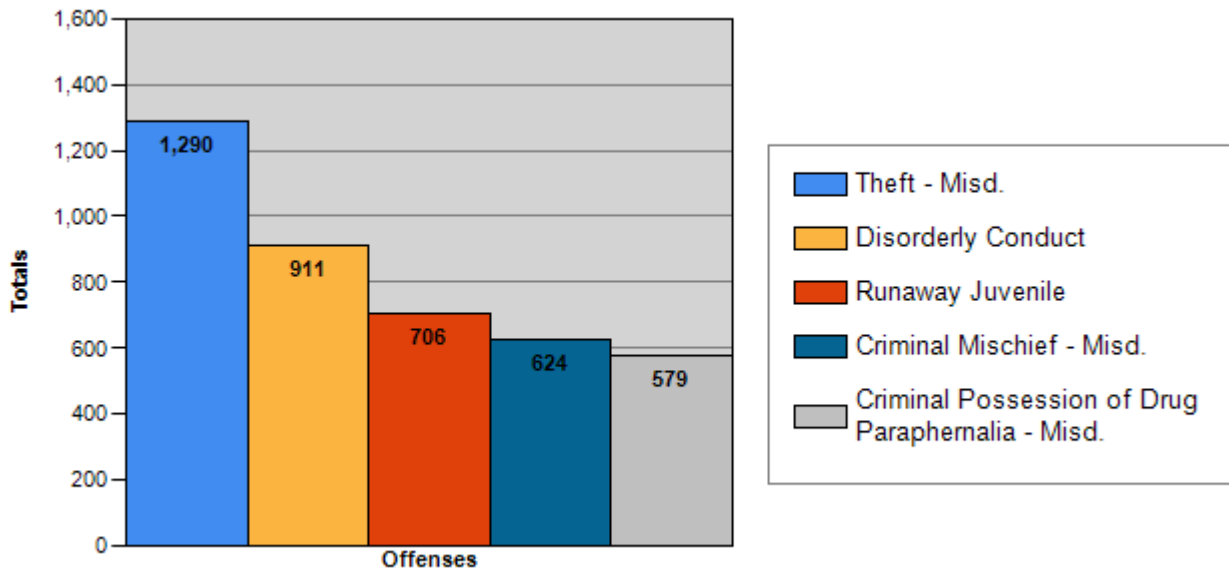


* These are matters that are offenses because of the youth's age and include such things as a minor in possession of alcohol, truancy, curfew or a run-away violation.

OFFENSE CLASSIFICATIONS



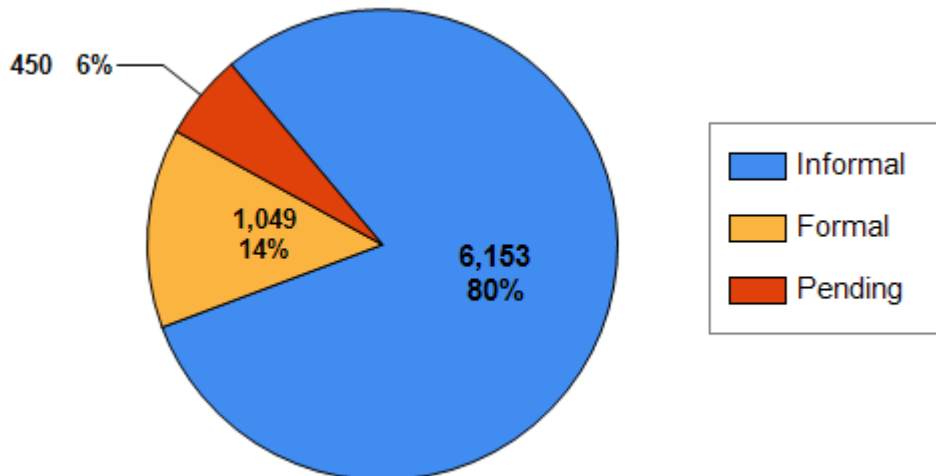
FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO JUVENILE PROBATION



Twelve districts out of the 22 handle at least 50% of the minor in possession tickets within the district. In the other districts, courts of limited jurisdiction handle the majority of the MIP offenses.

TYPE OF DISPOSITION USED (INFORMAL VS. FORMAL)

- Informal -** Case is handled by a juvenile probation officer.
- Formal -** Petition is filed and youth appears before Youth Court judge.
- Pending -** Awaiting action from the county attorney's office, requires further investigation by law enforcement, or a ticket has been issued and juvenile probation is waiting to see the youth and parent(s).

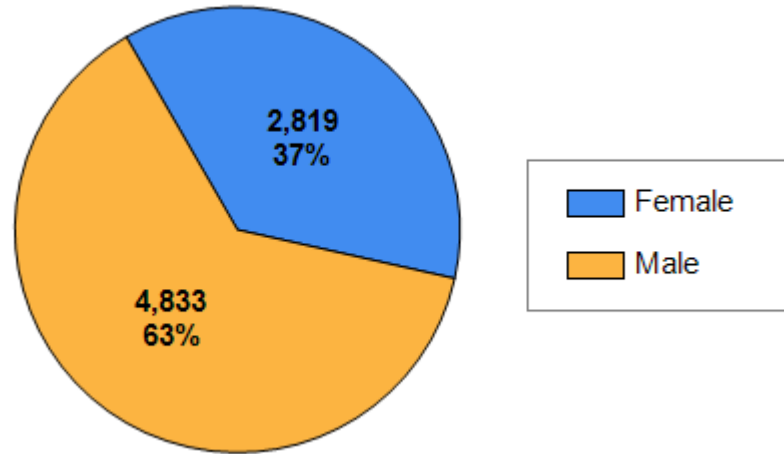




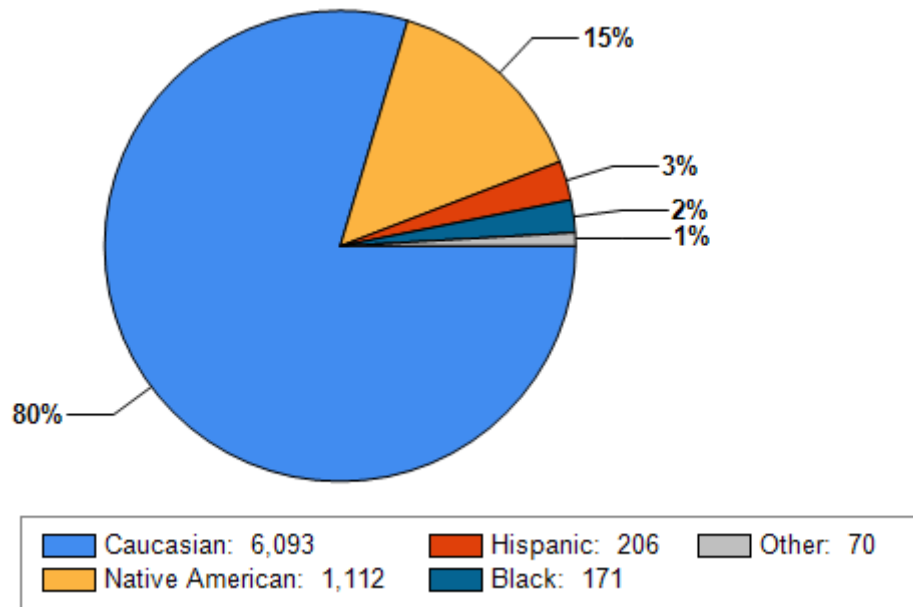
REPERAL CHARACTERISTICS

YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

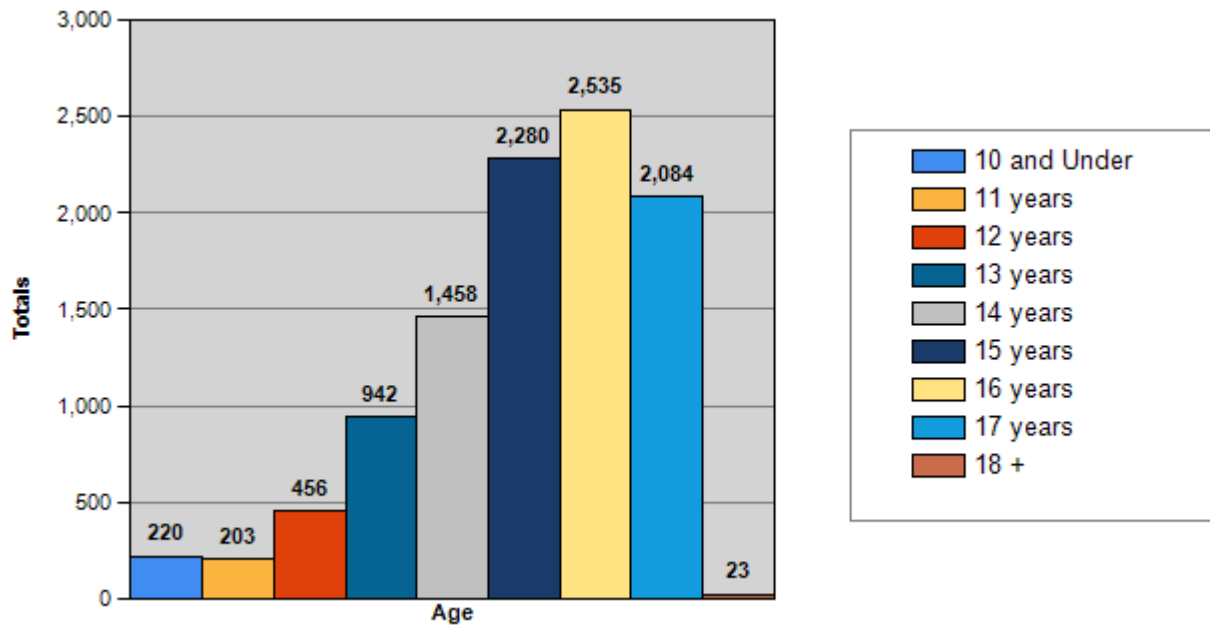
GENDER



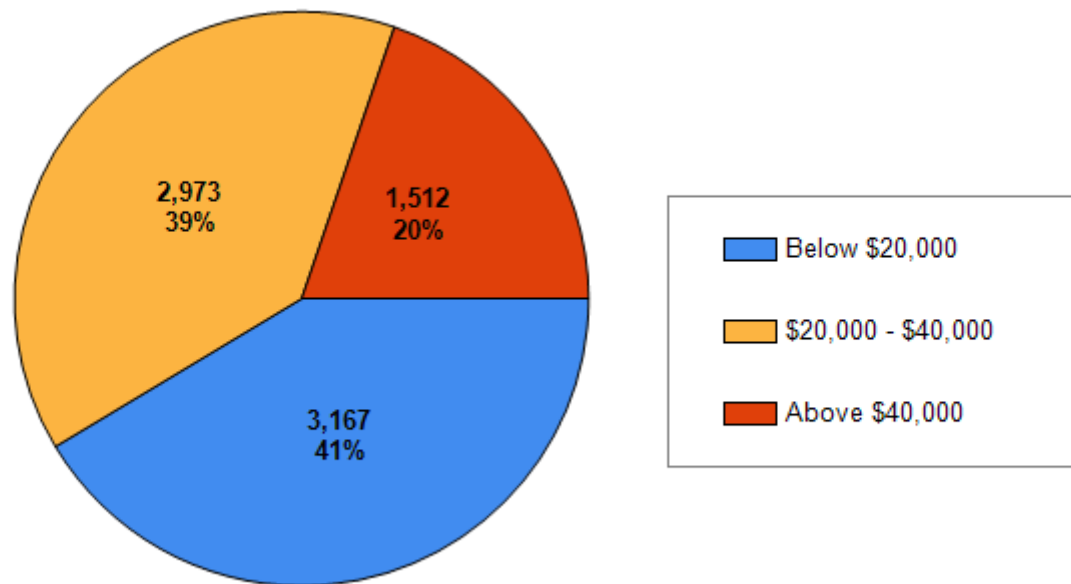
RACE



AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE



FAMILY'S HOUSEHOLD INCOME



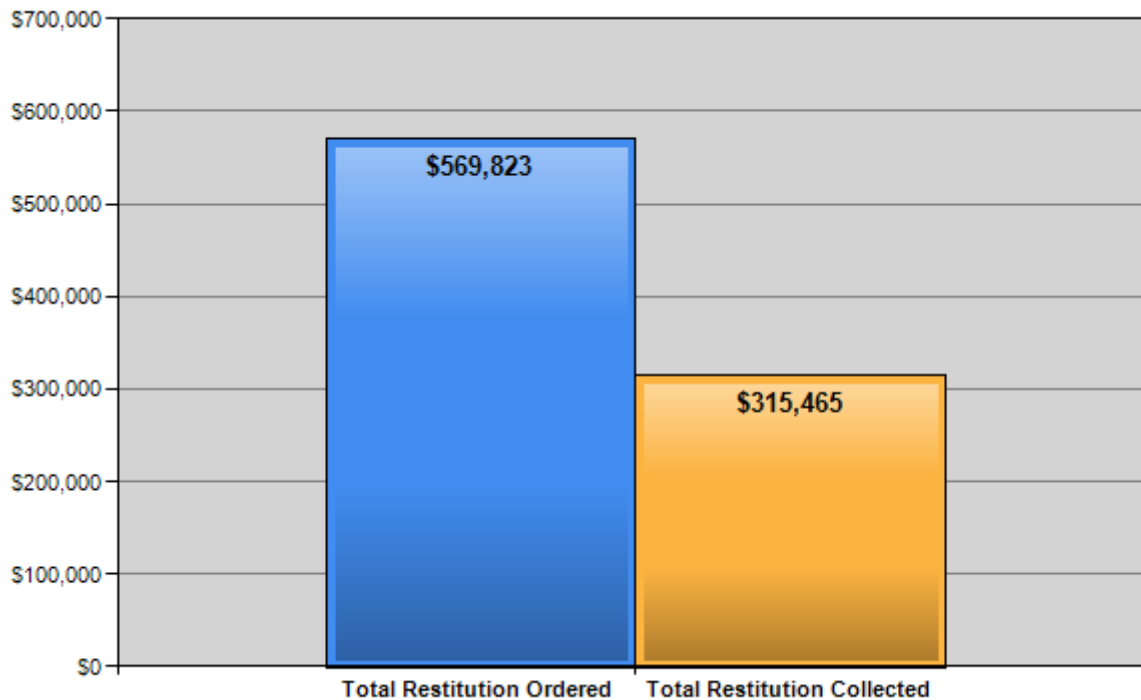
RESTORING JUSTICE TO VICTIMS AND HOLDING OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

TIME SPENT ON SUPERVISION - CLOSED CASES

0-30 days	2,458
31-90 days	1,157
+90 days	1,716

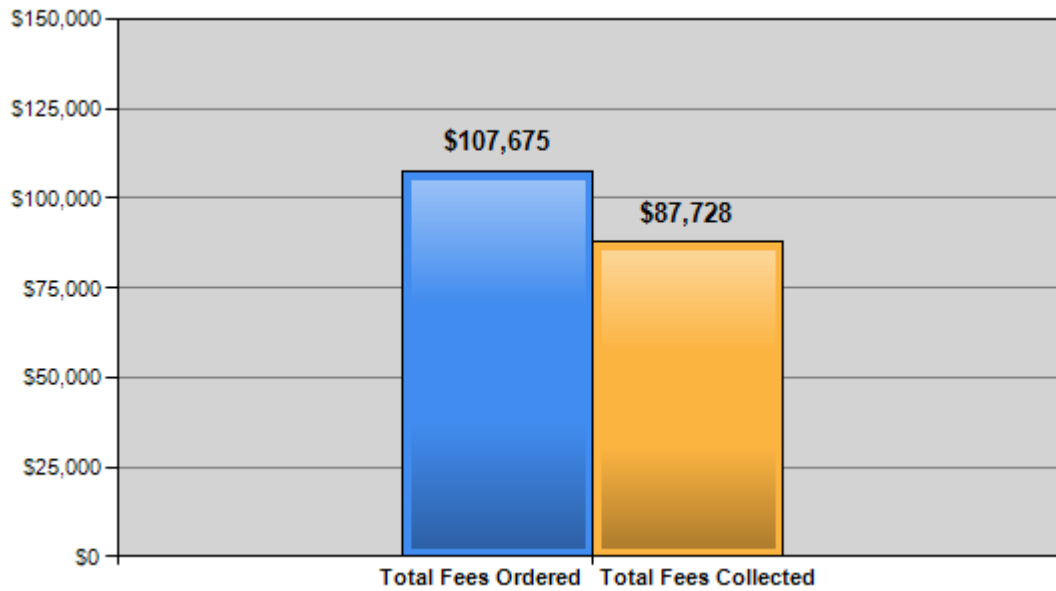
RESTITUTION

Number of Youth Ordered to Pay Restitution: 581



FEES

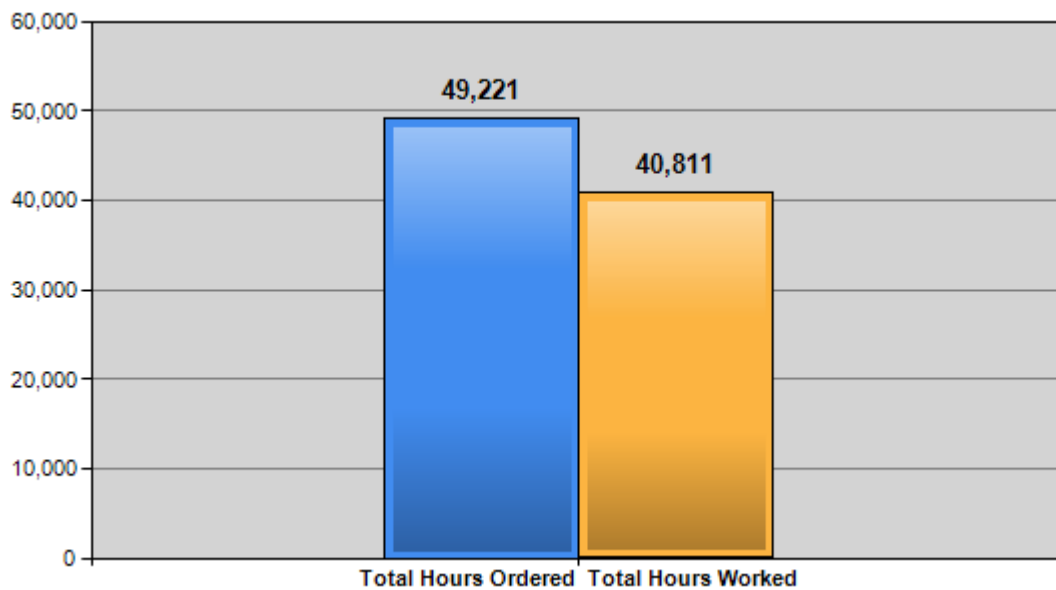
Number of Youth Ordered to Pay Fees: 2,051



Fees used to offset cost of drug testing, workers' compensation, and other services.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Number of Youth Ordered to Complete Community Service: 1,727



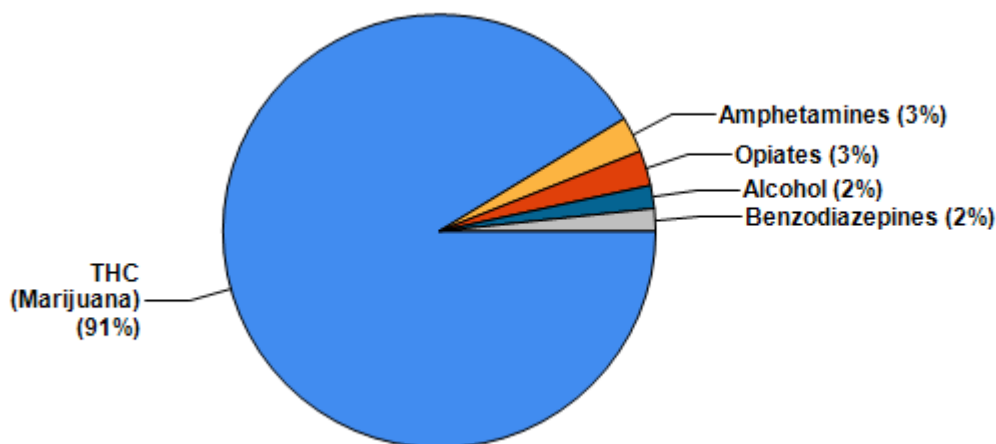
RESISTANCE TO DRUGS

Offenders ordered to submit to drug testing are tested randomly, unless there is suspicion to believe the youth has recently been using. Youth going through drug court may be required to test more often as required by the judge.

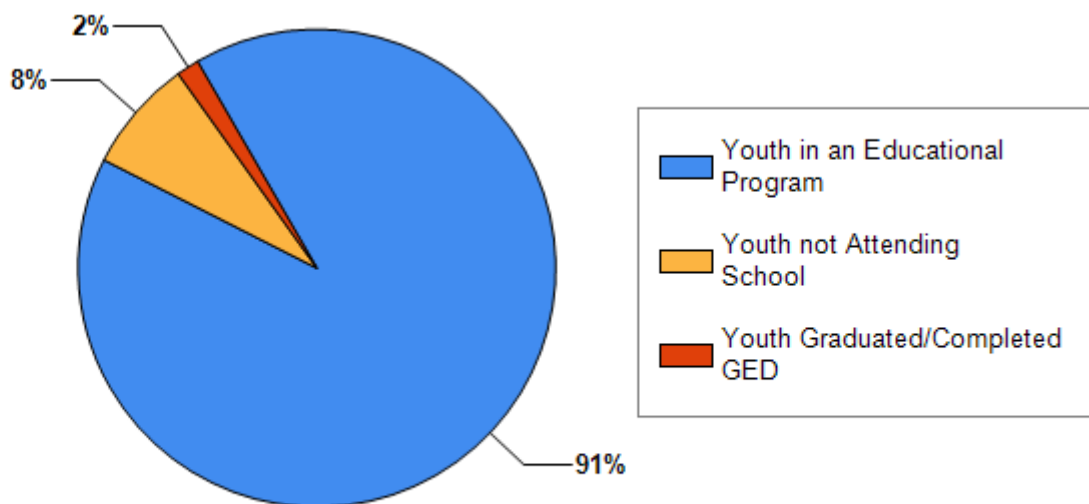
Total Number of Youth Drug Tested:	1,274
Total Number of Tests Administered:	5,685
Total Number of Youth Testing Positive:	677

* A single youth may have tested positive multiple times

TOP FIVE DRUGS USED

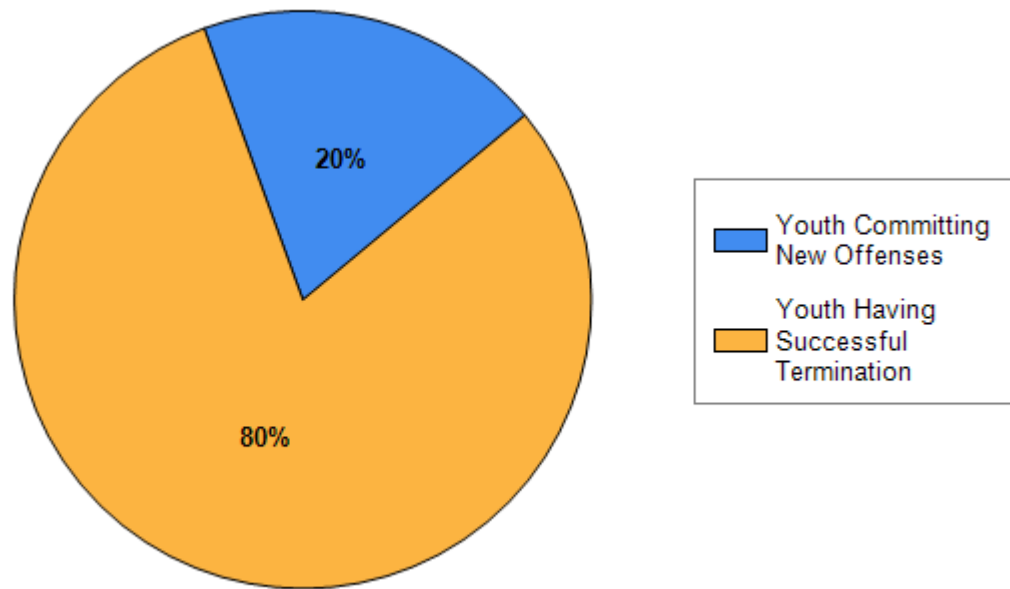


SCHOOL PARTICIPATION (UNDUPLICATED YOUTH)



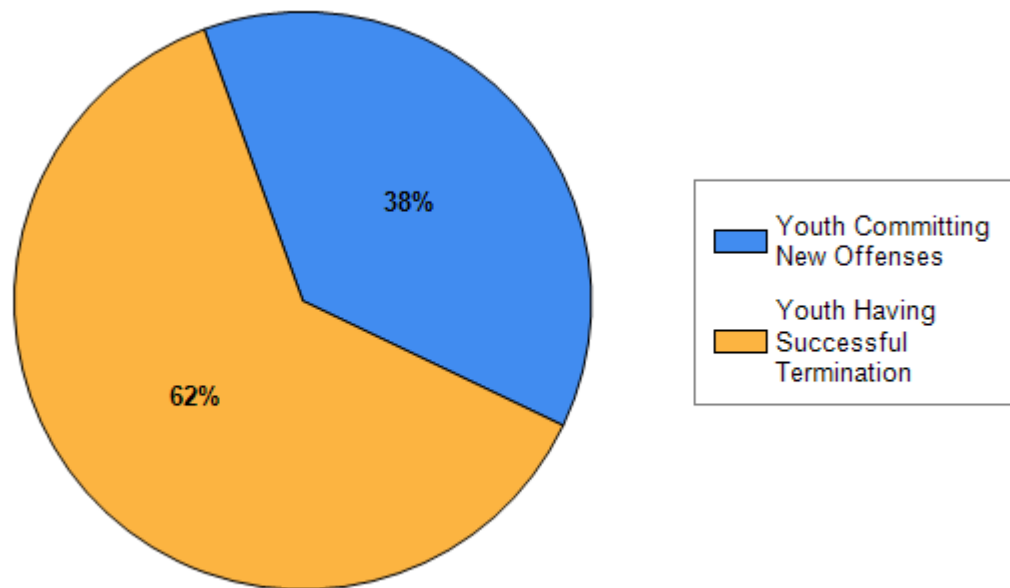
RECIDIVISM WHILE UNDER SUPERVISION

Recidivism is defined as a youth committing another offense while under supervision.



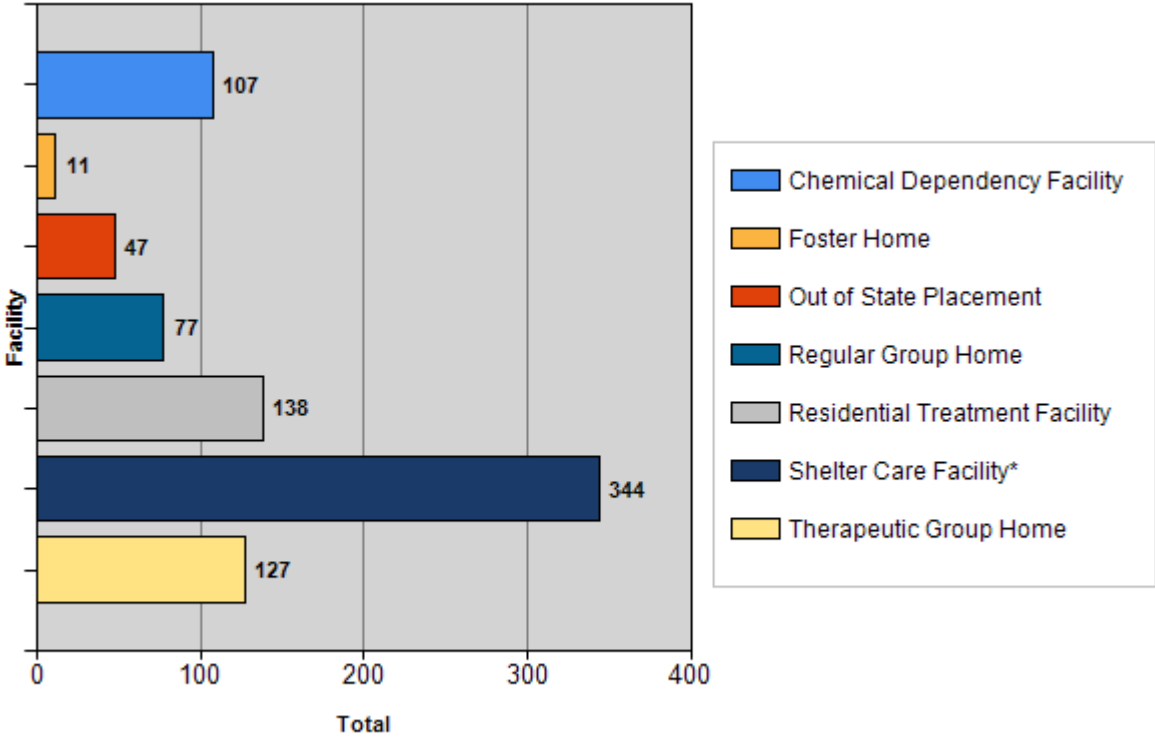
RECIDIVISM AFTER DISPOSITION END DATE

Recidivism is defined as a youth committing another offense within 1 year of their disposition end date.



OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

Out of 4,837 referrals to Youth Court, 851 resulted in out-of-home placements. Please note that a single youth may be placed multiple times.



* Shelter care, the most common placement, is a very short-term placement used when Youth Court is assessing the youth and family's situation.

DETENTION

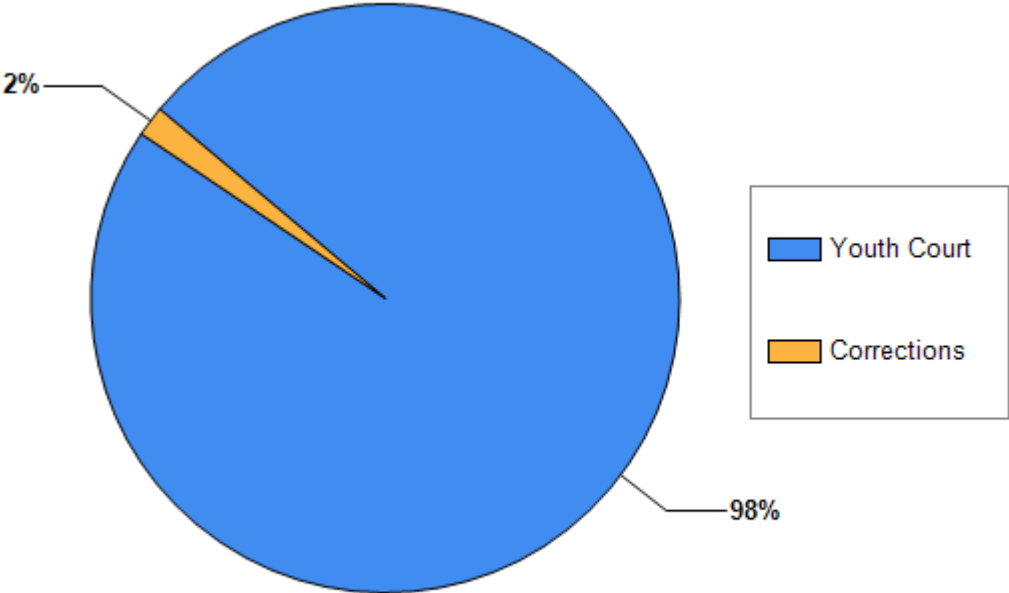
Number of Youth Placed in Detention at Time of Arrest: 1,083

Youth detention facilities, which are physically restricting youth facilities designed to prevent a youth from departing at will are mostly funded and operated by counties. Local law enforcement officers make the decision to detain at the time of arrest.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS COMMITMENTS

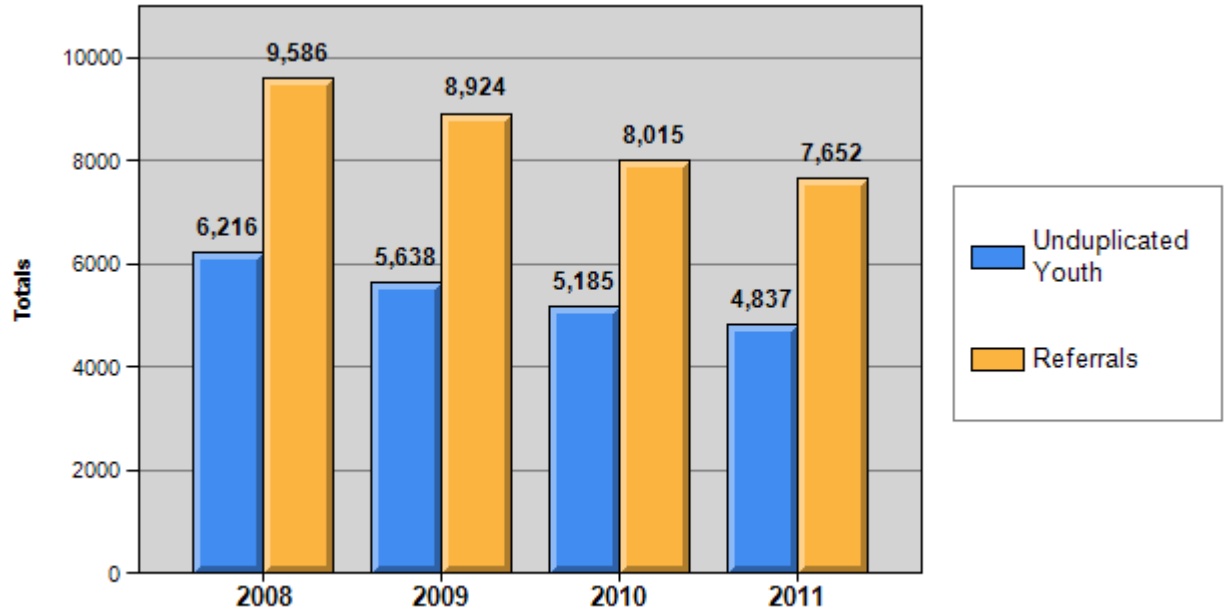
Only a Youth Court judge may sentence a youth to the Department of Corrections. Less than 2% of all youth referred to juvenile probation are sentenced to the Department of Corrections.

Of the 4,837 youth referred to Youth Court, 81 were committed to the Department of Corrections for placement in a youth correctional facility.

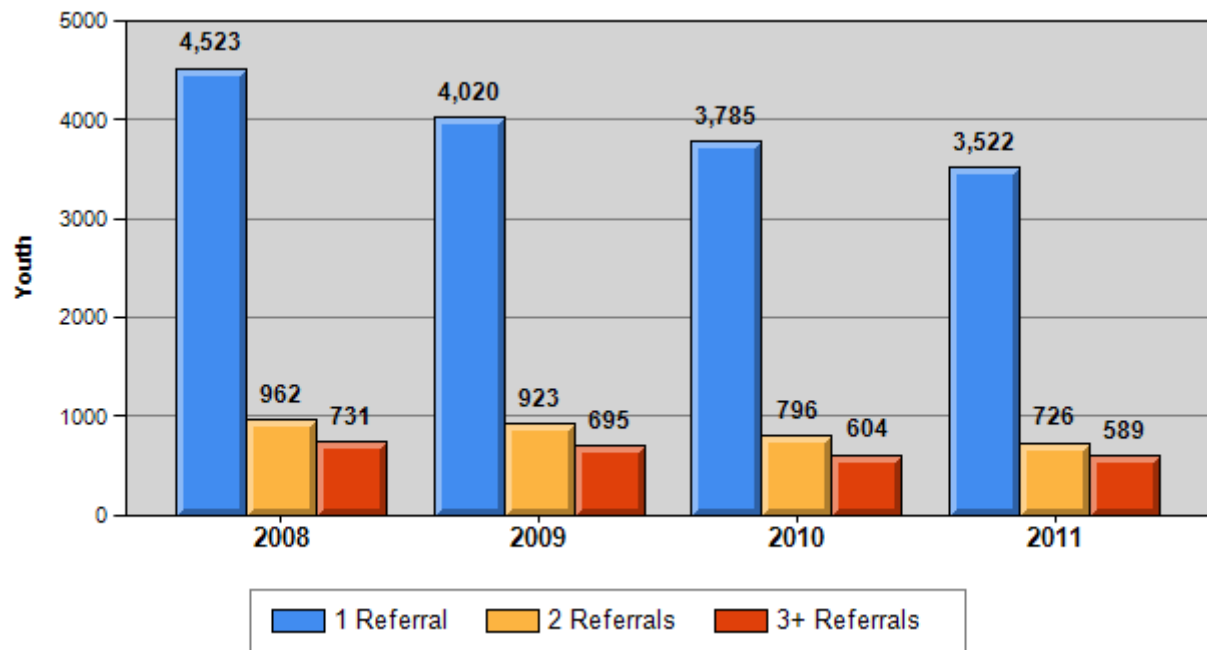


4 YEAR TRENDS

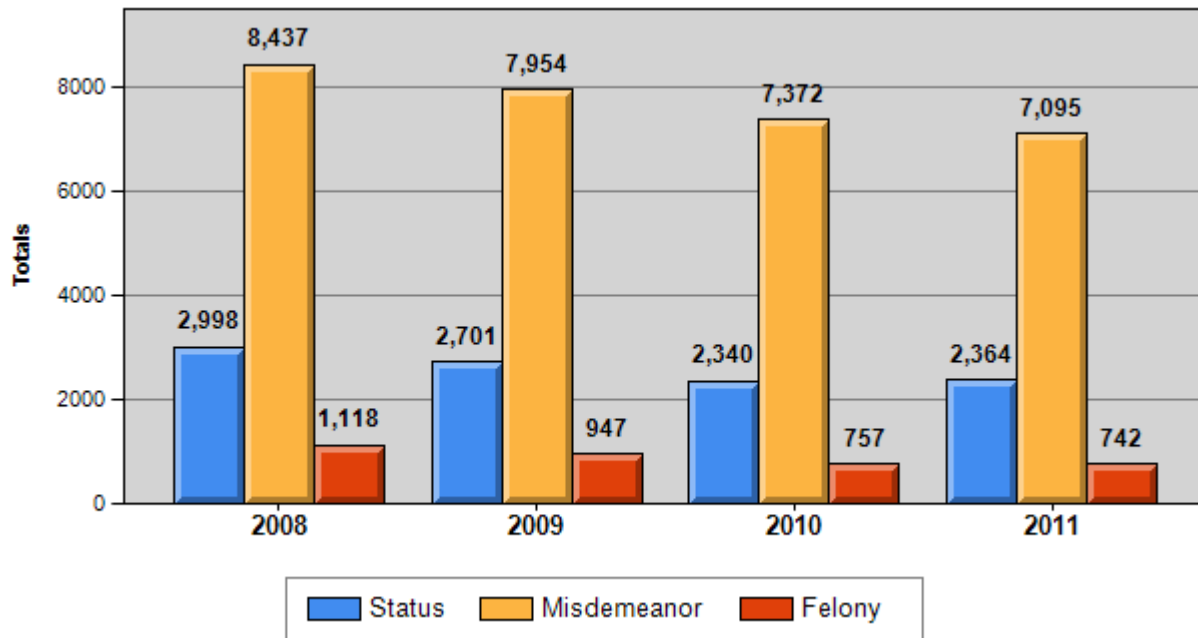
UNDUPLICATED YOUTH AND REFERRALS



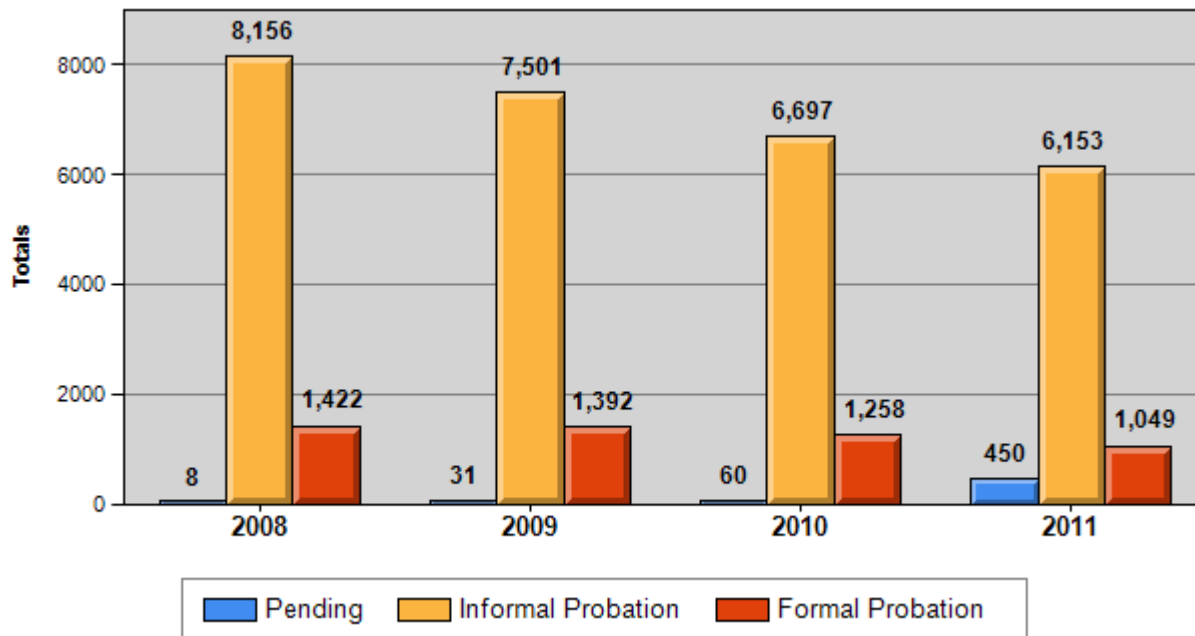
NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER YOUTH



OFFENSE CLASSIFICATIONS



TYPE OF DISPOSITION USED



YOUTH COURT CONTACTS BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#1 Counties – Lewis and Clark, Broadwater

District Court Judges – Dorothy McCarter, Jeffrey M. Sherlock, James P. Reynolds, Kathy Seeley
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Sharon Tregidga
Contact Number – 447-8228

#2 County – Silver Bow

District Court Judges – Kurt Krueger, Brad Newman
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Glen Granger
Contact Number – 497-6375

#3 Counties – Deer Lodge, Powell, Granite

District Court Judge – Ray Dayton
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Marylyn Shovlin
Contact Number – 563-4031

#4 Counties – Missoula, Mineral

District Court Judges – Douglas Harkin, John W. Larson, Edward P. McLean, Dusty Deschamps, Karen Townsend
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Glen Welch
Contact Number – 258-4735

#5 Counties – Beaverhead, Jefferson, Madison

District Court Judge – Loren Tucker
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Jeff Hansen
Contact Number – 683-3760

#6 Counties – Park, Sweet Grass

District Court Judge – William Nels Swandal
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Sue Chvilicek
Contact Number – 222-4162

#7 Counties – Dawson, Richland, McCone, Wibaux, Prairie

District Court Judges – Katherine Irigoien, Richard A. Simonton
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Steven Bailey
Contact Number – 377-4675

#8 County – Cascade

District Court Judges – Julie Macek, Thomas M. McKittrick, Kenneth R. Neill, Dirk M. Sandefur
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Tim Callahan
Contact Number – 454-6880

#9 Counties – Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Toole

District Court Judge – Laurie McKinnon
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Tasha Stiner
Contact Number – 873-3620

#10 Counties – Fergus, Judith Basin, Petroleum

District Court Judge – E. Wayne Phillips
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Mike Otto
Contact Number – 538-9242

#11 County – Flathead

District Court Judges – Katherine R. Curtis, Ted O. Lympus, David Ortle, Stewart Stadler
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Nick Nyman
Contact Number – 758-5547

#12 Counties – Hill, Chouteau, Liberty

District Court Judge – Daniel Boucher
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Kevin Buerkle
Contact Number – 265-5481

#13 County – Yellowstone

District Court Judges – Ingrid Gustafson, G. Todd Baugh, Russell C. Fagg, Gregory R. Todd, Susan P. Watters, Mary Jane Knisely
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Tara Moore
Contact Number – 256-2843

#14 Counties – Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Wheatland

District Court Judge – Randal I. Spaulding
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Sally Palmer
Contact Number – 323-1714

#15 Counties – Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels

District Court Judge – David Cybulski
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Ron Kemp
Contact Number – 653-6263

#16 Counties – Carter, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure

District Court Judges – Joe L. Hegel, Gary L. Day
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Matt Phillips
Contact Number – 874-3418

#17 Counties – Blaine, Phillips, Valley
District Court Judge – John C. McKeon
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Clark Kelly
Contact Number – 654-2087

#18 County – Gallatin
District Court Judges – Michael Salvagni, Holly
Brown, John Brown
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Gwen Massey
Contact Number – 582-2180

#19 County – Lincoln
District Court Judge – James B. Wheelis
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Kindra
Hageness
Contact Number – 293-9715

#20 Counties – Lake, Sanders
District Court Judges – C.B. McNeil, Deborah Kim
Christopher
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Barb Monaco
Contact Number – 883-7264

#21 County – Ravalli
District Court Judges – Jeffrey H. Langton, James
A. Haynes
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Clint Arneson
Contact Number – 375-6805

#22 Counties – Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater
District Court Judge – Blair Jones
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Jim Hicks
Contact Number – 665-9815