

MONTANA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Youth Court At-A-Glance

January 2010 through December 2010



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



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Youth Court At-A-Glance *January 2010 through December 2010*

Thank you for showing your interest in Montana's youth and their futures by taking the time to learn more about our Youth Court system and the youths, families and communities it serves. The information contained in this brief Youth Court At-A-Glance will help you to understand how the juvenile justice system works in Montana and, ultimately, will help us improve the system to meet our overall goal of preparing youths at risk to become productive adults.

Mike McGrath
Chief Justice



JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERVIEW

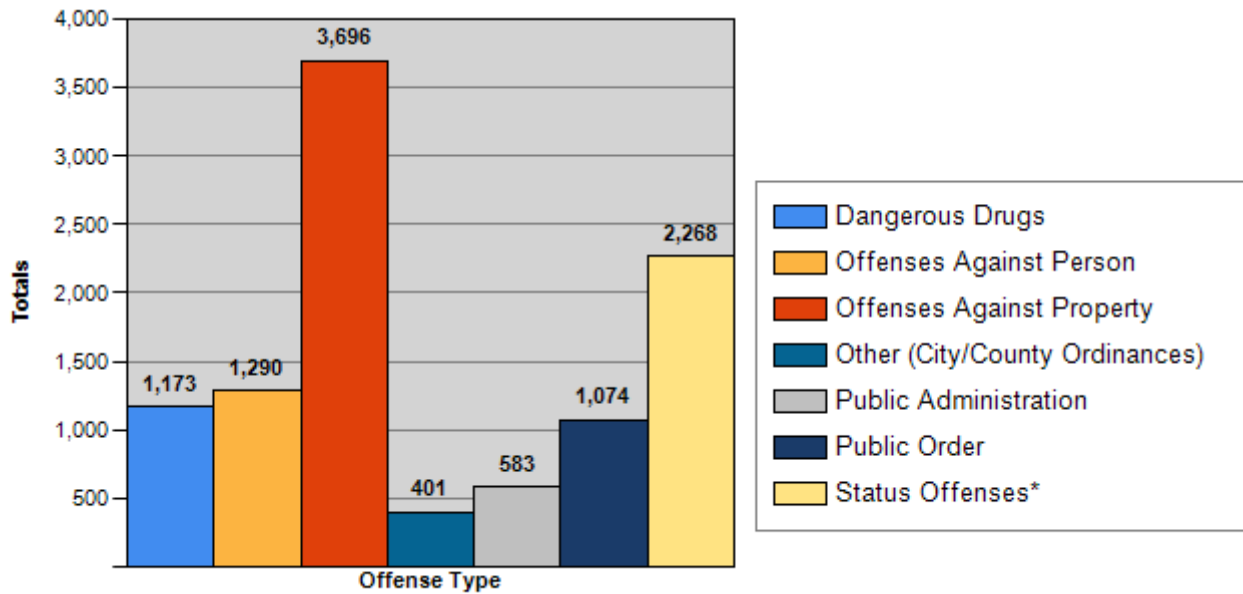
Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system through contact with law enforcement, although they may be referred to juvenile probation by other agencies and parents. Juvenile probation is an integral part of the Youth Court and is overseen by the Youth Court judge within each of the 22 Judicial 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

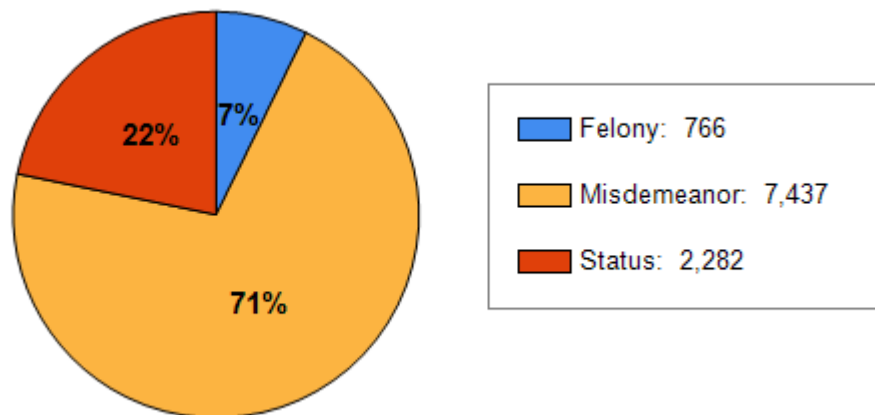
Youth Referred to Youth Court	5,191
Referrals (a youth may have multiple referrals)	8,030
Offenses (a referral may have multiple offenses)	10,485

OFFENSE CATEGORIES

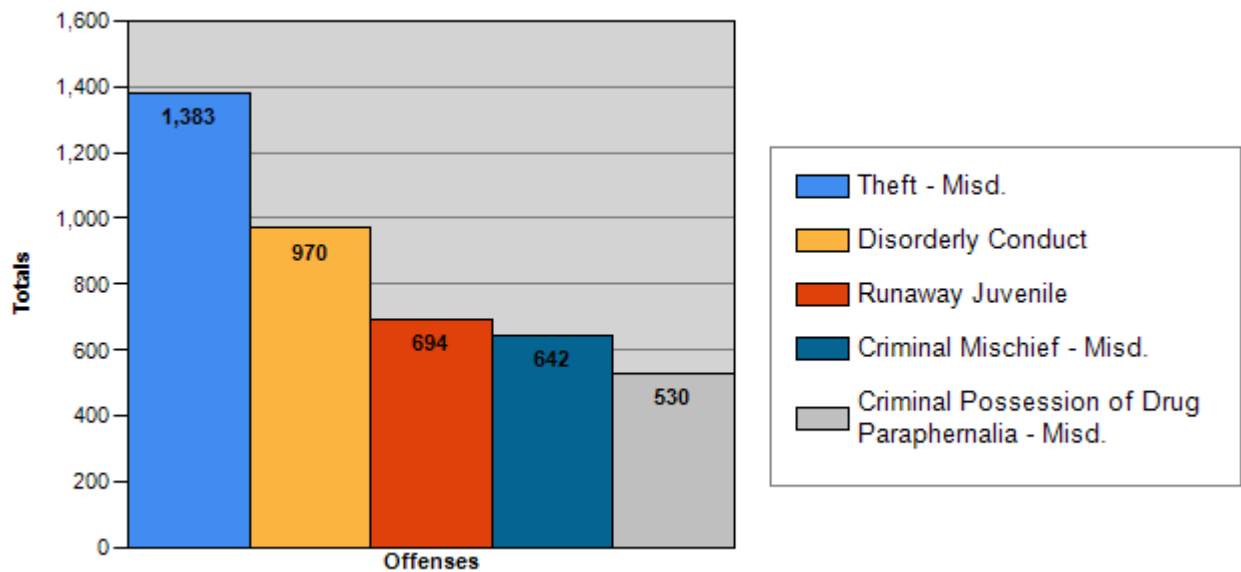


* These are matters that are offenses because of the youth's age and include such things as a minor in possession of alcohol, truancy, curfew or a run-away violation.

OFFENSE CLASSIFICATIONS



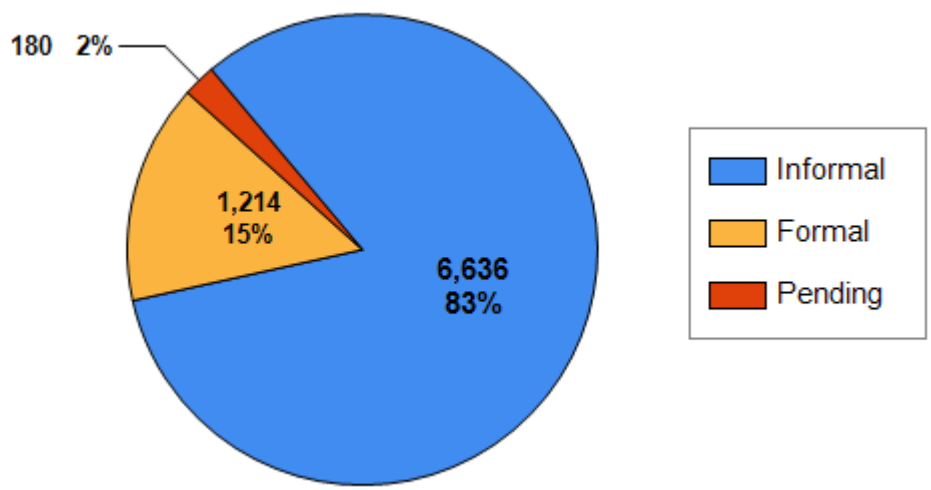
FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO JUVENILE PROBATION

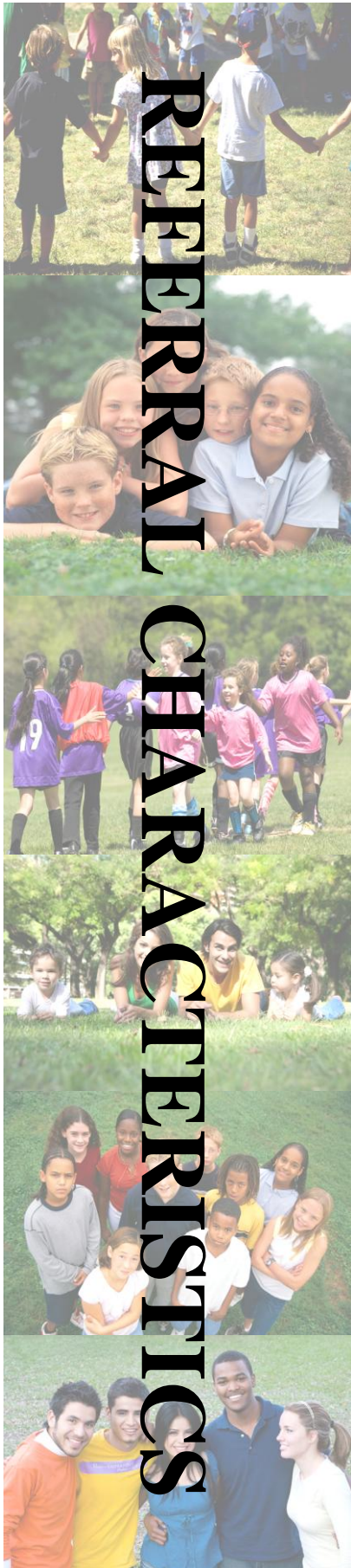


Ten districts out of the 22 handle minor in possession tickets. In the other districts, courts of limited jurisdiction handle the offenses.

TYPE OF DISPOSITION USED (INFORMAL VS. FORMAL)

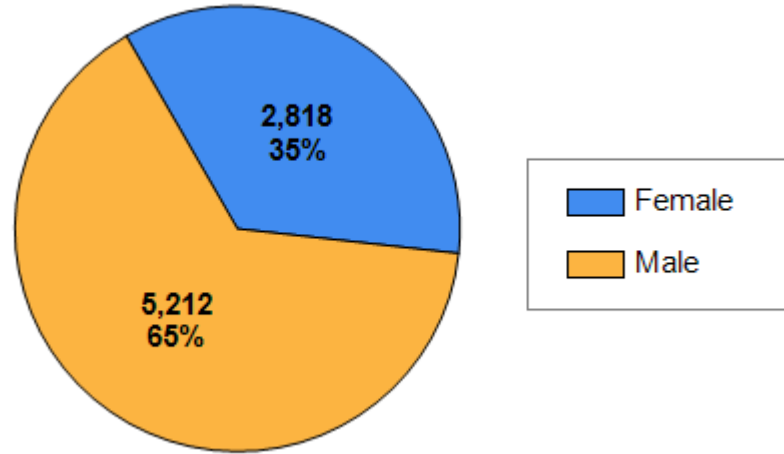
- Informal -** Handled by juvenile probation officer
- Formal -** Youth appears before Youth Court judge
- Pending -** Awaiting action from the county attorney's office, requires further investigation by law enforcement, or a ticket has been issued and juvenile probation is waiting to see the youth and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



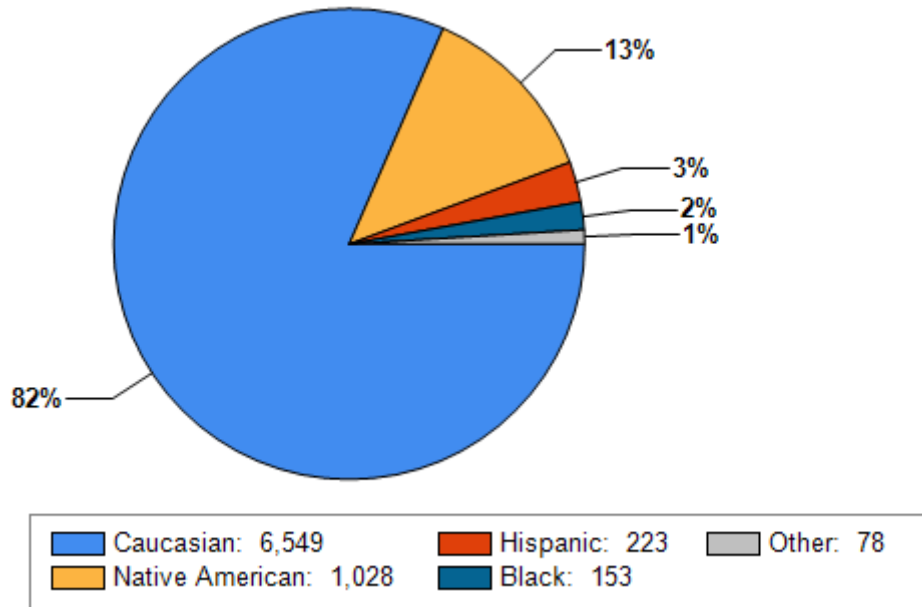


YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

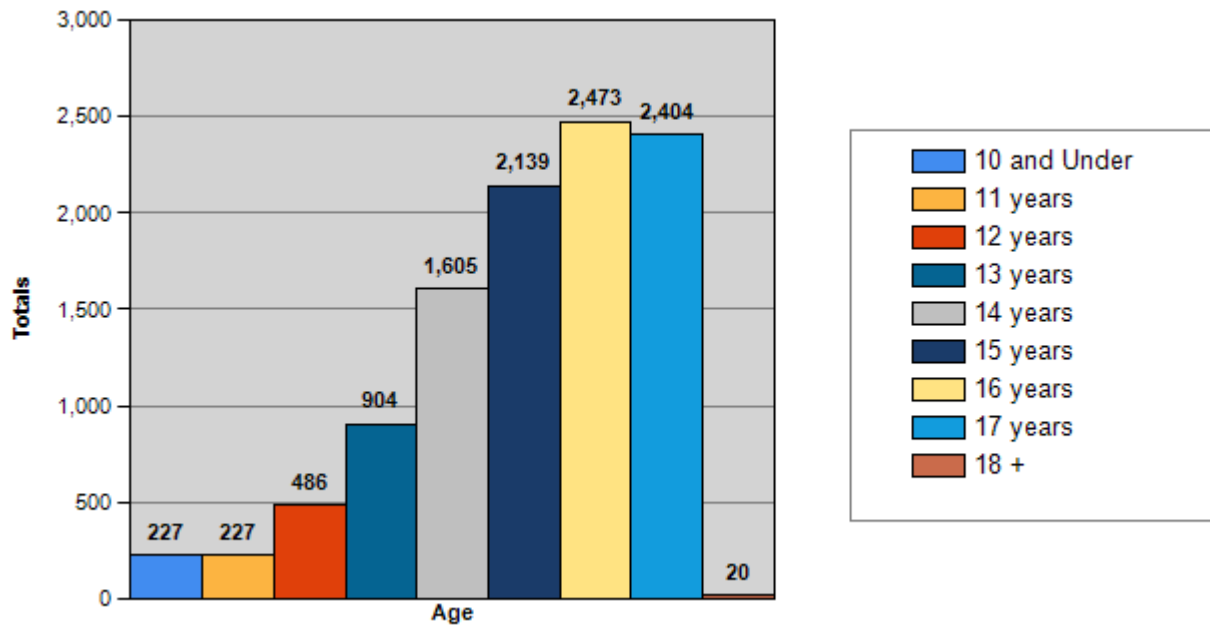
GENDER



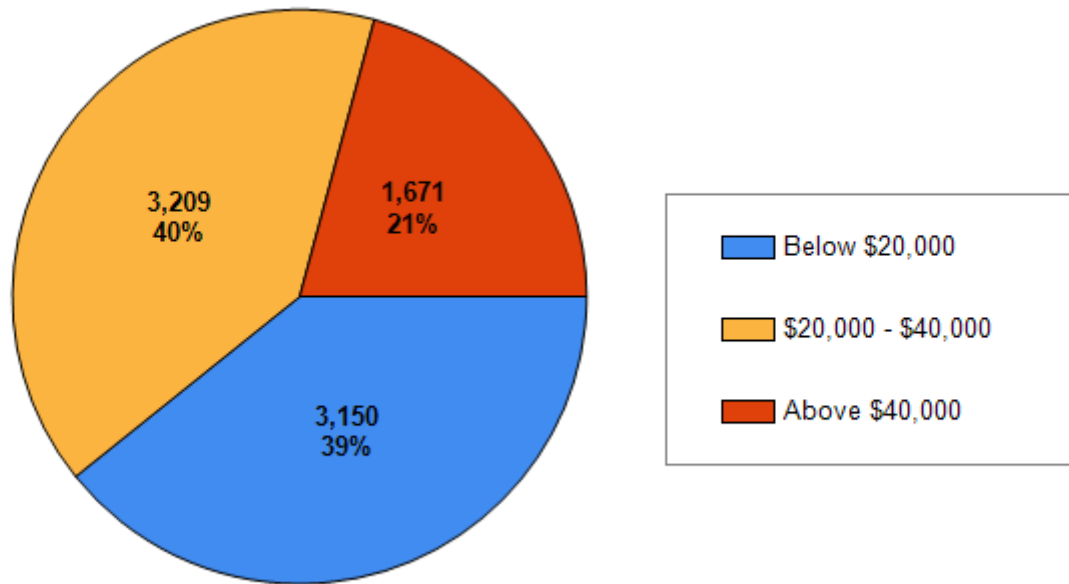
RACE



AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE



FAMILY'S HOUSEHOLD INCOME



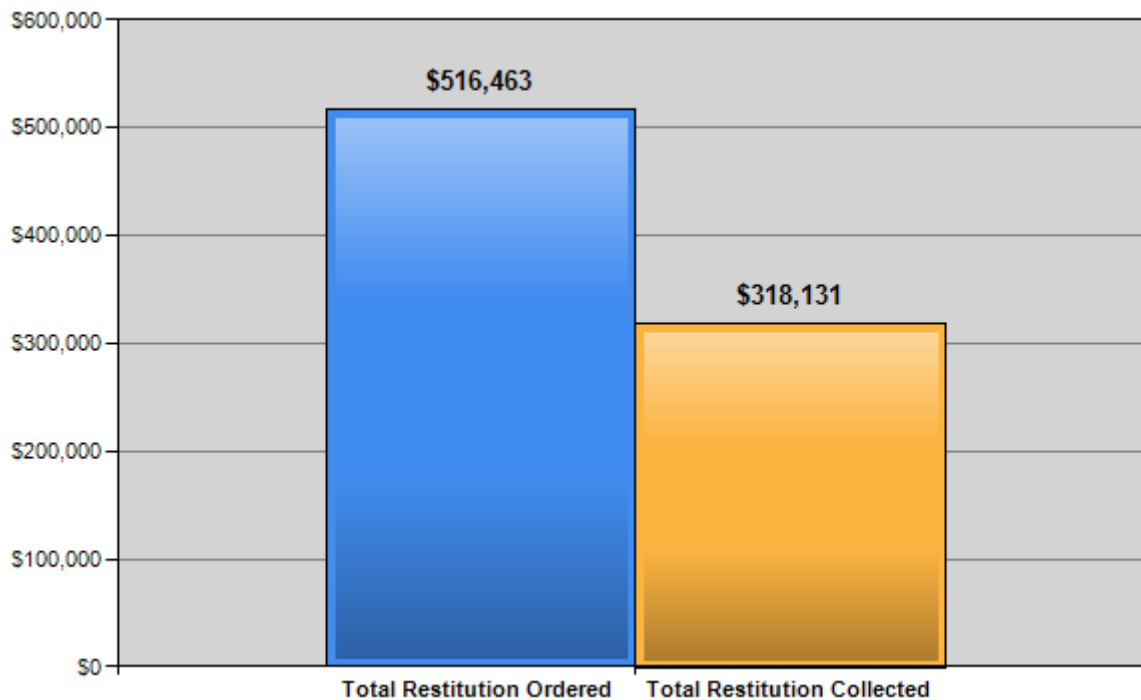
RESTORING JUSTICE TO VICTIMS AND HOLDING OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

TIME SPENT ON SUPERVISION - CLOSED CASES

0-30 days	2,514
31-90 days	1,352
+90 days	2,664

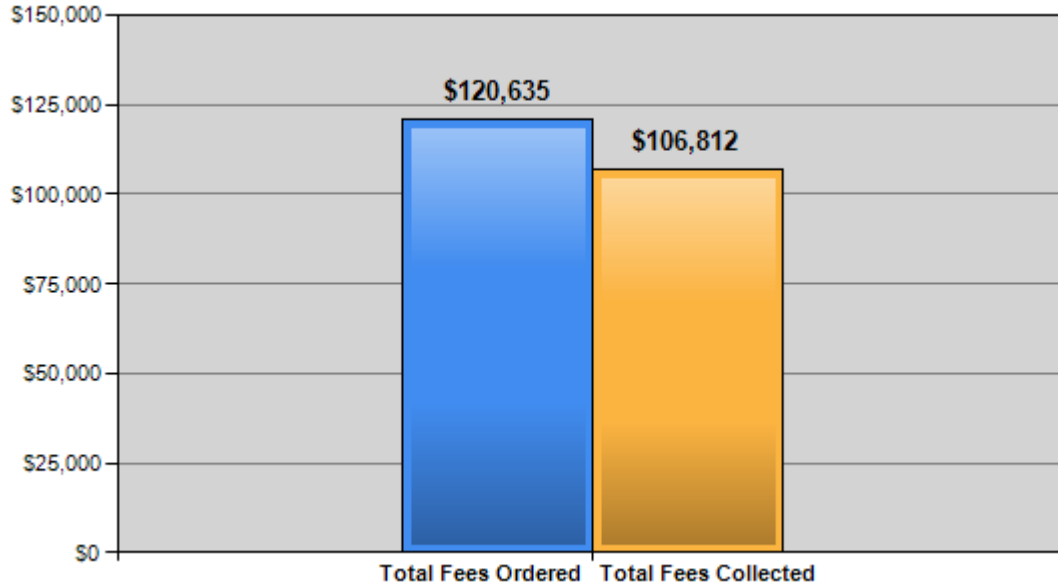
RESTITUTION

Number of Youth Ordered to Pay Restitution: 709



FEES

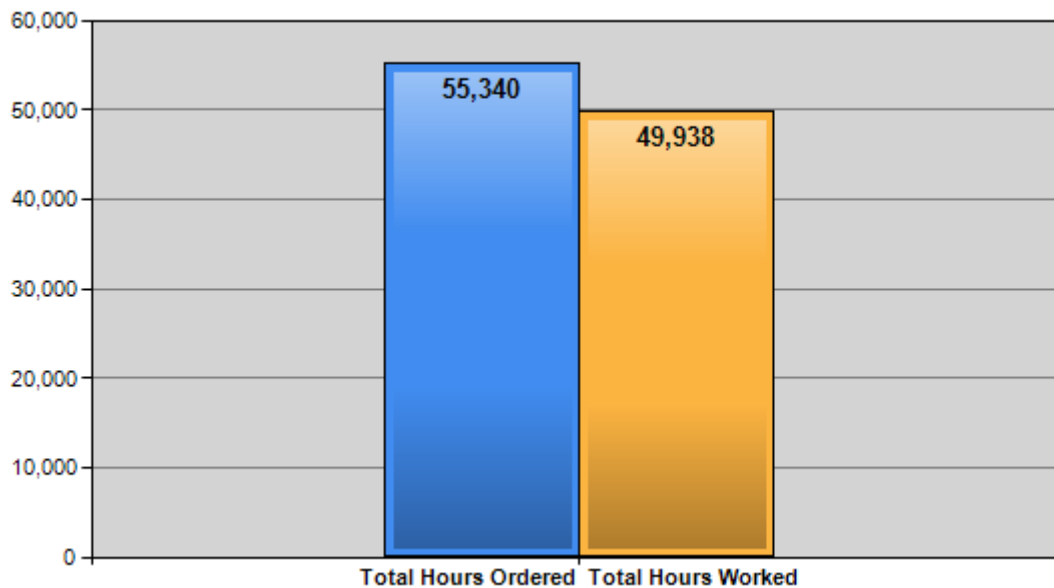
Number of Youth Ordered to Pay Fees: 2,153



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

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Number of Youth Ordered to Complete Community Service: 1,977



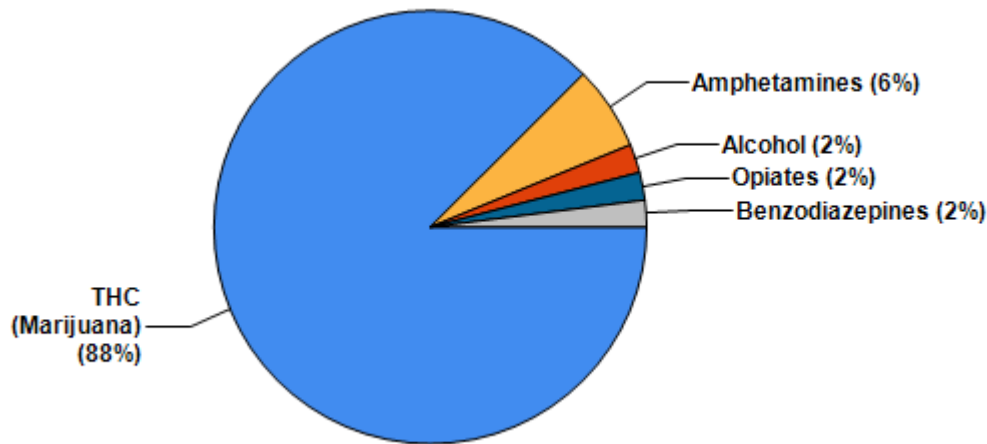
RESISTANCE TO DRUGS

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.

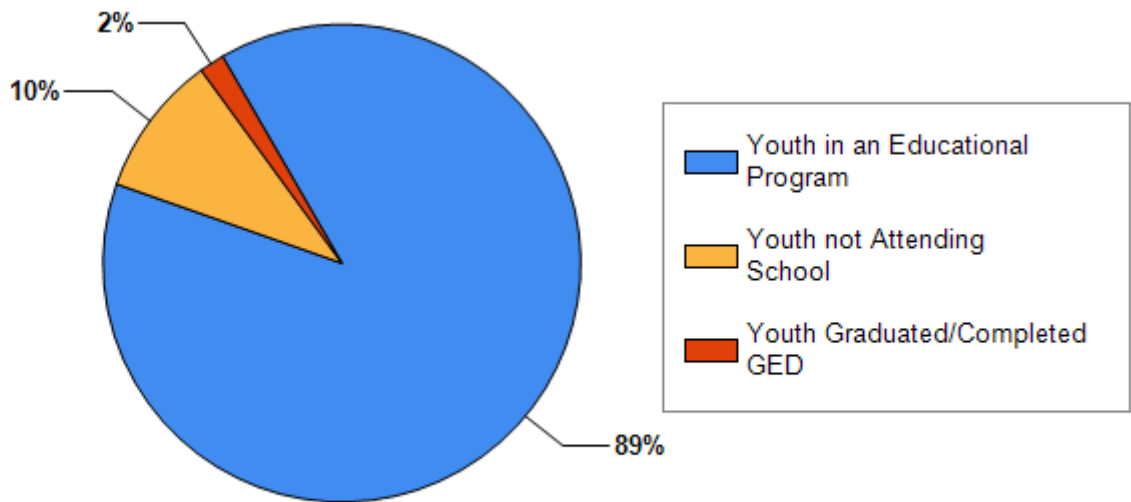
Total Number of Youth Drug Tested:	1,049
Total Number of Tests Administered:	4,255
Total Number of Youth Testing Positive:	555

* A single youth may have tested positive multiple times

TOP FIVE DRUGS USED

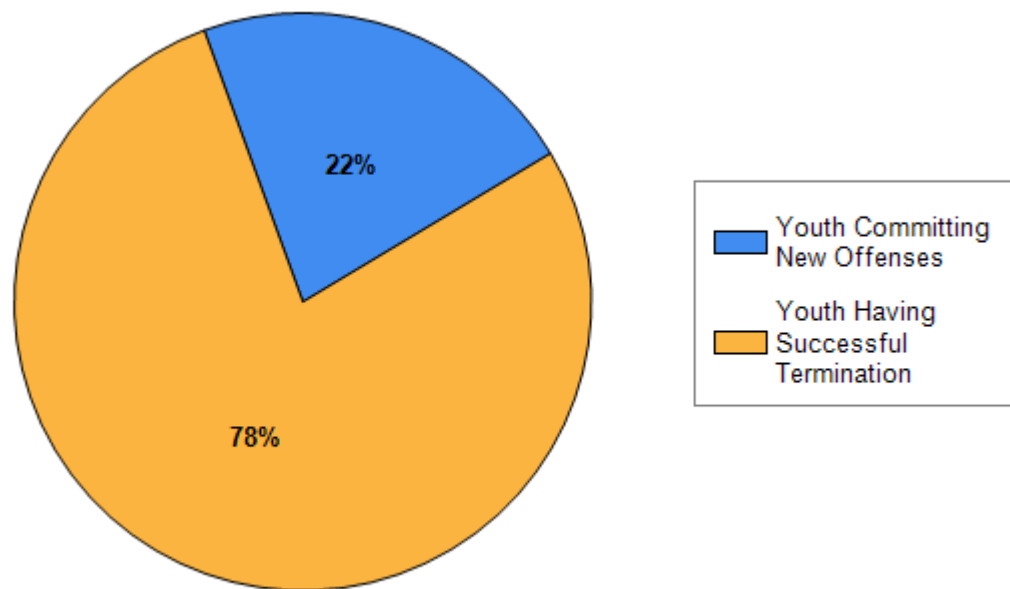


SCHOOL PARTICIPATION (UNDUPLICATED YOUTH)



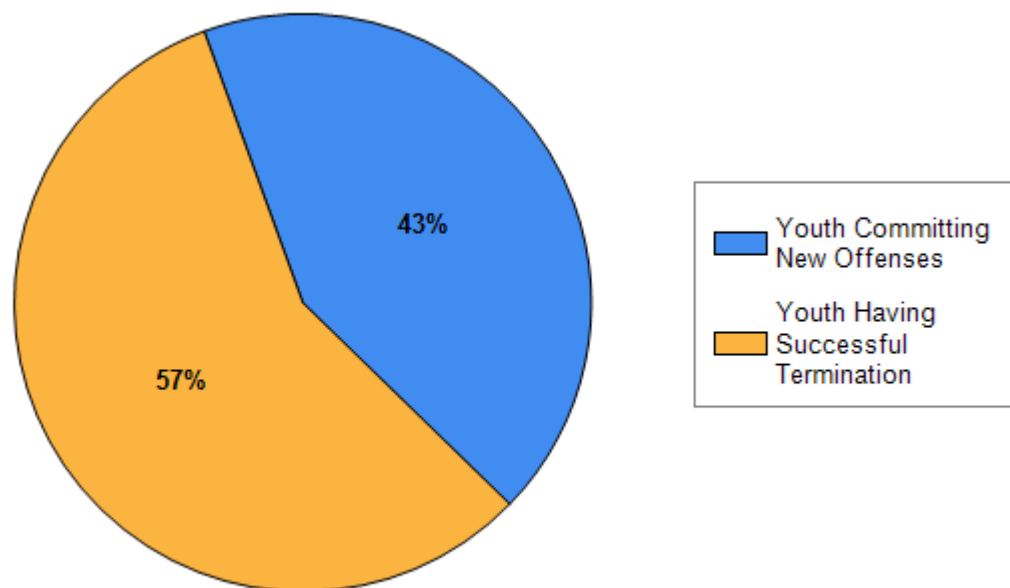
RECIDIVISM WHILE UNDER SUPERVISION

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



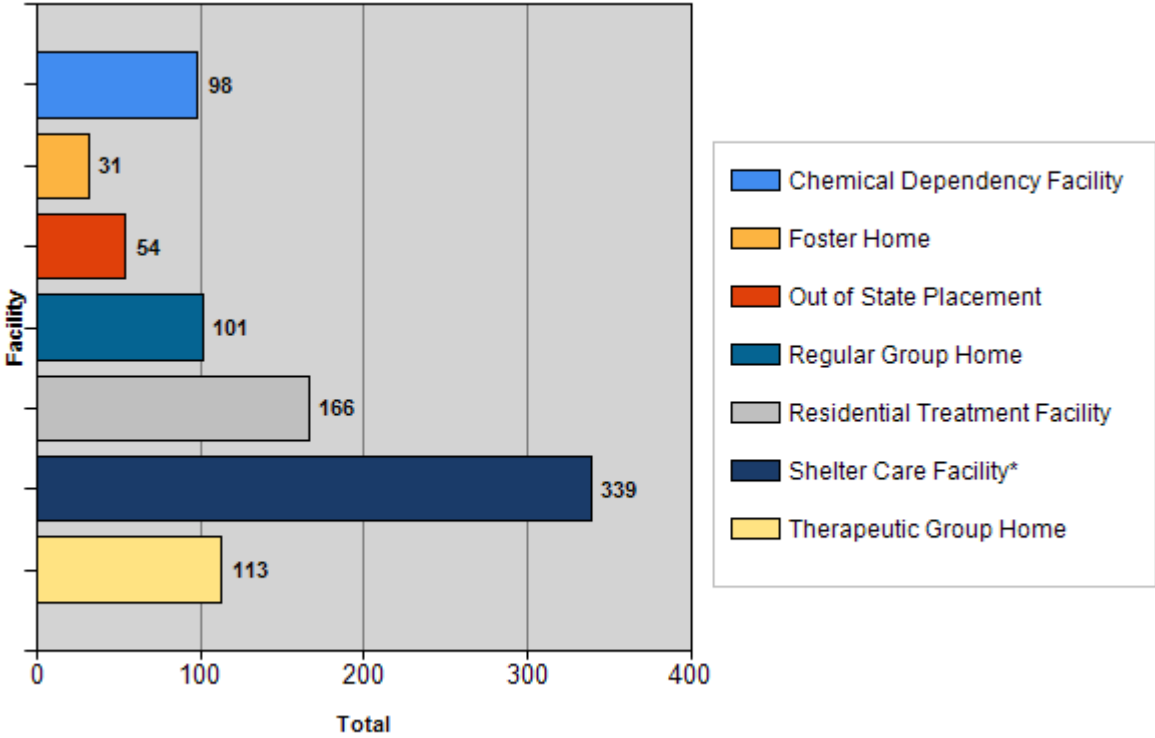
RECIDIVISM AFTER DISPOSITION END DATE

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



OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

Out of 5,191 referrals to Youth Court, 902 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

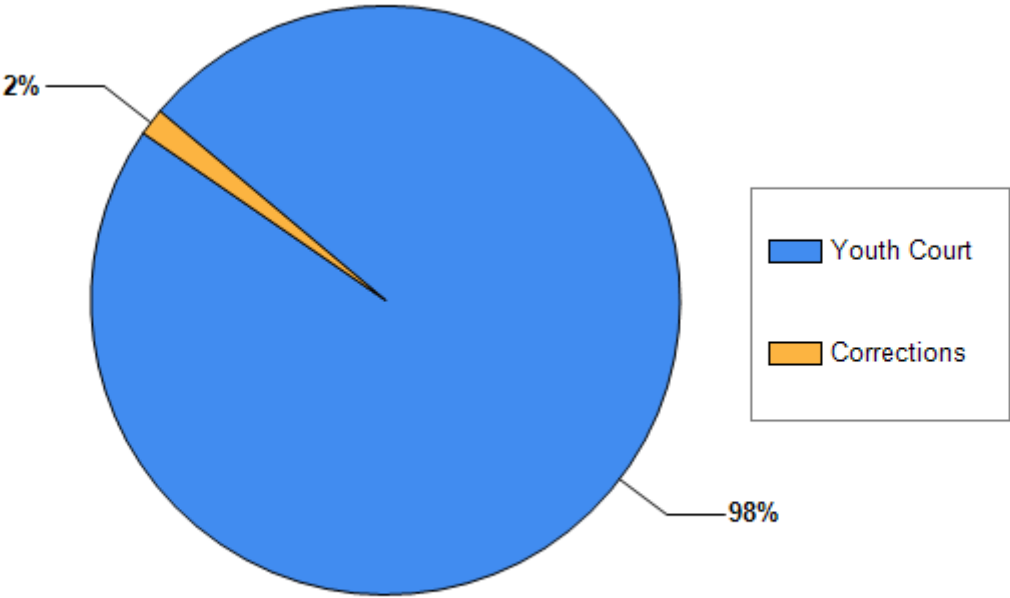
Number of Youth Placed in Detention at Time of Arrest: 1,080

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

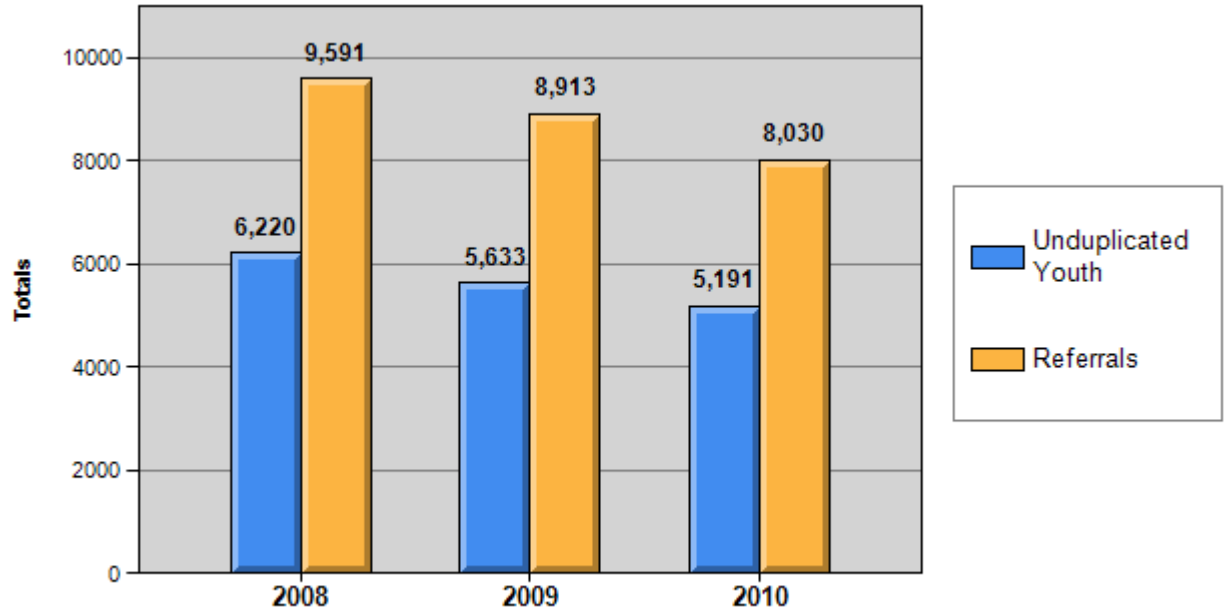
Only a Youth Court judge may sentence a youth to the Department of Corrections. Less than 2% of all youth referred to juvenile probation are sentenced to the Department of Corrections.

Of the 5,191 youth referred to Youth Court, 78 were committed to the Department of Corrections for placement in a youth correctional facility.

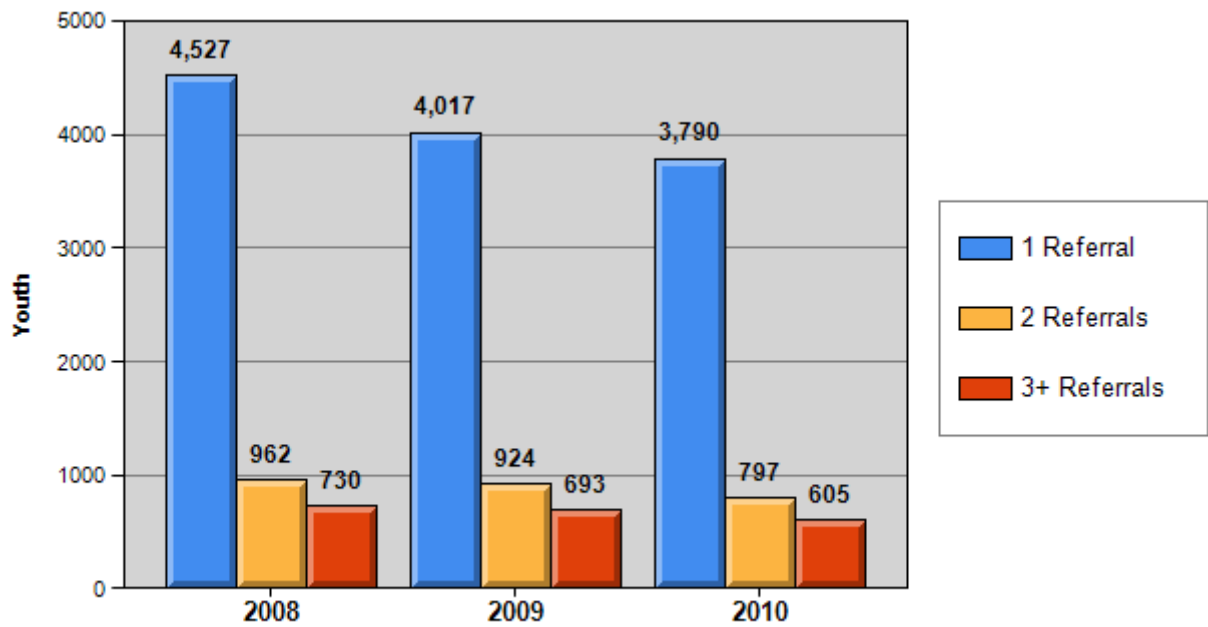


3 YEAR TRENDS

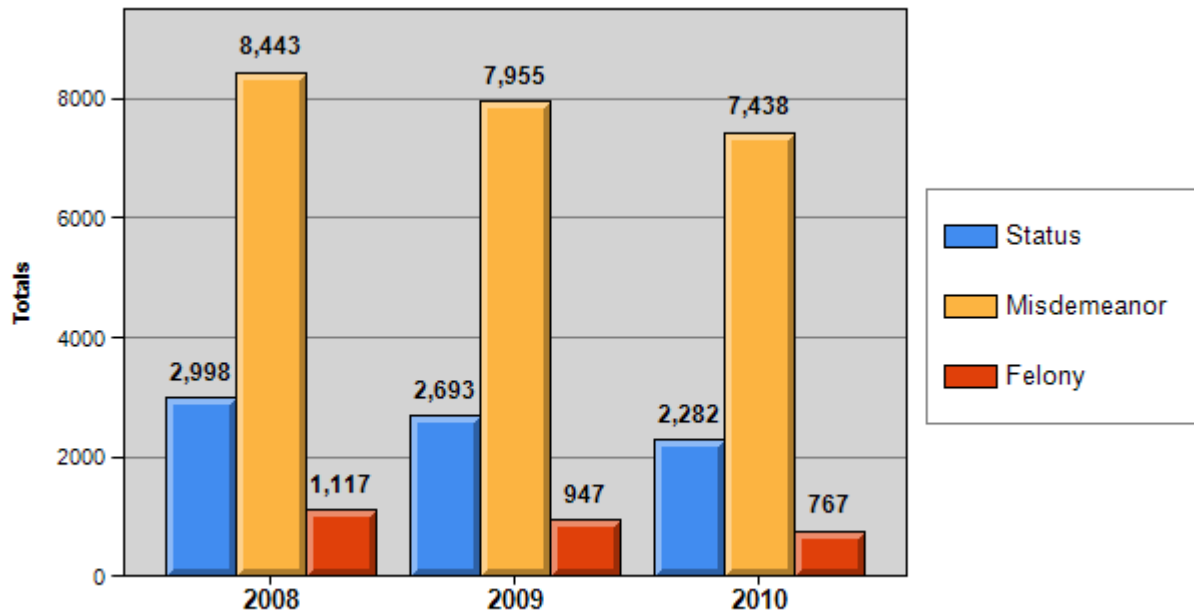
UNDUPLICATED YOUTH AND REFERRALS



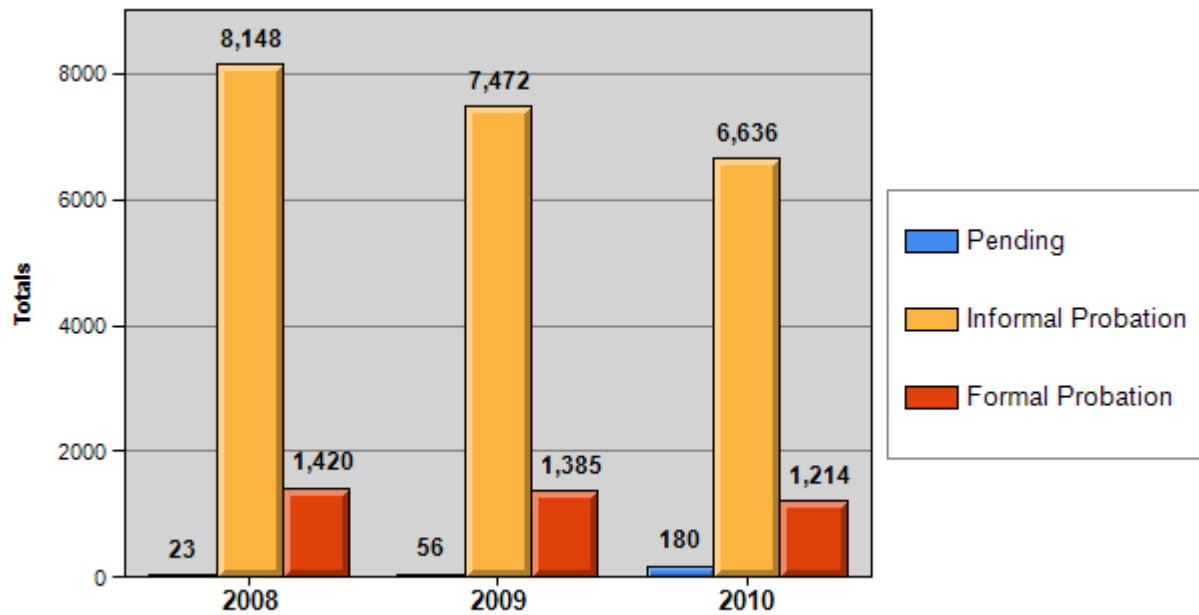
NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER YOUTH



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
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 – Michael C. Prezeau
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer – Kindra Hage-
ness
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