

Miami County Juvenile Court

2001 Annual Report



Judge Lynnita K.C. Wagner

**Court Administrator:
Charlene Prestopino**

**Magistrates:
Gretchen K. Beers
Christopher M. Gee
Katherine Kemp-Severt**



PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO

Lynnita K.C. Wagner - Judge
Gretchen K. Beers - Magistrate
Christopher M. Gee - Magistrate
Katherine Kemp Severt - Magistrate

Charlene Prestopino - Juvenile Court Administrator
Beverly A. Bell - Juvenile Chief Deputy Clerk
Randall D. Freeman - Juvenile Chief Probation Officer
Sherry B. Conard - Probate Chief Deputy Clerk

May 27, 2002

Greetings to the Citizens of Miami County,

The year 2001 saw fewer changes within the Juvenile Court, so we were able to put our emphasis on improving our delivery of services.

Our early intervention (Family Diversion Program) and our Prevention Department served many more children this year which resulted in keeping them out of court entirely and/or keeping them off probation. The success of these two programs under the leadership of Donita Gast, is growing significantly, and resulted in fewer cases being filed.

A new service added in 2001 to assist in resolving problems outside the court system is a mediation program. With a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court and a contract with Dayton Mediation Center we were able to initiate a mediation program, which not only resolves the immediate dispute but also teaches children skills in conflict resolution.

The Probation Department, under the supervision of Randall Freeman, continues to improve the delivery of services to the most challenging of the population we serve, so that lowest risk youth receive the fewest services and the highest risk youth receive the greatest interventions. The probation intake position has continued to improve in the identification of these high risk youth and the intense services being delivered has not only reduced our filings slightly but has also reduced the need for some interventions, such as long term incarcerations and group home placements.

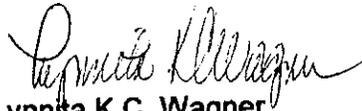
Both Prevention and Probation have perfected the delivery of the right services to the right children and their families to achieve accountability and reduction in recidivism.

The Clerk's office, under the direction of Beverly Bell, despite a significant number of resignations and retirement, quickly became trained and has pressed ahead of past years to undertake "Blitz" days. These are Court docket days in which youth who owe fines and court costs are summoned to court to set up a plan to pay off their court debt. While the magistrates and I have devoted extra hours to convene the hearings, the Clerk's have put in hours of preparation identifying the non-payers and scheduling the hearings, sending out notices, receiving letters, phone calls and payments, serving as bailiff during hearings, and follow-up paperwork to accomplish wage withholding agreements or driver's license forfeitures. The results have been that we increased our collection by 30% and many young people have achieved the satisfaction of the accomplishment of a goal.

Our Magistrates were kept very busy in 2001. Magistrate Christopher Gee continued to preside over Traffic Court and Drug Court. Magistrate Katherine Kemp-Severt continued to preside over unruly hearings, first time delinquencies and oversaw the start of the Mediation Program. Magistrate Gretchen K. Beers, while seeing a decreased in case filed by Children Services and the Child Support Enforcement Agency, was kept quite busy due to a dramatic increase in private part custody and visitation disputes. My caseload stayed rather constant but we all participated in presiding over the extra hearings for the enforcement of payment of fines and court costs.

Lastly, our Fiscal Officer, Angela Hubbard gets busier every year as we pursue grants and additional programming. She keeps us within budget in "tighter" financial times. And our Court Administrator, Charlene Prestopino, in addition to publishing this annual report, makes sure we are all staying focused on our purpose and the families we serve.

Sincerely,



Lynnita K.C. Wagner
Judge, Probate/Juvenile Division

Our Purpose

The Juvenile Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Our purpose is to counsel and rehabilitate youth who commit crimes, protect the Miami County community from juvenile crime, assist the victims of that crime, and protect children from abuse, neglect, and dependency.

Juvenile Court becomes involved in the lives of our children under 18 who:

- ❖ Do not obey their parents, school officials, and other custodians
- ❖ Do not attend school, who violate curfew, who drink alcohol and use drugs
- ❖ Commit violations of traffic laws
- ❖ Commit criminal acts
- ❖ Are victims of abuse, neglect or dependency
- ❖ And who's circumstances require orders of paternity, visitation, and child support

The Court also hears cases of adults who contribute to the unruliness or delinquency of a minor. Consistent with our purpose to provide safe and appropriate homes to the children of Miami County, Juvenile Court handles paternity, child support, and child custody and visitation cases.

The Court protects the interests and rights of our children and the public by rehabilitating and holding youth and their families accountable for their actions. The Court strives to strengthen the family and empower the parents to actively provide the balance of love, structure, supervision and responsibility so that their children will develop the self-control and independence needed to become productive, self-sufficient, law abiding adults.

Referrals reach the Court through various channels, including parents, school officials, law enforcement authorities, neighbors, Children Services representatives, and the Prosecutor's office.

Under the direction of Judge Lynnita K.C. Wagner and with the support of one full-time and two part-time magistrates, the Court provides a broad range of community based, residential treatment and prevention services. This report is intended to help you understand the children we serve and give you an overview of the services we provided in 2001.

The Youth We Serve

Juvenile Delinquency

In Ohio, a juvenile delinquent is defined as ".... any child who violates any law of this state, the United States, or any ordinance or regulation of a political subdivision of the state, which would be a crime if committed by an adult; except that any child who violates any traffic law, ordinance, or regulation shall be designated as a juvenile traffic offender." This definition also includes any child who violates any lawful order of the Juvenile Court. Each year the Court handles many types of delinquency charges, some are considered misdemeanors and others are felonies. The following is a summary of the 2001 charges:

2001 Delinquency Charges & Cases

Charge	2001
Abduction	2
Arson and Aggravated Arson	7
Assault and Related	142
Attempted Murder	0
Vehicular Homicide	0
Breaking and Entering	18
Burglary and Related	23
Carrying a Concealed	11
Chronic Truant	47
Contempt of court	146
Criminal Damaging	94
Criminal Mischief	23
Discharging a Firearm	22
Disorderly Conduct	99
Domestic Violence	77
Drug Abuse and Related	154
Escape	10
Forgery	18
Gross Sexual Imposition	26
Kidnapping	2
Menacing and related	36
Obstruction of Official Business	36
Parole Violations	8
Possession of Weapon in School	4
Probation Violations	230
Rape	11
Receiving Stolen Property	32
Robbery and Related	5
Tampering w/property	28
Theft and Related	262
Trespassing and Related	94
Unauthorized Use of Motor Veh	23
Underage Consumption/Possession	236
Vandalism	10
Total Delinquency Charges Filed	2220
Total Delinquency Cases Filed	1712

The Court has many options when dealing with a delinquent child including:

- ◆ Place the child on probation supervision
- ◆ Commit the child to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (felony only)
- ◆ Commit the child to West Central Rehabilitation Center (felony only)
- ◆ Place the child in foster care or in a residential center
- ◆ Have the child attend a specific community program
- ◆ Require the child to complete community service and restitution
- ◆ Order the child to attend a specific treatment program
- ◆ Impose a fine and court cost
- ◆ Make any order the judge thinks will benefit the child

Last year, the Court entered final dispositions in 1735 delinquency cases.

Unruly Child

An unruly child is defined as any child who does not subject himself to the reasonable control of his parents, teachers, guardian or custodian, is habitually truant from home or school; deports himself as to injure or endanger his health or morals; attempts to enter marriage without consent; is found in a disreputable place, or engages in an occupation prohibited by law. Unruly offenses include behaviors such as truancy at school, running away, and incorrigibility; these behaviors would not be considered a crime if committed by adults. The following is a summary of the 2001 unruly charges:

2001 Unruly Charges Filed

School Truancy	65
Curfew Violation	208
Unruly (disobedient/runaway)	338
Tobacco Law Violations	40
Total Unruly Charges	651
Total Unruly Cases	441

*This category also captures youth who have had significant history of truancy (chronic truant) and the court can use many of the same dispositions as in delinquency cases.

Also new is a category called Tobacco Law Violations. Programming for youth violating the tobacco law is aimed at reducing smoking through education.

The Court has many options for dealing with an unruly child and they are:

- ◆ Counseling for the child and/or parent
- ◆ Make an order of mandatory school attendance and have the order monitored by court officers
- ◆ Have the child attend a specific program that the child could benefit from such as community service or attend a therapeutic program

- ◆ Place the child in a non-secure facility or with a relative
- ◆ Place the child on probation supervision
- ◆ Impose costs of the case against the juvenile
- ◆ Or, whatever the judge thinks will benefit the child

In 2001, the Court entered final disposition in 437 unruly cases.

Juvenile Traffic Offender

The Court has jurisdiction over all traffic offenses committed by juveniles. These cases in 2001 included:

2001 Traffic Case

Traffic Violations	2001
Speeding	545
DUI and Related	27
Driving Under Suspension	31
No Operator's License	82
Failure to Control/Reckless Operation	119
Failure to Maintain Distance	96
Failure to Yield	35
Seat Belt Violation/Child Restraint	145
Stop Sign or Red Light	101
Vehicle Related Violation	39
Other Moving Violation	88
Leaving the Scene	14
Improper Backing/Lane Change	33
School Bus	8
Total Traffic Charges	1363
Total Traffic Cases	1225

The Court has a variety of options for dealing with a juvenile traffic offender including:

- ◆ Suspending a license for any time period up to age 21
- ◆ Place child on probation
- ◆ Impose fines or costs
- ◆ Place child in Detention (for persistent offense or serious violations)
- ◆ Order child to attend Driving School
- ◆ Order restitution
- ◆ Have the child attend a specific program, such as community service or attend a therapeutic program

In Ohio, a juvenile has a probationary license. With this license, a juvenile is subject to additional penalties imposed by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to which adults are not subject.

In 2001, the Court entered final dispositions in 1222 traffic cases.

Abused, Neglected and Dependant Children

An abused child includes any child that exhibits evidence of any serious physical or emotional injury inflicted other than by accidental means or is the victim of sexual activity. A neglected child is one who is abandoned or lacks parental care because of the faults, habits, and indifference of the parents or custodians. A dependant child lacks proper care or support through no fault of the parents or custodian. The juvenile court has the responsibility to hear such cases and make a finding or adjudication. The Court may make orders altering legal custody or redefining the parental rights and responsibilities to protect the child. These cases are very complex and require close cooperation with Miami County Children Services Board, law enforcement, and other social agencies.

2001 Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Filings

Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency	140
Motion for Permanent Custody	19

The Court believes that when a child's physical, mental and emotional health is at stake and when the child's needs are not being met, that the child needs an advocate. Therefore in a majority of these cases the Court appoints a guardian ad litem either through CASA/GAL of MIAMI COUNTY or a private attorney. Based on the complaint before it and by considering the best interest of the child, the Court may use a variety of options for dealing with abused, neglected, and dependant children including:

- ◆ Order protective supervision by Miami County Children Service Board
- ◆ Remove the child from the home on a temporary basis and give custody to Children Services during which time the parties can work on a plan for reunification.
- ◆ Give legal custody to a relative
- ◆ Place the child in long-term foster care when the parent is not able to assume care
- ◆ Award permanent custody to Children Services, so that the child can be adopted

Last year, the Court entered final disposition in 176 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases and 22 permanent custody cases.

Paternity, Custody, Child Support, and Visitation

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction in cases of children whose parents were never married. Sometimes, this involves determining who is the father of a child. It can also involve deciding which parent gets custody of a child and the amount of child support and visitation the child can have with a parent. The Court also deals with requests from people other than parents, such as relatives or friends who want custody of a child. These cases often involve working with the Miami County Child Support Enforcement Agency.

2001 Filings

Parentage	48
Custody or Visitation	790
Support Enforcement or Modification	809
Total	1656

Last year the court entered final disposition in 895-support enforcement or modification cases, 811 custody or visitation cases, and 71 parentage cases.

Adult Misdemeanor Cases

The Juvenile Court also has jurisdiction in misdemeanor cases against adults charged with acts against children. This includes contributing to the delinquency or unruliness of a minor, and contempt of a court from orders made by the Juvenile Court.

2001 Charges and Cases

Child Endangering	2
Contempt of a Court Order	66
Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor	84
Total Adult Criminal Charges	152
Total Adult Criminal Cases	128

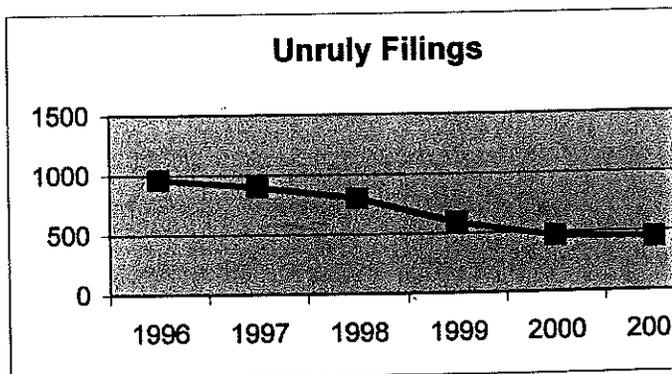
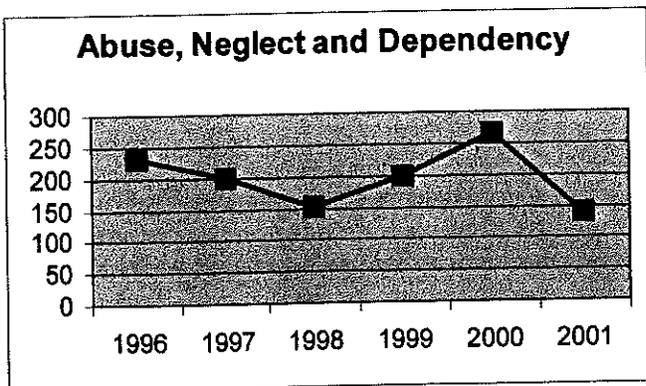
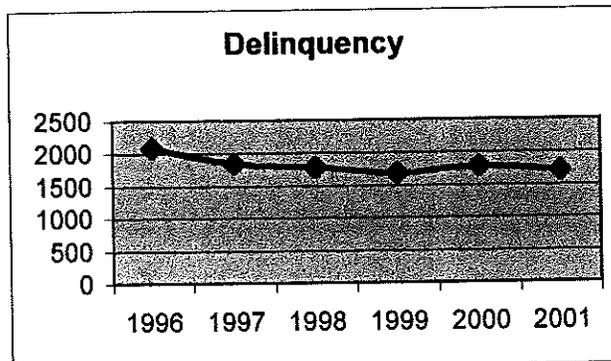
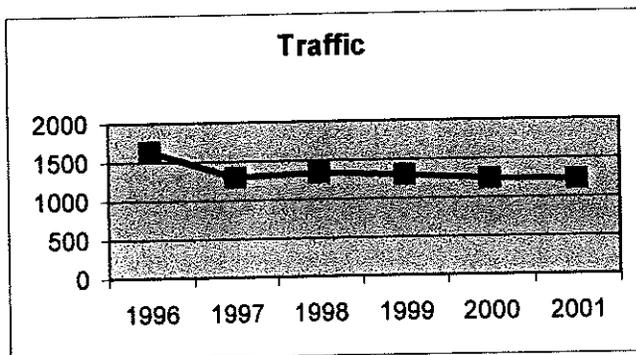
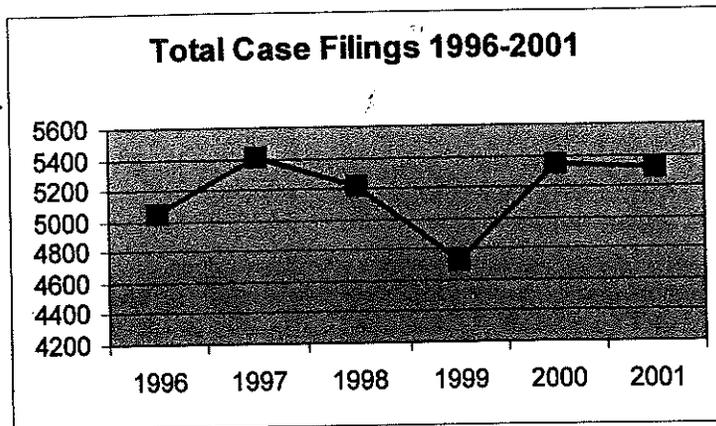
Last year, the court entered final disposition in 130 adult cases.

Miscellaneous Cases

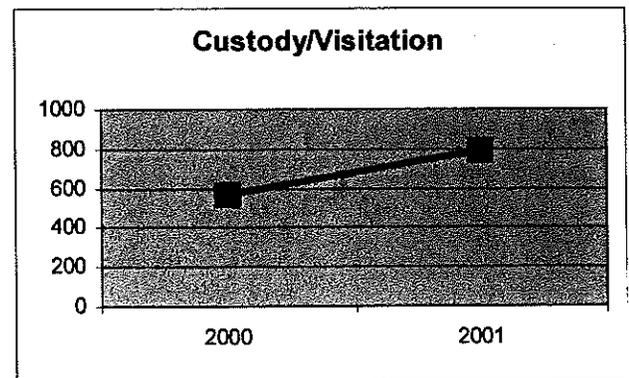
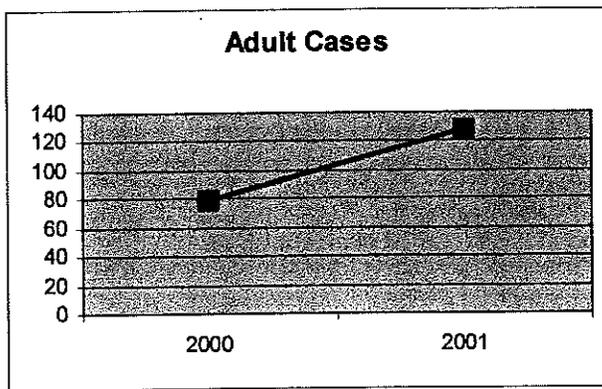
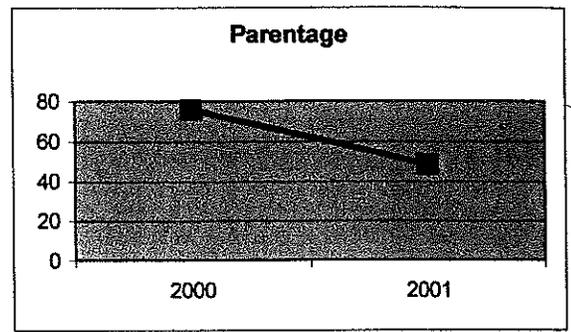
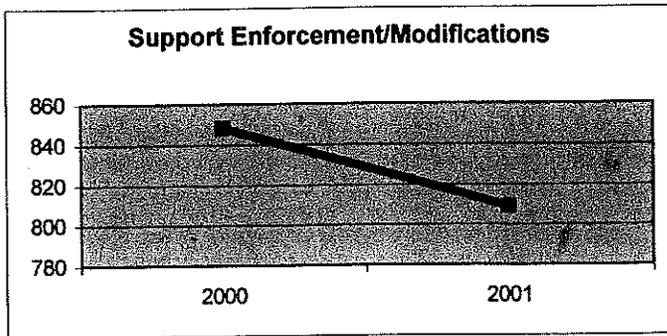
The Court hears a number of cases that do not fall into any particular category. These include such issues as applications for a marriage license by an underage child, hospitalization of a mentally ill minor, and certain kinds of consents for medical treatment. Last year, the court handled 1 such case.

Filing Trends 1996-2001

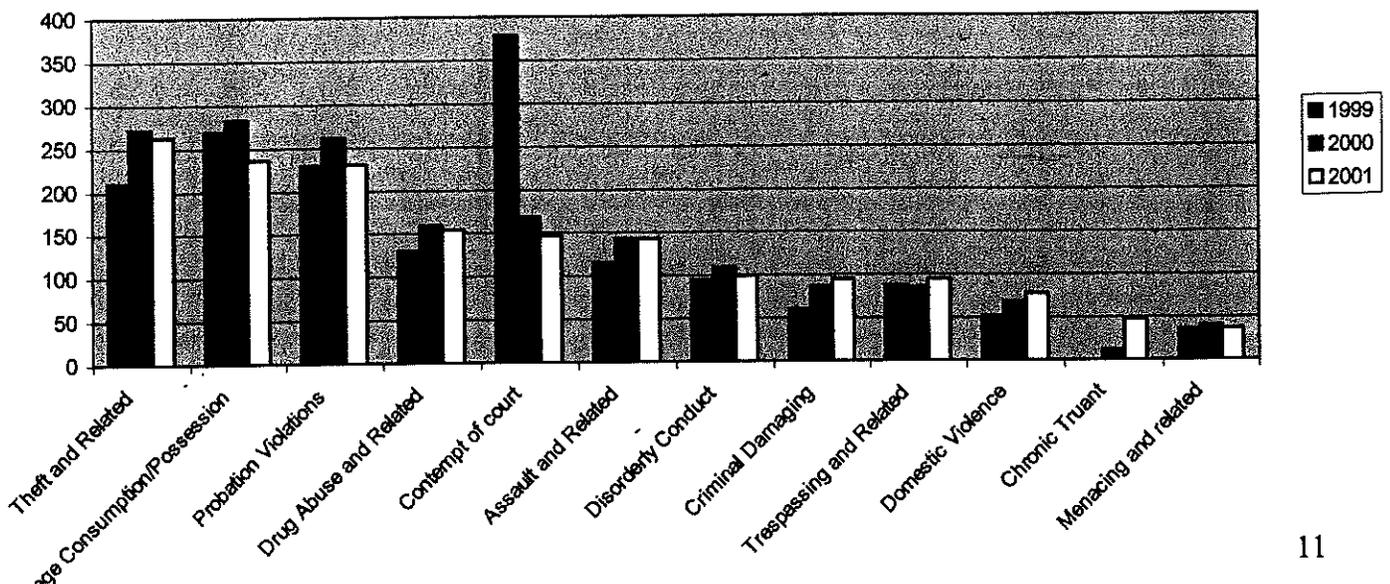
Changes in court services have resulted in a change in overall filings over the last six years. Particularly changes in probation and increased emphasis on prevention services have resulted in lower filings in unruly cases.



Filing Trends Adult Cases 2000-2001



Leading Delinquency Charges 1999-2001

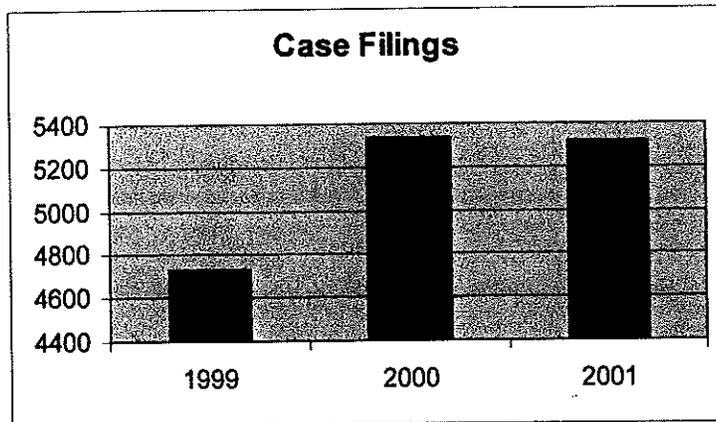


Court Services- Clerk's Office

The clerk's office is responsible for handling all the paperwork related to any court case. They accept the filings, schedule hearings, certify all orders, process all the paperwork, act as court reporters and generally maintain all case record. Under the direction of Chief Deputy Clerk, Beverly Bell and with the help of six full-time and two part-time clerks, the office serves all the clients of the Court.

Court Activity 2001

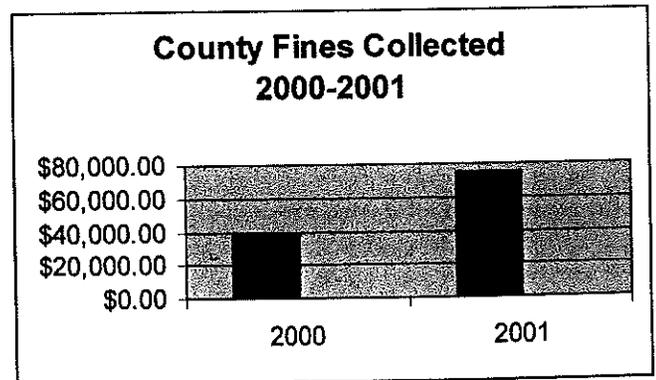
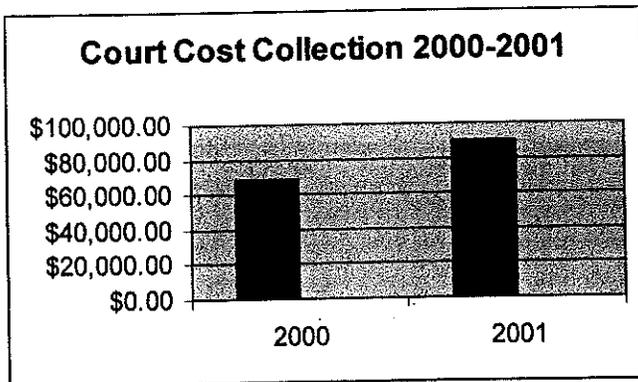
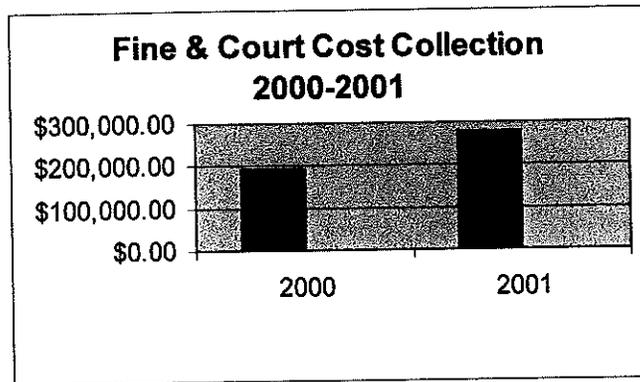
Total Cases Filed	5332
Total Charges Filed	6051
Total Cases with Dispositions	5505



Clerk's Office

2001 was a year of a lot of staff change for the court and the clerk's office. Four new clerks filled vacated positions this year. In addition to training new clerks, the office took on a new project aimed at increasing payment of fines and court costs. Special non-payment hearing days were scheduled in February and May and a better tracking system was implemented. Through these efforts an additional \$43,000 was collected on outstanding fines. Overall collections were up by 30%.

License forfeitures and wage withholdings were two tools used by the court to increase compliance. Over the course of the year 24 wage withholdings were issued and 100 license forfeitures.



Juvenile Probation

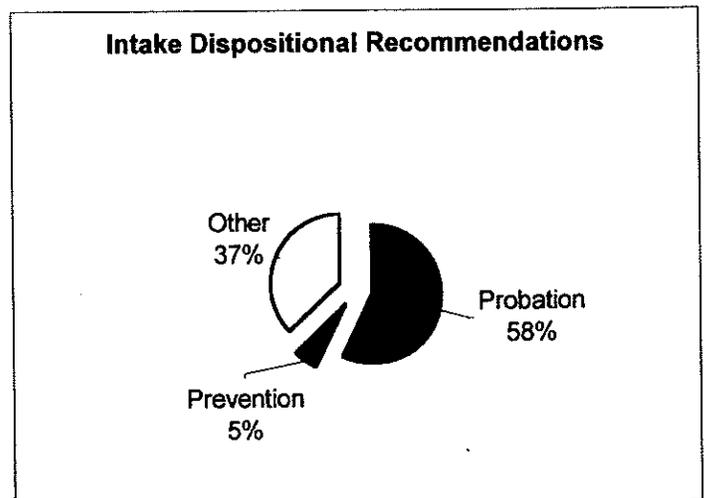
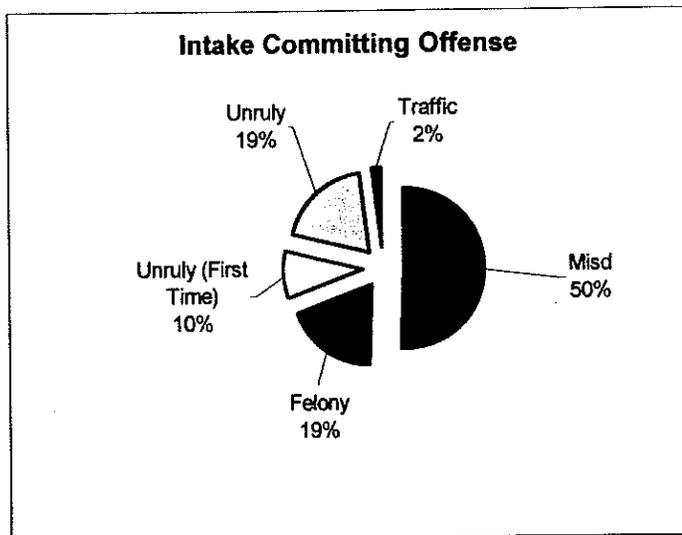
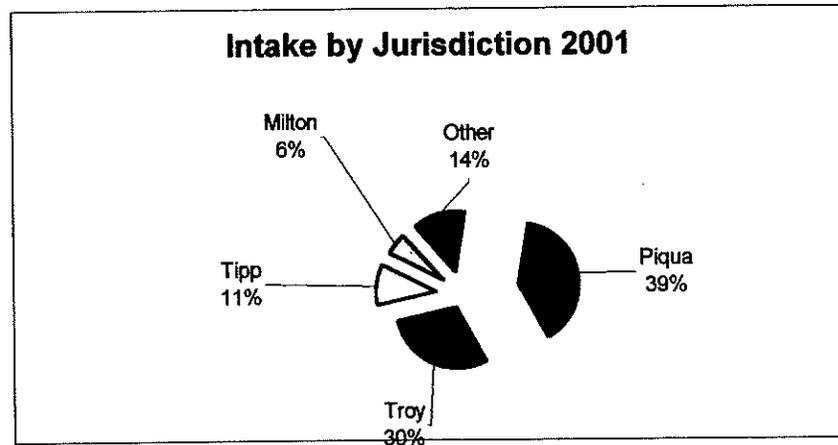
The Miami County Juvenile Probation Department's mission is to encourage youth to behave responsibly and ensure community safety through the enforcement of court orders and terms of probation. The probation department uses sanctions such as electronic home monitoring, direct supervision, and social services to solve family problems and change youth behavior. The Probation Department routinely networks with schools, law enforcement, and other human services agencies to serve the needs of probationers. The department utilizes a number of contracted services to meet the therapeutic needs of the youth.

To achieve the mission the department maintains the following components:

- A Diversion/Prevention unit for first time offenders, which includes The Family Diversion Program, a school based prevention officer, Court ordered Prevention Services with an array of education and mental health services. A Tobacco Violators Program, The Curfew Violators program and The Mediation Program.
- An intake position, which assesses the youth's level of risk and makes recommendation for an individualized treatment plans using multiple modes of intervention.
- Generalist probation officers who:
 - Concentrate on changing behavior and improving pro-social skills through individualized treatment planning and using community resources.
 - Focus on problem solving with both juveniles and their families by partnering with families in treatment plans.
 - Use a highly structured and intensive intervention through a standardized probation level system
 - Hold youth accountable by monitoring their behavior and making them face the consequences of their behaviors.
 - Are more visible in the community by working some weekend and evening hours
- Drug Court – a joint project with the Recovery Council, which includes intensive probation supervision and substance abuse treatment.
- Home Detention Monitoring Program

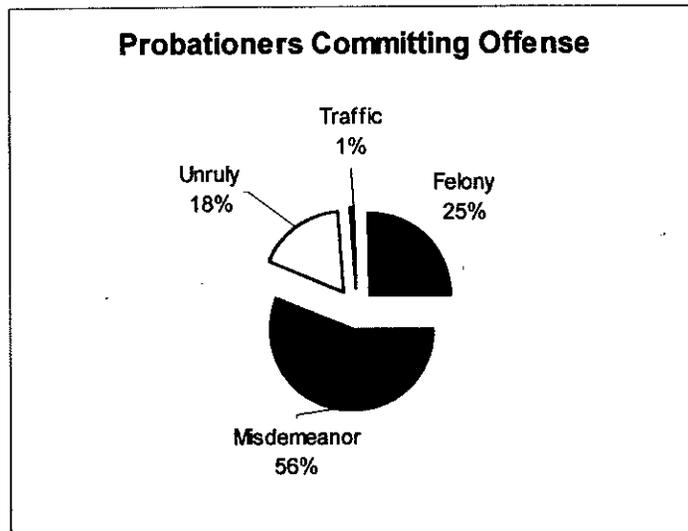
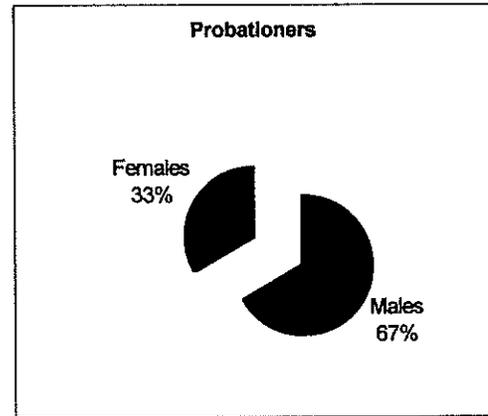
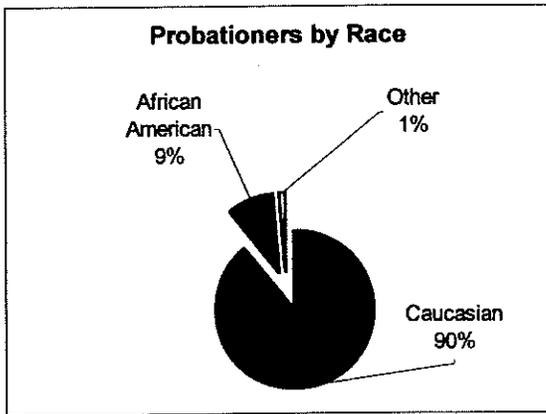
2001 Intake Department Statistics

Total ordered	166
Male	121
Female	45
Misdemeanor	84
Felony	31
Unruly (1 st time)	16
Unruly	32
Referred to Prevention	9
Referred to Probation	95
Referred to other services	62



2001 Probation Assignments

Males	92
Females	46
Caucasian	123
African-American	13
Other	2
Felony	35
Misdemeanor	77
Unruly	25
Traffic	1
Total Youth Ordered on Probation	138



Drug Court

Drug Court was started in June 2000 in cooperation with the Miami County Recovery Council. This program brings together the court, prosecutor, defense attorney and several Miami County agencies serving youth with substance abuse problems to better coordinate and facilitates services. Participating youth and their families engage in an intensive regimen of substance abuse therapy and probation supervision designed to encourage and support abstinence from substance use. The child and their parents attend semi monthly court hearings where their progress is reviewed and monitored. Participants advance through structured phases of programming with each phase bringing greater freedoms and fewer obligations. Successful completion requires a minimum of 9 months.

In 2001, the Juvenile Court Drug Court Program went through a period of evolution and development. We became increasingly aware that we needed to adjust our attention to younger participants. Participants who reached the age of 18 prior to graduating from the program seemed to lose focus and motivation. It was felt that earlier intervention with younger, chronic substance abusers might better reclaim the health and functioning of the child before patterns become entrenched. Through our experiences since 2001 we have made adjustments to the therapeutic components of our program to better target the needs of our participants.

2001 Drug Court Statistics

Total carried from last year	9
Admitted this year	9
Total participated in program	18
Males	17
Females	1
Caucasian	15
African-American	3
Successful graduations	2
Unsuccessful terminations	7

Home Detention Monitoring Program

The Home Detention Monitoring Program began in July 2000 with a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services. This program adds a part-time after hours staff person who makes random unannounced visits to youth placed by the court on home detention to confirm their compliance with the court order. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of youth in secure detention and to insure compliance with court orders.

2001 Home Detention Monitoring Statistics

Home Visits	3440
Total Youth Served	532
Youth Home	56%
On approved outing	43%
Violation	1%
Detention Placement	19
Males	305
Females	207
Caucasian	95%
African-American	5%
Other	1%

Under the direction of Randall Freeman, Chief Probation Officer, the department has one full time intake officer and four full time probation officers who work directly with youth placed on probation. The Diversion/Prevention Program is an adjunct to the probation department and works with first time status offenders.

Diversion and Prevention Services

The Court provides an array of interventions designed to cope with unruly behaviors. These interventions include diversion and court ordered programs. They include:

Diversion Services

- The Family Diversion Program
- The Tobacco Offender Program
- The Mediation Program
- The Curfew Violators Program

Court Ordered Prevention Services

- Prevention Supervision
- In-School Prevention Supervision

The Family Diversion Program serves youth who have been formally cited as unruly children. Common examples of unruly offenses included school truancy, running away, and violating the rules set by their parents or school officials. These youth and their parents are offered corrective and educational groups as

an alternative to appearing in court. When families complete the program, the original citation or complaint is never filed with the Court. The Family Diversion Program also serves youth who are deemed at risk of court involvement. Students may be referred for diversionary services by their parents or school officials without an actual charge

Family Diversion Program 2001 Statistics

Retained from Previous Year	46
Filed this year	281
Successfully Completed	138
Declined Services	27
Inappropriate for Service	49
Unsuccessful	28
Total Served	329
Total Pending at end of year	87

A number of unruly offenders are deemed inappropriate for the Family Diversion Program. Some of these youth have previously been enrolled in the program and have failed to complete services, others have declined. These youth can be enrolled in Prevention Services through a court order. Prevention Services assists families in which a youth has been formally charged as an unruly child. These youth have appeared in court and were ordered into prevention programming. The court monitors participation and a formal record is maintained.

Prevention Services 2001 Statistics

Retained from Previous Year	37
Filed this year	64
Successfully Completed	33
Unsuccessful	23
Total Served	101
Total Pending at end of year	45

In School Prevention Services

An additional service provided through prevention services is an on-site Prevention Officer exclusive to the Piqua City Schools. This financial partnership supports a full-time Prevention Officer who serves participants in both the Family Diversion Program and Prevention Services. The prevention officer is able to provide immediate supervision, work more effectively with youth and parents around school related problems, improve attendance and refer to appropriate community services.

Curfew Diversion Program

The Court also offers a Curfew Diversion Program for youth who have received a curfew violation. This program offers youth and their parents the opportunity to participate in group session or other activities through the family diversion program instead of court. In 2001, 57 youth successfully participated in this program, thus avoiding a court appearance.

Tobacco Offenders Program

In 2001, the Court initiated a new diversion program for first time tobacco offenders in cooperation with the Miami County Recovery Council. With changes in the ORC, possession and use of tobacco or related products became illegal for minors. Courts can outline specific consequences for youth cited under this code. By contract with the Court, the Miami County Recovery Council provides a three-hour education class focusing on tobacco addiction and related health consequences. Youth who agree to participate in the program are diverted from the Court. In 2001, 28 youth completed tobacco education classes and nine youth elected to appear in Court.

Mediation Program

With funding from the Ohio Supreme Court and by contract with Dayton Mediation, the court initiated a new program called "The Mediation Program". This program offers eligible juveniles the opportunity to participate in a process designed to help the youth and complainant discuss and resolve issues in a mutually acceptable manner. The program offers youth the opportunity to restore loss to the victim and take responsibility for one's own behavior.

This pilot program started in September 2001 completed 23 mediations targeting first time delinquency offenders charged with the following offenses: simple assault, disorderly conduct or menacing where the victim was a peer or in situations where both parties were charged with similar offenses (child/child conflicts). The Goals of the Program are as follows:

- To resolve underlying conflicts

- To prevent problems from reoccurring
- To reach an agreement and avoid court involvement
- To enhance communication and improve relationships between individuals.

Community Service/Restitution

The Community Service Program is designed for youth that have been ordered by the Court to perform community service hours as a consequence for their behavior. The Restitution program allows youth to work restitution to reimburse victims for their losses. The purpose of the program is to hold juveniles accountable for their actions by requiring them to participate in a work program that gives back to the community. It is also intended to promote appropriate work and employment skills. Both youth on formal probation and those informally supervised by the Court can be enrolled in the program

Youth work at sites in the community and are supervised by part-time and seasonal court staff. Work is scheduled in late afternoon, weekends, and on school vacations. Efforts are made to enroll youth in sites within their home communities. A new site was added bringing the total to 22 including local nursing homes, city and county municipal buildings, and football stadiums.

Funding for the program comes from the Department of Youth Services Subsidy Grant. One of the work site supervisors is provided through an AmeriCorp grant. In addition to working directly with youth, this supervisor helps develop new work sites. In 2001, 494 youth provided hours of service to the community. Sonia Kelchner coordinates the program. For more information call 332-7020.

2001 Community Service & Restitution Program Admissions

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Unruly	Traffic	Total
Males	19	251	26	8	304
Females	6	151	24	2	183
Total	25	402	50	10	487

Program Releases

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Males	337	3
Females	157	0
Total	494	3

Piqua Office

Miami County Juvenile Court maintains a satellite office, located at 102 W. Ash Street in downtown Piqua. To reach the Piqua office call 615-0657.

With partial funding from the Juvenile Accountability Block grant and in partnership with the Piqua Police Department and Piqua City Schools, the need for a local presence was established. A physical presence in the community allows probation officer to see youth more frequently, and gives prevention and diversion officers access to more youth.

Community Partnerships

Miami County Juvenile Court has developed many partnerships with community agencies to provide services to the youth involved with the Court. Through contracts with the Court, these agencies provide needed services developed specially for the Court involved youth and their parents. Juveniles are ordered into these programs according to their needs.

Contract Services

- ❖ Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment provided by contract with the Miami County Mental Health Center. Youth convicted of a sexual offense receive assessment, outpatient group and family treatment on a weekly basis. In 2001, the program experienced some changes. Nine youth were referred and four were accepted. Of those not accepted three were sent to Ohio Department of Youth Services and two to residential treatment.
- ❖ Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education provided by contract with Miami County Recovery Council. This program works with first time offenders who have come before the Court on an alcohol or substance abuse charge. The program includes an all day educational session, a substance use assessment, and a parent component. In 2001, 150 youth successfully completed this program.
- ❖ Shoplifters Group provided by contract with the Miami County Recovery Council was developed in 2000. With partial funding through a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services, the Recovery Council provides a home study course and a one-day educational class for youth involved in shoplifting. The sessions help youth understand the dynamics of shoplifting and why they have chosen this risky behavior. The course strives to help youth get better control of their lives and change these destructive and unlawful behaviors. In 2001, 52 youth were served in this program.

- ❖ **Self-Esteem Groups** are provided through a contract with Tipp Professional Services in Tipp City. Unruly youth who are experiencing school and home problems attend 10 weekly sessions designed to improve communication and anger management skills. Groups are separated by age and gender. In 2001, 27 youth participated in these groups.

- ❖ **Curfew Communication Groups** provided through a contract with Miami County Mental Health. This part of our prevention program is for youth with a curfew offense. This group consists of one 2-hour session for both youth and their parents. In 2001, 13 youth and 21 parents attended these sessions.

- ❖ **Psychological Services** provided through contracts with licensed psychologists. These limited numbers of psychological evaluations are performed to provide the Court with needed assessments integral to further court treatment plans. Forensic evaluations are also provided by Eastway Mental Health Center. These are required when deciding if a youth should be tried as an adult.

Partnerships that Strengthen Families and Protect Youth

Miami County Juvenile Court is an active participant in the Miami County Family and Children's First Council and is committed to the collaborative goals of building partnerships with families and empowers them to achieve their potential and have an improved quality of life. Through our active participation in the council we are dedicated to working with other agencies to redesign the service delivery system to attain better results, fill service gaps and develop new approaches where needed. The following are projects we have participated in through our work with the council.

Family Stability Program

Started in December 1999, this grant funded program works to reduce out-of-home placements by providing an integrated system for planning, development and coordination of comprehensive services that support families and children at-risk. Working with the resource team, the Family Stability Program provides assessment, case planning and coordinates the work of a family team (a group of providers representing appropriate agencies).

By serving as an advisory member to this program and as a working team member, when appropriate, Juvenile Court has partnered with the team to reduce court based placements by using other alternatives and concentrating on getting early and intensive services to families in trouble. The Family Stability Program requires a 25% reduction in placements over the three-year period. Placement reduction goals were met in every quarter of 2001.

Shared Placements

Placement services are provided for youth who have multi-problems and are involved with more than one agency including Children Services, Riverside (MRDD), Mental Health, or Juvenile Court. Juvenile Court assumes the lead to fund temporary out-of-home placement for some delinquent and unruly youth that have been assessed as appropriate for placement by an interagency team. Youth are placed in various types of settings including foster care, group homes, and residential treatment. Cases are reviewed every 90 days to assure that treatment goals are being met.

The cost for these placements is shared by funding from State Cluster, Children Services, Juvenile Court, Mental Health, and MRDD. In 2001, Juvenile Court contributed \$178,460.90 in shared funding for the placement of 21 youth.

Resource Team

Juvenile Court is an active participant on Resource Team, a crucial component of family stability and family preservation. The team provides identification of community resources, case planning and the creation of interventions to promote family preservation. The team oversees the youth in residential placements or placements outside of the local area. The team reviews the placements, determines shared funding allocations, and works on reunification plans.

Guardian Ad Litem

Juvenile Court provides funding to CASA/GAL OF MIAMI COUNTY to provide advocacy services on behalf of abused and neglected children. The advocates, specially trained volunteers serving as Guardian ad Litem (GAL), represent the best interest of children involved in dependency, neglect, and abuse cases for whom placement is being determined by the Court, and, any other case where permanent custody has been filed. CASA/GAL OF MIAMI COUNTY is a private non-profit agency. In 2001, 41 volunteers served 180 children.

The Court also may provide an attorney to represent the child.

Custody Review Board

The Miami County Citizens' Custody Review Board is a group of volunteers who review the status of children in care or custody of a public or private agency. Volunteers determine that a plan for a permanent, nurturing environment exists and that the agency is working toward a plan. The board reviews cases monthly and makes recommendation to the Court about the appropriateness of the placement and plan. This on-going review process assures that Miami County children receive needed services in a timely manner and in the least restrictive environment possible.

In 2001, the citizen board members were Mel Kemmer, Rebecca Holthouse, Shannon Shafer, Micki Curtner, and Rita Hollenbacher.

Financial Report

Miami County Juvenile Court receives funding from a variety of sources including the Miami County General Fund, the Department of Youth Services, and various federal and state grants.

Funds	2001 Court Budget Appropriations and Carryover	Expenditures
General Fund - Juvenile Court	\$910,812.06	\$810,967.18
General Fund - Juvenile Probation	\$566,564.49	\$540,457.95
Felony Delinquent Care and Custody	\$265,493.75	\$203,188.64
AmeriCorps	\$15,798.19	\$3,134.00
Juvenile Computerization	\$34,349.04	\$16,051.77
Legal Research	\$5,000.00	Expended in 2002
Supreme Court Mediation	\$21,000.00	Expended in 2002
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant	\$40,706.42	\$22,590.79
Total	\$1,859,723.95	\$1,596,390.33

*Does not include Budgets of David L. Brown, West Central Detention, and West Central Rehabilitation Center

Fines and Court Costs

Fines and court costs are ways to hold youth and adults accountable for their behavior. Miami County Juvenile Court believes that these fines and costs should be assessed to youth and they are encouraged to pay their own costs. Adults who are convicted in this court are also assessed fines and costs. Juvenile Court has taken an aggressive stance in an effort to collect fines and court costs. Fines are assessed and collected immediately after court hearings. When individuals cannot pay immediately, a payment plan is established. Fines and costs are dispersed to the general fund and to other agencies as defined by law. Failure to pay fines can result in further court hearings.

2001 Fines and Court Costs

COURT COSTS	\$ 89,467.45
COMPUTER FEES	\$ 29,981.95
LEGAL RESEARCH	\$ 8,132.65
SHERIFF FEES	\$ 2,698.49
LAW LIBRARY	\$ 1,250.00
COUNTY FINES	\$ 75,075.32
MOTOR VEHICLE FINES	\$ 4,651.00
MISC. COSTS	\$ 597.80
JUV. CT. MEDIATION	\$ 6,769.00
SPECIAL - CASA	\$ 1,189.00
SPECIAL - PARENTING	\$ 1,298.00
FORFEITURE FEES	\$ 120.00
STATE OF OHIO	\$ 54,310.24
BOARD OF PHARMACY	\$ 1,246.90
ARRESTING AGENCY	\$ 1,050.00
TOTALS	\$ 277,837.80

West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center

The West Central Rehabilitation Center is a state-of-the-art secure residential facility for 36 non-violent juvenile male felons from six counties. Youth go through a rigorous re-socialization designed to correct flawed thought processes, which contributed to their criminal behavior. The program includes an individualized educational plan, family, and individual counseling and intensive aftercare supervision. The average length of stay is 6 months. Specialized vocational training in machine trades is offered to youth who qualify. All youth are assessed for vocational and skill building through a grant from Office of Criminal Justice Services. This grant called the job enhancement-training program helps youth plan for their futures.

The Center's 2001 budget was \$1,206,127.17. The Department of Youth Services provides funding. Local courts pay DYS \$70.00 per day per youth placed at the center. Local school districts pay per school day to support educational programming.

Located on 25A, in Troy, The West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation serves Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby, and Miami County and provides judges in each county a local alternative to committing youth to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Mike Cantrell is the director.

2001 Population Statistics

County	Number of Youth
Auglaize	10
Champaign	1
Clark	8
Darke	4
Mercer	5
Miami	12
Preble	2
Shelby	6
Van Wert	1
Total	49

Offenses Resulting in Commitment

Theft	32
Drugs & Related	6
Domestic Violence/Assault	6
Arson	2
Inducing Panic	1
Vandalism	2

West Central Day Treatment

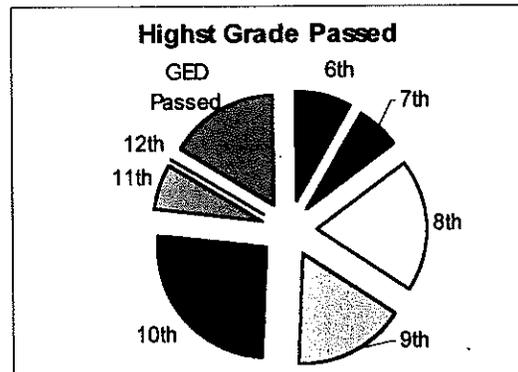
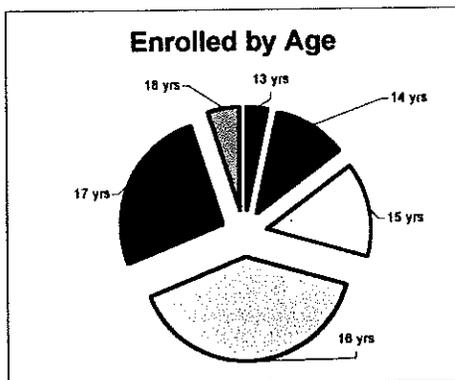
Day Treatment is an educational program for non-violent offenders from Miami and Shelby counties located at the West Central Rehabilitation Center. This program allows up to fourteen 13-17 year old male/female offenders on probation to attend school in a structured environment with individualized attention. In September 2001 a new day treatment program was added in Celina to serve youth from the northern Counties.

Youth work on individualized educational plans completing G.E.D, or their regular courses needed for graduation by their home school. The school operates year round and transportation is provided. The average length of stay is 4-5 months. Youth participate in groups to correct flawed thinking. Funding is provided through the local school districts. Mike Cantrell is the director of this program

2001 Population Student Statistics

Total Students Enrolled=61
Total Students North Location=11

Bethel	1	Fairlawn	1
Bradford	1	Sidney	14
Covington	3	Arcanum	2
Miami East	1	Botkins	2
Piqua	16	Greenville	1
Tipp City	1	Versailles	2
Troy	6	Wapakonetta	6
West Milton	4		



West Central Rehabilitation Center Intensive Probation/Aftercare

In 2001, the Court contracted with the West Central Rehabilitation Center to provide intensive probation services to youth released from the Rehabilitation Center, David L. Brown Youth Center and the GATE Program. The Program funds a full time probation officer who provides services 24-hours working with the youth, parents, schools, and employers, to assure that the youth makes an appropriate readjustment to the community. This intensive supervision includes probation sanctions as necessary with support and guidance to the youth and coordination of the youth's treatment plan. Youth remain in the program until they are completed treatment plans and paid fines and court costs.

Youth Served in 2001

Rehabilitation Center Youth	25
David L. Brown Youth Center	14
GATE	5
Total served	44
Total released	23
Total transferred	4

This program has been very successful. 74% of the youth successfully completed the program within the year and 75% had no further charges within three months of release. This new program will be closely monitored to assure effectiveness.

This program is funded with RECLAIM funds through the Department of Youth Services.

DAVID L. BROWN YOUTH CENTER

The David L. Brown Youth Center is a residential treatment center for delinquent and unruly males ages 13-17. The primary purpose of the facility is to provide an environment in which a youth can take responsibility for their thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors. The Reality Therapy/Choice Theory approach used at the Center is a nationally recognized therapeutic modality of treatment. Most of the youth referred to the Center come from the Court system, referrals are accepted from other agencies.

Located on a farm setting, east of Troy, on Children's Home Road, the Center provides Juvenile Courts with a structured alternative to incarceration. The Center came under new leadership in October 2001 when Diana Karnehm was name director.

During 2001, the Youth Center contracted with Miami County Mental Health Center to provide onsite services of one full-time and one part-time therapist. Individual therapy, family sessions, and group counseling were provided. In addition, Miami County Mental Health provided Psychiatric Evaluation and Substance Abuse Services. A part-time nurse and physician address medical needs.

An on-site individualized educational program is provided to each youth. In addition an Agri-Science program co-sponsored by the Upper Valley JVS is also available to eligible youth. The young men grow various crops and supervise the care of small farm animals. A partnership with the Bowman-Landes Turkey Farm was established employing youth from the Center.

The youth of the Center volunteered their time as bell ringers for the Piqua branch of the Salvation Army during the holiday season. The young men collected over \$5,000.00 in donations. This was the seventh year for this project.

The Center's 2001 budget was \$725,145.00. In previous year partial funding was provided through a subsidy from the Department of Youth Services however, due to budget cuts this was discontinued. This year most of the funding came from per diems paid by referring agencies, Miami County Title XX funds and funds from Miami County Juvenile Court. The cost per bed is \$90 per day. Referring school districts pays educational costs. The Center also receives a USDA food subsidy.

2001 David L. Brown Youth Center - Population Statistics

Total Youth Served by County

Champaign County Juvenile Court	2
Clark County Juvenile Court	8
Clark County CSB	1
Clinton County Juvenile Court	2
Darke County Juvenile Court	1
Huron County CSB	1
Logan County Juvenile Court	1
Mercer County CSB	1
Miami County Juvenile Court	17
Miami County CSB	1
Montgomery County Juvenile Court	3
Preble County Juvenile Court	3
Shelby County Juvenile Court	8
Shelby County CSB	1
TOTAL	50

West Central Juvenile Detention Center

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center is a secure holding facility for youth from Miami, Auglaize, Clinton, Darke, Mercer, Preble and Shelby counties. The center can house up to 44 youth that are waiting adjudicatory or dispositional hearings and who cannot be released into the community. Detained youth attend school classes; undergo counseling and psychological assessment as needed and participated in a variety of treatment and education programming.

The Center has been operational since 1993. There was a new addition added in April 1999. The operating budget for the center is \$1,623,950. Funding comes from the counties that use the facility. A Juvenile Accountability block grant funds the G.A.T.E program.

West Central Juvenile Detention provides the youth with all the basic necessities. The residents receive three meals per day, have daily structured gym exercise and attend school. The youth also participated in many of the group programs offered such as: anger management, substance abuse, health and hygiene, Planned Parenthood, life choices, and various motivational programming. Parents may visit three times per week. The youth also have the option to participate in Bible study programs or to attend a Sunday religious service.

The center also offers a prevention program called STAR (Start Today Accepting Responsibility). This program accepts referrals of youth ages 12 – 17 who are "high risk" for committing an offense who have never been incarcerated and exposes them to the realities of continued poor decision making. In 2001, 308 youth were referred to this program and 277 participated. The average participant is 14 years old and in the 8th grade.

The center also runs a gender specific program called the Girls Alternative Treatment Environment (G.A.T.E.) Program. This detention program was designed to meet specific developmental needs of juvenile female offenders. The program is providing education, structure, discipline and safety for the girls and the community. The girls learn the nutrition, food preparation, and social and everyday living skills. The girls are provided education that will help them maintain their current grade level. One additional part of the program is 4-H. The girls receive Red Cross Certification in CPR and babysitting. The program stay is 70-90 days. Counseling and family participation is very important to the success of the youth. In 2001, girls participated in the GATE program.

The center is located at 2044 North County Road 25A in Troy and is directed by Greg Simmons.

2000 Population Statistics

	Total	Auglaize	Clinton	Darke	Highland	Mercer	Miami	Preble	Shelby	Van Wert	Other
Intakes	1,345	210	60	64	15	92	459	207	187	49	2
Male	1,030	171	49	50	9	76	331	154	145	44	1
Female	315	39	11	14	6	16	128	53	42	5	1
Length of stay	10	11	14	22	62	11	7	7	11	10	35

Miami County Juvenile Court 2001 Annual Report Statistical Summary

Cases Filed in 2001

Delinquent	1712
Traffic	1225
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	140
Unruly	441
Adult	128
Permanent Custody	19
Custody/Change of Cus/Vis	790
Support Enforc/Modification	809
Parentage	48
UIFSA	9
Other	1
Total	5322

Cases Terminated in 2001

Delinquent	1735
Traffic	1222
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	176
Unruly	437
Adult	130
Permanent Custody	22
Custody/Change of Cus/Vis	811
Support Enforc/Modificatoin	895
Parentage	71
UIFSA	5
Other	1
Total	5505

Types of Dispositions for Youth**2001**

Bind over to Adult Court	0
Commitment to Department of Youth Services	9
Detention	473
Girls Alternative Treatment Environment	4
David L Brown Youth Center	10
West Central Day Treatment	27
West Central Rehabilitation Center	12

Types of Disposition by Charge**2001**

Community Service	559
Probation	147
Electronic Home Monitoring	67
House Arrest	448
Temporary Custody to Children Services	47
Protective Supervision with Children Services	54
Permanent Custody to Children Services	23
Jail Sentences (Adult)	28
Restitution	346
Cases with Fines Assessed	1743
Cases with Costs Assessed	2595
Fines and Costs Collected	\$277,837.80

Miami County Juvenile Court Important Phone Numbers

Juvenile Court Clerks Office (general information)	332-6993
Chief Deputy Clerk - Beverly Bell	332-6949
Chief Probation Officer - Randall Freeman.....	332-6856
Community Service and Restitution - Sonia Kelchner.....	332-7020
Court Administrator - Charlene Prestopino.....	332-6951
Fiscal Officer - Angie Hubbard	332-7021
Prevention Services - Donita Gast.....	332-6952
David L. Brown Youth Center – Diana Karnehm (Director).....	339-1858
West Central Detention Center - Greg Simmons (Director).....	339-2820
West Central Rehabilitation Center –Mike Cantrell (Director).....	339-2820

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