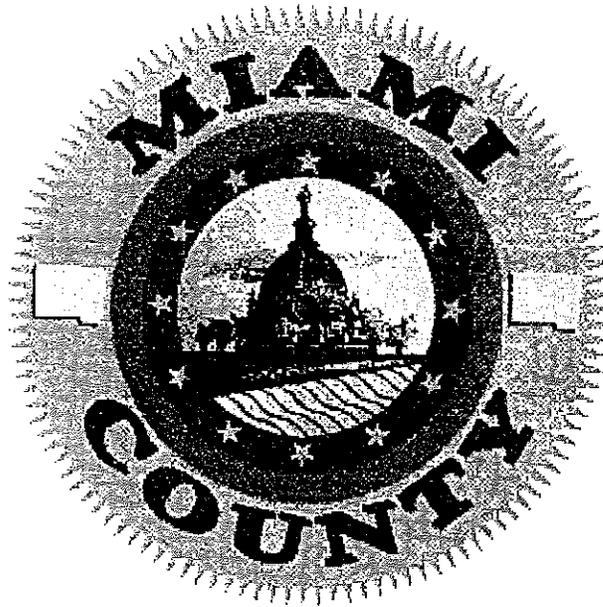


Miami County Juvenile Court

2003 Annual Report



Judge Lynnita K.C. Wagner

**Court Administrator:
Charlene Prestopino**

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

May 2004

Dear Friends of Miami County,

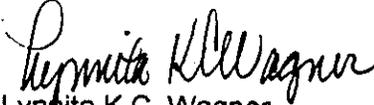
The year 2003 was a very productive year for the Juvenile Court. Although our case filings experienced a little decline, we were able to provide the best services to the most at risk children. In 2002, we committed twenty youth to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) for felony level offense and twelve to West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center (WCJRC). In 2003, we committed only five youth to ODYS and nineteen to WCJRC. By keeping our youth in our local institutions, we can ensure a better quality of treatment and we can involve the parents in the treatment process. In this way, when the child eventually returns to the community, his home environment will be a healthier place for him to reside.

Continuity of services and service providers is an important element of treatment. Offending youth are very frequently in chaotic, unsupervised home situation. Frequently probation/prevention officers are the stabilizing force that keeps youth grounded to a sense of values and allows youth to gain trust in adults and their futures. High staff turnover can impact the delivery of services in a very negative way. This continues to be an issue for our Court.

Through technology we are striving to improve our case flow management. In the last two years we have improved the speed at which cases move through the process to final disposition. Our clerks track this process more efficiently and bring cases to our attention that may have previously slipped through the cracks. Swift consequences for juveniles and quick resolutions of custody, visitation, and child support issues mean better justice to all.

We continue to improve our efforts to enforce collection of fines and court cost assessed. In the last four years, we have gone from collecting \$193,689 to \$300,535. We believe that holding youth responsible for the cost of their prosecution not only teaches them accountability but also reduces recidivism. If youth have to pay for their crimes with their own earnings, they will be less likely to commit additional offenses. We also believe that we, as a court, should be accountable to you the citizens and we intend to good stewards of your dollars, returning to you a portion of the cost of keeping our community safe.

Sincerely,


Lynhita K.C. Wagner
Judge

Our Purpose

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

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

- ❖ 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 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 2003.

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 some of the 2003 charges:

Delinquency Charges	2003
Abduction	1
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	4
AntiNoise	6
Arson/Aggravated Arson	4
Assault (Misdemeanor & Felony)	105
Breaking & Entering	37
Burglary/Agg Burglary	56
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	4
Child Endangering	4
Chronic Truancy	46
Coercion	1
Consuming Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle	1
Contempt of Court Order	161
Contributing to Delinquency/Unruliness of a Minor	4
Criminal Damaging	78
Criminal Mischief	20
Cruelty to Animals	0
Curfew (secondary charge to delinquent charge)	101
Dangerous Ordinance	3
Discharging Air gun/BB/Pellets	2
Discharging Fireworks	2
Disobeying Police Officer/Resisting Arrest/Fleeing	12
Disorderly Conduct	119
Disturbing the Peace	6
Domestic Violence	75
Dropping Material on Roadway/Littering	6
Drug Abuse	75
Drug Paraphernalia	47
Drug Possession	13
Drug Trafficking	6
Endangering child	1

Delinquency charge	2003
Escape	13
Falsification	20
Fish/Hunt w/o license	6
Forgery	8
Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor	7
Inducing/Inciting Panic or Violence	6
Littering	4
Making False Alarms	2
Menacing/Aggravated Menacing	34
Obstructing Official Business/Justice	23
Open Container	2
Other	9
Parole Violation (from Dept. of Youth Services)	12
Possession of Alcohol/Related	199
Possession of Criminal Tools	7
Possession/Discharging Firearms	7
Probation Violation	186
Public Indecency	5
Rape	12
Receiving Stolen Property	39
Robbery/Aggravated Robbery	3
Safecracking	5
Sexual Imposition & Gross Sexual Imposition	10
Skateboards	3
Tampering with Evidence/Property	15
Telephone Harassment	5
Theft/Grand Theft Auto/Misuse of Credit Card	259
Toy Vehicle in street	4
Trespassing/Criminal Trespassing	107
Unauthorized swimming	8
Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle	11
Vandalism	7
Weapon on school grounds	2
Total Delinquency Charges	2040
Total Delinquency Cases	1638

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 1676 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; departs 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 2003 unruly charges:

2003 Unruly Charges Filed

Truancy	57
Curfew Violations	177
Incorrigible	258
Tobacco Law Violations	64
Total Charges	556
Total Unruly Cases	398

Truancy	
Chronic Truant (delinquency)	45
Habitual Truant	12
Total Truancy	57

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 2003, the Court entered final disposition in 402 unruly cases.

Juvenile Traffic Offender

The Court has jurisdiction over all traffic offenses committed by juveniles. These cases in 2003 included:

Traffic Charges	2003
Disregarding Traffic Control Device (Sign/Lights)	62
Driving Under Influence & Related	24
Driving Under Suspension	35
Fail To Control/Reckless Operation	104
Fail To Yield	34
Failure to Maintain Distance	83
Fictitious/Expired/Missing Plate/Registration	26
Improper Backing, Turn or Lane Change	38
Leaving the Scene	7
No OL/Permit/Allowing Unlicensed Driver to Drive	66
Other Moving Violations	34
School bus	11
Seatbelt/Child Restraint	112
Speeding	451
Squealing Tires	6
Vehicle Related Infractions	24
Total Traffic Charges	1117
Total Traffic Cases	986

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 2003, the Court entered final dispositions in 1029 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.

2003 Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Filings

Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency	61
Motion for Permanent Custody	12

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 62 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases and 13 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 the father of a child is. 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.

2003 Filings

Parentage	48
Custody or Visitation	719
Support Enforcement or Modification	1062
Total	1829

Last year the court entered final disposition in 1099 support enforcement or modification cases, 691 custody or visitation cases, and 67 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.

2003 Adult Charges and Cases

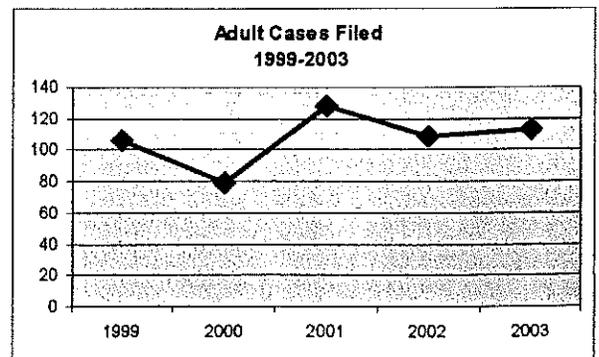
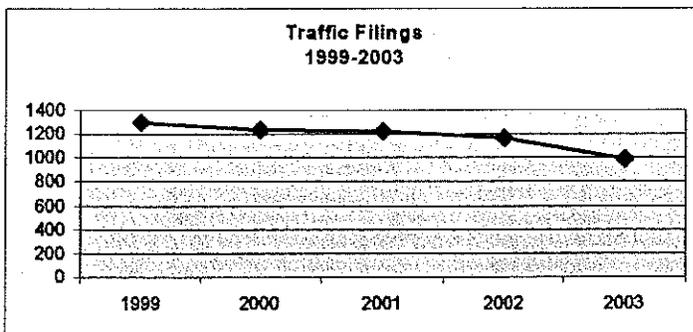
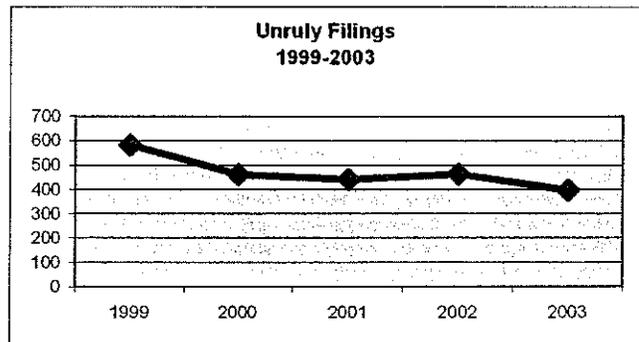
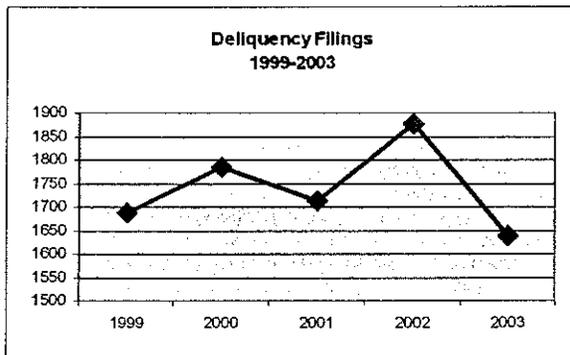
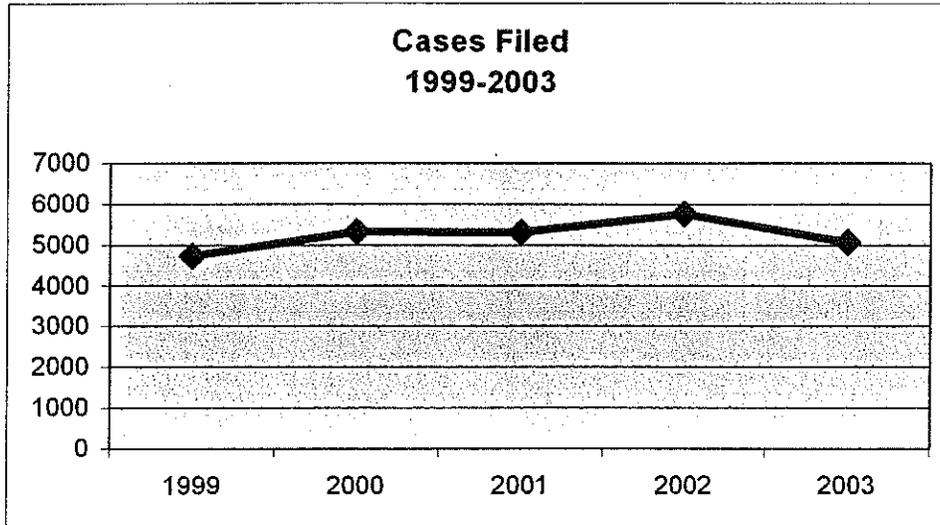
Child Endangering	0
Contempt of a Court Order	35
Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor	51
Failure to send a child to school	44
Total Adult Criminal Charges	130
Total Adult Criminal Cases	113

Last year, the court entered final disposition for 106 adult cases.

Miscellaneous Cases

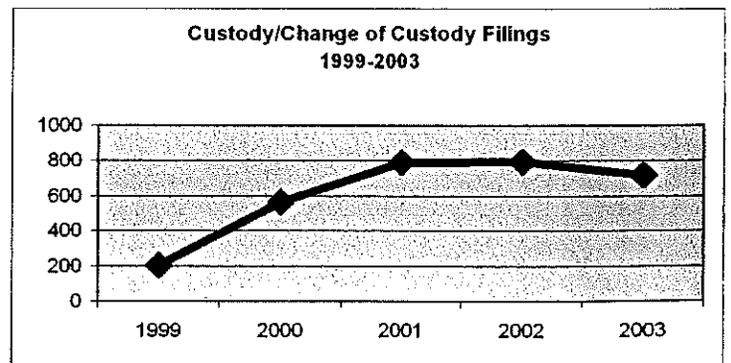
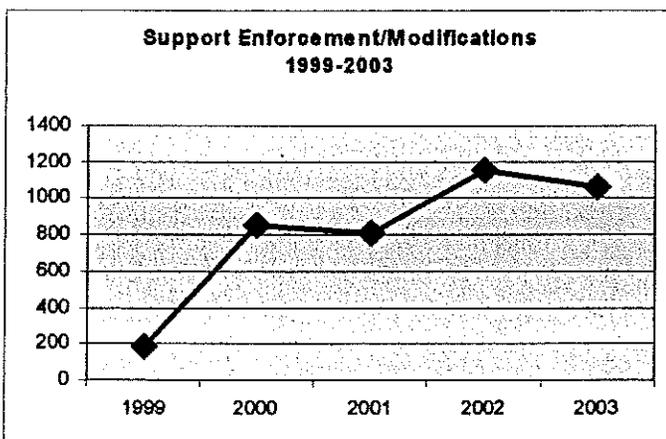
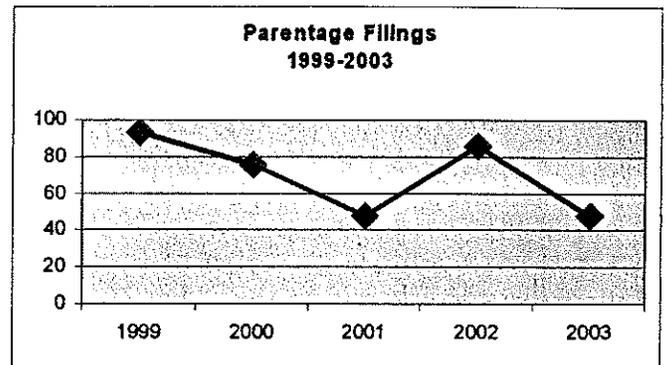
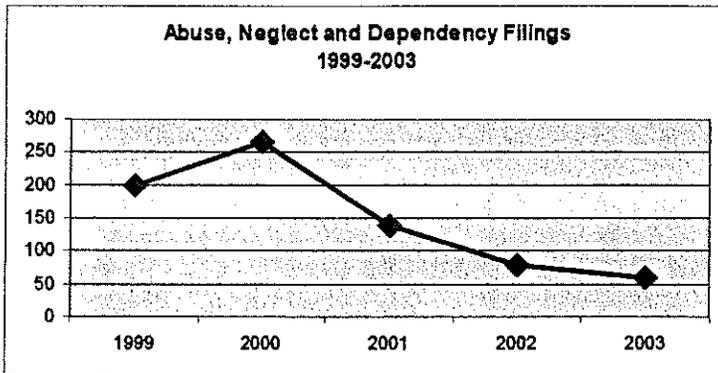
The Court hears a number of cases that do not fall into any particular category. These include such issues as applications for a marriage license by an underage child, hospitalization of a mentally ill minor, and certain kinds of consents for medical treatment. Last year, the court handled 3 such case.

Filing Trends 1999-2003

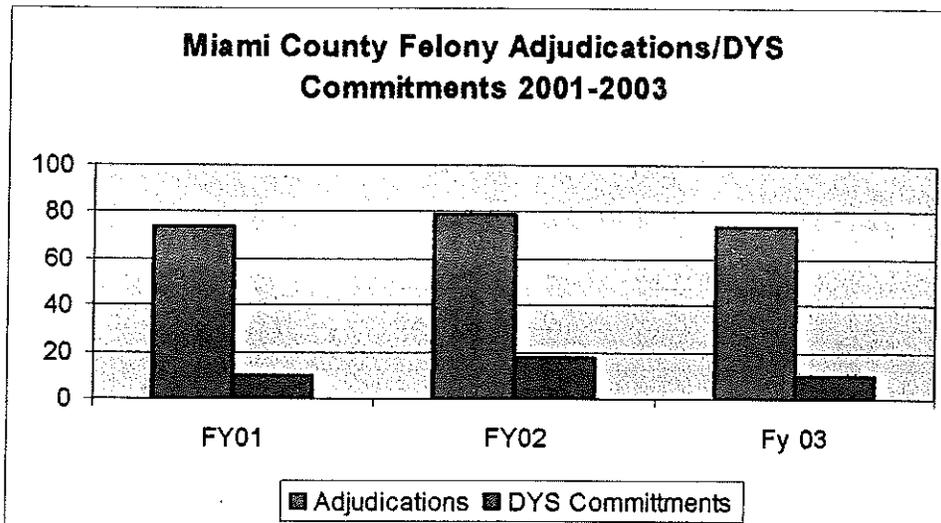
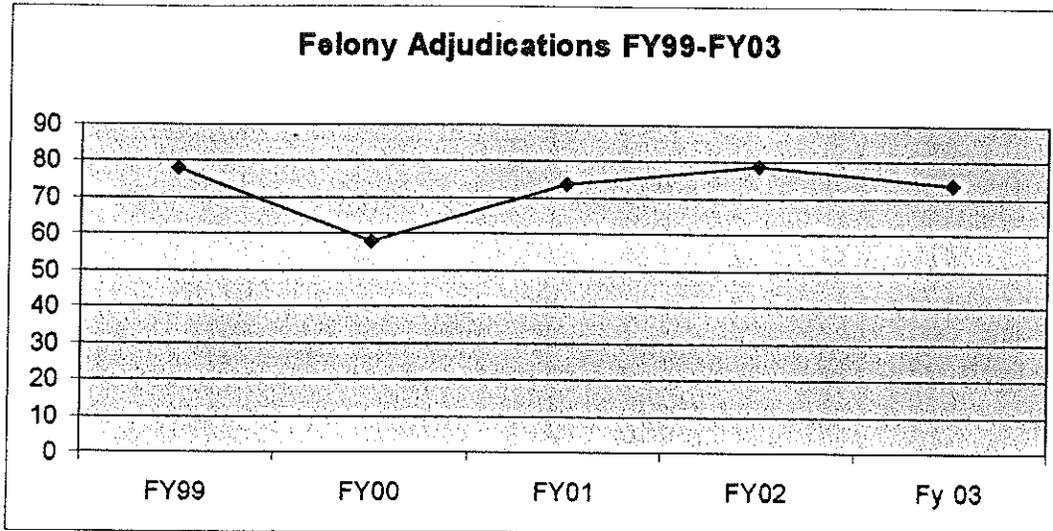


Filing Trends Civil Cases

1999-2003



Adjudication Trends



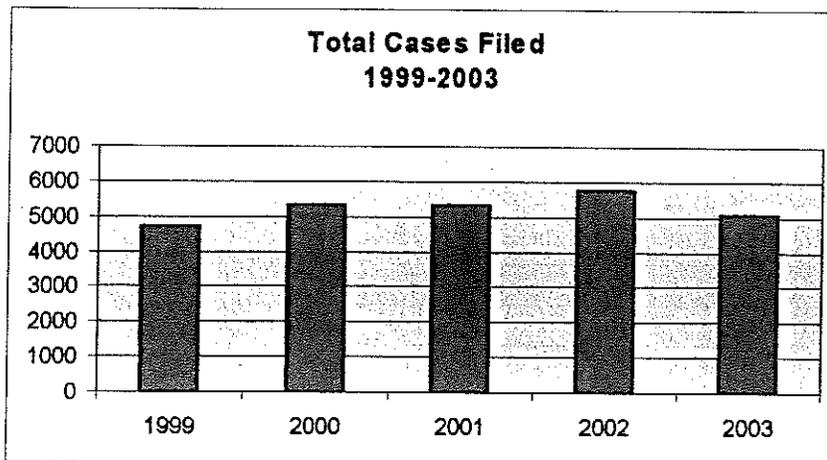
Court Services- Clerk's Office

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.

In 2003, the Juvenile Clerk's office continued to strive toward efficiency and better service to the public. Three major areas facilitated these goals: implementation of an improved phone system allowing the public calls to be answered in turn; continued cross training so that each clerk can work on any case type; and an improved high density file system allowing the clerks to easily track and find files. Each of these projects has resulted in faster and more consumer friendly services.

Court Activity 2003

Total Cases Filed	5072
Total Charges Filed	2040
Total Cases with Disposition	5182



Juvenile Probation

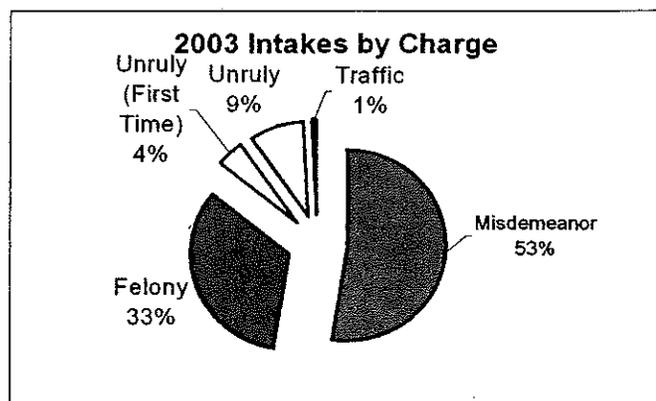
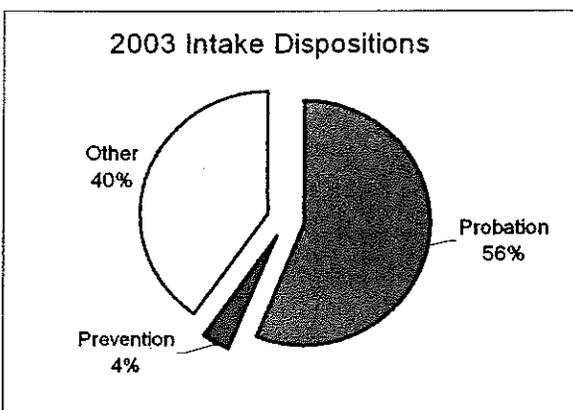
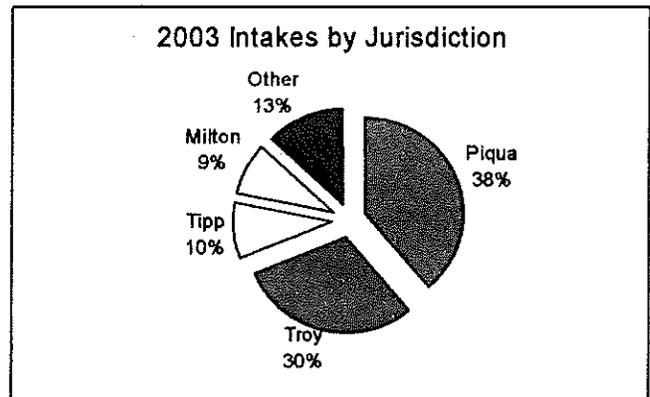
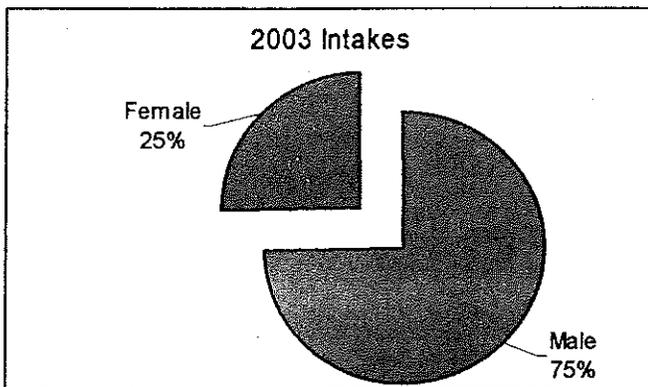
The Miami County Juvenile Probation Department's mission is to encourage youth to behave responsibly and ensure community safety through the enforcement of court orders and terms of probation. The probation department uses sanctions such as electronic home monitoring, direct supervision, and social services 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 officer 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 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 which supervises youth placed on home detention.

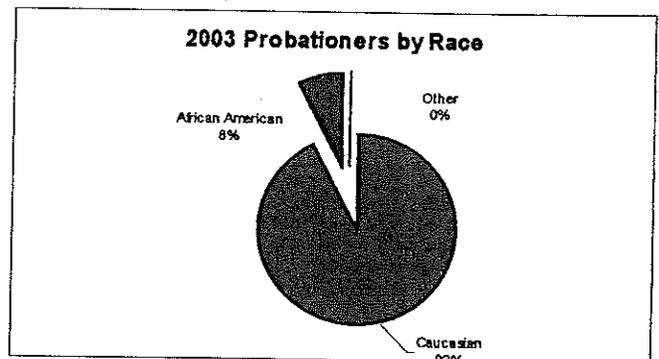
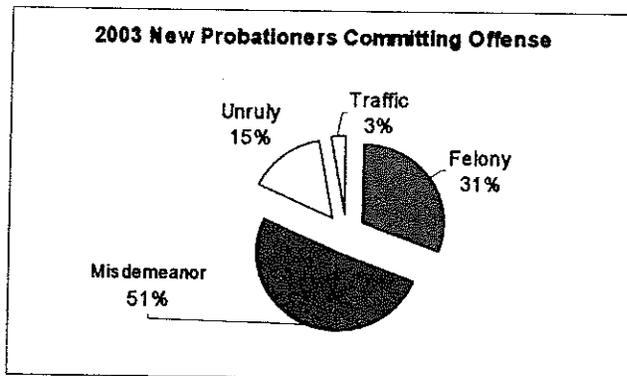
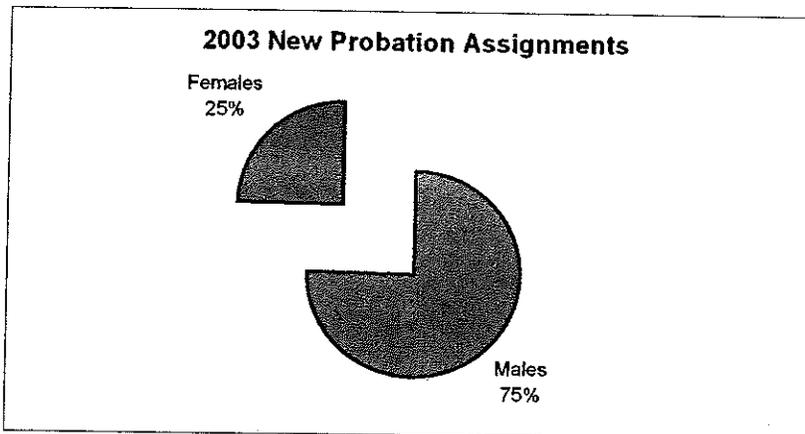
2003 Intake Department Statistics

Total Ordered	114
Male	86
Female	29
Misdemeanor	60
Felony	38
Unruly (First Time)	5
Unruly	10
Traffic	1
Piqua	45
Troy	34
Tipp	11
Milton	10
Other	15
Probation	63
Prevention	4
DYS	1



2003 Probation Department

Probation Assignments	2003
Males	100
Females	33
Caucasian	123
African American	10
Other	0
Felony	41
Misdemeanor	68
Unruly	20
Traffic	4
Total Youth Ordered	133
Total Youth From Previous Year	119
TOTAL YOUTH SERVED	252



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 2003, the Juvenile Court Drug Court Program refined the triage process to better focus court and treatment services. The collaboration between the Court and a substance abuse provider is most effective when the client and their family possess the determination and perseverance to meet Drug Court requirements. This year team members closely monitored the cooperation and compliance of Drug Court participants. Those who consistently failed to meet program requirements and appointments were terminated and referred to alternative programming. Clients who were retained in Drug Court experienced a supportive regimen of services to sustain recovery.

2003 Drug Court Statistics

Total carried from last year	8
Admitted this year	9
Total participated in program	17
Males	12
Females	5
Caucasian	13
African-American	4
Successful graduations	6
Unsuccessful terminations	7

Home Detention Monitoring Program

The Home Detention Monitoring Program is supported by the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant. This program adds a part-time after hour's 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.

2003 Home Detention Monitoring Statistics

Home Visits	2067
Total Youth Served	658
Youth Home	1251
On approved outing	363
Violation	29
Detention Placement	19
Males	489
Females	167
Caucasian	611
African-American	44
Other	0

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.

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 initial 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.

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 (program ended June 2003)

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 2003 Statistics

Retained from Previous Year	75
Filed this year	306
Successfully Completed	183
Declined Services	56
Inappropriate for Service	37
Unsuccessful	26
Total Pending at end of year	79
Total Served	381

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 2003 Statistics

Retained from Previous Year	79
Filed this year	81
Successfully Completed	57
Unsuccessful	20
Total Pending at end of year	83
Total Served	160

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. This project ended in June of 2003.

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 2003, five groups were offered and 30 youth and 43 parents successfully participated in this program, thus avoiding a court appearance.

Tobacco Offenders Program

The Court maintains a diversion program for first time tobacco offenders in cooperation with the Miami County Recovery Council. Possession and use of tobacco or related products is 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 2003, 39 youth completed tobacco education classes and 16 youth were referred to Court.

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.

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.

2003 Mediation Services

Charge	Successful
Disorderly Conduct	12
Assault	17
Menacing	0
Complicity to Theft	0
Receiving Stolen Property	1
Theft	1
Criminal Damaging	10
Unruly	0
Vandalism	4
Telephone harassment	0
Total	45

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 couple of new sites were added bringing the total to 29 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 2003, 583 youth provided 5667 hours of service to the community. Sonia Kelchner coordinates the program. For more information call 440-5987.

**2003 Community Service & Restitution
Program Admissions**

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Unruly	Traffic	Total
Males	18	360	36	1	415
Females	6	146	16	0	168
Total	24	506	52	1	583

Program Releases

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Males	421	1
Females	169	1
Total	590	2

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 2003, 14 youth were referred and 9 were accepted into the group. Those not accepted were sent to Ohio Department of Youth Services, West Central Rehabilitation Center, or to other Residential Treatment Centers.
- ❖ Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education is 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 2003, 133 youth successfully completed this program. A total of 14 groups were held.
- ❖ Shoplifters Group provided by contract with the Miami County Recovery Council with funding through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant. 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 2003, 45 youth were served in this program. A total of 6 groups were held.

- ❖ Curfew Communication Groups provided through a contract with Miami County Recovery Council. This part of our prevention program is for youth with a curfew offense. This group consists of one 3-hour session for both youth and their parents. In 2003, 30 youth and 43 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. These are required when deciding if a youth should be tried as an adult.

Partnerships that Strengthen Families and Protect Youth

Family Connections Saturday Series

In 2003, the Court developed a contract with Family Connections to provide a parenting program for individuals sharing parenting responsibilities but who have never been married. The Saturday Series is specifically designed to improve the quality of parental relationship for parents who have never been married and who may no longer be together. The program strengthens the family structure, allowing the child to love both parents and increasing the likelihood of keeping two active parents in the child's life. In 2003 16 were served through this program

Family Stability Program

Started in December 1999, this 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. The Family Stability Program provides assessment, case planning and coordinates the work of a family team (a group of providers representing appropriate agencies). They approve out of home placements and monitor progress for reunification or other permanent placements.

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. Placement reduction goals were met in three out of four quarters in 2003.

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 Title IV-E, State Cluster, Children Services, Juvenile Court, Mental Health, and MRDD. In 2003, Juvenile Court contributed \$153,463.70 in shared funding for the placement of 24 youth.

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 which 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 2003, 41 volunteers served 133 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 2003, the citizen board members were Rita Hollenbacher, Rebecca Holthaus, Tom Rodberg, Mel Kemmer, Shannon Shafer. Also attending are Magistrate Gretchen Beers, Children Services Representatives Kay Wheeler and Lori Rusnack.

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.

2003 Court Budget

	Appropriations & Carryover		Expenditures
General Fund - Juvenile Court	\$	997,364.35	\$ 898,595.66
General Fund - Juvenile Probation	\$	636,662.64	\$ 590,793.91
Felony Delinquent Care and Custody	\$	376,531.67	\$ 257,880.25
AmeriCorps	\$	12,092.44	\$ 10,032.95
Juvenile Computerization	\$	60,638.00	\$ 48,951.72
Legal Research	\$	15,624.00	\$ 1,099.93
Dispute Resolution	\$	22,000.00	\$ 10,981.09
Indigent Driver Fund	\$	-	\$ -
Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG)	\$	45,601.09	\$ 39,990.93
Court Security	\$	26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00
S.P. Parenting Course	\$	2,500.00	\$ 1,400.00
S.P. CASA	\$	2,500.00	\$ -
Totals	\$	2,197,514.19	\$ 1,885,726.44

*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.

2003 Fines and Court Costs

COURT COSTS	\$ 83,880.72
COMPUTER FEES	\$ 28,382.58
LEGAL RESEARCH	\$ 7,749.70
SHERIFF FEES	\$ 3,321.46
LAW LIBRARY	\$ 1,250.00
COUNTY FINES	\$ 56,095.39
MOTOR VEHICLE FINES	\$ 4,829.98
COUNTY DRUG FINES	\$ 937.00
MISC. COSTS	\$ -
ANGER MGT.	\$ 964.00
LIFE SKILLS	\$ 815.67
COPY SERVICE	\$ 53.81
WITNESS FEES	\$ 786.60
JUV. CT. MEDIATION	\$ 26,595.79
SPECIAL - CASA	\$ 3,158.00
SPECIAL - PARENTING	\$ 3,454.00
DRUG TESTING	\$ 958.81
FORFEITURE FEES	\$ 1,685.00
TOBACCO FEES	\$ 3,479.00
STATE OF OHIO	\$ 52,047.52
BOARD OF PHARMACY	\$ 1,181.00
ARRESTING AGENCY	\$ 454.00
SUNDRIES	\$ 475.50
Bonds received	\$ 17,980.00
TOTALS	\$ 300,535.53

West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center

The West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility is a state-of-the-art, secure residential facility for 36 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 academic educational plan, family and individual counseling and intensive supervision. The average length of stay is six months. Specialized vocational training in machine trades is offered to youth who qualify. A vocational coordinator, who helps secure post release employment, assesses all youth.

The Center's 2003 budget was \$1,314,000.00. The Ohio Department of Youth Services provides funding. Local Counties contribute to the Ohio Department of Youth Services for 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 Facility serves Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby, and Miami County providing Juvenile Judges a local alternative to committing youth to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Space is also provided to other adjacent counties. Harry K. Russell is the Director.

2003 Population Statistics

County	Number of Youth
Auglaize	7
Champaign	1
Clark	6
Darke	4
Greene	1
Mercer	3
Miami	18
Preble	3
Shelby	5
Van Wert	1
Total	49

Age	Youth
12	2
13	3
14	3
15	14
16	10
17	14
18	3
Total	49

2003 Offense Admissions to West Central Rehabilitation

Committing Offense	Youth
Burglary	10
Breaking and Entering	8
Theft	8
Sex Offense	6
Drug Offenses	5
Arson	2
Domestic Violence	2
Safe Cracking	2
Weapons Possession	2
Vandalism	2
Other	2

Committing Felony Level	
F-5	20
F-4	14
F-3	8
F-2	6
F-1	1

West Central Day Treatment

Day Treatment is a court ordered academic educational program for non-violent offenders. This program allows 13-17 year old male/female offenders on probation to attend school in a structured environment with individualized attention. West Central Rehabilitation operates two day treatment programs: one in Troy which serves Miami and Shelby Counties and one in Celina serving youth from the northern Counties (Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert 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. Harry Russell is the director of this program.

In 2003, 126 students were enrolled in one of the two locations. Seven youth achieved G.E.D. while five others earned enough credits to obtain a graduation diploma from their high school

2003 Day Treatment Population Statistics

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
11 yrs	2
12 yrs	5
13 yrs	11
14 yrs	16
15 yrs	18
16 yrs	36
17 yrs	36
18 yrs	<u>2</u>
Total	126

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Males	98
Females	<u>28</u>
Total	126

<u>Grade Level</u>							
5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
3	2	15	14	30	33	24	5

2003 Day Treatment Population Statistics

<u>County</u>	<u>School Districts</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Miami	5	44
Shelby	1	20
Auglaize	5	19
Darke	2	3
Mercer	3	28
Van Wert	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	18	126

	<u>Celina North</u>	<u>Troy South</u>	<u>Total</u>
Successful Release	37	24	61
Unsuccessful Release	10	26	36
Still in the program	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>29</u>
Total	62	64	126

West Central Rehabilitation Center Intensive Probation/Aftercare

In 2003, 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 2003

Rehabilitation Center Youth	20
David L. Brown Youth Center	22
GATE	06
Greene County	04
Total served	52
Total released	12

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 program of the Miami County Juvenile Court. Under the Direction of Diana Karnehm, Executive Director and located on a farm setting, east of Troy. The Youth Center is a 24-hour residential treatment center for male youth age 12-18. The primary purpose of the facility is to provide an environment in which youth can assume responsibility for their own 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 are referred to the Center by a variety of Ohio County Juvenile Court systems, Children's Service agencies, and Community Cluster organizations. The David L. Brown Youth Center provides Juvenile Courts with an alternative to incarceration and youth with the opportunity to receive a variety of intensive services in a safe therapeutic environment.

MENTAL HEALTH

During 2003, the Youth Center contracted with the Miami County Mental Health Center to provide a full time on site master's level therapist to provide a wide range of therapeutic services. Youth referred to the David L. Brown Youth Center receive a complete mental health assessment and participate in an individualized treatment plan, which typically includes several of the following services:

- *Individual Counseling
- *Group Therapy
- *Coordination of Med-Somatic Services
- *Family Counseling
- *Leadership Training
- *Case Management

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

All youth referred to the David L. Brown Youth Center receive a complete substance abuse assessment and a corresponding treatment plan. The Center employs one Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor III-E and one Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor I. The Youth Center offers a variety of treatment modalities designed to effectively intervene in substance use, abuse, or dependency. Services include:

- *Prevention Education
- *Individual Counseling
- *Group Counseling
- *Intervention Education
- *Family Counseling
- *Intensive Treatment

ACADEMIC

The David L. Brown Youth Center utilizes a variety of resources designed to provide educational opportunities to meet the individual needs of the youth. Collaborative efforts established with the Miami County Education Service Center and the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School provides the Center with two full time licensed teachers. This includes: Individualized Learning Plans, Academic Case Management Specialized Education, Agri-Science, Evaluation and Testing, GED Preparation and Pre-testing.

HEALTH

The David L. Brown Youth Center provides a complete physical examination for each youth and meets their non-critical medical needs by utilizing Dr. Ginn, M.D. and Susan Westfall, R.N.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

All youth who reside at the Youth Center participate in a physical education program and a variety of additional athletic activities:

- *Cardiovascular
- *Race Walking
- *Football
- *Basketball
- *Weight Lifting
- *Running
- *Softball
- *Volleyball

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The youth of David L. Brown are provided with opportunities to develop a sense of belonging and commitment to community in a variety of ways:

- *Bell Ringing with Salvation Army
- * Sign Building for Buckeye Homeless Shelter
- * Working for Bowman Landes Turkey Farm
- *Food Delivery for Family Abuse Shelter
- *Serving Meals to Homeless
- *Completing Court Ordered Community Service Hours

2003 BUDGET

The appropriated budget for David L. Brown Youth Center for fiscal year 2003 was \$822,922.00. The David L. Brown Youth Center Budget is limited to revenue received from the following sources. This includes: daily per diem, tuition reimbursement, State of Ohio Food Subsidy and grants from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice, and the Tri County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services.

2003 David L. Brown Youth Center - Population Statistics

Total Youth Served by County

Clark County	6
Miami County	25
Montgomery County	5
Preble County	4
Shelby County	5
Total	45

WEST CENTRAL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center is a secure holding facility for youth from Auglaize, Clinton, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble, Shelby and Van Wert 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 participate in a variety of treatment and education programming.

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center has been operational since 1993. There was a new addition added in April 1999. The operating budget for the center is \$1,577,009. Funding comes from the counties that use our facility. We have a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services that partially funds the GATE Program.

West Central JDC provides youth with all the basic necessities. The residents receive three meals per day. They have structured gym exercise everyday and attend an on-sight school Monday through Friday. Youth must participate in group programs such as: anger management, substance abuse, health & hygiene, Planned Parenthood, life choices, and various community leaders and motivational speakers. The youth have the option to participate in a Bible study program or to attend a Sunday morning service while at the center. There are visitation appointments for parents to visit three times per week. The residents may make phone calls at designated times and are provided all the necessary materials for writing letters to family.

The detention center also offers prevention program called STAR (Start Today Accepting Responsibility). This program accepts referrals of youth ages 12 – 17 that are "high risk" for committing an offense. This program is only for youth that have never been incarcerated before. STAR exposes the youth to the realities of continued poor decision-making. There were 292 youth referred to the STAR program in 2003. Only 26 participants of the STAR program made it back for a longer stay in detention.

The detention center has implemented a gender specific program called GATE (Girls Alternative Treatment Environment). This program is providing education, structure, discipline and safety for the girls. They learn the nutritional value of food, the proper amount needed to maintain good health and how to prepare simple recipes. The girls also participate in 4-H. They must complete a project and have it judged. The girls receive Red Cross Certification in CPR and First Aid training and they become certified babysitters. The GATE program takes at 70 days to complete and could last as long as 90 days depending on how quickly the girls advance. Counseling and family participation are very important for these females to succeed after completion.

The West Central JDC is located in the Miami County Government Complex at 2044 North County Road 25A in Troy. Greg Simmons has been the Superintendent of the Detention Center since it opened in 1993.

2003 Detention Population Statistics

	Total	Auglaize	Clinton	Darke	Mercer	Miami	Preble	Shelby	Van Wert	Other
Intakes	1,506	272	114	71	92	454	113	220	53	117
Male	1,118	209	83	52	78	327	80	156	47	86
Female	388	63	31	19	14	127	33	64	6	31
Average Length of Stay		11	17	27	13	10	10	11	17	54

Miami County Juvenile Court
2003 Annual Report Statistical Summary

Cases Filed in 2003

Delinquent	1638
Traffic	986
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	61
Unruly	398
Adult	113
Permanent Custody	12
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	719
Support Enforcement/Modifications	1062
Parentage	48
UIFSA	32
Other	3
Transferred/Reactivated	
Total Cases Filed	5072

Cases Terminated in 2003

Delinquent	1676
Traffic	1029
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	62
Unruly	402
Adult	106
Permanent Custody	13
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	691
Support Enforcement/Modification	1099
Parentage	67
UIFSA	34
Other	3
Total	5182

Types of Dispositions for Youth**2003**

Bind over to Adult Court	4
Commitment to Department of Youth Services	5
Detention	454
Girls Alternative Treatment Environment	6
David L Brown Youth Center	15
West Central Day Treatment	31
West Central Rehabilitation Center	18
Miami Valley Greene County	4

Types of Disposition**2003**

Community Service	721
Probation	133
Prevention	81
Electronic Home Monitoring	102
House Arrest	658
Temporary Custody to Children Services	21
Protective Supervision with Children Services	49
Permanent Custody to Children Services	8
Jail Sentences (Adult)	55
Restitution	272
Cases with Fines Assessed	1416
Cases with Costs Assessed	2393
Fines and Costs Collected	\$300,535.53

Miami County Juvenile Court Important Phone Numbers

Juvenile Court Clerks Office (general information)	440-5970
Chief Deputy Clerk - Beverly Bell	440-5972
Chief Probation Officer - Randall Freeman.....	440-5979
Community Service and Restitution - Sonia Kelchner.....	440-5987
Court Administrator - Charlene Prestopino.....	440-5990
Fiscal Officer - Angie Hubbard	440-5988
Prevention Services - Donita Gast.....	440-5985
David L. Brown Youth Center – Diana Karnehm (Director).....	339-1858
West Central Detention Center - Greg Simmons (Director).....	440-5651
West Central Rehabilitation Center –Harry Russell (Director).....	440-5651

Please visit our web site at www.co.miami.oh.us

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