

Miami County Juvenile Court

2006 Annual Report



Judge Lynnita K.C. Wagner

**Court Administrator:
Charlene Prestopino**

**Magistrates:
Gretchen K. Beers
Rebecca Barton
Katherine Kemp-Severt**

May, 2007

Dear Fellow Citizens:

The Miami County Juvenile Court experienced a rather uneventful year even though I personally had a year like none other. I was off work for approximately three months due to medical issues, but the work of the Court went on with no disruption or slow down of services due to very dedicated and hard working magistrates and Judge Jeffery Welbaum from the general division.

Overall, the number of cases filed was slightly more than the number filed in 2005 (which was our lowest number of filings during my ten year tenure). Our traffic cases continue to decline as do unruly filings, while cases referred to mediation are increasing. Custody, visitation, child support enforcement and modifications cases (for children whose parents never married) remain constant. The only categories which claim the highest filings in the last seven years are termination of parental rights and establishment of paternity.

Violations of court orders (contempts, probation violations and parole violations) lead the field in delinquency filings but are down from last year. Second in number of filings (and also down from last year) are drug/alcohol filings. Theft and theft related filings remain steady. The number of felony adjudications is the lowest in ten years as are the number of children committed to the custody of the Department of Youth Services. The ratio of males to females (3:1) remains constant.

What does all this mean to you? It means that the services which we are able to offer to the youth who come before us are better suited to the youth's issues, through better assessments. More individual attention from probation/prevention officers, more monitoring on house arrest and quicker responses to misbehaviors provide more consistent supervision and increase the likelihood of rehabilitation. It means that Miami County is a safer and better place to live.

Sincerely,

Lynnita 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, protect children from abuse, neglect, and dependency and provide allocation of parental rights for children whose parents were never married.

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 two full-time and one part-time magistrate, 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 2006.

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 2006 charges:

Delinquency Charges	2006
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1
AntiNoise	3
Arson/Aggravated Arson	6
Assault (Misdemeanor & Felony)	80
Breaking & Entering	24
Burglary/Agg Burglary	15
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	3
Child Endangering	0
Chronic Truancy	25
Coercion	0
Consuming Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle	0
Contempt of Court Order	80
Contributing to Delinquency/Unruliness of a Minor	0
Criminal Damaging	65
Criminal Mischief	46
Dangerous Ordnance in school zone	1
Discharging Air gun/BB/Pellets/firearm	14
Discharging/Possession Fireworks	4
Disobeying Police Officer/Resisting Arrest/Fleeing	7
Disorderly Conduct	164
Domestic Violence	60
Dropping Material on Roadway/Littering	2
Drug Cultivation	2
Drug Abuse	64
Drug Paraphernalia	56
Drug Possession	17
Drug Trafficking	5
Escape	9
Falsification	4
Forgery	7
Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor	2
Inducing/Inciting Panic or Violence	6
Importuning	3
Impeding a parked Bus	1
Intimidation	1

Making False Alarms	2
Menacing/Aggravated Menacing	25
Negligent Homicide	0
Obstructing Official Business/Justice	32
Open Container	3
Parole Violation (from Dept. of Youth Services)	9
Possession of Alcohol/Related	160
Possession of Criminal Tools	11
Probation Violation	160
Public Indecency	6
Rape	7
Receiving Stolen Property	32
Robbery/Aggravated Robbery/ complicity	1
Sexual Imposition & Gross Sexual Imposition	15
Skateboards	3
Tampering with Evidence/Property	20
Telephone Harassment	6
Theft/Grand Theft Auto/Misuse of Credit Card/Identity Theft	211
Trespassing/Criminal Trespassing	41
Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle/Property	11
Vandalism	9
Vehicular Homicide	1
Vehicular Manslaughter	1
Weapon on school grounds	7
Total Delinquency Charges	1550
Total Delinquency Cases Filed or Reactivated	1389

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 or any CCF (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 1385 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 2005 unruly charges:

2006 Unruly Charges Filed

Unruly Charges Filed	2006
Truancy	34
Curfew Violations	126
Incorrigible	184
Behavior that injures health or morals	13
Tobacco Law Violations	35
Total Charges	382
Total Unruly Cases Filed or Reactivated	337
Truancy	
Chronic Truant (delinquency)	25
Habitual Truant	9
Total Truancy	34

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 2006, the Court entered final disposition in 353 unruly cases.

Juvenile Traffic Offender

The Court has jurisdiction over all traffic offenses committed by juveniles. These cases in 2006 included:

Traffic Charges	2006
Bicycles Violations	2
Disregarding Traffic Control Device (Sign/Lights)	63
Driving Under Influence & Related	21
Driving Under Suspension	26
Fail To Control/Reckless Operation	70
Fail To Yield	48
Failure to Maintain Distance	69
Fictitious/Expired/Missing Plate/Registration/Insurance	27
Improper Backing, Turn or Lane Change	25
Improper start/acceleration	1
Leaving the Scene	6
Moped Violation	1
No OL/Permit/Allowing Unlicensed Driver to Drive	37
Other Moving Violations	11
Parking Violations	2
School bus	7
Seatbelt/Child Restraint	61
Speeding	322
Squealing Tires/Noise Ordinance	1
Railroad crossing violation	2
Vehicle Related Infractions	7
Total Traffic Charges	809
Total Traffic Cases Filed or Reactivated	749

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 CARTEENS
- ◆ 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 2006, the Court entered final dispositions in 731 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.

2006 Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Filings

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency	67
Motion for Permanent Custody	26

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 74 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 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.

2006 Filings

Custody or Visitation	812
Support Enforcement/Modifications	1343
Parentage	88
Total	2243

Last year the court entered final disposition in 1278 support enforcement or modification cases, 765 custody or visitation cases, and 74 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 court from orders made by the Juvenile Court.

2006 Adult Charges and Cases

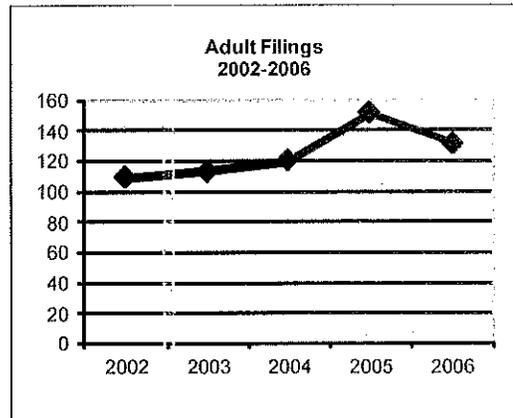
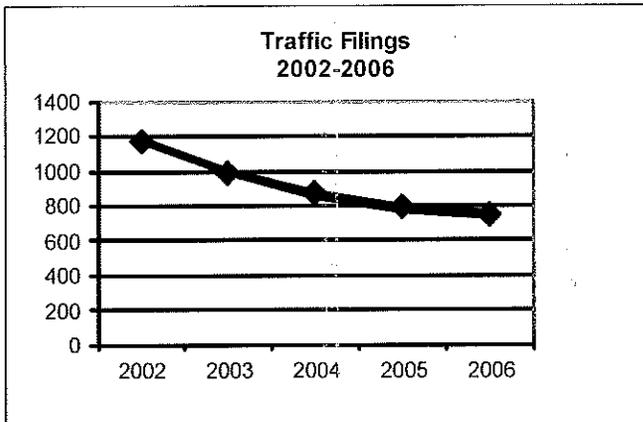
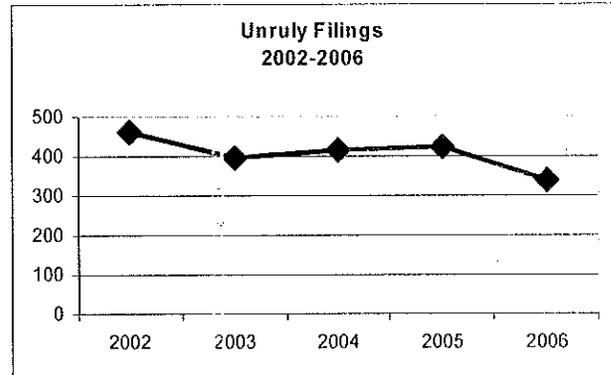
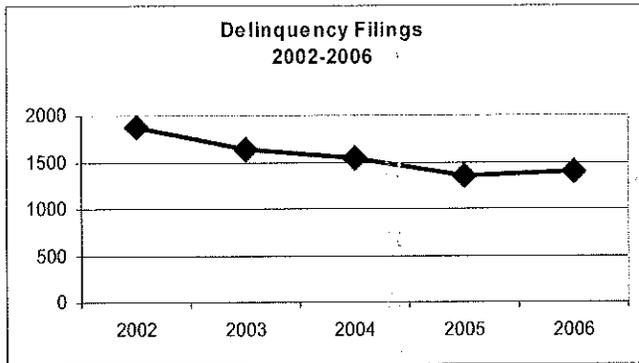
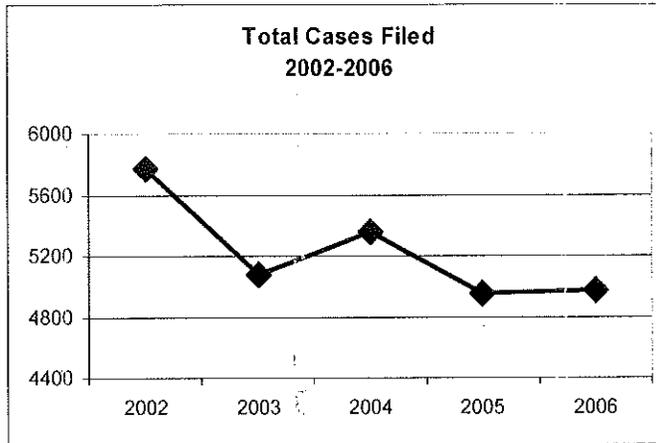
Child Endangering	0
Contempt of Court Order	53
Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor	45
Failure to send a child to school	23
Probation violation	1
Total Adult Criminal Charges	122
Total Adult Criminal Cases Filed or Reactivated	131

Last year, the court entered final disposition for 124 adult cases.

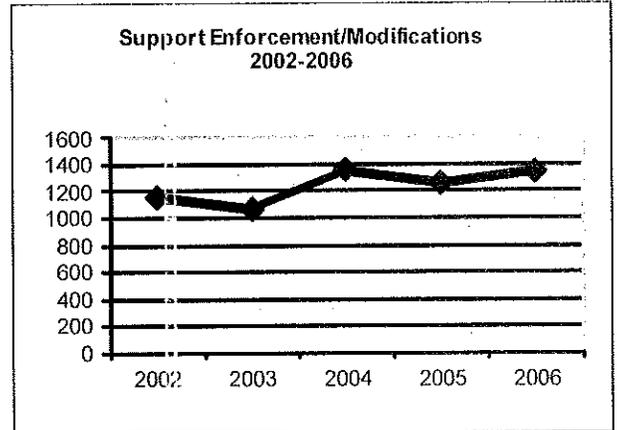
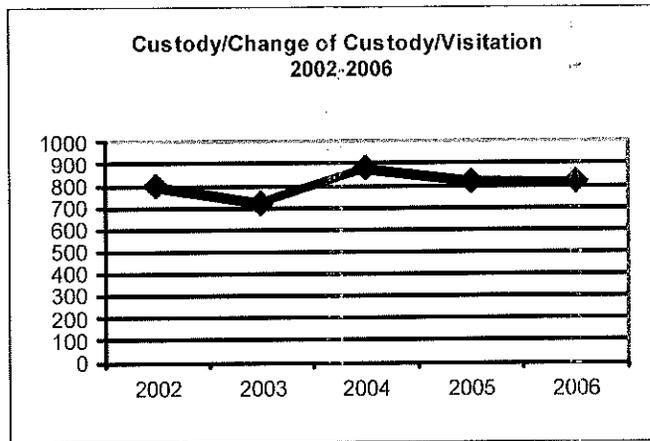
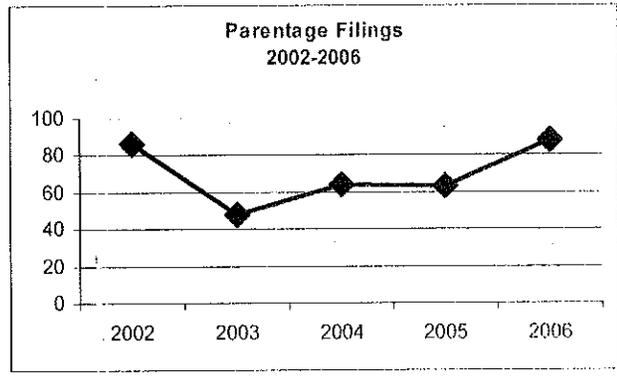
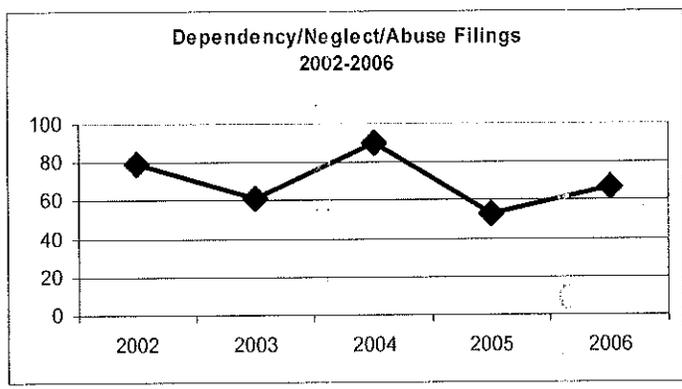
Miscellaneous Cases

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 5 such cases.

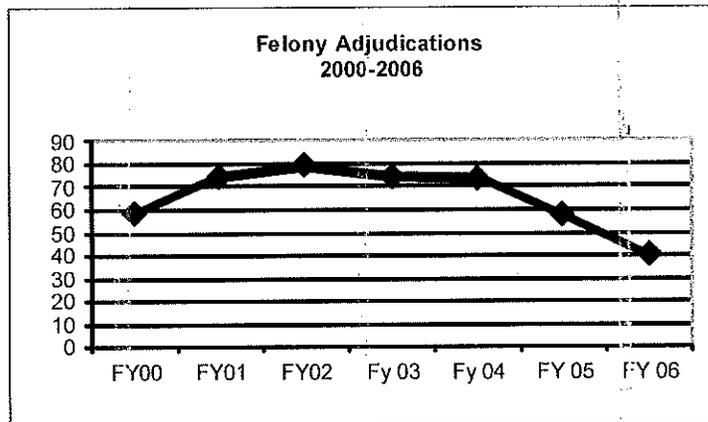
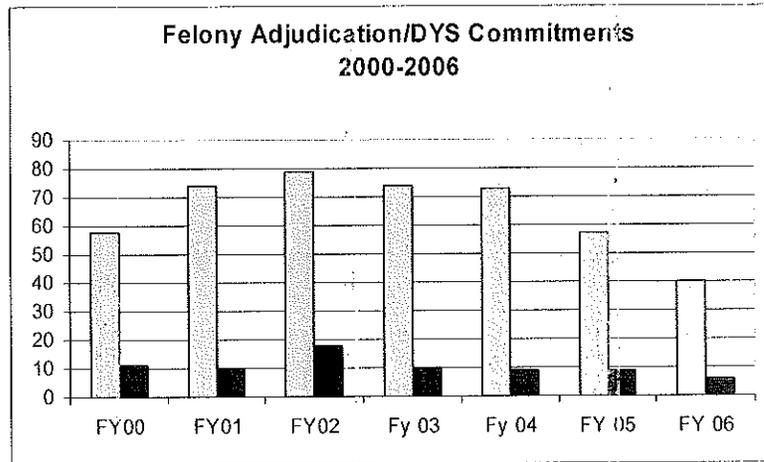
Filing Trends 2002-2005



Filing Trends Civil Cases 2002-2006



Adjudication Trends



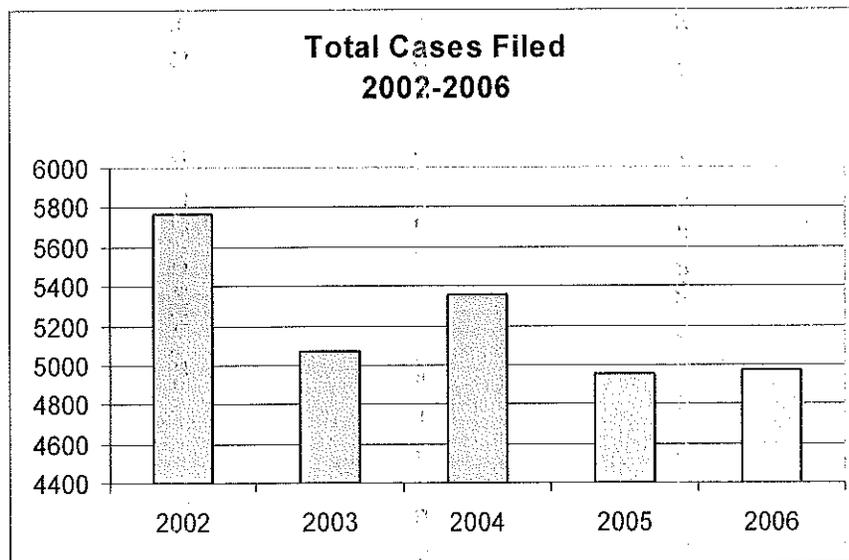
Court Services- Clerk's Office

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 2006, the Juvenile Clerk's office continued to improve services to the court's clients by upgrading court equipment. In November, the court installed digital recording equipment in all three court rooms. This equipment utilizes digital technology to capture a high-quality recording of court proceedings and stores them electronically in a searchable database.

Court Activity 2006

Total Cases Filed	4969
Total Charges Filed	5205
Total Cases with Disposition	4835



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.

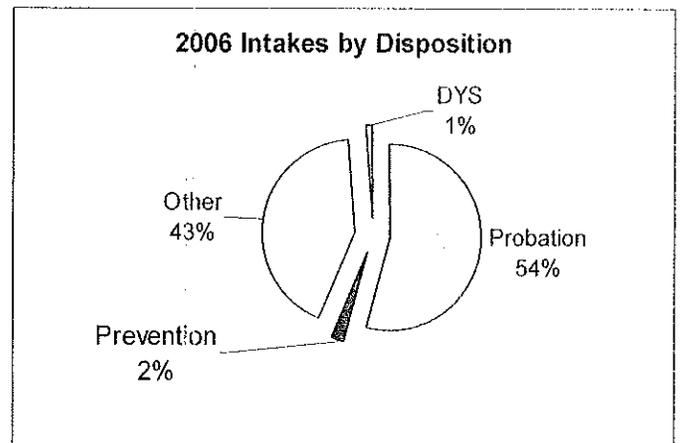
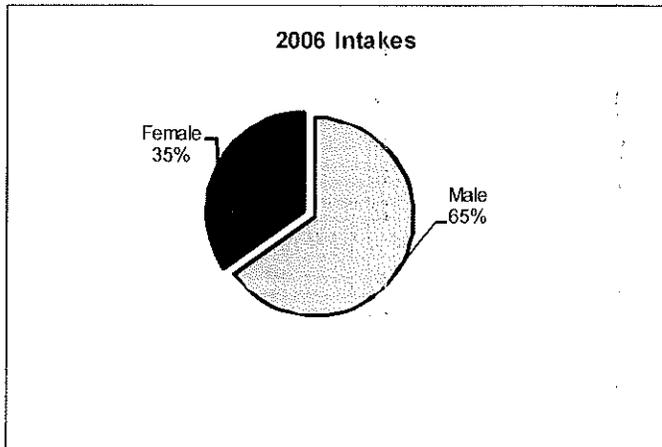
To achieve the mission the department maintains the following components:

- A Diversion/Prevention unit for first time offenders, which includes The Family Diversion Program, 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.
- A specialist probation officer who supervises sex offenders and youth in specialized out-of-home probation
- An Intensive Aftercare Probation officer who supervises youth released from West Central Rehabilitation, GATE, Miami Valley Rehabilitation Center, and David L. Brown Youth Center.
- 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

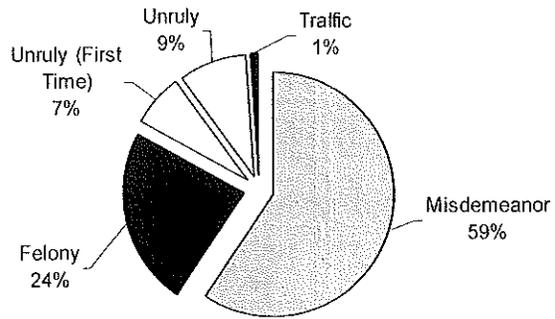
- Drug Court – a joint project with the Recovery Council, which includes intensive probation supervision and substance abuse treatment.
- Home Detention Monitoring Program which supervises youth placed on home detention.

2006 Intake Department Statistics

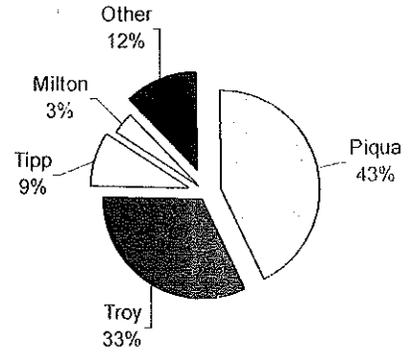
Intake Statistics	2006
Total Ordered	89
Male	58
Female	31
Misdemeanor	53
Felony	21
Unruly (First Time)	6
Unruly	8
Traffic	1
Piqua	38
Troy	29
Tipp	8
Milton	3
Other	11
Probation	48
Prevention	2
Other	38
DYS	1
Rehab	0



2006 Intakes by Charge



2006 Intakes by Jurisdiction



2006 Probation Department

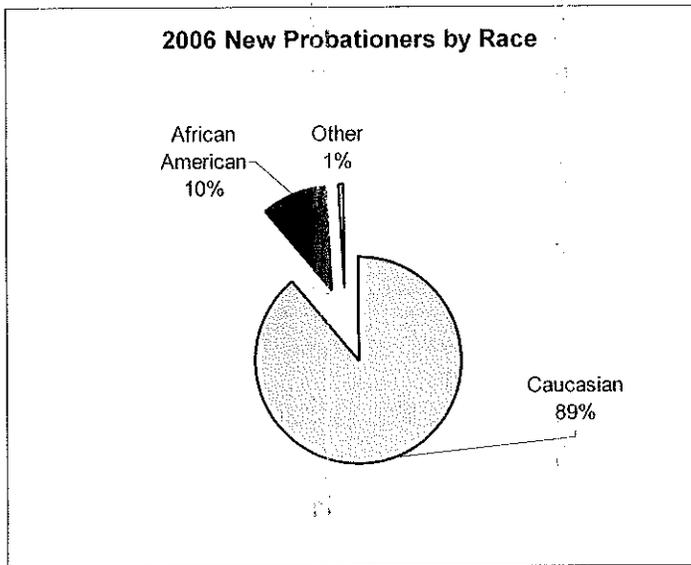
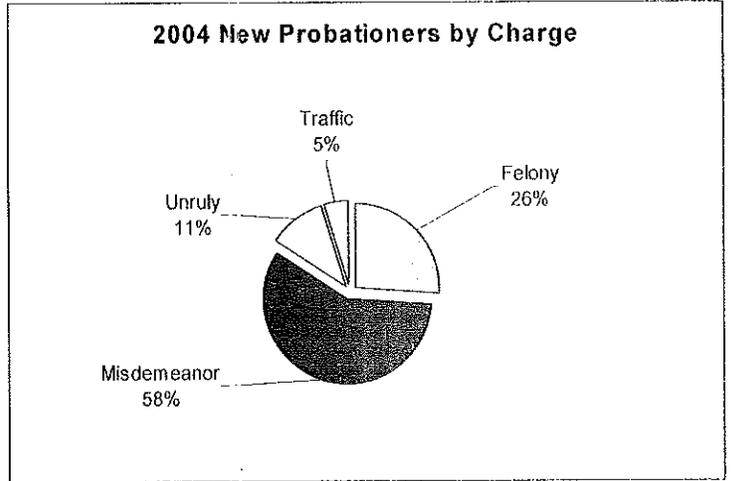
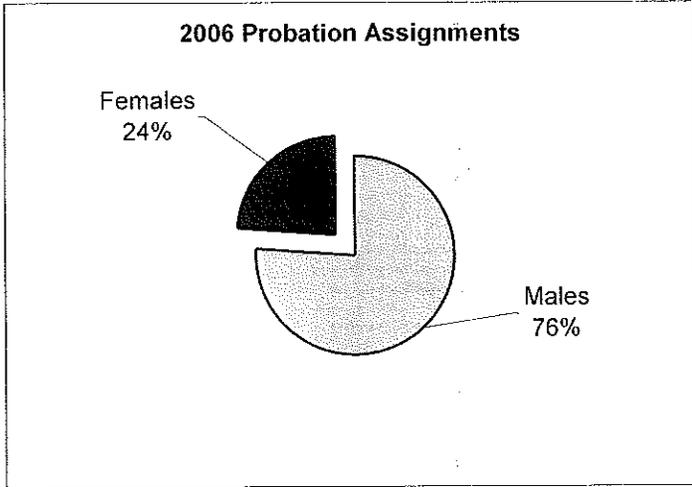
Probation Assignments	2006
Males	96
Females	30
Caucasian	112
African American	13
Other	1
Felony	33
Misdemeanor	73
Unruly	14
Traffic	6
Total New Youth Ordered	126
Total Youth From Previous Year	170
TOTAL YOUTH SERVED	296

Offenses Resulting in Probation Supervision – 2006

DUI	6
Drug Trafficking	2
Drug/Alcohol Possession	9
Criminal Damage/Vandalism	4
Possession Deadly Weapon	1
Breaking Entering	5
Trespassing	4
Disorderly Conduct	15
Unruly	14
Theft related	24
Contempt of Court	3
Vehicular Manslaughter	1
Intimidation of Witness	1
Assault	11
Domestic Violence	15
Menacing	4
Forgery	1
Escape	1
Obstruction	3
Sex Offenses	10
Making False Alarm	1
Total Youth placed on probation**	135

**includes youth who are transferred to other counties

2006 Probation Assignments



Intensive Probation/Aftercare

The Probation Department provides intensive probation services to youth released from the Rehabilitation Center, David L. Brown Youth Center and the GATE Program. A full time probation officer provides services to youth, parents, schools, and employers, to assure that the youth makes an appropriate readjustment to the community. The officer's hours are structured to be available during evenings and weekends, when you may encounter transition problems. This intensive supervision includes frequent visits with the youth and family, development and coordination of a youth's case plan, support and guidance to the youth, and probation sanctions as necessary. Youth remain in the program until they are completed treatment plans and paid fines and court costs.

2006 Intensive Probation Statistics

Total Placed on ISP	37
Total Terminations	22
Successful	9
Unsuccessful	11
Moved	2
Successful Terminations	9
Terminations without new charges	8
Obtained employment	9
Educational goals met	9
Non-Reporting Status	3
Returned to probation	1
Successful	2
Average Length of Probation	12 months
Successful	7 months
Unsuccessful	15 months
All Youth	37
New misdemeanor charges	6
New Felony charges	6
Probation violations	19
Youth turned 18 on Probation	17
Successful terminations	4
Unsuccessful terminations	7

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 facilitate 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 2006, the Juvenile Court Drug Court Program expanded its service. Drug Court assisted in the re-entry of some youth back to the community after their discharge from residential programs. Drug Court programming was added as a component of Intensive Probation to productively structure the activities of selected youth. The requirements of Drug Court promote abstinence from substances while involving youth in healthy, pro-social activities.

2006 Drug Court Statistics

Total Carried from last year	7
Admitted this year	10
Total Participated in Program	17
Males	10
Females	7
Caucasian	16
African-American	1
Successful Graduations	4
Unsuccessful terminations	5
Other (moved)	1

Alternatives to Detention

House arrest and electronic home monitoring are two alternatives to secure Detention that allow a youth to remain in the community yet restrict a youth's movement within the community. These strategies allow a youth to continue to live at home and attend school, jobs, counseling and other approved activities. These programs serve as a short term sanction and remind juveniles that they need to pay attention to curfews and other court imposed expectations. House arrest is less restrictive and relies heavily on a youth's compliance, parental participation and monitoring. Electronic home monitoring uses an ankle bracelet technology that detects movement and alerts probation officers when a child is engaging in activity away from approved venues. Both approaches are used extensively by Probation Officers to enhance supervision.

Electronic home monitoring	2006
Males	48
Females	12
Caucasian	59
African American	1
Other	1
Felony	21
Misdemeanor	39
Unruly	0
Traffic	0
Terminated	
Unsuccessfully	11
Terminated Successfully	49
Total Youth Ordered	60
TOTAL YOUTH SERVED	60

Home Detention Monitoring Program

The Home Detention Monitoring Program was started through a grant. Once the grant ended, the probation staff elected to continue the programming. The Probation/Prevention department does random, unscheduled visits to the home of youth placed under an order of House Arrest by the Court in order to determine their compliance with the Court's orders. In addition to monitoring youth's compliance with the Court's orders this also allows the Probation/Prevention officers to be a more visible presence after "traditional Court hours", in the evenings and also on weekends.

2006 Home Detention Monitoring Statistics

Males	381
Females	142
Caucasian	474
African American	48
Other	1
Felony	116
Misdemeanor	340
Unruly	67
Traffic	0
Terminated Unsuccessfully	99
Terminated Successfully	381
Total Youth Ordered	523
# of Compliance Checks done by PO's	1085
# of man hours PO spent doing checks after hours/weekends	165

Under the direction of Randall Freeman, Chief Probation Officer, the probation department has one full time intake officer and five 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. This division has a coordinator, coordinator and two full time officers.

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 funding from a 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

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.

Family Diversion Program 2006 Statistics

Family Diversion	2006
Retained from Previous Year	37
Filed this year	148
Successfully Completed	114
Declined Services	6
Inappropriate for Service	18
Unsuccessful	15
Total Pending at end of year	32
Total Served	185

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 2006 Statistics

Prevention Services	2006
Retained from Previous Year	51
Filed this year	34
Successfully Completed	36
Unsuccessful	18
Total Pending at end of year	31
Total Served	85

Curfew Diversion Program

The Court also offers a Curfew Diversion Program for first time offenders who received a curfew violation. The Coordinator meets with the youth and family and tailors a diversion program to address the issue. This year 61 youth were diverted from the court system. Of those 61, 34 agreed to make food donations to area soup kitchens and food pantries totaling \$700.00. Another 14 volunteer 90 hours in a local soup kitchen.

Tobacco Offenders Program

The Court maintains a diversion program for first time tobacco offenders. Possession and use of tobacco or related products is illegal for minors. Courts can outline specific consequences for youth cited under this code. Youth who agree to participate in a program are diverted from the Court. Upper Valley Medical Center began offering smoking cessation groups to youth and their parent. Eighteen youth completed this program. Two youth have yet to complete the program and two youth declined attending a program and 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. Volunteer mediators with training in the mediation process meet with the youth and victim and guide them through a problem solving process. 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.

In 2006, the Court added a civil mediation program to include child custody, parental visitation and child support cases. This program uses paid mediators who have specialized training in child custody matters. If individuals qualify financially, the Court pays the mediator. Parents offer their own solutions and work out differences in a confidential environment, so that they can do what is best for their child. One of the program goals is to help parents to develop better communication skills for the future. In 2006, 14 cases were sent to civil mediation.

2006 Mediation Services

Delinquency Mediation Charge	Successful	Unsuccessful	Declined	Inappropriate	Total
Disorderly conduct	5			1	6
Assault	9				9
Theft/Petty Theft	17	3	2	1	23
Criminal Damaging	16	3	1		20
Telephone Harassment	0				0
Criminal Mischief	5				5
Tampering with Property	4				4
Trespassing/criminal trespassing	11				11
Total	67	6	3	2	78

Civil Mediation	2006
Number of cases referred	14
Successful	6
Unsuccessful	8
Number of mediators	4

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.

The program has 34 sites 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. In 2006, 493 youth provided 4275 hours of service to the community. Sonia Kelchner coordinates the program. For more information call 440-5987.

2006 Community Service & Restitution Program Admissions

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Unruly	Traffic	Total
Males	11	274	70	0	355
Females	1	128	52	0	181
Total	12	402	122	0	536

Program Releases

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Males	320	3
Females	165	1
Total	485	4

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 2006, 15 youth were referred and 10 were accepted into the group. Those not accepted were sent to other treatment providers, 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 2006, 98 youth successfully completed this program. A total of 10 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 2006, 65 youth were served in this program. A total of 8 groups were held.
- ❖ 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

The Court has 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 2006, 8 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.

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 2006, Juvenile Court contributed in \$75,194 shared funding for the placement of 9 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 2006, 44 volunteers served 142 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 2006, the citizen board members were Rita Hollenbacher, Rebecca Holthaus, Tom Rodberg, Randal Harvey, and Sandy Christian. Also attending are Magistrate Gretchen Beers, Children Services Representatives Kay Wheeler and Lori Rusnack. A member of the Court's clerk staff serves as secretary of the Board. In 2006 Angela Vanchure served in this capacity.

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.

2006 Court Budget

	Appropriations & Carryover	Expenditures
General Fund - Juvenile Court	\$ 1,143,150.82	\$ 1,034,421.50
General Fund - Juvenile Probation	\$ 770,043.01	\$ 630,426.76
Felony Delinquent Care and Custody	\$ 424,980.27	\$ 315,534.15
Juvenile Rehab Aftercare	\$ 28,446.40	\$ 23,622.10
Juvenile Computerization	\$ 44,426.51	\$ 22,460.70
Legal Research	\$ 8,624.00	\$ 1,649.00
Dispute Resolution	\$ 31,483.09	\$ 21,516.52
Indigent Driver Fund	\$ -	\$ -
S.P. Parenting Course	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
S.P. CASA	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 3,000.00
Totals	\$ 2,461,004.10	\$ 2,054,230.73

*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.

2006 Fines and Court Costs

COURT COSTS	\$ 65,993.64
COMPUTER FEES	\$ 22,856.10
LEGAL RESEARCH	\$ 6,063.90
SHERIFF FEES	\$ 7,488.51
LAW LIBRARY	\$ 1,250.00
COUNTY FINES	\$ 36,483.67
MOTOR VEHICLE FINES	\$ 3,902.94
COUNTY DRUG FINES	\$ 816.00
MISC. COSTS	\$
ANGER MGT.	\$ 133.00
LIFE SKILLS	\$ 364.50
COPY SERVICE	\$ 48.30
WITNESS FEES	\$ 493.50
JUV. CT. MEDIATION	\$ 23,198.53
SPECIAL - CASA	\$ 4,122.47
SPECIAL - PARENTING	\$ 4,402.00
DRUG TESTING	\$ 708.40
P.D. APPLICATION FEE	\$ 1,880.00
P.D. RECOUP FEES	\$ 687.00
FORFEITURE FEES	\$
TOBACCO FEES	\$ 1,315.45
STATE OF OHIO	\$ 40,949.69
BOARD OF PHARMACY	\$ 766.00
ARRESTING AGENCY	\$ 325.00
SUNDRIES	\$ 2,542.45
	\$
BONDS	(1,019.00)
TOTALS	\$225,772.05

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 seven months. Specialized vocational training in machine trades is offered to youth who qualify.

The Center's 2006 budget was \$1,469,183.00. The Ohio Department of Youth Services provides funding. Local Counties are debited from their RECLAIM Allocation through 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.

2006 Population Statistics

County	Youth
Auglaize	15
Allen	1
Champ	1
Clark	11
Darke	1
Delaware	1
Greene	1
Marion	1
Mercer	4
Miami	10
Preble	1
Richland	
Shelby	4
Total	51

Age at Admission	
12 years	1
13 years	3
14 years	4
15 years	10
16 years	18
17 years	15
18 years	0

2006 Offense Admissions to West Central Rehabilitation

Committing Offense

Committing Offense	Youth
Attempted Aggravated Arson	1
Breaking and Entering	5
Burglary and Attempted Burglary	7
Domestic Violence	1
Drug Abuse	0
Drug Trafficking	1
Ethnic Intimidation	1
Failure to Comply	2
Felonious Assault	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	4
Illegal Use of a Weapon	1
Pandering Obscenity	1
Possession of a Dangerous Ordinance	1
Possession of a Drugs	3
Rape	4
Receiving Stolen Property	2
Robbery	2
Sexual Battery	1
Tamp w/Evidence	2
Tamp w/Coin Mach	1
Theft	8
Unauthorized Use of a motor vehicle	0
Vandalism	1

Committing Felony Level

Felony Level	Youth
F-5	20
F-4	9
F-3	13
F-2	6
F-1	3
Total	51

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 K. Russell is the director of this program.

In 2006, 119 students were enrolled in one of the two locations. Seven youth achieved G.E.D. while 4 others earned enough credits to obtain a graduation diploma from their high school.

2006 Day Treatment Population Statistics

Day Treatment South	
School District	2006
Miami East	1
Piqua	28
Sidney	15
St. Mary's	0
Tipp City	0
Troy	8
West Milton	3
Bradford	1
Total Served in South	56

Day Treatment North	
School District	2006
Celina	20
Coldwater	1
Felicity Fran	0
Ft. Recovery	3
Parkway	1
Preble Shawnee	0
St. Mary's	23
Van Wert	7
Wapakoneta	8
Total served in North	63

Gender	2006	
	North	South
Males	44	48
Females	19	8

Age	2006	
	North	South
11 years	0	0
12 years	1	0
13 years	13	0
14 years	11	4
15 years	17	19
16 years	12	16
17 years	9	15
18 years	0	2

2006 Day Treatment Population Statistics

Outcomes of Day Treatment	2006	
	North	South
Successful Release	41	37
Unsuccessful Release	6	20
GED	1	5
Graduation	1	0

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 ages 12-18. The primary purpose of the facility is to provide an environment in which youth can assume 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 are referred to the Center by a variety of Ohio County Juvenile Court systems, Children's Service agencies, and Family and Children's First 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 2006, the Youth Center contracted with the Miami County Mental Health Center to provide two part time on-site master's level therapists 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 | *Family Counseling |
| *Group Therapy | *Leadership Training |
| *Coordination of Med-Somatic Services | *Case Management |

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

All youth referred to the David L. Brown Youth Center receive a complete substance use assessment and a corresponding treatment plan. The Center employs a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor and utilizes a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor who is an employee of the Miami County Mental Health Center. The Youth Center offers a variety of treatment modalities designed to effectively intervene in substance use, abuse, or dependency:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| *Prevention Education | *Intervention Education |
| *Individual Counseling | *Family Counseling |
| *Group 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. In addition, the center employees a licensed substitute teacher who works in the class room daily. The following is provided:

- *Individualized Learning Plans
- *GED Preparation and Pre-testing
- *Coordination of Academic
- *Agri-Science Program
- *Academic Case Management
- *Evaluation and 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:

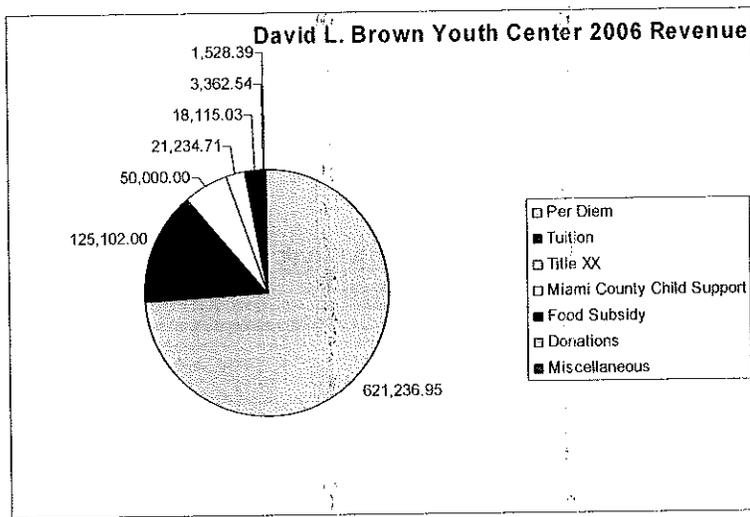
- *Bell Ringing with Salvation Army
- *Sign Building for Buckeye Homeless Shelter
- *Food Delivery for Family Abuse Shelter
- *Working for Bowman Landes Turkey Farm
- *Serving Meals to Homeless
- *Completing Court Ordered Community Service Hours

2005 BUDGET

The appropriated budget for David L. Brown Youth Center for fiscal year 2006 was \$723,610.65. With the approval from the Advisory Board, the Youth Center increased the daily rate to \$135.00 per day. School districts also pay a per diem to cover educational costs. In addition to the revenue received from sending agencies, the center received Federal Food Subsidy, Title XX for Miami County youth, and private donations.

2006 ANNUAL CENSUS BY COUNTY= 43

County	2006
Clark	6
Miami	20
Miami CSB	0
Montgomery	11
Preble CSB	1
Shelby	5
Total Served	43



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 who will attend school classes, undergo counseling and psychological assessment as needed and participate in a variety of treatment and education programming while detained.

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center opened in January 1993 as a twenty four-bed facility. In April 1999, a 20-bed pod was added and the operational budget remains at \$1,833,300. Operational funding comes from the counties that use our facility.

West Central JDC provides youth with all the basic necessities. The residents receive three hot meals per day; they have structured gym exercise everyday and attend an on-site school Monday through Friday. Youth must participate within group programs such as: anger management, substance abuse, health & hygiene, Planned Parenthood, life choices, and receive various topics from community leaders and motivational speakers. The youth have the option to participate in a Bible study program and 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 West Central JDC restructured the STAR (Start Today Accepting Responsibility) Program in 2006. This program is for "high risk" youth between ages 12 – 17 and the youth must be referred from a Juvenile Court to be eligible for the realistic tour of the detention center. At least one parent must attend the program with the youth and remain on site at West Central JDC for the 2-hour program. 226 youth were scheduled to attend STAR, 146 youth completed the program, 80 youth were referred but did not show up for the STAR tour and there were no special incidents reported during 2006. This program is free of charge to the courts that use it.

GATE (Girls Alternative Treatment Environment) Program is in its 8th year of operation. 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 where they must complete a project and have it judged prior to release from the program. The girls receive Red Cross Certification in CPR and First Aid training and they become certified babysitters. The GATE program takes a minimum of 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 GATE Program was partially funded with a grant from the Department of Youth Services with the grant period started July 1, 2006 and runs through June 30, 2007.

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

2006 Detention Population Statistics

	Total	Auglaize	Clinton	Darke	Mercer	Miami	Preble	Shelby	Van Wert	Other
Intakes	1,362	303	117	63	71	384	153	174	77	20
Male	1016	228	80	47	58	300	120	116	56	11
Female	346	75	37	16	13	84	33	58	21	9
Average Length of Stay in days		10	16	30	26	11	7	12	27	37

Miami County Juvenile Court
2006 Annual Report Statistical Summary

Cases Filed in 2006

Case Filed	Total
Delinquent	1389
Traffic	749
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	67
Unruly	337
Adult	131
Permanent Custody	26
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	812
Support Enforcement /Modification	1343
Parentage	88
UIFSA	22
Other	5
Total	4969

Cases Terminated in 2006

Cases terminated	Total
Delinquent	1385
Traffic	731
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	74
Unruly	353
Adult	124
Permanent Custody	22
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	765
Support Enforcement/Modification	1278
Parentage	74
UIFSA	24
Other	5
Total	4835

Types of Dispositions for Youth in 2006	
--	--

Bind over to Adult Court	0
Commitment to Department of Youth Services	8
Detention	385
Girls Alternative Treatment Environment	3
David L. Brown Youth Center	13
West Central Day Treatment	39
West Central Rehabilitation Center	9
Miami Valley Green County	1
Community Service	552
Probation	126
Prevention	32
Electronic Home Monitoring	60
House Arrest	523
Temporary Custody to Children Services	21
Protective Supervision to Children Services	70
Permanent Custody to Children Services	15
Jail Sentences (Adult)	110
Restitution	256
Cases with Fines Assessed	829
Cases with Costs Assessed	1876
Fines and Costs Collected	\$225,772.05

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 – Tom Bomhard	440-3515
David L. Brown Youth Center – Diana Karnehm (Director).....	339-1858
West Central Detention Center - Lance Ray (Director).....	440-5651
West Central Rehabilitation Center –Harry Russell (Director).....	440-5651

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