

Clark County, Nevada Department of Juvenile Justice

This Department of Juvenile Justice Services' (DJJS) **Scorecard** presents a snapshot of Clark County's Juvenile Justice system. The information contained provides a global view of juvenile justice and juvenile crime and intervention in Clark County as reported during the past year. *

STATUTORY AUTHORITY & FUNCTION

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services' inherent powers and duties are outlined in Chapter 62G.210 of the Nevada Revised Statutes:

1. The Board of the Clark County Commissioners may establish by ordinance a department of juvenile justice services,
2. The department of juvenile justice services:
 - (a) Shall administer the provisions of services relating to the delinquency and the abuse and neglect of children with respect to matters arising pursuant to the provisions of this title; and,
 - (b) May carry out programs relating to the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

The board of county commissioners may appoint a director of the department of juvenile justice services. The director serves at the pleasure of the board.

MISSION

Promote the safety and restoration of the community. Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior. Assist offenders and families in recognizing their potential by providing meaningful treatment, services and programs.



SCORECARD

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT

2008

VISION

To achieve a safe community by promoting partnerships involving youth, families, the community and juvenile justice services.

PROFILE

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services is tasked with the collective responsibility of protecting public safety, while rehabilitating the youthful offender coming within its purview. The Department accomplishes its responsibilities through the implementation of a comprehensive array of graduated, accountability-based sanctions imposed by the juvenile court and/or the Department, paired with the appropriate treatment(s) and interventions to reduce an offender's risk of recidivism. Current formal and informal legal sanctions, from least restrictive to most, include: assessment and diversion, informal probation (lasting three to six months), formal probation (generally, lasting six months to one year), and incarceration (lasting approximately one year or longer.)

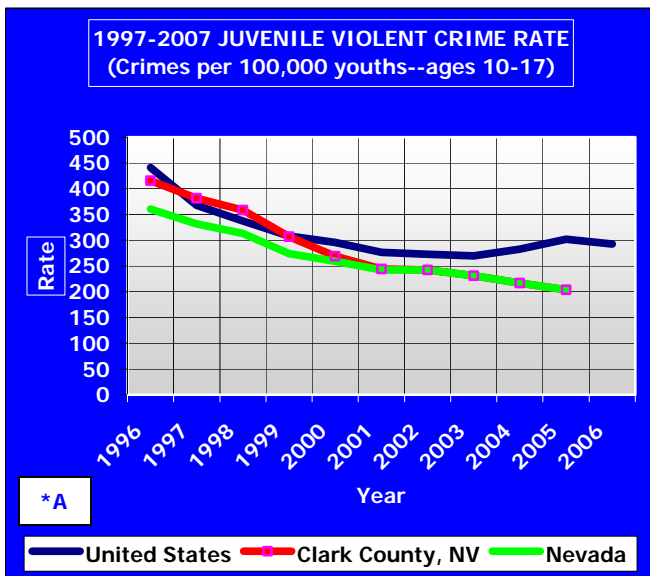
Formed partnerships with community agencies provide an array of best practice community program interventions. These include, but are not limited to: the Graffiti Abatement Project, Trial by Peers, Truancy Program, Consent Degree Program, Girls

Program, Detention Review and Release Program, Intensive Supervision program, community evening reporting, mental health counseling and intervention, mentoring, and others.

DJJS's compendium of formal and informal sanctions and services also includes a 192-bed detention center. An important aspect of the Department's service continuum, the detention facility is designed and operated to house the offending youth until a juvenile judge renders a formal disposition in his case.

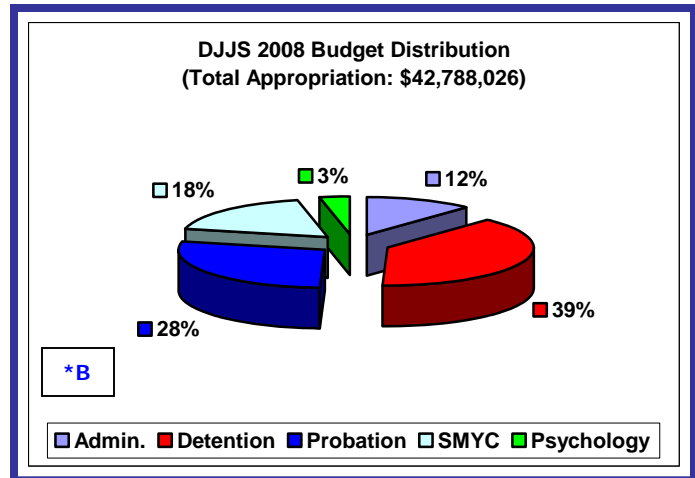
Current statistics reflect juvenile violent crime in Clark County is on the decline and youth recidivism rates are low. DJJS continues to aggressively strengthen and expand its array of proven interventions and sanctions to improve positive outcomes for youth and families.

Statistical Report Summary



***Source: Clark County, NV DJJS Data Book & the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Statistical Briefing Book (2008 data not yet available.)**

(See graph: *A)



(DJJS Budget Distribution by percentage. See graph *B)

FISCAL SUMMARY

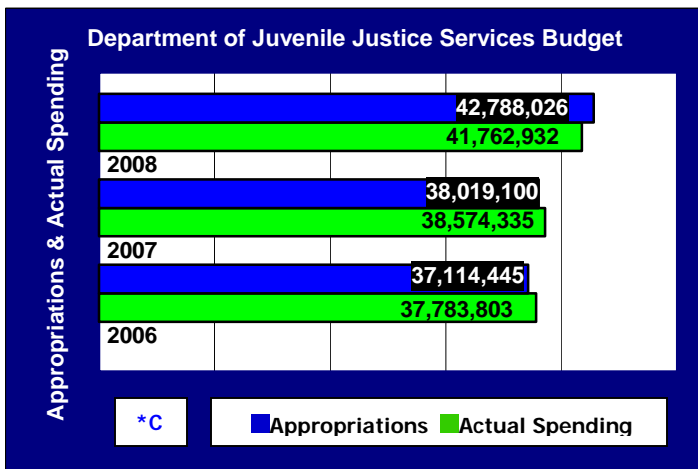
In fiscal year 2008, the Department of Juvenile Justice Services received \$42,800,000 in appropriations from the Clark County Commission. This included \$2,000,000 in federal and state grant dollars. The combined funding supported a total of 592 authorized full and part time employee positions and the operations of the Department's institutional divisions (Detention, Spring Mountain Youth Camp, Spring Mountain Residential Center), Probation, Central Support and Administrative Services.

During the 2008 economic environment, administrators demonstrated fiscal responsiveness by utilizing available funding and community resources with increased efficiency and effectiveness to meet performance objectives. Specifically, DJJS reduced its detention population, as well as detention lengths of stay, through the increased utilization of community programming. Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) supervision units at a cost of \$8.50 per day per youth were used to track offender activities. Increases in youth referrals to the Detention Review & Release Program, at an average cost per day of \$15.30 per youth, helped to further reduce the detention population, and consequently,

overall detention operating costs. Pre-Dispositional youth released from Detention to community-based supervision programming would have otherwise remained in secure Detention at a cost of \$240.00 per day, had a safe alternative not been available. Utilizing community resources at a lesser cost to the Department and, subsequently to the County made good economic sense.

(More than \$100,000 in spending reductions was achieved in fiscal year 2008. It should also be noted that increases in detention releases did not produce a negative impact on juvenile crime.)

(See graph: *A, *B, *C)



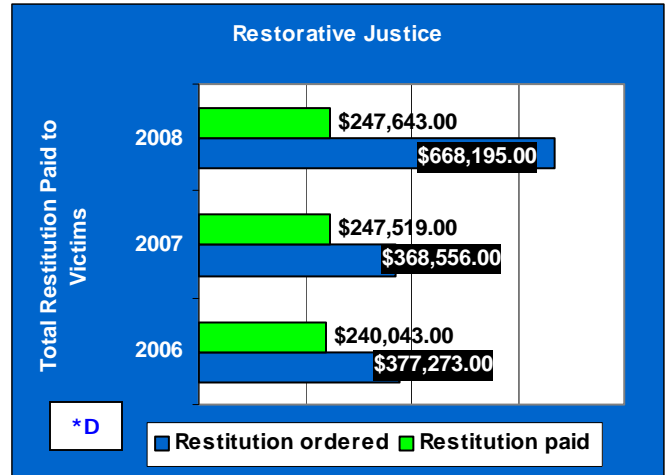
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative Justice emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behavior.

<http://www.restorativejustice.org/intro>

Restorative programming at DJJS generally includes an offender making amends to his victim through monetary restitution and/or through community service. In 2008, nearly a quarter of a million dollars was paid in monetary restitution to victims of Clark County, and approximately 130,000 community service hours were ordered.

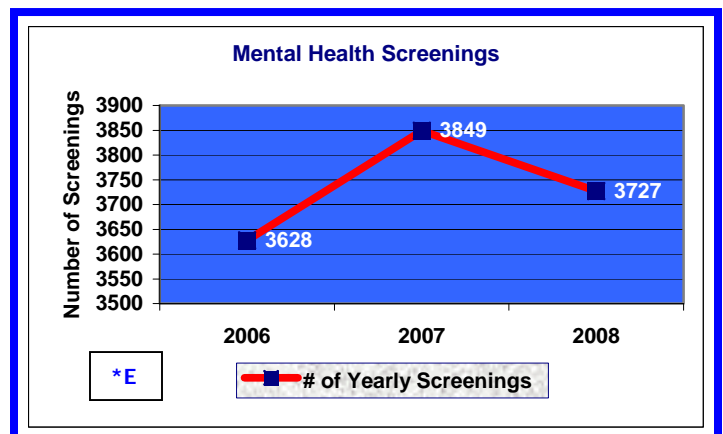
(See graph: *D)



(Increasing restitution collections is a priority performance objective for 2009. See graph: *D)

GRAFFITI ABATEMENT

Graffiti is the single most costly property crime in Southern Nevada. Each year, Las Vegas, Nevada and surrounding communities sustain millions of dollars in property damage due to graffiti. In an effort to meet its 2008 Restorative Justice Initiative of enhancing support to victims of property crimes, the Department of Juvenile Justice Services joined forces with the Clark County Public Response Office to eradicate graffiti. Last year alone, approximately 800 youth and adults participated in the Graffiti Abatement Community Service Program. This resulted in the completion of more than 3500 community service hours, and approximately \$23,000 in savings to tax payers.

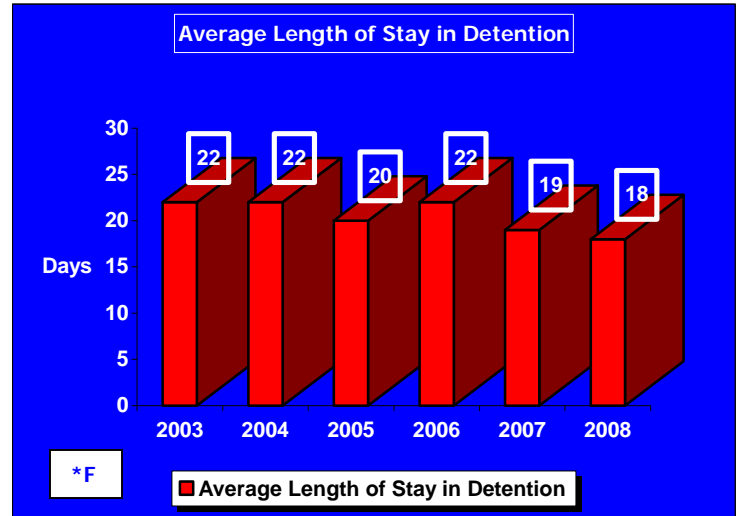


MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

National research shows nearly 75% of incarcerated youth possess diagnosable mental health disorders and/or problems, and that only 1/3 of these youth are expected to receive the mental health care needed. In 2008, the Department outpaced most juvenile justice systems in the mental health service area by investing more than \$1.5 million in mental health care for youth involved in its system. More than 3700 mental health screenings were conducted, and more than 4800 hours of direct care intervention were logged for *detained* youth. The Department's Mental Health Treatment Team found that approximately 65% of DJJS youth screened for mental health services reflected a need at some level for intervention. 29% of those youth screened indicated possible signs of Depression; 12% reflected signs of suicidal ideation.

In late 2008, the Department launched the Mental Health Demonstration Project with the objective to specifically address referred *detained and non-detained* youth diagnosed with mental health and/or co-occurring disorders. Performance indicators for the Project include: reducing the reliance on out-of-home placements; reducing recidivism; and, increasing public safety. Partnering with the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Mojave Mental Health, Communities In Schools, and local and state agencies helps to ensure resources are effectively and efficiently used within the juvenile justice mental health system, and that program performance objectives are met.

DJJS is dedicated to providing the care necessary to identify and to reduce risk of harm to mentally ill youth. Consequently, deliberate decision-making will help to ensure adequate services and full funding remains committed to mental health services. (See graph: *E)



(A five percent (5%) reduction in the average length of stay was realized in 2008 as compared to the prior year. See graph: *F)

JUVENILE DETENTION



The Department of Juvenile Justice Services Detention Center is the largest juvenile detention facility in the State of Nevada. The Center's annual operating budget exceeds \$16,000,000, and supports 176 full time employees. In 2008, the daily detention bed cost was \$240.00. Last year, the Detention facility held 3,745 youth and maintained a staff to youth ratio of 1:6, exceeding national standards.

Through the recent implementation of two nationally known detention reform strategies--the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention' Performance Based Standards for Youth Correction and Detention Facilities (PbS)--DJJS realized significant reductions in unnecessary detainments, lengths of stay, and case processing times last year. Additionally, youth and families noted improvements in quality of care. DJJS continues its commitment to systemic change, and the building of the necessary infrastructure to sustain and deepen reforms. (See graph: *F)

**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2008-2009**

In late 2008, the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services embarked upon a strategic performance review process to measure its success in meeting business objectives and community expectations. Management strategically identified select players and resources needed to achieve desired results, then mapped out a deliberate path to meet its goals. Key performance indicators now guide and gauge the organization's efforts towards achieving success.

This final chart provides a look at some of the Department's performance indicators and results for the 2008 calendar year.

<u>QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS 2007-2008</u>				
INDICATOR	RESULTS			Met Target
 Met Indicator  Unmet Indicator * New Indicator	Calendar Year 2007	Calendar Year 2008	% Difference <, >, =	(Yes=Y) (No=N) (Not Applicable =N/A)
Detention Admissions	3,800	3,745	< BY 1.4%	Y
Avg. Daily Population in Detention	202	184	< BY 8.9%	Y
Detention avg. length of stay	19	18	< BY 5.2%	Y
Youth with previous admissions to Detention	---	---	---	*New Indicator (2009)
DJJS residential program (SMYC) completion rate %	---	---	---	*New Indicator (2009)
Probation completion rate %	90%	94%	>By 4.4%	Y
Monetary restitution = % Collected*	\$247643.00	\$247,519.00	<By 0.05%	N
Graffiti Abatement Program completion rate %*	--	90% completion rate with <1% recidivism rate*	--	*New Indicator (2009)
*The amount of monetary restitution ordered in 2008 was double that ordered in 2007. Also, the amount collected & reported in 2007 & 2008 includes collections continuing from cases heard in prior years, i.e. 2006, 2005, etc.				

*This Scorecard format emulates that of the *North Carolina Justice Scorecard*, Vol.1, 1997