

Program Report Card: Juvenile Probation – (Judicial Department)

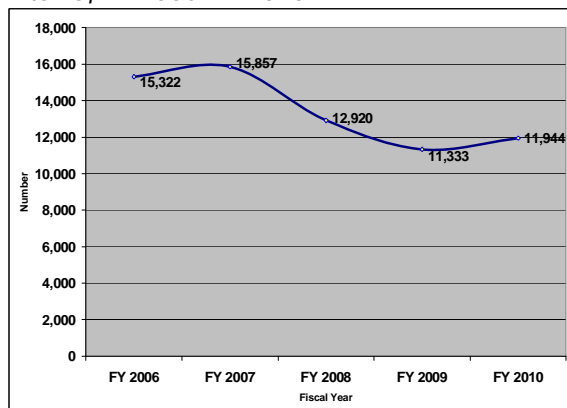
FY 2010 Actual Program Funding: *State Funds: \$13,965,279 Total Funds: \$13,965,279*

Quality of Life Result: Connecticut citizens live in safer communities. Connecticut children learn from their mistakes, and live in families that meet their needs and communities that support their success.

Contribution to Result: The purpose of Juvenile Probation is to reduce the risk of recidivism by engaging juveniles and their families in meaningful services and ensuring compliance with court orders, all of which result in safer communities.

Partners: Department of Children and Families, the Governor's Office, General Assembly, Office of Policy and Management, State Department of Education, DMHAS, Office of Workforce Competitiveness, Public Defenders, Prosecutors, parents, parent and juvenile justice advocates, treatment providers, Youth Service Bureaus, Department of Correction, and universities

Performance Measure 1: Juvenile Court Intake, FY 2006-FY 2010

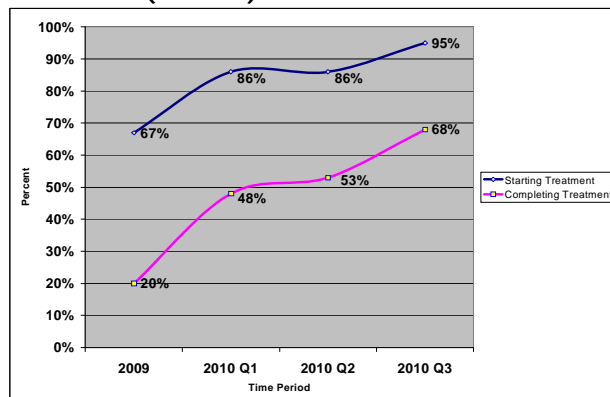


Story behind the baseline: Juvenile court intake fell 29% from 15,857 in FY 2007 to 11,333 in FY 2009, but rose to 11,944 (+5%) in FY 10. This increase is likely due to legislation that raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16 year olds. The judicial department is monitoring this upward trend closely and will continue to do so as we approach the point at which 17 year olds will enter the system in 2012.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Juvenile Probation has implemented several programs directed at improving the parenting skills of court involved families. Additionally, probation is implementing parent engagement training for all probation staff aimed at reducing the likelihood of siblings entering the Juvenile Justice System. The further establishment of Juvenile Review/Diversion boards at the local level may reduce the number of juveniles formally referred to court.



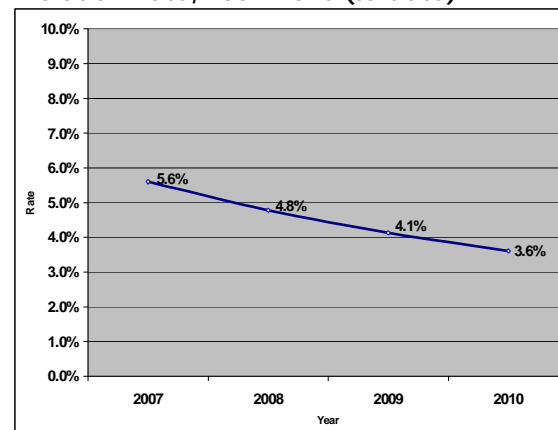
Performance Measure 2: Juveniles Engaged in Criminogenic Need-based Treatment, 2009-2010 (to date)



Story behind the baseline: All juveniles placed on probation or supervision are assessed for risk and need. Juvenile probation officers are required to make referrals to treatment and services designed to address top criminogenic needs. This performance measure displays the extent to which juveniles are starting and completing treatment. Research suggests that the completion of targeted treatment is connected to lower recidivism rates. The positive trend in this area is attributable to more consistent data entry and application of policy.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Juvenile Probation is implementing a process of collaborative case plan creation. Case plans will be done in conjunction with the targeted treatment providers and the family. This approach should help to engage the child and family in treatment more quickly and ensure a coordinated approach between treatment and probation.

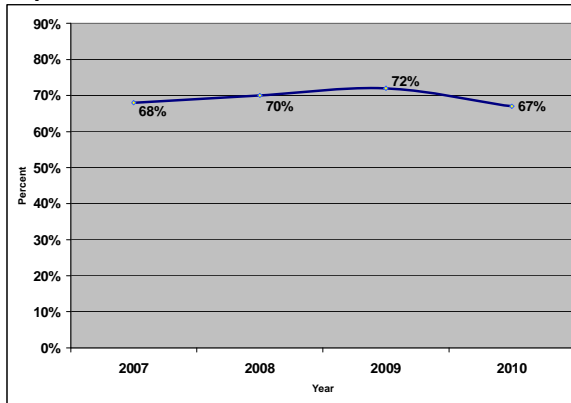
Performance Measure 3: Technical Violation Rate, 2007-2010 (to date)



Story behind the baseline: A Take Into Custody Order or Warrant can be issued when there is a technical violation of probation orders. This rate has steadily declined over the past four years, reaching a low of just 3.6 percent of court intake in 2010. *Please note that these data represent a technical adjustment from data reporting earlier due to a change in counting rules.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Juvenile Probation has implemented several strategies designed to reduce technical violations. Among the approaches implemented are increased focus on graduated sanctions, strength-based Case Planning, Motivational Interviewing and Gender-specific caseloads.

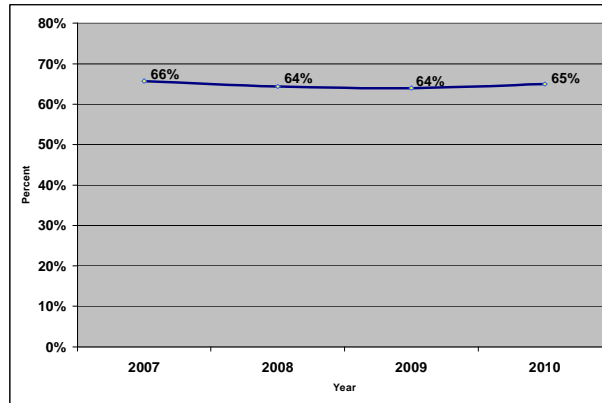
Performance Measure 4: Juveniles Successfully Completing Probation or Supervision, 2007-2010 (to date)



Story behind the baseline: While a general upward trend in the percentage of juveniles who complete their court-ordered term of supervision or probation successfully was experienced from 2007-2009, there has been a slight decline thus far in 2010. The introduction of 16 year olds to the juvenile justice system may be contributing to the trend.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Juvenile Probation has begun outreach efforts to better collaborate with schools to manage the in-school behaviors of court involved juveniles. This effort should reduce the number of in-school arrests which have shown to have a significant impact on juvenile's successful completion of probation. Additionally, parent engagement training for probation staff should assist officers in teaching parents strategies to manage at home behaviors and provide parents with alternatives to calling to police during domestic disagreements. At-home arrests also account for a percentage of arrests for juveniles under probation/supervision.

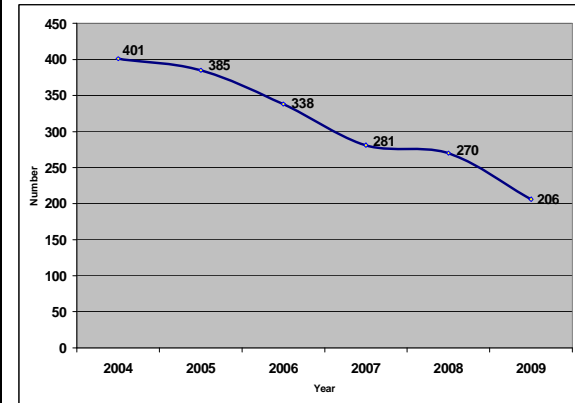
Performance Measure 5: 24-month Re-arrest Rate for Juveniles on Probation or Supervision, 2007-2010 (to date)



Story behind the baseline: This performance measure examines the rate of re-arrest (recidivism) at 24-months after the start of a period of probation or supervision. For example, 66 percent of the juveniles placed on probation or supervision in 2005 were re-arrested by the time their 24-month follow up period ended in 2007. This trend has been steady over the past four years.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Juvenile Probation will be contracting for mentoring services for court involved juveniles. Mentors will be volunteers and will remain involved with the child for at least one year. Evidence suggests that having a consistent, caring adult involved with a child reduces the risk of recidivism. Juvenile Probation has implemented a discharge planning process done in conjunction with the child and family. This plan incorporates guidelines for keeping children engaged in pro-social activities and provides their families with a resource guide to address needed services once the child is no longer court involved.

Performance Measure 6: Juveniles Committed to DCF, 2004-2009



Story behind the baseline: Juveniles committed to either long-term residential placement or to incarceration at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School have decreased by 69 percent over the past 11 years and by nearly 50 percent in the past six years.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Juvenile Probation will continue to collaborate with DCF and other interested individuals and agencies during Case Review Teams to ensure that all community/court based resources are utilized prior to an officer making a recommendation for commitment to DCF.

