

Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division



2018 Annual Report to the Community

MISSION

The purpose of the Greene County Juvenile Court is to provide prevention, intervention and protection services to children, families and the community, while promoting collaborative partnerships with private and public entities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Greene County.



Leadership Team pictured: (from left to right) **Back Row:** Brittany O'Brien, Michael Schofield, Allen Criger, Staci Denney, Cassandra Marsh, Julie Austin, Lisa Altis, Rachel Hogan, Andy Silliman

Front Row: Susan Cox, Bill Prince, Jill Randolph, Tracie Nicholson, Karen Lehmann

Not Pictured: Kyle O'Dell, Ashley Montgomery, Brad Shelton

The leadership team of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division thanks you for your interest in learning more about all that we do for children, families and the community. Please contact us at 417-868-4008 if there are any questions we may answer.

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Letter from the Chief

Hello all!

It has been an exciting and eventful year here at the Greene County Family and Juvenile Court.

Let me begin by recognizing two staff who retired in 2018. Dan Johnson of the Greene County Youth Academy and Deputy Juvenile Officer Larry Edgar both retired, taking with them a combined 76 years of experience in working with the youth of Greene County. Both Larry and Dan worked with several generations of youth and left positive and lasting impressions on the youth they served.

We have continued to work on court-wide initiatives designed to reduce the length of time that children remain in the foster care system. Working with our community partners, including the Children's Division, Contracted Case Management, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and others, we saw the number of children in care drop below 600 and we saw the number of children placed in residential placements go from over 100 to approximately 40.

Working with Casey Family Programs we have continued look at new and innovative ways to prevent children from coming into foster care to begin with, and in those cases where a removal is necessary, shortening the time a child is required to remain in foster care. We look forward to continuing that relationship on into 2019 and beyond.

We continued to see the development of our community-based-services programs designed to prevent youth from becoming deeply involved in the juvenile justice system. Through a number of partnerships with schools, local universities and colleges, counselors, therapists, mentors, and the like, we have been able to develop a suite of services we can offer not only to those families who have justice-involved youth, but to other youth and families who may be struggling with behaviors that have not yet become criminal in nature, in an effort to proactively address minor issues before they become significant major issues and potential law violations.

One new partnership that was formulated in 2018 and is being implemented in 2019 is with the University of Missouri Extension Center and 4-H. Youth involved with the Greene County Youth Academy will become members of a new 4-H club and be able to avail themselves of the many programs offered by 4-H through the facilitation of a 4-H Youth Associate. It is hoped that once a youth completes his or her program at the youth academy that they will be able to continue their involvement in 4-H in the community.

We also introduced a law enforcement collaborative and an education collaborative. Through what hopefully will become regular meetings with our law enforcement and education partners, we will be able to provide best-practice services to the families and youth served by the Greene County Juvenile Office.

I am grateful on a daily basis for the many community members and organizations whom we work with to better the lives of the youth and families of Greene County and I look forward to being able to continue to establish those collaborations and relationships with you.

Please feel free to call me, email me, or drop by to say hello.



- Bill Prince

Domestic Relations

The Domestic Relations Unit (DRU) provides services for families with cases pending in Family Court (Dissolutions of Marriage, Paternity actions, Motions to Modify, & Family Access Motions). Domestic Relations Officers (DRO's) have a Master's Degree in Psychology or Counseling and three are Licensed Professional Counselors. The DRO's are located in the Judicial Courthouse.



Pictured: (from left) Chelsey Ortiz, Karen Hester, Karen Lehmann, Karen McIlravy, Michael Metz, & Brad Palmore.

2018 Highlight of Services Provided:

Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Family Courts (ADR) Class:

800 litigants attended ADR (Average: 67 litigants per month)

Case Management Hearings (CMH):

390 CMH's Completed (Average: 33 per month)

Common Ground (CG):

575 Visits Completed (Average: 48 visits per month; 192 families and 256 children served)

Investigations:

74 Investigations Ordered

80 Probate Investigations Ordered for Guardianship Petitions

Mediation:

80 Mediations Completed; 64% Agreement Rate

ADR Participant Comments:

- "The most helpful part of the class was the compassion for the children and putting them first!"
- "I appreciate the concern of the speaker regarding our stress level during this process. Nice speakers. Very appreciated."
- "I was most surprised by the 8 best interests of the children."

CG Participant Comments:

- "The staff is very nice and I appreciate all they do to help children through tough situations."
- "This is not a situation I or anyone else wants to be a part of, but I am very satisfied with the safe, welcoming environment the staff creates."
- "Without CG, I very well could not have been able to see my son. CG provided wonderful memories with my child while protecting our relationship."

2018 NCJFCJ Conference in Denver, CO:

Three Domestic Relations Officers: Karen Lehmann, Chelsey Ortiz, and Karen Hester, were able to attend the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges conference in Denver, Colorado, at the end of July. An OSCA grant was applied for and received to cover all expenses. All three DRO's enjoyed time away and learned a lot of good and applicable information.

DRU Programs Defined:

Alternative Dispute Resolution Class

The Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Family Courts (ADR) class provides litigants in contested cases with detailed information about the Family Court process, the effects of litigation on minor children, and discusses the benefits of mediation.

Case Flow Management

All petitions filed in Family Court are tracked by DRO's to ensure continuous movement towards finalizing each case via settlement or trial completion.

Case Management Hearings

The goal of Case Management Hearings (CMH) is to provide stability for the minor children. DRO's facilitate conferences to assist the court in addressing temporary contact schedules, child support orders, and mediation.

Common Ground

Common Ground Supervised Access Program (CG) provides an opportunity for children to visit their non-residential parent in a safe, secure, and monitored environment. Licensed DRO's are able to provide therapeutic services to assist the families in transitioning into a comfortable visit or to address specific issues.

Investigations

Investigations are ordered in Family Court cases that involve high-conflict custody disputes between the parents. DRO's summarize background information and provide records as requested.

DRU 2018 Community Contributions:

CORE – In 2018, the DRU began facilitating a high conflict/co-parenting program known as CORE. All cases are court ordered. Both parents are required to participate and it includes an evening educational session followed by individual and joint “coaching” sessions for each party. CORE is offered every quarter and requires a court order to participate.

Pro Se Documents – The DRU launched a document for Pro Se parties that lists and describes the steps to take when filing and responding to a case. These documents are available online or in the DRU resource rack located in the lobby area of the courthouse.

MSU's Center for Dispute Resolution – DRO's served as mediation coaches and provided presentations to newly trained community mediators in March and October.

The Kitchen, Inc. - DROs volunteered along with the Juvenile Office at The Kitchen, Inc. during the 2018 United Way Day of Caring.

Thanks!!!

Thank you to our attorney partner Jason Clough for his special assistance in producing the Pro Se documents!

Thank you to the Parkview Christian and Central Assembly for allowing the DRU to use your space for Common Ground on Tuesday and Thursday evenings!

Thank you to Burrell Behavioral Health for allowing the DRU to use the Children's Theater to conduct the ADR class two to three Tuesdays per month!

Thank you to the Center for Dispute Resolution for your continued support by allowing the DRU to use your space for Common Ground when our primary locations aren't available.

Child Abuse & Neglect

In 2018, the Greene County Juvenile Office filed petitions for 345 children, bringing them into protective custody. The Deputy Juvenile Officers in this Unit provide court case management to children in foster care, which includes attending court hearings and participation in team meetings.

The average number of children in protective custody on a monthly basis was 569. This is a decrease compared to 2017, which had 600. It is also the lowest average number in the last 10 years. The highest average number of children occurred in 2011 with 996.

In 2018, 281 children achieved permanency and had their cases close. Some examples of what is considered permanency includes Independence, Adoption, Guardianship, and Reunification. 15 (or 5%) youths closed their case with independence, typically occurring because they've "aged out" at 21. 128 (46%) children were adopted. 18 (6%) children were placed under legal guardianship with a relative or other kinship option. 111 (40%) were reunified with one or both biological parents. This is an increase compared to 2017, which only had 25% of cases close by Reunification.

The Abuse/Neglect unit is involved with a variety of programs and specialized court docket programs focused toward enhancing services and improving outcomes for families with children in care.

Fostering Court Improvement (FCI) is a collaborative partnership within the child welfare system tasked with identifying and working toward reducing barriers to achieving permanency for children in foster care. Greene County FCI is made up of juvenile officers, case management agencies, attorneys and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Road to Reunification (R2R) is a class which explains to parents with children who have been placed into foster care the court process, family support team roles, responsibilities & meeting process, and suggestions to improve parent-child visitation and interactions. The course is led by the Abuse/Neglect Deputy Juvenile Officers.

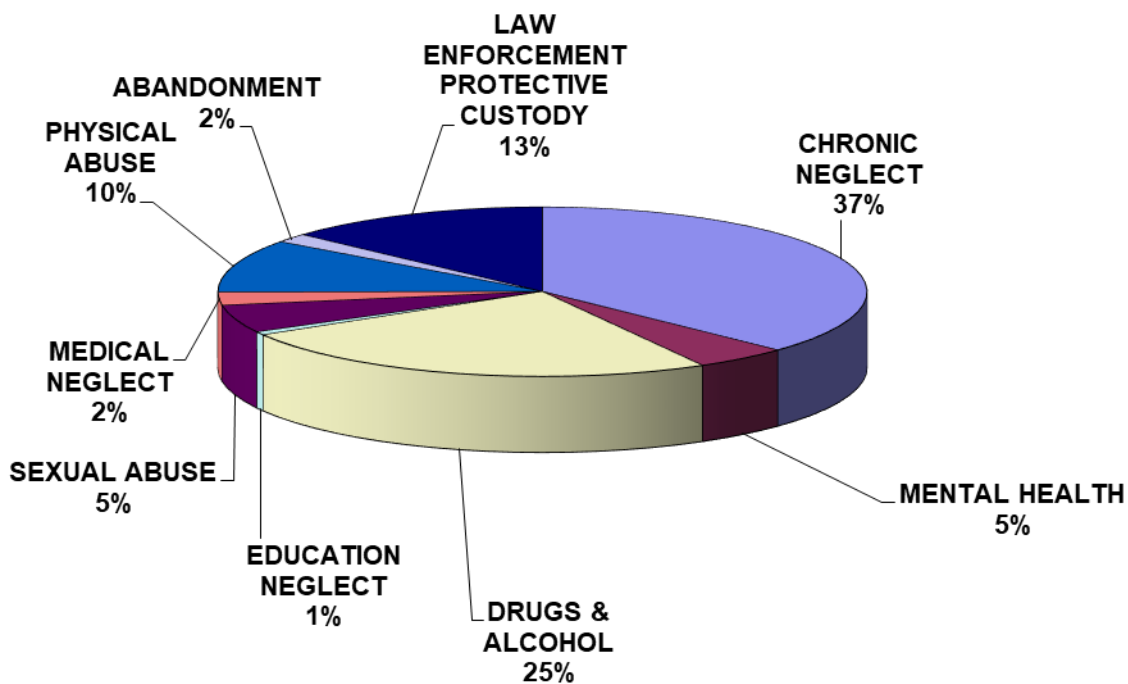
Specialized court docket programs include: Red to Green Hearings that identify barriers to permanency; Residential Care Review Hearings, held to review youth in residential settings to ensure all necessary efforts are being made to meet the juveniles' needs, and ensure residential placement is appropriate and needed; Teens in Transition (TNT), an older youth court focusing on improving the futures for older youth (age 14 through 20) in custody through an abuse/neglect case, with 23 youth involved at the time of this report; and Family Treatment Court (FTC), an intensive and specialized judicial program that serves families with children in protective custody due to parental substance abuse, with 63 parents involved at the time of this report.



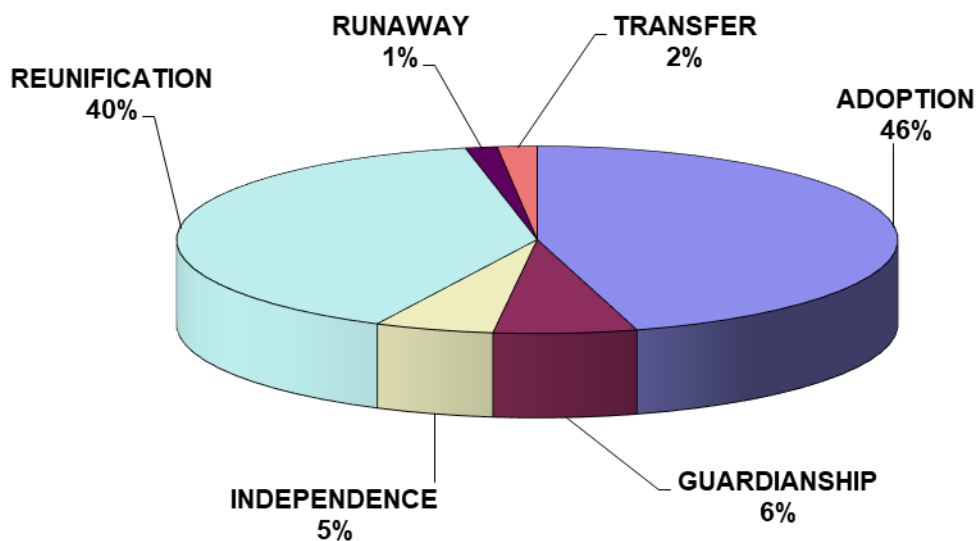
Back: Lisa Altis, David Dameron, Cassandra Marsh, Cynthia Myers, Laina Webster, Jeneé Peryer, Ashley Armstrong, Karen Smith, Donna Jirik

Front: Chris Deck, Shayla Lowe, Brooke Risely, Kyle Collins

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT 2018 REFERRAL ALLEGATIONS



CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT 2018 CASE CLOSING OUTCOMES



Law/Status Violations Unit

Our highlights for this year included ongoing progress in our efforts to achieve compliance with the Juvenile Officer Performance Standards that went into effect in 2017. Much focus has been given to improving our process of developing individualized case plans for youth and families referred to the Greene County Juvenile Office. We strive to develop a plan unique to each youth that ensures accountability, addresses identified needs of the youth and family, repairs harm to victims and the community, and promotes community safety. The balanced and restorative justice approach is easily stated but often difficult to not only develop and implement but also supervise and modify when necessary. We begin this endeavor by relying on objective screening and assessment tools to help guide our decisions. We also gather what might best be described as "collateral information" from community agencies, victims, treatment providers, the youth and family, and schools. Collectively this information helps the Deputy Juvenile Officer craft a plan for each youth and their family based on the needs at that time. We continue to explore strategies that will help improve the trajectory of youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Office. We believe this level of investment in our youth and families now will prove beneficial for our community in the future.



Pictured Above: (Left to Right) Kyle O'Dell, Justin Tidwell, Cheryl Puzach, Sydney Young, Eli Samek, Tanya McClure, Ryan Marquez, Cheryl Blake-more, Brad Shelton, & Dustin Hathcock

Personnel

Deputy Juvenile Officer Larry Edgar retired after serving the Juvenile Court and the Greene County Community for over 38 years. We celebrated his dedication and commitment over the years by honoring him in a special retirement ceremony. Throughout the years Larry utilized his many gifts and talents as he served up to three generations of youth and families referred to the Greene County Juvenile Office. His desire to help and willingness to assist a youth or family member navigate through a difficult time demonstrated how much Larry cared. He was a coach for many, no matter title or role, and left a positive imprint on our community. We wish Larry the very best in his well-deserved retirement and future opportunities.



We also welcomed our newest team member Sydney Young who came to our unit after working in our Juvenile Detention Center for a couple of years. Sydney is excited to become involved in the case management and court preparation aspect of being a Deputy Juvenile Officer and we look forward to the great things she will add to the Law/Status Violation Unit as she grows in her new role.



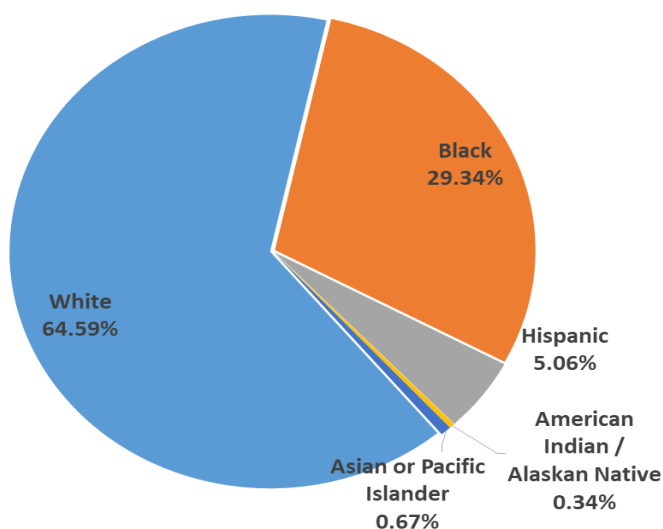
LAW STATUS BY THE NUMBERS

In 2018, a total of **1396** referrals were received by the Juvenile Office for law violation or status offenses. These referrals were processed in one of three ways:

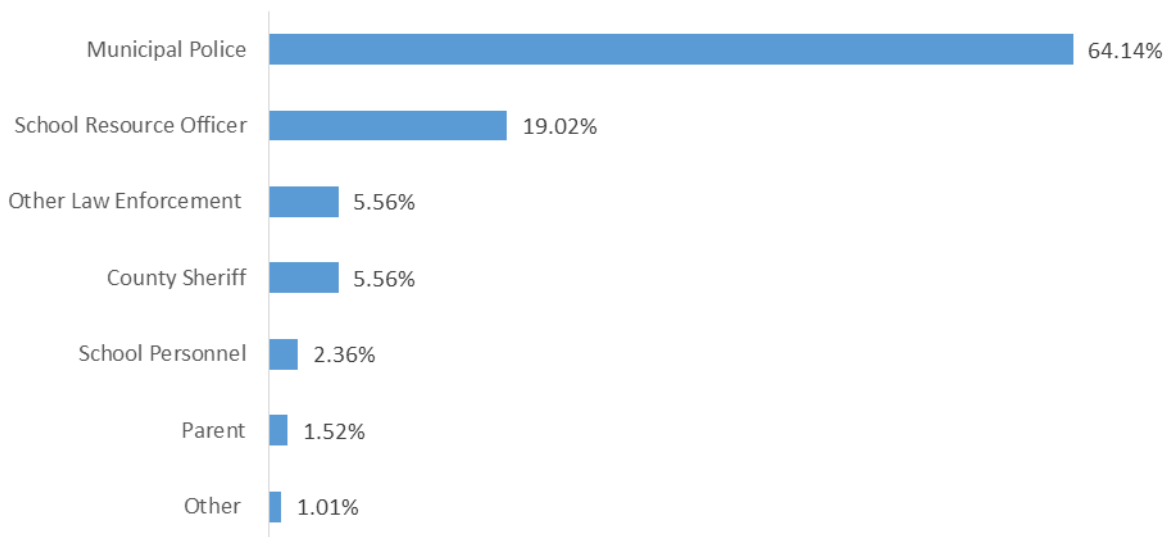
- **594** referrals were handled by a Deputy Juvenile Officer (43%)
- **482** referrals were sent to Diversion Services (34%)
- **320** referrals were rejected due to insufficient information (23%)

Of the 594 referrals handled by a Juvenile Officer,
567 were law violations
27 were status offenses

Referrals Handled by a Juvenile Officer By Race

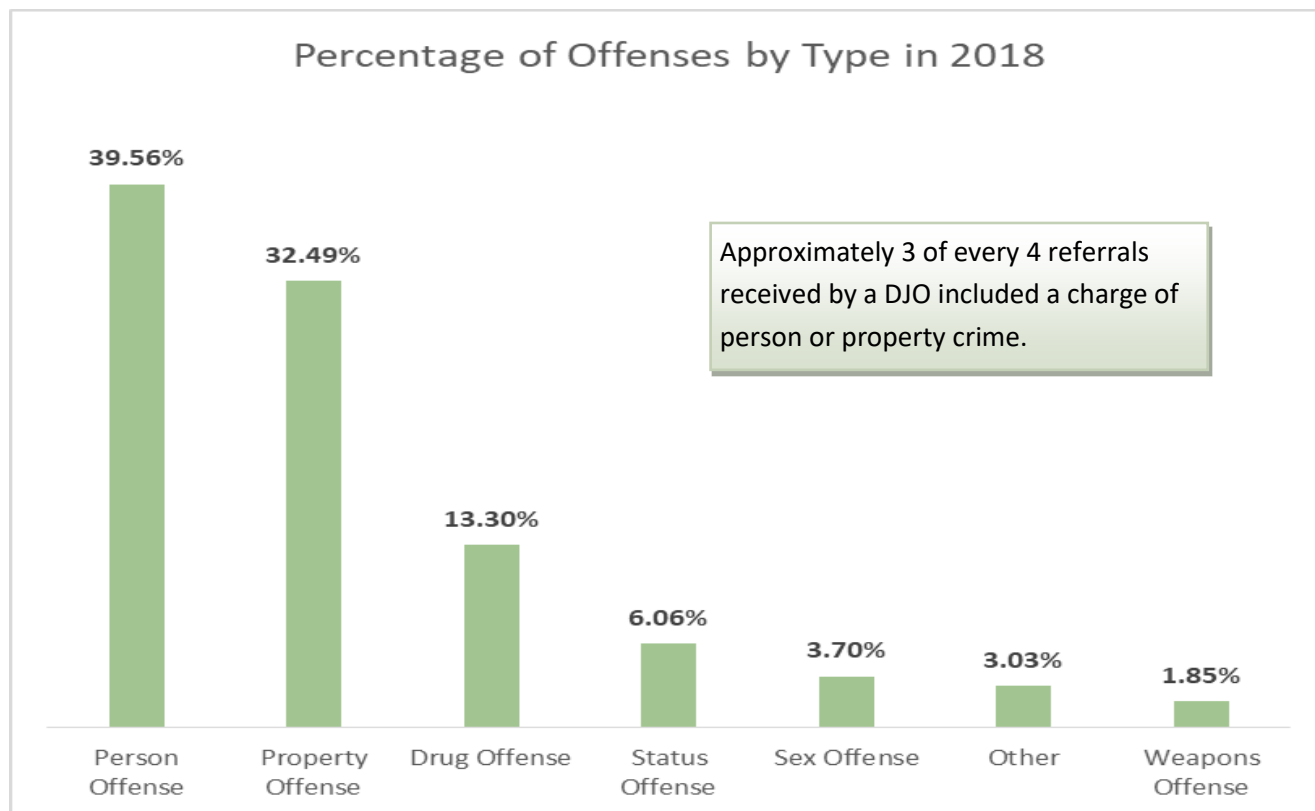
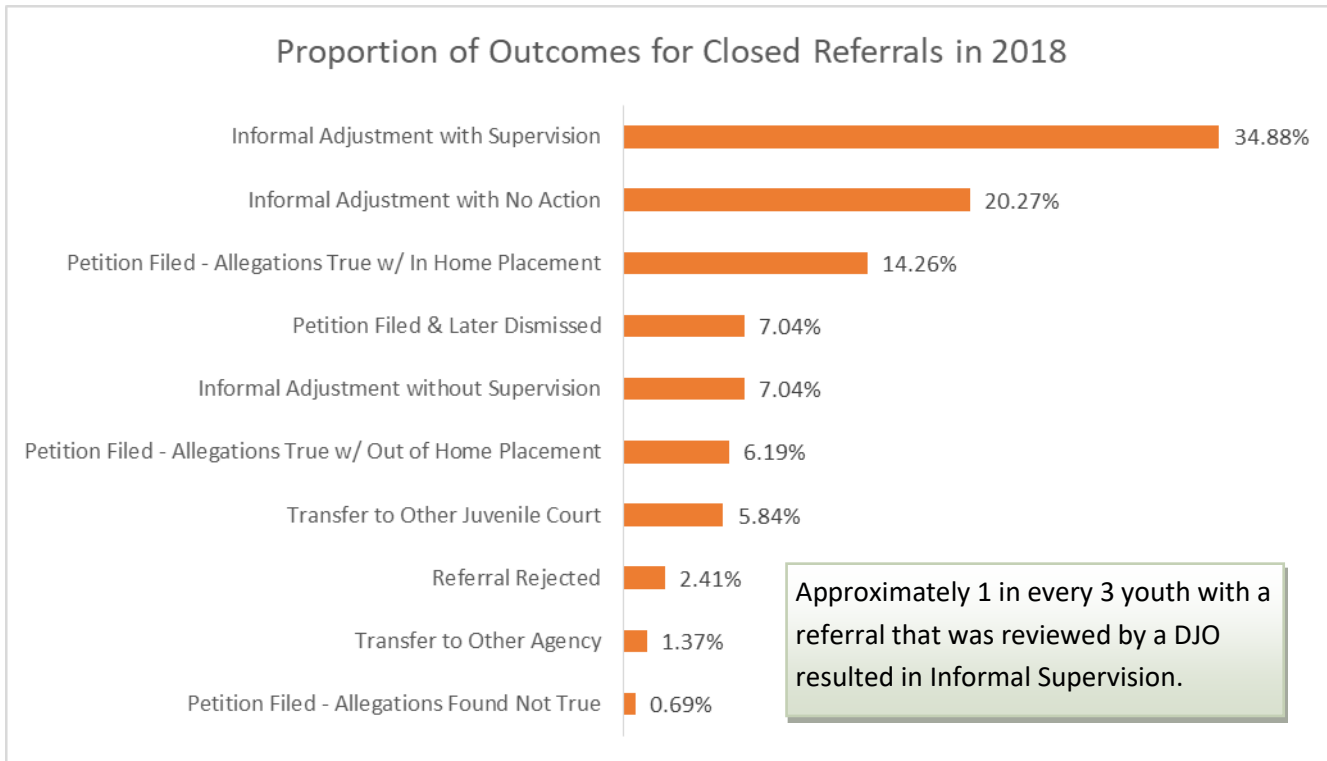


Referral Sources for Referrals Handled by Juvenile Officers



LAW STATUS BY THE NUMBERS

Of the 594 referrals received by a Deputy Juvenile Officer, a total of **582 were closed** with various outcomes in 2018:



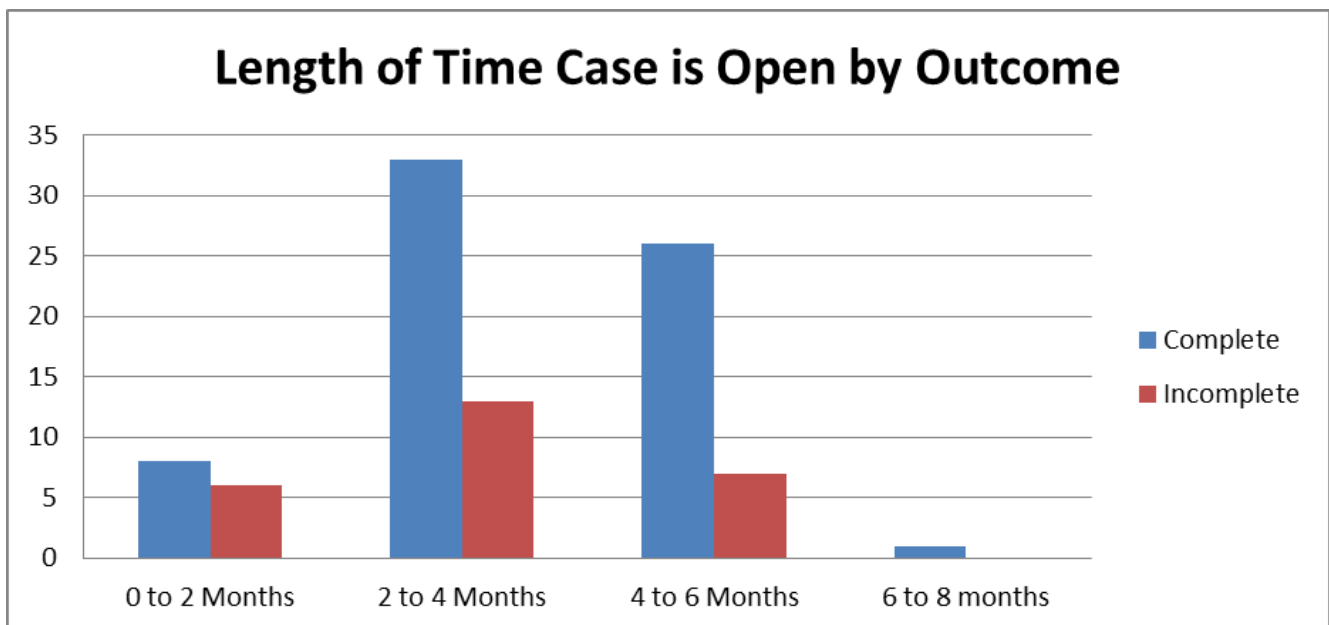
Probation

The Greene County Juvenile Probation Unit serves the youth of Greene County who have been placed on supervision for delinquency referrals. These referrals can be handled informally without court involvement through Informal Adjustment services or formally through court ordered probation. The Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards, implemented in 2017, made adjustments to the way that cases are expected to be supervised, and this report will look at the data gathered during 2018 in the year following the adjustment to the new standards.

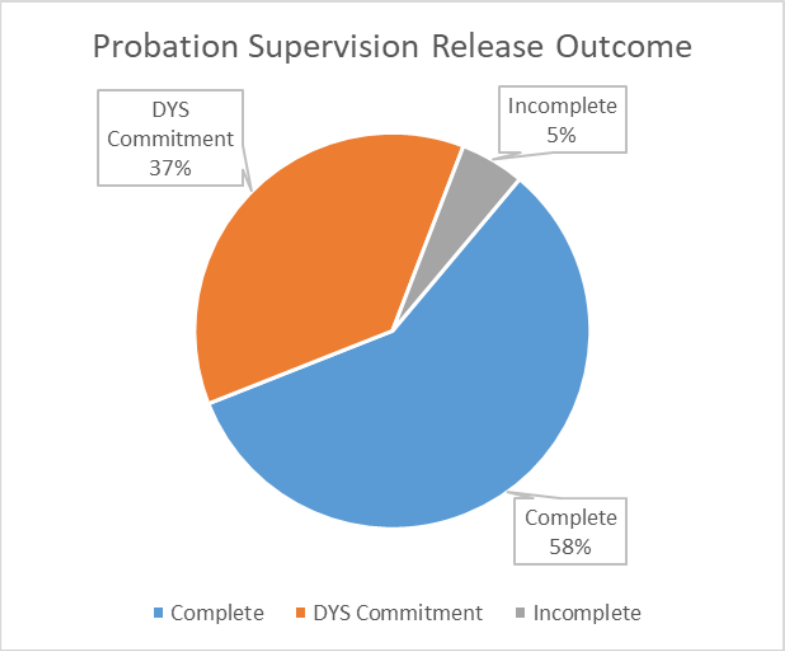


Pictured: (from left) **Top Row:** David Kuykendall, Andy Silliman, Damon Young, and Andy Sweatt **Bottom Row:** Andi Wyatt, Tracie Nicholson, Hannah Porter, Debbie Baltzell and Katie Miller

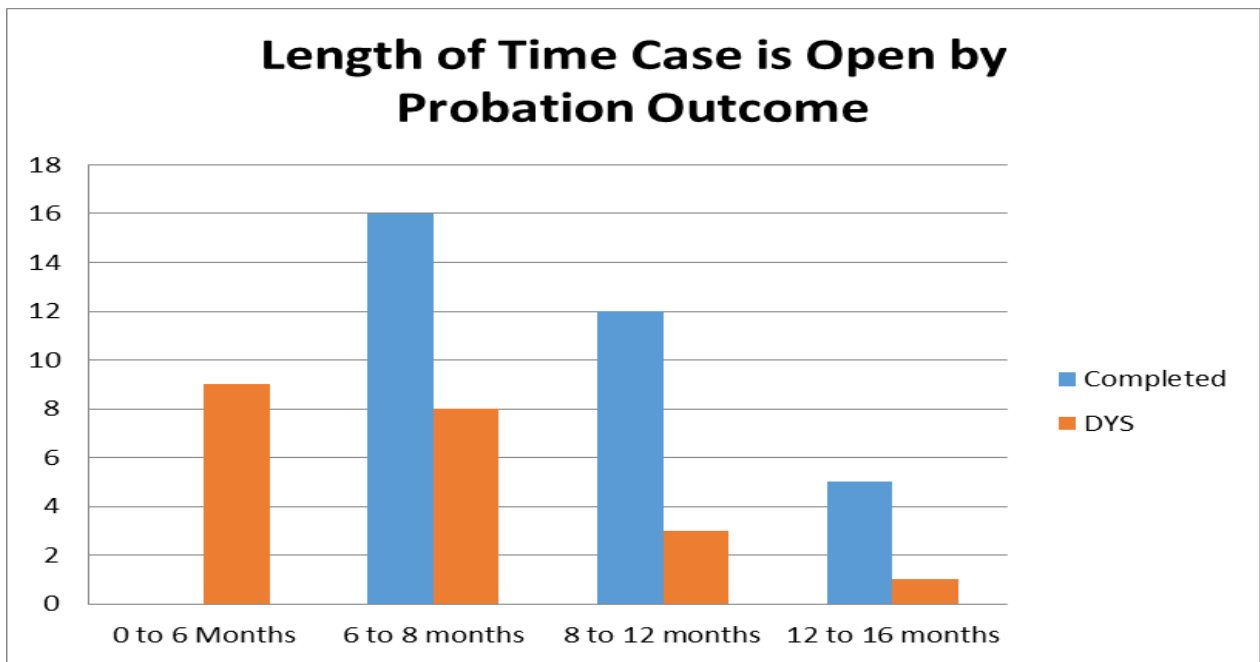
The goal of Informal Adjustment services is to provide services for a youth and family without court involvement. In 2018, 174 youth were referred to Informal Adjustment services. This referral number is down in comparison to the 251 youth referred in 2017. Of the youth referred to Informal Adjustment in 2018, 101 were released, either complete or incomplete, from their supervision during 2018. These releases consisted of 98 youth who met with a Probation Officer to start Informal Adjustment services and completed services, resulting in a 69% completion rate. There are many reasons that an Informal Adjustment period would be considered incomplete. In some cases, a family may agree to complete an Informal Adjustment, but do not meet with a Probation Officer within 30 days after agreeing to services. The most common reason an Informal Adjustment is incomplete is due to the youth or family not completing services they were referred to in a timely manner. The Probation Unit’s goal is to have youth complete their Informal Adjustment within three to six months. The chart below demonstrates that most youth are released within the Probation Unit’s goal time frame. When an Informal Adjustment is considered incomplete, there is the possibility that it will progress to formal court action with court ordered probation supervision.



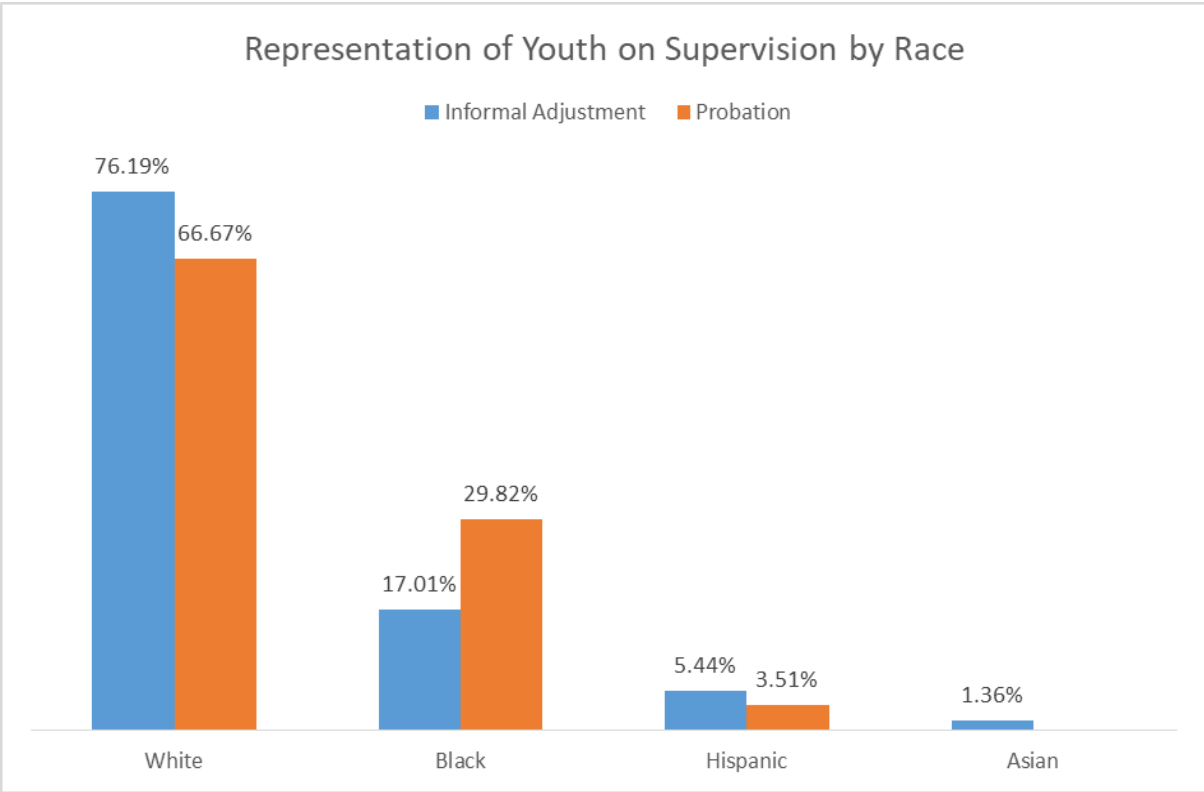
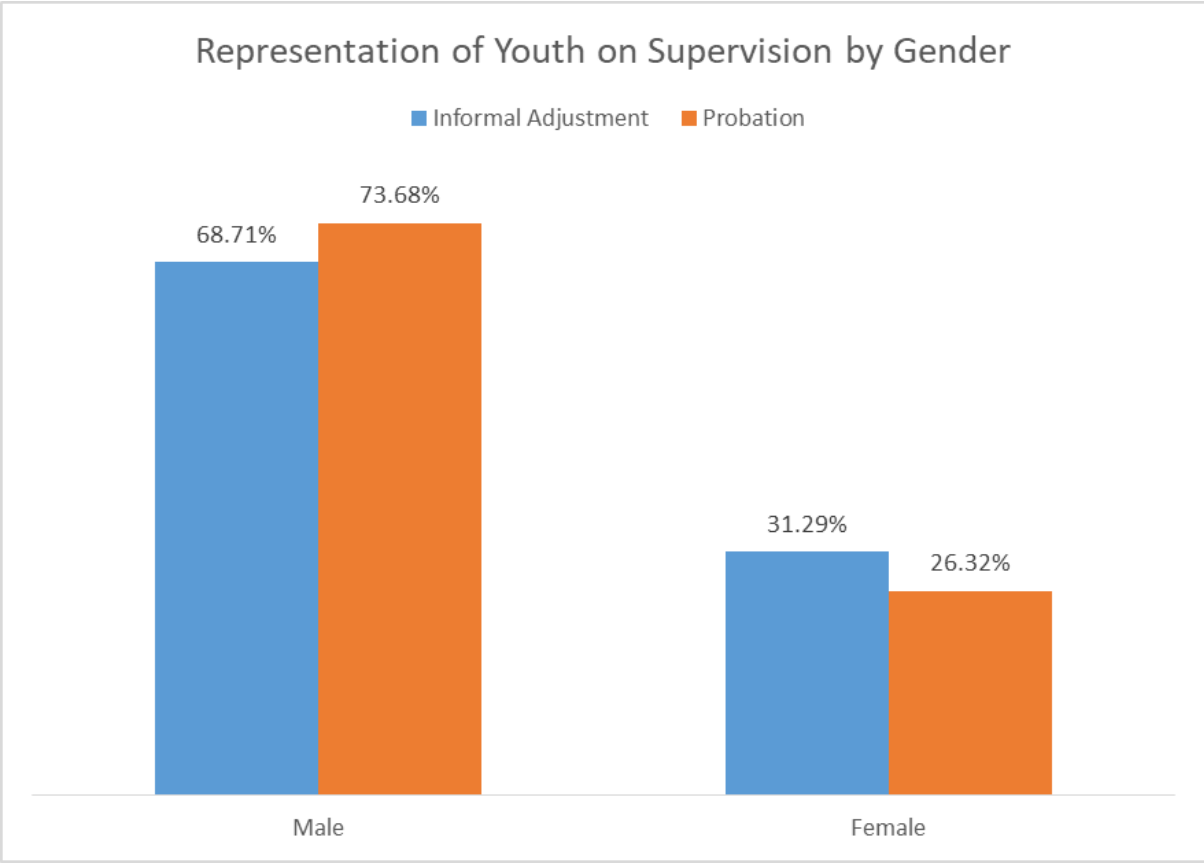
When a case is referred to Greene County Juvenile Court for probation there are three possible release outcomes: completion, incompleteness, or commitment to the Division of Youth Services (DYS) for further intensive treatment. The main goal of the Probation Department when handling probation supervision is to exhaust all necessary resources available in the community before recommending a commitment to DYS. As part of the Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards, youth who are on probation have a treatment plan completed by a Juvenile Officer to compile a list of goals and objectives for the youth and family at the beginning of a probation period, along with supervision risk reassessments every 90 days, reviews of their treatment plan a minimum of every 90 days, and a six-month Probation Case Review hearing with the court. In 2018, 84 youth were eligible for probation and 70 started services. The 84 youth eligible for probation included youth whose cases were dismissed or resulted in a commitment to DYS at their adjudication or dispositional hearings. Of the 70 youth placed on probation, 57 were released in 2018.

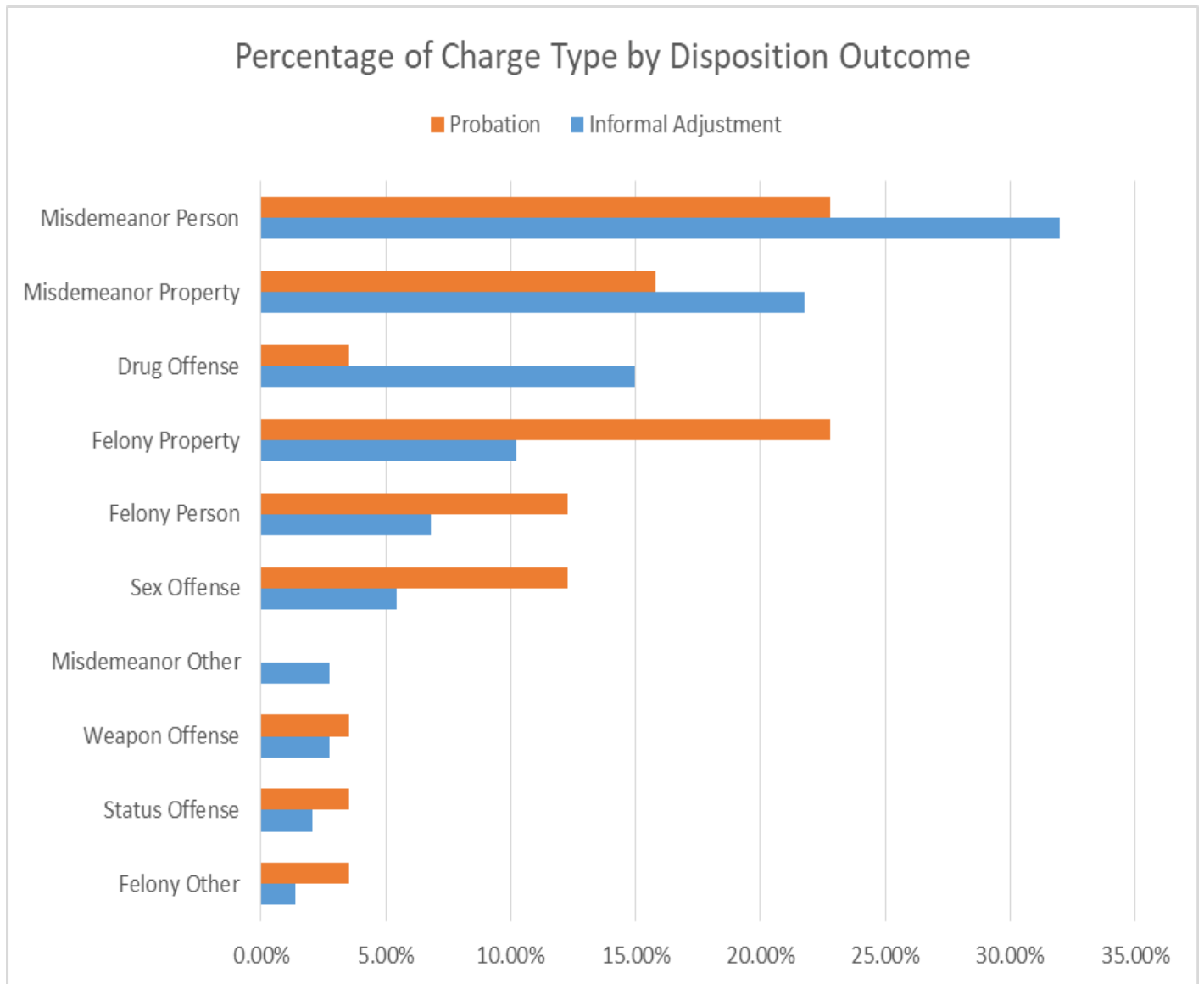


Many of the youth who completed their probation supervision did so between six and eight months on average. There are many factors that affect the length of time a youth is on probation. As part of the goal to exhaust all necessary resources, a Probation Officer may ask at their Probation Case Review hearing for a youth or family to have more time to complete a goal, service or requirement. There are also times in which a youth may receive technical or law violations, and go back to court on a Motion to Modify Previous Order of Disposition. These typically result in a longer supervision term if they do not receive a DYS commitment.



The following charts depict demographics and offense types of youth that completed informal adjustment or probation supervision in Greene County during 2018.





The Probation Unit works diligently to supervise each youth based on their risks and needs as determined by the Missouri Juvenile Offender Risk and Needs Assessment and Classification System and process their cases on an individual basis, as each case is as unique as the individual and family. Each member of the Probation Unit emphasizes the engagement of parents/guardians and family in the treatment of youth in an effort to ensure success both while on supervision and for their future. Additionally, there is an Informed Supervision class offered which is available to anyone who will be supervising a child involved with the Juvenile Office. This class is required for families who are supervising youth with sexually harmful behaviors, but there is useful information presented about cycles of abuse, the laws of the Missouri Juvenile Justice court system, how to work with a Multi-Disciplinary Team and information for treatment options. The class is presented by Deputy Juvenile Officer Dustin Hathcock, and Stan Barnes, MS, NCC. It's held at 1631 W Bennett, Springfield, MO, on the 2nd Wednesday each month, from 6-8:30 p.m.

“Working to improve the quality of life for our youth, families and victims through supervision, while striving to ensure the safety of our community and the promotion of positive behavioral change.”

Detention

The purpose of the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center is to provide a safe and secure environment for youth who have committed a law violation that are deemed a threat to the community or themselves or have been ordered by the court for secure detention.

In the 2018 calendar year, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center admissions remained stable having 172 in 2018, and 174 in the prior year. Of the 172 juvenile offenders placed in secure detention, 41 youth or 24% were held for other counties and the Division of Youth Services. While this number is down slightly from 2017, it remains a significant portion of our population due to the closure of the 29th circuit detention facility in late 2014. In the coming year there is an anticipated sharp decline in out of circuit holds due to a new detention center opening in the 29th Judicial Circuit.



For the circuits throughout Southwest Missouri and the Division of Youth Services that utilize the Greene County Juvenile Detention to hold their youths while awaiting court or placement, a daily fee is assessed to their respective jurisdictions. Further, Greene County receives daily state and federal reimbursements for all youth held in detention. The total reimbursement to the County's General Revenue Fund for youth held in detention in 2018 was \$55,627.87. The total operating budget for the detention center in 2018 was \$901,380.29. This amount meets clothing, food, healthcare needs, mental health needs and programming services for the youth; and the employment of 15 full-time and 4 part-time staff.

Due to the statewide standards for juvenile detention centers, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center applies the same standards for all youth admitted to secure detention. Before a youth is admitted into secure detention, an admission assessment called a JDTA form is completed. This procedure is in compliance with Missouri Court Operating Rule 28, and is part of the system reform efforts taking place in the state of Missouri. The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), an effort supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is an initiative focused on finding alternatives to secure detention for those juvenile offenders that are not considered a threat to the community, themselves, or a flight risk. In the 13 years the Greene County Juvenile Office has participated in JDAI several alternatives to secure detention have been created such as the GPS monitoring, and pre-adjudication supervision. Further, since the application of various detention alternatives the average length of time a youth spends in detention has been significantly reduced over the years. In this period of time, admissions have fallen approximately 60% without increased risk to public safety. Additionally, through efforts to process cases more efficiently through court, the average length of stay has been reduced by approximately 37% allowing for youth to receive treatment services more expeditiously.

In 2018 the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center was able to participate in the Performance Based Standards (PbS) program that allows this facility to measure its performance in various criteria with other facilities across the nation. Measurements include items such as: how long the youth spend in their rooms on an average day, the number of incidents that occurred in a given time period, and the services that should be provided to youth in a secure facility.

Along with participation in PbS, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center is a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliant facility providing for an environment for residents that has a zero tolerance for sexual abuse, assault and harassment. Residents are educated on this right upon admission to the facility and weekly through programming provided by Burrell Behavioral Health. Every three years federal auditors review our policy and practice to ensure compliance.

Programming in the Greene County Detention Center promotes healthy engagement, socialization, and development for the youth placed in secure detention. The most significant program is the academic program provided by Springfield Public Schools. There is 5 hours of education programming each weekday and Springfield Public School provides one full-time teacher, and a paraprofessional during the regular school year, and summer sessions. In 2018, the teachers were Neil Adams and Wanda White. Kevin Zimmerman also provides art class each week.

The Greene County Juvenile Detention Center also enjoys many other community partnerships that provide services to the youth. Freeway Ministries provides a faith based program for youth that want to attend; Drury University provides music therapy to help the youth learn to express themselves through the avenue of music; and Burrell Behavioral Health provides trauma services and PREA education. This year we have expanded our services to the residents by adding a weekly health and hygiene group presented by Mercy Corporate Health and a Futures group presented by Ozarks Technical College (OTC) to introduce residents to opportunities at OTC and beyond.

Youth placed in detention often have unmet medical and mental health needs. In effort to address these needs, the Greene County Detention Center contracts with Mercy Corporate Health to provide a medical screen for every resident and to address any on-going medical needs. Additionally, mental health screening done by detention staff and suicide assessments completed by the Clinical Based Services Coordinator reduce the potential for self-harm.





In 2018 attention has been placed on maintaining training standards and expanding training opportunities for staff. Staff have been trained in Fundamental skills for detention workers, medication dispensing, suicide prevention, CPR and first aid, Safe Crisis Management, PREA Education, Trauma informed care, Mandated reporting among others, to ensure staff are providing the best services to the youth held in detention. Because it is so critical, this remains a constant endeavor.

2018 has been a year of self-examination and audit. In October with the help of several community partners, the Greene County Detention Center completed a site self-assessment. This process provided us the opportunity to update the Detention Manual, Resident handbook and practices to ensure our compliance with the MO Standards of Operation of a Juvenile Detention Facility ordered by the MO Supreme Court on January 1, 2015. Additionally, we participated in an audit with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to ensure our meal practices meet state and federal guidelines. This process provided the opportunity to improve not only our practices surrounding meal service, but improve food quality and variety.

Finally, the Greene County Juvenile Detention has gone beyond the scope of dealing with just juvenile offenders. All Deputy Juvenile Officers working in detention are also sworn deputy circuit clerks and process emergency orders of protection requested after business hours. In 2018, 1,024 Ex-Partes were filed after hours with the assistance of detention officers. This number is 20 more than in 2017.

Present
Community
Restorative
Love Care Empathy
Mindful Hope Honesty
Trauma Joy
Trust Fun
Compassionate
Acceptance

Legal Unit



Pictured: (from left) Brooke Downing, Stephanie Bullard, Heather Steinbach, Paul Shackelford, Brittany O'Brien, and Danielle Walker

2018 Brought some changes for the Legal Unit. Staci Denney moved on from the roll of Victim Witness Coordinator to Diversionary Services leading to the addition of Heather Steinbach to the unit as the new Victim Witness Coordinator. In another change, the unit grew by adding a fourth attorney, Brittany O'Brien, who returned to the Juvenile Office from private practice. With the growth of the unit and the approval to add an additional paralegal and attorney in 2019, the decision was made that the unit needed a

direct supervisor. Brittany O'Brien was promoted to interim Managing Attorney in July and the position became permanent in early 2019.

The Victim Witness Coordinator makes sure that victims of juvenile crime are informed of their rights, what is happening in their cases, and answers any questions or concerns that these victims may have. Ms. Steinbach also is responsible for contacting and coordinating people that have witnessed juvenile law violations so that they can be available and prepared for trial.

The attorneys, with the aid of Danielle Walker, paralegal, provide representation, both in and out of court, to the Chief Juvenile Officer and all of the other units. The attorneys are also responsible for keeping the office informed of current and proposed legislation and appellate decisions so that the practices in place are current, relevant and legally accurate. In 2018, over 3800 hearings were held, which includes hearings for child abuse and neglect, juvenile law violation and status offenses, juvenile probation, and termination of parental rights. In addition, the legal unit responded to 16 appeals before the Southern District of Missouri Court of Appeals.





Total Hearings Held by Hearing Type					
	<i>ABN</i>	<i>DEL/STAUS</i>	<i>TPR</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Protective Custody	339	-	-	339	8.90%
Adjudication	435	92	-	527	13.83%
Disposition	418	124	-	542	14.23%
Case Review	309	-	-	309	8.11%
Detention	-	106	-	106	2.78%
Hearing Held	400	206	-	606	15.91%
Motion to Modify	-	40	-	40	1.05%
Permanency	638	-	-	638	16.75%
Permanency Review	499	-	-	499	13.10%
Termination of Parental Rights	-	-	204	204	5.35%
Grand Total	3038	568	204	3810	100%

Support Staff



Pictured: (Left to Right) Barbi Speight, Shirley Speer Cynthia Myers, and Jill Randolph

The Juvenile Office support staff consists of 3 staff who are dedicated to their positions.

- Assistant Office Manager & Abuse and Neglect Secretary
- Receptionist
- Part-time File Clerk

During 2018, we spent:

Total Print Cartridges: \$6,645.33

Copier Paper: \$2,951.00

Community Based Services @ 933



933 N Robberson Facility

The 933 building houses all of the community based programming provided through the Greene County Juvenile Office. This facility is operational over sixty hours per week providing services to youth in Greene County. This facility provides services such as a youth academy, individual and family counseling services, coping skills development, therapeutic programming and provides a place for our community partners to interact with our youth as we team up to provide the best services possible for our youth. All services provided through the 933 building are focused on understanding why youth may be struggling and providing trauma informed approaches to helping youth overcome barriers to reach their fullest potential.

Community based programming moved into the 933 building in late 2017 and 2018 was our first full year utilizing this facility. Throughout 2018, we were focused on getting all of our programs settled into the facility, and working to make changes to ensure that we were maximizing the utilization of the new facility and providing services that consistently meet best practices.

One of our biggest changes in the community based services unit was the recognition that the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) and community based services programming had grown to the point that it was necessary for the community based services programming to be handled separately from GCYA. In order to make this change, we created two new positions: a Program Manager for GCYA and a Coordinator of Operations for Community Based Services/GCYA. Making this transition was a major accomplishment for our office as the new GCYA Program Manager position allows that role to focus completely on the intensive services provided by GCYA, without managing the other community based programming in the facility. The Coordinator of Operations role is able to focus on the other community based programming and ensure that those programs are able to thrive and to maintain grants and statistical data necessary to maintain those services. Our new structure has greatly facilitated our ability to streamline services and to grow our ability to provide services to this community.

Another major accomplishment was the development and funding of a Family Advocate position housed in the 933 building that will work with juvenile office involved youth to provide enhanced services to families. This role will focus on providing wrap-around services designed to further the impact of the programming youth receive and work to help strengthen the functionality of the family. This position will be responsible for providing brokerage case management services to youth and families and will partner closely with various community resources to help link families to the resources that exist in the community. This position is funded by a grant from the Missouri Department of Public Safety and through the Greene County Juvenile Office.



GEMS (Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits)

The GEMS program works to promote healthy relationships with a focus on positive community engagement. This program helps girls develop a strong sense of self and helps them learn to advocate for their needs as they contribute to the community. GEMS utilizes the SAVVY Sister curriculum and partners with various community organizations to bring in speakers for the girls and to provide service learning for the girls at organizations within the community. For example, one of the events GEMS has the honor of participating in each year is the Designed for Life Women's Conference at James River Church. This event is always an informative, inspirational, and uplifting opportunity for our girls and we are fortunate to be able to participate in this annual conference.



Getting Involved For Today's Students (GIFTS)

GIFTS is funded through a grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and focuses on addressing the educational needs of youth under the supervision of the Greene County Juvenile Office. GIFTS staff provide supplemental programming to youth to enhance their learning with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). GIFTS staff are able to provide individualized services to the youth to meet them wherever they are in their educational experience. The GIFTS program is able to provide HiSet education as well as ACT and SAT test preparation.

Homework Assistance Program (HAP)

The HAP program is operated as an extension of the GIFTS program and is also funded through a grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. HAP is an afterschool program that operates two evenings per week and is open not only to Juvenile Office involved youth, but to the community as a whole. The HAP program provides homework assistance for youth that may be struggling to complete homework for school and can also provide enrichment opportunities for youth to further their understanding of the concepts they are learning at school. The HAP program staff are able to work with the school districts in Greene County to obtain attendance and grades of youth, communicate with teachers in youth's home schools, and help youth avoid falling behind and help those youth who are having difficulty at school be more successful. Through these efforts, youth are able to achieve a higher level of success which in turns helps increase self-esteem and academic confidence.

Diversion Services

In 2017, the Greene County Juvenile Office created a Diversion Program designed to focus on providing "front end" services to youth and to focus resources on youth who become involved with our office early, with hopes of limiting future office involvement. This early intervention approach is designed to work with lower level law violations and status offenses. Some of the offenses that are often handled through Diversion include running away, truancy, misdemeanor drug possession, minor assault, and out of control behavior at home. Youth served through Diversion are often able to avoid any involvement with the main office and are usually not entered into our statewide records management system. As this unit grows and develops, it will be able to help the families of this community by linking them with appropriate resources as soon as the family needs them instead of waiting until the youth faces a court appearance and has developed a more intense need for services. This unit is responsible for assisting with the implementation of this office's commitment to providing early intervention services with a strong trauma informed, therapeutic approach to mitigate further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Therapeutic Programs @ 933**Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)**

MRT is a program designed to assist youth who are juvenile offenders and/or struggle with substance abuse. MRT is a 16-step program where the first 12 steps are utilized by this office. Youth work with MRT facilitators to learn a lesson from each step, evaluate the information learned in each step and develop ways to implement the information in each step into their own lives. MRT facilitators work with the youth to ensure they are getting the most out of each step and to provide accountability for the youth as they work towards success. MRT is open to all Juvenile Office involved youth referred to the program.

Music Therapy

Music therapy is possible through our partnership with Drury University. Music therapy provides an excellent, evidence based concept to help youth achieve their goals by developing a strong partnership with the facilitator designed to help youth focus their energy on the power of music to cope with stress and anxiety. This healthy coping skill helps youth channel negative emotions in a positive way and helps youth find ways to express themselves and to find time to relax and focus on their needs. Music Therapy is funded by Greene County.

Anger Management

Anger management classes are held at the 933 building and are designed to help youth determine the basis for their anger, identify the triggers for their anger and develop/implement a plan to successfully handle anger in a positive and effective manner. Anger management is open to all youth involved with the Juvenile Office.

Equine-Assisted Therapy

Equine-Assisted Therapy uses the human-horse relationship to provide mental health services to youth. This evidence based model provides life skills including mindfulness, communication, self-control, confidence, and trust. The goal is for the youth to experience the discipline of the horse and to model that in their own behavior. This is a fun and enjoyable opportunity for our youth and is open to all Juvenile Office involved youth. This is funded by Greene County.

Individual and Family Counseling

Youth involved with the GCYA program are able to participate in individual and family counseling. GCYA staff work to link families up with counselors and facilitate the counseling setup. GCYA staff are usually able to help obtain this service regardless of the family's ability to pay. Individual and family counseling can be completed at the 933 building or in the community, whichever is easiest for the family. Because of this fact, families are able to obtain counseling services without transportation or financial barriers.

In-Patient/Out-Patient Substance Abuse Counseling

Youth in need of in-patient or out-patient substance abuse counseling are able to obtain this service through referrals made by juvenile office staff. Staff work to identify substance abuse programming opportunities in the community and pair youth up with the programs best likely to meet their individualized need. We are able to help families find ways to pay for substance abuse services and to assist with transportation when needed as well. This service is open to all youth involved with the Juvenile Office.

Community Service and Engagement Opportunities

GCYA program youth, as well as youth involved with the Juvenile Office are able to participate in community engagement events that are designed to help youth learn the value of giving back to the community. These events are usually held outside of normal program hours or on the weekends. This programming is possible because of the strong relationship this office has with our community partners. Some organizations that we routinely partner with include Arc of the Ozarks, Ozark Food Harvest, Convoy of Hope, Missouri State University, Dogwood Ranch, Drury University, Camp Character (Willard Police), Missouri Department of Conservation, Springfield Parks department, and many others.

Parent/Teen Café

Parent and Teen Cafés are designed to help strengthen families through a process of self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning. This programming is adapted from the World Café model and is focused on leadership and enhancing protective factors for families. These groups are facilitated at 933 through a partnership with Community Partnership of the Ozarks and are held twice per month. These programming components are open to all Juvenile Office involved youth and families as well as the community.

MEAL SERVICES AT GCYA

Youth who participate in programming are provided daily breakfast and lunch through a grant provided by the School Nutrition Program (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education). Youth are also provided dinner through a grant provided by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (CACFP/SFSP).

Greene County Youth Academy



Pictured: 933 N Robberson Facility

The Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) serves as a Missouri Division of Youth Services diversionary program for youth in the juvenile system.

GCYA provides a smaller education environment during the day and therapeutic services in the afternoon and early evening hours. The goal of GCYA is to equip the youth with the habits and skills they need to be successful in their regular classrooms and at home.

Research has shown that a solid education is key to helping youth avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system and GCYA provides an avenue for youth to get back on track in terms of their educational future.

ACADEMICS

GCYA provides educational opportunities in partnership with the Springfield Public Schools (SPS). Mrs. Sunday Wildschuetz is our SPS teacher and she provides education focusing on math, English and reading. GCYA is also fortunate to have one grant funded teacher, Mrs. Angelin Adams. Mrs. Adams focuses on science, social studies and life skills. The grant funded teacher is provided by a grant from the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA). Because of the strong partnership between SPS, OSCA and GCYA our youth are provided a tremendous educational opportunity that helps them maintain their education while under the supervision of the juvenile system.

Youth in the GCYA program experience much smaller classroom size than in traditional school which provides a great opportunity for more one-on-one instruction and an individualized approach to each youth's educational needs. As youth complete the GCYA program, they are better able to transition back to the public school setting and have a higher chance of continued success after leaving the program.



Pictured: GCYA Teachers, Mrs. Angelin Adams (left) and Mrs. Sunday Wildschuetz (right)

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

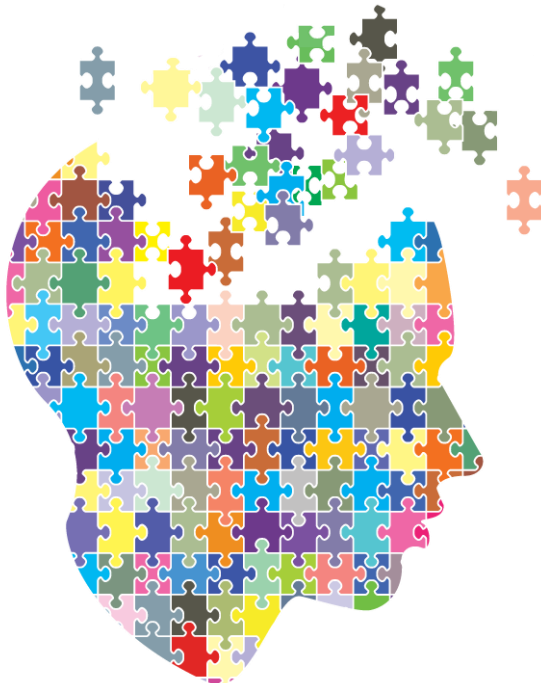
2018 was, in many ways, a year of evaluation and transition for GCYA. After moving in late 2017, we were able to settle in and begin identifying the best use of our new facility. The new building provided an immediate benefit to the GCYA program by conveying to our youth the value that the community places in their future and the GCYA program.

In May of 2018, GCYA was honored to receive the Award of Excellence from the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association in recognition of our significant contributions to the improvement of Juvenile Justice.

In late 2018, GCYA began new partnerships with the University of Missouri to offer a 4H Club for our youth, and the Dream Center to offer a daily physical education class. GCYA will also benefit from the new Family Advocate position created under the Community Based Services umbrella.

Also in late 2018, GCYA hired a dedicated Program Manager to focus on the strategic direction and focus of GCYA going forward.

All of these changes set the stage for GCYA to provide more targeted therapeutic programs and services that meet our youth and their families where they are and assist them in set-



Our Model

At GCYA we understand that the success of the young people we serve is based not only on the youth, but also their families. With that holistic vision in mind, we work to include families into the GCYA treatment model. This includes a weekly family night where the kids cook a meal for the families to share together, and then participate in activities to help build strong relationships and address areas of conflict or concern.

The Circle of Courage model is based on the belief that to be emotionally healthy, youth need a sense of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. These concepts, or quadrants, provide a strong foundation for psychological resilience and positive youth change and development. To build this foundation, the youth are given a variety of activities and tasks for each quadrant and work with their coach to ensure understanding.

In addition, GCYA offers a variety of therapeutic programs. This includes individual therapy as a mandatory component and family therapy as needed. Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) is also a required component of our treatment program. MRT focuses on decreasing recidivism among juvenile offenders by increasing moral reasoning. Anger Management is also provided on a weekly basis to help build coping skills and de-escalation strategies.

Partnering with local organizations is vital to the success of the GCYA program. Many of our group therapy programs are in partnership with community resources and universities which include:

- Art Therapy with Missouri State University
- Music Therapy with Drury University
- Social Skills Group Therapy with Drury University
- Equine Therapy with Dogwood Ranch
- 4H Club Activities with University of Missouri
- Physical Education with the Springfield Dream Center
- Parent Café with Community Partnership of the Ozarks

Internship Opportunities

Gaining Experience & Earning Credit

The Greene County Juvenile Office offers internships to undergraduate and graduate students who are seeking an excellent learning experience in a human services field, such as Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and more. We believe interns play an essential role at the Juvenile Office, and interns have the opportunity to intern in several different units, including Probation, Detention, Delinquency, Community-Based Services, the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA), Child Abuse and Neglect, and Domestic Relations.

2018 Interns participated in a variety of different activities, including attending GEMs and Spartans programming, sitting in on investigative interviews, home visits, probation check-ins, and school visits, providing supervision to GCYA youth, assisting with staffing community engagement events for youth on supervision, and attending and assisting in preparing for court hearings.

"The most satisfying area of the internship was initial meetings as well as check-ins. It was interesting to see how every family and child are so different." -Summer 2018 Intern

"This internship was the highlight of my learning career. From day one, everyone was willing to help me learn and extremely friendly and welcoming. I was given the chance to grow as a student and as a person...I am happy to say I have had the opportunity to intern here." -Fall 2018 Intern



(Left) Claire Smith interned with the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) in Summer 2018 and is now a Youth Specialist at GCYA.

"This is a great internship for anybody seeking careers involved in the Justice system or with children and families." -Spring 2018 Intern



(Above) Katie Barton interned with the Delinquency Unit in Fall 2018 and is now a Deputy Juvenile Officer in the Greene County Detention Center.

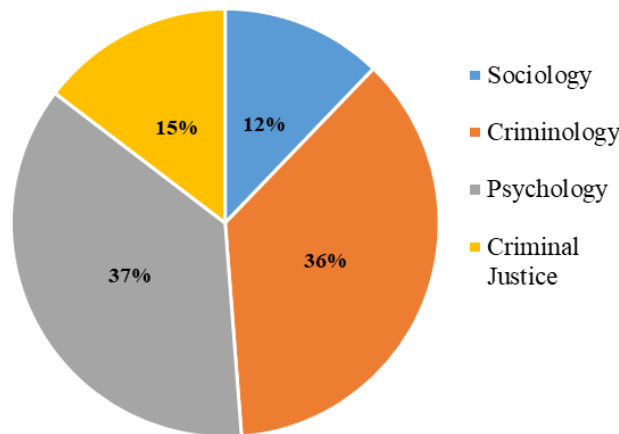
Internship Opportunities

"I truly enjoyed my time with the Juvenile Office and believe it has exposed me to important aspects of the justice system which I will apply in my future career aspirations. I appreciated how helpful and willing the staff were when I had questions or needed help with something." -Fall 2018 Intern

By the Numbers

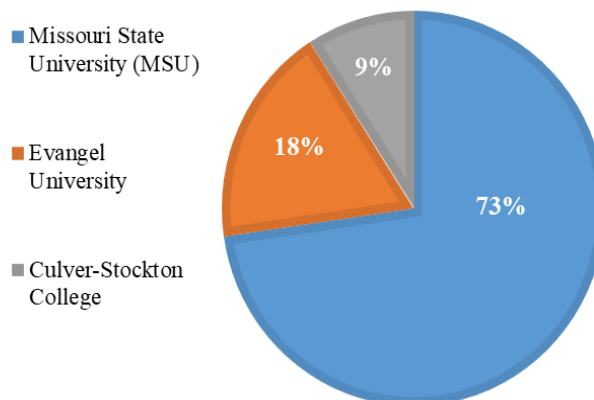
In 2018, the Juvenile Office had a total of 11 interns during the Spring (4), Summer (3), and Fall (4) semesters. The number of hours required by their universities ranged from 125 hours to 200 hours. 8 students were from Missouri State University, 2 were from Evangel University, and 1 was from Culver-Stockton College. Student majors included Criminology (3), Sociology (1), Criminal Justice (4), and Psychology (3).

Intern Majors



"One thing I highly enjoyed during my internship was how much time I got with the youth. It was a very hands on internship, which I took full advantage of." -Spring 2018 Intern

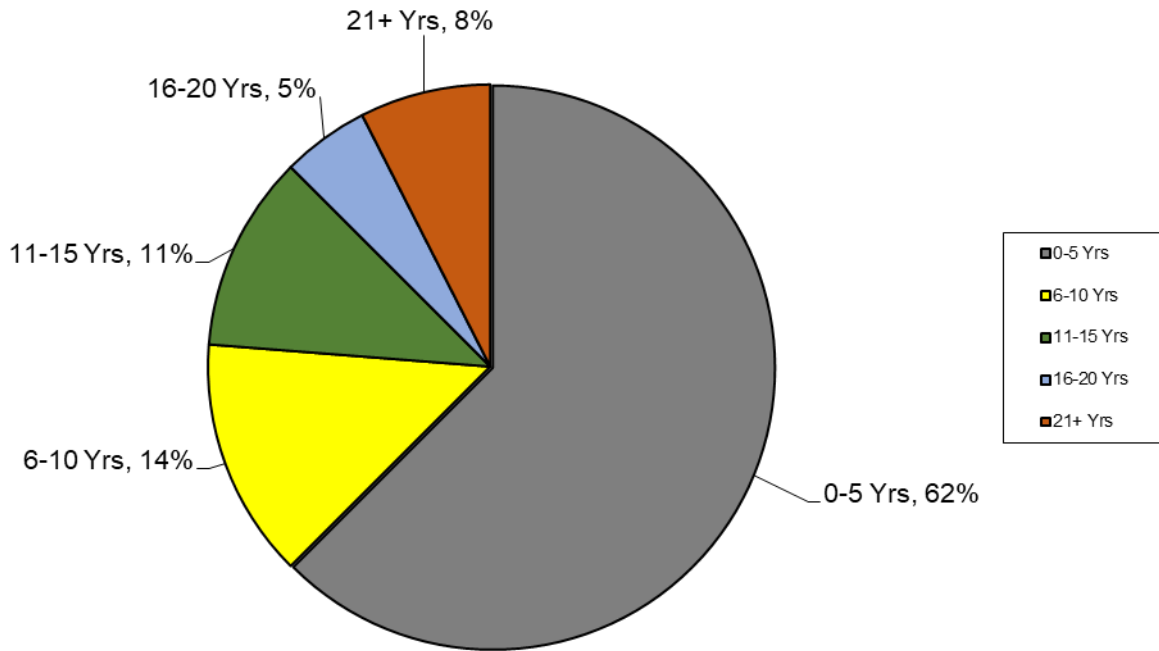
INTERN SCHOOLS



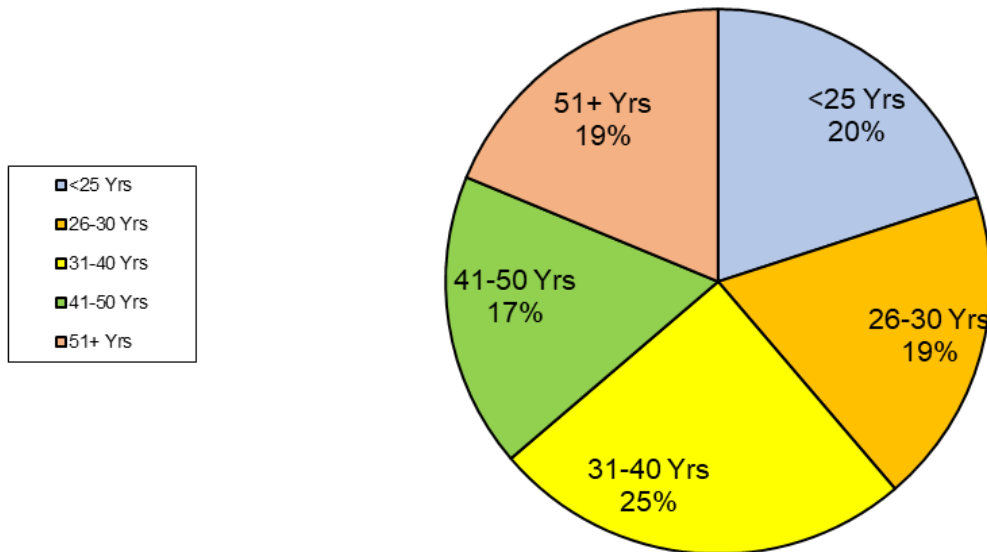
For more information about how to obtain an internship with the Greene County Juvenile Office, visit <https://greenecountymo.gov/juvenile/sub224/index.php>. The deadline to apply for the Spring Semester is November 1st, the Summer Semester is March 1st, and the Fall Semester is June 1st.

2018 Employee Demographics

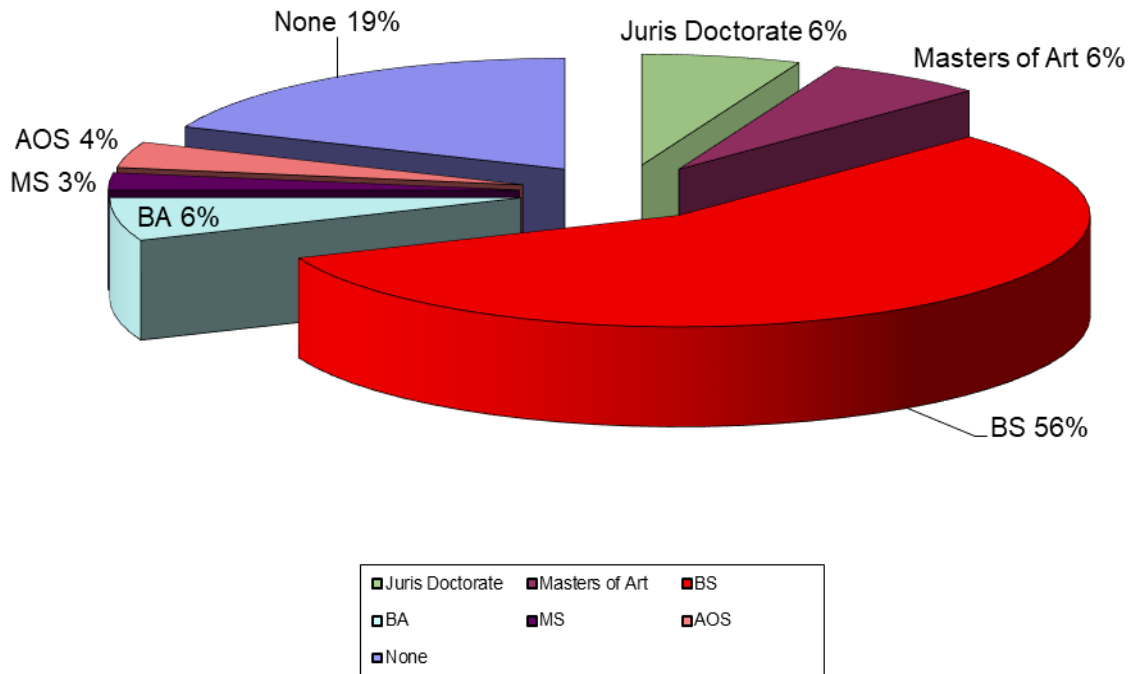
Years Employed



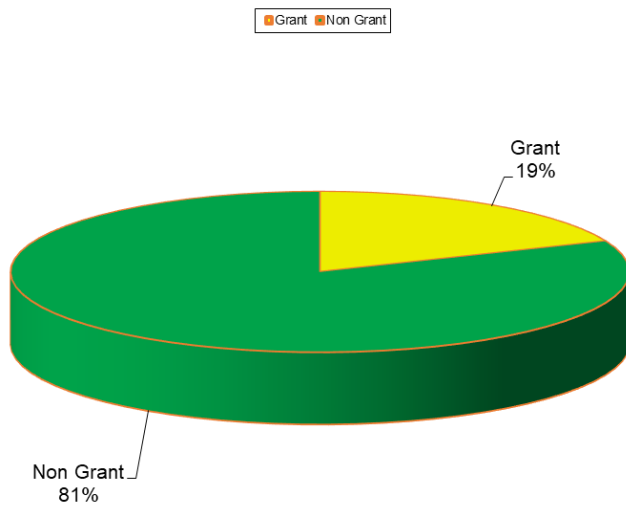
Employee Age Range



Employee Degree Types

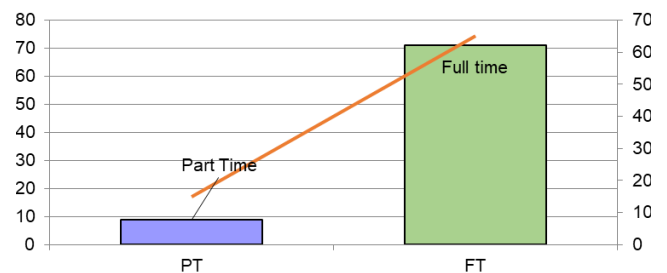


Employees Paid By

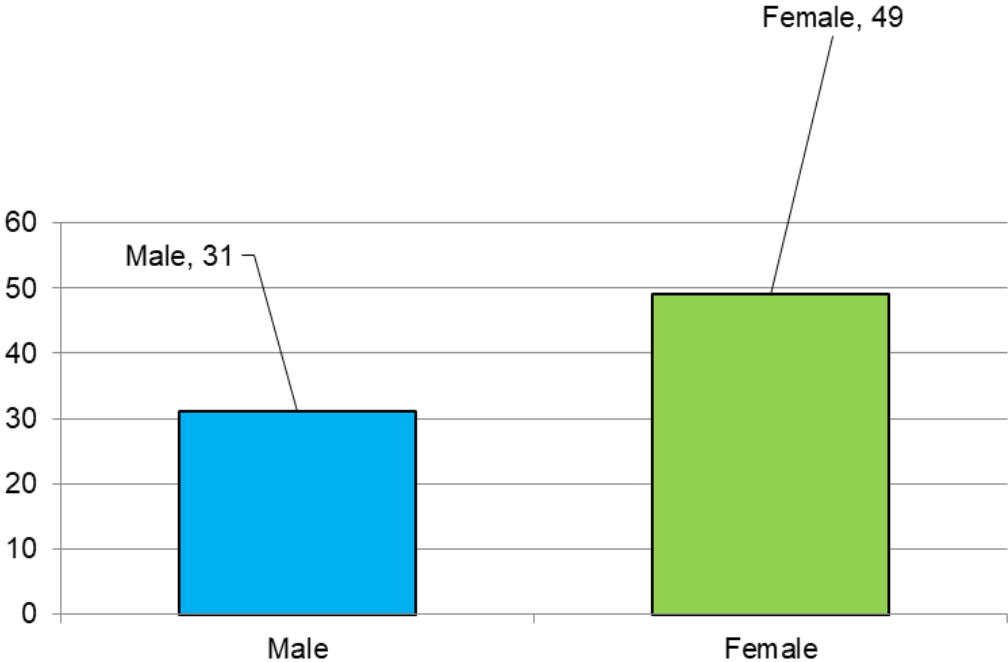


Full Time and Part Time Employees

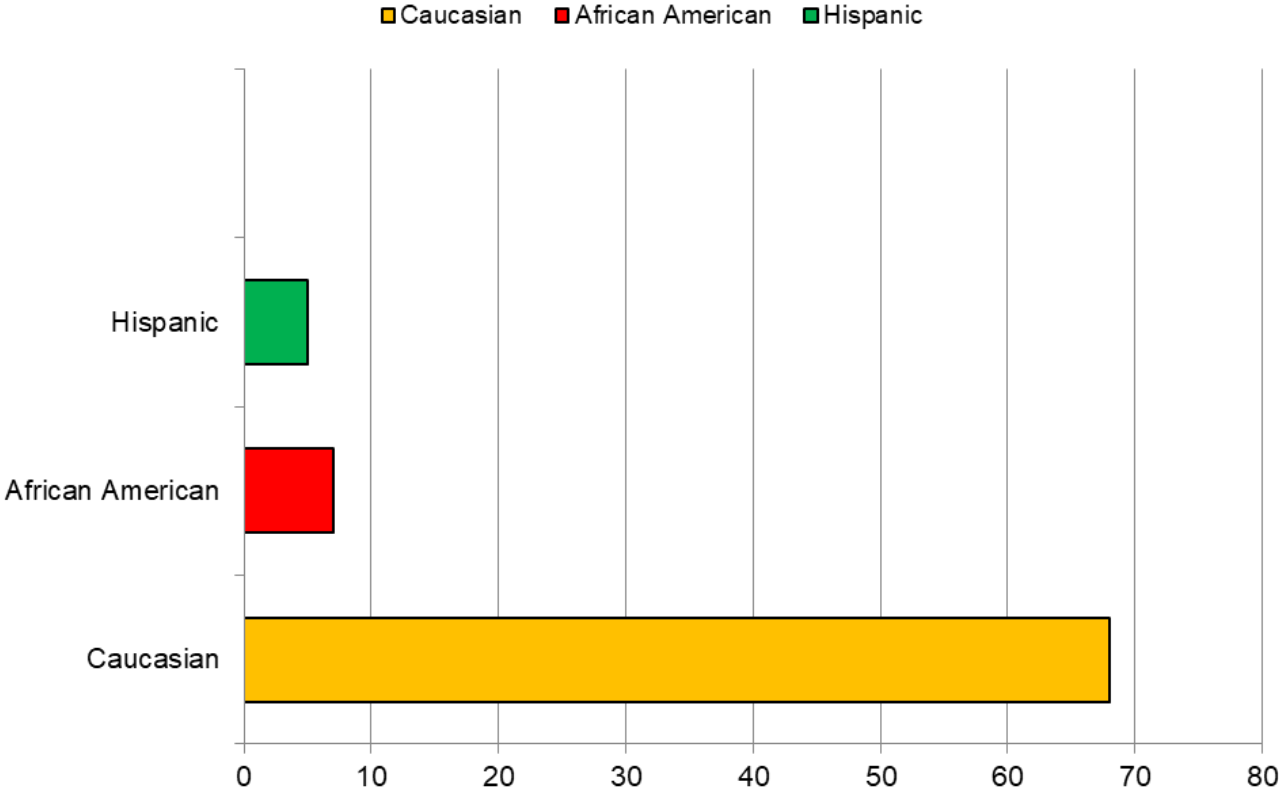
Full time or Part time



Employee Gender



Employee Race



Community Partners

It is with profound appreciation that the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Division, recognizes its community partners who have contributed time and services to various efforts that uphold our vision of: "Safe Communities, Healthy families." It is the mission of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Division to promote collaborative partnerships with private and public entities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Greene County.

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| A Sporting Chance | Safe and Sober |
| Ambassadors for Children | School Police Services |
| Better Life in Recovery | Springfield Fire Department |
| Boys and Girls Club | Springfield Police Department |
| Burrell Behavior Health | Springfield Parks Department |
| Central Assembly of God | Springfield Public Schools |
| Cox Health | The Victim Center |
| Center for Dispute Resolution | Willard Police Department-PALS |
| Chaffee | Dogwood Ranch |
| Child Advocacy Center | Music Therapy of the Ozarks-Drury |
| Children's Division | OACAC |
| Community Partnership of the Ozarks | Matthew 25 Project-Drury |
| Division of Youth Services | Springfield Dream Center |
| Freeway Ministries | Southern Missouri Women Lawyers |
| Great Circle | Jordan Valley Clinic |
| Greene County, MO Offices | Trudi's Kids |
| Horses of Hope | Drury University |
| Hy-Vee | On Angel's Wings |
| Legal Services of Southwest Missouri | Ozarks Food Harvest |
| Mercy Corporate Health | Northwest Project |
| Missouri Alliance | Convoy of Hope |
| Missouri Career Center | Care to Learn |
| Missouri Mentoring Partnership | Adopt a Street |
| Missouri State University Nursing School | Adopt a Stream |
| Ozarks Technical Community College | Southwest Center for Independent Living |
| Parkview Christian Church | |



