



LEHIGH COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

To foster prevention and reduction of juvenile crime; respond to the needs of the victim; promote community safety, restoration and development; empower youth and their families through the interaction of the court.



Prepared by:
Elizabeth A. Fritz, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Thomas J. Ganser, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Sally Jo Bortz, Court Operations Officer
Lisa Whitcomb, Secretarial Support II

LEHIGH COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

JUVENILE PROBATION ADMINISTRATORS

Elizabeth A. Fritz - Chief
Thomas J. Ganser - Deputy Chief
Debra J. Kopenhaver - Supervisor
Eric M. Holben - Supervisor
Joseph M. Reichard - Supervisor
Jeffrey Nonnemacher - Supervisor
Ryan N. Schaffer - Supervisor
Shannon Semmel - Supervisor
Sally Bortz - Court Operations Officer
Kathleen Eslinger - Office Manager

PROBATION OFFICERS

Christina Anthony	Kevin Barry	Lisa Y. Costello	Traci Davies
Gary DeLong	Patricia Evers	Roslyn Fendrick	Eva Frederick
Todd Furjanic	Manuel F. Gomez	Karen A. Hammer	Charles J. Hoch
Lynn Jankowski	Aaron Lichtfus	Jonathan Lilly	Jonathan Kuykendall
Nicole Miller	Gregory Moore	Brian Muschlitz	Vincent Pioli
Bryon Reynolds	Mary K. Riegel	Scott Schaeffer	Aaron Scharper
Jackie Seidman	David G. Spadt	Melody S. Stocker	Jeremy Warke
Jason Weaver	Edward Weiland	Cindy Wendt	Jason Kehm
Jason Parton	Fabiola Gerhard		

PROBATION OFFICER AIDES

Madelynn Baran	Shirley Bartynski	Michael Berger	Tyrone Cousins
Laura Mamay	Sherry W. Miller	Susan Sedora	

SUPPORT STAFF

Annette M. Haftl	Stephanie L. Anewalt	Ramona Vreeland	Helen Rivera
Liza Carrasquillo	Jane E. Fenstermaker	Milagros Ruiz-Estremera	Lisa Whitcomb

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE WORK SERVICE PART TIME POSITIONS

Yazmin Ramos	Zachary Maslany	Angel Almonte	Anna Gonzalez
Stacy Shultz	Jerome Neely		

2012 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout 2012, the Juvenile Probation staff has shown their unending commitment to professionalize our system and our department. The activities underway this year were significant both in programs and initiatives; but also in the continued effort to improve the daily operations and administrative work. The supervisory staff, in particular, has shown a tremendous willingness to see this work come to fruition, yet is celebratory when recognizing the tremendous strides we have made. Much of the work that began years ago continues. We recognize that the effort to implement the changes will be ongoing for some time. Departmentally we continued with the many JJSES activities and have been recognized statewide for our efforts. All of the strategies implemented will hopefully have an impact on recidivism and more positive outcomes.

In 1974 Robert Martinson, in his infamous report wrote, "***The rehabilitative efforts that have been reported so far have had no appreciable effect on recidivism...Does nothing work?***" As in so many disciplines, the depth of knowledge and research is outpacing our ability to keep up. The juvenile justice system has seen an incredible amount of research in the area of what works. Significant advances have been made in understanding what correlates and influences youth criminal activity.

The goals of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) align with those of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ). JJSES seeks to reduce harm by applying the best-known research to the principles and goals of BARJ. The activities within Juvenile Probation are now required to align with these principals. The impact of the legislative change to the purpose clause in the Juvenile Act to include evidence based expectations, combined with the many modifications and amendments to the Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure, the changes in the grant in aid process, and other changes affected by the Luzerne County scandal; has increased our department's workload. An enormous amount of time has been spent in training staff in the many areas of change. We are pleased to report that most, if not all of the training, has been funded through grants, state training dollars, or grant in aid dollars.

From 2009-2012 our department has implemented all the state required activities. Equally important is that through critical evaluation we have come to trust that these strategies will have the intended results; more positive outcomes for youth, while maintaining public safety. Over the years and inclusive of 2012, our department has completed many JJSES activities, some of which include:

- Ongoing training for staff on the YLS and identification of additional master trainers who provide ongoing booster training, and policy development;
- Development of custom reports for the YLS and contribution toward suggested state developed reports;
- Education and ongoing training of staff on evidence based practices and ongoing work with steering committee;
- County participation on EBP regional training sessions;
- Training of DA/PPD/Conflict Counsel on Risk Need Instruments (YLS);
- Purchase of several evidenced based "tools" to assist with our interventions;
- Caseload evaluations updated for consistency and inclusive of evidence based expectations;
- Management receive additional training on EBP ppt. delivery (for staff);
- Roll out of Motivational Interviewing with MI 101, continued booster trainings, formed an MI committee, policy development;
- Updated our department website;
- Developed a low risk probation officer position;
- Development of Program Coordinator position for most success of programs and adherence to fidelity;
- Began discussion and committee work on graduated responses;
- Collection of data surrounding programs use, fidelity of programming, and cost effectiveness;
- Attendance at Georgetown University on the research behind Serious, Chronic Offenders, Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project, and Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) as state team/county representation. Pilot county for the SPEP initiative;
- Establishment of a County Case Plan Committee, training on the case plan, and utilization of the state automated case plan in JCMS;

- Court information updated to be inclusive of EBP language;
- Training staff on case plan;
- Court information updated to be inclusive of EBP/YLS language;
- Eight PO's trained in facilitation of Cognitive Based Interventions through NCTI

The Juvenile Probation Department continued to work intensively as part of the JDAI initiative. As part of this work, the Youth Crime and Violence Task Force was restructured. We completed a JDAI site assessment and Detention Utilization Study. Various workgroups we formed to address the results of these assessments. These workgroups include Race and Ethnic Disparities, Alternatives to Detention/ Graduated Responses & Objective Decision Making. This work emphasized the importance of being data driven and we developed approximately 30 reports, adding to the 100+ reports already in existence.

Our department continued to have a seat on various countywide committees including the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, the Children's Roundtable, Truancy/Education subcommittee, and the Systems of Care/Youth Cross System Team. Additionally, many of our system partners continue to collaborate in many of the juvenile probation department workgroups.

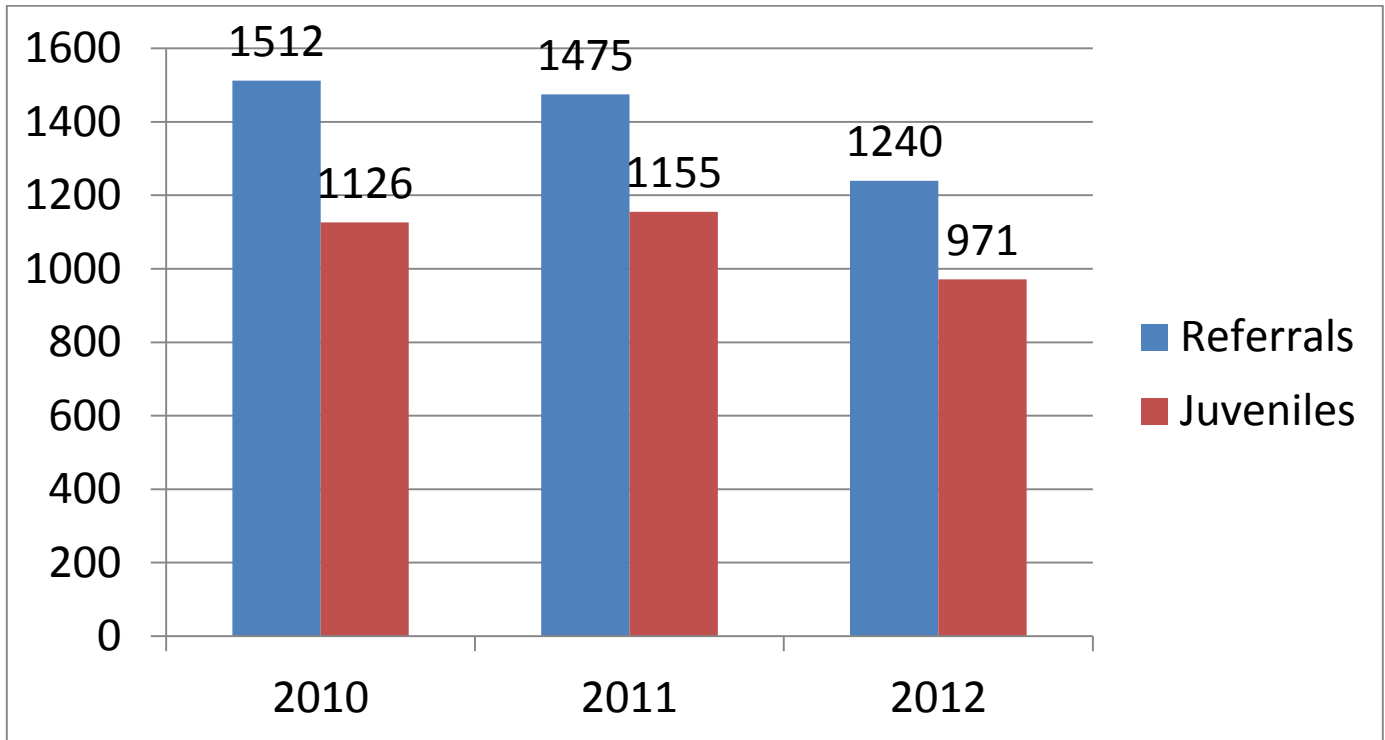
Our department continued to improve our business processes in some of the following ways:

- Continued updates of policies;
- Continued collaborative work with police on gang intelligence gathering and gang tracking;
- Updated all the job descriptions;
- Redesigning the personnel evaluations and policy around completion of such;
- Continued electronic transitioning of documentation;
- Continued assessment of the outcomes of programs and placements that we utilize;
- Continued evaluation on methods to reduce costs, both operational and placement;
- Ongoing report development in JCMS for data collection and evaluation;
- Continued focus on quality assurance;
- More consistent and structured expectations of supervisor oversight of staff and case management

While the hard work continues, we believe that we are beginning to see progress in understanding and incorporating the many system changes, and enhancing the accountability and structured approach to operations and personnel matters. We recognize that this work will never be complete, but we are very proud of our accomplishments.

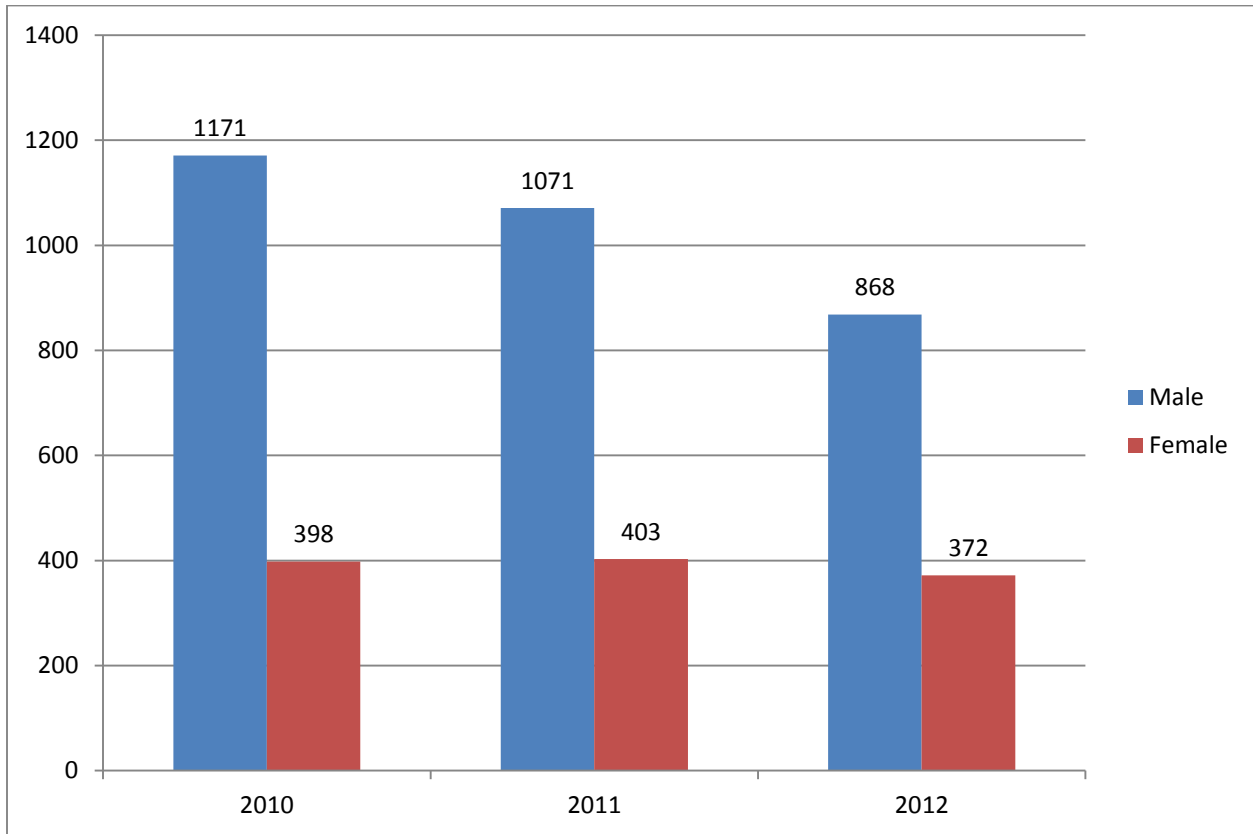
Number of Referrals vs. Number of Youth

The following chart reflects the total number of cases and youths referred to our department for the past three years. Juveniles referred for multiple cases are only counted once. The number of youth referred to our department and the number of referrals reached their apex around 2004-2005 and have been trending down in subsequent years. Referrals and juveniles were down significantly (both -16%) from the previous year. As noted last year, the ratio between juveniles and referrals has consistently closed. The ratio of referrals to juveniles was the same as 2011, 78%. This ratio has been increasing steadily over the years, meaning we had fewer juveniles referred for multiple offenses in the same year.



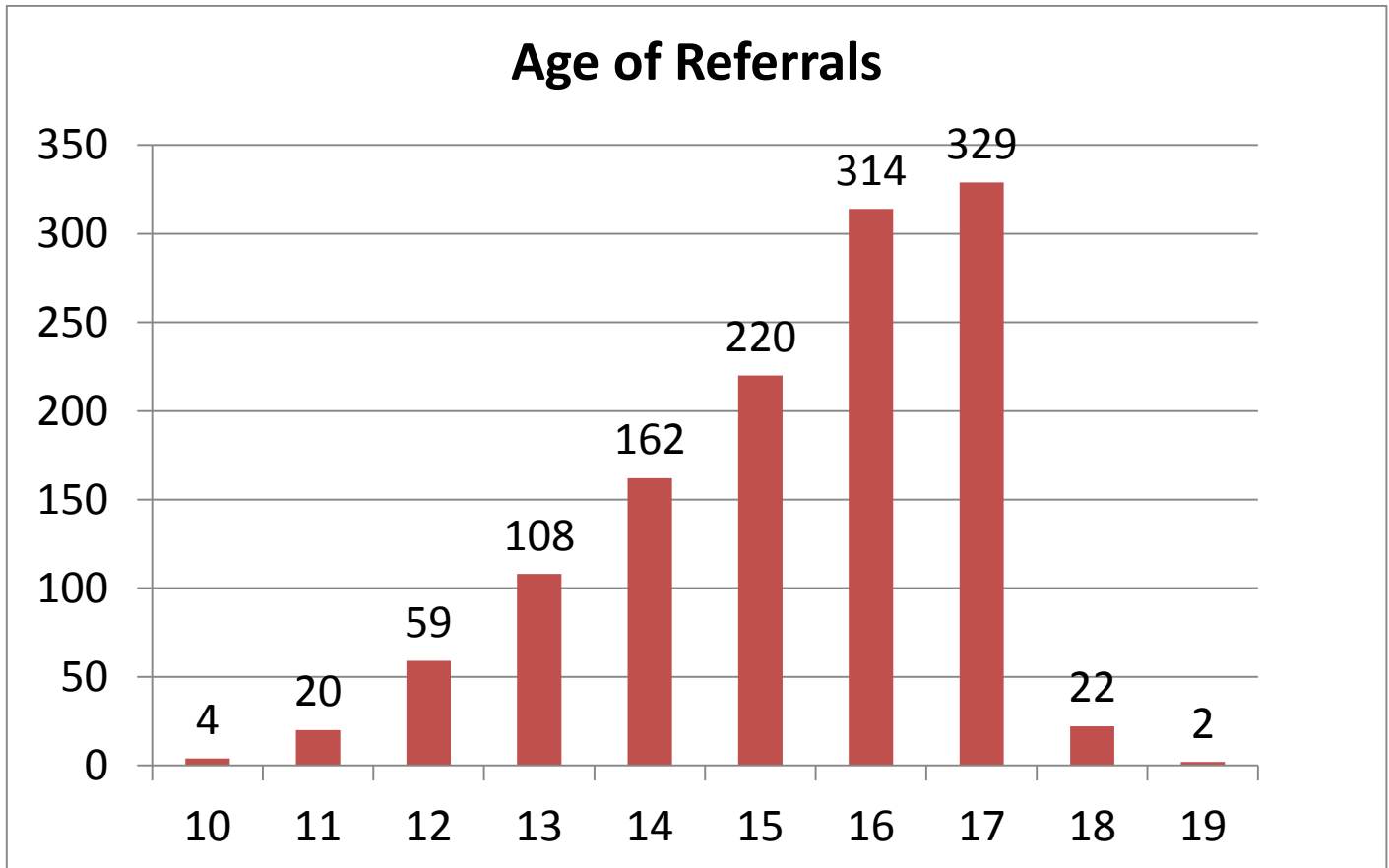
Number of Youth by Gender

The ratio of male to female clients does not fluctuate much from year to year. Therefore, the 3% increase in allegations for females last year with the 2% from the previous year is worth noting. Females were over represented in violent offenses like assaults on teachers (55%), disorderly conduct for fighting (39%) and harassment (35%); however, the percentage of referrals for fighting and harassment in 2012 were lower than in 2011. We also received referrals for nonpayment of fines on disorderly conduct for females at the rate of 58%. The other category of offense that teenage girls commit more than their male counterparts is retail theft. Last year, females were referred for 66% of all retail thefts. That was the same as the previous year.



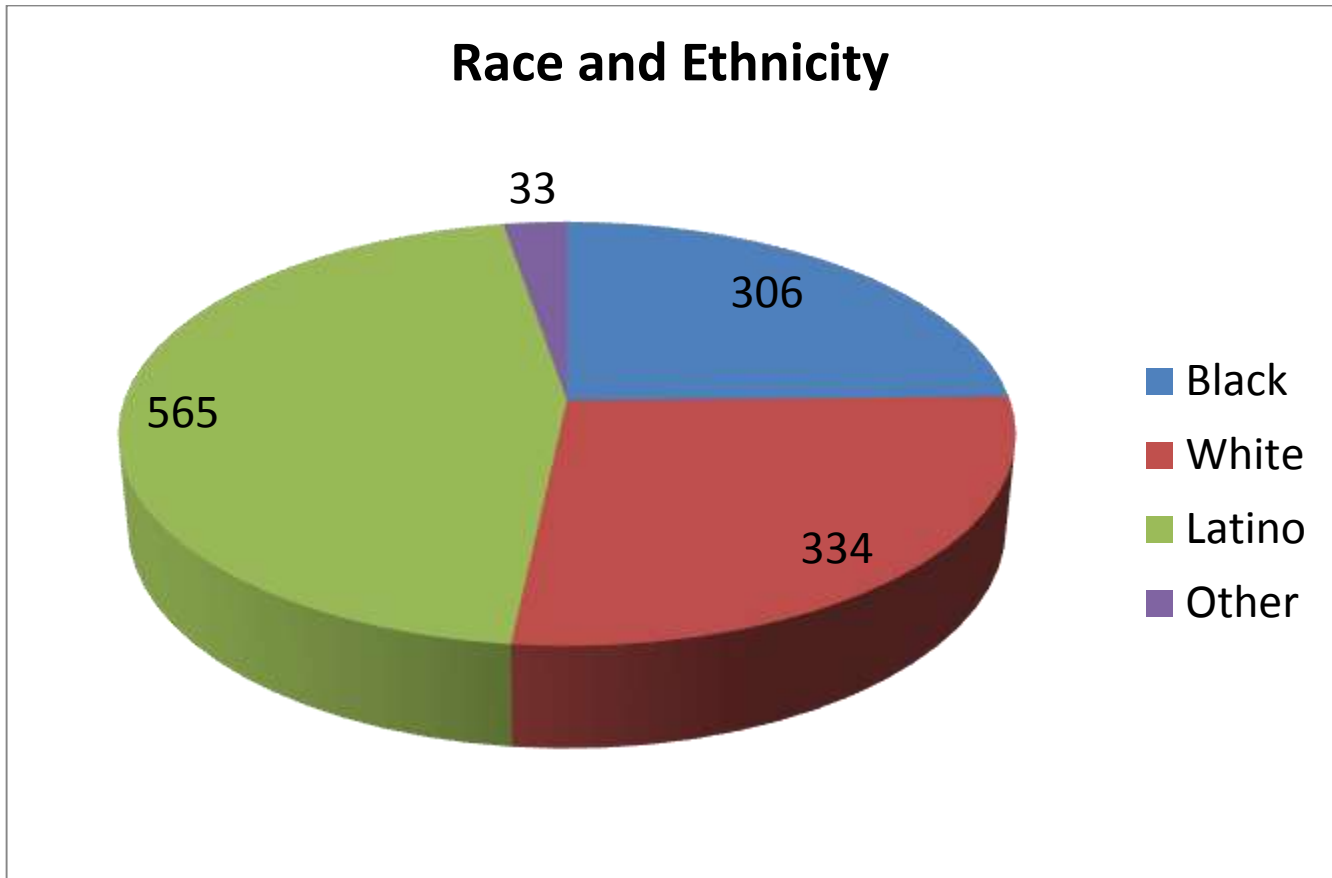
Referrals by Age

The breakdown of youth referred based on their ages usually remains consistent. However, there were some interesting shifts last year compared to the previous years. Sixteen and seventeen year olds constitute a little more than half (52%) of all our referrals. This is an increase from the preceding year. We are especially interested in tracking the age of our most youthful offenders, the ten to thirteen age groups. Research indicates a higher risk to reoffend for youth engaged in delinquent activity at a younger age. Last year, this group accounted for 15% of all referrals. This is 2% lower than 2011.



Race and Ethnicity

Our department has given more scrutiny to our demographics especially in comparing the percentage of minority youth being referred to the percentage of those detained, those receiving services and those placed. Last year, Latino youths represented 46% of all juveniles referred. This has not changed in the last three years. Referrals for White youth decreased by 2% to 27%. The percentage of Black youth, which had remained relatively unchanged for the past five years at 22 to 23%, increased to almost 25%. Compared to their representation on cases referred to the department, Black youth were overrepresented in detention admissions by 8%. Admissions of Latino youth was relatively the same, +1%, as their referral rate. White youth were admitted 10% less to detention than what they were referred to the department.



Significant Offenses Referred

There was a 12% decrease in the offenses listed in the chart below from the previous year. This is less than the 17% decrease in overall referrals. Only Possession of Drug Charges and Serious Sexual Offenses increased. The latter offense was still much lower than its occurrence two years ago. Robbery charges continued to decrease significantly. They were down another 46% and that is after they were down 30% the previous year. Burglary offenses were almost cut in half and Aggravated Assaults were down by 31%.

Significant Offenses Referred

Offenses	2010	2011	2012
Aggravated Assault	72	77	53
Arson	13	8	3
Burglary	50	72	37
Criminal Mischief	84	78	52
Drug Dealing Offenses	52	56	50
Possession of Drug Charges	168	183	209
Robbery	108	76	41
Serious Sexual Offenses	59	17	21
Simple Assault	335	270	261
Terroristic Threats	52	42	33
Theft	316	240	226
Weapons Charges	66	76	64
Totals	1375	1195	1050

Referral Sources

The majority of police departments referred less juveniles last year compared to the preceding year with some minor exceptions. The Allentown Police Department remains the primary source of referrals to our department. They referred 56% of all our police referrals last year. This percentage has been consistent the past couple of years. Whitehall Police provides the second most referrals, 8%. This is down 2% from the previous year and it is the lowest number of referrals from that department in over ten years.

There were no other departments that showed any significant changes in cases referred to our department when viewed over the past couple of years. South Whitehall referrals almost doubled in 2011, but they went down 37% last year. Referrals from the Bethlehem Police slid to the lowest number we have on record. It should also be noted that we received 28 cases from the Auto Theft Task Force. This was their highest total in the past three years.

Referral Source	2009	2010	2011	2012
Alburtis	3	3	2	2
Allentown	507	554	572	472
Berks Lehigh	12	11	11	15
PSP-Bethlehem	40	45	67	51
Bethlehem	44	79	38	25
Catasauqua	19	15	16	13
Coopersburg	3	3	4	2
Coplay	4	6	5	7
Emmaus	40	42	41	31
PSP-Fogelsville	58	55	38	45
Fountain Hill	10	6	3	7
Macungie	7	2	5	3
Salisbury	18	13	22	21
Slatington	25	13	21	18
South Whitehall	61	38	75	47
Upper Saucon	22	14	21	9
Whitehall	95	113	100	68

Types of Disposition

2010 and 2011 data for this section was taken from the Juvenile Court Judges Commission Disposition report. 2012 data was not available at the time of this report, but the numbers below were calculated in the same manner. Placement dispositions are based only on new allegations. It does not include placements resulting from a review hearing. There were another 54 placements that were a consequence of a review hearing, which typically means it was on violations of probation. Informal Adjustment dispositions decreased dramatically. This was largely attributable to the change in how we dispose of Non-payment cases from the Magisterial District Courts. The main disposition used for those cases is now "Payment Plan". That type of disposition increased by 73 cases. Approximate one-third of the Informal Adjustments were for nonpayment cases last year compared to two-thirds the previous year.

Disposition	2010		2011		2012
Informal Adjustments	217		240		151
Consent Decrees	191		177		187
Probation	352		392		331
Placement	154		149		94

Diversion Programs

As noted last year, the department determined that one probation officer should supervise low-risk offenders with less serious offenses and have minimal expectations. They should also be prevented from being mixed with our higher risk youth. A probation officer was assigned to supervise this unique caseload. There were 84 cases assigned to this probation officer last year.

First time offenders who are alleged to have committed less serious offenses are diverted to our Community Justice Panels. The panels are recruited, trained and facilitated by the Impact Project. Panels are comprised of community volunteers and serve in every part of the county, allowing juveniles to attend panels in their own communities. The panels handle both misdemeanor and summary offenses and referrals come from police, magisterial district courts and our department. School Justice Panels were initiated three years ago in the Allentown School District. The School Justice Panels utilize various professionals as panel members who assess each juvenile's circumstances and prescribe interventions to address their needs.

Referrals from our department to the Community Justice Panels were minimal last year. Like the previous year, the majority of referrals came directly from police departments. This may indicate that police departments have become more familiar with the panels and screening their own cases and determining if they are appropriate for diversion. The panels received 217 referrals overall.

YEAR	CJP cases referred	# of cases accepted	Successful completions
2010	74	57	46
2011	37	30	26
2012	10	9	8

Out of Home Services

Detention

Detention admissions continue to decline. The 356 juveniles detained last year was the lowest number of juveniles admitted to secure detention since we began keeping records. There has been a 52% decrease in admissions during the five-year span covered by the chart below. It is interesting to note that referrals to the department decreased by 31% during those same five years. The average time in detention decreased by more than a day. In addition to the decreased referrals, one of the potential explanations for the declining admissions is the increased use of electronic monitoring. There were 19 more youth placed on electronic monitoring last year compared to the preceding year. The 285 youth placed on electronic monitoring was the highest total for a single year.

It should be noted that Lehigh County is one of four counties in Pennsylvania participating in the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative. Some of the strategies that Lehigh County has adopted from this initiative are the use of an objective admissions screening instrument, alternatives to detention, addressing the disproportionate minority contacts at various decision points including detention authorization, the use of data in making decisions related to any of the strategies, and collaboratively addressing the detention related issues with partners in the communities and agencies who have a vested interest in these issues.

YEAR	# of LCDH Placement	# of Juveniles Represented	Average Time in LCDH (days)
2008	747	576	15.77
2009	670	529	15.57
2010	522	391	17.30
2011	432	329	18.42
2012	356	271	16.01

Placement

The table below represents juveniles in placement during a given year, not necessarily those committed those years. The percentage of State vs. Private placement has stayed relatively the same. Total placements decreased almost 24% from the previous year. It should also be noted that weekend sanctions were utilized 14% less last year.

	Private	State	Total
2012	189	107	270 (unduplicated youth)
2011	221	138	337 (unduplicated youth)
2010	226	117	320 (unduplicated youth)

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE WORK SERVICE (CAWS)

The Community Alternative Work Service Program has been in operation since 1983. The programs have gone through many modifications and additions since that time. Presently, the CAWS programs are organized as such: The CAWS I program represents the traditional concept of community service. We hold youth accountable for their offenses by the primary means. CAWS II is our Young Offenders Program. Youth who are under the age of fourteen participate in this educational program that highlights issues like personal responsibility, drug and alcohol use, and victim awareness. CAWS III is our restitution program. Juveniles perform community service and are credited for each hour they complete. Checks are sent to victims for this credited amount. CAWS IV is our competency development groups. Juveniles are assigned to our health care, culinary, 4-H, construction, and community activity groups that are led by our workcrew supervisors. Finally, we also operate a school suspension program. If a juvenile is suspended from school, they are expected to report to the department to perform community service.

Highlights

CAWS has been the main vehicle by which our department has reached out and collaborated with numerous organizations and municipalities over the years. The impression the community has of our department and its mission has generally been created through the efforts of our community service programs. Workcrews have been dispatched to all parts of the county. Hundreds of different worksites were utilized throughout the county to assure the completion of hours. Last year we employed almost 150 different worksites and projects to accomplish our goals.

Below are some of the more interesting projects completed this year:

- 177 Juveniles completed 2,369.50 hours at the Allentown Recycling Drop-off center.
- 275 hours of community service was completed at the Lower Milford Fire Company assisting with Dinner preparation and service. Dinners are prepared two times monthly (spaghetti / pork and Sauerkraut). The funds are used to benefit the fire company.
- Juvenile have worked with community organizations to fight hunger by working with local agencies to distribute food to the needy.
- Maintained two gardens, one in Whitehall and one in Allentown. Food generated was donated to local food banks.
- Juveniles completed community service at the Community Fellowship Cathedral and Children's First Academy providing childcare services and completing administrative tasks. Fifty-six juveniles completed 635 hours at this site.
- 45 juveniles completed community service by providing custodial services at the General Curtis National Guard Armory. In addition, 2029 special project hours were completed. These projects include snow-shoveling, working at local churches, attending youth conferences and working at local festivals
- Two PO's, one PO Aide and one PO supervisor traveled to New York along with 6 juveniles to support local residents in their efforts to clean up their homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. PO Moore coordinated the effort. 44 juvenile completed 606 hours in the LCCC / CAWS 4 program.
- Thirty-five juveniles participated in College Mentoring Program
- Christmas Party for the Children that live in the Mosser Village Family Center
- Lehigh County Juvenile Probation, The Children's Home of Reading and The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor utilized grant money to create a summer work program to provide individuals with an employment opportunity to help them generate income to be used for restitution. This program also supported the participants by developing strong work skills, developing competencies as well as improving social skills.

- The Annual Community Service Luncheon was held in November.
- Fifteen juveniles participated in the Baum School of Art program.
- PO Hammer coordinated and supervised the Annual Juvenile Probation Clothing Drive, which provides clothing to families of need with a child under court supervision. Juveniles on probation help to sort, fold and organize donated clothing.
- Eighty juveniles completed over 873 hours of community service in the Stitches of Love Program knitting and looming hats for underprivileged families and newborn babies.
- PO Hammer coordinated a carwash using juveniles who owe community service hours to raise money to fund the BAUM school program.

CAWS TOTALS	2011	2012
ACCEPTED	675	539
CLOSED	854	774
HOURS COMPLETED	24,199	23,717
CAWS III TOTALS		
ACCEPTED	74	102
PAID \$	\$23,511.37	\$32,036.28
# VICTIMS PAID	105	94

Department Programs

College Mentoring: Selected juveniles visit local colleges to receive help with homework, join activities, and learn about college enrollment.

Community Justice on Wheels: Community based probation officers have taken to the streets with a bicycle patrol to make home and school visits, enhances visibility in the community, and become more accessible for the neighborhood residents.

Victim Advocate Unit: Victim advocates address the needs and concerns of victims of juvenile crime and the juvenile probation officer assigned to the case.

Community Outreach: Juvenile probation representatives meet with civic and community organizations to provide information about services and encourage involvement from the community.

Intensive Aftercare Services: Private agencies assist the Juvenile Probation Department in supervising and counseling youth upon their return from a residential treatment program.

School Based Probation: Probation officers work in the schools and address issues related to academic performance and behavior and provide classroom presentations on the consequences for illegal behavior.

1992 PA Juvenile Court Operated Program Award

Young Artist Program: The Young Artist Program through the Baum School of Art provides art instruction to juveniles between the ages of 13 to 18 whom are under probation supervision in Lehigh County in order for them to realize their personal strengths and their self-esteem through their artistic talents. Under the direction of a professional art teacher, students engage in two-hour art classes once a week for ten weeks.

Firewood Program: Selected juveniles are court ordered to perform their community service hours at the woodpile where they cut, split and stack firewood, which is then sold by the truckload. The proceeds are used to pay victims of juvenile crime.

Alcohol and Drug Awareness: Probation officers provide information in a group discussion setting concerning the social and legal implications of alcohol and drug abuse.

1998 PA Juvenile Court Operated Program Award

S.P.O.R.E.: Special Program for Offenders in Rehabilitation & Education is a collaborative program with the Lehigh County MH/MR Agency that provides both a probation officer and a mental health caseworker for youth in need of intensive supervision and MH/MR casework services.

1999 PA Juvenile Court Operated Program Award

Outcome Measures

The Juvenile Probation Department has been recording and tracking outcome measures on closed cases since 2003. These outcomes serve somewhat as a report card on our department's activities. It enables us to ascertain how many juveniles completed probation successfully, how many were charged with direct file charges, how many juveniles violated their probation and how much restitution was collected, to name just a few of the areas. As we move forward, it is our intent to analyze this information more carefully, as well as a variety of other reports, in order to evaluate areas that need to be addressed or improved.

Outcome measures were completed on 791 juveniles last year

- 79.9% of those juveniles completed supervision without committing a new offense
- 83% completed supervision without a judicial finding of a technical violation of probation
- Median length of time on supervision was ten months
- 87.3% of youth completed their community service obligation
- 81.3% made full restitution to their victims

Staff Training

During 2012, the juvenile probation staff received training in the following areas:

- Penn DOT training
- Defensive Tactics Certification and Recertification
- JJSES Monograph Review
- Motivational Interviewing
- Case Plan Training
- Interstate Compact Training'
- Synthetic Drugs
- Cyberbullying, Internet Safety, Abuse of RX Drugs
- SORNA training
- YLS Booster trainings
- 2012 OUT OF OFFICE TRAININGS
- PTSD & Addiction in the continuing Care Process
- Education Symposium
- Technology and Delinquency
- Portal Training/various staff
- Sexting
- Identifying and Understanding Tattoos
- PA Conference on Family Group Decision Making
- Matching Offenders to Services
- Leading Effective Groups
- Chronic Pain and Depression
- Stages of Recovery
- The Process of Relapse
- PowerPoint Training
- Control Tactics Instructors Course
- Human Trafficking in PA
- In Our own Voice Working Together: The Keystone for Success
- JDAI trainings
- Developmental Stages of Trauma