

Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan Update

Santa Cruz County will enter its sixth year of programs supported by funding from JJCPA in FY 2006-07. These programs serve diversion youth and youth on formal probation. The yearly JJCPA progress reports have demonstrated that the programs have had successful outcomes.

This document will serve to update the JJCPA plan to include the most recent Juvenile Probation Continuum of Services as well as to highlight changes in arrests rates, juvenile hall admission, the use of detention alternative programs, decreasing rates of disproportionate minority confinement, and reductions in CYA, Ranch Camp and Group Home Placement.

The JJCPA plan was originally produced in 2000 and used local demographic, arrest and juvenile hall data that profiled 1995 –1999. Since the start of the JJCPA program in FY 2001-2002, the Santa Cruz County Probation Department has documented several significant changes impacting the Juvenile Justice System. Santa Cruz has continued to be a national leader in detention reform as well an innovator in utilizing evidence based interventions to develop positive outcomes with probation involved youth. Many of the department's reform efforts have reduced the use of unnecessary detention without compromising public safety.

When compared to the 5 years prior the start of JJCPA programs, documented trends in arrest, juvenile hall booking data, population trends and rates of disproportionate minority confinement have changed and demonstrated that reform efforts and JJCPA programs have contributed to overall improvements in the juvenile justice system. The successes have drawn national attention and funding opportunities from foundations and state and federal agencies that have helped sustain the continuum of services.

The document will compare data pre (1995-1999) and post (2000-2005) JJCPA data and illustrate changes in arrests, juvenile hall admission and related data. Additionally, the final section of the document will highlight the significant changes in Probation's Continuum of Juvenile Services since 2005.

Juvenile Crime Areas

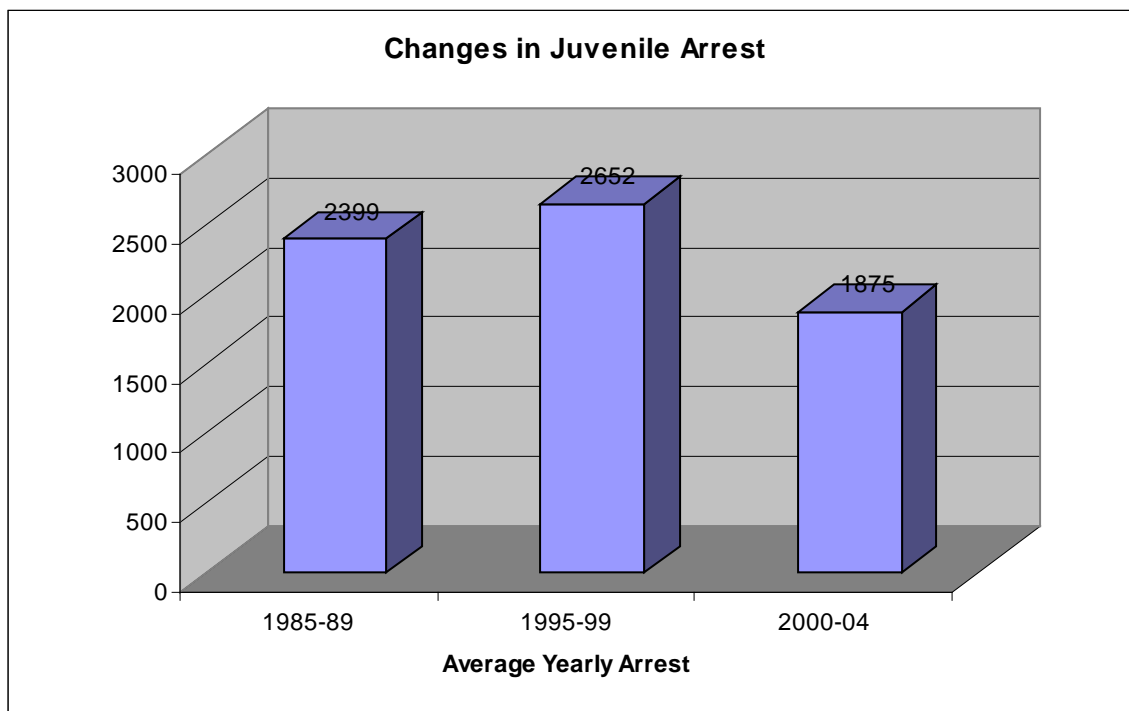
Update to Arrest Date

Source: California Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Statistics

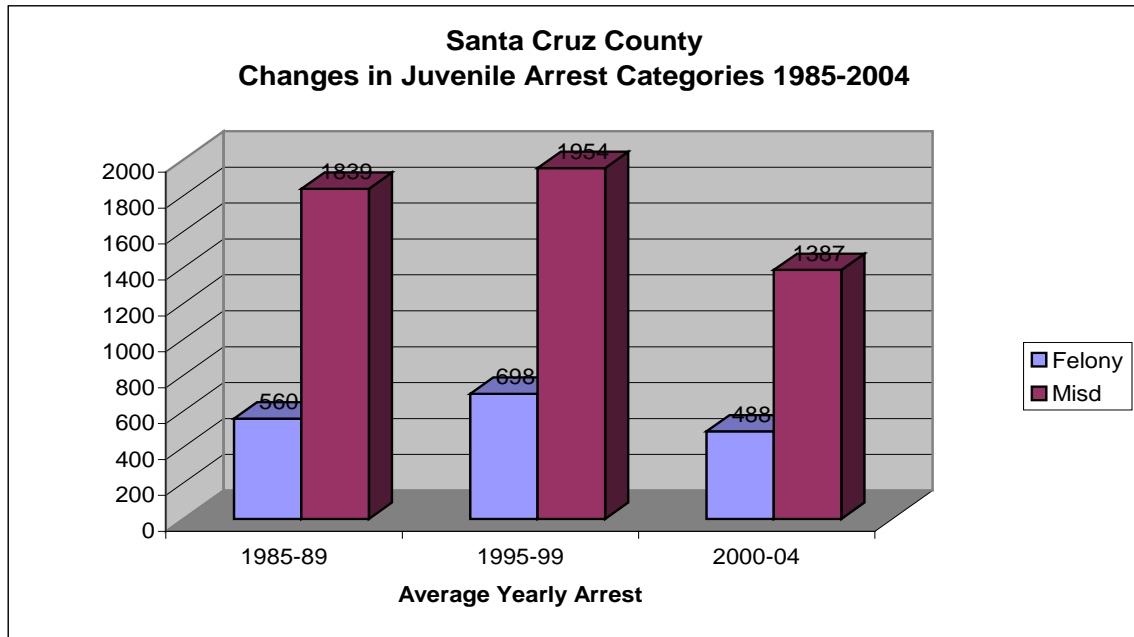
Refer to section 2.1 of the Santa Cruz Comprehensive Multi Agency Juvenile Justice Plan

Arrest: (this counts citation/referrals to probation by law enforcement)

The Following Chart shows that between 1995-1999 countywide arrest data showed an average of 2,652 juveniles being arrested each year by law enforcement. Between 2000 and 20005 arrest data showed an average of 1875 juveniles being arrested each year. This is 41% decrease.

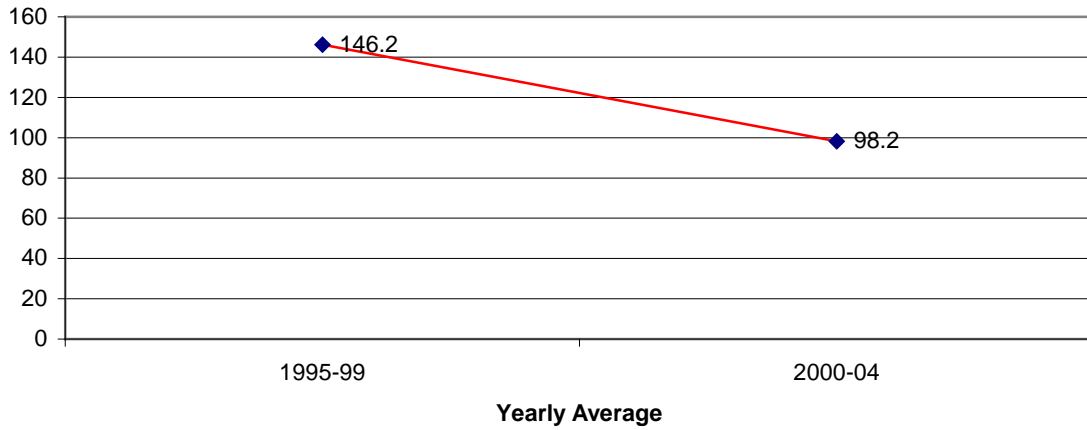


The following chart shows an overall reduction in both felony and misdemeanor offenses from 1995-1999 to 2000-2004 for all juveniles.

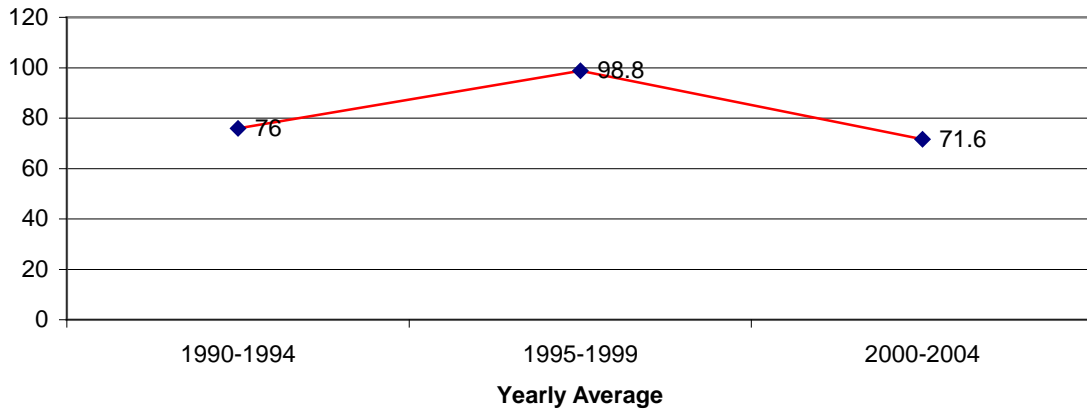


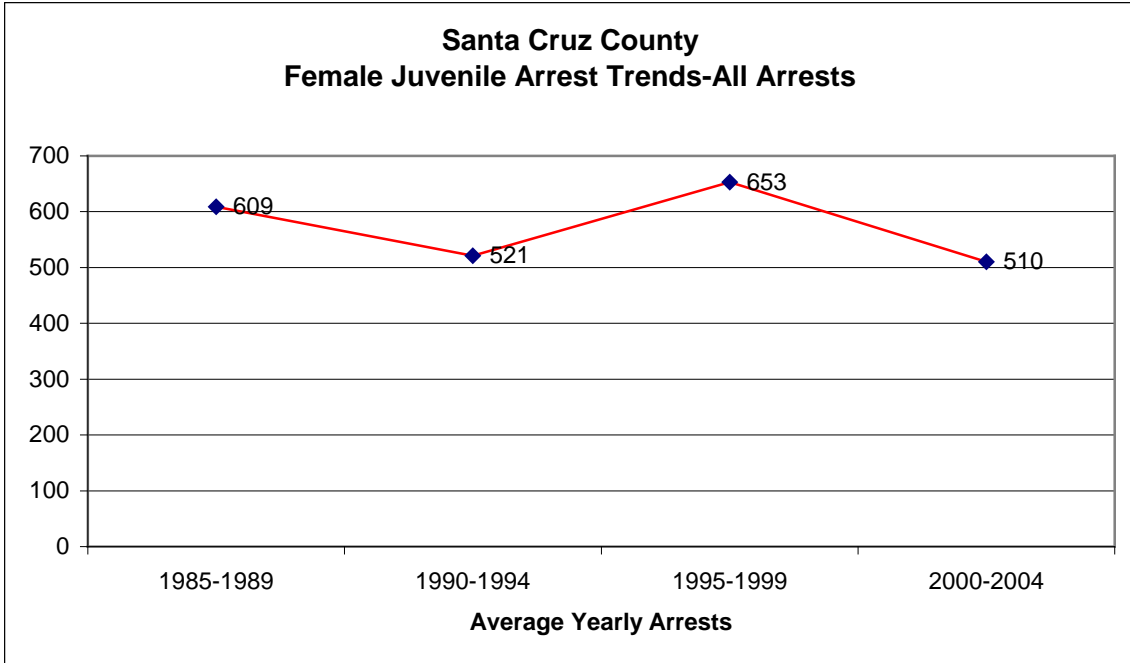
Average Yearly Arrest	1995-1999	2000-2004	Change
Felony	698	488	30% decrease
Misdemeanor	1954	1387	29% decrease

**Santa Cruz County
Number of Juvenile Felony/Misdemeanor Arrests for Violent
Offenses**

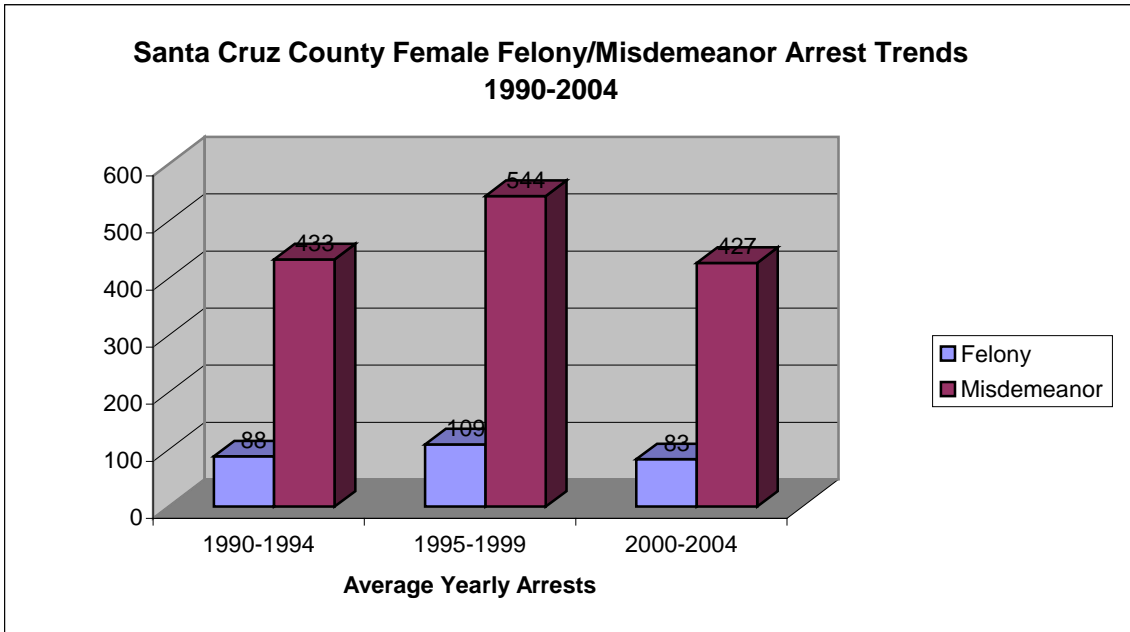


**Santa Cruz County
Number of Juvenile Felony/Misdemeanor Arrests involving
Weapons Offenses**





Average Yearly Arrest-All	1995-1999	2000-2004	Change
Females	653	510	22% decrease



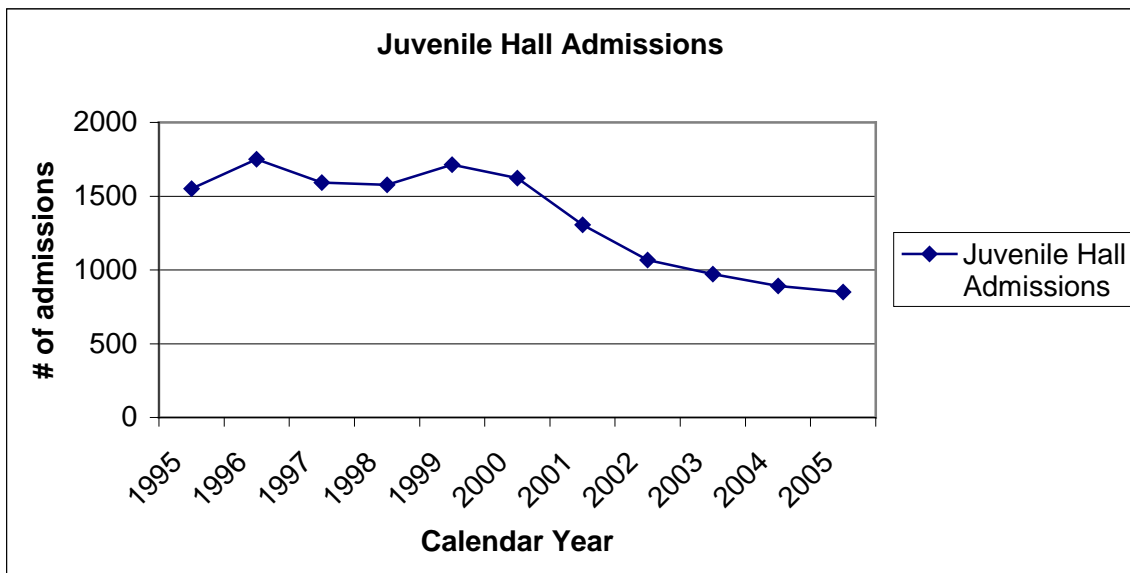
Female Average Yearly Arrest-All	1995-1999	2000-2004	Change
Felony	109	83	24% decrease
Misdemeanor	544	427	22% decrease

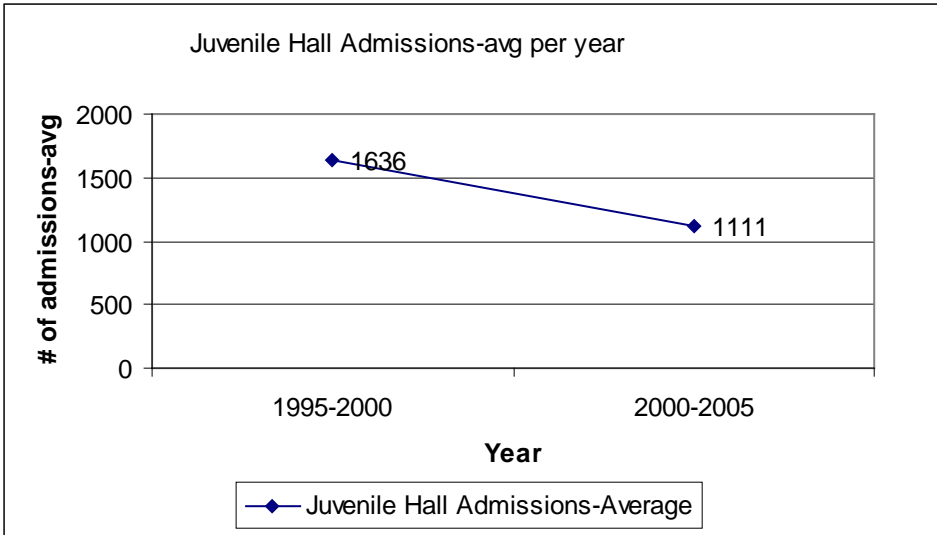
Juvenile Hall Admissions and Average Daily Population Trends

Juvenile Hall Admissions

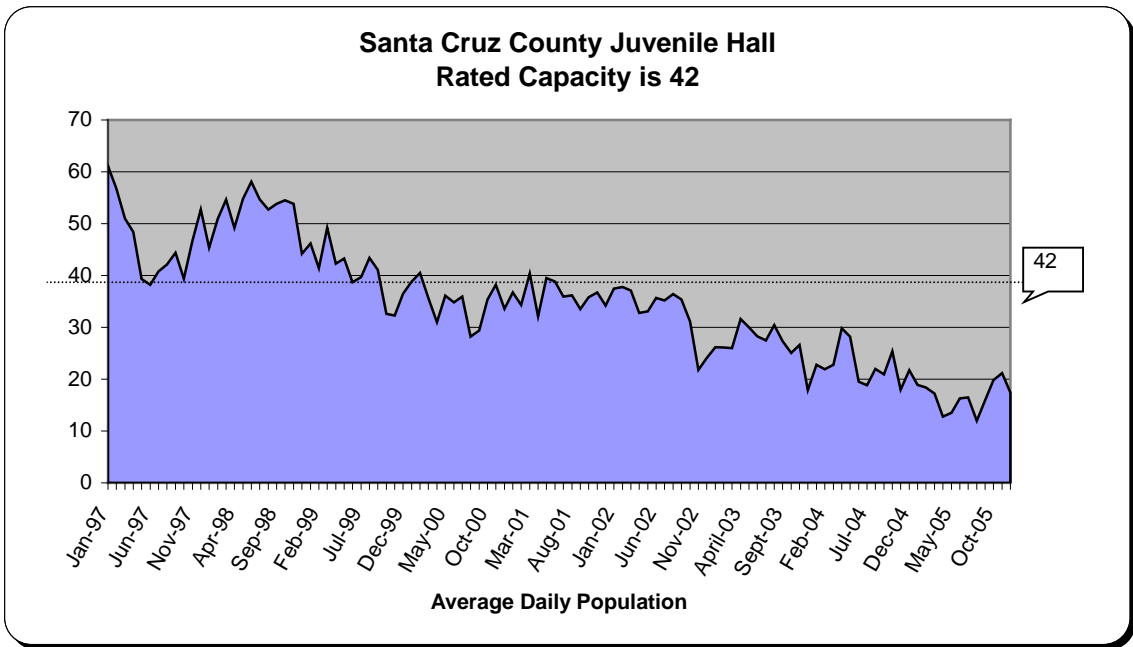
Refer to section 2.11 of the Santa Cruz Comprehensive Multi Agency Juvenile Justice Plan

Juvenile hall data continues to show a decrease in number of admissions, average daily attendance and length of stay. Much of this can be attributed to Detention Alternative Programs such as Electronic Monitoring, Home Supervision and the Evening Center Program. Many youth referred to these programs would have otherwise been in detention.



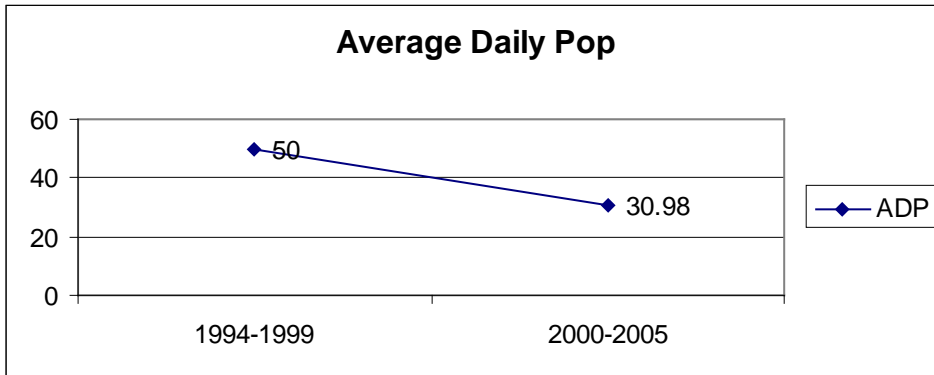


The above chart shows a significant decrease in the number of bookings in the juvenile hall. The average number of bookings for the time period of 2000-2005 dropped by 32% when compared to the time period of 1995 to 1999

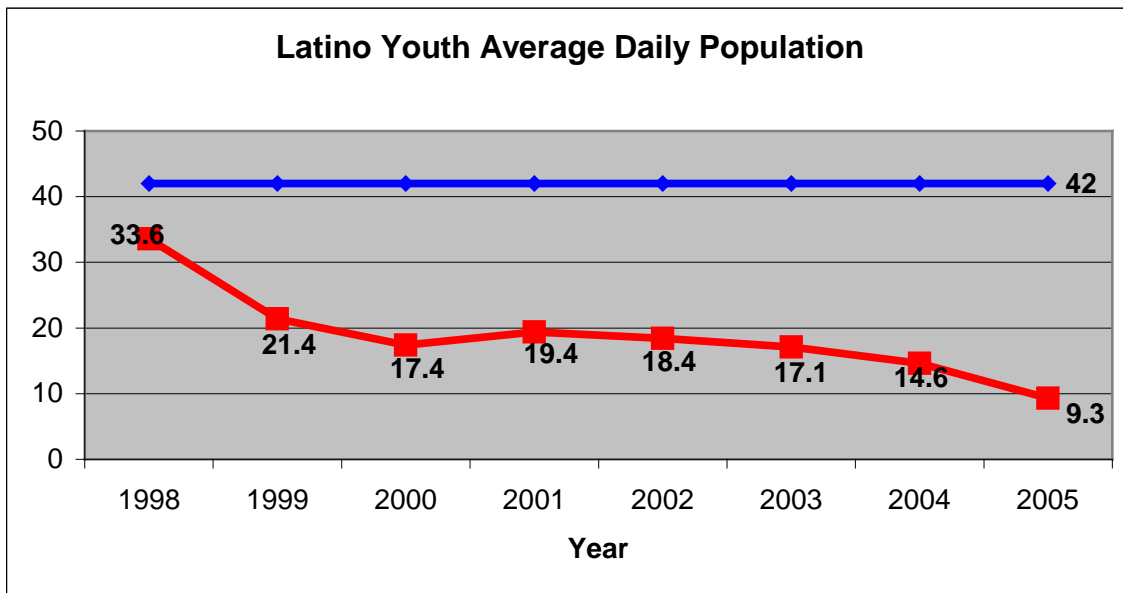


The above chart illustrates the dramatic decrease in the average daily population in juvenile hall. .

The following charts compare the time period before (pre 2000) and after JJCPA



The ADP dropped by 40% when comparing from the time period of 2000 -2005 to that of 1995 to 2000

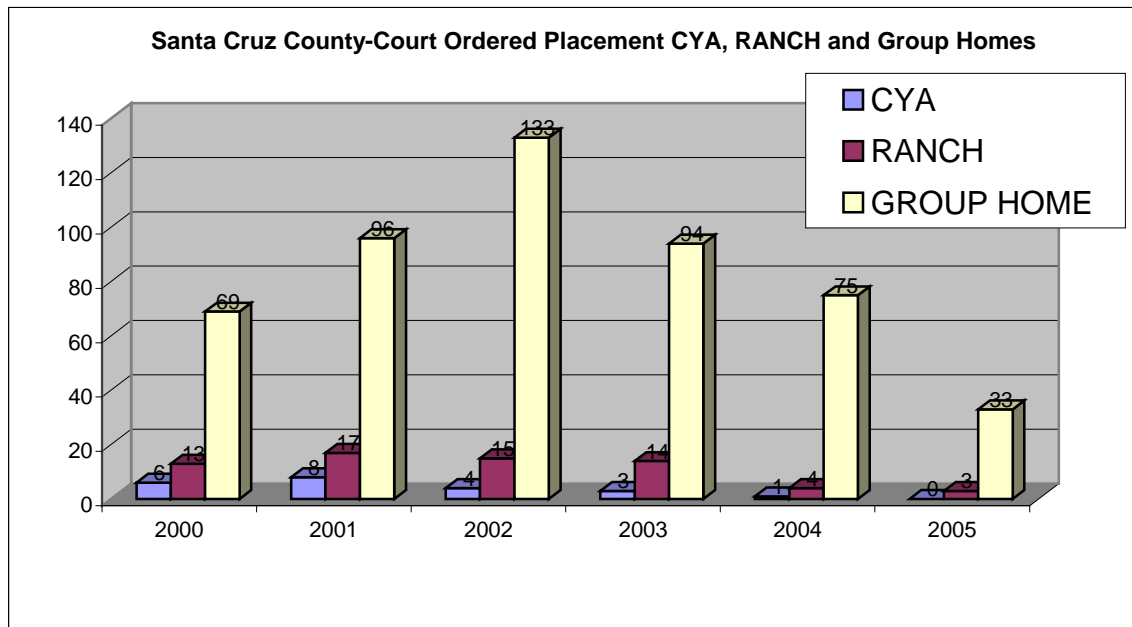


The above chart shows the consistent decline in the Latino Youth Average Daily Population.

Court Ordered Placement: CYA, RANCH and Group Homes

CYA commitments, Ranch Camp and Group Home Placements have considerably decreased since FY 2000. This trend follows the previous data that illustrated declining arrest rates and juvenile hall admissions. The loss of the Challenge Grant Day Treatment Programs and the closure of STAR in 2004 (see next section) left a gap in services that could have potentially lead to greater use of detention and out-of-home placement. Anticipating such increases, the probation department sought viable solutions to address this possibility and developed/or expanded existing services to prevent any increases. These will be described in the next section. The Probation Department's Placement Screening Committee, which meets weekly to review cases that appear to be at imminent risk for out-of-home placement has been more and more judicious in its recommendations regarding the removal of youth from their home and community. The above reasons, coupled with an overall decline in Juvenile delinquency appears partially explain the pattern.

The chart below shows that CYA commitments dropped by 100% between 2000 and 2005. Group Home placement dropped 75% from 2002 to 2005.



Significant Changes in the Continuum of Probation Services

There have been significant changes in the Probation Department's continuum of services since the start of JJCPA 2000. These changes involve the loss of 2 Challenge Grant funded Day Treatment Programs in June of 2003 and the closure of a residential facility known as the STAR program in October 2004. The closure of the Challenge Grant programs was due to the expiration of a 4-year funding cycle from the Corrections Standards Authority. The Challenge Grant supported two-day treatment programs located in distinct locations of the county. One location in South County served predominantly Latino youth, while the North County facility served a majority of Anglo youth. The STAR program closed in October of 2004 as a result decreases in funding.

The STAR and the Challenge Grant Day Treatment Programs served probation youth who were identified as needing out-of-home placement/residential care. Through a careful screening and assessment process youth were ordered into the STAR program for period of up to 6 months where strength-based assessment, treatment, recovery and transition plans were developed and implemented. The Challenge Grant Programs served youth who were identified as being at imminent risk for out-of-placement. The loss of these 2 programs created a gap in services that could have potentially led to a higher use of detention as an alternative to treatment. Planning for the closure of the programs included developing alternatives that would address how youth with serious substance use/abuse and mental health and delinquency issues could be served in the community while maintaining public safety. Since 2000, The Probation Department has been awarded several grants and also used existing federal, state and local funding to innovatively develop new programs to meet the needs of the youth once served by STAR and the Challenge Grant.

In 2002 Santa Cruz County Probation Department was awarded with a Grant From The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Locally the program is known as Reclaiming Futures. Reclaiming Futures is a five year, 25 million dollar initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.RWJF.org), which seeks to improve systemic responses for youth caught in the cycle of alcohol, drugs and crime. Santa Cruz County is one of ten communities nationwide, selected to take part in this initiative. The Santa Cruz County project focuses its work on better integrating alcohol and drug treatment services into the local system of care, for seriously delinquent youth, who are on the verge of removal from their homes and communities. Consistent with the need to provide more treatment, better treatment and more than treatment, Reclaiming Futures Santa Cruz County is expanding treatment options, implementing evidence-based and strength-based practices, standardized screening and assessment, as well as offering improvements to care coordination services and the initiation and engagement phases of treatment. A comprehensive evaluation of the project is being conducted by UCSF's Child Services Research Group, in cooperation with the Reclaiming Futures partner agencies. Year one was used for planning and the

subsequent 4 years have been used for implementing a variety of system improving services.

The Evening Center, which opened in April of 2005, was in many ways a program that developed out the Robert Wood Johnson Planning process that involved building solutions to address the closure of STAR. The Evening Center Program serves a maximum of 10 probation wards at any given time and operates Monday –Friday from 4-8PM and each Saturday. Meals are served each weekday.

The Evening Center Program is staffed by personnel from the Probation Department, Children's Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Program and occasional community based agency staff. The program targets youth who are struggling with drug and alcohol issues, failing to comply with conditions of probation and/or committing new offenses. The program offers an immediate response to relapse and other probation violations utilizing stabilization and transition services. Services at the Evening Center provide programming to address these and other issues, utilizing assessment as well as promising and evidenced-based practices. Since April 1,2005 and up to March 2006, the Evening Center has served 139 youth. The average number of days completed for all youth is 9 days. Seventy-five percent of the youth have successfully completed all days ordered.

The family preservation program was established in March 1997 with general county funding, and in 2004, services were expanded through the acquisition of SB163 Wraparound funding through the State. The program expansion was critical in addressing the loss of the STAR and the Challenge Grant. The youth on this caseload generally have been through one or more of the intensive caseloads and are in danger of being removed from their homes and ordered into out-of-home placement due to their behavior in the community and/or continued criminal activity. Following a presentation to, and approval by, the Placement Review Committee, Probation Officers recommend to the court that certain minors be ordered into the Placement Prevention Program.

Family Preservation is a wraparound, multi-system, treatment approach, aimed at keeping youth successfully on probation and in their own homes. There are 2 Probation Officers in this unit with each officer having a caseload of up to 15 youth. Each caseload is assigned two counseling staff from Youth Services, a community-based agency. Children's Mental Health offers supervision of the clinical program. Additionally, Family Partners are funded through the SB163 model. Youth are provided with individualized, family-driven case plans and programs such as anger management, drug treatment and victim awareness on an outpatient basis.