

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

REPORT CARD

for 2006



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE



A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

Two years ago, DJJ released its first "Juvenile Justice Report Card." We touted it as part of "a new way of doing business," a new philosophy based upon the principles of restorative justice and agency accountability in South Carolina. Since that time, our "Report Card" has been nationally recognized as a model of accountability for juvenile justice agencies across the country. In continuing that tradition of accountability, we are proud to present our new "2006 Juvenile Justice Report Card."

As you will see, there are several important areas where our juvenile justice system continues to serve the children, crime victims, and citizens of South Carolina well. DJJ continues to improve its facilities and programs for juveniles, embarking this year on a Master Building Plan to improve our housing facilities for children. A Girls Transition Home is under construction and new dorms are planned for juveniles "behind the fence." DJJ is recognized as a Palmetto Gold school district and the agency's new "Intensive Supervision" program for newly-released juveniles is already showing promise in reducing recidivism rates. We also continue to see improvements in our victim notification program, victim restitution rates, drug and alcohol testing rates, juvenile employability training programs, and our solicitors' excellent Juvenile Arbitration Programs.

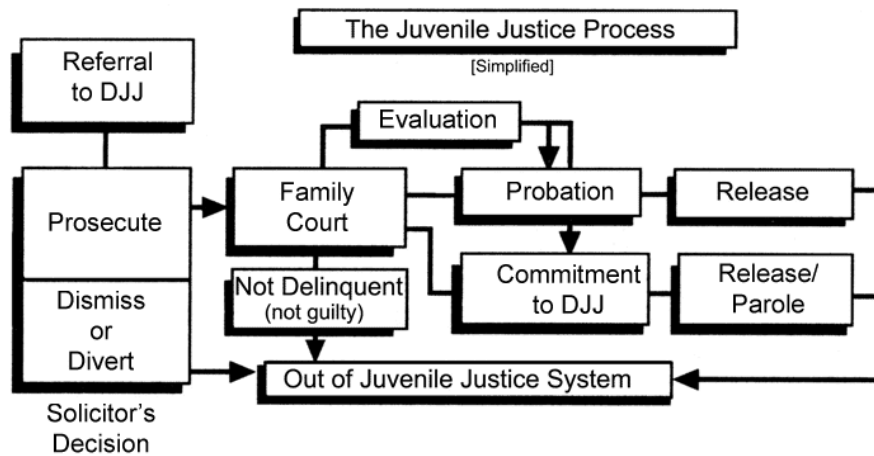
You also will see that there are areas for improvement. At present, our state's juvenile detention rate continues to rise, an increase of 19% in the last five years. This has caused overcrowding in the DJJ Detention Center and other county detention centers throughout the state, pointing to a continuing need for alternative forms of community-based monitoring for juveniles who simply do not belong in a detention facility.

We must also continue to work to reduce the number of juveniles incarcerated in DJJ's long-term facilities. More community prevention programs are needed to reach these children before they end up in the harsh environment of a long-term facility.

We hope you will take time to study this Report Card, to gain a better understanding of how the juvenile justice system works and performs in the state. Please join in our efforts to help make communities safer, to better satisfy victims of crime, and to better prepare juvenile offenders for productive, law-abiding lives in their communities.

Bill Byars

Director, South Carolina
Department of Juvenile Justice



Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the Solicitor's office regarding the case. The Solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A Solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program (such as a drug court or juvenile arbitration program) or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or to dismiss a case entirely.

If the Solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This involves psychological, social, and educational evaluations conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.

A family court judge may find the juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Indeterminately committed juveniles are subject to the release authority of the Juvenile Parole Board. Upon commitment the juvenile receives parole guidelines that are based on the severity of the juvenile's offense and his or her history of previous offenses. These guidelines generally range from 1-3 months to 36-54 months. The Board uses these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile's behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

The Board may keep children incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). It may also parole juveniles prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

The Board may grant juveniles conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a community aftercare or residential program. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ's website at:
www.state.sc.us/djj/process.html

A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Cases Referred to DJJ

2005 – 2006	25,820
2004 – 2005	26,213
2003 – 2004	27,328
2002 – 2003	29,031
2001 – 2002	28,550

JUVENILE REFERRALS TO DJJ: Of the 25,820 cases referred to DJJ during Fiscal Year 2005-06, 68% of the total population was male, 60% was African-American, and the average age was 14.6 years. Sixty-two percent (62%) of the total population came from households with annual incomes less than \$20,000.

Five Most Frequent Offenses Associated with Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Disturbing Schools
- #2 Simple Assault & Battery
- #3 Shoplifting ((\$1,000 or Less)
- #4 Public Disorderly Conduct
- #5 Simple Possession of Marijuana

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ:

The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was **disturbing schools**. The number of disturbing schools cases has increased by 157% over the past 10 years. No felony offenses occurred in the top five reasons for referral to DJJ and truancy has dropped out of the top five most frequent offenses.

Juvenile Offenders Diverted by Juvenile Arbitration Programs

2005 – 2006	5,215
2004 – 2005	4,879
2003 – 2004	4,670
2002 – 2003	4,392
2001 – 2002	4,189

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE

ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated by circuit solicitors, with support from DJJ, to divert juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions. Referrals to the program have increased by 12.5% over the past five years.

Notification to Victims Regarding Case Status

2005 – 2006	14,950
2004 – 2005	13,480
2003 – 2004	10,335
2002 – 2003	11,456
2001 – 2002	13,805

NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS: DJJ strives to serve crime victims. Upon request, victims of juvenile crime are notified regarding the status of the offender(s) related to their individual cases through the Internet Victim Information System (IVIS) provided by DJJ. In Fiscal Year 2005-06, DJJ notified 14,950 victims regarding their case status. This is a 31% increase as compared to FY 2003-04.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

2005 – 2006	5,257
2004 – 2005	5,264
2003 – 2004	5,342
2002 – 2003	5,693
2001 – 2002	5,434

Average Daily Population 2005-06

Hardware Secure Custody	809
Staff Secure Custody (community placements)	557
Marine Programs	90
Mental Health Placements	32

DJJ School District Diploma Graduates

2005 – 2006	3
2004 – 2005	13
2003 – 2004	12
2002 – 2003	6
2001 – 2002	3

DJJ School District GED Graduates

2005 – 2006	131
2004 – 2005	154
2003 – 2004	155
2002 – 2003	104
2001 – 2002	65

JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES: The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 5,257 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2005-06. Eighty-six percent (86%) of juveniles do not re-offend while under supervision.

DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: An average daily of 809 juveniles was held in DJJ hardware-secure facilities. A daily population of 557 juveniles was located in staff-secure placements in the community such as group homes or community residence placements. Ninety (90) juveniles were placed in staff-secure Marine Programs. Thirty-two (32) juveniles were placed in mental health facilities.

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION RATE:

DJJ runs its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. DJJ's Birchwood School is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Satellite community schools are also operated around the state. This year, 131 students graduated early, at the age of 16, with General Equivalency Diploma (GED) certificates and three students earned their high school diplomas prior to their release. DJJ is recognized as a Palmetto Gold school district.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

A Report Card to Our Citizens
ACCOUNTABILITY – A Restorative Benchmark
(Repairing the harm to victims and community)

Restitution to Victims

# of Cases:	742
Amount Ordered:	\$ 367,607
Amount Paid:	\$ 260,793

RESTITUTION: Offenders should be expected to pay back for the harm they have caused. Of 7,041 cases closed by DJJ and Solicitors' Arbitration Programs (early intervention) during FY 2005-06 where restitution was ordered, 84% of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was \$260,793.

Restorative Community Work Service Hours

# of Cases:	3,103
Hours Ordered:	92,580
Hours Worked:	79,265
\$ Value: (calculated at minimum wage)	\$ 408,215

WORK SERVICE: Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay the community for the harm suffered by the community. In 7,041 cases closed by DJJ and Solicitors' Arbitration Programs (early intervention) during FY 2005-06, 92,580 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 79,265, which is 86% of the work service ordered.

Victim Satisfaction

How would you rate your overall experience with the system? (Rated 1 to 5 with 1 being "most negative" and 5 being "most positive.")

	<u>2006</u>
Rated "5"	52.7%
Rated "4"	29.1%
Rated "3"	14.6%
Rated "2"	3.6%
Rated "1"	0%

MEASURING SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY:

The justice system has a responsibility to serve crime victims. Over the past three years, crime victims across South Carolina were surveyed to determine their level of satisfaction with the juvenile justice system. Victims were asked to rate their overall experience with the juvenile justice system. The average satisfaction rating by victims (on a scale of 1 – most negative to 5 – most positive) improved from 3.96 in FY 2004-05 to 4.31 over the past three surveys.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A Report Card to Our Citizens

COMPETENCY – A Restorative Benchmark

7

(Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Offenders

Testing Negative

Number Tested: 1,066

Percent Tested 81%
Negative:

RESISTANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL USE:

In 7,041 cases closed by DJJ and Solicitors' Arbitration Programs (early intervention) during FY 2005-06, 15% of youth were tested while under supervision in the community. Of those youth tested, a negative result occurred in 81% of cases, as compared to 63% of youth tested in FY 2004-05.

School Participation

Youth Enrolled in
Educational Program or Vocational
Training at Case
Closure:

6,091 Youth
(87%)

Youth Not Enrolled but Employed
at Case Closure:

41 Youth
(4.3%)

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the 7,041 youth completing court orders or Solicitors' Arbitration Program sanctions during FY 2005-06 were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 950 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 41 were employed.

Employability Training

Youth Completing Job Readiness
Training:

187 Youth

Average Hours of Paid Work
Experience Completed:

84 Hours/Youth

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT ENRICHMENT

PROGRAM (JEEP): JEEP was introduced in FY 2004 05 to improve the employability of at-risk youth. In the program, youth ages 14-18 receive job readiness training and paid on-the-job work experience. During 2005-06, the number of youth participants increased 57%, from 107 to 187. In five communities, 151 employers have partnered with DJJ to participate in JEEP.

Citizen Participation

of Volunteers: 1,900

Hrs. Contributed: 119,717

Value: \$616,542
(calculated at minimum wage)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY

COMPETENCY: During Fiscal Year 2005-06, approximately 1,900 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ and the Solicitors' Arbitration Programs as mentors, arbitrators, tutors, auxiliary probation officers in other capacities in the community, and in DJJ facilities. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 119,717 hours of services.

COMPETENCY

A Report Card to Our Citizens
COMMUNITY SAFETY – A Restorative Benchmark
 (Protecting the public)

12-Year Comparison of Violent & Serious Juvenile Cases in South Carolina

Year	# of Cases
2005-06	2,365
1994-95	3,589

VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:
 Over the 12-year period (1994 – 2006) violent and serious juvenile cases in South Carolina decreased 34%. The number of cases includes juveniles charged in more than one case.

Table A
Juveniles Committed to the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2005-06	1,952
2004-05	1,867
2003-04	1,977
2002-03	2,109
2001-02	1,999

TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: One indicator of trends in South Carolina’s juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed into the custody of DJJ. Table A shows a comparison of the number of offenders sentenced into the custody of DJJ over the past five years.

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in detention centers pending court action. Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers.

Detention admissions statewide have increased 19% over the past five years. DJJ’s own Detention Center, which is overcrowded, had 2,989 juveniles in detention during FY 2005-06. Table B shows a comparison of the number of juveniles held in detention centers statewide over the past five years.

Table B
Juveniles Held in Detention Centers Statewide

Year	Number
2005-06	5,350
2004-05	5,330
2003-04	4,709
2002-03	4,869
2001-02	4,493

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense.

The most recent data measuring standard supervision programs (FY 1999-00) show a recidivism rate of 46.6% for juveniles, one year after incarceration. Recent preliminary data (FY 2005-06) measuring new Intensive Supervision programs show a recidivism rate of 34.4%, a significant improvement.

Recidivism Rate for Juvenile Offenders Following Incarceration

Type of Supervision	Tracking Period	Rate
Standard	12 months	46.6%
Intensive	12 months	34.4%

SAFETY

New 2006 Restorative Initiatives Building Partnerships, Ensuring Public Safety, Providing Customer Services

Building Community Partnerships

- **Columbia College and Clemson University** – DJJ partnered with Columbia College and Clemson University to develop a unique teaching-and-learning laboratory at the Youth Development Center in Aiken, SC.
- **AME Church** – DJJ and the Seventh Episcopal District of the African American Episcopal (AME) Church formed a landmark partnership with the mission to work with at-risk youth within the AME faith structure.
- **Clemson University** – DJJ partnered with Clemson University to create the Center for Girl's Advocacy, focusing on girl's issues across the state.
- **SC Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ)** – DJJ partnered to establish FJJ, a non-profit foundation, to collaborate with individuals and the public, private, and independent sectors to provide resources for at-risk and incarcerated youth.
- **Community Charettes** – DJJ partnered with Clemson University to hold a series of community meetings across the state organized to address how the juvenile justice system is performing in individual communities and how it may be improved.
- **Tile Partners for Humanity** – Incarcerated youth participating in DJJ's Custom Design Tile Program joined with Tile Partners for Humanity to design and produce name plates for owners of homes built by Habitat for Humanity in the devastated Gulf Coast area.

Ensuring Public Safety

- **Intensive Supervision Initiative (ISI)** – ISI was developed to protect the public through intensive services and supervision that ensure a successful transition of juveniles from the correctional facility to the community.
- **Electronic Monitoring Services** – In an effort to enhance public safety and better track juveniles under supervision DJJ has augmented electronic monitoring services to include homeguard (anklets), voice i.d., and GPS.

NEW INITIATIVES

New 2006 Restorative Initiatives (continued)

- **Master Building Plan** – New state of the art dormitory facilities designed for public safety and effective treatment are scheduled to systematically replace the old dormitories at DJJ. Construction on a Girls Transition Home is already under way.
- **Gang Awareness** – DJJ staff is receiving ongoing training about the complexities of gangs in order to develop prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies.
- **Detention Reform** – DJJ and the Children’s Law Office partnered with the Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, SC Department of Public Safety and several municipalities and counties to pursue detention reform.

Providing Customer Services

- **System of Care for Families** – DJJ has implemented new family strengthening training programs such as Family Solutions and Parenting with Love and Limits, while expanding more intensive therapeutic services such as Intensive Family Services.
- **Teen After School Centers (TASC)** – DJJ continues to develop TASC sites in churches and community centers in order to provide after school supervision, structure, and services to DJJ youth/families.
- **Computer Buddies** – Incarcerated juveniles are trained to refurbish donated computers for use in Teen After School Centers (TASC) and then have the potential to become employed as “computer troubleshooters” at TASC programs upon release.
- **The Messengers** – Former juvenile offenders, trained as prevention speakers, are employed by DJJ to share their personal stories with youth in communities to teach about the effects of personal choices.
- **Victim Offender Mediated Dialogue (VOMD)** – DJJ is working to serve victims of violent crime through VOMD which enables some crime victims to encounter the person who has harmed them through a facilitated face-to-face process.
- **Community Connections Center** – The Community Connections Center was proposed and is being funded by the Friends of Juvenile Justice through a \$3.2 million capital campaign. The Center will provide a safe and secure environment for the families of incarcerated youth.
- **DJJ Website** – The DJJ Website has been developed to offer services and information for parents and the general public, as well as juvenile justice professionals.

**Special Thanks to DJJ's Performance
Measurements Partners**

The Honorable David M. Pascoe
Solicitor, 1st Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Barbara R. Morgan
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable C. Kelly Jackson
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jay E. Hodge, Jr.
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Harold W. Gowdy, III
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jerry W. Peace
Solicitor, 8th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Ralph E. Hoisington
Solicitor, 9th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Chrissy T. Adams
Solicitor, 10th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Donald V. Myers
Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable E. L. Clements, III
Solicitor, 12th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Robert M. Ariail
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Isaac M. Stone, III
Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable J. Greg Hembree
Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kevin S. Brackett
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