

Kenosha County Juvenile Justice Report 2008

Dear Citizens of Kenosha County:

The Division of Children and Family Services, Kenosha County Juvenile Court and Juvenile Intake Services are respectfully submitting our fourth year Juvenile Justice Report to the residents of Kenosha County.

For each of the last four years we have monitored several outcome indicators to identify trends and evaluate the impact of activities and delivery of services on the effectiveness of our Juvenile Justice System. In practice, Kenosha County dedicates substantial resources to a balanced approach to the principles of:

- * Accountability of youthful offenders
- * Restoring victims of juvenile crime
- * Protection of the community
- * Youth competency development

Youth are court-ordered to comply with a number of conditions designed to meet the youth and community needs. In 2008:

- **53%** of the cases referred to Juvenile Court Intake Services were diverted from court.
- **79%** of the youth supervised by the Division of Children and Family Services remained free of new charges in court.

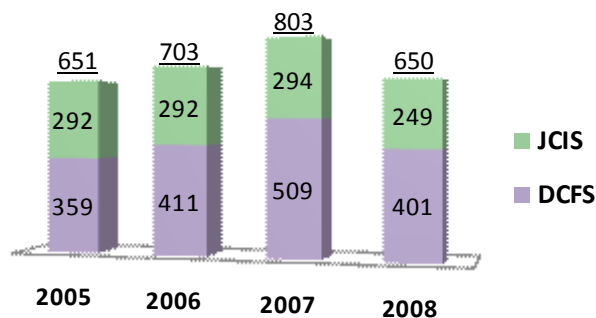
Monitoring performance is a critical foundation to improving operations and the efficiency and effectiveness of our interventions. Therefore, we hope that measuring outcomes conveys to you our commitment to progress toward our goals of improving prevention and accountability, increasing rehabilitation, and enhancing restorative features.

Our Juvenile Justice system remains committed to its responsibility to help referred youth realize their full developmental potential as they transition toward adulthood.

Respectfully Presented By:

*Kenosha County Juvenile Court
Kenosha County Division of Children & Family Services
Kenosha County Juvenile Court Intake Services*

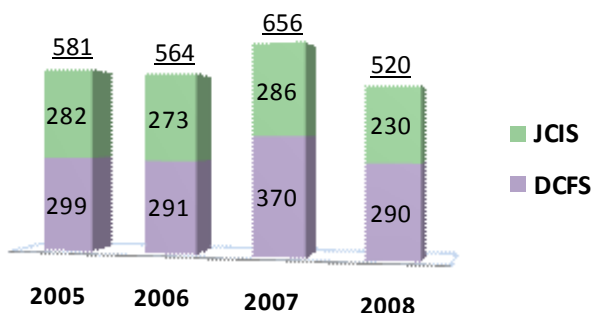
Number of Case Files Closed



As shown in the figure to the left, the number of cases closed has remained fairly steady in Juvenile Court Intake Services (JCIS). The Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) case closures were fairly similar in 2006 and 2008 with a **24%** jump in 2007.

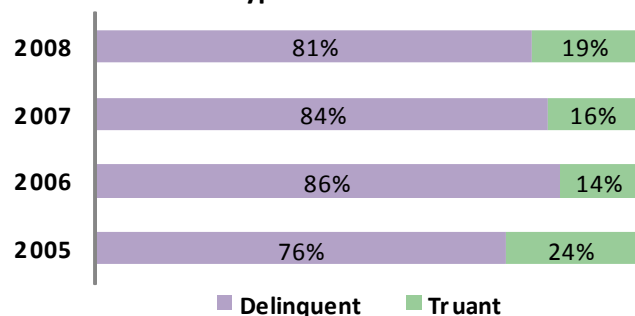
Comparing charts on the left, there is little overlap between the number of JCIS closed case files and number of youth, meaning most have only 1 case file. Youth under DCFS supervision are more likely to have two or more case files closed during the year.

Number of Youth (unduplicated case files)



After an initial decrease of **10 percentage points** between 2005 and 2006, the proportion of cases closed that were under truancy orders have increased slightly since 2006.

Type of Cases Closed



Demographics

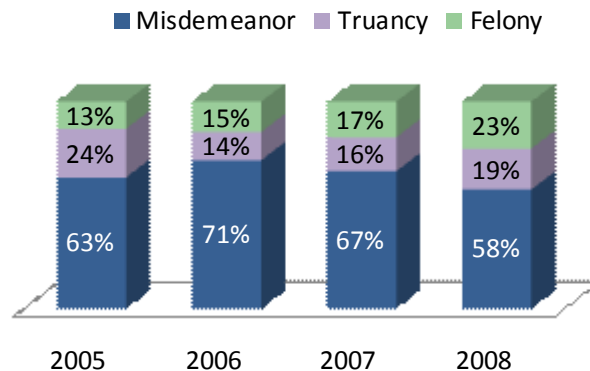
- A relatively small percentage of case closures are female, although there are differences between JCIS and DCFS. On average about **33%** of youth referred to JCIS are female compared to around **27%** for DCFS.
- As in previous years, the majority of youth with closed case files in 2008 were Caucasian (**60%**), followed by African American (**25%**) and Latino (**10%**). The percentage of Latino youth has decreased **4%** since 2006. However, the overall percentage of minority youth has remained between **46%** and **50%**.
- The average age for youth referred to JCIS has remained around **14.4** years of age and **15.4** for DCFS. The range of ages is wide: In 2008 the youngest individual referred to juvenile court was **6.3** years of age at time of referral.

The graph at right includes a distribution of the most serious type of offense (i.e., truancy, misdemeanor, and felony) among closed cases in a given year.

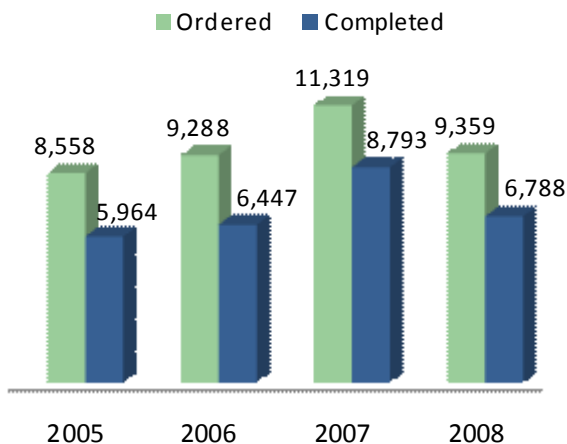
Misdemeanors, such as disorderly conduct, retail theft and misdemeanor battery comprise the highest percentage of "most serious offenses"—ranging anywhere from **71%** in 2006 to **58%** in 2008.

The proportion of "most serious offenses" that were felonies increased from **13%** in 2005 to **23%** in 2008. The most common felony charge for cases closed in 2008 was burglary.

Most Serious Type of Offense



Community Service Work Hours



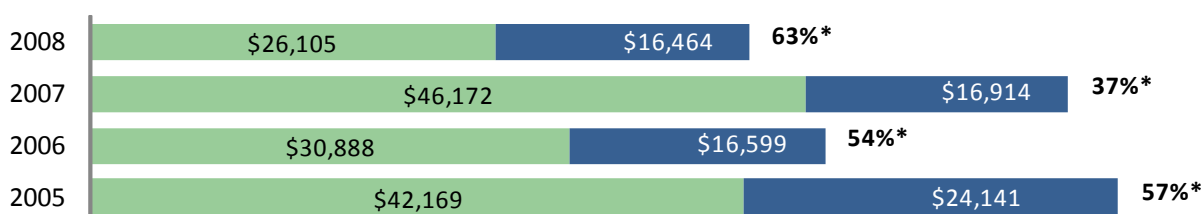
Community service work (CSW) provides juveniles the opportunity to be accountable for delinquent conduct, make a positive contribution to the community, and develop important life skills. After a three year increase in the number of CSW hours ordered the number decreased by **17%** for case files closed in 2008. Over the past four years, the number of CSW hours completed has remained between **69%** and **78%**. The completion rate in 2008 was **73%**.

Restitution allows victims to recover damages, provides clear consequences for misbehavior, and offers offenders an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions. The amount of restitution determined decreased **40%** in 2008. At the same time, the recovery rate improved from **37%** in 2007 to **63%** in 2008.

* Percent Recovered

Restitution

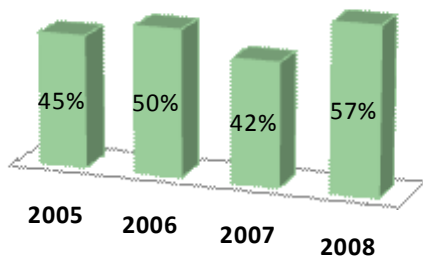
■ Determined ■ Recovered



The number of drug tests administered decreased **39%** from 2007 to 2008. The percentage of tests with negative results (i.e., no drugs or alcohol) was lower in 2008 compared to previous years. The number of youth tested decreased **16%** between 2006 and 2008.

<i>Resistance to Drugs and Alcohol</i>	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of drug tests administered	1,182	1,635	1,593	966
% of results with no alcohol or drugs	60%	60%	65%	56%
Number of Youth Tested	124	171	162	143

Percentage of JIPS-Truants Attending School at Case Closure



Habitual truancy is defined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as a student who has five or more unexcused absences in one of the two semesters in a school year.

The percentage of youth with truancy cases that were attending school regularly (i.e., not identified habitually truant) at the time their case file was closed increased **15 percentage points** between 2007 and 2008 to **57%**.

Secure Detention and Out-of-Home Placements

Statistics below are reported on an annual basis. Therefore, the population includes **all** youth in the juvenile justice system, not only those with closed case files.

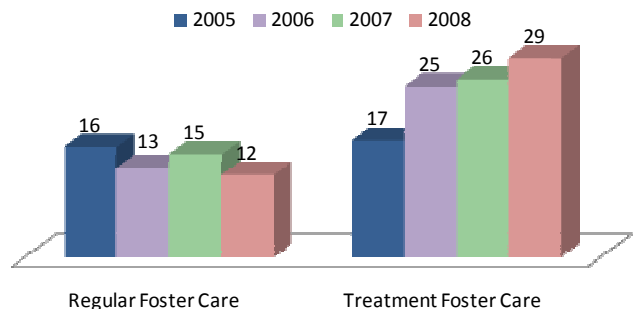
The number of youth placed in secure detention declined **27%** between 2005 and 2008. The number of admissions decreased steadily from 2005 to 2007, but slowed down in 2008 with a decrease of **3%**. This means youth are slightly more likely to experience multiple secure detention placements in one year.

<i>SECURE DETENTION</i>	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Youth Placed	299	253	248	219
Number of Admissions	510	467	377	367

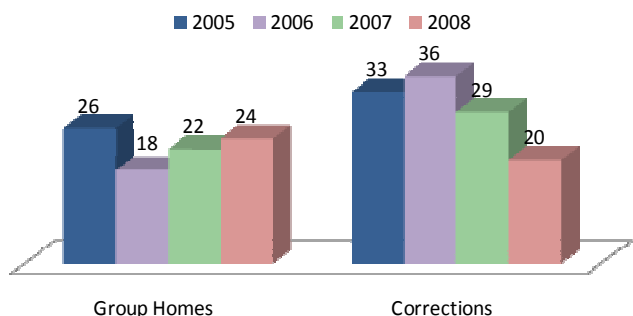
Only a small number of the 300+ delinquent youth that are under supervision with the Division of Children and Family Services are placed in substitute care. No more than 20 of these youth per year have been placed in regular foster care (see chart at right). However, the number of youth placed in treatment foster care, a more intensive placement for youth with more challenging issues, has steadily increased since 2005.

The number of youth placed in group homes increased **33%** between 2005 and 2008 after a **31%** drop between 2005 and 2006. At the same time, corrections mirrored this trend with a **9%** increase in 2006, followed by a steady decrease between 2006 and 2008 (**-44%**).

Number of Delinquent Youth Placed in Substitute Care



Number of Delinquent Youth Placed in Substitute Care



Cost of Care

In 2008 out-of-home placement costs for delinquent youth totaled **\$5.07** million dollars, a decrease of just over **1%** compared to **\$5.13** million in 2007. Secure detention and juvenile corrections comprised **52%** of those costs, compared to **67%** in 2007. Almost **47%** of expenditures were for treatment foster care, group homes, and residential treatment centers. The remainder of the budget was for regular foster care (**2%**).

Community Service Work

Community Service Work (CSW) projects are designed to offer services that are highly valued by the community and juveniles alike. Types of projects include, but are not limited to, providing services to local schools, churches, non-profits, and businesses, as well as provide senior assistance, graffiti removal, and other community clean-up projects. Juveniles are often paired with adult mentors who effectively demonstrate a sense of civic responsibility, community pride, and a strong work ethic. Last year, a total of 6,788 hours of service were performed by juvenile offenders, which translates to over \$44,400 in taxpayer benefits.

Community service is a two-way street. Active involvement from both offenders and the community is critical to the effectiveness of community service work programs. To that end, the Juvenile Justice System actively seeks collaboration with individual citizens, civic partners and business groups who provide meaningful opportunities and projects.



I went through the boys and girls club for my community service. I was sentenced to 50 hours of community service. I completed all 50 hours without trouble. This program really showed me a lot

My instructor's name was Sam. Without him helping me throughout the whole process, it would have been near impossible. I will always look up to him. He showed that you don't have to always put hard work and punishment on someone to teach them a lesson. I did a lot of different work with Sam; work at the Urban Outreach Center, the YMCA, and various tasks around town. It wasn't all hard but I learned and seen a lot from every place.

One place I helped out at was the Urban Outreach Center. I helped organize clothes, move boxes, organize them, and other various tasks. The people were very nice to me so I tried doing as much as I could for them.



Another place I went to was the YMCA. They had me work with the janitor crew. I learned how to do a lot out there. I helped mop their floor and stairs, helped dust mop everywhere else, cleaned the workout equipment, and was able to work out sometimes after I was done.

Other work I did was help elderly people in their homes and office work. I helped put plastic over an elderly woman's windows in her house for winter. I also helped type up papers for the Boys and Girls Club of recent locations of graffiti and other information.

I was glad that my work went to good place and use. At first I thought I was just going to do work just to learn a lesson, but I actually helped people. I learned my lesson but also learned a lot more valuable techniques and felt good helping out people.

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