

# HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

**2015  
ANNUAL REPORT**



**JUDGE THOMAS C LEE**

March 11, 2016

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report. This Report is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B) and contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this Report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. LEE  
Juvenile Court Judge

# COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menuez Glennis R. Menuez
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk	Haylee Alsept Megan M. Hoxworth Shelley Streb
Deputy Clerk/Probation Office Secretary	Barbara Jean Spencer
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation Officer	David Williams, LSW Janice Shroyer, LSW Brody Williams
Connections Mentoring Program Coordinator	Rebecca McKelley, LISW

# **PURPOSE OF JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS**

Ohio Revised Code Section 2152.01 sets forth the purpose of the Juvenile Court Dispositions as follows:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2152 of the Revised Code;
- (B) To protect the public interest and safety;
- (C) To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, restore the victim, and rehabilitate the offender through a system of graduated sanctions and services;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapters 2151 and 2152 of the Revised Code are executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and protected.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous and professional manner.

# JURISDICTION

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23 to hear the following types of matters:

**Delinquent Child:** Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

**Unruly Child:** Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.

**Juvenile Traffic Offender:** Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.

**Abused Children:** Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.

**Neglected Children:** Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.

**Dependent Children:** Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.

**Adults:** Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.

**Paternity:** Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.

**Custody:** Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.

# JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 2015:

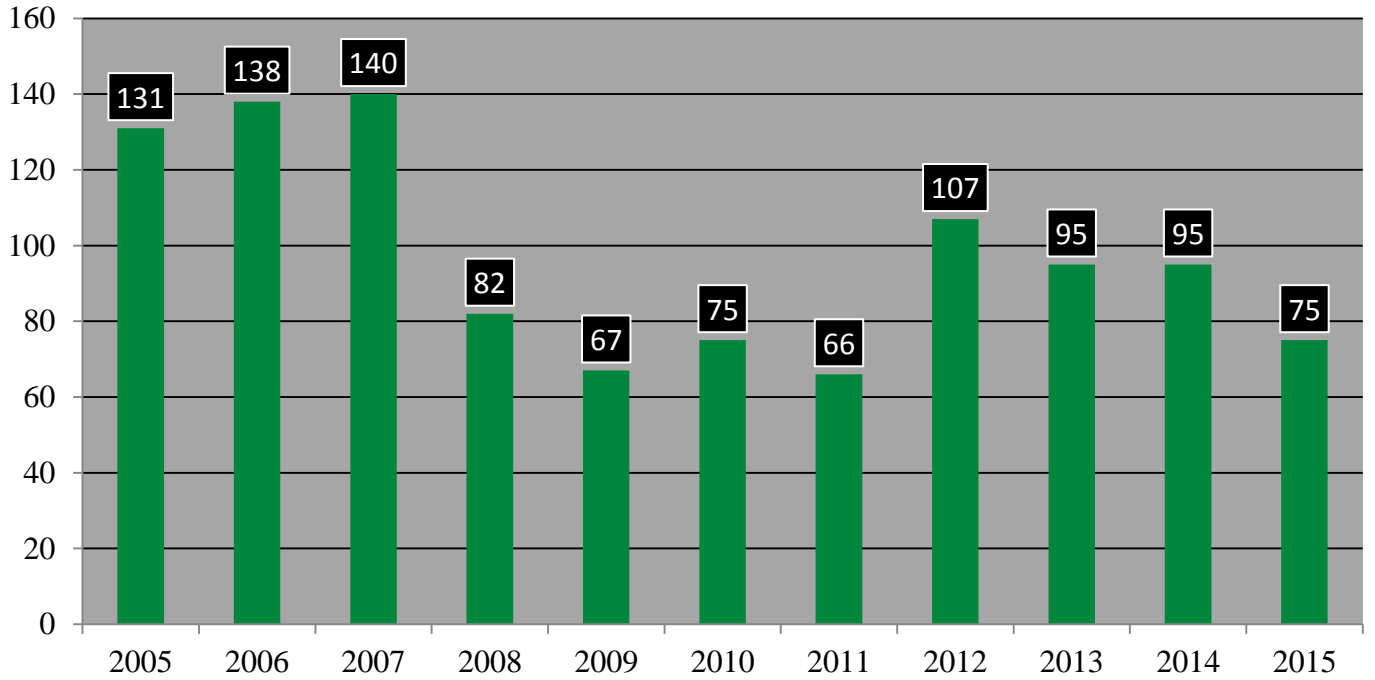
Delinquency	75
Traffic	118
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	53
Unruly	8
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	0
Custody/Visitation	62
Child Support	42
Paternity	1
U.I.F.S.A. (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act)	0
Others	5
TOTAL:	<hr/> 364

**NOTE:** Twenty Nine (29) juveniles who were first-time offenders were referred to the **Diversions Program**, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court. Of the 29 juveniles, 19 were males and 10 were females. 28 (19 males and 9 females) were removed from Diversion. Of those removed; 26 were successful completions and 2 were unsuccessful.

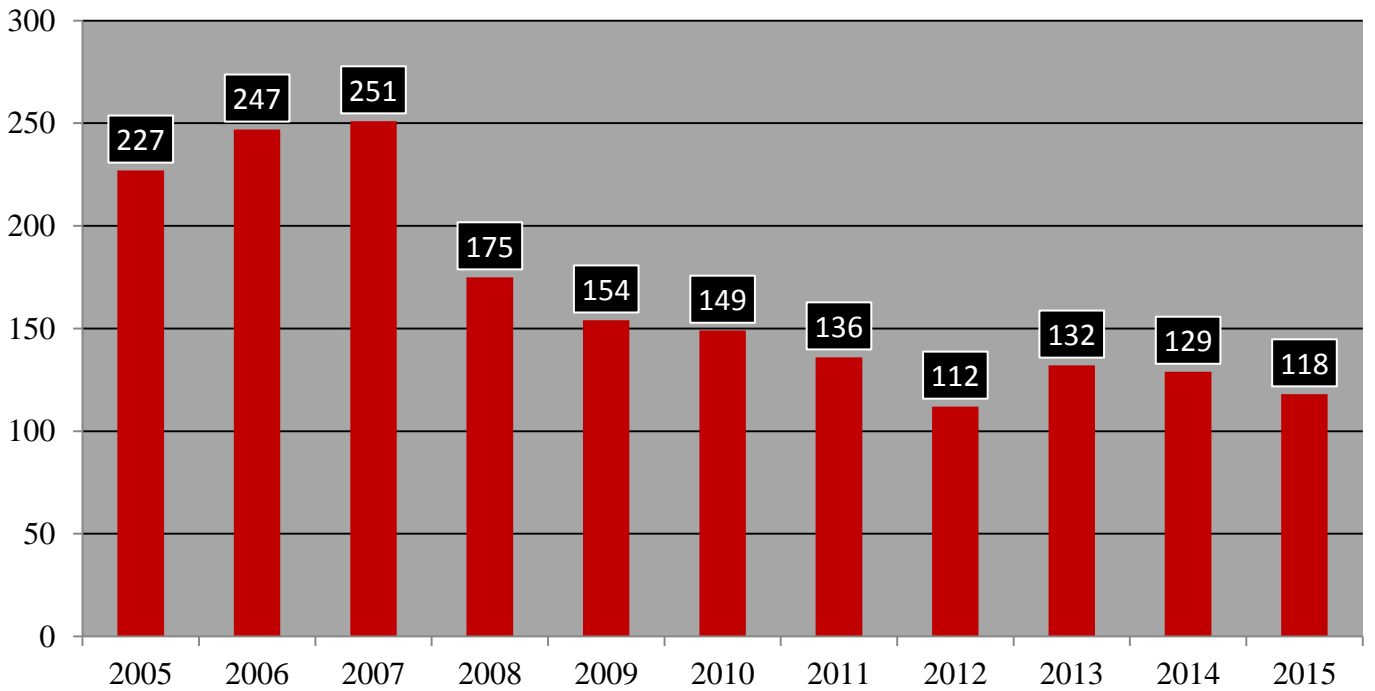
Diversion is typically designed for first time offenders with allegations of unruly or misdemeanor offenses. It is a voluntary program in which the juvenile must admit to the allegations in the complaint. The probation officer determines the outcome of the case with a list of terms and conditions which is similar to probation. If the juvenile complies with the terms and conditions, their case is terminated and sealed. If the juvenile is non-compliant, the case is referred to Court and the Judge determines what orders to impose. Diversion is a short term program which lasts for about three months.

**Following are graphic illustrations comparing case-type filings for the years 2005 through 2015:**

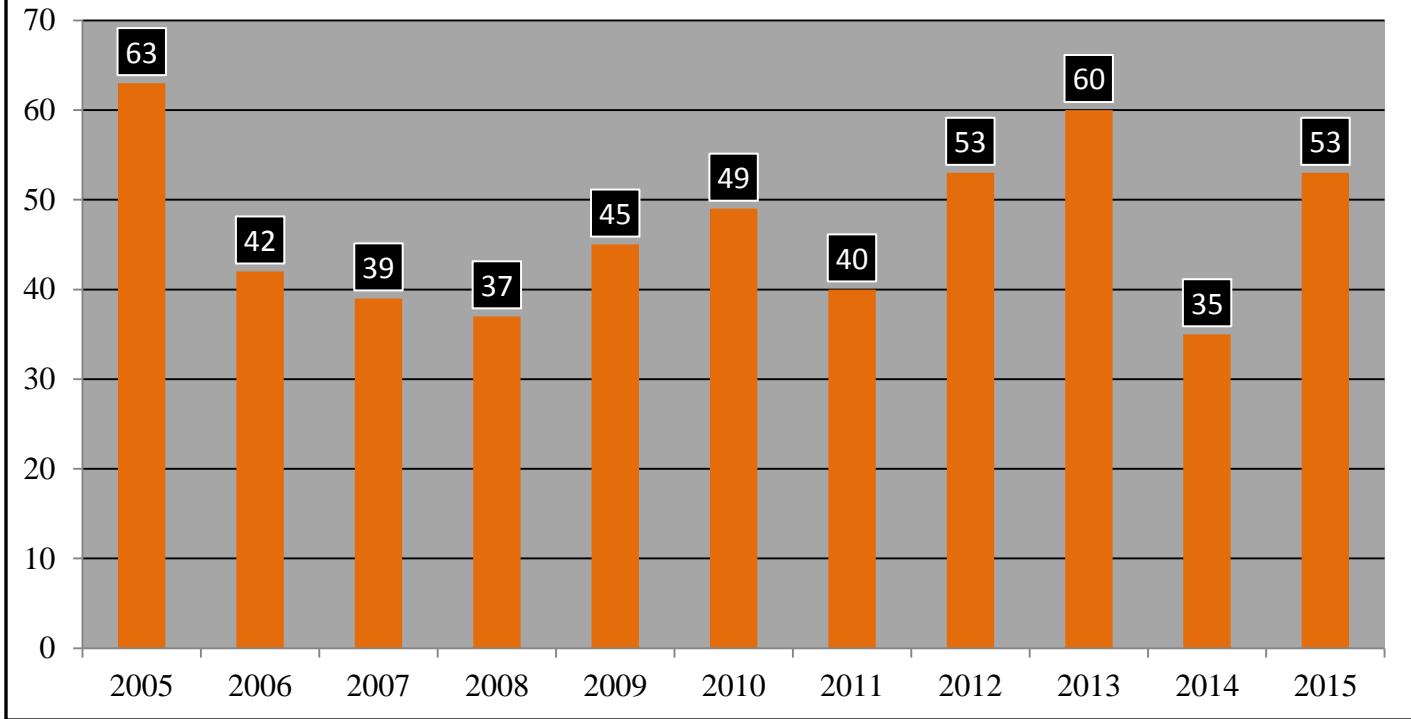
## Delinquency



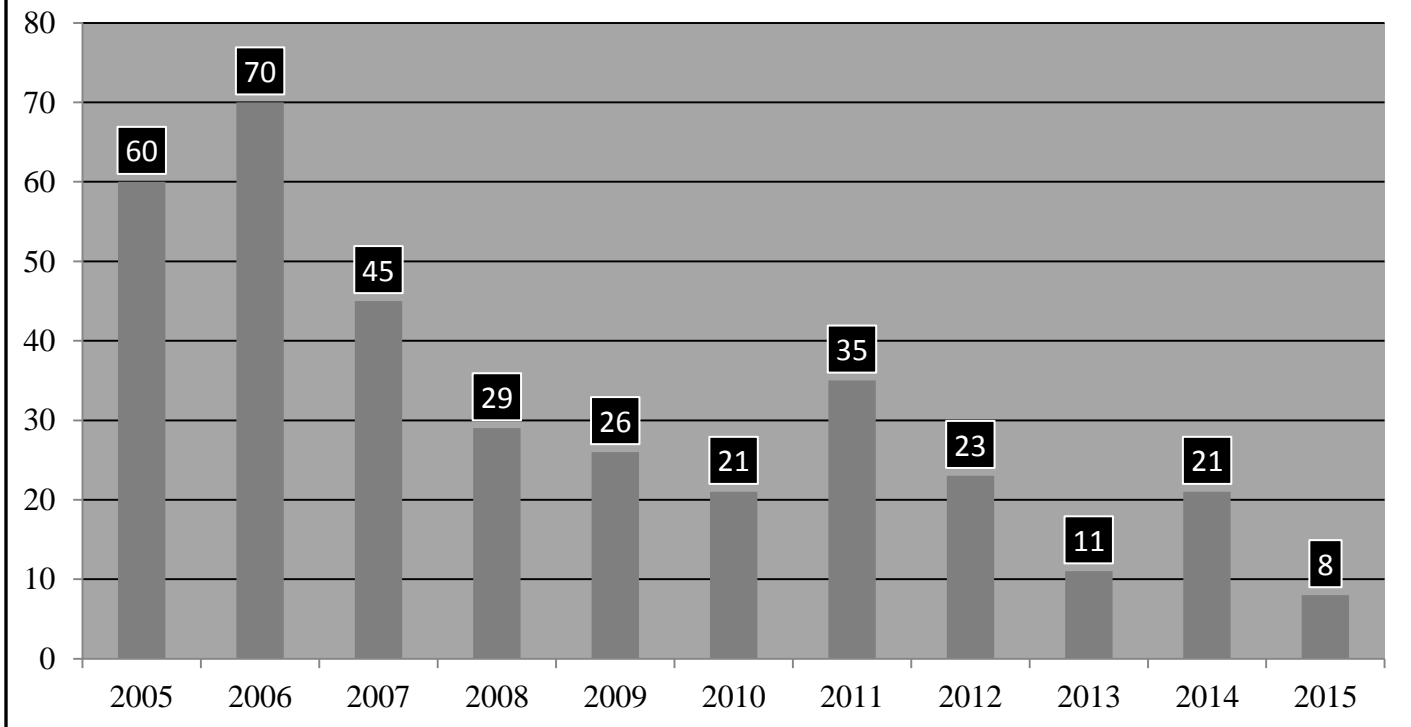
## Traffic



## Dependency, Neglect & Abuse

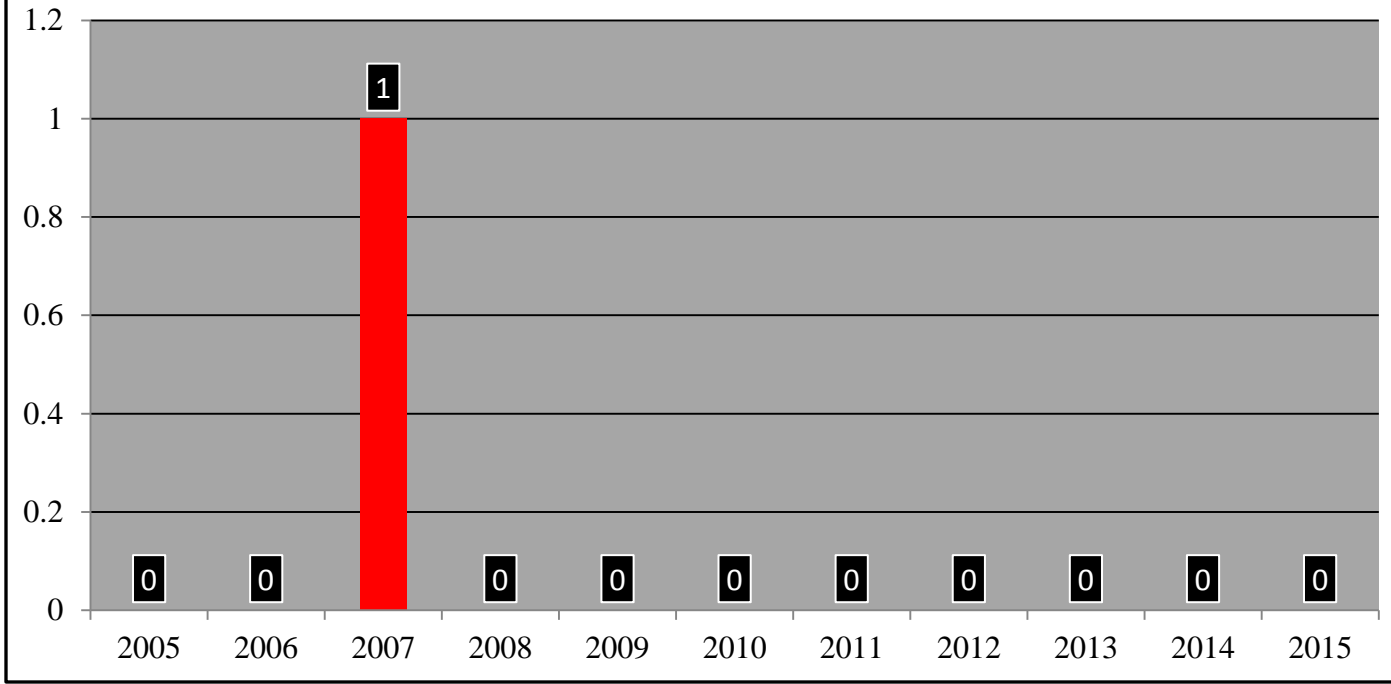


## Unruly

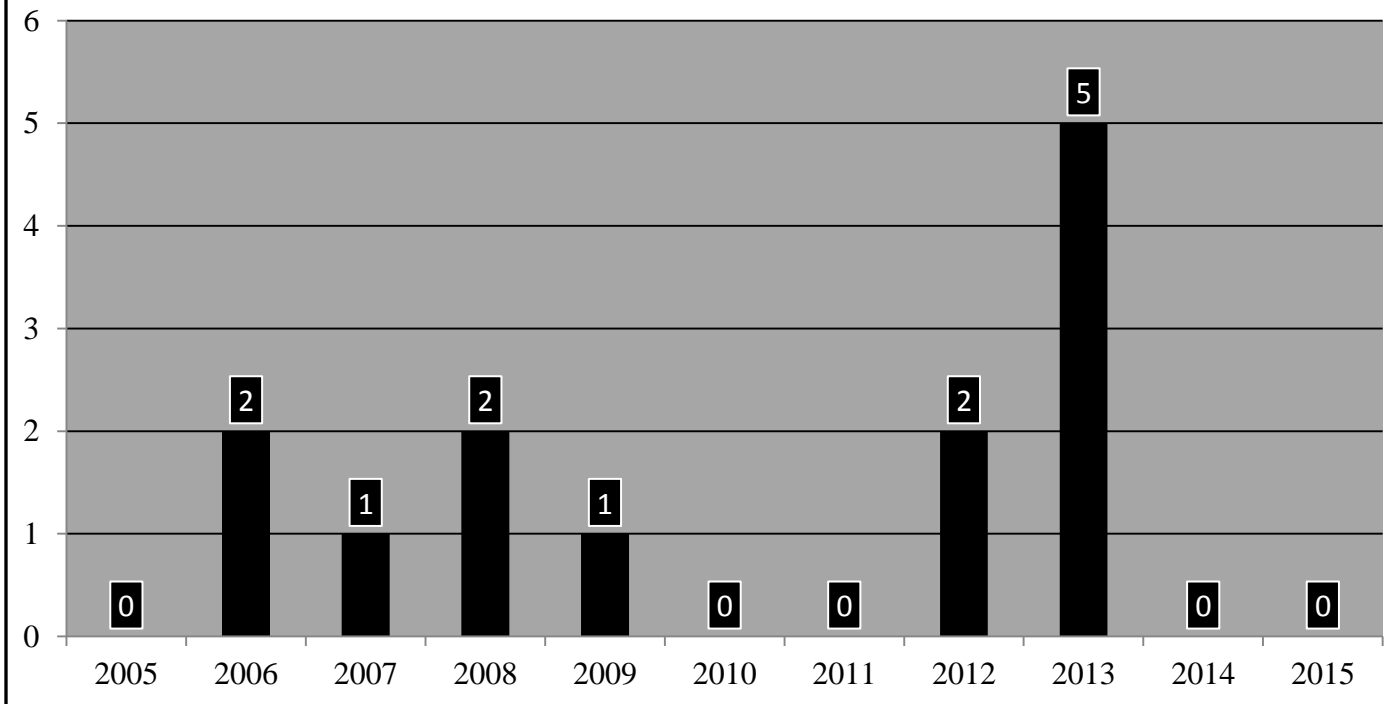




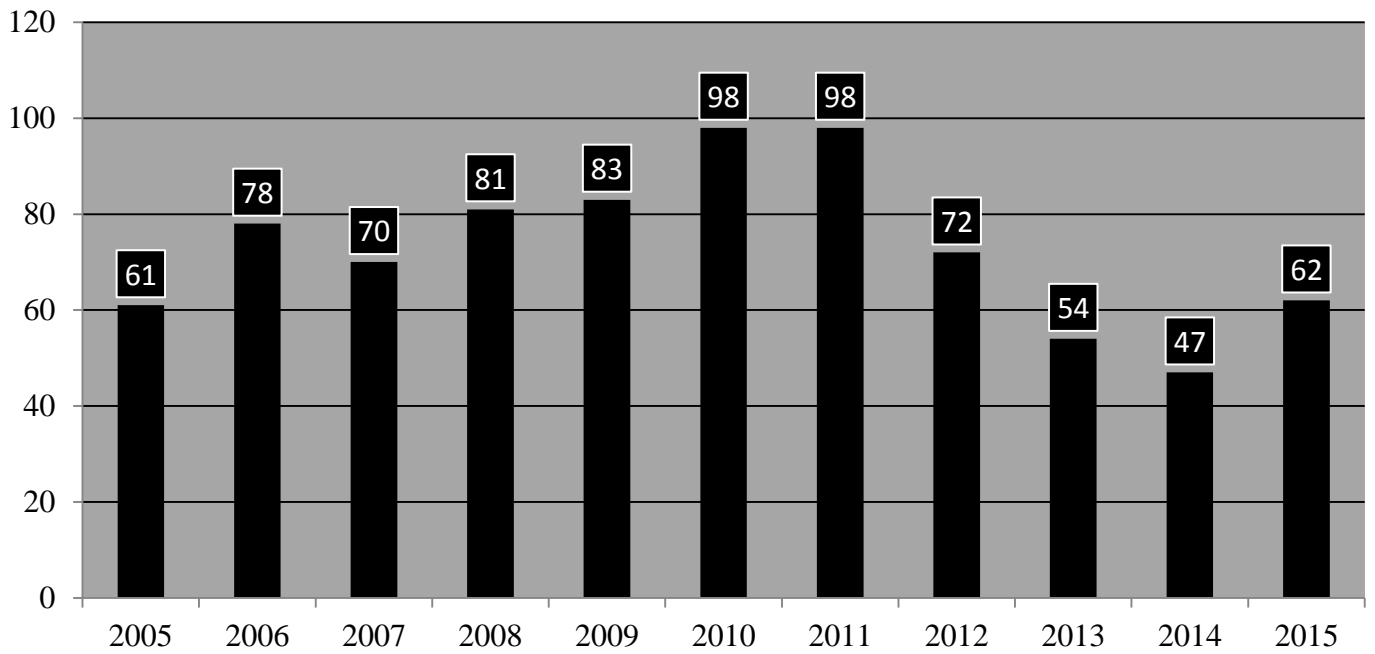
## Adult Cases



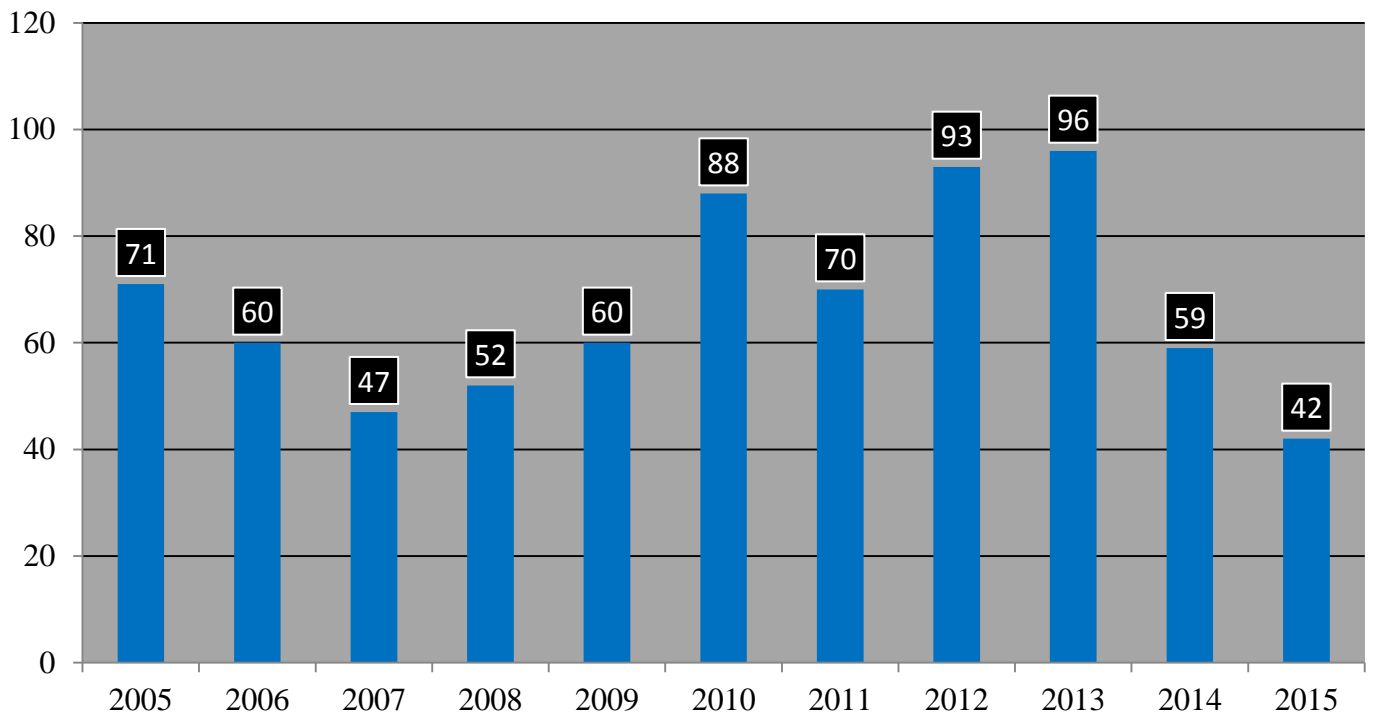
## Permanent Custody



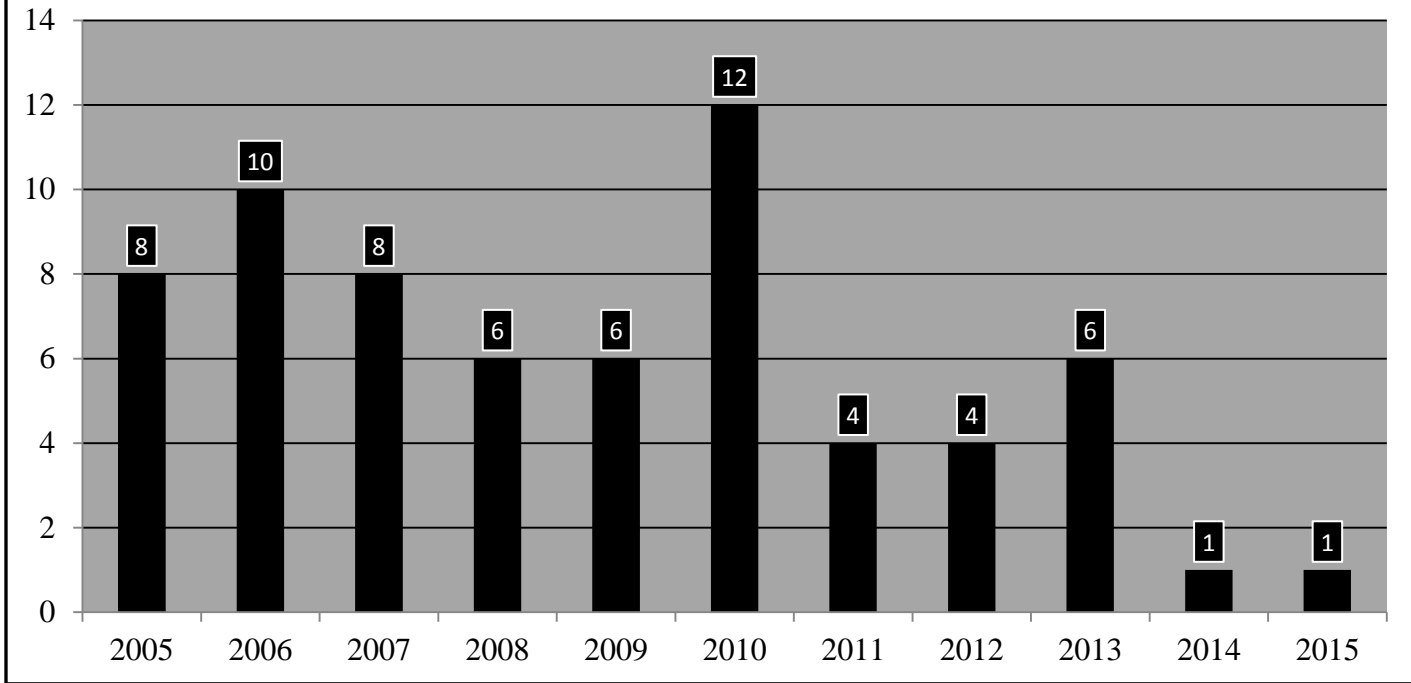
## Custody / Visitation



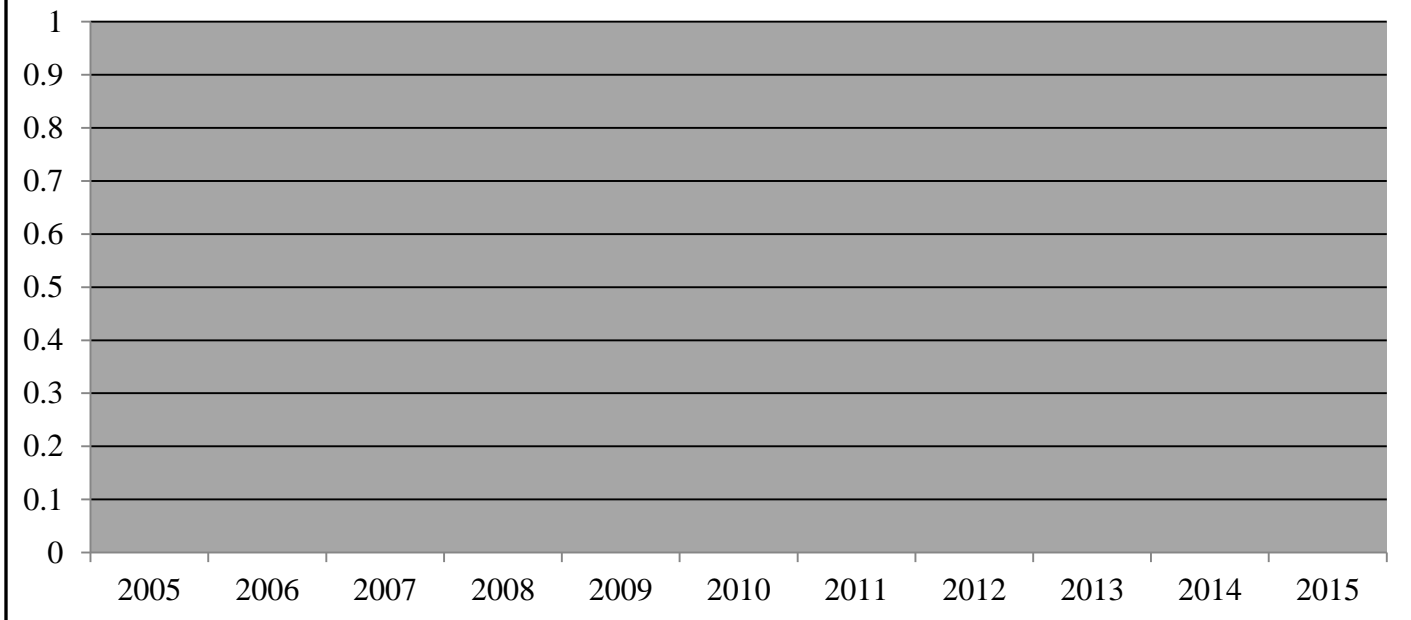
## Child Support



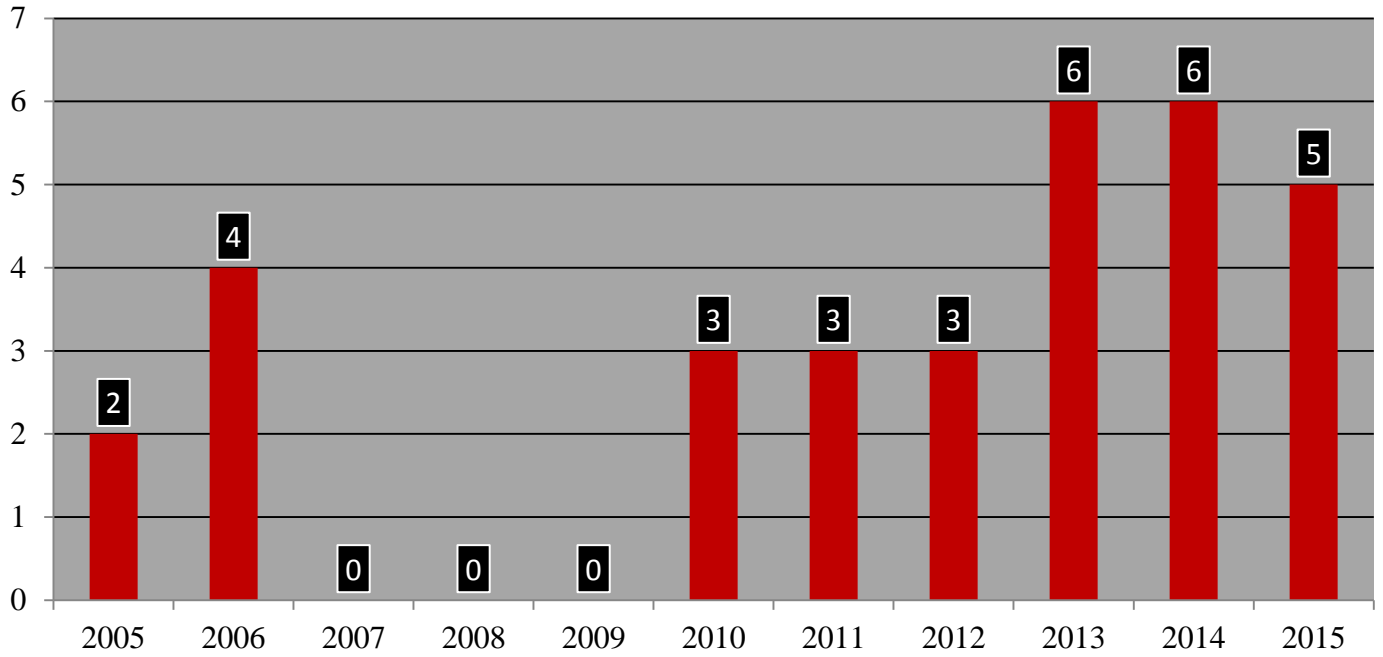
## Parentage



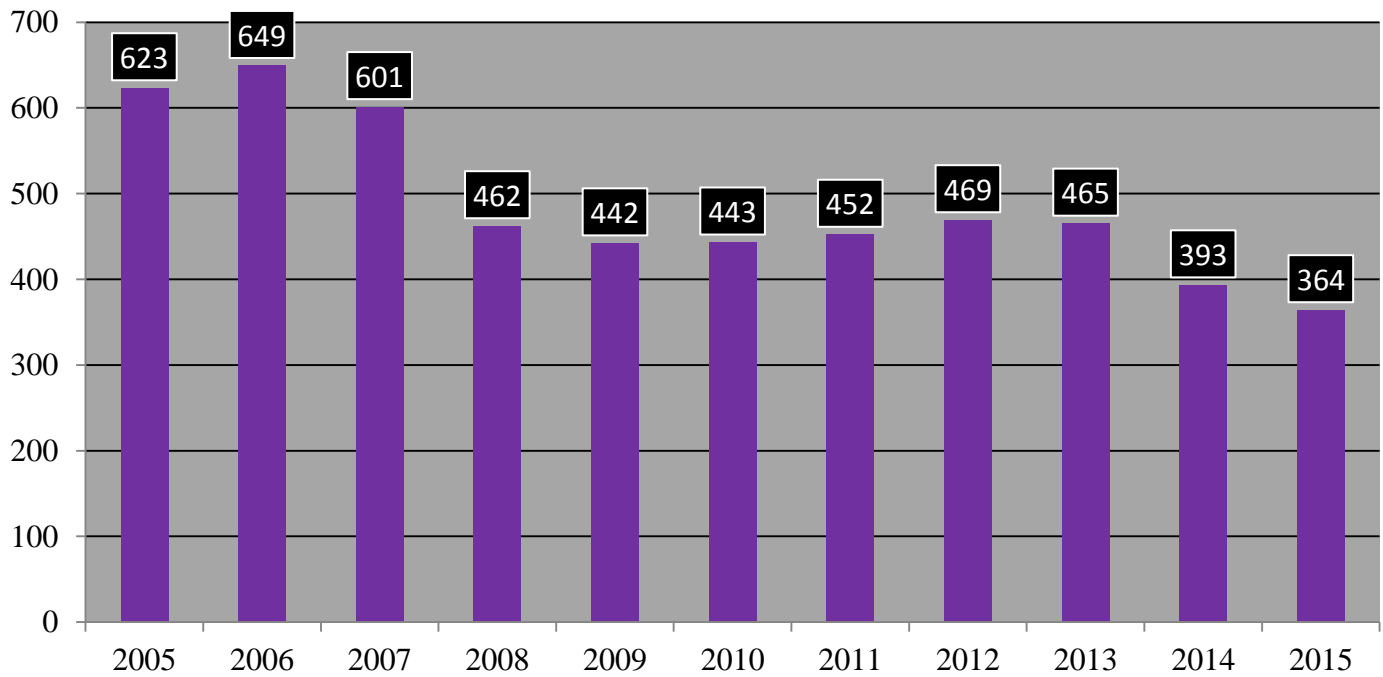
## (U.I.F.S.A.) Uniform Interstate Family Support Act



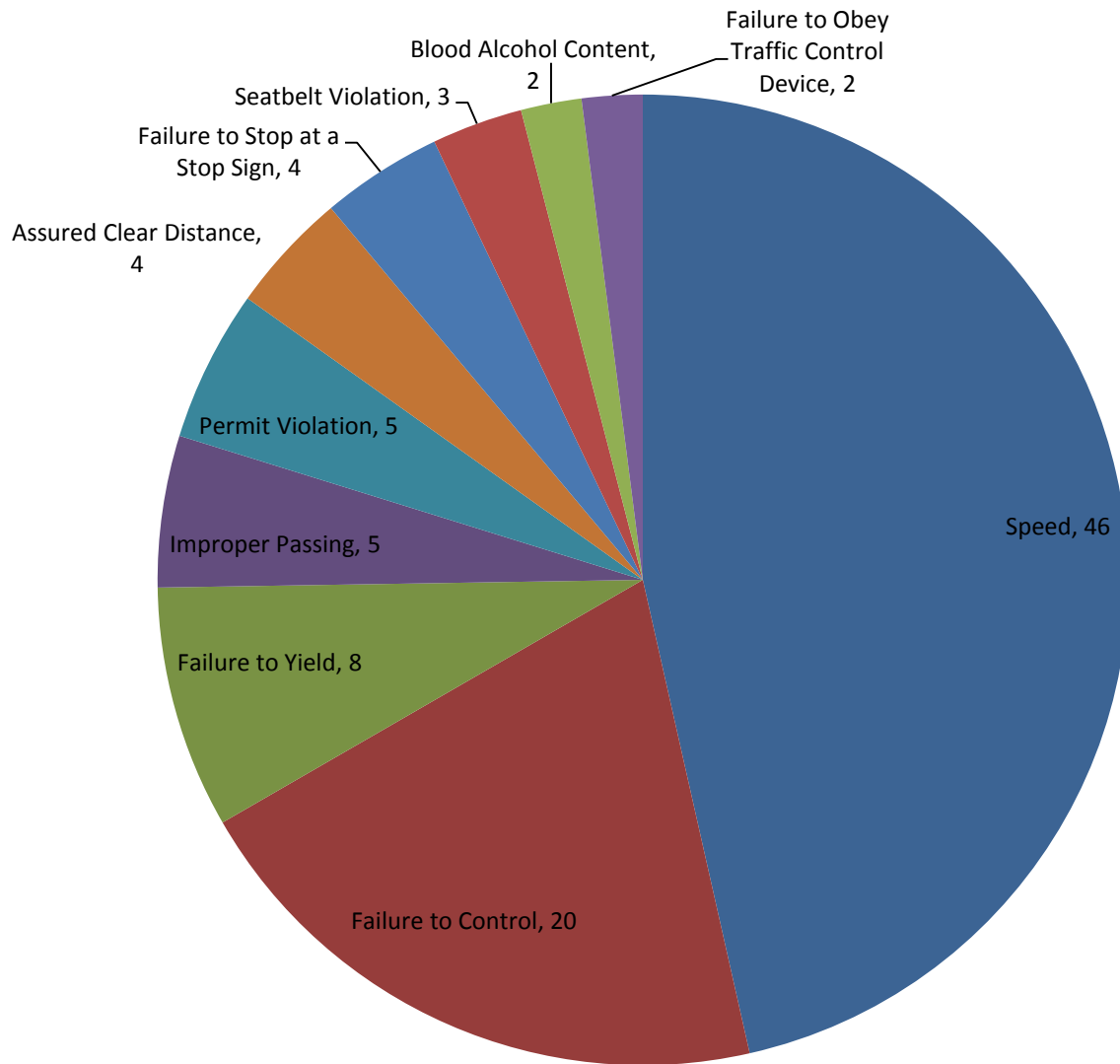
## Others



## Total Cases



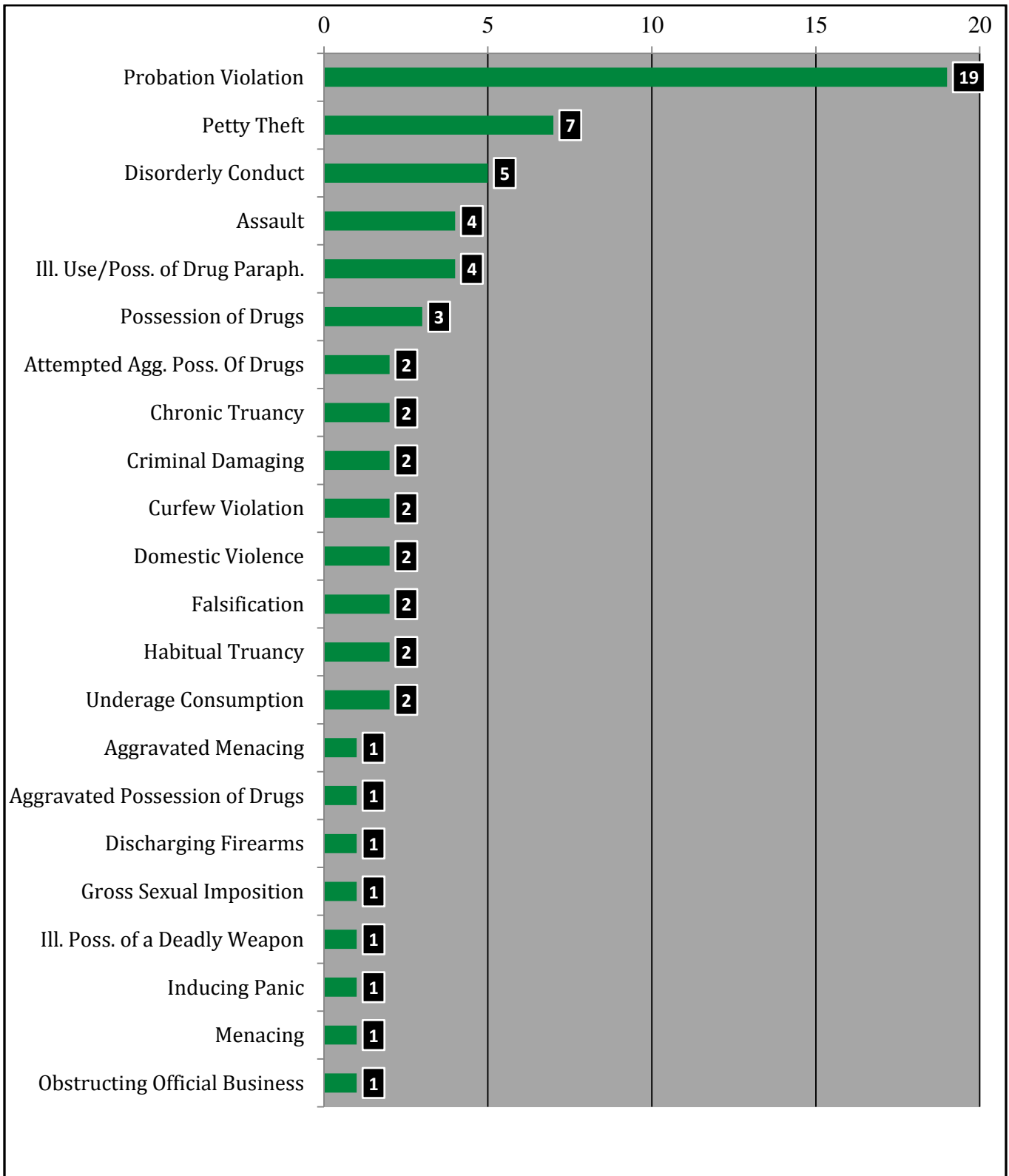
# 2015 Traffic Adjudications



Above chart displays the Top 10 Juvenile Traffic Violations

Speed	46	Failure to Control	20
Failure to Yield	8	Improper Passing	5
Permit Violation	5	Assured Clear Distance	4
Failure to Stop at Stop Sign	4	Seatbelt Violation	3
Blood Alcohol Content	2	Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	2
Failure to Stop for a Stopped School Bus	2	No Operator's License	2
Op. Vehicle under influence of Drugs/Alcohol	2	Reckless Operation	2
Expired Registration	1	Failure to Stop after an Accident	1
Failure to use Turn Signal	1	Illegal use of Plates	1
Wrong Way on a One Way	1		

## 2015 Delinquent & Unruly Adjudications



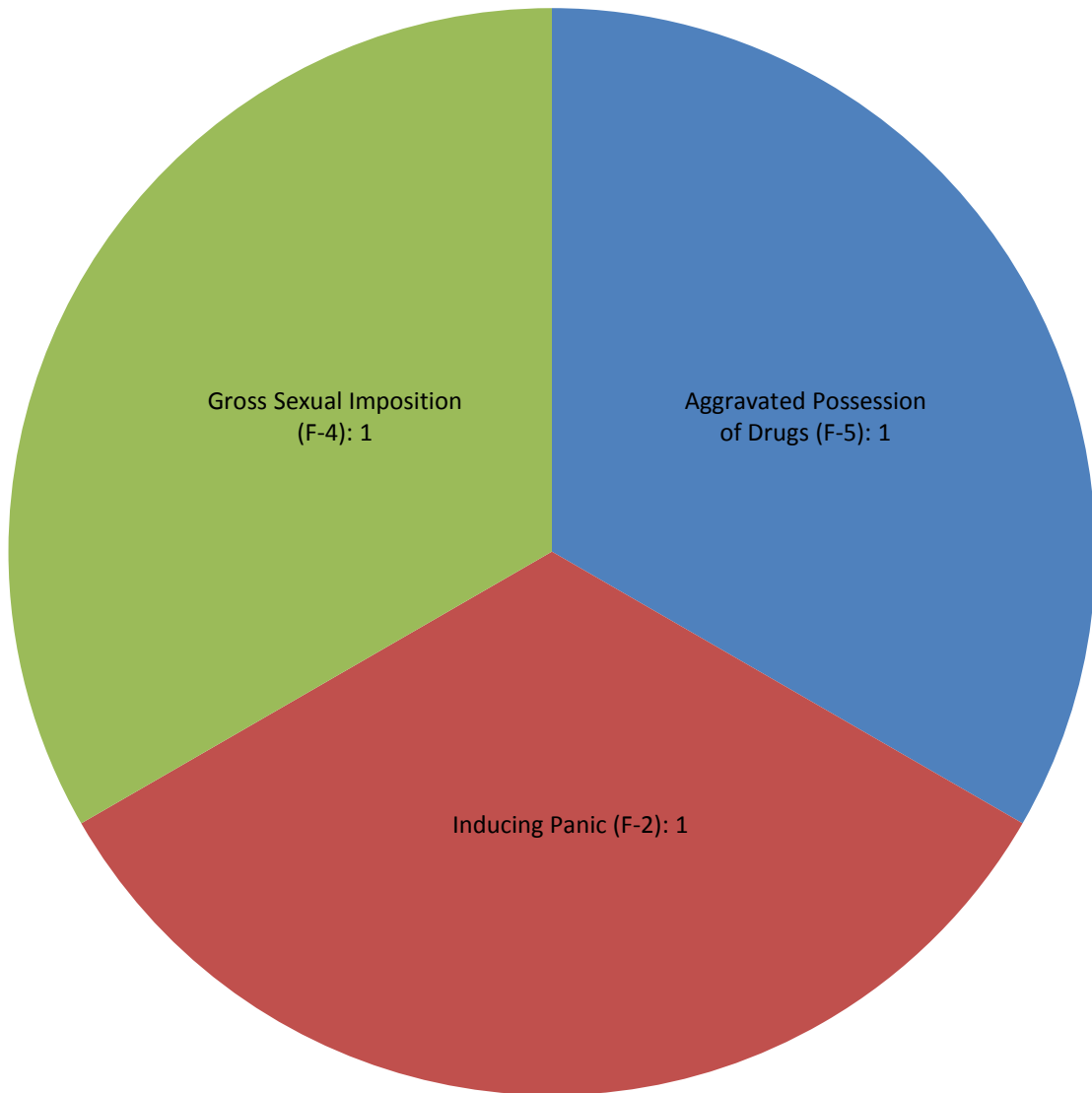
# 2015 Felony Adjudications

■ Aggravated Possession of Drugs (F-5): 1

■ Inducing Panic (F-2): 1

■ Gross Sexual Imposition (F-4): 1

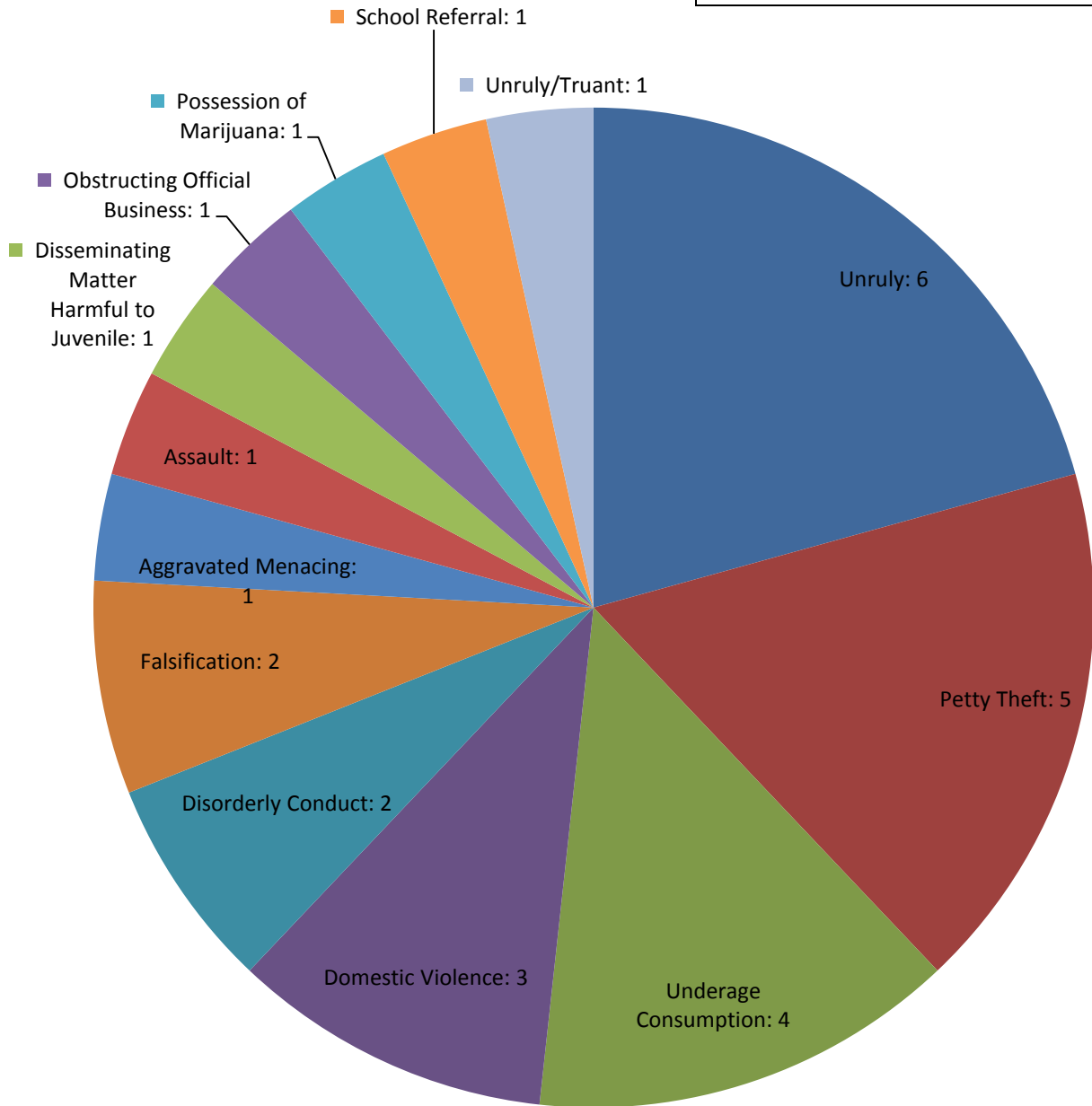
**Total: 3 Felony Adjudications  
(consisting of 3 male juveniles)**



# Diversion Cases

## handled in 2015

Total : 29 Diversion Cases

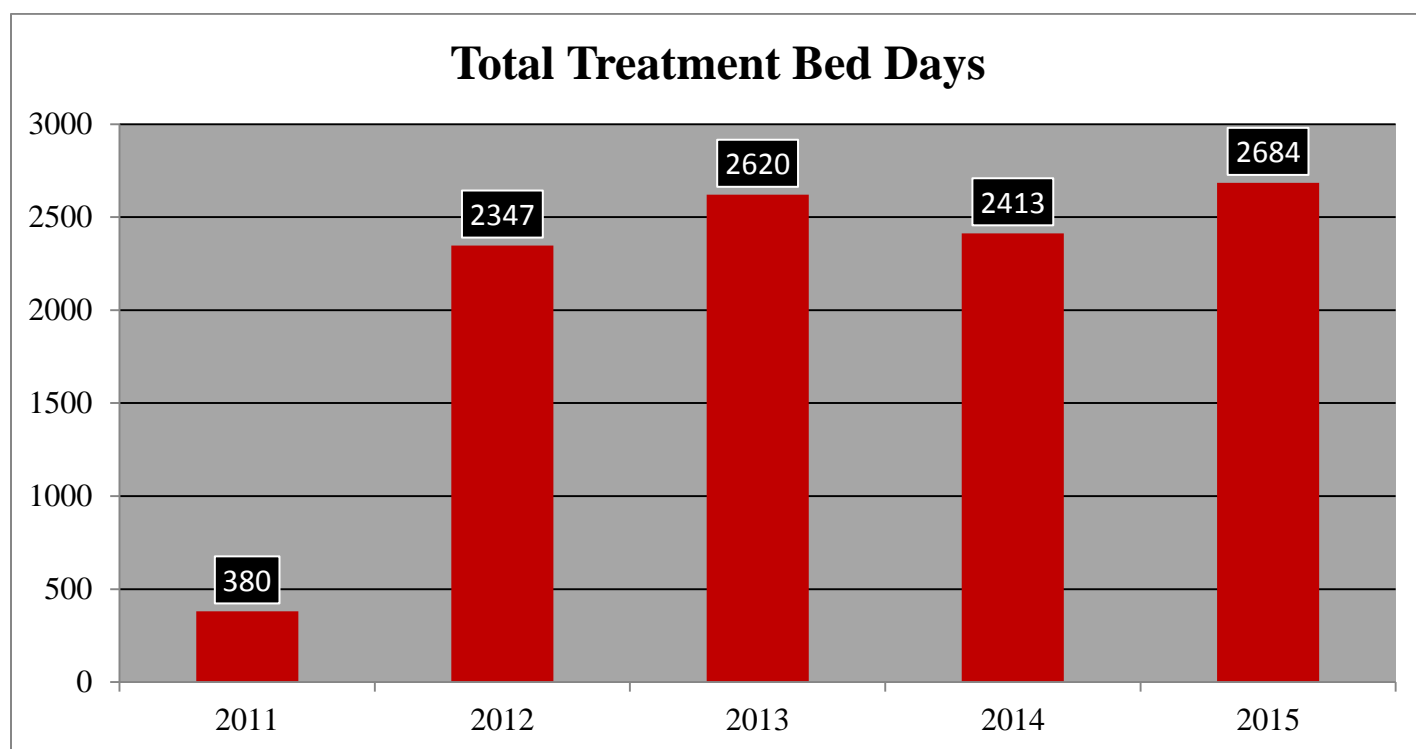




# OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

The Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety.

In 2015 the Court utilized Residential Treatment Centers for a total of:  
**2684 bed days** for placements.  
(347 treatment days were no cost to Holmes County)



## Additional Information Regarding Placements

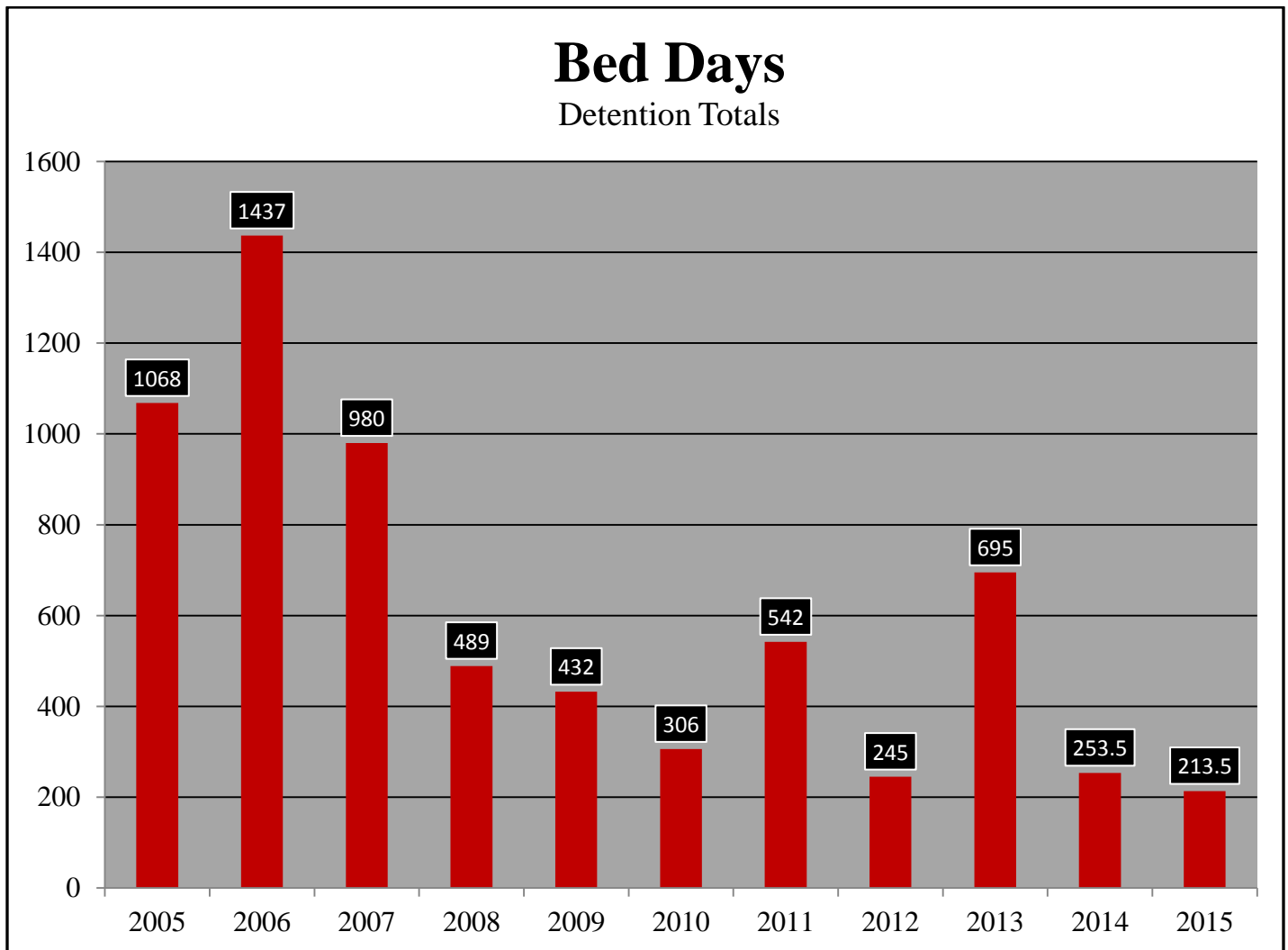
**Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities** – ODYS is the Juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio. It is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21 who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio’s 88 county Juvenile Courts.

No Juveniles were committed to an ODYS Facility in 2015.

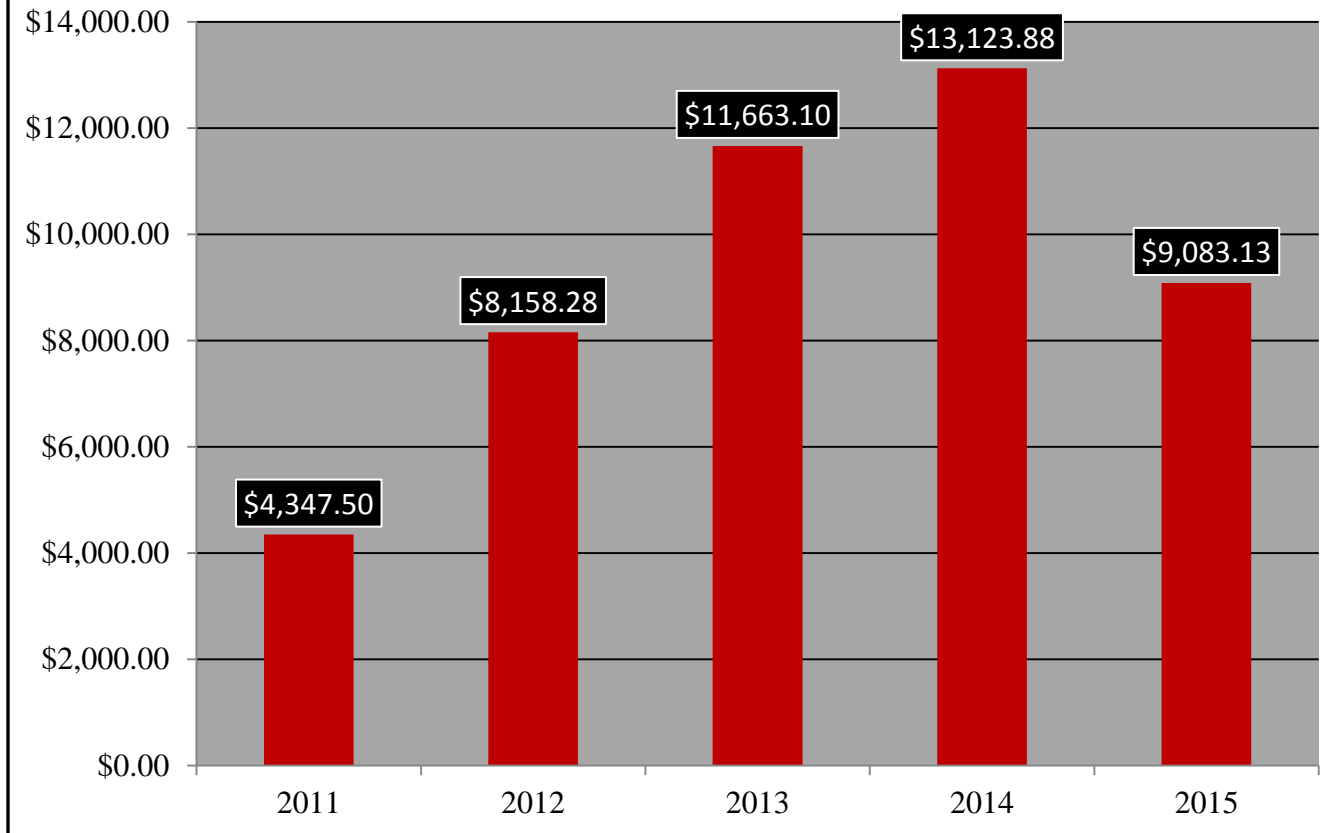
# DETENTION

In January 2011, Holmes County withdrew from the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System. Since that time detention services have been contracted with Richland County through its Juvenile Detention Center in Mansfield, Ohio. In 2015 Holmes County used 213.5 detention bed days at the Richland County facility. Following is a graphic illustration of detention bed day usage from 2005 through 2015. Please note that the detention usage from 2005 through 2010 was through Multi-County Juvenile Attention System.

\*Note the increase of bed days from 2012 to 2013 is partially due to four juveniles being held in detention on sex offenses which accounted for 322.25 days of the 2013 detention total. This number reflects 46% of the total bed days used in 2013.



## Detention Costs Collection



The cost for detention at the Richland County Juvenile Detention Center is \$85 per day. The parents of the juveniles are ordered to pay the costs of detention. The Juvenile Court pursues collection of these costs and reimburses the county from money collected. Collection of costs for detention began in 2011. As of the end of 2015, the county has been reimbursed a total of \$46,375.89 towards said detention costs.

# **PROGRAMS**

## **Probation Department**

The Probation Department of the Juvenile Division of the Common Pleas Court of Holmes County is a very active department, consisting of a Chief Probation Officer, two Probation Officers and the Juvenile Probation Secretary/Clerk. All probation officers have caseloads assigned to them in which they are actively involved. Additionally, all officers have the following required duties:

1. Filing Violation of Law/Court Orders through the Prosecutor's Office;
2. Testifying in Court hearings;
3. Attending ongoing education and training sessions;
4. Writing and filing reports;
5. Public speaking;
6. Monitoring those under Court supervision for probation or Court orders;
7. Utilizing arrest authority when appropriate.

Probation Officers work closely and regularly with the Prosecutor's Office, schools, police, community and the various support agencies in the county. Attempts are made to have personal "face to face" contact with not only those on probation, but all agencies with which this department has a business relationship.

It is the Probation Department's belief that in order to be an effective, knowledgeable operation, it is mandatory to be out in the schools, police departments and community as much as possible in order to properly supervise those on probation. It is also of utmost importance that the Probation Officers know the respective environments of those they supervise and to know the issues that the clients must face on a daily basis. This, we have found, is the reason people act as they do. An ongoing, ever escalating abuse of alcohol and other substances, deterioration in parental supervision and lack of home environment conducive to values are the primary reasons for more and more youth becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

It is paramount to the Court's position that rehabilitation of the juvenile offender is our objective through accountability, responsibility, treatment and supervision. However, the public safety and welfare must be of primary concern when deciding what is the appropriate action that is to be taken.

During calendar year 2015, twenty-nine (29) juveniles were placed on probation (24 males and 5 females) and 35 were removed from probation (26 males and 9 females). Of those removed from probation, 29 were successful and 2 were unsuccessful. 4 were considered neutral and moved out of county.

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community Service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to “repay” the community for the problems caused by the child’s behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience.

In 2015, a total of 1,627 hours were completed by 39 juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$8.10 per hour, those 1,627 hours represent services valued at \$13,178.70 to the Holmes County community.

## **Youth Services Grant**

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30.

In Fiscal Year 2015 (covering the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015) Holmes County Juvenile Court received \$193,831.65 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

The amount received from the Department of Youth Services is based on a formula prescribed by Ohio Revised Code Section 5139. Factors included in that formula are the number of felony adjudications for the County and for the State over the past four-year period. The amount allocated to the County based on the prescribed formula is then debited by an amount based upon the number of bed days which the County has used in Department of Youth Services institutional and community correctional facilities.

Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional or continuing programs in coming years, although for FY2015 the carryover limit was 25% of the total FY2013 grant allocations.

The following two programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2015:

**1. Probation**

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for our three full-time Probation Officers and 75% of the salary and benefits of the Probation Office Secretary. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office and funding for trainings and educational seminars the Probation Officers attend.

**2. Mentoring**

The Court's Mentoring Program, "Connections," began recruiting mentors and matching them with juveniles in the grant's Fiscal Year 2009. The Program was initiated to address the problem of young people who lack positive adult role models. Many of these young people come from single-parent homes where the parent is overwhelmed with daily life and meeting the basic necessities of their children. Such parents often do not have the time and energy needed to spend time with their children and model general life and decision-making skills. Connections matches these young people with adult volunteers who are trained by the Program Coordinator and are willing to commit to spending four to eight hours per month with the young person for a period of at least twelve months. It is the goal of the program to provide a relationship for the child with a caring adult who will assist them in reaching their highest potential as they grow into responsible adults.

The youth targeted for the mentoring program are elementary age through high school and include those adjudicated delinquent and unruly as well as those who are in the Court's Diversion Program or are simply at-risk.

Rebecca McKelley, the Program Coordinator, presents the program to the community in order to make the public aware of this Court Program, as well as to secure volunteers as mentors. She conducts training sessions for the adult volunteers. Ms. McKelley also meets with youth and their families to determine if the young person is a good candidate for the Mentoring Program and to facilitate good matches of youth to mentors.

At the end of 2015 Connections had 26 active matches. These children are being served by the compassionate residents of Holmes County and are being exposed to learning new life skills, improved self-esteem, and a consistent example of positive family life. There are currently 26 active volunteer mentors. The program continues to seek new mentors and currently has a waiting list of 14 children.