

Pima County Juvenile Court

2009 Blueprint for the Future



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

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Mission and Vision of Pima County Juvenile Court Center



Mission Statement

The Pima County Juvenile Court Center is charged under the Federal and State Constitutions, laws, and rules of the court with jurisdiction over all children under the age of 18 years who are referred for reasons of mental health, incorrigibility, delinquency and for all families involved in dependencies, severances, and adoptions. The mission of the Pima County Juvenile Court Center is to promote the interest and safety of the community, promote the rehabilitation of children and families, facilitate the protection of children who are abused and neglected, and facilitate the provision of services to children and families involved with the court all in accordance with the due process of law. The Juvenile Court will work actively with and provide leadership to the community, public and private agencies to promote justice, education, and the prevention of delinquency and abuse.

The Vision of Pima County Juvenile Court Center

An organization committed to:



Message From the Presiding Judge



I became Presiding Judge of the Pima County Juvenile Court at the end of June 2009. I inherited a court that truly is remarkable in all respects. The overriding principle that I immediately observed was a dedication to helping children by all parts of the court and by all of our various collaborators. For that dedication, I can only thank my predecessors, Judge Patricia Escher and Judge Hector Campoy, the continuing leadership of our management team led by Rik Schmidt and Jesus Diaz, and the hard work of every single Juvenile Court employee and in those agencies and offices who support our work.

This has been another year of budget issues and fewer resources for all. As I began my tenure, there was some concern that our State funded employees and partners might not be able to come to work on July 1, 2009, because of budget difficulties. Despite that pressure, the persons affected continued to do their jobs with professionalism and grace. I truly admire them for this performance. Thankfully, that crisis was avoided, but we still have the ongoing issue of doing more work with fewer resources. Again, all of the people who work in and with the court continue to do so without any lapse in their excellent performance.

Changes in the Court

In 2009, we had several changes in personnel at the court. First, in January, Judges Jane Eikleberry and Virginia Kelly rotated to Superior Court, and we welcomed Judges Gus Aragon and Leslie Miller in their stead. Commissioner Ted Knuck retired in February, and his position was filled by Commissioner (and former hearing officer), Kathleen Quigley. Danelle Liwski became a full time hearing officer for us. I came down to the court in March, taking over the presiding judge's duties in June. Also in June, Judges Ted Borek, Terry Chandler and Charles Sabalos were transferred to other benches. We welcomed back to juvenile court Judges Hector Campoy and Javier Chon-Lopez to replace them. While Judge Escher is no longer the presiding judge, we continue to have her serve as a juvenile court judge, however, and we continue to welcome and enjoy the services of Commissioners Adam, Cuneo, Hochuli, Rubin and Wagener as well as those mentioned above. The bench remains very active in all the programs of the court as well as programs in the community, serving children and families.

Message From the Presiding Judge

Child Welfare Activities

Working with our many collaborators, we have completed 14 years as a Model Dependency Court and now serve as a resource for other courts around the country, including Seattle, Washington for which we have provided numerous mentoring activities. In addition to completing the work of the education committee for model court, we continued to work on streamlining the process for children to have resolution in all dependency cases. The bench adopted a protocol for a severance pilot which sets out specific days for severance trials and provides for permanency mediation. The pilot project was set to go into effect in 2010. Working on both ends of the child welfare process, we adopted "Engaging Fathers" as one goal of the Model Dependency Court in October 2009, and the Passport to Adulthood began its pilot project with three judges in 2009. The former endeavor builds on the joint efforts made by the Juvenile and Family Law benches in 2008, and it seeks to have fathers involved with their children from the beginning of the dependency process. The Passport to Adulthood has started with youth in AYAP (Arizona Young Adult Program), conducting a series of benchmark hearings with the youth's case manager, the youth and the judge working together in a number of areas to prepare the youth to live independently when they reach 18.

In 2009, we saw the second largest number of dependency actions ever filed with the juvenile court. We had a total of 1014 petitions filed (down from 1079 in 2008) affecting 1690 children. During the year, we had over 12,000 hearings pertaining to these children and their parents.

These activities were just a few of the many things we have done in child welfare, and they were celebrated in events such as the successful Adoption in the Park Day in which Tucson had the largest per capita number of adoptions for the day and in the March for Children that once again brought attention to the needs of our youth. Family Drug Court continues to help reunite families, and our mediation program continues to resolve disagreements which can only help the children involved.

Juvenile Justice

For several years in a row, we have seen our DMC/JDAI/MDC (Disproportionate Minority Contact/Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative/Model Delinquency Court) efforts at work in our detention population. Once again, this was

Message From the Presiding Judge

true in 2009 with the detention population declining from an average daily population of 95 to an average daily population of 82. At the same time, juvenile delinquency activity in Pima County continues to decrease. Between 2005 and 2009, the total number of offenses committed by youth has decreased by 16%. More importantly, the number of felonies committed by youth has decreased by 31%. This decline in juvenile crime is remarkable. While statisticians may tell us that there are several factors at work, I believe this is the direct result of hard work and thoughtful solutions provided by all our folks who work with juvenile justice.

During the year, the Girls MAC (Make a Change) program was instituted in detention, giving our female juveniles a treatment readiness program of their own. In addition, the Girls Groups were reinstated on both the Juvenile Court campus as well as at the Northwest Center. The Community Support Program lost participation by some community partners because of budget cuts, but our dedicated probation division employees stepped into the breach to continue the program.

We held our first Juvenile Justice 101 program in May, with presentations by the county attorney and public defender as well as by court personnel. In addition, the DMC/JDAI/MDC Executive Committee celebrated its fifth anniversary. We continue to look at ways to reduce disproportionality in all aspects of our juvenile justice system, starting with the diversion program and continuing through examination of those who are in detention. One of the highlights of the year was the completion and publication of the study of low risk youth, which was started in 2006 with the help of Dr. Robert Morris from the University of Arizona.

As We Continue

We will face new challenges in 2010, but I am confident that we will continue to face these challenges in a positive manner. This confidence comes from my deep appreciation for the people who work at juvenile court and who work with the court. Our vision is community protection, restoring victims and successful youth and families. The three prongs of our vision work together creating a synergy that is remarkable. Working together, all of us involved with the Juvenile Court are responsible for that synergy, and I am both proud and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this outstanding team.

Sarah Simmons

Director's Welcome

We are pleased to issue the Pima County Juvenile Court 2009 Blueprint for the Future. Each year we attempt to present a meaningful description of the collective effort generated by our Bench and court staff to serve the citizens of Pima County. Thank you for taking the time to review our Blueprint.



The PCJCC continues to provide quality services to children and families. As you review this document, you will see that despite diminishing financial and staff resources, we remain true to our mission of promoting the interest and safety of the community, promoting the rehabilitation of children and families, facilitating the protection of children who are abused and neglected and facilitating the provision of services to children and families involved with the court, all in accordance with the due process of law. Periodically it's important to measure our daily activities against this standard and, fortunately, I believe we remain true to this awesome course of responsibility.

National, state and local fiscal pressures remain intense but, due to the extraordinary commitment and devotion displayed by our court staff and collaborative partners, we have managed to absorb the current level of reductions without substantially harming the welfare of our clients. We literally are operating with 60+ vacancies on any given day, which is necessary just to manage our budget bottom line. However, the critical services that are so necessary for our children and families remain in place and, ultimately, these efforts will benefit our community as a whole.

On the delinquency side of court operations, our Probation and Detention divisions continue to provide important, effective services. The new Probation Framework model that we are implementing should prove to be valuable in strengthening our consistent, systematic approach to probation supervision and programming. Detention staff continue to engage detained youth in cognitive-behavioral programming and mentoring relationships that reinforce transition planning.

We also are moving forward with our Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and Model Delinquency Court (MDC) efforts. Once again our detention census has decreased, to an average of 82 youth per day, while our youthful population in the county continues to increase (141,000+) and our delinquency rates in nearly every category continue

Director's Welcome

to decline. We also remain committed to reducing DMC at every decision point in the justice continuum and, to that point, our executive committee for our initiatives remains active and resourceful. While our raw numbers in detention are substantially reduced, our percentages by race and ethnicity continue to reflect DMC, although we are realizing improvement in some areas.

This year we also have begun to plan for engaging youth and families at a higher level in the actual development and implementation of alternatives to detention, as well as in reviewing our probation programming and other services. I expect we will be very busy and, at times, challenged, with developing legitimate mechanisms to connect more effectively with our clients. It is important, however, to underscore the need for review and change at every point in the juvenile justice system, not just in detention, probation and court services. We believe our executive committee is committed to this goal and, consequently, 2010 should be an exciting year! For example, one area of review that we began this year is Diversion, which is the only point in the justice continuum that currently is under-represented by youth of color. I look forward to creative ways to impact that statistic.

Another exciting area of activity this year is related to research and evaluation. Our court research staff has developed a comprehensive program evaluation model that we are beginning to use extensively. It provides both process and outcome measures that will help drive future program adjustment and/or development. It's particularly important during difficult economic times to ensure we utilize resources wisely and effectively, and this level of evaluation will go a long way toward achieving this goal.

The Dependency side of the court continues to provide strong services and interventions. With high workloads and diminished staffing levels, however, the challenges are serious. Additionally, some of our key grant funding resources will end soon after the start of 2010, particularly those related to our Family Drug Court. Sustaining funding for critical programs such as this one remains a top priority for court administration.

Our Adoptions, Mediation and CASA units continue to play vital roles in court operations, with many success stories related to the safety and welfare of children in our community. The annual Adoption Day and March for Children events were resounding successes once again, providing the opportunity for the court, collaborative agencies and community members to celebrate successful outcomes for children.

Director's Welcome

The Model Dependency working committee remains engaged and is actively working on this year's set of goals. Also, consistent with our designation as a senior model dependency court, we have been actively providing mentoring to the Seattle, Washington model court effort.

I also want to recognize the wonderful contributions by other court divisions, including Calendar and Assessment Services, Information Technology, Human Resources, Administrative Support and Finance, toward providing continuity and efficiency of services to the public. I am immensely proud of the cooperative spirit displayed by staff throughout our various divisions.

In 2010, we will continue to face challenges, particularly with budget and dwindling resources in many areas. However, I am confident we will meet these challenges and succeed in achieving our goal of providing critical services to Pima County citizens. Thank you to all of our excellent staff and partners.

Rik Schmidt



Judicial Officers

Pima County Juvenile Court is fortunate to have an outstanding group of judges and commissioners who are all dedicated to the vision and mission of the Court and to the service of the children and families of the community.

Presiding Judge - Sarah R. Simmons

Presiding Judge - Patricia G. Escher

(through June 28, 2009)

Associate Presiding Judge - Javier Chon-Lopez

Associate Presiding Judge - Terry Chandler

(through June 28, 2009)



Judge Gus Aragon

Judge Ted Borek

Judge Hector Campoy

Judge Leslie Miller

Judge Jane Eikleberry

Judge Charles Sabalos

Commissioner Karen Adam

Commissioner Suzanna S. Cuneo

Commissioner Peter Hochuli

Commissioner Danelle Liwski

Commissioner Kathleen Quigley

Commissioner Stephen M. Rubin

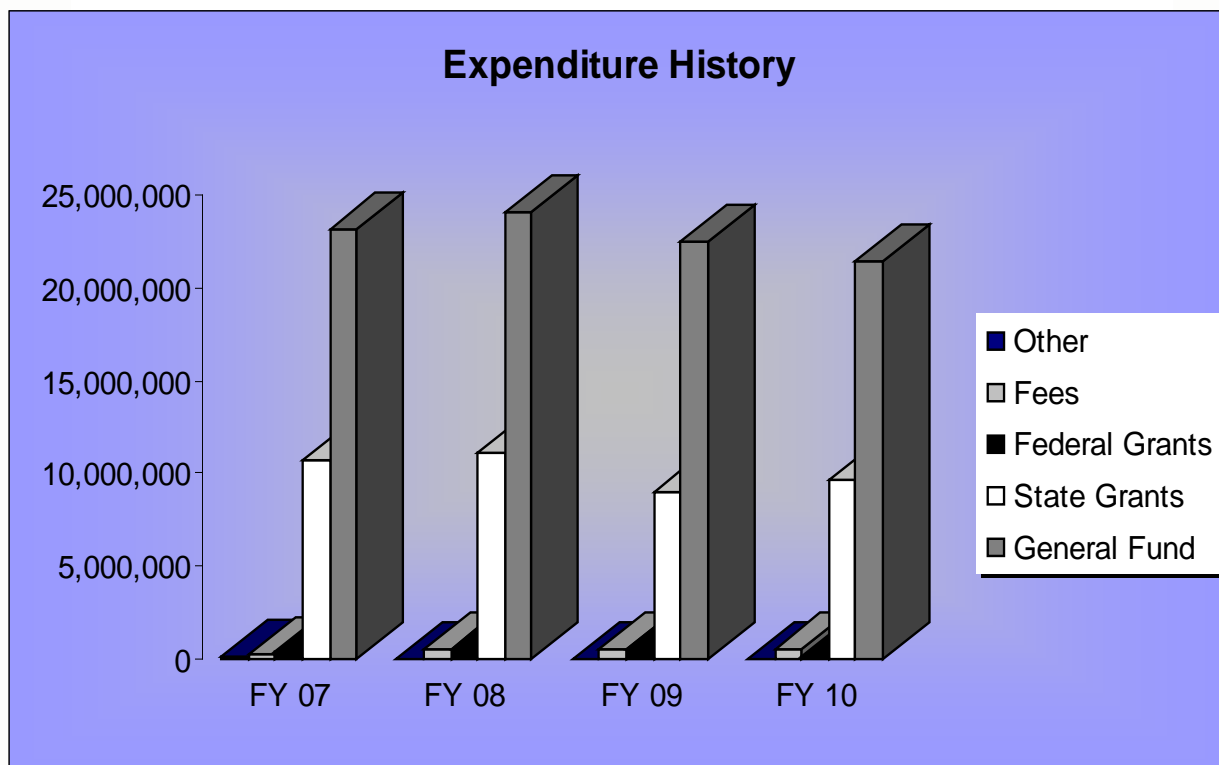
Commissioner Joan Wagener

Budget and Finance

Juvenile Court's primary source of funding comes from the county general fund which provides the majority of funding for the Administration, Detention, and Judicial divisions.

The Court's secondary source of revenue is appropriated by the state through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). This funding supports a variety of probation functions, including intensive probation, standard probation, diversion, family counseling, and treatment services for court involved youth. The AOC also provides funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program and the Court Improvement Project.

The Court's total funding from all sources for fiscal year 2009 was \$32.8 million. This was a reduction from fiscal year 2008 of \$3.7 million; \$1.9 million from the general fund and \$1.8 million from the state. Although court operations have been severely challenged as a result of these budget cuts, the Court continues to move forward with court initiatives. Staff has done an extraordinary job of reducing costs whenever possible while continuing to meet the needs of our children and families.



Probation Division

The probation division has 228 full-time employees. We receive financial support through county, state, and grant funding. On any given day in 2009, Pima County juvenile probation officers supervised 832 adjudicated youth who were placed on Probation by the Court. Of the 832 youth under daily supervision, 138 were on Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision (JIPS). However, these probationers represent only 10% of all youth referred to the Juvenile Court and served by the probation division in 2009. The majority of youth have an opportunity to handle their referral without being placed on Probation. Approximately 68% of all juvenile referrals in 2009 were diverted from the formal court process. These juveniles received a diversion consequence and the opportunity to avoid a delinquent adjudication.

From January through December 2009, the division received 13,512 referrals for delinquent or incorrigible allegations. Each one of the 8,143 youth involved in these referrals was individually interviewed, and in all cases where there was an admission or adjudication, consequences were assigned based on individual risk and need. For juveniles referred for relatively minor charges, the consequence might consist of 20 hours of community restitution work and participation in an education program. Others with more severe referrals might be referred to treatment or educational programs, ordered to pay restitution or complete community restitution work. These juveniles could be placed on Standard Probation, Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision, committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections or transferred to the adult court system.

Through our court-wide DMC/JDAI/MDC initiatives, we continue to examine our practices, specifically, all decision-making points within the delinquency process to ensure fair and appropriate actions are taken. Court-wide training around our initiatives continues to be a priority with many of our probation staff working on DMC and MDC curriculum development. Focusing on our Disproportionate Minority Contact initiative, much of 2009 was spent reviewing our Diversion program to ensure that the opportunity to participate in Diversion and to successfully complete Diversion is equally available to all youth referred on qualifying offenses. Another identified goal of our initiatives during the past couple of years has been on assuring that our relatively small female population is receiving gender appropriate services. Court staff and community partners have been provided with education and information concerning the very

Probation Division

different issues and needs of court-involved girls. Girls Power groups were revived and through collaboration with the Girl Scouts of America these weekly meetings are now held at the Girl Scout facility. Probation officers continue to be involved in the meetings that are organized by the Girl Scouts and provide court involved girls with a positive environment where they participate in educational and motivational pro-social activities. Hopefully, through this positive link with a community agency, the participants will choose to remain with the Girl Scouts following completion of their court involvement.

One of the common elements of our DMC/JDAI/MDC initiatives is the use of data. The accuracy of our data is crucial as it is used to identify progress and areas of concern. In order to ensure the accuracy of probation cases, an annual statewide audit is required by the Administrative Office of the Court. In 2009, there were no discrepancies found between our probation data base and our hand count of probation cases.

In December of 2009, the Probation Division implemented the Probation Framework. Through our initiative work and ongoing review of practices within Probation, former Presiding Judge Patricia Escher worked with a group of probation supervisors and administrators to develop the PCJCC Disposition and Probation Decision Framework. This document was introduced to probation officers and juvenile judges in December of 2009. The Framework is a guide to assist probation officers in making dispositional (juvenile sentencing) recommendations to the court in a consistent, fair and equitable manner. The Framework attempts to outline the appropriate juvenile justice response for specific offenses focusing on community safety, accountability and competency development as it relates to safety.

We continue our focus on community safety as we also continue to ensure that all services and detention alternatives are considered for referred youth who can appropriately remain in the community. This has led to a continuing decline in the number of youth detained along with a continued reduction in the number of criminal referrals. Our average daily detention population in 2007 was 118 declining to 95 in 2008 and to 81 in 2009. Criminal referrals to the court also declined with 11,500 in 2007 compared to 11,205 in 2008 and 10,369 in 2009. We continue our collaborations with other community agencies and providers to develop appropriate services to meet the needs of the population we serve.

Probation Division

In December 2007, we opened an evening reporting center for youth on probation who require additional structure and supervision and who might otherwise be placed in detention. Our Community Support Program (CSP) is a collaborative effort between the Sunnyside School District, community providers and the Juvenile Probation Division. The program is located at Star Academy, a Sunnyside School District building. We staff the program with Juvenile Surveillance Officers who provide transportation to and from the program and provide support and supervision to the participants. We have been fortunate to find community providers to assist with the programming for CSP. Program participants attend the program each evening from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p. m., Monday through Friday. Participants receive homework assistance, tutoring, recreational opportunities, training in Life Skills, Cognitive Skills and Healthy Relationships.

Similar to our CSP program, the Prevention, Academics, Technology (PAT) program was developed and implemented in collaboration with the Tucson Urban League in 2006. PAT is an alternative to detention for our JIPS probationers, providing them with additional structure and supervision during the evenings. Participants are provided with tutoring, cognitive development, technology and employment training and recreational activities.

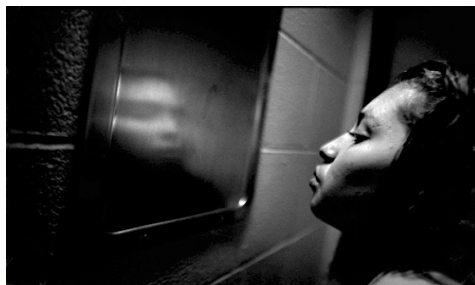
Our Domestic Violence Alternative Center (DVAC) which opened in August of 2007, continues to be a valuable alternative for law enforcement officers and for youth arrested for certain misdemeanor DV offenses. From August 2007 through December 2009, 480 domestic violence referrals involving youth who otherwise would have been physically referred to Detention were diverted to DVAC. Within hours of their arrival at DVAC, these youth received services to address issues which led to their arrest.

While the number of juveniles detained for domestic violence has been reduced, we recognize that domestic violence offenses continue to make up a significant portion of all juvenile arrests. In 2009, a group of probation officers received training from EMERGE, one of our community partners that specializes in providing services to families involved in domestic violence. From this training, our officers developed a curriculum and began conducting Domestic Violence Educational presentations in June. The curriculum is presented twice a month with one class specifically designed for male participants and one class specifically designed for female participants. From June through December 2009, 119 youth attended the DV Education class.

Probation Division

In addition to our detention alternative programs, we continue to operate our Community Renewal and Enrichment through Work (CREW) program and our Restitution Accountability Program (RAP). The CREW program provides youth with an opportunity to participate in structured and supervised community service. Participants are supervised by juvenile surveillance officers and are provided with instruction and guidance emphasizing development of work ethics, responsibility and basic job skills. Participants receive credit toward their court obligation of community restitution. RAP provides younger or unemployable youth who owe victim restitution an opportunity to earn that restitution. RAP participants work with our CREW program completing community service and the hours worked are converted to dollars paid directly to the victim. RAP receives funding from contracts with the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of Transportation graffiti abatement program. During fiscal 2009, CREW participants completed 17,404 hours of community restitution with 6,222 RAP hours, which converted to \$31,112.40 paid to restore victims. This year our CREW program, in collaboration with Tucson Clean and Beautiful, obtained a grant from a private foundation to begin a landscaping training program for court-involved youth. The first class of the Youth Achieving Resource Development Skills (YARDS) program began in January 2010.

Ensuring that we support and provide excellent service to victims is a very important part of our mission. Our Victims' Services Unit and probation officers assure that victims receive appropriate notification of court hearings and other issues concerning their case and that they have an opportunity to provide a statement to the court and to be involved in Victim Offender Mediation if desired. Surveys completed by victims during fiscal 2009 indicate 94.0% satisfaction with the service provided during their court involvement.



Probation Division

Performance measures from our closing reports for calendar year 2009 indicate the excellent service provided by our officers. During that time, youth under the supervision of Probation achieved the following:

75.8 % of all youth completing Diversion in 2009 did not incur new charges within 12 months of completion.

88.8 % of Diversion eligible youth paid their Diversion fee, exceeding the expected 70% statewide outcome.

87.6 % of Diversion eligible youth paid restitution as required, exceeding the expected 70% statewide outcome. This resulted in victims receiving \$44,891.00 in restitution.

Diversion eligible youth completed 25,330 hours of community restitution work. These hours convert to \$183,642.50, based on the current minimum wage.

Probationers (standard and intensive) completed 27,290 hours of community restitution work. These hours convert to \$197,852.50, based on the current minimum wage.

Probationers (standard and intensive) paid a total of \$157,905.00 restitution to victims.

During calendar year 2009, Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision (JIPS) officers completed an average of 3,659 contacts per month with youth assigned to JIPS. Of those 3,659 contacts, 69% were completed between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Probationers assigned to JIPS during calendar year 2009 achieved a drug free rate of 90.73%.

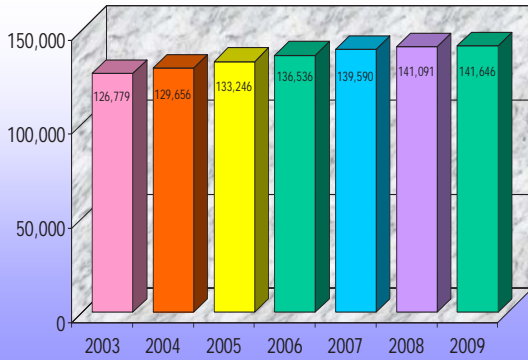


Delinquency History 2003 - 2009

SEVERITY CODES	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% chg 03-09
Population ages 8-17	126,779	129,656	133,246	136,536	139,590	141,091	141,646	11.7%
Felony-Violent Crimes Against Person	335	374	421	365	351	343	297	-11.3%
Felony-Crimes Against Property	850	846	840	931	742	767	552	-35.1%
Obstruction of Justice	1,618	1,688	1,614	1,549	1,501	1,438	1,250	-22.7%
Misdemeanor Against Person	1,686	1,702	1,872	1,652	1,577	1,362	1,346	-20.2%
Drug Offenses	1,996	2,050	2,105	1,925	1,988	1,914	1,909	-4.4%
Public Peace	3,494	3,574	3,719	3,320	3,513	3,491	3,285	-6.0%
Misdemeanor Against Property	2,001	2,069	1,720	1,580	1,827	1,893	1,730	-13.5%
Status Offenses	3,073	3,472	3,845	3,431	3,298	3,362	3,143	2.3%
Administrative	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	-100.0%
Total Complaints	15,056	15,776	16,137	14,754	14,797	14,570	13,512	-10.3%
Number of Youth Represented	9,320	9,610	9,585	8,868	9,063	8,588	8,143	-12.6%
% Youth Population	7.4%	7.4%	7.2%	6.5%	6.5%	6.1%	5.7%	-21.8%
DETENTION REFERRALS								
Brought to Detention	4,883	5,036	4,988	4,712	4,412	3,871	3,262	-33.2%
Detained	3,498	3,599	3,389	3,288	2,583	2,100	1,793	-48.7%
% Detained	71.6%	71.5%	67.9%	69.8%	58.5%	54.2%	55.0%	-23.3%
Average Daily Population (annual)	176	173	136	127	118	95	82	-53.4%

Delinquency History 2003 - 2009

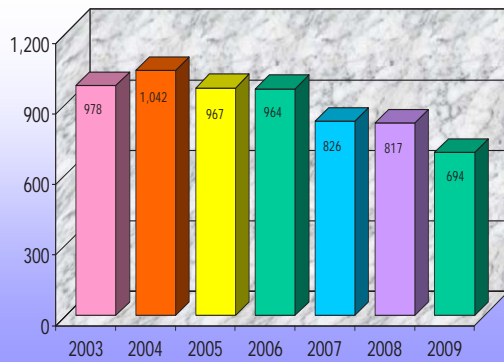
Population of Minors 8-17
2003 - 2009



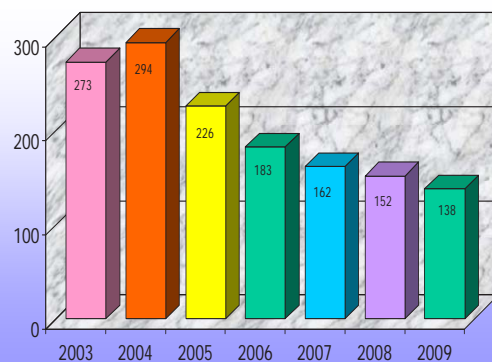
Delinquency Referrals
2003 - 2009



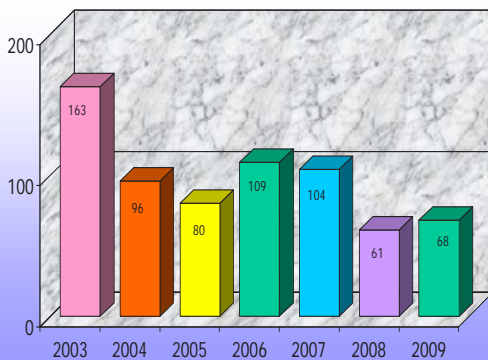
Average Caseload on Standard Probation
2003 - 2009



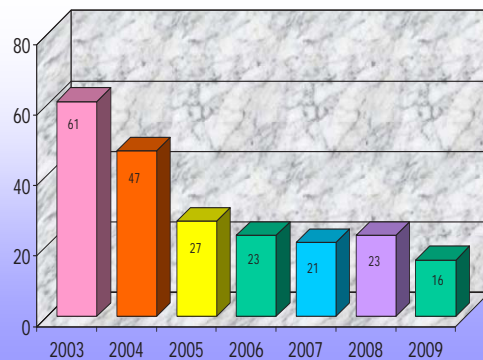
Average Caseload on JIPS
2003 - 2009



Youth Committed to ADOJC
2003 - 2009



Youth Re-Committed to ADOJC
2003 - 2009



Detention Division

In 1996 our community was in desperate need of a new juvenile detention facility that could humanely house youth charged with delinquent offenses or probation violations. With the assistance of our Community Advisory Board, the County Board of Supervisors and the taxpayers, the current facility was built and opened for business on February 25, 2000. With gratitude, we celebrate our ten year anniversary in February.

When this detention center was designed, it was projected to be full with 306 youth, by year 2010. That is not the case and our community is safer and juvenile crime continues to decrease. How did this happen? Court leadership! The Court leadership partnered with Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). Using a validated risk assessment and development of alternatives to detention are just a few of the successful efforts implemented to reduce the detention population without increasing risk to the community. The average daily population for 2000 was 178, for 2009 the average daily population was 82 youth. A conservative estimate of annual savings to the Pima County taxpayers is approximately \$18,000,000.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Special Services

In 2009 Detention opened our second Make a Change substance abuse treatment readiness and relapse prevention living unit. This living unit is for females between the ages of 14 and 17 who are awaiting placement in a community or residential treatment program. Readiness programming is individualized and includes motivational enhancement, relapse prevention, cognitive skill building, and parent education and involvement. Modalities will include group, individual and family education and treatment readiness sessions. Case management for successful transition to community treatment services is also included.

The airmen stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base continue building mentoring relationships with our youth. Our effort to recruit community mentors for detained and probationary youth is ongoing. Detention volunteers

Detention Division

include a strong core of religious and spiritual advisors, mentors from various community agencies, tutors, volunteers who provide job and educational resources, dog therapy, facilitators of life skills for transition to independent living (i.e., completing employment applications, resumes, renting an apartment, banking, transportation, credit, etc.); Girl Scouts leadership program and guest speakers on a variety of educational and recreational topics make up our volunteer corps.

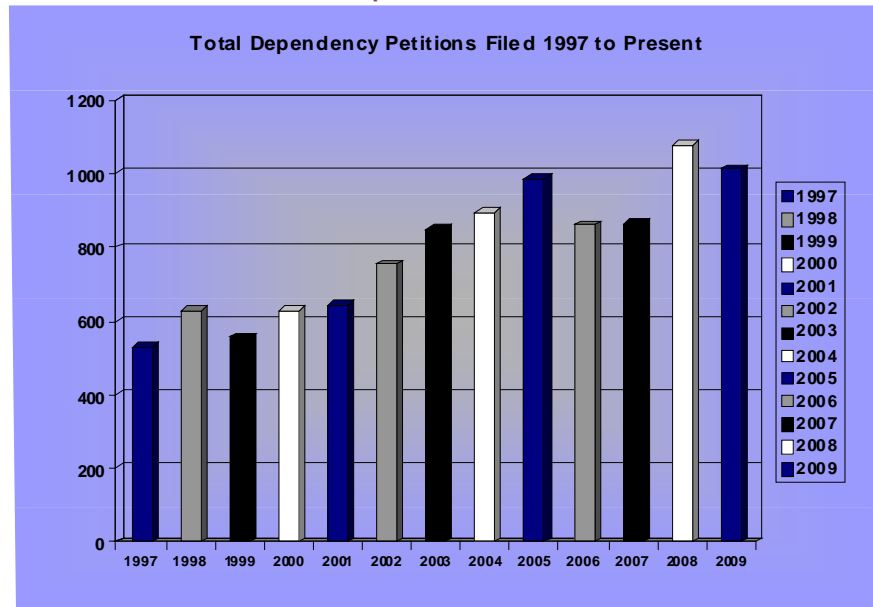
The Detention Public Library Branch circulates approximately 3000 books per month to our detained youth, provides special programs, tutoring and general library services to all youth in detention.



Children and Family Services Division

This division of Pima County Juvenile Court is charged with the oversight of all dependency, adoption, severance and guardianship cases. As 2009 closed, there were:

1744 open dependency cases in Pima County
3104 dependent children



There were 1,014 dependency petitions filed in 2009, alleging abuse or neglect of 1,690 children. Nearly half of these children were five years old or younger:

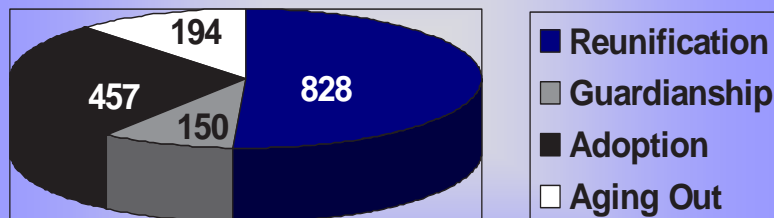
Under 2 years: 29%
2-up to 5 years: 18%
5-up to 10 years: 24%
10-up to 13 years: 10%
13-up to 16 years: 12%
16 and up: 7%

Pima County continues to demonstrate an increase in the number of dependent children reunified with their parents. Although "return to parent" is the initial goal of nearly all court dependency cases, the reunification rate was only 17% in 2000. In 2009, the reunification rate was nearly 46%. A number of factors may have contributed to this increase: the implementation of Permanency Mediations and the extensive use of all alternative dispute resolution

Children and Family Services Division

processes; higher enrollment and graduation rates in Family Drug Court; better collaboration between all agencies, highlighted by the initiating of the Community Partners Initiative by CASA of Pima County; improved practices in foster parent recruitment and training; incorporation of behavioral health in the child welfare process, including the use of Child and Family Teams and Adult Recovery Teams; increased engagement of fathers and full implementation of Team Decision Making meetings at Child Protective Services.

Number of Cases (by Child) Closed in 2009 by Type



A Powerful Voice in a Child's Life.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

The year was off to a running start with a successful media campaign that brought in a record breaking 244 inquiries in our first quarter! As a direct result, 54 CASA volunteers came on board!

Three CASA Forums with the Pima County Juvenile Court Center Judges and the CASA Volunteers were successfully held. The Forums are a direct result of requests made by CASA Volunteers to interact and have dialogue with the bench in an educational/informative way.

CASA of Pima County has been working with the CASA Arizona Office developing competencies for both CASA Volunteers and CASA Coordinators.



Children and Family Services Division

Both are measures to improve quality assurance and professionalism.

2009 was the year for the program audit that occurs every three years. CASA of Pima County had successful outcomes! The audit has been the driving force of continued quality assurances and accountabilities efforts.

CASA of Pima County continues to recruit quality advocates and serves one child at a time as they are involved with the Dependency process.

- 180 Court Appointed Special Advocates appointed to
- 145 dependency cases,
- Serving 201 children;
- Volunteering 17,214 hours and
- Driving 134,145 miles to visit a child, interview a parent, attend a staffing, or go to Court.



Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The Mediation Unit continues to provide a valuable service to the court and the families and stakeholders whom it serves. With the third full-time mediator on board for the whole of 2009, we conducted in excess of 1200 sessions. In addition to providing a venue for the parents to be partners in decision-making, this also saves the parties, as well as the court, many hours of litigation. We recently implemented a push towards the use of mediation in all cases in which reunification appears to be at risk, inviting the family and the stakeholders to do an open, honest assessment of what needs to happen to shore up the possibility of reunification *while at the same time* involving the parents in the conversation on a contingency plan for the children. A review of 115 cases that had a mediation session specifically addressing permanency issues showed that only two of those cases resulted in a severance trial.

This unit also serves by providing mediation of custody and parenting time issues for consolidated family law cases. A new local rule formalizes the Court's goal of having dependency cases conclude with a valid custody and parenting time order in place. The Juvenile Court's mediators are here to provide the mandatory mediation required by statute when there is a disagreement as to custody and/or parenting time.

Children and Family Services Division

Development of the conflict resolution skill-building program for juvenile detainees has progressed as planned and continues to expand with the addition of new modules. Emotions, Needs and Positions, Diversity, Problem Solving, Intergenerational Communication, and Goal Setting are the modules currently being used. 160 youth attended conflict resolution trainings in 2009. We look forward to the continued success of this program and the addition of new modules.

Statistics of note:

- 532.5 hours of contested dependency trial time were vacated when the issue of the dependency was resolved in facilitated settlement conferences. (This only reflects cases for which trial dates had been set. In most instances, trial dates have not been calendared at the time of the facilitated settlement conference.)
- In 49% of the facilitated settlement conferences, services were also discussed and disposition was included in the order prepared for the court's consideration.
- 323 hours of contested severance trial time were vacated as a result of facilitated case conferences or mediation.
- 10.5 hours of contested custody and 3.5 hours of contested guardianship trial hours were vacated as a result of mediation.



Number of Cases Referred for Court-Based ADR Services (*The nonappearance rate in 2009 was 7.54%.)

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
358	537	708	798	1071	1313



Children and Family Services Division

Family Drug Court

Family Drug Court (FDC) remained a vital resource for many parents in dependency cases who struggled with substance abuse.

Our main community stakeholders in the dependency process continued their support: Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA), Pima County's Regional Behavioral Health Authority, provided funding for two FDC Case Specialists, who provide intensive case management and frequent home visits to parents; Child Protective Services (CPS) dedicated four CPS Case Aides to FDC, stationed at the Court.

Pima County Family Drug Court began to see excellent outcomes from enhancing our previously successful combination of intensive case management and judicial oversight with evidence-based, **specialized trauma therapy** for the parents who participate in this project. It was our hypothesis that this enhancement would improve both treatment outcomes and drug court graduation rates, and both outcomes have indeed improved significantly. Additionally, we have also seen **zero recidivism** with graduates who have completed this treatment, compared to 15% for all family drug court clients.

One year ago, only 23 clients had been referred to this trauma therapy; in the past year we've nearly tripled that number.

Of the 66 parents who have now been referred for trauma therapy:

- 24 have completed therapy;
- All 24 have completed substance abuse treatment; and
- All 24 have graduated from Family Drug Court.
- 23 remain in trauma therapy and are doing well and are expected to complete it;
- The remaining 19 did not complete the therapy (5 never attended a session);
- Of these 19, 16 were unsuccessfully terminated from FDC, but 2 clients actually graduated after attending some trauma therapy sessions.



Children and Family Services Division

If the 23 current clients complete the treatment and subsequently graduate from Family Drug Court, we would realize a 71% graduation rate for clients who receive this enhanced treatment, compared to the current 46% graduation rate for all Family Drug Court clients.

Additionally, **73% of the clients who have completed the therapy have been reunified with their children** or are pending reunification, compared to 40% for the general dependency population in Pima County.

Adoption & Guardianship

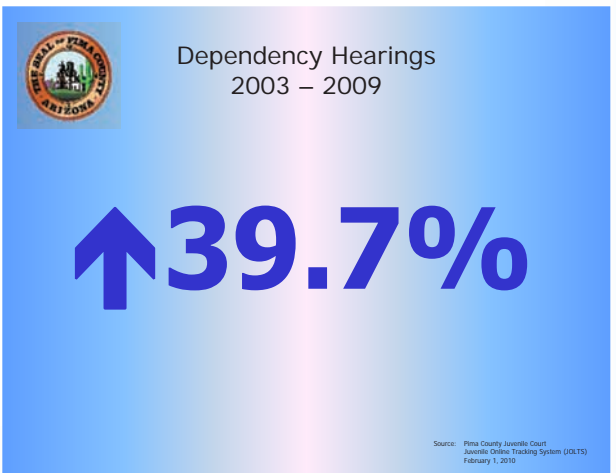
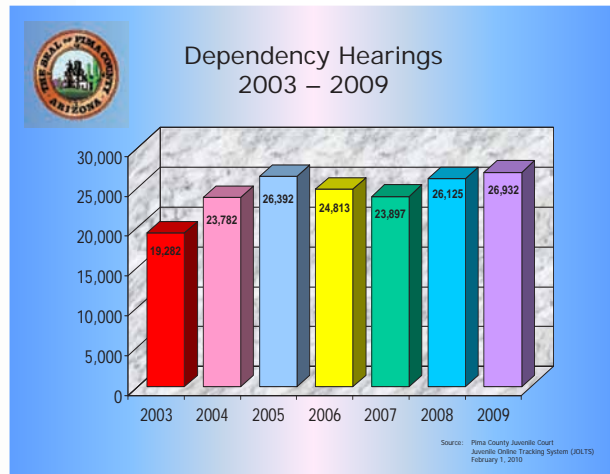
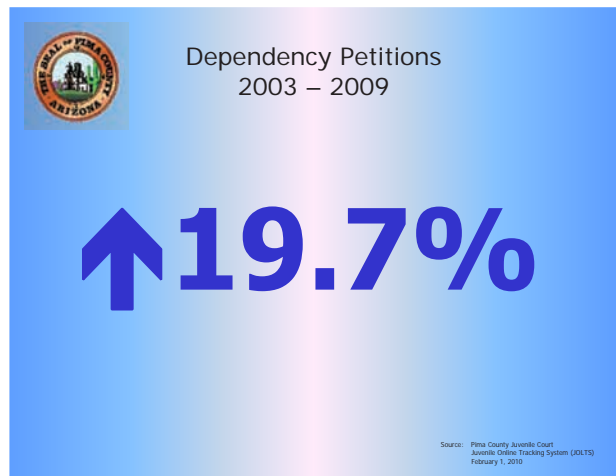
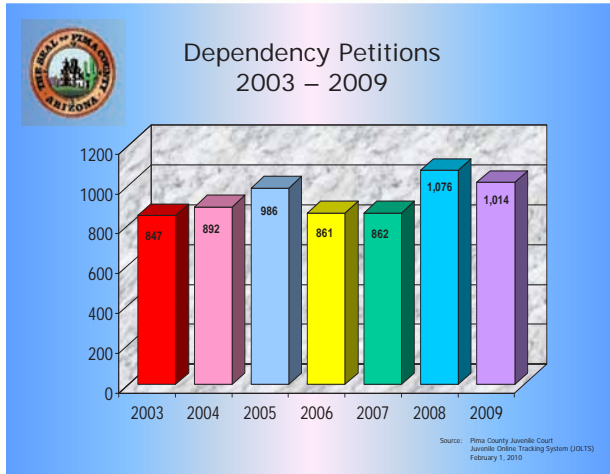
In keeping with the Court's mission of safe, permanent placements for children, the Adoption Examiner's office offers adoption home studies and certifications for families who wish to legally adopt stepchildren, grandchildren, or other children already in their home. This program also completes home studies for private guardianships and reviews on guardianship cases. The Adoptions Examiner's office partners with the County Attorney's office, enabling Pima County families to provide permanency for their children and pay fees commensurate with their household income. In 2009, these community services generated \$30,477 in revenue.

Adoption/Guardianship Trends

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adoptions	127	136	113	142	107	100	101	129
Certifications	11	17	10	09	8	7	4	11
Guardianships	26	36	35	30	36	34	39	33
Totals	164	189	158	181	151	141	144	173



Children and Family Services Division



Employee Recognition

Among the almost 600 employees of Juvenile Court are some of the most exceptional and professional people in the state of Arizona performing outstanding work on behalf of the children and families of our community. Each year the Chief Probation Officers Association (ACPOA) sponsors awards for the employees of the juvenile and adult probation departments throughout the state. This year the employees who represented Juvenile Court in the statewide competition were:

Arizona Chief Probation Officers' Association (ACPOA)

Employee of the Year - Anizza Scott, Dependency Specialist, Children and Family Services - Anizza was nominated for her coordinating efforts in the unit, particularly during her supervisor's leave. She ensured staff issues were handled, vacant positions were covered, committee work continued, case requirements and State and Federal statutes were met. Anizza's work in the development of the JOLTSaz dependency module and on the Courts Catalyzing Change Committee has been invaluable.

Detention Officer of the Year - Edward Beltran, JDO, Detention Services - Edward was nominated for his dedication to the mission of the court in helping youth and families succeed. He is an excellent role model, mentor, and an effective educator. Edward is valued as a team player and is also active in community schools.

Line Officer of the Year - Gary Thiede, Probation Officer, Probation Services - Gary was nominated for his boundless energy and dedication to inspire success in the lives of youth and families. As we often refer to "wrap around" or comprehensive services, Gary's nominators call him a "wrap around" probation officer. His positive impact on youth is clearly visible.

Supervisor/Manager of the Year - Beau Wilcox, Detention Supervisor - Beau was nominated for his consistent leadership in developing and integrating new systems and ensuring staff are properly trained. His supervision style motivates staff to engage youth and teach the highest level of life skills to help them develop and build successful lives.