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South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice report card for 2007

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South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

REPORT CARD

for 2007





A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

We are proud to present our fourth “Juvenile Justice Report Card” as part of our continuing tradition of accountability.

I am excited as I reflect not only on our continued successes that you will see in this report card, but also on the many physical improvements taking place and the implementation of new programs at DJJ. We are undergoing major construction projects to replace dilapidated dormitories and to construct a new visitation center for parents visiting their children “behind the fence,” and other usage. Our new dormitories, along with our new Girls Transition Home, are among the major additions to the Broad River Road Complex and will be replacing buildings that were constructed over 40 years ago with new, more secure housing for juveniles.

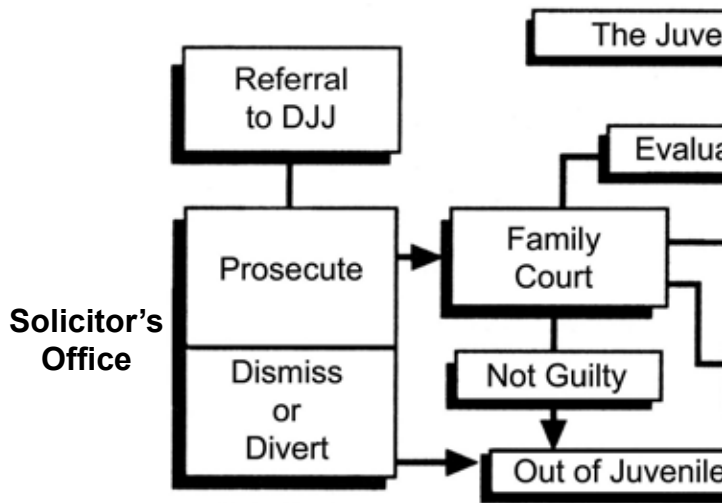
Part of our new construction is notable for another reason. Our new “Community Connections Center,” has the distinction of being entirely privately funded. The “Friends of Juvenile Justice” foundation is raising almost \$3 million through their Community Connections Campaign and will build this facility and donate it to the agency, solely funded by generous private contributors. To my knowledge, this is the first time that a private foundation has made such a generous contribution to a state penal institution.

In this Report Card, you will read about continued improvements in the areas of victim services and education, which are sources of great pride for DJJ. You will also see that there continue to be areas for improvement in our juvenile justice system. Our state’s high juvenile detention rate is still a major problem. Our average daily population count places us at 69 percent over designed capacity. Continued overcrowding in the DJJ Detention Center highlights a desperate need for more prevention programs in the community. And, although we have implemented several community prevention and employability programs, more needs to be done to better protect our citizens.

We hope you will take time to study this Report Card and 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

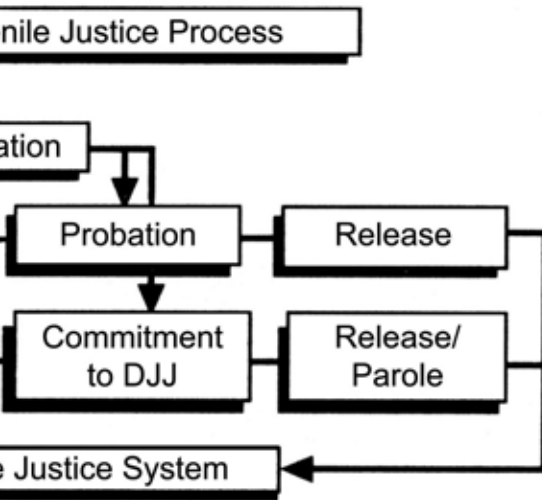




Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties.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

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or "guideline," determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ's own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile's offense and his history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile's behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. 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

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Cases

Referred to DJJ

2006 – 2007	24,699
2005 – 2006	25,820
2004 – 2005	26,213
2003 – 2004	27,328
2002 – 2003	29,031

CASES REFERRALS TO DJJ: In FY 2006-07, 24,699 cases were referred to DJJ. Data collected by DJJ and Juvenile Arbitration Programs (early intervention) at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 67 percent of the population was male, 58 percent was African-American, and the average age was 15.4 years.

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 nearly tripled over the past ten years. No felony offenses occurred in the top five reasons for referral to DJJ and truancy returned to the list for the first time since 2004.

Five Most Frequent Offenses Associated with Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Disturbing Schools
- #2 Simple Assault & Battery
- #3 Public Disorderly Conduct
- #4 Shoplifting
- #5 Truancy

Offenders

Diverted by Juvenile Arbitration Programs

2006 – 2007	5,294
2005 – 2006	5,215
2004 – 2005	4,879
2003 – 2004	4,670
2002 – 2003	4,392

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE

ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina 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 17 percent over the past five years.

Daily Population Close of FY 2006-07

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Hardware Secure Custody	760	838
Staff Secure Custody (community placements)	596	563
Marine Programs	90	89
Mental Health Placements	23	32
Total:	1,496	1,522

DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: At the close of Fiscal Year 2006-07, a daily population of 760 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ. This is a 10 percent drop in the secure custody population from the previous year. A daily population of 596 juveniles was located in staff-secure placements in the community such as group homes or community residence placements, a 5 percent increase from the previous year.



A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Five Most Frequent Offenses Resulting in DJJ Commitment

- #1 Probation Violation, Misdemeanor Offense
- #2 Contempt of Court
- #3 Burglary 2nd Degree Non Violent
- #4 Aggravated Assault & Battery
- #5 Simple Assault & Battery

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES RESULTING IN DJJ COMMITMENT:

In FY 2006-07, the #1 charge associated with commitment to DJJ statewide was probation violation for a misdemeanor offense. Two-hundred ninety-nine juveniles were committed to DJJ for this offense. A probation violation occurs when a juvenile violates the rules of his or her probation.

Youth Served by TASC

2006-2007	*286 Youth
2005-2006	196 Youth
2004-2005	105 Youth

*Over one-third of youth improved school performance

TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. During FY 2006-07, 87 percent of youth served were not suspended from school while participating and 32 percent reduced the number of unexcused absences.

DJJ School District Graduates

2006 – 2007	149
2005 – 2006	134
2004 – 2005	167
2003 – 2004	167
2002 – 2003	110

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION

RATE: DJJ operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the third consecutive year, the SCDJJ school district received the "Palmetto Gold" award. DJJ's Birchwood School is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Notification to Victims Regarding Case Status

2006 – 2007	15,450
2005 – 2006	14,950
2004 – 2005	13,480
2003 – 2004	10,335
2002 – 2003	11,456

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 2006-07, DJJ notified 15,450 victims regarding their case status. This is a 33 percent increase as compared to FY 2003-04.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark (Repairing the harm to victims and community)

Restitution to Victims

of Cases: 872
Amount Ordered: \$ 396,658
Amount Paid: \$ 322,978
85% of Offenders Paid in Full

RESTITUTION: Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. Of 8,116 cases closed during FY 2006-07 where restitution was ordered, 85 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was \$322,978.

Restorative Community Work Service Hours

of Cases: 3,103
Hours Ordered: 92,580
Hours Worked: 85,511 (83%)
\$ Value: \$ 408,215 (calculated at minimum wage)

WORK SERVICE: Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay the community for the harm suffered by the community. In 8,116 cases closed during FY 2006-07, 102,423 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 85,511, which is 83 percent 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.")

	2007	2006
Rated "5"	42%	52.7%
Rated "4"	40%	29.1%
Rated "3"	18%	14.6%
Rated "2"	0%	3.6%
Rated "1"	0%	0%

MEASURING SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY:

The justice system has a responsibility to serve crime victims. Over the past 4 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. On a rating scale with 1 being most negative to 5 being most positive, 82 percent of victims surveyed rated their satisfaction at either a four or a five.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

COMPETENCY—A Restorative Benchmark (Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Offenders Testing Negative

Number Tested: 1,226

Percent Tested
Negative: 68%

RESISTANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL USE:

In 8,116 cases closed during FY 2006-07, 15 percent of youth were tested while under supervision in the community. Of those youth tested, a negative result occurred in 68 percent of cases, as compared to 81 percent of youth tested in FY 2005-06. Marijuana was involved in 89 percent of all positive test results.

School Participation

Youth Enrolled in
Educational Program or Voca-
tional Training at Case Closure:
7,000 Youth
(86%)

Youth Not Enrolled but
Employed at Case Closure
31 Youth
(2.7%)

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: Eighty-six percent of the 8,116 youth completing court orders or Juvenile Arbitration Program sanctions during FY 2006-07 were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 1,116 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 31 were employed.

Employability Training

Youth Completing Job
Readiness Training:

195 Youth

Required Hours of Paid Work
Experience Completed:

80 Hours/Youth

JUVENILES EXPERIENCING EXCELLENCE

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 2006-07, 195 youth and 156 employer partners in 5 communities participated in the program. JEEP will expand from 5 to 18 sites during FY 2007-08.

Citizen Participation

of Volunteers: 1,816

Hrs. Contributed: 123,762

Value: \$724,007
(calculated at minimum wage)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COM-

PETENCY: During Fiscal Year 2006-07, 1,816 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 123,762 hours of service.

COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark (Protecting the public)

Table A
Juveniles Committed to the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2006-07	1,968
2005-06	1,952
2004-05	1,867
2003-04	1,977
2002-03	2,109

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 compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ custody over the past five years. At the close of FY 2006-07, there had been no escapes from hardware-secure long term institutions in 1,372 days.

Table B
Daily Population Juveniles Held in DJJ's Detention Center

Year	Number
2006-07	122
2005-06	132
2004-05	108
2003-04	106
2002-03	104

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center 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. DJJ's Detention Center, which has a designed capacity of 72 beds, had an average daily population of 122 juveniles during FY 2006-07 (69 percent over designed capacity).

Top Five Offenses of Parolees Under ISI Supervision

- #1 Probation Violation
- #2 Aggravated Assault & Battery
- #3 Burglary 2nd Degree Non Violent
- #4 Unlawful Possession of a Pistol
- #5 Armed Robbery

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION INITIATIVE (ISI):

ISI is a new initiative designed to promote community safety and ensure successful reentry of paroled offenders back into the community. Intensive Supervision Officers (ISO's) supervise no more than 20 youth at a time. The program has expanded from 30 to 51 ISO's during FY 2007-08.

Recidivism Rate Juvenile Offenders on Probation/Parole or in Arbitration Programs

Number of Offenders	Recidivism Rate
8,116	14%

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Of the 8,116 cases closed during FY 2006-07, 86 percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.



New 2007 Restorative Initiatives Building Partnerships, Ensuring Public Safety, Providing Customer Services

Building Community Partnerships

- **Columbia College** – DJJ partnered with The Leadership Institute of Columbia College to incorporate the LEAD program, “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens,” for the female students at DJJ.
- **Rotary International** – DJJ joined with the Rotary Club of Lake Murray-Irmo to charter the first Rotary Interact Club in the world to be located in a correctional setting.
- **SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD)** – DJJ and SCVRD signed an agreement to promote the delivery of vocational services to eligible youth supervised by DJJ.
- **Women’s Missionary Union (WMU)** – DJJ signed an agreement with the WMU to expand and develop delinquency prevention programs, reentry services and in-kind donations of personal items for juveniles.
- **Children’s Law Center (CLC) at the University of SC** – DJJ partnered with CLC to pilot two projects aimed at detention reform through collaborative efforts with law enforcement.
- **Clemson University** – DJJ partnered with Clemson University to create the Center for Girls Advocacy and to develop a day treatment program for youth in the community.
- **The 100 Black Men** – DJJ partnered with The 100 Black Men to implement the Lunch Connection, a DJJ Youth Leadership Platform.
- **AME Church** – Since entering into a formal partnership with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in 2006, DJJ has benefited through the recruitment of volunteers, expansion of Teen After School Center sites, and fundraising that resulted in \$100,000 in pledges to the Friends of Juvenile Justice.

Ensuring Public Safety

- **Auxiliary Probation Services (APS)** – DJJ expanded APS to reduce recidivism and provide positive one-on-one adult contact for offenders. APS utilizes community volunteers who work with non-violent and low-risk probationers within the juvenile justice system.



- **Release Authority** – DJJ established an internal Release Authority, allowing the agency to make release decisions on most incarcerated offenders with indeterminate commitments to DJJ for misdemeanors and probation violations.
- **Jail Removal Initiative (JRI)** – DJJ developed JRI Therapeutic Foster Care to offer a safe alternative to detention for minor offenders.
- **Gang Intervention Initiative** – DJJ piloted intervention services for juveniles involved with gangs in four large counties.
- **Outward Bound** – DJJ implemented the use of this rugged outdoor program as a staff-secure alternative placement, alternative to DJJ commitment, or release option for juveniles.

Providing Customer Services

- **2007 Chinn Planning Report** – DJJ asked expert consultant, Chinn Planning, to provide an independent review of the agency's progress regarding conditions of confinement, staffing levels, staff development, housing, and programming. This report concluded that DJJ, "has developed programs, services and facilities that reflect best practices in the field of juvenile justice."
- **Girls Transition Home** – DJJ opened a home utilized to transition and prepare incarcerated girls for their return to the community.
- **Videoconferencing** – DJJ introduced videoconferencing as a tool to improve customer services for juveniles, families, community agencies, and crime victims, as well as to better communication within the agency.
- **Bridge Aftercare Program** – DJJ expanded the Bridge Aftercare Program for offenders who received substance abuse treatment during their commitment to DJJ.
- **Sewing & Alterations Job Skills Program** – DJJ implemented this vocational program designed to introduce juveniles to new job skills and employment opportunities in the alteration and upholstery industries.
- **Earning Your Way Back** – DJJ established this restitution program to enable offenders to earn the money needed to make financial restitution to their victims by performing community service work. The program is made possible through a partnership with the Lake Murray-Irmo Rotary Club.

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

The Honorable David M. Pascoe, Jr.
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 W. Barney Giese
Solicitor, 5th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Leon Lott
Sheriff, Richland County

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 Scarlett A. Wilson
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
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit

DJJ's Mission

The Governor's mission is to raise personal incomes of South Carolinians by creating a better environment for economic growth, delivering government services more openly and efficiently, improving quality of life, and improving our state's education.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice supports the Governor's mission by protecting the public and reclaiming juveniles through prevention, community programs, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

For more information contact:
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Office of Community Justice
(803) 896-9766
www.state.sc.us/djj

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