



# *Santa Barbara County*

## **Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan *Update***

*Juvenile Justice  
Crime Prevention Act*

**2016**

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## **1. Introduction**

Established by the Legislature in 2000 (AB 1913), the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) provides funding to local jurisdictions to support initiatives and strategies that target juvenile crime and delinquency, and juvenile offenders and at-risk juveniles. It is codified in Section 30061, et seq, of the Government Code. The JJCPA requires counties to implement and annually review and approve a Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and update it as necessary. The CMJJP identifies priorities, discusses strategies, and reports on the programs utilized.

This document is Santa Barbara County's 2016 update to its CMJJP. It describes the County's juvenile justice system and provides State and local juvenile crime information. It identifies and discusses the strategies the County currently uses to address juvenile crime and related funding capabilities.

Santa Barbara County received \$1.46 million at the inception of the JJCPA and in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 received about \$1.2 million. The FY 2015-2016 allocation is estimated to be nearly the same. Through the use of other funding sources such as Title IV-E and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), the Probation Department has been able to fund personnel and services. This has helped maintain JJCPA funded programs and services, and prevented reductions to community-based programs. However, allocations from those sources have also decreased over time, limiting Probation's flexibility in managing funding and resources. Presently, Probation's Juvenile Division has 41 sworn and 27 non-sworn personnel. This is a slight decrease from 2014, and a more notable decrease from 2012 when there were 56 sworn and 28 non-sworn staff in the division.

JJCPA funds are used to provide Early Intervention (EI) Officers and School-Based Officers (SBOs) in each of Probation's regional areas (Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Lompoc). Funds also support counseling services provided by community-based organizations (CBO). Referrals are made by Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) to CBOs for juveniles who may benefit from a counseling program that addresses identified needs. Probation has also been able to develop individualized interventions when established programs are not available or sufficient, such as short-term interventions provided to detained youth or youth with serious mental health issues.

The areas of focus in this update remain consistent with those identified in previous reports, most notably mental health needs, substance use and abuse, and gang activity. Local agencies have also been working to address the needs of youth victimized by human trafficking. Various collaborative efforts and initiatives have been developed in the last two years to address this complex issue. Communities throughout the State have enjoyed an historic eight year decline in juvenile crime that appears to have slowed and bottomed out locally in 2014. There is evidence that juvenile crime trended upward in 2015.

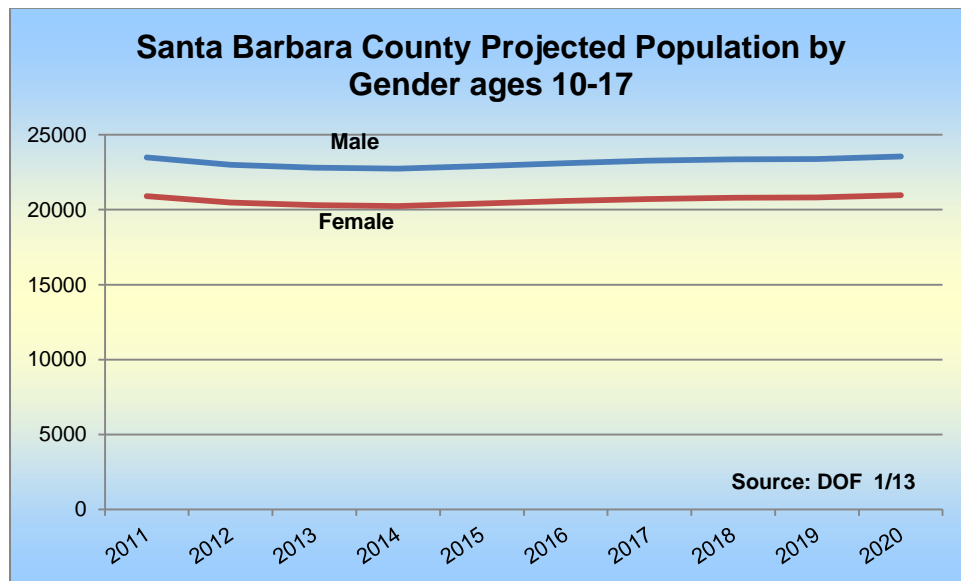
## 2. Santa Barbara County

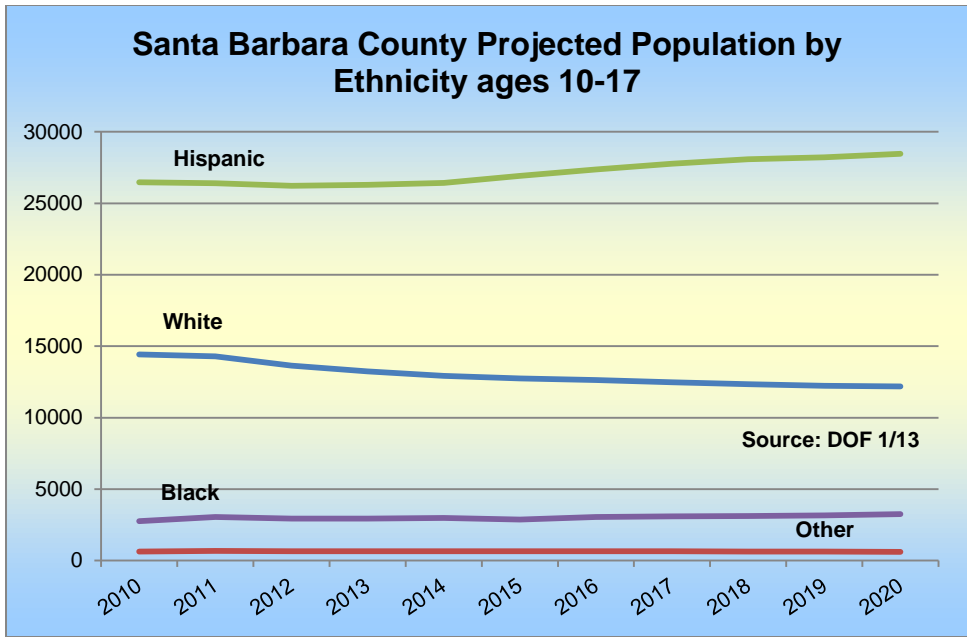
According to the State Department of Finance (DOF), Santa Barbara County has a projected total population of 442,312 for 2016. This represents approximately a 1.4 percent increase from the 2014 estimate, and is 1.12 percent of the State’s total projected population. There are eight incorporated cities in the County, noted here by name and population (for 2015):

Santa Maria	102,087
Santa Barbara	91,088
Lompoc	43,479
Goleta	30,765
Carpinteria	13,487
Guadalupe	7,205
Solvang	5,489
Buellton	4,931

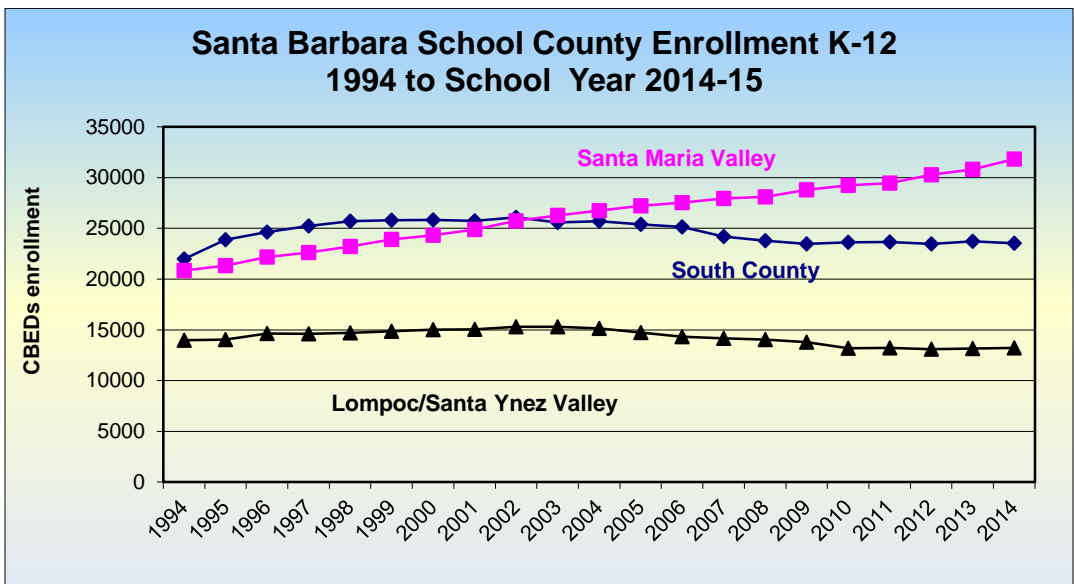
Each city experienced growth since 2013. From January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015, Solvang had the largest percentage growth at two percent while Lompoc had the least amount at 0.10 percent.

In terms of the youth population, the DOF estimates that there are a total of 43,013 persons in the 10 to 17 age range, inclusive, residing in the County in 2016. This is an increase of 921 from 2014. Of these youth, 63 percent are Hispanic, 29 percent are Caucasian, 2.9 are Asian, and 1.3 percent are African-American.





There were 20,509 students enrolled in public schools in grades 9 through 12 in Santa Barbara County public schools in school year 2014-15. This number is projected to grow about one percent in 2015-16 and four percent by 2019-20. For the 2019–2020 school year, the number is expected to increase by 840 to 21,349 students, or 4.1 percent.



School population continues to show growth only in the Santa Maria Valley through school year 2014-15 based on the official school enrollment data. Lompoc/Santa Ynez Valley area showed small growth while South County continued to decline.

### **3. Santa Barbara County Juvenile Justice System**

Numerous State and local agencies perform various duties and functions that either directly or indirectly support the objectives and efforts of the juvenile justice system.

#### Probation Department

Probation is the primary agency responsible for handling matters relating to juvenile crime and delinquency. Through legal mandates, formal arrangements, and informal coordination, it balances the needs of the individual offender and the community, and develops appropriate case plans that meet those needs. It also plays a prominent role in many other venues where the general welfare of youth is the focus. Officers from all levels within Probation participate in a number of initiatives and programs geared toward improving opportunities for young people.

Probation maintains intake, investigations, and supervision functions in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, and supervision operations in Lompoc. Supervision caseloads are kept at low levels whenever possible to enable officers to devote the time necessary to meet the needs of juvenile offenders and their families, and coordinate services. There are specialized caseloads in each area office including EI, SBO, Juvenile Drug Court (JDC), and YOBG.

A centralized placement unit is responsible for supervising youth placed with relative and non-relative caregivers, and in group homes. Placement is sought when the welfare of the youth is in jeopardy and local treatment options have been attempted or considered. Probation utilizes a multidisciplinary approach when determining if out-of-home placement is appropriate. Placing a youth with a relative is always the first consideration before placing with a non-relative or in residential care. While Probation actively seeks to limit the distance that a youth is placed, there are times when a higher level of care is needed, requiring facilities around California and out-of-state.

The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) houses detained youth from all regional jurisdictions. Probation also operates a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall in Santa Barbara, which operates as a holding facility for the adjacent juvenile court as well as alternative detention services such as home supervision with or without electronic monitoring. Presently, the SMJH is staffed to accommodate 80 detained youth. Corizon Correctional Healthcare continues to provide quality health care services for the SMJH and Camp and provides immediate and follow-up care. A pediatrician serves as the Institutions Division's Medical Director. Corizon provides seven-day per week medical care at the SMJH and five day per week care at LPBC. The services provided by Corizon are accredited through the Institute of Medical Quality (IMQ). The SMJH operates the ARRC sites in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. In recent years, programming has been concentrated on weekend days to maximize limited resources. Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) surveillance technology is utilized by the SMJH and the Juvenile Division to augment supervision and provide for accountability. The use of GPS is limited to youth who have demonstrated a need for greater supervision because of problem behaviors, and for youth recently paroled from the Division of Juvenile Facilities. Further, Probation is working to address issues surrounding disparities that exist in the juvenile justice system based on race or ethnicity. The Department received a State Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) grant in 2014 and is receiving technical and planning assistance from the W. Haywood Burns Institute. While

the focus of these efforts is on the juvenile justice system as a whole, initial efforts are focusing on the role and use of detention for juvenile offenders beginning with initial arrest. Probation has enlisted the assistance of various organizations, agencies, and community members to identify system priorities. Currently, the W. Haywood Burns Institute and Probation Institutions Division staff is examining SMJH admission procedures and criteria to identify areas where modifications may be made to influence favorable outcomes. This effort includes reconsidering the different components of the admission screening instrument.

The Probation Department operates the Los Prietos Boys Camp a rural location on land subject to a conditional use permit with the United States Forest Service. This long-term commitment program is designed to provide consistent, structured, supportive, and predictable environments in which a youth can make the necessary changes to return to their communities as law-abiding and productive persons. Since 1998, the program has maintained an 85 percent to 90 percent successful completion rate. The current program targets male offenders between the ages of 13 and 18, and is staffed to serve up to 52 youth presently.

### Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Court maintains two courtrooms in the County, one in Santa Barbara and one in Santa Maria, with a judicial officer hearing delinquency and dependency matters at both locations. The majority of cases are heard in the northern portion of the County as it draws matters from the largest community, Santa Maria and Lompoc. The JDC calendars are heard in both locations, as well as in Lompoc. According to the Superior Court, the Juvenile Court in Santa Barbara County received 765 original, 594 §602/777, and 280 supplemental petitions for a total of 1,694 petitions during 2015.

### District Attorney

A Deputy District Attorney (DDA) is assigned to each juvenile court location. A third DDA and a Legal Office Professional are assigned exclusively to the county-wide truancy prevention program. DDAs review referrals from probation and law enforcement and will file a formal petition with the Juvenile Court, refer a matter back to Probation for informal handling, or refer a matter back to the referring law enforcement agency for additional investigation. They argue cases at trial, disposition, subsequent hearings, and in probation violation hearings. In addition to their traditional role as prosecutor, DDAs will regularly consult with law enforcement, Probation and crime victims on matters regarding the handling of a case or a disposition. DDAs participate in various collaborative efforts including collaborative treatment courts, partnerships with educators on truancy efforts, and membership in the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC). The District Attorney's Office also chairs the Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF). The HTTF seeks to address the problem of human trafficking in the county by bringing together various agencies and organizations representing law enforcement, mental health, child welfare, court officers, and numerous CBOs that provide a broad spectrum of services. The HTTF meets regularly to develop programs and initiatives, provide training and information, and collaborate on efforts to prevent all forms of human trafficking.

## Public Defender and Defense Counsel

Youth coming to the juvenile delinquency court are represented by the Public Defender unless private counsel is retained or a conflict is declared; the court maintains a contract for conflict counsel. The Public Defender/Defense Counsel works with the other juvenile justice partners to achieve a fair resolution of the case by investigating the facts, presenting legal issues regarding adjudication to the Court, and assessing and evaluating the needs of the youth. In appropriate cases, Counsel will advocate for the youth in educational/school settings, truancy meetings, mental health appointments, etc. By working collaboratively to help youth and families access appropriate drug treatment, counseling and educational services, the Public Defender/Defense Counsel are important partners in the countywide effort to reduce juvenile delinquency and recidivism. Public Defender attorneys are also active participants in collaborative efforts, such as JDC, and are active members of the JJCC.

## Law Enforcement

There are eight incorporated cities in the County that provide police services by four municipal law enforcement agencies and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (SBSO). The SBSO provides police services to four contract cities (Buellton, Solvang, Carpinteria, and Goleta) and the unincorporated areas of the County. The SBSO also operates the County Jail. The cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Guadalupe have their own law enforcement agencies. These agencies are the source of most referrals to Probation. There are also four State law enforcement agencies in the County that make limited referrals (California Highway Patrol; University of California, Santa Barbara; State Parks; and Allan Hancock College). The SBSO, Santa Maria Police Department, and Lompoc Police Department devote some resources to juvenile delinquency matters, most notably in the form of School Resource Officers (SROs) at high school campuses. These Officers perform traditional law enforcement services in the school setting and conduct outreach in the form of crime prevention and education, and truancy intervention. Agencies may also have a specific unit or Officer dedicated to gang issues in the respective jurisdictions. Most Officers are familiar with local juvenile gang members and often coordinate suppression activities with Probation and other agencies. Law enforcement Officers are active in a number of initiatives and programs, such as restorative justice efforts, Police Activity Leagues (PAL), Youth Corps, DARE, and GREAT, and are active members of the JJCC.

## Education

There are twenty-three K-12 school districts in the County that include 122 schools and a total public school student enrollment of 68,581. The Santa Maria Bonita School District is the largest district in the County with 16,046 students while the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District has the largest 9-12 grade student enrollment with 7,782 students. Total 9-12 grade level student enrollment for the County is 20,509, an increase of 181 since 2014. Schools participate in mitigating juvenile crime and delinquency primarily through truancy reduction efforts, referrals to community agencies for counseling services and drug and alcohol abuse, as well as special educational settings that cater to the specific needs of youth in at-risk situations and youthful offenders. They also maintain regular contact with and coordinate education activities with law enforcement and DPOs. The different districts have programs in place to address truancy issues



at their respective schools and exercise their discretion in removing students from their campuses that are subject to suspension or expulsion because of criminal or delinquent acts.

The Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) maintains one community school in the County that specifically target youth in at-risk situations and youth who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court as well as expelled youth in Santa Maria. They provide educational services to detained youth at the SMJH and the Camp program. The court and community schools provide academic and social emotional support for the purpose of improving resiliency in the youth. The educational programs include support for English Learners, students with special needs, and those with social emotional needs. Teaching staff participate in annual professional development to improve student performance academically as well as emotionally. The schools work closely with community partners to improve school attendance and performance.

### Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provides services that seek to prevent child abuse and neglect, and coordinates treatment for children who have been abused. They provide family maintenance and family reunification services, and other mandated and voluntary services to persons subject to dependency laws. DSS licenses foster families and supervises children placed in foster care as dependents. DSS is responsible for coordinating the financial reimbursement of various programs that benefit delinquent youth and for which Probation receives funds. Through this statutory function, DSS has limited oversight for some activities performed by Probation, including Title IV-E and Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (AFDC-FC) entitlement payments. DSS holds the contracts for many programs that benefit at-risk youth and youthful offenders, including SB 163 Wraparound services, the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP), and the Independent Living Program (ILP). In addition to the investigations they conduct for dependency cases, DSS conducts investigations with DPOs in specified cases to determine the appropriate venue for their handling. DSS personnel also provide technical assistance regarding various foster care related programs and legislation, and coordinates the development of local responses to State and Federal mandates. A representative of DSS regularly participates in a Probation committee that discusses and approves recommendations for placement into foster care or SB 163 (Wraparound) as a disposition. The committee also approves recommendations for commitment to the SMJH's YOYG program and the State of Division of Juvenile Facilities. DSS has also become the lead agency for efforts to intervene with victims of human trafficking. As mandated by the recent passage of SB 855, DSS is leading collaborative efforts with other agencies, including Probation, to address the problem of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) in the County. The goal of these efforts is to address the problems associated with CSEC by recognizing that involved youth are first and foremost victims themselves and should be treated in a child welfare context whenever possible. DSS has begun chairing an ongoing committee of various agencies tasked with developing an interagency protocol for how these cases are to be handled.

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) serves the workforce needs of businesses and youth, as well as adults and laid-off workers, throughout Santa Barbara County. The WIB is a public/private partnership created by the Federal Workforce Investment Act legislation and is staffed by the County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services. Free services are provided through the two Workforce Resource Centers (One-Stops) located in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara. Referrals for probation and at-risk youth are made to the WIB with the goal of increasing skills and employment for the youthful population.

### Department of Behavioral Wellness

The Department of Behavioral Wellness (formerly Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services) operates the County's various substance abuse and mental health programs, or holds the contracts for private vendors who provide similar or other counseling and behavioral services. In that capacity, and as the entity responsible for Medi-Cal compliance, it maintains oversight of various rehabilitative and behavioral programs that service at-risk youth, including the juvenile justice population. Mental health clinicians provide direct service to Medi-Cal eligible youth and some non-Medi-Cal eligible transition aged youth, including those supervised by Probation. Probation contracts with the Department of Behavioral Wellness to provide crisis care, transitional and discharge planning, psychotropic medication management and stabilization and behavioral interventions to detained youth, and consult with Probation regarding the care and maintenance of youthful offenders exhibiting suicidal, aggressive, and/or other problematic behaviors. The contract includes on-site mental health clinicians assigned to the Camp and SMJH programs to provide individual, family and group counseling sessions, a clinician to provide early intervention needs assessment and counseling services to Probation-referred youth on a countywide basis, a psychiatrist and psychiatric technician for medication management, and a team supervisor to provide daily oversight and supervision of clinicians, quality assurance of service delivery, and program development and maintenance. Probation contracts with private psychiatrists to perform forensic psychological evaluations for youth exhibiting significant emotional, cognitive and/or behavioral problems for the benefit of the Juvenile Court and concerned parties. The County contracts with Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth (SAFTY) to provide after-hours crisis management, primarily used for youth detained at the juvenile hall. Clinicians assigned to the SMJH also provide gender-specific treatment to female youth while in detention. The treatment approach is non-traditional in terms of a detention-based program and is provided in as therapeutic an environment as can be had. Some institutional rules have been relaxed during program times and participants are screened for it. Additionally, the Department of Behavioral Wellness has devoted personnel and resources to address the many complex needs of victims of CSEC. This program, Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation (RISE), seeks to provide trauma-informed care by clinicians trained in helping victims of CSEC related crimes and abuse. Members of RISE participate in collaborative efforts such as the HTTF and provide training and technical assistance to other agencies. To date, all youth participating in RISE services have been referred to it because of their involvement with the juvenile justice system. This program is new and developing and is already treating victims of CSEC as it constructs itself.

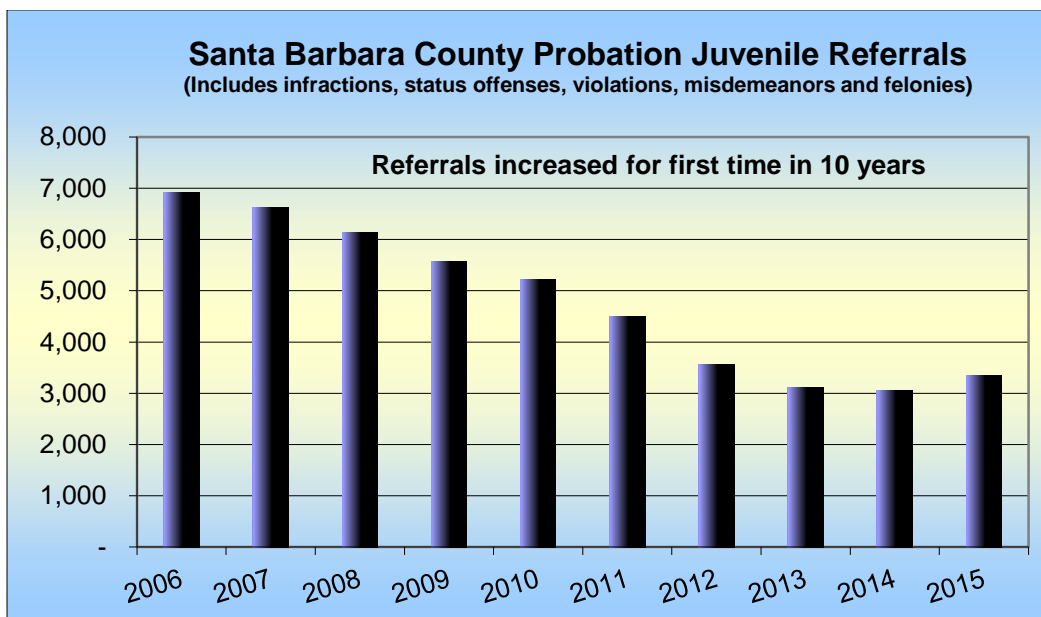
## Community-Based Organizations

Members of various CBOs provide many of the interventions and services offered to at-risk juveniles and youthful offenders in the County. Private vendors provide the direct services for the Wraparound program (SB163), THPP, ILP, Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), some crisis interventions, and diversion services. All of the foster care programs used by Probation are operated by privately run organizations located within and outside of the County and the State.

The following are CBOs that Probation relies on to provide services to offenders: Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center (SMVYFC), Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA), Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center (CVSATC), Family Service Agency (FSA), Casa Pacifica, Community Action Commission (CAC), YMCA/Noah's Anchorage, and Family Care Network, and Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM).

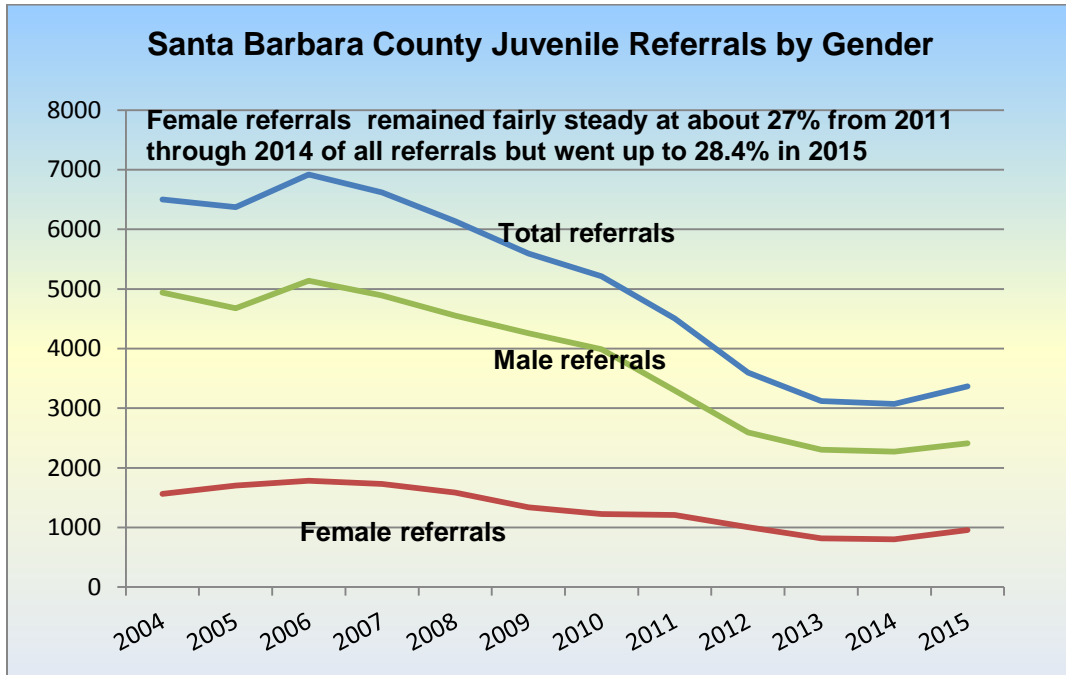
### **4. Santa Barbara County Juvenile Justice Information**

Over the past seven years, there has been a significant reduction in juvenile criminal justice activity data at the national, state and local level. From 2007 through 2014 the rate of juveniles arrested or cited for a felony, misdemeanor or status offense dropped 55 percent statewide and 63 percent in Santa Barbara County. Every indicator of juvenile justice activity had dropped from 50 percent to almost 65 percent in Santa Barbara County with the exception of youth in group/foster home placements through 2014. In 2015, however, that trend began to change in Santa Barbara County

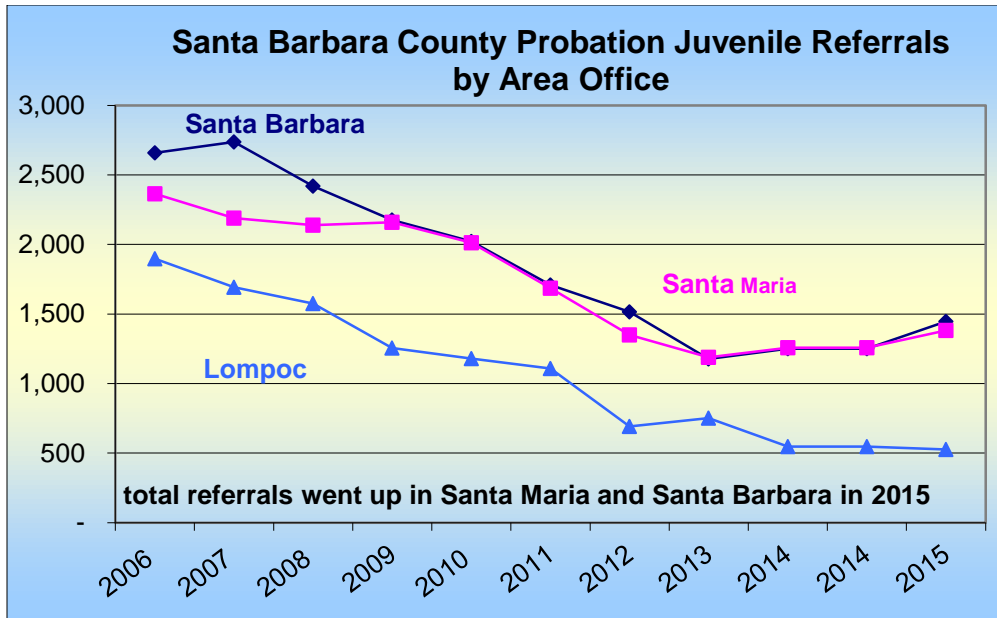


Referrals to Probation increased in 2015 by almost 10% (from 3,056 to 3,356 referrals). Felony referrals increased through 2009 and had decreased 46 percent since then (940 to 504) through 2014. Felony referrals increased almost 3% in spite of the implementation of Proposition 47 in November of 2014.

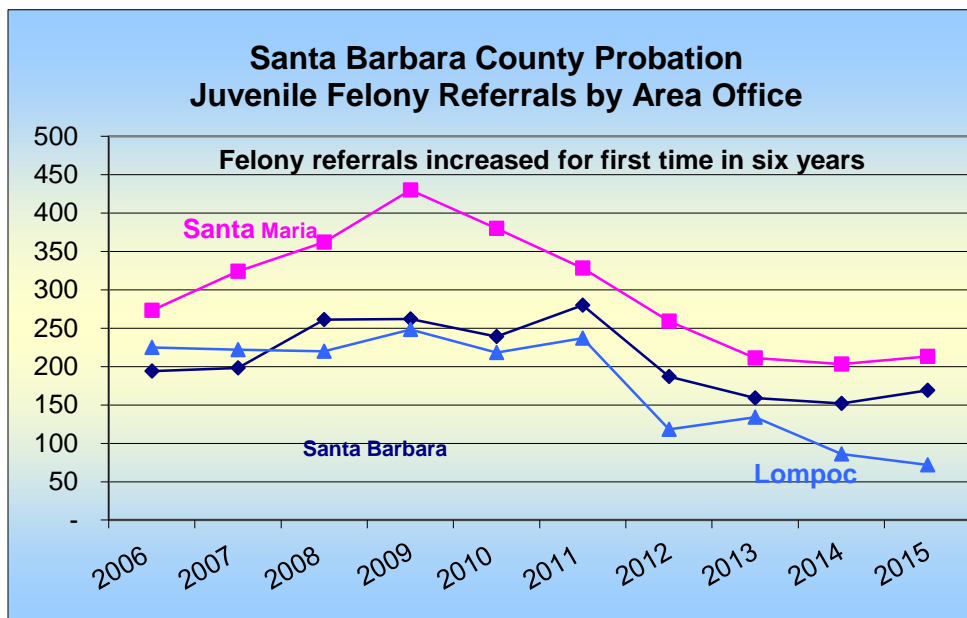
The percentage of referrals for female offenders in 2015 increased to 28.4 percent (956) from 26.0% percent (799) in 2014. Ten years earlier they constituted almost 23 percent of all referrals. The growth of referrals for female offenders had slowed in recent years and appeared to be leveling off in the 27 percent range until 2015 when both the number and percentage increased.



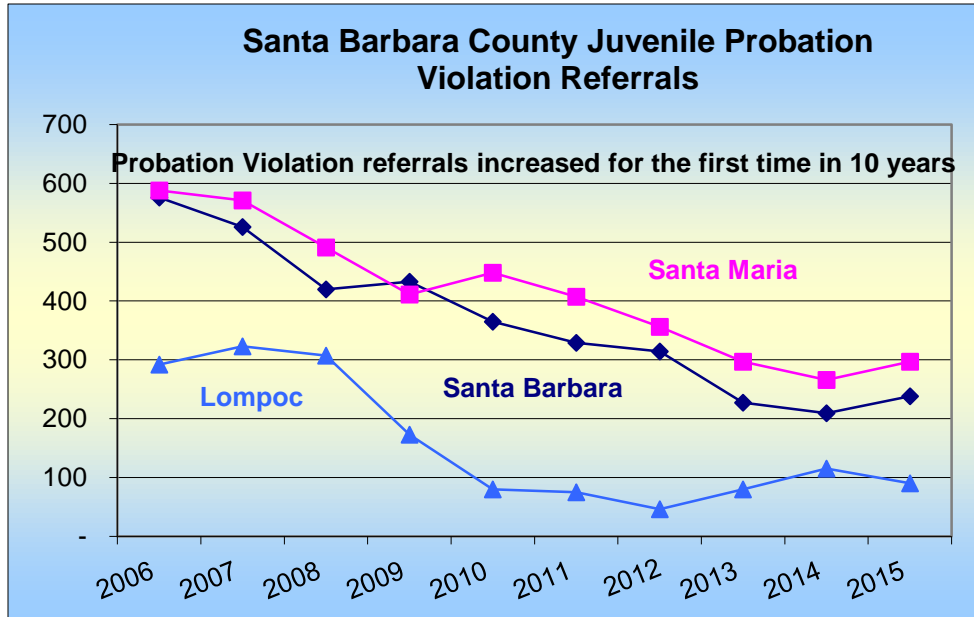
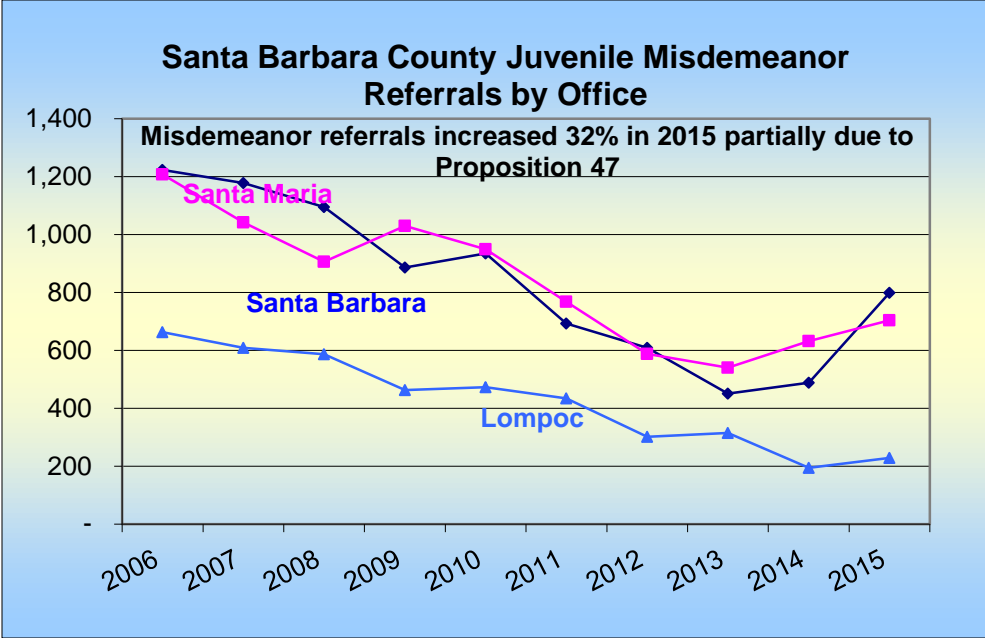
The highest percentage of Probation supervision cases (43 percent or 253 cases in March of 2015) are supervised by the Santa Maria office, with most cases primarily in and around the City of Santa Maria. Felony referrals were also the highest in the Santa Maria office in 2015, with 213 or 47 percent of all felony referrals in the County. Santa Maria is the largest city in the County and the only municipality in which the juvenile population is increasing. As a result, most Probation resources for juveniles are concentrated in Santa Maria.

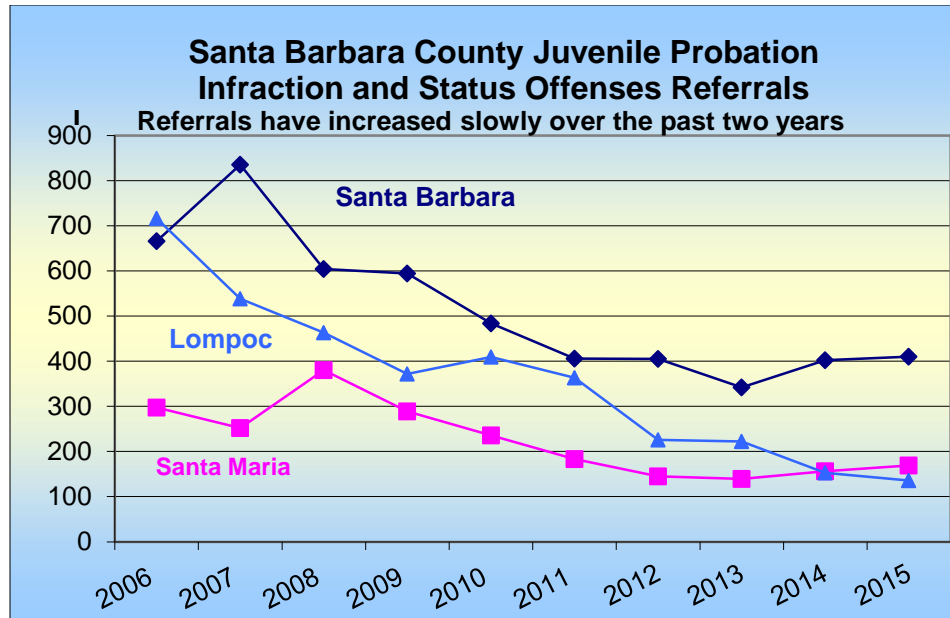


It is noted that overall, juvenile referrals increased in all areas of the County. There are, however, some significant differences in specific trends, as illustrated by the following charts.



Felony referral increased slightly in the Santa Maria and Santa Barbara offices in 2015 after several years of decline. Felony referrals like most other referrals continued to decline slowly in Lompoc. Misdemeanor referrals all went up significantly in the Santa Barbara and Santa Maria offices in 2015 and slightly in Lompoc. Generally referrals for Probation Violations and Infractions/601 offenses continued to go down.

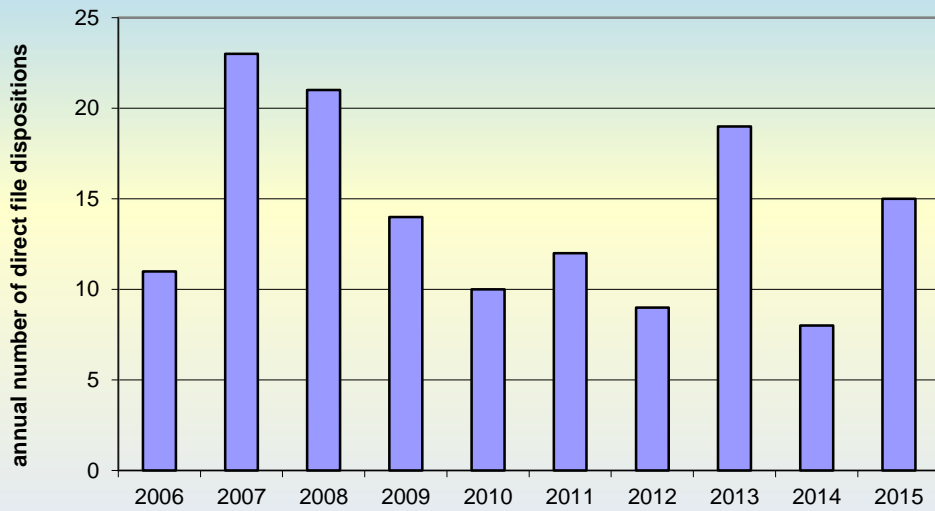




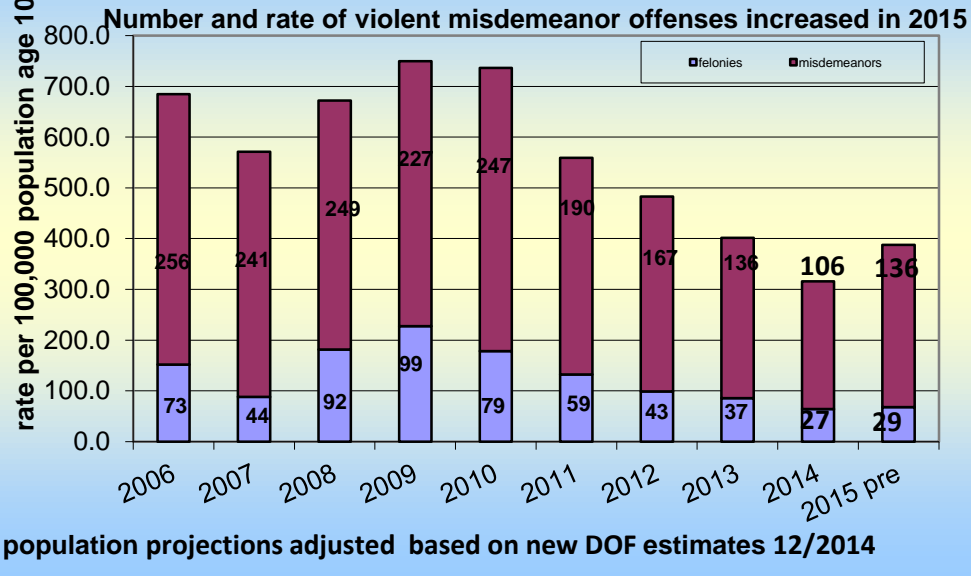
Overall, the total number of juvenile referrals in 2014 was the lowest level in 20 years and has declined 55 percent from 6,920 to 3,056 over the seven years ending in 2014. In 2015 total referrals went back up 3% to 3,356. As the juvenile population has increased over the past couple years the rate of referrals which takes into a count the population of youth age 10-17 is still at all-time low levels. In concert with the slowly increasing population of younger youth, there has been an increase of first time referrals over the past year. The number of female referrals has declined but their percentage of all referrals has increased.

Violent crime for juveniles, as measured by number of sustained petitions for violent offenses, peaked in 2010 at 344, with the number dropping to 133 or 61 percent over the past four years. In 2015, though the number climbed back to 165. Proposition 21 cases (juvenile cases filed directly in the criminal courts) are always felony offenses and often are violent; however, while they are counted in the juvenile referral data, they are not included in sustained petitions counts. The number of direct file cases also peaked in 2007 with a total of 23 but have generally declined over the past eight years.

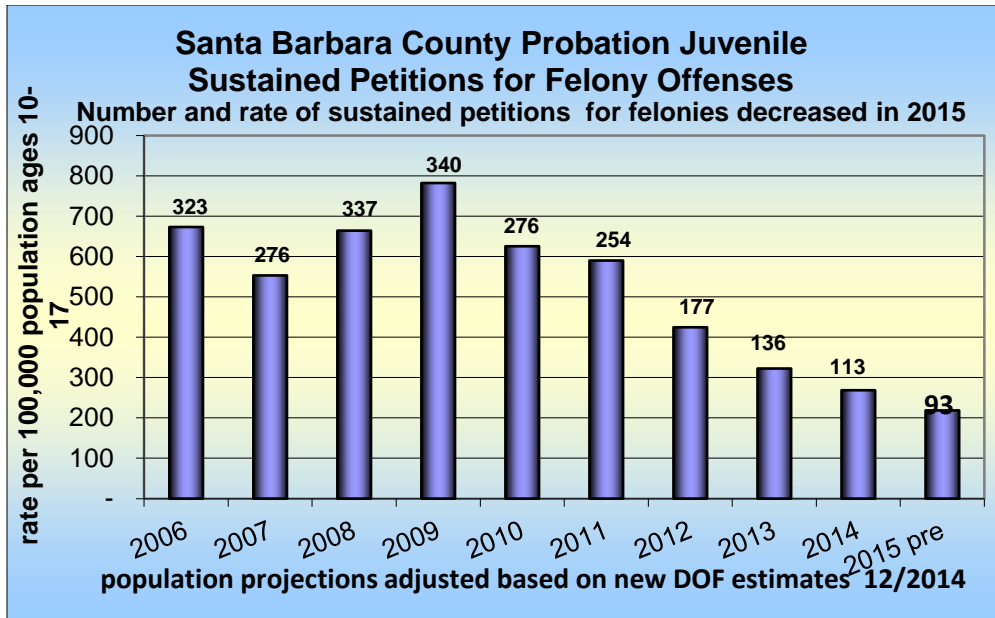
**Santa Barbara County Probation Proposition 21  
Direct File Dispositions of Juvenile Offenders in  
Adult Court 2003-2013**



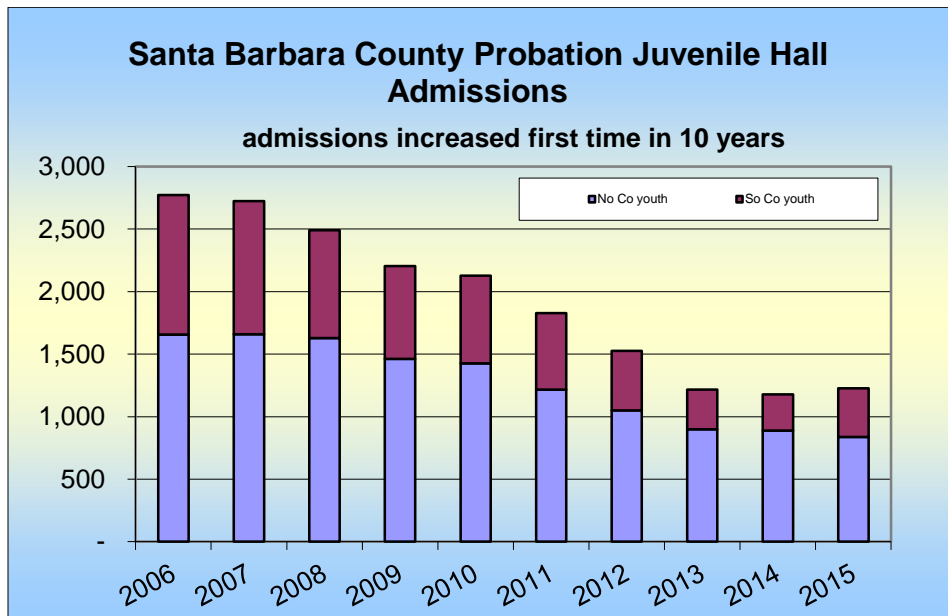
**Santa Barbara County Probation Juvenile  
Sustained Petition Rate and Number of Violent  
Offenses**

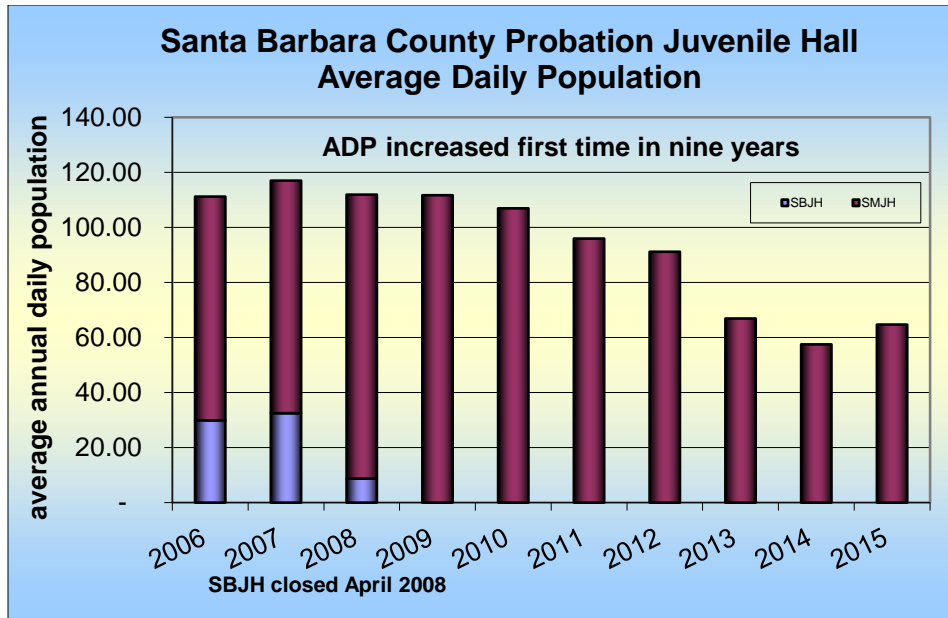




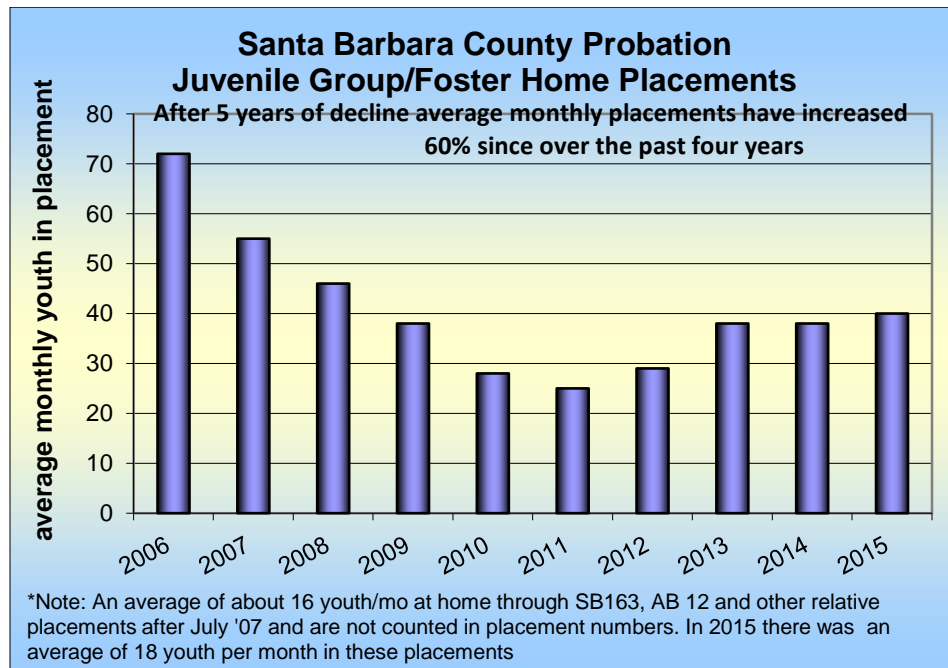


The drop in referrals through 2014 contributed to a 57.5 percent drop in the number of admissions at the SMJH from 2,771 in 2006 to 1,179 in 2014. However in 2015, admissions increased four percent from 1,179 to 1,227. As a consequence, the average daily population of SMJH also increased 12.5 percent from 57.5 to 64.7 in 2015.





Foster care placements hit their lowest number of 18 in March 2011 and have steadily increased for five straight years. As of March 2016 there were 49 probation youth in group or foster home placement. In 2015, there was an average of an additional 18 youth in SB163 and other relative care, which are not counted in the next chart.



## Initial Assessment

In 2015, Probation received 3,356 law enforcement referrals for felony, misdemeanor, status or infraction offenses. Included in this total were approximately 1,116 first-time offenders. The *Santa Barbara Assets and Risk Assessment* (SBARA) is a validated risk-needs assessment instrument that comprehensively assesses a youth for risk to reoffend. An initial screener that consists of certain components from the full version provides guidance on which cases might be closed or diverted. One or both of the instruments is used on most referrals to Probation. Some referrals are handled informally, without the benefit of an assessment, but these are generally lower level infractions or ordinance violations with no custody time associated with them. Most referrals will be assessed with the SBARA screener. The SBARA screener has been examined for its continued validity in collaboration with the University of California, Santa Barbara. For those cases that are handled in a formal manner, the SBARA full assessment is used. The full assessment is in its second version and was revalidated in February 2010. Probation intends to work with UCSB on revalidating it again in the coming year. Two Officers currently perform the majority of assessments done at the intake level, one in Santa Barbara, the other in Santa Maria.

## Community Diversion

Probation agencies may elect to not refer certain law enforcement referrals to the District Attorney's Office for the filing of a petition. Instead, Probation may handle a case informally pursuant to Section 654 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). If a youth successfully completes informal probation, Probation may close the matter without referring it to the District Attorney's Office. In cases where the youth does not successfully complete an informal program, Probation can refer the matter to the DA's Office for the filing of a petition.

Probation may also consider diverting the youth from Probation supervision by having the youth participate in specific activities directed by Probation, such as community service work or education classes, or a more structured program such as those provided by Teen Court through CADA, or restorative justice through Conflict Solutions Center. The Teen Court program provides consequences for lower level, first-time offenders in a court-like environment involving peers and professionals who act as judges during hearings. Restorative justice relies on a mediation process where the youthful offender and a victim participate in services aimed at restoring the loss incurred by a criminal or delinquent act. The offender must meet specific eligibility and suitability requirements for participation in the program. Restorative Justice is voluntary for a victim.

Starting in June 2013, law enforcement agencies were provided the option of referring youth that they had contact with for non-detainable offense directly to Teen Court, as long as the youth had no-prior history with the Probation Department. The purpose is to enhance the efforts to divert low risk, first time offenders to community-based options and avoid involvement with the juvenile justice system.

## SB 163 Wraparound

The SB 163 Wraparound program provides State AFDC-FC funds to local jurisdictions to use to keep youth at risk of placement in foster care in their homes by using community-based services and programs. The premise behind Wraparound is that money spent at the local level will have greater impact and better outcomes than the same amount of money spent for group foster care, and will keep a youth in their home. Intensive in-home services, support, and case management are provided to participating families and cover a broad range of services designed to keep a family intact and in a safe home. A multidisciplinary team provides administrative oversight to the program operated by Casa Pacifica. Presently, Probation, DSS, and the Department of Behavior Wellness share 25 slots for these services. In some cases, the services can be started while a youth is detained (for a brief period but nearing release) or as the youth is preparing to leave foster care placement to return home. In 2015, Probation had 36 youth participate in these services. Presently, 11 youth are participating. While 20 of the slots for the program are reserved for Medi-Cal eligible youth, the County has set aside five (5) slots for non-Medi-Cal eligible youth who may benefit from the services.

## Youthful Offender Block Grant

Probation has a YOBG caseload in each region of the County that together serve up to 75 youthful offenders countywide. Generally, youth on these caseloads have a history of gang involvement, have a sustained petition for a violent offense, are older, and have not been successful in other treatment or commitment programs. Youth on these caseloads are assigned a case manager from the Community Action Commission, a local CBO. These case managers work closely with the assigned YOBG Officer and assist youth and their families with life skills issues, school enrollment, pro-social choices, and other needs, as well as acting as mentors. YOBG funds also support a long-term commitment program at SMJH in which youthful offenders who might otherwise have been committed to DJF are detained locally for up to a year. Participants receive Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and individual, family or group mental health counseling. A Juvenile Institutions Officer (JIO) at SMJH is assigned to work closely with these youth and collaboratively develops and manages their case plans while they are in custody. During 2015, there were 19 participants in the commitment program at the SMJH. Most were Hispanic (18) and male (18); of the thirteen (13) participants exiting the program in 2015 four (4) exited successfully and nine (9) exited unsuccessfully. In terms of the YOBG supervision component, during 2015, there were 81 participants in the program. The majority was Hispanic (57) and male (74); of the 50 participants exiting the program in 2015 23 or 46 percent exited successfully or with a no fault discharge and 27 exited unsuccessfully. This completion rate is a slight improvement from the last two years. Those youth that end up in the adult criminal justice system result in an unsuccessful program completion.

## Juvenile Drug Court

Probation participates as one of the collaborative team members (Judicial Officer, DDA, Public Defender, Treatment Provider) in a JDC program in each area of the County. A DPO in each area supervises JDC cases. The assigned Officer appears in Court with youthful offenders and discusses treatment progress and probation compliance with the Juvenile Court Judge. Local treatment providers in each region are responsible for conducting the individual and group

counseling services for the program. The JDC program accommodates participants in both pre-adjudication and post-adjudication case statuses. The program is voluntary and participants must meet eligibility and suitability requirements. The program is based on long-standing Drug Court principles that encourage a supportive environment where the Court is viewed as a partner in rehabilitation while also insuring accountability. DPOs assigned to the program also develop “sober activities” where participants learn new skills, go on field trips, and complete projects with their family members. During 2015, there were 100 participants in JDC. Most were Hispanic (77) and male (60); of the 68 participants exiting JDC in 2015, 38 or 57 percent exited successfully and 29 exited unsuccessfully. Only 13 percent of the youth exiting successfully had a new felony or misdemeanor within six months of completion. Outcomes for this program have remained relatively constant since 2013 although there were 14 less participants.

## **5. Programs Funded by JJCPA**

### School-Based Officer Program

Probation continues to assign DPOs to act as SBOs for various school sites throughout the County in an effort to address truancy, delinquency, and criminal behavior. While not physically stationed at the school sites, the SBOs spend time on school campuses engaging students, school faculty and administration, and coordinating efforts with local police SROs. SBOs primarily serve area high schools while maintaining some presence at junior high and middle schools. Probation continues to deploy five (5) JJCPA funded SBOs for Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Lompoc schools. Each SBO maintains a caseload of up to 30 youth assigned to a school or group of schools, and meets regularly with those youth at the school sites and in their homes. Probation continues to use JJCPA and Federal Title IV-E entitlement revenue to fund SBOs.

Below are some statistical highlights of the SBO program:

- The SBO program served 296 youth during FY 2014-2015, an increase of 24 from the previous fiscal year. The average length in the program for FY 2014–2015 decreased to 139 days compared to 166 days for FY 2012–2013.
- The completion rate decreased from 55 percent in FY 2013-2014 to 48 percent in FY 2014-2015. The probation completion rate for SBO participants averaged 75 percent in FY 2013-2014 and FY 2014-2015.
- The new felony or misdemeanor arrest rates for youth while they were in the program in FY 2014-15 were 35 percent, down from 38 percent in FY 2013-2014.

### Early Intervention

Each region in the County maintains one DPO for early intervention efforts. These Officers are funded by JJCPA. While Probation supervises principally those youth who are wards of the Juvenile Court, some youth are on informal probation pursuant to §654 or §654.2 WIC, or Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) pursuant to §790 WIC and are also subject to supervision. Offenders in this program are generally younger, less sophisticated, first-time offenders who nevertheless have demonstrated a high risk for re-offending. Thus, as EI cases, they are subject

to closer supervision and intervention. Youth participating in this program may be referred to the same JJCPA funded counseling and mentoring programs available for youth in the SBO program.

In FY 2012-2013, the EI program served 175 youth, an increase from the 135 served in FY 2013-2014. The average length of time in the program decreased from 149 days in FY 2013-2014 to 134 days in FY 2014-2015. The completion rate decreased from 59 percent to 51 percent. New referrals to Probation for first time offenders dropped over 57 percent during the past six years but increased for the past two years. This increased the number of EI eligible youth.

Recidivism improved in FY 2014-2015 as the new felony or misdemeanor arrest rates for youth while they were in the program decreased to 27 percent, down from 34 percent in FY 2013-2014. The probation completion rate for EI participants was 83 and 85 percent respectively in FY 2013-2014 and FY 2014-2015.

### Counseling Component

Participants supervised by the SBOs and EI may be referred to individual counseling and mentoring programs provided by local CBOs and funded through JJCPA. The counseling component is provided by CADA in Santa Barbara, FSA in Lompoc, and in Santa Maria.

### Mental Health Assessor

Youth who demonstrate a need for a mental health evaluation are referred to the JJCPA funded Assessor who conducts an assessment to determine what, if any, mental health services may be needed. The assessor will also assist in determining if a comprehensive psychological evaluation is needed. The Assessor is an employee of the Department of Behavioral Wellness but works directly with Probation and juvenile justice involved youth. The position is also responsible for working with each Children's Clinic in the different County regions so that transition from a detention setting to the Clinics is done smoothly and seamlessly. The Assessor also consults with Probation staff on cases, acts as a liaison between Probation and Behavioral Wellness, provides basic in-house training on mental health issues on an ad hoc basis, and may provide short-term counseling for youth and their families. In consideration of the workload associated with the Assessor position, the current year's JJCPA budget proposal will include a provision for the addition of a second Assessor. The plan will be to assign one Assessor each to the Santa Maria and Santa Barbara locations with Lompoc cases being handled by the Santa Maria Assessor. Adding this resource will reduce the number of commitments for each Assessor and cut down on travel time around the County.

## 6. Service Needs

Gang involvement by youth, substance use and abuse, mental health problems and needs, and gender-specific services remain primary areas of concern and are identified in this report, as in previous years, as areas deserving of specific attention. Additionally, youth victimized by human trafficking – specifically, commercial sexual exploitation – are a particular concern. The issue is significant across the State, and local efforts to address the problem are relatively recent in their development.

### Gangs

Gangs have maintained a presence in most communities in the County and include youth members, many of whom are involved in the juvenile justice system. Responses to gang violence and crime have varied over time and by jurisdiction, and usually involve some forms of law enforcement interventions and community-based efforts. For youth on probation, a combination of supervision, detention, and counseling or programming efforts have historically been the strategies to intervene with gang involvement. In previous years, local efforts to impact gang related crime have realized some benefits, such as the South Coast Task Force on Youth Safety that serves Santa Barbara and the South County. Its success has generated interest in emulating the program in the North County area. More recently, Santa Maria has seen a spike in gang related violence and in response to the increase, a local grassroots effort has developed to address the issue as a community problem. The SMPD recently arrested many adult gang members responsible for several homicides over the course of the last year.

Currently, 166 of the 592 (28 percent) youth on Probation are subject to gang terms and conditions. This is down 10 percent from the amount in 2014. More notably, however, this is down 54 percent from 2012 when 382 of the 876 (49 percent) of youth on probation were subject to gang terms and conditions. This undoubtedly represents only a portion of all local youth involved in gang activity. While Probation and law enforcement have maintained collaboration and coordination with gang interdiction efforts (such as periodic coordinated “sweeps” that target certain offenders), these efforts are meant to immediately suppress or prevent gang violence, especially during periods of elevated gang activity. Longer lasting interventions should follow or precede such efforts, and provide opportunities for involved youth to disengage from gangs and develop prosocial lifestyles. Further, efforts aimed at preventing gang membership should be considered for youth who are not yet involved but who may be at higher risk to be involved because of various factors (such as older family members with gang affiliations). Programs targeting youth at the middle and elementary school level may be of particular interest considering that youth in those age ranges are already familiar with gangs and gang members, and gang recruitment by other youth or older gang members already takes place. Mentoring efforts such as those employed by CAC in the YOBG program have benefit for youth and families; however, mentoring is most impactful when it involves long-term relationships, longer than the average period of a probation grant. The role of parents in preventing gang membership is also important, and education about gangs and their attributes are beneficial in helping parents recognize the risks facing their children.

## Substance Abuse

Substance abuse among youthful offenders remains prevalent and contributes to problems in many life domains, many of which correlate directly with involvement in delinquency. Family and interpersonal relationships, school performance, mental and physical health, brain development and processing, and social skills, including controlling violent or aggressive behavior, are all areas where substance abuse causes disruption and impacts normal maturation. Marijuana (and synthetic variations of marijuana), alcohol, methamphetamine, and prescription drugs, among other drugs, continue to be used by youth locally. More recently, heroin has become a drug of choice for youth and creates an additional health problem because of the use of syringes. Local interventions to address the problem of adolescent drug use include counseling programs provided by CBOs in each area of the County. Additionally, the JDC program remains a viable option for addressing this problem more formally. As a collaborative court program, providers are able to share their experiences with youth and describe what they are seeing in terms of substance use and abuse so that programmatic adjustments may be made. The current use of alcohol by youth as a means to skirt the testing regimen for other drugs is an issue raised by providers. Parents have also expressed their concern about suspected alcohol use by their children when they are out of their sight. The Department of Behavioral Wellness has in place Youth and Family Treatment Centers in each region, which provide consistent substance abuse treatment services throughout the county. These services are contracted with Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center in Santa Maria and Lompoc, CADA in Santa Barbara, and SMVYFC. Those programs utilize the same curriculum, *The Matrix Model*, which ensures an evidenced-based program, is provided to all youth. Youthful offenders may be referred to CBOs for substance abuse issues specifically or for any of the myriad underlying issues that may contribute to substance abuse. These opportunities are primarily provided on an individual basis although there are some group interventions offered as well. Attendance and participation in these counseling services can be sporadic because of the nature of adolescent clients in general, but can be further impacted by a youth's custody status, interest in obtaining treatment, ability to attend, and maturity level. Probation and Department of Behavioral Wellness are collaborating on programming for alcohol and drug counseling and interventions at both the juvenile hall and Los Prietos Boys Camp. The objective is to provide similar opportunities at both sites and develop individual plans to transition participants to a community-based program upon release from custody.

Many of the CBOs receive funding from one of several grant options to provide services to youth, either through the Department of Behavioral Wellness or Probation. Those funding sources include Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP) funding through the Department of Behavioral Wellness and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and YOBG funding through Probation. The level of services varies depending on the specifics of the funding source.

## Mental Health

The number of youth presenting with serious mental health issues remains prevalent among juvenile justice involved youth. These problems are compounded when these youth are detained. These include active psychosis, personality disorders that cause significant acting out behaviors, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and impaired cognitive functioning. Several of these disorders increase the risk of suicide attempts and aggression toward others. They can also



have dual-diagnosis issues if they have serious substance abuse issues as well. Frequently, these youth enter the facility in withdrawal, which also increases the demands on medical and mental health resources. While Probation and Department of Behavioral Wellness have resources in place to meet the mental health needs of detained youth, the impact these more severe cases have on time and personnel resources is significant. Often, mental health clinicians spend the majority of their time responding to crises or urgent needs, and assessing for risk of suicidality. Their ability to respond to more routine needs and provide more traditional mental health counseling and interventions is often limited. The behavior of these high-need youth periodically requires hospitalization, often out of the area. Despite the severity of their mental health needs, some needing hospitalization must remain in juvenile hall due to their flight risk from a less secure hospital setting. The SMJH is not equipped to provide the level of care and treatment that these youth require on an ongoing basis and often must piece together treatment strategies that best meet their needs. Additionally, these youth may not be suitable for higher level foster care programs due to the severe nature of their mental illnesses, including programs specifically designed to treat higher need youth. Transitioning them to a community setting is a significant challenge as necessary resources are often not available or sufficient. Nonetheless, efforts to successfully transition youth back to their homes have improved over the last two years due to changes to some existing resources. Whereas before the JJCPA Assessor position was primarily tasked with performing certain assessments on youth, more recently the position has expanded to include work focusing on transitioning youth to services at one of the local children's clinic. This position also acts as a liaison for Probation to help navigate the various rules and processes for receiving and funding mental health treatment. Probation and Department of Behavioral Wellness have routinely collaborated on creating community-based options for treatment and alternatives to detention for youth with mental health needs, including the use of Therapeutic Behavioral Services, or TBS. This specialized, short-term intensive intervention provided by Casa Pacifica has been used successfully to target certain behaviors that have interfered with other treatment. TBS has been provided in the SMJH and in the community. Additionally, some youth have been able to take advantage of local mental health programs that offer oversight, medication compliance checks, emergency consultation, and housing. Programs are provided through the Medi-Cal program and a participant must be Medi-Cal eligible to receive most programming. Programs include Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), SPIRIT, New Heights, and Prevention/Early Intervention – Transitional Age Youth (PEI-TAY) services. In some cases, a youth's mental health needs are not known or clearly understood until they commit an offense and are committed to either the Camp program or the SMJH. Through staff observation and interview, assessment with such tools as the Massachusetts Youth Screening Inventory (MAYSI-II), and the exhibited behavior of a detained youth, previously undiagnosed mental health issues are made known to mental health professionals who can then follow up with other providers and family members for an appropriate treatment plan. Unfortunately, in many cases these youth are handled in the juvenile justice system augmented by mental health services when they are most appropriate for a distinct mental health system of care.

## Female-specific services

Santa Barbara County's juvenile justice system has historically lacked an established female-specific strategy to address the unique needs of female offenders. It is widely accepted that female-specific interventions should be used whenever possible when working with female youth. In the past two years, Probation has partnered with the Department of Behavioral Wellness to establish gender-specific treatment opportunities. Most notably, an older, rarely used unit at the SMJH has been transformed into a space for female youth to participate in treatment designed specifically for them while detained. Clinicians lead this program and in addition to traditional counseling they employ other methods of interacting with youth so that participants feel more comfortable and become willing to participate. The services provided are trauma-informed as most, if not all, of the female youth at the SMJH have suffered some form of trauma in their lives, including having been victims of or witness to family violence, community violence, sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, and sexual exploitation. In the last year, researchers with UCSB have been looking at this program and the attributes of female offenders in it to determine its effectiveness and offer recommendations for modifications. They have brought a focus to measuring the development of psychological resources and strengths. They have also worked with clinicians to identify key elements of the treatment and assess the fidelity of their implementation. Their research has included focus groups with some of the participants that yielded recommendations to improve the program, many of which have been implemented. In addition, Behavior Wellness clinicians have conducted their own surveys of participating youth. Participants routinely praise the non-traditional strategies used with them and see the intervention as something unique for them. Additionally, Probation continues to fund female-specific counseling groups in each regional area of the County. These are provided by CBOs and services are provided in a group setting with occasional individual sessions as well.

From January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015 and again from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 UCSB was contracted to evaluate Santa Barbara County Probation's implementation of female-specific services and transformation of the juvenile justice system to better address the needs of all youths. In addition to engaging in "action research" (a process designed to solve problems by team members working together) to iteratively gather feedback and recommend improvements to the girls group at the SMJH, UCSB has also conducted two system analyses of the juvenile justice system's impact on juvenile probationers. In the first evaluation, UCSB conducted a historical analysis of juveniles who exited probation from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012. They found that mental health status was consistently found to be a risk factor for recidivism, females had a higher prevalence of mental health disorders, and girls on probation were twice as likely as males to be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. They also found that most programs assigned to the youths were associated with higher rates of recidivism except for cognitive-behavioral treatment, which was related to lower rates of recidivism. The second evaluation focused on juveniles who exited probation from July 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015. Results provide an updated understanding of the experiences of a more recent cohort of youth on probation. For example, a higher percentage of youth in this cohort (91% versus 69%) attended a probation program (e.g., cognitive-behavioral, educational). Of concern, 32% of females and 12% of males on probation with mental health services and 0% of youths without mental health services were given an out-of-home placement. Future directions identified by these reports, such as collecting regular assessments about social emotional health, better understanding the utility of the multi-gating screening process for placing youths in deterrence programs or on formal

probation, determining why the most vulnerable youths are placed out-of-home and exploring alternatives, and improving data collection of behavioral incidents in the SMJH, are used to transform the provision of services to youths on probation to improve their well-being and prevent recidivism.

### Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

The issue of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) has received a great deal of attention in the last few years with the nature of the problem becoming more widely understood by organizations and agencies serving youth. While such exploitation may involve male youth, the majority of youth involved locally in the illicit sex trade are females. Many of the female youth on probation in Santa Barbara County have been victims of such exploitation and many remain involved presently. The attention given to the problem has also given rise to responses to it both at the State and local level. The implementation of SB 855 has mandated local child welfare agencies to take a lead role in addressing the needs of youth identified as being involved in human trafficking (sexually based and non-sexually based forms). The legislation mandates how child welfare and other specified agencies, including Probation, law enforcement, and mental health professionals, are to interact in collaborative ways to address the myriad needs of these youth. Presently, DSS is spearheading efforts to implement a local interagency protocol required by the legislation to describe how various agencies will take action to address CSEC needs. Additionally, the Department of Behavioral Wellness has received a grant to fund personnel to provide direct services to victims of human trafficking. The program, RISE, is in early development and not formally established, but it is nonetheless already providing services to youth identified as being involved in human trafficking. Many of the youth receiving services are referred to it from clinicians at the SMJH who work with the youth while detained. The RISE program seeks to provide services, make referrals to other programs and providers, and establish itself as an ongoing resource for a clientele that requires non-traditional assistance based less on agency protocols and more on client need and readiness for services. Local efforts created to address the CSEC problem have in common an understanding that youth involved in the illicit sex trade are victims first and foremost, and treatment efforts are designed to approach them in that way. This requires a fundamental shift in how youth-serving agencies approach the matter when in many cases a youth's participation in these activities was always considered criminal. Law enforcement and prosecutors have embraced this approach and seek to treat these youth as children in need and limit their juvenile justice system involvement to the extent possible. Local services for this population are critical as historically Probation has had to rely on group homes to provide the supervision and treatment for female youth who could not remain in their homes because of familial issues. Many of the females that are placed in these facilities continue to engage in high-risk behavior. They frequently abscond from home and often from group homes when they are placed. Youth who run away from home or foster care programs are often contacted by exploiters within hours or days. Since many of the groups homes are outside Santa Barbara County, the runaway behavior creates additional risks for the girls and greatly jeopardizes their safety.

## 7. Addressing Needs

Strategies for impacting juvenile crime and delinquency require the use of evidence-based treatment programs, services, and interventions. They need to target delinquency across a broad spectrum and tailor services to the individual and families. Because of limited resources, validated assessment tools should be used to identify those offenders who represent the greatest risk to reoffend and also identify the areas where they have the greatest needs. Services should target those needs to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. Program outcomes should be measured to insure program fidelity and assure program effectiveness. In keeping with best practices and the intent of various aspects of Federal and State law, services should be offered at the earliest and lowest level, and should also be community-based, whenever possible. They should also be geared toward keeping youth in the home and minimize the need for detention or placement, and should involve parents, family members, and other important persons in a youth's life. Many of these efforts need to be collaborative in nature and rely on the expertise found in specific agencies and providers.

Probation utilizes the SBARA to screen law enforcement referrals and comprehensively to assess risk and identify needs for those cases pending formal adjudication. Additionally, youth admitted to the SMJH are screened for physical and mental health needs, and in the case of the latter, are given the self-administered MAYSI-II to complete to assist in identifying any urgent matters. The Department of Behavioral Wellness employs various assessments to discern mental health needs and treatment options. The JJCPA Assessor and contracted psychologists also perform more detailed evaluations and provide specific recommendations for care and treatment. Other assessments, such as the Child and Adolescent Needs Survey (CANS) and the Social and Emotional Health Survey are being integrated to further identify relevant treatment needs for a youth and their family. As substance abuse programs are introduced or expanded, assessments that identify patterns and severity of use will be utilized

Treatment methods and interventions such as Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing are employed in strategies targeting gang offenders, substance abusing offenders, mentally ill offenders, and female offenders, as well as other types of offenders. Probation staff have been trained in the use of Motivational Interviewing and employ it daily with offenders in all areas of the Department. Additionally, mental health clinicians and other providers have been trained in its use and use it in their respective treatment programs. Evidence-based strategies that appear impactful to the County's youthful offender population and which may be realistically implemented will continue to be considered by Probation. Probation routinely shares information and ideas about programs and interventions with other probation agencies throughout the State and nation.

The use of diversion services for some offenders and youth at risk of entering the juvenile justice system can be expanded and include more formal models that are in place in other jurisdictions. Model diversion programs are available to guide agencies in developing impactful diversion services for youth at the front-end of the juvenile justice system or who may only need to be handled informally with some contact with a DPO. Lower risk, first time offenders who are eligible for diversion services have disparate needs and diversion programs should recognize that a variety of programs should exist to meet the needs of these offenders. Initiatives such as the RED grant espouse strategies that seek to exit youth from the juvenile justice system at the

earliest stage when public and individual safety needs are met. Programs like Teen Court and Restorative Justice go a long way in meeting this objective and the ability of law enforcement agencies to refer to that program directly for specified offenses further promotes the juvenile justice system's rehabilitative premise.

Parental and community involvement in issues that impact juvenile offenders and contribute to juvenile delinquency is critical for long-term solutions to perennial problems. Youth involvement in gangs and the use of illegal drugs and misuse of prescription or legal drugs are two areas where the involvement of parents and the community are critically important. Probation supervision of juvenile offenders cannot be a substitute for parental supervision and when parents are actively involved in their children's lives, youthful offenders stand a far better chance of succeeding. Juvenile justice partners should recognize barriers to parental involvement and work to overcome them when possible. The JDC program regularly involves parents in its programming not only as part of the program design, but also to include them more in their child's life. They are invited to sober activities with their children and many have attended. Similarly, community involvement is important to curbing juvenile offending and reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. Community initiatives to address issues involving juvenile offending need to be sustainable and involve criminal and juvenile justice professionals, treatment providers, educators, civic leaders, business persons, clergy, families, neighborhood residents, and youth. Community-based initiatives can address concerns across the entire County, across a city, or within certain areas of a city. Many Federal and State programs and grants have advanced the idea of neighborhood based initiatives where offenders can receive the services they need from their own neighborhoods. Community-based efforts should be realistic in what they hope to achieve and while they may not be equipped to stop gang activity from occurring presently, they can impact gang recruitment by providing alternatives to it and reinforcing prosocial activities and choices through family and community support systems. Model gang intervention strategies are published and can be emulated in communities hoping to impact gang violence. The OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, available through the National Gang Center, and State CalGRIP grants are examples of such programs and opportunities. Parent and community-based involvement with efforts to prevent human trafficking is also important. Human trafficking can occur undetected and go unnoticed for long periods. Efforts such as the Human Trafficking Task Force can aid immensely in helping communities understand the impact of the illicit sex trade on youth and their communities, and how they may play a role in preventing it and assisting in discovering it.

## **8. Summary**

JJCPA funding provides Santa Barbara County with opportunities to address juvenile offending at the local level and in ways that meet local needs the most. Historically, JJCPA funding has supported Probation supervision with the SBO and EI caseloads throughout the County, mental health assessment through the Assessor position with the Department of Behavioral Wellness, and community-based counseling programs provided by CADA, FSA, and SMVYFC. This combination of supervision, assessment, and treatment provides system partners with the means to hold offenders accountable, provide support, identify needs, offer treatment and counseling for youth and families, and bolster the efforts of those in education, health, and other youth programs.

Decreases in juvenile offending, referrals to Probation, admissions to the SMJH, and the number of youth on probation have shown signs of slowing or reversing. While still comparably low from previous years, raw numbers in these and other categories indicate the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system is showing a gradual upward trend. Similarly, the number of youth waived to the jurisdiction of the criminal courts (i.e., Proposition 21) and the number of delinquent youth involved in foster care have increased, although they constitute a small percentage of total youth supervised by Probation.

Gang violence and membership, substance use and abuse, mental health needs gender-specific needs for females, and youth involvement in human trafficking are principle areas of concern for the local juvenile justice system. Mitigating the harm caused by these issues requires the flexibility that JJCPA funding provides and the collaboration among various government and private organizations that the funding supports. Impacting any one of these issues with JJCPA funding will go a long way toward reducing juvenile offending and delinquency in Santa Barbara County.

The development and expansion of programs and initiatives will aid immeasurably in effecting change in the juvenile offender population. Continuously re-evaluating the approaches and strategies used to address juvenile offending will insure that efforts remain relevant, effective, and target the specific needs of juvenile offenders in the most impactful ways. The research currently being conducted by UCSB on gender-specific needs and the advent of the RISE program are examples of evaluating practices. Further, the expanding role of CWS with the CSEC population as a result of SB 855 illustrates the ever-changing nature of agencies' responsibilities with juvenile offenders and, more broadly, youth at risk of being victimized or abused.

Probation continues to work collaboratively with system partners and stakeholders and will continue to seek innovative, creative, promising, and evidence-based strategies for reducing juvenile offending and delinquency. Efforts aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system illustrate the nature of these collaborations and the extent to which agencies, organizations, and community members are responsible for implementing broad system changes.