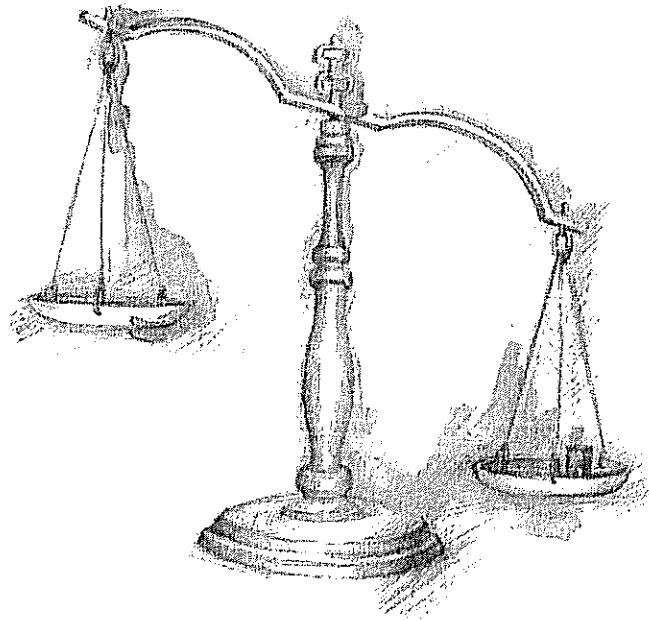


HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE

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Glennis R. Menezes
Court Administrator

The Court of Common Pleas
PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

May 1, 2008

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2007 Annual Report. This Report contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 2007 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B).

COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menez
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk/Receptionist/Probation Office Secretary	Christine Jenkins Virginia Sandison Debora J. Helms
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation/Truancy Officer	Janice ^b Shroyer, L.S.W. David Williams, L.S.W. Robert Porter
Project STAY Office Clerk	Judith Winegar
Advocacy Program Coordinator	Beverly Theil, R.A.

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

JURISDICTION

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

Delinquent Child – Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18th birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 2007:

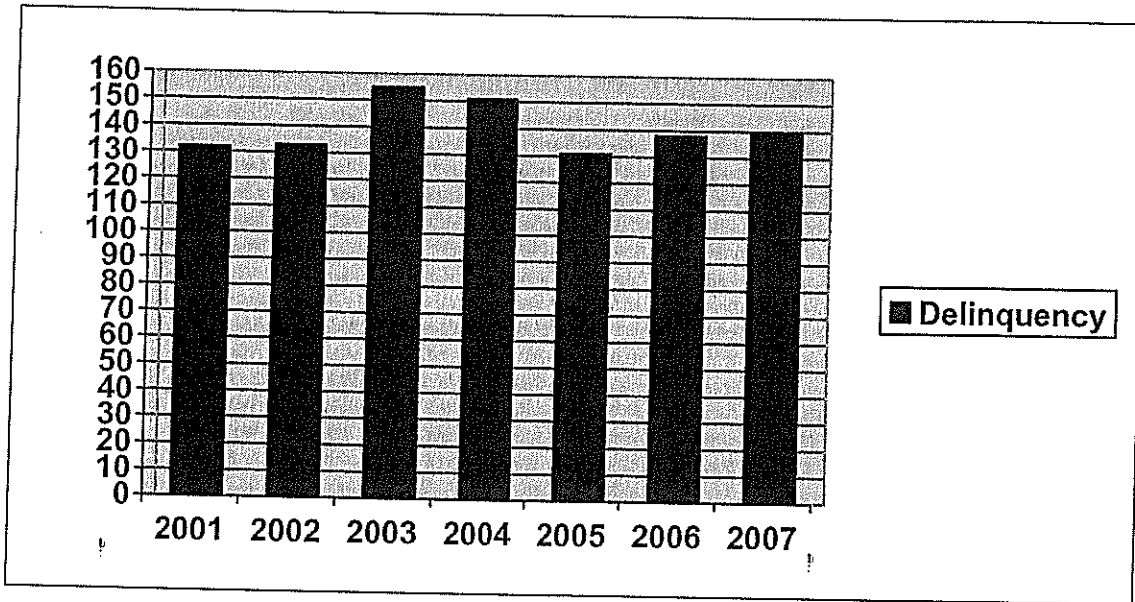
Delinquency	140
Traffic (Details provided below)	251
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	39
Unruly	45
Adult Cases	1
Permanent Custody	0
Custody/Visitation	70
Child Support	47
Paternity	8
U.I.F.S.A. (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act)	0
Others	<u>0</u>
TOTAL:	601

NOTE: Eight (8) juveniles who were first-time offenders were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court.

Following are graphic illustrations comparing case-type filings for the years 2001 through 2007:

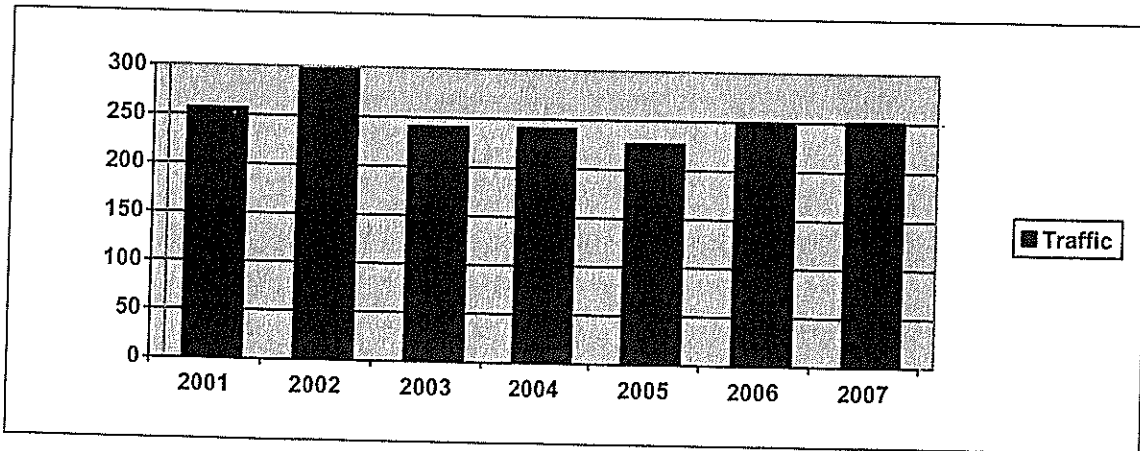
Delinquency

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
132	133	155	151	131	138	140



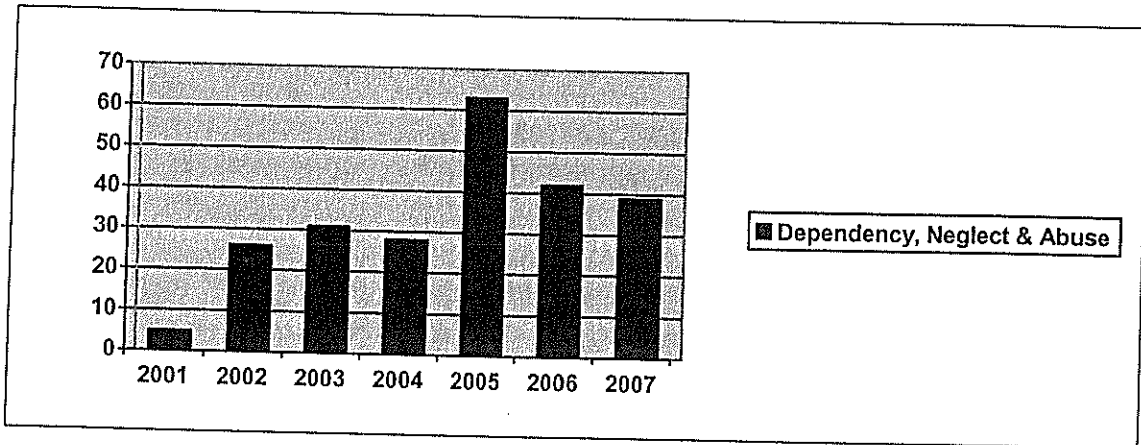
Traffic

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
257	298	241	241	227	247	251



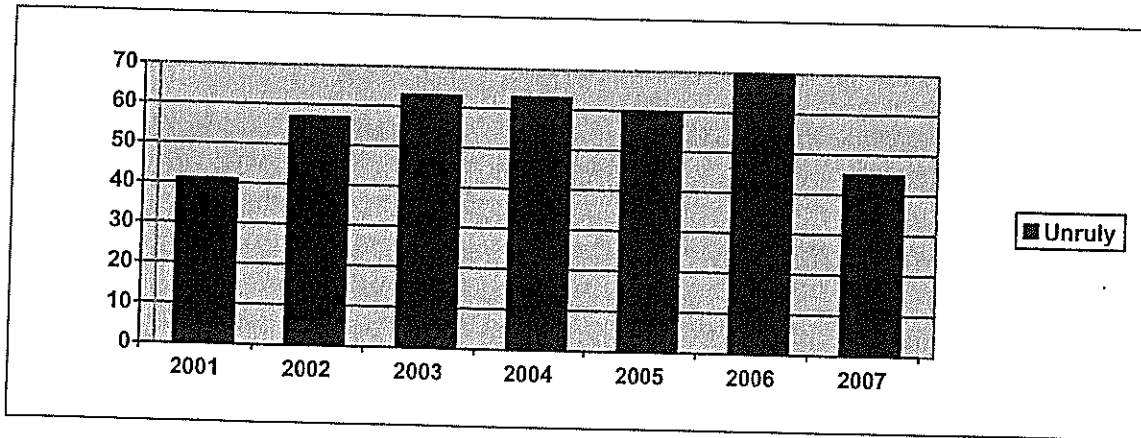
Dependency,
Neglect & Abuse

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
5	26	31	28	63	42	39



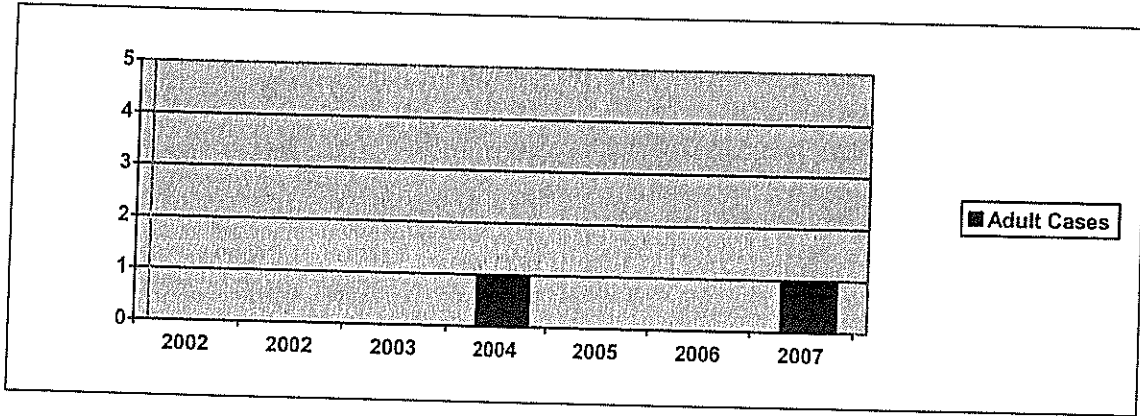
Unruly

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
41	57	63	63	60	70	45



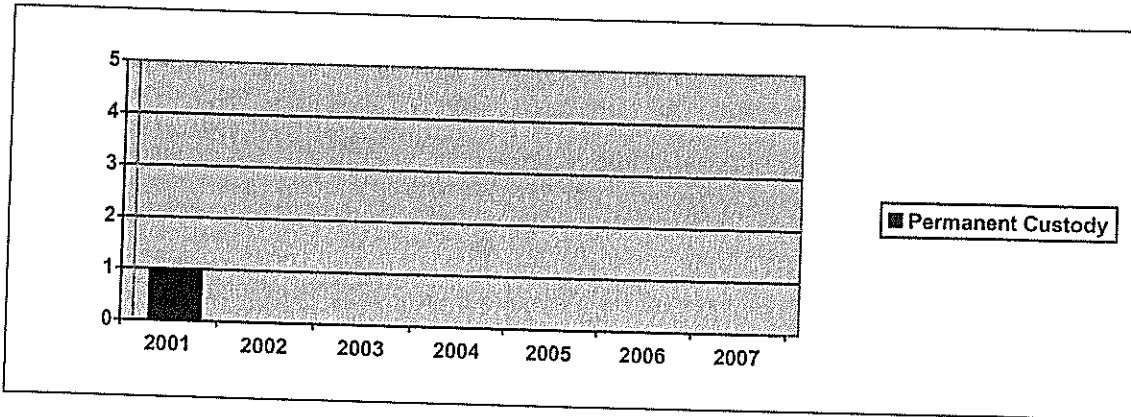
Adult Cases

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
0 0 0 1 0 0 1



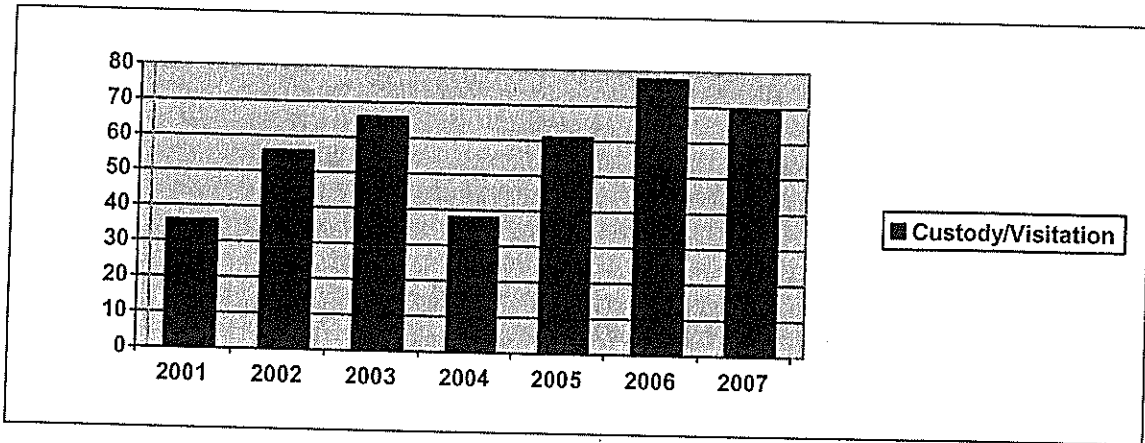
Permanent Custody

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
1 0 0 0 0 0 0



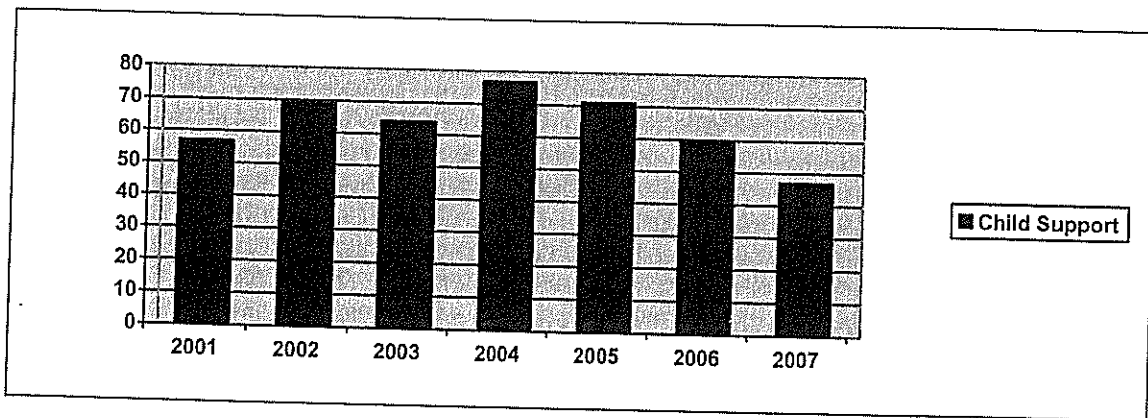
Custody/Visitation

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
36 56 66 66 38 61 78 70



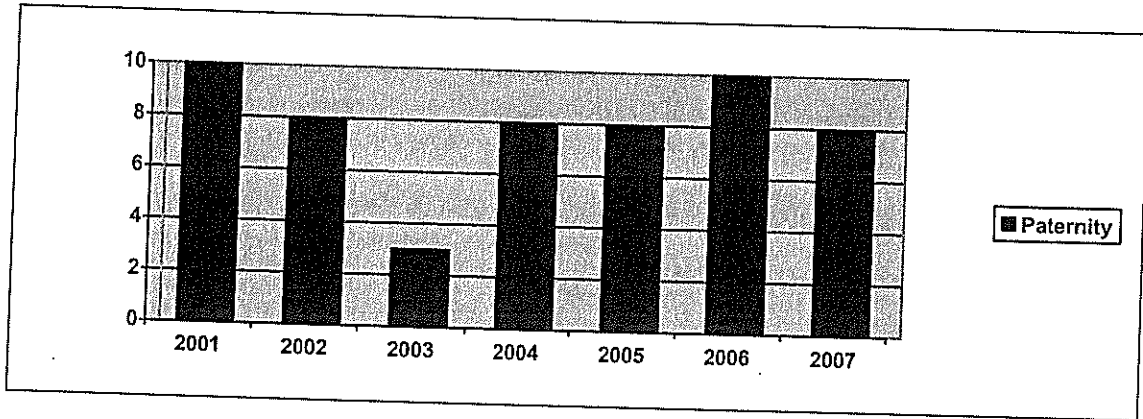
Child Support

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
57 69 64 77 71 60 47



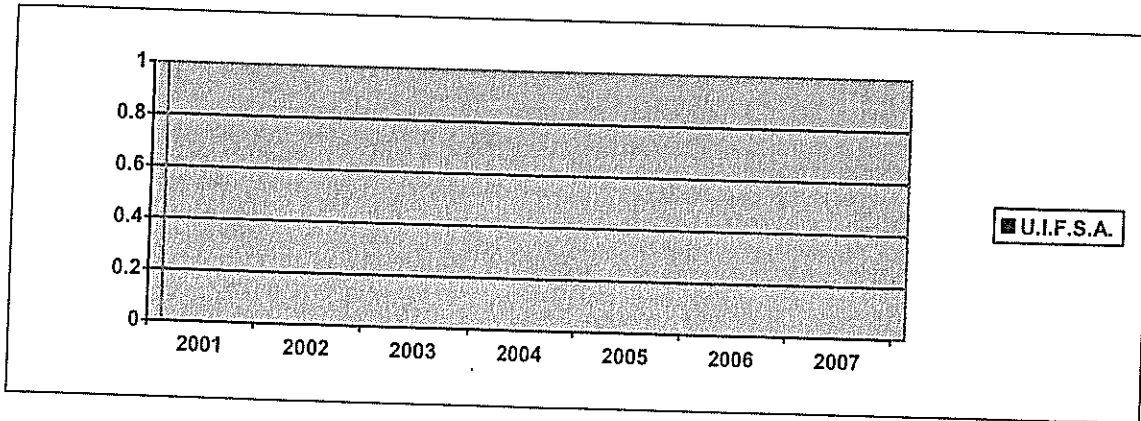
Paternity

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
10 8 3 8 8 10 8



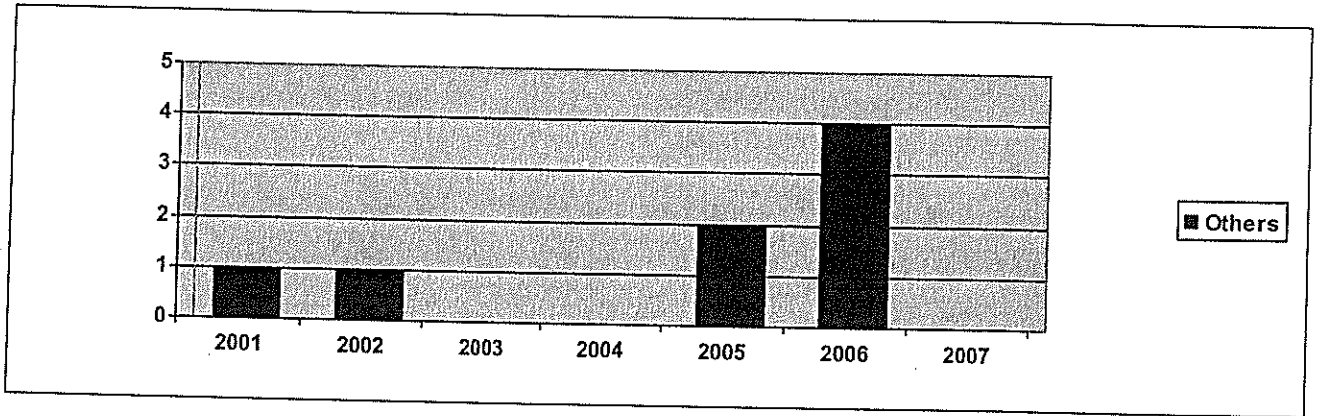
U.I.F.S.A.

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
0 0 0 0 0 0 0



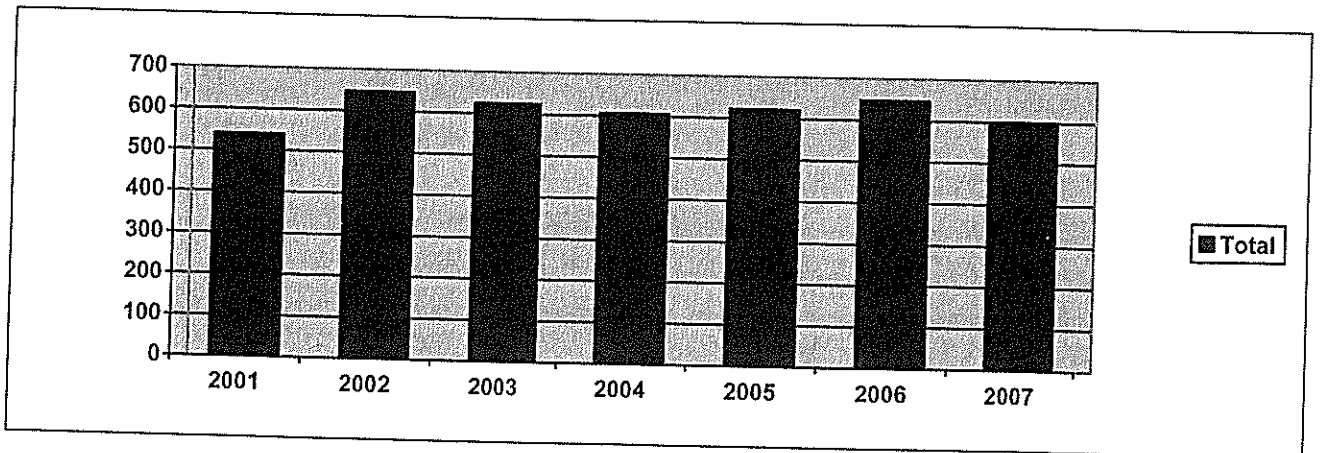
Others

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
1 1 0 0 2 4 0



Total

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
540 648 625 607 623 649 601



TYPES OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The following types of citations were issued against juveniles and dealt with by the Court in 2007:

Seat Belt Violations	19
Failure to Control	51
Red Light Violations	6
Failure to Yield	13
Reckless Operation	6
Speed	86
No Operator's License	14
Left of Center	3
Assured Clear Distance	12
Stop Sign Violation	15
Expired Plates	6
No Registration	5
No Plates	1
Driving Without a Licensed Driver	0
Following Too Closely	1
Improper Lane	2
No Eye Protection	1
Driving on Closed Road	1
BMV Driving Restriction	4

(These figures reflect cases disposed of by the Court in 2007, not necessarily cases filed in the year 2007.)

TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES

Obstructing Official Business	1
Assault	3
Breaking & Entering	3
Criminal Damaging	1
Criminal Trespassing	2
Domestic Violence	1
Menacing	1
Petty Theft	4
Possession of Marijuana or Drugs	1
Probation Violation	4
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	9
Theft	10
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	1

Inducing Panic	2
Falsification	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	1
Arson	3
Disorderly Conduct	1
DUI	1
Making False Alarms	2
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	1

(These figures reflect the number of charges dealt with by the Court in 2007, not necessarily the number of cases filed in the year 2007.)

TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION (First-Time Offenders) IN 2007:

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	1
Unruly	1
Theft	1
Tobacco violations	1
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	2
Making False Alarms	1
Truancy	1
Possession of Drugs	1

FELONIES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES IN 2007:

Total felony adjudications:	20
Males:	10*
Females:	4*

*One individual may have committed more than one felony.
 One female was charged/adjudicated on two (2) felonies.
 One female was charged/adjudicated on five (5) felonies.
 One male was charged/adjudicated on two (2) felonies.

Felony Adjudications by the Court in 2007:

Breaking & Entering	1
Theft of Checks	1
Theft of Firearm	1
Burglary	2
Arson	3
Illegal Possession of Deadly Weapon or Dangerous Ordnance	
In School Safety Zone	1
Inducing Panic	2
Forgery	4
Receiving Stolen Property	2
Gross Sexual Imposition	1
Obstructing Justice	1
Possession of Drugs	1

DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 2007:

Delinquencies

Community Service	595 hrs. ordered 483 hrs. completed
Apologies	6
Insight (Drug & Alcohol Assessment)	11
Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluations	3
House Arrest	1
No Association Provision	6
Court Costs	10
Fines	8
Operators License Suspensions	1
Counseling/Assessments	4
Detention	3
Suspended Detention	9
Restitution	8
Suspended Placement	1
Probation/Continued Probation	113
Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	
Suspended Commitments	1
Victim Offender Reconciliation Program	8
Project STAY	2

Other dispositions included: Forfeit cell phone; must attend school; must take medication.

OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

The Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety. The following out-of-home placements were made in 2007:

Group homes	4
Community Corrections Facility	3
Christian Children's Home	1
Treatment Centers	1
Total:	9*

*One juvenile was placed in two different facilities. Accordingly, the number of juveniles actually placed was 8.

Additional Information Regarding Placements

Multi-County Juvenile Attention System

Holmes County participates in the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, funded jointly by Stark, Columbiana, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Carroll Counties. The System provides treatment and detention options to the participating Juvenile Courts, including group homes, a residential treatment center, and attention/detention centers.

Holmes County represents 5.12% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2007, Holmes County used 980 "bed days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days) at System Residential Treatment and Detention Centers. The Juvenile Court utilized 953 bed days at the Linda Martin Attention Center (formerly Wayne-Holmes Attention Center), 24 bed days at Stark Attention Center,

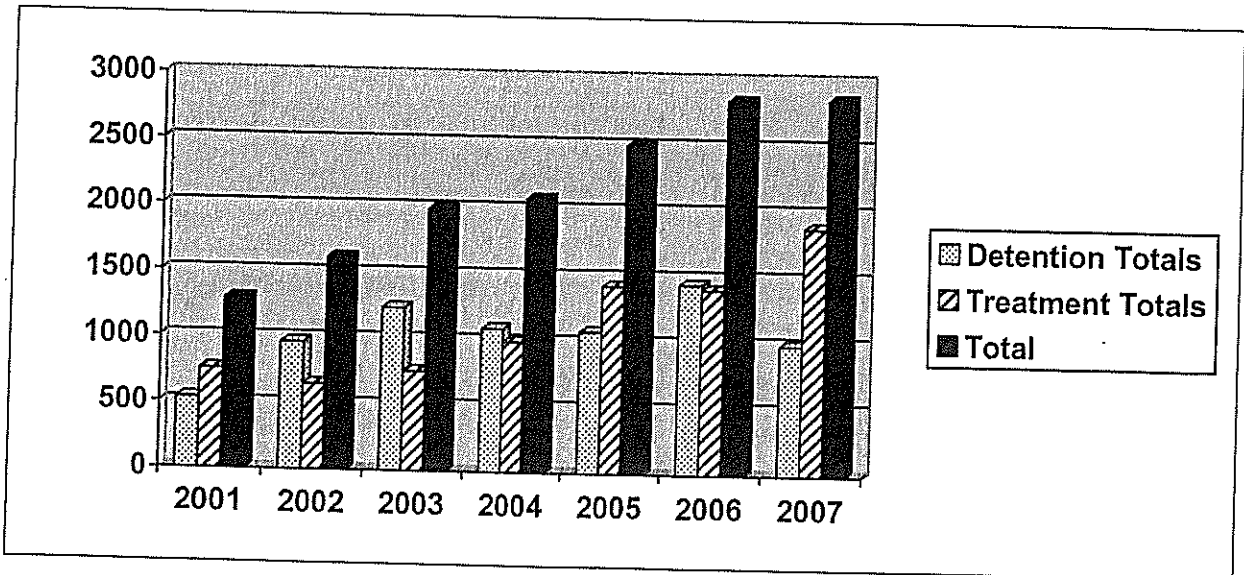
and 3 bed days at the Tuscarawas Attention Center for detention purposes.

The Court also used 1867 bed days in residential facilities as follows: 562 bed days at The New Philadelphia Girls Group Home; 413 bed days at Rogers Group Home, 483 bed days at Canton Boys Group Home, and 409 bed days at The Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio. This was an increase in usage of 470 bed days compared to 2006.

The total bed days used by Holmes County at the treatment centers and detention centers represented 5.06% of the total used by all participating counties.

Holmes County Juvenile Court MCJAS Usage

	2006	2007	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Detention Totals	1437	980	532	960	1228	1082	1068
Treatment Totals	1397	1867	753	645	752	985	1417
Total	2834	2847	1285	1605	1980	2067	2485



Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities

Three juveniles were committed to the Community Corrections Facility (CCF) during the year 2007. No juveniles were committed to an ODYS Facility in 2007.

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

During calendar year 2007, the Probation Department supervised 103 youth on probation (62 males, 41 females), including juveniles carried over from the year 2006. During this period, 60 youth were placed on probation, and 43 were successfully removed from probation.

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience. In 2007, a total of 483 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$6.85/hour, those 483 hours represent services valued at \$3,308.55 to the Holmes County community.

Youth Services Grant

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. In Fiscal Year 2007 (covering the period of July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007) Holmes County Juvenile Court received \$157,151.78 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The amount received from the Department of Youth Services is based on a formula prescribed by Ohio Revised Code Section 5139. Factors included in that formula are the number of felony adjudications for the County and for the State over the past four-year period. The amount allocated to the County based on the prescribed formula is then debited by an amount based upon the number of bed days which the County has used in Department of Youth Services

institutional and community correctional facilities. Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional or continuing programs in coming years.

The following seven (7) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2007:

1. Probation

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for our two full-time Probation Officers. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office and funds with which to purchase drug test kits which the Probation Officers use in the course of their work with juveniles.

2. Educational Services

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary and benefits of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk, and additional funds which are paid directly to Holmes County Department of Job & Family Services (as fiscal agent) for a portion of the expenses related to Project STAY. Project STAY provides services to youth who cannot be placed in a regular school setting. Adjudicated delinquent or unruly youth and at-risk youth are placed in the STAY Program when they fit the criteria of STAY pupils. This would include severe behavioral problems and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) students. The social workers and teachers make referrals for assessments to determine what needs will be met for each youth in the project. The Alternative Learning Center is an integral part of the Project STAY Program. Behavioral and family issues are addressed in an effort to help the student attain a positive self-image and problem solve in a mature manner. Academic classes are also provided with strong emphasis placed on proficiency in the core subject areas.

In addition to the Alternative School facet of this program, in recent years Project STAY has been expanded to include the following services to youth and their families:

- * Transportation
- * Advocacy and service coordination
- * Information about and referral to other area resources, wrapping services around youth and their families
- * Parent services including family service aides, Parent to Parent

educational deficits in their past. Their educational deficits made employment difficult to impossible to achieve. Lack of appropriate social and personal interaction skills, especially relating to family, led to problems in the community and at work. These combined deficits often lead to antisocial acts that result in incarceration. Our program will provide early intervention with these deficits, resulting in fewer juveniles re-entering the juvenile justice system and those in diversion having no further entry.

Further, through the use of mediation, especially victim-offender mediation, youth will develop understanding and acceptance of his/her responsibility for his/her delinquent act. Mediation between parent-child will also give the youth skills to avoid family conflicts that can lead to continued involvement with the juvenile system.

7. Recreation

The goal of the Recreation portion of the grant is to provide a good, positive recreational experience for youth who often would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend camp. Programming and activities address problems which young people experience in their personal lives, such as poor peer relationships, lack of self-confidence and self-esteem, lack of social skills, lack of trust in peers and adults.

In 2007 the Court helped sponsor a Summer Boys Club at West Holmes Middle School. The Summer Boys Club provided an environment of positive youth development. The objectives were: (1) to help the participants to identify and change the behavior that put both their academic and social bonds with the school community at risk; (2) to encourage the students to take responsibility for their past choices; (3) to realize new hope for their futures; and (4) to improve important personal skills such as communication, greater acceptance of others, self control, character building, and developing a positive sense of self.

The Summer Boys Club was very successful with ten boys attending. Evaluation responses from the students showed improvement in many asset-building areas: self-worth, acceptance of others, and being part of a caring community. The program also provided activities that the participants valued such as art projects,

martial arts, and talking with their mentor. Many of the youth plan to continue these activities in the future by attending after-school art sessions, signing up for regular martial arts instruction, and meeting with their mentor weekly. Furthermore, the students established trustworthy relationships with the facilitators, many of which will continue beyond the program.