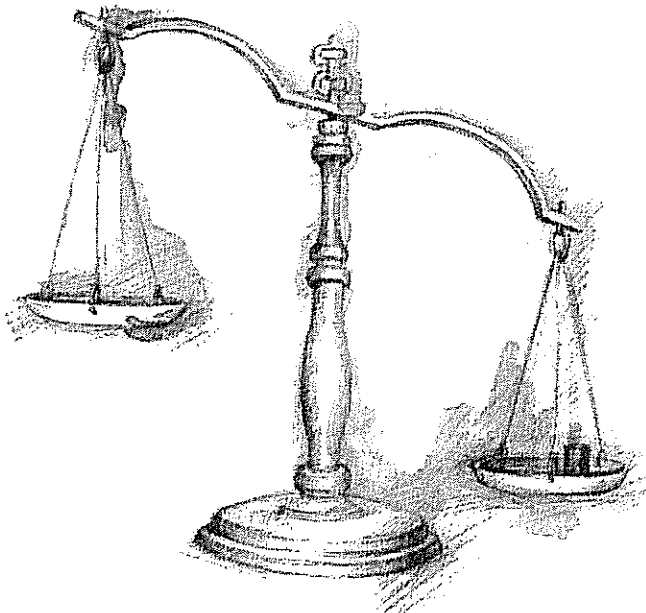


**HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**

**2009 ANNUAL REPORT**



**JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE**

1 East Jackson Street  
Suite 201  
Millersburg, Ohio 44654

PROBATE: (330) 674-5881  
JUVENILE: (330) 674-5841  
FAX: (330) 674-5820



Glennis R. Menezes  
Court Administrator

## The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO  
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 22, 2010

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2009 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 2008 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B).

### COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menuetz
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk/Receptionist/Probation Office Secretary	Christine Jenkins Sonya Baker
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation/Truancy Officer	Nicole Lepley David Williams, L.S.W. Janice Shroyer, L.S.W. Robert Porter
Project STAY Office Clerk	Judith Winegar
Advocacy Program Coordinator	Beverly Theil
Connections Mentoring Program Coordinator	Rebecca McKelley

## **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 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.
- Unruly Child** - Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.
- Juvenile Traffic Offender** - Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.
- Abused Children** - Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.
- Neglected Children** - Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.
- Dependent Children** - Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.
- Adults** - Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.
- Paternity** - Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.
- Custody** - Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.

## JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 2009:

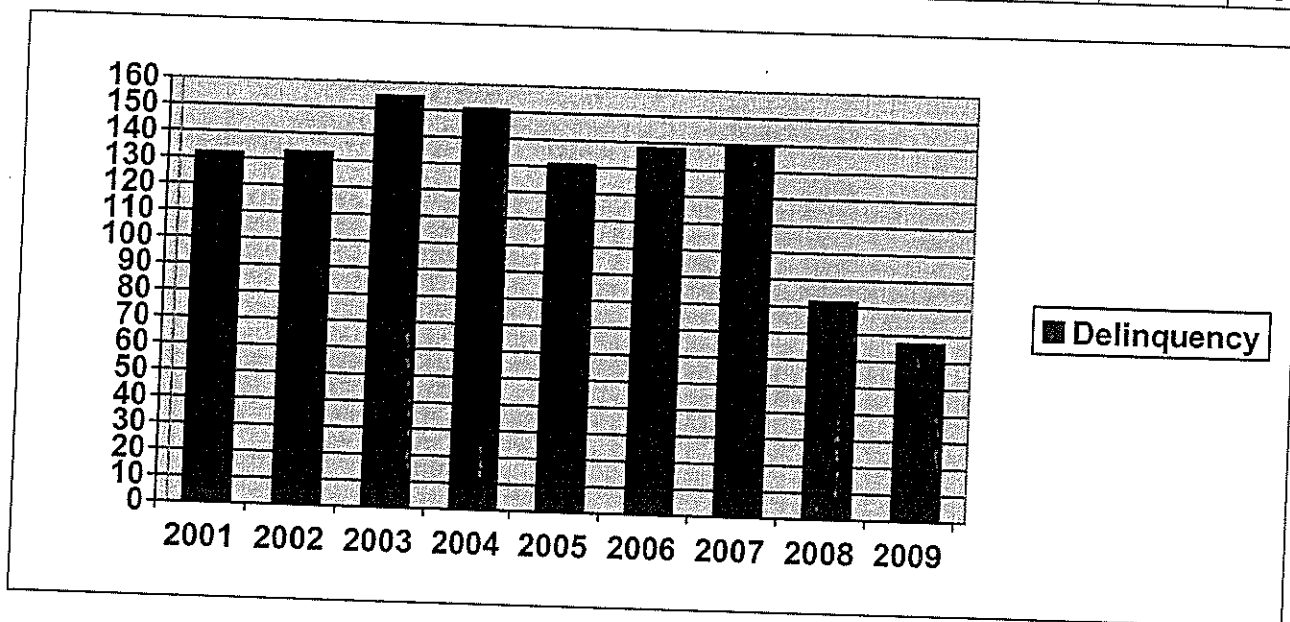
Delinquency	67
Traffic (Details provided below)	154
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	45
Unruly	26
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	1
Custody/Visitation	84
Child Support	60
Paternity	6
U.I.F.S.A. (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act)	0
Others	<u>0</u>
TOTAL:	443

**NOTE:** Forty-five (45) 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 2009:

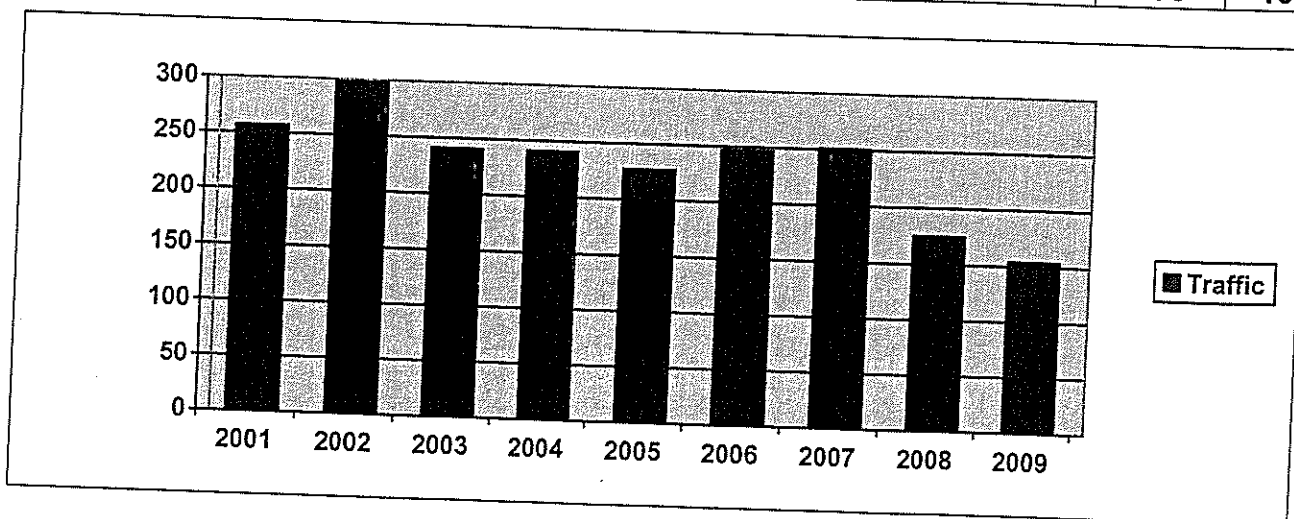
### Delinquency

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
132	133	155	151	131	138	140	82	67



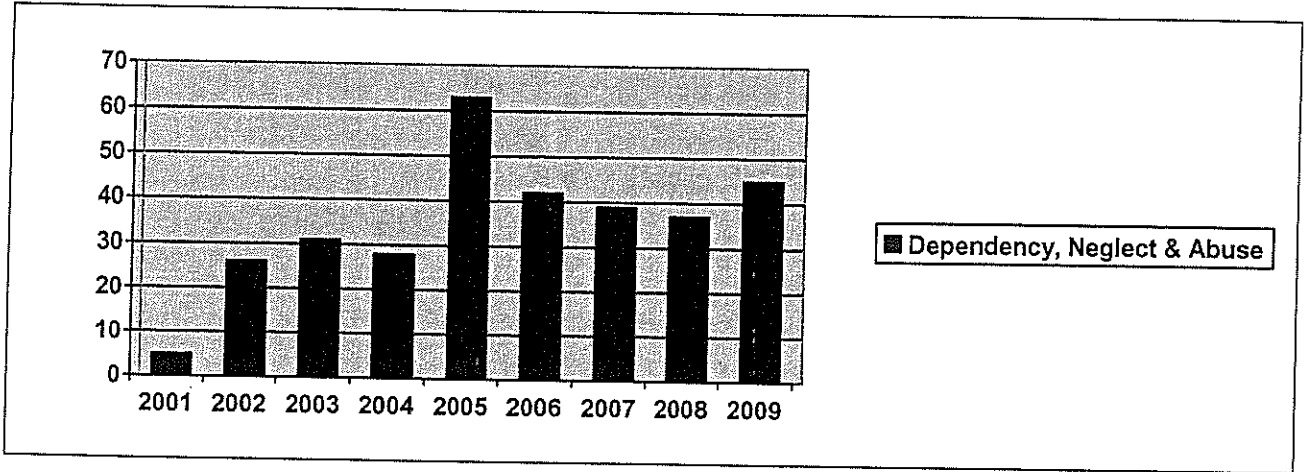
### Traffic

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
257	298	241	241	227	247	251	175	154



### Dependency, Neglect & Abuse

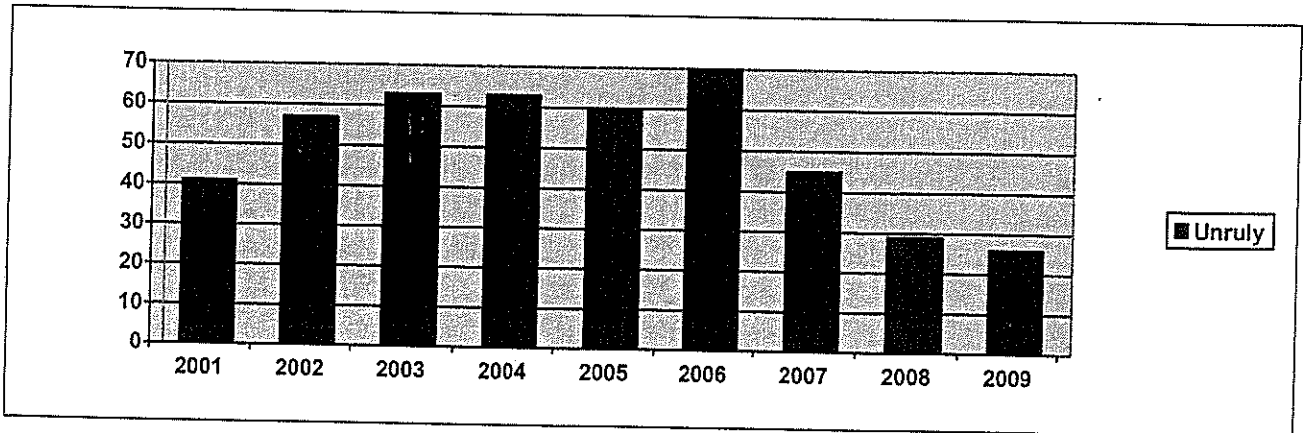
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
5	26	31	28	63	42	39	37	45



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### Unruly

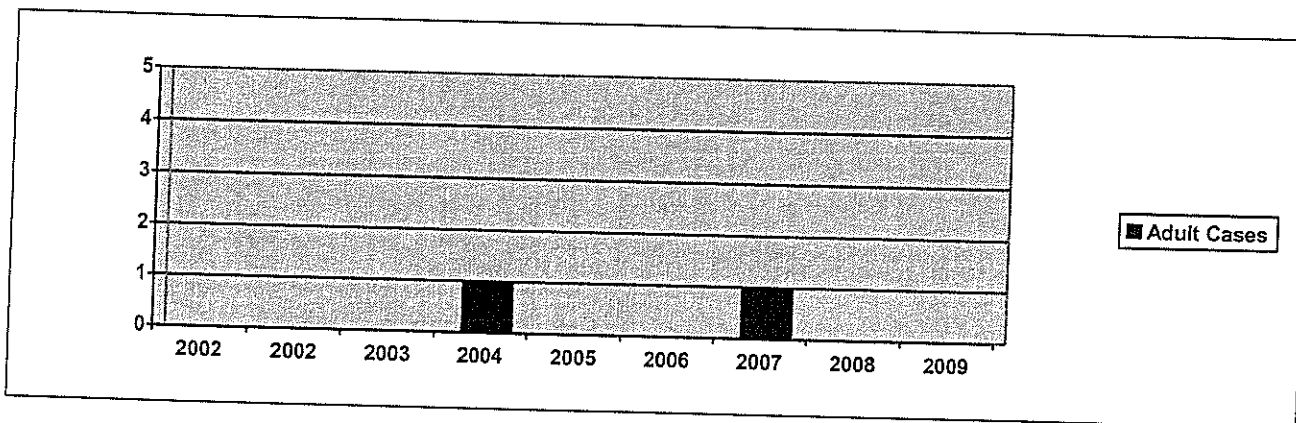
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
41	57	63	63	60	70	45	29	26





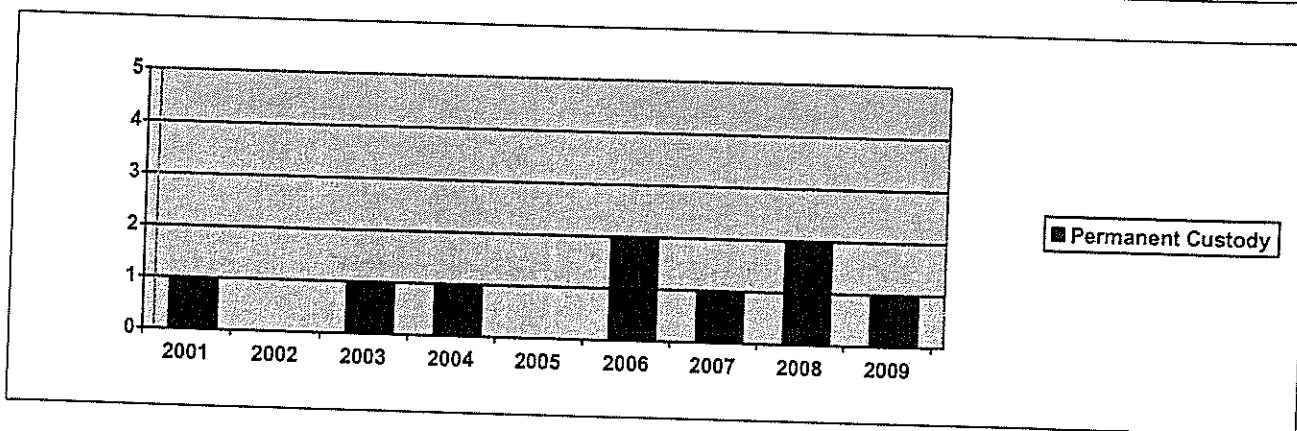
Adult Cases

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0



Permanent Custody

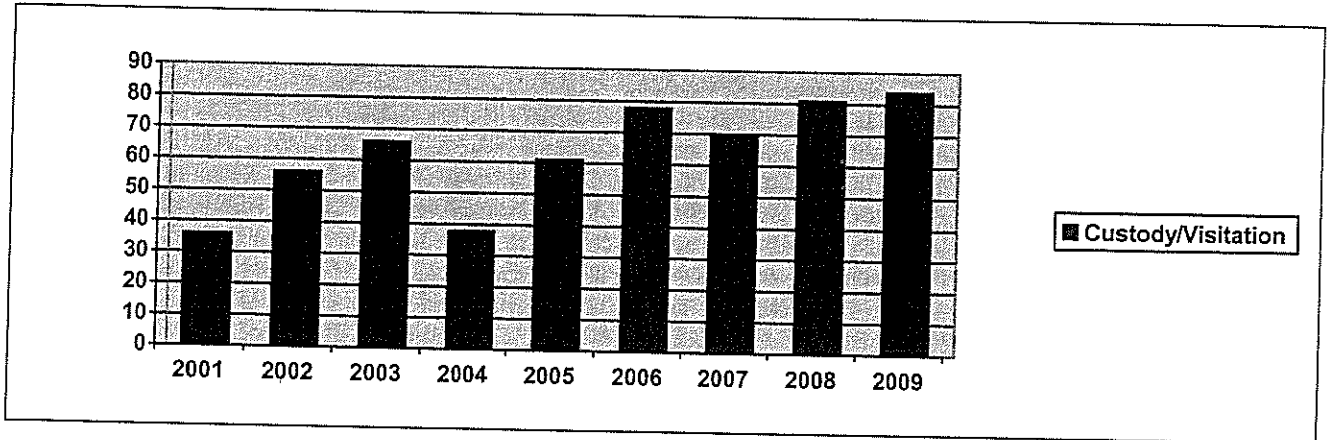
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	1



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### Custody/Visitation

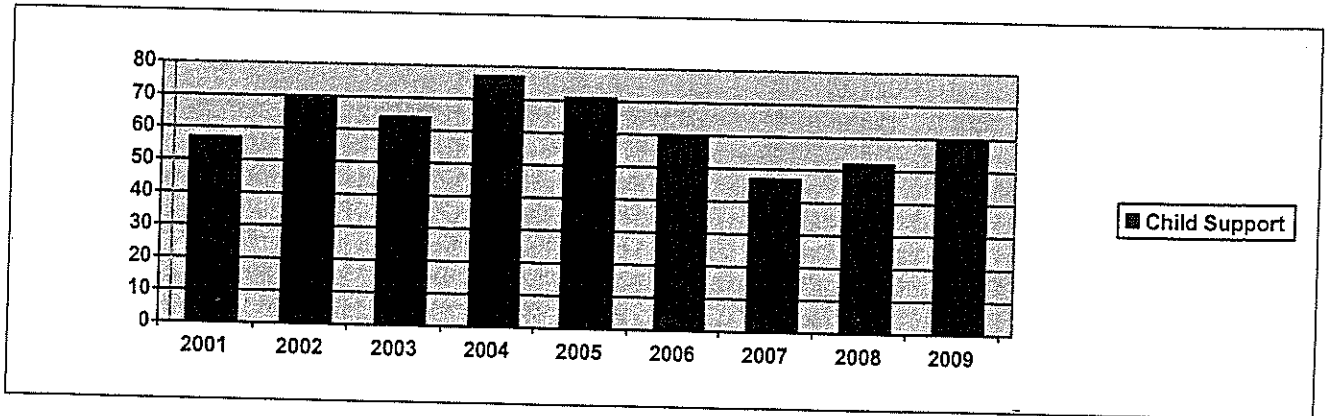
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
36	56	66	38	61	78	70	81	84



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### Child Support

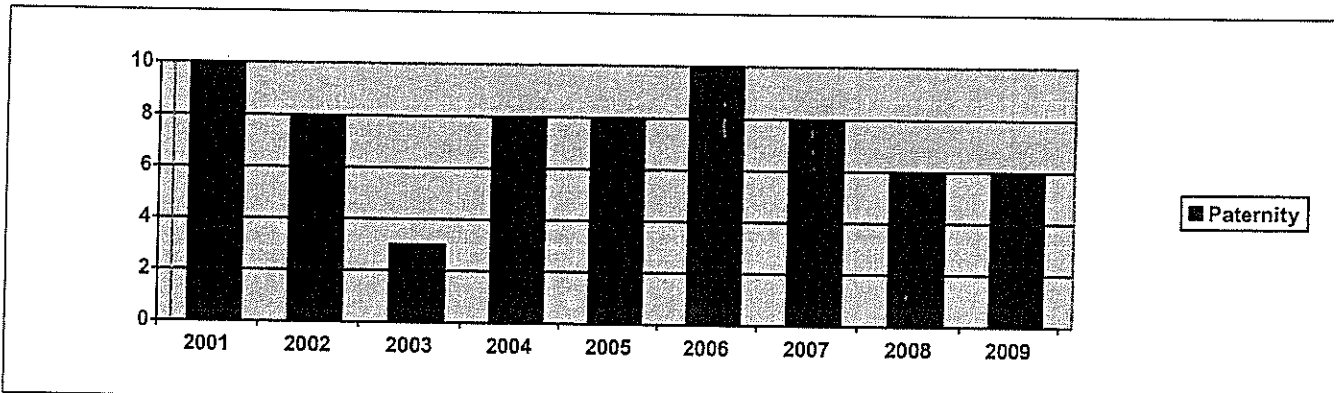
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
57	69	64	77	71	60	47	52	60



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Paternity

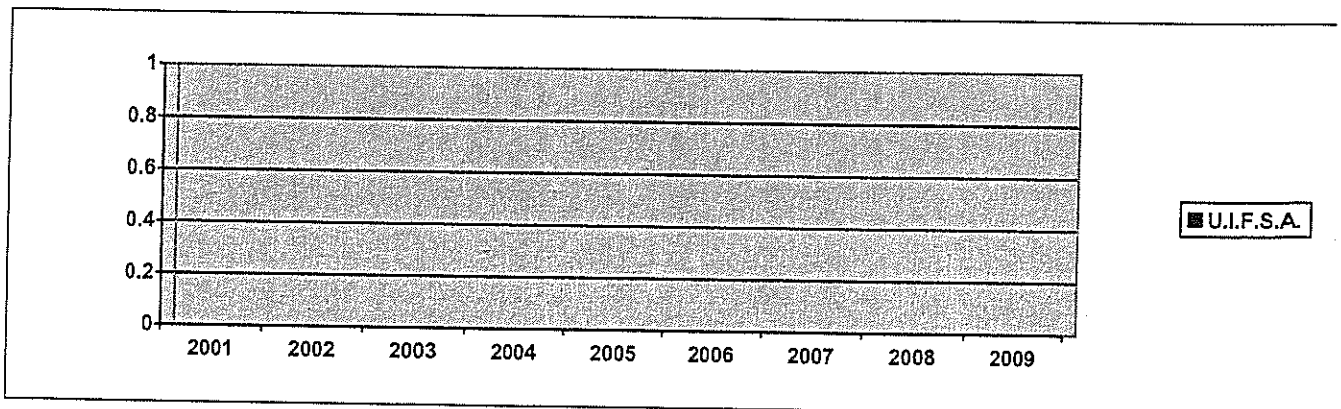
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
10	8	3	8	8	10	8	6	6



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U.I.F.S.A.

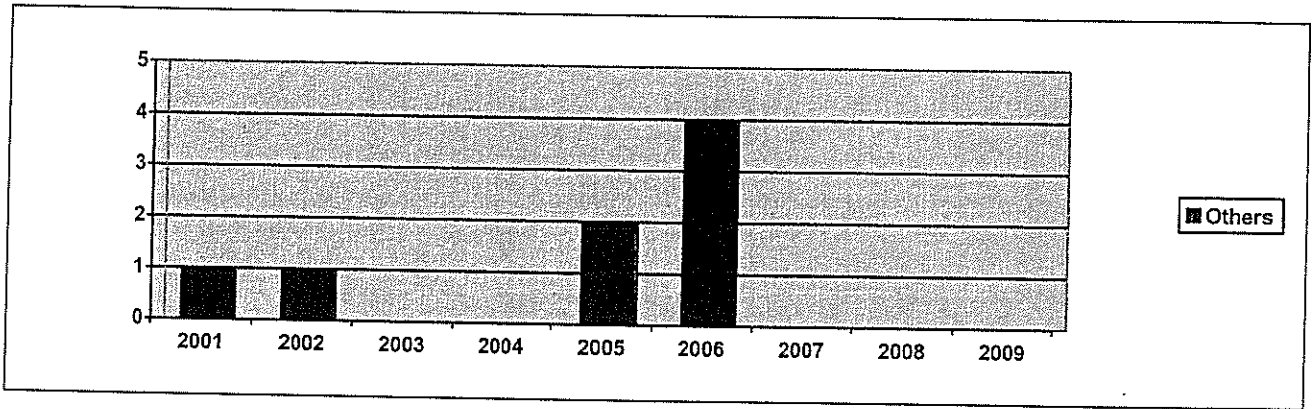
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



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Others

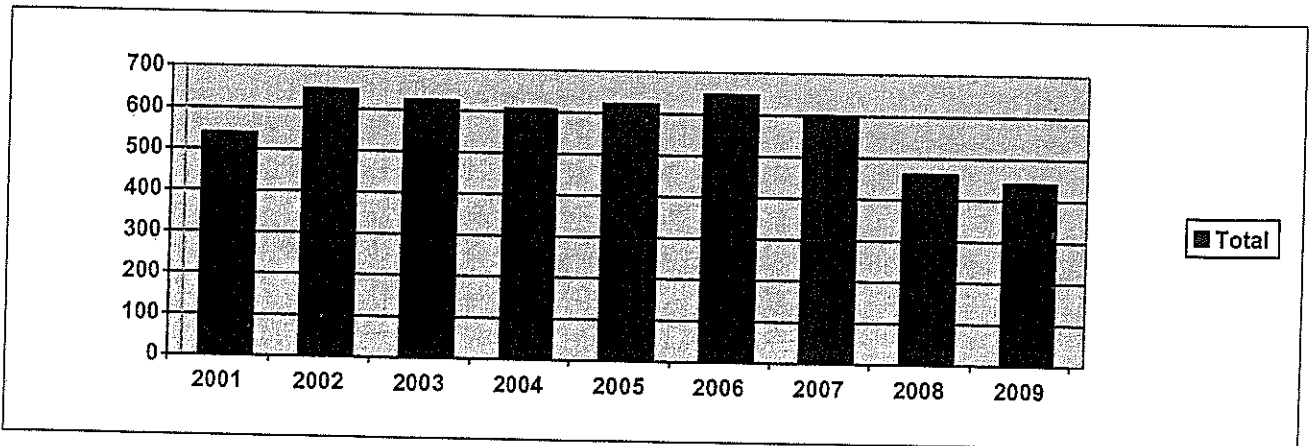
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	1	0	0	2	4	0	0	0



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Total

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
540	648	625	607	623	649	601	462	442



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## TYPES OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The following types of citations were issued against juveniles and dealt with by the Court in 2009:

Seat Belt Violations	10
Failure to Control	23
Red Light Violations	1
Failure to Yield	3
Reckless Operation	2
Speed	55
No Operator's License	8
Left of Center	3
Assured Clear Distance	12
Stop Sign Violation	9
Expired Plates	1
No Registration	1
Driving during Restricted Hours	2
Expired Registration	1
Failure to Display Registration	1
Too Many Passengers	1
Unsafe Motor Vehicle	3
Bicycle Violation	1
No Moped Registration	1
No Registration on 4-Wheeler	1
No Operator's License on Four-Wheeler or Moped	2
OVI	1
No Front License Plate	1
Operating w/o Plates	1

(These figures reflect cases disposed of by the Court in 2009, not necessarily cases filed in the year 2009.)

## TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES

Assault	3
Breaking & Entering	2
Criminal Damaging	1
Attempted Criminal Trespass	1
Criminal Trespassing	1
Domestic Violence	3
Aggravated Menacing	1
Possession of Marijuana or Drugs	2
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	5
Theft	4
Petty Theft	5
Burglary	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2
Theft of Credit Cards	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	11
Littering	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
Inducing Panic	1
Resisting Arrest	1
Trafficking Marijuana	2
Rape	4
Assault	1
Veicular Manslaughter	1
Probation Violations	13

(These figures reflect the number of charges dealt with by the Court in 2009, not necessarily the number of cases filed in the year 2009.)

**TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION (First-Time Offenders) IN 2009:**

Note: A juvenile may have been charged with more than one offense.

Unruly	10
Theft	4
Prohibitions (Alcohol 17; Drugs 9)	26
Aggravated Menacing	2
Criminal Damaging	4
Curfew	2

**FELONIES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES IN 2009:**

Total felony adjudications:	14
Males:	5
Females:	2

(Note: Four juveniles had more than one adjudication.)

**Felony Adjudications by the Court in 2009:**

Gross Sexual Imposition	4
Rape	2
Theft	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2
Breaking & Entering	1
Trafficking LSD	1
Trafficking Marijuana	1
Theft of Credit Cards	1
Burglary	1

## DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 2009:

### Delinquencies

Community Service	1057 Hours Completed
Court Costs	13
Fines	6
Restitution	4
Probation	35
Detention	14
Community Service	21
Operator's License Suspension	3
Shoplifting Diversion Course	1
Insight Assessment	1
Psychological Evaluation	2
Counseling	28
Drug & Alcohol Assessment	5
House Arrest	4
Home Based Intervention	9
Apology	3
Suspended DYS Sentence	8
Suspended Placement	8
Suspended Detention	28
No Contact	9
Passing Grades	4
Placement	10
Anger Management	3
DNA Test & Fingerprinting	6
Get Job	3
Summer Employment	2
Connections Mentoring Program	5
Project STAY	1
No Tobacco	1
Other	2



## 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 2008:

Group homes	1
Village Network (formerly Boys' Village)	1
Treatment Centers	2
Total:	4

### 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.

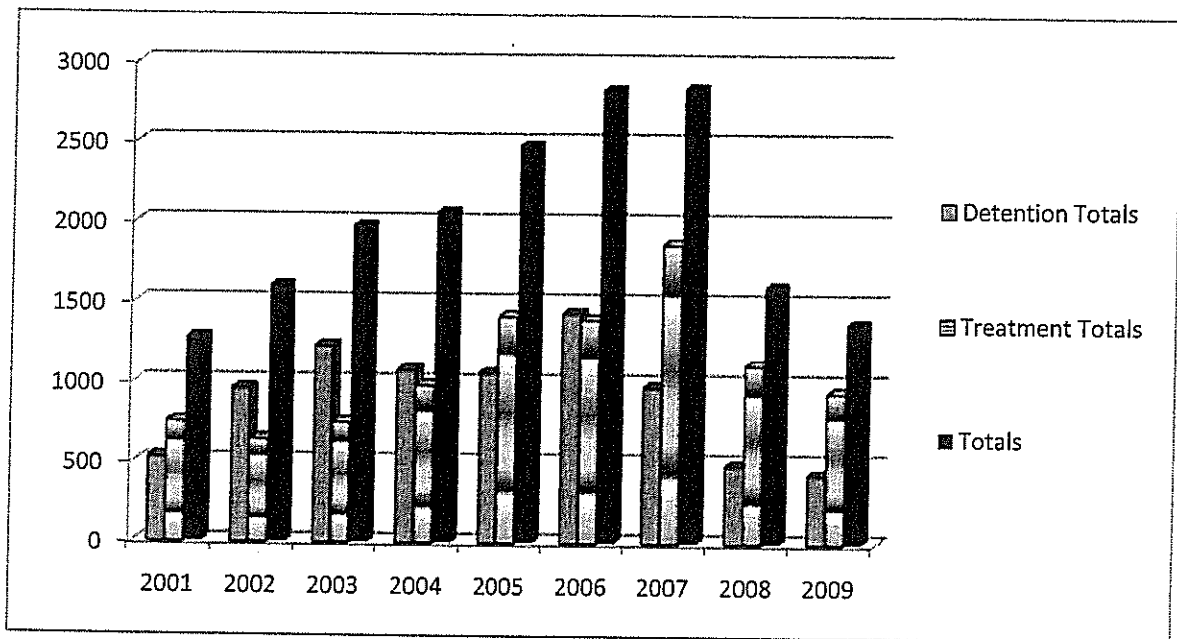
Holmes County represents 5.12% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2009, Holmes County used 1377 "bed days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days) at System Residential Treatment and Detention Centers. The Juvenile Court utilized 432 bed days at the Linda Martin Attention Center (formerly Wayne-Holmes Attention Center).

The Court also used 945 bed days in residential facilities as follows: 19 bed days at The New Philadelphia Girls Group Home; 310 bed days at Canton Boys Group Home, and 616 bed days at The Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio. This was a decrease in usage of 171 bed days compared to 2008.

The total bed days used by Holmes County at the treatment centers and detention centers represented 2.62% of the total used by all participating counties.

## Holmes County Juvenile Court MCJAS Usage

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Detention Totals</b>	532	960	1228	1082	1068	1437	980	489	432
<b>Treatment Totals</b>	753	645	752	985	1417	1397	1867	1116	945
<b>Total</b>	1285	1605	1980	2067	2485	2834	2847	1605	1377



### Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities

No juveniles were committed to an ODYS Facility in 2009.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Probation Department**

During calendar year 2009, the Probation Department supervised 57 youth on probation (40 males, 17 females), including juveniles carried over from the year 2008. During calendar year 2009, 34 youth were placed on probation, and 36 were removed from probation. Of those removed from probation, 15 were successful, 2 were unsuccessful, and 19 were considered "neutral" as a result of turning 18 or moving out of Holmes County.

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience. In 2009, a total of 1057 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$7.25/hour, those 1057 hours represent services valued at \$7,663.25 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 2009 (covering the period of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009) Holmes County Juvenile Court received \$138,420.47 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 four (4) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2009:

**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 funding for trainings and educational seminars the Probation Officers attend.

**2. Educational Services**

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary and benefits of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk. 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 support group, wellness education, parenting education, and household support

### **3. Advocacy**

The Advocacy Program was initiated in September, 2005, and is designed for one-on-one advocacy for youth who need intervention in the areas of education and socialization in order to prevent recidivism in the juvenile system, reduce high school drop-outs, to develop employment (and related social) skills, teach youth alternative forms of conflict resolution through mediation and provide alternative, appropriate, family interactions. A qualified advocate and mediator will provide service to youth and their families.

It has long been known that a significant portion of the adult prison population had both juvenile court experience and 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.

### **4. Mentoring**

The Court's Mentoring Program, "Connections," began recruiting mentors and matching them with juveniles in the grant's Fiscal Year 2009. The Program was initiated to address the problem of young people who lack positive adult role models. Many of these young people come from single-parent homes where the parent is overwhelmed with daily chores involved in maintaining a home and meeting the basic necessities of their children. Such parents often do not have the time and energy needed to spend time with their children and model general life and decision-making skills. Connections matches these young people with adult volunteers who are trained by the Program Coordinator and are willing to commit to spending four to eight hours per month with the

young person for a period of at least twelve months. It is the goal of the program to provide a relationship for the child with a caring adult who will assist them in reaching their highest potential as they grow into responsible adults.

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

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