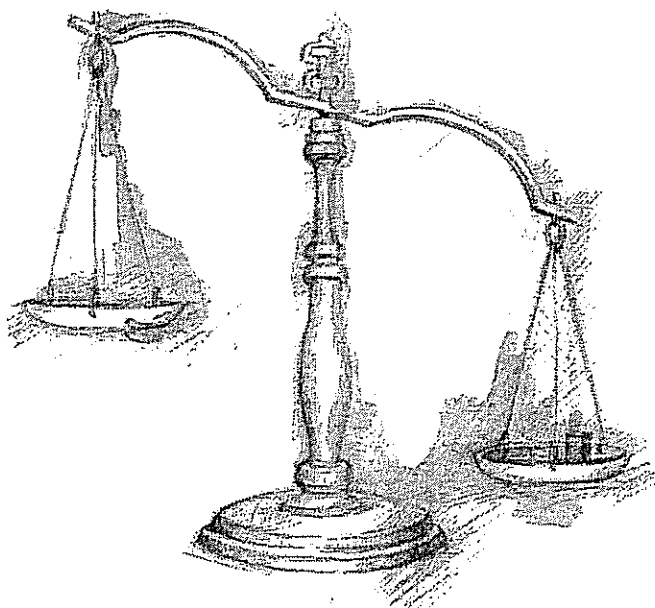


HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE

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Millersburg, Ohio 44654

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Glenn R. Menezes
Court Administrator

The Court of Common Pleas
PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS
HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 22, 2009

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2008 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	Glennis R. Menuetz
Grant Administrator	
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk	Christine Jenkins
Deputy Clerk	Virginia Sandison
Deputy Clerk/Receptionist/Probation	
Office Secretary	Nicole Lepley
Chief Probation Officer	David Williams, L.S.W.
Probation Officer	Janice Shroyer, L.S.W.
Probation/Truancy Officer	Robert Porter
Project STAY Office Clerk	Judith Winegar
Advocacy Program Coordinator	Beverly Theil, R.A.
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 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 2008:

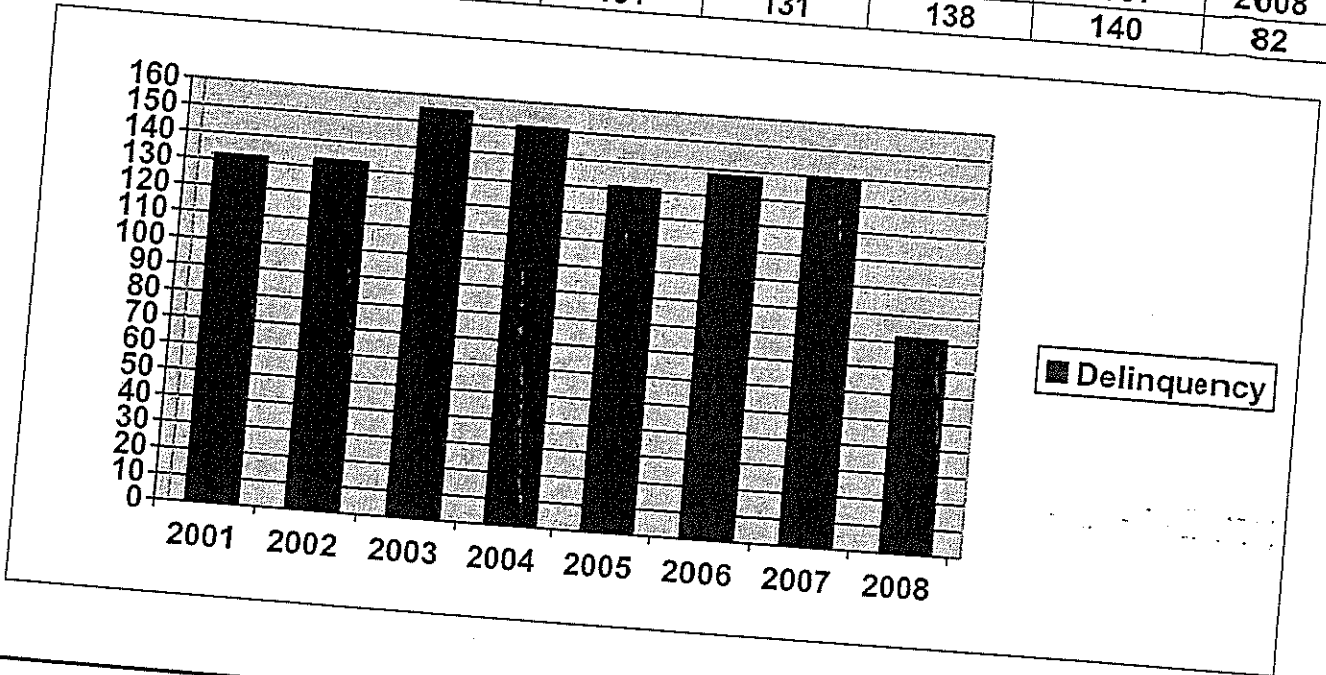
Delinquency	82
Traffic (Details provided below)	175
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	37
Unruly	29
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	0
Custody/Visitation	81
Child Support	52
Paternity	6
U.I.F.S.A. (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act)	0
Others	<u>0</u>
TOTAL:	462

NOTE: Sixty-two (62) 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 2008:

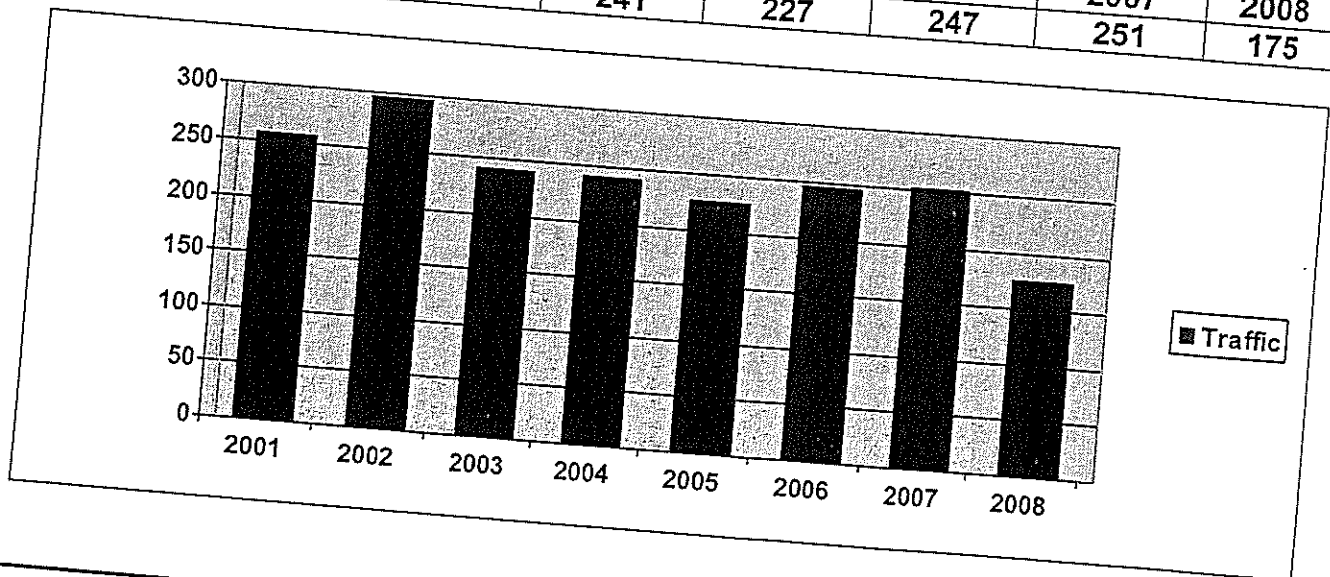
Delinquency

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



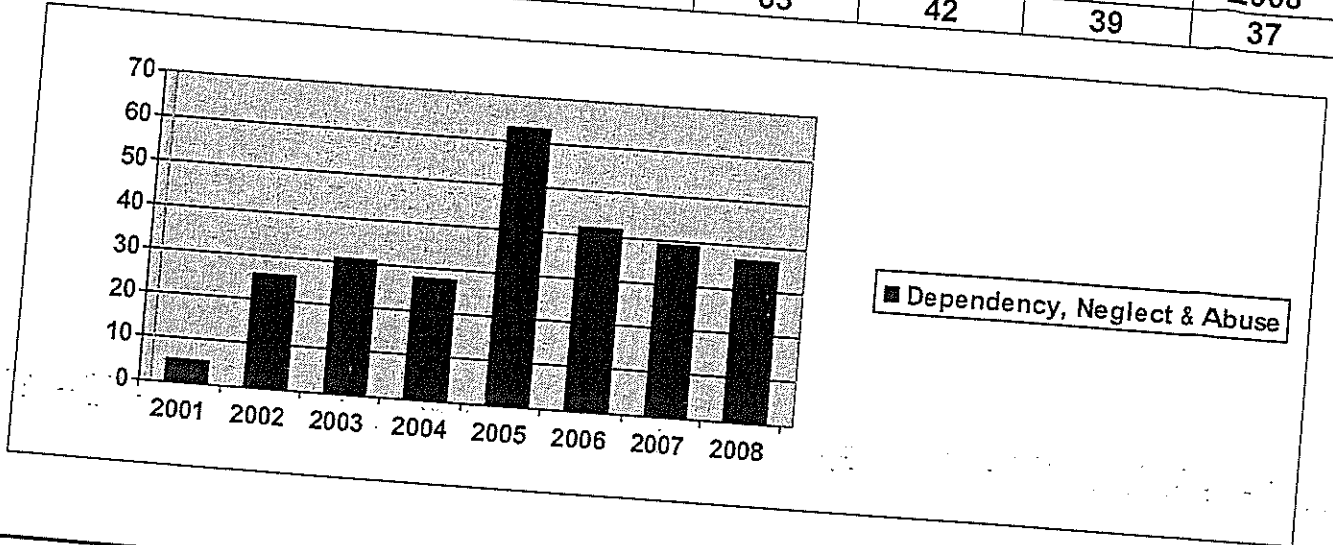
Traffic

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



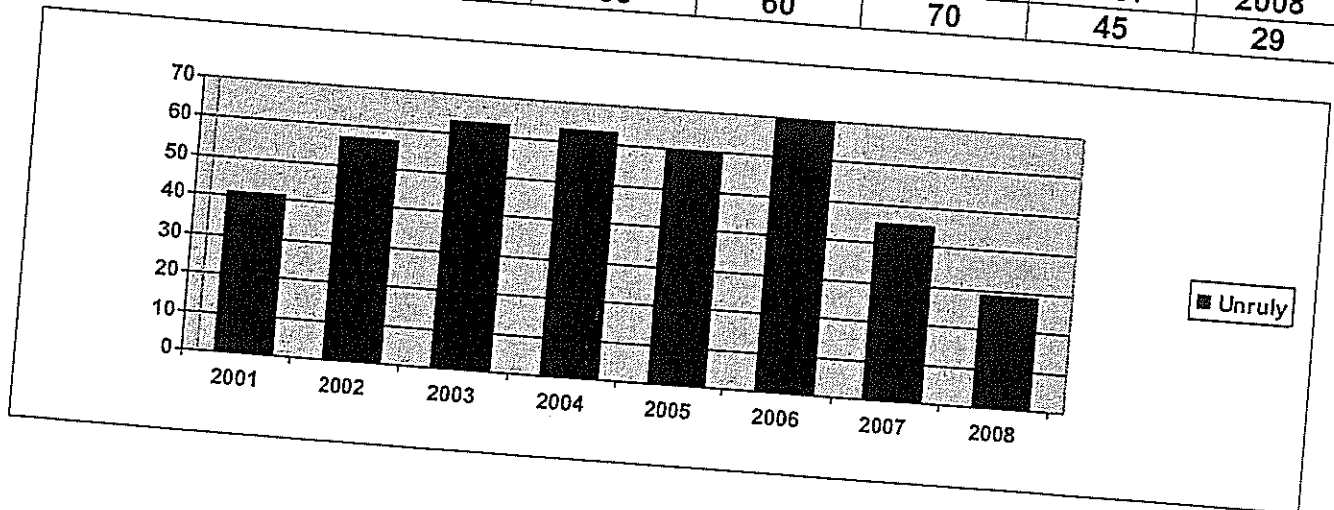
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse

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



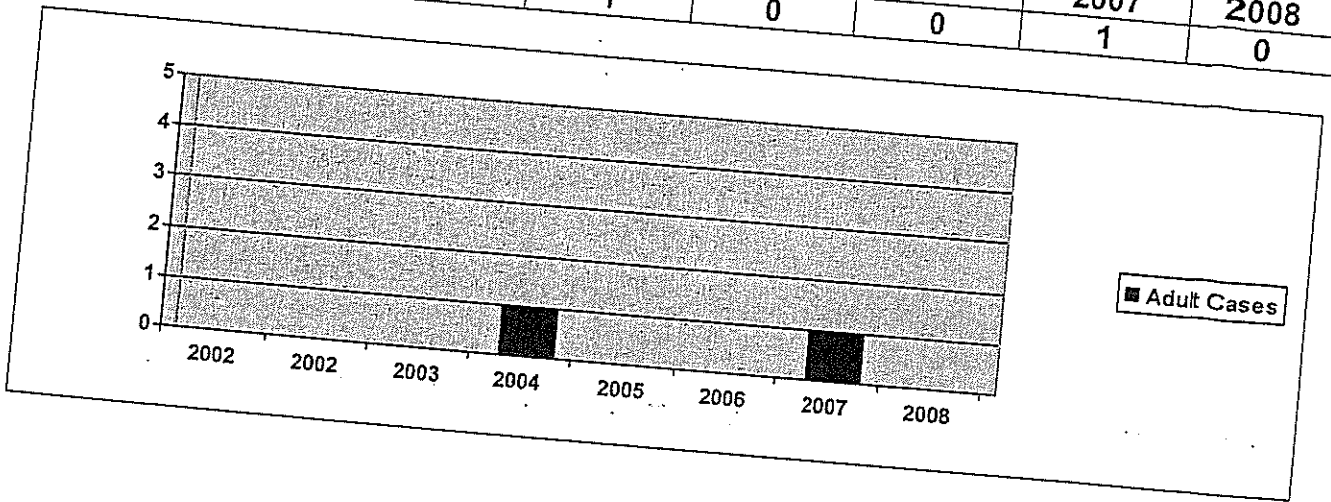
Unruly

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



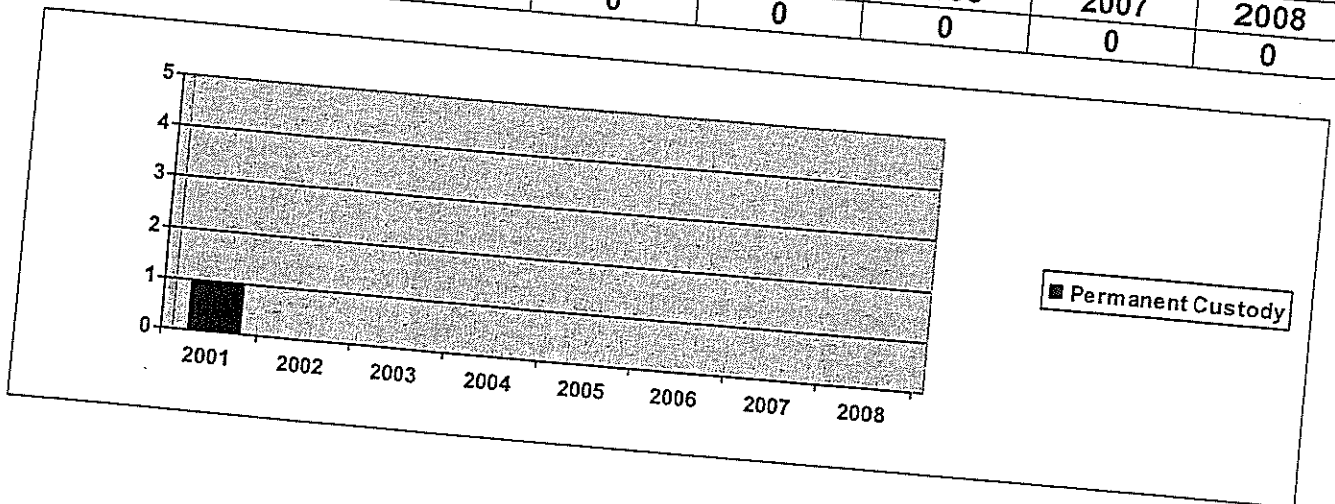
Adult Cases

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



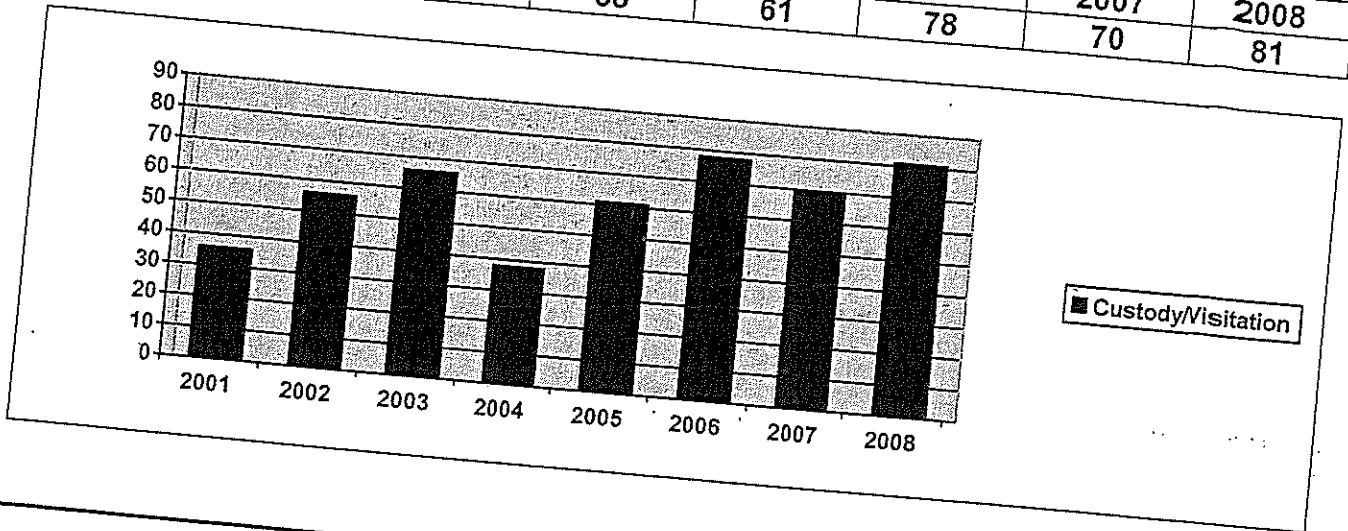
Permanent Custody

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



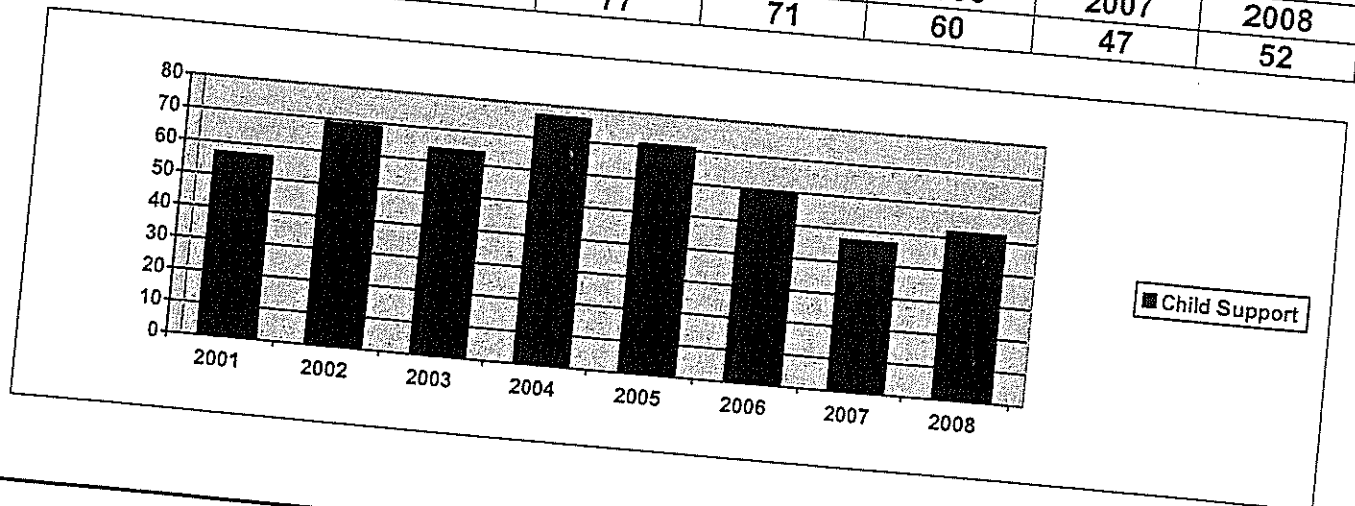
Custody/Visitation

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



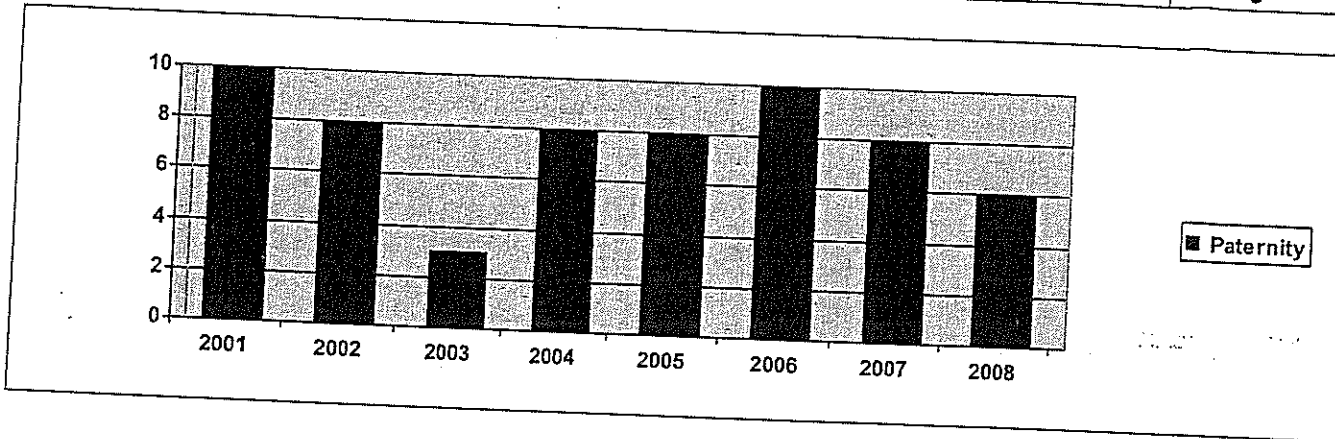
Child Support

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



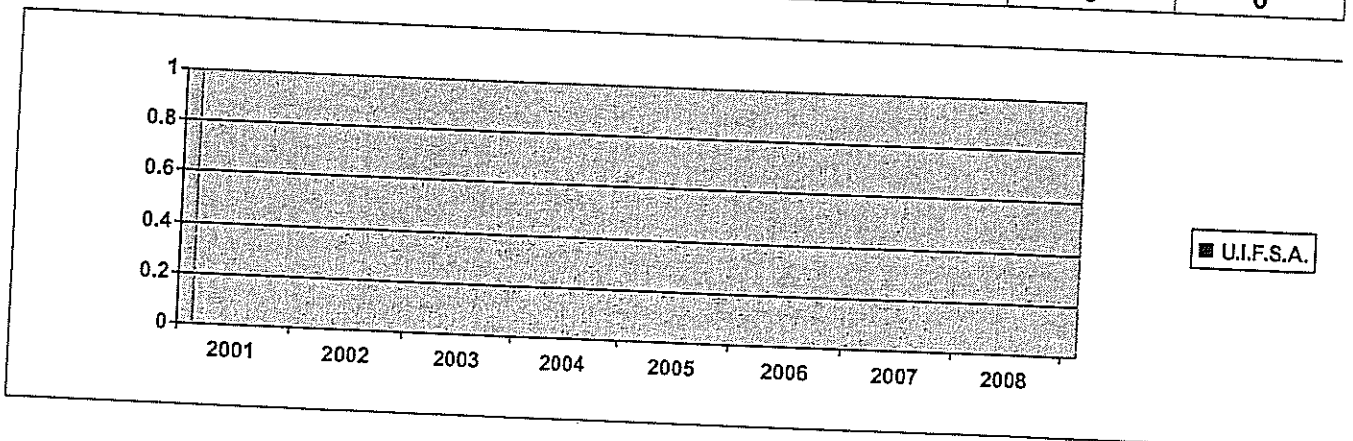
Paternity

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



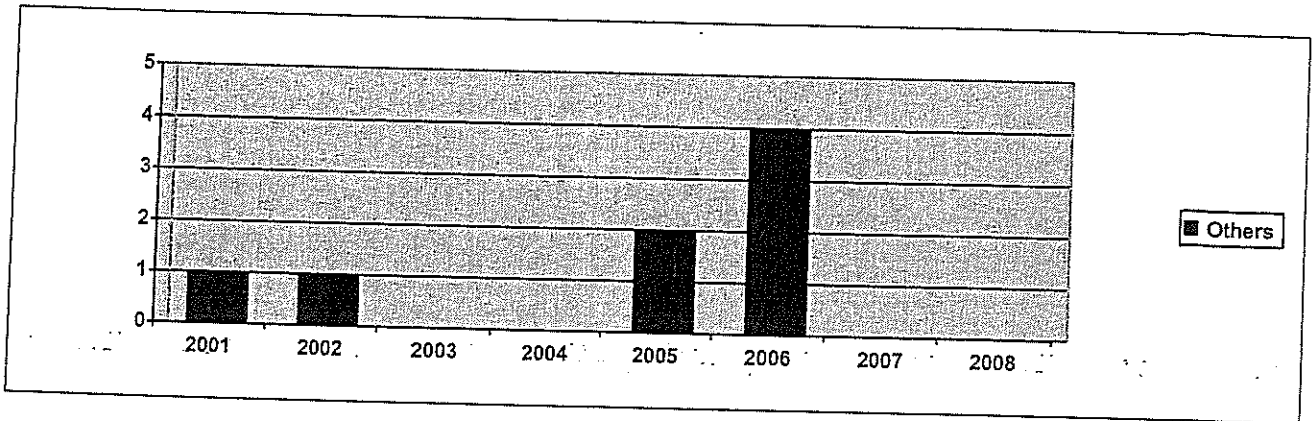
U.I.F.S.A.

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



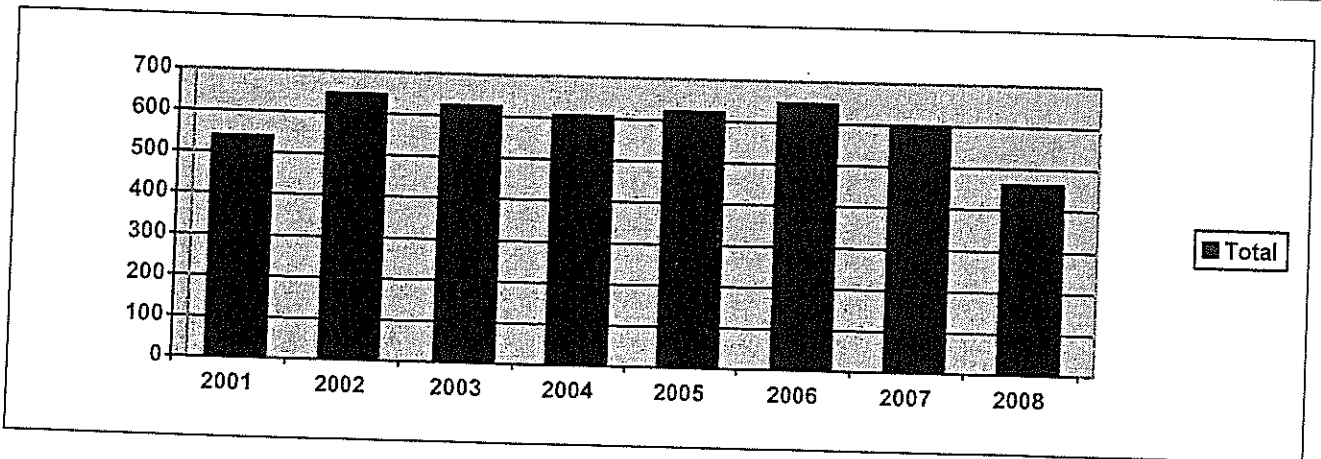
Others

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



Total

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



TYPES OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The following types of citations were issued against juveniles and dealt with by the Court in 2008:

Seat Belt Violations	24
Failure to Control	20
Red Light Violations	4
Failure to Yield	3
Reckless Operation	2
Speed	42
No Operator's License	7
Left of Center	1
Assured Clear Distance	9
Stop Sign Violation	11
Expired Plates	3
No Registration	1
Probationary License Violation	2
Following Too Closely	6
Improper Lane	1
Driving on Closed Road	2
Passing on Double Yellow	1
Driving during Restricted Hours	1
Passing on the Right	1
Failure to Show Turn Signal	1
Disregard to Public Safety	1
Hit-Skip Leave the Scene	1
Passing Stopped School Bus	2
Expired Registration	2
Failure to Display Registration	1
Window Tint	2
Cracked Windshield	1
No Tail Lights	1
No Helmet on ATV	1
No Child Restraint	1

(These figures reflect cases disposed of by the Court in 2008, not necessarily cases filed in the year 2008.)

TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES

Assault	7
Breaking & Entering	2
Criminal Damaging	3
Criminal Trespassing	3
Criminal Mischief	2
Domestic Violence	8
Menacing	2
Possession of Marijuana or Drugs	4
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	7
Theft	7
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	3
Falsification	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	4
Arson	2
Disorderly Conduct	3
Making False Alarms	1
Telecommunications Harassment	2
Improper Handling of Firearm	1
Resisting Arrest	1
Assault on Peace Officer	1
Trafficking Marijuana	2
Trafficking LSD	1
Rape	1
Felonious Assault	1
Vehicular Assault	1
Vehicular Manslaughter	2

(These figures reflect the number of charges dealt with by the Court in 2008, not necessarily the number of cases filed in the year 2008.)

TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION (First-Time Offenders) IN 2008:

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

Unruly	23
Theft	12
Tobacco violations	3
Prohibitions	12
Telecommunications Harassment	1
Sexual Imposition	1
Disorderly Conduct	2
Menacing	1
Assault	1
Domestic Violence	1
Criminal Damaging	7
Criminal Trespass	3
Criminal Mischief	1
Discharging Firearms	2
Littering	1
Breaking & Entering	2

FELONIES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES IN 2008:

Total felony adjudications:	9
Males:	7
Females:	0

Two male juveniles were charged with two offenses.

Felony Adjudications by the Court in 2008:

Breaking & Entering	1
Arson	2
Aggravated Arson	1
Felonious Assault	1
Vehicular Assault	2
Gross Sexual Imposition	2

DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 2008:

Delinquencies

Community Service	540.75 Hours Completed
Court Costs	5
Fines	2
Restitution	2
Probation	33
Detention	26
Community Service	5
Operator's License Suspension	2
Shoplifting Diversion Course	1
Inside Assessment	3
Psychological Evaluation	14
Counseling	24
Drug & Alcohol Assessment	7
House Arrest	2
Home Based Intervention	7
Apology	4
Suspended DYS Sentence	1
Suspended Placement	1
Suspended Detention	32
No Contact	10
Passing Grades	1
Placement	4
Anger Management	4
DNA Test & Fingerprinting	5
Get Job	2
Summer Employment	1
Connections Mentoring Program	1
Project STAY	4
Other	7

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	2
Village Network (formerly Boys' Village)	2
Treatment Centers	3
Total:	7

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.

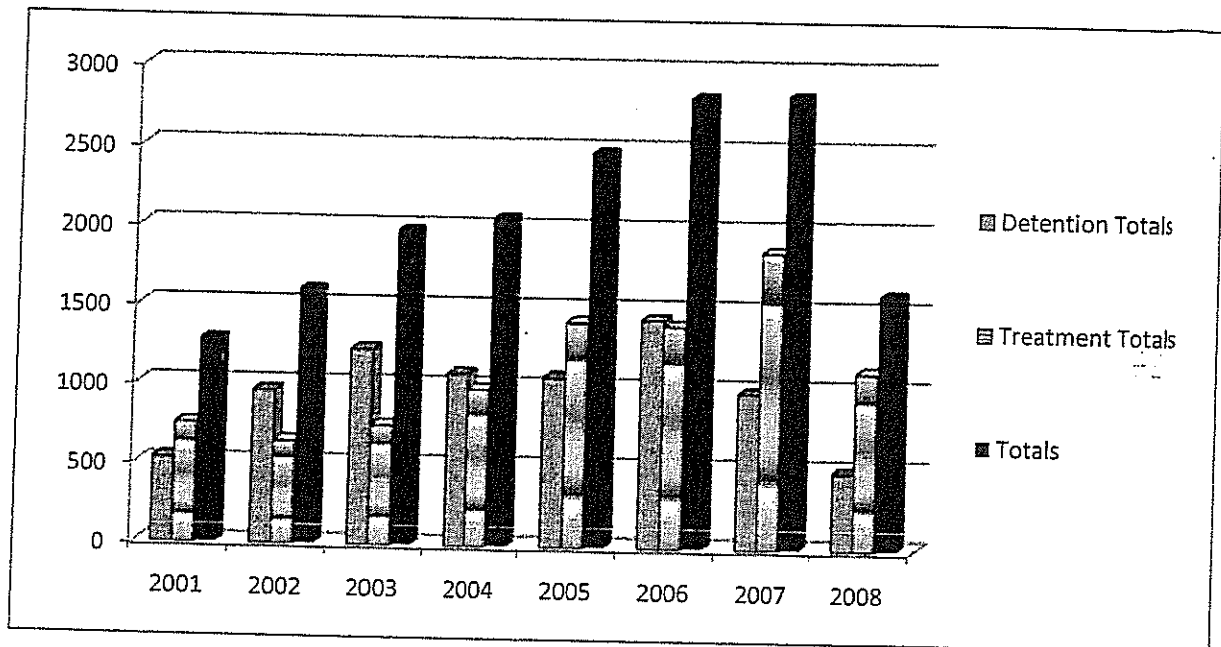
Holmes County represents 5.12% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2008, Holmes County used 1605 "bed days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days) at System Residential Treatment and Detention Centers. The Juvenile Court utilized 489 bed days at the Linda Martin Attention Center (formerly Wayne-Holmes Attention Center).

The Court also used 1116 bed days in residential facilities as follows: 366 bed days at The New Philadelphia Girls Group Home; 50 bed days at Rogers Group Home, 255 bed days at Canton Boys Group Home, and 445 bed days at The Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio. This was an decrease in usage of 1242 bed days compared to 2007.

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

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



Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities

No juveniles were committed to an ODYS Facility in 2008. Two juveniles remained in DYS facilities as a result of their commitment in 2007, using a total of 359 DYS bed days in 2008.

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

During calendar year 2008, the Probation Department supervised 95 youth on probation (67 males, 28 females), including juveniles carried over from the year 2007. During calendar year 2008, 30 youth were placed on probation, and 38 were removed from probation. Of those removed from probation, 27 were successful, 2 were unsuccessful, and nine 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 2008, a total of 540.75 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$7.00/hour, those 540.75 hours represent services valued at \$3,785.25 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 2008 (covering the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008) Holmes County Juvenile Court was awarded \$158,501.51 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 2008:

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.

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 support group, wellness education, parenting education, and household support

3. Residential Treatment

Out of home placements have been described elsewhere in this Report. This Grant Program provides a funding option for placement of juveniles outside the home when every effort has been exhausted to keep the child in the home.

4. Clinical Assessments

This program provides funds for psychiatric, psychological, or drug and alcohol assessments for delinquent and/or unruly youth to assist the court in developing individual treatment plans.

5. Monitoring/Surveillance

Electronic home supervision is an available option when a juvenile fails to respond to the guidance and supervision of the custodian. Juveniles are electronically restricted to the home unless services and education appointments are arranged. It offers constant monitoring of the juvenile's whereabouts and associations. This grant program provides funds for juveniles who are unable to pay for electronic home supervision in situations where it is the Court's order that they be placed on electronic home supervision.

6. 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.

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 2008 the Court helped sponsor a Summer Boys Club at West Holmes Middle School. The summer camp is for sixth and seventh grade males. Youth are referred to the program by school officials. The program is a cognitive behavioral modeled program that meets for three days a week for an eight to nine week period. Both adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth are able to attend the program. Youth selected into the program complete the Youth Asset Survey at the start and completion of the program. The program is composed of a wide variety of activities, including art therapy, a high ropes course, karate, and an African drumming experience. Court and school personnel, as well as community volunteers, run the activities. The activities are designed to provide challenges to help the youth develop self-confidence and team building. Constant communication is used with the youth to assist the youth in recognizing and taking responsibility for decisions that they make. Incentives and sanctions are built into the program and are tailored by staff on a case-by-case basis.

