
2019 Annual Report

**Thirty-Third Judicial Circuit
Juvenile Division
Scott & Mississippi Counties**



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Introduction

According to the July 2017 QuickFacts from the US Census Bureau, the combined 2017 population estimate of Scott and Mississippi counties was 52,127. Scott County's estimated population is 38,541 (74 percent) and Mississippi's estimated population is 13,586 (26 percent).

Year	Scott	Mississippi	Circuit
2017 Estimate	38,541	13,586	52,127

Juveniles under 5 years made up approximately 6 percent, and juveniles under 18 made up approximately 23 percent of the total population for both counties combined in 2017. Demographics are as follows:

White – 85.4% in Scott County & 73.1% in Mississippi County

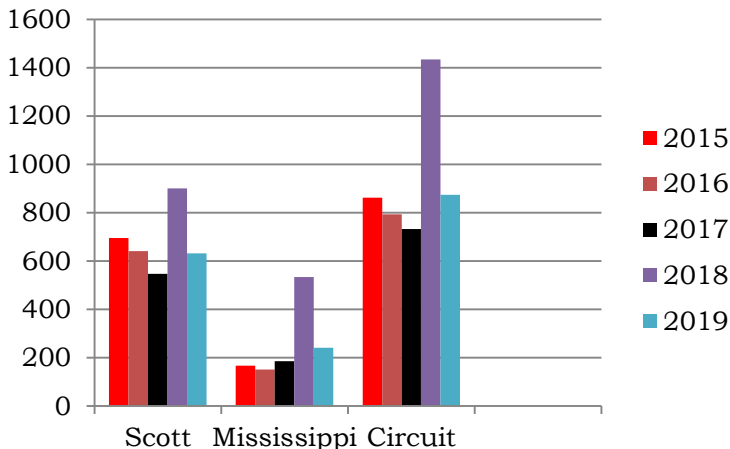
Black – 11.9% in Scott County & 24.9% in Mississippi County

Other – 2.7% in Scott County & 2% in Mississippi County

According to the 2017 Missouri Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center, Crime in Missouri Report, the total Crime Index Rate for the 33rd Circuit was 1,615 (offenses reported). 336 in Mississippi County and 1,279 in Scott County.

Referrals

The 33rd Judicial Circuit is comprised of Scott and Mississippi counties. Our office received 874 total referrals for 2019. Our primary referral source is Scott County where 72% of our referrals come from. There was a pretty steep decrease in referrals from 2018 which was an unusual year compared to the other 4 years. Referrals consist of child abuse or neglect referrals, delinquency referrals (crime) and status offense referrals (truancy, beyond parental control, behavior injurious, runaway). Our largest amount of referrals were for delinquency in 2019.

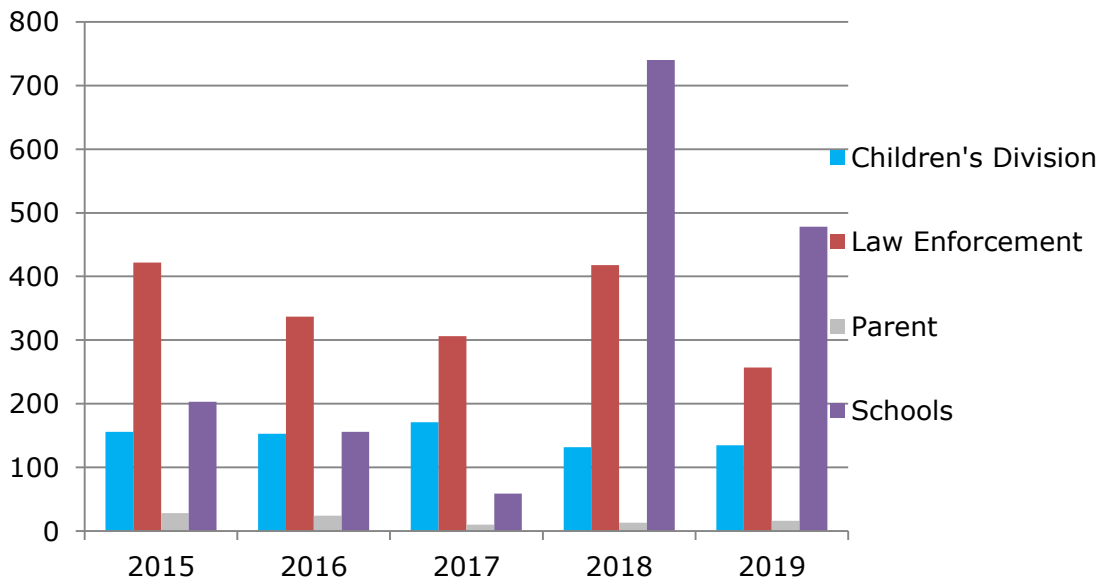


Juvenile Division Referrals					
Year	Scott		Mississippi		Circuit
	#	%	#	%	
2019	632	72%	242	28%	874
2018	900	63%	534	37%	1434
2017	547	75%	186	25%	733
2016	641	81%	152	19%	793
2015	695	81%	167	19%	862

Referral Sources

The Juvenile Officer receives referrals from various sources. The chart below shows are major referral sources and how many referrals they sent to us each year.

Circuit	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Children's Division	156	19%	153	21%	171	24%	132	9%	135	15%
Juvenile Court Personnel	43	5%	65	9%	51	7%	17	1%	41	4%
Law Enforcement	422	51%	337	47%	306	44%	418	29%	257	28%
Other Juvenile Court	4	0%	2	0%	3	1%	0	0%	1	1%
Parent	28	3%	24	4%	10	1%	13	1%	16	1%
School Personnel	177	21%	134	19%	48	7%	740	52%	478	51%
Total	830		715		589		1,434		928	

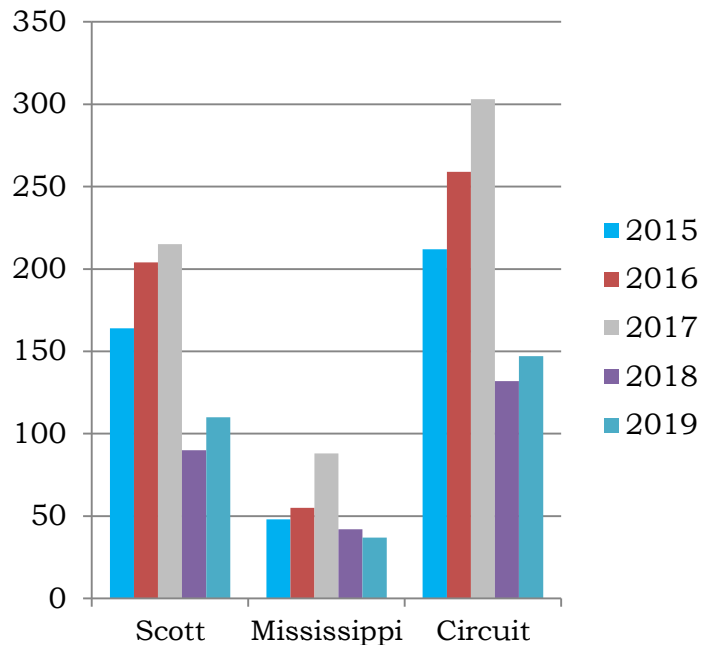


Referrals – Abuse/Neglect

Abuse/Neglect referrals are referrals due to physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional abuse inflicted on a child, other than by accidental means, by those responsible for the child’s care, custody and control, except for discipline administered in a reasonable manner.

Abuse/Neglect referrals are also received for failure to provide necessary care, by those responsible for the care, custody and control of the child. Necessary care includes support, education as required by law, nutrition, or medical/surgical care necessary for a child’s well being.

Juvenile Division Referrals					
Year	Scott		Mississippi		Circuit
	#	%	#	%	
2019	110	75%	37	25%	147
2018	90	68%	42	32%	132
2017	215	71%	88	29%	303
2016	204	79%	55	21%	259
2015	164	77%	48	23%	212



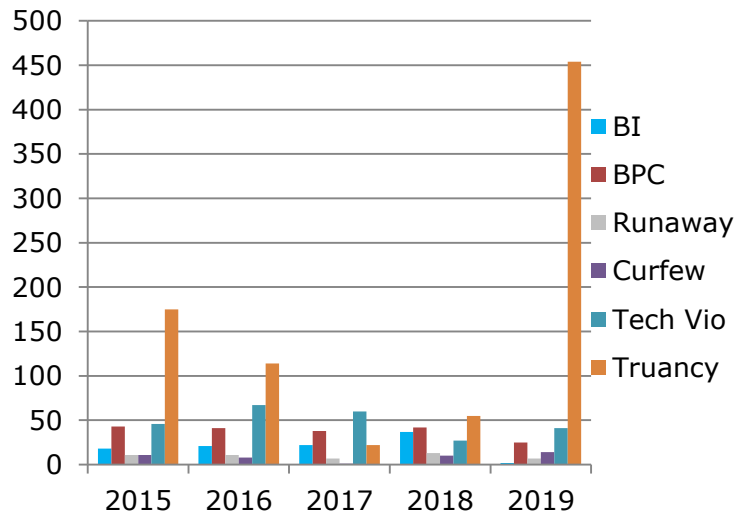
Referrals – Status Offenses

Status offenses involve acts that are only illegal for children. These violations are divided into the following categories: Behavior Injurious to Self or Others, Beyond Parental Control, Runaway, Truancy, Curfew, and Violation of Supervision.

2019 Referrals for Status Offenders								
County	Behavior Injurious to Self or Others	Beyond Parental Control	Runaway	Truancy	Curfew	Violation of Supervision	Total	
							#	%
Circuit	2	25	7	454	14	41	543	100%

Five Year History

Circuit													
Year	Behavior Injurious to Self or Others		Beyond Parental Control		Runaway		Truancy		Curfew		* Violation of Supervision		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
2019	2	>1%	25	5%	7	>1%	454	84%	14	3%	41	8%	543
2018	33	19%	40	23%	11	6%	55	32%	7	4%	27	16%	173
2017	22	15%	38	25%	7	5%	22	15%	1	0%	60	40%	150
2016	23	9%	44	17%	11	3%	112	42%	8	3%	68	26%	266
2015	16	5%	42	14%	11	4%	175	58%	11	4%	45	15%	300



*It should be noted that throughout the years, charge codes were entered differently for Violations of Supervision which included each of the categories listed above. Starting in 2014, the Juvenile Office strictly began using the Violation of Supervision for any offense that does not fit under a specific category listed above.

Referrals – Delinquency Violations

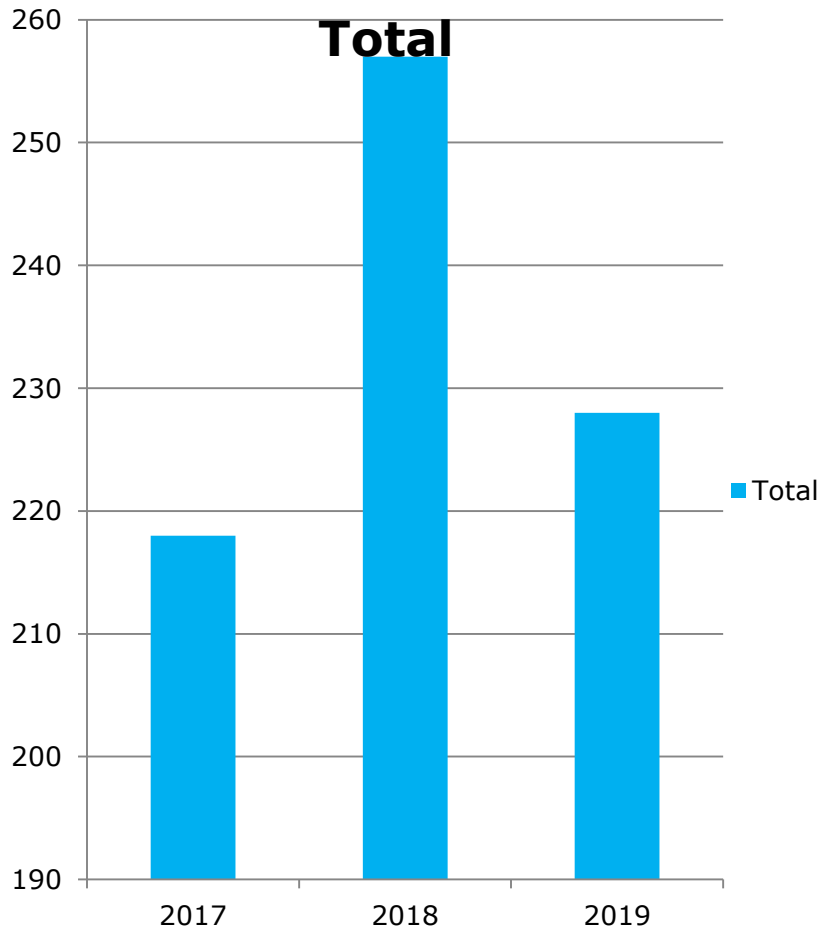
Delinquency referrals include violations of the Missouri Criminal Code and Municipal Ordinances. These violations are divided into the following categories: Acts Against Persons, Acts Against Property, Acts Against Public Order, and Traffic Violations.

Scott	
Year	Total
2019	195
2018	208
2017	160

Mississippi	
Year	Total
2019	33
2018	49
2017	58

Circuit	
Year	Total
2019	228
2018	257
2017	218

Three Year History



Risk Assessments

A primary tool used by the Juvenile Division in delinquency and status offense cases is the Risk and Needs Assessment Form. A risk assessment is completed on juveniles at the point of intake and helps guide decision-making regarding disposition. Some of the information gathered for Risk and Needs is based on self reporting information provided by parents and children.

The following are 2019 circuit statistics for each category of the most recent *risk assessment* completed on juveniles referred to the Juvenile Officer.

Note: Diversion cases are not reflected in the numbers below as part of the diversion process is to keep juvenile's information out of the state wide reporting system. Diversion cases make up a large portion of our total cases.

Age at 1 st Referral	#	%
16	21	11%
15	15	8%
14	23	12%
13	24	12%
12 & under	114	58%

Assault Referrals	#	%
No Prior	139	70%
One or more prior misdemeanor	39	20%
One or more prior felony	19	10%

History of Child Abuse/Neglect	#	%
No History	166	84%
History	31	16%

History of Placement	#	%
No prior out-of-home	131	66%
Prior out-of-home	66	34%

Parental History/Incarceration	#	%
No Prior Incarceration	109	55%
Prior Incarceration	88	45%

Risk Assessments – Continued

Parental Management Style	#	%
Effective	56	28%
Moderately Ineffective	95	48%
Severely Ineffective	46	23%

Peer Relationships	#	%
Neutral influence	107	54%
Negative influence	65	33%
Strong negative influence	25	13%

Prior Referrals	#	%
None	103	52%
One or more	94	48%

School Attendance/Disciplinary	#	%
No/minor problems	35	18
Moderate problems	88	45%
Severe problems	74	38%

Substance Abuse	#	%
No problem	148	75%
Moderate problem	27	14%
Severe problem	22	11%

Needs Assessments

A primary tool used by the Juvenile Division in delinquency, child abuse/neglect and status offense cases is the Risk and Needs Assessment Form. A needs assessment is completed when the Juvenile Officer is going to provide some level of supervision and is used to assist with determining the level of programs/services that would best meet the youth's needs. Some of the information gathered for Risk and Needs is based on self reporting information provided by parents and children.

The following are 2019 circuit statistics for each category of the most recent *needs assessment* completed on juveniles referred to the Juvenile Officer.

Note: Diversion cases are not reflected in the numbers below as part of the diversion process is to keep juvenile's information out of the state wide reporting system. Diversion cases make up a large portion of our total cases.

Academic Performance	#	%
Passing without difficulty	78	52%
Functioning below average	52	35%
Failing	20	13%

Attitude	#	%
Motivated to change	78	52%
Generally uncooperative	44	29%
Very negative attitude	28	19%

Behavior Problems	#	%
No significant problem	55	37%
Moderate problem	55	37%
Severe problem	40	27%

Employment	#	%
Full-time	3	2%
Part-time	6	4%
Unemployed	4	3%
Not applicable	137	91%

Health/Handicaps	#	%
No problems	132	88%
No problems, but limited access to health care	0	0%
Mild physical handicap or medical condition	18	12%
Pregnancy	0	0%
Serious physical handicap or medical condition	0	0%

History of Child Abuse/Neglect	#	%
No history	121	81%
History	29	19%

Interpersonal skills	#	%
Good skills	91	61%
Moderately impaired skills	50	33%
Severely impaired skills	9	6%

Needs Assessments – Continued

Parental Responsibility	#	%
No children	147	98%
One child	2	1%
Two children	1	1%
Three or more children	0	0%

Learning Disorder	#	%
No diagnosed learning disorder	129	86%
Diagnosed learning disorder	21	14%

Mental Health	#	%
No mental health disorder	107	71%
Mental health disorder w/ treatment	32	21%
Mental health disorder w/o treatment	11	7%

Parental Management Style	#	%
Effective	59	39%
Moderately ineffective	51	34%
Severely ineffective	40	27%

Parental Mental Health	#	%
No history	119	79%
History	31	21%

Parental Substance Abuse	#	%
No substance abuse	97	65%
Substance abuse	53	35%

Peer Relationships	#	%
Neutral influence	75	50%
Negative influence	50	33%
Strong negative influence	25	17%

School Attendance/Disciplinary	#	%
No or minor problems	28	19%
Moderate problems	58	39%
Severe problems	64	43%

Social Support System	#	%
Strong support	45	30%
Limited support	72	48%
Weak support	26	17%
Strong negative	7	5%

Substance Abuse	#	%
No problem	111	74%
Moderate problem	19	13%
Severe problem	20	13%

Supervision

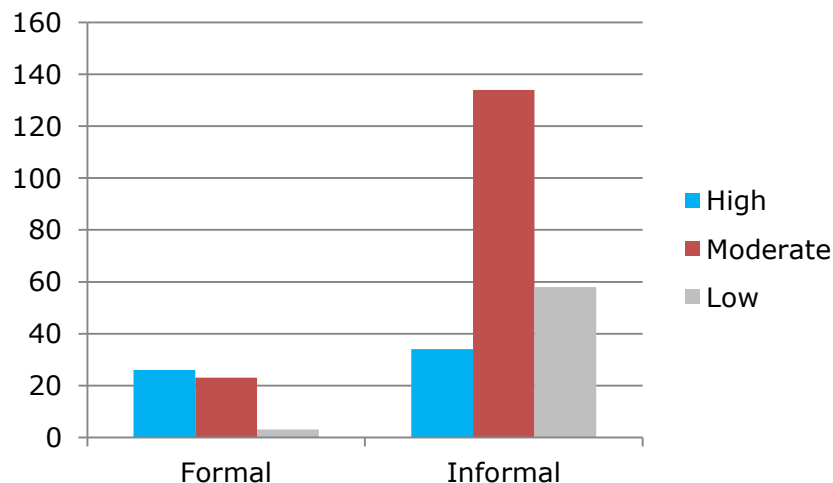
The charts below indicate a snapshot of the number of youth under informal or formal supervision by risk levels at the end of December 2019. The level of risk comes from the risk assessments that were summarized a few pages earlier. The main difference between the levels is the amount of contact the juvenile officers are to have with the juvenile and family per month. High risk requires 4 face to face meetings/month; moderate risk requires 2 face to face visits/month; low risk requires 1 face to face meeting/month. Our office requirement is that at least one of those visits each month must take place at the juvenile's residence.

Informal supervision is supervision / probation that is done without actual court involvement. It consists of an agreement between the juvenile office, parents and juvenile regarding certain conditions and an agreed upon time period of supervision which cannot exceed 12 months.

Formal supervision is court ordered probation. It is similar to adult probation, however, juveniles are not placed on probation for a specified time, but instead are on probation until the Court and Juvenile Officer are satisfied that the juvenile has rectified his or her issues.

Formal Supervision by Risk	2019	
High	26	50%
Moderate	23	44%
Low	3	6%
No Level Indicated	0	0%
TOTAL	52	100%

Informal Supervision by Risk	2019	
High	34	15%
Moderate	134	59%
Low	58	26%
No Level Indicated	0	0%
TOTAL	226	100%



Juvenile Detention Assessment

Missouri's Juvenile Detention Assessment instrument (JDTA) provides juvenile officers objective criteria for evaluating the need to detain juveniles alleged to have committed offenses pursuant to Missouri Statute.

This instrument was created by the Detention Assessment Workgroup, which consisted of Missouri's Juvenile Court staff. The instrument was implemented in early 2007 in selected Missouri circuit courts. Data was collected by Resources Development Institute (RDI) and a final validation report was provided in October 2007. The Detention Assessment Committee reviewed the validation study and recommended some changes along with conducting a second validation study with the help of OSCA Research staff and the Justice Information System. Implementation of the edited detention assessment tool began June 1, 2009.

In 2012 OSCA mandated that a JDTA form be completed on any juvenile taken into custody; therefore, resulting in an increase in the number of juveniles administered the JDTA. In 2019, 493 youth were administered the JDTA. Below is a breakdown of the number and percentages of juveniles administered the JDTA in 2018 and the outcome.

It should be noted that, though the JDTA is administered any time a youth is taken into custody and the assessment decision is generally followed, supervisory staff do have the authority to authorize an override to the assessment decision, in certain cases. Common reasons for supervisory override include the fact that there is no suitable custodian to whom the child can be released, the child does not meet the local age guidelines for detention, or a mental health placement was obtained for the juvenile. Overrides can be done both up to an alternative or to detention and can also be down to something lesser.

On the charts below if there was no override then the assessment decision which is stated at the top of the chart highlighted in black is what the outcome was. The chart breaks down by both gender and race.

Youth Receiving Level of Detention on JDTA Assessment

SEX	OVERRIDE	COUNT	%
Female	No Override	11	17%
	Override Down to Alternative	1	2%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
Male	No Override	50	67%
	Override Down to Alternative	2	3%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
Unknown	No Override	0	0%
TOTAL		64	100%

RACE	OVERRIDE	COUNT	%
Black	No Override	18	28%
	Override Down to Alternative	1	2%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
Hispanic	No Override	1	2%
	Override Down to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
White	No Override	42	66%
	Override Down to Alternative	2	3%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
TOTAL		64	100%

Juvenile Detention Assessment – Continued

Youth Receiving Level of Alternative to Detention on JDTA Assessment

SEX	OVERRIDE	COUNT	%
Female	No Override	15	31%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	8	16%
Male	No Override	19	53%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	7	14%
TOTAL		49	100%

RACE	OVERRIDE	COUNT	%
Black	No Override	10	20%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	6	12%
Hispanic	No Override	0	0%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	2	4%
White	No Override	24	49%
	Override Down to Release	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	7	14%
TOTAL		49	100%

Youth Receiving Level of Release on JDTA Assessment

SEX	OVERRIDE	COUNT	%
Female	No Override	78	46%
	Override Up to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	3	2%
Male	No Override	86	57%
	Override Up to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	3	2%
TOTAL		170	100%

RACE	OVERRIDE	COUNT	%
Asian or Pacific Islander	No Override	0	0%
	Override Up to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	0	0%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	No Override	0	0%
	Override Up to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	0	0%
Black	No Override	65	34%
	Override Up to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	5	3%
Hispanic	No Override	4	2%
	Override Up to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	0	0%
White	No Override	95	56%
	Override Up to Alternative	0	0%
	Override Up to Detention	1	1%
TOTAL		170	100%

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a process where juvenile justice professionals are reconsidering their use of detention and by implementing eight core strategies are using detention only when necessary, which is for those youth that will: 1) pose a threat to community safety if released pending their court date; or 2) who will fail to appear for their court date.

The eight core strategies of JDAI involve the following:

- collaboration among juvenile justice agencies, community organizations and other government agencies;
- the use of data in making policy and case-level decisions;
- objective instruments to guide detention decisions;
- operation of a continuum of non-secure detention alternatives;
- case processing efficiencies to reduce time between arrest and case disposition;
- improve conditions of confinement;
- safe reductions of special populations; and
- racial/ethnic fairness in policy and case-level decision making.

According to information provided on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Help Desk Website (www.jdaihelpdesk.org), JDAI began as a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 1992 with an overall purpose to show others that juvenile court jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient juvenile justice methods to accomplish the purpose of juvenile detention without jeopardizing public safety. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's vision was that all youth involved in the juvenile justice system would have opportunities to develop into healthy and productive adults.

The main goals of JDAI are to:

- reduce the number of youth unnecessarily or inappropriately detained;
- decrease the number of youth who fail to appear for their court appearances or who re-offend pending adjudication;
- redirect public funds toward successful reform strategies;
- reduce the disproportionate minority confinement and contact within the juvenile justice system; and
- improve the juvenile justice system.

The 33rd Circuit Juvenile Division has been working to implement JDAI since October 2009. A JDAI collaborative team was established in December 2009, and is made up of representatives from local law enforcement, Division of Youth Services, mental health agencies, community organizations, schools and county government.

Another area of focus since implementing JDAI in 2009 has been in the area of developing detention alternatives. Currently the Juvenile Division offers several different alternatives including shelter care with a relative/family friend, an evening reporting center (SORT), house arrest, crisis intervention services, conditional release and electronic monitoring with Global Positioning Satellite, all of which are considered prior to placing a youth in secure detention.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative – Continued

The table below represents the number of youth who were placed in an alternative to detention based on being in custody for an offense. It does not include youth released from detention and placed in an alternative or number of youth placed in an alternative as a sanction for violation of supervision.

Alternatives to Detention	2019
Conditional Release	42
Electronic Monitoring	5
Mental Health Acute Placement	1
In Home Detention / House Arrest	1
Placement with a Relative	0

Conditional Release Program:

This program, which began in April 2011, allows a youth in custody to be released to a parent or guardian with special conditions pending a scheduled conference with a deputy juvenile officer to determine the method of disposition.

Evening Reporting Center aka Students on the Right Track:

Juvenile Division staff in the 33rd Circuit used ERC as an Alternative to Detention on all of the conditional release cases (42) in 2019; and all juveniles whose referral was sufficient attended our ERC indefinitely. The ERC is used for various reasons: 1) to transition juveniles leaving detention back into the community; 2) as a sanction for not complying with conditions of informal or formal supervision; 3) the court can order a juvenile to attend ERC as an alternative to detention; 4) as a treatment program ; 5) as a diversion or 6) as a condition of release from detention pending Court action. The Evening Reporting Center originally began operating in 2017 The ERC operates in 2 different locations: Tanner Street Church in Sikeston and at a church in Scott City. The ERC operates one night a week in each location for 3 hours and provides both supervision and a variety of programming to youth conducive towards pro-social learning and behaviors.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative – Continued

In-Home Detention:

Juvenile Division staff have used In-Home Detention for over a decade as an intervention for youth. We currently use a written contract with the child and parent(s) wherein the parent and child agree to home confinement and parent supervision of the juvenile at all times until further notice from the deputy juvenile officer.

Electronic Monitoring:

The Juvenile Division of the 33rd Circuit uses global positioning satellite technology, as provided by Scram. The global positioning satellite technology incorporates the use of an ankle transmitter fitted to the juvenile's leg to monitor the juvenile's location 24 hours a day.

Mental Health Placement:

This program allows for a juvenile in a mental health crisis situation to be placed in an acute psychiatric hospital for 3-7 days for intensive treatment and medication if needed in lieu of detention.

Respite Placement:

This program began in 2015 to address domestic issues in the home that may result in the juvenile's detention. In situations in which the juvenile may not want to return home and the juvenile's parents or guardians may be frustrated with behaviors in the home, it allows the youth to temporarily stay at a relative or family friend's home for up to five days to allow time for anger and emotions to calm and facilitate a plan for the youth to return home with services.

Other Alternatives:

These alternatives to detention have evolved over time and have been invaluable to the 33rd Circuit Juvenile Division in providing quality options to detention that allow a youth to remain in the community to be with their family, attend school, and receive services while being held accountable for their behavior.

We are currently working on a Tracker Program that will consist of a staff member monitoring compliance with all of the above listed alternative to detention options through the use of home visits, school visits, contacts with mental health professionals, etc... Another job of the tracker will be to check in on all alternative to detention youth who as part of their conditional release have a mandatory curfew.

Commitments to the Division of Youth Services

Commitments to the Division of Youth Services occur when a juvenile commits a serious offense(s) or fails at probation. DYS is an inpatient intensive treatment for juveniles similar to what prison is for adult criminals minus the locked cells. It is setup more like a group home. Juveniles can be held at their facilities until the age of 18 or be released prior to that if they complete all requested treatment goals.

In 2019, the number of total circuit commitments to the Division of Youth Services was 17. The circuit receives funding from the Division of Youth Services court diversion grant funds. One deputy juvenile officer position was funded by this grant in 2019. The goal of these grant funds is to divert juveniles from commitment to the Division of Youth Services by enhancing services at the community level.

Three Year Summary of DYS Commitments			
Year	Scott	Mississippi	Circuit
2019	15	2	17
2018	10	2	12
2017	8	6	14

Certifications

Certification is the most serious action that can be taken in a juvenile case. This action allows the juvenile court to dismiss the juvenile court action to allow for prosecution in the adult criminal court. While some of these decisions remain at the Juvenile Officer's discretion, the Juvenile Crime Bill of 1995 made many of these decisions mandatory depending on the alleged crime, based on specific statutory criteria. It should be noted that a mandated decision may not always lead to certification.

In 2019, the circuit certified 0 youth, however, the circuit held 2 mandatory certification hearings due to felony sex crimes (1 in Mississippi County and 1 in Scott County).

Scott	2019	2018	2017
Number of Juveniles Certified	0	1	2

Mississippi	2019	2018	2017
Number of Juveniles Certified	0	0	2

Circuit	2019	2018	2017
Number of Juveniles Certified	0	1	4

Programs

The purpose of the Juvenile Division of the 33rd Judicial Circuit Family Court is to provide prevention, intervention and protection services to children, families and the community, while promoting collaborative partnerships with private and public entities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Scott and Mississippi counties. In doing so, the Juvenile Office provides a variety of programs to help educate, yet hold juveniles accountable for their actions. Some numbers reflect the cancelling of programs. Additional information regarding programs provided by the Juvenile Division may be found online at <http://33juvenile.com>.

Programs	Participants
Moral Reconciliation Therapy	20
Girl's Circle Group	29
Students on the Right Track	82
Cognitive Behavior Treatment	3
Diversion Program	367
Truancy Court	54
Juvenile Drug Court	0
Juvenile Drug Court Lite	9
Family Drug Court	14
Parent Edu Support Group	18
Community Service	13
Inpatient drug treatment	4
Suspension Alternative School	13
Mentoring	15
Online Classes	62

In 2014, the Office of State Courts Administrator began allowing the Juvenile Officer to obtain workload credit for providing diversion programs to youth. There is currently one main diversion program being provided in the 33rd Circuit. It is the Truancy Diversion Program. We also place a lot of first time non-violent low risk offenders on diversion as well.

The 33rd Circuit Juvenile Office has had a Truancy Program for 20 years that has worked with the Sikeston, Charleston, East Prairie, Scott City, Chaffee, Oran, Kelly and Scott County Central School Districts. In 2017 we decided to remake the Truancy Program into 3 phases or levels: Phase 1 – Diversion, Phase 2 – Informal Adjustment, Phase 3 – Formal (Court Case) and Phase 4 – referral to the prosecuting attorney for the filing of criminal charges against the parent(s).

Our Attendance and Truancy Program is designed to prevent or eliminate all unexcused absences by students. This is accomplished by getting in “early” on students with attendance issues. School districts refer students to Phase 1 of the program when they reach 6 unexcused absences. Once students accrue 11 unexcused absences the student exits the diversion program and enters Phase 2 of the Attendance and Truancy Program which is an Informal Adjustment. At 15 unexcused absences the student enters into Phase 3 which is a formal (Court) case. At any point in the process a probable cause affidavit can be sent to the county prosecutor for the filing of criminal charges against the parent (Class C Misdemeanor of Compulsory Attendance Violation), however we typically do this at 15 unexcused absences.

In 2019 we had approximately 350 students in the phase 1 – diversionary portion of the truancy program.

Remarks from the Chief Juvenile Officer Phillip R. Warren

2019 year in review:

The Good:

- Child abuse/neglect referrals have remained down from previous years
- Violent offenses committed by juveniles are down slightly
- No juveniles were certified to stand trial as an adult due to heinous crime
- Truancy referrals are down slightly from last year which means our program is working especially the diversion phase
- We opened a Juvenile Office Suspension Alternative School this year in Sikeston for students who are suspended long term from regular school (greater than 10 days). This has allowed for those students to continue to receive an education. We just started in August and have already graduated 2 students from high school.
- We started the Parent Education Support Group this year as a new program for parents of children with behavioral and substance abuse issues that focuses on how to effectively parent them. We received the excellence in programming award from the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association this year for this program. This is the first time our office has ever been awarded anything from MJJA.

The Bad:

- Juvenile substance abuse is still primarily marijuana, however, we have seen a rise in methamphetamine use this year in juveniles
- Child fatalities have increased the last couple years and there are no signs of that trend slowing down – most are due to parental drug use
- Sexual crimes committed by juveniles have increased significantly this year and the age gap between the perpetrators and victims is getting larger (older perps / younger victims)
- Child abuse vs child neglect: historically neglect has led to the majority of removals of children from parent's custody, however, physical abuse is way up this year.
- Even though we had less children removed for abuse or neglect this year, we still removed 112 children from their homes and most of these children have had to be moved around and even out of the area due to a shortage in foster homes here locally.
- There are currently 200 children still in protective custody/foster care in our circuit – Scott & Mississippi Counties who do not have a forever home.
- There are currently 87 juveniles in our circuit that are on some kind of probation through our office.