

# **Platte County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2018**

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**Platte County Juvenile Services  
Comprehensive Community Plan**

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## Community Team Process

A group of Platte County community leaders held four meetings to finalize the 2015-2018 Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan. The Crime Commission's community planning tool was used as a format to help identify priorities and problems of each system point. A multi-disciplinary group was in attendance including law enforcement (city and county), school administrators, Probation, Health and Human services staff, mentoring program directors, the County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney, Health Department staff, Platte Valley Diversion Program Board members, school counselors and social workers, and the Platte Valley Diversion Program Administrator and Bilingual Diversion Officer. As a result of those meetings, the data and recommendations contained in this document are submitted for review to help establish the planning priorities for the next three-year Plan. The roster for the Community Team participants is:

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## OVERVIEW OF YOUTH IN PLATTE COUNTY

### Community Information/Demographics

Platte County is located in Northeast Nebraska with an economy that is primarily based on agriculture and manufacturing. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the County had 426,329 acres of farmland. The Nebraska Department of Labor reported that 29% of all non-farm employment for 2013 was in manufacturing industries. Major manufacturing employers include Becton Dickinson, a medical products company that operates two facilities in Columbus; Behlen Manufacturing, which produces steel buildings,

grain bins, and agricultural equipment; CAMACO, a manufacturer of automotive seat frames; Cargill, which operates a ground-beef processing plant; Archer Daniels Midland, which runs a corn-milling facility; and Vishay Dale Electronics, a subsidiary of Vishay Intertechnology that produces electronic components. Major non-manufacturing employers include Nebraska Public Power District, which is headquartered in Columbus; Columbus City Schools; and Columbus Community Hospital. Columbus is also impacted by the largest employer in the region, the Cargill beef-processing plant, located in Colfax County and just 15 miles from Columbus. It has a workforce of approximately 2,000 employees. (Nebraska Public Power District web site, community facts for Columbus and Schuyler)

The U.S. Census Bureau data has shown the homeownership rate for 2009-13 was 71.5 % compared to 67.0% for Nebraska. The median household income for the same time period was \$51,213, nearly equal to that of the State (\$51,672). Residents aged 25+ in Platte County have a somewhat lesser level of educational attainment than the State as a whole with 88.6 % having earned a high school diploma (Nebraska was at 90.5%) and only 18.5% having a Bachelor’s degree or higher as compared to 28.5% for Nebraska (2009-13).

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations* database, the total population of Platte County in 2013 was 32,505. The age 17 and under population is 8,508 with 51.5% being male (4,383) and 48.5% female (4,125). The race data from *Easy Access* for youth age 17 and under in the county shows that 74.4% are Caucasian (not Hispanic or Latino) and 22.3% are Hispanic/Latino with the remainder being from another minority group. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the total Platte County Hispanic population rose from 2,072 in 2000 to 4,452 in 2012, a 115% increase.

As presented in the *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations* database, the 2013 population by race for Platte County Youth (aged 10 -17 years) is displayed in the chart below.

Gender & Ethnicity	Total Population of County		Total County Juvenile Population	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Male	16,375	49.9%	1,895	51.1%
Female	16,130	50.1%	1,811	48.9%
White	26,855	82.6%	2,766	74.6%
Black	216	0.7%	37	1.0%
American Indian	122	0.4%	19	0.5%
Asian	180	0.5%	44	1.2%
Hispanic	5,132	15.8%	840	22.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,505</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,706</b>	<b>100%</b>

The population estimates displayed in *Easy Access to Juvenile Populations* were derived from data originally collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and subsequently modified by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The citation for the 2010 to 2013 data files is: National Center for Health Statistics (2014). *Vintage 2013 postcensal estimates of the resident population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010- July 1, 2013), by year, county, single-year of age (0, 1, 2, ..., 85 years and over), bridged race, Hispanic origin, and sex*. Prepared under an agreement with the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (5-year estimates) reported the 2012 poverty rate for children under 18 years old in Platte County is 16.6%, a significant increase from the 2000 Census rate of 9.0%. The Survey estimates also reported that 1,132 single parent households with children under 18 resided in Platte County, a 54.4% increase since the year 2000. These households represent 30.7% of the total households with children under 18. The likelihood that children raised by a single mother will experience poverty is very concerning; in the County, the poverty rate for this family type was 58.5%.

Education

**School Population Data**

The 2014 Nebraska Department of Education’s “State of the Schools Report” listed the graduation rate for each of the local high schools for the 2013-14 school year as being:

Columbus Public – 84.45%	Lakeview Community Schools – 79.31%
Humphrey Public Schools – 91.67%	State of Nebraska – 88.49%

Note that the data is for the four-year cohort released by the Nebraska Department of Education which is calculated by dividing the number of students in a cohort who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years or less by the number of students in the Graduation Cohort. The rate includes students who graduate in the summer of the Expected Graduation Year.

The portion of the total student population that English Language Learners (ELL) represented for the 2013-14 school year as documented in the State of the Schools report was:

Columbus Public – 11.92%,	Lakeview Community Schools – 10.29%
Humphrey Public Schools (not reported due to low number of students which could be individually identified in the data)	
State of Nebraska - 6.04%	

Although the rate is still above that of the State, Columbus Public’s ELL population has dropped significantly over the last few years with 17.3% reported for the 2009-10 school year.

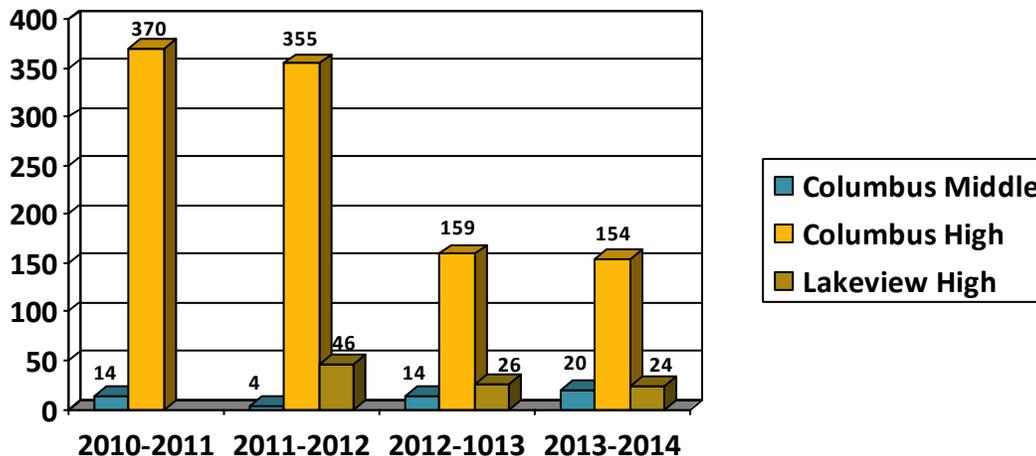
Another indicator of economic need within Platte County is the rate of students who qualify for the Federal Free/Reduced Lunch Program which for 2013-14 was:

Columbus Public Schools - 51%	Lakeview Community Schools – 40.62%
Humphrey Public Schools – 30.24%	State of Nebraska – 44.93%

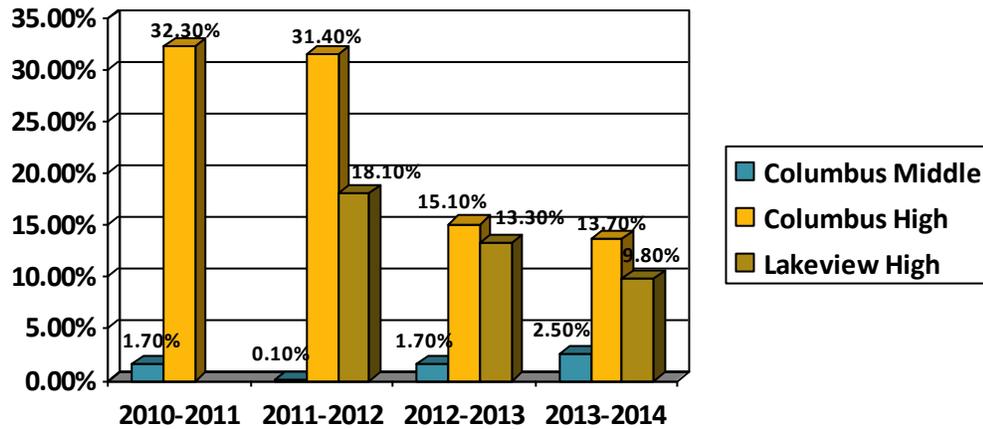
**Truancy Data**

Data on the number of students who accumulate 15 or more absences (non-medical related) during the last three to four school years was gathered from the two public school districts in Columbus. Columbus High School had realized a large drop when considering the first two years of data as opposed to the last two. The Columbus Middle School rate has been fairly stable with truancy not being a significant issue for its student population. The data in the current format was only available for Lakeview High School for the last three school years. It has also realized a decrease in truancies. The issue was determined not to be of concern for the Lakeview Junior High students at this time. The number of students at or over 15 recorded truancies is displayed below.

**Number of Students At or Over 15 absences (Non-Medical Related)**



The percent of the student population that actually experienced fifteen or more non-medical related truancies is shown in the chart below.



The drop in the truancy rates can be attributed to:

- The implementation of the Neb. Re. Stat. Section 79-209 in April of 2010
- The increased effort of the school systems to take the necessary steps to try to solve a probable truancy issue before a student has reached 20 days of absences
- Filing a truancy report with the County Attorney only after all the appropriate steps have been taken by the schools
- The addition of a social worker at Columbus High and Middle schools that are able to implement strategies for youth identified as at-risk for truancy issues
- The addition of an Attendance Monitor to assist local schools with truancy issues is located in the Platte County Juvenile Services Center along with the juvenile diversion program, the T4C Anti-Gang Coalition, Professional Partners and CASA
- Lakeview Community Schools and Scotus Central Catholic High School are smaller school systems in the Columbus area. Both of these attendance centers have been able to maintain a low truancy rate so that it has not yet been a major problem for its schools

If a student has been suspended from school, sometimes due to truancy or due to re-location because of identified school policy issues, they are often served by Youth for Christ’s Out-of-School Suspension program. The non-profit organization has teacher certified staff that monitor the students work. Some students must complete course work using Odyssey Ware Online classes for long-term placements or some students will complete packet course work from specific teachers. As of the 2015, all Columbus High School students were issued lap top computers and some placements are able to access curriculum study through their devices. In 2012-13 the program served 47 high school and 26 middle-school aged students from the two Columbus public school districts and the middle school in Shelby, Nebraska for 183 school days. In 2013-14, 38 high school and 5 middle school students were served from Columbus attendance centers for 172 school days.

Local youth who are held in secure detention at the Madison Detention Center are being provided with a curriculum from their school of attendance as a part of their program.

Contact with Law Enforcement/Juvenile Justice System

The arrest rate in 2013 for Platte County juveniles aged 0-17 was 38.3 (per 1,000 population). This is significantly lower than the State rate of 44.1. When looking at the data for several years as gathered by the Nebraska Crime Commission from law enforcement agencies, the actual numbers of offenses have steadily decreased since 2009 with the most significant drops seen in the number of runaway incidents

and simple assaults. The data below does not show an overall, sustained increase in any one offense over the five-year time period of 2009-13.

Offense	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% of Total (for 2013)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100%</b>
Larceny	43	48	53	53	37	16%
Runaway	117	99	64	26	33	15%
Liquor Laws	52	57	45	50	31	14%
Drug Abuse Violations	26	21	30	30	28	12%
Simple Assault	68	61	35	17	20	9%
Vandalism	24	26	13	15	13	6%
Driving Under the Influence	10	4	5	2	8	4%
Fraud	5	5	2	6	6	3%
Disorderly Conduct	19	11	5	6	4	2%
All Other (except traffic)	76	60	46	41	42	19%

The Nebraska Crime Commission also tracks race and ethnicity data for youth as they are served by the local Juvenile Justice System. Information regarding arrests and race is not broken down between White and Hispanic youth by local law enforcement. All Hispanic youth are reflected under the White category. The Platte County data that is shown in the table below records an over representation of #5. Cases Involving Secure Detention, #8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement”, and #9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities. Because of the overrepresentation, Platte County maintains a Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee to address this priority issue.

	Total Youth	White	Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/Mixed	All Minorities
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17 )	3,779	2,834	30	849	44	0	22	0	945
2. Juvenile Arrests	248	245	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	302	186	0	116	0	0	0	0	116
4. Cases Diverted	161	104	0	55	0	0	0	2	57
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	27	13	0	9	0	0	5	0	14
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	274	169	0	98	0	0	3	4	105
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	231	140	0	87	0	0	0	4	91
8. Cases resulting in Probation Placement	164	106	2	54	0	0	2	0	58
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	13	7	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Meets 1% rule for group to be assessed?

Yes No Yes Yes No No No

release date: March, 2014

Although the data for graffiti is not specifically broken out in the reports supplied to the Crime Commission, the Columbus Police Department supplied these statistics for the incidents of graffiti:

2011 – 70                      2012 – 85                      2013 – 22                      2014 – 20

The decline in the trend can be attributed to reports of less gang activity within the community and the creation several years ago of the Graffiti Patrol. The Patrol works to quickly remove any damage to property and utilizes youth within the Diversion Program to do so.

The T4C Anti-Gang Coalition was organized in 2009 and their efforts have been about reducing the number of youth that are recruited into gangs in the Columbus area. The Coalition was awarded two grants from the Nebraska Crime Commission for start-up funds to begin the projects that were necessary to bring about change. The outcomes have demonstrated success as gang activity/recruitment has declined. All indicators show that multiple community partners: (Columbus Police Department, Platte County Sheriff’s Department, the Platte County Attorney’s Office, Columbus City Council, Platte County Board of Supervisors, Schools, Platte Valley Diversion Program, Youth for Christ, United Way, East Central District Health Department, Teammates, parents and numerous youth programming organizations) have all stepped up to support each other in the fight against gangs. All of these partners and the entire community have benefited by the reduction of gang activity. The data indicates:

- that little or no graffiti is apparent when you drive the streets of Columbus
- a reduction in Hispanic youth entering the Juvenile Justice System
- an increase in participation of low income and Hispanic youth in positive organized youth activities
- an increase in Hispanic parent involvement in schools and extra-curricular organized youth activities
- positive collaboration among limited English-speaking parents and community partners to create a healthy environment for all youth and families in the community
- an improvement in bridging the gap between diverse populations in the community

The *Upward Movement/Movimiento Ascendente: Key Elements for a Better Life* curriculum was introduced to the Columbus School District in 2009 and has been one of the successful components of the T4C Anti-Gang Coalition in addressing gang issues within Platte County. The evidenced-based program is now being held at both the middle school and the high school attendance centers. During the 2013-2014 school-year, the program served 77 minority students. The number of gang members and the crime being committed by youth gang members has diminished in the county. Some of that can be attributed to the *Upward Movement* program and the Time for Change Anti-Gang Coalition efforts. The remainder of the accolades goes to law enforcement and the County Attorney. The proposed outcome is to lessen gang involvement among teenage Hispanic students and reduce the number of minority juveniles being detained in the Madison Detention Center.

According to data compiled for Nebraska Counties by the Juvenile Justice Institute on the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the following court filings were made for Platte County youth during calendar years 2012 and 2013.

Court Filings	Number
Juvenile Court	229
Adult Court (Source: Justice, Administrative Office of the Courts)	46

Juvenile court data collected from The Nebraska Supreme Court Administrative Office of Courts/Probation: County Court Annual Caseload Report; adult court data collected by Kids Count/Voices for Children in Nebraska

According to the UNO statistics, data collected from the Nebraska Probation Administration recorded that 31 youth that were newly placed in the program were served by the Probation Office in Platte County for 2013. It should be noted that the data is not reflective of Probation's current caseload as new placements made because of LB 516 and the dissolution of the Office of Juvenile Services did not occur until October, 2013. The youth by race/ethnicity are represented in the table below:

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White	13	42.0%
Black	0	0.0%
American Indian	1	3.2%
Asian	0	0.0%
Hispanic*	17	54.8%
<b>Total Youth Placed on Probation</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The total number of youth served by Probation in 2013 was 78 (includes youth that were new to the program prior to the beginning of the year but which continued to receive services in 2013). The high rate of Hispanic youth being placed on probation continues to be of concern. There were also 14 total youth placed in secure detention facilities during the year as reported by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

The Platte County Diversion Program has reported a range of 130 to 168 youth annually having completed the intake procedure since its 2009-2010 fiscal year. Program statistics also show that Hispanic youth involved in the Diversion Program are represented at a slightly higher percentage than what they are within the general population (23%). Also, a high proportion of reoffenders within the program are Hispanic, ranging from 40 – 64% of the total youth reoffending for the last five years. The program data for the 2009-10 to 2013-14 fiscal years is displayed in the table below.

#### Platte County Diversion Program Referral, Intake and Reoffense Data

	July 2009- June 2010		July 2010- June 2011		July 2011- June 2012		July 2012- June 2013		July 2013- June 2014		Data Total	
<b>Total # of Diversion Eligible Youth Referred</b>	168		144		130		150		136		728	
<b>Total # of Hispanic Diversion Eligible Youth Referred</b>	48	29%	46	32%	43	33%	48	32%	36	26%	221	30%
<b>Total # of all Diversion Intakes</b>	139		121		112		132		124		628	
<b>Total # of all Hispanic Intakes</b>	41	29%	41	34%	38	34%	43	33%	33	27%	196	31%
<b>Total # of Re-offenders</b>	38		30		22		44		30		164	
<b>% of Total</b>	27%		25%		20%		34%		24%		26%	
<b>Total # of Hispanic Re-offenders</b>	19	50%	12	40%	14	64%	18	41%	12	40%	75	46%
<b># of Terminations</b>	8		9		2		6		10		35	
<b># of Hispanic Terminations</b>	1		4		2		3		2		12	

**Substance Use by Youth**

In 2010, Platte County had schools participating in the *Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey* (NRPFS) which targeted students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12. The NRPFS is sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the Bureau of Sociological Research of UNL. The survey was last administered in the Columbus school systems in October, 2014 but that data is not yet available for inclusion into this plan.

The NRPFS is designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent behavior, and many of the risk and protective factors that predict adolescent problem behaviors and is adapted from a national, scientifically-validated survey and contains information on risk and protective factors that are locally actionable. The NRPFS report data for Platte County is available from the East Central District Health Department located in Columbus.

The NRPFS results for 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Platte County is inconclusive since only 17% and 25% of the local students in those grades respectively participated in the survey. The percentage of the Platte County 10<sup>th</sup> graders participating was 59% and 50% for 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Results of the combined total of participating schools in Platte County show that overall substance abuse among our older youth during their lifetime is somewhat less than the state and, where available, the national averages.

When reporting lifetime use of alcohol, we see that 47% of Platte County 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 67% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders recorded that they had drunk at least once although this is less than the state and national figures. The use of tobacco products among local 12<sup>th</sup> graders was high, particularly when comparing to national figures, with over half of the respondents reporting that they had used cigarettes sometime in their life. Conversely, marijuana usage was low compared to national statistics, but still at 1/3 of the student population by 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The percentages of students who stated that they used a named substance at least one time in his or her lifetime are displayed in the table below.

***Lifetime Substance Use Among 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Respondents, 2010***

Report Area	Alcohol		Smokeless Tobacco		Cigarettes		Any Tobacco		Marijuana	
	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade								
Platte Co.	47%	67%	15%	24%	29%	51%	31%	53%	18%	33%
State	49%	68%	17%	29%	28%	43%	32%	49%	18%	29%
Nation	58%	71%	17%	18%	33%	42%	NA	NA	33%	44%

When asked about substance use within the last 30 days, the NRPFS results as a comparison to state and national data were similar to lifetime usage. In this question, respondents were also asked if they had been binge drinking (defined as having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours); a comparison could only be made to state data and of note is that 31% of Platte County 12<sup>th</sup> graders had been binge drinking in the last month, 5% more than the State’s statistic. The usage of tobacco by 12<sup>th</sup> graders as compared to national statistics is higher locally but marijuana use for the County and State is lower (by 9%).

***Past 30 Day Substance Use Among 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Respondents, 2010***

Report Area	Alcohol Grade		Binge Drinking Grade		Smokeless Tobacco Grade		Cigarettes Grade		Any Tobacco Grade		Marijuana Grade	
	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Platte Co.	20%	35%	11%	31%	7%	13%	10%	24%	14%	28%	10%	12%
State	21%	35%	13%	26%	8%	14%	12%	21%	16%	27%	8%	12%
Nation	29%	41%	NA	NA	NA	9%	14%	19%	NA	NA	17%	21%

Of concern within the survey data for 12<sup>th</sup> graders is the fact that 24% reported that they had driven a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol within the past 12 months. The rate was still high when asked about behavior in the past 30 days (17%) and 33% stated that they had ridden with someone who had been drinking. The rate for 10<sup>th</sup> graders who rode with someone who had been drinking was 28.8% (past 30 days).

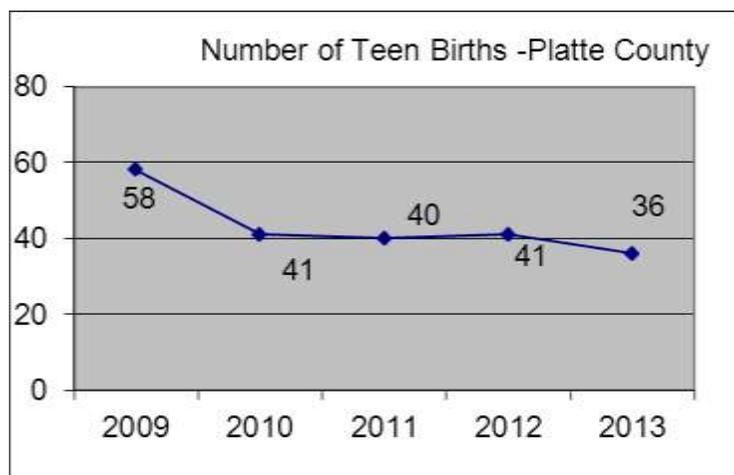
Platte County NRPFS results show that the percentage of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who reported that “their parents would say it is very wrong for them to use” the following substances:

	<b>Platte County</b>		<b>Nebraska</b>	
Cigarettes	10 <sup>th</sup> – 80.2%	12 <sup>th</sup> – 65.2%	10 <sup>th</sup> – 80.2%	12 <sup>th</sup> – 66.2%
Alcohol	10 <sup>th</sup> – 69.0%	12 <sup>th</sup> – 52.2%	10 <sup>th</sup> – 67.9%	12 <sup>th</sup> – 53.3%
Marijuana	10 <sup>th</sup> – 87.9%	12 <sup>th</sup> – 86.5%	10 <sup>th</sup> – 87.8%	12 <sup>th</sup> – 84.5%

The NRPFS recorded the percent of youth who drank in the past 30 days and drank at home with their parent’s permission by health department districts. The four-county area for the East Central District Health Department recorded 17.6% for 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 20.2% for 12<sup>th</sup> graders for this survey item. The comparable rates for the State were 16.7% and 16.8%. The “Risk and Protective Factor” portion of the NRPFS survey recorded high percentages for the County’s 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders for “Early Initiation of Drug Use” and for “Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use” as compared to the State data. The County rates for “Early Initiation” were 22% (10<sup>th</sup>) and 34% (12<sup>th</sup>) versus 18% for the State. “Favorable Attitudes” results were: 37% (10<sup>th</sup>); 48% (12<sup>th</sup>); 27% (State).

**Teen Births and Sexual Activity**

The high rate of births to teenage mothers continues to be a priority issue in the County. Teen Births as a total of all live births in 2013 was 8.8% for residents of the County as compared to 6.5% for the State. Comparative figures for the time period of 2009-2013 were 9.4% and 7.6% (State). The total births to teens for 2009-13 has a peak, a decline and is then stable as shown below.



Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Vital Statistics Report

**Community Issues Survey**

Connect Columbus distributed a brief key informant survey to educators, health and human service providers, human resources personnel at large employers, and members of the faith community in the fall of 2014. The survey was distributed via an email invitation and accessed through a web link. A total of 210 individuals responded to the instrument that had a primary purpose of identifying needs of most concern in Platte County. Respondents were asked how often the individuals and families that they served or came in contact with during the last 12 months expressed a concern with an unmet need in 25

areas using this rating scale: Often – 1; Sometimes – 2; Rarely – 3; Never – 4; and Do Not Know – 5. Using a scoring system where the issues with the lowest average score (which demonstrates that they received more responses for “often” and “sometimes”), the top ten needs identified were:

1. Dealing with Language Barriers
2. Health/Medical Issues
3. Dealing with a child’s mental health/behavioral issues
4. Knowing what services are available in the community
5. Basic needs (food, clothing, etc.)
6. Adequate housing
7. Finding/maintaining employment
8. Getting help with parenting issues
9. Support services for an individual with special needs
10. Enrichment activities for youth

When ranking the issues based on just the number of “often” responses that each need area recorded, the top ten list changes somewhat and is:

1. Dealing with Language Barriers
2. Dealing with a child’s mental health/behavioral issues
3. Health/Medical Issues
4. Knowing what services are available in the community
5. Affordable and quality childcare for young children
6. Adequate housing
7. Finding/maintaining employment
8. Support services for an individual with special needs
9. Basic needs (food, clothing, etc.)
10. Enrichment activities for youth

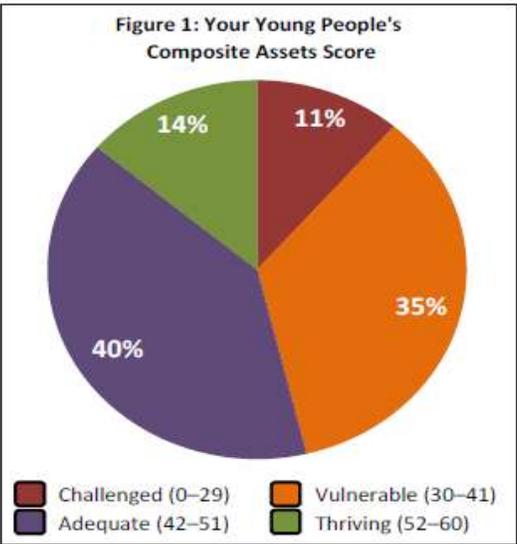
An open-ended question on the survey asked respondents to list what they felt were the two or three most pressing concerns for the individuals/families that they serve. Housing and meeting basic needs/adequate income ranked as the top concerns with 35 respondents listing each of them in their comments. Next were childcare and transportation being mentioned 26 and 24 times respectively.

### Youth Developmental Assets Profile

In the Fall of 2014, Platte County Juvenile Services secured the commitment of the three local Columbus school districts to have their students participate in the *Developmental Assets Profile* survey provided by the Search Institute. A non-profit organization, the Search Institute has as its mission to “provide catalytic leadership, breakthrough knowledge, and innovative resources to advance the health of children, youth, families, and communities.” It states that the Developmental Assets framework which it developed in the 1990s, “is a research-based approach for understanding the strengths and supports that young people need in their lives to prepare for a positive, productive future”. The more assets that a young person experiences in their lives (out of a total of 40 internal and external assets), the greater the likelihood they will do better in school and in life.

On behalf of the Platte County Juvenile Services Planning Team, Connect Columbus entered into a contract to have the Search Institute collect data from local youth in grades 6 – 12 via a web link during the school day and to provide a report compiling the response data. Students were given the opportunity to complete the survey in early January, 2015 shortly after they returned from Christmas break. After hearing instructions, no student was required to complete the approximately ten-minute survey, but the majority did choose to participate. Parents were informed via notices in December that they could opt their student out of taking the survey. The Search Institute was able to use information from surveys

completed by 1,753 youth (please note that initially one school district had proposed providing the survey to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders as well but chose not to include these youth).



The report provided a Composite Assets Score for our local youth which provides an overall sense of how they are doing. Although over 50% of the youth are doing well or thriving, 46% are vulnerable or challenged which the Search Institute states is not unusual. The composite scores are shown in the pie chart at left which was taken from the report. Note that the survey utilized 58 statements that were then used to create the measures of the asset categories with a range of 0 – 60. Those who are at the lowest level (challenged) are experiencing only a fragile foundation of assets

The Search Institute collected a basic level of demographics on the youth that completed the survey. The percentage of youth by gender, grade level and race/ethnic group that fall into the four different asset levels was also provided in the report and is displayed in the table below.

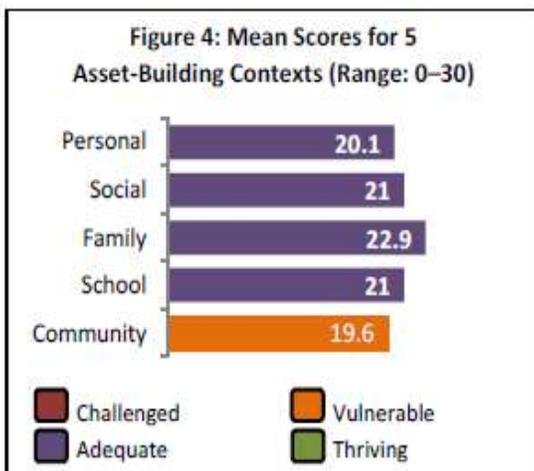
**Overall Asset Levels, by Selected Demographics**

	Sample Size	Challenged (Range: 0-29)	Vulnerable (Range: 30-41)	Adequate (Range: 42-52)	Thriving (Range: 52-60)
<b>Total Sample</b>	1753	11%	35%	40%	14%
<b>Gender</b>					
Female	895	12%	32%	40%	17%
Male	854	11%	38%	40%	11%
<b>Grade</b>					
Grade 4	0				
Grade 5	0				
Grade 6	294	8%	23%	50%	19%
Grade 7	269	9%	29%	43%	20%
Grade 8	278	14%	33%	35%	18%
Grade 9	312	9%	38%	43%	10%
Grade 10	297	15%	40%	37%	8%
Grade 11	159	19%	40%	32%	9%
Grade 12	116	9%	50%	32%	9%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
African American/Black	12	0%	25%	58%	17%
American Indian/Native American	12	0%	75%	25%	0%
Asian American	16	13%	44%	38%	6%
Hispanic/Latino/Latina	443	16%	35%	37%	12%
Multiracial	88	14%	35%	47%	5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Non-Hispanic White	1140	10%	34%	41%	15%
Other	25	8%	32%	32%	28%

The Search Institute organizes the Developmental Assets into eight categories that represent either “key supports” (external assets) or “strengths that young people need to have and develop in order to thrive” (internal assets). These categories are listed below.

THE EIGHT CATEGORIES OF DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS	
External Assets	Internal Assets
 <p><b>SUPPORT</b> Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.</p>	 <p><b>COMMITMENT TO LEARNING</b> Young people need a sense of the lasting importance of learning and a belief in their own abilities.</p>
 <p><b>EMPOWERMENT</b> Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected.</p>	 <p><b>POSITIVE VALUES</b> Young people need to develop strong guiding values or principles to help them make healthy life choices.</p>
 <p><b>BOUDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS</b> Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.</p>	 <p><b>SOCIAL COMPETENCIES</b> Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations.</p>
 <p><b>CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME</b> Young people need opportunities—outside of school—to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults.</p>	 <p><b>POSITIVE IDENTITY</b> Young people need to believe in their own self-worth and to feel that they have control over the things that happen to them.</p>

Both sets of assets are important and they influence each other, according to the Search Institute. The survey report noted that if a young person has good social skills, they are more likely to have a strong network of friends to help them out. Also, if the school they attend is safe, engaging and effective, they are more likely to develop a commitment to learning. The composite scores for the Columbus youth was noted in the report. With a possible range of 0-30 on a scale, the score for external assets was 21.3 and was 20.5 for internal assets. The Search Institute states that both would be categorized as adequate.



Finally, the Search Institute presents our young people’s “perceptions of supports and strengths across five contexts”, which are defined as representing a healthy “ecology” of development. Examples of these assets are: honesty and restraint for “personal”; positive peer influence and interpersonal competence for “social”; family support and boundaries for “family”; school engagement and caring climate for “school”; and youth programs and caring neighborhoods for “community”. The table at the left shows the composite scores for each of these asset-building contexts. Search states these results are similar to other studies with the family context having the highest score and the community the lowest score.

The *Developmental Asset Profile* survey report will be used to guide one of the Platte County Juvenile Services Planning Team’s priority areas. The report contained much more information than what is displayed in this document and a subcommittee will be convened in the summer of 2015 to determine the best course of action to build the research-based “40 Developmental Assets” for our youth in both school and community settings.

## PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

In consideration of the data and information presented on the proceeding pages that provide a picture of youth in Platte County and the concerns of the community, priorities and strategies were agreed upon at Planning Team meetings. An initial reassessment of the priorities and corresponding updated data from the 2012-15 Comprehensive Plan in May, 2014 showed that Planning Team members felt most strongly about first providing adequate supports to at-risk youth. An electronic vote of those attending the meeting showed that 29% choose this priority as the most urgent one to focus efforts on followed closely by truancy. Also getting a significant percentage of the vote was substance use/abuse at 22%. The remaining issues and the percentages for each were: 40 Developmental Assets – 10%; establishing a backbone agency – 5%; decreasing juvenile law offenses – 4%; Hispanic juveniles’ recidivism – 4%; and curbing teen sexual activity - 0%. After the several large Team meetings, a smaller group of representatives then reviewed a draft of the Plan for final adjustments.

**It should be noted that the Community Planning Team voiced concerns regarding the lack of funding for specific services to address the needs of youth ages 9 – 11. Currently Crime Commission Funds are directed toward youth ages 12 – 17 and the local Child Well-Being Coalition has funds for developing early childhood services (ages 0 – 8 years). Although not listed within these priorities and strategies, the Planning Team recommends discussion by the State entities on addressing this gap in funding.**

The following six priorities and associated strategies have been agreed upon for implementation within the time period of this Plan. Priorities five and six are being addressed by two other local agencies. Both of the agencies have other funding sources to assist with the identified strategies.

**Priority 1: Organize programs and/or agencies around the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets and increase understanding of the Assets and what they mean for a healthy community.**

Strategy	Responsible Party	Timeline	Current Resources	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Conduct analysis of data in Search Institutes survey reports and determine how to best move forward with the information contained in them. Identify several activities to implement which further the development of assets in areas that should be further strengthened within schools and local youth programs.	School staff and administrators, Platte Co. Juvenile Services Planning Team Partners, Connect Columbus	Fall, 2015-Spring, 2016	Survey results, limited funding from Community-Based grant	Commitments from schools and agencies for staff time to utilize the selected activities in their organizations	Measured Asset building for school students
Identify an agency, individual or individuals to complete training on the 40 Developmental Assets that would be provided by the Search Institute. Community Team is recommending implementation into all 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade levels.	Connect Columbus, Platte Co. Juvenile Services, Schools	Summer, 2015	Community-Based and/or possible Enhancement funding	Trained Facilitator, Funding for workshop(s).	Training for all appropriate agency & school staff

**Priority 2: Decrease the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system in Platte County.**

Strategy	Responsible Party	Timeline	Current Resources	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Hold first and second- low level offenders accountable through the Diversion Program as an alternative to involvement in the juvenile justice system.	Platte County Attorney, Diversion Program Staff PVDP Board of Directors	On-going	Platte County Community-Based Juvenile Services/ Enhancement Grants	Continuation of county and state funding/United Way Impact Grant	Maintaining a re-offense rate of below 30%
Continue reviewing the services provided through Diversion to assist low level offenders with mental health services, substance abuse services and family support services. Those youth can be identified through the YLS/CMI assessment tool.	Platte County Attorney Diversion Program Staff PVDP Board of Directors	On-going	Platte County Community-Based Juvenile Services/ Enhancement Grants	Continuation of county and state funding/United Way Impact Grant	Youth and families receiving support services to have no involvement with the Juvenile Justice System
Continue local efforts to reduce recidivism among first time juvenile offenders.	Platte County Diversion Staff, County Attorney, Probation staff, law enforcement, DHHS	On-going	DMC Committee, Probation, Platte Valley Diversion Program	Continuation of grant funding	Reduction in juvenile recidivism
Continue to develop and implement strategies to address the minority contact rate for Platte County.	Diversion Staff, County Attorney, DHHS, , District 5 Probation, Law Enforcement, Additional DMC Committee members	On-going	DMC Committee, Diversion Staff, County Attorney, DHHS, , District 5 Probation, Law Enforcement, Additional DMC Committee members	Support for quarterly meetings regarding DMC	Reduce Platte County DMC rate
Support the expansion of the Hispanic male leadership program (Triumph Builders Club) as a prevention effort with emphasis on involving Hispanic adults as positive role models.	T4C Coalition, Program sponsors	On-going	T4C Coalition, Program Sponsor Organization, volunteers	Referrals from community & additional adult volunteers	Increase in leadership skills and adult/youth interactions
Continue efforts to discourage gang membership through Upward Movement and the Time 4 Change Anti-Gang Coalition. Expanding programming serving the residents of the local trailer parks to include a summer enrichment program.	T4C Coalition, Parents, Youth for Christ, Platte Co. Diversion, DARE/ GREAT Programs, Connect Columbus, School Districts	On-going	Efforts of the T4C Coalition, Youth for Christ & Platte Co. Diversion	Additional community support, continuation of grant funding	Increase in Involvement by the target community
Improve the sense of neighborhood, community trust and parental involvement through informational meetings & events.	T4C Coalition & Community Partners, Hispanic Parent Subcommittee	On-going	T4C Coalition funds	Continuation of current program resources	Healthy & safe neighborhoods

## Continuation of Priority 2.

Decrease the number of trancies in Platte County through a team effort provided by the Attendance Monitor, school staff and support services addressing needs identified by the Assessment Center. Team to address concerns of what can be done for low risk youth that may be in need of entry level resources, but not the completion of an assessment.	Attendance Monitor, Assessment Specialist, School Personnel, Community Providers/ Support Services	On-going	Community-Based and/or possible Enhancement funding	Continuation of current program resources/seek out alternative means of sustainability	Reduction in the number of trancies in Platte County
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## **Priority 3: To provide the most appropriate support services to address the needs of at-risk youth in our community.**

Strategy	Responsible Party	Timeline	Current Resources	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Maintain assessment services through the Platte County Juvenile Services Center to ensure that individual risks and needs are adequately identified and addressed	Platte County Public and Parochial Schools, Diversion Program, Mental Health Providers, DHHS	On-going with evaluation of need for service in July, 2016	Assessment Center established in the Spring of 2014	Awareness of the Center to gain more referrals from local school staff & providers, continuation of grant funding	Referred youth have positive outcomes preventing contact with the juvenile justice system and issues at school.
Develop a means of collecting mental health data to determine exact needs and service gaps. Contact the UNO Data Specialist to assist with the development of the system.	Platte County Juvenile Services, local mental health providers, school administrative teams, probation, diversion	By the Summer of 2016	UNO JJI expertise and generalized data that could be collected by providers & school social workers	Increase in funding for additional services identified as a community need	Adequate bilingual services available to address the needs of youth and families

**Priority 4: Increase the level of coordination, communication and definition of responsibilities among organizations serving youth and families in Platte County.**

Strategy	Responsible Party	Timeline	Current Resources	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Define the organizational roles needed for fulfilling efficient backbone functions to oversee services for youth ages 12-18 and their families. Create a system of Memorandum of Understanding agreements for Juvenile Services Planning Team members and organizations fulfilling backbone functions.	Community Planning Team subcommittee with representatives agencies that includes the Diversion Program, Probation, Youth for Christ, local schools and Connect Columbus	October, 2015 – April, 2016	Current grant for partial funding for organizational functions, partner staff time	Additional grant funds may be needed	Increased communication among agencies resulting in better use of resources and positive outcomes for youth and their families.

**Priority 5: To decrease the use of illegal substance use among youth in Platte County.**

The East Central District Health Department administers grant funds locally to address the serious problem of underage drug use in a four county region including Platte County. The Back to Basics Coalition was developed to assist in the decrease of drug and alcohol use among youth in the region and has developed its own strategies to address the issue with its mission as: *“To use our collective resources to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse in our communities.”* It has developed the following vision statement: *“Drug and alcohol free youth – a safe and happy community”*

The coalition meets once a month to discuss goals and strategies. The coalition is under the direction of a staff person employed by the Health Department and is made up of 20-25 community agency representatives, local youth focused organizations representatives and independent businesses and/or community citizens that are interested the Back to Basics mission. The Platte Valley Diversion/Juvenile Services Administrator is a partner member of the Coalition. Most of the data for the coalition is collected through the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS). The most recent survey was completed in October of 2014 and that current data is not yet available for the July 1, 2015 deadline of the Community Plan so the 2010 data continues to be the most current NRPFS data that was used for this plan. Several of the projects that the coalition has been involved with are:

- Annual Medication Take Back
- Compliance Checks for Tobacco and Alcohol/Sobriety Check Points
- Shoulder Taps
- Community Awareness Media Campaign through billboards, theatre ads, table tents
- Red Ribbon Day School Grants
- Youth Listening Sessions
- Educational School Assemblies
- TIPS Training
- GAPS (Group of Adolescents Providing Support) Youth Program
- Resource Library

**Priority 6: To decrease sexual activity among youth and thereby reduce teen pregnancy in Platte County.**

Youth for Christ continues to be the lead agency in Platte County in developing programs and resources to address this concern. Youth for Christ (YFC) is a 501c3 non-profit, non-denominational organization striving to bring about a positive heart-change; physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually in every kid in every circumstance aged 11-19 in the Columbus, Nebraska area.

YFC has an instrumental role in prevention of all at-risk behaviors in youth through educational efforts, its drop-in center and outreach programs. It promotes positive youth principles through efforts that include:

- Curriculum programs such as Why Am I Tempted (abstinence), Upward Movement (juvenile justice prevention), Boundaries, Walk-a-Mile, Victim Proof, Anger Management, Northland Class Action/Powerlines/Slick Tracy/Amazing Alternatives and others facilitated by credentialed, trained, and screened adults.
- Large Groups under Campus Life and Campus Life JV for Middle & High Schools students
- Juvenile Justice/Youth Guidance with Out-of-School Suspension students and the G.A.P.S. (Group for Adolescents Providing Support)
- Mentoring Relationship One-on-Ones
- Small groups facilitated at schools or after-school, Middle School After-school groups, and groups selected by School Counselors for specific coping skills or education.
- Events including all-school assemblies, lock-ins, field trips, summer events, camp and a drop-in center are also facilitated. Presently see an average of 520 different students each week through above mentioned Programs.

The Teen Parent Program includes curriculum facilitated at school, after-school and evenings: Why Am I Tempted (abstinence), Parenting Classes, Parent's Interacting with Infants, and Heritage Series/Earn While U Learn. Other skills and education include sewing, community service/Giving Back, budgeting, entrepreneurship, health and safety for children, future orientation and developmentally appropriate parenting practices. During last 12 months, the Teen Parent Program included 207 individuals; 105 teens and 102 babies. It provides both prevention strategies and assistance for teenage mothers and fathers in the County.



Juvenile Justice Institute  
University of Nebraska Omaha

# **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM POINT ANALYSIS**

The Juvenile Justice Systems Point Analysis tool is designed to, after a facilitated conversation with all juvenile justice community stakeholders and county data is reviewed; give an overview of how the juvenile justice system operates in your local area according to the laws of the State of Nebraska.

**Discussion Questions for each Decision Point:**

1. What are the formal factors that impact this decision point in the community?
2. What are the informal factors that impact this decision point in the community?
3. Examine the data for your community. What does it tell you about this decision point in the system?
4. Is there any other data your community has that would be useful?
5. Are there any specific problems/issues identified from this discussion that should be addressed?

**Solutions Discussion for issues or challenges identified under each Decision Point, if any:**

1. Are there existing resources that could impact this problem? If so, are those resources:
  - a.) The most appropriate resource? Is it effective? Does it meet the goals and outcomes it was designed to?
  - b.) Is there enough of the resource? Does it need expanded?
  - c.) Is it culturally responsive?
  - d.) Is it family centered?
2. If there is not an existing resource, what needs to be developed? When developing the resource keep in mind it should be: appropriate, accessible, effective and culturally responsive.
3. It is possible a solution may not center on developing programs, rather a change in policy, procedure, practice or communication may be needed. Identify which of these solutions are needed.
4. It is possible a solution may be training. Identify whether training is needed.
5. Are there prevention programs available in the community that try to address this issue? What impact are they having?

<b>SYSTEM POINT: ARREST/ CITATION</b> PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)	
<b><i>Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed</li> <li>b. Sufficient factual basis to believe juvenile has committed the offense</li> </ul>	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Youth's prior incidences with law enforcement</li> <li>b. Age of the juvenile</li> </ul>
Notes:	

<b><i>Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed</li> <li>b. Sufficient factual basis to believe juvenile has committed the offense</li> </ul>	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Youth's prior incidences with law enforcement</li> <li>b. Age of the juvenile</li> <li>c. Seriousness of offense</li> </ul>
Notes: The juvenile is treated as a juvenile throughout any and all law enforcement actions. It is the responsibility of the County Attorney to determine if charges should be adult or juvenile.	

<b><i>Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248 (1), (2); § 43-250 (1), (2), (3))</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. As stated in statutes NRS § 43-248; NRS § 43-250</li> </ul>	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Immediate risk to juvenile</li> <li>b. Immediate/short term risk to public</li> <li>c. Seriousness of perceived offense</li> <li>d. Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile.</li> <li>e. Availability of pre-adjudication detention options.</li> </ul>
Notes: The determination for extended detention is made by the Probation Office upon law enforcement taking custody of a juvenile.	

<p><b>SYSTEM POINT: INITIAL DETENTION</b>  PARTY RESPONSIBLE: State of Nebraska Probation  STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-250(3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01</p>	
<p><b>Decision: Whether juvenile should be detained or released.</b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. NRS § 43-250</li> <li>b. NRS § 43-260</li> <li>c. NRS § 43-260.01</li> <li>d. Risk assessment outcome</li> <li>e. Accessibility of placement options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Parents/Guardians</li> <li>ii. Emergency Shelter</li> <li>iii. Staff Secure Facility</li> <li>iv. Secure Detention Facility</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Law enforcement consider every option before contacting probation to utilize the Juvenile Detention Screening Instrument (NRS § 43-260.01)</li> <li>b. Secure detentions is a last resort for law enforcement and probation</li> <li>c. Platte County contracts with Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services located in Madison, NE for secure and staff secure placements of juveniles who meet the criteria necessary for detainment</li> <li>d. Probation may be notified in the event of a law violation that may be associated with a mental health crises. In such cases the behavioral health issue takes precedence. Juveniles who may present a danger to self or other and who may have a DSM IV diagnoses are not sent to Madison</li> </ul>
<p>Notes: Detention alternatives are available at this point. Tracking and Electronic Monitoring services are contracted through a local provider. There is a contract on file in the juvenile diversion office.</p>	

<p><b>SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE</b>  PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney  STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276</p>	
<p><b>Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile.</b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Likelihood of successful prosecution</li> <li>b. Factors under NRS § 43-276: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Type of treatment to which juvenile would be most amenable</li> <li>ii. Evidence that offense was violent, aggressive, or premeditated</li> <li>iii. Motivation for commission of offense</li> <li>iv. Age of juvenile and co-offenders</li> <li>v. Previous offense history, especially patterns of prior violence or antisocial behavior</li> <li>vi. The best interest of the juvenile</li> <li>vii. Consideration of public safety</li> <li>viii. Juveniles ability to appreciate the nature and seriousness of the offense</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Diversion is an alternative offered to first-time non-violent misdemeanor offenders 17 years of age or younger</li> <li>b. Bi-lingual diversion officer to assist with communication barrier for non-English speaking parents</li> <li>c. Probable Cause hearings to determine detention are held as soon as possible before either the County Judge or Juvenile Judge</li> <li>d. Certified Court interpreter available to assist during Juvenile Court proceedings</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ix. Best interests of juvenile and the security of the public may require secure detention extending beyond his/her minority and so, the availability of alternatives</li> <li>x. Victim’s inclination to participate in mediation</li> <li>xi. Whether there is a juvenile pretrial diversion program established</li> <li>xii. Whether the juvenile has been convicted of unauthorized use or possession of a firearm</li> <li>xiii. Whether a juvenile court order has been issued for the juvenile pursuant to section NRS §43-2,106.03</li> <li>xiv. Whether the juvenile is a criminal street gang member</li> <li>xv. “Such other matters as the county attorney deems relevant to his or her decision”</li> </ul>	
<p>Notes:</p>	

<p><b><i>Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.</i></b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Seriousness of offense</li> <li>b. Services available to juvenile for rehabilitation</li> <li>c. Prior history of juvenile in Juvenile Court</li> <li>d. Factors under NRS § 43-276</li> <li>e. Age</li> </ul>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Degree of accountability</li> <li>b. Best interest of juvenile</li> <li>c. Public safety</li> <li>d. Knowledge of what courts have transferred in previous cases</li> <li>e. Set informal standards</li> <li>f. Resource issue</li> </ul>
<p>Notes: Sections under NRS § 43-246.01, 43-247, 43-274, and 29-1816 (i.e., all operative January 1, 2015), redefine where the action shall/may commence.</p>	

<p><b><i>Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged.</i></b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. As outlined in statute</li> <li>b. Charge must be supported by sufficient evidence to establish proof beyond a reasonable doubt</li> </ul>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prosecutorial discretion</li> <li>b. Nature of offense</li> <li>c. Eligibility for Diversion</li> </ul>
<p>Notes: The YLS assessment tool has been adopted in assisting in determining if the juvenile’s needs are beyond the scope of the resources available through the diversion program. Care must be taken to ensure that the juvenile, who is otherwise eligible for Diversion , but whose needs may be beyond the normal scope of diversion, is not deprived of the opportunity for an alternative to the criminal justice system.</p>	

<p><b>SYSTEM POINT:        PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION</b></p> <p>PARTY RESPONSIBLE:    Juvenile Court Judge</p> <p>STATUTE REFERENCE:   NRS § 43-253(2)</p>	
<p><i>Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.</i></p>	
<p>Options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parents/Guardians</li> <li>2. Emergency Shelter</li> <li>3. Staff Secure Facility</li> <li>4. Secure Detention Facility</li> <li>5. Electronic Monitoring</li> </ol>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile”</li> <li>b. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of...the person or property of another”</li> <li>c. Whether juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court</li> <li>d. Nature of the offense</li> <li>e. NRS § 43-253 et seq provides that a hearing for continued detention in a pre-adjudication setting must be held within 48 hours of the detention</li> </ol>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The majority of juvenile offenders who are detained are released to parent/guardian after the detention hearing. The Judge makes a finding that is in the best interest of the juvenile. The Judge also establishes that the parent/guardian are willing to take responsibility for the juvenile and that the in-home placement is in a secure setting</li> <li>b) Strict criteria must be found to keep a juvenile in detention</li> <li>c) Detention is an alternative of last resort</li> </ol>
<p>Notes: Both the Juvenile Judge and the County Judge who may preside at detention hearing believe the law does not allow juveniles to be in detention longer than necessary. This same standard is also applied to any other out of home placement. As a result, most juveniles who have met the criteria for detention are returned to the care and custody of their parent/guardian.</p>	

<b>SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING</b>	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256	
<i>Decision: Whether state can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. NRS § 43-253 et seq</li> <li>b. Crime occurred and juvenile probably committed it</li> </ul>	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. None</li> </ul>
Notes: The State must meet a Probable Cause Standard to show that the court has jurisdiction in a Detention hearing. The State must show by a preponderance of evidence that the Court has jurisdiction in a 43-247(3)(a) adjudication. The State must show by clear and convincing evidence that the Court has jurisdiction in ICWA 43-247(3)(a) and non-ICWA 43-292 termination of parental rights and 43-247(3)(c) mental health adjudications. The State must show beyond a reasonable doubt that the Court has jurisdiction in 43-247(1), 43-247(2), 43-247(3)(b) and in ICWA 43-292 termination of parental right adjudications.	

<b>SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION</b>	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1)(b)	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Examination by physician, psychiatrist and psychologist via court ordered evaluation to inquire into: can the juvenile assist his attorney and appreciate the nature of the charge</li> </ul>	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. As found in NRS § 43-247(3)© and NRS § 71-908, The Mental Health Commitment Act may be an option</li> <li>b. Additional reports from attorney, family, service provides, etc.</li> <li>c. Circumstances of particular case</li> </ul>
Notes:	

<i>Decision: Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts</i> NRS § 43-258(1)(c) and (2))	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete evaluations of juvenile including Physician, Surgeon, Psychiatrist, Community Health Program, Psychologist as requested by the court</li> <li>b. Consideration of expert opinion of psychiatrist or PH.D. Psychologist to determine whether the juvenile knew the difference between right or wrong when he committed the crime.</li> </ul>	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Circumstances of particular case</li> <li>b. Consideration of the appropriateness of filing a (3)(c) petition</li> </ul>
Notes: NRS § 71-908 requires the preparation of a mental health treatment plan. However, HHS has promulgated no rules to direct their caseworkers to provide such a plan to the Court. The dual adjudication provides a means for the information to be disseminated through a case plan and court report.	

<b>Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by section 43-247.”</b>	
<b>Formal Determining Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Court’s determination rests on whether the State proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the Court has jurisdiction over this juvenile whether it is by adjudication of the allegations contained in the petition or by admission of the juvenile, by providing sufficient factual basis to support the allegations. The burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt applies to NRS § 43-247(1), (2) and (3)(b)</li> <li>b. Residency</li> <li>c. Age</li> <li>d. NRS § 43-279</li> </ul>	<b>Informal Determining Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No factors reported. In order to protect the rights of the juvenile, informal considerations are not utilized</li> </ul>
Notes: At the “arraignment” phase, the Judge may order pre-adjudication supervision and/or services if the youth/parent agrees.	

<b>Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (statutory authority unclear)</b>	
<b>Formal Determining Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. NRS § 43-286</li> <li>b. NRS § 43-413</li> </ul>	<b>Informal Determining Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Judge may order “direct” probation without preparation of PDI</li> <li>b. Judge may order PDI when additional information is needed for disposition</li> <li>c. If the case results from an unsatisfactory termination from diversion, and if the circumstances of termination warrant, the Diversion Administrator may recommend to the County Attorney to consider ordering a PDI</li> </ul>
Notes: The Judge may also order pre-disposition supervision/services at this point as well.	

<b>SYSTEM POINT: DISPOSITION</b>	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286 (1)	
<b>Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation</b> NRS § 43-286(1)(a)(i)	
<b>Formal Determining Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. As outlined in statute</li> </ul>	<b>Informal Determining Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Court, at disposition, may order a term of probation with set expiration date. The order of probation is frequently ordered without preparation of a PDI</li> </ul>
Notes:	

**SYSTEM POINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Probation

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 29-2266

***Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer***

Formal Determining Factors (NRS § 29-2266 (2))

- a. NRS § 29-2266(4)
- b. Probation officers has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non-criminal violation
- c. Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment
- d. Non-criminal violation means:
  - i. Moving traffic violations;
  - ii. Failure to report to his or her probation officer;
  - iii. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her probation officer;
  - iv. Failure to work regularly or attend training school;
  - v. Failure to notify his or her probation officers of change of address or employment;
  - vi. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
  - vii. Failure to perform community service as directed;
  - viii. Failure to pay fines, courts costs, restitution, or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06.

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Probation uses administrative sanctions for non-criminal violations
- b. New law violations result in a notification and request to the County Attorney for the filing of a Motion to Revoke probation
- c. Administrative sanctions are not applied when a probationer absconds from supervision

Notes:

<b>SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION</b> PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(5)(b)(i)	
<b><i>Decision: Whether to file a motion to revoke probation</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. As outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors a. Appropriateness of administrative sanctions for minor violations b. Recommendation from probation officer c. County Attorney prosecutive merit assessment d. If a Motion to Revoke is based on a new law violation which has yet to be adjudicated, the matter is often continued to allow that adjudication. In the event the disposition of both matters is often handled at the same time e. If a PDI was not ordered at time of the original disposition it may well be ordered at time of re-disposition
Notes:	

<b>SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOCAION OF PROBATION</b> PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(5)(b)(v)(vi)	
<b><i>Decision: Whether to modify or revoke probation</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. As outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors a. The Court usually modifies probation with additional terms and conditions rather than revoke or unsatisfactorily discharge the Order of Probation depending on age and services available
Notes: The Juvenile Court uses a continuum of care approach. Community Based Intervention (CBI) is used by probation as the highest level of supervision available. Youth may be committed to YRTC after failing all levels of probation supervision	

**SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION/SEALING OF JUVENILE RECORDS**

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,108.01 - 43-2,108.05

NRS § 29-2246(4) and NRS § 29-2264(2)(3)

*Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment* NRS § 43-2,108

Formal Determining Factors

a. As outlined in Statutes

Informal Determining Factors

None

Notes:

*Platte County Clerk / Board of Supervisors*

DIANE C. PINGER



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June 2, 2015

Wilma Arp  
Comprehensive Juvenile Services  
Courthouse  
Columbus, NE 68601

Dear Wilma:

This is to inform you that the following motion was made by the Platte County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on June 2, 2015 regarding your request that the County Board approve the June 1, 2015 to July 30, 2015 Community Plan:

Motion, Supervisor Olk, seconded Supervisor Micek, to approve and file the June 1, 2015 to July 30, 2015 Community Plan.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane C. Pinger".

Diane C. Pinger  
Clerk of the County Board

DCP/dab