

# WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jeff Quist, Chairperson  
Ronald Hinline, Vice Chairperson

Steven Kruger Carl Lorenzen Mary Alice Johnson Lisa Kramer Paul Cerio

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The Nebraska Crime Commission  
PO Box 94946  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4946

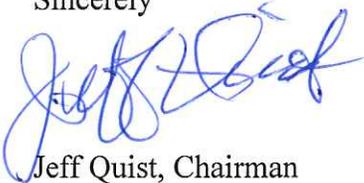
June 9, 2015

RE: Washington County Juvenile Services Plan

Attention:

At the regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, the Board unanimously passed a motion to approve the Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan for July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018.

Sincerely



Jeff Quist, Chairman  
Washington County Board of Supervisors

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

**Prepared By:** Steve Ortmeier  
Chief Deputy, Probation District Six  
State of Nebraska  
320 North Main Street  
Fremont, Ne 68025

**Chair, Washington** Steve Ortmeier  
**County Team:** Chief Deputy, Probation District Six  
State of Nebraska  
320 North Main Street  
Fremont, Ne 68025

**Chair, Washington** Jeff Quist  
**County Board of** 14818 Co. Rd 14  
**Supervisors:** Blair, NE 68008

**SECTION II**

**COMMUNITY TEAM**

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

The Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan Team represent the county's School Districts, Law Enforcement, Mental Health Community, Crisis Center, County Attorney, Probation, and community stakeholders. The Team Chair, Steve Ortmeier, is responsible for organizing and facilitating the meetings. The Team has met quarterly and the chair schedules these meetings and emails a calendar invitation and reminder for each meeting. In addition, the chair emails the agenda, takes minutes at the meetings, and emails the minutes to all members after each meeting. Each agenda includes the priorities and strategies for the current community plan. At each meeting, the Team reviews their activities and how they relate to achieving the identified priorities for the youth in Washington County.

**Steve Ortmeier, Chair**

**Chief Deputy, Probation District Six**

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Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018

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Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018

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[sro.Carritt@washcosheriff.org](mailto:sro.Carritt@washcosheriff.org)

## **Section III**

### **Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool**

- **See attached as Appendix A**

## **Section IV**

### **Community Socio-Economics**

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

Demographics

Washington County, located in eastern Nebraska and on the Missouri River, has a combination of several small rural farm communities and the mid-size urban community of Blair. The City of Blair population is currently 7,990, and Blair is the county seat. Approximately 20 miles north of Blair is the metropolitan Omaha area. The Washington County population is a total of 20,234, with 2,406 under the age of 17. The race data for youth in Washington County indicates that 94.06% are Caucasian (not Hispanic or Latino) and 3.7% are Hispanic and the remainder from another minority group. According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services “2013 Vital Statistics Report”, 4.4% of all births to residents in Washington County are to teen mothers. In 2012, The Census Bureau poverty rate for children (ages 0-17) in Washington County was 7.7%.

**CY 2013: Washington County Youth Population (Ages 10-17)**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	2,263	94.06%
Black	37	1.54%
American Indian	3	0.12%
Asian	14	0.58%
Hispanic*	89	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*May include another racial group

**Washington County Population Distribution (2010 Census)**

<b>City/Village</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Population Under Age 18</b>
Village of Arlington	1,243	294
City of Blair	7,990	1,968
Village of Fort Calhoun	908	170
Village of Herman	268	79
Village of Kennard	361	100
Village of Washington	150	9
Balance of Washington County	9,314	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,234</b>	<b>2,620</b>

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

According to the US Census, from 2009 until 2013, the median yearly household income in Washington County was \$65,409.00, compared to the state median household income of \$51,672.00. There were 6,940 households and 36.4% had children under the age of 18 residing with them, 64% were married couples living together, and 7% had a female household with no husband present.

According to the 2010 US Census Poverty Report, 1,238 or 6.3% of Washington County residents were below the national poverty rate. In 2012, 7.1% of children 17 and under in Washington County were below poverty level, 0.48% of children in Washington County experienced maltreatment, and 0.8% of children in Washington County had been placed out of their home.

**CY 2012: Child Welfare Indicators (Ages 0-17) in Washington County**

<b>Child Welfare Indicators</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Percent of Children in Poverty (Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Averages Table B01001)	353	7.1%
Number of Children experienced Substantiated Maltreatment (Source: Nebraska Department of Health and human Services CY 2012)	24	0.48%
Number of Children in out of home care (Source: Nebraska Department of Health and human Services CY 2012)	40	0.8%

According to U.S. Census data, Washington County ranks 17th in the state, based on population. The race diversity of the Washington County population consists primarily of White, African American, American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic.

Washington County does not have any public transportation. Recreational attractions include two national protected areas, Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge and DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. Washington County has one State Historical Park, Fort Atkinson. A medical facility, Blair-based Memorial Community Hospital, is located in Washington County.

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

In 2013, the leading industries in Washington County for the employed population of 16 years and older, were educational services, and health care and social assistance. Manufacturing and construction were at approximately 10 percent of the leading industries and the leading occupation was in management, business, science, and arts.

Education

The public schools within Washington County include: Arlington Public School, Blair Community School, and Fort Calhoun Community School. The private schools include Blair Christian Academy, Immanuel Lutheran Elementary School (Hooper), and St. Paul's Lutheran Elementary School (Arlington). From 2009 until 2013, 95% of all residents in Washington County 25 years and older had graduated from high school, compared to 90.5% in the State of Nebraska. Additionally, 28.9% of persons 25 years and older had completed a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 28.5% for the State of Nebraska.

**CY 2014-15: Washington County School Population**

<b>School</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Arlington Public	590	16.4%
Blair Public	2,329	64.5%
Fort Calhoun Community	612	16.9%
Immanuel Lutheran Elementary	7	.02%
St. Paul's Lutheran Elementary	75	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,613</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

**CY 2014-15: Washington County School Population – Race and Gender**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
White	3,360	92.9%	1,600	1,760
Black	40	1%	18	22
American Indian	10	.04%	5	5
Asian	15	.05%	4	11
Hispanic	132	3.6%	67	65
Pacific Islander	4	.01%	3	1
Two or More Races	52	1.4%	25	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,613</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>1,891</b>

Source: Nebraska Department of Education

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

According to the Nebraska Department of Education database, Blair North Elementary School has the highest rate of students receiving free and reduced lunches within Washington County. Please refer to the graph below for an overview of all the schools in Washington County and percent of students whom receive free and reduced lunches.

**CY 2014-15: Washington County School Free and Reduced Lunch Count**

<b>School</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Blair Public	563	27.08%
Fort Calhoun Public	111	18.10%
Arlington View Public	116	19.52%
St. Paul's Lutheran	Masked	Masked
Immanuel Lutheran	Masked	Masked

**CY 2011-12: Number of High School Graduates – Washington County**

Number of High School Graduates SY 2011-2012 (Source: Nebraska Department of Education SY 2011-2012)	283	5.7%
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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

*Truancy Data*

A Habitually Truant student in Nebraska is defined as having been absent more than 20 days per year or the hourly equivalent. Truancy is often a symptom of more serious problems. Research indicates children may be dealing with peer pressure, separation or divorce within the family, abuse or neglect, mental & physical health issues, drug and alcohol abuse by a parent and/or the student, etc. The effects of truancy for children could include decreased earning ability, involvement in delinquent behavior, increased risk of dropping out of school, potential involvement in gangs, and are two and a half more times likely to require social assistance in their adulthood.

Truancy referrals in Washington County have been handled informally within the schools for the past several years. When a student was exhibiting truancy issues, the schools were working with the youth and families. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Washington County elected a new county attorney who is committed to working with truant youth and their families and has contacted all of the schools to develop a formal referral process. The Washington County Attorney has also indicated his office will start keeping track of referrals for truant students. As of now, there are no statistics available for truancy in Washington County.

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

Contact with Law Enforcement

The Washington County arrest rate in 2013 for juveniles aged 0-17 was 9.4% (per 1,000 population), in comparison to the arrest rate of 22.7 for the State of Nebraska. According to the arrest data below, total juvenile arrests per year in Washington County are on the decline.

**2009-2013 Arrests for Juveniles Aged 0 - 17 in Washington County**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>
Runaway (Juvenile Only)	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Liquor Laws	29	10	33	10	5	28%
Simple Assault	8	15	13	1	8	14%
Larceny	0	5	8	4	4	7%
Vandalism	24	7	1	5	2	12%
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	11	9	7	0	3	10%
Drug Abuse Violations	3	15	8	7	8	13%
Disorderly Conduct	7	0	3	5	0	5%
Curfew (Juvenile Only)	2	0	1	0	0	1%
Driving Under the Influence	6	2	0	1	1	3%
Burglary	5	0	0	0	2	2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	0	0	0	0	.5%
Stolen Property	0	0	1	1	0	.5%
Weapons	0	5	1	0	0	2%
Sex Offense (including forcible rape)	0	0	1	0	2	1%
Arson	0	0	3	0	0	1%

Source: Nebraska Crime Commission Database

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

The majority population of Washington County is in Blair. The following is a breakdown of juvenile arrests in Washington County (aged 0-17) by law enforcement department for the past three years.

**CY 2011: Juvenile Arrests in Washington County (Under 17)**

<b>Department Name</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Washington County Sheriff	28	35%
Blair Police Department	52	65%
Nebraska State Patrol	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**CY 2012: Juvenile Arrests in Washington County (Under 17)**

<b>Department Name</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Washington County Sheriff	0	0%
Blair Police Department	34	100%
Nebraska State Patrol	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**CY 2013: Juvenile Arrests in Washington County (Under 17)**

<b>Department Name</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Washington County Sheriff	5	14.3%
Blair Police Department	29	82.8%
Nebraska State Patrol	1	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

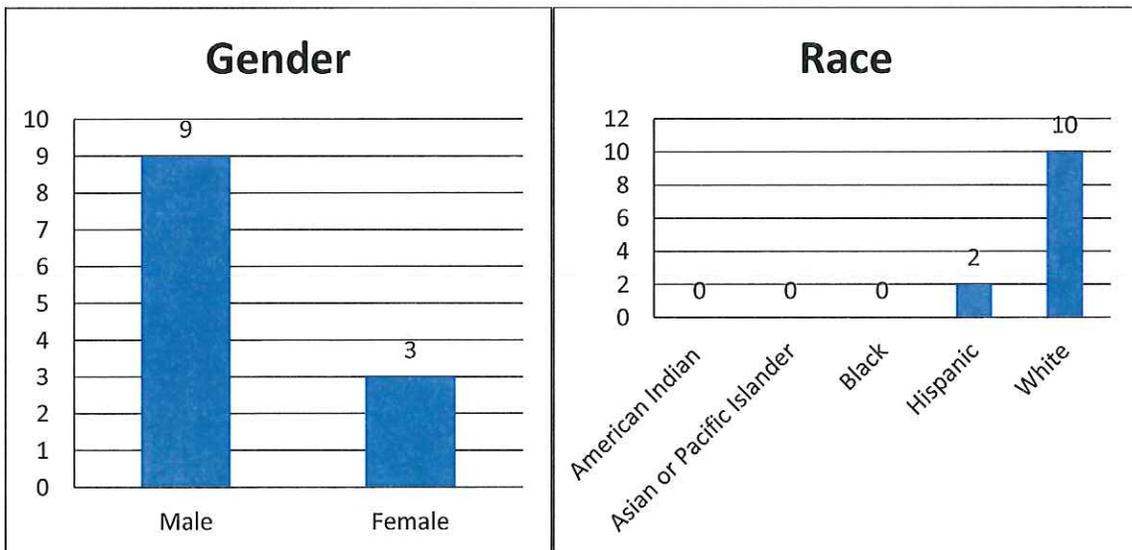
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Juvenile Intake and Detention

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, “juvenile detention has critical, long-lasting consequences for court-involved youth. Youth who are detained are more likely than their counterparts to be formally charged, adjudicated and committed to an institution. Detention disrupts already tenuous connections in school, services and families. Over the long-haul, the detention experience negatively impacts educational and employment levels.”

Under Nebraska State Law, sections 43-248 and 43-250, law enforcement is to deliver the custody of a juvenile to a probation officer for intake. The probation officer’s decision to detain or release the juvenile from custody is based on the results of the juvenile detention screening instrument described in state law under Section 43-260.01. If detained, according to state law, youth may only be held for forty-eight hours before receiving a hearing from the court. In Nebraska, it is the probation officer’s responsibility to conduct an intake assessment and determine appropriate placement. The probation officer is also responsible for attending a detention hearing if the youth is detained. The court then determines whether the youth shall be released or continue in the detention placement.

According to the Nebraska Probation database, from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 until December 31<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Washington County had 12 referrals for juvenile intakes from area law enforcement.



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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**Detention decisions of youth referred by law enforcement for juvenile intakes (2010)**

Detention Decision	Number per Detention Decision
Release without Restriction	0
Return to Parent	2
Non-Custodial Parent or Responsible Adult	0
Placement (Mental Health or Shelter Care)	1
Other Available Alternative	0
Detain Staff Secure	6
Detain Secure	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

**Detention decisions of youth referred by law enforcement for juvenile intakes (2011)**

Detention Decision	Number per Detention Decision
Release without Restriction	2
Return to Parent	2
Non-Custodial Parent or Responsible Adult	0
Placement (Mental Health or Shelter Care)	2
Other Available Alternative	0
Detain Staff Secure	3
Detain Secure	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

**Detention decisions of youth referred by law enforcement for juvenile intakes (2012)**

Detention Decision	Number per Detention Decision
Release without Restriction	0
Return to Parent	1
Non-Custodial Parent or Responsible Adult	1
Placement (Mental Health or Shelter Care)	0
Other Available Alternative	0
Detain Staff Secure	0
Detain Secure	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**Detention decisions of youth referred by law enforcement for juvenile intakes (2013)**

Detention Decision	Number per Detention Decision
Release without Restriction	5
Return to Parent	1
Non-Custodial Parent or Responsible Adult	0
Placement (Mental Health or Shelter Care)	0
Other Available Alternative	0
Detain Staff Secure	1
Detain Secure	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

Juvenile Diversion

Washington County has never had a formal diversion program. The Washington County Attorney and the local probation office have collaborated in submitting a County Aid Grant Request for FY 2015-2016 for the position of a full-time Diversion Coordinator. If approved, the Diversion Coordinator will be responsible for developing a best practices formal diversion program. The Washington County Attorney will be the housing agency and will be responsible for the management of the Washington County Diversion Program.

Juvenile Court

The following data was obtained from the Nebraska Supreme Court's County Court Annual Caseload Reports.

**FY 2009-2014 Juvenile Court Filings in Washington County**

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*	2014**	Percent of Total
<b>Juvenile Court</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*In 2013, Washington County had 7 Juvenile 3A cases filed which involved 9 children

\*\*In 2014, Washington County had 14 Juvenile 3A cases filed which involved 20 children

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

*Juvenile Probation*

Nebraska Probation uses a specific supervision approach for juveniles whose level of risk indicates a need for higher intervention and incorporates intensely structured supervision management and services. Core to this approach is cognitive behavioral restructuring, targeted treatment intervention, family focused case planning and community team approach as a method to reduce the juveniles risk of further delinquent behavior. The probation officer's supervision upholds the Juvenile Court standards of balancing the juvenile's best interest while maintaining public safety and strives to keep juveniles in the least restrictive environment whenever possible. Nebraska Probation is committed to providing Evidence-Based, family inclusive services designed to change behavior and strengthen the competency of our youth, which will enhance community safety.

Youth on probation in Washington County are assigned to a juvenile specific probation officer. The juvenile probation officer is responsible for assessing the youth's risks and needs as well as the youth's strengths. The juvenile probation officer targets interventions based on the juvenile's risks and needs and builds upon the juvenile's strengths and identified support systems. The juvenile probation officer also works closely with the juvenile's family and school officials to monitor their progress, reinforce their positive behavior, or sanction any violations. When a youth satisfactorily completes all required conditions of their probation order, they are referred for a release from probation. The following are statistics provided by Nebraska Probation.

**FY 2011: Youth on Probation in Washington County**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	34	97%
Black	0	0%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Hispanic*	1	3%
<b>Total Youth on Probation</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**FY 2012: Youth on Probation in Washington County**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	13	87%
Black	2	13%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Hispanic*	0	0%
<b>Total Youth on Probation</b>	15	100%

**FY 2013: Youth on Probation in Washington County**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	5	100%
Black	0	0%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Hispanic*	0	0%
<b>Total Youth on Probation</b>	5	100%

**FY 2014: Youth on Probation in Washington County**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	15	88%
Black	1	6%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Hispanic*	1	6%
<b>Total Youth on Probation</b>	17	100%

*Substance Use by Youth*

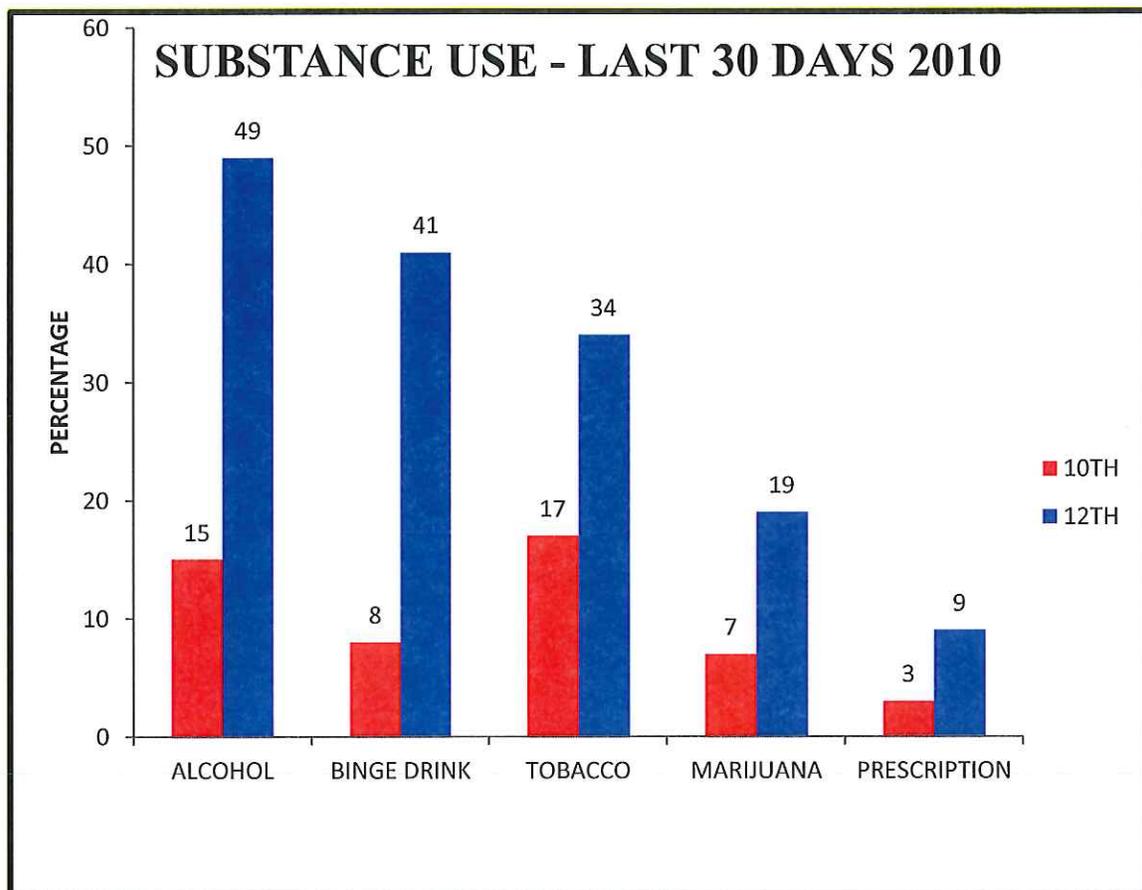
In 2010, the Blair Public Schools in Washington County participated in a *Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey* (NRPFSS). This survey targeted students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12. The NRPFSS implementation was under the Nebraska Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System. SHARP consists of the coordinated administration of three school-based student health surveys in Nebraska, including the NRPFSS, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), and the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS).

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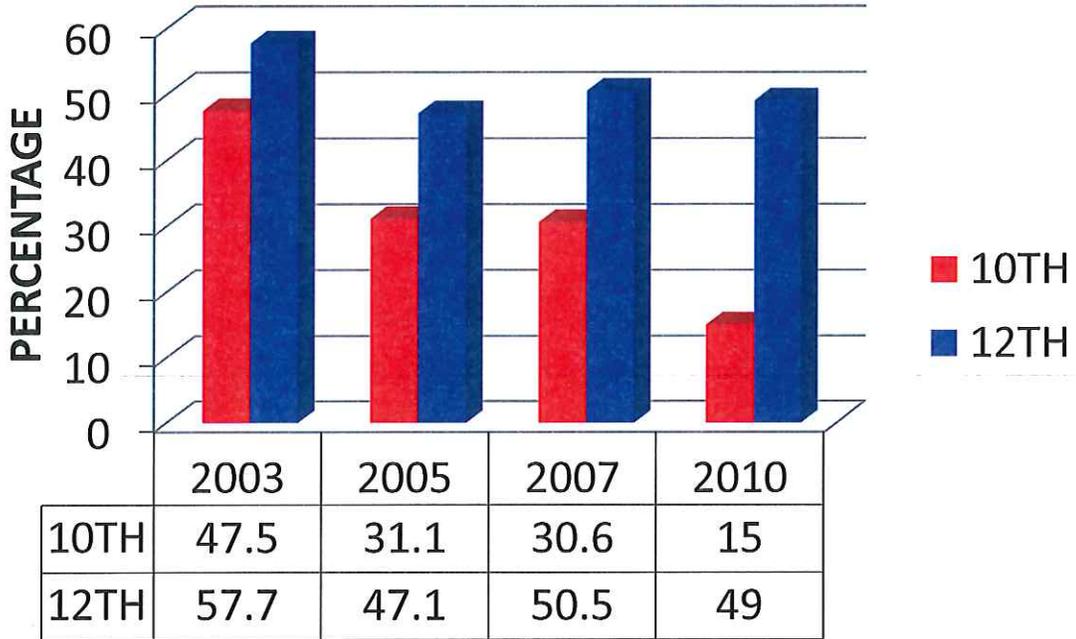
**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

The Nebraska SHARP Surveillance System is sponsored by the Nebraska Partners in Prevention (NePiP) and administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Education through a contract with the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The survey is designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent and bullying 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.

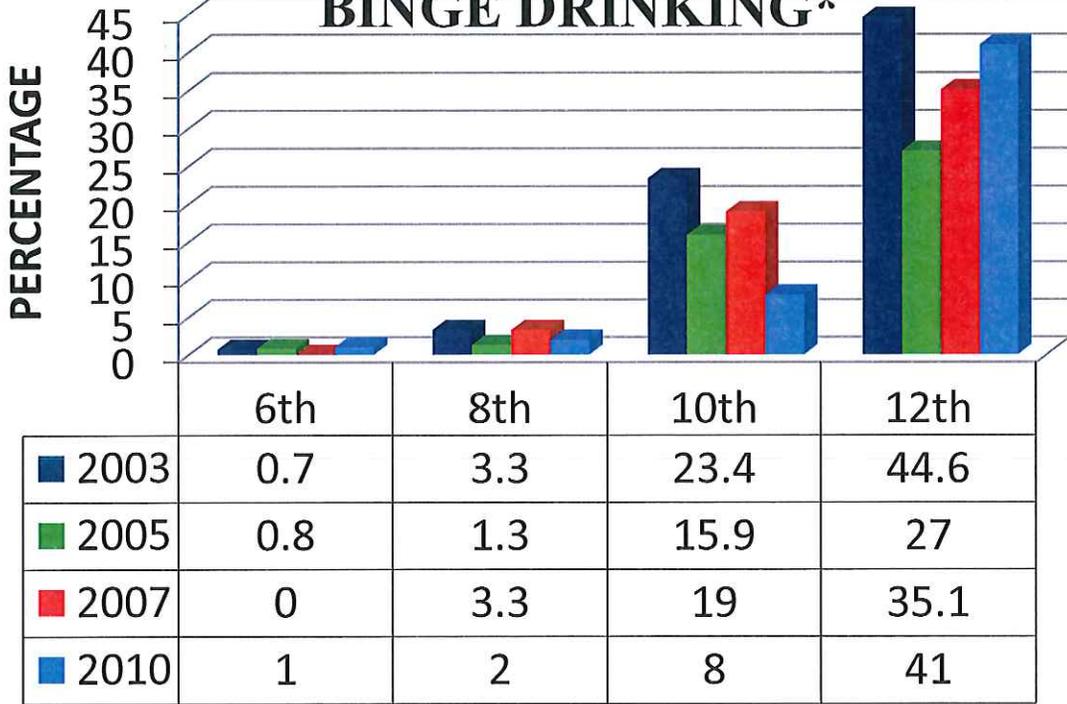
The following NRPFSS data was provided by Blair Public Schools.



### ALCOHOL LAST 30 DAYS



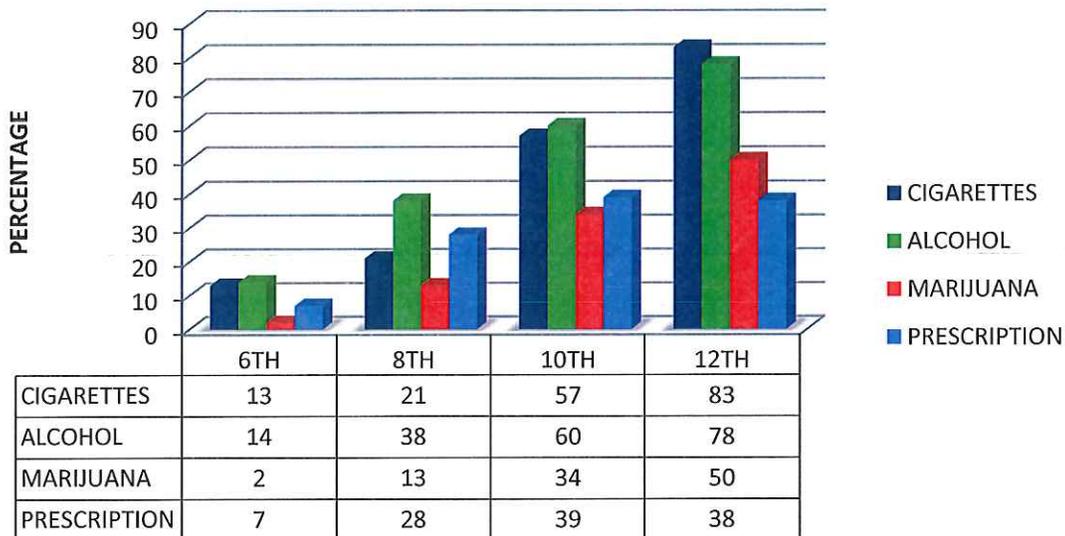
### BINGE DRINKING\*



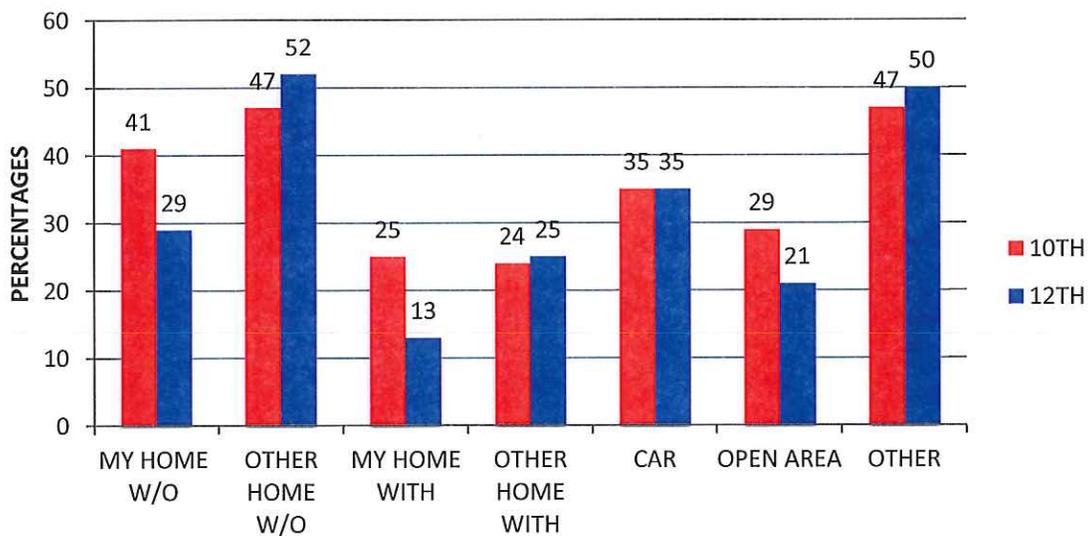
\*Binge Drinking: 5 or more drinks on one occasion

## PERCEIVED AVAILABILITY 2010

(EASY OR SORT OF EASY)



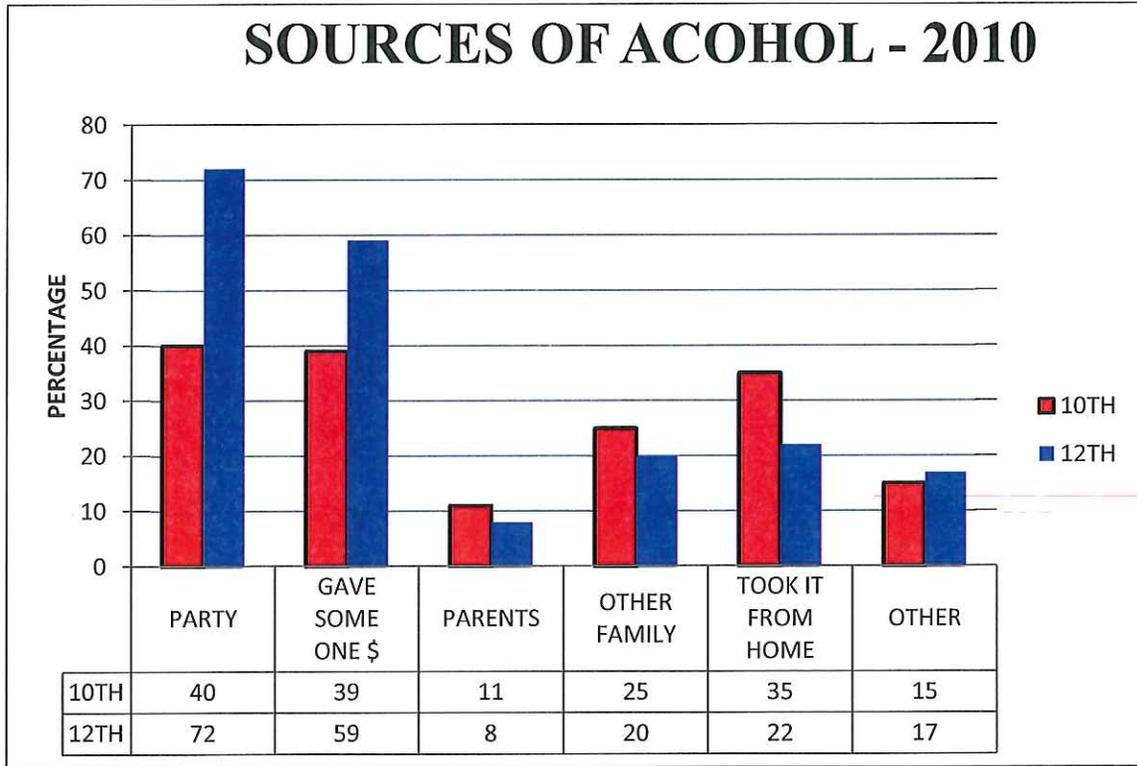
## PLACES ALCOHOL USED LAST 30 DAYS



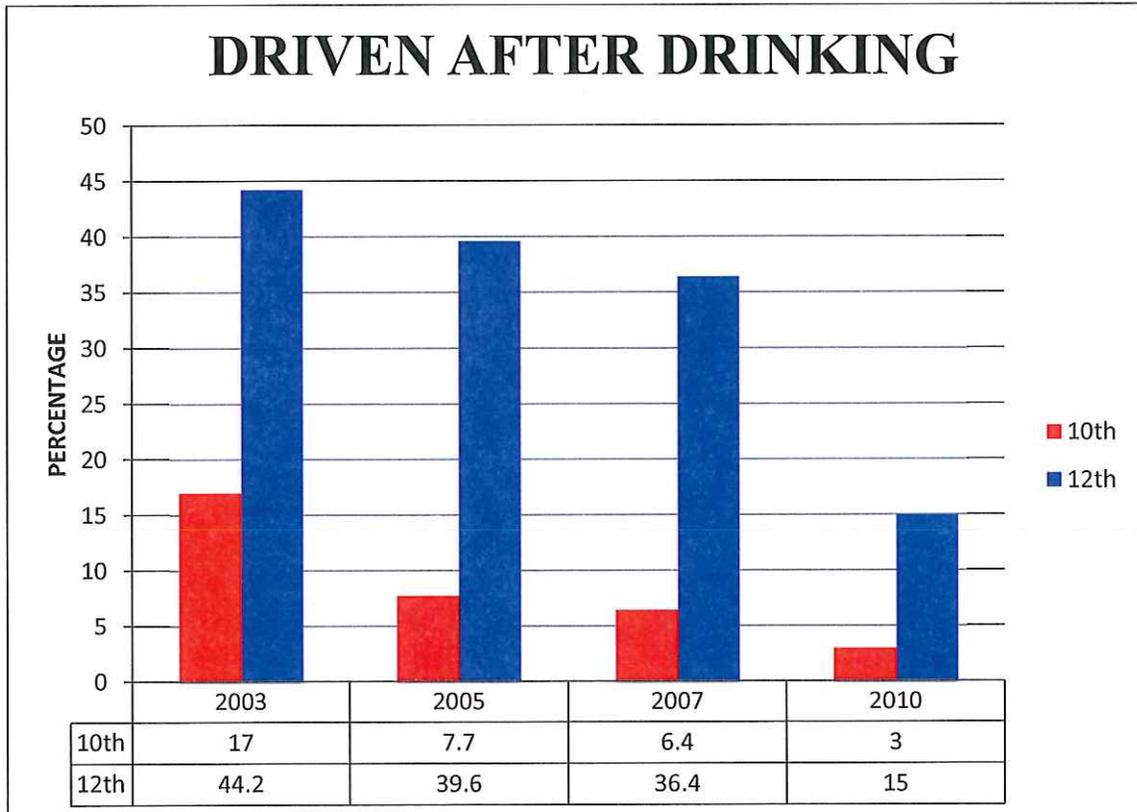
W/O means without parent permission, WITH means with parent permission. Students were to check all places they drank 1-2x in last 30 days.

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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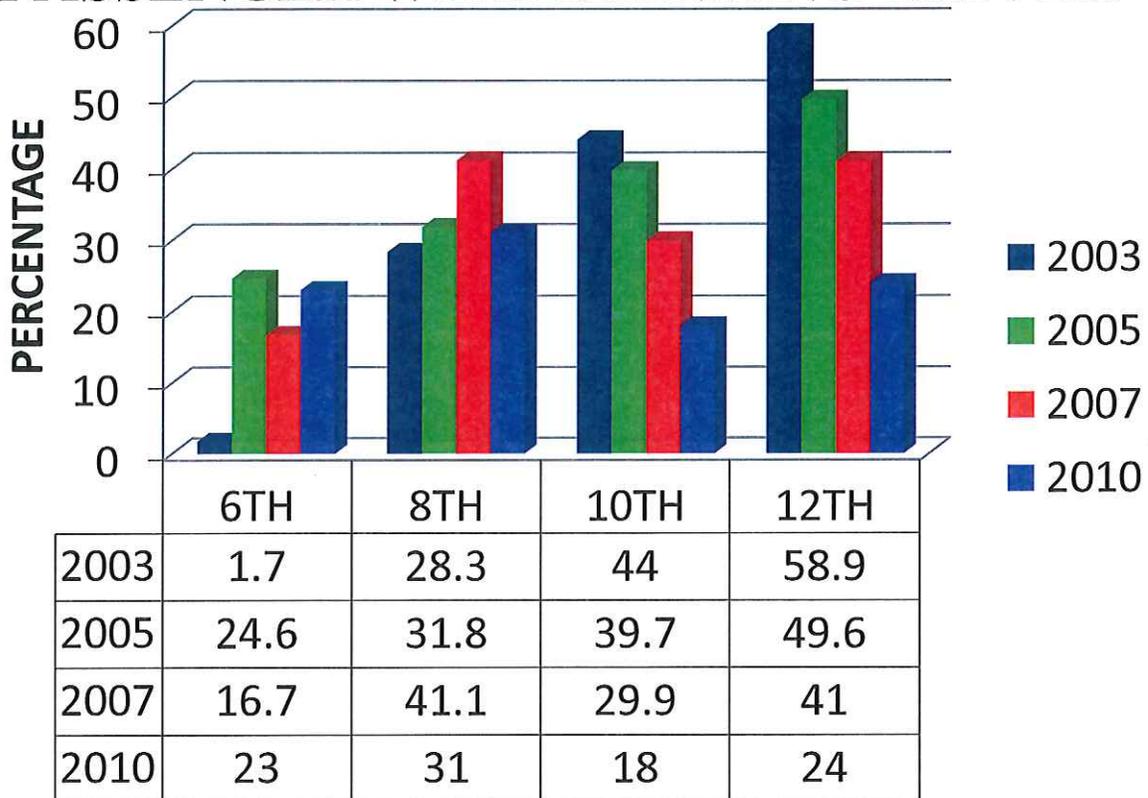
## SOURCES OF ACOHOL - 2010



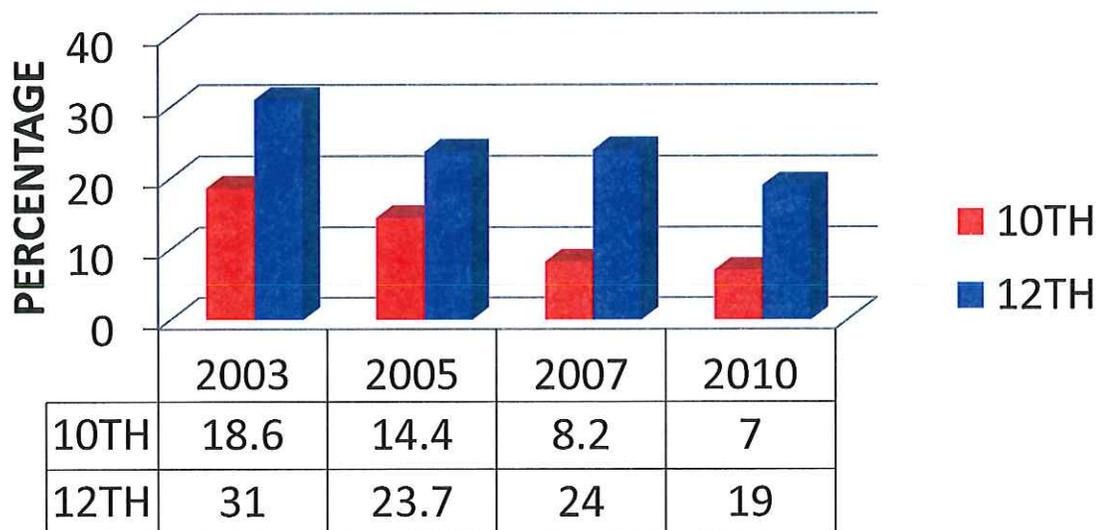
## DRIVEN AFTER DRINKING



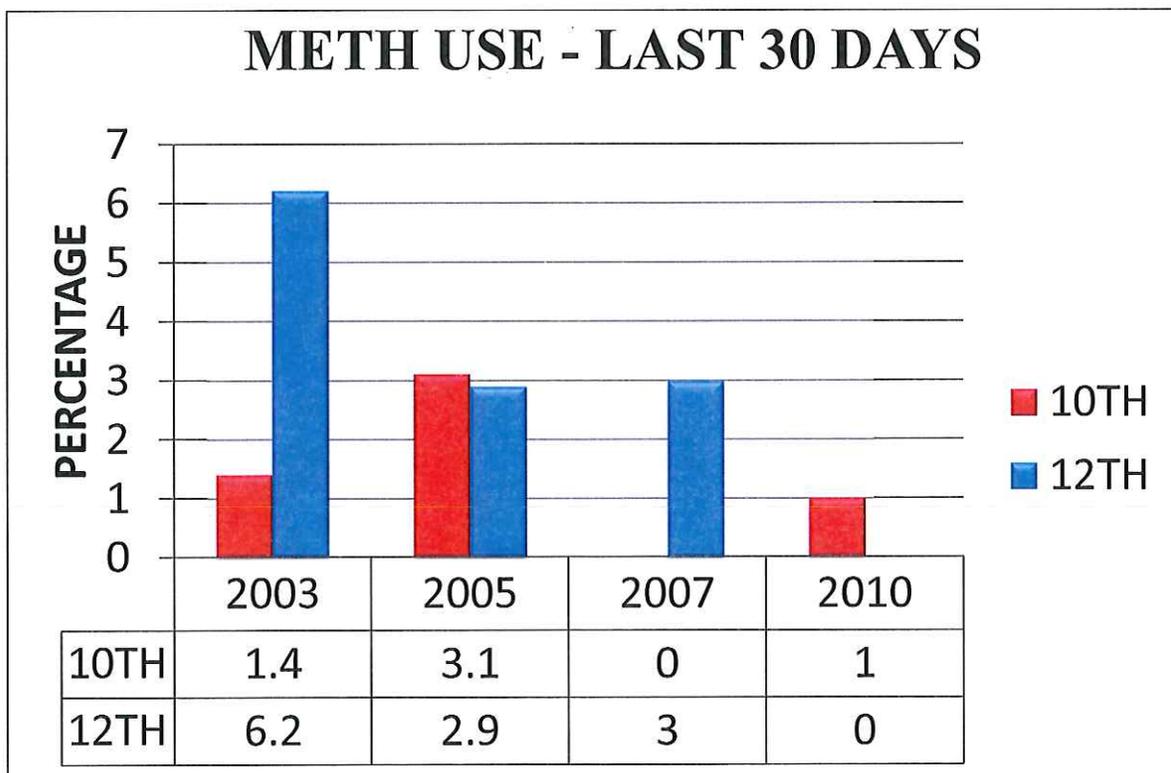
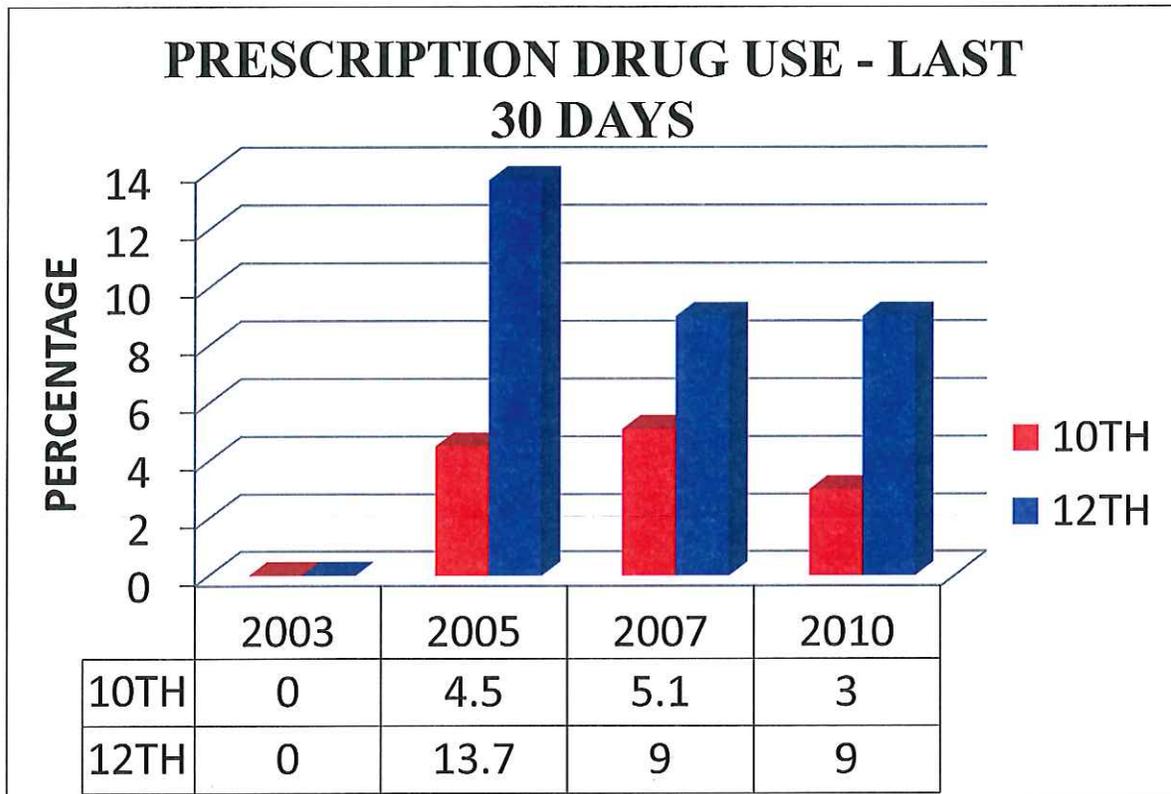
## PASSENGER WITH DRINKING DRIVER



## MARIJUANA - LAST 30 DAYS

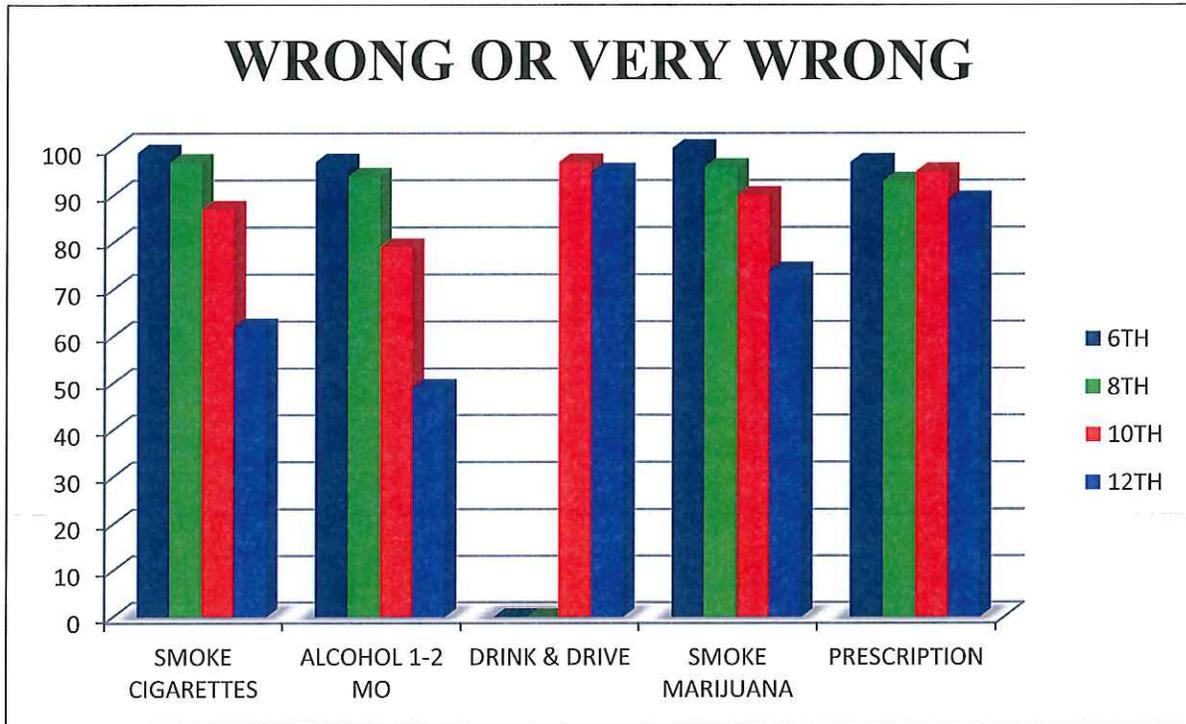


6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were less than 1%

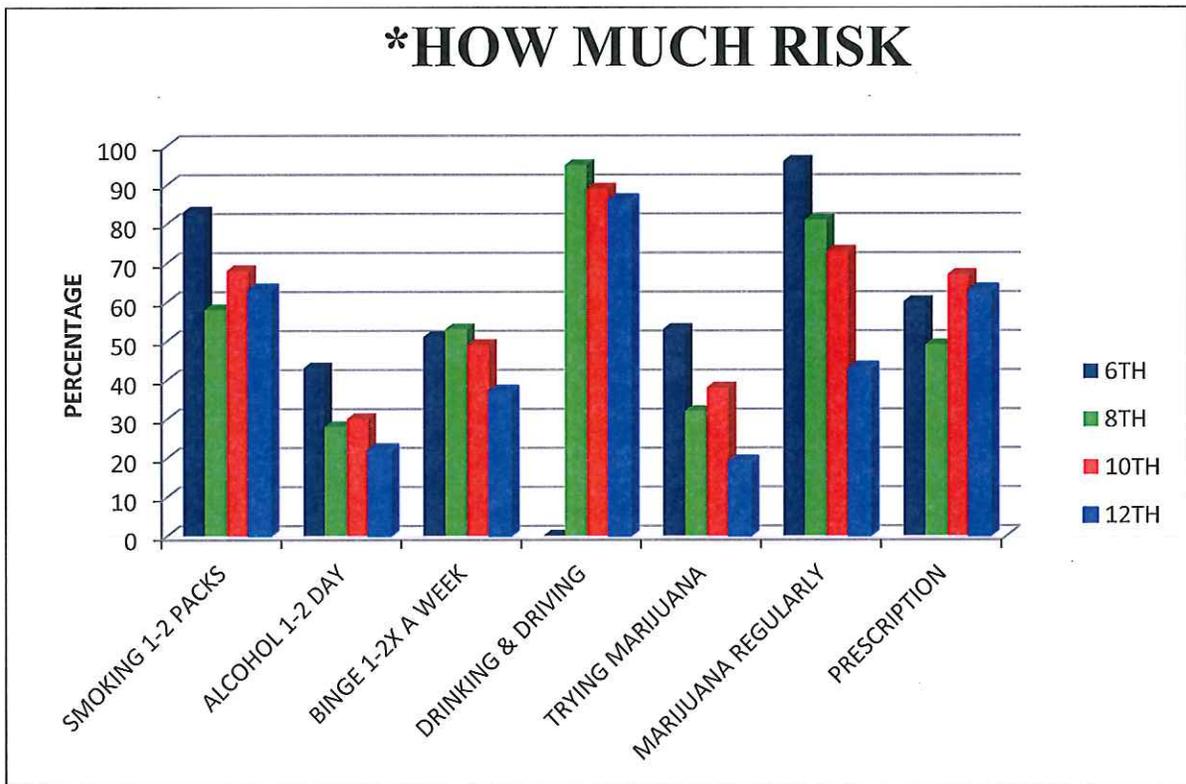


6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were both 0%.

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**



\*Students were to report how wrong they thought each substance was to use. 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were not asked about “Drinking and Driving”.



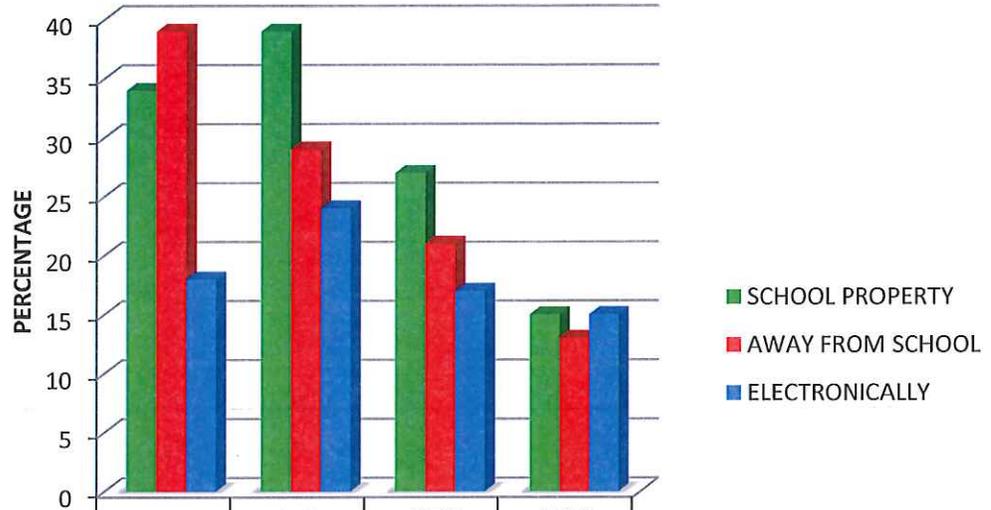
How much do you think people risk harming themselves, if they.....

## Perceived and Actual Substance Use – Last 30 Days

		10 <sup>TH</sup> Grade	12 <sup>TH</sup> Grade
Smoked Cigarettes	Perceived	27%	44%
	Actual	10%	28%
Drank Alcohol	Perceived	37%	56%
	Actual	15%	49%
Smoked Marijuana	Perceived	17%	32%
	Actual	7%	19%
Other Illegal Drugs	Perceived	10%	14%
	Actual	2%	2%

*Note. \*Perception based on following question: “Now thinking about all the students in your grade at your school. How many of them do you think: <insert substance use behavior> during the past 30 days?”*

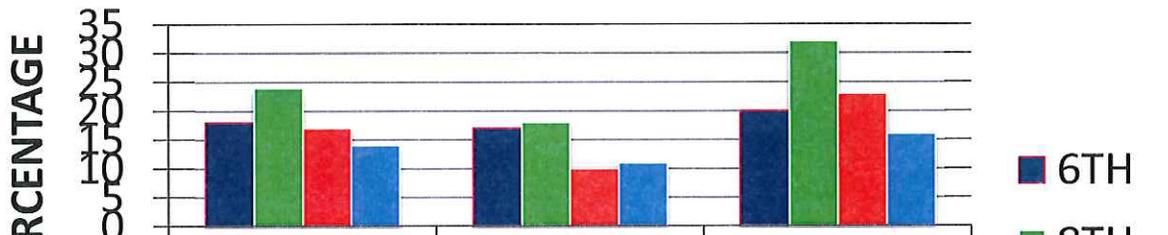
## BULLYING BEHAVIOR



	6TH	8TH	10TH	12TH
SCHOOL PROPERTY	34	39	27	15
AWAY FROM SCHOOL	39	29	21	13
ELECTRONICALLY	18	24	17	15

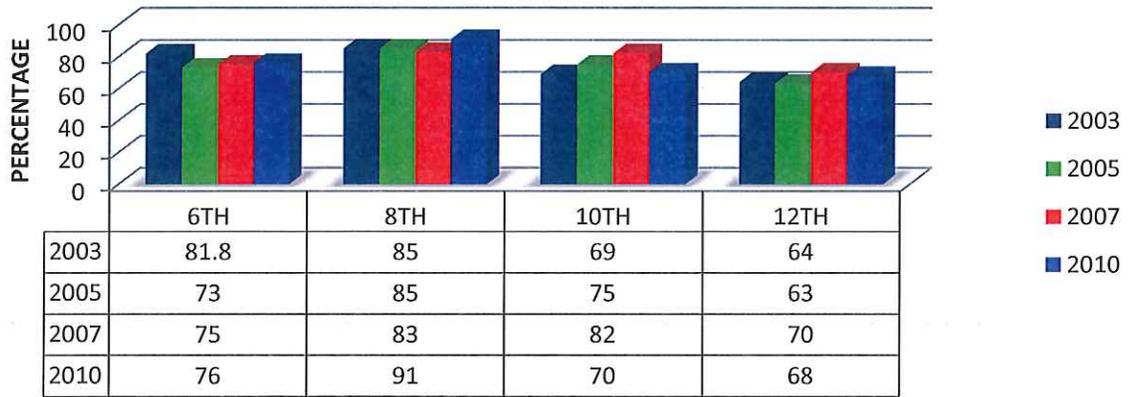
Percentage based on who reported being bullied in each location. Bullying Definition: A series of repeated, intentionally hurtful incidents with the purpose of putting someone down and be in control.

## BEEN BULLIED ELECTRONICALLY



	ALL	MALE	FEMALE
6TH	18	17	20
8TH	24	18	32
10TH	17	10	23
12TH	14	11	16

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROSOCIAL INVOLVEMENT AT SCHOOL



### *Summary: Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey*

- Alcohol and Marijuana remain the drugs of choice.
- Youth obtain alcohol mostly from someone they know, and a significant number of youth get it from home.
- Youth are using in homes – their own and someone else’s.
- Local youth believe alcohol is the easiest substance to obtain.
- Bullying occurs most often in the middle school.
- Social media has increased the number of bullying incidents
- Meth use is down and prescription use is up.
- Driving after drinking has decreased significantly.

## **Section V**

### **Identified Priority Areas & Corresponding Strategies**

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**Priority 1.**

Reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

**General Description**

Although youth crime is on the decline in Washington County, youth continue to exhibit criminal and delinquent behavior. Problem behaviors consist of drug and alcohol offenses, property crimes, delinquency, and related high-risk behaviors. Research strongly indicates that keeping youth out of the juvenile justice system has numerous benefits to the youth and the community. Diversion is effective at holding youth accountable for first time offenses without the expense of entering the court system. Diversion programs can assist in decreasing the recidivism rate, promote prevention strategies for youth, and costs associated with the juvenile justice system.

**Relevant Data**

- The Nebraska Crime Commission’s Database indicates the following rate of offenses in Washington County.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Drug/Alcohol Offenses</b>	63	38	27	41	18	14
<b>Property Crimes</b>	6	31	12	13	10	8
<b>Assaultive Offenses</b>	8	15	20	18	6	10
<b>Total Offenses</b>	77	84	59	72	34	32

- The Nebraska Supreme Court Annual Caseload Report indicates the following rate of juvenile cases adjudicated through the Washington County Juvenile Court.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Washington County Cases</b>	79	121	125	68	41	75

**Contributing Factors**

- Tolerant attitudes toward the use of alcohol and other substances by youth among some segments of the population
- Abdication of parental responsibility in the failure to adequately supervise and monitor the behavior of their children, actually enabling behavior in some cases
- Youth disregard for the law, authority, and community standards

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

<p><b>Strategy 1</b> Develop the Washington County Juvenile Diversion program.</p> <p>*Washington County has never had a formal diversion program. The Washington County Attorney and the local probation office have collaborated in submitting a County Aid Grant Request for FY 2015-2016 for the position of a full-time Diversion Coordinator. If approved, the Diversion Coordinator will be responsible for developing a best practices formal diversion program. The Washington County Attorney will be the housing agency and will be responsible for the management of the Washington County Diversion Program.</p>	<p><b>Parties involved</b> Washington County, Washington County Attorney, Washington County Diversion Services, and Probation</p>
	<p><b>Timeline</b> <u>Years 1 &amp; 2</u> - Continue providing services to preadjudicated youth; monitor</p> <p><u>Year 3</u> - Continue providing services to preadjudicated youth; evaluate effectiveness</p>
	<p><b>Resources Required</b> Funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission County; Washington County Attorney as administrating agency; cooperation of school, law enforcement, probation, and others involved with the program</p>
	<p><b>Expected Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced the number of youth being referred to the Washington County Juvenile Court for possible adjudication.</li> <li>• Hold youth accountable for delinquent behavior</li> <li>• Decrease the recidivism rate and promote prevention strategies for youth</li> <li>• Other Adult Relationships – Youth receive support from nonparent adults</li> <li>• Adult Role Models – Adults model positive, responsible behavior</li> <li>• High Expectations – Parents and adults encourage youth to do well</li> </ul>

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**Priority 2.**

Promote positive youth development by increasing prevention and education services to youth and parents.

**General Description**

Problem behaviors include ineffective parenting, inadequate supervision of youth, difficulty controlling youth behaviors, teen dating violence, and bullying. Parents and youth lack the community resources needed to support them through difficult crisis situations. The community currently has prevention services for youth targeting these problems, but lacks in any resources for parents. By increasing the resources for youth and parents, youth development will improve as will family support, positive family communication, and family boundaries.

**Relevant Data**

**CY 2012: Child Welfare Indicators (Ages 0-17) in W County**

<b>Child Welfare Indicators</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Percent of Children in Poverty (Source: US Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Averages Table B01001)	353	7.1%
Number of Children experienced Substantiated Maltreatment (Source: Nebraska Department of Health and human Services CY 2012)	24	0.48%
Number of Children in out of home care (Source: Nebraska Department of Health and human Services CY 2012)	40	0.8%

**Contributing Factors**

- Children of single parent families and families where both parents work are often left unsupervised after school and during the evenings. Children of parents working evening and nights shifts are particularly at-risk.
- Economic deprivation affects the ability to afford adequate child care and meet other basic family needs.
- Family conflict (Child Abuse/Neglect; Domestic Violence; Family member substance abuse/criminal behavior)
- Language/cultural barrier – Parents of many youth of diverse backgrounds do not speak English well nor do they understand community standards and norms. Their children are integrating with the community much more quickly but are being influence negatively by others involved in the delinquent culture.

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

<p><b>Strategy 2</b> Provide prevention and educational services for Washington County youth.</p> <p>The Washington County Juvenile Services Team has identified a desire to help develop and improve several strategies to help prevent youth from experiencing conflict at school and at home. The Team would like to help improve existing programs such as local mentoring programs.</p>	<p><b>Parties Involved</b> Washington County, Washington County Attorney, NDHHS, The Bridge (Crisis Center), Schools</p>
	<p><b>Timeline</b> <u>Years 1 &amp; 2</u> – Develop and improves services to at-risk youth; monitor</p> <p><u>Year 3</u> - Continue providing services to at-risk youth; evaluate effectiveness</p>
	<p><b>Resources Required</b> Facilities, staffing, training, operational funding</p>
	<p><b>Expected Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased use of more appropriate means to resolve conflict among youth</li> <li>• Improved decision-making skills</li> <li>• Reduced recidivism</li> <li>• Increase social resistance skills of youth</li> <li>• Safety – Youth feels safe at home, school, and neighborhood.</li> </ul>

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**Priority 3.**

Reduce truancy through prevention and community collaborative efforts.

**General Description**

Truancy is a major problem that negatively influences the future of our youth. Truancy may be the beginning of a lifetime of problems for students who are habitually truant from school. Because these students fall behind in their school work, many become frustrated and drop out of school. Youth often view dropping out as an easier resolution than trying to catch up on their school work. Truancy is often a precursor to delinquent and criminal activity. Truant students are at higher risk of becoming involved with drugs, alcohol, or violence.

**Relevant Data**

- The Nebraska Crime Commission’s Database indicates the following rate of delinquent and criminal behavior in Washington County.

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Total Juvenile Criminal Arrests</b>	93	97	68	80	34	35

- The Nebraska Crime Commission’s Database indicates the following rate of drug and alcohol offenses and assaultive offenses in Washington County.

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Juvenile Drug/Alcohol Offenses</b>	63	38	27	41	18	14
<b>Juvenile Assaultive Offenses</b>	8	15	20	18	6	10

**Contributing Factors**

- Youth who are socially isolated, have poor inter-personal skills, and lack positive peer relationships at school
- Parents who lack an appreciation for education and are ineffective in their parenting and/or lack parental control and supervision
- Family instability such as single parent households, parental discord and poor parent-child relationships
- Lack of community support or collaborative efforts from the community

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

<p><b>Strategy 3</b> Develop and expand the Washington County Juvenile Diversion program.</p> <p>*Washington County has never had a formal diversion program. The Washington County Attorney and the local probation office have collaborated in submitting a County Aid Grant Request for FY 2015-2016 for the position of a full-time Diversion Coordinator. If approved, the Diversion Coordinator will be responsible for developing a best practices formal diversion program. The Washington County Attorney will be the housing agency and will be responsible for the management of the Washington County Diversion Program.</p>	<p><b>Parties involved</b> Washington County, Washington County Attorney, Washington County Diversion Services, and Probation</p>
	<p><b>Timeline</b> <u>Year 1</u> - Expand services to preadjudicated habitually truant youth; monitor  <u>Years 2 &amp; 3</u> - Continue providing services to preadjudicated habitually youth; evaluate effectiveness</p>
	<p><b>Resources Required</b> Funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission County; Washington County Attorney as administrating agency; cooperation of school, law enforcement, probation, and others involved with the program</p>
	<p><b>Expected Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of youth being referred to the Washington County Juvenile Court for possible adjudication.</li> <li>• Help youth attend and be successful in school</li> <li>• Decrease the truancy rate and promote prevention strategies for youth</li> <li>• Other Adult Relationships – Youth receive support from nonparent adults</li> <li>• Adult Role Models – Adults model positive, responsible behavior</li> <li>• High Expectations – Parents and adults encourage youth to do well</li> </ul>

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**Priority 4.**

Reduce the detention of juveniles within Washington County and explore other possible detention alternatives.

**General Description**

Research strongly suggests that detention of youth has a profoundly negative impact on their mental and physical well-being, their education, and their employment. Other studies from around the country show that incarcerated youth have higher recidivism rates than youth supervised in other kinds of settings. The community believes the costs associated with detention could be better spent to help youth be more successful within the community.

**Relevant Data**

- The Nebraska Probation database indicates the following rate of juvenile detentions within Washington County.

Washington County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Juvenile Detentions	11	8	3	6	4

- The Washington County Clerk database indicates the following rate of costs for the detention of Washington County juveniles.

<b>Washington County Juvenile Detention Costs</b>	
Year	Amount
FY 2009	\$11,757.50
FY 2010	\$8,713.75
FY 2011	\$46,548.75
FY 2012	\$18,471.25
FY 2013	\$5,122.50
FY 2014	\$17,138.75

**Contributing Factors**

- Abdication of parental responsibility in the failure to adequately supervise and monitor the behavior of their children appropriately and effectively.
- Youth disregard for the law, authority, and community standards.
- Negative peer interactions and delinquent friends and acquaintances.

**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

<p><b>Strategy 4</b> Explore and develop new or enhanced non-secure alternatives to detention in order to increase options available for arrested youth. These programs will only target youth who would otherwise be locked up.</p>	<p><b>Parties Involved</b> Law Enforcement, Probation, Courts, Washington County</p>
	<p><b>Timeline</b> <u>Year 1 &amp; 2</u> - Continue functional programs; develop cooperative agreements among participating agencies; develop program policies and procedures; secure staffing; train  <u>Year 3</u> - Develop protocol and proceed with implementation; monitor results; conduct interim evaluation</p>
	<p><b>Resources Required</b> Collaboration with community agencies; cooperative agreements among participating agencies</p>
	<p><b>Expected Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce detention of youth and avoid harmful consequences</li> <li>• Reduce the costs of detention within the County</li> <li>• Reduced downtime by law enforcement</li> <li>• Fewer out-of-county transports to detention</li> <li>• Reduction in the use of pre-adjudication detention</li> <li>• Enhanced delivery of community services</li> </ul>

## **Appendix**

- A. Juvenile Systems Analysis Tool
- B. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board
- C. Other Appendix as identified by the community team

## Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

Data Points	Total Population (*2010)	Juvenile Population (**2013)
Total Population	20,234	2,406
White	19,708	2,263
Black/African American	162	37
Asian	60	14
American Indian	58	3
Hispanic	506	89
Juveniles Arrested		35
Juveniles Detained		6
Juveniles Prosecuted		0
Juveniles Placed in Diversion		0
Number of Juveniles Adjudicated		41
Number of Juveniles placed on Probation		5
YRTC-Kearney commitments		1
YRTC-Geneva commitments		0

**Sources:**

\*2010 U.S. Census Data

\*\*OJJDP website 2013 state reports (Ages 10-17)

**System Decision Point: Arrest/Citation: Police/Law Enforcement**

**Decision:** *Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested*

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Sufficient factual basis to believe offense committed
- Underlying support for a particular offense

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Degree to which a parent may push the issue

**Decision:** *Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense*

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Seriousness of offense
- Age

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Victim's desire-most victims don't want a juvenile cited just to know that what they did was wrong
- If the case is a probation case, law enforcement has a list of active probation cases

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**Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018**

**Decision:** *Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release*  
(NRS § 43-248(1), (2); § 43-250(1), (2), (3))

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As stated in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Immediate risk to juvenile
- Immediate/short term risk to public
- Seriousness of perceived offense
- Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile
- Will release juvenile to responsible parent/family member

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**System Decision Point: Initial Detention: State of Nebraska Probation**

**Decision:** *Whether juvenile should be detained or released*

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Risk assessment outcome completed by probation
- Accessibility of placement options: parent's/guardians, detention alternatives, shelter, staff secure facility, secure detention facility

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Has formal contract with Madison Detention Center for placement
- Detention Screening instrument requires approval for override by supervisor

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**System Decision Point: Charge Juvenile: County Attorney**

**Decision:** *Whether to prosecute juvenile*

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Likelihood of successful prosecution

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Washington County is planning to develop a formal curriculum-based diversion program that will be supervised by the Washington County Attorney
- Diversion will be used for first time Law violators and truancy youth
- Diversion programming will be facilitated by a Diversion Coordinator under the supervision of the Washington County Attorney

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Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018

**Decision: *Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute
- Seriousness of offense

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Case by case basis, including the history of the juvenile's prior criminal record

**Decision: *Offense for which juvenile should be charged***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Determined by police reports

**System Decision Point: Pre-adjudication detention: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision: *Whether juvenile is detained at the time of citation/arrest or should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile"
- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the person or property of another"
- Whether the juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court

**Informal Determining Factors**

- No pre-adjudication options except to remain in detention

**System Decision Point: Probable Cause Hearing: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision: *Whether State can show that probable cause exists and juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As stated in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- No factors reported

**System Decision Point: Competency Evaluation: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision: *Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Requests are not made for competency evaluations

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Washington County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
2015 – 2018

**Decision: *Whether juvenile is "responsible" for his/her acts***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- "Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by the court."
- Opinion of physician, psychiatrist, community mental health program, psychologist

**Informal Determining Factors**

- No factors reported

**System Decision Point: Adjudication: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision: *Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, "a person described by § 43-247"***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing
- Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, "pleads to the charges")
- Residency
- Age

**Informal Determining Factors**

- No factors reported

**Decision: *Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Judge will order on most cases

**Decision: *Whether to order single focus evaluation***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Will order a PDI and evaluation for components provided by each assessment
- Probation will recommend an evaluation in their respective reports

**Decision: *Whether to order a PDI and a single focus Evaluation***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Will usually order a PDI first with a subsequent evaluation as needed

**System Decision Point: Disposition: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision: *Whether to place juvenile on probation***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Most cases will be disposed of to probation

**Decision: *Whether to commit juvenile to a YRTC***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Whether juvenile is at least twelve years of age

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Judge will use if all other interventions have not been effective

**System Decision Point: Administrative Sanctions: Probation**

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

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Probation officer has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed a technical violation
- Examples of technical violations are positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment, failure to attend school, etc.

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Probation is using for juvenile cases as outlined by statute

**System Decision Point: Motion To Revoke Probation: County Attorney**

**Decision: *Whether to file a motion to revoke probation***

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- If a motion is requested by probation a new court filing will be completed for a new case, which invokes the revocation request

**System Decision Point: Modification/Revocation of Probation:**  
**Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision:** *Whether to modify or revoke probation*

**Formal Determining Factors**

- As outlined in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Judge will use a continuum of care approach as a result of a revocation

**System Decision Point:**  
**Terminating Adjudication: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision:** *Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed their probation conditions or the treatment program of their out of home placement*

**Formal Determining Factors**

- Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and interventions

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Judge sets a determinate set of time for probation cases