

# Juvenile Court System Services – Highlights

Spokane County, Washington



SPOKANE COUNTY

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## County Demographics

- 4th most populous county in Washington (**2004 population estimates**) with a population approaching 436,000. The population has increased by approximately 20% since 1990.
- Almost 50,000 youth (ages 10–17) resided in the county in **2004** – an increase of approximately 18% since 1990.
  - The minority youth population has increased from 9% of the overall youth population in 1990 to 11% in 2004, with the largest increases occurring within the African American and Hispanic populations.
  - 4% of minority youth are of Hispanic/Latino descent, 3% are African-American, with Asian and Native American youth comprising approximately 2% of the overall youth population.
  - Estimates of persons living in poverty in Spokane County are somewhat higher than for Washington State as a whole and comparable to national estimates. The median household income for Spokane County residents is considerably lower than the statewide median—by approximately 18%.

2003 Estimates	Spokane County	Washington	United States
All ages living in poverty	12.8%	11.0%	12.5%
Children (0-17) living in poverty	17.9%	15.3%	17.6%
Median household income	\$39,380	\$48,185	\$43,318

## Juvenile Arrest Rates

Arrest rate data provided by the Spokane County Juvenile Court from local sources. Arrest data provided by the Washington Uniform Crime Reporting (WUCR) program of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs indicates significant underreporting in Spokane County. (Please, see 2005 GJJAC Annual Report.)

Juvenile arrest rates (per 100,000 youth ages 10-17) decreased by 28% in Spokane County over the 10-year period (**1995-2004**). Juvenile arrests for violent crimes decreased by 28% and arrests for property crimes decreased by 44%.

Juvenile Arrest Rates (per 1,000 youth ages 10-17) For:	1995	2004	Percent Change 1995-2004
All Offenses	65.3	47.2	-28%
Violent Crime Index Offenses	2.9	2.1	-28%
Property Crime Index Offenses	34.3	19.3	-44%
Drug Violations	8.4	9.8	<b>17%</b>

## **Spokane County Juvenile Court Services**

- The Juvenile Court is a division of the Spokane County Superior Court. 13 judges are assigned and one judge serves a two-year rotation assignment as Juvenile Court Judge.
- Six court commissioners handle the bulk of juvenile proceedings and trials. This includes Dependency, BECCA, and offender cases.
- The Juvenile Court's 2006 COUNTY budget is \$5,959,422. The 2005-2007 STATE biennial budget is \$3,911,880 and the 2006 FEDERAL fiscal budget is \$524,839.
- 4,297 referrals were referred for prosecution in 2004. 42% (1830) of referrals where action was taken were referred for Diversion in lieu of formal court process.
- Spokane County Juvenile Court is a JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) site. Through implementation of JDAI strategies the secure detention population has been safely reduced without an increase in re-arrest or failure to appear for court rates.
- Spokane County Juvenile Court Evidence Based Programs (EBPs) include Anger Replacement Training and Functional Family Therapy for probation youth. Most recently, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy concepts have been introduced in Detention.

### **Juvenile Offender Cases – Court Filings**

- Offender filings—while decreasing by 10% since 1998—**have essentially remained steady since 2001**. In CY2005, 1,481 juvenile offender cases were filed with the Juvenile Court compared to 1,649 in CY1998.
- Felony filings have decreased by approximately 20% since 1998 but have also fluctuated little since 2001.

### **ARY / CHINS / TRUANCY – Court Filings and Dispositions**

- There were 1,753 Truancy cases filed in **2005**. Truancy case **filings have increased substantially since 1998** (by almost 70%) and have more than doubled since 2000.
- There were also a combined total of 222 ARY/CHINS petitions filed in **2005** (159 ARY and 63 CHINS filings). **ARY/CHINS filings have increased by 28%** since 1998 but annual filings have remained fairly stable since 2001.
- In **2003** and **2004**, the Spokane County Juvenile Court averaged 459 contempt orders annually on Truancy/ARY/CHINS matters. This is mid-ranged compared to other counties of similar size (e.g., Clark, King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties) which averaged between 10 and 1,627 contempt orders annually during these years.

## Intake (Court Investigation Unit-CIU)

- CIU Probation Officers conduct social investigations, complete a statewide standardized pre-screen risk assessment on all youth going through court to determine: risk to re-offend, risk to the community, level of supervision and specific rehabilitative services.
- **At any point in time, approximately 500 offenders are on pre-trial release** pending court process and monitored by CIU staff. Additionally, CIU provides Pre-Sentence, Diagnostic, and Decline of Jurisdiction reports to the court.

## Diversion

- 1,686 youth were diverted during 2005. Diversion options include community service, counseling, educational/informational sessions, chemical dependency/mental health assessments, restitution, fines, curfews, geographical restrictions, and school attendance.
- Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) meetings occur twice weekly. Educational classes offered by Diversion staff are also held twice weekly. Parent support and youth support groups are offered weekly on CAB nights.

## Juvenile Detention Center

- The Detention Center is operated by the Juvenile Court and funded by the County. **The Center's capacity was recently reduced from 73 beds to 39 (predominately) single bunked cells.** Spokane County is a JDAI site. The Court uses a standardized Detention Risk Assessment Instrument.
- In **2005**, the average length of stay was 7.0 days and the average daily population was 51.  
In **2006**, to date, the average length of stay of 5.1 days with a daily population of 43.
- Detention programs include: school, drug/alcohol educational services, family programming, religious studies, conflict resolution, cultural diversity, and fitness programs, Teen Aid, tobacco prevention, food handlers (with certification cards), victim impact/awareness, job skills, and a variety of guest speakers.
- Juveniles are appointed counsel through Spokane County's Public Defender's office unless they retain a private attorney.

## Community Supervision/Juvenile Probation/Disposition Alternatives

- As of 9/30/**2006**, 392 juvenile offenders were on probation/community supervision. Spokane County's community supervision probation programs are targeted toward moderate and high risk offenders.

### **Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA)**

- All SSODA eligible youth receive an evaluation by a certified sex offender therapist. Youth placed on SSODA receive two years of probation with weekly sex offender specific treatment/counseling, and polygraphs. Cases are staffed on a bi-monthly basis with the PO, polygraphist and the therapist.
- The average SSODA caseload in **2005** was 25.

### **Chemical Dependency Disposition Alternative (CDDA)**

- The CDDA alternative is for youth who exhibit chemical dependency problems. Any party may request a drug/alcohol evaluation for the program. Cases are staffed by the probation department. Youth entering the program are prioritized for treatment at the level recommended in the evaluation. All cases receive judicial review once a month, increased UA monitoring and bi-monthly PO/therapist staffings.
- As of 9/30/**2006**, there were 34 youth being served in the CDDA Program.

### **Deferred Disposition**

- Youth are eligible based on [RCW 13.40.127](#). Any party may make the recommendation. Probation recommends youth who are less likely to re-offend. However, in Spokane, even high-risk may be eligible. Once a deferred disposition is ordered, youth receive the same services as “regular” probation youth, based on the State Risk Assessment.
- On 10/24/**2006**, there were 53 youth on deferred disposition.

### **At-Risk Youth (ARY) Program**

- This program targets youth who do not fall within other probation program areas and who are moderate and high risk, as determined by the State Risk Assessment.
- On 9/30/**2006**, there were 269 youth receiving services in this program.

### **Low-Risk Offender**

- Youth assessed as low-risk are supervised with a minimal amount of services by the probation department. On 9/30/06, 60 youth were on this caseload.

## Mental Health System

- The Spokane County RSN plans and coordinates publicly funded mental health services through a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan. Youth in the Juvenile Justice system are able to access services from mental health agencies if they meet the qualification of being Medicaid eligible and Access to Care Standards.
- The Court reports a positive relationship with the local RSN. For the past 3 years, the Detention Center has had a contract that provides 4 hours a week of psychiatric services to youth in Detention. The Psychiatrist saw 130 youth in **2005**. The Center also has a full-time Child Mental Health Specialist. This person works with youth in Detention and provides educational consultation and support. The Child Mental Health Specialist saw 320 youth in **2005**.

## Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) Commitments

- From 2000- **2005** Spokane County has remained consistent with the numbers of youth committed to JRA. Re-commitments varied slightly year to year.
- JRA parolees may attend the Court's Day Reporting Transitional School program where teachers link paroled youth back to their community school. The court allows parole referrals to its Girls Groups, Community Service, and Anger Replacement Training. JRA participates in the Court's Community Racial Disproportionality Committee.

## Automatic Declines and "Reverse Remand"

- Sixteen and seventeen year old juveniles arrested on alleged offenses that statutorily require consideration of automatic declination are initially detained in Juvenile Detention. Within 24 hours of arrest, excluding weekends, Juvenile and Adult Prosecutors collaborate to review the allegations and Probable Cause statements submitted by Law Enforcement.
- If the offense is appropriate and Probable Cause exists for Automatic Declination, the youth is transferred by court order to the adult jail. Adult Prosecutors then assume jurisdiction of the case.
- Following Automatic Declination, Adult Prosecutors may determine that a reduction in the charges is appropriate. If the reduced offense falls within Juvenile Court jurisdiction, the juvenile is returned to Juvenile Detention for confinement and further legal action.

## Selected Detention Alternatives Programs Available

The following programs are available in Spokane County:

Program	Target Population	Youth Served	Funding Source	Comments
<b>Drug Court</b>	Chemically dependent or a history of abusing and moderate or high risk youth	66 youth between 7/1/2005 and 6/31/2006	State	Began in 2000 as part of the CDDA sentencing alternative. This program involves a team approach including the Judge, PO, Prosecutor, PD, Treatment Providers and family members.
<b>Evening Reporting Program</b>	Youth found in violation of court ordered probation conditions	190 youth between 10/2005-9/2006	County and State Grant	Began 10/2005 as alternative to detention, steadily increasing referrals, collaborative effort with community agencies, program is located at downtown YMCA.
<b>Weekend Truancy Program</b>	Truancy contempt, At-risk, CHINS youth	98 served in 2005	County and State Grant	Began in 2005 as alternative to detention, Saturday morning program (evidence based), Community service in the afternoon.
<b>Community Service</b>	Court ordered and diversion youth	2,007 served in 2005	County	Court ordered supervised youth work for local charitable and non-profit agencies learning job skills and restorative awareness.
<b>Structured Alternative Confinement</b>	Youth not-eligible/not-attending school, ordered to on-site day school	228 served in 2005	County, State (Educational Service District #101)	Court ordered pre- and post adjudicated youth attend on-site accredited day school. Primary goal is to reconnect youth with a community school. Also provides G.E.D. preparation.
<b>Electronic Monitoring</b>	Pre- and post-adjudicated youth deemed eligible by the court	919 served in 2005	County	Youth are closely monitored using active (GPS) and passive (radio frequency) tracking equipment, and frequent contact by EM staff, ensuring court ordered conditions are followed.
<b>Gender Specific Program</b>	Adolescent females referred by Probation staff	31 served from 10/2005- 9/2006	County	Girls Group was developed in collaboration with Girl Scouts of America. It is an evening program for young women on probation, using evidence-based strategies.
<b>Anger Replacement Training</b>	Moderate and High risk youth on probation.	179 served between 7/1/2005 & 6/31/2006	State	Youth served by certified ART and FFT personnel are determined eligible by the Washington State Risk Assessment.
<b>Functional Family Therapy</b>	Moderate and High risk youth on probation.	65 served between 7/1/2005 & 6/31/2006	State	Youth served by certified ART and FFT personnel are determined eligible by the Washington State Risk Assessment.