

**Santa Cruz County Probation Department**

Juvenile  
Hall  
Annual  
Report

2016

Juvenile Hall was established pursuant to Article 14, Section 850 of the State Welfare and Institutions Code, which requires the Board of Supervisors to provide and maintain a suitable place for the detention of juvenile delinquents. The Juvenile Hall provides safe and secure detention of youth between the ages of 12 and 18 who are referred by law enforcement agencies, the Probation Department, and Juvenile Court. The facility maintains excellent conditions of confinement and utilizes research based best practices resulting in recidivism reduction to improve public safety, reduce victimization, and improve competency building and successful reentry.

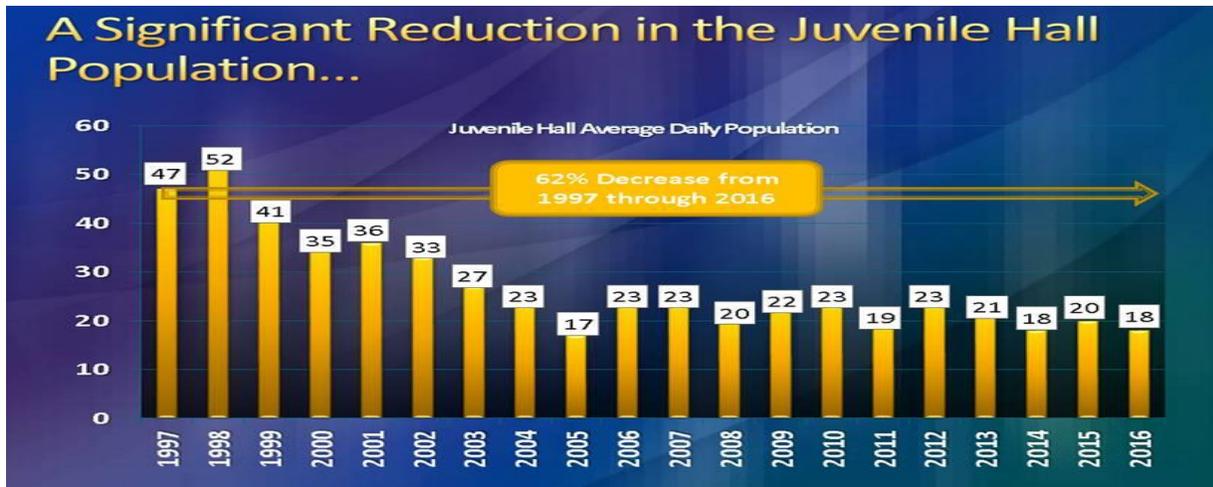
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**Detention Utilization**

All cases brought to the detention facility are evaluated with a detention risk assessment tool to determine whether youth can safely be released or must be detained pending adjudication. The capacity of the Juvenile Hall is 42. The average population for 2016 was 18 residents, a decrease from the average population by 20% since 2012. This decrease in the average daily population is a reflection of the local dropping juvenile arrest rates and Juvenile Hall bookings. These decreases are consistent with state-wide trends. The department’s goal is to detain only juveniles pending court who pose a public safety or flight risk. All other minors, based on the risk assessment instrument, may be released to a parent or guardian with appropriate supervision. The Probation Department has developed a continuum of alternatives to detention designed to maintain the population of the Juvenile Hall below the rated capacity, without impacting public safety. The chart below shows the monthly population of the Juvenile Hall since January 1997.



During 2016 the number of admissions and the number of days the juveniles spent in Juvenile Hall (child care days) have decreased. Child care days are the total number of days that the youth was in Juvenile Hall during the reporting period. The following table provides information on average daily population, annual child care days, and admissions. Since 2012 admissions to juvenile hall have dropped by 20%. The average daily population has decreased 11% and child care days has decreased 11%. The decrease in daily attendance and child care days results in a cost savings. On average, it costs \$583 a day per bed day for a youth in juvenile hall, \$94 a day per youth at the Evening Center, and \$33 per day for a youth at the evening center.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Average Daily Population	22.5	20.6	18.4	20.1	17.9
Annual Child Care Days	8,814	7,982	7,134	7,802	6,932
Admissions	562	456	410	463	371

Average daily population and child care days have not decreased at the same rate of admissions. Youth are being detained for longer periods of time due to an increase in the use of transfer hearings (formerly direct files) and detention reforms which have reduced the use of unnecessary detention for youth who do not pose public safety threat, resulting in only the most serious felony offending youth being detained.

### **Conditions of Confinement**

The Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall adheres to detention facility standards developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation which are the most comprehensive and demanding set of publicly available standards for juvenile detention facilities. These standards ensure all aspects of facility policies, practice and programs result in all youth being housed in safe and humane conditions. In Santa Cruz we have created a climate where supportive and humane attitudes drive our work with youth. This has been accomplished through strong leadership, ongoing staff training and rigorous hiring practices.

Excellent conditions of confinement are set using research and evidence-based programs, which are key to the well-being of a jurisdiction's juvenile system and the safety and security of youth in detention. The Santa Cruz County Probation Department has earned the distinction of being a nationally recognized model site for the Annie E. Casey's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The department continuously utilizes research based approaches to safely reduce unnecessary detention through community-based alternatives and by maintaining, monitoring and improving our conditions of confinement.

The programs in Juvenile Hall support our Department-wide goal of using research based probation practices to ensure public safety. We are committed to research-based probation practices to ensure public safety through a decrease in recidivism, reduction in victimization, and maximizing successful completion of probation terms. We have adopted several key evidence-based supervision strategies to meet our objectives of reducing crime and victimization, and maximizing resources for re-entry. A key strategy is the use of empirical based risk and needs assessments to help staff and our partners focus on criminogenic needs or drivers of criminal behavior. Through the implementation of evidence, staff has increased their ability to motivate youth and teach behavioral modification skills through cognitive behavioral interventions.

### **Staffing, Security and Safety**

Staffing is always a challenging issue for the Juvenile Hall. PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Standard require that by 2017 all juvenile facilities comply with a minimum staffing ratio of 1 staff to 8 youth during waking hours. The County of Santa Cruz is committed to providing and maintaining outstanding conditions of confinement. Accomplishing this requires a staffing level that not only meets the mandated staff/youth ratio for safety and security; but also allows programs and unit duties to be conducted simultaneously.

The staff at Juvenile Hall must maintain a safe, humane and clean facility. The forty-nine year old facility reflects the toll of time and continual use. Staff does their best to maintain the cleaning and cosmetic needs, while General Services attends to the repairs and

improvements. Juvenile Hall staff provides the best care possible within the constraints of an aging building.

There have been some improvements to the facility over the years; however there remains regions in need of upgrades. Through our aggressive ability to secure state grants, areas of concern have now been funded. Thanks to the award of Round One and Two SB81 grant funds from the Board of State and Community corrections (BSCC) significant renovation to the facility and improved programming opportunities for youth in detention, will be possible. The Seed to Table Program will include renovation and expansion of programming space to accommodate a highly structured horticulture and culinary program for youth in detention. Facility renovations will include upgrades to: seismic; fire and life safety; electrical; mechanical; security- cameras, lighting, doors, locks, fencing, the Institutional Supervisor control area, sally port entrance, and addition of a metal detector. The project plan also includes major renovations and upgrades to the outdated kitchen, food storage, and dining areas; along with a new outdoor garden with greenhouse and rainwater capture system needed to implement the new Seed to Table Program.

#### **SB81 Grant Funding for Multipurpose Recreation Facility**

The department is proceeding with the construction of an enclosed multipurpose recreation facility to improve large motor skill physical activity for the juveniles. The project was approved for SB81 grant funding by the State. The department is working with local, state, and federal agencies to address the endangered species impacts (for the Mount Hermon June Beetle) and to meet the State's funding requirements. An architectural and engineering design team has been hired and preliminary plans and specifications have been prepared. Start of construction is expected to begin in 2017.

#### **SB81 Round 2 Grant Funding for Seed to Table Program**

In December 2015, the Department was awarded 9.5 million dollars of SB 81 Round 2 grant funding. This funding will allow for significant renovation to the facility and facilitate improved programming for youth in detention. The most significant program addition will be the creation and support of a garden, horticulture, and culinary vocational programs and rehabilitation support with the Seed to Table program. We have secured an architectural and engineering design team and hope to begin construction in late 2018.

#### **Impacts of New Bills and Propositions**

Proposition 57 passed in November 2016 allows for juvenile court judges to determine if youths accused of committing 707B W&I crimes when they were age 14 or older can be tried in adult court and receive adult sentences. Prop 57 repeals the previous California Proposition 21. Our county has 12 youth (some now adults) who had been direct filed on and not yet sentenced, who are now going through a Transfer Hearing. A Transfer (formerly known as Fitness) Report will address five criteria, for the juvenile court judge to determine if fit for juvenile court. Probation along with court partners successfully implemented Prop 57 as it relates to the training of staff to complete Transfer Reports and safely accommodate youth assessed with higher risk factors in Juvenile Hall. More youth will remain in juvenile court and receive juvenile dispositions. We may see more

recommendations for Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Our decisions will take into consideration public safety, best interest of the youth and family, and our resources and recommendations.

State Bill 1143, by Senator Leno, took effect January 1, 2017 placed strict limitations on the use of room confinement in juvenile justice facilities. Facilities are encouraged to explore more positive and developmentally appropriate methods for working with detained youth. The bill calls for an individualized plan to be created if a youth must remain on room confinement beyond a 4 hour limit. Our facility has traditionally had a low use of room confinement compared to most other counties and revised its' policy to reduce use further and include a 4 hour limit and individualized plan for youth.

Assembly Bill 1322 took effect January 1, 2017 declared that sex trafficked minors will no longer be charged with prostitution. In collaboration with local Law Enforcement and Child Welfare, we updated our Commercially Sexually Exploited Children's (CSEC) Policy which addresses youth arrested for prostitution not to be treated as criminal. In partnership with our community agencies, youth will receive supervision and counseling services.

### **Physical and Mental Health Services**

Medical services are provided to all residents through the Health Services Agency. On-site staffing consists of 54 hours per week of Registered Nursing services and 6 hours per week of Nurse Practitioner services. The Mental Health Division of the Health Services Agency provides 56 hours of mental health counseling services each week and 2.5 hours each week of psychiatric services. Mental Health services include crisis intervention, individual counseling, and assessment services for all residents of Juvenile Hall. During 2016, there was an average of 12 youth each month with an open mental health case and 1.5 youth who were receiving psychotropic medication and being seen by the psychiatrist in Juvenile Hall. Mental Health staff also offer a substance abuse curriculum for youth and provide substance abuse assessments when necessary. The facility partners with Dientes which is often the first time that detained youth are seen by a dentist and given a dental assessment and cleaning. Dientes is a bilingual/bi-cultural community dental group who offers affordable, high-quality dental care to those who have limited access to dental care.

### **School Program**

The school program at Juvenile Hall is operated by the County Office of Education and provides one full time lead teacher (who is also a special education teacher), one instructional aide, and one guidance technician. Hartman School follows the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's school calendar and the instructors adhere to a standards-based curriculum. Last year six detained youth graduated high school and one youth enrolled in an on-line college course. A majority of our youth are significantly behind educationally. The staff and youth are to be commended for their academic accomplishments.

### **Special Programs, Community Partners and Volunteers**

Evidence Based Programs, such as Aggression Replacement Training, which is taught by trained group supervisors and mental health staff, are incorporated in the Juvenile Hall programming. Many of the programs offered in the facility use cognitive restructuring curriculum. Evidence Based Programs use current, objective, balanced, and responsible research, and best available data to guide policy and practice decisions to achieve improved outcomes.

Detention reforms and alternatives have resulted in only the most serious felony offending and high needs youth being detained. It is imperative that all youth receive the same high standard of programming, as well as individual programming, due to their length of stay and specific needs.

Juvenile Hall has two units which run independently. Upon admission, staff make housing, programming, education and work assignments in accordance with written classification policies. Youth are classified and housed by their age, size, sophistication, intensity of their crime, and other factors. Staff provide youth with heightened supervision until they have collected the information necessary to fully engage youth.

Thanks to strong partnerships and community involvement, a variety of groups visit Juvenile Hall and work with the youth. Weekly meetings are provided by Alcoholic Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and various faith based groups. Paid contractors also provide weekly Writing Workshops and Gang Intervention. Barrios Unidos provides individual and group counseling. Friday Night Live offers a structured life skills curriculum, teaching youth to make healthy life choices, specifically regarding the use of drugs and alcohol. We also continued our partnership with the UnChained Program. UnChained teaches at-risk youth to clicker-train shelter dogs in order to significantly increase their chances of finding a permanent home. Through this class, teens build self-worth, learn empathy and respect for themselves and others. This past year we were pleased to begin offering youth the El Joven Noble Rites of Passage program. Joven Noble is a culturally rooted program which offers youth development, support and leadership enhancement to youth as they develop to their full potential.

The ability to continue excellent conditions of confinement, the Juvenile Hall is dependent upon juvenile justice funds. In order to provide a rich curriculum of services and programs and meet the individual needs of the complex youth in our facility, we are dependent upon the effectiveness of our numerous volunteers. As a result of strong partnerships and community involvement, we have been able to introduce new programs and guest presentations to the youth at the facility, such as: enrollment in on line college courses and one-on-one tutoring in the classroom. Last year we entered a partnership with Santa Cruz Public Library, and now offer a mobile library inside the facility twice a month. During 2016, Santa Cruz Public Library also provided a "Great Stories" reading program to the youth. A priority of our Department is to expose youth to cultural arts programming. This past year we had the honor of hosting: live theater, thanks to Shakespeare to Go; nationally recognized opera singer Ryan Speedo Green, who shared his personal journey from time

spent in Virginia's juvenile detention facility to the Met stage; Bryan Stow, who shared his survival story and anti-bullying message; and local live chamber music concerts, thanks to Rebecca Jackson and the musicians from Music In May.

Providing and maintaining a healthy and safe environment where teenagers can grow emotionally and intellectually is the mission of the Juvenile Hall. Programs are designed to provide young men and women with insight into their own thought processes, feelings, personal choices, and behavior patterns, and learn how to achieve positive, personally fulfilling life goals.

We strive to maintain a safe and secure facility by applying best practices in our programming and efforts that contribute to strong conditions of confinement. The rich curriculum and individual care for the youth in our facility greatly decreases incidents and therefore cost of injuries. Due to the high level of warmth and care the youth receive, the facility has significantly low physical altercations and almost no injuries to staff or youth. During 2016 there were only 11 physical altercations and no serious injury to youth or staff. There were no escapes or suicide attempts.

We look forward to next year and the improvements from SB81 Round One and Two grant funding, which will allow Juvenile Hall to offer an even more robust array of program, such as the garden and a culinary program.