



*Santa Barbara County*

*Juvenile Justice  
Crime Prevention Act*

**2008 Addendum  
To**

**2007 Comprehensive Multiagency  
Juvenile Justice Plan  
(JJCPA Local Action Plan)**

# **Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan Addendum**

## **Introduction**

The Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act of 2000, currently referred to as the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), allocates funds to California counties to upgrade services and programs within the local juvenile justice system. Funds are allocated on the basis of county population with the requirement that applicants develop and routinely review and approve an updated Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) (also referred to as JJCPA Local Action Plan) that responds to gaps identified in a continuum of services “that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing delinquency and addressing juvenile crime.”

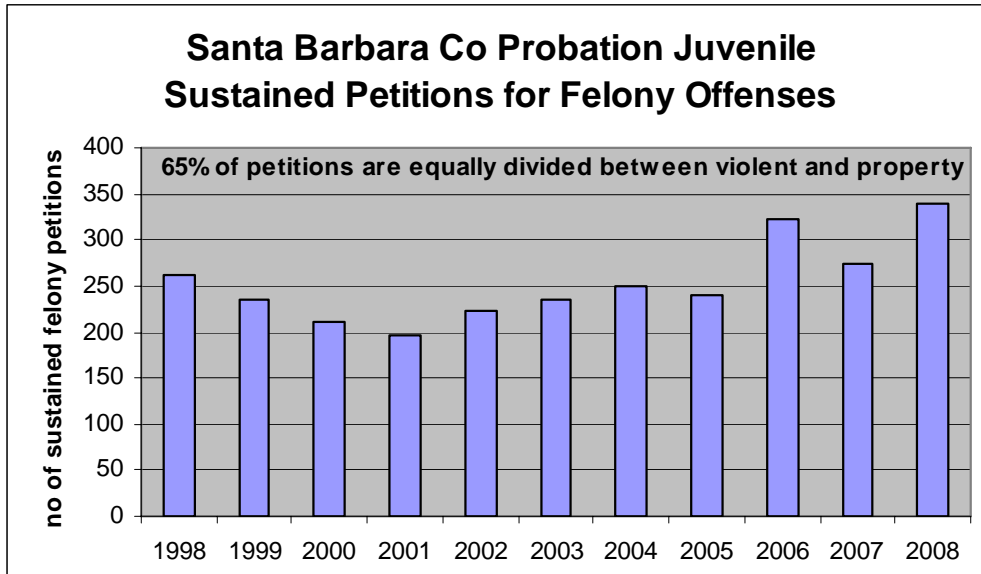
Santa Barbara County was allocated \$1.46 million in Fiscal Year 2001-02; \$1.36 million in Fiscal Year 2002-03; \$1.35 million in Fiscal Year 2003-04; \$1.15 million in 2004-05; \$1.15 million in 2005-06; \$1.30 million in 2006-07; and \$1.37 million in 2007-08. In 2008-09, the allocated amount was reduced by 10% to \$1.2 million. In November 2008, the Governor called the State Legislature into emergency session to address the State’s current budget shortfalls and included in the proposal a further 16.5% (\$198,571) reduction of JJCPA funds for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

This addendum serves as an update to the CMJJP for 2008-2009 with a full revision scheduled for the Fall of 2010.

## A. Changes in Empirical Data

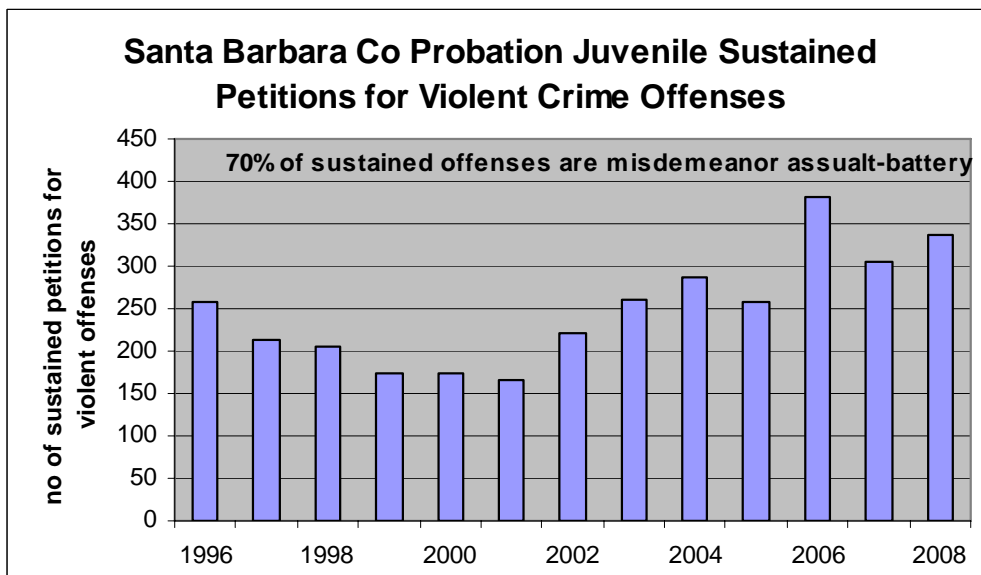
### Sustained Petitions for Violent Offenses:

While the overall number of juvenile referrals to probation has declined over the past two years, 2006 marked the highest number of sustained petitions for violent offenses in the prior ten years, 381; while in 2007 numbers declined to 305; 2008 sustained petitions for felony offenses rose to 338, an 11% increase.



### Sustained Petitions for Violent Offenses:

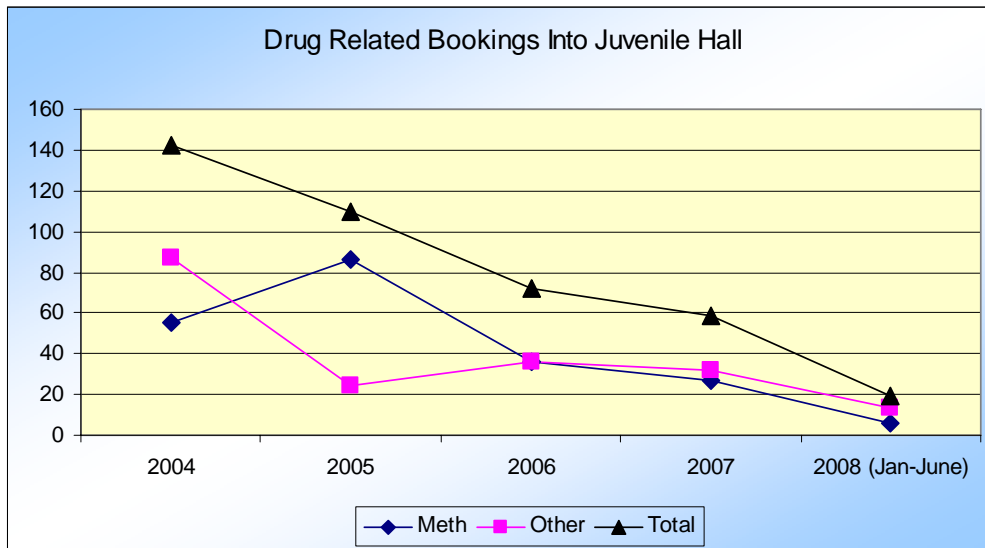
After a decline in 2007, the number of sustained petitions for juvenile felony offenses rose from 273 in 2007 to 340 in 2008, an increase of 25%.



## Methamphetamine:

The use and abuse of illegal substances continues to be a contributing factor in criminal behavior. Methamphetamine use has been a considerable area of concern, as there was a significant increase in methamphetamine related bookings at the juvenile hall. In 2005, of the 110 drug related bookings, 86 were for methamphetamine, which represents 78% of all drug related bookings. Since that time, the number of drug-related bookings has decreased steadily, as has the number of methamphetamine related bookings. The first six months of 2008 showed an 86% decrease in bookings related to methamphetamine from 2005.

There has been a significant reduction of drug related bookings over the past two years, however it is important to note that anecdotally, law enforcement, mental health practitioners, and service providers report an increase in alcohol use and prescription drug abuse in the youth population.



## **B. Program and Service Additions**

### **Youth Offender Block Grant:**

On September 1, 2007, Senate Bill 81 and subsequent clean up legislation under Assembly Bill 191 enacted a major juvenile justice reform package which precluded the commitment of non-violent juvenile offenders to secure facilities operated by the state DJJ and shifted the population to county facilities and programs. Under this legislation, also known as the Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG), counties are now responsible for the custody and care of juvenile offenders who can no longer be sent to state institutions. The reform measure provides counties with block grant funds to pay for local alternatives to state commitment. It is widely viewed by the parties that negotiated the realignment — including state administrators, lawmakers and county representatives — as the most significant juvenile justice reform in recent California history.

In Santa Barbara County, all non-707(b) Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) wards returning from DJJ or those who have had their DJJ parole revoked are, upon their return to County jurisdiction, automatically assigned to the YOBG intensive supervision caseload in the appropriate geographic region. Wards who are currently in the community qualify for this intensive service if they meet program criteria and are approved by the Placement Review Committee (PRC).

The YOBG program includes custody and out-of-custody components that include a thorough assessment and detailed individualized case management plan. With the exception of those non-707(b) W&IC wards being released from DJJ and returned to County jurisdiction, the PRC will determine if the ward is stable, amenable to community supervision, and if the ward can safely remain in the community, or if treatment in the YOBG Secure Detention Program is more appropriate. To maintain continuity of care, once a ward is in the YOBG program, they will remain under the supervision of the same Probation Officer whether in the community or in custody.

### **Safe Schools:**

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) grant involves collaboration among Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHSD) for grades 9-12 and three K-8 school districts - Santa Maria-Bonita, Guadalupe Union, and Orcutt Union. These four districts represent the consortium for this SS/HS grant funding. The SMJUHSD is the lead agency of the collaborative which includes the School/Community Partnership and the Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley Coalition. Fighting Back will provide community oversight and direction, as well as serve as the coordinating entity for the collaborative delivery and integration of services to the youth and families in the Santa Maria Valley.

A significant portion of the grant program funds is dedicated for personnel to fill gaps in service in the area of truancy, and school safety. The grant provides for an After School Meeting coordinator, Truancy Case Managers, and a School Based Probation Officer.

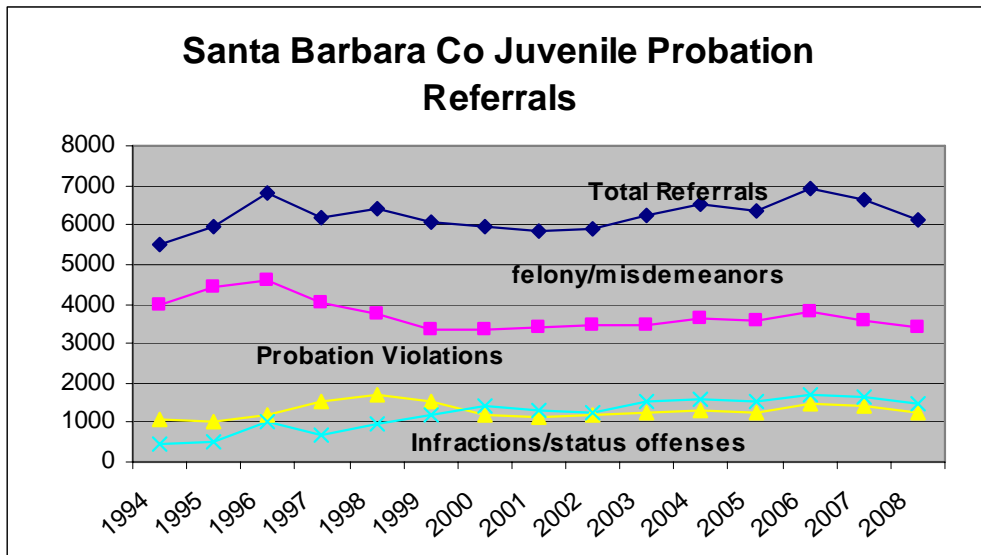
## C. Updated Juvenile Justice Trend Charts

### Total Juvenile Referrals:

(Includes infractions/ordinances and probation violations)

Total referrals declined in 2007 and 2008 from 6,618 in 2007 to 6,134 in 2008.

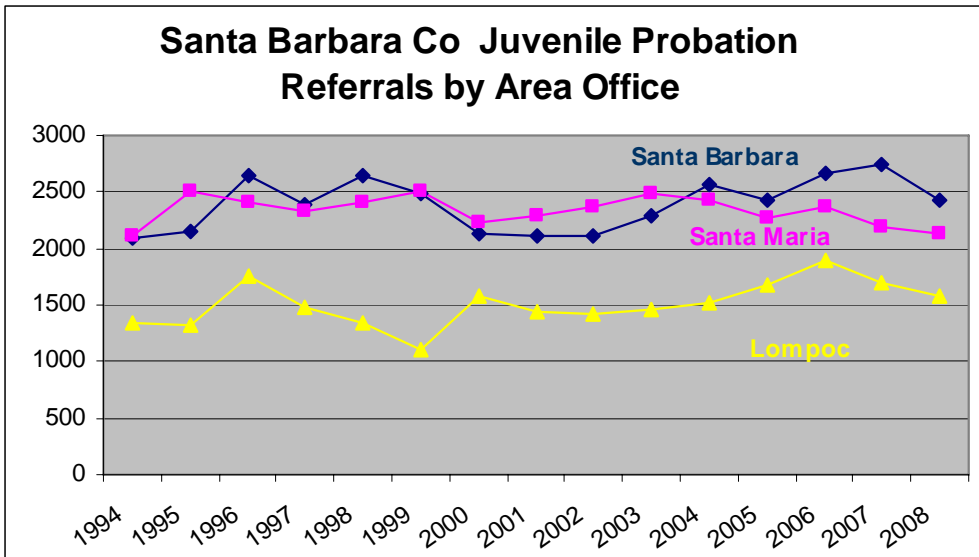
<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
6,618	6,134	-7.3%



### Geographic Referrals:

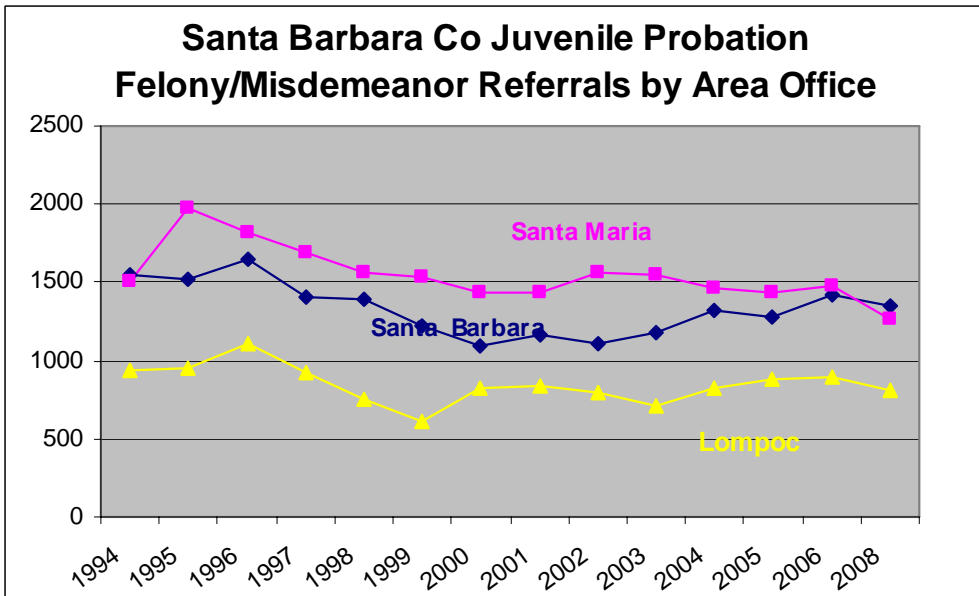
Referrals in the Santa Maria area were the most consistent, dropping by 2%, from 2,189 in 2007, to 2,139 in 2008. Referrals in South County showed the largest decline, from 2,737 in 2007, to 2,419 in 2008, a decline of 12%. Lompoc showed a 7% reduction in referrals from 1,692, to 1,576.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
SM	2189	2139	- 2%
SB	2,737	2,419	-12%
LM	1,692	1,576	- 7%



**Felony and Misdemeanor Referrals:**

Felony and misdemeanor referrals have stayed relatively constant over the past several years, with gradual increases in South County over the past five years, and a gradual decline in Santa Maria during the same time period.

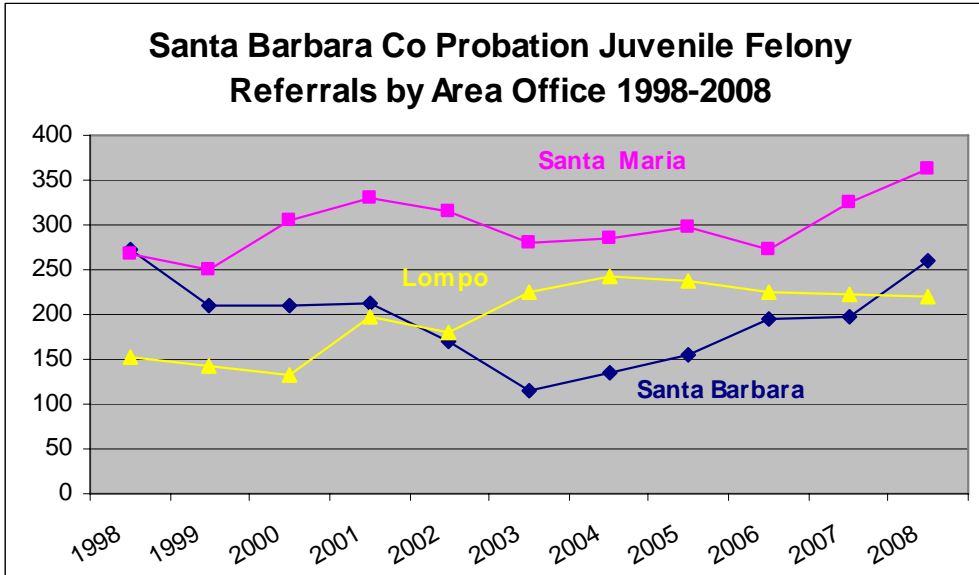


**Felony Referrals by Region:**

The most notable change is evident in the increased number of juvenile referrals for felony offenses. While felony referrals in Lompoc remained consistent over the past two years, 222 in 2007, and 220 in 2008, there has been a 67% increase in felony referrals since the 10-year low of 132 in 2000. Santa Maria showed a marked increase in felony referrals, rising from 324 in 2007, to 362 in 2008. This is an increase of 12% and is a

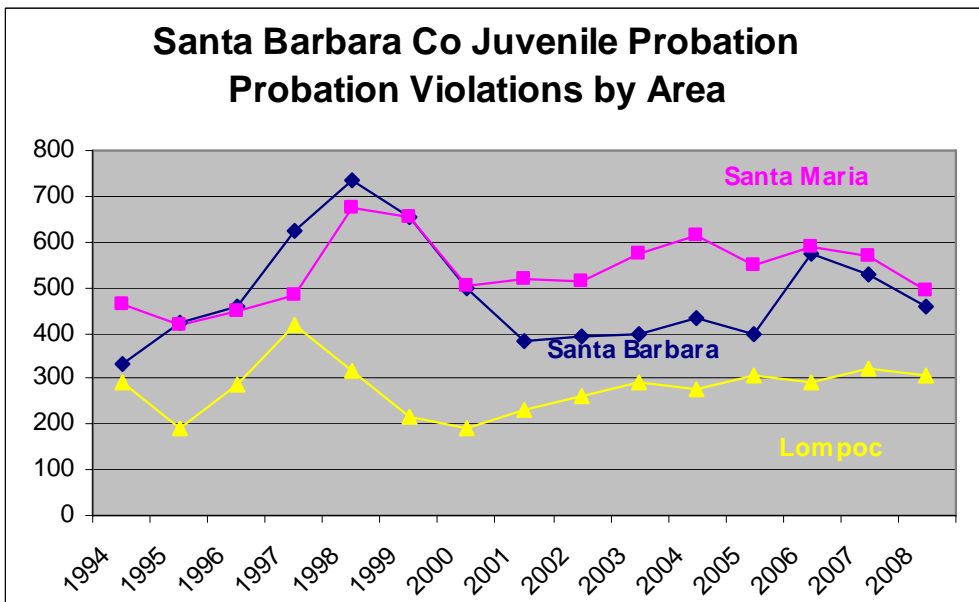
33% increase from the 272 felony referrals in 2006. The South County region has experienced the most significant increase in juvenile felony referrals. This year there was a 32% increase from the previous year with 261 felony referrals in 2008, compared to 198 in 2007. This represents a 130% increase from the ten-year low of 114 in 2003, and has steadily climbed, returning to 1998 levels.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
SM	324	362	+12%
SB	198	261	+32
LM	222	220	+ 1%



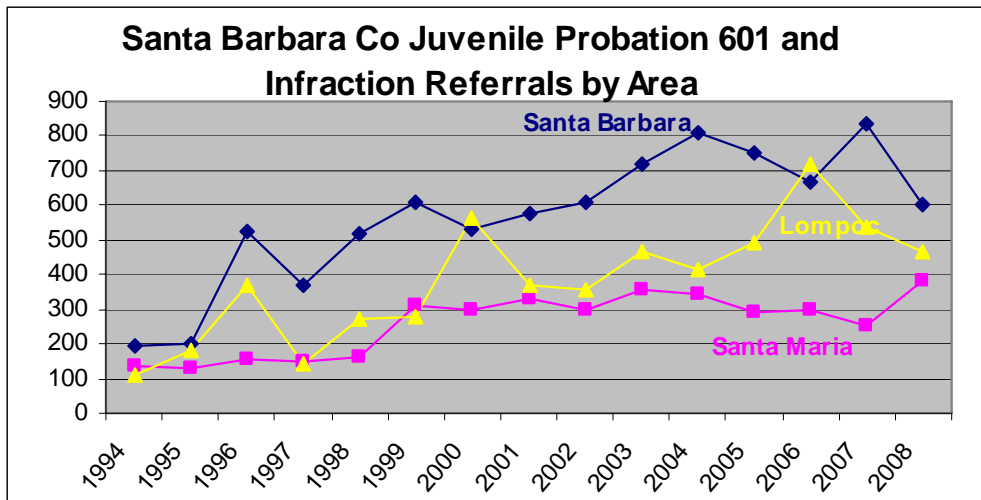
**Probation Violations:**

Probation violations have also declined in the past year, by 14% in Santa Maria, 13% in Santa Barbara, and 5% in Lompoc.



**Infractions/Ordinance Violations:**

The number of infraction and 601 referrals had varying trends. In Santa Barbara, the referrals were down 28%, from 835 in 2007, to 604 in 2008. Lompoc also experienced a drop in referrals, down 14%, from 538 in 2007, to 463 in 2008. Current year data represents a 40% decline from the 776 referrals in 2006. In contrast Santa Maria experienced a significant increase from the 252 referrals in 2007, increasing 51% to 380 in 2008.



**D. Probation School Intervention Data**

In 2007, the JJCC elected to make strategic modifications to the Truancy Mediation Program designed to maintain established truancy mitigation outcomes, while allowing Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) the flexibility to provide on-campus support to schools, and to focus not only on minors with truancy issues, but those involved in gang activities or having a high risk for violent behavior. The three DPO positions previously allocated to supervise youth placed on probation as the final step in the Truancy Program, have been reallocated, and matched with Title IV-E funding to create five school-based officer (SBOs) positions. These five SBOs are deployed to secondary, continuation, and community school campuses throughout the county: two in Santa Maria, one in Lompoc, and two in Santa Barbara. SBOs work in collaboration with school resource officers, school administration, and law enforcement gang units.

Rates for successful completion of the program have been lower than other JJCPA funded initiatives. This is primarily due to the high risk wards supervised on these intensive supervision caseloads, and the requirement that wards be enrolled in a target school. Wards with behavior that results in extended time in juvenile hall, Camp commitments, placement, or a CEC commitment are closed from the school intervention program and are transferred to other caseloads. More appropriate indicators of success for this initiative will include increased presence of DPOs on school campuses, school attendance of wards on the caseloads, intervention efforts with non-probation youth, education and training provided to parents and school faculty, assistance to on-campus

truancy personnel, and prevention and intervention in gang issues and conflicts. School based officers on average spend 80% of their time on campus.

Craig Huseth, Principal of Santa Maria High School, notes that the presence of the School Based Officer, "...has made a significant difference in the tone and culture on the campus. Through her proactive efforts, incidents of violence have been significantly reduced and potential issues between students have been resolved." Principal Huseth further indicates that the school wide gang training provided to staff and the assistance with truant minors and their families are elements that make the program successful.

Similarly, Assistant Principal for Lompoc High School, Edward Albright, commended the training and education of school personnel provided by the School Based Officer, and the impact of the Probation Officer on campus. Mr. Albright states, "Their presence helps our staff keep the peace."

Probation staff are working with the schools to establish more accurate measures of success for this program and to assure that necessary data is collected, maintained, and analyzed.

## **E. Aftercare and Community Transition**

The FY 2007-2008 budget reduction resulted in the elimination of aftercare services funded through JJCPA. Aftercare services were provided countywide to wards and their families in order to facilitate a successful transition back into the community from the local Probation Department operated Camps and other out-of-home placements. By providing active home and community supervision and extensive wraparound services, future criminal behavior is substantially reduced. The need for future expensive placements is reduced by building upon the treatment successes gained during Camp commitments and out-of-home placements. The loss of aftercare services place youth at higher risk of continued criminal activity.

The recent realignment of the DJJ provided funding to implement services at the county level through the YOBG. The purpose of this funding source is to provide prevention, intervention, supervision, programming, and detention for wards no longer eligible for custody at DJJ, and to provide transition services and supervision for youth returning to the community from DJJ commitments. When appropriate, Santa Barbara County utilizes their Camp and placement programs prior to recommending commitments to DJJ. A large percentage of the wards committed to DJJ, previous to the realignment, experienced multiple Camp and/or placement commitments before being committed to DJJ. Two Community Transition Officers (CTO's) are funded by YOBG to provide assistance to wards returning to the community from commitments to the Camp, placement, and DJJ. Prevention efforts under YOBG provide transition services to youth who have multiple Camp or placement commitments and for youth who have completed the in-custody component to YOBG.

## **F. Truancy Program Reductions**

County general fund reductions within the District Attorney's (DA) office required a decrease in the DA funded portion of the JJCPA Truancy component (\$367,000). This resulted in the loss of one Truancy Supervisor, three Truancy Case Managers, and support staff. The initial 10% reduction in JJCPA funding in Fiscal Year 08-09 eliminated a second Truancy Supervisor, leaving one Truancy Supervisor providing services in Santa Maria. In an effort to maintain staffing and service levels, the DA, under direction from the Board of Supervisors, was funded for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 08-09, to meet with leadership from School Districts throughout the County to request support for funding. The School Districts reported that they were not in a position to provide fiscal assistance and, as a result, the Truancy Program remains with one Truancy Supervisor position. Community Based Organization (CBO) counseling services for the Truancy Program were funded at a reduced rate with available roll over funds given priority designation for allocation to these services. Shortly after the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 08-09, the Governor called the State Legislature back into session for emergency budget hearings, which has resulted in the further proposed 16.5% mid-year reductions (\$198,571) to JJCPA funding.

Truancy efforts in Santa Maria have been maintained with the assistance of the SS/HS Grant being awarded to the SMJUHSD. This grant provides for three Truancy Case Managers and an After School Meeting coordinator.

While additional support has not been secured for the Lompoc and Santa Barbara regions, school districts are reestablishing protocols to address truancy within their respective schools. Letters and after school meetings are being coordinated by the schools, and the DA is working with the schools to provide support. Counseling services continue to be provided by CBO's and funded through JJCPA.

## **G. Gaps in Service**

Efforts have been made to address the gaps in service outlined in the CMJJP, however, budget reductions from Federal, State, and local services continued to limit the ability to meet the needs. In the past 12 months, the Probation Department has decreased staffing resources by 10%. These reductions have further diminished the capacity to provide appropriate levels of service to offenders who do not qualify for specialized caseloads.

While the presence of School Based Officers have increased coordination between Probation and law enforcement in gang suppression activities and intelligence gathering on campus, this continues to be an area of need as gang activity is in ongoing problem.

The reductions in the Fiscal Year 08-09 truancy portion of JJCPA (\$106,949 in JJCPA funds and \$367,000 in County General funds) have decreased resources available in the area of prevention and early intervention. The Safe Schools grant in Santa Maria will assist in providing a level of service in that area, however, gaps will remain in Santa Barbara and Lompoc.

Aftercare services for wards returning from extended juvenile hall detainments, Camp commitments, and placements have been reduced. Community Transition Officers provide a level of service, with the majority of their focus being on those wards who have been ordered to multiple camp or placement commitments, and wards returning from custody with the DJJ.

In conclusion, the CMJPP long-term strategies were accurately forecasted and continue to be areas that require further focus and resources. (See Attachment 1)

**Attachment 1**  
(Excerpt from 2007 CMJPP, page 48)

**I. Additional Recommendations for Long-Term Strategies**

The following recommendations focus on addressing the increase in violent and more serious juvenile crimes. Some of these strategies can be implemented without additional funding; others need to be further developed in readiness to respond to future funding opportunities.

1. Using data collected through the Santa Barbara Asset Risk Assessment tool, establish a more detailed profile of minors entering the juvenile justice system and at different levels in the continuum, especially the risk level for violence, to better impact program design.
2. Target the most intensive services toward youth who are likely to be the most violent offenders.
3. Increase the level of supervision and case management of probation minors that have committed a violent crime or are identified as most likely to become violent offenders.
4. Increase collaboration among law enforcement agencies, probation, and DJJ parole across the county to ensure proactive enforcement.
5. Develop a county wide, evidenced based gang prevention strategy.

The following strategies were identified to maximize the resources available to accomplish the above recommendations.

1. Maximize the use of existing services/programming and strengthen public-private partnerships. Explore innovative strategies for linking juvenile justice clients to existing community-based services and ensuring their participation in those services.
2. Establish an interagency, public/private work group that meets regularly to explore funding opportunities and develop joint funding proposals in order to be able to respond to grant opportunities in a timely and coordinated manner.

**J. Concluding Remarks**

Santa Barbara County has been effective in reducing juvenile crime in our community in recent years. This success can be largely attributed to the spirit of collaboration that has been carefully cultivated among city and county agencies and community-based organizations. By embracing the values and principals of collaboration, the county has been able to be responsive to emerging issues and gaps in services within the juvenile justice system, resolve problems cooperatively, and redirect resources as needed to address these issues.