

INTAKE/DIVERSION SERVICES

The principal responsibilities of the Intake/Diversion Unit include screening admission requests for detention from all Oklahoma County law enforcement agencies, conducting Preliminary Inquiries on all referrals made to the Juvenile Bureau, managing Deferred Filing/Prosecution caseloads, and preparing Certification Studies.

During FY 03, a total of 2209 juveniles alleged to have committed 3266 offenses were referred from 22 different agencies. The majority (2177) of these referrals were received from law enforcement agencies and a smaller portion (32) were received from parents, schools, and social service agencies. These juveniles were referred for delinquent conduct (2196), and youth in need of supervision (13). The total number of referrals reflects a decrease of 4% from FY 01 to FY 03. However, the Juvenile Bureau no longer receives In Need of Mental Health Treatment referrals. In FY 02, 174 In Need of Mental Health Treatment referrals were received. Those referrals accounted for 8% of the total referrals received in FY 02.

Of the 2209 juveniles referred to the Juvenile Bureau in FY 03, the Intake/Diversion Unit deemed it necessary to file a petition in 1700 (77%) of the cases due to the seriousness of the offense or prior records. This is an increase of 1% from FY 02.

Of the juveniles referred to the Juvenile Bureau during FY 03, the Intake/Diversion unit placed 277 juveniles on a Deferred Filing/Prosecution Program. This program is designed to allow a juvenile to remain outside of the formal court system while completing a structured, supervised program developed to help the juvenile and family learn different methods of dealing with problems and behavior while holding the juvenile accountable. Of the 277 juveniles placed in this program 157 (57%) successfully completed the program and only 31 failed to complete and had a petition filed.

The number of certification studies and Youthful Offender studies completed by the Intake/Diversion Unit during FY 03 is 15. This is a decrease of 78% over FY 02. However, the Office of Juvenile Affairs began completing all Youthful Offender studies in August of 2002.

Within this fiscal year, the Intake Diversion Unit experienced numerous changes in operating procedures. Days of operation were expanded from Monday through Friday to seven days per year. Hours of operation were expanded from an eight hours work day to a seventeen hour work day. At least one intake offer is in the building, available for detention screenings or intake appointments, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight, daily. A new risk assessment instrument to assist in screening detention admission requests was also developed and implemented. A needs assessment instrument to assist officers in determining programming needs was also developed and implemented.