



## PLATTE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

Dear Citizens,

This is our annual report card on how your juvenile justice system in Platte County is performing. Platte County citizens are vested in the Juvenile Office to address their public safety concerns, as well as address the needs of the youth referred to our office. We hope you find this information beneficial as a resident of Platte County.

We will continue to address the following concerns voiced by the citizens of Platte County:

- Provide a justice system to further community safety;
- Serve victims of crime to assure they receive justice;
- Hold offenders accountable for their behavior; and
- Provide offenders services to assist them in ceasing their criminal activity and become responsible and productive citizens.

Working together, we can build a safer Platte County. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Platte County Juvenile Office at (816) 858-3420.



Signed:

Judge Thomas C. Fincham  
Presiding Judge

Signed:

Judge W. Ann Hansbrough  
Juvenile Court Judge

Signed:

Rhonda K. Haight  
Juvenile Officer

# Report Card to Our Citizens

The Sixth Judicial Circuit is a single county circuit. It is a growing county with an estimated population of 104,418, according to the most current information from the United States Census Bureau. There are twelve law enforcement agencies, four school districts (one of which houses an area vocational-technical school), and an international airport in Platte County.

The Missouri Kids Count Data Book documents the status of children in each of the state's 114 counties & St. Louis. Counties are assigned a rank between 1 (best) and 115 (worst) to describe the relative well-being of children compared to other Missouri counties. Platte County currently ranks second in the state.

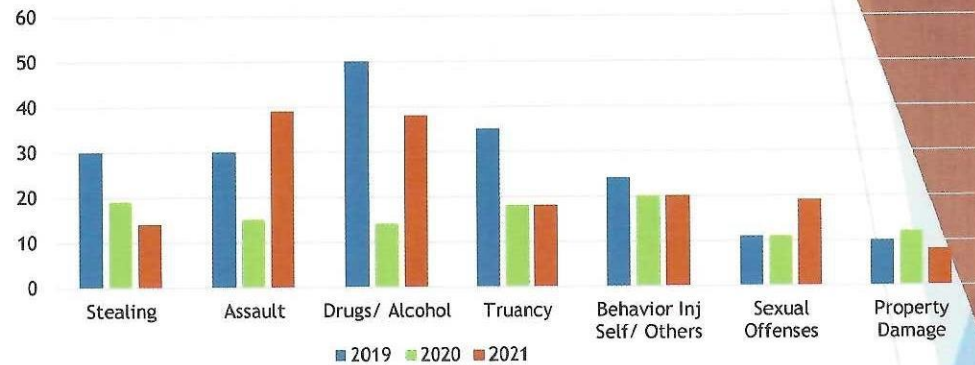
Authorization for the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court, and subsequent Juvenile Services, is set out in Chapter 211 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. Further direction for purpose and organization is found in the Supreme Court Rules of Practice and Procedure in Juvenile Courts. The Missouri Statutes provide that the Juvenile Division shall have exclusive and original jurisdiction over youth that fall into three broad categories:

- ▶ **DELINQUENTS:** Youth, under the age of 18 years old, that have violated a state law or municipal ordinance.
- ▶ **STATUS OFFENDERS:** Youth, under the age of 18 years old, that have committed offenses exclusively common to juveniles, or whose behavior is injurious, primarily to themselves: i.e., runaway, truancy and beyond parental control.
- ▶ **HOMELESS, DEPENDENT-NEGLECTED:** Youth, under the age of 18 years old, that have been identified as neglected, abandoned, and/or physically, emotionally, or sexually abused. These referrals go directly to the Missouri Children's Division, via the Child Abuse Hotline; Juvenile Services serves as the liaison to the Court.

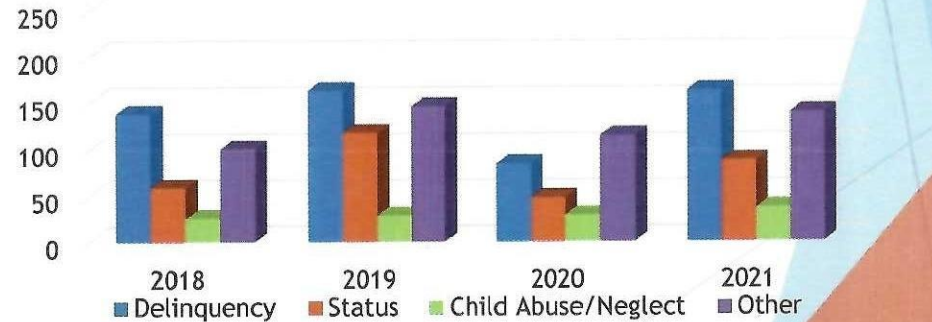
# Referrals

- ▶ The Juvenile Office receives referrals from law enforcement, schools, Children’s Division, a written formal complaint from parents and by Deputy Juvenile Officers. The offense may be a violation of a federal, state, or local law, or violations of the law due to the child’s age, such as runaway, truancy, or ungovernable behaviors. In 2021, the Juvenile Office received 250 delinquency and status referrals.
- ▶ *Chart A lists the most common offenses that were received over the last three years.*
- ▶ *Chart B shows yearly referrals for delinquency, status, child abuse/neglect and other. (Other includes child protection ex parte orders, courtesy supervision, adoption studies and termination of parental rights cases.)*

Most Frequent Referrals

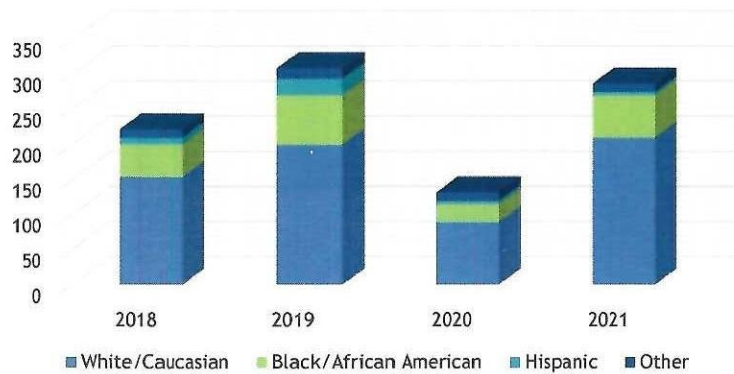


Yearly Referral Summary

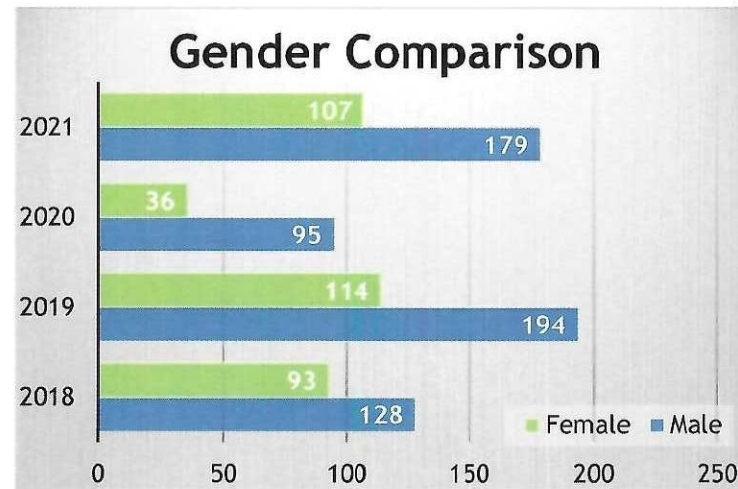


# Demographic Information

## Race / Ethnicity Comparison



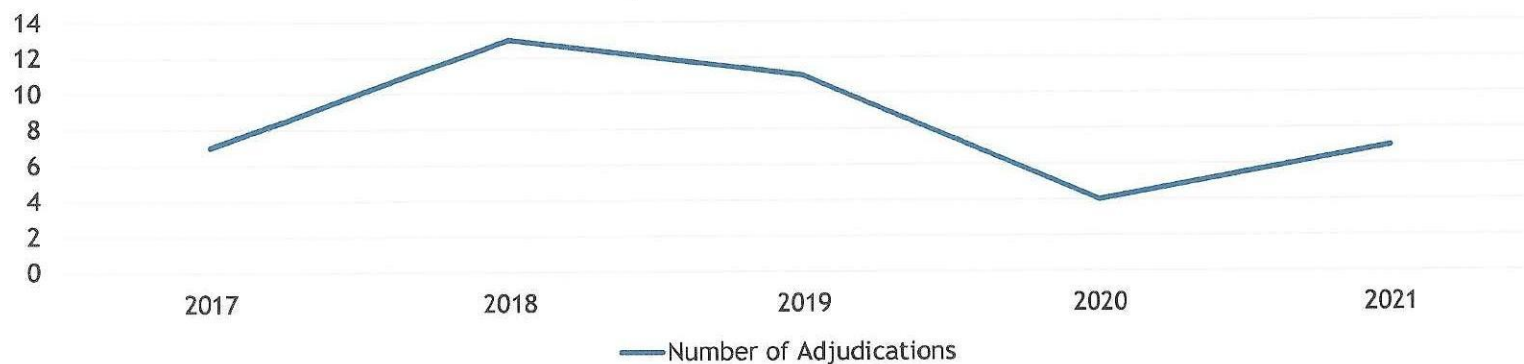
## Gender Comparison



## Delinquency by Age of Juvenile at time of Referral

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
12 & Under	23	11	18	4	12
13	33	23	22	3	12
14	46	26	25	11	27
15	34	32	48	28	43
16	51	44	50	37	33
17 & OLDER	0	2	0	1	36
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>163</b>

Adjudications- Chart A



**JUVENILE CRIME:** Two important indicators of juvenile crime trends are the per capita rate of juvenile offenders who are adjudicated delinquent by the Juvenile Court or commit crimes that warrant a waiver to Adult Court. In the year 2021, seven youth in juvenile court were found to be delinquent.

*Chart A shows adjudications for previous five years.*

**TRANSFER TO ADULT COURT:**

In 2021, one youth committed crimes that warranted prosecution to Adult Court.

# Informal Adjustment

The Juvenile Office has jurisdiction over youth who commit delinquency & status offenses. Cases that do not require formal Juvenile Court intervention may be informally handled by the Juvenile Officer. These usually include less serious cases and cases in which the child and family have shown a willingness to receive services on a voluntary basis. The informal adjustment process offers the advantage of making services available without the filing of a petition and conducting formal court proceedings.

In 2021 two hundred and fifty (250) youth were referred to the Platte County Juvenile Office for committing delinquency/status offenses. Ninety-two (92) of those youth were placed on informal adjustment, nineteen (19) were handled formally, and seventy-five (75) were warned & released. Cases could also be rejected due to lack of evidence or transferred to other jurisdictions.

## Case Handling



# Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Office has a regular docket two Wednesdays out of the month. Special dockets are set for detention hearings and protective custody hearings. In 2021, there were 239 juvenile court hearings. *The Chart below shows court hearings for the past five years.*

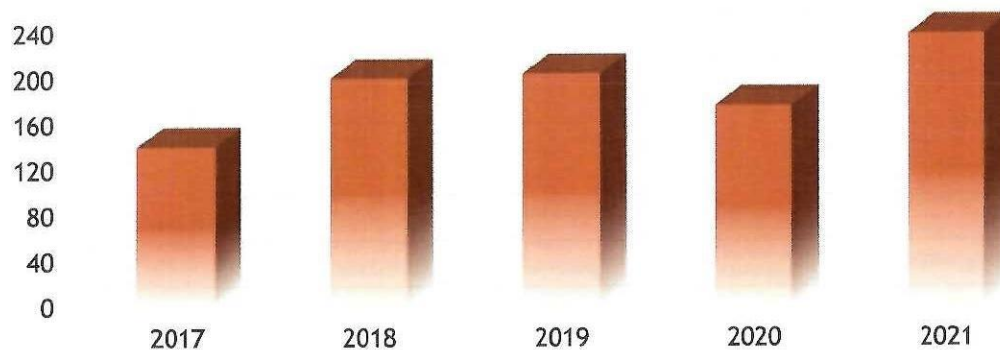
## Detention:

In 2021, thirteen youth were detained at a Juvenile Justice Center, for a total of 257 days. Platte County does not have its own detention center, and juveniles cannot be detained in an adult jail.

## Commitment to Division of Youth Services:

In 2021, five youth were committed to the Missouri Division of Youth Services. Most youth are held in secure detention for an average of 7 to 10 days pending placement into a facility.

## JUVENILE COURT HEARINGS



# RECIDIVISM RATE FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS:

Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles re-offend (commit new crimes). Recidivism rates shown in this section include offenders that have completed Accountability Agreements (efforts to intervene before an offender is adjudicated delinquent by the Court) and offenders that are formally charged in Juvenile Court.

## Law Abiding Behavior:

Data from 2021 indicates that 94% of the youth supervised in 2021 had no additional delinquency offenses within one year of beginning probation.

Data from 2021 also indicates that within 12 months after release into the community following supervision, 97% had no new criminal offenses within one year of completing supervision.

## Adult Criminal Convictions:

219 youth supervised for delinquencies during 2017-2021 aged out of the juvenile justice system (turned 18) and were under 21 years old. Missouri Case.net reveals that 203, or 93.98%, of these youth had no adult criminal convictions in Missouri as of December 31, 2021.

## RECIDIVISM RATE FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

**No additional delinquency offenses while on supervision (within one year of the order date of supervision)**

<u>2021</u>	94%
<u>2020</u>	97%
<u>2019</u>	94%
<u>2018</u>	95%
<u>2017</u>	93%

**No charges filed for new delinquency offenses (within one year after case closed)**

<u>2021</u>	97%
<u>2020</u>	96%
<u>2019</u>	96%
<u>2018</u>	91%
<u>2017</u>	92%



## Service & Sanctions

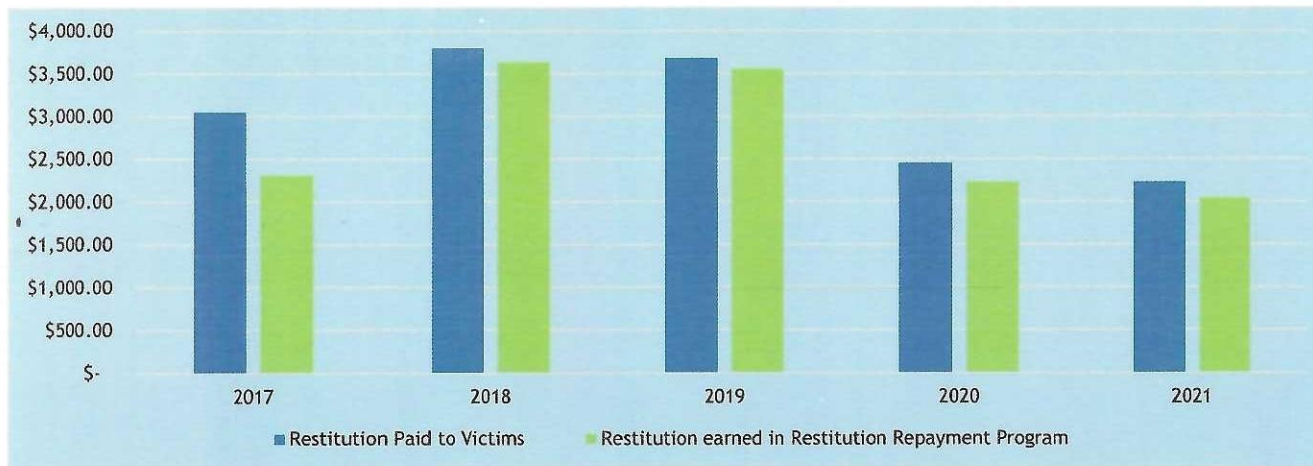
An important component of the Platte County Juvenile Justice System is the sanction component for delinquency conduct and status behaviors.

Balancing community protection, offender accountability and competency development in offenders are the primary factors that determine the offender's sanctions.

Sanctions and Services Status and Delinquency Cases	# Attending Programs in 2018	# Attending Programs in 2019	# Attending Programs in 2020	# Attending Programs in 2021
Supervision by a Juvenile Officer	222	246	138	186
Commitment to the Division of Youth Services	9	2	2	5
Community Service Program	45	43	15	23
Conflict Resolution Program	15	17	5	12
Diversion Accountability Program (APT) *also Team and class only	23	33	11	25
Drug Abuse Prevention Program Youth Parents	20 20	23 30	10 8	32 32
Drug Screens	140	157	144	139
Electronic Monitoring	5	11	3	4
Home Detention	2	11	3	4
Home Study Courses	27	41	19	35
Inpatient Drug Treatment	3	2	0	0
Mental Health Therapy Program/Counseling	24	38	13	23
Outpatient Drug Treatment	4	4	1	1
Parents & Adolescents Mediation Program	4	0	0	0
Residential Group Home Placement	4	3	3	2
Restitution Repayment Program	17	14	12	6
RISE - Girls' Group	0	0	0	0
Secure Detention	14	14	4	13
Shoplifting Program	17	11	5	1
Truancy Program	24	24	29	15
Victim Offender Mediation	4	3	0	0
Written Apologies	22	17	7	12

## RESTITUTION:

Crime victims are clear about their expectations that offenders should be expected to pay back for the harm they have caused. Platte County Juvenile provides youth with a Restitution Repayment Program, where youth are required to work community service hours at non-profit organizations to earn restitution. Restitution is paid at current minimum wage for verified hours worked. The chart below shows the amount of restitution paid to victims by juveniles for crimes committed and the amount that was earned by youth participating in our Work Restitution Repayment Program.



## Community Service:

In 2021, over 233 hours of community service were performed by juvenile offenders. The value of this work to the community, calculated at minimum wage, was **\$2,399.90**.

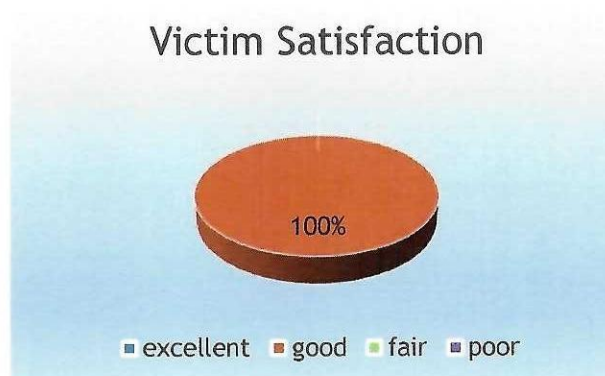
### COMMUNITY SERVICE HISTORICAL DATA:

Since the inception of the community service program, **85,136** hours of service have been performed. The total value of services for the community, calculated at each year's respective minimum wage, is **\$464,702.75**.

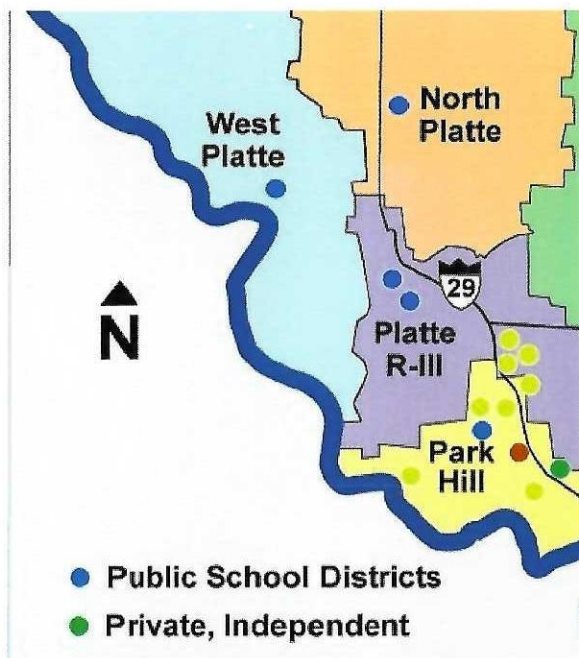
### THE CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND:

The fund reimburses residents of Missouri who suffered injuries causing financial loss due to certain crimes of violence. In 2021, three (3) youth paid into the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** The justice system has a responsibility to serve crime victims. Those victims served by Platte County Juvenile are provided a survey to determine their overall experience and level of satisfaction. *The Chart below shows victims' responses for 2021.*



# School Participation:



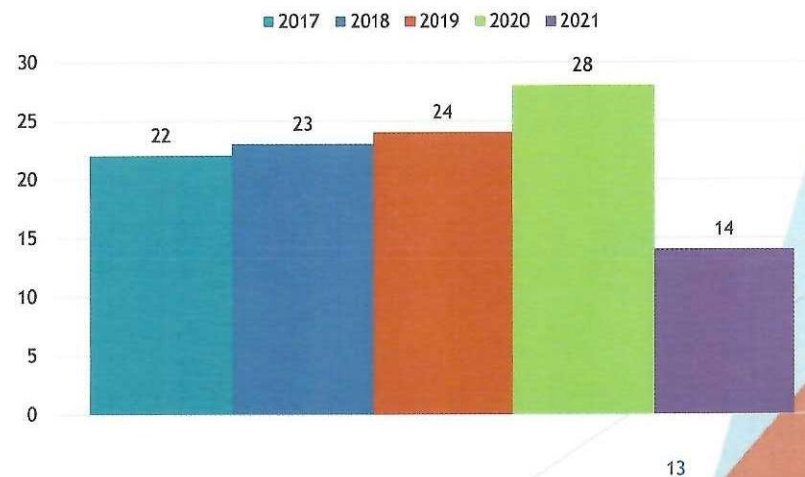
- ▶ Statistics below show percentage of youth on supervision that were actively involved in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training at the closing of their cases by the Juvenile Office.
- ▶ Youth actively participating in education programs at the end of 2021 was 94%.

## Truancy Program:

- ▶ School Truancy, or unexcused absences from school, is an issue that demands attention. Truant students represent a challenging group of at-risk youth. Truant students often have serious problems in school with regards to performance and participation.
- ▶ The Platte County Juvenile Office Truancy Program is designed to improve the attendance of students that fail to attend school on a regular basis. Students meet with the Deputy Juvenile Officer 2-3 times a week and attendance is monitored daily. During this time, the student's risks and needs are assessed and they are enrolled in appropriate programs. If the student continues to be truant, a hearing is scheduled and the student will appear before the Judge. If approved, the student will be placed in the truancy program. If the student attends school regularly after being placed in the truancy program, a request is made to dismiss the petition. *The Chart to the right shows youth served in the Truancy program for the past five years.*



Truancy Cases





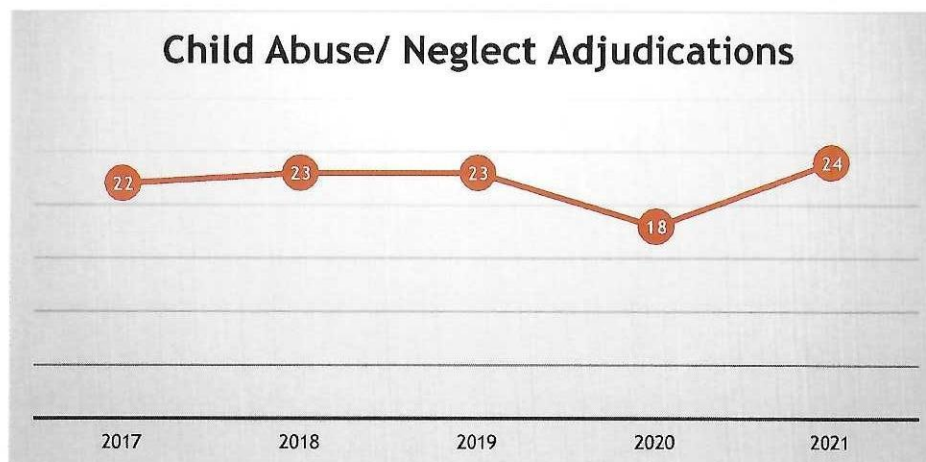
## Youth Accountability Diversion

Platte County Juvenile Office initiated the Youth Accountability Diversion Program in August 1993, which allows youth to participate on a formal or informal basis. Since the start of the program, 644 youth have participated in the program. Of the youth that successfully completed the program and aged out of the juvenile system (turned 18 ) and were under 21 years old, Missouri Case.net reveals that **99%** of these youth who participated in the diversion program had no adult criminal convictions in Missouri as of December 31, 2021.

- ▶ The ultimate goal of the Youth Accountability Diversion Program is to impact delinquency offenders through short-term, high impact services to help insure their continued presence in the home, by the reduction of subsequent referrals for law violations.
- ▶ Participation in the Youth Accountability Diversion Program is a privilege. The Judge makes the decision whether youth are accepted into the program; therefore, the burden to prove appropriateness is placed upon the youth. The youth must convince the Judge that they deserve the opportunity to participate. Youth voluntarily appear before the Judge for a contract hearing. Participation requires the cooperation of the youth and custodial parents. The parents, as well as the youth, must agree to attend and complete a variety of programs and activities together. Parental participation is a key to the program's success. The contract sets the time frame and behavioral performance expectations for the youth and parents. If the Judge approves the contract, the youth is placed into the diversion program. When the youth successfully completes the terms of the contract, a request is made to the Court to dismiss the petition. If the youth fails to complete the contract, an adjudication hearing is scheduled.

# Child Abuse/Neglect Referrals:

- ▶ Victims of child abuse or neglect are referred for protection from further harm. In response, the Court makes decisions and oversees efforts to rehabilitate and maintain families, or to provide permanent alternative care for the child victim. Children that were adjudicated in 2021 for abuse or neglect were placed in the custody of the Missouri Children's Division.
- ▶ In 2021, twenty-four children were adjudicated abused and/or neglected. Of those children, 46% were females and 54% males.



## Child Abuse Neglect/ Demographics

At the end of 2021, forty-six (46) children were in the Platte County Children's Division Custody. Sixty-three percent (63%) of the children were males and thirty-seven percent (37%) were females.



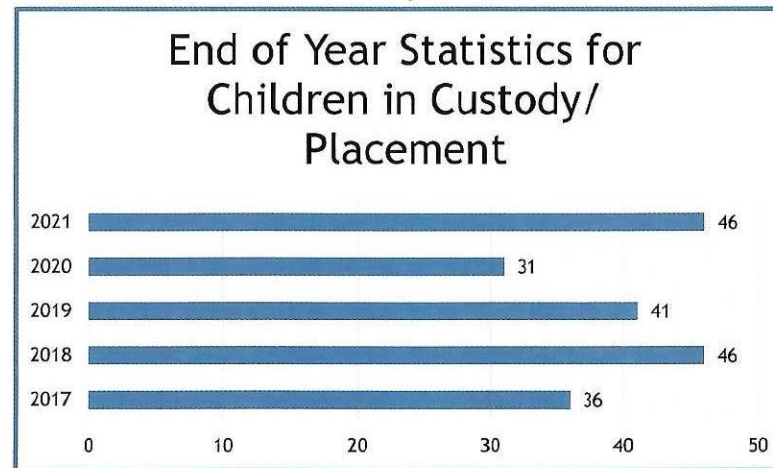
*Every child deserves a family*

The 46 children in custody resided in the following placements as of December 31, 2021.

- ▶ Placed in a Foster Home-18
- ▶ Placed with Parent/Relatives-21
- ▶ Residential Placement\*- 7
- ▶ Independent Living-0

\*Includes DMH facilities & group homes

The chart below shows end of year custody summaries for the last five years.

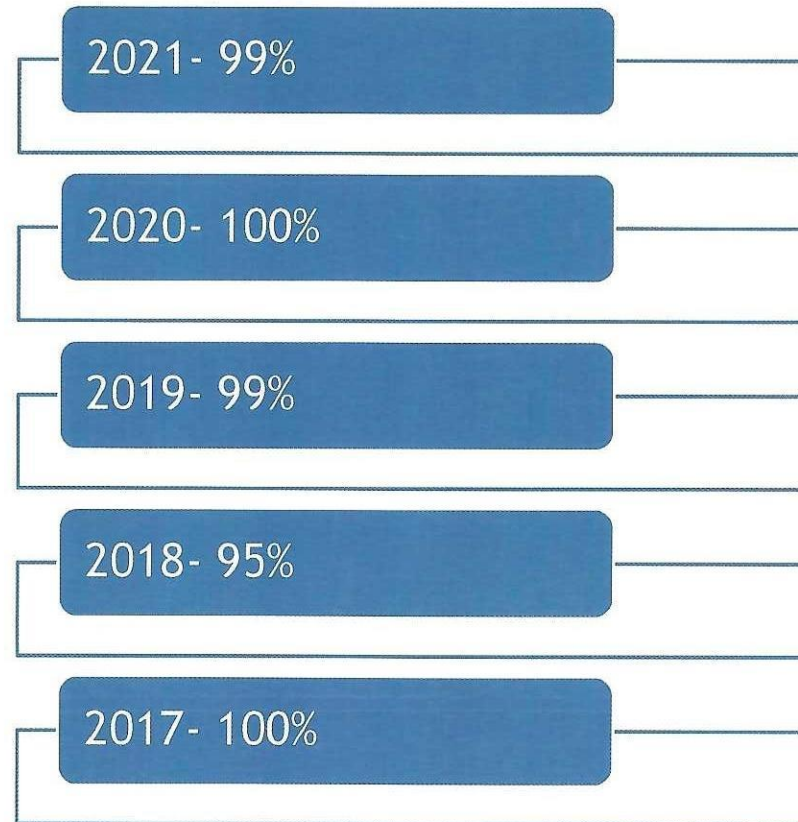




## Timeliness of Hearings:

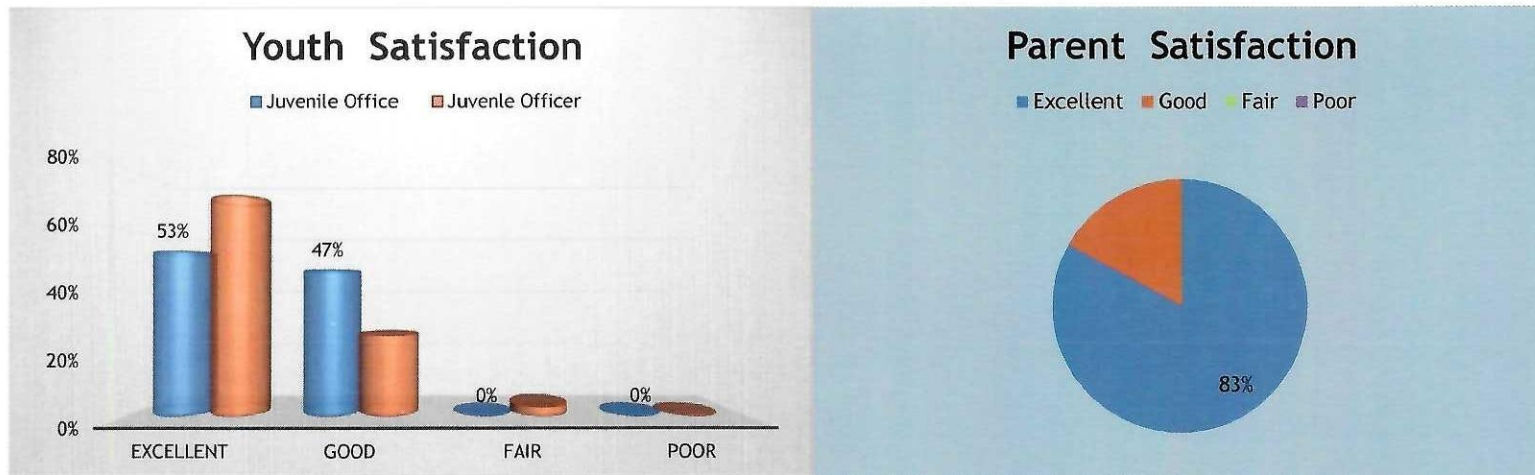
The Missouri Supreme Court sets timelines for Child Protection hearings. Timely hearings are crucial if children who have been removed from their homes are to be reunited with their families, or are to be placed in other permanent homes as soon as possible.

Platte County strives to hold hearings within the time standards whenever possible. To the right is a chart of the last five years and our accuracy.



# Client Satisfaction:

- ▶ Parents and youth are provided with end of case surveys to evaluate the handling of the youth's delinquency or status referral. The following reflects the parents' & youths' overall impression of the services offered by the Juvenile Office in 2021.



# Report Card To Our Citizens

In an effort to provide continuing and quality services, it is recognized that being a liaison with other organizations is important. Towards this, the Platte County Juvenile Office staff serve on the following committees and educational teams:

- ▶ CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT REVIEW BOARD
- ▶ CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICE SYSTEM PROGRAM (CASSP)
- ▶ CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
- ▶ CHILD PROTECTION PROTOCOL NETWORK
- ▶ COMMUNITY COLLABORATION COALITION
- ▶ COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM
- ▶ NORTHLAND COALITION TEAMS FOR CLAY & PLATTE COUNTIES
- ▶ NORTHLAND SAFE SCHOOLS TASK FORCE
- ▶ PLATTE COUNTY CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ▶ PLATTE COUNTY LOSS CONTROL COMMITTEE
- ▶ UNITED SERVICES COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# A Report To Our Community Stakeholders

This report would not have been possible without the support and efforts of all our Courts, personnel, and community members. Thank you for your ongoing work to make a lasting impact in the lives of the families and children we serve.

*Presiding Judge:* Thomas C. Fincham

*Juvenile Court Judge:* W. Ann Hansbrough

Rhonda K. Haight, *Chief Juvenile Officer*  
Elizabeth Taylor, *Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer*  
Mark Lindsay, *Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer- Domestic Relations*

Brandon Huddleston, *Deputy Juvenile Officer*  
Julie Davis, *Deputy Juvenile Officer*      Michael Emanuel, *Deputy Juvenile Officer*  
Brandon Thomas, *Deputy Juvenile Officer*      Nichole Schmidt, *Deputy Juvenile Officer*

Christina Combs, *Program Coordinator*  
Denise Peacher, *Officer Manager*  
Kari Knabe, *Secretary/Clerk*

Tammy J. Glick, *Juvenile Office Attorney*

**Platte County Juvenile Office**  
508 Third Street, Suite 85, Platte City, MO 64079  
816-858-3420  
[www.co.platte.mo.us/juvenile](http://www.co.platte.mo.us/juvenile)