

# Belknop County Community Justice



"Making changes today  
for tomorrow's children and families"

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## Belknop County Juvenile Community Justice Report

The Belknop County Citizens Council on Children and Families is pleased to present its first report card on the Belknop County Juvenile Justice System. Our program is evolving. We have adopted a restorative justice model for delinquency cases, which holds youthful offenders accountable for their actions and requires them to restore losses to their victims and the community. Our goal is also to help these youthful offenders develop the skills to become productive members of our community.

This report card highlights our performance in 2005 in the area of *juvenile delinquency* and measures our progress as we change to a restorative justice model. It does not include information about children and youth who suffer from *child abuse or neglect* or those who are *Children In Need of Services (CHINS)*. We plan to include these groups in future reports to our communities.

In New Hampshire, juvenile delinquency is a violation of the law committed by a minor (a person under the age of 17). This same violation would be considered a crime if it were committed by an adult (a person over the age of 17). As you read the results reported here, please keep in mind the following:

- **The total juvenile population in the juvenile offender age range:** The juvenile offender

age range is 9 to 17 years. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that 7,894 of the 56,325 residents of Belknop County fall into this category. Therefore, juveniles represent 14 percent of the total population (see below).

- **The number and percent of youth involved in juvenile delinquency:** The agencies serving our juvenile justice system had a combined delinquency caseload of about 250 juveniles during 2005. (These youth had committed delinquent acts and were under supervision.) This translates into 3 percent of the population between the ages of 9 and 17.

In this report, we also want to showcase the positive activities of teens in our community who are taking a stand against alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. They deserve our respect and support.

We hope that you find this report informative. We welcome your observations as well as your advice on what we can do to help make Belknop County a place "where children and families can live safely, with dignity and respect." We invite you to join in that effort by becoming involved in community justice in Belknop County.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Robichaud,  
Executive Director



### An Invitation to the Community

We welcome your questions and comments about this report card and invite you to become a partner for community justice in Belknop County.

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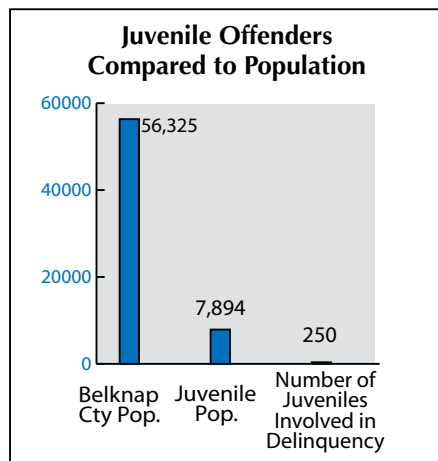
### Juvenile Community Justice Report

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### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE\*

1. What percentage of juvenile population in Belknop County was involved in delinquent acts in 2005?  
a. 20                      b. 10                      c. 3
2. Which of these delinquent acts occurred the most in 2005?  
a. drug possession    b. violence              c. theft
3. What percentage of the juvenile offenders is female?  
a. 30                      b. 10                      c. 5
4. Belknop County had the highest juvenile arrest rate in New Hampshire in 2002.  
a. true                    b. false

\*Answers to the right.



**FACT:** The youthful offenders in Belknop County ranged in age from 9.3 to 18.2 years old.

**FACT:** In 2002 Belknop County's juvenile arrest rate was 148 per 10,000 youth, which is higher than the national average. Source: Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire.

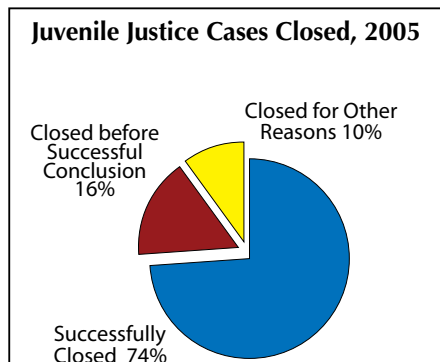
### ANSWERS TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. 3 percent
2. Violence
3. 30
4. False. According to the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire, Belknop County ranked second in the state for juvenile arrests in 2002. In that year, there were 148 juvenile arrests per 10,000 youth.

**FACT:** In 56 of the 101 cases closed this year in Belknop County, the offender lived where the offense was committed.

**BENCHMARK  
RESTORING JUSTICE  
TO VICTIMS**

Three reporting agencies (the Youth Services Bureau, Belnap County Restorative Justice, and the New Hampshire Division of Juvenile Justice Services) closed a total of 101 juvenile cases in 2005. Out of these 101 cases, 75 were successfully closed. The offenders completed all the requirements ordered by the district court or agreed upon with the restorative citizen panel—when the offender, juvenile justice professionals, and possibly the victim convene to determine what the offender must do to help restore losses to the victim and the community. Of the remaining 16 cases, 3 offenders did not complete their obligations, 7 did not cooperate, 2 moved out of state, and 4 re-offended. The last 10 cases were closed for other reasons.



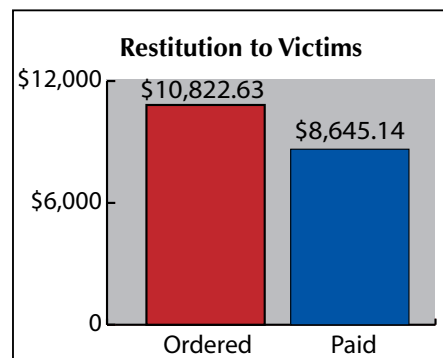
**THE VICTIMS**

In 2005, a total of 101 cases were closed. Eighty of these cases produced 99 victims of juvenile offenses. The other 21 cases were victimless—affecting only the public-at-large and the offenders. Restitution was ordered in 20 cases. Restitution was paid in full in 16 cases.

Cases With Victims	80
Total Number of Victims	99
Cases Without Victims	21
Cases Where Restitution Was Ordered	20
Cases Where Restitution Was Paid	16

**RESTITUTION AT CASE CLOSURE**

Ordered	\$10,822.63
Paid	\$8,645.14
Percentage	80%



**APOLOGY LETTERS**

As part of the restoration process, juvenile offenders can be required to write thoughtful letters of apology to their victims. In 41 cases, the offenders were required to write these letters. Here is an extract from one of them:

*"This past year has been a long one. It's given me time to reflect on my mistakes and fix my flaws. I realize now, as I mature with each passing day that I hurt many people who are close to me. I hate the fact that I let my mother down. She's always been there for me and I, being young and stupid, took advantage of that. I lost my mother's trust... and regain(ing) that trust back was very hard for me but I think we both got through it and it turned out for the better.*

*"I'm supposed to be a role model to my younger siblings, getting into trouble and being kicked out of school wasn't showing or teaching them anything but how to follow my mistakes and flaws...From now forward I would like to teach them the correct ways to handle life and tough situations and, be able to be here when they need someone to talk to...*

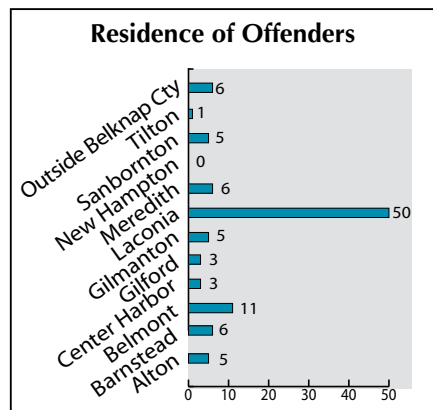
*"Not only did I hurt my family and let them down I also effected (sp) the way people in the community, school, and peers looked at me. I had friends' parents refusing to let them hangout with me because of my actions, teachers talking to me and treating me differently...I've realized that marijuana is not the answer and won't fix things or make them better. I've forced myself to face reality without any influences, and face the consequences of my actions. I would like to say sorry to all those people I've hurt...I like the other side of life the sober side, and I plan to stick with it no matter how hard life may get, and no matter what obstacles I may need to overcome."*

**VICTIM PARTICIPATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCESS**

Victims in 54 cases were invited to participate in the juvenile justice system by submitting a statement in writing detailing how the crime affected them. They also had the option of speaking directly to the offender when the restorative citizen panel convened. At this meeting, the offender, juvenile justice professionals, and, if desired, the victim meet to determine what the offender must do to help restore losses to the victim and the community. Nineteen victims submitted statements and 20 participated in restorative citizen panels.

**BENCHMARK  
RESTORING JUSTICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY**

Community service is an important part of restoring the community. Since offenders frequently commit delinquency in their home town, it is important that they do community service there. Ninety-five offenders resided in 10 of the 11 communities of Belnap County.

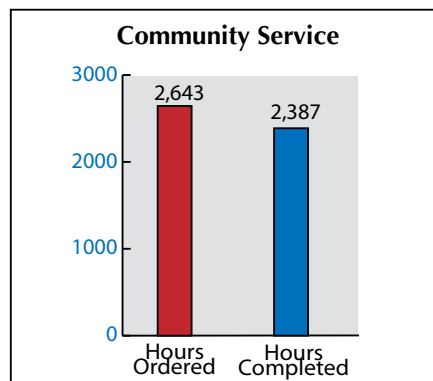


The remaining 6 offenders lived outside Belnap County.

In 29 cases, juveniles performed all their community service where they live and where they offended. In 24 other cases, juveniles performed part of their community service where they live and where they offended.

Community service was ordered or agreed to in 69 cases. The juvenile offenders completed all of their community service in 59 cases. **In 30 cases, the youth completed more community service hours than required.** In total, the offenders completed 86 percent of the assigned community service hours.

Cases Where Community Service Was Ordered/Agreed To	69
Cases Where Community Service Was Completed	59
Percentage of Community Service Completed	86%
Hours Ordered	2,643.25
Hours Completed	2,387.10
Percentage Completed	86%



**DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE DURING SUPERVISION**

Drug and alcohol use are contributing factors to delinquent acts and criminal behavior. Case-closing information on drug testing and participation of offenders in drug resistance courses were reported in 7 of the 20 cases involving drugs. These 7 offenders were tested for drug use at various points while under

*continued on next page*

**FACT:** In 2002 New Hampshire was ranked 43rd in the nation for its number of juvenile arrests. Source: Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire.

supervision. In these 7 cases, marijuana was the most common drug.

Drug Testing			
Case #	Drug	-Drug Test Results- Positive	Negative
1	Marijuana	2	3
2	Marijuana	1	5
3	Unidentified	1	1
4	Marijuana	1	1
5	Marijuana	1	6
6	Marijuana/Opiates	12	16
7	Marijuana	1	5
<b>Totals</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>

Three of the juveniles involved in drug cases enrolled in courses designed to give offenders the tools to resist drugs. Two of them completed the course.

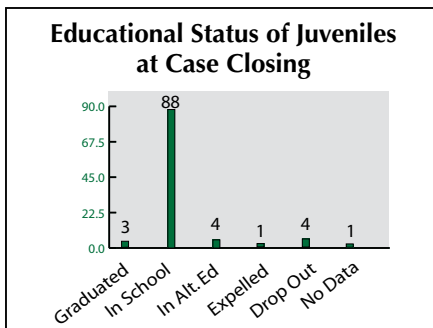
Alcohol use is reported separately. The juvenile who was found in possession of alcohol enrolled in and completed a course to help him resist alcohol.

### SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Keeping youthful offenders in school reduces the number of offenses, helps them develop competencies, and increases the likelihood that they will become productive members of the community. At case closing, 88 juveniles were in school, 4 were in some form of alternative education, and 3 had graduated from high school.

Percentage in School or Graduated: . . . 95

Percentage Expelled or Dropped Out: . . . 5



### THE OFFENSES

The 101 offenders committed 124 offenses, as listed in the chart below. Twenty cases involved drugs, 22 involved some form of theft, and 39 involved violence or the potential for violence. Of this last group, simple assault [24 cases] is the most frequent. Simple assault includes a range of behavior from shoving, for example, to something much more serious, such as a kick to the head.

Cases Involving Drugs . . . . .	20
Cases Involving Theft . . . . .	22
Cases Involving Violence . . . . .	39

The specific charges are listed below:

Charges	Totals
Simple Assault	24
Theft	22
Possession of a Controlled Drug	19
Criminal Mischief	17
Criminal Threatening	7
Criminal Trespass	7
Reckless Conduct	3
Conduct After an Accident	2
Disorderly Conduct	2
False Report to Law Enforcement	2
Resisting Arrest	2
Speeding	2
Trespass	2
Accomplice to Criminal Mischief	1
Acts Prohibited	1
Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault	1
Attempted Sale of a Controlled Drug	1
Conspiracy	1
Contempt	1
Disobeying an Officer	1
False Alarm (911)	1
False Fire Alarm	1
Obstructing the Report of Crime/Injury	1
Possession of Alcohol	1
Possession of Tobacco	1
Second Degree Assault	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>124</b>

### COMMUNITY SAFETY

In 4 of the 101 cases, the offenders were sent to the New Hampshire State Youth Detention Service Unit [YDSU]. The first youth went for 1 day, the second for 9 days, the third for 12 days, and the last for 27 days. In every case, the offender was adjudicated and put under the supervision of the district court and the New Hampshire Division of Juvenile Justice Services.

### BENCHMARK RESTORING OFFENDERS TO POSITIVE CITIZENSHIP

The third aspect of restorative justice is restoring the offender to productive citizenship. The agencies responsible for supervising delinquent juveniles are expected to design community service and other requirements to help offenders develop competencies to lead productive and law-abiding lives.

Competency development can occur in 6 areas:

- Vocational Skills
- Education, Knowledge, Reasoning and Creativity
- Personal and Social Skills, Conflict Management, and Communication Skills
- Decision-Making, Reasoning, and Problem Solving
- Citizenship
- Health and Recreation

These competencies can be developed through a wide range of experiences, such as:

- Completing specific courses relating to stopping drug and alcohol use, shoplifting, etc.
- On-the-job training and job shadowing
- Communicating and working with law enforcement personnel
- Mentoring and being mentored
- General study and writing
- Working on environmental and other civic projects

The first chart below summarizes the number of times that *community service* focused on each of the skill areas. The second chart summarizes

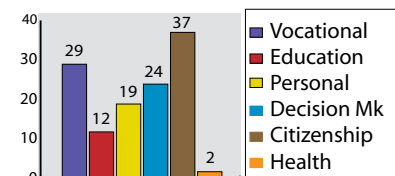
### COMMUNITY SERVICE BY LOCATION

Juveniles performed their community service hours at 80 different locations throughout the county. Here is a partial list:

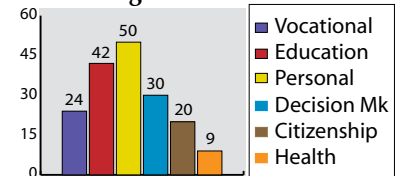
- |                                    |                                     |                                       |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Assisting the Elderly              | Gunstock                            | Salvation Army                        |
| Babysitting                        | Habitat House                       | Salvation Army/United Way             |
| Barnstead Elementary School        | Inter-Lakes Elementary School       | Sam's Club                            |
| Barnstead Police Dept              | Inter-Lakes High School             | Sandwich Community Library            |
| Beach Cleanup                      | Kid 2 Kid Mentoring                 | Sargent Park                          |
| Belknap County 4-H                 | Laconia High School                 | Servicelink                           |
| Belknap County Citizens            | Laconia Housing                     | Solar Village                         |
| Belknap County Nursing Home        | Laconia Library                     | South Road Cemetery                   |
| Belknap County Restorative Justice | Laconia Parks & Recreation          | Special Olympics                      |
| Belknap County Superior Court      | Laconia Police Department           | Taylor Home                           |
| Belknap County Conservation        | Laconia Teen Center                 | Timberman Triathlon                   |
| Belmont Middle School              | Lakes Region General Hospital       | Town of Barnstead                     |
| Belmont Mill                       | Lakes Region Rotary Club            | Town of Belmont                       |
| Belmont Parks & Recreation         | Lakes Region Music Festival         | Town of Gilford                       |
| Belmont Police Department          | Lakes Region Public Access          | Town of Gilmanton                     |
| Belmont Rotary Club                | Master Gardener's                   | Town of Sandwich                      |
| Belmont Senior Center              | Memorial Middle School              | United Baptist Church                 |
| Belmont Skate Park                 | Meredith Department of Public Works | University of NH Coop Extension       |
| Bolduc Park                        | Meredith Police Department          | WLNH Children's Auction               |
| Catholic Charities                 | Mooseman Triathlon                  | Working With People with Disabilities |
| Church                             | Neighbor                            | Youth Garden                          |
| Compassionate Connections          | New Beginnings                      | Youth Ventures                        |
| CoRe                               | New Hampshire Technical Center      |                                       |
| Daycare                            | New Hampton School                  |                                       |
| DCYF                               | P.A.C.T.                            |                                       |
| Gilford High School                | Prospect Mountain High School       |                                       |
| Gilford Historical Society         | Rotary Park                         |                                       |
| Good Shepard Lutheran              | Saint Francis Home                  |                                       |
| Granite State Triathlon Club       | Saint Vincent de Paul               |                                       |

\*We wish to thank all of these community resources for contributing to the growth and competency development of our youth. Such contributions cannot be purchased at any price.

### Competency Development Through Community Service



### Competency Development Through Other Conditions



**FACT:** The amount of time an offender was under supervision varied from a low of 14 days to a high of 7.4 years.

the number of times that *other requirements* focused on the 6 skill areas.

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCESS

The citizens of Belknap County were involved in the juvenile justice process in multiple ways.

- Many citizens—individually or through community groups—have provided meaningful opportunities for offenders to perform community service. This in turn has given offenders a means to build competencies that will help restore them to productive citizenship.
- In 2005, individual citizens served on 65 restorative citizen panels. The number of citizens involved in each panel ranged from a low of 1 to a high of 5.
- Citizen-volunteers work with juvenile justice professionals to improve the juvenile justice system. They do this by participating in monthly meetings of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families. They also work on activities such as National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Annual Convocation on Children and Families, and various other projects and work groups of the Citizens Council.
- Citizens from all communities of Belknap County serve on the Citizens Council on Children and Families or its initiatives.

## GOOD THINGS HAPPENING FOR AND BY JUVENILES IN BELKNAP COUNTY

**The Teen Center of the Lakes Region**, a drop-in program for youth in grades 6 through 12, is housed in the Sacred Heart Parish Center, Laconia. Teens can select from enrichment activities, such as outdoor adventure, sewing and crafts, cooking and nutrition, media, music, and drama. Individual tutoring and mentoring are also provided. The center is open Monday to Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. and provides homework help three days a week.

It is funded in part by Project EXTRA!, a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Project, in partnership with Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.), Belknap County Incentive Funds, Lakes Region United Way, WLNH Children's Auction, and many community supporters. To find out more about the center, call Dianne Zawacki, Executive Director, 603-369-4554 or visit their website at: [www.laconia.k12.nh.us/teencenter/](http://www.laconia.k12.nh.us/teencenter/).

**Community Response Coalition (CoRe)** supports local communities in their fight to decrease incidents of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among youth. Since 2001, the CoRe Coalition has implemented a variety of prevention strategies, including parenting workshops, a support group, leadership and prevention training for youth and adults, and substance-free and pro-social activities for youth. Thanks to funding from the Drug Free Communities Support Program, the New Hampshire Tobacco Prevention & Control Program, and the New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment, the CoRe Coalition has been able to reach out to other communities within Belknap County to share resources and strategies for substance abuse prevention. If you or your organization is interested in becoming part of the CoRe Coalition, please contact Renee Rockwell, Project Director, at 279-6162 or Shannon Swett, Outreach Coordinator, at 875-3800 x3206.

## PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY CORE

**After Hours** is a student-led group at Inter-Lakes High School. Its mission is to plan fun, drug-free activities and promote awareness about substance abuse in the community. The group chose the name After Hours to reflect its mission to look after and support one another in choosing to be drug free. The After Hours group sponsors events, such as trips to Chunky's Movie Theater, paintball, camping trips, boot camp, and an all night "Lock In" at the high school.

### Controlling Our Own Lives (C.O.O.L)

run by students at Prospect Mountain High School, organizes substance-free activities and promotes awareness among teens and the community about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention. Its goals are drug and alcohol prevention and awareness, creating school unity, promoting individual growth, creating a safe space for everyone, being positive role models, having fun without illegal substances, being open to new things and alternative opportunities, and helping the community.

**New Hampshire Teen Institute** sponsors middle and high school youth to attend various training programs. Since 1983, the institute has offered wellness-focused prevention programs that train and motivate youth to make a positive difference in their schools and communities. These programs empower young people to become leaders and to create healthy lifestyles and positive environments.

**Youth Protecting Our Future (YPOF)** brings together middle school youth who are dedicated to reducing teen substance abuse in the Inter-Lakes community. In February, 2006, members attended Leaders in Prevention training held by the New Hampshire Teen Institute, where they attended workshops focusing on leadership, drug prevention, diversity, anti-bullying, and action planning. Their goals include educating the Inter-Lakes community about the risks associated with smoking tobacco. They take part in the international program "Kick Butts Day," by sponsoring a walkathon in Meredith and a variety of other activities designed to encourage kids and their parents to stand up to the tobacco industry and fight youth smoking in their communities.

**Community Youth Mapping** engages youth and adults in the collection of baseline information on places to go and things to do in Belknap County. Young people comb the community, visiting businesses, churches, and other organizations and collect information about the nature of these services. The information is entered into a database and is visually represented on a website via software provided by Geographic Information System (GIS). To view our community assets online, go to [www.communityyouthmapping.org](http://www.communityyouthmapping.org).

**Media Enrichment Program**, in association with New Hampton School, challenged 10 youth from the The Teen Center of the Lakes Region to learn about the negative effects of drug abuse and create a public service announcement about the dangers of substance abuse. Through the experience, the kids learned how to produce their own script, perform it, film it, and edit it. The teens involved

**FACT:** The juvenile offenders completed 86 percent of the community service assigned.

*This report was produced under the auspices of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families, Alan Robichaud, Executive Director. Special thanks Audrey Garretson of the New Hampshire Community Technical College and David Stamps of dbstamps consulting for typesetting this report, P.A. Moed for editing it, and to all the citizen volunteers and providers of services to the youth in our community.*



The C.O.O.L. group marks "Kick Butts Day" at Prospect Mountain High School by wearing shirts featuring the number 1200. They want to highlight the fact that every day 1200 Americans die from a tobacco-related illness.