

Trinity County, CA

**Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile
Justice Plan – Revised**

April, 2018

Introduction

The original Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMAJJP) for Trinity County was developed in 2009 and incorporated programs, practices, and strategies that addressed a number of identified issues prevalent in this population during that time. Since the original plan was created, a number of factors over the years have brought significant changes to the world of juvenile justice, necessitating the re-convening of community leaders and juvenile justice stakeholders and the careful examination of current data regarding emerging trends, available resources, priorities, and practices. Some of the more noteworthy changes include the incorporation of evidence-based practices in the processing and handling of juvenile cases (specifically in the adoption of a Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) practice model that ensures youth receive just the right amount of services needed to address the behaviors while avoiding the overdosing of services that research shows can unnecessarily pull youth deeper into the justice system). The specific tool that was chosen by the department to implement is the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). Other significant changes include a general statewide shift of funding away from juvenile services towards adult offender services with 2011 Public Safety Realignment funding which transferred post-incarceration supervision of adults away from CDCR to local probation departments, large systemic changes in the child welfare system that shifted responsibility from the state to counties to recruit, certify and manage resource families (formally known as foster placements), the softening of sanctions for certain penal code violations generally deemed to be non-serious or victimless crimes (Prop 47, Prop 64), and a push for greater community-based diversionary and correctional programming options for juveniles. A variety of other national initiatives broadened these changes, including efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparity in the justice system, and on-campus restorative justice programs in the schools that seek to break the “school to prison pipeline.” The confluence of all of these and other factors has resulted in interesting data that is both encouraging and potentially troubling at the same time for Trinity County. While local juvenile crime rates have shown an overall decrease since the original CMAJJP, other data regarding the health and safety of Trinity County Youth reflects poorly on our county’s youth outcomes, and most measurements continue to trend downward. Further discussion regarding these data trends will be addressed in this report, along with programs, services and strategies that are deemed to make the best use of limited resources to address identified systemic gaps.

The Impacts of Change

Historically in Trinity County both Juvenile and Adult Probation Services have been heavily dependent on funding from both the State of California and the Federal Government. When the economy was good and the State and Federal Government were healthy, grants were plentiful and trickle down revenue would reach the various counties in California. Programs flourished in these times and client to probation officer ratios were sufficient to carry out the mission. Unfortunately, supplemental state funding was eventually reduced or modified to meet a different need, and county general fund contribution to the department was not then

available to maintain effective programs. Additionally, federal IV-E dollars, which were at one time a straightforward source of revenue reimbursing staff time for preventing a removal and placement of a youth into foster care, became heavily scrutinized due to a combination of mismanagement, misunderstanding, and lack of state involvement in working with the counties. This removed even more revenue from the juvenile justice system. For a larger county that has an economy of scale working to their advantage, this simply meant the scaling back of certain staff, programs, and services to a level that matched the new fiscal realities of the day. But to a small, poor county such as Trinity, these systemic shifts and changes become catastrophic in meeting core mandates and services for juveniles.

One of the most significant cuts came in the disbanding of a collaborative school partnership that included a juvenile deputy from the Sheriff's Department and a Juvenile Probation Officer. Additionally, at or about this same time, several more probation officers elected to retire early to avoid being laid off. Then, in 2014, after thirteen years of operation, Trinity County was forced to close the juvenile hall which resulted in twelve (12) juvenile counselors losing their jobs. With the closing of the facility also came the closure of the Trinity County Youth Camp Program. Also affected was the Hoopa Native American Tribal Court who contracted for placement of their youth that were in need of stabilization and correctional treatment services.

Still lacking sufficient funding to re-open full-time but having few other juvenile services available in the community, the Probation Department reopened the juvenile hall in March of 2015 as a weekend-only program. A small number of staff were hired and provided extensive training in facilitating correctional treatment programming. New evidence based programming was then implemented to maximize the impact on the youth given the limited days of participation and engagement. These program areas included addressing drug and alcohol issues (Forward Thinking), a Victim Impact program, and a Vocational Readiness Program/Life Skills that teaches USDL soft skills to youth.

Historical Milestones and Markers of Juvenile Justice Services for Trinity County

- 1994 Juvenile Assessment Center opens. Minors begin to serve non-secure detention on weekends. Juvenile programming centers on intervention programming and partnering with H.R.N., Mental Health, Social Services and A.O.D.S. "Back in Control Program." - Chief Probation Officer Renny Noll.
- 2001 Trinity County completes construction and opening of full time secure Juvenile Hall. Programming for detained minors increased in partnerships with H.R.N., A.O.D.S., Mental Health, T.C.O.E. and Social Services. - Chief Probation Officer Terry Lee.
- 2014 Trinity County Juvenile Hall closes. Lack of funding forces closure and the evaporation of some programming. In 2015 the Juvenile Hall reopens as a weekend facility for juvenile commitments. Some programming returns to detained minors. - Chief Hal Ridlehuber.

- 2017 Trinity County Juvenile Hall continues to operate as a weekend facility. More programming added to the Juvenile Hall. Facility operational hours provide support to juvenile probation officers offering tutoring and homework assistance program. Other programming includes Prop 64 education in partnership with A.O.D.S., Peer Court in partnership with T.C.O.E., Courts and Probation. - Chief Tim Rogers.

Identification of areas of concerns, barriers to services, and Prioritization of Need

- Geography - Trinity County is a rural mountainous area in Northwest California located between Redding and Eureka, with a population of 13,583. The overall population of the county has trended downwards from a high of 14,165 in 2009 due to a number of factors including the closing of the Sierra Pacific Industries mill in Hayfork in 1996. Prior to its closing, the mill directly employed between 140-160 people. Law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, social services and drug and alcohol services provide the best services they can considering the handicaps of being a vast county with small towns scattered throughout. Most juvenile services are provided in Weaverville, the county seat.
- Poverty and Youth Homelessness - Trinity County continues to struggle in some key areas that have a profound impact upon the juvenile justice system and the lives of our youth population. It is estimated that 25.2 % of households with children ages 0-17 live below the federal poverty level of \$24,008. It is additionally reported that 10.8% of public school students in Trinity County are homeless, which puts Trinity County as the second highest county in the state for homeless students.
- Childhood Trauma – Trinity County has one of the highest overall Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) scores in the State of California, and over one quarter of our youth have a score greater than four (4), which research demonstrates exposes the youth to a higher risk for adverse health and safety outcomes. (Essentials for Childhood, www.cdph.ca.gov). ACEs scores are commonly used to describe a range of traumatic experiences that may occur during a person’s first 17 years of life, including child abuse, neglect and other household dysfunctions. Findings suggest that ACEs are a risk factor for a wide range of poor health, safety, and social outcomes. The higher the number the greater the likelihood of having the adverse health conditions manifesting. 23% of the tested youth in Trinity County had a score of 4 or more ACEs, 27% of the tested population scored 2-3 ACEs. These results are alarming and speak to the need for greater early intervention and prevention services to the youth of Trinity County.
- Suicide, Depression, and Mental Illness - Trinity County, with a rate of 35 suicides per 100,000 residents, has the highest suicide rate of all small rural counties in California. Further, according to a November 3, 2015 article published by Phillip Reese in the Sacramento Bee entitled “California’s rural counties struggle with rising number of suicides,” the suicide rate in rural California counties is more than 80% higher than the rate in urban counties. Local youth data on suicide reflect the larger statistics.

- Trinity Alps Unified School District data shows that 26.2% of 9th graders self-reported to be engaged in suicidal ideation and 15.6% of 11th graders self-reported to be engaged in suicidal ideation.
- Mountain Valley Unified School District data shows that 25% of 9th graders self-reported to be engaged in suicidal ideation and 23% of 11th graders self-reported to be engaged in suicidal ideation. (Student Reported, Kidsdata.org 2013-2015)
- County-wide, Kidsdata.org data shows that 19% of 9th grade students and 18% of 11th grade students self-reported to be engaged in suicidal ideation.
- The 2016 Trinity County and State Healthy Kids Survey data shows that 23% of 9th grade students seriously considered attempting suicide the past year, and 20% of 11th grade students seriously considered attempting suicide the past year, both higher than the state average.
- Drug Trafficking, Cultivation, and Substance Abuse within the general population - In 2015, Trinity County was designated by the Office of National Drug Control Policy as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) largely because of an exponential increase in drug crimes and other violent crimes related to marijuana cultivation and substance use. Since 2012, we have seen a 61.9% increase in the overall violent crime rate, and a 30.48% increase in property crimes over the same period. Of greatest concern were statistics related to a sharp increase in homicides in the years 2011 through 2015, most being directly related to substance use, manufacturing, and sales. This dramatic increase in violent crimes involving drugs, as well as the high rate of recidivism by substance using defendants, are both known factors that endangers the lives and safety of our Trinity County communities and negatively impact the lives and safety of our youth and schools.
- Youth Substance Use and Abuse - Referrals to the Trinity County Probation Department for drug and alcohol offenses have increased dramatically in the first quarter of this year, comprising 69% of all referrals to the Probation Department. The Trinity County and State of California Healthy Kids Survey of 2015/16 reports the following statistical data that supports the increased number of referrals for drug and alcohol offenses.

Current use of alcohol

- 10% of 7th graders report current use of alcohol. State average is 13%.
- 33% of 9th graders report current use of alcohol. State average is 32%.
- 61% of 11th graders report current use of alcohol. State average is 51%.

Current use of Marijuana

- 7% of 7th graders report current use of marijuana. State average is 8%.

- 34% of 9th graders report current use of marijuana. State average is 23%.
- 52% of 11th graders report current use of marijuana. State average is 38%.

Current use of Ecstasy, LSD, or other psychedelics

- 15% of 9th graders report current use. State average is 17%.
- 18% of 11th graders report current use. State average is 22%.
- Truancy and School Suspensions - Kidsdata.org shows that Trinity County averaged 5.8 suspensions per 100 students in 2015. The Mountain Valley Unified School District averaged 9.5 per 100 students. That was the second highest reported suspension rate in the State of California, second to Modoc County at 9.8 per 100 students. These trends are also not abating, and are further exacerbated by limited resources to successfully handle incidents and problem behaviors in students.
- Bullying and Harassment in the Schools - Data in the area of bullying/harassment in our schools shows an alarming 55.5% of seventh graders in Trinity County reported being bullied/harassed. The state average is 4.8%. Ninth grade students reported in at 37% and 31.5% for eleventh graders, both grades in excess of state averages. These factors contribute to a culture which greatly increases other risk factors in this youthful population.

Assessment of Existing Services and Local Stakeholders

Current Programs and Services

Trinity County Probation Department (TCPD) provides an array of juvenile services including but not limited to prevention, intervention and informal services, investigation, intake, assessment, diversion and diversion programming, case planning, supervision, advocacy, placement, and custody/residential correctional treatment. These programs are provided through one and a half field juvenile officer positions and a part-time juvenile hall that specializes in providing correctional treatment programming to sentenced youth court ordered to complete specific programming provided in the facility. Probation also assists the schools providing supervision and support to sporting events, Sober Grad., school dances, and other functions.

Trinity County Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AODS) provides Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and Trinity Choices youth substance abuse education and intervention programming, Club Live (elementary schools) and Friday Night Live (high schools) programs to the youth in Trinity County. AODS is also a partner to Probation in facilitating the Forward Thinking Series classes in the juvenile hall.

Trinity County Behavioral Health (TCBHS) funds and maintains the Systems of Care Team and Parent Partners program, provides mental health case management to probation youth in need of that level of care, and provides crisis response to youth in the juvenile hall.

Human Response Network (HRN), the only community-based organization (CBO) and non-profit service provider in Trinity County, offers the following prevention programs to youth in Trinity County: Mentoring Program, Healthy Life Skills, Personal Safety and Youth Outreach. HRN continues to operate Teen Centers in Weaverville and Hayfork in addition to several After School Programs.

Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE) provides Love and Logic parenting classes to parents of probation youth, and has also created TTCCP (Trinity Together, Cradle to Career Partnership) which explores what students need in order to be ready for higher education or the local job market. This program utilizes business people and organizations throughout the county. In addition to the identified need of providing youth with needed technical job skills, certain soft skills (showing up on time, not using your phone at work, dressing appropriately, looking people in the eye, making introductions, being courteous, etc.) were also deemed to be just as important links to employment as are resumes, filling out job applications, and interviewing. The ultimate goal is to develop a program that can build pathways for students so that they might go from school to internships, to job experiences, to employment in careers within Trinity County.

Trinity County Sheriff's Officer (TCSO) maintains contact and communication with the Trinity County Probation Department. They partner with various county agencies when the opportunity and funding allows. The Sheriff's Office also participates in juvenile justice stakeholder meetings.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) offers the Smart Start program and helps support the Sober Grad programs in the county. The California Highway Patrol has partnered with and is committed to being of service to the youth of Trinity County.

Trinity County District Attorney's Office (TCDA) maintains contact and communication with the Trinity County Probation Department. They participate in the stakeholder meetings and are active in helping address the various needs of the youth of Trinity County.

Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

In order to adequately address the identification and prioritization of Juvenile Services in Trinity County, a survey was created and provided to both juvenile justice stakeholders as well as the public seeking feedback in the areas of Prevention and Intervention, Response, Investigation, Arrest, Intake and Referral, Assessment and Case Planning, Prosecution and Legal Representation, Field Supervision, Treatment and Services, Placement, Custody, Aftercare and Juvenile Justice Strategies. On March 21, 2018 the Trinity County Probation Department held a convening of the stakeholders in the Juvenile Justice System of Trinity County for the purpose of reviewing the results of that survey, discussing priorities within the county regarding juvenile justice, and setting goals and strategies to address identified issues. The following graphs show several areas where the Public and Stakeholders were in agreement.

Both groups responded favorably to a need for more prevention and intervention programs for the youth of Trinity County. When asked if Trinity County was in need of more treatment programs for minors who have addiction issues around drugs and alcohol the stakeholders agreed (100%), the public agreed (87%).

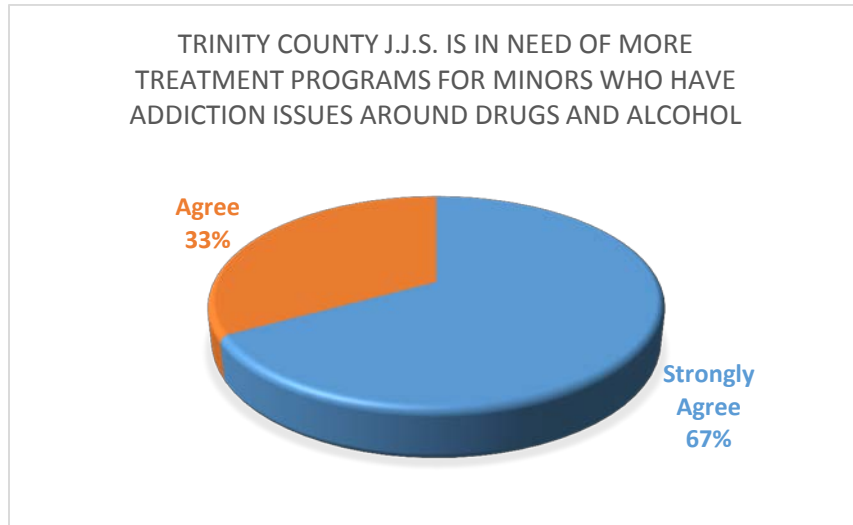


Figure 1: Stakeholders

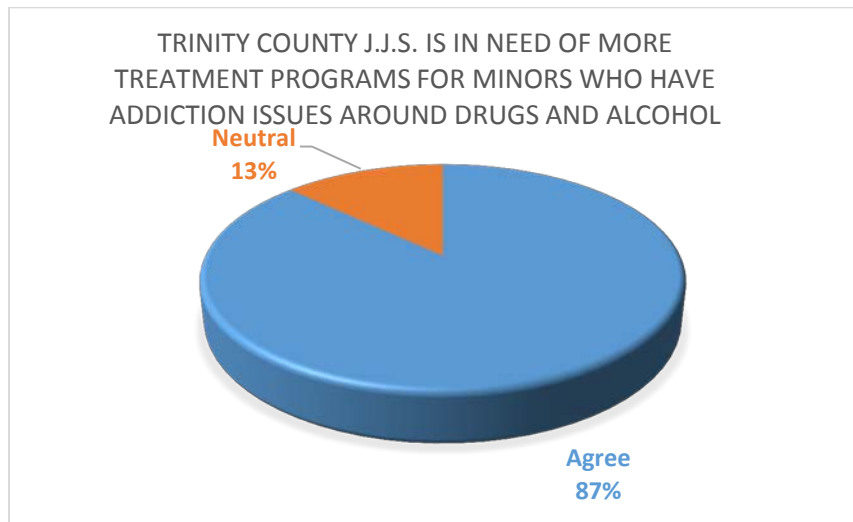


Figure 2: Public

The question was asked about a need for more counseling programs for anger management and bullying. Stakeholders agreed (84%), the public agreed (87%).

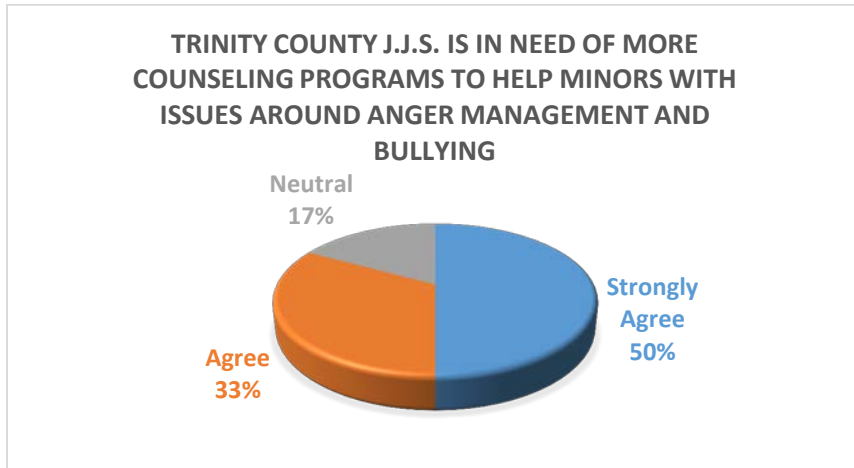


Figure 3: Stakeholders

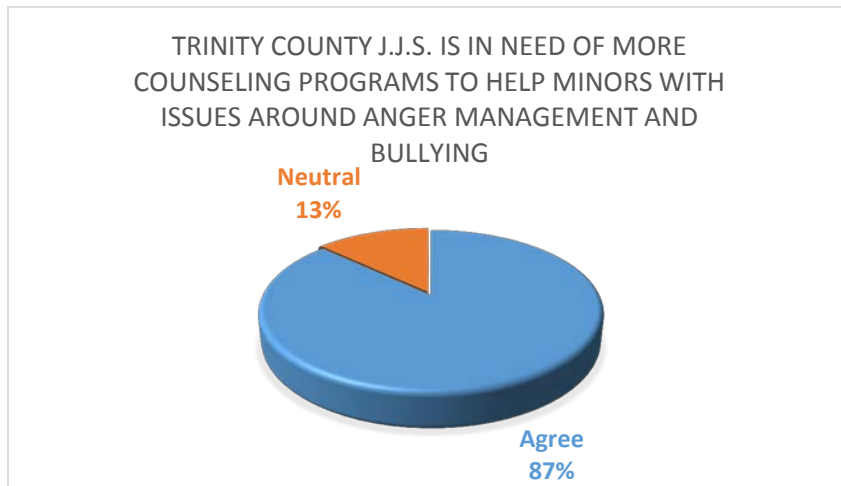


Figure 4: Public

The question was asked about a need for job skills training. Stakeholders agreed (100%), the public agreed (93%).

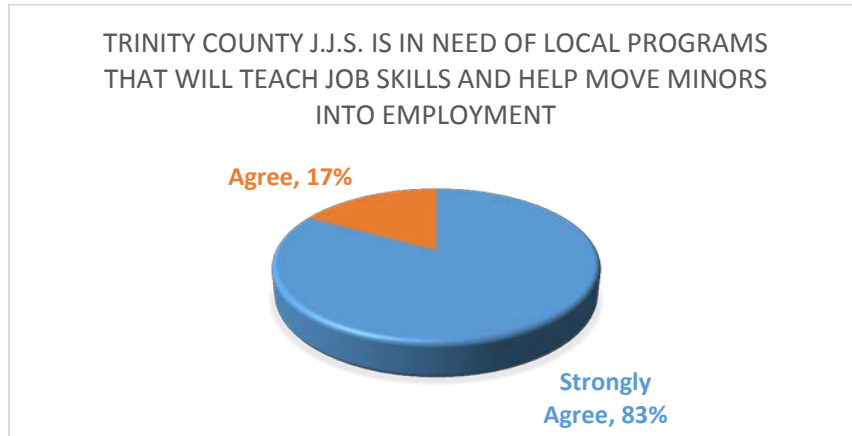


Figure 5: Stakeholders

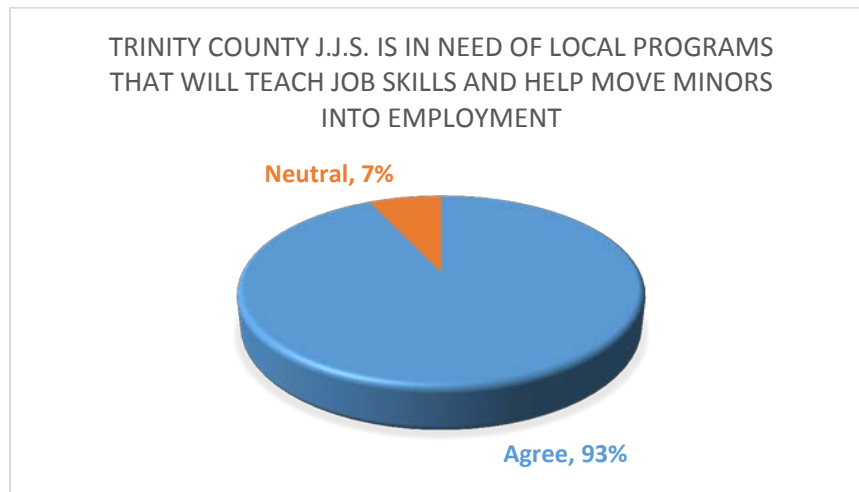
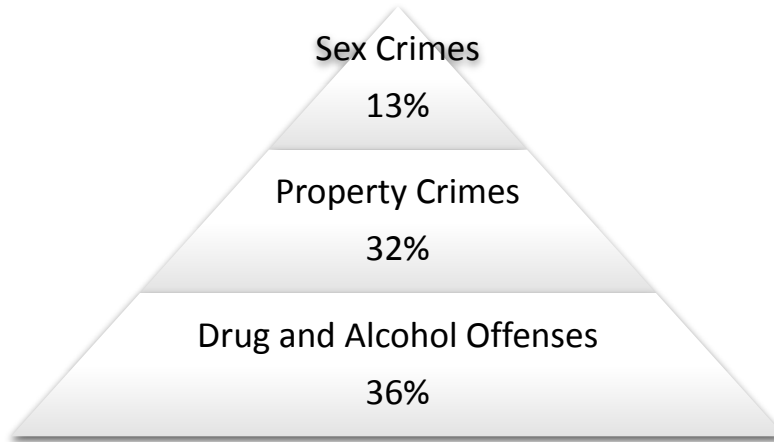


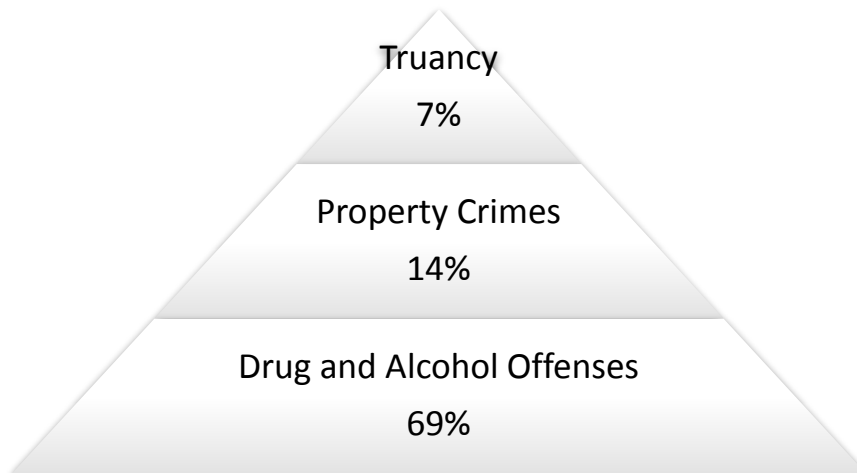
Figure 6: Public

In addition to the survey data, the probation department examined present referral patterns and presenting areas of concern regarding delinquent conduct. Referral rates show a significant increase for 2018 in Drug and Alcohol referrals and a reduction in Property Crimes.

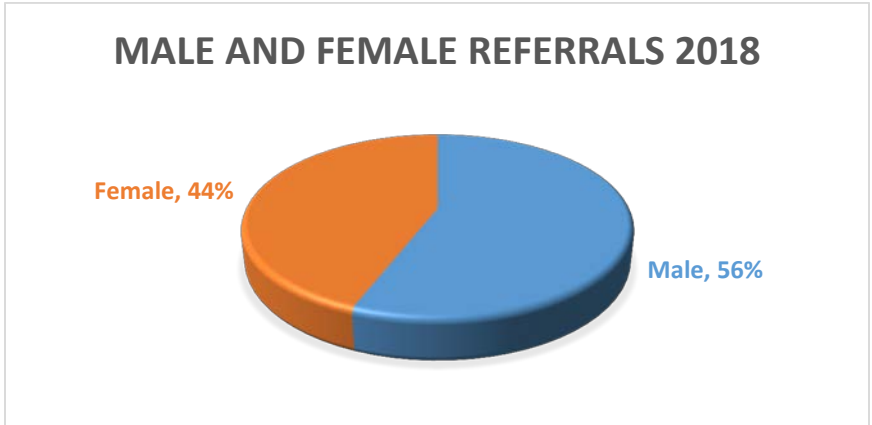
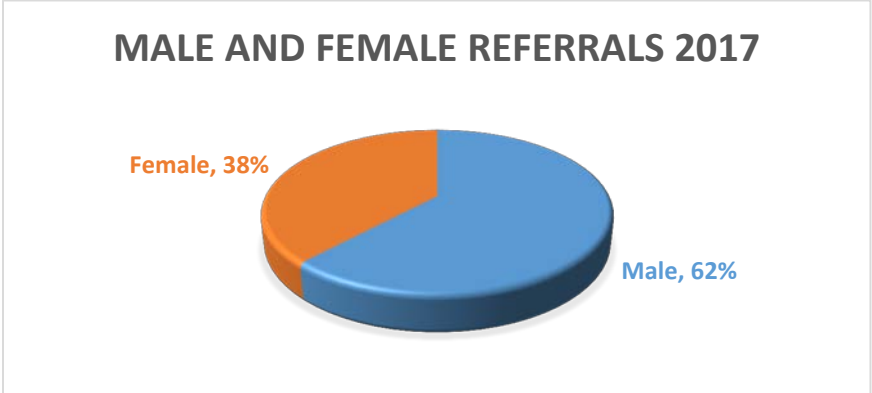
TOP THREE JUVENILE CRIME STATISTICS FROM 2017



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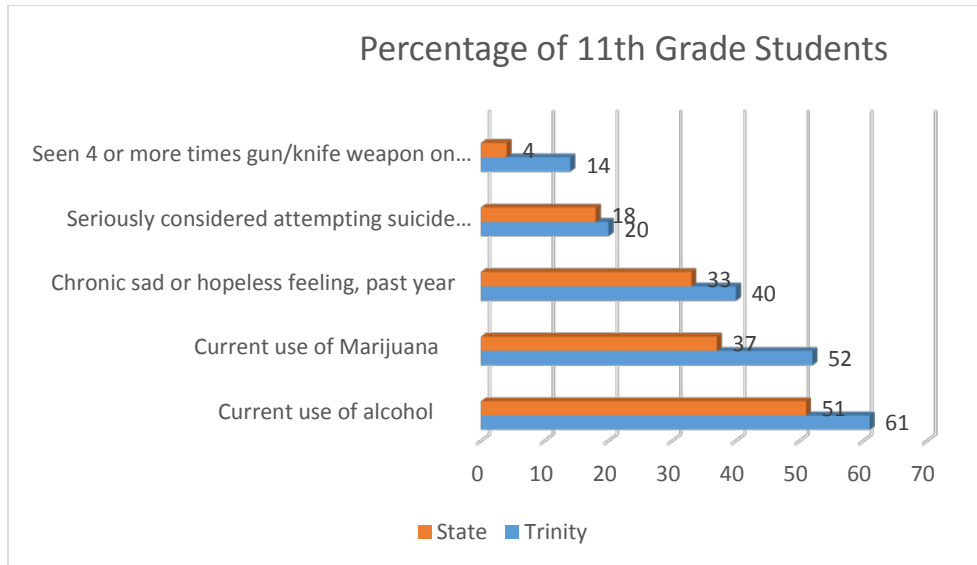


Data also show a significant increase in female referrals from 2017 to 2018.



Overall, the referral rate for the first quarter of 2018 has increased by 300%. It is unknown at this time if this increase is an anomaly or a trend that will continue throughout 2018. If referrals continue to rise, greater stress will be placed on existing programs and a lack of secure detention options may well consume scarce financial resources.

Additional comparisons of state and local Healthy Kids Survey data shows more evidence regarding troubling outcomes for Trinity County youth.



Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

Trinity County’s Five Year updated Comprehensive Multi-Agency Plan reflects the findings of our current juvenile justice system, fulfills the requirements of California statute, and serves as a foundation for action by the Trinity County juvenile justice system partners and members of Trinity County’s communities. The two requirements for the plan include:

1. The plan should describe the vision of juvenile justice system partners, youth, parents and community members for improving the juvenile justice continuum in Trinity County. The plan should also reflect what is important to the community, creates a platform for improving the system and assuring that adequate resources are available to make the juvenile justice continuum balanced and effective.

2. The plan should articulate actions for realizing that vision. The plan should also identify clear steps to take in improving the continuum and the partnerships responsible for these actions.

Using all available data and information, the committee identified the following goals, programs, services, and strategies as our focus.

- 1) Implement a System-Wide Mental Health Assessment Response Treatment (SMART) program utilizing the assessment tool Mosaic, a research-based and validated risk assessment tool. This would be a Mobile Response Team partnering with the schools, and comprised of juvenile justice stakeholders including the Sheriff's Department, Probation, T.C.O.E. and Mental Health as possible personnel options to fill out the team.
- 2) Re-allocate resources within the Probation Department to dedicate a full-time deputy probation officer to be embedded in the schools to increase services in the areas of Prevention, Intervention, Truancy Reduction, and Crisis Response. This person would also be part of the SMART team crisis response.
- 3) Obtain funding to hire a sheriff's deputy who would focus on juvenile matters within the county and in the schools, and work collaboratively with the SMART team.

Measurements of success towards these goals will be determined and evaluated to encourage on-going commitment by all stakeholders. This will also allow for the application of possible grant funds in meeting the committee's goals.

The Juvenile Justice Committee will continue to meet bi-annually to review existing programs, discuss areas of collaboration and explore various funding sources and opportunities to expand services. It is the intent of the stakeholders that with bi-annual meetings they can address issues surrounding continued funding and project effectiveness.

Conclusion

Despite data showing a decline in overall delinquency rates in Trinity County over the last 5 years, other data regarding the health and safety of Trinity County's youth reflects poorly on our youth's outcomes and most measurements continue to trend downward. Further, we are now also starting to see a steady rise in delinquent referrals, possibly suggesting that these other areas, if not adequately addressed, will further impact our future delinquency and crime rates.

All young people should be guaranteed the opportunity to be healthy, safe, and able to learn in school and to engage in positive, productive activities. This plan requires

the targeted and coordinated use of new and existing resources. Further, in order to ensure public safety and reduce youth violence and victimization, we must continue the collaborative commitment to a juvenile justice system that holds juvenile offenders immediately accountable (before they become hardened criminals) and respond appropriately to the issues that bring young people to the courtroom in the first place.

This plan, a collaborative effort of all of the county's juvenile justice stakeholders, outlines programs, services and strategies that are deemed to make the best use of limited resources, address identified systemic gaps, and provide for better outcomes for our youth.