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# A Study of Juvenile Delinquency Services

The Sixth Judicial District  
FY 1996

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*Alternative Services*  
*Foundation II*  
*Tanager Place*  
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*United Action for Youth Mayors Youth Employment Program*  
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## Overview of Program Results

Juvenile crime in the Sixth Judicial District continues to increase, but one goal of community-based juvenile court services has been achieved: Out-of-home placements are going down.

While the number of referrals in the district went up 16 percent and the number of delinquency petitions increased 38 percent in the past four years, the number of placements in residential treatment were down 38 percent over the past five years.

That represents a sea change in juvenile court practice, officials say. The value of community-based services has been recognized by the courts, and juvenile officers have learned to work with those services.

In fiscal 1996, the judicial district spent \$1.06 million on community-based services, including tracking, day treatment programs, life skills programs and school-based tracking services. Youths in the community-based programs were less than 20 percent of all young people referred to the juvenile court system.

Community services are considerably cheaper than the \$107 a day it costs to keep a juvenile in out-of-home placement. Community services, however, have joined other juvenile court services in facing a financial crunch. Court officials say the system is far too overloaded to do an adequate job.

"The shortage of placements means you are weighing kids," said Judge Susan Flaherty. "For some kids, you can't wait, so you do crisis management. We are not able to focus on preventing problems, and the problems get so entrenched. I want the best for these kids, but it's hard when you have limited resources."

Deb Minot, assistant county attorney in Johnson County, points to the percentage drop in delinquency petitions in relation to referrals to illustrate the overload in her county. From 1989 to 1994, delinquency petitions were 17 to 19 percent of referrals. By 1995 that had dropped to 13 or 14 percent. In addition, 27 percent were waived to adult court in 1995, compared to 12 to 14 percent in previous years, and 10 youngsters have gone directly to adult court since the law changed July 1, 1995, to allow that.

"We are not filing petitions at the rate we used to," Minot said, "and many juveniles are facing fewer consequences. They have to be worse now to come to court."

The time spent on the most troublesome youths has increased geometrically, she said, while those on informal probation get less attention. People who merely violate probation "don't come back to court today; there is no time." Most youths can be helped if they are seen when they first enter the system, she said. "We are creating our own problems by not investing enough resources in prevention and consequences."

The work overload affects the entire system. Day treatment programs in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City have waiting lists. The after-school intensive supervision program in Iowa City has been scrapped. Trackers complain about having to track more and more youths with no increase in hours. Officers say youths are being placed in less appropriate situations because other services are full or not available.

"A lot of trackers are frustrated," said Laura Yount of Alternative Services in Linn County. "They feel like they have to put in extra time to get the job done. They can't connect with kids and families like they used to."

Johnson County officers complain that tracking services for fiscal 1997 were cut to 20 hours a week. "You can only split that so many ways," said officer Al Wicks. "I have one kid I would like to have seen 12 to 15 hours a week."

The result, said Jim Swaim of United Action for Youth, is that there is time for little more than curfew checks, which officers want to document violations. "If you are only going to document kids that fail, the program will fail," he said.

Bernie Bordignon, Linn County officer, pointed out that trackers now are saying the same things juvenile court officers said a few years ago. She criticized decisions based on funding rather than need. "So many think if they give us more money, we will abuse it. This is not a system that we can abuse. The trackers are working overtime for no pay. Because we use trackers less is not because we don't need them. It's funding. We should have 200 hours of tracking a week instead of 120."

Jodi Gibson, Johnson County officer, figures at least four juveniles would not have been in trouble this fall if they had been in intensive supervision in the summer.

"The population is exploding," she said. "It's almost as bad as it can get. If someone is realistic, they can't take money from residential treatment for community-based services, and they can't say after one year that a community-based program doesn't work. We have a manageable problem that is being allowed to become unmanageable."

Program goals for 1996 included:

1. Provide more facilities for detention.
2. Pair probation officers and trackers in Linn County.
3. Use school-based tracking to smooth the transition from court tracking to non-supervision for juveniles and their parents.
4. Increase efforts to attract parents to support groups and other family resources.
5. Continue to refine measures for evaluating programs.
6. Continue to explore new models for services and new ways to use programs in conjunction with other family intervention services.

Progress toward those goals and others are reported in the appendix, page 87.

The Sixth Judicial District has attempted to evaluate programs by monitoring reoffense rates of juveniles in community-based programs. Cost savings are estimated by calculating the number of months placements were avoided, postponed or shortened. Juvenile court officers also were asked to rate the success of programs for each juvenile. The findings for 1996 follow.

## Participant Outcomes

**Reoffense rates.** Seventy percent of juveniles in community-based programs in fiscal 1996 did **not** commit other crimes while they were in the programs. (Table 1). This is a slight increase from the 66 percent who did not reoffend in fiscal 1995.

The percentage of those who did not reoffend in tracking programs and in day treatment was the same: 70 percent. In life skills programs, 68 percent of juveniles did not reoffend while in the programs.

The most frequent crime overall was theft, which accounted for 31 percent of total reoffenses this year, up slightly from last year's 29 percent. The next most frequent charge was assault at 25 percent, down slightly from the 27 percent rate last year. Among juveniles in day treatment programs, the most frequent charge was assault at 31 percent, slightly above the 27 percent theft reoffenses.

Drug and alcohol violations, which rose to 15 percent of reoffenses in 1995, dropped to 9 percent of reoffenses this year. Burglary accounted for 9 percent of reoffenses in 1996, up from last year's 6 percent. (For comparison, 41 percent of the 3,629 juvenile charges in Linn, Johnson, Iowa and Jones counties in 1995 were thefts, 16 percent were assaults, 16 percent were drug and alcohol violations and 6 percent were burglaries.)

No sex abuse charges were filed against juveniles in the 1995 study, but three youths in 1996 programs were charged. That constituted 2 percent of total offenses. Two juveniles, 1 percent of the total, reoffended on weapons charges. That was one juvenile fewer than last year.

The most frequent beginning charge for juveniles in tracking and day treatment was theft: 27 percent for those in tracking and 34 percent for those in day treatment. Assault was the most frequent beginning charge for those in life skills programs; 32 percent had beginning assault charges compared to 21 percent with beginning theft charges.

Community-based programs accommodated juveniles with all degrees of delinquency. In the fiscal year, 18 percent of those in the programs had five or more referrals to the court. Generally, the more court referrals a juvenile had, the more likely he or she was to commit another crime. For example, 17 percent of those with one referral committed another offense, while 49 percent of those with five or more referrals committed another crime. (Data linking referrals to reoffenses are shown in Table 2.) Interestingly, none of those placed in day treatment after only one referral reoffended during the fiscal year.

More than one-third of juveniles in tracking programs in fiscal 1995 also were tracked in 1996. The data show that 71 percent of those youths did not reoffend in 1996. (See Table 3.) Among the 190 juveniles who were in tracking programs in 1994, 83 percent did not reoffend in 1996.

**Table 1. Reoffenses of juveniles in community programs in FY 96**

Offense	Number	Percent
<b>Tracking programs</b>		
Theft	34	30%
Assault	24	21%
Drug and alcohol violations	12	11%
Burglary	11	10%
Violations of probation	6	5%
Criminal mischief	5	4%
Robbery	4	4%
Weapons	2	2%
Sexual abuse	2	2%
Forgery	1	1%
Other*	12	11%
Total youths who reoffended	113	100%
Total youths who did not reoffend	264	70%
Total youths who reoffended	113	30%
Total youths in tracking programs	377	100%
<b>Day treatment programs</b>		
Assault	8	31%
Theft	7	27%
Burglary	3	12%
Drug and alcohol violations	2	8%
Criminal mischief	1	4%
Robbery	1	4%
Sexual abuse	1	4%
Violations of probation	1	4%
Other*	2	8%
Total youths who reoffended	26	100%
Total youths who did not reoffend	61	70%
Total youths who reoffended	26	30%
Total youths	87	100%
<b>Life skills programs</b>		
Assault	8	36%
Theft	10	45%
Burglary	1	5%
Other*	3	14%
Total youths who reoffended	22	100%
Total youths who did not reoffend	47	68%
Total youths who reoffended	22	32%
Total youths	69	100%

\*Other includes a range of offenses such as cruelty to animals and vandalism

**Table 2. Number of youths who reoffended by number of prior offenses**

Type of offense	Number of prior offenses					Total
	1 prior	2 priors	3 priors	4 priors	5+ priors	
Theft	3	10	17	9	12	51
Assault	3	8	11	13	5	40
Burglary	0	4	3	2	6	15
Drugs/alcohol	1	2	3	1	7	14
Violation of probation	1	2	2	0	2	7
Criminal mischief	0	1	2	1	2	6
Robbery	0	0	0	2	3	5
Sexual abuse	0	0	3	0	0	3
Weapons	0	0	0	0	2	2
Forgery	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other*	1	6	3	1	7	18
Totals	9	33	44	29	47	162
As % of all reoffenses	6%	20%	27%	18%	29%	100%
As % of all who had priors (N=528)**	2%	6%	8%	5%	9%	30%

\*Other includes a range of offenses such as cruelty to animals and vandalism.

\*\* The total number of participating youths with prior offenses (N=528) does not equal the total number of youths who participated in the programs because four CINAs (children in need of assistance) did not have prior offenses, and the status of one other was not available.

The rate at which juveniles in tracking programs did not reoffend varied by county from a high of 89 percent who did not reoffend in Tama County to a low of 60 percent who did not reoffend in Benton County. Rates at which juveniles did not reoffend in the other counties were: 75 percent in Iowa County, 66 percent in Johnson County, 83 percent in Jones County, and 66 percent in Linn County.

The reoffenses also varied by county. For example, Benton County, which had less than 7 percent of the juveniles in tracking, accounted for 27 percent of the reoffense charges of burglary. Johnson County, with 17 percent of the juveniles in tracking, accounted for 38 percent of the reoffenses of assault. No burglary reoffenses were tallied in Iowa and Tama counties, and no assault charges or drug and alcohol violations were listed in Tama and Jones counties. The only reoffenses of robbery and sexual abuse occurred in Linn County. Of the two reoffenses on weapons charges, one was in Linn County and one in Tama County.

**Adult offenses.** The Sixth Judicial District Juvenile Court Office has attempted to determine whether former juvenile offenders continue to offend as adults. The adult corrections office searched records to see whether those in community-based programs in 1994 and 1995 had committed crimes as adults in 1996. Adult corrections can identify only those who have entered the adult community corrections system, but their cooperation allows some measure of the long-term success of juvenile programs.



Among the 103 young people from the 1995 group who were adults in 1996, 27 percent committed adult crimes during the year. The most frequent crime was theft, with 25 charged. As in juvenile court, assault was the second most frequent crime, with 21 of the young people charged. Seven committed burglaries, seven faced weapons charges, and seven were charged with drug and alcohol violations. Four were charged with violating probation or parole. The distribution of offenses by county is shown in Table 3.

Seventy-six of the 190 youths in 1994 programs were adults in 1996. Records show that 26 percent committed adult crimes during the year. Another 17 percent reoffended as juveniles.

**Table 3. Youths in 1995 programs who reoffended in 1996**

County	Total # of youths	# juveniles offending	% juvs. offending	# youths turning 18	# offending as adults	% adults offending
Benton	27	8	30%	15	8	53%
Iowa	28	6	21%	13	2	15%
Johnson	47	11	23%	9	0	0%
Jones	25	4	16%	9	3	33%
Linn	147	53	36%	55	15	27%
Tama	9	1	11%	2	0	0%
Total/ave.	283	83	29%	103	28	27%

**Girls vs. boys.** In fiscal 1996, as was true last year, girls were under-represented in the system. Girls were 22 percent of those in tracking, 15 percent of those in day treatment programs and 28 percent of those in life skills programs. Overall, 21 percent of those in all programs were girls. Females make up about half of the general population and 24 percent of those in the Sixth Judicial District juvenile court system.

The reoffense rates for girls and boys were similar; 70 percent of girls in tracking programs did not reoffend while they were in the programs, compared to 69 percent of boys. Girls in other programs did better than boys; 85 percent of girls in day treatment and 79 percent of girls in life skills did not reoffend, compared to 68 percent and 64 percent, respectively, for boys.

Reoffenses for girls, as for boys, were most frequently assaults or thefts. Girls accounted for 21 percent of reoffense charges of assault among those in tracking programs and 32 percent of the theft charges. Girls accounted for 40 percent of criminal mischief reoffenses but only 8 percent of the drug and alcohol violations. No girls had reoffenses of burglary, robbery, sexual abuse, weapons violations or forgery.

Placement rates among girls and boys in tracking programs were similar: 14 percent for girls and 16 percent for boys. However, a higher percentage of girls in life skills were placed, 23 percent of girls compared to 15 percent of boys. In day treatment 5 percent of girls were placed and 24 percent of boys. About 7 percent of girls had been in placement prior to tracking, compared to 2 percent of boys.

**Minorities.** Almost one-quarter of juveniles (23 percent) in all community-based programs in 1996 were minorities, up from 17 percent last year. While the minority percentage was just 20 percent for those in tracking, minorities were 29 percent of those in life skills programs and 32 percent of those in day treatment.

This continues the trend toward over-representation of minorities in the juvenile court system. Although minorities make up about 4 percent of Iowa's population, they constitute at least 11 percent of those in the juvenile court system. (The ethnicity of almost 20 percent of those in the system is unknown.)

Among the 74 minority juveniles in tracking programs, 72 percent did not reoffend while they were in the programs, a rate slightly above that of the overall group. Among the 28 minority juveniles in day treatment, 64 percent did not reoffend; 60 percent of the 20 minority juveniles in life skills programs did not reoffend.

This represents a considerable improvement over 1995, when only 52 percent of minority juveniles did not reoffend while they were in community-based programs.

The most frequent charge among the 39 who reoffended was assault, with 15 incidents, or 38 percent of the total minority reoffenses. Fourteen were charged with thefts. Two each were charged with burglary and robbery. One was charged with a drug and alcohol violation, and one was charged with a weapons violation.

Overall, 16 percent of minority juveniles were sent to placement facilities during 1996. That is identical to the placement rate for all juveniles in community-based programs. In life skills programs, 20 percent of minority juveniles were placed, compared to an overall placement rate of 22 percent. In day treatment, 18 percent of minority juveniles were placed, compared to a 15 percent overall placement rate. In tracking, 15 percent of minority juveniles were placed, compared to 16 percent overall.

Fifteen percent of all minority juveniles had been in placement before entering the community-based programs, including 21 percent of those in day treatment, 15 percent of those in tracking and 10 percent of those in life skills programs. Among all juveniles in community-based programs, 5 percent had been in prior placements. Two percent of all juveniles in tracking were in prior placement; 10 percent of those in life skills programs, and 14 percent of those in day treatment.

**Court officers' satisfaction.** Overall, juvenile court officers were satisfied with community-based services in 64 percent of the cases, a satisfaction rate 2 percentage points below that of last year. The rates for individual services were: 64 percent for tracking, 63 percent for day treatment, and 64 percent for life skills.

Court officers frequently debate the question of "satisfaction." If a youngster does not reoffend, the results are definitely satisfactory. But officers also can be satisfied with the services, i.e. pleased with a tracker or program, even though a juvenile reoffends. Occasionally, an officer is dissatisfied with the quality of the service, even though the youngster does not reoffend.

The satisfaction rates for various services are shown in Table 4.

About 14 percent of juveniles who began services while under informal status were moved to judicial status in fiscal 1996 because of new offenses or violations of pro-

bation agreements. Overall, 78 percent of juveniles began programs under judicial status, and 81 percent ended under judicial status.

**Table 4. Juvenile court officers' assessment of results of services**

Agency	# youths	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%
<b>Tracking programs</b>					
Alternative Services	169	108	64%	61	36%
Foundation II	91	63	69%	28	31%
Tanager Place	8	4	50%	4	50%
Tama Comm. Mental Health	19	12	63%	7	37%
United Action for Youth	41	29	71%	12	29%
Youth Homes	47	24	51%	23	49%
Youth Services of Linn County	38	24	63%	14	37%
<b>Day treatment programs</b>					
Alternative Services	67	46	69%	21	31%
Youth Homes	27	13	48%	14	52%
<b>Life skills programs</b>					
Alternative Services/Employ. Youth	15	10	67%	5	33%
Foundation II/Crossroads*	25	18	72%	6	24%
Iowa City Community Schools	29	16	55%	13	45%
Totals/averages	577	367	64%	209	36%

\* Satisfaction response for one juvenile was not available.

Note 1: The duplicated number of youths served was 577. The unduplicated number served was 533; thus 44 juveniles were served under more than one program.

Note 2: The duplicated number of juveniles served by county was: Benton, 27; Iowa, 24; Johnson, 65; Jones, 32; Linn, 246; and Tama, 19.

## Program costs

A 42 percent increase in the number of juveniles in tracking across the judicial district resulted in an 8 percent decrease in the average cost of tracking per day. The average cost per day in fiscal 1996 was \$9.50 (Table 5), below the \$10.31 average per day in fiscal 1995. Tracking costs were \$15.06 per day in 1994.

Costs of tracking in rural counties were lower than those in urban counties, sometimes by as much as one-third.

The average cost per day did increase in 1996 in Benton, Iowa and Johnson counties, but decreased in the other counties. The increases were 54 percent in Benton County, 39 percent in Iowa County and 10 percent in Johnson County. Benton and Iowa counties had the lowest cost-per-day averages last year.

Cost-per-day averages dropped in 1996 by 49 percent in Tama County, which had the second highest average in the district last year; by 22 percent in Linn County, and 7 percent in Jones County.

There was little change in the average cost per youth in tracking. The average cost in 1996 was just \$27 per youth over the 1995 cost. The overall time youths were in tracking also changed little between 1995 and 1996, increasing only about half a month.

The most expensive juvenile programs were the day treatment programs. Only DART was in existence in 1995 and for such a short time that average costs per day last year were not available. Costs per day are shown in Table 5.

The least expensive programs overall are the school-based programs. Those average just \$2.49 a day per youth. The cost range, from \$6.79 a day in Williamsburg to \$1.70 in South Tama, reflects in great part the numbers of youths in the programs. The Williamsburg program reported data on only 13 students for 1996.

The average per-day cost of life skills programs overall was just 72 cents above that of last year. The cost per day of the Employment for Youth program was cut in half in 1996, probably because of the difference in calculation of months in the service between the two years. The program is designed to last six months, but the average month per youth reported last year was 3.81. This year's average is a more likely 5.87 months. Cost per day at Foundation II's Crossroads, the most expensive of the life skills programs, dropped 31 percent from last year, reflecting in part a reorganization that allowed the program to accommodate more youths. Also, youths spent about a month more in the program in 1996 than they did in 1995. The Iowa City schools life skills program was expanded this year, increasing costs per day for that program by 73 percent.

The flexibility to control programs at the local level and thus tinker with those programs to meet current needs throughout the year contributes to overall cost savings.

**Table 5. Costs and numbers of youths in community-based services**

	1	2	3	4	5
	# youths served	Total cost of program	Average cost/youth	Average mos./youth	Ave. cost youth/day
<b>Tracking by agency</b>					
Alternative Services	169	\$ 237,551	\$ 1,406	4.23	\$ 11.07
Foundation II	91	101,819	1,119	4.77	7.82
Tanager Place	8	6,204	776	2.88	8.99
Tama Comm. Mental Hlth.	19	17,596	926	5.68	5.43
United Action for Youth	41	44,020	1,074	6.12	5.85
Youth Homes	47	71,085	1,512	4.89	10.30
Youth Services/Linn Co.	38	65,305	1,719	3.87	14.81
Totals/averages	413	\$ 543,580	\$ 1,316	4.62	\$ 9.50
<b>Day treatment programs</b>					
Alternative Services (DART)	67	\$ 256,000	\$ 3,821	3.30	\$ 38.61
Youth Homes (ANCHOR)	27	165,000	6,111	4.37	46.61
Totals/averages	94	\$ 421,000	\$ 4,479	3.61	\$ 41.40
<b>Life skills programs</b>					
Alt. Serv./Employ. for Youth	15	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,000	5.87	\$ 5.68
Foundation II/Crossroads	25	65,000	2,600	5.64	15.37
Iowa City schools	29	16,575	572	6.00	3.18
Totals/averages	69	\$ 96,575	\$ 1,400	5.84	\$ 7.99
<b>School-based programs</b>					
Cedar Rapids schools	92	\$ 71,511	\$ 777	9	\$ 2.88
Iowa City schools	91	47,675	524	9	1.94
South Tama schools	52	23,836	458	9	1.70
Williamsburg schools	13	23,836	1,834	9	6.79
Totals/averages	248	\$ 166,858	\$ 673	9	\$ 2.49
<b>Tracking by county</b>					
Benton	27	\$ 33,203	\$ 1,230	5.89	\$ 6.96
Iowa	24	14,403	600	6.54	3.06
Johnson	65	102,550	1,578	5.03	10.45
Jones	32	22,889	715	3.88	6.15
Linn	246	352,939	1,435	4.20	11.39
Tama	19	17,596	926	5.68	5.43
Totals/averages	413	\$ 543,580	\$ 1,316	4.62	\$ 9.50

Note 1: The unduplicated number of youths served was 577; thus 44 youths (577-533=44) participated in more than one service or were served under more than one funding source.

Note 2: The average cost per youth for each program (column 3) was calculated by dividing the total program cost (column 2) by the number of youths served by the program (column 1). Average cost per youth per day (column 5) was calculated by dividing the average cost per youth (column 3) by the average number of days cases were open (column 4)(average number of months youths were served x 30 days).

Note 3: Counting 30 days per months allows a comparison to residential treatment.

## Cost savings

The Sixth Judicial District sent 65 young people from delinquency programs to out-of-home placement facilities during fiscal 1996. The state's average cost per youth in residential treatment is \$107 a day.

The availability of community services allows placements to be shortened or postponed, and those cost savings can be measured. In addition, officials estimate that half of never-placed youths in day treatment programs, 10 percent of those in tracking and 5 percent of those in life skills would need out-of-home placement if community services were not available. Avoiding placement for even one juvenile saves the state \$53 to \$92 a day, based on 1996 average daily costs for community programs.

The measurable savings of shortened and postponed placements are shown in the next two tables. Table 6 shows a total savings of \$77,040 for shortening of placements for 49 juveniles who were in prior placements. Table 7 shows savings of \$898,800 for 58 juveniles whose placements were postponed because of the availability of tracking services. This is an increase of more than \$300,000 over the savings calculated in 1995. The availability of community services also allows court officials to monitor youths while postponing placements until appropriate slots can be found.

Table 8 shows that the state saved a total of \$899,412 over and above the cost of tracking services through shortened and postponed placements due to the availability of community services. Benton, Iowa, Johnson and Jones counties reported no shortened placements and thus had no savings. The savings for Linn County, the largest county in the judicial district, were substantial, as the table shows.

The savings on shortened and postponed placements do not include the savings in situations where placement could be avoided altogether.

**Table 6. Number of months prior placements were shortened because youths participated in intensive supervision (tracking)**

County	# youths served	In prior # youth	placement % youth	# months shortened	Total cost savings
Benton	25	3	12%	0	\$ -
Iowa	24	2	8%	0	-
Johnson	64	4	6%	0	-
Jones	29	1	3%	0	-
Linn	221	37	17%	22	70,620
Tama	18	2	11%	2	6,420
<b>Totals</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$ 77,040</b>

Note: Total cost savings to the state due to early discharge of youths from residential or institutional placements were calculated by using the statewide average reimbursement rate of \$107 a day for residential treatment. This is a conservative estimate because costs of psychiatric treatment centers and institutions are higher. The cost savings were calculated by multiplying the actual number of days the placement was shortened (number of months x 30 average days per month) times \$107.

**Table 7. Number of months placements were postponed because youths participated in intensive supervision (tracking)**

County	# youths served	Placed after supervision # youths	% youths	# months postponed	Total cost savings
Benton	25	8	32%	52	\$ 166,920
Iowa	24	4	17%	17	54,570
Johnson	64	10	16%	48	154,080
Jones	29	3	10%	11	35,310
Linn	221	30	14%	124	398,040
Tama	18	3	17%	28	89,880
Totals	381	58	15%	280	\$ 898,800

Note: Total cost savings because placements were postponed were calculated by using the statewide average reimbursement rate of \$107 per day for residential treatment. This is a conservative estimate because costs for psychiatric treatment centers are institutions are higher. The cost savings were calculated by multiplying the actual number of days the placement was shortened (number of months x 30 average days per month) times \$107.

**Table 8. Total costs saved by shortening placements and substituting intensive supervision (tracking) services**

County	1 Costs saved by shortening placements	2 Costs saved by postponing placements	3 Program costs in community	4 Total cost savings
Benton	\$ -	\$ 166,920	\$ 10,858	\$ 156,062
Iowa	-	54,570	1,561	53,009
Johnson	-	154,080	15,048	139,032
Jones	-	35,310	2,029	33,281
Linn	70,620	398,040	42,371	426,289
Tama	6,420	89,880	4,561	91,739
Totals	\$ 77,040	\$ 898,800	\$ 76,428	\$ 899,412

Note: Costs of tracking programs (column 3) were calculated by adding the number of months placements were shortened and/or postponed for each youth, multiplying this sum by 30 (average days in a month), and then multiplying the resulting number (days the youths were in tracking programs instead of placement) by the average daily cost of the programs. These costs, then, represent the difference between having a youth in tracking programs rather than in institutional care. Total cost savings (column 4) was calculated by subtracting the community programs' costs from the sum of costs saved by shortened placements (column 1) and costs saved by postponing placements (column 2).

## The Programs

Programs for delinquent youths in the Sixth Judicial District in 1996 continued progress toward a goal of dealing with juvenile offenders in the community and avoiding out-of-home placement. The variety of programs allows juvenile court officers to select one or a combination of delinquency services and other community resources to tailor treatment to the needs of each individual youth.

The unduplicated number of youths in tracking programs across the district increased 34 percent in 1996. (The increase in the duplicated number was 42 percent.) Day treatment programs in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City expanded, and both now maintain waiting lists. Life skills programs continued at Crossroads in Cedar Rapids and in the Iowa City schools. School-based programs continued to expand, with school trackers cooperating with juvenile court officers to monitor delinquent youths.

Two training sessions were offered for program staffs, offering staff members the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn new skills.

Programs in the six counties were developed by the Juvenile Court Office and participating agencies with delinquency services money from the Department of Human Services. Court-ordered services funds also supported services in all six counties. In Linn and Johnson counties, money from county decategorization committees also were used. Schools paid 25 percent of the costs of school-based tracking. Tracking in Jones County was started with a Rural Kids Count, Too, grant from the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Council. The Jones County program became a model for other rural counties. Detail on the amounts and sources of funding is included in the appendix, page 93.

## Tracking

The Sixth Judicial District spent \$543,580 for tracking programs, also called intensive supervision, that served 381 youths. Under direction of juvenile court officers, trackers monitor juveniles by checking on school attendance and making sure they obey curfews. They also help parents set rules and support parents in efforts to discipline their children. Tracking is used to make sure youths do not commit new crimes, to prevent or postpone placement, to improve a youngster's functioning in the community, and to provide aftercare for juveniles coming out of placement.

Juvenile court officers request services that are appropriate for each individual youth. Usually, a tracker visits the youth's home and school and talks regularly to the youth and his parents. Trackers frequently monitor curfews, although curfew checks may not be required in some cases. Some trackers provide transportation to and from school, to court hearings or to treatment or counseling programs. Some join youths in recreational activities and serve in a mentoring capacity.

In urban counties, tracking services are requested from cooperating agencies. In rural counties, one tracker serves everyone in the county.

Referring officers complete extra paperwork for tracking programs so that the state can recover federal Title IV-A funding.



## Day treatment programs

Day treatment programs received \$421,000 from the Sixth Judicial District in fiscal 1996. The Cedar Rapids DART program operated by Alternative Services cost \$256,000. The Iowa City ANCHOR program started by Youth Homes cost \$165,000.

Both programs take a corrections approach, with strict rules imposed and daily attendance required. Physical activity is emphasized. Group sessions offer opportunities for youths to learn how to manage anger, develop community relationships and correct errors in thinking. The programs also include substance abuse treatment.

For juvenile court officers and other referring organizations, the programs offer quick responses with a minimum amount of paperwork.

The programs offer a more intensive version of tracking and attempt to replicate the benefits of placement by meeting such basic needs as supervision, nutrition, clothing and health care. Because Medicaid is not an entitlement in community-based programs, the agencies take juveniles to free clinics and other need-based medical providers.

**Delinquent Alternatives to Residential Treatment (DART).** DART moved from the former parochial school building it occupied last year to another church building and finally to its own building, previously a group home. That allowed an increase in capacity from 12 to 16, but the program had a waiting list of 13 this fall. The cap does not apply to DART graduates who are called back to the program after new infractions.

"The new building is excellent," said director Cindy Shireman. "There is more space for programming. The kids are not as anxious. They don't have to deal with others, and we have fewer behavior problems."

The youths also maintain the building and lawn, learning such life skills as how to replace door knobs, repair plaster or fix the agency van. With a kitchen on-site, the youths also learn cooking skills. Showers are available to help youths with hygiene.

"The kids take pride in the dwelling," Shireman said. "A lot come from homes that are wrecked. They come here, put up and do the laundry, do the dishes. They notice if things are out of place. They like to show the house off."

The new location helps the staff, too, she said. "They like the job better. They are never as nervous or edgy."

The program has become more strict, with the uniformed youths required to walk with their hands behind their backs at all times. They go to the bathroom as a group, on the hour, and are to maintain silence unless they are engaged in group, recreation or supper. They attend DART from noon to 9 p.m. seven days a week, unless they are in school. When a youth violates rules, he can be put in detention at St. Luke's Hospital, where he is in a locked room and monitored continuously by hospital staff.

"We are still doing nurturing and relationship building," Shireman said, "but we are so strict now that the kids feel safer and can open up more."

A previously informal aftercare has been replaced with a more structured program. Two trackers teach group sessions, and the aftercare group has its own projects, goals and rules.

Tracking has been intensified for fiscal 1997 to help youths continue their improved behavior after they leave daily programming. Two half-time trackers meet each

youngster face-to-face five days out of seven for two or three months. The trackers also talk to parents, make sure youths go to school and jobs, and help them structure time. Shireman said they have already seen less recidivism.

The agency also has begun weekly visits to families of youths in DART, which already have brought better responses from parents, Shireman said. "Many parents resisted before. Many were criminals or substance abusers, and they fought us. Now we hope to rope them in with family visits."

**Adventure-based, Non-traditional Corrections Harnessing Obedience and Respect (ANCHOR).** The ANCHOR program serves 10 youths in the basement of an office building in east Iowa City and has a waiting list of about six. Several rooms are available on site, but the location does not offer kitchen, laundry or shower facilities.

The first incarnation of day treatment, started last fall, included the physical activity component but emphasized educational groups. The program became ANCHOR in February and has since become more highly structured, with more rules, stricter policies and more enforcement. The adventure-based programming included such activities as canoeing trips and using the high ropes course at Lake Macbride.

"The courts are happier, the police department is thrilled, and we are getting positive feedback from the schools," said Joan Black of Youth Homes.

Youths are in the program from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, unless they are in school. A curfew log is kept at the police station, so police know who is in the program and can stop anyone violating curfew. A court order allows the police to take a youth directly to detention. If a youth commits a new offense, ANCHOR has asked that they definitely be taken to detention. Otherwise, the police can release a youth to his or her parents, but the department notifies ANCHOR.

In 1996, community service was emphasized, with youths doing such chores as cutting branches at Lake Macbride, painting fences at the Herbert Hoover site in West Branch and fixing up a school trail. In fiscal 1997, the emphasis is shifting to employment, with assistance from the Mayors Youth Employment Program.

That is what most families want, said David Petrie, ANCHOR director. "Most of our kids are 15 or 16 years old, and that's what they need."

Last year youths were sentenced to six months at ANCHOR, but many wound up running away or being placed before the sentence was up. Now youths can work their way out of the program in three months.

This year's program also has an increased emphasis on substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Aftercare so far is handled on an individual basis so a large influx would not overwhelm the staff, but Petrie said they were considering providing the service one regular night a week. That way, he could hire extra staff for the one night, with youths being given drug tests and having a group session.

One frustration, he said, was the delay in getting youths in the backlog into the program. Often youths are delayed by the court system, he said. "It is such a long process. It's supposed to be swift and it isn't." Court officials say they would like to expand the program to seven days a week, but Petrie said that would require an additional \$60,000.

## Evaluation of Day Treatment

Juveniles in the judicial district's two day treatment programs, DART in Cedar Rapids and ANCHOR in Iowa City, have mixed feelings about the programs: They dislike attending the programs but grudgingly admit that the programs have helped.

DART, which has operated for two years, tends to get higher marks from juveniles, parents and court officials than ANCHOR, established in February. ANCHOR replaced a day treatment program started in fall 1995.

"Every kid should go to DART," one Cedar Rapids mother said. "DART is a blessing."

DART is OK, said Andrew B., 16, "but it's not something I would choose to do. It's better than Eldora or boot camp, so I'll make the best of it."

Loni R., 15, advocates more DART-style programs in the cities. "If they are going to send someone away, they should send them to DART," she said, citing four friends who had been in placement but hadn't changed their behavior. "Some people don't get the drift," she said. "Getting sent away is sort of stupid. You need family support."

To better measure the effect of day treatment programs, self-report interviews were conducted with youths immediately following referral to the programs and at the time they were released. The purpose was to assess youths' attitudes toward school and community and to examine their perceptions of family and parental support. Drug use and involvement in delinquent behavior before and after treatment also were assessed.

The results show several positive changes, including changes in the youths' attitudes about themselves and their abilities to be successful following day treatment. Positive changes in attitudes toward school also were noted.

Family support and parental involvement improved following treatment, with more youths at the end of treatment saying their parents supported them. Parents also appeared to be more involved in school by the end of day treatment.

The study also found moderate decreases in antisocial behaviors such as delinquency and drug use. Alcohol use decreased significantly after day treatment, while marijuana and other drug use showed slight to moderate decreases.

**The sample:** Fifty-four pretests and 24 posttests were conducted. Twenty-one posttests were completed with adolescents in the DART program in Cedar Rapids. Three posttests were conducted with youths from the ANCHOR program in Iowa City. Due to the small sample size, subjects from both programs were combined in all data analyses.

As shown in Table 9, subjects included in the self-report interviews were 15.7 years old. Eighty-eight percent (n=21) were male and 13 percent (n=3) were female. Fifty-eight percent of subjects were white (n=14) and 42 percent (n=10) were minorities.

Subjects most often resided in homes headed by their mothers; 67 percent (n=16) youths lived with their mothers. Youth in the study sample were very mobile; subjects reported attending an average of seven schools since kindergarten. Average grade of completion at the time of the posttest was approximately ninth grade. Thirty eight percent (n=9) of youths reported receiving half Bs and half Cs on their report cards. Twenty-nine percent (n=7) said they generally received half Cs and half Ds in school courses. Additional results are shown in Table 9.

**Table 9. Characteristics of juveniles in day treatment**

	Mean	(SD)	%	(n)
Age (in years)	15.67	(1.14)		
Gender: Male			87.5	(21)
Female			12.5	(3)
Ethnicity: White			58.3	(14)
Minority			41.6	(10)
Number of persons lived with Youth lives with:	2.91	(1.41)		
Mother			66.7	(16)
Father			50.0	(12)
Number of physician visits in past year	2.60	(3.32)		
Number of schools since kindergarten	6.67	(3.58)		
Last grade completed in school	8.83	(1.17)		
Usual grades of subjects:				
Half As and half Bs			16.7	(4)
All Bs			8.3	(2)
Half Bs and half Cs			37.5	(9)
Half Cs and half Ds			29.2	(7)
All Ds			4.2	(1)

Note. N=24

**Data analysis.** Comparisons of mean scores (using paired t-tests) before and after involvement in day treatment were used to assess changes that occurred among participating youths. Frequencies and changes in relative percentages are shown where appropriate in the table above.

**Juveniles' attitudes before and after treatment.** Attitudes before and after treatment were assessed to determine if subjects' perceptions of self-esteem improved following participation in day treatment. Significant and positive attitude changes were found in a number of areas.

Other interviews with youths in day treatment programs confirm the changes in attitude. "I changed my attitude as soon as I came in here because I had to do 110 push-ups," said Roger N., 17, who was in the ANCHOR program. "They teach you the basics and make you think about what you've done."

ANCHOR, agreed Anthony J., 15, "is good in that it makes me think about what I am doing and how to resolve issues."

As shown in Table 10, adolescents reported they were significantly more satisfied with themselves and with the direction of their lives following day treatment. Juveniles also were significantly more likely to accept responsibility for their behaviors at posttest

than they were at pretest. Complete results, shown in the table below, detail the changes in attitudes.

**Table 10. Juveniles' attitudes before and after day treatment**

	Before		After		t-value
	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	
I like the way things are going	2.67	(.96)	1.71	(.75)	4.05**
I feel I do not have much to be proud of	3.13	(.95)	3.46	(.66)	2.00*
I take a positive attitude toward myself	1.71	(.62)	1.67	(.64)	.77
I am satisfied with myself	1.83	(.70)	1.54	(.66)	1.90+
I feel worthless at times	2.88	(.85)	3.00	(.83)	.59
I would like to change things in my life	1.79	(.66)	2.21	(.83)	2.32*
People are mean to me for no reason	2.71	(.46)	3.04	(.69)	2.33*
When someone doesn't like me, there is little I can do	2.79	(.88)	3.03	(.81)	1.30
It's useless to try in school because other kids are smarter	3.46	(.51)	3.71	(.55)	2.01+
I have little to say about what my family does	2.50	(.83)	3.00	(.78)	2.63*
I wish I had a different kind of life	2.83	(.96)	3.25	(.89)	1.93+
It is impossible to change my parents' mind about things	2.44	(.83)	2.75	(.85)	1.23
I feel good about what is happening to me	2.75	(.79)	1.63	(.92)	5.33***
My life is better than most kids'	2.58	(.88)	2.21	(.97)	2.39*
It doesn't pay for me to try hard	2.92	(.78)	3.50	(.66)	3.98**
I am often blamed for things that aren't my fault	2.13	(.74)	2.67	(.87)	3.19**
I have a number of good qualities	1.63	(.65)	1.29	(.46)	2.56*

Note. Responses are based on: (1) strongly agree, (2) agree, (3) disagree, and (4) strongly disagree. N=24.

- + p < .10
- \* p < .05
- \*\* p < .01
- \*\*\* p < .001

**Family support and involvement.** Some change in relationships between youths and parents were found in self-report interviews. Changes also were reported in interviews with the random sample and other youths.

Andrew B., for example, said both parents and DART staff told the 16-year-old that his behavior had changed significantly. "Dad likes that I actually listen when he tells me something," he said.

Neal E., 14, said he used to leave after his parents grounded him for an infraction of family rules. "Now I listen to them more," he said.

Table 11 shows youths' perceptions of family support and parental involvement before and after day treatment. Sixty-seven percent (n=16) of youths indicated that family members help and supported each other at pretest. At posttest, 88 percent (n=20) of the youths said family member supported each other. Positive changes were also noted in parental involvement in school activities. Fifty-four percent (n=13) said family members were not involved in school at pretest compared to only 29 percent (n=7) at posttest. Subjects also appeared to be participating in more planned family activities at posttest than they were prior to treatment; 21 percent (n=5) indicated that family activities were carefully planned at pretest compared to 42 percent (n=10) at posttest.

**Table 11. Juveniles' perceptions of family support and involvement before and after day treatment.**

	Before		After	
	%	(n)	%	(n)
Family members help and support each other	66.7	(16)	83.3	(20)
Our family often does things together	50.0	(12)	54.2	(13)
Family members are not involved in activities outside of school	54.2	(13)	29.2	( 7)
We spend most weekends and evenings at home	45.8	(11)	54.2	(13)
Family members often attend church	29.2	( 7)	37.5	( 9)
Family activities are carefully planned	20.8	( 5)	41.7	(10)
Learning about new things is important to our family	41.7	(10)	58.3	(14)

Note. Responses are based on the number and percentage of youth responding "true" to each item. N=24.

**Attitudes toward high-risk behaviors.** Young people in day treatment expressed mixed feelings about the benefit of substance abuse programs within day treatment. Jay A., 16, for example, asked for substance abuse treatment and said the ASAC leaders were teaching many things he did not know before.

Loni R., 15, who said she had used "a lot" of crank, said the ASAC program made her look at reality. She continued in an intensive ASAC program after her release from DART.

But Donald R., 16, said the substance abuse program was no good. "DART doesn't make me want to quit drugs," he said, "but I will never do another major crime. I don't like these places."

Mixed results were found in an analysis of the participants' attitudes toward high-risk behavior. The youths were significantly more likely to say that alcohol and drug use can cause school-related problems at posttest than they were at pretest. They were also more likely to say that alcohol and drug use causes rapid mood changes at posttest. However, beliefs that it is OK to experiment with drugs changed little between pretest and posttest. Youths' beliefs that teachers' messages about drug use are listened to also changed little over time. Complete results are shown in Table 12.

**Table 12. Juveniles' attitudes toward high-risk behaviors before and after day treatment**

	Before		After		t-value
	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	
I know enough about sex to make good decisions	3.88	(1.39)	4.08	(1.28)	.61
My friends take precautions before having sex	3.63	(1.43)	2.73	(1.32)	1.91+
Alcohol and drug use can cause school problems	3.91	(1.24)	4.43	(.84)	2.41*
Parties are fun only with drugs and alcohol	2.65	(1.64)	1.96	(1.11)	1.72
Alcohol and drugs can make people do things they normally wouldn't do	3.75	(1.48)	4.67	(.76)	2.65*
It's OK to experiment with drugs	2.29	(1.30)	2.38	(1.47)	.20
My parents set strict rules about drug use	2.54	(1.31)	2.42	(1.41)	.77
Young people listen to teachers' messages to not use drugs	1.96	(1.23)	1.71	(1.04)	.90

Note. Responses are based on (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree somewhat, (3) not sure, (4) agree somewhat, and (5) strongly agree. N=24.

+  $p < .10$

\*  $p < .05$

\*\*  $p < .01$

**Self-reported antisocial behaviors.** Subjects were asked to report the frequency in which they used drugs and engaged in delinquency before and after participation in day treatment. Results, shown in Table 13, indicated that youth's drug use decreased slightly over time. Marijuana and alcohol were the two most-commonly used illicit drugs at pretest and posttest. Importantly, the youth's alcohol consumption decreased significantly following day treatment. Marijuana use decreased, although not significantly, following participation in the DART or ANCHOR programs. Use of all other drugs also decreased between referral and completion of day treatment.

Self-reports of delinquency, measured by three items shown in Table 13, indicate that probationers were participating in less property offending and getting into trouble with the police at lower rates at posttest than they were prior to day treatment. As previously noted, 70 percent of juveniles in day treatment programs did not reoffend, a percentage identical to that of all juveniles in tracking programs. About 15 percent of youths in day treatment were sent to placement during the year, 1 percentage point below the average for all juveniles in tracking programs.

Several credited their changes in behavior to the rigorous programs, including the use of physical exercise to impose discipline and as punishment. Most cited physical training and recreation as the best part of the programs.

But a few, including Roger N., a 17-year-old in ANCHOR, questioned the value of constant physical activity. He could understand requiring the youths to write essays, he said. "That makes you think. Strenuous exercise makes people mad. You do even more bad things when you get out, or you run away."

**Table 13. Antisocial behavior before and after day treatment**

How often do you...	Before		After		t-value
	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	
Smoke cigarettes	3.29	(1.78)	2.03	(1.82)	1.50
Use smokeless tobacco	1.30	(.88)	1.31	(.64)	.01
Use marijuana	2.50	(1.67)	1.75	(1.36)	1.96
Take uppers or downers	1.21	(.51)	1.17	(.64)	.30
Use crack or cocaine	1.67	(.48)	1.13	(.61)	.33
Use heroin or IV drugs	1.04	(.20)	1.00	(.23)	1.01
Have unprotected sex	1.92	(1.14)	1.46	(.88)	1.66
Drink alcohol	2.04	(1.27)	1.50	(.89)	2.85***
Purposely damage property	1.25	(.53)	1.38	(.82)	.59
Take something of value from a person or store	1.79	(.98)	1.67	(1.24)	.66
Get in trouble with the police	1.83	(.38)	1.58	(.72)	1.81+

Note. Responses are based on: (1) never, (2) once per week, (3) once per day, (4) two to five times a day, (5) more than five times a day. N=24.

+  $p < .10$

\*\*\*  $p < .001$

**Conclusions and recommendations:** The positive changes in attitudes and behavior reported by youths who have completed day treatment programs support the use of day treatment as an effective alternative for youths in the juvenile justice system.

Future evaluations of day treatment should focus on identifying which program model in the Sixth Judicial District is most effective. The small number of subjects from the ANCHOR program prohibited any comparison of the relative effectiveness of the two



programs. The Iowa City program, however, made substantial changes during the past year and should be on a more solid footing in the future.

A handful of youths were in both last fall's version of day treatment and the subsequent change to ANCHOR. Adam B., 14, said he learned from day treatment but hated the more structured ANCHOR. "It was like jail," he said. But, he said, the programs taught him not to hang around with people in trouble and not to run all night. "It was like being sent away, but you could go home at night."

Brad C., 16, was in day treatment before placement and in ANCHOR for a couple of weeks after he returned from placement. "Day treatment was stupid and easy," he said. Youths would swear and get into fights. They were threatened with detention but never sent, and no one abided by curfew. "Anchor is so much better. That's what everybody needs." Activities such as pushups "make you shut up."

Both ANCHOR and DART have refined and strengthened their programs for the coming year. The young people naturally have suggestions for more change in the future. For example, Oral K., 16, said he was learning from the ANCHOR program but he questioned the long hours. The program would be better, he said, if it went from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., "when trouble happens. I'd rather have fun in the afternoon."

He also questioned whether youths should be kept in the program for such long time periods, and offered a novel reason for letting them out early. "If I could get out quicker, I would tell other friends to quit all that stuff," he said. "By the time you get word to your friends, they are on the way here."

In addition to comparisons, subsequent studies might also include official indicators of delinquency as measured by juvenile justice officials.

## Life skills

The Sixth Judicial District contributed to three life skills program in fiscal 1996. Crossroads, operated by Foundation II in Cedar Rapids, received \$65,000. Alternative Services' Employment for Youth program received \$15,000. The Iowa City School District received \$16,575 to provide a life skills curriculum in the schools that have school-based trackers. Juvenile court officers stopped using the Cedar Rapids employment program in July 1996, choosing to use the funds to expand Crossroads.

Crossroads is an educational and recreational program primarily attended by younger teen-agers. After-school classes focus on such things as social skills, attitudes, money management, healthy relationships, communication, substance abuse, independent living and trust. The youths have study sessions and do community service.

The program in 1996 moved from the Foundation II shelter building to a Cedar Rapids church that previously leased space to DART. The new location is conveniently near neighborhoods where many of the youngsters live.

The change in location allowed the program to expand. This summer the program had 22 youths, including two in aftercare. Sixteen attended daily life skills sessions, and another six were tracked by Crossroads personnel.

While most of the youths were ages 11 to 13, the program also had two 16-year-olds and a 17-year-old. Previously, those in the program completed the program and went on to other things without aftercare. Older youths now can continue in the program, and those with seniority will be youth club mentors, said Eric Kool, the director until August. The 17-year-old, for example, says he wants to continue until he is 20 or 21.

An on-going Crossroads would have been welcomed by Theresa R., 17, part of the 1995 sample. Crossroads helped her a lot, she said; it taught her to treat people with respect and to be honest. It also helped her relationship with her family.

"I looked forward to appointments," she said. "Everybody was friendly." She said she often would call or page one of the staff "They would tell me different options. Now I have to try to do it on my own."

Youths in Crossroads participate in a variety of activities, including tae kwon do. The goal, Kool said, is to get young people "hooked on something else. They can come here and take pride in what they are doing well."

Perry M., 12, said he had learned a lot in Crossroads. He previously had a problem stealing, lying and fighting with his sister, he said. Now, he said, he and his sister have not had one fight. "We argue hardly at all." He admitted he lied once or twice, but then told the truth. "I still get into trouble, but not as much."

Todd S., 12, said Crossroads had changed him. "At first I was like the kid who doesn't want to listen. But they don't give up. They keep trying. Later on, I knew they were trying to help."

Now, he said, "I feel really good about myself. I feel great. I feel like I can accomplish something."

## School-based programs

The 200 students in school tracking programs across the judicial district attended school 90 percent of the time last year, one percentage point better than students in school tracking programs in 1994-95. Disciplinary incidents or suspensions dropped from an average of 4.6 per student to 2.4 per student.

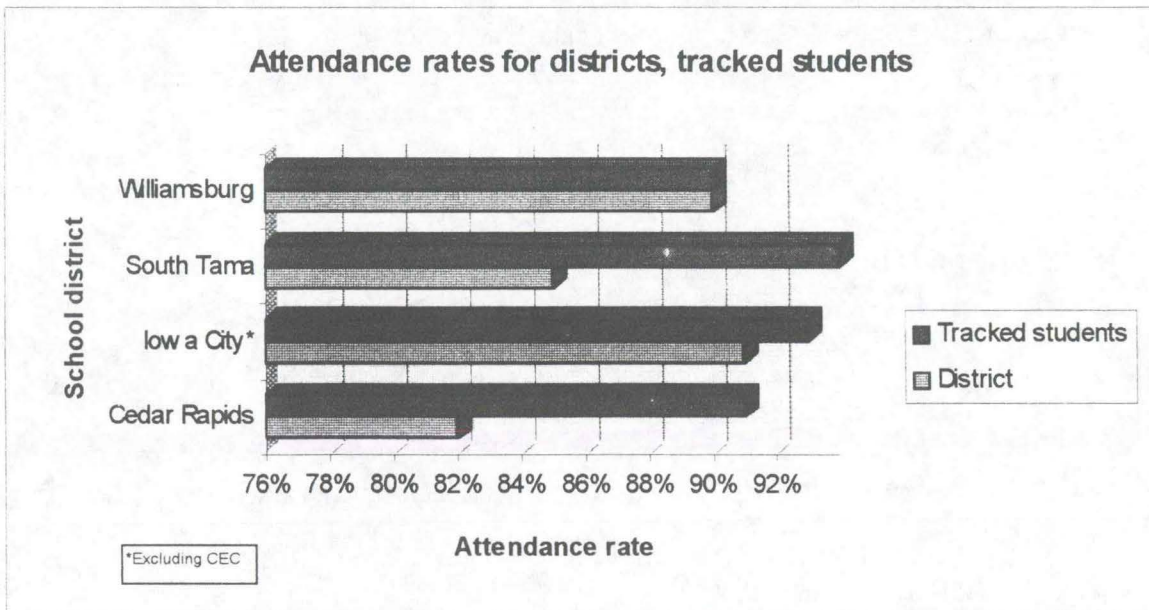
The attendance and disciplinary records do not include those of Metro High School, the alternative high school in Cedar Rapids. Metro has traditionally followed a more flexible attendance policy but has had a tracking program since 1994.

When the Community Education Center, Iowa City's alternative junior and senior high school, also is excluded from the 1995-96 overall results, the median attendance rate of students in tracking programs jumps to 92 percent and the number of disciplinary incidents increases to 2.7 per student. CEC's records were not accurately kept throughout the school year, school officials said, but a new reporting procedure has been implemented for 1996-97.

Neither alternative school was included in attendance data for last year's report.

For a more accurate comparison of disciplinary reports from year to year, it is useful also to exclude data from South Tama, whose number of participants in 1995 was 12, compared to 52 in 1996, and whose disciplinary rate was extremely low. In the other schools, disciplinary incidents dropped from an average of 4.6 per student to 3.5.

The overall attendance rate for students in school tracking was higher than the 86 percent average rate for the four school districts that participated in the tracking program. With the exception of CEC, attendance rates of tracked students at individual schools were equal to or exceeded the rate of attendance in their districts.



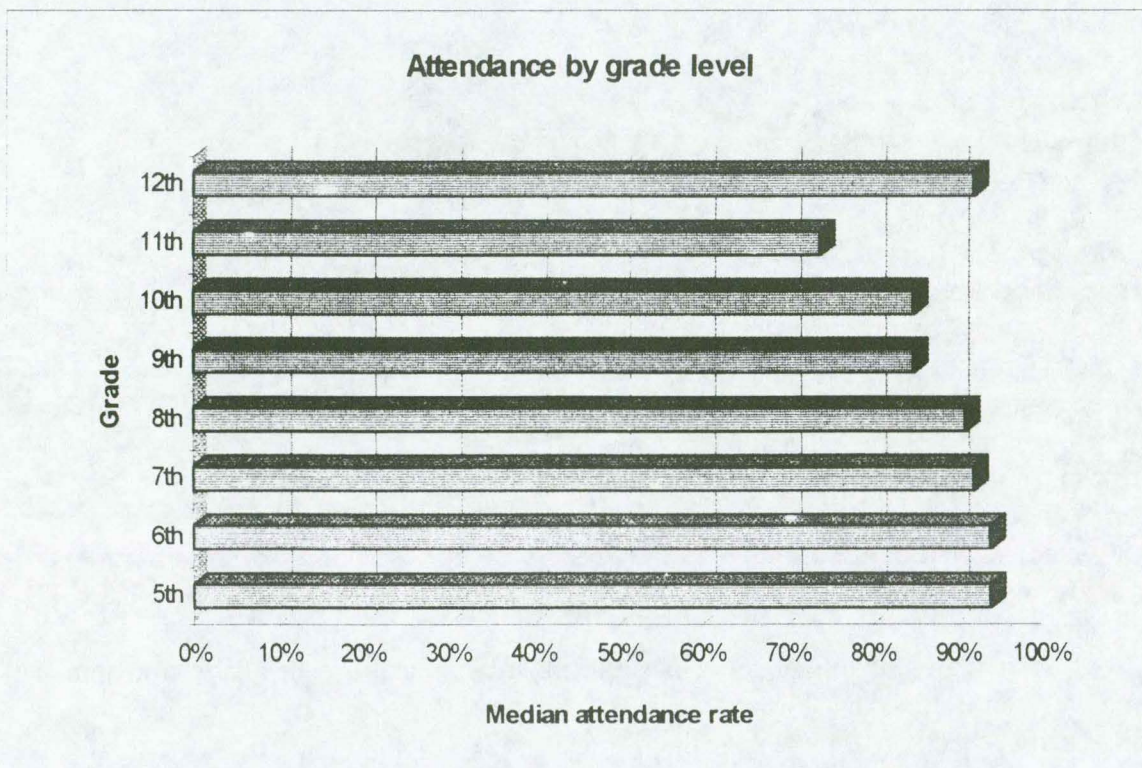
The comparison of attendance and disciplinary records for the same students over two years was less encouraging. For students whose attendance records for 1994-95

were available, the median attendance rate dropped from 94 percent to 91 percent. Disciplinary reports increased from 2.5 per student to 3.4.

The year-to-year drop for individual students can be attributed to three factors:

- The overall prior attendance rate reported this year was about 5 percentage points more than the rate reported for last year's report. That suggests that those who stayed in school were those with better overall attendance.

- Attendance data from all participating schools show declines in attendance as students enter high school. The lowest attendance rate occurs in 11th grade, with the rate rising again for students who continue to their senior year. The chart illustrates attendance patterns by grade.



- Some change can be attributed to more thorough record-keeping since the school tracking programs began. School trackers have emphasized attendance and questioned excuses that might have been routinely accepted before the programs began. They also have kept better records of disciplinary reports.

"One of the positive outcomes (of tracking programs) is better data and keeping closer tabs on kids," said Joan Vanden Berg, youth and family development coordinator for the Iowa City School District. But keeping those tabs can be nerve-wracking for those responsible, she said, especially if results show only modest improvement. "Everyone wants a story you can put on TV. We don't have that. The schools are identifying problems that they never did before."

Across the judicial district, Department of Human Services delinquency funds and court-ordered services funds spent \$125,143 to cover 75 percent of the cost of the

school-based programs. The school districts picked up the remaining 25 percent of the programs' costs. Of the 248 students served by all schools except Metro, 199 were referred by the juvenile court. The other 49 students were at-risk students referred by the schools. Some schools were more aggressive in working with non-court referred students than others. At Northwest Junior High School in Iowa City, for example, half of the 36 students were non-court referred. Across town at South East Junior High School, only one of 21 students was not referred by the court.

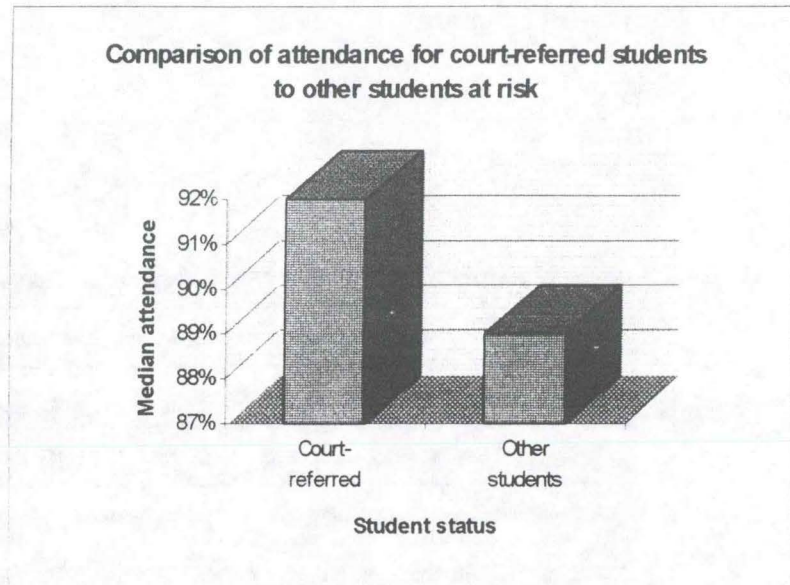
Some schools apparently considered their mission to be dealing only with court-referred juveniles. John Martin at McKinley Middle School in Cedar Rapids, who worked with 13 court-referred students, said he would have 30 or 40 students if all had been charged in incidents in which they had been involved. One student, he said, had slashed tires and been involved in several fights, but had never been charged and placed on probation.

All school trackers check attendance regularly, communicate with parents and teachers, make home visits if necessary, check on student progress and sometimes transport juveniles to and from school. All meet regularly with their students. Some have weekly luncheon sessions; some supervise regular study sessions. All trackers do some social work as well, helping families cope with a variety of problems.

That ability to individualize services is the most beneficial aspect of the tracking programs, Vanden Berg said. "If (the trackers) need to take all morning to get the family's utilities turned back on, they can do that."

Carolyn Cleveland, principal at Roosevelt Middle School in Cedar Rapids, agreed that allowing a tracker flexibility to perform a variety of services for students was key to the program's success. She said the program was "absolutely" making a difference at Roosevelt, as indicated by such measures as improvement in turning in assignments and exhibiting more complying behavior.

**Cedar Rapids:** Metro High School has had a tracker since 1994, paid for the first year with a decategorization grant. Roosevelt Middle School began a school tracking program in 1994-95, and McKinley Middle School added a tracker in the 1995-96 school year. Peg Maguire, the Roosevelt tracker, also operates a summer program for students.



Gail Maddox at Metro worked last school year with 48 students, all on probation. Maguire at Roosevelt had 31 students, 24 of them court-referred, and John Martin at McKinley worked with 13 students, all court-referred.

Maguire said she tries to concentrate on a couple of students for a couple of weeks to get them into a routine. Weight-lifting apparatus in the room next to her office offers a chance for students to let off steam in a constructive manner. Maguire regularly helps students with school work, including reading aloud for some who have difficulty and attending classes with students who have behavior or learning problems.

The trackers often mix rewards with monitoring. One girl was proud to be in Maddox's group for girls who had not been pregnant. Other students mentioned the occasional pizza parties Maddox hosts.

To students, the trackers often become almost substitute parents.

"Peg is kind of like a mom to me," said Roosevelt student Twila B., 14. "If I had a problem, she would help. There is no one else who would understand me."

Robert S., 16, feels the same way about Maddox. "Gail is like my mom," he said. "She's my conscience. She makes sure I stay out of trouble." She stopped him once, he said, when he was about to get into a fight. "Whenever I need help, I can go to her."

Students at McKinley said they liked having Martin on staff. "There was no one to go to before except the principal, but that's their job." Counselors, the students agreed, are "weird." One explained: "John just tells you. You can't have no excuse."

**Iowa City:** School trackers, called at-risk facilitators, were added at Northwest and South East junior high schools in the middle of the 1994-95 school year. In 1995-96, an at-risk facilitator was hired for CEC, the alternative junior and senior high school.

At Northwest, Gerry Coleman worked with 36 students, half of whom were court-referrals. At South East, Curtis Craig worked with 21 students, only one of whom was not court-referred. At CEC, Jackie Powell worked with 34 students, 16 court-referred.

At Northwest, Coleman works with the family-student resource center, which offers such services as after-school programs, computer check-outs and family counseling when necessary. In some cases, he has helped youngsters before they become Northwest students. In 1994-95, for example, he began working with an elementary school student with an attendance problem. By the time the student got to Northwest in 1995-96, the student's attendance was OK, Coleman said, but he was frequently tardy. "Now we are working on the tardiness, but that is a step up from last year."

One student complained that he was taken off probation before he really had a chance to work with Coleman, whom he considers a buddy. He was hoping to see more of Coleman this year, when he has a study hall.

Students at South East enjoy weekly lunches with Craig. Students lead discussions on such topics as how to choose friends, how to say no to drugs, how to treat girls and how to respect teachers. "I sometimes feel enlightened through the day with the discussions," said Mitch F., 15.

The students say, if they do something wrong, Craig is bound to find out. "He gives you something else to worry about," Mitch said.

At CEC, Powell concentrates most on juveniles on probation and younger at-risk students. She frequently goes after students who are not in school. Once, she retrieved

four students at once from a slumber party. Powell also leads life skills sessions on such topics as substance abuse prevention, dressing for success, developing relationships, black music and introduction to college.

Working with parents is sometimes frustrating, Powell said; many of the families are dysfunctional. Once three high school students — one from City High, one from West High and one from CEC — ran away together. Parents of the City and West students picked up their children as soon as they were found, and the students were in school the next day. Only the CEC parents failed to pick up their child.

**South Tama:** Scott Ditch worked with 52 court-referred South Tama students during the school year. He was hired to work half-time at the schools through the South Tama Partnership Center and half-time as a county tracker for the South Tama Mental Health Center. He works for the South Tama Partnership Center as a full-time school tracker in 1996-97.

Donna Hempy of the Partnership Center said having Ditch full time would allow better service. Before, she said, he was reporting to too many people and was unable to devote as much time to the school as school officials wanted. Now he has regularly scheduled periods in the middle and high schools.

Last year Ditch met at least weekly at the school with nine students and saw another 10 on a less regular basis. He saw others only when they failed to attend school or had other problems. Students with academic problems have required study sessions.

Students thought Ditch did a good job. "He is cool with kids," one said. "He treats you with respect and is nice to you."

South Tama also started a school attendance task force made up of community volunteers to mediate in cases of excessive truancy. The task force handled 11 referrals last year and completed nine mediations. Four cases, including three in one family, were referred to the county attorney.

The approach was more time-consuming than expected, but worked well when families cooperated, juvenile court officer Shirley Faircloth said. The approach was more effective with primary and middle school students than with high school students, she said. A delay in school referrals and the time required for mediation also delayed resolution of some cases until late in the school year.

Hempy said the schools in 1996-97 were speeding referrals; five had already been made by mid October. Because referrals last year were not effective for students over 16, referrals this year will be made only for those under 16 and required by law to attend school.

Task force organizers also found the need for a larger pool of volunteers and more training for mediators. Volunteers also "need to understand the time commitment," she said; the process proved much more time-consuming than organizers had anticipated.

**Williamsburg:** The Williamsburg tracker, Nella Huffman, worked with 13 students, eight of whom had been court-referred, whose attendance was tracked as part of the study. She said she saw a total of 22 students. One student, who previously had attendance problems, graduated and made the honor roll.

Many of the students Huffman worked with were in a special four-hour class, an alternative program she helped to teach. The class had a flexible schedule and emphasized work experience and field trips.

Huffman said the school staff responded positively to her efforts. "Sometimes they see me as a last resort," she said. "Most of (the students) are students other teachers couldn't work with as closely as possible."

Paul S., 16, who moved into the Williamsburg district last year, said he was making up credits in the alternative class and improving his grades after falling behind the previous year in school in another Iowa County town. "I like it a lot," he said. "It helps me. Anything you have to ask, they are always there to help."

Joanie S., 16, preferred Huffman's intervention to that of her regular tracker. "Having people in your face every time you turn around aggravates people," she said. "Every time I turned around, (the tracker) was there. He wasn't going to stop me from doing anything."



## Training

Training programs are crucial to the success of community-based services. They allow juvenile service providers to share experiences and ideas, and provide opportunities for agency staff members and juvenile court officers to develop professionally. The Sixth Judicial District offers two training sessions each year and invites all juvenile service workers, including those in the schools, to participate. Topics for the half-day programs vary from year to year, depending upon current issues and the interests of personnel.

Topics for the first session in fiscal 1996 included working and communicating with children and adolescents with attention deficit disorder, and designing programs that are particularly appropriate for and effective with girls. A curriculum for reluctant readers also was offered. The session was attended by 38 professionals.

Topics for the second session, which 28 attended, included planning for safety of children, helping youths get medical help, and understanding and working with religious fundamentalists. An educator discussed the problems of at-risk youths that schools ignore.

Training sessions in 1996 were arranged by the Training Unit at the Iowa University Affiliated Program, University of Iowa Hospital School.

The training programs are included in the appendix on page 99.

## Teens, Parents Talk about Programs

Almost three-fourths of a random sample of 55 juvenile offenders from across the Sixth Judicial District did not reoffend after being placed in tracking or other community-based juvenile programs. That is similar to the reoffense rate found in the 1995 sample.

Among the sample, 16 percent (9) were put in placement facilities, and 7 percent (4) had been in placement prior to receiving services in the community.

The most common charge that brought juveniles to the court's initial attention was theft, with 20 referrals; 14 had been charged with assault, and 10 had been charged with burglary. Two had drug or alcohol offenses, and 1 faced a weapons charge.

Theft also was the most common reoffense (5 juveniles). Other reoffenses included assault (3 juveniles), burglary (2) and drugs and alcohol (2).

Juvenile court officers were satisfied with tracking services in 62 percent of the cases.

In interviews with 45 youths from the random sample, more than half (56 percent) said the juvenile programs had changed their attitudes, 81 percent of those with curfews kept them, 42 percent improved school attendance, 31 percent improved grades, and a third said they had stopped using drugs including alcohol. Two-thirds of the sample had jobs, and 40 percent participated in extracurricular activities at school. One-third came from single parent homes.

Thumbnail sketches of those interviewed and an explanation of how the sample was drawn begin on page 55. Comments from teen-agers on a variety of subjects follow.

**Curfews:** Three-fourths of youths interviewed from 1995 and 1996 samples who had curfews said they kept those curfews. The remaining one-fourth admitted they violated the curfews, sometimes routinely.

Curfews are a routine requirement for youths in the juvenile system, yet eight of the 45 in the 1996 sample said they did not have curfews, did not know whether they had curfews or did not know what the curfew was.

Often those youths were younger, whose offenses did not include late-night excursions. But a few older youths also believed they did not have set curfews.

For example, Calvin S. knew only that he was supposed to be home when the tracker called, and the tracker usually called at night. "I established my own curfew," said Calvin, who turned 18 in January. "I didn't have anywhere to go."

Some trackers called every night to make sure their charges were at home. Some trackers made random calls. Others asked juveniles to page them each evening as soon as the juveniles get home. Trackers would sometimes call later to make sure the youths were still home. In other cases, parents kept track of curfew violations and reported them to trackers or juvenile court officers.

A couple of young people complained that the tracker's calls came late in the evening, when everyone in the household was asleep. Sally S., 16, said her tracker also called again in the morning to ask her father whether she had stayed home all night.

Others simply ignored the curfew requirements and carried on as usual.

"Tracking was nothing," said Jonas P., 14. "You can always scam. They need to be harder on curfew. As soon as they call, you can leave."

Joel J., 15, said he, too, used to sneak out after the tracker called and didn't curtail his late-night trips until he was required to wear an electronic bracelet. "That kept me at home," he said. "I didn't leave because it would know."

Several youths in tracking who were eventually sent to placement said they were sent away because they violated curfew.

**Relationships with parents:** A goal of tracking is to support parents, help them set boundaries and improve relationships between juveniles and their families. Parents willing to do their share determine the success of tracking, court officials say.

"Tracking works best with kids who have parents who want to hold the kid accountable but haven't figured out how to do it," said Juvenile Court Judge Susan Flaherty. "The tracker gives them some backbone. If the parents are not cooperative, tracking won't work."

Juveniles and parents report that tracking does often bring families together: 40 percent of the 1996 sample and 28 percent of those in day treatment programs said relationships with their parents had improved. But 20 percent of those in the tracking sample and a third of those in day treatment said relationships with their parents had worsened.

"Trouble drew us closer," said Jenny D., 16. "We talked more. My parents know me better now and know what to expect. After getting into trouble, I learned I need to show them more respect."

She now regularly calls her mother to let her know where she is and when she will be home, she said, and is generally more responsible. While she considered her tracker a friend that she could talk to about anything, "I've got to where I can talk to Mom about anything now."

Parents generally said they appreciated the tracker's support. "If I felt like I was about to explode, I could call Laura," said the mother of 17-year-old Megan S.

"The tracker gave me back-up," agreed the mother of 14-year-old Alvin S. "Before, I had no leverage. This helps put power back in the hands of parents."

Sometimes that new power benefits younger siblings. One mother was particularly pleased with the toughness of the tracker her 17-year-old daughter had after a stint at DART. That gave the mother the determination to crack down on her 12-year-old son. "He has had problems since his sister got involved with the system a couple of years ago," she said. "We had a little battle yesterday. I told him I was not going to tolerate that behavior, and he was confined to his room. He is not going to end up like his sister."

Not everyone was pleased with trackers or the intervention of the juvenile court. Tammy S., 16, and her parents were particularly critical. Court officials and social workers worsened the family relationship, they said.

"Instead of working with families, they taught her about alternative life styles," Tammy's father said. "They counseled her on independent living." Tammy's mother complained that the tracker talked only to Tammy, and not to them.

Among the family issues was parental disapproval of Tammy's boyfriend, whom she sneaked out of the house to meet and eventually went to live with. She refused to

follow rules of her strict parents, and they considered her out of control. At one point, the father said, the state suggested he pay \$400 a month for a supervised apartment.

"I said I was not giving \$50 a month for that, but I would pay \$1,000 a month if they would lock her up."

Tammy said she was told by everyone not to go home until she was satisfied. "I was naive and scared, and I was listening to every word." The only good advice, she said, came from the tracker, who warned her that the boyfriend would be abusive. He eventually was, and Tammy lost the baby she was carrying.

By then, the family relationship had been shattered. Tammy continues to live independently, working full time to support herself. Too many hard feelings remain for her to go home, she said.

"I should be at home, and I know it," she said. "Because of them (authorities), I'm not. The state should stay out of family business. Their intervention made things worse. Instead of me being happy, they should have figured out how to make the whole family happy."

With Tammy no longer under court supervision, the family has begun to repair their relationships. "We are talking to her more than we ever did when she was under the state's tutelage," her father said.

**School attendance and grades:** Forty-two percent of juvenile offenders in the 1996 tracking sample said they improved their school attendance, and 31 percent said they raised their grades. Only 11 percent said their attendance rates and grades were worse. Two dropped out of school.

Another 42 percent said their attendance had always been good. Others had attendance rates that were so poor they had been expelled.

Jim S., for example, went to school in Jones County until he was 17 and completed ninth grade. The school, he said, told him they would kick him out for truancy unless he dropped out. He dropped out.

Calvin S. emphasized that he was kicked out of City High School in Iowa City; he did not drop out. He was later diagnosed with a sleeping disorder, he said. He rebelled when the district sent him to CEC. "I didn't want to go to CEC," he said. "That school's a joke. I thought it was a madhouse."

Now, at 18, he is finishing his high school education at Kirkwood Community College, attends daily and has a regular job.

April W., 16, said a Kirkwood-like program was just what she needed last year while she lived with relatives in California. The school she would have attended had gangs and shootings, she said, so she decided to drop out.

Moving in with an aunt and uncle and getting a tracker solved school attendance problems for Patrick F., 16. He rarely attended school before, he said. "I probably never got a D. They were all Fs."

His aunt said one of the reasons he failed to attend school when he lived with his alcoholic mother was that the mother never washed the children's clothes. "They were too embarrassed to go to school," the aunt said.

Several youths said their attendance improved simply because someone (the tracker) was checking on them or because they were in day treatment programs. Alvin

S., 14, had a poor school attendance record before he was placed in DART. In DART, he went to school every day and raised his grades from Fs to Cs and Ds.

Others got their first taste of academic success in placement. Gary W., 16, said he went to school about two times a month when he was in Cedar Rapids. At Clarinda last year, his grades were above average and he caught up to his grade level.

Angela G., 16, part of the 1995 sample, seldom attended school and had poor grades before going to Forest Ridge last year. At Forest Ridge, she caught up with her grade level, earned grades of As and Bs, and is now making plans for college.

In some cases, attendance rates declined after tracking ended. Jens N., 15, part of the 1995 sample, went to school every day while he was being tracked but skipped frequently after tracking stopped. His grades went from above average to almost failing. But, he said, school after tracking was better. "I didn't have to worry about rules."

**Use of drugs including alcohol:** Juvenile court officers say more and more juveniles they see are using drugs, and at an earlier age. But the 70 percent of those in the 1996 sample who admitted they had used drugs including alcohol was just slightly above the two-thirds of the 1995 sample who admitted drug use.

Two-thirds of the users said they had stopped since becoming involved with the juvenile court. (Responses of four of the 45 interviewed were discarded because they were interviewed in the presence of parents and reliability of the responses were in question. Others also might have shaded the truth. Drug and alcohol questions tend to generate a certain amount of concern among juvenile offenders.)

Among those interviewed in the day treatment programs including Crossroads this year, 72 percent they had used drugs including alcohol. Nine of the 13 users said they had stopped since participating in juvenile court programs.

About two-thirds of last year's sample admitted to drug use in interviews in 1995. Only 16 percent of the sample said they were still using, primarily alcohol, in 1996. One of the eight young people reinterviewed from the 1994 sample admitted continued use, primarily at parties.

The early use is evident. Several young teen-agers said they had used "a long time ago," including one 12-year-old, an 11-year-old who said he drank and smoked marijuana when he was 8 or 9, and a 15-year-old who began using at age 11.

Many of the young people indicated positive responses to strong substance abuse prevention components of programs through the juvenile court and at school. They say they are learning things about drugs that they didn't know before. Others say they stopped using while they were under court supervision simply because they were subject to random drug tests.

Those who have licked serious substance abuse problems express pride in their accomplishments. They know exactly how long they have been sober. "A year and two months," announced a 16-year-old girl, who used marijuana and crank for three or four years. "Three and a half months," said a 15-year-old girl, who once used marijuana and alcohol.

Some young people go through treatment several times before finding one that is effective. When they eventually stop, they report definite changes in their lives.

Robert S., 16, used "almost every kind of drug available," including heroin, crank, LSD, crack and cocaine, and claimed to have spent \$150 to \$200 a day on alcohol. He was in treatment several times and said he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown when the juvenile court intervened. He was placed with an aunt and uncle and began going to Alcoholics Anonymous. AA, he said, was the only thing that worked. His sobriety date: Aug. 29, 1995.

"Now that I quit drugs, my life has turned around," he said.

Former friends know that he no longer uses drugs, and some no longer want to associate with him, he said. But he did influence a couple of friends to also quit using.

Brad C., 16, one of the 1995 sample, told the interviewer last year that he had definitely quit using drugs after treatment at a center in Bettendorf. A few months later, after six months of sobriety, he again used marijuana, LSD and alcohol. "I wanted to quit, but I also wanted to do it so bad," he said this year. Now, after more residential treatment, he said he no longer craved drugs.

The real change, he said, came from being sent far enough away from home, this time to Des Moines. Bettendorf had been too close. He said he eventually opted to change because "I decided I didn't want to be a thug anymore."

He also found out that when he was good, better things happened to him. At a shelter in Iowa City in fall 1996, he was rewarded for good behavior by being allowed to attend football games, dances and concerts.

Edward B., 16, part of the 1994 sample, continued to use during placement in a group home in Mount Pleasant in 1995. His drug of choice, he said, was alcohol, although he also "huffed" paint and glue. He said he told group home officials he had a drug problem, asked for treatment and was sent to a center in Ames. He is now in residential treatment at Four Oaks in Cedar Rapids. He attends AA and NA meetings regularly and has a sponsor who "helps me out. I can talk to him about anything I want to."

At the time of the interview, he was struggling with the fourth step of AA, which requires a self inventory, including a listing of strengths. "It's easier to write things I did wrong," he said.

To prevent drug use in the first place, he would put more emphasis on local broad-based prevention programs, such as those at Johnson County's Neighborhood Centers. DARE works sometimes, he said, "but not a lot of kids listen. I've been DAREd all the way, and look at me now."

**Placement:** Nine of the 45 random sample youngsters interviewed were in placement at some time during the year; eight were in residential treatment, and one was in the state training school at Eldora. Four had previously been in placement. That 20 percent rate is higher than the average 16 percent rate for youths in tracking.

Five of the 1995 sample and four of the 1994 sample also were in placement during the fiscal year. Several others interviewed from school-based or community-based programs also had been in placement. Three of those interviewed had gone to SUMMIT boot camp.

Generally, the young people said placement, except for the training school, was helpful. Often those who had just returned were enthusiastic about the experience and

determined to do better at home. Those who had gone to Forest Ridge or Clarinda seemed especially upbeat.

Spencer I., 15, said DART didn't work for him because he didn't want it to work, but the Clarinda program had produced a major change. "I can deal with a lot of things now, including problems at home," he said.

Gary W., 16, was proud to be one of the first youths his age to make the Eagles Club at Clarinda. He also discovered he could get above average grades if he put his mind to it, and now wants to be a teacher.

Carl P., part of the 1994 sample, returned home in the spring after a year and a half at Clarinda. Clarinda "has a good program going," he said. "It scared me." Carl, who turned 18 this fall, was particularly impressed by seeing prisons next to the academy and coming into contact with the prisoners. Now, he said, he was determined to get his life together. "The adult system ain't going to see me."

Ron P., 16, part of the 1995 sample, liked Clarinda but didn't like Eldora. "The kids don't get along," he said. "All we do is argue and fight. They aren't teaching peer relationships." He was sent to Eldora for probation violations.

But many harder core youngsters stoically accept the consequences of their actions. Joseph W., for example, was sent to Eldora after an armed robbery last year and admitted he had been in trouble for years. "I deserve to be locked up," the 16-year-old said. "It's fair. I don't think I should get any less punishment. It could have been a 25-year sentence."

For Mike W., Quakerdale made the difference because it offered regular family therapy. "It got the family closer and dealt with substance abuse and other issues," he said. Now almost 18, he wishes he had been sent there sooner. The system didn't crack down on him hard enough when he was young, he said, and gave him too many chances. "They should have got me right then and there."

Even a group home that she didn't like and ran away from helped Laura G., 15. She said she learned from being sent away and was positive since she came back.

All three who went to boot camp said they benefited from the program. "I thought it would be strict, but it was pretty fun," said Randy B., 17. Besides such activities as baseball games, hiking and camping, "it got you to think about things, to step on the other side of the mirror. It made you want to change." Before boot camp, he said, he "didn't care. Now I want to get things done. I like the life I'm choosing now. Before, my life was not well at all."

The veteran in placement is perhaps Edward B., 16, part of the 1994 sample, who went from a youth shelter to a group home in Mount Pleasant to substance abuse treatment in Ames to, now, Four Oaks in Cedar Rapids. The substance abuse treatment and Four Oaks are doing the trick, he said.

"Here the focus is on family, going home and what kids need," he said. "It's more structured. The focus is on the kids' problems. Mount Pleasant just wanted kids to work on treatment and get out."

In government classes, he has learned that the state spends about \$100 a day to keep him in residential treatment. The state should have put him in a more structured program earlier, he said. "I could have hit the problems harder and got what I'm sup-

posed to get. The state is wasting money for me being here, but not now because I'm working on treatment."

Edward's brother lives with an aunt in rural Johnson County, and Edward hopes to go to independent living in Iowa City after he leaves Four Oaks. "I want to go to a place where they are watching me," he said.

Not everyone was pleased with their placement. Theresa R., 17, part of the 1995 sample, said she didn't think sending her to Forest Ridge last year was particularly helpful. "Nobody should be sent away from their family," she said. But she was doing well at Forest Ridge and had started to apply for admission to various colleges. Previously, she wanted to go to cosmetology school.

Daniel C., 18, part of the 1995 sample who last year said he was unhappy because he had spent so much time in residential treatment, is now 18 and was being evicted from the apartment he had shared with his mother at the time of the interview. His mother disappeared, and he could not afford to pay the rent. "At least placement was a solid, secure place to live," he said.

**Changes in attitude:** Sixty-nine percent of the 45 youngsters interviewed from the 1996 sample said their attitudes had improved since involvement with the juvenile court system, up from half of the sample interviewed in 1995.

Of those 31 youngsters, 17 attributed the changes to being involved with some aspect of the court system and community-based services. Four said tracking was the most important factor. Two credited DART, and two said substance abuse treatment changed their attitudes. One said the threat of being sent away changed his point of view, and one said his attitude changed after being in detention. One said his arrest was all it took to convince him to change his habits. Most credited attitude changes to a combination of factors, including having to go to court, having to obey rules, being in tracking or other community programs, or simply being scared straight.

Nine young people said placement changed their attitudes. Placements cited included Clarinda, Forest Ridge, Quakerdale and Eldora.

Three said they were affected by having to move to the home of another parent or relative, and two gave the credit for change to themselves.

Youngsters interviewed in school-based and community-based programs credited changes in their lives to similar factors.

For Jeb B., 16, change was swift: "Once I got caught, the first time was the last time. I don't want to be in trouble anymore. A friend, he's dumb; he's going to prison and he's only 17."

Chip R., 17, said the court system gave him a chance to do something to change his life, to make it better instead of worse. His attitude has changed a lot, he said, "but the real difference is if you like who you are," he said. Even a big smile helps, he said.

Change, said Chuck R., 17, is up to the individual. "If you want to change, you will. If you don't, you won't." But, he said, the trackers offered a shoulder to lean on and someone to talk with. "At first, I thought it was bogus." He especially appreciated the relationship with Gail Maddox at Metro, "someone to talk to, not spy on me."

Sandy S., 16, said her trackers made sure she stayed out of trouble while she got her act together, but she mainly credited change to herself. "I change my attitude when I



choose to," she said. She did learn one a major lesson when she was caught shoplifting and her parents, supported by the tracker, made her return the CD player she got for Christmas to pay the fine. "That was a desperate lesson," she said.

Calvin S., 18, said he didn't mind going to day treatment, but it didn't change him. "I already knew what they told me, but I didn't care when I was in trouble. I cared, but there were other influences. I was doing stupid things with people I thought were friends."

Now, he said, he is trying to start over, finishing high school and getting ready to go into the Navy. "I changed because I know what I lost. I didn't gain anything before, and I saw nothing but loss."

Michael M., 11, now in Crossroads, said he changed after being in shelter for four months and being allowed to see his mother only every two weeks. "Shelter changed me a lot," he said. "I used to be a bad kid."

Joel J., 15, said the threat of out-of-home placement "straightened me out pretty good. I think about the consequences now. I used to take what I wanted. Now I think about getting caught."

Prison was a rude awakening for Jerry K., 19, part of the 1995 sample and now in the adult prison system after running away from the Adult Corrections Center in Cedar Rapids. "I'm in with guys doing 20 or 30 years or life," some of them rapists or murderers, he said with amazement during an interview at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Oakdale. "I always watch my back. I don't associate with anyone." While inmates were allowed to spend much of the day outside in the yard, Jerry seldom went outside. "It makes me think about real yards," he said.

In addition to the three sample teen-agers who said moving was a major reason for their attitude changes, seven others made changes in living arrangements that they said were helpful. Chris T., 15, has done a 180-degree turnaround since moving to Cedar Rapids from Gary, Ind., his uncle said. Paul S., 16, said he was doing much better since moving to an Iowa County farm with his sister and her husband. "One of us is always here to supervise," the sister said.

Joshua S., 17, was ordered by the court to move to the home of his father after Joshua and his stepfather were arrested in connection with a burglary. Joshua said his major impetus for staying out of trouble now is to return to his mother. "We are so close. It's tearing me up inside."

After court intervention, Patrick F., 16, and his sister were placed permanently with their aunt and uncle. Both parents are alcoholics, and the children were neglected, the aunt said. Patrick said if he hadn't been arrested for shoplifting, he wouldn't have received all that help. "Getting involved with the system was the best thing that ever happened to him," his aunt said.

At least one new living arrangement produced positive changes even when the arrangement was far from what most would consider healthy. April W. left her mother and stepfather in Jones County to live with her father in California. The father, a heavy drug user, was seldom home, she said, and his brother (April's uncle), who lived in the home, was arrested for rape. So, April moved in with her mother's sister, whom the mother said "has no morals or values. She's into taking everything and getting what you can." Among other things, the sister collected welfare for April in California while her

mother was sending money for her support. April was totally miserable, her mother said, but the mother forced April to stay until the end of the school year. She is now back in Jones County with a new attitude and a better relationship with her mother.

"Nothing worked until I left," April said. "Counseling didn't work. It took two different environments."

Her mother had a different explanation: "After a year, she realized how good she had it at home."

Not everyone changed their attitudes after juvenile programs, and a few say they probably aren't likely to. Hal L., 15, has been in a variety of programs and was interviewed in ANCHOR. The program wasn't changing him much, he said, although it might have made him realize he shouldn't use drugs. "It hasn't made me think that crime is wrong, but it doesn't pay. It's not like ANCHOR changed me. It just made me wake up and think because I don't want to be in here again."

Threats of out-of-home placement also haven't fazed Hal. "Most of the kids are still on the streets or back from placement already," he said. "If you want to succeed, you are going to. If you don't, it doesn't mean you'll be sent away."

Brett H., 18, said nothing the court system did changed him; any change was all on his part. "They can't make you do something if you don't want to do it," he said. "Most kids don't care if they are sent away, and that's the only thing they dangle in front of your face." Positive reinforcement would be better, he said.

**Career goals:** With some young people being interviewed two or three consecutive years, an attempt was made to analyze changes over time in their career goals.

Several expressed the same goals each year. Most of those who said in the first interview that they wanted to go to college continued to list college as a goal.

Many of those who expressed unrealistic aspirations (playing in the NFL or NBA, for example) when they were in junior high school settled on more realistic goals as they matured.

Some students in placement raised goals during the placement, especially if they were academically successful. But they often lowered those expectations again after they returned home, often in the face of financial realities.

Among eight interviewed this year from the 1994 sample, five lowered their expectations from 1995. Three of those had been in placement when they said they hoped to go to college. Two no longer expected to go to college, and one changed from wanting to get a bachelor's degree to become a social worker or probation officer to wanting to go to Kirkwood to study the construction trades.

None of the 1994 sample raised their career expectations, but three said they wanted to pursue careers that required at least some college.

Among the 1995 sample, six of the 34 interviewed this year lowered their career expectations, including two who had been in placement. One of the two, who had gone to boot camp, no longer expected to go to college. The other is an 11-year-old, who said last year he wanted to be a coach and this year expressed no career goals.

Two girls, both of whom had been in placement, raised their goals. One, who said last year she wanted to be a child psychologist, now wants to be a doctor. Another,

who planned to become a cosmetologist, now wants to go to college to study criminal justice.

Six of the 1995 sample who had no career goals last year expressed goals this year. One of those, who was in placement, said he now wanted to go to at least a junior college.

Among the 1995 sample, 14 said they were interested in careers that required at least some college.

Six from the samples of all three years said they wanted careers in social work, counseling or police science. For example, Theresa R., 17, wants to major in criminal justice or sociology and work with juveniles in placement or at a detention center. "I have the experience," she said.

Brad C., 16, also would like to be a counselor in a youth facility. "We need more people in the system who used to be delinquents, and more drug counselors who have used," he said.

**Recommendations from teen-agers:** If they could choose a program that they thought would help them, most youths would choose the ones they were in. Generally, they think the system works reasonably well.

A few youths had complaints or suggestions for improvement of programs.

A problem mentioned by several young people was the delay between their offenses and being placed on probation, tracked or put in another program. While court officials say the processing of juvenile cases takes no longer than those of adult cases, the time seems forever to young people, whose lives have often changed by the time they get to court. Sometimes they have forgotten about the charges.

For example, Andrew B., 16, was charged with burglary in January in Linn County and went to court in April. In the meantime, he had reconciled with his father and moved back home. By the time he got to court, he said, "I had a job and had pretty much straightened myself out."

The mother of Blair M., 14, complained about the court's slow reaction in Johnson County. There was even a delay in forwarding a report from the police department to the county attorney, she said.

Also in Johnson County, Jason H., 17, at the time of the interview was waiting to go to court "for things that happened months and months ago. They bring up stuff from long ago."

Jeb B., 16, said it took several months before he got a tracker in Linn County. By then, he said, a tracker wasn't necessary. "I did fine for five months before he came into my life. Why not give me some slack?" He said he had worked to regain respect from his grandparents after his charges, but after the authorities jumped in, he had to regain the respect back again. "Punishment should come right away or not at all," he said.

Several juveniles complained about unequal application of justice. One said he was given a tracker after his first offense while the authorities did nothing with a friend until after he had stolen his sixth car.

Tammy S., 16, agreed: "They take kids that are not doing something so wrong and toss them around. Then they take some bad kid and let them go. They should focus more on kids that are screwing up."

Several advocated being tougher on juveniles when they first get into the system. Mike F., 15, said he continued to steal after he was first charged. "For a while I was on thin ice, then I decided I had enough," he said.

Gary W.'s mother was unhappy with the life skills program in which Gary, now 16, was placed after he first offended. She thought it was not tough enough. "They were teaching the kids they could get rewards for doing what they should have been doing in the first place. That did not make me happy."

She would like to see more consequences for juvenile offenders, including more community service. Gary, for example, was tracked after a vandalism incident for which the parents paid restitution. "If they would have had those kids put the boards back and paint the fence, it would have been better," she said. "When parents pay the consequences, the kids will hold it over your head. You're the ones who have to pay."

Jay A., 16, said juveniles should be put on probation the first time, put into a program like DART the second time, and sent away after the third offense. "They gave me so many chances it's not even funny," he said. "I'm glad that they did. I think I am actually changing."

He liked the idea of putting juveniles in DART for a day. "I wish they had done that for me. I don't think I would have gotten into any more trouble. If they got harsher treatment the first time, maybe they would learn a lot earlier."

But Christopher V., 17, said he thought young people should be given more chances. "Give them so many chances and then send them away," he said. He advocated more funding for juvenile services and placement, and said he was glad he had gone to boot camp. "I'm not a bad kid," he said. "I hope it saves me from jail or prison."

Several complained about turnover in their trackers. One said he had six trackers in four months, and the switches were confusing.

Josie S., 17, said she would have liked a tracker that talked with her more. Instead, the tracker talked mostly to her parents. But, she said, she wouldn't have wanted a counselor. "A counselor would be more lenient."

Jim S., 17, said he might have liked counseling. He gets upset very easily, he said, and it would have been good to have someone to talk to about that. He was so frustrated one day, he said, that he almost walked off his community service job and was ready to call his juvenile court officer to tell her to have the cops come and get him.

Tracking didn't work at all for Danielle M., who was almost 18 and the mother of a 2-year-old when the tracker was assigned. The tracker treated her like she was 15 or 16, she said. As for her 10 p.m. curfew: "I didn't want it and didn't obey it." Instead, she went to Los Angeles with a boyfriend. She was put in residential treatment at ASAC after she returned to Cedar Rapids. She hated the ASAC youth program, she said, but is now benefiting as an outpatient in the adult program. The adult program has more hours of group than the juvenile program, she pointed out.

Calvin S., 18, said the court system should offer more opportunities for community service. The only option he was given, he said, was to pick up trash around United Action for Youth. Instead, he would have liked to work at some place like the Senior Center or the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Angela G., 16, has experienced the system from tracking to DART to placement. She considers just making it through the system an accomplishment. "I didn't like it; I

didn't like the whole program," she said. "It helped me, but I don't like it. I don't like how they use authority to intimidate kids. They're always right, and you're wrong."

She would like to see more opportunities for young people before they turn to crime. Communities don't offer enough activities for young people, she said, citing a recent decision in Cedar Rapids to remove some playground basketball hoops. Adults also don't understand young people's needs, she said. "Parents think kids want to do what the parents did. Now kids at least two years younger are doing the same activity. The mall used to be the place for high school kids; now it's for middle school."

Those who are most critical of the system are often those who have been in it for a long time, usually first as children in need of assistance

Matthew P., 19, said he was bounced around the system for so long that he gave up. He had been in some kind of placement, often psychiatric facilities, since the age of 8. For a large part of his life, he said, he believed he was crazy. He wanted the Department of Human Services off his back, and he wanted to be treated with respect. "Instead, all I got was medication and punishment. Medications confuse the brain."

He said the group homes he was in were violent and racist. "They had a prison philosophy. Pretty soon you learn to hate."

Alexa M., 16, has been involved with the court since age 11, when she was removed from her home because she was being abused. In one year, she was in four foster homes and a group home. None of the placements cared about her, she said. "Half the time I was treated like a criminal. They (the authorities) need to understand more. Kids are messed up for a reason. They didn't try to find out the reason."

She was in Forest Ridge in 1995, which she said was much better. At the time of the interview, she was in a shelter in Iowa City. She didn't know she was academically advanced, she said, until she got to Iowa City's alternative school. She graduated from high school in the spring and planned to attend Kirkwood Community College in the fall.

"It just took me to do it on my own," she said. "No one else can help. It takes a lot of trial and error."

## **Issues for Court Officials and Service Providers**

As community-based programs have been established and refined over the past three years, juvenile court officers and service providers have learned to appreciate the value of the programs and to adapt them to changing needs.

Some problems identified in 1995 have seemed less urgent in 1996. For example, a major problem cited last year was lack of short-term detention facilities. Court officials partly solved the problem this year by using rooms at St. Luke's Hospital for detention of youths who do not comply with the rules of day programming. For a flat fee per day, the hospital provides a room and constant monitoring of each juvenile. The solution works better for Linn County juveniles than for those in Johnson County, where transportation to Cedar Rapids is sometimes a problem.

Also in 1996, Linn County made definite plans for a new detention facility to be built in the southwestern part of the city. Johnson County is expected to contract for a specified number of beds in the facility.

Few juvenile court officers or trackers this year mentioned problems in communicating with each other, especially in Linn County where there are several officers and numerous trackers. Part of that problem was solved beginning in January in Linn County, when trackers were assigned to specific officers. The trackers also now have a room to use in the juvenile court office.

Juvenile court officers like that arrangement, as well as an arrangement to pay flat fees for tracking to some of the agencies. This gives officers more flexibility and fewer forms to deal with. "Sometimes you just need to keep an eye on a kid for a couple of weeks," said Betty Hopkins, Linn County officer.

Court officials in 1996 also were less concerned about identifying juveniles appropriate for tracking or other services. The clear consensus is that all programs work best for youths whose parents can be enlisted for support; age of each juvenile is not important as a criterion. They also agree that intervention should begin early, perhaps even after the first or second offense, depending upon the offense and the juvenile involved. Agencies have taken steps to involve parents as much as possible to make programs work. One example is weekly family visits by DART staff. School-based and regular trackers try to talk to parents regularly.

Agencies still struggle to get parents to attend meetings and programs. In Johnson County, youth service agencies try to prevent that problem down the road by getting parents of very young children involved in neighborhood programs.

Officers, trackers and juveniles themselves raised several other issues that are worth exploring.

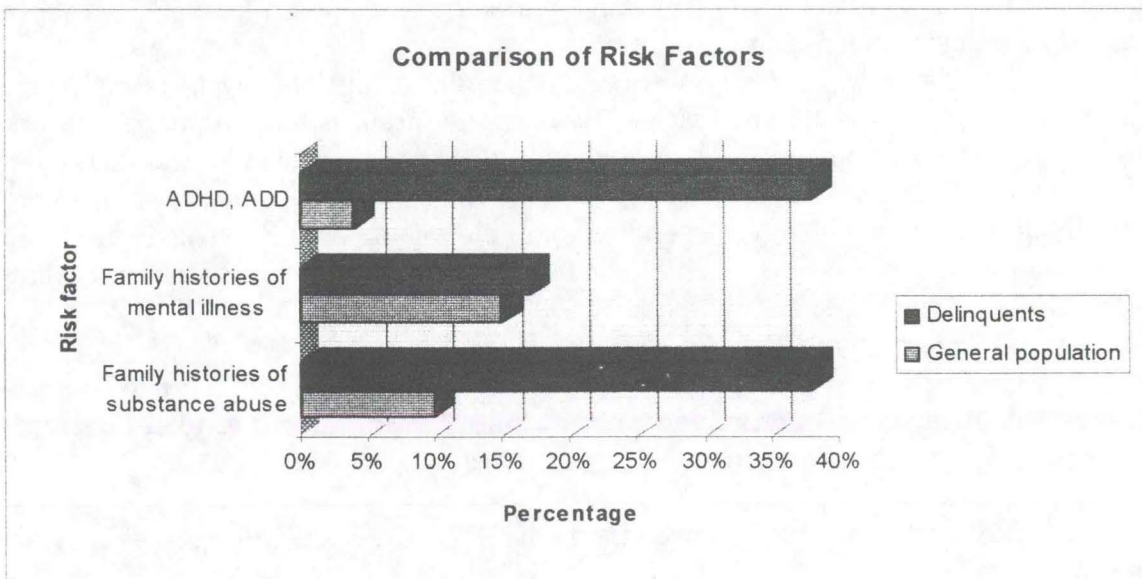
## Risk factors among delinquent juveniles

Juvenile court officers consider a variety of risk factors in determining treatment and programs to recommend for youths referred to them. Such factors as stability of the home, success in school and use of drugs including alcohol are among those considered when determining appropriate programming.

This year records of juveniles in the random sample were searched for evidence of three specific risk factors: diagnoses of attention deficit and/or hyperactive disorder, family histories of substance abuse and family histories of mental illness. Using national rates of incidence, more than two-thirds of the general population would have no risk factors. Among the juvenile sample, two-thirds HAD one or more risk factors.

For example, 38 percent of the juvenile court sample had been diagnosed with some form of attention deficit disorder, compared to a national incidence estimate of 3 to 5 percent. In addition, more than half of those in the sample with attention deficit disorders had adverse family histories. Officers also report a high incidence of what they believe to be attention deficit disorder that has not been officially diagnosed in youths referred to them.

Substance abusers are believed to be about 10 percent of the general population, but 38 percent of juveniles in the sample were from families with histories of substance abuse. Six percent of the random sample was being treated or had been treated for mental illness, and 17 percent were from families with histories of mental illness. The national rate of treatment for mental illness is estimated at 3 percent, and some estimate another 12 percent are mentally ill but not receiving treatment. The chart compares the national statistics to those of the juvenile court sample.



## Relationships between juvenile court and the schools

The schools as well as parents are an important part of young people's lives, and programs that encourage everyone to work together are bound to have the greatest potential impact. Plus, youths that pose problems in schools are often the ones being dealt with by the juvenile court.

School-based tracking programs are a first step toward more formal relationships between the schools and the juvenile court, and those work well in schools with tracking. But Cedar Rapids officers say some of the other schools do not adequately cooperate in such areas as sharing information, including about attendance and grades, and allowing access to youngsters. The schools do not welcome an influx of trackers, and if there is a problem, they tend to want the court to take care of it. Even if a particular school or system cooperates, an officer might have to make several calls, to attendance secretaries, counselors or teachers, to get a complete picture of a youngster's situation.

Getting information often depends upon the ability of a tracker or officer to develop a confidante within a particular school. "You've got to get on the good side of somebody, because the administration doesn't want you there," said Kim Lord, Linn County officer.

Another problem arises when juveniles are released from placement. The court once was able to time releases to correspond with semester breaks. In these days of limits on placement, that is no longer possible. The alternative schools are flexible enough to deal with students who might attend for only part of a semester, but few traditional schools are. The policy in Iowa City, for example, is to allow no credit for anyone who misses more than 10 days a trimester. That means that a youth who returns home in the middle of a trimester or semester will probably lose a whole trimester or semester of credit. Because many delinquents have had spotty school records anyway, missing another term puts them even further behind their classmates.

Individual schools in large districts often have the option of accepting students, and some reject immediate acceptance of students returning from placement. For example, some Cedar Rapids high school students are told they must attend two terms at Metro before returning to their regular schools. In some cases, that may thwart the best opportunity for salvaging a youngster's education.

Thomas F., 17, part of the 1994 sample, wanted to return to Washington after he returned from placement last year, but he was told he had to go to Metro. This summer he was hoping he would be readmitted to Washington, "where you can't do what you want," he said. "I'd rather be where they tell me what to do." Besides, he said, Washington has advanced math classes, and he likes math. But people at Washington were acting like they didn't want him back, he said. By fall, he was enrolled again at Metro.

Having to go to an alternative school also cuts out opportunities for extracurricular activities, including sports. Ron P. 16, was getting his GED this summer so he could get out of Eldora. "I don't want a GED," he said. "I want to turn it back in and go back to school in Cedar Rapids." Specifically, he wanted to go back to Washington so he could play basketball and eventually maybe win a college scholarship. He was told that if he did go back to school, he probably would have to go to Metro.



## **Capitalizing on placement gains**

Youths who have recently returned from placement are often upbeat and confident. Many have tasted academic success for the first time. Many feel good about themselves and the direction their lives have taken. This is especially true for those returning from Clarinda and Forest Ridge. As has been noted elsewhere in this report, those positive feelings often do not last.

"When they come out, they are perfect," Travis Kupka, a Linn County tracker, said of youths returning from Clarinda and Forest Ridge. "Then we slowly see them start to fade."

The lack of aftercare is a major problem, said Al Wicks, Johnson County officer. "If something is not jump started as soon as the juvenile gets home, we've lost what was gained in placement."

Trackers and juvenile court officers would like to learn the principles that are effective at Clarinda and Forest Ridge, so they can reinforce those principles when the youngsters return to their communities. Instead, they say, they don't even know the terminology.

"If we could know more, we could help families," said Laura Yount of Alternative Services. The principles could be reinforced by a tracker or tracking system, or perhaps a Clarinda-Forest Ridge alumni group could be organized.

"A positive peer culture does not necessarily exist in the real world," said James Leidigh, a supervisor in the Linn County office. "It would be nice to establish a group and help the kids remain positive."

Clarinda and Forest Ridge are willing to provide aftercare in the communities, but the court has not been able to stretch limited resources to pay for it.

Judge Susan Flaherty would like to see resources made available for aftercare. "That's where the system is failing," she said.

She believes young people need a support system until they become adults. Support could come from a tracker. It could come from some kind of mentoring. "We need to follow them in placement, and when they come out, be there for them," she said.

She would like to see business leaders and other community volunteers step forward and agree to make long-term commitments to help young people in their communities.

"It could be a real cheap kind of program," Flaherty said. "Now the resources go to kids in crisis. It's a shame we are not doing more."

## **Immediate consequences for juveniles**

To young people, time moves slowly. They complain about the long wait between offenses and going to court, and punishment for what seems to them like ages after their offenses. Research shows that consequences have the most effect when they are imposed immediately, but how do you do that in a cumbersome, bureaucratic system dedicated to due process?

Juvenile court officers have solved part of the problem for youths in day treatment programs by making arrangements for immediate detention at St. Luke's Hospital. Often officers make extra efforts to tie consequences to offenses; for example, an officer might delay the confrontation of a juvenile who fails a drug test until detention space is available.

Another technique used in Linn County is an immediate one-day visit to DART. Youths get the message that they might find themselves in the program longer than one day if their behavior does not change.

The recent hiring of restitution officers in Linn and Johnson counties also should improve the system's ability to impose immediate consequences. The restitution officers arrange for community service and supervise Saturday morning work groups. If youths commit an offense on Friday, they can be assigned to a work group the next day.

Judge Susan Flaherty is a strong believer in community service, and that more community service opportunities would be helpful for young people.

"Too many people think the answer is locking kids up," she said. "That's more appropriate for adults. Locking kids up only reinforces the negatives. Helping them is the way to make change."

Community service can further that goal, she said, and a community system could blossom. "In a community system, someone is saying they like you, and they are interested in you."

## **Dealing with probation violators**

Juvenile court officers often express frustration about the lack of consequences for probation violations. Juveniles themselves know that threats of placement are often hollow—placement resources are too scarce to deal with their curfew violations or truancy. Youths who do find themselves in placement for probation violations are often indignant; they point out that they haven't committed new crimes (which they assumed was the court's major goal) and don't deserve to be sent away. For boys, the last stop is usually Eldora, which boys who have been in other placements say does them little good.

Indeed, juveniles often report little benefit from repeated placements, except for the few who have no homes to which they can return. For example, a couple of boys said they learned many things during stays in Clarinda, but learned nothing in later placements in Eldora. This is in contrast to youths placed for the first time or for repeated offenses, who frequently report benefits from placements.

For example, Ron P., 16, didn't think he should be in Eldora this summer. "I hate it," he said. "I don't think it's going to help me much. I won't get as much as I did from Clarinda. I'm not out there breaking laws no more. I want to be out, to see if I get a chance again." He said he attended school regularly in Cedar Rapids until he was told he would be sent to Eldora.

"They should look at what they do to a kid when he is first in trouble and see if he changes," Ron said. "If he does, they should make changes from there."

Theresa R., 17, said she attended school regularly, has had no offenses for two years, and did fine at home when she was wearing an electronic bracelet. Shortly after the bracelet came off, she began violating curfew. The tracker always called at the same time, and she usually left after the call. "I didn't like people interfering," she said.

She was first sent to a group home, but she ran away from that because she wanted to be with her family. Now she is in Forest Ridge.

Forest Ridge, she said, is offering her new opportunities and she is doing well there. "But there is nothing like home. I miss home a lot."

Traditional practice has required an escalation in consequences for juveniles who fail to obey rules, with the final "consequence" being placement. There is a growing belief that immediate consequences, even brief ones, are of more value than placement, which is always delayed by the court process and waiting lists.

The day programs use "pull-backs" for youths who violate rules after completing the program. The young violators can be returned for periods of a day to several weeks. For youths who can maintain themselves in day programming, repeated pull-backs seem to work and would save valuable placement resources, but slots are not always available when youths need them.

When detention beds are available, youths can be stabilized there before their pull-backs; but, again, detention beds and day treatment slots are often unavailable.

A new law allows the court to order a youth to placement for up to 30 days for probation violations. This, coupled with a return to a higher level of community programming, could provide the "swift and sure" consequences probation officers and youths agree are all-important.

## **Retention and scheduling of trackers**

Tracking, typically, is a part-time job, with many trackers working other full-time jobs. Officers believe full-time trackers would be beneficial to the program, but even then the job is hardly the 8-to-5 variety. Trackers are expected to meet regularly with juvenile court officers and agency personnel, often in the morning. They are to check records at school, during day-time hours. And they are expected to check curfews, usually at 9 or 10 at night.

As juvenile court numbers balloon, trackers are expected to keep track of more and more young people, often while working the same number of hours. That means cramming more visits into the available time, or cutting those visits to a bare minimum. That, in turn, means less contact with and less information about the family.

The fragmented nature of the work and increasing work load, along with the low pay, produces high tracker turnover. Juveniles and their parents complain that they hardly know their trackers; by the time they get acquainted, a new tracker is on their doorstep. One said he had six trackers in four months.

"The trackers can't connect with kids like they used to," said Laura Yount of Alternative Services. "They keep expecting us to do more with less. We need to be more realistic."

The continual availability of trackers can pay off, said Travis Kupka, a Linn County tracker. "The more we are there, the more they talk," he said. "Sometimes parents want to spill their guts now. They wouldn't give the same information later." He said one father called at 2 a.m. because he was ready to talk about his cocaine addiction.

"A tracker has got to be a serious diplomat," Kupka said. "There are so many ways of living."

Being there means a tracker might have to work beyond his contracted time, with no increase in pay. A Linn County tracker, for example, recently spent a day with his charges at a football camp, even though he couldn't bill for the service.

The problem can be particularly acute outside of Linn County, where only one tracker is expected to carry the entire county load. Jim Swaim of United Action for Youth recently refused to require his tracker to carry a beeper 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for a job that is contracted to be 20 hours a week.

The tracker, Rick Spear, is frustrated that he can't spend more time with individual youths but also understanding of the overall problem. Everyone is already stretched to the limit, he said, and the prospect of more meager resources in the future offers little cause for optimism.

## **Concerns of rural areas**

Rural counties continue to have the problems they have had since community-based services began: A low population base scattered over a wide geographic area complicates the delivery of services. Agency officials say service delivery is poor even in rural areas of urban counties. Travel time precludes spending the amount of time with families that trackers in cities can spend.

Indeed, juveniles in rural areas often report minimal contact with their trackers. If a tracker does visit and the juvenile is not home, the tracker is not likely to drive by a short time later. For the rural tracker, that can mean traveling for miles.

Rural trackers also often provide transportation to hearings or appointments, again devoting scarce, valuable time to travel.

Shirley Faircloth, juvenile court officer in Tama County, continues to advocate a tracker who would do paperwork and provide transportation. The officers, she said, have "more and more paperwork. I sit in the office now more than ever." Having a tracker in the office as an associate would allow her to see more juveniles more often, she said.

Tama County's situation should improve somewhat in fiscal 1997. The tracker who worked half-time last year in the South Tama schools and half-time for the Tama Community Mental Health Center will work full-time in the schools, and another half-time tracker will be hired for the rest of the county.

A full-time tracker continues in Benton County, and Jones County will get a full-time tracker in 1997.

But half-time trackers continue to cover Johnson and Iowa counties. Johnson County tracker services have been curtailed in 1997 because of a decrease in funding from the decategorization committee. Juvenile court officers do not like the cuts.

“There is not enough tracking,” Jodi Gibson, Johnson County officer, said in August. A month into the new fiscal year, “we already have no hours left.” Officers say there is time for little more than curfew checks.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Community-based programs for juveniles in the Sixth Judicial District were effective in shortening, postponing or preventing placement for those in the system. Placement was avoided for about 10 percent of those in tracking, 5 percent of those in life skills programs and half of those in day treatment programs. In addition, placements were shortened or postponed for the more than 100 youngsters who participated in community-based programs and returned from or were sent to placement during the fiscal year.

Findings in this research cannot be generalized beyond district programs because no comparison groups or control groups were available. It is certain, however, that using community services saved the state almost \$900,000.

With community control of services, programs can be tailored to meet community needs. Changes can be made quickly to improve programs and adapt to changing circumstances. All officials and agency personnel continue to believe that community-based services work best in conjunction with other programs, including substance abuse treatment, parental training and counseling. Often service providers discover the need for additional services while juveniles are in community programs and initiate those services.

Interviews with juveniles in the random sample again show that the majority changed attitudes about themselves and their futures while they were receiving community services. Follow-up interviews with those in prior samples show that the changes have some lasting effect; juvenile and adult offense rates continue to decline for those in the samples.

Changes in programs have already been initiated for 1997 to better meet the needs of juveniles and the communities. Suggestions for further improvement include the following:

### **1. Work on new ways to enlist the support and cooperation of school systems.**

While cooperation between the court system and the schools continues to improve, more can and should be done. Among future plans is a joint effort with the North Linn Family Resource Center, with the schools contributing 25 percent of the funding.

### **2. Continue efforts to enlist support of parents and to direct them to family resources.**

The weekly family visits by DART staff is a valuable addition to that program. Family resource centers in various schools help to attract parents to school-based programs. Because success for juveniles in all programs is determined in great part by attitudes of and participation by parents, efforts to get parents involved must be a continuing part of juvenile court programs.

**3. Continue to refine measures for evaluating programs and use data gathered to improve and refine program offerings.**

Programs change and are fine-tuned as officers and agency personnel discover things that work, discard things that don't work, and fine-tune programs to meet current needs. Continual evaluation helps the development of all programs and leads to improvement in the overall system.

**4. Continue to develop short-term, immediate consequences for probation violators.**

The addition of restitution officers in urban counties, the use of short-term detention and "pull-backs" to day programs offer valuable short-term consequences for juvenile offenders. Other approaches will be explored and implemented whenever possible.

**5. Develop a brief, highly-structured residential treatment component to round out the continuum of tracking-life skills-day treatment.**

This could fill the gap between existing community programs and long-term placement, and offer juvenile court officers another option for youths in the juvenile court system.

**6. Refine and strengthen aftercare services, both for youths returning from residential placements and for those in community programs.**

Juvenile court officers and agency personnel alike list aftercare as a major concern. Community programs have improved their aftercare programs and will continue to make more improvements in the coming year. Aftercare for youths who have been in placement is essential so that benefits of placement are not lost.

**7. Add to continuing training programs the training of trackers and juvenile court officers to follow up on Clarinda and Forest Ridge programs and the boot camps.**

Staff of various programs within communities communicate regularly and cooperate with each other. All are anxious to improve the effectiveness of their services by learning more about out-of-county programs to which youths are sent.

**8. Continue to examine programs and data in the context of providing all youths, including minorities, with appropriate, effective services.**

## The Interview Samples

A random sample of 55 juvenile offenders was selected from teen-agers who received tracking services in fiscal 1996 in the Sixth Judicial District. The sample represented 15 percent of the total number tracked.

Forty-five young people were interviewed, 4 from Benton County, 2 from Iowa County, 7 from Johnson County, 4 from Jones County, 25 from Linn County, and 3 from Tama County. One 18-year-old from Iowa County, one from Johnson County and one from Linn County were not located or refused to cooperate. Two Linn County youths and one from Johnson County had run away and were not located. No information was available about another Linn County youth. Parents of a 15-year-old Linn County youth refused to allow him to be interviewed. A 17-year-old Iowa County youth also refused to be interviewed. A 16-year-old Linn County youth failed to keep appointments or return numerous telephone calls. One Benton County youth in this year's sample was also in the 1995 sample, and a Johnson County youth was in the 1994 sample.

From the 39 juveniles in the 1995 sample who were interviewed last year, 34 were reinterviewed in 1996. One 18-year-old had moved out of the county, had no telephone and did not respond to a letter. One 18-year-old did not return telephone messages, and another 18-year-old was not located. One 17-year-old had run away from home and his whereabouts were unknown, and another failed to keep interview appointments.

Eight of the 10 in the 1994 sample who had been located in 1995 were reinterviewed. Two 18-year-olds, both of whom are living independently, could not be located.

In addition, six teen-agers in the Delinquent Alternatives to Residential Treatment (DART) in Linn County, eight in Iowa City's ANCHOR program and five in the Crossroads program in Cedar Rapids were interviewed. One from DART, one from ANCHOR and two from Crossroads also were in the 1996 random sample.

A total of 32 youths in school-based programs were interviewed in May.

Below are thumbnail sketches of each juvenile interviewed. The names are fictitious.

### The 1996 random sample

#### Benton County

**Randy B.**, 17, has been charged at least eight times since 1992. Charges include burglary, forgery and possession of a controlled substance. He has received counseling, was tracked during the school year, then sent to SUMMIT Boot Camp after two drug tests were

positive for drugs; he was using marijuana. He quit drinking three years ago, he said, after "a scary experience"; he got alcohol poisoning and almost died. He lived with his mother, younger brother and his mother's boyfriend before boot camp but returned to Benton County to live independently with his girlfriend. He said he did not get along with the boyfriend. He has always at-



tended school regularly, he said, and gets above average grades. He worked at a retail store until he went to boot camp and began looking for another job shortly after he returned. A high school senior this year, he wants to go to college or to the military and has always wanted to be a veterinarian, "but I don't know if I have the mind for it." If not, he might pursue a career in art or design.

**Jake D.**, 13, was charged with reckless use of fire in 1994 and burglary and theft in 1995. He was in tracking and was ordered to do community service. His service has been raking the courthouse lawn and doing janitor work at a retirement home. His mother has schizophrenia, and he and three younger brothers once were placed in foster care while she was in a state mental health institute. Now the family, including his father, lives together. He attends school regularly, but his grades are poor. "I've never been good in school," he said. He has had a paper route in the past and planned to go out for football this year. He has no idea what he wants to be when he grows up.

**Sally S.**, 16, was charged with stealing a truck in 1994 and with shoplifting in 1996 and has been tracked for almost two years. The family moved from Benton to Linn County last year. After the last charge, she went to Montana to live with her grandmother and is a junior in high school there. She previously lived with her father, stepmother and younger brother. She does not like Montana, she said, and wasn't sure how long she would stay there. She attended school regularly while she was on tracking and got average to above average grades. She has given no thought to

her future, she said, but probably would not go to college.

**Bobby S.**, 15, has not reoffended since he was dismissed from probation and tracking a year ago. Juvenile court officials thought he and the family were too dependent on the tracker, who took Bobby to school registration and even intervened when he was threatened by another boy late one night. He was in the 1995 sample. He continues to live with his parents and an older brother. The family has been under considerable stress since April, when Bobby's father had a stroke. His mother would like Bobby, a ninth grader, to have counseling because he is not helping around the house, but she said his school attendance and grades improved at the end of the school year. He worked this summer mowing yards and baling hay. He also helped put a motor in his father's car. Everyone else promised to do it, he said, but he was the only one who promised and actually did it. He thinks he might like to become a mechanic when he grows up.

## **Iowa County**

**Joshua S.**, 17, was charged with burglary in February after he, his stepfather and a friend took items from the home of the friend's sister. He had been involved in five criminal incidents since November 1995, including assault and possession of alcohol. As part of his probation, he was required to move from the home of his mother to that of his father. He spent the summer mowing yards and helping his uncle in a small engine repair shop. He dropped out of school last year, but this year said he was attending regularly. He is a junior. He

said his grades are not good; he has never been good at school. He was diagnosed with ADHD in June. He said he wants to go to a technical school and become a mechanic.

**Paul S.**, 16, has been charged the past two years with possession of alcohol, theft and possession of drug paraphernalia while he was living with his mother. When the court suggested a change in living arrangements, he opted to live with his sister and her husband in rural Iowa County. He has been there since July. He worked on a farm last summer and completed a five-week substance abuse program in Marengo through MECCA. He continues in tracking and works with the school tracker. He is a junior. He said his school attendance was poor last year partly because of an extended illness. Among the problems was weight loss caused by medication he was taking for ADD. He now attends regularly and is making up courses he failed last year. His grades also are now good, he said. He has no goals for the future. He said he didn't really want to attend college but probably would go if he could.

### **Johnson County**

**Jeremy B.**, 17, was charged with disorderly conduct in 1995, and possession of marijuana and offensive weapons (a BB gun) in 1994. He did community service at United Action for Youth and worked with the at-risk facilitator at school. He lives with his mother and her boyfriend. He was evaluated at MECCA, but said his drug tests always came up clean. He said he had used alcohol on occasion, but "I got pretty drunk once and didn't like it." He is in

10th or 11th grade; he's not sure which because he is between grades in terms of credits earned. His school attendance, once poor, is now good, he said, and he is catching up to his grade level. He plays softball at school. He isn't sure what he wants to do after graduation. He has thought about going to the military but didn't think he wanted to go to boot camp.

**Jason H.**, 17, was charged again with assault last year. He has had several prior assault charges dating back to 1992. He continues in tracking through the Department of Human Services and lives with his mother, two sisters and a brother. His school attendance was poor last year, and he dropped out after the first trimester. He worked at a pizza restaurant during the school year and worked construction for a while. At the time of the interview, he was looking for another job. He began making up school credits at Kirkwood last summer and was working out for football. Although he no longer played high school football, he said he wanted to keep in shape so that he could play football at a junior college. He hopes to graduate from high school in mid year. He wants to major in American studies in college and become a teacher.

**Anthony J.**, 15, has faced more than half a dozen charges since 1991, including theft, burglary and assault with injury. After an assault charge in 1996, he was placed in detention and a shelter for a couple of weeks and then sent to ANCHOR. He lives with his mother and younger brother. The family has had no contact with Anthony's father since 1994. Anthony has been diagnosed with a conduct disorder and depression, and

takes medication. He is a sophomore, attends school regularly, he said, and gets reasonably good grades. He goes out for football and basketball. His only job has been helping his mother on weekends at an ice cream shop. He said he used alcohol and drugs a long time ago, beginning when he was 11, but does not use now. He wants to go to college and become an architect.

**Blair M.**, 14, faced theft and burglary charges in 1995 and received tracking. He lives with his mother and two older sisters. The family maintains regular contact with Blair's father, who often takes the children to his home on weekends. Blair is in eighth grade and in a class for youngsters with learning disabilities. He didn't like seventh grade and missed school after tracking ended, but he said he thought eighth grade would be better. His grades are average. He has worked in the Mayors Youth Employment Program bicycle repair project and volunteered for two summers to do janitor work at his neighborhood elementary school. This year he was paid for the work. He wants to go to college, he said, and might like to work for his uncle who repairs semi trucks.

**Calvin S.**, 18, was charged five times in 1995. The charges included driving while his license was suspended, assault, urinating in public and possession of alcohol. He had theft and criminal mischief charges in 1992 and a possession of alcohol charge in 1994. He was on tracking and was in the Iowa City day treatment program. He was supposed to be in substance abuse treatment at MECCA, but he ducked out of the building as soon as his mother drove out of the parking lot. He said he

was in and out of school for two years, with poor attendance but decent grades. He eventually was expelled for non-attendance. He was released from probation in January when he turned 18 and lives with his mother. He works in a cafeteria and plans to finish high school at Kirkwood Community College by spring 1997. He is scheduled to go to the Navy in July and is interested in pursuing a career in construction mechanics.

**Mike W.**, 17, has faced about a dozen charges since 1992, including assault with injury, theft and possession of marijuana. He was in intensive supervision and then placed in a shelter to wait for foster care placement. He ran away from the shelter, so was sent to Quakerdale last year. He returned to Johnson County in the summer and was assigned to transitional housing for independent living until December, when he turns 18. Then, he said, he will move out on his own or return to the home of his parents and younger brother, all of whom have been treated for mental illness. Mike has been diagnosed with ADHD and takes medication. The family received therapy at Quakerdale, Mike said, and it helped their relationships. He said part of his problem was heavy use of alcohol and pot. He received substance abuse treatment at Quakerdale and is now in Alcoholics Anonymous. His school attendance was erratic and his grades often failing before Quakerdale, he said. He almost caught up to his grade level at Quakerdale, and his grades were As and Bs. He is supposed to be a senior this year. He has had several jobs over the years, including doing electrician work and working at a grocery store. He began looking for work again as soon as he

returned from Quakerdale. He plans to go to college and study accounting.

**Suzanne W.**, 16, was charged with assault in 1995. Her only prior offense was a shoplifting charge in 1991. She was placed in intensive supervision after school. Her mother is deceased, and she lives with her sister, a brother and two nieces. She attends school regularly, she said, gets average grades and plays basketball. She wants to go to college and become a doctor.

### **Jones County**

**Joel J.**, 15, has faced half a dozen charges since 1993, including theft, burglary and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. He was in tracking, was subject to random drug tests and, for a while, wore an electronic monitoring bracelet. He was in counseling for a while and has been diagnosed with ADHD and an aggressive conduct disorder. He lives with his mother and her boyfriend. Other siblings live with his grandparents. He attends school regularly and received good grades until last year, when his grades dropped to Cs. In other years, he tested in the top 3 percent in basic skills tests, he said. He plays football, basketball, baseball and golf in school, where he is ninth grade. His only jobs have been outside jobs in the summer. He hopes to get an athletic scholarship to attend college and thinks he might like to study computers and art. Eventually, he wants to work in computer-aided design.

**Shawn R.**, 14, was charged with theft in 1995 after he took keys from a car. He had minimal tracking because the family, including his parents and

younger sister, moved. He is in ninth grade and attends school regularly, he said. His grades are As and Bs. He wants to go to college to study engineering, mechanics or electronics. His only job has been mowing lawns in the summer.

**Jim S.**, 18, was charged with burglary in 1995, his first offense. He was tracked for six months and had to do 100 hours of community service. He lives with his parents and two sisters and dropped out of school after ninth grade. He was 17, he said, and was told that if he did not drop out, he would be kicked out for truancy. He hopes to go to Kirkwood to get a GED and then take a truck-driving or mechanics class.

**April W.**, 16, was charged in August 1995 with forgery, the last in a series of problems for the troubled teenager. Her mother had taken her twice to St. Luke's Hospital for evaluation. The first time was at age 11, after a suicide attempt. She later was placed in a foster home for nine months. The second hospital admission was last year, when the mother suspected drug use. April began using marijuana and alcohol when she was 13. After the forgery charge, April was placed on tracking, but she was seldom home when the tracker called. Her school attendance was poor, and some of her grades were failing. Juvenile court officials said if she got into trouble one more time, she would be sent for residential treatment. Instead, the family decided to send April to her father's home in California. Because her father was a heavy drug user and was seldom home, April moved in with an aunt and began attending a school that focused on independent learning. Although April's mother was

sending money for her care, the aunt arranged to collect welfare for her. April's mother reported it to California authorities. April returned last summer to live with her mother, stepfather, a half-brother and a stepbrother. She is in 10th grade, is a cheerleader and belongs to French Club. Her attendance and grades this year are good. She wants to go to college and become a registered nurse.

### **Linn County**

**Jenny D.**, 16, had three charges in 1995, including theft, criminal mischief and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent in Linn County. She also used alcohol and marijuana, she said. She now lives with her mother and two younger brothers in a small town outside of Linn County. She was in tracking and had to do 99 hours of community services, which included restitution. She attended school regularly, she said, but her grades dropped from above average to Cs and Ds when she transferred to the school in the town where she now lives. She is a junior. She said she no longer used drugs, including alcohol. She has played volleyball for three years. She wants to go to college and be a cosmetologist.

**Patrick F.**, 16, has faced three charges since 1992, including criminal mischief and theft, and was in tracking after two charges in 1995. He was declared a child in need of assistance when he lived with his mother, an alcoholic. His father also is an alcoholic and has been treated for depression. Patrick and his sister now live with an aunt and uncle, who were named legal guardians after intervention by juvenile court offi-

cial. The tracker supervised visits with Patrick's mother. Patrick's school attendance improved dramatically after tracking began and after he moved in with his aunt and uncle. His grades before were mostly failing, he said, but he has caught up to his grade level at Metro High School. He thinks he will not be able to go to college but would like to eventually get a job working with computers. He has had several jobs, including fast food, car wash attendant and packaging worker, and did yardwork last summer.

**Henry G.**, 12, was charged three times in June, for assault, bicycle theft and criminal mischief and has been tracked since. He lives with his mother, two brothers and two sisters. He is deaf in one ear. Henry said his school attendance was good and his grades were "pretty good." He wants to go to college and become a police officer.

**Melvin H.**, 13, was assigned to the Crossroads program through the Department of Human Services. He has no juvenile court record. He lives with his mother and is in eighth grade. His school attendance is good, he said, and his grades are OK. He does not participate in extracurricular activities at school but wants to be a baseball or football player when he grows up.

**Spencer I.**, 15, has faced at least half a dozen charges since 1992, including assault with injury, theft and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. He used alcohol and marijuana and was said to be a member of the Gangster Disciples. He has been diagnosed with ADHD and a conduct disorder. He was in tracking all of last year,

but skipped school repeatedly. He was placed in DART, where he was unmanageable, so was sent to Clarinda in the spring. Until then, he lived with his mother and her boyfriend. He has had no contact with his father for about a year. His grades were low during his ninth grade year, he said, but they have improved at Clarinda. He is working on catching up with his credits and wants to go to college to become a registered nurse. He also is receiving substance abuse treatment at Clarinda.

**Janine L.**, 16, was charged with possession of tobacco, carrying a concealed weapon and assault in 1995, when she lived with her father. She also ran away. She was placed in tracking and now lives with her grandparents. Two sisters live with her mother, and one sister lives with her father. Janine was diagnosed with a depression disorder in January 1995. She is 11th grade and attends school regularly. When she started high school, she skipped school a lot, she said, so is still trying to catch up to her grade level. She said she earned more credits last term than she had the whole rest of her high school years. She doesn't know what she wants to do in the future; her grandmother said they probably couldn't afford college.

**David M.**, 12, was charged three times in 1995 and 1996. The charges included criminal mischief and assault. He has been tracked since April. He is in seventh grade and lives with his parents, four younger brothers and one younger sister. His school attendance is good, he said, and he gets good grades. He went out for basketball, football, baseball and track, and is in a Cedar Rapids gymnastics group. He doesn't

expect to go to college, but he wants to be a flipping teacher or basketball player when he grows up.

**Danielle M.**, 18, has faced five charges since 1992, including theft and assault charges in 1996. She was tracked for only two days before she went to Los Angeles with a boyfriend. She was arrested there, returned to detention in Linn County and placed in substance abuse treatment for 45 days. She was a steady user of marijuana. She is now in adult substance abuse treatment as an outpatient and lives with her mother, 2-year-old daughter, and younger sister and brother. She didn't attend school when she was pregnant, she said, but now attends regularly and has caught up to her grade level. She is in 11th grade. She wants to go to college and study nursing.

**Toby M.**, 16, was charged with theft and possession of stolen goods in 1996. He has been in tracking since. He lives with his mother. He has been in counseling and has been diagnosed with ADD. He is a junior in high school, but wasn't sure where he would be going to school this fall. He was kicked out of school for truancy last year and had enrolled at Lincoln Learning Center to catch up on his credits. He said he wanted to go to a regular school, but other teens did not like him at the school he attended previously. His grades were average, and he played basketball, football and tennis. He worked 54 hours a week this summer as a customer service representative. He hopes to get an athletic scholarship for college and wants to play professional football or basketball. He said he was also good with computers.

**Jonas P.**, 14, has been charged more than half a dozen times since 1993. Charges have included criminal mischief, reckless use of fire, theft and auto theft. He has been tracked for the past year. He was in Crossroads for two days, when he stole a car, and later was placed in DART for six months. He denied use of drugs including alcohol, but juvenile court officials say he has used marijuana since age 13 and alcohol since age 11, and has experimented with acid and huffing Freon. He has been diagnosed with ADHD. His attendance at school was not good, he said, and his grades were Cs and Ds. Last year he was expelled for bringing a knife to school and attended classes at Harambee House. This year he is in ninth grade and plans to go out for wrestling. He also takes boxing at a local club. He was fired from a job at a restaurant this year but late last summer began a job at a supermarket. He doesn't know what he wants to be when he grows up.

**Chuck R.**, 17, was charged with burglary and arson in 1994 and 1995. His mother asked for tracking. His school attendance and grades were poor last year, and he violated his parole. He was sent to SUMMIT boot camp last winter. Since his return, he has been seeing a counselor and is in 11th grade at an alternative high school. He lives with his parents and a younger brother and recently began working a 40-hour-a-week job in a factory. He likes school now, he said, and takes extra math classes. He wants to go to college and wants a career in the military or as a police officer.

**Loni R.**, 15, has had five charges of theft and assault since 1994 and was said to be associated with the Vice

Lords. She ran away in February 1996 and was placed in detention when she was found in South Dakota. She was on electronic monitoring after she was first returned to Cedar Rapids, but she ran away again. This time she was placed in DART. She has had a tracker for the past year and lives with her mother and five siblings. She had a major drug problem, she said, and used a lot of crank. She was getting substance abuse treatment in DART, and the treatment was to continue after her release. Before DART, she said, her school attendance was poor and she failed all her courses. In DART, her school attendance was excellent and her grades were passing. She has been diagnosed with ADD and a learning disability. She is in 10th grade, worked full time as a baby-sitter this summer and began work this fall at a restaurant, where she worked last year. She hopes to go to college and become a lawyer.

**Chip R.**, 17, was designated a child in need of assistance in 1987 and had five charges from 1993 to 1995, including sex abuse, theft and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. He was tracked all year, attended Crossroads for four months and had to pay \$600 in restitution. He worked at fast food restaurants and paid off the restitution in May. He lives with his parents and four siblings. He is in 11th grade and attends school regularly. In fact, he said, his attendance was perfect until he got into trouble last fall. His grades were As and Bs. He hopes to go to college and become a massage therapist. He plans to take career education during the school year to get work experience.

**Jimmy R.**, 15, was charged with assault while displaying a dangerous weapon in 1995 and theft in 1994. He was placed in a shelter for about a month and had a tracker until early spring. He lives with his father and the father's girlfriend and is in ninth grade. He attends school regularly, he said, and gets average to above average grades. He works with his stepmother-to-be caring for yards and mowing lawns. He doesn't know what he wants to do when he grows up.

**Robert S.**, 16, had 14 charges in 1995, including theft, assault, burglary and vandalism. He had been living independently with a roommate and worked 50 to 60 hours a week, supporting himself since the age of 14. The burglaries, he said, were "just for fun." He was a heavy drug user, trying almost everything, including acid, PCP, pot, heroin, crank, cocaine, crack and pills. He said he spent \$150 to \$200 a day on alcohol. He calls his father "a raging drunk." Robert has had a psychiatrist since he was "old enough to talk" and has been in Sedlacek and ASAC for substance abuse treatment. The only thing that worked, he said, was AA. He has been sober since August 1995. He has a tracker; lives with an aunt, uncle and two younger cousins, and is in ninth grade. His school attendance, once poor, is now excellent, he said, and he is making good progress toward catching up to his grade level. He continues to work 40 to 50 hours a week at two jobs. He wants to go to college and become an architect.

**Sandy S.**, 16, faced three theft charges in 1995, was named a child in need of assistance and continues in

tracking. She has been diagnosed with a conduct disorder and could have ADHD. She lives with her parents and two sisters and works part time at a cafeteria. She got her first job, she said, through the Employment for Youth program in summer 1995. She was expelled from high school for smoking on campus last year and enrolled at an alternative high school. While she regularly skipped classes before, she said the only class she skipped at the alternative school was the last class, and that was because she had to go to work. She has yet to complete ninth grade, she said, but has some credits from higher grades. She still has a lot of credits to make up to catch up to her grade level. She hopes to become a secretary.

**Margie S.**, 14, was charged with possession of marijuana in 1995 and was placed in a shelter and in detention before being sent to Quakerdale in September 1995. She lives with her parents and three younger siblings in rural Linn County and has had a tracker the past two summers. She admits having used a variety of drugs, including alcohol, marijuana, crank, Valium and speed, and began going to Narcotics Anonymous at Quakerdale. She no longer goes to NA, she said, but she no longer uses illegal substances. Her school attendance was poor before Quakerdale, perfect at Quakerdale and fair since she returned home. Her grades, however, are good, she said. She is in the ninth grade, hopes to go to college and wants to become a social worker.

**Alvin S.**, 14, was charged with theft last year, tracked and then sent to DART after he was kicked out of school for fighting. He also spent a couple of



weeks in a shelter. He used alcohol and marijuana, he said, but no longer uses. He had substance abuse treatment in DART. He lives with his mother and younger brother and is ninth grade. He plans to go out for basketball. His school attendance was poor before DART, he said, but was good while he was in DART. His grades were Cs and Ds while he was in DART, compared to all Fs previously. He said he didn't know what he wanted to do when he grew up, but he does want to go to the University of North Carolina because he likes the Tarheels.

**Jerome S.**, 13, was charged at least five times in 1995 and 1996 for offenses ranging from theft to burglary to assault. He spent five weeks in a shelter and now has a tracker and is in Crossroads. He lives with his parents and an older sister and has a paper route. He said his school attendance was good and his grades were average. He doesn't want to go to college. He does want to be a professional rollerblader.

**Megan S.**, 17, was put on tracking after an assault charge in 1994 and continued in tracking for a year and a half. At one time, she violated her probation by running away. She lives with her mother, stepfather and an older sister. She moved to Missouri this summer with her best friend and the friend's parents and expected to stay there. But she didn't like it, she said, and returned to Cedar Rapids in September. She attends an alternative high school, but is not sure about her grade level. She failed to earn a lot of credits because of missed school, she said. She intends to get a GED eventually and wants to go to college to become a counselor or social

worker. She figures that after her own difficulties as a teen-ager, she could relate well to other troubled teens.

**Tammy S.**, 16, was charged with interference with official acts in 1994 and again in 1995, in connection with a burglary charge. The later charges came when she was living with a boyfriend and his family. She was placed in a shelter for a short time, was at home for a while during tracking, then moved out again on her 16th birthday. She now lives in an apartment with another boyfriend and a friend. She attended school regularly, receiving above average grades; was a cheerleader and on the track team. After her parents refused to give her an excuse for absences when she had bronchitis, she was expelled from school. She now works full time as a certified nursing assistant and is a junior at an alternative high school. Before leaving her parents' home, she had planned to go to Florida State University and become a lawyer. Now, she said, she will probably go to Kirkwood or the University of Iowa to stay near her boyfriend and plans to become a registered nurse.

**Amos T.**, 18, was charged last year with stalking a girlfriend. He was waived to adult court on a drunken driving charge the week before he turned 18. He used pot and alcohol, he said. He lives with his father and stepmother. He missed so much school his sophomore year that he was expelled. By the end of last year, under tracking, his was attending an alternative high school more regularly. He has the credits to be a junior and thinks he may not be able to graduate this year. His parents have told him that if he does not attend

school, he will have to move out on his own. He would like to go to at least a junior college and play football, although he hasn't been in sports since his freshman year. He works 25 to 30 hours a week at a grocery store.

**Chris T.**, 15, was tracked after a theft charge last year. He previously had been on probation after shoplifting and assault charges in Gary, Ind., where he lived until moving to the home of his aunt and uncle in Iowa three years ago. He was associated with the Vice Lords in Indiana. His probation in Linn County was to have been a year, but he was discharged early because he was doing so well. His uncle said he had done "a 180-degree turnaround from Gary." He is in 10th grade, plays basketball and works 20 hours a week in a fast food restaurant. He wants to go to college.

**Gary W.**, 16, has faced six charges, including criminal mischief and theft, since 1993. He spent a couple of weeks in detention, was in a shelter and then was sent to Clarinda in spring 1995. He has been in tracking since his release at the end of the school year. He no longer uses drugs including alcohol, he said. He rarely attended school before going to Clarinda. At Clarinda, he began to catch up to his 10th grade level and got above average grades. He played football, lettered in soccer and became one of the first teens his age to make the Eagles Club. He wants to become an elementary school teacher and said he also might join the Army.

**Joseph W.**, 16, has been involved with the juvenile court since he was 13. Charges in 1995 included theft and criminal mischief. He was in track-

ing until January 1996, when he was charged with armed robbery and sent to the State Training School in Eldora. He had been living with his father and a great-aunt. He used marijuana and alcohol in Cedar Rapids, he said, and was in treatment at Eldora. Before going to Eldora, he attended school regularly, he said, and got average grades. At Eldora, his grades have been As and Bs. He planned to attend an alternative high school after his release from Eldora and hoped to get a job in auto maintenance, based on training he received there. He has no plans for the future.

### **Tama County**

**Bryan C.**, 14, was charged with assault with injury and theft after an altercation with his mother in 1995. He lived with his father for 12 years and had been a child in need of assistance since 1989. He lived in a foster home for eight months. He spent two months with his mother and two half-siblings in 1995, but said he turned his mother in when he caught her smoking marijuana. He then was placed in a shelter and later at Quakerdale Wolf Ranch. He takes medication for hypertension and has been diagnosed with ADHD. He said his bad behavior began when he moved in with his mother. "I was an angel when I lived with Dad," he said. He has always attended school regularly, he said, and gets average or above average grades. He is in ninth grade and hopes to go out for sports, including football, basketball, baseball and track. He also was proud of doing a monologue in a talent show. He said he had had only two encounters with alcohol, and "I cannot stand alcohol." He quit smoking when he realized it affected his sports abilities. He said he

has wanted to be a cop since he was in first grade. He said he also might go to Florida State University or perhaps Colorado, where relatives live, to study computers.

**Jack D.**, 17, was charged with theft and criminal mischief last year after breaking into a golf course and taking a golf cart. He was tracked during six months of probation. He lives in a rural area with his parents and a younger sister, and is a senior in high school. Although he was referred to a school attendance task force three months before his arrest, he said his attendance was tracked. His grades varied, he said, and were only a little better than they were before tracking. He participated in speech and a chess club in school and worked for a semester on a Native American Elders Project. He eventually quit school and got a GED. He also moved out of his grandparents' home and now lives with an aunt and her boyfriend. He works at a restaurant,

better than usual while he was being tracked. His grades, Cs and Ds, were better than they were before. He said he "has a beer once in a while," but did not drink while he was on probation. He works in a restaurant and wants to go to a technical school and become a mechanic.

**Brett H.**, 18, was charged with criminal mischief after he and companions vandalized a salvage lot in 1994. His consent decree was later revoked and he was placed in tracking. Prior school attendance was poor, he said, but he attended school regularly while he was earning money to pay restitution, and hopes to take radiology classes at Marshalltown Community College. He will take a drink "every couple of months," he said, "but most of the people in the family are alcoholics, and that keeps you away from it." He said he frequently has had to take care of his mother after she got drunk.

## The 1995 random sample

### Benton County

**Jerry K.**, 19, who had been waived to adult court on juvenile burglary and theft charges last year, ran away last winter from the Adult Corrections Center in Cedar Rapids, where he was serving his sentence. He was charged with contempt and spent 50 days in the Linn County jail before being returned to the Adult Corrections Center. In late spring, he and others from the center disobeyed the rules and went to the Coralville Reservoir. When someone reported them, he knew he would

face more jail time, so he ran away again. He was picked up 15 days later and is now serving a sentence of at least a year in the prison system. He was interviewed at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center at Oakdale. He worked as an ironworker last fall, but the escapes ruined his chance for an apprenticeship, he said. He also is now unable to take advantage of student loans he had arranged so he could attend Kirkwood Community College. "Every time I started to do good, I started doing something stupid," he said. "I tried to run from my problems. I had so many

major reports that I was scared they would take me away, so I wanted to have fun first." He is now trying to get psychiatric help "to find out what's wrong inside my head." He still hopes to go to college after his release and still wants to major in electrical engineering, although he also might like to study criminal justice. When he is released, he plans to return to Florida, where he lived with his mother until two years ago. "I should never had left Florida," he said. "Mom was hard on discipline. My curfew was dark. Dad let me do what I wanted to; he is too easy-going. I need the discipline from my mom."

**Scott S.**, 15, was tracked all year after a couple of shoplifting charges in the summer of 1995. He is in ninth grade and lives with his father, stepmother and step-sister. He attended school regularly last year and earned four Bs, which is much better than he has done in the past, he said. He went out for basketball and track last year, and expects to continue the sports this year. He is looking for a part-time job.

**Bobby S.**, see 1996 sample.

**Marvin V.**, 17, dropped out of school last year, was later charged with burglary and spent 90 days at SUMMIT boot camp. He was released this summer and immediately began working for a landscaping company. He has to pass one more test to receive a GED. He lives with his mother, a younger brother and a younger sister. He has no plans for the future, except to continue working.

## Iowa County

**James D.**, 18, graduated from high school this spring and made the honor roll. He had no new charges during the year. He began liberal arts classes at Kirkwood Community College this fall but had not decided upon a major. Because his charges mostly involved use of alcohol, he was required to complete substance abuse treatment. He said he quit drinking during his probation, but began to drink again, "to party," after the probation was up. He will continue to work 24 hours a week while going to college. He lives with his father, stepmother and a half-sister born this summer.

**Lance H.**, 18, had no new charges this year and continued to live with his parents and older brother. His original juvenile charges involved marijuana and alcohol, but he said he no longer used either. He finished high school work at Kirkwood and received a GED. He worked most of the year in one restaurant, and recently began to work at another. He said he was trying to save money so he could go back to Kirkwood, but he had no particular career goal in mind. "I'm taking it as it comes," he said.

**Peter K.**, 17, was tracked until his probation ended in February. He did not reoffend during tracking, but he was charged in May when he broke the window of a truck during a party. He expected to be on probation again this fall. He continues to live with his mother and is a senior in high school. His school attendance has been decent, he said, and his grades were generally average, except for an F in biology. This summer he

was taking a biology class at Kirkwood. He continues to work part time at the local museum. After graduation, he plans to stay at home, work for a year and then attend Kirkwood. He has no specific goal or area of study in mind.

**Tiffany P.**, 13, continues to live with her father and three siblings, and is in seventh grade. She had no charges this year and is no longer tracked. She goes to school regularly, she said, but she doesn't like school and has told her father she wants to drop out. Her grades last year were poor but passing. She says other children at school make fun of her, and she has no friends her age. She likes sports and plays basketball, soccer and softball. She won't go out for sports in high school, she said, because tryouts are required. She has a daily newspaper route. She used to baby-sit, she said, but her father won't let her do it anymore because he is afraid she might steal from the houses.

**Ted R.**, 16, was charged with assault after getting into a fight last spring, but he thinks the charges have been dropped. He met with the juvenile court officer, he said, "but she didn't do nothing about it." His previous charges were all alcohol-related. He was dismissed from tracking before school started last year. He continues to live with his parents in rural Iowa County and is a junior in high school. His school attendance is good, he said, and his grades are average. He worked on a farm this summer and worked for a week at McDonald's this fall. "I couldn't stand it," he said. He worked until 4 a.m. weekends and until midnight weekdays. "I would rather quit the job than

school." He wants to go to college and eventually own his own business.

**Eugene S.**, 18, who had been charged with trespassing in 1995 when he was asked to retrieve his younger brother from a golf course, had no charges this year. He graduated from high school in the spring. His attendance was good, he said, and he had a 3.0 grade point average. He continues to work as a plumber, which he has done for several summers and after school, and enrolled in an auto mechanics course at Kirkwood this fall. He said he would probably continue to be a plumber and was taking the auto mechanics course in order to know the subject.

### **Johnson County**

**Adam B.**, 15, was in the Iowa City day treatment program for most of the school year. The program became ANCHOR a day or so before he was dismissed. He had one assault charge during the year. He missed less school than usual, he said, but his grades were worse than before. He did, however, pass and entered ninth grade in high school this fall. He had been in a class for those with behavior disorders. He continues to live with his grandparents and a younger sister. He insisted on introducing the researcher to "the rest of the family," including two parrots, a ball python and a dog that barks "Happy Birthday." He wants to be a veterinarian or work in a pet store and volunteers regularly at a local pet store. While he was in day treatment, he had a paid job at a pet store.

**Tyrone B.**, 15, moved in fall 1995 to Ohio, where he lives with his father, stepmother and three stepsisters. His mother and a younger brother remain in Johnson County. He moved, he said, because he and his mother were not getting along. They talk frequently now. He is in 10th grade and plays trumpet and tuba in the band. He also goes out for track and wrestling. His school attendance is good, he said, and his cumulative grade point average is 2.9. He wants to go to a vocational school and become a diesel mechanic.

**Brad C.**, 16, was in day treatment last fall while he was on probation for arson charges. The previous year he had been in drug treatment after heavy use of marijuana, alcohol and LSD and occasional use of cocaine, opium, crank and crystal. He remained sober until October 1995, when he again used marijuana, alcohol and LSD. He was in the day treatment program but frequently skipped school. He was sent to Youth Homes of Mid-America in February and returned to Iowa City in August and spent a couple of weeks in ANCHOR. At the time of the interview, he was staying in the youth shelter and waiting for placement in a foster home. His mother and stepfather were now divorced, with the stepfather granted custody of two younger children. The reason, he said, was that his mother had been associating with Brad's father, an alcoholic who also uses marijuana and cocaine. Brad said he was freed from his father when the father was drunk and abusive and Brad knocked him down. "It's the only time I ever hit someone and didn't cry afterwards," he said. "I finally have a reason to hold a grudge." He has attended school regularly this year and is

working to catch up to his grade level. He had straight As when he was at Youth Homes of Mid-America. At school, he is involved with a new club called NUTS, Non-Using Teens. He wants to go to college, but isn't sure about a field of study. He said he would love to be a counselor and work with delinquent youths.

**Allen H.**, 18, enrolled at Elgin, Ill., Community College last fall, but withdrew after a semester for financial reasons and returned to Iowa City. He had not received his transcript because he owed money to the college but said he thought his grade point average was 2.7 or 2.8. He dropped out of school in 1994 in Iowa City and received a GED. He lives with his parents, who were reunited during the past year, and has been looking for a job. He is a regional finalist for a modeling job, he said, and hopes that might offer a temporary career to help him go back to school. He wants to play basketball in college and study graphic arts. He said construction work he had done during the past year "not his thing. I'd rather do something in the entertainment business, like basketball or modeling."

**Jayne L.**, 18, continues to live with her 23-year-old boyfriend and attend an alternative high school. She was dropped from school last year because she missed classes to work in a fast food restaurant. "I was on my own and trying to pay bills," she said. "The money was more important than the education." Now, she said, she and her boyfriend have decided education is more important, and she expects to graduate this year. She still hopes to go to college, perhaps on an art scholarship, although

she also might like to study accounting. She was pregnant this spring but had a miscarriage in July.

**Alexander S.**, 15, has been in the summer day program, day treatment program or ANCHOR since 1994 charges of assault, theft and burglary. He worked with the at-risk facilitator at his junior high school for two years. He was to get off probation June 30. He lives with his father and a younger sister, and is in ninth grade this year. His school attendance was good last year, he said, and his grade point average was 2.6. He had earned "barely" passing grades in two classes in seventh grade. He plays football, track and basketball, and wants to go to college and play football. He thinks he would like to study computer science, engineering or art.

### **Jones County**

**Daniel C.**, 18, has held and lost several jobs in the past year. He quit several fast food jobs, he said, because fast food is "a pretty stinky job." He was fired from a telemarketing job after he took three days off to attend the funeral of a relative. He lived with his girlfriend and/or her family for a few months last fall, but they soon separated and he moved in with his mother. His mother left in February or March, he said, and he did not know where she was. When he lost his most recent job, he quit paying rent on the apartment. In September, at the time of the interview, the landlord had begun eviction proceedings. Daniel, a diabetic who had a serious alcohol problem as a juvenile, said he continued to avoid drugs including alcohol. He had no criminal charges during the year. He applies for work

every time he gets a chance, he said, and was trying to get financial aid to attend Hamilton College and study accounting. If that doesn't work out, he said he was thinking about filling his car with gas and driving south until the car ran out of gas. "That's where I'll stay."

**Sean H.**, 18, quit school after he turned 13 last November and began working full time in a Marion packaging center. At the time of the interview, he was living with his girlfriend and her parents, and the young couple was expecting a baby "almost any time." The two planned to get married. He was going to Kirkwood to get his high school diploma.

**Kendra S.**, 18, graduated from high school in January and now lives on her own in a small town. She had been tracked the previous year after she ran away, taking a friend's parents' car. Her relationship with her parents continues to be good, she said, and she had no charges last year. She began working at a plastics factory this summer and planned to take Kirkwood courses in the fall. She hopes to go to college full time in fall 1997 but does not yet know what she wants to study.

### **Linn County**

**Jeffrey A.**, 13, had no charges last year and continues to live with his parents. He had been charged with indecent exposure three years ago. He is in seventh grade and mows yards to earn extra money. His school attendance last year was good, he said, and his grades were average. He wants to be a train driver when he grows up.

**Sam C.**, 13, got off probation last spring after being tracked for two years. He had theft and robbery charges in 1994 and four assault charges in 1994 and 1995. He is in eighth grade and works regularly with an in-school tracker. He always attends school, he said, although sometimes he is tardy, and his grades are average. He likes all the subjects, he said, but some get hard. He goes out for basketball, but does most of his sports at home with friends. He has "a bunch of ideas" for when he grows up. "I will do whatever comes first," he said.

**Norman D.**, 17, has had no charges since theft charges in 1993 and 1994. He was in treatment during the past year for alcohol abuse and hasn't used since, he said. He worked full time this summer in a fast food restaurant, but cut back to about 30 hours a week after school began. He is in 11th grade and attends school regularly at his alternative high school. He said he missed a lot of school last year but came close to getting the credits he needed for his grade level. He wants to go to college and study ocean biology.

**Sharon D.**, 18, did not return to her parents' home after running away last year, but she and her parents see each other regularly since the birth of her baby. She lives with her boyfriend and recently began working at a day care center.

**Angela G.**, 16, returned from Forest Ridge in May and now lives with her father and two sisters. Her last charges were in 1993. She was in Falcons Club at Forest Ridge and got As and Bs in school in Estherville, where

she caught up to her grade level. She is in 11th grade this year, choreographs dances for a local drum corps and is working with friends to start a radio station. She baby-sat with a niece this summer and hoped to get a regular job when school started. She plans to go to college and wants to become an entertainment lawyer. "There are only two in Iowa," she said.

**Bonnie M.**, 15, did not keep her curfew while she on tracking for breaking into houses and stealing credit cards. She was living with her mother, stepfather and seven siblings. She also used a variety of drugs, including marijuana, crack, speed and alcohol. She was sent to Quakerdale but was kicked out after four months because she kept running away and getting into fights at school. Last summer she was at the State Juvenile Home in Toledo and attended an on-site school. She was scheduled to move to a group home in Iowa City in September. She said her grades at Toledo were good, but she had no goals for the future.

**John M.**, 19, has had no new charges since his dismissal from probation on theft charges more than a year ago. He continues to live with his girlfriend and her parents. He graduated last spring from high school, where he participated in track and cross country. His attendance was excellent, he said, and his grades were passing. He worked full-time in the summer and was scheduled to go to the Navy in October. He has no definite career goals and said he might stay in the Navy if he likes it.

**Aaron M.**, 15, was charged last summer with possession of alcohol. It



was the first charge since his November release from probation on theft and assault charges. He continues to live with his mother, two brothers and two sisters. He said his school attendance was OK last year, although he switched from a traditional high school to an alternative high school. He is in 10th grade. He detasseled corn for a while this summer but had to quit because he had no transportation. He was in the Employment for Youth program, but said he did not get a job.

**Jens N.**, 15, was charged with theft after he completed the Crossroads program last fall and was placed in DART for a week in October. He got off probation in April and continues to live with his father and older brother. He attended school regularly until he got off tracking, he said, but his final grades were "terrible" because he didn't make up assignments. His grades before were Bs and Cs. He is in no extracurricular activities but practices the drums on his own. His brother is in a local heavy metal band. He has no future goals but is thinking about joining the Army.

**Ron P.**, 16, was sent to Eldora May 1 because he failed to abide by terms of his probation, especially the curfew. He was in DART last summer and was tracked after his release. He said he had not violated the law since he returned from Clarinda in May 1995. He quit school last winter when he was told he was going to put in placement. His grades have generally been above average. At Eldora, he was getting a GED so he could be released. After that, he said, he wanted to turn the GED back in, return to school in Cedar Rapids and graduate from his traditional high

school. He wants to play basketball and hoped to win a basketball scholarship for college. He wants to study computer science.

**Theresa R.**, 17, was sent to Forest Ridge in the spring because she kept violating her curfew. Her last criminal charges were in 1994. She was told last year that if she continued the violations, she would be placed in DART. Instead, she was placed in a group home in Iowa City. She ran away from there, she said, because she wanted to be with her family. She regularly attended her alternative high school, where she was in Women's Club, for girls who have not been pregnant, before being sent to Iowa City. She said her school work at Forest Ridge was excellent, and she was now writing to colleges for admissions information. She wants to major in criminal justice or sociology and work with juveniles in a detention center or residential treatment program. She also would like to go to cosmetology school, so she could do hair in her free time.

**Della S.**, 18, dropped out of Coe College in mid semester last fall and was married in the spring. She and her husband expect a baby in October. She works full time as a receptionist. Last year she worked with a Cedar Rapids detective to solve burglaries that were perpetrated by people she associated with before she was sent to Forest Ridge in 1994. "Before Forest Ridge, I probably would have been out looting with them," she said. "It was kind of nice to help someone else. I wouldn't have done that without the court system." Since being charged with assault twice in 1992, she has been at the State Juvenile Home in Toledo and at Forest

Ridge. She also had been a heavy user of marijuana and alcohol. She plans to stay home with her newborn for a while but wants to eventually return to college. She still plans to major in elementary education and/or child psychology, but now would also like to go to medical school.

**Bart T.**, 16, was charged last summer with possession of an offensive weapon (a sawed off shotgun) and is to be on probation until he is 18. He previously had three charges in 1993. He continues to live with his mother and two older brothers and is the 11th grade. He usually goes to school, he said, but misses many classes. As a result, he got no credits last year. He works full time at a car wash and says that's all he wants to do in the future. It gives him enough money for his needs, he said.

**Keith W.**, 16, returned to the State Training School in Eldora after spending summer 1995 with his grandparents in Cedar Rapids. He had violated his probation on robbery and assault charges by failing to attend school. He said he also used marijuana and alcohol. He graduated from high school in Eldora with a B average and now lives with his mother in the state of Washington. He was working for a landscaping company and had applied for a Pell grant for college. He does not know what he wants to major in. He attends Alcoholics Anonymous, he said, and at

the time of the interview had been sober for more than 70 days.

**Terra W.**, 16, gave birth to a daughter last spring. She and the baby live with her mother and younger sister. She had no criminal charges in 1996. She worked at a grocery store last year and attended school regularly until her due date was near. She has returned to school at an alternative high school, which offers day care for the baby, and was planning to work part time this fall. Employment for Youth has helped her find jobs, she said. She is a sophomore and plans to go to a community college after graduation. She wants to become a nurse.

### **Tama County**

**Matthew W.**, 12, was placed this spring in the adolescent unit at the Mental Health Institute in Independence. During the past year he has been in three other mental health facilities and one residential treatment facility. He said he was probably moved so much because he got into fights. He had two previous assault charges in juvenile court but now is being handled by the Department of Human Services. He is good in school, he said, and gets Bs. He wants to be a football player when he grows up.

## The 1994 random sample

**Dorothy B.**, 18, married the father of her son last year and the couple continues to live together. The baby was born Dec. 9, 1994. Dorothy has been staying at home with the baby but got a job last summer at Parsons, where she works second shift. A friend takes care of the baby for three hours, until her husband can pick him up, she said. She has had no charges since 1993 and does not use drugs including alcohol. She had been in substance abuse treatment in eighth grade and used until her pregnancy. She has not returned to school but still hopes to return for her high school diploma and then go to college. For now, she wants to focus her attention on the baby.

**Edward B.**, 16, was involved with gangs, in frequent fights, used drugs and attempted suicide last year while he was living at Christamore, a group home in Mount Pleasant. He attempted suicide by taking six Ritalin pills, which he takes for ADD. He huffed paint and glue and used cocaine once, but his drug of choice was alcohol, which he says makes him angry and sends him out of control. He said he told his counselor in Mount Pleasant that he needed substance abuse treatment. He was sent to a drug treatment center in Ames for three months and went to Four Oaks in Cedar Rapids in December. He now goes to meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous and has a sponsor. He is in 10th grade and doing better in school now, he said. He is in the school chorus and hoped to go out for football. His mother does not visit, but an aunt does. He also sees two brothers,

including one who lives with his aunt. He hopes to return to Johnson County and go into independent living after he leaves Four Oaks. He wants to eventually play football at Iowa and in the NFL. He also would like to help other teenagers with drug treatment and perhaps run a treatment center that did community service. He likes the idea of helping other kids who are involved with drugs and gangs, he said.

**Susan B.**, 18, continues to live with her boyfriend and has worked in a grocery store the past year. She had been on probation after two assault charges in 1994 and was charged with shoplifting in 1995. She had no new offenses. She continues abstinence from drugs and alcohol, she said. She did not attend school last year and said during last year's interview that she didn't want "to go the GED route." This year, however, she said she would get her GED after she turned 18 and got a driver's license. She was 18 in August.

**Steve F.**, 17, is living with his father and stepmother after spending more than two years in placements at Quakerdale's Wolfe Ranch, the State Training School in Eldora and Boys' Ranch. He was tracked after he returned home last fall. He is a high school senior and attends school regularly, he said. His grades last year were average. He said he would take vocational classes this year and probably would not go to college, although he did not yet have a career goal.

**Thomas F.**, 17, returned from a third placement at Eldora last fall to live with his grandmother, two brothers and two sisters. He was returned to Eldora for probation violations. He previously had been at the Clarinda Academy and was in DART in summer 1995. A burglary charge last year was waived to adult court, then dismissed, he said. He attended an alternative high school last year and earned enough credits to advance to his senior year, he said. He hoped he would be allowed to register at a traditional high school this year, but at the time of the interview wasn't sure whether the school would accept him. The regular school has more advanced math classes, which he likes, and he could play basketball, which he played at Eldora and Clarinda. He said he probably would get a construction job after graduation, although he really did not want to work in construction. He would rather attend at least a two-year college, he said.

**Jason H.**, see 1996 sample.

**Mark H.**, 18, who was in DART after release from Annie Wittenmeyer Center in spring 1995, left in the summer to live with and work for his natural father, who has a furniture store in the Quad Cities. The arrangement did not work out, Mark said, so he dropped out of school and returned to Cedar Rapids. He attended Lincoln Learning Center for a while, then spent November to January in Los Angeles, where he lived with his sister and her musician husband and worked for the husband's band. He returned to Cedar Rapids and Lincoln

Learning Center. By summer, he had a year of high school left, he said, and hoped to complete it in three months at Lincoln. He wanted a high school diploma, not a GED. He hopes to attend Kirkwood and wants to eventually start his own business, perhaps a furniture store. He was working construction through a temporary agency this summer and got married in July. He had received drug treatment as a juvenile and continued weekly testing for drugs, which he vowed to stay away from. As an adult, he was fined once for trespassing and both he and his wife-to-be were charged with assault after an argument. He was attending batterers' education class at the time of the interview.

**Carl P.**, 17, was released in May after a year and a half at the Clarinda Academy and was preparing for independent living at Lincoln Place in Cedar Rapids. He had a job as a food worker at a home for the elderly and mentally retarded. He had been sent to Clarinda after violating his probation on five charges, including assault and robbery, in 1993 and 1994. He had a 3.61 grade point average at Clarinda, he said, and got his GED. He played soccer and ran cross country. He will take a class to get his driver's license this year, he said, and hopes to attend Kirkwood next year, perhaps to take construction technology courses. He did a lot of building at Clarinda, he said, and liked it very much.

## Day treatment programs

### DART

**Jay A.**, 16, was sent to DART after theft and fraud charges last spring. Previous charges included stealing a car and possession of alcohol. He lives with his mother and a younger sister and is a senior in high school. His school attendance last year was poor, he said, and he failed most of his classes. He used to be on the honor roll. His mother attributes his change in behavior to his use of marijuana, he said. He was in drug treatment at ASAC at his request and was taking classes in summer school so he could graduate with his class. He played baseball and basketball in high school and hoped to continue in sports in college. He wants to study business.

**Andrew B.**, 16, was sent to DART in April after a burglary charge in January. Previous charges, beginning when he was 7 years old, include arson, theft, operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent, driving without a license and curfew violations. He lives with his father and should be in 11th grade. He didn't go to school last fall, he said, and worked full time in a factory before he was placed in DART. He returned to an alternative high school in the spring. His previous grades were poor, he said, because he didn't do the work. He had used marijuana and was participating in an ASAC drug treatment program. At the time of the interview he was doing job shadowing in graphic arts and was to begin working with his older sister at a Dairy Queen. He has no specific career goals.

**Neal E.**, 14, was sent to DART after violating his probation for assault and theft charges. He lives with his parents and an older brother. His juvenile charges began at age 12 and included stealing a vehicle and burglaries. He used drugs, including LSD, marijuana and alcohol. At DART, he was participating in an ASAC drug treatment program and was subject to random drug tests. He said his school attendance has always been good, and his grades are above average. He has a newspaper route. He wants to go to college and study computers.

**Deanna F.**, 15, was placed in DART after she violated probation by not paging her tracker for curfew. She had been charged with theft, had been a runaway, was in detention three times and in shelter twice. She was in the shelter when she was interviewed at DART. She previously lived with her mother and four younger siblings. She and her mother fight constantly, she said. She is supposed to be in 10th grade but had not attended school regularly since seventh grade. Then, she was on the honor roll, she said. She was to enroll this fall at an alternative high school, where she said she could easily catch up to her classmates. She wants to study business in college, go to cosmetology school and eventually have her own cosmetology business.

**Loni R.**, see 1996 sample.

**Donald R.**, 16, was charged more than a year ago with burglary, was in detention three weeks and in shelter for a month before returning to live with

his mother. He was scheduled to go to the State Training School on drug charges last spring but was placed in DART instead. He is a junior in high school, but said his school attendance and grades had been poor in recent years. Before that, he got above average grades. He was going to summer school to make up classes he had failed. He played basketball in high school and wants to go to college. He was to get out of DART at the end of July but said he might not pass the drug test. He quit smoking marijuana when he first started the program, he said, but neither ASAC nor DART had succeeded in making him want to quit drugs. "But I will never do another major crime," he said. "I don't like these places."

## **ANCHOR**

**Jeffrey C.**, 13, has had a variety of juvenile charges, including burglary, theft and assault with a deadly weapon (a knife). He has been in trouble for two years, he said, and was on probation and tracking all last year. He lives with his parents and three younger siblings and is in eighth grade. He worked on the bicycle project at Mayor's Youth Employment Program until he was placed in ANCHOR. He missed quite a few days of school during the first two trimesters last year but improved his attendance at the end of the year, he said. His grades went from Cs, Ds and Fs to As and Bs. He was the chairman for school parties last year, he said. He wants to go to college and probably study computers. He would like to have a career that involves working with either computers or horses.

**Dennis C.**, 14, was placed in ANCHOR in February after he was charged with assault. He lives with his mother and younger sister and is in ninth grade. He worked with the school tracker last year in junior high school. His school attendance is average, he said. His grades, which had been poor, improved at the end of the school year. He played football and basketball last year and plans to play basketball and perhaps baseball this year. He wants to go to college but has no choice yet for a major.

**Carrie H.**, 15, was sent to ANCHOR in July after she went to court for a burglary committed in March. She has had previous charges of theft and assault. She lives with her mother and an older sister. Her twin brother is in placement. She said she used alcohol and marijuana in the past but had been sober for three and a half months. Last year was her second in eighth grade, she said. She skipped a lot of school, especially toward the end of the year, but she passed and is in ninth grade this year. Her grades are usually above average, she said, but she didn't know what they were last year. It was a bad year, she said; two grandparents and two friends died during the year. She worked at Mayor's Youth Employment Program as a secretary last year and would like to return to the job. She hopes to go to college.

**Merle J.**, 16, has been in trouble with the law since age 12. Most charges have involved stealing or fighting. He was in ANCHOR for nine months. He lives with his mother and is in ninth grade. School attendance last year was perfect, he said, but his grades were low.

He went out for football, basketball and track. He has no plans for the future.

**Anthony J.**, see 1996 sample.

**Oral K.**, 16, has had several burglary charges and was sent to ANCHOR this summer after staying in detention or shelter for three weeks. Until then, he worked with the Mayor's Youth Employment Program summer job corps. He lives with his mother, stepfather and younger sister and is in 10th grade. His school attendance is good, he said, and his grades are above average. He plays football and basketball and wants to go to college.

**Hal L.**, 15, involved with the court system for four years, was placed in ANCHOR in December. He previously was in intensive supervision, an after-school day program. He lives with his mother and two younger siblings. He worked with the Mayor's Youth Employment Program conservation corps this summer. He has used crank, cocaine, crack, "everything," he said. He has not had drug treatment, he said, but he was trying not to use. He has random drug tests at ANCHOR. He attended school regularly, he said, and got good grades. He is in ninth grade this year and worked with the school tracker last year in junior high. He wants to go to the Army, then college, he said, and hopes to become a youth counselor.

**Roger N.**, 17, was placed in ANCHOR this summer after a theft charge. He has had several charges since 1994. He lives with his father and is a senior in high school. He said he attended school regularly and got above average grades. He wants to go to col-

lege and either manage his own business or become a policeman.

## Crossroads

**Melvin H.**, see 1996 sample.

**Michael M.**, 11, was charged with breaking into cars three years ago and has had a tracker for two years. He lives with his mother and five older siblings and spent four months in a shelter before entering Crossroads. He said he used drugs including alcohol "a long time ago, when I was 8 or 9." He is in sixth grade, but skipped school frequently and finally was suspended. He said his behavior grades were poor, but he did well on homework. He is in a class for children with behavior disorders and was suspended from a school summer program because he hit another child. He wants to be a football player and go to college, "in case I need back-up." He said he might want to become an engineer.

**Perry M.**, 12, spent most of the school year in Crossroads after assaulting his mother. He said he also had problems with stealing, lying and fighting with his sister. He lives with his parents, an older sister and a godson. He said he attended school regularly and usually got above average grades, except for the science class he failed last year. He made up the class in summer school. He is in seventh grade and plans to go out for football and track. He plays baseball at Jane Boyd Community Center and was in 4-H. He said he wanted to become an electrician or a builder, but he probably would not go to college because his parents would not be able to pay for it.

**Todd S.**, 12, has faced several charges over the past couple of years, including shoplifting and criminal mischief. He had been in Crossroads six or seven months at the time of the interview. He lives with his grandmother and is in seventh grade. He said he skipped school regularly at the beginning of the school year but went every day the second half of the year. His grades, previ-

ously poor, were raised to As. He did use alcohol and marijuana, he said, but doesn't anymore. He planned to go out for football this fall and wants to go to college and then be a pro football player. After that, he would like to be a doctor or scientist.

**Jerome S.**, see 1996 sample.

## School-based programs

**Jacqueline B.**, 17, was placed in shelter after assault charges last summer and was taken to the State Juvenile Home in Toledo for a 30-day evaluation. She was in DART for four months, spent two months on tracking and then was sent to Lincoln Place, to prepare for independent living. She was kicked out of Lincoln Place for failure to do what she was supposed to do, including keep curfew and find a job. She was in 11th grade last year and moved back and forth between the homes of her mother and an older sister. She attended school regularly, she said. The previous year she did not attend school. She wants to go to Kirkwood and become a veterinarian's assistant, and perhaps eventually a veterinarian.

**Jamie B.**, 18, was charged with assault, his first charge, last year and worked with the school tracker. He graduated from high school in the spring. He has always attended school regularly, he said, and gets good grades. He was in football, basketball, track, baseball and environmental science club, and was a photographer for the school yearbook. He had a job in an orchard this summer. He was to attend

college this fall and planned to major in statistics and testing. He lives with his mother.

**Jeb B.**, 16, was charged with burglary a year ago and was placed on probation and tracking. He is in 11th grade. He missed school and fell behind his grade level at his previous high school, he said, but since changing schools in the middle of last year, he has attended regularly and is catching up in his course work. At the time of the interview, he was looking for work. It was hard to find, he said, because he did not want to work in fast food. He lives with his grandparents.

**Timothy B.**, 14, was charged with assault in February and worked with the school tracker in junior high school. He is now in ninth grade. He lives with his parents and four siblings; 10 other siblings live in Chicago. His school attendance is good, he said, but his grades are Ds and Fs. He plays football in school and wants to be a football player or go to culinary school.

**Twila B.**, 14, in eighth grade, has worked with the school tracker for



two years. She faced juvenile court charges after a fight. She lives with her mother and four siblings. Her school attendance, once spotty, was perfect last year, she said. Her grades went from Fs to As and Bs. She plays AAU basketball and plans to play basketball in high school. She is also good in swimming and track, she said. She hopes to get an athletic scholarship for college and wants to be a veterinarian.

**Cecil C.**, 15, was put on probation after an assault charge last year, when he was in eighth grade. He began working with the school tracker earlier because he was frequently tardy. He said he missed a lot of school early in the year because he had been in a motorcycle accident. He is two grades below his age level and now is trying not to flunk, he said. He said he hadn't had a fight in five months; he used to get sent to the school disciplinary office frequently. He was to be in high school this fall and planned to go out for basketball. He doesn't like school, he said, and does not want to go to college. He has had a job at Hawkeye Downs for the past year. He lives with his mother and two younger brothers.

**Jared C.**, 14, was charged with assault last year. He worked with the school tracker and attended school every day, except for one day that he was on in-school suspension. Most of his grades are As and Bs, he said. He was to begin high school this fall. He goes out for track and basketball and wants to play in the NBA. He definitely wants to go to college, he said. He lives with his parents and works in a fast food restaurant.

**Sam C.**, see 1995 sample.

**Debbie C.**, 15, began working with the school tracker after she ran away from home. She had truancy problems at her previous high school but has attended school regularly since returning home, she said, and was in ninth grade last year. She works up to 34 hours a week as a courtesy clerk in a grocery store and lives with her mother, stepfather and younger sister. She was pregnant at the time of the interview and planned to keep the baby and finish high school. She wants to go to college to study social work or counseling.

**Dennis C.**, see ANCHOR.

**Delbert D.**, 14, was charged after he started a fire in a compost pile in February 1995. He was dismissed from probation in February 1996. He worked last year with the school tracker. He is in eighth grade and goes out for basketball. His school attendance in the spring was better than in the fall, he said, but it was not as good as it was the previous year. His grades, however, improved. He lives with his parents and a younger brother.

**Heidi D.**, 16, began working with the school tracker after she changed schools. Her previous school attendance had been poor, she said, but she had no juvenile court involvement except for a charge of possession of alcohol at a party. She lives with her mother and stepfather. Her school attendance has improved, she said, and she is catching up to her grade level. She was to be a senior this year. She wants to go to college and then teach or become a marriage counselor.

**Mitch F.**, 15, has been involved with the juvenile court system for two years. Most charges were thefts. Last year, in eighth grade, he worked with the school tracker. He lives with his mother and two brothers. He said his school attendance was good and his grades were As and Bs. He was out for track, basketball and football. He wants to go to college and become a lawyer or have a career in government.

**Laura G.**, 15, was sent to detention and a group home after theft charges in 1995. She ran away from the group home and returned home in December. She lives with an older sister and is supervised by the Department of Human Services. She enjoys working with the school tracker. In fact, the tracker or her husband gave Laura a ride to school each morning last year. Her attendance and grades improved, she said. She wants to go to college and become a doctor.

**Alfred H.**, 13, began working with the school tracker after he was charged with possession of marijuana at school. He said he was holding the drugs for a friend. He has a counselor from MECCA and is given occasional drug tests. He is in ninth grade this year and lives with his parents and an older sister. He said he attended school regularly but did not get good grades. He went to summer school to make up course work so he could enter high school. He wants to go to college and play football, although he was not out for sports in junior high. He said he decided he would rather work on his grades. If he can't play football when he grows up, he said, he would probably become a carpenter.

**Morgan H.**, 18, also was charged with assault in the incident that involved Jamie B. It was also his first charge. He worked with the school tracker and graduated from high school in the spring. He has always attended school regularly, he said, and gets good grades. He was in football, wrestling and environmental science club and worked construction during the summer. He was to attend college this fall on a wrestling scholarship and planned to major in science education. He lives with his parents and an older brother.

**Reggie H.**, 13, has been involved with the juvenile court for two years. Charges have included arson and theft. He has a tracker and works with the school tracker. He is in eighth grade. His attendance and grades have been poor, he said, but improved during the past year. He was placed in shelter this spring and was to go to DART after he returned home. He lives with his mother and an older sister.

**Skip K.**, 13, was charged with theft and assault last year and was skipping school in eighth grade when he began to work with the school tracker. He was to enter high school this fall. He said his attendance was good at the end of the year, and his grades were average. He had been on the honor roll in seventh grade. He lives with his mother, a younger sister and an older cousin. He does not know what he wants to be when he grows up.

**Harry L.**, see ANCHOR.

**Jordan L.**, 14, was charged with theft last year and worked with the school tracker when he was in eighth

grade. He school attendance is good, he said, and his grades are above average. He played basketball in school and wants to go to college and play basketball. He has not selected a field of study. He lives with his mother, stepfather and four siblings.

**Alexa M.**, 16, has been involved with the juvenile court since age 11. She ran away from home after her father beat her and tried to sexually assault her. She was in four foster homes and one group home in one year, and was in Forest Ridge for a year and a half. At the time of the interview, she was living in an Iowa City group home and was to graduate from high school in the spring. Her attendance and grades are good, she said. "I've only skipped school once in my whole life." She was to go from the group home to independent living and expected to enroll at Kirkwood Community College this fall. She wants to get a master's or doctoral degree in psychology.

**Mick P.**, 19, has been involved with the court system since age 8, when he was charged with stealing and determined to be a child in need of assistance. He has been in and out of group homes and psychiatric wards ever since and has had a variety of juvenile charges. Until age 17, he said, he was diagnosed with multiple personality disorder and paranoid schizophrenia. He lived on his own for two years and was homeless at times, he said, but recently began living with his mother, his grandmother and two younger siblings. He has used "every" drug over the years, and lost custody of a daughter because of heroin use. In spite of erratic school attendance and credits, he was to

graduate from high school this summer. He said he did two years of work in one year. He is interested in art and was trying to arrange an exhibition of his work. He wants to go to college and study art and foreign language and eventually wants to work for United Airlines.

**Brandi R.**, 15, has been a child in need of assistance and was put on probation after assault charges last year. She is in 10th grade. After working with the school tracker, her school attendance improved, she said, and her grades are OK. She lives with her mother and older brother and wants to be a truck driver.

**Chuck R.**, see 1996 sample.

**Alexander S.**, see 1995 sample.

**Joanie S.**, 16, was charged last year for trespassing, was put in tracking and worked with the school tracker. She is in 11th grade and lives with her father and a younger brother. She used drugs, including marijuana and crank, for three or four years, she said. After an arrested drug dealer reported her, her family put her in Sedlacek treatment center. She also had outpatient treatment at MECCA. She missed a lot of school when she was younger, she said, but attended regularly last year. Her grades went from Ds and Fs to Bs and Cs. She works part time as a housekeeper for a motel. She does not know what she will do after graduation.

**Josie S.**, 17, was charged a year ago with possession of drug paraphernalia and put on tracking for four months. She also worked with the school tracker. She said she began using drugs at 14

and had used every drug except heroin. She often didn't come home at night and once moved out of the home, where she lives with her mother and stepfather, for a month. After she stopped using drugs, relationships with her parents and her school attendance improved dramatically, she said. She had been expelled twice from her previous high school for non-attendance, although her grades were above average. She was in 11th grade last year and planned to return to the previous high school for her senior year. She works in a fast food restaurant and plans to attend college.

**Robert S.**, see 1996 sample.

**Christopher V.**, 17, faced various charges in juvenile court for more than two years. After charges of assault and possession of stolen property last year, he was sent to SUMMIT boot camp. He worked with the school tracker after returning home and is now a junior in high school. His attendance has improved, he said, and his grades have gone from Ds and Cs to Bs and Cs. He once used marijuana, alcohol and crank, he said, but now takes only an occasional beer. He lives with his mother and an older brother. He wants to go to college and study business management.

**Carlton W.**, 16, was on probation last year for theft and assault charges, was in tracking and worked with the school tracker. He is in 11th grade and lives with his father and the father's girlfriend. He attends school regularly, he said, and is on track to graduate with his class. He delivers newspapers and works with his father as

a carpet layer. He hopes to continue in the carpet business after high school graduation. He can't afford college, he said.

**Jackson W.**, 14, has had seven or eight juvenile charges, including vandalism and assault. His attendance and grades were better last year after working with the school tracker, he said. He was out for track and basketball, and was to begin high school this fall. He lives with his mother and two brothers.

**Larry W.**, 13, began working with the school tracker two years ago because he was often tardy and got school detentions because he yelled at teachers. He is in eighth grade. His school attendance was better last year, he said; he usually got to school on time and also got better grades. He has had jobs mowing lawns, selling candy and delivering newspapers. He lives with his father, stepmother and four siblings.

**Travis W.**, 14, has been involved with the juvenile court system for three years and worked with the school tracker last year when he was in eighth grade. He lives with his parents and an older sister. He attends school regularly, he said, and gets grades of average or above. He was out for basketball and baseball. He has no plans for the future.



Appendix I  
1995 Recommendations and Status in 1996

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## 1995 Recommendations

Juvenile court officials, agency personnel and teen-agers interviewed made several program suggestions during interviews in 1995. The recommendations and results in 1996 are listed below.

### **1. Provide more facilities for detention.**

In 1996, the day treatment program in Cedar Rapids (DART) began using rooms at St. Luke's Hospital for detention. This has been an effective alternative. The hospital is paid a per-night fee, and hospital personnel monitor the detained juveniles constantly throughout the night. ANCHOR has had the same arrangement since March, although it has been less satisfactory because of the distance from Iowa City.

Linn County is planning to build a new detention facility in southwest Cedar Rapids that will alleviate some of the detention shortages in the area. Johnson County is expected to contract with Linn County for a specified number of beds.

### **2. Pair a juvenile court officer with one tracker in urban counties to improve communication and make sure each juvenile is served in the way specified by the officer.**

Trackers in Linn County were assigned to individual juvenile court officers in January 1996. Officers say they like the arrangement. Officers have the option of referring individual youths to other trackers if they feel that would be beneficial. There might be certain girls, for example, that officers would be reluctant to refer to a male tracker.

### **3. Look for new ways to smooth the transition from tracking to non-supervision for juveniles and their parents.**

This continues to be a problem in some cases, but school-based programs fill some of the need. Day treatment programs also have improved aftercare programs and plan future improvements to ease the transition. Crossroads in Cedar Rapids now allows youths who once would have graduated to continue their ties with the program and become youth mentors. The changing nature of tracking is also having an effect; the trackers are so busy that many do not have time to develop attachments to the youths they monitor. This eliminates the problem of dependency, but could lessen the effectiveness of tracking overall.

### **4. Increase efforts to attract parents to support groups or other family resources.**

DART has taken direct steps in this regard by hosting family meetings and now by visiting families weekly. Staff in other programs continue to try to involve families through visits and telephone calls.



**5. Continue efforts to establish community mentoring programs, perhaps through volunteers.**

No formal effort has been made in this regard, although it is a particular goal of Judge Susan Flaherty. Youths themselves have become mentors in programs such as Crossroads and DART in Cedar Rapids, and in community centers such as United Action for Youth in Iowa City. The ANCHOR staff hopes its new emphasis on employment for teen-agers in the program will result in support from individuals in the community.

**6. Establish liaisons in more school districts.**

Liaisons continue in four of the 36 districts in the judicial district. McKinley Middle School in the Cedar Rapids district added a liaison in 1996, and the Community Education Center was added one in Iowa City. The South Tama program expanded in 1996 and will expand further in 1997, with the tracker working full time in the schools.

**7. Continue to refine measures for evaluating programs.**

Measurement of school attendance and disciplinary incidents was much improved this year. The schools, with the exception of the alternative schools, kept accurate records to enable a comparison of students over two years. Also, in 1996 pre- and post-tests were administered to juveniles in DART and ANCHOR, allowing a more statistically valid method for evaluating change, although too few responses were available from ANCHOR this year to allow a comparison of the programs.

**8. Study why minorities are over-represented in the juvenile court system and explore ways to tailor programs to better serve that group.**

Minorities continue to be over-represented in the system, as reported in the main text of the report, but juvenile court officials have not been able to study the reasons. Statistics gathered in 1996 do indicate that the success of minorities who are in the system is similar to that of the overall group.

**9. Continue attempts to define which juveniles can be helped most by tracking and community-based programs.**

As juvenile court officers and staffs of community services gather more experience with community services, they are defining for themselves the appropriate services for individual juveniles. To date, everyone agrees that the most successful juveniles are those whose parents are caring and involved. They also agree that early intervention is important. Beyond that, matching juveniles to specific programs remains more an art than a science.

**10. Continue to explore new models for tracking and community-based programs and new ways to use the programs in conjunction with other family intervention services.**

This is on-going. All programs continue to adapt to meet current circumstances and to fine-tune programs so they will be more effective. With schools, the Department of Human Services and juvenile court officials working together, networks of services can be being created that can better serve individual communities.

**11. Use data gathered to work with agencies in refining program offerings.**

This, too, is on-going. Changes were made in several programs this year and will continue to be made in future years as new information is gathered and staffs continue to develop skills.

**12. Continue training for agency staff and juvenile court officers.**

Training sessions twice each year are now standard in the judicial district. These will continue, with topics selected according to interests and needs of the staffs. In addition, tracking staffs and juvenile court officers in Linn and Johnson counties now meet weekly to share information and plan work priorities. Fewer communications problems are encountered in rural counties, where one juvenile court officer typically works with one tracker.



Appendix 2  
Amounts and Sources of Funding in FY 1996

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**Table 15. Amounts and sources of funding in FY 1996**

Program	Dept. of Human Serv.	Court-ordered services	Decat. services	Total
<b>Tracking by county</b>				
Benton	\$ 26,000	\$ 7,203		\$ 33,203
Iowa	14,403			14,403
Johnson	84,436		\$ 18,114	102,550
Jones	22,889			22,889
Linn	180,166	105,000	67,773	352,939
Tama	17,596			17,596
Totals	\$ 345,490	\$ 112,202	\$ 85,887	\$ 543,580
<b>Life skills programs</b>				
Johnson	\$ 16,575			\$ 16,575
Linn	38,675		\$ 41,325	80,000
Totals	\$ 55,250		\$ 41,325	\$ 96,575
<b>Day programming</b>				
Johnson (ANCHOR)	\$ 165,000			\$ 165,000
Linn (DART)	256,000			256,000
Totals	\$ 421,000			\$ 421,000
<b>School-based programs</b>				
			Schools	
Iowa	\$ 11,918	\$ 5,959	\$ 5,959	\$ 23,836
Johnson	23,837	11,919	11,919	47,675
Linn	35,755	17,878	17,878	71,511
Tama	11,918	5,959	5,959	23,836
Totals	\$ 83,428	\$ 41,715	\$ 41,715	\$ 166,858

Note: Money from the Department of Human Services is delinquency services funding.



Appendix 3  
Adolescent Tracking Referral Form

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**DELINQUENCY SERVICES**

**TO:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Agency Name) (Child's Name)

**STATUS OF JUVENILE:** CINA \_\_\_\_\_ Judicial \_\_\_\_\_ Informal \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birthdate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **JCO/SW:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ant. Termination Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(no later than 6/30/96)

**Requested Service:** **COMMUNITY BASED:** DART Program \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Hms Day Pgm \_\_\_\_\_  
**LIFESKILLS:** Crossroads \_\_\_\_\_ EFY \_\_\_\_\_ ICCSD Skills Group \_\_\_\_\_  
**TRACKING (Intensive Supervision): (Write in the # of 1/2 hr units per month)**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual Units per Month**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Group and/or Saturday Units per Month**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Contacts per Month**

OPTIONAL 

Contacts per Week: School _____ Home _____ Curfew _____ Weekend _____ Work _____ Other _____
--

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Supervisor - Linn Co Only)

**SEND BILLING TO:** Juvenile Court Office  
Attn: Vickie Troester  
305 2nd Ave SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

**TRACKING TERMINATION**

(To be filled out at time of termination)

Termination Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Status at end of service: CINA \_\_\_\_\_ Informal \_\_\_\_\_ Judicial \_\_\_\_\_

Was the child placed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Placement: RT \_\_\_\_\_ PMIC \_\_\_\_\_ STS \_\_\_\_\_ LJH \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Was the child in placement before tracking ? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, how many months was placement shortened? \_\_\_\_\_

Charge(s) at time of beginning service: \_\_\_\_\_

How many referrals has this child had, including this one? 1 2 3 4 5+

Did the child reoffend during tracking service? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what was/were the charge(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the child's probation revoked during tracking? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Was the tracking service successful? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix 4  
Training Programs for 1996

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**TRACKER/INTENSIVE SUPERVISION: A NEW MODEL FOR  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**

Friday, April 5, 1996, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Correctional Services  
951 29th Avenue S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Faches Center - Linn Room

Agenda

- 8:30a.m. Welcome: Carol Thompson, Chief Juvenile Court Officer**
- 8:35 a.m. Working and Communicating with Children and Adolescents with Attention Deficit Disorder**  
Mary Ann Roberts, Asst. Professor of Pediatrics, University of Iowa  
Hospitals and Clinics
- 9:30 a.m. Curriculum Selection for Reluctant Readers**  
(Speaker to be arranged)
- 10:15 a.m. Break: A Chance for Networking with Other Professionals**
- 10:45 a.m. "What about the girls?"**  
Lori Rinehart, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning  
  
(Coffee, juice, rolls, and pop will be served)

Directions to Correctional Services from I-380:

Take 33rd Avenue exit west to 6th Street - turn north onto 6th Street - go to 29th Avenue (John Deere sign) - turn west - the Correctional Services Complex is 1/2 mile on the left. The Faches Center is the middle building.

- ◆ *A second Tracker/Intensive Supervision training will be held at the Correctional Services Complex from 8:30am to 12:00pm on May 10, 1996. Please call Carol Thompson at 319-398-3545, ext. 25 for more information.*

Attendance 28

# The Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Tama Counties

## JUVENILE COURT OFFICE

### TRACKER/INTENSIVE SUPERVISION: A NEW MODEL FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Friday, May 10, 1996, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Correctional Services  
951 29th Avenue S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Faches Center - Linn Room

#### Agenda

- 8:15 a.m. Coffee, juice, rolls
- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome: Carol Thompson, Chief Juvenile Court Officer**
- 8:35 a.m. **Standing by Kids: Safety Planning and Other Approaches**  
Pat Meyer, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County
- 9:35 a.m. **Helping Kids to Get Medical Help**  
Betsy Houston & Shirley Johnson-Loutsch, Metro High School
- 10:05 a.m. **Break/Networking with Other Professionals**
- 10:15 a.m. **Understanding and Working with Fundamentalists**  
Roger Reid, Department of Human Services
- 11:00 a.m. **The At-Risk Kids that Schools Ignore**  
Ann Taylor, Grant Wood Area Education Agency

#### Directions to Correctional Services from I-380:

Take 33rd Avenue exit west to 6th Street - turn north onto 6th Street - go to 29th Avenue (John Deere sign) - turn west - the Correctional Services Complex is 1/2 mile on the left. The Faches Center is the middle building.

Appendix 5  
Questionnaires Administered  
in Day Programming

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# The Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Tama Counties

## JUVENILE COURT OFFICE

September 1, 1995

TO: Day Program Staff  
FROM: Carol Thompson *CT*  
RE: research on delinquency programs

Attached is the pre-and-post-test instrument to use with youths in the day programs.

Please administer the instrument to all youths who enter your program after September 1, 1995. Do it during the first five days of participation. Mark PRE-TEST on the first page.

If the youth's discharge is planned, please administer the same instrument during the last five days of attendance. Mark POST-TEST on the first page. If a youth leaves your program without completing the post-test, please notify me and I will make arrangements to have the test completed.

Staff should supervise youths taking the tests. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ALOUD FOR EACH SECTION.

We intend to use this information in the aggregate, that is, we will compare all the pre-tests from your program to all the post-tests, and measure changes. If you want to have pre-and-post-test results on individual youths, you should make up a system to identify the tests. Use some kind of a code and keep the key. We do not want to see names on the test forms.

Send completed tests to me at 305 2nd Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401.

Questions? Call me at 398-3545 or David Rosenthal at 319-335-7686.

Reply To Appropriate Office Checked Below:

LINN/JONES/IOWA COUNTIES   
305 2nd Avenue S.E.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
Ph. (319) 398-3545 / 462-4601 / 642-5479  
Linn Jones Iowa

JOHNSON COUNTY   
Johnson County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 1638  
Iowa City, IA 52244  
Ph. (319) 356-6076

BENTON COUNTY   
Benton County Courthouse  
Vinton, IA 52349  
Ph. (319) 472-3957

TAMA COUNTY   
101 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 94  
Toledo, IA 52342  
Ph. (515) 484-2635

## Attitudes About Yourself

The following questions ask you to indicate the strength of your agreement or disagreement with 40 statements about yourself. This is NOT a test, and there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer how you really feel, and NOT how you think you should feel.

Read each statement below and decide how strongly you agree or disagree with it right now. Circle the number on the scale that best describes the strength of your agreement or disagreement. If you have questions about what you should do or about any of these statements, please ask the person in charge for help. Now, please start, indicating the strength of your agreement or disagreement with each statement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. I feel that I am a person of worth, at least on an equal basis with others.	1	2	3	4
2. Most of my problems will solve themselves if I don't fool with them.	1	2	3	4
3. All in all, I am inclined to feel that I am a failure.	1	2	3	4
4. I am often blamed for things that just aren't my fault.	1	2	3	4
5. I feel that I have a number of good qualities.	1	2	3	4
6. It doesn't pay for me to try hard because things never turn out right anyway.	1	2	3	4
7. My life is going well.	1	2	3	4
8. Most of the time my parents listen to what I have to say.	1	2	3	4
9. When I get punished, it usually seems like it's for no good reason.	1	2	3	4
10. Most of the time I find it hard to change a friend's opinion (mind).	1	2	3	4
11. I like the way things are going for me.	1	2	3	4
12. I feel I do not have much to be proud of.	1	2	3	4
13. I take a positive attitude toward myself.	1	2	3	4
14. On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.	1	2	3	4
15. When I do something wrong, there's very little I can do to make it right.	1	2	3	4
16. I wish I could have more respect for myself.	1	2	3	4
17. Most kids are just born good at sports.	1	2	3	4
18. I certainly feel useless at times.	1	2	3	4

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
19. I would like to change many things in my life.	1	2	3	4
20. When someone my age wants to fight, there's little I can do to stop them.	1	2	3	4
21. At times I think I am no good at all.	1	2	3	4
22. When people are mean to me, it is usually for no reason at all.	1	2	3	4
23. Most of the time I can change what happens tomorrow by what I do today.	1	2	3	4
24. When someone my age wants to be my enemy, there's little I can do to change matters.	1	2	3	4
25. I usually have little to say about what I get to eat at home.	1	2	3	4
26. When someone doesn't like me, there is little I can do about it.	1	2	3	4
27. It's useless to try in school because other kids are smarter than I am.	1	2	3	4
28. I believe that planning ahead makes things turn out better.	1	2	3	4
29. Most of the time I have little to say about what my family decides to do.	1	2	3	4
30. I believe that when bad things are going to happen they just are going to happen, no matter what I try to do to stop them.	1	2	3	4
31. My life is just right.	1	2	3	4
32. I am able to do things as well as most other people.	1	2	3	4
33. I wish I had a different kind of life.	1	2	3	4
34. I find it's nearly impossible to change my parent(s)'s mind about things.	1	2	3	4
35. I have a good life.	1	2	3	4
36. The best way to handle most problems is just not to think about them.	1	2	3	4
37. I feel good about what's happening to me.	1	2	3	4
38. I have what I want in life.	1	2	3	4
39. My life is better than most kids'.	1	2	3	4
40. It doesn't pay for me to try hard because things never go right anyway.	1	2	3	4

Some young people, like some adults, indulge at times in different types of unhealthy behavior. This section asks about your high-risk behaviors and about their frequency in the last year. Please check the box that best describes your frequency of each behavior. Remember, this questionnaire is absolutely anonymous and confidential. You are not putting your name on it, and nothing you put on this questionnaire will ever be attributed to you. So, please be honest.

**How Often Do You . . . . .**

1. Smoke cigarettes	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 per day <input type="checkbox"/> 6+ per day	8. Drink alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day
2. Use smokeless tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 per day <input type="checkbox"/> 6+ per day	9. If you drink alcohol at all, how much do you drink at any one time?	<input type="checkbox"/> sip <input type="checkbox"/> one drink <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 drinks <input type="checkbox"/> 4 drinks <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ drinks
3. Use marijuana	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day	10. Use a phony I.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day
4. Take uppers or downers	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day	11. Purposely damage school or other property	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day
5. Use crack or cocaine	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day	12. Take something of value from a store or another person	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day
6. Use heroin or IV drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day	13. Get in trouble with the police	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day
7. Have unprotected sex	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day	14. Run away from home	<input type="checkbox"/> never <input type="checkbox"/> once per month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 per month <input type="checkbox"/> once per week <input type="checkbox"/> once per day

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How many sisters do you have who have your father but a different mother? \_\_\_\_\_ number

_____ age 1st sister	_____ age 3rd sister	_____ age 5th sister
_____ age 2nd sister	_____ age 4th sister	_____ age 6th sister

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How often in the last year have you seen a physician? \_\_\_\_\_ number of times For What? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a physical exam each year? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

With whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dentist

Have you been hospitalized in the past year? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No For What? \_\_\_\_\_

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How many schools have you attended since kindergarten? \_\_\_\_\_ number

What is the last grade you completed? \_\_\_\_\_ grade completed

What is your usual grade point average? \_\_\_\_\_ all As \_\_\_\_\_ half As and half Bs  
\_\_\_\_\_ all Bs \_\_\_\_\_ half Bs and half Cs  
\_\_\_\_\_ all Cs \_\_\_\_\_ half Cs and half Ds  
\_\_\_\_\_ all Ds \_\_\_\_\_ mostly below Ds

What school activities (do you) (did you) participate in? \_\_\_\_\_ 1st activity \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd activity \_\_\_\_\_ 5th activity  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd activity \_\_\_\_\_ 4th activity \_\_\_\_\_ 6th activity

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How physically fit do you think you are? \_\_\_\_\_ Very Fit  
\_\_\_\_\_ Moderately Fit  
\_\_\_\_\_ Moderately Unfit  
\_\_\_\_\_ Very Unfit

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What hobbies do you have?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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