

**Southwest Nebraska
Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan**

**Chase, Dundy, Furnas
Hayes, Hitchcock and Red Willow
Counties**

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013

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SECTION II

COMMUNITY TEAM

Alcohol and Drug Awareness for Parents and Teens Coalition

The Alcohol and Drug Awareness for Parents and Teens Coalition (ADAPT) was created to pursue the drug and alcohol problems facing parents, teens and communities in Nebraska. The purpose of establishing and operating this coalition is to preserve, promote, and improve the education of parents, teens and the public in Nebraska about the myths and common misconceptions of drug abuse and alcohol misuse. The ADAPT Coalition meets monthly and has been in existence for about two years. A group of concerned parents, agencies and business leaders comprise the team. The team has established by-laws and is pursuing their 501c3 non profit status.

Board of Trustees Members

Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry – Shayla Snyder, Entrepreneur

Health Care - Karen Ackermann, Registered Nurse, Entrepreneur

Public Health- Beverly Powers RN, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

Law Enforcement –Justin Pachner, DARE Officer, Police Dept.

State of Nebraska, Department of Health and Human Services- Rochelle Dotson,

Education – Rick Haney, McCook Public Schools
Megan Friesen, McCook Community College, SMAC

Insurance Company Representative– Linda Maiden, Insurance Agent, Business Owner

Media – Bryan Loker, General Manager High Plains Radio Group

Civic Groups – Rotary, Dr. Richard Tubbs, McCook Community College

Parent – Melissa Koetter, Lynn Pinkal

Community Organizations: Kathy Haas, Family Resource Center
Scott Wolf, Voices 4 Families
Darcey Hansen, TeamMates

Youth Serving Organization –
Mary K. Warner, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Christina Berry, Lutheran Family Diversion Services

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Religious Organization – Dr. Mary Hendricks, St. Alban’s Church

Cultural Diversity- Brenda Ruf, Lutheran Family Services

Student Advisory Board Members:

Community College Student – Crista Hudson

Administrative Personnel:

President: Karen Ackermann

Vice President: Bryan Loker

Secretary: Shayla Snyder

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Section III

Community Socio-Economics

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Community Description

The six County Region in Southwest Nebraska comprise of 4676 square miles of wide open spaces with rich agricultural and farmland includes Chase 895 sq miles, Dundy 920 sq miles, Furnas 721sq. miles, Hayes 713 sq miles, Hitchcock 710 sq miles and Red Willow 717 sq miles. The counties border Kansas to the south and Colorado to the west.

The majority for communities in Southwestern Nebraska are rural, with very sparse population. The nearest metropolitan statistical area in Nebraska is Lincoln approximately 228 miles to the east and north. City of McCook, Red Willow County, population 6,961 is the largest residential area in the region and serves as the commercial hub. As such, many residents of the area come to McCook for employment, shopping and health care. McCook has a strong network of concerned HHS workers, educators, law enforcement, lawyers, probation, court system; youth care workers and counseling centers that collaborate and come together to meet the needs for youth in Southwest Nebraska Region. Also participating in the collaboration for the Southwest Nebraska Region are county attorneys, county boards and county law enforcement. With youth living in sparsely populated areas and combined school districts, collaboration between counties are key to monitor behavior of area youth.

The population of Chase County 3,702, Dundy 1,939, Furnas 4,681, Hayes 1,044, Hitchcock County 2,858 and Red Willow County 10,755. The total regional population for Southwest Nebraska is 24,979. Other communities in the area are Arapahoe, Beaver City, Oxford, Holbrook, Cambridge, Wilsonville, Hendley, Lebanon, Danbury, Bartley, Indianola, Culbertson, Trenton, Hamlet, Palisade, Hayes Center, Wauneta, Stratton, Benkelman, Parks, Haigler, Enders, Imperial and Champion.

The major highways serving the Region are Highways 6/34 that run from east to west connecting the counties. Highway 6 branches off in Hitchcock County to run east and west through Hitchcock and Chase Counties to the Colorado border. The smaller highways include Highway 283 that runs north and south through Furnas and Gosper Counties. Highway 89 runs east and west through Furnas and Red Willow Counties. Highway 25 runs north and south through Hitchcock and Hayes Counties. Highway 61 runs north and south through Dundy and Chase Counties.

Each of the major communities in the Southwest Region offers a wide variety of recreational activities for youth and their families. The Region is served by youth serving organizations that include, school and community sports leagues, 4-H groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, tae kwon do, dance, gymnastics and faith based youth groups and the YMCA located in McCook. The YMCA hosts an after school program and youth is transported for after school care to the YMCA for

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McCook youth. Unfortunately, the Southwest Nebraska area does not have a recreational center focused on youth activities for the ages of 14 and older.

Built in May 2002, the Kiplinger Arena is located on Red Willow Fairgrounds and is available to 4-H and FFA activities and practice time. The arena host 4-H events during Red Willow County Fair. Other usage is for organized roping events, barrel racing, rodeos and the Farm and Ranch Expo which has participation by adults and area youth.

In the Southwest Nebraska Region we have many devoted parents who organized, coach and sponsor youth sport activities outside the school setting. Such activities include baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer and dance. These organized sports whether it is through the YMCA or other local organizations provide structured athletic activities for youth to have constructive use of their time as well as enhancing their overall health.

In smaller communities the majority of youth activities are centered on faith based organizations, 4-H and school activities. If youth are not involved in school or family activities then it is very difficult for them find meaningful entertainment. Youth and their families also have the opportunity to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, water sports, and many other fun activities in the natural beauty of Nebraska at many different lakes and recreational areas including:

- Hugh Butler Lake, Red Willow Reservoir
- Harry D. Strunk Lake in Frontier County
- Swanson Reservoir in Hitchcock County
- Enders Dam in Chase County

Located in McCook is the historic Senator George Norris Home, which offers tours on the historic and legislative life of Senator Norris. Senator Ben Nelson also has his boyhood home on the Nebraska Historic Registry.

Education

Southwest Nebraska six county region offers quality education for youth and families in all of its communities. Educational services include public school districts, two-year community college, continuing education and distance learning centers, home schools, private schools, a beauty academy, alternative education center, and a area training center for adult mentally handicap.

McCook Community College Campus, founded in 1926 as part of the McCook Public School System and named McCook Junior College, was the first two-year institution in Nebraska. In 1973, McCook Community College joined with the North Platte Junior College and Mid-Plains Vocation-Technical College to become the Mid-Plains Community College Area, one of six

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legislative degrees and course work designed for academic transfer. Mid-Plains Community College is an 18-county district in West-Central Nebraska, is a comprehensive, open access, public, two-year community college system that offers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. MPCC consists of three campuses, one located in McCook, Nebraska and two located in North Platte, Nebraska. Additionally, there are extended campus sites in Broken Bow, Imperial, Ogallala and Valentine with satellite classrooms located throughout the area. The College offers vocational-technical education, general academic transfer education, developmental education, continuing education, student services, public service programs, and institutional support services.

The two private schools in the area are St. Patrick's Elementary School and Victory Academy. Home schools are active in the area.

After several school district consolidations, the Public School Districts in the six county regions in Southwest Nebraska includes:

Chase County

- Chase County Schools District (located in Imperial, NE)
Wellington Alternative School Program (located in Imperial, NE)
- Wauneta-Palisade School District (located in Wauneta, NE and Palisade, NE)
STEP Alternative School Program (located in McCook, NE)

Dundy County

- Dundy Co Stratton School District (located in Benkelman, NE, Haigler, NE and Stratton, NE)
Alternative Education Program (located in Benkelman, NE)

Furnas County

- Cambridge Public School District (located in Cambridge, NE)
Alternative Education – ODYSSEYWARE (On-Line Credit Recovery)
- Arapahoe Public District (located in Arapahoe, NE)
Alternative Education – NovaNET (On-Line Credit Recovery)
- Southern Valley School District (located between Beaver City/Oxford, NE)
Alternative Education (located between Beaver City/Oxford, NE)

Hayes County

- Hayes Center Public Schools District (located in Hayes Center, NE)
Alternative Education – STEP Program or Wellington Program

Hitchcock County

- Hitchcock County School District (located in Trenton, NE and Culbertson, NE)
STEP Alternative School Program (located in McCook, NE)

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Red Willow County

- McCook School District (located in McCook)
LIFT Alternative Education Program (located in McCook)
- Southwest School District (located in Bartley, NE and Indianola, NE)
STEP Alternative School Program (located in McCook)

Students in area school districts receive additional services through Educational Service Unit #15 with offices in McCook, NE and Trenton, NE. The STEP Alternative Education Program, located in McCook ESU office is administrated by ESU 15 and available by application to school district students serviced by ESU #15. Furnas County receives additional services through the Educational Service #10 with office in Holdrege, NE.

Population & Economy

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey, and the medium household income for Nebraska with \$47,955. The average medium household income for Southwest Nebraska was \$38,785.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey, the high school level graduation percentage was at 90% and the average high school graduation rate for Southwest Nebraska was 88.7%. There are 16 % of Nebraskan's with a bachelor's degree or higher education level with an average of 18% education level of bachelor's degree or higher education in Southwest Nebraska.

The poverty and participation in government programs for Nebraska was 12% of people were in poverty. The average poverty rate for the six counties in Southwest Nebraska is 10.83%.

Chase County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 20.7% of the total population in **Chase County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey)

Population	Chase County
Total	3,702
Male	1,871
Female	1831
Medium age (years)	46.4
Under 5 Years	215
18 years and over	7,832
65 years and over	877
Gender & Ethnicity	Chase County
White	3,601
African American	0

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Native American	12
Asian	0
Other	89
Hispanic	192
Medium Household Income	Chase County
Medium Household Income	\$37,192
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	2098
Average household size	2.16
Average family size	2.64
Households and Families	Chase County
Medium Household Income	\$37,192
Married-couple families	59%
Other families	10%
People living alone	31%
Other non family households	31%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Chase County
People in poverty	12%
People age 65 and over	9%
Related children under 18 below poverty	18%
All families	8%
Female householder families	23%

EDUCATION: In 2005-2009, 90 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 16 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Ten percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Chase County was 760 in 2005-2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 78 and elementary or high school enrollment was 590 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 89.

INDUSTRIES: In 2005-2009, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Chase County were Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 21 percent, and Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 15 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 34 percent; Sales and office occupations, 24 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 13 percent; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 12 percent; and Service occupations, 10 percent. Sixty-two percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 17 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 20 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

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INCOME: The median income of households in Chase County was \$37,192. Eighty-four percent of the households received earnings and 11 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-five percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$14,451. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2005-2009, 12 percent of people were in poverty. Eighteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 9 percent of people 65 years old and over. Eight percent of all families and 23 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Dundy County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 22% of the total population in **Dundy County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey)

Population	Dundy County
Total	1,939
Male	905
Female	1,034
Medium age (years)	49.1
Under 5 Years	55
18 years and over	1,538
65 years and over	455
Gender & Ethnicity	Dundy County
White	1,889
African American	0
Native American	3
Asian	0
Other	47
Hispanic	87
Medium Household Income	Dundy County
Medium Household Income	\$38,346
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	1,065
Average household size	2.15
Average family size	2.61
Households and Families	Dundy County
Family households	69%
Married-couple families	65%
Other families	4%
People living alone	30%
Other nonfamily households	1%

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Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Dundy County
People in poverty	9%
People age 65 and over	7%
Related children under 18 below poverty	15%
All families	5%
Female householder families	.05%

EDUCATION: In 2005-2009, 88 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 25 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Twelve percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Dundy County was 430 in 2005-2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 28 and elementary or high school enrollment was 310 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 95.

INDUSTRIES: In 2005-2009, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Dundy County were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 31 percent, and Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 27 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 48 percent; Sales and office occupations, 16 percent; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 11 percent; Service occupations, 10 percent; and Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 9 percent. Fifty-five percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 27 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 18 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

INCOME: The median income of households in Dundy County was \$38,346. Eighty percent of the households received earnings and 9 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-seven percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$13,574. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2005-2009, 9 percent of people were in poverty. Fifteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 7 percent of people 65 years old and over. Five percent of all families and less than 0.5 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Furnas County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 22.8% of the total population in **Furnas County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey)

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Population	Furnas County
Total	4,681
Male	2,268
Female	2,413
Medium age (years)	46.9
Under 5 Years	245
18 years and over	3,635
65 years and over	1,070
Gender & Ethnicity	Furnas County
White	4,584
African American	0
Native American	59
Asian	9
Other	29
Hispanic	86
Medium Household Income	Furnas County
Medium Household Income	\$38,406
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	2,435
Average household size	2.10
Average family size	2.66
Households and Families	Furnas County
Family households	63%
Married–couple families	56%
Other families	8%
People living alone	36%
Other nonfamily households	1%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Furnas County
People in poverty	14%
People age 65 and over	10%
Related children under 18 below poverty	22%
All families	9%
Female householder families	39%

EDUCATION: In 2005-2009, 86 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 16 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Fourteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Furnas County was 970 in 2005-2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 110 and elementary or high school enrollment was 740 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 130.

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INDUSTRIES: In 2005-2009, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Furnas County were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 24 percent, and Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 15 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 33 percent; Service occupations, 19 percent; Sales and office occupations, 18 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 13 percent; and Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 12 percent. Sixty-seven percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 19 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 14 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

INCOME: The median income of households in Furnas County was \$38,406. Seventy-five percent of the households received earnings and 13 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-nine percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$14,165. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2005-2009, 14 percent of people were in poverty. Twenty-two percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 10 percent of people 65 years old and over. Nine percent of all families and 39 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Hayes County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 21.4% of the total population in **Hayes County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey)

Population	Hayes County
Total	1,044
Male	550
Female	494
Medium age (years)	46.1
Under 5 Years	68
18 years and over	823
65 years and over	182
Gender & Ethnicity	Hayes County
White	993
African American	0
Native American	0
Asian	13
Other	38

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Hispanic	51
Medium Household Income	Hayes County
Medium Household Income	\$39,427
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	588
Average household size	2.08
Average family size	2.61
Households and Families	Hayes County
Family households	67%
Married-couple families	64%
Other families	3%
People living alone	33%
Other nonfamily households	0%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Hayes County
People in poverty	8%
People age 65 and over	7%
Related children under 18 below poverty	9%
All families	6%
Female householder families	50%

EDUCATION: In 2005-2009, 89 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 19 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eleven percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Hayes County was 180 in 2005-2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 25 and elementary or high school enrollment was 130 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 27.

INDUSTRIES: In 2005-2009, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Hayes County were Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 35 percent, and Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 16 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 38 percent; Sales and office occupations, 24 percent; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 18 percent; Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, 11 percent; and Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 7 percent. Fifty-two percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 28 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 17 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

INCOME: The median income of households in Hayes County was \$39,427. Eighty-three percent of the households received earnings and 15 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-three percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$13,646. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

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POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2005-2009, 8 percent of people were in poverty. Nine percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 7 percent of people 65 years old and over. Six percent of all families and 50 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Hitchcock County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 20.6% of the total population in **Hitchcock County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey)

Population	Hitchcock County
Total	2,858
Male	1,368
Female	1,490
Medium age (years)	47.9
Under 5 Years	149
18 years and over	2,256
65 years and over	676
Gender & Ethnicity	Hitchcock County
White	2,799
African American	8
Native American	7
Asian	2
Other	42
Hispanic	62
Medium Household Income	Hitchcock County
Medium Household Income	\$36,307
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	1,421
Average household size	2.28
Average family size	2.71
Households and Families	Hitchcock County
Family households	70%
Married-couple families	56%
Other families	14%
People living alone	27%
Other nonfamily households	2%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Hitchcock County
People in poverty	13%
People age 65 and over	10%
Related children under 18 below poverty	19%
All families	10%
Female householder families	18%

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EDUCATION: In 2005-2009, 87 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 13 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Thirteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Hitchcock County was 520 in 2005-2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 36 and elementary or high school enrollment was 430 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 56.

INDUSTRIES: In 2005-2009, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Hitchcock County were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 20 percent, and Retail trade, 15 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 27 percent; Sales and office occupations, 25 percent; Service occupations, 16 percent; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 15 percent; and Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 14 percent. Fifty-eight percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 18 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 22 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

INCOME: The median income of households in Hitchcock County was \$36,307. Seventy-one percent of the households received earnings and 21 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Forty-four percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$14,218. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2005-2009, 13 percent of people were in poverty. Nineteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 10 percent of people 65 years old and over. Ten percent of all families and 18 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Red Willow County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 23.5% of the total population in **Red Willow County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey)

Population	Red Willow County
Total	10,755
Male	5,195
Female	5,560
Medium age (years)	42.6
Under 5 Years	629

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18 years and over	8,386
65 years and over	2,015
Gender & Ethnicity	Red Willow County
White	10,425
African American	19
Native American	14
Asian	56
Other	241
Hispanic	388
Medium Household Income	Red Willow County
Medium Household Income	\$39,671
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	5,871
Average household size	2.17
Average family size	2.70
Households and Families	Red Willow County
Family households	66%
Married–couple families	56%
Other families	9%
People living alone	29%
Other nonfamily households	6%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Red Willow County
People in poverty	9%
People age 65 and over	3%
Related children under 18 below poverty	8%
All families	5%
Female householder families	28%

EDUCATION: In 2005-2009, 92 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 19 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eight percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Red Willow County was 2,400 in 2005-2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 330 and elementary or high school enrollment was 1,700 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 400.

INDUSTRIES: In 2005-2009, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Red Willow County were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 23 percent, and Retail trade, 14 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 28 percent; Sales and office occupations, 25 percent; Service occupations, 19 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving

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occupations, 16 percent; and Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 10 percent. Seventy-five percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 12 percent was Federal, state, or local government workers; and 13 percent was Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers.

INCOME: The median income of households in Red Willow County was \$39,674. Eighty-one percent of the households received earnings and 12 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Twenty-nine percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$15,787. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2005-2009, 9 percent of people were in poverty. Eight percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 3 percent of people 65 years old and over. Five percent of all families and 28 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Section IV

Identified Priority Areas

IV. Identified Priority Areas

Priority Area One:

Increase and strengthen the prevention efforts and early intervention programming in order to make the community stronger and reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

The viewpoint of the Southwest Nebraska Region is that the earlier youth and their families receive help when needed, the more likely youth will grow into healthy, productive, contributing members of the community. Prevention and early intervention efforts also are very important in reducing the number of youth formally entering the juvenile justice system, and ultimately the adult criminal justice system.

The community, through the school system and law enforcement and other providers, has been successful in identifying youth that need help to correct conduct problems. The community has also identified a need for a more organized prevention effort and created the ADAPT Coalition—Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team. This coalition has been in operation for approximately two years in Red Willow County. During Drug & Alcohol Awareness month of April 2010, the coalition hosted a guest speaker and prevention seminar at McCook High School for juniors and seniors. About 225 students attended and we received positive feedback from students. The coalition gives support to the alcohol free, First Night New Years Eve Celebration in downtown McCook in December 2009 and will also help this December 2010. It would be a great accomplishment if efforts of the ADAPT Coalition would be expanded to all other counties in the Southwest Nebraska Region.

The juvenile diversion program is significant in helping to reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system. During July 2007-June 2008, 55 new client referrals participated in diversion services. During July 2008 thru June 2009, 101 new clients participated in diversion services. During July 2009 thru June 2010, 49 new clients participated in diversion services. Data that it has held consistent with a large increase in 2008 thru 2009 due to high

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volume of referrals during the summer months. In addition, the juvenile diversion program has been operating in Red Willow, Furnas, and Hitchcock Counties, and has recently been expanded to Dundy, and Hayes Counties.

Diversion Referrals by County:

Diversion Referrals	July 2007-June 2008	July 2008-June 2009	July 2009-June 2010
Dundy	0	0	5
Furnas	3	4	1
Hayes	1	8	1
Hitchcock	11	28	14
Red Willow	40	61	28
Total	55	101	49

*Client Data compiled by Christina Berry, Diversion Program Specialist

Counties in the area use probation officers working out of probation offices in McCook, NE, North Platte, NE, and Ogallala, NE. From July 2009 to June 2010, the probation officers worked with 65 active juveniles. Please see the chart below for break out per county.

Juveniles 7/2009 - 6/2010

County	Active	New Law Violation	New Tech Violation	Successful Completion
Chase	7	0	0	3
Dundy	5	0	1	1
Furnas	13	1	0	13
Hayes	2	1	0	1
Hitchcock	8	0	1	1
Red Willow	30	1	1	12
Total	65	3	3	31

*Information provided by Corey Steele, Juvenile Justice Specialist
Nebraska Office of Probation Administration

Each probation officer is responsible for case management of juvenile probationers and completion of requirements set forth by county and juvenile court. Evidenced based practices and YLS-CMI assessment tool are implemented to maximize corrective measures for juveniles.

Priority Area Two:

Improve communication and collaboration between and among agencies and services (Diversion, Probation, Law Enforcement, Schools, HHS, and Service Providers) to reach a higher level of coordination in youth programming in the region.

The Southwest Nebraska Region recognizes that with ever-decreasing resources, the most effective way to position ourselves to help youth as a community is to increase communication and collaboration. This will not only make sure that there is not duplication of services, but also strengthen the services to youth that we already have. We have very committed individuals that want to see kids get help when needed in order to grow into healthy, productive adults. We just need to coordinate our efforts so our good intentions become positive results.

1184 Teams meet in Dundy, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock and Red Willow Counties. Hayes and Hitchcock Counties share the same county attorney and he hosts shared meetings. Dundy and Hitchcock/Hayes meet quarterly while Furnas and Red Willow meet monthly during the school calendar year. These teams have strengthened over the past 3 years (since the last Plan), but there is always room for improvement. It is very important that we all listen and try to understand one another's roles—where each fits in the system of helping youth in our community.

Region II Mental Services hosts a Systems of Care Team to help youth with mental health diagnosis or youth transitioning from foster care to independent living. The team meets monthly and discusses options for current client referrals as well as accepting new youth into the program. Systems of Care is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is developed to meet the needs of youth that have mental health needs and how the services should be delivered. Systems of Care help children, youth and families function better at home, in school, in the community and throughout life.

At the Systems of Care meetings the team discusses what services are missing in our area and how we can meet those needs. The team also staffs transition age youth. Our goal is to try to find services for the transition youth before they age out of the system to help create a smooth

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transition into adult services. This will prevent homelessness and decreases criminal activity. Key support team members are Region II, Health and Human Services, Diversion, Workforce Development, and ESU Units.

Priority Area Three:

Develop and enhance family involvement and parental awareness in areas that help families and parents knowledgeably assist their kids when risky behaviors are recognized.

Approximately 70% of parents whose children are involved in diversion, for example, indicate that their youth has shown increasingly negative behaviors for some time, yet often they did not have the tools to help them. Research on best practices indicates a strong need for family involvement. Targeted efforts are needed to support parent participation.

There seems to be two types of parents needing assistance—those that recognize their child may need help but are leery to reach out and those that appear to be disengaged from helping their child succeed and make no effort to improve their parental situation. Many parents do not have knowledge about best practices when youth begin to make unhealthy choices.

The 40 Development Assets and the YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors include categories involving families and parents. Some of the specific Assets include:

1. FAMILY SUPPORT—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. POSITIVE FAMILY COMMUNICATION—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
6. PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLING—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.
11. FAMILY BOUNDARIES—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
14. ADULT ROLE MODELS—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.

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16. HIGH EXPECTATIONS—both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

Specific YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors include factors under the FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES/PARENTING domain:

- Inadequate supervision
- Difficulty controlling behavior
- Inconsistent parenting
- Inappropriate discipline
- Poor relations with parent(s)

Priority Area Four:

Focus on building 40 Developmental Asset in all youth across all segments of the community in Southwest Nebraska at the same time YLS Risk-Need Factors are alleviated in at-risk youth.

Assets

The Developmental Assets are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. (This information is from the Search Institute’s website at www.search-institute.org)

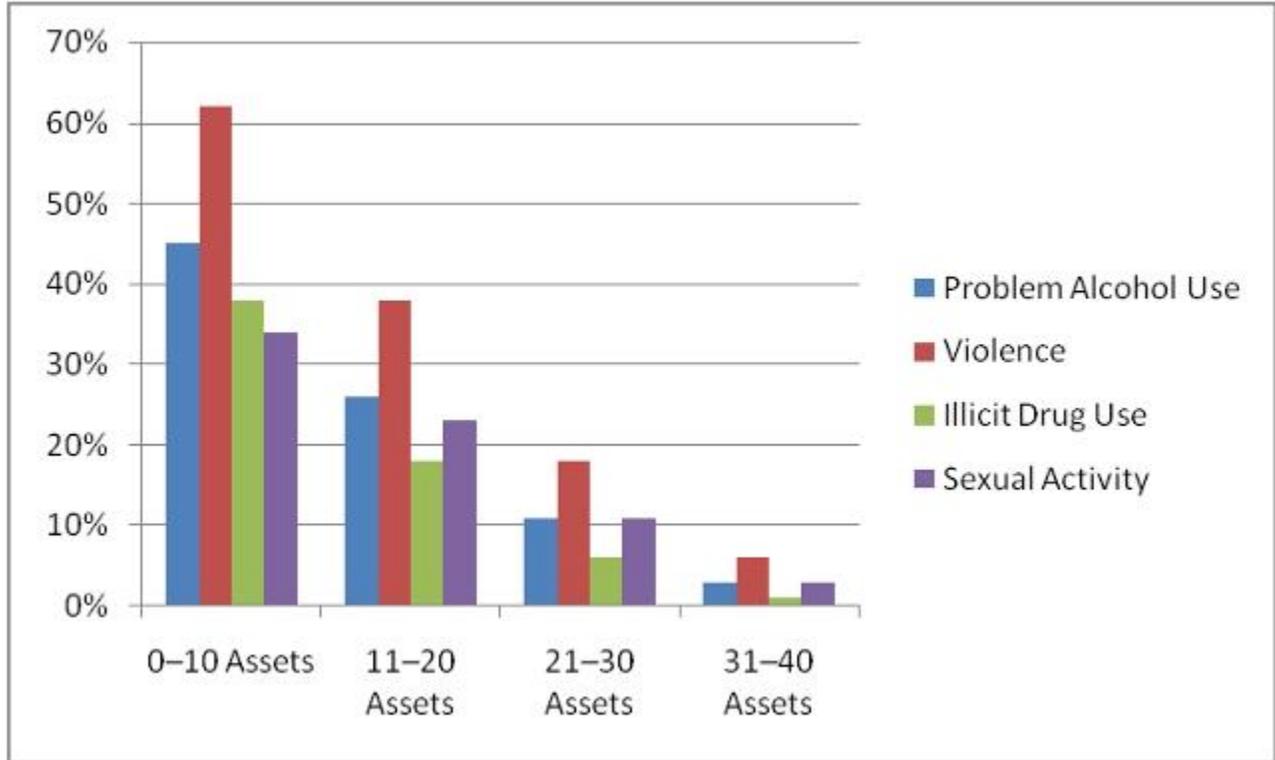
Studies of more than 2.2 million young people consistently show that the more assets young people have, the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviors and the more likely they are to thrive. Assets have power for all young people, regardless of their gender, economic status, family, or race/ethnicity, and are better predictors of high-risk involvement and thriving than poverty or being from a single-parent family.

The Search Institute research has found that these assets are powerful influences on adolescent behavior—both protecting young people from many different problem behaviors and promoting positive attitudes and behaviors. This power is evident across all cultural and socioeconomic groups of youth. There is also evidence from other research that assets have the same kind of power for younger children.

Assets have tremendous power to protect youth from many different harmful or unhealthy choices. To illustrate this power, these charts show that youth with the most assets are least likely to engage in four different patterns of high-risk behavior, based on surveys of almost

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150,000 6th- to 12th-grade youth in 202 communities across the United States in calendar year 2003.

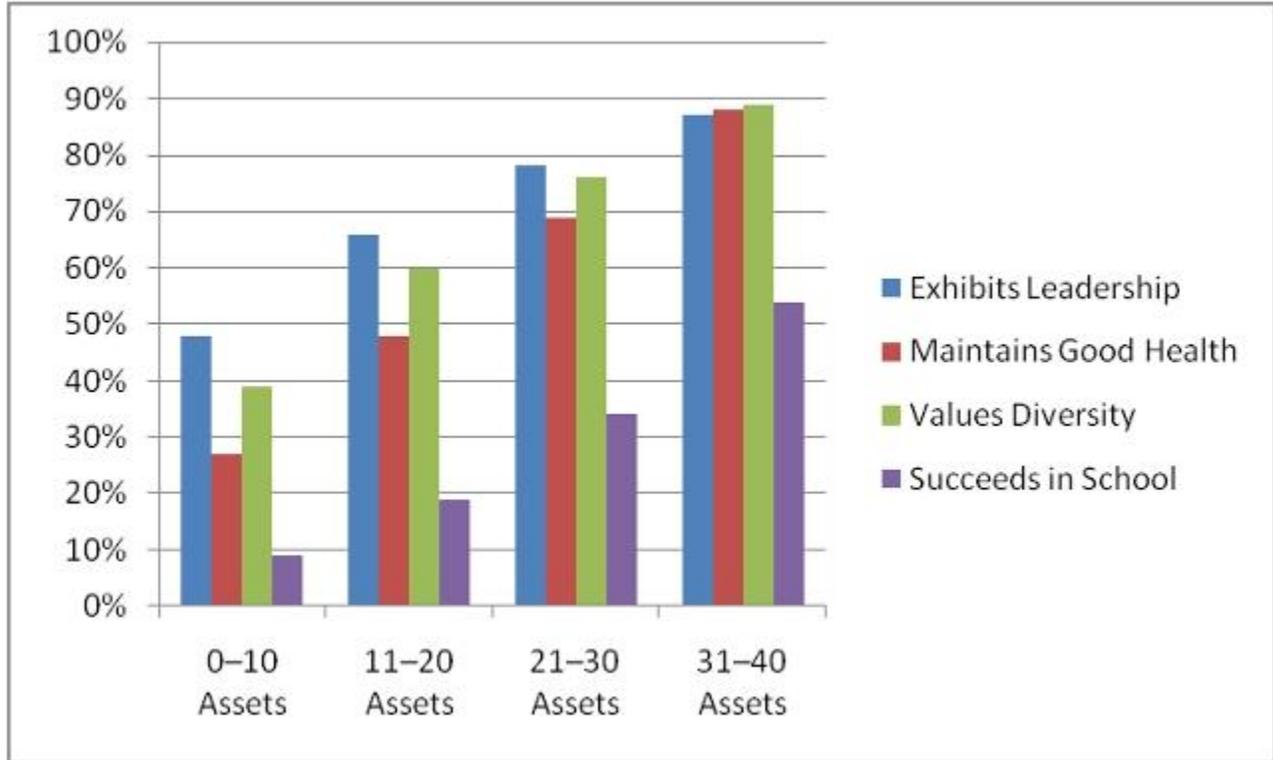


	0-10 Assets	11-20 Assets	21-30 Assets	31-40 Assets
Problem Alcohol Use	45%	26%	11%	3%
Violence	62%	38%	18%	6%
Illicit Drug Use	38%	18%	6%	1%
Sexual Activity	34%	23%	11%	3%

The same kind of impact is evident with many other problem behaviors, including tobacco use, depression and attempted suicide, antisocial behavior, school problems, driving and alcohol, and gambling.

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In addition to protecting youth from negative behaviors, having more assets increases the chances that young people will have positive attitudes and behaviors, as these charts show.



	0-10 Assets	11-20 Assets	21-30 Assets	31-40 Assets
Exhibits Leadership	48%	66%	78%	87%
Maintains Good Health	27%	48%	69%	88%
Values Diversity	39%	60%	76%	89%
Succeeds in School	9%	19%	34%	54%

YLS Risk-Need Factors

"The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory is a combined and integrated risk/needs assessment instrument for use with general populations of young offenders. The YLS/CMI has shown to be a reliable predictor of recidivism for young males and females, and to

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also predict the risk of future violent conduct by male youths. It is also increasingly being used to provide data about risk and need to help inform decisions about the design and delivery of services to young offenders". (Hoge & Andrews, 2008)

By focusing on building Assets and alleviating Risk-Need Factors, Southwest Nebraska can best ensure youth are successful.

Section V

Strategies

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VI. STRATEGIES

Priority Area One: Increase and strengthen the prevention efforts and early intervention programming in order to make the community stronger and reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Strengthen the ADAPT Coalition	a) Organize and hold at least 4 alcohol and drug prevention events b) Seek federal funding to strengthen ADAPT's outreach efforts c) Expand ADAPT to every county in the Southwest Nebraska Region	ADAPT Coalition	a) by July 1, 2012 b) ongoing c) by July 1, 2013	a) funding needed for speakers b) grant writing resources c) identification of leaders in each county for buy-in and action steps	a) Teens and parents better educated about pitfalls of drug and alcohol use b) Expanded prevention efforts in the region c) All having access to the same prevention efforts
(2) Maximize the Juvenile Diversion program	a) Partner with Probation to provide more education services to probationers b) Research providing tracker services; if feasible, implement the new service within juvenile diversion c) Implement best practice resources/curricula for Diversion in each of the counties in the Region	Diversion Program Specialist	a) by July 1, 2012 b) by July 1, 2012 c) On-going	a) Research need, provide schedules and determine cost to probationers b) Determine cost, estimate possible referrals and set up guidelines. c) Continue self education on current issues.	a) Teens will have consistent educational opportunities for age group. b) Have Service located in Southwest Nebr. c) Teens will have up to date educational opportunities.

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Priority Area Two: Improve communication and collaboration between and among agencies and services (Diversion, Probation, Law Enforcement, Schools, and HHS Service Providers) to reach a higher level of coordination in youth programming in the region.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Identify possible overlap of programs or services and coordinate such programs and services	a) Agencies and programs meet regularly to check timelines and gauge progress b) Evaluate what the overlaps and gaps are in the community and brainstorm to alleviate those areas – Implement an evaluation plan. c) Implement an effective way of communicating	Diversion Probation Law Enforcement Schools HHS Service Providers Community Members Other	Semi-annual	Technical Assistance	Accurate assessment of overlaps and gaps and a plan to address those
(2) Hold Joint Training Opportunities (to not only expand training, but to understand each agency's or program's role)	a) Agencies notified of possible trainings in the region.	Diversion Probation Law Enforcement Schools HHS Service Providers Community Members Other	On-going.	a) Funding opportunities for training b) Possible speakers on issues to be determined	a) Expanded training in the area. b) Training held in area and attendance and accessing in localized setting.
(3) Strengthen 1184 Teams in each County	a) Encourage attendance of all meetings in each county.	Diversion Probation Law Enforcement Schools HHS Service Providers Community Members Other	Monthly to quarterly.	Input by all agencies involved and issues address in a timely manner.	Decrease child and abuse related incidences.

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Priority Area Three: Develop and enhance family involvement and parental awareness in areas that help families and parents knowledgeably assist their kids when risky behaviors are recognized.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
<p>(1) Help parents who are leery of reaching out become more comfortable in asking for help</p>	<p>a) All service providers knowledgeable of all programs provided in area.</p>	<p>Diversion Probation Law Enforcement Schools HHS Service Providers Community Members Others</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Updated Resource Directory for Southwest Nebraska.</p>	<p>Parents accessing services.</p>
<p>(2) Increase parental empowerment to hold their youth accountable for negative and at-risk behavior</p>	<p>a) Provide parent education</p> <p>b) Enhance parental involvement in existing programs and services.</p> <p>c) Hold parents accountable in the care of their children</p> <p>d) Equip parents with the resources and tools to hold youth accountable for negative and risk behaviors</p>	<p>Diversion Probation Law Enforcement Schools HHS Service Providers Community Members Others</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>A) Lower fees for parenting classes. b) Consistent referral by agencies.</p>	<p>a) Well informed parents setting boundaries and expectations within the family structure.</p> <p>b) Decrease at-risk behaviors by juveniles.</p>

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Priority Area Four: Focus on building 40 Developmental Assets in all youth across all segments of the community in Southwest Nebraska at the same time YLS Risk-Need Factors are alleviated in at-risk youth.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Build the 40 Developmental Assets in all aspects of the community	a) Asset Trainings held for schools and other community members b) Asset training for parents.	Diversion Program Specialist	On-going	Classes and materials handouts for classes.	Consistent parenting and prevention efforts for at-risk behaviors implemented in home.
(2) Further utilize the YLS/CMI system in helping at risk youth	a) Consistent assessment of youth in the area. b) Utilizing assessments with inter-agency collaboration.	Diversion Probation HHS Service Providers	a) By July 1, 2012	a) Training opportunities. b) Forms for assessments.	a) Measure progress of youth. b) Reduce or stop high-risk behaviors. Promote healthy choices. C) Young people become caring, responsible young adults.

Section V

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Report

Appendix A

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Report

**CHASE, DUNDY, FURNAS, HAYES, HITCHCOCK, & RED WILLOW
COUNTIES**

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM POINT ANALYSIS

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

Available data might also inform the factors surrounding a data point. Anecdotal data might be compared with statistical data, for example, to assess the true state of the system. County data is assessed when applying the Tool where applicable.

Southwest Nebraska

Southwest Nebraska stakeholders went through the decision point of the Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool individually, and Christina Berry, Diversion Specialist, interviewed each individual for input. Each of the twelve decision points were discussed as they relate to the juvenile justice system in the Southwest Nebraska Region. Stakeholders completing the process included County Court Judges Anne Paine and Edward Steenburg; County Attorneys Paul Wood (Red Willow County), Tom Patterson (Furnas County), Eugene Garner (Hitchcock County), James Owens (Dundy County), Joel Phillips (Hayes County), and Arlen Wine (Chase County); a Probation representatives; School Counselors; and other Community Team members.

The following analysis names the decision point and states any *noteworthy* issue identified or problem acknowledged at the particular stage, particularly since the last application of the Tool for the Panhandle Region. Not all decision points are commented on. The interviews were more of an overview of the Tool as a whole.

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Southwest Nebraska Region Data

Juvenile court offense data for the Southwest Nebraska Region for years 2006, 2007, and 2008 (Juvenile Court Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)¹ appears below. Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds in the county and are given for 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

In 2008, according to OJJDP at http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile_selection.asp, the Southwest Nebraska Region had a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of 5,202, with 5,090 white, 41 black, 55 American Indian, and 16 Asian. In addition, 369 were identified as Hispanic and 4,833 Non-Hispanic.

¹

Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR)

The Nebraska Crime Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) collects information from the courts on juveniles processed through the juvenile justice system. Approximately 8,000 juvenile cases a year receive final disposition or judgment which are reported to the Crime Commission by paper forms and by the computerized court system JUSTICE. Various statistics are compiled from these data by the SAC for use in juvenile justice planning. Data are provided back to local and state agencies, policy makers, the courts, [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) and federal [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#).

Nebraska Juvenile Court Data Set

Juvenile court information has been submitted to the Crime Commission on an ongoing basis for over 20 years. When a case reaches a disposition, meaning finality with concern to the court proceedings, a data collection form is completed and forwarded to the Crime Commission. The reported information is collected within the county court or by the probation office. These data typically include cases which have been handled with a formal petition having been filed. The statistics reported here by the Crime Commission only contain information on cases handled through a formal petition. The terms, cases, petitions and referrals may all be used to describe the same group of juveniles processed. This does not necessarily represent all cases filed in juvenile court during those times; rather only those that received final a disposition or judgment. Information on pending cases is not included.

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NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT – SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA
(Nebraska Crime Commission)

CHASE COUNTY

	2006	2007	2008	2009
ARRESTS	35	14	12	15
OFFENSES				
3rd Degree Assault	2	1	1	
Theft < \$200	0	0	1	
Crim Mischief - Misd	0	2	0	
Major Trespass	0	5	5	
Other Felony	0	1	0	
Other Misdemeanor	0	2	1	
Truancy	1	0	0	
Ungovernable Behavior	4	7	3	
Possession of Alcohol	8	3	7	
Other Status	0	0	1	
Neglect	6	2	4	
Dependent	2	1	0	
Other/Unknown	4	0	1	
TOTAL	27	24	24	

DUNDY COUNTY

	2006	2007	2008	2009
ARRESTS	0	0	2	0
OFFENSES				
3rd Degree Assault	0	0	1	
Burglary	0	1	0	
Theft < \$200	0	0	1	
Other Misdemeanor	1	0	0	
Possession of Alcohol	0	0	2	
Neglect	1	0	2	
Dependent	0	0	0	
Other/Unknown	0	0	1	

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TOTAL	2	1	7	
<u>FURNAS COUNTY</u>				
	2006	2007	2008	2009
ARRESTS	27	17	11	4
OFFENSES				
Burglary	5	2	2	
Drug - Felony	0	1	1	
Theft < \$1500	0	0	3	
Theft < \$500	1	1	1	
Theft < \$200	0	1	3	
Crim Mischief - Felony	1	0	0	
Crim Mischief - Misd	0	2	0	
Major Trespass	0	2	0	
Forgery - Felony	0	1	0	
Disturbing Peace	1	0	0	
Other Felony	0	1	0	
Other Misdemeanor	1	2	2	
Truancy	3	0	1	
Ungovernable Behavior	3	10	3	
Possession of Alcohol	6	2	3	
Neglect	7	12	14	
Other/Unknown	5	5	2	
TOTAL	33	42	35	

<u>HAYES COUNTY</u>				
	2006	2007	2008	2009
ARRESTS	8	2	0	0
OFFENSES				
Theft < \$200	0	1	0	
Crim Mischief - Felony	1	0	0	
Other Misdemeanor	0	0	2	
Ungovernable Behavior	2	0	3	

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TOTAL **3** **1** **5**

HITCHCOCK COUNTY 2006 2007 2008 2009

ARRESTS 2 1 10 3

OFFENSES

3rd Degree Assault	0	1	1	
Burglary	0	0	2	
Truancy	0	0	1	
Ungovernable Behavior	1	1	1	
Possession of Alcohol	0	1	0	
Neglect	1	0	0	

TOTAL **2** **3** **5**

RED WILLOW COUNTY

2006 2007 2008 2009

ARRESTS 158 141 147 107

OFFENSES

3rd Degree Assault	5	9	2	
Burglary	6	1	2	
Drug - Felony	0	1	1	
Theft > \$1500	0	2	0	
Theft < \$1500	0	0	2	
Theft < \$500	3	1	1	
Theft < \$200	3	5	7	
Crim Mischief - Felony	1	0	0	
Crim Mischief - Misd	3	2	1	
Major Trespass	0	0	1	
Disturbing Peace	2	7	3	
Other Felony	0	4	0	
Other Misdemeanor	6	14	16	
Truancy	0	0	6	
Curfew	21	4	0	
Ungovernable Behavior	22	22	22	
Possession of Alcohol	10	12	10	

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Neglect	13	13	11
Dependent	1	1	0
Other/Unknown	2	4	0
TOTAL	98	102	85

Southwest Nebraska Counties

Chase, Dundy, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Red Willow

	2006	2007	2008	2009
ARRESTS	230	175	182	129

OFFENSES

1st/2nd Degree Assault	0	0	0
3rd Degree Assault	7	11	5
Sexual Assault - 1st	0	0	0
Burglary	11	4	6
Drug - Felony	0	2	2
Drug - Misdemeanor	0	0	0
Arson - Felony	0	0	0
Arson - Misdemeanor	0	0	0
Theft > \$1500	0	2	0
Theft < \$1500	0	0	5
Theft < \$500	4	2	2
Theft < \$200	3	7	12
Crim Mischief - Felony	3	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	3	6	1
Major Trespass	0	7	6
Forgery - Felony	0	1	0
Forgery - Misd - Major	0	0	0
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0
Disturbing Peace	3	7	3
Other Felony	0	6	0
Other Misdemeanor	8	18	21
Running Away	0	0	0
Truancy	4	0	8
Curfew	21	4	0
Ungovernable Behavior	32	40	32
Possession of Alcohol	24	18	22

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Other Status	0	0	1
Neglect	28	27	31
Dependent	3	2	0
Other/Unknown	11	9	6
TOTAL	165	173	163

Decision Points:

SYSTEM POINT: ARREST/ CITATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)	
<i>Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed. b. Underlying support for a particular offense. 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Officer's Inclination/ patience b. Degree to which parent or service provider pushes the issue c. Youth's prior incidences with law enforcement. d. Youth and/or youth's families perceived status in the community.
Notes: More data surrounding juvenile arrests and specific offenses needs to be collected in the region to know exactly the kinds of juveniles that are coming into contact with the system and what their needs are. There is a concern that some youth (athletes, prominent parents) may receive "special treatment" by the system.	

<i>Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seriousness of Offense b. Is there a warrant? 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer. b. Victim's desire. c. Youth is already in the HHS or juvenile system.
Notes: The major considerations are how much trouble the youth is getting into, how serious the crime is, and how involved the parents are.	

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Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248 (1), (2); § 43-250 (1), (2), (3))

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Immediate risk to juvenile b. Immediate/short term risk to public c. Seriousness of perceived offense d. Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile. e. Availability of pre-adjudication detention options.
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Notes:

Generally, the juvenile is not taken into custody. The question is asked: Is the youth or public at risk for injury or harm?

SYSTEM POINT: INITIAL DETENTION
 PARTY RESPONSIBLE: State of Nebraska Probation
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-250(3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01

Decision: Whether juvenile should be detained or released.

Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Risk assessment outcome b. Accessibility of placement options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Parents/Guardians ii. Emergency Shelter iii. Staff Secure Facility iv. Secure Detention Facility 	Informal Determining Factors
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Notes:

Probation uses the screening tool. The juvenile is cited and released or transported to North Platte. Law enforcement contacts Probation if the juvenile is currently on Probation or detention is being requested, which is rare.

SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE
 PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276

Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile.

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
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<p>a. Likelihood of successful prosecution b. Factors under NRS § 43-276</p>	
<p>Notes:</p> <p>Southwest Nebraska has a Diversion program through Lutheran Family Services, which is well utilized.</p> <p>The county attorney’s office will take a look at the youth’s motivation to complete the diversion program before the referral is done. Inquiry is made with a counselor or college recruiter as to how the citation will affect school or interest in military. Inquiry is made about whom they received the alcohol from, for example, and if they disclose the person who procured alcohol, that person will be prosecuted.</p> <p>Some determining factors are prior contact with law, danger to the Juvenile, and program guidelines. Politics of the small town do not play into the decision to pursue charges.</p>	

<i>Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.</i>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors a. Seriousness of offense</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <p>Factors include the current offense and the juvenile’s record, or lack thereof.</p>	

<i>Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged.</i>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors As outlined in statute</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <p>These are the existing resources: STOP, Diversion, Juvenile Court Options (counseling, in home placement with assistance, OJS, foster care, residential treatment), plus the options available to the adult court. The county attorney’s office can approach a need from many angles, and if one does not work there are others.</p>	

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SYSTEM POINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-253(2)	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.</i>	
Options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents/Guardians 2. Emergency Shelter 3. Staff Secure Facility 4. Secure Detention Facility 5. Electronic Monitoring 	
Formal Determining Factors <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile” b. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of...the person or property of another” c. Whether juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court 	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: There is no secure detention facility within the region. This decision depends on whether anyone involved is at risk or if the juvenile may try to run.	

SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256	
<i>Decision: Whether state can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors Outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: The Judge takes the county attorney’s advice into consideration. The county attorney knows the facts about the juvenile and it helps when the Judge knows as much about the juvenile as possible.	

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SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1(b))	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors Outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: If a competency hearing is ordered, which is rare, factors considered would be whether the juvenile is suicidal, whether the juvenile is addicted to any substances, and whether the county could provide services. What type of legal representation the juvenile had would also be a concern?	

<i>Decision: Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts</i> NRS § 43-258(1(c) and (2))	
Formal Determining Factors a. Physician, Surgeon, Psychiatrist, Community Health Program, Psychologist b. “Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by court.” (NRS § 43- 258(2))	Informal Determining Factors
Notes:	

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SYSTEM POINT: ADJUDICATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-279 (2) and (3)

Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by section 43-247.”

Formal Determining Factors

- a. Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing
- b. Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, “pleads to the charges”)
- c. Residency
- d. Age

Informal Determining Factors

Notes:

The statute sufficiently describes the factors that must go into this decision.

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<i>Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation</i>	
Formal Determining Factors Outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Questions asked might include: Is the juvenile currently in the legal system, i.e. probation or OJS? Are there other, pending allegations? Does the court desire to handle the one issue on its own immediately or take all factors into consideration at a later time? *See NRS § 29-2261(2): A court may order a pre-sentence investigation in any case, except in cases in which an offender has been convicted of a Class IIIA misdemeanor, a Class IV misdemeanor, a Class V misdemeanor, a traffic infraction, or any corresponding city or village ordinance.	

<i>Decision: Whether to order OJS evaluation</i> NRS § 43-281	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Questions asked might include: Is the juvenile currently in the legal system, i.e. probation or OJS? Are there other, pending allegations? Does the court desire to handle the one issue on its own immediately or take all factors into consideration at a later time? *See also: NRS § 29-2204(3): Except when a term of life is required by law, whenever the defendant was under eighteen years of age at the time he or she committed the crime for which he or she was convicted, the court may, in its discretion, instead of imposing the penalty provided for the crime, make such disposition of the defendant as the court deems proper under the Nebraska Juvenile Code. Prior to making a disposition which commits the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, the court shall order the juvenile to be evaluated by the office if the juvenile has not had an evaluation within the past twelve months.	

<i>Decision: Whether to order a PDI or OJS Evaluation</i>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Presumably supplement each other b. Uncertainty about whether probation or commitment to OJS is in the juvenile's best interest	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: The question is: What is the desired result? If the court feels that there is a specific goal to be met, it will consider which agency is the best agent to reach that goal—Probation or OJS—and which of those has the appropriate resources to meet that goal.	
SYSTEM POINT: DISPOSITION	

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PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286 (1)	
Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation NRS § 43-286(1)(a)(i)	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: <p>Determining factors are parental influences, family structure, the juvenile's socialization skills, and friends. Other significant factors include answering these questions: what agency is best suited to help the juvenile – Probation or OJS? What impact can the probation officer/OJS personnel have regarding the juveniles family situation, peer influence, the juvenile's social abilities, the best ability to oversee the juvenile during the evening/nighttime hours, and the ability to track and assist the juvenile with their school attendance/classroom performance? Can the probation officer provide the services needed to meet expected goals?</p> <p>Probation, diversion, and counseling are current resources that are utilized in our juvenile justice system.</p> <p>Probation is used. We have good foster homes in the area. Treatment and detention centers are a long distance and this interferes with family visitation. Sex offenders have to go out of state for treatment.</p> <p>Due to budget cuts, a possibility of no additional probation officers will be hired. Counseling and Diversion are the only other programs offered. Again, the location and travel time to treatment facilities is a problem.</p>	

Decision: Whether to commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services NRS § 43-286(1)(b)	
Formal Determining Factors -Whether juvenile is at least twelve years old	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: <p>Conditions depend on what is learned in the OJS evaluation.</p>	

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS	
Formal Determining Factors a. No apparent authority for delinquent in the legal custody of parents/guardian.	Informal Determining Factors a. Gives probation responsibility of supervision, but opens access to HHS/OJS funds for treatment or rehabilitation
Notes: See Also, State v. David C., 6 Neb. App. 198, 572 N.W.2d 392 (1997): [9] It is clear that the court	

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intended to commit David to the YRTC without actually revoking his probation. We can find no statutory basis for this procedure. Section 43-286 provides for the possible dispositions that a court may make, including continuing [*214] the disposition portion of the hearing and (1) placing the juvenile on probation subject to the supervision of a probation officer; (2) permitting the juvenile to remain in his or her [***31] own home, subject to the supervision of the probation officer; (3) placing the juvenile in a suitable home or institution or with the Department; or (4) committing him or her to OJS. **Section 43-286 provides no authority for a court to place a juvenile on probation under the care of OJS.** Section 43-286(4)(e) provides that if the court finds that the juvenile violated the terms of his or her probation, the court may modify the terms and conditions of the probation order, extend the period of probation, or enter "any order of disposition that could have been made at the time the original order of probation was entered" The court could not have originally entered an order providing for probation with commitment to YRTC, and it necessarily follows that the court could not enter such an order upon finding that the juvenile had violated the terms of his or her probation. The attempt to continue probation while committing David to a YRTC would also require a reversal of the order of April 30.

SYSTEM POINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Probation

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 29-2266

Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer

Formal Determining Factors (NRS § 29-2266 (2))

- a. Probation officers has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non-criminal violation
- b. Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment
- c. Non-criminal violation means:
 - i. Moving traffic violations;
 - ii. Failure to report to his or her probation officer;
 - iii. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her probation officer;
 - iv. Failure to work regularly or attend training school;
 - v. Failure to notify his or her probation officers of change of address or employment;
 - vi. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;
 - vii. Failure to perform community service as directed;
 - viii. Failure to pay fines, courts costs, restitution, or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06.

Informal Determining Factors

Notes:

Probation is using administrative sanctions on juvenile cases except on new traffic cases. There

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are no resources or limited resources for juvenile probationers. Counseling does not seem effective with kids. More behavior modification is being required for the probation officers to use with the juvenile probationers, but with the county area and distance the officer's work, along with the case loads they carry, this is proving to be difficult to accomplish. Probation uses "Courage to Change". Some group sessions with families are made available. Probation officers are well trained.

SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(i)

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
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Notes:

Non compliance of probationer – each case is based on individual failures and circumstances. Due to prior counseling attendance, by the time the juvenile is on probation, they are resistant to counseling.

In the end, there is not enough varying resources to choose from for juveniles on Probation so many times their Probation needs to be revoked.

SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOCAION OF PROBATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
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Notes:

Dependent on the individual circumstances based on what is in the best interest of the juvenile. See Above.

SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,104

Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment NRS § 43-2,102

Formal Determining Factors (43-2,103) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs b. Whether setting aside adjudication will 	Informal Determining Factors
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<p>depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promote disrespect for law</p> <p>c. Whether failure to set aside adjudication may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based.</p>	
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Notes:

This decision is based on how the juvenile has progressed. The Judge will set a specific time period for probation. The probation officer can request early termination if the juvenile has improved in the areas indicated above. If the juvenile's environment was positive during probation there is a better chance they will stay out of trouble. The juvenile's character will be a big indicator as to whether they have progressed or not. The goal is for them to successfully complete probation and make better decisions after probation.

Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS

<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <p>a. Presumably same as those for probation under NRS § 43-2,103</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p>
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Notes:

See Also, *In re Interest Tamantha S.*, 267 Neb. 78; 672 N.W.2d 24 (2003): it is clear under the language of § 43-408 that the committing court maintains jurisdiction over a juvenile committed to OJS, conducts review hearings every 6 months, and is to receive written notification of the placement and treatment status of juveniles committed to OJS at least every 6 months. See § 43-408(2) and (3). Thus, although the statute speaks of committed juveniles' being "discharged from [OJS]," § 43-408(2), the statute does not explicitly say that OJS discharges the juveniles, and, on the contrary, the Legislature has explicitly mandated that the committing court "continues to maintain jurisdiction" over a juvenile committed to OJS. *Id.* Therefore, while OJS may make an initial determination with regard to the advisability of the discharge of a juvenile committed to OJS, the committing court, as a result of its statutorily imposed continuing jurisdiction, must approve the discharge of the juvenile.

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Issues Summary:

- 1) **Long Distances to Access Services.** Because this is a rural area, distance is an issue. There is a lack of local resources and no reasonable driving distance for services. Some counties have to drive 50-70 miles or more for services. Ideally, the region believes that 30 miles to the nearest service would be best. Much time is spent on the road to see clients, to access basic services, which also takes not only time, but resources. It can be a real financial hardship to travel – whether you are an individual, nonprofit, or local government agency in the region. This is true regarding everything from detention facilities to counseling. Youth have to travel or be transported a long distance and this also leads to separation of family. Easily accessible programs available for the smaller communities is important.
- 2) **Probation’s Workload.** It is thought by many stakeholders in the Southwest Region’s juvenile justice system that Probation is overwhelmed with referrals and has limited staffing to service the rural counties. Not as many resources and services may be available for a youth on Probation compared to one under the Office of Juvenile Services.
- 3) **Alcohol Related Offenses.** According to statistics, alcohol related offenses make up a larger number compared to other offenses. Changing the culture and attitude about underage drinking was thought an important step in trying to correct this. Underage drinking is prevalent in some classes and follows that class until graduation, and then the problem seems to follow in cycles. More drinking is done in some years due to class environment and then is not a problem with the next class or for a couple of years.
- 4) **Prevention.** D.A.R.E. is the only prevention program offered to youth in grade school in each of the counties in the Southwest Region. There exists no other formal drug and alcohol education program. It is thought that prevention needs to be offered again at middle school and early high school. If done through the school system as class requirement, then all students would receive the education. There is an active Alateen group in Red Willow County. Voices for Families out of North Platte is trying to get a Young Person Recovery Group (ages 14-21) to meet in Red Willow County. There is a new Alcohol and Drug Awareness Prevention Team (ADAPT) coalition in Red Willow County who is seeking non profit status. They have held one prevention event at McCook High School and hope to acquire funding to expand their prevention efforts with the possibility of included area counties and schools. All other prevention is done through individual counseling.
- 5) **Ankle Bracelets as Alternative to Detention.** Grant funding needs to be established for the CAM ankle bracelet monitoring devise so it is available to the juvenile population as low as it is available for adults. Currently the cost is \$3 per day for adults and \$12 for juveniles.

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- 6) **Training and Communication.** Law enforcement in the area is seen as well trained and well informed. County attorneys do not receive the training offered to law enforcement. It was thought that joint trainings could occur—with local sheriff departments, especially with limited staff and juggling of all duties required for the job. The community thought that drug & alcohol communication should occur more than once a year. More open discussion with youth on drug & alcohol prevention with parental involvement is important, so the public is well informed. Better communication between attorneys, law enforcement, parents, and school officials would be beneficial.

- 7) **Resistance to Counseling.** It is felt that youth are resistant to counseling, and that by the time a youth is on Probation, counseling is not effective. Therefore, there is a lack of resources, or, at best, not enough varying resources to choose from to help juveniles, especially those on Probation. Some group sessions with families are made available, but this is not seen as sufficient.

- 8) **Parental Involvement & Awareness.** Lack of parental involvement and awareness from those parents whose kids need it most was *the* biggest frustration in the Southwest Region. It was noted that there is not only inappropriate drug and alcohol usage by both youth and parents, but also behavior problems with both youth and parents. Students may be fine at school, but addiction in the family is an issue. It is difficult to educate parents as those that need to do not attend efforts. Parental influence is huge in a youth's life. There is no way to force a parent to do anything, and that is a huge frustration among the community.

Section VI.

Community Stabilizing Efforts Review

Appendix B

Community Stabilizing Efforts Review

2010

Juvenile Justice Institute
University of Nebraska

SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA COMMUNITY STABILIZING EFFORTS REVIEW

The Stabilizing Efforts Review is a combined report of the completed Juvenile Justice Systems Point Analysis tool (which is designed to, after a facilitated conversation with all juvenile justice community stakeholders and county data is reviewed; give an overview of how the juvenile justice system operates in your local area according to the laws of the State of Nebraska) and the results of the Community Capacity Inventory (which is a survey given to all programs serving youth in the area focusing on the Developmental Assets and YLS Risk-Need Factors).

CHASE, DUNDY, FURNAS, HAYES, HITCHCOCK, & RED WILLOW
COUNTIES

COMMUNITY STABILIZING EFFORTS REVIEW

The Community Stabilizing Efforts Review incorporates the information gathered from various sources, such as the community's Juvenile Justice System Points Analysis and the Community Capacity Inventory survey, in order to better identify the state of juvenile services available in your local area. This process reveals the community framework in which your juvenile justice system and juvenile services operate.

Developing a Common Framework

The initial goal within the community with regard to juvenile justice is to talk with the same language and look at the same things; in other words, to develop a common framework. There might be lots of programming available within a community, for example, but no integration or shared ideas. A solution to that challenge would be to coordinate efforts and ideas. First, a community must share a common framework.

Questions to ask the community might be:

- Are you currently focused on specific program ideas and priorities?
- Are you taking into consideration community priorities?

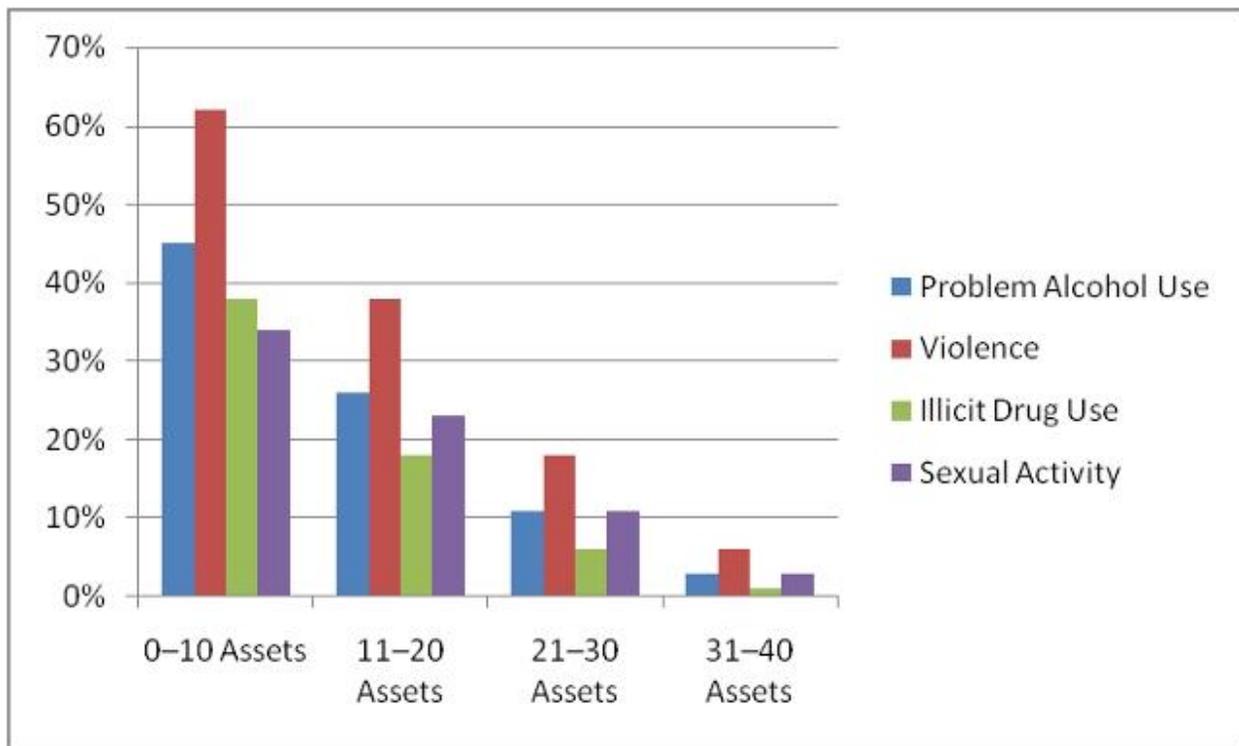
Until the community identifies priorities that in turn become individual program priorities, then the community is not organized around what is best for kids. Again, it is important to identify a framework that is based in research and shows what works with kids.

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“What works” is the 40 Developmental Assets that are applicable to all youth and the 43 YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors that if not addressed, kids will continue to get in trouble. This is the beginning of developing a common framework.

40 Developmental Assets

According to the Search Institute, “The Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive.” Assets have ability to protect youth from many different harmful or unhealthy choices. Youth with the most Assets are least likely to engage in patterns of high-risk behavior, based on surveys of almost 150,000 6th- to 12th-grade youth in 202 communities across the United States in calendar year 2003 (Search Institute at www.search-institute.org).



Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) Risk-Need Factors

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The YLS/CMI assesses a juvenile's risks and needs, and then provides an indication of whether the youth might be socially unstable and whether the youth is likely to exhibit delinquent behavior. Most juvenile justice practitioners across the state of Nebraska are familiar with the YLS/CMI factors, particularly Probation, the Office of Juvenile Services, and many diversion programs.

Community Capacity Inventory

As part of the Southwest Nebraska Region's Community Planning process, the Community Capacity Inventory (CCI) survey was administered to programs and services available to youth in order to gain an understanding of how the 40 Developmental Assets and YLS risk-need factors are being addressed in your community. The CCI provides insight into the community's availability of juvenile services. Specifically, it helps the community understand how the 40 Developmental Assets and the YLS/CMI risk-need factors are addressed in the Southwest Nebraska Region.

71 programs working with youth in the Southwest Nebraska Region responded to the CCI survey. Responders included a broad range of youth programming in the area including schools, probation, diversion, TeamMates, Boy Scouts, Diversion, church groups, counseling services, libraries, and the like. The following tables show the demographic responses to the CCI.

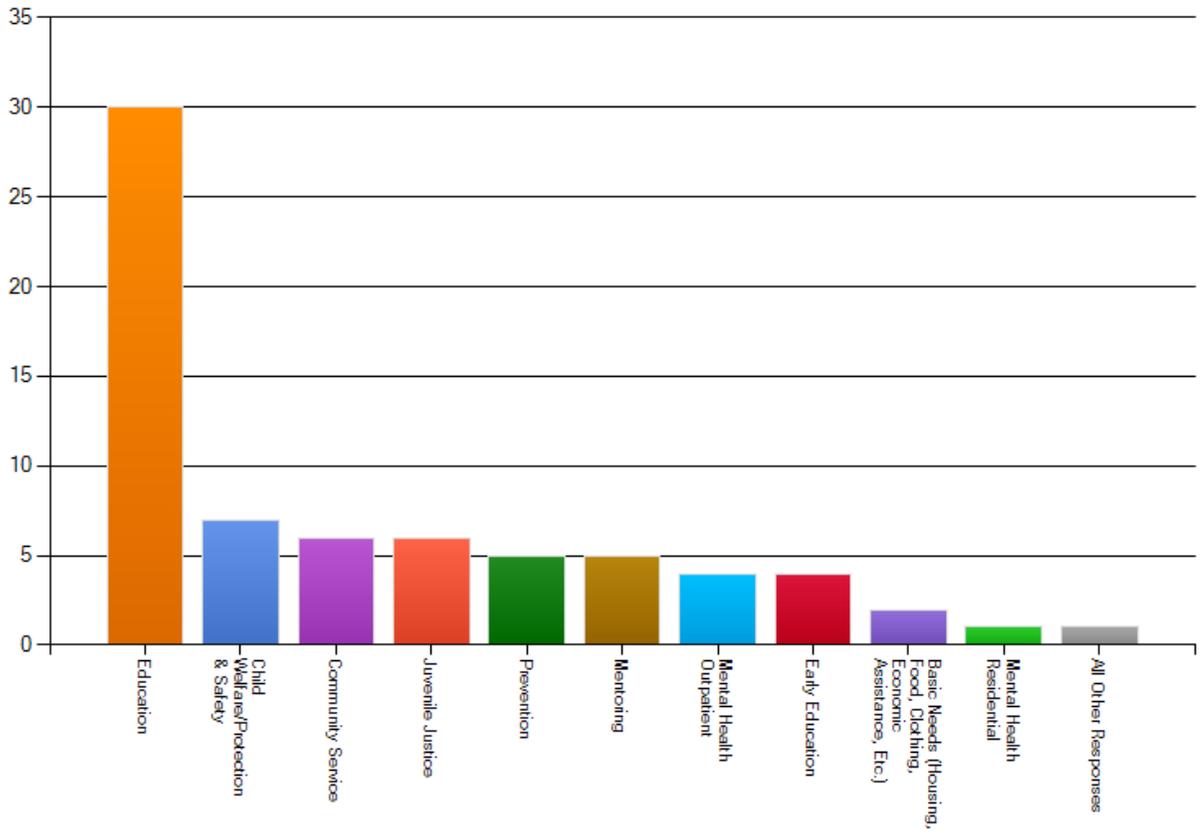
Survey Findings

The survey asked the respondents to identify themselves by type of program. The choices were as follows:

After School Program	Legal Services
Basic Needs	Parenting
Behavioral Health	Prevention
Child Welfare	Residential
Community Service	Domestic Violence
Culture Specific	Mentoring
Early Education	Truancy
Education	Job Skills
Employment & Job Skills	Gender Specific
Juvenile Justice	Mediation

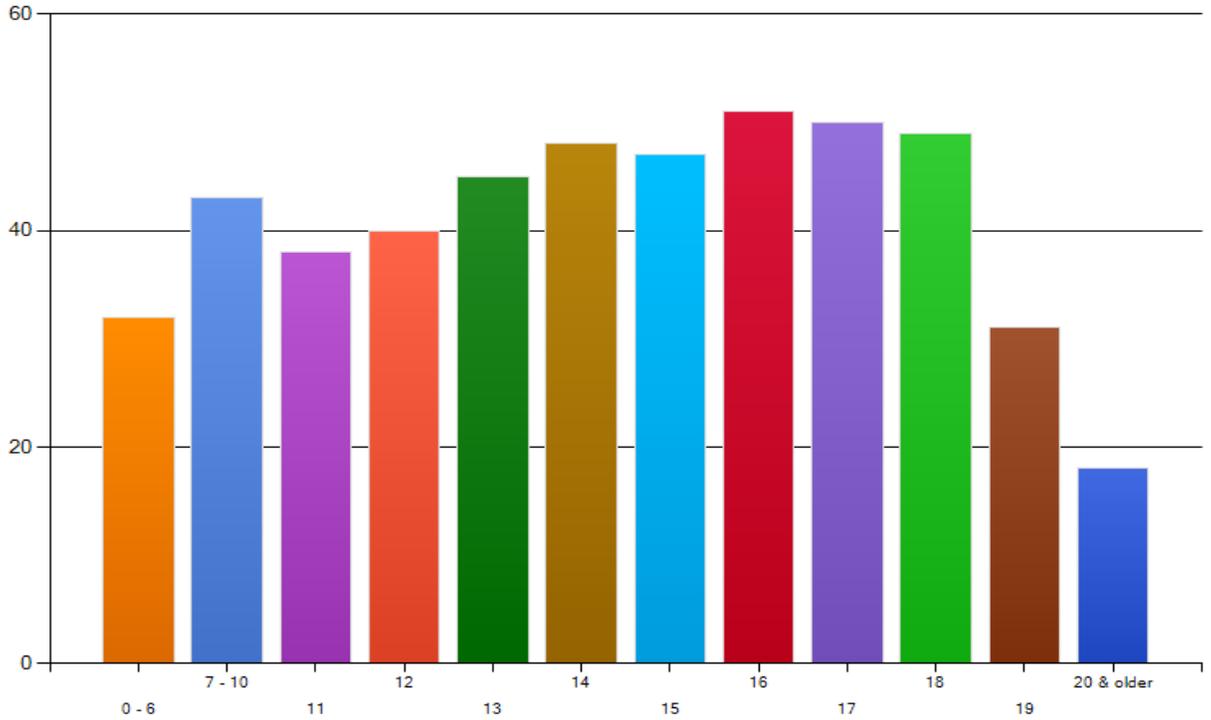
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Type of Program (choose one)

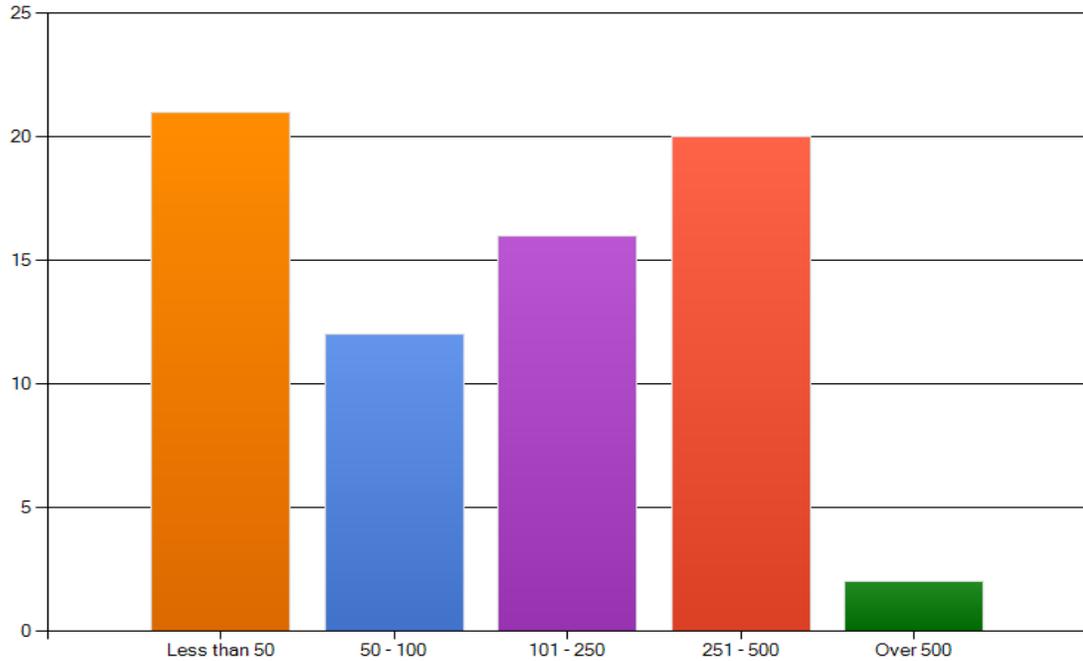


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Please identify the ages primarily eligible for this program/service.

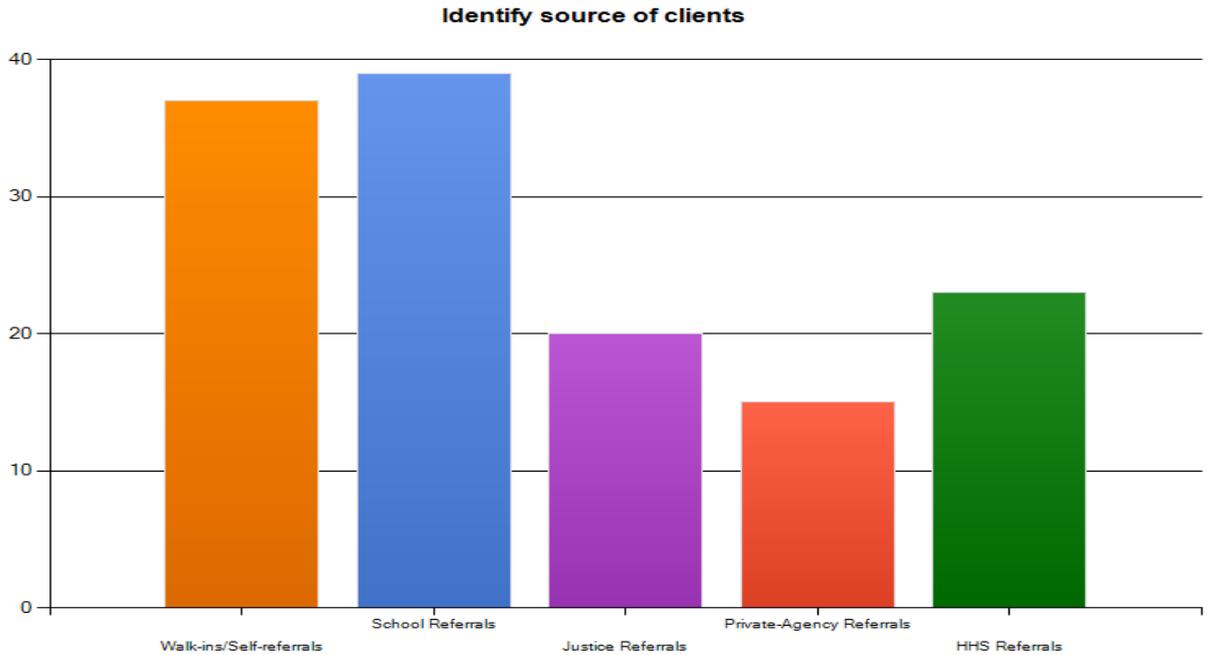


How many youth does your program/service serve per year?



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In terms of Source of Clients, School Referrals is where most respondents get their referrals from, as this table indicates.

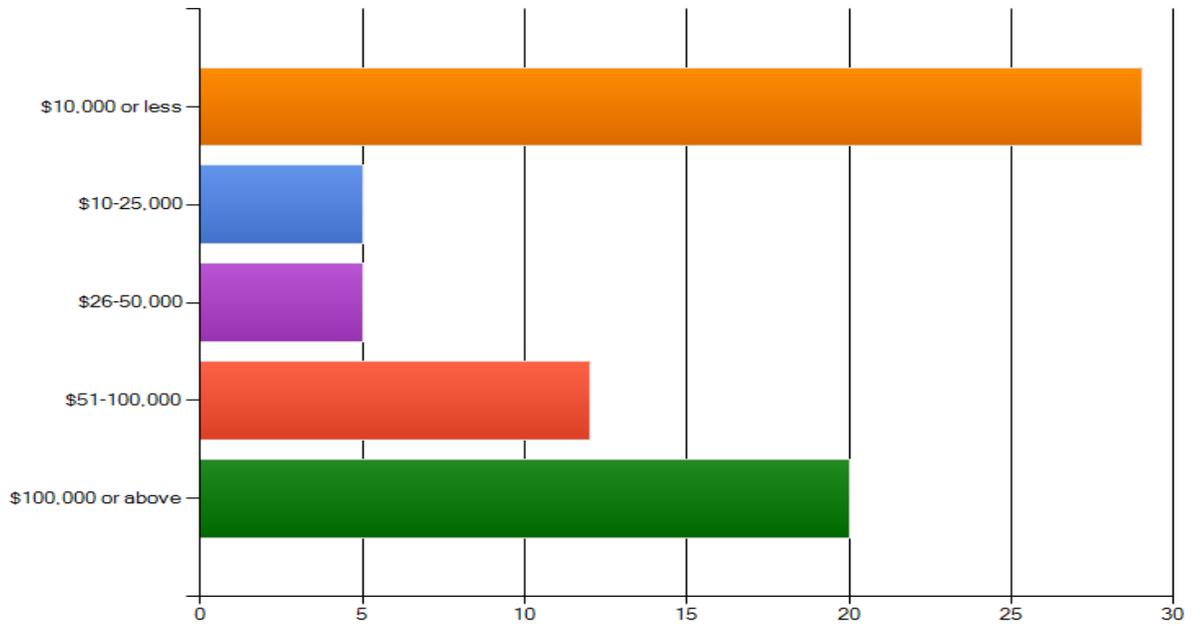


Respondents were asked to select the estimated annual budget of their program or service. They were also asked to indicate the approximate size of their primary service area, and where they receive one-third or more of the funding for their program or

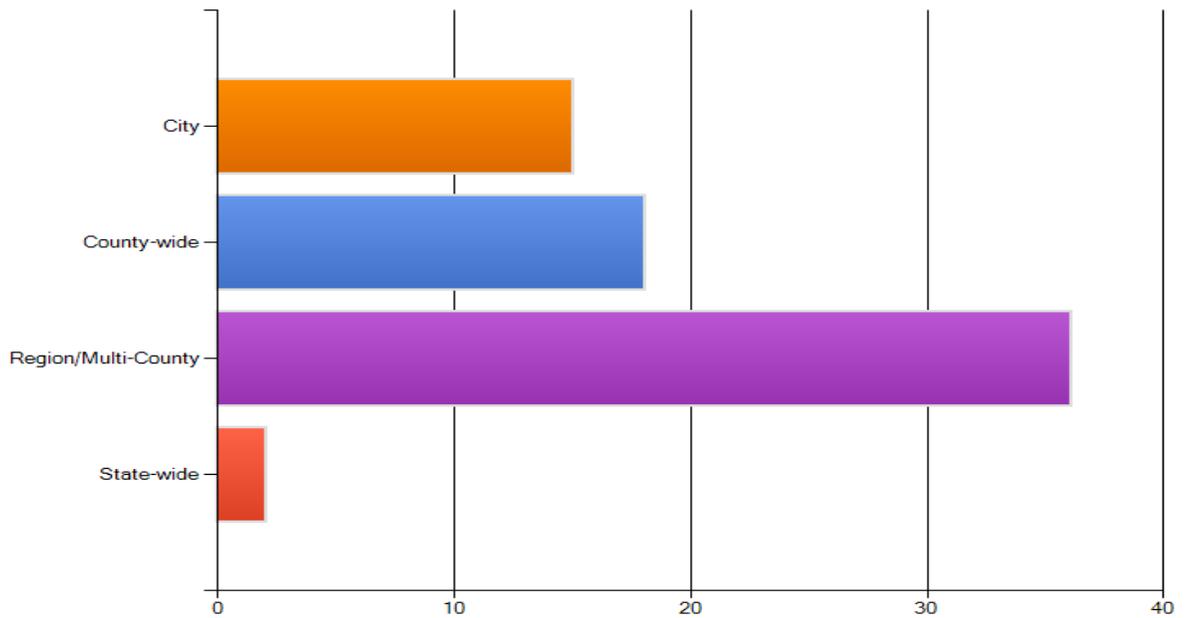
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service, the following 3 tables indicate the response for those questions.

Please select the approximate annual budget of your program/service.

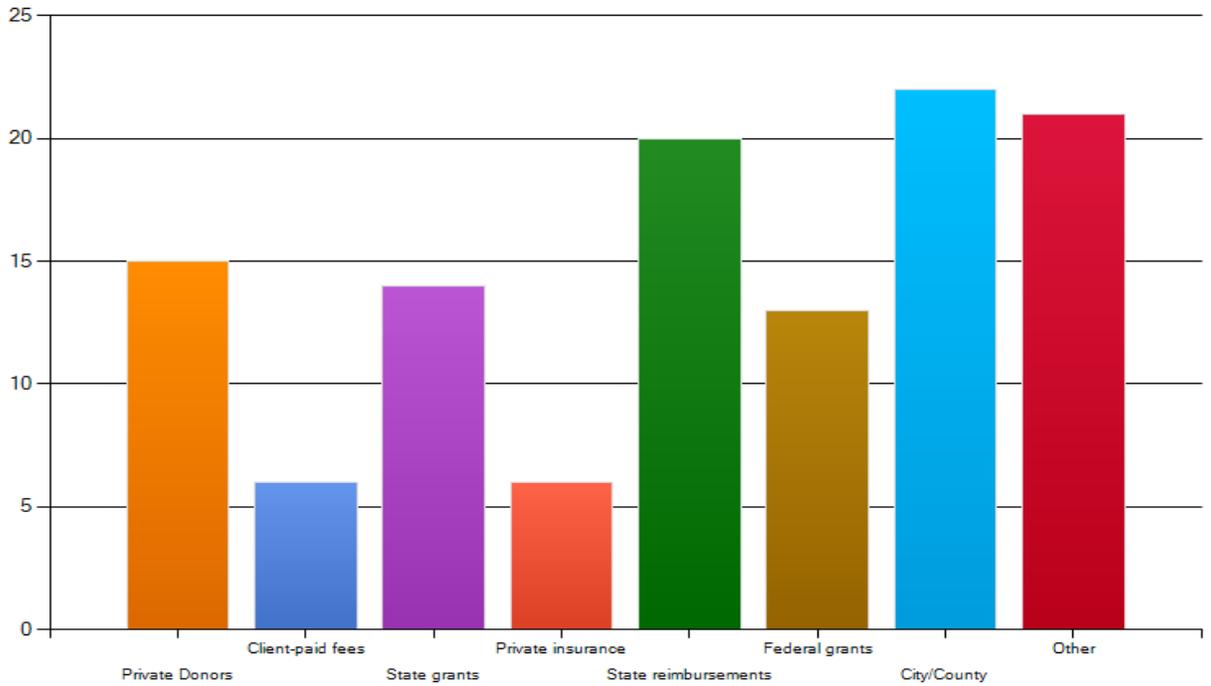


Identify approximate size of primary service area.



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Which of the following provides one third or more of the funding for your program/service? (check up to 3 boxes)



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Developmental Assets Cultivated

"The Developmental Assets are 40 common-sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. Grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, the Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive. Because of its basis in research and its proven effectiveness, the Developmental Assets framework has become the single most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States". (www.search-institute.org, 2009)

The CCI asked each program/service to select the Assets that it cultivates among youth. These are the 40 Developmental Assets:

External Factors

1. FAMILY SUPPORT—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. POSITIVE FAMILY COMMUNICATION—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. OTHER ADULT RELATIONSHIPS—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. CARING NEIGHBORHOOD—Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. CARING SCHOOL CLIMATE—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLING—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.
7. COMMUNITY VALUES YOUTH—Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. YOUTH AS RESOURCES—Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. SERVICE TO OTHERS—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. SAFETY—Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.
11. FAMILY BOUNDARIES—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. SCHOOL BOUNDARIES—School provides clear rules and consequences.

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13. NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people’s behavior.
14. ADULT ROLE MODELS—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. POSITIVE PEER INFLUENCE—Young person’s best friends model responsible behavior.
16. HIGH EXPECTATIONS—both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.
17. CREATIVE ACTIVITIES—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. YOUTH PROGRAMS—Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
19. RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
20. TIME AT HOME—Young person is out with friends “with nothing special to do” two or fewer nights per week.

Internal Factors

21. ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION—Young person is motivated to do well in school.
22. SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT—Young person is actively engaged in learning.
23. HOMEWORK—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. BONDING TO SCHOOL—Young person cares about her or his school.
25. READING FOR PLEASURE—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.
26. CARING—Young person places high value on helping other people.
27. EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
28. INTEGRITY—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
29. HONESTY—Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
30. RESPONSIBILITY—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
31. RESTRAINT—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.
32. PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
33. INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.

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34. CULTURAL COMPETENCE—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
35. RESISTANCE SKILLS—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
36. PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.
37. PERSONAL POWER—Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
38. SELF-ESTEEM—Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
39. SENSE OF PURPOSE—Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
40. POSITIVE VIEW OF PERSONAL FUTURE—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

According to the CCI findings, the highest identified Asset being cultivated among youth in the Southwest Nebraska Region’s programs and services (with 46 programs each selecting such Asset) is:

#30 – RESPONSIBILITY—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.

38 programs selected:

#40 – POSITIVE VIEW OF PERSONAL FUTURE— Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

The *lowest* identified Asset being cultivated, at 4 programs choosing such, is:

#13 – NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people’s behavior.

And 11 programs selected:

#4 – CARING NEIGHBORHOOD—Young person experiences caring neighbors.

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YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors Addressed

"The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory is a combined and integrated risk/needs assessment instrument for use with general populations of young offenders. The YLS/CMI has shown to be a reliable predictor of recidivism for young males and females, and to also predict the risk of future violent conduct by male youths. It is also increasingly being used to provide data about risk and need to help inform decisions about the design and delivery of services to young offenders". (Hoge & Andrews, 2008)

The CCI asked each program to identify the YLS/CMI factors that are being addressed by their particular program or service. These are the YLS/CMI factors, organized into subject matter categories:

FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES/PARENTING

Inadequate supervision
Difficulty controlling behavior
Inconsistent parenting
Inappropriate discipline
Poor relations with parent(s)

EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT

Disruptive behavior at school
Low achievement
Problems with peers/teachers
Truancy
Unemployed
Not seeking employment

PEER RELATIONS

Some delinquent acquaintances/friends
Negative peer interactions
Lack of positive peers

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Occasional drug use
Chronic drug/alcohol use
Substance abuse interferes with life and/or linked to offense(s)

LEISURE/RECREATION

Limited organizational activities
Could make better use of time
No personal interests

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PERSONALITY/BEHAVIOR

Inflated self-esteem
Physically aggressive
Tantrums
Short attention span
Poor frustration tolerance
Inadequate guilt feelings
Verbally aggressive/impudent

ATTITUDES/ORIENTATION

Antisocial and/or procriminal attitudes
Not seeking help
Actively rejecting help
Defies authority
Callous
Little concern for others

According to the CCI findings, the highest identified YLS/CMI factors being addressed by the Southwest Nebraska Region's programs and services (with 35 programs each selecting such YLS/CMI factors) are:

- Verbally Aggressive/Impudent

While 34 programs address:

- Physically Aggressive

And 33 each address:

- Problems with Peers/Teachers, and
- Negative Peer Interactions

On the opposite end, the YLS/CMI factors with the *fewest* programs/services addressing such are, at 7 programs/services each, are:

- Not seeking employment

And 9 programs address:

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- Unemployed

Southwest Nebraska Region Common Community Framework

Based on information in the Juvenile Justice System Points Analysis and the Community Capacity Inventory, establishing the Southwest Nebraska Region community framework in which your juvenile justice system and juvenile services operate is realized. Considering these questions help consider next steps:

What are we doing that is working that we want to do more of?

What are we doing that is working that we need to do less of?

What should we stop doing because it is not working or harmful?

What do we need to start doing that we are not doing at all?

A group of individuals committed to youth in Southwest Nebraska met to discuss the planning process and address such questions. The discussion revealed stabilizing efforts that are currently in place and those that will be acted upon in the near future, thereby identifying priorities for the Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Juvenile Service Plan.

Stabilizing Efforts in Southwest Nebraska

There are several efforts in Southwest Nebraska trying to stabilize youth. Programs and services identified in the Community Capacity Inventory are specific examples of entities committed to youth and their well being. There are several areas in Southwest Nebraska where specific efforts are being made and where the community wants to improve their efforts. From there, new priorities can be set in order to strive for further goals and further stabilizing efforts in Southwest Nebraska.

1. **Parental Accountability.** A huge frustration level exists towards parents who are in the most need of help do not or will not get it. Strong parental involvement with youth is vital. The community is strong. The community needs to step in to help children when parents are unwilling or unable.
2. **Expanding Prevention Efforts.** The newly formed Alcohol Drug and Alcohol Prevention Team is a great community effort in its infancy stages of development. As it develops and becomes stronger in the McCook area, it may look to expand to the other counties in the Southwest Nebraska Region. Drug and alcohol classes can also look to be expanded (through Diversion).

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3. **Gap in Services.** It was noted that there is a gap in services—there needs to be services available before a youth gets into the formal system, but help is clearly needed. This may include counseling, classes (parenting, discipline, planning), tele-medicine, drug and alcohol evaluation and the like.
4. **Communication & Collaboration.** There are many great program, services, and dedicated personnel from schools, providers, law enforcement, and the juvenile justice system in general. Programs could be consolidated so that one agency is not doing what another is already doing, freeing up room for varying services that are needed. If there are limited funds, there should be a coordinated, limited focus. This takes communication and collaboration on a community wide basis.
5. **Truancy.** Truancy is an issue in the region. It is reported as a daily program in the elementary schools, where it is mainly a parental issue. The community feels that this may be a symptom of other, more serious issues.
6. **Help for Families.** Many of the problems identified are family-based issues. Younger children in the families get exposed to bad behavior and bad behavior from older family members. It was reported that many families are receptive to family counseling.
7. **Community Members Care.** It is agreed that there are very good, responsible, trustworthy, dedicated people in HHS, Probation, and law enforcement roles. “Folks in the communities here really do care and really want to do something to help kids.”
8. **Distance Between Services.** Because of the challenges of distance between services, it was suggested that more satellite offices be opened. Local folks could be trained to provide various programming or services. Then there would not be such a burden on parents to drive.

Appendix C

**County Board
of
Commissioners
Approval**

