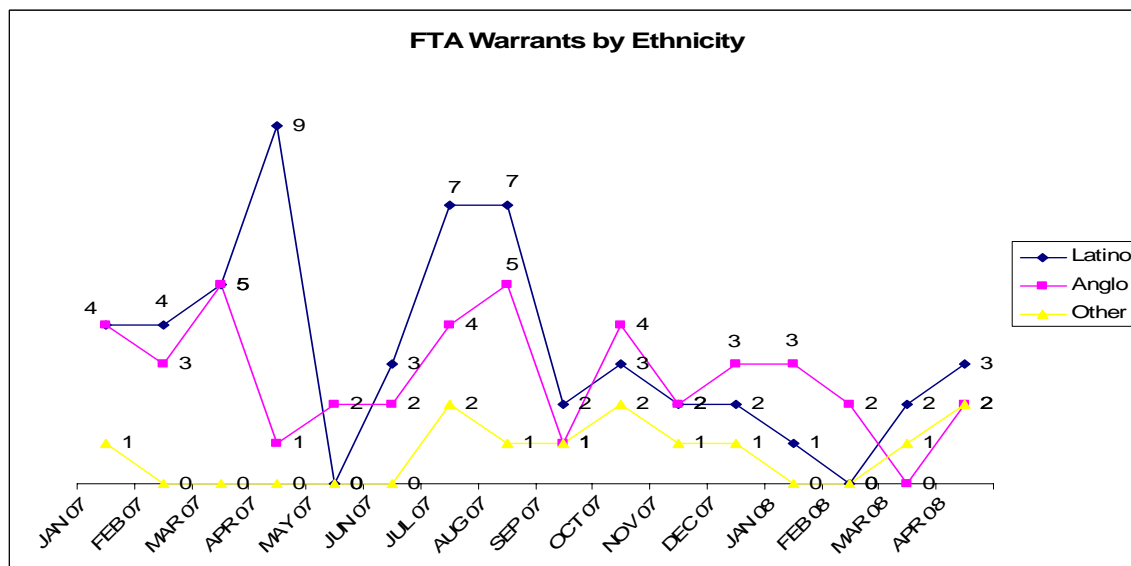
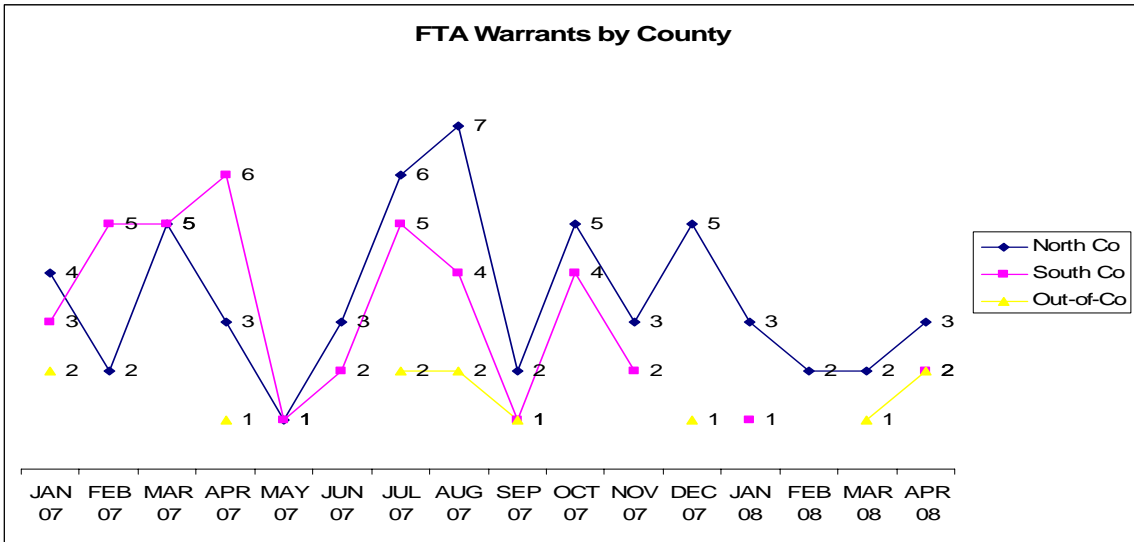


## Impact of the Evening Center: Helping or Harming JDAI and DMC efforts?

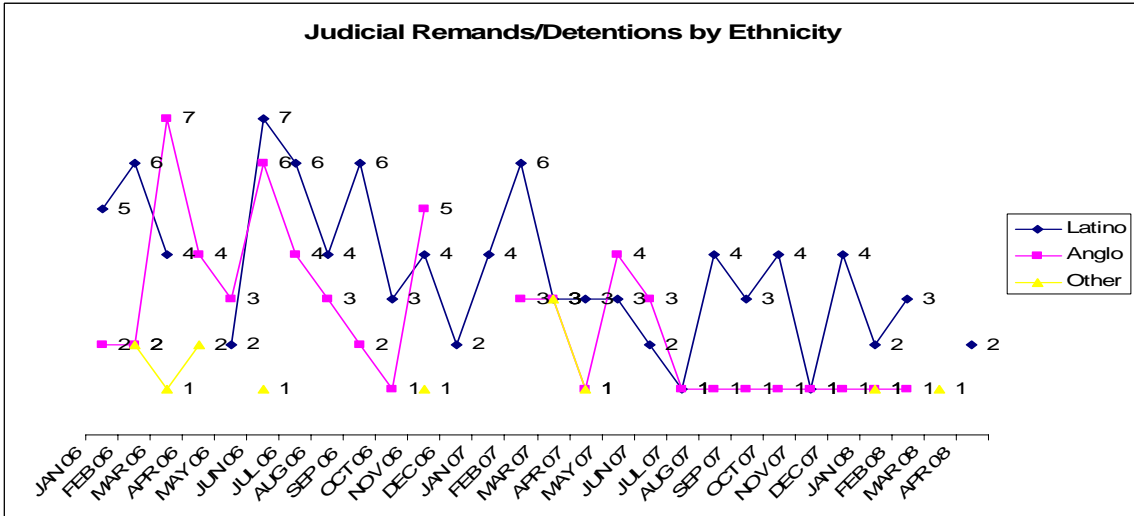
This brief document will try to answer this question.

Prior to the start of the Evening Center (EC) and early on in its development we saw that there were unintended consequences related to how the evening center was used and how it impacted south county cases. One of the impacts was/is on the reduction of FTA's. At the time it was hypothesized that the EC would reduce FTA's for South County youth. Additionally, knowing that 75-80% of South County probation youth are Latino, it would also address DMC. The charts below show a decrease in FTA's. I had suggested that perhaps the way in which the EC was used would reduce FTA's. Here is how: While we haven't reduced a youth's exposure to court, we have increased support for the youth while pending the court appearance for the violation/new charge. Several years ago the practice was to calendar a youth and then he/she waited 3,4, 5 days or more to appear in court. During that waiting time there were few if any reminders about court and the youth had time weigh the pros and cons of going to court. The incentive for going to court was minimal also. I think the EC has increased incentive to go to court and also helped to remind youth about the upcoming court hearing. Currently in Watsonville, many youth are ordered into the EC immediately after a violation. They are then scheduled for court 3,4 or 5 days later. The major difference now is that while waiting for court while at a program, they are getting support and aware of the fact showing up to the EC will likely decrease the chances of being remanded. Youth are often told something like this, "if you start the EC now, when you go to court the judge will be impressed with you and won't come down too hard on you." Is this reassuring? I don't know, but maybe, since FTA's have decreased and not increased. Perhaps a combination of reduced cases that are calendared, the implementation of having the aides make reminder calls, our increased attention to FTA's and the use EC have all combined to lead to current outcomes below.





Similar to the hypothesis developed that predicted that a reduction in FTA's would occur if an EC existed, previous studies have predicted that the EC could contribute to a reduction in remands for technical violations. As the chart below shows there has been a reduction, but can that be attributed to the EC? I don't know, but perhaps the combination of the EC, changes in how we deal with technical violations and additions of programs and the elimination of programs like JDC, have led to the decreasing numbers. As stated in the **Beyond Detention Pathways Report: Santa Cruz case examples**, I suggested that the EC could reduce remands for technical violations. The reason for this was because the EC could supposedly address the violations leading to a court hearing and subsequent remand. Now that the EC option was available, perhaps the judge would be less likely to rely on detention and instead rely on the EC and/or other program, that addressed the issues. There are numerous variables at play here and we cannot say for sure that the EC is the sole cause for the reductions we are seeing. The good news is that there have been positive changes and the addition of EC has not led to an increase in FTA's and remands for violations.



### Judicial Remands/Detentions by County

