

FY 05-06 DMC WARRANT STUDY

Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Introduction:

Juvenile Bookings related to arrest warrants have an impact on the juvenile hall population. In order to examine the true impact of these warrants on detention and how DMC issues are impacted by internal and external practices, this study will look specifically at juvenile bookings due to the following arrests:

1. Juvenile bookings for arrest warrants issued for youth who Failed to Appear at their scheduled court hearing;
2. Juvenile bookings for arrest warrants issued for youth who had absconded from out-of-home court placement and;
3. Juvenile bookings for arrest warrants issued for youth committing other types of Probation violations which are delineated in Section 3 of this study.

The over all goal or purpose of this study is to determine if there are existing practices that are inherent to the juvenile justice system that impact the issuing of arrest warrants and custody time in juvenile hall subsequent to the booking. Once the data has been analyzed, the findings will be summarized and, if necessary, suggested modifications to existing policies and procedures will be made.

Summary of Data Collected:

The study examined booking data for the 12-month period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. There were 803 bookings for this reporting period; of the 803 bookings, 11% or 89 were warrants for FTAs, 3% or 21 were warrants for youth who had absconded, and 10% or 82 were warrants for Probation violations. Taken together, these three types of warrants account for 24% of all bookings into detention during the study period. All warrant bookings were examined with close attention paid to ethnicity and custody time after the booking.

An FTA Arrest Warrant is typically issued after a juvenile fails to appear for a scheduled court appearance. The types of court hearings may include an arraignment on a probation violation, an arraignment on new law violation, a court review, a pre-trial hearing, or a disposition.

An AWOL Bench Warrant is issued for youth who had absconded from court ordered placement. In most cases the youth is apprehended and brought into the juvenile hall. The youth who abscond do so for a number of reasons: some miss their family and/or friends, some crave drugs/alcohol, some have poor impulse controls, while others do not feel comfortable in their placement facilities.

1.0 FTA Warrants

- 1.1 There were a total of 89 incidents of FTA warrants for the reporting period, this study will provide answers to the following questions:
- 1.1.1 Was one ethnicity disproportionately represented over the other?
 - 1.1.2 How much custody time was served following the arrest for an FTA warrant?
 - 1.1.3 Did one ethnic group spend more time in custody than the others?
 - 1.1.4 Of the 89 FTA booking incidents, how many were unique cases?
 - 1.1.5 Are there practices within the system that perpetuate DMC issues?
- 1.2 Table 1 separates the 89 FTA incidents by ethnicity; illustrating the numbers, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 1 – Duplicated FTA Count (all incidents)

ETHNICITY	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	# CUSTODY DAYS	% CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	50	56.2%	399	53.8%	8.0
AFRICAN AMERICAN	5	5.6%	12	1.6%	2.4
ANGLO	34	38.2%	330	44.5%	9.7
TOTALS	89		741		6.7

- 1.2.1 The total incidents of FTA warrants attributed to youth of color for the reporting period was 62%, 38% were attributed to Anglo youth.
- 1.2.2 There were a total of 7455 Juvenile Hall custody days for the reporting period; 10% were due to FTA Warrants; a little over half of which were youth of color (5.5%).
- 1.3 There were a total of 79 individuals who were booked into the Juvenile Hall because of an FTA warrant during the reporting period. Of these 79 cases, there were 8 individuals who received 2 or more FTAs. The total number of FTA warrants for these 8 youth equaled 18; 20% of the 89 FTA warrants that were issued.

- 1.4 Table 2 separates the 79 unique FTA cases by ethnicity; illustrating numbers, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 2 – Unduplicated FTA Count (unique cases)

ETHNICITY	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	# CUSTODY DAYS	% CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	42	53.2%	343	53.8%	8.2
AFRICAN AMERICAN	5	6.3%	12	1.6%	2.4
ANGLO	32	40.5%	327	44.5%	10.2
TOTALS	79		682		6.9

- 1.5 Profile of repeat FTA cases

1.5.1 Taking a closer look at each of the 8 individuals who obtained 2 or more FTA warrants, we want to answer the following questions:

1.5.1.1 How much custody time was served following the arrest for each FTA warrant?

1.5.1.2 Did one ethnic group have more incidents than another?

1.5.1.3 What types of Court Hearings were missed?

- 1.6 Table 3 separates the 18 repeat FTA cases by ethnicity; illustrating The numbers, incidents, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 3 – Repeat FTA Count

ETHNICITY	# CASES	# FTA INCIDENTS	# CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	6	14	93	6.6
ANGLO	2	4	16	4.0
TOTALS	8	18	109	5.3

- 1.6.1 The total number of incidents for repeat FTA warrants attributed to youth of color for the reporting period was 78%, 22% were attributed to Anglo youth.

1.6.2 As illustrated in Table 1, there were a total of 741 Juvenile Hall custody days due to FTA Warrants; of the 741 days, 15% were for repeat FTAs; 85% attributed to youth of color.

1.7 Table 4 illustrates that 72% of the repeat FTA cases were due to the juvenile failing to appear for a scheduled court appearance.

TABLE 4 – Repeat FTA Hearing Types

ETHNICITY	FTA - ARRAIGNMENT ON P.V.	FTA - COURT	FTA – NEW LAW VIOLATION	FTA – EMP VIOLATION	FTA – HSUP VIOLATION
LATINO	1	10	1	1	1
ANGLO		3	1		
TOTALS	1	13	2	1	1

Summary of FTA Warrant Arrests

Consistent with the Juvenile Hall population in terms of ethnic composition, more youth of color (55%) had FTAs than did Anglos (45%). This finding was predictable and similar to the Juvenile Hall Population for FY 2005-2006: youth of color made up 53% of the population and Anglos were 46% of the population.

More Latino youth (n=6) had multiple FTA warrants than did Anglo youth (n=2) accounting for 78% of the repeat FTAs. 83% of these cases were attributed to the juvenile not appearing for a scheduled court hearing.

For the time period analyzed, Latino youth had more repeated incidents of FTAs (14) than did Anglo youth (4), and spent longer average lengths of stay in detention for each booking following a return in a warrant.

2.0 AWOL Warrants

- 2.1 There were a total of 21 incidents of youth absconding from court ordered out-of-home placement facilities.
- 2.1.1 Was one ethnicity disproportionately represented over the other?
- 2.1.2 How much custody time was served following the arrest for an AWOL warrant?
- 2.1.3 Did one ethnic group spend more time in custody than the others?
- 2.1.4 Of the 21 AWOL booking incidents, how many were unique cases?
- 2.1.5 Which placement facilities were these youth running from?
- 2.1.6 Are there practices within the system that perpetuate DMC issues?
- 2.2 Table 5 separates the 21 AWOL incidents by ethnicity; illustrating the numbers, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 5 – Duplicated AWOL Count (all incidents)

ETHNICITY	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	# CUSTODY DAYS	% CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	8	38.1%	40	14.4%	5.0
AFRICAN AMERICAN	2	9.5%	14	5.1%	9.5
ANGLO	11	52.4 %	223	80.5%	20.3
TOTALS	21		277		11.6

- 2.2.1 The total incidents of AWOL warrants attributed to youth of color for the reporting period was 48%, 52% were attributed to Anglo youth.
- 2.2.2 There were a total of 7455 Juvenile Hall custody days for the reporting period; 4% were due to AWOL Warrants.
- 2.3 There were a total of 15 individuals who were booked into the Juvenile Hall because of an AWOL warrant during the reporting period. Of these 15 cases, there were 5 individuals who received 2 or more AWOLs. The

total number of AWOL warrants for these 5 youth equaled 11; 52% of the 21 AWOL warrants that were issued.

- 2.4 Table 6 separates the 15 unique AWOL cases by ethnicity; illustrating the numbers, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 6 – Unduplicated AWOL Count (unique cases)

ETHNICITY	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	# CUSTODY DAYS	% CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	6	40.0%	39	21.8%	6.5
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1	6.7%	5	2.8%	5.0
ANGLO	8	53.3%	135	75.4%	16.9
TOTALS	15		179		9.5

- 2.5 Profile of repeat AWOL cases

2.5.1 Taking a closer look at each of the 5 individuals who obtained 2 or more AWOL warrants, we want to answer the following questions:

2.5.1.1 How much custody time was served following the arrest for each AWOL warrant?

2.5.1.2 Did one ethnic group have more incidents than another?

- 2.6 Table 7 separates the 11 repeat AWOL cases by ethnicity; illustrating the numbers, incidents, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 7 – Repeat AWOL Count

ETHNICITY	# CASES	# AWOL INCIDENTS	# CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	2	4	17	4.3
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1	2	19	9.5
ANGLO	2	5	142	28.4
TOTALS	5	11	178	14.1

2.6.1 The total number of incidents for repeat AWOL warrants attributed to youth of color for the reporting period was 55%, 45% were attributed to Anglo youth.

2.6.2 As illustrated in Table 5, there were a total of 277 Juvenile Hall custody days due to AWOL Warrants; of the 277 days, 52% were for repeat AWOLs; 47% attributed to youth of color, 53% by Anglo youth.

2.7 Which facilities did these 15 youth abscond from?

2.7.1 Table 8 illustrates the facility and ethnic group of absconding youth for all of the 21 incidents.

TABLE 8 – Duplicated AWOL by Placement Facility (all incidents)

FACILITY	# LATINO YOUTH	# AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH	# ANGLO YOUTH
ABOVE THE LINE	1		1
ADVENT GROUP MINISTRIES			3
CPS	1		
E.E. RESIDENTIAL	3		
INTERMISSION HOUSE		2	1
PRIVATE FACILITY	1		
OUT OF COUNTY FACILITY	1		1
STARLIGHT HOUSE			1
SUN STREET HOME	1		
SUNFLOWER HOUSE	1		
UNITY CARE GROUP HOME	2		1
TOTALS	11	2	8

Summary of AWOL Warrant Arrests

For the time period analyzed, the number of repeat AWOL cases were closely matched in terms of ethnic composition, 3 youth of color and 2 Anglos had received 2 or more AWOL incidents. What was not closely matched, however, was the time spent in custody after arrest; youth of color with multiple AWOL incidents spent an average of 14.5 days in custody, whereas the Anglo youth spent an average of 20.3 days in custody.

3.0 Probation Violation Warrants

- 3.1 There were a total of 82 incidents of youth committing various violations of their probation contracts
- 3.1.1 Was one ethnicity disproportionately represented over the other?
- 3.1.2 How much custody time was served following the arrest for a PV warrant?
- 3.1.3 Did one ethnic group spend more time in custody than the others?
- 3.1.4 Of the 82 PV booking incidents, how many were unique cases?
- 3.1.5 Are there practices within the system that perpetuate DMC issues?
- 3.2 Table 9 separates the 82 PV incidents by ethnicity; illustrating the numbers, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 9 – Duplicated PV Count (all incidents)

ETHNICITY	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	# CUSTODY DAYS	% CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	44	53.7%	876	69.1%	19.9
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1	1.2%	2	0.2%	2.0
ANGLO	37	45.1%	389	30.7%	10.5
TOTALS	82		1267		10.8

- 3.2.1 The total incidents of PV warrants attributed to youth of color for the reporting period was 55%, 45% were attributed to Anglo youth.
- 3.2.2 There were a total of 7455 Juvenile Hall custody days for the reporting period; 17% of these days were due to probation violations; 12% of which were youth of color, 5% were Anglo youth.
- 3.2.3 During the reporting period, there were 2 court committed Latino youth who collectively spent 472 days in Juvenile Hall. Removing these two youth from the overall number and percentage of custody days narrows the gap considerably as shown in Table 10.

TABLE 10 – Duplicated PV Count without CTCM Youth

ETHNICITY	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	# CUSTODY DAYS	% CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	42	52.5%	404	50.8%	9.6
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1	1.3%	2	0.3%	2.0
ANGLO	37	46.3%	389	48.9%	10.5
TOTALS	80		795		7.4

3.3 There were a total of 60 individuals who were booked into the Juvenile Hall because of probation during the reporting period. Of these 60 cases, there were 17 individuals who received 2 or more probation violations. The total number of PV warrants for these 17 youth equaled 38; 46% of the 82 PV warrants that were issued.

3.4 Table 11 separates the 60 unique PV cases by ethnicity; illustrating the numbers, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 11 – Unduplicated PV Count (unique cases)

ETHNICITY	TOTAL #	TOTAL %	# CUSTODY DAYS	% CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	32	53.3%	675	72.6%	21.1
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1	1.7%	2	0.2%	2.0
ANGLO	27	45.0%	253	27.2%	9.4
TOTALS	60		930		10.8

3.5 Profile of repeat PV cases

3.5.1 Taking a closer look at each of the 17 individuals who obtained 2 or more probation violations, we want to answer the following questions:

3.5.1.1 How much custody time was served following the arrest for each PV warrant?

3.5.1.2 Did one ethnic group have more incidents than another?

3.5.1.3 What were the types of probation violations committed?

3.6 Table 12 separates the 38 repeat PV cases by ethnicity; illustrating the numbers, incidents, percentages, and average custody times for each ethnic group.

TABLE 12 – Repeat PV Count

ETHNICITY	# CASES	# PV INCIDENTS	# CUSTODY DAYS	AVERAGE # DAYS IN CUSTODY
LATINO	10	22	616	28.0
ANGLO	7	16	227	14.2
TOTALS	17	38	843	21.1

3.6.1 The total incidents of repeat PV warrants attributed to youth of color for the reporting period was 58%, 42% were attributed to Anglo youth.

3.6.2 As illustrated in Table 9, there were a total of 1267 Juvenile Hall custody days due to probation violations; of the 1267 days, 67% were attributed to youth with multiple probation violations.

3.6.3 Table 13 illustrates that 55% of the repeat offenders had violated the terms of their probation contracts.

TABLE 13 – Repeat Offenders Probation Violation Types

ETHNICITY	CONTRACT VIOLATION	CTCM	DRUGS	REOFFENDERS
LATINO	13	1	6	2
ANGLO	8		5	3
TOTALS	21	1	11	5

Summary of PV Warrant Arrests

For the time period analyzed, more youth of color (69%) had probation violation incidents than did Anglos (31%), and the youth of color on average spent more custody time (21.9 days) than did the Anglo youth (10.5 days).

However upon further inspection, it was discovered that two of the Latino youth in custody were Court Commits, which skewed the averages. Removing these two youth from the overall averages narrowed the gap of custody time to 11.6 days for youth of color.

Conclusions

FTAs for court and subsequent bookings in Juvenile Hall account for 10% of all child care days in FY05/06. 62% of these bookings were attributed to youth of color. Youth of color also had a higher rate of repeat FTAs (78%) than did Anglo youth. 83% of repeat FTAs were due to missed court appearances.

Recommendation: A process should be implemented which aims to reduce FTAs. For example, Juvenile Hall staff could call youth and remind them of court appearances. In addition to this, it is imperative that probation officers be diligent in reminding their probationers of court hearings for violations. Calls to families and youth regarding court dates should be made in the language that the family is most comfortable with.

AWOLs from court ordered placements and subsequent bookings in Juvenile Hall account for 5% of all childcare days in FY05/06. 56% of these bookings were attributed to Anglo youth. Anglo youth also a higher percentage of childcare days (81%) than did the youth of color.

Recommendation: Its recommended that a further study be completed that uses an instrument that measures how successful programs are at working with all ethnic groups. Are the facilities culturally competent? Youth and families should be interviewed regarding their experiences with these facilities.

Probation violations and subsequent bookings in Juvenile Hall account for 10% of all childcare days in FY05/06. 55% of these bookings were attributed to youth of color. Youth of color also had a higher rate of repeated probation violations (59%) than did Anglo youth. 55% of repeat offenders had violated the terms of their probation contracts.

Recommendation: A process should be implemented which aims to reduce contract violations. For example, the probation officers should be diligent in reminding their probationers the seriousness of following all terms and conditions of their probation. More time spent with the youth and more phone calls to families regarding court dates, UA tests, and trancies should be made in the language that the family is most comfortable with.