

**JOHNSON
AND
SOMERVELL
COUNTIES**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COMMUNITY PLAN**

FY2010

Chairperson:

**Adam King, Commander
S.T.O.P. Narcotics Task Force
PO Box 676
Cleburne, TX 76033**

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Johnson County is located in North Central Texas, immediately south of Tarrant County, one of the largest counties in Texas and encompasses 734 square mile area. Somervell County is also in North Central Texas, just to the southwest of Johnson County and encompasses 192 square mile area. Johnson County and Somervell County are linked by Hwy 67 which stems from the Dallas, Texas metroplex area. Interstate 35 runs north and south right through the middle of Johnson County. Industry is a way of life in both counties with major industries such as TXU, Wal-mart and the Distribution Center, Johns Manville, along with many other manufacturing companies. In the past three years, the oil and gas industry has invaded the area and now is a major industry for both counties.

Johnson County is included in the Dallas - Fort Worth – Arlington Metropolitan Area and also the DFW Urban Area.

The population of Johnson County in 1990 was 97,165 and in 2000 grew to 126,811 a 30.5 percent increase. Likewise, Somervell County's population in 1990 was 5,360 and in 2000 grew to 6,809 a 27 percent increase.

Of the Non-Hispanic population in Johnson County in 1990, 89 percent indentified themselves as white, while 3% identified themselves as black. Those identifying themselves as Hispanic constituted approximately 8 percent of the total population of the County. However in 2000, the Hispanic population had increased by 106 percent while the white and black population only increased 22 and 24.9 percent respectively.

Somervell County's Non-Hispanic population in 1990 reflected 85 percent indentifying themselves as white, while less than 1 percent identified themselves as black. Those identifying themselves as Hispanic constituted approximately 14 percent. However in 2000, the Hispanic population had increased 22 percent while the white and black population increased 27 and 30 percent respectively.

Public transportation is available in the areas of Johnson and Somervell however in Somervell County the cost is prohibitive to most citizens. Social Services are limited in both counties with some citizens traveling as much as 50 miles to access needed services.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Introduction

Similar to most juvenile justice systems across Texas, the juvenile justice system in Johnson and Somervell Counties is comprised of various agencies that deal with minors. These organizations often operate as a loose network of agencies at the state, county and municipal level. These agencies include:

- Law enforcement agencies, such as municipal police departments, county sheriffs, and the Texas Department of Public Safety;
- Juvenile and criminal court service agencies (e.g. juvenile probation departments);
- Judges, county attorneys, public defenders, and private attorneys;
- The Texas Youth Commission (TYC) and Gulf Coast Trade Center for parole services;
- Contracted temporary juvenile detention centers – located out of county
- The Texas Department of Family and Regulatory Services and the child welfare service agencies;
- Private social service organizations that provide counseling and other services; and,
- Schools

Each entity has different responsibilities within the juvenile justice system and come into contact with juveniles at different stages in the justice process. Because juvenile justice in Texas is administered at the state and county level the process may differ across the many juvenile justice systems in Texas.

The Juvenile Justice System section focuses on various system activities including; out-of-court dispositions; juvenile delinquency petitions; delinquency adjudications; active, end-of-year probation caseloads; transfers to adult court; temporary detention admissions; and admissions to the Texas Youth Commission.

The following data describes juvenile population, broken down by ethnicity, age, and ethnicity, # of violent felonies and other felonies committed by juveniles, along with the total referrals per county and rate per 1,000, # adjudicated to probation, adjudicated to TYC, cases under supervision at the beginning of the year and residential placement numbers.

Introduction:

County Juvenile Population by Total Juvenile Population & Ethnicity (TJPC)

Johnson County

Calendar Year	Juvenile Age Population 10-16	Anglo	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Other	%
2004	15,462	12,134	78	437	3	2,684	17	207	2
2005	15,575	12,066	77	454	3	2,840	18	215	2
2006	15,811	12,072	76	464	3	3,034	19	241	2

Somervell County

Calendar Year	Juvenile Age Population 10-16	Anglo	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Other	%
2004	780	625	80	9	1	138	18	8	1
2005	773	608	79	10	1	147	19	8	1
2006	769	599	78	10	1	153	20	7	1

County Juvenile Population by Age/Ethnicity

Johnson County

CY 2004	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Total
Anglo	1,589	1,662	1,728	1,749	1,867	1,748	1,791	12,134
Black	65	59	74	63	67	55	54	437
Hispanic	384	415	386	396	394	339	370	2,684
Other	29	25	32	32	37	18	34	207

CY 2005	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Total
Anglo	1,601	1,613	1,685	1,750	1,770	1,890	1,757	12,066
Black	61	67	61	76	65	69	55	454
Hispanic	442	401	431	398	410	407	351	2,840
Other	39	30	26	32	33	37	18	215

CY 2006	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Total
Anglo	1,646	1,623	1,636	1,707	1,768	1,794	1,898	12,072
Black	58	63	68	63	78	67	67	464
Hispanic	454	457	417	444	415	428	419	3,034
Other	43	39	30	26	32	34	37	241

County Juvenile Population by Age/Ethnicity
Somervell

CY 2004	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Total
Anglo	69	83	78	98	91	99	107	625
Black	4	0	4	0	0	1	0	9
Hispanic	23	21	24	18	22	16	14	138
Other	0	2	0	1	2	1	2	8

CY 2005	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Total
Anglo	80	70	85	80	99	93	101	608
Black	1	4	0	4	0	0	1	10
Hispanic	23	23	21	24	18	22	16	147
Other	2	0	2	0	1	2	1	8

CY 2006	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Total
Anglo	81	82	72	87	81	101	95	599
Black	1	1	4	0	4	0	0	10
Hispanic	22	23	23	21	24	18	22	153
Other	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	7

Number of Violent Felonies Charged to Juveniles in the County
Johnson County

Offense	CY2004	CY2005	CY2006
Homicide (1)	0	1	0
Attempted Homicide (2)	1	0	0
Sexual Assault (3)	14	16	10
Robbery (4)	0	3	2
Aggravated Assault (5)	37	30	21

Somervell

Offense	CY2004	CY2005	CY2006
Homicide (1)	0	0	0
Attempted Homicide (2)	0	0	0
Sexual Assault (3)	1	1	0
Robbery (4)	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault (5)	1	0	0

Total Juvenile Referrals for the County and rate per 1,000
 & Number of Children Referred

Johnson

Calendar Year	Juvenile Referrals/Rate per 1,000		
2004	661	/	39.87
2005	518	/	30.30
2006	536	/	33.90

Somervell

Calendar Year	Juvenile Referrals/Rate per 1,000		
2004	13	/	15.49
2005	14	/	16.49
2006	26	/	33.81

Number Adjudicated to Probation/TYC

Johnson

Calendar Year	Adj. to Probation	TYC
2004	123	9
2005	97	8
2006	120	9

Somervell

Calendar Year	Adj. to Probation	TYC
2004	1	1
2005	2	0
2006	8	0

Cases under Supervision as of December 31 of each year

Calendar Year	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	180	141	166
Somervell County	6	5	14
Total	186	146	180

Residential Placements

Johnson

Calendar Year	Residential Placements
2004	21
2005	26
2006	23

Somervell

Calendar Year	Residential Placements
2004	4
2005	1
2006	2

While the juvenile population in Johnson County has increased, adolescents being charged with serious delinquent behavior has decreased. Somervell County on the other hand, has had a decrease in juvenile population, while the referral rate for serious delinquent behavior remained about the same.

Overall referral numbers indicate Johnson County has seen a decrease, while Somervell County has more than doubled in the three year period.

We believe the differences indicate a difference in programs that are available within each county. Very few programs are offered in Somervell County and most are located in surrounding counties making the families travel, when they can afford to do so. Within each jurisdiction, the school districts and police departments have collaborated for school resource officers programs in many of the middle schools and high schools throughout.

As the numbers indicate, the juveniles adjudicated to probation in Johnson County remained about the same as well as TYC commitments. In Somervell County the juvenile adjudicated to probation increased, and TYC commitments remained the same. Part of the reason for these numbers seems to be that many juveniles if their offenses dictate are diverted from the Juvenile Court by way of diversionary programs. However, if they are unsuccessful in these programs, they are referred to court.

Juvenile Justice Focus Group participants:

Lisa Tomlinson, Johnson and Somervell County Juvenile Probation
Larry Mullins, Johnson County Juvenile Probation
Danny Boitnott, STAR Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Carolyn Cody, Cleburne ISD
Jerry Webber, County Court at Law #2
Dan Hunt, Johnson County Attorney's Office
Teresa Steed, Johnson County Attorney's Office
Diane Packwood, United Way of Johnson County

CONTRIBUTORS TO JUVENILE CRIME AND DELINQUENCY:

Family Instability:

- (1) Family instability continues to be a factor in the overall contributors to juvenile crime and delinquency. The functioning of the family is effected dramatically by the emotional turmoil both within and outside of the family unit. Divorce and/or employment can be traumatic for children in the family, causing them to become withdrawn or act out their stress and anxiety. Likewise, family violence and child abuse in the home can result in increased risk for juvenile delinquency. While it is obvious in how instability affects the family, it also impacts the surrounding community. The behaviors that result from family instability can also include drug abuse, lower academic functioning, runaways, on-set and repeated delinquent behavior and gang involvement.

(2) The tables below represent contributors to family instability:

# Of Family Violence Reports	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	1627	1762	1426
Somervell County	25	41	33

# Of Protective Orders Filed	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	67	63	69
Somervell County	10	12	12

# Of Child Abuse Confirmed	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	443	480	662
Somervell County	27	16	13

# Of Child Sexual Abuse Reports (Confirmed)	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	47	67	57
Somervell County	8	4	3

# Of Divorces in county	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	726	734	855
Somervell County	37	43	59

# Of Children in Foster Care	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	225	239	296
Somervell County	7	5	5

# Unemployed - Percentage	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	5.9	4.9	4.6
Somervell County	5.5	5.4	4.8

Johnson County

# Of Single Parent Households	2000	2006
Female Householder with own children under 18 YOA	2424	3467
Male Householder, with own children under 18 YOA	No Data	1356

Somervell County

# Of Single Parent Households	2000	2006
Female Householder with own children under 18 YOA	114	No Data
Male Householder, with own children under 18 YOA	No Data	No Data

** Only stats available are the 2000 Census information and for 2006 the American Community Survey results which only report for Counties over 65,000 in population
2000 stats only reported Female Householder, while stats for 2006 reported both Male Householder and Female Householder

- (3) As indicated in the data above, the family instability within these two counties is increasing. While some data show decreases, some equally show increases and all factors contribute.

- (4) Between the two counties, there is one family violence shelter located in the county seat in Johnson County. Somervell County residents have to go either to Hood County to the north or Johnson County. The shelter provides temporary housing, counseling, support groups, information and referral, and safety planning.

Johnson and Somervell counties also have access to a Children's Advocacy Center that provides forensic assessments and counseling services to children suspected to have been abused. Johnson County's is located in the county seat, while Somervell County's is shared with Hood County and is located in the county seat of Hood County, 30 miles away.

The counties each have access to a Workforce Center. Again Johnson County's is located in the county, where Somervell County's is again located outside the county. The Workforce Centers provides job searches, resume development, job seeking education and training, and information on child care.

Local churches will often provide marriage and family counseling to their congregations. Some provide these services to the community, but usually not without some cost.

- (5) There are limited programs for parenting education and for children abused by their families available within the two county area that could potentially decrease the likelihood for family violence in the home.

There are no outpatient programs that might prevent the escalation of abusive behavior in the home.

Specialized training to law enforcement in dealing with juvenile offenders and family violence calls/reports is not available on the local level.

Substance Abuse:

(1) Substance use and abuse continues to be a factor in the overall contributors to juvenile crime and delinquency. The functioning of the child in the home and community including school is dramatically effected by the introduction and continued use of drugs. The behaviors that result from drug use can also include drug abuse, addiction, lower academic functioning, runaways, on-set and repeated delinquent behavior and gang involvement.

(2) The tables below represent contributors to Substance Abuse:

Felony/Misdemeanor Drug Offenses by County

Johnson

Calendar Year	Felony Drug	Misd. Drug
2004	24	74
2005	17	37
2006	24	81

Somervell

Calendar Year	Felony Drug	Misd. Drug
2004	2	3
2005	1	2
2006	2	0

Average age at first use	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	13.35	12.41	12.7
Somervell County	13	13.83	14.5

Percentage male/female	2004 Male	2004 Female	2005 Male	2005 Female	2006 Male	2006 Female
Johnson County	82.61	17.39	80.39	19.61	72.50	27.5
Somervell County	64.29	35.71	83.33	16.67	100	0

Percentage referred by Juvenile Justice System	2004	2005	2006
Johnson County	86.96	88.24	60
Somervell County	21.43	83.33	100

# of Substance Abuse related Deaths by County	2002	2003	2004
Johnson County	2	2	3
Somervell County	0	0	0

- (3) Misdemeanor Drug referrals continue to be the highest among referrals, but both continue to be on the increase. What data does not show is the type of drugs being used. Most is marijuana, but on the rise are prescription and non-prescription drugs. The age of first use continues to be concerning and as represented Johnson County's has dropped to 12.7 years old where Somervell County's rose to 14.5. Majority of reported users are male, but female usage is on the rise. No matter what the data shows, children using drugs will never produce positive results.
- (4) STAR Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is currently the provider for substance abuse services. They go into the schools and make presentations, and are available for assessments and follow up counseling. The difficulty is that they are non-profit and are subject to budget cuts every year or program re-alignment every year. Staffing has also been difficult for them. There are no in-patient services in either county. There is one Ala-teen program in Johnson County.
- (5) Qualified counselors to provide treatment is a necessity. Additional funding to support programs already being provided would allow for consistency in treatment. A Drug Court program would also be helpful in providing accountability for drug abusing teens. Local in-patient treatment that treats both genders would provide more intensive treatment.

Education:

- (1) Education is a primary factor in the overall success or failure of a child into adulthood. The functioning of the child in the home and the community many times whether positive or negative is influenced by their school performance and attendance. The behaviors that result from poor academic performance typically are acting out behaviors that cause additional disciplinary or delinquent referrals.
- (2) The tables below represent contributors to Education Issues:

School Districts in the County (Johnson and Somervell) and Enrollment

SCHOOL NUMBER	ENROLLEMNT	04-05	05-06	06-07
126-901	Alvarado	3368	3314	3340
126-902	Burleson	7977	8522	8553
126-903	Cleburne	6524	6609	6638
126-911	Godley	1389	1491	1493
126-904	Grandview	1091	1114	1115
126-905	Joshua	4512	4464	4476
126-906	Keene	836	815	817
126-907	Rio Vista	892	899	901
126-908	Venus	1703	1740	1754
213-901	Glen Rose	1680	1680	1684
213-801	Brazos River Charter	137	135	135
Totals	11	30,109	30,783	30,906

Dropout Rates\Graduation Rates

SCHOOL DISRTICT	05-06	
	Dropout rate	Graduation Rate
Alvarado	3.7	96.3
Burleson	2.7	97.3
Cleburne	3.6	96.4
Godley	0.0	100
Grandview	0.0	100
Joshua	2.9	97.1
Keene	0.0	100
Rio Vista	1.2	98.8
Venus	6.2	93.8
Glen Rose	0.0	100
Brazos River Charter	1.9	98.1

of students for in-school suspension

School District	04-05	05-06	06-07
Alvarado	2431	2285	2240
Burleson	2520	2083	4450
Cleburne	1734	1506	1877
Grandview	212	223	209
Joshua	1980	2216	1861
Keene	150	251	206
Rio Vista	188	148	82
Venus	2167	1808	1849
Godley	460	615	735
Glen Rose	270	306	282
Brazos River Charter	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	12,112	11,441	13,791

of students placed on/off campus Alternative Education Program (AEP)

School District	04-05	05-06	06-07
Alvarado	105	122	69
Burleson	196	131	191
Cleburne	213	227	254
Grandview	17	9	15
Joshua	112	105	102
Keene	11	11	23
Rio Vista	13	n/a	5
Venus	62	105	78
Godley	22	17	26
Glen Rose	18	25	9
Brazos River Charter	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	769	752	772

of students with truancy/charges filed with fine

School District	04-05	05-06	06-07
Alvarado	89	25	143
Burleson	153	52	106
Cleburne	27	159	102
Grandview	n/a	n/a	n/a
Joshua	25	27	63
Keene	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rio Vista	n/a	n/a	n/a
Venus	14	46	31
Godley	14	21	8
Glen Rose	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brazos River Charter	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	304	330	453

of students with truancy/charges filed without fine

School District	04-05	05-06	06-07
Alvarado	14	9	36
Burleson	5	38	170
Cleburne	n/a	32	105
Grandview	n/a	n/a	n/a
Joshua	179	140	140
Keene	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rio Vista	n/a	n/a	n/a
Venus	5	n/a	14
Godley	n/a	8	n/a
Glen Rose	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brazos River Charter	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	203	227	465

Economic Disadvantaged Number and Percent

SCHOOL DISTRICT	04-05		05-06		06-07	
Alvarado	1773	51.1	1787	53.1	1674	50.5
Burleson	1731	23.0	2000	25.1	2260	26.5
Cleburne	3041	47.5	3242	49.7	3468	52.5
Godley	599	44.5	634	45.6	674	45.2
Grandview	376	32.8	407	37.3	427	38.3
Joshua	1897	42.2	1832	40.6	1885	42.2
Keene	626	76.8	576	68.9	627	76.9
Rio Vista	314	33.9	320	35.9	323	35.9
Venus	1204	67.4	1143	67.1	1127	64.8
Glen Rose	641	42.5	728	43.3	710	42.3
Brazos River Charter	70	51.1	73	53.3	69	51.1

Mobility Rate

SCHOOL DISTRICT	05-06
Alvarado	6.4
Burleson	4.9
Cleburne	5.9
Godley	9.0
Grandview	4.1
Joshua	6.1
Keene	6.9
Rio Vista	8.2
Venus	8.7
Glen Rose	4.6
Brazos River Charter	27.8
Total	92.6

- (3) Enrollment continues to increase throughout the two counties. Disciplinary referrals and referrals for truancy have drastically increased as well. Students placed in AEP has fluctuated some, but maintained fairly consistent. The numbers of economically disadvantaged remain at staggering levels for each school district.
- (4) Some of the larger school districts have expanded the Absent Student Assistance Program (ASAP) to help increase student attendance. Some of the larger districts also offer GED programs for students as well as credit recovery programs. In Somervell County there is a Charter school that serves both Johnson and Somervell County students. The Justice of the Peace Courts in both counties have taken a proactive role in enforcing attendance.
- (5) Expansion of the programs offered at the larger school districts to the smaller school districts would allow for easy access to services for all students. Adding another Charter School to Johnson County would offer an alternative to more traditional education setting for students who need credit recovery and who may work better in a more self-paced environment. The addition of Juvenile Case managers to all the Justice of the Peace Courts would greatly increase a juvenile's accountability to this system.

Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System
Total Juvenile Population by Ethnicity

(1) All children and youth, regardless of race or ethnicity, have more in common than they have differences, but culture does influence how they behave and how the juvenile justice system perceives them. Disproportionate minority contact continues to be concerning for all juvenile justice programs.

(2) The tables below represent information related to disproportionate minority contact:

Johnson County

Calendar Year	Juvenile Age Population 10-16	Anglo	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Other	%
2004	15,462	12,134	78	437	3	2,684	17	207	2
2005	15,575	12,066	77	454	3	2,840	18	215	2
2006	15,811	12,072	76	464	3	3,034	19	241	2

Somervell County

Calendar Year	Juvenile Age Population 10-16	Anglo	%	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Other	%
2004	780	625	80	9	1	138	18	8	1
2005	773	608	79	10	1	147	19	8	1
2006	769	599	78	10	1	153	20	7	1

Referrals by Ethnicity

Johnson

Calendar Year	Total Referrals	Anglo		Black		Hispanic		Other	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2004	661	481	73	49	7	129	20	2	0
2005	518	353	68	45	9	118	23	2	0
2006	536	327	61	59	11	141	26	9	2

Somervell

Calendar Year	Total Referrals	Anglo		Black		Hispanic		Other	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2004	13	10	77	0	0	3	23	0	0
2005	14	11	79	1	7	2	14	0	0
2006	26	20	78	1	3	5	19	0	0

- (3) Disproportionate minority contact is described as the proportion of youths referred to the juvenile probation department who are members of minority groups and the referral rate exceeds their groups' proportions in the general population. Even though both counties are representative of the majority of their populations and referrals being Anglo, still the referral rate compared to the population indicates disproportionate minority contact for the Black and Hispanic populations.
- (4) Johnson and Somervell County have not addressed this issue at present.
- (5) Disproportionate Minority Contact can be addressed by including a number of different programs, services or activities directed at the needs of the youth and at many of the juvenile justice decision points. Some may include training and technical assistance for law enforcement, prosecutors and juvenile justice personnel. Establishment and access to appropriate programs throughout the community such as Early Intervention, Diversionary programs, and Advocacy programs, etc.

Gangs:

There is no current/verifiable gang information available from the local juvenile probation department or the local police departments

Juvenile Justice System vulnerability:

- (1) The Juvenile Justice's ability to provide appropriate rehabilitation to juvenile offenders is directly related to the ratio of staff to referrals, the need for specialized programs and the availability of these programs, costs of quality programs, supervision officers case load size and the participation of the family in the process.
- (2) Each factor listed below affects this ability in one way or another.

of Juvenile Probation Officers in the County

Johnson – 15
Somervell – 2

and Description of Specialized Juvenile Courts (youth drug court, teen court, etc)

Johnson – none

Somervell – none

of Juvenile Court Judges in County

Johnson – 2

Somervell – 1

of open court cases in county

Johnson – 149 as of May 20, 2008

Somervell – 4 as of May 20, 2008

and description of specialized case loads handled by the JPO

Johnson – 1 Sex Offender Officer; and 2 Court Officers

Somervell – none

Does the County have a juvenile detention facility or do they contract with another county?

Johnson – Contract with other facilities, county and privately owned; as close as 30 miles away to as much as 150 miles away.

Somervell - Contract with other facilities, county and privately owned; as close as 30 miles away to as much as 150 miles away.

- (3) With regard to the above information, the Juvenile Departments listed appear to have adequate staff for referrals and adequate specialized staff. The lack of specialized courts is of concern due to increasing referrals for drug cases. A drug court would be another level to ensure accountability of juvenile drug offenders.

The number of Juvenile Court Judges could be increased to allow for more immediate action in court cases and a reduction in the pending cases. When juvenile offenders wait for final action in their cases their concern with the seriousness of the case diminishes.

Detention facilities have been and continue to be an issue for each county. While the distance of 30 miles is not prohibitive, the distance does provide some hesitation on the part of law enforcement agencies to detain juvenile offenders.

- (4) Each county has a juvenile probation department that is staffed appropriately. The county Juvenile Boards and Commissioner's Courts in each county are sensitive to the juvenile probation department's needs, however many times the needs outweigh the available funding.

- (5) Problems identified and addressed in this plan are representative of increasing populations, both overall and juvenile, community, school and family structures. Problems include but are not limited to:

Lack of appropriate accountability for offenders at all levels of the system;
Lack of consequences for offenders at all levels of the system;
Lack of available bed-space for pre-adjudication offenders;
Lack of adequate supervision from parents;
Lack of adequate supervision for children with a court disposition;
Lack of coordination of efforts between agencies and organizations to serve at-risk youth;
Lack of programs for at-risk youth;
Lack of faith based programs;
Lack of programs specific to the needs of parents, children and officials, and
Lack of quality training specific to juvenile law for law enforcement officials.

Programs that address these issues are a must for the positive well-being of our youth and our communities. Possible solutions include, but are not limited to the following:

- Specialized interventions targeting juvenile crime;
- Staffing and implementation of first offender programs and other prevention programs;
- Provide juvenile law specific training to officers both initial and ongoing;
- Provision and use of a standard assessment tool that would measure the propensity of being or becoming an at-risk child;
- The juvenile department along with school officials and law enforcement should share information and work together in presenting information to children and their families;
- In school and after school and/or summer mentor program;
- An early intervention program in schools or in the community for youth and their families that begin demonstrating at-risk behaviors;
- Summer activity or camp programs, or at least funds to send youth to already established camps;
- Diversion programs for youth that do not appear to respond to early intervention programs to serve as a warning of what the juvenile system is like;
- Establishment of a drug court;
- Establishment and ongoing operations of a Teen Court Program;
- Peer mediation training, counseling, tutoring, leadership development, mentoring and community service opportunities for youth;
- Purchase of bed space for pre and post adjudication placements;
- Funds to establish a juvenile detention facility for Johnson County;
- Youth presenting behaviors such as truancy, runaway and substance abuse could be made to participate in a program, along with a parent, and receive instruction regarding developmental issues, discipline, responsibility, choices and consequences;
- Parenting education could also be available through the school systems, the juvenile justice system, child protective services and social service agencies, including faith-based agencies
- Mentoring through the faith-based communities;

- Provide the necessary case-management personnel that oversee and guide the youth in accountability and compliance with the lower courts.

Sources:

Juvenile Probation Stats: Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

- County Juvenile Population by Total Juvenile Population & Ethnicity
- County Juvenile Population by Age/Ethnicity
- Total Juvenile Referrals for the County and rate per 1,000 & Number of Children Referred

Requested information via e-mail to a statistician with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

Juvenile Probation Stats: Local Juvenile Probation Departments

- Number of Violent Felonies Charged to Juveniles in the County
- Number Adjudicated to Probation/TYC
- Cases under Supervision as of December 31 of each year
- Residential Placements

Information ran from reports generated by the Caseworker database systems for each county.

Family Instability:

- # Of Family Violence Reports - http://tsdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/pages.crimestatistics.htm
- # Of Protective Orders Filed - Johnson and Somervell County Attorney's office
- # Of Child Abuse Confirmed – http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/
- # Of Child Sexual Abuse Reports (Confirmed) - Department of Family and Protective Services through the Children's Advocacy Center, data provided by report run by DFPS staff
- # Of Divorces in county – Johnson and Somervell County District Clerk's Office
- # Of Children in Foster Care – http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/
- # Unemployed – Percentage – <http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/labForceReport.asp?menuchoice=LABFORCE>
- # Of Single Parent Households – <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census>

Substance Abuse

- Felony/Misdemeanor Drug Offenses by County - Information ran from reports generated by the Caseworker database systems for each county.
- Average age at first use – Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Percentage male/female - Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Percentage referred by Juvenile Justice System - Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- # of Substance Abuse related Deaths by County – Raw data from Center of Health Statistics, DSHS; Analysis by Decision Support Unity – MHSA, DSHS

Education

- School Districts in the County (Johnson and Somervell) and Enrollment – http://www.tea.state.tx.us/adhocrpt/Standard_Reports.html

- <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/adhocrpt/adste07.html>
- Dropout Rates\Graduation Rates –
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/research/pdfs/dropcomp_county_supp_2005-06.pdf
 - # of students for in-school suspension
 - # of students placed on/off campus Alternative Education Program (AEP)
 - # of students with truancy/charges filed with fine
 - # of students with truancy/charges filed without finehttp://www.tea.state.tx.us/adhocrpt/Disciplinary_Date_Products/Download_District_Summaries_NAME.html
 - Economic Disadvantaged Number and Percent –
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/adhocrpt/adstc07.html>
 - Mobility Rate – <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis/2006/district.srch.html>

LAW ENFORCEMENT / JUSTICE SYSTEM

The law enforcement community of Johnson/Somervell Counties is comprised of eleven municipal police departments, two sheriff's offices, six constable's offices, three prosecuting attorney's offices, two highway patrol offices, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife, one Special Crimes Unit, a juvenile probation office, and an adult probation office. These agencies provide a wide range of services to the public and deal with a variety of issues including but not limited to the following: child abuse, domestic violence, crimes against persons, property crimes, juvenile crime, substance abuse, mental health/mental retardation, victims of crime, sex offenders, environmental crimes, incarceration of adult offenders, and response to disasters and acts of terrorism.

The number of law enforcement personnel in Johnson County has increased from 205 officers in 2006 to 234 in 2007. This represents a growth of 8.6 percent, which equates to one officer for every 657 citizens in Johnson County. In Somervell County the growth of law enforcement has grown from 19 to 20 sworn officers, which equates one officer for every 396 citizens. This average exceeds the federally recommended average of one officer to every 1000 persons served. The following chart provides a summary of the three-year average of law enforcement in Johnson/Somervell Counties (as reported to UCR), which also demonstrates the growth in the same three-year period.

LE Personnel	2005		2006		2007	
	Officers	Civilian	Officers	Civilian	Officers	Civilian
Johnson County	75	122	75	122	88	159
Alvarado PD	13	6	12	6	15	6
Burleson PD	49	16	42	21	52	19
Cleburne PD	51	16	50	17	53	16
Joshua PD	13	1	12	1	13	1
Keene PD	11	4	11	4	9	4
Godley PD	4	0	3	0	4	0
Somervell County	18	20	19	22	20	19

The adult probation office serves both Johnson and Somervell Counties, where they served 6238 probationers during 2007. This is an increase from 5821 probationers served in 2006, which represents an increase of 6.68%. The ratio of probationers to probation officers in 2005 was 1/218 in 2005 and with the increase in staff had improved to 1/183 in 2007. While the ratio has improved it remains a challenge to probation officers to adequately supervise probationers that require direct supervision. Direct supervision requires the probation officer to verify and closely monitor the status of offenders through home visits, employment verifications, and other monitoring techniques. The challenges of the probation officer is increased when an offender fails to meet the conditions of probation, which most often results in the offenders probation be revoked. Probation and law enforcement often coordinate efforts to locate and bring the offender back into custody.

Probation Office Personnel			
Serving Johnson and Somervell	2005	2006	2007
Fulltime Probation Officers	26	32	34
Administrative Personnel	3	5	6
Fulltime Aides	6	6	6
Part time Aides	1	1	0
Total	36	44	46

In consideration of the growth in law enforcement and probation personnel it was noted that the number of offenses has decreased by more than 5% from 2006 to 2007. This decrease may be attributed to the increase in law enforcement personnel, but also may be attributed to more specialized investigations of law enforcement. This consideration allows for law enforcement to more closely work with the prosecuting agencies, allowing better case presentation, and a higher prosecution rate. The following chart demonstrates the number of reported cases, per agency, from 2005 to 2007.

UCR Offenses	2005	2006	2007
Johnson County SO	1825	1566	1556
Alvarado PD	171	126	141
Burleson PD	1426	1239	1047
Cleburne PD	1661	1478	1482
Joshua PD	128	96	103
Keene PD	140	129	105
Godley PD	14	12	11
Somervell County	153	124	98

The judicial branches of Johnson/Somervell Counties comprises of two County Courts of Law in Johnson County, and one County Court in Somervell County. The County Courts of Law typically handle misdemeanor cases for their respective counties, and have additional responsibilities in hearing juvenile cases that are not referred to the District Courts. The County Courts of Law Judges are elected officials and have a staff of personnel to assist in the coordination and recording of court proceedings. The prosecuting responsibilities of the County Courts of Law fall under the office of the County Attorney, who is an elected official and manages a staff of prosecutors, secretaries, and criminal investigators. In 2005 the County Courts of Law in Johnson County received 3435 cases that were disposed of with 1353 resulting in convictions. This increased to 3766 cases disposed of in 2006 with 1527 resulting in convictions, and in 2007 the number of cases disposed of again increased to 4228 with 1915 of those cases resulting in convictions. The cases submitted to the courts represent a near 19% increase from 2005 to 2007.

The three District Courts and the District Attorneys Office present and try cases in both Johnson and Somervell Counties. The District Court hears felony cases that are presented for trial in their respective counties. The District Court Judge is an elected official and has a staff of personnel to assist in the coordination and recording of court proceedings. The prosecuting responsibilities of the District Courts fall under the office of the District Attorney, who is an elected official, and manages a staff of ten assistant district attorneys and a support staff of eight. The District Courts heard a combined total of 6676 cases resulting in 5429 convictions, which is an 81.9 % conviction rate.

The Focus Group determined in review of statistical data for Johnson/Somervell Counties that there has been an 8% increase in the number of family violence offenses reported from 2006 to 2007. This data would indicate that 1 out of every 99 homes are directly affected by domestic violence, which potentially produces multiple victims within the same household. These statistical facts would indicate a need to address more investigators designated to specifically work family violence offenses, the need for a Criminal Justice based Victims Assistance Program, the need for prosecuting agencies to increase the number of prosecutors to target family violence, and to develop resources with victim assistances agencies to make appropriate referrals. It has been abundantly proven that providing needed services and resources to victims of family violence can decrease re-victimization and return victims into the community more self reliant and self sufficient potentially ending the cycle of abuse.

Family Violence	2005	2006	2007	% Change
Johnson County SO	1193	904	991	+9%
Alvarado PD	16	17	17	-0%
Burleson PD	187	178	185	+4%
Cleburne PD	308	281	291	+3%
Joshua PD	39	33	56	+4%
Keene PD	19	13	17	+2%
Godley PD	0	0	2	
Somervell County	41	33	28	-5%

The number of violent crimes reported in Johnson County, which includes Aggravated Assaults, Sexual Assaults, Robberies, and Homicides, has increased from 2006 to 2007. This increase demonstrated in the below chart (Violent Crimes Reported) show that total number of violent crimes has slightly risen from 383 in 2006 to 417 in 2007. This represents an 8% increase in the number of violent crimes reported. In Somervell County the number of violent crimes in these same categories has decreased significantly during the same reporting period (10 - 2006 to 3 - 2007). This represents an 80% decrease in the total number of violent crimes in Somervell County.

Violent Crimes Reported	2005	2006	2007
Johnson County SO	239	137	177
Alvarado PD	20	12	17
Burleson PD	49	57	62
Cleburne PD	151	158	143
Joshua PD	8	13	16
Keene PD	7	1	1
Godley PD	3	5	1
Somervell County	12	10	3

The overall growth of Johnson County from 2006 to 2007 could be the main contributing factor, which has resulted in more of a transient population culminating from the increase in the gas/oil industry. This growth is also attributed to the people moving out of the intercity relocating to Johnson/Somervell Counties under the pretense of escaping areas that have historically had a significantly higher crime rate. The result, in some cases is a transfer of problems from a larger metropolitan area to an area that is primarily considered rural. These factors alone result in notable changes in the number of drug related arrests, the number of cases filed in the courts, demographic and socio-economic changes with in the school systems, and a general overload on the Criminal Justice System. This growth results in an immediate impact to law enforcement and the Criminal Justice System as a whole, and does not afford ample opportunity to address the needs of the system to prepare for such growth. The estimated growth of Johnson County is expected to exceed 440,000 by 2030, and it is critical that planning occur today in order to prepare for tomorrow. If not the criminal justice system could potentially become inadequate, which law enforcement would be more reactive than a proactive in its approach to criminal activity. The following charts reflect a three year review (2005/2007) of Violent Crimes, Drug and Alcohol Arrest, and narcotics seizures for Johnson/Somervell Counties, and Demographic Forecast for Johnson County.

**North Central Texas 2030 Demographic Forecast
Johnson County**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Population	124,319*	143,515	166,759	218,359	284,411	347,556	444,151
Households	43,636*	51,246	59,691	78,651	103,744	127,205	163,374
Employment	45,071	50,748	55,302	60,112	69,058	96,588	142,544

Drug and Alcohol Related Arrest	2005	2006	2007
Johnson County			
Adult			
Drug Arrest	725	915	637
Alcohol Related Arrest	1196	1442	1304
Juvenile			
Drug Arrest	72	147	101
Alcohol Related Arrest	115	122	89
Somervell County	2005	2006	2007
Adult			
Drug Arrest	32	41	23
Alcohol Related Arrest	92	101	86
Juvenile			
Drug Arrest	6	4	2
Alcohol Related Arrest	2	4	0

Law Enforcement Focus Group Members:

Troy Fuller, Captain, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Chair Person
 Adam King, Commander, Johnson County Special Crimes Unit
 Tom Cowan, Chief of Police, Burleson Police Department
 Bob Alford, Sheriff, Johnson County Sheriff's Office
 Renae Fruin, Administrative Asst., Johnson County Special Crimes Unit
 Don Beeson, Commissioner, Johnson County Pct. #4
 West Warren, Chief Investigator, Johnson County Attorneys Office
 Jack Miller, Special Agent, TABC
 Kelly Schmidt, Criminal Justice Specialist, NCTCOG
 Derrell McCravey, Chief Deputy, Somervell County Sheriff's Office
 Anders Dahl, Investigator, Somervell County Sheriff's Office
 Teresa Steed, Administrative Asst., Johnson County County Attorneys Office
 Shannon Kimberling, Officer, Burleson Police Department
 Linda Marlin, CEO, H.O.P.E. Inc.
 Jo Spurger, Administrative Asst., Somervell County Sheriff's Office
 Danny Boitnott, Executive Director, STAR Council on Substance Abuse

Crime prevention/reduction

Training

The focus group has identified the increased need for a more proactive approach to identify the needs of the communities of Johnson and Somervell Counties. The focus is reducing crime and must be based on a partnership between the community and law enforcement. The focus group has noted significant increases in property crimes, crimes

against persons (family violence), school related crimes, special crimes (narcotics/identity theft), crimes against children, and increased gang activity.

Currently law enforcement agencies of Johnson and Somervell Counties combined training activities under the Johnson County Sheriff's office training agreement with the TCLEOSE. The focus group identified that currently the training offered is focused primarily on mandatory training, which includes cultural diversity, special investigative topics, and Crisis Intervention Training. Currently TCLEOSE mandates specialized training in crisis intervention and other specialized training that focuses on specific needs. TCLEOSE further mandates training in crime scene investigation, child abuse, Spanish for law enforcement, and Arrest Search and Seizure. These core courses are required for a peace officer to advance his/her certification level.

While training is provided on topics such as field training officer, defense tactics and other types of patrol oriented training it is essential that more specialized training is provided. This training should focus more specialized needs such as interdiction, gang intervention, crime scene investigation, crime scene processing, crimes against children protocol, school related training (active shooter/gang resistance), environmental crimes, and victims resource training.

Specialized programs/staff

The focus group recognizes the need for agencies of Johnson and Somervell Counties to allocate personnel to perform more specialized roles in addressing the needs of the community. It is essential for law enforcement to enlist the involvement and support of the community in addressing crime related issues. Law enforcement in Johnson and Somervell Counties must be willing to adapt to the ever-changing complexity of criminal offenses. The following are areas that need to be addressed:

To establish a victim's assistance program within the Criminal Justice System that provides needed services and referrals to the victims of crime. A victim's assistance program can provide not only direct intervention and services, but also provide support to the victim that will allow a positive reentry into society. A victim's positive encounter with a VAP can successfully reduce/prevent potential re-victimization. It is essential that a specific person be assigned to the role of a coordinator to serve as advocate, trainer (law enforcement), services liaison, and program manager. It is critical that law enforcement take a proactive role to promote and support a victim's assistance program.

To establish multi-jurisdictional law enforcement units to work cooperatively with special investigative units to address issues as narcotics, gang activity, property crimes (burglaries/thefts), and environmental crimes. It is critical that these multi-jurisdictional units understand their specialized roles and receive specific enforcement training.

To establish an array of school based programs to address the increasing criminal activity (narcotics, assaults, thefts) that are occurring within the public school system. The rise in school violence has been well documented across the United States, and these cases have demonstrated the potential of violence from small rural schools to major universities. The SRO program is considered an essential element within the school that serves as a liaison and resource for the students, faculty, school administration, law enforcement, criminal justice system, juvenile services, and victim services. The SRO affords a foundation to mentor students, promote citizenship, and foster voluntary compliance with criminal law.

To establish specialized units that address changing needs of Johnson and Somervell Counties in regards to the migration into the area. Johnson and Somervell Counties have experience significant growth, due to the gas/oil industries expansion into this area. This growth has resulted in an increase of property crimes, environmental crimes, and increased narcotics activities. It is critical that law enforcement become trained in multiple facets of criminal investigations as it has been statistically proven that different crimes correlate with other types of criminal activity.

RESPONSE TO CRIME:

Training:

The Focus Group recognizes that the agencies of Johnson/Somervell Counties provide a wide range of services to the public and deal with a variety of issues including but not limited to the following: child abuse, domestic violence, crimes against persons, property crimes, juvenile crime, substance abuse, mental health/mental retardation, victims of crime, sex offenders, environmental crimes, incarceration of adult offenders, and response to natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

The Focus Group finds that Law Enforcement officers and other emergency responders are likely to face a substantial increase in the number of crime related incidents reported. This fact is based on the inevitable increase in population based on the expansion of the DFW metropolitan area and the likelihood that the transient growth will increase in conjunction with the oil and gas industry. It is most critical at this time that the community, law enforcement, emergency services, and local governments find methods to address this growth by enhancing already existent operations and combine operations (multijurisdictional) to maximize efforts. It is further critical to enhance existing training and expand training to address the specialized needs of law enforcement.

Currently law enforcement agencies of Johnson and Somervell Counties combined training activities under the Johnson County Sheriff's office training agreement with the TCLEOSE. The focus group identified that currently the training offered is focused primarily on mandatory training, which includes cultural diversity, special investigative topics, and Crisis Intervention Training. Currently TCLEOSE mandates specialized training in crisis intervention and other specialized training that focuses on specific needs. TCLEOSE further mandates training in crime scene investigation, child abuse, Spanish for law enforcement, and Arrest Search and Seizure. These core courses are required for a peace officer to advance his/her certification level.

The Focus Group would find that while the need will continue the current mandatory training that more or at least equal emphasis must be placed on more task specific issues. This training should include a Basic Investigators Course, Interviews and Interrogations, Narcotics Investigations and Interdiction, Gang Awareness, Active Shooters Courses, Environmental Investigations, Counter Terrorism Training, Crime Scene Investigations, Videography and Photography, Surveillance Training, High Risk Warrant Service and Fugitive Apprehension, Driving Courses, Victims Assistance Programs, Management and Supervisor Courses, and other courses that address the current needs of the community.

While mandatory classes, core classes, and some specialized classes are offered through the TECLOSE training agreement it has been a focus to provide this training at minimal cost to other agencies. This has been essential in consideration that often the training budgets are limited, and the needs are greater to use training money to send personnel out of the area for specialized training. This process is not cost effective and prohibits this valuable training from being offered on a broader range to law enforcement

personnel locally. The law enforcement of Johnson/Somervell Counties should offer all considerations to collaboratively partnering to provide specialized training to law enforcement as a whole.

Specialized Programs/Staff:

The focus group has identified the increased need for a more proactive approach to identify the needs of the communities of Johnson and Somervell Counties. The focus on reducing crime must be based on a partnership between the community and law enforcement. The focus group has noted increases in property crimes, crimes against persons (family violence), school related crimes, special crimes (narcotics/identity theft), crimes against children, environmental crimes, and increased gang activity.

Currently Johnson/Somervell Counties law enforcement is comprised of two basic units, which are patrol or investigative oriented. Johnson County has a special crimes unit whose primary focus is on narcotic investigations. Johnson/Somervell Counties have deputies and investigators that received specialized training in specific areas, which allows them to address specific crime issues but only in addition to their assigned duties. These programs are Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Environmental Investigations, Juvenile Investigations, Animal Cruelty Investigations, Crimes Against Children Investigations, SWAT, SRO Program, Absent Students Assistance Program (ASAP), Traffic Enforcement, Fugitive Apprehension/Warrants, and Mental Health Peace Officer. The Focus Group has identified the following areas with limited availability in Johnson/Somervell Counties: Victims Assistance Program, Gang Unit, and dedicated Mental Health Peace Officers.

The Focus Group identifies that while the aforementioned list enumerates several critical areas consideration must be given to the fact that the specialized investigations are in conjunction with other duties. These programs need to be expanded and consideration should be given to coordinating efforts between agencies to form a task force or combining investigative units to better respond to community needs. The formation of special investigative units or task force allow agencies to formulate broader plans and approaches to addressing specific crimes, but most importantly allows a better flow of exchanging resources and intelligence. Administratively the formations of special investigative groups are more cost effective and will inherently benefit agencies as it does not overload one particular agency. Other benefits would include cross training and breaking the cycle of “not sharing valuable information”.

Equipment:

The Focus Group as identified the increased need for a more proactive approach to identify the needs of the communities of Johnson and Somervell Counties. The focus on reducing crime must be based on a partnership between the community and law enforcement. The focus group has noted increases in property crimes, crimes against persons (family violence), school related crimes, special crimes (narcotics/identity theft), crimes against children, environmental crimes, and increased gang activity.

Currently Johnson/Somervell Counties law enforcement has available to them some surveillance equipment, crime scene units, mobile and portable radios, crime scene kits, digital cameras, Tasers, ballistic vests, Mobile Data Terminals, and other equipment to aide in their required duties. In most cases some if not most of the equipment purchased becomes outdated within a three to five year period, at which point law enforcement personnel have to adapt to meet current needs.

The Focus Group identifies a need for the following equipment that is severely needed for law enforcement in Johnson/Somervell Counties. An armored vehicle to use

transporting personnel (Entry/Swat teams) into volatile scenes, additional tasers (less than lethal) to outfit all qualified personnel, more suitable ballistic gear, modern digital surveillance equipment, entry gear, and updated crime scene equipment. The listed items provides the edge of investigation and enforcement of crimes back to law enforcement personnel and afford them the ability to make an appropriate response to critical situations. The result of providing updated equipment has positive effects in the investigation of crimes, courtroom presentation, and successful prosecution, reduce the overall crime rate, and provide better officer safety.

The Focus Group identifies three areas that are considered critical for Johnson and Somervell Counties. These areas are identified as Radio Interoperability, a Joint Dispatch, and a standardized Records Management System (RMS).

Radio Interoperability is by far the most critical of the three areas and in its current state limits the critical communication between agencies. It is essential that the agencies of Johnson and Somervell Counties have stable and reliable communication between law enforcement, dispatch services, and other investigative elements. The lack of such interoperability delays critical information being passed from agency to agency, prohibits direct communication of law enforcement personnel, and enhances the risks to officers who can not receive critical information. It is critical that agencies unify to find a method to overcome radio interoperability issues.

Joint Dispatch should be strongly considered and would be significant when included in addressing radio interoperability issues. The ability of having a joint dispatch would be an enhancement to interoperability as all law enforcement services would be through one dispatch system. The joint dispatch would allow a seamless flow of information, which could be shared amongst agencies. This again would promote better service to the community, a flow of information, and provide for better officer safety. As addressed in other sections of the community plan a joint dispatch would be an advantage to allowing agencies to combine efforts in addressing crime related issues.

Standardized Records Management System: Currently each entity in Johnson and Somervell counties utilizes a different RMS that maintains each agencies reports and information databases that often requires hands on transfer of information. The Focus Group believes that a single RMS throughout the counties would be most advantageous and allow agencies to collect critical data. This data could be used to correlate investigations, analyze similar crime trends, provide accurate offender information, and provide better officer safety. The undertaking of implementing a single RMS would be significant to ensure that the needs of each agency are met, but the outcome would bring forward tremendous benefits. The Focus Group would recommend that if a single RMS is not possible that consideration be given to accessibility to each agencies RMS so that records could be searched and critical information gathered.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Child Abuse

Impact on Victims and Community:

Child abuse is one of the most profound issues facing our community today. An overwhelming number of children in Johnson and Somervell Counties are victims of abuse and neglect leading to death and injury, as well as significant psychological damage that can last a lifetime. The effects of this crime are far reaching and transgress many other identified problems and focus areas. According to new statistics from Prevent Child Abuse America, the annual national cost of child abuse reached \$104 billion. That breaks down to a flat average of over \$2 billion per state. For Texas that breaks down to a flat average of over \$8 million per county. Johnson County abuse statistics remain higher than the regional or national statistics. There is a dramatically higher occurrence of sexual abuse cases confirmed in Johnson County. There is a direct relationship of substance abuse in 80% of all sexual abuse cases with methamphetamine and alcohol being present in the majority of these cases. Victims of sexual abuse are 2.5 times more likely to abuse alcohol and 3.8 times more likely to become addicted to drugs. Abused children as a whole are 25% more likely to become pregnant in their teens, they are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit a violent crime. Nearly 2/3 of all people in drug treatment were abused as children. One-third of those abused as children will abuse their own children. This is a cycle that is incredibly hard to break and causes significant concern for the well-being of communities. Even more disturbing were those findings of the National Clearing House on Child Abuse and Neglect. There statistics state that 80% of young adults who had been abused met the diagnostic criteria for at least 1 psychiatric disorder by the age of 21 (including depression, anxiety, eating disorders & post-traumatic stress disorder).

Supporting Data:

Johnson County

Year	Juvenile Population	# of Children in Child Advocacy Center Services (CPS + Law Enforcement cases)	Confirmed Victims of Abuse & Neglect (CPS Only)	Minors in Foster Care System
2004 County	39,987	668	443	225
2004 State	6,189,777	-----	50,529	27,931
2005 County	40,899	672	480	239
2006 County	40,935	711	662	296
2007 County	41,848	800	568	306

Somervell County

Year	Juvenile Population	# of Children in Child Advocacy Center Services (CPS + Law Enforcement cases)	Confirmed Victims of Abuse & Neglect (CPS Only)	Minors in Foster Care System
2004 County	2,005	N/A	27	7
2004 State	6,189,777	N/A	50,529	27,931
2005 County	2,031	N/A	16	5
2006 County	1,996	N/A	13	5
2007 County	2,032	22	34	3

Narrative on Data:

If current trends continue, we will continue to see an increase in the number of children being victimized in Johnson County. As victim numbers increase, our services to meet their needs also need to increase. If services are not kept available for child victims or they are not able to access services, the outcome for our communities will be devastating. You will see a significant increase in substance abuse, child abuse and other violent crimes as well as social devastation resulting from teen pregnancies and babies born with drug addictions. As a community, it is our responsibility to be ready and willing to intervene in a professional and compassionate manner in order to protect the health and welfare of children whose parents are not willing or able to do so. Many of the citizens of Johnson and Somervell Counties are unaware of the duty to report such abuse. Child Help USA statistical studies estimate that abuse is three times greater than what is actually reported.

Current Community Response:

Our Community's current response to child abuse includes a coordinated multi-disciplinary team approach to severe child abuse allegations through Children's Advocacy Centers that serve both Johnson and Somervell Counties. This team approach to child abuse investigations has proven to be very successful and will remain available for child victims in both Johnson and Somervell Counties. This team not only works in investigations together. They also conduct prevention education and training on recognizing and reporting abuse. Disciplines on the team include Child Protective Services, County & District Attorney's Offices, all Law Enforcement Agencies, Cook Children's Medical Center, Children's Advocacy Center Staff and Juvenile Services. There are also many resource agencies that work with the team in meeting the immediate needs of families. The team works hand in hand with agencies that can provide emergency housing for child victims, such as the Johnson County Family Crisis Center. CASA of Johnson County works with those children that have been placed in a foster care to follow their civil case. Johnson County also has a task force that works narcotics cases, prostitution rings and other organized criminal activity. The Majority of our sexual abuse cases are tied directly to drug abuse. Many times children are being prostituted out for drugs. The work of the task force is often what brings children's abuse out into the light. Our current prevention efforts have also trained school district personnel in recognizing and reporting abuse.

Current Needs:

Children in severe or long-term abuse situations are in critical need of mental health services as well as medical services. Although the Center has counseling, they do not have enough counselors to meet the demand of the high number of severe child abuse victims, and referral services are very limited in the Johnson County area. There is a severe need for counselors and therapist trained to work with abuse victims. There is an extreme need for psychiatrist and psychologist in our area. The majority of families have to be referred to the Dallas/Ft.Worth area if a child needs a psychological evaluation completed. In addition to an overwhelming need for mental health services, is an overwhelming need for availability of trained detectives and CPS Investigators who know and understand the intricacies of working child abuse cases. If our larger police agencies could have at least two detectives working these cases, we could prevent major delays of cases being filed or never even reviewed due to case loads. If our smaller agencies had funds to attend more training on child abuse investigations, we would see successful prosecution climb for those agencies and especially for the victims. It is also imperative that we increase the number of bi-lingual professionals in this area. Our Hispanic population continues to grow and will soon be the majority, but we do not have trained or licensed bi-lingual translators, interviewers, detectives or CPS staff that can meet the demands. In summary our needs are: more mental health resources or professionals, more trained and tenured detectives and CPS Investigators, more bi-lingual professionals in all discipline areas, more funding for training and equipment, and more community education. It is also imperative that we continue to maintain strong relationships with existing agencies across Johnson County that provide vital expertise when working child abuse investigations and providing victim services. These relationships will aid in fostering and assisting any new staff that may be hired in the area of child abuse investigations and mental health services.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

IMPACT

The Texas Family Code defines Family Violence as an act by a member of a family or household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm. Domestic or family violence is an ongoing societal problem which has devastating consequences for victims, both primary and secondary. This brutal crime often leaves the victim both physically and emotionally devastated, and death is all too often the final outcome. According to the Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence and Public Health, domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women in the U.S., more than muggings, rapes and auto accidents combined.

Domestic violence has become a justice, public health and economic problem for the families involved as well as society as a whole as these families in turn impact all aspects of the community including hospitals, schools, work-places, and the criminal justice system.

This crime knows no racial, ethnic, economic, social, or religious barriers. Non-English or limited English speaking victims face multiple challenges as well. This communication barrier prohibits victims from seeking help for themselves and their children.

Violence between partners continues to be a perpetual cycle which leads victims into feelings of hopelessness and despair. These deep emotional wounds can last a lifetime and create a multi-generational cycle of violence.

DATA

YEAR	Reported Incidents of Domestic Violence	Number of Women Killed by Intimate Partner***	Number of Shelter Days- Adults and Children	Hotline Calls Answered	Number of Protective Orders Granted****
2004-County	1,652**	1***	4,463*	763*	55****
2004-State	182,087**	116***	29,324*****	182,459*****	N/A
2005-County	1,803**	1***	4,013*	481*	50****
2005-State	187,811**	143***	29,101*****	190,269*****	N/A
2006-County	1,459**	2***	4,726*	559*	51****
2006-State	186,868**	120***	29,733*****	179,394*****	N/A

* Local ITS Data

** Uniform Crime Report

*** Texas Council on Family Violence

**** Local County Attorney's Office

*****Texas Department of Health and Human Services

DATA NARRATIVE

According to the Texas Data Center, Johnson and Somervell counties have combined population of 161,392 people. This reflects a growth rate of 20.9%. Significant population growth usually means an increase in crime and a greater need for victim's services. The reported incidents of family violence have shown some fluctuation that is reflected by both the county and state numbers. The same is true for the number of Shelter Days and the number of Hotline Calls reported by the county and the state. Across all measures there appears to be a significant spike in reported incidents of family violence, including the number of women killed, and services for FY 2005. Death is the ultimate consequence of family violence. While those numbers have fluctuated on the state level, Johnson County has consistently reported victims murdered due to family violence. In 2006, two women were killed in Johnson County. While the numbers. We believe that in spite of significant population growth in our area, the fact that the data does not show significant increases in the reports of family violence is because the programs we have in place are working. The goal is to continue to have a decrease in family violence despite significant population growth.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Johnson and Somervell Counties are currently responding to the problem in a variety of ways.

- The Johnson County Family Crisis Center in Cleburne provides shelter, counseling, information and referral, and safety planning.
- The Johnson County Attorney's office assists victims in obtaining protective orders

- Various churches and other social service agencies assist victims with medication and financial assistance.
- Law enforcement provides transportation and referral services to the family violence shelter.
- Local churches provide marriage counseling
- A local social service networking group meets monthly in order to coordinate services and obtain referrals for victims.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Increased staff for all agencies dealing with victims of family violence
- Increase in space for shelter facility
- Increase in training for both law enforcement and service providers
- Increase in mental health and counseling services
- Increase in technological and communication equipment
- Increase services for non-English speaking victims
- Increase in community education regarding both services and dynamics of family violence
- Increase in programs focusing on prevention of family violence
- Programs designed to enhance communication and coordination of service delivery for victims
- Increase in programs for children who witness violence
- Research based services for batterers
- Family Violence Response Team
- Education programs in schools to prevent teen dating violence
- Improved collaboration among all agencies that deal with family violence victims

SEXUAL ASSAULT

IMPACT

The Attorney General's Office for the State of Texas states that "Sexual assault is defined in several ways. Generally, sexual assault is any unwanted, non-consensual sexual contact against any individual by another." According to the National Center for Victims of Crime and Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, approximately 683,000 women and 92,700 men are forcibly raped each year. Based on the work of Robin Warshaw (1994), 42 percent of rape victims reported that they had told no one about the assault and only five percent reported to the police. This is attributed to the guilt, shame and fear associated with this violent and personal crime.

The experience of sexual assault has different meanings for each person. According to the Texas Association of Sexual Assault, no one knows precisely how an individual will react; however, crisis counselors have found that most people experience sexual assault as a severe emotional and physical violation, usually referred to as Rape Trauma Syndrome. Rape Trauma Syndrome is considered a form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). For sexual assault victims, the emotional and spiritual trauma can be the most difficult to overcome. Trauma can produce pronounced feelings of helplessness and powerlessness, as well as physical symptoms. Many times victims experience depression. Eventually, victims may become despondent, demoralized, and preoccupied with pain or disability. If victims are not validated, as is often the case with rape victims, this may feed into his/her sense of worthlessness and shame. According to a 1992 survey conducted by the National Victim Center, 30% of rape victims contemplate suicide with 13% of those making an actual attempt.

The crime of rape can shatter the sense of safety and trust among the citizens. Communities also experience a financial toll as well. The cost of sexual assault to Americans is an estimated \$127 billion per year (U.S. Department of Justice, 1996). This crime is one with no boundaries.

DATA

YEAR	Number of Reported Rapes*	Number of Sexual Assault Hotline Calls**	Intakes into Sexual Assault Programs**
2005-Johnson & Somervell Counties	32	90	137
2004-State	8,505	N/A	N/A
2006-Johnson & Somervell Counties	51	119	137
2005 -State	8,406	N/A	N/A
2007-Johnson & Somervell Counties	45	126	178
2006-State	8,430	N/A	N/A

*Uniform Crime Report

** ITS local data

DATA NARRATIVE

In 2007, the Uniform Crime Report published by the Texas Department of Public Safety reported 45 rapes for Johnson and Somervell counties. In 2006, that same agency reported 51 rapes in these counties, with 32 rapes reported for 2005. The figures reflect only incidents of rape reported to law enforcement. According to the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, 42% of rape victims reported they told no one about the assault. They also state that only 5% of victims of sexual assault report their crime to law enforcement. Additionally, many of the clients served at the crisis center were molested as children and never received appropriate intervention.

While data for the number of sexual assault hotline lines for the state were not available, local programs reported 126 hotline calls from victims of sexual assault for 2007. There were 119 calls in 2006 and 90 calls in 2005. Clients seeking services for sexual assault victimization in 2007 were 178. In 2006 there were 137 sexual assault clients served and 137 in 2005. These figures reflect not only those clients that were recently victimized, but also survivors who are seeking services for a victimization that occurred in their past.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Johnson and Somervell Counties are comprised of various agencies that work with and offer support services to sexual assault victims within our communities. These organizations often operate as a loose network of agencies at the state, county, community, and municipal level. These agencies include:

- Law enforcement agencies, such as municipal police departments, county sheriff's, and the Texas Department of Public Safety;
- Judges, district, and county attorneys;
- Local medical and forensic personnel;
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services;
- Johnson County Family Crisis Center;
- Johnson County Children's Advocacy Center;
- Johnson County CASA;
- Churches and other faith-based organizations;
- Schools;
- Private social service organizations that provide crisis intervention, group support, foster care, residential placement, counseling, and other services; and,
- Neighborhood-based organizations and coalitions.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Current needs in Johnson and Somervell Counties for victims of sexual assault include:

- Increased staff for all agencies dealing with victims of sexual assault
- Increase in training for both law enforcement and service providers
- Increase in mental health and counseling services
- Increase in technological and communication equipment
- Increase services for non-English speaking victims
- Increase in community education regarding both services and dynamics of sexual assault
- Increase in programs focusing on prevention of sexual assault

- Programs designed to enhance communication and coordination of service delivery for victims
- Increase in programs for secondary victims of sexual assault
- Training for juries in sexual assault trials
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- Education programs in schools to prevent sexual violence
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program (SANE)