

# JAC 2012

## Annual Report

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Lee County Sheriff's Office  
Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County  
2107 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Fort Myers, FL 33901



*The Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County...assisting youth and their families to seek the treatment and programs they need to lead productive, crime free lives.*



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 Lee County Sheriff's Office  
 Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County

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## JAC Overview

The Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County, also called the “JAC,” is located in downtown Fort Myers, Florida. Founded in 2003 through a collaborative community planning process, the JAC co-locates various partner agencies. It serves to streamline the local juvenile justice system to promote timely case processing and to reduce the duplication of services. The JAC assists both “at risk” youth and arrested youth and their families. The JAC is operated by the Lee County Sheriff’s Office in partnership with the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The physical facility and the JAC’s management is funded by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners. The JAC receives no state funding, although it indirectly benefits from state resources through its co-located partners.

### Centralized Booking and Receiving Facility

When a youth is arrested in Lee County, the arresting officer transports the youth to the Juvenile Booking Facility which is attached to the JAC and to the Lee County Jail. The design of the facility allows for the sharing of the Lee County Sheriff’s Office’s booking staff between the juvenile booking area and the adult jail to maximize staffing resources. Arrested youth are kept separate from detained adults at all times. While at the Juvenile Booking Facility an arrested youth will have his or her fingerprints, palm prints, and a booking photograph taken. As of July 1st of 2011, all arrested youth who are charged with a felony also have a DNA sample taken.

### Promoting Public Safety

Before the JAC opened in 2003, law enforcement officers were responsible for supervising arrested youth who were not detained until the youth could be released to the custody of their parents. Sometimes officers were not able to return back to road patrol for hours at a time. Officers are now able to deliver all arrested youth to the JAC and return to road patrol within a few minutes.



The JAC is located in downtown Fort Myers. It is attached to the Lee County Jail.

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## JAC Overview (cont.)

### Screening and Assessment

When arrested youth arrive at the Juvenile Booking Facility/JAC they are screened by Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) intake staff to determine if they are eligible for secure detention. The detention risk assessment considers a youth's arrest history, the seriousness of the charges, and whether the youth is a flight risk. Based on the youth's detention risk assessment score, they may be taken to secure detention, placed on home detention, or directly released to their parent or guardian. DJJ staff also screen each arrested youth for their risk to offend again and for any substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Based on this screening, DJJ staff may recommend that the youth receive a more in-depth assessment. Southwest Florida Addictions Services provides assessments on a walk-in basis at the JAC on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at their Cape Coral office on Mondays and Wednesdays.

### Data Analysis and Community Assessment

The JAC tracks all arrested youth who are placed on home detention and disseminates this information to local law enforcement agencies. This allows law enforcement officers to provide increased monitoring and supervision of youth who are placed on home detention.

The JAC tracks trends in juvenile arrests and risk factors for delinquency within the community. JAC staff work collaboratively with community partners to identify emerging trends, gaps in services, and resources for the prevention and intervention of juvenile crime.



*551 youth received full assessments at the JAC during 2011.*

## JAC Overview (cont.)

### Prevention

#### *Prevention Counseling*

Lutheran Services of Florida co-locates one counselor at the JAC who provides individual and family counseling with non-arrested youth and their families.

#### *Truancy Intervention Program (TIP)*

The TIP program is coordinated by the JAC in partnership with the School District of Lee County. TIP works with families whose elementary or middle school aged youth are at risk of becoming habitually truant. Tip works with the families to improve school attendance or to proceed toward judicial action.

#### *The Truancy Ungovernable Runaway Network (TURN)*

TURN works with families of youth that are habitually truant, ungovernable, or runaways. TURN works with the families to improve the youth's behavior or to proceed toward judicial action. TURN is coordinated by Lutheran Services of Florida in partnership with multiple community agencies.

#### *Civil Citation*

The JAC operates a civil citation program which provides an alternative to an arrest for youth who commit minor crimes. Law enforcement officers have the discretion to issue a youth a civil citation rather than make an arrest if a youth has had no prior arrests and commits a misdemeanor crime that meets the criteria. Youth must meet with the Civil Citation Coordinator within one week of being issued a civil citation. Youth are typically assigned community services hours and/or a service learning project as a consequence for their offense. Depending on the case, youth may be referred to other programs and services in the community to assist them in remaining crime free.



*257 youth participated in the TIP or TURN programs at the JAC during 2011.*

*155 youth participated in the civil citation program in 2011.*

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## JAC Overview (cont.)



*There were 18,109 unique visitors to the JAC's website in 2011.*

### Information and Education

The JAC serves as a hub for information about the local juvenile justice system. The JAC distributes *The JAC Perspective*, a monthly electronic newsletter, to juvenile justice stakeholders. The JAC's website at [www.swfljac.org](http://www.swfljac.org) provides information about the local juvenile justice system for parents, law enforcement officers, and community partners. The JAC has developed brochures to assist in answering some of the most frequently asked questions from parents and community partners. These are available in the JAC's lobby and also on the JAC's website. Some are available in Spanish. The JAC provides tours of the JAC and presentations about the juvenile justice system to a variety of school and community groups.

### Linking Youth and Families to Services

The JAC's main phone number at (239) 344-5100 serves as an information and referral line for parents seeking help for their youth and for others requesting information about services available for youth and families. The JAC maintains a Community Resource Guide of youth related services that can be accessed from the JAC's website at [www.swfljac.org/guide.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/guide.pdf).

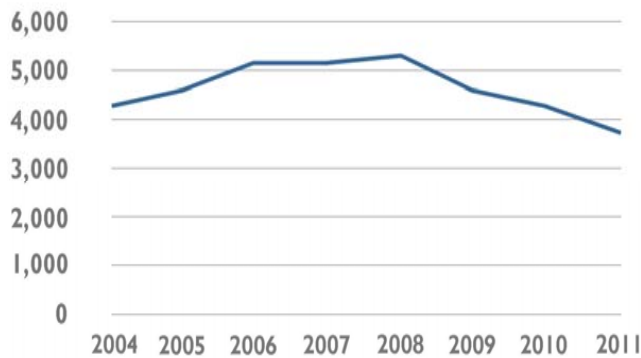
### Support to the Local Juvenile Justice Infrastructure

JAC staff have provided leadership for the Lee County Juvenile Justice Council. Activities of the council have included identifying and prioritizing local juvenile justice system needs and service gaps, promoting collaboration among community partners in developing programs and initiatives, and advocating for resources for needed services. Community members interested in participating in the Lee County Juvenile Justice Council meetings may check the JAC's website at [www.swfljac.org](http://www.swfljac.org) for meeting times and locations. All Council meetings are open to the public.

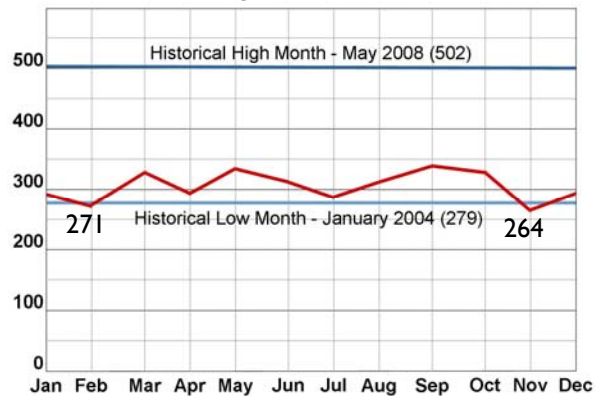
## Data Trends

During 2011, the JAC received 3,673 arrested youth. This figure includes youth who were arrested more than one time. It also includes youth who were screened as eligible for secure detention from Charlotte, Glades, and Hendry Counties. Youth from these counties are transported to the JAC prior to being transported to the Southwest Florida Regional Detention Center in Fort Myers.

**Total Arrests 2004 - 2011**



**Monthly Arrests 2011**



*In both February and November of 2011, monthly arrests dipped below the record low set in 2004.\**

**Total Arrests and Top Charges 2007-2011**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Arrests	5,025	5,310	4,715	4,094	3,673
Larceny Petit Theft	719	687	625	434	478
Burglary	633	661	842	455	428
Assault/Battery	321	356	326	342	343
Larceny	284	506	417	338	297
Misdemeanor Marijuana	306	335	249	240	252
Resisting Arrest w/o Violence	226	244	240	218	220
Loitering & Prowling	204	185	188	162	175
Disturbing the Peace	110	111	139	108	111
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	255	167	199	101	101
Non Marijuana Felony Drug	151	120	70	115	68



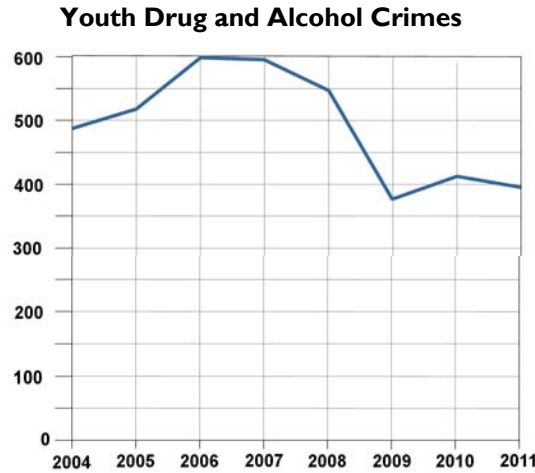
*About 1 out of every 20 youth in Lee County between the ages of 10 and 17 was arrested in 2011.*

\*2004 was the first year the JAC began tracking youth arrests.

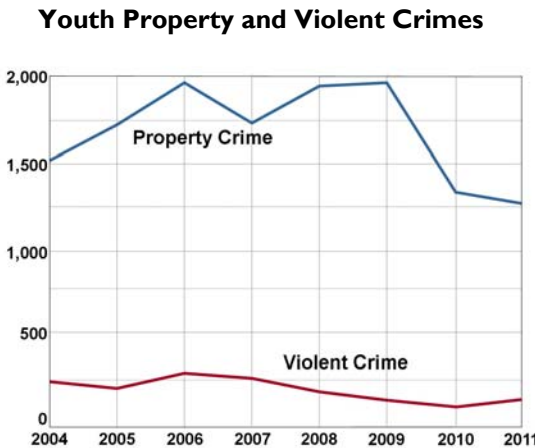
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## Data Trends (cont.)

*In 2011, youth drug and alcohol crimes decreased by 34% from a record high in 2006.*

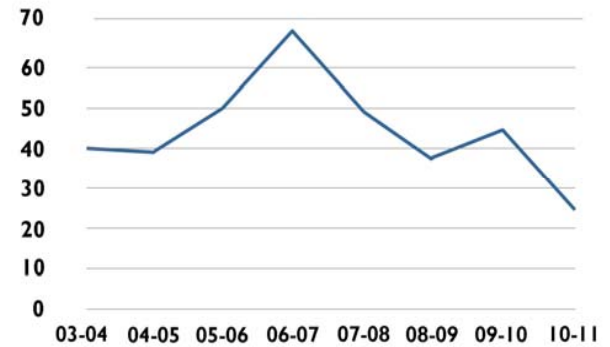


*Youth property crime decreased 36% in 2011 from a record high in 2009.*



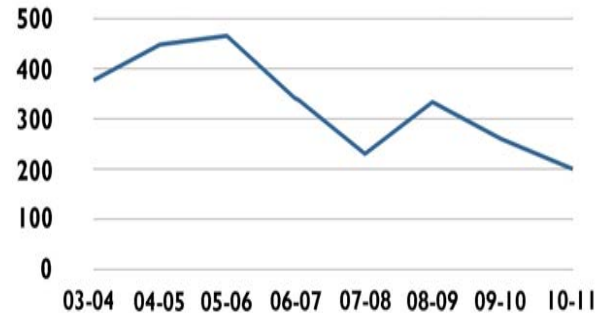
*Although youth violent crime increased from 2010 to 2011, it was lower in 2011 than its peak year in 2006. For the first time since the JAC began tracking youth crime in 2004, there were no youth arrested for homicide in 2011.*

**Lee County Youth Transferred to Adult Court**



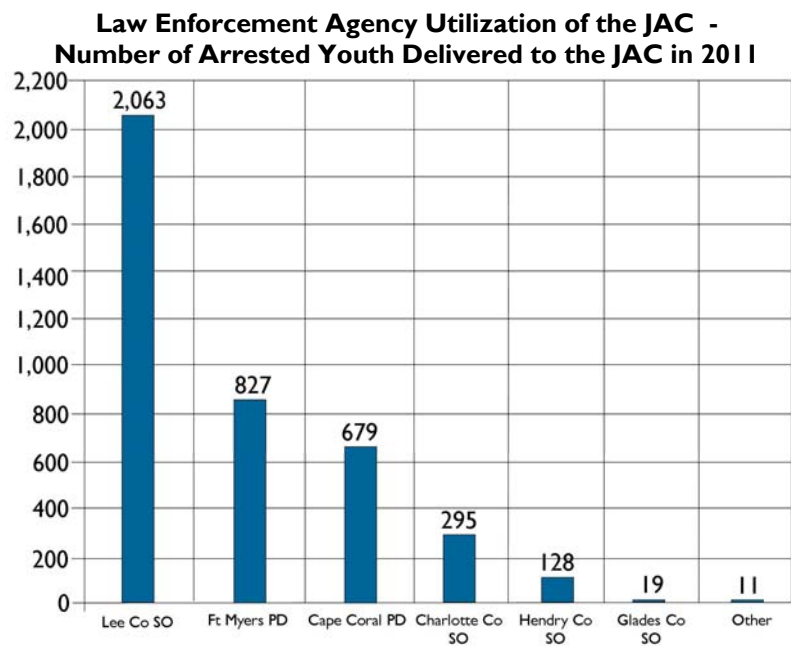
Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

**Lee County Delinquency Referrals Committed**

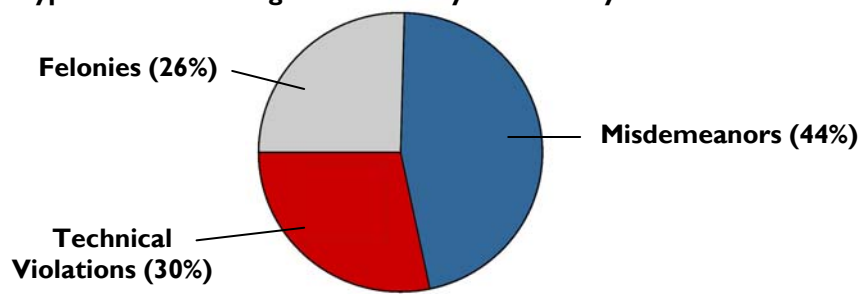


Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

## Data Trends (cont.)



### Type of Arrest Charges Received by Lee County Youth in 2011



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## Data Trends (cont.)

### In Lee County in 2011.....

**2,346** youth males and **759** youth females were arrested.

Arrested youth were charged with **2,195** misdemeanor crimes.

Arrested youth were charged with **1,290** felony crimes.

**920** arrested youth were placed on home detention.

**866** youth were arrested for a Violation of Probation with a total of 1087 VOP charges. A Violation of Probation is a technical violation rather than a criminal offense.

**836** arrested youth were sent to secure detention.

**568** youth were arrested more than one time within the year (including traffic arrests.)

**421** youth were arrested for a school-based offense.

**265** youth were arrested for domestic violence.

**268** youth were arrested for Failure to Appear to court.

**201** youth were arrested for a crime they committed while they were truant from school.



## JAC Partnerships

### Lee County Board of County Commissioners

Provides the physical facility that houses the JAC service array.

### Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Screens arrested youth for detention and mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and makes recommendations to the court.

### Lee County Sheriff's Office

Provides management for the operation and coordination among the JAC partners. Coordinates the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP). Partner in the TURN program.

### Southwest Florida Addictions Services (SWFAS)

Provides mental health and substance abuse assessments for arrested and non-arrested youth.

### Lutheran Services of Florida

Provides screening and assessment for non-arrested youth, individual and family counseling. Coordinates the TURN program.

In addition to the above agencies physically located at the JAC, the JAC has enjoyed the participation of and partnerships with many other agencies and organizations including the following:

Abuse Counseling and Treatment  
African Caribbean American Center  
AMI Kids Southwest Florida  
Cape Coral Police Department  
Charlotte County Sheriff's Office  
Children's Advocacy Center  
Children's Home Society  
City of Palms Charter School  
Department of Children and Families  
Fort Myers Police Department  
Florida Gulf Coast University

Florida Highway Patrol  
Glades County Sheriff's Office  
Goodwill Industries  
Grace Church  
Hendry County Sheriff's Office  
Hodges University  
Lee County Clerk of Courts  
Lee County Dept. of Human Services  
Lee County Health Department  
Lee County Port Authority  
Lee Mental Health Center

Office of the State Attorney  
PACE  
Public Defender's Office  
Punta Gorda Police Department  
Quality Life Center  
Sanibel Police Department  
School District of Lee County  
Southwest Florida College  
SWFL Workforce Development Board  
20th Judicial Circuit Court



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## For More Information

Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County  
2170 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: (239) 344-5100  
Fax: (239) 344-5151  
Website: [www.swfljac.org](http://www.swfljac.org)

### Lee County Sheriff's Office Staff at the JAC

Captain Scott Hall  
*Maximum Security Jail Commander*

William C. Naylor  
*Manager*

Sherri Palanzi  
*Juvenile Court Liaison*

Laurene Folkins  
*Crime Analyst*

Deputy Carolyn Woulard  
*Civil Citation Coordinator*

Carol Helton  
*Community Program Coordinator*

## Resources Available from the JAC Website

*Community Resource Guide*  
[www.swfljac.org/guide.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/guide.pdf)

*I Wish I Knew Then What I Know Now*  
[www.swfljac.org/shoplifting.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/shoplifting.pdf)

*Know the Law: A Guide for Adolescents and Their Parents*  
[www.swfljac.org/knowthelaw.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/knowthelaw.pdf)

*Know the Law: Consequences to a Juvenile Arrest or Conviction*  
[www.swfljac.org/consequences.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/consequences.pdf)

*Know the Law: Emancipation*  
[www.swfljac.org/Emancipation.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/Emancipation.pdf)

*Know the Law: Truancy*  
[www.swfljac.org/Truancy.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/Truancy.pdf)

*Juvenile Criminal Records*  
[www.swfljac.org/expunge.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/expunge.pdf)

*How a Case Moves Through the Court*  
[www.swfljac.org/caseflow.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/caseflow.pdf)

*What to Wear and What Not to Wear in Court*  
[www.swfljac.org/dress.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/dress.pdf)

*Writing a Letter of Apology*  
[www.swfljac.org/apology.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/apology.pdf)

Available in Spanish:  
*Absentismo Escolar*  
[www.swfljac.org/absentismoeescolar.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/absentismoeescolar.pdf)

*Consecuencias del Arresto o Condena Juvenil*  
[www.swfljac.org/consecuencias.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/consecuencias.pdf)

*Emancipación*  
[www.swfljac.org/emancipación.pdf](http://www.swfljac.org/emancipación.pdf)