

Union County DMC News

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Union County DMC Advisory Board

Number of Complaints, Percentage Minority Drops

Data Quick Facts:

- In Union County, from January to March 2009, there were 140 juvenile complaints received
- 46% of juvenile complaints occurred on a school campus
- Minorities accounted for 40% of the total complaints

The number of juvenile complaints received in Union County from January to March 2009 decreased by 6% when compared to October to December 2008. According to NC JOIN*, the number of complaints received for minority youth also dropped, by an astounding 12%.

The Union County DMC Advisory Board collects juvenile crime data as part of the funding from the DMC Action Network.

According to the data, January to March 2008, there were 139 juvenile complaints received, which is one less than was received in the same time period of 2009.

Union County juvenile crime data continues to follow state trends. Statewide, juvenile crime rates decreased from 2007-2008 by 6.2% according to the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website.

While the percentage of minority complaints continues to decrease in Union County, it is disproportionate with the minority population percentage. Union County's minority youth population is close to 32%**. Comparing the minority population percentage to the percentage of minority complaints yields a difference of 8%. The Union County DMC Advisory Board continues to address this disproportionality by implementing process changes and increasing community awareness.

For more information on how you can be involved, please contact us at:

uniondmc@hotmail.com

* North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network

**Population data was obtained from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Online Easy Access to Juvenile Populations. Data includes minorities, with the exception of youth categorized as multiracial, ages 6-15. For more information on juvenile populations, please visit www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

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Parent Academy Success

This quarter, the Union County DMC Advisory Board partnered with the Union County Public School's Parent Involvement Coordinators to hold a parent academy at Forest Hills High School. On March 24th, parents, students, staff members and community members gathered to hear Dr. Willie Kimmons present an interactive program. Parents were encouraged by Dr.

Kimmons to get involved and stay involved in their children's lives and school.

Along with Dr. Kimmons, local resources were present to provide information on services offered throughout the county. The feedback from attendees was that they wanted more: **more information, more discussions, more help.**

The Union County DMC Advisory Board and the Parent Involvement Coordinators are working to plan an event in the Fall of 2009. This Parent Academy will focus on what to do when your child has been suspended or is involved in the juvenile justice system. We will discuss navigating the juvenile justice system and provide community resource information as well.

Juvenile Crime in Union County Public Schools

National research shows that much of juvenile crime occurs during the hours of 3pm-6pm, when youth are coming home from school and parents are not home. Union County, however, shows that only 21% of juvenile offenses occur during that time. The highest percentage, 47%, of juvenile crime occurs during the hours of 7am-3pm, when youth are in school.

Of the 66 offenses occurring during school hours this quarter, 64 were on a school campus. Even more astounding is that school related incidents accounted for 46% of all juvenile complaints during the months of January to March 2009. Statewide, the percentage of school offenses for 07-08 school year was 40%. Union County continues to be above the

state average for school offenses.

The schools with the most number of complaints received during these months were: South Providence, Sun Valley Middle School, Sun Valley High School, Piedmont High School, Parkwood High School, and Parkwood Middle School. The incidents occurring at these six schools accounted for 64% (41/64) of school related juvenile complaints.

This quarter, the top school related offenses were possession of marijuana (16), followed by possession of weapons on educational property (6), misdemeanor larceny (6), assault on a government employee(5), and simple assault(4). Compared to 2008, the top five offenses from

January to March were assault on a government employee (12), disorderly conduct (9), communicating threats (7), simple assault (6), and possession of weapons on educational property (4).

Union County's DJJDP has worked hard to divert many youth from going to court. For the months of October to December 2008, 41% of school related complaints were diverted. Thus far, in 2009, 37.5% have been diverted.



Age of Juveniles at Time of Complaint

January to March 2009, 18% of juvenile offenses were committed by a youth 12 and under.

This quarter, there were a total of 140 complaints received. 16 year olds accounted for 1% of the offenses. 14 and 15 year olds accounted for 58.6% combined. Both 14 and 15 year olds

committed 41 offenses for a total of 82.

Also this quarter, 13 year olds committed

31 offenses. This accounted for 22% of the total offenses.

January to March 2009, 18% of juvenile offenses were committed by a youth 12 and under. The breakdown of these youth is as follows:

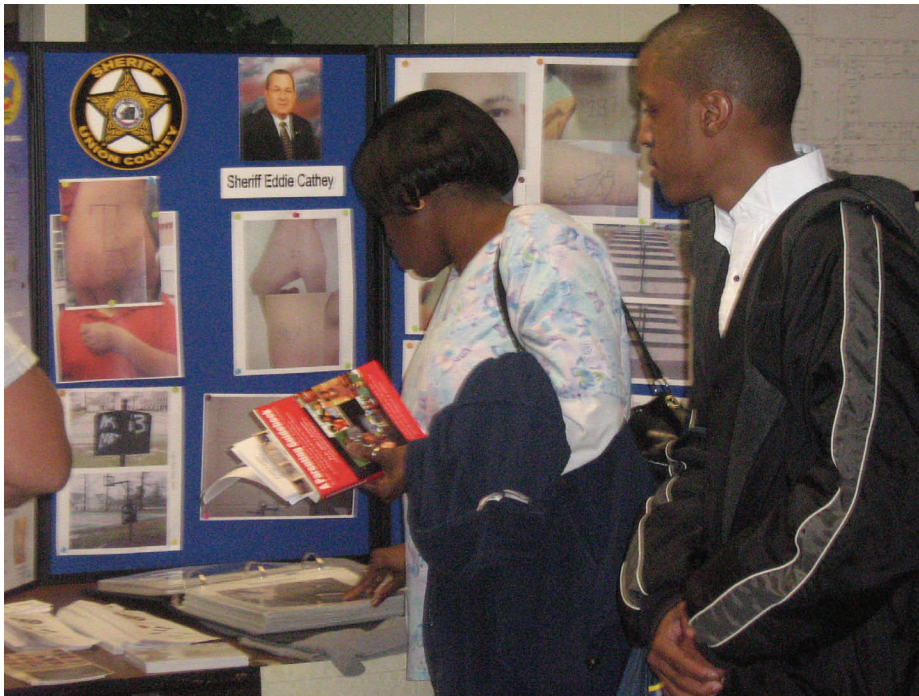
- 12 year olds = 11 offenses
- 11 year olds = 8 offenses
- 10 year olds = 2 offenses
- 8 year olds = 2 offenses
- 7 year olds = 2 offenses

The types of offenses for the 12 and under

group included: Assault on a government employee (4), Break and enter a place of worship (3), Injury to Real Property (3), Larceny after break and enter (3), misdemeanor break and enter (2). There were 10 additional offenses committed by youth 12 and under, each with one count.



Dr. Kimmons signing autographs and talking with families after the Parent Academy on March 24th at Forest Hills High School.



Attendees at the Parent Academy visiting the Union County Sheriff's Office table on local gangs.

Who We Are

The purpose of this initiative is to study the extent of and gain insight into the issue of overrepresentation of minority juveniles within the Union County Juvenile Justice System as well as implementing strategies to reduce DMC. There is no shortage of national and state research that point to the numerous disparities that exist within the juvenile justice system for racial and ethnic minorities.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention developed an initiative to specifically address the different ways of assessing and reducing DMC. In 1991, this pilot initiative was introduced to five states, Oregon, Florida, Arizona, Iowa, and North Carolina. This program required each of the states to assess the level of DMC and to design and implement corrective actions.

Four demonstration sites in North Carolina were identified to research and implement strategies to reduce DMC at the local level. Union County was chosen as one of these sites in response to past research, specifically the May 2004 Duke University study that indicated that Union County had especially high rates at all decision points.

In 2007, Union County was selected by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to participate in the DMC Action Network, a network of four core sites and four partner sites. As part of the DMC Action Network, Union County is required to work on strategic innovations to reduce DMC.

The innovations that Union County has chosen to work on are:

- Improved Race and Ethnicity Data

Collection

- Community Engagement
- Graduated Sanctions Grid
- Detention Screening Tool
- Arrest Diversions

If you would like more information on how the Union County DMC Advisory Board is accomplishing its goals, please contact Karen Tucker, Project Coordinator at



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