

2024

COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-AGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN

Kings County Probation Department



JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Superior Court of Kings County, Kings County Probation Department, Kings County Sheriff's Office, Kings County District Attorney's Office, Kings County Minor's Advocate Office, Kings County Board of Supervisors, Hanford Police Department, Kings County Human Services Agency, Kings County Behavioral Health Department, Kings County Office of Education, Kings View, Kings Community Action Organization, Santa Rosa Rancheria Social Services



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HISTORY

Kings County is located in the heart of California's rich San Joaquin Valley and was founded in 1893, measuring 1,392 square miles with about 87% of its acreage dedicated to agriculture. The county seat is Hanford and includes the incorporated towns and cities of Lemoore, Corcoran, Avenal, Stratford, Kettleman City, Stratford, and Armona.



Due to its primary emphasis on agricultural production, Kings County attracts individuals and families either migrating and/or immigrating from other California counties, states, and countries. The agricultural workforce operates 365 days per year via seasonal rotations to produce and harvest products such as cotton, grapes, raisins, oranges, walnuts, peaches, plums, pecans, corn, alfalfa, tomatoes, almonds, kiwis, pistachios, garlic, watermelon, honeydew, melons, wheat and broccoli. Local, independent farmers produce various products such as strawberries, squash, chilies, and bell peppers.

Along with regular migration and immigration to the area, Kings County hosts a transient population made up of individuals and families following seasonal work patterns throughout the state. Major socio-environmental issues stemming from this dynamic include: poverty, unemployment, illegal immigration, acculturation or cultural differences, language barriers, education, homelessness, lack of affordable housing, health problems and isolation of the family. This transient population poses challenges to service delivery.

Kings County is the home of the Lemoore Naval Air Station, approximately 7,200 military and 1,300 civilians work at NAS Lemoore and around 11,000 military dependents. Lemoore's Naval Air Station is the Navy's largest master jet base, hosting the Navy's entire west coast attack/flight capability. Military life within the Naval Air Station is unique in that families often experience extensive periods of time without the presence of the active duty member. This means at least six (6) months of duty at sea on rotating cycles. The absence of this member causes a great deal of stress for the other parent at home (assuming there are two parents available) and the children. Regular deployment causes an unstable home environment in which unclear expectations and continuous family transitioning exists. There is also a possibility the military member could die, which intensifies anxiety and stress for these family members. Aside from the duty at sea component, military life includes other elements, which impact its citizens. Due to frequent relocations that remove families from extended family support, these families experience isolation and sudden, forced adaptability to constant environmental changes. Further, trauma and stress active duty members experience can increase the risk of Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, leading to domestic violence, substance abuse, and child abuse/neglect.

The Santa Rosa Rancheria (Tachi-Yokut Tribe) is located within Kings County, which further adds to its uniqueness and diversity. The Santa Rosa Rancheria is officially listed on the Federal Register and has a long history of spirituality within its people. For several years, the Tribe has been working to establish itself as autonomous, in part via their gaming resort. It has been expanding services available within its boundaries in an effort to further meet the needs of its members. Due to gaming revenue, the Tribe has been successfully improving the lifestyle of all its families. Housing has been improved. New recreation and office facilities have been built. Education has improved for its children due to technological and curriculum improvements. Employment has risen due to opportunities available at the casino and hotel. Unemployment has dropped below 25% for this population and most members are now off public assistance (<http://www.tachi-yokut.com/rancheria.html>).

Avenal State Prison, California State Prison at Corcoran and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility at Corcoran are located within the boundaries of Kings County, which attract the families of inmates and correctional staff. Realignment began in 2011 and as a result, the population of Avenal State Prison, Corcoran State Prison and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility has declined. One factor was attributed to the state policy which keeps state prisoners in the counties where they committed their crimes rather than sending them to distant state lockups. The added challenge of rehabilitating incarcerated individuals, as well as providing supportive services to their families and the correctional staff, presents an interesting component to the diversity of Kings County. The presence of California State Prisons in the area causes an increase in probation and parole cases, as well as families exposed to criminal behavior, which amplifies the following issues for individuals and families connected to the inmates: substance abuse and addiction, alcoholism, domestic violence, gang activity, mental illnesses, poverty, unemployment and crime.

BACKGROUND

The Kings County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council was formed in March of 1997 and has worked to interrelate activities throughout the county since that time. The development of this project started with the research/planning phase. This phase involved probation officers and a department specialist within the Kings County Probation Department. This probation group was divided into several teams that were responsible for gathering data and performing research that would provide assistance and guidance in the collaborative phase of this project.

The collaboration phase involved the selected probation team and representatives from outside agencies, such as Kings View Mental Health, Kings County Office of Education, Kings County Human Services, Kings County Child Protective Services, Kings County Minor's Advocate's Office, and Kings Community Action Organization. A draft was compiled and submitted to the Kings County Juvenile Justice Commission for review and input. The final draft was submitted to the Kings County Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

In response to the continuing incidences of juvenile crime, various programs have been implemented to attack the problems at different stages, such as prevention, intervention, suppression and incapacitation. The Kings County Probation Department is actively involved in all stages of the juvenile justice system locally.

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) is a California state law that aims to address juvenile delinquency by providing funds for local programs and services. Enacted in 2000, JJCPA focuses on prevention and intervention efforts to reduce juvenile crime and keep young offenders out of the traditional juvenile justice system.

PREVENTION

The Facilitating Accountability Victim Offender Restoration (F.A.V.O.R.) Unit provides intake services countywide. When local law enforcement makes an arrest or issues a citation, all said arrests and citations are referred to the department. Over the course of fiscal year ending on June 30, 2022, the Probation Department processed a total of 367 referrals from local law enforcement agencies. The subsequent fiscal year 392 referrals were processed, representing an increase of approximately 6.81% of referrals received. Disposition of these cases may be achieved by warnings, performance agreements, 6-month contracts or ultimately referral to the District Attorney for filing of a petition in Juvenile Court.

Regrettably, the F.A.V.O.R. Unit encountered unforeseen challenges in its efforts to facilitate the anticipated summer programs, the Youth Expanding Self-Efficacy (Y.E.S.) Program and the College Tour Program, during the past fiscal year. A confluence of staffing shortages compounded by the lingering impact of COVID-19 restrictions impeded our ability to orchestrate these invaluable initiatives, which have historically served as pillars of community engagement and youth development. Despite these setbacks, we remain resolute in our commitment to fostering the growth and empowerment of our young community members. As we reflect on the missed opportunities of the past year, we have already initiated proactive measures to ensure the resumption of these programs in the upcoming fiscal year. Recognizing the profound significance of these programs in shaping the aspirations and self-esteem of our youth, meticulous planning and resource allocation are underway to ensure their successful execution.

INTERVENTION

At the intervention level, the probation department continues to provide numerous opportunities to the youth of our community with the goal of deterring continued involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The field unit is responsible for supervising approximately 100 court adjudicated youth that are either placed on probation or Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ). Cases are assigned geographically to ensure consistent visitation and to develop relationships with the agencies and resources in those areas. Officers are trained to utilize Motivational Interviewing (MI) tenants in their supervision where the youth is engaged in his or her treatment and rehabilitation. It is the officer's responsibility to spend a sufficient amount of time on each visit with the youth or his or her family to accurately assess current needs and risk factors and work toward established goals set in their case plans. Child and Family Team meetings are conducted to address the needs of the youth, the goals of the case plan and any services that are being provided or are needed. There are currently probation officers assigned to supervise Hanford and the surrounding areas, Lemoore, Armona, Avenal/Kettleman City and Corcoran. In an effort to make the most appropriate use of supervision, a high-risk caseload was established. This particular caseload is higher in need. These youth

have often committed serious and/or violent offenses or exhibit mental health issues and have been determined to be at high risk to re-offend through an assessment tool. The high-risk caseload is comprised of those youth we are utilizing all local resources on. A low-risk caseload was also established to ensure the least amount of interaction with the justice system as possible, for those that are at a low risk to re-offend. These youth need minimal intervention.

The Probation Department is currently in the process of finalizing a contract with GEO Reentry Services to provide specific services aimed at enhancing the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for youth in custody. This collaboration signifies an approach by the Probation Department to leverage specialized expertise and resources from GEO Reentry Services in addressing the needs.

<p>Phoenix New Freedom Resource Anger, Aggression, and Violence</p>	<p>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</p>	<p>Cognitive Behavioral Interventions - Substance Use Youth (CBI-SUY)</p>	<p>R1 Learning</p>	<p>Power Source Program</p>
<p>session openers from the What Do You Think? series, a subtle approach to cognitive restructuring (CBT) that includes issues relating to aggression, violence, risk and protective factors, substance abuse, victim empathy, and moral dilemmas.</p>	<p>core concepts include understanding anger, developing anger control plans, how to change aggressive behavior, cognitive restructuring, assertiveness training, and learning from previous experiences.</p>	<p>justice involved juveniles with moderate to high needs for substance use treatment are provided skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development.</p>	<p>foster greater engagement with treatment, counseling, and coaching - empowering individuals who live a healthier life and reach their full potential.</p>	<p>evidence-based program designed to empower at risk youth with the social and emotional skills necessary to forge paths of healthy development and disengagement from high risk and offending behaviors.</p>
<p>National Fatherhood Initiative InsideOut Dad</p>	<p>Nurturing Parenting Program Family Education and Development</p>	<p>Partners in Parenting</p>	<p>Gang Intervention Program, Phoenix New Freedom</p>	<p>Healthy Relationships - Adolescents, Nada Yorke</p>
<p>unique exercises and research-based tools and techniques to encourage fathering from the inside by helping fathers prepare for responsibilities and challenges they will face on the outside.</p>	<p>family-centered trauma-informed initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parent and child rearing practices.</p>	<p>emphasizes on building skills, providing and helping parents understand the needs and abilities of children during defense stages of development.</p>	<p>based on cognitive-behavioral, motivational interviewing, and social learning philosophies. Designed To reduce the resistance to behavioral change and decrease antisocial behaviors, including gang activity.</p>	<p>trauma-informed curriculum includes increasing pro-social thinking, building empathy, increasing self-awareness, and improving communication.</p>
<p>The Change Companies - Forward Thinking</p>	<p>Juvenile MRT, Correctional Counseling Incorporated</p>	<p>Life Skills, Phoenix New Freedom</p>	<p>Getting Motivated to Change</p>	<p>Mapping</p>
<p>cognitive-behavioral intervention through interactive journaling allowing youth to apply the topics to their own lives which helps them achieve their goals for responsible living.</p>	<p>cognitive behavioral treatment allowing participants to develop the thinking, behavioral, and life skills needed for a healthy and prosocial lifestyle.</p>	<p>teaching life skills to juvenile offenders by equipping them with the tools necessary to resist negative peer pressure, make responsible/healthy daily choices, and better navigate challenging circumstances.</p>	<p>pre-treatment intervention targeted to participants in the pre-contemplation or contemplation stage of change.</p>	<p>counseling strategy for improving communication and decision making that can enhance any therapeutic or psychoeducational exercise, either in group or individual settings.</p>

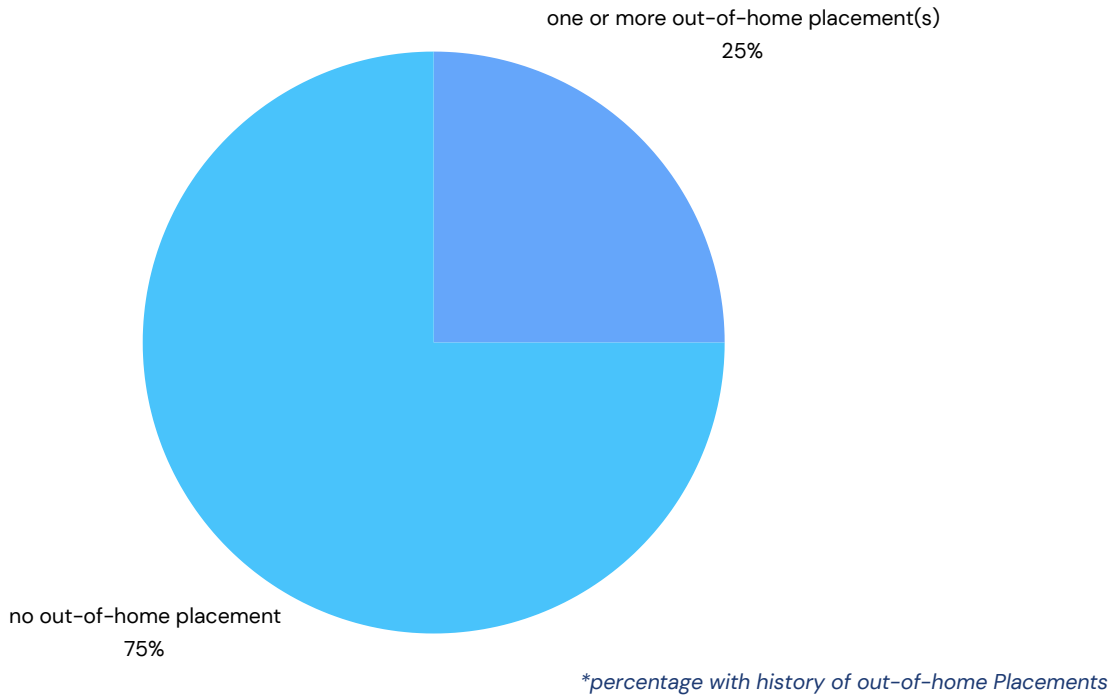
Social Skills	Living a Balance - Hazelden	"Voices"	"A Young Man's Guide to Self-Mastery"	Victim Impact: Listen and Learn
five-step approach consists of defining the skill, staff modeling the skill, the participant practicing the skill, processing feedback with the participant, and the participant internalizing the skill.	draws from cognitive-behavioral, experiential, and Twelve Step approaches to help clients achieve lifelong recovery.	addresses the needs of adolescent girls and young women through a variety of therapeutic approaches, including psychoeducational, cognitive behavioral, mindfulness, body-oriented and expressive arts.	helps participants understand the effects of adversity and trauma in their lives, increase communication skills and build healthy relationships.	evidence-based curriculum helping participants improve their understanding of victims' rights/awareness, and increase empathy for those harmed by crime.

Two juvenile probation officers are assigned to supervise placement caseloads, where youth who are not able to be rehabilitated in their own home for any number of reasons, are placed at appropriate Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP), foster homes, relative care, or at various placements throughout the State of California. These youth are supervised in accordance with Division 31 regulations, which have very specific supervision guidelines. This includes monthly visitation, mandatory six month case plans, and permanency planning. This assignment requires officers to travel to each placement on a monthly basis in order to make contact with the youth. The placement officers also employ motivational interviewing, requiring a significant amount of time and commitment from the officers to ensure the youth are being provided all necessary tools for successful rehabilitation. These officers work closely with the local child welfare system.

The placement officers are also responsible for supervising youth eligible for services pursuant to Assembly Bill 12. These youth are those transitioning out of juvenile placement, and are offered additional services to allow them to continue to receive support to assist them into adulthood. The placement officers approve and supervise youth in supervised independent living plans (SILPS); ensure all NYTD (National Youth in Transition Database) surveys are completed for youth that are no longer in placement and ensure credit reports are provided for all youth aged 14 and above that are in an out of home placement.

Out of Home Placements

data for subjects with history of out-of-home Placements



This data above reflects subjects in the system where the most recent Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessments completed has one or more, non-delinquent out-of-home placement(s) response(s) selected. The data reflects assessments completed by Kings County Probation Department between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023.

The Kings County Probation Department currently contracts with our local mental health services provider, Kings View, for one full-time therapist and one part time case manager. Kings View's role is to reduce recidivism of participants by targeting mental health and substance abuse disorder symptoms that impact effective community re-integration.

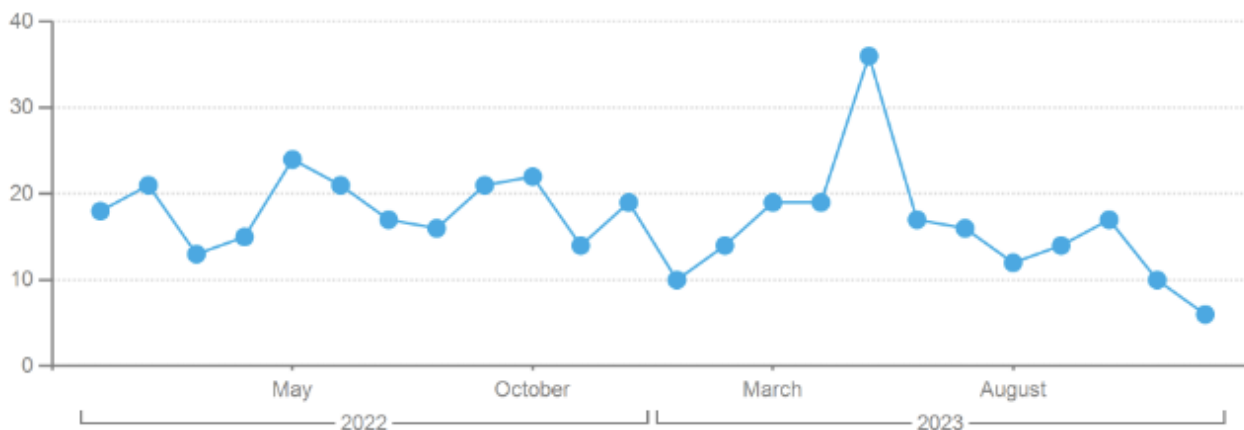
These services are provided to youth in outlying areas of the county that do not have adequate public transportation to participate in services. The therapist has an office on the premises of the probation department and works exclusively with probation youth. Individual and group counseling services are provided, along with family counseling and dual diagnosis services. Extensive assessments are completed with probation youth to determine level of services needed and ancillary referrals to other agencies are made when appropriate. Kings View is required to employ evidence-based practices in their treatment and have incorporated Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) in their treatment. DBT is a comprehensive cognitive-behavioral treatment for complex mental disorders. DBT services these five functions: enhances behavioral capabilities, improves motivation to change, assures that new capabilities generalize to the natural environment, structures the treatment environment in ways to support the client and enhances therapist capabilities.

The Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) is utilized to identify the top criminogenic needs, or the dynamic risk factors that have been clinically proven to be predictive of future criminal behavior in our youth. The top criminogenic needs are addressed through the principles of effective intervention: risk principle; need principle, responsivity principle; treatment principle and the fidelity principle. The tool identifies the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the youth's unique assessment profile. Our supervision and court units utilize the PACT assessment tool to determine the needs of the individual youth and recommendations and services are provided appropriately.

Our court and field supervision units utilize the PACT assessment tool to determine the risks and needs of the individual youth in order to make suitable recommendations and provide applicable services. The data below reflects 411 PACT assessments conducted with youth by the Kings County Probation Department between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023:

Completed Assessments

411 PACT assessments completed between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023

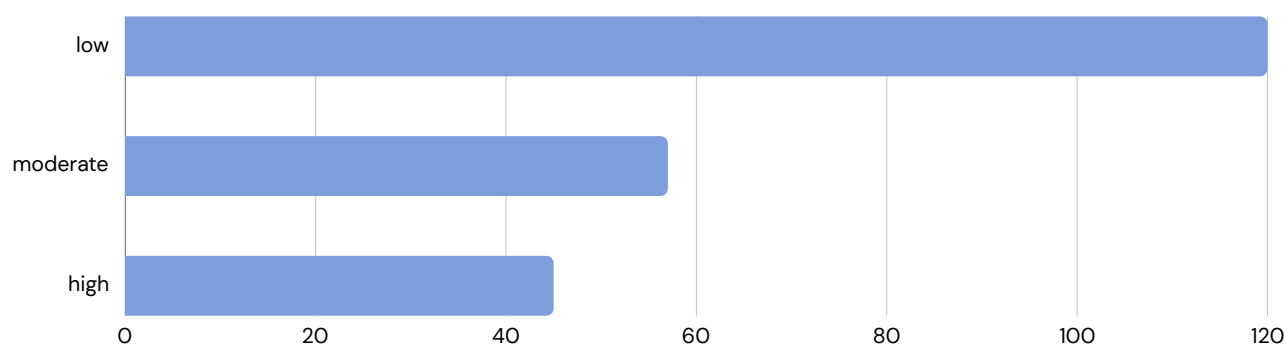


The risk and needs assessment involves evaluating individual youth to determine their risk of reoffending and identifying specific factors that contribute to criminal behavior.

Risk Level is a key factor in the overall risk to re-offend, and helps make supervision level decisions moving forward with the youth. Below are risk levels for PACT assessments conducted by the Kings County Probation Department between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023:

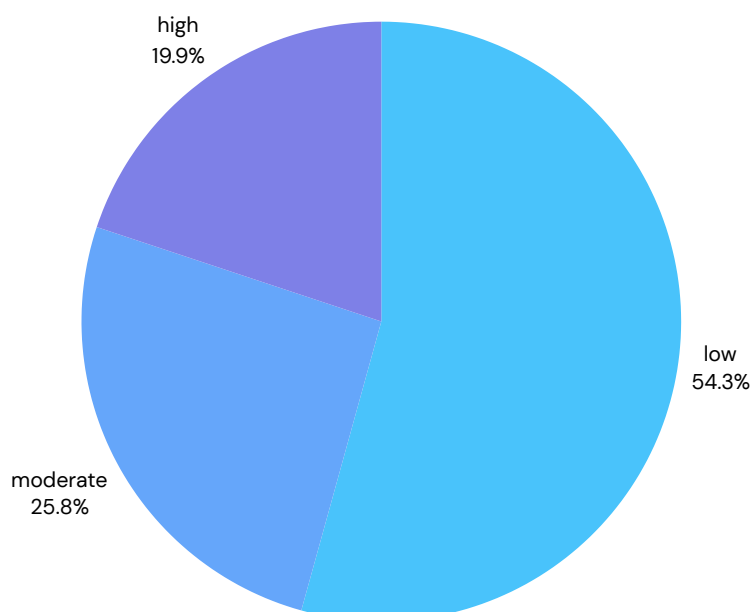
PACT Risk Level

count grouped by risk level



PACT Risk Level

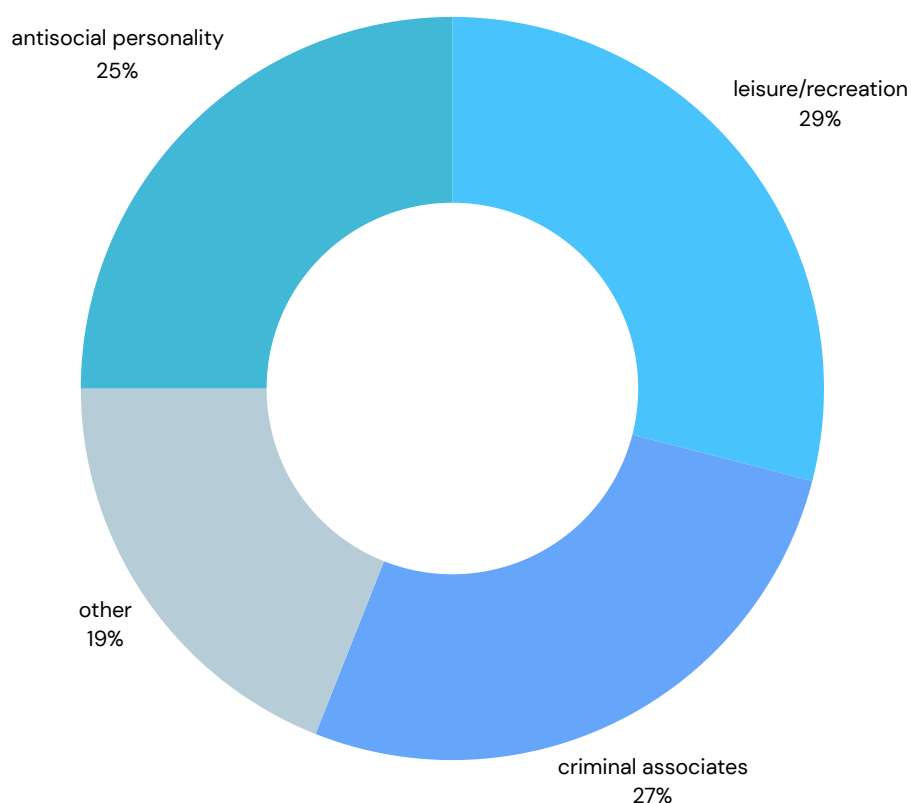
percentage grouped by risk level



Criminogenic Needs have been clinically proven to be predictive of future criminal behavior in our youth. The top criminogenic needs are addressed through the principles of effective intervention: risk principle; need principle, responsivity principle; treatment principle and the fidelity principle. The tool identifies the top needs linked to criminal behavior, which then can be utilized as a guide for the rehabilitative efforts to address the youth's unique assessment profile. Here we have a point in time depiction of the top needs of the Kings County Probation Department's youth population need areas and does not consider stabilizing factors.

Criminogenic Needs

Kings County Probation Department's top need areas for assessments completed between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023



Our Juvenile Work Program services the county, providing clean up, graffiti removal, disinfection spraying and participating in community events and other community-based activities. This program works with those youth adjudged a ward of the court and the youth complete their court ordered community services hours through this program. This program aims to rehabilitate young individuals through skill-building in various areas. Participants learn fundamental painting techniques, including brushwork, color mixing, and application methods. They also receive instruction on the usage of different painting tools, such as brushes, rollers, and sprayers. In addition to painting, the program emphasizes landscaping skills, teaching participants how to maintain outdoor spaces. They learn about different types of plants, soil, and the safe operation of landscaping tools like lawnmowers, trimmers, and leaf blowers. Through hands-on training and guidance, participants not only develop practical skills but also gain a sense of accomplishment and responsibility. This combination of artistic and practical training fosters personal growth, builds confidence, and promotes positive behavior among juvenile participants, ultimately aiding in their rehabilitation process.

This program positively impacts the community by addressing the effects of vandalism and graffiti quickly. An effective partnership has been developed with local law enforcement, businesses throughout the county and the general public. This program accepts requests for services from anyone in the county. This program offers a lower level of intervention for our youth that are determined to be at a lower risk to reoffend, thereby reducing the exposure of those youth to higher risk youth and more criminally sophisticated youth.

Furthermore, the Kings County Probation Department offers an electronic monitoring program as an alternative dispositional option. Youth are able to benefit from rehabilitative services provided in the community while serving a court ordered commitment. Additionally, the youth participate in the program prior to disposition upon court order, when physical custody is not a matter of public safety.

SUPPRESSION

Local law enforcement agencies provide proactive, professional, and courteous law enforcement services to our community. They reduce the impact of crime and fear it causes to victims of those crimes. They support a policing philosophy that promotes and supports organizational strategies to address the causes of crime and social disorder through problem solving tactics and community/police partnerships.

There are five law enforcement agencies within Kings County as follows: Kings County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), Hanford Police Department, Lemoore Police Department, Avenal Police Department, and the Corcoran Police Department. In addition to retaining criminal jurisdiction on Tribal land, the KCSO is responsible for overseeing areas outside the city limits of Hanford, Corcoran and Lemoore, as well as the towns of Armona, Stratford and Kettleman City.

Additionally, the county has established The Kings County Major Crimes Task Force (MCTF), a multi-agency task force that includes members from local law enforcement, Sheriff's Office, Probation, and the District Attorney's Office. MCTF is under the direction of the Sheriff's Office and is designed to investigate major crimes including gang-related offenses, narcotics, and other complex and/or serious offenses. MCTF additionally works closely with and provides assistance to state and federal law enforcement agencies.

From 2021 to 2022, there were similar numbers of felony, misdemeanor, and status offense arrests. This suggests across different categories of offenses, the overall trend in arrests remained relatively stable over that period. This implies various parties involved, such as law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and social service providers are working together towards a common goal of reducing arrests. By fostering collaboration and focusing on proactive strategies, stakeholders aim to address crime and promote alternatives to incarceration, ultimately working towards a safer and more resilient community.

Probation officers may exchange relevant information with agencies regarding juveniles who are under supervision and may be further at risk. This information can help other agencies better understand the needs and circumstances of youth in their communities and tailor their responses and interactions accordingly.

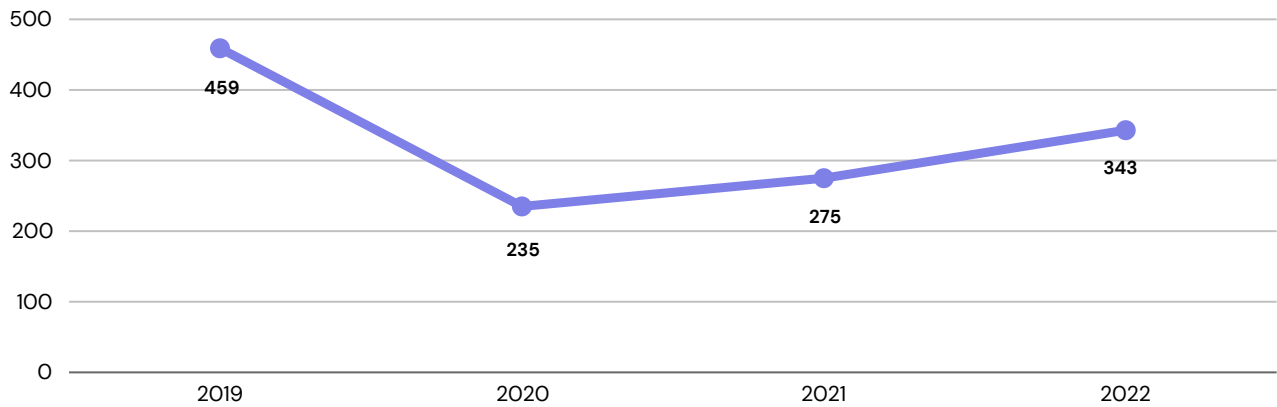
Stakeholders gain a better understanding of the alternatives and services available to address juvenile delinquency. This ongoing awareness can lead to more informed decision-making, enhanced collaboration, and better outcomes for youth and communities and create supportive environments for youth in an attempt to decrease the number of arrests.

Kings County Juvenile Arrests Data:

The following data is based on data collected, regarding juvenile arrests in Kings County, by the California Department of Justice between 01/01/2019 and 12/31/2022:

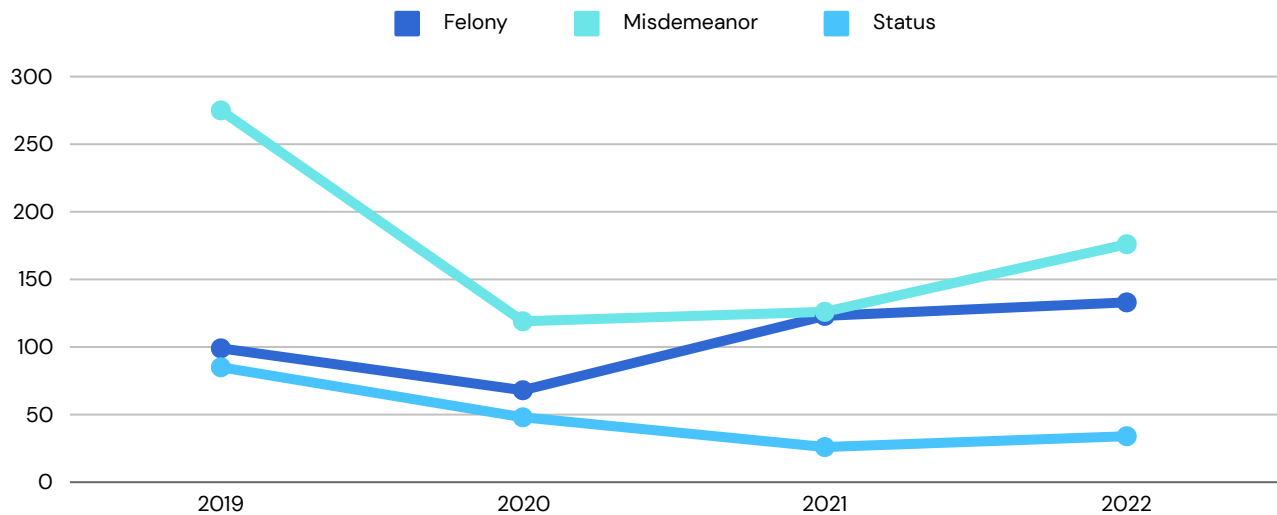
All Juvenile Arrests in Kings County

data provided by www.openjustice.doj.ca.gov



Juvenile Arrest Type in Kings County

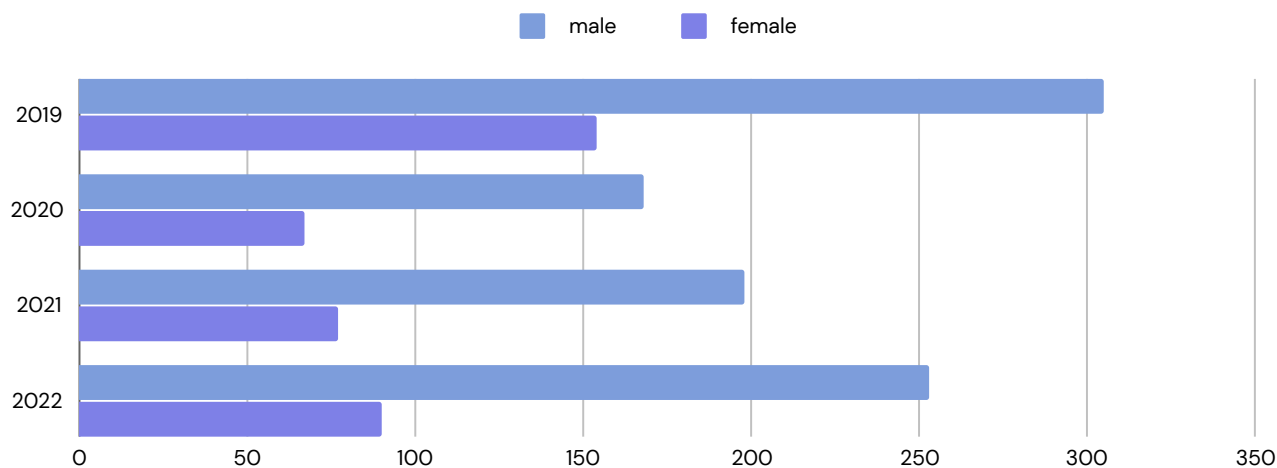
data provided by www.openjustice.doj.ca.gov



arrest type	2019	2020	2021	2022
felony arrests	99	68	123	133
misdemeanor arrests	275	119	126	176
status arrests	85	48	26	34
total	459	235	275	343

Juvenile Arrests By Gender in Kings County

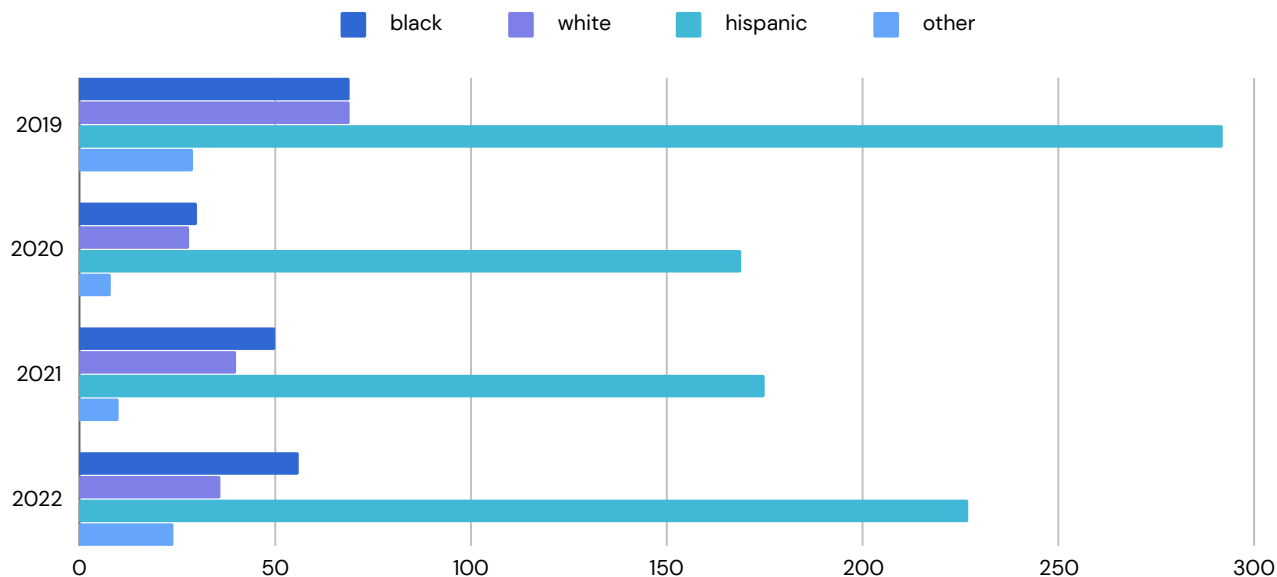
data provided by www.openjustice.doj.ca.gov



arrests by gender	2019	2020	2021	2022
male	305	168	198	253
female	154	67	77	90
total	459	235	275	343

Juvenile Arrests By Race/Ethnic Group in Kings County

data provided by www.openjustice.doj.ca.gov



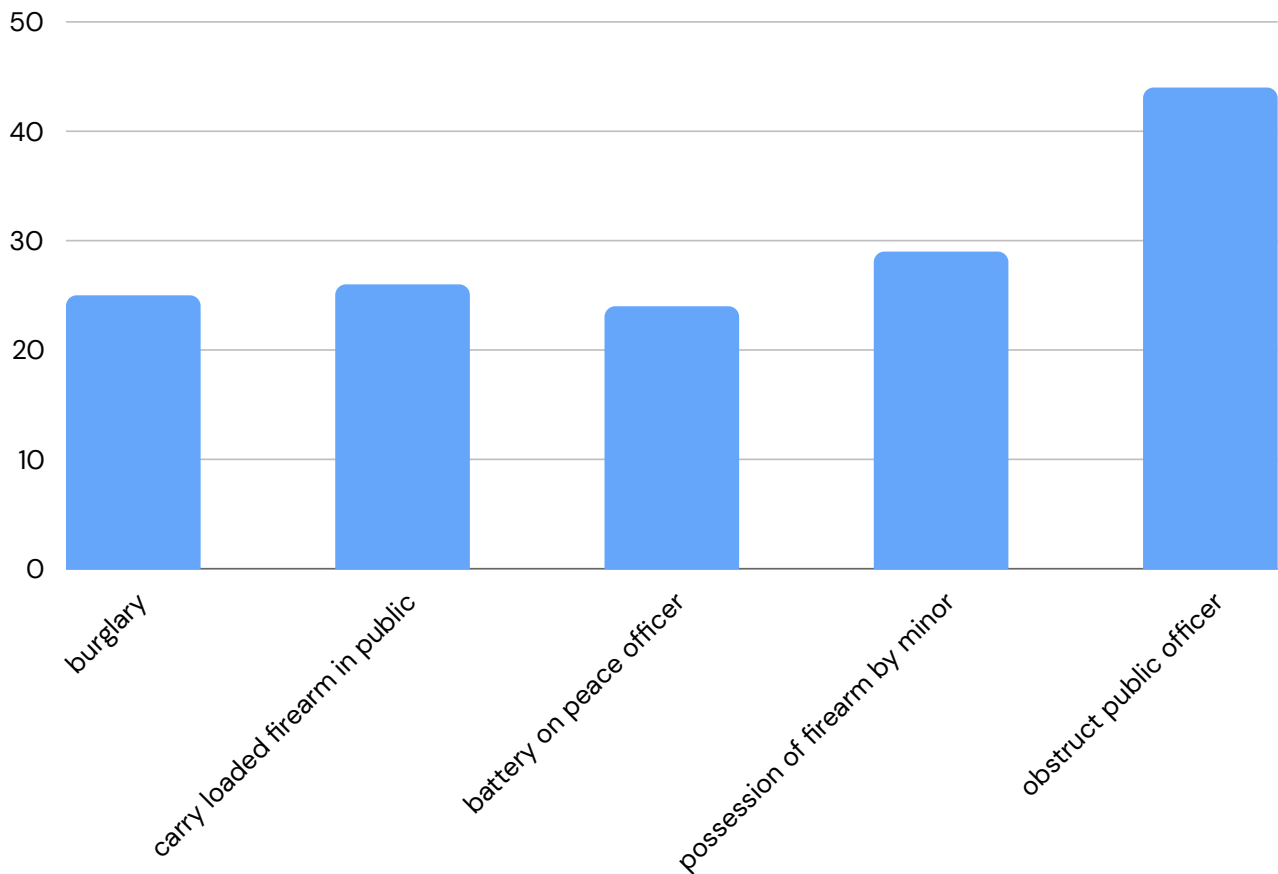
arrests by race/ethnic group	2019	2020	2021	2022
black	69	30	50	56
white	69	28	40	36
hispanic	292	169	175	227
other	29	8	10	24
total	459	235	275	343

Probation Offenses Data:

The following data is based on PACT assessments conducted on youth by the Kings County Probation Department resulting in the top five offenses by frequency for felony, misdemeanor, and other charges; and for male and female offender between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023:

Frequency of Offenses

top 5 offenses only



INCAPACITATION

The Kings County Probation Department is the only agency in the county that provides incapacitation services for youth in the way of the Kings County Juvenile Center. While there are a number of agencies involved across our continuum of services, the Kings County Probation Department can be considered the primary provider as the department is involved at every level in the continuum.

Our juvenile center provides educational services through the Kings County Department of Education. Educational services are provided on a year-round basis and include services to address special education and Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs).

Individual mental health counseling is provided to our youth within the juvenile center by a contracted provider, Wellpath. Wellpath also provides substance abuse and anger management groups to youth that are assessed to be in need of those services or are court ordered to complete those programs. The juvenile center staff and correctional officers are trained and are facilitating evidence-based programming such as Forward Thinking.

Currently, we have a Transitional Probation Officer assigned to the juvenile center. This officer assists youth with re-entry services prior to their release from custody. Upon the youth's commitment, the Transitional Officer conducts a risk and needs PACT assessment and develops a case plan with the youth, setting relevant goals and interventions to assist with their rehabilitation. The Transitional Officer reviews the youth's terms and conditions of probation and makes the necessary and appropriate referrals for school enrollment, mental health treatment and/or substance abuse treatment and arranges for enrollment upon the youth's release from custody. We are able to decrease the amount of time the youth may have to wait for services upon their release from custody. Upon booking, the Transitional Probation Officer utilizes the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI), a risk-based instrument. Risk scores calculated by the DRAI are used to inform a recommendation for release, community based alternatives to detention or secure detention.

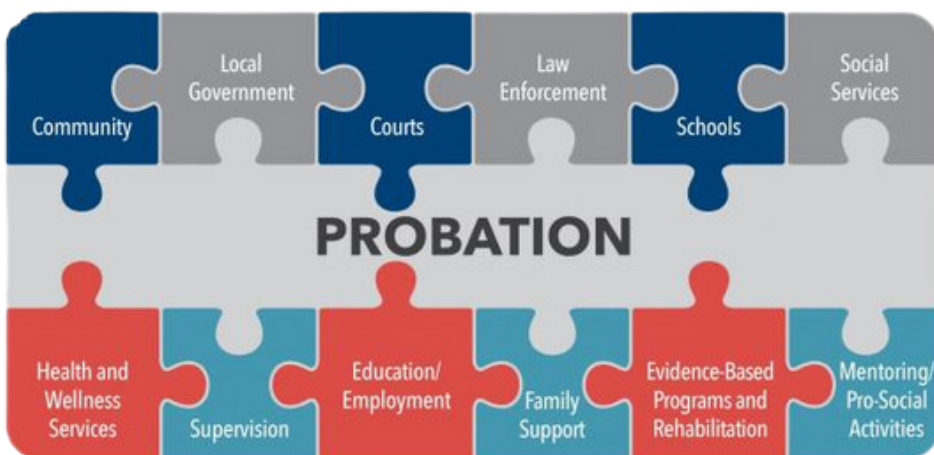
Prior to a youth's release from custody, a Transitional Re-Entry Team meeting is conducted with the youth, the family, school officials, the assigned probation officer, juvenile hall correctional officers, Behavioral Health, Kings View and any other relevant service providers and county partners. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the strengths of the youth, the orders of the court, the needs of the youth and their case plan in addition to other factors that impact the youth and their rehabilitation. This meeting allows for services to be provided immediately upon release from custody to ensure the best outcome for the youth and their family.

Kings County has a wide range of services available within the Juvenile Justice System. It relies heavily on cooperation and collaboration between agencies and uses the strengths of each to maximize services.

The relatively small population tends to make for closer cooperation between agencies, as most of the county agency offices are within walking distance of one another.

There are many roadblocks that are problematic in providing optimum services to our juvenile population and their families. Specifically, the rural areas of our county have limited access to the full complement of services available to the population centers of Hanford and Lemoore. A lack of transportation services makes it difficult for the people we serve to receive needed services. Efforts have been made to assist our families by providing bus passes that would allow for transportation from the outlying areas into the county seat. However, bus and train services are limited in the outlying areas and are often only available once per day. Some services have been made available in the outlying areas to alleviate the transportation barrier. Those services are limited.

Kings County has a large migrant farm-worker population and oftentimes the language barrier prohibits this important segment of our community from receiving information regarding available services. Although some services are offered in the Spanish language, many are not, excluding some families from participating.



KINGS COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Provides protection to the children and adults in the county who are at risk. They promote safety and well-being of the families of Kings County to achieve family permanence, stability and self-reliance. They provide temporary economic assistance for those in need and provide comprehensive employment, training, and housing services.

The Kings County Human Services Agency Social Services Division oversees Child Protective Services. The Emergency Response Unit is responsible for telephone intake hotline for all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect and follow-up investigation of referrals. The Court unit files petitions; jurisdiction/disposition reports and manages the cases until the disposition decision is ordered. They have ongoing case management units for the Family Reunification, Family Maintenance, Permanency Planning, and AB12 services for Non-minor Dependents (NMD). There is one Adoptions Services unit and two public health nurses submitting Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) data entry. Additionally, there is a unit dedicated to the Resource Family Approval process.

The agency worked with the Probation Department and the Tribal Social Services Department of the local tribal partner, The Santa Rosa Rancheria, in completing the Kings County Disaster Plan. Furthermore, the Probation Department actively participates in various committees, including the Children's System of Care, Children's Interagency Advisory Committee, and Interagency Placement Committee lead by the Human Services Agency.

KINGS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Strives to empower individuals and their families to achieve sustained well-being from mental illness and addiction. They promote, support and invest in the wellness and recovery of individuals living in the communities of Kings County by creating opportunities to contribute, learn, work and find hope in each day.

They meet each individual where they are, focusing on the person, not an illness; seek to understand and embrace diversity; demonstrate ethics, integrity, and commitment in all they do; share knowledge and information, which fosters authority and empowerment in everyone; and create partnerships that are preventative, creative, and positive to their mission. The Behavioral Health Department manage all mental health and substance abuse contracts for the county.

Recently, the Behavioral Health Department initiated the Mobile Crisis Support Team . Services are available Monday to Friday for Schools, Human Services Agency and Mental Health providers. Mobile Crisis Unit provides community based mental health crisis services for youth age 21 and younger. Services include response to the youth's location with a clinician and peer support staff to stabilize and provide appropriate referrals for the youth in crisis.

KINGS COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Raises student achievement throughout the county. They promote academic success by meeting the needs of both educators and students and by broadening educational opportunities. They provide district and school support in professional development, instructional technology, alternative instructional programs, youth development, early childhood education and special events.

There are 13 school districts within Kings County as follows: Armona Union Elementary, Central Union Elementary, Corcoran Unified, Hanford Elementary, Hanford Joint Union High, Island Union, Kings River-Hardwick, Kit Carson, Lakeside Union Elementary, Lemoore Elementary, Lemoore Union High, Pioneer Union Elementary and Reef-Sunset Unified.



KINGS VIEW

mental health services are contracted by the county to provide psychiatric services, mental health counseling, and crisis services. Additionally, the agency has a separate contract with the Kings County Probation Department which provides an on-site therapist that works exclusively with probation youth.



ASPIRANET

contracted by the county to provide Full Service Partnership (FSP) services to Kings County's youth. FSP is a higher level of outpatient mental health services offering comprehensive and intensive services that incorporate a team approach to meeting the youth and family's behavioral health needs. Mental health services, case management and crisis services for youth enrolled in the FSP program are available in a 24 hour, seven day a week capacity.

JTO JOB TRAINING OFFICE

began providing services to in custody youth at the Kings County Juvenile Hall in 2023. JTO has since completed over 90 classes and has instructed about 800 students. Focus on teaching youth tools for re-entry resume building, interview workshops, mock interviews (outside members interview youth in the hall), DMV study book preparation, and money management. JTO staff completes case notes and evaluations on every student. Continue to actively participates in completing Individual Rehabilitation Plan's (IRP) and attends Re-Entry Team meetings.



WESTCARE

contracted by the county to provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) early intervention, Outpatient Drug Free (ODF) treatment, and Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT) to Kings County youth between the ages of 12 to 17. Services include: Intake, treatment and discharge planning, crisis intervention, collateral services, group and individual counseling with evidence-based treatment curriculum.



CHAMPIONS RECOVERY

seeks to serve those community members afflicted by social and emotional issues, family dysfunction, substance abuse, mental health and criminal justice involvement. They strive to serve the community, specifically focusing on those members who have experienced trauma and brokenness, those who need hope and guidance and those who seek to be healthy. Services are provided to non-minors who have been adjudged a ward of the Court and are placed on juvenile probation supervision.



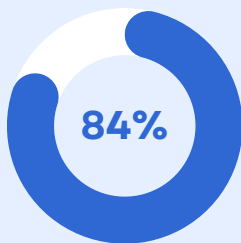
MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

also contracted by the county to provide outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) to Kings County's youth. SMHS services include mental health assessment, individual, family and group therapy, case management, and crisis intervention.

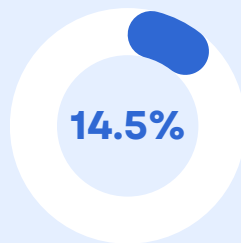
According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in 2020, 40.3 million people (approximately 1 in 7 people) aged 12 or older had a Substance User Disorder (SUD) within the prior year. Including 28.3 million who had an alcohol use disorder and 18.4 million who had an illicit drug use disorder.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, by the 12th grade, about two-thirds of students have tried alcohol. About half of high school students reported ever having used marijuana. Additionally, 15% of high school students reported having ever used illicit or injection drugs (i.e. cocaine, inhalants, heroin, methamphetamines, hallucinogens, or ecstasy) and 14% reported misusing prescription opioids.

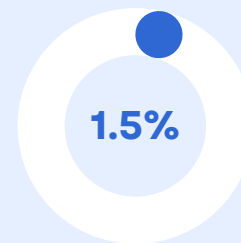
According to the Kings County Behavioral Health’s Strategic Prevention Plan (2021-2026), there were approximately 120 unduplicated youth in 2019-2020 that met criteria for a Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and a total of 144 clients received services from WestCare.



YOUTH RECEIVING SUD TREATMENT SERVICES ARE BETWEEN AGES 15 THROUGH 17



YOUTH IN TREATMENT SERVICES ARE BETWEEN AGES OF 12 THROUGH 14



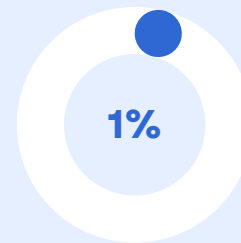
PARTICIPANTS IN YOUTH SUD TREATMENT ARE BETWEEN AGES 18 THROUGH 21



YOUTH IN TREATMENT HAVE A CANNABIS USE DISORDER



YOUTH HAVE AN ALCOHOL USE DISORDER



LESS THAN 1% OF YOUTH ARE BEING TREATED FOR OTHER DRUGS

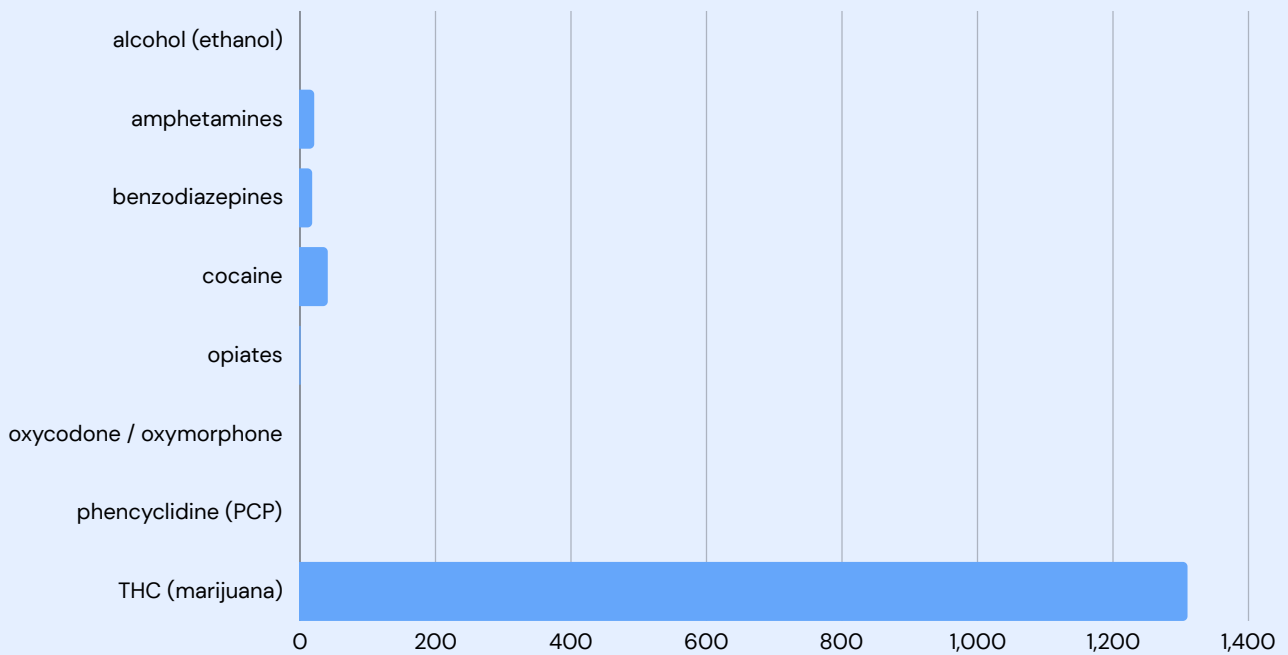
According to Kings County Behavioral Health, risk factors for drug and alcohol abuse in Kings County are the parents and youths lack of awareness of physical, mental, neurological, and legal consequences of use as well as a low perception of harm. Additionally, since the legalization of cannabis, youth report higher rates of use, easier access to the substance, and acceptance of use.

The following entities provide assistance to ensure residents of Kings County have access to SUD prevention and treatment services: Champions Recovery Alternatives, WestCare Adolescent Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) AA/NA/Al-Non, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), California Health Collaborative, and Kings County Behavioral Health (KCBH).

Health Management Associates (HMA) is a leading independent national research and consulting firm in the healthcare industry. HMA team has decades of experience in research and evaluation, policy analysis, government, strategic planning, organizational development and needs assessment. Specifically, HMA has been collaborating with county stakeholders in a team setting, including the Probation Department, on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), an approach integrating medication, counseling, and behavioral therapies to comprehensively address substance use disorders at the patient level.

Probation Drug Testing Data:

The following data is based on 5,814 urine samples collected from youth by the Kings County Probation Department between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023 (All positive samples confirmed via lab):



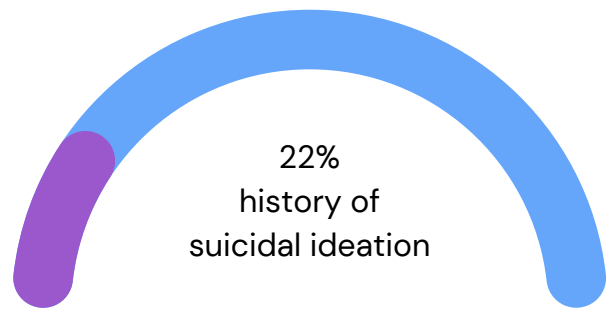
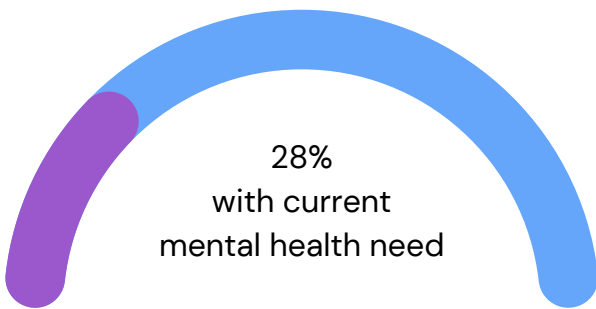
positive specimens by drug class	# of sample	
alcohol (ethanol)	0	0%
amphetamines	21	2.78%
benzodiazepines	18	2.43%
cocaine	41	5.46%
opiates	1	.14%
oxycodone / oxymorphone	0	0%
phencyclidine (PCP)	0	0%
THC (marijuana)	1,310	95.07%

Kings County Behavioral Health strongly advocates for prevention and early intervention for those suffering from mental health issues. Three promising new prevention and early intervention programs: Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction and Student Mental Health are tackling some of the most serious problems with proven approaches. The programs have the power to greatly reduce the amount of money spent on crisis services for people with serious mental illness, more importantly the programs will help thousands of children, adults and seniors stay healthy.

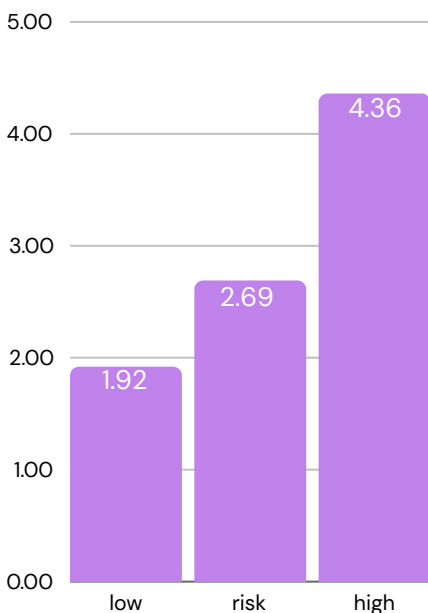
According to Kings County Behavioral Health more than half of mental issues begin by age 14 but unfortunately most children do not receive help during this critical time. Those children who do receive mental health support are more likely to be successful in school and as adults.

Probation Mental Health Data:

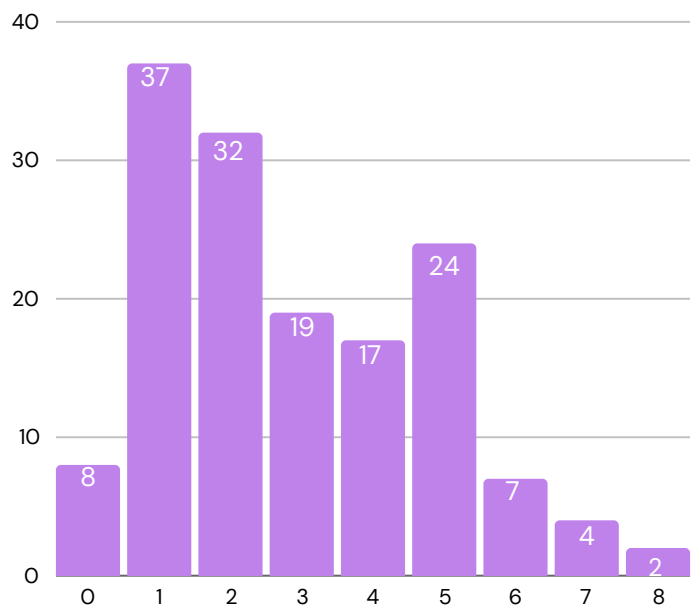
The following data is based on Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessments conducted on youth by the Kings County Probation Department between 01/01/2022 and 12/31/2023:



ACE Score per Risk Level



of PACT assessments and associated ACE Score



Last year, the Behavioral Health, Probation Department, Department of Education, Central Valley Regional Center and Human Services Agency worked collaboratively to develop a strategic work plan to identify gaps in youth services in our community and worked towards addressing those gaps. The group is identified as the Children's Interagency Advisory Committee (CIAC). Together, several goals were identified and streamlined to provide services to the youth in our county including family engagement teaming, access to timely and effective intensive mental health and care coordination, staff/caregiver development and training, client specific information sharing and timely, meaningful universal assessments. The team met regularly to work toward implementing services to attain the identified goals. The Comprehensive Prevention Plan was approved in December of 2023.

Currently, the Kings County Human Services Agency, Probation Department, and the Tachi-Yokut Tribe are actively working in conjunction to update the Disaster Response Plan for Kings County. It is a specialized plan to address the unique needs and challenges associated with providing services to vulnerable children and families during and after disasters or emergencies. The goal of such a plan is to ensure the safety and well-being of children and families involved with child welfare services in the event of a disaster or crisis. The goal is to ensure, if a plan is needed, it is tailored to the specific needs and risks of the youth. Collaboration between emergency management agencies, local government, and other relevant stakeholders is also crucial for a coordinated and effective response.

High Fidelity Wrap is a specific approach to providing intensive, individualized, and community-based services to children and youth with complex emotional and behavioral needs. It is often used as an alternative to traditional residential or institutional placements for children who have experienced challenges such as trauma, mental health issues, or involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. The Kings County Human Services Agency, Probation Department, Behavioral Health Department, and Aspiranet efforts are to provide more effective and family-centered services to children and youth with complex needs. It emphasizes a holistic and community-based approach to support these individuals and help them thrive in their communities while remaining connected to their families.

When the Probation Department is involved with a youth who is at risk of out-of-home placement, we often engage in a variety of interventions and processes aimed at keeping the youth within their family or community whenever possible. By offering wraparound services, convening Child and Family Team meetings, and actively involving relatives and friends in the decision-making process, the Probation Department aims to support youth and families in addressing challenges and maintaining stability while minimizing the need for out-of-home placement.

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) aim to provide a structured and supportive environment to address the needs of these individuals. When the youth is ready to phase out, the STRTP step-down program would likely involve transitioning the youth from the intensive therapeutic environment of the STRTP to a less restrictive setting while still providing necessary support and services to ensure their continued progress and well-being. This could include placement in an Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC), independent living, with relatives, or other appropriate settings, depending on the individual's needs and circumstances. The goal is to help these youth successfully reintegrate into the community and continue their journey towards independence and stability.

The probation department has recently made great strides in changing its approach to rehabilitating its confined youth. This is shown by the probation department's dedication to lowering the population of juvenile offenders in the community, as well as rehabilitating youth who are currently involved with the juvenile justice system. The probation department's dedication has resulted in a commitment to provide more programs and services to our confined youth, provide transitional services to youth who are returning to their communities to prevent re-confinement, provide services to youth who are in danger of becoming involved in the criminal justice system and incorporate best practices and evidenced based practices in the services being offered to the youth of Kings County.

The probation department sought assistance from the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) to conduct an assessment utilizing their evidence-based Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) to review available programs and services. The CPC assessment process requires a site visit to collect various program traces. These include, but are not limited to: interviews with executive staff, direct service delivery staff, and key program staff; interviews with program participants; observation of direct services; and review of relevant program materials (e.g., participant files, program policies and procedures, treatment curricula, handbooks, etc.). Once the information is gathered and reviewed, assessors score the tool. When the program has met a CPC indicator, it is considered an area of strength for the program. When the program has not met an indicator, it is viewed as an area in need of improvement. For each area in need of improvement, the assessors craft a practical recommendation. The probation department seeks to improve services and systems and will strive to follow the prescribed recommendations. We plan to continue to work with University of Cincinnati to improve officer training, level and type of programming offered and community involvement to better align with current research.

The County of Kings sought funding under Senate Bill 81 round two, to renovate and remodel an existing adult detention facility, the Kings County Branch Jail, into the new Kings County Juvenile Center: The BRANCH – Behavioral Rehabilitation Academy – New Chance Hub.

The proposed 56 bed facility will replace the current juvenile facility and provide much needed programming, support, treatment, and educational spaces to deliver the services necessary to rehabilitate the youth confined therein. The BRANCH is being remodeled to emphasize the provision of programs, education and treatment to its confined youth and will be designed to facilitate as home-like an environment as possible to help prevent these youth from becoming institutionalized, thus decreasing the likelihood of future incarceration. On October 18, 2023, the probation department began providing services at the Kings County Juvenile Day Reporting Center for the youth. This facility is designed to provide structured supervision and services to juvenile offenders as an alternative to incarceration. We are currently developing a curriculum of services to be provided at the Day Reporting Center and are currently equipping the classrooms to facilitate such services.