

Assessment Center, Misdemeanor and Assessment Services

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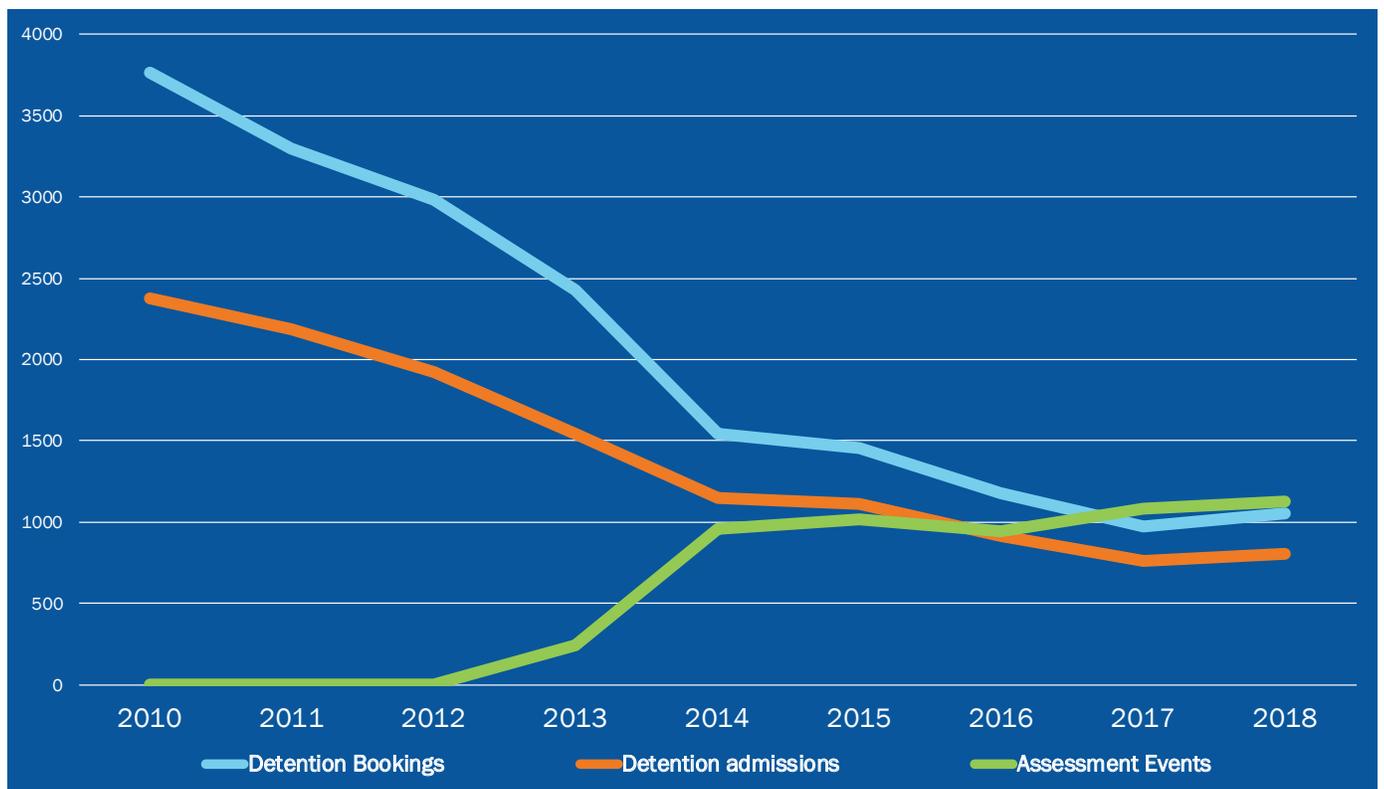
The Juvenile Assessment Center was developed to redirect low risk offenders from further penetrating the juvenile justice system. The center's main goal is to ensure the right youth receive the right service at the right time and place. The Assessment Center and Court are committed to keeping the community safe through evidenced-based screenings, assessments and meaningful interventions for each child and family. Research demonstrates that more harm can result when a youth is exposed to detention and high risk offenders, thus, resulting in raising the risk level of the offender. The Assessment Center and Misdemeanor Services seek to reduce or eliminate that potential harm through its referral and case oversight services.

The Assessment Center is a non-secure alternative to detention for low risk offenders. Youth charged with offenses such as status offenses (unruly), alcohol and other drug related misdemeanors, minor domestic violence/family conflict, simple assaults, property offenses, criminal trespass, and

safe school ordinances (SSOs), are transported by police officers to the Assessment Center for processing. Each youth is screened by trained staff utilizing evidenced-based tools. The youth and family are linked to community-based services that meet the need of the youth and family. If the youth successfully engages in the required services, these cases can be diverted from official court proceedings.

In 2018, the Juvenile Assessment Center screened 825 unique youth who were arrested for 1124 different events. For the third straight year, the Assessment Center has screened more youth than were admitted to secure detention. See chart below. The Center continues to redirect a majority of youth from detention while ensuring appropriate interventions and responses while keeping community safety our primary mission. This response continues to provide youth with a continuum of responses and opportunities that minimize a youth's involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Detention and Assessment Center Cases



The Assessment Center continues to use the following evidenced based screening tools to guide case officers in working with the youth and family in a collaborative process to strengthen existing resources and identify individual or family needs that can be linked in the community. Ohio Youth Assessment System (**Diversion OYAS**), Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (**GAIN-SS**) and the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Strength Based Screener (**GAIN-SBS**). The Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (**SBIRT**) screening process has been implemented for youth that have been officially adjudicated and referred from the bench to Misdemeanor or Assessment Services. This screening tool was developed by Chestnut Health Systems and the Reclaiming Futures Initiative.

The Assessment Center also has continued to use the Lucas County Juvenile Court Public Health Screener (**LCPHS**). This screener assists in identifying issues of public health that have been linked to social determinates that have a direct impact on increasing one’s risk of juvenile justice involvement. With the use of evidenced based screening tools, community engagement and continued staff training and development, the Court will ensure that the right youth receive the right service at the right time and place.

Assessment Center staff has also screened 176 post adjudicated case referrals from Judges and Magistrates using the same evidence based screening tools mentioned earlier. This process allows for staff to link youth and families to community based services that may assist in addressing youth and family needs, while also strengthening existing resources and positive community connections.

Assessment Center Referrals: by Gender

GENDER	EVENTS	UNIQUE YOUTH
Female	463	335
Male	659	490
Grand Total	1124	825

Assessment Center Referrals: by Race

RACE	EVENTS	UNIQUE YOUTH
Black	699	519
White	335	245
Other	52	39
Latinx	25	22
Grand Total	1124	825

Misdemeanor Services

Misdemeanor Services received 46 new post adjudicated referrals in 2018. Evidence indicates that increased juvenile justice involvement for low risk youth increases the likelihood that they will continue with delinquent behaviors. Misdemeanor Services strives to redirect low risk adjudicated youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Formal court supervision at this level provides linkage to supportive services, where the goal is to foster positive change and promote pro-social behavior. Misdemeanor Service continues to focus on public safety while providing case management services. Case officers assessed risk and needs and refer to community resources that can provide supportive services to the family even after their involvement with the court.

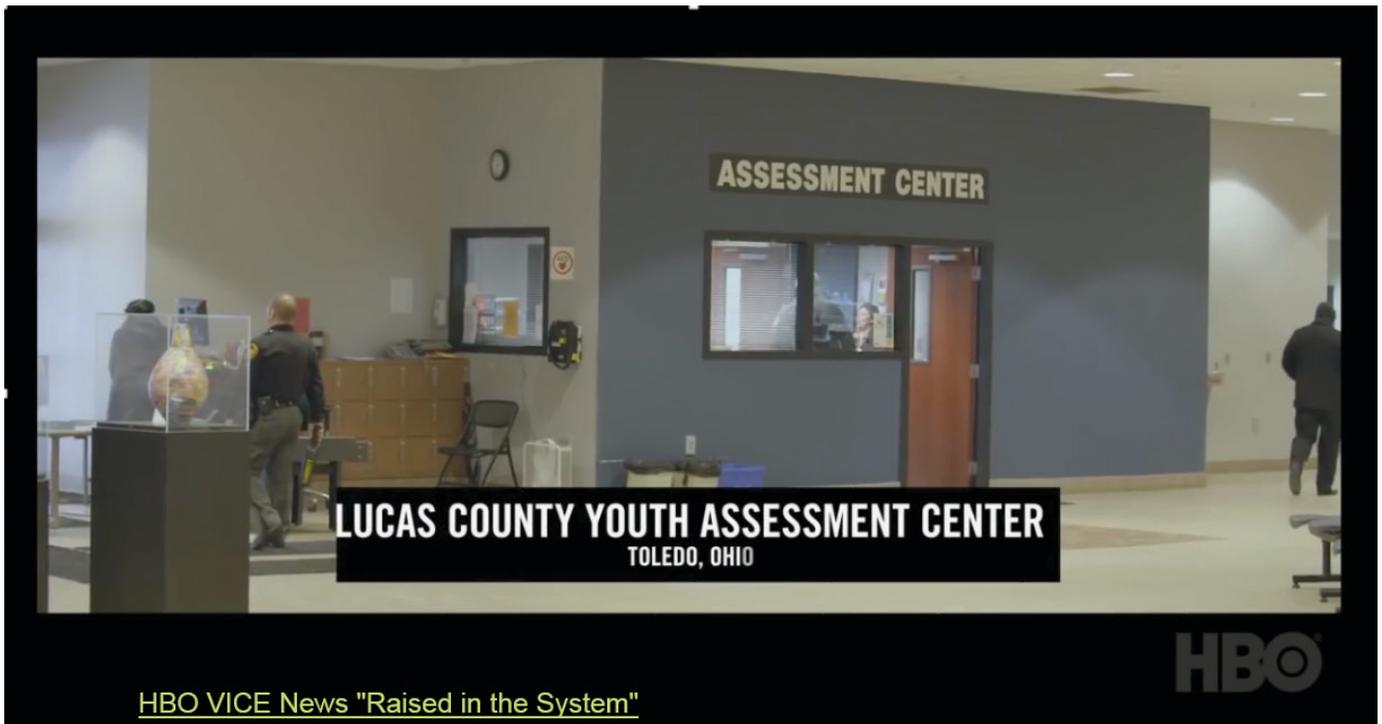
Every youth is screened using the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs – Strength Based Screener (**GAIN-SBS**). The Ohio Youth Assessment System and the Lucas County Juvenile Court Dispositional Matrix are also used to ensure that each youth receives the right services at the appropriate time. Misdemeanor Services also practices the Court’s Positive Youth Justice (**PYJ**) framework which focuses on identifying youth and family strengths, and developing positive relationships. These core principals provide opportunities for the youth to move away from delinquent behaviors and increases the chances of them minimizing contact with the juvenile justice system.

Active Misdemeanor Services Youth Referred: by Gender

GENDER	COUNT
Female	8
Male	38
Grand Total	46

Active Misdemeanor Services Youth Referred: by Race

RACE	COUNT
Black	29
White	13
Latinx	1
Other	2
Grand Total	46



HBO VICE News "Raised in the System"

Juvenile Court leaders and the Lucas County Executive Team worked for over 5 years to bring the vision of the Assessment Center to Lucas County. Since its opening October 1, 2013, in the Lucas County Juvenile Justice Center, community safety has been the ultimate goal. HBO VICE News came to Lucas County Juvenile Court and documented this, featuring Lucas County's Youth Assessment Center in a segment of their show, "Raised in the System."

Goals for 2019 include:

- Refining the data entry process with the new case management system.
- Continuing to nurture and strengthen our relationships with community partners.
- Implementing the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) Questionnaire.
- Implementing the Lucas County Jobs and Family Services, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (PRC) Application (TANF)
- Ongoing staff development and training for the Assessment Center Staff will involve, Motivational Interviewing, GAIN-SS/SBS, Public Health Screener, and Ohio Youth Assessment System updates.
- Community partners to provide presentations to the Assessment Center staff regarding their services include: Youth Advocate Program, Lucas County Family Counsel – Wraparound Services, Human Trafficking Coalition, A Renewed Mind- Functional Family Services, and Zepf Center- Multi Systemic Services.

Closed Cases from Misdemeanor Services

	NOT CLOSED	OTHER	SUCCESSFUL	UNSUCCESSFUL	TOTAL
Active	4				4
Inactive	2				2
Closed		6	27	7	40
Total	6	6	27	7	46

