

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
**Judge John J. Lohn**

A DIVISION OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
93 PUBLIC SQUARE  
MEDINA, OHIO

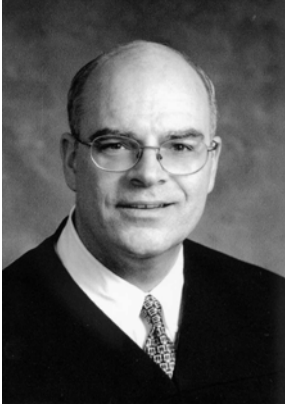
2005 ANNUAL REPORT



*Photo Courtesy of Garnett Publishing*

**Sharon M. Danko, Court Administrator**

## MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT



### **JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN**

Judge John J. Lohn is one of four judges of the Medina County Common Pleas Court. Judge Lohn began his term in February 2003. The Medina County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18, including those categorized as delinquent, traffic offenders, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent. In addition to serving as our County's Juvenile Court Judge, Judge Lohn is the Medina County Probate Court Judge.

### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2006**

**MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS:** The Court will have a mental health clinician to assess children placed at our facilities or involved in Drug Court. Initial screenings are critical to the safety of the detainee, the staff and other residents. Because of high correlation between addiction and mental disorders, the mental health expert will join the Drug Court team.

## **MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PROGRAMS**

**DRUG COURT:** The mission of the Drug Court is to stop children from using alcohol and drugs. Drug Court is a coordination of efforts between alcohol and drug counseling and court services. For addicted children, Drug Court is their last and best hope for sobriety and a productive life. 29 juveniles graduated from the program in 2005.

**JUVENILE TRAFFIC NIGHT COURT:** Juvenile traffic offenders' hearings begin at 3:00 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. On the first and third Tuesdays of each month, the Court has extended hours to 8:00 pm for hearings. By hearing cases after school and work hours, it becomes more convenient for both parents to attend court with their teens. Students avoid absence from classes and extra-curricular activities by coming to Juvenile Traffic Night Court. 1145 juvenile traffic cases were filed in 2005.

**CAMP INTEGRITY:** Camp Integrity was developed as a means of combating the idleness and lack of supervision for court-involved youth during the critical hours of 3 pm to 9 pm. The program consists of academic study, physical activity, group discussions, life skills and social responsibility training. 96 youth completed the program in 2005.

**PARENTS AND TEENS TOGETHER (PATT):** The PATT Program was designed to work with the unruly youth of Medina County. The program was specifically designed to involve both the juveniles and their families, because the behavior of an unruly youth affects the entire family. Through the group process, families work through various issues of concern. Areas that are addressed include communication skills, flexibility, and perceptions. Secondly, all aspects of thinking are addressed. Those aspects include responsible vs. irresponsible thinking, control, choices, and consequences.

**ID-21:** This is a 21-hour intensive detention program held at the Juvenile Detention Center for Alcohol and Drug Offenses. The goals of the program are: parental intervention and detection techniques; drug and alcohol education; and, building bridges between youth and their parents. The program began in 2003. 114 juveniles completed this program in 2005.

**TRUANCY PROGRAM:** In 2003 a truancy plan was introduced to the Medina County schools. The goals of the plan are to encourage consistent policies throughout the County and more effective dispositions in court. Each year, the court hosts an annual truancy meeting with representatives from all eight school districts as well as the Prosecutor's Office, Job and Family Services, and the Ohio State University Extension Office. 85 truancy cases were filed for the 2004-2005 school year.

**COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement):** The parents of juveniles must pay a portion of the cost of court programming. In 2005 over \$66,000.00 was collected through COPPER.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Community Service provides work experience to juveniles. Community service work is labor which is provided to a non-profit or governmental agency. 297 youth completed the program in 2005: 140 were non-probationers and 157 were on probation. Nearly 9,700 hours were donated to benefit such agencies as Medina County Schools, Medina County Park District, Spring Grove Cemetery, Adopt a Highway and various fire departments.

**MEDINA COUNTY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** The Juvenile Court has been recognized by the Ohio Department of Transportation for two years of service in the Adopt-A-Highway program and has also been recognized by the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission. The Court is involved in various boards and groups in Medina County including the Medina County Police Chief's Association, Family First Council, Youth and Senior Intersystems Community Assessment Teams, Share Cluster, Collaborative Family Treatment Program, The Tobacco Coalition and 2-1-1 Call for Help Initiative.

For more information, please go online to [www.medinacountyjuvenileprobatecourt.com](http://www.medinacountyjuvenileprobatecourt.com) for details about these and other programs.

**MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
SUPREME COURT STATISTICS**

The statistical summary meets all of the statutory requirements of accounting for the number, type and disposition of cases that came before both Judge and/or Magistrate in the calendar year 2005. The chart is a breakdown of each type of case that came before the Juvenile Court and how the Court disposed of each case. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence Implementation Manual promulgated by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

	<b>Delinquency</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Dependency, Neglect or Abuse</b>	<b>Unruly</b>	<b>Adult Cases</b>	<b>Motion for Permanent Custody</b>	<b>Custody/Visitation</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Parentage</b>	<b>U.I.F.S.A.</b>	<b>All Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>New Cases Filed</b>	922	1145	61	200	2	0	75	230	26	9	0	2670
<b>Cases transferred in, reactived or redesignated</b>	7	11	2	0	0	6	75	459	14	0	16	590
<b>Total</b>	929	1156	63	200	2	6	150	689	40	9	16	3260

**Terminations By:**

<b>Trial by Judge</b>	14	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
<b>Trial by Magistrate</b>	49	37	0	2	0	0	48	14	5	0	0	155
<b>Admit to Judge</b>	14	0	40	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	59
<b>Admit to Magistrate</b>	661	621	0	133	0	0	42	207	14	0	6	1684
<b>Dismissal</b>	63	8	15	28	0	0	29	83	11	1	5	243
<b>Certification/ Waiver Granted</b>	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
<b>Transfer</b>	76	206	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	286
<b>Unavailable Party</b>	10	1	0	2	0	0	4	69	8	0	5	99
<b>All Other</b>	13	255	1	24	0	0	3	290	1	10	2	599
<b>Total</b>	900	1129	72	189	2	2	130	664	39	11	18	3156

## **MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT TYPES OF CASES HEARD IN JUVENILE COURT**

**DELINQUENT CHILD:** A delinquent child is one who commits any act (other than a juvenile traffic offense) that would be a crime under state, municipal, or federal law if committed by an adult, or who fails to obey an order of a juvenile court. In 2005, there were 922 delinquency cases filed in Medina County.

**TRAFFIC:** A juvenile who violates a traffic law, ordinance or regulation (excluding parking violations) is a juvenile traffic offender. In 2005, there were 1145 juvenile traffic cases filed.

**PARENTAGE:** Paternity cases determine the parentage of a child. Before Court involvement, an administrative determination must be attempted through the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), or the parents may execute an Acknowledgement that is filed with the Central Paternity Registry. It is necessary to establish the parent and child relationship in order to decide issues of parental rights and support. In 2005, there were 26 parentage cases filed.

**PARENTAL RIGHTS:** These cases include custody and visitation matters between parents, and in some cases other people, such as grandparents. The legal right to physical care and control of a child is determined, including the issues of the child's residence, time with each person and monetary support and health care obligations. In 2005, there were 75 custody/visitation cases filed.

**GRANDPARENT POWERS OF ATTORNEY:** There are two types of documents, the Power of Attorney, used when a parent is available and able to sign the power of attorney to the grandparent, and the Caretaker Authorization Affidavit, used when the caretaker grandparent is unable to locate or contact the parents. Both allow grandparents to obtain care, physical custody and control over grandchildren without changing legal custody. Both documents are in effect for one year, and if a renewal is desired, a court hearing must then be held. In 2005, 15 powers of attorney were filed, and 1 caretaker affidavit was filed.

**CHILD SUPPORT:** The biological or adoptive parent of a child is obligated to support the child. The Juvenile Court may establish support orders and enforce these orders. Orders include health care obligations of each parent and allocation of the tax exemption for the child. The Court enforces orders established administratively through the Child Support Enforcement Agency. In 2005, 230 support cases were filed.

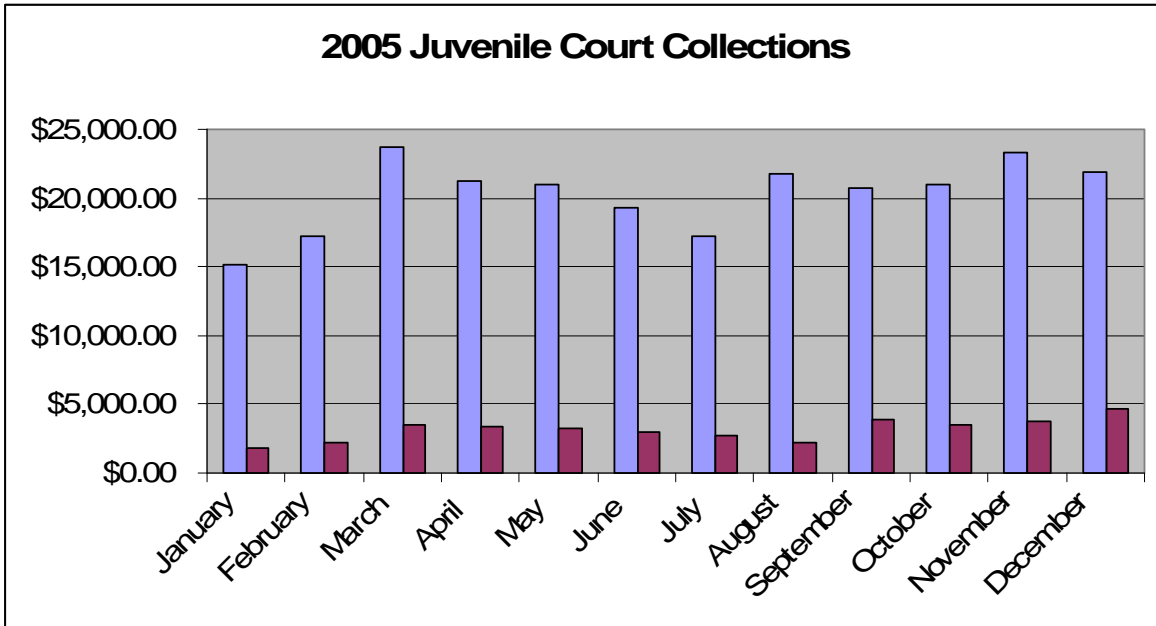
**DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE:** Children living in inappropriate environments as defined by state law may be removed from parents or other care givers. With Juvenile Court involvement, the children may be reunited with their families under supervision, placed in foster care, or placed with relatives while the conditions that caused removal are remedied. In 2005, there were 61 dependency, neglect and abuse cases filed.

**UNRULY:** Any child who commits a status offense (conduct that would not be a crime if committed by an adult) is an unruly child. An unruly child includes any child who does not submit to the reasonable control of the child's parents, teachers, guardian or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient; any child who is an habitual truant from school; any child who behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger his or her health or morals or the health or morals of others; and, any child who violates a law (other than tobacco and gun violations) applicable only to a child. In 2005, 200 unruly child cases were filed.

**ADULT:** Adults may fall under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court if they commit an act that contributes to the delinquency or unruliness of a minor. Also, an adult may be charged with failing to support their child educationally. In 2005, 2 adult cases were filed in Medina County.

**MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
2005 Juvenile Court Collections**

The Juvenile Court assesses and collects the same costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas does for similar services. Court costs are assessed against juveniles found to be delinquent, truant, traffic offenders, or unruly. The fines and court costs the Court collects are distributed to the state, the county, and to local government.



<b>Month</b>	<b>Court Costs</b>	<b>Court Fines</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>January</b>	\$15,218.69	\$1,831.06	\$17,049.75
<b>February</b>	\$17,184.68	\$2,248.69	\$19,433.37
<b>March</b>	\$23,704.00	\$3,544.09	\$27,248.09
<b>April</b>	\$21,203.86	\$3,373.73	\$24,577.59
<b>May</b>	\$20,920.48	\$3,183.10	\$24,103.58
<b>June</b>	\$19,243.37	\$2,988.66	\$22,232.03
<b>July</b>	\$17,165.27	\$2,668.25	\$19,833.52
<b>August</b>	\$21,761.72	\$2,147.64	\$23,909.36
<b>September</b>	\$20,765.03	\$3,828.58	\$24,593.61
<b>October</b>	\$20,950.20	\$3,496.84	\$24,447.04
<b>November</b>	\$23,350.67	\$3,739.22	\$27,089.89
<b>December</b>	\$21,935.68	\$4,717.11	\$26,652.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$243,403.65</b>	<b>\$37,766.97</b>	<b>\$281,170.62</b>

**MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
COPPER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Judge Lohn instituted the COPPER (Cost of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement) program to recoup part of the costs of court services. In 2005, approximately \$66,197.62 was collected by the Court through COPPER fees.

**COPPER Program Costs**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount Charged</u>	<u>How Amount Determined</u>
Camp Integrity	\$150 for program	Length of time ordered into the program may vary between 2-6 weeks.
Community Service	\$10 per 4 hours	Weekday program runs for 4 hours per night. Saturday is an 8 hour program.
Drug Court	\$150 for program	One time fee just to be in drug court for supervision.
Drug Test	\$3.50-\$8.20	The cost of each test, panel and supplies.
Electronic Monitoring	\$65 hook-up \$9.50 per day GPS \$12 per day if breathalyzer	The cost of hook-up and daily monitoring.
ID-21	\$150 for program	The cost of JDC, food, and program providers
Juvenile Detention Center	\$30 per day	Per day cost. Court orders number of days.
New Horizons	\$20 per day	Per day cost. Court orders number of days.
Probation	\$150 per placement	Probation supervision. Length on probation will vary.
Transportation	\$10 per trip	Personnel, gas, vehicle maintenance costs.

## MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

MCJDC is a maximum-security detention facility. With approximately 26,000 square feet, the facility has thirty-30 individual detention cells, three (3) large classrooms, dining hall, medical office with examination room, gymnasium, library, and a secured outdoor recreation area.

The juvenile detention facility is reserved for the detainment of youth who have been charged with committing delinquent acts. Detention shall be used as a last resort and principally for youth who have committed serious offenses and are a risk to himself or herself or the community.

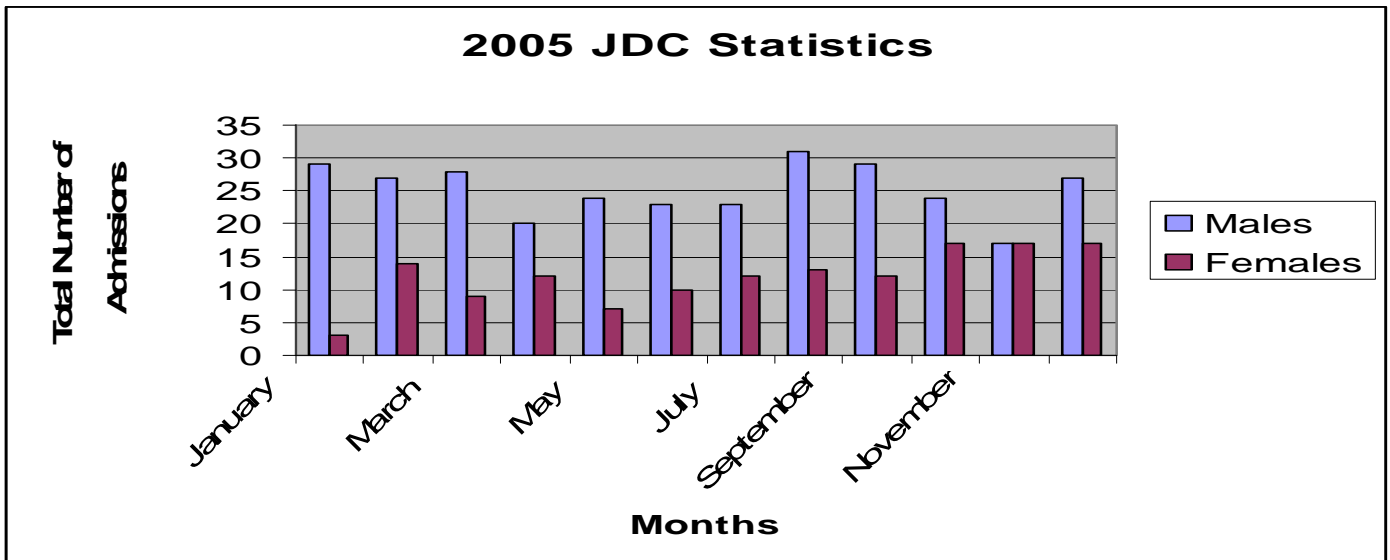
Typically, youth are awaiting adjudication and disposition, have violated the terms and conditions of their probation or parole, have violated a court order; or who are awaiting placement in another facility may be held up to ninety- 90 days.

Federal mandate prevents unruly or status type offenders from being held in detention for any longer than twenty-four (24) hours. Detention will not ordinarily be used for youth who are truant or probationers who are suspended from school. Non-felony offenders may be detained, pending a detention hearing, when law enforcement identifies a serious risk to person or property.

The Detention Center is not a treatment facility, but it is our philosophy that everyone coming in contact with our residents should do the most that they can to make a positive impact on the youth in hopes of diverting them from further trouble. While we do offer programs to the residents while they are here, the loss of personal choice and freedom cannot be offset by the activities and programming provided through the detention experience.

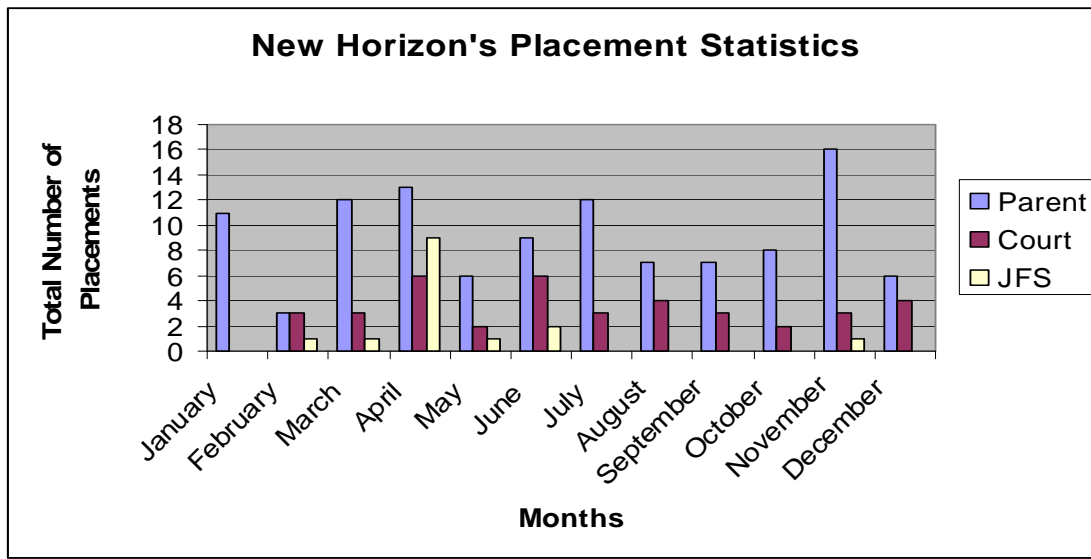
While at the JDC, youth are provided with programming and voluntary participation in various activities. Programming and services include but are not limited to the following:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Educational Services | Anger Management       |
| Visitation           | Drug & Alcohol         |
| Recreation           | Medical Services       |
| Commissary           | Mental Health Services |
| U.S. Mail            | Telephone Calls        |
| Trusty               | Library Services       |
| Social Services      | Religious Services     |
| Girl Scouts          | Project Learn          |



## MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT New Horizons Youth Shelter

New Horizons is a shelter care facility operated by the Medina County Juvenile Court and licensed by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. The ten bed facility has the capability of serving both males (5) and females (5). The shelter is open 365 days a year and staffed around the clock. Youth can be placed at New Horizons through four different ways: parents and/or guardians, Jobs and Family Services, juvenile court and emergency out of state placements.



There were 164 Placements in 2005: 110 parent placements, 39 court ordered placements, and 5 JFS Placements. A number of other families received out-patient services.

While placed at New Horizons, youth and their families are offered a wide variety of services. Those services include:

- *Educational Services:* New Horizon's staff transport youth to and from their home schools on a daily basis. Homework time is scheduled daily and incorporated on the weekends as needed. During this structured time, residents are able to obtain help and/or guidance with their schoolwork.
- *Medical and Dental Services:* a registered nurse conducts a health screening within the first 5 days of admission to New Horizons. This is used to determine whether the youth has any medical issues or concerns that need to be addressed or concerns that staff need to be made aware.
- *Mental Health Screening:* Upon admission, all JFS and Court Placed Youth receive an initial screening to determine whether or not a youth is in need of any further counseling services or whether or not a youth is a danger to him or herself. A professional Mental Health Counselor conducts this screening.
- *Counseling:* Those who are involved with counseling will continue while placed at New Horizons.
- *Recreational Activities:* Activities are provided both in and out of house. Those activities can include roller skating, bowling, movies, dinners, board games, volleyball, walks in the park, etc.

- *Structured Activities*: Built into the daily schedule is a structured activity time. During that time, residents have the opportunity to learn a variety of things. Those activities include but are not limited to personal hygiene, balancing a checkbook, budgeting, nutrition, laundry, stress management, peer pressure, exercising, job searching, apartment living, anti-smoking programs, tolerance, cultural diversity, relaxation activities. All materials for these activities are included in the programming.
- *A referral service* to the various agencies within the community.
- *Behavioral sessions* for residents and their families.

**MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

The purpose of probation is to hold juveniles accountable for their delinquent or unruly conduct. Juvenile law assumes children are capable of rehabilitation and correction. Probation officers investigate all aspects of the juvenile's case and make recommendations to the court as the best way to protect public safety and to achieve a permanent improvement in a child's behavior.

The juvenile probation officers have difficult jobs because of the many variables which affect a child's behavior. These variables include: the motivation and skills (or lack thereof) of the parents, the child's interaction with siblings, behavior at school and academic performance, the predominant influence of peers and the high incidence of mental health and social problems of today's teens.

The work of the probation officer is challenging and complicated but it is also rewarding. The probation department can point to hundreds of youth adults who have transcended the juvenile justice system to become outstanding people and law-abiding, productive citizens.

The probation officers have experience in both juvenile corrections and probation totaling 25 years of experience. The officers that work with the youth all have Bachelor Degrees in Criminal Justice.

Overview:

110 youth were on Probation as of 01/01/2005  
197 youth on Probation during year  
155 youth terminated from Probation  
152 youth on probation as of 12/31/2005

Demographics of 197 probationers:

Gender: 148 boys (75%), 49 girls (25%)  
Age: 11 Youngest, 19 Oldest, 16 Average  
Race: 4 Black (2%), 7 Bi-racial (4%), 3 Hispanic (2%), 183 White (93%)  
School District: 1 Black River (.5%), 56 Brunswick (28%), 19 Buckeye (10%), 24 Cloverleaf (12%), 7 Highland (4%), 53 Medina (27%), 36 Wadsworth (18%), 1 Other (.5%)

Offense Information:

Felony	50	(25%)
Misdemeanor	131	(67%)
Traffic	5	(3%)
Status Offense	11	(6%)

Type of Offense:

Homicide, Assault Threats	16	(8%)
Kidnapping, Abduction, Extortion	0	(0%)
Sex Offenses	11	(6%)
Arson, Vandalism, Criminal Damaging	10	(5%)
Robbery, Burglary, and Trespass	19	(10%)
Theft and Fraud	18	(9%)

Disorderly Conduct	21	(11%)
Offenses against the Family	23	(12%)
Offenses against Justice	6	(3%)
Drug and Alcohol Offenses	42	(21%)
Weapon Offenses	5	(3%)
Other Traffic	4	(2%)
Truancy	13	(7%)
Unruliness	9	(5%)

**MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**  
**The Ohio Department of Youth Service**

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the State agency responsible for youth incarcerated by local juvenile courts. The Department operates eight facilities and contracts with one private facility. Some facilities are dedicated to particular programming needs such as substance abuse or sex offender programming.

Juvenile courts receive annual allocations from DYS for the local treatment of youthful offenders. Annual allocations are based on the number of felony adjudications a county reports in relation to the number of felony adjudications statewide; as well as another allocation based on county demographics. Medina County averages about 1% of the Statewide felony adjudications during a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30. From these allocations, deductions are made based on the Court's projection of the fiscal year commitments. After the courts actual incarceration costs are subtracted from the annual allocation, any remaining funds are paid to the Court for use in community-based programming.

**Medina County Commitments**

During calendar year 2005, 8 males and 1 female were committed to DYS.

In January 2005, the Judge had a mandatory bindover – the youth had previously been boundover by Summit County.

**2005 Felony Filings**

118 Felony Cases were filed

**Gender**

Females	14	12%
Males	104	88%

**Age**

Average	16.6	
Youngest	11.1	
Oldest	19	(offense occurred before the age of 18)

**Month of Filing**

Month	Number Filed	Percent of Total
January	2	2%
February	6	5%
March	6	5%
April	12	10%
May	14	12%
June	7	6%
July	10	9%
August	11	9%
September	9	8%
October	7	6%
November	13	11%
December	21	18%

**Felony Levels Filed**

<u>Level</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
F-1	5	4%
F-2	7	6%
F-3	23	20%
F-4	22	19%
F-5	61	52%

**Agency Filing Complaint**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number Filed</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Brunswick Hills PD	2	2%
Brunswick PD	24	20%
Drug Task Force	1	1%
Lafayette PD	1	1%
Lodi PD	4	3%
Medina County Sheriff	25	21%
Montville PD	3	3%
Medina PD	16	14%
Medina Township PD	3	3%
Ohio State Highway Patrol	4	3%
Out of County	6	3%
Seville PD	2	2%
Wadsworth PD	27	23%

**Offense**

	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Burglary	15	13%
Breaking & Entering	14	12%
Grand Theft	12	10%
Gross Sexual Imposition	10	8%
Vandalism	10	8%
Domestic Violence	8	7%
Receiving Stolen Property	7	6%
Possession of Cocaine	4	3%
Unlawful Poss Dangerous Ordnance	4	3%
Conveying a Deadly Weapon on School Property	3	3%
Forgery	3	3%
Theft of Dangerous Drugs	3	3%
Trafficking in Drugs	3	3%
Aggravated Arson	2	2%
Assault on School Official	2	2%
Rape	2	2%
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1	1%
Agg Vehicular Assault	1	1%
Arson	1	1%
Att Grand Theft	1	1%
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	1	1%
Complicity to Breaking & Entering	1	1%

Disrupting Public Service	1	1%
Drug Abuse	1	1%
Failure to Obey a Police Officer	1	1%
Felonious Assault	1	1%
Inducing Panic	1	1%
Kidnapping	1	1%
Possession of Dangerous Drugs	1	1%
Preparation of Drugs for Sale	1	1%
Retaliation	1	1%
Trafficking in Marijuana	1	1%

**2005 Felony Filings – Adjudication Information**

Adjudicated Felonies	77
Amended to Misdemeanors	18
Dismissed	4
Disposition Only (Adjudicated Elsewhere)	6
Incorrect Filing	1
Bound over to Adult System	1
On-going	11

**MEDINA COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
2005 Probate Cases**

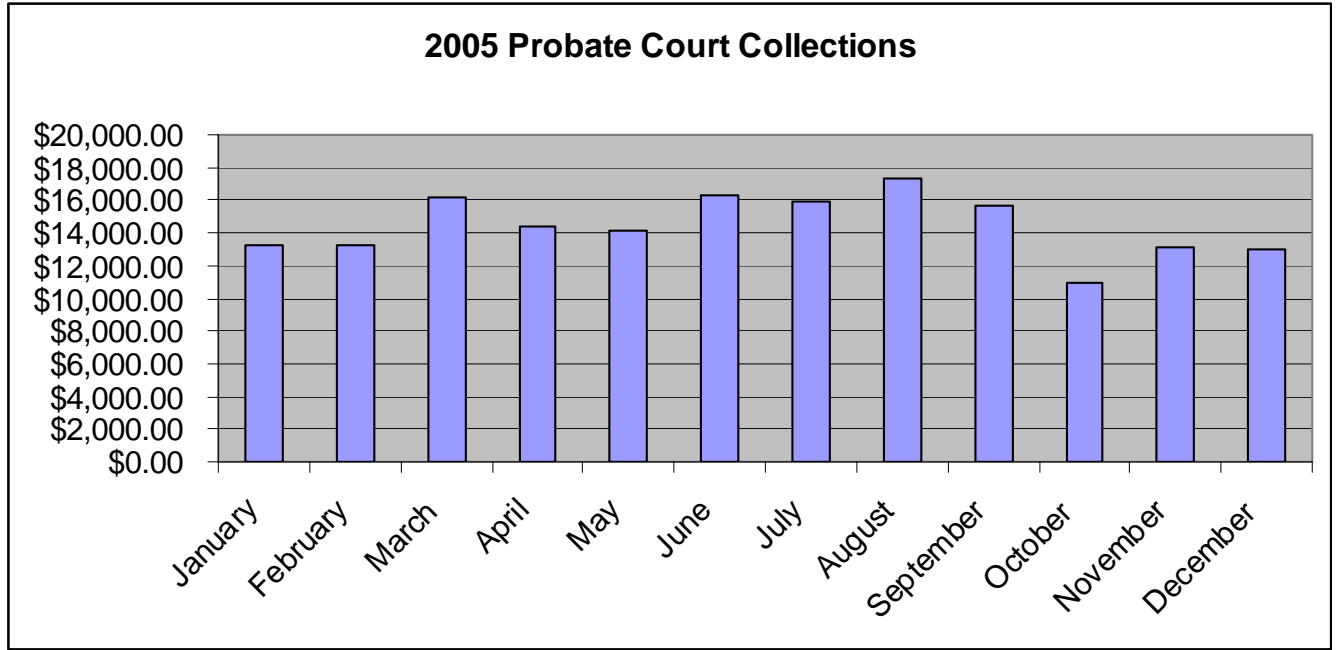
This chart is a summary of all the new filings in Probate Court during 2005.

Estates	570
Adoptions	47
Guardianship of Minors	80
Guardianship of Incompetents	59
Delay Registrations & Correction of births	20
Mental Illness	2
Minor's Settlements	38
Change of Name	62
Civil Actions	27
Conservatorship	3
Testamentary Trusts	5
Wrongful Death	13
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>926</b>
Marriage Licenses Issued	971

**VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM:** On January 1, 2005, Judge Lohn initiated the Volunteer Guardianship Program to address the increasing need for court-appointed guardians for our elderly. This program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for those in need of guardianship by providing trained, qualified volunteer legal guardians to serve as decision-makers when no less restrictive alternative to guardianship is available. There are 14 active volunteer guardians, 14 volunteer guardians awaiting training, 16 wards assigned to volunteer guardians and 27 volunteer attorneys available.

**MEDINA COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
2005 Probate Court Collections**

The Probate Court assesses and collects the same costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas does for similar services. Court costs are assessed against all Probate cases, which include estates, guardianships, adoptions and trusts. The court costs the Court collects are distributed to the state, the county, and to local government.



Month	Court Costs
<b>January</b>	\$13,289.52
<b>February</b>	\$13,228.27
<b>March</b>	\$16,177.03
<b>April</b>	\$14,381.02
<b>May</b>	\$14,168.63
<b>June</b>	\$16,252.27
<b>July</b>	\$15,907.53
<b>August</b>	\$17,312.02
<b>September</b>	\$15,724.00
<b>October</b>	\$11,016.90
<b>November</b>	\$13,118.58
<b>December</b>	\$13,056.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$173,631.90</b>