

Final dispositions available in adult cases include jail sentences and probation. In juvenile cases when a child is over 15 and treated as an adult in Juvenile Court, the same dispositions, including jail sentences, may be used.

Adults who are found guilty in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court are often referred to Domestic Relations Services for pre-sentencing investigations and probation supervision.

FIGURE 36

DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT ADULT PROBATION FY 2001- FY 2003			
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Average number of new cases per month	26.0	13.8	29.3
Total number of new cases served	308	166	352
Total number of cases closed	239	436	103
Total number of cases closed successfully	225 (94.1%)	420 (96.3%)	84 (81.6%)

ADULT COMPLAINTS

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

The Court began using data from the Virginia Supreme Court Case Management System (CMS) in FY 2002. This switch caused significant drops in some types of adult complaints.

The Court received a total of 8,453 adult complaints in FY 2003, an increase of 1.4 percent over the 8,576 complaints received in FY 2002.

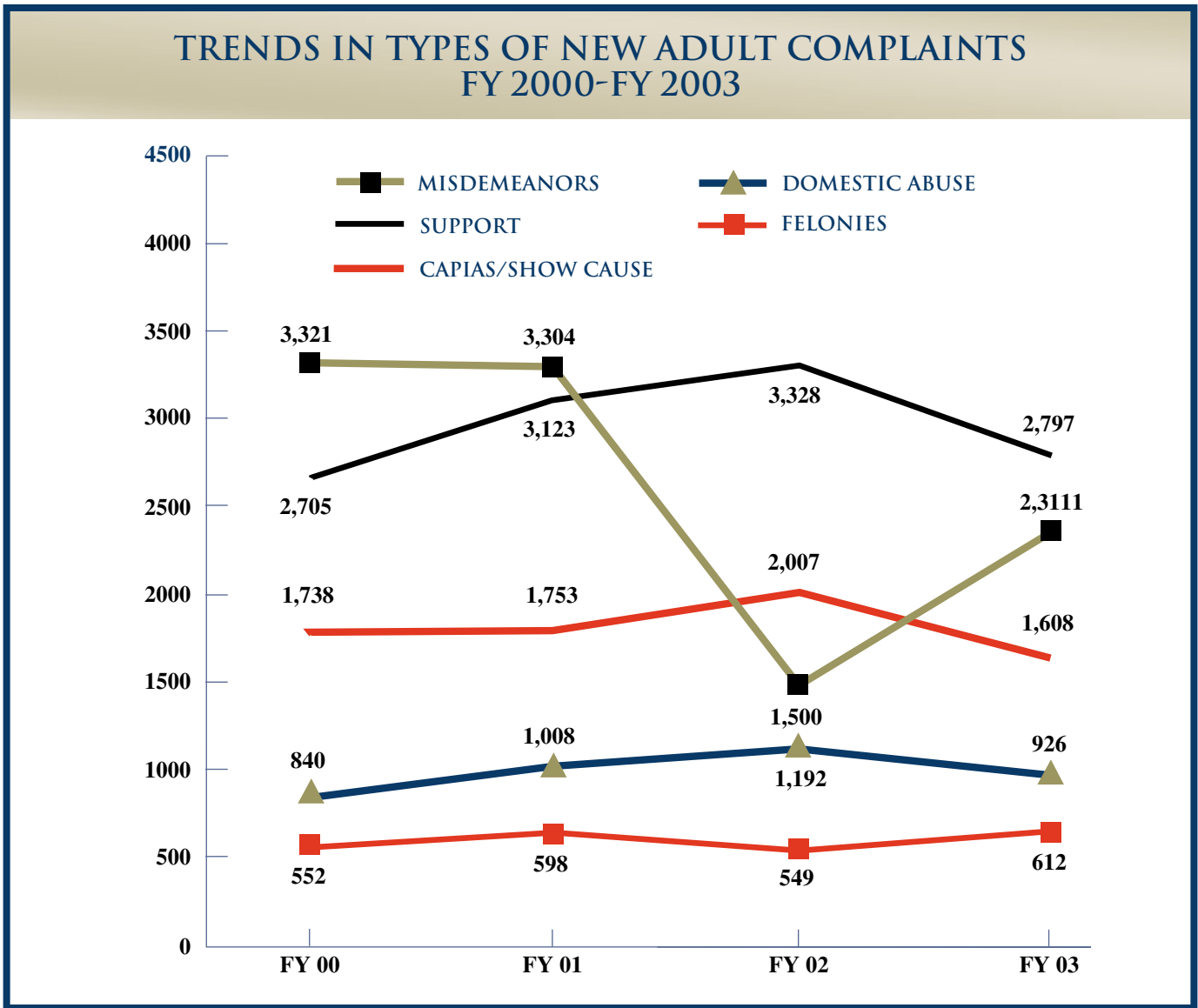
Support and spousal abuse complaints composed 44.0 percent of all adult complaints received.

Spousal abuse complaints decreased 22.3 percent from 1,192 in FY 2002 to 926 in FY 2003.

Misdemeanor complaints increased by 54.1 percent, from 1,500 in FY 2002 to 2,311 in FY 2003.

There was an 11.5 percent increase in the number of felony offense complaints this year, from 549 in FY 2002 to 612 in FY 2003.

FIGURE 37



SUPPORT, CUSTODY AND VISITATION COMPLAINT CASE PROCESSING

The most common adult offense, and the one with the highest incidence of recidivism, is non-support. This is usually a civil matter rather than a criminal charge. Persons who need support from a spouse or the parent of their children may file a petition for support through the Domestic Relations Services intake department. The intake officer will authorize a petition and obtain a court date.

Outgoing and incoming UIFSA cases (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act) are filed when the petitioner and respondent live in different states. In an out-going reciprocal, a petitioner will file for support against an individual in another state. The petitioner then appears

before a judge to swear that the contents of the petition are true. The Court sends the petition to the court having jurisdiction where the respondent is in residence. If the respondent is located by the other court, that court has the responsibility for entering and enforcing an order. An incoming reciprocal is the opposite of an outgoing reciprocal. A petitioner in another state files against a respondent in Fairfax County. The Court sets a hearing at which time the respondent is placed under an order.

Division of Child Support Enforcement (D.C.S.E.), a State agency, processes all out-going UIFSA child

support petitions. Domestic Relations Services processes out-going UIFSA spousal support petitions.

Support payments for all UIFSA cases are processed through D.C.S.E. and that agency is responsible for enforcement of the child support orders. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office enforces spousal support orders.

Orders involving child or spousal support which are made in the Circuit Court as a result of divorce or pre-divorce actions can be delegated to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for enforcement and modification. Finally, support orders can result from a juvenile action when the custody of a juvenile is granted to someone other than the legal parents; the judge may order that the legal parents pay support for their child to the guardians, or to the residential facility where the child has been placed.

At the request of the petitioner or respondent, local orders may also require that payments be collected by D.C.S.E. A petitioner may also request enforcement services from that agency.

If payments are made directly to the payee (instead of through D.C.S.E.), the petitioner is responsible for enforcing the order. To do this, motions for wage assignments, contempt proceedings and other enforcement mechanisms are filed through Domestic Relations Services.



Judge Jane Delbridge and her clerk Marie-Elaina Pence conducting the Drug Court Program.

FIGURE 38

SUPPORT ACCOUNTS AND AMOUNTS COLLECTED FOR SUPPORT, FINES, COSTS, AND RESTITUTION, FY 1990-2003

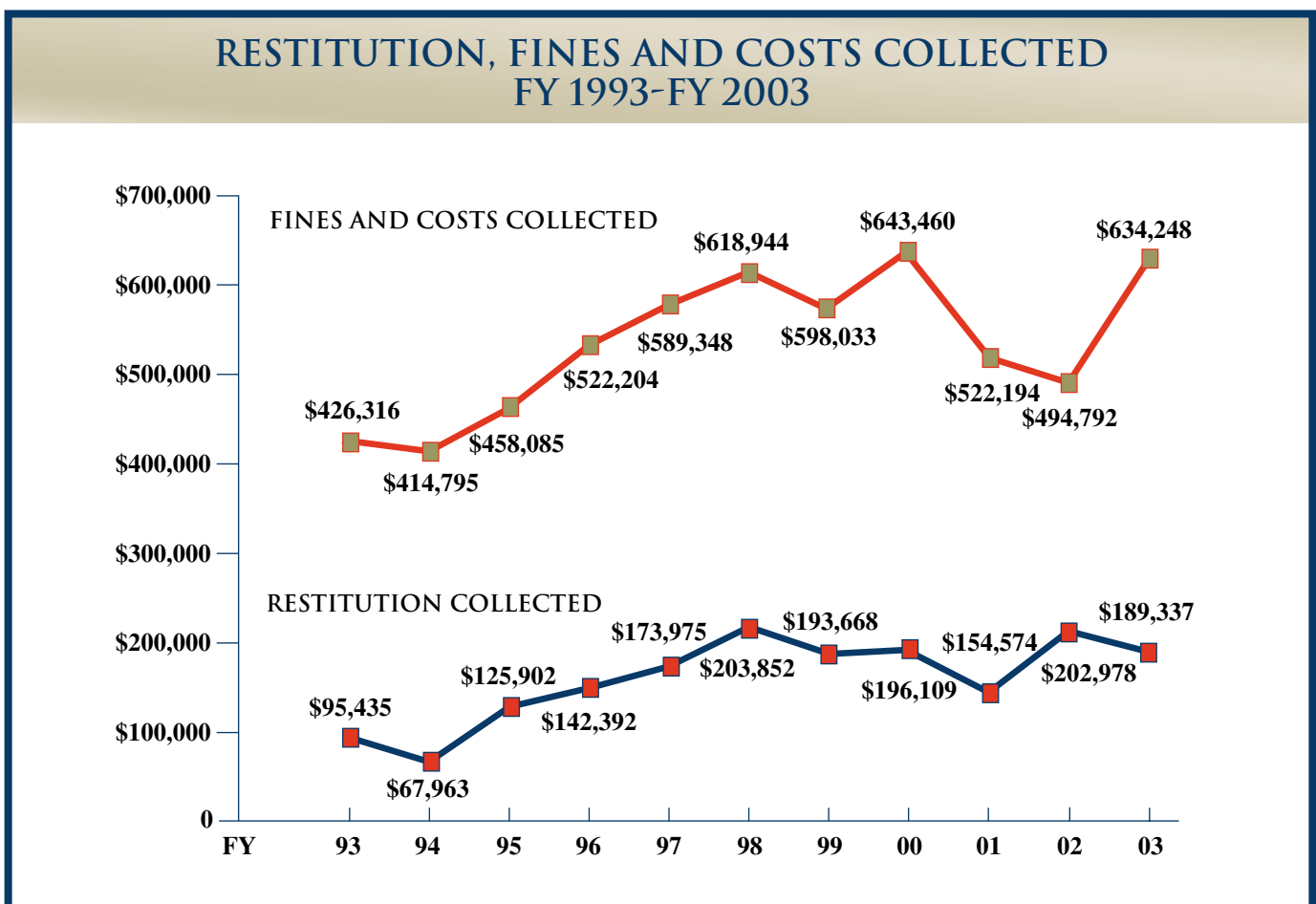
YEAR	RESTITUTION COLLECTED	FINES COLLECTED	COSTS COLLECTED	FINES & COSTS COLLECTED
1990	87,460.80	288,906.66	166,252.94	455,159.60
1991	95,284.00	324,808.90	175,803.02	500,611.92
1992	105,101.57	280,429.00	118,900.00	399,329.00
1993	95,435.39	263,085.66	163,229.86	426,315.52
1994	67,962.60	254,944.28	159,850.35	414,794.63
1995	125,901.96	268,617.76	189,467.72	458,085.48
1996	142,392.33	308,109.06	214,095.32	522,204.38
1997	173,975.18	349,227.73	240,620.55	589,848.28
1998	203,852.13	373,242.60	245,701.68	618,944.28
1999	193,668.17	333,311.83	264,721.38	598,033.21
2000	196,109.60	368,023.73	275,437.16	643,460.89
2001	154,574.00	316,686.39	205,507.74	522,194.13
2002	202,978.00	290,558.20	204,234.03	494,792.23
2003	189,336.86	252,173.21	382,074.98	634,248.19

Custody and visitation issues are processed in the same manner as local support matters, with an attempt made to mediate a settlement whenever possible. Any agreements reached in support, custody and visitation matters can be entered as an order of the Court in the form of a consent order. When custody or visitation problems go to trial, the judge sometimes orders a home study, which is an investigation of the physical, emotional and educational needs of the children and the ability of each parent to meet those needs. The custody investigator submits a report to the court prior to the dispositional hearing and testifies at the hearing. The Code of Virginia prohibits an intake officer from denying petitions for custody, support and visitation. However, an intake officer does point out jurisdictional and venue issues and explains options to the petitioners.

FAMILY ABUSE

Since 1984, persons who have been physically abused by a family member can obtain a civil protective order in Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. The victim of abuse discusses the problems with an intake counselor who then draws up an affidavit and petition. If the petitioner is in imminent danger of further abuse, the judge may sign a temporary protective order pending a full court hearing. Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court has counselors who specialize in assisting families who are experiencing domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Intake Officer does the intake work and provides other advisory and counseling services. In FY 1993, a Code change went into effect which broadened the definition of family when referring to domestic disputes to include non-related people living together.

FIGURE 39



V. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

JUVENILE COURT GRANTS

Court's research staff provided proposal development, reporting and evaluation support for several multi-year grants awarded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Three of the grant programs support specialized services for juveniles — the Young Offender Program, the Juvenile Sex Offender Program, and the Intensive Supervision Program for serious and habitual offenders. A joint grant to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and the General District Court from the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act provides supervision for adult offenders.

YOUNG OFFENDER PROGRAM

In FY 2002, the Court Services Unit received a five-year grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop an intervention program for adjudicated offenders age thirteen or younger who have been placed in detention or shelter care. Funds provide a case manager and a menu of short-term, contract treatment services.

The program is designed to provide in depth, timely assessment of both youth and family, to initiate immediate, age-appropriate interventions, and to link the youth and family to longer term services if necessary. Grant activities also help educate staff in the characteristics of child delinquents and their service needs.

JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

In October 2002, the Fairfax County Juvenile Court Services unit was awarded funds from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to participate in the replication of a broad-based model for enhanced juvenile sex offender treatment that has been developed by Dr. John Hunter at the University of Virginia. The approach is based on the social-ecological perspective that emphasizes the importance of treating youth in the context of family and community. The program builds on existing services and adds intensive assessment, intensive supervision, small caseloads, and home-based family intervention. This program has been a significant addition to the Court's capacity to serve this population.

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

The Federal Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) program provides grants to States and units of local government to enhance their efforts to combat serious and violent juvenile crime and to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. A local JAIBG grant was awarded to the County in January 1999. The Court has used these funds to establish an Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) to address the increasing needs of the probation department to monitor high risk youth on probation.

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACT (CCCA)

The Juvenile Court portion of the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act (CCCA) grant funds three Probation Counselor II positions. These counselors are responsible for supervising adult misdemeanor offenders ordered to complete anger management courses, and/or other community-based programs. All offenders are eligible for jail and are facing criminal charges.



*Court Staff at the day of Training.
(Left to right) Lorraine Peck, Karen Bisset,
Matt Thompson, and Madeline Arter.*

FINDINGS FROM RESEARCH STUDIES AND REPORTS

The Research Analysts in the Court Director's Office completed several studies and reports during the year. A brief description and highlights of findings follow. Copies of full reports are available upon request from the Department of Research and Development.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

The survey was designed collaboratively by the Research and Development Unit and the Domestic Relations Unit. The survey questions collected demographic information such as sex and race as well as the reason for the clients' visit. Questions attempted to measure how long clients had to wait for services and whether they were satisfied with their services. A total of 238 surveys were gathered between August and September of 2000 and between June 18, 2001 and July 12, 2001.

Overall, the results of the survey were positive. Most clients (98.7 percent) that visited the Domestic Relations Unit said they were satisfied with the services they received. In addition to being satisfied with services received, many clients (97.9 percent) also felt welcomed by the worker that handled their case. Reasons for client visits varied, 55.3 percent of respondents came to the Domestic Relations Office regarding custody issues, 54.9 percent for child support issues; 33.8 percent of respondents for visitation issues, 11 percent for protective orders, and 6.8 percent for general information.

JUVENILE INTAKE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

In FY 2002, the Intake units received approximately 8,343 complaints excluding court summonses. Due to the high volume of complaints received, the Research and Development unit developed and implemented a customer satisfaction survey to be distributed to parents/citizens who receive services from the Intake units. The purpose of the survey was to determine whether the parents/citizens who are served are satisfied with the services they receive and whether the intake process itself operates as effectively as possible. The survey questions collected demographic information such as sex and race as well as the reason for the clients' visit. Questions were designed to measure length of time clients spent waiting for services and whether they were satisfied overall with the services they received. The Intake offices gathered 254 surveys between June 10, 2002 and October 15, 2002.

Overall, the results of the survey were positive. Most clients (98.7%) that visited the Intake units said they were satisfied with the services they received. In addition to being satisfied with services received, many clients also felt welcomed by the worker that handled their case (98.7%). The results of this study seem particularly impressive given the high volume of intake complaints processed by the Intake office each year.



Court Staff at Day of Training. (Left to right) Hilton Patrick, Ailisa Ware, West Johnson, and Montez (Monty) Gray.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Beginning in September 2002, the Court Service Unit began a major strategic planning initiative. These efforts were part of an ongoing county-wide strategic thinking and planning process addressing organizational improvement. During the next several months staff at all levels participated in reviewing the agency's mission, vision and values, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and crafting a plan to improve the way we do business. The following three broad goals were identified as areas that needed to be addressed to improve agency operations:

★ **WORKFORCE:** To develop a diverse, highly qualified, well trained workforce capable of efficiently and fairly providing the services of the Court.

★ **COMMUNICATION:** To provide an internal and external exchange of information that is understandable, complete, accurate, timely and accessible.

★ **CASE MANAGEMENT:** To provide consistent, effective, and efficient case management guided by an underlying shared philosophy, incorporating thorough, timely, and accurate assessment, interventions, monitoring and/or aftercare based on best practices with manageable workloads.

These goals and the strategies for achieving them will be the focus of the agency's strategic planning efforts for the next three to four years. New and existing ongoing projects will be aligned to one of these three goals.

SUMMARY OF FY 2003 TRAINING AT JDRC

Training for residential and non-residential staff is mandated by different codes. The community probation mandate in 6VAC 35-150-90 requires professional probation staff to receive 40 hours of training annually and clerical staff 20 hours of training. Residential training as mandated by 6VAC 35-140-280 requires 40 hours of training annually for professionals, and includes many specific requirements. 100% of staff met their training requirements in FY03. The table below provides data on the training received per division.

Over 20,000 hours of training was received by JDRC staff during FY03, with an average of 55 hours per person. This is well beyond Virginia Code requirements and reflects the value the agency places on training. Based on an

agency-wide training survey completed by 219 staff in November 2002, staff value training on legal issues, sex offender training, peer or social relationship, gangs, mental health, conflict resolution and Spanish language skills.

In FY03 considerable effort was placed on inter-agency collaboration, with other Fairfax County agencies, neighboring court service units and the VA Department of Juvenile Justice. Also, in FY03, a massive computer training program was implemented in conjunction with the Office XP upgrade, with staff attending 343 person/days of training for a total of 2,744 hours. The Day of Training in November 2002 addressed cultural diversity issues, with 185 participants and guest speakers Jose M. de Olivares and Juan Jose Callejas.

FIGURE 40

TRAINING HOURS BY DIVISION AND AGENCY			
UNIT NAME	TOTAL # OF STAFF	# TRAINING HOURS	AVERAGE # HOURS
Subtotal Residential	218	2,307	56
Subtotal Probation	122	6,520	53
Administration Services	26	1,462	56
AGENCY TOTALS	366	20,289	55



19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS
DISTRICT COURT