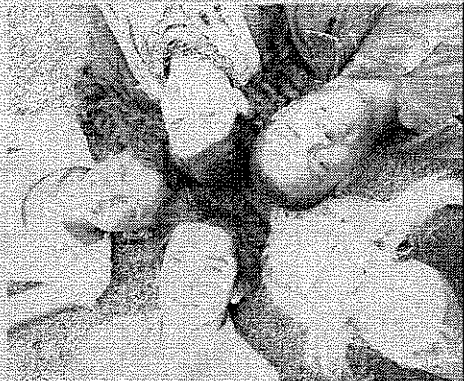


*Escambia  
County  
Juvenile  
Justice*



*Delinquency  
Prevention  
Plan*



2010 - 2012

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL

### Introduction

With a mission to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) extended its reach into the community by establishing – through legislative authorization of Florida Statute 985.664 – juvenile justice councils. Serving the young citizens in the most western county of the state, the Escambia County Juvenile Justice Council is comprised of members representing the community, education, business, faith, law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service communities.

Its mission guides the council's priority areas, goals, and strategies: *the mission of the Escambia County Juvenile Justice Council is to reduce juvenile delinquency by partnering with agencies that serve youth and families through prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts.*

### Purpose

Escambia County Juvenile Justice Council (JJC) was formed for the purpose of encouraging the initiation of, or supporting ongoing, interagency cooperation and collaboration in addressing juvenile crime. Specifically, it will:

1. Provide advice and direction to DJJ and respective local communities in the development and implementation of juvenile justice prevention and early intervention programs;
2. Work collaboratively with DJJ in seeking program improvements and policy changes to address the emerging and changing needs of Florida's youth who are at risk of delinquency;
3. Develop a county juvenile justice plan for more effectively preventing juvenile delinquency;
4. Facilitate interagency cooperation and information sharing;
5. Apply for and receive public and private grants administered by one of the community partners; and
6. Advise and assist DJJ in the evaluation and awarding of prevention and early intervention grant programs.

### Priority Areas

The Council has established four priority areas based on the youth and community's needs and the factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency: **education, family, mental health, and community**. These areas of focus provide the framework specifically to serve youth

and families through prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts, thus meeting the mission. With this collaboration and its wealth of experience and knowledge about what is happening with youth in our community, our desire is to provide holistic approach to serving our youth, helping them succeed in realizing the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams.

## **Environmental Scan**

Escambia County has a rich, multi-faceted history based on progressive development derived from the agriculture, military, tourism, medical, and fishing industries. Supporting the community and building on the growth of the area are the education, social service, and community sectors that provide vital services to the citizens. With two municipalities within its borders, the City of Pensacola and the Town of Century, the entire county is governed by the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners which establishes policy and oversight of public resources, including safety, health, economic development, recreation, and the budget. The FY 2008/2009 Adopted Budget of Escambia County provides a glimpse into the area's physical, economic, and social environments. This adapted environmental scan has been edited to clarify areas specific to affected youths and their families:

### ***Location and Area:***

*Escambia County is located in the extreme northwestern part of the state, bordered on the west and north by Alabama, on the east by Santa Rosa County, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The county encompasses approximately 661 square miles, or 420,480 acres, with an additional 64,000 acres of water area. From the Gulf of Mexico north to Alabama is a distance of approximately 50 miles. There are 343 days of sunny weather annually. There are two municipalities within the county – Pensacola, the largest and the county seat, and the Town of Century, located at the northern end of the county*

*Although northwest Florida has not experienced the rapid growth that southern and central Florida evidenced after World War II, the area has grown significantly during the past two decades. The military, industry, shipping, tourism and recreation, agriculture, and retail sales trade are all part of the county's economic structure. Because of this diversified base, the economy of the area has historically been stable. Yet, for the last six years, Escambia County has replaced Miami-Dade County as the poorest in the state and ranks 17<sup>th</sup> among the nation's largest counties in poverty.*

### ***Housing***

*Escambia County residents choose from a variety of lifestyles offered by the area: rural setting, beaches, bay front, or one of many subdivisions at a range of prices. Most of the developments are close to shopping, churches, schools, and parks. In 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau reported 138,429 housing units in the county with a homeownership rate of 67.3% (2000). That same year, the media value of owner-occupied housing units was \$85,700 compared to the overall state median value of \$105,500. The per capita money income (1999) was \$18,641 compared to the state's \$21,557. The median household income (2007) was \$41,772 versus the state's median of \$47,804.*

### ***Education***

The Escambia County School District provides 71 institutions to provide educational services to over 45,000 students. The school district operates 34 elementary schools, 9 middle schools, 7 high schools, and 21 alternative, charter and specialty schools. There are 12 private and parochial schools serving students. The University of West Florida, one of the eleven universities of the State of Florida University System offering a four-year degree program, provides higher education facilities. Pensacola Junior College offers a two-year college program with campuses in Pensacola, Warrington, Milton, and at the Naval Air Station. Troy University – Florida Region operates a four-year university located at the Naval Air Station. Escambia County also has one private four-year college, Pensacola Christian College, and one career and technical college, Virginia College.

Even with all of the educational institutions in the county, 18.1% of eligible persons over age 25 do not have a high school diploma, and 79% do not have a bachelor's degree.

### **Media Services**

Escambia County is served by one daily newspaper, the Pensacola News Journal, and several weekly and bi-weekly papers, including New American Press, The Independent News, The Pensacola Voice, and The Independent Voice. Pensacola is also home to an ABC television affiliate (WEAR) and a PBS member station (WSRE), and is served by CBS, FOX, and NBC affiliates physically located in Mobile, Alabama. Several local stations broadcast local and regional news, including WBQP, BLAB, WUWF, and WHBR. Magazines published locally include Pensacola, Northwest Florida's Business Climate, and Out-front South. There are 15 AM and 26 FM radio stations. The county has two cable franchises, and offers cable television to many residents in the developed areas.

The assumption that media services take is that residents and consumers are functionally literate. In fact, volunteers at the only local literacy organization, Learn to Read of Northwest Florida, provide over 2,000 hours of instruction annually to adults who have poor literacy skills. Even those youths and adults who hear information via television and radio may not have the necessary or poor skills to take full advantage of services and resources offered.

### **Transportation**

The county area is served by a full array of transportation systems. Commercial air service to all parts of the United States is provided through the Pensacola Regional Airport by Air Tran, Continental Airlines, Continental/Express, Continental Connection, American eagle, Delta, Delta Connection, Northwest Airlines, US Airways, and US Airways Express. The county also has bus, rail and trucking transportation services. Intercity service is provided by Greyhound-Trailways. Rail service is provided by Burlington Northern and CSX Transportation for freight delivery and up until 200#, passenger service was provided by AMTRAK.

The local bus service is provided by the Escambia County Area Transit System (ECATS). Over the past several years, funding has decreased significantly from the City of Pensacola and Escambia County budgets, which in turn has decreased bus routes, times, and days. This has caused riders who are employees to lose pay, advancement, and skills training, and those riders who are seeking employment to miss out on opportunities because of time constraints. All of these transportation adjustments lead to personal loss of wages and income, and overall economic development.

### **Medical Facilities**

Medical facilities are provided by four hospitals located in Escambia County, all of which have surgical centers. Baptist Hospital, a part of Baptist Health Care, a 492-bed tertiary hospital,

operates the area's only 24-hour a day air ambulance service, emergency room, and trauma center. West Florida Regional Medical Center is a 531-bed Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corporation facility that includes West Florida Hospital; the Rehabilitation Institute of West Florida; the West Florida Cancer Institute; the Pavilion, a mental health facility; The Medical Center Clinic, P.A.; the Family Birthplace; and West Florida Senior Health Services. Navy Hospital is a 60-bed acute care medical and surgical hospital. Sacred Heart Hospital, is a 449-bed acute care, general hospital includes the Centers for Cardiac Care and Cancer Care. In addition, Sacred Heart is the only hospital to offer a Children's Hospital and Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery for children from across northwest Florida.

### **Services Provided**

The County provides a wide range of services including law enforcement, fire protection, conservation and resource management, employment opportunity and development, parks and recreation facilities, planning and zoning, transportation, and general administrative services.

### **Form of Government**

The 1868 Florida Constitution established the structure of county government. One hundred years later the 1968 Revision of the Florida Constitution made virtually no change to that structure. The Constitution provided for a Board of County Commissioners whose primary responsibility was to provide roads and levy the necessary taxes to fund county government. Although most county governments in Florida today have the same structure described in the 1868 Constitution, the mission of county government has changed dramatically in the ensuing century. Where once the primary responsibility of county government was to provide roads and fund law enforcement, it now must deal with issues such as comprehensive planning, environmental protection, impact fees, water and sewer utilities, bond issues, solid waste management, computerization and management information systems.

The County has a non-charter government structure established by the State of Florida Constitution. Pursuant to Florida Statutes, the legislative powers are vested with the five-member Board of County Commissioners. Separate powers for operation of specific functions of County government are vested with the five Constitutional Officers - Clerk of Courts, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector. The Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County is the principal legislative and governing body of the County, as provided by the Florida Constitution and Chapter 125, Florida Statutes. The County Administrator, the chief administrative official of the County, is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the Board. The County Administrator is directly responsible to the Board for administration and operation of all departments of the County. The Office of the County Attorney, who is appointed by the Commission, provides legal services to the County government.

Annually, the Board elects one of their members as Chairman. The Chairman presides over all meetings, signs all legal documents, and appoints Commissioners to various committees. The Chairman is the official representative of the Board. The Board meets at the Escambia County Courthouse Building, on the first and third Thursday of each month. Minutes are recorded of all Commission meetings, committee meetings and public hearings and made a part of the record in the Clerk to the Board's Office.

### **The Economy**

The military is a large factor in the area's economy. Navy and Air Force expenditures, including construction, have historically accounted for nearly half of the total payroll in the

*Pensacola MSA. Navy installations include Pensacola Naval Air Station, Saufley- Field and Corry Station. Whiting Field is located in Milton, Florida, about 30 miles northeast of Pensacola.*

*In neighboring Okaloosa County, Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt- Field are that County's largest employers and have a total economic impact on the area exceeding \$5,000,000,000 annually, in addition to serving as magnets for high tech businesses.*

*Yet, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that in 2004, Escambia County replaced Miami-Dade County as the poorest in the state and ranks number 17 among the nation's largest county category. According to the St. Augustine Record, in 2004, nineteen percent the county's residents were below the poverty line in 2003. "Many are low-wage earners, welfare recipients or people living on disability checks. But there are many more that are barely above the poverty level, living week to week or day to day, including service workers in the tourism industry."*

Members of the Escambia County Juvenile Justice Council are not only professionals belonging to myriad organizations that provide youth services, they are also citizens living within the same environments that have these physical, economic, educational and social challenges. This insight often gives members an opportunity to temper their professional opinion with personal experience, often providing an internal conflict that provides opportunities for compassionate growth.

## EDUCATION

### Current Status

For the 2008-2009 school year, 40,052 students were enrolled in 71 institutions in Escambia County School District. The school district operates 34 elementary, 9 middle, 7 high, and 21 alternative, charter and specialty schools. There are 12 private and parochial schools serving students, and five colleges. The racial composition of these students is 36.45 % (14,598) African American; 52.77% (21,135) White; and 10.78% (4,317) Hispanic, Asian, or other racial groups. An economic indicator of the district's families of enrolled students is that 58.4% (23,390) of students participate in the free or reduced lunch program.

The Blueprint Commission of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice requested, in their report "Getting Smart about Juvenile Justice in Florida," (January 2008) that the department focus its efforts on three areas: disproportionate minority contact (DMC), zero tolerance and expulsions, and restorative justice. Regarding these areas, the commission members found "public school systems – themselves under stress – increasingly are using Zero Tolerance practices to send youth into the juvenile justice system rather than apply alternative methods of discipline and [that] there is a disproportionate number of minorities in the system – and the disproportion grows worse the deeper into the system you go." A look at the local educational impact is warranted.

As of May 1, 2009, there were 149 expulsions. Ninety-five, or 64%, of these expulsions fall under the new State of Florida Zero Tolerance legislation: fire arms, others weapons, drugs/alcohol, and serious threat to school safety. Fifty-four, or 36%, of these students were expelled for repeated incidents of disruptive behavior, battery on peer or staff, adverse impact and fighting/affray. Sixty-four, or 43%, of total expulsions were due to a drug/alcohol offense. Expelled students are allowed to attend an alternative setting for school, including charter, private, parochial, and home schools.

Out-of-school suspensions (OSS) are another indicator of negative behavior by students. As of May 1, 2009, 14,048 referrals were written for OSS. Of those, 69%, or 9,745, were African American students, 26%, or 3,652, were White, and 5%, or 702, were other racial minorities.

Middle school students have been found to be especially vulnerable to behaviors that land them in the juvenile justice system. Peer pressure, prepubescent changes, and the grade change adjustments can lead to taking negative risks that become negative habits. Five area middle schools have seen higher incidences of truancy, negative behavior, and criminal activities, and have been targeted by the JJC as schools for change. The schools Bellview, A.V. Clubbs, Warrington, Woodham and Workman Middle Schools – are shown in the following table, along with the offenses for the 2007-2008 school year.

	Discipline Offenses for Selected Middle Schools in Targeted Zip Codes						Total District
	Bellview	A.V. Clubbs	Warrington	Woodham	Workman	Total	
<i>Truancy (SY 06-07)</i>	284	119	301	285	154	1,154	7,118
<b>OFFENSES (SY 07-08)</b>							
<i>Alcohol Use</i>	1	0	2	5	0	8	27
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Battery</i>	31	4	8	30	24	97	232
<i>Burglary</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Bullying</i>	0	0	0	3	0	3	14
<i>Disruption</i>	3	0	0	19	8	30	73
<i>Drug Sales</i>	0	0	0	3	0	3	14
<i>Drug Use</i>	11	5	4	11	1	32	122
<i>Fighting</i>	56	19	26	15	10	126	294
<i>Larceny/Theft</i>	2	0	1	0	0	3	11
<i>Other Major Offense</i>	3	0	0	5	1	9	36
<i>Robbery</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
<i>Sexual Offense</i>	1	0	0	1	1	3	14
<i>Sexual Battery</i>	0	0	0	3	2	5	8
<i>Sexual Harassment</i>	4	0	1	4	3	12	37
<i>Threat/Intimidation</i>	12	2	1	8	8	31	121
<i>Tobacco</i>	2	2	3	9	0	16	117
<i>Trespassing</i>	0	1	2	0	0	3	16
<i>Vandalism</i>	0	1	1	11	0	13	29
<i>Weapon Possession</i>	3	0	2	7	0	12	41
<b>Total</b>	130	34	51	134	58	407	1212

Source: Florida Department of Education

In order to effectively change these negative trends that affect our students' education, the Escambia JJC has implemented the following goals and strategies for the education priority area.

#### Goals and Strategies

1. The Escambia JJC will assist to reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) and disproportionate student with disabilities contact (DSWD) by 5% by the end of the school year.
  - a. Develop a memorandum of understanding with the Escambia County School District to obtain DMC and DSWD data by.
  - b. Report quarterly on the current data pertaining to DMC and DSWD.



- c. Identify programs to channel youth to alternative programs to decrease DMC and DSWD.
    - d. Educate the community about DMC and DSWD by presenting information at up to three the school board, city council and county commission meetings.
  2. The Escambia JJC will support the restorative justice model by continuing to collaborate with the school accountability boards in the following five middle school programs: Bellview, A.V. Clubbs, Warrington, Woodham and Workman.
    - a. Encourage participation of members to serve on the school accountability boards (SAB).
    - b. Report SAB outcomes quarterly on the prior quarter.
  3. The Escambia JJC will serve as the school advisory council quarterly for following programs: PACE Center for Girls, AMIKIDS-Pensacola and the Escambia Juvenile Detention Center.
    - a. Attend quarterly school advisory council meetings.
    - b. Review written quarterly report of programs.
    - c. Collaborate with and make recommendations to the programs for improvement.

## MENTAL HEALTH

### Current Status

As its basic level, mental health affects behavior – positive mental health generally results in positive behavior; negative mental health generally results in negative behavior. A youth's mental health issues oft times mirror their educational, social, and physical responses in these same environments. As the largest single physical environment of youths, schools see the mental health states of students and the resulting effects, academically and behaviorally.

The FLDJJ Blueprint Commission noted that “at all levels, across gender and race, the health and mental health needs of youth in the juvenile justice system are extraordinary, with two-thirds of youth, in some cases, having mental-health or substance abuse issues.” A useful tool in examining and treating mental health issues among juveniles in Florida has been the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), an assessment given to all youth referred to FLDJJ. According to the FLDJJ web site, “the underlying philosophy is that the PACT enables juvenile probations officers to reduce recidivism by promoting positive changes in attitudes and behaviors of youth while directing treatment and monitoring court-ordered sanctions. The PACT provides department staff with data necessary to make informed decisions about which youth need which interventions and to what extent.” ([www.djj.state.fl.us](http://www.djj.state.fl.us))

PACT primarily examines five areas of youth behaviors: risk to re-offend; motivation for crime; substance abuse; mental health; and school, family and social. The PACT FY 07-08 for Escambia County provides key insights into the mental health of the area's youths. The mental health area queried anger, physical abuse, trauma, sexual abuse, and suicide as factors in the resulting negative behavior. Of the 1,866 mental health responses, 48% (904) denoted anger problems; 13% (239) denoted physical abuse history; 12% (224) denoted a history of trauma; 16% (295) denoted mental health problems; 7% (128) denoted sexual abuse history; and 4% (76) denoted suicide attempts. It should be noted that a youth may denote one or more responses in the mental health area, an indication of the multi-level approach that is necessary during prevention, intervention, and correction.

Several institutions exist for the treatment of mental health issues for youths, among them are Escambia County School District Guidance Services, Lakeview Center, Florida Department of Children & Families, and Community Drug and Alcohol Council (CDAC).



**PACT OVERVIEW**  
**ESCAMBIA COUNTY**



Males/Females

Full Assessment	Jul-Sep 07	Oct-Dec 07	Jan-Mar 08	Apr-Jun 08	FY 07-08
Total	1,062	1,062	1,439	1,591	4,645
Full Assessment	269	274	298	340	1,281
Pre Screen	792	789	1,141	921	3,564
High	64	79	95	82	329
Moderate-high	122	117	188	156	582
Moderate	38	57	35	37	167
Low	44	43	52	55	232
Has Used Drugs	155	155	225	215	757
Has Used Alcohol	86	109	172	138	499
Has Drug Problem	42	63	89	58	242
Has Alcohol Problem	12	24	33	33	85
Uses Marijuana	42	42	51	54	194
Uses Amphetamines	1	1	3	4	12
Suspension History	227	227	347	302	1,119
Not Enrolled in School	9	11	13	29	68
Has Antisocial Peers	210	219	314	266	1,039
Placed Out of Home	61	61	79	85	295
Arrest Probable	195	203	268	242	915
Physical Abuse History	22	32	50	72	239
History of Trauma	42	49	82	70	234
Mental Health Problem	48	69	97	91	395
Sexual Abuse History	21	29	42	34	128
Suicide Attempted	16	22	12	23	76
Motivated by Impulse	155	153	192	158	658
Motivated by Fear	33	44	40	54	171
Motivated by Anger	59	65	96	82	290
Motivated by Money or Drugs	25	21	32	35	113
Motivated by Escapement	9	14	29	17	69
Motivated by Sex	4	3	4	2	11

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Goals and Strategies

1. The Escambia JJC will collaborate with DOE and DJJ to reduce zero tolerance discipline measures for youth with mental health issues by 5%.

Strategies include:

- a. Collect discipline data at the semester and end of school year terms to determine zero tolerance issues and trends as it relates to youths with mental health issues
- b. Collect discipline data at the semester and end of school year terms to determine zero tolerance issues and trends as it relates to substance abuse problems and anger management issues.

## COMMUNITY

### Current Status

Escambia County has a plethora of community organizations representing the government, social service, justice, faith, health, education, and law enforcement issues. The web site, Tax Exempt World ([www.taxexemptworld.com](http://www.taxexemptworld.com)) lists 1,591 non-profit and tax exempt organizations in the county with the majority of these listed as religious and charitable organizations.

Quality of life is often a repeated multi-phrase moniker that provides a citizen or city's economic health. Associated with a great or not-so-great place to live, quality of life embodies growth and development, along with the social, cultural, educational, and physical characteristics of a citizen or city. Many Escambia County agencies strive to improve the quality of life for targeted citizens. A mental health agency strives to ensure its clients have a positive quality of life within the constraints of a prescribed state of mind. A substance abuse program strives to ensure half of its clients reach a 10% increase in quality of life as measured by a 50% decrease in prescribed drug abuse. A school district strives to ensure a city has a good quality of life by ensuring its students graduate high school with skills useful for the workforce.

In its *Escambia County Online Assistance*, First Call for Help, a program of United Way of Escambia County, lists agencies that can assist with childcare care, clothing, counseling, finances, food, furniture, home repair, housing, legal, medical, and shelter services. Along with EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless' *Street Survival Guide*.

### Goals and Strategies

1. The Escambia JJC will engage the youth in the community with the Juvenile Justice Council.
  - a. Invite two or more youth to serve on the council every six months.
  - b. Organize activities for youth to participate during Youth Success Week.
2. The Escambia JJC will ensure members are represented at city and county official meetings to ensure best use of policy and financial resources for prevention and intervention of youths and juvenile delinquency.
  - a. Encourage member participation at monthly governmental meetings.
  - b. Invite elected officials to JJC monthly meetings.

## FAMILY

### Current Status

With over 300,000 residents in Escambia County, there are diverse, exciting opportunities for youths to engage in different experiences, cultures, and communities through its many citizens. Unfortunately, this sheer number of people also brings harmful opportunities of youths from other youths and adults through physical, emotional, verbal, and sexual abuse. The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) works with DJJ to stem the tide of abuse through prevention and intervention services and programs; yet, the tide still rises.

In the *Local Prevention and Permanency Plan for Circuit 1: January 2009 – June 2010*, the Florida DCF provides the following information about the community. It has been abridged to focus on Escambia County:

*Although Circuit 1 includes the Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent and Fort Walton Beach-Crestview-Destin Metropolitan Statistical Areas, it is primarily rural in nature and includes Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties. The United States Census Bureau estimates the population in 2006 for Circuit 1 at 672,548, representing 13.20% of the State. Forty-Five percent of the Circuit 1 population lives in Escambia County, 21.49% in Santa Rosa County, 26.81% in Okaloosa County, and 7.77% in Walton County. An estimated 6.7% of the population is under age of 5.*

*According to Department of Health Vital Statistics, over twenty-two percent of births in Escambia County are born to unwed teenagers. Of the births to unwed teenagers, 33.66% are between 15 to 17 years of age. There were 4,404 child abuse investigations in Escambia County in 2007. Sixty-two percent of the investigations involved children ages 0-5. Aerospace and defense, tourism, and health care services are the main industries within the circuit. Median income for the county is \$36,743. The median income for the circuit is approximately \$40,967, comparing favorably to the statewide average of \$40,900. Unemployment rates have returned to levels similar to pre-Hurricane Ivan of 4.1% in December 2003 to 4.2% in December 2007. Unemployment rates improved during the period after Hurricane Ivan. While the Census Bureau estimates the 2006 poverty level throughout the state at 11.90%, the poverty level in Escambia County was 14.20%. The average poverty level for the circuit is 11.71%.*

*Over 80% of the county's population graduate from high school, while 21% of the population hold a bachelor's degree or higher. Homeownership is 67.30% in Escambia and averages 70.29% circuit-wide.*

The family as the integral and stabilizing factor in the lives of youths may encounter a host of risks, or maltreatments, that cause short- and long-term harm to youths and their families. Examples of these maltreatments, as recognized by DCF, are: substance misuse, threatened harm, inadequate supervision, environmental hazards, physical injury, family violence, sexual abuse, medical neglect, mental injury, failure to protect, burns, bizarre punishment, asphyxiation, bone fractures, abandonment, death, failure to thrive, malnutrition/dehydration, and internal injuries.

During the fiscal year 2007-2008, DCF received 4,283 investigations, as shown in the following chart. On the average during this period, thirteen percent had a most serious finding

of verified; 20.63% had a most serious finding of some indicator; and 66.37% had a most serious finding of no indicator. These numbers clearly suggest that, on the average, over 33% of investigations have a most serious finding of verified of some indicator. An average of over 33% equates to 1,413 investigations.

Escambia County	2007			2008								
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of Investigations Received	422	351	344	378	344	372	378	352	293	329	346	374
Percent of Investigations with a Most Serious Finding of Verified	13.73	13.27	10.03	13.41	11.90	9.97	13.08	10.90	15.61	14.89	15.05	14.16
Percent of Investigations with a Most Serious Finding of Some Indicator	23.06	21.36	23.30	19.53	19.94	23.46	23.84	18.69	20.82	21.68	21.00	10.91
Percent of Investigations with a Most Serious Finding of No Indicator	63.21	65.37	66.67	67.06	68.17	66.57	63.08	70.40	63.57	63.43	63.95	74.93

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families

The following chart shows the frequency and percent of totals of these maltreatment types for the calendar year 2008.

Not all of the cases received by DCF were referred to DJJ or received from DJJ, but a close correlation exists as identified through risk factors and protective factors.

### Goals and Strategies

The Escambia JJC will empower families by reducing youth entering the delinquency or dependency systems by 5%. Strategies include:

- a. Promoting and supporting the family-centered practice approach by providing a Child Welfare Mini-Summit on January 22, 2010.
  - b. Educating and encouraging community partners on the family-centered practice approach by providing quarterly updates starting March 2010.
  - c. Empowering families to identify their strengths and work toward resolution of their problems with support from community partners through the use of family team conferences and reporting monthly.
2. The Escambia JJC will educate the community on the understanding of the top five risk factors that impact families in our community.

Strategies include:

- a. Collect and share risk factor data from community partners and other resources semiannually with the council.
- b. Educate community partners regarding risk factor data on targeted families.
- c. Collaborate with DCF and other community partners, on ways to decrease risk factors impacting families.