

# 2009 Annual Report

# Hillbrook

## Department of Probation

**Joanne M. Mahoney**

County Executive

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Director of Juvenile Justice and Detention Services

**Al Giacchi**

Commissioner of Probation



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Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center

4949 Velasko Road

Syracuse, New York 13215

(315) 435-1421

# Hillbrook Detention Center

Onondaga County's Juvenile Justice services have been recognized for their success statewide and nationally. Detention is a critical component in our continuum.

Hillbrook Detention Center is a secure facility located on Onondaga Hill in Syracuse. We provide detention access to Onondaga County and throughout the region.

Since 2005, Hillbrook has been a leader in detention reform initiatives in New York State.

Following national models from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Vera Institute of Justice, Hillbrook has maintained success in all facets of reform.

Areas of reform include:

- Fully utilizing a validated Risk Assessment Instrument, which assures objective, race neutral decision making for admissions.
- Reducing unnecessary delays in court processing which reduces length of stay.
- Collecting and analyzing system wide data to inform decision making, programs and policies.
- Improving conditions of confinement, including extensive renovations to the facility.
- Creating a culture that promotes youth development principles and practices.
- Comprehensive staff training and support.
- Commitment to understanding and reducing racial disparities in detention.
- Collaborating cross system with Mental Health programming, Social Services, and alternative to detention programs, and community to develop individualized, family driven reentry plans for our residents.
- Providing families with access to evidence based therapy: Multisystemic therapy and Functional Family Therapy, and Wraparound process.

In 2009, Onondaga's success with detention reform was well documented.

Quoting from the Vera Institute of Justice publication, "Widening the Lens, a panoramic view of juvenile justice in New York State", "Twenty-six counties have seen a decrease in secure detention admissions rates since 2004. The most striking decrease occurred in Onondaga County. "

Some of these decreases have been quite modest. Onondaga County, however, experienced a dramatic change: a decrease from 8.4 secure detention admissions for every 1,000 county residents age 10 to 17 in 2004 to 3.6 per 1000 in 2006. In raw numbers, this translates into a drop of more than 58 percent".

The report to Governor David Paterson from the Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice, dated December 2009, highlights Onondaga County for our continuum of community based programming.

We strive to maintain our success and provide cost effective juvenile detention in Onondaga County.

Jacqueline DeNero  
Director Of Juvenile Justice and Detention Services

# Our Mission

Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center embraces the philosophy of restorative justice for youth within the juvenile justice system. We endeavor to ensure the public safety of the community by providing an intensive child-care program with specific emphasis on educational, pro-social, and life skills development.

## Goals

- To provide individualized and short-term care that supports the emotional, educational, pro-social, and physical development of youth.
- To provide a safe, secure and least restrictive environment for youth placed in juvenile detention without compromising public safety.
- To provide an environment that is conducive to and supports educational growth and development through structured classroom instruction and activities.
- To ensure that proper medical evaluations, care and treatment are provided to support the overall well-being of youth in juvenile detention.
- To enhance Therapeutic Crisis Intervention techniques to address specific needs of youth experiencing behavioral problems.
- To facilitate communication, positive interaction, and support services for youth and their families.
- To provide a catalyst for change in the lives of youth through cost effective programming that promotes the use of best practices and alternatives to secure detention.
- To provide professional development opportunities for staff to ensure quality assurance of juvenile detention standards.
- To promote the development of a professional, accountable and respectful work environment.

## Vision

- A best practice in juvenile detention that supports a safe, vibrant, and healthy community designed to encourage the individual success of each youth through engagement with the family, juvenile justice system providers, and community.

The Onondaga County Probation Department administers Juvenile Detention Services. Additionally, the Director of Juvenile Justice and Detention works with the Juvenile Justice Unit in Probation to provide a coordinated continuum of services. Effective evidence-based practices are utilized to increase positive outcomes for youth and families.

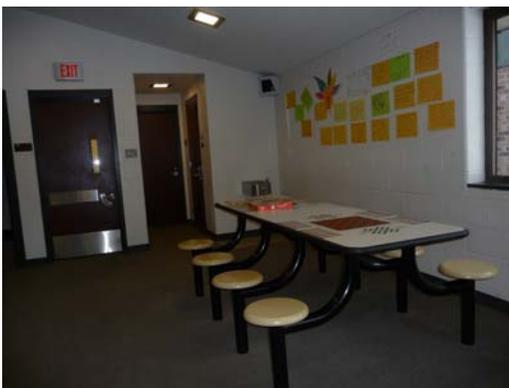
## Hillbrook Detention Center

Hillbrook Detention Center provides mandated secure services for youth ages 10 to 16. Family Court remands Juvenile Delinquents (JD) to Hillbrook until the conclusion of their case in Family Court.

Youth prosecuted in criminal court, charged as Juvenile Offenders (JO), may also be housed in Hillbrook until their sentencing. Hillbrook is located at 4949 Velasko Road in the Town of Onondaga. We are certified by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for 32 beds.

Our mission is to provide safe and secure detention. We work diligently to improve the pro-social skills of our residents to foster character development and tools for successful reentry into the community.

Hillbrook's facility is over 40,000 square feet and sits on fourteen acres. It runs twenty-four hours, seven days a week and for 30 years has been a temporary residence to over 16,000 youth.



## Resident Programs and Services

### Education Department

All Hillbrook residents receive instruction in English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science and Art. Hillbrook has two full-time certified teachers. Education is enhanced through Federal Title I funds that are administered through the Westhill School District.

Hillbrook's education department continues to offer outstanding education and programs to youth in our facility. Beyond the classroom, on-going communication with schools has allowed students to make a smooth transition back into their home schools. Highlights from 2009 include:

- Our Education Department created a vegetable garden that was planted, tended and harvested by residents.
- The Student of the Week program continued to encourage residents to actively participate and model appropriate classroom behavior.
- In 2009, Hillbrook's Educational department was able to provide end of the year exams through residents home schools to ensure continuity in education for residents.
- Our Life Skills teacher, continues his mission to increase community involvement at Hillbrook. In 2009, students from his Criminology course at LeMoyne College continued to volunteer at Hillbrook two nights each week.
- Science projects included an "exterior weather station" was established to keep residents and staff informed of weather conditions outside the classroom wing.
- In 2009, two issues of *Poetry Behind Walls* were published. Residents also created and published a calendar for 2010 and greeting cards as Christmas gifts for their families.
- The education program at Hillbrook continues to progress in all areas. The educational staff at Hillbrook are highly qualified, dedicated and committed to individualized educational planning and quality improvement..

### Literacy

Literacy is a primary focus. In 2009, Hillbrook continued to add books and resources for all ages and abilities. English/Language Arts skills development is an integral part of all activities and programs.

#### *Classroom Mission Statement*

*All students who come to Hillbrook will be given the opportunity to develop more confidence as a student.  
The educational staff at Hillbrook will foster the development of skills and character needed to become  
productive, responsible, citizens who can succeed in a rapidly changing world.*

## Social Work Department

The Social Work department is responsible for collaborating with other inter-department agencies (DSS, Probation, Mental Health, Syracuse City School District, etc.) to identify needs and establish a plan to provide the best possible interventions and services for residents. The Social Work Department, Education Department, and Medical Services work together to provide a comprehensive assessment of each youth and encourage pro-social development. Engaging parents and families is the key to the future success of youth. Visits and phone calls are encouraged and scheduled by the social worker. Social Workers are responsible for facilitating communication between residents and their families. Multi-Systemic and Family Functional Therapy (MST & FFT) have been offered at Hillbrook this year to provide comprehensive therapeutic support to residents and families in need of additional services.

Social Work staff have been certified to utilize CANS, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths survey. This tool supports a better understanding of the resident and begins the development of their individualized reentry plan. This assessment has helped our social work staff determine resources, abilities and strengths of the resident and their family in addition to a comprehensive, prioritized assessment of their needs. This is particularly important for youth in a detention setting who are often used to deficit-oriented interventions that don't utilize existing skills and strengths in goal planning. This model has aided in goal development by helping families prioritize needs.

Staff also implemented the YASI assessment tool, which identifies risk and protective factors related to education and victimization of violence and substance abuse. This tool allows staff to determine the fit between youth and specific substance abuse and therapy programs in the community. Staff have been able to make referrals in a more accurate and timely manner.

## Medical Department

Upon admission, each youth receives a physical through a contract with Family Medical Services as well as routine medical care, including treatment for OB/GYN care for pregnant females, diabetes, seizure disorders, sexually transmitted diseases, injuries and immunizations. Emergency dental work is also available. Psychiatric consultation is available 8 hours per week with Dr. Adrienne Allen at Hillbrook.

Registered Nurses (R.N.'s) provide pre-physicals, medication distribution and health education. R.N.'s also communicate with parents and guardians regarding the medical needs of a resident.

We are continuing a project begun in 2003 with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Center for Disease Control. Each resident is voluntarily tested and if necessary, treated for sexually transmitted diseases. Funding is provided by the Center for Disease Control.

## Community Sponsored Programs

Hillbrook has been very fortunate to partner with a number of programs, speakers and organizations to enhance the personal and pro-social development of residents. In 2009 residents participated in the following:

- Central Tech Vocational Presentation (Syracuse City School District)
- Help Increase the Peace Project (HIPP) - American Friends Service Committee
- Interfaith Works—provides residents and families with spiritual guidance
- Foster Grandparents of P.E.A.C.E. Inc. employs one grandfather who spends the day with residents
- Onondaga County Public Library partners with Hillbrook weekly
  - Provides books, resources and speakers
- Black History Celebration in February with Community Faith Ministers.
- LeMoyne College Partnership— facilitated by Anthony Nocella, our life skills teacher. Youth empowerment group volunteers their time and talents at Hillbrook weekly. Students provide pro-social activities for the residents to become positive role models and achieve their goals.
- Save the Kids— Volunteers worked on youth empowerment and leadership skills



LeMoyne College Students who volunteered weekly to help resident learn pro-social skills.



Save the Kids volunteers worked with residents to develop leadership skills.



The Hillbrook 2010 Calendar



Poetry Books produced by residents



Residents planted a vegetable garden as part of their educational curriculum.

## Training

Hillbrook developed an aggressive and comprehensive training curriculum in 2009. The goal of this training is to continually equip all staff in the facility with the skills needed to be successful in the workplace. At Hillbrook, staff are required to complete 82 Hours of annual training in many areas that are critical to their maintaining a safe and secure work environment while also providing a caring and nurturing environment for the youth that we serve in Detention. Staff are mandated and must complete the following trainings:

- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
- Mandated Reporting Training
- Fire Safety Training
- Workplace Violence Training
- CPR/First Aid
- Diversity Training
- Documentation and Report Writing
- Search-In & Security Training
- Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) Training

In addition, Hillbrook offers additional topical trainings to support staff who are in need of more advanced training or have been identified as needing additional support to complete the trainings above.

### 2009 Training Highlights

- Six Hillbrook Staff completed the 6 Day Train the Trainer Program for the Help Increase the Peace Program
- Two Senior Counselors (Counselor II) successfully completed the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Train the Trainer Program
- Hillbrook created a Staff Training Office which has a dedicated computer for staff to complete trainings on-line, houses training guides and resources and allows staff to sign up for advanced trainings
- Hillbrook successfully partnered with the Onondaga County Aging & Youth in providing Youth Development Training to Hillbrook staff

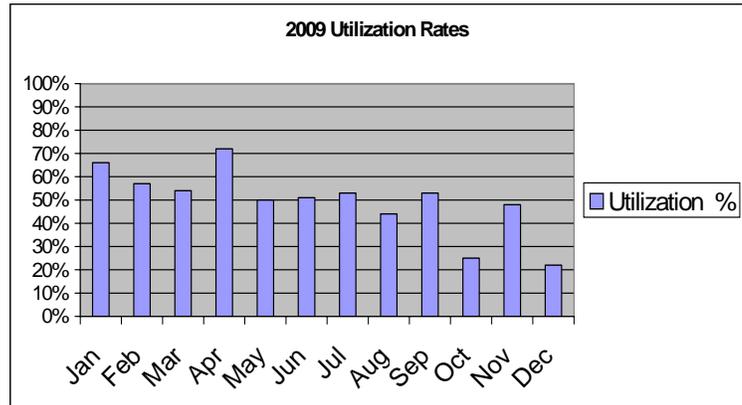


## Hillside Children's Center Non-Secure Detention

74 Admissions  
 57 PINS  
 17 Juvenile Delinquents

15 PINS Admitted Were 16 & 17 Year Olds

Average Length of Stay: 9.75 Days



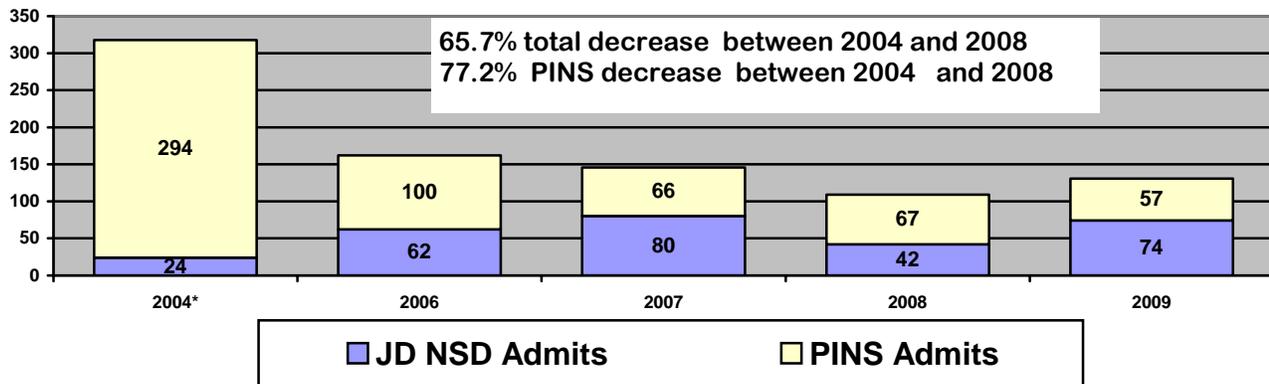
Hillside Children's Center provides non-secure detention to Onondaga County. Hillbrook manages the contract for beds at a group home located in Auburn, NY.

The Onondaga County Probation Department provides a variety of services tailored to meet the needs of families and adolescents. These services are available to children in detention to facilitate a successful return to their homes.

In 2009 through detention reform efforts, Onondaga County continued to reduce its use of non-secure detention. The continued reduction in non-secure detention use has decreased costs over \$800,000 a year.

The contract has been reduced from 8 to 6 beds. Families are more successfully served through evidence based programs such as Multi-Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy as a diversion from court.

### Non-Secure Detention Admissions 2004-2009



\*2004 statistics come from OCFS and refer to admissions between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2004

## Alternative to Detention

Cayuga Counseling manages Onondaga County's Alternative to Detention program called Special Supervision. This program provides intensive monitoring and reports client progress weekly to Family Court. In 2009, Special Supervision served 133 clients. Placement was diverted for 83% of the youth. An enhanced level of supervision is provided to meet the needs of clients identified through the Risk Assessment Instrument.

## Hillbrook Secure Detention 2009 Statistics

188 Total Admissions

134 Onondaga County Residents

54 Out-of-County Residents

Gender

Male: 142

Female: 46

Race

African-American: 101

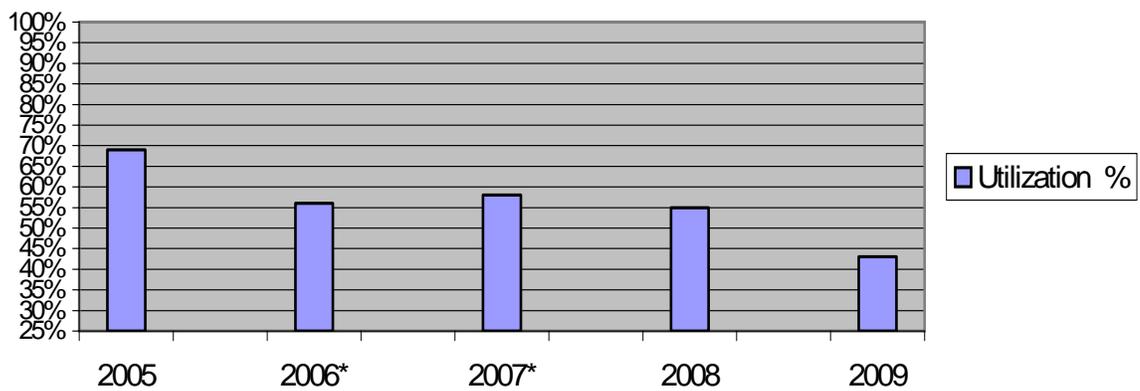
White : 69

Other : 18

## Hillbrook Detention Center Occupancy Rates

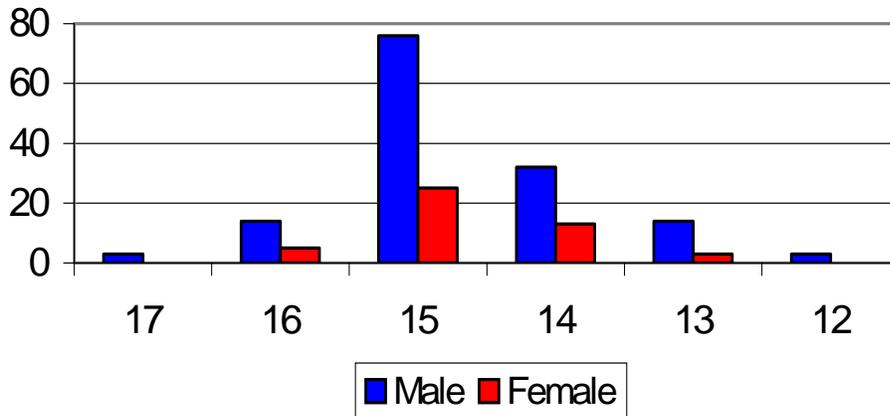
<u>Year</u>	<u>Max. Capacity</u>	<u>Actual Care Days</u>	<u>Utilization %</u>
2005	11,680	8,030	69%
2006*	7,760	4,340	56%
2007*	7,760	4,478	58%
2008	11,680	6,369	55%
2009	11,680	4,958	42%

### Hillbrook Occupancy Rates

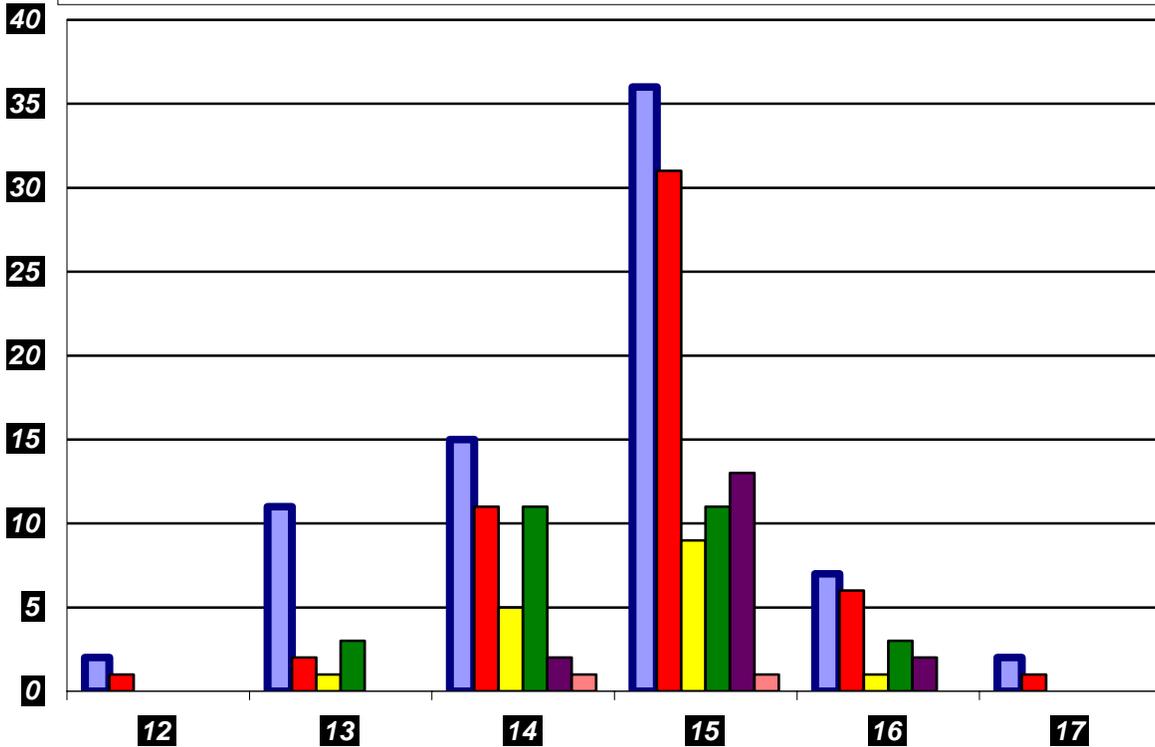
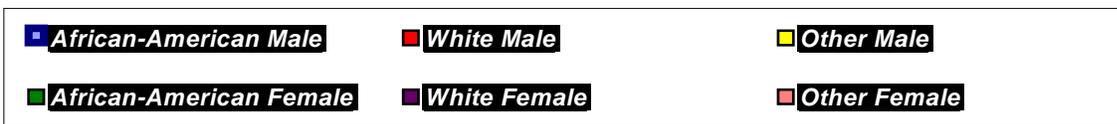


\* Statistics reflect capacity reduction (32 beds to 16 beds) July 2006—May 2007

### 2009 Juveniles Detained by Age—Hillbrook



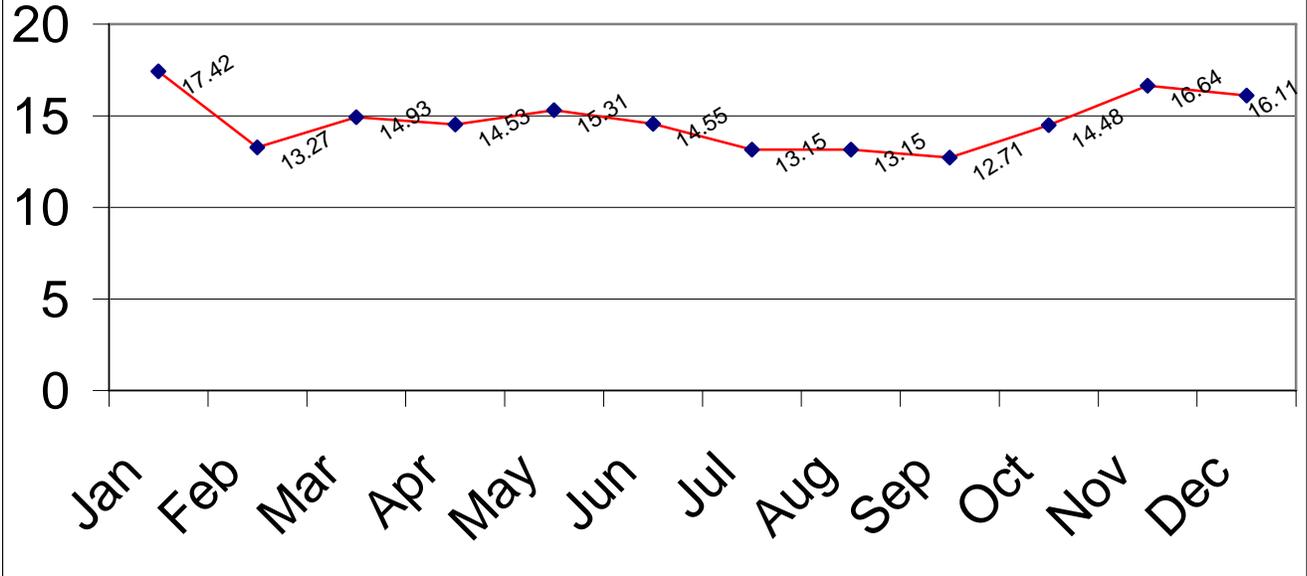
Juveniles Detained by Age and Gender in 2009:  
76% Male  
24% Female



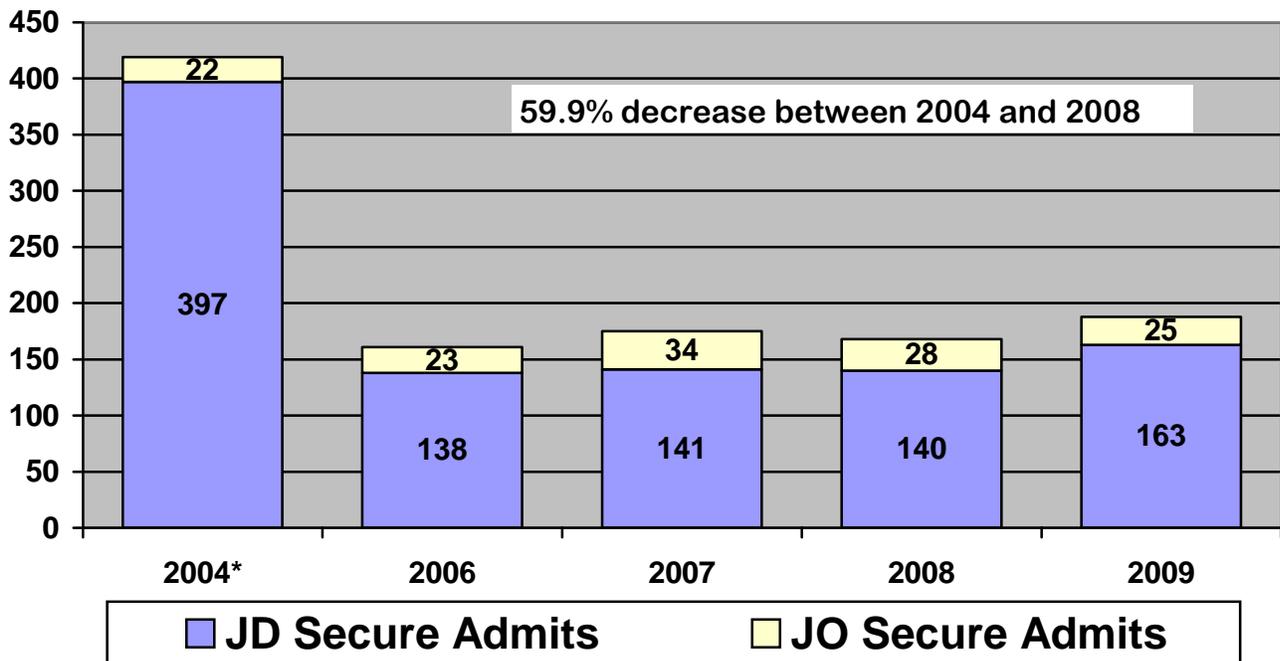
2009  
Juveniles Detained by Age/Gender/Race

Hillbrook Secure Detention  
Median Length of stay—14 days

### 2009 Average Length of Stay



### Secure Detention Admits 2004-2009

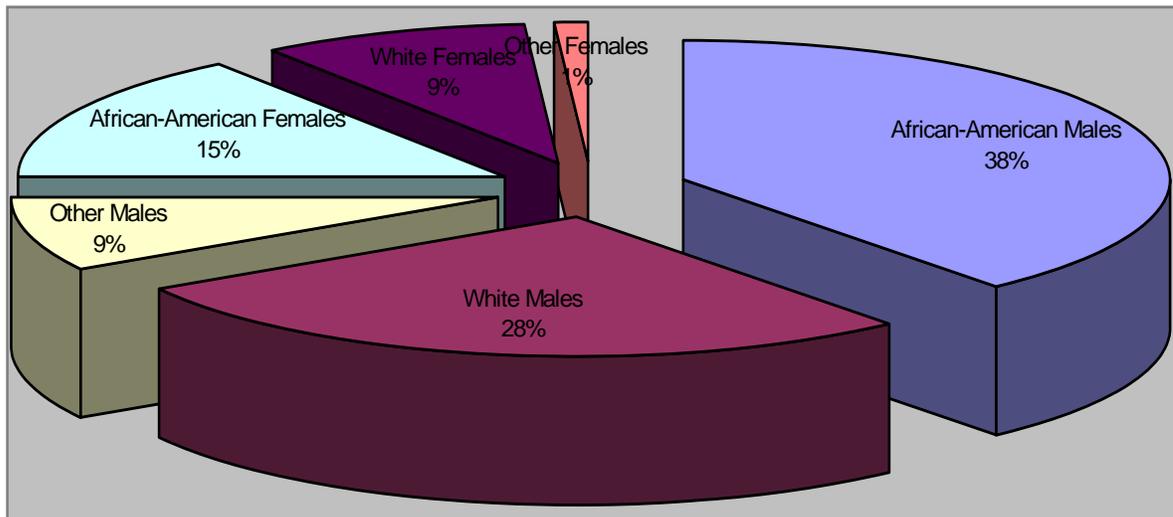


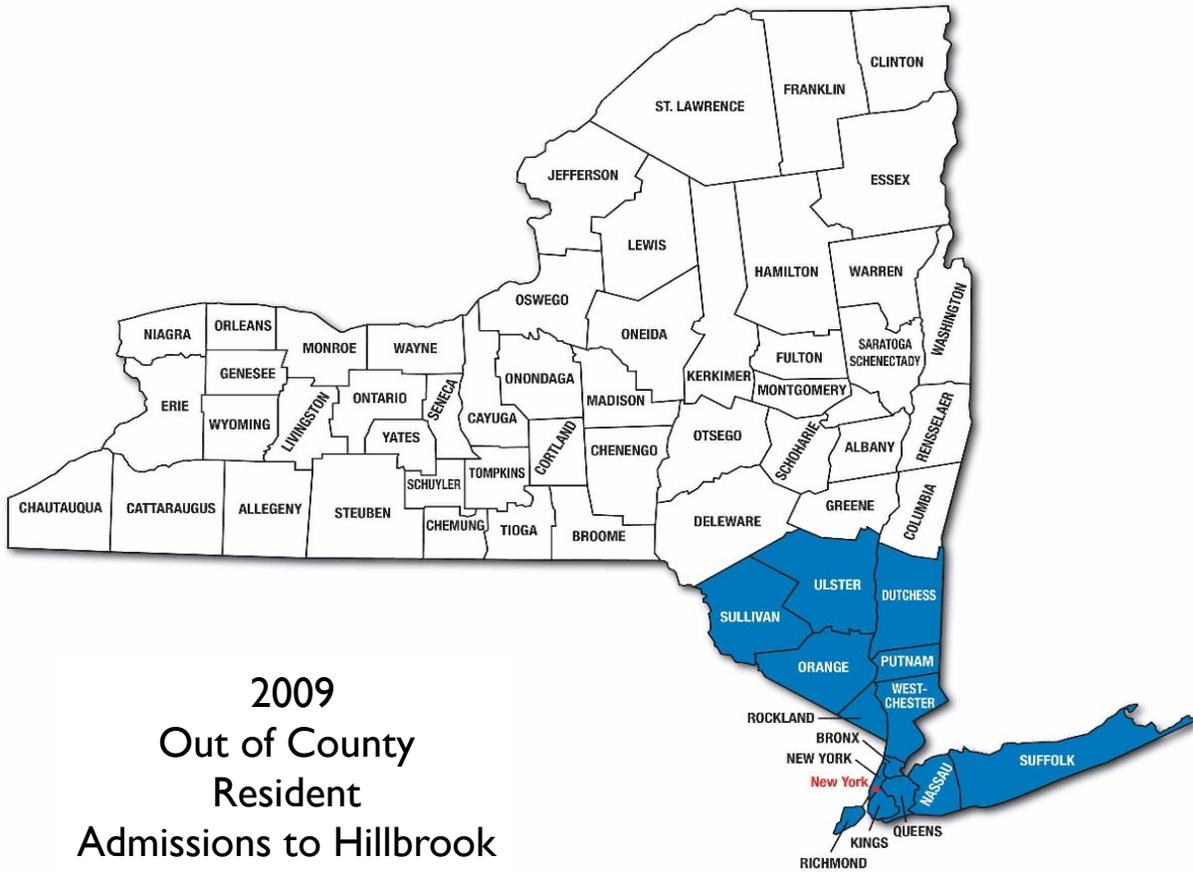
\*2004 statistics come from OCFS and refer to admissions between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2004

### Hillbrook Average Daily Population Report 2009

MONTH	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	WHITE	JD	JO	ADP
JAN	10.45	3.16	11.16	2.71	13.87
FEB	8.32	4.39	9.86	2.96	12.82
MAR	9.45	4.45	10.16	3.74	13.90
APR	10.60	3.73	12.63	2.37	15.00
MAY	8.55	6.13	13.00	3.32	16.32
JUN	9.63	4.33	10.63	5.07	15.70
JUL	6.84	4.00	8.06	3.94	12.00
AUG	5.97	4.35	6.26	4.06	10.32
SEP	8.20	5.53	10.90	4.20	15.10
OCT	7.84	4.03	5.90	7.13	13.03
NOV	9.40	3.67	5.10	9.03	14.13
DEC	10.42	3.71	4.74	10.29	15.03
<b>AVG</b>	8.81	4.29	9.03	4.90	16.56

## 2009 Detention by Race/Gender





### 2009 Out of County Resident Admissions to Hillbrook

Broome	5	Seneca	1
Cayuga	4	St. Lawrence	3
Chemung	1	Tioga	1
Cortland	1	Tompkins	2
Delaware	1	Wayne	2
Herkimer	3	Yates	1
Jefferson	5	Interstate Compact	1
Oneida	8		
Oswego	12		
Rensselaer	1		
Rockland	2		

## Employee Milestones And Recognitions

In 2009, three long– time Hillbrook employees retired. We wish good luck to Mark Gonzalez, Alan Jackson and Richard Palumbo and thank them for their numerous years of public service and dedication to juvenile justice.

Detention Home Counselors I Kevin Grome and Gary Coleman were promoted to Detention Home Counselor II in 2009.

Assistant Director James Czarniak was awarded the 2009 Onondaga County Youth Worker of the Year.

Detention Home Counselor I Gary Coleman was awarded the New York State Detention Worker of the Year award.

Administrative Assistant Vera Parsons was awarded the Bob Rader Detention Services Worker of the Year Award.

Life Skills Teacher Anthony Nocella was awarded the 2009 Onondaga County Intergeneration Award and the New York State Juvenile Association Anthony Cuccurulla Award.

Joshua Calkins a Lemoyne College student completing an internship at Hillbrook Detention and was awarded the Frank E. Foley Scholarship by the New York State Juvenile Detention Association. The Frank E. Foley Scholarship is awarded annually to a student pursuing higher education in a Human Service field.



Assistant Director James Czarniak and Life Skills Teacher Anthony Nocella were recognized by the Department of Aging and Youth for their service to Onondaga County's young people .



Director Jackie DeNero with Life Skills Teacher Anthony Nocella and LeMoyne College Intern Josh Calkins who were recognized for their service to youth.

### Employee of the Month

The following employees were named as Employee of the Month during 2009:

- James DeChick
- Kevin Grome
- Terrance Byrd-El
- Barbara Metzger
- James Chetwin
- Kenneth Motyka
- Linda Barzee

## 2010 Goals and Objectives

### Education

- Partner with the Syracuse City School District and other agencies to work towards a successful reentry of students to their home schools.

### Social Work

- Increase communication and visits with parents and guardians.
- Implement youth development strategies in behavior modification program.
- Increase use of CANS—Child Adolescent Needs Assessment.
- Increase collaboration and partnerships with local community agencies, schools and families to support successful reentry planning for residents.
- Provide wrap around services to facilitate successful reentry.

### Medical

- Enhance the effectiveness and administration of medical services through advanced training .
- Improve the intake and screening process of each resident to ensure that we receive the most accurate medical data to inform healthcare provisions during and after detention.
- Increase communication with parents and guardians.
- Provide health education to residents.

### Training

- We are committed to professional development for all employees. We will continue to seek new opportunities for growth and learning that will improve our ability to work effectively with the youth in our care. Youth development principles and practices are paramount in our training program.



Resident Art Projects

**ONONDAGA COUNTY**

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