

Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice: *Annual Report Executive Summary 1998*



Visit our website at www.justice.state.ut.us

The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was created within the Governor's Office to promote broad philosophical agreement concerning the objectives of the criminal and juvenile justice system in Utah and to provide a mechanism for coordinating the functions of the various branches and levels of government concerned with criminal and juvenile justice.

CCJJ has engaged itself in coordinating criminal and juvenile justice issues and developing several policy recommendations over the past year.

The membership of CCJJ represent the following organizations:

- Private Citizen
- Utah State Senate
- Utah House of Representatives
- Utah Sheriff's Association
- Utah Chief's Association
- Utah Department of Public Safety
- Public Education
- Utah Department of Corrections
- Utah Division of Youth Corrections
- Utah Board of Pardons and Parole
- Utah Chief Justice
- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Juvenile Court
- Utah Attorney General's Office
- Statewide Association of Public Attorneys
- Utah State Bar
- Utah Sentencing Commission
- Utah Substance Abuse & Anti-Violence Coordinating Council
- Utah Board of Juvenile Justice

Governor's Budget

CCJJ has worked with the Governor's Office to create a budget recommendation with significant increases in allocations to criminal and juvenile justice issues. The Governor's \$ 71 million crime budget includes money for technology, "lock-up" and prevention. For example, Adult and Youth Corrections received a total of \$35.4 million to purchase 1,232 new beds/slots. The Governor recommended new funding for 800 Mhz, technology, troopers and laptops and over \$1.4 million for new prevention and intervention programs.

Juvenile Justice

In 1997, CCJJ staff worked on the development of the Juvenile Sentencing Guidelines in conjunction with the Utah Sentencing Commission. These guidelines provide new structure to Utah's juvenile justice system, redefine probation and define a new category of supervision.

Since the passage of the Guidelines during the 1997 Legislative Session CCJJ staff has assisted in training juvenile probation officers, Division of Youth Corrections staff, Division of Child and Family Services staff, and juvenile prosecutors and defenders. CCJJ is also evaluating and monitoring the implementation to ensure success.

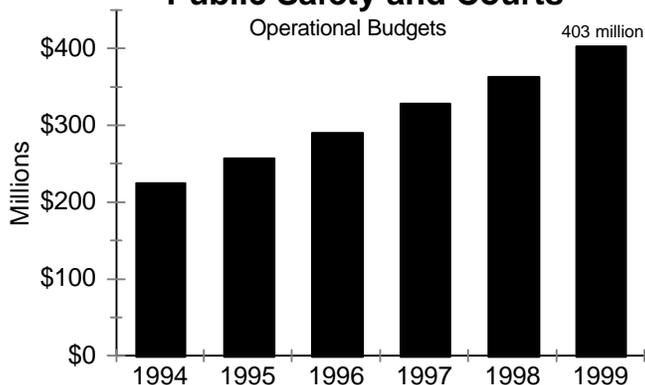
CCJJ's staff provides support to the Legislative Juvenile Justice Task Force. Support was provided for the last two years and will continue through 1998, provided the task force is reauthorized.

Serious Youth Offender

From the time the Serious Youth Offender law went into effect (July 1, 1995) through September 1997, 169 potential Serious Youth Offenders have been identified. Of these, three qualified with the charge of aggravated murder or murder, 45 qualified with a felony violation subsequent to a secure facility placement, and the remaining 121 juveniles qualified with one of the "Ten Deadly Sins".

One hundred and nineteen juveniles were transferred to District court while 50 were retained in Juvenile Court. Of the juveniles transferred to District Court, 45 received a prison sentence and 28 received a sentence to probation. Most of the juveniles who were retained in Juvenile Court were charged with one of the "Ten Deadly Sins". Nearly all of the juveniles charged with aggravated murder, murder or a felony violation subsequent to a secure facility placement were transferred to District Court.

Adult and Youth Corrections, Public Safety and Courts



Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

State of ALERT

At the Crime Summit on June 30, 1997, Governor Leavitt announced a "State of ALERT" calling on government officials and leaders, community leaders, and religious leaders to work together to turn back the threat of crime in Utah. The governor called for the following:

- ✓ By the year 2005, local, county, state, and national government will provide 5,000 additional correctional beds and slots for those who break the law in our state.
- ✓ By the year 2005, local, county, and state government will hire an additional 1,000 new law enforcement officers and correctional officers.
- ✓ Law enforcement agencies will use the tools of technology to create a more cohesive approach to emergency management and arresting those who break the law.
- ✓ Utah will increase the speed and certainty of punishment by reducing the backlog of justice.
- ✓ Utah will work with the federal government to decrease the problems associated with criminal undocumented immigrants.

Governor Leavitt also called on the community during the "Utah's Promise- Volunteer Summit" held on October 22, 1997 to enlist community level support in the fight against crime. Town meetings were held around the state to discuss the following goals:

- ✓ A caring adult in the life of Utah Children. Utah will have 3,000 trained foster care families and an increased number of volunteers in new and existing mentoring programs for at-risk children.
- ✓ Make Utah a safer place to live. Every community will have or be part of a crime prevention council.
- ✓ Give Utah's children a healthier start. The number of low birth weight babies born in Utah will decrease by 10 percent.
- ✓ Give Utah youths more marketable skills. Twelve thousand youth who are at risk of becoming functionally illiterate will be reading at the third grade level.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for service. Seventy five percent of youth, ages 12 to 18, will volunteer a significant amount of time in service to others

CCJJ staff coordinated with a variety of state, federal, and local agencies to provide accurate information upon which policy discussions at these Summits could be based.

UPDATE ON THE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The mission of the Utah Computerized Criminal History System (UCCH) is to create and maintain a criminal justice information system that is accurate, complete, timely and secure. The record improvement plan continues to aid Utah in increasing the accuracy and completeness of our Criminal History File. The table below illustrates the program success.

Year	Felony Reporting Rates
1996	78.40%*
1995	92.44%*
1994	93.65%
1993	93.08%
1993	93.30%
1992	93.93%
1991	93.93%

*Time frames between arrest and final disposition result in lower disposition reporting for these years.

Specific accomplishments of this years Criminal History plan included:

- ✓ Moving the Criminal History File off of the state Mainframe computer to allow law enforcement agencies better access at a lower cost.
- ✓ A re-write of the Incident Based Reporting database with enhanced interfaces to Cellular Digital Packet Data to gather arrest information directly from field personnel.
- ✓ An update of the Statewide Fingerprint Plan to include infrastructure enhancements that more quickly identify suspects, and allow for electronic arrest reporting.

Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Grant Programs

CCJJ is responsible for acting as a pass-through agency for many grant programs that aid different branches and levels of government. The monies disbursed come both from the federal and state levels of government.

Programs funded through CCJJ include a broad range of criminal and juvenile justice areas. The Byrne Memorial Grant monies come from the federal government and, among other things, help fund multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, gang task forces, and improve Utah's criminal history records. Monies from the federal government also help fund juvenile justice, victims, violence against women, and prison construction programs.

Mini-grant monies, provided by the state legislature, give an extra boost to local communities who are fighting gang violence and other types of violence.

Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Grants:

The **Byrne Memorial Grant Program**, currently funded at **\$4.4 million** has enabled Utah to respond to many critical criminal and juvenile problems and challenges during the last several years. A review of the programs funded between July 1, 1996- June 30, 1997 confirmed that the programs have been effective in impacting the problems which were targeted.

The major focus of the formula grant program in Utah targets the problems associated with drugs. Substance abuse and illegal drug activity are recognized to be among our greatest challenges, as they continue to threaten the well being of every citizen in our state. The costs, in terms of economics and human suffering, are staggering.

CCJJ provides grant monies for local level programs. Funding is awarded in support of multi-agency drug task forces, gang units, jail diversion projects, crime scene investigation efforts, and strategic planning for law enforcement.

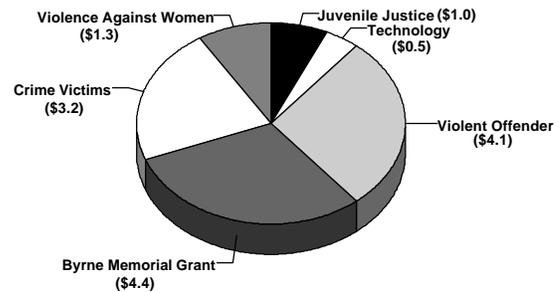
At the State level, funding supports a variety of criminal justice projects including financial crime prosecution; alternatives to detention for juvenile offenders (day reporting and receiving centers); intensive supervision/electronic monitoring for juvenile offenders; day reporting centers for adult offenders; substance abuse treatment for juvenile and adult offenders; crime lab enhancement; and law enforcement training.

Juvenile Justice Grant Programs:

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice awarded over **\$1.0 million** in federal juvenile justice funds to 49 programs in 1997. Grant programs are intended to assist at-risk and delinquent youth and their families with: educational programs; after school activities; intensive and coordinated services; training and education for service providers; coordinated information for law enforcement, schools and service providers; and vocational and job skills training. Funded programs included support services for gang-involved youth; treatment for juvenile sex

Federal Fiscal Year 1997 Grant Awards

(Amounts Shown In Millions)



Total Amount: \$14.6 Million

Offenders; life skills recreation programs for multi-risk youth; job training and career exploration for females; and an alternative school for high school drop-outs. Programs are funded for up to three years and many have been adopted by their agencies as successful models for juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention.

Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing:

This federal grant helps buy both adult and juvenile prison beds. The total award for 1997 is **\$4.1 million**. Funding has been allocated to the 72 bed Youth Corrections secure facility in Ogden as well as the proposed 288 bed addition at the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison.

Technology and Information Grant Programs:

The **National Criminal History Improvement Program** and the **Advanced State Award Program** provide Utah agencies with **\$0.5 million** to improve criminal justice record and information systems and to implement the provisions of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention and National Child Protection Acts.

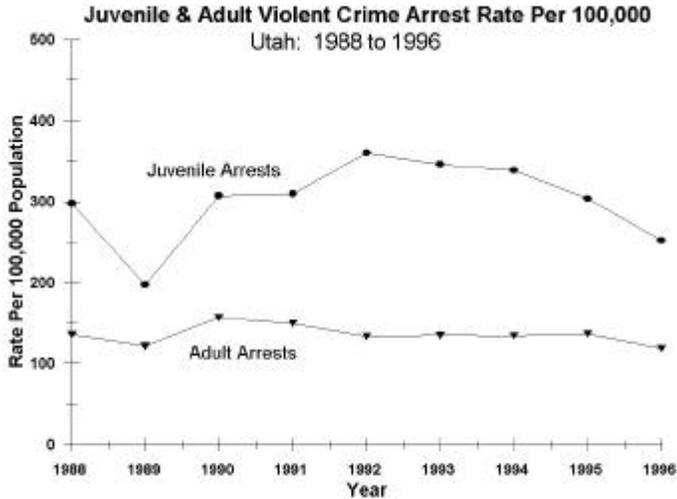
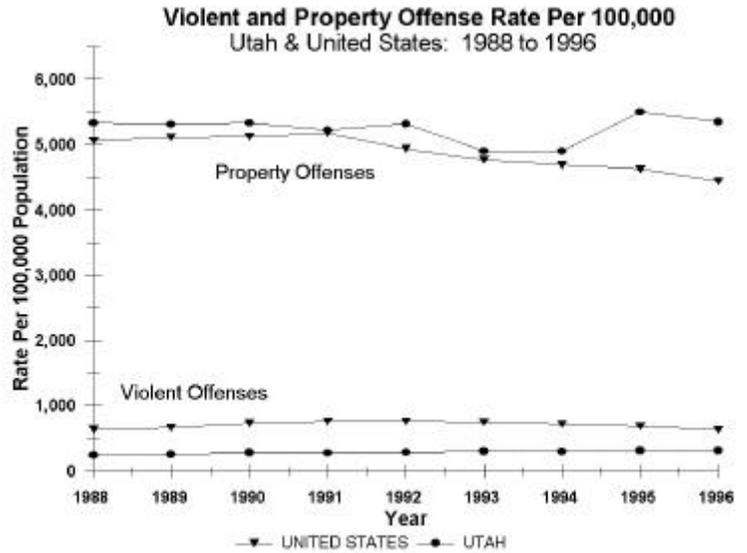
Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) and STOP Violence Against Women Act (STOP VAWA):

VOCA grants enhance and expand services to crime victims, promoting development of comprehensive services to crime victims throughout the state. In 1997, Utah received **\$3.2 million** through the VOCA grant program. STOP VAWA grants encourage the development and implementation of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving crimes against women. In 1997, Utah received **\$1.3 million** through the STOP VAWA grant program.

The **Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP) Grant** and the **Grant Suppression and Community Coordination Grant** receive **\$160,000** from State funds.

Total Crime Statistics

Looking at the adjacent figure, it is clear that property offenses occur more frequently than violent offenses. Utah's violent crime rate is much lower than the national average violent crime rate. Utah's property crime rate is higher than the national average property crime rate. Taking these factors into account, a private corporation, Morgan Quitno Press, ranked Utah as the 16th safest state in the nation. In 1996, Utah's violent crime rate and property crime rate decreased compared to 1995.



Utah Violent Crime Arrests

In Utah, juvenile arrests for violent crime is higher than adult arrests for violent crime. Violent crime is defined as murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The juvenile arrest rate for violent crime peaked in 1992 and has decreased dramatically after 1992. The adult arrest rate for violent crime has remained relatively constant, with a decrease between 1995 and 1996.

Utah Property Crime Arrests

In Utah, juvenile arrests for property crime is higher than adult arrests for property crime. Property crime is defined as burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The juvenile arrest rate for property crime peaked in 1992 and has decreased every year after 1992. The adult arrest rate for property crime has remained constant since 1990.

