

SAUNDERS COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

JULY 1, 2018-JUNE 30, 2021

Contact Information:

Person Completing the Plan:

Amber Pelan
Youth Services Program Director
387 N. Chestnut, Suite 1
Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-8189
apelan@co.saunders.ne.us

Youth Services Office Manager

Samuel Farmer
387 N. Chestnut, Suite 1
Wahoo, NE 68066
403-443-8107
kbarnes@co.saunders.ne.us

County Attorney

Steven Twohig
387 N. Chestnut, Suite 1
Wahoo, NE 68066
402-443-8151
stwohig@co.saunders.ne.us

County Board Chair

Doris Karloff
Board of Supervisors
Saunders County
PO Box 153
Yutan, NE 68073
402-625-2327
dmkarloff@gmail.com

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY PLANNING

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The purpose of the Saunders County Three-Year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan is to improve the lives of at-risk youth through expanded use of evidence-based programs and strategies for juvenile offenders. It is intended to provide priorities, supporting data, and final strategy recommendations.

THE PLANNING PROCESS:

The Saunders County Comprehensive Team is made up of sub-teams, those being, the Prevention Coalition and the Juvenile Justice Coalition. These sub-teams are a consortium of agencies/community members who contribute to a shared vision through the partnership with the goal of building collaboration to enhance programs and services to youth and families in Saunders County.

Each of the identified priorities is listed below.

Priority One: Saunders County has seen an increase in bullying, inappropriate internet usage, and substance use amongst youth in the past three years; therefore, our first priority is to provide more intervention and prevention efforts on these areas of concern. (ORGANIZATIONAL BASED PRIORITY)

Priority Two: Increase the level of coordination and distribution of responsibility in Saunders County among organizations serving youth and families. (ORGANIZATIONAL BASED PRIORITY)

Priority Three: Building Healthy Families by enhancing families' protective factors by increasing educational opportunities, decreasing substance use and decreasing abuse/neglect; therefore, decreasing poverty. (ISSUE BASED PRIORITY)

Priority Four: Expedite interventions for at-risk youth entering the juvenile justice system by developing a continuum of services to establish alternatives to detention and provide access to pre-adjudication services, such as juvenile diversion, in an effort to minimize further involvement in the justice system. (ISSUE BASED PRIORITY)

SECTION 2

COMMUNITY PROFILE

COMMUNITY PROFILE

HISTORY OF SAUNDERS COUNTY:

As of the 2016, the estimated population of Saunders County is 21,038. Its county seat is Wahoo.

Saunders County was founded in 1866. At the time Nebraska became a territory in 1854, Saunders County was known as Calhoun County. In 1856, the county was renamed to Saunders County in honor of Alvin Saunders, the last territorial governor of Nebraska. In 1866, Ashland became part of the County and was named the County Seat. In 1873, the county seat was moved to Wahoo, due to its central location in the county. The name was given in honor of the last territorial governor of Nebraska, Mr. Alvin Saunders.

In 1870 the railroad made its first appearance in Saunders County when the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad extended a line from Plattsmouth, in Cass County, to Ashland, in southeastern Saunders County. At the time, the population of the county was 4,547. Early settlers included a large concentration of Czech, German, and Swedish immigrants. Over the following two decades, additional railroad companies constructed several lines in Saunders County, including the Omaha and Republican Valley Railroad, and the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad. Saunders County developed rapidly after the rail lines were established. By 1890 most of the present-day communities were established and the population had grown to 21,577 residents.

Between the 1960's and 1990's, many communities in Saunders County experienced new housing development due to the county's close proximity to Lincoln and Omaha. Many residents commute to work in one of these larger cities and return at the end of the day to one of the several communities that dot the rural landscape of Saunders County.ⁱ

(Source: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org>)

OVERVIEW OF SAUNDERS COUNTY:

Saunders County is located in East Central Nebraska. The county sits north and east of the most populated areas in Nebraska, the Lincoln and Omaha metropolitan areas. Saunders County is included in the second tier of counties west of the Missouri River and is bounded on the north and east by the Platte River, south by Cass and Lancaster, west by Butler.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 760 square miles, of which 750 square miles is land and 9.6 square miles (1.3%) is water.ⁱⁱ

Major highways:

U.S. Highway 6

U.S. Highway 77 – which includes a bypass around Wahoo from Lincoln to Omaha

Nebraska Highway 64

Nebraska Highway 66

Nebraska Highway 79

Nebraska Highway 92
Nebraska Highway 109

Due to Saunders County's location, it is rapidly expanding and developing expansive opportunities into the future. Increasing urbanization has the potential to fundamentally reshape the county and some of its communities. How Saunders County embraces and influences this growth opportunity could well define the nature of the community over the next decades.ⁱⁱⁱ

RECREATION AND ATTRACTIONS

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park (Year-round cabins & recreation such as hiking & sports on 690 acres, plus a restaurant with a view), the Strategic Air & Space Museum (Institution offering air & spacecraft exhibits, plus rides, a planetarium & kid-friendly activities), Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari (Drive-thru & hiking options for viewing native North American species like elk & bison up close) are all located in the Ashland area.

The Lake Wanahoo State Recreation area first opened on April 28, 2012. The area takes its name from Wanahoo Park, a popular recreation area that operated in the Wahoo area through the mid-1960s. The 1,777-acre recreation area straddles the 662-acre Lake Wanahoo, with camping and boating access on the west side and a day use area on the east. A rocky hiking/biking trail winds throughout the park, linking the east and west side recreation areas over a breakwater levee one mile north of the dam. Mowed trails north of the levee provide access to undeveloped areas set aside for wildlife habitat. Future developments include the four-lane Highway 77 bypass to run across the dam. The Nebraska Department of Roads is expected to complete construction on the bypass by the end of 2015.

Czechland Lake Recreation Area is a multipurpose reservoir located one mile north of Prague on Highway 79. The 82-acre lake is situated on 260 acres of public access land and is a popular site for fishing, hiking, picnicking, wildlife watching, no-wake boating, RV camping, and tent camping. The recreation area is owned and operated by the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (which is headquartered in Wahoo). A state park permit is not required to enter this area.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Memphis State Park, 163 acre recreation area with a 48 acre lake, Memphis
Two Rivers State Park, on the east side of the Platte River near Yutan
White Sands Raceway (private), 4.5 miles north of Ashland on County Road #4
Saunders County Museum, Wahoo, NE
Hilltop Country Club, Wahoo Ashland
Iron Horse Golf Club, Ashland
Quarry Oaks Golf Club, Ashland
Ashland Country Club, Ashland
ROC Teen Center, Ashland
Ashland Splash Pad at Wiggenghorn Park, Ashland
Yutan City Splash Pad at Timbercrest Park, Yutan

ECONOMICS

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention the most recent population count indicates that between 2013 and 2015, Saunders County's population increased 1% from 20,929 people to 21,016 people. The number of persons between the ages of 10-17 decreased 34% from 2,426 in 2015 to 1,805 youth in 2017 while the total number of youth between the ages of 0-17 went from 5,218 in 2013 to 5,133 in 2015 with a less than 1.6% decrease.^{iv}

27% of the population in Saunders County employed work in the same city or town they are living. 73% of those in Saunders County are either not working or commute to a different county. The average travel time of commuters is 26 minutes. Of those traveling for work, 91% drive as the primary mode of transportation. Of those that are employed in a different County, this means there are a number of children left unattended before and after school.^v

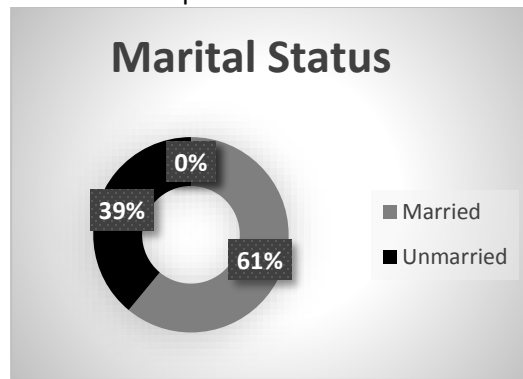
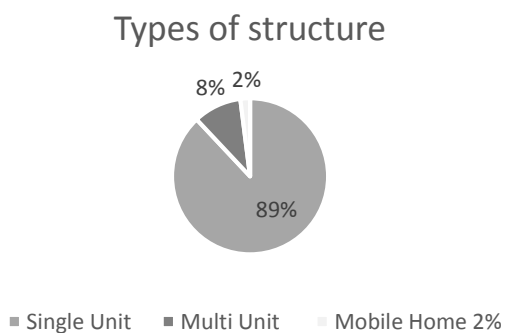
AGRICULTURE

Saunders County has deep roots in agriculture with locally owned family farms. In December, 2014, Governor Heinemann designated Saunders County to be "Livestock Friendly", meaning this designation will help Saunders County continue to move in the right direction in terms of growing its livestock industry, which in turn, also helps to support the producers of other agricultural products, as well as many of the state's other agribusiness industries.

The 2017 US Department of Agriculture reports had not been released at the time this report was written. As of the most recent Agriculture Census Data released on 2012, there are 1,204 farms, an increase of 6% since 2007. Land in farms adds up to 469,462 acres, which has increased 10% from 2007.^{vi} Market value of products sold in 2012 equaled \$380,504,000. This is a 65% increase from 2007. Crop sales made up 59% of market value products sold out of Saunders County with livestock sales making up 41% (\$156,150,000). Government payments to farms were less than \$8,500 per farm. This measurement showed a 2% increase from 2007.

HOUSEHOLD

As of July 1, 2016 the Census Bureau estimates, there were 8,055 households with an average of 2.56 people per household (2011-2015). 87.8% people reside in the same household as they did one year prior. There were 9,519 housing units, and 77% were owner-occupied^{vii}



The average median property value in 2015 was \$150,600. According to DataUSA, 78.2% in 2015 owned their own home and that percentage declined from the previous year by 0.03%.^{viii} Household costs are estimated to take up 19% of the household income in Saunders County with an average home mortgage owner cost of \$1,369. The average annual real estate taxes in Saunders County, Nebraska is \$2,685.00. According to Towncharts.com, the average median monthly rent amount is \$729. Community Action of Saunders and Lancaster County provides assistance to those in need. In order to qualify for assistance, families must be living at or below the federal poverty level, have a steady income, and their total housing costs (rent plus utilities) must fall within fair market value in order to be able to get assistance from Community Action for rent, utilities and other basic household costs. The average monthly rent, as stated above, is \$729. However, the fair market value to qualify for assistance from Community Action for a 2 bedroom apartment is \$740, this does include the cost of utilities. Due to this, there are often families that do not qualify for assistance and are left with needs unmet.

EDUCATION

The amount of education a person has impacts many socioeconomic factors, including income. Below is the data for Education attainment for adults in Saunders County.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are 16 Public Schools in Saunders County, serving 3,187 students. Minority enrollment is 8% of the student body (majority Hispanic) which is less than the Nebraska state average of 29%. The student to teach ratio is 13 to one.^{ix}

2016-2017

- Ashland Greenwood Elementary PK-5
- Ashland Greenwood High School 9-12
- Ashland Greenwood Middle School 6-8
- Cedar Bluffs Elementary PK-6
- Cedar Bluffs High School 7-12
- Elementary School at Ceresco PK-5
- Elementary School at Valparaiso PK-5
- Intermediate School at Valparaiso 6
- Mead Elementary School PK-6
- Mead High School 7-12
- Wahoo Elementary School PK-5
- Wahoo Middle School 6-8
- Wahoo High School 9-12
- Wahoo Pre School PK
- Yutan Elementary PK-6
- Yutan High School 7-12

There are 3 Private Schools in Saunders County serving 711 students.

- Bishop Neumann High School 7-12
- St. John Nepomucene School K-6

- St. Wenceslaus Elementary

K-6

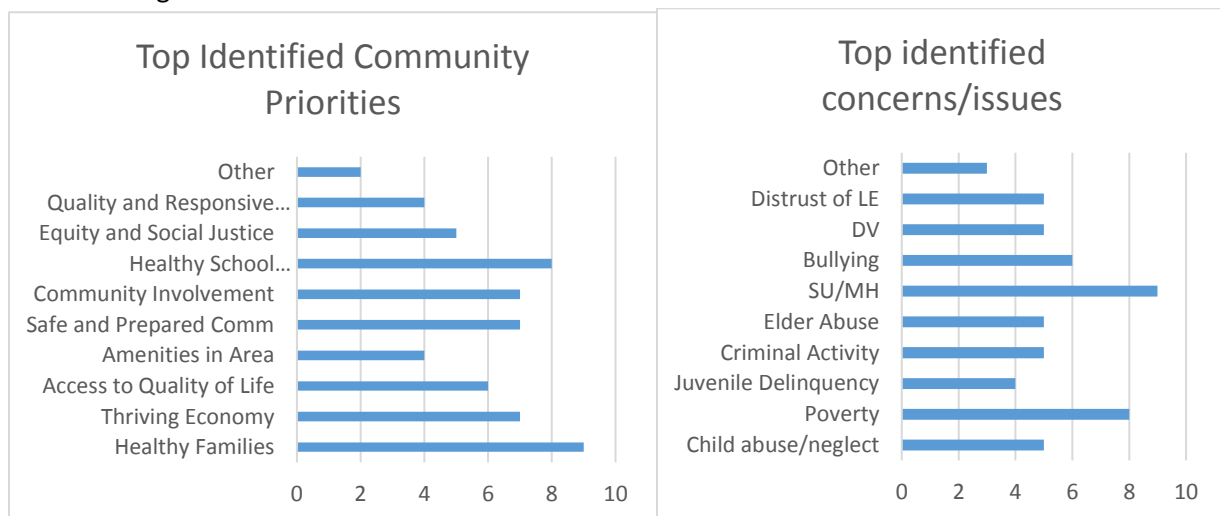
Minority enrollment in the Private Schools is 4% of the student body which is less than the Nebraska state average of 19%.^x

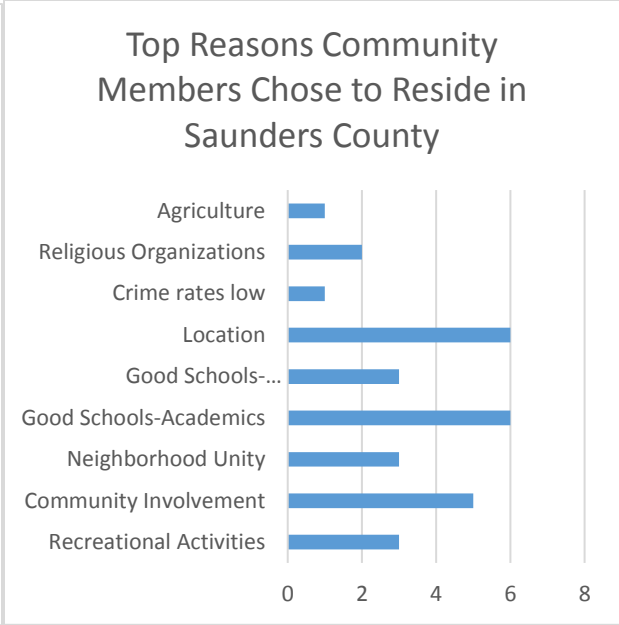
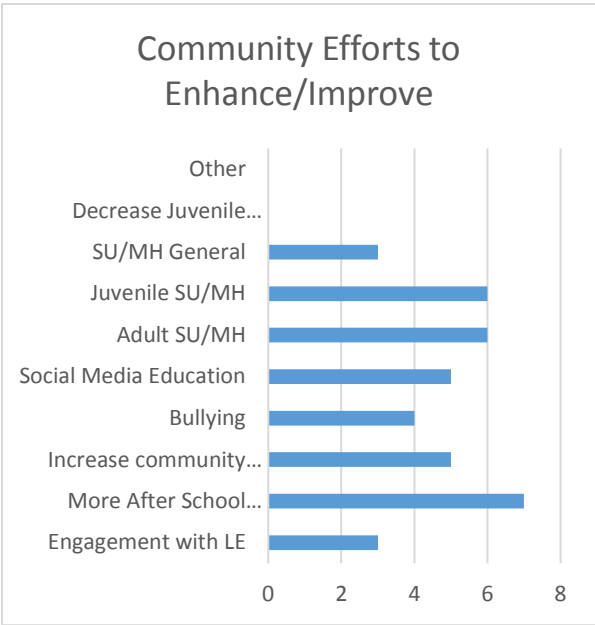
There are 28 colleges located within 50 miles of Wahoo, Nebraska and closer to other outlying communities in Saunders County. Some of these include: Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, University of Phoenix Omaha Campus, Nebraska Christian College in Papillion, Southeast Community College in Lincoln with an extended learning center site in Wahoo, University of Nebraska Omaha and Lincoln Campuses, Metro Community College, and many more.

The public libraries in Wahoo and Ashland also offer adult only computers and study rooms for adult learning as well.

COMMUNITY SURVEY/FEEDBACK

Saunders County Youth Services made community surveys available to the public via survey monkey in August, 2017. The location and availability of the survey was advertised on Facebook, the local newspaper, schools, community places of business, post offices, etc. across the county. The survey was made available in order to try to gain a better understanding regarding what the residents of Saunders County consider priorities as well as what is going well in the county. The surveys allowed the community teams to see how those outside of the membership view youth related issues in the county. The following data was collected:





SECTION 3

PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Saunders County has seen an increase in bullying, inappropriate internet usage, and substance use amongst youth in the past three years; therefore, our first priority is to provide more intervention and prevention efforts on these areas of concern. (ORGANIZATIONAL BASED PRIORITY)

Data Supporting this Priority:

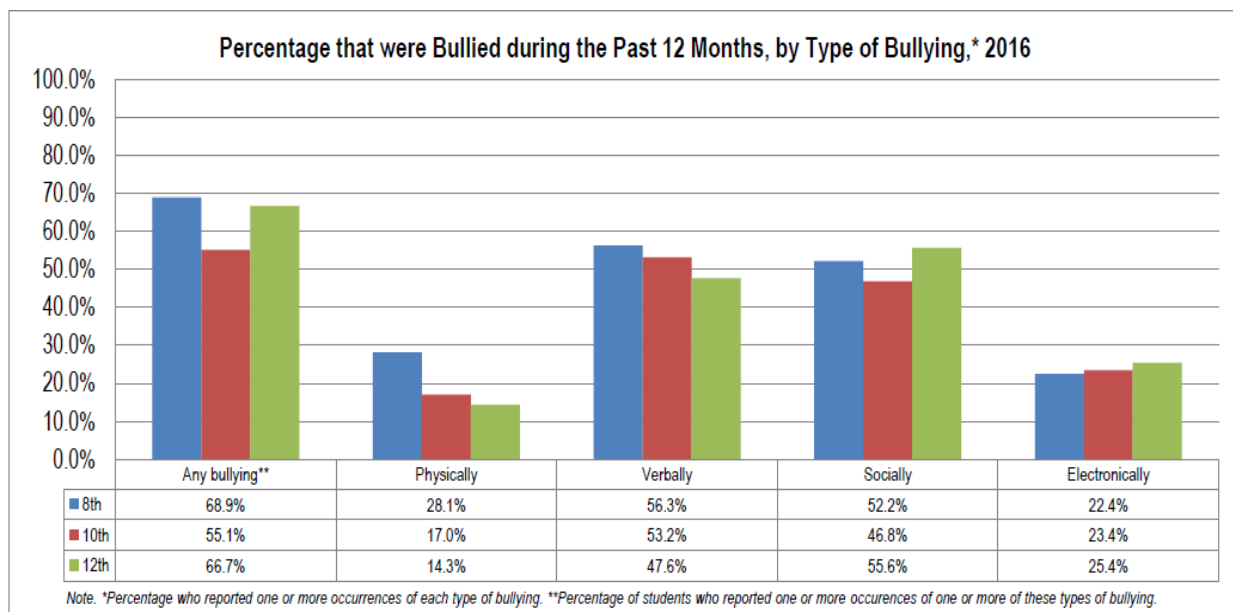
The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) results for 2016 for Saunders County pertaining to Bullying for youth grades 6th through 12th are charted below. In 2016, 37.6% of the eligible Nebraska students in grades 8, 10, and 12 participated in the survey. Below are the number of youth served:

Table 1.1. Survey Participation Rates, 2016

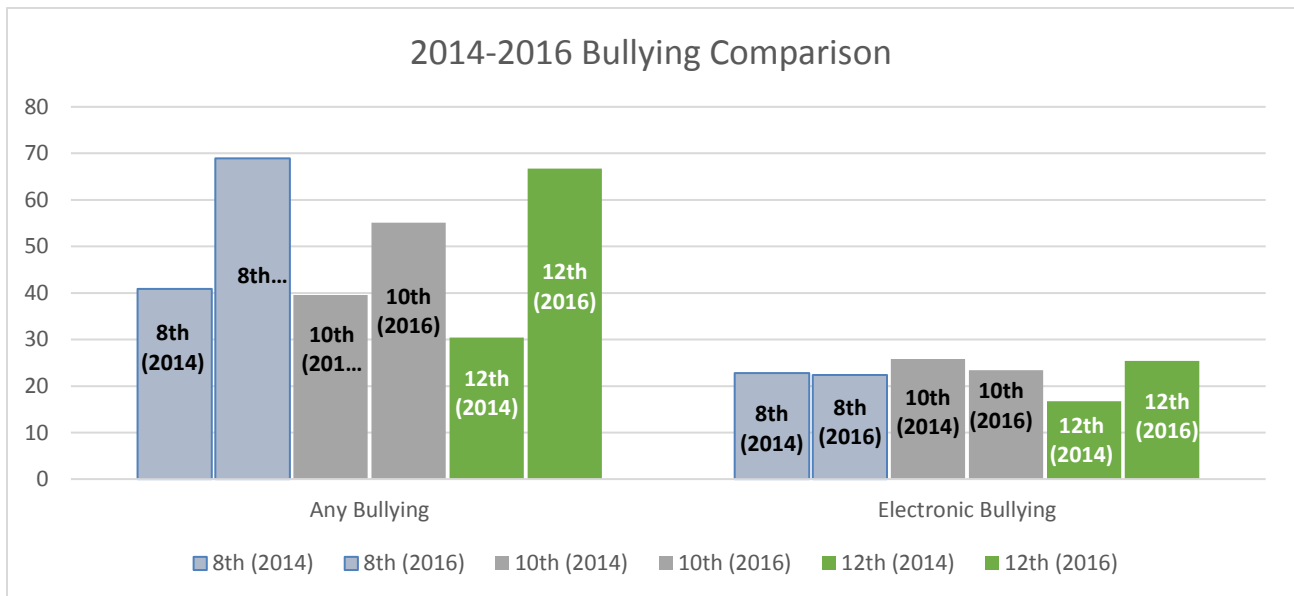
Grade	Saunders County 2016			State 2016		
	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated	Number Participated	Number Enrolled	Percent Participated
8th	135	263	51.3%	10803	25792	41.9%
10th	49	239	20.5%	9580	25029	38.3%
12th	63	260	24.2%	8327	25541	32.6%
Total	247	762	32.4%	28710	76362	37.6%

Note. The grade-specific participation rates presented within this table consist of the number of students who completed the NRPFSS divided by the total number of students enrolled within the participating schools. For schools that were also selected to participate in the YRBS or YTS, the participation rate may be adjusted if students were only allowed to participate in one survey. In these cases, the number of students who completed the NRPFSS is divided by the total number of students enrolled that were not eligible to participate in the YRBS or YTS.

Bullying questions were added to the 2014 surveys in response to interest from school and community leaders.



The 2016 Nebraska Youth Survey did show an increase in “any bullying” from the previous reporting year. Due to this, addressing and implementing action plans to decrease electronic bullying has been added as its own strategy to the Comprehensive Community Plan. According to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), in Nebraska, suicide is the 1st leading cause of death for ages 10 to 14 and the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 15 to 34.^{xi} The CDC reports that students who are bullied are twice as likely to suffer from mental health and physiological problems (stomachaches, headaches, etc.).^{xii} According to NoBullying.com, youth that are cyber bullied are 20% more likely to think about suicide. Cyber bullying leads to thoughts of suicide more than traditional bullying and these rates have drastically increased in the last 5 years due to increased social media use. The Nebraska State Prevention Coalition states that LB 923, requires that, beginning the 2015-2016 school year, all public school nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, administrators, school social workers, and other appropriate personnel receive at least one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training each year.^{xiii} The following chart details the increase in reported electronic bullying by the students surveyed in Saunders County from 2014 to 2016 by grade level per the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey.



In February of 2018, a student took an inappropriate, private picture of another student and shared this image in Saunders County. This situation made news coverage and was on social media sites. The student whose picture was taken then threatened to bring a gun to school. Both students were ticketed. The student who took the picture was charged with Felony Intrusion. This demonstrates the ongoing need for education on bullying, digital citizenship, and mental health.

Strategy 1: Improve effective responses to bullying. (Ongoing)

Current Progress:

- An anti-bullying online reporting system was created by a student at Wahoo Public High School. It allows students to report bullying instances online.

- Walk A Mile is a book that was received by the schools and handed out in 2016. It was part of a mini-grant awarded through Region V Systems.
- Second Step curriculum is in all six county school districts and the parochial school. This curriculum is evidence-based to enhance empathy, understanding emotions, compassion, and decision making skills. Three of the schools have purchased the anti-bullying component.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Second Step curriculum is a social and emotional curriculum that most area schools have. It has a bullying add on curriculum component that is \$199.00. Current schools utilizing Second Step without the bullying component include; Wahoo, Mead, Yutan, Cedar Bluffs and Ashland-Greenwood Elementary. Goal is to have all schools equipped with the bullying add on by August 2020.
- A youth driven campaign is coming in 2018 with the new Youth Action Board through Region V Systems. The message will be “I am the Majority”. This message will carry over into standing up against bullying. The message will be “I stand up against bullying, I am the majority”. There are two youth on the Youth Action Board from Ashland at this time (August, 2017). This program will be ongoing.
- Research implementing Hope Teams and Buddy benches (a new program). Cedar Bluffs will pilot the Hope Squad and goal is to have this active by August 2019. Training was attended by Hope Squad leaders in September, 2018.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: School districts and administration need to continue to evaluate the policies and consequences for bullying to determine if it is addressing the issue adequately. Schools need to be more proactive and have policies in place to address cyber bullying as that has been increasing.

Expected Outcomes:

- Have an increase in accountability for bullying behavior which would lead to a decrease in instances.
- Create an awareness of bullying and the cause and effect it has on youth.
- Create a support group for those that are being bullied and/or are the bully to address reasons for such action and use of appropriate coping skills.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School Administrators, Parents, Youth, County Extension, Mentoring Program (TeamMates)

Resources Required: Committee to focus on bullying intervention/prevention, student involvement and student education, teacher training on how to handle bullying, implementation and follow through with effective policies and procedures, financial backing to support a presenter for area schools (Brooks Gibbs)

Strategy 2: Implement consistent and frequent educational messages on digital citizenship into school curriculum to youth and implement more regular community education opportunities for parents. (Ongoing)

Current Progress: BSK Law did a presentation for students in 2015. Mead, Wahoo and Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools held a Digital Citizenship presentation for the 6th thru 12th grade students in the fall of 2017. It was presented by Ryan Sothan, with the Nebraska Attorney General's office. A community presentation was also held, but had few in attendance from the community. The data above supports the concern that Saunders County youth are engaging in unsafe digital media use, including cyber bullying.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Prevention Coalition hosts a digital citizenship presentation annually for the community members.
- Contact other county schools by December of each year to see if they would like training through the AG's office.
- Hold a digital citizenship presentation every three years to ensure that all youth ages 11-18 are provided this information.
- Need consistent reminders for students in school about digital citizenship and their responsibility.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Engagement from community members and parents are needed in order to support this strategy.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase awareness of responsibility in digital usage
- Uniformed penalty for violations
- Increase awareness of human trafficking and the potential dangers of internet use

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District Administration, Staff/Teachers, Youth in the community and Parents

Resources Required: Attorney General's office, scheduling/training during the school day for students in all district schools, parent engagement, and student understanding

Strategy 3: Create Community-Based activities (after school programs) to make better use of at risk youths' time and increase youths' community involvement, which will in turn decrease substance use and engagement in criminal activity. (Ongoing)

Current Progress: Below are a list of current activities/groups that allow for increased community involvement:

- Mead Community Action Group in conjunction with Mead Covenant Church hosts after school mentoring in Mead, Nebraska.
- In Wahoo, a group called God Teens meets weekly in parents' homes and is a discussion time for teens to talk about issues, concerns, and future goals in a safe environment with appropriate adults.
- Red Ribbon Week and Red White Tailgate are also community events that are provided through funding of the Region V Federal Block Grant. Red/White Tailgate is held during the Red/White Husker football game at Cook Pavilion.

- Clover Kids is a program for youth that does cost money per session. It is offered through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Office on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
- The Civic Center in Wahoo and the Community Center in Ashland also offer recreation outside of school hours and an after school program that does cost the family money.
- Friends of Faith is a group for Kindergarten through 5th graders at the Methodist Church in Wahoo.
- Kiwanis is also an active organization in Saunders County.
- Logos at the Presbyterian Church is for youth and is offered on Wednesdays.
- ROC Teen Center in Ashland, Nebraska is open two to three nights a week and does activities and programming with youth. An average of 25 youth attend each open session.
- Kids Cupboard is open once per month and provides meals to families in Ashland, Nebraska.
- Riverview Community Church in Ashland, Nebraska has activities for youth after sports practice, on Wednesdays, and also hosts activities for youth on some weekends.
- Numerous churches across the communities have outreach, after school programming and other programs that they use to connect and engage community youth.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Increase community involvement and adult volunteers to mentor youth and activities outside of school hours. Will host events twice annually to recruit members in enhance community awareness.
- The Wahoo Library is open to hosting after school activities if volunteers are available.
- Increase opportunities for participating in sports activities for middle school and high school youth outside of school sponsored athletics. A pilot youth driven sporting group will be developed the summer of 2019.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Commitment of stakeholders/taskforce is necessary for success and continuation of activities. Community collaboration needs to be improved in order to better disseminate information regarding events occurring in neighboring towns. Financial support for programming is also a must.

Expected Outcomes:

- Identify programs that exist and what needs have been left unmet.
- Determine framework of programs to implement and groups to organize and run the programs.
- Implement programs targeted to at-risk youth that build on strengths and focus on building healthy family and community connections.
- Increase the number of youth employed and/or volunteering in the community.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, Community Coalitions, Parents, Community Businesses/Organizations, Health Department, and Youth

Resources Required: Commitment of Stakeholders/task force, participation and financial sustainability of after school programming, parent involvement

Strategy 5: Support TeamMates and Mentoring Programs in all school districts and/or communities. (Ongoing)

Data to support Strategy:

SAUNDERS COUNTY TEAMMATES MENTORING PROGRAM:

(Source: TeamMates.org)

The TeamMates Mentoring Program was founded in 1991 by Tom & Nancy Osborne in an effort to provide support and encouragement to school aged youth. The goal of the program is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. To reach this goal, youth meet one hour per week with a caring adult at school who serves as a mentor. The program has shown benefits; its website reports that 75% of TeamMates mentees had fewer unexcused absences, 84% had fewer disciplinary referrals, and 55% improved academic performance.^{xiv} Saunders County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff Kevin Stukenholtz) allows his staff/police officers to be TeamMates mentors during work time due to the benefits seen with this program.

History of the Mentoring Program and Recent Restructuring: Saunders County TeamMates Program restructured in 2015 from having one coordinator overseeing all programs within the county to having each community implement their own chapter. TeamMates has been in existence since 2003 and has seen student success but it has been difficult to increase volunteers. Not all schools in the county participate in TeamMates. Cedar Bluffs Schools reported in 2017 that they did not have any matches during the 2016/2017 school year due to not having an active coordinator overseeing the program. Due to this and a change in administration, the school decided not to continue the mentoring program for the 2017/2018 school year. Mead Public and Cedar Bluffs Public do not currently have an active chapter as of April, 2018. Mead Covenant Church does provide an after school mentoring program that is not associated with TeamMates. A Region V Federal Block Grant does help pay the coordinators of each TeamMates and Mentoring program in the county.

Program Growth

Number of matches from the beginning of the program to currently:

2008/2009 – 46

2016/2017 – 77 (not including 2017-2018 increase in matches for all schools)

SAUNDERS COUNTY TEAMMATE DATA FOR JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017	
Teammate/Mentoring Data	Total Number
Number of Matches:	77
Number of Meetings held between matches:	830
Retention of Matches:	2
2015-2016 Total Matches:	67
2016-2017 Total remaining matches from previous year:	60
Number of Mentors:	78
Number of graduates:	5
Number of Post-Secondary Plans:	3
Demographics	
Males	63
Females	52
White	107
American Indian/Alaska Native	2
Black/African American	3
Multi-Racial	1
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1
Unspecified	1
Total Youth	115
*Note: Mead Community group had adults paired with more than one youth. Adult matches were counted not youth specifically in Number of Matches data.	

Ashland-Greenwood TeamMates had 15 matches at the start of 2017 and increased that to 35 matches by December, 2017. Thirteen more adults have been trained and will be paired in spring, 2018.

Current Progress:

- There is a TeamMates program in every community/school in the county except in Cedar Bluffs Public Schools. The Region V Federal Block Grant does provide funding to the programs. This averages to be about \$600 per chapter/group per year.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Work with Cedar Bluffs on reorganizing and starting up the mentoring program again. Goal is to have an active staff member willing to begin this by August 2019.
- Continue to recruit new mentors for students.
- Saunders County Youth Services and the Prevention Coalition are looking into developing a program similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters for youth during after school hours.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Collecting data from the programs has been a challenge as well as the programs maintaining people to manage the program itself. Region V does provide some funding, but it is not near enough to support the program in its entirety.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase academic performance
- Increase school attendance
- Improve pro-social skills

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, Community Coalitions, Parents, Community Businesses, School Districts, and Parents/Youth

Resources Required: Support staff and resources for each school, more recruitment and retention of adult mentors, and more financial support for the program

DETAILED TIMELINE OF PRIORITY 1:

	1st Year: 2018	2nd Year: 2019	3rd Year: 2020	4th Year: 2021
Strategy 1: Effective responses to bullying	Implement Hope Squads in Cedar Bluffs High School as an effective mental health and anti-bullying program	- Implement Hope Squads in at least 1 additional county school - Support Second Step anti-bullying curriculum and advocate for use in schools.	- Expand Hope Squad in another county school and/or across more grades in current school(s) - Continue to support Second Step evidence based curriculum in schools	Continue expansion and provide education and advocacy for expanding the program to all county schools
Strategy 2: Digital citizenship	- Provide positive social media and digital citizenship messages to schools and students - Provide human trafficking training	Offer digital citizenship training to county schools	Ensure all schools provide digital citizenship training at least every 3 years	Continue education pieces utilizing social media and school news outlets
Strategy 3: Community-based activities	Continue to support current after school community-based activities	Discussion and development of an after school educational activity and/or sports program for high-risk youth	Seek funding for program for high-risk youth that builds strengths (sports program with curriculum – Ex: girl on the run)	Implement and evaluate program
Strategy 4: Drug education, skill building and norms shaping	Continue to support DARE programs through Region V Systems federal block grant	Support Second Step curriculum in all county schools (ongoing) Support school-based therapists with grant funding	Continue to support programming and research implementation of possible teen education groups	Continue ongoing efforts

		to maintain program in schools without funding	and/or parenting support groups	
Strategy 5: Support Teammates and Mentoring programs	Continue to use grant dollars from Region V Services to support Teammates (ongoing)	Work on developing a mentoring program in Cedar Bluffs Public and Mead Public Schools	Implement program with Cedar Bluffs and Mead Public – discuss partnering in Teammates and brainstorming how to overcome barriers	Implement Teammates / Mentoring program in Mead and Cedar Bluffs Public (ongoing) Continue to support other schools and their mentoring programs (ongoing)

Priority 2: Increase the level of coordination and distribution of responsibility in Saunders County among organizations serving youth and families. (ORGANIZATIONAL BASED PRIORITY)

Data relevant to Priority:

Saunders County has strived over the last 10 years to develop teams, community coalitions, and workgroups that focus on supporting, developing, and maintaining healthy families and networks in the county. Throughout this process, several coalitions and committees were developed and this led to overlap and decreased membership over the course of 3 years. Below each coalition or board is described as well as its membership. This demonstrates the need for consolidation and teamwork amongst the boards and members of each. It also is representative of our community teams and efforts when developing the community plan, priorities and strategies.

The Prevention Coalition’s implementation efforts began in 2013 and was established in 2014. Its current mission statement is, “The Youth Prevention Coalition is a county-wide collaborative effort between agencies, schools, as well as the community to provide a bright future for our area youth and their families. Our strong alliance makes available comprehensive services that are needed to accomplish this task.” This Coalition has identified this group as “core circle” for engagement of prevention efforts. The goal of this group is to develop and create action items to intervene on high risk behaviors of youth and high risk factors in the county. There is another county coalition, Active Community Team of Saunders County (ACT), which serves a similar function but extends its reach to elderly, disabled, and greater community health and safety. Due to this overlap in similar priorities and to increase membership, effectiveness, and eliminate overlap; the two coalitions combined in January of 2018. The members are listed below. This meeting is open to the public and often times other public members and youth have attended meetings. Meetings are held monthly. An Ashland branch of the coalition is being piloted starting March, 2018 to increase across the county engagement and more focus on specific community issues.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
1. Allison Leimer	UNL-Extension Office	14. Sam Farmer	Wahoo Newspaper
2. Amber Pelan	Saunders County Youth Services	15. Coartney DiGiorgia	Three Rivers Public Health
3. Carolyn Brigham	ARRIVE	16. Cindy Reed	Ithaca Community member
4. Jean Tesinsky	Community Action/Headstart	17. Janice Kouma	Lancaster/Saunders Community Action
5. Denise Lawver	Library/President of ACT	18. Stacie Sabatka	Saunders County Medical Center
6. Kathy Hanson	President of Prevention and Wahoo community member	19. Katie Bunjer	Wahoo Community member/Wahoo Give Freely clothing closet
7. Michelle Libal	Saunders County Attorney's Office/Victim Assistance	20. Kylie Kampschneider	The Bridge (Domestic Violence)
8. Kal Lausterer	ACT Treasurer/ Region V Services	21. Mike Gochenour	ROC Youth Center/First Christian Church-Ashland
9. Scott Larson	Ceresco Lutheran Church	22. Caitlyn Phelps	Family Services
10. Teri Effle	Region V Systems	23. Darla Berger	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
11. Mary Hanson	Mead Community Group	24. Kim Parnell	Proteus
12. Tommy Gerrish	School-based Behavioral Health ~ Family Services	25. Mary Shada	UNMC-Monroe Meyer Institute
13. Lacey Taylor	Three Rivers Health District		

The Juvenile Justice Coalition began on a similar timeline as the Prevention Coalition in 2014. Its vision statement is, “Saunders County will work collaboratively to provide effective policies and programs for youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System.” This group consists of representatives from law enforcement, probation, pre-trial diversion, county attorney and intervention programs such as School Based Behavioral Health and Crisis Response Team. The focus has been to identify and initiate services/programs to youth and families when first contact is made by law enforcement. It is also to increase engagement opportunities between youth and law enforcement. This coalition meets every other month. This group is also considered the “core circle” for front-line issues. The members are listed below:

Name	Title	Address	Phone	Email
Arnold Remington	TASC Program Director	643 S. 25th, Ste. 11, Lincoln, NE	402- 474-0419	aremington@tasc.ws
Deputy Thorson	Deputy/Saunders Co. Sheriff	387 N. Chestnut, #3 Wahoo, Ne 68066	402-443-1000	BThorson@co.saunders.ne.us
Duke Drouilliard	Deputy County Attorney	387 N. Chestnut, #1 Wahoo, NE 68066	402-443-8151	ddrouilliard@co.saunders.ne.us
Eric Thomalla	Blue Valley Mental Health	355 E. 4 th St Wahoo, Ne 68066	402-443-4414	ethomalla@bvbh.net
Dustin Niedermeyer	District 5 Probation	2610 14 th St. Columbus, NE 68601	402-563-4910	Dustin.Niedermeyer@nebraska.gov
Jay Morrow	Investigator/Saunders Co. Sheriff	387 N. Chestnut, #3 Wahoo, Ne 68066	402-443-1000	jmorrow@co.saunders.ne.us
Joe Baudler	Ashland Police Dept	2304 Silver St, #3, Ashland, NE 68003	402-944-2222	Ashlandpd@ashland-ne.com
Bruce Ferrell	Wahoo Police Chief	605 N Broadway Wahoo, Ne 68066	402-443-4155	ferrell@wahoopolice.us
Kevin Stukenholz	Saunders County Sheriff	387 N. Chestnut,#3, Wahoo NE 68066	402-443-1000	kstukenholz@co.saunders.ne.us
Suzanne Kusy	District 5 Probation	2610 14 th St Columbus, NE 68601	402-563-4910	Suzanne.kusy@nebraska.gov

Joy Wallar	School-based Behavioral Health Therapist	Wahoo Public Schools	402-443-4332	jwallar@familyservic elincoln.org
Victoria Neemeyer	TASC, Region V	1645 N Street, Lincoln, NE 68508	402-441-4343	
Chilton Leedum	Ceresco Police Department	217 S. 2 nd Street, Ceresco, NE 68017	402-665-2391	cerescopolice@gmail .com
Bruce Bostelman	Senator for Saunders County (District 23)	Nebraska Legislature		bbostelman@leg.ne. gov

An umbrella committee, Saunders County Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, was implemented in June, 2015. It was developed to create a higher level of transparency to ensure the coalition’s fidelity to the shared vision and agenda of the comprehensive plan. The committee consists of a consortium of agencies/community members who contribute to the shared vision identified by the Juvenile Justice and Prevention Coalitions. The responsibilities include: hear updates on progress on priorities and strategies from the Prevention and Juvenile Justice Coalitions; share in decision-making for advising Saunders County Board of Supervisor’s programs/services for grant funding requests; and provide oversight of accountability of grant recipient activities (outcomes). This committee is our “Circle of Champions and Circle of Information and Awareness” group that fosters a strong sense of community responsibility and accountability to reinforce positive and unique aspects of the community that insulate youth from delinquency. The committee is scheduled to meet four times yearly. Representatives include: Saunders County Attorney, Chair of County Board of Supervisor, Community Planner and Grant Coordinator, Pre-trial Diversion and school principals/representatives. The members are listed below:

Name	Title	Address	Phone	Email
Steven Twohig	Saunders County Attorney	387 N. Chestnut, #1 Wahoo, NE 68066	402-443-8151	stwowig@co.saunders.ne.us
Brad Jacobsen	Ashland Greenwood Public School Principal 6-12	1842 Furnas Ashland, NE 68003	402- 944-2114	Brad.jacobsen@agps.org
Kathy Hanson	President Prevention Coalition	1458 N. Linden Wahoo, NE 68066	402-277-5164	krhanson@live.com
Doris Karloff	Saunders County Board of Supervisors	PO Box 153 Yutan, NE 68066	402-625-2327	ck63931@windstream.net
Ann Egr	Principal, Ceresco Elementary	114 S. 3 rd Street, Ceresco, NE 68017	402-665-3651	aegr@rcentral.org

PJ Quinn	Mead Public Schools Principal	114 N. Vine Mead, NE 68041	402-624-3435	pquinn@esu2.org
Amber Pelan	Juvenile Justice Coalition - President	387 N. Chestnut, Suite 1 Wahoo, NE 68066	402-443-8189	apelan@co.saunders.ne.us
Kevin Janssen	Cedar Bluffs HS Principal PreK-12	110 E. Main St Box 66 Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015	402-628-2080	kjanssen@esu2.org

The Youth Services Board is also a board that was organized almost 30 years ago to support the Saunders County Youth Services office and provide oversight. This board serves as oversight, but has similar functions as the Saunders County Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. It was voted on and approved that the Advisory Committee would merge with the Youth Services Board after June, 2018 to increase effectiveness, participation, and collaboration. The members of the Youth Services Board are listed below:

Name	Title	Address	Phone	Email
Steven Twohig/representative (Duke Drouillard/Michelle Libal)	Saunders County Attorney Office	387 N. Chestnut, #1 Wahoo, NE 68066	402-443-8151	stwohig@co.saunders.ne.us
Kelly Nelson	Supervising U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer	Resides in Saunders County	402-437-1927	Kelly_Nelson@nep.uscourts.gov
Corky Forbes	President of Youth Services Board			Cforbes718@yahoo.com
Doris Karloff	Saunders County Board of Supervisors	PO Box 153 Yutan, NE 68066	402-625-2327	ck63931@windstream.net
Stacia Nelson	Wahoo Police Officer	Wahoo, Nebraska		Nelson@wahoopolice.us
Stephanie Swerczek	Ashland community member/parent	Ashland, Nebraska		Stephanie.swerczek@gmail.com
Amber Pelan	Youth Services Program Director	387 N. Chestnut, Suite 1	402-443-8189	apelan@co.saunders.ne.us

		Wahoo, NE 68066		
Deb LePlante	Ceresco community member	Ceresco, NE		deborahleplante@gmail.com
Kevin Stukenholtz	Saunders County Sheriff	387 N. Chestnut, Suite 3, Wahoo, NE 68066	402- 443- 5118	kstukenholtz@co.saunders.ne.us

Strategy 1: Continue on-going Prevention, Juvenile Justice Coalition Meetings and enhance coordination and efficiency of coalitions/organizations and enhance educational and preventative community activities; including the development of a community event calendar. (Ongoing)

Current Progress: The Juvenile Justice Coalition currently meets every other month to discuss juvenile justice issues in the county. Probation, law enforcement, truancy, diversion, Crisis Response providers, school based behavioral health providers, the county attorney’s office and school personnel are invited to attend. The meetings are held every other month depending on the number of agenda items. Legislative updates by the current Senator are also provided during meetings.

The goal is to increase efficiency in community coalition and organizational efforts. In order to accomplish this, committees serving similar functions have decided to combine in order to increase efficacy and participation. The Saunders County Advisory Board will merge with the Youth Services Board in order to increase efficacy, efficiency, and decrease overlap in function. The Prevention Coalition meets monthly with the Active Community Team (ACT) of Saunders County at the Wahoo Library. ACT is a non-profit and holds 501(c)(3) status. Area organizations meet to discuss prevention efforts taking place, events that are upcoming and the needs in the community. The Coalition decided in 2017 that it may be time to begin to take an active role in prevention efforts in the community by looking into bringing prosocial programs to the county, hosting awareness events, and starting youth support groups.

The Prevention Coalition and ACT meeting are open to the public. All meetings are available through ZOOM an online webinar based system so that others can join the meeting if they are unable to travel to Wahoo where the meetings are held. The history of each of these Coalitions are detailed above.

Saunders County Youth Services organizes and runs the Saunders County event calendar. This calendar can be used to advertise free events, engaging family events, educational events, preventative activities, etc. There were concerns and issues with overlapping events taking place. An example of this was in November, the parade was scheduled the same night community Digital Citizenship was scheduled. This led to decreased participation in an important educational event as it had to be scheduled

several months in advance. This has happened with churches offering parenting classes and other events. This is the link to the current county event calendar:
http://www.saunderscounty.ne.gov/webpages/calendar/county_events_calendar.html

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Increase recruitment efforts of members that are able and willing to participate in action efforts.
- Increase youth participation in the coalition and observe other coalitions to gather ideas for Saunders County.
- Active use of the county event calendar by all entities.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Engagement from community members and active involvement in activities and events.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase progress in completing strategies identified in the Priorities and strategies of this plan.
- Increase community involvement and awareness to develop and maintain a healthy and safe community.
- Increase community participation by decreasing overlap in community projects.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District Administration, Staff/Teachers, Youth in the community, Parents, Law Enforcement, Probation, Community Providers, Diversion, Truancy, and the County Attorney's Office

Resources Required: Community member involvement and participation, financial support/resources (501(c)(3)), and appropriate data collection strategies on effectiveness of prevention efforts

Strategy 2: Develop the Prevention Coalition to include an action based group that focuses on preventative activities and education county-wide. (Ongoing)

Current Progress: The Prevention Coalition/ACT is currently an informational only meeting. There are other informational meetings in Saunders County that take place such as ACT, Greater Development of Wahoo meeting, and Community Action meetings. The Prevention Coalition has decided that the coalition would like to be more active in the community in preventative efforts as well as information sharing. The Coalition did combine meeting with Active Community Team of Saunders County (ACT) in order to streamline preventative efforts in the county and join the organization's 501(c)(3) status for grant funding options for the Coalition's future activities.

An action based coalition is starting in Ashland. It began in March of 2018. It will be a branch of the Prevention Coalition to increase engagement in Ashland and it will allow Ashland to work on issues/concerns within their own community. Ashland is the second largest community in Saunders County.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Increase active participation and involvement of members.
- Increase efforts to secure grant funding for preventative activities and interventions for current community issues.
- Involve more youth and community members.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Engagement from community members and youth and securing a funding source for activities.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase access to monies that allow the Prevention Coalition to enhance prevention efforts.
- Increase community engagement and access to resources.
- Increase community awareness of issues and concerns impacting the children and families in their communities as well as action strategies to help enhance the county’s strengths and protective factors.
- Increase county-wide collaboration and involvement.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District administration, Staff/Teachers, Youth in the community, parents, Juvenile Justice Coalition, Community Members, ACT, County Officials

Resources Required: Personnel to maintain the resources website and keep it up to date, financial backing to support programming and volunteers to organize and manage the Coalition’s activities and monies.

DETAILED TIMELINE OF PRIORITY 2:

	1st Year: 2018	2nd Year: 2019	3rd Year: 2020	4th Year: 2021
Strategy 1: Ongoing meetings and coordination between organizations	Combine coalitions and organizational meetings that have an over-lap in functions (ACT will combine with Prevention Coalition and Advisory Board will combine with the Youth Services Board)	- Evaluate if combination of coalitions/boards still meets the needs and functions desired - Focus on increasing membership and participation	Focus on increasing membership and participation - Research ways to engage community members to participate and volunteer time	Continue to grow and develop the organizations to increase information sharing, resources, and collaboration
Strategy 2: Develop Prevention Coalition to be action based	Discuss desired goals and priorities with ACT and Prevention Coalition members and combine meetings	Discuss becoming one organization under ACT and take action to do so	Develop action plan priorities and task lists to achieve goal - Increase recruitment efforts	Increase engagement from community members and increase recruitment strategies

Priority 3: Building Healthy Families by enhancing families’ protective factors by increasing educational opportunities, decreasing substance use and decreasing abuse and neglect; therefore decreasing poverty. (ISSUE BASED PRIORITY)

Data relevant to priority:

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention the most recent population count indicates that between 2014 and 2016, Saunders County population increased 1% from 20,927 people to 21,038 people. The number of persons between the ages of 10-17 decreased 1% from 2,453 in 2014 to 2,425 youth in 2016; while the total number of youth between the ages of 0-17 went from 5,194 in 2014 to 5,131 in 2016 with a less than 1% decrease here as well.^{xv}

Gender, Race, and Ethnicity	Total Population of Saunders County 2016		Total Juvenile Population of Saunders County (ages 10-17)	
	Number	% of Total #	Number	% of Total #
Male	10,642	50.6%	1,292	53.2%
Female	10,396	49.4%	1,133	46.8%
White	20,620	98.0%	2,347	96.8%
Black	217	1.0%	47	1.9%
American Indian	101	0.5%	13	0.5%
Asian	100	0.5%	18	0.8%
TOTAL	21,038	100.0%	2,425	100.0%
Hispanic	455	2.2%	71	2.9%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	20,583	97.8%	2,354	97.1%
TOTAL	21,038	100.0%	2,425	100.0%

(Source: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/comparison_selection.asp?selState=31)

According to the 2016 Census Bureau data, the number of individuals in poverty in Saunders County in the last 12 months increased from 1,710 in 2010 to 1,897 people in 2016. Of the 1,897 people living at or below federal poverty level in the last 12 months, 762 are under the age of 17 years old. So, 40.2% of the people in Saunders County living in poverty in 2016 are under the age of 17 years old.^{xvi} The current poverty rate is listed as 7.5% for Saunders County. This is compared to a state poverty rate of 11.4 percent and a national rate of 12.7 percent in 2016.^{xvii} According to Saunders County Community Action reported, in 2015, 78% of Saunders County residents that are living in Poverty are employed. Of those living in poverty, 17% had less than a high school education, 9% were high school graduates, 6% had some college and 2% were college graduates.^{xviii} Of those living in poverty, 44% were unmarried with children and 51% are unmarried females with children. Only 7% of households in Saunders County public assistance according to the 2016 Census Bureau data. According to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, a high poverty rate may indicate more families at higher risk for abuse and neglect, juvenile arrests, infant deaths, high school drop outs, and removal from the home. It may also indicate poor access to education, transportation, affordable early childhood care and access to jobs that pay a living wage”.^{xix}

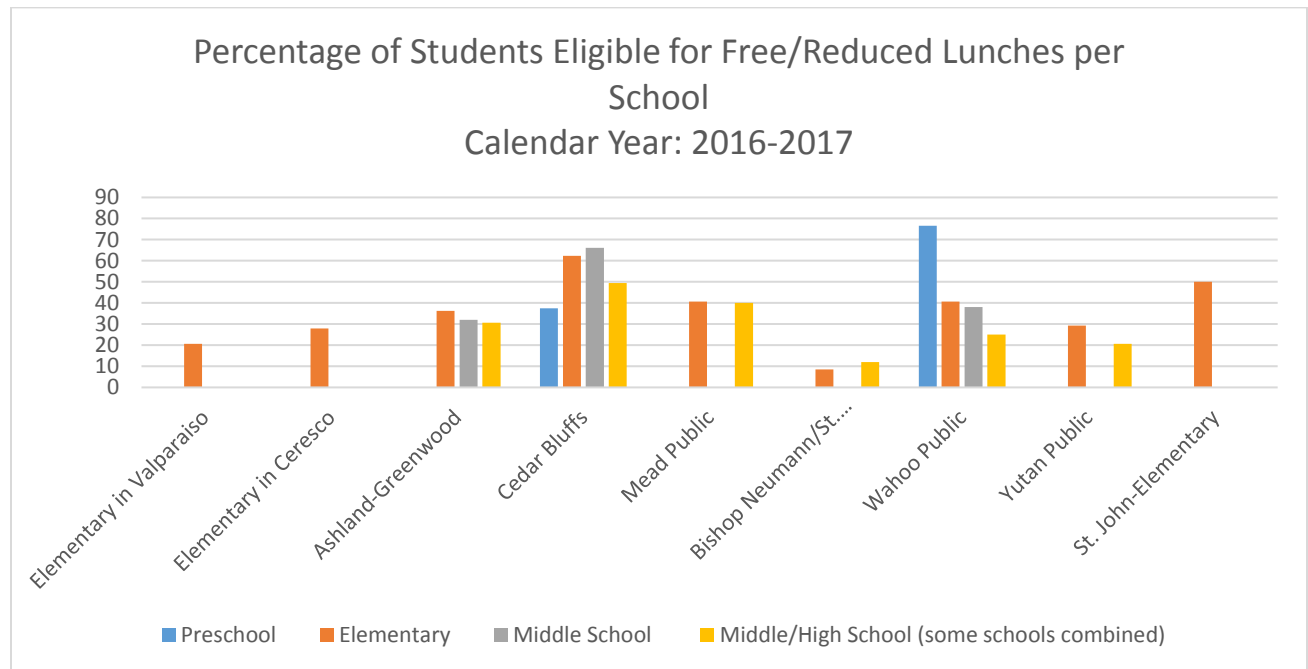
Since 2005 the unemployment rate in Saunders County, Nebraska has ranged from 2.2% in October 2006 to 6.4% in January 2011. The current unemployment rate for Saunders County is 2.5% in April, 2017 with job growth of 0.57%.^{xx}

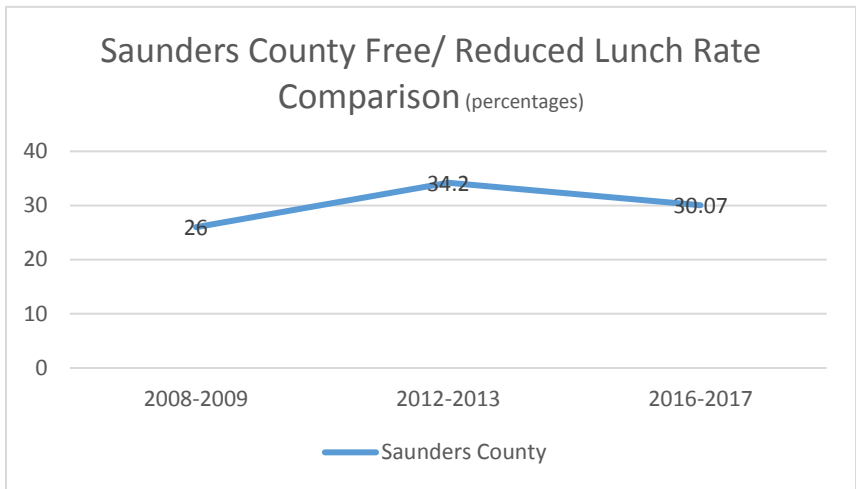
The income per capita for the past 12 months was \$30,348, which includes all adults and children. The median household income in 2016 was \$64,475 which indicates an increase from the previous year.^{xxi} Household income rates have increased over 43% since 2000. The median household income rate is increasing, but so is the poverty rate, especially for children living in poverty.

EDUCATION: School attendance by years, Graduation Rates, and Students Eligible for Free and/or reduced lunch (grades K-12)

As of the 2016 school year, there are approximately a total of 2,926 children enrolled in Saunders County public schools from Preschool through 12th grade. There are 598 children enrolled in private schools. The total number of children enrolled in preschool through 12th grade education in Saunders County is 3,524.^{xxii} There are 1,525 student enrolled in 7th through 12th grade in Saunders County.

Wahoo Preschool had 76.6% and Cedar Bluffs Middle School had 66.15% of its student body eligible for free and reduced lunches per the Nebraska Department of Education. See the percentage chart below for percentages for each school in Saunders County for the 2016-2017 school year.^{xxiii} Also detailed below are attendance and graduation rates per school for the past 3 years of recordable data that was available.



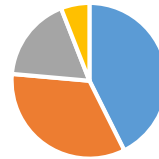


Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility Rates have increased over the past 10 years. This increase may be due to a change in the guidelines for determining eligibility during this reporting period or due to increase poverty in the county.

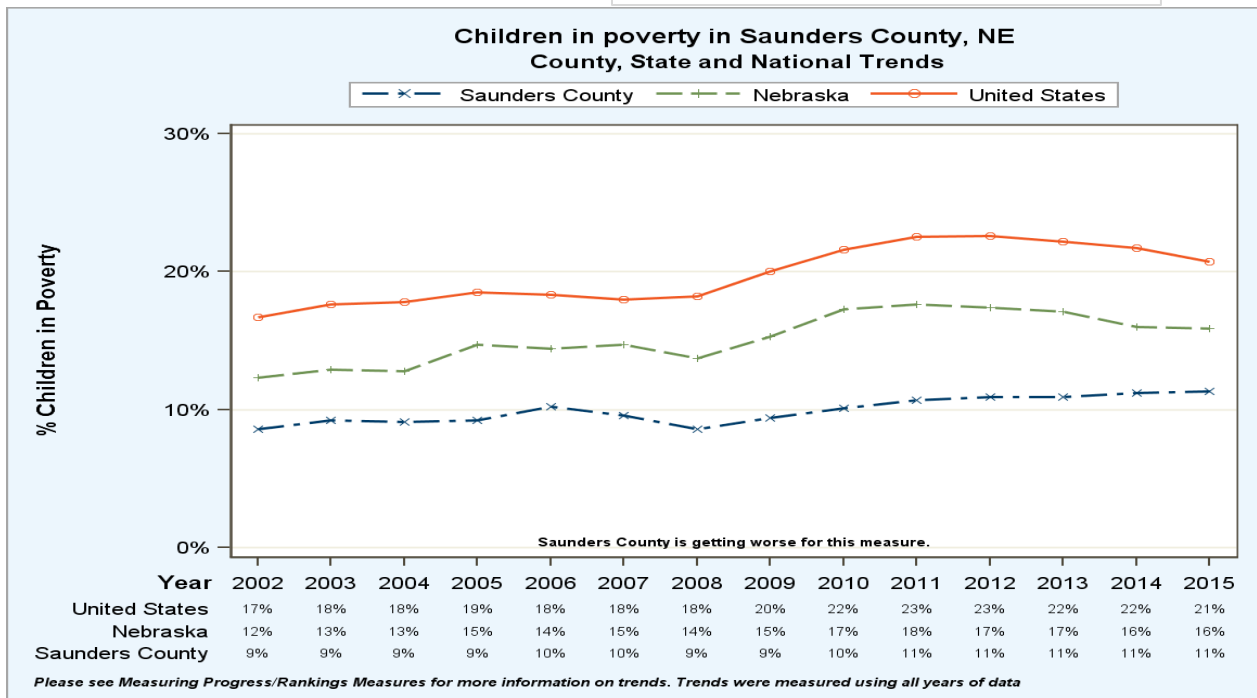
Education Data for Saunders County (2016 Census Bureau Data):^{xxiv}

High School Drop-out: 7%
 High School Graduate: 93%
 Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 26%

Higher Education



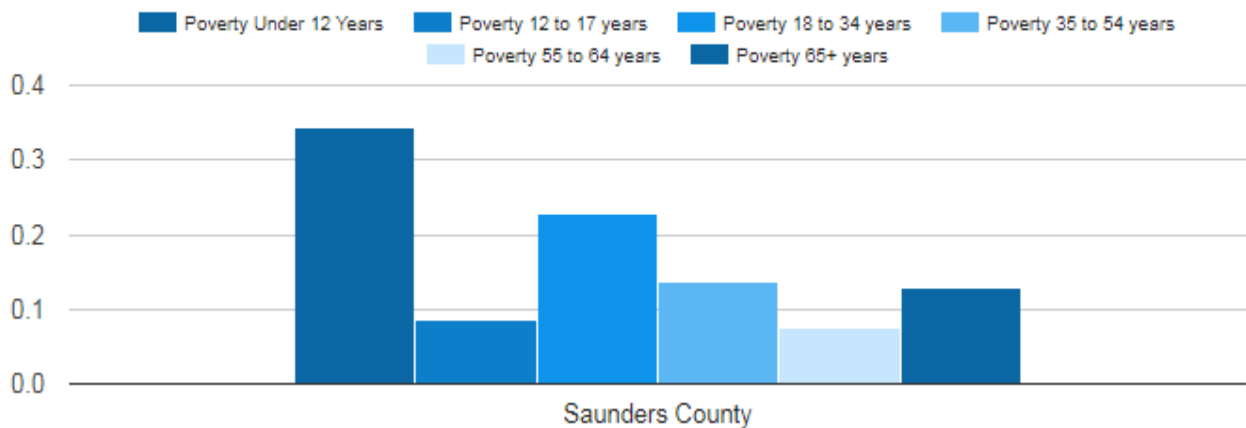
■ Bachelor's Degree % ■ Associate Degree %
 ■ Masters Degree % ■ Higher than a Masters



^{xxv} Saunders County Total number living in Poverty by age:^{xxvi}

Saunders County has a large proportion of persons living in poverty 12 years of age and under. The county also has a high percentage of those over age 65 living in poverty. Three Rivers Public Health conducted a 2016 Community Health Assessment and found that the majority of those living in poverty are under the age of 18.^{xxvii} See chart below.

Figure 25: Saunders County, NE Poverty Break Out by Age Group



Another measure regarding at-risk youth in Saunders County are teen pregnancies, premature births, low birth rates, and other factors that make a community at-risk. Three Rivers Public Health’s 2016 Community Risk Assessment Report details data regarding births and teen pregnancy rates in Saunders County and its coverage area. The increase in these measures are an indicator of an increase in poverty as well as other factors. The rates in Saunders County have been slightly higher with a percentage of 9.7 births per 1,000 being premature compared to a state average of 9.3. The birth defect rate was also higher than the state’s average in Saunders County from 2009-2013 with a rate of 7.2 per 1,000 births compared to the state’s rate of 6.0. Infant death rates are at 4.7 per 1,000 births compared to the state’s rate of 5.2.

High risk behaviors were also assessed in the 2016 Community Risk Report. Teen pregnancies have remained steady in Saunders County from 2006-2013. The average percentage of births to teen mothers has been between 3.4 and 3.8 per 1,000 teens in 2010. The state average is 7.1. So, Saunders County is doing well in this measure. Sexually Transmitted Disease data was also gathered and this measure saw a large increase in rates of newly diagnosed Chlamydia cases per 100,000. It has increased in Saunders County from 67.4 in 2010 to 163.3 in 2012.

Strategy 1: Continue efforts to enhance and expand the ARRIVE Truancy/Excessive Absences Program. (Ongoing)

Data relevant to strategy:

THE ARRIVE (Absence Reduction Resources Increasing Valuable Education) PROGRAM:

The mission of ARRIVE is to improve student attendance in a nurturing manner that builds relationships between students, families, schools, and the community. ARRIVE Program will examine the root causes of attendance problems and assist in resolving the issues that create barriers to regular school attendance. The ARRIVE Program is designed to be a resource for parents and community members

seeking information on services available for youth and family and support for school and parents to improve attendance.

Many statistics show the dangers of absenteeism: Children who are absent frequently have a much greater chance of dropping out. 90% of all children in juvenile detention have a history of truancy. Children who don't get their diplomas will make half as much money when they graduate as those who do have diplomas.

School Attendance Laws Nebraska Revised Statutes 79-201 through 79-210 provided for school attendance laws. These laws apply to children ages 6—18. Each school shall have a mandatory Attendance policy. No more than 5 days per quarter may be missed with a maximum of 20 days per school year. Schools are required to report violations to the County Attorney. Any person violating the provisions of sections 79-201 to 79-209 shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

Schools may make a resource referral to the ARRIVE Program regarding any student being absent 7 or more days per year. Community agencies may also refer students and families to ARRIVE as a resource referral, regardless of the number of absences per year. ARRIVE will provide assistance to youth and families as a support service to provide short-term case management, advocacy, resources and service referrals. Some follow up with the family may be utilized to ensure services have been made available as needed.

The History of the ARRIVE Program:

Saunders County started looking at a Truancy Program in 2007. The expertise of Dr. Hank Robinson from the Juvenile Justice Institute at UNO was sought to initiate what policies and procedures were currently being implemented. Wahoo Public High School agreed to be a pilot program.

April 17, 2009 – Truancy Overview

Dr. Hank Robinson, Juvenile Justice Institute, UNO

Topic: Schools role in truancy and what direct interest they have in it.

WPS worked with Dr. Robinson during 2007-2008 to review policies and procedures about how their school addressed truancy.

April 23, 2010 – Truancy/Resource Workshop (Grant 09-CA-526)

Dr. Hank Robinson, Director of the consortium for Crime and Justice Research from UNO

Kim Hawekotte, Douglas County Attorney Building Bright Futures

WPS – pilot school reported findings after working with Dr. Robinson (August 2009-May 2010)

2011-2012

Inter-local agreements with schools completed

Continued to review and adjust forms

July 2013-2014

Evaluation of Lancaster County Truancy Diversion Program researched

Conducted school survey of ARRIVE Program

Met with school administrators – 19 attended representing 7 school districts

Topics:

- a. Changes to NE Revised Statutes
- b. School year vs calendar year

- c. Recommendations at day 7 & 20 day for youth referrals
- d. Inter-local Agreements
- e. Suggestions: Policy and Forms

School officials commented that with the input of communication they reviewed this helped them make changes to school handbooks. Specifically reviewed was the way in which absences were documented, i.e., school notified as opposed to excused when school first contacted.

2014-Present Date

ARRIVE guidebook with forms was developed for principals and the ARRIVE Coordinator to utilize and document all efforts made. In 2017, Interventions and Barrier documents were developed to track progress. Activity Logs were also developed to track if frequency of contact with the ARRIVE Coordinator correlates with outcomes.

ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY:

SCHOOL (K-12 th)	ATTENDANCE (met goal of under 15 absences)			GRADUATION RATES			STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2014/15	2015/16	2016 /17
Total All Schools									
Wahoo Public High School	87.1%	91.4%	87.3%	94.81%	88.89%	98.46%	328	327	338
Yutan Public School	93.7%	94.4%	96.9%	97.73%	92.31%	100%	134	126	123
Cedar Bluffs Public School	90.2%	94.2%	84.5%	97.73%	82.76%	100%	138	171	203
Mead Public School	91.6%	95.0%	95.5%	95.24%	93.75%	100%	93	90	101
Bishop Neumann/St. Wenceslaus	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	47	66	60
Raymond Central Public School	93.9%	97.2%	96.2%	95.0%	97.44%	N/A	103	105	127
St. John Elementary School- Weston	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	12	No data

Ashland-Greenwood Public School	85.4%	86.1%	88.1%	97.06%	96.82%	90.32%	283	275	300
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(Source: Nebraska Department of Education, <http://drs.education.ne.gov/quickfacts/Pages/FederalAccountability.aspx>; <http://www.education.ne.gov>; nep.education.ne.gov); For 2016/17 data: Principals of each school and Dept. of Education.)

Total Middle and High School Students absent for more than 15 days per school:

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN MS & HS	STUDENTS ABSENT 15 OR MORE DAYS	% OF STUDENT BODY
Raymond Central	2014-2015	277	35	12.6%
Raymond Central	2015-2016	287	17	5.9%
Raymond Central	2016-2017	295	23	7.8%
Ashland Greenwood	2014-2015	452	101	22.3%
Ashland Greenwood	2015-2016	445	94	21.1%
Ashland Greenwood	2016-2017	451	65	14.4%
Yutan Public School	2014-2015	219	13	5.9%
Yutan Public School	2015-2016	204	12	5.9%
Yutan Public School	2016-2017	213	14	6.6%
Wahoo Public School	2014-2015	497	81	16.3%
Wahoo Public School	2015-2016	532	71	13.3%
Wahoo Public School	2016-2017	556	97	17.4%
Mead Public School	2014-2015	99	10	10.1%
Mead Public School	2015-2016	95	*	0%
Mead Public School	2016-2017	105	*	0%
Cedar Bluffs Public	2014-2015	130	24	18.5%
Cedar Bluffs Public	2015-2016	151	16	10.6%
Cedar Bluffs Public	2016-2017	154	49	31.8%

(Source: Nebraska Department of Education, <http://www.education.ne.gov>)

* - MASKED DATA

ARRIVE REFERRALS FOR SAUNDERS COUNTY (2014-2017):

New referrals for the ARRIVE program fluctuate per calendar year. The area schools report the program is a valuable resource and each public school district contributes \$1.00 per each student each calendar year in order to have dollars to extend the services to youth under the age of 11. Saunders County also funds eight hours a week of the Coordinator’s salary in order to ensure there are enough hours to provide services to high risk youth in the under 11 age group. The ARRIVE Coordinator spends almost every day during the school week in one of the area schools and will spend more time at schools with a

higher need. Case files are managed to track data as well as documented on the data reporting system, JCMS. The following data was gathered from JCMS:

Demographic Data of Youth Referred from 2014-2017						
Gender:	Male	Female		Average Age:	12.6	
	111	114		Average Grade:	5.5	
Race:	American Indian/Alaskan Native		Black, African American		Multiple Race	
	1		3		0	
					White	
					221	

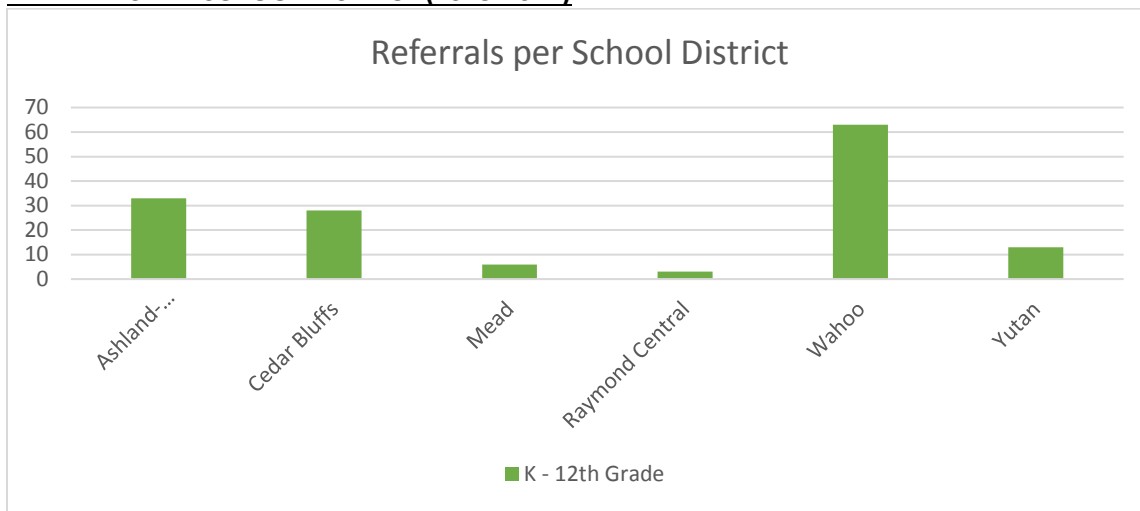
Number of New Referrals Made per School Year (2014-2017)			
(Source: NCJIS-JCMS)			
Year:	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018 (as of 3/2018)
# of Referrals:	31	45	44
Number of Cases still Open as of April, 2018:			
# Open:	0	18	44
TOTAL: 62 open cases			

There is a concern in the increase in the number of elementary students referred to ARRIVE programming with more than 15 days absent in some of the county schools. See chart below for county elementary school data from 2014 through 2017:

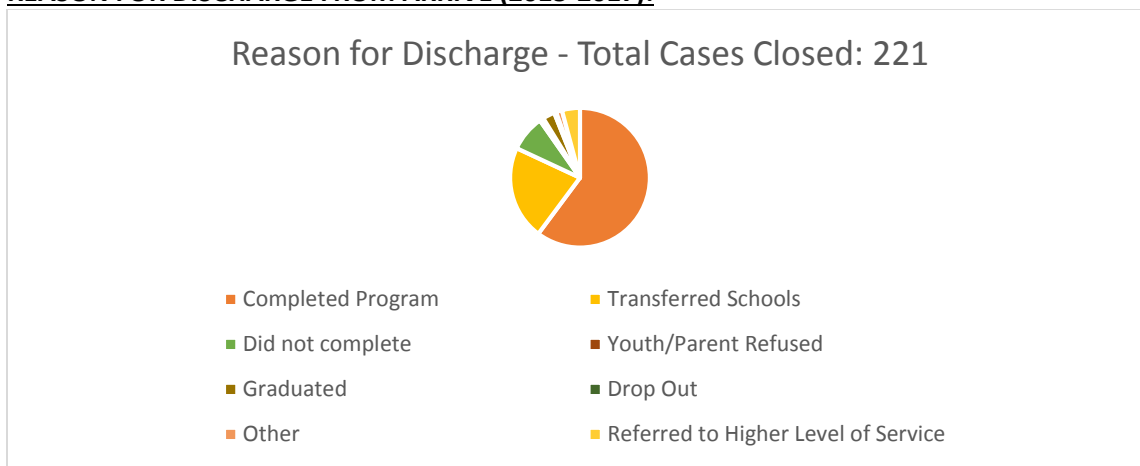
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	SCHOOL YEAR	Total # of Students	# of Students absent 15 or more days / % of Students absent 15 + days		% of Students who met goal of under 15 absences
Ashland-Greenwood Elementary	2014-2015	362	18	5%	95.0%
	2015-2016	388	22	5.7%	94.3%
	2016-2017	397	36	9.1%	90.9%
Cedar Bluffs Elementary	2014-2015	114	*	*	100%
	2015-2016	124	*	*	100%
	2016-2017	162	*	*	100%
Mead Elementary	2014-2015	151	11	7.3%	92.7%
	2015-2016	144	12	8.3%	91.7%
	2016-2017	141	11	7.8%	92.2%
Raymond Central: Elementary School – Ceresco	2014-2015	110	*	*	100%
	2015-2016	109	*	*	100%
	2016-2017	109	*	*	100%

Raymond Central: Elementary School – Valparaiso	2014-2015	139	*	*	100%
	2015-2016	163	*	*	100%
	2016-2017	170	*	*	100%
Wahoo Elementary	2014-2015	458	42	9.2%	90.8%
	2015-2016	449	13	2.9%	97.1%
	2016-2017	421	27	6.4%	93.6%
Yutan Elementary	2014-2015	228	15	6.6%	93.4%
	2015-2016	240	13	5.4%	94.6%
	2016-2017	234	*	*	100%
* MASKED DATA					

REFERRALS PER SCHOOL DISTRICT (2015-2017)



REASON FOR DISCHARGE FROM ARRIVE (2015-2017):



Current Progress: The ARRIVE Program has served every county school until the 2017-2018 calendar school year. The fall of 2017, Bishop Neumann and St. Wenceslaus determined that due to their low truancy rate and issues with attendance that the service was no longer needed. The school is able to request services at any time. The program does cost the schools \$1.00 per each student that attends the school district as this is part of the inter-local agreement with the county. The county also provides funding for the program in the form of benefits and it pays the ARRIVE Coordinator for 8 hours per week. These monies allow for the ARRIVE Coordinator to serve youth under the age of 11 years old, if needed, as the Nebraska Crime Commission Juvenile Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid grant is for serving youth 11-18 years of age. It also allows for match dollars for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid grant.

The ARRIVE program has noted benefits and decreases truancy issues. See data above in the data section. The ARRIVE program has also noted that school administration report better attitudes, less missing homework, and fewer detentions/suspensions for youth participating in the program than the youth were previously. This could demonstrate that having an involved adult in the youth's life is beneficial and leads to positive outcomes in terms of behavior and attitude. Services include: homework assistance, referrals to therapeutic and family support resources, support with school officials, monitoring services, contracting services with more direct service, transportation to and from school if needed, incentive programs, etc.

Currently, if a youth is not successful on the ARRIVE program and continues to have issues with attendance, the youth is referred to the county attorney's office, at which time the youth can be referred to a pre-trial diversion program or a juvenile petition can be filed on in court. If the youth does take pre-trial diversion and continues to have issues with attendance, the youth is referred back to the county attorney. Then, the county attorney will determine if filing a juvenile petition is necessary. Two different filings can take place: a N.R.S 43-247 (3)(b) filing for a truant youth or a N.R.S. 43-247(3)(a) filing on the parent/caregiver for educational neglect of his/her child. It is possible for a filing not to take place and the youth to be unsuccessfully discharged from an ARRIVE and/or Diversion contract if there is no progress and/or if no court intervention takes place. Youth under the age of 11 years old will not be referred to pre-trial diversion for truancy. ARRIVE programming will monitor all youth Kindergarten through 12th grade. However, ARRIVE will not contract with youth under 10 years of age. If the absenteeism persists and ARRIVE efforts are unsuccessful at the monitoring level, then the school and county attorney will be notified. At that time, the county attorney will make the decision on the need for a juvenile court filing.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Increase direct service hours provided to youth and parents. This will be increased by 20% by July 1, 2019. Direct contact hours will account for 75% of the ARRIVE coordinator's time.
- Increase parent support and active involvement in services. A newsletter with parent education tips and engagement information will be sent quarterly to those participating in ARRIVE services. This will begin January, 2019 and will be ongoing.

- Increase early intervention efforts. Youth will be referred by the schools to ARRIVE services once the student has missed 7 to 10 days. This will allow the Coordinator to address concerns before excessive absenteeism becomes an issue that is increasingly difficult to fix. This will begin immediately with the 2018 school year and will be a regular practice moving forward.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Engagement from parents, schools financially sustaining the program and/or providing more financial assistance for the program if grant funding is not available, increased level of consequences for youth who continue to miss school days, and serving youth under the age of 11

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in the number of trancies/absenteeism
- Decrease the number of office referrals, missing homework assignments, and negative behaviors in schools
- Increase the youth graduation rate and post-secondary education and employment rates for at-risk youth

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District administration, Staff/Teachers, Youth, Parents, Juvenile Justice Coalition, Community Members, County Attorney

Resources Required: ARRIVE Coordinator, school administrators, students and parents, Nebraska Crime Commission Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid (grant monies)

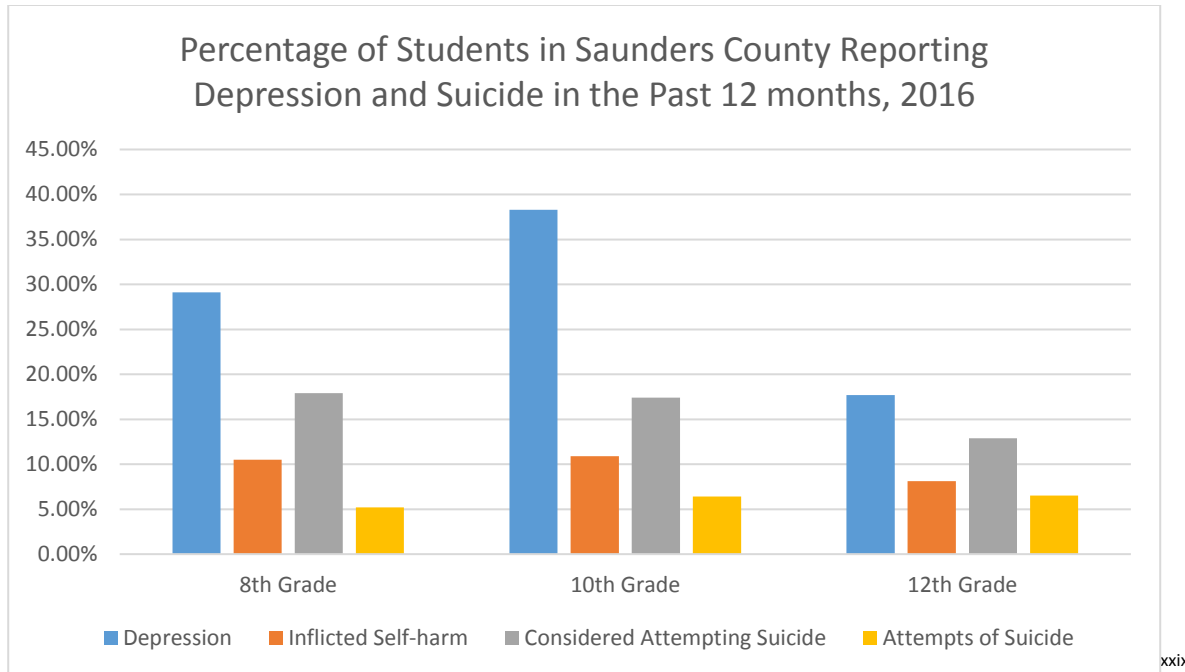
Strategy 2: Expand and maintain a multi-tiered system of school-based mental health services for students. (Ongoing)

Data relevant to strategy:

Mental health, substance use, and bullying: Issues in the schools and the community:

Three Rivers conducted a community health risk survey in 2016. This survey found that Saunders County has a high rate of suicide from 2009-2013. The death rate due to suicide per 100,000 was 18.9. This was much higher than the state average of 10.7 per 100,000 (age adjusted) and comparable counties (Washington County was 7.4). The number of suicides surpasses the number of deaths from motor vehicle accidents. Per this report, the number of child related deaths (ages 1 through 19) per 100,000 in Saunders County was 32.2 compared to the state's 25.7.

The ratio to population to mental health providers in Saunders County is 3,488:1, according to the Three Rivers Community Health Risk Assessment. This is compared to the state average of 435:1. Access to primary care physicians is also comparable with a ratio of 3,471:1 and the state's ratio is 1,405:1.^{xxviii} The Nebraska Student Risk and Protective Factor Survey of 2016 asked questions regarding depression, inflicted self-harm, considered attempting suicide, and suicide attempts. The result from the students' surveyed is below. The data will be tracked to see if school-based behavioral health will impact these measures as the program began in 2016 when this data was recorded. See charts below.



Saunders Medical Center employs a part-time therapist 1.5 days a week due to a high need and few mental health providers in Saunders County.

School-based Behavioral Health Program:

School-based Behavioral Health is a program that places a licensed mental health therapist in all county public and parochial middle and high schools. Schools began to cover part of the cost in the fall of 2017, so some elementary school services are now provided. The program allows students to be referred for mental health services. The parent then approves and signs consent paperwork for services to begin. There is no charge to insurance, there is a family therapy component if needed (after hours), and individual therapy with the student takes place during school hours. Therapy services provided directly in the school eliminates family barriers due to insurance, cost, transportation issues, and/or time for therapy. School-based Behavioral Health programming began in all county public schools and the parochial school in the fall of 2016 through funding with the Nebraska Crime Commission Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Enhancement grant. This program places a therapist in the schools for one to three days a week; depending on the school’s need. The following schools have the program: Yutan Public, Mead Public, Ashland-Greenwood Public, Cedar Bluffs Public, St. Wenceslaus/Bishop Neumann, and Wahoo Public Schools. There were 44 student referrals in the 2016-2017 school year and 4 students discharged successfully. Cedar Bluffs has hired the school-based therapist on full-time as a school employee beginning the fall of 2018.

As Enhancement grant funding is not guaranteed, the schools did cover the necessary amount to maintain the program for the 2017-2018 school year when insufficient grant funds were awarded to continue to fund the program in whole. The need is there and the schools have recognized the importance of the program. In 2016-2017, there were 44 new student referrals and 4 were successfully discharged. In 2017, there were 22 additional new referrals with 60 currently active clients; 13 having been discharged. Five of the six were discharged successfully. One was discharged due to moving out of

the county. There are wait lists and students in need of services in all schools. Funding through the Nebraska Crime Commission allows the program to serve youth ages 11 through 18. However, since the schools are now providing funding for the program, more elementary youth can be served. This was seen as a high need for all county and parochial schools. Elementary youth accounted for 17% of referrals and active cases in the 2016-2017 school year. If an elementary youth is in the program, then there is increased involvement with the parents of the student and the classroom teacher.

Client and parent satisfaction surveys were conducted in December of 2017 by Family Services of Lincoln, the provider for the school-based services. 100% of clients and parents surveyed were satisfied with the program and saw benefits and positive changes.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the schools will need to cover more of the costs of the program as the Enhancement grant was not awarded this year due to state budget cuts. Cedar Bluffs Public Schools has hired the school-based therapist on full-time. So, Cedar Bluffs will no longer receive grant funding for this program.

2016 Behavioral Health Region V- Funded Services: Total Admissions for Saunders County:

In Saunders County, per the 2016-2017 Annual Region V Systems report released February 2018, there were 144 Unique Persons from Saunders County served with Region V-Funds and 146 total new admissions. Saunders County represents 1.2% of Region V's admissions for either mental health or substance use services. Lancaster County represented 69.5% of admissions. Ten Counties of the 16 counties in Region V had lower or equal admission rates than Saunders County. (Source: Region V Systems)

According to State of Nebraska Data, including Saunders County, there were 9,054 admissions in 2017 for Region V funded services, for Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse. Of those admitted, 146 admissions were from Saunders County. The data is undetermined at this time what ages were admitted.^{xxx}

The University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, issued a Nebraska Behavioral Health Needs Assessment in September of 2016. This assessment identified Saunders County as a county with unusually high needs for mental health services. In order to be considered to have unusually high needs for mental health services, one of the following criteria was met: (1) 20% of the population in the area had incomes below the poverty level; (2) the ratio of the number of children under 18 to the number of adults ages 18-64 (youth to adult ratio) exceeded 0.6; or (3) the ratio of the number of persons aged 65 and over to the number of adults ages 18-64 (elderly ratio) exceeded 0.25.^{xxxi}

TASC and Crisis Response

As displayed above, the number of juvenile arrests decreased greatly from 2014 to 2016. In looking at the decrease in juvenile arrests and citations, it demonstrates a positive correlation regarding the impact the development of the Juvenile Justice Coalition and the Prevention Coalition (developed in 2014) had on outcomes for youth in Saunders County. In coordination with the 2015-2018 Saunders County Comprehensive Community Plan, Targeted Adult Service Coordination (TASC) and Crisis Response Team (CRT) began in 2015 with Region V Systems providing the services. TASC and Crisis Response are utilized by Law Enforcement and both are emergency response mental health programs that began in 2015. TASC is an adult program that will serve juveniles as a courtesy. Crisis Response

Team (CRT) is a program specific for juveniles and was funded through the Community based aid grant received through the Nebraska Crime Commission. In 2017, Region V Systems did receive a SAMHSA grant that awarded funding for Crisis Response for the next 5 years, so funding was no longer needed through the Community Based Aid grant through the Nebraska Crime Commission. This was positive as it allowed for long-term financial sustainability of the program. Law enforcement officers throughout Saunders County can contact CRT in an emergency situation and a therapist will respond on site within 2 hours of the call. The goal of Crisis Response is to return the person to pre-mental health crisis functioning. It is a planned response for an identified type of crisis that places a client at risk of harm. Saunders County is one of the first counties in Nebraska to have a juvenile crisis response program. It has allowed other counties and providers to see the need for a juvenile emergency community-based mental health program. From July 2017 through September 2017 data was collected; the following chart details the number of calls and basic information for a snapshot of what a quarter looks like for TASC/Crisis Response in Saunders County.^{xxxii}

Average Length of Calls		Total Calls for County		Demo
85.9 minutes		11		M: 6; F: 5
Systems of Care Calls (Juvenile)		Calls per Department		
3		Sheriff: 7	Ashland PD: 2	
Estimated County Savings:		Wahoo PD: 2		
Min: \$3,056	Max: \$9,168			

From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, there were 19 juvenile calls made to Crisis Response. From July 1, 2017 through January 2018, there were 6 juvenile calls. Follow-up services are always offered. Crisis Response therapists did team up with School-based Behavioral Health therapists and did make referrals for school aged youth when needed. There have been 9 juvenile calls made to CRT from July, 2017 through December, 2017. This demonstrates the increased use by law enforcement as well as the increased need for mental health services in Saunders County.

A Region V Systems Mini-grant was received by Youth Services and an evidence-based program, Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP[®]) was offered for 8 weeks from April through May, 2018. This program was open to ages 12 years and up through adulthood. This program will be offered annually if grant funding can be secured.

Current Progress: School-based behavioral health was implemented in all county middle/high schools (including private schools) for the 2016-2017 grant period (August, 2017). See program information above. The therapists in the schools were given full caseloads immediately and have wait lists. The schools have identified this program as a need and a huge resource to the students and school.

Schools are currently reviewing for the 2018-2019 school year if each school district can cover needed costs to keep the program at its current level as less grant funds were awarded. Cedar Bluffs Schools has hired on the school-based therapist full-time through the school beginning in the fall of 2018. This is considered great progress for the county and the school. Here are the number of days per week a therapist is in the other schools in the county: Wahoo Public: 3 days a week; Yutan: 1 day a week, Mead: 1 day a week; Ashland-Greenwood: 2 days a week; Bishop Neumann/St. Wenceslaus: 1 day a week. A therapist is also at the Saunders County Medical Center 1.5 days a week.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Locate funding to provide services to elementary level youth that are in need as this will hopefully prevent issues that continue into adolescence/teenage years.
- School districts to fully fund the program and aid to the schools that are unable to do so. The goal is to have this school funded by 2020.
- Look at the need for a community support worker/in-home educator to help the youth's family in the home in order to enhance protective factors that will inevitably lead to better outcomes for the youth served.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Engagement from parents with the program, schools financially sustaining the program and/or providing more financial assistance for the program if grant funding is not available, and serving youth under the age of 11 years

Expected Outcomes:

- Improve student attendance, improve student success in school, and decrease negative behaviors in the classroom and school setting.
- Improve student behavior, attitude and mood in school.
- Address mental health needs that are impacting the student's ability to learn and stay focused in school.
- Strengthen families and build healthy parent/child relationships and bonds.
- Strengthen the relationship between teachers and students and increase the educator's understanding of how to work with high needs students and/or those who have experienced trauma.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District administration, School-based Mental Health Therapists, Staff/Teachers, Students in school and Parents

Resources Required: School administration, financial support of the program, school-based mental health therapists, parent involvement, family support worker for in-home services, and family team meetings

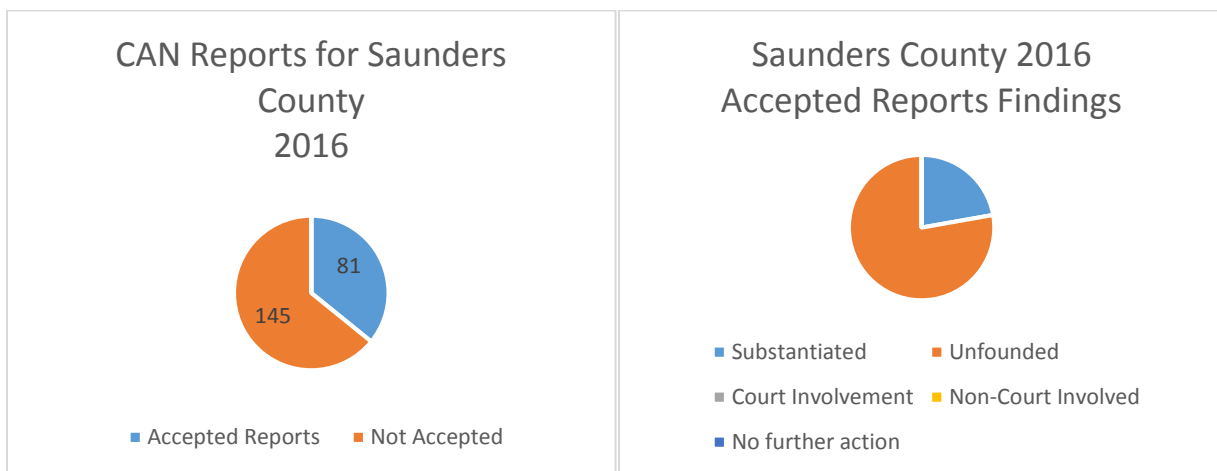
Strategy 3: Maintain local efforts to improve well-being of vulnerable youth and aid to high risk families prior to entering the juvenile court system or having involvement with Children and Family Services. (Implement in 2018/19 and Ongoing)

Data relevant to strategy:

Child Abuse and Neglect in Saunders County

Another priority area is to reduce the occurrence of child abuse and neglect in Saunders County. A high report rate of child abuse and neglect may indicate other issues in the community, such as, increased poverty, increase in substance use, prevalence of mental illness, failure of community prevention systems, lack of concrete supports for families, and a higher rate of teenage pregnancies.^{xxiii} Due to the correlation between poverty and abuse/neglect, and the increase in poverty in Saunders County by 55% over the past 15 years (per Saunders County Community Action's 2015 data), the team felt this was an important area to examine. Per the 2015 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Children

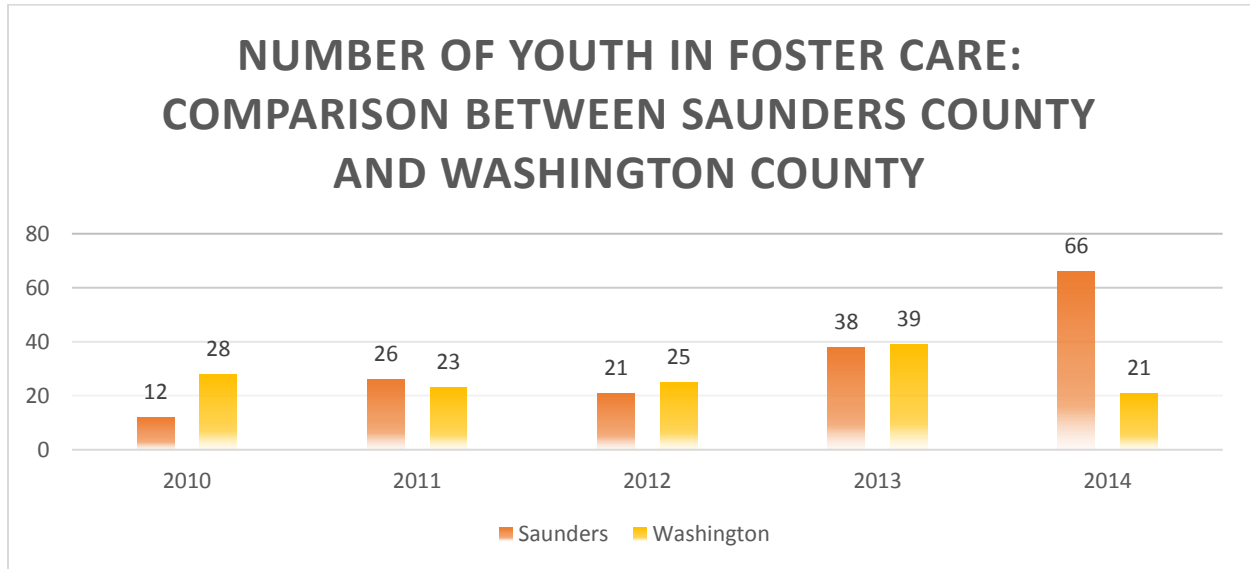
and Families Services (CFS), report, Saunders County had 226 calls made into the abuse/neglect hotline. Over the past 3 years, the average number has been 233 reports per year. Of those, 36% were accepted for assessment and 22% were substantiated, while 72% were unfounded. Of the substantiated reports, the majority are due to neglect as a result of substance use and/or poverty. Unfounded, per DHHS Administrative Memo #5-2017 is defined as “all reports not classified as court substantiated, court pending, agency substantiated or unable to locate. Substantiated reports are defined as “the Department’s determination of child abuse or neglect against the subject of the report of child abuse or neglect was supported by a preponderance of the evidence and based up an investigation pursuant to N.R.S. 28-713.”^{xxxiv} Unfounded findings may also include concerns that are addressed upon Children and Family Services involvement and/or include open non-court involved cases where services are provided but there is no court involvement.



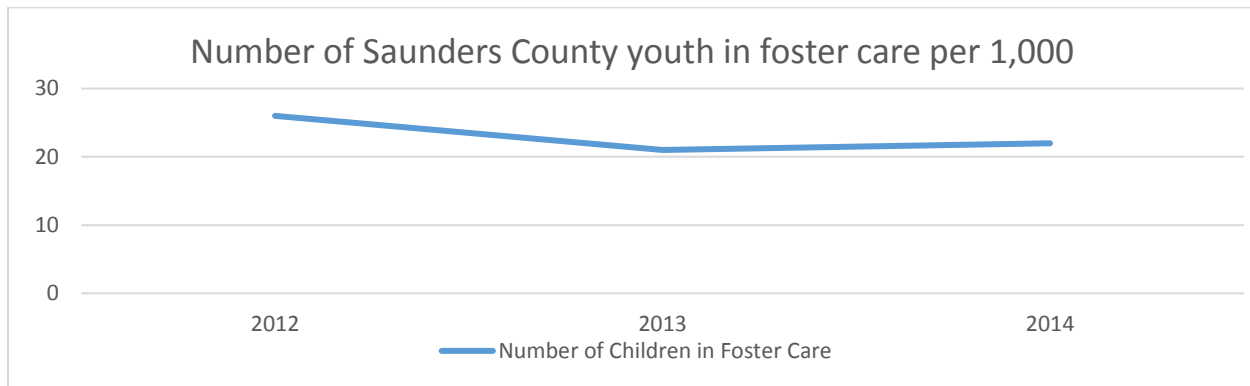
Saunders County is a part of the Northern Service Area (NSA). In NSA, there are currently 579 total state wards in DHHS custody with 74% of those being in out-of-home care. These wards are court involved. Non-court involved families participate in services and case management with DHHS voluntarily to address safety concerns and high risk levels (dhhs.ne.gov). May, 2017 Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) data for CFS, showed that all service areas saw an increase in child abuse/neglect intakes from January through March, 2017 compared to the same time period in 2017^{xxxv}. This data does not include CPS (Child Protective Services) reports that are Law Enforcement (LE) Only. The current rate as of April, 2017 per 1,000 children who are child victims of abuse/neglect in Northern Service area is 5.3 while statewide is 7.3.^{xxxvi} The Saunders County Attorney’s office reports that in 2017 there were 28 active families filed on in the juvenile court system in regards to abuse and/or neglect or delinquency. The LB 1184 Team of Saunders County was created in 1992 via Nebraska Legislature of the same name (LB 1184). This team was created to provide a review of intakes to evaluate agency response and to review ongoing court families referred by the courts as well as open non-court involved families. Saunders County’s team reviewed 135 families in 2015, 143 families in 2016, and 112 families in 2017.

Saunders County has seen an increase in the number of children placed in foster care from 2010 to 2014. This data is compared to Washington County in Nebraska as Washington County is close to Saunders County in size and population. It is also close in proximity to Douglas County (Omaha). It clearly demonstrates that Saunders County’s child abuse/neglect is not moving in the right direction as

indicated by the increase in children from Saunders County removed from their homes. See chart below.^{xxxvii}



Three Rivers conducted a Community Health Report in 2016. This report shows the number of children from Saunders County in foster care and the rate is per 1,000 from 2012-2014.



Alternative Response was approved by the Nebraska Legislature in 2017 to move statewide and began serving families in Saunders County the latter part of 2017. Alternative Response (AR) is a different approach used with families who are reported to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. It provides a different approach that is designed to be more family centered and focused on managing low risk issues, such as poverty. AR focuses on building supports for the families and community wrap around. Due to this, the Saunders County Prevention Coalition began discussing preventative efforts, such as developing or bringing in a Community Response Team, to provide services and resources to families in need prior to involvement with DHHS.

Crossover Youth

Crossover Youth are those who fluctuate between the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems. Crossover youth are had to track for the purposes of this report; as youth may be involved in a child welfare case in another county and that may not have been known at the time of a juvenile filing in Saunders County. Data for this measure has not been closely tracked, but will be a focus in the next 3 years. Listed are the number of youths that Saunders County is able to verify as cross over youth who have dually adjudicated (had a child welfare and juvenile justice court filing) in the past 3 years:

2015	1
2016	5
2017	1

Current Progress: The Prevention Coalition discussed Community Response and ways to bring its services to Saunders County. Community Response is currently serving Dodge County and has taken referrals from Cedar Bluffs Public Schools as it is close to Dodge County's county line. Community Response Team works with families who need their basic needs met, are struggling with poverty, and are in need of community resources/education. These families have not yet had Child Protective Services involved and are on the brink of a CPS referral. The families are assigned a family coach that educates the family how to achieve the goals set as well as how to maintain long-term. Dodge County Community Response Team stated that they would like to be able to expand to Saunders County slowly. Dodge County has agreed to assist the Prevention Coalition in developing its programming and working with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation on securing funding and resources for the area. However, Saunders County first must be selected as a priority county in the Community Response expansion plan. The Prevention Coalition is looking at joining ACT as an action group in order to further this strategy item and secure funding for the programming. This programming has demonstrated success in other counties and focuses on a community wrap around approach to help families and individuals in need.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Community involvement and support of the program is needed.
- Financial support of the program and support from Dodge County Community Response Team.
- Obtaining 501(c)(3) status in order to receive grant funding for the programming and services. This can be achieved by combining with ACT and becoming the action coalition under ACT's umbrella of coalitions/programs.
- Locating funding to financially support programming and prevention efforts.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Engagement from community members and organizations, Saunders County being selected as a priority area for need of such programming, and if selected, Dodge County Community Response will need assistance in expanding into Saunders County

Expected Outcomes:

- Prevent families from entering the child abuse/neglect (DHHS) system.

- Decrease poverty in Saunders County.
- Decrease homelessness and/or displaced children and families, decrease families and children without food and/or basic needs.
- Increase community involvement and wrap around the county's most vulnerable population.
- Decrease the number of children removed from his/her home and decrease the number of families involved in the juvenile court system through an abuse/neglect court filing.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District administration, Dodge County Community Response, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, funding, programming for community response, community members and youth

Resources Required: Financial support of the program and staff to run/organize the program

DETAILED TIMELINE OF PRIORITY 3:

	1st Year: 2018	2nd Year: 2019	3rd Year: 2020	4th Year: 2021
Strategy 1: Enhance and expand ARRIVE	Evaluate ARRIVE programming and fidelity to the original model (ongoing) - Increase direct contact time with students and their parents participating in ARRIVE programming	- Begin using an evidence-based school dropout prevention curriculum (ARISE) - Use evaluations and feedback from community partners to implement changes to enhance effectiveness of services (ongoing)	Evaluate effectiveness of school-drop out curriculum and implemented changes	Continue to evaluate and enhance programming through communication with community partners (i.e. school administration, parents, and students)
Strategy 2: Expand and Maintain school-based mental health	Continue to apply for community-based aid grant funding through the Nebraska Crime Commission to aid the schools in funding the program (ongoing)	- Evaluate program need and encourage the schools to expand if needed - Continue to try support with grant funding - Find provider to facilitate Trauma training for school staff	- Ongoing evaluation and financial support of the program - Coordinate with other mental health providers to encourage them to open satellite offices in Saunders County	- Continue efforts to increase mental health services and programs available to juveniles in the county by doing outreach to surrounding providers (ongoing)
Strategy 3: Maintain local efforts to improve well-being for	Reach out to Nebraska Children's Foundation to discuss Community Response and Saunders County's	Discuss with coalitions resources that are currently available to assist families in	Develop a plan to build resources for low-income families in the area -Continue to develop and	-Have Saunders Connect resources webpage complete and user friendly - Update resources brochure annually

vulnerable and high-risk youth	position on the implementation list - Continue to develop the Saunders County resources webpage and pamphlets	need locally (ongoing) - Continue to communicate with Dodge County and Nebraska Children's Foundation on implementing community response - Provide law enforcement and other county organizations with resource pamphlets to disseminate to families in need	enhance the Saunders County connect resources webpage	
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Priority 4: Expedite interventions for at-risk youth entering the juvenile justice system by developing a continuum of services to establish alternatives to detention and provide access to pre-adjudication services, such as juvenile diversion, in an effort to minimize further involvement in the justice system. (ISSUE BASED PRIORITY)

Data relevant to priority:

Overview of Youth in Saunders County:

Gender, Race, and Ethnicity	Total Population of Saunders County		Total Juvenile Population of Saunders County (ages 12-17)	
	Number	% of Total #	Number 2,246	% of #
Male	10,662	50.7%	947	52%
Female	10,354	49.3%	858	48%
White	20,609	98.1%	1,758	97.4%
Black	213	1.0%	22	1.2%
American Indian	92	0.4%	10	0.6%
Asian	102	0.5%	15	0.8%
TOTAL	21,016	100.0%	1,805	100.0%
Hispanic	484	2.3%	51	3%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	20,532	97.7%	1,754	97%
TOTAL	21,016	100.0%	1,805	100.0%

When comparing Saunders County juvenile offenses over the last three years, there was an apparent decrease in the number of MIP-Alcohol tickets issued by almost 66% from 2014 to 2016. There was also

a similar decrease of 76% in the number of Marijuana Possession citations from 2014 to 2016. The Prevention Coalition along with Region V Block Grants has been focusing programming in Saunders County on decreasing the prevalence of substance use and alcohol use amongst juveniles. This decrease may demonstrate a positive impact of these programs. Other possible reasons for this noticeable difference may be a difference in responses by law enforcement, the county attorney’s decision to file, and/or a decrease in juvenile delinquent behaviors. Based on other survey and data reports, these numbers are not an indicator that substance use amongst juveniles is decreasing as those numbers have continued to rise in Saunders County per student report according to the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey, 2016 provided by Region V Systems for the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health as well as the 2016 Three Rivers Community Risk Report for Saunders County.

Per the 2016 Three Rivers Community Risk Report, Juvenile arrests per 1,000 population was at 14.6 in 2013. This is an increase of 4.7 from 2011. Below is a chart with the total of all arrests involving persons referred to Saunders County Pre-Trial Diversion under the age of 18.

NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT FOR SAUNDERS COUNTY 2014 – 2017 (included if data was available)
(Source: Nebraska Crime Commission)

The total numbers of juvenile arrests are detailed below. It is important to note that the number of juvenile arrests closely align with the number of referrals made to pre-trial diversion programming. There were 53 cases referred to juvenile court from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 and 79 cases referred to Pre-Trial Diversion during this same time period. This does demonstrate the County Attorney’s efforts to provide pre-trial adjudication services to youth as a preventative measure. This is aligned with Priority 4 of the Community Plan.

According to the Nebraska Supreme Court’s July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 County Caseload Report, Saunders County had 53 juvenile court cases opened in court. The chart below details the category in which each case was opened.^{xxxviii}

Fiscal Year 2017 – Juvenile Court Cases Opened by Category for Saunders County								
	Misdemeanor	Felony	Neglect/ Dependent	Status Offender (3b)	Mentally Ill and Dangerous (3c)	Infraction	Parental	Total
Saunders	14	4	31	4	0	0	0	53

CY 2016: Juvenile Data for Offense by Arrest broken down by Race

Offense by Arrest	White	Black	Unknown	Total for 2016
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	1	0	0	1
Burglary	1	0	0	1
Larceny	7	0	0	7
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	8	2	0	10

Arson	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property	4	0	1	5
Vandalism	4	2	0	6
Drug Abuse Violations	10	0	0	10
Driving Under the Influence	0	0	0	0
Liquor Laws	3	0	0	3
Runaway	0	0	0	0
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	11	1	0	12
TOTAL:	49	5	1	55

CY 2014 – 2016: Youth in Detention, arrested in Saunders County

Data was collected from the Nebraska Saunders County Attorney’s Office regarding youth booked into detention. There are contracts with the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Detention Center in Madison, Nebraska as well as the Lancaster County Youth Center for Juvenile Detention in Lincoln, Nebraska.

0 – 18 ARRESTS	# of Inmates	Misdemeanor	Felony	Other	Alcohol
2014	13	6	7	0	0
2015	3	1	2	0	0
2016	4	2	2	0	0

Juvenile arrests have decreased since 2014. This has been due to several factors including a change in legislature regarding the arrest of juveniles and an increased use in community resources (probation screening and Crisis Intervention Services). Other factors that should be considered in looking at the decrease in juvenile arrests include: different response by law enforcement, probation and/or the county attorney, a decrease in severity of youth delinquency, and/or enhancement of juvenile prevention programs. Data for Crisis Intervention is provided later in the community plan. Sheriff Stukenholtz reports that his staff are able to call Crisis Response and defuse a situation with a juvenile which has lessened need for detaining certain juveniles. There are also limited juvenile facilities near or around Saunders County to utilize, so other alternatives are sought.

2016 Juvenile Probation Report:

2016 Juvenile Cases by Adjudication and Case Type for Saunders County								
	Traffic Offense		Status Offense		Misdemeanor		Felony	
	# Cases	# Admit	# Cases	# Admit	# Cases	# Admit	# Cases	# Admit
Black	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
White	0	0	0	0	13	10	3	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0

Saunders County Juvenile Probation Activity by Age Group

Age Group	Placed on Probation	Out-of-home Placement	Motions to Revoke	Probation Revoked	Satisfactory Release
10 & Under	1	0	0	0	0
11-13	0	0	0	0	4
14-15	4	0	3	0	7
16	5	0	2	0	4
17	4	0	0	0	2

FY 2015/16: Youth in Geneva and Kearney

Data was collected from the YRTC Annual Reports.^{xxxix}

	Number
YRTC Geneva	0
YTTC Kearney	0
Total	0

Saunders County use and cost of juvenile detention at the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Detention Facility (FY 2014 – 2016)

* In 2017, Saunders County decided to no longer use juvenile detention, if safely possible, so the number of juveniles detained and the costs associated with detention have been decreasing.

Number of youth sent to facility	Cost to County
2014 – 4 youth	\$34,000.00
2015 – 3 youth	\$27,273.64
2016 – 2 youth	\$11,455.00

(Source: Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services, Madison, NE)

Strategy 1: Provide law enforcement training to recognize behavioral characteristics of mental illness, trauma, and methods to de-escalate crisis situations. (Ongoing)

Current Progress: Mental Health First Aid training was provided to all law enforcement and community providers/organization. It was held in April of 2017 and had a good attendance rate. Trauma Capable training was held in June of 2017 in Saunders County and also had a good turnout of law enforcement and other community partners.

TASC/Crisis Response has also implemented services in Saunders County (see narrative regarding this program above). Crisis Response began in July of 2016 and this program has worked with law enforcement on identifying concerns and when it is necessary to utilize a therapist with Crisis Response. Crisis Response will respond to calls when requested by law enforcement to assess a youth and help diffuse a situation if needed. Crisis Response was initially funded through the Nebraska Crime Commission

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid grant monies. However, Region V Systems, the provider serving Saunders County, obtained a 5 year grant through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) to continue this service for counties Region V Systems currently serves. This meant that grant monies from the Nebraska Crime Commission grant were no longer needed.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Continued collaboration with Juvenile Justice Coalition members and law enforcement. Meetings will be held every other month to enhance collaboration and community efforts.
- Increase participation in mental health trainings held.
- Increase in mental health trainings offered and available to law enforcement. Trainings will be shared county wide with law enforcement regarding mental health trainings available in the area. This will begin immediately and will be ongoing.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Continued collaboration with law enforcement and law enforcement support and participation in trauma and mental health training

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase knowledge and skills of law enforcement in identifying mental health issues and trauma responses, and crisis de-escalation techniques.
- Decrease the number of youth detained or hospitalized for mental health concerns.
- Decrease the number of hours law enforcement spends out of service managing crisis situations.

Stakeholders: Law Enforcement, Juvenile Justice Coalition, Community, Youth, Parents, County Attorney, Probation

Resources Required: Law Enforcement support, Crisis Response services/providers, funding for programming, facilities for youth to be housed if youth are unable to safely remain in the community

Strategy 2: Continue to develop policies and procedures that enhance intervention efforts within pre-trial diversion and ARRIVE. (Ongoing)

Data relevant to strategy:

The following charts demonstrate the number of youth ticketed from 2014-2016 and how many of those youth were referred to pre-trial diversion programming. It is important to note that some numbers are not reflective of just Saunders County as pre-trial diversion programming is cooperative with other counties and does take youth whose parents volunteer them for the program as an intervention service for high risk behaviors to try to intervene before criminal citation takes place.

Number of Total Juvenile Arrests 2015-2017

Juvenile Offenses by Arrest – Ages 0-17: 2015-2017

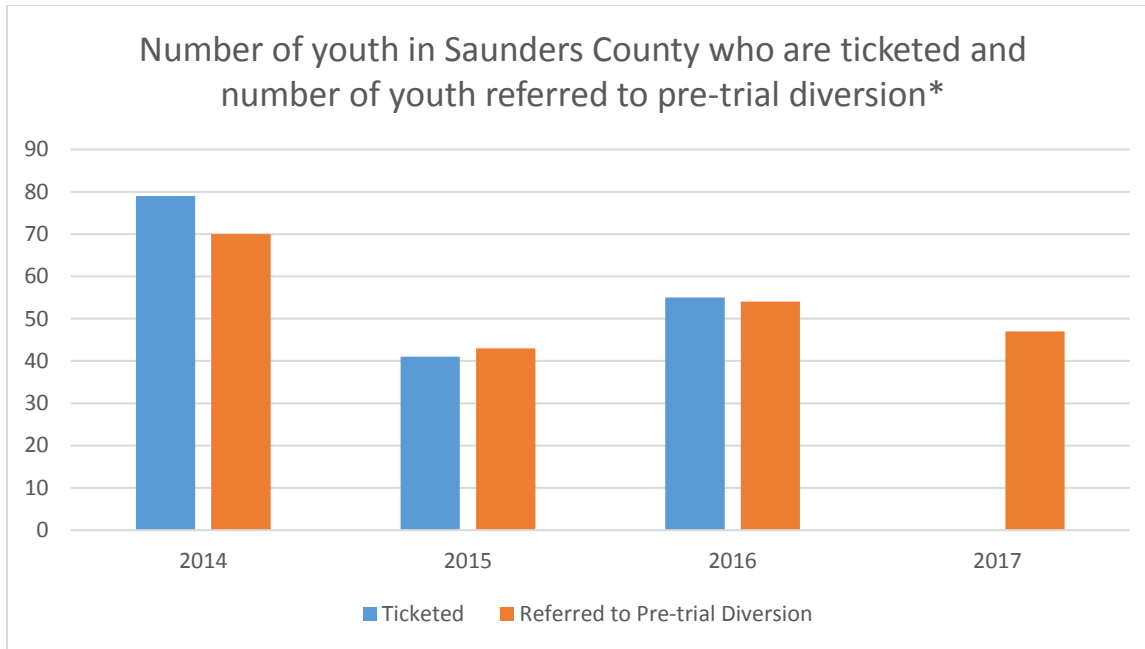
(Source: Nebraska Crime Commission, <http://www.ncc.nebraska.gov>)^{xl}

Offense by Arrest	2015	2016	2017
Aggravated Assault	2	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	1	0
Burglary	3	1	1
Larceny	6	7	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	2
Sex Offenses	0	0	1
Simple Assault	5	10	6
Arson	2	0	2
Stolen Property	0	5	7
Vandalism	2	6	2
Drug Abuse Violations	4	10	6
Driving Under the Influence	0	0	0
Liquor Laws	8	3	8
Runaway	4	0	0
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	4	12	20
TOTAL:	41	55	55

(NCJIS- Nebraska Crime Commission- Saunders County data; Saunders County Attorney’s Office; Saunders County Youth Services, Pre-Trial Diversion)

Referral to Pre-Trial Diversion: OFFENSE	2015	2016	2017
ARSON – RESIDENCE	1	2	2
ASSAULT OFFENSES	1	3	2
BURGLARY	2	0	0
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	2	5	11
DISTURBING THE PEACE	0	1	4
INHALING OR DRINKING COMPOUNDS	0	0	0
LITTERING OF PUBLIC & PRIVATE PROPERTY	0	0	0
MAKING FALSE REPORT TO POLICE	1	0	0
MARIJUANA POSSESSION	3	4	4
MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL	8	2	7
NARCOTIC EQUIPMENT-POSSESSION-PARAPHERNALIA	2	7	0
POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE	0	0	0

OBSTRUCTING POLICE	2	0	2
RECEIVE STOLEN PROPERTY	0	2	0
RESTRAINING / PROTECTION ORDER VIOLATION	0	0	0
SEXUAL ASSAULT	0	0	2
SHOPLIFTING	2	7	1
THEFT	1	3	6
TOBACCO; USE BY UNDERAGE	3	0	1
TRAFFIC OFFENSE	12	9	2
TRESPASSING	0	2	1
TRUANCY, JUVENILE	0	0	0
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF VEHICLE-INCLUDES JOY RIDING	0	0	0
CURFEW	3	1	0
HIT AND RUN	0	0	0
TERRORISTIC THREATS	0	0	0
FAILURE TO REPORT	0	0	0
POSSIBLE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN ORIGINAL CONTAINER	0	0	0
WEAPONS OFFENSE	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS OR NOT SPECIFIED	0	0	2
Grand Total	43	48	47
*NCJIS – JDCMS Saunders County			



(*2017 data was not available at the time this report was drafted.)

In 2018, there have been several referrals to pre-trial Diversion for Truancy issues as well as court filings. From January, 2018 through March, 2018, 5 youth have been referred to pre-trial diversion and 4 youth have had juvenile court filings for truancy under N.R.S. §43-247(3)(b). Two additional youth have been referred due to tickets for marijuana and 4 youth have been referred due to tickets from Disturbing the Peace.

Assessment tools used for Pre-trial diversion include, but are not limited to: Developmental Asset Profile (DAP) screening, MAYSI – 2, Nebraska Youth Screen, Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment for youth 16 years of age and older, and the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) for high risk youth. Truancy-Diversion juveniles complete the School Refusal Assessment (Parent and Child) as well as the other tools listed above. Assessment tools are administered pre and post diversion participation to track progress and changes made while on the program.

Recidivism Rates for Pre-Trial Diversion 2014-2016 (Reoffend within 1 year of successful discharge):

Recidivism Rates for Pre-Trial Diversion			
Year	# of Youth Successfully Discharged	# of Youth who Reoffended within 1 year	Recidivism Rate (1 year)
2014	26	8	31%
2015	35	5	14%
2016	29	3	10%

*2014 was assessed for a recidivism rate for reoffending within 3 years. The recidivism rate was 35% (one additional youth reoffended after the 1st year).

Current Progress: Pre-Trial Diversion is funded through the county and it is offered to all eligible juveniles. Pre-Trial Diversion provides educational programming such as

promotion of prosocial behaviors, life skills assessment and curriculum and other evidence-based educational programming, such as substance use/mental health therapeutic referrals, shoplifting curriculum, and 3rd Millennium classrooms curriculum. The Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment assesses the youth's needs and programming is built around each individual youth. The Diversion officer educates the youth on life skills utilizing engagement activities and curriculum. The youth's progress is evaluated throughout the program and at the time of discharge. Pre-Trial Diversion is under Youth Services in Saunders County. This programming also aides area youth in applying for college, organizes community engagement activities for area youth, organizes community prevention coalitions, activities that enhance youth and law enforcement relationships, manages grants including the Region V Prevention Federal Block Grant, and other preventative activities and programming.

ARRIVE services are active and address youth at risk of truancy. ARRIVE has seen positive results (as stated above) and is seen as a valuable resource in the community. A school survey was completed in August, 2017. All schools reported the value of the ARRIVE program.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Law Enforcement engagement and participation in community activities involving youth.
- Increase adults that are willing to be involved and volunteer to work alongside youth completing volunteer projects.
- Community engagement and support of youth that are at high risk of offending or reoffending through preventative programming (ex: volunteer programs).
- Increased level of consequences for youth who continue to engage in illegal activity is a must. This will include coordination with the County Attorney's office and law enforcement. This is being addressed currently and will be addressed ongoing in juvenile justice meetings as issues arise.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Continued collaboration of Juvenile Justice Coalition members, funding for programs and services, and volunteers/community members to participate and engage in activities/events

Expected Outcomes:

- Youth and families receiving appropriate level of services and assistance.
- Youth and families learn preventative strategies and enhance protective factors.
- Youth learn life skills and good decision making skills that lessen the youth's future involvement in the justice system.
- Decrease in recidivism rates for juveniles that participate in pre-trial diversion and truancy programming.
- Increase positive views and relationships between youth, community members, and law enforcement.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District Administration, Community Members, Youth, County Attorney, Youth Services, Pre-trial Diversion, ARRIVE, Law Enforcement, Probation

Resources Required: Community member participation, volunteers, continued funding for pre-trial diversion and ARRIVE programming, funding for engagement activities

Strategy 3: Increase law enforcement engagement with county youth in order to build positive relationships and enhance pro-social attitudes. (Ongoing)

Current Progress: This is a new strategy. Ideas to enhance relationships between law enforcement and area youth include: community events/activities between youth and law enforcement, reading to elementary youth at school several times throughout the school year, meeting with youth on pre-trial diversion and/or probation and doing a question and answer with them regarding law enforcement's role, etc. Local law enforcement are supportive of enhancing community relationships, especially with at-risk youth. A Police Camp was started in Ceresco by Chilton Leedum, Ceresco Police officer. It will be held at the Ceresco Library. It will be for youth 10 years of age and up. The focus is to engage youth with law enforcement.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Law Enforcement engagement and participation in community activities involving youth. In 2018, police camps were started in Saunders County. These engage youth of all ages with law enforcement, last 2 hours and include lunch. These will be held quarterly and will be ongoing.
- Increase parent involvement with youth that are at-risk. Pre-trial Diversion began a monthly newsletter in August, 2018 to attempt to enhance engagement from parents, provide program updates, and parenting tips. This will be ongoing.
- Funding for events/activities between law enforcement and community youth.
- Manpower and resources from each law enforcement agency to allow time for community engagement activities in the community and in area schools.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Continued collaboration of Juvenile Justice Coalition members, funding for programs and services, and law enforcement officers able to find the time to engage in community engagement activities/events.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase positive attitudes towards law enforcement and enhance relationships between youth and law enforcement.
- Provide at-risk youth an opportunity to meet and engage with law enforcement outside of negative contact points (ex: when being arrested or questioned for a crime).
- Engage community members and enhance pro-social factors by increasing law enforcement visibility and involvement in the community.
- Develop healthy images and views of law enforcement at the elementary age in order to develop more pro-social thinking as elementary youths enter middle/high school.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, School District Administration, Community Members, Youth, County Attorney, Youth Services, Pre-trial Diversion, ARRIVE, Law Enforcement, Probation

Resources Required: Law enforcement engagement and time availability, community member and at-risk youth engagement, volunteers, funding for engagement activities

Strategy 4: Continue local efforts to develop and implement programs that use a combination of drug education, skill building, and norms shaping. (Ongoing)

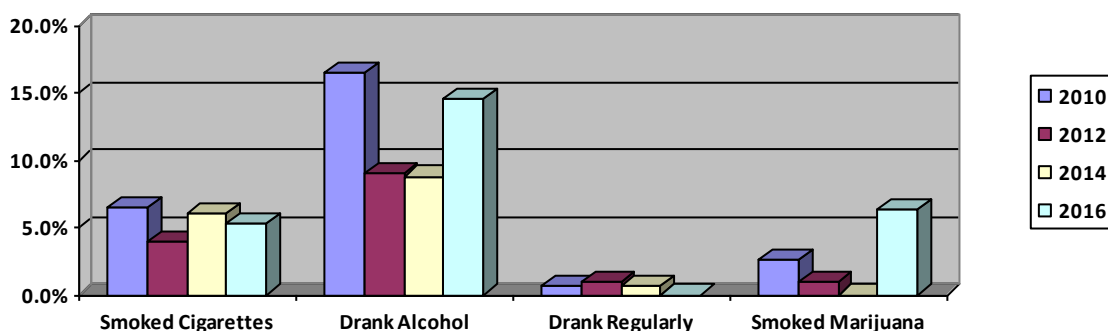
Data to support strategy:

There were 30 alcohol related deaths per 100,000 in Saunders County, according to the 2016 Three Rivers Community Risk Survey, during the 2009-2013 reporting period. This is higher than the state average of 29.4. Saunders County also has a higher rate than the state for motor vehicle related deaths (16.5 per 100,000), with 13.3 of those being related to alcohol-impaired driving.

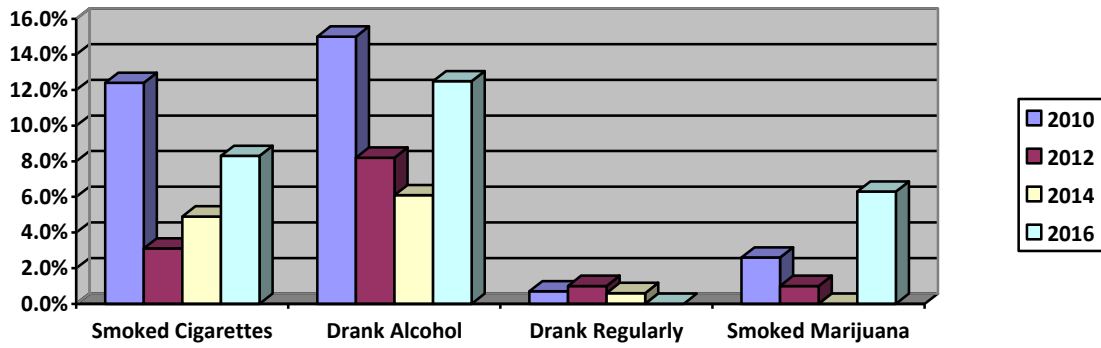
Of students surveyed, 10th and 12th graders have consistently reported high rates of past 30-day marijuana and prescription drug use when compared to their peers across the state. Data from the 2016 Community Health Survey Three Rivers conducted as well as the 2016 Nebraska Youth Risk and Protective Factor Survey completed by Region V Systems demonstrate this concern.

Age of onset of substance use, particularly marijuana, appears to be increasing for younger youth. Please see data tables below. Information is from the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey, 2016.

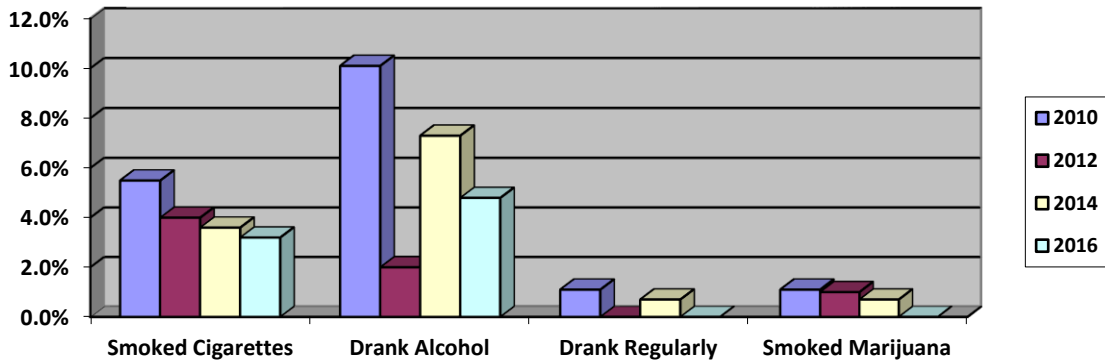
Age of First Use (12 or Younger): Grade 8



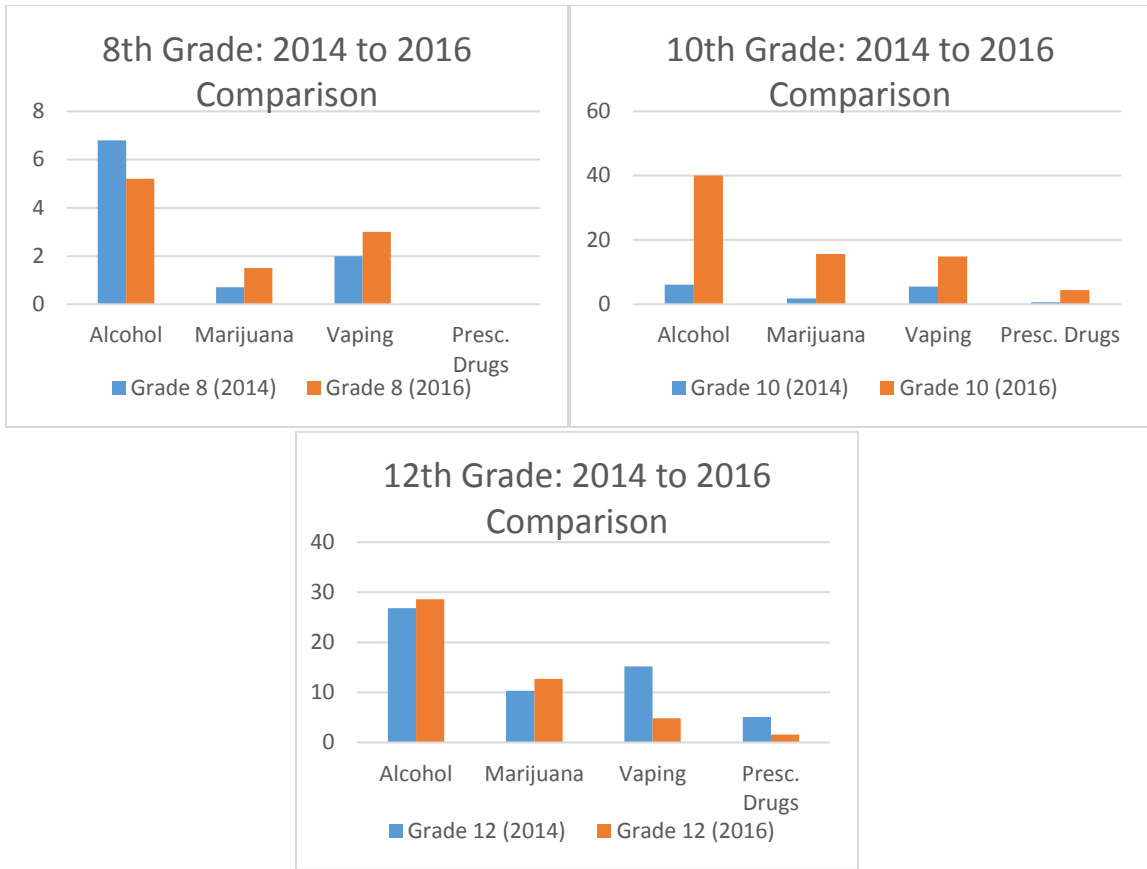
Age of First Use (12 or Younger): Grade 10



Age of First Use (12 or Younger): Grade 12



The next set of data shows us that the reported use in the past 30 days is increasing for vaping (smokeless tobacco), alcohol use, marijuana and prescription drugs depending on the grade. (NRPFS, 2016)



DARE: Keepin' it REAL is evidence-based curriculum that is marked as promising per crimesolutions.gov. This program is taught to 5th and 6th grade students in all county schools and the parochial school. Approximately 300 5th and 6th grade students are reached each year with this program.

Current Progress:

- *DARE- Keepin' it REAL* is offered in all county public schools by law enforcement. The funding is provided by the law enforcement agency and a Region V Federal Block Grant. Ashland Police Department provides *DARE* to Ashland-Greenwood youth. Wahoo Police Department provides *DARE* to St. Wenceslaus elementary and Wahoo Elementary. The Saunders County Sheriff's Department currently covers the rest of the schools in the county (Yutan, Mead and Cedar Bluffs Elementary Schools).
- Second Step Curriculum is taught in Cedar Bluffs Public, Wahoo Public, Yutan Public, Mead Public and Ashland-Greenwood Elementary. It is an evidenced-based curriculum used to teach social-emotional competencies for those in early adolescence.
- All Stars is a program in Ashland-Greenwood Schools that supports positive peer relationships, ideals and future aspirations.
- The ROC Center in Ashland, Nebraska is also available for youth 12-18 years of age.

- Riverview Community Church in Ashland has weekly programming specific to youth and their grade level.
- Circle of Friends is offered in Wahoo High School.
- Talk About Alcohol is a website that is available and a link is also provided on the Saunders County Youth Services website. This is provided through the Region V Federal Block Grant. Talk About Alcohol provides tips and education to parents/teens on how to talk about alcohol use.
- Pre-Trial Diversion programming includes Independent Living training that addresses independent living skill building, decision making, and substance use education.
- School Based Behavioral Health began in the district schools at the beginning of the 2016 school year. This program puts therapists in the schools to work with high risk youth who are struggling. Cedar Bluffs Public Schools has hired the school based therapist on full-time for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Mead Community Group and Mead Covenant Church have youth group programs and host alcohol free activities during Mead Days.
- Region V Systems began a Youth Action Board and Saunders County has two members on the board. The board began in August of 2017. The goal is to bring positive messages to the county youth.

Steps Needed to Further Progress:

- Continue to expand the Second Step Anti-bullying Curriculum to all schools in the district.
- Ensure funding is available for the school based behavioral health program to allow the program to continue in all district area schools.
- Locate funding to expand the school based behavioral health program to youth in elementary schools under the age of 11 years.

Barriers/Needs to be addressed: Underage substance use has increased. Coalition members are trying to assess the possible causes for the increase and intervention measures that can be taken.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase healthy beliefs and clear standards of behavior that are safe and healthy.
- Increase healthy conversations between parents and youth about drug and alcohol education.
- Increase youths' independent living skills and improve pro-social attitudes to promote more positive outcomes for youth entering adulthood.

Stakeholders: Prevention Coalition, Community Coalitions, Parents, Youth, School Districts, Active Community Team of Saunders County (ACT), Youth Services of Saunders County, and Probation/Law Enforcement

Resources Required: Parent involvement and positive examples, Region V Federal Block Grant funding, Mead Community Group, curriculum suited for engagement and

education of students and parents, financial support and commitment to the programming

DETAILED TIMELINE OF PRIORITY 4:

	1st Year: 2018	2nd Year: 2019	3rd Year: 2020	4th Year: 2021
Strategy 1: Law enforcement training on mental health and trauma	Law Enforcement will receive training on Human Trafficking and trauma (ongoing)	- Law enforcement will continue to collaborate with Crisis Response (juvenile response team) to provide direct emergency mental health services - Continue meetings with law enforcement to identify training needs and keep up to date on training opportunities	- Law enforcement will continue to train on trauma, human trafficking, and mental health (ongoing)	Continue Juvenile Justice meetings to ensure law enforcement has the training and resources necessary to meet the needs of county juveniles
Strategy 2: Continue to enhance intervention efforts within pre-trial diversion and truancy	- Continue to implement evidence-based ARISE curriculum for juveniles participating in diversion - Implement ARISE School Dropout Prevention curriculum for students on truancy programming - Implement community projects and engagement with diversion youth	- Evaluate effectiveness of programming by looking at recidivism rates and revocations - Evaluate types of offenses occurring to determine where preventative efforts need to be directed - Continue community projects with diversion youth to engage with the public	Discuss and develop prevention strategies to address most common juvenile crimes in the county - Evaluate effectiveness of community projects diversion youth participate in and see if it is enhancing and building positive relationships with those in the community	Implement prevention strategies for juvenile crime, including but not limited to; Neighborhood Watch, Alert smart phone app for community members to notify LE of suspicious activity, increasing awareness of juvenile crime through public venues
Strategy 3: Increase positive law enforcement engagement with youth	- Organize and facilitate with LE a police club quarterly (ongoing) - Continue to encourage LE to become Teammates mentors and/or mentor high-risk youth	Continue to hold police clubs and evaluate effectiveness through increase engagement and/or positive law enforcement contact	Continue efforts with engagement at an elementary and evaluate long-term impact	Continue evaluation efforts and review data for feedback and needed changes

Section 4

Juvenile Justice System Point Analysis

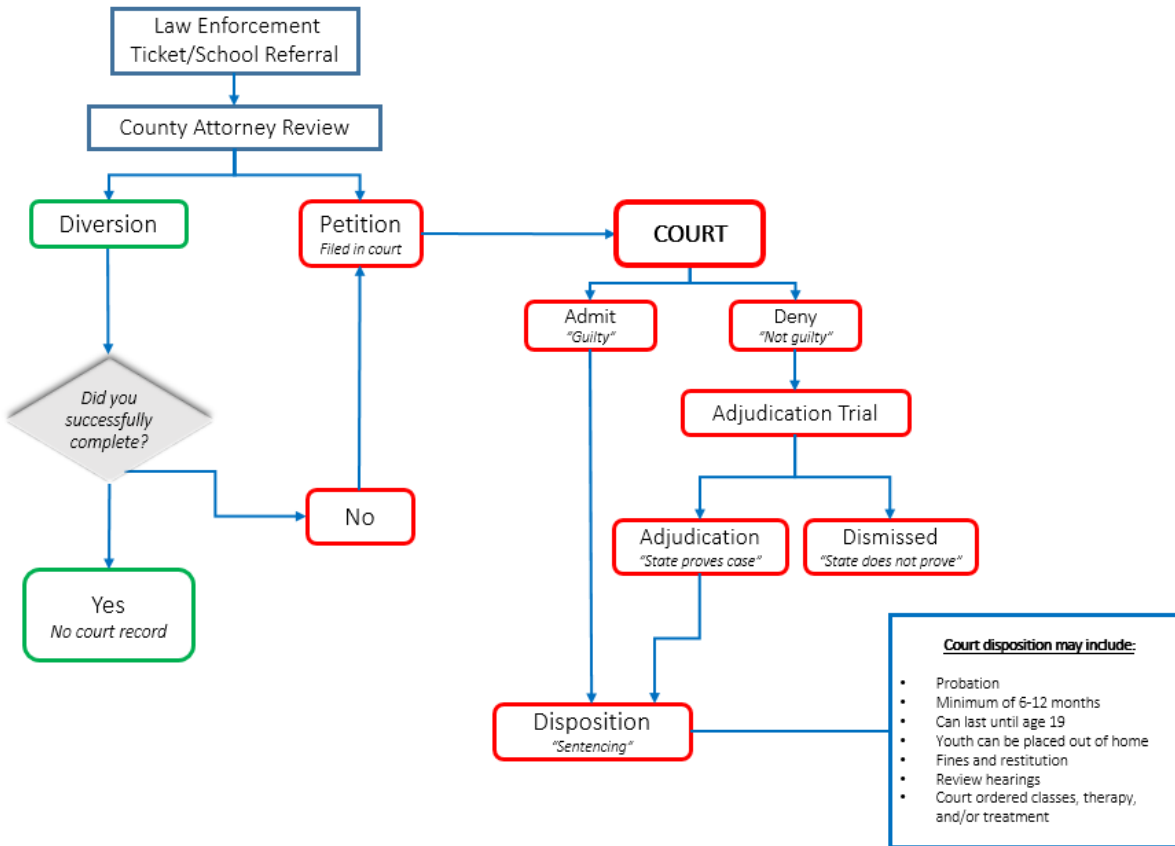
The total number of youth ages 10-17 in Saunders County is listed below. First we will analyze how many youth in 2016 were ticketed and how many youth were referred to diversion and then filed on in court. If data is available for 2017, then that will be analyzed as well.

Gender, Race, and Ethnicity	Total Population of Saunders County 2016		Total Juvenile Population of Saunders County (ages 10-17)	
	Number	% of Total #	Number	% of Total #
Male	10,642	50.6%	1,292	53.2%
Female	10,396	49.4%	1,133	46.8%
White	20,620	98.0%	2,347	96.8%
Black	217	1.0%	47	1.9%
American Indian	101	0.5%	13	0.5%
Asian	100	0.5%	18	0.8%
TOTAL	21,038	100.0%	2,425	100.0%
Hispanic	455	2.2%	71	2.9%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	20,583	97.8%	2,354	97.1%
TOTAL	21,038	100.0%	2,425	100.0%

In 2016, out of 1,805 youth ages 12 to 17 years, 55 received tickets for a law violation per the Nebraska Crime Commission data. This means 97% of the youth in the county were not ticketed for engaging in criminal behavior, while 3% of juveniles were ticketed. Of those 3% that did engage in criminal behavior, 87.3% were referred to pre-trial diversion. Of those that were referred to pre-trial diversion, eight were referred but not enrolled, and two failed to comply with the program and were filed on in juvenile court for the original criminal charge. Fourteen youth were placed on probation in 2016.

See the chart below to track the process from the time the youth is ticketed until the youth is possibly in front of a judge in juvenile court.

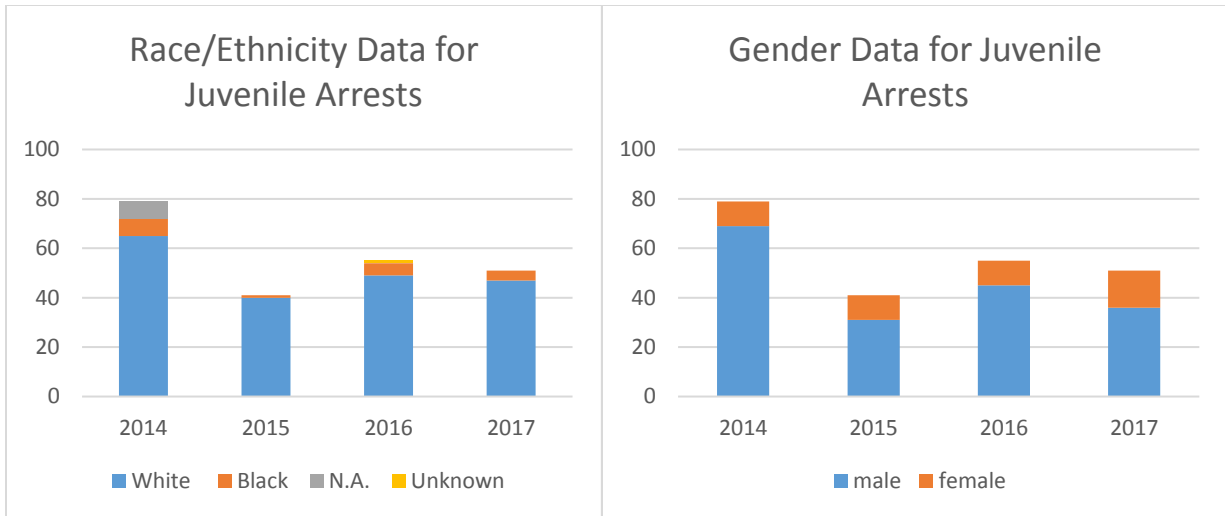
SAUNDERS COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE FLOW CHART



The agency that tickets youth in the county is also evaluated to determine if there are higher rates of juvenile related crime in certain parts of the county or if there are different responses by local law enforcement agencies. Ashland, Nebraska has its own police force provided by Ashland Police Department. Wahoo Police Department is active in Wahoo and Cedar Bluffs, Yutan, and Mead have part-time police officers on staff. The Saunders County Sheriff’s office covers the county. Below are a list of tickets issues from 2014-2016 for each agency for juveniles.

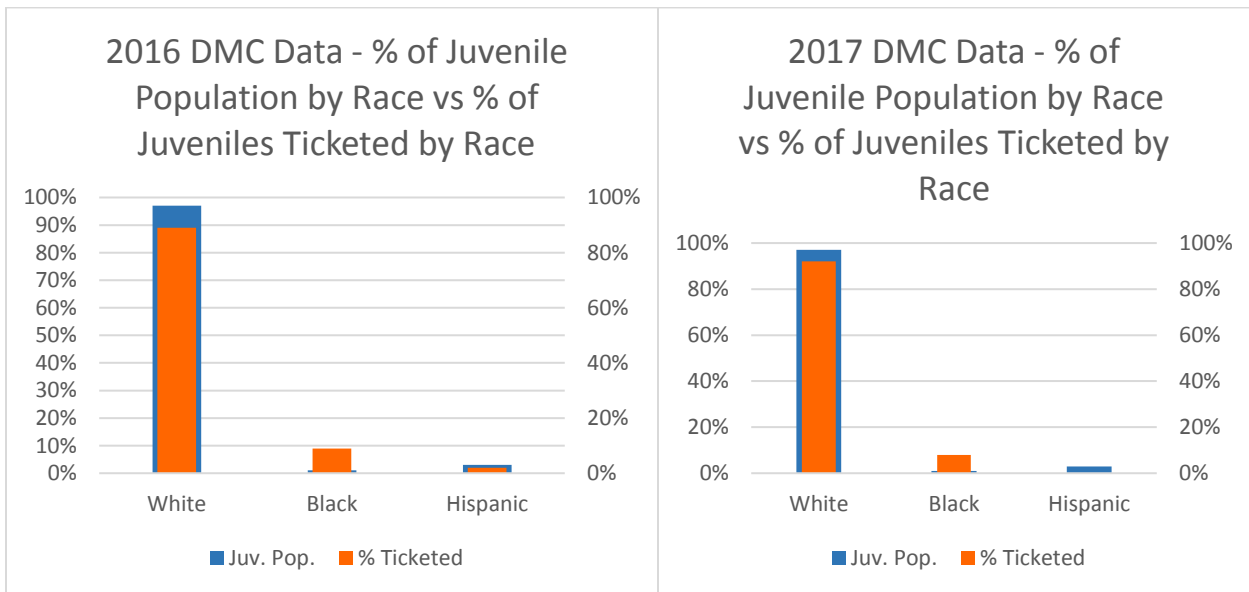
Juvenile Arrests Per Agency (0-17)^{xli}				
Agency	2014	2015	2016	2017
Saunders County Sheriff	35	22	20	19
Wahoo Police Dept.	13	8	10	13
Ashland Police Dept.	31	11	21	19
Nebraska State Patrol	0	0	4	0
TOTAL	79	41	55	51

Ashland and Wahoo juvenile population and juvenile arrests were analyzed. The U.S. Census Bureau broke down ages from 10 to 19 years, so that is the data set that will be used. Juveniles 18 years of age and above are ticketed as adults. So, that does need to be taken into consideration when analyzing the data set.



*Nebraska Crime Commission and Saunders County Attorney's Office

Minority disproportionality for juvenile arrests demonstrate that there is a disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic youth being ticketed. White youth make up 94% of the juvenile population in Saunders County. In 2016/17, whites accounted for 89% of the juveniles ticketed. Approximately 1.9% of the juvenile population is Black but accounted for 9% of the juveniles ticketed. See the chart below to compare the minority disproportionality for 2016 and 2017. Juvenile ticketing in 2015 was fairly representative of the racial populations as 98% of juvenile tickets were issues to white juveniles and 2% issued to black juveniles.^{xlii}



2017 Saunders County Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Data

State :Nebraska											
County:Saunders	Reporting Period Jan 1 / 2017 through Dec 31 / 2017										
	Total Youth	White	Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/ Mixed	All Minorities	Unknown	
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)	2,408	2,265	50	65	16	0	7	5	143	0	
2. Juvenile Arrests	51	47	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	68	51	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	
3.a Cases Sealed	16	16		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4. Cases Diverted	42	39	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	66	49	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	16	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8. Youth Placed on Probation	12	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities (YRIC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Meets 1% rule for group to be assessed? <i>release date: /12/09</i>		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No			
5. DATA SOURCES & NOTES											
Item 1: Population: OJJDP Easy Access to Juv			Item 2: Arrest: NE Crime Commission Arrest Data Query								
Item 3: Referral:			Item 4: Diversion: Amber Pelan								
Item 5: Detention: NE State Probation			Item 6: Petitioned:								
Item 7: Delinquent:			Item 8:								
Item 9: Confinement: State Probation			Item 10: Transferred to Adult Court:								

Demographic Data for Juvenile Probation (2014) *Nebraska Crime Commission				
	White	Hispanic	Other	Total
All Offenses	25	0	1	26

City Data	Wahoo, NE	Ashland, NE
10-19 years of age	639	271
% of Juveniles ticketed in proportion to the population size		
	Wahoo, Nebraska	Ashland, Nebraska
2014	2.0%	11.4%
2015	1.2%	4.1%
2016	1.6%	7.7%

(Per 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 – year Estimates- U.S. Census Bureau.)^{xliii}

It appears that juveniles in the Ashland community are committing crime at a higher rate than in Wahoo. However, it is important to note that not all juveniles ticketed in Ashland reside within Ashland city limits. It is also important to note that the Saunders County Sheriff’s office does ticket youth within Wahoo city limits and that data was not included when determining the percentages above. The goal is to evaluate if there is a different response by law enforcement in each community and/or if juvenile delinquency is more prevalent in Ashland compared to Wahoo. This will be evaluated closely over the next 3 years and will impact priorities and strategies in the future.

Of the arrests and tickets, the following demographic data was gathered for referrals to pre-trial juvenile diversion as well.

Truancy data was also analyzed to determine if there is appropriate and immediate intervention and response by the school, ARRIVE coordinator, county attorney’s office and court system. Students with more than 20 days absent was compared with ARRIVE referrals as well as county attorney filings in juvenile court for truancy and/or educational neglect over the last 3 years.

(Raymond Central Middle/High School was not included as that school is in Lancaster County. Only Raymond Central Elementary schools were included.)

School (K-12)	Year	Students absent 20 or more days	Referrals to ARRIVE	County Attorney filings for truancy related issues
Ashland-Greenwood	2014-2015	39	32	2
	2015-2016	29	2	0
	2016-2017	32	19	2
Cedar Bluffs	2014-2015	*	5	0
	2015-2016	*	8	0
	2016-2017	15	8	0
Mead Public	2014-2015	*	5	0
	2015-2016	*	*	0
	2016-2017	*	5	0
Yutan	2014-2015	*	3	2
	2015-2016	*	5	0
	2016-2017	*	2	0
Wahoo	2014-2015	28	55**	0
	2015-2016	13	16	0
	2016-2017	30	29	0
R/C Elementary	2014-2015	*	17	0
	2015-2016	*	1	0
	2016-2017	*	*	0
*MASKED DATA				
** Includes end of school year referrals from the end of the 2013-2014 school year				

When analyzing the data, it is important to note that schools may notify, per statute, the county attorney when a student misses more than 20 days per calendar year (N.R.S. §79-209). “Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be basis for referral to the county attorney” (N.R.S. §79-209). So, it is possible that students above may have missed more than 20 days due to medical reasons and a referral to the county attorney was not necessary.

In order to determine if there is appropriate intervention at the school and county level, there will need to be closer monitoring of students who miss over 20 days and the reasons for the absenteeism. The number of ARRIVE referrals is not equivalent to the number of students with excessive absenteeism (missing over 20 days); however, the lack of referrals could be due to medically excused absences. There has been a decrease in the number of referrals to the ARRIVE programming over the last three years; however, absenteeism has increased in some county schools. ARRIVE does keep students on programming who continue to have truancy issues; so that may be a cause for the decrease in referrals. This will be closely evaluated in the upcoming community plan period. The number of county attorney filings is also not comparable to the number of students excessively absent from school. This will also be

monitored. The goal is to determine if there is a barrier between the schools, ARRIVE personnel, the county attorney's office, and/or the court.

APPENDIX

I certify that the Saunders County Three Year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021) was presented to the Saunders County Board of Supervisors for approval on May 8, 2018. After review, the Three Year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan was approved for submission to the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Dated: May 16, 2018

SAUNDERS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 
Doris Karloff, Board Chair

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