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For information contact: Leah Gurowitz  
202/879-1700

## DC Superior Court Releases New Study on Juvenile Recidivism in 2007 and 2008

In 2010, the D.C. Superior Court contracted with the National Center for Juvenile Justice to study juvenile reoffending in DC. The study tracked approximately 1,200 juveniles who were either put on probation or committed to the city during calendar year 2007<sup>i</sup> to determine reoffending activity in DC, Maryland and Virginia through the end of 2008. The principal findings include:

- **The reoffending rate for juveniles *during* probation supervision was 30%.** When tracked until the end of 2008, up to 2 years' time, the study found that 40% of the juveniles placed on probation had new charges filed against them.
- The reoffending rate for juveniles *during* DYRS supervision – which can include secure detention - was 42%. When tracked until the end of 2008, 44% of the juveniles committed to DYRS were charged with another offense.
- Juvenile recidivism in DC is comparable to recidivism rates in other similar jurisdictions.

Since 2007, the D.C. Superior Court has implemented numerous programs to enhance public safety and reduce juvenile crime. Most notably:

- **Ultimate Transitions Ultimate Responsibilities Now (UTURN) (est. 2007):** UTURN provides intensive probation supervision for high-risk youth as an alternative to DYRS commitment.
- **Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) centers (2007, 2011 and 2012):** CSS has opened 3 BARJ drop in centers and is planning to open a BARJ center for juvenile girls in 2013. The BARJ centers balance case management and supervision with counseling, tutoring, pro-social group activities and mentoring.
- **Absconder Locator Unit (est. 2009):** In collaboration with MPD and DYRS, the Absconder Locator Unit locates juveniles for whom the court has issued custody orders (warrants).
- **Juvenile Behavioral Diversion Program (est. 2011):** JBDP is an intensive non-sanctions-based program that links juveniles with appropriate mental health services.
- **Summer Curfew Initiative (est. 2011):** The Summer Curfew Initiative provides increased probation supervision and monitoring of identified high risk youth.

The D.C. Superior Court will continue to strive towards providing an effective system that enhances public safety, provides justice and assists in the rehabilitation of the District's juvenile population.

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<sup>i</sup> Court Social Services (CSS) supervises youth on probation; the D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) is responsible for youth committed to the city. Approximately 80% of youth who are found to be involved in a crime are put on probation and 20% are committed.