

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Safety Snapshot

The Indicator Key			
★ Positive trend/ asset	⌘ Negative trend/ concern	◆ Mixed trend/ neutral/NA	≠ Racial/ethnic disparity

Current Conditions in Franklin County

Crime

- ⌘ Four years of increases in violent crime in Columbus.
- ★ Recent drops in Columbus property crime.
- ≠ Adults and youth arrested by Columbus Police Division are disproportionately black.

Incarceration

- ⌘ More commitments to county jails and state prisons.
- ⌘ Strong linkage between substance abuse and incarceration.
- ≠ Two-thirds of persons committed to state prison system from Franklin County are black.

Youth Crime

- ★ Decreases in youth in juvenile detention.
- ⌘ Increases in youth delinquent and unruly cases.
- ≠ Majority of admissions to Juvenile Detention Center are black youth.

Family Violence

- ◆ Children Services' system handling more difficult cases.
- ≠ Majority of children in Franklin County Children Services cases are African American.
- ⌘ Domestic violence is one out of every five criminal misdemeanor charges.
- ≠ Domestic violence cases disproportionately involve black victims and defendants.

Community Perceptions of Needs, Gaps and Trends

Interviews and Focus Groups: Safety Themes

The following are the themes—aggregated across all of the key informant interviews and focus groups—that emerged related to safety needs, gaps and trends:

Key Informant Interviews	Focus Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased crime/murder rate • Needs of ex-offenders • Family violence/domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More violence in the community/ youth exposed to violence • Increase in neighborhood/community crime/need for increased safety services

Donor and Agency Web Survey: Top Safety Problems

The following safety issues listed in the survey are rank-ordered by the percent “major problem” responses:

1. Violent crime
2. Domestic violence
3. Child abuse and neglect
4. Juvenile delinquency/youth crime
5. Property crime

Safety Resources Snapshot

The resource inventory prepared for the Community Assessment identified over \$57 million in annual funding resources in Franklin County for safety activities. United Way annually provides \$2.5 million for safety programs. Sources include:

- Federal government: \$20.1 million
- State government: \$ 3.1
- Local government: \$30.1 million
- Local private/philanthropic: \$3.8 million

The primary uses of these funds are: child abuse/neglect, 63.8 percent; and youth crime prevention/diversion, 23.1 percent.

Safety: Current Conditions and Trends

Crime

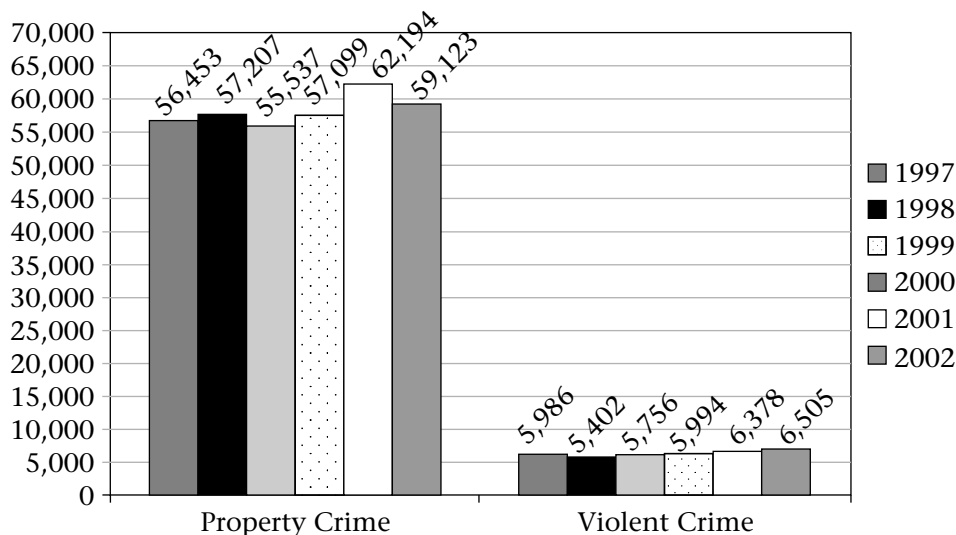
During the first 6 months of 2003, the nation experienced a 3.1 percent decrease in violent crime and a 0.8 percent increase in property crime when compared with...the first six months of 2002. [The number of murders increased by 1.1 percent and the number of motor vehicle thefts increased by 0.9 percent. All other categories decreased.]

— Uniform Crime Reports, January-June 2003,
U.S. Department of Justice

Four years of increases in violent crime in Columbus.

The number of violent crimes reported in Columbus has increased each year since 1998 (Figure S-1), counter to the national trend of decreasing numbers of violent crimes. After dropping during most of the 1990's, violent crime offenses (murder/manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) increased, from 5,402 in 1998 to 6,505 in 2002. This 20.4 percent increase over four years compares to a 12.4 percent increase in the total Columbus population from 1990 to 2000. During the first six months of 2003, the total number of violent crimes was down 5.0 percent over the same period in 2002, but the number of murders increased by 24.4 percent, from 41 to 51. (Source: Columbus Division of Police; FBI Index of Crime)

Figure S-1
Columbus Property Crime and Violent Crime Offenses, 1997-2002



Source: Columbus Division of Police

Recent drops in Columbus property crime.

In 2002, there were 59,123 property crime offenses (vehicle theft, burglary, theft/larceny) in Columbus. This number has been up and down since 1998, after increasing during the early 1990's (Figure S-1), but recently has been decreasing. For the first six months of 2003, the number of property crimes was down 14.2 percent over the same period in 2002. This is a much greater drop than was seen nationally. (Source: Columbus Division of Police; FBI Index of Crime)

Incarceration

In 2002, 6.7 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole—3.1% of all U.S. adult residents, or one in every 32 adults. Between 1995 and 2002, the incarcerated population grew an average 3.6% annually. Population growth during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2002 was lower in state prisons (up 2.5%) than in local jails (up 5.4%) and federal prison (up 5.8%).

— Bureau of Justice Statistics,
U.S. Department of Justice

In 2002, 25,624 inmates were released from Ohio prisons, three times the number released two decades earlier...a surge in releases in the late 1990s, driven by changes in sentencing laws and parole guidelines, pushed release counts above admission counts and resulted in a declining prison population.

— *A Portrait of Prisoner Reentry in Ohio,*
Urban Institute

More commitments to county jails and state prisons.

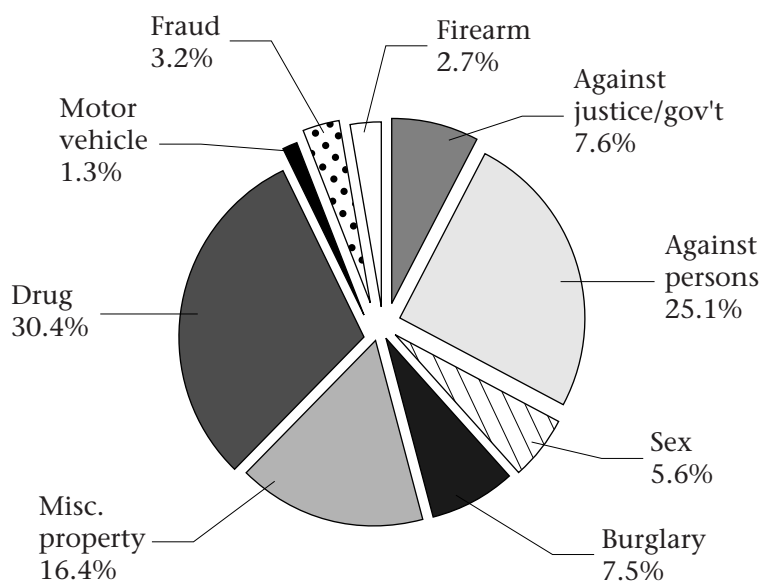
Between 1990 and 2002, the average yearly jail population in Franklin County increased by 76.4 percent, from 1,274 and 2,247. Commitments to state prison have also increased. In 2002, ODRC committed 1,912 persons to the state prison system who were found guilty in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. This represents a 25.4 percent increase since 1998, but a 4.8 percent decrease from 2001. (Sources: Franklin County Sheriff's Office; Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction)

Strong linkage between substance abuse and incarceration.

In 2001, 86.2 percent of males and 81.6 percent of females committed to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections prisons had a history of drug abuse, and 69.7 percent of males and 58.3 percent of females had a history of alcohol abuse. Offenders are most frequently committed to state prisons for drug or drug-related offenses, with "drug abuse" being the largest single category of offense, at 19.2 percent of the total (Figure S-2). (Source: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction)

Figure S-2
Offense Categories of Persons Committed
to State Prison in Ohio, July 2001-June 2002

(n=21,787)



Source: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

Youth Crime

RECLAIM Ohio...encourages juvenile courts to develop or purchase a range of community-based options to meet the needs of each juvenile offender or youth at risk of offending... more youth today are being served locally where families can participate more fully in their treatment. Institutions are less crowded, and the Department [of Youth Services] is focusing...on more serious, repetitive, felony-level youth...

— Ohio Department of Youth Services

Vulnerability to violent crime victimization varies across the spectrum. The victimization rate increases through the teenage years, crests around age 20, and steadily decreases through the remaining years. This pattern, with some exceptions, exists across all race, sex and ethnic groups.

— *Age Patterns of Victims of Serious Violent Crime*,
Bureau of Justice Statistics

★ *Decreases in youth in juvenile detention.*

In 2002 there were 3,802 admissions to the Juvenile Detention Center, down from 5,428 in 1997. There has been a significant decrease in admissions to JDC for the more serious felony crime, with a decline of 36.5 percent between 1995 and 2002. The number of Franklin County youth bound over to adult court decreased from 57 in 1997 to 21 in 1999. These decreases coincide with significant increases in the number of youth participating in early intervention and diversion programs.

(Source: Franklin County Court of Common Pleas)

Increases in youth delinquent and unruly cases.

The total number of delinquent and unruly youth cases (truancy is included in both types of cases) in Franklin County courts has increased each year since 1996. In 2002, there were 9,729 delinquency cases and 1,457 unruly cases handled by the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, an 8.6 percent increase from 2000, and a 27.0 percent increase since 1996. Delinquency cases make up about 85 percent of the total each year. (Source: Franklin County Court of Common Pleas)

Family Violence

Family violence, including child physical and sexual abuse, child neglect and maltreatment, intimate partner violence and elder abuse, takes place in homes across the country every day. Exposure to such violence has a devastating impact on both children and adults in those households and communities, whether they are direct victims of abuse or witnesses to it.

— Family Violence Resources,
National Criminal Justice Reference Service

Children Services' system handling more difficult cases.

In 2002, Franklin County Children Services served 27,601 children, a 10.4 percent increase over 2001. FCCS investigations found 2,536 substantiated or indicated cases of child abuse and neglect in 2002. Children in protective placement represent an increase from 13.4 percent of all children served in 1995, to 18.1 percent in 2002. Of the 5,004 children in protective placement in 2002, 74.9 percent were in foster home care. (Source: Franklin County Children Services)

Domestic violence is one out of five criminal misdemeanor charges.

In 2002 there were 6,157 domestic violence charges and 561 violation of protection order charges filed in Franklin County. These cases represented nearly one out of five criminal misdemeanor charges in Franklin County in 2002. CHOICES, the county's domestic violence shelter, provided temporary housing for 638 adults and children in 2002. (Source: Franklin County Clerk of Courts; CHOICES)

Racial Disparities in Safety

If you are a victim of domestic violence, and you don't speak English, you are out of luck.

— Focus group participant

The United Way of Central Ohio 2003 Racial Disparities Report identified the following disparities between persons of color and the majority population in the areas of safety. Additional detail can be found in the report.

- **Child abuse and neglect.** The majority of children in open Franklin County Children Services cases are African American, over two times the percent of black or African Americans in the Franklin County population under 18.
- **Domestic violence.** Black females were one-third of all victims in closed domestic violence cases in 2000. Nearly half of the defendants in domestic violence cases in Franklin County Municipal Court are black, which is over two times the percentage of blacks or African Americans in the Franklin County population.

- **Youth offenders on probation.** Non-whites are the offenders in the majority of youth felony cases in the probation system, and represent nearly half of the offenders in youth misdemeanor cases.
- **Juvenile Detention Center admissions.** The majority of admissions to the JDC are black youth, more than two times the percentage of blacks or African Americans in the county population under age 18. All other racial groups are underrepresented in JDC admissions.
- **Columbus arrests.** Seventy percent of juveniles arrested by the Columbus Police Division in 2002 for violent crime, property crime and drug crime were black, more than twice their percentage of the Columbus youth population. Over 60 percent of adults arrested for these crimes were black, about three times the percentage of blacks or African Americans in the Columbus adult population.
- **Adult incarceration.** Nearly two-thirds of persons committed to the state prison system from the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas in 2002 were black. This is over three times the percentage of blacks or African Americans in the county population.
- **Court interpretation services.** The number of requests for language interpretation for Domestic and Juvenile Court cases increased over 20 times from 1998 to 2002, with the greatest demand for Somali and Spanish interpretation.

Safety Trends, Needs & Gaps: Community Perceptions

Felons who have done their time and are back in the community face living and housing barriers and a lot of other issues, particularly if they don't have families.

— Key informant interview

The economic downturn—no employment, no health insurance, mental health problems—are reasons for increase in crime.

— Focus group participant

Key Informant Interviews

Safety was not a top issue for key informants. Safety and crime issues were identified as a need by only 6 percent of 50 key informants interviewed (see Appendix C). In addition, a need for services for ex-offenders and domestic/family violence services were each mentioned by 4 percent of interviewees. Similarly, only 4 percent cited a safety issue—services for ex-offenders—as a service gap. “Increasing crime” was mentioned as a trend by 4 percent of those interviewed. The following are the safety themes that emerged:

- **Crime.** Crime and safety in neighborhoods, especially homicide; downtown crime; violence is on the increase; Columbus has higher murder rate than New York City—100 murders so far this year; the drug distribution system—very competent and successful young traffickers.
- **Ex-offenders.** Individuals released from prison, unable to find housing and jobs; services and policies to reintegrate released prisoners; sex offenders will be released and no one wants them in their communities—no one wants to touch it politically.
- **Family violence.** Violence in families; domestic violence and abuse and neglect of families—kids view this and see it as a normal way to behave.

Focus Groups

Safety issues were mentioned as a need, gap or trend in 6 of the 18 focus groups (see Appendix D). The following are the themes—aggregated across all focus groups—that emerged related to safety:

- **Violence.** More violence in the community; need violence prevention programs for young people to combat what they see on TV or in their neighborhoods; as a community need to value being a peacemaker; at Heyl Elementary shots have been fired at the school; violence is a constant; violence is real for many young people; violence is a global effect; need programs to follow-up with victims of violence.
- **Neighborhood/community crime.** Increase in crime in the community because of economic downturn; safety issues related to aging and abandoned housing; more demand for local safety services by the public; need community policing and culturally competent law enforcement; truancy is not being addressed; education and crime statistics closely tied to family values; safety issues coming out of fears in the community.

Donor and Agency Web Survey

Family violence is a significant issue that is broader in scope than domestic violence.

— Web survey respondent

A total of 566 web survey responses were received from United Way agency staff, United way volunteers, donors and others. Table S-1 shows the percentages of respondents who thought the safety issues listed in the survey were either major or medium community problems.

Table S-1
Safety Community Problems
Donor and Agency Web Survey

Issues	Major Problem	Medium Problem
Violent crime	52.7%	32.7%
Domestic violence	49.8%	34.8%
Child abuse and neglect	48.8%	34.3%
Juvenile delinquency/youth crime	45.6%	38.5%
Property crime	33.9%	40.8%

N=566 survey respondents; not all respondents answered all questions.

Current Efforts in Safety

Community Plans and Strategies

A review of planning documents and strategy statements of key community organizations involved in human services and community development planning and funding (see Appendix F) found the following areas of focus related to safety policy:

Organization	Plan/Strategy/Policy Focus									
	Domestic Violence	Child Welfare	Crime Prevention	Law Enforcement	Courts	Incarceration	Juvenile Justice/ Juvenile Delinquency	Geographic Focus	Population Focus	
United Way of Central Ohio <i>Source: UW Goals & Objectives</i>	X		X				X	Franklin County	Families and children	
Franklin County Justice Programs Unit <i>Source: 2002 Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	Franklin County	Criminals, juvenile offenders	
Franklin County Court of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch <i>Source: 2002 Annual Report</i>	X				X		X	Franklin County	Domestic violence offenders, juvenile offenders	
Osteopathic Heritage Foundation <i>Source: 2002 Franklin County Health Assessment</i>	X							Franklin County	All residents	
Franklin County <i>Source: Consolidated Plan 2002-2003</i>		X						Franklin County	Abused and neglected children	
City of Columbus <i>Source: Consolidated Plan 2002-2003</i>		X						City of Columbus	Abused and neglected children	
City of Columbus Division of Police <i>Source: Website</i>				X				City of Columbus	Criminals, Juvenile offenders	

Safety Resources

As part of the data gathering for *What Matters 2004*, Community Research Partners compiled an inventory of sources and uses of human services funding in Franklin County. A summary of the full inventory, including methodology, definitions and caveats, can be found in Appendix E. The following summarizes the information related to the safety issue area. It is a profile of one year of funding from federal, state and local government and major local philanthropic/private sources. Also included is a graph illustrating how United Way funds for the safety critical need area are allocated among various use categories.

Overview of Annual Funding Sources for Safety

Safety Total

\$57,049,229

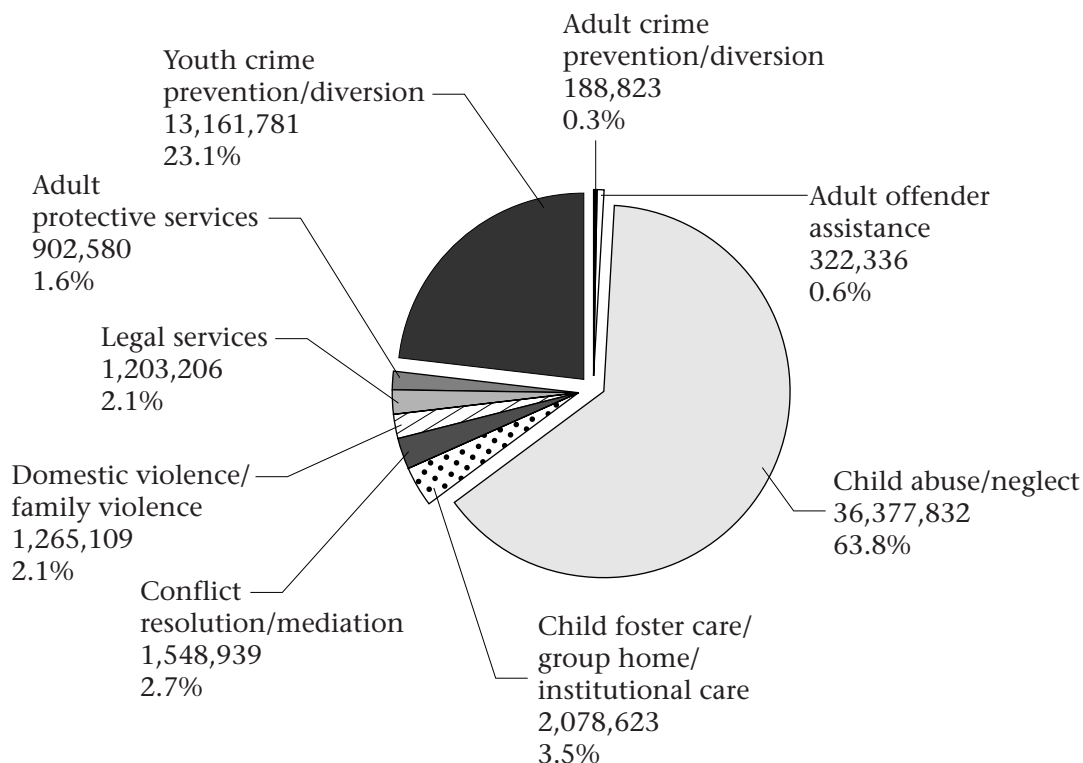
FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
PUBLIC		\$53,253,671
FEDERAL		\$20,137,029
DOJ	JAIBG	731,268
	Juvenile Justice And Delinquency Prevention	286,781
	VAWA	664,568
	TANF/ PRC	570,208
	TANF/ Title XX	423,006
	Title IV B - Part 2	445,885
	Title IV E	15,299,467
	Title XIX - Medicaid	12,270
HHS	Title XX	1,703,576
STATE		\$ 3,053,136
ODH	State Rape Prevention	17,950
ODJFS	Foster Care	2,001,226
ODYS	Juvenile Intervention Services Program	844,239
Ohio Children's Trust Fund	N/A	189,721
LOCAL		\$30,063,506
FCCS Levy	FCCS	18,683,383
City of Columbus Dept. of Development	Social Services Contracts	217,229
Franklin County General Fund	Detention Program	7,843,031
	Family Assessment Program	1,036,669
	Juvenile Delinquency and Child Prot. Prog.- Materials and Services	88,769
	Juvenile Intervention Services Program	721,677
	Mediation Services Program	294,448
Multiple/Other Local Public Sources	ADAMH, FC School districts	1,178,300

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
LOCAL PRIVATE		\$3,795,558
Nationwide Foundation	N/A	90,000
The Columbus Foundation	N/A	800,276
Women's Fund of Central Ohio	N/A	10,000
Wolfe Associates, Inc.	N/A	17,500
Multiple/Other Local Private Sources	CHD	96,750
	JAIBG Match	81,734
	VAWA Match	172,362
United Way of Central Ohio	N/A	2,526,936

Note: Disaster relief and emergency response are a part of United Way's Safety critical need area. However, the United Way funding for these programs (\$997,803) is included in the Basic and Emergency Needs section.

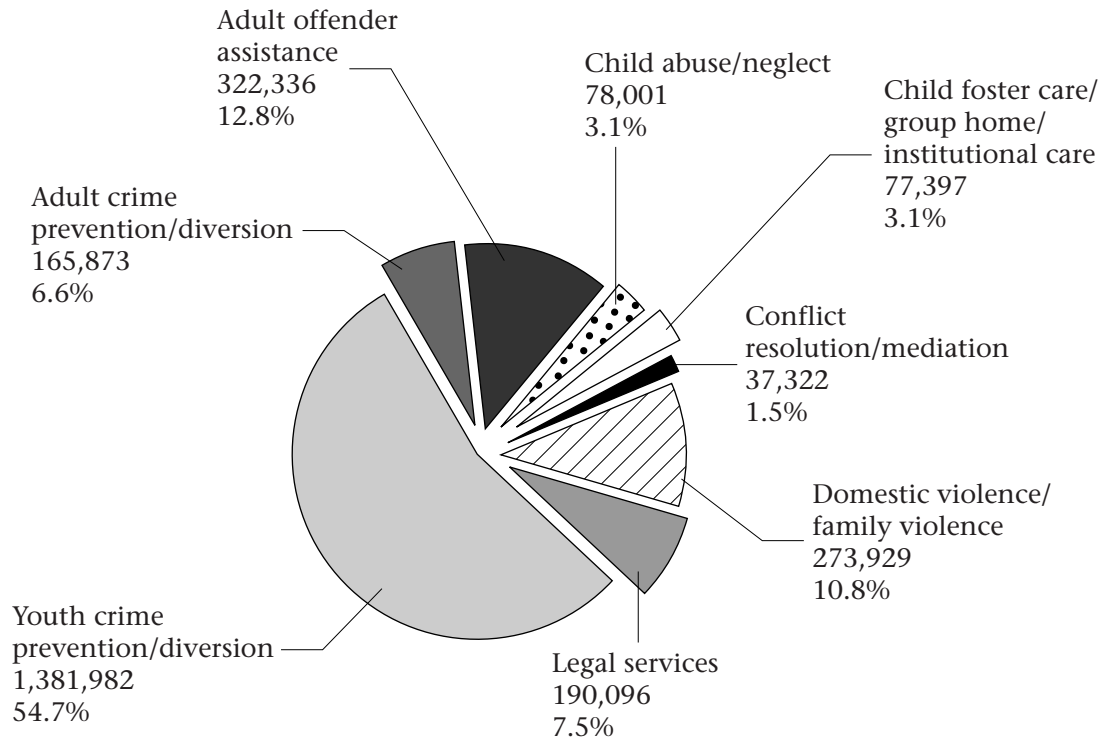
Overview of Annual Uses of Funding for Safety

Figure S-3
Annual Use of Funds for Safety Activities
Total \$57,049,229



How United Way Resources are Used for Safety (per the CRP Resource Inventory Taxonomy)

Figure S-4
Use of United Way of Central Ohio Funds for Safety Activities
Total \$2,526,936



Some programmatic funding supported by the Safety Vision Council is represented in other sections of the report.

According to United Way of Central Ohio investment, initiative, and donor designation tracking records, \$2,331,052 is funded through the Safety Vision Council.