

Madera County Probation Department



**Three Year
Comparative
Report
2001-2004**

Stop Truancy Opportunity Program

Table of Contents

Summary	3
I. Participant Data.....	4
II. Program Statistics.....	5
III. School Statistics	8
Index of Tables	10

**Madera County
Probation Department
Stop Truancy
Opportunity Program
(STOP)**

**Three Year
Comparative
Report**

2001-2004

Summary

Madera County Probation's Stop Truancy Opportunity Program (STOP) completed three years of operation, beginning on July 1, 2001 and ending on June 30, 2004. Seven Madera County Schools participated for the entire three-year period; Dairyland Elementary, Enterprise Secondary, Martin Luther King Junior High, North Fork Elementary, Oak Creek Intermediate, Thomas Jefferson Junior High, and Wilson Middle School. Liberty Junior High participated for two years of the program (2002-2003 and 2003-2004) and Webster Elementary participated for one year (2001-2002).

After three years, major results of the program are as follows:

- A large majority of participants (ranging from 62% to 75% during 3 years) remained at Step 1 of the STOP sequence, indicating the effectiveness of program intervention.
- Very few of participants were placed on probation (fewer than 2% overall).
- No participants were given court ordered restitution, as restitution is not an issue in truancy cases.
- Very few participants were given court ordered community service (fewer than 1% overall).
- Arrest and incarceration rates of participants were low in comparison to those at the county level, decreasing from approximately 8% to 4% between the 2002-2003 program year and the 2003-2004 program year.
- Participants' mean grade point averages and attendance rates were higher for the Spring semester than for the Fall semester. (Since students making up a new cohort enter the program individually and at various times during each Fall semester, increases in GPA and attendance rates in the Spring semester coincide with decreases in truant behavior).
- The number of days of suspension per student decreased among participants between Fall and Spring semesters during each of the past two years (-.04 days and -.37 days respectively). The number of suspensions per student decreased significantly between Fall and Spring (-.21) during the 2003-2004 school year.

I. Participant Demographics

A total of 921 students were tracked by STOP over the three year period, ranging between 277 and 346 students per year (Table 1). Together, students from Martin Luther King and Thomas Jefferson Junior Highs made up over half of the STOP population (55%).

Table 1.
Number and Percent of Participants by School

Participating Schools	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total	Percent
Dairyland Elementary	12	6	10	28	3%
Enterprise Secondary	9	14	11	34	4%
Liberty Junior High	~	21	17	38	4%
Martin Luther King Jr. High	104	81	76	261	28%
North Fork Elementary	19	28	28	75	8%
Oak Creek Intermediate	29	23	31	83	9%
Thomas Jefferson Jr. High	101	61	83	245	27%
Wilson Middle	47	43	42	132	14%
Webster Elementary	25	~	~	25	3%
Totals	346	277	298	921	100%

During the three years of the program, a majority of STOP participants were Hispanic (59%) or Non-Hispanic Whites (37%).

Table 2.
Number and Percent of Participants by Ethnicity

Year	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	White Non-Hispanic	Total
2001-02	7	2	195	4	108	316*
2002-03	7	1	153	4	112	277
2003-04	8	1	178	3	108	298
Total	22	4	526	11	328	891*
Percent	2%	1%	59%	1%	37%	100%

* 30 Students missing ethnicity data in 2001-02

Fifty-five percent (53%) of participants were male and 47% were female (Table 3).

Table 3.
Number and Percent of Participants by Gender

Year	Male	Female	Total
2001-02	164	163	327
2002-03	153	124	277
2003-04	162	136	298
Total	479	423	902
Percent	53%	47%	100%

II. Program Statistics

Low percentages of students reaching higher steps in the STOP sequence indicate success of program intervention (Table 4). The STOP uses a step sequence to determine students' levels of truancy. At Step 1, the student has one to three unexcused absences and parents are notified by mail of the student's truant behavior. At Step 2, the student incurs a fourth unexcused absence and parents are notified by mail again and meet with the probation officer and a school official. At Step 3, a fifth unexcused absence occurs, the District Attorney notifies parents by mail, and students and parents must attend a required Truancy Meditation Team meeting. At Step 4, a sixth unexcused absence occurs and a School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting is held. At Step 5 (the final step), a seventh unexcused absence occurs. The student is referred to court as a habitual truant and formal probation is requested.

Over the past three years, percentages of STOP participants reaching Steps 4 and 5 of the STOP sequence stayed at 10% or below. The percentage of students reaching Step 3 steadily increased over the three year period (from 6% to 21%). However, a large majority of participants (ranging from 62% to 75% during 3 years) remained at Step 1, demonstrating the effectiveness of program intervention.

Table 4.
Number and Percent of Students at Each Truancy Level by Year

Step Sequence	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	346	100%	277	100%	298	100%
2	99	29%	69	25%	113	38%
3	20	6%	40	14%	63	21%
4	5	1%	28	7%	31	10%
5	2	7%	8	3%	10	3%

Low rates of students placed on probation demonstrate the effectiveness of program intervention (as shown by Table 5). In the first year, only one student was placed on probation for a truancy offense. In the past two years, only six students were placed on probation, accounting for approximately 2% of the participant population. Two of the six participants violated the terms of probation in 2003-2004, and only one participant violated the terms of probation in 2002-2003. One student completed probation requirements during each of the past two program years.

Table 5.
Participants' Probation Status by Year

Participants' Probation Status	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Placed on probation for truancy offense	1	0.3%	6	1.8%	6	2.0%
Violated terms of current probation	0	0%	1	0.4%	2	0.7%
Completed probation	0	0%	1	0.4%	1	0.3%

Low rates of students being given court ordered restitution and community service also demonstrate the effectiveness of program intervention (as shown by Table 6). Within the past three years, no students were given court ordered restitution and only seven students were given court ordered community service (fewer than 1% of the participant population). Two students successfully completed community service.

**Table 6.
Number and Percent of Students Given and Completing
Restitution and Community Service by Year.**

	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Given court ordered restitution	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Successfully completed restitution	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Given court ordered community service	1	0.3%	4	1.4%	2	0.7%
Successfully completed community service	0	0%	1	0.4%	1	0.3%

Rates of arrest and incarceration of STOP participants (Tables 7 and 8) are low in comparison to rates at the county level. Both arrest and incarceration rates of participants after STOP referral decreased from approximately 8% to 4% between the 2002-2003 program year and the 2003-2004 program year. Higher post-referral arrest and incarceration rates can be seen as the results of positive intervention and prevention services being administered to deter further truancy and crime among this group of juveniles.

**Table 7.
Participants' Arrest Rates Prior to and After STOP Referral
by Type of Offense**

Offense Type	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Arrested prior to STOP referral						
Status offense	-	-	0	0%	0	0%
Felony offense	-	-	2	0.7%	0	0%
Misdemeanor offense	-	-	2	0.7%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	4	1.4%	0	0%
Arrested after STOP referral						
Status offense	-	-	0	0%	0	0%
Felony offense	-	-	9	3.3%	8	2.7%
Misdemeanor offense	-	-	13	4.7%	4	1.3%
Total	9	2.6%	22	7.9%	12	4.0%

Table 8.
Participants' Incarceration Rates Prior to and After STOP
Referral by Type of Offense

Offense Type	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Arrested prior to STOP referral						
Status offense	-	-	0	0%	0	0%
Felony offense	-	-	2	0.7%	0	0%
Misdemeanor offense	-	-	2	0.7%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	4	1.4%	0	0%
Arrested after STOP referral						
Status offense	-	-	0	0%	0	0%
Felony offense	-	-	9	3.3%	8	2.7%
Misdemeanor offense	-	-	13	4.7%	4	1.3%
Total	9	2.6%	22	7.9%	12	4.0%

III. School Statistics

Overall, mean GPA's and attendance rates of STOP participants increased between Fall and Spring semesters, while suspension rates decreased. Since students making up a new cohort enter the program individually and at various times during each Fall semester, these positive trends in school indicators coincide with decreases in truant behavior and are likely affects of program intervention.

During each of the past three years, mean GPAs of STOP participants increased between the Fall and Spring semesters (Table 9).

Table 9.
Mean GPA by Semester and Year

School Year	N	Mid-Year	Year-End	+/-
2001-02	235	1.93	2.14	+.21
2002-03	222	1.94	1.99	+.05
2003-04	253	1.60	1.74	+.14

Attendance rates among participants improved between the Fall and Spring semester during each of the past three years (Table 10).

Table 10.
Mean Attendance Rates by Semester and Year

School Year	N	Mid-Year	Year-End	+/-
2001-02	263	91%	95%	+4%
2002-03	222	91%	95%	+4%
2003-04	253	94%	95%	+1%

During each of the past two years, the number of days of suspension per student decreased among participants between Fall and Spring semesters by .04 days and -.37 days respectively. The number of suspensions per student decreased significantly between Fall and Spring (-.21) during the 2003-2004 school year.

Table 11.
Suspension Rates by Semester and Year

School Year	Number of Suspensions Per Student			Total Days of Suspension Per Student		
	Fall	Spring	+/-	Fall	Spring	+/-
2002-03	.25	.25	0	1.43	1.39	-.04
2003-04	.44	.23	-.21	1.60	1.23	-.37

Index of Tables

Table 1.	Number and Percent of Participants by School.....	4
Table 2.	Number and Percent of Participants by Ethnicity	4
Table 3.	Number and Percent of Participants by Gender	5
Table 4.	Number and Percent of Students at Each Truancy Level by Year	6
Table 5.	Participants' Probation Status by Year.....	6
Table 6.	Number and Percent of Students Given and Completing Restitution and Community Service by Year.....	7
Table 7.	Participants' Arrest Rates Prior to and After STOP Referral by Type of Offense.....	7
Table 8.	Participants' Incarceration Rates Prior to and After STOP Referral by Type of Offense	8
Table 9.	Mean GPA by Semester and Year.....	9
Table 10.	Mean Attendance Rates by Semester and Year.....	9
Table 11.	Suspension Rates by Semester and Year.....	9