



**Madera County
Probation Department**

**Stop Truancy
Opportunity
Program**

**Mid-Year
Performance Report**

**July- December
2005**

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Introduction

The Stop Truancy Opportunity Program (STOP) is in its fifth year of operation, since its inception in 2001. This mid-year report includes data from the time period beginning on July 1, 2005 and ending on January 20, 2006. A total of 234

students were served during this time period. The eight participating Madera County Schools included Dairyland Elementary, Enterprise Secondary, Martin Luther King Junior High, North Fork Elementary, Oak Creek Intermediate, Ranchos Middle School, Thomas Jefferson Junior High, and Wilson Middle School.

Table 1. Participants by School: First Semester

Participating Schools	Count	Percent
Dairyland Elementary	2	1.2%
Enterprise Secondary	1	0.6%
Martin Luther King Jr. High	84	48.6%
North Fork Elementary	3	1.7%
Oak Creek Intermediate	13	7.5%
Ranchos Middle School	2	1.2%
Thomas Jefferson Jr. High	50	28.9%
Wilson Middle School	18	10.4%
Total	173	100%

I. Participant Demographics

Upon completion of the fall semester for the 2005-2006 school year, the total population of active participants was 173 (see Table 1). The majority of the participants during this performance period did not report a specific ethnic background (66.5%). Of those that reported, the Hispanic population was the most represented (21.2%) (see Table 2). Over fifty percent (51.4%) of participants were females and 48.6 percent were males (Table 3).

Table 2. Ethnic Background of Participants by School: First Semester

Participating Schools	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	Non-Hispanic White	Not Reported	Total
Dairyland Elementary	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Enterprise Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Martin Luther King JH	0	0	2	0	1	81	84
North Fork Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Oak Creek Intermediate	1	0	1	0	7	4	13
Ranchos Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Thomas Jefferson JH	0	0	25	0	2	23	50
Wilson Middle School	0	0	7	0	10	1	18
Total	1	0	36	0	21	115	173
Percent	0.6%	0%	20.8%	0%	12.1%	66.5%	100%

Table 3. Gender of Participants by School: First Semester

Participating Schools	Female	Male	Total
Dairyland Elementary	0	2	2
Enterprise Secondary	0	1	1
Martin Luther King Jr. High	44	40	84
North Fork Elementary	2	1	3
Oak Creek Intermediate	5	8	13
Ranchos Middle School	0	2	2
Thomas Jefferson Jr. High	30	20	50
Wilson Middle School	8	10	18
Total	89	84	173
Percent	51.4%	48.6%	100%

II. Program Statistics

The Madera STOP program served a total of 234 students during the fall 2005 semester. Of these students, the program placed two participants on probation for truancy offenses during this performance period (see Table 4). One student violated the terms of their current probation and one student completed their probation. No students were given court ordered restitution or community service (Table 5). The program only had one participant placed on probation for truancy during last year's reporting period (2004-05), compared to five participants the year prior to that (2003-04). As there is not a victim in these types of cases, restitution is not ordered. Prior to 2003 truancy offenders were given court ordered community service. However, after 2003 the program was no longer allowed to refer juveniles to community service in the City of Madera. Community service is still a viable, dispositional option in the City of Chowchilla and Eastern Madera County.

Table 4. Probation Status: First Semester

<i>N</i> = 234	Count	Rate
Placed on probation for truancy offense	2	0.9%
Violated terms of current probation	1	0.4%
Completed probation	1	0.4%
Successfully completed community service	0	0%

Table 5. Restitution and Community Service Status: First Semester

	Count	Rate
Given court ordered restitution	0	0%
Successfully completed restitution	0	0%
Given court ordered community service	0	0%
Successfully completed community service	0	0%

Of the 234 total students served, 16 participants completed the Madera STOP program. Those who did not proceed with the program through the end of the fall 2005 semester left due to reasons shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Reasons for Leaving the Program: First Semester

	Count
Completed the Program	16
Referred in Error	3
Moved to another city or state	10
Transferred to another school	9
602 W & I, wards	7
Other	16
Total	61

Table 7. Arrest Rates Prior to and After STOP Referral by Type of Offense: First Semester (n = 234)

Offense Type	Count	Rate
Arrested prior to STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	2	0.9%
Misdemeanor offense	6	2.6%
Total	8	3.4%
Arrested after STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	3	1.3%
Misdemeanor offense	3	1.3%
Total	6	2.6%

The program annually tracks participants' arrest, incarceration and probation violation rates, while specifically identifying if a participant's arrests, incarcerations, or probation violation occurred before or after referral for STOP participation. Tables 7 and 8 indicate participants' arrest and incarceration rates for the fall 2005 semester.

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

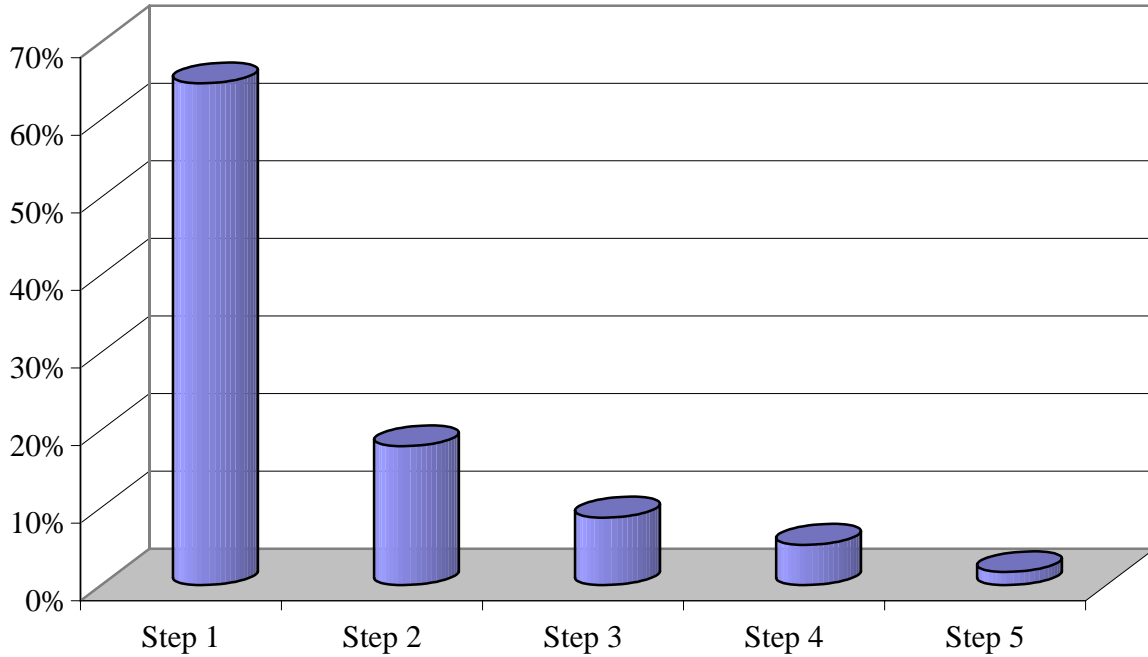
Offense Type	Count	Rate
Incarcerated prior to STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	0	0%
Misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	0	0%
Incarcerated after STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	2	0.9%
Misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	2	0.9%

STOP utilizes a step sequence to determine a student's level of truancy. At **Step 1** (student's initial STOP referral), the student has 1 to 3 unexcused absences and a letter is sent to the parents notifying them of the student's truant behavior. **Step 2** indicates that the student incurred a fourth unexcused absence, at which time another notification is mailed to the parents. A meeting between the probation officer, the parents, and a school official soon follows. **Step 3** indicates a fifth unexcused absence occurred and a third letter of notification is mailed to the parents by the District Attorney. A compulsory Truancy Mediation Team Meeting is scheduled for students and parents to attend. **Step 4** indicates a sixth unexcused absence occurred and a School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting is held. **Step 5** (the final step) indicates that a seventh unexcused absence occurred. The student is referred to court as a habitual truant and formal probation is requested. Table 9 and Figure 1 illustrate the number of participants reported at each step sequence at the end of the first semester. *Each of the 173 STOP participants was truant at enrollment and was at least a Step 1 participant during the fall 2005 semester.*

Table 9. Participants at Each Truancy Level (*n* = 173): First Semester

Step	Number	Percent
1	112	64.7%
2	31	17.9%
3	15	8.7%
4	9	5.2%
5	3	1.7%

Figure 1.
Percentage of Students at Each Truancy Level at Mid-Year



III. Academic Performance and Behavior

At the time of this annual report 173 STOP participants were on file as active students. Two students did not have data available for the purpose of these analyses. Table 10 indicates the mean attendance rate for the fall 2005 semester was 84.9 percent and the mean grade point average (GPA) of STOP participants was 1.36 during the fall 2005 semester.

Table 10. Mean Grade Point Average (GPA) and Attendance Rate by School: First Semester

Participating Schools	Sample Size	Mean GPA	Mean Attendance Rate
Dairyland Elementary	2	2.50	96.7%
Enterprise Secondary	0	--	--
Martin Luther King Jr. High	83	1.56	85.8%
North Fork Elementary	3	1.11	85.9%
Oak Creek Intermediate	13	0.67	80.9%
Ranchos Middle School	2	2.00	88.9%
Thomas Jefferson Jr. High	50	1.14	83.8%
Wilson Middle School	18	1.42	84.7%
Total	171	1.36	84.9%

Program evaluators measured STOP participants' behavior by tracking the number of students who were suspended and the total number of days of suspension during each semester. Fifty-three students ($n = 171$) were suspended during fall 2005 for a total of 274 days. The total number of students suspended was fourteen fewer than the previous fall reporting period (67 in the fall of 2004), and 26 fewer than the fall prior to that (79 in the fall of 2003). Additionally, the number of days students were suspended during this reporting period decreased compared to the previous fall (292 days during the fall semester of 2004).

Table 11. Number of Students Suspended and Total Days of Suspension by School: First Semester

Participating Schools	Sample Size	Students Suspended	Days of Suspension
Dairyland Elementary	2	0	0
Enterprise Secondary	0	--	--
Martin Luther King Jr. High	83	27	104
North Fork Elementary	3	0	0
Oak Creek Intermediate	13	8	59
Ranchos Middle School	2	2	13
Thomas Jefferson Jr. High	50	12	69
Wilson Middle School	18	4	29
Total	171	53	274

IV. Additional Services

The Madera STOP program evaluated additional services students participated in to determine the overall impact of program participation. Table 12 indicates the involvement of all active participants as of the end of the fall 2005 semester ($n = 173$) involved in other programs and services offered through Madera County. Most notably, over half (62.4%) of program participants had a family history of intervention through Child Protective Services. Additionally, 50.9 percent of the students were referred to STOP tutoring. Student participation data were analyzed to determine how many students received one or more services. It was found that 116 of the 173 active participants (67.1%) served during the fall 2005 semester received one or more of the services listed in Table 12.

Table 12. Students Participating in Other Programs and Services by School

Program / Service	Dairyland	Enterprise	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	Ranchos Middle	Thomas Jefferson	Wilson	Total	Percent
Eligible for Free/ Reduced Lunch	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	4	10	5.8%
Cal-Learn	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.6%
Referred to Mountain Area Clinicians	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	2.9%
Referred to Madera Co. Clinicians	0	0	10	0	0	0	4	0	14	8.1%
Referred to STOP Tutoring	0	0	39	0	0	0	49	0	88	50.9%
Referred to Boys and Girls Club	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	5.2%
Family History with CPS	2	0	56	3	10	1	23	13	108	62.4%
Received 1 or more of the above services	2	0	59	3	12	1	26	13	116	67.1%
Sample Size	2	1	84	3	13	2	50	18	173	

V. Conclusion

Over the last three years, the Madera STOP program has witnessed a consistent decline in the number of program participants placed on probation for truancy offenses, indicating the program's effectiveness in preventing truancy. At the time of this mid-year report, no participants were placed on probation and none were arrested after referral to the STOP program. Approximately 98 percent of the current program participants remained in Steps 1 through 4 of the STOP Sequence during the fall semester. This result is a strong indication of the effectiveness of services provided by the case

worker and probation officers to the students. Through early intervention and prevention measures, program staff have contributed to limiting the number of participants being referred for court action.

Student behavior has also improved consistently over the past three years of the program's implementation. The total number of students suspended during the fall 2005 semester was fourteen fewer than the previous reporting period at mid-year, and 26 fewer than the year prior to that. This is a dramatic decrease possibly attributed to the success of the Madera STOP program in the mentoring and guidance of students in conjunction with additional services offered through Madera County that touched the lives of over sixty-seven percent of the active program population.

Following the completion of the second semester in May 2006, fall data will be compared with data reported for the spring semester to further analyze the effectiveness of the Madera Probation Department's Stop Truancy Opportunity Program.

