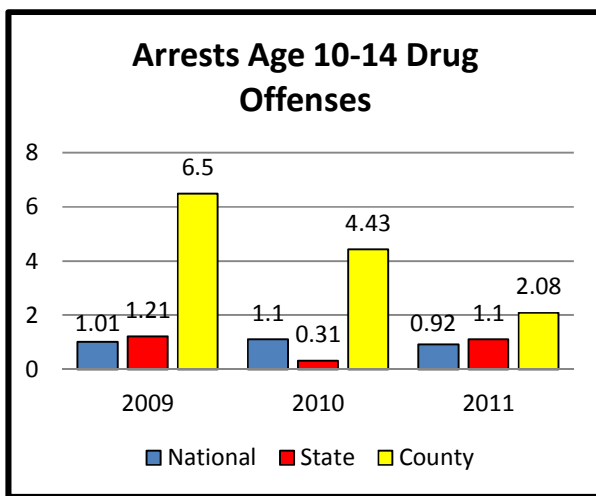


# Commission on Children and Youth Fact Sheet



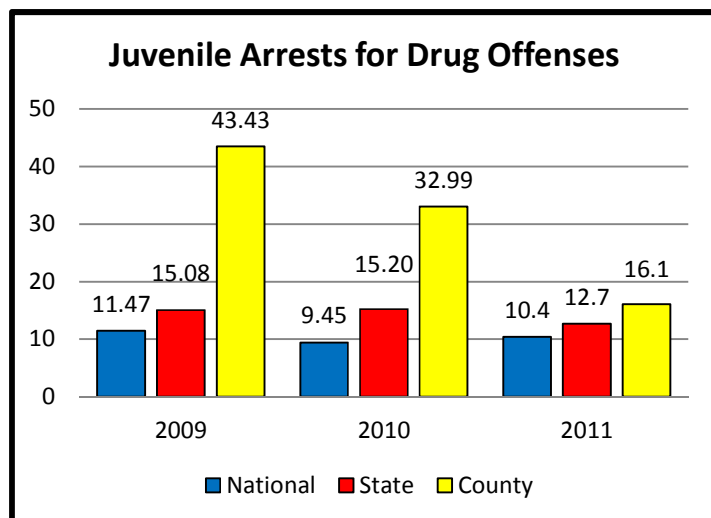
## Youth Alcohol & Drug Use

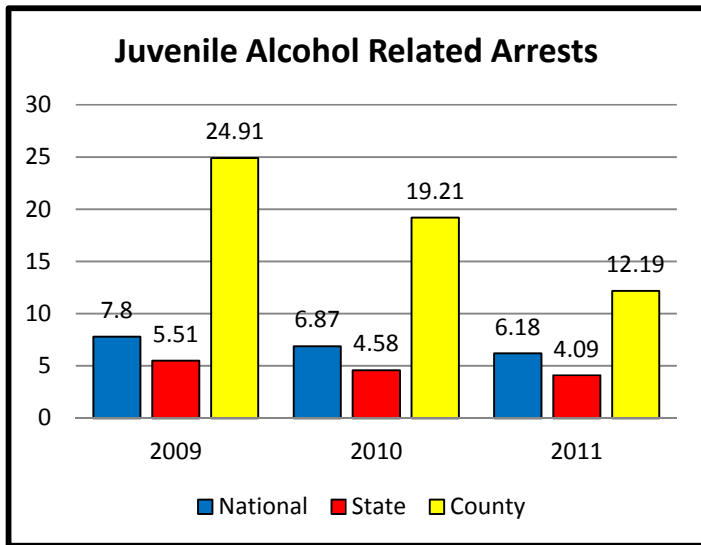
Alcohol and drug use among children appears to be a growing problem in Nueces County. When examining juvenile alcohol and drug-related arrests and adolescents in drug and alcohol treatment, one finds that Nueces County has higher rates than the State.



Drug use among the age group 10-14 appears to be a significant problem for Nueces County when compared to the State. From 2009 to 2011, the State rate (per 1,000 children) of drug-related arrests for the 10 to 14 age group stayed roughly the same at 1.1. According to the Nueces County Juvenile Probation Department, the Nueces County rate (per 1,000 children) of drug-related referrals for the 10 to 14 age group has dropped from 2009 to 2011. The Nueces County 2011 rate of 3.79 is 41% lower than it was in 2009, but it is about four times as high as the State's rate.

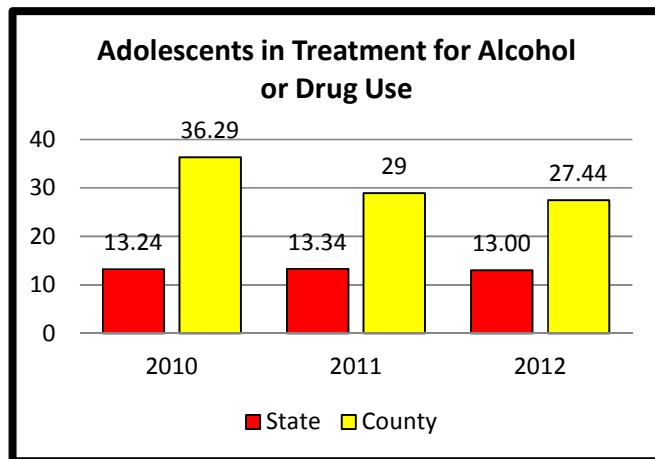
From 2009 to 2011, the rate of juvenile (0-16 years old) drug-related arrests dropped to 12.7 per 10,000 for the State. In the same time period, the rate in Nueces County dropped by 62.9% to a rate of 16.1. Despite having the largest drop of all three groups, the Nueces County rate is still noticeably higher than the State and National rates as reported in Uniform Crime Reports.





The rate of juvenile alcohol-related arrests from Uniform Crime Reports was also examined. From 2009 to 2011, the rate (per 10,000 children age 16 and under) of juvenile alcohol-related arrests decreased by 25.8% in Texas. The 2011 State rate of alcohol arrests of juveniles was 4.09. In Nueces County, the rate (per 10,000 children) of juvenile alcohol-related arrests dropped 51% to a rate of 12.19. Despite having the largest drop of all three levels, the Nueces County rate still remained roughly 3 times higher than the State and 2 times higher than the National.

For Texas, the rate of adolescents in alcohol and drug treatment facilities (per 10,000 children under 18) funded by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) decreased from 2010 to 2012 to a rate of 13.00. From 2010 to 2012, the rate in Nueces County decreased by 24.4%, to a rate of 27.44. The Nueces County rate of adolescents in treatment remained more than 2 times higher than that of the State. It is clear that the County has a serious juvenile alcohol and drug use problem.



These data taken together indicate that Nueces County has a significant, but improving problem with juvenile drug and alcohol use.

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