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March is Youth Violence Prevention Month

The Yolo County District Attorneys Office and other partners will be out talking to schools

The impact of crime committed by our youth is profound. The problem is countywide and affects our cities, communities and each and every citizen. Victims of juvenile crime run the full gamut of gender, race, religion and socio-economic status. Of course, we are all victims when we consider the financial cost in dealing with repeat offenders who may never become productive members of society. And so we are all losers: individual victims, society, and of course, our youth.

In 2007 over 600 cases involving juvenile offenders were referred by local law enforcement to the Yolo County District Attorney's Office for criminal charging. 28% of the cases included crimes against persons; 9% were against property; 5% were weapon related; 16% involved alcohol and/or drugs and 24% were theft related.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig has pledged to work with law enforcement, our County Library, school districts and other partners to help young people avoid becoming another statistic in the criminal justice system. The District Attorney's Office is partnering with schools to stem the tide of truancy and keep kids safe and in school, as well as bringing internet safety training to students in our schools to ensure that they will be safe on the internet.

In recognition of Youth Violence Prevention Month, throughout this March, the Yolo County District Attorney's Gang Suppression Unit, the Yolo County Probation Department, the Yolo Family Resource Center, the Yolo County Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center and the Yolo County Library will be teaming up to meet students at local schools to discuss alternatives to youth violence. They will be at Cache Creek High School in Yolo on March 6, at Yolo Continuation in West Sacramento on March 13, and at Winters High School on March 20. They will also meet with students at the Einstein School in Woodland, Esparto High School and other schools during the month of March.