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people move back into productive lives by addressing the legal issues that often create barriers to accessing employment, housing, and public assistance and treatment programs.

The Homeless Ce s l cm 0 0 4E8.

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## **Municipal Courts – Reno & Sparks**

The Sparks Municipal Court does not deal with the persistently homeless population as much as the Reno Municipal Court. However, they have a significant small proportion in the Sparks Municipal Court system. The homeless population is usually found along the Truckee River in the City of Sparks. Some of the more prevalent

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of this centralized data collection system may serve as a means for efficient and complete data collection of the judicial system. However, the success of the system weighs largely on the participation of all judicial jurisdictions.

Over the various court systems, the data shows a significant and increasing pattern in the number of homeless-related charges in the District Court, Reno Justice Court, and the Reno Municipal Court. The majority of homeless offenders found in the Washoe County-Reno-Sparks area are cited and/or arrested within the City of Reno. For the Homeless Court Program to be successful, a way must be found to properly engage homeless individuals into the Homeless Court Program.

€ Currently, the Reno Municipal Court deals with the homeless population by turning to such programs as H.E.L.





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the jurisdiction populat

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needed services such as employment, housing, public assistance and treatment programs. Thus far, the homeless court program implemented in San Diego and Alameda County, CA has found great success along with many other homeless court programs across the country. Currently, there are over 25 operating jurisdictions.

## **Benefits of the Home**

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can be great not only for the indigent

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a steady increase in the cases filed per

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**Figure 2-2**

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criminal contempt. Other than this one outlying data field, the rest of the numbers in Figure 3-1 show a slight increasing trend over the years, keeping in mind data collected for 2006 was only through December 5, 2006.

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The Sparks Justice Court follows similar patterns of homeless numbers in its courtroom as the Sparks Municipal C

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Figure 3-4 shows the overall number of homeless-related cases filed in the Sparks Justice Court to the total criminal cases filed per year from 2002 to

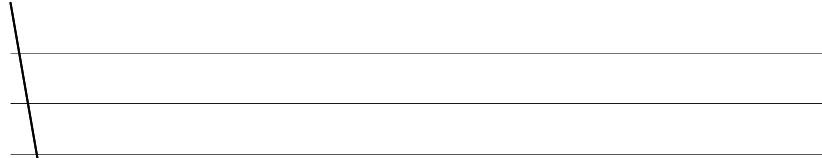
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**Figure 4-2**



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statically shown. Clearly, there is no definitive answer; however, the true proportion of homeless defendants making up all cases filed probably lies somewhere between the two stated observations.

Whatever the exact proportion of homeless cases may be, it is clearly a



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of this centralized data collection system may serve as a means for efficient



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## **Appendix 1: HOURS INVESTED IN A TYPICAL “ARREST, PROCESSING & ADJUDICATION”**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT - 7 hrs.**

1. Call for Service
2. ID data entry onto RMS/PLIMS/Officer dispatched
3. Officer responds (1.5 officers)
4. Arrest made/report produced
5. Defendant transported to jail for booking
6. Arrest report reviewed by supervisor
7. Case prepared for Court arraignment
8. Officer scheduled/appears at Court for testimony at trial
9. Data input to RMS/NCJIS/NCIC (JLCLIENT) system
10. Warrant clerk enters data to RMS/JLCLIENT system

### **WASHOE COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY - 3.5 hrs.**

1. Defendant booked
2. Court services interviews defendant for possible OA release
3. Staff coordinates with Court for prisoner arraignment
4. Defendant brought to jail courtroom for video arraignment
5. Video arraignment proceedings
6. Defendant returned to jail cell
7. Follow up paperwork/data entry
8. Defendant transported to court for trial
9. Defendant transported to jail for release

### **LEGAL DEFENDER - 4.25 hrs.**

1. Defendant interviewed
2. Video arraignment proceedings
3. Follow up paperwork
4. Pre-trial interview with defendant

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**MUNICIPAL COURT - Continued**

16. Cashier takes second payment
17. Defendant appears for review by bailiff
18. Defendant files motion for payment extension
19. Motion granted/new time payment schedule is created and mailed to defendant
20. Defendant fails to pay, reminder letter sent
21. JEO enters data onto court s,ystem
22. If no response to letter, phone call made

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***REFERENCES***

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- 2.