

# Tompkins County



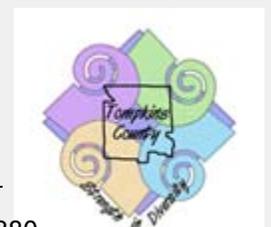
## Department of Probation and Community Justice

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# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2012

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# Director's Message



*Patricia Buechel*  
*Probation Director*



**TOMPKINS COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
of PROBATION and COMMUNITY JUSTICE**  
320 West State/Martin Luther King Jr. Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850

**April 2013**

## Director's Message

Welcome to the 2012 Annual Report of the Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice. As you will read in the upcoming pages, the department continues to be committed in providing high quality written reports, supervision strategies and alternatives to detention and incarceration to our juvenile and adult offenders. It is this commitment that has proven to benefit our clients and the community, as you can see in our documented performance measures and outcomes.

As a partner in the criminal justice system along with police agencies, the District Attorney's office and the courts, this department's role in providing avenues for success for our clients while promoting community safety at the same time is paramount. We look forward to the challenges ahead in 2013 in our ever evolving field of juvenile and criminal justice and to continuing our partnerships in the community.

Patricia Buechel  
Probation Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Buechel".

# Our Mission

**It is the mission of this Probation Department to provide the community with mandated as well as voluntary criminal and family court services in order to reduce reliance on incarceration and the court system by facilitating the rehabilitation of individuals in a manner which promotes personal responsibility, improved family functioning, public safety, and reparation for victims.**

## Our Guiding Principles

### **Our beliefs about the people we serve:**

1. We believe that community protection and public safety is a priority in the delivery of rehabilitative services to our clients.
2. We believe that clients should be held answerable to their victims and the community whom they have harmed by their actions.
3. We believe that all people possess strengths and have the potential to make positive changes and better decisions in their lives.
4. We believe that clients can learn to take personal responsibility for their actions through the use of graduated sanctions.

### **Our beliefs about our staff and department:**

1. We believe employees shall strive for professional excellence for themselves and the Department.
2. We believe employees shall perform their duties with honesty, integrity and professionalism that is free of any form of bias or discrimination.
3. We believe employees shall embrace and strive to understand issues of cultural diversity amongst our clients and staff.
4. We believe that staff shall be an agent and motivator for change by using best practices in the field of probation.

## Our 2012 Goals - What We Accomplished

**1. Successfully train staff and implement the new Supervision Rule which stipulates the number and quality of contacts per probationer pursuant to their risk for violence and recidivism as well as utilizing case planning techniques to establish goals for identified criminogenic needs to enhance positive future outcomes.**

- ✓ Release of the new rule was pushed back by the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to June 2013. However, staff has already been instructed and has become familiar with the new contact requirements. In addition, staff has been trained in creating meaningful case plans and is now developing them with probationer input and buy in. This will be an ongoing goal for 2013 as the new rule is put into effect.

**2. Collaborate with the Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic in utilizing the Stable and Acute Risk Assessment Instruments in the supervision of our sex offender population. The use of these instruments will reinforce cross agency validity in the screening of offenders and strengthen both community supervision and treatment.**

- ✓ Two Probation Officers and two Mental Health Forensic Social Workers attended training in use of the Stable and Acute Risk Assessment Instruments. Inter-rater reliability was ensured between departments before the use of the instrument was commenced. Both departments now use the instruments as needed to assess a sex offender's risk in the community.

**3. Complete a follow up study on the effectiveness of the pilot bullying program implemented in collaboration with the school system in 2011 which taught elementary school age children techniques and skills to stop bullying by their peers.**

- ✓ Students who participated in the bullying program in 2011 were given a follow up questionnaire in 2012 to test their retained knowledge about the bullying program and to determine if the skill set was being utilized. Results showed that students did retain the information taught to them and were actually using the skills when they themselves or their peers were faced with a bullying situation.

**4. Work with County Administration and DSS in the search for a new site for the Community Justice Center, which houses the Day Reporting program, Drug Court Probation Officers and the Family Treatment Court program operated by DSS.**

- ✓ Finding a new home for the entire Community Justice Center did not come to fruition in 2011. However, plans were devised late in the year to locate new homes for two of the components of the center, Family Treatment Court and Drug Court Probation Officers. This will be an ongoing goal for 2013.

## Our 2013 Goals

1. **Continue preparation and training for the implementation of the new Supervision Rule** to commence in June 2013 and increase the staff's skill set in developing meaningful case plans that include goals, objectives and specific tasks with input from probationers.
2. **Collaborate with the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office** in the implementation of the Thinking for a Change curriculum for incarcerated inmates as part of re-entry services with the goal of reducing recidivism.
3. **Collaborate with the Dryden School District** in the implementation of the evidenced based practice program called Second Step: Student Success Through Prevention for middle school students. This program is comprised of thirteen lesson plans in the areas of Empathy and Communication, Bullying Prevention, Emotions Management and Substance Abuse Prevention.
4. **Continue to collaborate with County Administration and the Tompkins County Legislature** in finding a new home for the Day Reporting program.

# 2012 Staff Listing

## Probation Director

Patricia Buechel

## Deputy Director

David Wolf

## Administration

Probation Administrator

Faith Newkirk

Administrative Assistant

Laurel Rockhill

Systems Analyst

Susan Moore

Senior Account Clerk Typist

Kelly Blake

Senior Typist

Linda Hubert

Administrative Services Coordinator

Ujjal Mukherjee

Probation Assistant

Bernadette Stranger

## Probation Supervisors

Criminal Court Supervisor

Dan Cornell

Family Court Supervisor

Jan Gorovitz

Day Reporting Supervisor

Eileen Sommers

## Senior Probation Officers

Ithaca Community Treatment Court

Jarrod Newcomb

Intensive Supervision Probation

William Bell

Intensive Supervision Probation

Stacie Burgos

Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation

Karla Brackett

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Harold Gregoire

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Robert J. Devens

## Probation Officers

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Abigail Bixby

Criminal Court

Karen Burns

Criminal Court and Child Support

Carmen Hockett

Criminal Court Investigations

Karen M. Curione

Criminal Court

Denise Hayden

## Staff & Department Milestones

### Probation Officers (con't)

Criminal Court - DWI

Michael Herrling

Criminal Court

Kate Horey

Criminal Court

Judith B. Johnson

Family Court

Angela Kehoe

Family Court

Gladys Larson

Criminal Court -DWI

Paul Neugebauer

Family Court

Tom Partigianoni

Family Court

Christine -Ion

Criminal Court

Susan Robinson

### Work Project Supervisors:

William Apgar

James Bond

### Security Officer:

Richard Brewer

### Transition Workforce Employment Specialist:

Kathy Lind

## *Years of Service to the Probation Department*

### *10+ Years*

Abigail Bixby

James Bond

Karla Brackett

Karen Curione

Ujjal Mukherjee

Christine Ion

### *15+ Years*

William Apgar

William Bell

Kelly Blake

Daniel Cornell

Rob Devens

Carmen Hockett

Judith Johnson

Jarrold Newcomb

Laurel Rockhill

### *20+Years*

Patricia Buechel

Stacie Burgos

Susan Robinson

Eileen Sommers

### *25+ Years*

Janice Gorovitz

Harold Gregoire

Faith Newkirk

Bernadette Stranger

David Wolf

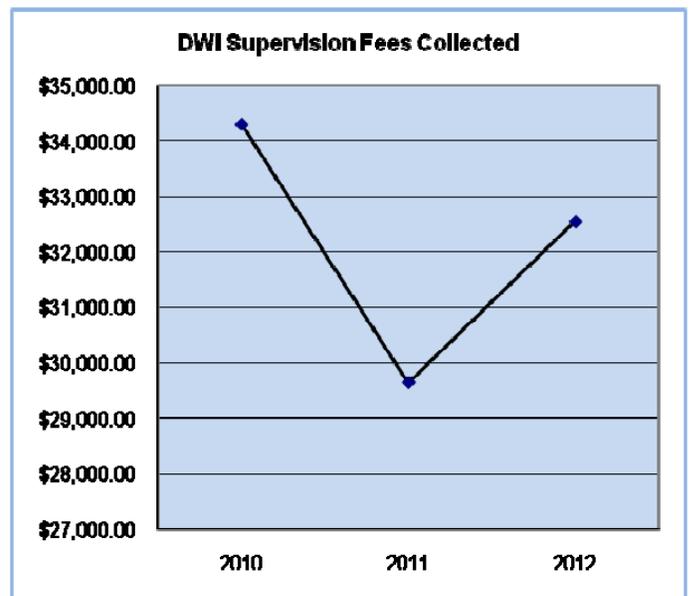
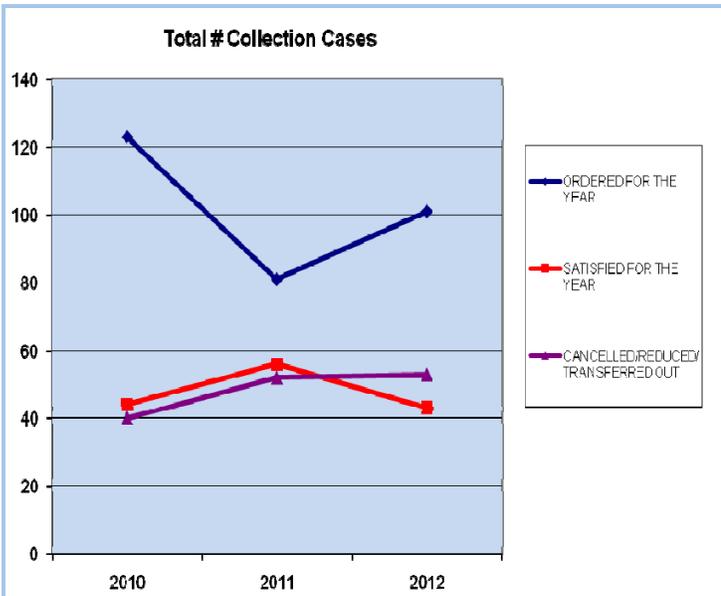
# Restitution and Fee Collection

*Submitted by Laurel Rockhill, Administrative Assistant*

Charges are sometimes levied by the local courts against defendants in the form of fines, surcharges and/or restitution to crime victims. The Probation Department is frequently ordered by the Courts to collect such levies, monitor payments, disburse monies to victims, and report on the status of each case to the appropriate Court.

## 2012 ACTUAL DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISBURSED

	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Other + Interest	Totals
<b>Beginning balance carried from 12/31/11</b>	\$4457.86	\$294.88	\$46.00	\$265.00	\$20.35	\$5084.09
<b>Money Received 01/12 - 12/12</b>	\$60,212.32	\$3203.75	\$1063.00	\$1136.00	\$1823.73	\$67,438.80
<b>Money Disbursed 01/11 - 12/11</b>	\$62,993.44	\$3481.68	\$1109.00	\$730.00	\$1844.08	\$70,158.20
<b>End Balance 12/31/12</b>	<b>\$1676.74</b>	<b>\$16.95</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$671.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$2364.69</b>



### Probation Facts:

*“Restorative justice is a response to crime that focuses on restoring the losses suffered by victims, holding offenders accountable for the harm they have caused, and building peace within communities.”*

# Family Court Diversion Services

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## DIVERSION SERVICES

As an alternative to court involvement, the Family Court Act provides for local Probation Departments to offer diversion services. The purpose of diversion services is to **divert** cases from going to Family Court. Diversion services are the **only voluntary service** offered by the Department of Probation and Community Justice and the only service able to be accessed on a walk-in basis and without a court order. Our department concentrates its diversion efforts on matters related to youth. These youth are identified as Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) or Juvenile Delinquents (JD).

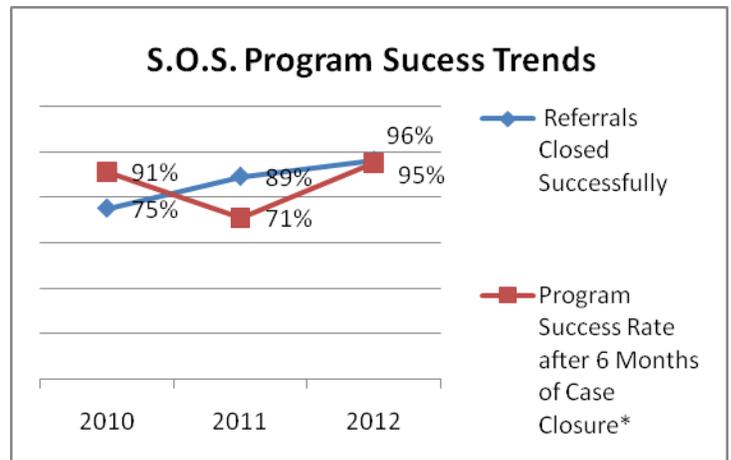
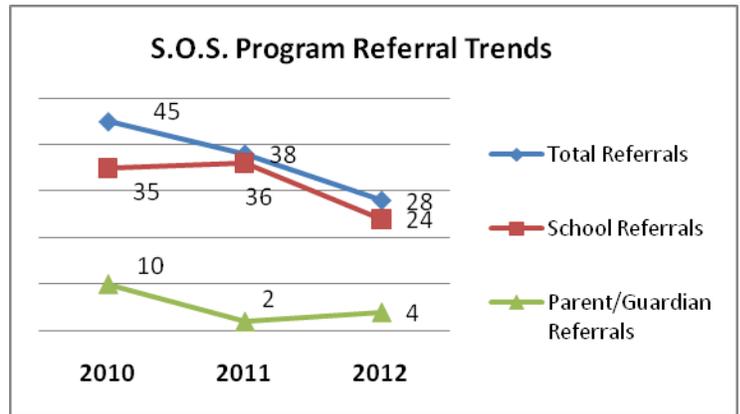
Family Court Probation Officers also provide daily intake coverage Monday through Friday. This means that they are the designated contact for the Probation Department if and when people from the community come looking for information or guidance for any family related matter. This type of request is referred to as an “information only” request. Calls are often from parents looking for advice or help with their “out of control” child. The Probation response may encompass a review of departmental services or resources available in the community.

### Strengthening Our Students (S.O.S)



In an attempt to identify youth that exhibit PINS-like behaviors before those behaviors become ingrained and fixed, the department developed a “Pre-PINS” program now called **Strengthening Our Students**.

- ~ This program allows schools and parents to make early identification of children who show a tendency for truancy, ungovernability, or run-away behavior.
- ~ A probation officer connects with the youth as soon as the parent or school administrator identifies concerns about the youth’s behavior and before a “pattern of behavior” is established.
- ~ This program is short-term, usually four to eight weeks, and is geared toward diverting youth from a referral to the more formal PINS Diversion Program.



**\*Program success** is defined as those youth who have completed the program and have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

### Probation Facts:

*To date, 95% of the youth referred for S.O.S services in 2012 who successfully completed the program have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.*

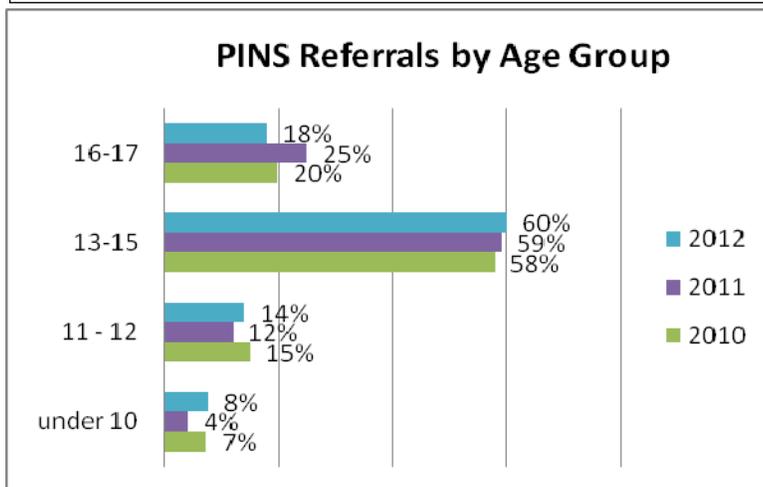
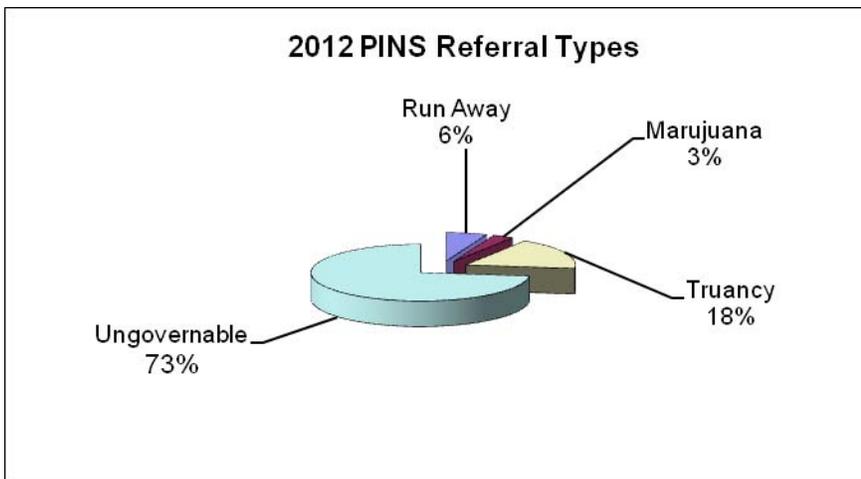
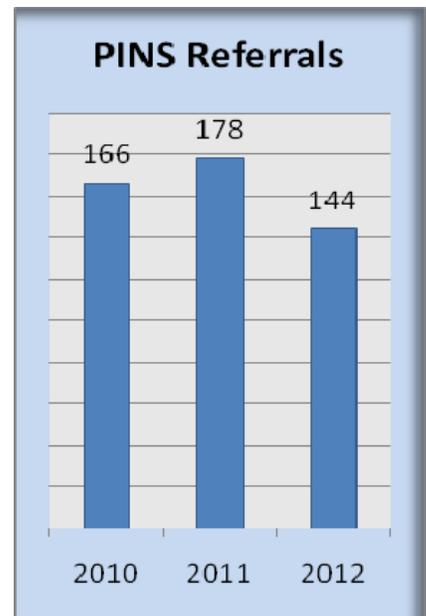
# Family Court Diversion Services

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## PINS

A Person in Need of Supervision is a youth under the age of eighteen who is showing a pattern of habitual disobedience, running away, curfew violations, substance abuse, violent behavior, or school truancy problems. Most PINS referrals are made by parents or school districts. PINS Diversion Services attempt to resolve the conflicts that brought a youth to the attention of the Probation Department by offering supervision, guidance, and referrals to community resources. Referrals may be made for individual and/or family counseling, mediation, youth advocacy programs, respite, or educational or employment assessments and opportunities. Probation Officers work closely with schools to address issues of truancy and/or behavior problems by meeting with teachers, advocating for testing or support services in the school, and by helping parents develop more communication with the school administration. Probation Officers within the Family Court unit are assigned to specific school districts and are present at those schools on a weekly basis.

In 2012, the Tompkins County Probation Department received 144 PINS referrals: 48 complaints were initiated by parents, 86 by school administrators, 4 by police and 6 by other sources.



**In 2012, of the 185 cases closed:**

- 49%** were closed as successfully adjusted
- 53%** were referred for services
- 61%** of youth were engaged in services
- 35%** of families were engaged in services

**Probation Facts:**  
*Family Court Probation Officers are in the schools every week meeting with youth and acting as a resource to school staff in identifying at-risk youth.*

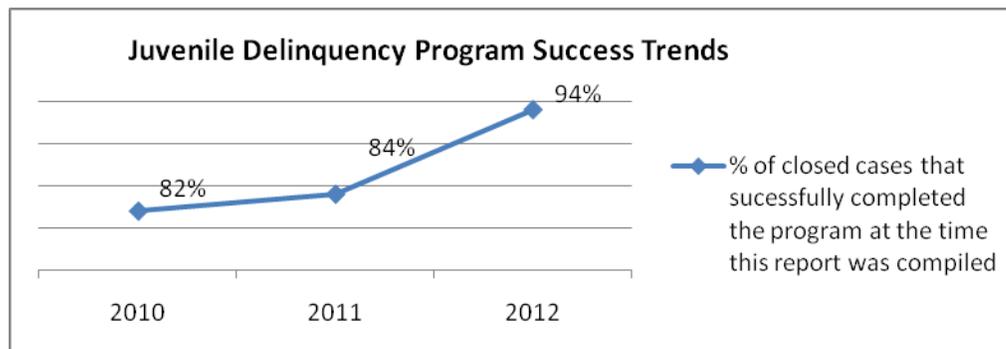
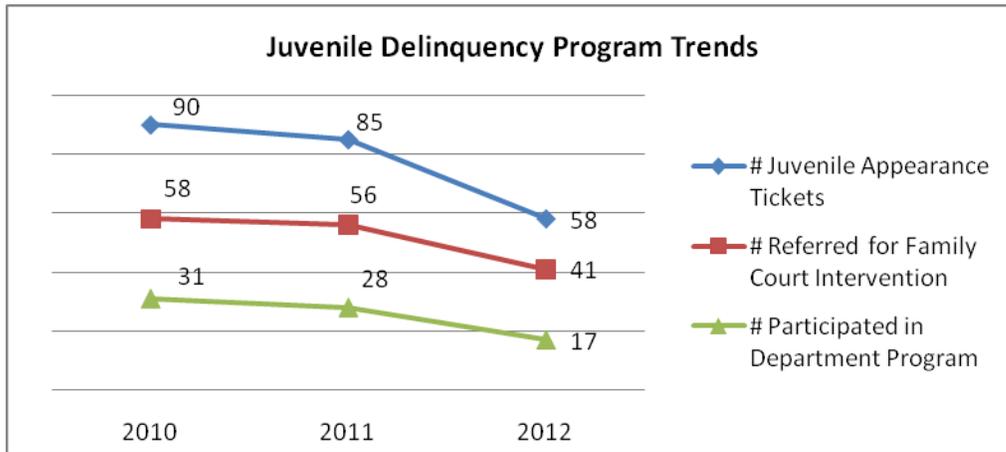
# Family Court Diversion Services

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The Tompkins County Probation Department also offers diversion services to youth issued a Juvenile Appearance Ticket by local police agencies. A Juvenile Delinquent is defined as a person over seven and less than sixteen years of age, who commits an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime. The youth is required to write a letter of apology to the victim(s), complete community service, pay restitution [if applicable], and remain law-abiding.

- ~ In **2012**, this department received **58** Juvenile Appearance Tickets. The crimes committed included a wide range of offenses such as Assault, Burglary, Criminal Possession Stolen Property, Criminal Mischief, Falsely Reporting an Incident, Criminal Possession Weapon, Menacing, and Petit Larceny.
- ~ Of the 58 tickets, **41** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **17** youth participated in this department's Diversion program.
- ~ To date, 15 of the **16** closed cases or **94%** have been adjusted successfully.



**Probation Facts:**

*To date, of the 2012 closed Juvenile Delinquency cases, 94% have been successfully diverted from the Family Court System.*

# Family Court Investigations

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY COURT INVESTIGATIONS

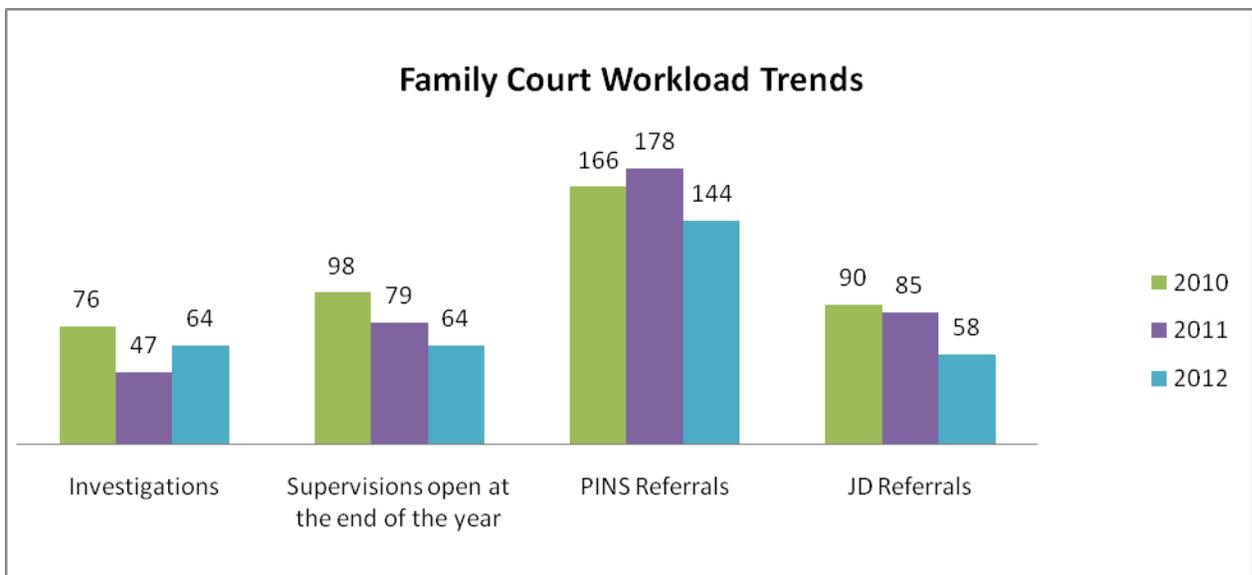
The Family Court Act requires that a predispositional investigation be conducted for all Designated Felony cases (defined as an act which if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, various sexual offenses, etc). For other Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need of Supervision cases, a predispositional investigation is discretionary. In addition, the Family Court may order investigations involving custody and visitation matters and adoption requests.

These reports provide information regarding:

- ~ Respondent’s legal history;
- ~ Respondent’s version of the petition before the court;
- ~ Respondent’s ability to pay restitution;
- ~ A review of the family home, the family composition, and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each party living in that home;
- ~ Respondent’s needs and achievements in the educational and employment arenas; and
- ~ Identification of any drug and alcohol issues or mental health needs that may impact the respondent’s ability to act appropriately in the community or ability to parent his or her child.

## FAMILY COURT WORKLOAD SUMMARY

- ~ Officers provide investigations for Family Court that involve matters of custody, visitation, adoption, PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision) and Juvenile Delinquents,
- ~ Provide the mandated diversion services for juveniles defined as a Person In Need of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquent and
- ~ Provide supervision to youth adjudicated by the Family Court to be a PINS or a JD as well as to adults who have been placed on probation for Failure to Pay Child Support.



# Family Court Supervision

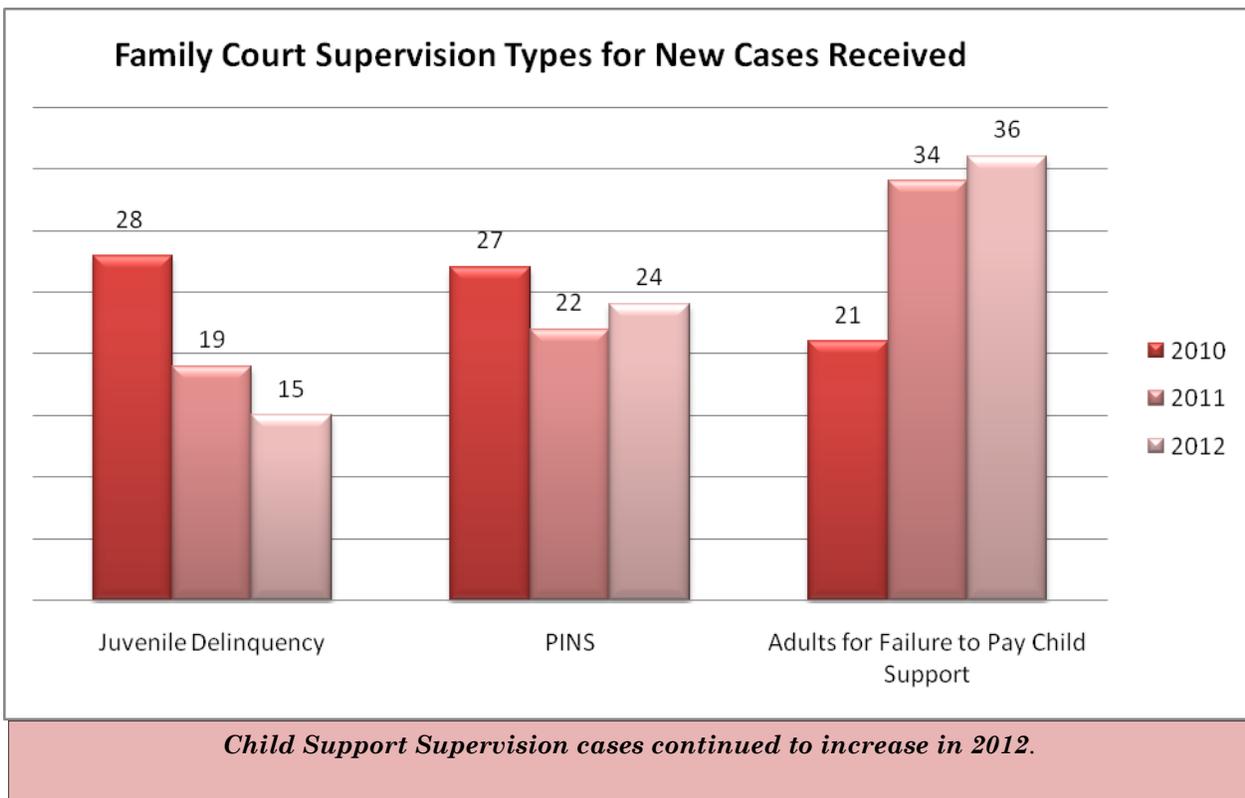
*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY COURT SUPERVISION

The Tompkins County Probation Department provides supervision as a result of Family Court action for both adults and juveniles.

Probation supervision involves the adult or juvenile following a set of court ordered conditions that are tailored to meet his or her needs. These could include:

- ~ **mental health or substance abuse treatment**
- ~ **attendance in school / gainful employment**
- ~ **community service**
- ~ **payment of restitution to the victim/payment of child support**
- ~ **victim offender conferencing**



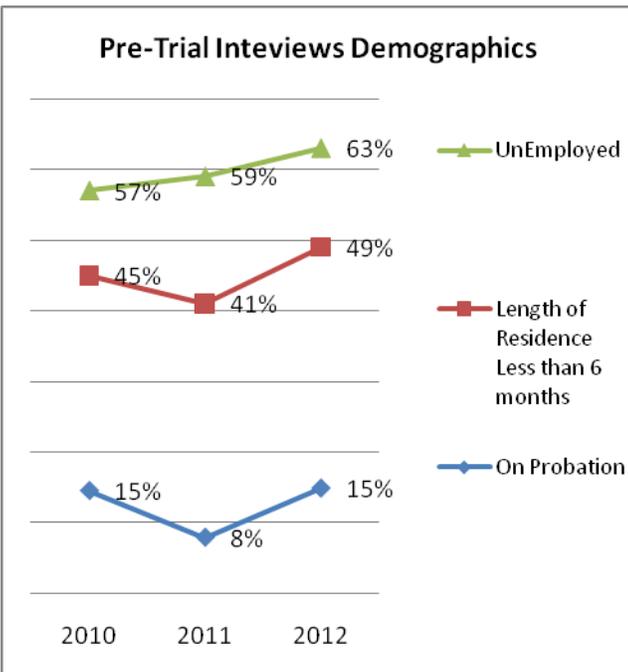
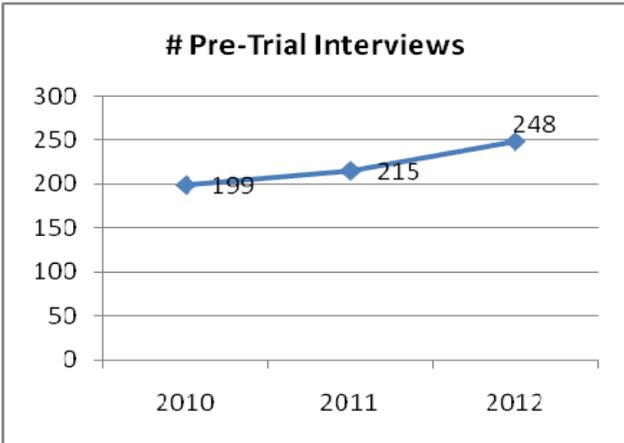
### Probation Facts:

**183** hours of community service were successfully completed in this department's supervised Juvenile Accountability Community Service program in 2012

# Pre-Trial Release Program

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

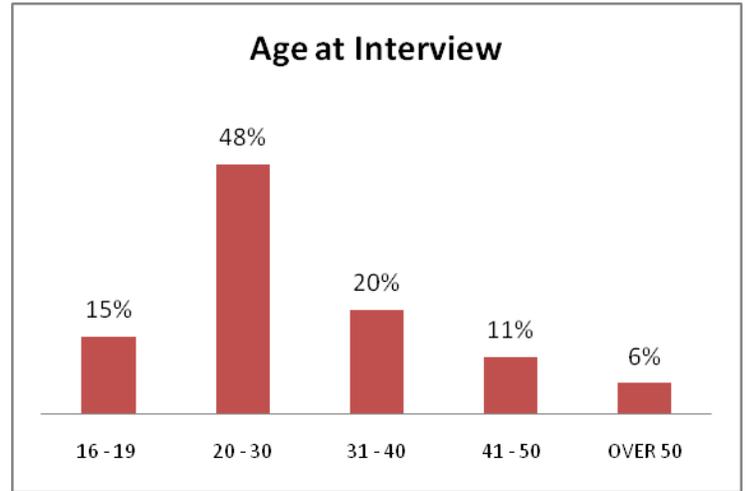
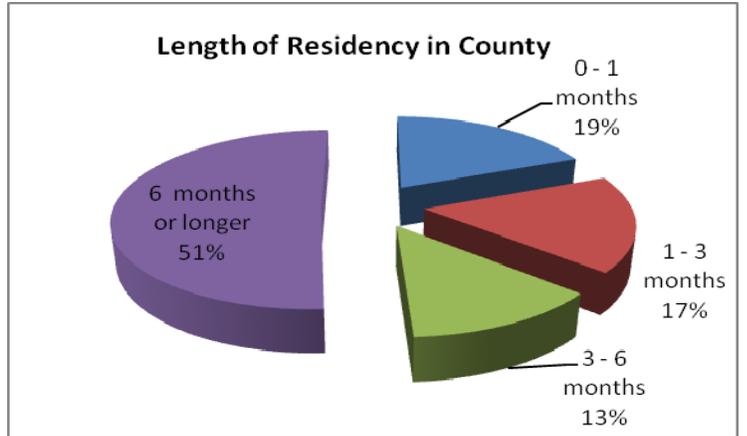
This department continues to operate the Pre-Trial Release Program in an attempt to facilitate release for incarcerated individuals who meet appropriate criteria. All defendants in custody at the Tompkins County Public Safety Building, who have bail set by a court, are given the opportunity to be interviewed for this program. A Probation Assistant reports to the jail weekdays and conducts an initial screening and personal interview with the defendant. A limited investigation is then conducted into the defendant's legal, social, and employment history with emphasis placed on past cooperation with court orders, prior warrants for failing to appear in court, and personal references to determine the defendant's potential to appear for future court dates. An evaluation is then made into the defendant's ties to the community and potential flight risk from his/her legal charges. A recommendation is forwarded to the court as to the best release option.



**2012 PRE-TRIAL FACTS**

A total of **248** pre-trial release reports were completed for the courts:

- \* **84%** were male detainees vs. **16%** female detainees
- \* **65%** were white vs. **35%** minority
- \* **45%** were detained for a felony charge vs. **50%** for a misdemeanor charge and **5%** were for probation violations
- \* **49%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their detainment



**20 - 30 year olds continue to make up the largest age group.**

# Pre-Trial Release Program

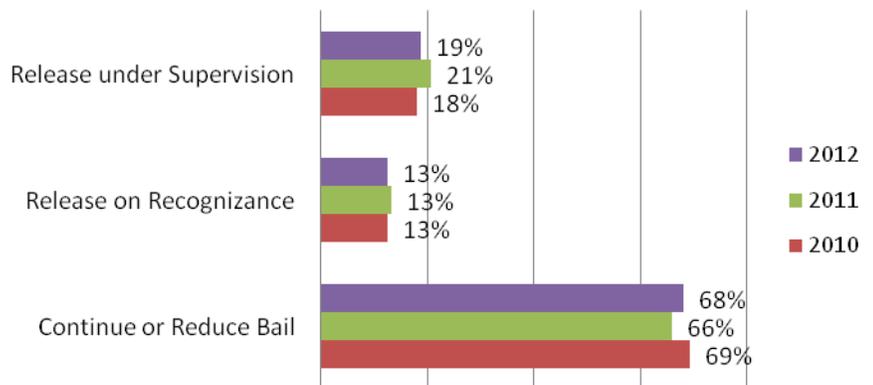
*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

If RUS is recommended, specific conditions of release are submitted to the court. The Probation Department will supervise the defendant's adherence to those conditions to help ensure the defendant's appearance to subsequent court proceedings.

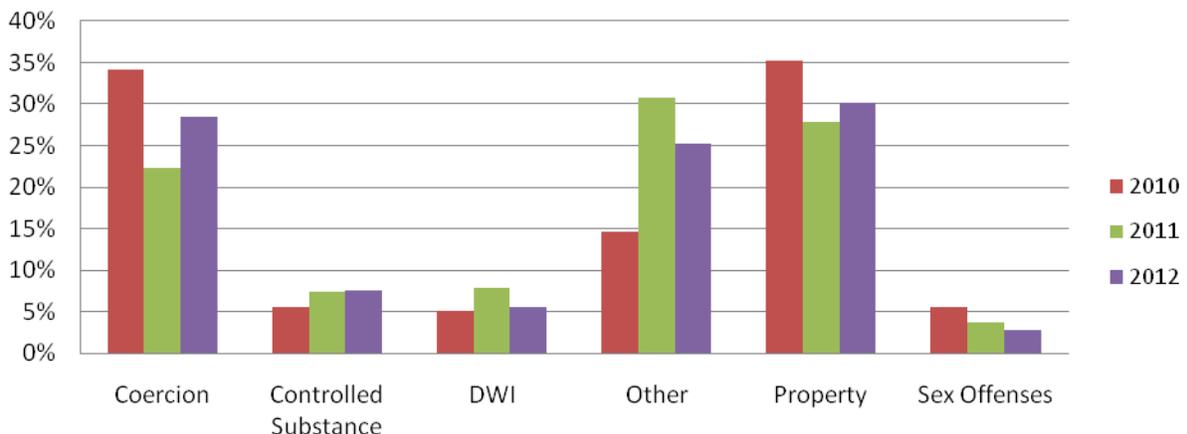
### Possible Recommendations for Pre-Trial Release

- ~Release on Recognizance (ROR)
- ~Release Under Supervision (RUS) to Pre-Trial program or Day Reporting
- ~Continue or Reduce Bail

### Pre-Trial Recommendations



### Pre-Trial Interviews by Offense Categories as a % of Total Interviews per Year



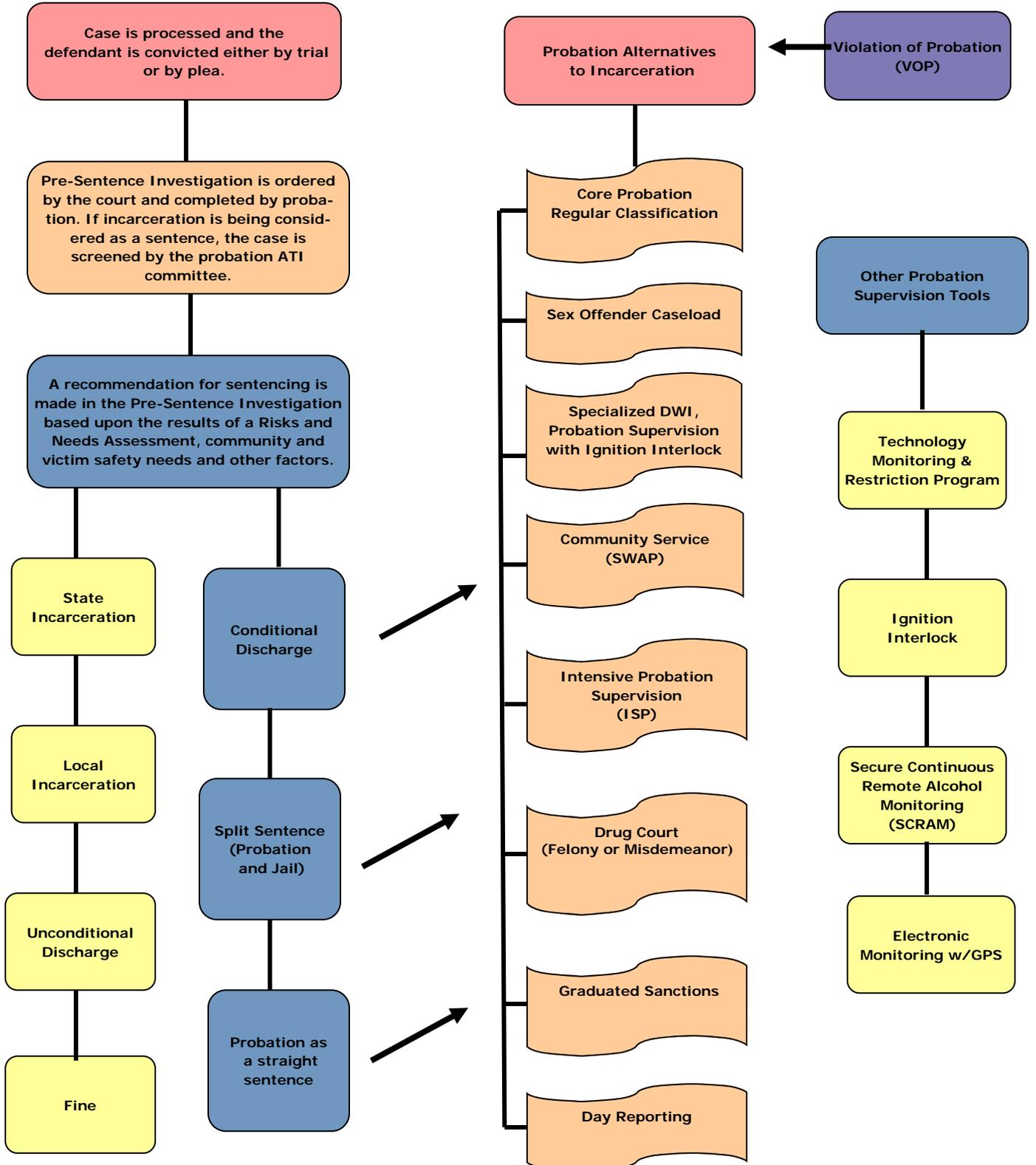
### Probation Facts:

*Graduated Sanctions, a system of incentives and sanctions that reward continued compliance and reprimand for continued non-compliance, are used in the supervision of offenders.*

# Criminal Court Flow Chart

## Sentencing Options

## Alternatives to Incarceration



# Graduated Sanctions

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## **GRADUATED SANCTIONS**

The term “graduated sanctions” means a system of incentives and sanctions that provide for the easing of restrictions for continued compliance and progressively more severe or restrictive sanctions for continued non-compliance. Easing of restrictions can include decreased reporting requirements, granting of travel permits and requests for early discharges. More severe sanctions for noncompliance can include increasing the reporting requirement, reprimands by departmental officials and/or by the sentencing court, having to perform community service, and greater restrictions on movement.

The use of these sanctions must be applied fairly, consistently and predictably, soon after the commission of the non-compliant behaviors and proportionate to the severity of the non-compliant behavior. If applied in this way, sanctions can stop misbehavior early, thus reducing the odds that probationers will commit more serious violations that could result in a period of incarceration.

## **Alternatives to Incarceration Programs (ATI)**

This department operates several Alternative to Incarceration programs which encompass a continuum of graduated sanctions designed to address offender non-compliance.

Whenever a recommendation of incarceration is being considered by the Probation Officer, either at the presentence investigation or violation of probation stage, the case must be screened before this department's Alternatives to Incarceration Committee for possible sentencing options in the various Alternative to Incarceration programs. The goal of the Committee is to ensure that all program options are examined in an attempt to reduce reliance on incarceration.

## **Current ATI Programs**

- ~ Intensive Supervision (ISP)
- ~ Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP)
- ~ Day Reporting
- ~ Electronic Monitoring (EM)
- ~ Drug Treatment Court
- ~ Pre-Trial Release (PTR)

### **Probation Facts:**

*Of the cases closed in 2012, this department utilized graduated sanctions 229 times as a way to garner compliance.*

# Criminal Court Investigations

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## INVESTIGATIONS

The purpose of the criminal court probation investigation is to assist the court in making sentencing decisions by:

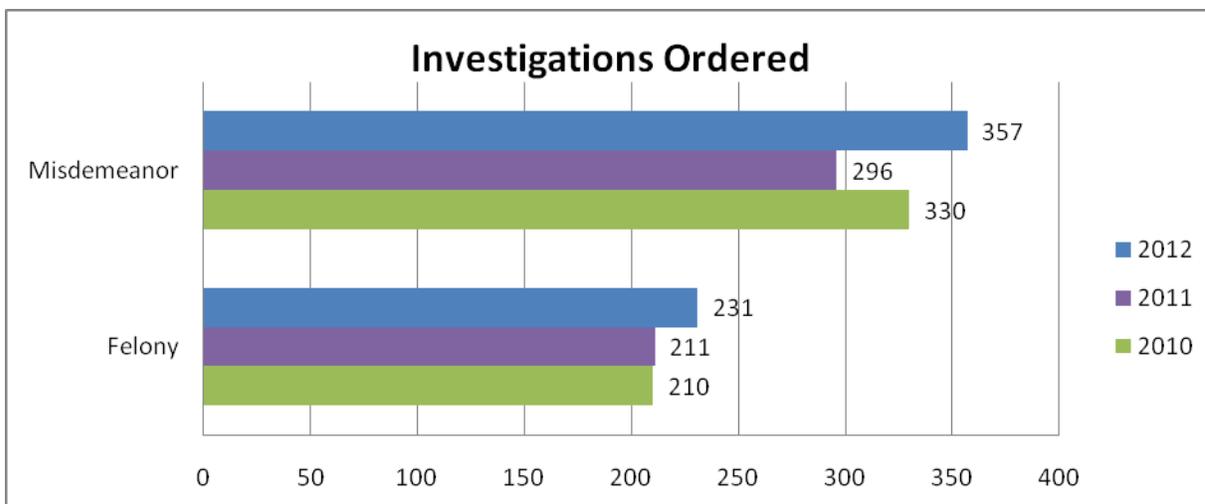
- ~ providing accurate criminal and social history in an objective and analytical format
- ~ identifying the defendants risks and protective factors; and
- ~ expressing the victim’s perspective of the crime to the court.

Additional information that the court may wish to consider at the time of sentencing includes:

- ~ drug/alcohol involvement and treatment needs,
- ~ individualized supervision plans based on offender needs, victim’s rights, and overall community protection, and
- ~ appropriate alternative to incarceration options that address the defendants needs in an effort to reduce

**An Investigation Includes:**

- \* *Legal and social background information about the person appearing before the court*
- \* *The defendant’s version of the present offense*
- \* *Information from the arresting officers and from the victim of the crime*
- \* *Information about the defendant’s ability to make restitution or pay fines*
- \* *An acturial risk and needs assessment to identify the criminogenic factors that increase the offenders risk of recidivism, as well as identifying protective and stabilizing factors.*



*The department’s overall investigation workload increased 16% in 2012.*

### Probation Facts:

*There are currently 117,791 probationers being supervised in New York. (NYS DCJS OPCA Integrated Probation Registrant System (IPRS) as of 2/21/2012)*

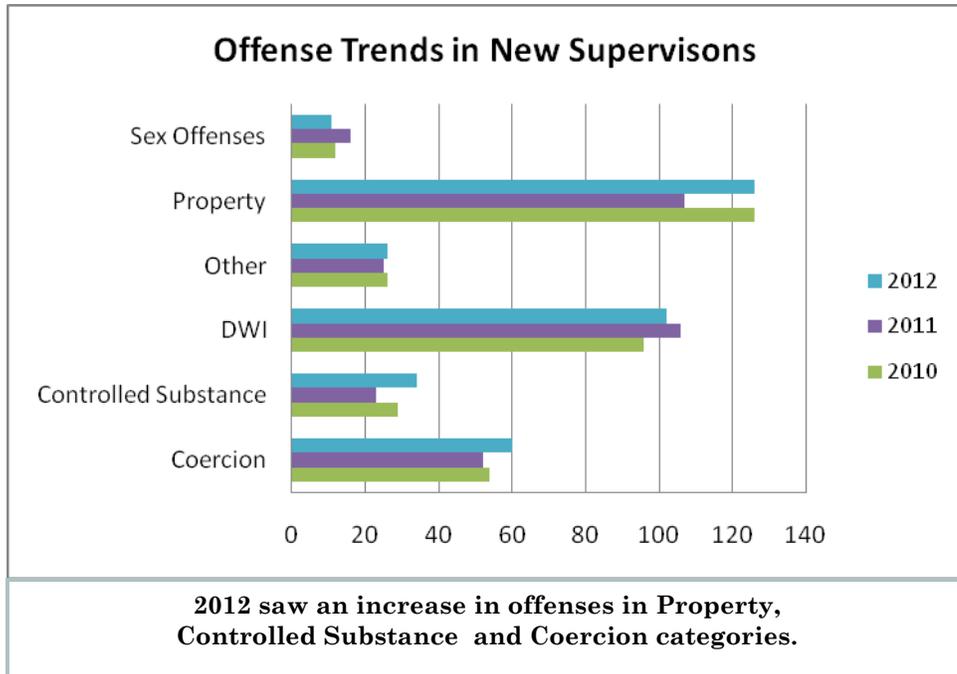
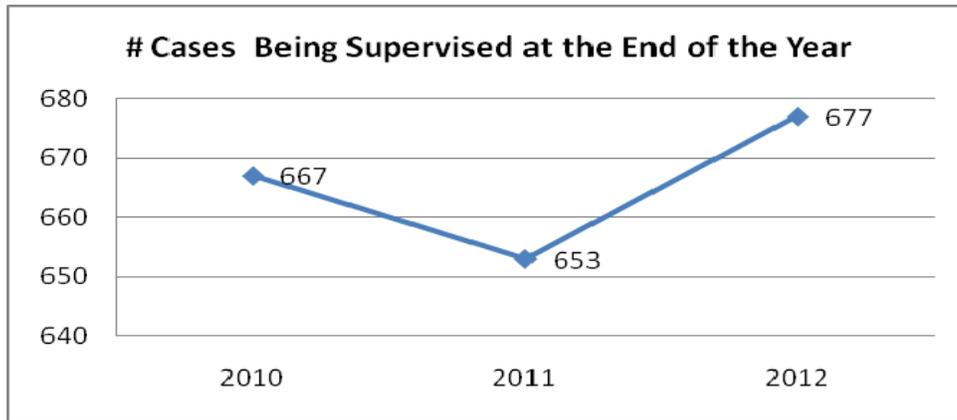
# Criminal Court Supervision

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

The two main goals of probation supervision are:

- ~ Protection of the Community, and
- ~ Rehabilitation of the Offender



### **Probation Facts:**

*At year end 2011, 41% of probationers in New York were being supervised for substance abuse crimes. (NYS DCJS OPCA Integrated Probation Registrant System (IPRS) as of 2/21/2012)*

# Specialized Supervision

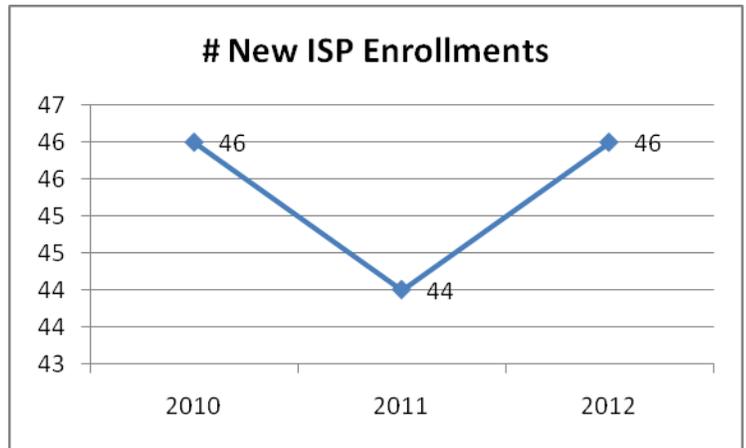
*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION (ISP)

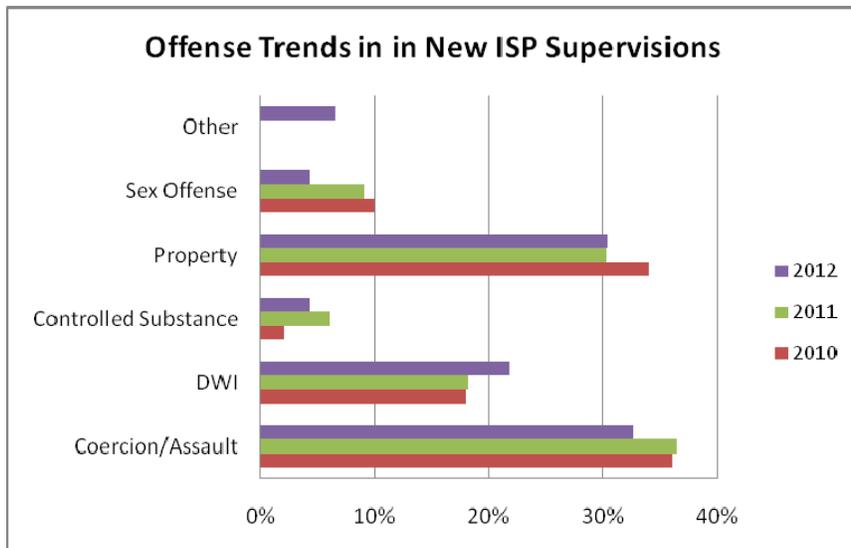
Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) is transitioning in name to the “**Greatest Risk**” caseload in 2013. It is primarily for highest risk, felony offenders and some misdemeanor offenders who are at significant risk of local or state incarceration. The caseload size is smaller than that of a regular supervision caseload, which allows the Probation Officer to provide more intensive supervision and service delivery through increased contacts with the probationer.

### ISP Caseloads Characteristics

- ~ Maximum of 35 cases
- ~ Minimum of two face to face contacts per week
- ~ Minimum of two home visits per month
- ~ Frequent collateral contacts (family, employers, treatment providers, etc.)
- ~ Supervised by Senior Probation Officers proficient in use of Electronic Monitoring, SCRAM and Computer Technology Monitoring.



During 2012, 46 high risk offenders were newly placed on ISP. Of these 46 cases, 13 were upgraded to ISP supervision after being determined to need a higher level of supervision while being supervised on a core caseload. ISP supervision increases probation contact with offenders in an effort to improve compliance, and to enhance community safety.



### Probation Facts:

*The overall success rate for the ISP caseload in 2012 was 59%, a 10% improvement from 2011!*

# Specialized Supervision

*Submitted by Michael Herrling, DWI Probation Officer*

## DWI SUPERVISION CASELOAD

This department has had a specialized DWI Probation Officer for over twenty years. Currently there are two officers assigned to this caseload.

### Why have a specialized DWI caseload?

- ~ There are more DWI arrests/convictions than in any other offense category. In 2012, there were **453** DWI arrests in Tompkins County with **93** of those resulting from an automobile crash.
- ~ Approximately **1/3** of the total cases supervised by this department are DWI cases.

**2012 DWI Arrest Demographics**

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**44% between age 21 - 29**

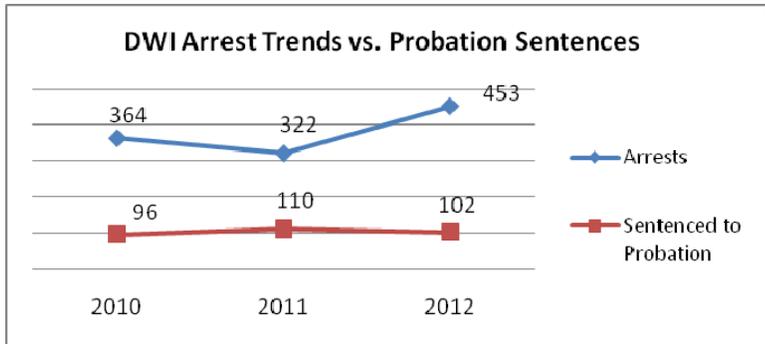
**18% between age 30 - 39**

**28% Female**

**72% Male**

The role of the specialized DWI officer is to ensure that the offender obtains necessary treatment while monitoring his/her behavior in the community for the purpose of public safety. The DWI Probation Officer's responsibilities include:

- ~ Completing pre-sentence investigation and subsequent supervision of persons convicted of DWI.
- ~ Intensive supervision of a caseload averaging approximately **45** probationers.
- ~ Home visits conducted a minimum of one time per month with many visits occurring on weekends.
- ~ Random bar checks.
- ~ Administering Alco-sensor tests for the purpose of detecting alcohol use.



## New Driver's License Regulations in 2012

- ~ On September 25, 2012 Governor Andrew Cuomo announced regulations to protect New Yorkers from **Persistent and Dangerous Drunk Drivers**. The new regulations affected individuals that have three or four VTL 1192 convictions within the past 25 years retroactively by imposing an additional 5 year revocation period beyond their statutory revocation period.
- ~ Once relicensed, the individual will receive a conditional license only for the next five years, while being required to maintain a functioning ignition interlock device during this same time period. Any individual that has five or more VTL 1192 convictions on their driving record will receive a **lifetime revocation of their driving privileges**.

# Evidence Based Programs

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## **THINKING FOR A CHANGE (T4C) - Evidenced Based Practice Curriculum**

Thinking for a Change is a recognized cognitive behavioral change curriculum developed by the National Institute of Corrections and supported by the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. It is considered ***best practice*** in the field of supervision for offenders. The curriculum is taught in a small group format to our medium to highest risk offenders and consists of 22 lesson plans. The goal of the curriculum is to ultimately ***reduce recidivism***.

This department currently has six probation officers trained to teach this important curriculum and groups are held twice a year.

### **What the curriculum teaches:**

- ~ Thinking is an internal behavior which can be controlled and changed to impact external behavior
- ~ How to pay attention to and recognize thinking that leads to trouble
- ~ How to respond to anger
- ~ Social skills and problem solving

In 2012 the department held its second year of Thinking For a Change groups for adolescents. This cognitive behavioral change program targeted our most at risk youth ages 13-16 years old. The youth and their parents were asked to attend an orientation prior to the start of the group and were invited to attend a graduation at the end. They were also required to sign a contract and commit to attending the program for the entire summer.

The group began with 8 participants and 6 of those successfully completed the program.

### Activities included:

- ~ Meetings twice per week
- ~ Role Plays
- ~ Class Discussions
- ~ Homework

### ***What parents have said:***

- \* *"She has calmed down a lot. I appreciate all of the time that has been put into this program."*
- \* *"He has been communicating more. I can almost reason with him most of the time. I thank you for that!"*

### ***What students have said:***

- \* *"It gives me step by step thinking of choices and consequences."*
- \* *"It was helpful because it makes me think of things I wouldn't have."*

### **Probation Facts:**

*Juveniles who participated in T4C in 2011 have had no further contact with the probation department to date.*

# Performance Measures

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## 2012 PERFORMANCE MEASURES - How Are We Doing?

This department has identified several benchmarks that we consider important measurements of our performance with the adult and juvenile populations under our supervision. Performance measures drive departmental policy and assist in determining allocation of resources to improve outcomes. The following measurements were collected at time of case closing during the year 2012. Data collection and analysis of departmental performance will be an ongoing process for 2013.

<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>242 Adult Cases Closed 2012</i>	<i>31 Juvenile Cases Closed 2012</i>
<b>Law Abiding Behavior</b>	81% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation	74% of case closures did not incur a new JD charge or adult criminal charge during the term of probation
<b>Resistance to Drug and Alcohol Use</b>	Of the 1522 drug screens conducted by this department, 92% were negative for substances	Of the 20 youth ordered to participate in treatment, 50% completed treatment or were in good standing with treatment at time of case closing
<b>Restitution to Victims</b>	Of the \$65,816.04 restitution ordered, 47% was collected by the time of case closing	100% of restitution was collected by the time of case closing
<b>Restorative Community Service</b>	72% of the 3724 hours of community service ordered was satisfied by case closing	79% of the 593 hours of community service ordered was satisfied by case closing
<b>Mental Health</b>	68% of those court ordered to participate in mental health treatment did so and 59% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing	Of the 20 youth ordered to participate in mental health treatment, 100% participated and 80% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing
<b>Case Closing Status</b>	67% of cases were closed successfully	71% of cases were closed successfully

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING

The Electronic Monitoring Program provides 24-hour GPS home monitoring of an offender through the combined technology of an electronic transmitter bracelet, Global Positioning Satellite and cell tower technology. This is a cost-effective Alternative to Incarceration program for high risk adult offenders, and it is used with juveniles as an alternative to detention.

**Probation Facts:**

*The use of Electronic Monitoring allows a probation officer to limit a probationer's free time out of the home, and closely monitor and verify their daily activities in the community.*

In 2012, 26 adult offenders completed approximately 90 days each for a total of 2,340 total days. Participation in electronic monitoring costs \$7.25 per day per offender compared to incarceration at \$84.00 per day. While not appropriate for all offenders, Electronic Monitoring demonstrates some clear benefits for part of the population served by the probation department.

## Estimated Cost Comparison

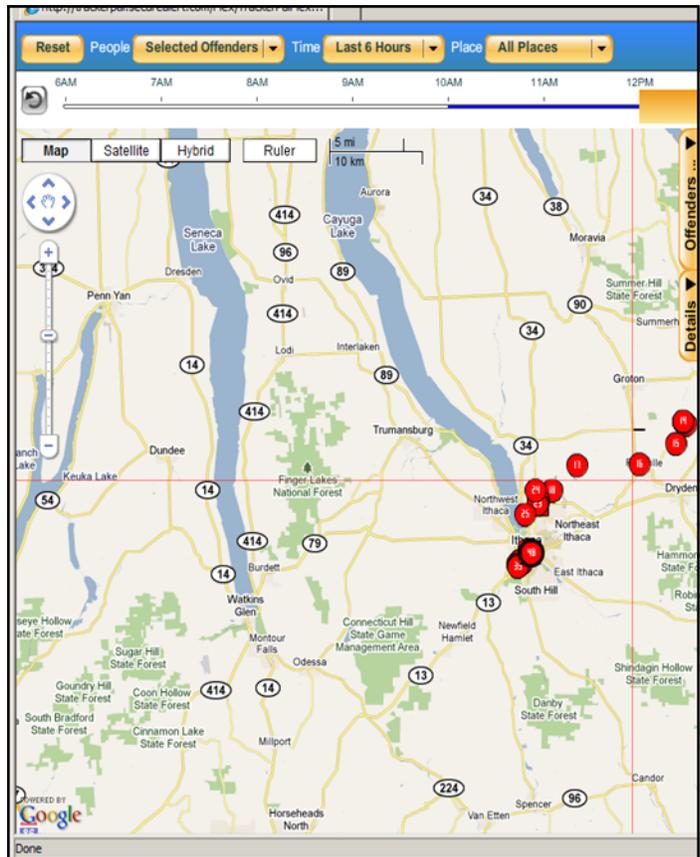
*Average Incarceration Costs if inmates are boarded out to other jails:*

2,340 days @ \$84.00/day totals \$196,560.00.

*EM Costs:*

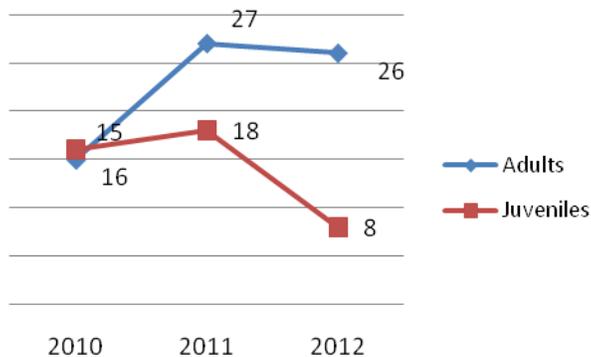
2,340 days @ \$7.25/day totals \$16,965.00.

*Taxpayer Savings for 2012: **\$179,595.***



Electronic Monitoring Report - the red dots represent the offender's movements within a specific time period.

**Electronic GPS Monitoring Trends**



## **Probation Facts:**

**\$7.25-** Daily cost of electronic monitoring compared to the higher cost of incarceration.

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Abigail Bixby, Probation Officer and Susan Moore, Systems Analyst*

## TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTION AND MONITORING

The department continues to implement and develop the **Technology Restriction and Monitoring program** that was launched in 2008. This program is an important tool for restricting and monitoring an offenders on line usage as a way to prevent and deter high risk behaviors that could ultimately lead to recidivism.

We continue to use monitoring software that provides weekly reports of the activity on an offender's computer. **Biometric devices** are used on computers that are shared with household members, to increase accountability for the offender and protect the privacy of users who are not under the authority of the courts or this department.



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**“Sexual victimization of children is heinous. Unfortunately, for all its wonders, the Internet has facilitated a dramatic increase in this type of crime. This is manifested in both the exponential growth of the development, distribution, and viewing of child pornography, as well as in the luring of children into harmful real-world situations.”**

*“Remote Computer Monitoring: Managing Sex Offenders’ Access to the Internet.”*  
*Journal of Offender Monitoring. Volume 21, no. 1 (2009): 11-29.*

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The Electronic Securing and Targeting of Online Predators Act (**e-STOP**) requires, as a condition of probation or parole, **mandatory restrictions** on a sex offender's access to the Internet where the offender's victim was a minor, the Internet was used to commit the offense, or the offender was designated a level 3 (highest level) sex offender. Since its enactment in 2008, e-STOP has helped remove more than **24,000** accounts and online profiles linked to registered sex offenders in New York State. (Source: NYS Assembly and NYS Attorney General's Office websites)

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE MONITORING TOOLS

For probationers with substance abuse/dependency issues, the use of monitoring tools is an essential part of providing supervision. Specific conditions of probation allow this department to use these tools. These tools also help enforce sobriety while the offender has time to learn and work a program of recovery.

### Alcosensors

An Alcosensor is a hand held device that ascertains a probationer's use of alcohol. The probationer is required to blow into the device which will register a BAC reading should any alcohol be detected in the breath sample. Probation Officers subject probationers to a test both in the office and in the field, on a random basis or when suspicion of alcohol use is present. Most probationers admit to alcohol consumption when faced with a positive reading on an Alcosensor.



### Urine Screens

This department conducts supervised urine screens of probationers utilizing a 12 or 5 panel dip test. A wide variety of substances can be detected. Results of the screen are known within 5 minutes of conducting the test. Probationers are required to pay \$7 for each panel test.

### Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM)

This device is an ankle bracelet that monitors alcohol consumption 24/7 by measuring the amount of alcohol that migrates through the skin, a predictable result of alcohol consumption. The department uses this device for our DWI population as a way to aid recovery based behavior. The device is worn for a period of 90 days. Probation Officers are able to download the readings of the device directly into their computers during an office visit with the probationer.



### Probation Facts:

**\$5.30** - Daily cost of SCRAM compared to the high cost of incarceration.

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE

DWI offenders are required to install this device on every vehicle they own or operate per the law if so directed by the Court so that the offenders alcohol use and driving behavior can be immediately addressed. The Ignition Interlock device requires the offender to provide a breath sample prior to starting the vehicle. If alcohol is detected the device prohibits the offender from starting the car. The Probation Officer receives immediate notification of any high BAC readings.

The Tompkins County Probation Department only uses Class III Ignition Interlock Devices which take a digital photograph of the person attempting each vehicle start.



**Ignition Interlock Usage Report**

**Note:** Time zone is Eastern

1 2 250 events View most recent entries first  View image thumbnails

Log Date	Time	Log Message
02-04-2011	8:55:53 PM	Car Stop
	8:49:23 PM	Car Start
	8:49:16 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=20 BL=10 AT=8.4C BT=23.2C RV=50 T=0.17s
	6:45:35 PM	Car Stop
	6:41:07 PM	ROLL-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=9 AT=10.5C BT=27.0C RV=50 T=0.33s
02-03-2011	6:33:42 PM	Car Start
	6:33:34 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=11 AT=6.1C BT=24.8C RV=48 T=0.41s
	7:01:01 PM	Car Stop
	6:54:23 PM	ROLL-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=8 AT=15.9C BT=28.8C RV=49 T=0.73s
	6:46:56 PM	Car Start
	6:46:49 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=24 BL=10 AT=12.7C BT=27.7C RV=50 T=0.17s
	6:46:19 PM	Invalid sample --- pressure
	5:12:35 PM	Car Stop
	5:08:29 PM	ROLL-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=26 BL=8 AT=17.8C BT=30.0C RV=50 T=1.05s
	4:59:04 PM	Car Start
4:58:57 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=7 AT=15.0C BT=27.3C RV=50 T=1.53s	
3:34:03 PM	Car Stop	
3:30:19 PM	Car Start	
3:30:12 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=24 BL=7 AT=18.7C BT=29.3C RV=50 T=0.57s	

Internet | Protected Mode: O

**Probation Facts:**

*Alcohol Ignition Interlocks are a proven tool to effectively reduce impaired driving, provide enhanced safety to the public and support long-term risk reduction among drunk drivers.*

# Treatment Court Programs

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Supervisor and Dave Wolf, Deputy Director*

## ITHACA COMMUNITY TREATMENT & TOMPKINS COUNTY FELONY DRUG COURT

The goal of the Ithaca Community Treatment Court (Misdemeanor) and Tompkins County Felony Drug Treatment Court is to assist the participants of those programs in breaking the cycle of addiction and criminal activity. The Treatment Court programs provide the defendant with a highly structured environment that combines judicial oversight, probation supervision, substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, graduated sanctions/responses and education/employment training in an effort to encourage positive behaviors and reduce recidivism.

Senior probation officers are assigned to the Treatment Courts, and these officers play an important role in the supervision of the participants and providing program services. Other team members include the judge and court staff, assistant district attorney, defense attorneys, program coordinator, substance abuse counselors, forensic counselor, education/employment counselors and other community members. These members work together to closely monitor the progress of each participant and provide services to assist the participants in changing problem behaviors. Other programs offered by the Probation Department play a supportive role to the Treatment Courts' success, specifically the Service Work Alternative Program (our supervised community service program) and the Day Reporting Program located in the Community Justice Center.

### 2012 at a Glance

#### Felony Drug Court

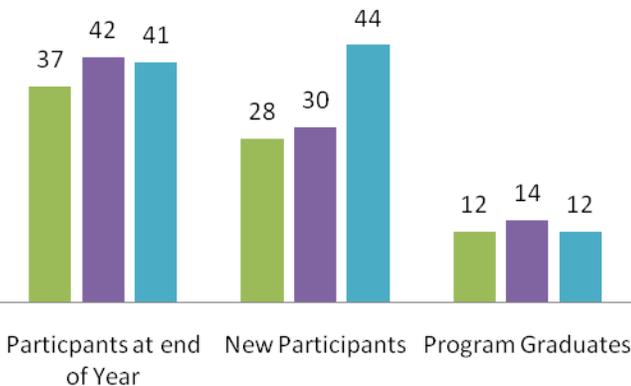
- ~ 44 new admissions
- ~ 12 participants graduated
- ~ 41 current participants at the end of 2012
- ~ Since inception of the program in April 2000, 146 participants have graduated

#### Ithaca City Treatment Court

- ~ 42 new admissions
- ~ 15 participants graduated
- ~ 18 current participants at the end of 2012
- ~ Since inception of the program in January 1998, 215 participants have graduated

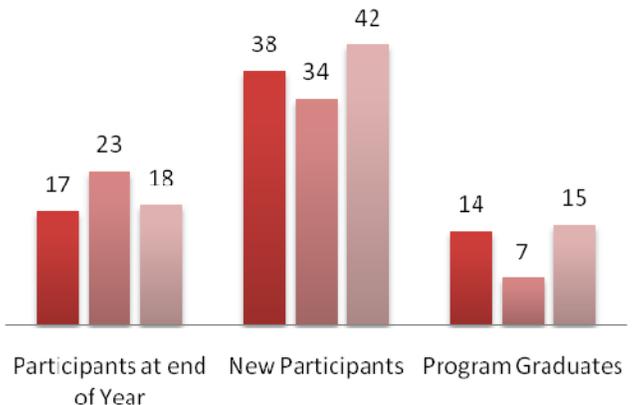
### Felony Treatment Court Trends

■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012



### Ithaca City Treatment Court Trends

■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012



# Community Service Programs

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

The Department of Probation and Community Justice operates several supervised community service programs for various populations. The benefits of community service are numerous. The participant gains work skills and self-esteem, and when ordered as a condition of probation or conditional discharge, the experience allows the participant to repay the community for criminal behavior. Over 40 worksites reap the benefits of the work provided.

## Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP)

- ~ Court ordered Alternative to Incarceration program for adults who have been convicted of a nonviolent crime
- ~ In 2012, **3,796** hours of service was performed in our community



*SWAP Supervisors Bill Apgar and Jim Bond*

### Some of our worksites:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Cops, Kids &amp; Toys</li> <li>* Friends of the Library</li> <li>* Willow Glen Cemetery</li> <li>* Enfield Harvest Festival</li> <li>* Fingerlakes ReUse Center</li> <li>* Varna Community Center</li> <li>* Cornell University Dump &amp; Run</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Adopt A Highway</li> <li>* TCAT</li> <li>* YMCA</li> <li>* Trumansburg Fair</li> <li>* County Government Departments</li> <li>* Area Public and State Parks</li> <li>* Trumansburg Winterfest</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

### Probation Facts:

*In 2012, the Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP), helped raise nearly \$23,000.00 for Cops Kids & Toys by working at the Cornell University Dump and Run worksite.*

# Community Service Programs

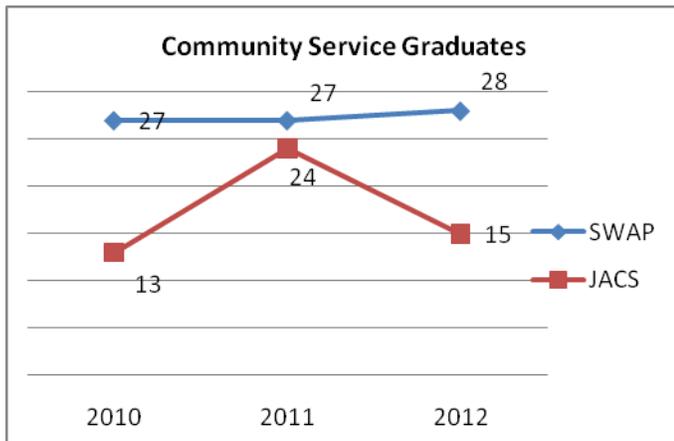
*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## The Juvenile Accountability Community Service (JACS)

- ~ This program is intended to provide the youth with a way of repaying the community for his or her behavior and hopefully has them internalize the value of such service.
- ~ In 2012, 183 hours of service was performed in our community.

## The Work Experience Program (WEP)

- ~ Run in conjunction with the Tompkins County Department of Social Services for individuals who receive public assistance and are considered work eligible.
- ~ In 2012, 1,749 hours of service was performed in our community.



“The Cayuga Chamber Orchestra is very grateful for the help SWAP was able to provide. Just knowing they are involved in the community with so many worthwhile organizations makes Ithaca a better place to live.”

*- WK, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra*

“I am writing again this year to thank your department for the help we get from SWAP. They are essential to us to maintain the support that we give to the Tompkins County Public Library and the Fingerlakes Library System.”

*- BB, Fall Book Sale Coordinator*

“On behalf of the Enfield Community Council, I want to thank you for your generous donation of time to help with set up. Your contribution was an important part of making the 2012 Harvest Festival happen.”

*- AR, Harvest Festival Chair*

### Probation Facts:

*The Community benefits from Community Services by saving taxpayers jail costs and retuning thousands of hours of valuable work performed by volunteers. In 2012, the total hours of community service performed by participants in all programs = 5,728 hours of work in the local area!!*

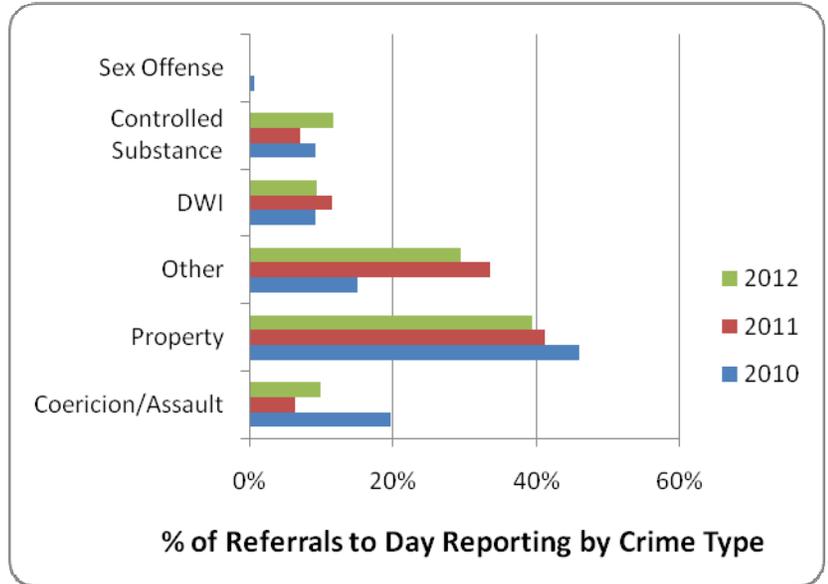
# Day Reporting

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*

The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program, located in the Community Justice Center (CJC), is one component of the Department's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI). The program is a structured, secure learning environment intended to provide stability, education, and personal advancement for individuals who would otherwise be facing a period of incarceration, and for individuals who are attempting to reintegrate back into the community following a period of incarceration.

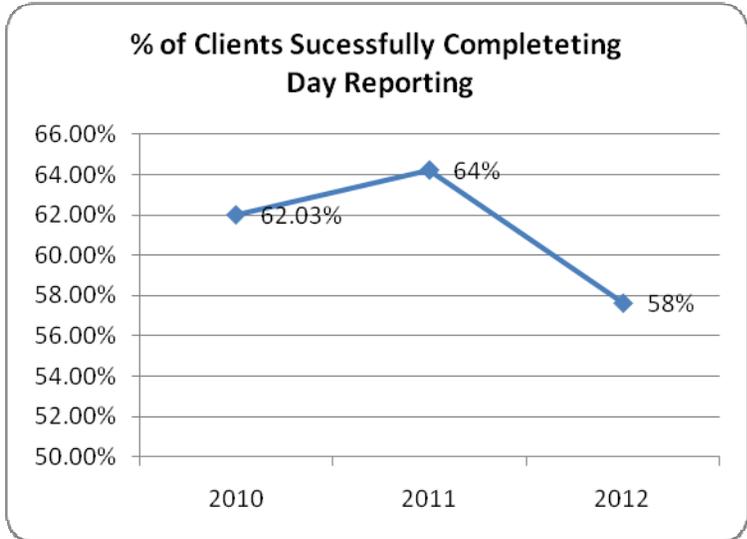
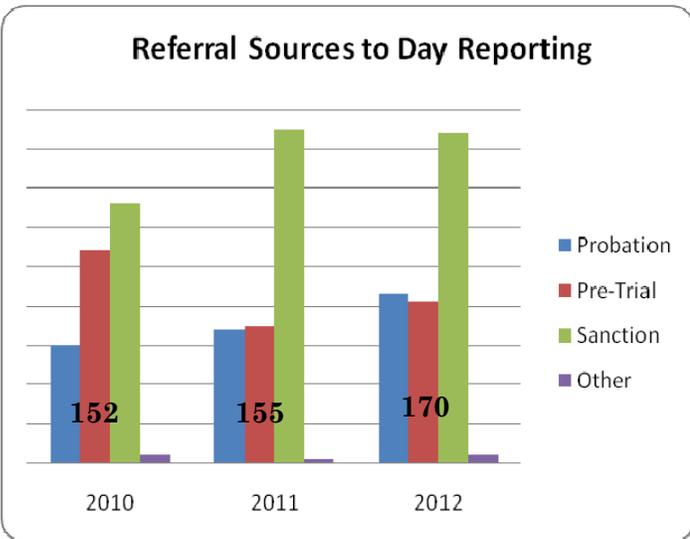
## What we do:

- ~Provide daily programming and educational classes to clients including Substance Abuse, Emotions Management, Financial Management, Mental Health, Health Issues and Nutrition.
- ~Provide educational and employment services.
- ~Provide referrals to outside agencies including Department of Social Services, Red Cross, Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic, Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services, Alcohol Drug Counsel, and the Advocacy Center.
- ~Offer support with housing, mental health and substance abuse services



## Who we serve:

- ~Clients 16 years and older, who have legal histories and are in need of supervision and services.
- ~Clients who are remanded to jail may be released to Day Reporting for supervision and services if deemed appropriate by the judge of jurisdiction.
- ~Clients at all stages of the legal process, from Pre-Trial, Presentence, to Probation Violators and Parolees.



# Day Reporting

## Education Services

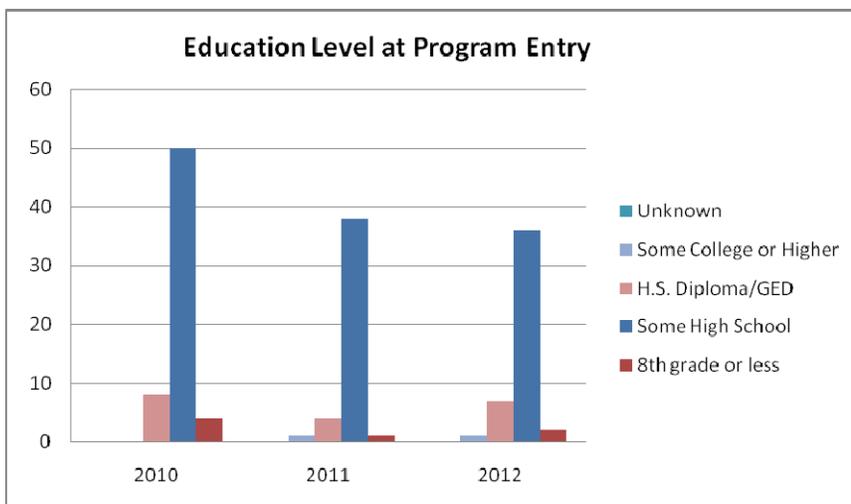
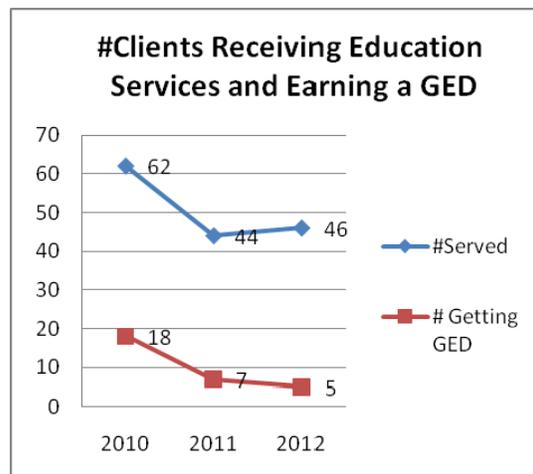
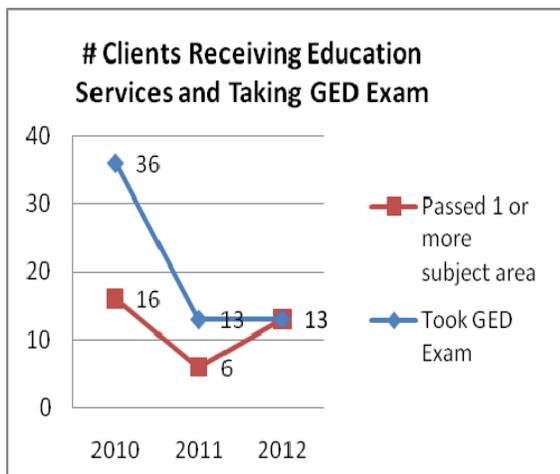
*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*

### GED Test Requirements:

~In order for a student to take the GED test, the student must take and pass GED practice tests (predictors) in the 5 subject areas of Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science, and Math. The student must score at least a 450 on each of those tests in order to sit for the actual GED test.

~This practice test requirement served as merely a guideline in previous years and was not strictly enforced until 2011. As a result of these new practice test requirements there are fewer clients taking the GED Exam.

~The NYS policies for taking the GED test will change again in 2014. A test fee will be charged and those students failing one or more subject area will be required to take the whole test again in all five subjects.



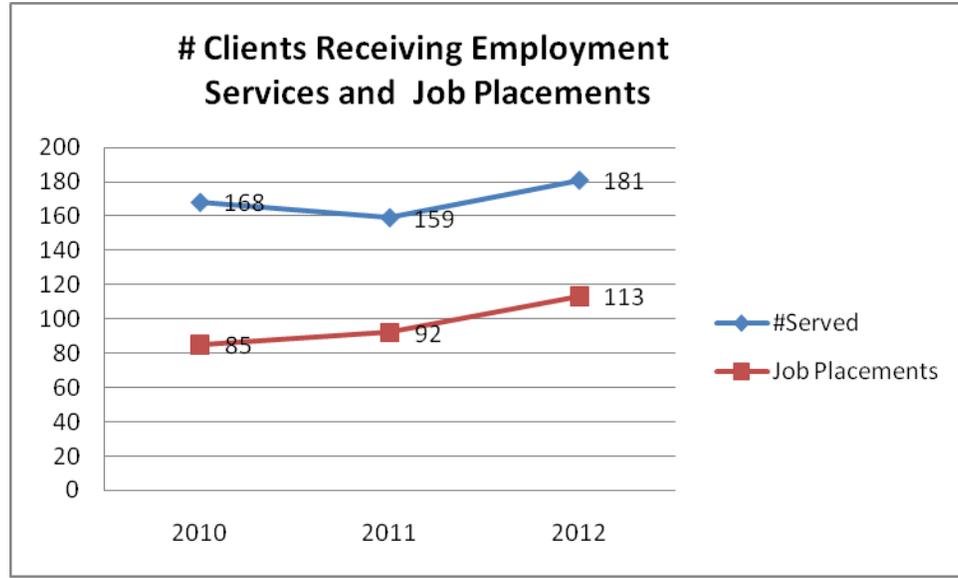
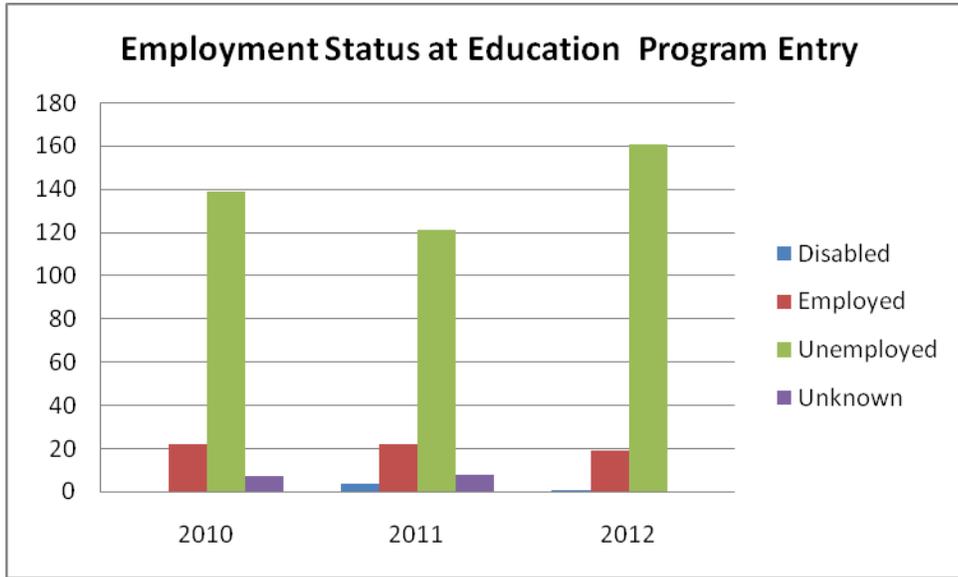
### Probation Facts:

*During 2012, 100% of those receiving education services that took the GED exam passed at least one or more subject area.*

# Day Reporting

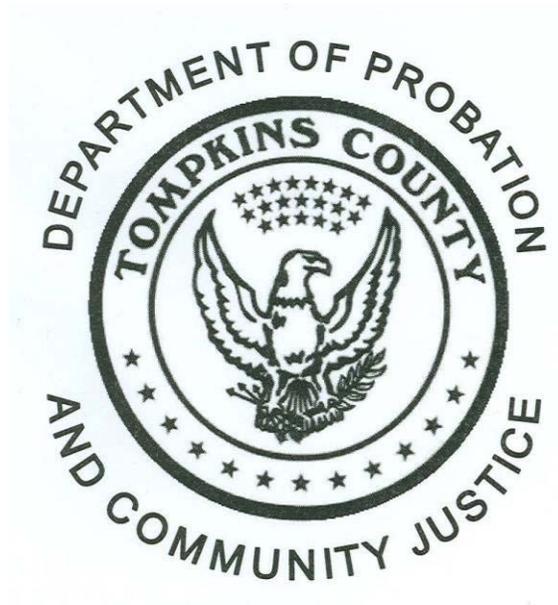
## Employment Services

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*



**Probation Facts:**

*During 2012, 62% of those receiving employment services obtained employment.*



**TOMPKINS COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
of PROBATION and COMMUNITY JUSTICE  
320 West State/Martin Luther King Jr. Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850**