

**Tompkins County  
Department of Probation and  
Community Justice**

**2008  
Annual Report**

*Probation Works:  
Pathways to affect change for  
a better community*

*Photo by Probation Officer Abigail Bixby, Shindagin Hollow State Forest*



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# Director's Message



**TOMPKINS COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
of PROBATION and COMMUNITY JUSTICE**  
320 West State Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850

**April 2009**

As the newly appointed Probation Director since July 2008, it is with great pleasure that I present to you this Department's 2008 Annual Report. I am proud of my dedicated staff and the important work they carry out on a daily basis, as we continue to walk that delicate balance between providing our probationers rehabilitative services while simultaneously promoting public safety. This report reflects the hard work of this Department, and I commend my entire staff for their efforts.

The transition in leadership within this Department was accomplished quickly and smoothly. I maintain the overall philosophy that was long held by the previous Director--the belief that all people have the potential for positive change, that probationers must be held accountable to their victims and to the community whom they have harmed by their actions, and that the use of graduated sanctions best promotes positive behavior. Of course, the field of Probation continues to evolve, and so this Department also must move forward and embrace modern practices and resources which have been proven to assess risk and reduce recidivism. Evidence-Based Practices now constitute the cutting edge philosophy of probation work, and it is my goal to train staff in their application and ensure that staff implement them faithfully and consistently.

While I foresee a challenging year ahead in achieving the goals set for 2009, I am also filled with enthusiasm for the work ahead. I am confident that this Department will continue to provide quality services to the courts, victims and the community while we challenge our past practices and learn new ones that are proven to enhance positive change in our probationers.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Buechel  
Probation Director

# Our 2009 Goals

1. **Evidence Based Practice Initiatives**-All of the following have been approved and validated by the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives and are considered the best practices in the probation field.

A. The **COMPAS** risk and needs assessment shall be completed on the adult criminal population both at the investigation and supervision phase. This tool assists probation staff in determining the appropriate supervision level assignment and criminogenic needs of our probationers for effective case planning.

B. Training of the Family Court Unit in the application and implementation of the **Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI)** for risk and needs assessment of the juvenile population for the purpose of effective case planning, strengthening families and avoiding placement. This training and implementation is due to occur in Spring 2009.

C. Implementation of **“Thinking for a Change” curriculum** for the medium to high risk adult criminal population for the purpose of affecting positive change in behavior with the goal of reducing recidivism. This curriculum will be a collaborative effort with the Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic and will be co-led by a Probation Officer and a Forensics Counselor. Implementation of this group is due to occur in Spring 2009.

2. **Review and Update the Department’s Policy and Procedure Manual.** This huge task is being completed by a volunteer work group of Probation Officers who will be reviewing existing policies in the areas of Intake, Supervision and Investigation.
3. **Redesign and improve our web page on the Tompkins County web site.** The goal is to make the site educational in terms of the services that we provide while also adding many links to resources at the state and local level.
4. **Continue to educate the Legislature and County Administrator about the program delivery of this Department.** Presentations are currently being made to the Public Safety Committee on a monthly basis as an attempt to educate legislators and the new County Administrator about the intricacies of this Department’s Alternative to Incarceration programs.

## 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.*

# 2008 Staff Listing

## Probation Director

Patricia Buechel  
Kathryn Leinthall (Retired 7/08)

## Deputy Director

David Wolf

## Administration

Probation Administrator  
Administrative Assistant  
Systems Analyst  
Senior Account Clerk Typist  
Senior Typist  
Keyboard Specialist  
Administrative Services Coordinator  
Probation Assistant

Faith Newkirk  
Laurel Rockhill  
Susan Moore  
Kelly Blake  
Linda Hubert  
Erma Peterson  
Ujjal Mukherjee  
Bernadette Stranger

## Probation Supervisors

Criminal Court Supervisor  
Family Court Supervisor  
Day Reporting Supervisor

Robin Chernow  
Jan Gorovitz  
Eileen Sommers

## Senior Probation Officers

Family Treatment Court  
Ithaca Community Treatment Court  
Ithaca Community Treatment Court  
Intensive Supervision Probation  
Intensive Supervision Probation  
Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation  
Tompkins County Felony Drug Court  
Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Robert J. Devens  
Stacie Burgos  
Linda Heberle  
William Bell  
Diane Burke  
Dan Cornell  
Harold Gregoire  
Jarrod Newcomb

## Probation Officers

Criminal Court  
Criminal Court and Domestic Violence  
Criminal Court - DWI  
Family Court  
Criminal Court and Support  
Criminal Court  
Family Court

Jennifer Atkinson  
Abigail Bixby  
Karla Brackett  
Karen Burns  
Carmen Collazo  
Karen M. Curione  
Denise Hayden

## Staff & Department Milestones

### Probation Officers (con't)

**Criminal Court - Sex Offenders**

**Criminal Court**

**Criminal Court**

**Family Court**

**Criminal Court and Domestic Violence**

**Family Court**

**Criminal Court**

Michael Herrling

Kate Horey

Judith B. Johnson

Gladys Larson

Paul Neugebauer

Christine Porcheddu-Ion

Susan Robinson

### Work Project Supervisors:

William Apgar

James Bond

### Security Officers:

Richard Brewer

James Perkins

### Transition Workforce Employment Specialist:

Kathy Lind

### Registered Nurse:

Cindy Cerquone

## *Years of Service to the Probation Department*

### *10+ Years*

William Apgar

William Bell

Kelly Blake

Karla Brackett

Carmen Collazo

Daniel Cornell

Jared Newcomb

Erma Petersen

Laurel Rockhill

Judith Johnson

Rob Devens

### *15+ Years*

Stacie Burgos

### *20+Years*

Patricia Buechel

Janice Gorovitz

Linda Heberle

Faith Newkirk

Harold Gregoire

Bernadette Stranger

David Wolf

Diane Burke

Eileen Sommers

### *25+ Years*

Robin Chernow

### *35+ Years*

Kathryn Leinthall  
(Retired July 2008)



# Restitution Collection

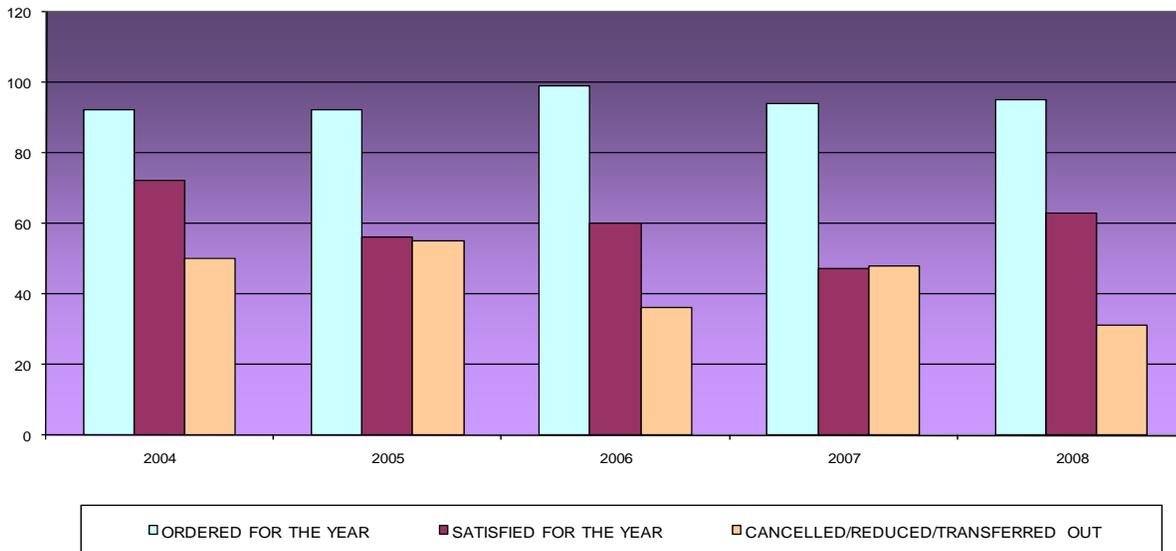
*Submitted by Laurel Rockhill, Administrative Assistant*

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 the victims, and report on the status of each case to the appropriate Court.

## 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT - COLLECTION PROGRAM

	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Interest & Other	Totals
<b>Beginning balance carried from 12/31/07</b>	\$15,725	\$142	\$448	\$125	\$50	\$16,490
<b>Money Received 01/08 - 12/08</b>	\$102,223	\$5,280	\$6,606	\$5,155	\$200	\$119,464
<b>Money Disbursed 01/08 - 12/08</b>	\$106,437	\$3,312	\$6,601	\$2,295	\$246	\$118,892
<b>End Balance 12/31/08</b>	\$11,511	\$2,109	\$453	\$2,985	\$4	\$17,061

## TOTAL # OF COLLECTION CASES



### Probation Facts:

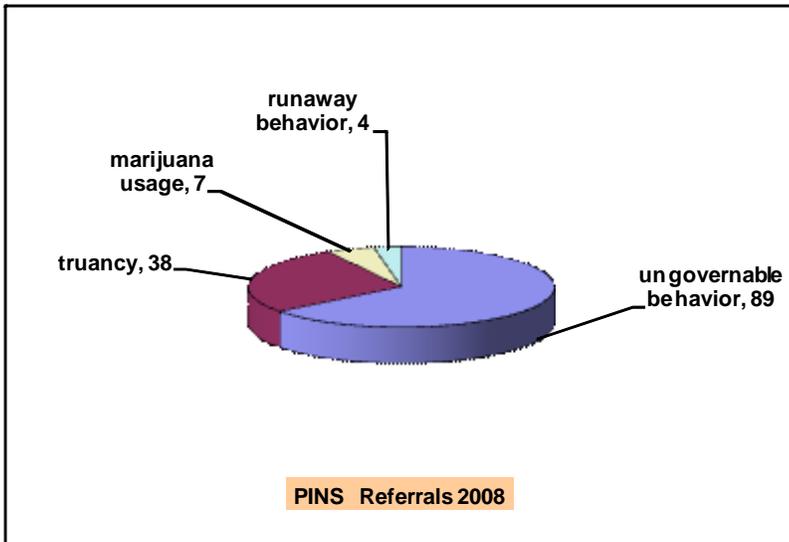
*“Restorative justice is a response to crime that focuses on restoring the losses suffered by victims, holding offenders accountable for the harm they have caused, and building peace within communities.”*

# Family Court Intake

*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).



## 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.

<u>In 2008:</u>	
~ 40% of the cases were closed as successfully adjusted	~ 44% of families were engaged in services
~ 70% of youth were referred for services	~ 39% reduction in PINS residential care services from 2007
~ 63% of youth were engaged in services	

*In 2008, the Tompkins County Probation Department received 138 PINS referrals. 58 complaints were initiated by parents, 78 by school administrators, and 2 by police.*

**The age breakdowns were:**

- 7 of these referrals were for youth ten and under,
- 20 for youth between the ages of eleven and twelve,
- 79 for youth between thirteen and fifteen, and
- 32 for youth sixteen and seventeen.

**Probation Facts:** To Date, **89%** of the youth that participated in Juvenile Delinquency Diversion completed the program successfully!!

### **PRE-PINS PROGRAM**

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.

- ~ 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.



*Early Intervention  
Can Keep  
Families Together*

### **In 2008:**

- ~ 38 youth were referred to the Pre-PINS program.
- ~ Of these referrals, 28 were received from schools and 10 from parents/guardians. There were 2 complaints for truancy, and 36 for ungovernable behavior.
- ~ 63% were closed successfully and diverted from going to a formal petition.
- ~ To date, 68% of the youth referred for Pre-PINS services in 2008 have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

### **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], attend a screening for Victim-Offender Conferencing, and remain law-abiding.

- ~ In 2008, this department received 82 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 82 tickets, 46 were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, 1 was withdrawn and 35 youth participated in this department’s Diversion program.
- ~ 89% of the youth who participated in the JD Diversion program were successful.

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. In 2008, the Family Court Unit received 175 “Information Only” calls.

# 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 done 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.

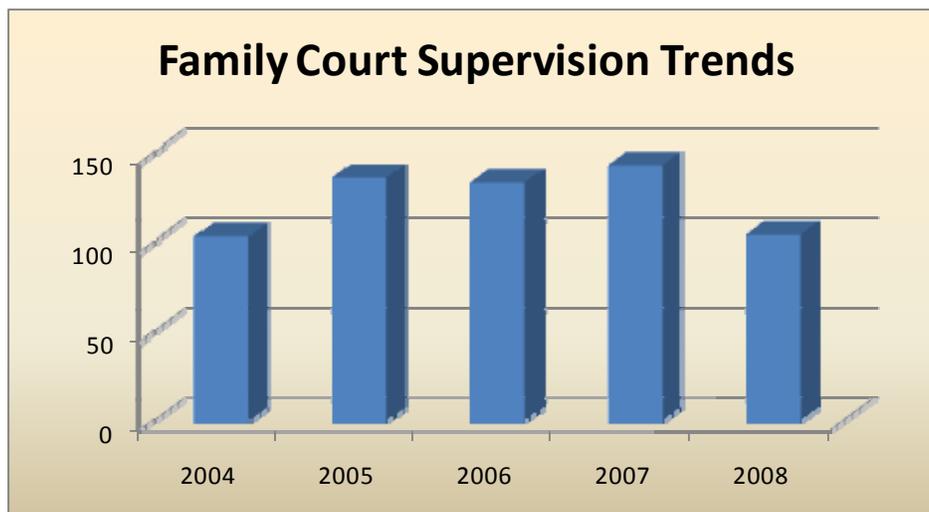
These reports provide information regarding:

- ~ Respondent's legal history;
- ~ Respondent's version of the petition before the court;
- ~ Respondent's ability to pay restitution;
- ~ A snapshot 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 their child.

## FAMILY COURT WORKLOAD SUMMARY

- ~ Provides Investigations for Family Court that involve matters of custody, visitation, adoption, PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision) and Juvenile Delinquents.
- ~ Provides the mandated diversion services for juveniles defined as a Person In Need of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquent

- \* 70 Family Court Investigations were completed
- \* 119 on average per month were Family Court supervised
- \* 138 PINS referrals received



# 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.

### **In 2008:**

- ~ 19 juveniles were placed on probation due to a Juvenile Delinquency Adjudication
- ~ 29 youth were placed on probation due to a PINS adjudication
- ~ 18 adults were placed on probation for failure to pay child support and an average of 34 individuals were supervised monthly
- ~ 14 adults entered into the Family Treatment Court Program

Probation supervision involves the adult or juvenile following a set of court ordered conditions that are tailored to meet their 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

*18 youths successfully completed 897 hours of community service in this department's supervised Juvenile Accountability Community Service program.*

### **A Parent Writes:**

*"Our son was recently in the Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) program. This was a difficult process for the whole family but the probation officer provided excellent guidance for all of us. He had an immediate grasp of the steps that needed to be taken to get our son back on track. He also understood where and when to draw the boundaries, how to motivate our son, and what intervention was needed and what should remain within the purview of the family.*

*Until this past fall, we were unaware of the PINS program. It is an important community resource, and we are very thankful that it was available."*

*-MB & FB*

# Family Treatment Court

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

The **Family Treatment Court (FTC)** is a multi-agency team response to child neglect cases identified by the Department of Social Services. These cases arise as a result of significant substance abuse by parents who are believed to have diminished ability to care for and protect their children. The program is designed to break the cycle of addiction and neglect through intensive supervision, judicial oversight, and quick access to community resources.

### FTC goals:

- ~ Provide parents with the necessary tools to support recovery through a strength based approach and referrals to community agencies
- ~ Strengthen the parents ability to provide a safe and healthy environment for their children

### The Role of Probation on the FTC Team:

- ~ Provide intensive supervision of the participant
- ~ Provide on-site testing for alcohol and substance abuse
- ~ Provide ongoing assessment of treatment needs and
- ~ Provide referrals to community resources

### The Role of DSS on the FTC Team:

- ~ Provide ongoing evaluation of the safety in the home
- ~ Implement visitation schedules and return home plans with participant's children
- ~ Provide resources to address mental health needs and to facilitate a weekly support group for the parents

*"Treatment Court and sobriety has made me open up and want more out of life. I can see myself in 5 years being someone I can be proud of. Mostly this program is a lot of people who want good things for you and your kids. Things we don't always know we wanted until we get them!"*

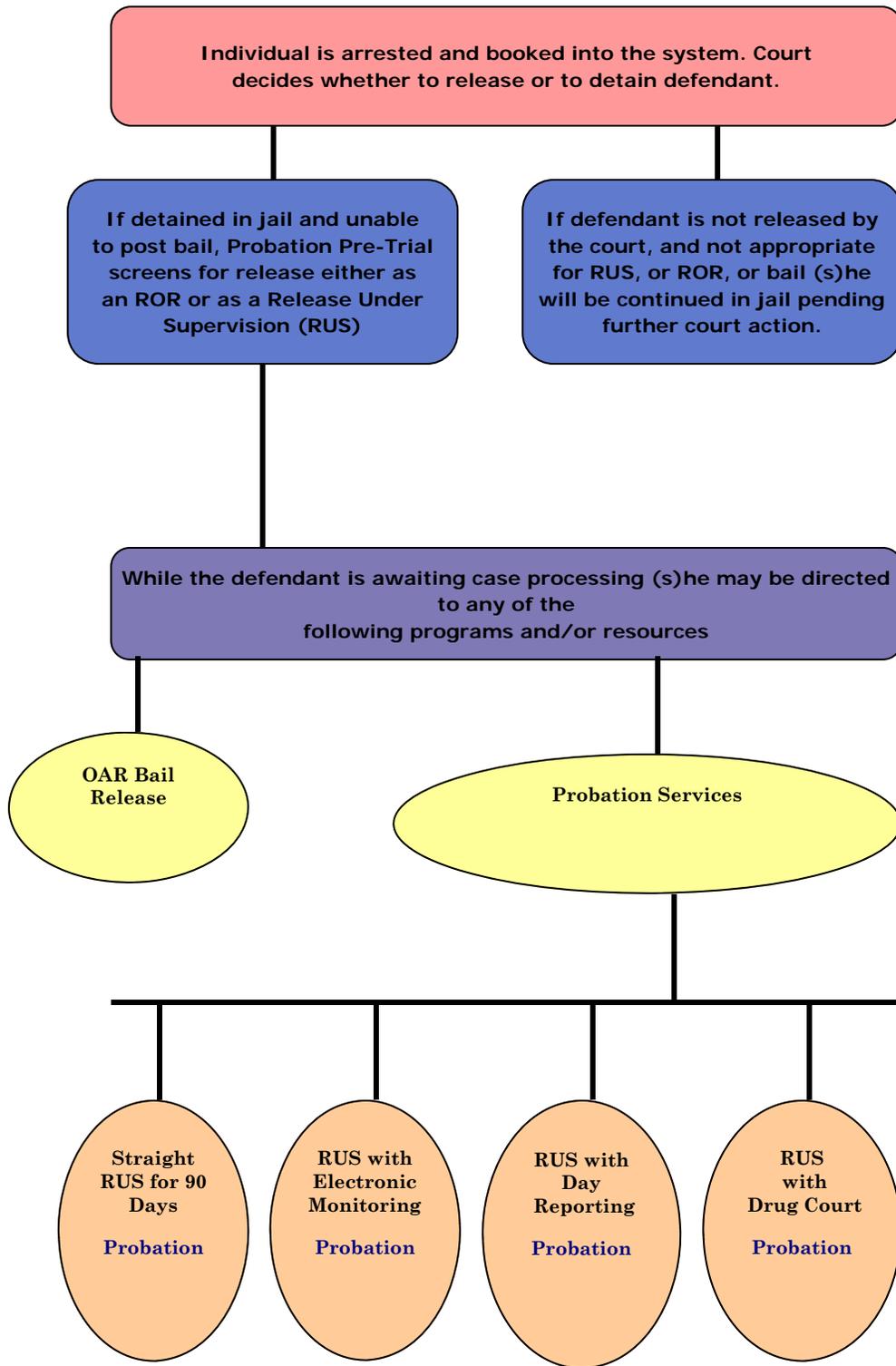
*-T.V.*

December 2008 Graduate,  
3 children were returned to her care during her participation with Family Treatment Court.

- \* *Of the 32 new program referrals in 2008, 14 individuals entered the program.*
- \* *Currently 17 are parents actively participating and 30 children are in the program.*
- \* *Average time to complete FTC is 18 months*
- \* *Since its inception, the Family Treatment Court has graduated 40 participants.*

The team also consists of a counselor from the Alcohol and Drug Council of Tompkins County and Cayuga Addiction Recovery Service as well as legal counsel for each participant and their children.

# Pre-Trial Services Flow Chart



# 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 daily and conducts an initial screening and personal interview with the defendants. 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 for appearing 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.

**Possible Recommendations:**

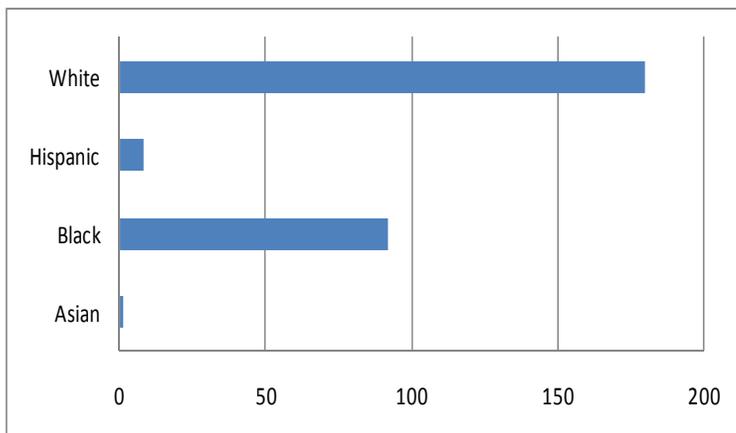
- ~ **Release on Recognizance (ROR)**
- ~ **Release Under Supervision (RUS) to Pre-Trial program or Day Reporting**
- ~ **Continue or Reduce Bail**

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.

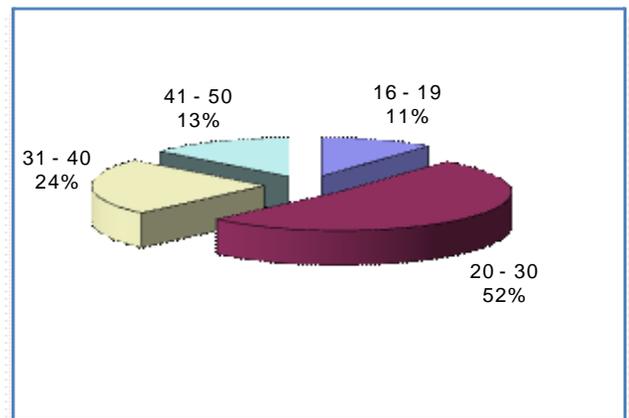
**PRE-TRIAL FACTS**

- \* *In 2008, 244 pre-trial release reports were completed for the courts.*
- \* *Electronic Monitoring can be used in conjunction with a RUS order from the court.*
- \* *An average of 12 individuals were supervised by this department's pre-trial RUS program on a monthly basis.*

**Ethnicity**



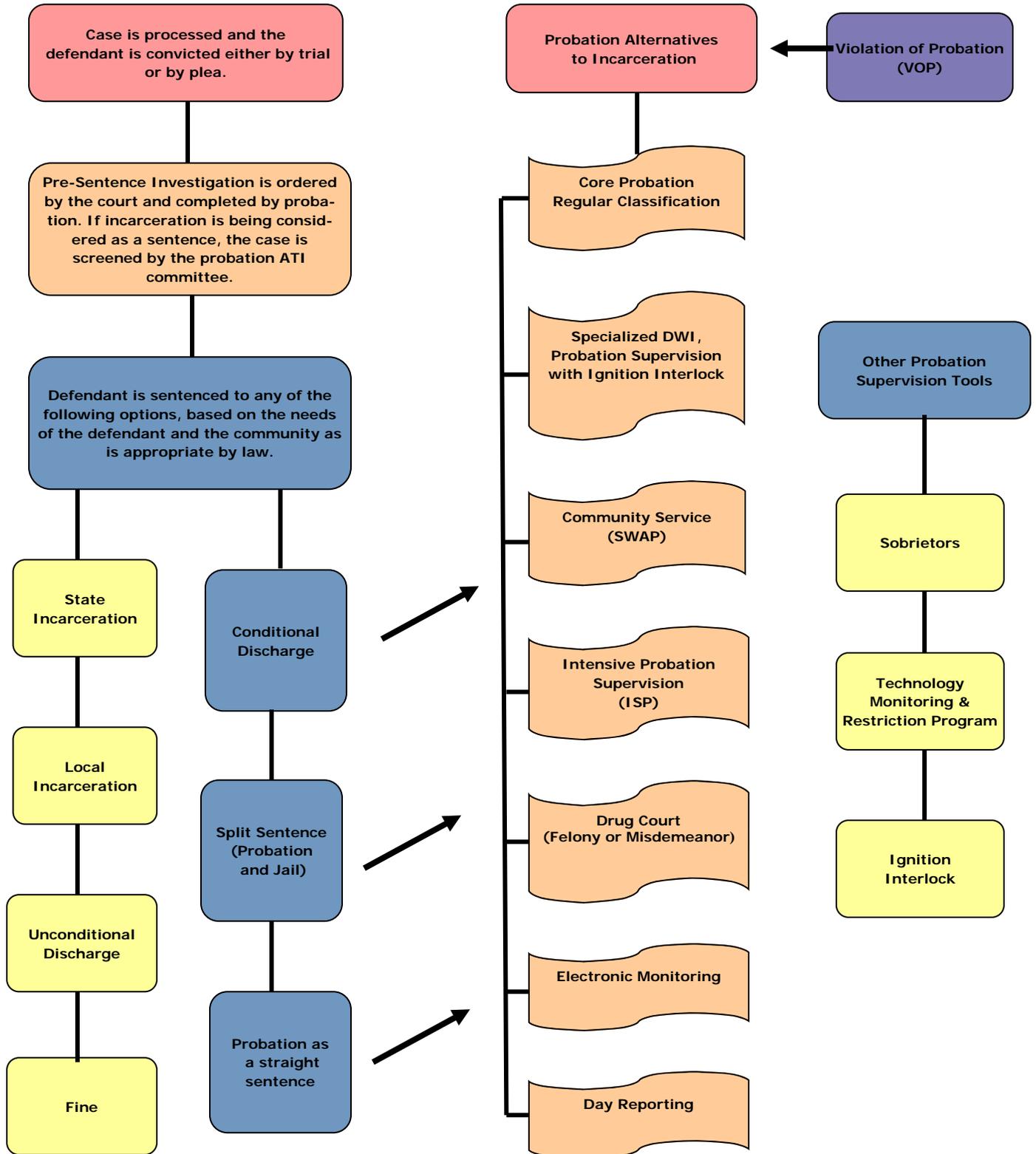
**Average Age at Interview**



# Criminal Court Flow Chart

## Sentencing Options

## Alternatives to Incarceration



# Criminal Court Investigations

*Submitted by Robin Chernow, Probation Supervisor*

## INVESTIGATIONS

The purpose of the criminal court probation investigation is to provide the sentencing court with accurate, reliable information in an objective and analytical format, so as to assist the court in making sentencing decisions.

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

- ~ drug and alcohol involvement and treatment
- ~ individualized treatment plans based on case needs and community protection, and
- ~ alternative to incarceration options.

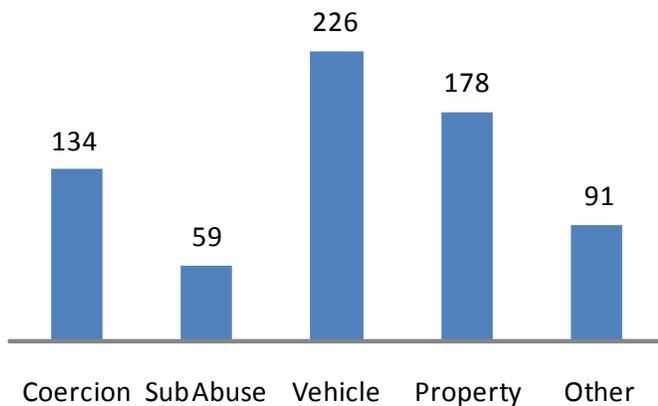
### **An Investigation Includes:**

- \* *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's of the crime*
- \* *information about the defendant's ability to make restitution or pay fines*

## CRIMINAL COURT UNIT WORKLOAD SUMMARY

- ~ Provides investigation reports and sentencing recommendations to the courts
- ~ Supervises Youthful Offenders and adults sentenced to probation by the courts.

### **2008 Supervision Cases by Major Offenses**



- \* *685 cases per month on average were supervised*
- \* *43 supervisions were Youthful Offender Status*
- \* *57 –average # cases supervised per officer*
- \* *589 Criminal Court Investigations were ordered , 234 Felony, 355 Misdemeanors*

# Criminal Court Supervision

*Submitted by Robin Chernow, Probation Supervisor*

## SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

One of the main functions of the Probation Department is the supervision of Youthful Offenders and adults sentenced to probation by the courts. The goals of probation supervision are twofold, the first being the protection of the community and the second being the rehabilitation of the offender. The court requires that each person fulfill certain conditions of their probation term. These conditions vary from case to case and are established according to the needs of the individual. Basic requirements set by the court include reporting to a probation officer, remaining in the jurisdiction of the court, maintaining employment or attending school and obeying all laws. Specific conditions tailored to the needs of the individual could include (but are not limited to) participation in substance abuse or mental health treatment, abstinence from alcohol and drugs, payment of restitution to the victim, drug testing and community service. It is the responsibility of the supervising probation officer to monitor compliance with mandated conditions and to notify the sentencing court if conditions are being violated. A sentence of probation is an alternative to incarceration. As such, when an individual violates the terms and conditions of their probation sentence, the sentence can be revoked and the court can resentence the individual.

### The two main goals of probation supervision are:

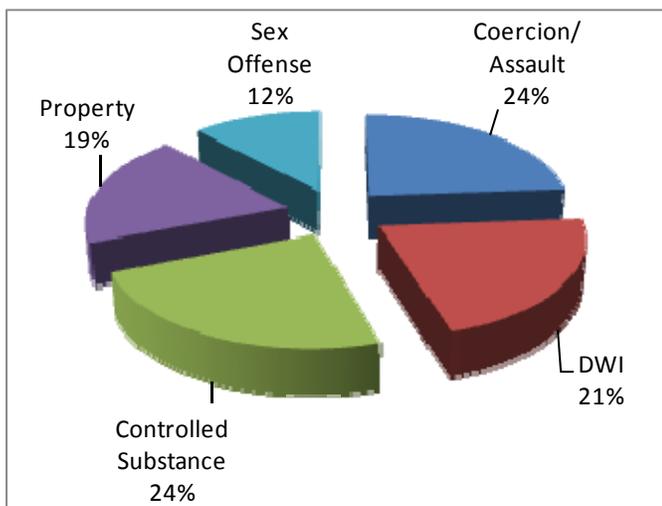
- \* *Rehabilitation of the Offender, and*
- \* *Protection of the Community*

## INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION (ISP)

Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) is one of our oldest Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) programs. Initiated by the state in 1979 to reduce reliance on state incarceration for felony level offenders, it was designed as an effort to improve probation outcomes by placing high-risk probationers in restricted caseloads where they could receive closer supervision and more extensive case management. In 1987, the focus of the program changed to that of providing an alternative sentencing option to the courts.

\* *39 high risk offenders entered the ISP program in 2008.*

\* *50% of all participants in the ISP program completed successfully.*



**2008 ISP Cases**

### ISP Caseloads Characteristics

- \* *Maximum of 25 cases*
- \* *Two face to face contacts per week*
- \* *Two home visits per month*
- \* *Frequent collateral contacts (friends, therapists, etc.)*
- \* *Failures to comply are addressed immediately*

# Specialized DWI Supervision

*Submitted by Probation Officer Karla Brackett*

This department has had a specialized DWI Probation Officer, at times two officers, for over twenty years.

## Why have a specialized DWI caseload?

- ~ There are more DWI arrests/convictions than in any other offense category. In 2008, there were 417 DWI arrests in Tompkins County with 102 of those resulting from an automobile crash.
- ~ There is a high recidivism rate (approximately 33%) with respect to DWI
- ~ Approximately 1/3 of the total cases supervised by this department are DWI cases.

*The role of the specialized DWI officer is to ensure that the offender is obtaining the necessary treatment to address their substance use while monitoring their behavior in the community for the purpose of public safety.*

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
- ~ Intense supervision of a caseload averaging approximately 35 probationers.
- ~ Unscheduled home visits conducted a minimum of one time per month with many visits occurring on week-ends.
- ~ Random bar checks.
- ~ Administering Alco-sensor tests for the purpose of detecting alcohol use.
- ~ Coordination of the Victim Impact Panel held three times per year. Since its inception in 2002, approximately 1,600 offenders have participated.

While on probation, DWI offenders are required to:

- ~ Maintain complete abstinence.
- ~ Participate in and complete recommended substance abuse treatment.
- ~ Not apply for his/her driver's license without the court's and probation's permission.
- ~ Install an Ignition Interlock device in their vehicle, which measures the blood alcohol level at every attempt to start the vehicle.
- ~ Two or more convictions in a five year period or a conviction of Aggravated DWI requires installation of the interlock device immediately.



*Ignition Interlock System*

# Electronic Monitoring (EM)

*Submitted by Faith Newkirk, Probation Administrator*

The Electronic Monitoring Program provides 24-hour home monitoring of an offender through the combined technology of an electronic bracelet and either a land-based telephone or cell tower technology. This is a cost-effective Alternative to Incarceration program for adults who pose minimal risk to the community, and it is used with juveniles as an alternative to detention.



**Electronic Monitoring Device**

**EM may be used**

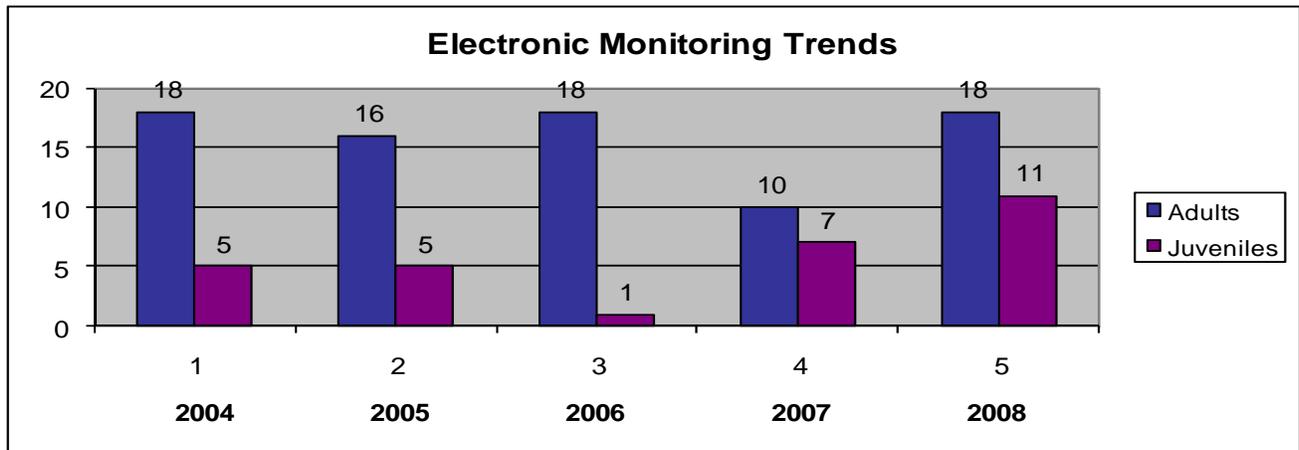
- ~ On a pre-trial basis as an alternative to bail
- ~ As a Criminal Court or Family Court condition of Probation
- ~ As a sanction after sentencing
- ~ As a disposition for a Violation of Probation
- ~ As a Family Court alternative to detention

The majority of the EM equipment used in Tompkins County contains GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) technology utilizing:

- ~ Real time GPS done with cell tower technology and 24 hours/day monitoring.
- ~ Passive GPS done with land telephone lines and 24 hours/day monitoring, but the information is gathered and provided after the fact.

***Probation Facts:***  
*The use of Electronic Monitoring for juveniles allows a probation officer to limit a youth's free time out of the home, and closely monitor and verify their daily activities in the community*

EM allows a Probation Officer to limit a probationer's free time out of the home and to closely monitor and verify his/her whereabouts in the community. The population for whom EM is available has been expanded with cell tower technology. Now, probationers without a stable residence or land-based telephone line can also be monitored.



**Probation Facts:** *Electronic Monitoring costs as little as \$3.14 a day compared to the high cost of incarceration.*

# Technology Monitoring

*Submitted by Susan Moore, Systems Analyst*

In 2008, the department launched a program to monitor the use of all electronic devices and software owned or used by specific offenders currently on Probation. The purpose of this monitoring is to determine that their use of technology is appropriate, legal, and within the parameters of their conditions of probation and/or treatment program plans while still allowing clients to conduct legitimate business within the technological environment that makes up our world.

## What is the process for monitoring?

- ~ Clients submit their computers to the Probation Department, where the Systems Analyst completes an audit of the computer using software which captures a history of websites, file names, images, etc., that may exist on the computer. (This includes data that has been deleted.)
- ~ A report is generated for the PO, who may share it with the treatment provider. This report may include our interpretation of the types of activities the probationer engages in such as chat rooms, youthful subjects, pornography subscriptions, surfing habits, etc.
- ~ Items that are determined to be inappropriate are deleted from the system and monitoring software is installed.



## How are multiple users in a household handled?

- ~ Through the use of biometric devices, we are able to monitor the activities of only those on probation.

## What type of filtering or controls can be set up?

- ~ Time Control Restrictions
- ~ Keyword Blocks
- ~ Block internet mediums such as chat rooms
- ~ Category Controls such as adult sites
- ~ Selective blocks of websites
- ~ Application Restrictions such as photo editing software, etc.

## How is the monitoring data reviewed?

- ~ The data can be reviewed remotely from a designated computer in the probation department and weekly reports are automatically generated.

## The program began in mid-2008

- ~ 11 computers were examined
- ~ 4 computers were monitored
- ~ Two (2) additional clients were blocked from internet access

# 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.

Both Treatment Courts have two senior probation officers assigned to them. 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.

*“Drinking and drugging was poison to my soul. Once I started using I could not stop until I had no more money left to spend. My life is different today because I don’t wake up regretting yesterday. I do know all things are possible if I stay clean and sober. Drug Court saved my life in such as I didn’t go to prison and it brought to a point of willingness to change. The gig was up!” - JB*

## 2008 AT A GLANCE

### Felony Drug Court

- ~ *16 new admissions*
- ~ *12 participants graduated*
- ~ *24 current participants at the end of 2008*
- ~ *Since inception of the program in April 2000, 95 participants have graduated*

### Ithaca Community Treatment Court

- ~ *30 new admissions*
- ~ *13 participants graduated*
- ~ *30 current participants at the end of 2008*
- ~ *Since inception of the program in January 1998, 160 participants have graduated*

# Community Service Programs

*Submitted by Dave Wolf, Deputy 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
- ~ The number of hours to be completed range from 50 to 300 hours depending on the level of the offense
- ~ Completion of the program is a condition of a probation sentence or Conditional Discharge.
- ~ Participants in the Drug Courts are ordered to SWAP as a sanction for noncompliance with program requirements
- ~ Participants in the Day Reporting program are required to perform community service weekly through the SWAP program

### Some of our worksites:

**Cops, Kids & Toys**

**Friends of the Library**

**Brooktondale & Varna  
Community Centers**

**Local Cemeteries**

**Cayuga Nature Center**

**Adopt A Highway**

**TCAT**

**County Government  
Departments**

**Area Public and State  
Parks**

**Tompkins County  
Youth Bureau**

The SWAP program has two full time Work Project Supervisors who operate shifts daily. They transport court ordered participants to various not for profit work sites throughout the county and teach good work ethics and job skills. Most participants come to enjoy their community service and seem to take pride in doing positive work in the community.

In 2008:

- ~ 31 individuals successfully completed the SWAP program
- ~ A total of 3,980 hours of community service was completed by all SWAP participants.

## The Juvenile Accountability Community Service (JACS)

- ~ Court ordered program for the juvenile population adjudicated in the family court system as either a Person In Need of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquent.
- ~ Participants are court ordered to complete community service as a condition of their juvenile probation sentence and hours generally range from 12 to 100 hours.
- ~ This program is intended to provide the youth with a way of repaying the community for their behavior and hopefully has them internalize the value of such service.

For the 2008 program year, **JACS participants performed a total of 897 hours** of community service and 18 participants successfully completed the program.

## 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.

**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 2008, the total hours of community service performed by participants in all programs = 6,647 hours of work in the local area!!*

# Day Reporting

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*

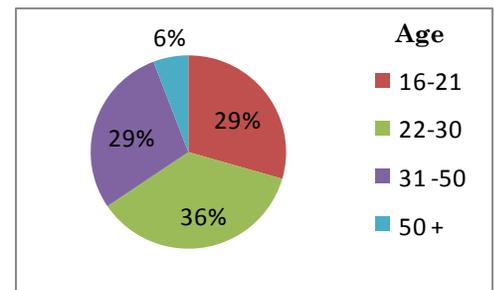
The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program, located in the Community Justice Center (CJC), is one component of the Department's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI). The program is a structured, secure learning environment intended to provide stability, education, and personal advancement for individuals 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, Presence, to Probation Violators and Parolees.

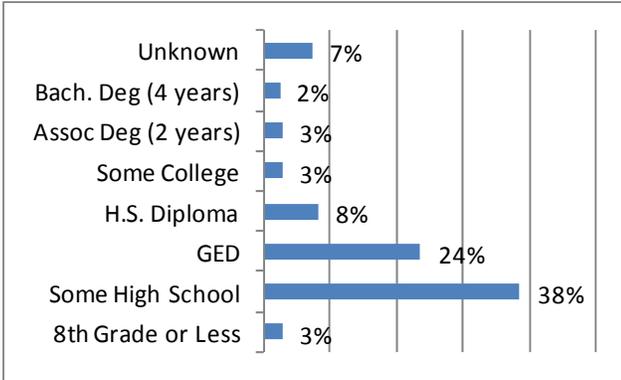


## Referral sources:

- ~ All Courts in Tompkins County
- ~ Treatment Courts
- ~ Probation Officers
- ~ Parole Officers

## Goals:

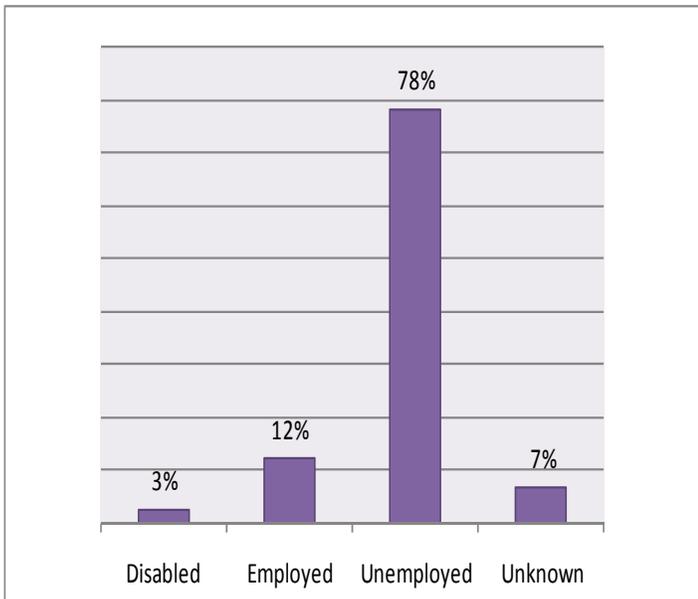
- ~ To provide an Alternative to Incarceration option to the courts.
- ~ To hold clients accountable for their actions and teach them to take responsibility for the impact of their behavior on their families and communities.
- ~ Provide Education and Employment services in an effort to help clients become more law-abiding citizens.



**Education Levels at Program Entry**

**Education Highlights**

- \* *92 clients received education services, and 29 or 31% of those took an exam for their GED*
- \* *26 or 90% of those who took the exam passed at least 1 subject area*
- \* *14 or 48% successfully earned their GED*



**Employment Status at Program Entry**

**Employment Highlights**

*In 2008, there were 97 job placements through the Employment Specialist who works with the jail population, Day Reporting, Probation and Parole clients.*

**Probation Facts:**

*During 2008, a total of 208 new referrals were made to Day Reporting. Of these, 138 (66%) successfully completed the number of program days ordered by the court.*