

**Tompkins County
Department of Probation and
Community Justice
2009 Annual Report**



Photo submitted by SWAP Work Project Supervisor James Bond

**Setting the Course for
Thinking for a Change**

Table of Contents

Director's Message	.....	4
Mission Statement	.....	5
2009 Accomplishments	.....	6
2010 Goals	.....	7
Staff Listing	.....	8
Department Milestones	.....	9
Restitution Collections	.....	10
Family Court Intake	.....	11
Family Court Investigations	.....	13
Family Court Supervisions	.....	14
Family Treatment Court	.....	15
Pre-Trial Services	.....	16
Criminal Court Flow Chart	.....	18
Criminal Court Investigations	.....	19
Criminal Court Supervisions	.....	20
Thinking For A Change (T4C)	.....	21
Specialized DWI Supervisions	.....	22
Electronic Monitoring	.....	23
Technology Monitoring	.....	24
Treatment Court Programs	.....	25
Community Supervision Programs	.....	26
Day Reporting	.....	27

Director's Message



Patricia Buechel,
Probation Director



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

April 2010

The year 2009 represented a challenging year for the Department in many ways. While we acknowledge that change is hard with our probationers, the fact is that change is also difficult for staff as well. The shift to using evidence based practice has caused us to challenge our old beliefs and practices in the field of probation work. By carrying out these changes in our approach to our probation practice, departmental staff adapted to changes within the department on how we perform our jobs, from relying on and trusting an actuarial risk and needs assessment for both our juvenile and adult populations to the way in which we supervise our probationers. The challenge remains to move forward in these new practices and not allow ourselves to revert to our old belief systems and patterns of supervision.

And so it seems fitting and appropriate to dedicate the title of this year's Annual Report to Thinking for a Change, an evidence based curriculum designed for our medium to high risk offenders that was initiated in 2009. The curriculum challenges participants in their old thought and behavior patterns and promotes new ways of thinking before taking action. It reinforces that in order to effect change, one must think and act differently. At a departmental level, we too are challenged with using our reduced resources in the most effective way possible. It means rethinking past practices and creating new ones without jeopardizing public safety.

I believe 2010 will prove to be a very demanding year. We face the challenges of drug law reform, increased mandates from the state and higher case loads, all with reduced staff and financial resources. Effective case management practice, with an eye towards public safety and reduction in recidivism, will remain in the forefront as we deal with the increased demands placed on us. For departmental staff, Thinking for a Change will be our dictum in the year ahead.

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 2009 Goals - What We Accomplished

1. Evidence Based Practice Initiatives

The Department was successful in achieving all three goals related to Evidence Based Practice initiatives:

- ✓ Probation Officers are utilizing the COMPAS risk and needs assessment on 100% of all cases at the investigation and supervision phase.
- ✓ 100% of the juvenile Probation Officers completed training in the application and implementation of the YASI instrument. In addition, 100% of the staff attended and completed juvenile case management and reassessment training for YASI. The department is utilizing YASI in all pre-dispositional investigations and supervision cases of adjudicated youth.
- ✓ Our first group participation in the Thinking for a Change (T4C) curriculum occurred over the summer months and was received with much enthusiasm by the participants and trainers. A second group was commenced in late November and is currently ongoing.

2. Review and Update the Department's Policy and Procedure Manual.

- ✓ **Partially Achieved**-The workgroup successfully reviewed and revised all the policies in the area of Intake and are currently tackling the areas of Supervision and Investigation. This will be a continuing goal for 2010.

3. Redesign and improve our web page on the Tompkins County web site

- ✓ **Achieved**-The design of the website was completed in 2009 and was launched in early 2010.

4. Continue to educate the Legislature and County Administrator about the program delivery of this Department

- ✓ **Achieved**-Presentations were made to Public Safety on all of the department's ATI programs. This will be an ongoing goal due to new members joining the Legislature.

Our 2010 Goals

1. **Continue to Review and Update the Department's Policy and Procedure Manual.**

While the volunteer workgroup made huge inroads in tackling this job, the group will continue to meet in 2010 to finish the review process.

2. **Provide training to the Tompkins County Magistrates Association.**

Training and education of the magistrates in the areas of Alternatives to Incarceration programs and probation procedures is planned for late Spring.

3. **Creation of a Judge's Resource Manual.**

This department will be creating a reference guide for Tompkins County Magistrates that will include information regarding various probation procedures, a description of our Alternative to Incarceration programs, and a glossary of frequent terms and definitions.

4. **Staff Development and Training in Motivational Interviewing.**

Considered to be an evidence based practice technique and key in assisting people to change, training in motivational interviewing for the entire staff will be a goal for 2010.

5. **Explore the department's current case record management system with the goal to convert from paper to digital records where appropriate.**

2009 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

Keyboard Specialist

Erma Peterson

Administrative Services Coordinator

Ujjal Mukherjee

Probation Assistant

Bernadette Stranger

Probation Supervisors

Criminal Court Supervisor

Robin Chernow (retired 12/30/09)

Criminal Court Supervisor

Dan Cornell (promoted 12/14/09)

Family Court Supervisor

Jan Gorovitz

Day Reporting Supervisor

Eileen Sommers

Senior Probation Officers

Family Treatment Court

Robert J. Devens

Ithaca Community Treatment Court

Stacie Burgos

Ithaca Community Treatment Court

Linda Heberle

Intensive Supervision Probation

William Bell

Intensive Supervision Probation

Diane Burke

Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation

Karla Brackett (promoted 11/10/09)

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Harold Gregoire

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Jarrold Newcomb

Probation Officers

Criminal Court and Domestic Violence

Abigail Bixby

Criminal Court - DWI

Karla Brackett

Family Court

Karen Burns

Criminal Court and Child Support

Carmen Collazo

Criminal Court

Karen M. Curione

Family Court

Denise Hayden

Staff & Department Milestones

Probation Officers (con't)

Criminal Court - Sex Offenders

Michael Herrling

Criminal Court

Kate Horey

Criminal Court

Judith B. Johnson

Family Court

Gladys Larson

Criminal Court and Domestic Violence

Paul Neugebauer

Family Court

Chrisine Porcheddu-Ion

Criminal Court

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 (retired 12/09)

Years of Service to the Probation Department

10+ Years

William Apgar

William Bell

Kelly Blake

James Bond

Karla Brackett

Daniel Cornell

Karen Curione

Carmen Hockett

Jarrold Newcomb

Laurel Rockhill

Judith Johnson

Rob Devens

15+ Years

Stacie Burgos

Erma Peterson

20+Years

Patricia Buechel

Janice Gorovitz

Linda Heberle

Faith Newkirk

Bernadette Stranger

David Wolf

Diane Burke

Eileen Sommers

25+ Years

Robin Chernow

Harold Gregoire



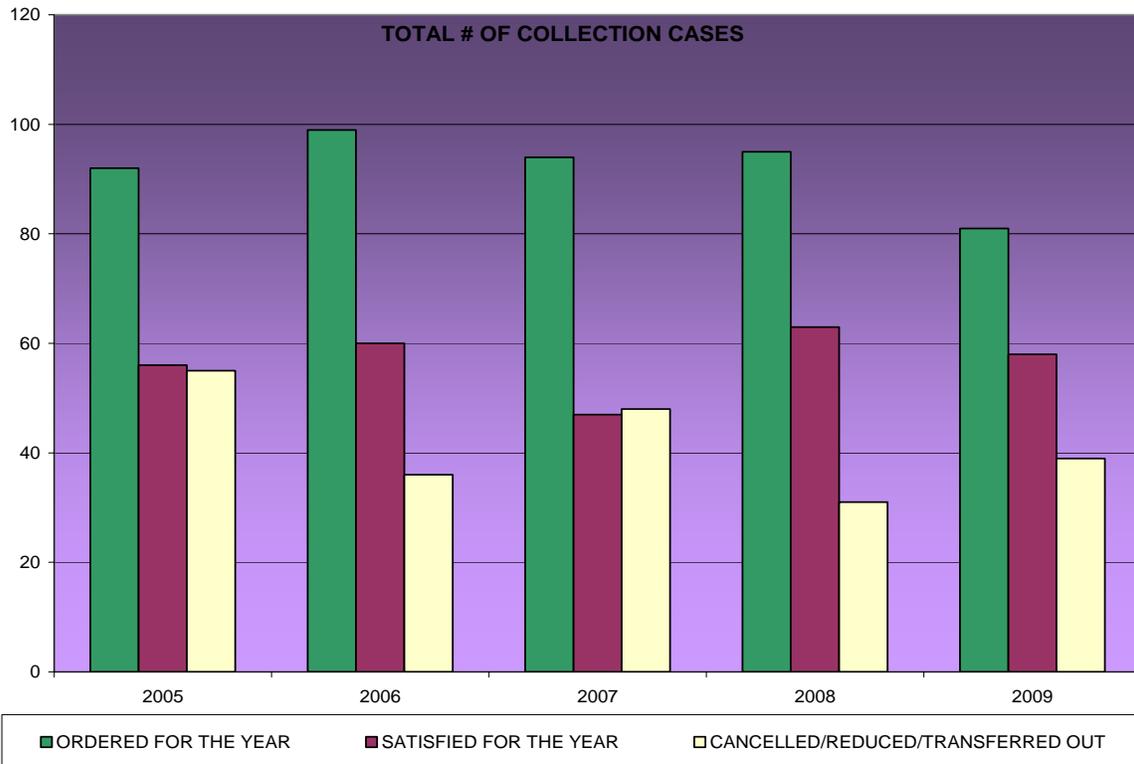
Restitution Collection

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.

2009 FINANCIAL REPORT - COLLECTION PROGRAM

	<i>Criminal Court Restitution</i>	<i>Designated Surcharge</i>	<i>Family Court Restitution</i>	<i>Fines & Mandatory Surcharges</i>	<i>Interest & Other</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Beginning balance carried from 12/31/08	\$11,510.89	\$2,109.01	\$452.62	\$2,985.00	\$84.81	\$17,142.33
Money Received 01/09 - 12/09	\$57,397.87	\$2,906.42	\$5,098.74	\$3,200.00	\$117.40	\$68,720.43
Money Disbursed 01/09 - 12/09	\$60,081.19	\$4,885.53	\$5,548.36	\$5,405.00	\$172.73	\$76,092.81
End Balance 12/31/09	\$8,827.57	\$129.90	\$3.00	\$780.00	\$29.48	\$9,769.95



Probation Facts:

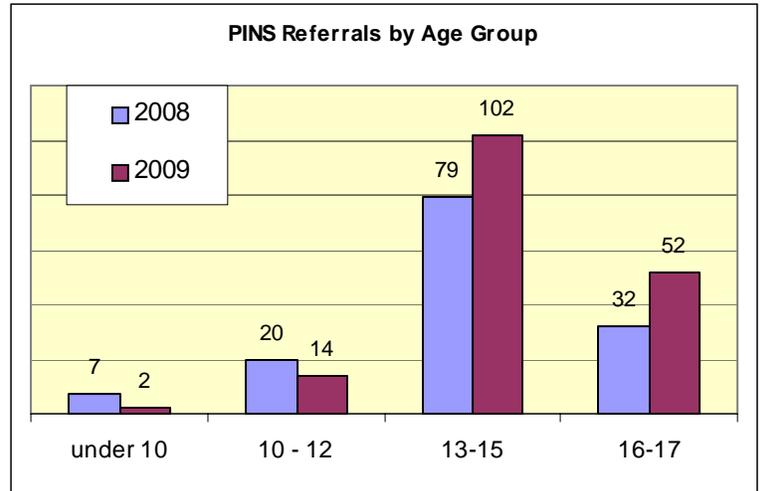
“Restorative justice is a response to crime that focuses on restoring the losses suffered by victims, holding offenders accountable for the harm they have caused, and building peace within communities.”

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.

In 2009, of the 145 cases closed:

75% were diverted from court intervention

40% were closed as successfully adjusted

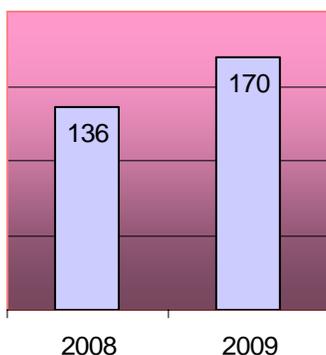
52% were referred for services

63% of youth were engaged in services

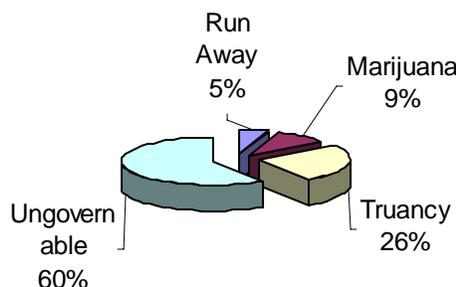
37% of families were engaged in services

18% reduction in PINS residential care services from 2008

PINS Referrals



2009 PINS Referral Types



In 2009, the Tompkins County Probation Department received 170 PINS referrals:

- ~ 72 complaints were initiated by parents
- ~ 89 by school administrators,
- ~ 7 by police and
- ~ 2 by other sources.

Probation Facts:

To date, 98% of the youth referred for Pre-PINS services in 2009 who successfully completed the program, have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

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 2009:

- ~ 18 youth were referred to the Pre-PINS program.
- ~ Of these referrals, 17 were received from schools and 1 was initiated by a parent/guardian. There were 8 complaints for truancy, and 10 for ungovernable behavior.
- ~ 12 referrals (67%) were closed successfully and diverted from going to a formal petition; 4 referrals (22%) were closed as unsuccessful and 2 referrals (11%) were withdrawn.
- ~ To date, 98% of the youth referred for Pre-PINS services in 2009 who successfully completed the program, 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 2009, this department received 76 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 76 tickets, 46 were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, 2 were withdrawn, 1 youth had more than one ticket and 27 youth participated in this department’s Diversion program.
- ~ To date, 19 of the 27 cases or 70% have been adjusted successfully, and 3 cases remain open.

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.

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.

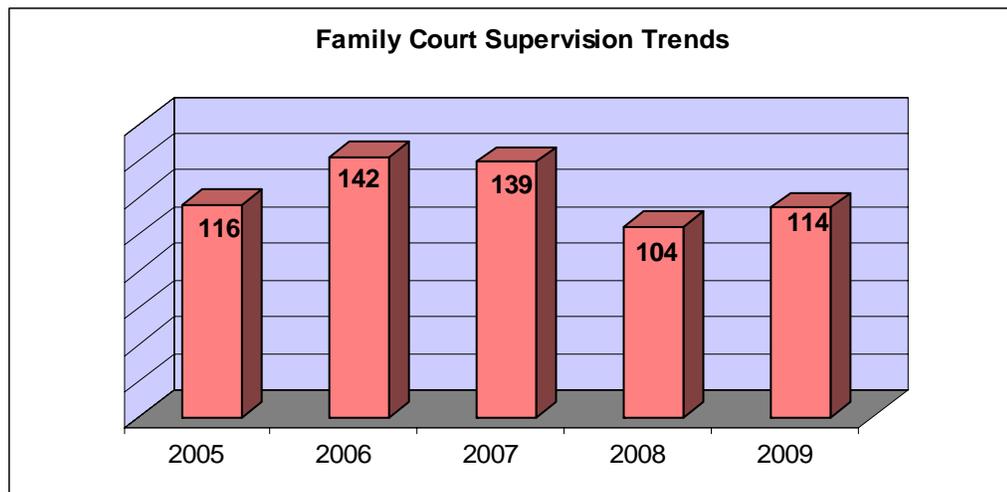
These reports provide information regarding:

- ~ 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
- * 114 Family Court cases were being supervised at the end of 2009
- * 170 PINS referrals were received, a 23% increase over 2008



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 2009:

- ~ 27 juveniles were placed on probation due to a **Juvenile Delinquency Adjudication**
- ~ 45 youth were placed on probation due to a **PINS adjudication**
- ~ 22 adults were placed on probation for failure to pay child support and an average of 34 individuals were supervised monthly
- ~ 10 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**

64%

of PINS and JD cases satisfied their case without further court intervention

498

hours of community services were successfully completed in this departments supervised Juvenile Accountability Community Service program.

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

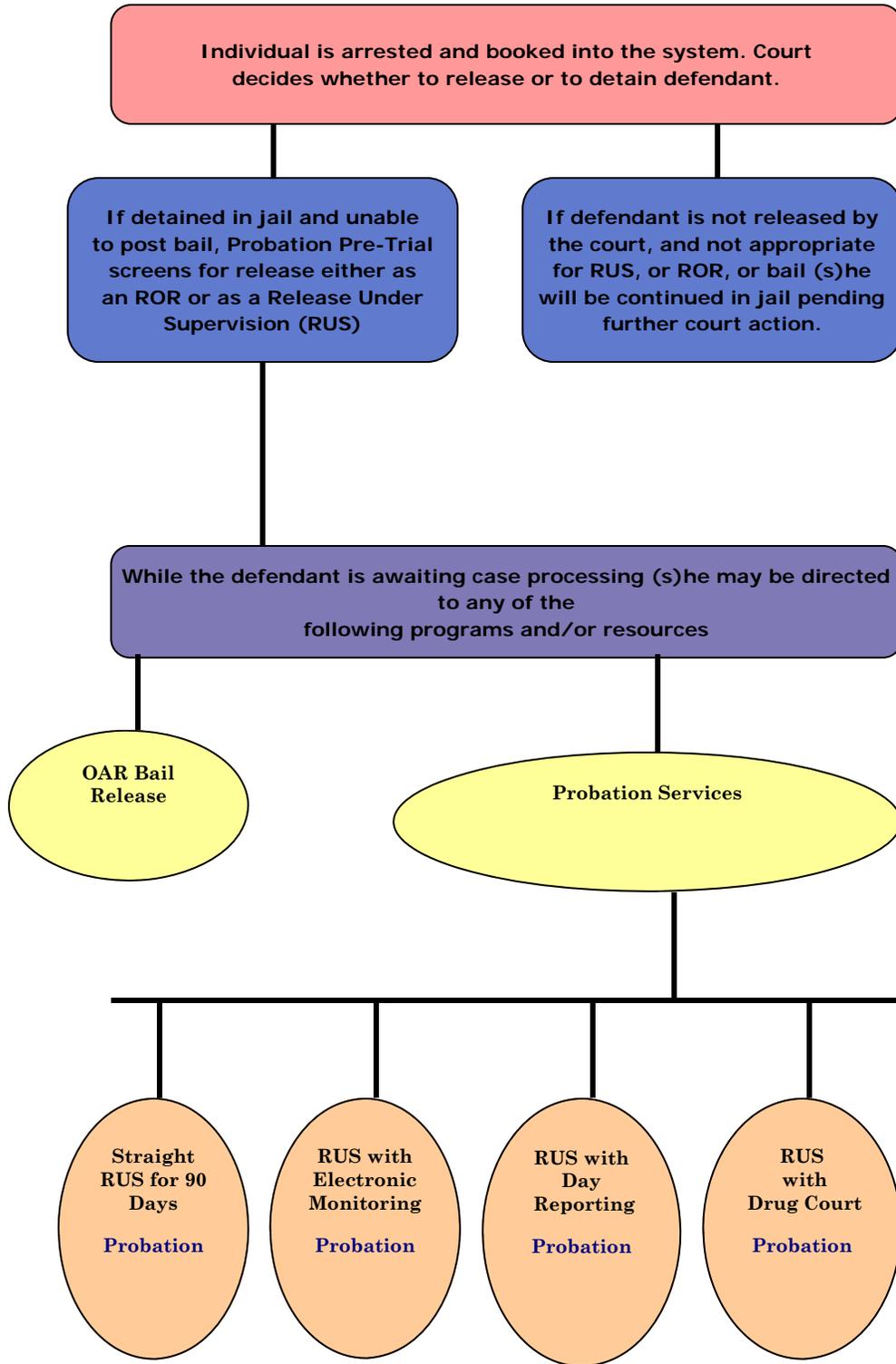
"The main difference in my life is that I live in reality with others rather than isolating in my misery. Today I have hope, dreams, love of myself and I feel a sense of empowerment for every second of my past which allows me to be assertive in achieving my goals and dreams. Today I am an excellent mother who can offer my daughter the same tools to build her own life according to her dreams."

- VA, 2009 Graduate

- * *Of the 23 new program referrals in 2009, 10 individuals entered the program.*
- * *Currently 17 parents and 30 children are actively participating in the program.*
- * *Average time to complete FTC is 18 months*
- * *Since its inception in 2001, the Family Treatment Court has graduated 42 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 weekdays 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:

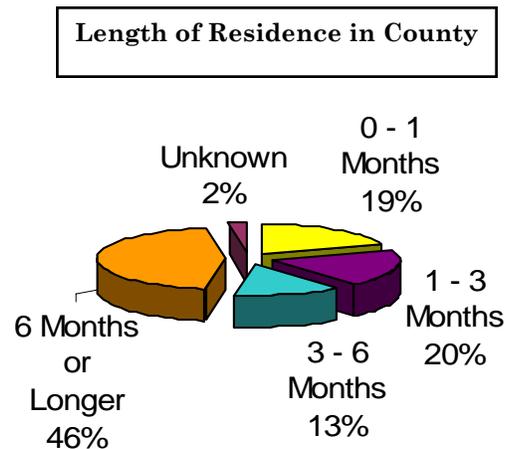
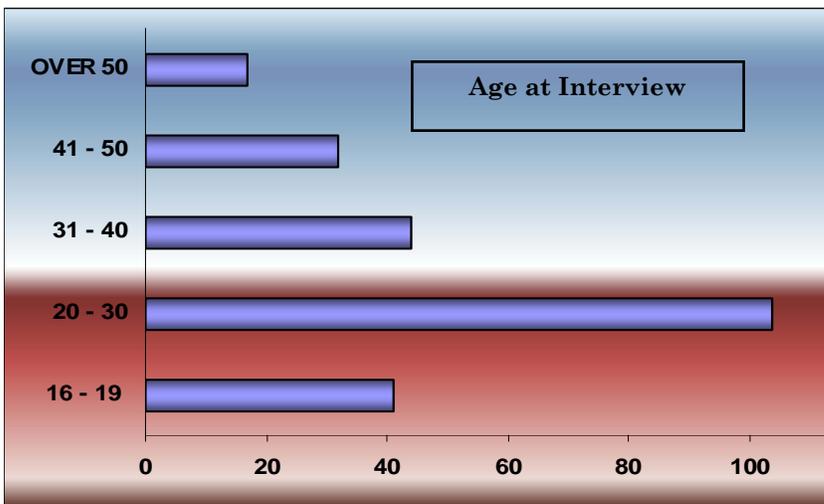
- ~Release on Recognizance (ROR)
- ~Release Under Supervision (RUS) to Pre-Trial program or Day Reporting
- ~Continue or Reduce Bail

2009 PRE-TRIAL FACTS

A total of **238** pre-trial release reports were completed for the courts:

- * **87%** were male detainees vs. **13%** female detainees
- * **66%** were white vs. **34%** minority
- * **49%** were detained for a felony charge vs. **47%** for a misdemeanor charge
- * **60%** of those interviewed were between the age of **16-30**
- * **52%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their detention
- * **66%** of those interviewed were unemployed
- * **77%** of those interviewed were not involved with probation at the time of being detained

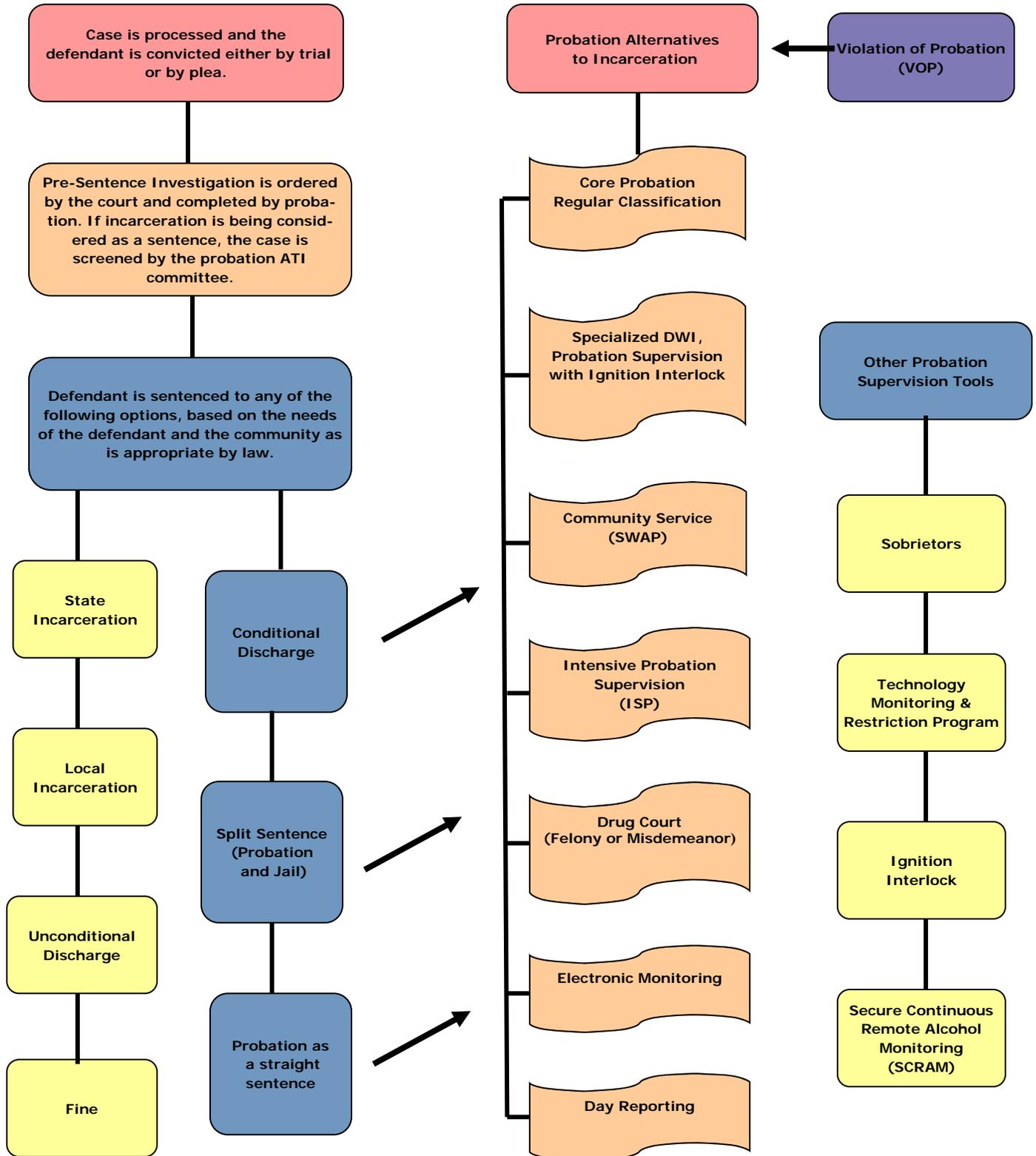
If RUS is recommended, specific conditions of release are submitted to the court. The Probation Department will supervise the defendant's adherence to those conditions to help ensure the defendant's appearance to subsequent court proceedings.



Criminal Court Flow Chart

Sentencing Options

Alternatives to Incarceration



Criminal Court Investigations

Submitted by Dan Cornell, 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.

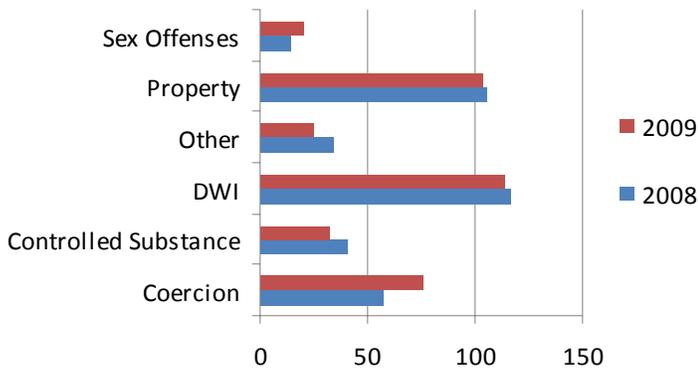
An Investigation Includes:

- * *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.

Offense Type Category Trends



718 *criminal court cases were being supervised at the end of 2009, compared to 685 at the end of 2008*

679 *COMPAS risk assessments were completed*

58 *- average # cases supervised per officer*

573 *Criminal Court Investigations were ordered, 217 Felony, 356 Misdemeanors*

Criminal Court Supervision

Submitted by Dan Cornell, 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:

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

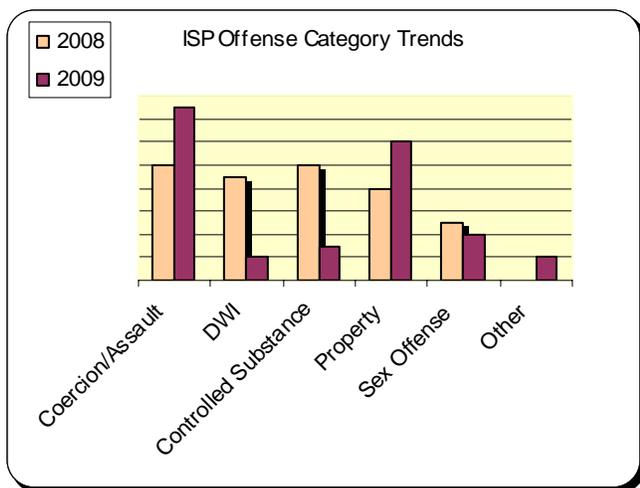
INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION (ISP)

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, in lieu of a period of incarceration.

* *38 high risk offenders entered the ISP program in 2009.*

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

* *52% of all participants remained employed during their ISP supervision*



ISP Caseloads Characteristics

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

Probation Facts:

71% of employable probationers are currently working.

Criminal Court Supervision

Submitted by Kate Horey, Probation Officer

THINKING FOR A CHANGE GROUP (T4C)

Thinking For a Change is a nationally recognized integrated cognitive behavioral change curriculum. The National Institute of Corrections makes this program available to county probation departments to utilize in their efforts to reduce recidivism through positive offender change. The Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives supports this program as an **evidence-based best practice**. The program is twenty-two sessions of an hour and half each. The curriculum addresses cognitive self-change, social skills and problem solving skills through active group participation, role plays and homework. The group is co-led by a Probation Officer and a Forensic Mental Health Worker who have been trained by DPCA to facilitate the group.

What is the main goal of the program?

- ~ The main goal of the program is to reduce recidivism for offenders by changing their behavior through cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and development of their problem solving skills.

What type of offenders are appropriate for this program?

- ~ Medium to high risk offenders
- ~ Individuals who are facing a Violation of Probation (VOP) if their behavior does not improve
- ~ Youth whose behavior has now moved them into the criminal court system from the family court system (prior PINS/JDS)

What is a typical session?

- ~ Active role plays
- ~ Homework Review
- ~ Problem solving exercises through group participation
- ~ Group Feedback

Comments from the Participants

- * *“Helpful to understand one's behavior and thinking will affect the choices we make and in turn our future and present.”*
- * *“I've learned to take time to pause and not react. Look at the choices and weigh the consequences.”*
- * *“This helped me to see how thinking can help interpret emotions. Not take them so seriously.”*
- * *“I find that I am taking more time to think about a problem before I act”*

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 2009, there were **398** DWI arrests in Tompkins County with **101** of those resulting from an automobile crash.
- ~ 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
- ~ Intensive supervision of a caseload averaging approximately 35 probationers.
- ~ Unscheduled 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.
- ~ Coordination of the Victim Impact Panel held three times per year.

- ~ *Approximately 24% of DWI arrests are female and 76% are male*
- ~ *The largest number of DWI arrests occur in the 21 - 29 age group followed by 30 - 39 year olds*
- ~ *The largest number of arrests fall in the BAC range of .08 - .017*

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:

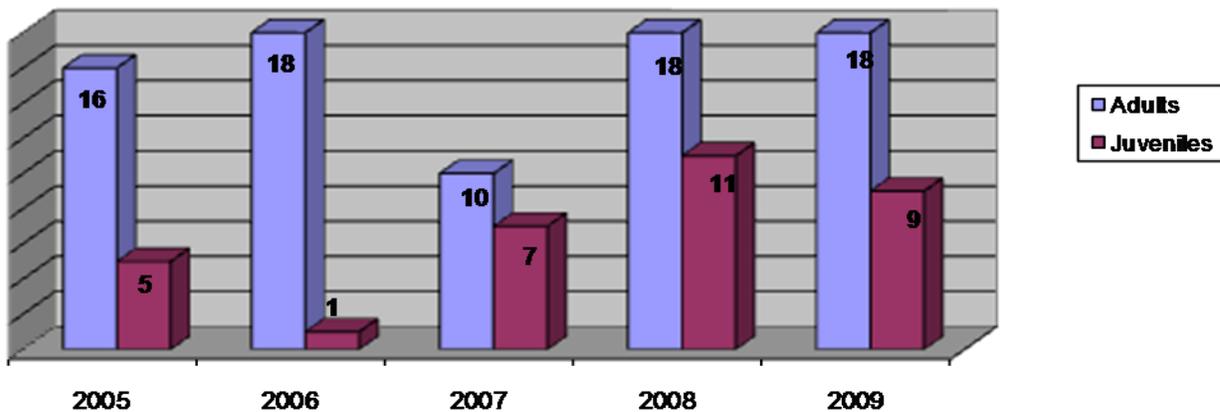
- ~ Real time GPS done with cell tower technology and 24 hours/day monitoring.
- ~ Passive GPS done with land telephone lines and 24 hours/day monitoring, but the information is gathered and provided after the fact.

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.

Electronic Monitoring Trends



Probation Facts:

\$4.76 - Daily cost of electronic monitoring 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. All future activity is reviewed remotely from a designated computer in the department.



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 photo editing

If an offender is blocked from Internet Access, how can we monitor his compliance?

- ~ An Internet Lockdown program is installed which blocks all internet communications regardless of how the offender attempts to connect to the internet. With this feature the movement and transfer of files to and from the computer are monitored. In addition, the offender's presence on the internet is regularly monitored.

Since the program began in mid-2008

- ~ 17 computers were examined
- ~ 7 computers were monitored
- ~ 5 additional computers 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.

“Before coming into drug court, I had nothing but trouble - trouble with the law, my family, and my job. I found myself doing things that I would have never done before. Thanks to drug court, for the very first time, I can live on my own in a house I pay for. I can remember and be proud of the things I do each day and people respect me instead of cringing away when they see me. I have learned that my life is much easier this way and I never want to go back”
 - AM

2009 AT A GLANCE

Felony Drug Court

- ~ 31 new admissions
- ~ 13 participants graduated
- ~ 42 current participants at the end of 2009
- ~ Since inception of the program in April 2000, 108 participants have graduated

Ithaca Community Treatment Court

- ~ 42 new referrals
- ~ 19 participants graduated
- ~ 31 current participants at the end of 2009
- ~ Since inception of the program in January 1998, 179 participants have graduated

55% overall success rate for Felony Drug Court since the program began in 2001

51% overall success rate for Ithaca Community Treatment Court from 2004 - 2009

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:

<p>Cops, Kids & Toys</p> <p>Friends of the Library</p> <p>Brooktondale & Varna Community Centers</p> <p>Local Cemeteries</p> <p>Cornell University Dump & Run</p>	<p>Adopt A Highway</p> <p>TCAT</p> <p>County Government Departments</p> <p>Cayuga Nature Center</p> <p>Area Public and State Parks</p>
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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.

“Without this assistance, we would have to hire help to do the work, greatly decreasing the funds available for the libraries and literacy organization in Tompkins County that we support.”

–TK, Book Sale Coordinator

The Juvenile Accountability Community Service (JACS)

- ~ 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.

37 individuals successfully completed the SWAP program

4,598 hours of community service was completed by all SWAP participants.

For the 2009 program year, **JACS participants performed a total of 498 hours** of community service and 13 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 2009, the total hours of community service performed by participants in all programs = 7,062 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

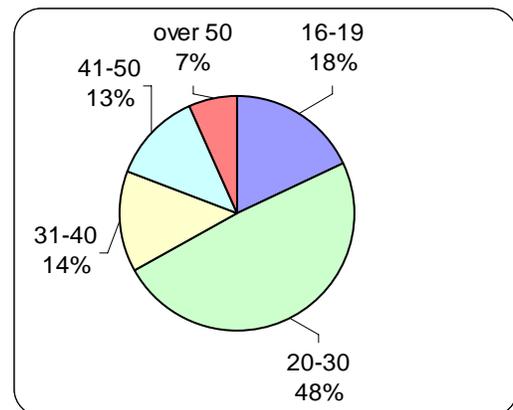
20,000 program days have been completed since the program began.

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.

Referral sources:

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



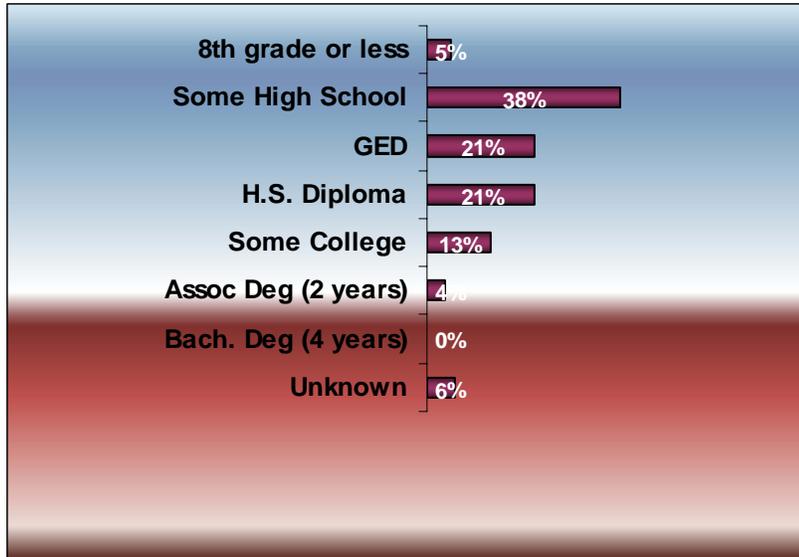
**2009 Age Ranges
of Day Reporting Exits**

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.

Day Reporting, Education Services

Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor



Education Levels at Program Entry

Education Highlights

80 clients received education services, and 35 or 43% of those took an exam for their GED

16 of those who took the exam passed at least 1 subject area

19 or 54% successfully earned their GED

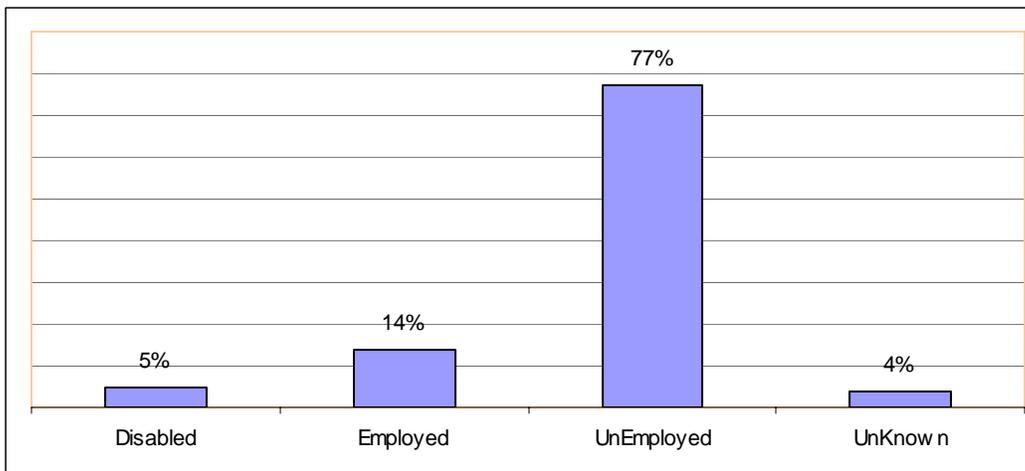
48% of individuals utilizing educational services between 1/1/06 and 9/30/09 obtained their GED.

Probation Facts:

During 2009, Drug Court sanctioned cases made up the largest percentage of referrals to day reporting. Of these 90 referrals, 70% successfully completed the number of program days ordered by the court. .

Day Reporting, Employment Services

Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor



Employment Status at Program Entry

Employment Highlights

170 *clients received employment counseling resulting in 81 job placements.*

53% *of those utilizing employment services between 1/1/06 and 9/30/09 obtained employment.*

Probation Facts:

Since inception, the Day Reporting Program has a 60% overall success rate for all participants referred.

