

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

**2011 Annual Report**



*Moving Forward One Step at a Time*

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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 2012**

In reviewing our accomplishments in 2011, the Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice has continued to set the standard of excellence in achieving our goals and being innovative in the field of criminal justice. Our focus last year was on improving the opportunities for our youth population. This was accomplished by now being able to offer the National Institute of Corrections evidenced based practice curriculum Thinking for a Change to our juvenile population and by completing a pilot bullying program in collaboration with a local school system. In both instances, new ways of approaching problems in everyday life situations were taught to our youth in an attempt to effect better decision making and choices.

Our Annual Report theme, Moving Forward One Step at a Time, is appropriate in so many ways. The field of Probation in the criminal and family court systems is not a static discipline. We are constantly being called upon to adjust our approaches, to be aware of the latest research in what works with our population and to implement new programs designed to achieve successful outcomes. As we move forward as a profession, we ask our probationers to move forward in their lives by being willing to try new approaches. It is often an arduous journey and uphill climb to overcome engrained patterns of behavior. The old adage one step forward two steps back is true for everyone, but for our population it is so much more difficult when skill sets are inadequate, addictions are present and pro social supports are absent. Probation Officers play a crucial role by applying that supportive but firm hand to our population when they falter in their steps along the way.

Our goals for 2012 reflect this department's commitment to moving forward in a manner that will improve our supervision efforts. The new Supervision Rule due later this year focuses on quality contacts with the offender and family, reward incentives for the probationer in the form of merit credit for positive behavior and emphasizes increasing the offender's level of participation in developing their goals and objectives. To supplement supervision of the sex offender population, this department will be utilizing validated instruments in collaboration with the Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic designed to assess an offender's level of risk to the community. Finally, completing a follow up study on the pilot bullying program will help us move forward in improving future programming should results prove the program was successful.

This department has always held the reputation of being innovative in our approach to Probation work. We are committed to maintaining this reputation in 2012 by moving forward in new trends in the field while at the same time also keeping our commitment to community safety in the forefront of any new approach to supervision.

Patricia Buechel,

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

Probation Director

# 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 2011 Goals - What We Accomplished**

**1. Continue to be a resource for the Judiciary by providing continuing education regarding probation procedure and changes in the law as necessary and appropriate.**

- ✓ We continue to be a resource and asset to the judiciary and clerks of the court by fielding phone calls, answering questions and providing ongoing training with respect to probation procedures.

**2. Expand the Thinking for a Change curriculum, currently in use with our medium to high risk adult offenders, to the juvenile population.**

- ✓ Two Probation Officers attended training provided by the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives on the curriculum in March 2011. They led the first group for juveniles over the summer months with a very high attendance and completion rate. This curriculum will be provided again in Summer 2012.

**3. In collaboration with the school system, develop and implement a pilot bullying program that teaches elementary school age children techniques and skills to stop bullying by their peers.**

- ✓ A Family Court Probation Officer and staff in the Enfield Elementary School developed and implemented an eight week class for children in the fifth grade. The program was well received by the students and provided a forum for good discussion and role playing on the subject matter.

**4. Advance the case record management system in the department with respect to digital storing of records.**

- ✓ Efforts have been made to reduce printing by storing documents in our secure Probation database. This new system reduces paper use, reduces case file size which in turn addresses space and storage issues and is friendlier to the environment.

## Our 2012 Goals

1. **Successfully train staff in and implement the new Supervision Rule** due to be released by the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives in late summer. This rule stipulates the number and quality of contacts we must have per probationer depending on their risk and need level as well as utilizing case planning techniques to establish goals for positive future outcomes.
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.
3. **Complete a follow up study on the effectiveness of the pilot bullying program** that was implemented in collaboration with the school system in 2011 which taught elementary school age children techniques and skills to stop bullying by their peers.
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.

# 2011 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 Collazo

Criminal Court Investigations

Karen M. Curione

Criminal Court

Denise Hayden

## Staff & Department Milestones

### Probation Officers (con't)

Criminal Court - DWI

Criminal Court

Criminal Court

Family Court

Criminal Court -DWI

Family Court

Family Court

Criminal Court

Michael Herrling

Kate Horey

Judith B. Johnson

Gladys Larson

Paul Neugebauer

Tom Partigianoni

Christine Porcheddu-Ion

Susan Robinson

### Work Project Supervisors:

William Apgar

James Bond

### Security Officers:

Richard Brewer

### Transition Workforce Employment Specialist:

Kathy Lind

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## *Years of Service to the Probation Department*

### 10+ Years

Abigail Bixby

James Bond

Karla Brackett

Karen Curione

Rob Devens

Ujjal Mukherjee

Christine  
Porcheddu-Ion

### 15+ Years

William Apgar

William Bell

Kelly Blake

Carmen Hockett

Laurel Rockhill

Jarrold Newcomb

Daniel Cornell

Judith Johnson

### 20+Years

Patricia Buechel

Stacie Burgos

Diane Burke

Linda Heberle

David Wolf

Eileen Sommers

Susan Robinson

### 25+ Years

Janice Gorovitz

Harold Gregoire

Faith Newkirk

Bernadette Stranger

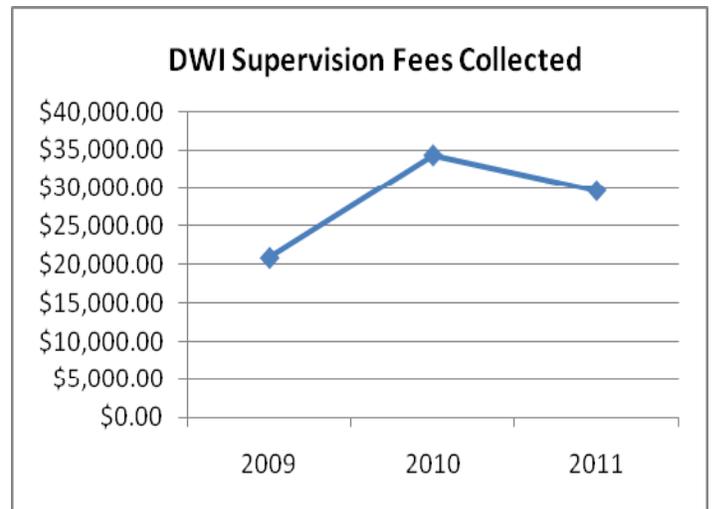
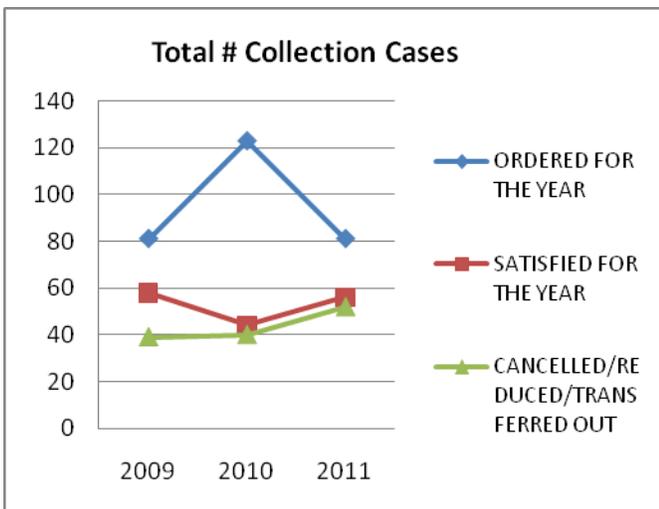
# Restitution and Fee Collection

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

## 2011 ACTUAL DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISBURSED

	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Other + Interest	Totals
<b>Beginning balance carried from 12/31/10</b>	\$14,547.24	\$316.03	\$230.93	\$1,090.00	\$67.73	\$16,251.93
<b>Money Received 01/11 - 12/11</b>	\$90,066.37	\$4,715.78	\$5,488.77	\$1,165.00	\$4,767.95	\$106,203.87
<b>Money Disbursed</b>	\$100,155.75	\$4,736.93	\$5,673.70	\$1,990.00	\$4,815.33	\$117,371.71
<b>End Balance 12/31/11</b>	<b>\$4,457.86</b>	<b>\$294.88</b>	<b>\$46.00</b>	<b>\$265.00</b>	<b>\$20.35</b>	<b>\$5,084.09</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).

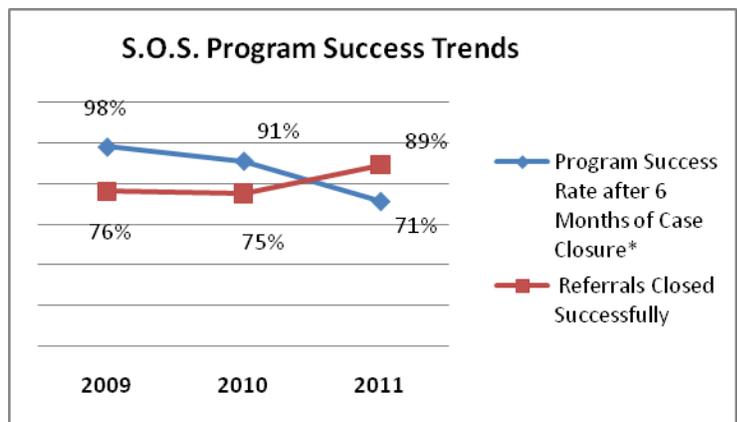
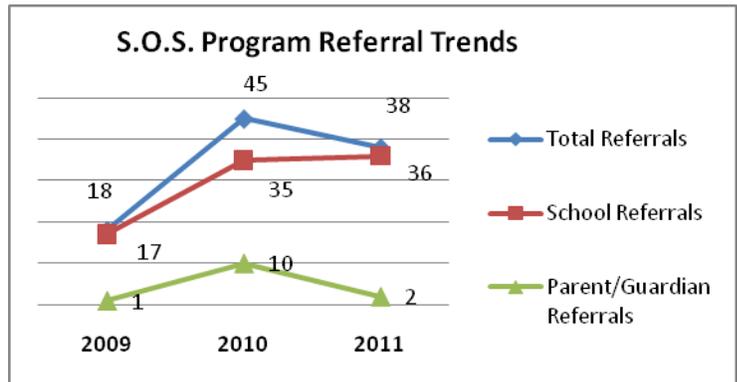
Family Court Probation Officers also provide daily intake coverage Monday through Friday. This means that they are the designated contact for the Probation Department if and when people from the community come looking for information or guidance for any family related matter. This type of request is 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, 71% of the youth referred for S.O.S services in 2011 who successfully completed the program have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.*

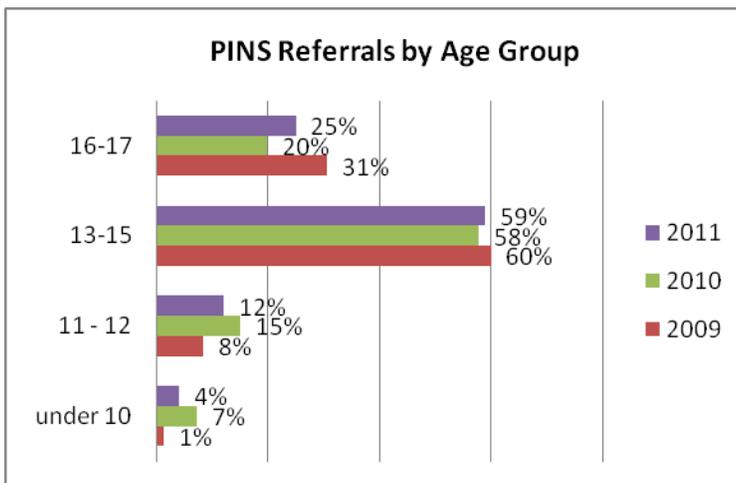
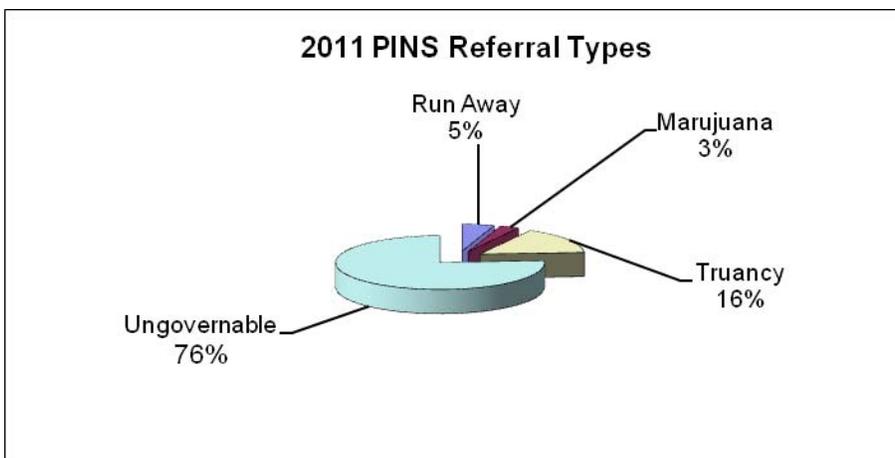
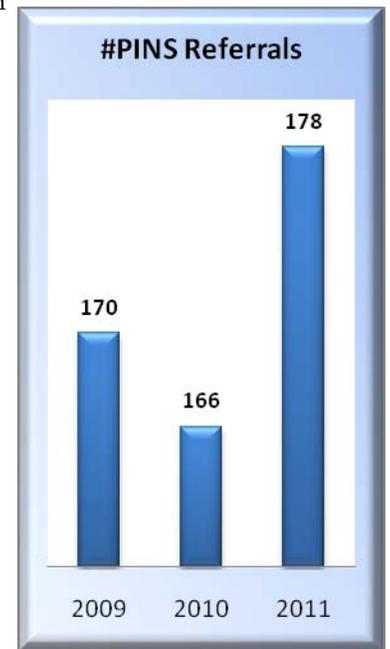
# Family Court Diversion Services

*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 2011, the Tompkins County Probation Department received **178** PINS referrals: **80** complaints were initiated by parents, **94** by school administrators, **2** by police and **2** by other sources.



**In 2011, of the 164 cases closed:**

- 40%** were closed as successfully adjusted
- 38%** were referred for services
- 54%** of youth were engaged in services
- 33%** 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.*

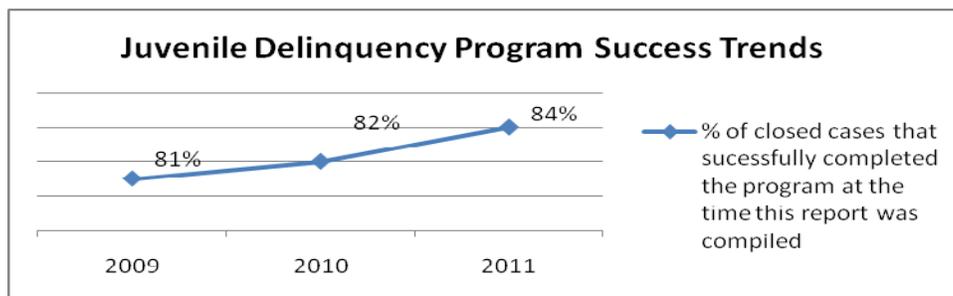
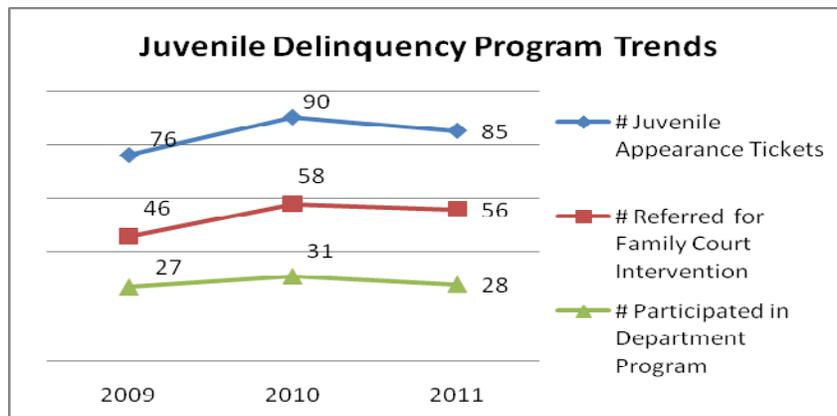
# Family Court Diversion Services

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

- ~ In **2011**, this department received **85** 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 85 tickets, **56** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, **1** was withdrawn, and **28** youth participated in this department's Diversion program.
- ~ To date, **21** of the **25** closed cases or **84%** have been adjusted successfully. **3** cases remain open.



### **Probation Facts:**

*Over the past 3 years, 60 - 65% of our Juvenile Appearance Tickets have been consistently referred to Family Court.*

# Family Court Investigations

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY COURT INVESTIGATIONS

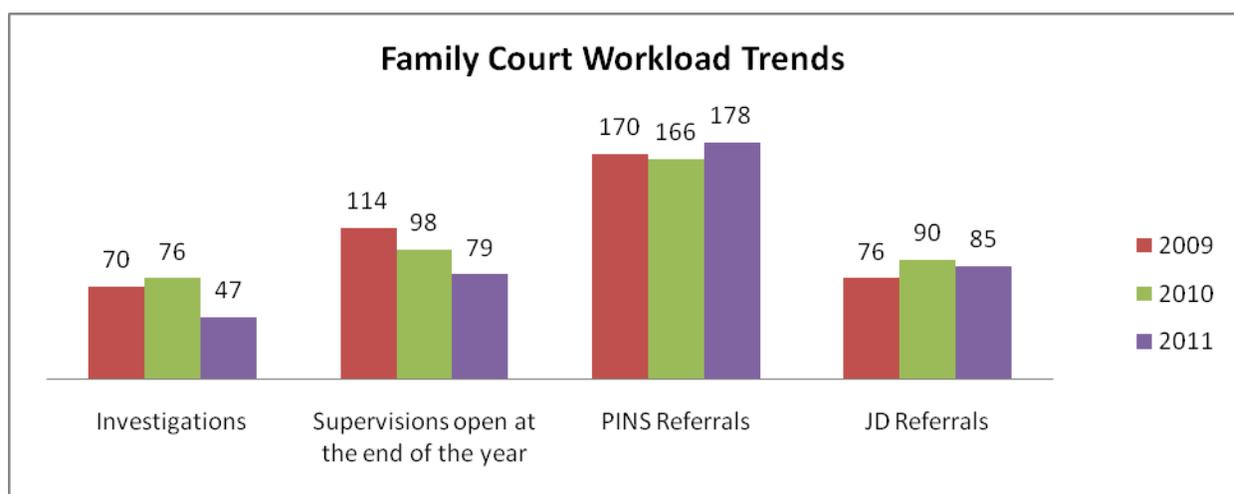
The Family Court Act requires that a predispositional investigation be conducted for all Designated Felony cases (defined as an act which if done by an adult, would constitute a crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, various sexual offenses, etc). For other Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need of Supervision 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 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

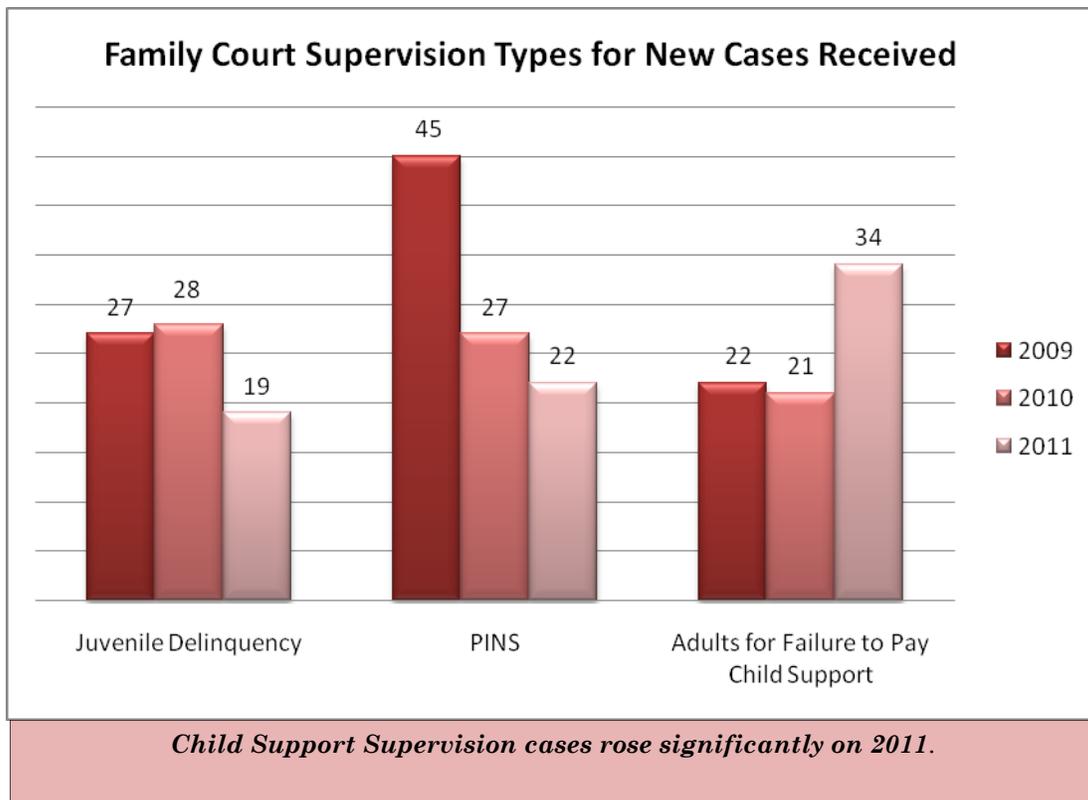
*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## 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:

**539** hours of community service were successfully completed in this department's supervised Juvenile Accountability Community Service program in 2011

# Family Court Initiatives

*Submitted by Chris Ion, Probation Officer*

## BULLY PREVENTION PROGRAM

During the winter/spring 2011, the Tompkins County Probation Department worked collaboratively with staff at the Enfield Elementary School to create a 12-week bully prevention program called “**Use Your Power for Good**” for the two fifth grade classes. These classes were chosen due to some bullying issues amongst their students. School staff reported a significant decline in bullying issues following completion of the program through the end of the school year.

Students were taught skills to negotiate conflicts between one another rather than relying on staff to resolve their issues.

Activities included:

- ~ *Role plays*
- ~ *Small group discussions and*
- ~ *Weekly Homework*

All of the students are now in middle school and this department is in the process of doing a follow up survey with the same students as well as checking in with school discipline personnel to find out whether or not this group of students continues to have significant bullying issues compared to the other sixth grade students that were not part of this program.



*At the end of the program the students participated in a contest funded through a grant to design a Tee shirt that represented the skills they had learned.*

# Pre-Trial Release Program

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

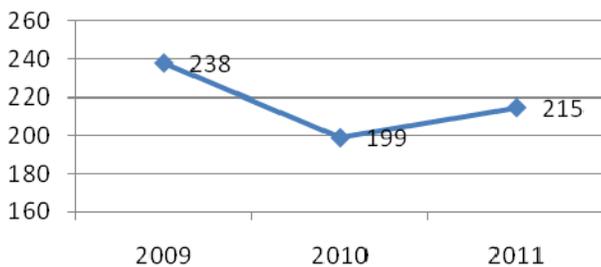
This department continues to operate the Pre-Trial Release Program in an attempt to facilitate release for incarcerated individuals who meet appropriate criteria. All defendants in custody at the Tompkins County Public Safety Building, who have bail set by a court, are given the opportunity to be interviewed 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.

## 2011 PRE-TRIAL FACTS

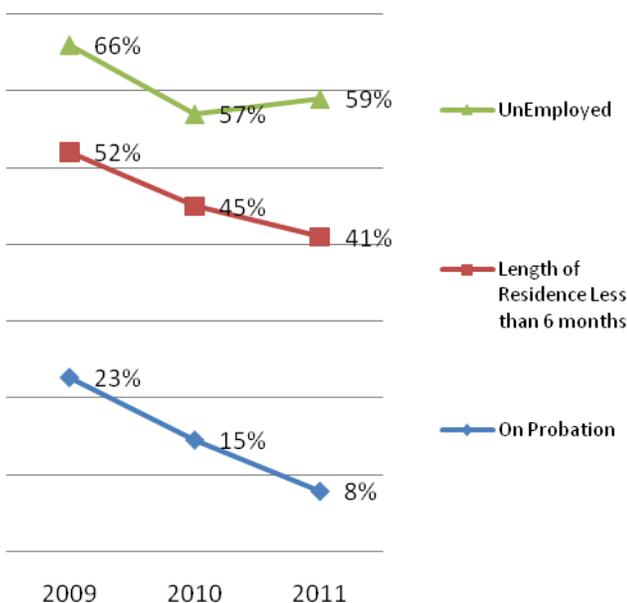
A total of **215** pre-trial release reports were completed for the courts:

- \* **82%** were male detainees vs. **18%** female detainees
- \* **67%** were white vs. **33%** minority
- \* **38%** were detained for a felony charge vs. **58%** for a misdemeanor charge and **4%** were for probation violations
- \* **41%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their detainment

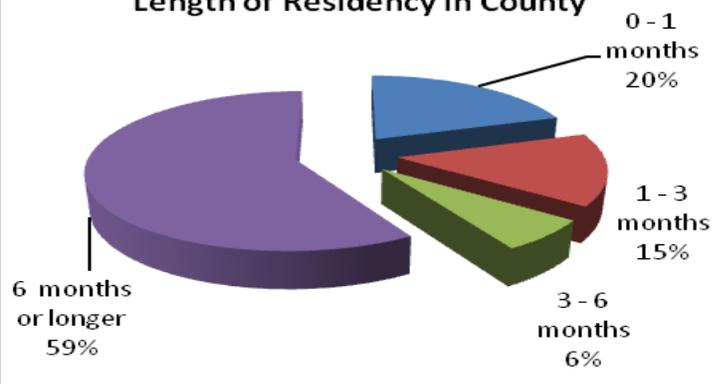
# Pre-Trial Interviews



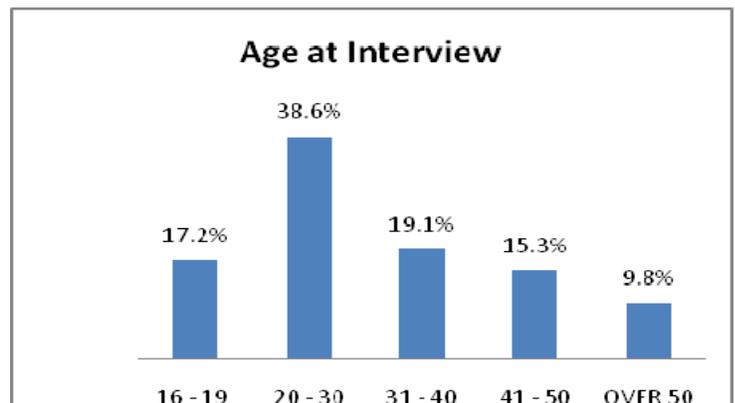
Pre-Trial Interviews Demographics



Length of Residency in County



Age at Interview



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

# Pre-Trial Release Program

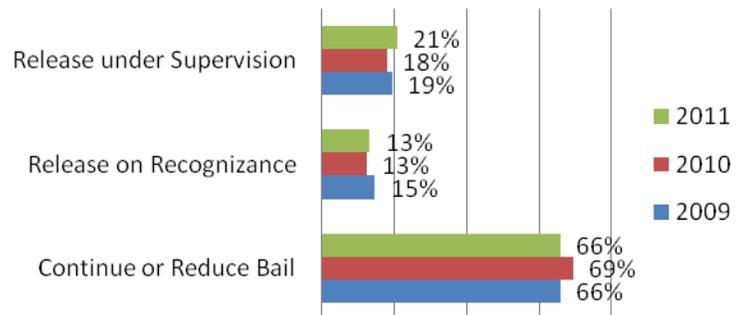
*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

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.

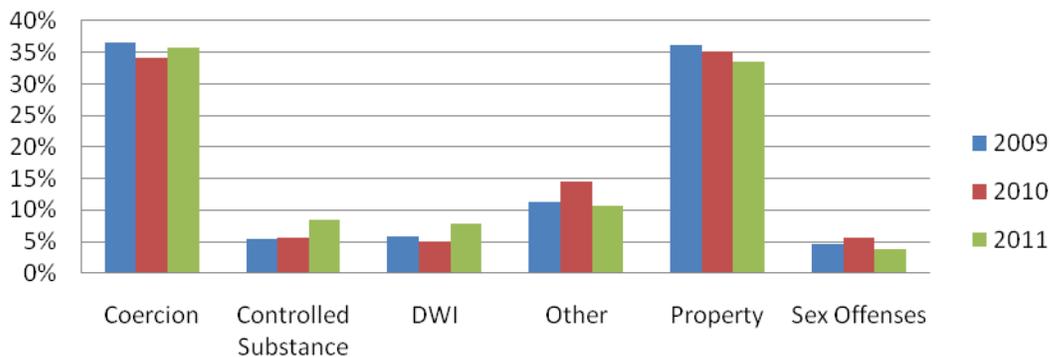
### Possible Recommendations for Pre-Trial Release

- ~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



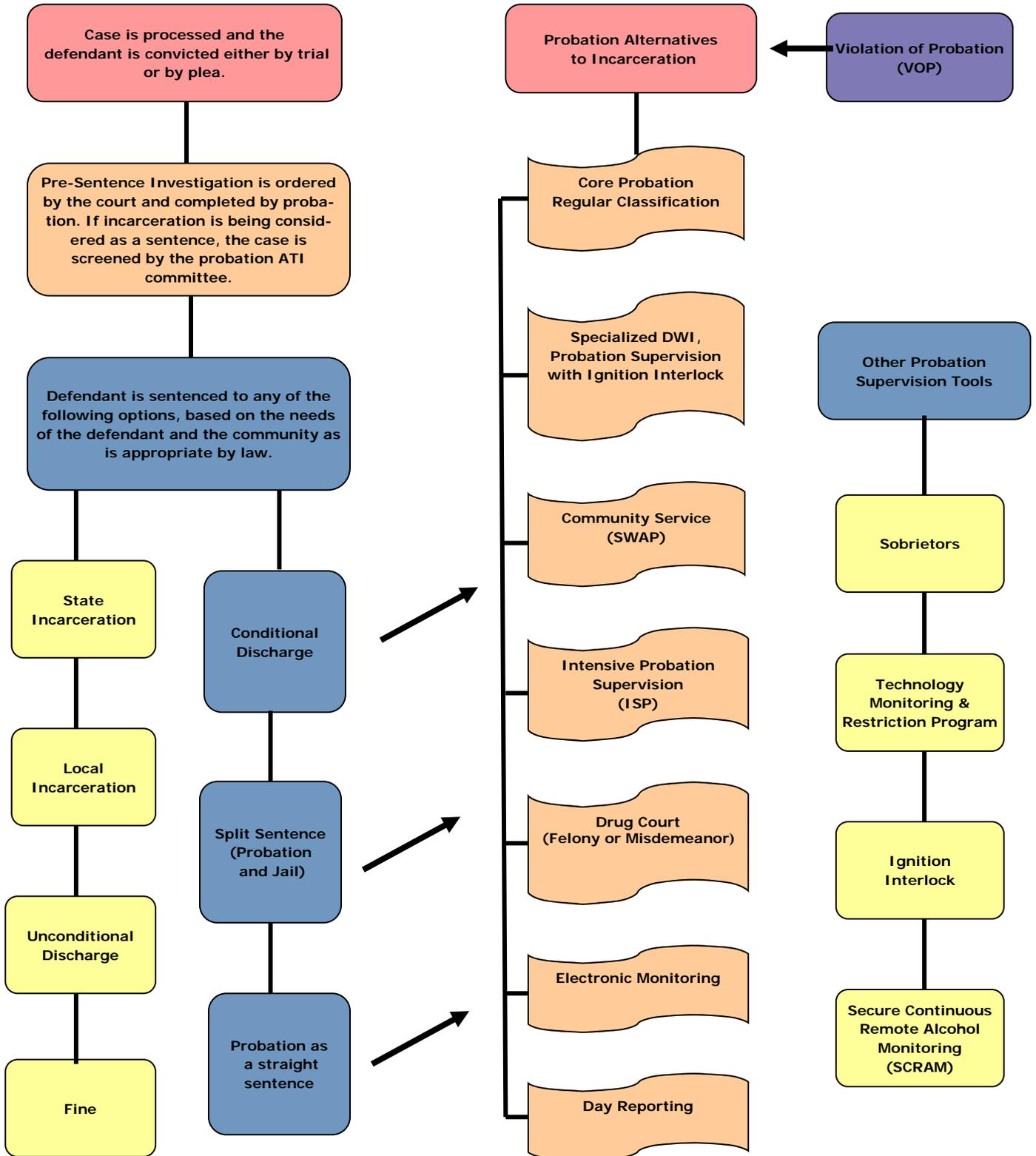
### Probation Facts:

*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



# 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 criminal and social history in an objective and analytical format, to assist the court in making sentencing decisions.

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

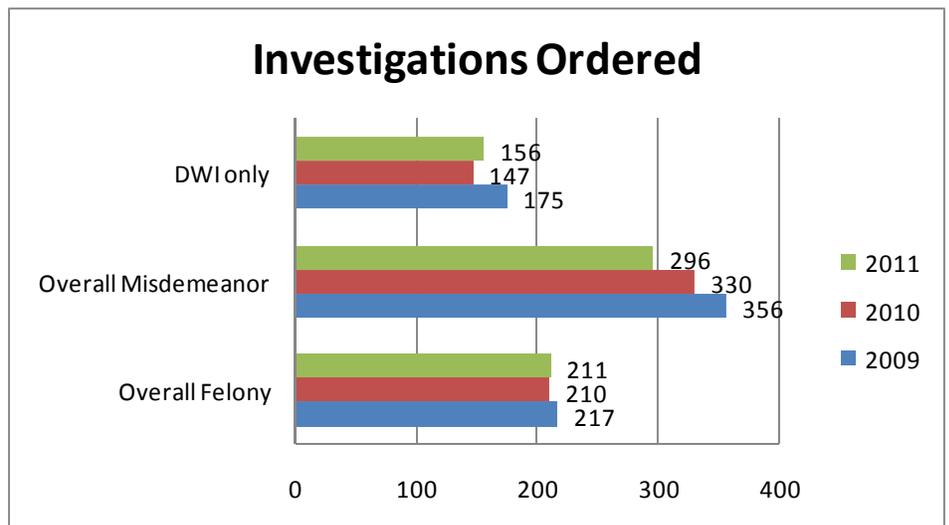
- ~ Drug /alcohol involvement and treatment needs
- ~ individualized treatment plans based on case needs and community protection, and
- ~ alternative to incarceration options.

**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 of the crime*
- \* *Information about the defendant's ability to make restitution or pay fines*
- \* *An actuarial risk and needs assessment to identify the criminogenic factors that increase the offenders risk of recidivism*

Overall, in 2011 the number of overall investigations ordered for the department was lower when compared to the previous two years.

- ~ **507** investigations were ordered by the courts in 2011.
- ~ **30%** of the investigations ordered were for **DWI** offenses.



### Probation Facts:

*There are over 120,000 adult currently on probation in NY State.*

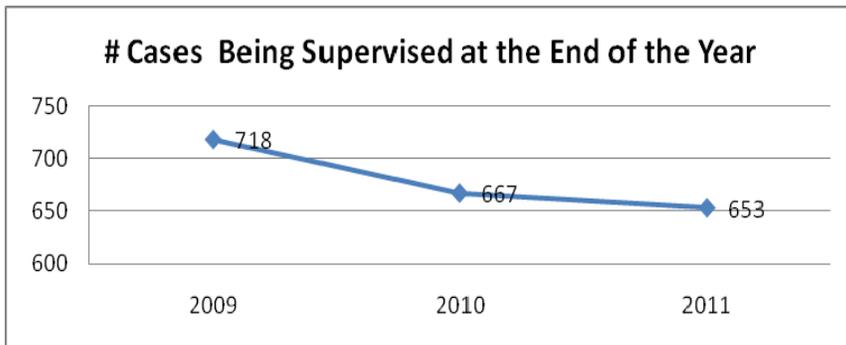
# Criminal Court Supervision

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

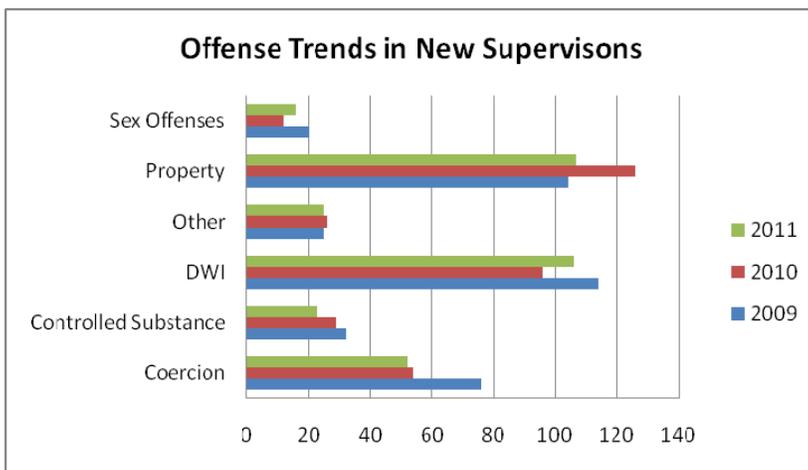
## SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

The two main goals of probation supervision are:

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



DWI supervisions represent the only area of significant increase in 2011. The rate of probation cases in all other areas was consistent or reduced when compared to 2009 and 2010.



### **Probation Facts:**

*At yearend 2010, 1 in 48 adults in the U.S. were under community supervision. The probation population decreased by 1.7% which was the second consecutive year of decline.*

*(US Department of Justice Bureau of Statistics, November 2011, NCJ)*

# Specialized Supervision

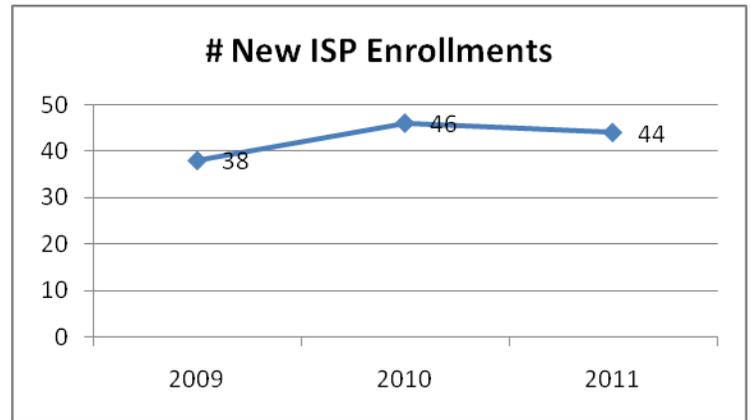
*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION (ISP)

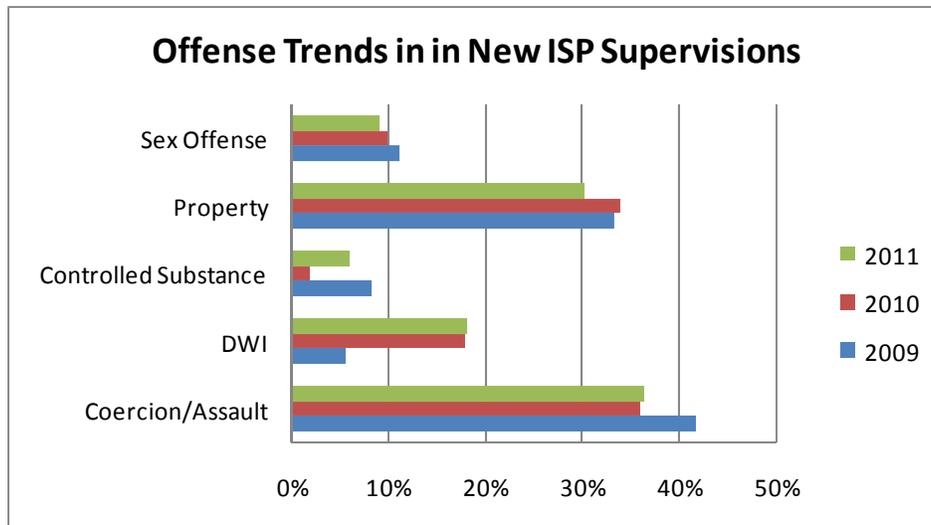
Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) is primarily for high risk, felony offenders who are at risk of local or state incarceration. The caseload size is smaller than that of a regular supervision caseload, which allows the Probation Officer to provide more meaningful supervision and service delivery through increased contacts with the probationer.

### 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 (family, employers, treatment providers, etc.)
- ~ Failures to comply are addressed immediately with court intervention



During 2011, 44 high risk offenders were newly placed on ISP. Of these 44 cases, 12 were probation violators who were upgraded to ISP supervision after being determined to need a higher level of supervision. This improves the offenders' chance for compliance and enhances community safety.



### Probation Facts:

*The overall success rate for the ISP caseload in 2011 was 49%.*

# Specialized Supervision

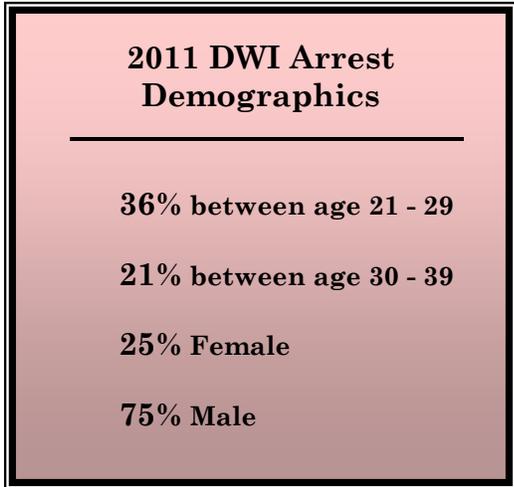
*Submitted by Michael Herrling, DWI Probation Officer*

## DWI SUPERVISION CASELOAD

This department has had a specialized DWI Probation Officer for over twenty years.

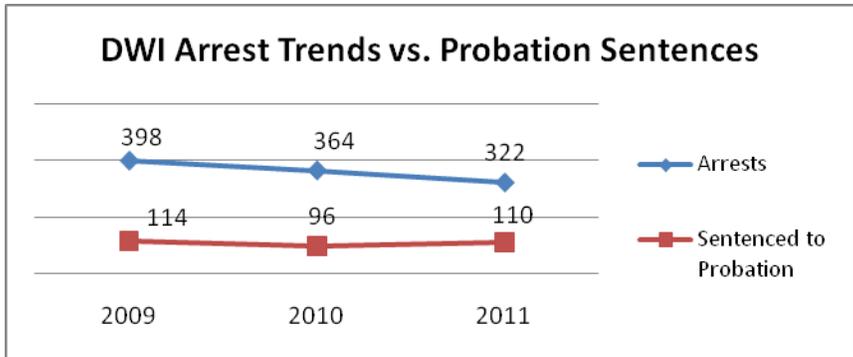
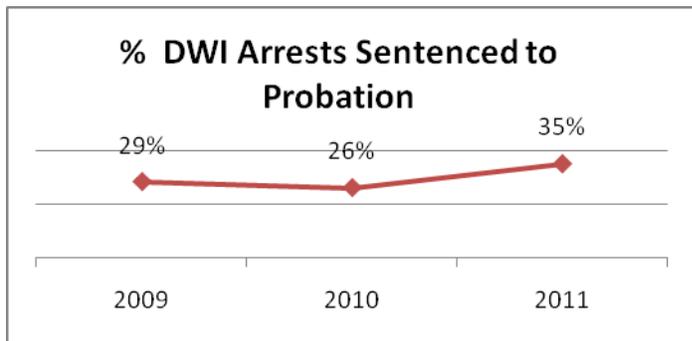
### Why have a specialized DWI caseload?

- ~ There are more DWI arrests/convictions than in any other offense category. In 2011, there were **322** DWI arrests in Tompkins County with **92** 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 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.
- ~ 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.



### Probation Facts:

*Offenders on probation for DWI represent the largest category of supervision cases.*

# Evidence Based Programs

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## THINKING FOR A CHANGE - 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 high risk offenders and consists of 22 lesson plans. The goal of the curriculum is to ultimately ***reduce recidivism***.

### 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



Starting in June 2011 the Tompkins County Probation Department held its first Thinking For a Change group for adolescents. This cognitive behavioral change group 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.

### Activities included:

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

Initially, we saw some resistance to role plays. We will continue to monitor the youth and support them in ongoing use of the skills taught. Early indications are that most of the youth who participated are using their skills and their families have reported improvements.

### *What parents have said:*

- \* *“Still has a hot temper but is quicker to calm down.”*
- \* *“He talks about things more.”*

### *What students have said:*

- \* *“The group helps people learn how to prevent fights and troubled situations.”*
- \* *“People actually want to be around me more”*

# Performance Measures

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## 2011 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 2011. Data collection and analysis of departmental performance will be an ongoing process for 2012.

<i>Benchmark</i>	<i>Adult Cases Closed 2011</i>	<i>Juvenile Cases Closed 2011</i>
<b>Resistance to Drug and Alcohol Use</b>	Of the 1854 drug screens conducted by this department, 91% were negative for substances.	Of the 20 youth ordered to participate in treatment, 40% tested negative for substances during the supervision period.
<b>School Participation</b>	40% of those lacking a degree at case opening improved their education at time of case closing.	At the time of case closing, 100% of the youth were enrolled in school and 72% were participating satisfactorily.
<b>Restitution to Victims</b>	Of the \$143,022.40 restitution ordered, 64% was collected by time of case closing.	Of the \$8451.16 restitution ordered, 85% was collected by time of case closing.
<b>Restorative Community Service</b>	83% of the 3725 hours of community service ordered was satisfied by case closing.	92% of the 781 hours of community service ordered was satisfied by case closing.
<b>Mental Health</b>	Not collected.	Of the 32 youth ordered to participate in mental health treatment, 87% participated and 78% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing.

# Technology Tools

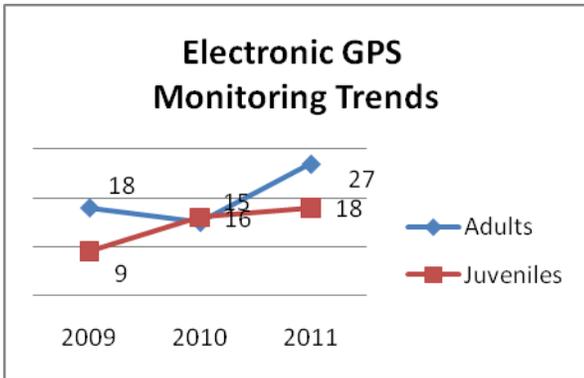
*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING

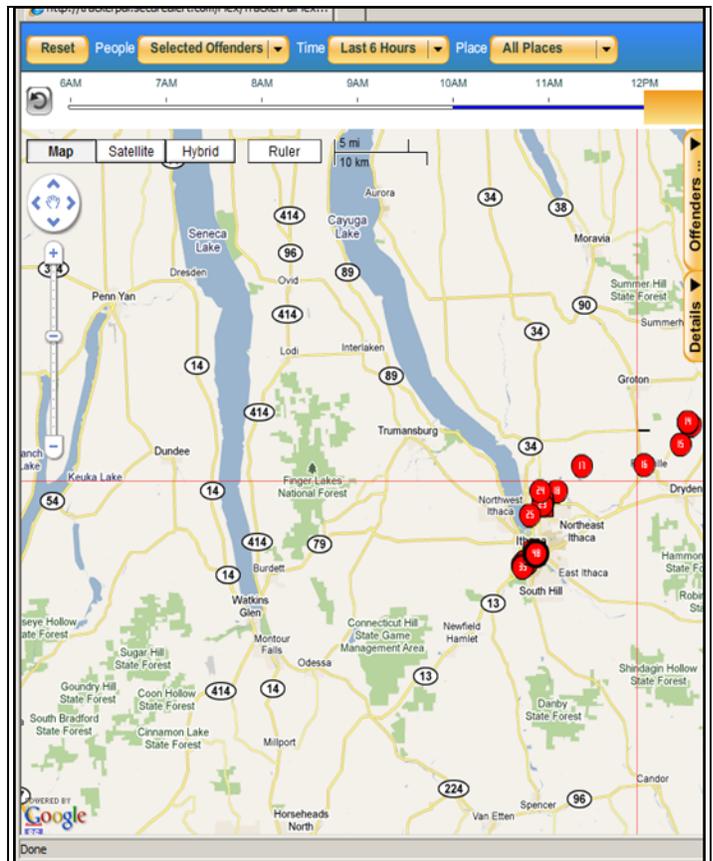
The Electronic Monitoring Program provides 24-hour home monitoring of an offender through the combined technology of an electronic bracelet and cell tower technology. This is a cost-effective Alternative to Incarceration program for high risk adult offenders, and it is used with juveniles as an alternative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



There was a **45%** increase in the number of adults placed on GPS monitoring in 2011.



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

**Probation Facts:**

**\$7.33** - Daily cost of electronic monitoring compared to the high cost of incarceration.

# Technology Tools

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

## TECHNOLOGY MONITORING

The department continues to implement and develop the **Technology Monitoring program** that was launched in 2008. This program, which is ordered by the court as a condition of probation for specific offenders who meet the criteria, is an important tool for reducing recidivism and detecting new criminal activity that may be conducted on computers or the internet.

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.



In November 2011, departmental staff attended the **Cyber Crimes Specialized Investigation Course** sponsored by the National White Collar Crime Center and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice. This course certified them to identify electronic evidence in a manner that preserves it for use in prosecution, whether for a Violation of Probation or for a new criminal offense. This new advance in the **Technology Monitoring** program will allow the department to work more efficiently with the courts and with other law enforcement agencies to protect victims and the public from dangerous online offenders.

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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, the Electronic Securing and Targeting of Online Predators Act (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. The 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 a print-out on a monthly basis of the offenders driving behavior and any problems with high BAC readings are noted.



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
	6:33:42 PM	Car Start
02-03-2011	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

## Ignition Interlock Usage Report

### Probation Facts:

*“Alcohol Ignition Interlocks are a proven tool to effectively reduce impaired driving, protect the public and support long-term risk reduction among drunk drivers.” The Traffic Injury Research Foundation, February 2010*

# 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.

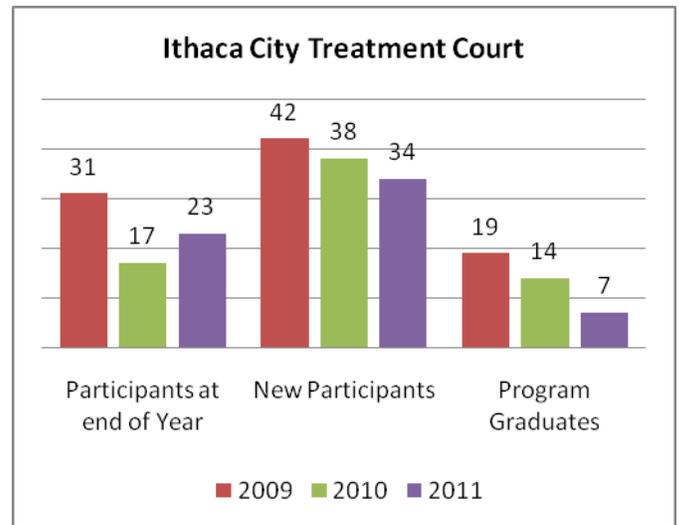
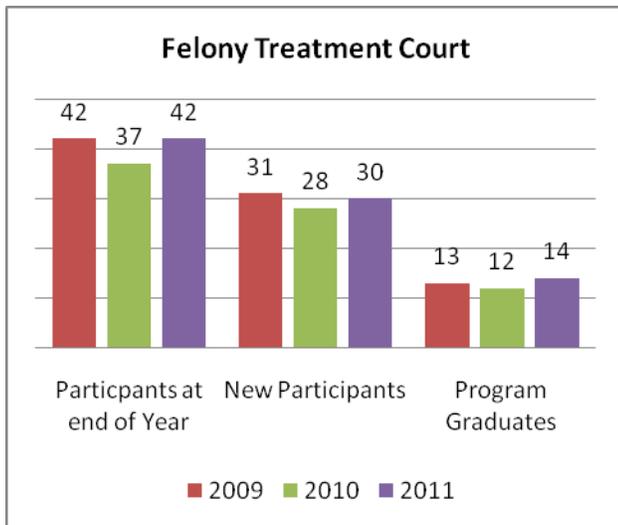
### 2011 at a Glance

#### Felony Drug Court

- ~ 30 new admissions
- ~ 14 participants graduated
- ~ 42 current participants at the end of 2011
- ~ Since inception of the program in April 2000, 134 participants have graduated

#### Ithaca City Treatment Court

- ~ 34 new admissions
- ~ 7 participants graduated
- ~ 23 current participants at the end of 2011
- ~ Since inception of the program in January 1998, 200 participants have graduated



# 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

## The Juvenile Accountability Community Service (JACS)

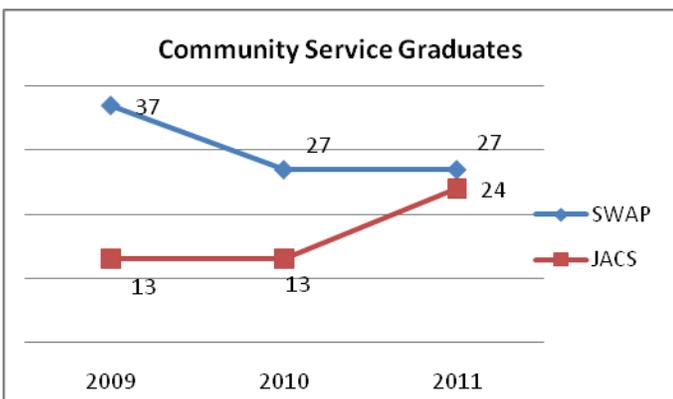
- ~ This program is intended to provide the youth with a way of repaying the community for his or her behavior and hopefully has them internalize the value of such service.

## 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.

Some of our worksites:

* Cops, Kids & Toys	* Adopt A Highway
* Friends of the Library	* TCAT
* Willow Glen Cemetery	* County Government Departments
* Fingerlakes ReUse Center	* YMCA
* Cornell University Dump & Run	* Area Public and State Parks



There was a **46%** increase in the JACS program in 2011.

“I want to commend the work of the crew that assisted in the cleaning, repairing, and beautification of the Ithaca YMCA. SWAP have been a great asset to me and our agency more times than I can count over the years.”

*- FT, Ithaca YMCA*

“The program has enabled the cemetery to make many improvements we could not afford.”

*- RW, Willow Glen Cemetery*

“Our patrons come to the park for clean scenic beauty and your crew have definitely enhanced all the areas of our Park. Thank You.”

*- JV, Taughannock Falls State Park*

### 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 2011, the total hours of community service performed by participants in all programs = **6,146** hours of work in the local area!!

# Day Reporting

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*

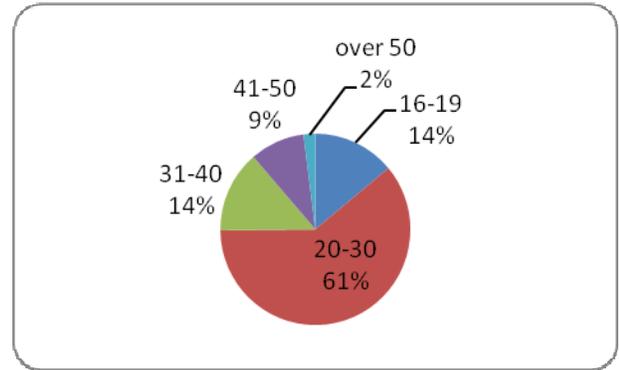
The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program, located in the Community Justice Center (CJC), is one component of the Department's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI). The program is a structured, secure learning environment intended to provide stability, education, and personal advancement for individuals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

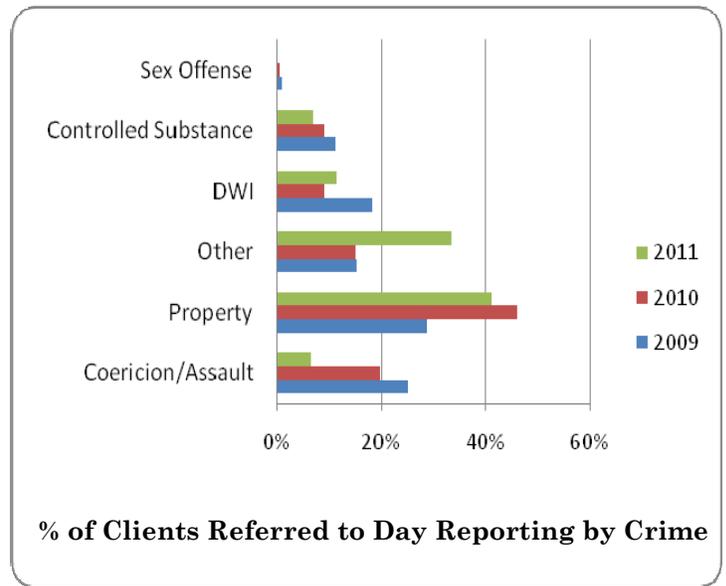
- ~Provide daily programming and educational classes to clients including Substance Abuse, Emotions Management, Financial Management, Mental Health, Health Issues and Nutrition.
- ~Provide educational and employment services.
- ~Provide referrals to outside agencies including Department of Social Services, 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:

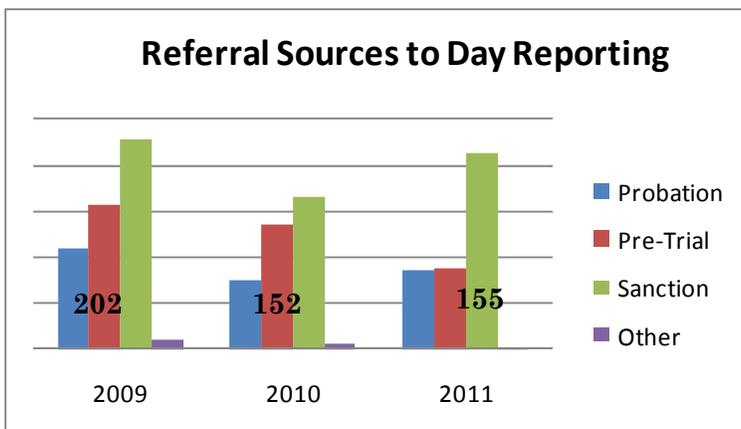
- ~Clients 16 years and older, who have legal histories and are in need of supervision and services.
- ~Clients who are remanded to jail may be released to Day Reporting for supervision and services if deemed appropriate by the judge of jurisdiction.
- ~Clients at all stages of the legal process, from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



**2011 Age Ranges**



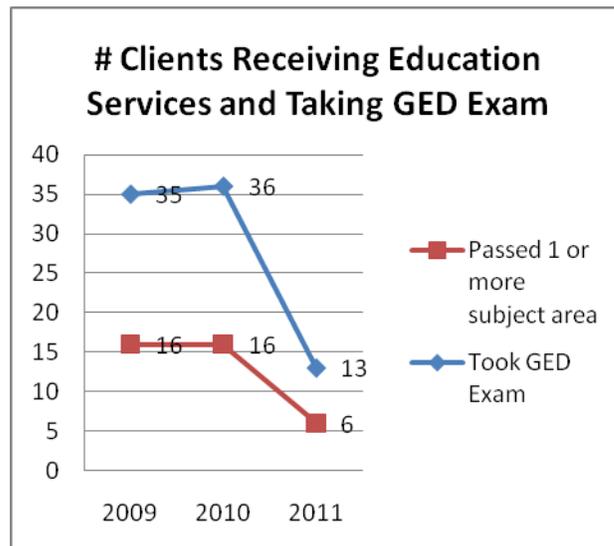
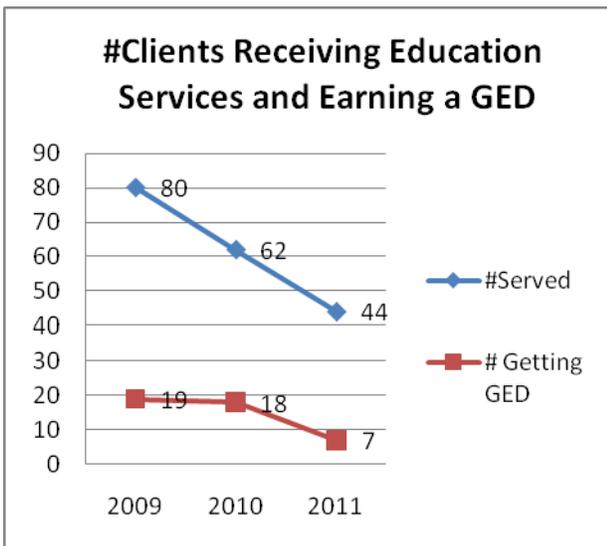
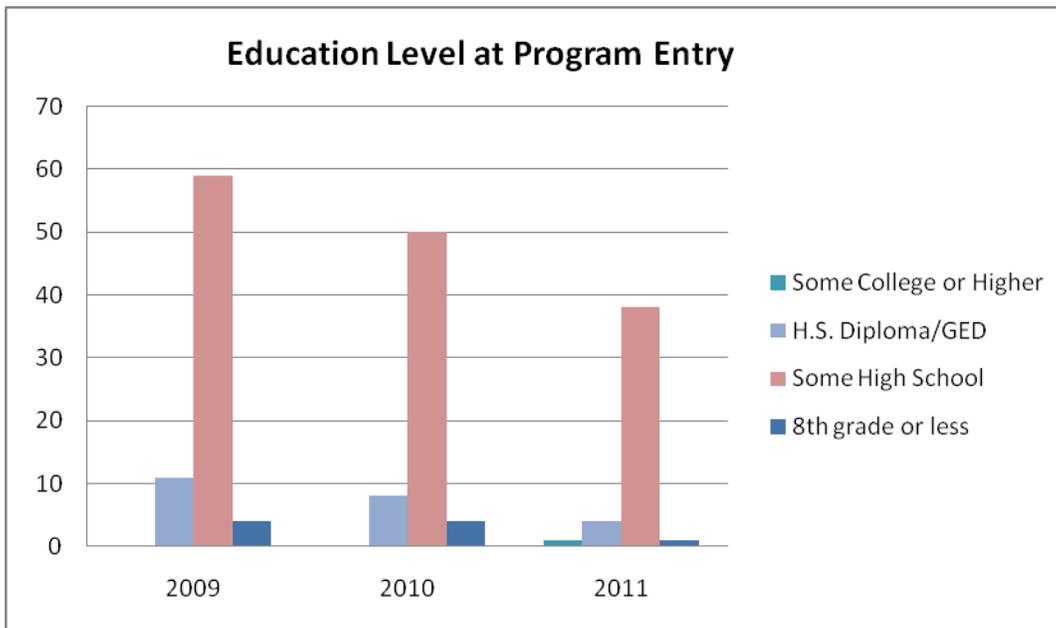
**% of Clients Referred to Day Reporting by Crime**



# Day Reporting

## Education Services

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*



Due to staff transitions in 2011 there was an interruption in providing education services. This is reflected in the decreased number of clients served in this program.

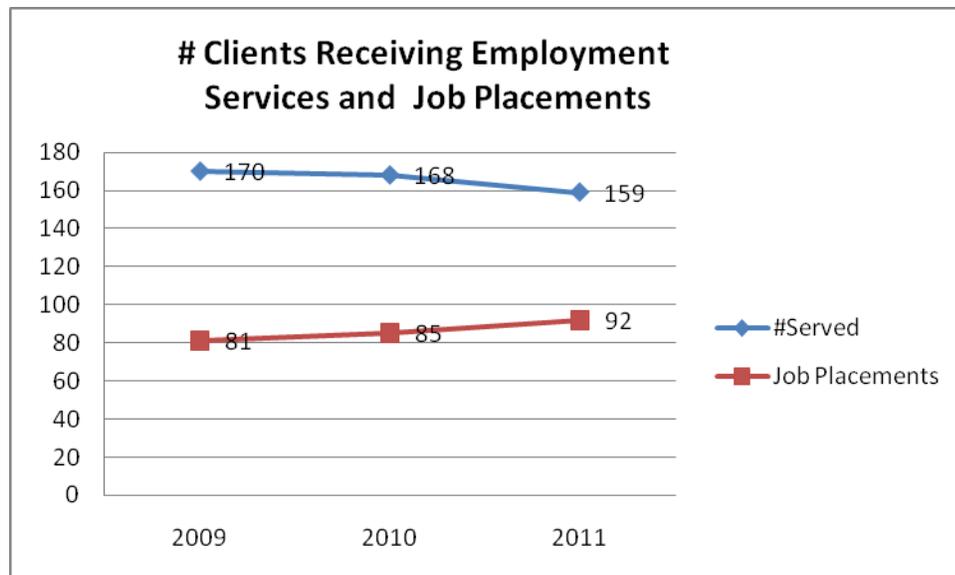
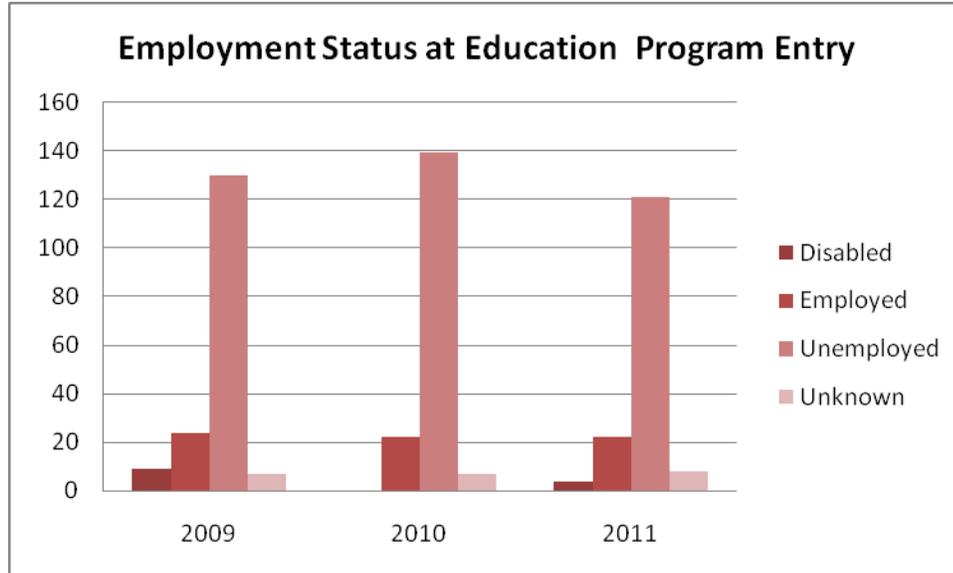
### Probation Facts:

*During 2011, Drug Court sanctioned cases made up the largest percentage of referrals to day reporting. Of these 81 referrals, 69% successfully completed the number of program days ordered by the court.*

# Day Reporting

## Employment Services

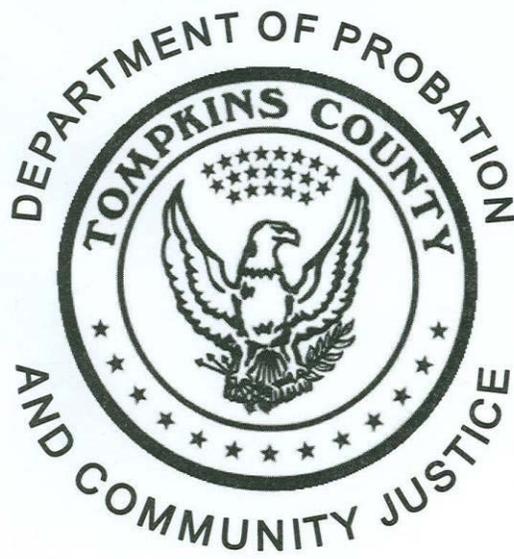
*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*



### Probation Facts:

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





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