

Tompkins County

Department of Probation and Community Justice



Inclusion Through Diversity

ANNUAL

REPORT

2014

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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 2015

Director's Message

Welcome to the 2014 Annual Report of the Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice. As you will read in the upcoming pages, the department continues to be committed in providing quality written reports to the courts and creative supervision strategies involving alternatives to detention and incarceration to our juvenile and adult offenders. This commitment has proven beneficial to our clients and the community, and is documented in our performance measures and outcomes.

As can be seen from our goals for 2015, the Department of Probation and Community Justice has an ambitious year planned ahead. We are very excited to soon be offering probationers the ability to use credit and debit cards as a method to satisfy their financial obligations, with the anticipated outcome of making more victims whole. Along these lines, another goal for the department is to participate in an audit of our collections policy and procedures to ensure that our accounting practices meet high standards. We look forward to relocating the Day Reporting Program to the Human Services Building and having the entire probation staff and programs under one roof. Raising the age of criminal responsibility to age 18 will also be in the forefront in 2015 and may bring potential sweeping reform to how this department and the justice system will be working with youth. And finally, Probation staff will begin to examine jail re-entry/transition into the community along with other community stakeholders with the intent to reduce recidivism and end the revolving door syndrome.

This department is proud to be a major partner in the criminal justice system along with police agencies, the District Attorney's office and the courts. Our focus remains on providing evidenced based practices and a system of graduated sanctions in the course of supervision to encourage success and reduce recidivism while concurrently promoting public safety. We look forward to the challenges ahead in 2015 in our ever evolving field of juvenile and criminal justice and to continuing our role in community partnerships.

Patricia Buechel
Probation Director

A handwritten signature of Patricia Buechel in black ink, written in a cursive style.

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 accountable 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 2014 Goals - What We Accomplished

1. **Continue our collaboration with the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office in offering the Thinking for a Change curriculum for incarcerated inmates with the goal of reducing recidivism.**
 - ✓ *Due to staff turnover in the jail and no readily available T4C training opportunities, we were unable to provide T4C to inmates over the past year. The goal is still to find training for corrections staff so that we may continue our partnership in this important endeavor.*

2. **Review our current Alternatives To Incarceration programs and explore other options that might add to the spectrum of current graduated sanctions.**
 - ✓ *The Probation Director was a member of the Jail Task Force that examined our current ATI programs as well as influences that are causing inmate board outs to other jail facilities. As a direct result of these discussions, the Weekend Service Work Alternative Program (community service) was developed and implemented to provide the courts with an alternative to weekend sentences of incarceration for eligible offenders.*

3. **Continue our collaboration with the area School Districts in the implementation of an evidenced based practice program for middle school students called Second Step: Student Success Through Prevention. This program is comprised of thirteen lesson plans in the areas of Empathy and Communication, Bullying Prevention, Emotions Management and Substance Abuse Prevention.**
 - ✓ *As a result of our collaboration with Dryden School District in 2013, the Second Step curriculum was viewed as a valuable resource and was incorporated into the middle school regular programming in 2014. This department assisted the Groton School District in commencing the program in the 2014 school term; however, the program was not completed due to scheduling conflicts in the school.*

4. **Provide oversight in the planning and development stages of the Day Reporting Program within the Human Services Building.**
 - ✓ *The approval for plan development and construction of an addition to the Human Services Building was granted by the Tompkins County Legislature. The Probation Director met with the architect to approve and finalize details for the Day Reporting Program. Construction began in November 2014 and the expected completion date is November 2015.*

5. **Collaborate with the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office in bringing Ready Set Work!, a National Institute of Corrections evidence based program, to incarcerated inmates to develop job search and job retention skills prior to and following re-entry into the community.**
 - ✓ *Probation staff commenced the Ready Set Work! curriculum in June 2014 to a small group of inmates. Unfortunately, due to the challenges of working with an incarcerated population, the group dissolved prior to the curriculum being fully presented. We hope to be able to offer this program again in 2015.*

Our 2015 Goals

1. **Explore the concept of jail re-entry and transition** into the community by participating in a subcommittee comprised of community stakeholders.
2. **Participate in an audit by the Tompkins County Finance Department** to ensure that our current collections policy and procedures meet best practices and accounting standards.
3. **Implement an internet-based credit and debit card payment system** in an effort to improve our financial collections and better serve victims. This will be an added method of payment to our current practice of accepting cash, checks and money orders.
4. **Monitor the status of any proposed legislation to change the age of criminality** from 16 to 18 years of age and advise the County Administrator and County Legislature as necessary.
5. **Continue to have oversight of the new building construction** that will house the Day Reporting program and successfully transition the staff and programming components into the new site.

2014 Staff Listing

(as of 12/31/2014)

Probation Director

Patricia Buechel

Deputy Director

David Wolf

Administration

Administrative Assistant IV

Laurel Rockhill

Systems Analyst

Susan Moore

Senior Account Clerk Typist

Kelly Blake

Administrative Assistant III

Jennifer Southworth

Administrative Services Coordinator

Ujjal Mukherjee

Probation Assistant

Bernadette Stranger

Information Aide

Diane Achilles

Probation Supervisors

Criminal Court Supervisor

Dan Cornell

Criminal Court II Supervisor

Karla Brackett

Family Court Supervisor

Jan Gorovitz

Senior Probation Officers

Ithaca Community Treatment Court

Paul Neugebauer

Greatest Risk Supervision

Stacie Burgos

Juvenile Greatest Risk Supervision

Gladys Larson

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Harold Gregoire

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Robert J. Devens

Day Reporting and SWAP

Karen Burns

Probation Officers

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Abigail Bixby

Criminal Court and Child Support

Carmen Hockett

Criminal Court Investigations

Jarrold Newcomb

Criminal Court—DV caseload

Michelle Preshur

Staff & Department Milestones

Probation Officers (con't)

Criminal Court - DWI

Michael Herrling

Criminal Court -DWI

Denise Hayden

Criminal Court

Kate Horey

Criminal Court

Tom Partigianoni

Family Court

Nick Flanigan

Family Court

Angela Kehoe

Family Court

Christine Ion

Family Court

Holly Alzitoon

Work Project Supervisors:

William Apgar

James Bond

Security Officer:

Richard Brewer

Transition Workforce Employment Specialist:

Kathy Lind

Years of Service to the Probation Department

10+ Years

Abigail Bixby

Kate Horey

Gladys Larson

Ujjal Mukherjee

Christine Ion

15+ Years

William Apgar

Kelly Blake

James Bond

Karla Brackett

Daniel Cornell

Rob Devens

Carmen Hockett

Jarrold Newcomb

Laurel Rockhill

20+Years

Stacie Burgos

25+ Years

Patricia Buechel

Janice Gorovitz

Harold Gregoire

Bernadette Stranger

David Wolf

Restitution and Fee Collection

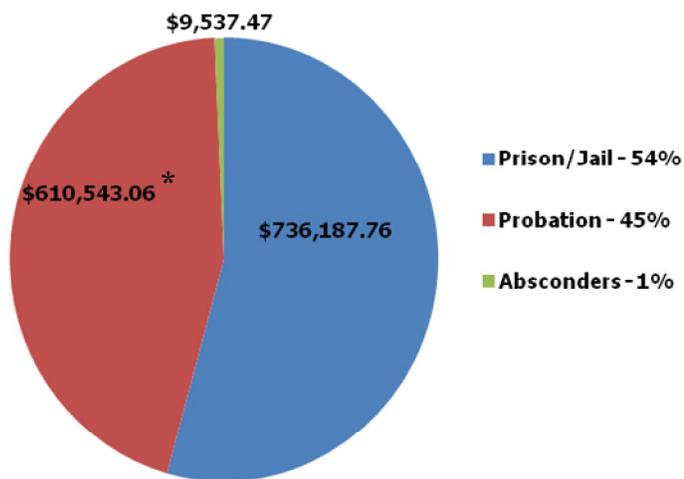
Submitted by Laurel Rockhill, Administrative Assistant

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

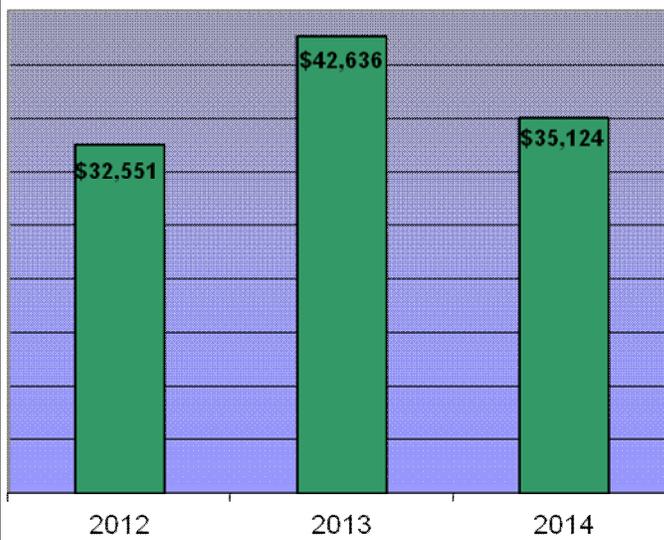
2014 ACTUAL DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISBURSED

	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Other + Interest	Totals
Beginning balance carried from 12/31/13	\$1290.31	\$17.52	0.00	\$1173.00	0.00	\$2480.83
Money Received 01/14 - 12/14	\$73,601.12	\$3728.27	\$35.00	\$1123.00	\$9.20	\$78,496.59
Money Disbursed 01/14 - 12/14	\$72,686.22	\$3747.12	-\$15.00	\$1926.00	0.00	\$78,344.34
End Balance 12/31/14	\$2205.21	-\$1.33	\$50.00	\$370.00	\$9.20	\$2633.08

2014 Outstanding Restitution Balance Owed \$1,356,268.29



DWI SUPERVISION FEES \$\$ COLLECTED



*This amount includes one restitution order received in 2014 totaling \$405,252.59

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).

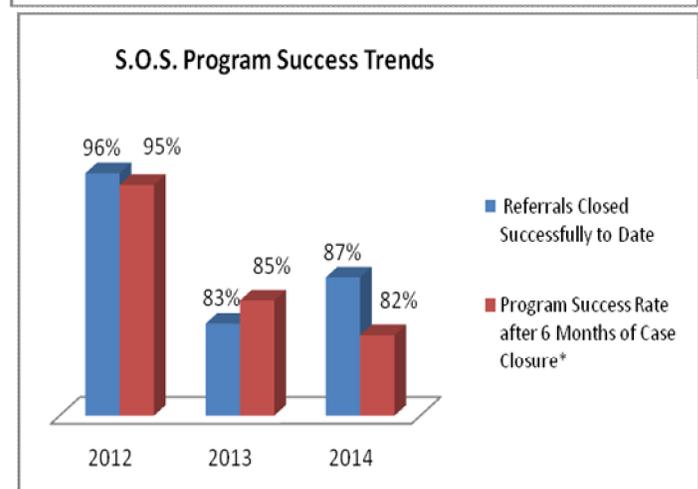
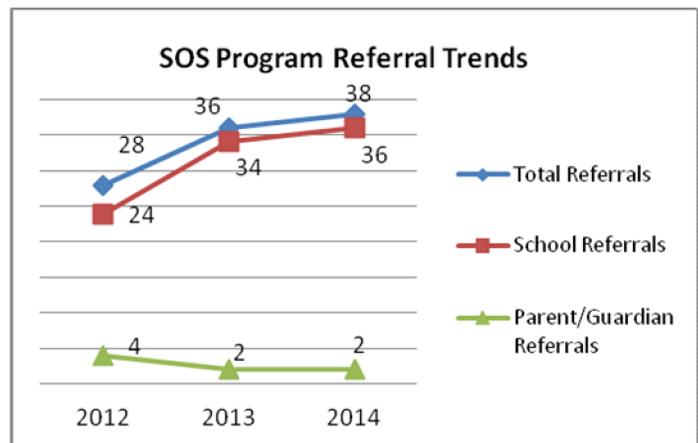
Family Court Probation Officers also provide daily intake coverage Monday through Friday. This means that they are the designated contact for the Probation Department if and when people from the community come looking for information or guidance for any family related matter. Calls are often from parents looking for advice or help with their child. The parent/guardian is walked through the services offered through the PINS Diversion Program and informed of the services 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 program 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 identify 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, 82% of the youth referred for S.O.S services in 2014 who successfully completed the program have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System six months after case closing.

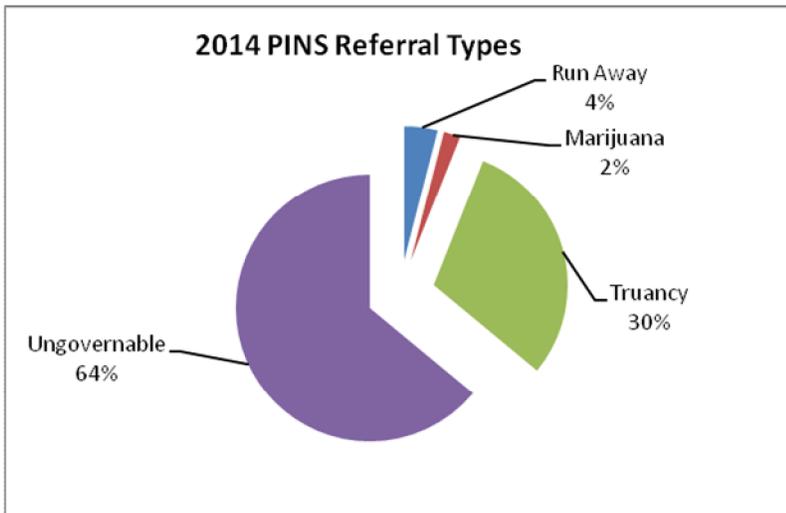
Family Court Diversion Services

Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

PINS

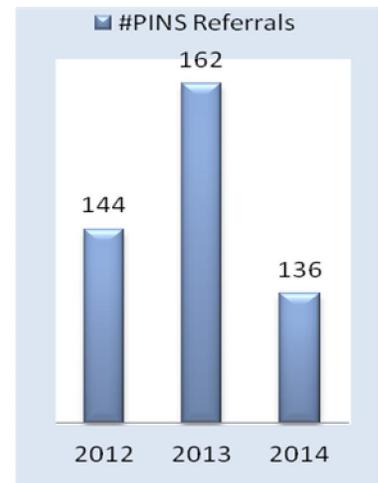
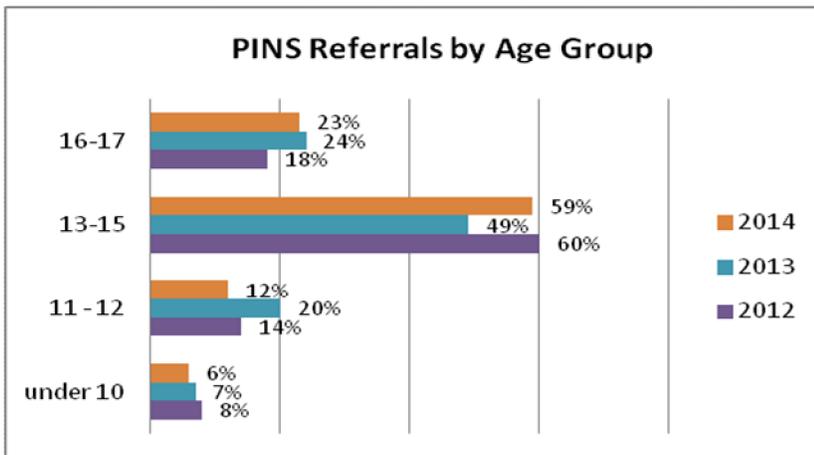
A Person in Need of Supervision is a youth under the age of eighteen who is showing a pattern of habitual disobedience, running away, curfew violations, substance abuse, violent behavior, or school truancy problems. Most PINS referrals are made by parents or school districts. PINS Diversion Services 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, substance abuse evaluations and treatment, mediation, youth advocacy programs, respite, or educational and 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 2014, the Tompkins County Probation Department received **136** PINS referrals: **44** complaints were initiated by parents, **86** by school administrators, **4** by police and **2** by the Department of Social Services.



In 2014, of the 142 cases closed:

- 34%** were closed as successfully adjusted
- 64%** of youth were engaged in services
- 75%** avoided being referred to the Family Court for further PINS proceedings



Probation Facts:

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

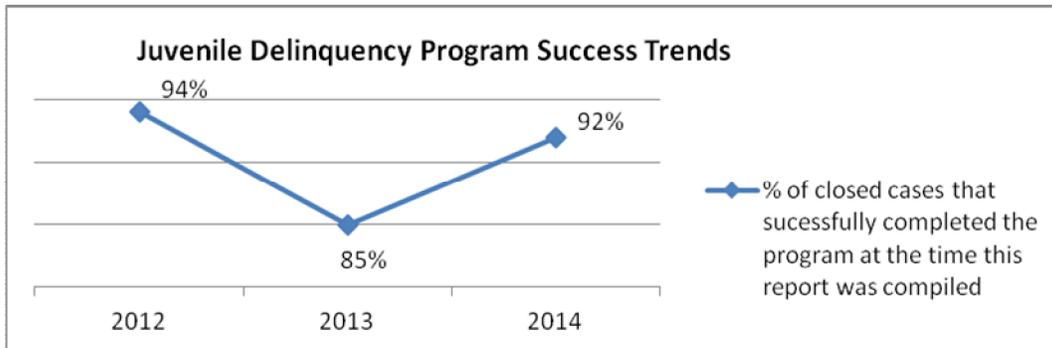
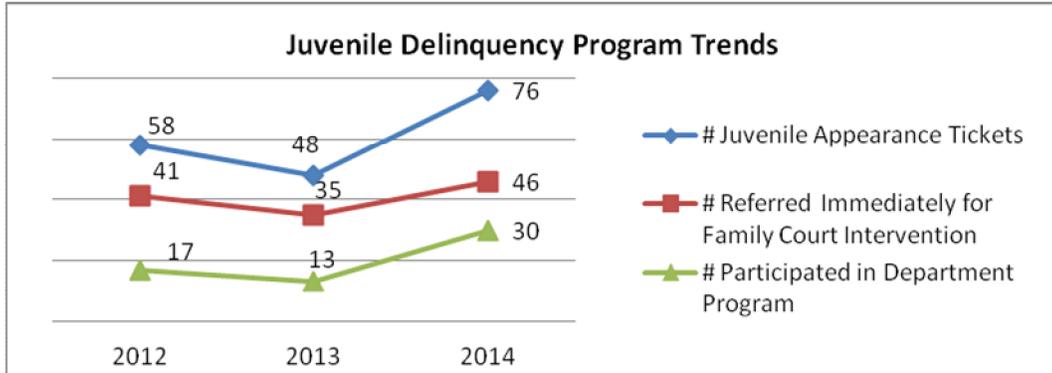
Family Court Diversion Services

Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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

- ~ In **2014**, 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, and **30** youth participated in this department’s Diversion program.
- ~ Of the 30 youth who participated in the JD Diversion program, to date, 24 or **(92%)** successfully completed the program requirements and avoided further court intervention. 4 cases remain open.



Probation Facts:

To date, of the 2014 closed Juvenile Delinquency cases, 92% have been successfully diverted from the Family Court System.

Family Court Investigations

Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

FAMILY COURT INVESTIGATIONS

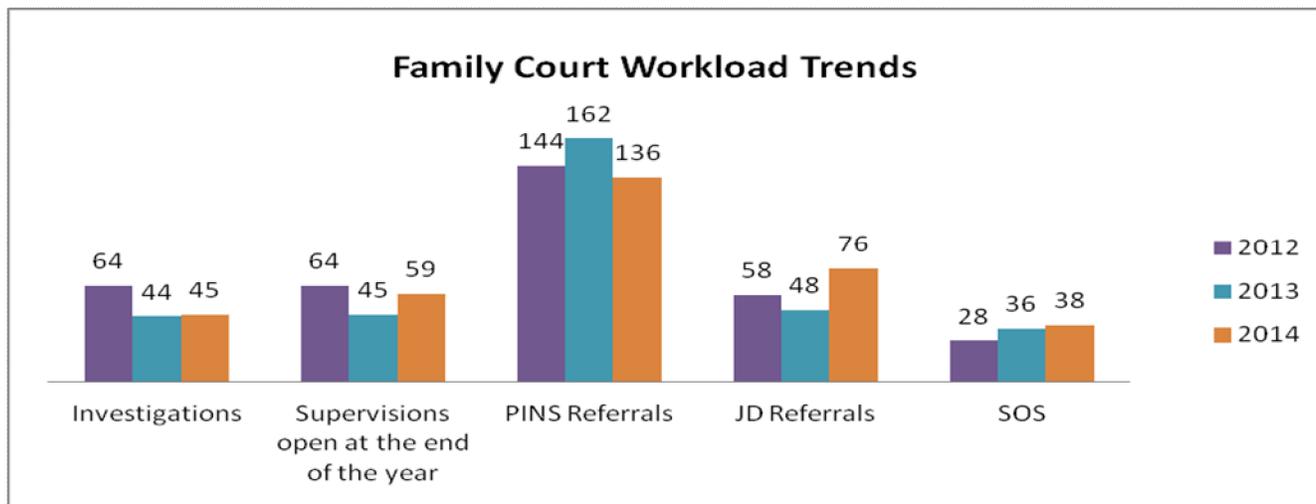
The Family Court Act requires that a predispositional investigation be conducted for all Designated Felony cases (defined as an act which if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, various sexual offenses, etc). For other Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need of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

These reports provide information regarding:

- ~ Respondent's legal history
- ~ Respondent's version of the petition before the court
- ~ Respondent's ability to pay restitution
- ~ A review of the family home, the family composition, and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each party living in that home
- ~ Respondent's needs and achievements in the educational and employment arenas
- ~ 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
- ~ 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
- ~ Provide Pre-Diversion Services (Strengthening Our Students)



Family Court Supervision

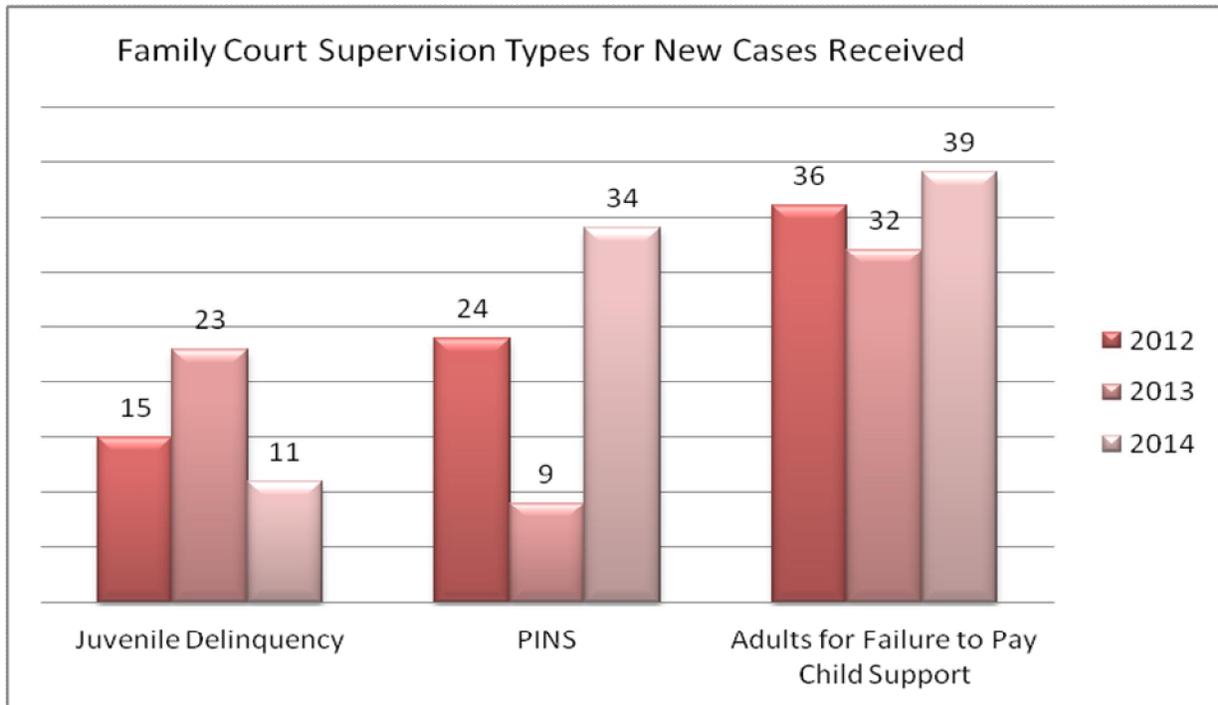
Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

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 or Day Reporting / gainful employment**
- ~ **community service**
- ~ **payment of restitution to the victim/payment of child support**
- ~ **victim offender conferencing**



PINS cases saw the largest increase in 2014.

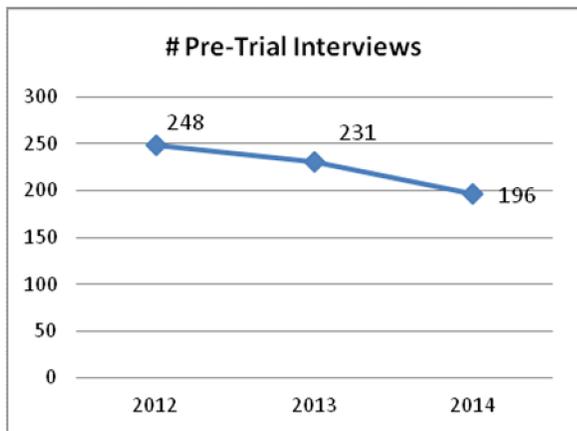
Probation Facts:

***152** hours of community service were successfully completed in this department's supervised Juvenile Accountability Community Service program in 2014*

Pre-Trial Release Program

Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director

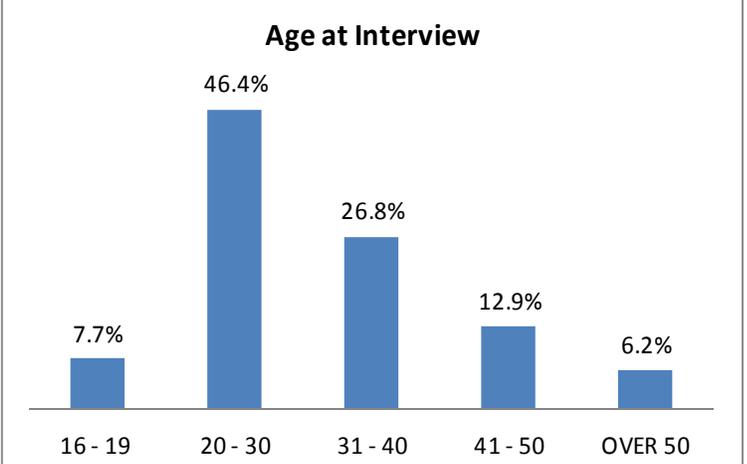
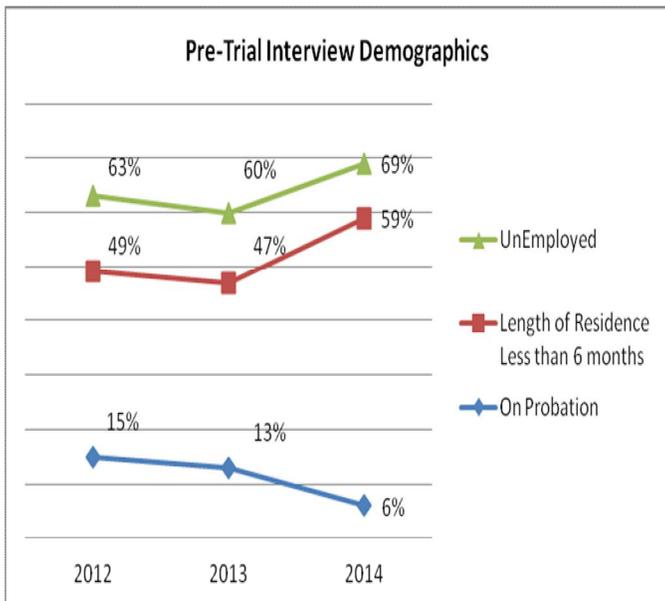
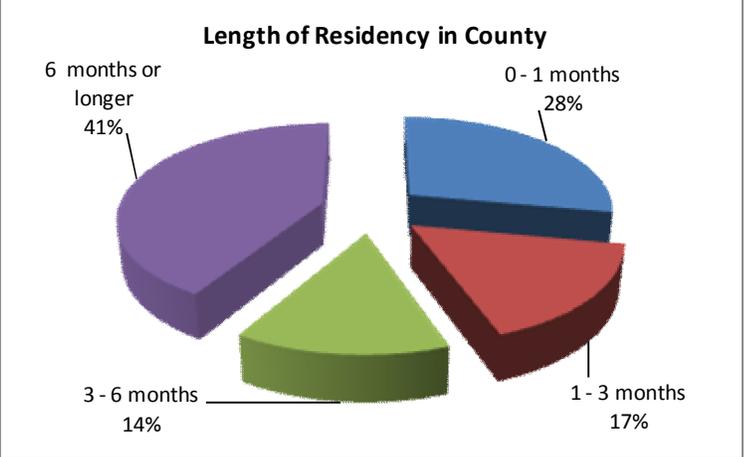
This department continues to operate the Pre-Trial Release Program in an attempt to facilitate release for incarcerated individuals who meet appropriate criteria. All defendants in custody at the Tompkins County Public Safety Building, who have bail set by a court, are given the opportunity to be interviewed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



2014 PRE-TRIAL FACTS

A total of **196** pre-trial release reports were completed for the courts:

- * **82%** were male detainees vs. **18%** female detainees
- * **65%** were white vs. **35%** minority
- * **52%** were detained for a felony charge vs. **44%** for a misdemeanor charge and **4%** were for probation violations
- * **59%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their detainment



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

Pre-Trial Release Program

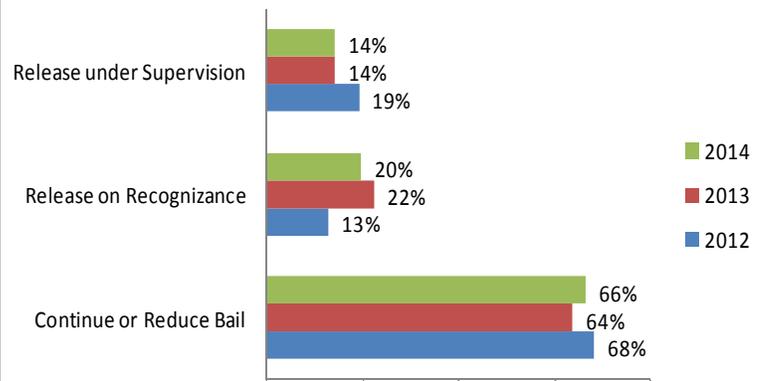
Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director

If Released Under Supervision (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.

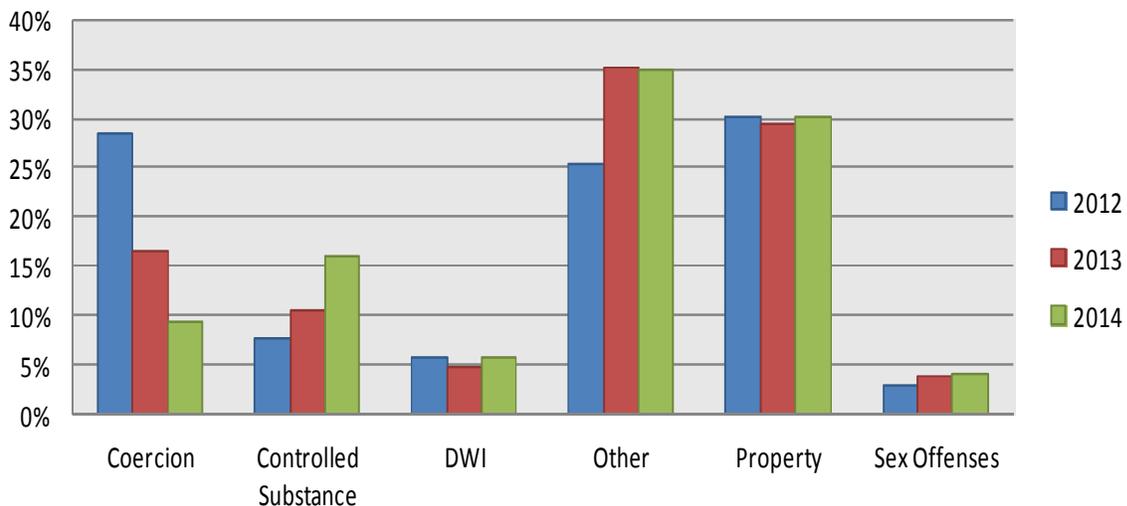
Possible Recommendations for Pre-Trial Release

- ~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 % of Total Interviews per Year



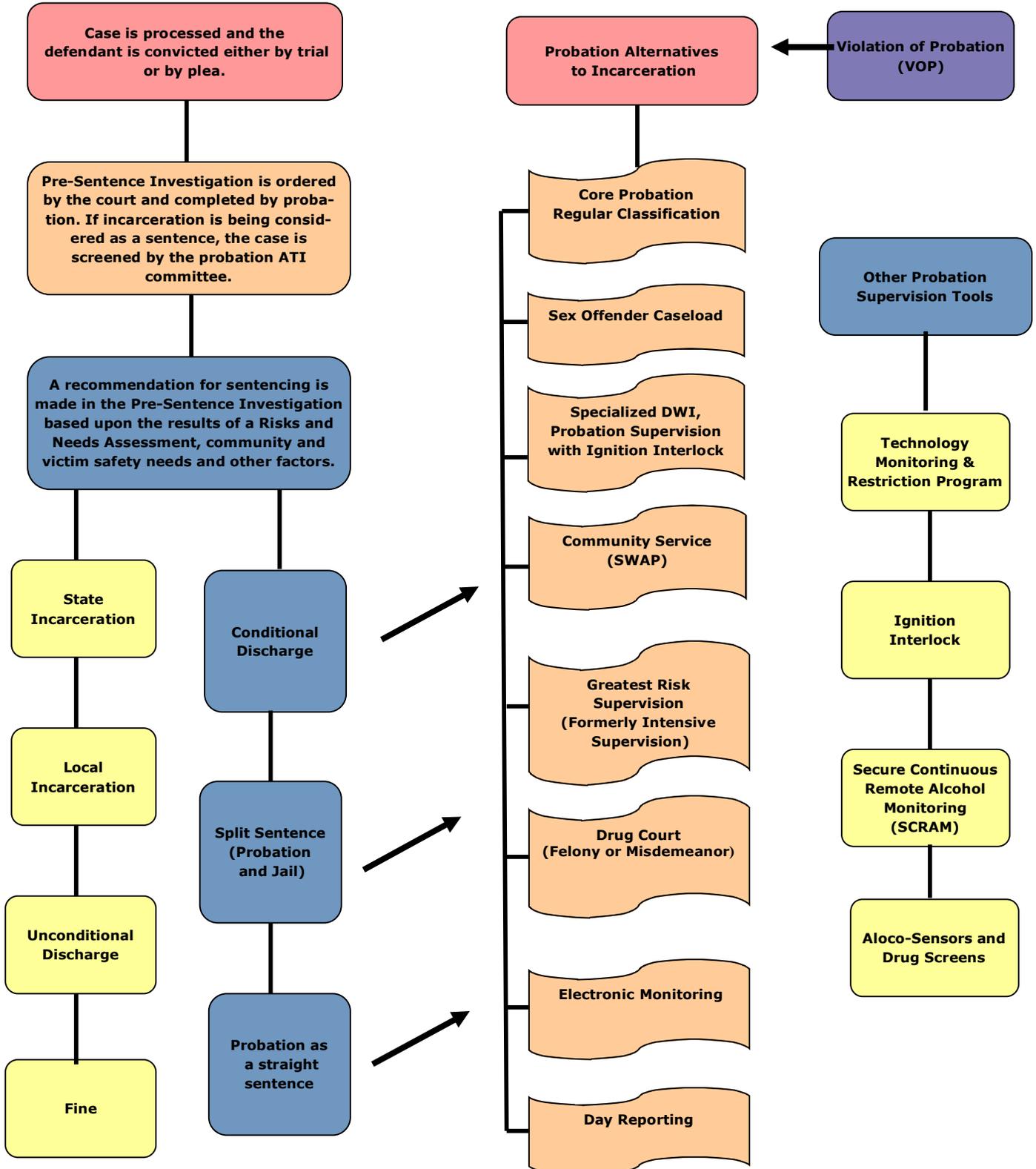
Probation Facts:

Pretrial Release programs facilitate the release of defendants who would otherwise be incarcerated for want of financial resources, reduce unnecessary incarceration and associated costs, and relieve overcrowding in local correctional facilities.

Criminal Court Flow Chart

Sentencing Options

Alternatives to Incarceration



Graduated Sanctions

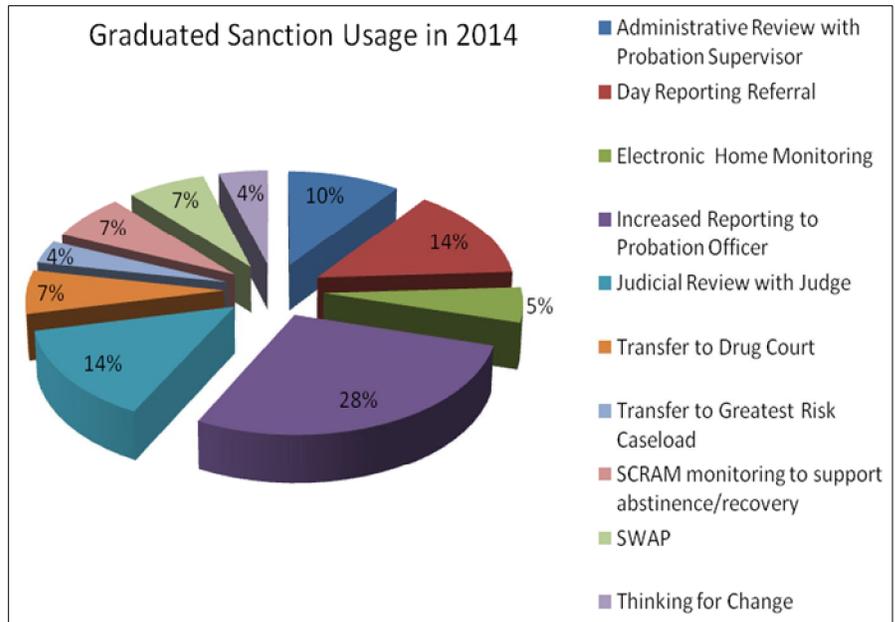
Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director

GRADUATED SANCTIONS

The term “graduated sanctions” means a system of incentives and sanctions that provide for the easing of restrictions for continued compliance and progressively more severe or restrictive sanctions for continued non-compliance. Easing of restrictions can include decreased reporting requirements, granting of travel permits and requests for early discharges.

More severe sanctions for non-compliance can include increasing the reporting requirement, reprimands by departmental officials and/or by the sentencing court, having to perform community service, and greater restrictions on movement.

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



ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION PROGRAMS (ATI)

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

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

CURRENT ATI PROGRAMS

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

Probation Facts:

Of the cases closed in 2014, this department utilized graduated sanctions 228 times as a way to encourage compliance.

Criminal Court Investigations

Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor

INVESTIGATIONS

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

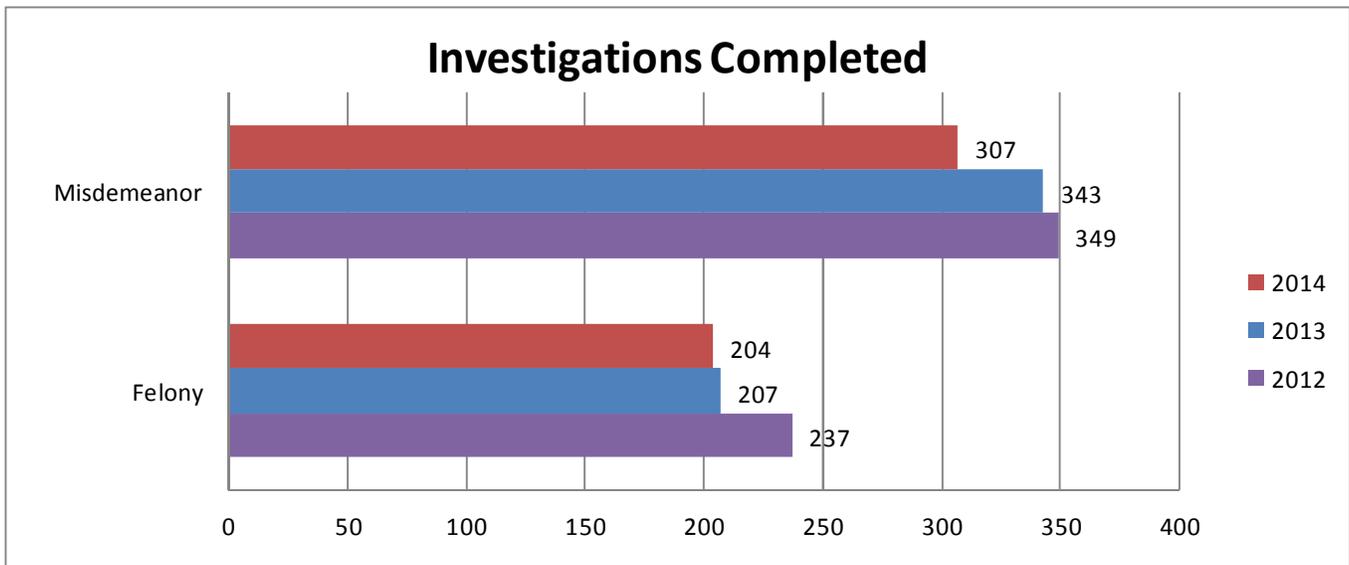
- ~ providing accurate criminal and social history in an objective and analytical format
- ~ identifying the defendants risks and protective factors
- ~ expressing the victim’s perspective of the crime to the court

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

- ~ drug/alcohol involvement and treatment needs
- ~ individualized supervision plans based on offender needs, victim’s rights, and community safety considerations
- ~ an assessment of appropriate alternative to incarceration options designed to address the defendants needs, in an effort to reduce recidivism

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 and fine payments*
- * *An acturial risk and needs assessment to identify the criminogenic factors that increase the offenders risk of recidivism, as well as identifying protective and stabilizing factors.*



Probation Facts:

In 2013, the NY Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives reported approximately 107,000 offenders were under probation supervision. The New York Department Division of Parole supervises approximately 45,000 parolees. (The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) as of 12/31/2013)

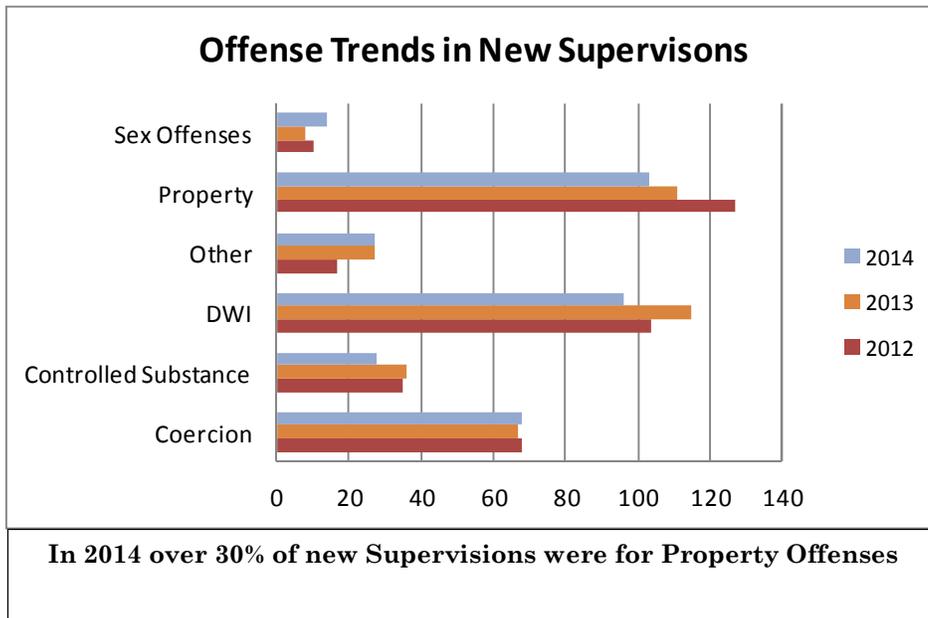
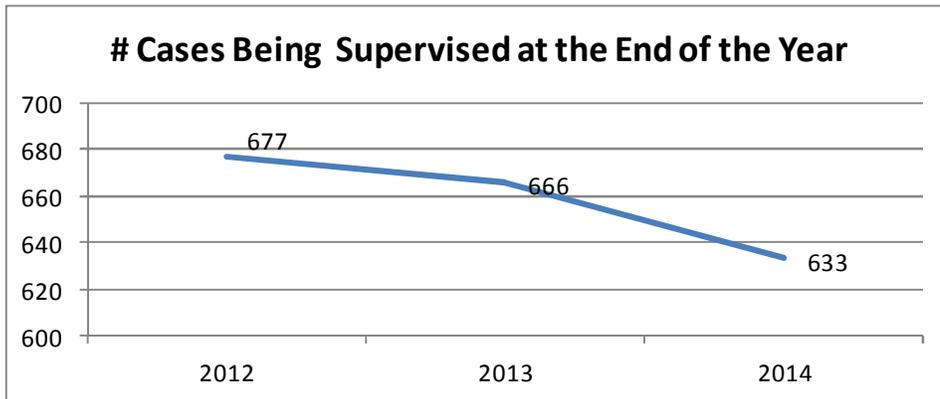
Criminal Court Supervision

Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor

SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

The two main goals of probation supervision are:

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



Probation Facts:

Approximately 1 in 51 adults in the United States was under community supervision at yearend 2013. The community supervision population includes adults on probation, parole, or any other post-prison supervision.

(Bureau of Justice Statistics, October 2014)

Specialized Supervision

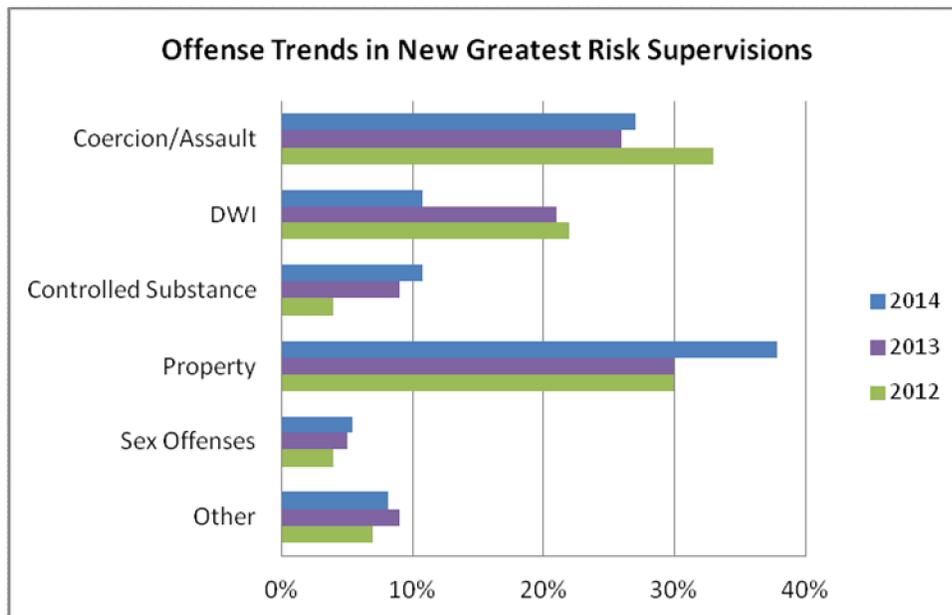
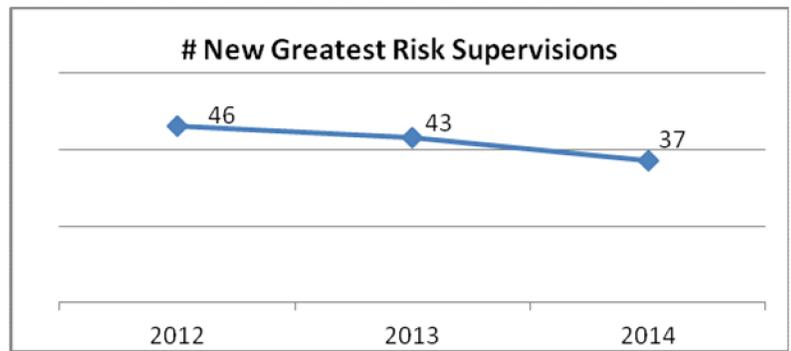
Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor

GREATEST RISK SUPERVISION

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

Greatest Risk Caseloads Characteristics

- ~ Maximum of 35 cases
- ~ Minimum of 6 probationer contacts per month
- ~ Minimum of one positive home contact per month
- ~ Frequent collateral contacts (family, employers, treatment providers, etc.)
- ~ Supervised by Senior Probation Officers proficient in use of Electronic Monitoring, SCRAM and Computer Technology Monitoring.



Probation Facts:

78% of case closings in 2014 remained arrest free during the term of probation.

Specialized Supervision

Submitted by Abigail Bixby, Probation Officer

SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION

What are the numbers in Tompkins County?

- ~ There are approximately **160** registered sex offenders in Tompkins County, according to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).
- ~ Approximately **35** of those have open probation cases. Those offenders not on probation (or parole) are managed by individual police agencies.
- ~ Approximately another **20** offenders are under probation supervision who were not convicted of a registerable offense, but whose underlying criminal behaviors were sexual in nature.

Why does any sex offender get sentenced to probation? Shouldn't they all go to prison?

- ~ Putting the victim through a trial may re-traumatize them, or the victim may be too young to testify. Plea agreements can help reduce the ordeal for the victim.
- ~ Prosecution of a later violation of probation usually does not require the victim to be involved, and is a much simpler legal process.
- ~ Research has shown that community supervision is an effective way to prevent a sexual reoffense.

What does the specialized probation officer do?

- ~ The best practice recommended by DCJS is known as the containment approach. The Probation Officer places the highest priority on public and victim safety.
- ~ The Probation Officer plays a significant role in supporting victims of sexual assault and holding offenders accountable.
- ~ The sex offender caseload includes the majority of the Technology Monitoring cases. The Probation Officer and the Systems Analyst have specialized training in forensic computer examinations and the handling of electronic evidence.
- ~ The Probation Officer is part of the Tompkins County Sex Offense Court, where offenders appear monthly in front of the judge to ensure compliance.
- ~ The Probation Officer is part of a Multidisciplinary Team that includes victim advocates, police agencies, probation, the DA's Office and Child Protective Services. This cohesive team works together to move cases through the justice system using a victim-centered approach.

Specialized Supervision

Submitted by Michael Herrling & Denise Hayden, DWI Probation Officers

DWI SUPERVISION CASELOAD

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

Why have a specialized DWI caseload?

- ~ DWI crimes continue to represent a significant threat to public safety. In 2014, there were **385** DWI arrests in Tompkins County with **93** of those resulting from an automobile crash.
- ~ Approximately **1/3** of the total cases supervised by this department are DWI cases.

2014 DWI Arrest Demographics

38% between age 21 - 29

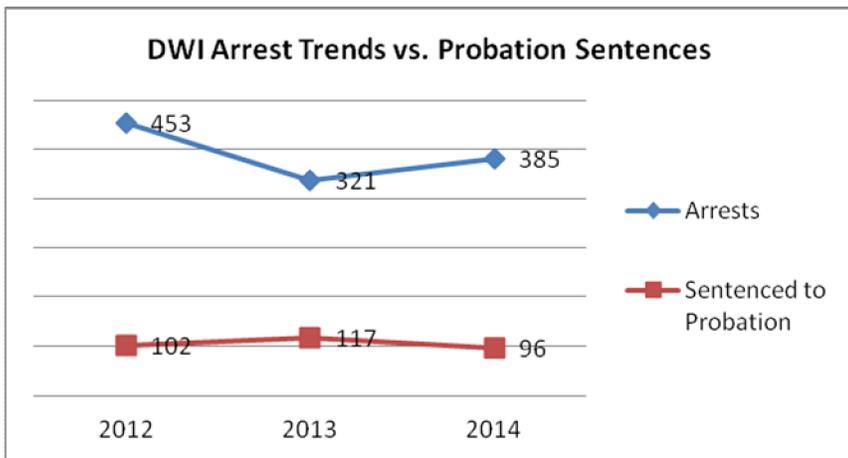
24% between age 30 - 39

25% Female

75% Male

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

- ~ Completing pre-sentence investigation and subsequent supervision of persons convicted of DWI.
- ~ Intensive supervision of a caseload averaging approximately **50** probationers.
- ~ Home visits are conducted with many visits occurring on weekends.
- ~ Random bar checks.
- ~ Administering Alco-sensor tests for the purpose of detecting alcohol use.
- ~ Use of Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) units to further monitor a defendant's ability to remain alcohol free.



Evidence Based Programs

Submitted by Karen Burns, Senior Probation Officer

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

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

This department now has seven probation officers trained to teach this important curriculum and groups are held up to three times a year at the Probation Department.

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

*By taking charge
of our thinking
we can take
control of our
lives*

READY, SET, WORK!- Evidenced Based Practice Curriculum

Ready, Set, Work! (RSW!), an evidence-based program to develop fundamental employment skills was presented in 2014 to Probation clients and is also being offered in 2015 in the Tompkins County Jail to ease re-entry transitions. This program, through the National Career Development Association was developed through collaboration with the NY State Department of Labor, The National Institute of Corrections and the NY State Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives and consists of a 10 session skill-based training to equip individuals with criminal records to get and retain legitimate employment. Four individuals successfully completed this new program in 2014.

What the curriculum teaches:

- ~ Assessing skills and interests
- ~ Understanding and overcoming barriers to employment
- ~ Legal issues; Knowing your rights and responsibilities when applying for work
- ~ Planning a job search
- ~ Employer expectations and incentives
- ~ What it takes to be successful and advance

Performance Measures

Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director

2014 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 2014. Data collection and analysis of departmental performance will be an ongoing process for 2015.

Benchmark	260 Adult Cases Closed 2014	36 Juvenile Cases Closed 2014
Law Abiding Behavior	78% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation	86% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation
Resistance to Drug and Alcohol Use	Of the 1184 drug screens recorded by this department, 89% were negative for substances	Of the 9 youth ordered to participate in treatment, 67% completed treatment or were in good standing with treatment at time of case closing
School Participation Vocational Training	49% of those cases where education/vocational training was identified as a criminogenic need at case opening achieved or improved their goals at case closing	At the time of case closing, 83% of the youth were enrolled in school/vocational program and 86% were participating satisfactorily
Restitution to Victims	Of the \$103,823 restitution ordered, 46% was collected at time of case closing	Of the \$608 restitution ordered, 30% was collected at time of case closing
Restorative Community Service	93% of the 2725 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing	74% of the 93 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing
Mental Health	76% of those court ordered to participate in mental health treatment did so and 58% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing	Of the 24 youth ordered to participate in mental health treatment, 88% participated and 63% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing
Case Closing Status	61% of cases were closed successfully	66% of cases were closed successfully

Technology Tools

Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

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

Probation Facts:

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

In 2014, **22** offenders participated in electronic monitoring for a total of 1,546 days. Participation in electronic monitoring costs \$7.20 per day per offender compared to incarceration at \$84.00 per day. While not appropriate for all offenders, Electronic Monitoring demonstrates some clear benefits for part of the population served by the probation department.

Estimated Cost Comparison

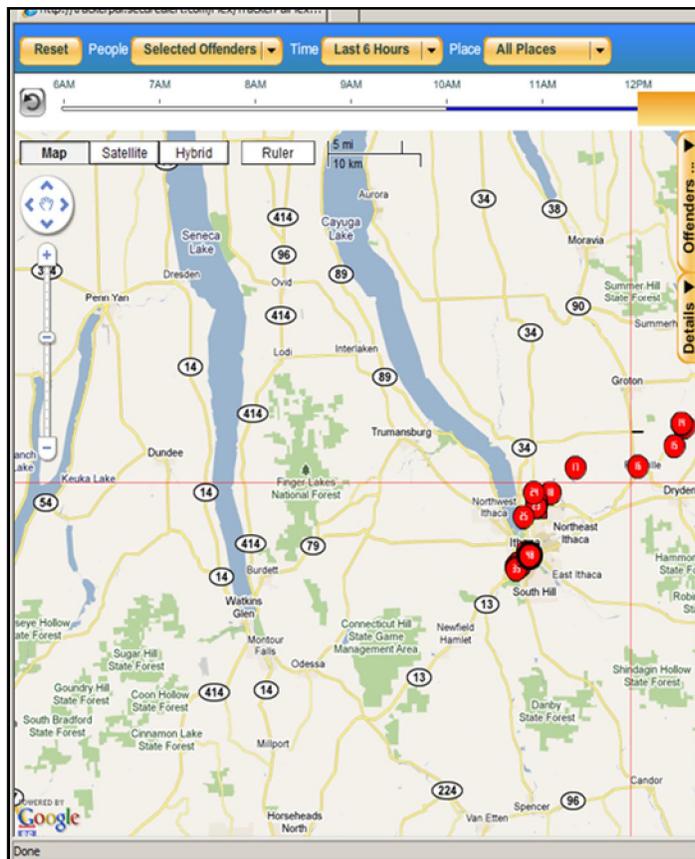
Average Incarceration Costs if inmates are boarded out to other jails:

1,546 days @ \$84.00/day totals \$129,864.00.

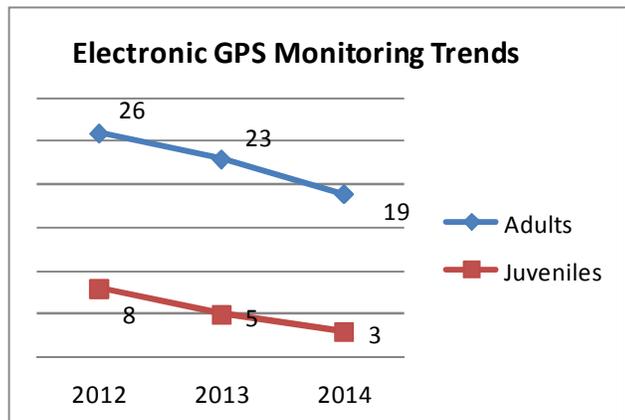
EM Costs:

1,546 days @ \$7.20/day totals \$11,131.20.

*Taxpayer Savings for 2014: **\$118,732.80***



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



Probation Facts:

\$7.20- Daily cost of electronic monitoring compared to the higher cost of incarceration.

Technology Tools

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

TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTION AND MONITORING

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

90% of American adults have a cell phone as of January 2014 according to the Pew Internet Project's research related to social networking. Other highlights include:

- ✓ **58%** of American adults have a smartphone
- ✓ **32%** of American adults own an e-reader
- ✓ **42%** of American adults own a tablet computer

To address these technology trends, in 2014 this department began testing additional products to allow us to restrict and monitor new and emerging internet capable devices. In 2015 we will continue this testing as we expand our digital monitoring tools to keep up with this constantly evolving area.

It is important to remember that technology approaches are not a stand-alone means of keeping track of offenders online. The Technology Monitoring team employs the use of those products in combination with diligent investigatory techniques, best-practice offender interviewing skills and the use of multidisciplinary professional networking. This combination provides the highest level of accountability for the offender, as well as a means to continually keep up with the trends of online offending.



“Among teenagers 14-17 years old and young adults 18-24 years old, there is an increasing awareness of digital abuse as a societal problem that needs to be addressed. Seventy-two percent say digital abuse, such as harassing people online or via cell phone, impersonating others online to embarrass them, and using text messaging to control and excessively keep tabs on them, is a big problem for society that needs to be dealt with.”

*“A Study from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV”
The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research (October 2013).*

Probation Facts:

*There are **38,102** registered sex offenders in New York State as of February 2015*

(Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Website)

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.

89% of criminal court probationers who completed probation in 2014 were ordered to complete substance abuse treatment by the Courts because drug or alcohol abuse was identified as a criminogenic risk factor.

63% successfully completed their recommended treatment.

Alcosensors

An Alcosensor is a hand held device that detects 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 have probationers test for alcohol both in the office and in the field. This can be done 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 Alcosenor.



Drug Testing

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.

Probationers are also tested by the treatment agencies where they engage in counseling.

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 now commonly used when a relapse with alcohol has occurred with a DWI probationer, as an alternative to requesting incarceration. 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 to determine compliance with alcohol conditions.

Probation Facts:

\$5.30 - Daily cost of SCRAM compared to the higher 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, so that the offender's alcohol use and driving behavior can be immediately addressed. The Ignition Interlock device requires the offender to provide a breath sample prior to starting the vehicle. If alcohol is detected the device prohibits the offender from starting the car. The Probation Officer receives notification of any high BAC readings, missed blow samples or potential tampering.

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



Ignition Interlock Usage Report

Note: Time zone is Eastern

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

Log Date	Time	Log Message
02-04-2011	8:55:53 PM	Car Stop
	8:49:23 PM	Car Start
	8:49:16 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=20 BL=10 AT=8.4C BT=23.2C RV=50 T=0.17s
	6:45:35 PM	Car Stop
02-03-2011	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
	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
02-03-2011	4:59:04 PM	Car Start
	4:58:57 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=7 AT=15.0C BT=27.3C RV=50 T=1.53s
	3:34:03 PM	Car Stop
	3:30:19 PM	Car Start
	3:30:12 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=24 BL=7 AT=18.7C BT=29.3C RV=50 T=0.57s

Internet | Protected Mode: O

Probation Facts:

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

Treatment Court Programs

Submitted by 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.

Drug Court turned my while life around. I did nothing productive, couldn't work, help my mother, myself. I had no goals, couldn't sleep, couldn't function. Now I have a clear head, I can think, I can remember, I can sleep.

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.

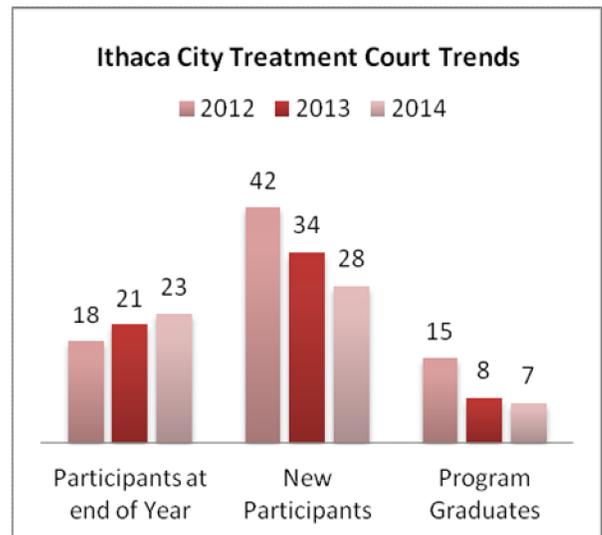
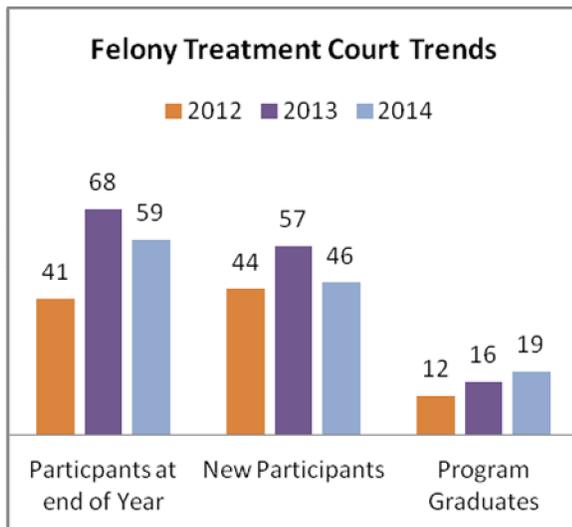
2014 at a Glance

Felony Drug Court

- ~ 46 new admissions
- ~ 19 participants graduated
- ~ 59 current participants at the end of 2014
- ~ Since inception of the program in April 2000, 181 participants have graduated

Ithaca City Treatment Court

- ~ 28 new admissions
- ~ 7 participants graduated
- ~ 23 current participants at the end of 2014
- ~ Since inception of the program in January 1998, 230 participants have graduated



Community Service Programs

Submitted by Karen Burns, Senior Probation Officer

The Department of Probation and Community Justice operates several supervised community service programs for various populations. Participants benefit from community service as they are able to make non-monetary reparation to society while gaining work experience, occupational skills and training. The community also benefits by saving taxpayers jail costs and returning thousands of hours of valuable work performed by volunteers. The justice system also reaps the rewards of community service as this program provides an equitable, cost-effective sanction by requiring constructive expenditures of the client’s time.

Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP)

- ~ A sentencing alternative to jail that serves courts and the community by placing nonviolent offenders into unpaid, supervised community service work sites for non-profit or tax supported community agencies.
- ~ In 2014, **3,720** hours of service was performed in our community
- ~ **73%** of the individuals referred from Drug Court successfully completed their community service hours ordered.
- ~ Over 40 worksites in Tompkins County benefited from work provided through this program.
- ~ Additionally, **Weekend SWAP** in lieu of incarceration was launched in 2014, providing sentencing courts with the option of ordering offenders to perform community service instead of weekend jail sentences. This service alleviates jail overcrowding, while allowing employed offenders to maintain their jobs during the regular work week.

Some of our worksites:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * Lakeview Cemetery | * YMCA Triathlon |
| * Shelter Outreach Service | * Cornel Cooperative Extension 4-H |
| * Cops, Kids & Toys | * Adopt A Highway |
| * Friends of the Library | * Slaterville Fire Department |
| * Varna Community Association | * Trumansburg Fair |
| * Fingerlakes ReUse Center | * County Government Departments |
| * Varna Community Center & Fire Dept. | * Area Public and State Parks |
| * Cornell University Dump & Run | * Brooktondale Community Center |

Probation Facts:

In 2014, the Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP), helped raise over \$32,000 for Cops Kids & Toys by working at the Cornell University Dump and Run worksite. In December 2014, over 1,100 children received toys at holiday time as a result of this program.

Community Service Programs

Submitted by Karen Burns, Senior Probation Officer

The Juvenile Accountability Community Service (JACS)

- ~ Participants are court ordered to complete community service as a condition of their juvenile probation disposition. JACS is intended to provide the youth with a way of making reparation to the community while simultaneously assisting the youth to internalize a sense of pride in belonging, the value of community service, and increased self-esteem.
- ~ In 2014, **152** hours of service was performed in our community.

The Work Experience Program (WEP)

- ~ The Work Experience Program (WEP) is a program run in conjunction with the Tompkins County Department of Social Services. Individuals who receive public assistance and are considered work eligible are referred to the Probation Department to perform community service, with the number of monthly hours to be performed determined by their grant allowance.
- ~ WEP participants are incorporated into the SWAP schedule and work along side those referred by the criminal courts. In addition to giving back to the community, the Work Project Supervisors have been successful in helping participants develop work skills in an effort to find gainful employment.
- ~ In 2014, **1,511** hours of service was performed in our community via this program.

“We would like to thank you and your workers for the great help that was given in the spreading of mulch in Dewitt Park. Without their help the job would have taken a long time to get done. Instead it was done in record time!”

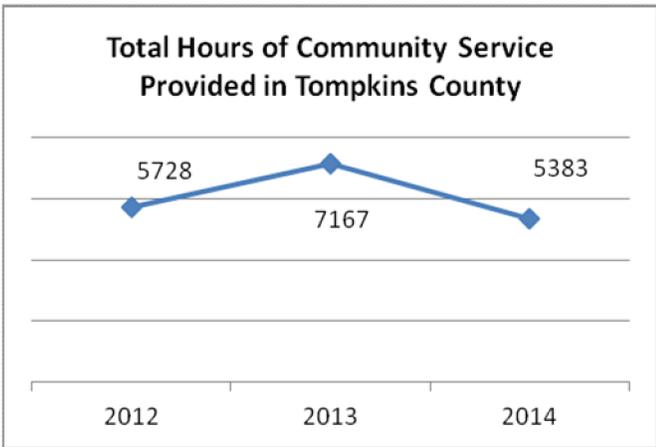
- RW, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

“It is nearly impossible to imagine how we would accomplish this without the help and support of Bill and Jim and their work crews. These young men and women provide invaluable support in many aspect of the sale.”

- BB, Fall Book Sale Coordinator

“We’re very pleased with the painting job and received excellent customer service from Mr. Apgar.”

- EM, County Attorney's Office



Probation Facts:

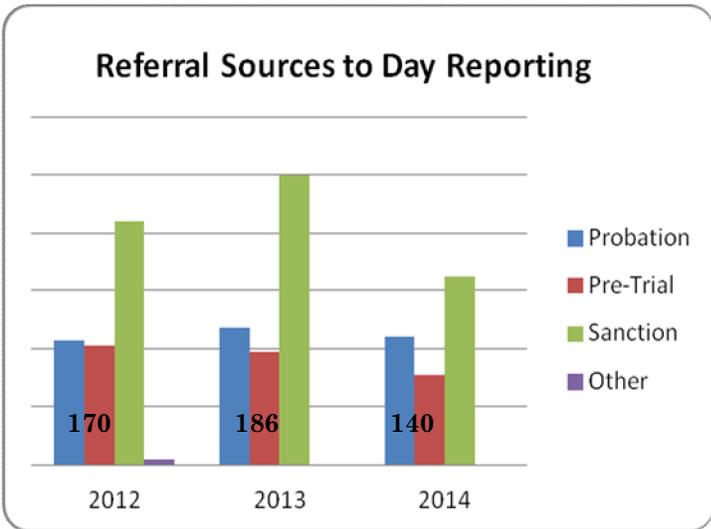
The County benefits from the Community Service Programs that we offer by saving taxpayers jail costs. Additionally, community organizations receive the benefit of thousands of hours of work performed by our clients at no charge to the county taxpayer.

Day Reporting

Submitted by Karen Burns, Senior Probation Officer

The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program, located at The Community Justice Center (CJC), is an innovative alternative to incarceration option designed to further client’s competencies, and provide links to community resource while holding them accountable for their actions. This program operates daily from 8:50 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and provides a structured, secure learning environment intended to provide stability, education, and personal advancement for individuals who may otherwise face a period of incarceration. Participants are mandated to attend this program via the criminal or family court, in addition to referrals received from probation or parole.

Individuals can attend the program as a condition or violation of probation, as a drug or family court sanction, as a conditional discharge, or on a pre-trial supervised release. Our core components include individualized education programs and GED preparation, work readiness, substance abuse education, healthy family relationships, community service, nutrition and leadership initiatives.

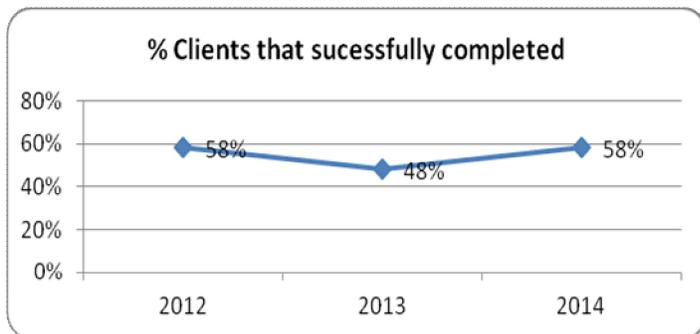


What we do:

- ~ Provide daily employment, education, and sober support classes to clients including Substance Abuse, Healthy Family Relationships, Mental Health, Financial Management and Nutrition.
- ~ Provide individualized educational plans, including GED testing and continuing educational guidance.
- ~ Provide employment services including work readiness, resume writing, career counseling, job search assistance, clothing assistance, and interview skills review.
- ~ Facilitate referrals to outside agencies including: Department of Social Services, Red Cross, Rescue Mission, Tompkins County Mental Health, Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services, Alcohol and Drug Council of Tompkins County, Planned Parenthood, AA, Southern Tier Aids Prevention, The Women’s Opportunity Center, Tompkins Learning Partnership, The Learning Web and The Advocacy Center.

Who we serve:

- ~Clients 16 years and older who have interaction with the criminal justice/legal system and are in need of supervision, support, and services.
- ~Individuals who have previously been remanded to jail who have been released to Day Reporting for supervision and services as deemed appropriate by the supervising judge.
- ~Clients at all stages of the legal progress including: pre-trial, presentence, probation supervision, probation and parole violators.



Day Reporting

Education Services

Submitted by Karen Burns, Senior Probation Officer

GED Test Requirements:

The NYS policies for taking and obtaining the GED changed greatly in 2014 and will continue to evolve over the next few years. Specifically, the GED student is no longer required to participate in predictor tests, although it remains a recommendation, and minimal class time requirements have also been waived. Keeping these factors in mind, educators consider the new testing standards more difficult, and therefore the individualized instruction provided to the clients we serve becomes paramount to their success in passing this test.

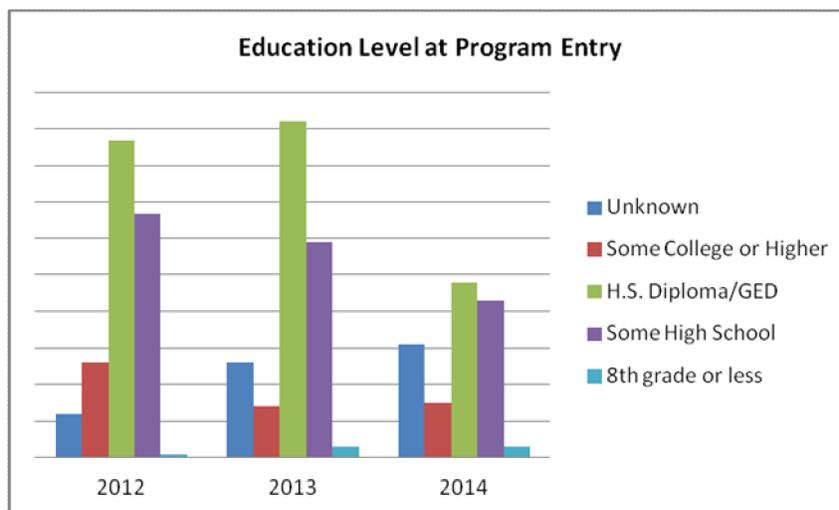
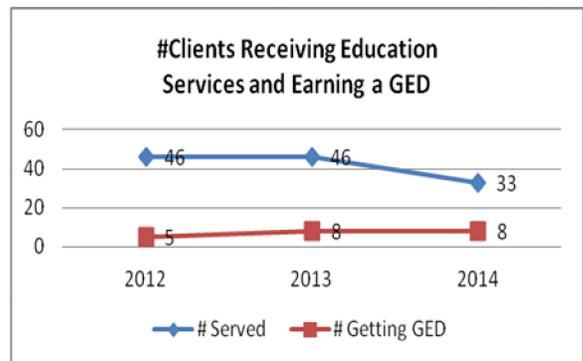
Referred clients take the initial Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) upon entry for education services. From this baseline record, an individualized plan is made to address areas of need and promote the student's individual strengths. After 12 hours of individual instruction, the student is tested again to determine further planning.

In 2014, **10** students participated in the initial assessment testing and re-evaluation in reading and math, these individuals improved an average of **2.01** grade levels in an average span of 46 days, demonstrating the immense benefits of individualized instruction.

In 2014, **33** students received individual instruction, with **9** completing the new GED test. Eight individuals received their GED, including 2 that are now going on to pursue college studies and financial aide opportunities with the assistance of Day Reporting staff. The remaining individual who took the test did pass 1 or more of the total subject areas and is eligible for re-testing.

"By taking the GED class I have taken the right path in my life and the right stepping stones to my future." - BB

"I now have my diploma and look forward to joining the army and going to college." - DM



Day Reporting

Employment Services

Submitted by Karen Burns, Senior Probation Officer

Employment Services

The Workforce Transition Specialist provides individualized job search paths for the client base. These clients can be re-entering the workforce after incarceration, returning from substance abuse rehabilitation, needing to secure a job to meet child support requirements, newly graduated GED students or individuals who simply need to navigate the various employment sources for our area.

The Workforce Transition Specialist:

- ✓ helps individuals sharpen their interview skills,
- ✓ provides clothing assistance,
- ✓ educates employers and job seekers about the client’s rights and responsibilities,
- ✓ and works with various populations in regards to best hiring practices.

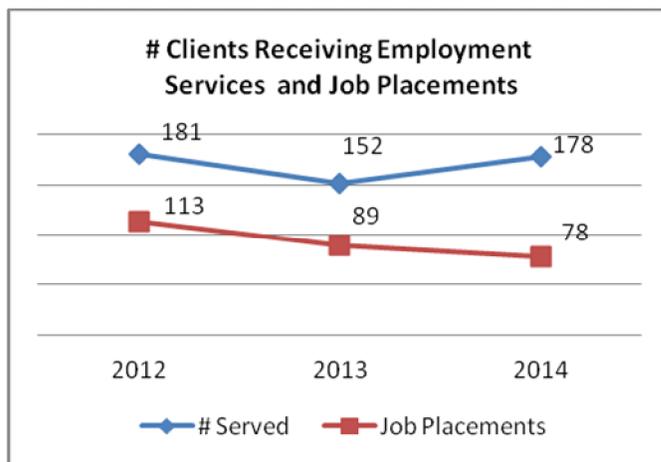
"You were a great help in keeping my spirits up in the job search, thank-you ." - RF

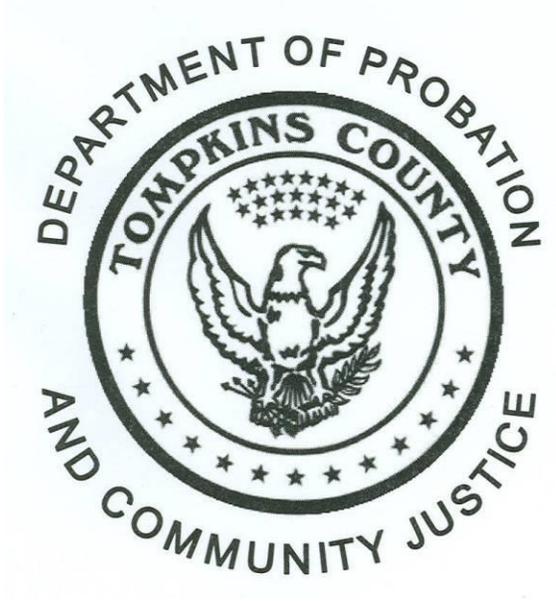
"I received the position! Thanks for allowing me to have the confidence needed to apply to all the employers, tips for interviews and help with my resume." - JW

"I'm the guy you were helping to find a job several months ago. Just wanted to let you know everything is going well and to thank you for all the help you gave me." - PJ

Although the ultimate goal is for individuals served to obtain long-term employment, many clients opt to pursue additional training and/or education that will provide them with a broader variety of employment opportunities in the future.

For those re-entering the community after incarceration, services are provided prior to release including assessment and service referrals, plus job readiness training. The Workforce Transition Specialist serves as a member of the Re-Entry team at the jail. The intention of this program is to link the individual with necessary referral sources to support a positive return to the community. Additionally, **Ready, Set, Work!**, an evidence-based program to develop fundamental employment skills, is also being offered in the Tompkins County Jail to ease re-entry transitions.





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