

Tompkins County

Department of Probation and Community Justice



Inclusion Through Diversity

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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Director's Message



Daniel Cornell
Probation Director



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

January 2020

Director's Message

Thank you for your interest in the Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice Annual Report for 2020.

As a Department we entered 2020 with the January 30th retirement of Probation Director Patricia Buechel, who over the last decade of her career had been recognized as a leader in the probation field on the national, state and local levels. Her departure undoubtedly left a sense of uncertainty for many in an agency that had enjoyed a long period of stability under her leadership. In addition to adjusting to the loss of our Director, we anticipated that the inception of NYS Bail Reform would be our most immediate challenge in 2020. By March, any concerns about the impacts of Bail Reform were completely eclipsed by the COVID-19 pandemic and public health crisis.

Having taken on the role of Director on February 1, 2020, I knew that I had been gifted with a hardworking, compassionate, and dedicated group of probation professionals to lead. What I learned since March of 2020 is that I did not understand a fraction of how fortunate I was to be able to work with the staff of this agency. Since COVID we have endured an Executive Order mandating a 50% reduction in our office workforce, significant furloughs of staff, an 11% budget cut for 2021, the loss of two colleagues to retirement, the loss two other colleagues to budget cuts, and the loss of an additional two critical staff to transfers to other departments. The response of every remaining employee of this department has been to dig deeper, work harder, remain positive, and find new ways to solve challenges rather than wallow in them.

We decided very early on that the primary focus of our mission during COVID would be enhancing community safety by remaining open for face-to-face contact with our clients so that we could continue to provide as much support and stability as possible during very uncertain times. Despite the limitations on being in the office 50% of the time due to furloughs or Executive Orders, every officer of this department supervised 100% of their caseload. In addition to maintaining those primary duties, staff of this department volunteered and delivered hundreds of food boxes for Foodnet of the Southern Tier, snack baskets to first responders, hundreds of meals to Meals on Wheels recipients, and provided countless hours of COVID-19 Contact Tracing to assist Health Department staff during the height of the pandemic, helped to staff vaccination sites, collected, sorted and distributed gifts for the Cops, Kids and Toys program, developed and donated to an internal program to assist clients suffering from food insecurity, and engaged in numerous morale lifting activities within the department. In short, when the community was in need, probation staff gave all that they had to give. When we were in need we assisted and supported each other. I will be forever impressed by and grateful to every member of this Department. I would also like to recognize the leadership of County Administrator Jason Molino, and the County Administration team who supported our efforts without fail or hesitation.

Director's Message Continued...

The following Annual Report contains a record of events with graphs, charts and visual aids that paint a picture of our work in 2020. Many will look at the pages that follow to gauge our work. What those measurables do not document or display are, in my opinion, the more important story of 2020. As the pandemic wanes and we can begin to look back at our accomplishments, I am certain that the challenges and lessons learned over the past year have only increased our resilience, resolve and abilities to be effective ambassadors for positive change in Tompkins County.

As a community we have all been through some difficult times, particularly those who were experiencing hardships before the pandemic exacerbated those challenges. For that reason, I would like to sincerely thank and recognize the clients of this department who despite all of the obstacles that they encountered continued to meet their probation requirements and fought to maintain their progress. While we are here to provide professional guidance and support to encourage change, we also recognize and have immense respect for our clients who work so hard to commit themselves to changing behaviors and improving their lives.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Cornell

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 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 responses.

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 agents and motivators for change by using best practices in the field of probation.

Our 2020 Goals - What We Accomplished

1. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall partner with the courts to ensure successful implementation Bail Reform.
 - ✓ *Achieved- This Department worked in conjunction with the Courts, the Corrections Division of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office to accomplish a smooth transition toward compliance with Bail Reform and Release Under Supervision requirements.*
2. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall implement the Graduated Response Grids developed for both our juvenile and adult probationers under court ordered supervision with the goal of improving successful outcomes by clearly defining behavioral expectations and responses to those behaviors.
 - ✓ *Achieved-The officers of this Department utilized Graduated Response Grids and strategies to address each individual clients known criminogenic risks and needs during case planning and supervision of our clients.*
3. The Department of Probation and Community Justice will continue to expand the use of Interactive Journals with our juvenile and adult probationers, with the goal of addressing criminogenic risk and needs to improve successful outcomes.
 - ✓ *Achieved-Interactive Journals are now an integral part of the Milestones criteria for advancement through the Tompkins County Treatment Court and Ithaca Community Treatment Court programs, as well as being utilized in goal planning and achievement in our Family Court, Criminal Court, and Day Reporting programs.*
4. The Department of Probation and Community Justice will continue be a stabilizing factor for the populations that we serve during the current public health crisis by striving to provide all previously available Alternatives to Incarceration programs that existed prior to the pandemic.
 - ✓ *Partially Achieved-Officers and staff of this Department continued face to face contacts with all of our clients throughout the Covid-19 pandemic in a concerted effort to provide stability for our clients, services to the Courts, and to enhance community safety. This goal was partially achieved due to the need to, at times, suspend our Day Reporting, Community Service and Electronic Monitoring programs for staff health and public health considerations.*

Our 2021 Goals

1. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall work to restore full access to all previously available ATI programs operated by the Department, including Day Reporting, the Service Work Alternatives Program, and Electronic Monitoring.
2. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall revise our Orders and Conditions of Probation and train our staff on Marijuana Reform Laws and the impact upon community supervision requirements. We will also work with the Courts and our partners at the District Attorney and Assigned Counsel offices to ensure fair application of our supervision conditions in the spirit of the law.
3. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall train all staff in the areas of Implicit Bias and Trauma Informed Care strategies.
4. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall seek to expand the sites where our Service Work Alternatives Program operate and can benefit additional not for profit entities in the community.

2020 Staff Listing

(as of 12/31/2020)

Probation Director

Daniel Cornell

Deputy Director

Karla Brackett

Administration

Systems Analyst

Susan Moore

Administrative Services Coordinator

Laurel Rockhill

Principal Account Clerk Typist

Tammy Murphy

Account Clerk Typist

Samantha Dean

Administrative Assistant III

Michelle Morris

Probation Assistant

Bernadette Stranger

Probation Supervisors

Criminal Court Supervisor

Paul Neugebauer

Criminal Court Supervisor

Karen Burns

Family Court Supervisor

Jan Gorovitz

Senior Probation Officers

Ithaca Community Treatment Court/ Electronic Monitoring

Denise Hayden

Ithaca Community Treatment Court

Michael Herrling

Greatest Risk Supervision

Jarrod Newcomb

Greatest Risk Supervision

Abigail Bixby

Day Reporting Program

Gladys Larson

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Tom Partigianoni

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Angela Kehoe

Probation Officers

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Laura Little

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Derek Grinnell

Staff & Department Milestones

Probation Officers (con't)

Criminal Court—DWI

Holly Alzitoon

Criminal Court—DWI

Sheldon Pettaway

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Quentin Kiah

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Derek Grinnell

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Kelly Cooper

Criminal Court—Wellness Court

Brian Driscoll

Family Court

Michele Johnson

Family Court

Lina Meaker

Family Court

Jazamene Cherry

Family Court

Shannon Dankert

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

Denise Hayden

Michael Herrling

Gladys Larson

Susan Moore

Paul Neugebauer

Tom Partigianoni

15+ Years

Karla Brackett

Rich Brewer

Karen Burns

Kathy Lind

20+Years

James Bond III*

Christine Ion*

Jarrod Newcomb

Daniel Cornell

Abigail Bixby

25+ Years

Patricia Buechel*

Janice Gorovitz

Bernadette Stranger

Laurel Rockhill

William Apgar

**Retired in 2020*

Restitution and Fee Collection

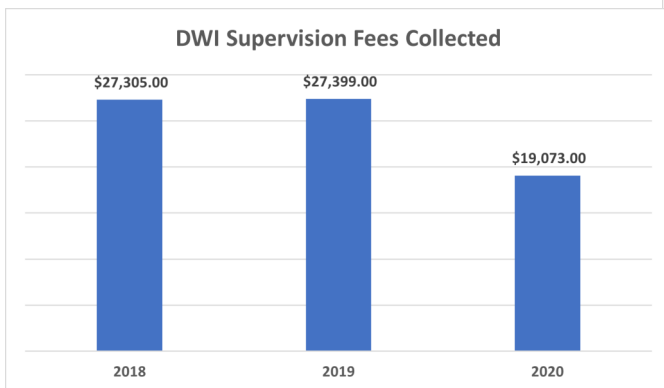
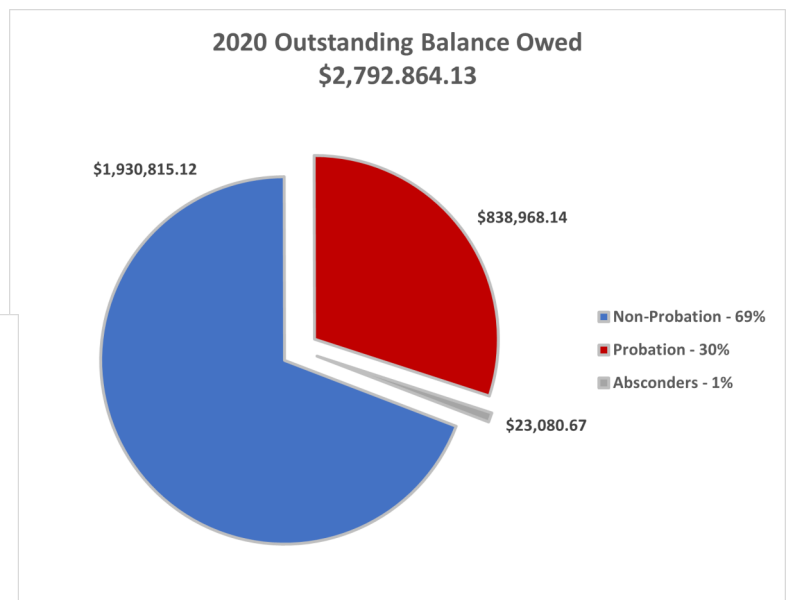
Submitted by Tammy Murphy, Principal Account Clerk Typist

Penalties 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 the designated collection agency in Tompkins County for restitution orders and their associated surcharge and is therefore responsible to collect such levies, monitor payments, disburse funds to victims, and report on the status of each case to the appropriate court.

2020 ACTUAL DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISBURSED

	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Interest	Totals
Beginning balance carried from 12/31/19	\$2,987.98	\$822.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.86	\$3,815.06
Money Received 01/2020 - 12/2020	\$81,577.03	\$4,197.70	\$1,470.00	\$0.00	\$5.48	\$87,250.21
Money Disbursed 01/2020 - 12/2020	\$77,789.31	\$4,519.00	\$1,470.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$83,778.31
End Balance 12/31/2020	\$6,775.70	\$500.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.34	\$7,286.96

A total of 191 restitution obligations were opened in 2020. Obligations that were ordered in 2020 consist of 40 cases that amount to \$398,449.49, and account for 31% of the total dollar amount opened during the year. The remaining 151 cases were re-opened per revised department policy and account for a total amount of \$878,415.30 which represents 69% of the total dollar amount opened during the year.



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 accessible 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).

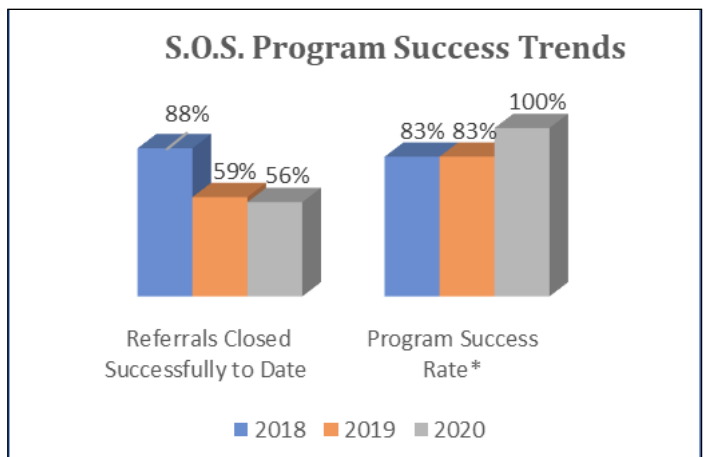
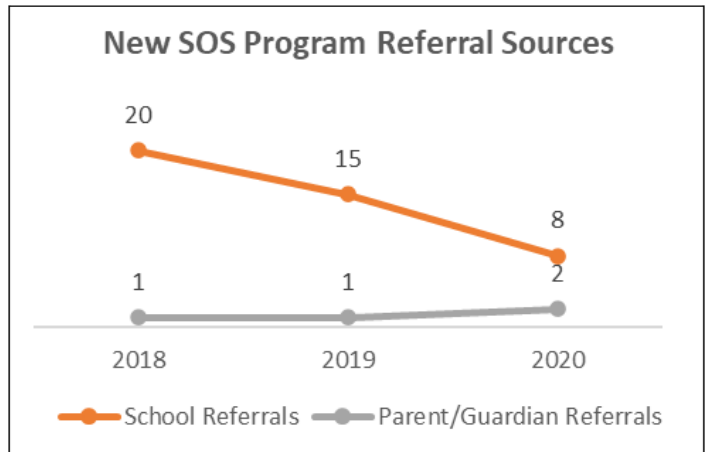
Family Court Probation Officers also provide daily intake coverage Monday through Friday. This means that they are the designated contact for the Probation Department if and when people from the community come looking for information or guidance for any family related matter. Calls are often from parents 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



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. (S.O.S)**

- ~ 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 total cases which successfully utilized SOS in 2020 and after 6 months have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

Probation Facts:

56% of the youth who utilized S.O.S services in 2020 successfully completed the program.

Family Court Diversion Services

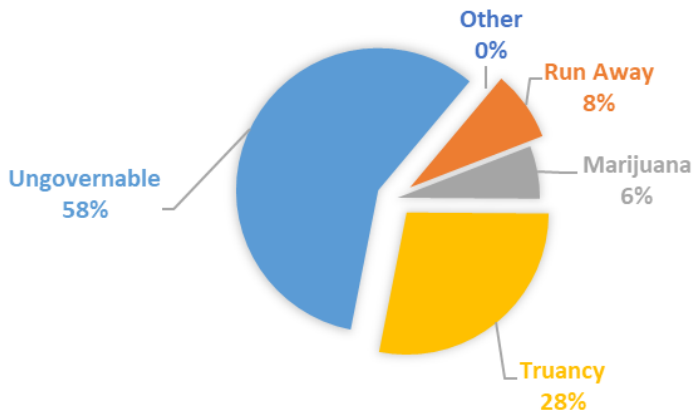
Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

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 2020, the Tompkins County Probation Department received **36** PINS referrals: **12** complaints were initiated by parents, **20** by school administrators, and **4** by police departments.

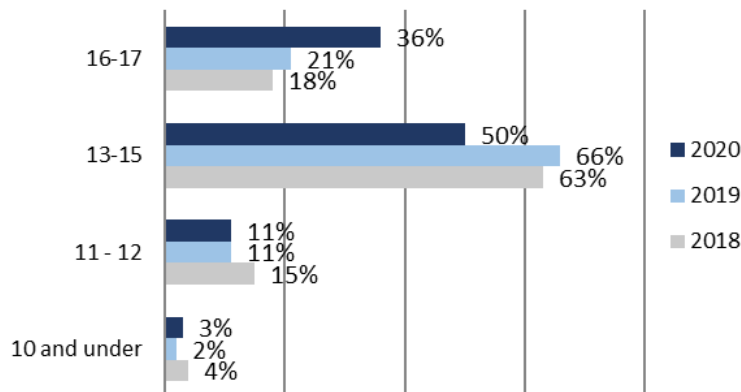
2020 PINS REFERRAL TYPES



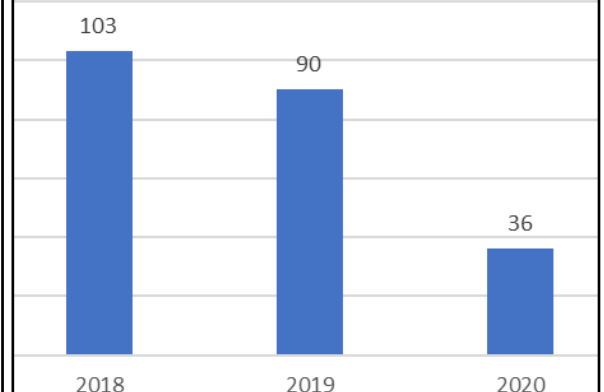
In 2020, of the 70 cases closed:

- 80%** avoided being referred to the Family Court for further PINS proceedings
- 66%** of youth were engaged in services
- 43%** were closed as successfully adjusted

PINS Referrals by Age Group



PINS Referrals



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

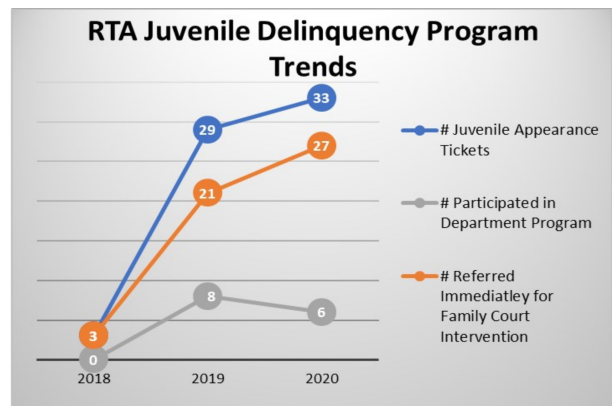
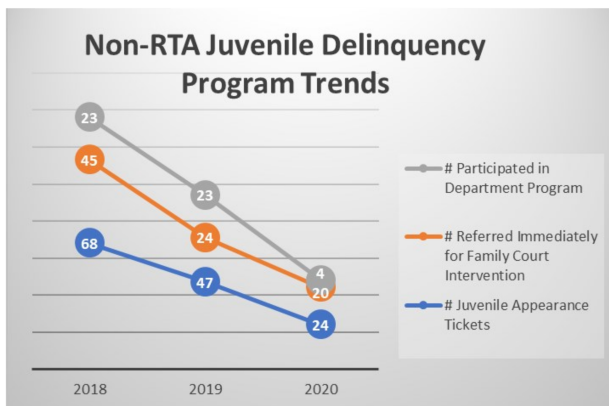
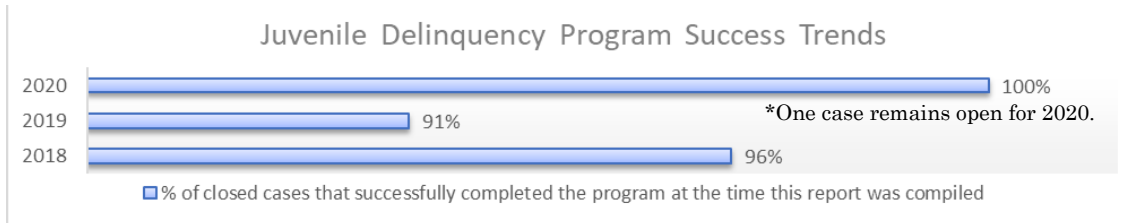
Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND RAISE THE AGE (RTA)

The Tompkins County Probation Department also offers diversion services to youth issued a Juvenile Appearance Ticket by local police agencies. A Juvenile Delinquent was previously defined as a person older than seven and younger than sixteen years of age who committed an act, which if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime. On October 1, 2018, the first phase of Raise the Age took effect in New York State. This law raised the age of criminal responsibility to eighteen, which means that sixteen year old's are no longer automatically charged as adults. In October 2019, the law phased in seventeen year old youths. Youth participating in the Juvenile Delinquency Program are required to write a letter of apology to the victim(s), complete community service, pay restitution if applicable, or may be asked to complete a project specific to the crime they committed. Youth may also be referred to services in the community to address identified needs.

- ~ In **2020**, this department received **24** Juvenile Appearance Tickets. In addition, this department received an additional **33** tickets due to Tompkins County's implementation of Raise the Age.
- ~ Non-RTA Youth: of the **24** tickets received for youth 15 and under, **20** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **4** youth participated in this department's Diversion Program.
- ~ Of the **4** youth who participated in the JD Diversion Program, **3** have successfully completed the program requirements and **1** case remains open.

RTA Youth: of the **33** tickets received for 16 and 17 year old's, **27** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **6** youth participated in this department's JD Diversion Program. Of the **6** youth who participated in the Diversion Program, **3** youth have successfully completed the program requirements and **3** cases remain open.



Probation Facts:

To date, of the 2020 closed Juvenile Delinquency cases, 100% have been successfully diverted from the Family Court System.

Family Court Investigations

Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

FAMILY COURT INVESTIGATIONS

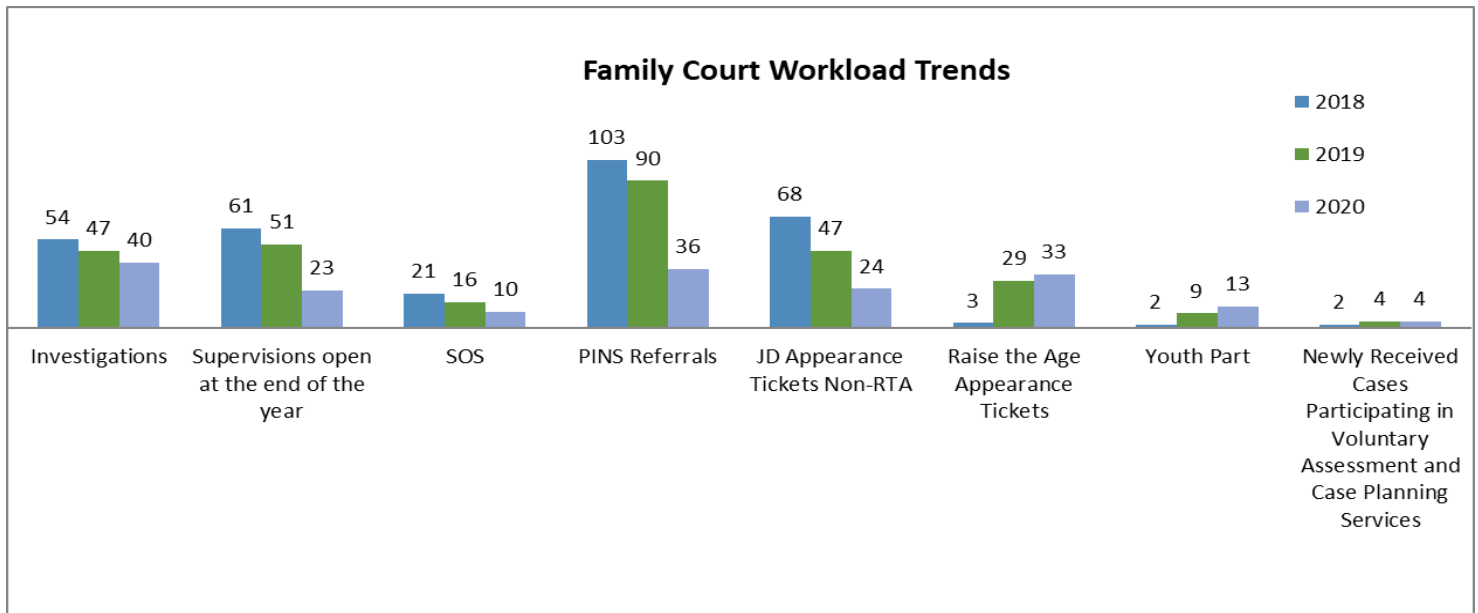
The Family Court Act requires that a predispositional investigation be conducted for all Designated Felony cases (defined as an act which if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, various sexual offenses, etc.). For other Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need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

FAMILY COURT WORKLOAD SUMMARY

- ~ Probation 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 Prediversion Services (Strengthening Our Students)



Family Court Supervisions

Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

FAMILY COURT SUPERVISION

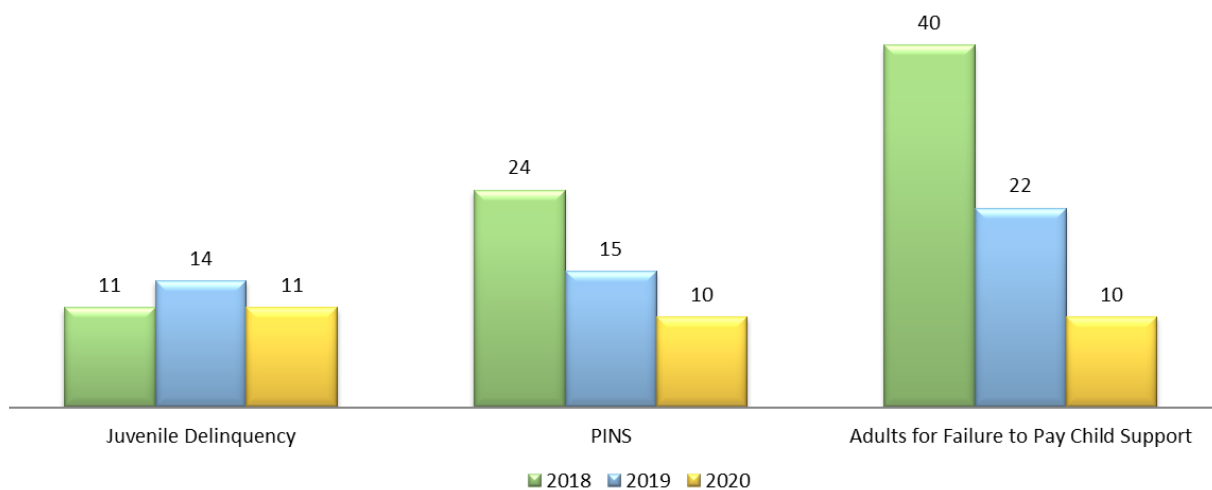
The Tompkins County Probation Department provides supervision as a result of Family Court action for both adults and juveniles.

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**

This year our department has been working on a **Graduated Response Grid**, which identifies desirable and undesirable behaviors and encourages youth to make positive behavior changes by using incentives or discourages negative behaviors by providing predictable and reasonable responses to hold the youth accountable. The grid aims to promote consistent and predictable responses to assist the youth in successfully completing their term of probation.

Family Court Supervision Types for New Cases Received



Probation Facts:

62 hours of community service were successfully completed in this department's supervised Juvenile Accountability Community Service program in 2020.

Youth Part

Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor

Youth Part of Superior Court (Criminal Court)

&

Voluntary Assessment and Case Planning Services

Following the enactment of Raise the Age, which raised the age of criminal responsibility to eighteen, which took effect on October 1, 2018, first for sixteen year old's, and on October 1, 2019, for seventeen year old's, youth who have committed a Felony level offense start in Youth Part. These youth are identified as Adolescent Offenders (AO). Youth identified as Juvenile Offenders (JO), thirteen to fifteen year old's who have committed a serious Felony Offense, are also handled in Youth Part. While a youth's case is pending in Youth Part, Probation Departments have been tasked with offering Voluntary Assessment and Case Planning Services (VACPS). During VACPS, a probation officer attempts to assess a youth's needs and connect them to relevant programs and services while their case is pending in Youth Part. Case plans are developed to identify short and long term goals and steps to get there so youth can avoid further criminal involvement.

Youth Part 2018		Youth Part 2019		Youth Part 2020	
Number of Cases:	2	Number of Cases:	9	Number of Cases:	13
Agreed to VACPS:	2	Agreed to VACPS:	4	Agreed to VACPS:	4
Refused VACPS:	0	Refused VACPS:	2	Refused VACPS:	0
Removed Immediately to Family Court:	0	Removed Immediately to Family Court:	2	Removed Immediately to Family Court:	8
Not Available:	0	Not Available:	1	Not Available:	1
Sentenced in Youth Part:	2	Sentenced in Youth Part:	1	Sentenced in Youth Part:	1
Sentenced in Family Court:	0	Sentenced in Family Court:	7	Sentenced in Family Court:	11
Participated in JD Diversion:	0	Participated in JD Diversion:	1	Participated in JD Diversion:	1

Pretrial Release Program

Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Supervisor

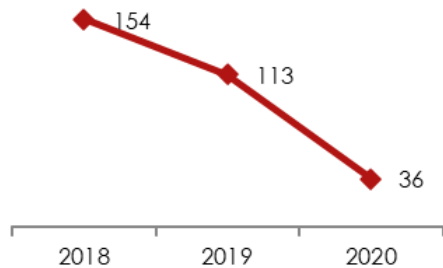
This Department continues to operate the Pretrial Release Program in an attempt to facilitate release for incarcerated individuals who meet appropriate criteria. All defendants in custody at the Tompkins County Public Safety Building, who have bail set by a court are given the opportunity to be interviewed 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 risk of failure to appear for subsequent court proceedings. In domestic violence cases, the Department further assesses the defendant's access to and possession of weapons and prior failures to adhere to court Orders of Protection. A written report is then forwarded to the court with a recommendation that may include pretrial release.

2020 PRETRIAL FACTS

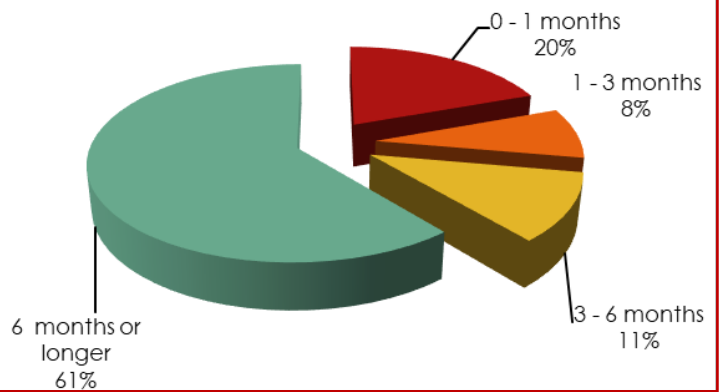
A total of **36** pretrial release reports were completed for the courts:

- * **89%** were male detainees and **11%** female detainees
- * **54%** were white and **46%** were minority
- * **81%** were detained for a felony charge and **19%** for a misdemeanor charge
- * **39%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their detainment
- * **47%** of those interviewed were unemployed

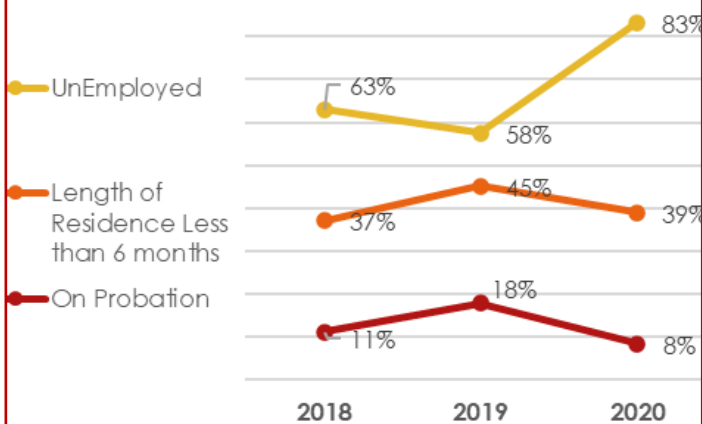
Pre-Trial Interviews



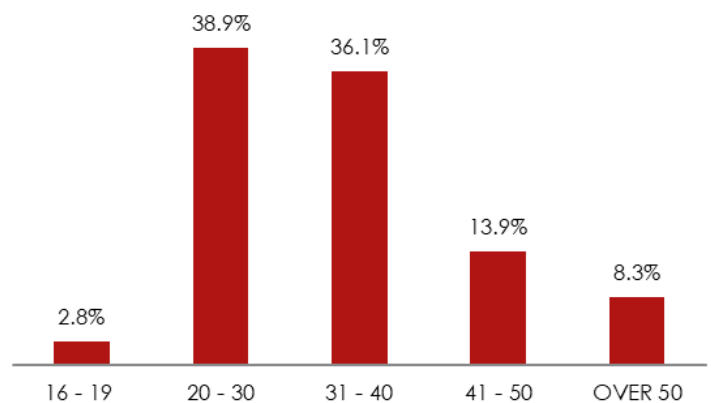
Length of Residency in County



Pre-Trial interview Demographics



Age at Interview



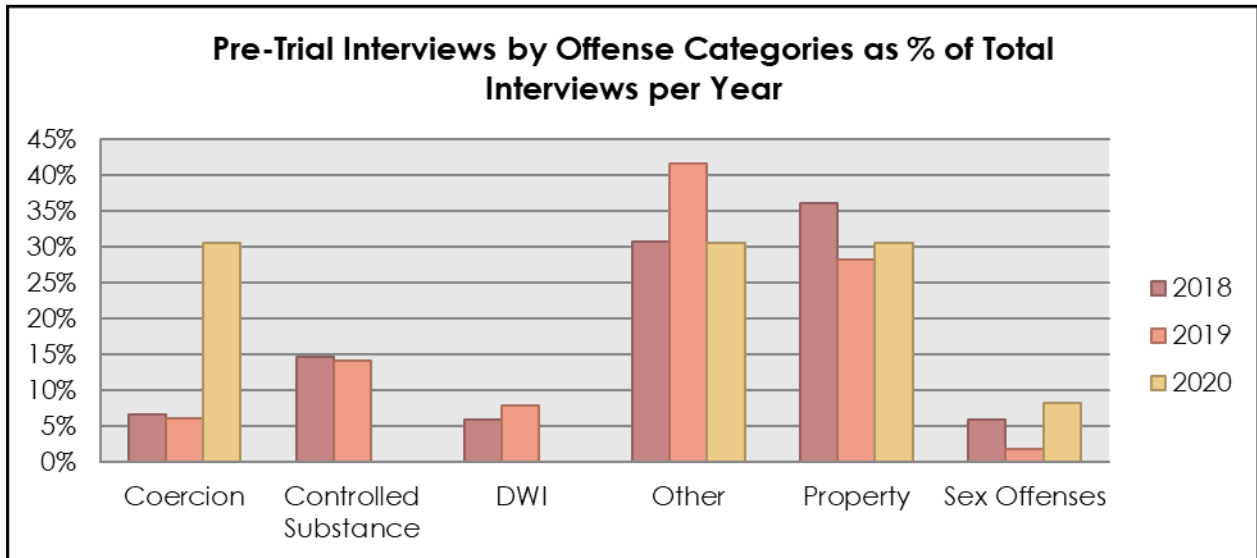
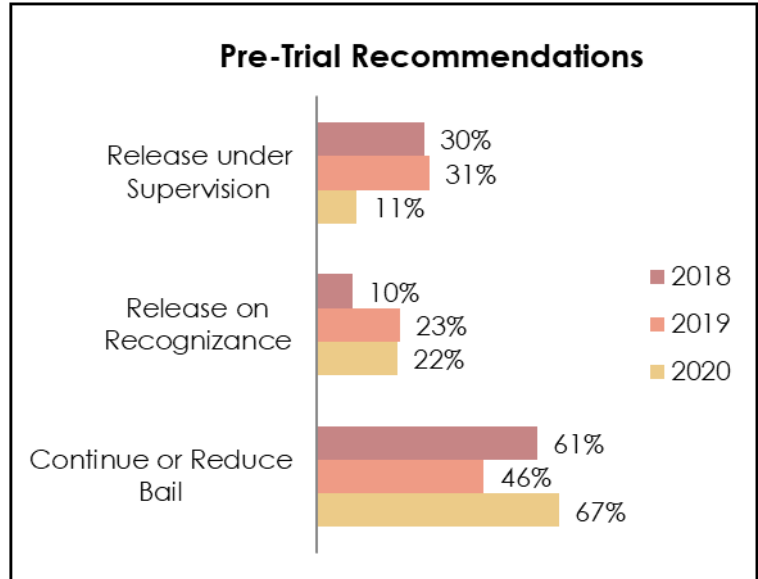
Pretrial Release Program

Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Supervisor

If Released Under Supervision (RUS) is recommended, proposed conditions of release are submitted to the court. Once the defendant is released from the jail, this Department will supervise the defendant's adherence to those conditions to help ensure the defendant's appearance to subsequent court proceedings.

Possible Recommendations

- ~Release on Recognizance (ROR)
- ~Release Under Supervision (RUS) to Pretrial program Day Reporting, or Electronic Monitoring
- ~Continue or Reduce Bail



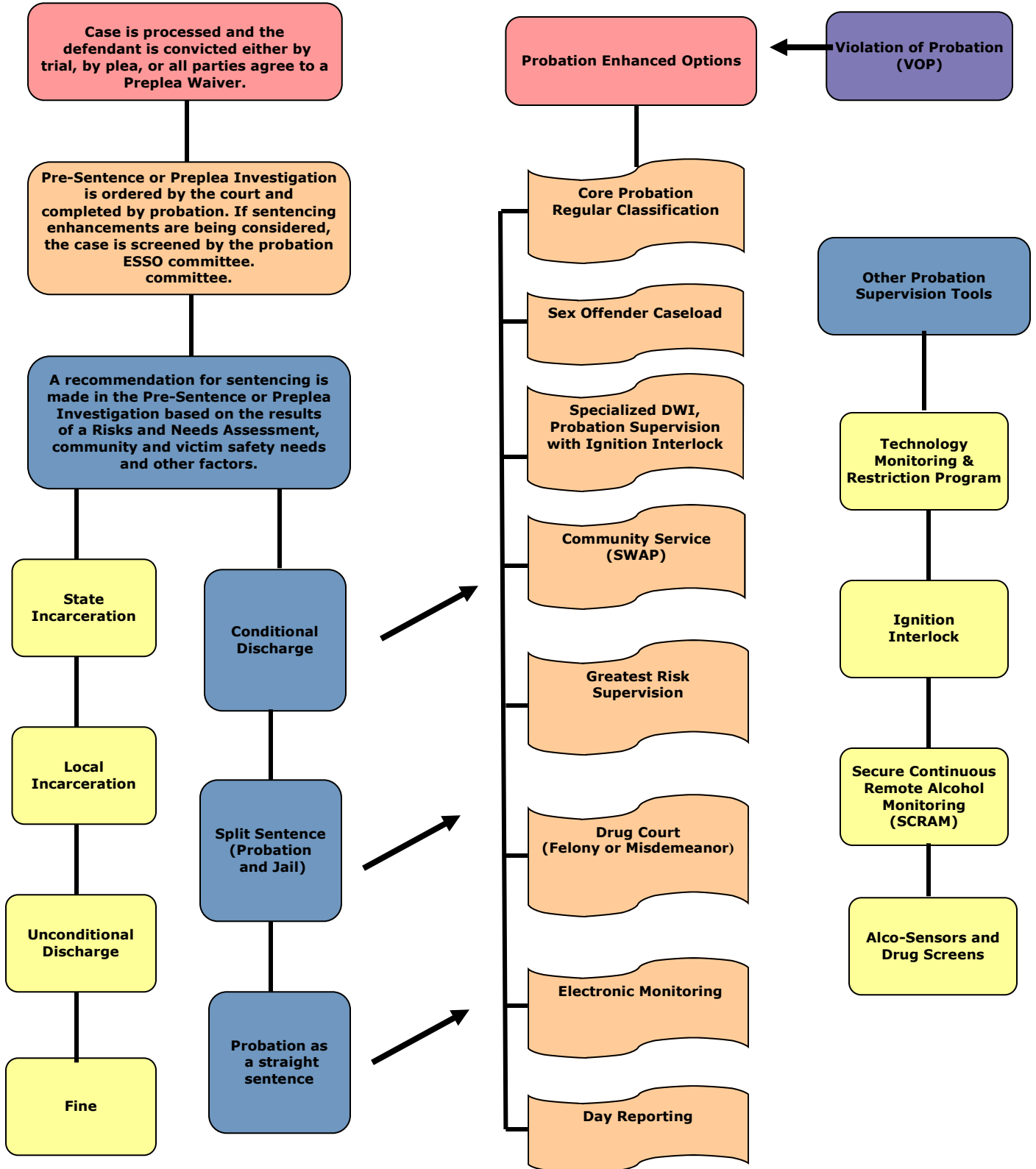
Probation Facts:

The first pretrial services program was implemented in 1961 in New York City. The main functions of pretrial services are to gather information, assess risk of failure to appear and provide supervision to defendants who have been released under specified conditions. (American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, FAQ's About Pretrial Release Decision Making)

Criminal Court Flow Chart

Criminal Court Case Flow

Enhanced Supervision and Sentencing Options (ESSO)



Graduated Responses

Submitted by Karen Burns, Supervisor

GRADUATED RESPONSES

The term “graduated responses” refers to 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, remote check in via Caseload Explorer (a new program for 2020), granting of travel permits, and requests for early discharges. Responses for non-compliance can include increasing the reporting requirement (including Caseload Explorer Check-Ins), reprimands by departmental officials and/or by the sentencing court, having to perform community service, and greater restrictions on movement.

The use of these responses 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, graduated responses can address the presenting problem early, thus reducing the odds that probationers will commit more serious violations that could result in a period of incarceration.

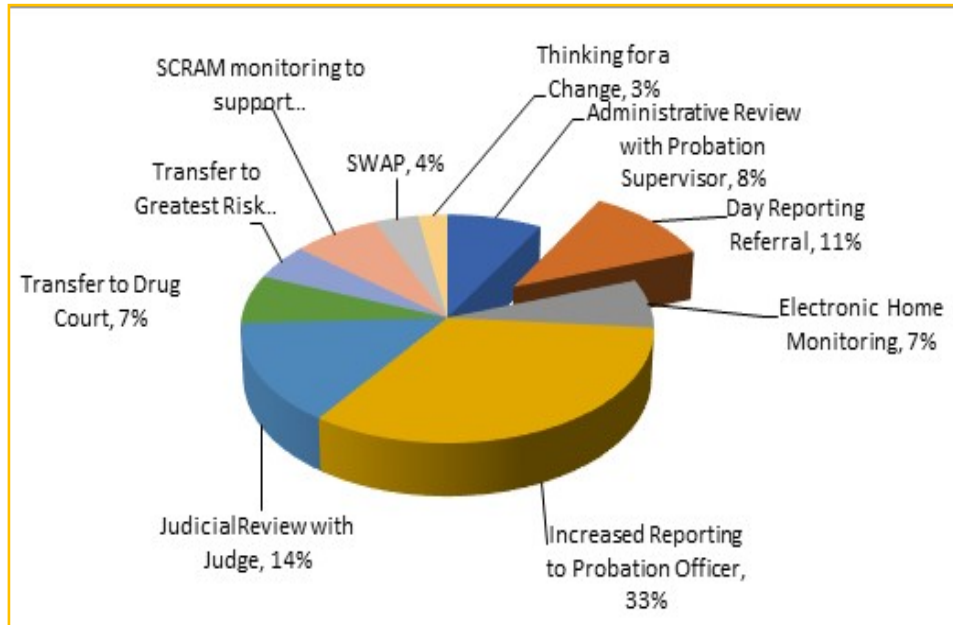
New developments in 2020

As 2020 unfolded and the global pandemic affected daily operations, the department was faced with the closure of Day Reporting in addition to altering to remote and in-office work schedules to accommodate for social distancing needs. As noted, the importance of delivering the incentive or sanction in a timely fashion is critical to its success for the probationer. To assist in effectively communicating with our clients on a digital platform, the department enlisted Caseload Explorer (CE) Check-In capabilities through our current database system. CE Check-In allows probationers to communicate any changes in status electronically from their remote location. Additionally, this system allows text message capabilities that were not previously available. In a graduated response capacity, clients in compliance with their orders and conditions of probation were allowed to forego office visits and instead communicate digitally with the supervising officer. Conversely, those individuals struggling with compliance would be asked to check in more frequently using this system as a means to track their location, as the system provides a photo and GPS indicators. In 2020, CE Check-in was enabled for 346 clients and there were 1,901 successful check-ins.

*In 2020, CE Check-in was enabled for **346** clients and there were 1,901 successful check-ins.*

Graduated Responses

Submitted by Karen Burns, Supervisor



Graduated Responses Usage in Cases Closed in 2020

CURRENT ESSO PROGRAMS

- ~ Greatest Risk Supervision
- ~ Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP)
- ~ Day Reporting (suspended 12/2020 due to pandemic)
- ~ Electronic Monitoring (EM)
- ~ Drug Treatment Court
- ~ Pretrial Release (PTR)

Graduated Response Grid

Submitted by Karen Burns, Supervisor

GRADUDATED RESPONSE GRIDS

New in 2020, this Department developed **Graduated Response Grids** for our youth and adult populations who are under court ordered supervision. The development of a grid formalized the response process by matching the level of positive and/or negative behavior a probationer exhibits to a list of right sized responses that a Probation Officer can choose from to best suit the probationer. The goal of Graduated Response Grid is to present clear expectations to the probationer of how behavior will be addressed with the goal of improving desired outcomes. A departmental workgroup was formalized consisting of Probation Officers, Sr. Probation Officers and Supervisors to carry out this project. The project was completed in December 2019 with the goal of rolling out the grids for departmental use in 2020 in an effort to be consistent with the expectations and outcomes for every probationer supervised by the department.

Low Level Response	Moderate Level Response	High Level Response
Name:		
SUBSTANCE ABUSE		
Incentive:	Behavior:	Intervention:
	Desired Behavior	
Verbal Praise	Schedule Evaluation	
Enhanced Travel Flexibility	Complete Evaluation	
Reduce # of Contacts	Complete Physical Assessment	
Reduce Drug Test Frequency	Attending Tx as Scheduled	
Extend Curfew	Participate-Relapse Prevention Plan	
Reduce Supervision Level	Attend Sober Support Groups	
Letter of Recognition/Certificate	Completes Tx Program	
Removal of EM	Discuss Risk/Problems w/ PO	
Removal of SCRAM	Disclose Thoughts of Relapse	
Request Early Discharge	Cooperation with Drug/Alcohol Testing	
EDIP	Verify Prescriptions	
	Disclose Use Prior to Testing	
	Achieve Sobriety Milestones	
	Maintain Approved Residence	
	Undesired Behavior	Verbal Reprimand
	Miss Drug Test	Interactive Journal Assignment
	Miss Tx Session	BITS
	Refuse Drug Test	Increase Contacts
	Failure to Report Prescribed Drug	Return to Tx
	Possess Drugs w/o Prescription	Increase Drug Tests
	Failure to Verify Prescriptions	Impose Curfew
	Found in Bar	Case Plan Modification
	Positive Drug Test- With Admission	Increase Supervision Level
	Positive Drug Test- w/o Admission	Written Reprimand
	Refuse In-Patient Recommendation	Administrative Review
	Refuse Out-Patient Recommendation	UCR Outlining Behavior
	Termination from Tx	SCRAM/EM
	Tampering with Urinalysis	ESSO Review
	Refusal to Attend Evaluation	Day Reporting
	Left Tx AMA	Greatest Risk Referral
	Failure to Attend Sober Support Groups	Drug Court Referral
	Tampering with SCRAM	Recommend Community Service/SWAP
	Tampering with EM	CE Check-In
	Failure to Maintain Approved Residence	Recommend Inpatient/Door to Door
		Judicial Review
		VOP
Signature:	Guardian Signature:	Probation Officer Signature:

Graduated Response Grid - Family

Submitted by Karen Burns, Supervisor

Low Level Response	Moderate Level Response	High Level Response
HOME & COMMUNITY		
Incentive:	Behavior:	Intervention:
	Desired Behavior	
Verbal Praise by PO	Follow Rules/Expectations at home	
Written Praise	Be respectful to parent(s)/guardian(s)	
Certificate of Achievement	Follow Curfew	
Bus Passes	Inform parent(s) of whereabouts at all times	
Parent Involved Incentives	Do not leave home without permission	
	Work on developing better relationships with family	
Positive reinforcement from parent(s)/guardian(s)	No drug/alcohol use	
Extend Curfew	Be honest about use before testing	
Open EM requirements	Engage in healthy activities	
Certificate of completion for Interactive Journaling	Associate with prosocial peers	
	Use social media to support my positive interactions	
Reduced Probation Reporting	Express frustration and anger appropriately	
Positive Activity with PO	Learn to think before I act	
Reduction in Supervision Level	No illegal behavior	
Gift Cards	Report any police contact	
Certificate of completion for Interactive Journaling	Show positive decision-making	
Remove Electronic Monitoring	Explore employment opportunities	
Administrative/Judicial Praise		
Early termination of probation		
	Undesired Behavior	
	MINOR VIOLATION	
	Occasional disrespect towards parent	Verbal Warning
	Did not meet curfew 3 times per month	Contact parent
	Left home without permission 2 times per month	Write apology letter to parent(s)/guardian(s)
	1 incident of breaking house rules	Meeting with parent(s)/guardian(s)
	First report of using social media inappropriately	BITS
	1 time report of use of alcohol/marijuana/drugs	Interactive Journal
	Unhealthy activities with negative peers	Assess need for increased services
	Pattern of poor decision-making	
	Not managing anger appropriately	
	Failure to report police contact (first time)	
	MODERATE VIOLATION	
	Verbal altercations with parent(s)/guardian(s)	Loss of Privileges by Parent
	Did not meet curfew 4-5 times a month	Decrease Curfew
	Pattern of breaking rules	Interactive Journal
	Leaving home without permission 3-4 times month	BITS
	Incidents of alcohol/drug use 2-3 times month	Community Resource Team Meeting
	Engaging in unsafe or illegal activities	Increased Reporting with PO
	Continued pattern of using social media inappropriately	Administrative Review
	New arrest not related to underlying offense	Utilize EM
		Preventive Services Referral/Counseling
		Hotline
		Community Service
		CE Check-in
	SEVERE VIOLATION	
	Refusal to return home when instructed by parent(s)/guardian(s)	Interactive Journal
	Aggressive/physical altercations with parent(s)/guardian(s)	Increase EM restrictions
	Continued refusal to follow household rules	Increase Supervision Level
	Destruction of property or physical aggression	Community Resource Team Meeting
	Continued substance abuse	Judicial Review
	Using social media inappropriately including threatening or sexual behavior	To JISP
	Violation of Order of Protection against victim	
	New arrest related to underlying offense	

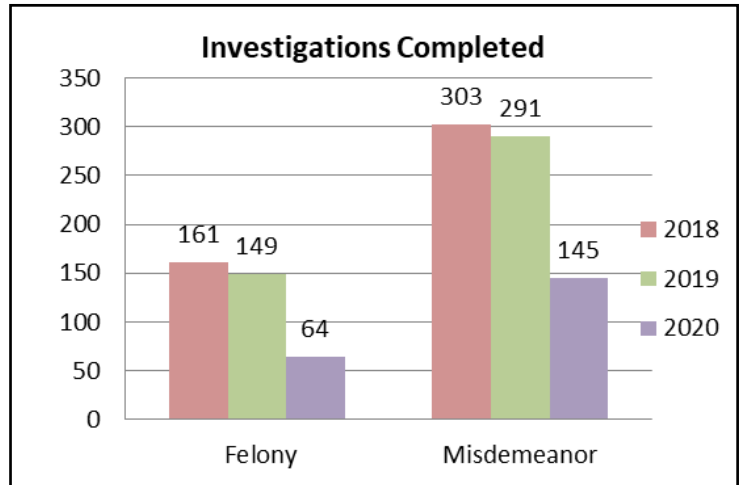
Criminal Court Investigations

Submitted by Karla Brackett, Deputy Director

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 defendant’s risk and protective factors
- ~ expressing the victim’s perspective of the crime to the court and advocating for restitution/compensation



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, the impact of incarceration on the offender’s family, victim’s rights, and community safety considerations
- ~ an assessment of appropriate enhanced supervision and sentencing options designed to address the defendant’s needs, in an effort to reduce their risk of recidivism

An Investigation Includes:

- * *Criminal 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 actuarial risk and needs assessment that identifies the criminogenic factors that increase the offender’s risk of recidivism, as well as identifying protective and stabilizing factors*
- * *A recommendation for sentencing options that will enhance community safety, seek to make the victim whole and attempt to reduce the person’s risk of engaging in further criminal behavior*

Probation Facts:

Property Crimes made up 32% of the investigations this department completed in 2020. Substance Abuse, not including alcohol related vehicle offenses, accounted for 13%.

Criminal Court Supervision

Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor

SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

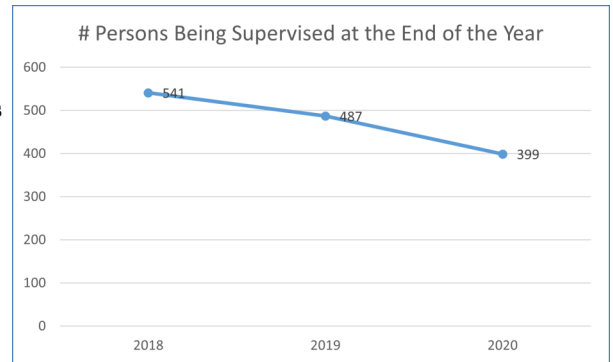
The two main goals of probation supervision are:

~ **Protection of the Community**

Community Safety is enhanced through the establishment of an appropriate supervision level that is based upon an individual's identified risk of violent recidivism, general recidivism, and failure to appear. The higher an individual's risk is determined to be, the more frequent contact with probation is indicated.

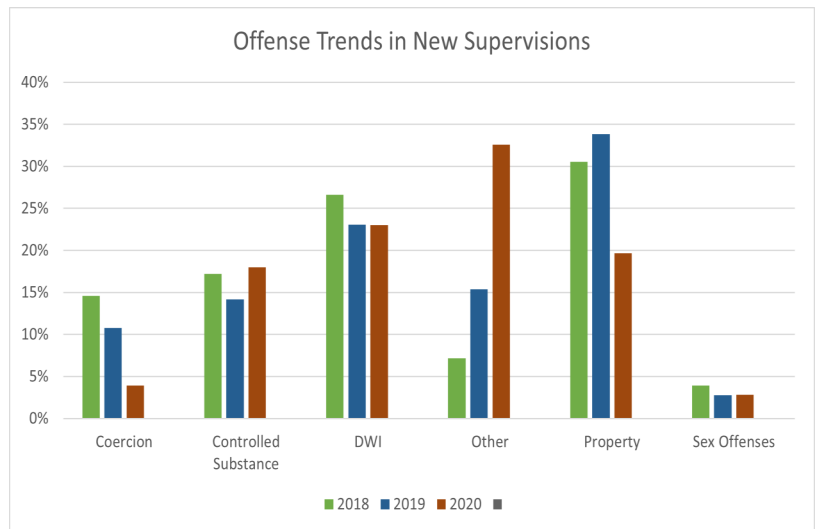
~ **Rehabilitation of the Offender**

Rehabilitation of the offender is achieved by identifying the individual's criminogenic risks and needs, and developing a case plan with input from the individual to prioritize goals and tasks necessary for the probationer to eliminate undesirable behaviors and enhance their engagement in pro-social activities.



There are nineteen factors considered in this assessment. Common areas of criminogenic needs include:

- ~ *Substance Abuse*
- ~ *Mental Health*
- ~ *Financial/Vocational/Education deficiencies*
- ~ *Attitudes, Impulsiveness and Anger Issuers*
- ~ *Criminal or Anti-Social Peers and*
- ~ *Few Family Supports*



All of these factors are considered when making individualized case plans with each client. These case plans are created with direct input from probationers in an effort to garner their personal insight on how to navigate a successful probation supervision term with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism. These case plans are reviewed and updated with the probationer every six months and remain dynamic documents throughout the life of the probation supervision. Goals are completed and updated as the needs of the probationer change. These indicators further result in service referrals to support their needs including substance abuse referrals, mental health referrals, employment assistance, educational resources, housing assistance and general community service referrals. Again, these case plan goals are all based on the presenting issues and to designed to promote success for the client.

Probation Facts

In 2020, property offenses decreased while controlled substance offenses increased.

Specialized Supervision

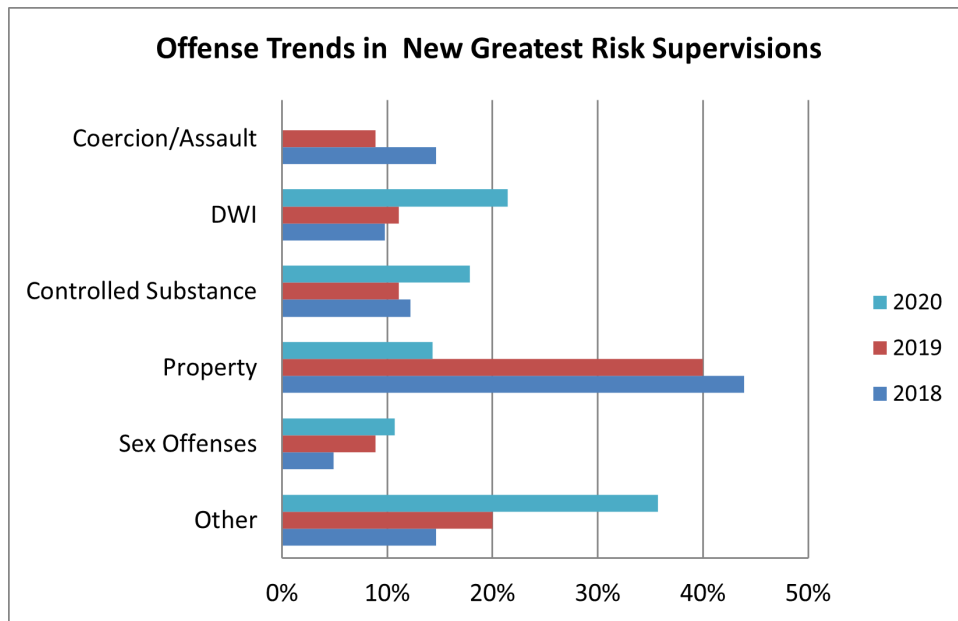
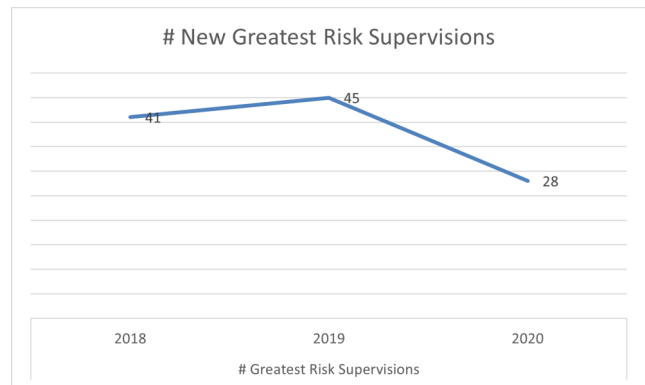
Submitted by Karla Brackett, Deputy Director

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 SUPERVISION

Greatest Risk Caseload’s 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



Sex Offender Supervision

Submitted by Derek Grinnell, Probation Officer

SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION

In 2020 we continued our work in this specialized field of community-based supervision with:

- ~ Continuation of a second probation officer on the sex offender supervision team. Probation Officers supervise individuals who are registered with the NYS Sex Offender Registry (SOR) and those who may have sexually offended but have been convicted of a non-registerable offense.
- ~ Continued involvement in the County's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). In addition to The Probation Department, members of this team include police agencies, CPS, the District Attorney's Office, The Advocacy Center, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and others. The MDT works to ensure the best possible outcome for victims and for prosecution of difficult sex offense crimes, and is a best practice recommended by NYS for management of sex offenders in the community.
- ~ Continued involvement in Sex Offense Court, a specialized docket for probationers who have committed a registered sex offense or a non-registerable offense with similar behaviors. It is an effective mechanism for swiftly addressing issues of compliance in this high-risk category of offenders.
- ~ Continued use of specialized supervision tools such as Technology Monitoring.
- ~ Continued collaboration with the Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic to ensure the probationer is attending and participating in sex offender treatment.

What is the role of the probation officer in providing supervision to sex offenders?

- ~ The best practice recommended by OPCA 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 Probation Officer does quarterly address checks to verify the addresses of offenders on the New York State Sex Offender Registry.
- ~ The Probation Officer ensures that offenders are submitting updated information regarding their address, employer, higher education enrollment, vehicle information, and internet data to the New York State Sex Offender Registry.
- ~ A Probation Officer is a member of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) team, which is comprised of many members from local organizations who work with youth including DSS, GIAC, Learning Web, William George Agency, Advocacy Center, TP3 Child Development Council, DAP, etc. The team is focused on training and education with an emphasis on getting the message out to the public as well as to staff members at schools, hospitals, etc for red flags and warning signs of sexual exploitation. CSEC also developed a screening tool to identify youth that may be trafficked and/or exploited and the proper referrals to make to give the youth the support that is needed.

Probation Facts:

It is a myth that most sexual offenses are committed by strangers. Most sexual offenses are committed by family members or acquaintances.

(Source: DCJS Sex Offenders - Myths & Facts - 2014)

Specialized Supervision

Submitted by Probation Officer Kelly Cooper and Probation Supervisor Karla Brackett

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPERVISION

Domestic violence has always been an area of concern because the likelihood of lethality can be significantly increased in certain situations. Furthermore, it is a complex issue to deal with because it can take many forms and it is often difficult to ascertain if it remains ongoing. Never more was domestic violence a concern than in 2020, with many people isolated in their homes, it was feared that current victims would be at greater risk and there was the potential for individuals to commit acts of domestic violence even if they never had before.

The Tompkins County Probation Department has developed a holistic and collaborative community approach to address the systemic issue of domestic violence. This is achieved by holding offenders accountable for their violent behavior, ensuring the victim and other family members are protected from further abuse perpetrated by the defendant, and creating appropriate intervention by utilizing all available community agencies to stop the cycle of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Supervision

- ~ For over twenty years, this Department has had at least one and currently two Probation Officers who have a concentration in domestic violence.
- ~ Probation Officers have an active role in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court.
- ~ There is collaboration with the Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic to ensure probationers are attending and participating in the Emerge Program, a domestic violence education program.
- ~ The Probation Officers attend a biweekly Domestic Violence Team meeting, which consists of the Advocacy Center, Child Protective Services, the District Attorney's Office, Integrated Domestic Violence Court, Emerge facilitators and others.
- ~ Domestic Incident Reports completed by the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department, Ithaca Police Department and other smaller police agencies are forwarded to this Department on a regular basis to ensure awareness of domestic incidents involving probationers when an actual arrest may not have been made.

What is the role of the probation officer in providing supervision to domestic violence offenders?

- ~ Probation Officers are well trained in the complexities of this type of offender and are adept at recognizing even the most subtle forms of domestic violence.
- ~ The Probation Officers play a significant role in supporting victims of domestic violence and often maintain contact with victims throughout a probationer's entire sentence of probation.
- ~ The Probation Officers place the safety of the victim above all else and will ensure the probationer is held accountable through Court intervention when necessary.
- ~ Graduated Responses are often utilized to hold an offender accountable; specifically, electronic monitoring if concerns for the victim's safety arise and/or if the offender is not abiding by an Order of Protection.

Probation Facts:

58 individuals were under probation supervision in Tompkins County for a domestic violence related conviction at the end of 2020.

Specialized Supervision

Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor

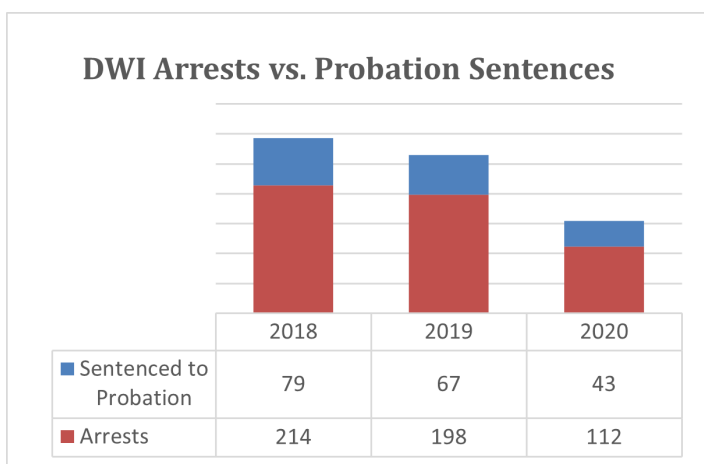
Impaired driving by alcohol and/or drugs continues to represent a significant threat to public safety. The goal of specialized DWI supervision is to enhance community protection by reducing incidents of impaired driving offenses and to ensure that the offender obtains the necessary treatment to address their use of alcohol and/or drugs while also monitoring their behavior in the community.

DWI SUPERVISION CASELOAD

- ~ This Department has had a specialized DWI Probation Officer for over twenty years.
- ~ Approximately 1/3 of the total cases supervised by this Department are offenders convicted of DWI offenses.
- ~ Currently, there are two DWI Probation Officers.

The DWI Probation Officer’s role is:

- ~ Complete pre-sentence investigations of persons convicted of DWI offenses
- ~ Intensive supervision of a caseload averaging approximately 36 probationers
- ~ Monitor ignition interlock device compliance
- ~ Monitor compliance with necessary treatment programs
- ~ Monitor an offender’s sobriety with the use of:
 - 1) Alco-Sensor tests to detect recent alcohol use.
 - 2) Monitored urine screens to detect recent alcohol and illicit substance use.
 - 3) Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) ankle bracelet to monitor the probationer’s ability to remain alcohol free. This monitoring is 24 hours a day, usually for a period of 90 days.
 - 4) An ignition interlock device (IID) installed in any vehicle owned (registered and/or titled) or operated by the defendant.



In December of 2019, this Department became the monitoring authority to monitor offender’s use of an ignition interlock device when sentenced to a conditional discharge. In 2020, this Department received 29 new conditional discharge cases to monitor.

DWI Victim Impact Panel

The Tompkins County Probation Department organizes the Tompkins County DWI Victim Impact Panel (VIP). Attendance at the VIP is mandatory as a condition of probation or as part of a conditional discharge sentence for DWI offenders. The aim of the VIP is to help impaired driving offenders internalize the lasting and long-term effects of substance-impaired driving. At the VIP, victims, survivors, and professionals impacted by impaired driving crashes speak briefly about a first-person account of how impaired driving impacts their lives. The panel seeks to create empathy and understanding of the tragedies resulting from fatal DWI crashes. The intent is to leave a permanent impression on participants that leads to their change in thinking and behavior, in hopes of preventing future offenses.

This Department is able to offer this program with the generous help of volunteer speakers and community members in conjunction with New York State Court Security Officers, Tompkins County District Attorney’s Office, Alcohol and Drug Council (ADC), Cayuga Medical Center (CMC), and with assistance from the Tompkins County STOP- DWI program.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Tompkins County was unable to offer a VIP in 2020.

Evidence Based Programs

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer

INTERACTIVE JOURNALS

Interactive Journals are a recognized cognitive behavioral change curriculum developed by The Change Companies and supported by the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. The curriculum can be taught in group format or on an individual basis. The Journals take into account where a person is in the stages of change. Interactive Journaling is a structured and experiential writing process that motivates and guides individuals toward positive life changes. The goal of the curriculum is to ultimately ***reduce recidivism and to help people make long lasting life changes.*** The curriculum is offered to both juveniles and adults.

Sr. Probation Officer Gladys Larson was trained as a Train the Trainer in both curriculums and will continue to train staff so that these journals can be utilized throughout the Department either in group or individual settings.

Forward Thinking

The Juvenile curriculum called Forward Thinking, is currently being utilized by the Family Court Probation Officers in an individual format with both PINS Diversion and Juvenile Supervision cases. There are currently nine Interactive Journals available in the Forward Thinking curriculum.

This curriculum has been key during the change in operations in 2020 due to the pandemic. It is regularly used by the Probation Officers as part of their supervision case plans.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What Got Me Here?</i> • <i>Handling Difficult Feelings</i> • <i>Relationships and Communication</i> • <i>Victim Awareness</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reentry Planning</i> • <i>Substance Using Behaviors</i> • <i>Family</i> • <i>Responsible Behavior</i> • <i>Individual Change Plan</i>
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Courage To Change

The adult curriculum called Courage To Change is offered multiple times per week when the Day Reporting Program is up and running. Most of this Department's Probation Officers and support staff are trained to facilitate this curriculum. There are currently nine Interactive Journals available in the Courage To Change Curriculum.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Getting Started</i> • <i>Social Values</i> • <i>Responsible Thinking</i> • <i>Substance Use</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Getting Started</i> • <i>Social Values</i> • <i>Responsible Thinking</i> • <i>Substance Use</i>
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YASI COACHING

Sr. Probation Officer Gladys Larson was selected by DCJS to be trained as a YASI (Youth Assessment Screening Instrument) Coach. This assessment is used to assist the Family Court in identifying the strengths and needs of the youth that they work with. In 2020, OPCA and DCJS recognized the need for this instrument to be used to its full capacity and therefore, all Family Court Probation Officers underwent an updated training using the Collaborative Case Works Model. A few Probation Officers from across the State were selected to become coaches so that they could assist not only their Department but other Probation Departments in their Region. This required additional training with the developers of the assessment as well one on one coaching sessions with a representative from Orbis.

The expectation is that all trained coaches will assist their co-workers in developing accurate Case Plans, review the scoring of the assessment, assist with identifying needs, strengths, incentives, and pattern of behavior. This will allow the Family Court Officers to narrow their focus to the criminogenic needs that are directly linked to the behavior that brought the youth to the Probation Department. This in turn will impact recidivism rates and allow us to have a more individualized approach with the youth.

Performance Measures

Submitted by Daniel Cornell, Director

2020 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 2020. Data collection and analysis of departmental performance will be an ongoing process for 2021.

Benchmark	152 Adult Cases Closed 2020	22 Juvenile Cases Closed 2020
Law Abiding Behavior	80% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation	91% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation
Resistance to Drug and Alcohol Use	86% of the drug screens recorded by this department were negative for substances	Of the 13 youth ordered to participate in treatment, 54% completed treatment or were in good standing with treatment at time of case closing
School Participation Vocational Training	65% 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, 73% of the youth were enrolled in school/vocational programs and 88% were participating satisfactorily
Restorative Community Service	72% of the 1471 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing	100% of the 108 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing
Mental Health	82% of those court ordered to participate in mental health treatment did so and 63% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing	Of the 19 youth ordered to participate in mental health treatment, 89% participated and 58% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing
Supervision Risk Levels	79% of the cases closed in 2020 were medium to highest risk at case opening. At case closing, only 43% were classified as medium to highest risk.	77% of the Youth had a reduction of risk factors during the period of supervision.
Case Closing Status	79.6% of cases were closed successfully	59% of cases were closed successfully

Technology Tools

Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor

ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM)

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 Enhanced Supervision and Sentencing Option, (ESSO) for high risk adult offenders, and it is used with juveniles as an alternative to detention.

In 2020, 37 individuals participated in electronic monitoring for a total of **1,907** days. Of these, 7 cases were Family Court Juvenile cases and **30** were Adult Criminal Court cases.

The utilization of electronic monitoring for adult criminal court clients is a result of the Department’s commitment the use of graduated responses. Additionally, the recommendations from the 2017 Jail Study Report resulted in a conscious effort to increase use of this monitoring tool for pretrial supervision in lieu of recommending continue bail for appropriate cases. Of the **10** defendants who participated in pretrial electronic monitoring in 2020, **3** completed this requirement successfully.

Estimated Cost Comparison

Average Incarceration Costs of adult inmates boarded out to other jails:

1502 days @ \$84.00/day totals \$126,168.00

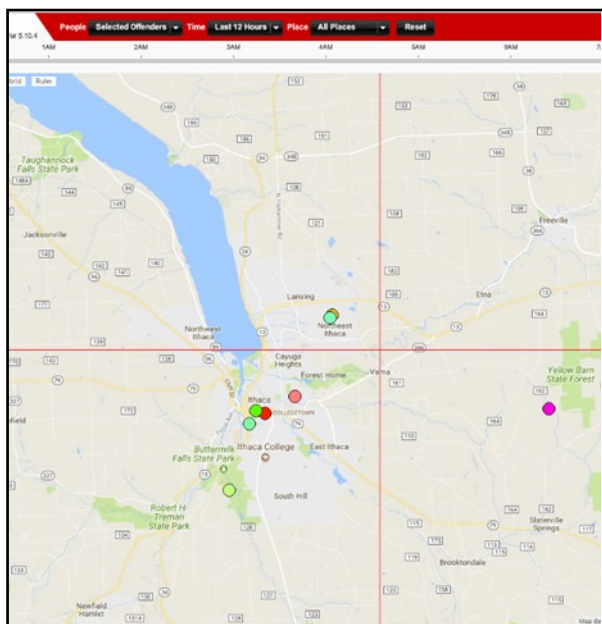
Average costs of non-secure Juvenile Detention:

405 days @ \$359.00/day totals \$145,395.00

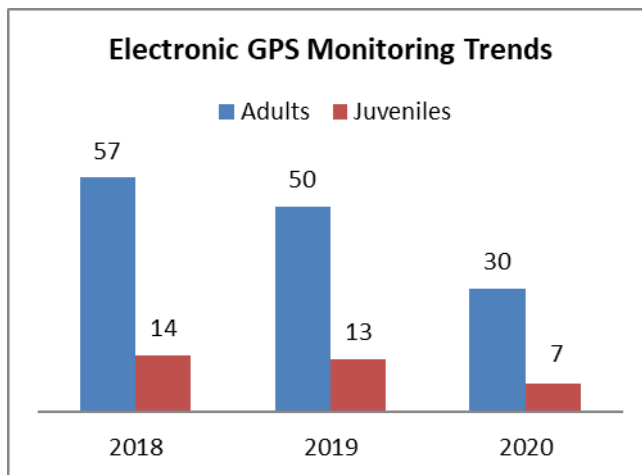
Total EM Costs:

1907 days @ \$6.00/day totals \$11,442.00

Potential Taxpayer Savings for 2020: \$260,121.00



Electronic Monitoring Report -
The dots represent selected offenders within a specific time period



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.

Technology Tools

Submitted by Susan Moore, Probation Systems Analyst

TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTION AND MONITORING

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

In **2020**, mobile phones continued to make up the majority of devices being managed and monitored. This program is an important tool for restricting and remote monitoring of an offender's on line usage as a way to prevent and deter high risk behaviors that could ultimately lead to recidivism.

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.



POLYGRAPH TESTING

It has been the experience of probation officers, courts, the DA's Office, law enforcement, treatment providers and other parties in the criminal justice system that the offender's conviction of record may not accurately reflect their true history of sexual offending. When a sex offender is under community based supervision, a best practice for monitoring them is the use of polygraph testing.

While the results of the tests cannot legally be used as the basis of a probation violation or a new criminal charge, polygraph testing is an immensely important supervision tool. The offender must take and pass the polygraph in order to be held accountable for their probation offense and any past offenses, whether they are a matter of legal record or not.

Why is this important? Secrecy is one of the biggest elements of sexually offending behavior. Requiring offenders to be fully honest about their sexually offending history means that we have a better picture of their risk to the community. That knowledge informs the style and intensity of supervision that is required to maximize public safety. In general, we find through polygraph testing and pre- and post-polygraph interviews that some offenders have numerous victims, often where the victim has never even disclosed the abuse.

Offenders are also questioned about their general compliance with probation. For example, a probationer may be restricted from use or possession of drugs or alcohol, or they may be restricted from having contact with minors. Identifying and halting these high risk behaviors is a key part of preventing potential future sex offenses.

Probation Facts:

There are 42,343 registered sex offenders in New York State as of March 2021 and 175 residing in Tompkins County.

(Source: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Website)

Technology Tools

Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, 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 implement a program of recovery.

84% of criminal court probationers who completed probation in 2019 were ordered to complete substance abuse treatment by the Courts because drug and/or alcohol abuse was identified as a criminogenic risk factor.

59% 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 provide a breath sample 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 Alcosensor.



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 hours a day, 7 days a week, usually for the duration of 90 days by measuring their transdermal alcohol concentration, a predictable result of alcohol consumption. The Department uses this device for our DWI and Treatment Court population as a way to aid recovery based behavior.

The device is commonly used when a relapse with alcohol has occurred with a DWI probationer, as a graduated response. Probation Officers are able to download the data from the device directly into their computers during an office contact with the probationer to determine compliance with alcohol conditions.



Probation Facts:

\$4.40 - Daily cost of SCRAM compared to the higher cost of incarceration.

Treatment Court Programs

Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor

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 participant with a highly structured environment that combines judicial oversight, probation supervision, substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, graduated responses, and education/employment training in an effort to encourage positive behaviors and reduce recidivism.

Senior probation officers are assigned to the Treatment Courts; 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, 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), Interactive Journaling, and the Day Reporting Program.

New developments in 2020

New developments in 2020 include the continuation of Milestones to the graduation criteria. These 5 stages replace the original 3 phases that were previously required for successful program completion. Each stage has a designated time frame requirement along with advancement criteria in the areas of probation requirements, court expectations, substance abuse treatment, sober support participation, mental health, financial planning and education/career goals. This tracking system gives the participants tangible goal packets that they review periodically with their probation officer to chart their progress and identify portions of their treatment plan that still require completion. Clients have voiced appreciation that this milestone system allows them to take ownership of their progress, while receiving continual feedback from the drug court team.

It should be noted that as the pandemic unfolded in 2020, Senior Probation Officers were diligent in continuing to meet with their clients face-to-face in full realization that these high-needs individuals required accountability during stressful transitions. Random drug testing continued in an effort to support client's sobriety and accountability. Staff were diligent about maintaining safety while still providing case management services to the participants. Drug Court also shifted to virtual appearances instead of the monthly in-person sessions. Again, the flexibility to the entire Drug Court staff undoubtedly assisted struggling clients to maintain some sense of normalcy as the pandemic altered operations.

How has Drug Court impacted your situation?

- ✓ Drug use was a big thing for me for 7 years. It took me to a place that I did not like. I'm a totally different person from who I am now. I have been employed for almost 7 months and it has worked out great for me. Keeps me busy and I feel like I have purpose. -SC
- ✓ I am so on point now that the little things may stress me a bit even though I know all will be well. I just simmer down and think, wow- I have come a long way. I changed my way of thinking, changed my friends and put my recovery, my career and my children first. -CB
- ✓ I have steady housing, I have been clean 20 months, I'm getting relationships back with my kids. I am enrolled in school full-time. I look healthy and I leaned who I am again. -AS

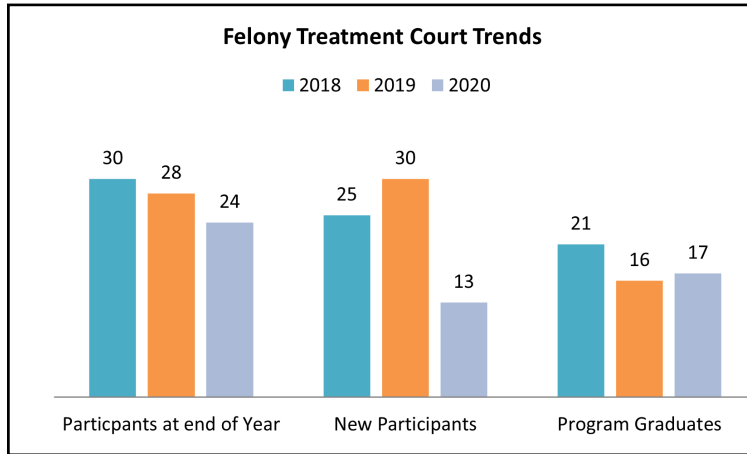
Treatment Court Programs

Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor

ITHACA COMMUNITY TREATMENT & TOMPKINS COUNTY FELONY DRUG COURT, *con't*

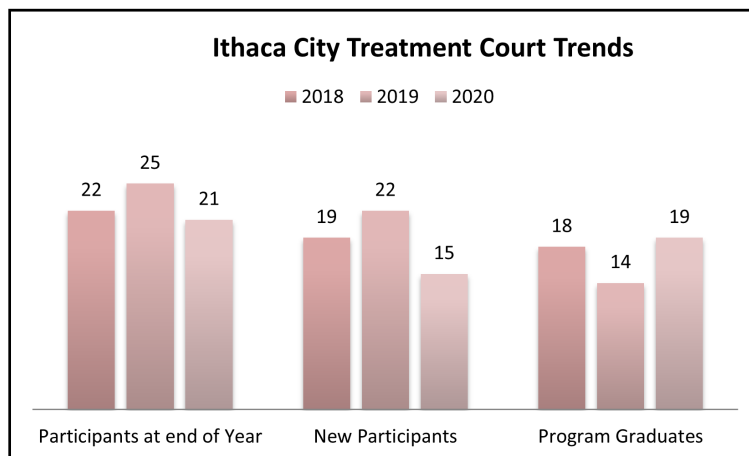
Tompkins County Felony Drug Court - 2020

- ~ *13 new admissions*
- ~ *17 participants graduated*
- ~ *24 current participants at the end of 2020*
- ~ *Since inception of the program in April 2000, 301 participants have graduated*



Ithaca Community Treatment Court - 2020

- ~ *15 new admissions*
- ~ *19 participants graduated*
- ~ *21 current participants at the end of 2020*
- ~ *Since inception of the program in January 1998, 319 participants have graduated*



Community Service Programs

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer

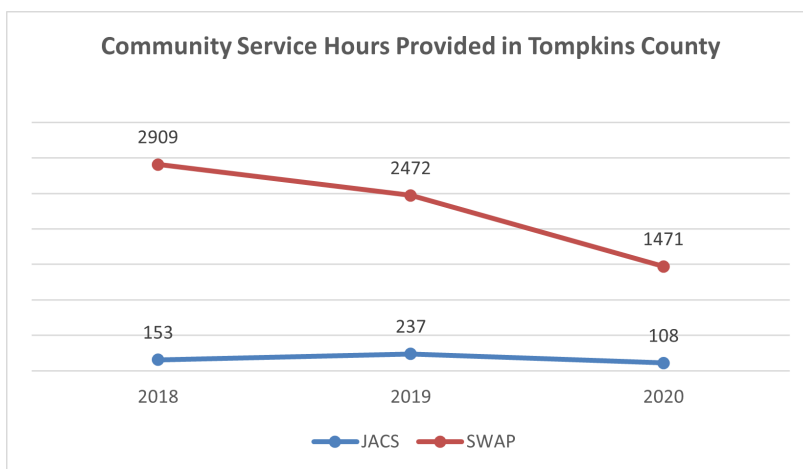
The Department of Probation and Community Justice operates several supervised community service programs for various populations. Participants benefit from community service as they are able to make non-monetary reparation to society while gaining work experience, occupational skills, and training. The 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 2020, **1,471** hours of service was performed in our community.
- ~ **72%** of the community service hours ordered as a condition of probation were satisfied at case closing.
- ~ **14** worksites in Tompkins County benefited from work provided through this program.
- ~ **15** individuals successfully completed their court ordered obligation in 2020.

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 2020, **108** hours of service was performed in our community.
- ~ **3** juveniles successfully completed their obligation in 2020.



Probation Facts:

In 2020, the Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP), helped raise \$12,000 for Cops Kids & Toys by working at the Cornell University Dump and Run worksite.

Community Service Programs

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer

Community Benefits

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.

“Without the Probation Department I am not sure what we would have done, the whole department did a HUGE amount of work for CKT this year.”

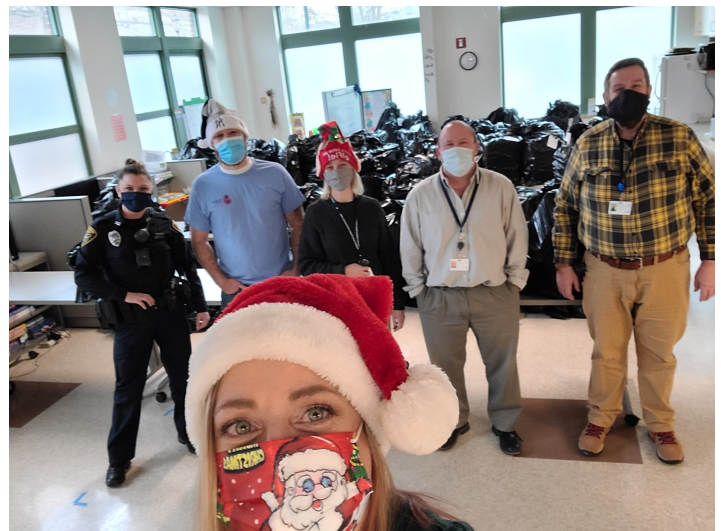
-Bill Apgar, SWAP Supervisor and CKT President.

Cops Kids and Toys

In 2020, the Probation Department stepped up and assisted Cops Kids and Toys with their efforts in the Dump and Run and Annual Toy give away. The Probation Department assisted in picking up the donated toys as well as with handing out the toys this year.



Probation Officer, Holly Alzitoon



IPD Officer Jolene Bettes, Senior Probation Officer Mike Herrling & Holly Alzitoon, Senior Probation Officer Jarrod Newcomb, Security Officer Rich Brewer and Senior Probation Officer Gladys Larson



Senior Probation Officer - Gladys Larson, SWAP Supervisor - Bill Apgar



Probation Officer, Derek Grinnell



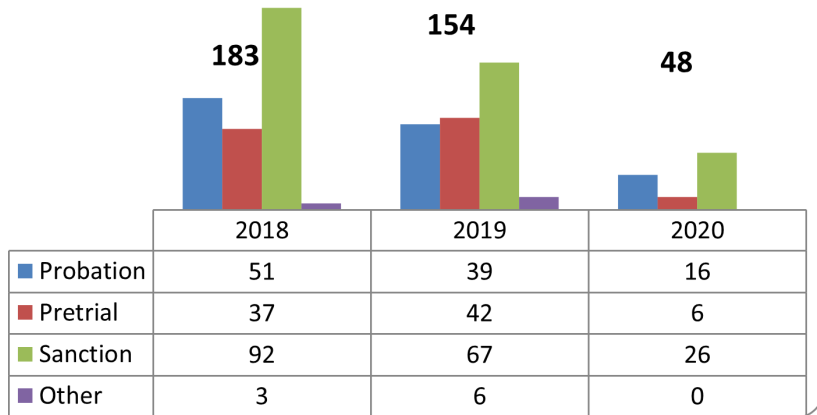
Day Reporting

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer

The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program is an innovative enhanced supervision and sentencing 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 pretrial supervised release. Our core components include individualized education programs and TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) preparation, work readiness, substance abuse education, healthy family relationships, community service, nutrition and leadership initiatives.

Referral Sources to Day Reporting



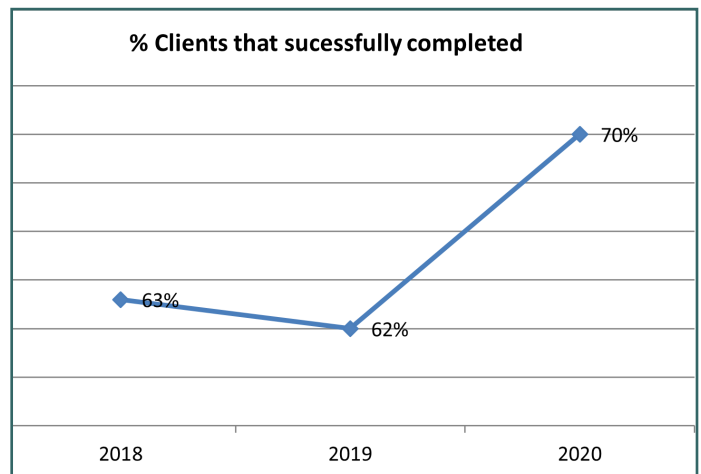
What we do:

- ~ Provide daily employment, education, and sober support classes to clients including Interactive Journals, Substance Abuse, Healthy Family Relationships, Mental Health, Financial Management, and Health Issues.
- ~ Provide individualized educational plans, including TASC testing preparation 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 Program, The Women’s Opportunity Center, Tompkins Learning Partnership, The Learning Web, The Advocacy Center, and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

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 process including: pretrial, presentence, probation supervision, probation and parole violators.

% Clients that successfully completed



Day Reporting

Education Services

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer

Day Reporting continues to provide a welcoming setting for individuals in the criminal justice system to seek educational opportunities. Many of the individuals we serve have either had past difficulties with the general education setting or have not entered a classroom in many years. These factors can produce anxiety and potential barriers to success and our goal is to mitigate these barriers to advancement. The individualized instruction provided to the clients we serve becomes paramount to their success in passing this test.

Due to COVID 19, Day Reporting ceased operation on March 16, 2020 and did not re-open until September 9, 2020. We operated at a reduced capacity with social distancing and masks from September 9, 2020 until December 14, 2020 at which time we were closed again due to the rising numbers of COVID 19 cases in the community.

In 2020, 11 students received individual instruction.

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.

Day Reporting

Employment Services

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer

Employment Services

Obtaining a job, for those with a criminal history, can be a difficult process. Many clients also have the added pressure of child support, restitution and legal fees to pay. Our clients face many obstacles before they are work ready: housing, clothing, access to dental and medical care, basic computer literacy, and often a lack of familiarity with the work world. Clients are referred to the appropriate agencies and assisted with additional services.

Due to COVID 19 our typical employment services were not offered after March 16, 2020.

The Workforce Employment Specialist:

- ✓ assists in resume and cover letter writing
- ✓ helps individuals sharpen their interview skills
- ✓ provides interview appropriate clothing
- ✓ meets with employers to explain rights and responsibilities of hiring someone with a criminal background
- ✓ and helps clients with a criminal background understand the labor market

There are also laws, policies, and procedures that our clients must be well-informed about; Ban the Box legislation, felony bars to employment and licensing, and how to respond to a denial of employment are among them. The Workforce Employment Specialist explains employer incentives to hire those with a criminal past, including the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Federal Bonding Program and On the Job Training.

For those returning to the community from the Tompkins County Jail, services are provided both prior to and post release. As a member of the Reentry team, The Workforce Employment Specialist offers non-judgmental individual counseling to assist clients with understanding and overcoming barriers to employment. Clients leaving the Tompkins County Jail, state prison, and substance abuse rehabilitation programs are offered skill identification exercises, career assessment, resume and cover letter assistance, interview practice, as well as continuing support during the job search process. We also have a clothing closet to help with appropriate interview and work outfits.

Between Jan-March **16** people were assisted with employment services and **4** people obtained employment.

From September-December **2** people were worked with in Day Reporting and **1** received employment.



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