

Tompkins County

Department of Probation and Community Justice



Inclusion Through Diversity

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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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**

Director's Message

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in the 2023 Annual Report of the Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice. It was a year in which we were challenged to commit to meeting both our public safety and rehabilitative roles in new ways.

As a Department, we continued to review and assess trends in data as we adjusted our internal staffing configuration and caseload structures for Probation Officers and Supervisors to meet the changing needs of individuals we serve, our community, and the criminal justice system. We continue to observe that post Bail Reform (2020), a higher percentage of our supervision cases are classified as Greatest Risk or High Risk/High Needs at the time of sentencing. There has become a clear need to focus additional time and resources with clients in order to have a positive impact. Additionally, in March of 2023, Tompkins County law enforcement agencies including the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department, the Ithaca City Police and the Probation Department were informed by the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) that Tompkins County had been identified for addition to New York State's Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE-X) program. This was due to an increasing trend in gun-involved violent crimes in Ithaca and Tompkins County in crime data trends reviewed by the NYS DCJS. While we had not been advised of this opportunity prior to the development of our 2023 department budget, on July 1, 2023 the county became part of the NYS GIVE-X grant program. The Probation Department received funding to increase our ability to engage in our public safety role and provide enhanced supervision for people sentenced to probation when weapons or extreme violence were part of the underlying charges. This forced an additional pivot in the assignment of high-risk, high needs job duties for four Senior Probation Officers and a Supervisor. Each of those officers volunteered to take on the additional responsibilities of supervising GIVE cases due to their commitment to enhancing community safety using evidence-based GIVE strategies. This initiative appears to be contributing to a significant reduction in local gun crime and we look forward to continuing our efforts in reducing the tragedies resulting from gun-related violence in our community. I wish to thank our GIVE partners at the State and local level for their commitment to this collaboration.

In our rehabilitative role, we continue to engage in collaborations with our other community partners who provide rehabilitative services and community resources for probation clients in the areas of education, employment, housing, food insecurity and finance management. The needs are persistent, and the challenges are many. As a community we continue to experience high levels of people suffering from substance abuse and mental health conditions at a time when treatment resources have contracted

Director's Message Continued...

or struggled to keep pace with growing needs. These factors present obstacles to our clients' success and I would like to thank all of the individuals and local Not-For-Profit organizations who provide services and advocate for justice in these areas. This Department and the community owe you all a debt of gratitude.

In order to be our best and provide the highest level of professional services possible, we must constantly adapt, train and learn. In 2023 five officers of this Department completed a very intensive Instructor Development Course required as a pre-requisite by the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services in order to become Certified Trainers in various topics. Two of those officers subsequently completed the training necessary to become certified Defensive Tactics instructors. I am committed to supporting staff interested in obtaining instructor level certifications in probation-related topics to enhance our skills, the training goals of the Department, and the profession.

We are very close to going public with a Data Dashboard in line with the goals of the Reimagining Public Safety workgroup, and our Department goals for 2024. This resource will be available through our Department website, as well as the County's Reimagining Public Safety website. The dashboard will update daily and provide nearly real-time information about the services we offer. This will contribute to the transparency necessary to build further trust with the community and allow us to identify disparate outcomes and explore changes that may be within our control to address those disparities. I would like to specifically thank Probation Systems Analyst Christopher Driscoll, our entire Administrative Unit and our ITS Department for developing this robust resource. This important goal would not have been achieved without your expertise and passion for the project.

Finally I need to thank all staff members of this Department whose efforts to help people improve their lives and enhance public safety are outlined in this document. The numbers and graphs do nothing to show the community the professionalism, courage, commitment and compassion that I see every day. If I thanked each of you individually for a fraction of what you do, this already too long message would need multiple pages. I know that you are not driven by the need for kudos, but please know that I am immensely grateful to you all, and proud of each of you, for what you do in the interest of helping our clients and making Tompkins County a safer and better community.

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

Our 2023 Goals - What We Accomplished

1. Reassess the present staffing model in order to make appropriate adjustments to the Department structure and assignments based upon current crime and caseload trends.
 - ✓ *Achieved: The re-alignment of staff, supervisors, and caseloads were adjusted to better address caseload trends and department needs.*
2. Engage in collaborations with community partners to enhance accessibility to community resources for probation clients in the areas of education, employment and finance management.
 - ✓ *Achieved/ongoing: A variety of outreach was done and will continue to occur as we re-engage and further develop relationships with vital community partners. This is an ongoing process as we continuously work to expand partnerships and connections with other people and organizations who share our goals.*
3. Support staff interested in obtaining instructor level certifications in probation related topics to enhance the training goals of the Department and the profession.
 - ✓ *Achieved: Two Probation staff are now New York State certified Defensive Tactics instructors, and they have commenced training staff in Peace Officer titles.*
4. Engage in the Reimagining Public Safety data workgroup to identify, examine and seek to correct any disparate engagement and outcomes in criminal justice in Tompkins County.
 - ✓ *Partially Achieved: The Probation Department developed a department data dashboard that will allow for increased transparency through the sharing and data analysis of various aspects of our work.*
5. Review and update Department onboarding policies and procedures. .
 - ✓ *Achieved/ongoing: The department hired a new Probation Officer at the end of 2023 and a second officer was hired at the beginning of 2024. A workgroup was developed in 2023 to review and update onboarding procedures. Procedures continue to be updated to align with best practices and newly mandated Probation Officer training requirements.*
6. Select an evidence-based model and train staff in that model to facilitate our provision of a men's issues group and a women's issues group.
 - ✓ *Not achieved: Goal is being reconsidered.*
7. Restore provision of the DWI Victim Impact Panel at the Tompkins County Courthouse.
 - ✓ *Achieved: The department completed its final in-house session of the DWI Victim Impact Panel in January 2023, thereby exhausting the backlog of participants that were unable to attend the Victim Impact Panel during COVID-19 restrictions. The department resumed holding sessions at the Tompkins County Courthouse and held two sessions there in 2023.*
8. Reinvigorate school partnerships to expand the utilization of the Strengthening Our Students (SOS) program in an effort to intervene with youth early and reduce the need for Family Court intervention.
 - ✓ *Partially achieved: A variety of outreach was conducted with the school districts. An obstacle to furthering this goal was the resistance of one district to refer youth to the Probation Department in favor of referring youth to alternative programming.*

Our 2024 Goals

1. Engage in the development and release of a Probation Community Dashboard to publicly provide transparency about important aspects of our work, and continue to support the goals of the Reimagining Public Safety process.
2. Engage in trainings designed to enhance staff safety, client safety and the safety of the public.
3. Continue to work collaboratively with law enforcement partners toward the goal of reducing crimes of gun-related violence in Tompkins County. Apply for a continuation of NYS funding toward this goal during the GIVE XI grant cycle.
4. Continue the review and revision process for Department policies and procedures.
5. Work with Human Resources to enhance recruiting efforts in order to engage a more diverse Civil Service candidate pool. Engage in succession planning, staff development, and employee retention and recognition.

2023 Staff Listing

(as of 12/31/2023)

Probation Director

Daniel Cornell

Deputy Director II

Karla Brackett

Administration

Systems Analyst

Christopher Driscoll

Administrative Services Coordinator

Laurel Rockhill

Principal Account Clerk Typist

Tammy Murphy

Senior Account Clerk Typist

Samantha Achilles

Administrative Assistant II

Rebecca Roe

Probation Assistant

Bernadette Stranger

Probation Supervisors

Criminal Court Supervisor

Paul Neugebauer

Criminal Court Supervisor

Karen Burns

Family Court Supervisor

Gladys Larson

Senior Probation Officers

Greatest Risk Supervision/Mental Health/Wellness Court

Denise Hayden

Greatest Risk Family Court Supervision/JISP

Michael Herrling

Greatest Risk Supervision

Jarrod Newcomb

Day Reporting Program

Abigail Bixby

Tompkins County Treatment Court

Tom Partigianoni

Tompkins County Treatment Court

Angela Kehoe

TCTC/Pre-Trial Electronic Monitoring

Sheldon Pettaway

Mental Health/Wellness Court

Holly Alzitoon

Probation Officers

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Laura Little

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Shannon Dankert

Criminal Court—DWI

Derek Grinnell

Criminal Court—DWI

Brian Driscoll

Staff & Department Milestones

Probation Officers (continued)

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Quentin Kiah

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Michele Johnson

Family Court

Lina Meaker

Family Court

Jazamene Cherry

Family Court

Christina Davidson

Work Project Supervisors:

William Apgar

Tyler Mix

Security Officer:

Richard Brewer

Years of Service to the Probation Department

10+ Years

Holly Alzitoon

Angela Kehoe

Tom Partigianoni

15+ Years

Karen Burns

Denise Hayden

Michael Herrling

Gladys Larson

Paul Neugebauer

20+Years

Abigail Bixby

Karla Brackett

Richard Brewer

Daniel Cornell

25+ Years

William Apgar

Jarrod Newcomb

Laurel Rockhill

Bernadette Stranger

Restitution and Fee Collection

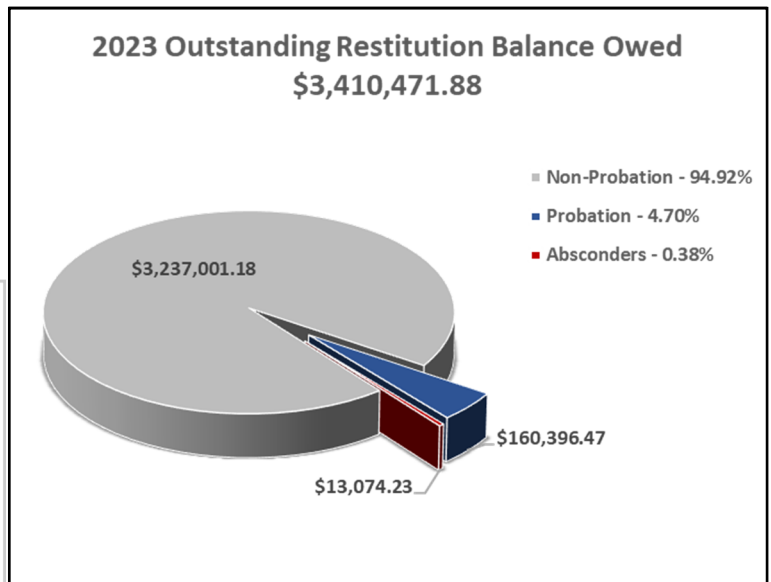
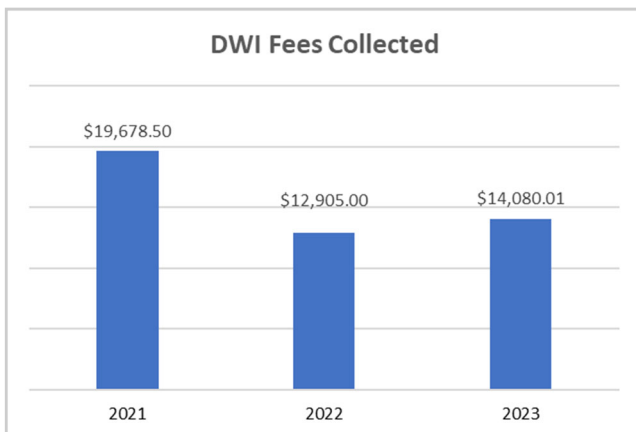
Submitted by Tammy Murphy, Principal Account Clerk Typist

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.

2023 ACTUAL DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISBURSED						
	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Interest	Totals
Beginning balance carried from 12/31/22	\$4,912.14	\$449.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14.39	\$5,375.56
Money Received 01/23 - 12/23	\$46,881.96	\$2,377.68	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$-14.39*	\$49,495.25
Money Disbursed 01/23 - 12/23	\$51,695.76	\$2,745.21	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,690.97
End Balance 12/31/23	\$98.34	\$81.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$179.84

**Interest funds have been reallocated and disbursed as restitution to Unsatisfied Victims.*

In 2023, a total of 123 restitution obligations were opened. In January 2023, OPCA put forth direction to change how restitution is ordered, which resulted in defendants getting separate restitution orders for each victim owed. Due to this change, 62 defendants received 123 orders. In previous years there would have been 62 defendants and 62 orders of restitution.



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 Gladys Larson, 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).

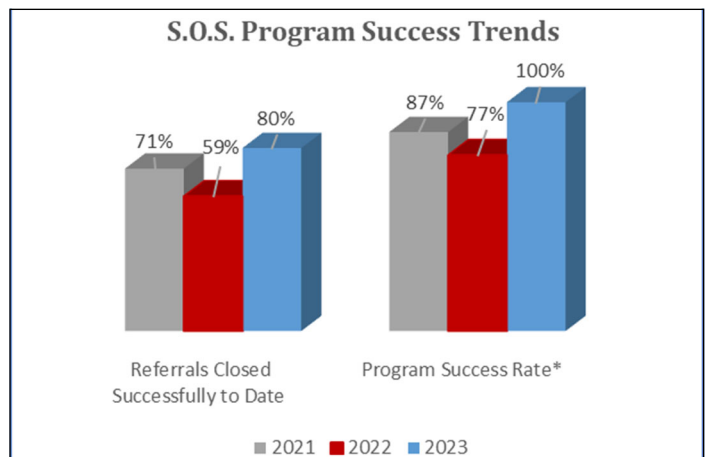
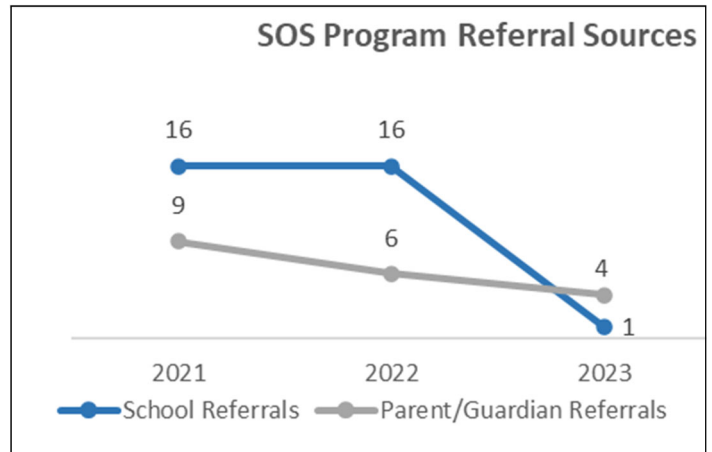
Family Court Probation Officers also provide daily intake coverage Monday through Friday. This means that they are the designated contact for the Probation Department if and when people from the community come looking for information or guidance for any family related matter. Calls are often from parents 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 2023 and after 6 months have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

Probation Facts:

80% of the youth who utilized S.O.S services in 2023 successfully completed the program.

Family Court Diversion Services

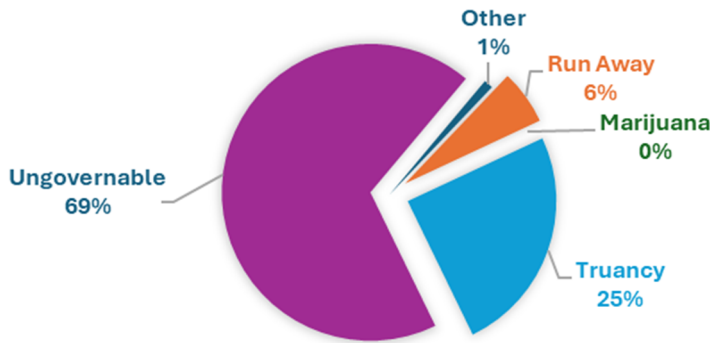
Submitted by Gladys Larson, Probation Supervisor

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 2023, the Tompkins County Probation Department received 48 PINS referrals: 20 complaints were initiated by parents, 26 by school administrators, and 2 by police departments.

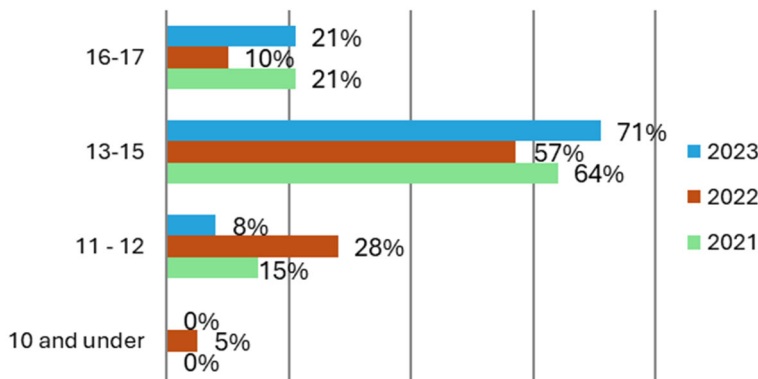
2023 PINS REFERRAL TYPES



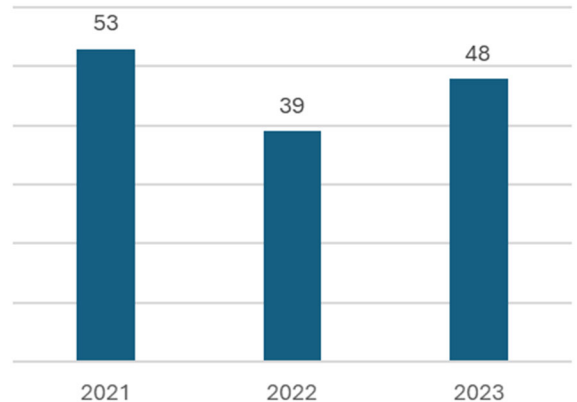
In 2023, of the 60 cases closed:

- 57%** avoided being referred to the Family Court for further PINS proceedings
- 80%** of youth were engaged in services
- 38%** 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 Gladys Larson, Probation Supervisor

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND RAISE THE AGE (RTA)

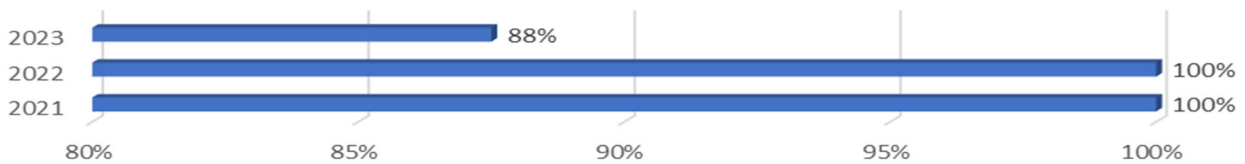
The Tompkins County Probation Department also offers diversion services to youth who are issued a Juvenile Appearance Ticket by local police agencies. A Juvenile Delinquent was previously defined as a person older than seven and younger than sixteen years of age who committed an act, which if committed 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 **2023**, this department received **35** Juvenile Appearance Tickets. In addition, this department received an additional **28** tickets due to Tompkins County's implementation of Raise the Age.

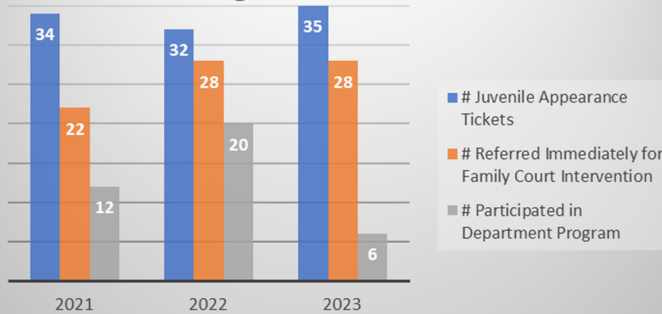
- ~ Non-RTA Youth: of the **35** tickets received for youth 15 and under, **28** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **6** youth participated in this department's Diversion Program. Of the **6** youth who participated in the JD Diversion Program, **3** have successfully completed the program requirements and **3** cases remain open.
- ~ RTA Youth: of the **32** tickets received for 16 and 17 year old's, **20** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **7** youth participated in this department's JD Diversion Program. Of the 7 youth who participated in the Diversion Program, **6** youth have successfully completed the program requirements.

* 3 cases remain open

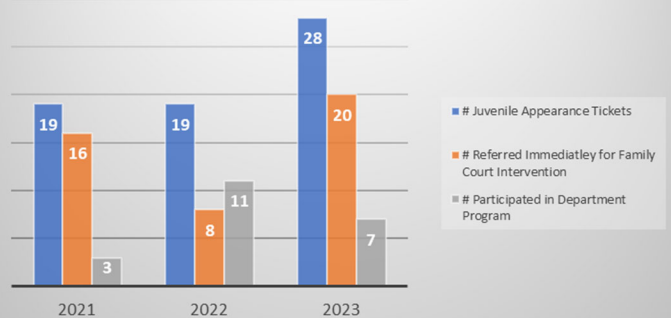
Juvenile Delinquency Program Success Trends



Non-RTA Juvenile Delinquency Program Trends



RTA Juvenile Delinquency Program Trends



Probation Facts:

To date, of the 2023 closed Juvenile Delinquency cases, 88% have been successfully diverted from the Family Court System.

Family Court Investigations

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Probation Supervisor

FAMILY COURT INVESTIGATIONS

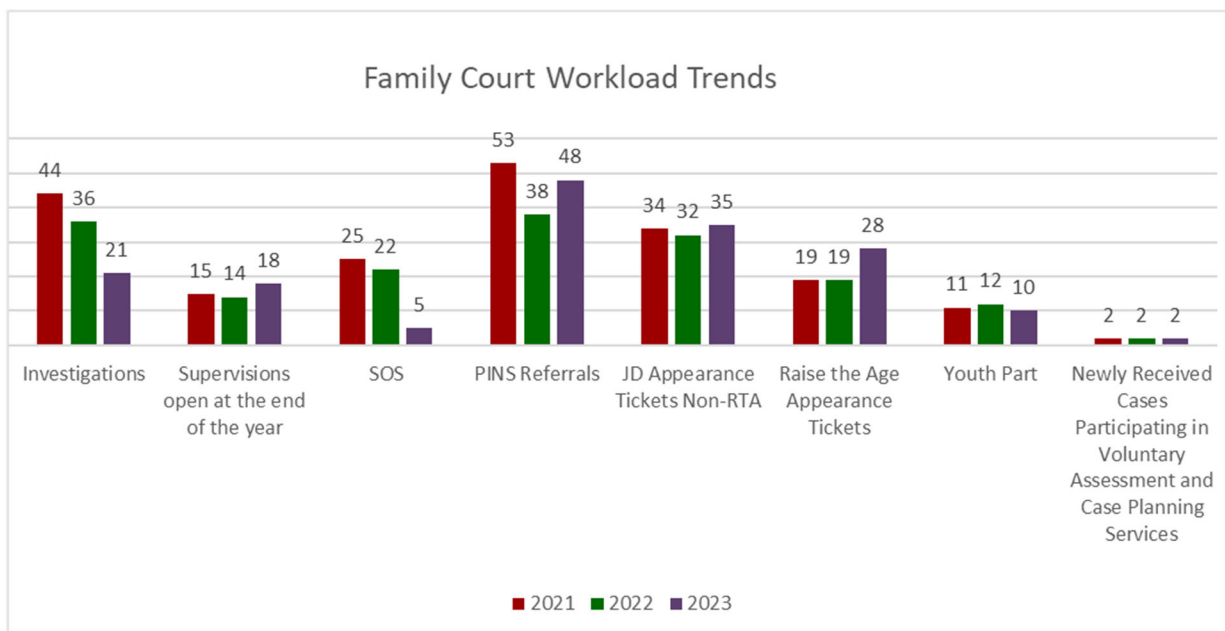
The Family Court Act requires that a pre-dispositional investigation be conducted for all Designated Felony cases (defined as an act which if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, various sexual offenses, etc.). For other Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need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



Family Court Supervisions

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Probation Supervisor

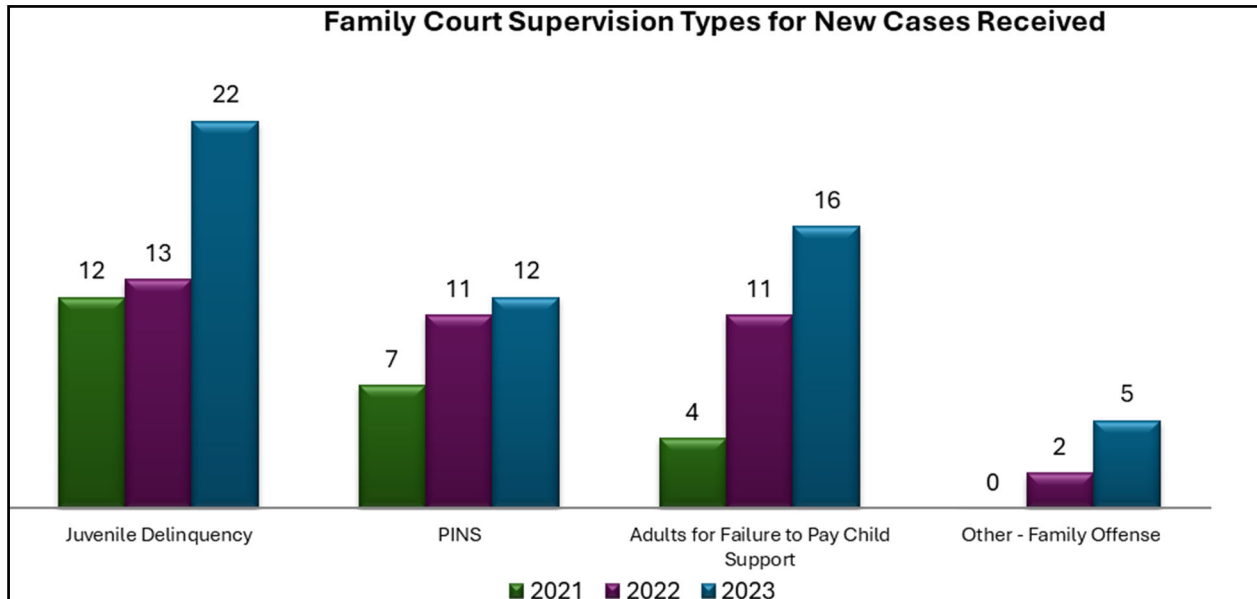
FAMILY COURT SUPERVISION

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**
- ~ **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.



Probation Facts:

Community service is also offered through the department's Juvenile Accountability Community Service program.

Youth Part

Submitted by Gladys Larson, 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, the Probation Department has 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 2021		Youth Part 2022		Youth Part 2023	
Number of Cases:	11	Number of Cases:	12	Number of Cases:	10
Agreed to VACPS:	2	Agreed to VACPS:	2	Agreed to VACPS:	2
Refused VACPS:	2	Refused VACPS:	0	Refused VACPS:	1
Removed Immediately to Family Court:	6	Removed Immediately to Family Court:	7	Removed Immediately to Family Court:	4
Not Available:	1	Not Available:	1	Not Available:	0
Sentenced in Youth Part:	1	Sentenced in Youth Part:	1	Sentenced in Youth Part:	1
Sentenced in Family Court:	9	Sentenced in Family Court:	2	Sentenced in Family Court:	6
Participated in JD Diversion:	1	Participated in JD Diversion:	8	Participated in JD Diversion:	3
Dismissed at Arraignment	0	Dismissed at Arraignment	2	Dismissed at Arraignment	0

Pretrial Release Program

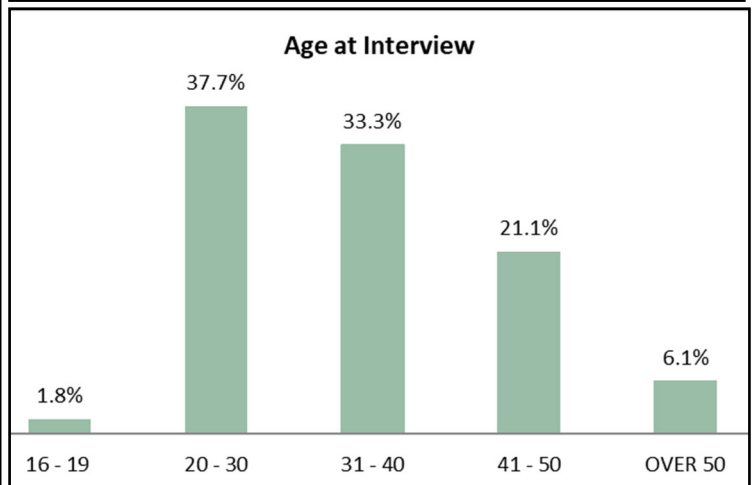
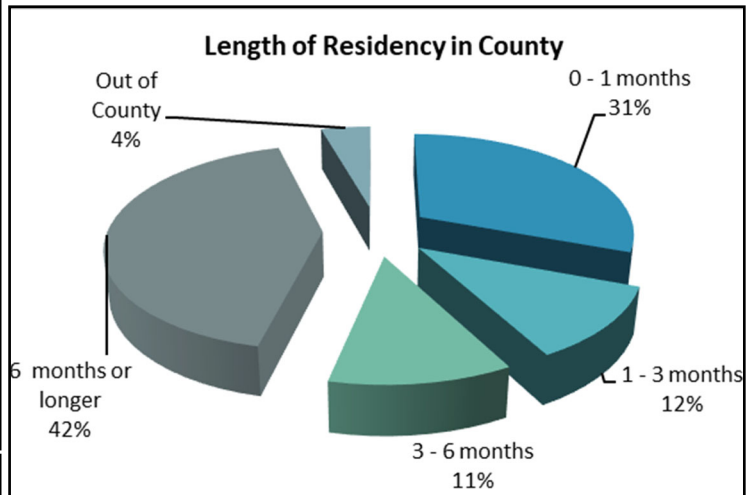
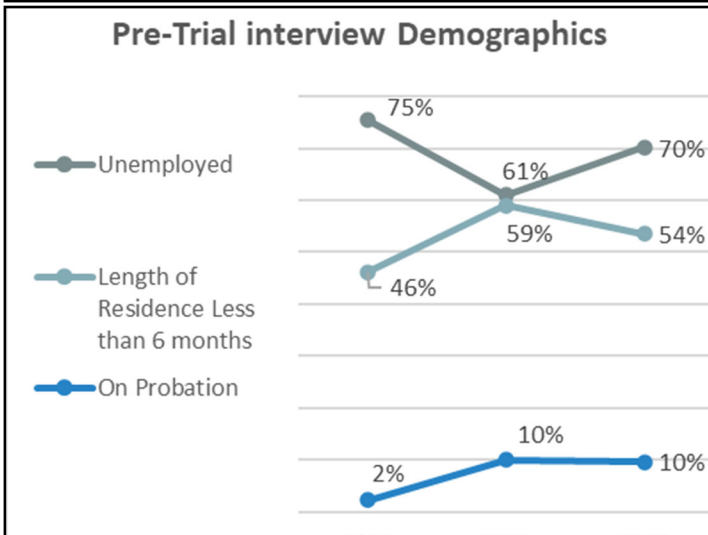
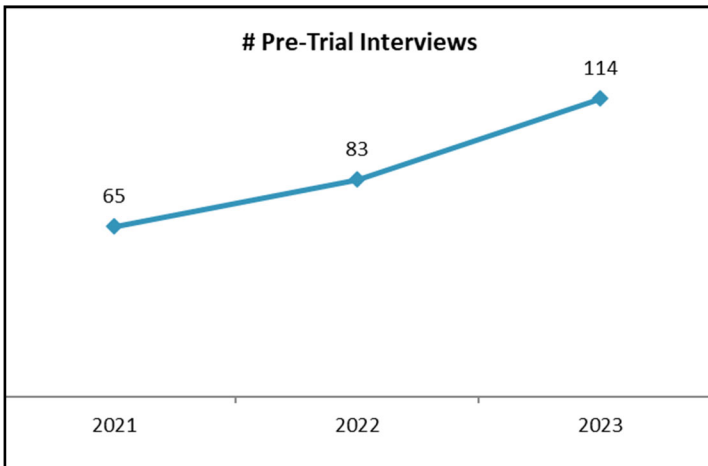
Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor

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 Jail, who have bail set by a court are given the opportunity to be interviewed for this program. A Probation Assistant conducts an initial screening and personal interview with the defendant. An 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.

2023 PRETRIAL FACTS

A total of **114** pretrial release reports were completed for the courts:

- * **78%** were male detainees and **22%** were female detainees
- * **59%** were white and **41%** were minority
- * **82%** were detained for a felony charge and **18%** for a misdemeanor charge
- * **54%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their



Pretrial Release Program

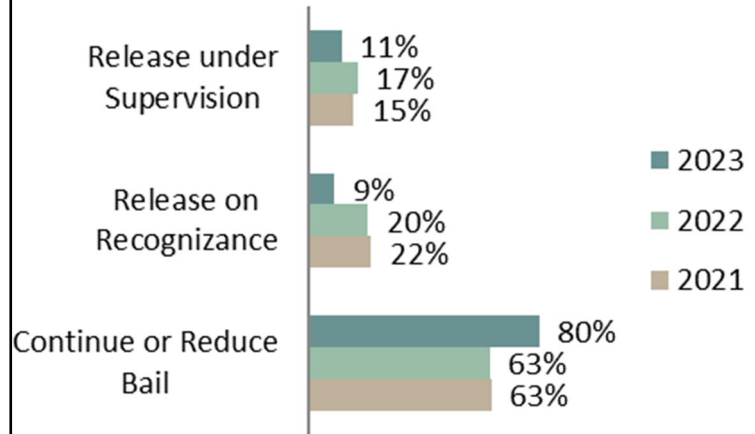
Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor

Once the defendant is released from the jail under the supervision of the Department, this Department will supervise the defendant's adherence to the imposed conditions to help ensure the defendant's appearance to subsequent court proceedings.

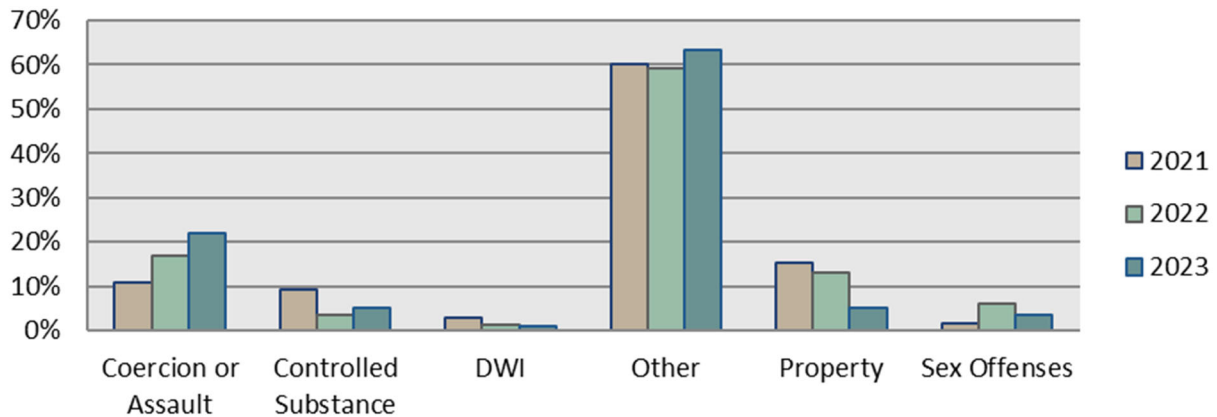
Possible Recommendations

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

Pre-Trial Recommendations



Pre-Trial Interviews by Offense Categories as % of Total Interviews per Year

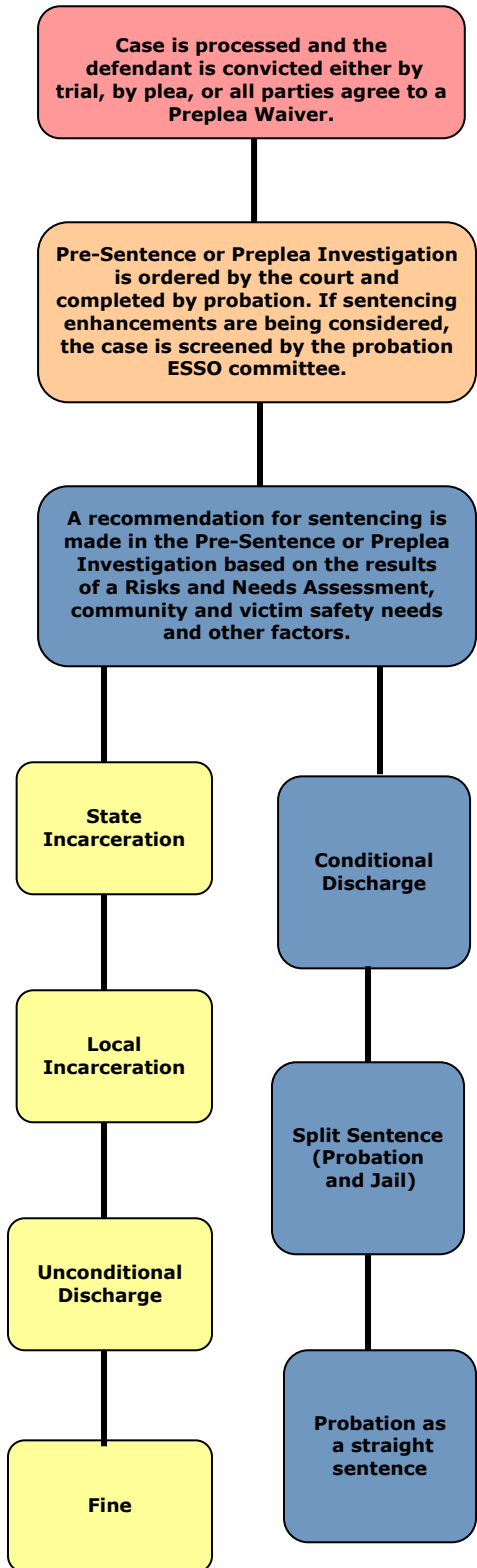


Probation Facts:

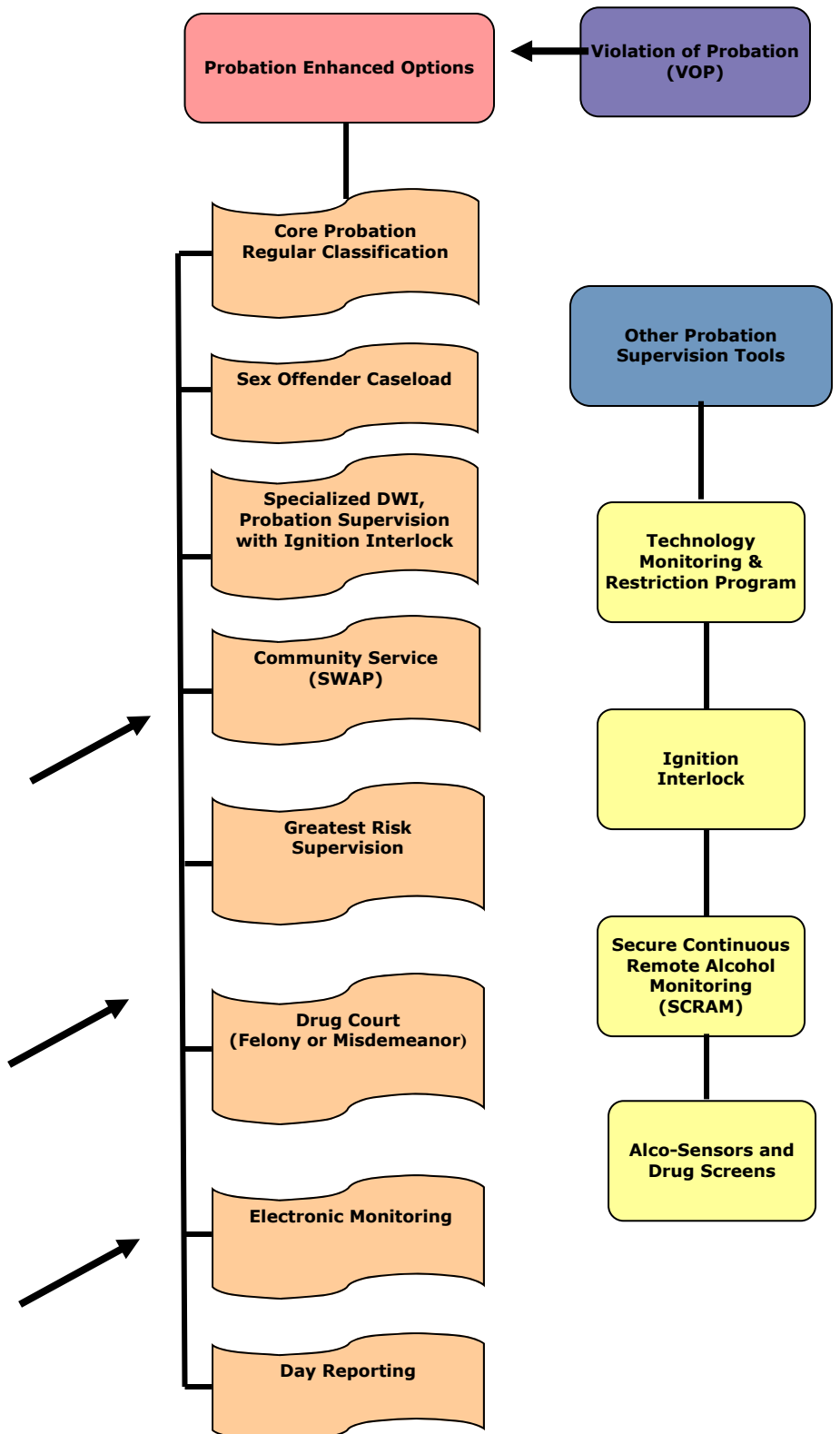
The first pretrial services program was implemented in 1961 in New York City. The main functions of pretrial services are to gather information, assess risk of failure to appear and provide supervision to defendants who have been released under specified conditions. (American Bar Association, Criminal 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, Probation 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, 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/travel.

In 2023, CE Check-in was enabled for 16 clients and there were 329 successful check-ins.

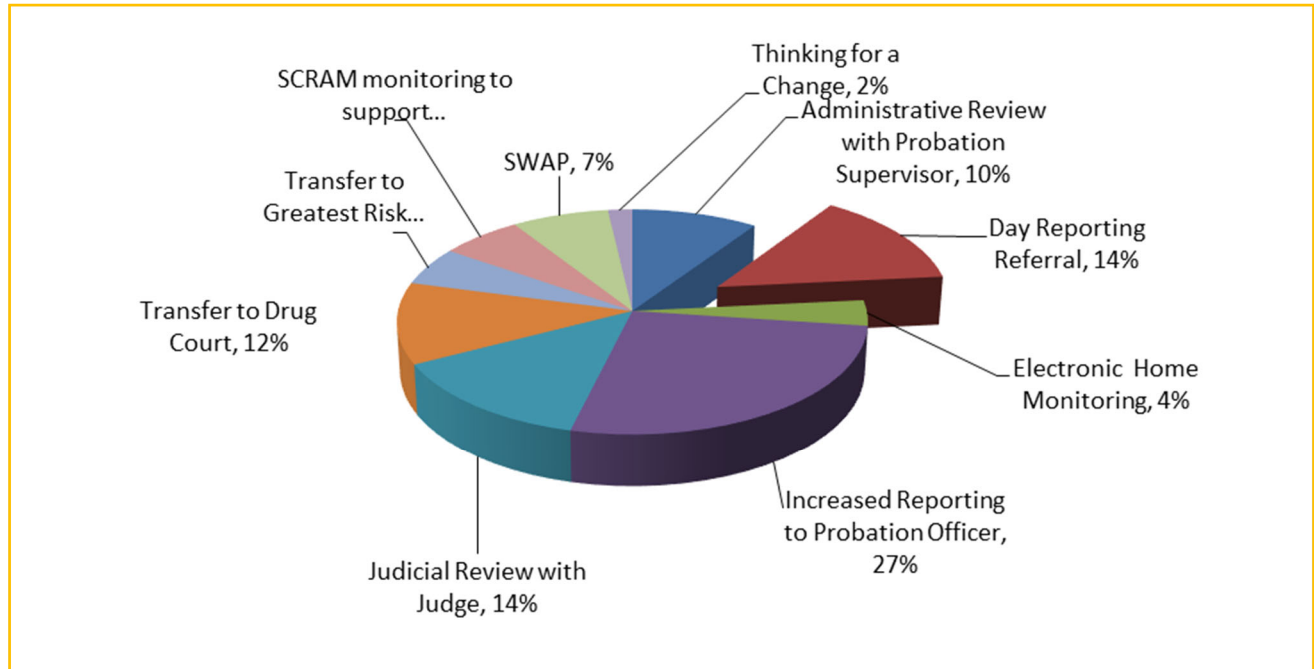
The use of these responses must be applied fairly, consistently, and predictably, soon after the commission of the non-compliant behaviors and proportionate to the severity of the non-compliant behavior. If applied in this way, graduated responses can address the presenting problem early, thus reducing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

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 continues to utilize 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.



Graduated Responses

Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor



Graduated Responses Usage in Cases Closed in 2023

CURRENT ESSO PROGRAMS

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

Criminal Court Investigations

Submitted by Karla Brackett, Deputy Director

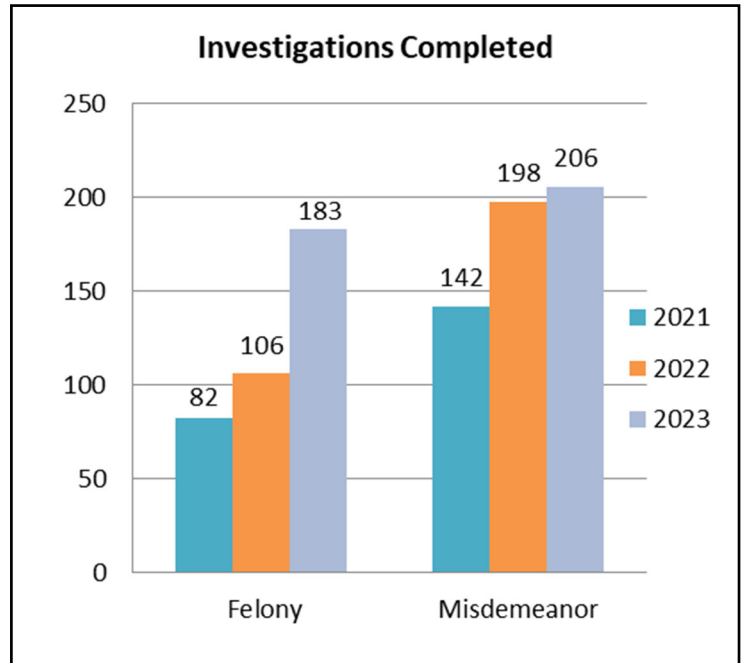
INVESTIGATIONS

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:

Criminal Court Investigations completed in 2023 increased by 28% compared to 2022.

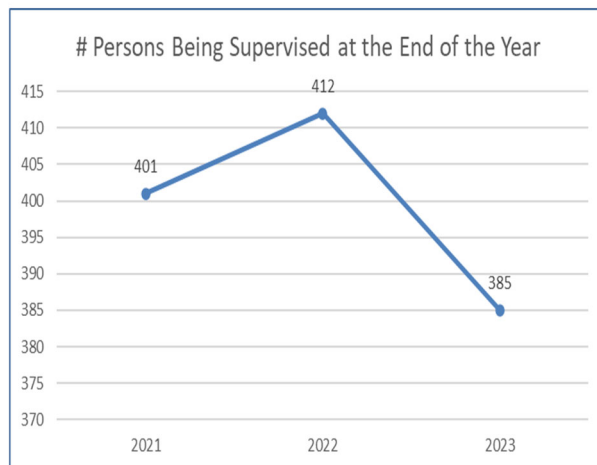
Criminal Court Supervision

Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor

SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

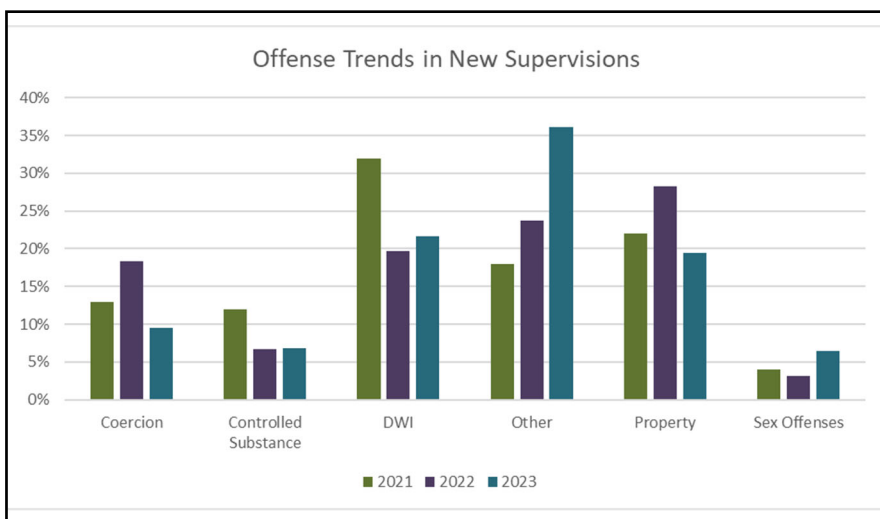
The two main goals of probation supervision are:

- ~ ***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 prosocial 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 Issues*
- ~ *Criminal Involvement/ Anti-Social Peers*
- ~ *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

Violent offenses have decreased from 18% of new supervision cases in 2022 to 17% of new cases in 2023.

Specialized Supervision

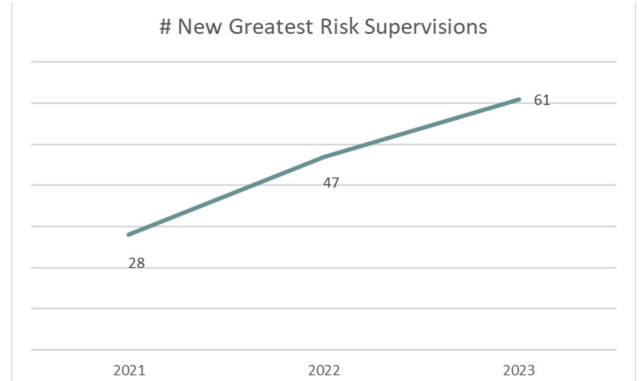
Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor

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. All offenders sentenced under the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative are supervised on the Greatest Risk caseload for the first year of their supervision.

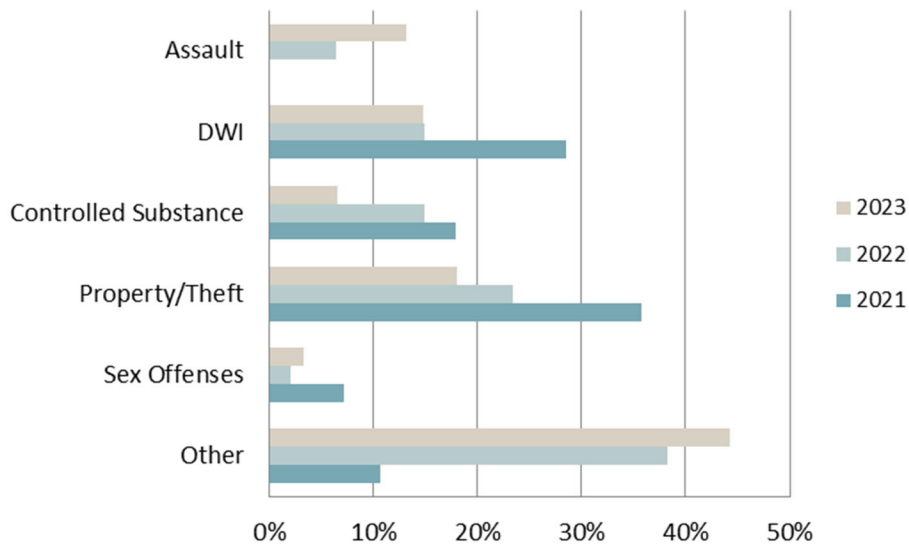
GREATEST RISK SUPERVISION

Greatest Risk Caseload’s Characteristics

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



Offense Trends in New Greatest Risk Supervisions



Sex Offender Supervision

Submitted by Laura Little & Shannon Dankert, Probation Officers

SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION

In 2023 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 in compliance with the NYS Sex Offender Registry Act (SORA) 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, Child Protective Services CPS, the District Attorney's Office, The Advocacy Center, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) 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. 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 Office of Probation & Correction Alternatives (OPCA) is known as the containment approach. The containment approach involves focusing on public safety and victim support by supervising the sex offender through team collaboration.
- ~ 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 Probationers 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 Department of Social Services (DSS), Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC), Learning Web, William George Agency, Advocacy Center, TP3 Child Development Council, Dispositional Alternatives Program (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 the majority of sex crimes are reported. The fact is that most sex crimes are not reported, hence, they are not prosecuted.

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

Specialized Supervision

Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor

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. In the wake of the pandemic, a couple of trends have been identified regarding incidents of domestic violence in Tompkins County. We have seen an increase in violent offenses that often occur in the direct presence of children or involve the entire family unit. The level of violence has significantly increased which also reflects an increase in the risk of lethality. Domestic violence perpetrators have continued the behavior of violating orders of protection that have been ordered by the Court. This has led to increased levels of frustration and fear on behalf of victims. This agency relies heavily on the timely and empathetic response of the Advocacy Center to support and help keep survivors of domestic violence safe.

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 Whole 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 local police agencies are available to this Department 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:

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking with impacts such as injury, fearfulness, PTSD, use of victim services, or contraction of sexually transmitted diseases.

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.

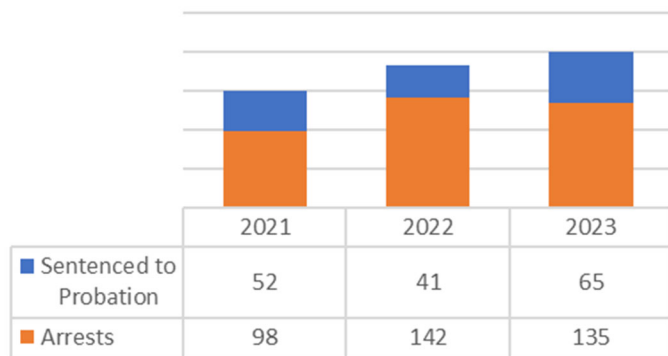
DWI SUPERVISION CASELOAD

- ~ This Department has had a specialized DWI Probation Officer for over thirty years.
- ~ Approximately 1/5 of the total cases supervised by this Department are offenders convicted of DWI offenses.
- ~ Currently, there are two DWI Probation Officers that have substantial training in working with offenders with a substance use diagnosis and substantial training in the various supervision tools used with this population.

The DWI Probation Officer’s role is:

- ~ Complete pre-plea/pre-sentence investigations of persons convicted of DWI offenses
- ~ Supervision of a caseload averaging approximately 35 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.

DWI Arrests vs. Probation Sentences



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 2023, this Department received 42 new conditional discharge cases to monitor.

DWI Victim Impact Panel

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the DWI Victim Impact Panel (VIP) was suspended. In 2022 and early 2023, the Department organized smaller VIP’s to address the backlog of probationers required to attend a VIP. In 2023, the DWI VIP returned to the County Courthouse. 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 Addiction Recovery Services (CARS), and Cayuga Medical Center (CMC).

Evidence Based Programs

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Probation Supervisor

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.

Probation Supervisor 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 and continues to this day. 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 in the Day Reporting Program. 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> • <i>Peer Relationships</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recreation & Leisure</i> • <i>Family Ties</i> • <i>Seeking Employment</i> • <i>Self Control</i>
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NYS Certified Instructors

- * Four Probation Officers completed an 80-hour DCJS Instructor Development Course, becoming certified on law enforcement topics.
- * Two Probation Officers are now NYS certified Defensive Tactics Instructors for the Department.

Performance Measures

Submitted by Chris Driscoll, Probation Systems Analyst

2023 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 2023. Data collection and analysis of departmental performance will be an ongoing process for 2024.

Benchmark	134 Adult Cases Closed in 2023	14 Juvenile Cases Closed in 2023
Law Abiding Behavior	73% 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	82% of the drug screens recorded by this department were negative for substances	Of the 7 youth ordered to participate in treatment, 57% completed treatment or were in good standing with treatment at time of case closing
School Participation Vocational Training	47% of closed 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, 100% of the youth were enrolled in school/vocational programs and 43% were participating satisfactorily
Restorative Community Service	94% of the 1,148 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing	100% of the 50 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing
Mental Health	78% of those court ordered to participate in mental health treatment did so and 59% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing	Of the 11 youth ordered to participate in mental health treatment, 73% participated and 55% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing
Supervision Risk Levels	88% of the cases closed in 2023 were medium to highest risk at case opening. At case closing, 67% were classified as medium to highest risk.	56% of the Youth had a reduction of risk factors during the period of supervision.
Case Closing Status	66% of cases were closed successfully	64% of cases were closed successfully

Technology Tools

Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor

ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM)

The Electronic Monitoring Program provides 24-hour GPS 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 2023, 36 individuals participated in electronic monitoring for a total of 3049 days. Of these, 11 cases were Family Court Juvenile cases and 25 were Adult Criminal Court cases.

The utilization of electronic monitoring for adult criminal court clients is a result of the Department’s commitment to the use of graduated responses. Additionally, the Department monitors pre-trial defendants at high risk of failing to appear in court in lieu of bail being set. Of the 29 defendants who participated in pretrial electronic monitoring in 2023, 22 completed this requirement successfully.

All offenders sentenced under the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative are recommended to have electronic monitoring for a minimum of 6 months immediately after sentencing or release from incarceration.

Estimated Cost Comparison

Average Incarceration Costs of adult inmates sentenced to Tompkins County jail:

22,035.05 days @ \$249.41/day totals \$5,495,761.59

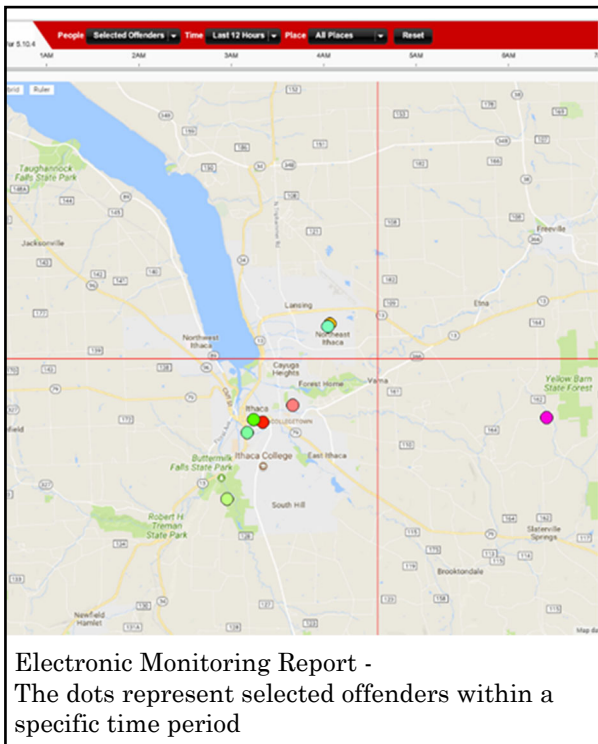
Average costs of non-secure Juvenile Detention:

15 days @ \$892.50/day totals \$13,387.50

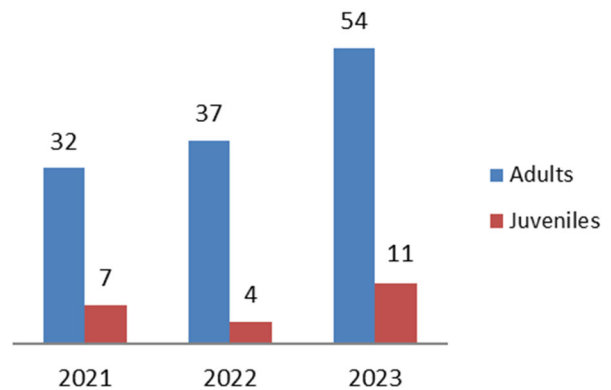
Total EM Costs:

3049 days @ \$6.00/day totals \$18,294.00

Potential Taxpayer Savings for 2023:
\$5,490,855.09



Electronic GPS Monitoring Trends



Probation Facts:

The use of Electronic Monitoring allows a probation officer to closely monitor their client’s location in the community.

Technology Tools

Submitted by Chris Driscoll, 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 2023, **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 online 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 42,976 registered sex offenders in New York State as of May 2024 and 166 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.

92% of criminal court probationers who completed probation in 2023 were ordered to complete substance abuse treatment by the Courts because drug and/or alcohol abuse was identified as a criminogenic risk factor.

61% successfully completed their recommended treatment.

Alcosensors

An Alcosensor is a hand held device that detects a probationer's recent 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.



Drug Testing

This Department conducts supervised urine screens of probationers that can detect numerous drugs of abuse. Results of the screen are known within 5 minutes of conducting the test. Probationers are required to pay \$7 for each test.

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 now uses SCRAM devices for all adult probationers in need of this level of intervention, not just DWI or Treatment Court participants.

The device is commonly used when a relapse with alcohol has occurred with a 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 Treatment Court (Felony) 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, and graduated responses 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.

Both Drug Court Programs continue to successfully utilize Milestones for 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 immediate ownership of their progress, while receiving continual feedback from the drug court team.

In October 2023, both misdemeanor and felony drug treatment court teams collectively met to discuss the merger of the two courts into one consolidated team to serve all the Tompkins County Drug Court participants. Obviously this required some logistical changes for the court staff, defense attorneys, treatment professionals and probation representatives to ensure the unique needs of the participating population would continue to be met. After two large group meetings and mutual logistic considerations, this merger was launched on January 1, 2024, and will continue to operate under the Tompkins County Treatment Court banner going forward. As noted, this consolidated court will serve both misdemeanor and felony level offenses while maintaining the rehabilitative goals of the drug court model.

How has Drug Court impacted your situation?

- ✓ What is different about me today as compared to when I started Treatment Court is that I've grown both in my treatment and I, myself, grew up a bit more. When I started Treatment Court, I knew I shouldn't drink, but I don't think I realized the commitment that I needed to make my recovery happen. Today I have accepted that if I want to live, I have to stay sober. My friends and family see the changes in me. – BC
- ✓ Substance use gave me a false sense of self, made me impulsive and hindered my decision-making abilities. It became a way to distract from reality rather than facing it. When I began Drug Court, I had never had treatment, counseling or had been at risk for incarceration. I realized it was my last chance of maintaining in the community. I have learned to prioritize my recovery in my life, ensuring that I continue to take things day by day and being honest with myself and others about my sobriety. – CM
- ✓ My substance use made me make terrible decisions and I lost everything, my car, job, house, son, family, and myself. Through Drug Court I have made a great support system. I now have a structure for myself and my son. I think it helped me get where I am today and couldn't have done it without this program. – BH
- ✓ I wasn't getting anywhere in life and had no goals or ambition. Treatment court itself was a turning point, made me snap into the right state of mind that it is my only chance at a good life. I plan on staying crime free by maintaining a healthy thought process and staying away from risk factors. – JH

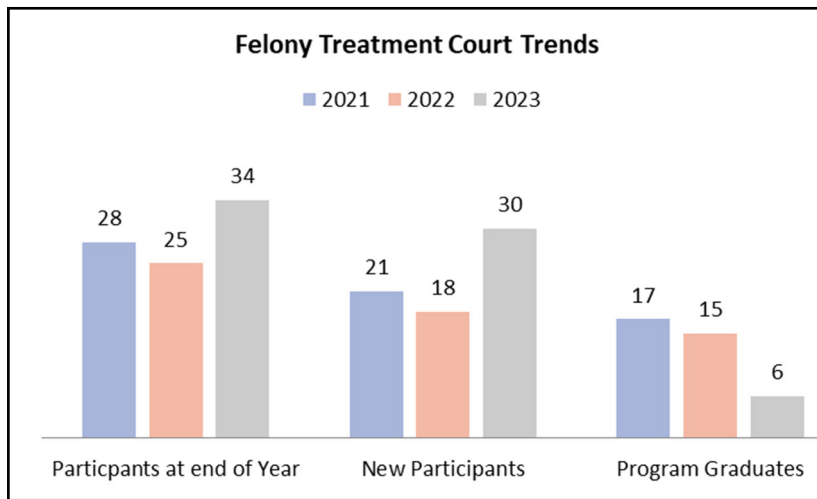
Treatment Court Programs

Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor

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

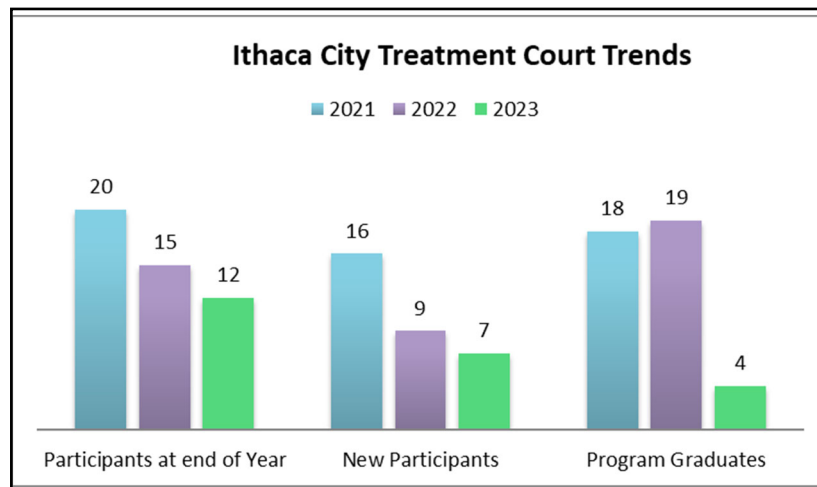
Tompkins County Felony Drug Court - 2023

- ~ 30 new admissions
- ~ 6 participants graduated
- ~ 34 current participants at the end of 2023
- ~ Since inception of the program in April 2000, 339 participants have graduated



Ithaca Community Treatment Court - 2023

- ~ 7 new admissions
- ~ 4 participants graduated
- ~ 12 current participants at the end of 2023
- ~ Since inception of the program in January 1998, 360 participants have graduated



Community Service Programs

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Probation Supervisor

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.

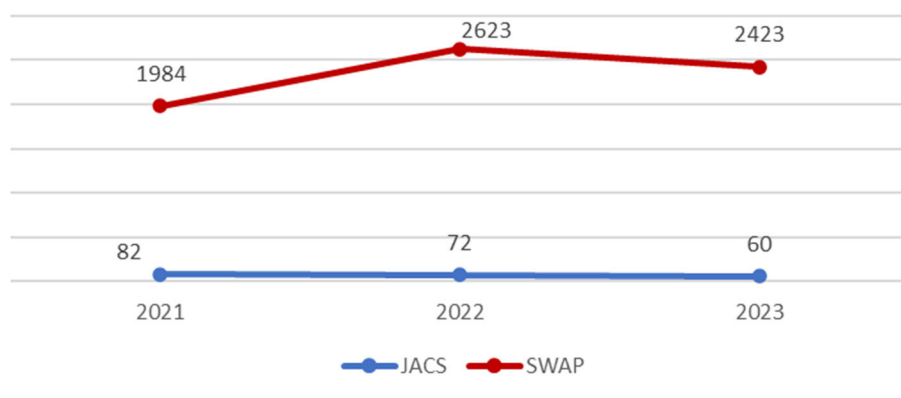
Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP)

- ~ 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 2023, 2,426 hours of service were performed in our community.
- ~ 85% of the community service hours ordered as a condition of probation were satisfied at case closing.
- ~ 10 worksites in Tompkins County benefited from work provided through this program.
- ~ 32 individuals successfully completed their court ordered obligation in 2023.

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 2023, 60 hours of service was performed in our community.
- ~ 2 juveniles successfully completed their obligation in 2023.

Community Service Hours Provided in Tompkins County



Probation Facts:

In 2023, the Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP), helped raise \$86,000 for Cops Kids & Toys by working at the Dump and Run worksite.

Community Service Programs

Submitted by Gladys Larson, Probation Supervisor

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.

Cops Kids and Toys

In 2023, 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. Dump and Run made \$83,000 this year and all proceeds went to Cops Kids and Toys. As a result, 460 families consisting of over 934 children received toys.



Toy collection outside of Tompkins County businesses by Tompkins County Sheriff officers, Probation staff and SWAP crews.



Distribution area at the Ithaca Mall staged for families to pick up their packages.

“I personally want to thank your organization for Bill Apgar, Tyler Mix, and their crew. All the work that they did to help restore this 200 year old much neglected cemetery. This could not have happened without them.

All the time put in from our help must add up to over \$15,000, we are so thankful.”

- Gregg Hoffmire, Perry City Quaker Cemetery.

“Tyler Mix does an outstanding job on the care of the Caroline Grove Cemetery. He and his workers are very efficient. I have had the opportunity to meet some of the works and they have always been friendly and courteous.”

- Sandra Clary, Caroline Grove Cemetery Secretary/Treasurer.



2023 Cops, Kids & Toys Motorcycle Ride.

Day Reporting

Submitted by Abigail Bixby, Senior Probation Officer

The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program is an innovative enhanced supervision and sentencing option designed to improve the participant’s competencies, create connections to services and hold the offender accountable. This intensive program for persons aged 16 and older operates Monday through Friday from 9 am to 12 noon. We provide structured classes in topics including substance abuse, financial skills, advancing one’s education, impact of crime, healthy families, nutrition, mental health and wellness, and life skills.

Referrals come from probation officers as well as the criminal and family courts. Individuals may be in the program as a condition of probation, as a drug court or family treatment court referral, or for additional support prior to entering, or upon returning from inpatient substance abuse treatment. Participants also may be referred as a condition of Release Under Supervision (Pre-Trial Release) while criminal charges are pending in the Courts. The length of time in the program usually starts at 10 program days but it can vary depending on the Court’s directives and the level of success of the participant.

Participant Quotes from 2023 exit interviews:

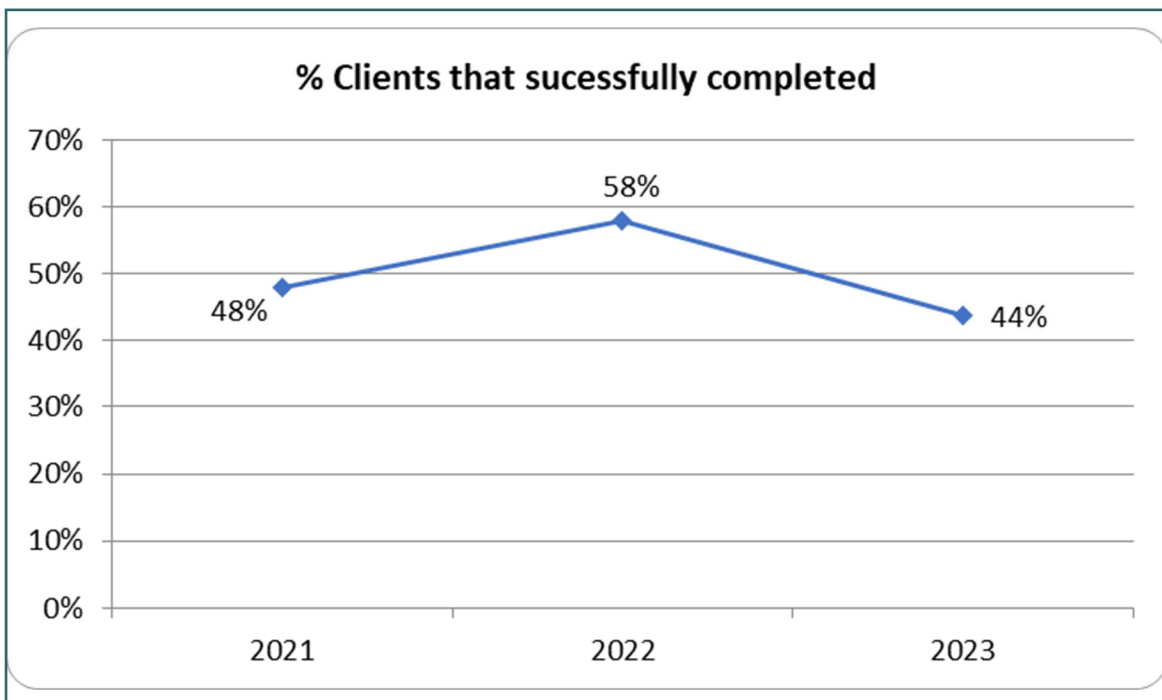
“I learned about how to rid myself of anger, that I need to love myself and put myself first.”

“It built my self-esteem.”

“Everyone was nice and respectful. I gained knowledge about budgeting.”

“It gave me structure and stability.”

The chart below shows the referral sources and rates of completion. Generally, the two primary reasons people did not successfully complete the program was because they did not show up or because they violated program rules in a manner that rose to the level of a safety concern.



Day Reporting

Submitted by Abigail Bixby, Senior Probation Officer

Education Services

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 making educational progress.

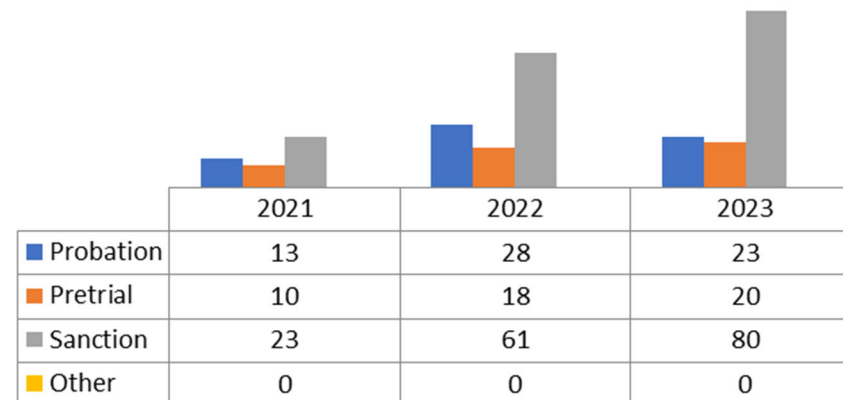
Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)

In 2023 we provided this education to 12 individuals, with 3 taking all or some of the subject matter tests.

College Initiative Upstate (CIU)

For people who already have a high school diploma, we have periodic presentations at Day Reporting where representatives of CIU present information regarding their programs. CIU is designed to assist justice-involved individuals in attending or returning to college. They help with overcoming obstacles such as financial aid, past student loan debt, and stressors associated with attending college while under court supervision, having families to care for, and maintaining sobriety.

Referral Sources to Day Reporting





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