

# Tompkins County

## Department of Probation and Community Justice

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*Inclusion Through Diversity*

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2013

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# Director's Message



*Patricia Buechel*  
*Probation Director*



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

**April 2014**

## Director's Message

Welcome to the 2013 Annual Report of the Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice. As you will read in the upcoming pages, the department continues to be committed in providing quality written reports to the courts and creative supervision strategies involving alternatives to detention and incarceration to our juvenile and adult offenders. It is this commitment that has proven beneficial to our clients and the community, as can be seen by our documented performance measures and outcomes.

The Department of Probation and Community Justice continues to be a major partner in the criminal justice system along with police agencies, the District Attorney's office and the courts. Our focus remains on providing evidenced based practices and a system of graduated sanctions in the course of supervision to encourage success and reduce recidivism while concurrently promoting public safety. We look forward to the challenges ahead in 2014 in our ever evolving field of juvenile and criminal justice and to continuing our role in community partnerships.

Patricia Buechel  
Probation Director

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

# Our Mission

**It is the mission of this Probation Department to provide the community with mandated as well as voluntary criminal and family court services in order to reduce reliance on incarceration and the court system by facilitating the rehabilitation of individuals in a manner which promotes personal responsibility, improved family functioning, public safety, and reparation for victims.**

## Our Guiding Principles

### **Our beliefs about the people we serve:**

1. We believe that community protection and public safety is a priority in the delivery of rehabilitative services to our clients.
2. We believe that clients should be held accountable to their victims and the community whom they have harmed by their actions.
3. We believe that all people possess strengths and have the potential to make positive changes and better decisions in their lives.
4. We believe that clients can learn to take personal responsibility for their actions through the use of graduated sanctions.

### **Our beliefs about our staff and department:**

1. We believe employees shall strive for professional excellence for themselves and the Department.
2. We believe employees shall perform their duties with honesty, integrity and professionalism that is free of any form of bias or discrimination.
3. We believe employees shall embrace and strive to understand issues of cultural diversity amongst our clients and staff.
4. We believe that staff shall be an agent and motivator for change by using best practices in the field of probation.

## Our 2013 Goals - What We Accomplished

1. **Continue preparation and training for the implementation of the new Supervision Rule to commence in June 2013 and increase the staff's skill set in developing meaningful case plans that include goals, objectives and specific tasks with input from probationers.**

✓ *Staff was well trained in the new Supervision Rule prior to the implementation date of June 1, 2013. It was a smooth transition in meeting the new contact requirements and case planning protocols that the rule demands.*

2. **Collaborate with the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office in the implementation of the Thinking for a Change curriculum for incarcerated inmates as part of re-entry services with the goal of reducing recidivism.**

✓ *A Probation Officer and a Corrections Officer co-led the first Thinking for a Change group in the jail for a small group of incarcerated inmates in the Fall of 2013.*

3. **Collaborate with the Dryden School District in the implementation of the evidence based practice program for middle school students called Second Step: Student Success Through Prevention. This program is comprised of thirteen lesson plans in the areas of Empathy and Communication, Bullying Prevention, Emotions Management and Substance Abuse Prevention.**

✓ *A Probation Officer and Dryden School District Staff co-led the Second Step curriculum to a group of middle school students in Spring 2013. This curriculum was well received by both students and staff and will be presented again with our assistance in other school districts in 2014.*

4. **Continue to collaborate with County Administration and the Tompkins County Legislature in finding a new home for the Day Reporting program.**

✓ *The Day Reporting Program has been approved to move to a new home in the Human Services Building. Planning and construction are due to begin in 2014. Oversight of this project will be an ongoing goal in the upcoming year.*

## Our 2014 Goals

1. **Continue our collaboration with the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office** in offering the Thinking for a Change curriculum for incarcerated inmates with the goal of reducing recidivism.
2. **Review our current Alternatives To Incarceration programs** and explore other options that might add to the spectrum of current graduated sanctions.
3. **Continue our collaboration with the area School Districts** in the implementation of an evidenced based practice program for middle school students called Second Step: Student Success Through Prevention. This program is comprised of thirteen lesson plans in the areas of Empathy and Communication, Bullying Prevention, Emotions Management and Substance Abuse Prevention.
4. **Provide oversight in the planning and development** stages of the Day Reporting Program within the Human Services Building.
5. **Collaborate with the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office** in bringing Ready Set Work!, a National Institute of Corrections evidence based program, to incarcerated inmates to develop pre-employment and job retention skills prior to and following re-entry into the community.

# 2013 Staff Listing

## Probation Director

Patricia Buechel

## Deputy Director

David Wolf

## Administration

**Probation Administrator**

Faith Newkirk

**Administrative Assistant**

Laurel Rockhill

**Systems Analyst**

Susan Moore

**Senior Account Clerk Typist**

Kelly Blake

**Senior Typist**

Linda Hubert (Retired 2/13)

**Administrative Assistant**

Jennifer Southworth

**Administrative Services Coordinator**

Ujjal Mukherjee

**Probation Assistant**

Bernadette Stranger

## Probation Supervisors

**Criminal Court Supervisor**

Dan Cornell

**Family Court Supervisor**

Jan Gorovitz

**Day Reporting Supervisor**

Eileen Sommers

## Senior Probation Officers

**Ithaca Community Treatment Court**

Judith Johnson

**Intensive Supervision Probation**

Karla Brackett

**Intensive Supervision Probation**

Stacie Burgos

**Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation**

Karen Burns

**Tompkins County Felony Drug Court**

Harold Gregoire

**Tompkins County Felony Drug Court**

Robert J. Devens

## Probation Officers

**Criminal Court Sex Offenders**

Abigail Bixby

**Criminal Court and Child Support**

Carmen Hockett

**Criminal Court Investigations**

Karen M. Curione

**Criminal Court**

Denise Hayden

**Criminal Court**

Sue Robinson

## Staff & Department Milestones

### Probation Officers (con't)

**Criminal Court - DWI**

Michael Herrling

**Criminal Court**

Kate Horey

**Criminal Court**

Judith B. Johnson

**Family Court**

Angela Kehoe

**Family Court**

Gladys Larson

**Criminal Court -DWI**

Paul Neugebauer

**Criminal Court**

Tom Partigianoni

**Family Court**

Christine -Ion

**Family Court**

Holly Alzitoon

### Work Project Supervisors:

William Apgar

James Bond

### Security Officer:

Richard Brewer

### Transition Workforce Employment Specialist:

Kathy Lind

## *Years of Service to the Probation Department*

### *10+ Years*

Abigail Bixby

James Bond

Karen Curione

Gladys Larson

Ujjal Mukherjee

Christine Ion

### *15+ Years*

William Apgar

Kelly Blake

Karla Brackett

Daniel Cornell

Rob Devens

Carmen Hockett

Judith Johnson

Jarrold Newcomb

Laurel Rockhill

### *20+Years*

Stacie Burgos

### *25+ Years*

Patricia Buechel

Janice Gorovitz

Harold Gregoire

Faith Newkirk

Eileen Sommers

Bernadette Stranger

David Wolf

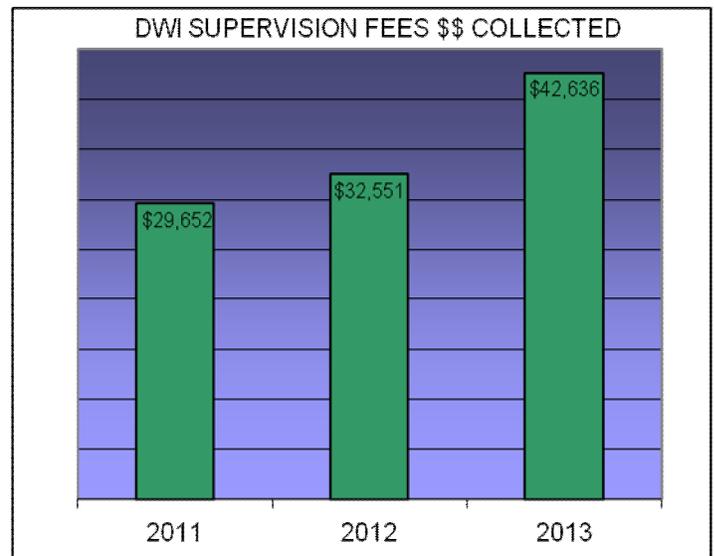
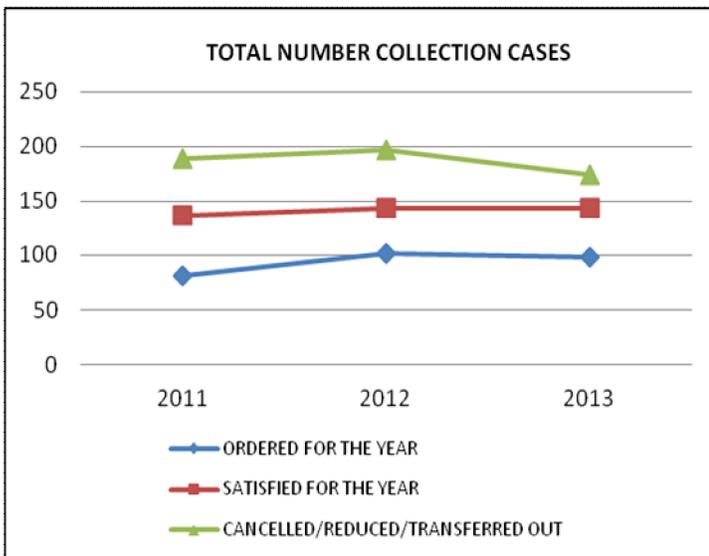
# Restitution and Fee Collection

*Submitted by Laurel Rockhill, Administrative Assistant*

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

## 2013 ACTUAL DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISBURSED

	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Other + Interest	Totals
<b>Beginning balance carried from 12/31/12</b>	\$1676.74	\$16.95	0.00	\$671.00	0.00	\$2364.69
<b>Money Received 01/13 - 12/13</b>	\$77,632.68	\$3827.38	\$1524.01	\$1612.00	\$10.45	\$84,606.52
<b>Money Disbursed 01/13 - 12/13</b>	\$78,019.11	\$3826.81	\$1524.01	\$1110.00	\$10.45	\$84,490.38
<b>End Balance 12/31/13</b>	<b>\$1290.31</b>	<b>\$17.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$1173.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$2480.83</b>



**Probation Facts:**

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

# Family Court Diversion Services

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## DIVERSION SERVICES

As an alternative to court involvement, the Family Court Act provides for local Probation Departments to offer diversion services. The purpose of diversion services is to **divert** cases from going to Family Court. Diversion services are the **only voluntary service** offered by the Department of Probation and Community Justice and the only service able to be accessed on a walk-in basis and without a court order. Our department concentrates its diversion efforts on matters related to youth. These youth are identified as Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) or Juvenile Delinquents (JD).

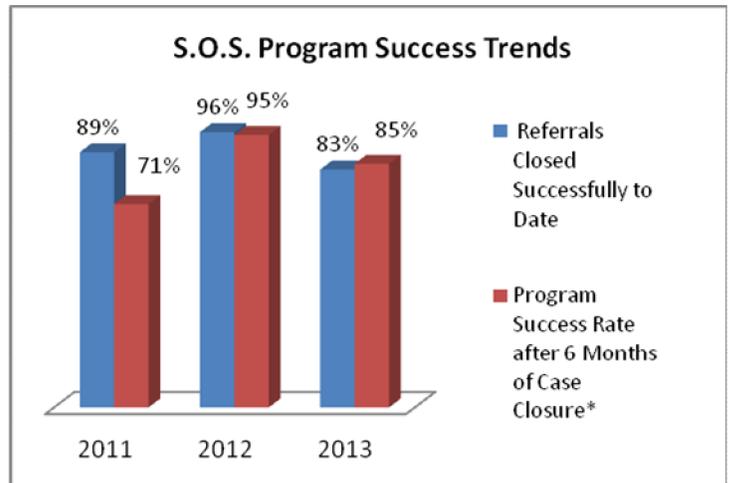
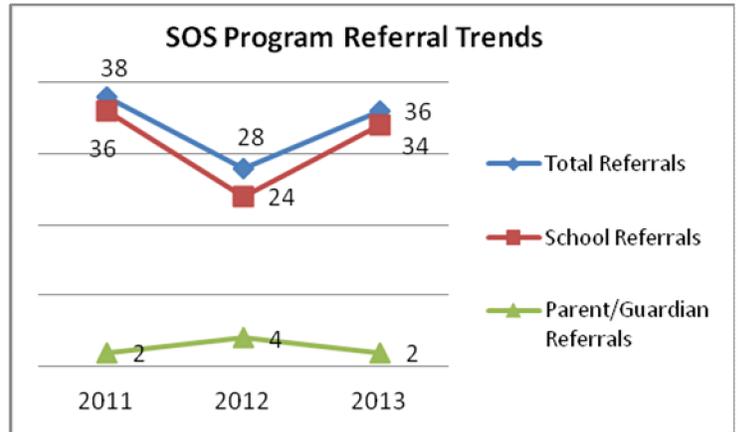
Family Court Probation Officers also provide daily intake coverage Monday through Friday. This means that they are the designated contact for the Probation Department if and when people from the community come looking for information or guidance for any family related matter. Calls are often from parents looking for advice or help with their “out of control” child. The Probation response may encompass a review of departmental services or resources available in the community.

### Strengthening Our Students (S.O.S)



In an attempt to identify youth that exhibit PINS-like behaviors before those behaviors become ingrained and fixed, the department developed a “Pre-PINS” program now called **Strengthening Our Students**.

- ~ This program allows schools and parents to make early identification of children who show a tendency for truancy, ungovernability, or run-away behavior.
- ~ A probation officer connects with the youth as soon as the parent or school administrator identifies concerns about the youth’s behavior and before a “pattern of behavior” is established.
- ~ This program is short-term, usually four to eight weeks, and is geared toward diverting youth from a referral to the more formal PINS Diversion Program.



**\*Program success** is defined as those youth who have completed the program and have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

### Probation Facts:

*To date, 85% of the youth referred for S.O.S services in 2013 who successfully completed the program have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System six months after case closing.*

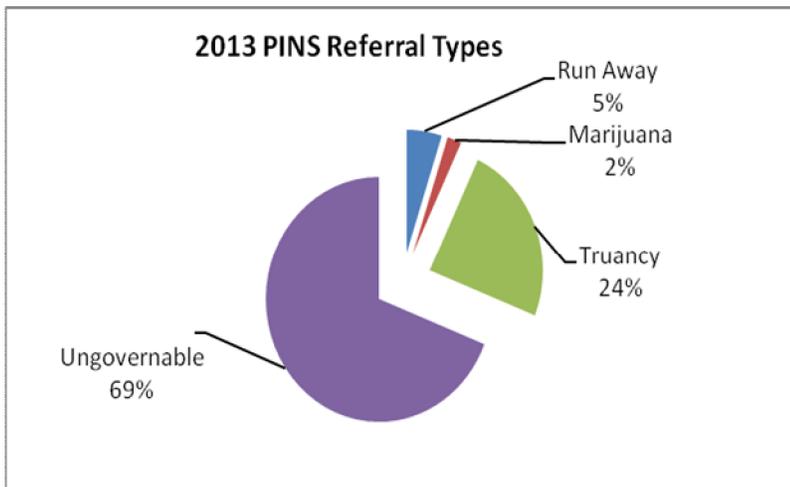
# Family Court Diversion Services

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## PINS

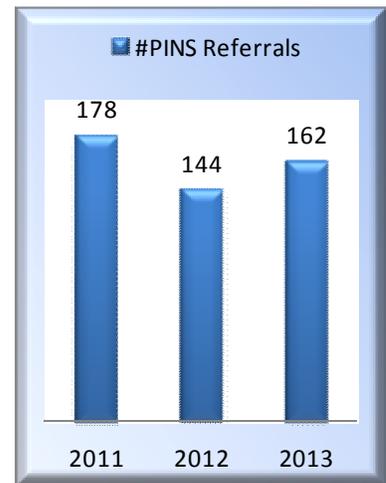
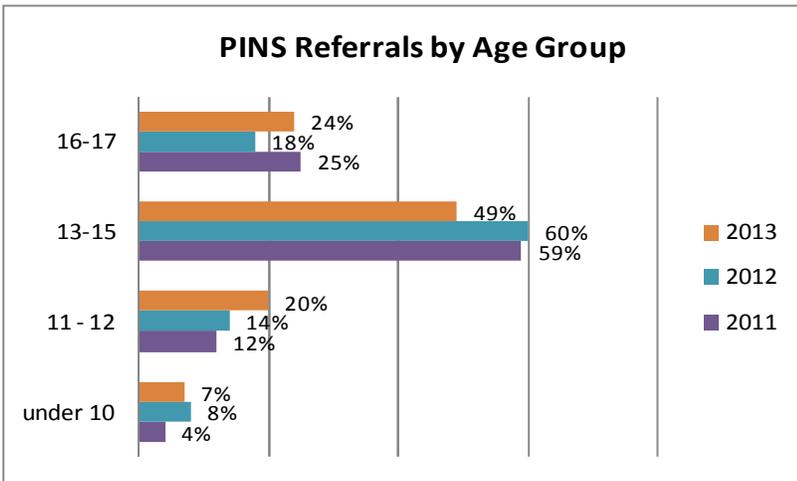
A Person in Need of Supervision is a youth under the age of eighteen who is showing a pattern of habitual disobedience, running away, curfew violations, substance abuse, violent behavior, or school truancy problems. Most PINS referrals are made by parents or school districts. PINS Diversion Services attempt to resolve the conflicts that brought a youth to the attention of the Probation Department by offering supervision, guidance, and referrals to community resources. Referrals may be made for individual and/or family counseling, substance abuse evaluations and treatment, mediation, youth advocacy programs, respite, or educational and employment assessments and opportunities. Probation Officers work closely with schools to address issues of truancy and/or behavior problems by meeting with teachers, advocating for testing or support services in the school, and by helping parents develop more communication with the school administration. Probation Officers within the Family Court unit are assigned to specific school districts and are present at those schools on a weekly basis.

In 2013, the Tompkins County Probation Department received **162** PINS referrals: **44** complaints were initiated by parents, **100** by school administrators, **14** by police and **4** by the Department of Social Services.



**In 2013, of the 139 cases closed:**

- 44%** were closed as successfully adjusted
- 59%** of youth were engaged in services
- 73%** avoided being referred to the Family Court for further PINS proceedings



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

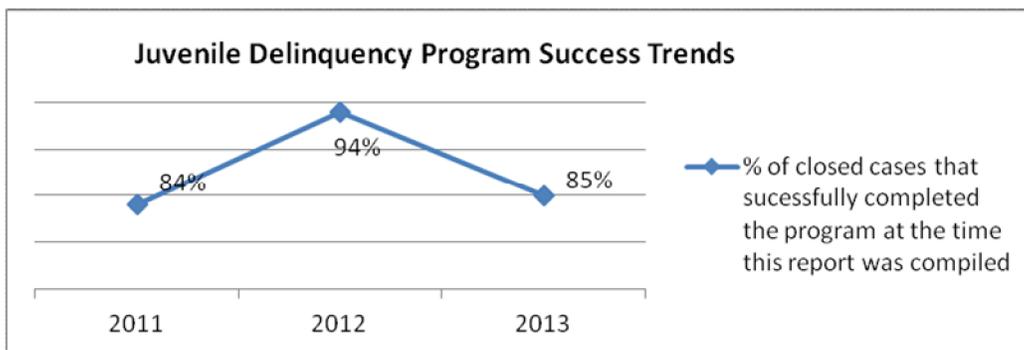
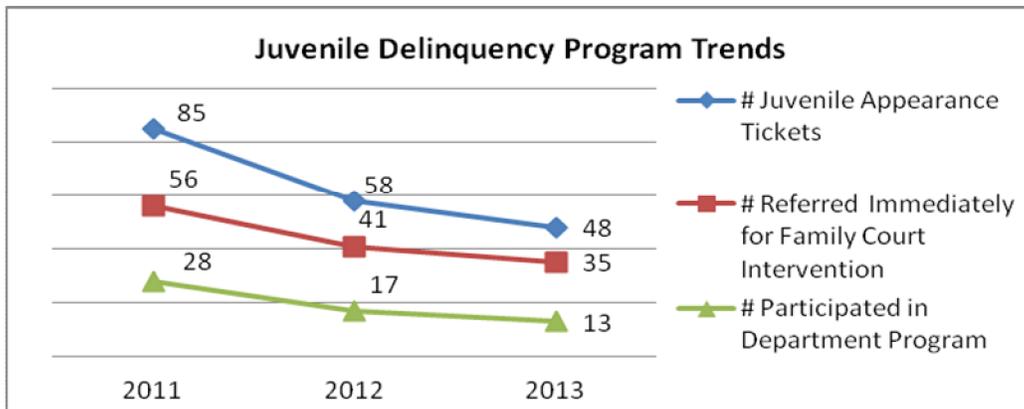
# Family Court Diversion Services

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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

- ~ In **2013**, this department received **48** Juvenile Appearance Tickets. The crimes committed included a wide range of offenses such as Assault, Burglary, Criminal Possession Stolen Property, Criminal Mischief, Falsely Reporting an Incident, Criminal Possession Weapon, Menacing, and Petit Larceny.
- ~ Of the 48 tickets, **35** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **13** youth participated in this department's Diversion program.
- ~ Of the 13 youth who participated in the JD Diversion program, 11 or **(85%)** successfully completed the program requirements and avoided further court intervention.



**Probation Facts:**

*To date, of the 2013 closed Juvenile Delinquency cases, 94% have been successfully diverted from the Family Court System.*

# Family Court Investigations

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY COURT INVESTIGATIONS

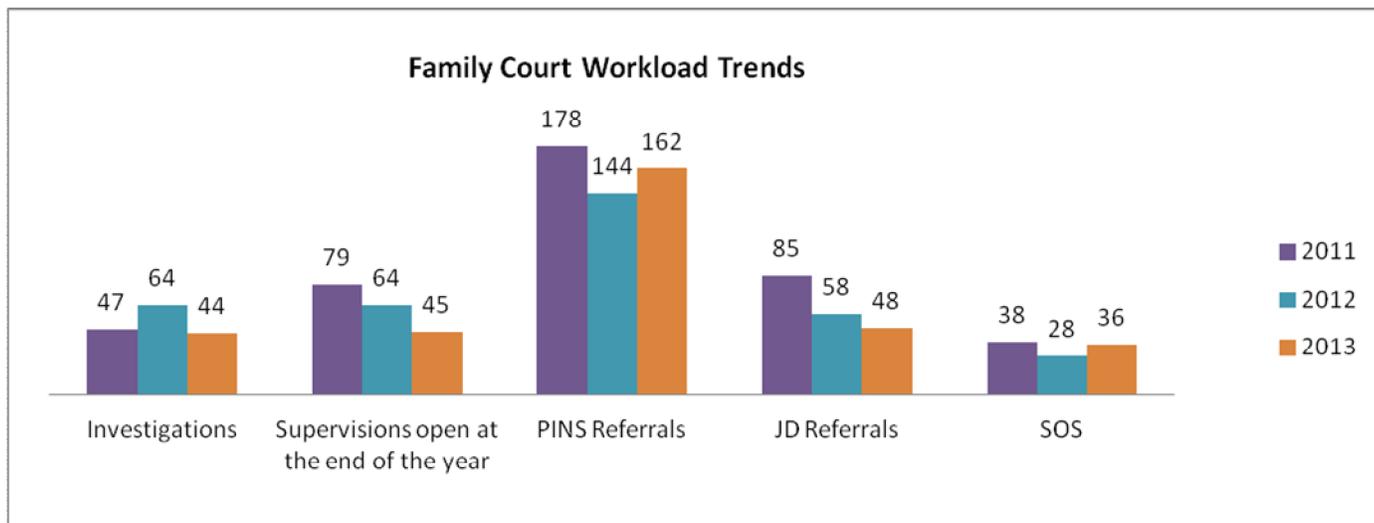
The Family Court Act requires that a predispositional investigation be conducted for all Designated Felony cases (defined as an act which if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, various sexual offenses, etc). For other Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need of 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; and
- ~ Identification of any drug and alcohol issues or mental health needs that may impact the respondent’s ability to act appropriately in the community or ability to parent his or her child.

## FAMILY COURT WORKLOAD SUMMARY

- ~ Officers provide investigations for Family Court that involve matters of custody, visitation, adoption, PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision) and Juvenile Delinquents,
- ~ Provide the mandated diversion services for juveniles defined as a Person In Need of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquent and
- ~ Provide supervision to youth adjudicated by the Family Court to be a PINS or a JD as well as to adults who have been placed on probation for Failure to Pay Child Support.
- ~ Provide Pre-Diversion Services (Strengthening our Students)



# Family Court Supervision

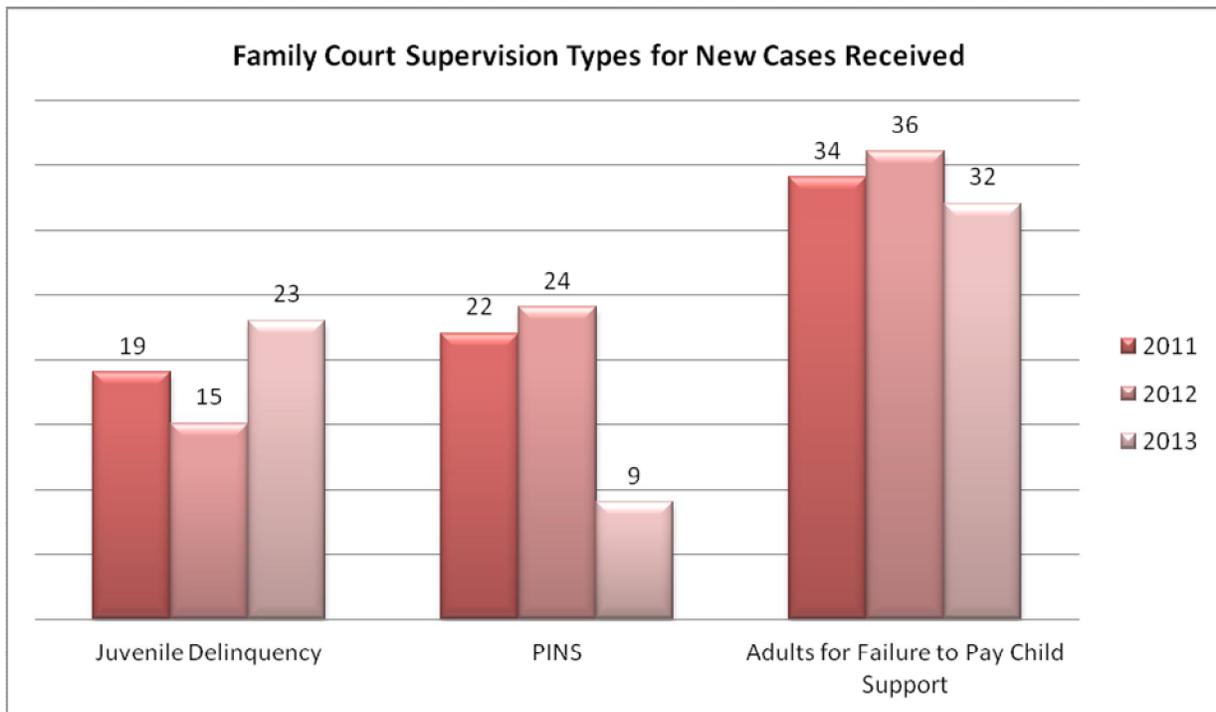
*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY COURT SUPERVISION

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

Probation supervision involves the adult or juvenile following a set of court ordered conditions that are tailored to meet his or her needs. These could include:

- ~ **mental health or substance abuse treatment**
- ~ **attendance in school / gainful employment**
- ~ **community service**
- ~ **payment of restitution to the victim/payment of child support**
- ~ **victim offender conferencing**



*Juvenile Delinquency cases saw the largest increase in 2013.*

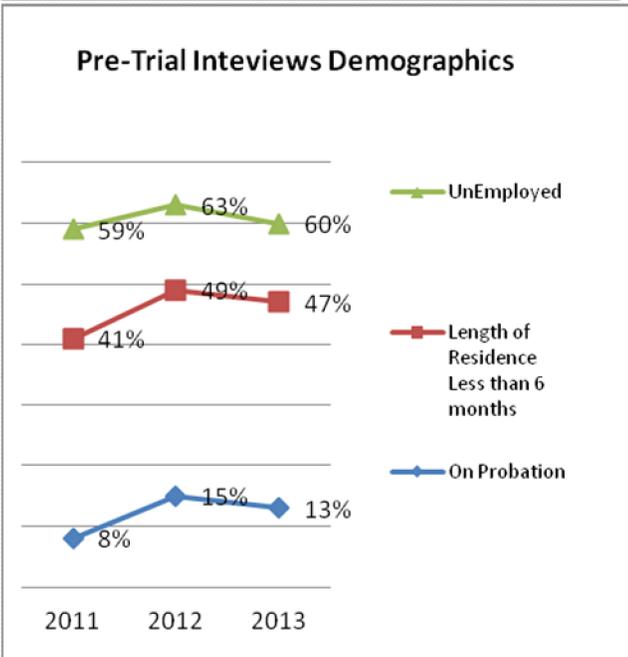
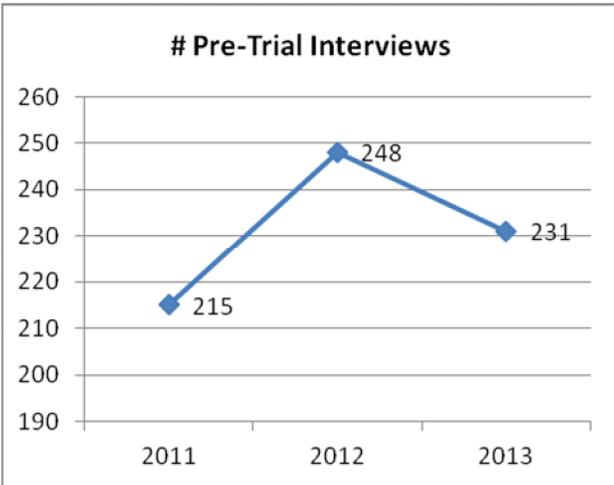
### Probation Facts:

*147 hours of community service were successfully completed in this department's supervised Juvenile Accountability Community Service program in 2013*

# Pre-Trial Release Program

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

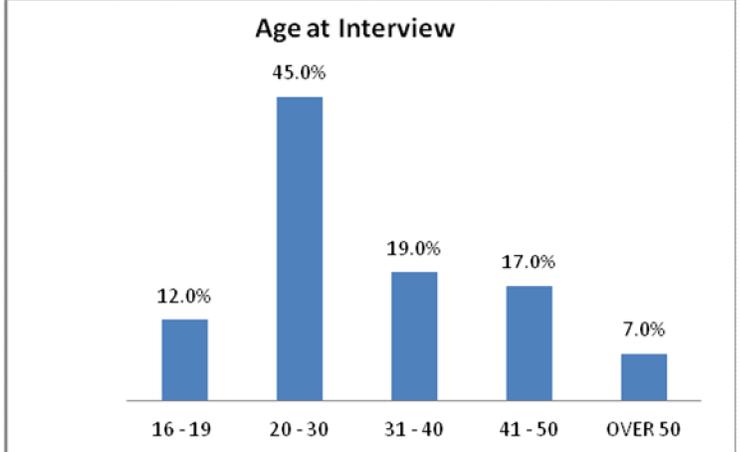
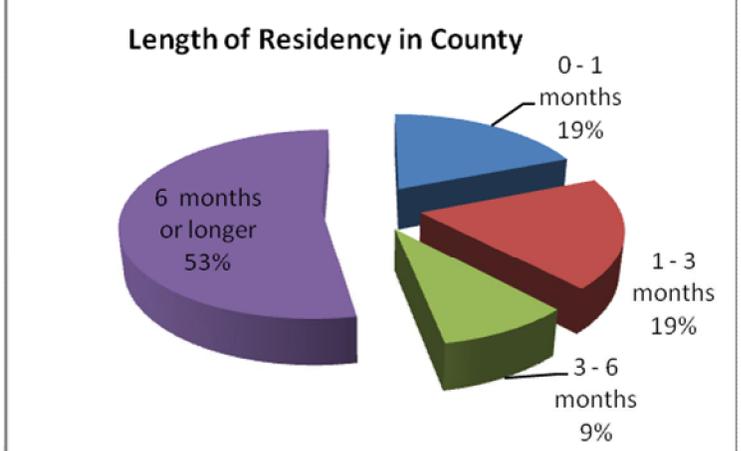
This department continues to operate the Pre-Trial Release Program in an attempt to facilitate release for incarcerated individuals who meet appropriate criteria. All defendants in custody at the Tompkins County Public Safety Building, who have bail set by a court, are given the opportunity to be interviewed for this program. A Probation Assistant reports to the jail weekdays and conducts an initial screening and personal interview with the defendant. A limited investigation is then conducted into the defendant's legal, social, and employment history with emphasis placed on past cooperation with court orders, prior warrants for failing to appear in court, and personal references to determine the defendant's potential to appear for future court dates. An evaluation is then made into the defendant's ties to the community and potential flight risk from his/her legal charges. A recommendation is forwarded to the court as to the best release option.



**2013 PRE-TRIAL FACTS**

A total of **231** pre-trial release reports were completed for the courts:

- \* **87%** were male detainees vs. **13%** female detainees
- \* **70%** were white vs. **30%** minority
- \* **44%** were detained for a felony charge vs. **53%** for a misdemeanor charge and **3%** were for probation violations
- \* **47%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their detainment



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

# Pre-Trial Release Program

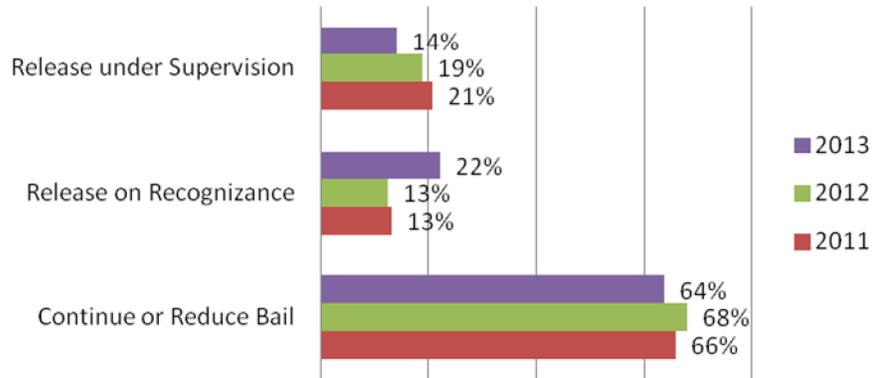
*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

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

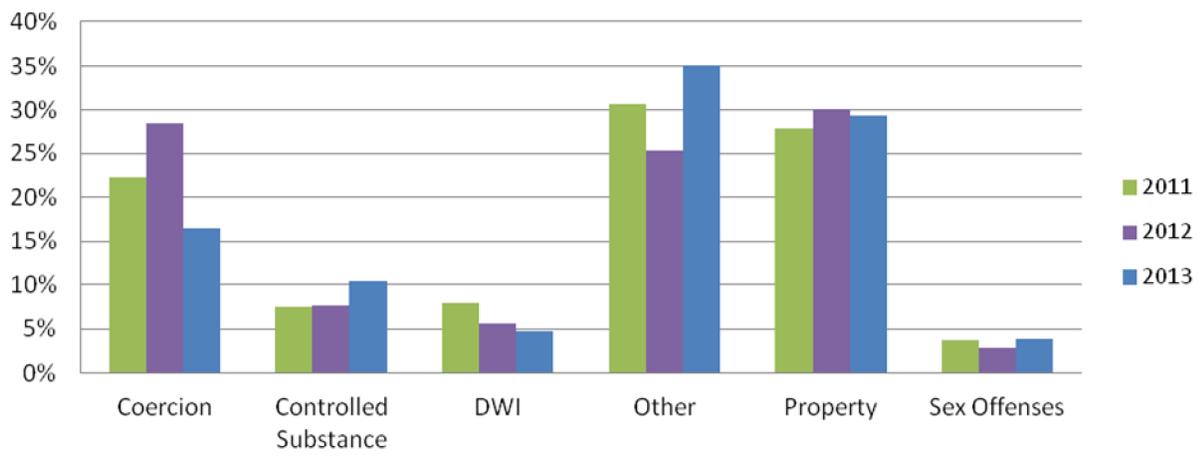
### Possible Recommendations for Pre-Trial Release

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

### Pre-Trial Recommendations



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



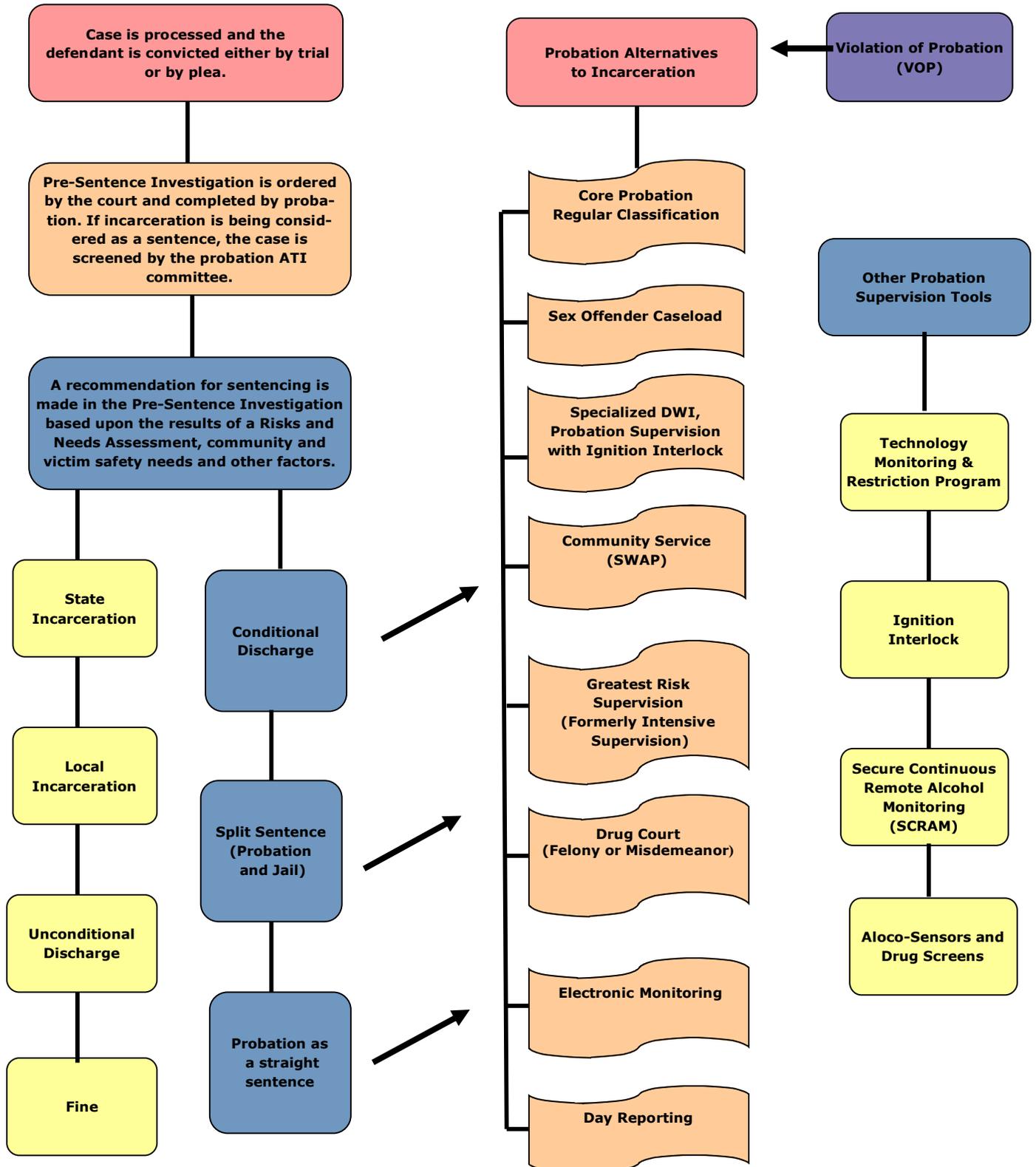
### Probation Facts:

*Graduated Sanctions, a system of incentives and sanctions that reward continued compliance and reprimand for continued non-compliance, are used in the supervision of offenders.*

# Criminal Court Flow Chart

## Sentencing Options

## Alternatives to Incarceration



# Graduated Sanctions

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## **GRADUATED SANCTIONS**

The term “graduated sanctions” means a system of incentives and sanctions that provide for the easing of restrictions for continued compliance and progressively more severe or restrictive sanctions for continued non-compliance. Easing of restrictions can include decreased reporting requirements, granting of travel permits and requests for early discharges. More severe sanctions for non-compliance can include increasing the reporting requirement, reprimands by departmental officials and/or by the sentencing court, having to perform community service, and greater restrictions on movement.

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

## **ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION PROGRAMS (ATI)**

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

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

## **CURRENT ATI PROGRAMS**

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

### **Probation Facts:**

*Of the cases closed in 2013, this department utilized graduated sanctions  
232 times as a way to garner compliance.*

# Criminal Court Investigations

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## INVESTIGATIONS

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

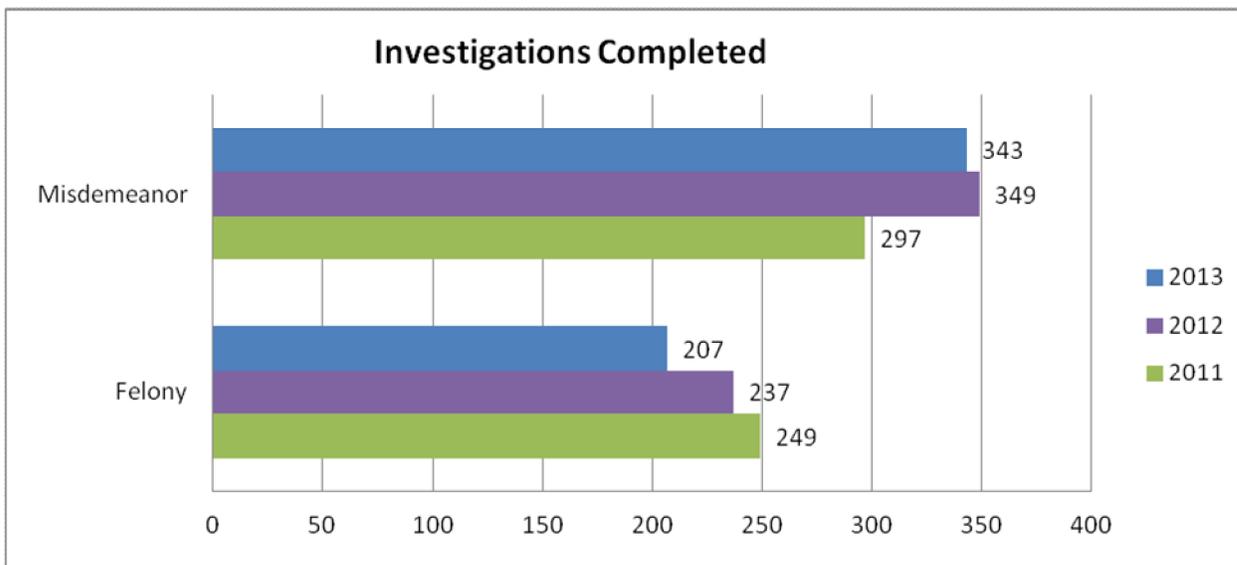
- ~ providing accurate criminal and social history in an objective and analytical format
- ~ identifying the defendants risks and protective factors; and
- ~ expressing the victim’s perspective of the crime to the court.

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

- ~ drug/alcohol involvement and treatment needs,
- ~ individualized supervision plans based on offender needs, victim’s rights, and overall community protection, and
- ~ appropriate alternative to incarceration options that address the defendants needs in an effort to reduce recidivism.

**An Investigation Includes:**

- \* *Legal and social background information about the person appearing before the court*
- \* *The defendant’s version of the present offense*
- \* *Information from the arresting officers and from the victim of the crime*
- \* *Information about the defendant’s ability to make restitution or pay fines*
- \* *An acturial risk and needs assessment to identify the criminogenic factors that increase the offenders risk of recidivism, as well as identifying protective and stabilizing factors.*



### Probation Facts:

*There are currently 109,660 probationers being supervised in New York. (NYS DCJS OPCA Integrated Probation Registrant System (IPRS) as of 2/17/2013)*

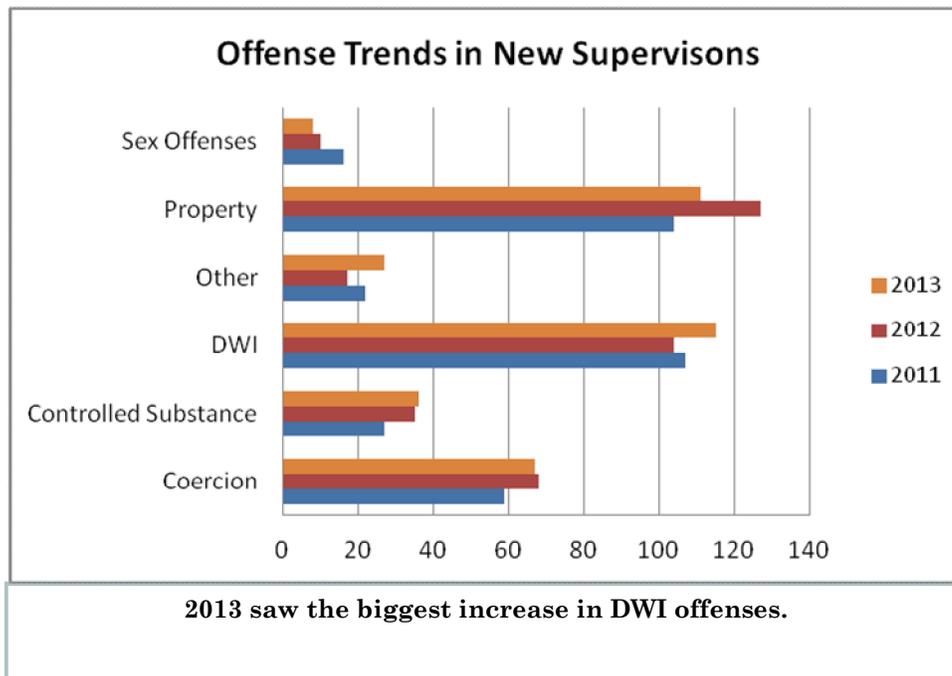
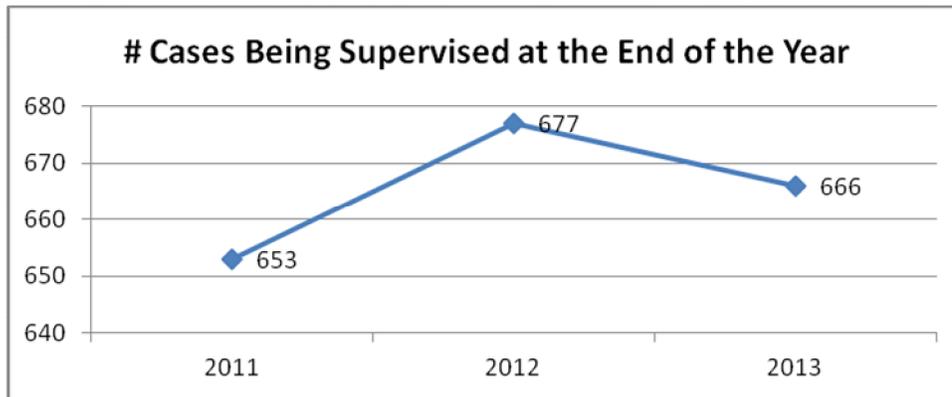
# Criminal Court Supervision

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

The two main goals of probation supervision are:

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



### **Probation Facts:**

*The Electronic Securing and Targeting of Online Predators Act (e-STOP) requires, as a condition of probation or parole, **mandatory restrictions** on a sex offender's access to the Internet where the offender's victim was a minor, the Internet was used to commit the offense, or the offender was designated a level 3 (highest level) sex offender.*

# Specialized Supervision

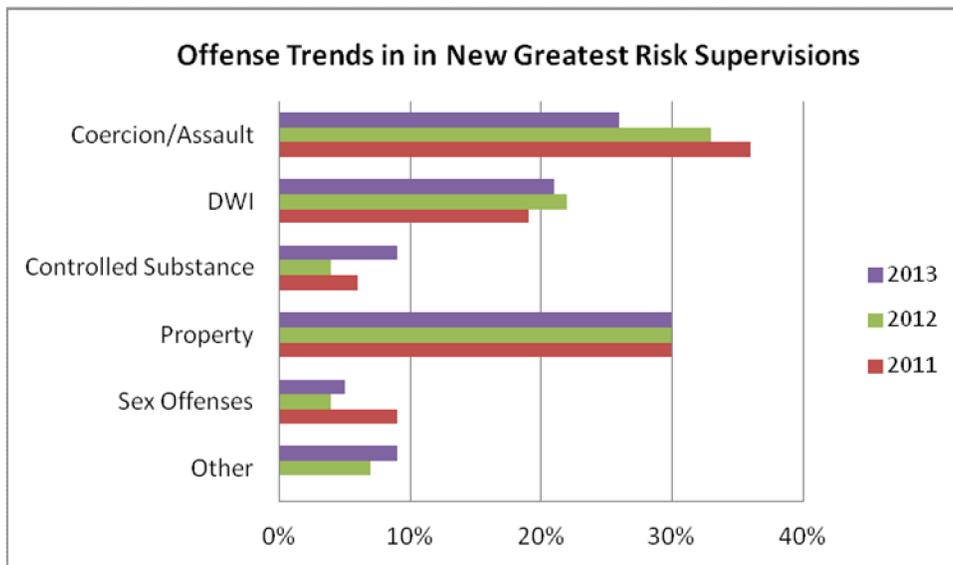
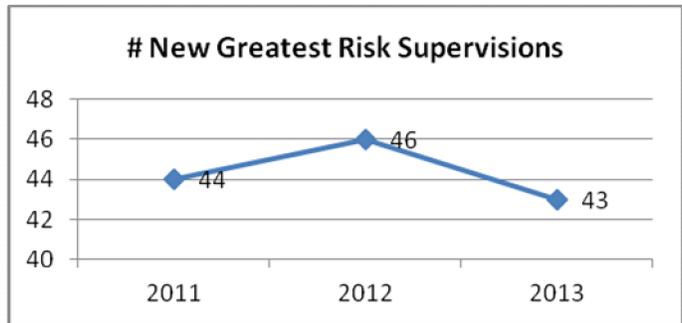
*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## GREATEST RISK SUPERVISION

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

### Greatest Risk Caseloads Characteristics

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



### Probation Facts:

*72% of case closings in 2013 remained arrest free during the term of probation.*

# Specialized Supervision

*Submitted by Michael Herrling & Paul Neugebauer, DWI Probation Officers*

## DWI SUPERVISION CASELOAD

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

### Why have a specialized DWI caseload?

- ~ DWI crimes continue to represent a significant threat to public safety. In 2013, there were **321** DWI arrests in Tompkins County with **99** of those resulting from an automobile crash.
- ~ Approximately **1/3** of the total cases supervised by this department are DWI cases.

**2013 DWI Arrest Demographics**

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**43% between age 21 - 29**

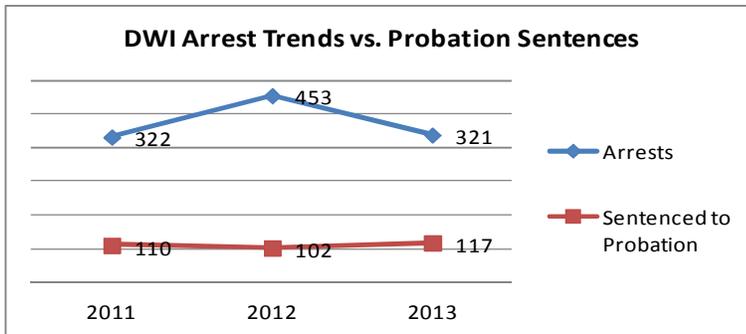
**20% between age 30 - 39**

**27% Female**

**73% Male**

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

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



## New Driver's License Regulations in 2012

- ~ On September 25, 2012 Governor Andrew Cuomo announced regulations to protect New Yorkers from **Persistent and Dangerous Drunk Drivers**. The new regulations affected individuals that have three or four VTL 1192 convictions within the past 25 years retroactively by imposing an additional 5 year revocation period beyond their statutory revocation period.
- ~ Once re-licensed, the individual will receive a conditional license only for the next five years, while being required to maintain a functioning ignition interlock device during this same time period. Any individual that has five or more VTL 1192 convictions on their driving record will receive a **lifetime revocation of their driving privileges**.

# Evidence Based Programs

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

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

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

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

In 2013 the department held its first Thinking For a Change group for the jail population in conjunction with the corrections department. This group of sentenced inmates was co-led by a Probation Officer and a Corrections Officer.

### What the curriculum teaches:

- ~ Thinking is an internal behavior which can be controlled and changed to impact external behavior
- ~ How to pay attention to and recognize thinking that leads to trouble
- ~ How to respond to anger
- ~ Social skills and problem solving

### *What T4C students have said:*

- \* *"The program helped me with being able to explain myself better and thinking situations through."*
- \* *"I gained confidence with speaking to others."*
- \* *"The fact that we went over the steps of problem solving in such detail really drove the idea of thinking home."*
- \* *"A great program to help you change your behavior."*
- \* *"Helped me become a better person socially."*

## SECOND STEP PROGRAM - Student Success Through Prevention for Middle School Students

In 2013, this department, in collaboration with a local school district, began the Second Step program with twelve 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The purpose of the program was to increase school connectedness, reduce bullying and improve emotion management. This was accomplished through scripted lessons, homework assignments and reflective writing.

- ~ Pre-tests were given to gauge the acceptance of bullying, emotion management and substance abuse
- ~ Field trip to TST BOCES Vocational Education to increase the student's connectedness to their education and school
- ~ Post tests determined the students were using the skills taught and their tolerance of bullying had decreased.

### *What Second Step students have said:*

- \* *"It has helped me come out of my shell."*
- \* *"I really liked coming here and I didn't think I would."*
- \* *"It has helped me stand up for myself and my friends."*

# Performance Measures

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## 2013 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 2013. Data collection and analysis of departmental performance will be an ongoing process for 2014.

Benchmark	204 Adult Cases Closed 2013	39 Juvenile Cases Closed 2013
<b>Law Abiding Behavior</b>	72% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation	72% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation
<b>Resistance to Drug and Alcohol Use</b>	Of the 690 drug screens recorded by this department, 87% were negative for substances	Of the 12 youth ordered to participate in treatment, 75% completed treatment or were in good standing with treatment at time of case closing
<b>School Participation Vocational Training</b>	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, 94% of the youth were enrolled in school/vocational program and 91% were participating satisfactorily
<b>Restitution to Victims</b>	Of the \$99,233 restitution ordered, 38% was collected at time of case closing	Of the \$2,847 restitution ordered, 88% was collected at time of case closing
<b>Restorative Community Service</b>	81% of the 2856 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing	86% of the 371 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing
<b>Mental Health</b>	65% of those court ordered to participate in mental health treatment did so and 56% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing	Of the 27 youth ordered to participate in mental health treatment, 100% participated and 90% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing
<b>Case Closing Status</b>	60% of cases were closed successfully	64% of cases were closed successfully

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING

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

**Probation Facts:**

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

In 2013, **28** offenders participated in electronic monitoring for a total of 1,587 days. Participation in electronic monitoring costs \$7.25 per day per offender compared to incarceration at \$84.00 per day. While not appropriate for all offenders, Electronic Monitoring demonstrates some clear benefits for part of the population served by the probation department.

### Estimated Cost Comparison

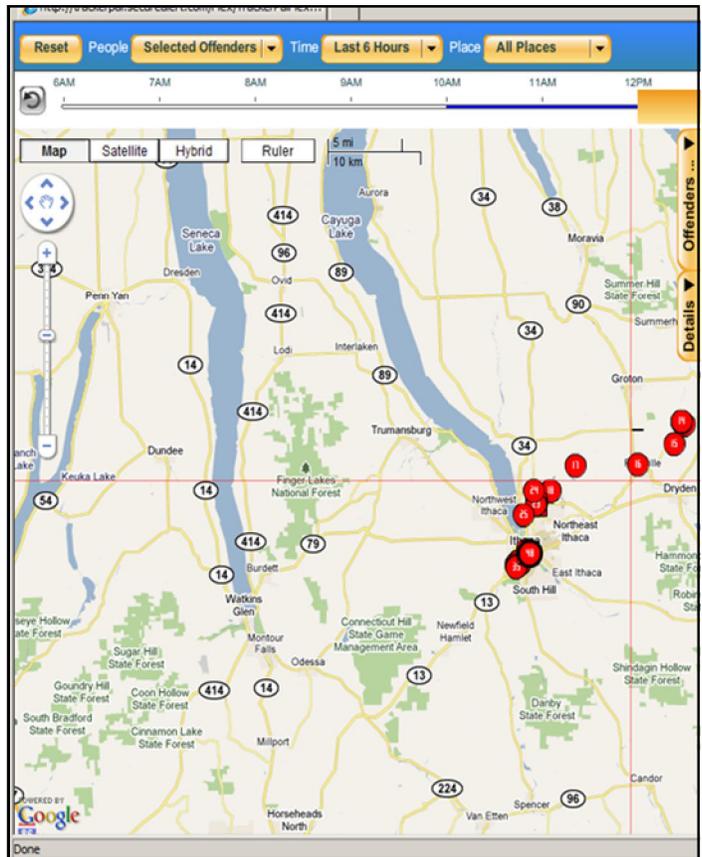
*Average Incarceration Costs if inmates are boarded out to other jails:*

1,587 days @ \$84.00/day totals \$133,308.00.

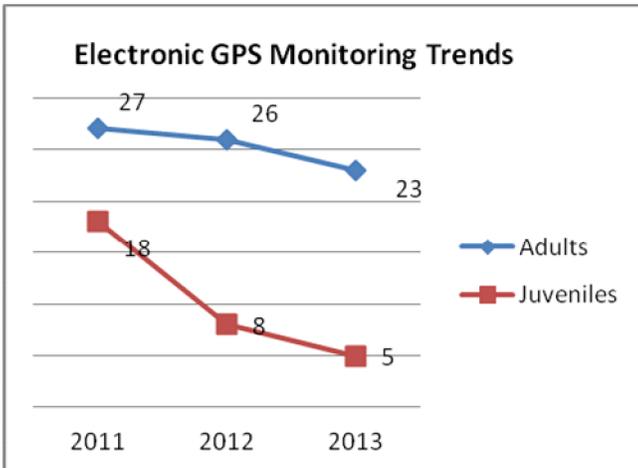
*EM Costs:*

1,587 days @ \$7.25/day totals \$11,506.75.

*Taxpayer Savings for 2013: **\$121,802.25***



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



### **Probation Facts:**

**\$7.25-** Daily cost of electronic monitoring compared to the higher cost of incarceration.

# Technology Tools

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

## TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTION AND MONITORING

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

People can behave very differently on the Internet than they do in other areas of their lives. Interacting anonymously with a computer in the safety of one's own home encourages people to express hidden thoughts and desires." *Quayle, E., and M. Taylor (2001). "Child Seduction and Self-Representation on the Internet."* *CyberPsychology & Behavior* 4(5):597-608."

We continue to use monitoring software that provides weekly reports of the activity on an offender's computer. **Bio-metric devices** are used on computers that are shared with household members, to increase accountability for the offender and protect the privacy of users who are not under the authority of the courts or this department.

Nearly two-thirds (**63%**) of cell phone owners now use their phone to go online, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project. In addition, overall the number of people who have a tablet or an e-book reader among those 16 and older now stands at 43%. To address these technology trends this department continues to research and procure new tools for monitoring offender's internet activities across multiple devices and platforms.




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**“Sexual victimization of children is heinous. Unfortunately, for all its wonders, the Internet has facilitated a dramatic increase in this type of crime. This is manifested in both the exponential growth of the development, distribution, and viewing of child pornography, as well as in the luring of children into harmful real-world situations.”**

*“Remote Computer Monitoring: Managing Sex Offenders’ Access to the Internet.”*  
*Journal of Offender Monitoring. Volume 21, no. 1 (2009): 11-29.*

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The Electronic Securing and Targeting of Online Predators Act (**e-STOP**) requires, as a condition of probation or parole, **mandatory restrictions** on a sex offender's access to the Internet where the offender's victim was a minor, the Internet was used to commit the offense, or the offender was designated a level 3 (highest level) sex offender.

### **Probation Facts:**

*Since its enactment in 2008, e-STOP has helped remove more than 24,000 accounts and online profiles linked to registered sex offenders in New York State.*

(Source: NYS Assembly and NYS Attorney General's Office websites)

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE MONITORING TOOLS

For probationers with substance abuse/dependency issues, the use of monitoring tools is an essential part of providing supervision. Specific conditions of probation allow this department to use these tools. These tools also help enforce sobriety while the offender has time to learn and work a program of recovery.

### Alcosensors

An Alcosensor is a hand held device that ascertains a probationer's use of alcohol. The probationer is required to blow into the device which will register a BAC reading should any alcohol be detected in the breath sample. Probation Officers subject probationers to a test both in the office and in the field, on a random basis or when suspicion of alcohol use is present. Most probationers admit to alcohol consumption when faced with a positive reading on an Alcosensor.



### Urine Screens

This department conducts supervised urine screens of probationers utilizing a 12 or 5 panel dip test. A wide variety of substances can be detected. Results of the screen are known within 5 minutes of conducting the test. Probationers are required to pay \$7 for each panel test.

### Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM)

This device is an ankle bracelet that monitors alcohol consumption 24/7 by measuring the amount of alcohol that migrates through the skin, a predictable result of alcohol consumption. The department uses this device for our DWI population as a way to aid recovery based behavior. The device is worn for a period of 90 days. Probation Officers are able to download the readings of the device directly into their computers during an office visit with the probationer.



### Probation Facts:

**\$5.30** - Daily cost of SCRAM compared to the high cost of incarceration.

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Dan Cornell, Probation Supervisor*

## IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE

DWI offenders are required to install this device on every vehicle they own or operate, so that the offender's alcohol use and driving behavior can be immediately addressed. The Ignition Interlock device requires the offender to provide a breath sample prior to starting the vehicle. If alcohol is detected the device prohibits the offender from starting the car. The Probation Officer receives notification of any high BAC readings, missed blow samples or potential tampering.

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



### Ignition Interlock Usage Report

**Note:** Time zone is Eastern

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

Log Date	Time	Log Message
02-04-2011	8:55:53 PM	Car Stop
	8:49:23 PM	Car Start
	8:49:16 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=20 BL=10 AT=8.4C BT=23.2C RV=50 T=0.17s
	6:45:35 PM	Car Stop
02-03-2011	6:41:07 PM	ROLL-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=9 AT=10.5C BT=27.0C RV=50 T=0.33s
	6:33:42 PM	Car Start
	6:33:34 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=11 AT=6.1C BT=24.8C RV=48 T=0.41s
	7:01:01 PM	Car Stop
	6:54:23 PM	ROLL-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=8 AT=15.9C BT=28.8C RV=49 T=0.73s
	6:46:56 PM	Car Start
	6:46:49 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=24 BL=10 AT=12.7C BT=27.7C RV=50 T=0.17s
	6:46:19 PM	Invalid sample --- pressure
	5:12:35 PM	Car Stop
	5:08:29 PM	ROLL-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=26 BL=8 AT=17.8C BT=30.0C RV=50 T=1.05s
02-03-2011	4:59:04 PM	Car Start
	4:58:57 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=23 BL=7 AT=15.0C BT=27.3C RV=50 T=1.53s
	3:34:03 PM	Car Stop
	3:30:19 PM	Car Start
	3:30:12 PM	START-TEST PASS BAC=.000 PK=24 BL=7 AT=18.7C BT=29.3C RV=50 T=0.57s

Internet | Protected Mode: O

### **Probation Facts:**

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

# Treatment Court Programs

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Supervisor and Dave Wolf, Deputy Director*

## ITHACA COMMUNITY TREATMENT & TOMPKINS COUNTY FELONY DRUG COURT

The goal of the Ithaca Community Treatment Court (Misdemeanor) and Tompkins County Felony Drug Treatment Court is to assist the participants of those programs in breaking the cycle of addiction and criminal activity. The Treatment Court programs provide the defendant with a highly structured environment that combines judicial oversight, probation supervision, substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, graduated sanctions/responses and education/employment training in an effort to encourage positive behaviors and reduce recidivism.

Senior probation officers are assigned to the Treatment Courts, and these officers play an important role in the supervision of the participants and providing program services. Other team members include the judge and court staff, assistant district attorney, defense attorneys, program coordinator, substance abuse counselors, forensic counselor, education/employment counselors and other community members. These members work together to closely monitor the progress of each participant and provide services to assist the participants in changing problem behaviors. Other programs offered by the Probation Department play a supportive role to the Treatment Courts' success, specifically the Service Work Alternative Program (our supervised community service program) and the Day Reporting Program located in the Community Justice Center.

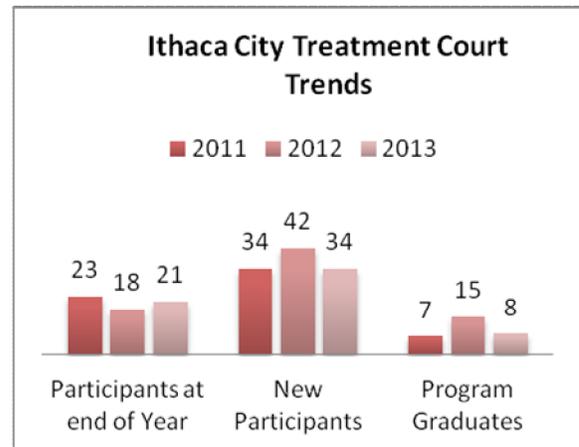
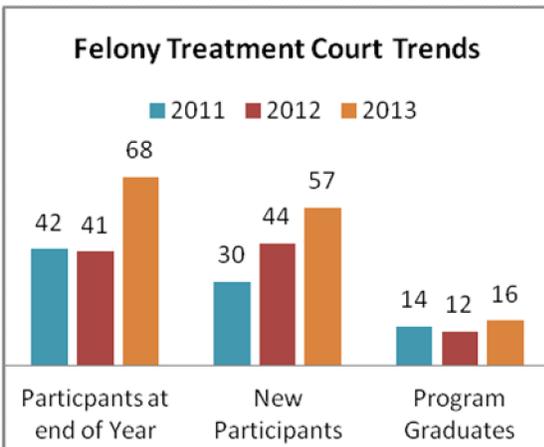
### 2013 at a Glance

#### Felony Drug Court

- ~ *57 new admissions*
- ~ *16 participants graduated*
- ~ *68 current participants at the end of 2013*
- ~ *Since inception of the program in April 2000, 162 participants have graduated*

#### Ithaca City Treatment Court

- ~ *34 new admissions*
- ~ *8 participants graduated*
- ~ *21 current participants at the end of 2013*
- ~ *Since inception of the program in January 1998, 223 participants have graduated*



# Community Service Programs

*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

The Department of Probation and Community Justice operates several supervised community service programs for various populations. The benefits of community service are numerous. The participant gains work skills and self-esteem, and when ordered as a condition of probation or conditional discharge, the experience allows the participant to repay the community for criminal behavior. Over 40 worksites reap the benefits of the work provided.

## Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP)

- ~ Court ordered Alternative to Incarceration program for adults who have been convicted of a nonviolent crime
- ~ In 2013, **3,004** hours of service was performed in our community
- ~ **84%** of the individuals referred from Drug Court successfully completed their community service hours ordered



*SWAP Supervisors Bill Apgar and Jim Bond*

### Some of our worksites:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Cops, Kids &amp; Toys</li> <li>* Friends of the Library</li> <li>* Varna Community Association</li> <li>* Fingerlakes ReUse Center</li> <li>* Varna Community Center</li> <li>* Cornell University Dump &amp; Run</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Adopt A Highway</li> <li>* Slaterville Fire Department</li> <li>* Trumansburg Fair</li> <li>* County Government Departments</li> <li>* Area Public and State Parks</li> <li>* Brooktondale Community Center</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

### Probation Facts:

*In 2013, the Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP), helped raise over \$36,000.00 for Cops Kids & Toys by working at the Cornell University Dump and Run worksite.*

# Community Service Programs

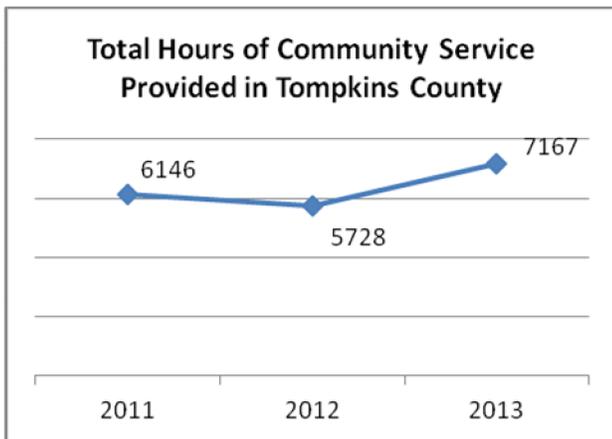
*Submitted by Patricia Buechel, Director*

## The Juvenile Accountability Community Service (JACS)

- ~ This program is intended to provide the youth with a way of repaying the community for his or her behavior and hopefully has them internalize the value of such service.
- ~ In 2013, **147** hours of service was performed in our community.

## The Work Experience Program (WEP)

- ~ Run in conjunction with the Tompkins County Department of Social Services for individuals who receive public assistance and are considered work eligible.
- ~ In 2013, **3,082** hours of service was performed in our community.



“The quality of the work was beyond our expectations. It is often a struggle to get non-emergency activities accomplished. Opportunities that promote community service, such as yours, are invaluable.”  
**- BH, Slaterville Fire Company and Ambulance**

“I am writing again this year to thank your department for the help we get from SWAP. The help we get from Bill Apgar, Jim Bond and their crews are essential to us to be able to run the two Book sales a year that enable us to give the amount of support we can to our library and library system.”  
**- BB, Fall Book Sale Coordinator**

“Our expectations were exceeded. This is an essential public program. Good training and if anything there needs to be more use of this program by the county.”  
**- MH, Cornell Cooperative Extension**

“Collectively, Varna’s three organizations are truly grateful and indebted to Jim Bond and his crews. We would all be stretched much thinner without their efforts. They work diligently to fill the voids we would face without their help.”  
**-SS, Varna Community Association**

### Probation Facts:

*The Community benefits from Community Services by saving taxpayers jail costs and retuning thousands of hours of valuable work performed by volunteers. In 2013, the total hours of community service performed by participants in all programs = **7,167** hours of work in the local area!!*

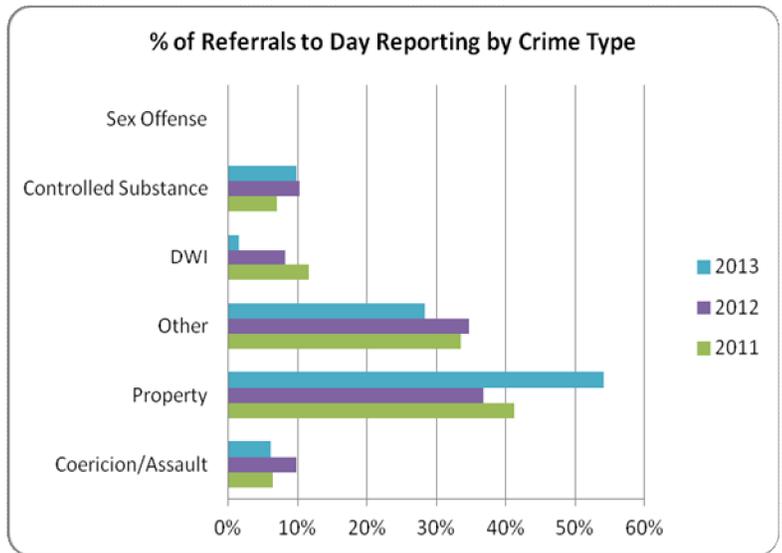
# Day Reporting

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*

The Tompkins County Day Reporting Program, located in the Community Justice Center (CJC), is one component of the Department’s Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI). The program is a structured, secure learning environment intended to provide stability, education, and personal advancement for individuals who would otherwise be facing a period of incarceration, and for individuals who are attempting to reintegrate back into the community following a period of incarceration.

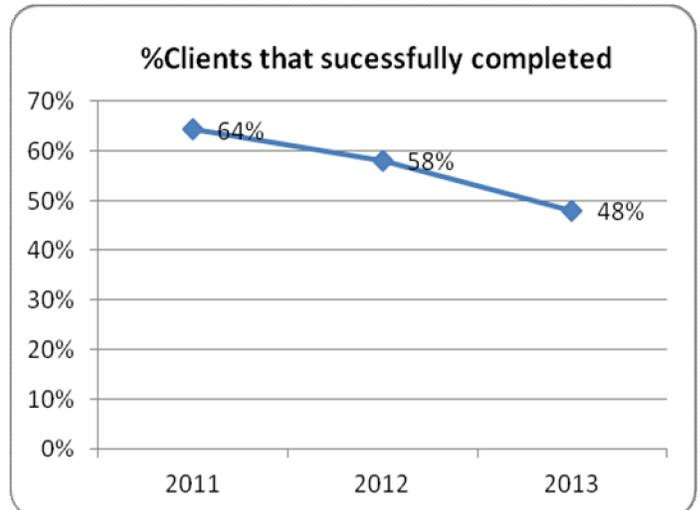
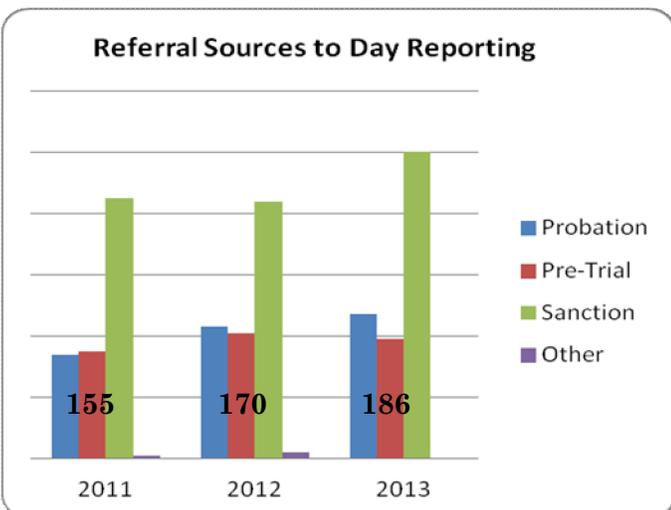
### What we do:

- ~Provide daily programming and educational classes to clients including Substance Abuse, Emotions Management, Financial Management, Mental Health, Health Issues and Nutrition.
- ~Provide educational and employment services.
- ~Provide referrals to outside agencies including Department of Social Services, Red Cross, Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic, Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services, Alcohol Drug Counsel, and the Advocacy Center.
- ~Offer support with housing, mental health and substance abuse services



### Who we serve:

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



# Day Reporting

## Education Services

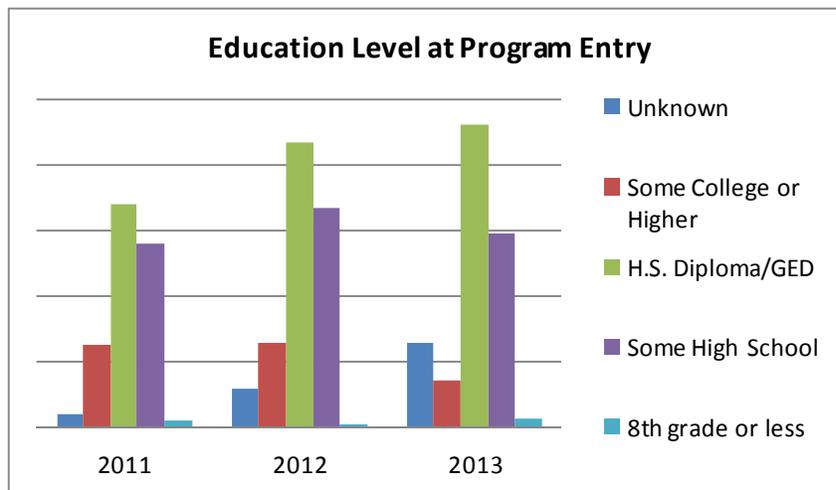
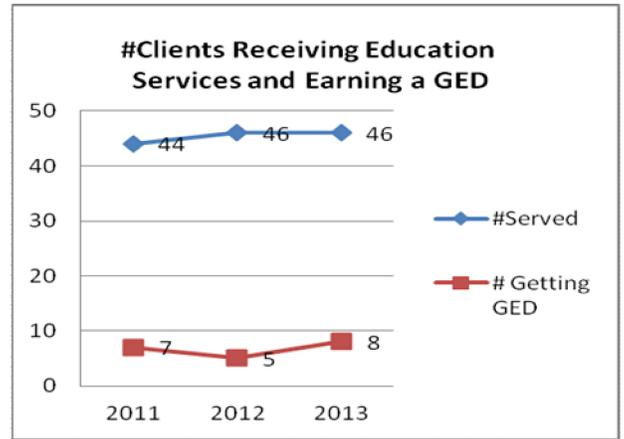
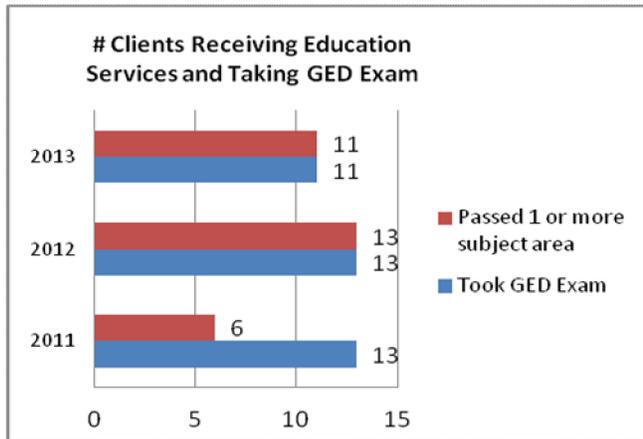
*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*

### GED Test Requirements:

~In order for a student to take the GED test, the student must take and pass GED practice tests (predictors) in the 5 subject areas of Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science, and Math. The student must score at least a 450 on each of those tests in order to sit for the actual GED test.

~This practice test requirement served as merely a guideline in previous years and was not strictly enforced until 2011. As a result of these new practice test requirements there are fewer clients taking the GED Exam.

~The NYS policies for taking the GED test will change again in 2014. A test fee will be charged and those students failing one or more subject area will be required to take the whole test again in all five subjects.



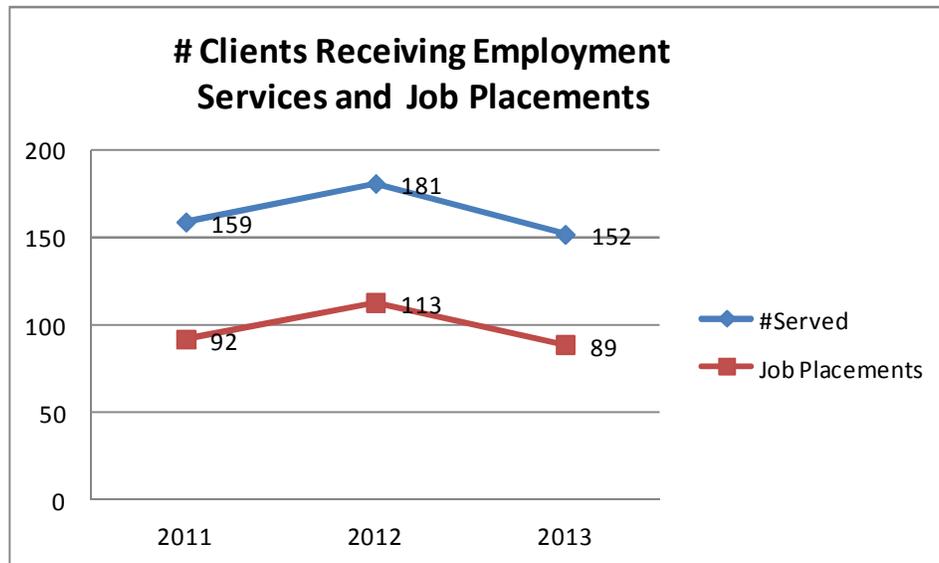
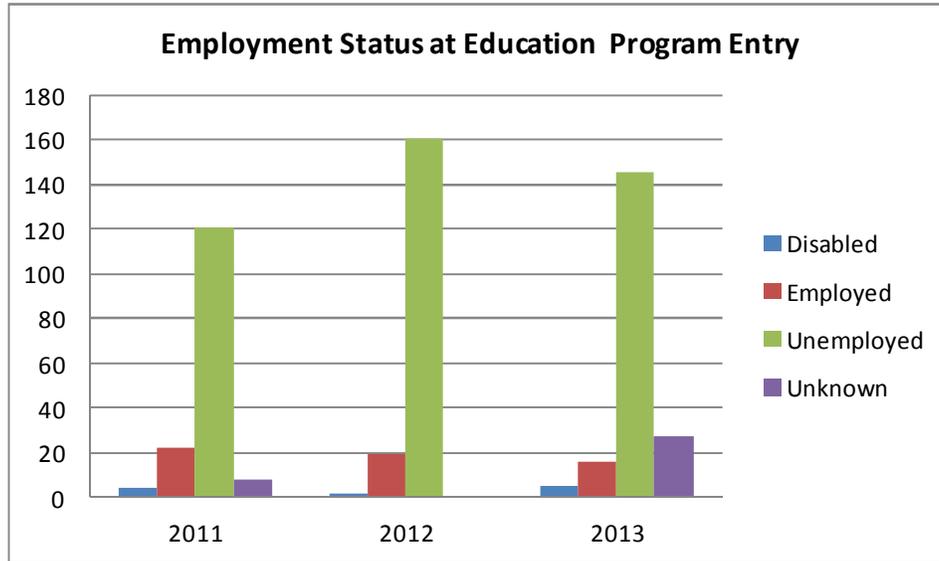
### Probation Facts:

*During 2012 and 2013, 100% of those receiving education services that took the GED exam passed at least one or more subject area.*

# Day Reporting

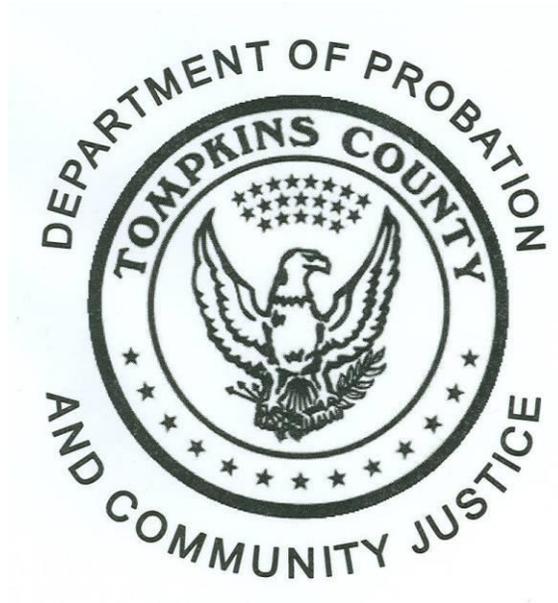
## Employment Services

*Submitted by Eileen Sommers, Probation Supervisor*



### Probation Facts:

*During 2013, 59% of those receiving employment services obtained employment.*



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