

# Tompkins County

## Department of Probation and Community Justice

---



*Inclusion Through Diversity*

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021

---



# Table of Contents

<b>Director’s Message</b>	.....	<b>4</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	.....	<b>5</b>
<b>2020 Accomplishments</b>	.....	<b>6</b>
<b>2021 Goals</b>	.....	<b>7</b>
<b>Staff Listing</b>	.....	<b>8</b>
<b>Department Milestones</b>	.....	<b>9</b>
<b>Restitution Collections</b>	.....	<b>10</b>
<b>Family Court Diversion</b>	.....	<b>11</b>
<b>Family Court Investigations</b>	.....	<b>14</b>
<b>Family Court Supervisions</b>	.....	<b>15</b>
<b>Family Court Youth Part</b>	.....	<b>16</b>
<b>Pretrial Services</b>	.....	<b>17</b>
<b>Criminal Court Flow Chart</b>	.....	<b>19</b>
<b>Graduated Responses</b>	.....	<b>20</b>
<b>Criminal Court Investigations</b>	.....	<b>22</b>
<b>Criminal Court Supervisions</b>	.....	<b>23</b>
<b>Specialized Supervisions</b>	.....	<b>24</b>
<b>Specialized Sex Offender Supervision</b>	.....	<b>25</b>
<b>Specialized Domestic Violence Supervision</b>	.....	<b>26</b>
<b>Specialized DWI Supervisions</b>	.....	<b>27</b>
<b>Evidence Based Programs</b>	.....	<b>28</b>
<b>Performance Measures</b>	.....	<b>29</b>
<b>Technology Tools</b>	.....	<b>30</b>
<b>Treatment Court Programs</b>	.....	<b>33</b>
<b>Community Supervision Programs</b>	.....	<b>35</b>
<b>Day Reporting</b>	.....	<b>37</b>

# 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

The Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice is proud to provide you with a synopsis of our work in the following 2021 Annual Report. Each year presents its own challenges and the worldwide pandemic continued to have significant local impacts on service availability in 2021. As a Department we utilized the lessons learned in 2020 to remain open, accessible and unwavering in our mission to provide enhanced public safety, consistency and stability to those we serve.

This document outlines this Department's provision of a multitude of Criminal Court Alternatives to Incarceration programs and graduated responses offered in Tompkins County in an effort to reduce reliance upon incarceration and empower our clients to make meaningful improvements in their lives. Additionally, the report addresses the supports that we offer to crime victims, the Family Courts, schools, families, and youth of Tompkins County.

We continue to utilize evidence based, trauma informed approaches to develop individualized supervision and planning strategies with each person that we serve. In doing so we aim to identify each person's needs and goals and address the factors and remove obstacles that may be restraining a person from making improvements in their lives.

I would like to thank and recognize the staff of this department for their professionalism, dedication, compassion, and genuine desire to make a positive impact in the lives of our clients. You all embody our Mission Statement and I consider myself fortunate to be able to witness the positive results that your efforts contribute to every day in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Cornell".

Daniel J. Cornell  
Probation Director

# Our Mission

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

## Our Guiding Principles

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

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

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

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

## Our 2021 Goals - What We Accomplished

1. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall work to restore full access to all previously available ATI programs operated by the Department, including Day Reporting, the Service Work Alternatives Program, and Electronic Monitoring.
  - ✓ *Partially achieved: While the above referenced services were all offered at times during 2021, the ongoing presence of fluctuating COVID-19 case rates resulted in corresponding periods of closure or reduced access to these services during times of high COVID transmission rates the County.*
2. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall revise our Orders and Conditions of Probation and train our staff on Marijuana Reform Laws and the impact upon community supervision requirements. We will also work with the Courts and our partners at the District Attorney and Assigned Counsel offices to ensure fair application of our supervision conditions in the spirit of the law.
  - ✓ *Achieved: By planning in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office and Assigned Counsel this Department revised our Orders and Conditions of Probation to all allow the Courts to determine whether or not individuals sentenced to or placed on probation terms could use marijuana recreationally, or if that use needed to be prohibited due to "clear and convincing evidence" that marijuana use was an underlying factor in the commission of the crime for which the person was being ordered to probation. This Department also follows existing case law which permits Medical Marijuana to be used by persons on probation when it is verified that marijuana has been legally prescribed by their physician and they are in possession of a Medical Marijuana prescription.*
3. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall train all staff in the areas of Implicit Bias and Trauma Informed Care strategies.
  - ✓ *Partially achieved/ongoing: all staff participated in a training on Implicit Bias and several attended formal trainings on Trauma Informed Care strategies. Because training in these areas needs to be ongoing and is never "Completed", we recognize the need maintain a continuation of training in these areas indefinitely to continue to learn and grow professionally.*
4. The Department of Probation and Community Justice shall see to expand the sites where our Service Work Alternatives Program operate and can benefit not for profit entities in the community.
  - ✓ *Achieved/ongoing: The Department Work Project Supervisors who operate the Service Work Alternatives Program identified and served several new community service work sites in 2021 which include but were not limited to trail maintenance for the YMCA and Fingerlakes Land Trust, painting at the Slaterville Volunteer Fire Department, cleanup and maintenance at the Caroline Grove Cemetery, and communications tower maintenance for the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response.*

## Our 2022 Goals

1. Make Mental Health First Aid and Trauma Informed Care a training priority that is available to all case bearing staff.
2. Engage in the Mental Health Systems of Care work group and incorporate lessons learned into our practices toward providing better continuity of care to the youth and families we serve.
3. Work with school districts to expand the utilization of the Department's "Strengthening Our Students"(SOS) program to provide early intervention and divert youth from the more formal system engagement.
4. Participate in the Tompkins County Re-imagining Public Safety process as requested.
5. Initiate an updated Employee Evaluation and Feedback process within the Department.
6. Take proactive measures to reinvigorate existing partnerships and expand community partnerships with schools, agencies and service providers that have languished as a result of COVID restrictions.

# 2021 Staff Listing

(as of 12/31/2021)

**Probation Director**

Daniel Cornell

**Deputy Director**

Karla Brackett

**Administration**

Systems Analyst

Susan Moore

Systems Analyst

Christopher Driscoll

Administrative Services Coordinator

Laurel Rockhill

Principal Account Clerk Typist

Tammy Murphy

Sr. Account Clerk Typist

Samantha Achilles

Administrative Assistant III

Michelle Morris

Administrative Assistant II

Rebecca Roe

Probation Assistant

Bernadette Stranger

**Probation Supervisors**

Criminal Court Supervisor

Paul Neugebauer

Criminal Court Supervisor

Karen Burns

Family Court Supervisor

Jan Gorovitz

**Senior Probation Officers**

Ithaca Community Treatment Court/ Electronic Monitoring

Denise Hayden

Ithaca Community Treatment Court

Michael Herrling

Greatest Risk Supervision

Jarrod Newcomb

Greatest Risk Supervision

Abigail Bixby

Greatest Risk Supervision/Greatest Risk Family Court Supervision

Gladys Larson

Day Reporting Program

Abigail Bixby

Day Reporting Program

Gladys Larson

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Tom Partigianoni

Tompkins County Felony Drug Court

Angela Kehoe

**Probation Officers**

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Laura Little

Criminal Court Sex Offenders

Derek Grinnell



## Staff & Department Milestones

### Probation Officers (con't)

Criminal Court—DWI

Holly Alzitoon

Criminal Court—DWI

Sheldon Pettaway

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Quentin Kiah

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Derek Grinnell

Criminal Court—Domestic Violence

Kelly Cooper

Criminal Court—Wellness Court

Brian Driscoll

Family Court

Michele Johnson

Family Court

Lina Meaker

Family Court

Jazamene Cherry

Family Court

Shannon Dankert

### Work Project Supervisors:

William Apgar

Tyler Mix

### Security Officer:

Richard Brewer

### Transition Workforce Employment Specialist:

Kathy Lind

---

## *Years of Service to the Probation Department*

### 10+ Years

Angela Kehoe

Gladys Larson

Tom Partigianoni

### 15+ Years

Rich Brewer

Karen Burns

Denise Hayden

Michael Herrling

Kathy Lind

Susan Moore

Paul Neugebauer

### 20+Years

Karla Brackett

Abigail Bixby

Daniel Cornell

Jarrold Newcomb

### 25+ Years

William Apgar

Janice Gorovitz

Laurel Rockhill

Bernadette Stranger

# Restitution and Fee Collection

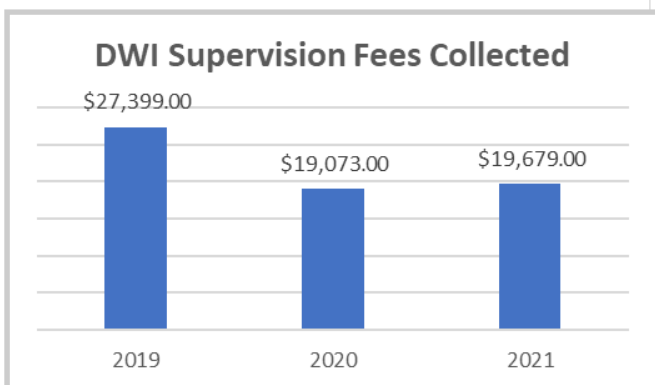
*Submitted by Tammy Murphy, Principal Account Clerk Typist*

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.

## 2020 ACTUAL DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISBURSED

	Criminal Court Restitution	Designated Surcharge	Family Court Restitution	Fines & Mandatory Surcharges	Interest	Totals
Beginning balance carried from 12/31/20	\$6775.70	\$500.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.34	\$7,286.96
Money Received 01/21 - 12/21	\$176,902.39	\$8,754.48	\$2,364.77	\$0.00	\$2.01	\$188,023.65
Money Disbursed 01/21 - 12/21	\$178,708.52	\$9,006.71	\$2,364.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190,080.00
End Balance 12/31/21	\$4,969.57	\$248.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.35	\$5,230.61

A total of 120 restitution obligations were opened in 2021. Obligations that were ordered in 2021 consist of 32 cases that amount to \$58,860.27, and account for 14% of the total dollar amount opened during the year. The remaining 88 cases were re-opened per revised department policy and account for a total amount of \$374,032.86 which represents 86% of the total dollar amount opened during the year.



### **Probation Facts:**

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

# Family Court Diversion Services

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## DIVERSION SERVICES

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

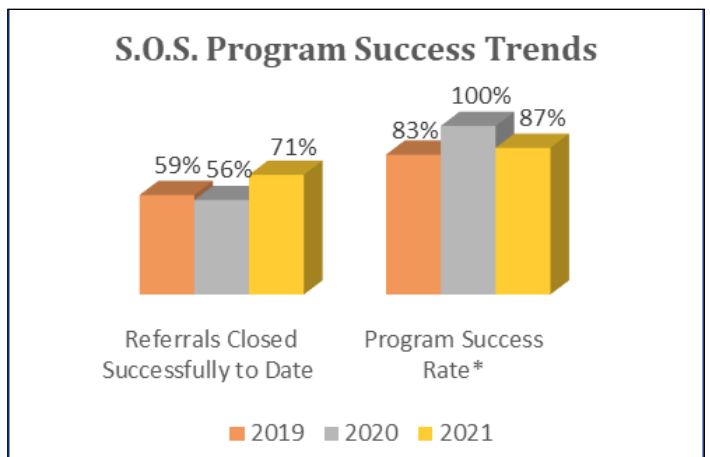
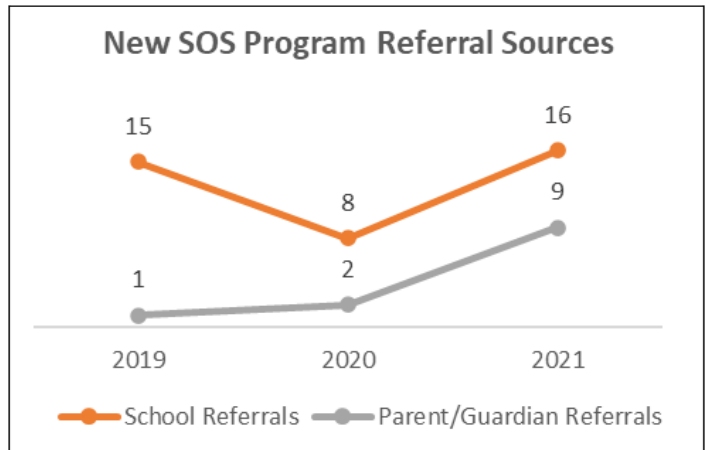
Family Court Probation Officers also provide daily intake coverage Monday through Friday. This means that they are the designated contact for the Probation Department if and when people from the community come looking for information or guidance for any family related matter. Calls are often from parents looking for advice or help with their child. The parent/guardian is walked through the services offered through the PINS Diversion Program and informed of the services available in the community.

### Strengthening Our Students



In an attempt to identify youth that exhibit PINS-like behaviors before those behaviors become ingrained and fixed, the department developed a program called **Strengthening Our Students. (S.O.S)**

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



**\*Program success** is defined as total cases which successfully utilized SOS in 2021 and after 6 months have avoided further contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

### Probation Facts:

*71% of the youth who utilized S.O.S services in 2021 successfully completed the program.*

# Family Court Diversion Services

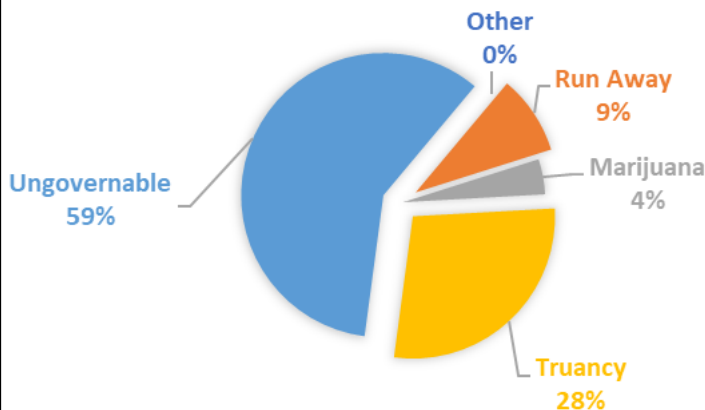
*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## PINS

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

In 2021, the Tompkins County Probation Department received **53** PINS referrals: **21** complaints were initiated by parents, **29** by school administrators, and **3** by police departments.

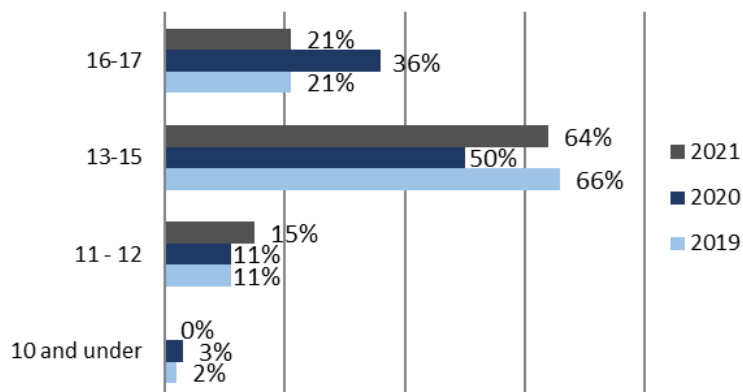
### 2021 PINS REFERRAL TYPES



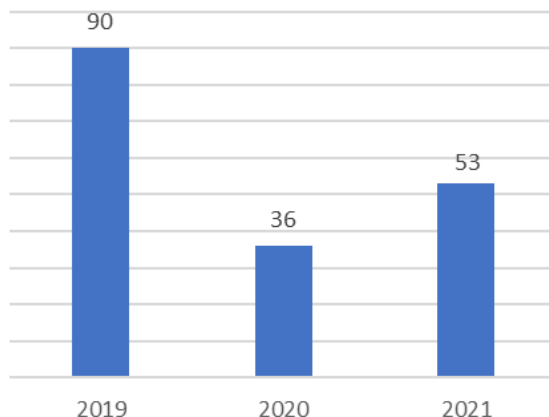
### In 2021, of the 41 cases closed:

- 78%** avoided being referred to the Family Court for further PINS proceedings
- 51%** of youth were engaged in services
- 46%** were closed as successfully adjusted

### PINS Referrals by Age Group



### PINS Referrals



### **Probation Facts:**

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

# Family Court Diversion Services

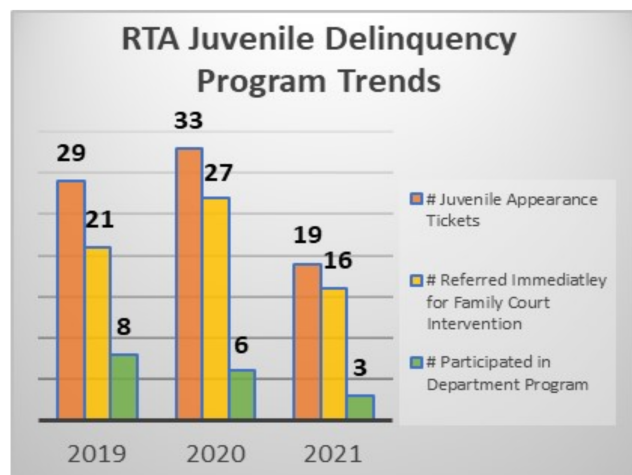
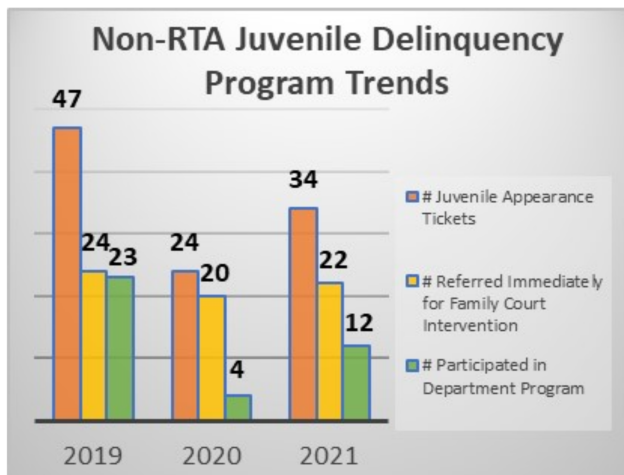
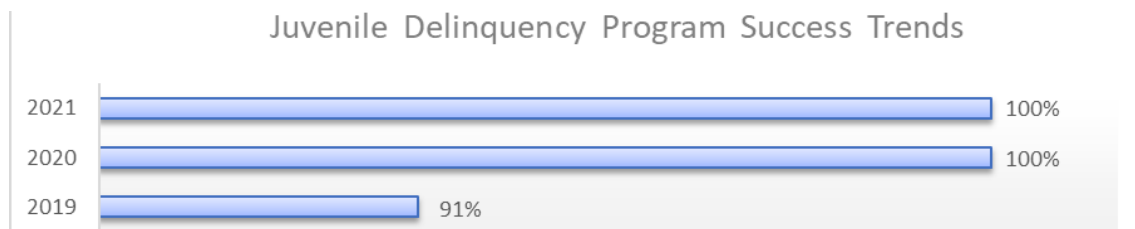
*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND RAISE THE AGE (RTA)

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

In **2021**, this department received **34** Juvenile Appearance Tickets. In addition, this department received an additional **19** tickets due to Tompkins County's implementation of Raise the Age.

- ~ Non-RTA Youth: of the **34** tickets received for youth 15 and under, **22** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **12** youth participated in this department's Diversion Program. Of the **12** youth who participated in the JD Diversion Program, **10** have successfully completed the program requirements and **2** cases remain open.
- ~ RTA Youth: of the **19** tickets received for 16 and 17 year old's, **16** were referred immediately for Family Court intervention, and **3** youth participated in this department's JD Diversion Program. Of the **3** youth who participated in the Diversion Program, **3** youth have successfully completed the program requirements.



**Probation Facts:**

*To date, of the 2021 closed Juvenile Delinquency cases, 100% have been successfully diverted from the Family Court System.*

# Family Court Investigations

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY COURT INVESTIGATIONS

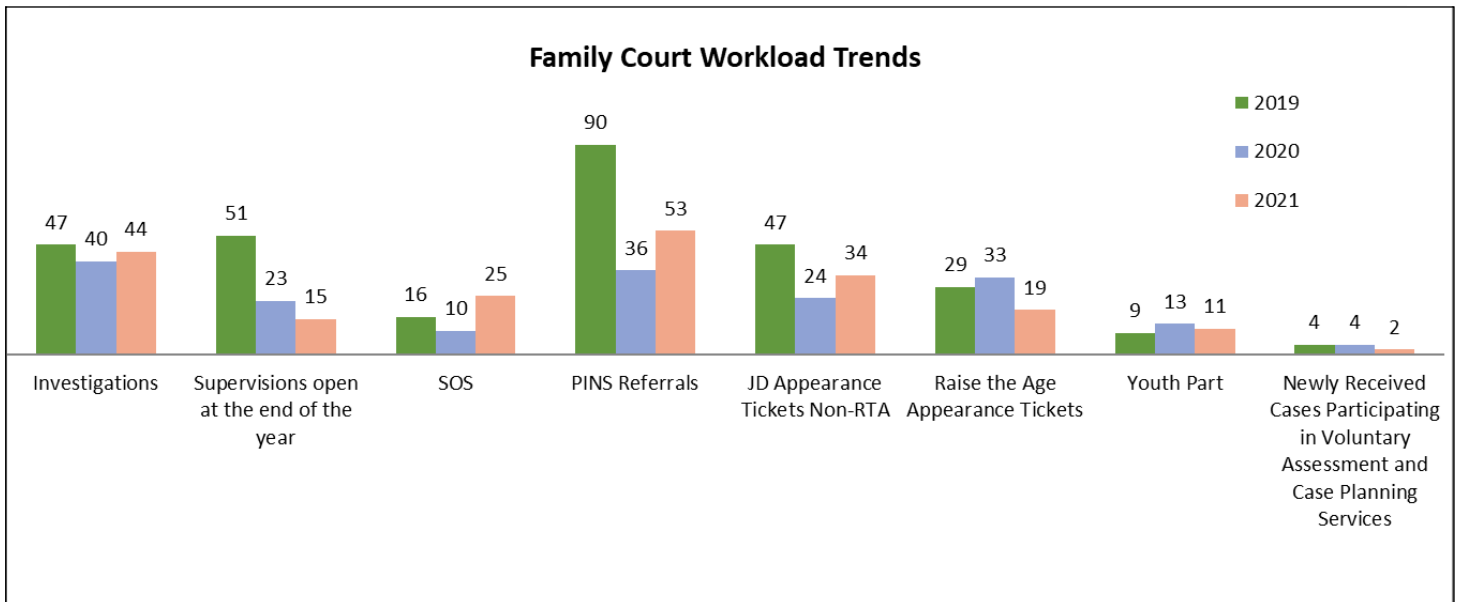
The Family Court Act requires that a predispositional investigation be conducted for all Designated Felony cases (defined as an act which if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, various sexual offenses, etc.). For other Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need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

These reports provide information regarding:

- ~ Respondent’s legal history
- ~ Respondent’s version of the petition before the court
- ~ Respondent’s ability to pay restitution
- ~ A review of the family home, the family composition, and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each party living in that home
- ~ Respondent’s needs and achievements in the educational and employment arenas
- ~ Identification of any drug and alcohol issues or mental health needs that may impact the respondent’s ability to act appropriately in the community

## FAMILY COURT WORKLOAD SUMMARY

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



# Family Court Supervisions

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*

## FAMILY COURT SUPERVISION

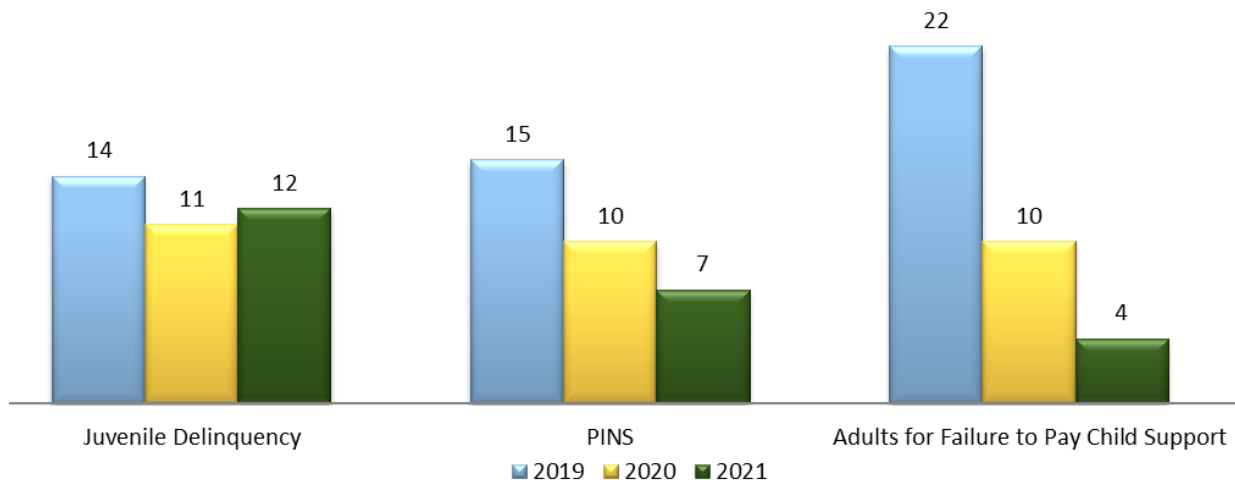
The Tompkins County Probation Department provides supervision as a result of Family Court action for both adults and juveniles.

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

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

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

**Family Court Supervision Types for New Cases Received**



**Probation Facts:**

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

# Youth Part

*Submitted by Jan Gorovitz, Probation Supervisor*



**Youth Part of Superior Court (Criminal Court)**  
**&**  
**Voluntary Assessment and Case Planning Services**

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

<b>Youth Part 2019</b>		<b>Youth Part 2020</b>		<b>Youth Part 2021</b>	
Number of Cases:	9	Number of Cases:	13	Number of Cases:	11
Agreed to VACPS:	4	Agreed to VACPS:	4	Agreed to VACPS:	2
Refused VACPS:	2	Refused VACPS:	0	Refused VACPS:	2
Removed Immediately to Family Court:	2	Removed Immediately to Family Court:	8	Removed Immediately to Family Court:	6
Not Available:	1	Not Available:	1	Not Available:	1
Sentenced in Youth Part:	1	Sentenced in Youth Part:	1	Sentenced in Youth Part:	1
Sentenced in Family Court:	7	Sentenced in Family Court:	11	Sentenced in Family Court:	9
Participated in JD Diversion:	1	Participated in JD Diversion:	1	Participated in JD Diversion:	1



# Pretrial Release Program

*Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Supervisor*

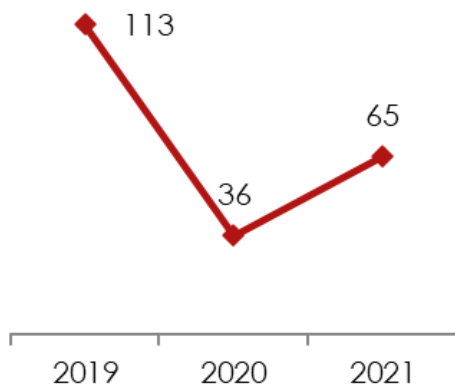
This Department continues to operate the Pretrial Release Program in an attempt to facilitate release for incarcerated individuals who meet appropriate criteria. All defendants in custody at the Tompkins County Public Safety Building, who have bail set by a court are given the opportunity to be interviewed for this program. A Probation Assistant conducts an initial screening and personal interview with the defendant. A limited investigation is then conducted into the defendant's legal, social, and employment history with emphasis placed on past cooperation with court orders, prior warrants for failing to appear in court, and personal references to determine the defendant's potential to appear for future court dates. An evaluation is then made into the defendant's risk of failure to appear for subsequent court proceedings. In domestic violence cases, the Department further assesses the defendant's access to and possession of weapons and prior failures to adhere to court Orders of Protection. A written report is then forwarded to the court with a recommendation that may include pretrial release.

## 2021 PRETRIAL FACTS

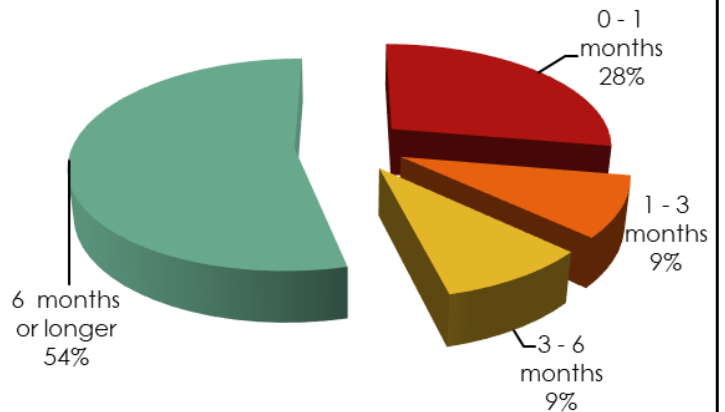
A total of **65** pretrial release reports were completed for the courts:

- \* **92%** were male detainees and **8%** female detainees
- \* **51%** were white and **49%** were minority
- \* **68%** were detained for a felony charge and **32%** for a misdemeanor charge
- \* **46%** of those interviewed had resided less than 6 months in Tompkins County prior to their detainment
- \* **75%** of those interviewed were unemployed

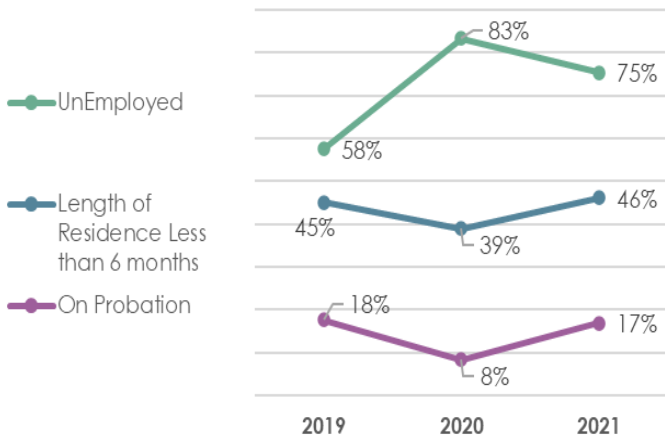
# Pre-Trial Interviews



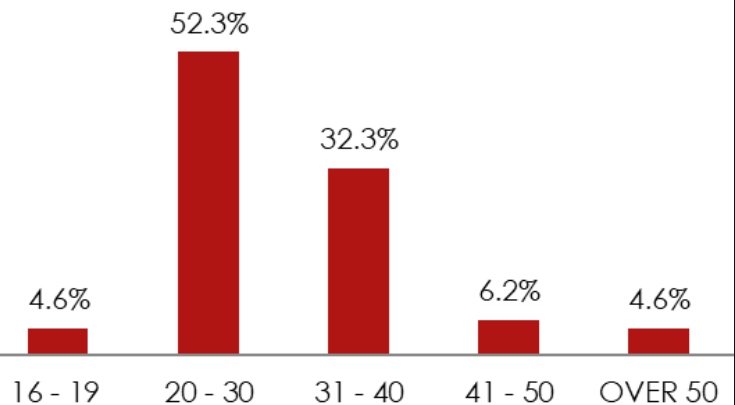
Length of Residency in County



Pre-Trial interview Demographics



Age at Interview



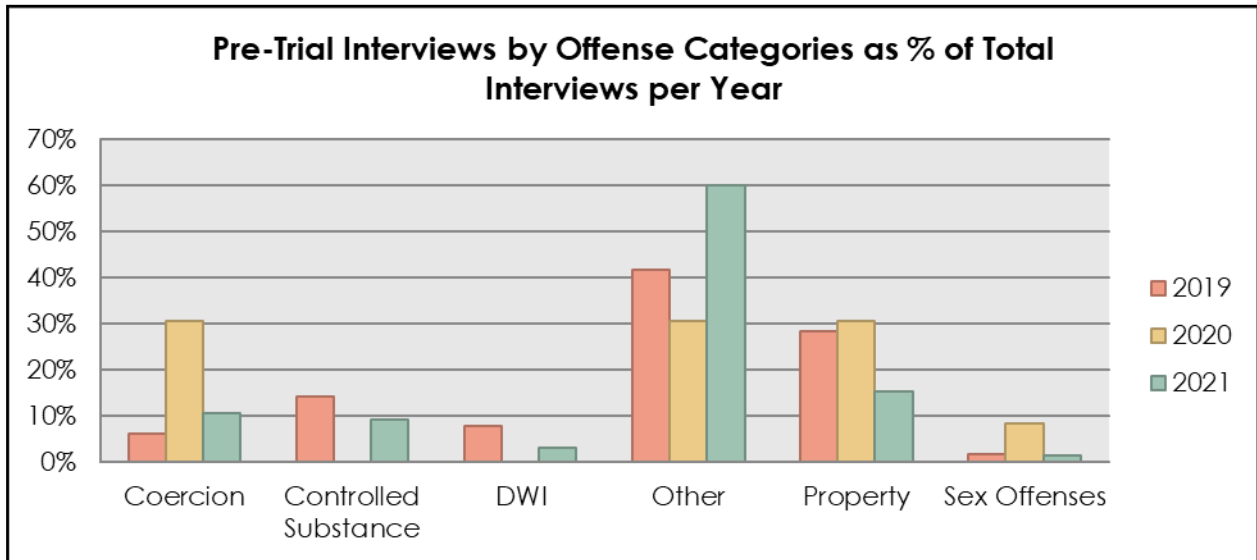
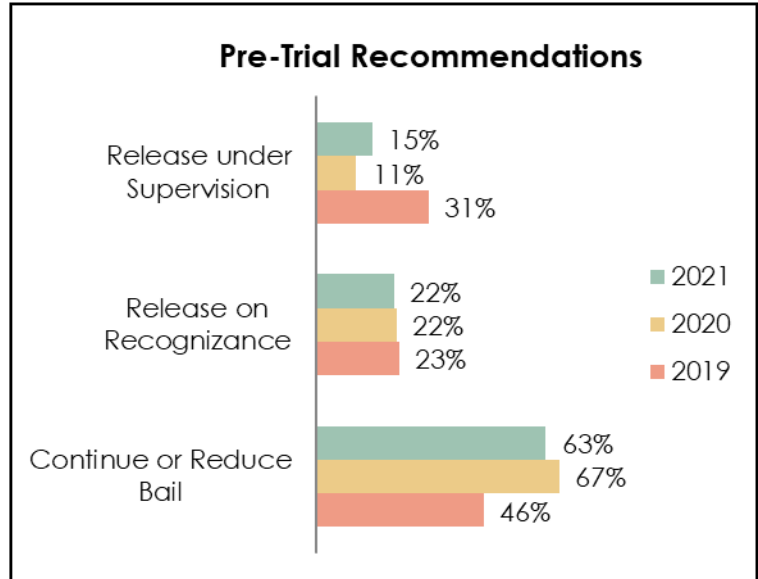
# Pretrial Release Program

*Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Supervisor*

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

**Possible Recommendations**

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



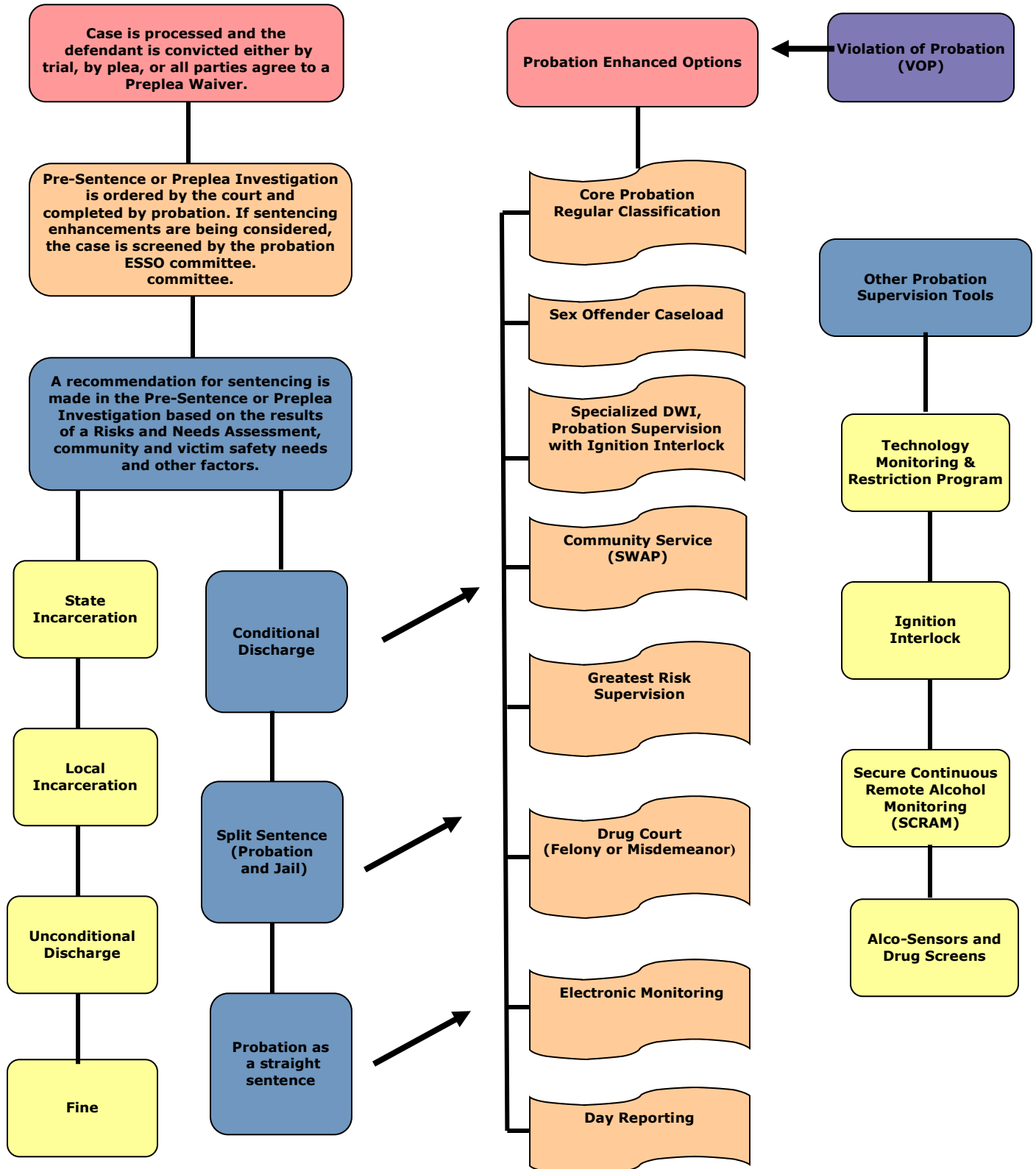
**Probation Facts:**

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

# Criminal Court Flow Chart

## Criminal Court Case Flow

## Enhanced Supervision and Sentencing Options (ESSO)



# Graduated Responses

*Submitted by Karen Burns, Supervisor*

## GRADUATED RESPONSES

The term “graduated responses” refers to a system of incentives and sanctions that provide for the easing of restrictions for continued compliance and progressively more severe or restrictive sanctions for continued non-compliance. Easing of restrictions can include decreased reporting requirements, remote check in via Caseload Explorer, granting of travel permits, and requests for early discharges. Responses for non-compliance can include increasing the reporting requirement (including Caseload Explorer Check-Ins), reprimands by departmental officials and/or by the sentencing court, having to perform community service, and greater restrictions on movement. The use of these responses must be applied fairly, consistently, and predictably, soon after the commission of the noncompliant 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.

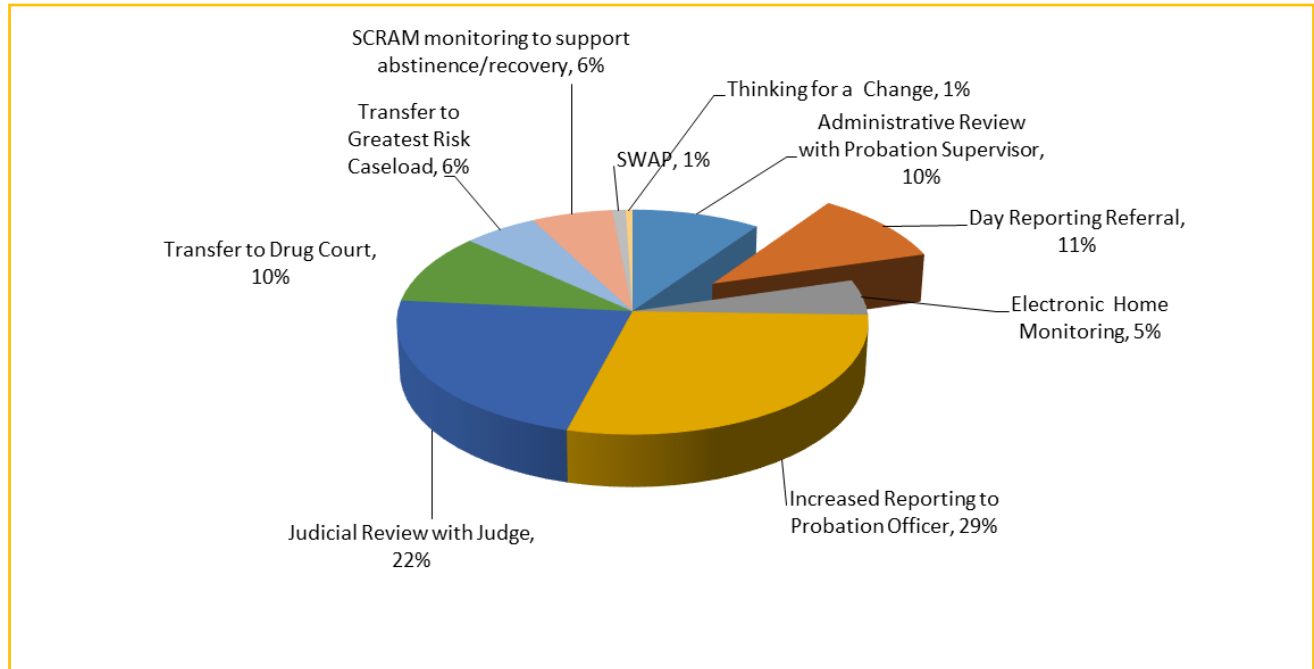
As the global pandemic continued to affect daily operations in 2021, the department was again faced with the closure of Day Reporting in addition to altering to remote and in-office work schedules to accommodate for social distancing needs. As noted, the importance of delivering the incentive or sanction in a timely fashion is critical to its success for the probationer. To assist in effectively communicating with our clients on a digital platform, the department enlisted Caseload Explorer (CE) Check-In capabilities through our current database system. CE Check-In allows probationers to communicate any changes in status electronically from their remote location. Additionally, this system allows text message capabilities that were not previously available. In a graduated response capacity, clients in compliance with their orders and conditions of probation were allowed to forego office visits and instead communicate digitally with the supervising officer. Conversely, those individuals struggling with compliance would be asked to check in more frequently using this system as a means to track their location, as the system provides a photo and GPS indicators.

*In 2021, CE Check-in was enabled for 61 clients and there were 2,967 successful check-ins.*



# Graduated Responses

*Submitted by Karen Burns, Supervisor*



**Graduated Responses Usage in Cases Closed in 2021**

**CURRENT ESSO PROGRAMS**

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

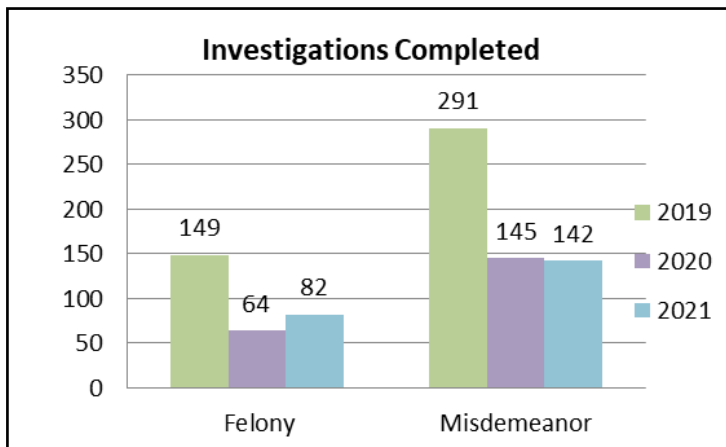
# Criminal Court Investigations

*Submitted by Karla Brackett, Deputy Director*

## INVESTIGATIONS

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

- ~ providing accurate criminal and social history in an objective and analytical format
- ~ identifying the defendant’s risk and protective factors
- ~ expressing the victim’s perspective of the crime to the court and advocating for restitution/compensation



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

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

**An Investigation Includes:**

- \* *Criminal and social background information about the person appearing before the court*
- \* *The defendant’s version of the present offense*
- \* *Information from the arresting officers and from the victim of the crime*
- \* *Information about the defendant’s ability to make restitution and fine payments*
- \* *An actuarial risk and needs assessment that identifies the criminogenic factors that increase the offender’s risk of recidivism, as well as identifying protective and stabilizing factors*
- \* *A recommendation for sentencing options that will enhance community safety , seek to make the victim whole and attempt to reduce the person’s risk of engaging in further criminal behavior*

### Probation Facts:

*Property Crimes made up 32% of the investigations this department completed in 2021. Substance Abuse, not including alcohol related vehicle offenses, accounted for 13%.*

# Criminal Court Supervision

*Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor*

## SUPERVISION OF PROBATIONERS

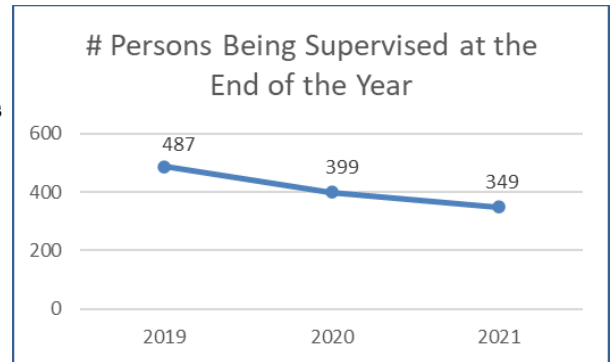
The two main goals of probation supervision are:

~ **Protection of the Community**

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

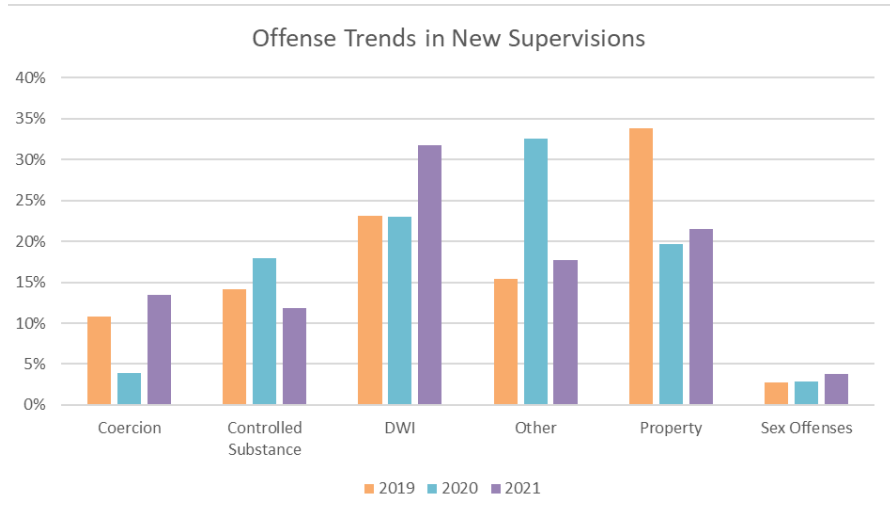
~ **Rehabilitation of the Offender**

Rehabilitation of the offender is achieved by identifying the individual’s criminogenic risks and needs and developing a case plan with input from the individual to prioritize goals and tasks necessary for the probationer to eliminate undesirable behaviors and enhance their engagement in 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 Issuers*
- ~ *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

*In 2021, DWI offenses increased while controlled substance offenses decreased.*

# Specialized Supervision

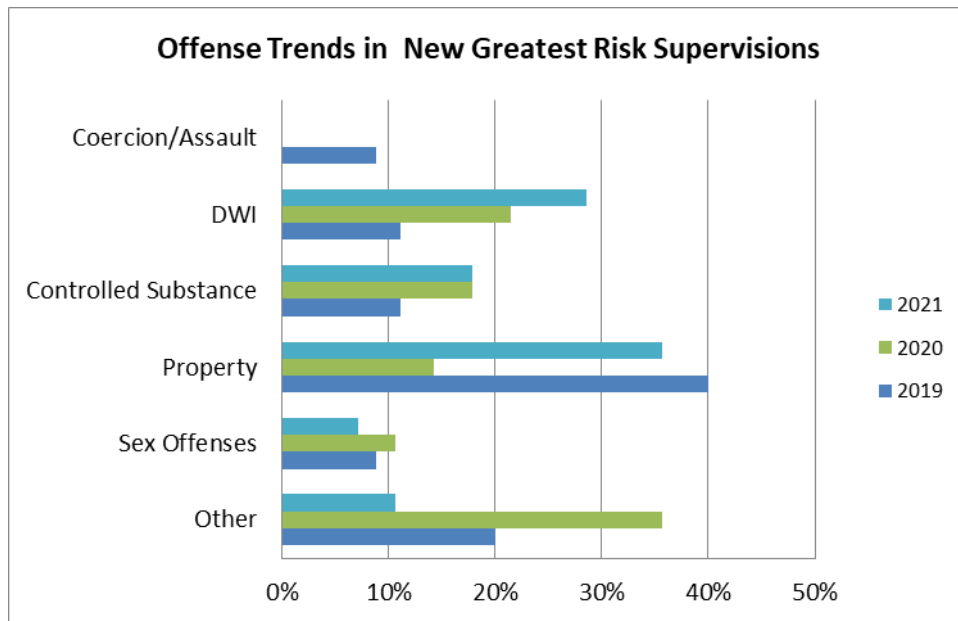
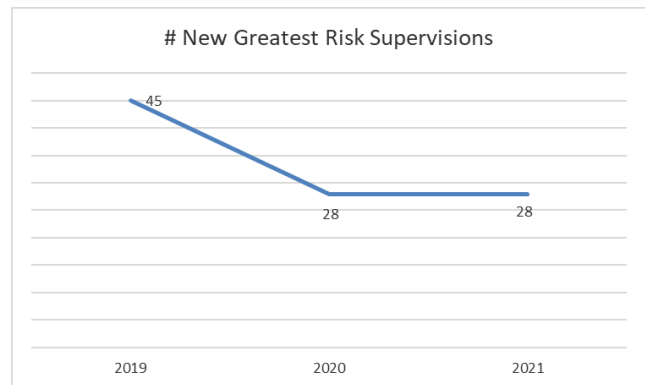
*Submitted by Karla Brackett, Deputy Director*

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

## GREATEST RISK SUPERVISION

### Greatest Risk Caseload’s Characteristics

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





# Sex Offender Supervision

*Submitted by Laura Little & Derek Grinnell, Probation Officers*

## SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION

In 2021 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 or a non-registerable offense with similar behaviors. It is an effective mechanism for swiftly addressing issues of compliance in this high-risk category of offenders.
- ~ Continued use of specialized supervision tools such as Technology Monitoring.
- ~ Continued collaboration with the Tompkins County Mental Health Clinic to ensure the probationer is attending and participating in sex offender treatment.

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

- ~ The best practice recommended by 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 offenders on the New York State Sex Offender Registry.
- ~ The Probation Officer ensures that offenders are submitting updated information regarding their address, employer, higher education enrollment, vehicle information, and internet data to the New York State Sex Offender Registry.
- ~ A Probation Officer is a member of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) team, which is comprised of many members from local organizations who work with youth including 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 Probation Officer Kelly Cooper and Probation Supervisor Karla Brackett*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPERVISION

Domestic violence has always been an area of concern because the likelihood of lethality can be significantly increased in certain situations. Furthermore, it is a complex issue to deal with because it can take many forms and it is often difficult to ascertain if it remains ongoing. Never more was domestic violence a concern than in 2021, with many people isolated in their homes, it was feared that current victims would be at greater risk and there was the potential for individuals to commit acts of domestic violence even if they never had before. To an extent this remained true into 2021 as the effects of the pandemic are still being felt. Furthermore, a majority of the offenses that occurred in 2020 did not come through the Court system and probation until 2021.

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

### Domestic Violence Supervision

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

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

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

### **Probation Facts:**

*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*

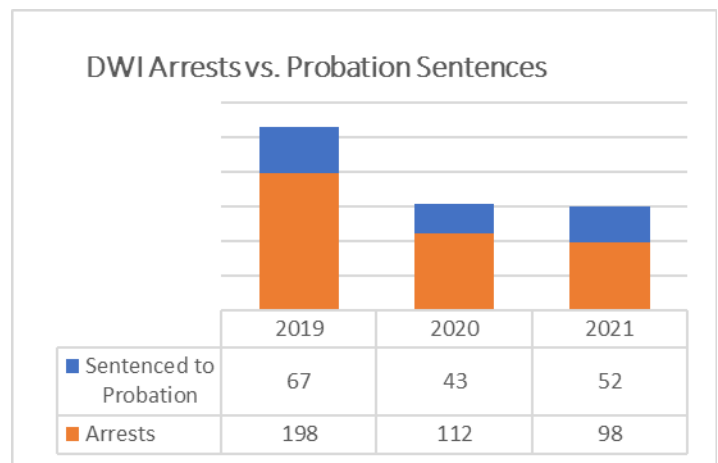
Impaired driving by alcohol and/or drugs continues to represent a significant threat to public safety. The goal of specialized DWI supervision is to enhance community protection by reducing incidents of impaired driving offenses and to ensure that the offender obtains the necessary treatment to address 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 twenty-five years.
- ~ Approximately 1/3 of the total cases supervised by this Department are offenders convicted of DWI offenses.
- ~ Currently, there are two DWI Probation Officers 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 36 probationers
- ~ Monitor ignition interlock device compliance
- ~ Monitor compliance with necessary treatment programs
- ~ Monitor an offender's sobriety with the use of:
  - 1) Alco-Sensor tests to detect recent alcohol use.
  - 2) Monitored urine screens to detect recent alcohol and illicit substance use.
  - 3) Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) ankle bracelet to monitor the probationer's ability to remain alcohol free. This monitoring is 24 hours a day, usually for a period of 90 days.
  - 4) An ignition interlock device (IID) installed in any vehicle owned (registered and/or titled) or operated by the defendant.



In December of 2019, this Department became the monitoring authority to monitor offender's use of an ignition interlock device when sentenced to a conditional discharge. In 2021, this Department received 34 new conditional discharge cases to monitor.

## **DWI Victim Impact Panel**

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

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

# Evidence Based Programs

*Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer*

## INTERACTIVE JOURNALS

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

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

### Forward Thinking

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

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

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

### Courage To Change

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Getting Started</i></li> <li>• <i>Social Values</i></li> <li>• <i>Responsible Thinking</i></li> <li>• <i>Substance Use</i></li> <li>• <i>Peer Relationship</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Recreation &amp; Leisure</i></li> <li>• <i>Family Ties</i></li> <li>• <i>Seeking Employment</i></li> <li>• <i>Self Control</i></li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## YASI COACHING

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

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

# Performance Measures

*Submitted by Daniel Cornell, Director*

## 2021 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 2021. Data collection and analysis of departmental performance will be an ongoing process for 2022.

Benchmark	166 Adult Cases Closed 2021	23 Juvenile Cases Closed 2021
<b>Law Abiding Behavior</b>	78% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation	91% of case closings remained arrest free during the term of probation
<b>Resistance to Drug and Alcohol Use</b>	88% of the drug screens recorded by this department were negative for substances	Of the 7 youth ordered to participate in treatment, 71% completed treatment or were in good standing with treatment at time of case closing
<b>School Participation Vocational Training</b>	41% 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, 78% of the youth were enrolled in school/vocational programs and 72% were participating satisfactorily
<b>Restorative Community Service</b>	61% of the 2,412 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing	88% of the 172 hours of community service ordered was satisfied at case closing
<b>Mental Health</b>	78% of those court ordered to participate in mental health treatment did so and 64% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing	Of the 16 youth ordered to participate in mental health treatment, 88% participated and 81% either completed or were in good standing at time of case closing
<b>Supervision Risk Levels</b>	78% of the cases closed in 2021 were medium to highest risk at case opening. At case closing, only 45% were classified as medium to highest risk.	84% of the Youth had a reduction of risk factors during the period of supervision.
<b>Case Closing Status</b>	74% of cases were closed successfully	78% of cases were closed successfully

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Paul Neugebauer, Probation Supervisor*

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM)

The Electronic Monitoring Program provides 24-hour GPS home monitoring of an offender through the combined technology of an electronic transmitter bracelet, global positioning satellite, and cell tower technology. This is a cost-effective Enhanced Supervision and Sentencing Option, (ESSO) for high risk adult offenders, and it is used with juveniles as an alternative to detention.

**In 2021, 18** individuals participated in electronic monitoring for a total of **1,154** days. Of these, 5 cases were Family Court Juvenile cases and **13** 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 being set. Of the **10** defendants who participated in pretrial electronic monitoring in 2021, **5** completed this requirement successfully.

### Estimated Cost Comparison

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

1141 days @ \$252.00/day totals \$287,532.00

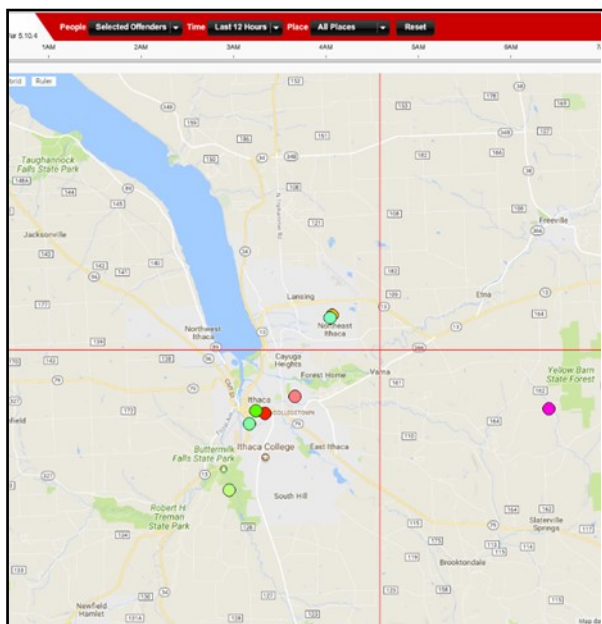
*Average costs of non-secure Juvenile Detention:*

499 days @ \$889.00/day totals \$443,611.00

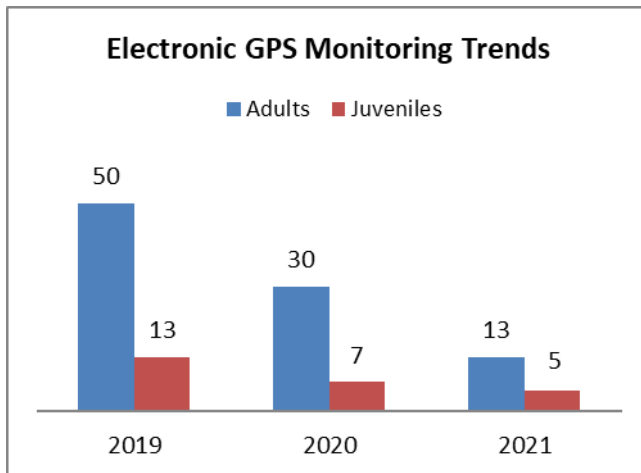
*Total EM Costs:*

1640 days @ \$6.00/day totals \$9,840.00

***Potential Taxpayer Savings for 2021:***  
**\$721,303.00**



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



### Probation Facts:

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

# Technology Tools

*Submitted by Susan Moore, Probation Systems Analyst*

## TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTION AND MONITORING

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

In **2021**, mobile phones continued to make up the majority of devices being managed and monitored. This program is an important tool for restricting and remote monitoring of an offender's on line usage as a way to prevent and deter high risk behaviors that could ultimately lead to recidivism.



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

## POLYGRAPH TESTING

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

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

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

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

### **Probation Facts:**

*There are 42,611 registered sex offenders in New York State as of March 2022 and 171 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.

**83.7%** of criminal court probationers who completed probation in 2020 were ordered to complete substance abuse treatment by the Courts because drug and/or alcohol abuse was identified as a criminogenic risk factor.

**74.1%** successfully completed their recommended treatment.

### Alcosensors

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



### Drug Testing

This Department conducts supervised urine screens of probationers utilizing a 9 panel test that includes alcohol or 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 hours a day, 7 days a week, usually for the duration of 90 days by measuring their transdermal alcohol concentration, a predictable result of alcohol consumption. The Department uses this device for our adult offenses, usually probationers convicted of a DWI offense or probationers involved in Treatment Court.



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, graduated responses, and education/employment training in an effort to encourage positive behaviors and reduce recidivism.

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

New developments in 2021 include the continuation of Milestones to the graduation criteria. These 5 stages replace the original 3 phases that were previously required for successful program completion. Each stage has a designated time frame requirement along with advancement criteria in the areas of probation requirements, court expectations, substance abuse treatment, sober support participation, mental health, financial planning and education/career goals. This tracking system gives the participants tangible goal packets that they review periodically with their probation officer to chart their progress and identify portions of their treatment plan that still require completion. Clients have voiced appreciation that this milestone system allows them to take immediate ownership of their progress, while receiving continual feedback from the drug court team.

In 2021, the Probation Department continued to operate under pandemic safety protocols, however Senior Probation Officers continued their diligence in meeting with their clients face-to-face in full realization that these high-needs individuals required accountability during stressful times. Random drug testing continued to support client's sobriety and accountability. Staff were diligent about maintaining safety while still providing case management services to the participants. Drug Court continued virtual appearances instead of the monthly in-person sessions. The flexibility to the entire Drug Court staff undoubtedly assisted struggling clients to maintain some sense of normalcy as the pandemic continued to alter day to day operations.

### *How has Drug Court impacted your situation?*

- ✓ I've never had anyone I trusted to confide in or take advice from until now. I've gained motivation and determination. I've made goals and have stuck to and reached them! I've gained positive self-esteem. - JD
- ✓ Drug Court changed the way I think and look at things. Now the things in my life have more meaning than they did before and for me to go back would be counterproductive. I want the life I have left to be meaningful and just know I don't have to live like that anymore. -DS
- ✓ Substance abuse controlled my prior life. I was just surviving. I had no control whatsoever. I now have that control over my life. I changed how I think, dress and feel. I had to change everything about me including people, places and things. Recovery helped me stay connected to people who matter in my life. Recovery has also helped me gain temporary custody of my son. -WW

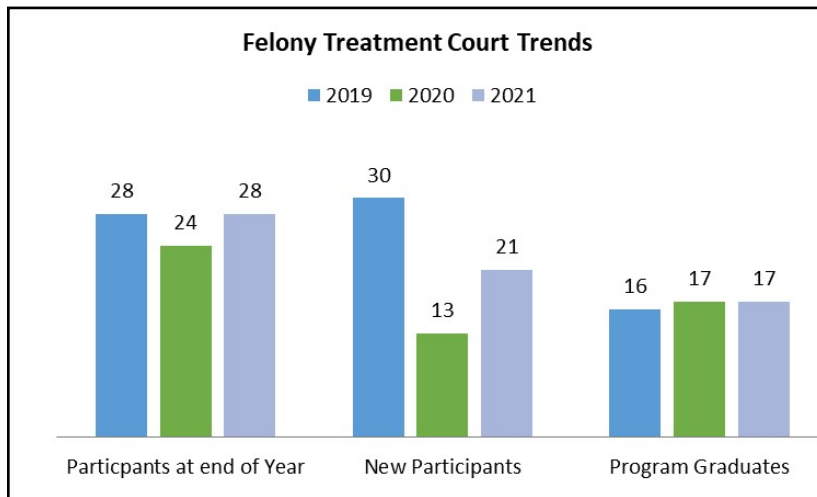
# Treatment Court Programs

*Submitted by Karen Burns, Probation Supervisor*

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

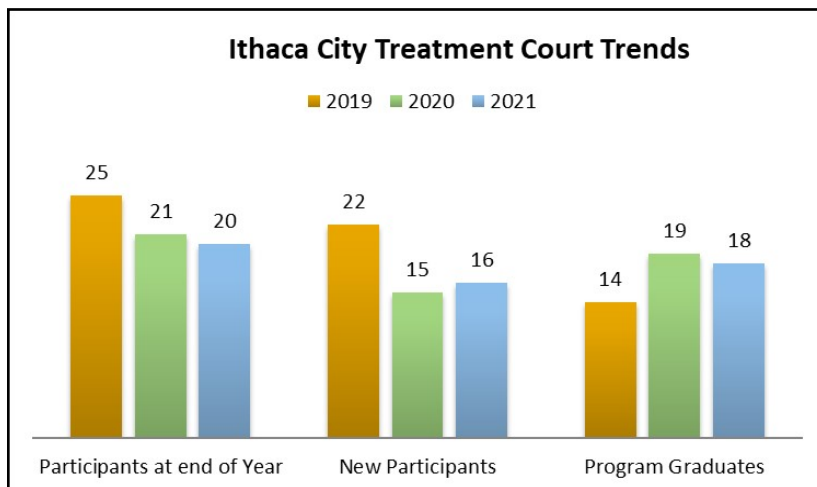
### Tompkins County Felony Drug Court - 2021

- ~ 21 new admissions
- ~ 17 participants graduated
- ~ 28 current participants at the end of 2021
- ~ Since inception of the program in April 2000, 318 participants have graduated



### Ithaca Community Treatment Court - 2021

- ~ 16 new admissions
- ~ 18 participants graduated
- ~ 20 current participants at the end of 2021
- ~ Since inception of the program in January 1998, 337 participants have graduated



# Community Service Programs

*Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer*

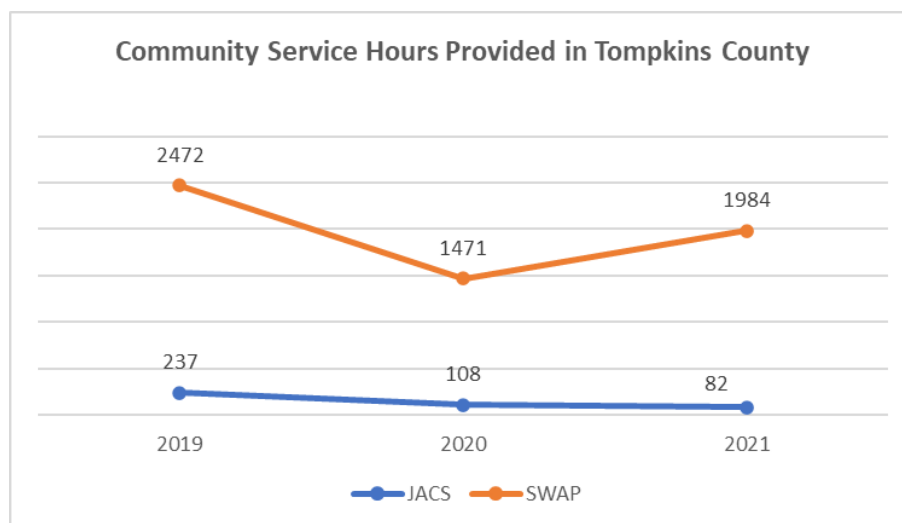
The Department of Probation and Community Justice operates several supervised community service programs for various populations. Participants benefit from community service as they are able to make non-monetary reparation to society while gaining work experience, occupational skills, and training. The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

## Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP)

- ~ A sentencing alternative to jail that serves courts and the community by placing nonviolent offenders into unpaid, supervised community service work sites for non-profit or tax supported community agencies.
- ~ On probation supervision cases closed in 2021, 1,462 hours of service were performed in our community.
- ~ 61% of the community service hours ordered as a condition of probation were satisfied at case closing.
- ~ 18 worksites in Tompkins County benefited from work provided through this program.
- ~ 28 individuals successfully completed their court ordered obligation in 2021.

## 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 2021, 82 hours of service was performed in our community.
- ~ 3 juveniles successfully completed their obligation in 2021.



### Probation Facts:

*In 2021, the Service Work Alternative Program (SWAP), helped raise \$35,000 for Cops Kids & Toys by working at the Dump and Run worksite.*

# Community Service Programs

*Submitted by Gladys Larson, Senior Probation Officer*

## Community Benefits

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

## Cops Kids and Toys

In 2021, 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 \$65,000 this year of which \$35,000 went to Cops Kids and Toys. As a result, 465 families consisting of 1,000 children received toys.

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

*-Bill Apgar, SWAP Supervisor and CKT President.*



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



*Probation staff with gifts that were delivered to 1,000 Tompkins County children for the Holidays.*

# 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 age 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, time management, ethics, Interactive Journaling and employment. We also have a small supply of clothing available for participants in need, with a focus on clothing appropriate for jobs and interviews.

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 sanction, 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.

**What we do:**

- ~ Provide daily employment, education, and sober support classes to clients including Interactive Journals, Substance Abuse, Healthy Family Relationships, Mental Health, Financial Management, and Health Issues.
- ~ Provide individualized educational plans, including TASC testing preparation and continuing educational guidance.
- ~ Provide employment services including work readiness, resume writing, career counseling, job search assistance, clothing assistance, and interview skills review.
- ~ Facilitate referrals to outside agencies including: Department of Social Services, St John’s Community Services, Family & Children’s Services, OAR, Tompkins County Mental Health, Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services, Alcohol and Drug Council of Tompkins County, Planned Parenthood, AA, Southern Tier AIDS Program, The Women’s Opportunity Center, Tompkins Learning Partnership, The Learning Web, The Advocacy Center, and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

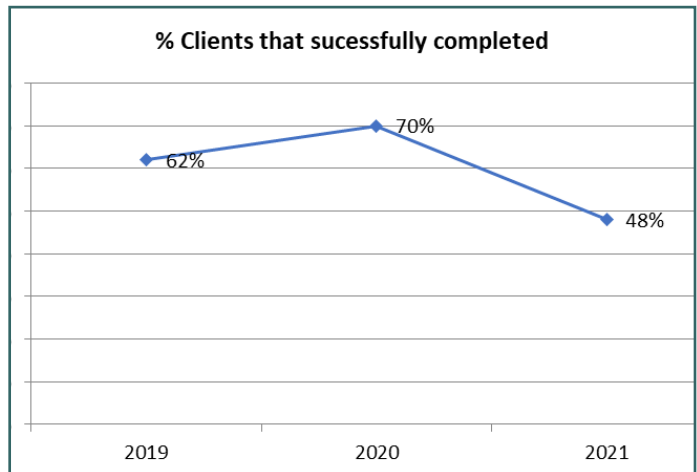
**Who we serve:**

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

**Participant Quotes:**

One participant re-referred to the program when she was struggling with sobriety stated, “I am just happy to be back and actually able to complete these programs. I am feeling accomplished.”

A participant referred for job search assistance stated, “I have several job interviews lined up after using the computers [at Day Reporting]... it helped me make a better resume for employers... I wouldn’t change anything.”



# Day Reporting

*Submitted by Abigail Bixby, Senior Probation Officer*

## COVID CONSIDERATIONS

The Day Reporting Program has closed twice during the COVID-19 pandemic in response to guidelines from New York State, the County Health Department and the Probation Director. We are pleased to say that we have been consistently open since July 26, 2021 having successfully implemented plans for reduced capacity necessary to maintain social distancing and screening of participants for COVID symptoms. Although it has been a difficult time with ever-changing rules and requirements, it was important to this department to keep services in place for those in need and for the Courts. We now are able to provide participants with KN-95 masks and COVID-19 home testing kits to help ensure the continuation of the program as well as maintain public health. We also offer participants access to a computer in a private office to attend virtual court appearances and telehealth appointments.

## EDUCATION SERVICES

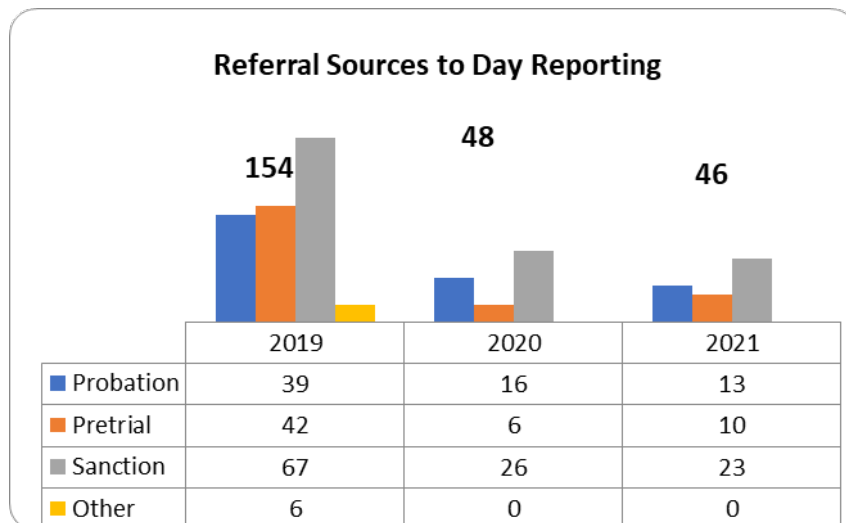
Day Reporting continues to provide a welcoming setting for individuals in the criminal justice system to seek educational opportunities. Many of the individuals we serve have either had past difficulties with the general education setting or have not entered a classroom in many years. These factors can 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 passing this test.

## Teat Assessment Secondary Completion (TASC)

In 2020-2021 the TASC classes were suspended at the same times Day Reporting was closed, but continued to be offered at the TC3 Annex on the Ithaca Commons. That program resumed at Day Reporting in July 2021 when we reopened. Numbers were lower in TASC this year in part due to these closures, with three individuals receiving instruction to prepare for their high school equivalency diploma. Another obstacle we faced in 2021 was the lack of local TASC testing, with the nearest available test locations being Syracuse and Binghamton.

## College Initiative Upstate (CIU)

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







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