

Wells County Probation

2023 Annual Report
to the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts

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Introduction

The following annual report of 2023 is being submitted to Judges of the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts February 2024.

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Staff and Office Hours

- We continue to offer business hours for 44.5 hours per week utilizing flexible scheduling among probation officers.
 - 8 – 4:30 Mon, Wed, Thu and Fri
 - 8 – 6:30 Tue (* weeks with a holiday closure or mandatory training we close at 4:30)
- Field contacts pursuant to case plans
- Weekend drug testing approximately once per month
- Placement and school visits as required
- On-call services during non-business hours to law enforcement

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Staff

Staff at the end of 2023:

Victoria Baumgartner – secretary
 Vicki Cale – probation officer
 Stephanie Eddy – probation officer
 Jessica Nix – probation officer consultant
 Greg Steele– field officer
 Stephen Pastore – probation officer
 Allison Perry – probation officer
 Valerie Runyon – probation officer
 Jan Stronczek – secretary
 Gregory Werich – chief probation officer

- In 2023 we worked with no high school or college student interns.
- Retired during 2023 was Scott Ailor – probation officer. His position was not filled.
- Vicki Cale received POPAI's Line Officer of the Year award in September 2023.

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WORKLOAD Adult 2023

<u>ADULT REPORT SUMMARY</u> (end of 4th Quarter)						
	2023	(2022)	2023	(2022)	2023	(2022)
(comparison data in small font)	Felons		Misdemeanants		Total	
Supervisions pending (end of 4th quarter)	229	240	168	209	397	444
Presentence Investigation Reports (annual)	102					105
New Substance abuse cases (annual)	86	91	111	139	197	230
New Sex offender Cases (annual)	3	3	0	0	3	3
		2023		2022		
Supervision Risk Levels (end of 4th quarter)	High	18	29%	18	24%	
	Medium	97		89		
	Low	150	38%	193	43%	
	Admin	109	27%	119	26%	
	Unknown	23		25		

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WORKLOAD Juvenile 2023

<u>JUVENILE REPORT SUMMARY (4th Quarter)</u>	2023				2022
	Non-Status	Status	Other	Total	
Referrals Disposed (annual)	130	24	0	154	170
Supervisions (end of period)	34	4	1	39	35
New Substance abuse cases				7	7
New Sex offender Cases				2	2
		2023		2022	
Supervision Risk Levels (end of 4th quarter)	High	1	40%	1	46%
	Medium	13		15	
	Low	19	43%	17	43%
	Admin	2	6%	2	
	Total	39		35	
	No Entry	4		0	

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WORKLOAD Juvenile Placements 2023

JUVENILE PLACEMENTS (Annual)				
	2023		2022	
	Days	Children	Days	Children
Probation Supervision	-	107	-	77
Foster Placements (DCS Paid)	2331	17	768	9
Detentions	300	8	396	16
DOC	878	5	970	4
Home Detention	810	17	778	19
Total Removal Days	4319	-	2912	
Total Children	-	26		31

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WORKLOAD Drug Tests

Drug Tests Data					
	Total Tests	Total People	Positive Tests	Percentage	
2023					
Total Tests Recorded	1484	310	882	59%	
2022 Total	1596	238	827	52%	
<u>Drugs Found in Tests</u>		2023	% of ±	2022	%
Marijuana	*	359	30	348	42
Opiate		5	0	20	2
Ethyl Glucuronide		50	7	82	10
Fentanyl	*	79	7	74	9
Amphetamine		273	23	127	15
Methadone		90	7	42	5
Methamphetamine	*	145	12%	101	12
Benzodiazepine		6	0	10	1
Morphine/Opiate					
Oxycodone		5	0	14	2
Cocaine	*	7	1	14	2
Buprenorphine		308	26	223	27

Positive drug test findings are misleading in that there is no easy designation as to which prescription drugs are being misused for this report. Therefore, only those tests with an asterisk (*) are counted as the common drugs of abuse in this report.

Of 1484 tests, 590 * drugs were found for a 40% positive rate.

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WORKLOAD Drug Testing

Wells County Probation

Drug Test Table

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	DAILY CALL IN	1 test per 30 days minimum	1 test per 60 days minimum	Incidents of Attention †
ISP Phase I	All			
ISP Phase II	All			
Re-Entry ~	Until completion of assessment and/or treatment stabilization			
Disruption Noted Cases *	High IRAS Screening finding and Completion of assessment process	H/M Overall Risk and High S/A Need	H/M Overall Risk and Moderate S/A Need	All risk levels
All other cases				All risk levels

All persons under probation supervision are subject to testing upon suspicion of use. Probationer may be placed on more intensive testing schedule as part of case plan intervention, sanction, or for evaluation before supervision adjustment.

~ Re-Entry - Release from incarceration after 182 actual days.

* Disruption Noted Case- any of the substance abuse offenses denoted by the Indiana Office of Court Services (IC 7.1; IC 9-30-5; IC 16-42; or IC 35-48) or where there is indication that substance abuse is an element of the offense (i.e., under the influence at time of offense).

† Incident of Attention—e.g., police contact, anonymous call, uncharacteristic or non compliant behavior, other agency drug test findings

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Drug Test Workload

We estimated in 2022 that the average time needed for a test was 8 minutes. In the Fall of 2023 we logged several hundred drug tests and minutes for each one and confirmed the 2022 8-minute estimate.

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BEHAVIOR RESPONSES

Probation as a community supervision is transforming into a system of responding to behaviors which most affect recidivism.

- Individuals who are willing to change targeted behavior, or at least contemplate changing targeted behavior, will be reinforced for:
 - positive / prosocial behaviors with incentives
 - negative / undesired behaviors with sanctions
- Individuals who violate their terms of probation and reflect no desire to change their behavior will be returned to court with a violation petition.
- Positive and prosocial behavior are celebrated and rewarded as a success under community supervision strategies.
- Negative and undesired behaviors, conversely, are challenged and sanctioned to decelerate activities which may likely lead to recidivism.
- Recidivism or absconding from supervision results in petitions to revoke probation.
- Based on cognitive-behavioral models, the probation department uses tools of the Indiana Risk Assessment System (IRAS) and Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS), as well as other recognized assessment tools to ascertain individuals' willingness and ability to change behavior.

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BEHAVIOR RESPONSES Overview Data

Based on information available in the Supervised Release System (SRS) of INCite, the following information was gleaned from records in 2023 from both juvenile and adult jurisdictions. (All first filings table).

- Total of 913 people were supervised in 2023
- 20% (186) individuals had a violation filed
- 40% (82) were filed in the first 120 days of supervision
- 42% (86) were for new law violations
- 46% (93) were high or moderate risk
- 23% (46) of the technical violations were for drug use while on probation
- Overall, 354 violation petitions were filed on the 186 people

Comparison data from 2022 is provided below.

- Total of 918 people were supervised in 2022
- 20% (209) individuals had a violation filed
- 53% (111) were filed in the first 120 days of supervision
- 35% (74) were for new law violations
- 45% (95) were high or moderate risk
- 26% (54) of the technical violations were for drug use while on probation
- Overall, 358 violation petitions were filed on the 201 people

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BEHAVIOR RESPONSES

Incentives and Sanctions

- The goal for use of incentives and sanctions is to provide quick responses to targeted behavior for the best chance at changing behavior.
- We continue to increase incentive and sanction use in lieu of probation violation petitions.
- Incentives and sanctions permit consumption of fewer resources such as court time and jail bed space, while increasing more resources of probation officer time and intellectual energy.
- Using probation violation data from past we anticipate a reduction in future technical violations by using incentives and sanctions.

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BEHAVIOR RESPONSES

Incentives and Sanctions Definitions & Data

- Sanctions are responses to undesired behaviors in which probation believes the individual is still willing/able to change but reinforcement is needed to curb the behavior.
- Incentives are responses to recognize and reinforce desired behavior.
- Interventions are tools we use to help modify behavior from undesired to desired.

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BEHAVIOR RESPONSE Interpretation

- We note that the violation data is relatively unchanged between 2022 and 2023. However, we do find the need to separate juvenile and adult violations which will be completed in separate future reports.
- We will be fully implementing incentives and sanctions in 2024 which we assume (hope) will yield fewer violations filed.
- We continue to believe this data supports that our use of administrative sanctions does not result in public endangerment via new law violations while still holding them accountable for antisocial behaviors.

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Employment data

2023			
Employment at Intake		Employment at Termination	
Disabled	23	Disabled	19
Full Time	193	Full Time	296
Part Time	46	Part Time	69
Retired	2	Retired	8
Student	118	Student	120
Unemployed	170	Unemployed	128
Total Intakes:	552	Total Terminations:	640

2022			
<i>Employment at Intake</i>		<i>Employment at Termination</i>	
<i>Disabled</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Full Time</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>301</i>
<i>Part Time</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Retired</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Retired</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Student</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>96</i>
<i>Total Intakes:</i>	<i>581</i>	<i>Total Terminations:</i>	<i>577</i>

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FINANCIAL

- Beginning in 2021 the probation department budget was incorporated into the Wells Circuit Court budget.
 - 2023 Probation Operations Budget (2022) :
 - Personnel: \$698,133 \$674,865
- Fund Balances as of December 31, 2023 and 2022
 - Adult User Fees \$ 297,198 \$263,493
 - Juvenile User Fees \$35,700 \$37,211
 - Drug Test Funds \$15,333 \$16,379
 - County Offender Transportation Fund \$2,108 \$5,123
 - Substance/Indigent Fund \$ 2,610 \$2,610

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FINANCIAL Restitution Collection

- Probation assisted in the collection of \$45,303 in restitution in 2023.
- For comparison we assisted in the collection of \$60,792 in restitution in 2022.

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FINANCIAL User Fee Collections 2023

2023	Circuit	Superior	Juvenile	Admin.	Transfer	UT Fees	Prog Fees	Interest	Total
Jan	\$ 150.00	\$ 6,235.74	\$ 153.70	\$ 1,731.50	\$ 125.00	\$ 795.00		\$ 168.42	\$ 10,698.26
Feb	\$ 465.60	\$ 5,416.71	\$ 327.86	\$ 1,725.63	\$ -	\$ 740.83		\$ 692.86	\$ 9,369.49
Mar	\$ 463.85	\$ 11,875.12	\$ 942.84	\$ 3,180.84		\$ 1,400.00		\$ 508.81	\$ 18,371.46
Apr	\$ 111.55	\$ 4,619.52	\$ 314.28	\$ 1,059.88	\$ 125.00	\$ 990.00			\$ 7,220.23
May	\$ 1,270.70	\$ 6,008.25	\$ 339.50	\$ 2,047.77	\$ -	\$ 1,135.00		\$ 904.57	\$ 11,705.79
Jun	\$ 660.75	\$ 5,762.59	\$ 299.73	\$ 1,874.21	\$ 125.00	\$ 876.43	\$ 50.00	\$ 586.76	\$ 10,235.47
Jul	\$ 155.20	\$ 4,121.53	\$ 924.41	\$ 3,352.62	\$ 125.00	\$ 773.39	\$ 50.00	\$ 600.81	\$ 10,102.96
Aug	\$ 487.65	\$ 4,127.09	\$ 218.25	\$ 1,465.10	\$ -	\$ 809.73		\$ 1,017.41	\$ 8,125.23
Sep	\$ 691.65	\$ 4,276.35	\$ 48.50	\$ 1,528.16	\$ 125.00	\$ 573.24		\$ 591.94	\$ 7,834.84
Oct	\$ 2,024.82	\$ 4,923.72	\$ 745.93	\$ 2,079.95	\$ -	\$ 984.03		\$ 673.84	\$ 11,432.29
Nov	\$ 1,817.78	\$ 7,114.36	\$ 218.25	\$ 1,653.49	\$ 125.00	\$ 995.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 418.21	\$ 12,392.09
Dec	\$ 522.04	\$ 5,120.71	\$ -	\$ 1,560.72	\$ -	\$ 950.90		\$ 532.01	\$ 8,686.38
Total	\$10,160.49	\$69,601.69	\$ 4,533.25	\$ 23,259.87	\$ 750.00	\$ 11,023.55	\$ 150.00	\$ 6,695.64	\$ 126,174.49

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FINANCIAL User Fee Collections 2022

2022	Circuit	Superior	Juvenile	Admin.	Transfer	UT Fees	Interest	Total
Jan	\$ 911.80	\$ 5,019.40	\$ 48.50	\$ 1,518.78	\$ 55.56	\$ 402.50	\$ 124.51	\$ 8,081.05
Feb	\$ 1,619.90	\$ 7,034.16	\$ 220.68	\$ 1,457.18	\$ 150.00	\$ 625.00	\$ 116.63	\$ 11,223.55
Mar	\$ 1,280.21	\$ 6,380.50	\$ 334.65	\$ 1,597.25	\$ 125.00	\$ 615.00	\$ 127.76	\$ 10,460.37
Apr	\$ 4,568.64	\$ 4,616.79	\$ 453.47	\$ 1,491.84	\$ 125.00	\$ 710.00	\$ 127.68	\$ 12,093.42
May	\$ 844.43	\$ 2,996.33	\$ 1,289.13	\$ 1,465.57	\$ 125.00	\$ 465.83	\$ 183.73	\$ 7,370.02
Jun	\$ 1,256.13	\$ 4,030.97	\$ 413.22	\$ 1,428.17	\$ 125.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 112.68	\$ 7,756.17
Jul	\$ 96.84	\$ 4,313.06	\$ 378.30	\$ 1,075.87	\$ -	\$ 598.33	\$ 116.14	\$ 6,578.54
Aug	\$ 1,978.50	\$ 3,797.54	\$ 82.45	\$ 1,298.04	\$ 150.00	\$ 587.24	\$ 127.13	\$ 8,020.90
Sep	\$ 506.56	\$ 6,385.63	\$ 116.40	\$ 2,017.37	\$ 125.00	\$ 606.10	\$ 108.95	\$ 9,866.01
Oct	\$ 1,981.36	\$ 6,330.61	\$ 83.20	\$ 1,495.66	\$ -	\$ 568.33	\$ 115.79	\$ 10,574.95
Nov	\$ 1,008.80	\$ 5,069.37	\$ 426.80	\$ 1,689.78	\$ -	\$ 833.62	\$ 269.48	\$ 9,297.85
Dec	1643.9	4489.02	58.2	1178.62	125	466.38	102.11	\$ 8,063.23
Total	\$17,697.07	\$60,463.38	\$ 3,905.00	\$ 17,714.13	\$ 1,105.56	\$ 6,868.33	\$ 1,632.59	\$ 109,386.06

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FINANCIAL Users Fee collections forecast 2023

2022 - 2023	<u>Admin Collected</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 1,938.32
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 1,707.25
	<u>Adult PUF</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 6,646.85
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 6,580.11
	<u>Juvenile PUF</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 377.77
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 351.59
	<u>Drug Test Fees</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 918.63
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 745.50

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FINANCIAL Drug Test Costs/Revenue

- In 2022 we continued imposing a fixed fee for each probationer case for drug tests during the course of supervision. In October 2022 we adjusted the fee structure to a variable structure the fee from \$20 to \$25.

Drug Test Cost/Revenue						
	Cost	Collections	People on Probation	Cost Analysis	Collection Rate	
2018	\$15/test	\$4,740.00	976	\$ (2,547.28)	29%	based on tests
2019	\$20/case	\$7,292.00	1041	\$ (3,009.48)	35%	based on population
2020	\$20/case	\$5,390.00	991	\$ (2,391.21)	27%	based on population
2021	< 7/1/21 \$20/Case	\$5,915.00	894	\$ (6,283.00)	33%	based on population
	>7/1/21 \$25/case					
2022	< 10/1/22 \$25 /case	\$6,868.00	918	\$ (9,448.00)	30%	based on population
	> 10/1/22 Variable Price					
2023	Variable Price	\$ 11,023.55	913		28%	Based on population

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Drug Test Fee Structure

For all new supervisions beginning/after **October 1, 2022**.

Drug test Fee - (as follows)

- Felony Supervision -\$50.00
- Misdemeanor Supervision - \$40.00
- Juvenile Supervision - \$25.00

- Hotline referral as re-entry - \$0.00
- Hotline referral as a sanction episode - \$10.00
- Court Ordered pretrial criminal per test - \$15.00
- Court Ordered pretrial criminal hotline (<= 60 days) - \$50.00
- Court Ordered non-criminal per test- \$50.00

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PRETRIAL Assessment Tool Reports (PAT)

- 26 PAT's were ordered in 2023 and 26 resulted in assessments and reports.
- 39 PAT's were ordered and 28 were completed in 2022.

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Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)

- Allison and Valerie have now facilitated the MRT since April 19, 2022.
- Since the program's inception 37 participants have been enrolled in the program.
 - 15 were successfully graduated
 - 9 were terminated for non-compliance or probation violation behaviors
 - 2 were terminated for reasons other than non-compliant behaviors
 - 1 person was found in violation of probation after successful program completion
- 2023 had 31 participants during the course of the year.
- Average length of time to successfully complete the program 34 weeks.

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Department Challenges

- Full behavior response system implementation: incentives, sanctions, maintaining data, etc.
- Juvenile responses to behavior issues: quick and certain.
- One officer focused on the juvenile workload is sufficient except when she is out of the office. We must have an experienced probation officer ready for such times.
- Juvenile programing, community-based and residential: finding quality services for the unique needs of delinquent children is a challenge.
- Wells County has one community mental health center who struggles keeping staff. This causes delays in the referral to service process.

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Approved Agencies List

- Agencies approved for probation use are maintained on-line at <https://wellscounty.org/counseling-directory/>
- Probation officers continue to recommend Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs be approved by us in addition to state certification. We have experienced frustration with individuals visiting the MAT facility for medication only, and not participating in the required cognitive-behavioral treatment component in addition to medication. Unless an individual or their treatment agency can provide documentation of MAT with cognitive-behavioral components, they will be required to change programs.

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