

Wells County Probation

2024 Annual Report
to the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts

Introduction

The following annual report of 2024 is being submitted to Judges of the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts for our April 2025 meeting.

Staff and Office Hours

- We continue to offer business hours for 44.5 hours per week.
 - 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
- Juvenile placement and school visits as required
- On-call services during non-business hours to law enforcement

Staff

Staff at the end of 2024:

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

- First year with new role of assistant chief probation officer – Stephen Pastore.
- Retired during 2024 was Jan Stronczek– secretary. Jordyn Shumate assumed her position.
- Stephanie Eddy received POPAI's Line Officer of the Year award in September 2024.
- In 2024 we worked with no student interns during the year.

WORKLOAD Adult 2024

<u>ADULT REPORT SUMMARY</u> (end of 4th Quarter)						
(comparison data in small font)	2024 Felons	(2023)	2024 Misdemeanants	(2023)	2024 Total	(2023)
Supervisions pending (end of 4th quarter)	220	229	136	168	356	397
Presentence Investigation Reports (annual)	96					102
New Substance abuse cases (annual)	68	91	87	139	155	197
New Sex offender Cases (annual)	4	3	0	0		3
		2024		(2023)		
Supervision Risk Levels (end of 4th quarter)	High	12	24%	18	29%	
	Medium	76		97		
	Low	146	41%	150	38%	
	Admin	113	32%	109	27%	
	Unknown	6		23		

WORKLOAD Juvenile 2024

JUVENILE REPORT SUMMARY (4th Quarter)	2024				(2023)
	Non-Status	Status	Other	Total	
Referrals Disposed (annual)	130	70		200	154
Supervisions (end of period)	24	3		27	39
New Substance abuse cases (annual)				7	7
New Sex offender cases (annual)				3	2
		2024		2023	
Supervision Risk Levels (end of 4th quarter)	High	0	} 50%	1	} 40%
	Medium	12		13	
	Low	11	46%	19	43%
	Admin	1	4%	2	6%
	Total	24		39	
	No Entry	3		4	

WORKLOAD Juvenile Placements 2024

JUVENILE PLACEMENTS (Annual)				
	2024		(2023)	
	Days	Children	Days	Children
Probation Supervision		69	-	84
Foster Placements (DCS Paid)	2586	16	2331	17
Detentions	591	14	300	8
IDOC	757	6	878	5
Home Detention	866	13	810	17
Total Placement Days	5041		4319	-
Total Children		34	-	26

WORKLOAD Drug Tests

Drug Tests Data						
2024	Total Tests	Total People	Positive Tests	Percentage		
Total Tests Recorded	1112	220	655	59%		
(2023 Total)	1484	310	882	59%		
Drugs Found in Tests			2024	% of +	(2023)	%
Marijuana	*		279	29%	359	30
Opiate			3	0%	5	0
Ethyl Glucuronide			45	5%	50	7
Fentanyl	*		15	2%	79	7
Amphetamine			233	22%	273	23
Methadone			76	8%	90	7
Methamphetamine	*		117	12%	145	12%
Benzodiazepine			9	1%	6	0
Morphine/Opiate			3	0%		
Oxycodone			6	1%	5	0
Cocaine	*		8	1%	7	1
Buprenorphine			210	22%	308	26

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 1112 tests, 590 * drugs were found for a 38% positive rate.

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

Drug Test Workload

In late 2024 we introduced the sweat patch as potential option for drug testing. The overall costs of the tests are slightly higher than urine or saliva tests, and the patch application necessitates more technical training. We found that staff from Astrum Behavioral Health will administer the test to the probationer for a reasonable at a cost to the probationer. Early results indicate this may be a reasonable alternative for probationers whose employment is jeopardized with frequent drug test trips to the courthouse. We plan to expand this testing in 2025.

BEHAVIOR RESPONSES Overview Data

Based on information available in the Supervised Release System (SRS) of INCite, the following information was gleaned from records in 2024 from both juvenile and adult jurisdictions. (All first filings table).

- Total of 779 people were supervised in 2024
- 20 % (155) individuals had a violation filed
- 40% (66) were filed in the first 120 days of supervision
- 41% (67) were for new law violations
- 43% (88) were high or moderate risk
- 21% (34) of the technical violations were for drug use while on probation
- Overall, 272 violation petitions were filed on the 155 people (34% violation rate)

Comparison data from 2023 is provided below.

- 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 (38% violation rate)

BEHAVIOR RESPONSE Interpretation

- We note that the violation data is relatively stable between 2024 and 2023. However, we do find the need to separate juvenile and adult violations which will be completed in separate future reports.
- 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.

Employment data

2024			
Employment at Intake		Employment at Termination	
Disabled	17	Disabled	29
Full Time	144	Full Time	226
Part Time	46	Part Time	55
Retired	6	Retired	5
Student	177	Student	127
Unemployed	170	Unemployed	127
Total Intakes:	560	Total Terminations:	569

(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

FINANCIAL

- Beginning in 2021 the probation department budget was incorporated into the Wells Circuit Court budget.
 - 2024 Probation Operations Budget (2023)
 - Personnel: \$740,079 \$698,133
- Fund Balances as of December 31, 2024
 - Adult User Fees \$ 310,965 \$297,198
 - Juvenile User Fees \$ 33,276 \$35,700
 - Drug Test Funds \$ 16,454 \$15,333
 - County Offender Transportation Fund \$ 7357* \$2,108
 - Substance/Indigent Fund \$ 2610 \$ 2,610

FINANCIAL Restitution Collection

- Probation enforced the collection of \$27,124 in restitution in 2024.
- For comparison we enforced the collection of \$45,303 in restitution in 2023.

FINANCIAL User Fee Collections 2024

Year									
	Circuit	Superior	Juvenile	Admin.	Transfer	UT Fees	Prog Fees	Interest	Total
2024					<i>(full amount recorded)</i>				
Jan	\$ 1,044.40	\$ 3,908.09	\$ 97.00	\$ 994.01	\$ 125.00	\$ 952.73	\$ -	\$ 890.40	\$ 8,011.63
Feb	\$ 1,383.40	\$ 5,400.70	\$ 218.25	\$ 2,003.57	\$ 125.00	\$ 918.36	\$ -	\$ 990.62	\$ 11,039.90
Mar	\$ 922.90	\$ 5,534.57	\$ 3.88	\$ 1,772.65	\$ 125.00	\$ 692.27	\$ 50.00	\$ 546.84	\$ 9,648.11
Apr	\$ 2,260.10	\$ 7,279.77	\$ -	\$ 1,573.70	\$ -	\$ 1,048.60	\$ 70.00	\$ 691.85	\$ 12,924.02
May	\$ 447.17	\$ 3,054.94	\$ -	\$ 833.45	\$ -	\$ 895.01	\$ -	\$ 979.39	\$ 6,209.96
Jun	\$ 974.85	\$ 4,105.46	\$ -	\$ 1,565.36	\$ -	\$ 814.55	\$ 25.00	\$ 589.67	\$ 8,074.89
Jul	\$ 2,604.45	\$ 3,549.61	\$ -	\$ 994.90	\$ -	\$ 623.47	\$ 25.00	\$ 905.38	\$ 8,702.81
Aug	\$ 1,586.68	\$ 4,231.71	\$ 145.50	\$ 1,494.61	\$ -	\$ 792.73	\$ -	\$ 980.67	\$ 9,231.90
Sep	\$ 1,337.95	\$ 3,461.43	\$ -	\$ 955.29	\$ -	\$ 955.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 538.64	\$ 7,288.31
Oct	\$ 1,324.60	\$ 3,906.23	\$ 201.76	\$ 1,062.98	\$ -	\$ 610.61	\$ 17.52	\$ 1,094.22	\$ 8,217.92
Nov	\$ 970.00	\$ 2,563.22	\$ 145.04	\$ 1,227.28	\$ 125.00	\$ 566.71	\$ 57.52	\$ 1,180.36	\$ 6,835.13
Dec	\$ (138.30)	\$ 4,101.62	\$ 3.88	\$ 891.69	\$ -	\$ 173.96	\$ 26.32	\$ 547.28	\$ 5,606.45
Total	\$ 14,718.20	\$ 51,097.35	\$ 815.31	\$ 15,369.49	\$ 500.00	\$ 9,044.00	\$ 311.36	\$ 9,935.32	\$ 101,791.03

FINANCIAL User Fee Collections 2023

Year									
	Circuit	Superior	Juvenile	Admin.	Transfer	UT Fees	Prog Fees	Interest	Total
2023					<i>(full amount recorded)</i>				
Jan	\$ 1,488.90	\$ 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

FINANCIAL Users Fee collections forecast 2024

2023 - 2024	<u>Admin Collected</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 1,280.79
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 1,609.56
	<u>Adult PUF</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 5,484.63
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 6,065.74
	<u>Juvenile PUF</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 67.94
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 222.86
	<u>Drug Test Fees</u>	
	12 month ave/mo	\$ 753.67
	24 month ave/mo	\$ 836.15

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	\$6,868.00	918	\$ (9,448.00)	30%	based on population
	\$25 /case					
	> 10/1/22					
	Variable Price					
2023	Variable Price	\$ 11,023.55	913		28%	Based on population
2024	Variable Price	\$ 9,044.00	779	\$ (5984.00)		Based on population

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

PRETRIAL Assessment Tool Reports (PAT)

- 37 PAT's were ordered in 2024 and 27 resulted in assessments and reports.
- 26 PAT's were ordered in 2023 and 24 resulted in assessments and reports.

Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)

- Allison and Valerie have now facilitated the MRT since April 19, 2022.
- 2024 had 26 participants during the course of the year.
- Since the program's inception 51 participants have been enrolled in the program.
 - 25 were successfully graduated
 - 4 were suspended
 - 1 was incarcerated
 - 5 were revoked from program
 - 3 referred or transferred out
 - 8 remain active
- Average length of time to successfully complete the program 37 weeks.

Department Challenges

- Maintaining programs with lower populations. Smaller number creates issues for keeping programs going – whether by probation or 3rd party.
 - Juveniles and substance abuse programs
 - Juveniles and cognitive-behavioral programs
 - Adults and MRT
 - ReEntry services

Approved Agencies List

- Agencies approved for probation use are maintained on-line at <https://wellscounty.org/counseling-directory/>