



# Probation Semi-Annual Report January—June 2014

## Purpose of this Report:

This report was completed in compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat.

§ 29-2252.01 (Appended 2001).

On December 31 and June 30 of each year the administrator shall provide a report to the Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

*Note: In this report traditional probation is referred to as Community-Based Resource and Intensive Supervision Probation is referred to as Community-Based Intervention.*

**Mission Statement:** We the leaders in community corrections, juvenile and restorative justice are unified in our dedication to delivering a system of seamless services which are founded on evidence-based practices and valued by Nebraska's communities, victims, offenders and courts. We create constructive change through rehabilitation, collaboration, and partnership in order to enhance safe communities.

**Vision:** Be a national recognized leader in the field of justice committed to excellence and safe communities.

## Probation 2014: Through the Court for the Community

The first half of 2014 continued with transition for Nebraska's Probation System. While continuing to serve our courts and the citizens of this great State, the Office of Probation Administration continues to carry out the provisions of Legislative Bill 561 (LB561). This bill required transferring juvenile court cases for status offenses and law violations from the Department of Health and Human Services / Office of Juvenile Services to Probation. Additional requirements of this bill included Probation as a partner in developing detention alternatives, preadjudication supervision / services, coordination of 21-day evaluations prior to disposition, and creation of a re-entry process for youth returning to community supervision after out-of-home placement. In addition, the Office of Probation Administration has begun planning for the implementation of Legislative Bill 907 passed by the 2014 Legislature which includes the expansion of Reporting Centers and Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision.

The Nebraska Probation System is driven by a belief that a system focused on evidence-based policies and practices will produce positive individual outcomes in addition to meeting our System's goals.

Our goals:

- Improve public safety.
- Support Victims.
- Provide our courts effective sentencing and dispositional alternatives.
- Reduce recidivism in both juvenile and criminal justice populations.
- Provide for a more efficient and effective use of Probation's limited staff resources.
- Support community-based programs and service initiatives to reduce prison overcrowding.

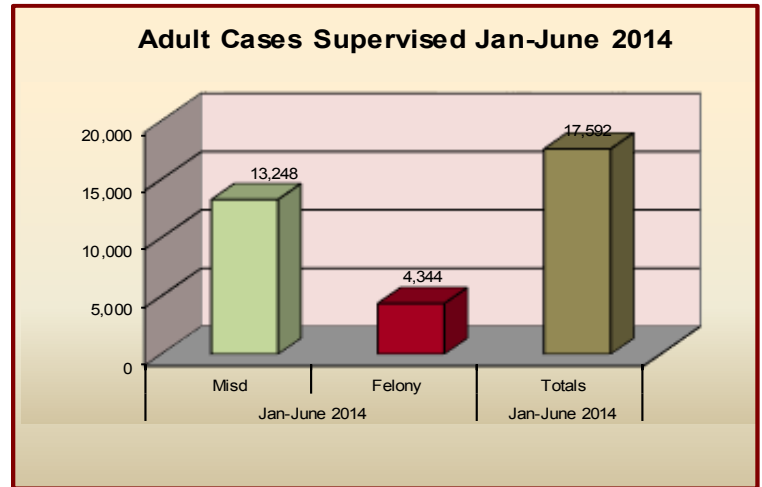
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## Adult Probation

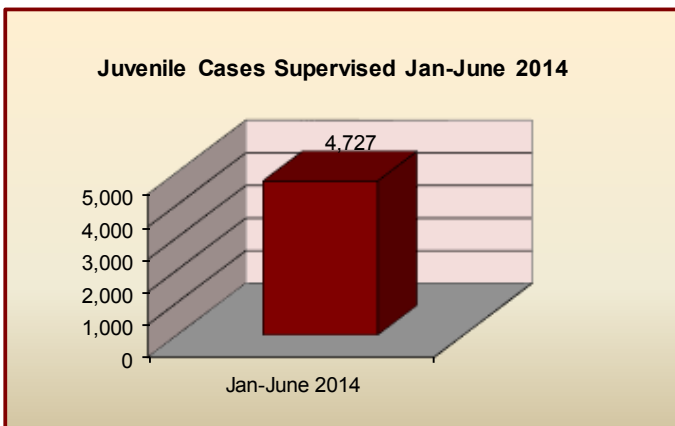
The Probation System’s Adult Community Safety Impact Model encompasses a public safety approach to case management. Offenders are prioritized for assessment, supervision and treatment services according to their risk of re-offending. Approximately 29% of individuals on probation are supervised at the highest level, Community-Based Intervention (CBI). CBI is the supervision approach designed for offenders who are at a high risk of re-offending. It combines intensive supervision and treatment resources to maximize community safety. Probationers supervised at the Community-Based Resource (CBR) level include approximately 53% of probationers. Services for the CBR level must be accessible while under community supervision for optimum success. Each CBR supervision level is guided by different responsive case management standards, each appropriate for optimal supervision of the probationer. The remaining 18% of probationers are in an administrative status such as jails, absconds, warrants and transfers out-of-state.

From January 2014 through June 2014, 17,592 adult probationers were supervised. 25% were for felony offenses and 75% were for misdemeanor offenses.



## Juvenile Probation

The Juvenile Community Safety Impact and Rehabilitative Model encompasses a 2-pronged approach; maximizing community safety and youth development. Juveniles are prioritized for supervision and treatment services according to their risk of continuing delinquent behaviors. Approximately 36% of juveniles on probation are supervised at the Juvenile Community-Based Intervention (JCBI) or highest level. JCBI combines intensive supervision with treatment resources that correspond with each juvenile’s risk and needs. An estimated 48% of juveniles are supervised at the Juvenile Community-Based Resource (JCBR) level. JCBR clients are also provided rehabilitative services according to risk, while under community supervision for optimum success. The remaining 13% of the cases are Administrative or awaiting classification. From January to June 2014, 4,727 youth were supervised. Less than 3% of the population served is committed to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Kearney and Geneva.

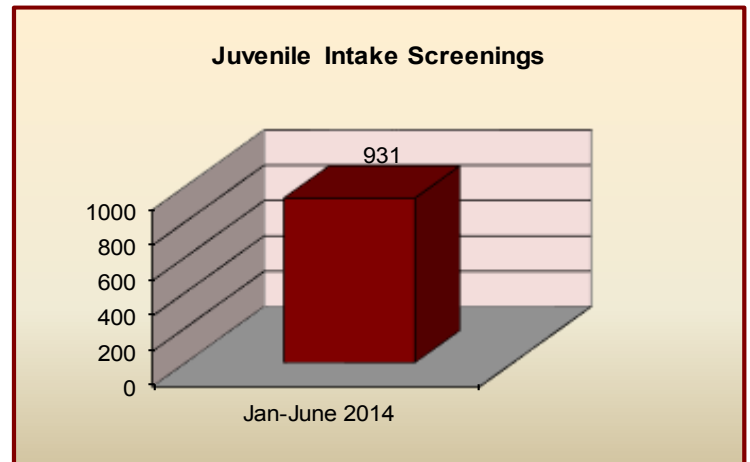


## Juvenile Intake Interviews



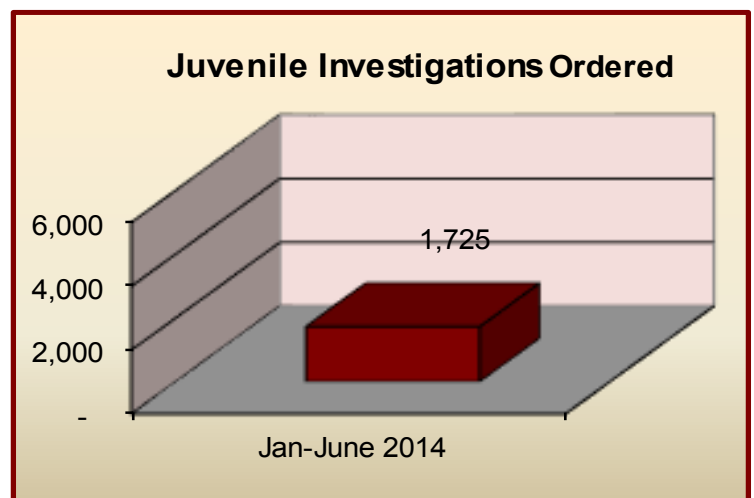
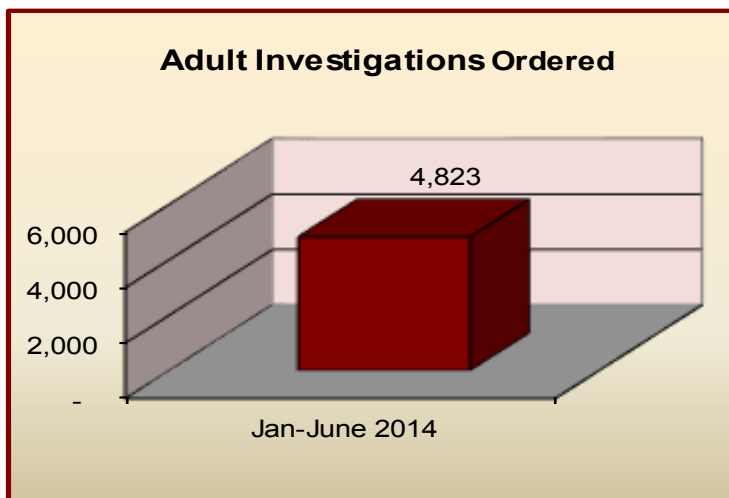
A peace officer may retain temporary custody of a juvenile taken into temporary custody, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 43-248 and 43-250. It is the responsibility of law enforcement to deliver youth to probation intake. Probation intake administers a standardized juvenile detention screening instrument to guide the intake decision. Additionally, legal warrants for juveniles pass through Probation's intake process.

During the period January through June 2014, 931 juveniles were screened for intake.



## Adult and Juvenile Investigations

The purpose of an investigation is to provide the court with timely, relevant, and accurate information about an adult or juvenile prior to the sentencing or disposition of a case. The number of investigations completed in the first half of 2014 was 4,823 (adult) and 1,725 (juvenile).



## Probation Officer Caseloads

There are probation officers supervising probationers in 14 judicial districts, serving all 93 counties in Nebraska. In the Probation System's Community Safety Impact Model, probationers are prioritized for supervision based on their risk to re-offend. An officer should have a caseload of 30 or less very-high-risk probationers, 50 or less high-risk, 200 or less medium-risk, 500 or less low-risk and 1,000 or less very-low-risk.

The types of probation officers are: Community-Based Intervention Officer, with at least 85% supervision of high/very-high-risk probationers.

Community-Based Intervention Specialized Officer, with at least 85% involving the supervision of a high/very-high risk specific offender group.

Community-Based Resource Officer, with at least 85% involving the supervision of a moderate-risk specific probationer group

Investigation Officer, with at least 85% involving the investigation and assessment of probationers.

Blended Officer, which is a mix of at least 85% supervision of moderate/low-risk probationers and/or investigations.

Caseloads are not measured by felony and misdemeanor but rather by risk to reoffend. To simply break down caseload by felony/misdemeanor per officer does not reflect the seriousness of some misdemeanors (i.e., sexual assault, domestic violence, plea bargains) nor does it respect the actual risk level of some felonies. With the collaboration of the courts, Probation utilizes a number of assessment tools to determine the potential for reoffending. First and foremost of these tools is the Level of Service Inventory which was first validated in the United States and Canada in approximately the 1980s and has several generations of perfecting. (Reference Federal Probation, Volume 72, Number 3, Pages 22-29.)

As a result, individuals sentenced to probation are supervised by the assessed prediction to reoffend taking into consideration offense rather than just supervising by misdemeanor/felony offense alone.

As of June 30, 2014, the caseload per officer by risk is as follows:

### Adult officers:

**High Risk CBI officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 52 CBI cases; Probation districts ranged from 36-86 cases per officer.

**Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 18 **SSAS** cases; Probation districts ranged from 11-28 cases per officer.



**Problem-Solving Court officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 34 PSC cases; Probation districts ranged from 13-47 cases per officer.

**Medium to Low Risk CBR officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 62 CBR cases; Probation districts ranged from 41-84 cases per officer.

**Administrative (jail, warrants, and to be classified) level cases officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 30 cases; Probation districts ranged from 8-53 cases per officer.

### Juvenile Officers:

**High Risk JCBI officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 21 JCBI cases; Probation districts ranged from 10-31 cases per officer.



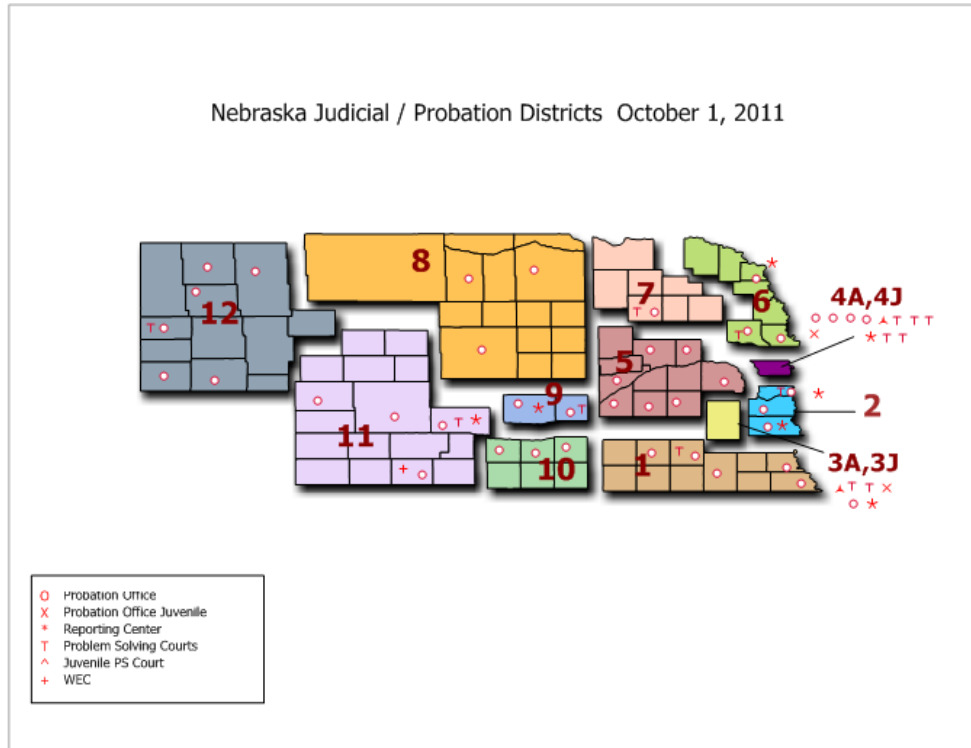
**Medium to Low Risk JCBR officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 19 JCBR cases; Probation districts ranged from 10-38 cases per officer.

**Administrative (and to be classified) level cases officers:** Had an average caseload statewide of 5 cases; Probation districts ranged from 0-22 cases per officer.

**It should be noted that juvenile numbers reflect the planning and implementation of LB561 which is not fully transitioned.**

Nebraska Supreme Court/Office of Probation Administration

**NEBRASKA PROBATION SYSTEM**



**Specialized Probation Programs:**

Adult

- Presentence Investigation/Risk & Needs Assessment Screening
- Community-Based Intensive Intervention
- Young Adult Court/Drug Courts
- Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision
- Day & Evening Reporting Centers
- Fee for Service Voucher
- Interstate Compact
- Work Ethic Camp
- Rural Improvement for Schooling & Employment (RISE)
- Strength-Based Case Management

Juvenile

- Juvenile Intake 24/7
- Predisposition Investigation/Risk & Needs Assessment Screening
- Community-Based Intervention
- Drug Courts
- Interstate Compact
- Victim Services
- Rural Improvement for Schooling & Employment (RISE)
- Strength-Based Case Management
- Reentry Services
- Juvenile Services Financial Assurance

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