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# **Hancock County Community Corrections Act Programs Annual Report**

**Fiscal Year 2015**

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# Program Goals and Objectives

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The Hancock County Community Corrections Act (CCA) Programs continue to achieve statewide program goals and objectives of reducing commitments to state prison and/or local jails while providing cost effective sentencing alternatives that allow for safely supervising offenders in the community. In addition to these basic goals, FY 15 proved another active year in finally implementing Evidence Based Practices further in Hancock County and specifically offering in-house cognitive behavioral interventions within the Adult Probation Department. The following report will illustrate how Hancock County CCA Programs have met those primary goals and objectives, while improving the overall quality and efficiency of the local criminal justice system.

As predicted, Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 were significant years in the field of community corrections. House Bill 86 was enacted in September of 2011 and most mandates were to be implemented in 2013. Fiscal Year 2015 reflects the continued adaptations the Adult Probation Department made due to these reforms in addition to what we know are effective in working with the criminal justice population.

The Common Pleas Court continues to augment its processes and practices to mirror BEST PRACTICES in the field of community correction and Addiction. These practices include assessing risk of re-offending and criminogenic needs, assessing treatment readiness and the continued monitoring and revamping for in-house contracted services for the defendant population being sentenced by this Court. Utilizing various Hancock County organizations, these services were broadened to include the following in FY 15:

- Diagnostic Evaluations;
- Individual Substance Abuse Therapy;
- Individual Mental Health Therapy;
- Case Management;
- Cognitive Behavioral Groups;
  - Substance Abuse Curriculum;
  - Thinking for a Change Curriculum;
  - Aftercare;
  - Skill Building Groups;
- Medically Assisted Treatment;
- Peer Support;
- Occupational Therapy;
- Employment Readiness;
- Drug Court Intensive Interventions

The Hancock County Common Pleas Court/ Adult Probation Department has received several Cliff Skeen Community Corrections Awards and was the recipient again in Fiscal Year 2013 out of almost three hundred (300) programs.

The following report will illustrate how these dynamic Hancock County CCA Programs have met those primary goals and objectives, while continuing to improve the overall quality and efficiency of the local criminal justice system.

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The following report articulates the activity of Hancock County Community Corrections Act Programs for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015).

## **Presentence Investigations**

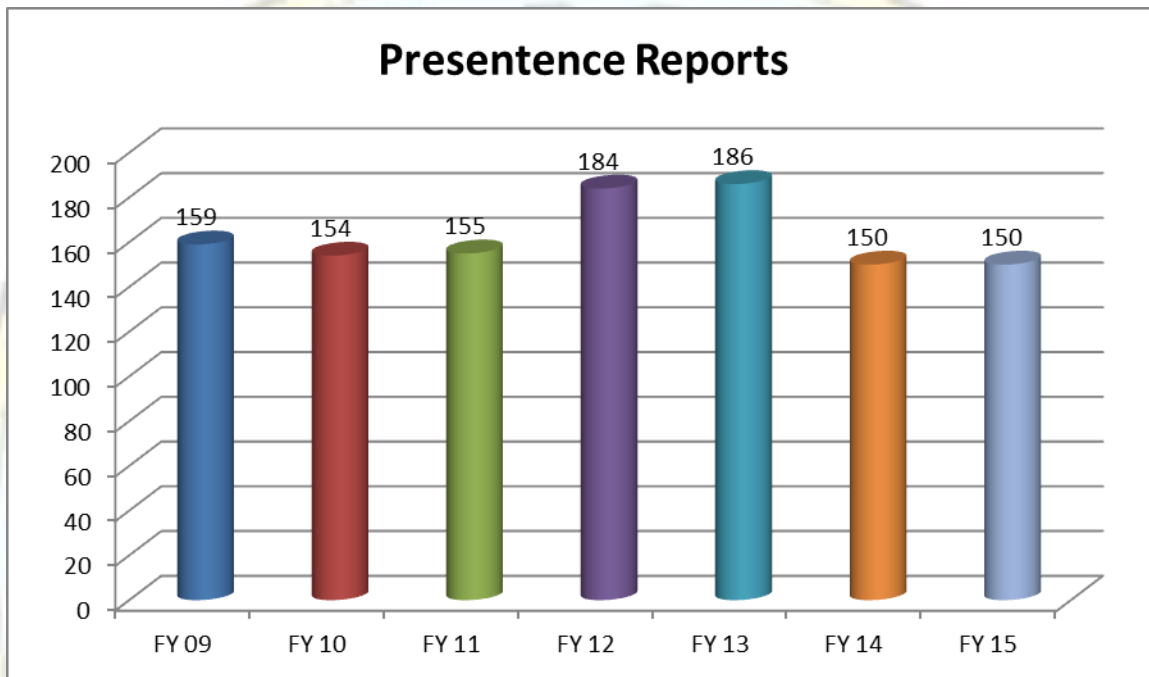
Hancock County 407 CCA Program continues to provide Presentence Investigations as requested to the Hancock County Common Pleas Court. The investigations are conducted in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 2951.03 and Criminal Rule 32.2 and offers the Court a thorough account of the offense; a criminal and social history of the offender; a risk/need assessment, and victim input, if applicable, to assist the Court in sentencing decisions. It should be noted that due to previous state budget cuts, the County General Fund supplements approximately one-half of the Presentence Writer's salary and benefits. A total of one hundred fifty (150) reports were prepared for the Common Pleas Court in Fiscal Year 2015. As reflected in the chart below, this number has decreased due to the increase in defendants applying for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction relief. This is one of the reforms referenced above resulting from House Bill 86; specifically, the eligibility was broadened, resulting in higher diversions into that program.

### **Assessing Risk and Need:**

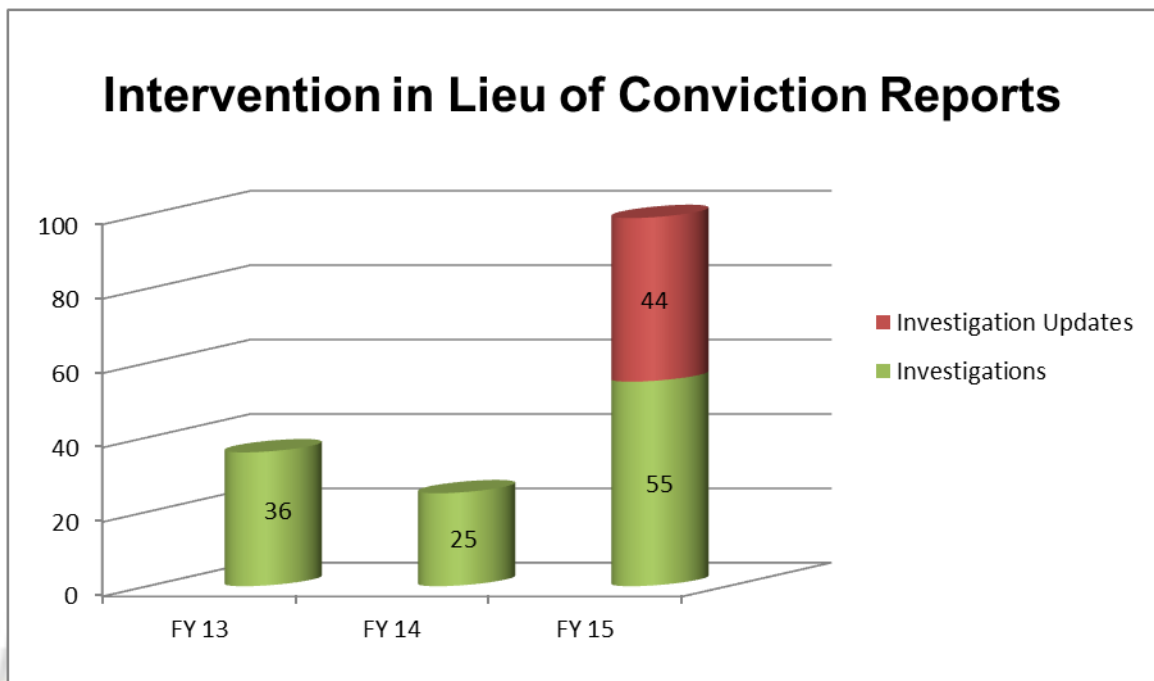
The Presentence Investigation is the beginning of applying the Risk/Need Principle. The risk/needs score, from the now required Ohio Risk Assessment tool (ORAS), is attached to the report for the Court's consideration while considering sentencing alternatives. The Court began strictly using the tool in Fiscal Year 2011 and has aided in training the entire community in the tool, including certification of local treatment providers and re-entry professionals. House Bill 86 codified the tool in the Ohio Revised Code and the department recognizes that a recertification of all staff were required in FY 14 and FY 15.

**Responsivity:**

Adhering to the “Risk/Need Responsivity Principle,” the program was proactive and began assessing treatment readiness and motivation for change. Subsequent to piloting several tools, the internal Changing Offender Behavior committee recommended the Presentence Writer utilize the Texas Christian University Tool (TCU) as of June of 2012. The First Presentence Investigation to reflect these findings was submitted to the Court in August of 2012. At various intervals of supervision, the TCU is readministered to discern if there have been changes in their readiness for change.







\*Please note the offset of the Presentence Investigation decrease , which are now Intervention in Lieu Investigations

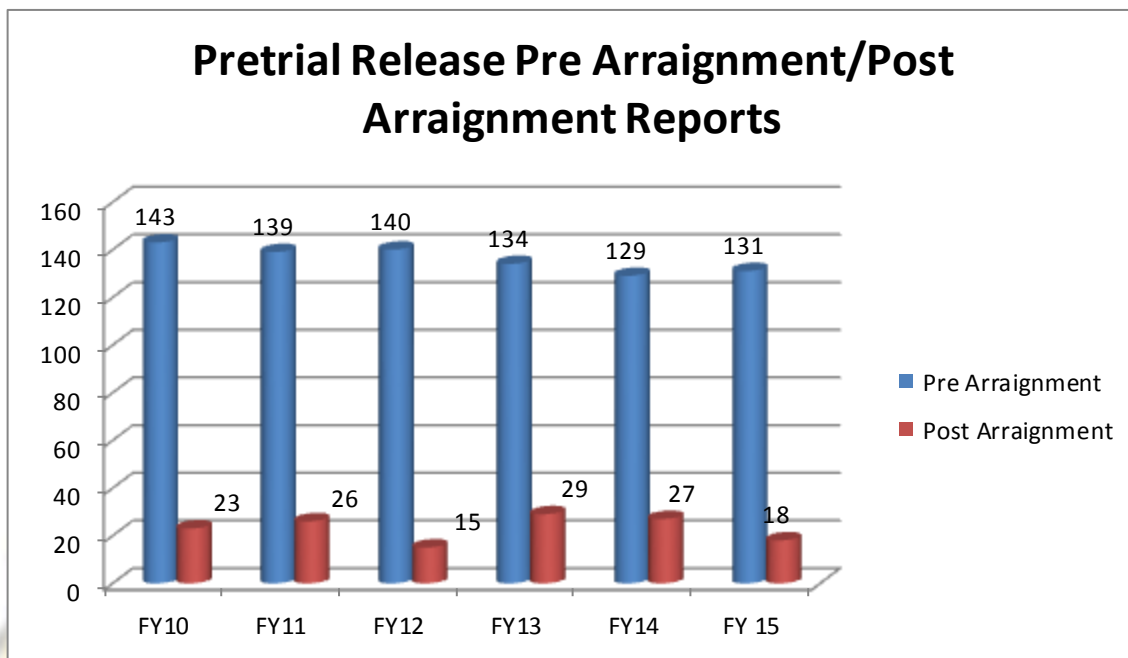
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## **JAIL DIVERSION GRANT**

### **Pretrial Release (Bond) Program:**

#### **Bond Reports:**

This program provides the Court valuable pre and post arraignment investigations. These reports provide the Court information early (and at various stages) in the case to assist them in determining which offenders are safe to release into the community pending trial. Commencing Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010) the department began solely utilizing the Ohio Risk Assessment System Assessment Tool - Pretrial Assessment Tool (ORAS-PAT). Again, this tool was developed by the University of Cincinnati in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to assess offenders for pretrial specific issues. As required, all Adult Probation Department staff has been certified in the use of this tool.



#### **Pretrial Release/Bond Supervision:**

Hancock County's 408/Jail Diversion Program continues to provide safe, cost-effective supervision through Pretrial Release (Bond). This program was designed to divert pretrial status offenders safely from the overcrowded Hancock County Justice Center. Offenders who are placed in this program must comply with Court restrictions placed on them, including no contact orders and reporting on a regular basis to the Adult Probation Department. At the end of Fiscal Year 2015 (June 30, 2015), the Pretrial Release (Bond) Program had met its goal of two hundred (200) diversions as established by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, diverting a total of two hundred and thirty two (232) offenders! Another increase in bond intakes is contributed to an increase in the overall criminal indictments, another high year of Ohio State Patrol drug interdiction cases and the defendants being arrested for opioid use and failure to report due to Addiction, requiring another review of their bond status, often resulting in another release on bond.

By performing as articulated above, the program far exceeded its goals of reducing commitments to the local jail, improving the quality and efficiency of the local criminal justice system and providing a cost effective option for safely supervising offenders in the community. Officer Schroeder assigned to this caseload has also been instrumental in beginning to engage these defendants in treatment.

The following are the processes by which the Pretrial Release/Bond/Jail Diversion/Incarceration Reduction Program operates:

**Referral:** The Court, at the time of arraignment or subsequent to reviewing the preparation of a Pretrial Release/Bond report refers (orders) offenders into the Pretrial Release/Bond Program.

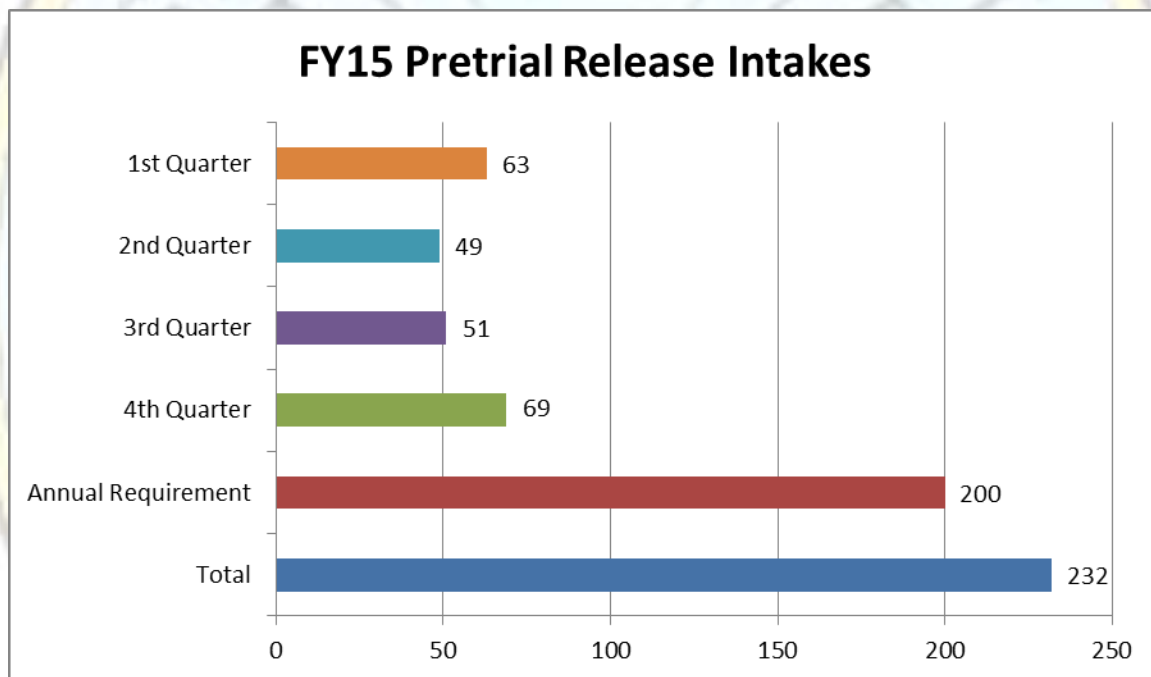
**Acceptance:** Acceptable offenders for the Bond (Pretrial Release) Program shall be identified with the following criteria:

- a. Nonviolent Offender
- b. Released on Property, Cash or Recognizance Bond
- c. Amenable to Community Sanctions
- d. Incarcerated Individuals: Risk Score and Bond Report produces appropriate findings

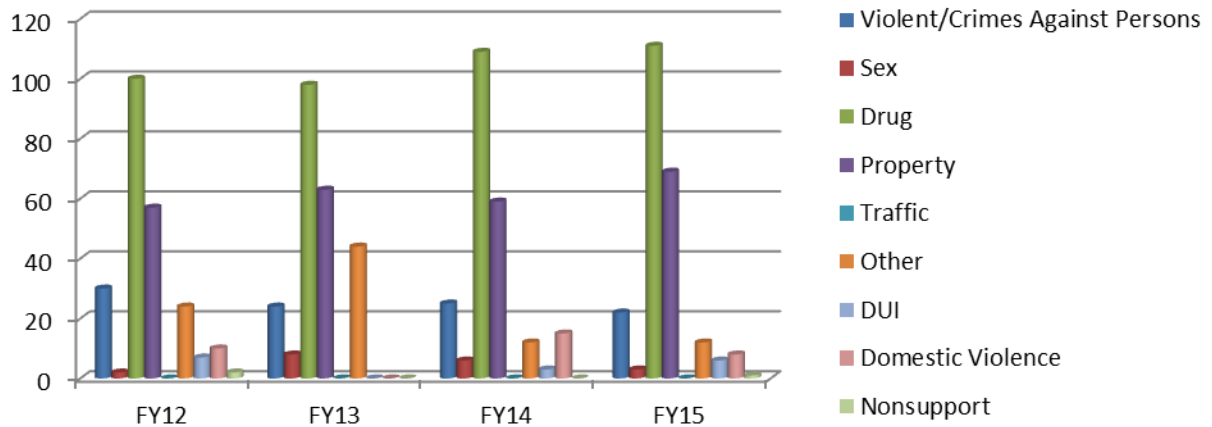
**Rejection:** Rejection from the program would relate to a determination by the Court. Specifically, finding that the defendant is not amenable to Pretrial Release supervision based on a high risk score, prior record or the nature of the instant offense, or other reasons as determined by the Court.

**Termination:** Offenders shall be terminated from Bond (Pretrial Release) upon the Court discharging their property, cash or recognizance bond.

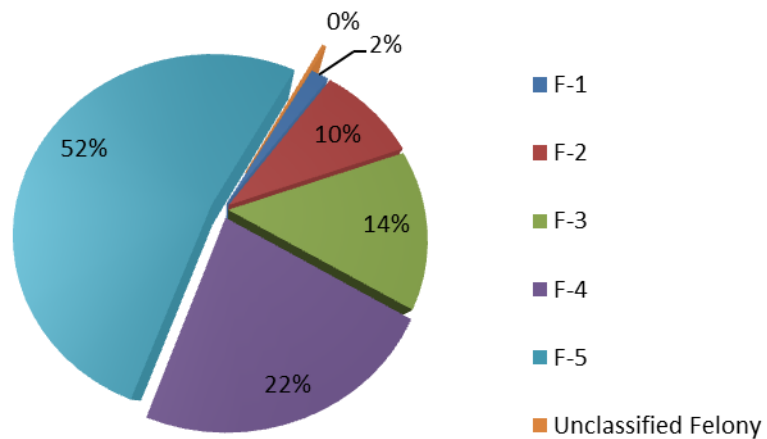
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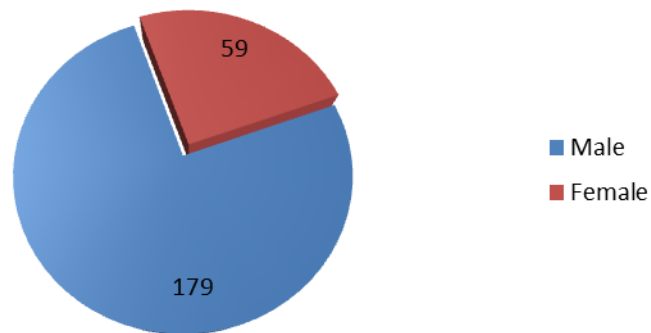
## Pretrial Release Breakdown of Offenses



## FY15 Pretrial Release Degree of Offenses

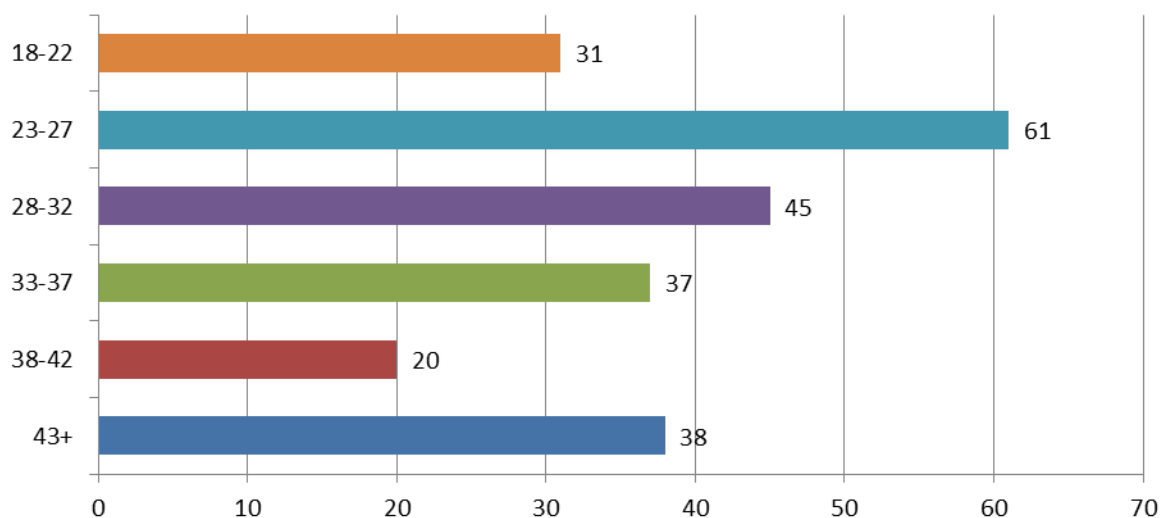


## FY15 Pretrial Release Intakes By Gender

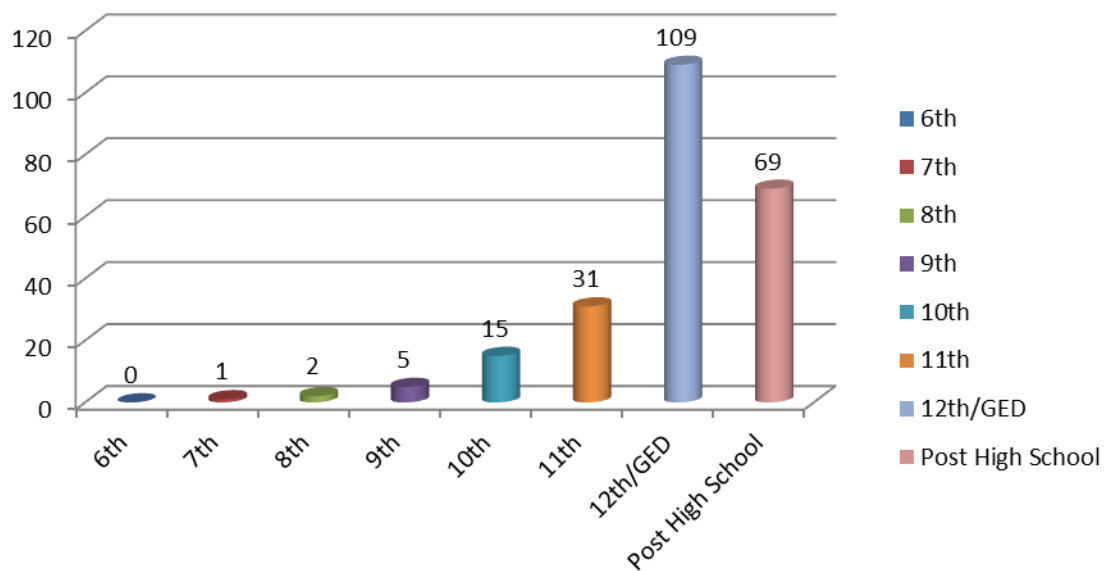


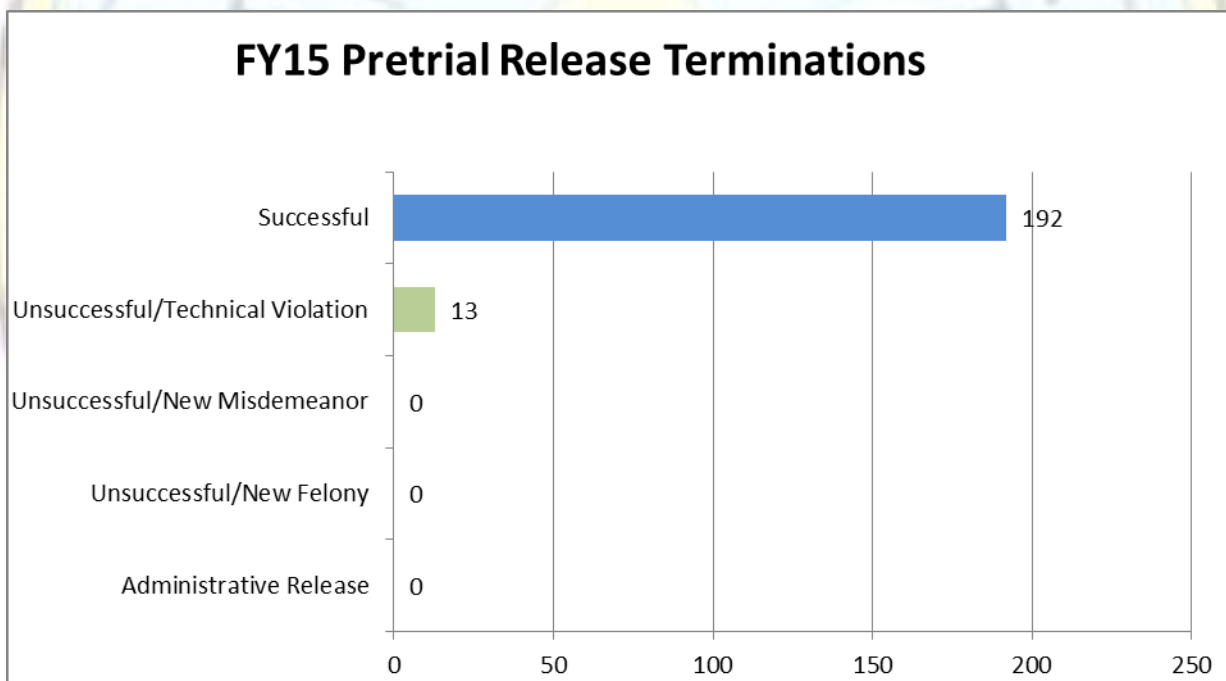
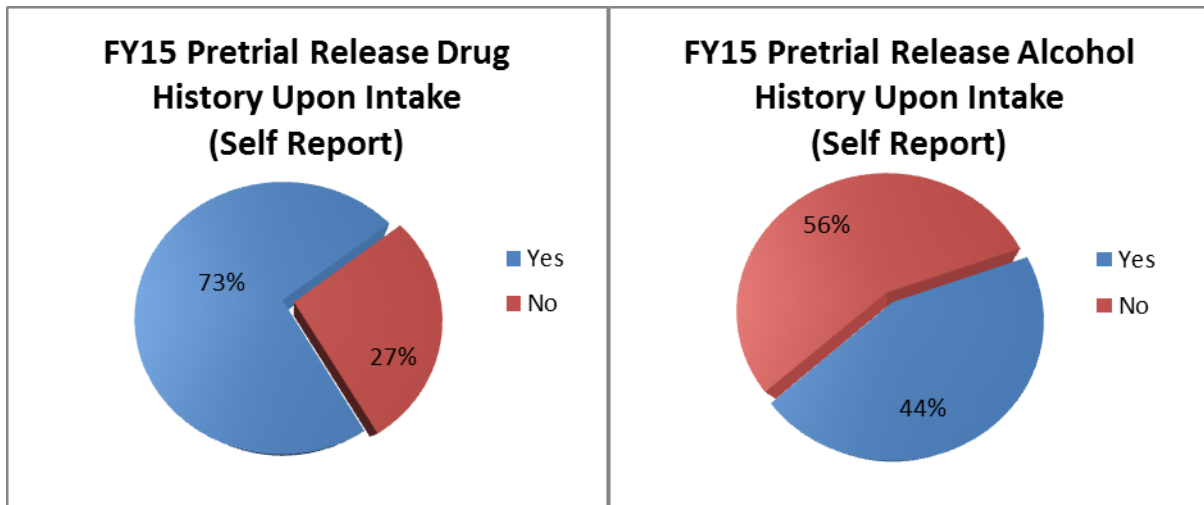


### FY15 Pretrial Release Age Breakdown Upon Intake



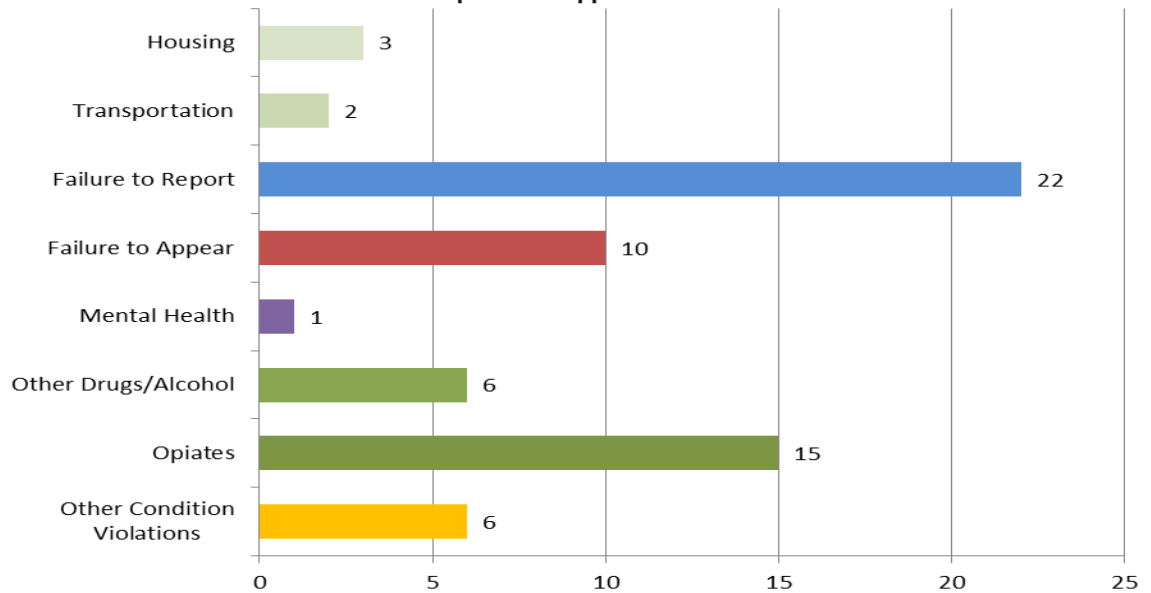
### FY15 Pretrial Release Years of Education Upon Intake





### FY15 Pretrial Release Unsuccessful Terminations-Defendant Issues/Criminogenic Needs/Risk Factors

\*Please note that multiple areas applied to most defendants



## **PRISON DIVERSION GRANT**

### **Intensive Supervision (ISP):**

Hancock County's Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) or 407 Program is designed to supervise and monitor offenders at a higher risk, or those with higher needs, for recidivism in the community by providing more restrictive, *intensive* supervision, utilizing programming focusing on the offender's criminogenic needs. This program consists of Evidence Based supervision, each appointment generating true "dosage" hours by utilizing the EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision) model, various case management interventions (i.e .Carey Guides) with gradually less restrictive sanctions based on the offender's compliance with conditions and reduced risk/need levels. The program is twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months in duration and to be terminated from the program now requires evidence based criteria. It should be noted that the Court began a Specialized Docket/ Drug Court in February of 2015 and most of these drug-related offenders are screened and some are granted participation in the program. The Drug Court program offers a far more intensive treatment model to improve their success. Drug Court Materials are later in this report.

Utilizing Evidence-Based Practices, principles that research has shown are effective in reducing the likelihood that an offender will commit a new crime, the Intensive Supervision Program has

endeavored to create a program that mirrors what research indicates works with Ohio offenders. The following eight basic principles involved establishing evidence-based practices are as follows:

- Assessing the risk and need of the offender;
- Enhancing the motivation of the offender;
- Targeting interventions to the offender's needs;
- Providing a skilled, trained staff;
- Increasing positive reinforcement;
- Engaging ongoing support in natural communities;
- Measuring relevant processes and practices;
- Providing measurement feedback.

The following are the processes by which the Intensive Supervision/Prison Diversion Program operates:

**Referral:** The Court, through the preparation of a presentence investigation, ORAS scoring, Treatment Readiness Scoring and Probation Department recommendation, refers (orders) offenders to the Intensive Supervision Program. They may also be referred by the Court subsequent to a violation of probation hearing or release from prison on a Judicial Release motion.

**Acceptance:** Acceptable offenders for the CCA/Intensive Supervision Program shall be identified with the following criteria:

- a) Amenable to Community Sanctions;
- b) Moderate to High Risk of Violating Community Control (ORAS Scores);
- c) Moderate to High Need for Services (ORAS scores) (Criminogenic Needs Identified during PSI);
- d) Not a threat to the community;
- e) Applicable Override to the ORAS tool

**Rejection:** Rejection from the program would relate to low ORAS scores, not finding the offender a safe risk for community supervision, or other reasons as determined by the Court.

**Termination:** Offenders shall complete a twelve (12) to eighteen (18) month term of supervision addressing their specific criminogenic needs in their individualized case plans. The officer will determine one or more of the following are present:

- Completing Court Orders;
- Adhering to /Completing Certain Conditions of Supervision;
- Exhibiting Pro-Social Behavior, Attitudes and Beliefs during Role-Playing and Sill Building Exercises;
- Successfully Participating in or Complete the CBT Program (when applicable);
- Homework;



- Dosage;
- Refraining from Illegal Activity;

Once the officer determines they are eligible, the termination is submitted to a supervisor and rolled to Basic Supervision within the Adult Probation Department.

As indicated above, officers are assessing for risk and need, assessing their readiness for treatment, case planning to their criminogenic targets and plugging them into revamped, in-house group interventions (see below) that are separated by risk and gender.

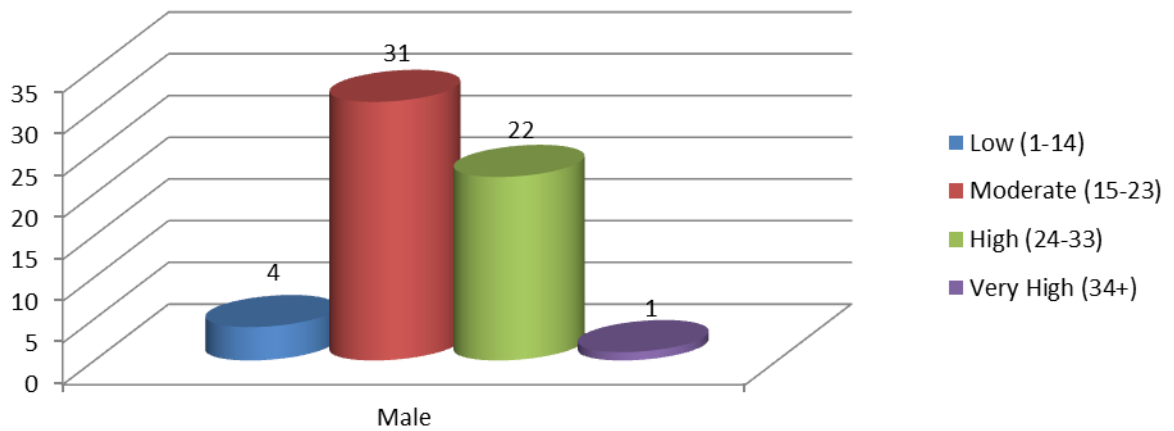
At the end of Fiscal Year 2015 (June 30, 2015), the Intensive Supervision Program diverted eighty two (82) offenders, exceeding our goal of (73) for Fiscal Year 2015. As evidenced above, the program continues to meet its goals of reducing commitments to state prisons; improving the quality and efficiency of the local criminal justice system and providing a cost effective option for safely supervising offenders in the community.

It should be noted that this is the program that has received the Cliff Skeen Community Corrections Award from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on numerous occasions and was recognized as the winner again in Fiscal Year 2013.

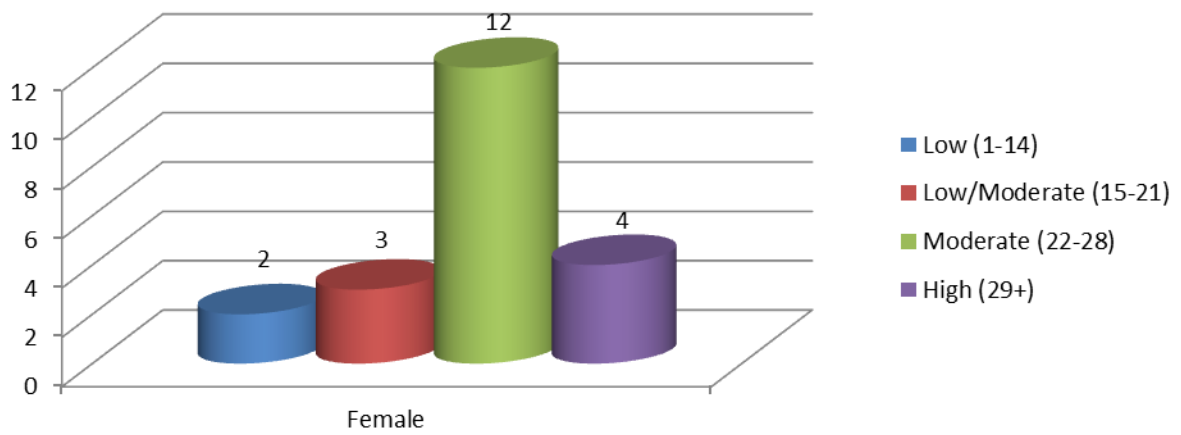


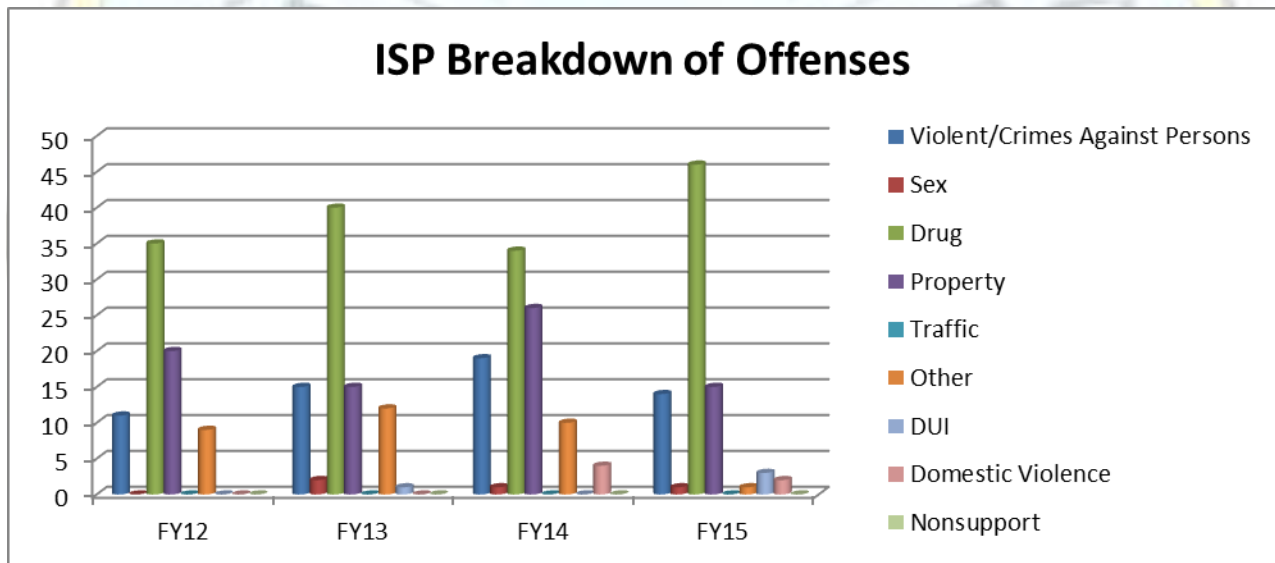
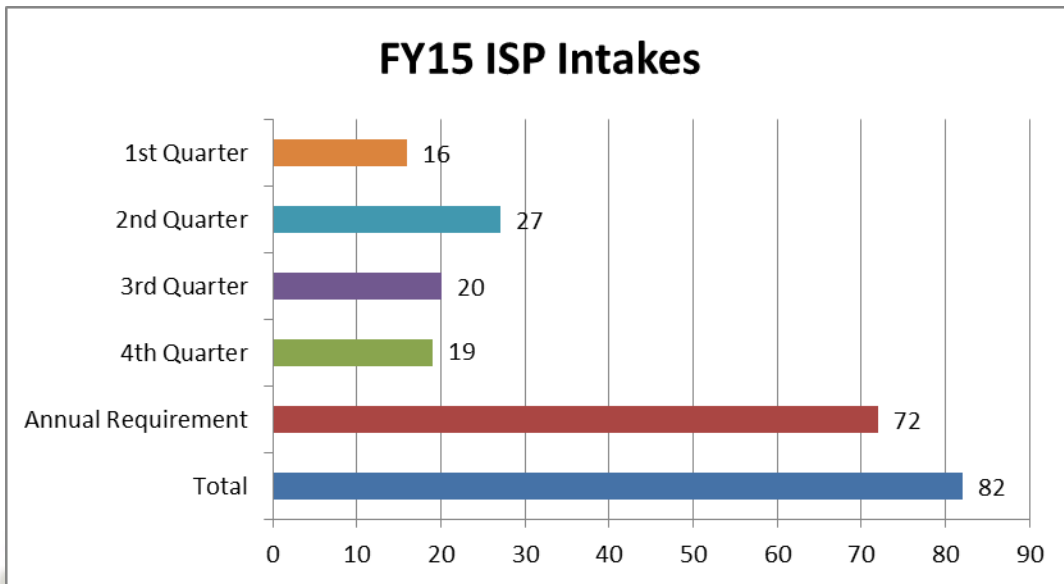
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### FY15 ISP Risk Scores (ORAS-CST)

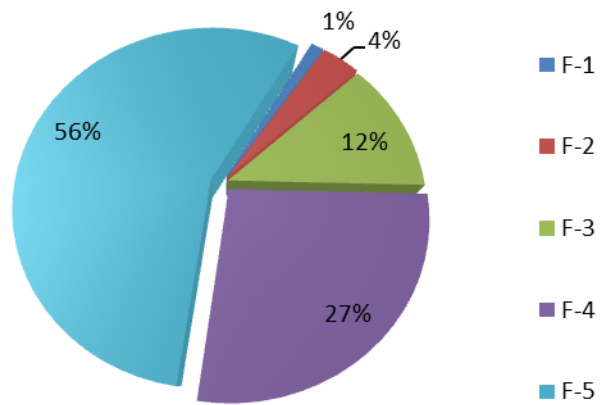


### FY15 ISP Risk Scores (ORAS-CST)

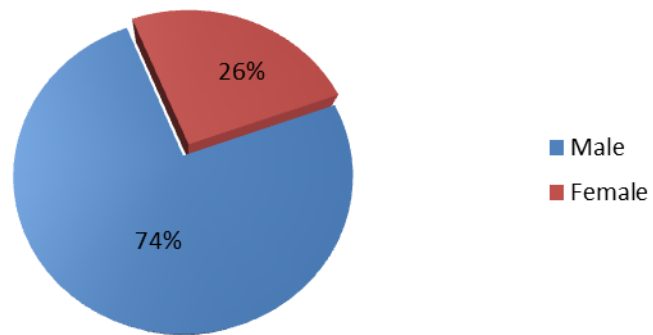




### FY15 ISP Degree of Offenses

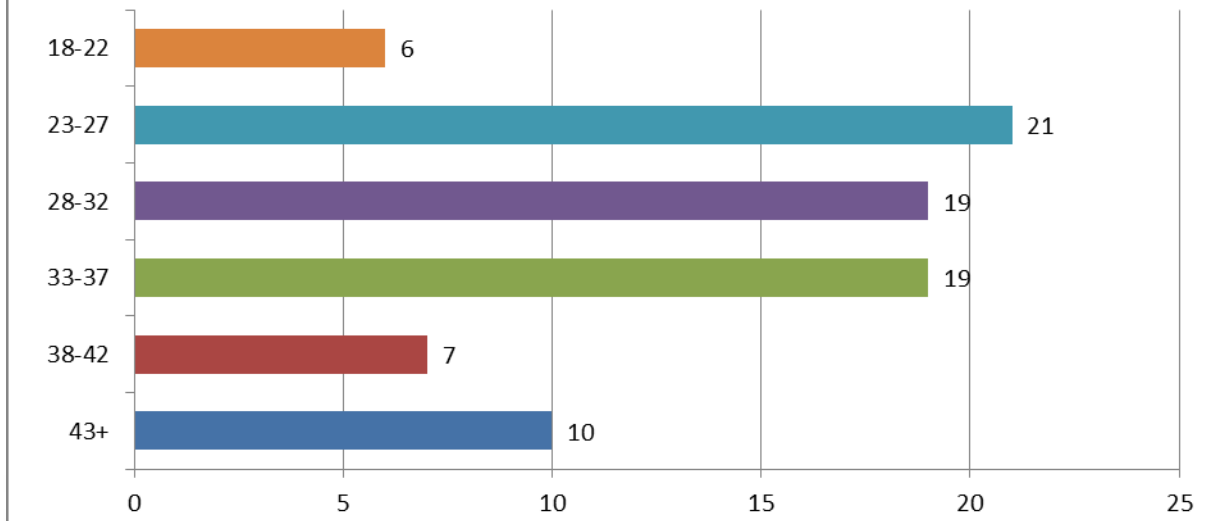


### FY15 ISP Intakes By Gender

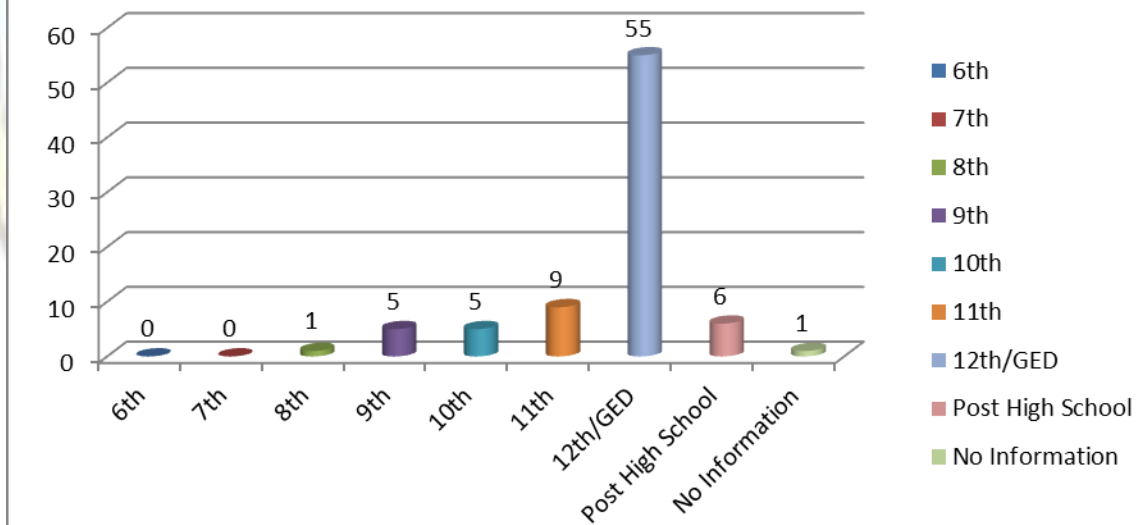


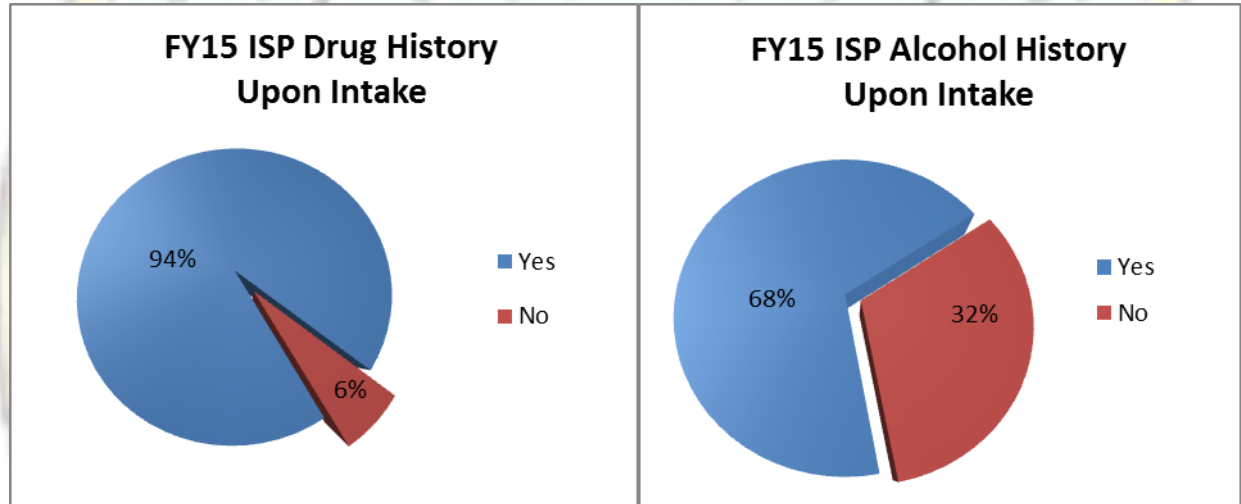
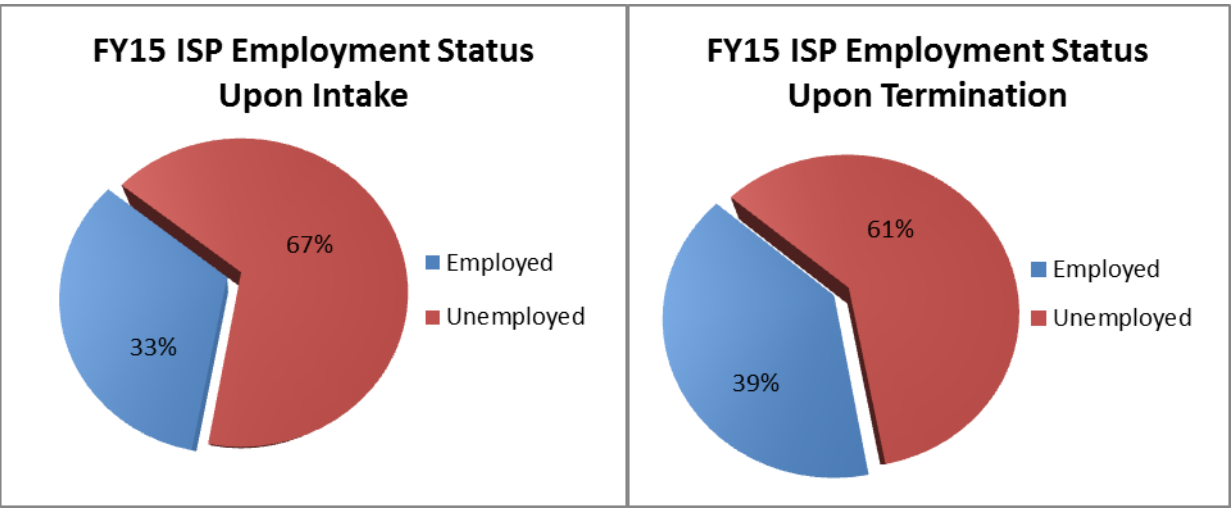


### FY15 ISP Age Breakdown Upon Intake

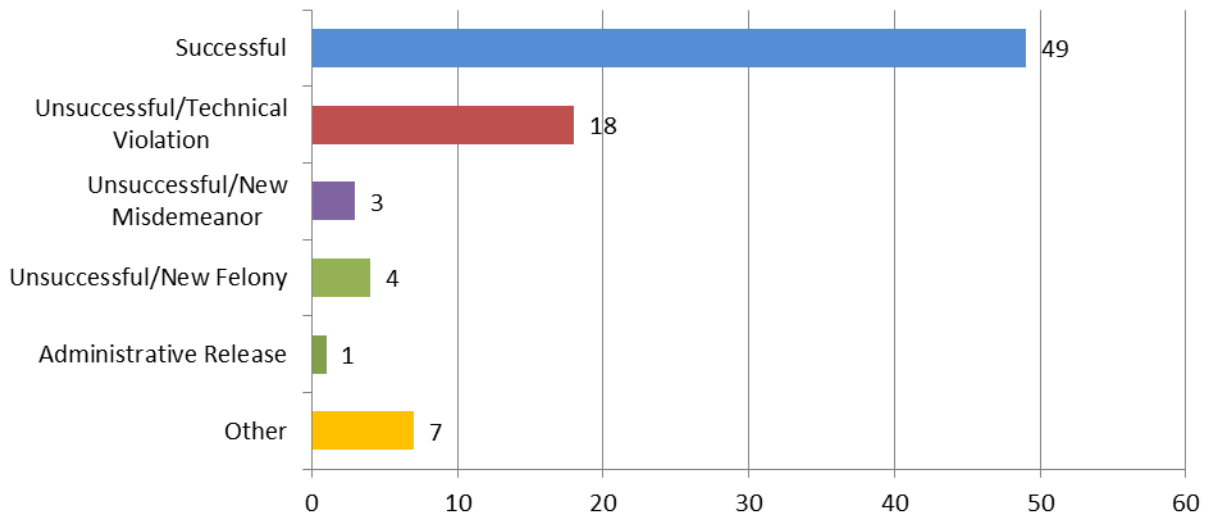


### FY15 ISP Years of Education Upon Intake



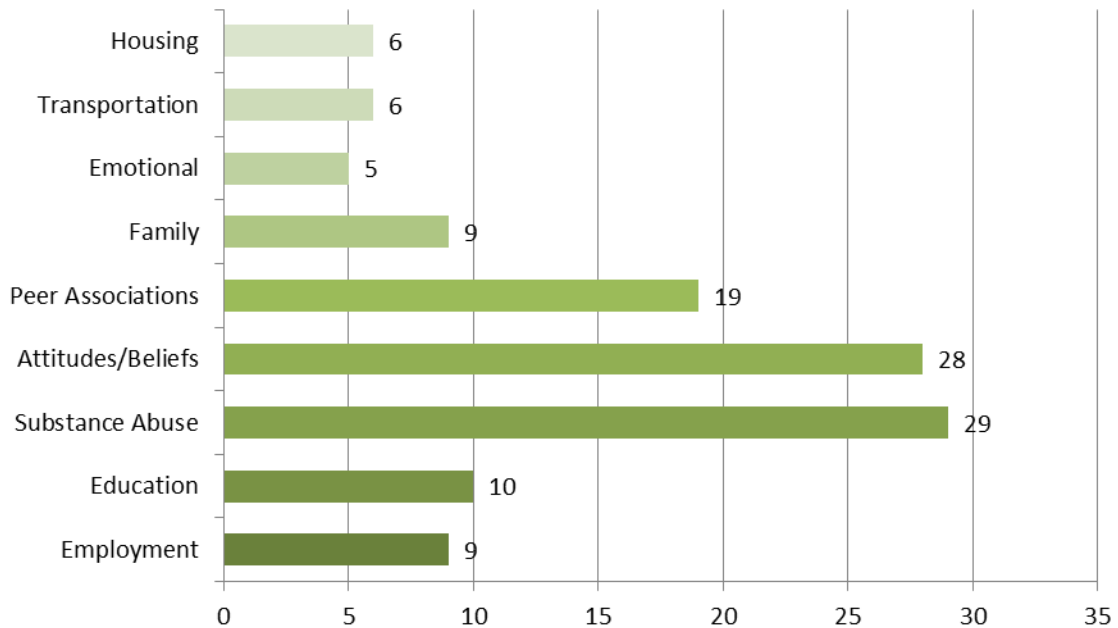


## FY15 ISP Terminations

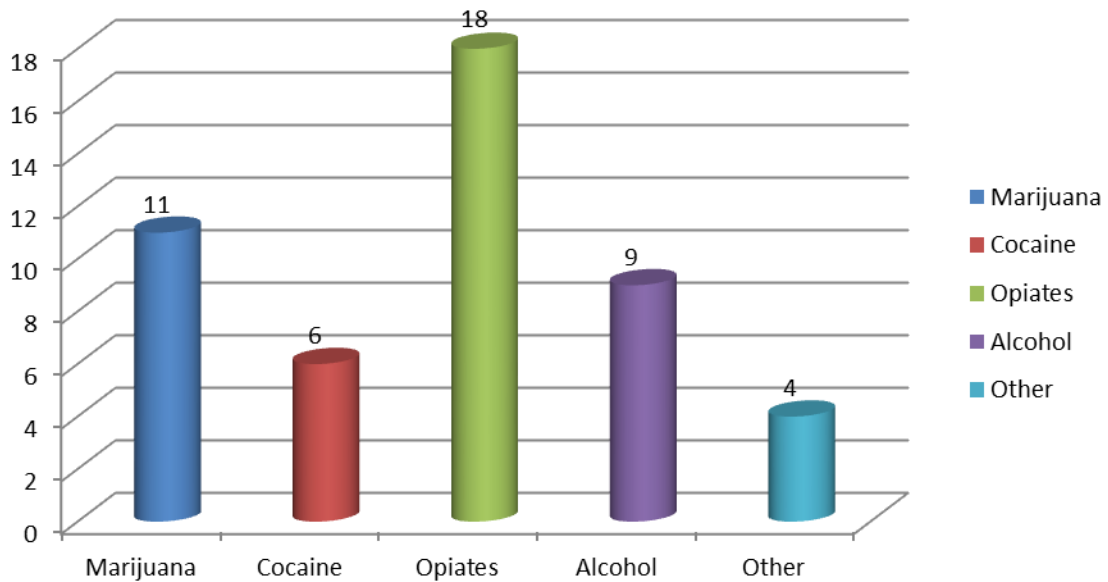


## FY15 ISP Unsuccessful Terminations-Defendant Issues/Criminogenic Needs/Risk Factors

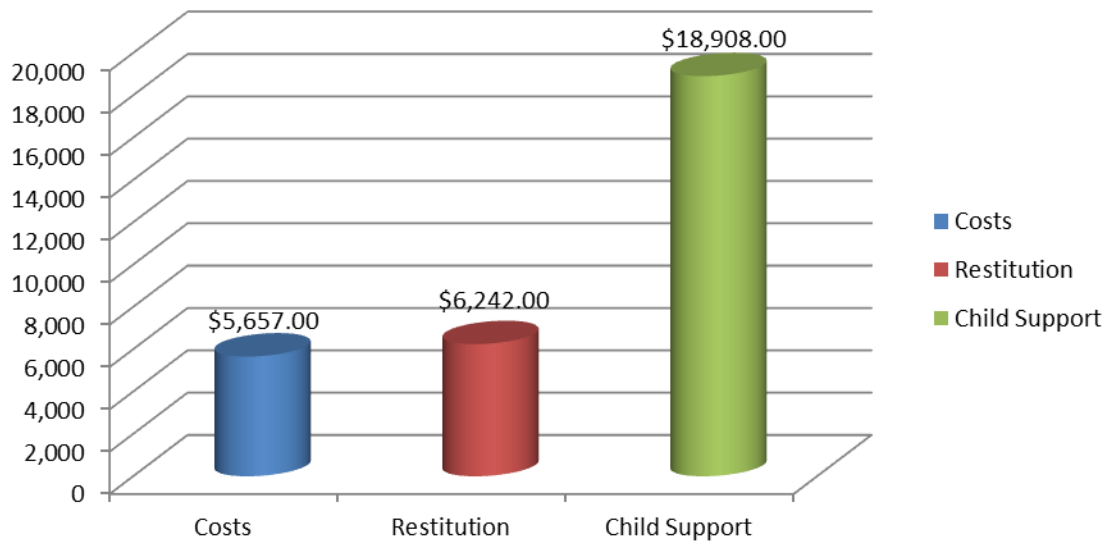
\*Please note that multiple areas applied to most defendants



### FY15 ISP Terminations Substance Abuse Issue Breakdown



### FY15 ISP Funds Collected





## **Hancock County Specialized Docket/ Drug Court**

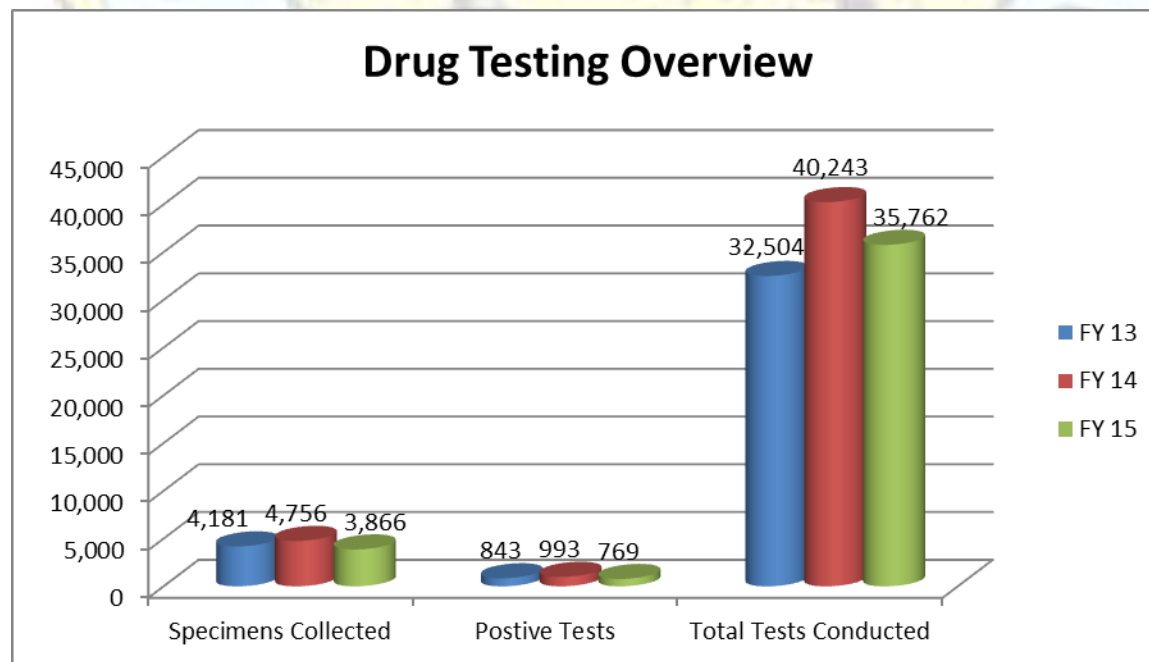
The Hancock County Common Pleas Court embarked to begin a Specialized Docket, specifically a Drug Court for both Courts sentencing defendants to these various programs in Hancock County. Commencing February of 2015, the Drug Court begin screening for and treating defendants who qualify for these much-needed intensive treatment services. Both Specialized Dockets for Judge Niemeyer and Judge Routson were certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio in December of 2015.

To qualify for Drug Court, the defendant must have a Diagnosis of Addiction and a Moderate to High ORAS Score, placing them in the above-referenced Intensive Supervision Program. As of the close of Fiscal Year 2015, there were ten (10) defendants in the Drug Court Program. As it is a new program and the criminogenic needs being addressed further all the time, it is too early to review for success in this program.

In FY15, the Court began this program with no new monies to do so; they were able to provide the additional probation staff and drug testing and electronic monitoring resources thru these grants; however the Court became eligible for new monies the Ohio State Legislature has dedicated to specialized dockets. These funds will be useful in the running of these extremely labor-intensive programs. See financial section.

### **Drug Testing**

Hancock County CCA Programs continue to provide random urinalysis of high-risk offenders in an attempt to monitor and prevent drug usage. The program currently has the ability to test for Marijuana, Cocaine, Opiates, Methamphetamine, Oxycontin, Ecstasy, PCP, Amphetamines, Oxycodone, Methadone, Suboxone and Benzodiazepines. In Fiscal Year 2015, over 35,000 individual tests were performed. Additional drug and alcohol screening is completed in the field utilizing instant saliva tests and breathalyzer technology.



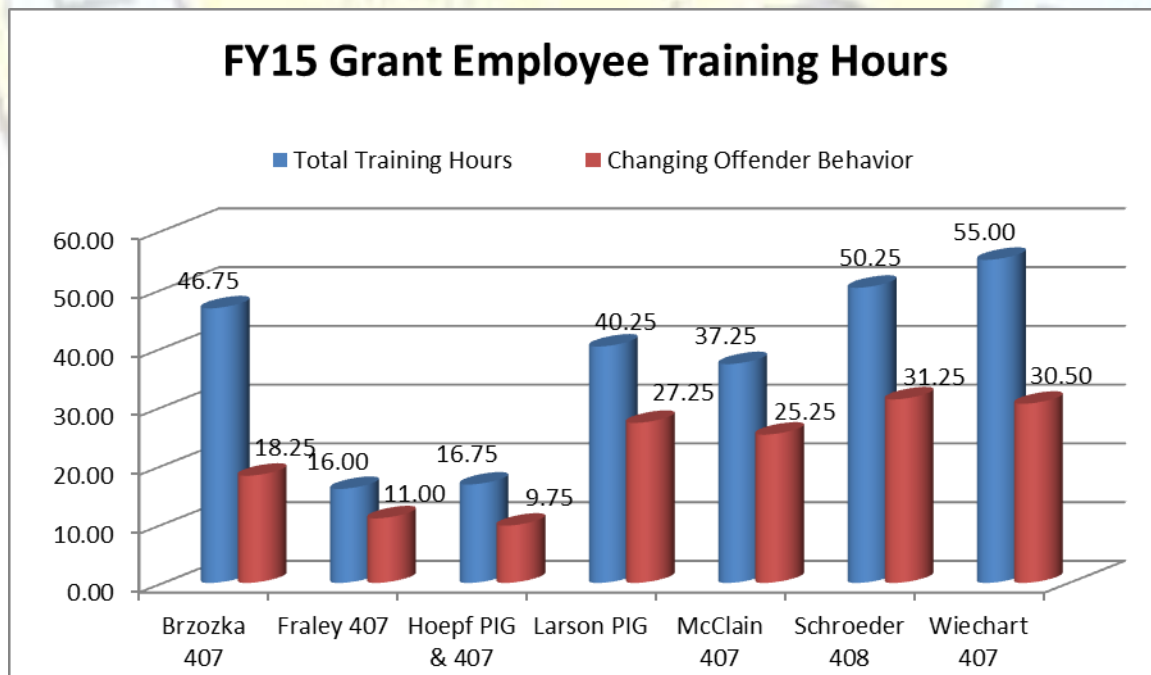
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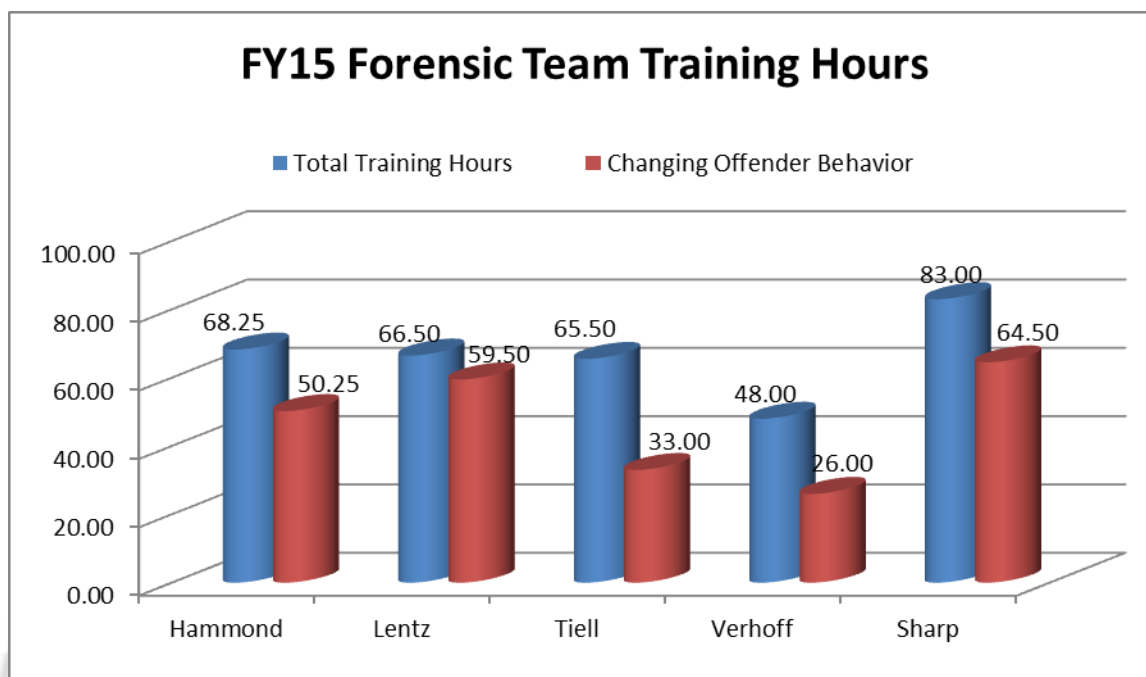
## **Staff Training**

Despite significant budget cuts, Hancock County CCA Programs continues to emphasize the importance of employee training. Administration strives to utilize many free-of-charge resources, ensuring that training hours are focused on COB or “changing offender behavior.” As highlighted in the University of Cincinnati findings, we will continue to focus on their recommendations for in-house training for FY16.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has a training requirement that every staff person providing direct services must receive twenty-four (24) hours of training relevant to evidence-based practices and service delivery. Employees not delivering direct services must receive a total of eight (8) hours annually.

Note: Officer LeAnda Hoepf resigned to work for a local treatment provider early in the Fiscal Year.





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## A Community Coming Together Evidence Based Practices in Hancock County

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Fiscal Year 2015 showed the results of many years of evaluation, reengineering and cultural collaborations for the treatment and criminal justice/ community corrections programs. Fiscal Year 2015 is the year that the Court's vision of in-house treatment interventions being supported and sustained without State Grants.

In an effort to address many of the recommendations from a CPC program assessment conducted by the University of Cincinnati in 2011 and to address upcoming House Bill 86 implications, the Common Pleas Court collaborated with Century Health, Inc., ADAMHS Board and Findlay Municipal Court to apply for and were awarded two Probation Improvement Grants in December of 2011. The training grant in the amount of \$41,500.00 allowed for local as well as regional training in relevant, state-approved interventions. The \$250,000.00 was obtained to subsequently create an in-house Forensic Team/Unit that could provide the state-required treatment services and much-needed case management of offenders while on probation. This Forensic Team model is now the backbone of our Specialized Docket/ Drug Court Programming. All required/recommended interventions were in place.

### **Successful Collaboration with Century Health, Inc.:**

Based on recommendations made from the program evaluation above, the Court and Century Health, Inc. developed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to ensure communications, referrals, trainings, stats would be collected and reported with ease. This product is reviewed annually.

In addition, in an effort to ensure that both treatment and probation teams were speaking the same language and REINFORCING the same criminogenic targets, as of FY 15, both probation and treatment teams (Century Health, Inc.) are required to obtain the following certifications to work with felony defendants:

- ORAS Certifications
- University of Cincinnati Substance Abuse / CBI
- Thinking for a Change Curriculum
- Motivational Interviewing
- EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision)

### **Financial Sustainability**

The *sustainability plan* for these now state-required, evidence-based, in-house interventions that begin in 2012 was to establish the infrastructure to begin to BILL FOR THESE SERVICES and ensure their reimbursement for those defendants who can and must now qualify for the *Affordable Care Act Insurance coverage*. To finalize this goal, the Court obtained additional State of Ohio grants for the purchase of needed infrastructure (renovations to the probation department, computers and furniture and software licenses for AVATAR and COURTVIEW). In addition, the Court collaborated with Century Health to obtain a site certification to be able to bill and additionally entered into a Business Agreement to protect the defendants and their privacy rights.

Century Health provided training and began *the billing on July 1, 2015*. Though Century Health is now correcting some billing codes, we should be able to discern by April of 2016 what the in-house Forensic Team is generating in financially.



### **In-House Treatment Services:**

The following in house items are being billed:

- Diagnostic Assessments;
- Individual Substance Abuse Therapy;
- Individual Mental Health Therapy;
- Case Management
- Medically Assisted Treatment
- Drug Testing
- Cognitive Behavioral Group Therapy;
  - Substance Abuse
  - Thinking for a Change
  - Aftercare
  - Social Skills
  - Peer Support

The following remain goals for our joint teams:

- Creating formal referral and discharge summaries;
- Increasing Quality Assurance Activities;
- Increasing staff training/utilization of punishers and reinforcements;
- Acquiring monies to be utilized for incentives;
- Increasing staff training/utilization of skill building/rehearsal in individual appointments (EPICS Interventions);
- Increasing staff training in the following areas:
  - Effective interventions,
  - Behavioral strategies (role-playing),
  - Application of reinforcers and punishers,
  - Risk/need factors related to criminal conduct.

### **In-house Occupational Therapy:**

In addition to the formal treatment referenced above, the Court is collaborating with the University of Findlay for Occupational Therapy services. They are also provided an in-house location to meet with defendants (removing the transportation barrier) as they work on budgeting, basic life skills, organizational techniques, and many other issues as they arise. There was an MOU drafted in 2015 with the University; however needs finalized in 2016. Currently, the University has graduate level students perform their required field hours with probation defendants and the Court gets the services free of charge.

In addition, the Court created a pre and posttest to be utilized by defendants referred to this program. It is similar the Drug Court test, which the Court hopes to be able to measure what is completed during their time in this program. Occupational Therapy prepares someone to then begin workplace readiness.

### **In-house Employment Services:**

Collaboration with the Ohio Job and Family Services also provide in-house case management services involving employment readiness. The case manager assigned to this task has office hours dedicated to the Adult Probation Department to again remove the transportation barriers that exist to the current Job Program on CR 140 Findlay, Ohio. This agreement will also be formalized in 2016.

### **Miscellaneous Services:**

In addition to these regular services utilized by the Court, the Court has been lucky enough to collaborate with Choices and A Renewed Mind for Housing as well as Medically Assisted Treatment. In addition, the Court has continued to work alongside the Open Arms Domestic Violence Program and Veterans Services Commission when warranted.

## **Community Corrections Planning Board**

The Community Corrections Planning Board remains active not only in the CCA Grant Programs, but comprehensively in the local criminal justice system. In Fiscal Year 2015, the Hancock County Community Corrections Planning Board held the statutorily required meetings as follows:

- September 15, 2014
- February 10, 2015
- May 15, 2015

The Board remains active in assisting the community in planning for and reporting out on issues related to criminal justice. Currently the Board is tracking and/or overseeing the following

- **Jail Expansion:**  
Municipal Judges Fry and Starn have been working since the implementation of House Bill 86 to research the need for additional jail space. They sanctioned an updated study to ascertain our community's needs in this arena. Subsequent to review, they continue to explore the possibility of building a misdemeanor facility, and utilization of Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC).
- **Reentry Initiatives:**  
A comprehensive Reentry Coalition remains incredibly active in this community addressing the various criminogenic needs. Some major highlights impacting the criminal justice system are listed below:

### **Hancock County Justice Center Linkage Grant:**

A major highlight for the Reentry Coalition has been a Linkage Grant whereby the Hancock County Justice Center embarked on implementing Evidence Based Practices. From Assessment to Effective Disapproval to Linking defendants with peer support and services related to their criminogenic needs, the Hancock County Justice Center will be implementing findings in a University of Cincinnati

Assessment. In Fiscal Year 2015, they implemented treatment groups focused on Skill Building and are cognitive behavioral interventions.

**Opiate Task Force:**

The Reentry Coalition also remains incredibly active to building an infrastructure that can assist with the Opiate Epidemic. They have made great strides and now continue to focus their efforts on Detox, Medically Assisted Treatment and Recovery Housing.

**Housing:**

The Reentry Coalition continues to focus on Permanent Supportive Housing for all citizens but especially the forensic population in Hancock County. In Fiscal Year 15, the ADAMHS Board and Housing Consortium utilized monies toward one of the community's Recovery Homes

**Peer/Family/ Pro Social Support:**

Century Health currently manages Peer Support positions supporting those coming out of jail and/or on probation supervision. In addition, the ADAMHS Board continues to support the Focus on Friends location provides a safe location for those suffering from Addiction looking for Pro Social Support. Continues to manage our community forward in these

- **Principles of Effective Intervention:**

Director Switzer continues to find grant dollars and to host regional trainings on Evidence Based Practices.

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## **Financial Overview**

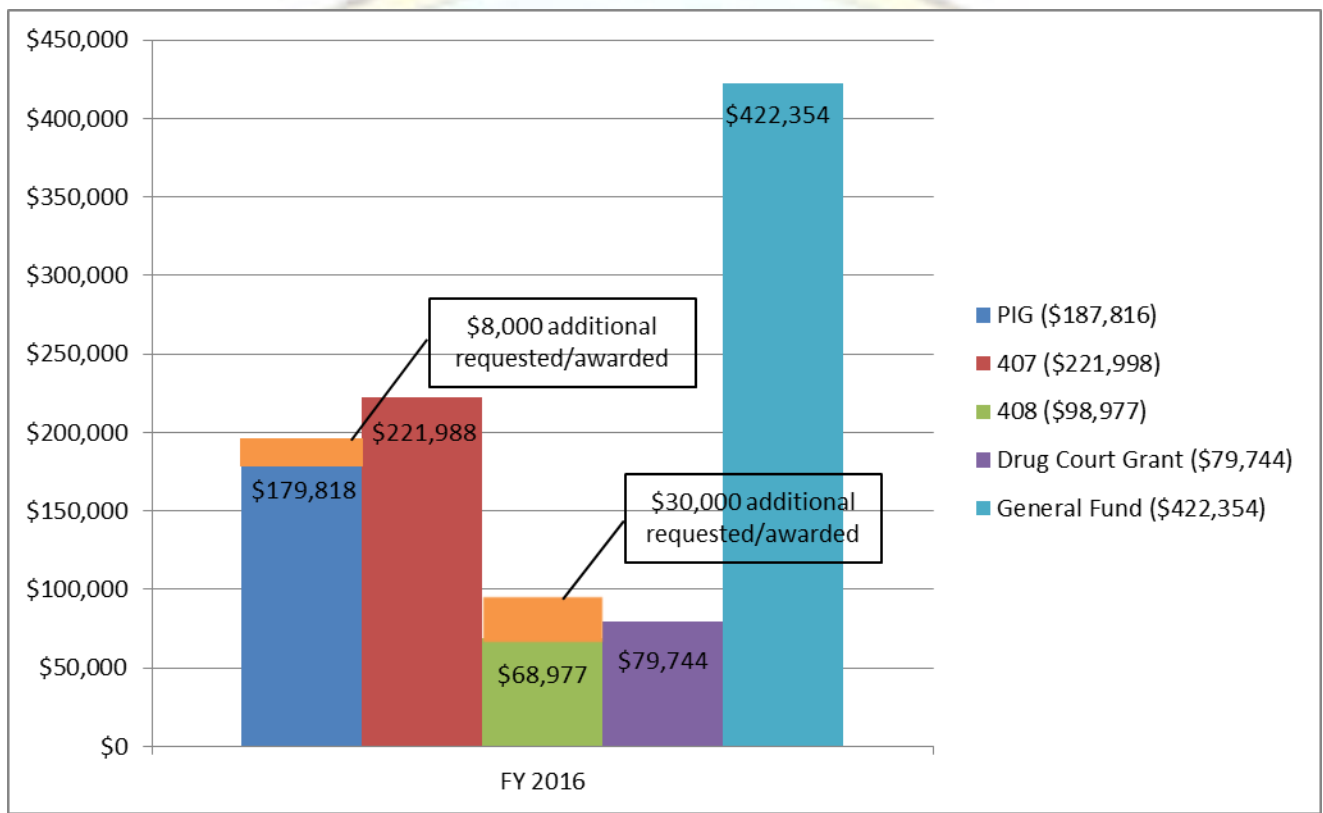
The Court has been extremely aggressive in seeking and securing additional revenue sources to ensure the ability to comply with evidence based interventions as well as respond to unfunded mandates such as House Bill 86.

As referenced above, it sought after and secured the highly competitive Probation Improvement Grants (PIG) in 2012 to begin the in-house treatment interventions and aided in securing additional funding to finalize setting up the infrastructure (renovations, equipment, software licenses, etc.) to begin billing for these services in July of 2015. This infrastructure is also what permitted the Court to begin a Drug Court to address the local opiate epidemic plaguing our community and criminal justice population.

This report is required as a condition of receiving the above referenced funds from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, however it should be noted that to operate these programs properly and with fidelity, the Court secured Specialized Docket grants for both courts,

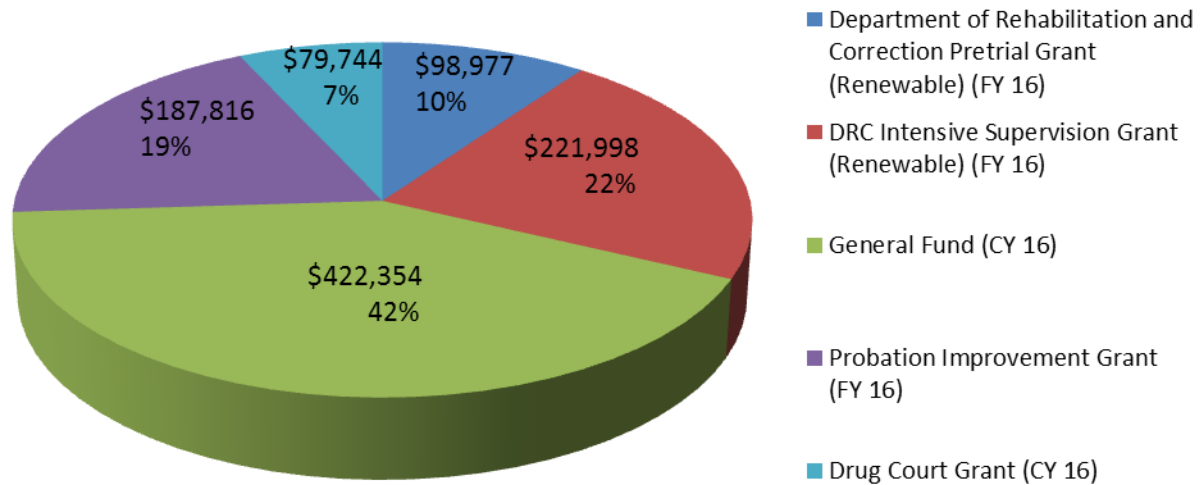
totaling \$79.44.00 from Oho Department of Mental Health and Additional Services. Funding for Fiscal Year 2016 is as follows:

### Funding for Fiscal/Calendar Year 2016





## Hancock County Adult Probation Department Funding



### ***Mission Statement***

*The Hancock County Adult Probation Department is dedicated promoting citizen safety; striving to provide interventions that mirror evidence-based practices to assist offenders in changing behavior; providing monitoring of court orders and serving as liaison to crime victims.*