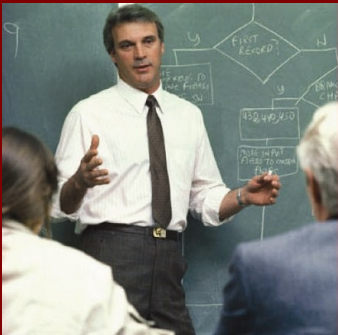


# *Nebraska Probation*



## Probation: Building Better Lives for Safer Communities

Biennial Report  
2010-2011



Probation: Through the Court for the Community

Nebraska Supreme Court / Office of Probation Administration

[www.supremecourt.ne.gov/probation](http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/probation)





A healthy democratic society can exist only if the people of the State have respect for their legal system. That respect comes not from being awed by the system but rather from understanding that system. The information in this report is designed to help the people of the State of Nebraska better understand the Probation System.

*Chief Justice of the State of Nebraska,  
Honorable Mike Heavican*

## **Probation Vision**

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

## **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.*

**A message from State Probation Administrator Ellen Fabian Brokofsky**

Probation in Nebraska represents the focused, accountable management of juveniles and adults who are permitted by the courts to reside in the community while abiding by the court's dispositional or sentencing order. Accountability management requires disclosure as to how probationers are supervised, in particular how that supervision contributes to individual rehabilitation and improved community safety.

Since 2005, the Nebraska Probation System has worked to adopt and implement new proven practices of investigation and supervision. Using the evidence-based model of good Probation practice as a guide, probation officers appropriately assess a juvenile's or adult's risk to recidivate, their motivation

to change the behavior that resulted in their involvement with the justice system in the first place, and what level of oversight is required by the officer to assure they are following the court's order. This accurate assessment followed by purposeful intervention by the probation officer and a swift response to any violation of the court's order improves the likelihood of successful completion of probation and consequently improves community safety.

This biennial report focuses on the state of Probation during the years 2010 and 2011. It is intended to provide meaningful information about the Nebraska Probation System during those years by offering an overview of the demographics of the probationer, successful discharges and revocations of probation, specialized programs that aid in both the rehabilitation and accountability of the probationer and information about the fees collected that support those programs.

Probation officers make lasting changes in each local community by assisting both juveniles and adults to become productive members of society. A special acknowledgement to the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, and to the Chief Probation Officers and their staffs for their continuous support of our probation officers and their outstanding contribution to the field of Probation.



***Ellen Fabian Brokofsky***  
***Probation Administrator***

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen Fabian Brokofsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Probation's Priorities

The Office of Probation Administration has identified priorities for each of its divisions as follows:

### The Division of Organizational Development and Training

Frank Jenson, Deputy Administrator



#### Division Priorities:

- Modify the current personnel classification system to identify essential duties of all positions.
- Develop a program for staff advancement based on abilities, and a plan for employee recruitment and replacement.
- Define, develop and implement evidence-based training programs and policies for new and advanced officers.
- Identify areas to develop and implement electronic media training.
- Develop a customer service questionnaire.
- Review turnover rates and make predictions based on turnover data.

### The Division of Community-Based Supervision, Programming and Services

Deb Minardi, Deputy Administrator



#### Division Priorities:

- Develop and implement core case management standards for the DUI population.
- Institutionalize the juvenile service project.
- Develop quality assurance standards for reporting centers.
- Evaluate specialized offender populations, program performance outcomes and provide an ongoing feedback loop to key stakeholders.
- Identify adult and juvenile justice system efficiencies for improvement in collaboration with other state agencies.

## Probation's Priorities

### The Division of Field Services

Steve Rowoldt, Deputy Administrator

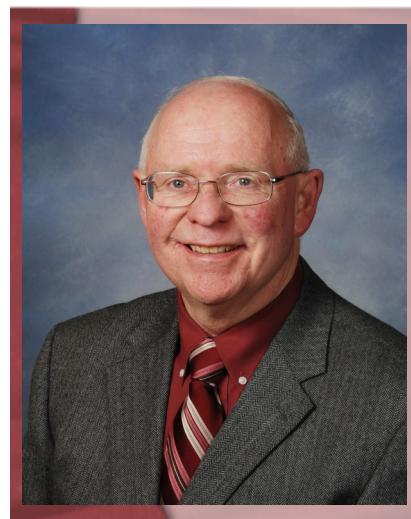


#### Division Priorities:

- Develop performance standards for field service Probation functions.
- Develop a district evaluation template.
- Identify existing district service continuums while developing new efficiencies in field services.
- Assess supervisory and officer skills, as well as competencies within the field/quality assurance areas.
- Improve existing and/or develop new processes within each district as they apply to the qualitative systemic approach to offender management.

### The Division of Operations

David Wegner, Deputy Administrator



#### Division Priorities:

- Maintain a case management system that increases accuracy, reduces duplication and supports uniform data outcomes.
- Evaluate and implement information technology monitoring tools that support the Nebraska Probation System.
- Maintain an effective drug testing program that supports the interruption of the offender's addiction cycle.
- Generate uniform data reports that identify significant outcomes which support evidence-based principles.
- Enable a help desk that assists users in identifying system problems while providing successful solutions.

## 2010 - 2011 At a Glance

### Serving the Courts

The Nebraska Probation System is organizationally aligned with the judicial branch of government. In performing its function, Probation strives to achieve intertwined goals of community protection, offender accountability and competency development.

**Investigations:**

	County Court	District Court	Juveniles
2010	4,797	5,911	2,842
2011	4,095	5,961	2,916

**Sentenced / Placed on Probation:**

	Adults	Juveniles
2010	12,731	2,820
2011	11,534	2,929

**Juvenile Intakes:**

2010	725*
2011	1,840

**Probationers Supervised:**

	Adults	Juveniles
2010	28,568	5,147
2011	26,498	5,226

\*2010 is a partial year. An automated system for juvenile intake was initiated during 2010.

### Saving Taxpayer Dollars

Courts can effectively supervise offenders at a lower cost than prison through programs as shown below.

One-Day Cost of Inmate at Department of Correctional Services: \$77.21

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One-Day Cost of Traditional Adult Probation: \$2.19

One-Day Cost of Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS): \$6.23

Cost Per Reporting Center Visit: \$.03

## Fees Collected

FY 2009-2010	County Court	District Court
Enrollment Fees	\$ 338,972	\$ 35,185
Program Fees	\$1,399,188	\$348,545
FY 2010-2011		
Enrollment Fees	\$ 298,117	\$ 46,192
Program Fees	\$1,276,247	\$395,751

Source of Fees Collected information was JUSTICE.

## Restitution and Community Service

2010 Hours of Community Service = 45,547  
 2011 Hours of Community Service = 94,997

2010 Dollars of Restitution = \$ 524,042  
 2011 Dollars of Restitution = \$1,647,648

Hours of community service and dollars of restitution for 2010 were affected by the conversion from Nebraska Probation Management Information System (NPMIS) to Nebraska Probation Applications for Community Safety (NPACS). When information was converted, it did not pull the amounts over to the new sys-



## Awards and Recognition



*Deb Minardi, Deputy Probation Administrator, receives APPA's Prestigious President's Award at Washington, DC, Conference.*

- **PROBATION RECEIVES APPA PRESIDENT'S AWARD** – August 2010  
The Nebraska Probation System was awarded the American Probation and Parole Association's (APPA) President's Award for development and implementation of Nebraska's unique Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) program.
- **PROBATION'S *Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE)* RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION** – August 2010  
The RISE AmeriCorps program, created by Nebraska Probation in collaboration with AmeriCorps, is among 52 programs nationally highlighted in "Transforming Communities through Service: A Collection of 52 of the Most Innovative AmeriCorps Programs in the United States."
- **PROBATION ADMINISTRATOR ELLEN FABIAN BROKOFSKY, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROBATION EXECUTIVES (NAPE) - August 2010**  
Probation's Administrator Ellen Fabian Brokofsky assumed the position of president of NAPE during its annual meeting in Washington, DC.
- **PROBATION'S PROGRAM SPECIALIST SELECTED AS ONE OF 30 YOUNG SOCIAL WORKERS TO ATTEND NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONGRESS** – April 2010  
Toni (Ahrendt) Jensen was chosen to attend the National Social Work Congress in Washington, DC. Jensen was selected as one of 30 emerging national leaders under 30 years of age to participate in this second invitation-only Congress of Social Work.
- **COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR KARI RUMBAUGH RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD** – November 2011  
Kari Rumbaugh, Nebraska's Deputy Interstate Compact Administrator, received the 2011 Interstate Compact Executive Director's Award in recognition of her outstanding work for the Adult Interstate Compact System.

## Professionalism, Training and Probation Staff

In September 2011, Probation Administration re-instated the swearing in of all new probation officers. Upon completion of the necessary training and meeting the requirements essential to fulfilling the duties of a Nebraska State Probation Officer, trainees were sworn-in in a ceremony held at the Nebraska State Capitol and coordinated by the Office of Probation Administration. Also, in 2011, all current probation officers were sworn in by local district court judges in ceremonies organized by the individual districts.



*New Probation Officers, front row , l-r: Melissa Elder, Omaha; Jannene Sass, Omaha; Paula Rohl, Omaha; Holly Collins, Papillion; Jannelle Seim, Aurora; Ronicka Schottel, Lincoln; Karen Foster, Lincoln; Ladonna Jones-Dunlap, Omaha. Middle row, l-r: Chief Justice Michael Heavican, Christine Allen, Nebraska City; Beth McQueen, Omaha; Jessica Curd, Papillion; Tiffany Stallbaum, South Sioux City; Becky Miranda, South Sioux City; Trista Boyle, South Sioux City; JoJo Inslo, Columbus; Julie Smith, Seward; Julie Hamburger, Alliance. Back row, l-r: Ross Tomjack, O'Neill; Doug Stanton, O'Neill; Nicole Buschmeyer, Blair; David Anderson, Omaha; Emily Kirschenmann, Fremont; Brian Priess, Grand Island; Jeff Banholzer, Columbus; Adam Jorgenson, Norfolk; Jay Rezai, Omaha; Joe Bailey, Omaha.*

## Professionalism, Training and Probation Staff

In October 2011, all Chief Probation Officers were sworn in by District 9 District Court Judge John Icenogle. The ceremony took place at the Buffalo County Courthouse as part of Probation's Fall Executive Management meeting.



*Chief Probation Officers, front row, l-r: Ron Broich, District #4A, Omaha Adult; Clay Schutz, District #9, Grand Island; Kathryn Liebers, District #7, Norfolk; Shane Stutzman, District #5, Columbus; District Court Judge John Icenogle, Kearney; Mike Cantrell, District #4J, Omaha Juvenile; Sarah Rinne, District #1, Beatrice; Tara Sprigler-Price, District #8, O'Neill; Jodi York, District #2, Papillion. Back row, l-r: Bob Horton, District #10, Hastings; Bob Denton, District #6, Fremont; Lonnie Folchert, District #11, North Platte; Gene Cotter, District #3A, Lincoln Adult; Lori Griggs, District #3J, Lincoln Juvenile; Linda Buehler, District #12, Gering.*

## Excellence in Training

The Judicial Branch Education division of the Nebraska Supreme Court oversees training and education for all Probation employees. Providing quality training is an essential function of the Nebraska Probation System. Justice is administered every time a Probation employee comes into contact with a member of the public, from the receptionist in rural Nebraska to the Probation Administrator in Lincoln.

All Probation training adheres to the evidence-based practices and reinforces the Nebraska Probation System's Vision and Mission. The trainings help officers and staff to reach the system's Vision and Mission on a daily basis when working with victims, offenders, communities and the courts. Research has shown highly-skilled and trained probation officers are better able to identify treatment needs among their clientele, and thus are better able to direct resources to those most in need resulting in reduced recidivism.

Judicial Branch Education and Probation continue to develop and offer interactive online education offerings. Web-based technology is utilized to broadcast live training throughout the state in an effort to reduce the cost associated with officers and staff traveling to Lincoln for training.



*Case/Caseload Management training session in Gering in March 2011. L-r: Julie Hamburger, Courtney Johnson, Steve Lovelidge, Melissa Buhr-Gould, Gering; Jerid Wedige, Trainer; Gary Hoffman, Chadron.*

## Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Pilot Project: A Success Story

in January of 2009, the Office of Probation Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services created strategies for providing access to services for juveniles and their families involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

- The pilot project was implemented first in the Douglas County Separate Juvenile Court, Judicial District 4, in July 2009.
  - o Juveniles were able to access needed services sooner thus decreasing the need for out-of-home care.
  - o A continuum of services was developed and made accessible through community-based providers.
- The court is provided comprehensive case management and access to the needed service options.
  - o The priority is to serve the juvenile while residing in their family home.
  - o The project cultivated new, evidence-based services to be offered by community providers.
  - o It is designed to remove financial barriers for juveniles in need of services.
  - o It preserves the juvenile justice mantra of least intrusive and least restrictive.

### Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project 3-year Outcomes

Total juveniles: 1,216  
Discharged as of June 30, 2012: 783

Of the juveniles discharged —

- 639 completed probation (82%)
- 144 were committed to Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Juvenile Services (18% )

In Addition.....

- 1,089 utilized services while remaining at home (90%)
- 127 utilized out-of-home placements (10%)
- 99% of youth in out-of-home care have not experienced a substantiated abuse or neglect report
- 77% utilizing out-of-home care have been in care less than 12 months
- 98% of youth have had two or fewer out-of-home placements while in the Project
- 85% have not entered higher levels of care
- 98% were arrest-free during their term of probation
- 66% have not re-offended within 12 months of discharge from probation

## Juvenile Supervision

Probation's juvenile programs include juvenile intake, predisposition investigations and supervision.

### Juvenile Intake

Juvenile Intake is defined by Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-250 concerning juveniles held in temporary custody by a law enforcement officer. Probation officers are the decision-making authority as it applies to need for preadjudication placement or supervision and the need for detention of a juvenile. This includes secure or non-secure detention as indicated in statute.

### Predisposition Investigation

A risk assessment is completed at the predisposition investigation phase and will help probation officers determine the specific risk and need factors of the juvenile. These responsive assessments are specific to the type of juvenile and will help Probation identify specific issues and behaviors.

### Supervision

The assessments provide critical guidance for supervision and case management activities for juveniles placed on probation by the court. The evidence-based practice principle of addressing the issues that brought the juvenile in front of the court coincides with assessments.

### Specialized Programming

- The Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- Crossover Youth Practice Model
- Nebraska Juvenile Information Sharing Initiative



*Freedom From the Bondage of Self - dedicated by artist Barrett Stinson symbolizing the work of Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision Officers, 2010 .*

## Sentencing Alternative to Prison

In 2010-2011, the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) program continued to target clients who were convicted of felony drug offenses; driving under the influence third offense or above; or any felony client pending revocation by the court due to a drug or alcohol violation. One of the main goals of the program is to offer an alternative to incarceration by treating the highest risk substance abusers through a holistic approach directed at changing a client's lifestyle through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives.

By utilizing the programs and services of the reporting center and engaging family and peer support, the thirteen highly-skilled SSAS officers work with clients to provide a structured case plan that targets each client's individual needs and assists them in moving toward a positive lifestyle change that benefits the individual, their family and the community.

SSAS is offered in six of the judicial districts throughout the state. The program is currently operating at capacity which is adding to the ongoing prison population problem. The need to expand the SSAS program continues to be on the horizon.

### Personal story of a probationer...

I started using marijuana, meth, and other drugs around the age of 15, and was in and out of jail beginning in 2004. I had been through treatment centers, with little to no success. My behaviors were very destructive to me and to everybody around me. The last time I was in front of a judge, he told me the only way he was going to let me out of jail was if I went straight into residential treatment. I attended treatment at Touchstone, graduated, and was placed on SSAS (Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision). I met with my probation officer with some resistance in the beginning, me having the mindset of an addict, and him what I like to call a "normy." Normal thinking was a new concept to me, but through time, patience, long conversations with numerous staff members, my thoughts and actions started to become normal...I was on my way to being a "normy." This road was not beautifully paved, but I started to learn to think before I acted or reacted, which has been key not only in my personal life but also in my professional life. I graduated from the SSAS program, but remain in contact with my "normys" at the probation office. Since then, I got a job at an office. It feels so good to be sought after and not "wanted." There are no words to express the gratitude I have for these people and this program. They helped to save my life, and I want to pass along my experience hoping to make a difference in other lives. They planted the seed that continues to grow every day.

## Supervision for Offenders Who are at a Higher Risk to Re-offend

Probationers that are assessed to be of the highest risk to re-offend are supervised in an intensive manner. We refer to this intensive supervision as Community-Based Intervention or CBI. These CBI probationers are supervised by specially trained and highly-skilled officers who have a lower caseload, in order to intervene with the individual's behaviors that are associated with their criminal activity. During this biennium, the probation officers moved away from the old way of supervision, consisting of a certain number of office visits per month to a more comprehensive supervision that allows for intensive oversight of the individual in the community. In 2011 and 2012 there were 7,744 probationers supervised through this intensive supervision.

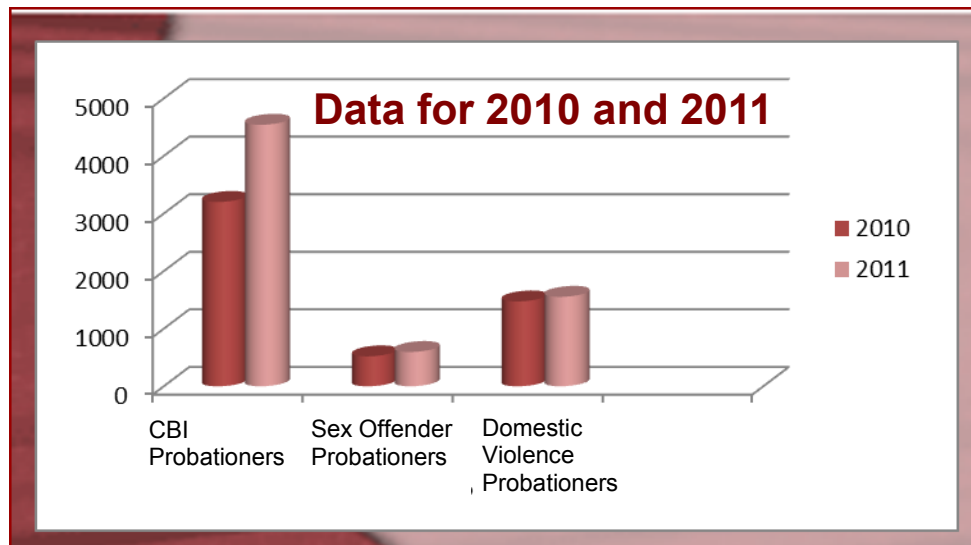
## A Victim-Centered Approach to the Supervision of Domestic Violence and Sex Offenders

Probation takes very seriously those crimes where a person was victimized. As a result, Probation has chosen to provide a specialized approach to supervision for domestic violence and sex offenders.

Supervision for **domestic violence** is grounded in victim safety and offender accountability. Probation officers maintain regular contact with victims in order to better supervise probationers and overall monitor their behavior change.

According to the Department of Justice, "Batterer intervention programs are an integral part of any comprehensive approach to domestic violence." Officers work closely with these program providers as the probationer learns to replace their violent behaviors with more socially appropriate behaviors. In addition, probation officers maintain regular contacts in the home and on the job with probationers to further provide accountability and overall success of these individuals on probation. In 2011-2012, probation supervised 3,028 domestic violence offenders.

While there is a small percentage of probationers who have committed a **sex offense** under probation supervision, it is a population that requires a specialized approach. Probation officers target interventions specific to the type of offense. Officers work with treatment providers and a victim's representatives to address treatment needs and to provide an increased level of accountability. According to the Center for Sex Offender Management, specialized interventions and specialized caseloads improve a jurisdiction's ability to hold sex offenders accountable and overall improve community safety. In 2011-2012, Probation supervised 1,116 sex offenders.





## Problem-Solving Courts

Problem-solving courts — most commonly referred to as drug courts in Nebraska — use judicial oversight and a comprehensive team approach to improve outcomes for victims, communities and participants. The purpose of drug courts is to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among substance abusing offenders and to increase the offender’s likelihood of successful rehabilitation. This is accomplished through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision and the use of appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation services.

Today there are 25 problem-solving courts in Nebraska, serving approximately 1,200 participants during any given year. This includes the state’s only DUI Court in Scotts Bluff County and the Young Adult Court in Douglas County.

Approximately 300 participants graduate each year and the average length of time in a problem-solving court is 1.5 to 2 years.



Drug Court—Graduation Day

Nebraska adult drug court graduation rates range from 42.3% to 78.9%. Nationally, graduation rates range from about 40% to 65%, with an average rate of 57% (Huddleston & Marlowe, 2011).

Graduation rates for Nebraska juvenile drug courts range from 18.2% to 57.6%, consistent with national averages.

Recidivism* Rates for Graduate and Terminated Participants in Nebraska Drug Courts	Adult Drug Court	
	Successful Completion	Unsuccessful Completion
Recidivated	27 (4.5%)	33 (7.3%)
Did not Recidivate	577 (95.5%)	417 (92.7%)
Sample Size	604	450

\* For adult courts, post-program recidivism is defined as an arrest that occurs after program exit for a new offense if, and only if, that arrest eventually results in a conviction for a felony, drug/alcohol-related misdemeanor, or DUI offense (excluding traffic offense other than DUI). Participants were tracked for one year after drug court.

## Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE)

The RISE Program was developed by the Office of Probation Administration and began September 1, 2007. The RISE Program enrolls AmeriCorps members as RISE Program Specialists. The program receives referrals from probation officers in nine probation districts in rural areas of the state. The RISE Program Specialists facilitate skill-focused groups and networks with employers and schools. The facilitated groups include improving skills with employment, GED and post-secondary education, as well as juvenile high school support.

Since its inception, the RISE Program Specialists have served more than 1,000 probationers in need of skill development.



*RISE Program Specialist Annette McClure receives Governor's Point of Light award in 2010.*

Transforming Communities through Service: A Collection of 52 of the Most Innovative AmeriCorps Programs in the United States



*RISE Program receives national recognition as one of the top innovative AmeriCorps programs in 2010.*

The program has graduated 521 adult and juvenile probationers and, of these probationers, 394 of the graduates did not return to the Probation system a year after graduation. This shows a 76% success rate from 2007 to 2011.

These statistics reflect the community safety need and benefit from the RISE Program, which was developed from research supporting the need for employment and educational focus for high-risk probationers completed by the Vera Institute.

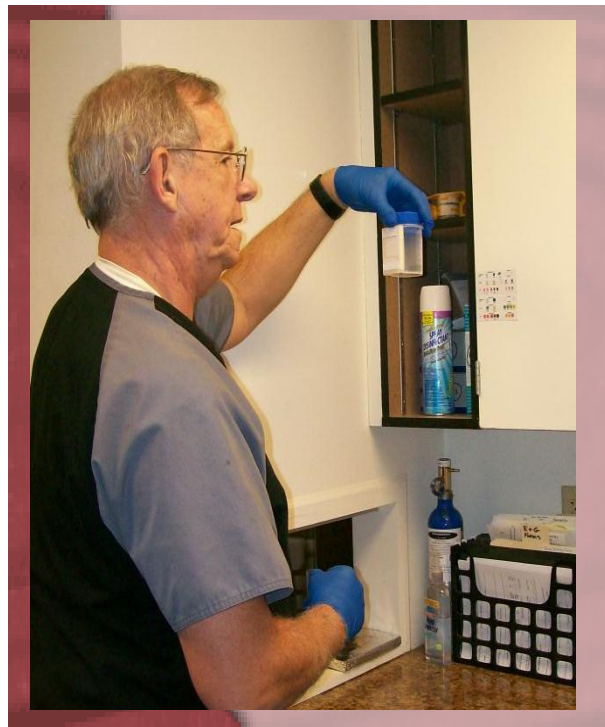
This confirms that the development of skills focused on employment and education can reduce recidivism rates.

## Deterring Drug Abuse

Nearly 90% of Probation’s clients have a substance abuse problem, consequently it is necessary to drug test these clients on a regular basis. Random drug testing along with treatment has been empirically shown to help clients deter and eventually eliminate drug use. Sobriety greatly reduces a client’s likelihood of re-offending and they are more likely to be able to hold down jobs and provide for themselves and their families. Successful outcomes for Probation’s clients also results in safer streets for the citizens since criminal activity and substance abuse go hand-in-hand. Probation can’t effectively reduce criminal activity until it addresses the clients’ substance abuse issues, so breaking the cycle of drug abuse, legal consequences and a return to substance abuse is imperative for the welfare of Probation’s clients as well as our communities.

Traditionally Probation drug tested clients for alcohol, methamphetamine, amphetamine (Adderall), cocaine, and natural opiates. However, because of the surge in prescription drug abuse in the last few years, Probation has had to begin testing for

oxycodone, hydrocodone, benzodiazepines, and in a few communities, PCP. The frequency of drug testing has also gone up since evidence supports the conclusion that frequent drug testing for those who need it effectively decreases the amount of drug use among Probation clients.



*Larry Johns, drug technician in South Sioux City, conducts a drug test.*

Year	Total Number of Alcohol Tests	Total Number of Drug Tests
2010	38,389	35,541
2011	98,404	88,460

## Reporting Centers

Established in 2006, the reporting centers continue to provide a means by which probationers and parolees can structure their time towards educational opportunities, employment assistance, and a variety of classes and groups that are either court-ordered or offered because there is an individual need. Based on research and best practices, reporting centers focus on preparing clients for treatment and assisting them in rebuilding their lives. This leads to the re-integration of individuals into their communities as productive members who have learned new skills. During this biennium, the reporting centers continued to add to their schedules by offering the best cognitive programming available to motivate clients to change their behavior. In order to accomplish this goal, the focus of the programming was on cognitive restructuring, cognitive skill-building and cognitive thinking. By

collaborating and pooling state and county resources, classes and services continue to be offered at no cost to probationers and parolees.

## Mental Health Grant Initiative Project

Beginning in January 2011, the Office of Probation Administration was awarded funding to support the Mental Health Grant Initiative project. The purpose of this Initiative was to assist in obtaining specialized evaluations by reducing financial barriers to qualifying individuals; both adult and juvenile, within the court system. Three specialized Evaluations — Pre-Treatment Assessment, Co-Occurring Evaluation and Sexual Offender/Youth Who Sexual Harm Evaluation — are the focus of this initiative. The purpose of these specialized evaluations is to assist both the courts as well as the probation officers, in targeting appropriate interventions for individuals with specialized treatment and supervision needs. In addition, this grant provides financial assistance to address transportation barriers for qualifying individuals. The grant also provides assistance with infrastructure development specifically related to the Registered Provider Management Information System (MIS). Education regarding this Initiative was provided to identified Probation districts, judiciary and Registered Service Providers.



*District 6 Probation Reporting Center in South Sioux City.*

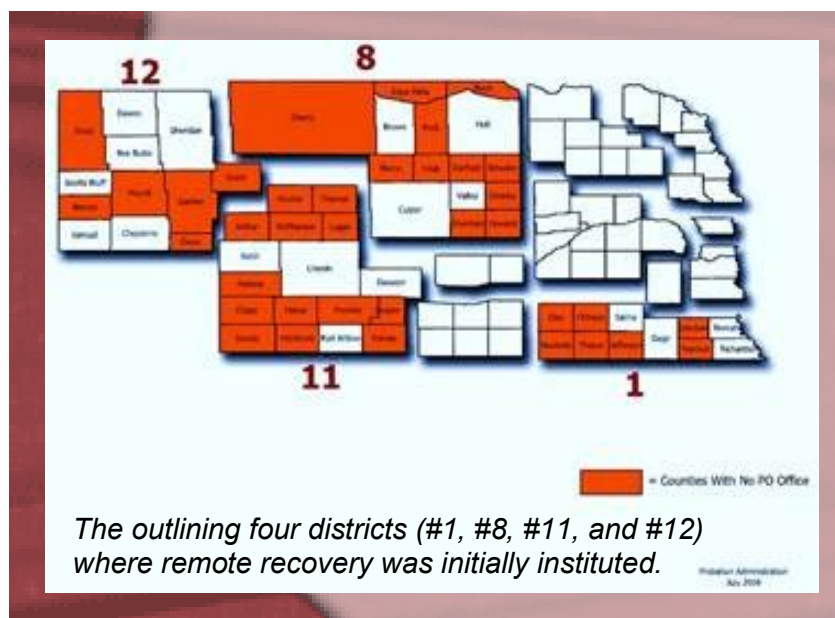
## Methamphetamine Remote Recovery

In 2009, the University of Nebraska Omaha's (UNO) Consortium for Crime and Justice Research was awarded a grant to fund the Methamphetamine Remote Recovery Project. This project set out to combine technological advances with innovated case management protocols to improve a probationer's access in remote areas to obtain sobriety, avoid relapse and decrease drug-related criminal behavior. University of Nebraska Omaha offered Probation the opportunity to partner in this innovative grant project.

In 2010-11, UNO began conducting roundtable meetings with probation officers and Chief Probation Officers in four rural districts to ascertain what gaps made it difficult to supervise cases. Additional meetings were also conducted with substance use treatment providers practicing within four judicial districts. UNO uncovered four issues that resonated with both providers and officers: timing, geographic isolation, communication and shared knowledge. A number of strategies were designed but videoconferencing offered the most promise in addressing the core issues.

In order for the remote recovery system to provide effective videoconferencing, it had to be highly dependable, utilize encrypted video streams to prevent hacking, and had to be simple enough for probationers, with little technological expertise, to operate remotely. After the system was created, equipment purchased, and locations chosen for the placement of the remote recovery stations, it was time for education, training and implementation to begin. In September of 2011, UNO and Probation Administration completed a comprehensive training for both officers and providers on the technical and case management applications.

Note: As implementation of remote recovery begins in 2012, it is the goal of Probation to see how the multiple uses of this technology can improve supervision and treatment outcomes in our rural Probation districts.

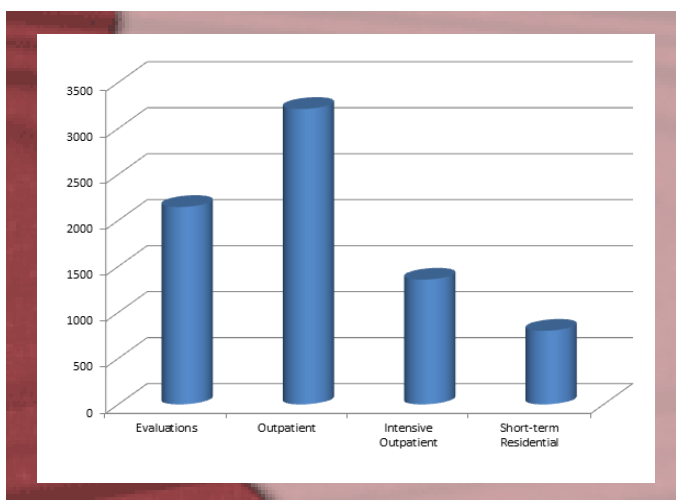


## Fee for Service Voucher Program

### Service Provides Positive Impact to Community Safety

In Nebraska, the Department of Correctional Services and the Office of Probation Administration have historically reported that upwards of 90% of all offenders entering into the criminal justice system have substance abuse problems. In 2006, the adult Fee for Service Voucher Program was created to provide targeted individuals on probation, parole and in problem-solving courts financial assistance for evaluation and treatment services. As national research shows, untreated substance abuse issues increase the likelihood that an individual will return to the criminal justice system. The coordinated treatment of the individual by both justice and therapeutic professionals creates an environment of structured support and accountability; lowering the individual's propensity to re-offend in the community.

### Number of Adult Vouchers Utilized for Level of Care



Additionally, the adult Fee for Service Voucher Program lowers prison overcrowding by providing less expensive treatment alternatives and community supervision options. During 2010 and 2011, this program, administered by the Office of Probation Administration, was able to provide services to approximately 3,500 individuals who otherwise would not have had access to these risk-reducing, treatment interventions. Therapeutic services are delivered by over 600 statewide Registered Service Providers to individuals in the criminal justice system. These providers have fulfilled the requirements set forth within the Standardized Model for Delivery of Substance Abuse Services, in accordance with the Nebraska Supreme Court rule.

### Expansion into Juvenile Service Delivery

Through the creation of the Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project, the Fee for Service Voucher Program expanded into juvenile services. A fee for service continuum of care, both therapeutic and non-therapeutic, was created to address the individual needs of the juvenile. These interventions removed financial barriers to needed services, without committing the juvenile to further state involvement. More information about the Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project can be found on page 12 of this report.

## Interstate Compacts for Adults and Juveniles State-to-State Offender Movement

The Interstate Compacts continue to ensure public safety with regulatory rules for probationers and juveniles who wish to relocate to another state.

**Adult:** The Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) is a courtesy agreement between states. The Commission is made up of all 50 states and three territories. The Commission develops and votes on rules that govern the compact. Nebraska has two interstate compact offices, one that oversees Parole and one overseeing Probation. Under the judicial branch, the compact office is a support for probation officers, judges and other court and criminal justice employees, as well as probationers with questions. In 2011 there were 566 probation-only cases that were sent to Nebraska for supervision and 358 probation-only cases that were sent out of Nebraska for supervision.



*Nebraska became signatory to the adult compact January 2003, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 29-2640.*



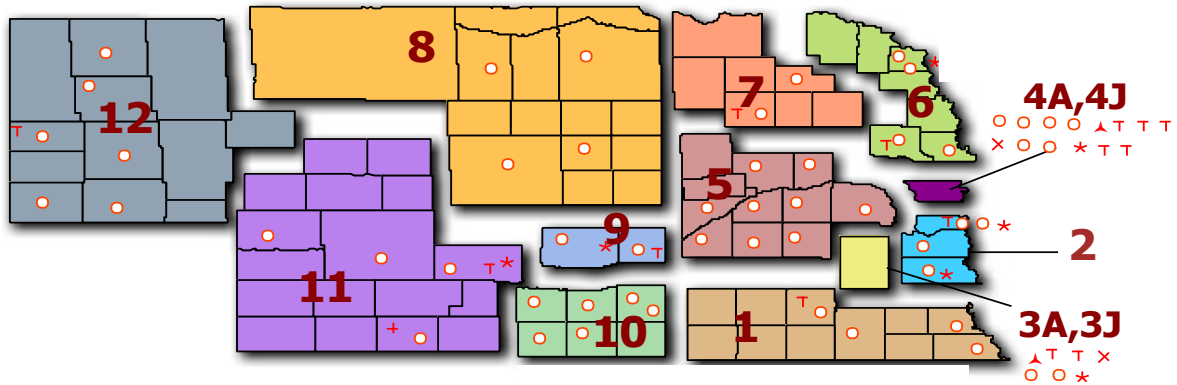
*Nebraska became signatory to the juvenile compact August 2009, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-1011.*

**Juvenile:** The Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ) is responsible for the safe transfer of juvenile probationers and parolees who move to other states. The compact is also responsible for the safe return of runaways, absconders and escapees who are located in other states.

The juvenile compact is similar to the adult compact and is a courtesy agreement between states, but, at this time, Georgia is the only state that is not signatory to the compact. The Commission, without Georgia, still has rule-making authority.

The juvenile compact also has two Nebraska offices for Probation and Parole. The Probation office, which is under the judicial branch, supports all judicial branch employees as well as other criminal justice agencies, and juveniles/families with questions. In 2011, there were 63 probation-only juveniles sent to Nebraska for supervision and 63 probation-only juveniles sent out of Nebraska for supervision. The Probation compact office assisted 18 runaways, absconders and escapees return back to Nebraska, as well as 21 returned safely home to other states.

## Nebraska Judicial/Probation Districts July 1, 2011



- O Probation Office
- X Probation Office Juvenile
- \* Reporting Center
- T Problem-Solving Courts
- ^ Juvenile Problem-Solving Courts
- + WEC

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