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Administrative Office
of the Courts & Probation

PROBATION SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

January-June 2024

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Probation Semi-Annual Report

January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024

This report was completed in compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat §29-2252.01 (as amended). On January 15th and July 15th of each year, the Administrator shall provide a report to the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, and the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Probation Vision
Inspiring Hope. Empowering Individuals. Strengthening Communities.

Probation Mission
We, the leaders in community corrections, and juvenile and restorative justice, are unified in our dedication to delivering a system of seamless services that 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.

Acknowledgments
This report was produced by the Probation and Research and Data (R&D) teams in the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOCP). These teams work with invested parties to provide relevant and valuable data for evidence-based decisions. The report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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PROBATION SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

The Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOCP) is within the Judicial Branch of government. In performing its function, Nebraska Probation strives to achieve intertwined community safety goals, risk reduction, and behavior change. Trusted and valued by Nebraska's courts and citizens, Probation's dedicated professional staff have provided quality investigations, supervision, and service for over sixty (60) years. Nebraska Probation is driven by the understanding that a system founded on research-supported, evidence-based policies and practices will produce positive individual outcomes.

This year's report marks a significant shift from previous years by focusing exclusively on statutory requirements. This streamlined approach ensures that information presented is more succinct, effective, and accurate. By eliminating extraneous details, we have improved the efficiency of the reporting process, making it easier for invested parties to access and understand essential data.

Throughout the report, "traditional probation supervision" is referred to as "regular supervision" to ensure consistency with statutory language. Each section of the statute requiring reporting is enumerated below, presented first by section number as (#) with the corresponding text in bold.

Statutory Requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-2252.01

From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, there was a total of 21,497 unique individuals served by probation in Nebraska, including 17,504 adult probationers (see Table 1) and 3,993 juvenile probationers.

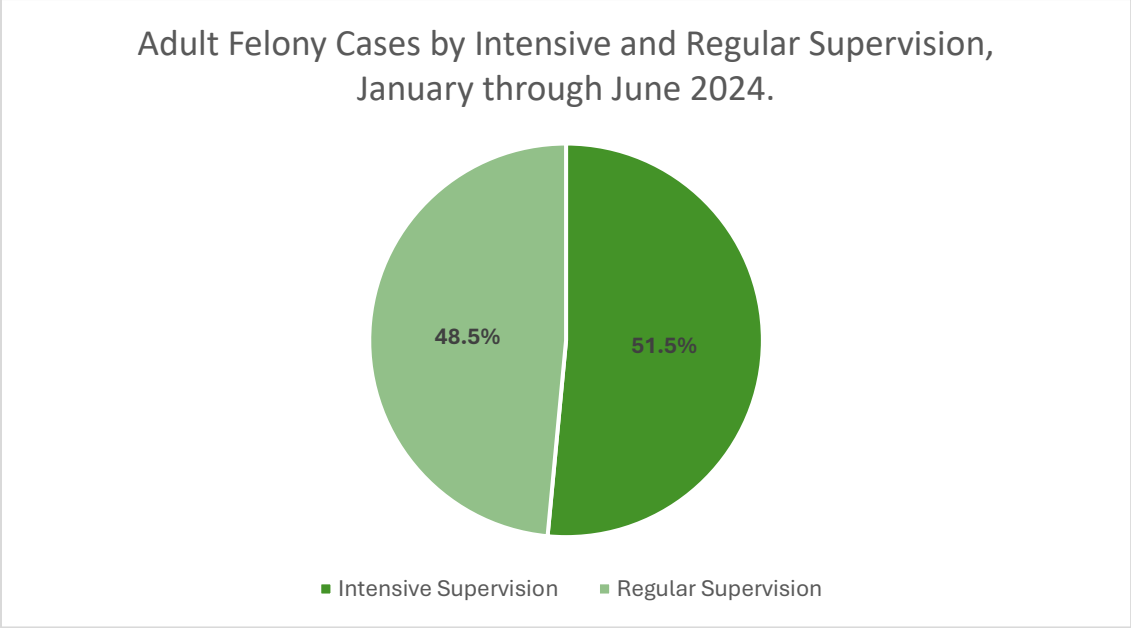
(1) The total number of felony cases supervised by the office in the previous six months for both regular and intensive supervision probation.

The total number of felony cases is measured by using the most serious offense for all court cases, using the highest-level felony case, and counting the number of distinct individuals served by using adult probationer identification. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, there was a total of 8,024 felony cases.

Intensive supervision is defined as supervision for those individuals assessed at an elevated risk to recidivate, with a total score greater than or equal to 20 on the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), or those individuals under supervision for convictions such as sex offenses, domestic violence offenses, and/or repeated episodes of driving under the influence. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, of the 8,024 felony cases, there were a total of 4,133 (51.5%) felony cases in intensive supervision probation (see Figure 1).

Regular supervision is defined as supervision for those individuals with a total score less than or equal to 10 on the LS/CMI, being of low risk to recidivate, and those individuals with a total score greater than 10 and less than or equal to 19 on the LSCMI, being of medium risk to recidivate. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, of the 8,024 felony cases, there were a total of 3,891 (48.5%) felony cases in regular supervision probation (see Figure 1).

Figure 1



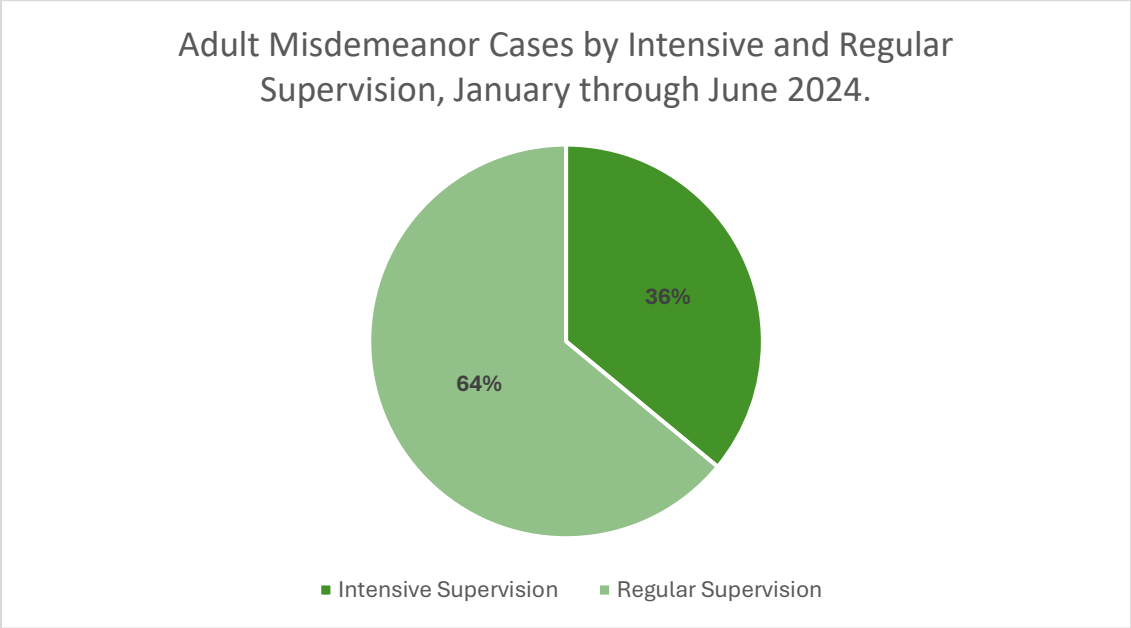
(2) The total number of misdemeanor cases supervised by the office in the previous six months for both regular and intensive supervision probation.

The total number of misdemeanor cases is measured by using the most serious offense for all court cases, using the highest-level misdemeanor (including city ordinance violations) case, and counting the number of distinct individuals served by using adult probationer identification. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, there was a total of 9,480 misdemeanor cases.

Intensive supervision is defined as supervision for those individuals assessed at an elevated risk to recidivate, with a total score greater than or equal to 20 on the LS/CMI, or those individuals under supervision for convictions such as sex offenses, domestic violence offenses, and/or repeated episodes of driving under the influence. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, of the 9,480 misdemeanor cases, there were a total of 3,400 (36%) misdemeanor cases in intensive supervision probation (see Figure 2).

Regular supervision is defined as supervision for those individuals with a total score less than or equal to 10 on the LS/CMI, being of low risk to recidivate, and those individuals with a total score greater than 10 and less than or equal to 19 on the LS/CMI, being of medium risk to recidivate. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, of the 9,480 misdemeanor cases, there were a total of 6,080 (64%) misdemeanor cases in regular supervision probation (see Figure 2).

Figure 2



(3) The felony caseload per officer for both regular and intensive supervision probation on the last day of the reporting period.

Caseload per officer is measured using officer role classification (Specialized Population Officer, Treatment Officer, Probation Officer), the number of probationers assigned to each officer, and averaging the number of probationers assigned to each officer within the roles. The role-specific caseload is then separated according to the type of supervision (regular or intensive) and felony case type. See § (1) above for measures for felony cases, and definitions for regular and intensive supervision.

On or about June 30, 2024, the adult felony caseload per officer for intensive supervision probation was 22.7 (see Table 1). On or about June 30, 2024, the adult felony caseload per officer for regular supervision probation was 22.1 (see Table 1).

(4) The misdemeanor caseload per officer for both regular and intensive supervision probation on the last day of the reporting period.

Caseload per officer is measured using officer role classification (Specialized Population Officer, Treatment Officer, Probation Officer), the number of probationers assigned to each officer, and averaging the number of probationers assigned to each officer within the roles. The role-specific caseload is then separated according to the type of supervision (regular or intensive) and misdemeanor case type. See § (2) above for measures for misdemeanor cases, and definitions for regular and intensive supervision.

On or about June 30, 2024, the adult misdemeanor caseload per officer for intensive supervision probation was 16.8 (see Table 1). On or about June 30, 2024, the adult misdemeanor caseload per officer for regular supervision probation was 38.4 (see Table 1).

The following table summarizes adult felony and misdemeanor officer caseloads by intensive and regular supervision. Adult regular supervision has a higher caseload, 29.8 per officer, than adult intensive supervision with a 19.9 caseload per officer. The misdemeanor caseload per officer for regular supervision has the highest caseload of 38.4.

Table 1

Adult Felony and Misdemeanor Officer Caseload by Intensive and Regular Supervision, Snapshot on June 30, 2024.

Case Type	Intensive Supervision	Regular Supervision
Felony	22.7	22.1
Misdemeanor	16.8	38.4
Total Average	19.9	29.8

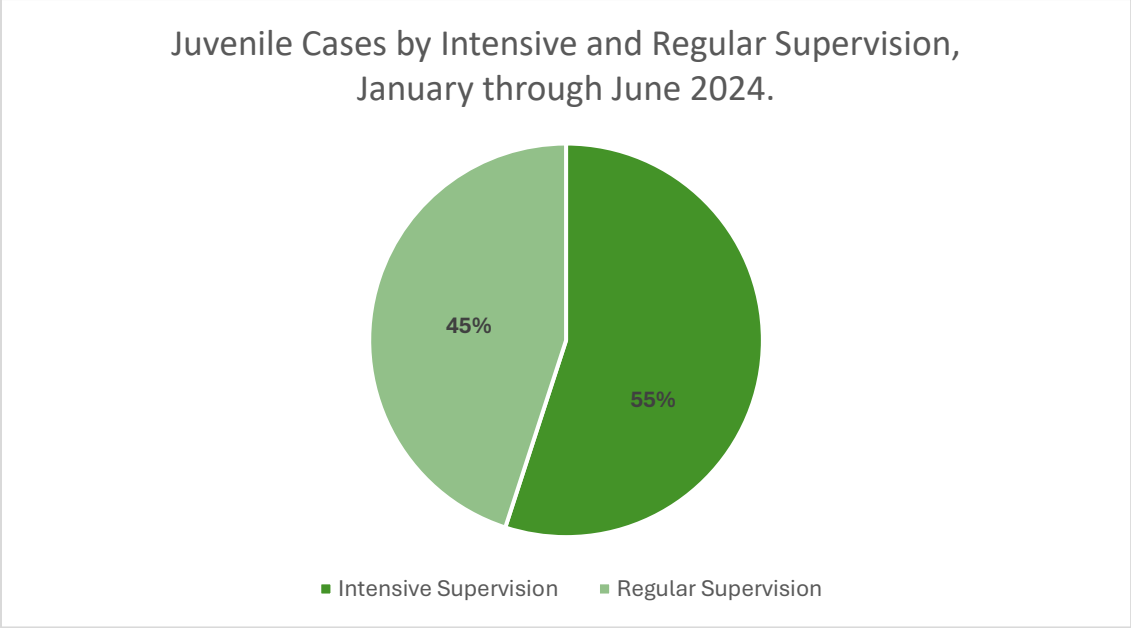
(5) The total number of juvenile cases supervised by the office in the previous six months for both regular and intensive supervision probation.

The total number of juvenile cases is measured by counting the number of distinct individuals served using juvenile probationer identification. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, there was a total of 3,993 juvenile cases.

Intensive supervision is defined as supervision for youth assessed at an elevated risk of recidivism, with a total score greater than or equal to 16 on the Youth Level of Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, of the 3,993 juvenile cases, there were a total of 2,192 (55%) cases in intensive supervision probation (see Figure 3).

Regular supervision is defined as supervision for youth with a total score of less than or equal to 15 on the YLS/CMI, being of low moderate and low risk to recidivate. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, of the 3,993 juvenile cases, there were a total of 1,801 (45%) cases in regular supervision probation (see Figure 3).

Figure 3



(6) The total number of predisposition investigations completed by the office in the previous six months.

A predisposition investigation is a comprehensive report completed by a probation officer to assist the court when making disposition decisions. The investigation includes youth and family interviews, assessments, screenings, evaluations, and collateral information. The total number of predisposition investigations completed by probation from January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, was 1,862.

(7) The total number of presentence investigations completed by the office in the previous six months.

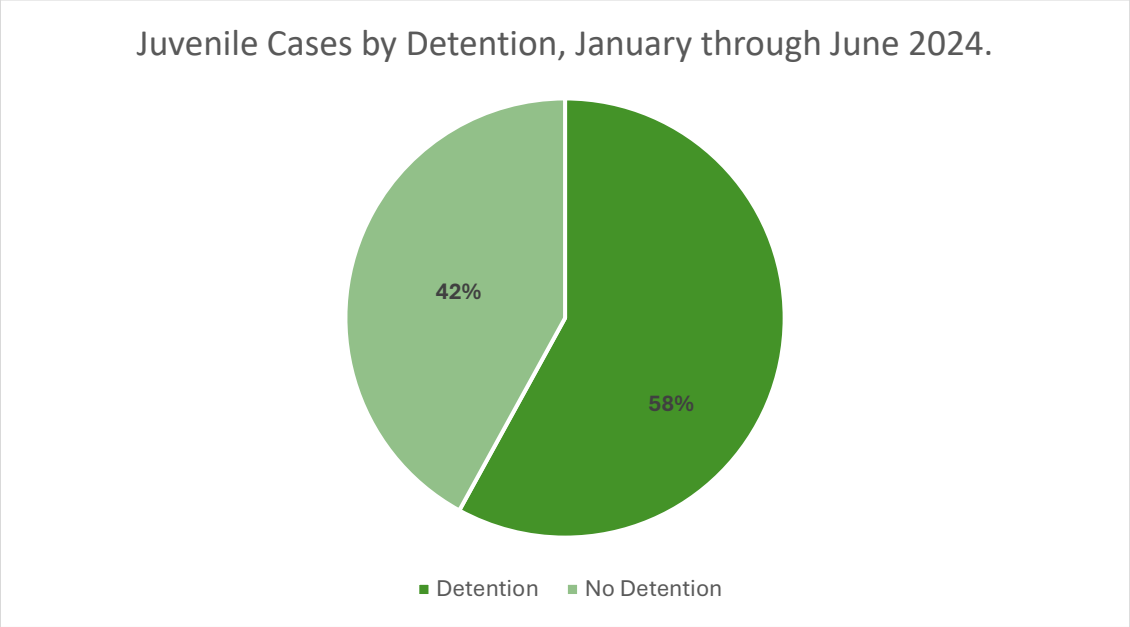
A presentence investigation is a comprehensive assessment conducted by probation officers after an individual has been convicted, but before sentencing, to provide the court with pertinent information to assist in determining an appropriate sentence (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-2261). The total number of presentence investigations completed by probation from January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, was 5,656.

(8) The total number of juvenile intake screening interviews conducted and detentions authorized by the office in the previous six months, using the detention screening instrument described in section 43-260.01.

Nebraska Revised Statutes §43-250 through §43-260 authorize probation to facilitate the juvenile intake function. This is accomplished through a standardized juvenile detention screening instrument administered when law enforcement contacts probation to assess an intake decision. The detention screening instrument examines the youth's risk to persons within the community and history of documented wilfull failure to appear at a scheduled court hearing within the past twelve (12) months.

From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, there was a total of 747 juvenile intake screening interviews conducted. Of the 747 juvenile intake screening interviews, 431 (58%) resulted in detentions (secure and secure staff), while 316 (42%) resulted in no detention (see Figure 4).

Figure 4



(9) The total number of probationers with restitution judgments, the number of restitution payments made to clerks of the court, the average amount of payments, and the total amount of restitution collected.

From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, the total number of restitution judgments was 1,245 (see Table 2). From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, the total number of restitution payments made to the clerks of the court was 3,452 (see Table 2). From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, the average amount of payments was $404.00 (see Table 2). From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, the total amount of restitution collected was $1,394,984.04 (see Table 2).

Table 2

Restitution (Number of Restitution Judgments, Number of Payments, Average Payment, Total collected) by Type, January through June 2024.

Restitution by Type	Number of Judgments	Number of Payments	Average Payment	Total Collected
County Court	922	1,612	$314.00	$ 505,749.84
District Court	236	1,704	$505.00	$ 859,810.56
Juvenile Cases	87	136	$216.00	$ 29,423.64
TOTAL	1,245	3,452	$404.00	$1,394,984.04

Discussion and Limitations

The data presented in this report represents the most accurate and comprehensive information available at the time of the report. Every effort has been made to ensure the completeness and integrity of the data. We remain committed to continually improving our data collection and reporting processes to provide the most reliable insights for invested parties and policymakers.

There are inherent limitations in current data systems and integrations capabilities, especially when working with two independent systems. The probation data environment is based on individuals (probationers). The court data environment is case-centric. As these two systems are not integrated, reporting the number of probationers with restitution judgments is not feasible. Due to this data infrastructure limitation, the total number of restitution judgments above serves as a proxy. Should the Legislature desire the capability to link restitution judgments to individual probationers, it would be necessary to allocate appropriate funding to support the integration of the probation and court data environments.

While the caseload data provided in this report is accurate, it does not fully capture the complexities and demands faced by probation officers and the multifaceted nature of each case. Moving forward, Nebraska Probation will shift focus from assessing caseload numbers to evaluating the overall workload, encompassing each case's complexity and demands. This approach will enable probation to allocate resources more effectively, ensuring officers can provide high-quality supervision and support. By adopting a workload-based model, the aim is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of probation services overall, ultimately improving outcomes for Nebraska's probationers. To support this transition, an external evaluator was engaged to undertake the extensive development of the comprehensive workload package.

The juvenile intake data as requested, while informative, does not provide a comprehensive view of the entire juvenile intake process. The goal of juvenile intake is to promote the most appropriate detention decision that is least restrictive while balancing safety of the community. The report accurately details the number of detentions but it does not encompass the full spectrum of juvenile intake decisions resulting in alternatives to detention or no detention. For a more holistic view, please see the Juvenile Probation Services Annual Report.

Conclusion

Nebraska probation officers supervise probationers in twelve (12) judicial districts, serving all ninety-three (93) counties in Nebraska. During the first half of 2024, between January 1 and June 30, probation served 21,497 unique individuals, including 17,504 adult probationers and 3,993 juvenile probationers. District, County, and Separate Juvenile Courts collected $1,394,984.04 in restitution.

Probation uses actuarial based, normed, and validated risk and needs-based assessment instruments and screening tools that assist an officer in determining supervision intensity and level. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, there were 9,971 adult probationers in regular supervision, with a total caseload per officer of 29.8. During this same period, there were 7,533 adult probationers in intensive supervision, with a total caseload per officer of 19.9.

The juvenile justice system strives to provide supervision and services for youth and families, impacting community safety, habilitation, and behavior change. From January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024,

there were 747 juvenile intake screening interviews resulting in 431 detentions. During this same period, there was a total of 1,801 juveniles in regular supervision and 2,192 juveniles in intensive supervision.

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