

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION STATEMENT

The Probation Department contributes to the safety of the community by conducting investigations for the Court, enforcing orders of the courts through community supervision, assisting victims, operating a safe and secure Juvenile Hall, and facilitating the socialization of offenders.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

“Protection, Service & Accountability”



April 5, 2011

Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Officer
Judges of the Superior Court
Juvenile Justice Commissioners

I am pleased to submit the San Luis Obispo County Probation Department 2010 Annual Report.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Probation Department's accomplishments in 2010 and the projects that we will be working on over the next few years.

The accomplishments highlighted in this Annual Report are only a sampling of the Probation Department's achievements over the last year. Whether it is at the individual staff level or as an agency, our accomplishments are in alignment with our mission and vision to provide outstanding community corrections services in San Luis Obispo County, thus contributing to the safety and prosperity of its citizens.

The Probation Department continues to work on various projects we believe will enhance our ability to provide outstanding community corrections services in San Luis Obispo County. I look forward to reporting on the completion of these projects in future Annual Reports.

The Probation Department, through the work of its high quality employees, continues to contribute to public safety in San Luis Obispo County.

Sincerely,

Jim Salio

EVIDENCE BASED STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT

In 2009, the Probation Department successfully applied for a technical assistance grant through the Community Corrections Division of the National Institute of Corrections. San Luis Obispo County was selected along with San Diego and Imperial counties to work with consultants from the Crime and Justice Institute on the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the implementation of Evidence Based Practices (EBP) in the delivery of local community corrections services.

During the planning stages of this project, four primary goals were identified including: to assess our organizational capacity for implementing EBP, to develop a comprehensive strategic plan which was both ambitious and realistic given the fiscal realities facing the Department, to develop the internal leadership capacity required for this project, and to contribute to the building of a community of practice in Southern California to provide ongoing support in the implementation of EBP.

With the assistance of consultants from across the nation, we developed a two year plan which will result in the Probation Department becoming fully engaged in EBP at all levels of our operation.

This plan includes the following goals:

- Base supervision decision for both juvenile and adult offenders on EBP.
- Base treatment provided for both juvenile and adult offenders on EBP.
- Provide a full spectrum of training to Probation Department staff.
- Base hiring and promotional decisions in large part on the candidate's ability to understand and support EBP.
- Supervise and evaluate staff in part on their understanding and support of EBP.
- Incorporate quality assurance measures within our overall operations.
- Implement EBP within our Juvenile Hall.
- Utilize EBP in the support of all Departmental policies and procedures.



FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM



Officer receiving instruction on how to conduct a search of a person.

In March 2010, the Probation Department determined that there was a need to develop a formalized field training program to ensure new field officers had a level of proficiency to fulfill their responsibilities and tasks in the community. In part, the decision was the result of feedback from field supervision officers who recognized that a formalized program would be beneficial to new officers. The Probation Department embarked on a three month development process that included input from Department supervisors, probation officers, and the Training Unit. In July 2010, the San Luis Obispo County Probation Field Training Program was finalized and approved by the Chief Probation Officer.

The mission of the Probation Field Training Program is to introduce new field supervision officers to the essential duties and tasks of supervising offenders in the community and to establish a standard of competency for field services.

New field officers are assigned to a Deputy Probation Officer III, specially trained as a Field Training Officer or "FTO." The FTO provides field officers with instruction, direct supervision, guidance, and evaluation on the essential skills required for a field supervision officer including but not limited to sound judgment, efficiency, confidence, verbal communication, and officer safety skills.

The Field Training Program also provides a mentoring service to field officers who have completed firearms training and have been authorized to carry a firearm while on duty.

The Field Training Program goals are to establish the following:

- Produce a competent Deputy Probation Officer capable of working a field supervision assignment in a safe, productive, and professional manner.
- Provide standardized training to all officers newly assigned to a field supervision caseload.
- Provide clear standards for rating and evaluating as well as providing the officers every reasonable opportunity to succeed.
- Enhance the professionalism of the Deputy Probation Officer.

NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED

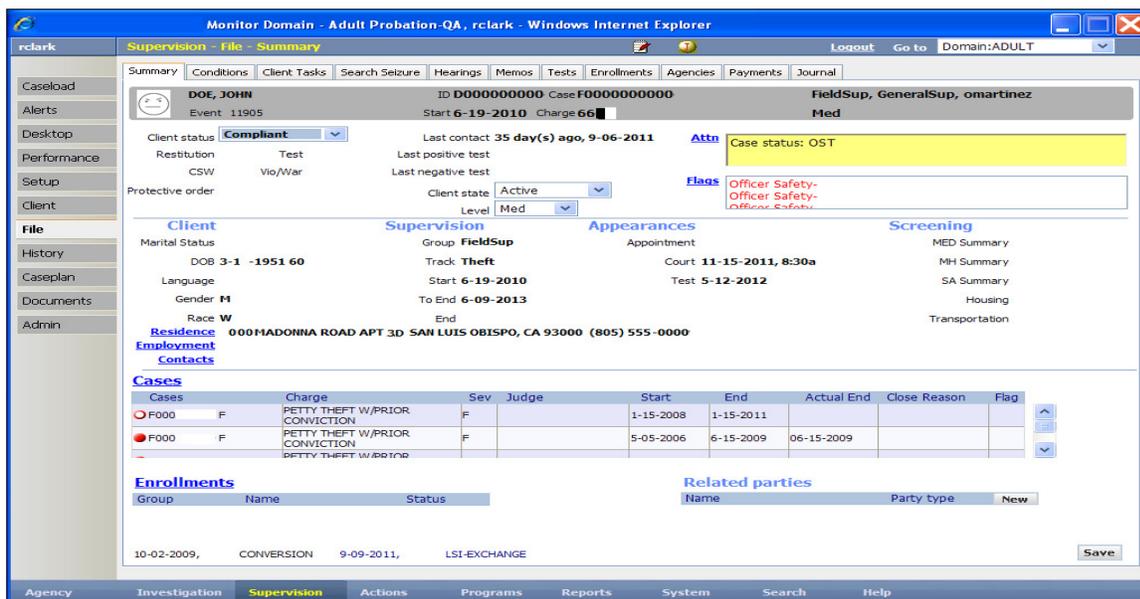
In 2010, Probation fully migrated away from our old main frame based case management system (LP01) to our new stand alone case management system, Monitor. Although we are no longer on the main frame, Probation data continues to be fully integrated with our Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) partners through San Luis Obispo County's CJIS hub.

Not only has Monitor provided a case management system for probation services, it also provides a case management system for our Juvenile Hall operations. For the first time, the Juvenile Hall has an electronic system to record booking information, housing information and a record of the movement of minors in and out of the facility. During 2010, the Juvenile Hall began the process of moving toward paperless record keeping.

The use of Monitor has enhanced the Probation Department's ability to store and retrieve case data in a much more efficient and practical manner. In the past, Probation had to use multiple databases to record case specific information. For example, we had a database for electronic field notes that were not stored in LP01. We now have our electronic field notes integrated with Monitor that syncs with Probation Officers' PDAs. Also with LP01, it was very difficult to retrieve specific information and thus required that data for mandated reports be collected manually. In 2010, we were able to eliminate all of our hand counted reports and automatically generate reports by pulling the data directly from Monitor.

In the past, quantifying outputs and outcomes was very difficult to do. With Monitor, we now have more data available to help with planning and directing resources. We also, for the first time, have the ability to measure outputs and outcomes which provides timely feedback regarding the effectiveness of probation services and helps us to adjust to emerging trends more quickly.

Monitor continues to be a work in progress and offers many features we have yet to implement. We look forward to having Monitor as the backbone of our data management system for many years to come.



Screen shot of the Client ID field.

PROBATION EVIDENCE ROOM



In Fiscal Year 2008-09, the County approved funding to remodel our outdated evidence room. During 2010, with the assistance of the County's General Services Agency, the Probation Department completed the remodel.

The new Evidence Room includes two rooms that are separated by a locked door: the Evidence Booking Room (EBR) and the Evidence Storage Room (ESR). The EBR contains: lockers for officers to temporarily secure evidence and other confiscated items; a large counter to bag and label the evidence/items seized; evidence storage bags and containers; and a state of the art computer system which is able to bar code, label, scan, log, and categorize all the items seized. The system is able to generate reports by category which provides useful data regarding the evidence/items that have been seized. The ESR contains all the evidence and confiscated items and has several storage cases which are numbered sequentially. For security purposes, this locked room is only accessible to three designated property officers.

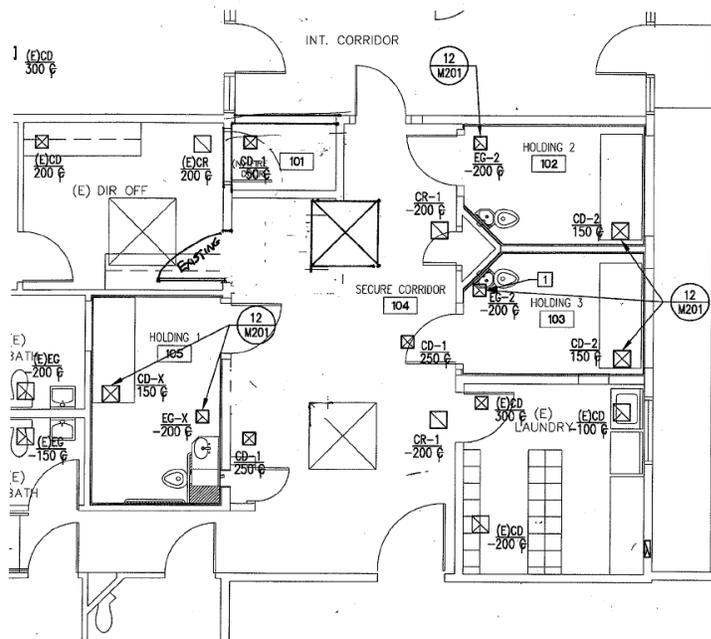
The Department has created an Evidence Manual outlining the procedure for collecting and processing evidence. The process includes the following steps: evidence is booked into a temporary locker and a property officer moves the booked evidence/items from the EBR to the ESR for storage or destruction and uses the bar code scanner to move the item to a cabinet or safe in the ESR. Items that are seized for evidence remain in the Evidence Room until after the defendant's case has been adjudicated. Afterwards, the assigned deputy probation officer will use the computer system to inform the property officer of what to do with the property, either return it to the owner or destroy the item(s). All items placed into the Evidence Room are categorized and secured. All officers have been trained on the procedure for collecting and processing evidence.

JUVENILE HALL EXPANSION

In 2009, the Probation Department applied for a State grant to expand the Juvenile Hall by five (5) detention beds and transform one of the existing Units into a 15-bed treatment facility. This expansion will address the County's lack of group homes for minors who are court ordered to temporarily be removed from the custody of their parents. Currently, most minors are sent hours away from their parents, making it difficult for families to participate in their child's treatment. The new 15-bed treatment facility will allow families to actively participate in their child's transition to become a law abiding and productive citizen. The grant also called for a new 20-bed detention facility to be built near the existing juvenile hall. In early 2009, the State awarded our County the grant.

The Probation Department and the County General Services Agency have entered the third year of the project. The expansion will also include: a multi-purpose gymnasium, classrooms, staff locker rooms, counseling rooms, conference rooms, offices, a large day room, and an additional exercise area for minors.

The County is currently working on securing the services of an architecture firm and has narrowed the search down to two firms. During the second and third quarters of 2011, the County will select the architecture firm that will design the new buildings. The selected firm will work with Probation and County staff to design the buildings to our specifications.



Juvenile Hall Construction Plans

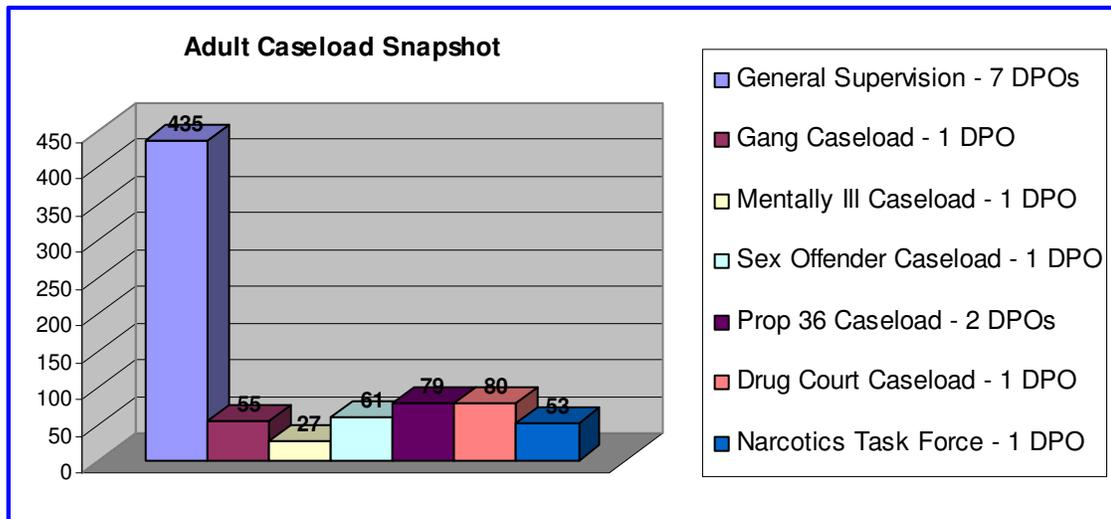
EBP CASELOAD SIZES AND STANDARDS

A goal of the Probation Department’s Evidenced Based Strategic Plan is to base supervision for adult and juvenile offenders on our evidence based risk assessment tools: the LSI-R for adults and the YLS/CMI for juveniles. The risk assessment tools help to determine an offender’s level of risk to re-offend, to identify areas of criminogenic need, to develop an intervention plan, and to monitor progress in reducing risk factors. Caseload size and standards must be established to meet these goals.

Risk profiles can differ greatly for individuals who commit the same type of offense based on their varying criminogenic needs. Research shows by matching the offender’s risk level with the appropriate level of supervision, limited resources of the Probation Department can be most efficiently allocated to prevent recidivism among probationers. The risk assessment tools of the Probation Department assign a risk level of high, medium or low. The higher a probationer’s supervision level means more contacts with the probation officer and a higher level of treatment resources allocated. Conversely, the lower a probationer’s supervision level means less contact with the probation officer and less treatment. Research has shown that high levels of supervision for low-risk probationers have actually been found to increase recidivism.

Prior to the use of risk assessment tools, probation supervision decisions were based on the crime the probationer committed or they were based on subjective evaluations.

The Probation Department established a Caseload Size and Standards workgroup in 2010 to develop caseload sizes for high, medium and low risk offenders in both the Juvenile and Adult Divisions. This workgroup will continue to develop standards for the amount of contact required by the probation officer for each risk level. The goal of the Probation Department is to have implemented all of the recommendations of the workgroup by the end of 2011.



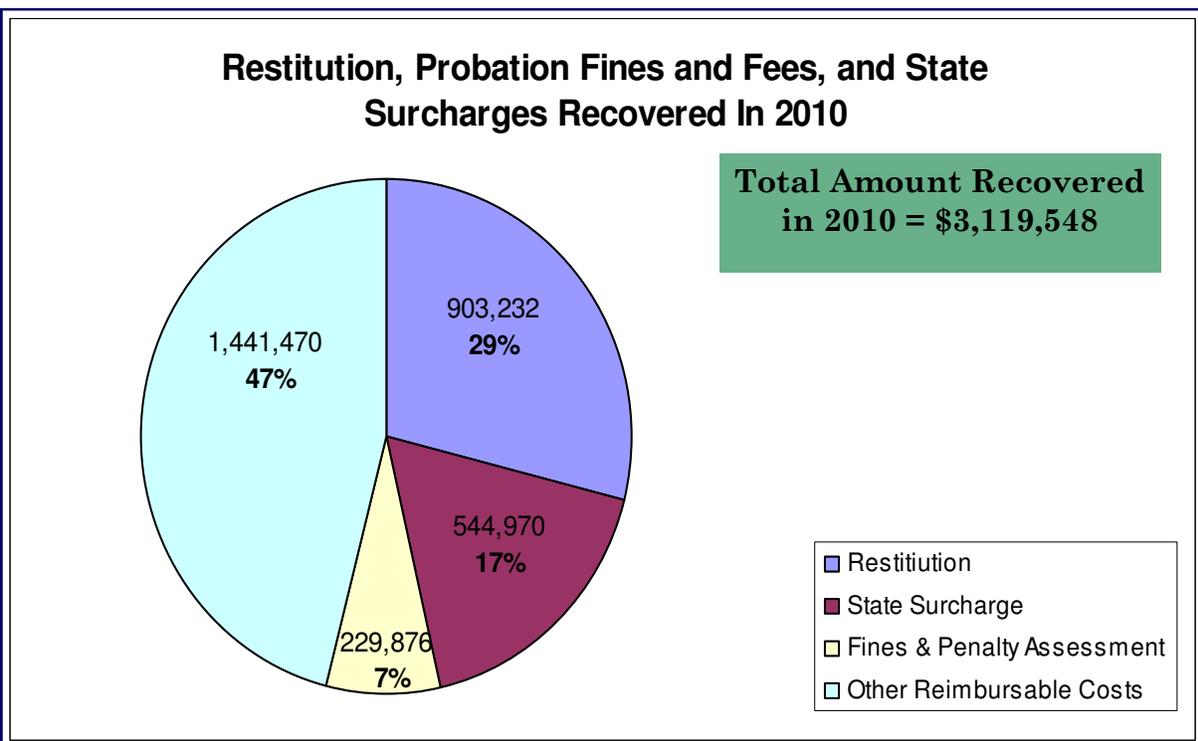
COLLECTIONS CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The County has released a Request For Proposals to replace the antiquated collection case management system that has been in use for over 20 years. The current system called “LQ” is no longer supported by the vendor and the technology is outdated. The LQ system has many system flaws that would require thousands of dollars in programming time to correct and modify.

Staff from the Collections and Finance Units met several times to come up with a list of user requirements for the new system. Some highlights of the needed upgrades are:

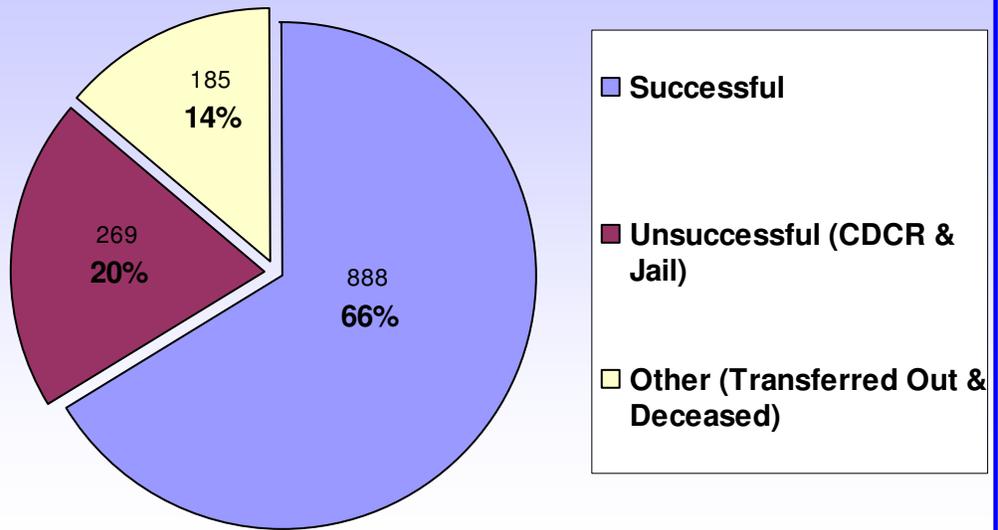
- Modules for the new system and the State Franchise Tax Board to exchange information automatically.
- A restitution module that will split out joint and several cases.
- A restitution module that will distribute collected money to victims based upon their percentage of loss as compared to other victims.

During the second and third quarters of 2011, the goal is for representatives from the Probation Department, Auditor/Controller’s Office and from the IT Department to review proposals from vendors, select a vendor and work with them to transfer all the open cases in LQ to the new system. The goal is to have the new system in place and operational by January 2012.

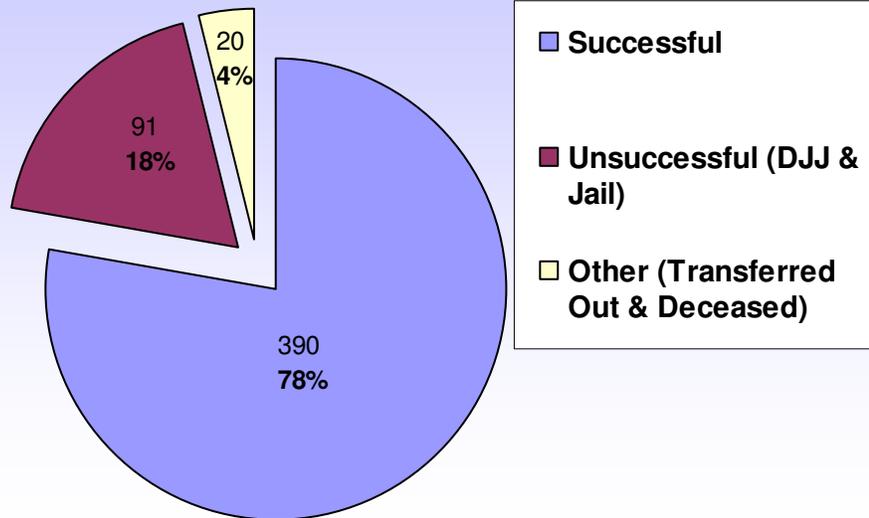


ADULT AND JUVENILE CLOSED CASES

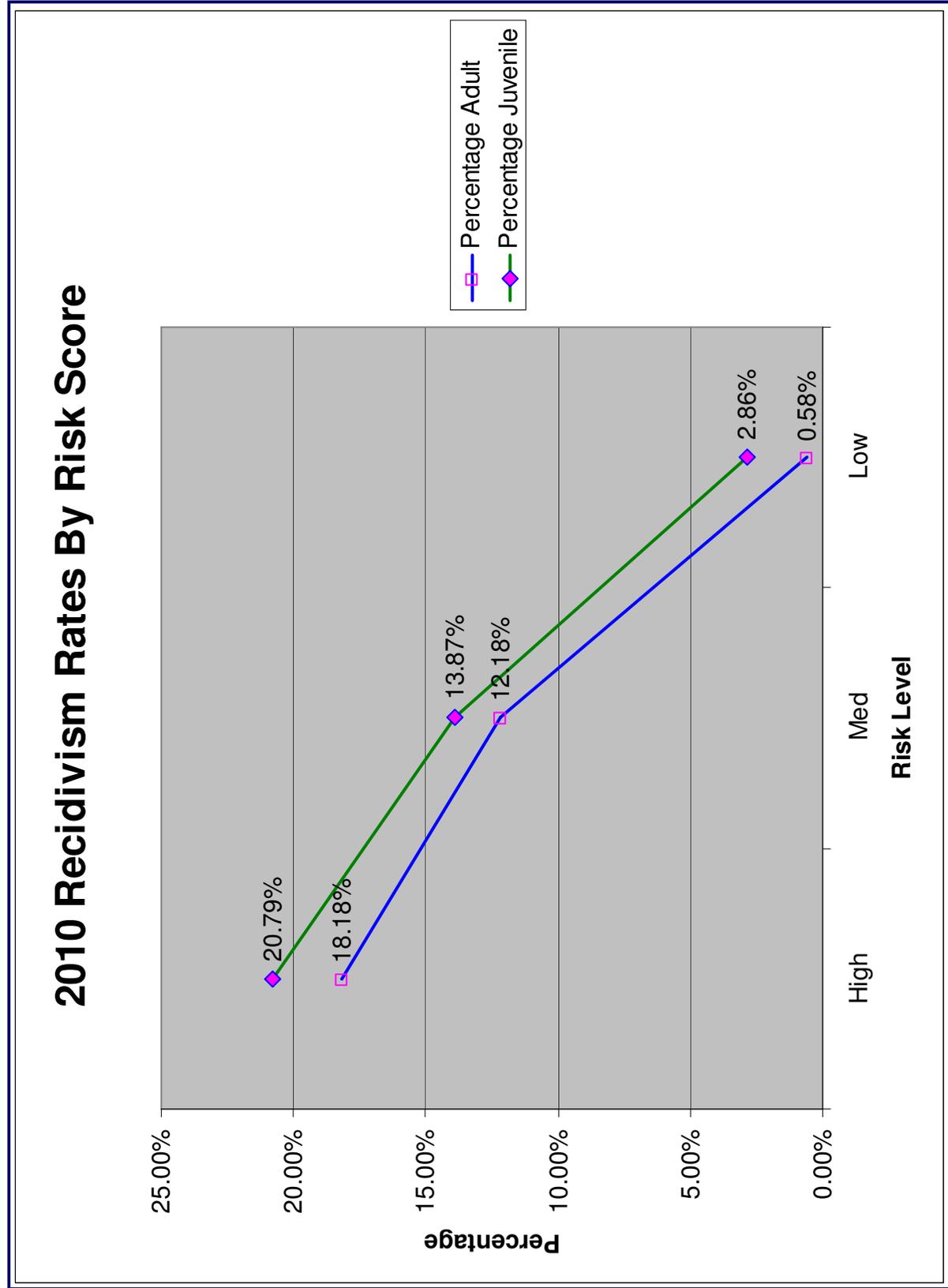
2010 Adult Closed Cases



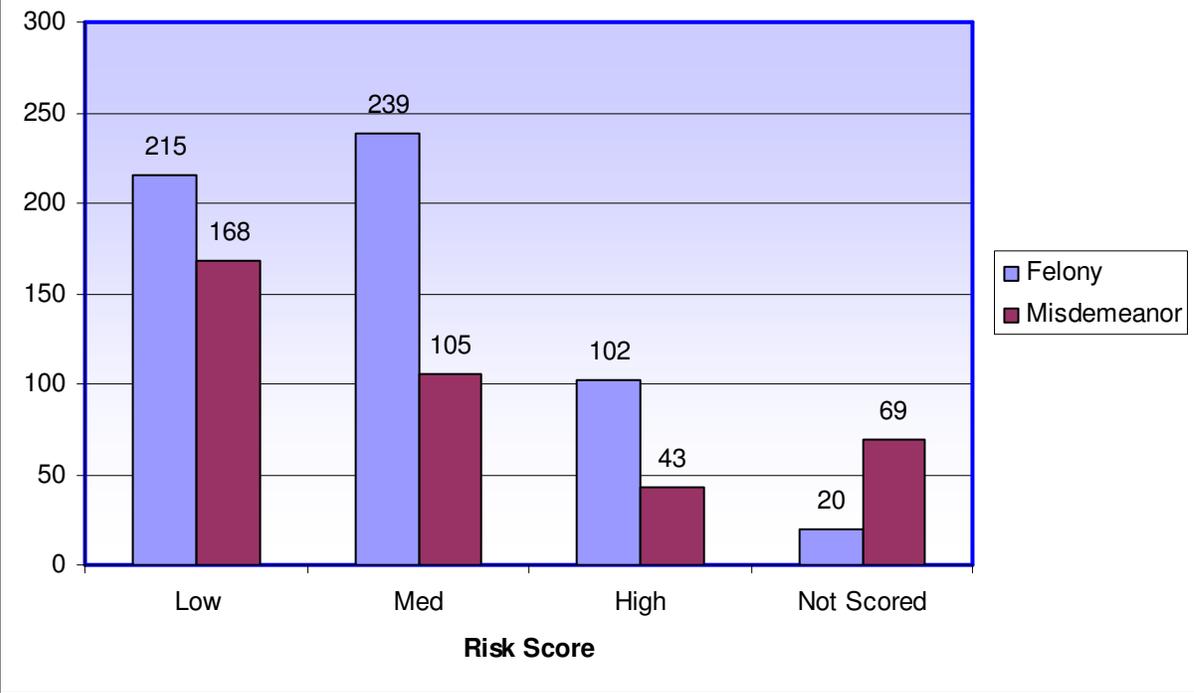
2010 Juvenile Closed Cases



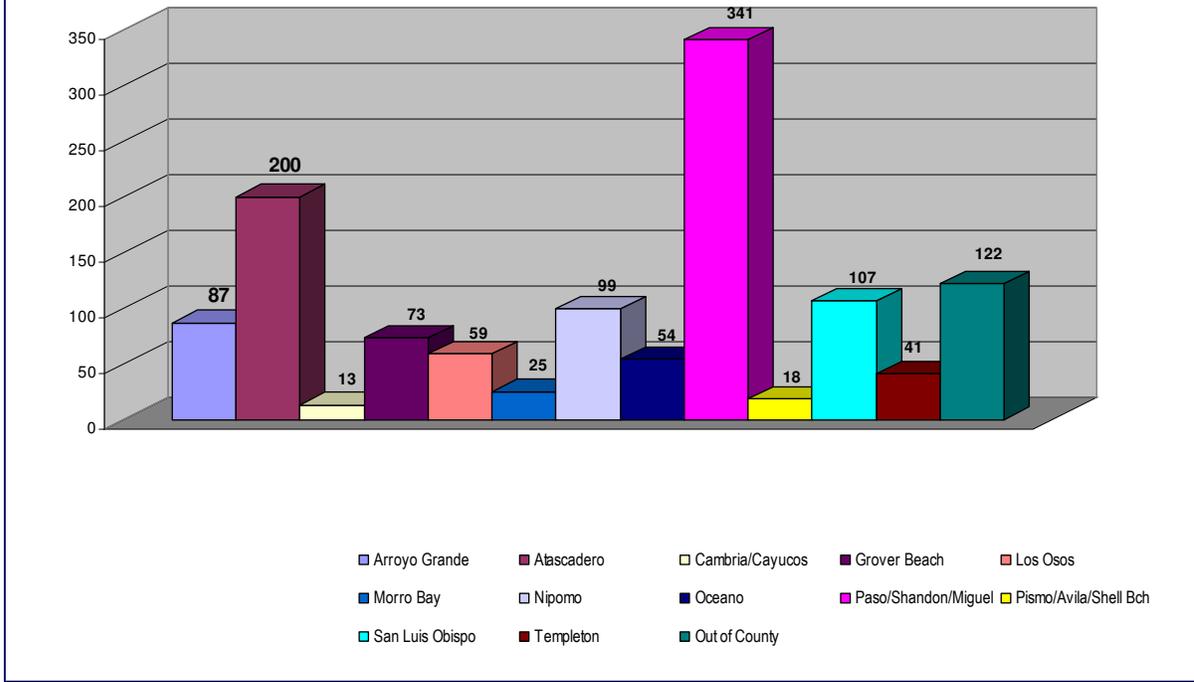
RECIDIVISM RATES BY RISK SCORE USING THE LSI-R & YLS/CMI RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS



2010 Adult Referrals By Severity and Risk



2010 Juvenile 602 Referrals By Area Of Residence



SNAPSHOT OF ADULT PROBATIONERS IN TREATMENT

Number of Adult Probationers: 695 (General Supervision, Treatment Courts, Sex Offender, and Gang Caseloads)

Number of Adult Probationers in Treatment: 582

Percentage of Adult Probationers in Treatment: 83.75%

Number of Probationers in each category of treatment:

Batterers' Intervention Program	90
Drug Court	83
Proposition 36	115
Behavioral Health Treatment Court	24
Directions	17
Directions Plus	14
Child Abuse Prevention	14
Sex Offender Groups	45
Perinatal Outpatient Extended Group	7
Sober Living Homes	56
Residential Drug Treatment	47
Vocational/Educational	35
DUI Education	21
Department of Mental Health	14

SNAPSHOT OF JUVENILE PROBATIONERS IN TREATMENT

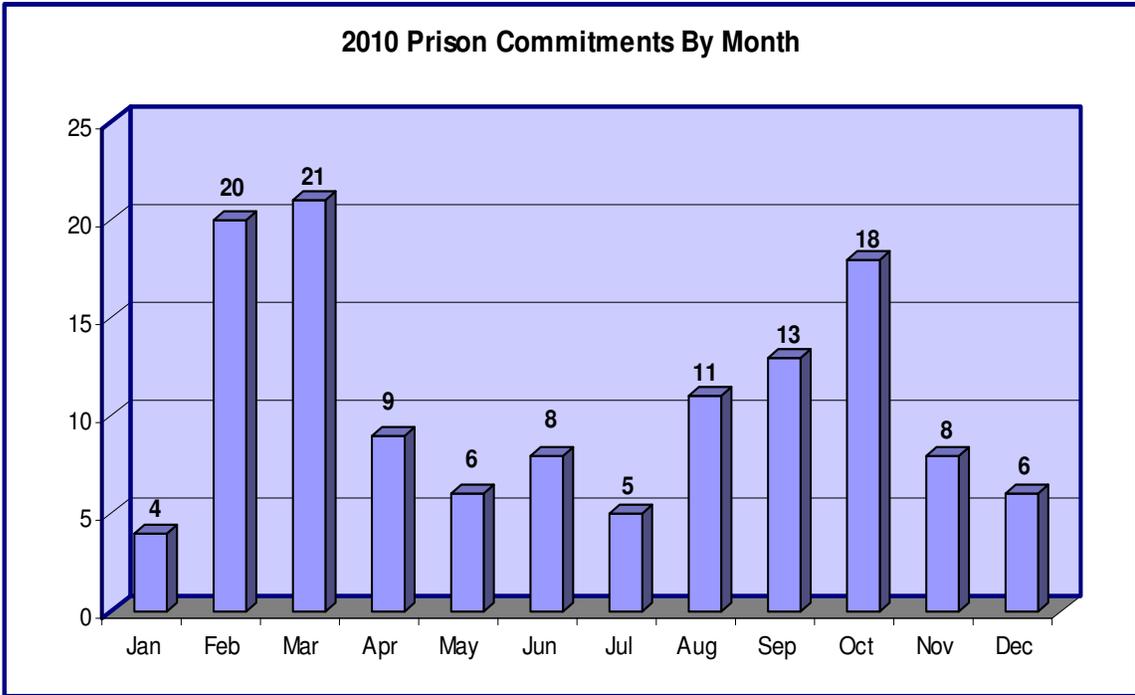
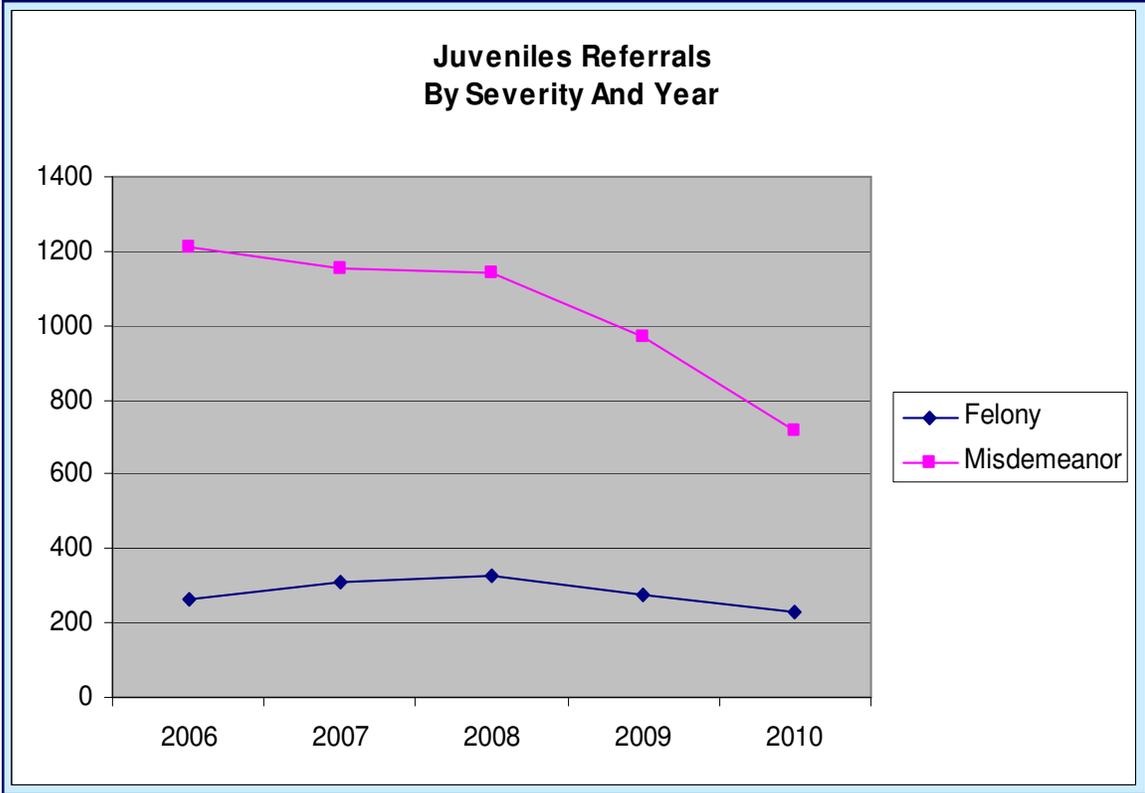
Number of Juvenile Probationers: 209

Number of Juvenile Probationers in Treatment: 132

Percentage of Juvenile Probationers in Treatment: 63%

No. of Probationers in each category of counseling: (A few probationers are in more than one program.)

Anger Management	27
Bakari Program	26
Drug and Alcohol Services	27
Family Counseling	41
Individual Counseling/Mental Health	39
Individual Counseling/Private Provider	18
Juvenile Drug Court	15
Sex Offender Counseling	6



WHO WERE THE MINORS IN JUVENILE HALL IN 2010?

WHAT IS THEIR GENDER?

Females Booked into Juvenile Hall - **166**
 Males Booked into Juvenile Hall - **625**

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Paso Robles/San Miguel - **202**
 Shandon - **3**
 Templeton - **19**
 Atas/Santa Margarita/Creston - **163**
 San Luis Obispo - **71**
 Los Osos - **14**
 Morro Bay - **21**
 Cuyucos/Cambria/San Simeon - **13**
 Shell Beach/Pismo Beach - **6**
 Grover Beach - **46**
 Arroyo Grande - **64**
 Oceano - **54**
 Nipomo - **48**
 Out of the County - **67**

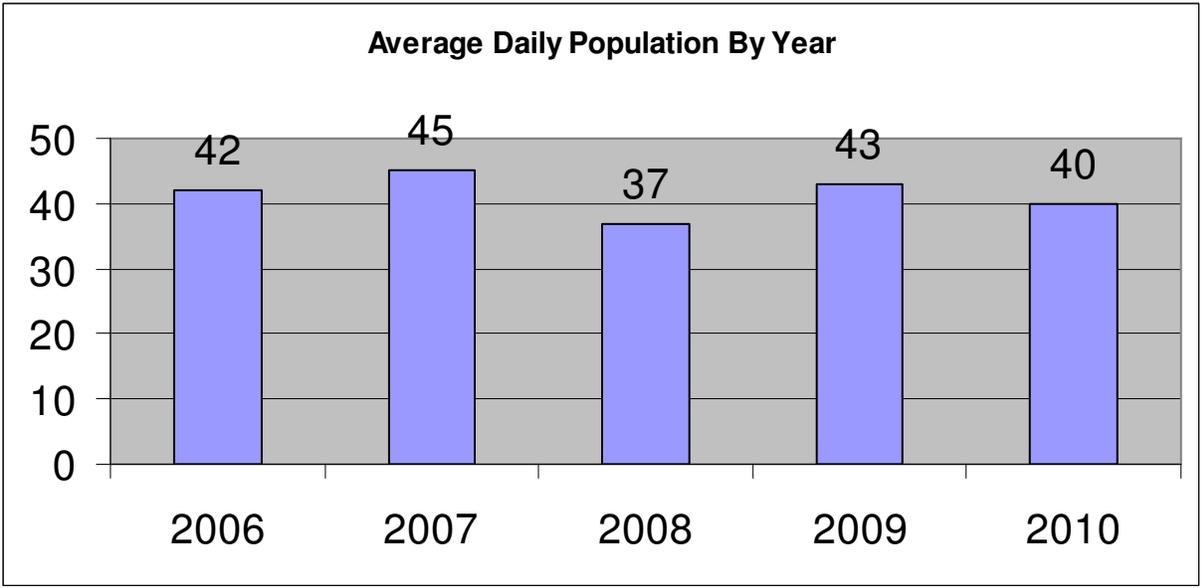
HOW OLD ARE THEY?

11 or younger - **1**
 12 to 13 - **54**
 14 to 15 - **238**
 16 to 17 - **387**
 18 or older - **111**

HOW LONG DID THEY STAY?

1 Day - **137**
 2-6 Days - **325**
 7-10 Days - **129**
 11-14 Days - **51**
 15 or more Days - **153**

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY? 20.50 days



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Administration and Adult.....805.781.5300
Juvenile.....805.781.5352
Juvenile Hall.....805.781.5389

Website www.slocounty.ca.gov/pr.htm

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 2010

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Adam Hill, 3rd District — Vice-Chairperson
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