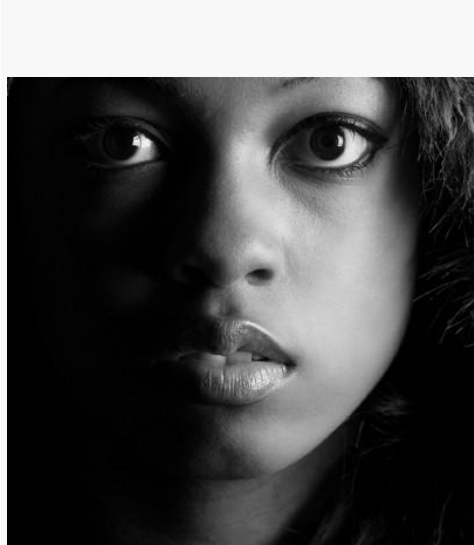


# Washtenaw County Trial Court – Juvenile Division

Report card

# 2010



## Promoting Safety in Washtenaw County

**Community Safety** is one of the primary goals of the Juvenile Probation Department. We measure community safety by:

- The number of new offenses committed by youth while under supervision
- The number of violations of probation resulting in an extension or escalation of supervision

In 2010, **81% of youth did not receive new petitions** while under the probation department's supervision. **74% of youth followed the terms of their probation** and did not receive violations of probation that extended or escalated supervision.

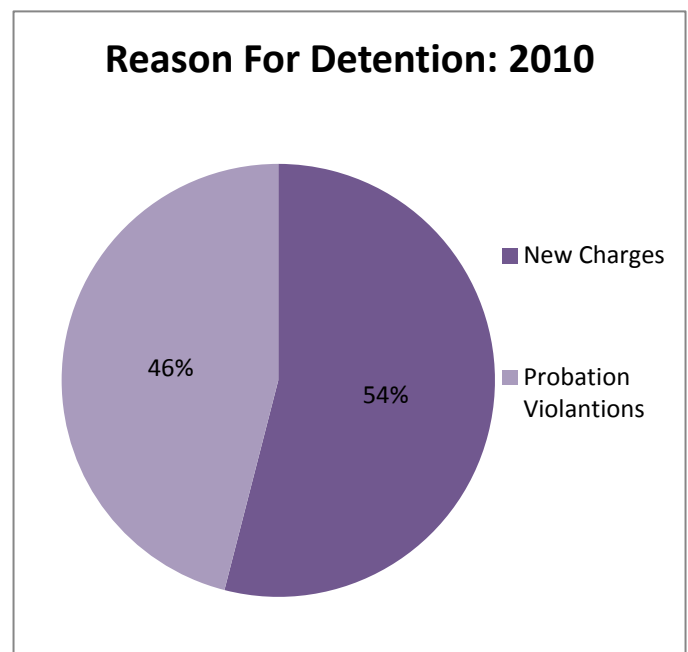
To enhance community safety, youth are assessed for their risk of re-offending. Contributing factors of a risk score include age, prior criminal behavior, drugs and alcohol use, parental control, problems at school, and peer relationships. High risk Individuals are placed on intensive supervision programs, which often include night surveillance and electronic monitoring (tether).

**Night Surveillance** can involve curfews, house arrest, daily home visits, telephone contacts, and conflict management led by a Night Surveillance officer acting as moderator. This service is provided to monitor youth during the evening and weekend hours and to make the home and community a safer place. Night Surveillance operates seven days a week. In 2010, Night Surveillance Staff drove 116,138 miles visiting 139 high-risk youth.

**Tethers** use electronic monitoring to improve the effectiveness of night

surveillance by being able to track whether youth, when required to be, are in the home. In 2010, 20 youth were placed on tether for a total of 672 days (averaging 33.6 days per youth). During their time on tether, these youth achieved 485 (72%) successful days (no violations of tether rules).

When close monitoring and community supervision are not enough to ensure public safety, detention may be used. In 2010, 164 youth were admitted to detention a total of 305 times. Youth in detention tended to be 15 years or older (78%), male (75%), and black (64%). The average stay was 14 days and detention was most often used in response to new charges as opposed to probation violations.



## Building Accountability and Empathy

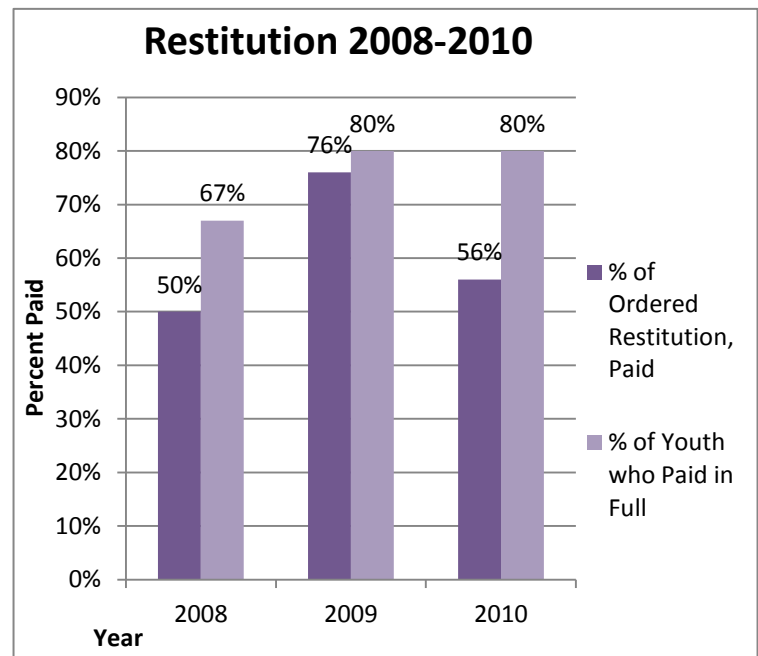
**Accountability** for young offenders means accepting responsibility for their actions by actively repairing the harm done. Youth are held accountable and victims receive aid through restitution, court costs, community service work, apologies to the victim, and impact awareness classes.

**Restitution** is how offenders compensate victims directly for any financial loss; collecting restitution is a strong focus of the Juvenile Probation Department. In 2010, restitution was ordered in 62 (19%) cases. In the past three years, youth have paid a total of \$153,078 in restitution. While the overall percent of ordered restitution paid has remained stable over the past three years, the percentage of youth who paid in full has increased from 67% to 80%.

**Community Service Work** is often required of youth to repay the community for the loss of peace and security suffered due to the youth's actions. In 2010, community service was ordered in 84% of all cases.

In the past three years, youth have completed a total of 26,438 hours of community service, contributing the equivalent of \$195,641 (26,438 X \$7.40 an hour, minimum wage) to Washtenaw County in public service work from young offenders. This service helps improve community schools, churches, parks, food pantries, detox centers, and sports camps.

**Victim Impact Awareness** classes help young offenders develop empathy



*“Juvenile justice is ‘youth development’ at its core because it seeks to discourage harmful behaviors by nurturing a foundation for growth that enables each child to build competent decision-making abilities, learn new skills, develop productive interests, take responsibility for actions, and find valuable ways to contribute to society.” –NCCIC National Child Care Information*

towards their victims in a four-hour session taught by probation officers. Young offenders often do not understand the harm they have caused others. Classes are offered to build awareness for victims and to explore opportunities to repair the harm. In 2010, 80 youth were ordered to attend the Victim Impact Awareness Class and 73 (91%) successfully completed the class. 37 youth were ordered to write letters of apology to their victims and 30 (81%) completed letters.

## Developing Competency and Skills

**Competency Development** may be necessary for young offenders to become crime free and productive. A priority of probation is to help youth develop pro-social skills such as:

### School Participation

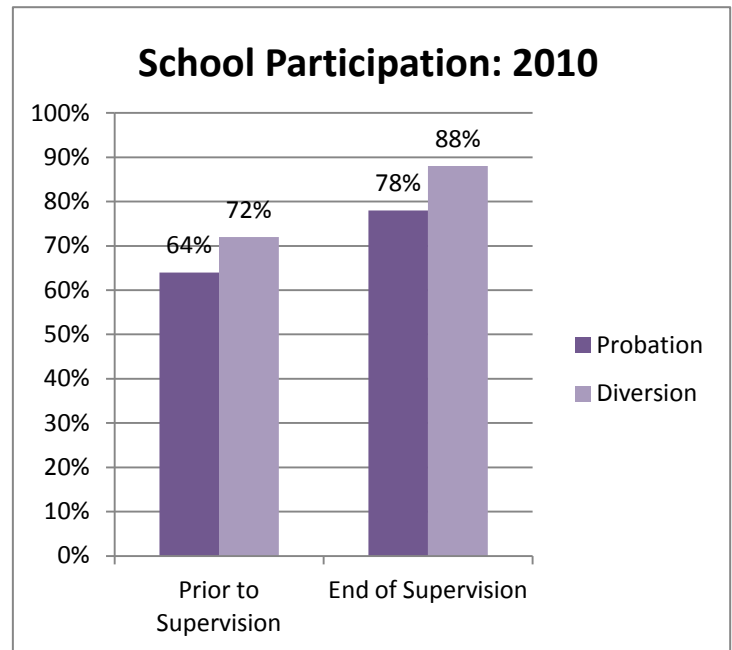
### Resistance to Drugs and Alcohol

### Completing Counseling and Life Skills Training

**School Participation** is a key indicator of a youth's successful transition into adulthood and long-term economic security. Lack of school attendance is strongly correlated with the risk of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and delinquent behavior. In 2010, youth in probation and diversion programs both increased their school attendance.

**Resistance to Drugs and Alcohol** is an important goal for youth in the juvenile justice system. During 2010, 26% of youth entering probation were screened as likely abusing (16%) or dependent (10%) on drugs and alcohol. 26% of youth far exceeds the national average of 10% of youth age 12-17 that have substance abuse or dependency disorders (SAMHSA, 2009 National Survey on Drug Use & Health).

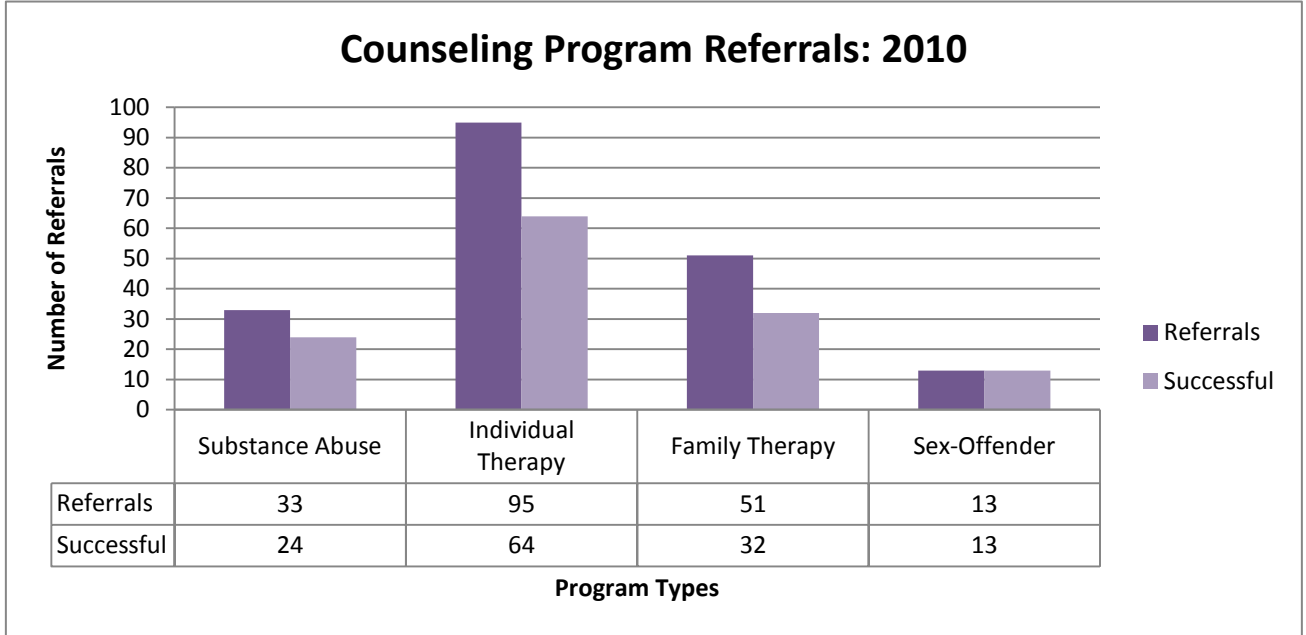
**Counseling** services are commonly paired with a young offender's supervision in order to target specific areas in need of greatest development. In 2010, 69% of youth completed the



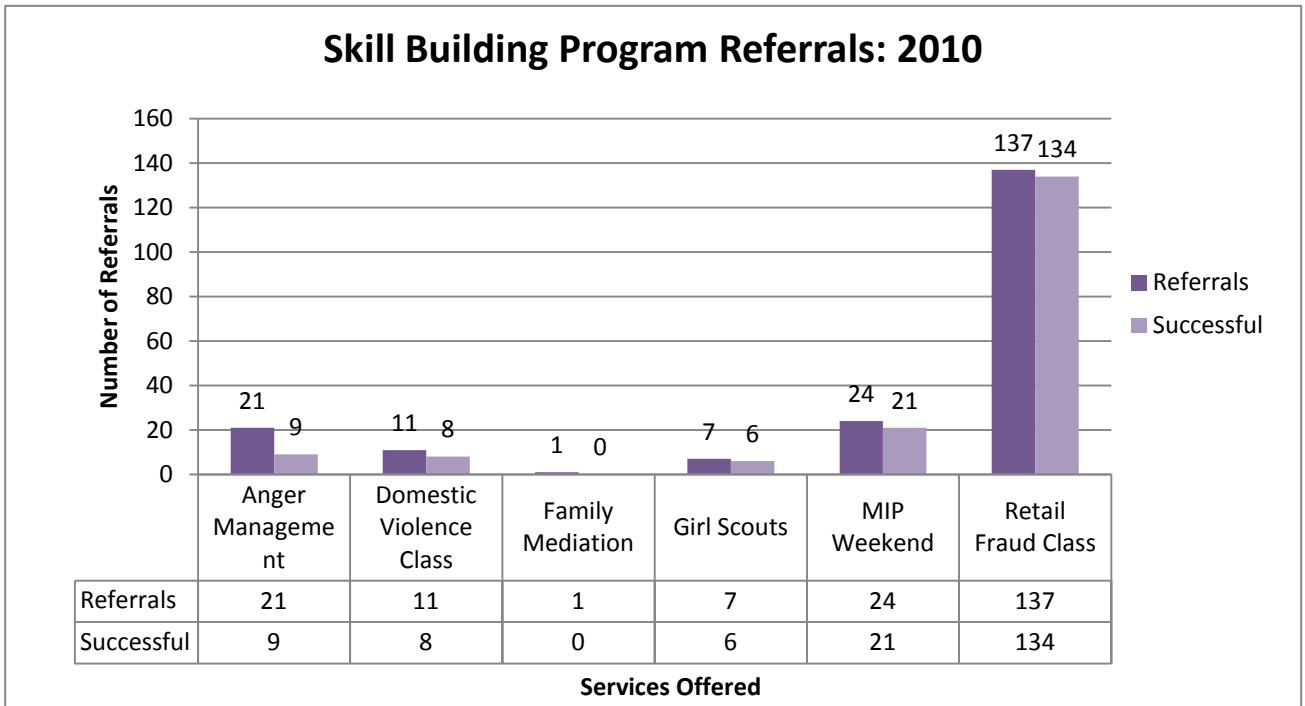
**Percentages are based on the amount of youth who attended school more than 70% of the time.**

*“Attachment to school, teachers, attendance, and GPA are highly predictive of other competencies such as vocational skills and are also among the most reliable predictors of future delinquency and adult crime.” –American Prosecutors Research*

counseling they were ordered. Fewer youth were referred for substance abuse treatment in 2009 than in 2010, and there were significantly more youth ordered to attend Individual and family therapy.



**Life Skills** are developed through community-based or court sponsored skill-building programs. In 2010, youth successfully completed skill-building programs 72% of the time:



In 2010, the probation staff reinstated an anger-management class to broaden the services available for youth.

## Outcomes by Supervision

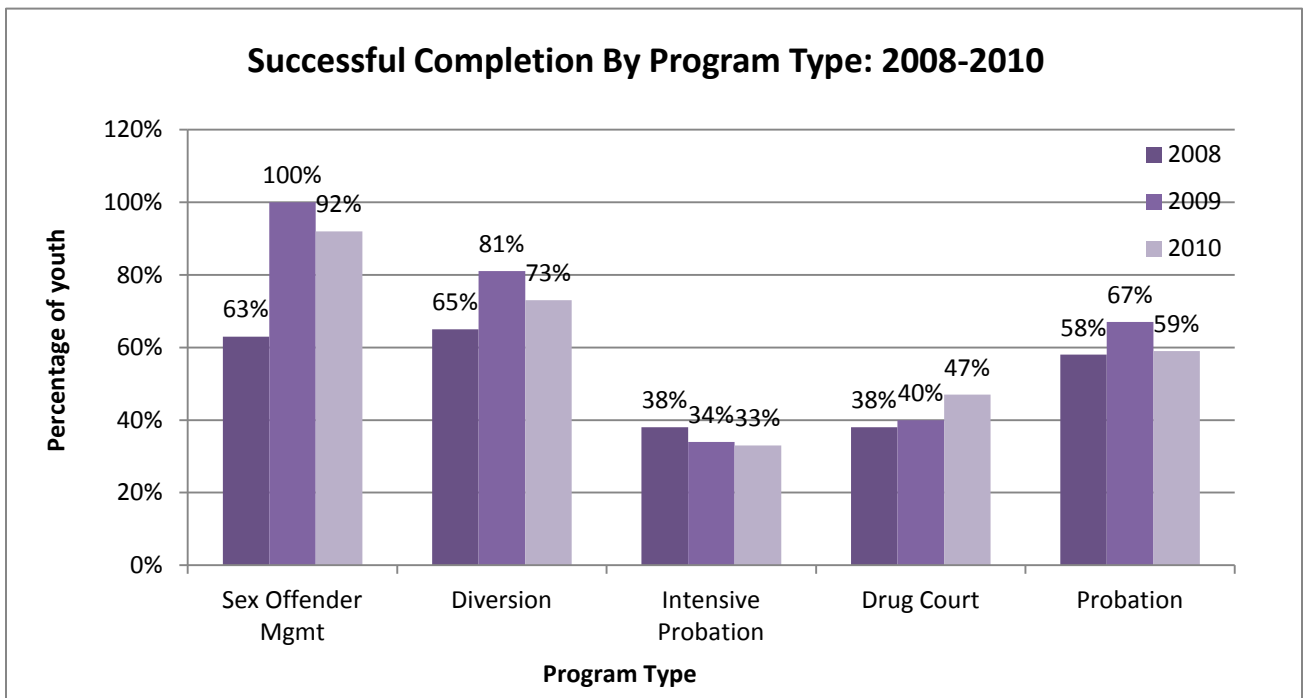
“Successful Completion” of juvenile probation is determined by the youth’s achievement of goals in the areas of accountability, community protection, and competency development.

**Successful Completion:** 80% or greater completion of all programming goals, 90% of Community Service Completed, 100% fees and costs paid, no new criminal law violations and one or fewer violations of probation resulting in a change of disposition.

**Moderately Successful Completion:** 70% or greater completion of all goals including community service work, no

new criminal law violations, and one or fewer violations of probation resulting in a change of disposition.

The proportion of youth who successfully, or moderately successfully, completed probation in 2010 is slightly lower than in 2009, and nearly the same as in 2008 (59% vs. 67% vs. 58%). Completion of probation has remained relatively steady. Increased school attendance and completion of restitution, community service work, counseling, and skill building programs are all positive gains made by youth and all are noted throughout this report:



The data suggests that success rates for our youth vary based on program, race, and to a lesser extent, gender.

*“Offender-based control strategies are incomplete, since they take a closed-system view of correctional interventions: change the offender and not the community.” –James Bryne, Criminal Justice Professor at the University of Massachusetts*

Success rates increased significantly for the Sex Offender and Diversion programs. The juvenile drug court program has steadily increased over the past three years while completion of the Intensive Probation program has slightly decreased during that time.

**Successful Completion by Gender & Race: 2008-2010**

The category “Other” includes all youth who identified as Asian, Hispanic, Biracial, or Other; they are a representative of all other minority groups in Washtenaw County.

**Successful Completion of Supervision by Gender and Race**

2008	Females				Males			
	Successful		Unsuccessful		Successful		Unsuccessful	
	Youth	%	Youth	%	Youth	%	Youth	%
Black	28	68%	21	42%	59	52%	54	48%
White	47	67%	23	33%	63	52%	59	48%
Other	12	80%	3	20%	14	45%	17	55%

2009	Females				Males			
	Successful		Unsuccessful		Successful		Unsuccessful	
	Youth	%	Youth	%	Youth	%	Youth	%
Black	24	53%	21	47%	50	56%	40	44%
White	41	85%	7	15%	110	76%	34	24%
Other	14	93%	1	7%	35	80%	9	20%

2010	Females				Males			
	Successful		Unsuccessful		Successful		Unsuccessful	
	Youth	%	Youth	%	Youth	%	Youth	%
Black	52	75%	17	25%	80	66%	42	34%
White	98	83%	20	17%	146	82%	31	18%
Other	23	82%	5	18%	46	68%	22	32%

## Probation Caseload

At the closing of a case, the probation officer completes a "Case Closing Summary." This form details whether the court's objectives were achieved at the closing of probation.

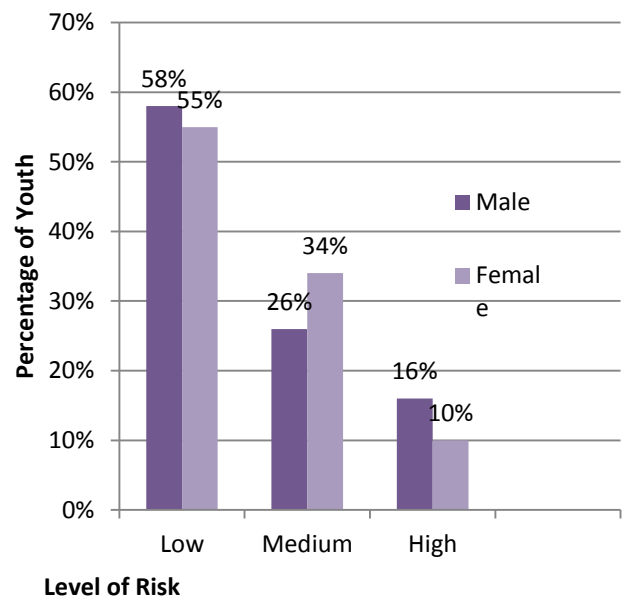
Youth are assigned to different levels of supervision based on their offenses, their need for specialized treatment, and their risk of future offending. Some risk factors do not change and others can change with treatment. Youth with higher risk scores at the start of probation are assigned to a more intensive supervision program.

Of note in 2010, the gender gap is decreasing. While males still commit a majority of delinquency in Washtenaw County, female offending has slightly increased in the past five years:

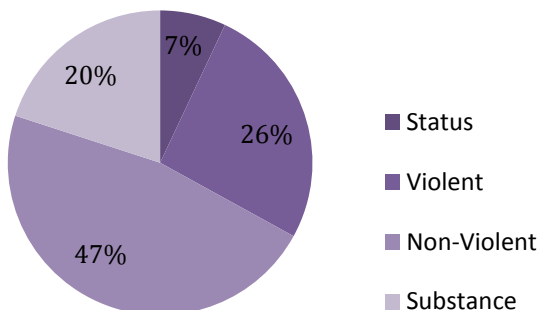
Year	Ratio of Female per 100 Male Offenders
2006	26:100
2007	27:100
2008	31:100
2009	36:100
2010	32:100

A majority of offenses committed by youth are non-violent offenses such as shoplifting and destruction of property:

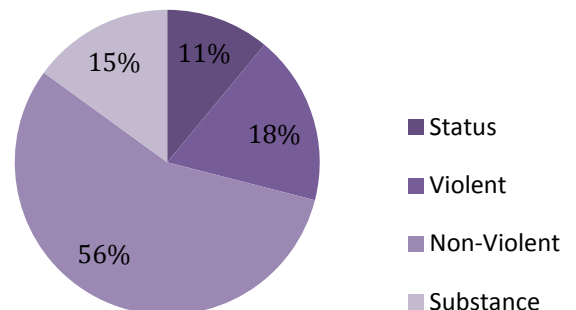
### Risk of Re-Offending At Case Initiation by Gender: 2010



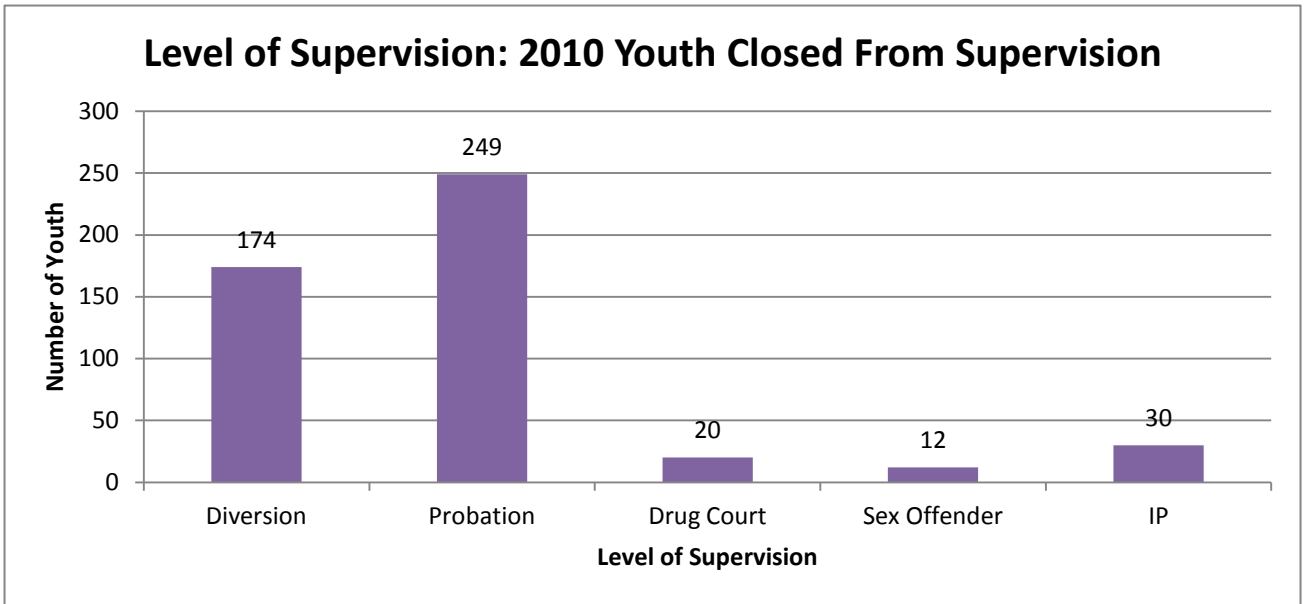
### 2010 Cases Closed: Male (N=614)



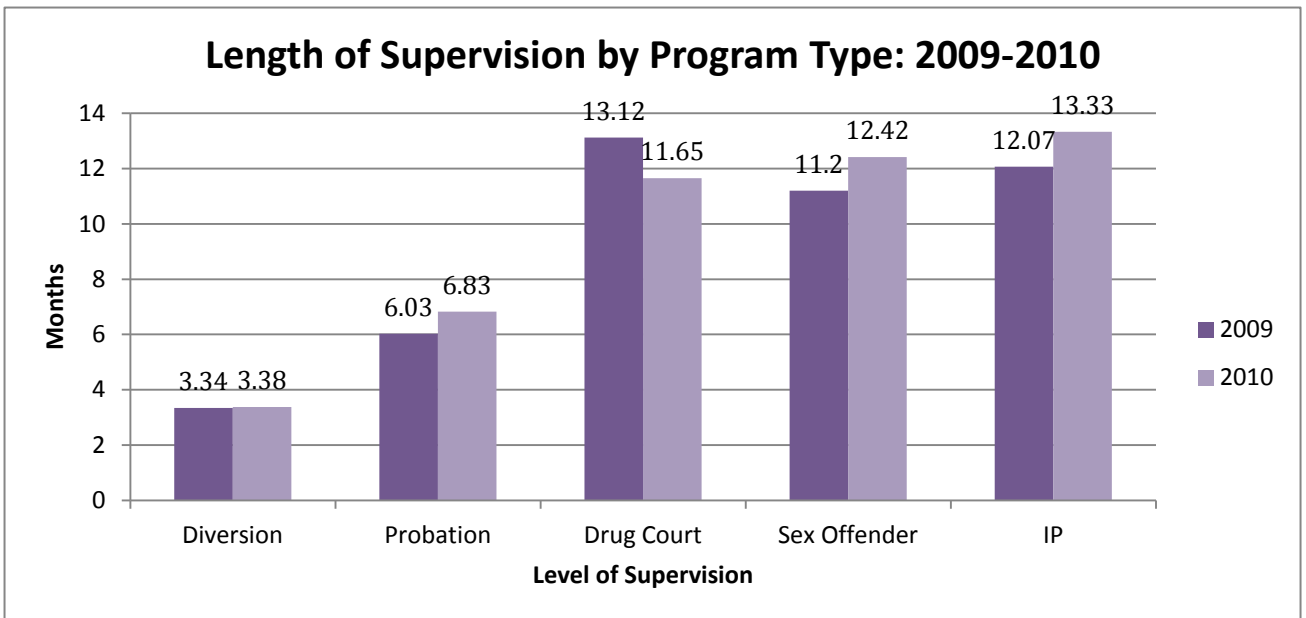
### 2010 Cases Closed: Female (N=292)







The majority of youth supervised and closed in 2010 received probation level of supervision. There has been a significant increase in youth placed on diversion over the past two years since the programs expansion from a status offender focus (school attendance and parent-child problems) to also including first time offenders charged with misdemeanor level offenses.

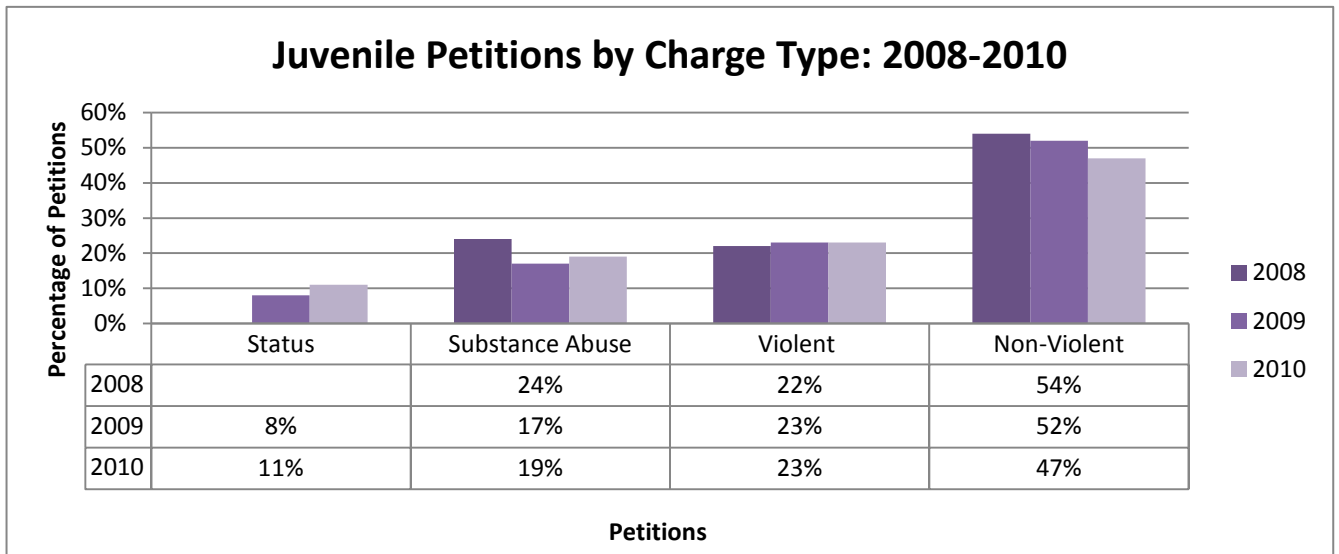


The average length of supervision varied by program. Youth in the specialized treatment programs and intensive probation averaged 11 months of supervision and youth on diversion averaged just over three months (the length of one school semester). With the exception of the Juvenile Drug Court, the average length of supervision increased between 2009-2010.

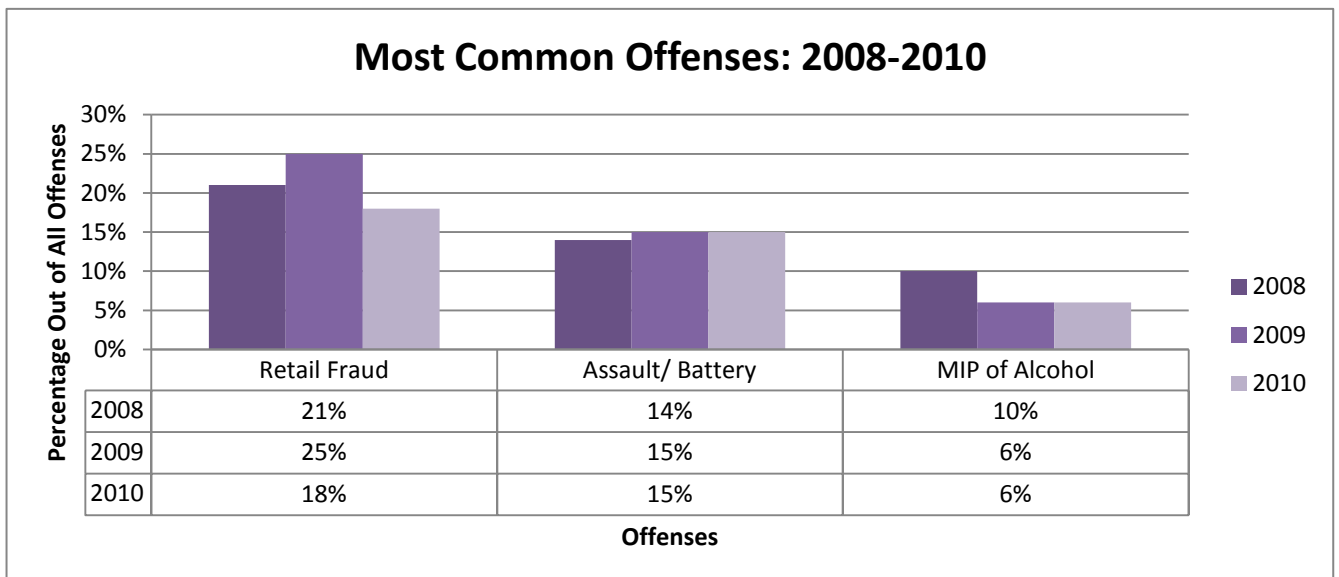
## Washtenaw County Juvenile Court Judicial Caseload

The Washtenaw County Trial Court – Juvenile Division has jurisdiction over all of Washtenaw County youth under the age of 17 charged with violating criminal law (those acts, if committed by an adult, would be considered a misdemeanor, felony, or motor vehicle offense) and those charged with

committing status offenses (illegal only because of the youth’s age, such as school truancy, curfew violations, or running away from home). In 2010, 920 cases were filed in the Juvenile Court; charges recorded over the past three years are displayed below:



Though the number of offenses has slightly declined over the past three years, a slight increase in status offenses and the decline of non-violent offenses are notable trends.



Retail fraud continues to be the most common juvenile offense. Approximately one in five offenses are retail fraud.

## Demographics of Youth Petitioned: 2008-2010

Youth petitioned to the juvenile court in 2010 tended to be aged 13-16 (84%) and male (66%). While there was a significant decrease in the number of

black youth petitioned between 2008 and 2010 (561-432), black youth continue to be petitioned 3.5 times their rate in the population.

