

PREBLE COUNTY  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
JUVENILE DIVISION



ANNUAL REPORT  
2024

JENIFER K. OVERMYER  
JUDGE

K. BRENT COPELAND  
MAGISTRATE

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In accordance with the directive contained in Section 2151.18 Revised Code of Ohio, submitted herewith is the annual report of the Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division of Preble County, Ohio for the calendar year 2024.

## A Message from Judge Jenifer K. Overmyer

As we reflect on the past year, Preble County Juvenile & Probate Court is proud to present this annual report, highlighting our efforts to serve the youth, families, and vulnerable individuals within our community. This annual report serves as an overview of the Court's activities, achievements, and contributions to the community over the past year.

In 2024, the Court, through a grant provided by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, upgraded the outdated method of capturing fingerprints on paper and moved to a digital LiveScan fingerprinting device. This has greatly increased the speed with which required fingerprints are received by BCI and improves the quality of the prints collected. The Court is in the process of integrating its case management system to allow electronic reporting of critical adjudication information.

The Juvenile Probation Department received new case management software to improve supervision of youth. The Ohio Juvenile Supervision System (OJSS) allows probation staff the ability to streamline check-ins, case tracking, and document management. This year, the probation department also relocated to a new building to enhance community access and received a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services to support supervised community service for youth in exchange for restitution to victims.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to continuing to provide exceptional service to everyone who enters our doors. We are honored to present this report representing our hard work and dedication with you.

Sincerely,  
Jenifer K. Overmyer  
Judge

**Preble County Court of Common Pleas  
Juvenile/Probate Divisions  
Court Staff**

**Judicial**

Judge

Jenifer K. Overmyer

Magistrate

K. Brent Copeland

**Administration**

Court Administrator

Kassie Proffitt

Fiscal Officer

Dawna Simpson

**Deputy Clerks**

Chief Deputy Clerk Juvenile Court

Marian Schmidt

Probate Court

Elizabeth Sizemore

Juvenile & Probate Court

Amy Renner

Juvenile Court

Dawn White

Juvenile Court

Troy Skiles

**Juvenile Probation Department**

Diversion Officer

Michelle Shafer

Probation Officer

Joseph Betscher

Probation Officer

Julie Evans

Probation Officer

Teresa Leyes

ADAPT Program Probation Officer

Jody Betscher

ADAPT Program Probation Officer

Ashleigh Cravens

**SAFE Program**

Clinical Supervisor

Kelli Ott

Family Preservation Case Manager

Jayne Strine

**Give Back Program Supervisor**

Jessica Maxel

**CASA Program**

Program Director

Debbie Huff

Volunteer Coordinator

Dawn White



# CASA PROGRAM

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) are local volunteers serving as the voice of children who are in the Juvenile Court system because of abuse, neglect, or dependency. These advocates investigate by visiting with the child and interviewing foster parents, parents, and other adults involved in the child's life. They monitor the child's and parents' involvement with Children's services, attend Juvenile Court hearings, and recommend placement and services for the child through written reports.



## Volunteers

Debbie Huff (Director)

Dawn White (Volunteer Coordinator)

Wendy Aker

Paula Connerley

Marcia Garrison

Lisa Goecke

Sarah Ile

Cassie Manning

Breanna Orre

Kim Petry

Gary Pemberton

Deborah Ray

Maria Rodeffer

Mary Ruff

Cathy Spencer

Joyce Tuthill



## 2024 STATISTICS

- ❖ 22 active volunteers
- ❖ 5 new sworn in
- ❖ Over 1,000 hours of combined service
- ❖ Average cases: 4
- ❖ Average time assigned: 21.5 months
- ❖ 94 children served
- ❖ 31 cases closed:
  - 9 adoptions
  - 2 aged out
  - 2 legal custody
  - 18 reunifications

CASA appointments saved an estimated \$50,347.01 in 2024!

# CASA PROGRAM

## Going Above and Beyond....

The CASA Program and volunteers have gone above the call of duty to help meet the needs of families. In 2024, when a mother got her 5 children back, she needed help with food. The CASA program, along with employees of Juvenile Court probation, diversion, and the SAFE program were able to donate enough food to help them until they could get back on their feet. They also help children with school supplies when needed.



CASA Volunteers partnered with the Rylee Sellars Foundation



Judge Overmyer swearing in new volunteers



CASA day at the Dayton Dragons game



# SAFE PROGRAM

The Strength-Based Alternatives in the Family Environment (SAFE) Program is an intensive family-centered intervention service that is delivered in the home and designed to stabilize family functioning. SAFE preserves the safety of the child, family, community and maintains the child in the home. SAFE provides alternative behavior choices to the child and family. Families are not required to participate. It is completely voluntary.

## What families are saying....

"Love this program! Hope it is always open here and can take more children. An asset to our community"

"My child felt important. He felt he could talk even though at times he didn't want to."

"Having an outside person's perspective on our situation was nice. This program really does help and is great for kids to have others support."

## 2024 Statistics

Referrals received: 43

Referral sources:

Mental Health Provider- 23

School- 9

Juvenile Court- 9

Wraparound- 1

Head Start- 1

Cases opened: 26

Cases closed: 26

Children remaining in the home at the end of services: 25





## PROBATION SERVICES- DIVERSION

The Court Diversion program is an early intervention and prevention program. Its mission is to give youth who commit status and specific criminal offenses an alternative to becoming involved in the court system and acquiring a criminal record. Youth complete a variety of activities which may include a written essay, behavioral change assignments, community service hours, donating items to local food banks or animal shelters, and writing letters of apology.

Diversion utilizes Court Solutions online courses with nearly all youth. These courses address several issues including alcohol awareness, anger management, life skills, and decision making.

| 2024 Statistics  | Total | Male | Female |
|------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Youth Served     | 133   | 88   | 45     |
| Youth Terminated | 105   | 69   | 36     |
| Successful       | 95    | 61   | 34     |
| Unsuccessful     | 9     | 7    | 2      |
| Neutral          | 1     | 1    | 0      |

**90.4% Successful termination rate**

### Truancy Data

Pursuant to ORC 2151.18, HB 410 data regarding habitual truancy is required. Specifically, under ORC 2151.28(G), the data shall include:

1. The number of children placed in alternatives to adjudication: 9
2. The number who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication: 11
3. The number who failed to complete alternatives to adjudication and were adjudicated unruly: 0

Note: While the number of program completions in 2024 appears higher than new placements, this reflects the inclusion of youth who were enrolled in the program in late 2023 and completed it in the current year.

## PROBATION SERVICES- ADAPT

The ADAPT program (Alcohol and Drug Addiction Prevention and Treatment) is a behavioral change program that utilizes evidence-based programming and connection to appropriate services to guide youth toward a drug-free lifestyle. Youth may be referred to the ADAPT program if they had a drug related offense or presented with a high risk of substance abuse.

While youth are on probation with the ADAPT program, they work through behavioral change guides based on their needs, learn substance abuse awareness and prevention, coping skills, problem solving, decision making, emotional regulation, communication skills, and conflict resolution.

| 2024 Statistics  | Total | Male | Female |
|------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Youth Served     | 52    | 36   | 16     |
| Youth Terminated | 21    | 14   | 7      |
| Successful       | 17    | 11   | 6      |
| Unsuccessful     | 4     | 3    | 1      |

**80.9% Successful termination rate**

## EVIDENCE-BASED PROBATION

Youth who are placed on probation who do not present a need for drug or alcohol services are placed on Evidence-Based Probation. Like the other probation programs, these youth are provided with behavior change programming aimed at reducing their risk of recidivism.

Coaching is used throughout the youth's probation term to empower them to develop leadership skills, self-discipline, self-awareness, personal accountability, and prosocial decision-making.

| 2024 Statistics  | Total | Male | Female |
|------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Youth Served     | 52    | 39   | 13     |
| Youth Terminated | 28    | 19   | 9      |
| Successful       | 24    | 16   | 8      |
| Unsuccessful     | 4     | 3    | 1      |

**85.7% Successful termination rate**

\*Youth in all probation programs have the opportunity to earn incentives which may include return of lost privileges, permission to attend activities previously not permitted, candy, snacks, toiletries, stress relievers, or hobby items.

## JUVENILE COURT CASES FILED

| CASE TYPE               | NUMBER OF CASES |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| DELINQUENT              | 163             |
| TRAFFIC                 | 81              |
| ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENT | 67              |
| UNRULY                  | 27              |
| ADULT                   | 21              |
| PERMANENT CUSTODY       | 13              |
| CUSTODY/VISITATION      | 96              |
| SUPPORT                 | 189             |
| PARENTAGE               | 1               |
| UIFSA                   | 2               |
| MISCELLANEOUS           | 0               |
| <b>TOTAL CASES</b>      | <b>659</b>      |



## JUVENILE COURT CASES CLOSED

|                                 | Dispo<br>By<br>Judge | Dispo By<br>Magistrate | Dismissal  | Unavailable<br>Party | Transfer<br>To<br>Other<br>Court | Other<br>Disposition | Totals     |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Delinquent                      | 30                   | 106                    | 30         | 4                    | 15                               | 4                    | 189        |
| Traffic                         | 21                   | 0                      | 34         | 1                    | 17                               | 12                   | 85         |
| Abuse,<br>Neglect,<br>Dependent | 62                   | 0                      | 3          | 0                    | 0                                | 1                    | 66         |
| Unruly                          | 8                    | 7                      | 8          | 0                    | 0                                | 2                    | 25         |
| Adult                           | 5                    | 4                      | 10         | 0                    | 0                                | 0                    | 19         |
| Permanent<br>Custody            | 14                   | 0                      | 5          | 0                    | 0                                | 0                    | 19         |
| Custody/<br>Visitation          | 1                    | 36                     | 24         | 0                    | 4                                | 36                   | 101        |
| Support                         | 0                    | 14                     | 23         | 0                    | 0                                | 95                   | 132        |
| Parentage                       | 0                    | 0                      | 0          | 0                    | 0                                | 0                    | 0          |
| U.I.F.S.A.                      | 0                    | 1                      | 0          | 0                    | 0                                | 1                    | 2          |
| Other                           | 0                    | 0                      | 0          | 0                    | 0                                | 0                    | 0          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                   | <b>141</b>           | <b>168</b>             | <b>137</b> | <b>5</b>             | <b>36</b>                        | <b>151</b>           | <b>638</b> |

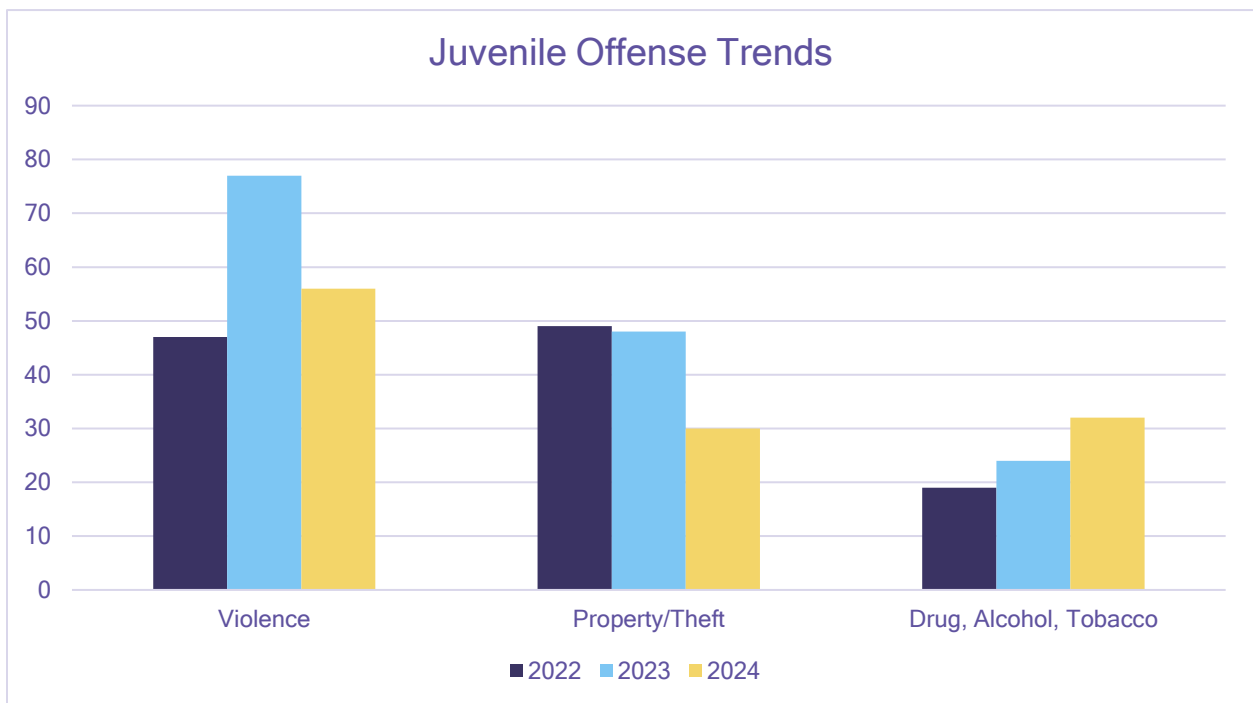
## TRAFFIC COUNTS

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE | 6         |
| ATV VIOLATIONS         | 2         |
| FAILURE TO CONTROL     | 5         |
| FAILURE TO YIELD       | 2         |
| IMPROPER TURN          | 1         |
| NO OPERATOR'S LICENSE  | 4         |
| RED LIGHT              | 1         |
| SEATBELT               | 1         |
| SPEEDING               | 19        |
| STOPPED SCHOOL BUS     | 1         |
| TURN SIGNAL            | 1         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>43</b> |

## DELINQUENT & UNRULY COUNTS

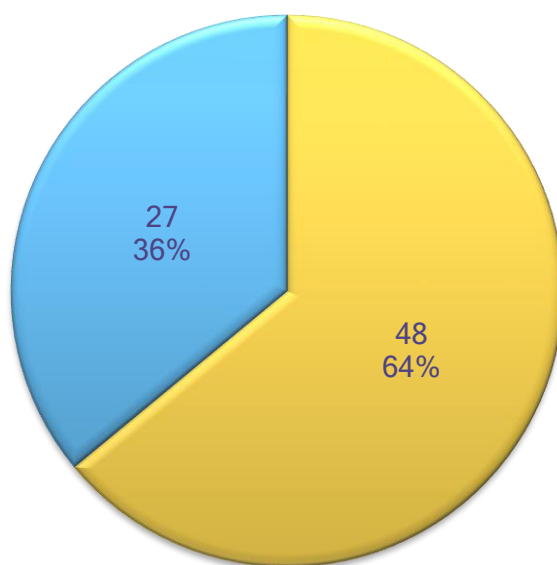
|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Homicide and Assault</b>   |    |
| Vehicular Homicide  | 1  |
| Felonious Assault   | 6  |
| Assault   | 16 |
| Strangulation   | 1  |
| Aggravated Menacing   | 2  |
| Menacing  | 4  |
| <b>Sexual Offenses</b>  |    |
| Gross Sexual Imposition   | 4  |
| Rape  | 2  |
| Voyeurism   | 1  |
| <b>Property Offenses</b>  |    |
| Criminal Damaging   | 5  |
| <b>Robbery, Burglary, Trespass, and Safecracking</b>                          |    |
| Criminal Trespass   | 9  |
| <b>Theft and Fraud</b>  |    |
| Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle  | 7  |
| Theft   | 1  |
| Misuse of Credit Cards  | 1  |
| Receiving Stolen Property   | 2  |
| Counterfeiting  | 1  |
| Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle   | 4  |
| <b>Offenses Against the Public Peace</b>                                      |    |
| Disorderly Conduct  | 9  |
| Inducing Panic  | 1  |
| Making False Alarms   | 3  |
| <b>Offenses Against the Family</b>  |    |
| Contributing  | 4  |
| Contributing (Adult)  | 33 |
| Domestic Violence   | 17 |
| <b>Offenses Against Justice and Public Administration</b>                     |    |
| Resisting Arrest  | 1  |
| Falsification   | 3  |
| Obstructing   | 3  |
| Escape  | 2  |
| <b>Conspiracy, Attempt, and Complicity; Weapons Control; Corrupt Activity</b> |    |
| Complicity  | 7  |
| <b>Drug Offenses</b>  |    |
| Possession of Drugs   | 5  |
| Possession of Drug Paraphernalia  | 3  |
| <b>Health, Safety, Morals</b>   |    |
| Littering   | 1  |

| Other Offenses                               |            |
|--|------------|
| Open Container                               | 1          |
| Failure to Comply with Underage Alcohol Laws | 2          |
| No Operator's License                        | 1          |
| Physical Control                             | 1          |
| Curfew Violation                             | 6          |
| Tobacco Offense                              | 21         |
| Unruly/Disobedient                           | 26         |
| Unruly (Truant)                              | 28         |
| Violation of Probation Rules                 | 4          |
| Violation of a Court Order                   | 73         |
| Parole Violation                             | 1          |
| Contempt (Adult)                             | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL COUNTS</b>                          | <b>324</b> |



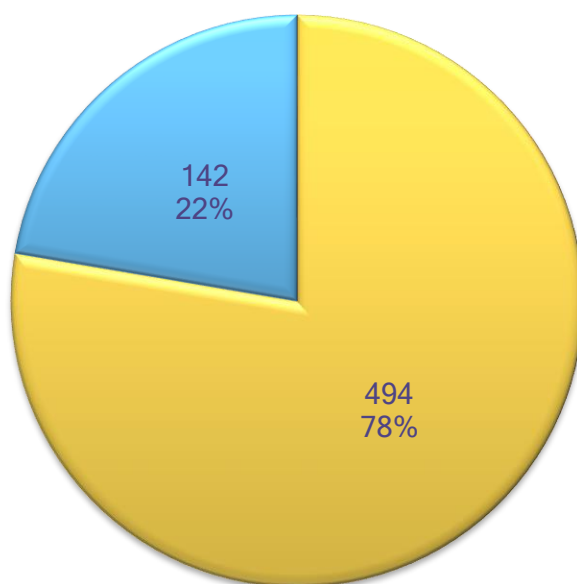
## DETENTION STATISTICS

Youth Served



Male Female

Total Days Served



Male Female



# OFFICIAL CASES: FIVE YEAR COMPARISON

| CASE TYPE          | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024       |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| DELINQUENT         | 151        | 150        | 169        | 237        | 189        |
| TRAFFIC            | 37         | 48         | 66         | 90         | 85         |
| ABUSE/NEG/DEP      | 136        | 131        | 54         | 29         | 66         |
| UNRULY             | 8          | 38         | 33         | 23         | 25         |
| ADULT              | 5          | 20         | 14         | 18         | 19         |
| PERM. CUSTODY      | 31         | 39         | 23         | 14         | 19         |
| CUSTODY/VISITATION | 120        | 112        | 91         | 113        | 101        |
| SUPPORT            | 132        | 164        | 209        | 169        | 132        |
| PARENTAGE          | 3          | 5          | 13         | 0          | 0          |
| UIFSA              | 2          | 3          | 12         | 0          | 2          |
| ALL OTHERS         | 4          | 0          | 2          | 1          | 0          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>629</b> | <b>710</b> | <b>686</b> | <b>694</b> | <b>638</b> |

## Demographic Data

| CASE TYPE  | 2020<br>m/f | 2021<br>m/f | 2022<br>m/f | 2023<br>m/f | 2024<br>m/f |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| DELINQUENT | 127/24      | 113/37      | 117/52      | 157/80      | 119/57      |
| TRAFFIC    | 28/9        | 32/16       | 16/4        | 67/23       | 59/23       |
| UNRULY     | 7/1         | 28/10       | 21/12       | 13/10       | 15/8        |

# JUVENILE COURT FINES AND COSTS

## COURT COSTS COLLECTED

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Local Costs      | \$17,998.72 |
| Legal Research   | \$705.67    |
| Computer Fund    | \$3,497.86  |
| Sheriff Fees     | \$3,244.43  |
| Victims of Crime | \$1,266.00  |
| CASA             | \$4,517.66  |
| Mediation        | \$1,278.00  |
| Indigent Alcohol | \$19.50     |
| Magistrate       | \$4,789.83  |

**TOTAL \$37,317.67**

## REIMBURSEMENT COLLECTED

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Restitution           | \$2,289.99 |
| Drug Testing          | \$1,050.00 |
| Electronic Monitoring | \$2,620.00 |

**TOTAL \$5,959.99**

## TRAFFIC FINES AND COSTS COLLECTED

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Diversion                 | \$6,066.00 |
| OSP State                 | \$125.00   |
| OSP Law Library           | \$62.50    |
| OSP County                | \$31.25    |
| OSP Motor Vehicle Reg.    | \$31.25    |
| Other Law Library         | \$50.00    |
| Other Highway maintenance | \$50.00    |

**TOTAL \$6,416.00**

**NON-TRAFFIC FINES COLLECTED**

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| OSP State              | \$0.00   |
| OSP Law Library        | \$0.00   |
| OSP County             | \$0.00   |
| OSP Motor Vehicle Reg. | \$0.00   |
| Other Law Library      | \$125.00 |
| Tobacco/Law Library    | \$500.00 |
| Adult/Law Library      | \$336.00 |

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$961.00</b> |
|--------------|-----------------|

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL FINES COLLECTED</b> | <b>\$50,654.66</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenifer K. Overmyer", is written over a horizontal line.

**Jenifer K. Overmyer, Judge**

Juvenile/Probate Court Judge as of February 9, 2015