

U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office Northern District of Ohio



2013 Annual Report

Judicial Officers

United States District Court - Northern District of Ohio

~ District Judges ~

Solomon Oliver, Jr., Chief Judge
Donald C. Nugent
Patricia A. Gaughan
James S. Gwin
Dan Aaron Polster
John R. Adams
Christopher A. Boyko
Jack Zouhary
Sara Lioi
Benita Y. Pearson
Jeffrey J. Helmick

~ Senior District Judges ~

David D. Dowd, Jr.
David A. Katz
Lesley Wells
James G. Carr

~ Magistrate Judges ~

Nancy A. Vecchiarelli
George J. Limbert
William H. Baughman, Jr.
Kenneth S. McHargh
Greg White
James R. Knepp, II
Kathleen B. Burke
Vernelis K. Armstrong

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~ Report of Chief U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Officer ~

I am very proud to present you with the Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report for the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office for the Northern District of Ohio. If there was a theme that ran through much of the past year for our agency it would be "Resilience." Even in the face of a dire budget environment and much uncertainty, our staff continued to provide a high level of service to the Court, the community, and the individuals under our supervision. We continued to be a national leader in progressive programs, including ABLE adult education, enhanced evidence-based practices communication techniques, Reentry Court programming, and other leading-edge community corrections practices. As the risk level of our supervision cases has steadily increased, our District has maintained a stable recidivism rate which is among the lowest in our Circuit. We continued to spend a significant amount on treatment services, and once again led the Sixth Circuit in treatment dollars provided to defendants and offenders. This is part of our district's core belief, that effective evidence-based interventions can make a positive impact on the lives of defendants, offenders and their families.

Change and renewal will be a big part of our agency as we move into 2014. We have a very experienced staff, many of whom are eligible, or soon will be, for retirement under federal law enforcement officer guidelines. We are planning thoughtfully for this eventuality, and recently have had a large cadre of officers graduate from the National Leadership Development Program offered by the Federal Judicial Center. We have also had several other staff and managers begin participation in, and or complete, the Foundations of Management self-study program in order to prepare themselves for future leadership positions within the district. We are making plans, with assistance from our Human Resources Department, to conduct more in-district leadership and management training during 2014 as well as strategic planning sessions to insure that our work quality and level of service to the Court and our other stakeholders will remain at a high level.

I am personally very proud of what our staff has accomplished during Fiscal Year 2013. Working in a murky budget climate with much uncertainty, they have continued to perform admirably and live up to the expectations of our National Charter for Excellence which outlines that we are part of a system that "*Promotes fairness in process and excellence in service to the courts and the community.*" I am excited about the future of our agency moving forward and I would like to personally thank all of our staff for their hard work and dedication during the past year.

Burton E. Maroney
Chief U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Officer

Our district has adopted the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation system Charter for Excellence as one of our guiding principles.

~ Charter for Excellence ~

We, the members of Probation and Pretrial Services of the United States Courts, are a national system with shared professional identity, goals, and values.

We facilitate the fair administration of justice and provide continuity of services throughout the judicial process. We are outcome driven and strive to make our communities safer and to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. We achieve success through interdependence, collaboration, and local innovation. We are committed to excellence as a system and to the principles embodied in this Charter.

We are a unique profession.

Our profession is distinguished by the unique combination of:

- A multidimensional knowledge base in law and human behavior;
- A mix of skills in investigation, communication, and analysis;
- A capacity to provide services and interventions from pretrial release through post-conviction supervision;
- A position of impartiality within the criminal justice system; and
- A responsibility to positively impact the community and the lives of victims, defendants, and offenders.

These goals matter most.

Our system strives to achieve the organizational goals of:

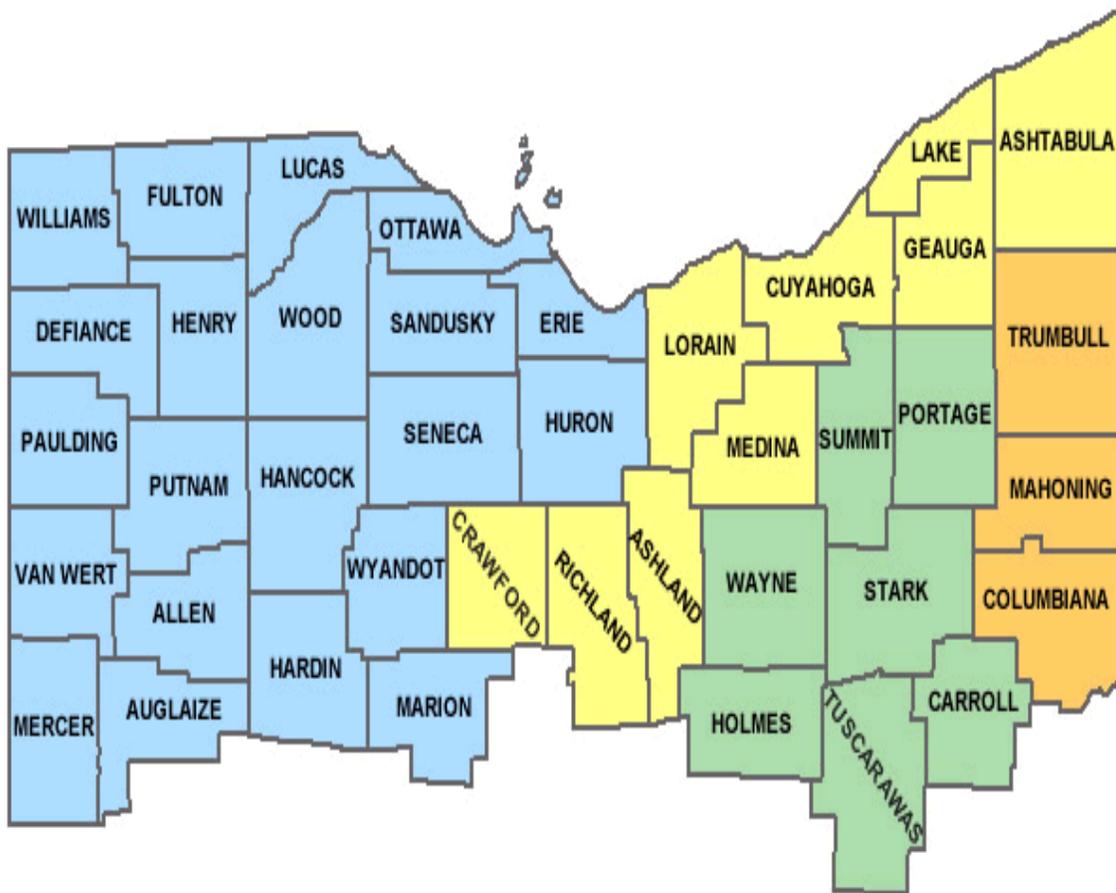
- Upholding the constitutional principles of the presumption of innocence and the right against excessive bail for pretrial defendants by appropriately balancing community safety and risk of nonappearance with protection of individual liberties;
- Providing objective investigations and reports with verified information and recommendations to assist the court in making fair pretrial release, sentencing, and supervision decisions;
- Ensuring defendant and offender compliance with court-ordered conditions through community-based supervision and partnerships;
- Protecting the community through the use of controlling and correctional strategies designed to assess and manage risk;
- Facilitating long-term, positive changes in defendants and offenders through proactive interventions; and
- Promoting the fair, impartial, and just treatment of defendants and offenders throughout all phases of the system.

We stand by these values.

Our values are mission-critical:

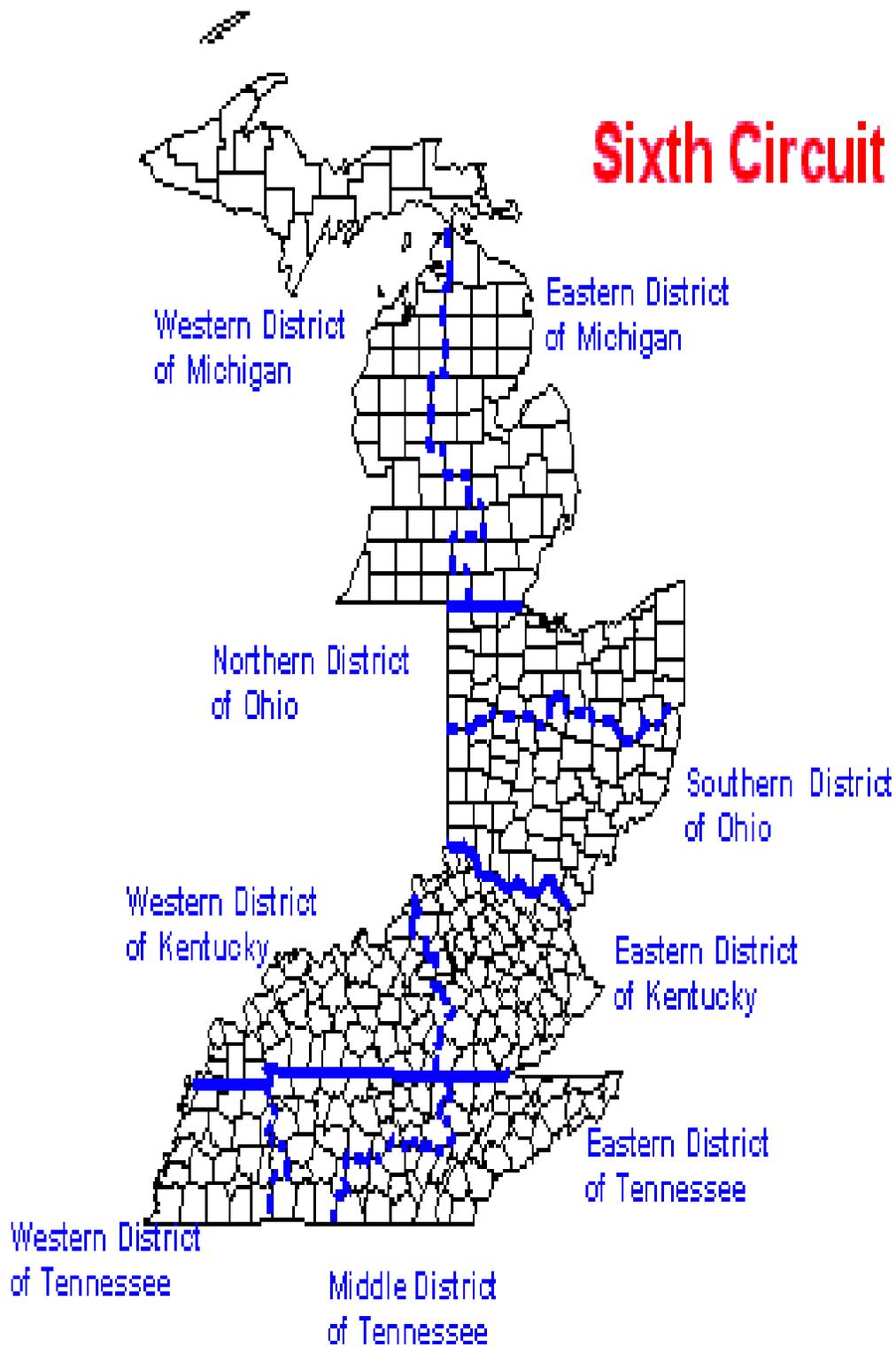
- Act with integrity.
- Demonstrate commitment to and passion for our mission.
- Be effective stewards of public resources.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Promote fairness in process and excellence in service to the courts and the community.
- Work together to foster a collegial environment.
- Be responsible and accountable.

Northern District of Ohio by County



Western Division		Eastern Division					
Toledo		Akron		Cleveland		Youngstown	
Allen	Mercer	Carroll	Summit	Ashland	Lake	Columbiana	Trumbull
Auglaize	Ottawa	Holmes	Tuscarawas	Ashtabula	Lorain	Mahoning	
Defiance	Paulding	Portage	Wayne	Crawford	Medina		
Erie	Putnam	Stark		Cuyahoga	Richland		
Fulton	Sandusky			Geauga			
Hancock	Seneca						
Hardin	Van Wert						
Henry	Williams						
Huron	Wood						
Lucas	Wyandot						
Marion							

Sixth Circuit



Pretrial Services

Referrals

Pretrial Services referrals continued at a steady pace again this year with a very slight decrease in the number of cases supervised. Officers processed a large volume of cases, including mass arrests as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Defendants</u>
January	16
February	26
April	55
June	17
August	12
September	54
September	17

These cases included the five men arrested for plotting to blow up a local bridge in Cleveland, as well as the sixteen Amish community members arrested for hate crimes. This past year the pretrial units made the transition to a paperless environment. The transition was smooth with officers no longer relying on hard copy case files, but instead using document imaging to access documents in the Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS).

The pretrial unit also began utilizing the new PACTS/PSX system for the preparation of bond reports. The design of this new system helped to facilitate early access to pretrial records and the transmission of information between units. Although there were some technical difficulties, the pretrial units were able to maintain and provide quality and timely reports to assist magistrate judges with release and detention decisions.

FY 13 Case Data

950 - cases activated

491 - cases supervised

863 - defendants interviewed

24 - defendants refused interviews

433 - defendants detained and never released which is a 50.90% detention rate

Pretrial Diversion Program

The Pretrial Diversion Program continued to be a viable alternative to prosecution in some cases. The program's objective is to divert individuals from processing through the criminal justice system. The Chief U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Officer and the U.S. Attorney have developed a written operations agreement which outlines referral and supervision procedures. This fiscal year the district supervised two pretrial diversion cases.

Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool (PTRA)

The office continued to utilize the PTRA tool to promote consistency for the accurate determination of risk when making bond/detention recommendations to the Court. PTRA was also used to assist officers when developing risk-related supervision condition recommendations and determining the level of pretrial supervision.

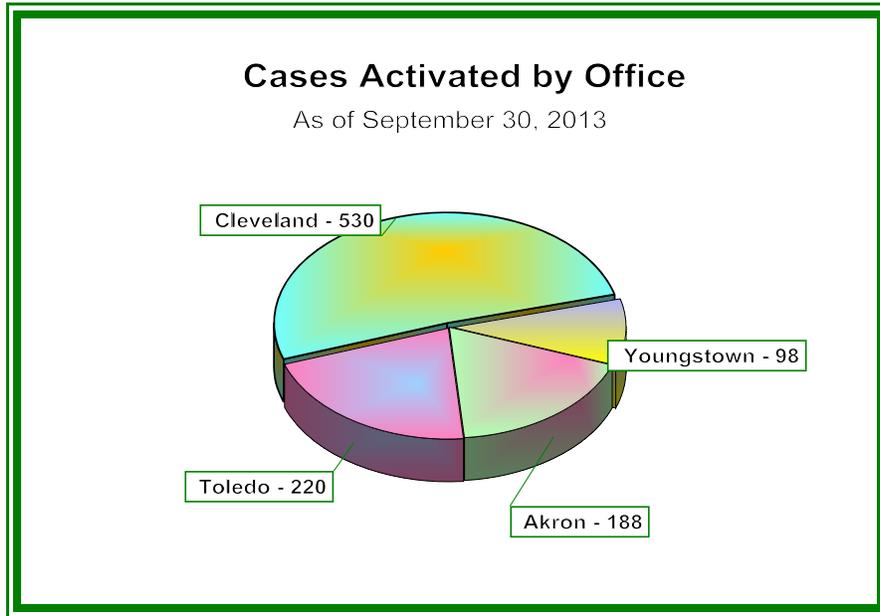


Figure 1

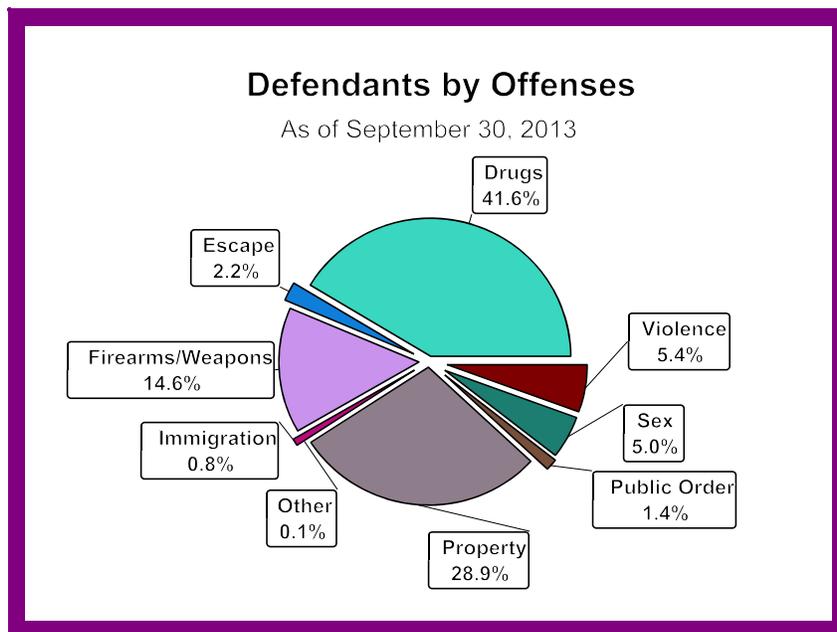


Figure 2

Programs for Pretrial Services Defendants

Aftercare Treatment Program

During FY 13 there were 260 cases opened with substance abuse aftercare conditions, which encompasses substance abuse testing and treatment. The total of new cases represented a 21 percent increase in aftercare cases over FY 12.

There were 132 new cases activated with mental health conditions during FY 13. The number of new cases activated represented a 22 percent increase over FY 12.

Defendants with drug aftercare and mental health conditions continued to make up a significant portion of the supervision cases. These cases provided the greatest challenge to officers while under supervision. As a result, extensive resources continued to be devoted to these cases. These resources included time utilized by officers supervising the higher-risk cases and financial resources expended on services for these defendants. The drug aftercare services included urinalysis, evaluations, outpatient treatment, and residential treatment. The mental health services included psychological and psychiatric evaluations, medication monitoring, and individual counseling. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is also an option for treatment for high-risk offenders. Numerous defendants received multiple services to address their issues.

Officers continued to closely monitor the high-risk drug aftercare and mental health cases. The officers reported apparent violations to the Court, following the district's policy of graduated sanctions. The defendants received assistance and referrals to address their substance abuse and/or mental health issues. The goal of the Pretrial Services unit is to provide the defendants with the necessary services which make it possible for them to remain in compliance with their imposed conditions of release.

Substance abuse and mental health services are provided in units. Individual and group counseling are provided in thirty-minute units. Residential and halfway house services are per day. Urine collections, evaluations, and medication monitoring are each specified as a "unit."

Pretrial Transition Program

This is the third year for the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office Transition Program. The program is coordinated by U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Officers. During FY 13 the program was held on the first Thursday in October, April, and July. The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) FCI Elkton Reentry Affairs Coordinator traveled to Cleveland to orient defendants for transition to prison life. In order to reach all defendants throughout the district, a vacant courtroom in the Cleveland Court House was utilized and the program was video conferenced with the Akron, Toledo, and Youngstown offices. Pretrial Services officers selected the defendants for this program after guilty pleas were entered and/or sentenced. Family members were also encouraged to attend. The BOP representative provided detailed information-- from what defendants could bring to prison, rules on medication/medical services and visitation, to the general rules and procedures within the facilities. Also discussed was how defendants could maximize their success within the prison facility. Following the formal presentation, individual defendants were given the opportunity to ask the BOP representative questions specific to their own circumstances.

Location Monitoring Program (LMP)

The LMP is used as an alternative to detention. Radio Frequency (RF) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies are used to monitor high-risk defendants on pretrial supervision. GPS technology was used in 67 cases in FY 13. This was equal to the usage in FY 12.

There were 47 active LMP cases at the beginning of FY 13 and an additional 102 cases were supervised during FY 13. This is about equal to the cases supervised in FY 12.

- The average length of time spent on LMP in FY 13 was 5.3 months.
- Violation reports were filed on eighteen defendants and bond was ultimately revoked on seven of those individuals.

Types of Charged Offenses for Location Monitoring As of September 30, 2013		
Offense	Number of Defendants	Percentage of Total
Drugs	48	32%
Firearms/Explosives	24	16%
Theft/Fraud	34	23%
Sex Offenses	33	22%
Other	10	7%
Totals	149	100%

Table 1

Probation

Presentence Investigations

The Northern District of Ohio completed a total of 832 investigations in FY 13. This included both pre-plea and presentence reports, and represented a decrease of 6 percent (52 reports) from FY 12. In addition, the district completed 321 collateral reports for other districts and 175 Criminal History Reports for the Court.

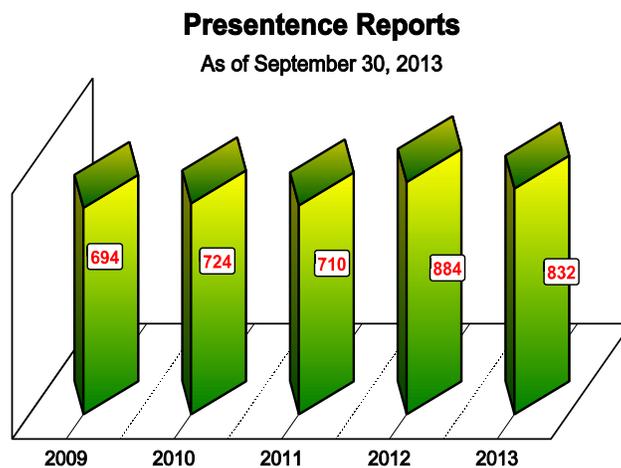


Figure 3

As noted in Figure 4 - Completion of Reports by Office, of the total reports, Akron completed 120 (14.4 percent), Cleveland completed 546 (65.6 percent), Toledo completed 131 (15.8 percent), and Youngstown completed 35 (4.2 percent). The reports were prepared by 15 writers, the same number in FY 12. With 832 reports completed for the year, officers prepared an average of 55.46 reports (the workload formula produced by the Administrative Office calculates an officer completing approximately 40 reports per year). Writers averaged a decrease of approximately 3 reports from FY 12 with an average increase of over 18 reports per officer within the previous two years.

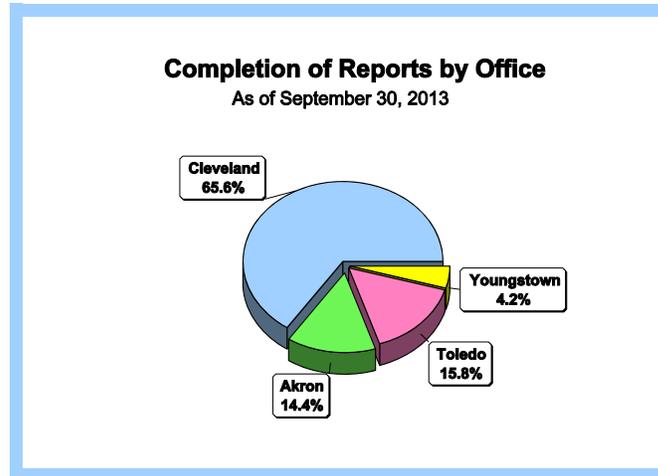


Figure 4

Overall, 44.2 percent of the reports (368) were for either violent and/or drug offenses. Of the reports completed in FY 13, the most serious offense of conviction in 34.9 percent of the cases were drugs, 18.63 percent were firearms, and 16.46 percent were fraud, as noted in Figure 5 - Offense Breakdown.

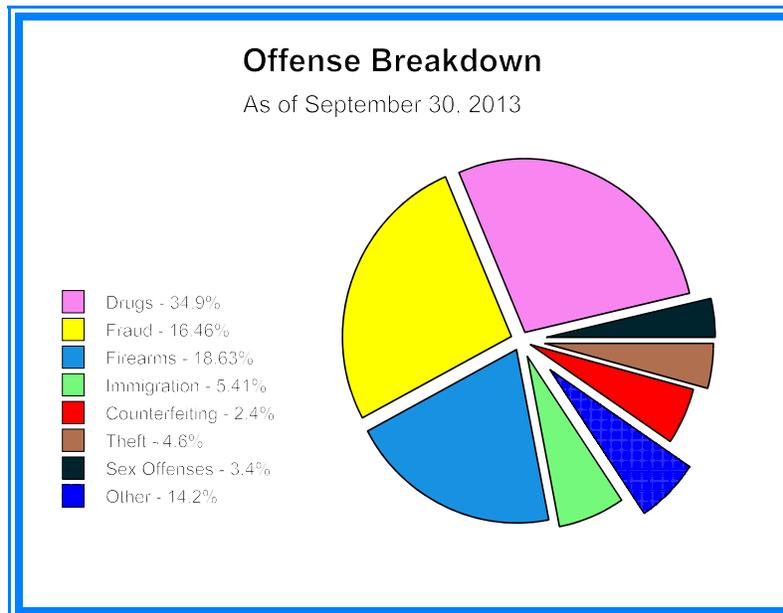


Figure 5

Drug cases represented the largest increase of 7.1 percent, with fraud offenses having the largest decrease of 10.1 percent. Of the 832 total reports, 83.9 percent were male while 16.1 percent were female, as noted in Figure 6 - Offenders by Gender.

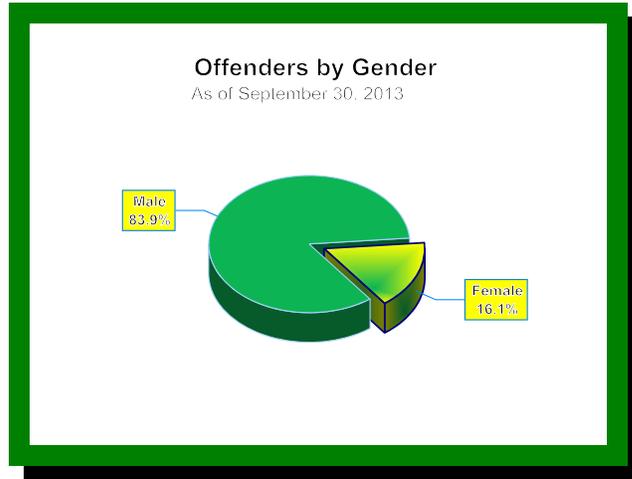


Figure 6

In addition, 57.6 percent were black, while 39.1 percent were white, as illustrated in Figure 7- Offenders by Race.

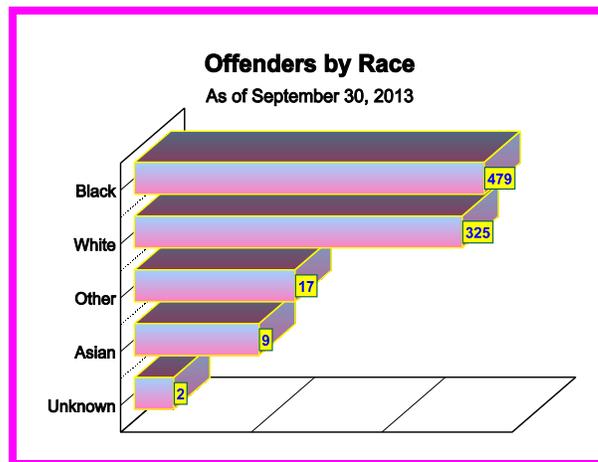


Figure 7

Finally, in FY 13, 30.3 percent of the offenders were between the ages of 30 to 39, with the second-largest group between the ages of 18 to 29 making up 29.6 percent of the offenders, as noted in Figure 8 - Offenders by Age.

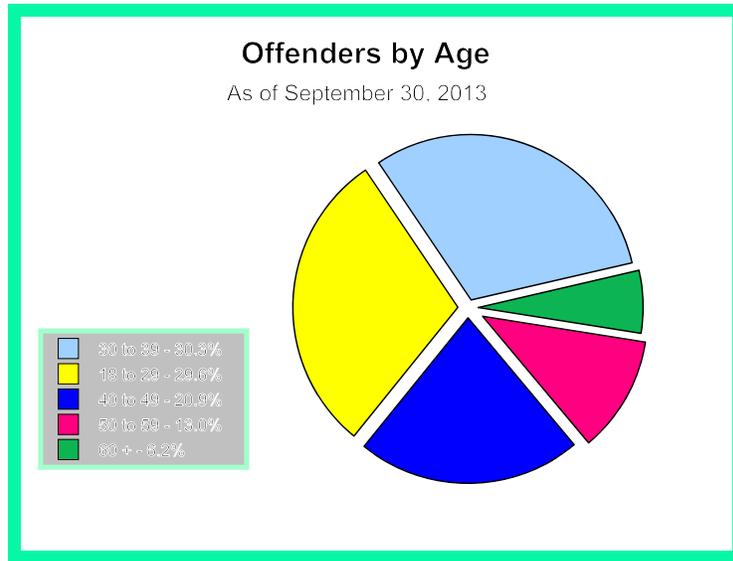


Figure 8

During FY 13, the Northern District of Ohio averaged approximately 52.87 days for completion of initial reports, representing an increase of approximately 6 days to complete an initial report from last year, mainly due to the Court allowing writers additional time to complete initial reports due to the continued high workloads. The district's overall completion average continued to rank within the top ten districts in the nation for the shortest completion time.

In FY 13, the district added a Probation Officer Assistant position to the Cleveland Office to assist in completing presentence reports. Due to the limited number of writers, the district continued to balance assignments of reports throughout the district based on workload rather than on the judge overseeing the case. Writers also increased the use of webcams to conduct presentence interviews of offenders from select holding facilities. The district began the use of the PSX program for completing presentence reports, which required conversion to Microsoft Word for reports. Additionally, following the Court's approval, the PSX program required modifications to the presentence report format. Finally, to help streamline the disclosure of the presentence reports and as a method of containing costs, the Court authorized district-wide disclosure of reports via the Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF).

Due to budget constants, no major national training was presented. However, writers were able to meet their training requirements by attending in-house and locally-presented training.

Post Conviction Supervision

At the end of FY 13 the district was supervising 1,978 offenders, a minimal decrease from FY 12 (1,989). Five of the seven post-conviction supervisors also oversaw officers performing pretrial and presentence functions.

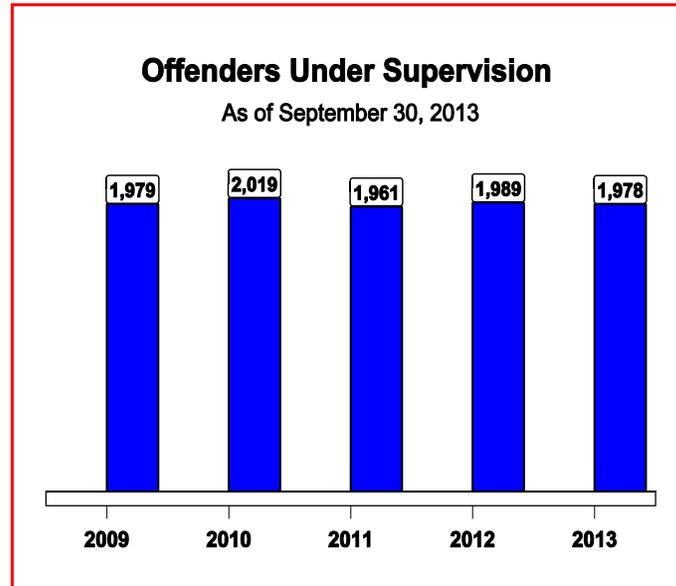


Figure 9

The district continued to operate in a paperless environment, with PACTS/PACTS Mobile/iPACTS assisting in the overall management of cases. National forms and routine reports were automated, modified, and streamlined in an effort to lessen the time to complete them. Supervisors continued to accompany officers in the field at least once annually. The case planning and supervision process continued to improve via close communication between supervisors, specialists, and line officers. The benefits of collaboration and a proactive approach to supervising the offender in the community are recognized as a valuable endeavor. Judges continued to request electronic transfer of reports as well as communications with other districts and agencies that serve the district.

Officers completed the following number of reports and investigations:

Prerelease Reports	342
Pretransfer Release Investigations	120
Violation Reports	821
Supplemental Reports	272
Supervision Progress Reports	637
Special Reports	240
Furlough Release Investigations	2

The minimum timeliness standard was held at 85 percent in FY 13, as officers were challenged to supervise more cases with fewer staff, including support staff.

During FY 13, Special Offender, Cybercrime, and Aftercare Treatment Specialists encountered continued challenges. Searches were conducted and strategies implemented to comply with the Adam Walsh Act.

Special attention was paid to further developing the Successful Transitions-Accelerated Reentry (STAR) Programs in Cleveland, Akron (recently implemented), Youngstown, and Toledo. Several initial high-risk cases were identified for participation in the STAR Program in each office. Participants of the program are supervised by a team of reentry officers, with significant support from clerical staff. Reentry initiatives continued to require close attention.

In addition to officer presence at the Rehabilitation Reentry Centers and other BOP facilities, offender employment and location monitoring programs to facilitate successful transition of defendants/offenders into the community were utilized. Prerelease assignments continued to address, as early as possible, any barriers to success on supervision, such as employment, education and training, substance abuse and mental health concerns, physical health, child care, transportation, identification, and homelessness. Collaboration with private, public and faith-based community agencies and businesses assist in serving the clients, including the Courts, the community, and the offenders.

Training initiatives in FY 13 included Access to Law Enforcement Systems (ATLAS) refreshers, PACTS/PSX, BOP/Elkton Pretrial Transition, Drug Diversion Summit, Gang and Drug Seminar, Post Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA), Electronic Reporting System (ERS), Leadership Development Program (LDP), Treatment Services, Strategic Techniques Aimed at Reducing Rearrests (STARR), Life Skills, Cybercrime, and Safety. Major conferences attended by staff included those sponsored by the American Parole and Probation Association and the National Association of Pretrial Services Associations.

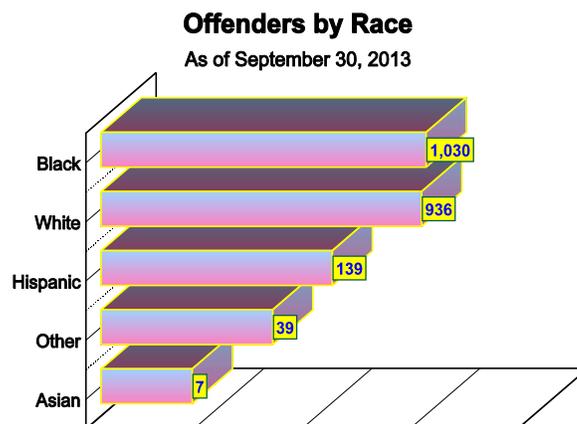


Figure 10

Offenders Under Supervision by Type

As of September 30, 2013

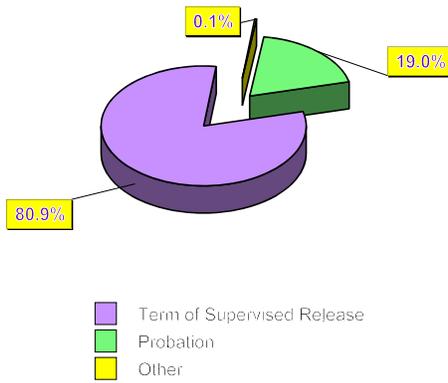


Figure 11

Offenders by Gender

As of September 30, 2013

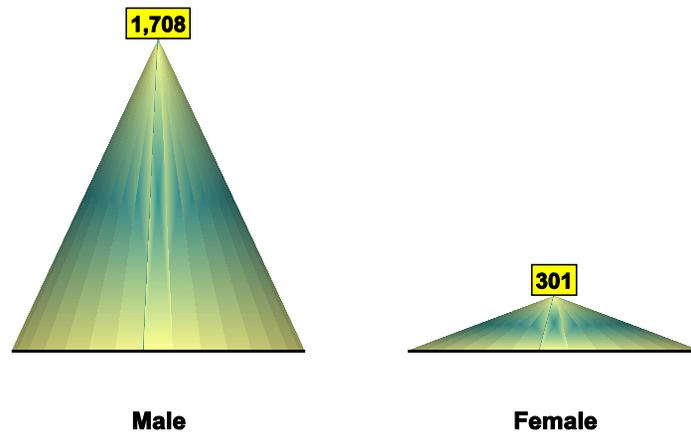


Figure 12

PACTS/PSX

In June 2013, the presentence investigation unit began utilizing PACTS/PSX and Microsoft (MS) Word to prepare presentence reports. Also in June 2013, several pretrial officers began using MS Word with PACTS/PSX to prepare the pretrial services report, and the remainder of pretrial officers began using MS Word in October.

Post Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA)

PCRA is an instrument constructed by the Administrative Office (AO) and implemented in March 2012. PCRA assists probation officers in measuring criminogenic (crime causing) characteristics and treatment needs. Following evidence-based practices (EBP), PCRA predicts risk by classifying offenders in one-of-four risk categories which include low, low moderate, moderate, and high. The intention is for probation officers to accurately measure risk and develop interventions targeted at those risks in the hope of reducing the probability of criminal recidivism within the population serving probation or supervised release terms.

Strategic Techniques Aimed at Reducing Rearrests (STARR)

Research has developed in recent years indicating community safety can be improved when officers use specific intervention skills with individuals on probation or supervised release who are determined to be at moderate and high risk of reoffending. Offenders and defendants supervised by officers trained in the use of these interventions have shown reduced recidivism rates when compared with similar populations under community supervision by officers who did not utilize these skills.

STARR training equips officers to use effective, evidence-based intervention skills, which are categorized into three areas: relationship building, bridging skills, and teaching/applying the cognitive model. Relationship building skills include active listening, providing feedback, and role clarification. Bridging skills, intended to reinforce a positive behavior or extinguish a negative behavior, include the effective use of reinforcement, disapproval, and consequences. Teaching the cognitive model and reviewing its application helps defendants and offenders develop pro-social alternatives to patterns of problematic thinking that have produced destructive behaviors.

The district sent ten officers who volunteered for the STARR curriculum to training provided by the AO. Of the ten, four were trained as peer coaches at the National Training Academy in Charleston, South Carolina, in two separate weeks of training--the first in October 2012, the second in January 2013. All ten officers attended combined training in San Antonio, Texas, in August 2013.

Coaching is an important component when implementing a new practice in any field. The purpose of peer coaching is to ensure skill retention from training, foster skill implementation in daily practice, and maintain fidelity in execution of the skills by officers. As part of the coaching process, interactions between officers and defendants/offenders are recorded for later review and feedback from peer coaches. Monthly booster sessions for all STARR-trained officers are conducted by coaches for review and practice of skill delivery.

In September 2013, all judges in the Western Division received an introductory overview of the STARR programs. Toledo is adopting the STARR program aggressively and seeks to become a demonstration office for the district in this area.

Training opportunities provided by the AO will be pursued to equip additional officers with STARR skills in FY 14.

Access to Law Enforcement Systems (ATLAS)

As the district approaches its fourth year utilizing ATLAS, officers have taken advantage of the newer and improved features implemented over the years. One of these features is the color-coded text which indicates changes, additions, and deletions from a previous rap sheet.

ATLAS is credited with providing officers early notification of potential new law or technical violations. Police, detention centers, and sheriff departments are following protocol when notifying the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office when contact is initiated with defendants and offenders. The district has dedicated a voice mailbox to receive ATLAS notifications regarding defendants/offenders.

The Lead TAC, Assistant TACs, and officers, underwent ATLAS re-certification in FY 13. Certifications are valid for a two-year period.

Programs for Post Conviction Offenders

Aftercare Treatment Program

The U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office continued providing an array of substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment services for offenders with contract treatment providers.

FY 12 was the third and final year of the current procurement cycle. There were 30 contract agencies utilized. New contracts were solicited during the summer of 2013. Fifty-two RFPs were issued and 49 contracts were awarded to 32 different agencies.

The utilization of non-contract services is encouraged, where they exist and are accessible, in order to provide the case management services essential to mental health and homeless offenders. Some offenders obtain treatment from private providers if they have insurance or the ability to pay for those services.

The STAR Program concept is grounded in CBT. CBT utilizes primarily group dynamics on a weekly basis to facilitate the development of constructive strategies for problem resolution, anger management, constructive peer relationships, and a better understanding of the connection between behavior and consequences.

The four Aftercare Treatment Specialists (ATS) serve the Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown, and Toledo offices. A Clerk and Probation Officer Assistant (POA) assist specialists and providers relative to contract solicitation and monitoring, invoice verification, and the administration of the

on-site random drug testing programs (Code-A-Phone). The ATS Team is overseen by a Supervising U. S. Pretrial Services and Probation Officer who serves as the liaison between the specialists and management.

Location Monitoring Program (LMP)

During FY 13, the LMP Monograph 114 and the district manual were updated. Monograph 114 included a new policy allowing for waiver of monthly community contacts on low-risk offenders as determined by PCRA, with supervisor approval. Training was provided by the specialists and/or supervisor at each unit meeting.

The office continues to review and accept referrals from the BOP Community Corrections Manager to supervise low-risk inmates who are serving the remainder of their sentence on location monitoring, as long as the case meets the criteria set by our district. Ten inmates were supervised under this program in FY 13.

The post-conviction supervision unit had 138 new LMP cases that commenced in FY 13. One hundred fifty-seven offenders completed their monitoring during the fiscal year. RF and GPS (Active, Hybrid and Passive) continue to be the technologies used, with RF being used in a majority of the cases. The office continued to use the Transdermal Alcohol Testing Device to monitor a condition of no alcohol usage on two cases. This device carries a daily cost of \$8.15 with RF monitoring or \$7.15 without RF monitoring.

New Offender Orientation

The goal and purpose of the New Offender Orientation Program is to give offenders an overview of what is expected of them on supervision and to educate them about available community resources. In light of limited resources and budgetary constraints, this program has now become even more important and integral to new offender adjustment and transition.

The New Offender Orientation Program was held the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The first hour of the session was dedicated to educating offenders and their family members about the goals and objectives of probation and supervised release supervision. An MS PowerPoint presentation and welcome from a U.S. District Court Judge remained part of the program. The PowerPoint presentation focused on standard conditions, DNA and other statutory requirements, voting rights, instructions for meeting Court-ordered financial obligations, available special services/conditions, submission of the Monthly Supervision Reports (MSR), and HIV, etc.

In the second hour of the New Offender Orientation Program, the Northeast Ohio Reentry Coalition (NORC), a community partner, conducted a STAR forum to address offender-related transition/reintegration issues. The forum brought together community providers that covered a broad spectrum of services from governmental, community, grass-roots, and faith-based organizations. Many of the providers rendered targeted services to ex-offenders. Discussions included social security, child support, indigent benefits, legal services, education vocation training, employment, housing, and children services, as well as a host of other topics.

Lastly, a presentation was conducted by the Defendant/Offender Workforce Development Specialist regarding some of the district's initiatives including the Adult Basic and Literacy Program (ABLE) (in-house GED ((General Educational Development)) Program), Second Chance Act Program, Life Skills Program (in-house) and career development/vocational programs.

Special Offender Program

The special offender requires more intensive community-based supervision and risk control strategies, including field travel during nontraditional work hours. Special Offender Specialists strive to be proactive in the approach to supervising these high-risk offenders. A special offender is presumed to have a proclivity toward criminal careers and often perform their criminal acts as part of a larger criminal group. They tend to be predatory rather than parasitic criminals.

During FY 13, Special Offender team members continued to act as the district's liaisons with local and national law enforcement and with other probation or parole agencies regarding risk-control investigation and supervision. For example, the district was contacted by the State Attorney General's Office in May 2013 seeking participation in the "Project Cease Fire." The district agreed to participate and meetings were held monthly in the Akron area. This project was a group violence reduction strategy (GVRS) that originated in Boston based on statistical information that reflected that most violence is generally caused by approximately five percent of the city population. Group violence can be reduced when community members and law enforcement personnel join together and directly engage with the targeted group and clearly communicate a message about the consequences of further violence and offer help to those who want it. There is also a clear message provided by state, local, and federal prosecutors that any future violence will be met with clear and predictable consequences. More recently, the district agreed to participate on a limited basis with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in their Violence Gun Reduction Interdiction Program, with a focus on Cleveland's southeast side.

The Special Offender Team coordinated training for staff and continued to serve as an in-house resource for the investigation and supervision of offenders requiring a risk-control approach. These include those involved in organized crime, gangs, domestic or international terrorism, high-profile cases, and those with a history of violence or non-compliant behavior. In February 2013, a domestic violence training was held in the Akron Office which included presentations conducted by a police detective, forensic nurse examiner, and victim advocate from the Battered Women's Shelter.

DNA Testing

The Cleveland Office implemented the DNA swab kits in FY 13. The new testing method can be used by officers, thereby cutting costs as this method does not require collection from a certified nurse. The Cleveland Office collected 53 samples during FY 13 over three collection dates. Testing continued on a reduced basis as most defendants have samples taken during the U.S. Marshals Service processing intake.

Specialized Programs

Successful Transitions-Accelerated Reentry (STAR) Program

Cleveland

The Cleveland STAR Program completed its third year. The program, started in 2010, was designed to increase the opportunities for success for offenders determined to be at high or moderate risk to violate the conditions of their supervision. Candidates for the program are selected based on criminogenic factors, including their prior record, family and peer relationships, substance abuse, and employment history.

The STAR Program is voluntary, consisting of two phases. The first phase of the program involves intensive supervision, during which each participant appears for a monthly reentry Court session during which time the judges are provided with an accounting of the participant's progress toward their monthly goals. If the participant has met, or is making adequate progress toward their goals, as determined by the Court, the participant is given credit for the month. Participants must earn twelve monthly credits in order to graduate from phase I of the program. During Phase II of the program, participants are not required to attend monthly progress sessions, but remain on general supervision for a period of time, after which they can receive a termination from supervision, provided they have not had any violations of supervision and continue to meet the goals they achieved during Phase I of the program.

The program has accepted thirty-six participants through the end of 2013. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year fifteen clients participated in the program. Five offenders graduated during the fiscal year. Three offenders were terminated from the program during the fiscal year, two were terminated by the Court due to violations (one was convicted of a new crime and one terminated for continued drug use). Another offender voluntarily withdrew from the program due to medical reasons. The remaining seven participants continued to work toward their monthly goals in Phase I of the program.

Graduation ceremonies are held twice per year, to recognize and present a certificate of achievement to the successful participants.

Akron

The Akron STAR Program was initiated formally on July 24, 2013. The program has three initial participants and is currently well established with a cohort team of judges, treatment professionals, and members from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Public Defender's Office, and the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office.

High-risk offenders face special challenges as they attempt to reenter a community. Recidivism rates approach fifty percent. They require targeted interventions to address multiple issues. This presents a distinct challenge in the federal criminal justice system, a system that does not normally lend itself to innovative strategies that may help high-risk offenders successfully complete supervision.

The Akron STAR Program is designed to increase the opportunity for success of persons on supervised release and is aimed at helping those recently released from federal custody who are most at risk to violate their supervised release. The level of risk is determined by a number of factors, including prior criminal history, education, connection to family, history of substance and/or alcohol abuse, housing needs, and employment history.

With an established framework based on principles established by the National Drug Court Institute, the program continues to engage high-risk offenders in a positive and pro-social structured program.

Toledo

This is the fifth year of operations for the STAR Program in Toledo. The Court continues to implement EBP--high-risk offender population, intensive treatment services, firm/fair approach, model and reinforce anti-criminal attitudes, concrete problem solving, and interpersonal influence, in concerted efforts to reduce recidivism.

This year, two participants successfully completed the "Court phase" of the program that required participants to achieve twelve successful months of community supervision in which offender specific goals were met.

Youngstown

The Youngstown STAR Program has been in existence since September 2012. The program continues to focus its resources on high-risk/high-needs cases. Ideally, candidates for the program have an RPI of 6 or higher and a criminal history category of V or VI. The Youngstown STAR Program presently includes participants solely from the Mahoning County area, but targets candidates from the tri-county area of Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana Counties.

In addition to attending monthly STAR meetings at the courthouse, participants are required to attend weekly cognitive restructuring sessions, obtain/maintain employment, and attend GED classes, if necessary. In addition, participants must achieve established goals, which are designed to promote an independent/pro-social lifestyle.

Once participants complete twelve successful months in Phase I of the STAR Program (which includes monthly STAR meetings at the courthouse), they are transitioned to regular line supervision (Phase II) for a pre-determined period of time. If participants successfully complete Phase II, this office recommends early termination from Court supervision. The Youngstown STAR Program has had sixteen participants since its inception and has graduated five participants thus far.

Presently, two officers supervise the participants in the STAR Program. One support staff employee covers administrative duties, while a second support staff employee serves as a backup.

Workforce Development Program

During FY 13 the Northern District of Ohio Workforce Development Program continued to focus on three main components: Basic and Post-Secondary Education, Job Readiness and Job Placement, as well as support for the STAR Programs. The program goals focused on developing new resources

and identifying existing community-based resources that supported EBP. The district continued to broaden support to include a variety of organizations that provided assistance to clients' employment and reentry needs.

A) Basic and Post-Secondary Education

The focus of the educational component has been centered on preparing students for the distinct changes in the GED testing format beginning in January 2014. These state-wide changes will have a major impact on students enrolled in a GED program. In 2014 the content, method, and cost of the nationally-standardized test will dramatically change. Sections of the test that students may have passed prior to 2014 will no longer be counted. A new \$120 computer-based test will be a student's only option. Clients will need to become more computer literate and learn new skills on how to better use technology. The course material will become more challenging, and students will be required to give expanded responses to questions in specific sections of the exam. The curriculum will include English, Science, Social Studies, and Math. Transitional assistance to post-secondary education/training is offered once a student has obtained a GED.

In Cleveland, the classroom now includes two laptops for students to practice typing skills and increase general computer literacy. The program was expanded further to include Oriana House Pre-Release and Sanctioned Offenders. Work continued with our educational partner, Project Learn, in the Akron Office to schedule eligible students and those who passed certain sections of the GED test, to re-test before the January deadline. While funding was cut for the in-house GED program in Youngstown, coordination with Choffin Career & Technical College to develop an alternative site at their Technical Center continued. The Source/Owens Community College continued to be the educational resource for literacy and GED services for the Toledo Office. Educational needs of clients' continued to be represented in the academia community. The Workforce Program participated in both the Cuyahoga Community College ABLE/GED Advisory Board, and the ABLE/GED Youngstown Advisory Board.

B) Job Readiness and Job Placement

As a result of budgetary changes, the Second Chance Act Funds, for both job readiness and placement, were substantially decreased. Expansion of the community referral base to assist clients was necessary, which included the Akron Office, who partnered with the Summit County Reentry Network. The Summit County Reentry Coordinator continued to provide an array of reentry services.

In Cleveland, clients continued to be referred to the Employment Connection, Towards Employment, and Fatherhood Initiative Programs, among others. Recently, a six-month culinary arts and hospitality program was offered to offenders at the Edwins Leadership & Restaurant Institute. This special program, coordinated through the Passages Program, actually requires a felony background. In Toledo, The Source, a one-stop career center, continued to provide job seeker resources and has many on-site tools such as career assessments, career exploration workshops, and

mechanical aptitude tests. During FY 13, the Youngstown Office staff referred offenders to the Flying High Program, which provided a seven-week curriculum of professional development.

C) Support for STAR Programs

The Workforce Development Program continued to provide support to the district's STAR Programs. Although Second Chance Act funds were limited in FY 13, the Workforce Development Program was able to receive Second Chance Act funds to provide reentry support to participants. Reducing driver's license reinstatement fees, entrepreneurial business support, educational assistance for basic and post-secondary needs, and work-specific tools or enhancements, were supplied in FY 13.

A specific focus in FY 13 was on the developing Akron STAR Program. Along with attending several planning meetings, two significant events involved the assistance of the Workforce Development Program. On January 24, 2013, a breakfast for the Akron Community Partners was held in the Akron Federal Courthouse. On May 15, 2013, another breakfast event for prospective employers was held with many members of the staff and Court family helping to make it a great success. On September 19, 2013, the Workforce Development Program also participated in an informational presentation for the Akron Bar Association sidebar event.

Second Chance Act Program

The Second Chance Act Program continued to be an effective program in assisting offenders who were in need of emergency and transitional services. However, the program suffered significant budget cuts in FY 13, and faces the possibility that funding may not be made available for FY 14. Despite these cuts, resources are continually maximized by focusing on clients with more pressing risk/need issues.

This year funds were utilized for a range of services, such as identification and identification production, license reinstatement fees, emergency hygiene kits, work tools/equipment, and bus tickets to assist GED and STAR Program participants. The majority of funding went towards emergency and transitional housing. A considerable amount of funding was also spent on general education programs.

Life Skills Program

In November 2012, the district began work on the Life Skills Program. The program is a collaborative effort with various agencies in the community and members of the Court family. The program focuses on providing life skills classes designed to reduce the risk of recidivism by directly addressing longer-term client needs and deficits, other than substance abuse and mental health disorders. The program supplements existing EBP programs aimed at successful rehabilitation and reintegration back into the community. The Life Skills Program consists of the following core classes:

- Resume Writing/Mock Interviewing
- Financial Management 101
- Grief Recovery
- Fatherhood Initiative Program
- Second Chance Support Group for Men

Additional transitional services were made available to clients throughout the year, ranging from health/fitness to anger management classes. Classes are facilitated by members of U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office staff, as well as experts in the community. All classes are voluntary and offered at least quarterly. Partnerships have been developing with several agencies in the community, including Huntington Bank, North Star Reentry Center, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, The Grief Recovery Institute, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Breen School of Nursing at Ursuline College.

The Life Skills Program will be implemented throughout the district. In September 2013 it was implemented in the Cleveland and Akron Offices, to be followed by the Youngstown and Toledo Offices.

Project Penalty Awareness

Cleveland

During FY 13, Project Penalty Awareness, Northern District of Ohio's federal drug prevention program, continued to partner with the Cleveland Municipal School District in educating 7th through 12th grade students about federal drug trafficking and firearm offenses and penalties. There were 74 presentations given in local Cleveland Schools, including the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, Geauga County Schools, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Carrington Youth Academy, and the Ginn Academy. FY 13 included the largest number of presentations conducted in the schools since the inception of the program. In addition, there continued to be several groups of high school students from Cleveland Public and suburban community schools who came to the federal courthouse and were able to experience Project Penalty Awareness in the courtroom.

This is the third year the program was expanded to include the high schools, reaching out to older students, higher education-stressed schools, and specialized learning schools. The program is now a great influence in many of the local high schools, indicating the huge success of the program. The Project Penalty Awareness Program was also presented to a group of troubled students targeted by the City of Cleveland's Operation Night Light Program.

Presenters of the Project Penalty Awareness Program hail mainly from the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office, but also consists of other members of the U.S. District Court family.

Akron

There were no Project Penalty Awareness Program presentations in the Akron area in FY 13.

Toledo

In the Western Division, six Project Penalty Awareness presentations were conducted during FY 13 at the Lucas County Juvenile Court. Maumee Public Schools were provided with the Project Penalty Awareness Power Point.

Youngstown

The Youngstown Office conducted approximately eight Project Penalty Awareness presentations in FY 13. These presentations were conducted at various high schools, the Youngstown ITT Technical School, the Choffin Career Center, the Portage County Juvenile Correctional Facility, and various local church programs.

Mentoring and Cross Training Program

The Mentoring and Cross Training Program is in its second year. The program was expanded in FY 13 to include the opportunity for officers to cross train with supervisors. Mentorships last for one year. To date, three officers have been matched with supervisors throughout the district. Several officers have also been placed on a waiting list. Supervisors mentor the participants in all phases of management, from addressing personnel matters to day-to-day operations. The program proves beneficial for those who aspire to further their careers within the agency. The expansion also assists with succession planning, looking forward to identifying and developing staff with potential to fill key leadership positions in the future.

Participation in the program requires supervisor and deputy chief approval. All participants must participate in a training/orientation prior to the start of the program. Upon completion of the program, each participant receives a certificate which is also placed in their personnel file. This program will become increasingly important as the district continues to face reductions in staff, and the need for officers to be well-versed in all areas and functions.

Search and Seizure

The search team conducted five searches in FY 13. Four searches were conducted in Cleveland and one search was conducted in Youngstown. These searches produced one firearm, currency, drugs (including marijuana) and drug paraphernalia, as well as financial documents, fraudulent gift cards, and one computer.

Two search training sessions were held, each consisting of two days. The first training was held at Camp Ravenna and the second more recent training was held at the Cleveland Police Department shoot house.

The search team consists of twenty members, including four search coordinators. The search team added several new members in FY 13.

Firearms

In October 2012, qualified officers traveled to the Ravenna Arsenal for firearms training. Officers practiced various pistol applications and tactical movements, shooting their firearms from standing, kneeling, and prone positions. Officers also shot a course of fire in a shoot house utilizing the non-lethal training ammunition forcing officers to make tactical decisions while exiting a hostile situation.

In September 2013, the fall firearms training took place at the Grafton Correctional Institution. This training was built upon what officers learned and practiced at the Ravenna Arsenal the previous year. Six "Top Gun" winners were chosen based on total scores.

LaserShot was updated and modified to include the qualifying course of fire and other exercises designed to improve officers' marksmanship and decision-making skills under pressure.

Two additional firearms instructors were added to the team in FY 13. Eight instructors now comprise the firearms team.

Defensive Tactics (DT)

All officers were provided training in tactical movement, oleoresin capsicum (OC spray), drawing and use, ground defense, upper and lower body striking, knife defense, and break falls. The DT team provided two scenario-based training sessions for officers. The DT team reviewed the OC policy and procedures for the Northern District of Ohio. The OC test was administered and all officers who carry OC were certified for two years. In July 2013, two DT members were sent to the National Training Academy and received training on the use of restraints. Following the training, a focus group was established to prepare a restraints policy for the Northern District of Ohio.

Cybercrime

During FY 13, the district continued with double-digit numbers for monitoring software on pretrial and post-conviction supervision cases. Most of these cases continue to be sex offenders. One computer preview was completed this year, which found evidence that the offender had viewed prohibited images. Two additional computers were seized and are scheduled to be examined. Offenders continued to use social media, most notably Facebook, to associate with one another and commit other violation behavior. The district continued to liaison with pertinent groups as needed.

Administrative Services

Information Technology

iPhones. All officers received iPhones to replace their older Blackberry smartphones. The iPhones have larger screens, faster web browsing capability, better displays for Court documents, and the ability to run the mobile version of PACTS (iPACTS). These go hand in hand with the officers' iPads.

PACTS/PSX. PACTS was upgraded to the latest version, PACTS GEN3. Officers now use the new module for presentence investigations and reports, called PSX. This module streamlines the production of presentence reports by downloading offender information from PACTS directly into preformatted Word documents.

Phone System Upgrade--Toledo. In December 2012, the Toledo Office began using the Judiciary's national IPT phone system, a Voice over IP (VoIP) based system that runs over the Judiciary's network (DCN). Doing so eliminated the need for a local phone switch and its associated maintenance and line costs, realizing annual savings of over \$16,000.

Video conferencing. The office continued to leverage recently-upgraded videoconferencing equipment in conference rooms, as well as web cameras from officers' desktops, to conduct video conferences with offenders in BOP and private prison facilities. This saves officer travel time and expenses. The office recently retired an inhouse video conference gateway, which will save the Court over \$30,000 a year in maintenance and phone line costs. In its place, the office is taking advantage of a nationalized video conference gateway which has expanded this capability further, including supporting the use of iPads for video conferencing.

Virtualization--Desktop. The Court continued to pursue cost savings by virtualizing desktop systems. Desktop virtualization allows multiple desktop systems to reside on a centralized server for easier administration and extending the usability of existing desktop hardware without the need for cyclical replacement. The entire office was virtualized during the first part of FY 13. Officers and staff can remotely connect to their virtual desktops anywhere from iPads, iPhones, laptops, or any Internet-connected device with a web browser.

Internal Web Site. The Court launched a new internal web site which provided users the ability to customize their home page, allowing for quick access to the duty roster, car reservations and training registration, and, with content management training, allowed staff to keep up with content updates.

Infrastructure Upgrades. Numerous upgrades were made to file servers, network switching equipment, operating software, battery backup systems, etc., in all office locations to keep systems properly maintained and available. A standalone virtual desktop server was installed in the Toledo Probation Office to serve users there rather than having to connect to Cleveland.

Forms and Reports Updated During FY 13. Twenty-eight locally-created or customized forms were modified for the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office in conjunction with the migration to PACTS GEN 3.

Additionally in FY 13, a quarterly DSS offender report for the U.S. Attorney's Office, listing offenders with financial conditions and their termination date, was produced. For the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office staff, a tickler list of low-risk offenders with financial conditions requiring a quarterly financial check was created. Another tickler list for staff was created containing a list of offenders that require a semiannual criminal records check.

The Electronic Reporting Systems expanded in FY 13. ERS continues to grow in popularity with officers because it allows offenders to submit Monthly Reports directly to officers electronically. The ERS concept was also extended to aftercare vendors by allowing them to submit their invoices to the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office on-line. This should decrease data entry errors and processing time.

The streamlining of officer tools was continued in FY 13. This year a major effort was passed on reviewing and retiring unneeded WordPerfect reports and macros.

Office Locations and Counties Served

Cleveland Headquarters

Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
801 West Superior Avenue
Suite 3-100 Probation
Suite 3-202 Pretrial
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1850
216.357.7300 Probation
216.357.7375 Pretrial

Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain

Akron Office

John F. Seiberling Federal
Building & U.S. Courthouse
2 South Main Street
B3-55
Akron, Ohio 44308-1810
330.252.6200 Probation
330.252.6290 Pretrial

Ashland, Carroll, Crawford, Holmes,
Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark,
Summit, Tuscarawas, Wayne

Toledo Office

1946 North 13th Street
Suite 292
Toledo, Ohio 43604
419.213.5800 Probation
419.213.5750 Pretrial

Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie,
Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry,
Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa,
Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca,
Van Wert, Williams, Wood, Wyandot

Youngstown Office

Thomas D. Lambros Federal
Building & U.S. Courthouse
125 Market Street
Suite 210 Probation
Suite 151 Pretrial
Youngstown, Ohio 44503-1478
330.884.7470 Probation
330.884.7490 Pretrial

Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning,
Trumbull