

Licking County Adult Court Services Department

2010 Annual Report



Honorable Thomas L. Marcelain

Honorable W. David Branstool

Kelly C. Miller MS
Chief Probation Officer/Director

Introduction

2010 saw the arrival of Judge W. David Branstool who replaced retiring Judge Jon Spahr to the Licking County General Division of the Licking County Common Pleas Court joining Judge Thomas Marcelain presiding over General Division of the Licking County Common Pleas Court.

This year brought many new challenges as certain crimes decreased as headlined by the media, with scant attention paid to the fact that many new offenders entered the system with drug or drug-related charges presenting many new challenges to the Adult Court Services Department. In addition to these challenges there has been pressure for Courts across the State of Ohio to divert low-level felony offenders from prison and utilize community sanctions, and to divert appropriate offenders from local jails when possible.

Licking County Adult Court Services under the tutelage of forward thinking jurists has responded to this challenge utilizing community sanctions ranging from straight supervision of offenders to residential sanctions of placements at community-based correctional facilities locally and elsewhere and halfway houses. Sadly, as this report is being written the Licking-Muskingum Community Corrections Center has been notified that the State of Ohio is to no longer fund that facility.

In 2010, **507** offenders entered the supervision of the Licking County Adult Court Services Department. These offenders included direct sentenced offenders from Licking County Common Pleas as well as some offenders sentenced in other counties but living in Licking County. At the end of 2010, the Licking County Adult Court Services Department was supervising a total of **740** offenders on Felony community control supervision and **300** offenders on supervision pre-trial release.

In 2010, **230** offenders successfully completed supervision with the Licking County Adult Court Services Department. This indicates that these offenders paid off their costs and completed the Court-Ordered Sanctions of the Court and paid their fines, costs, and restitution if restitution had been ordered.

Licking County Adult Court Services is an effective community control agency following evidence-based practices to provide community safety through effective community supervision of felony offenders. Because of the passion and thoughtfulness of the Judges of this Court and the professionalism of the staffs of the Court and this department, Licking County residents enjoy one of the leaders in the correctional business of community supervision.

Court of Common Pleas

General Division

Honorable Thomas L. Marcelain
Honorable W. David Branstool
Magistrate Mattie Klein

Juvenile Division

Honorable Robert Hoover
Magistrate Jeff Plunkett
Magistrate Chris Strefelt

Domestic Division

Honorable Craig Baldwin
Honorable Richard Wright
Magistrate William Richrich
Magistrate Ann Snyder
Magistrate John Berryhill

Licking County Adult Court Services Department

Kelly C. Miller MS Chief Probation Officer/Director

Michael Skeen Probation Officer Child Support Unit
Timothy McKenna Probation Officer Basic Probation Unit
Lisa Bates Probation Officer Diversion
Keith Bryant Probation Officer Pataskala Office
William Champlin Probation Officer Chemical Dependency Unit
Kevin Gossett Probation Officer Chemical Dependency Unit Pataskala Office
Shelley Hearld Probation Officer Chemical Dependency Unit
Toni Offenburger Probation Officer Chemical Dependency Unit
Susie Eisel Probation Officer Mental Health Unit
Paul Burke Probation Officer Sexual Offender Unit
Walter Barnes Probation Officer Pre-Trial Supervision Unit

Janina Burrows Administrative Support
Marie Shinn Administrative Support

Supervision Activities

In 2010 **507** new offenders entered into community control supervision while **376** offenders entered into supervised pre-trial release. These offenders are assessed utilizing the Ohio Risk Assessment System Pre-Trial and Community Supervision Tools to provide the supervising officer with indications of the criminogenic needs that need to be addressed during supervision to reduce the likelihood of the offender committing future crimes. The ORAS is an Ohio offender specific risk needs assessment which Licking County Adult Court Services staff has been trained in using and is one of the recommendation of the Council of State Government Justice Reinvestment report made to the State to improve probation services. As a result of case management and use of this tools in 2010 over **400** referrals were made for services to Licking-Muskingum Community Corrections Center, Cliff Skeen CBCF for Women, Spencer Halfway House, Courage Halfway House, Licking Alcoholism Prevention Program, and Kraner Behavioral Health.

Like many communities in Ohio, Licking County has seen an increase in illegal drug activity continuing for the past few years. In 2010, **239** of the 507 new case entering supervision were drug related or drug cases. Licking County Adult Court Services has seen a spike in the abuse of prescription Opiates as well as an increase in the availability and abuse of Heroin.

Additionally offenders are held responsible for making restitution to victims and contributing to the community in which they live. In 2010 Licking County Adult Court Services collected **\$194,012.55** in collaboration with Judge Marcelain and Judge Branstool who are willing to hold hearings and encourage offenders to pay this restitution.

In 2010 **\$118,813** dollars in child support was collected from offenders being supervised on community control by the Child Support Unit.

By way of making a contribution to the communities in which they live, offenders on supervision with the Licking County Adult Court Services completed **5,481.5** hours of community service which service ranges from working with the Licking County Municipal community service work crew to providing foodstuffs for the Licking County Adult Court Services Food Pantry for offenders, or providing coats in the winter for people needing coats.

In 2010, **204** offenders successfully completed Court supervision. **71** offenders were revoked to prison for violations of supervision. **17** offenders were revoked to other sanctions such as a Community-Based Correctional Facility, Halfway House, local jail or to another unit of specialized supervision. **60** offenders fled supervision.

Testing offenders for the presence of illegal drugs is a intricate part of supervision and in 2010, Licking County Adult Court Services performed **6,678** urinalysis and breath tests total. These tests included tests for Cocaine, Benzodiazapines, Methamphetamines, Suboxone, Marijuana, Opiates, and Alcohol. The average percentage of positive tests was **10%** which mirrors the percentages of 2007 and 2009 and on percent lower than 2008. Ten percent positive tests mirrors the percentage of other probation departments in the central Ohio area. The testing revealed the following results; Methamphetamines **24%** positive tests, Benzodiazapines **24%** positive tests, Cocaine **4%** positive tests, Marijuana **17%** positive tests, Opiates **10%** positive tests, and Alcohol **4%** positive tests.

In 2010, the staff of the Licking County Adult Court Services Department performed **14,107** contacts with offenders on supervision. Contacts ranged from basic appointments with offenders to monitor supervision activities to home contacts resulting in detection of illegal activity including drug activity and resulted in new charges of some offenders. Drugs, firearms, weapons and stolen merchandise was recovered in some instances by working closing with local law enforcement and maintaining positive relationships aiding offenders in staying out of future criminal behavior.

In addition to supervision of offenders on community control, the Adult Court Services Department provides investigations for the Court to assist the Court in sentencing of offenders, setting bonds on offenders, determining whether to release offenders on Judicial Release from prison, and determining whether to seal the record of some offenders. In 2010 the Adult Court Services Department completed **531** presentence investigations to assist the Court in determining the sentence of felony offenders. Also in 2010, **256** bond investigations were completed to assist the Court in setting bonds and determining whether or not to release offenders from jail. During 2010, **165** Judicial Release investigations were completed to assist the Court in deciding whether or not to release offenders seeking early release from prison. Additionally, in 2010, **54** investigations were completed for offenders applying to have their records sealed by the Court.

No two days at the Licking County Adult Court Services Department are the same. With the Courts being served as busy and hardworking as these Courts are, the Adult Court Services Department strives to continue to provide the information and services necessary for the criminal cases to continue on the path to resolution. All officers in the department are providing presentence investigations and judicial release investigations as well as supervising offenders on community control supervision.

Services Offered

In 2009, with additional funds targeting jail and prison diversions, the Adult Court Services was able to expand pre-trial supervision to include electronic monitoring and add a Suboxone Opiate Maintenance program in conjunction with Licking Memorial Health Systems, Licking Alcoholism Prevention Program, and Licking County Municipal Court, and contract for Drug and Alcohol Assessments for offenders slated for specialized docket Court.

In 2010, offenders placed on electronic monitoring were diverted from jail for a total of **4,227** days freeing up jail space.

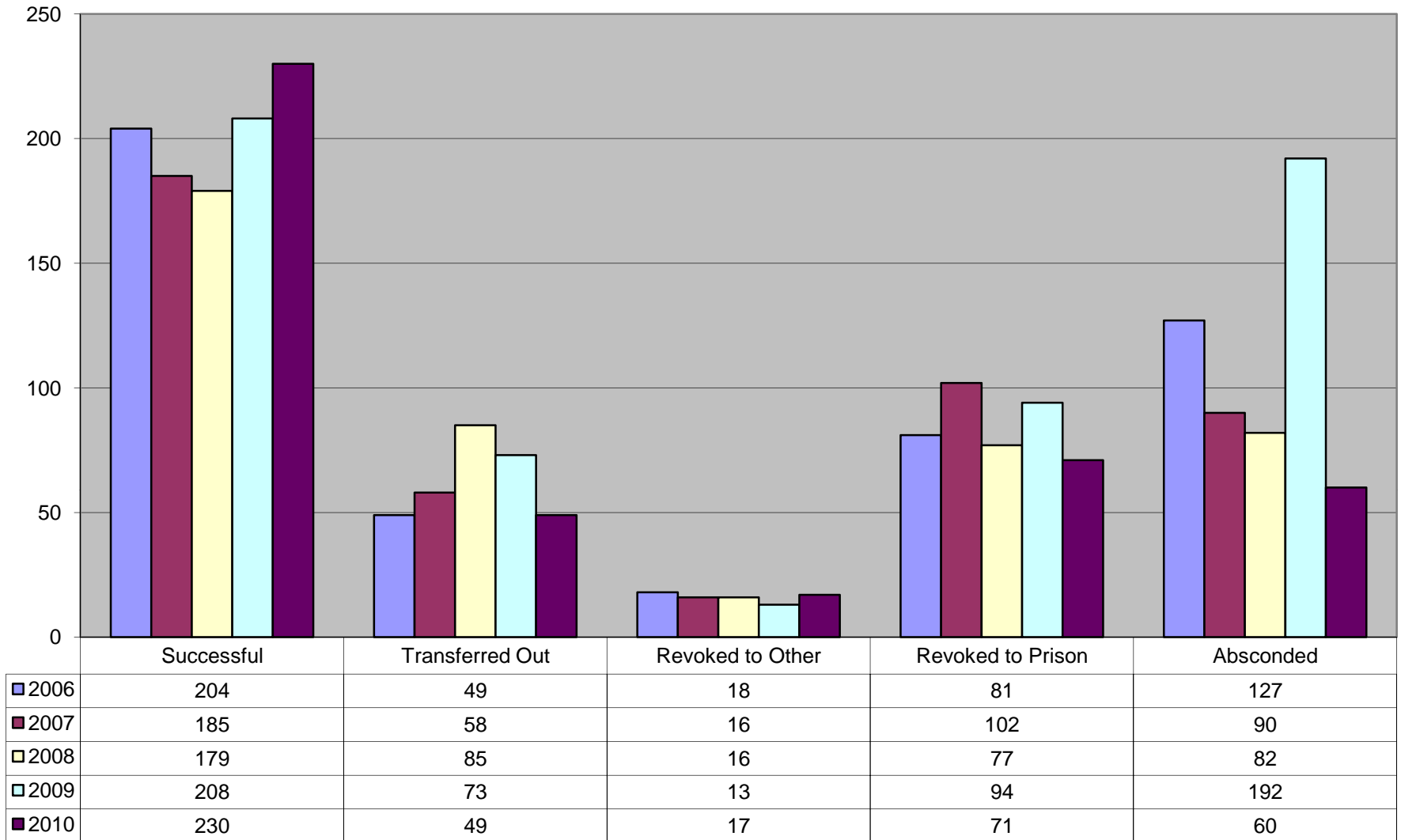
The Suboxone program has provided medications for **19** people essentially diverting them from incarceration for Opiate abuse.

Licking County Adult Services has also entered into a contract with Licking Alcoholism Prevention Program for assessments of offenders with drug and alcohol issues in anticipation of Judge Branstool initiating a Drug Court. This allows an assessment for offenders to determine eligibility and needs for services in a specialized docket court.

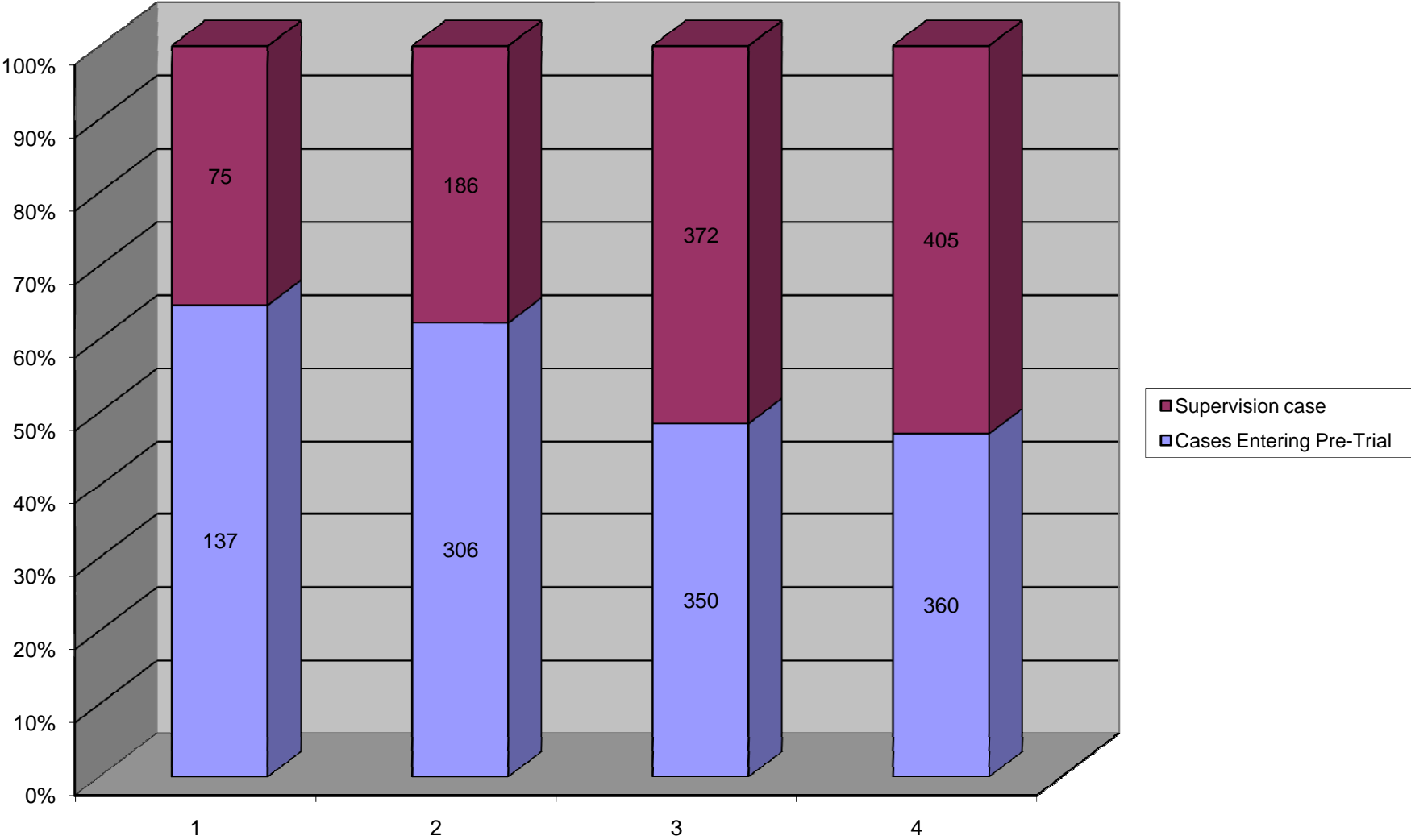
In following evidence-based practices in 2010, the Licking County Adult Court Services Department staff was trained in administering the Ohio Risk Assessment System Community Supervision Tool, a risk-needs tool slated to be used by all Ohio Community Corrections agencies receiving state money. This instrument is used to assess the risk and needs levels of all offenders and provides the Court with an insight to the problems needing addressed in offenders being sentenced and is utilized by the supervising officer to prepare the case plan for each offender. Additionally the ORAS Pre-Trial tool is used at the initial hearing of some offenders to determine release.

2010 and the challenges presented by budgetary limitations have been met by the dedicated staff of the Licking County Adult Court Services and the very professional and thoughtful Judges of this County. Challenges continue in the budgetary limits and the recent closing of the Licking-Muskingum Community Corrections Center that the Adult Court Services Department will continue to confront while providing community safety.

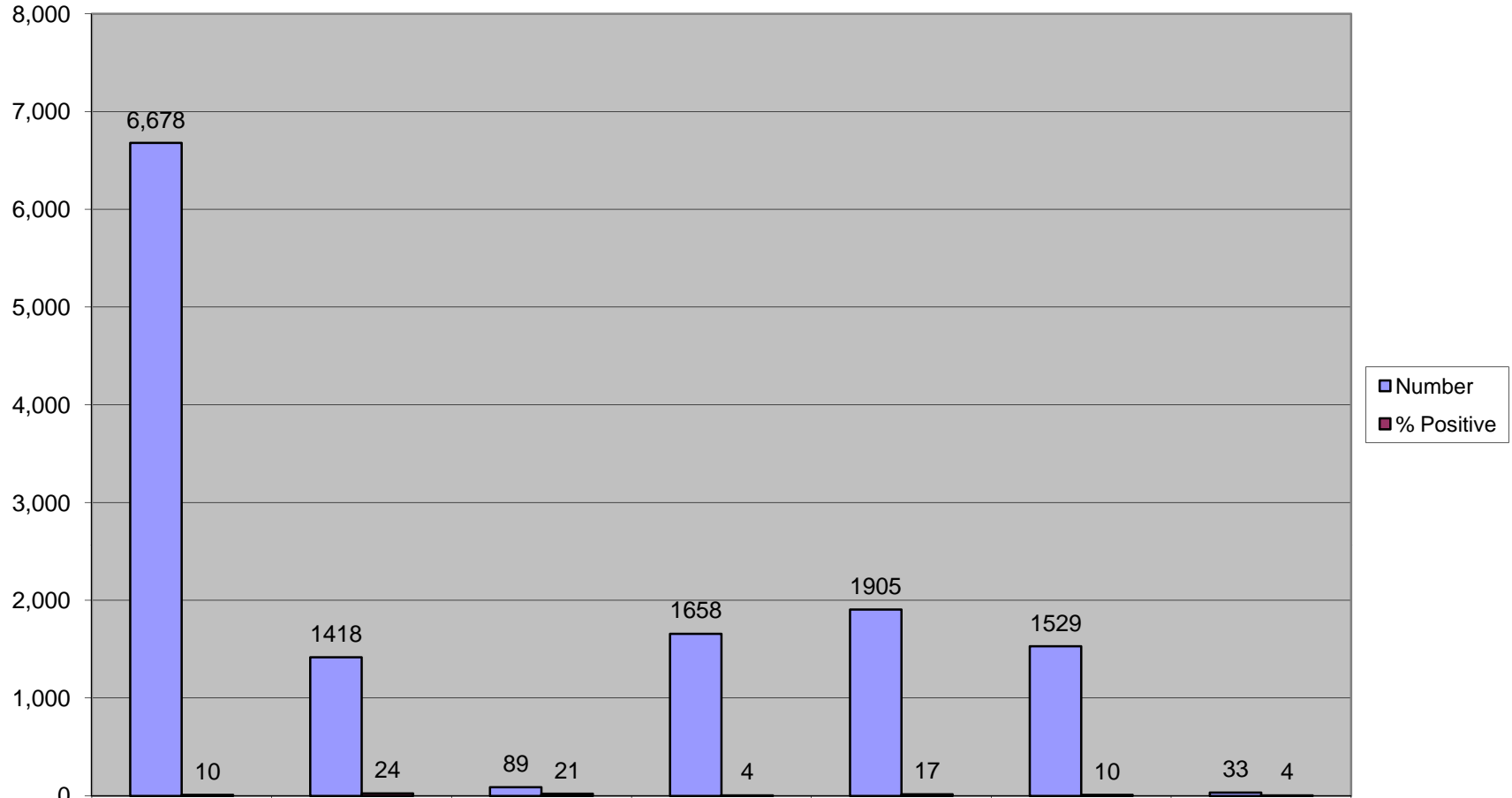
Termination types



Cases Supervised

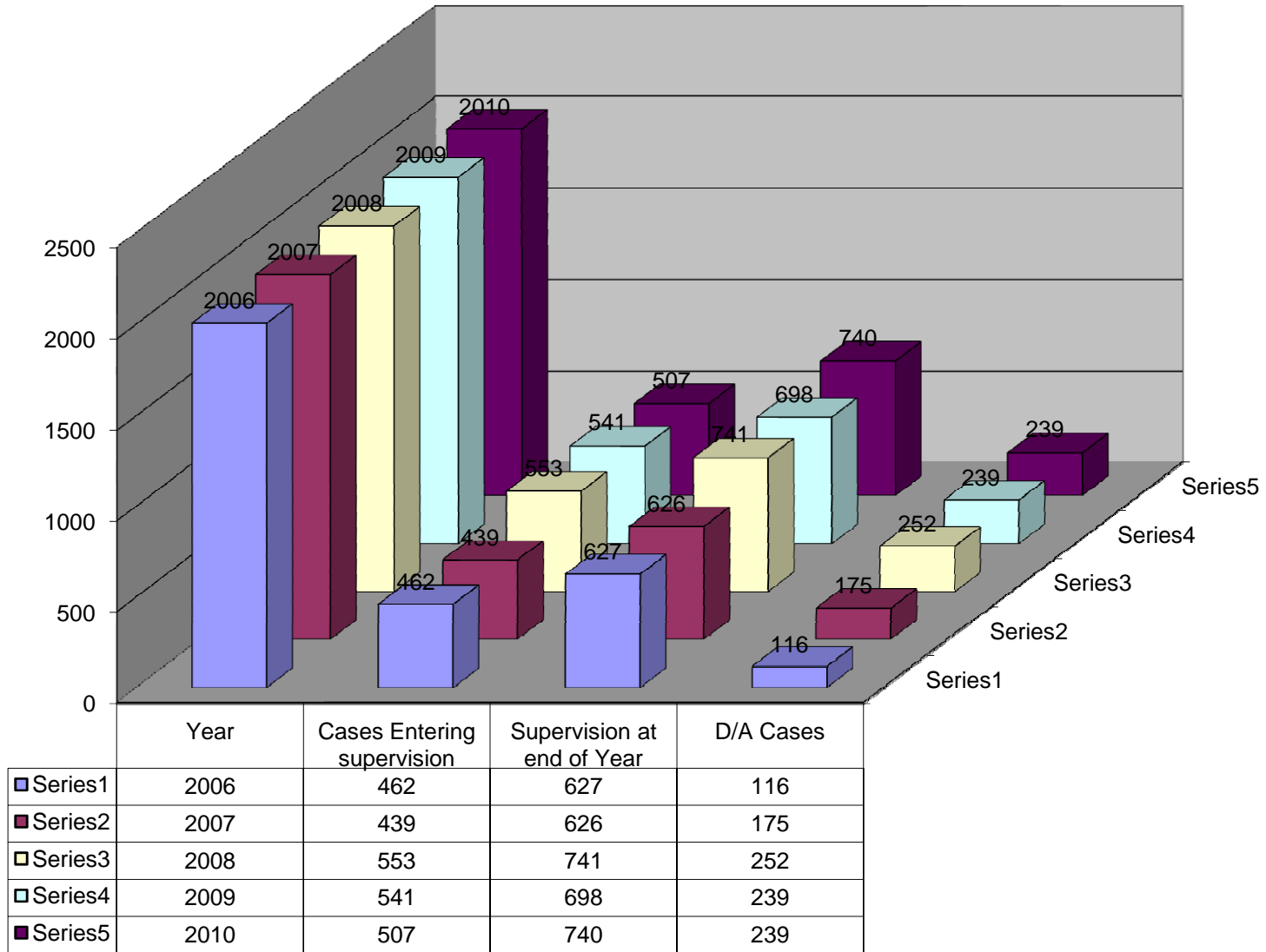


Drug Tests 2010



	Year total	Methamphetamines	Benzodiazepines	Cocaine	Marijuana	Opiates	Alcohol
■ Number	6,678	1,418	89	1,658	1,905	1,529	33
■ % Positive	10	24	21	4	17	10	4

Cases Comparison



Investigations

