

# Program Report Card: Adult Probation – (Judicial Department)

FY 2010 Actual Program Funding: *State Funds: \$62,806,333 Other Funds: \$2,766,745 Total Funds: \$65,573,078\**

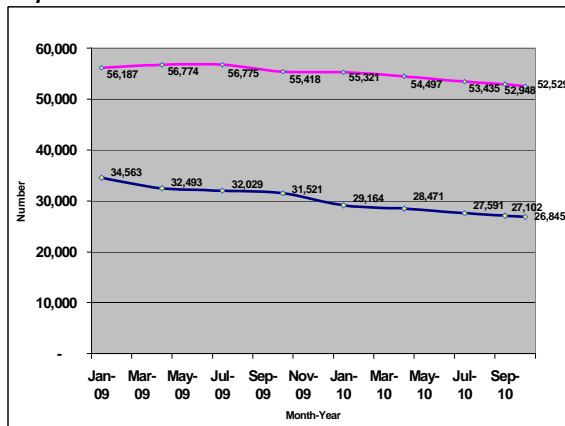
\*Includes Judicial - CSSD Family Services Funds

**Quality of Life Result:** Connecticut families will live in safe communities.

**Contribution to Result:** The purpose of the Adult Probation is to reduce the risk of recidivism, engage offenders in meaningful services, and ensure compliance with court orders.

**Partners:** Criminal Justice System ( Judges, prosecutors, public defenders / private attorneys), Treatment providers, Other state agencies (DMHAS, DOC, DSS, DCF), Family members, State and Local business officials

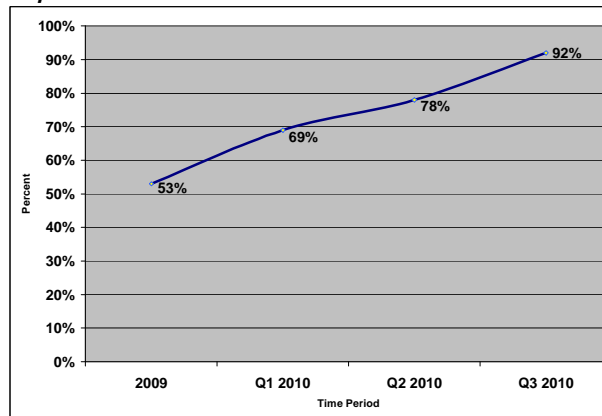
## Performance Measure 1: Total and Active Probation Population Counts, January 2009-September 2010



**Story behind the baseline:** Research in Connecticut suggests that lower probation caseloads contribute to reductions in technical violations and re-arrest. Several caseload reduction efforts, both legislatively- and agency-driven, have resulted in a seven percent drop in the total number of people on probation and a 22 percent drop in the number of people under active probation supervision. During this period, the average caseload for an adult probation officer dropped from 91 cases to 65 cases per officer.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** Lower probation caseloads allow officers more time to address multiple criminogenic needs of probationers which ultimately reduces recidivism. Therefore, the Judicial Branch will continue to apply caseload reduction strategies so that the highest risk probationers receive the most supervision.

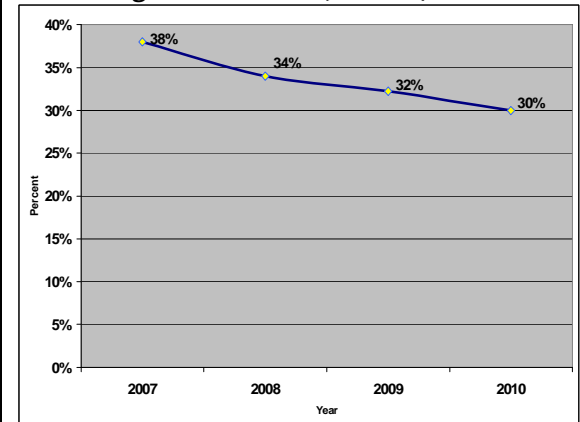
## Performance Measure 2: Probationers Starting Treatment within 30 Business Days, January 2009-September 2010



**Story behind the baseline:** Research suggests that timely access to appropriate treatment services is a contributing factor to positive offender behavior change. Through several operational initiatives, as well as greater collaboration with contracted treatment providers, the percentage of probationers who start treatment within 30 days after a case plan is established has increased by 39 percentage points in the past 21 months.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** Probation managers are organizing and conducting quarterly local meetings with contracted treatment providers to ensure efficiency in access to and delivery of treatment services. This collaborative approach, as well as regular measurement and feedback will continue to be stressed.

## Performance Measure 3: Technical Violation Percentage, 2007-2010 (to date)

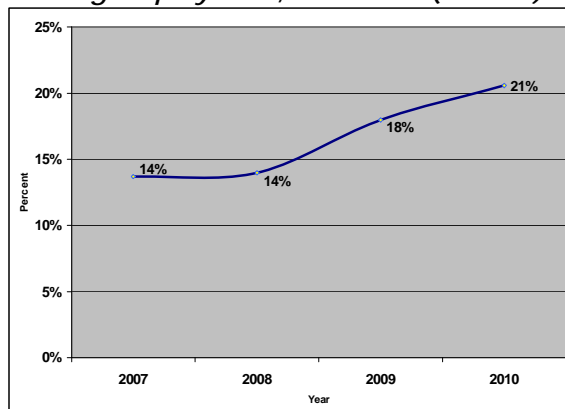


**Story behind the baseline:** A Technical violation of probation involves the violation of probation conditions other than a new arrest (e.g. positive urinalysis, absconding, and treatment refusal). As a percentage of all violation of probation warrants, those for only technical reasons have dropped by 21 percent in the past four years. Reducing technical violations of probation that result in additional incarceration has been a focus of state government since Public Act 04-234 was enacted in 2004. Specialized probation caseloads, lower general probation caseloads, and new policy and training initiatives have contributed to lower technical violation rates.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** The Judicial Branch will continue to stress the importance of graduated sanctions and the consistent application of operational policy, as well as the use of specialized caseloads for technical violators



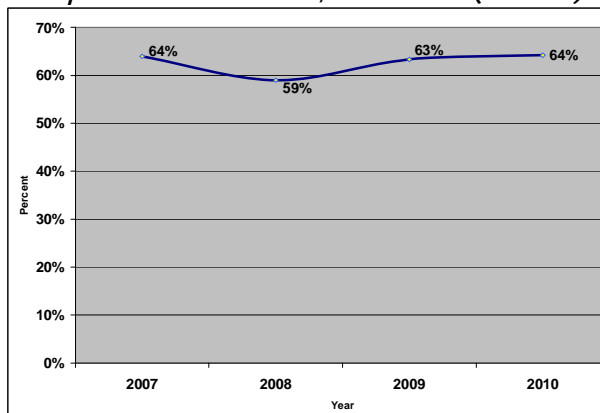
**Performance Measure 4: Probationers Gaining Employment, 2007-2010 (to date)**



**Story behind the baseline:** The trend in the number of probationers who start probation unemployed, but become employed by the end of probation has increased slightly since 2007. Data on employment gains are measured as a snapshot at the end of probation supervision and, thus, are not reflective of employment gains that may have been made during the term of probation. More precise and dynamic measurement of employment trends is on the data development agenda for the Judicial Branch.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** The Judicial Branch has focused recent efforts on enhancing the job development curriculum delivered at the Alternative in Community (AIC) program. Revisions to the curriculum include a soft skills component. Soft skills are the non-technical skills needed to obtain and retain employment and include communication skills, problem solving and managing conflict in the workplace. Additionally, CSSD staff will be meeting with all employment specialists and job developers on a monthly basis to develop strategies to increase completion rates. Finally, CSSD is also planning events that will bring together state business leaders and AIC staff to discuss employment opportunities for our clients.

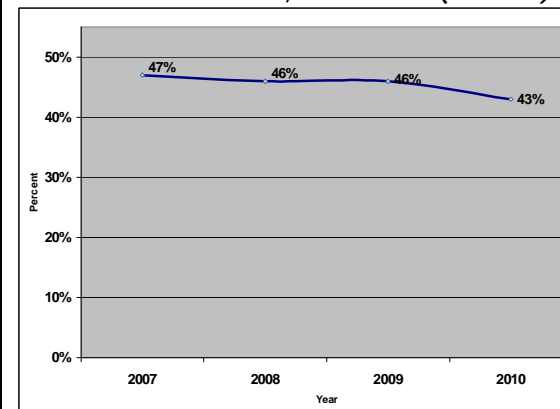
**Performance Measure 5: Successful Completion of Probation, 2007-2010 (to date)**



**Story behind the baseline:** This indicator measures the percent of probationers who complete probation without any violation or arrest activity. This trend has remained stable in three of the past four years and continues to measure above the national average of 59-62 percent (Bureau of Justice Statistics).

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** Specialized probation caseloads, caseload reduction initiatives, Motivational Interviewing training, Client Engagement and Case Planning in addition to an increased emphasis on the use of graduated sanctions should result in continued positive trends in this area.

**Performance Measure 6: Probationer 24-Month Re-arrest Rate, 2007-2010 (to date)**



**Story behind the baseline:** Re-arrest rates are one of the best indicators of long-term behavior change in probationers. This indicator presents the rate at which probationers are re-arrested 24-months after beginning a probation sentence. During the first three calendar quarters of 2010, re-arrest rates have shown a downward trend. In fact, the 43 percent re-arrest rate for 2010 is the lowest re-arrest rate on record since this measure was introduced in 2006. A one percentage point drop in the re-arrest rate, sustained over a full year, results in approximately 280 fewer persons recidivating annually (based on 28,000 new probationers per year).

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** The Judicial Branch, with the assistance of the Connecticut General Assembly, has invested heavily in increasing the number of probation officers and treatment services, resulting in a combination of lower caseloads and timely access to services. Lower caseloads and client engagement strategies in conjunction with evidence-based programs will be the foundation of continued efforts to reduce long term probationer re-arrest rates.

