

# Probation Semi-Annual Report July-December, 2015



**Nebraska Supreme Court  
Office of Probation Administration**

**Statement of Purpose**

This report was completed in compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 29-2252.01 (Appended 2001). On December 31 and June 30 of each year the administrator shall provide a report to the Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

*Note: In this report traditional probation is referred to as Community-Based Resources and Intensive Supervision Probation is referred to as Community-Based Intervention.*

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**Our Mission**

We the leaders in community corrections, juvenile and restorative justice are unified in our dedication to delivering a system of seamless services which are founded on evidence-based practices and valued by Nebraska’s communities, victims, offenders and courts. We create constructive change through rehabilitation, collaboration, and partnership in order to enhance safe communities.

**Our Vision**

Be a national recognized leader in the field of justice committed to excellence and safe communities.

## INTRODUCTION

The Nebraska Probation System is organizationally aligned with the judicial branch of government. In performing its function, Probation strives to achieve intertwined goals of community protection, offender accountability and competency development. Trusted and valued by Nebraska's courts and citizens, Probation's dedicated professional staff has provided quality investigations, supervision and service for over 50 years.

Between July 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 there were 21,569 offenders served by probation in Nebraska, including 17,034 adult and 4,535 juvenile probationers in both regular and intensive programs. Probation officers across the state work within a range of regular and intensive probation programs to assess, supervise, educate and refer probationers to a host of treatment and skill-building programs. Probation officers assess individuals level of risk and criminogenic needs, as well as determine the skills they require to make amends to victims/communities and avoid further criminal behavior. Probationers are supervised within the community according to their assessed risk level, and they are referred to appropriate community-based treatment and skill-based programs, based upon their assessed needs. Caseload standards are modeled after the American Probation and Parole Association's evidenced based research.

The last half of 2015 continued with transition for Nebraska's Probation System. While continuing to serve our courts and the citizens of this great State, the Administrative Office of Probation continued to carry out the provisions of Legislative bills having an impact on probation, including LB 561 and LB 907. In addition, the Office of Probation Administration has begun implementation of LB 605 passed by the 2015 Legislature which includes the addition of Reporting Centers and implementation of post release supervision.

The Nebraska Probation System is driven by a belief that a system focused on evidence-based policies and practices will produce positive individual outcomes in addition to meeting our System's goals.

### Our Goals:

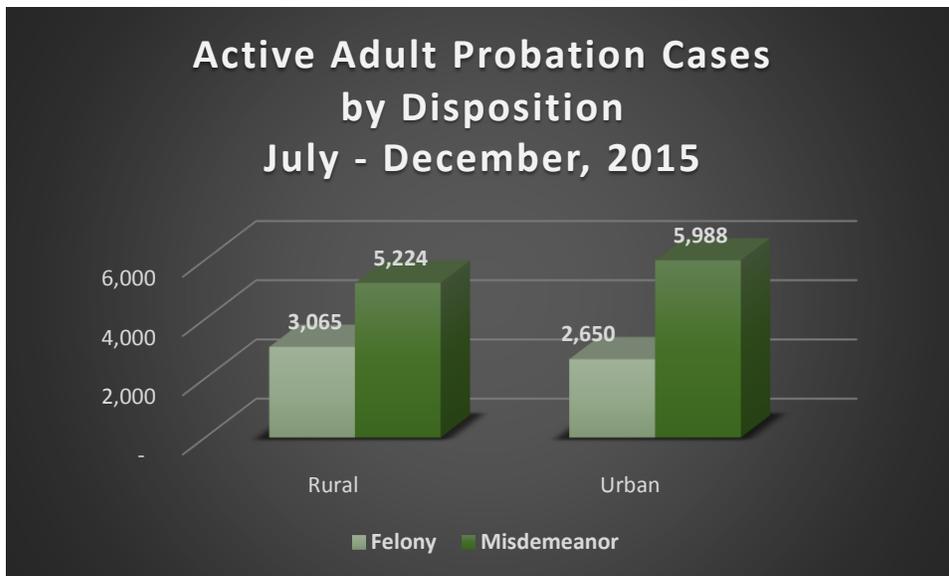
- Provide our courts effective sentencing and dispositional alternatives.
- Reduce recidivism in both juvenile and criminal justice populations.
- Provide for a more efficient and effective use of Probation's limited staff resources.
- Support community-based programs and services initiatives to reduce prison overcrowding.

## Adult Probation

From July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, 17,034 adult probationers were supervised, an increase of 12 cases from the same time period in 2014.

Throughout this report urban and rural areas are referenced. Urban Probation districts include District 2 (Cass, Otoe and Sarpy Counties), District 3 Adult, District 3 Juvenile (Lincoln/Lancaster), District 4 Adult, and District 4 Juvenile (Omaha/Douglas). Rural data includes Districts 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. (See map on page 9 for District information.)

- 5,715 felony cases with 3,065 in rural areas (37%) and 2,650 in urban areas (30%). The second half of 2015 shows an increase in felony cases of 206 when compared to the same time period in 2014.
- 11,212 adult misdemeanor cases were on probation, with 5,224 (63%) in rural areas and 5,988 (69%) in urban areas. This total represents a decrease of 301 in adult misdemeanor cases as compared to the same time period in 2014.



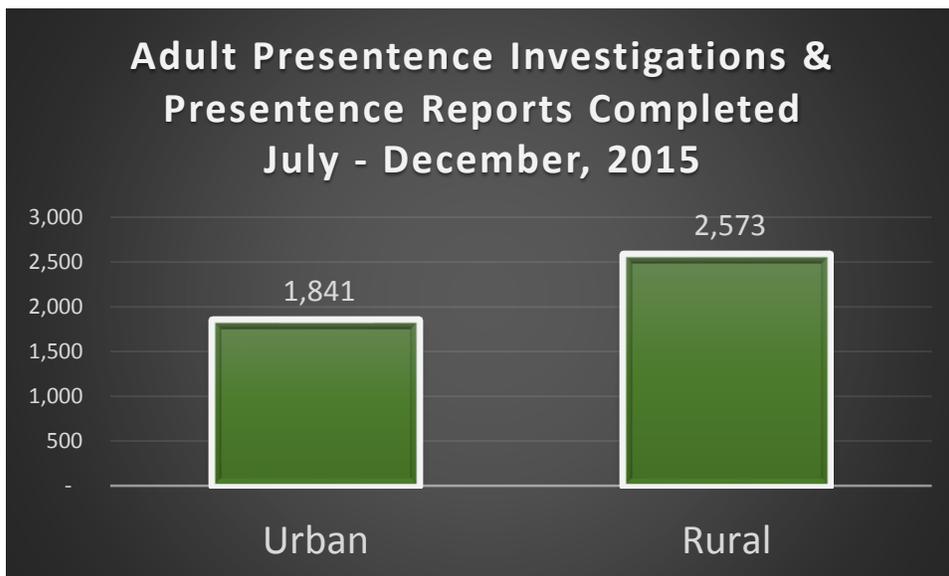
The Nebraska Probation System uses a public safety approach to case management. Offenders are prioritized for assessment, supervision and treatment services according to their risk of reoffending.

- The highest level of supervision while on probation is Community-Based Intervention (CBI), which is equivalent to intensive supervision probation as referred to in statute. This supervision combines intensive supervision and treatment resources to maximize community safety. At December 30, 2015 there were a total of 4,154 probationers on CBI or 32%.
- Probationers supervised at the Community-Based Resources (CBR) level include 68% of probationers or a total of 8,759. CBR supervision levels are guided by different responsive case management standards and is equivalent to traditional probation as referred to in statute.

## Adult Investigations

Investigations allow us to provide the court with timely, relevant, and accurate information about an adult or juvenile prior to the sentencing or disposition of a case. A presentence investigation (PSI) is used for high-risk offenders, while a presentence report (PSR) is used for medium and low risk offenders. The PSI is a tool that provides the court with information regarding the offender’s background and information. It includes victim impact statements, offender’s statement, official version of the offense and the probation officer’s summary to the court. This information is provided to the court in order to determine the sentencing of an offender.

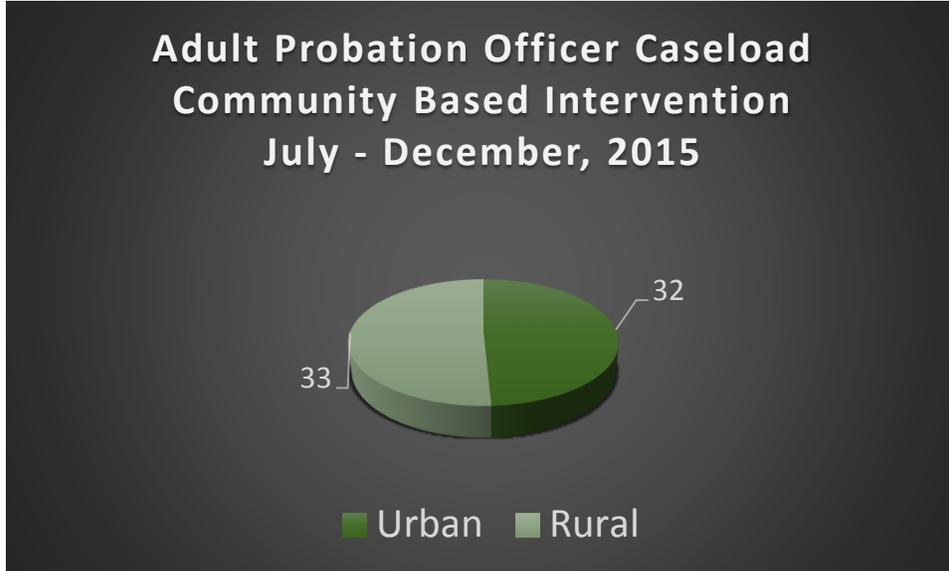
The presentence investigation is comprised of the officer’s analysis of factors presented through an interview with the individual and other information collected throughout the process. Probation officers complete a research based, actuarial assessment on each offender that helps to identify specific risk and need factors. Factors explored include past criminal history, family history and family support, educational and employment history and current status, alcohol/drug or mental health concerns, and overall attitude regarding the offense. Officers work through the assessments to not only identify concerning factors, but also areas of strength for the individual. From there the officer will investigate the history and current status of the individual through collection of information from a variety of sources to include the individual’s employer, treatment providers and/or evaluators, family and friends and victims. All of this information is analyzed to assist the officer in preparing a document for the court. In many jurisdictions across the state, the probation officer is required to use their own skills of analysis and investigation to make a recommendation to the court regarding sentencing. If probation is the primary recommendation, then the officers will use the information they have obtained throughout the investigation to suggest specific interventions for the individual that will assist with overall behavior change.



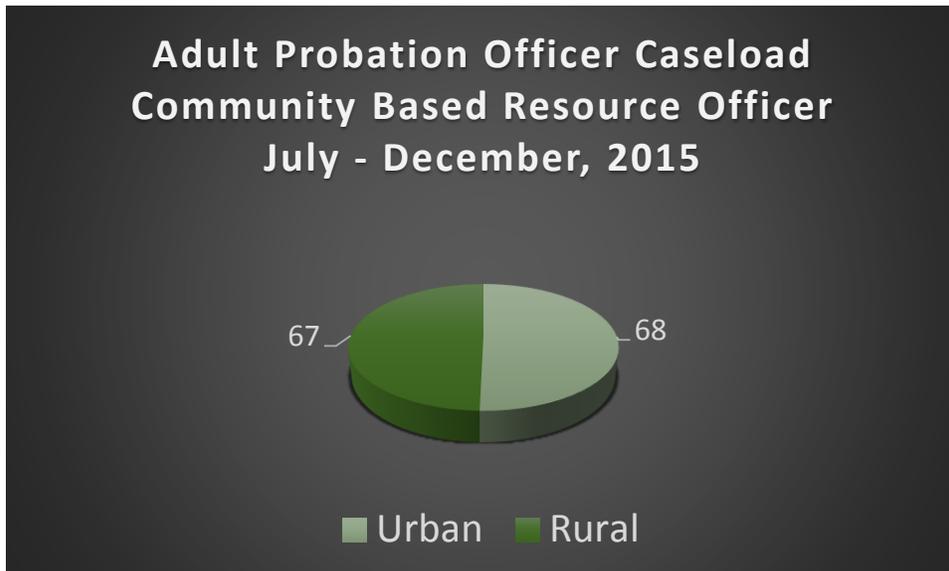
- For the last six months of 2015, a total of 4,414 Adult investigation were completed, with 58% occurring in the rural areas and 42% in urban areas.

## Adult Probation Officer Caseloads

The Nebraska Probation System has officers supervising probationers in 12 judicial districts, serving all 93 counties in Nebraska. Caseloads are not measured by felony and misdemeanor but rather by risk to reoffend. Probation uses a number of assessment tools to determine the potential for reoffending.

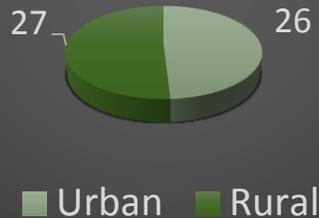


- The average caseload for Adult Probation CBI Officers was 40 for rural areas and 37 for urban areas. CBI cases involve the supervision of a high/very-high risk specific offender group. 32% of adult probationers are CBI, which can be felony or misdemeanor.



- The average caseload for Adult CBR Officers was 77 for rural areas and 97 for urban areas. CBR cases involve the supervision of a moderate-risk specific probationer group. 68% of probationers are CBR, which can be felony or misdemeanor.

## Adult Probation Officer Caseload Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) July - December, 2015



- The average caseload of an Adult Probation Specialized Substance Abuse Officer was 27 for rural areas and 26 for urban areas. At the end of 2015, a total of 527 (4.1%) of the state's adult probation system are involved in SSAS, an increase of 97 probationers from the first six months of 2015.

Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) was created in response to prison overcrowding experienced in Nebraska specifically in the 2000's. Drawn from evidence-based practices, SSAS is a sentencing alternative that combines intensive supervision with substance abuse treatment as a means of crime control. Highly trained officers work with a select drug offender population who are also identified as having anti-social, pro-criminal tendencies.

The target population for the program is felony drug offenders with substance abuse problems; and probation has developed risk assessment tools to identify appropriate candidates. Founded on evidence-based principles shown to reduce recidivism by targeting the treatment needs of the offender, the program combines substance abuse treatment in the community with intensive case management by specially trained probation officers.

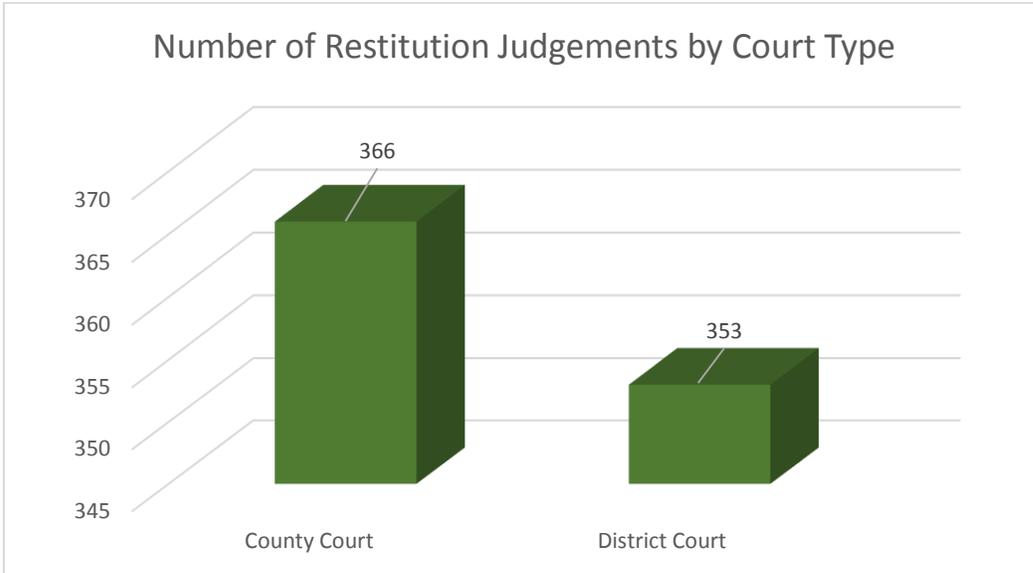
Goals of the SSAS Program are to:

- Lower Levels of Recidivism and Relapse
- Improve Education and Enhance Employability
- Facilitate Reintegration into the Community

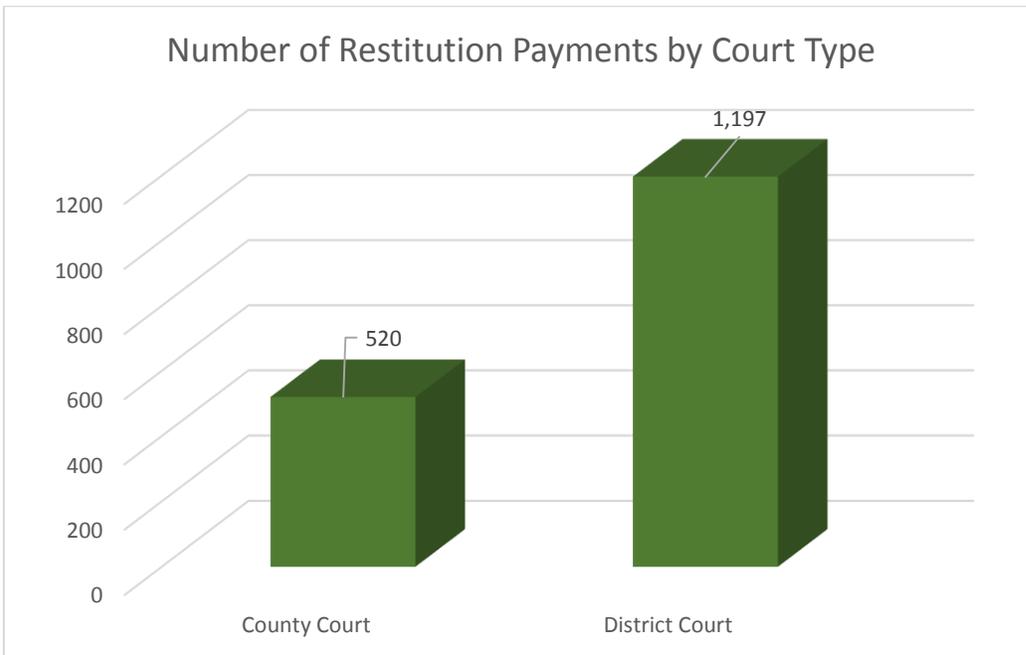


# Restitution

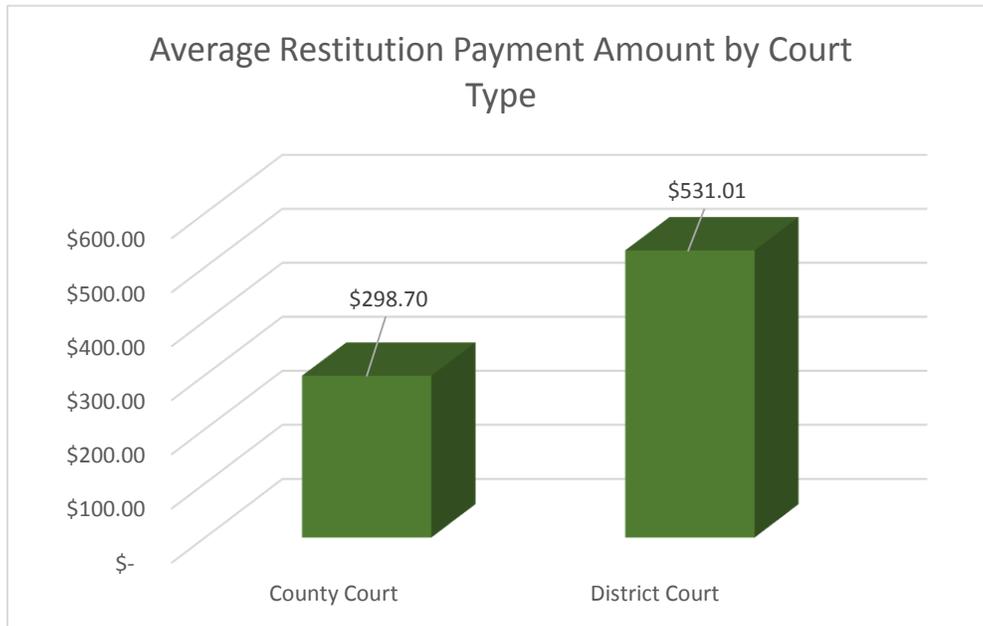
In compliance with State Statute, the following charts represent restitution judgements and payments for both County and District Courts for the last six months of 2015.



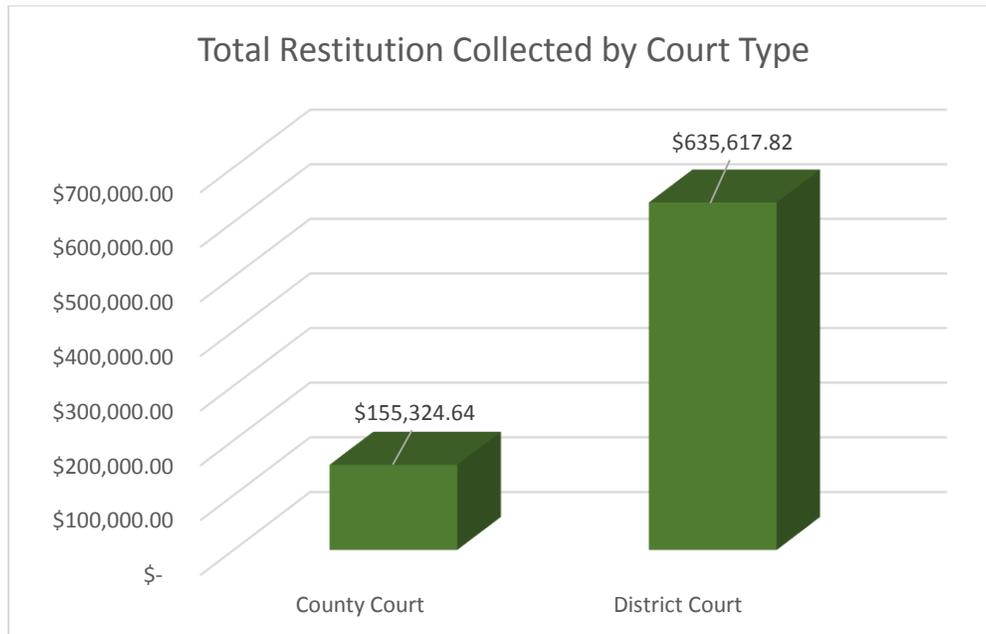
A total of 719 Judgements for Restitution were made during the last six months of 2015, with 366 (51%) in County Court and 353 (49%) in District Court.



A total of 1,717 payments were made in the last six months of 2015, with 520 (30%) in County Court and 1,197 (70%) in District Court.



The average restitution payment amount in County Court for the last six months of 2015 was \$298.70 compared to \$531.01 in District Court for the same time period.

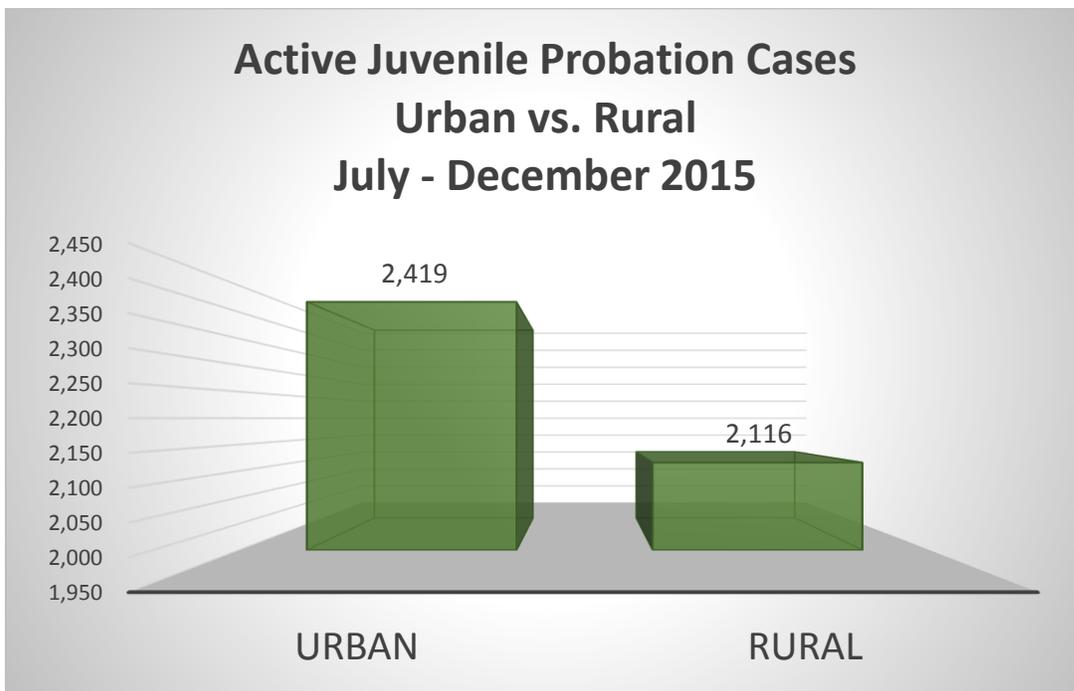


Total restitution collected in County Court for the last six months of 2015 totaled \$155,324.64 compared to \$635,617.82 in District Court for the same time period.

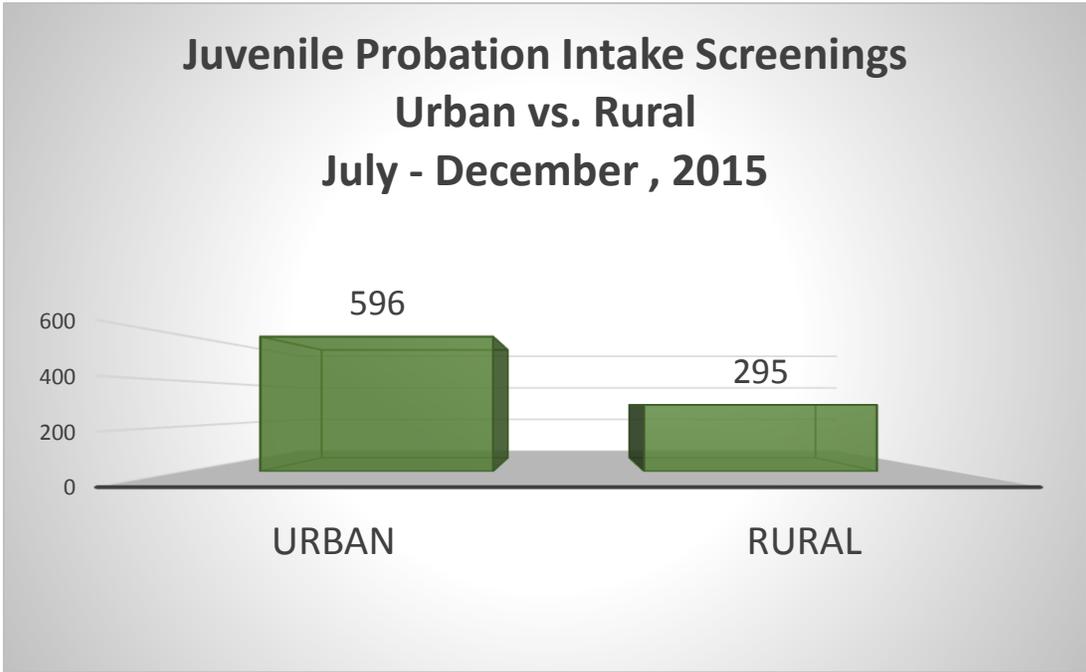
## Juvenile Probation Cases

Maximizing community safety and youth development are key approaches to juvenile probation. Juveniles are prioritized for supervision and treatment services according to their risk of continuing delinquent behaviors.

- From July 2015 through December 31, 2015, 4,535 juvenile probationers were supervised, a reduction of only 399 cases from the same time period in 2014.
- Juveniles on probation in rural areas totaled 2,116 while the urban areas totaled 2,419 juveniles on probation for the second half of 2015.



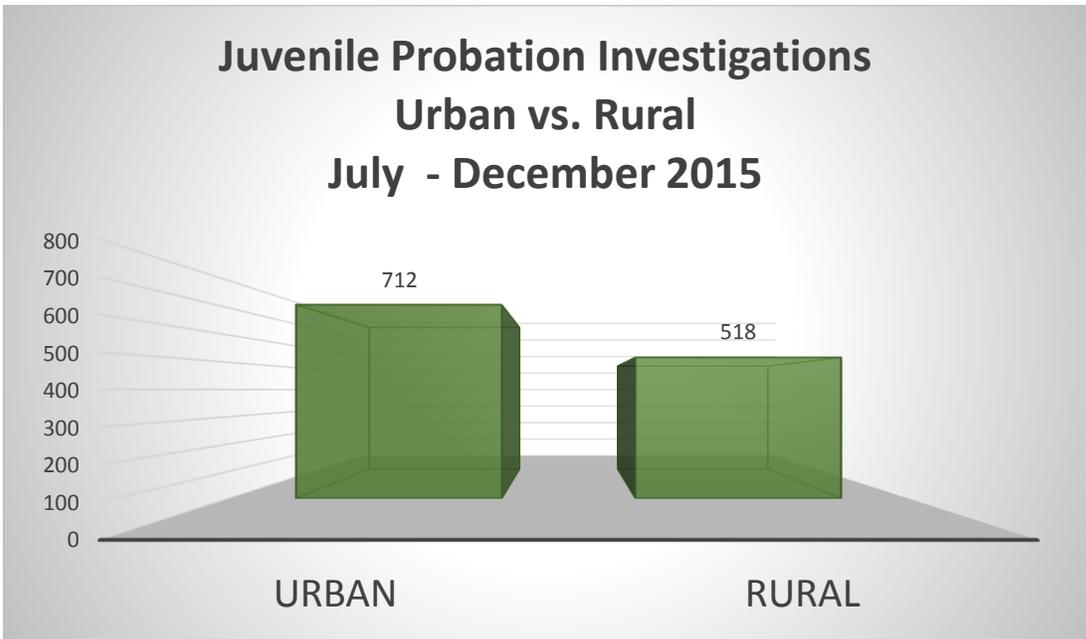
\*Active Juvenile cases for the last six months of 2015 totaled 4,535 with 2,116 cases (47%) in rural areas compared to 2,419 cases (53%) in urban areas.



\*Juvenile Probation Intake Screenings for the last six months of 2015 totaled 891 with 67% occurring in urban areas and 33% in rural areas. Public safety and accountability are the primary goals of the juvenile intake process. This is accomplished through a standardized risk assessment tool that is administered when law enforcement contacts probation for the purpose of assessing an intake decision.

\*Of the Intake screenings completed, 220 were detained in secure detention at a rate of 25% and 128 were placed at staff secure at a rate of 14%.

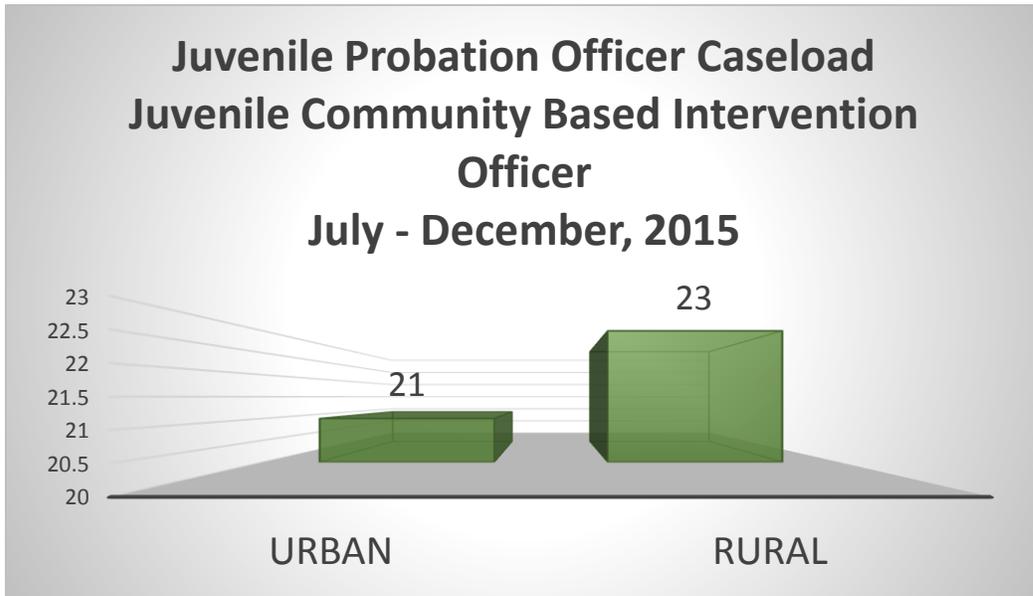
## Juvenile Investigations



- Juvenile Probation investigations completed for the last six months of 2015 totalled 1,230 with 712 (58%) for urban areas compared to 518 (42%) for rural areas.

## Juvenile Probation Officer Caseloads

The Nebraska Probation System has officers supervising probationers in 12 judicial districts, serving all 93 counties in Nebraska.

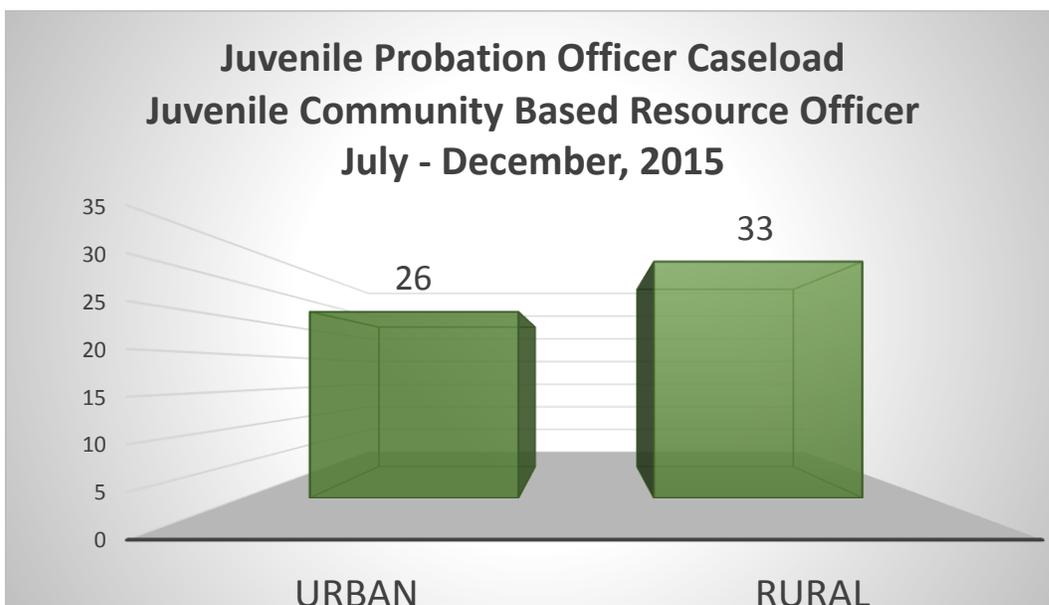


The highest level of supervision for juveniles on probation is the Juvenile Community-Based Intervention (JCBI) level. JCBI combines intensive supervision with treatment resources that correspond with each juvenile’s risk and needs.

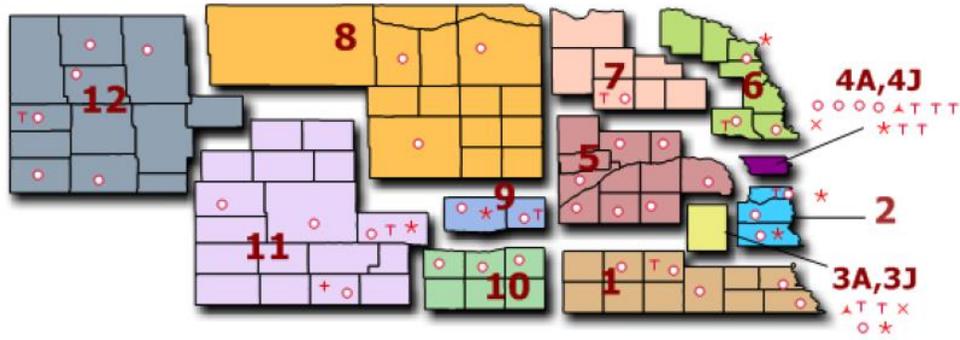
- For the last half of 2015, the average caseload for a JCBI Probation officer was 21 cases in urban areas and 23 cases in rural areas.

Juvenile Community-Based Resource (JCBR) level juvenile probationers are also provided rehabilitative services according to risk, while under community supervision for optimum success.

- The average caseload for JCBR officer was 26 in rural areas and 33 in urban areas.



Nebraska Judicial / Probation Districts October 1, 2011



- O Probation Office
- X Probation Office Juvenile
- \* Reporting Center
- T Problem Solving Courts
- ^ Juvenile PS Court
- + WEC

**Specialized Probation Programs:**

Adult

- Presentence Investigation/Risk & Needs Assessment Screening
- Community-Based Intensive Intervention
- Young Adult Court/Drug Courts
- Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision
- Day & Evening Reporting Centers
- Fee for Service Voucher
- Interstate Compact
- Work Ethic Camp
- Rural Improvement for Schooling & Employment (RISE)
- Strength-Based Case Management

Juvenile

- Juvenile Intake 24/7
- Predisposition Investigation/Risk & Needs Assessment Screening
- Community-Based Intervention
- Drug Courts
- Interstate Compact
- Victim Services
- Rural Improvement for Schooling & Employment (RISE)
- Strength-Based Case Management
- Reentry Services
- Juvenile Services Financial Assurance

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