

PROBATION

Colorado Probation continues to develop its operational philosophy from traditional offender management to a balance of risk management and principles of “Restorative Justice.” This ongoing commitment to innovative practices requires probation to maintain quality offender assessment, supervision methods and extend the interest of community and victims in to the planning of effective probation programs. These are the foundations for improved public safety, offender accountability and community reparation.

Colorado Probation has embarked on a wide range of energetic efforts to incorporate both traditional and creative forms of offender case management, victim services and community involvement.

This year’s statistical report reflects our commitment to provide improving outcomes, protecting the public, reducing the overall cost of the correctional system and increasing services to the victims of crime.

Probation Programs

The Colorado Judicial Department administers adult and juvenile probation in the state’s 22 judicial districts. This division publishes guidelines and standards for regular probation supervision and all specialized probation programs. Within the limits of these state standards, each district is free to develop and structure programs that address the needs of the local court and the community.

The number of adult offenders sentenced to probation in Fiscal Year 2002 was 22,665; this was an increase from FY2001. Also in Fiscal Year 2002, of all adult probationers terminated, 70% did so successfully.

In Fiscal Year 2002, 7,600 juvenile offenders were sentenced to probation. Seventy three percent of all juveniles completing probation were successful.

Private Probation

Chief Justice Directive 96-05, which sets probation priorities, explains the use of Private probation supervision for appropriate low risk cases. Part III of the directive states that districts may enter into agreements with public or private entities for the provision of probation services, including investigation services and the supervision of lower risk probationers. On June 30, 2002 there were 9,398 offenders being managed by private probation services. By utilizing private probation for these low risk offenders, State probation services can dedicate more resources to high risk offenders, which provides greater public safety.

Specialized Programs

Specialized programs are valuable probation resources which provide the court with community sentencing options for high-risk or high-need offenders. The three main goals of specialized probation programming are to assess the offender's criminal risk to the community; to target the offender's needs which are served by criminal activity; and to identify appropriate treatment and resources to impact the criminal behavior. All applicants for specialized probation programs are screened for appropriateness by local internal boards. Specialized probation programs offer specialized assessments, home detention, electronic monitoring, cognitive skills training, educational assessments, literacy programs and employment programs.

Intensive Supervision Probation

The adult Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) offers intensive monitoring and treatment to high-risk offenders that would otherwise receive prison sentences. At the end of FY 2002, 1,551 offenders, who might otherwise be serving sentences in the Department of Corrections, were supervised on ISP.

Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation

The Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation (JISP) is in place in 18 of the 22 judicial districts. At the end of FY 2002, 567 juveniles, who might otherwise be serving sentences in the Department of Youth Corrections, were supervised on JISP.

Specialized Drug Offender Program

The Specialized Drug Offender Program (SDOP) was developed in FY 1991, as a response to an increase in the number of drug offenders and offenders with severe substance abuse problems. SDOP is operational in 16 of the 22 judicial districts. At the end of FY 2002, there were 302 offenders in SDOP.

Female Offender Program

The Female Offender Program (FOP) was developed in FY 1992, to intervene in the lives of female offenders who are experiencing problems, especially substance abuse problems. At the end of FY 2002, there were 201 female offenders in FOP.

Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Probation

The Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Probation (SOISP) was developed in response to statutory requirements of lifetime supervision for certain sex offenders. The program combines monitoring, treatment and high levels of accountability to contain offenders safely in the community. The program became available in November of 1998, and at the end of FY 2002, 430 offenders were supervised on SOISP.

Drug Court

In drug court models, non-violent offenders may undergo treatment and counseling and are monitored closely for probation and the judicial officer to maintain compliance. Swift, consistent and firm action for violations of ordered conditions are the mainstay of Colorado Drug Courts. Last year (FY 2002) Denver District Court and El Paso County maintained a separate court division to process drug related criminal cases, while in other jurisdictions the case processing model was combined with other divisions. In FY 2002 Adult "Drug Courts" operated in communities of Denver, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Durango, Cortez, Montrose, Delta, and Canon City, while juvenile courts operated in Denver, Fort Collins and Canon City. The General Assembly identified funding for 3 demonstration Drug Courts which will provide evaluations in January 2004.