

PROBATION

Colorado Probation is committed to public safety, victim and community reparation through offender accountability, skill and competency development and services to the communities of Colorado.

This statement of common ground has helped to focus all parts of the probation system on the critical functions of justice that are our mission and our responsibility. Especially with the fiscal constraints under which we are now operating, our commitment to these practices requires innovative approaches to offender assessment, supervision methods, victim involvement and community development. As new research becomes available, as best practices evolve, we build and adapt our system to better serve the public and increase public safety for the residents of Colorado.

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 improve results, protect the public, reduce the overall cost of the correctional system and increase services to victims of crime.

We begin FY 2005 still recovering from the cutbacks of past years. It is projected that Colorado Probation will exceed 240 adult offenders per officer, far beyond the national average of 130-150 offenders per officer. We will strive to continuously improve our efforts to maximize the use of the resources available to supervise offenders, serve victims and protect the community.

Probation Programs

The Colorado Judicial Department administers adult and juvenile probation in the state's 22 judicial districts. The Division of Probation Services 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 FY 2004 was 22,972. As of June 30, 2004 there were 39,207 adult offenders on supervision. Of all adult probationers terminated in FY 2004, sixty-three percent did so successfully.

In Fiscal Year 2004, 6,823 juvenile offenders were sentenced to probation. As of June 30, 2004 there were 7,869 juvenile offenders on supervision. Sixty-nine percent of all juveniles completing probation were successful.

High Risk Offender Programs

Specialized programs provide the court with community sentencing options for high-risk offenders. Three main goals drive specialized probation programs. They are to assess criminal risk; target offenders' service needs related to ongoing criminal activity; and identify appropriate treatment and resources to reduce criminal behavior. All applicants for specialized probation programs are screened for appropriateness by local internal boards. Specialized probation offers specialized assessments, electronic monitoring, cognitive skills training, educational assessments, literacy programs and employment programs.

Intensive Supervision Probation

The Adult Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) offers intensive case management to high-risk offenders as an alternative to prison. At the end of FY 2004, 1,901 offenders were supervised on ISP. The program successfully diverted 520 offenders from the Department of Corrections in FY 2004, resulting in \$14.7 million in cost avoidance to the state. Due to budget reductions the program caseloads remain 33% higher than in FY 2002, increased from 20 offenders to 35 offenders per officer. The success rate decreased from 54% in FY 03 to 44% in FY 2004. Continued observation of this program will occur during FY 2005.

Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation

The Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation (JISP) Program was in place in 17 of the 22 judicial districts during FY 2004. At the end of FY 2004, 545 juveniles, who might otherwise be serving sentences in the Division of Youth Corrections, were supervised on JISP. In FY 2005, the JISP program was restored to its full capacity which will allow officers to supervise 25 JISP offenders per officer compared to 25 JISP offenders plus 10 maximum risk offenders in FY 2004. The success rate slightly decreased from 52% in FY 2003 to 51% in FY 2004. The Division of Probation Services will closely follow the impact of this program change during FY 2005.

Specialized Drug Offender Program

The Specialized Drug Offender Program (SDOP) was developed in 1991 in response to an increase in the number of offenders with severe substance abuse problems and had a 50% success rate over the 12 year life of the program. The program was eliminated in fiscal year 2004 as a result of budget reductions.

While there is not a plan to restore SDOP, there are current efforts to develop new supervision/treatment case management strategies for this population. Colorado Model Drug Court Guidelines that incorporate evidence-based practices have been developed for drug courts and districts interested in developing drug courts in their jurisdiction. Case management strategies, similar to those supported in the Drug Court Guidelines are also being developed for non-drug court jurisdictions. Both approaches seek to reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism; improve the health of offenders; and to restore victims and communities harmed by these offenders. The result will be a reduction in social and economic costs to the people of the state of Colorado.

Drug Court

In Drug Courts, non-violent serious drug abusing offenders who receive probation sentences are assessed, matched to the appropriate level of treatment, tested frequently for abstinence, monitored closely by a case manager and have frequent reviews in front of a Judge or Magistrate where sanctions or incentives can be immediately delivered. It is this intensive approach that has yielded impressive long-term results. In Colorado, there are adult drug courts in the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th Judicial Districts and juvenile drug courts in the 2nd, 6th, 8th, 11th and 22nd Judicial Districts.

Female Offender Program

The Female Offender Program (FOP) was developed in 1992, to intervene in the lives of high risk, substance abusing female offenders. At the end of FY 2003 the program was eliminated because of necessary budget reductions. These offenders were transferred to other probation programs to finish their supervision requirements. The probation officers associated with FOP were reassigned to regular probation caseloads. This program maintained over ten years of successful outcomes, with over 56% of all offenders successfully completing the program. In the program's last full year of operation it successfully diverted 55 women from the Department of Corrections at a cost avoidance of \$1,740,090, and showed a 0% recidivism rate for two years after program discharge.

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 2004, 905 offenders were supervised on SOISP. Due to the public safety interest the judicial department chose not to reduce the capacity of this program for FY 2004.

Private Probation

Chief Justice Directive 04-03, which sets probation priorities, explains the provisions under which districts may contract with 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, 2004 there were 10,572 offenders being managed by private probation services. By utilizing private probation for these low risk offenders, State probation departments can dedicate more resources to high risk offenders, which provides greater public safety.

DUI Offenders

The Alcohol and Drug Driving Safety (ADDS) Program conducts alcohol/drug evaluations and makes treatment recommendations for offenders convicted of driving under the influence with drugs or alcohol. In FY 2004 the program completed nearly 29,000 evaluations and monitored compliance with treatment and other court orders for Colorado's county courts.

Victim Services

In 1993 Colorado's General Assembly enacted victim rights legislation for victims of personal crime. In 1996, the Victim Rights Act was amended to require Colorado Probation departments to provide victim services. Since FY 1999, each of the state's 23 probation departments has provided services to victims whose offender is placed on probation. In FY 2004, Probation Victim Assistance Coordinators sent 10,934 letters to victims of crime informing them of their right to receive notification, and of these victims twenty-four percent (2,635) requested receipt of the statutorily required notification. There were a total of 14,792 critical notification events in which victims were notified.