

Keeping Communities Safe

Parole & Probation: Violence Prevention Initiative



QUICK FACTS:

Violence Prevention Initiative

FY08 & FY09

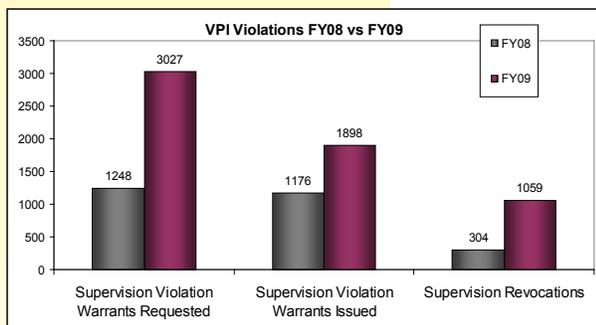
- 2,300 offenders on average under VPI supervision
- 4,275 warrants requested [1]
- 3,074 violation warrants issued
- 1,363 offenders revoked

FY08 vs. FY09

- 143% increase in VPI violation warrant requests (1,240 vs. 3,027)
- 61% increase in VPI violation warrants issued (1,176 vs. 1,898)
- 248% increase in VPI offender supervision revocations (304 vs. 1,059)

Violence Reduction in MD

- 13.5% drop in homicide rate in CY08 - second largest in 25 years
- 11% drop in homicide rate in CY09



“...authorities say collaborative efforts have helped get a handle on the city’s most violent offenders. Partnerships with state and local agencies have brought prioritized warrant service and increased scrutiny of offenders on parole and probation.”

Baltimore Sun, 1/3/2010



Violence Prevention Initiative

Today, the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) is on the ground and in the community proactively assisting local law enforcement, and using all legal tools at its disposal to keep neighborhoods safe – sharing intelligence with criminal justice partners and requesting revocation warrants more effectively than ever before.

Key to these efforts is the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI). Created by the O’Malley-Brown Administration as a top priority of the Governor in 2007, it’s an ongoing push targeting the most violent offenders under supervision in Maryland. DPP uses a data driven risk assessment tool to identify offenders with a high propensity for committing future violent crime. The approximately 2,300 offenders under the VPI are subject to much stricter supervision than the normal DPP offender.

The VPI, with its built-in intelligence gathering and sharing has made DPP an effective partner to law enforcement. Better relationships have led to greater warrant service on the state’s worst repeat offenders and a drastic increase in revocations on VPI violators over the last two fiscal years (see quick facts).

Sharing offender intelligence with local police results in more violation warrants being issued by MD courts and the Parole Commission - 3,074 in the last two fiscal years. The end result is that 1,363 of Maryland’s most violent offenders have had their parole or probations revoked during the same time period.

Not being a law enforcement entity, DPP does not have the legal authority to revoke an offender’s supervision. But

it can, and does, request that violation of parole or probation warrants on its offenders be issued by either the MD courts or the Parole Commission, which can result in offender revocations. Once issued, DPP has limited authority to serve these warrants and arrest VPI violators.

DPP has helped local law enforcement propel Maryland to its second double-digit reduction in homicide rates in two years. In 2008, the state saw its second largest drop in 25 years at 13.5%. The trend continued in 2009 with an 11% reduction.

Parole & Probation VPI Warrant Service

DPP’s Warrant Apprehension Unit includes 40 men and women with special law enforcement training and the legal authority to execute arrest warrants issued by the courts and Parole Commission.

This ability was increased through legislation passed in 2009, which enabled certain DPP agents to serve probation warrants in addition to serving parole warrants, which DPP has been doing for years.

The agents work with various warrant service task forces throughout the state but their main area of responsibility is to serve VPI warrants, specifically those in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince George’s County.

While it does not serve every VPI warrant issued in the state, in the last two fiscal years, the DPP’s Warrant Apprehension Unit’s clearance rate (defined as warrants served, not adjudicated) has been 90%.

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[1] Number of VPI Parole and Mandatory Release warrants requested by DPP estimated for FY08 & FY09, based on numbers issued.

Keeping Communities Safe

Parole & Probation: Violence Prevention Initiative *Cont.*



WatchCenter

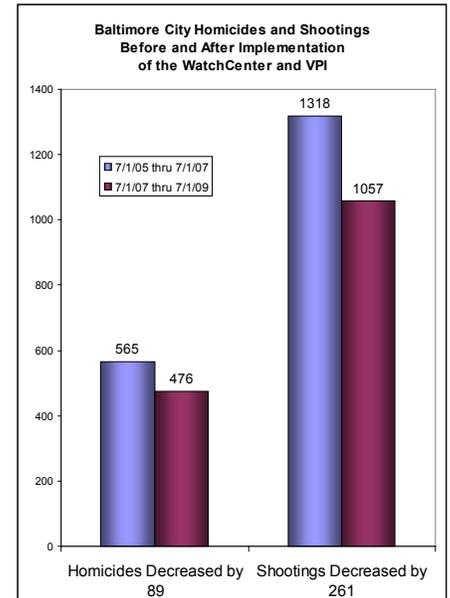
The WatchCenter effort is the intelligence arm of the Violence Prevention Initiative. DPP has embedded full time Parole and Probation Agents to work side by side with police officers in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince George's County.

The concept allows for daily sharing of intelligence on Maryland's most violent offenders, assisting police investigations of supervised offenders' involvement in violent and gun related crime.

When a DPP offender is arrested, a revocation warrant is immediately requested. If the DPP offender is connected with a violent or gun crime but not arrested, the case is reviewed for supervision violations in an effort to remove the offender from the community.

Statewide WatchCenter efforts have resulted in 450 violation warrant requests since it began, including 412 in FY09. The result has been 192 parole or probation revocations for some of Maryland's worst offenders – 159 of those in FY09.

These efforts have played an important role in assisting the Baltimore City police to reduce homicides and shootings over the last two years. And in 2009, DPP also helped Prince George's County Police reduce the homicide rate by almost 22% and violent crime close to 11%.



Fewer Shooting/Homicide Victims in Baltimore City

The VPI/WatchCenter efforts have helped the Baltimore Police Department to reduce shootings and homicides since the VPI began in July 2007. These are two indicators police use to measure their success.

When comparing the first two years of the VPI, July 2007 to July 2009, to the previous two year period before it existed, Baltimore has seen a 20% reduction in shooting victims and a 16% drop in homicides.

Thanks to a more active DPP and better cooperation with police that is 261 fewer shooting victims and 89 fewer homicides in Baltimore City in the last two fiscal years.

And this trend continued through calendar year 2009, Baltimore City Police Department reports 135 fewer non-fatal shootings than 2008.

QUICK FACTS:

WatchCenters

- Three WatchCenters - Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince George's County
- 412 warrants requested in FY09
- 159 supervisions revoked in FY09

Violence Reduction in Baltimore City

- 16% drop in homicides and 20% drop in shootings during FY08 and FY09 compared to the previous two FYs.
- 135 fewer non-fatal shootings in Baltimore City in CY09 vs. CY08

