

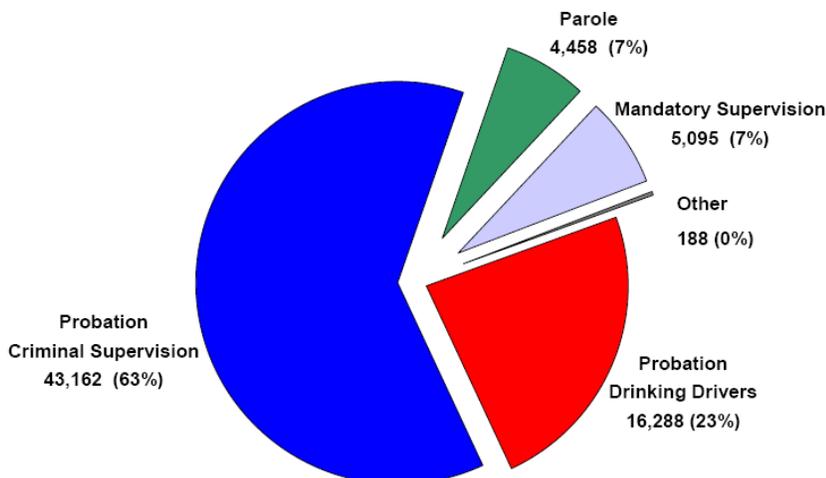


Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

FACT SHEET Division of Parole and Probation

The Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) is an agency of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The Division's mission is to help make communities safe through supervising/monitoring offenders who are serving or completing sentences in the community. The Division's employees supervise/monitor approximately 67,000 offenders who are under mandatory, parole, or probation supervision* in communities throughout Maryland.

Parolees and Probationers in Maryland June 30, 2007



The Division of Parole and Probation is legislatively mandated to provide supervision to offenders in the community. Parole and probation agents ensure that offenders comply with the general and special conditions of supervision by seeing offenders in the office and in the community, assisting them in securing skill training and employment and referring them to appropriate treatment providers for addictions and

* Mandatory supervision – a non-discretionary release from prison required by law after a criminal offender has served his or her sentence less diminution of confinement credits.

Parole – a discretionary, conditional release from criminal imprisonment granted by the Maryland Parole Commission.

Probation – a disposition under which a court defers imposition of a sentence or suspends the sentence and releases an individual under prescribed terms and rules for a specified period of time. (*Maryland's Criminal and Justice Process*, Maryland General Assembly Legislative Handbook Series, Volume IX, 2002.)

mental health issues. They must maintain accurate and complete records of the offenders' behavior and adjustment to supervision including detailed case planning and risk assessment criteria. Agents prepare reports for the courts and the Maryland Parole Commission to advise them of changes to an offender's status, the need for a modification to or imposition of special conditions and failure to comply with the conditions of supervision. Agents also represent the Division and present testimony at violation proceedings before the courts and the Maryland Parole Commission. In addition, agents function as full-time investigators and conduct pre-sentence, pre-parole and other investigations for the Maryland Parole Commission, the courts, and other criminal justice agencies.

Drinking driver monitors oversee the conduct of offenders through frequent in-person office visits and testing for continued substance abuse by administering breath analysis and urinalysis tests. Drinking driver monitors supply the courts and MVA with information essential to making a determination to initiate violation of probation court proceedings or administrative hearings or modification of special conditions of supervision. The monitor's experience and observations of an offender's behavior that indicate a relapse and non-compliance with conditions of probation and treatment programs are essential to achieving the goals of offender recovery and safer highways.

For community supervision to succeed in all Maryland communities, it needs to be in the community working with offenders and building partnerships with the people who live in the neighborhoods. This basic philosophy is the genesis for the Proactive Community Supervision (PCS) strategy that the Division of Parole and Probation has begun to implement. PCS is expected to make communities safer by reducing recidivism, improving offender outcomes, and improving the delivery of services to victims. It is a comprehensive community-based approach to parole and probation supervision with three objectives:

- Protect public safety;
- Hold offenders accountable to victims and the community; and
- Help offenders become responsible and productive.

Under the PCS strategy, the agent's role is to be the impetus for change as well as the means for returning the offender to custody. The goal is to ensure that the agent uses effective intervention tools to achieve public safety. It will take a number of years to implement PCS throughout the State. Phase I includes Caroline County, Silver Spring, Hyattsville, and the Mondawmin area of Baltimore City.

Effective supervision reduces recidivism and diminishes the crime-fighting demands on local law enforcement agencies. The Division of Parole and Probation has made great efforts to change the way it does business and reinvent community supervision. The Division is proud to be an innovative agency that looks for fresh ideas to improve its delivery of services to the public.