

HEROIN HEARING TALKING POINTS

The current state of County Probation and Parole: Statistics reflecting the incredible increase in caseload size and percentage of those with drug/alcohol problems.

CASELOAD SIZE		NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	
2005	7235	2005	59
2015	12,655	2005	71
Increase	5,420 Offenders	Increase	12 Officers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects an increase of 452 offenders per 1 officer position added • 5 of the new officers were to expand York County's Problem Solving Courts and 1 was for the Interstate Caseload to assist with the new Interstate Compact rules. 			
Current ratio of Probation Officers to Offenders is 1/178			

APPA 2006 RECOMMENDED CASELOAD SIZE		
Caseload Type	APPA Caseload Size	Current York County Caseload Size
Intensive (Very High Risk Offenders)	20	52
Moderate to High Risk	50	115 to 189

According to 2012 statistics from the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the total correctional population is 6,937,600, with 4,794,000 individuals on probation or under parole supervision, and drug law violations accounting for the most common type of criminal offense (Glaze and Herberman 2013). In a survey of State and Federal prisoners, BJS estimated that about half of the prisoners met Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM) criteria for drug abuse or dependence, and yet fewer than 20 percent who needed treatment received it (Chandler et al. 2009; Mumola and Karberg 2006). I would say this is true of Pennsylvania and York County.

In February 2015, the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee produced a Report on Funding County Adult Probation Services: A few highlights of this report include:

- ***The large majority (86 percent) of all probation and parole cases are under County jurisdiction (p. 2).***
- ***Many new responsibilities have been placed on county probation and parole offices in the last 10 years, with little or no additional funding (pp. 8-20).***
 - emphasis on evidence-based practices, many of which are labor intensive;
 - registration provisions of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act
 - monitoring ignition interlock devices for certain DWI offenders covered under Leandra's law;

- Collecting DNA samples from offenders; and various reporting requirements from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.
- ***The cost of probation is far lower than the cost of incarceration (p. 28).*** The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole reports that the cost of incarceration in a state correctional institution in FY 2014-15 is \$41,100 a year, compared to cost of \$3,348 per offender supervised by the PA Board of Probation and Parole. This contrasts to costs of about \$1,000 per offender in the county probation and parole system.
- ***Evidence-based practices hold the promise of lowering recidivism rates (pp. 40-42). While EBP hold the promise of lowering recidivism by addressing individuals criminogenic needs, they require more time and training in order to implement them effectively.*** Certain probation and parole practices, such as conducting an actuarial risk assessment to determine the risk an offender poses and making efforts to enhance an offender's intrinsic motivation, have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing recidivism rates. Almost all counties are using at least some of the practices, but are limited in their ability to do so by resource constraints.

I give you this information because it's important to understand that it is most cost effective to manage offenders at the county level; however, the appropriate funding and resources must follow to allow County Probation Departments to effectively supervise these individuals, including funding for probation officers, implementation of EBP, which is proven to reduce recidivism, and funding for treatment. Clearly the increased caseload from 2005 to 2015 reflects the increased number of individuals entering the criminal justice system with addictions. It is estimated that at least 80% of those on County supervision are a result of drug and/or alcohol addition, mental health needs or both. County probation officers struggle to address the issues of drug addiction due to large caseload sizes and lack of affordable treatment, excessive insurance copays and/or lack of treatment availability. It is more cost effective to provide treatment in the community than it is to incarcerate individuals, but resources must be made available.

One of the areas where the County Criminal Justice Advisory Board has chosen to focus efforts recently is around Reentry from jails:

Research by the U.S. Department of Justice and other sources indicates the highest risk for offender recidivism occurs during the first three (3) to nine (9) months after release from jails and prisons. Additionally, high risk offenders require significantly more structure and services during this time frame. "40%-70% of an offender's free time should be clearly occupied with delineated routine and appropriate services." Often individuals receive incomplete or uncoordinated reentry plans or plans are not enforced appropriately resulting in negative outcomes.

Not only is it important to wrap services around individuals immediately after parole to reduce recidivism, but this is also the time when individuals are most likely to relapse into their drug addiction and die from overdoses.

York County received a grant from PCCD to complete a strategic plan to better address and wrap services around individuals returning from jail to the community. This involves the creation of a Community Reentry Coalition to partner with the Criminal Justice Advisory Board member agencies to step up services and address offender's needs in the community.

York County Problem Solving Courts: Policies and practices and outcomes, in 2014

I'd like to close with a review of the York County Adult Problem Solving Courts, which are specially designed accountability courts to intensively address individual's drug and alcohol or mental health needs in the community. York has 4 adult courts: Drug, DUI, Veterans and Mental Health Court.

	No. of Graduates	No. of Jail Days Saved	Cost Saved in Jail Days ⁽¹⁾	Average Cost to Participate in Treatment Court ⁽²⁾	Total Cost Savings ⁽³⁾
Drug Court	35	8,198	\$680,434	\$386,159.55	\$294,274.45
Mental Health Court	17	7,699	\$639,017	\$187,563.21	\$451,453.79
DUI Court	85	14,610	\$1,212,630	\$937,816.05	\$274,813.95
Vets Court	14	2,302	\$191,066	\$154,463.82	\$36,602.18
Total	151	32,809	\$2,663,147	\$1,666,002.63	\$1,057,144.37

⁽¹⁾ Average jail cost per day: \$83.

⁽²⁾ Average Treatment Court cost per participant: \$11,033.13

⁽³⁾ Total cost savings utilizing Treatment Courts vs. traditional sanctions.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

April J. Billet-Barclay
 Director of Probation Services
 Administrative Office of the York County Courts
Ajbillet-barclay@yorkcountypa.gov