

GACC CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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Chapter 12
Community Corrections

Chapter Objectives:

1. Define community corrections and identify the goals and responsibilities of community corrections agencies and their staff
2. Define probation and summarize the research findings on recidivism rates.
3. Distinguish parole from probation
4. Explain the functions of a parole board.
5. Describe how intermediate sanctions differ from traditional community corrections programs.
6. Explain two major concerns about intensive-supervision probation and parole (ISP).
7. Explain what day reporting centers and structured fines are.
8. Explain what home confinement and electronic monitoring are.
9. Identify the goal of halfway houses and compare them with other community corrections programs.
10. Summarize the purpose and outcomes of temporary-release programs

Lecture Outline

I. Community Corrections: Definition and Scope

A. Community corrections can be broadly defined as the subfield of corrections consisting of programs in which offenders are supervised and provided services outside jail or prison.

B. Goals and Staff Roles: Community corrections has traditionally emphasized rehabilitation as the goal of corrections.

C. The Importance of Community Corrections: The importance of community corrections is realized when one examines the number of people under

supervision in the criminal justice system. There are simply too many people to put them all in prison. The budget of the United States could not afford to put everyone in prison who violate the law. Other methods of dealing with the offender must be found or the entire system will come grinding to a halt.

II. Probation:

A sentence in which the offender, rather than being incarcerated, is retained in the community under the supervision of a probation agency and required to abide by certain rules and conditions to avoid incarceration.

Diversion: Organized, systematic efforts to remove individuals from further processing in criminal justice by placing them in alternative programs; diversion may be pretrial or posttrial.

A. Historical Context: The origins of modern probation lie in the efforts of John Augustus (1785-1859), a Boston shoemaker, who is considered the “father” of probation. Starting in the early 1840s, Augustus volunteered to stand bail and assume custody for select, less serious offenders in exchange for the judge’s deferring the sentence. Augustus was responsible for monitoring offenders’ activities and later reporting to the judge on their performance in the community.

B. Administration: Probation administration varies throughout the country. Some probation agencies operate at the state level, others operate at the local or county level.

C. Process and Procedures

1. Placement of an offender on probation by a judge.
2. Supervision and service delivery for the probationer by probation officers.
3. Termination of the probation.

D. Presentence Investigation, (PSI): An investigation conducted by a probation agency or other designated authority at the request of a court into the past behavior, family circumstances, and personality of an adult who has been convicted of a crime, to assist the court in determining the most appropriate sentence.

E. Conditions of probation: Probation conditions are rules that specify what an offender is and is not to do during the course of a probation sentence.

F. Restitution: Money paid or services provided to victims, their survivors, or the community by a convicted offender to make up for the injury inflicted. Quite often, a person on probation will be ordered to pay some type of restitution to the person they harmed.

G. Termination of Probation:

1. Revocation: The repeal of a probation sentence or parole, and substitution of a more restrictive sentence, because of violation of probation or parole conditions.
2. Technical Violation: Failure to abide by the technical rules or conditions of probation or parole, as distinct from commission of a new criminal act.

H. Issues in Probation:

1. Probation Fees
2. Legal Issues: Confidentiality and Privacy
3. Caseload and Recidivism

III. Parole

A method of prison release whereby inmates are released at the discretion of a board or other authority before having completed their entire sentences; can also refer to the community supervision received upon release.

A. Historical Context

1. Captain Alexander Machonochie, Ticket of Leave
2. Sir Walter Crofton

B. Administration

1. Parole Board
2. Parole Field Service Agency

C. Process and Procedures

1. The Parole Board: Release and Termination
2. Parole Guidelines

D. Parole Issues

1. Legal Issues
 - a. Parolee's civil rights
 - b. Liabilities of parole officials
2. Strained Parole Resources
3. Parole Adjustment and Recidivism

IV. Intermediate Sanctions

- A. Intensive-Supervision Probation and Parole (ISP)
- B. Day Reporting Centers
- C. Structured Fines, or Day Fines
- D. Home Confinement and Electronic Monitoring
- E. Halfway Houses
- F. Temporary-Release Programs

Lecture Tip: Each community has different types of intermediate sanctions with various names to describe those facilities. Invite a Criminal Judge or a Defense Attorney to your class and ask them about alternative sentencing and what programs are available in your community.

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Which do you think is more beneficial to society: community corrections or prison? Why?

Answer: Answers will vary depending on the offender and the offense. For serious and chronic criminals, prison is the preferred choice. For offenders whose offenses are less serious and who can be rehabilitated, community corrections may be the best alternative.