



# Colorado Probation Fact Sheet

OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF PROBATION SERVICES

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Colorado Probation is an important piece in the criminal justice system. It provides the court and the community with an alternative to incarceration for adults and juveniles who commit crimes. In FY08:

- Colorado Probation provided community supervision for over 50,000 adult and juvenile offenders (state active count 6/30/08).
- Colorado probation also provided monitoring for over 18,000 adults convicted of a DUI/DWAI.
- An additional 20,000 adults were supervised or monitored by private probation (DUI/DWAI and non DUI/DWAI private active count 6/30/08).
- More than 15,000 pre-sentence investigation reports were prepared for the court.
- More than 27,000 alcohol/drug evaluations were completed for the court by the Alcohol and Drug Driving Safety Program (ADDS).
- More than 62% of offenders terminated successfully from regular probation (59% of adults and 72% of juveniles), fulfilling their court orders and terms of probation.
- Intensive programs (designated for high-risk adult, juvenile, sex offender and female offenders) successfully diverted 1,144 offenders from incarceration.
- Almost 17,000 victims of crime were notified by probation staff of their rights as designated in the Victim Rights Amendment enacted in 1993.
- Over 27 million dollars in restitution was collected and distributed to victims.
- An additional 27.8 million dollars was collected for victim assistance and compensations funds.
- Over 5.7 million dollars in fees and surcharges was collected and used to assist probationers with court-ordered treatment and services.

Probation staff are part of the state judicial system administered from the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) but managed locally by a Chief Probation Officer (CPO) in each of the 22 judicial districts.

Probation Officers in Colorado are required to hold a Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university with major course work preferably in Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work or related fields. They bring diverse skills and expertise to the criminal justice system.

- All new probation officers receive 75 hours of basic training on the research, laws, policies and practices that apply to their caseload types. Annually, probation officers are required to complete 40 hours of training on the national, state or local level to update their knowledge base and add specialized training in areas such as domestic violence, sex offender supervision and technology.
- Research helps probation officers determine which kinds of interventions are most likely to work for different types of offenders. Treatment works if properly matched to offender needs and case specifics. Assessment tools are used to determine risk and need, then a personalized case management plan is developed accordingly. These evidence-based practices help insure tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively.
- The Division of Probation Services (DPS) which operates in the State Court Administrator's Office works with the probation departments to make certain assessments and case management strategies are conducted in accordance with policy. DPS develops and publishes guidelines and standards for regular probation and all intensive probation programs. Within the limits of statute and these state standards, each district may develop and structure programs that address the needs of the local court and the community.

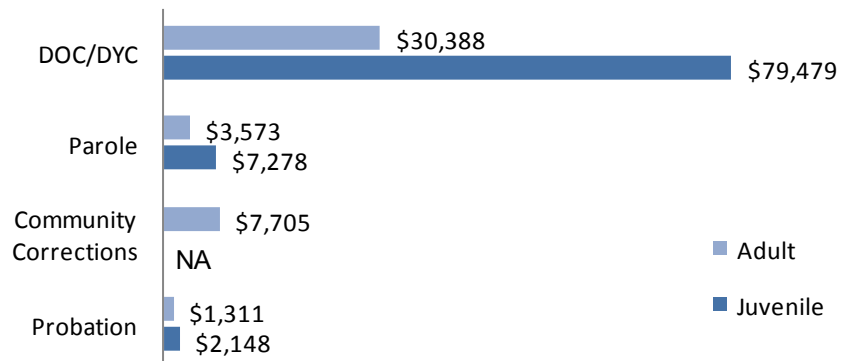
# The Dollars and Sense of Probation

Probation provides an opportunity for an offender to remain in the community with conditions. Many probationers support themselves and their families, contribute taxes, pay restitution and have access to a greater variety of treatment, education and training options than those offenders who are incarcerated.

The cost of corrections is directly related to the level of confinement of each sentencing option.

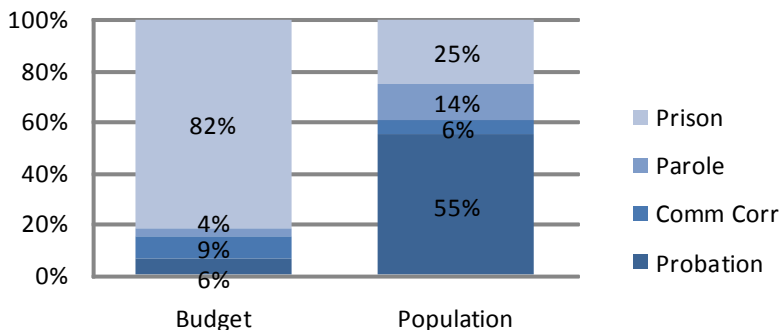
As Probation is community-based and the least restrictive, it is also the least expensive option.

## Annual Cost of Sentencing Options Per Offender FY2008



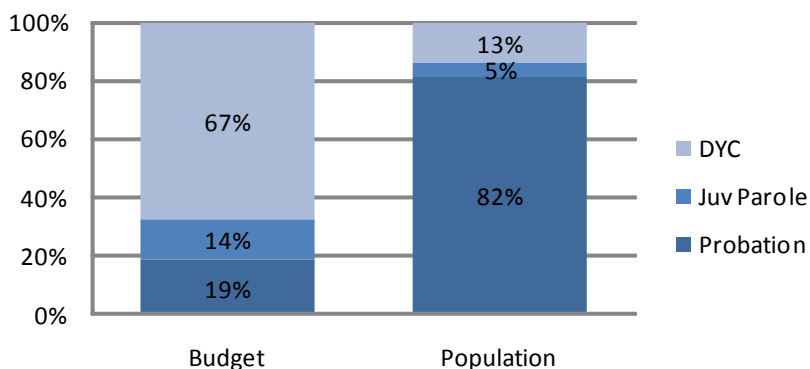
Source: DYC; DOC: Office of Planning & Analysis; DCJ: Office of Community Corrections; Division of Probation Services

## Adult Corrections Population Compared to General Fund Allocation for FY2008



Each of the correction agencies receives funding as determined by the legislature. General fund budget appropriations are distributed as shown in these charts (other dollars may be available through grants, cash funds, etc.). Relatively limited funding per offender is available outside correctional institutions. All correctional agencies would benefit from an increase in money used for treatment and other services to work with offenders, either in place of incarceration or to assist in re-entry after incarceration.

## Juvenile Corrections Population Compared to General Fund Allocation for FY2008



**PROBATION IS A COST-EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.**

Source: Budgets: FY2008 Long Bill general and treatment funds only. Populations: Judicial Annual Statistical Report 2008 (active caseload), DCJ Colorado Correctional Populations Detail Report (6/30/08) and the Office of Research and Evaluation, Division of Youth Corrections