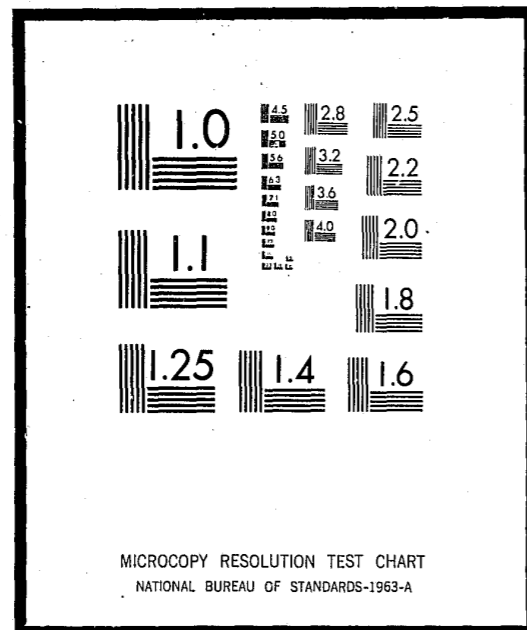


NCJRS

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed 5/29/75

INCREASE ADULT PROBATION

INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT

JANUARY, 1973 - DECEMBER, 1973

Funded: March 26, 1973

The Increase Adult Probation project was implemented as an effort to alleviate the overload of probationers assigned to probation officers in Dallas County. Prior to project implementation (January 1, 1973) there were 24 probation officers who were assigned an average probationer load of 290 persons whereas Article 42.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure recommends an average caseload of 75 probationers or less per probation officer. Due to this overload of probationers, probation officers had little time to meet with or counsel individual probationers, hence effective supervision of probationers was impossible. Probation officers were oftentimes unaware of the individual problems of probationers such as alcoholism, unemployment, emotional disorders, drug addiction, etc. which were in many cases contributory causes to their aberrant behavior.

In recognition of this problem of ineffective supervision and with the belief that the necessary community resources are available to aid in "rehabilitation" of probationers, the Dallas County Probation Department designed and implemented the Increase Adult Probation program with program components offering the following services to probationers in the Dallas community:

1. Employment Program: To expand employment opportunities for probationers.
2. Volunteer Program: To promote greater community interest in the Adult Probation Department.
3. Community Resources Program: To complement the employment program and to make the probationer aware of places he may go for help if he has a particular problem, i. e., alcoholism, drug addiction, etc.
4. Psychological Testing: To provide psychological testing as an integral part of pre-trial investigation to help determine if an individual is a "good risk" for probation or if further mental or physical treatment is needed.

68951

Project Implementation

During the fourth quarter of project operation, the remaining personnel vacancies were filled which brought the professional staff to a total of 64 probation officers; 2 employment counselors, 1 volunteer coordinator, 1 community resources coordinator and 1 psychologist are considered to be probation officers and are included in this staff total (64). In addition to the 64 probation officers, the program also retains 2 transfer officers who are assigned probationers transferred to Dallas from other jurisdictions.

Evaluation Analysis: Project Objectives and Fourth Quarter Accomplishments

Operational periods as referred to:

- Quarter 1 - January - March, 1973
- Quarter 2 - April - June, 1973
- Quarter 3 - July - September, 1973
- Quarter 4 - October - December, 1973

Project Objective #1: To reduce caseloads from 290 to 178 by December 31, 1973; to 155 by December 31, 1974 and maintain that level in 1975.

The caseloads per probation officer have been reduced from an average of 290 probationers per officer before project implementation to an average of 98 probationers per officer at the end of the first year of project operation. The objective of a decrease in officer caseload projected for the first year of project operation has been successfully met; in fact, the probationer caseload per officer is substantially lower for the end of the fourth quarter of 1973 (from 290 to 98), than the projected caseload decrease for the end of the fourth quarter of 1974 (from 290 to 155). Therefore, according to fourth quarter statistics, the overall caseload per probation officer for the first year of project operation was reduced by 66.21% (from 290 to 98) from 1972 caseloads. Table I shows probation caseload figures and the number of probationers for each quarter of 1973 as compared to the 1972 baseline.

TABLE I

<u>Year/Quarter</u>	<u>Average Caseload**</u>	<u>Number of Probationers</u>	<u>PROBATION CASELOAD</u>	
			<u>Change in Average Caseload from 1972 Baseline</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Percent</u>
*1972, 4th	290	6,867	---	---
1973, 1st	130	6,370	- 160	- 55.17
1973, 2nd	111	7,276	- 179	- 61.72
1973, 3rd	105	7,452	- 185	- 63.79
1973, 4th	98	7,467	- 192	- 66.21

* Baseline

**Caseload figures are based on the average number of active cases carried by the field officers of each court. Cases in an inactive status and those requiring only annual status update fall under the supervision of the court supervisors and are not calculated into the caseload figure.

Project Objective #2: To provide a minimum of 120 employment interviews and referrals to prospective employers each month and to secure placements for a minimum of 20 each month.

During the fourth quarter, efforts of the employment counselors enabled the employment program to be successful in terms of accomplishment of project objective #2. The number of actual employment interviews conducted during the fourth quarter was 589, which surpassed the original project objective of 360 interviews per quarter; the fourth quarter interview total represents a 63.61% increase over the original interview objective. Employment referrals also increased this quarter from original project objectives; 692 actual referrals were made for probationers which represented a 92.22% increase over the planned 360 referrals per quarter. Actual job placements were made for 114 probationers as compared with the planned figure of 60 placements per quarter; this represents a 90% increase over job placement objectives.

Considering the accomplishments of the employment program over the entire first year of project operation, statistics presented in Tables II, III and IV show that this project phase has well-exceeded its planned objectives. Table II shows that the year-end project figure for employment interviews surpasses the planned objective by 46.60% (2,111 vs. 1440). Figures in Table III show that the actual number of 1973 employment referrals was 2,206 as opposed to the planned 1440, representing a 53.19% increase over the objective. Employment placements for 1973 numbered 459 as compared with the expected 240 placements, constituting a 91.25% increase over the projected number.

TABLE II

OBJECTIVE 2
EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEWS - 1973

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Planned Interviews</u>	<u>Actual Interviews</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent of Difference</u>
1st	360	436	+ 76	+21.11
2nd	360	518	+158	+43.89
3rd	360	568	+208	+57.78
4th	360	589	+229	+63.61
TOTAL 1973	<u>1440</u>	<u>2111</u>	<u>+671</u>	<u>+46.60</u>

TABLE III

EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS - 1973

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>No. Referrals Planned</u>	<u>Actual Referrals</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent of Difference</u>
1st	360	364	+ 4	+ 1.11
2nd	360	520	+160	+44.44
3rd	360	630	+270	+75.00
4th	360	692	+332	+92.22
TOTAL 1973	<u>1440</u>	<u>2206</u>	<u>+766</u>	<u>+53.19</u>

TABLE IV

EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENTS - 1973

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Planned Number of Placements</u>	<u>Actual Placements</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent of Difference</u>
1st	60	97	+ 37	+ 61.67
2nd	60	126	+ 66	+110.00
3rd	60	122	+ 62	+103.00
4th	60	114	+ 54	+ 90.00
TOTAL 1973	<u>240</u>	<u>459</u>	<u>+219</u>	<u>+91.25</u>

Project Objective #3: To enlist a minimum of 100 volunteer probation officers who will be assigned on a one-to-one basis to work with probated adult felons outside the probation offices by December 31, 1973.

Volunteer Program

The coordinator of the volunteer program has recruited 122 volunteers as compared with the year-end project goal for recruitment of 100 volunteers. By the end of the third quarter, only 40 volunteers had been recruited for this program phase, hence, 82 volunteers were recruited in the fourth quarter alone.

Although the recruitment portion of this objective has obviously been met, data is not currently available from the project to assess the progress made in volunteer activities. Since the utilization of these volunteers is expected to yield positive results in departmental efficiency, future evaluation reports will discuss their assignments and contributions to overall project results.

TABLE V

VOLUNTEER PROBATION OFFICERS - 1973

<u>Number of Officers Planned</u>	<u>Actual Number Enlisted</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent Difference</u>
100	122	+ 22	+ 22.0

Project Objective #4: To refer a minimum of 30 probationers each month to community counseling programs (Alcoholics Anonymous, Mental Health, Mental Retardation, etc.)

Community Resources Program

Table VI reflects that a total of 441 probationers received assistance from the Community Resources Program in the fourth quarter, exceeding the quarterly objective by 411 counseling referrals.

In relation to yearly accomplishments of the community resources program, 1009 actual referrals were made as compared with the objective of 120 referrals or a 740.83 percent improvement over the planned number.

TABLE VI

OBJECTIVE 4

PROBATIONERS REFERRED TO COMMUNITY COUNSELING PROGRAMS

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Planned Referrals</u>	<u>Actual Referrals</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent Difference</u>
1st	30	80*	+ 50	+ 166.67
2nd	30	163	+133	+ 443.33
3rd	30	325	+295	+ 983.33
4th	30	441	+411	+1370.00
1973 TOTAL	120	1009	+889	+ 740.83

*Estimated

Project Objective #5: To provide psychological testing during pre-sentence investigation for all Impact offenders.

Table VII displays statistics for the last three quarters of 1973 indicating numbers of offenders given psychological tests. (Data for the first quarter are not available) Tests are administered to determine an offender's probabilities of successfully completing his probation, i.e., whether he should be placed on probation, incarcerated or otherwise treated for mental or physical disorders.

Early in the project, it was recognized that in the interest of time and resources, priority would need to be established in determining which offenders would be tested and in what order of emphasis.

First priority, as indicated in the objective, is to test Impact offenders from the City of Dallas ("true" Impact offenders).

Other offenders, charged with Impact-type crimes and Impact-related crimes such as drug offenses, child abusers, etc. including those arrested in jurisdictions within Dallas County, but outside the City of Dallas are included in the second category of offenders tested, referred to in Table VII as "selected" non-Impact offenders.

The data indicates an increase in the numbers of tests administered and that "true" Impact offenders are being given priority. Effectiveness of this effort will be treated in subsequent evaluations of the project.

TABLE VII - OBJECTIVE 5

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS

YEAR	QUARTER	TOTAL NO. OFFENDERS GRANTED PROBATION	TOTAL NO. OF IMPACT OFFENDERS COUNTY-WIDE	NO. OF DALLAS COUNTY IMPACT OFFENDERS EXCLUDING CITY OF DALLAS	NO. OF TRUE IMPACT OFFENDERS (CITY)	NO. OF TRUE IMPACT OFFENDERS TESTED	NO. OF "SELECTED" NON-IMPACT OFFENDERS TESTED	TOTAL NO. OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS ADMINISTERED TO PROBATIONERS
1973	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1973	2	778	155	92	63	63	19	82
1973	3	653	163	85	78	78	8	86
1973	4	799	129	18	111	111	29	140

Project Objectives 6 & 8: Computer Information Development

Objective #6: To remove known repeat offender probationers from the community by aid of the Regional Adult Probation Computer System.

Objective #8: To provide computer-prepared reports to probation officers to assist them in identifying "high risk" probationers.

Computer Information Development

All computer programs required to accomplish objectives 6 and 8 have not been completed as of the end of the first year of project operation. These efforts will be continued into the second year of the project. However, two types of computerized report data are now available through the Regional Adult Probation Computer System. The first type of report provides the following data on felony probationers filed both by their name and by probating court:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Employment status
4. If the probationer is an Impact offender, this is indicated by the word "Impact".
5. Probationer's last reporting date
6. Delinquent probation fees

The second type of available information pertains to the identification of probationers as repeat offenders. If an individual is arrested by the Dallas Police Department, officers may make a record check on the offender by inquiring into the NCIC system. The inquiry automatically searches county, state and national files to determine if the individual is on probation, wanted for other offenses, etc.

Project Objective #7: To establish training curricula and schedules in order to provide an average of 10 hours of in service training for each probation officer by December 31, 1973, and 20 hours by December 31, 1974.

Training and Manpower

A total of 1,472 manhours of training were conducted for 64 probation officers averaging 23 manhours of training per probation officer which exceeds both 1973 and 1974 project objectives. In-service training is composed of 80 actual hours (not manhours) in probation techniques for new probation officers. Probation officers, already working with the Probation Department before this project's implementation, also participate in in-service training. However, the Probation Department holds Saturday workshops periodically for all probation officers to inform upon new counseling techniques and/or counseling requirements and attendance is a departmental requirement.

SUMMARY

After reviewing statistics denoting the progress of each objective in this report, it is obvious that most of the objectives have far exceeded their original goal. In many cases, the third year goal has been attained within the project's first year of implementation.

From these figures, two observations should be noted. First, it appears as if the objectives set out in the original project application were grossly underestimated. This by no means reflects against the Dallas County Adult Probation Department, but is a mere recognition of the fact that project planning and objective setting was undertaken in an area uncharted by other programs.

Secondly, while objectives do appear to have been understated, the project reflects an overall efficiency beyond the expectations of project planners and staff.

Revocations were expected to rise somewhat as the departments computer identification system expanded and as supervision increased. End of the year figures, indicated in Table VIII below, reveal however, that revocations were down from baseline 1972 figures.

TABLE VIII

REVOCATION COMPARISON

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
			<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Number Probationers	6867	6383	- 484	- 7.1
Number Revocations	560	471	- 89	- 15.9
Revocation Rate	8.2	7.4	- 0.8	- 9.8

Formula:

$$\text{Revocation Rate} = \frac{\text{Number Revocations}}{\text{Number Probationers}}$$

Sufficient data to evaluate other aspects of project effectiveness are not available as of this writing, but are being collected and will be included in future reports.

END