

# Research and program evaluation in Illinois: Studies on drug abuse and violent crime

## Results of the 1997 Illinois Adult Probation Outcome Study

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December 1998

**Prepared by**

David E. Olson, Ph.D.

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Senior Scientist, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

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Probation Services Division  
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**Evaluation funded by**  
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**ILLINOIS  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the end of 1997, more than 140,000 adults in Illinois were under some form of correctional supervision. The majority of these offenders--almost 60 percent--were on probation. Despite this substantial number of offenders being supervised in the community, due to the fact that the organization of probation in Illinois relies on county-level administration and operations, relatively little detailed information regarding probationer characteristics or the outcomes of probation cases is available statewide through any existing reporting mechanisms or programs. To fill this void, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Services Division worked with local probation departments to collect detailed case-level data for a sample of individuals discharged from probation in 1997. Specifically, detailed information for all probationers in Illinois discharged during a four week period in November and December 1997 was collected by individual probation officers. As a result of this data collection effort, and the analyses of the data presented in this report, the following general conclusions are offered:

- The majority of adults on probation in Illinois complete their sentence satisfactorily, with no technical violations or rearrests during their period of supervision;
- Certain types of offenders, particularly those convicted of property and drug offenses, those with histories of drug abuse, those with prior involvement in the justice system, and those in their late teens and early 20s, are most likely to be rearrested, have technical violations, and be negatively discharged from probation. There needs to be continued focus on these higher-risk probationers and the establishment/expansion of programs to address their criminal tendencies and special needs;
- A substantial portion of probationers have conditions attached to their sentence of probation, including payments of supervision fees, fines, court costs, restitution, and performance of community service. The satisfaction of these conditions by the majority of probationers not only provides the justice system with substantial revenues to supplement taxpayer funding, but also results in the recovery of losses--by victims through restitution and by the community through court-ordered community service;
- Although not all probationers who are in need of treatment have access to treatment, due to limited availability and program crowding, most of those ordered to treatment as a condition of their probation sentence complete that treatment before the end of their sentence. For many, this was their first opportunity to access treatment, which may have a substantial impact on future criminality. For example, among those probationers who completed their drug treatment, almost 90 percent were perceived by their probation officer as reducing their drug use; and,
- In addition to the positive findings regarding the low levels of probationer rearrest and negative discharge from probation, these data have also provided some indication that during supervision a substantial portion of probationers experienced improvement in various aspects of their personal lives, such as their attitude, employment stability, and family relationships.



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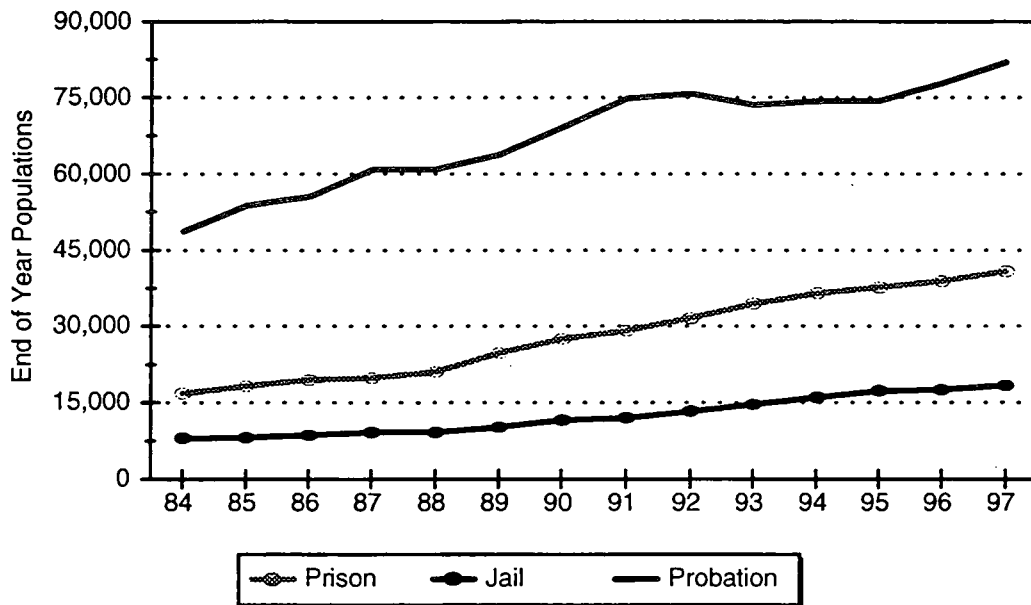




## I. INTRODUCTION

Between 1990 and 1997, the number of adults under correctional supervision in Illinois--including those in prisons, jails and on probation--increased 83 percent, from 76,676 to 140,094. During this period, the number of adults on probation increased 41 percent, from 58,300 to 81,996 (Figure 1). In 1997, probationers accounted for 59 percent of all adults under correctional supervision in Illinois.

Figure 1  
Adults Under Correctional Supervision  
in Illinois, 1984 to 1997



Despite the large number of offenders under probation supervision, very little is known about the outcomes of their probation sentences, such as the completion of court-ordered conditions, rearrest, technical violations, and the reason for discharge from probation. Part of this lack of information is due to the organization of probation in Illinois. Illinois is one of nine states where probation supervision is administered locally by individual probation departments. Thus, the administration of each probation department in Illinois varies according to the needs and resources of each county or

judicial circuit. Although the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' (AOIC) Probation Services Division oversees the provision of probation in Illinois, including the establishment of supervision standards and partial reimbursement for probation officer salaries, there is no existing mechanism in place to collect detailed case-level data on all probationers supervised across the individual departments. As a result, AOIC's Probation Division has only collected aggregate summary data from individual departments on a consistent basis.

In order to provide policy makers and practitioners with some detailed information on the characteristics of probationers in Illinois, AOIC's Probation Division has developed a number of data collection instruments in past years to capture detailed information on samples of Illinois probationers. For example, data were collected on the characteristics of persons sentenced to probation during two months in 1990 and one month in 1995 (See *Illinois Probation Intake Study*, July 1996, available from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority). These data have been extremely helpful in supporting statewide planning and responding to inquiries from state and local policy makers and practitioners about probationer characteristics. The current study used a methodology similar to the previous intake studies but applied it to the collection of information for persons *discharged* from probation during a four week period during November and December 1997.

Every probation officer in Illinois was asked to complete a data collection form for every one of their cases discharged from probation during the four-week study period in November and December 1997. The general types of information collected by probation officers in the outcome study included demographic and socio-economic characteristics of probationers, prior criminal history, the nature of the current offense, types of court-ordered sanctions, performance while on probation, and the outcomes of cases. A copy of the data collection instrument is included in Appendix I. As a result of the data collection effort, detailed information on more than 2,400 individual adult probationers was obtained and analyzed. Due to some differences in data collection procedures by the Cook County Adult Probation Department, data had to be weighted for the statewide and Cook County-specific analyses presented in this report (see Appendix II for a detailed discussion of the weighting methodology).

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority would like to acknowledge the efforts, commitment, and conscientiousness exhibited by all of the individual probation officers and departments throughout Illinois who participated in this study. Without their support and commitment to this project, Illinois' policy makers and criminal justice practitioners would still lack the types of information collected through this study. The result of their efforts on this project will increase the awareness, understanding, and quality of probation services, programs and policy.

## II. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ADULTS EXITING PROBATION IN 1997

### *Demographic Characteristics*

In general, those discharged from adult probation in Illinois during the study period tended to be white males under the age of 31. As summarized in Table 1, over 80 percent of the probationers discharged during the study period statewide were male and more than one-half were white. The age distribution reveals that almost one-half of the probationers discharged during the study period were 30 years old, or younger, with the average age being 31.8 years old. However, there were some differences in the demographic characteristics of probationers discharged in Cook County versus the rest of Illinois. In general, a larger proportion of probationers in Cook County were minorities and they also tended to be slightly older than probationers in the rest of Illinois. Almost two-thirds of discharged probationers in Cook County were non-white, compared to less than one-quarter of probationers in Illinois outside Cook County. The average age of probationers in Cook County was 33 years old, compared to 31.7 years old in the rest of Illinois. Females accounted for a slightly smaller proportion of probationers in Cook County than elsewhere in Illinois (18.9 percent versus 20.5 percent, respectively).

### *Annual Income*

Statewide, almost one-third of adults discharged from probation had annual individual or family incomes of \$5,000 or less, and the majority (63.7 percent) had incomes below \$15,001 per year. This pattern was fairly consistent when probationers in Cook County were compared to those from the rest of Illinois. Almost 61 percent of Cook County adult probationers had an annual income of \$15,000 or less, compared to 66 percent of probationers in the rest of Illinois. Interestingly, a slightly larger proportion of probationers in Cook County had incomes at the two ends of the distribution than was evident in the rest of Illinois. For example, 35.1 percent of Cook County probationers had incomes of \$5,000 or less, compared to 30.7 percent of probationers in the rest of Illinois. On the other hand, almost 19 percent of Cook County probationers had annual incomes greater than \$25,000, compared to 13.4 percent of probationers outside of Cook County.

**Table 1**  
Demographic Characteristics of Adults Discharged  
from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997

|  | <b>Illinois</b> | <b>Cook<br/>County</b> | <b>Illinois Outside<br/>Cook County</b> |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| <b><i>Gender</i></b>                           |                 |                        |   |
| Male   | 80.2%           | 81.1%                  | 79.5%                                   |
| Female   | 19.8%           | 18.9%                  | 20.5%                                   |
| Total  | 100.0%          | 100.0%                 | 100.0%                                  |
| <b><i>Race/Ethnicity</i></b>                   |                 |                        |   |
| White  | 58.2%           | 36.3%                  | 76.5%                                   |
| African-American                               | 28.2%           | 40.8%                  | 17.6%                                   |
| Hispanic                                       | 11.8%           | 20.6%                  | 4.7%                                    |
| Other  | 1.7%            | 2.2%                   | 1.2%                                    |
| Total  | 100.0%          | 100.0%                 | 100.0%                                  |
| <b><i>Age</i></b>                              |                 |                        |   |
| Under 21                                       | 12.7%           | 11.6%                  | 13.6%                                   |
| 21-30 Years old                                | 35.0%           | 32.6%                  | 37.0%                                   |
| 31-40 Years old                                | 31.7%           | 33.2%                  | 30.3%                                   |
| 41 and Over                                    | 20.6%           | 22.6%                  | 19.0%                                   |
| Total  | 100.0%          | 100.0%                 | 100.0%                                  |
| <b><i>Annual Income at Probation Entry</i></b> |                 |                        |   |
| \$5,000 or Less                                | 32.7%           | 35.1%                  | 30.7%                                   |
| \$5,001 to \$15,000                            | 31.0%           | 25.6%                  | 35.3%                                   |
| \$15,001 to \$25,000                           | 20.5%           | 20.5%                  | 20.5%                                   |
| More than \$25,000                             | 15.8%           | 18.9%                  | 13.4%                                   |
| Total  | 100.0%          | 100.0%                 | 100.0%                                  |

### *Prior Involvement in the Juvenile or Criminal Justice System*

Information on the number of prior juvenile adjudications and adult convictions, probation sentences and commitments to either the Illinois Department of Corrections' Juvenile or Adult Division were also collected for each probationer discharged during the 1997 study period. In general, only a small proportion of the discharged adults had prior juvenile adjudications, probation sentences or commitments to the Juvenile Division of the IDOC (Table 2). For example, in Illinois outside of Cook County only about 10 percent of adult probationers had been previously adjudicated delinquent in a juvenile court, less than 10 percent had been placed on juvenile probation, and less than 3 percent had been previously committed to the Juvenile Division of IDOC. However, it is likely that this relatively low level of documented prior involvement in the juvenile justice system may have to do with the current lack of access to information from juvenile court records by probation officers supervising adult probationers. There were differences noted in the extent of prior involvement in the juvenile justice system when Cook County probationers were compared to those in the rest of Illinois, with Cook County probationers having less prior involvement in the juvenile justice system than those outside of Cook County.

In general, documentation of prior formal involvement in the adult justice system--including adult convictions, probation sentences and incarcerations in IDOC--was much more extensive than documentation of prior formal involvement in the juvenile justice system. Almost 39 percent of probationers statewide had at least one prior adult conviction, with the average number of prior convictions per probationer being 1.11. Similarly, almost one-third of probationers statewide had been on probation as an adult prior to the current sentence, and approximately 8 percent had been previously incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections as an adult. As with the differences noted in prior juvenile justice system involvement, probationers outside of Cook County had more extensive formal criminal histories than those supervised in Cook County. For example, almost one-half of probationers outside of Cook County had a prior adult conviction, compared to 26 percent of Cook County probationers.

**Table 2**  
**Prior Juvenile and Criminal Justice System Involvement Among Adults Discharged**  
**from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997**

|   | Illinois | Cook County | Illinois Outside Cook County |
|---|----------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Percent with Prior Juvenile Adjudication    | 7.4%     | 3.3%        | 10.1%                        |
| Percent with Prior Juvenile Probation       | 6.4%     | 2.3%        | 9.7%                         |
| Percent with Prior Juvenile IDOC Commitment | 1.7%     | 0.9%        | 2.2%                         |
| Percent with Prior Adult Conviction         | 38.8%    | 26.0%       | 49.6%                        |
| Average Number                              | 1.11     | .55         | 1.58                         |
| Percent with Prior Adult Probation          | 31.2%    | 25.9%       | 35.7%                        |
| Average Number                              | .52      | .41         | .61                          |
| Percent with Prior Adult IDOC Commitment    | 8.4%     | 6.7%        | 9.8%                         |
| Average Number                              | .14      | .12         | .15                          |

When prior involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice system was considered across the various offense classes (e.g., felony and misdemeanor classes) and offense types (e.g., violent, property, drug and DUI offenses), differences were also evident. In general, those convicted of more serious felony classes (e.g., class 1 and 2 felonies) for the current probation sentence tended to have less extensive criminal histories than those convicted of class 3 and 4 felonies. For example, 30 percent of probationers convicted of a class 1 felony for the current offense had a prior adult conviction, compared to almost 50 percent of those whose current sentence was for a class 4 felony (detail presented in Appendix III). Differences in prior convictions were less dramatic across the aggregate categories of violent, property, drug and DUI offenses. Those serving a probation sentence for a property offense tended to be most likely to have a prior adult conviction (46.5 percent), compared to 30 percent of those being supervised for a DUI (detail presented in Appendix III).

### *Prior Adjudications or Convictions for a Violent Crime*

Although detailed information was not collected through the survey regarding the specific types of offenses these prior convictions, adjudications, or sentences to probation or prison were for, limited information on the extent to which probationers had prior adjudications/convictions specifically for a *violent* crime was collected. On the data collection instrument, probation officers were asked to record if those being discharged from probation had been adjudicated/convicted for a violent crime within the past five years.

Approximately 21 percent of statewide probation discharges did have an adjudication/conviction for a violent offense within 5 years prior to their placement on probation for their current offense.

However, the proportion of probationers with a prior violent conviction/adjudication varied across the current offense categories, and between probationers in Cook County and those in the rest of Illinois (Table 3). Statewide, more than one-half (56.5 percent) of probationers currently serving a sentence for a violent crime had been previously adjudicated/convicted for a violent crime before their current offense, compared to 15.3 percent of those on probation for a property crime and less than 10 percent of those convicted of a drug offense. Comparisons between those probationers discharged from Cook County and the rest of Illinois indicate that a larger proportion of probationers outside of Cook County had prior violent convictions, a pattern consistent across almost all current offense categories.

**Table 3**  
Percent of Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois with Prior Violent Adjudication/Conviction, November-December 1997, by Current Offense Conviction

| Current Offense | Illinois     | Cook County  | Illinois Outside Cook County |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Violent         | 56.5%        | 41.2%        | 65.0%                        |
| Property        | 15.3%        | 9.7%         | 18.2%                        |
| Drug            | 9.3%         | 8.1%         | 11.0%                        |
| DUI             | 9.9%         | 10.7%        | 9.3%                         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>20.9%</b> | <b>15.1%</b> | <b>25.7%</b>                 |



### *History of Alcohol and/or Drug Abuse*

Probation officers were also asked to determine the degree to which the probationers being discharged had any history of alcohol, drug or both drug *and* alcohol abuse. However, differences in the means by which this determination was made should be pointed out, since they may limit the accuracy and ability to generalize the information reported. For example, in some instances this determination of substance abuse may have been based on a formal substance abuse assessment performed on the probationer, most likely done for those who were ordered to treatment as a condition of their probation. For other probationers, however, the determination of a prior history of alcohol or drug abuse may have been based on self-disclosure by the probationer to the probation officer, or the objective/subjective observations or opinions of the probation officer. Indeed, many probation officers did not respond to this question on the data collection instrument. For example, out of the 2,480 cases, 183 did not have anything indicated for “history of alcohol abuse” and 335 did not have anything indicated for “history of drug abuse.” Similarly, for some cases, information was reported indicating a history of alcohol abuse, but not for drug abuse or drug and alcohol abuse. The analyses presented in the following tables are only based on those cases where a “yes” or “no” was indicated for each of the categories of substance abuse history.

Statewide, almost 29 percent of persons discharged from probation had a history of both drug *and* alcohol abuse. An additional 20.8 percent had a history of only alcohol abuse, and approximately 6 percent had a history of only drug abuse. Combining the histories of alcohol, drug, and drug *and* alcohol abuse, more than 55 percent of Illinois probationers discharged during the study period had some history of substance abuse. Differences were noted between probationers in Cook County versus the rest of Illinois when it came to histories of only alcohol abuse and drug *and* alcohol abuse. On the other hand, very little differences between Cook County and the rest of Illinois were evident with respect to histories of only drug abuse.

**Table 4**  
 Prior History of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among Adults Discharged  
 from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997

|   | Illinois     | Cook County  | Illinois Outside of Cook County |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Only Alcohol Abuse                            | 20.8%        | 17.8%        | 23.1%                           |
| Only Drug Abuse                               | 6.4%         | 7.8%         | 5.3%                            |
| Both Drug <i>and</i> Alcohol Abuse            | 28.5%        | 20.2%        | 35.3%                           |
| <b>Total (History of Any Substance Abuse)</b> | <b>55.7%</b> | <b>45.8%</b> | <b>63.7%</b>                    |

In addition to regional differences, the extent of prior histories of alcohol and drug abuse also varied across offense types (Table 5). For example, 85 percent of those convicted of DUI and placed on probation in Illinois were identified by probation officers as having a history of substance abuse, compared to 41 percent of those on probation for a property offense. This difference in the overall substance abuse history among DUI probations can be explained by the high rate of alcohol abuse among these probationers. With respect to any history of drug abuse, those persons convicted of a drug offense exhibited the highest rate--16.2 percent had a history of drug abuse and an additional 39.8 percent had a history of both drug *and* alcohol abuse. This prevalence of drug *and* alcohol abuse among probationers convicted of a drug offense was the highest across the probation offense categories. Almost 40 percent of those on probation for a drug offense had a drug and alcohol abuse history, compared to 24.2 percent of probationers convicted for DUI. As will be seen later (page 20), despite the relatively high rates of drug abuse histories across probationers--either alone or in combination with alcohol--only a portion have drug treatment ordered as a condition of their sentence.

**Table 5**  
 Prior History of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among Adults Discharged  
 from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997, by Current Offense

| Current Offense | History of Only Alcohol Abuse | History of Only Drug Abuse | History of Both Drug & Alcohol Abuse | Any History of Substance Abuse |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Person          | 15.8%                         | 3.2%                       | 27.9%                                | 46.9%                          |
| Property        | 6.9%                          | 6.9%                       | 27.1%                                | 41.0%                          |
| Drug            | 1.1%                          | 16.2%                      | 39.8%                                | 57.0%                          |
| DUI             | 61.0%                         | 0.0%                       | 24.2%                                | 85.1%                          |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>20.8%</b>                  | <b>6.4%</b>                | <b>28.4%</b>                         | <b>55.6%</b>                   |

### III. NATURE OF CURRENT OFFENSE AND SENTENCE

#### *Offense Type*

Table 6, on the following page, summarizes the specific types of offenses, and general offense categories, for which the adults discharged from probation during the study period were convicted and placed on probation. With respect to the specific types of offenses, offenders convicted of DUI accounted for the single largest group of probationers. This pattern was evident statewide, as well as when Cook County and Illinois outside Cook County were examined separately. Almost one-quarter of probationers statewide in Illinois were convicted of DUI. Drug possession was the second largest category of offenses--with almost 18 percent of probationers statewide being convicted of this offense.

When these individual offenses were aggregated into general crime categories--including violent, property offenses, drug offenses or DUI--again, DUI offenses accounted for the single largest category of offenses statewide (24.6 percent), followed by drug and property offenses (Table 6). Slight differences were evident between Cook County and the rest of Illinois, with drug offenses accounting for the single largest category of probationers in Cook County (29.2 percent) and property crimes accounting for the largest proportion of probationers outside of Cook County (25.2 percent).

**Table 6**  
 Current Offense Among Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois,  
 November-December 1997

|                       | <b>Illinois</b> | <b>Cook County</b> | <b>Illinois Outside<br/>Cook County</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Sex Offense           | 2.8%            | 2.5%               | 3.1%                                    |
| Robbery               | 1.0%            | 1.3%               | 0.7%                                    |
| Assault/Battery       | 6.5%            | 4.9%               | 7.8%                                    |
| Domestic Violence     | 5.0%            | 3.9%               | 6.0%                                    |
| Other Violent         | 2.3%            | 1.5%               | 3.0%                                    |
| <b>Total Violent</b>  | <b>17.6%</b>    | <b>13.9%</b>       | <b>20.5%</b>                            |
| Burglary              | 4.6%            | 3.8%               | 5.4%                                    |
| Theft/Larceny         | 9.2%            | 7.0%               | 10.8%                                   |
| Motor Vehicle Theft   | 1.5%            | 2.4%               | 0.8%                                    |
| Arson                 | 0.1%            | 0.0%               | 0.2%                                    |
| Forgery               | 2.1%            | 1.6%               | 2.5%                                    |
| Deceptive Practices   | 1.3%            | 0.3%               | 2.1%                                    |
| Other Property        | 2.5%            | 1.5%               | 3.4%                                    |
| <b>Total Property</b> | <b>21.3%</b>    | <b>16.6%</b>       | <b>25.2%</b>                            |
| Drug Possession       | 17.7%           | 22.9%              | 13.5%                                   |
| Drug Sale             | 4.9%            | 6.2%               | 3.9%                                    |
| <b>Total Drug</b>     | <b>22.6%</b>    | <b>29.2%</b>       | <b>17.4%</b>                            |
| <b>Total DUI</b>      | <b>24.6%</b>    | <b>27.0%</b>       | <b>22.7%</b>                            |
| Prostitution          | 0.2%            | 0.1%               | 0.3%                                    |
| Probation Violation   | 0.4%            | 0.5%               | 0.4%                                    |
| Felony Traffic        | 1.3%            | 0.6%               | 2.0%                                    |
| Other Offenses        | 11.9%           | 12.3%              | 11.7%                                   |
| <b>Total Other</b>    | <b>13.9%</b>    | <b>13.4%</b>       | <b>14.2%</b>                            |

## Offense Class

Statewide, 49.8 percent of the discharged probationers were initially convicted of a felony offense. A larger proportion of probationers in Cook County were convicted of felonies than those outside of Cook County (54.3 percent versus 46 percent, respectively). In addition, a larger proportion of probationers in Cook County were convicted of class 1 felonies when compared to probationers in the rest of Illinois (Table 7). More than one of every five probationers in Cook County (22.9 percent) were convicted of a class 1 felony, compared to less than 4 percent of probationers in the rest of Illinois.

**Table 7**  
Current Offense Class Among Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois,  
November-December 1997

|                          | Illinois      | Cook County   | Illinois Outside of Cook County |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Class 1 Felony           | 12.0%         | 22.9%         | 3.3%                            |
| Class 2 Felony           | 11.6%         | 11.5%         | 11.6%                           |
| Class 3 Felony           | 10.7%         | 8.2%          | 12.6%                           |
| Class 4 Felony           | 15.5%         | 11.7%         | 18.5%                           |
| <b>Total Felony</b>      | <b>49.8%</b>  | <b>54.3%</b>  | <b>46.0%</b>                    |
| Class A Misdemeanor      | 45.4%         | 42.3%         | 48.0%                           |
| Class B Misdemeanor      | 1.3%          | 1.1%          | 1.5%                            |
| Class C Misdemeanor      | 3.2%          | 1.5%          | 4.5%                            |
| <b>Total Misdemeanor</b> | <b>49.8</b>   | <b>44.9%</b>  | <b>54.0%</b>                    |
| Other <sup>1</sup>       | 0.4%          | 0.8%          | Less than 1%                    |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>                   |

<sup>1</sup> Includes Ordinance and Conservation Law Violations

Within the general types of offenses, there were patterns evident with respect to the types of crimes represented within these offense classes. For example, the majority of those placed on probation for a property or drug offense were convicted of felony offenses, whereas more than one-half of those convicted of a violent crime were misdemeanants (Table 8). Almost all (93.3 percent) probationers convicted of DUI committed misdemeanor offenses.

**Table 8**  
Comparison of Offense Type and Felony/Misdemeanor Classification Among Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997

|          | Felony | Misdemeanor | Total  |
|----------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Violent  | 46.6%  | 53.4%       | 100.0% |
| Property | 70.2%  | 29.8%       | 100.0% |
| Drug     | 83.2%  | 16.8%       | 100.0% |
| DUI      | 6.7%   | 93.3%       | 100.0% |

### *Sentence Length*

The length of the probation sentence imposed by the court depends on a number of factors, including the offender's prior criminal history, the nature of the current offense, and the statutorily allowable sentence lengths. Tables 9 and 10 summarize the average sentence imposed by specific offense type and felony/misdemeanor class statewide, as well as separately in Cook County and the rest of Illinois. Offenders convicted and placed on probation for sex crimes, robbery and drug sale offenses had the longest average sentence lengths statewide-- a pattern evident when Cook County and the rest of Illinois were considered separately. Statewide, sex offenders and robbers received average probation sentences of approximately 30 months, while the average probation sentence for those convicted of a drug sale offense was 28.4 months (Table 9). Across the general offense categories of violent, property, drug and DUI offenses, sentences for property and drug offenses averaged 23.2 months, compared to 20.8 months for violent crimes and 16.2 months for DUI. Much of this can be explained by the fact that the majority of drug and property offenses were felonies (see Table 8), which carry longer possible sentence lengths than do misdemeanors.

**Table 9**  
Average Sentence Length Imposed on Adults Discharged from Probation in  
Illinois, November-December 1997, by Offense

|                       | Illinois         | Cook County      | Illinois Outside<br>of Cook County |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sex Offense           | 29.9 mos.        | 23.5 mos.        | 34.1 mos.                          |
| Robbery               | 30.2 mos.        | 26.4 mos.        | 36.6 mos.                          |
| Assault/Battery       | 19.4 mos.        | 17.3 mos.        | 20.4 mos.                          |
| Domestic Violence     | 15.4 mos.        | 14.3 mos.        | 15.9 mos.                          |
| Other Violent         | 22.0 mos.        | 21.5 mos.        | 22.1 mos.                          |
| <b>Total Violent</b>  | <b>20.8 mos.</b> | <b>18.8 mos.</b> | <b>21.9 mos.</b>                   |
| Burglary              | 29.8 mos.        | 26.1 mos.        | 31.9 mos.                          |
| Theft/Larceny         | 20.8 mos.        | 20.8 mos.        | 20.9 mos.                          |
| Motor Vehicle Theft   | 26.8 mos.        | 25.1 mos.        | 31.1 mos.                          |
| Arson                 | 28.0 mos.        | N/A              | 28.0 mos.                          |
| Forgery               | 25.0 mos.        | 25.4 mos.        | 24.8 mos.                          |
| Deceptive Practices   | 19.3 mos.        | 27.1 mos.        | 18.2 mos.                          |
| Other Property        | 18.0 mos.        | 15.6 mos.        | 18.8 mos.                          |
| <b>Total Property</b> | <b>23.2 mos.</b> | <b>22.8 mos.</b> | <b>23.5 mos.</b>                   |
| Drug Possession       | 21.7 mos.        | 21.2 mos.        | 22.4 mos.                          |
| Drug Sale             | 28.4 mos.        | 26.6 mos.        | 31.0 mos.                          |
| <b>Total Drug</b>     | <b>23.2 mos.</b> | <b>22.4 mos.</b> | <b>24.3 mos.</b>                   |
| <b>Total DUI</b>      | <b>16.2 mos.</b> | <b>16.6 mos.</b> | <b>15.8 mos.</b>                   |
| Prostitution          | 17.1 mos.        | N/A              | 19.2 mos.                          |
| Probation Violation   | 16.7 mos.        | 21.9 mos.        | 12.0 mos.                          |
| Felony Traffic        | 21.0 mos.        | 19.8             | 21.3 mos.                          |
| Other Offenses        | 16.9 mos.        | 18.1 mos.        | 15.8 mos.                          |
| <b>Total Other</b>    | <b>17.3 mos.</b> | <b>18.2 mos.</b> | <b>16.5 mos.</b>                   |



Analyses of average sentence length were also performed separately for each felony/misdemeanor class (Table 10). Also included in Table 10 are the statutorily allowable sentence lengths for each felony/misdemeanor offense class. While it is clear that longer average sentence lengths were imposed on higher felony classes and higher misdemeanor class offenses, there are some exceptions to this when Cook County and the rest of Illinois are compared. For example, the average probation sentence imposed on those convicted of a class 2 felony statewide was 28.8 months, compared to 23.1 months for class 4 felonies and 15.5 months for class A misdemeanors (Table 10). Statewide, however, probationers convicted of a class 1 felony received an average sentence length of 25 months, which was lower than that imposed on less serious, class 2 felonies. Part of this may be explained by the types of offenses included among the class 1 felony convictions in Cook County versus the rest of Illinois. In Cook County, only 15 percent of the class 1 felony probationers were convicted of violent offenses, compared to more than 41 percent of those convicted of a class 1 felony in the rest of Illinois. Thus, the lower average probation sentence lengths imposed in Cook County versus the rest of Illinois is most likely due to the nature of the class 1 felony offenses, with a larger proportion of Cook County class 1 felony probationers being convicted of drug and property offenses.

**Table 10**  
Average Sentence Length Imposed on Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997, by Offense Class

|                     | Illinois           | Cook County        | Illinois Outside of Cook County | Statutory Range |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Class 1 Felony      | 25.0 months        | 23.3 months        | 34.2 months                     | Up to 48 months |
| Class 2 Felony      | 28.8 months        | 24.6 months        | 32.3 months                     | Up to 48 months |
| Class 3 Felony      | 24.5 months        | 23.6 months        | 25.0 months                     | Up to 30 months |
| Class 4 Felony      | 23.1 months        | 21.6 months        | 23.9 months                     | Up to 30 months |
| Class A Misdemeanor | 15.5 months        | 15.5 months        | 15.4 months                     | Up to 24 months |
| Class B Misdemeanor | 14.6 months        | 17.0 months        | 13.1 months                     | Up to 24 months |
| Class C Misdemeanor | 12.6 months        | 10.8 months        | 12.8 months                     | Up to 24 months |
| Other <sup>1</sup>  |                    |                    | 18.0 months                     |                 |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>20.2 months</b> | <b>19.8 months</b> | <b>20.6 months</b>              |                 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes Ordinance and Conservation Law Violations

### *Court-Ordered Conditions of Probation*

Under Illinois law, the courts have several sentencing options. Depending on the offense, these options may be used singularly or in combination, and include restitution to victims, community service, random drug testing, mandatory treatment, supervision fees, court costs, and payment of various fines. However, the degree to which these additional sanctions are imposed varies across the types of offenses for which probationers were convicted.

Most offenders discharged during the study period initially received a sentence of probation (86.5 percent), while 11.2 percent received a sentence of court supervision and 2.3 percent were conditionally discharged. The primary differences between the types of sentences received--probation, court supervision and conditional discharge--have to do with the reporting requirements, the extent to which the case results in a criminal history record, and what conditions need to be satisfied by the offender for the case to be discharged. Data from offenders placed on probation, supervision and conditional discharge were used in all the previous and subsequent analyses.

### *Fees, Fines, Restitution, and Community Service*

Statewide, more than one-half of all adults discharged from probation during the study period were ordered to pay court costs and supervision fees, and almost one-half were ordered to pay fines (Table 11). However, there were considerable differences noted with respect to orders to pay court costs, supervision fees and fines between probationers in Cook County versus the rest of Illinois. For example, more than 80 percent of probationers discharged from outside of Cook County were ordered to pay court costs, compared to less than 17 percent of probationers in Cook County. These differences were evident despite very little differences between probationers in Cook County and the rest of Illinois with respect to annual income levels (See Table 1). Approximately one-quarter of probationers statewide were ordered to perform community service hours, with little difference noted between Cook County and the rest of Illinois with respect to this condition of probation. In general, restitution was ordered in only a small proportion of cases. This is primarily due to the victimless nature of many of the crimes for which persons on probation were convicted--DUI and drug

possession. When restitution was ordered, it usually took the form of payment to victims for out-of-pocket expenses, losses or damages.

**Table 11**  
Percent of Adult Probationers With Additional Sanctions Imposed, November-December 1997

|                                 | Illinois | Cook County | Illinois Outside of Cook County |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Community Service Hours Ordered | 23.4%    | 24.8%       | 22.5%                           |
| Court Costs Ordered             | 52.2%    | 16.5%       | 81.5%                           |
| Supervision Fees Ordered        | 54.6%    | 38.3%       | 68.2%                           |
| Fines Ordered                   | 48.4%    | 29.1%       | 64.5%                           |
| Restitution Ordered             | 13.4%    | 7.1%        | 18.5%                           |

### *Treatment and Urinalysis*

In addition to ordering probationers to pay fees, fines, restitution, and perform community service, judges can also order probationers to participate in various treatment programs. Statewide, approximately one-half of all probationers had some form of treatment ordered as part of their sentence. The most frequent type of treatment ordered was for alcohol abuse, with 37 percent of probationers statewide ordered to alcohol abuse treatment (Table 12). A relatively small proportion of probationers in Illinois--less than 4 percent--had mental health treatment ordered as a condition of probation. Across all types of treatment ordered, a larger proportion of probationers outside of Cook County had treatment ordered as a condition of probation than did those in Cook County. In addition, more than one-quarter of probationers statewide were ordered to drug or alcohol testing through urinalysis. Urinalysis as a condition of probation was three-times more likely outside of Cook County than among Cook County probationers; 37.1 percent versus 11.3 percent, respectively.

**Table 12**  
**Percent of Adult Probationers Ordered to Treatment and Urinalysis,**  
**by Illinois Region, November-December 1997**

|                                    | Illinois | Cook County | Illinois Outside of Cook County |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Any Treatment Ordered <sup>1</sup> | 50.5%    | 43.9%       | 56.0%                           |
| Alcohol                            | 37.4%    | 32.8%       | 41.8%                           |
| Drug                               | 18.5%    | 14.0%       | 22.3%                           |
| Mental Health                      | 3.9%     | 2.1%        | 5.1%                            |
| Urinalysis Ordered                 | 25.9%    | 11.3%       | 37.1%                           |

<sup>1</sup> The sum of the percentage of probationers ordered to the detailed types of treatment--alcohol, drug, and mental health--exceeds the proportion ordered to any treatment since probationers can have multiple types of treatment ordered. For example, a probationer could be ordered to both drug and alcohol treatment, as well as mental health treatment. This one probationer would then be counted across each of the detailed types of treatment.

Court-orders for drug treatment and urinalysis depended considerably on the type of offense for which the probationer was convicted. For example, more than 42 percent of those placed on probation for a drug offense in Illinois had urinalysis included as a condition of their sentence, compared to 20 percent of those convicted of DUI (Table 13). These differences were even more dramatic in Illinois outside of Cook County, where almost 70 percent of those convicted and placed on probation for a drug offense had urinalysis ordered as part of their sentence, compared to 33 percent of those on probation for DUI. Drug offenders were also more likely than other types of offenders to have court-ordered drug treatment as a condition of their probation sentence.

**Table 13**  
**Percent of Adult Probationers Ordered to Drug Treatment and Urinalysis in Illinois,**  
**by Current Offense, November-December 1997**

|              | Percent Ordered to Drug Treatment | Percent Ordered to Urinalysis |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Violent      | 13.3%                             | 21.5%                         |
| Property     | 17.1%                             | 24.6%                         |
| Drug         | 31.0%                             | 42.5%                         |
| DUI          | 16.5%                             | 19.9%                         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>18.5%</b>                      | <b>25.9%</b>                  |

## *Supervision Strategy*

Once an individual is sentenced to probation, probation officers perform a risk assessment on the individual and determine the appropriate level of supervision. Those probationers whose background and characteristics result in their being classified as needing maximum supervision are required to meet with their probation officer more frequently than those classified at lower risk levels. Of all the probationers discharged during the study period in Illinois and on standard probation supervision, 38.7 percent were initially classified as a “maximum risk,” while less than 14 percent were classified as a “minimum risk” (Table 14). Slight differences between Cook County and the rest of Illinois were evident.

**Table 14**  
Initial Risk Classification Level of Adults Discharged from Probation in  
Illinois, November-December 1997

|         | Illinois | Cook County | Illinois Outside of<br>Cook County |
|---------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Maximum | 38.7%    | 39.3%       | 42.7%                              |
| Medium  | 47.5%    | 49.8%       | 39.9%                              |
| Minimum | 13.8%    | 10.9%       | 17.4%                              |
| Total   | 100.0%   | 100.0%      | 100.0%                             |

As would be expected, given the factors considered in the risk assessment, there were clear differences across the initial risk classification levels and prior criminal history, age, substance abuse history, and current conviction offense (See Appendix IV for a copy of the Illinois Adult Probation Risk Assessment Instrument). Those initially classified as maximum risk had more prior convictions, a more extensive history of substance abuse, and were more likely to be convicted of a violent offense than those assessed as a lower risk (Table 15).

**Table 15**

Comparison of Age, Criminal History, Substance Abuse History, and Current Conviction Among Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997, by Initial Risk Level

|  | Maximum Risk | Medium Risk | Minimum Risk | Total |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| Average Age                                    | 32.14        | 32.25       | 33.86        | 32.35 |
| Average Number of Prior Adult Convictions      | 1.70         | 0.75        | 0.50         | 1.11  |
| Percent with Drug Abuse History                | 33.2%        | 25.1%       | 11.4%        | 26.7% |
| Percent Currently Convicted of a Violent Crime | 32.1%        | 7.3%        | 5.2%         | 17.6% |

In some jurisdictions, there are also a number of specialized probation caseloads under which people can be supervised. Although the majority of adults placed on probation are supervised under standard probation (73.1 percent), 12.5 percent are supervised on Specialized DUI Probation, and the remaining 15 percent were supervised on either Intensive Probation Supervision, Specialized Drug Probation, or other specialized caseloads.

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## IV. OUTCOMES OF PROBATION

### *Introduction*

A number of different measures were used to describe the outcomes of those discharged from probation during the study period. Some were formal measures, including whether or not the probationer was rearrested while on probation, technically violated conditions of his/her probation sentence, had probation revoked, and whether or not he/she successfully completed the court orders included as part of their sentence. Also, changes in the probationer's education and income were examined. These are all objective criteria, which are consistently defined across all jurisdictions and not based on subjective impressions or opinions of individuals. However, because it is extremely difficult to objectively measure changes in some dimensions of probationer behaviors and situations, information based on the subjective impressions by probation officers was also collected and considered, including the perceptions of the probation officers with respect to the probationer's employment stability, drug or alcohol use, attitude and family/marital stability.

### *Case Discharge Status*

One of the most straightforward measures of probation outcomes is whether or not the probationer successfully completed the term of probation. Successful completion means that the probation sentence was not revoked due to technical violations or rearrest, and the terms and conditions of the sentence were met (e.g., payment of restitution and fees or completion of treatment). In general, the majority (72 percent) of adult probationers statewide received a discharge indicating successful/positive completion of probation, while 13.8 percent were negatively discharged (e.g., revocation of probation for either a technical or new offense violation, or an alternative commitment to IDOC) (Table 16). An additional 14.1 percent were neutrally discharged, meaning that they had either absconded, were unsuccessfully terminated, or "other." Slight differences in discharge status were noted between probationers in Cook County versus the rest of Illinois.



**Table 16**  
Case Discharge Status of Adult Probationers in Illinois, November-December 1997

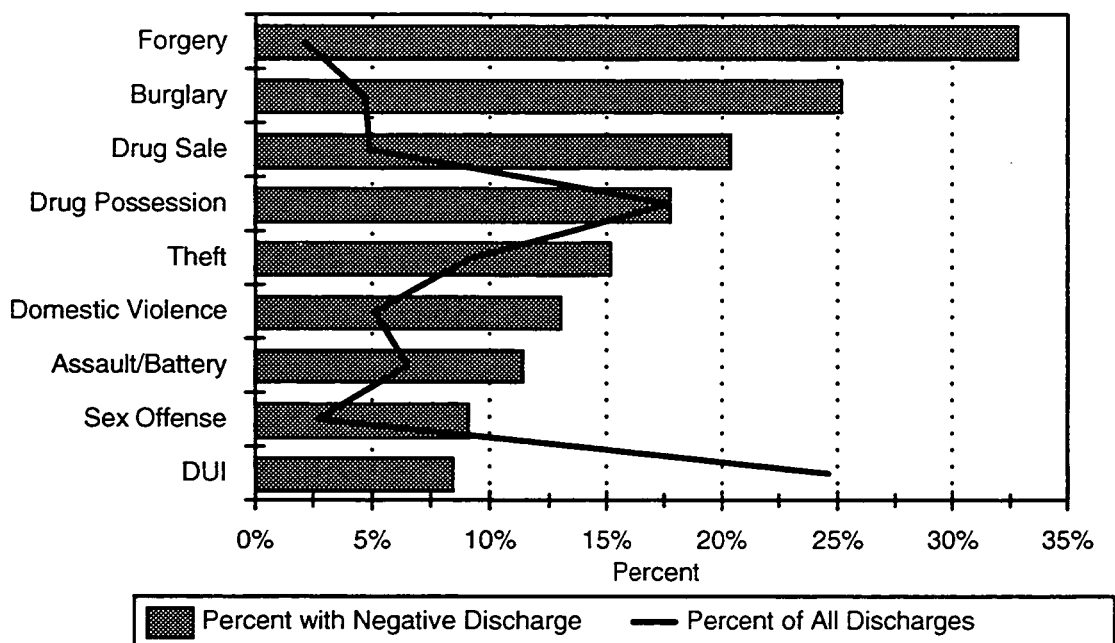
|                                 | Illinois     | Cook County  | Illinois Outside of Cook County |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Scheduled Termination           | 68.5%        | 71.3%        | 66.2%                           |
| Early Termination               | 3.6%         | 3.4%         | 3.7%                            |
| <b>Total Positive Discharge</b> | <b>72.1%</b> | <b>73.7%</b> | <b>69.9%</b>                    |
| Absconder                       | 1.5%         | 0.7%         | 2.2%                            |
| Unsatisfactory Termination      | 7.6%         | 7.6%         | 7.5%                            |
| Other                           | 5.0%         | 5.6%         | 4.5%                            |
| <b>Total Neutral Discharge</b>  | <b>14.1%</b> | <b>13.9%</b> | <b>14.2%</b>                    |
| Revoked-Technical Violation     | 5.7%         | 5.0%         | 6.2%                            |
| Revoked-New Offense             | 5.4%         | 5.0%         | 5.8%                            |
| Alternative DOC Commitment      | 2.8%         | 1.4%         | 3.8%                            |
| <b>Total Negative Discharge</b> | <b>13.8%</b> | <b>11.4%</b> | <b>15.8%</b>                    |

***Factors Related to Case Discharge Status***

Although the majority of adult probationers discharged during the study period were categorized as receiving a “positive discharge,” there were a number of characteristics associated with higher levels of negative discharge from probation. The specific factors examined in this report included those related to the conviction offense, offender characteristics, and characteristics of the supervision strategies employed. For example, as illustrated in Figure 2, the proportion of cases receiving a negative discharge varied considerably by the type of offense for which the probationer was convicted. However, it is also important to consider the proportion of all probationers accounted for by each offense type (indicated by the line in Figure 2). In general, those placed on probation for DUI offenses and discharged during the study period had the lowest rate of negative discharges (8 percent), and accounted for the largest percentage of all probationers (25 percent). On the other hand, those placed on probation for property and drug offenses had the highest rate of negative discharges

(19 percent and 18 percent, respectively). Only those crimes where there were 30 or more probationers discharged during the study period were included in the analyses.

**Figure 2**  
**Percent of Probationers With a  
 Negative Discharge, by Offense, 1997**



In addition to differences in the type of discharge by offense type, there were also clear differences in case outcomes when considered across various probationer characteristics and supervision strategies/activities (Tables 17 and 18).

In terms of probationer characteristics, younger probationers with histories of drug abuse and prior involvement in the criminal justice system had higher rates of negative discharges from probation (Table 17). For example, almost 25 percent of probationers with a history of drug abuse were negatively discharged from probation, while only 8 percent of those with no history of drug abuse were negatively discharged. Another general probationer characteristic associated with differences in discharge status was criminal history--those with a prior conviction had a higher rate of negative discharge from probation than those without a prior conviction, as did those with a prior

conviction/adjudication for a violent offense and those with a prior commitment to IDOC. Probationer age also appeared to be associated with differences in case outcomes. In general, the younger the probationer, the more likely they were to be negatively discharged from probation. For example, 21 percent of probationers under the age of 21 were negatively discharged from probation, compared to less than 9 percent of those probationers over the age of 40.

**Table 17**  
Comparison of Discharge Types for Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois, November-December 1997, by Probationer Characteristics

|                              | Positive     | Neutral      | Negative     | Total         |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| History of Drug Abuse        | 57.0%        | 18.7%        | 24.3%        | 100.0%        |
| No History of Drug Abuse     | 81.0%        | 11.0%        | 8.0%         | 100.0%        |
|                              |              |              |              |               |
| Previous Adult Conviction    | 60.9%        | 18.5%        | 20.7%        | 100.0%        |
| No Previous Adult Conviction | 79.3%        | 11.3%        | 9.4%         | 100.0%        |
|                              |              |              |              |               |
| Prior Violent Conviction     | 58.6%        | 20.4%        | 20.9%        | 100.0%        |
| No Prior Violent Conviction  | 74.5%        | 12.6%        | 12.9%        | 100.0%        |
|                              |              |              |              |               |
| Prior Commitment to IDOC     | 49.3%        | 19.3%        | 31.4%        | 100.0%        |
| No Prior Commitment to IDOC  | 74.2%        | 13.6%        | 12.2%        | 100.0%        |
|                              |              |              |              |               |
| 20 Years Older and Younger   | 64.5%        | 14.5%        | 21.0%        | 100.0%        |
| 21 - 30 Years Old            | 67.2%        | 16.2%        | 16.6%        | 100.0%        |
| 31 - 40 Years Old            | 76.2%        | 12.7%        | 11.1%        | 100.0%        |
| More than 40 Years Old       | 78.5%        | 12.5%        | 8.9%         | 100.0%        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>72.1%</b> | <b>14.1%</b> | <b>13.8%</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

Differences in case outcomes were also evident across differences in case supervision strategies and activities (Table 18). As would be expected, probationers who were initially identified as requiring maximum supervision levels--those at the highest risk of recidivating--were almost 5 times as likely to have a negative discharge than those identified as minimum risks. More than 20 percent of those initially assessed as requiring maximum supervision levels were negatively discharged from probation, compared to 4.4 percent of those identified as requiring only minimum supervision levels.

Similarly, those probationers with a technical violation during their supervision had negative discharge rates 6 times higher than probationers without any technical violations (30.2 percent versus 4.7 percent, respectively). While this is not necessarily surprising, given the fact that a technical violation may lead *directly* to probation being revoked, closer examination reveals that a relatively large proportion of those who had a technical violation and were negatively discharged were discharged due to a new arrest, and not necessarily a technical violation. Among those with technical violations, and negatively discharged from probation, 47 percent had their probation revoked due to a technical violation, while 34 percent had their probation revoked due to a new arrest and 19 percent received an alternate commitment to IDOC. Thus, while technical violations may lead to a higher rate of negative discharges due to a probation revocation for a technical violation, those who commit technical violations may also be more likely to go on to commit additional crimes, resulting in a probation revocation or commitment to IDOC for a new arrest.

Large differences in discharge status were also evident when those who tested positive for drugs were compared to those who tested negative. Those probationers with a positive urinalysis during supervision had a negative discharge rate three times higher than those who tested negative (37.5 percent versus 12.6 percent). As with the comparison of case outcomes for those with and without a technical violation, this observation that those testing positive for drugs had higher negative discharge rates may appear straightforward. Testing positive is a technical violation of probation, which *can* result in a negative discharge due to a probation revocation for a technical violation. However, for many (almost 30 percent) of those testing positive and negatively discharged, the negative discharge took the form of probation being revoked due to a *new arrest*, not necessarily a probation revocation due to the technical violation of a positive urine test.

The final factor considered in terms of probation outcome and supervision activities was the extent to which adherence to supervision standards had any association with differences in case outcomes. The AOIC has established supervision standards, specifying the number of contacts between probation officers and probationers, which vary depending on the probationer's risk level. However, due to shortages of probation officers, many departments cannot meet these standards. In general, those cases where supervision standards were met had the highest rate of positive outcomes, while those where supervision standards were not met had the lowest rate of positive case outcomes. The outcomes of those cases which exceeded the supervision standard should be interpreted with some caution, since higher levels of contact than required may be indicative of particularly problematic cases which warranted increased supervision levels not traditionally employed.

**Table 18**  
Comparison of Discharge Types for Adults Discharged from Probation in  
Illinois, November-December 1997

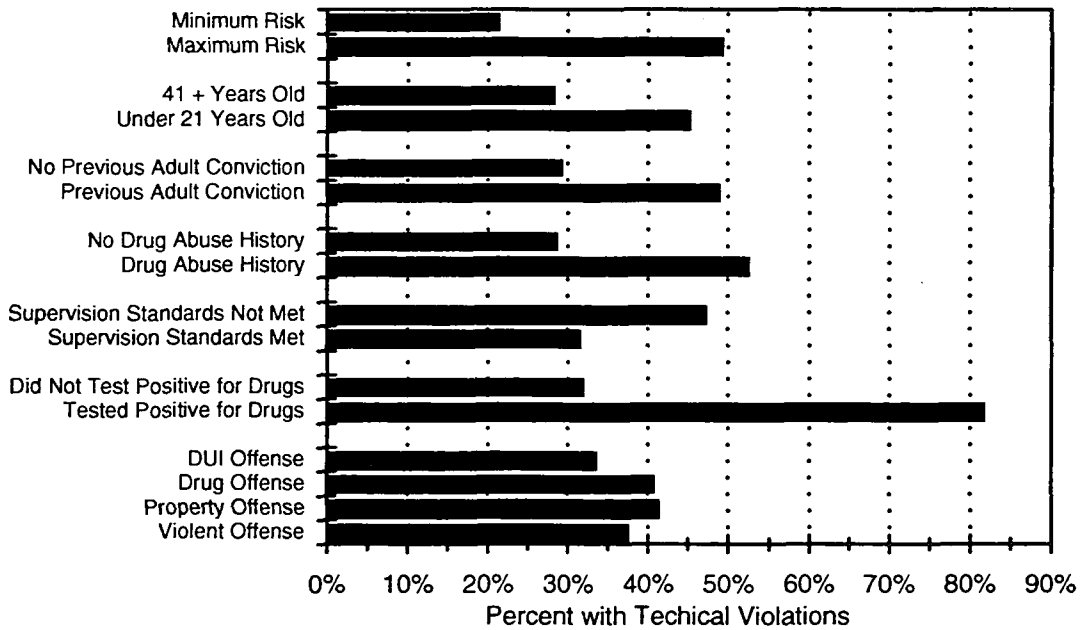
|   | Positive     | Neutral      | Negative     | Total         |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Maximum Initial Risk                      | 63.0%        | 16.5%        | 20.5%        | 100.0%        |
| Medium Initial Risk                       | 78.9%        | 12.1%        | 9.0%         | 100.0%        |
| Minimum Initial Risk                      | 87.3%        | 8.3%         | 4.4%         | 100.0%        |
|   |              |              |              |               |
| Technical Violation During Supervision    | 43.0%        | 26.8%        | 30.2%        | 100.0%        |
| No Technical Violation During Supervision | 88.4%        | 7.0%         | 4.7%         | 100.0%        |
|   |              |              |              |               |
| Tested Positive for Drugs                 | 46.0%        | 16.5%        | 37.5%        | 100.0%        |
| Did Not Test Positive for Drugs           | 78.2%        | 9.2%         | 12.6%        | 100.0%        |
|   |              |              |              |               |
| Did Not Meet Supervision Standard         | 62.6%        | 18.4%        | 19.0%        | 100.0%        |
| Met Supervision Standard                  | 79.1%        | 10.8%        | 10.0%        | 100.0%        |
| Exceeded Supervision Standard             | 71.9%        | 12.3%        | 15.8%        | 100.0%        |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>72.1%</b> | <b>14.1%</b> | <b>13.8%</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

### *Technical Violations and Rearrest*

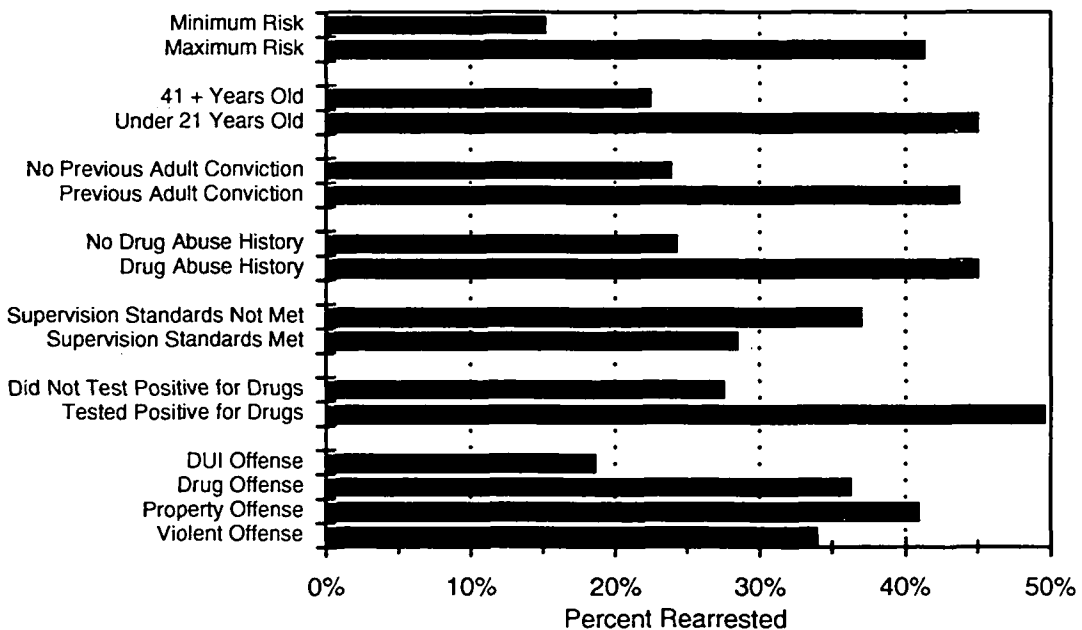
While examining the type of discharge received by probationers is one way of considering probation outcome and performance while under supervision, another performance measure is the extent to which probationers have technical violations or are rearrested while under supervision. Because not all technical violations or rearrests result in a revocation of probation or a negative discharge from probation, examining the degree to which probationers had any technical violations or rearrests during the period of supervision, regardless of whether or not these violations resulted in a revocation, was another measure used to examine probation outcomes.

Across all probationers, 37 percent had one or more technical violations of their probation during the supervision period, while 32 percent were rearrested at least once while on probation. The average number of technical violations across all probationers was 1.02, while the average number of rearrests was 0.58 per probationer. However, as can be seen in Figures 3 and 4, there were considerable differences in the extent to which probationers experienced technical violations or rearrests during the period of supervision across different types of probationers and case characteristics. For example, probationers whose initial risk assessment indicated a “maximum risk” were more than twice as likely to have a technical violation or be rearrested than those assessed as a minimum risk. Similarly, younger probationers, those with prior adult convictions, those with drug abuse histories or continued drug use, and those serving a sentence for a drug or property offense were also more likely to have technical violations or be rearrested. A lower rate of technical violations and rearrests were also noted between those probationers whose supervision standards were met versus those whose supervision standards were not met. One of the factors which contributes most to supervision standards not being met (probation officers were not able to meet with the probationer as frequently as required under state standards) is the fact that probation caseloads are so large per officer that it is not possible within the time available to adhere to the existing standards. Currently, AOIC estimates that there is a need for 260 additional adult probation officers to allow for current supervision standards to be met.

**Figure 3**  
**Percent of Probationers with Technical Violations, by Characteristics**



**Figure 4**  
**Percent of Probationers Rearrested While on Probation, by Characteristics**



As was seen in Figures 3 and 4, drug and property offenders as a group were most likely to have technical violations or be rearrested during the period of supervision. Summarized in Figures 5 and 6 are the proportion of probationers discharged during the study period who had *any* technical violations or new arrests during their supervision period, across the individual offense categories for which there were at least 30 discharges during the study period. The bar in Figures 5 and 6 indicates the proportion of probationers with a technical violation or rearrest and the line indicates the proportion of all offenders on probation for these offenses.

As with case discharge status, those convicted of property and drug offenses were the most likely to have a technical violation or rearrest during supervision, while those convicted of a DUI were least likely to experience these problems while being supervised. For example, among those on probation as a result of a conviction for burglary, 55 percent had a technical violation and 55 percent were rearrested during supervision, but these offenders accounted for only 5 percent of all probationers discharged during the study period (Figures 5 and 6). Approximately 40 percent of those placed on probation for a drug offense (sale or possession) had at least one technical violation and about 36 percent were rearrested during their period of supervision. Technical violations include missed appointments with the probation officer, positive urine tests, or missed mandatory treatment sessions. Given the fact that a large proportion of probationers convicted of drug offenses were also most likely to be ordered to urine testing (as seen above) and drug treatment, issues related to these conditions are the most likely contributors to their high rate of technical violations. Almost 42 percent of urine tests performed on probationers convicted of a drug offense were positive for illicit substances. Similarly, rearrests during the period of supervision can range from relatively minor offenses to very serious crimes. Specific information on the types of technical violations or rearrests were not collected for the current study. Among probationers convicted of DUI, the group which accounted for 25 percent all probationers, approximately 33 percent had at least one technical violation during supervision and 18 percent were rearrested. This rearrest rate for DUI probationers was the lowest among all the offense categories examined.



Figure 5

Percent of Probationers With a Technical Violation, by Offense

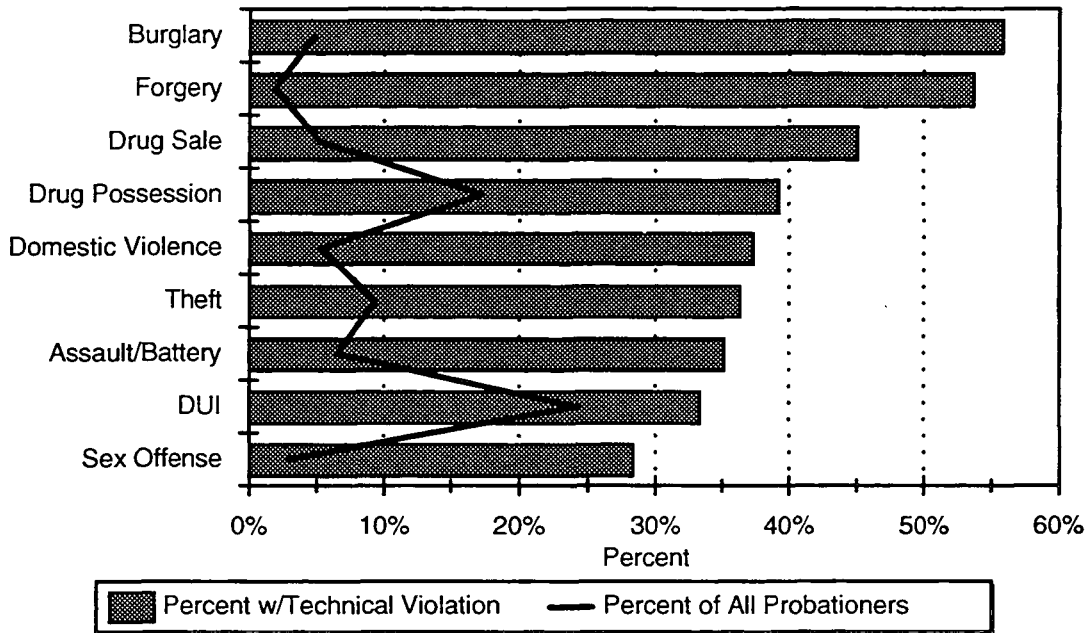
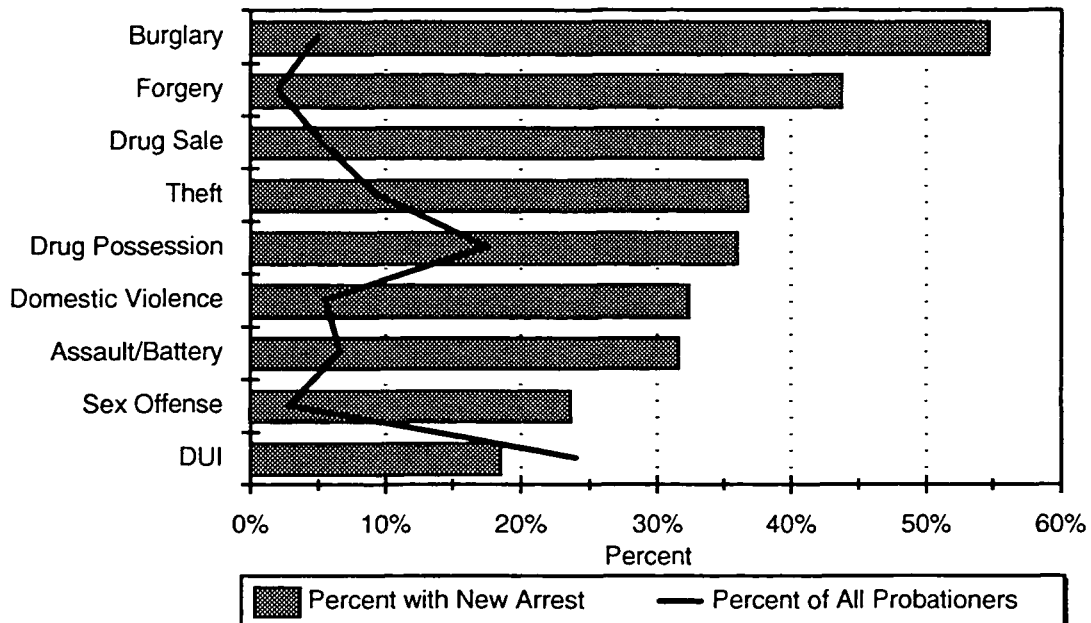


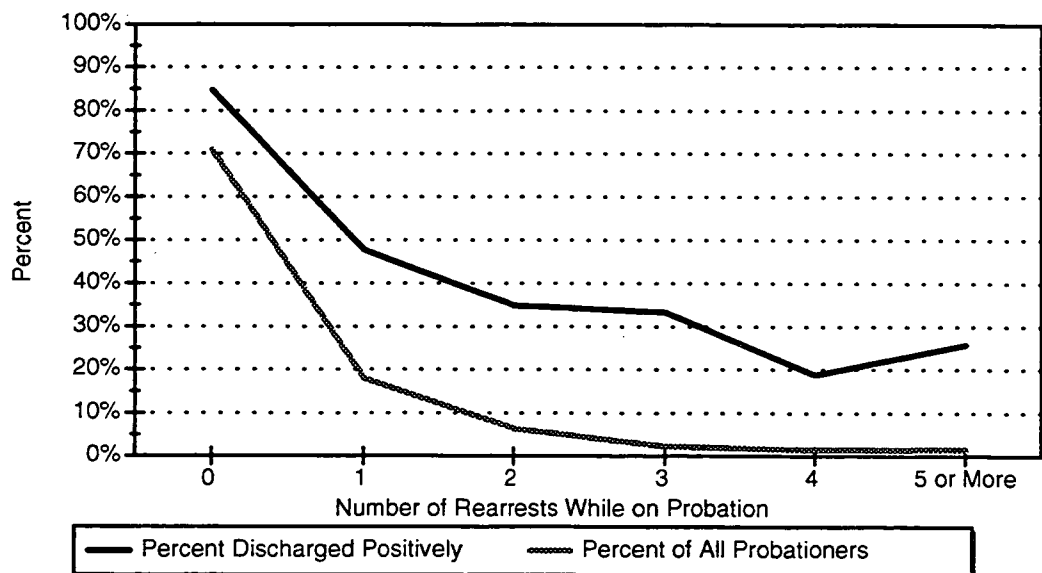
Figure 6

Percent of Probationers With a New Arrest During Supervision, by Offense



Although not all technical violations of probation, or rearrests while on probation, result in a negative discharge from probation, they clearly do decrease the likelihood that probationers will be successfully discharged from probation. For example, among those probationers with no rearrests during their course of probation supervision, approximately 85 percent were discharged successfully (Figure 7). These probationers without any rearrests accounted for more than 70 percent of all adult probation discharges. On the other hand, less than one-half of those rearrested during their supervision were discharged positively (scheduled or early termination). It is also important to note that fewer than 20 percent of probationers discharged during the study period were rearrested once during their term of supervision. As Figure 7 illustrates, as the number of rearrests during supervision increases, the incidence of a positive discharge decreases. However, those probationers with multiple rearrests while on probation account for an extremely small proportion of all probationers. In addition, rearrests may be for relatively minor offenses, such as certain traffic offenses, or may not result in a conviction due to a lack of probable cause or sufficient evidence. A similar pattern was evident when the frequency of technical violations was compared to case outcomes. Among those probationers with no technical violations, 88 percent were positively discharged, compared to 18 percent of those probationers with 5 or more technical violations.

**Figure 7**  
**Percent of Probationers w/ a Positive Discharge From Probation, by Rearrests**



### *Urinalysis and Treatment*

As stated earlier, a relatively large proportion of probationers were ordered to urine testing as a condition of their probation sentence. Of those ordered to urinalysis and tested, more than one-third tested positive at least once during their term of probation (Table 19). Although there were considerable differences across offense types in the degree to which drug testing was part of the sentence, there were smaller differences in the outcomes of the drug tests across offender groups. For example, almost 22 percent of those placed on probation for a crime against a person were ordered to drug/alcohol testing. Of those tested, 31 percent tested positive at least once during their probation sentence. On the other hand, almost 43 percent of those placed on probation for a drug offense were ordered to submit to urine testing, and 41 percent of those tested were positive at least once during the course of their supervision. Thus, there was a 21 percentage point difference between the proportion of violent and drug offenders ordered to urinalysis but only a 10 percentage point difference between these two populations when it came to the outcome of the urine tests. On average, drug offenders were tested most frequently (averaging almost 6 tests per probationer), while those on probation for a property offense and ordered to urinalysis were tested an average of 3.27 times during their probation.

**Table 19**  
Outcomes of Urine Tests Performed on Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois, by Offense Type, November-December 1997

|   | <b>Person</b> | <b>Property</b> | <b>Drug</b> | <b>DUI</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Percent Ordered to Drug Testing                 | 21.5%         | 24.6%           | 42.5%       | 19.9%      | 25.8%        |
| Percent Positive                                | 31.6%         | 35.8%           | 41.4%       | 15.4%      | 34.2%        |
| Average Number of Drug Tests Among Those Tested | 3.43          | 3.27            | 5.77        | 4.13       | 4.45         |

As with urinalysis as a condition of probation, there were also considerable differences across offender types with respect to the extent of treatment ordered as a condition of probation. Among those convicted and placed on probation for DUI, almost all were ordered to treatment, which is required under Illinois law. On the other hand, less than one-quarter of property offenders on probation had treatment as a condition of their probation sentence. In general, the majority (76 percent) of those ordered to treatment completed or were still enrolled in the treatment program at the time of discharge from probation (Table 20). Again, differences in the extent to which treatment was completed varied by offense type, with property offenders being the least likely of the offender groups to complete court-ordered treatment. Two-thirds of drug offenders on probation completed or were still participating in treatment at the time of case discharge.

**Table 20**  
**Percent of Adults Discharged from Probation**  
**Ordered to Treatment and Completing Treatment, by Offense, November-December 1997**

|   | <b>Person</b> | <b>Property</b> | <b>Drug</b> | <b>DUI</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Percent Ordered to Treatment                      | 56.7%         | 24.1%           | 33.5%       | 98.0%      | 50.5%        |
| Percent Completing or Still Enrolled in Treatment | 77.7%         | 51.8%           | 66.9%       | 90.4%      | 76.2%        |

***Payment of Fees, Fines, Costs, and Restitution, and Completion of Community Service***

As was described previously, a large proportion of probationers are also required to pay supervision fees, fines or court costs. In addition, many are required to pay restitution to crime victims and perform community service. The degree to which probationers satisfy these financial and community service requirements varied depending on, and often times as a result of, their case disposition. As summarized in Table 21, of all probationers ordered to pay supervision fees, 68.8 percent paid the total amount (100 percent) ordered by the time of case discharge. This proportion of probationers paying the total amount ordered was much higher among those positively discharged (84.3 percent) versus those negatively discharged (18.9 percent). Failure to pay may have been the cause of the

probationer's negative discharge, or they may have been unable to pay the full amount as a result of having their probation revoked or having been incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections. This pattern of positive case discharges satisfying their financial obligations was consistent across all payment orders, including fines, court costs, and restitution, as well as the requirement to perform community service. As was summarized in Table 16, 72 percent of all probationers were positively discharged from probation.

**Table 21**  
 Percent of Offenders Paying 100 Percent of Court Ordered Fees, Fines, Costs, and Restitution  
 and Completing 100 Percent of Ordered Community Service Hours,  
 by Discharge Type, November-December 1997

|              | Supervision Fees | Fines        | Court Costs  | Restitution  | Community Service Hours |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Positive     | 84.3%            | 95.2%        | 94.7%        | 91.7%        | 91.1%                   |
| Neutral      | 35.5%            | 59.7%        | 57.0%        | 59.8%        | 39.8%                   |
| Negative     | 18.9%            | 34.2%        | 30.3%        | 26.4%        | 26.9%                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>68.6%</b>     | <b>83.5%</b> | <b>79.4%</b> | <b>74.6%</b> | <b>70.2%</b>            |

As a result of differences in the rate of collection across the discharge categories, there were considerable differences in the average amount of money collected, and community service hours completed, between those with a positive versus a neutral or negative discharge (Table 22). Among those with a positive discharge from probation, and ordered to pay supervision fees, an average of almost \$260 was collected, compared to only \$68 among those negatively discharged and ordered to pay these fees. Again, part of the explanation of these differences across discharge categories could be explained by probationers not paying these orders and therefore having their probation revoked, or probationers having their probation revoked for some other reason, and therefore not being able to complete the conditions of their original sentence. Across all probationers with these financial conditions of probation, an average of more than \$1,800 was collected per probationer in the form of supervision fees, fines, court costs and restitution. In addition, each probationer ordered to perform community service completed an average of 76.8 hours of work in the community.

**Table 22**  
Average Amount of Fees, Fines, Costs and Restitution Collected and Community Service Hours Completed, by Discharge Type, November-December 1997

|              | Supervision Fees | Fines           | Court Costs     | Restitution     | Community Service Hours |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Positive     | \$259.06         | \$474.50        | \$255.28        | \$1,269.06      | 94.00 hrs               |
| Neutral      | \$130.11         | \$327.80        | \$246.77        | \$503.66        | 60.64 hrs               |
| Negative     | \$68.55          | \$121.19        | \$116.05        | \$255.50        | 35.16 hrs               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$215.24</b>  | <b>\$414.00</b> | <b>\$231.99</b> | <b>\$963.26</b> | <b>76.86 hrs</b>        |

*Changes in Income and Education Levels*

Information regarding the income and education level of probationers at the beginning of their sentence, and then again at case discharge, was also collected and examined to gauge the outcome of probation cases in Illinois. As was seen in Table 1, the annual income of most probationers in Illinois is extremely low and the extent to which probation officers can substantially change this during the relatively short period of supervision is obviously limited. Despite this, many probationers, particularly those at the lowest income levels at the beginning of probation, did experience some increase in their income during the supervision period. Among all probationers discharged, 17 percent experienced an increase in their annual income between the beginning and end of their supervision period. Among those probationers who had incomes of \$5,000 or less at the beginning of their probation, one-quarter (25.7 percent) had a higher income by the end of their probation term (see Appendix V for detailed analysis of income change). Despite these positive changes, a relatively large proportion (one-third) of probationers were unemployed at the time their case was discharged.

With respect to changes in education levels among probationers, the changes were not as dramatic. At the beginning of probation, approximately 58 percent of probationers had completed the 12th grade, received a GED or completed some college, while 42 percent had not yet completed the 12th grade. By the time probationers were discharged from probation, about 7.3 percent had increased

their level of education. Those probationers which experienced the most substantial changes in education levels during the course of supervision were those who had only completed the 11th grade or grade school at the time of their being placed on probation.

### *Changes in Risk Assessment Level*

Another characteristic which was tracked from the beginning to the end of the probation supervision period was the probationer's risk classification. As was described previously (Table 14), 38.7 percent of adult probationers statewide were initially assessed as requiring a maximum level of supervision due to their risk assessment at probation intake, while 47.5 percent were assessed at the medium risk level and less than 14 percent were placed into the minimum supervision category. Among those probationers initially assessed at either the maximum or medium level, 41 percent were assessed as being at a lower level of risk by the end of their probation supervision period. On the other hand, only 5 percent of probationers initially assessed at either the minimum or medium level of risk were assessed at higher levels of risk by the time they were discharged from probation.

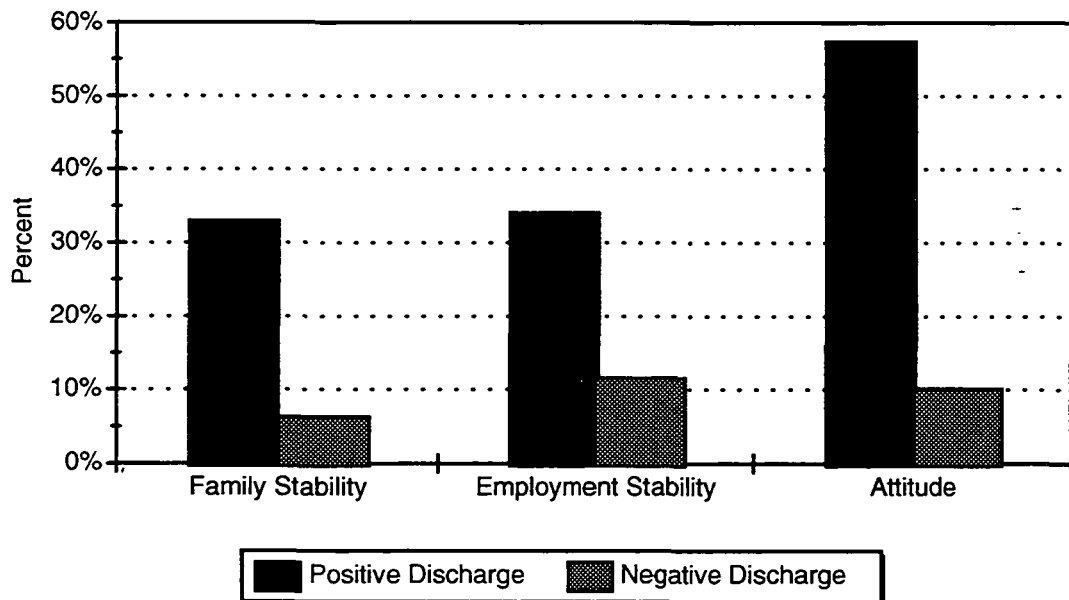
### *Probation Officer Perceptions of Changes*

In addition to considering the legal outcomes of probation and the degree to which court ordered sanctions were adhered to, information was also collected to measure probation officer perceptions of changes in the probationer's family and employment stability, as well as changes in probationer attitude and drug and/or alcohol use. Officers were asked to determine if they perceived there to be improvement, no change, or deterioration across these dimensions for each probationer discharged during the study period.

As can be seen by the summary presented in Figure 8, during the period of supervision a relatively large proportion of probationers who were positively discharged improved their attitude, employment stability, and family/marital stability in the eyes of the probation officer. By comparison, a very small proportion of those probationers negatively discharged (e.g., had their probation revoked or were committed to IDOC) were perceived as having experienced improvement in these areas. The largest

area where improvement was seen was with respect to positive attitude change. Almost 60 percent of the probationers positively discharged during the study period were seen as having improved their attitude, compared to only about 10 percent of those with a negative discharge. More than 30 percent of the positive probation discharges were perceived as having improved their family and employment stability during the period of supervision, compared to 10 percent or less of those with a negative discharge. While these differences between positive and negative discharges is not necessarily surprising, they do illustrate that factors other than technical violations or rearrest should be considered when evaluating probation effectiveness.

**Figure 8**  
**Percent of Probationers Who Improved Aspects of Their Life, by Discharge**

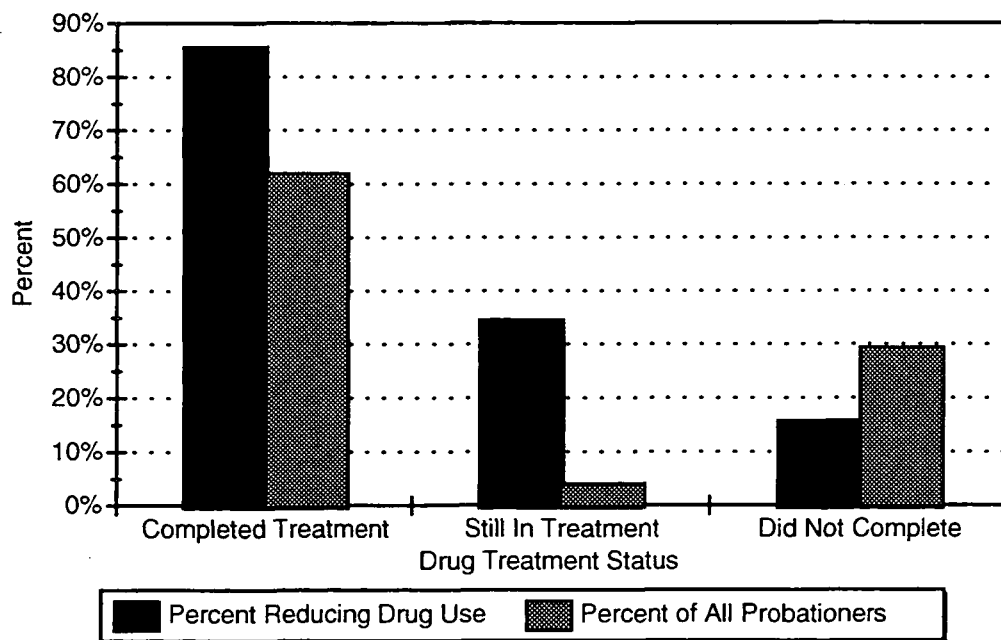


Perceptions of probation officers also appear to confirm the benefits of participation and completion of drug treatment. Comparing probation officer perceptions of reduced drug use across those probationers who completed, were in the process of completing, or did not complete court-ordered drug treatment reveals that the majority of those who completed drug treatment during the course of their probation sentence were perceived by probation officers as having reduced their drug use



(Figure 9). Among those completing drug treatment, almost 90 percent were perceived by probation officers as reducing their drug use. These probationers accounted for 60 percent of all probationers ordered to drug treatment. By comparison, less than 20 percent of those probationers who did not complete their court-ordered drug treatment were perceived as having reduced their drug use. Approximately 30 percent of probationers ordered to drug treatment did not complete treatment.

**Figure 9**  
**Probation Officer Perception of  
Reduced Drug Use, by Treatment Status**



## V. CONCLUSIONS

For the first time in Illinois, there are a number of conclusions that can be made about the outcomes of persons sentenced to probation--the most frequent sanction imposed on convicted offenders in the state. Many of these conclusions point to the effectiveness of probation as a viable, and cost effective, sanction for many convicted offenders in Illinois. A number of the conclusions also illustrate the need to continue to increase the capacity of probation in Illinois, and ensure an adequate supply of treatment and rehabilitative programs for these offenders. The following general conclusions are offered:

- The majority of adults on probation in Illinois complete their sentence satisfactorily, with no technical violations or rearrests during their period of supervision;
- Certain types of offenders, particularly those convicted of property and drug offenses, those with histories of drug abuse, those with prior involvement in the justice system, those in their late teens and early 20s, and those who continue to use drugs while on probation are most likely to be rearrested, have technical violations, and be negatively discharged from probation (summarized in Table 23 on following page). There needs to be continued focus on these higher-risk probationers and the establishment/expansion of programs to address their criminal tendencies;
- A substantial portion of probationers have conditions included with their sentence to probation, including payments of supervision fees, fines, court costs, restitution, and performance of community service. The satisfaction of these conditions by the majority of probationers not only provides the justice system with substantial revenues to supplement taxpayer funding, but also results in the recovery of losses--by victims through restitution and by the community through court-ordered community service;
- Although not all probationers who are in need of treatment have access to treatment, due to limited availability and program crowding, most of those ordered to treatment as a condition of their probation sentence complete that treatment before the end of their sentence. For many, this was their first opportunity to access treatment, which may have a substantial impact on future criminality. For example, among those probationers who completed their drug treatment, almost 90 percent were perceived by their probation officer as reducing their drug use; and,
- In addition to the positive findings regarding the low levels of probationer rearrest and negative discharge from probation, these data have also provided some indication that during supervision a substantial portion of probationers experienced improvement in various aspects of their personal lives, such as their attitude, employment stability, and family relationships.

**Table 23**  
 Proportion of Probationers with a Negative Discharge, Technical Violation and Arrest  
 While on Probation, by Probationer Characteristic, November-December 1997

|                                 | <b>Negative Discharge</b> | <b>Technical Violation</b> | <b>Arrest During Probation</b> | <b>Percent of All Probationers</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Current Violent Offense         | 12.5%                     | 37.2%                      | 33.6%                          | 17.6%                              |
| Current Property Offense        | 19.0%                     | 41.0%                      | 40.8%                          | 21.3%                              |
| Current Drug Offense            | 18.0%                     | 40.4%                      | 36.1%                          | 22.6%                              |
| Current DUI Offense             | 8.0%                      | 33.2%                      | 18.4%                          | 24.6%                              |
| History of Drug Abuse           | 24.3%                     | 52.2%                      | 44.9%                          | 35.2%                              |
| No History of Drug Abuse        | 8.0%                      | 28.3%                      | 24.1%                          | 64.8%                              |
| Under 21 Years of Age           | 21.0%                     | 45.0%                      | 44.9%                          | 12.7%                              |
| Over 40 Years of Age            | 8.9%                      | 27.8%                      | 22.3%                          | 2.6%                               |
| Previous Adult Conviction       | 20.7%                     | 48.5%                      | 43.5%                          | 38.8%                              |
| No Previous Adult Conviction    | 9.4%                      | 29.0%                      | 23.7%                          | 61.2%                              |
| Tested Positive for Drugs       | 37.5%                     | 81.4%                      | 49.3%                          | 34.2% <sup>1</sup>                 |
| Did Not Test Positive For Drugs | 12.6%                     | 31.6%                      | 27.3%                          | 65.8% <sup>1</sup>                 |
| Supervision Standards Not Met   | 19.0%                     | 46.8%                      | 36.7%                          | 39.1%                              |
| Supervision Standards Met       | 10.0%                     | 31.2%                      | 28.2%                          | 58.4%                              |
| Initial Maximum Risk            | 20.5%                     | 48.9%                      | 41.2%                          | 38.7%                              |
| Initial Minimum Risk            | 4.4%                      | 21.1%                      | 15.0%                          | 13.8%                              |
| <b>Total (All Probationers)</b> | <b>13.8%</b>              | <b>37.0%</b>               | <b>31.7%</b>                   | <b>100.0%</b>                      |

<sup>1</sup> Percent of those tested.

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**APPENDIX I: DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT**

# Illinois Outcome Survey for Adult Probation

Please include in this survey all active classified adult cases (court supervision, conditional discharge, standard probation, IPS, and specialized caseloads) which terminate during the month of the study. Cases should all have had an intake assessment and a case plan. It is very important that every effort be made to determine the best answer(s) to each question and not leave blanks. If a question is not applicable please write N/A in the space provided. We do appreciate your time and effort in completing this important survey. If you have any questions please contact: Rich Adkins (217) 524-1277

## I. Case History/Information:

1. Age at Exit: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female
3. Race/Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ American Indian \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Other
4. Annual Income: \_\_\_\_\_ Household or \_\_\_\_\_ Offender  

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| At Case Entry                | At Case Exit                 |
| _____ \$ 0 -- \$ 5,000       | _____ \$ 0 -- \$ 5,000       |
| _____ \$ 5,001 -- \$ 10,000  | _____ \$ 5,001 -- \$ 10,000  |
| _____ \$ 10,001 -- \$ 15,000 | _____ \$ 10,001 -- \$ 15,000 |
| _____ \$ 15,001 -- \$ 20,000 | _____ \$ 15,001 -- \$ 20,000 |
| _____ \$ 20,001 -- \$ 25,000 | _____ \$ 20,001 -- \$ 25,000 |
| _____ \$ 25,001 -- \$ 30,000 | _____ \$ 25,001 -- \$ 30,000 |
| _____ \$ 30,001 -- \$ 40,000 | _____ \$ 30,001 -- \$ 40,000 |
| _____ \$ 40,001 -- \$ 60,000 | _____ \$ 40,001 -- \$ 60,000 |
| _____ \$ 60,001 -- \$ 80,000 | _____ \$ 60,001 -- \$ 80,000 |
| _____ More than \$ 80,000    | _____ More than \$ 80,000    |
5. Sentence Date (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
6. Sentence Length for Original Offense (Months): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Current Offense (1 - 18): \_\_\_\_\_ (please record only the most serious offense)

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Sexual Offense         | _____ 10. Other Property Offense       |
| _____ 2. Robbery                | _____ 11. Any Drug Possession          |
| _____ 3. Assault/Battery        | _____ 12. Any Drug Sale Offense        |
| _____ 4. Domestic Violence      | _____ 13. Any Prostitution Offenses    |
| _____ 5. Other Violent Offenses | _____ 14. Forgery                      |
| _____ 6. Burglary               | _____ 15. Deceptive Practices          |
| _____ 7. Theft/Larceny          | _____ 16. Probation Violation          |
| _____ 8. Motor Vehicle Theft    | _____ 17. Felony Traffic               |
| _____ 9. Arson                  | _____ 18. DUI (all including felonies) |
|                                 | _____ 19. Other Offenses               |
8. Class of Offense: Felony \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Misdemeanor \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance Violation \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Violation
9. Sentence Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Probation \_\_\_\_\_ Conditional Discharge \_\_\_\_\_ Court Supervision
10. Supervision Strategy: \_\_\_\_\_ Standard Probation \_\_\_\_\_ IPS \_\_\_\_\_ Specialized DUI \_\_\_\_\_ Specialized Drug \_\_\_\_\_ Sex Offender \_\_\_\_\_ Other Supervision (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Educational Background:

Prior to Sentence -

- Grade School (1 - 8)  Grade Completed
- High School (9 - 12)  Grade Completed
- 13 GED
- 14 Some College
- 15 Associate Degree
- 16 Bachelor Degree
- 17 Advanced Degree

At Case Termination -

- Grade School (1 - 8)  Grade Completed
- High School (9 - 12)  Grade Completed
- 13 GED
- 14 Some College
- 15 Associate Degree
- 16 Bachelor Degree
- 17 Advanced Degree

12. History of Violent Behavior:  Yes  No  
Convicted/Adjudicated of a Violent Offense Within the Last 5 years  Yes  No

13. History of: - Alcohol Abuse:  Yes  No  
- Drug Abuse:  Yes  No  
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse:  Yes  No

14. Prior Probations or Periods of Active Supervision: - # as an Adult   
- # as a Juvenile

15. Prior # of Criminal Convictions as an Adult:   
Prior # of Times Adjudicated Delinquent as a Juvenile:

16. Prior Department of Corrections Commitments (state prison): - # as an Adult   
- # as a Juvenile

II. Court-Ordered Sanctions:

1. \$  Supervision Fees Ordered \$  Supervision Fees Collected  
\$  Fines Ordered \$  Fines Collected  
\$  Court Costs Ordered \$  Court Costs Collected  
\$  Restitution Ordered \$  Restitution Collected

2. Indicate Restitution Type(s):  
 Property Returned in Kind  
 Property Repaired  
 Cash Reimbursement for Medical Attention Due to Physical Injury  
 Cash Reimbursement for Counseling Due to Emotional Injury  
 Cash for Other Out-of-Pocket Expenses, Losses, Damages  
 Cash Reimbursement to Domestic Violence Shelter  
 Cash Reimbursement to Other Victim Service Providers

3. Number of Hours Public/Community Service: (#)  Ordered (#)  Completed

4. Curfew/Home Confinement Ordered:  Yes  No  
If Yes, Was Electronic Monitoring Used:  Yes  No  
If Electronic Monitoring Was Used, # of Days:

5. Alcohol/Drug Testing Ordered (Urine Tests Only):  Yes  No  
 # of Urine Drops  # of Drops Testing Positive





7. Employed in:  Agriculture  Manufacturing  Service  Professional  Other  
 Full Time  Part Time  Unemployed
8. Officer's Perception of the Offender's Attitude Change during supervision:  
 Improved  No Change  Deterioration
9. Officer's Perception of Family/Marital Stability:  Improved  No Change  Deterioration

**V. Victim Information:**

1. Relationship of Offender to Victim:  Victim(s) is Relative of Offender  
 Victim(s) is Friend/Acquaintance of Offender  
 Victim(s) is Unknown to Offender  
 No Victim Identified in Court Documents  
 Victimless Crime
2. Victim Gender:  Male(s)  
 Female(s)  
 Both Genders
3. Victim is:  Adult (60 or older)  
 Adult (30 to 59)  
 Young Adult (18 to 29)  
 Adolescent (13 - 17)  
 Child (12 or under)
4. Was the Victim(s) in the Current Offense Revictimized by the Offender (Threats, Abuse, or New Contact Prohibited by Court Order) During the Supervision Term?  Yes  No
5. Officer Contact With Victim:  Initiated  
 Maintained  
 Provided Services  
 Referred for Services  
 No Interest/Request by Victim  
 No contact
6. Was There a New Victim as a Result of a New Offense Committed During the Supervision Term?  
 Yes  No

---

County/Department Code # (1-103) \_\_\_\_\_

Officer's Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_, First \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return all completed surveys to: Probation Services Division  
816 S. College  
Springfield, IL 62704

If you have any questions please contact: Rich Adkins  
(217) 524-1277

10/20/97

# Instructions For the Illinois Outcome Survey for Adult Probation

Please include in this survey all active classified adult cases (court supervision, conditional discharge, standard probation, IPS, and specialized caseloads) which terminate during the month of the study. Cases should all have had an intake assessment and a case plan. It is very important that every effort be made to determine the best answer(s) to each question and not leave blanks. If a question is not applicable please write N/A in the space provided. We do appreciate your time and effort in completing this important survey. If you have any questions please call Rich Adkins at (217) 524-1277

## I. Case History/Information:

1. Age at Exit: Please include the actual age of the offender at the time of the case termination.
2. Gender: Please put a check on the line indicating whether the offender is a Male or a Female.
3. Please mark the line with an 'X' indicating the Race/Ethnicity of the offender: American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, or Other.
4. Annual Household Income: Indicate if the income is household or offender income (choose one only). Then please place an 'X' on the line which indicates the annual income for the household in which the offender resides and includes all the legal income of all residents of the household including public assistance and child support. Please record this information at both the time of case entry and at the time of case exit.
5. Sentence Date (MM/DD/YY): Please record the date of sentence for the current offense. (01/05/96) would indicate the current sentence date occurred on January 5, 1996.
6. Sentence Length for Original Offense (Months): Please record the number of months that the offender was sentenced to for the current offense.
7. Current Offense (1 - 18): Please mark the line to the left of the current offense for which the offender was sentenced. If more than one offense was a part of the sentence please indicate the most serious offense only. You may use the class of offense for an indication of seriousness. The offense groups are fairly broad, yet it is important to match the actual offense with the group that most closely represents the actual offense. If you are in doubt please write out the actual offense to the left of the offense groupings.
8. Class of Offense: Please mark the class of the offense with an 'X' on the line provided, indicating whether the offense was a Felony Class 1-4, a Misdemeanor Class A, B or C, or whether the offense was for either an Ordinance Violation or a Conservation Violation. Please try to record the sentencing offense class, and not the original class of offense that the offender was charged with if the two were different.
9. Sentence Type: Please indicate the type of active supervision the offender was sentenced to, either Probation, Conditional Discharge, or Court Supervision, by marking the line to the left of the appropriate response with an 'X'. "1410" and "710" probations should be included as Court Supervision cases only if they are actively supervised.
10. Supervision Strategy: Please indicate which supervision strategy was ordered by the court. If another strategy was ordered please mark the line next to 'Other Supervision' and write out the actual supervision strategy that was ordered. The choices are: Standard Probation, IPS, Specialized DUI, Specialized Drug, Sex Offender, or Other Supervision.

11. **Educational Background:** Please indicate the educational attainment for the offender Prior to Sentence and also at Case Exit. For grades 1 through 8 put an 'X' on the line to the left of that selection and write in the actual number of the last grade the offender completed. For High School grades 9 - 12, put an 'X' on that line, and write in the actual number of the last grade the offender completed, 12 would indicate that the offender graduated from High School. A 13 indicates that the offender has completed the GED program, a mark next to the 14 indicates the offender attended some college courses but did not earn a degree of any kind. An 'X' by the 15 would indicate the offender earned an Associate's Degree, an 'X' by the 16 indicates the offender has a Bachelor's Degree, and an 'X' by the 17 indicates the offender has an advanced or professional degree.

12. Please indicate whether the offender has a history of 'Violent Behavior' indicated by a conviction or adjudication for a violent offense. A 'violent offense' would include any sexual assault, domestic violence, robbery, aggravated assault, or other violent offenses which the offender has committed. Also, indicate if the offender has had a Conviction or Adjudication for a 'Violent Offense' within the last 5 years.

13. Indicate if the offender has a history of Alcohol Abuse, Drug Abuse, or Drug and Alcohol Abuse by placing an 'X' on the line in front of the 'Yes' response.

14. Record the number of prior Probations or Periods of Active Supervision as an Adult and the number as a Juvenile.

15. Record the number of times the offender had been convicted of a criminal offense prior to this term of supervision, as well as the number of prior times this offender was adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile

16. Record the number of times the offender has been committed to a state correctional institution both as an adult and as a juvenile.

## **II. Court-Ordered Sanctions:**

1. Please record all supervision fees, fines, court costs and restitution both ordered by the court and collected from the offender.

2. Please indicate how the offender made restitution to the victim by placing an 'X' next to the description of the restitution method(s).

3. Record the Number of Hours of Public/Community Service both Ordered and Completed by the offender while under supervision.

4. Indicate if Curfew or Home Confinement was ordered by the court or used by the department, and if Electronic Monitoring was used, how many days was the offender monitored. This refers to court ordered sanctions on this current offense only.

5. Indicate if Alcohol/Drug testing was ordered, and how many separate urine drops were tested, and the number of drops that included a positive result. Record this for urine tests only; do not record other methods of testing.

6. How many days in jail immediately prior to and/or during the term of probation did the offender serve.

7. Record an 'X' by the reason for discharge from supervision next to the appropriate line.

### **III. Community Protection:**

1. Please indicate if the supervision of this offender met the supervision standards of the AOIC, as specified in the Adult Investigation and Supervision System (AISS) manual for contacts based upon the classification of the offender. There are three possible responses to this question: 1. Did Not Meet AISS Contact Standards 2. Met AISS Contact Standards and 3. Exceeded AISS Contact Standards. If your department has a variance(s) from AISS Contact Standards, the AISS contact standards were not met.
2. Indicate if Administrative Sanctions were used (ASP) with the offender during some point in supervision.
3. Please report the number of Technical Violations reported during the supervision of this offender. Reported indicates that an official notification of violation was made, whether it was acted upon or not.
4. How many times was the offender arrested during the term of this supervision.
5. What was the initial & final risk classification of the offender (Maximum, Medium or Minimum).

### **IV. Correctional Intervention:**

1. Indicate if treatment was ordered for the offender.
2. Indicate the type of treatment ordered for the offender. Please be careful and note that there are both inpatient and outpatient treatment options for alcohol, drug, alcohol and drug and mental health. In addition there are options for treatment as a sex offender and for domestic batterers.
3. Indicate if treatment was completed by the offender, and which treatment mode was completed. (Example: 'X' Alcohol Inpatient Treatment - if the offender completed treatment as an inpatient for Alcohol Abuse)
4. Indicate if the offender attended a Victim Impact Panel during the term of supervision.
5. Was there a perceived reduction in the use of alcohol or drugs during supervision: Yes/No. This is a judgement call you are asked to make about the substance use of the offender while under supervision.
6. Assess the offender's employment stability during supervision.
7. Indicate the offender's area of employment. Please use one of the five areas listed and do not create new ones: 1. Agriculture- work performed on farms as well as workers in agricultural support businesses; 2. Manufacturing - work performed in a factory setting, as well as those employed in production of goods in smaller manufacturing endeavors; 3. Service - retail, sales positions, store clerks, office workers, mechanics, laborers, and trade workers, etc...; 4. Professional - doctors, lawyers, accountants, teachers, etc., requiring specific education; 5. Other - all positions not falling into one of the other four categories. (Note: please use your best judgement when categorizing employment). Also, indicate if the employment of the offender is full time or part time or if the offender is unemployed.
8. Please indicate your perception as to whether there was a positive attitude change in the offender during supervision.
9. Indicate your perception of the offender's family/marital stability during supervision.

**V. Victim Information:**

1. Please indicate the relationship of offender to victim, (1.) Victim is a Relative of Offender indicates the victim came from the same family dwelling unit or is related by blood or marriage to the victim. (2.) Victim is Friend/Acquaintance of Offender indicates that they were known to each other prior to the offense. (3.) Victim is Unknown to Offender - indicates that there was no knowledge of each other prior to the offense. (4.) No Victim Identified in Court Documents - indicates that while there likely was a victim of the crime there was no named victim listed in court records. (5.) Victimless Crime - indicates that this was a crime in which no one was victimized by the offense (Example: speeding or other traffic offense where no damage was done to property or individuals by the offender).

2. Please indicate the gender of the victim: Male, Female or both genders

3. Please indicate the age of the victim by category: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult (60 or older)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Adult (30 to 59)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Young Adult (18 to 29)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Adolescent (13 - 17)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Child (12 or under)

4. Was the Victim(s) in the Current Offense Revictimized by the offender (threats, abuse, or new contact prohibited by court order) During the supervision term?

5. Please describe your contact with the victim: 1. there was contact with victim initiated  
2. there was contact with victim maintained  
3. you provided services to the victim  
4. You referred the victim to services  
5. The victim had no interest or made no request  
6. No contact

6. Was there a new victim as a result of a new offense committed during the supervision term?

10/20/97

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## **APPENDIX II:       WEIGHTING METHODOLOGY**

During the data collection process it was determined that not all the individual probation officers in the Cook County Adult Probation Department had received the data collection instruments and were therefore not completing the survey for the probationers discharged during the study period. As a result, the number of completed surveys received from the Cook County Adult Probation Department was lower than it should have been, based on aggregate case discharge data reported by county probation departments to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Based on aggregate data reported to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Cook County Adult Probation Department accounted for 26.2 percent of all probation terminations during 1997. However, the proportion of cases from the Cook County Adult Probation Department represented in the probation outcome survey was only 18.8 percent. Although the general characteristics, such as race, gender, offense, etc., of Cook County Adult Probation cases represented in the outcome survey data were consistent with those reported by the department, due to their under representation in the statewide data, those cases from the Cook County Adult Probation Department had to be weighted to ensure accurate statewide distributions, as well as within-Cook County distributions (e.g., the Cook County Adult Probation Department and the Cook County Department of Social Services). To accomplish this, the Cook County Adult Probation Department data were weighted to match their representation among statewide case terminations as reported in aggregate data provided by every department to AOIC. All analyses presented in this report are based on these weighted data.

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**APPENDIX III: CROSS-TABULATION OF PRIOR CRIMINAL HISTORY AND CURRENT OFFENSE CLASS AND TYPE**

| Current Offense     | Percent with a Prior Adult Conviction | Average Number of Prior Convictions per Probationer |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Class 1 Felony      | 30.2%                                 | 0.65  |
| Class 2 Felony      | 38.5%                                 | 0.97  |
| Class 3 Felony      | 50.0%                                 | 1.50  |
| Class 4 Felony      | 47.8%                                 | 1.76  |
| Class A Misdemeanor | 38.1%                                 | 1.05  |
| Class B Misdemeanor | 18.8%                                 | 0.59  |
| Class C Misdemeanor | 33.8%                                 | 0.74  |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>39.5%</b>                          | <b>1.11</b>   |

| Current Offense | Percent with a Prior Adult Conviction | Average Number of Prior Convictions per Probationer |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Violent         | 43.2%                                 | 1.26  |
| Property        | 46.5%                                 | 1.56  |
| Drug            | 35.3%                                 | 0.90  |
| DUI             | 30.1%                                 | 0.69  |
| Other           | 42.9%                                 | 1.34  |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>38.9%</b>                          | <b>1.11</b>   |

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**APPENDIX IV: ILLINOIS ADULT PROBATION RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT**

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## ILLINOIS ADULT PROBATION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

County \_\_\_\_\_ Judicial Circuit \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSESSMENT OF ADULT PROBATIONER RISK

Probationer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dept ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Last First Middle  
 Assessment Date \_\_\_\_\_ Officer's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Mo. Day Year  
 Sentencing Date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Mo. Day Yr.

|   |    |  | SCORE       |
|---|----|--|-------------|
| Number of Address Changes in Last 12 Months: .....                                      | 0  | None   |             |
|   | 2  | One  |             |
|   | 3  | Two or more  | _____       |
| Percentage of Time Employed in Last 12 Months: .....                                    | 0  | 60% or more  |             |
|   | 1  | 40% - 59%  |             |
|   | 2  | Under 40%  |             |
|   | 0  | Not applicable   | _____       |
| Alcohol Usage Problems: .....   | 0  | No interference with functioning                         |             |
|   | 2  | Occasional abuse; some disruption of functioning         |             |
|   | 4  | Frequent abuse, serious disruption; needs treatment      | _____       |
| Other Drug Usage Problems: .....  | 0  | No interference with functioning                         |             |
|   | 1  | Occasional abuse; some disruption of functioning         |             |
|   | 2  | Frequent abuse; serious disruption; needs treatment      | _____       |
| Attitude: .....   | 0  | Motivated to change; receptive to assistance             |             |
|   | 3  | Dependent or unwilling to accept responsibility          |             |
|   | 5  | Rationalizes behavior; negative; not motivated to change | _____       |
| Age at First Conviction: .....  | 0  | 24 or older  |             |
| (or Juvenile Adjudication)  | 2  | 20 - 23  |             |
|   | 4  | 19 or younger  | _____       |
| Number of Prior Periods of Probation/Parole Supervision: .....                          | 0  | None   |             |
| (Adult or Juvenile)   | 4  | One or more  | _____       |
| Number of Prior Probation/Parole Revocations: .....                                     | 0  | None   |             |
| (Adult or Juvenile)   | 4  | One or more  | _____       |
| Number of Prior Felony Convictions: .....   | 0  | None   |             |
| (or Juvenile Adjudications)   | 2  | One  |             |
|   | 4  | Two or more  | _____       |
| Convictions or Juvenile Adjudications for: .....  | 0  | None   |             |
| (Select applicable and add for score.)  | 2  | Burglary, theft, auto theft, or robbery                  |             |
| (Include current offense.)  | 3  | Worthless checks or forgery                              | _____       |
| Conviction or Juvenile Adjudication for Assaultive Offense within Last Two Years: ..... | 15 | Yes  |             |
| (An offense which involves the use of a weapon, physical force or the threat of force)  | 0  | No   |             |
|   |    |  | TOTAL _____ |

**APPENDIX V: CHANGE IN INCOME LEVELS DURING SUPERVISION: Increase in Income Among Adults Discharged from Probation in Illinois, by Initial Income Level, November-December 1997**

| <b>Income at Probation Entry</b> | <b>Percent Experiencing an Increase in Income</b> | <b>Percent of All Probationers</b> |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| \$5,000 or less                  | 25.7%   | 32.5%                              |
| \$5,001 - \$10,000               | 21.4%   | 14.9%                              |
| \$10,001 - \$15,000              | 18.9%   | 16.3%                              |
| \$15,001 - \$20,000              | 16.6%   | 12.0%                              |
| \$20,001 - \$25,000              | 11.8%   | 8.7%                               |
| \$25,001 - \$30,000              | 10.8%   | 4.9%                               |
| More than \$30,000               | 5.0%  | 10.7%                              |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>17.1%</b>                                      | <b>100.0%</b>                      |

## NOTES









**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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Jim Edgar, Governor  
Peter B. Bensinger, Chairman