

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS ADULT PROBATION?

Probation is a law enforcement tool that holds people convicted of crimes accountable and helps to oversee their rehabilitation.

Trained officers supervise offenders to enforce court-ordered restrictions and ensure rehabilitation, working closely with other law enforcement and local entities (health or social services, community organizations, employers, etc.).

HOW PROBATION IS REDUCING CRIME — AND COSTS

Probation has always helped to reduce recidivism and the cost of crime. In 2009, California's probation chiefs took this commitment to a new level by sponsoring SB 678, a law that provides incentives to counties that reduce the number of adult felony probationers that go to state prison for violating probation conditions.

Probation departments are implementing innovative practices for augmented supervision and rehabilitation, such as day reporting centers, partnering with service providers and treatment programs, and partnering with local law enforcement. How's it working?

- **90%** of California probation departments use a formal risk-assessment tool to ensure the best supervision of each individual
- **47 of 58** California counties (through 2010) were successful in making reductions in the number of probationers sent to state prison
- **37.5%** decrease from 2008 to 2012 in the number of people sent to state prison by ensuring that probation conditions were met
- **\$179 million** was saved by the state from these reductions
- **\$87.5 million** went to counties that sent fewer people to state prison

ENSURING EFFECTIVE PROBATION — AND CRIME PREVENTION

Despite SB 678's success, the current budget proposed for 2013-14 **decreases its funding by \$104.2 million**. To protect public safety and taxpayer resources, the state should continue to fully fund SB 678, as well as other investments in community corrections.

ABOUT THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC.org) provides leadership in the mobilization, coordination and implementation of Probation programs in the state's 58 counties. This includes protecting the public (through detention and treatment, victim services and preventing crime) and insuring quality investigations and supervision of offenders for the courts.

PROBATION BY THE NUMBERS

72%

Percentage of people in the adult justice system sentenced to felony probation or probation and jail (probation is the most common sanction in our justice system)

400,000

Number of Californians currently on probation (80% for felonies)

118%

Increase in the adult probation population from 1980 to 2010 (when California's overall population only increased by 57%)

\$1,500

Average amount spent for supervising one probationer for one year (compared to expensive incarceration options that can be as high as \$47,000 per year)

12%

Increased workload for county probation departments under Public Safety Realignment (as of December 31, 2012)