Community Corrections

• A number of cases do not result in a jail or prison term.
• A variety of initiatives allow for the guilty offenders to remain in the community while still completing a court-ordered sanction:
  – Community corrections relies on conditional supervision as alternative to an active prison sentence.
Probation

- Probation is a sentence of imprisonment that is suspended.
- This form of conditional freedom is granted by a judicial officer – a judge in most cases.
- The probationer must adhere to conditions set forth in the terms of the probation.
  - It is a binding form of contract.
  - Failure to adhere to the conditions may result in revocation.
• The concept of probation is traced back to fourteenth century England.
• English courts established a practice of allowing offenders who demonstrated good behavior to be supervised by willing citizens.
• In the late nineteenth century a Boston shoemaker, John Augustus, began supervising drunkards.
• Having worked with more than 2000 offenders, Augustus’ work resulted in the state of Massachusetts passing legislation in 1878 authorizing a salaried probation officer.
• Probation is the most common of criminal sentence in use in the United States. In 2006 approximately 60% of the cases under correctional supervision involve probation.
How does it work?

• Probationers **must** agree to abide by the sanctions of the probation.
• Terms and conditions are determined before the beginning of the probation.
• A violation of the terms and conditions can lead to **revocation**.
The conditions

• There are two types of conditions:
  – General
  – Specific
General

• General conditions apply to all probationers in a given jurisdiction.
  – Obey the law
  – Maintain employment
  – Remain within the jurisdiction
  – Cannot possess firearms
  – Allow for visits by probation officer
  – Pay fine/restitution
Special

• If the offender is in need of particular guidance or control, the judge may stipulate special conditions be adhered to.

• This may depend on the nature of the offense or the offender’s background or history.
  – Surrender driver’s license
  – Submit to reasonable, warrantless searches
  – Submit to blood, urine, or breath tests for alcohol and/or drug use.
Parole

• This is a conditional release of a convicted offender before the expiration of the prison sentence.
• Parole is supervised release.
• Parole does not apply to offenders who are released after completing their full sentence.
• Strategies differ from probation in both purpose and implementation.
Probation - Parole

• Probation
  – Sentence option
  – Sentence strategy

• Parole
  – Administrative decision
  – Correctional strategy
Models of Parole

• Two major models
  – Parole Board
  – Statutory Decree

• Parole Boards are jurisdictional authorities
  – State
  – Federal
  • These boards review inmates sentences and consider granting parole.

• Statutory Decree produces *mandatory parole*, with release dates set near completion of a prison sentence/term.
Advantages/Disadvantages

• Advantages
  – Lower costs
  – Increased employment
  – Restitution
  – Community support
  – Reduced risk of criminal socialization
  – Increased use of community services
  – Increased opportunity for rehabilitation

• Disadvantages
  – Lack of punishment
  – Increased community risk
  – Increased social costs
    • Some offenders, not all, will continue to offend.
  – Discriminatory and unequal effects
    • Gender disparities may exist creating unfair opportunities for females.
The Role of Officers

• The tasks associated with probation and parole are in many regards similar.

• There are four primary functions:
  – Presentence investigation
  – Intake
  – Diagnosis and needs assessment
  – Client supervision

• A major difference between the two is the law enforcement aspect associated with parole vs. probation.
Intermediate sanctions

- Various sentence options that offer new alternatives
  - Split sentence
  - Shock probation
  - Shock parole
  - Community service
  - Intensive supervision
  - Home confinement
• Split sentence
  – The imposition of a combination of imprisonment and probation.

• Shock probation/parole
  – Sentencing offenders to short periods of incarceration.
  – Offenders must apply for release, not an axiom.

• Shock incarceration
  – Became popular in the 1990s
  – Relies on military-style “boot camp”
  – Strict discipline, PT, hard labor.
• Mixed sentencing
  – Requires partial incarceration
    • Generally weekends
    • Probation supervision during the week
    • Participate in treatment/community service

• Community service
  – An adjunct to, rather than a type, of correctional service.
  – A sentence alternative.

• Intensive probation supervision (IPS)
  – A form of supervision requiring frequent face-to-face contact with the PO.
• Home confinement – house arrest
  – A sentence imposed which allows offenders to remain in their domicile.
  – Generally involves some form of electronic monitoring.
    • Very sophisticated
      – RF
      – GPS
  – Restrictions include
    • Time
    • Distance
    • Location restrictions
      – Known criminal hangouts
      – Gambling
      – Bars