Juvenile Justice
CJ 3650
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Chapter 11
Juvenile Corrections

- There are several different correctional sanctions that are available to the juvenile courts.
  - On average, 24% of adjudicated delinquents are placed in an out-of-home placement.
  - Juvenile placements have increased 44% from 1985-2002.
  - Probation has seen an increase of 103% in the same period.
Community Corrections

- The majority of delinquents are sentenced to some type of community sanction.
- **Community corrections** – correctional programs and facilities located in the community where the delinquent youth lives.

Figure 11.1 – page 313
The history

• The juvenile justice system and the history of separate juvenile correctional facilities have run a similar, parallel course.

• The earliest facilities have roots in England and Colonial America.
  – Charles Dicken’s *Oliver Twist* describes the conditions which children lived at that time.
• The early system was bifurcated:
  – Originally developed as an alternative to adult prison.
    • State systems relied on reform and training schools.
    • The other prong were the private institutions run by philanthropists and local communities.
Community corrections is a broad term that helps describe correctional alternatives with one common characteristic:
- Less restrictive than institutional systems
- Literally operated in the community

There is no national standard in the organization of these systems.

The programs place the importance on
- Juveniles remaining in the community
- Having appropriate adult role-models
Who and Why?

• The offense
  – Violent or not
  – Number and type of victims
  – Use of a weapon

• Prior history in system
  – Arrest
  – Adjudication
  – Probation
  – Commitment
• **Juvenile characteristics**
  – Education, IQ, social skills
  – Attitude
  – Admission of guilt
  – Substance abuse

• **Family situation**

• **Social situation**

• **Availability of resources**

• **Availability of staff**

Classification Scale page 317
Probation

- The juvenile court is the centerpiece of the juvenile justice system
- **Probation** is the operational arm.
  - In 2000 there were 1.63 million delinquency cases handled.
  - Probation is a sanction where the court releases a youth to a parent or guardian to live in the community under certain rules.
  - It is limitless
  - Inexpensive and cost efficient
  - Reasonably satisfactory
The Process

• **Deferred adjudication** – is a type of probation that allows a juvenile who agrees to certain probation conditions not to have to go to court.
  – There is no direct supervision and if the juvenile does not commit any new offenses then the probation is complete.
  – There are no formal proceedings, therefore no record.
• Probation is used for many, if not all, first-time, low-risk offenders.

• **Screening** – is the beginning of the process that determines how the case should be processed and whether detention should be considered and/or maintained.

• The investigative report is prepared at this point in the process and some level of supervision is provided.

• During the adjudication phase the PO may be called to testify based on the report.
The probation department often conducts review hearings to monitor the progress of the juvenile.
Caseloads

• Caseloads vary substantially by region and demographics.
• In the 1980s and early 1990s probation caseloads increased dramatically in response to the significant rise in juvenile crime during that period.
• 1999 there were almost 400,000 adjudicated delinquents on probation.
  – During this time informal cases rose only 12%.
  – This is indicative of the trend toward formal processing.
Conditions

• Common probation conditions:
  – Attend school
  – Attend work
  – Abstinence
  – Random drug screening
  – Regular probation visits
  – Attend special counseling
  – Maintain curfew
  – Pay restitution
  – Community service
  – Obey parents/guardians
• Probation is not a right, but a privilege.
• Conditions can be specific to the juvenile and their case.
• **Probation agreement** – outlines the terms and conditions of the probation.
  – Juvenile is required to sign this – a contract.
• **Revocation** – occurs when the terms and conditions are violated or not met.
The Officer

- Prepares the presentence investigation.
- Functions as a liaison for the court with other agencies.
- Prepares dispositional plans.
- Supervises juveniles on probation.
- Makes decisions about the progress of the juvenile.
- Oversees aftercare.
Variations in Probation

• **Intensive Supervision** – increase the amount and level of supervision. Characterized by high levels of contact.
  – An alternative to secure institutionalization.
  – Care to prevent over- or under-inclusion must be taken and is based on research on the target population in that community.
  – The assumption of ISP is that the juvenile can be safely and effectively served by remaining in the community.
• **Shock probation** – a relatively unique strategy by **shocking** juveniles with a brief stay in an institution.
  – This approach may include the omission of informing the juvenile that they will be released soon after.

• **School-based probation** – blends the supervisory capacity of juvenile probation and the school system.
  – The PO is housed in the school system.
  – Used in 83% of Pennsylvania counties.
- **House arrest** – used for more serious offenses and may be a part of the pre-adjudication process.
  - Random home visits and calls by the PO.
- **Electronic monitoring** – when the juvenile is judged to be a security risk.
Alternatives

- **Mediation** – attempts to bring the juvenile and their victims together.
  - Can be used as a diversionary tactic.

- **Restitution** – is the payment of money or rendering restorative services or work to the victim or business impacted by the crime.
  - One problem is the amount of restitution may exceed what the juvenile is capable of paying.

- **Community service** – is community restitution.
Counseling & Specialized Treatment

- **Day treatment** – the juvenile may report to a school, vocational, or other type of treatment program.
  - These programs are often highly structured and focus on supervision.

- **Foster care** – the care and custody of children outside of their own homes.

- **Group homes** – is a form of community-based corrections.

- **Wilderness and adventure programs**

- **Vocational and apprenticeship programs**