



## Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

### Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs

#### Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) (A Federal Executive Branch Agency) 2016

**Established:**  
**Authorizing Legislation:**

By the U.S. Congress in August, 1997  
National Capital Revitalization  
and Self-Government Improvement Act  
(5 U.S.C. 301, P.L. 105-33)

CSOSA is an independent executive branch agency of the Federal government, established under legislation that relieved the District of Columbia of "state-level" responsibilities. The Revitalization Act restructured several District of Columbia criminal justice functions, including the closing of the Lorton prison complex and the creation of CSOSA. CSOSA was certified as an independent executive branch agency of the federal government in August, 2000. **The Pretrial Services Agency (PSA)** is an independent entity within CSOSA with a separate budget providing supervision and support services to 4,000 defendants. See [www.dcpsa.gov](http://www.dcpsa.gov).

**Function:**

CSOSA provides supervision and support services to adult offenders on:

**Probation**, as ordered by the D.C. Superior Court;  
**Parole**, as granted by the United States Parole Commission; and  
**Supervised Release**, as determined by law and administered by the United States Parole Commission.

**Director:**

Nancy M. Ware

**Locations:**

Headquarters: 633 Indiana Avenue, NW

Field Offices: 300 Indiana Avenue, NW (includes Drug Lab)  
1230 Taylor Street, NW (includes Drug Lab)  
25 K Street, NE (includes Drug Lab)  
800 North Capitol Street, NE  
910 Rhode Island Avenue, NE  
1418 Good Hope Road, SE  
3850 South Capitol Street, SE (includes Drug Lab)

**Employees:**

887 for CSOSA; 373 for PSA

**Budget:**

FY 2015: \$173 million for CSOSA; \$61 million for Pretrial Services.

**Web Sites:**

[www.csosa.gov](http://www.csosa.gov); <http://media.csosa.gov> (social media site)

## **Offender Population Profile**

Over the last several years, CSOSA's supervised population has been decreasing. On average, CSOSA supervised approximately 12,000 offenders each day in FY 2015, and a total of 18,427 unique offenders over the course of the fiscal year.

**Offender Entrants:** In FY 2015, a total of 6,461 offenders entered CSOSA supervision; 4,869 men and women sentenced to probation by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia and 1,592 individuals released from incarceration in a Federal Bureau of Prisons facility on parole or supervised release.

The characteristics of offenders under CSOSA supervision on September 30, 2015 were as follows:

<b>Average Age:</b>	38 years		
<b>Race:</b>		<b>Education Level:</b>	
Black Not-Hispanic	90.2%	Less than High School	33.2%
Hispanic	4.5%	HS Diploma/GED	44.6%
White Not-Hispanic	4.1%	Post Secondary Study	17.4%
All Other	1.2%	Unknown:	4.8%
<b>Gender:</b>			
Male	84.6%	Female	15.4%

**Housing:** Just under nine percent of CSOSA's supervised population on September 30, 2015 resided in unstable housing, including homeless shelters, halfway houses, CSOSA-provided transitional housing, hotels/motels or had no fixed address. Finding stable housing is particularly a challenge for offenders returning to the community after a period of incarceration. Approximately 17 percent of reentrants (parole and supervised release) who began supervision in FY 2015 did not have stable housing at the start of supervision. Of these, nearly 80 percent were living in homeless shelters.

**Mental Health:** 38 percent of offenders supervised on September 30, 2015 self-reported that they had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder, were in a mental health treatment program, were taking medication to treat a mental health disorder or had been hospitalized as a result of a mental health disorder. An additional four percent reported having experienced mental health concerns (i.e., anxiety, depression), but were never formally diagnosed.<sup>1</sup>

**Employment:** 62 percent of the supervised population on September 30, 2015 were employable and, of those, 49 percent were employed<sup>2</sup>.

**Drug Use:** Of offenders drug-tested in FY 2015, 53 percent tested positive for illicit drugs at least one time (excluding alcohol) during the year.<sup>3</sup>

**Offenders with Children:** 64 percent of offenders entering supervision in FY 2015 self-reported having children. Nearly one out of five of these offenders identified themselves as the primary caretaker of dependent-age children.<sup>4</sup>

**Juvenile Offenders:** In FY 2015, CSOSA supervised 22 offenders under the age 18 who were convicted and sentenced in criminal court.

**Risk Level:** 37 percent of the supervised population on September 30, 2015 were supervised at the highest risk levels (intensive and maximum).

<sup>1</sup> Based on offenders for whom Auto Screener data were available.

<sup>2</sup> Based on offenders for whom job verification records were available. Offenders are "employable" if they are not retired, disabled, suffering from a debilitating medical condition, receiving SSI, participating in a residential treatment program, participating in a residential sanctions program (i.e., incarcerated), or participating in a school or training program.

<sup>3</sup> Based on offenders in active supervision status for an entire reporting month, who were supervised at a medium, maximum or intensive level.

<sup>4</sup> Based on offenders for whom Auto Screener data were available.

**Supervision Type:** Offenders under CSOSA supervision on September 30, 2015 were characterized by the following supervision types:

<u>Probation:</u>	51 percent
<u>Supervised Release:</u>	31 percent
<u>Parole:</u>	12 percent
<u>Deferred Sentence:</u>	3 percent
<u>Civil Protection Order:</u>	3 percent

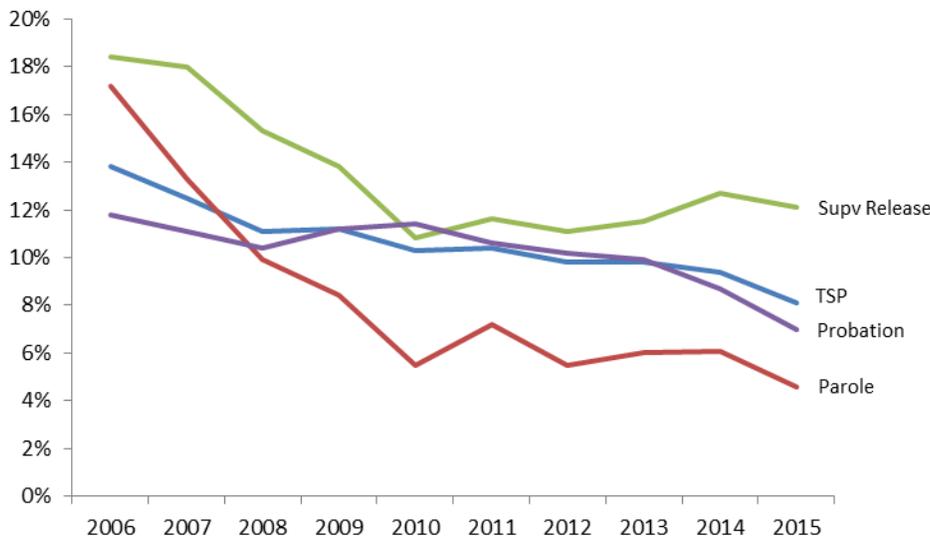
**Supervision Length:** Offenders typically remain under CSOSA supervision for the following durations<sup>5</sup>:

<u>Probation:</u>	18.6 to 19.4 months;
<u>Supervised Release:</u>	42.6 to 43.6 months;
<u>Parole</u> <sup>6</sup> :	11.9 to 14.6 years;
<u>Deferred Sentence:</u>	9.5 to 9.8 months; and
<u>Civil Protection Order:</u>	12.3 to 13.1 months

### CSOSA Performance Outcomes

**Recidivism:** CSOSA defines recidivism as the loss of liberty resulting from revocation for a new conviction and/or for violating supervision conditions. CSOSA strives to decrease revocations (and, overall recidivism) by continuing to develop, implement and evaluate effective offender supervision programs and techniques.

In FY 2015, the percentage of CSOSA's total supervised offender population revoked to incarceration decreased to 8.1 percent; continuing annual reductions experienced since FY 2006. The reduction of recidivism is a significant public safety accomplishment. The table below reports revocation to incarceration data for each offender type.



**Successful Completion of Supervision:** CSOSA programs are designed to ensure offender accountability and to support offender success in the community. Successful completion of terms of supervision is the goal for each offender we supervise. CSOSA defines successful cases closures as those that expire/terminate satisfactorily, expire/terminate unsatisfactorily, are returned to their sending jurisdiction in compliance, or are transferred to U.S. Probation.

A total of 9,708 supervision cases closed in FY 2015 of which 68 percent closed successfully. The percentage of cases closing successfully has been increasing since FY 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Values represent the 95% confidence interval around the average length of sentence for the CSP's FY 2015 Total Supervised Population.

<sup>6</sup> Life sentences have been excluded.

## Supervision Services

CSOSA's 310 Community Supervision Officers and other supervision staff (225 positions) are organized into branches and teams according to the type of caseload they manage. Most officers carry a caseload that includes parolees, supervised releases and probationers.

- **Diagnostic** teams prepare pre-sentence investigations for the Court. Three specialized teams work with pre-parole inmates in the halfway houses through CSOSA's Transitional Interventions for Parole Supervision (TIPS) program to provide transitional housing, employment and social services.
- **General Supervision** teams supervise the majority of offenders. The average caseload is approximately 40 cases per officer.
- **Special Supervision** teams supervise high-risk offenders, sex offenders, offenders with mental health problems; domestic violence cases, and traffic/alcohol cases. The average caseload is 39 cases per officer.
- **Interstate** teams supervise offenders who were sentenced in other jurisdictions but relocated to the District of Columbia, as well as offenders convicted of misdemeanors in DC who reside elsewhere.

## Program Interventions

CSOSA's program model incorporates a number of innovative strategies emphasizing offender **accountability** and **opportunity** to develop the skills and resources that support crime and drug-free behavior. These strategies include:

- **Risk and Needs Assessment:** A comprehensive risk and needs assessment results in a recommended supervision level for the offender to ensure public safety, as well as an automated, individualized supervision plan that identifies programs and services to address the offender's needs. **CSOSA's TIPS Unit** provides this assessment for all offenders returning from federal prison through three federal/ DC residential re-entry centers to create a plan *before* release. Other diagnostic officers assess offender risks and needs before they are sentenced while drafting presentence investigation reports to the court. In FY 2015, CSOSA completed a total of 13,193 risk and needs assessments.
- **Close Supervision:** CSOSA policy mandates supervision levels that are commensurate with risk and needs levels. High-risk offenders receive eight meaningful contacts per month, four of which are in the community. Levels of contact decrease to four, two and one contact(s) per month based on the risk assessment score and demonstrated compliance. CSOSA's six field units promote close supervision of the offender both in the office and at the residence or workplace. In FY 2015, CSOSA conducted 63,798 home visits for 9,627 offenders. Of these, 24,988 were conducted independently; 983 were conducted with accountability tours (with law enforcement); and 37,827, with home verifications.
- **Surveillance Drug Testing:** CSOSA tests *all* offenders initially, starting at intake and continuing twice weekly for eight weeks. If the offender tests negative, the frequency decreases to weekly for an additional twelve weeks, then monthly. Offenders on minimum supervision, as well as those who do not have histories of drug use and who have established a record of negative tests, may ultimately only be required to drug test randomly. Violations return the offender to the toughest schedule. Positive tests are addressed through a combination of treatment referral and sanctions (see below).
- **Kiosk Supervision:** Low-risk offenders who have demonstrated compliance with supervision conditions may be placed on kiosk supervision. Offenders on kiosk supervision do not regularly report to a supervision officer in person but, rather, are required to check-in (through a biometric hand scan) at one of the kiosks located in four CSOSA field sites located throughout the District. Offenders on kiosk supervision are only required to drug test when they are randomly selected. If an offender tests positive or fails to report for testing when selected, he/she is removed from the kiosk program. As of September 30, 2015, there were 211 offenders enrolled in CSOSA's kiosk program.
- **Reentry and Sanctions Center (RSC):** The RSC provides intensive treatment readiness programming to high-risk male and female offenders and defendants. In FY 2015, the RSC admitted a total of 928 high risk-offenders/defendants and discharged 803. (Note: The total discharges exclude the 46 cases when an offender could not remain at the RSC due to medical reasons, cognitive deficiencies, or his/her supervision period ended.) Of the 803 discharges, 600 (75%) successfully completed the program and 203 (25%) were unsuccessful.

- **Drug Treatment:** CSOSA provides a continuum of detox, residential, and outpatient drug treatment through contract providers, as well as referrals to DC and Veterans Administration resources. CSOSA has the resources to provide direct drug treatment to approximately 25 percent of the offender population in need of such services. We partner with DC government, faith-based institutions and other federal agencies to meet the remaining need for substance abuse treatment.
- **Graduated Sanctions:** One of the keys to successful supervision is the implementation of swift and certain sanctions when an offender does not comply with their supervision conditions. CSOSA's sanctions are defined in a contract between the officer and the offender, which is signed at the beginning of supervision. Sanction options include increased telephone or in-person contacts with the supervision officer, day reporting, increased drug testing requirements, community service, GPS (satellite) monitoring, the Secure Residential Treatment Program (SRTP), and/or placement in short-term residential treatment.
- **Secure Residential Treatment Program (SRTP):** The SRTP is a joint collaboration with the DC Government, United States Parole Commission, and the Bureau of Prisons to provide a secure, residential substance abuse treatment intervention/sanction to high-risk offenders who are chronically abusing substances. The SRTP has capacity for 32 offenders.
- **Global Positioning System (GPS):** CSOSA monitors selected sex, domestic violence and high-risk offenders via satellite. GPS monitoring is currently imposed as a sanction once the offender has demonstrated non-compliant behavior. GPS monitoring creates a real-time record of the offender's location and movements. As of September 25, 2015, there were 347 offenders on GPS tracking.
- **Vocational Opportunities Training, Education and Employment Services (VOTEE Unit):** After assessment, selected offenders are referred to one of four CSOSA learning labs throughout the city for assessment, educational services, vocational training, employment counseling and placement. Specialized services are offered to female offenders.
- **Faith-Based Reentry Programs and Mentoring:** Since the Faith Based Initiative began in 2002, 360 faith institutions have been certified as mentor centers, 1,686 community members have been recruited and trained as volunteer mentors, and 5,268 offenders have been referred to the Faith Based Initiative program. As of September 30, 2015, 97 faith institutions and 53 mentors were actively engaged with 61 matched offenders. In 2008, the CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership expanded to include special emphasis programming, such as Family Reunification, Parenting Classes, a Women's Relapse Prevention Group, Job Coaching and Pro-Social Skills activities.
- **Implementing Evidence-Based Supervision Practices:** In corrections research, the risk principle holds that offender treatment and support services are most effective at reducing recidivism when directed to those offenders who pose the greatest risk. In FY 2011, reorganized its supervision and program services to focus its supervision activities on *high-risk offenders* who pose a substantial threat to public safety and by addressing the unique needs of *female offenders* and those with *mental health* needs. High-risk offenders have increased day reporting, supervision contacts, and drug testing requirements; may be subject to GPS, curfews, and polygraphs; and have increased Accountability Tours (home visits conducted jointly with law enforcement) and information shared with law enforcement. Conversely, low-risk offenders are placed on teams with higher caseloads, are subject to fewer supervision contacts, do not drug test on a regular schedule (i.e., they may be spot-tested) and, as deemed eligible, may be placed on *kiosk reporting*. Female offenders, who have different supervision and programming needs from male offenders, are supervised by gender specific teams (female-only) located at one field site and receive specialized services through a Day Reporting Center at that site. In FY 2013, CSOSA launched a pilot program creating two new supervision teams dedicated to *young adult males*. Concurrently, CSOSA completed an offender supervision workload balancing and realignment process that standardized all caseloads by offender risk, need and supervision type. This resulted in more-balanced caseloads and additional, specialized supervision teams for mental health offenders.

## CSOSA in the Community

CSOSA partners extensively with government and non-profit service providers, other criminal justice agencies, and citizen groups. These activities promote awareness of CSOSA's mission, enhance CSOSA's public safety activities, and increase the range of support services available to offenders.

- **Community Relations:** CSOSA staffs seven full-time Intergovernmental & Community Affairs Specialists. The Agency prides itself on its responsiveness to the community's concerns. Examples include Community Justice Advisory Networks and neighborhood involvement in the placement of field offices. Offenders have community service responsibilities that focus on projects identified by community stakeholders, especially in communities where offenders reside.
- **Coordinated Services:** CSOSA coordinates social and mental health services with D.C. government and private providers throughout the city. For example, some faith-based institutions offer services, including counseling, housing, clothing and other services. See "Starting Out, Starting Over, Staying Out: A Guide for District of Columbia Ex-Offenders" on the CSOSA web site ([www.csosa.gov](http://www.csosa.gov)).
- **Partnership with the Metropolitan Police Department:** Community Supervision Officers conduct joint supervision of high-risk offenders in the community with Metropolitan Police Officers. CSOSA also provides training on its supervision practices at the MPD academy. CSOSA partners with MPD and participating law enforcement agencies on cross-border initiatives.
- **Mass Orientations:** All offenders entering supervision are required to attend an introductory public meeting to learn about CSOSA's programs and practices. These meetings are held monthly, or more frequently, at the offender's field site. Orientation sessions are conducted at the team level, which allow for smaller session sizes, so staff can provide more attention to individual offender needs. In addition to Community Supervision Officers and Supervisory Community Supervision Officers, law enforcement personnel may also attend.
- **Victim Services:** CSOSA maintains a program to provide services to crime victims upon request. CSOSA is responsible for ensuring offenders comply with court orders requiring payment to the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Fund.
- **CSOSA TV and Radio Shows:** CSOSA offers a quarterly television show titled "D.C. Public Safety" addressing offender reentry, crime and criminal justice issues. CSOSA also offers a wide array of radio and television/video programs through our social media site at <http://media.csosa.gov>. See articles on CSOSA at <http://media.csosa.gov/blog>.
- For additional information, please contact:

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<http://media.csosa.gov> (radio and television shows, blog and transcripts)