

PPCJI Pennsylvania Partnership
for Criminal Justice
Improvement

Caseload Guidelines: Strategies and Recommendations

Webinar
Agenda

- Introduction
- Research
- Recommendations
- Strategies
- Panel
- Questions



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Caseload Guidelines: Strategies and Recommendations

Prepared by Casey Group for the
Pennsylvania Partnership for
Criminal Justice Improvement
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<http://www.ccappoap.com/>




Reasons for Caseload Restructuring

- Focus on moderate and high risk
- Improve outcomes
- Efficient and fiscally responsible
- Increases staff morale



RISK, NEEDS, SERIOUSNESS OF OFFENSES, AND BARRIERS POLICIES AND PRACTICES CONDITIONS SUPERVISION PRACTICES NON SUPERVISION TASKS PANDEMIC & OTHER FACTORS

Challenges to Determining Caseload Size



Caseload Size Survey Results

Caseload as of December 2023:

- County probation is supervising a total of 161,514 active cases
 - 1,604 staff dedicated to supervision
 - Average caseload of 88.9 (slightly higher than 2022)
- Significant disparity in caseload sizes across the state
 - Caseloads ranging from 15 to 200
- Significant disparity in caseload management across the state
 - Types of caseloads
 - Reporting requirements
- Workload appears to have more of an impact than caseloads
 - 77.7% of time on supervision

Appears to be numerous opportunities to reduce caseloads and workloads

American Probation and Parole Association

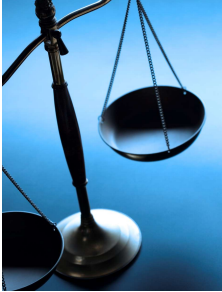
Case Type	Cases to Staff Ratio
Intensive	20:1
Moderate to High Risk	50:1
Low Risk	200:1
Administrative	No Limit? 1,000?

Research on Caseload Size

Limited number of scientifically strong studies that have been conducted.

- A review of 3,202 international papers found only 5 robust studies, 2 of which focused on mental health specialty caseloads.

Study/State	Caseload	Outcomes
Maryland (Taxman and colleagues, 2006)	55:1 compared to 100:1	Reduced rearrest rates (32.1% v. 40.9%) Reduced technical violations (20.1% vs. 29.2%)
Connecticut (Cox and colleagues, 2005)	25:1 compared to 100:1	Same rearrest rates Reduced probation violations (8% vs. 13%)
Iowa (Jalbert and colleagues, 2011)	54:1 compared to 106:1	Reduced rearrest by roughly 30% Technical violations increased by 4%



Smaller is Not Necessarily Better

Intensive programs that mostly relied on surveillance and immediate sanctions rather than focusing on treatment and interventions resulted in negative outcomes.

Need to include quality contacts:

- Purposeful
- Based on risk/needs
- Developing new skills
- Behavioral change strategies
- Accountability



Pennsylvania Partnership for Criminal Justice Improvement recommends that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania **adopt APPA's recommended caseload ratios.**

BASED ON A REVIEW OF CURRENT CASELOADS IN PA, NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS, RESEARCH, OTHER AGENCIES AND JURISDICTIONS (PA & BEYOND)

Strategies to Reduce Caseloads Using Existing Staff

01 Manage by Risk Level (Matching intensity of supervision to level of risk)	02 Manage Caseload Alignment (Adjusting caseloads or assigned staff)	03 Manage Officers Workload (Reduce non-supervision related tasks)	04 Implement Evidence Based Practices (Improved outcomes impact caseloads)
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Panel Discussion

Panelist:

- Ashlee Lynn (Moderator), Deputy Director, Allegheny County Adult Probation and Parole
- Regina Himes, Executive Director, Armstrong Probation
- Douglas Ritson, Chief, Butler County Probation
- Chadwick Libby, Director, Dauphin County Probation Services

Thank you and
Questions!



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