

A Report on Four Surveys of Populations Involved in Corrections in Illinois

Report conducted by:



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Introduction

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform was formed to study the criminal justice system and make recommendations for amending state laws, policies and procedures that will help reduce the State's prison population by 25% by the year 2025, while at the same time maintaining public safety. One of the goals of the Commission is to develop an evidence based corrections system that will allow them to develop a vigorous risk-assessment model to drive intervention decisions.

In order to reach an understanding of the current corrections programs and practices, the Survey Research Office at the University of Illinois Springfield, with the aid of a grant by the Institute of International Education, developed a series of surveys for the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform. Four separate survey instruments were sent to members of specific populations involved in corrections in Illinois: correctional officers, parole agents, judges, and probation officers. Questions were largely developed by the Survey Research Office with input from Commission members.

The report contains the analysis of the data obtained from the series of surveys described above. A brief methodology section is followed by individual chapters containing analysis of the surveys taken by correctional officers, parole agents, judges and probation officers. Some of the comments made by members of each group in the open ended section of the questionnaire are included in these sections and all of the open ended responses, categorized by group are included in the topline report.

The last three sections of the report look at the attitudes of respondents towards current sentencing statuses, their opinion of the sentencing reform process carried out by the Commission and their reaction to several policy proposals brought forth by the Commission in order to achieve the goal to reduce the prison population of the State of Illinois by a quarter in the next decade.

The study finds that the level of support for current sentencing statuses is relatively low across all surveyed populations. There is also a pervasive feeling from respondents from all groups that the Commission did not seek enough of their input when developing the sentencing reform processes and that the members of the Commission do not have an understanding of the perspectives of each group regarding sentencing issues. A large majority of respondents do not believe that the current community correction system is adequate to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025.

When it comes to policy proposals, an overwhelming majority of respondents across all groups support some proposals, like reducing the length of sentences for first time non-violent offenders. On the other hand, policies such as amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed have mostly negative reactions.

Project Methodology

The University of Illinois Survey Research Office is dedicated to the principles of transparency in research and is a founding member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative. Membership entails adherence to AAPOR's code of ethics¹ as well as a commitment to promoting understanding of survey methodology and how it relates to survey quality.



The Survey Research Office worked in coordination with members of the Illinois Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform to develop four separate survey instruments to be sent to members of specific populations involved in corrections in Illinois: correctional officers, parole agents, judges, and probation officers. Questions were largely developed by the Survey Research Office with input from Commission members. There are two notable exceptions. First, in the Survey of Correctional Officers there are ten items which are adapted from the Prison Social Climate Survey, developed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.² Second, in all of the surveys, respondents were asked whether they supported specific policy proposals aimed at reducing the prison population in Illinois. These questions were developed from a presentation to the Commission by one of its members.³

The data in this report is drawn from the four surveys which were administered to the four targeted populations. For reference purposes, we refer to these surveys as follows: The Survey for Correctional Officers; the Survey for Parole Agents; the Survey for Judges; and the Survey for Probation Officers and Managers.⁴ Each of the surveys have a slightly different methodology which we discuss below. For the Correctional Officers survey and the Parole Agents survey, SRO calculated response rates, cooperation rates, refusal rates, and the margin of error at the 95 percent confidence level.⁵

¹ The American Association for Public Opinion Research. (2015). The code of professional ethics and practices. Retrieved from: http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/AAPOR-Code-of-Ethics/AAPOR_Code_Accepted_Version_11302015.aspx

² Saylor, W.G., Gilman, E.B., Camp, S.D. (1996). "Prison social climate survey: Reliability and validity analyses of the work environment constructs." The items used in the Survey of Correctional Officers are adapted from the Institutional/Organizational Operations scale.

³ For the Prison Social Climate Survey items see: For the presentation on reducing the prison population see: Olson, D.E. (2015). "Getting to 25% by 2025." Report Presented at the Illinois Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform [PDF].

⁴ The survey we refer to as the "Survey for Judges" was administered to judges as the "Survey for Circuit Court Judges."

⁵ For more information on how these rates are calculated please see: The American Association for Public Opinion Research. (2016). Standard definitions: Final dispositions of case codes and outcome rates for surveys. 9th edition. AAPOR. Retrieved from: http://www.aapor.org/AAPOR_Main/media/publications/Standard-Definitions20169theditionfinal.pdf

Correctional Officers: On February 9, 2016, researchers sent out a survey to 2,000 correctional officers. These 2,000 individuals were selected via simple random sampling out of a population of 6,858 correctional officers provided to the Survey Research Office. To increase response rate, researchers drew another simple random sample of 2,000 correctional officers from the remaining 4,858 correctional officers in the population and sent the survey out to these individuals on March 21, 2016. Correctional officers were provided with two options to complete the survey: return the survey to the Survey Research Office via a prepaid envelope or complete the survey via the web using their assigned project ID printed on the mail survey instrument. A total of 240 correctional officers (237 via mail and 3 via web) completed the survey. In addition, 53 envelopes were returned as undeliverable and 14 responses came back after the acceptable return date. The response rate for this survey is 6% (AAPOR Response Rate 3), the cooperation rate is 100% (AAPOR Cooperation Rate 3), and the refusal rate is 0% (AAPOR Refusal Rate 3). The margin of error is ± 6.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Parole Agents: The methodology for the Survey for Parole Agents is similar to the survey for Correctional Officers survey. The Survey Research Office possessed a list of all parole agents working for the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). On February 9, 2016, researchers sent out a mail survey to 344 correctional parole agents and correctional senior parole agents asking them to participate in the survey either by mailing the survey back to SRO or by completing the survey via the web using their assigned project ID number. A second survey was sent out on March 21, 2016 to all respondents who did not complete the survey and had valid addresses (i.e. the envelope was not returned as undeliverable). A total of 40 individuals completed the survey (35 via mail and 5 via web). In addition, 13 envelopes were returned as undeliverable and one individual returned the survey indicating he did not wish to participate (which constitutes a refusal). The response rate for the Parole Agents survey is 11.6% (AAPOR Response Rate 3), the cooperation rate is 97.6% (AAPOR Cooperation Rate 3), and the Contact Rate is 95.3% (AAPOR Contact Rate 3). The margin of error for the survey is ± 14.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Judges: A link to the survey along with an introductory email was provided by SRO to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). This link was then sent to chief judges at the circuit courts throughout Illinois who distributed it to all of the judges in their circuit courts. Lacking data on population parameters, it is not possible to calculate a response rate, a cooperation rate, a refusal rate, or a margin of error.

Probation Officers and Managers: The AOIC provided the Survey Research Office with a list of individuals to administer the survey to via the web. These individuals were either the director of probation, the chief probation officer, the director of court services, or some other individual capable of distributing the survey to colleagues. An introductory email along with a link to take the survey on Qualtrics was provided to these individuals who then shared the link with their colleagues. Again, because the population parameters are unknown, it is not possible to calculate a response rate, a cooperation rate, a refusal rate, or a margin of error.

Data collection stopped on all surveys at 5:00pm CST on April 5, 2016. Mail and web questionnaires are available in Appendix 1. Data entry was conducted using the *Qualtrics Research Suite* and data analysis in this report was conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics 23 and StataSE 14. The data in this survey are unweighted.

Section 1: Survey for Correctional Officers

One of the groups targeted for this research project was correctional officers. Out of the 6,858 correctional officers in the state of Illinois for whom the Survey Research Office was provided information, 4,000 were invited to take the survey. Of these, 240 completed the survey. On average, the officers who completed the survey have been working in corrections for eleven years; and more than half (52%) of all the correctional officers that participated have been on the job for more than 10 years.

The survey finds that roughly a quarter (24%) of the COs that took the survey are located in northern Illinois; 36% work in facilities located in the southern region of the state and 40% are work in the central region of the state. A plurality of the COs who participated (44%) work in medium security facilities, compared with 28% who work in maximum security facilities and 23% who work in minimum security facilities. Of all of the respondents, only four identified as supervisors while the rest identify as correctional officers.

When asked what was the reason they chose corrections as their career, half of the respondents (50%) in this group indicated some financial reason such as salary or benefits. Respondents also cited the need or desire for steady work (14%) and a desire to work in law enforcement (10%). Some respondents reflected on how their career has worked out so far. One in particular said the reason for becoming a CO was to get a fast start in the criminal justice profession. Over time, this individual felt that the job,

“...became a way to learn more than any text book or classroom could ever teach someone about the criminal mind, gangs (STG's), or the end result after sentencing.”

However, not everyone has had positive experiences in their career. Another respondent said this about their career choice:

“Today I would seriously urge a young correctional officer to choose another career, we are merely adult baby sitters. Our world is repetition, uncertainty, divorce, suicide, depression, alcoholism, drug abuse and paranoia with early death.”

ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT

Survey respondents were asked to read through several statements regarding their workplace environment and answer whether they strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statements. As mentioned above, these items were adapted from a previously validated scale, the prison climate survey. The full battery of questions, adapted from the prison social climate survey Institutional/Organizational Operations scale, is listed below. As the figure shows, the scale contains questions to which an answer of “agree” would indicate a positive or a negative evaluation.

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The information I get through formal communication channels helps me to perform my job effectively. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In the IDOC, it is often unclear who has the formal authority to make a decision. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It’s really not possible to change things in this institution. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am told promptly when there is a change in policy, rules, or regulations that affects me. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have the authority I need to accomplish my work objectives. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Employees do not have much opportunity to influence what goes on in IDOC. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Under the present system, promotions are seldom related to employee performance. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Management at this institution is flexible enough to make changes when necessary. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In the IDOC, authority is clearly delegated. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In general, this institution is run very well. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Figure 1. Battery of questions adapted from Prison Social Climate Scale Institutional/Organizational Operations scale

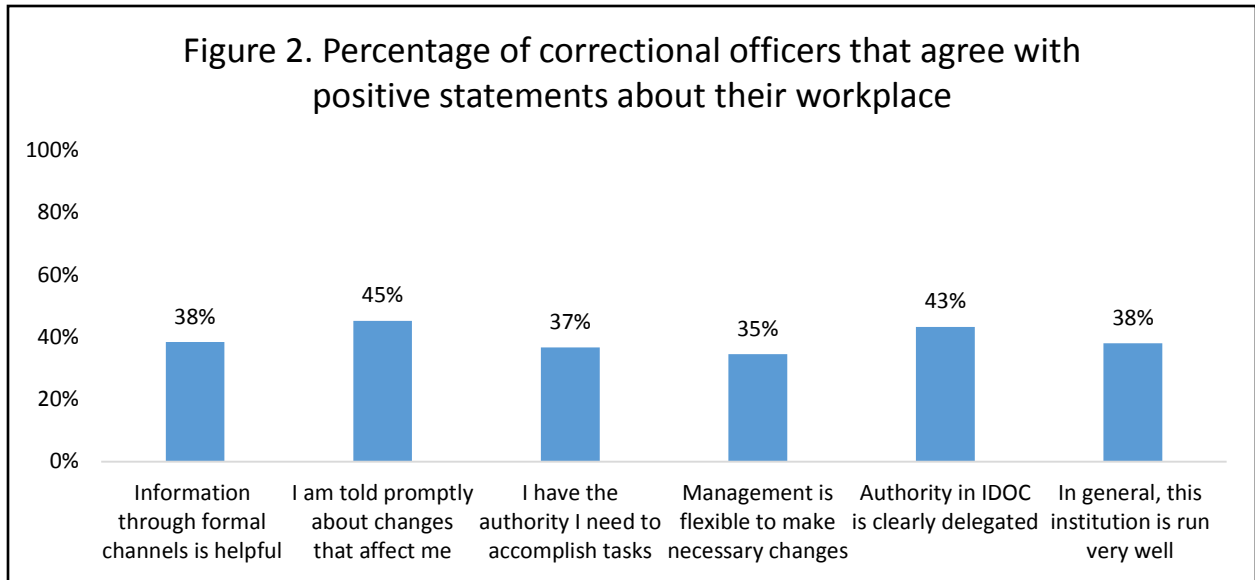


Figure 2 shows the percentage of correctional officers that say they either “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” with positive statements about their workplace environment, such as “I have the authority I need to accomplish my work objectives” or “in general, this institution is run very well. The graph shows that, overall, less than half of the COs that took the survey agree with any of these positive statements about their workplace. The statement with the highest degree of agreement (45%) is “I am told promptly about changes that affect me.” Similarly, 43% say that authority in the IDOC is clearly delegated. Just more than a third of respondents (34%) agree with the statement that management is flexible enough to make changes when necessary. Only 37% of COs say that they have the authority they need to accomplish their work objectives, and roughly four in ten claim that information through official channels is effective or that the institutions where they serve are run very well.

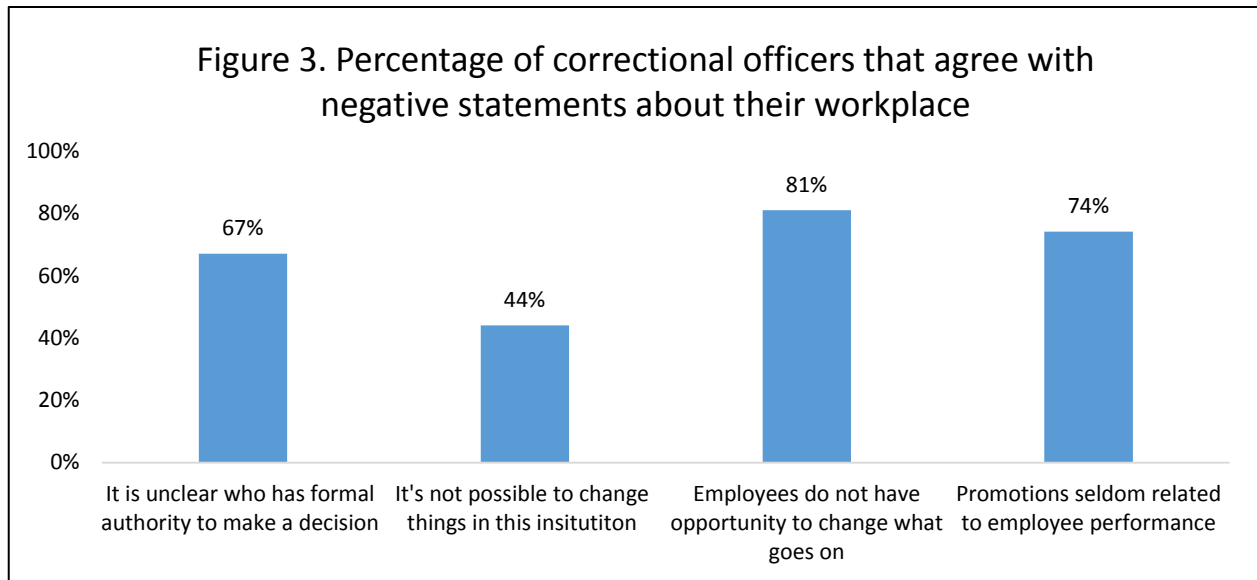


Figure 3 shows the percentage of correctional officers that say they “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” with negative statements about their workplace. The figure shows that an overwhelming majority (81%) of respondents agree with the statement that they do not have much opportunity to change what goes on in IDOC. The study finds that roughly three out of four (74%) of correctional officers claim that, under the present system, promotions are seldom related to employee performance. The data also show that two thirds (67%) of the correctional officers who took the survey say that it is unclear who has the formal authority to make a decision in IDOC. The only negative statement with which a majority of COs did not agree is that it is not possible to change things in the institution where they serve. In this case, less than half (44%) of those who took the survey agree.

OFFENDER MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Mental health issues have gained significant recognition and relevance in the past decade. Therefore, the survey of correctional officers included a small battery of questions regarding offender mental health training for correctional officers. When asked if they received sufficient training on offender mental health issues in order to effectively meet the needs of the prison population, two out of every three (66%) COs say that they have not received enough training. Almost half of the COs who took the survey do not even recall the number of training hours spent on this issue. Of those who do, 65% say they have spent less than 10 hours of training in offender mental health issues and only 27% say that they have between 11 and 25 hours of training. Only four COs say that they have over 100 hours of training in offender mental health issues.

The opinions of correction officers regarding mental health in general are varied. A few COs are adamant that mental health patients should be in separate facilities, because they may pose a danger to other inmates as well as staff:

“Mentally ill offenders need to be placed appropriately, severely mentally ill offenders should be placed in facilities that solely deal with needs of severely mentally ill. A great number of improperly placed severely mentally ill pose a great risk to staff and other offenders. Overcrowding means it is much harder to focus on a handful of offenders when there are 100's more a CO is responsible for.”

Another respondent claims that COs should not receive any mental health training:

“I should not be trained at all on mental health issues. That's the job of the mental health staff. My job is a corrections officer.”

Finally, some corrections officers are concerned that offenders use mental health issues to get around the system:

“Inmates use mental health for the wrong reasons., i.e. to get what they want, to get out of trouble. If the court does not deem them mentally ill, they shouldn't be able to use it later.”

Section 2: Survey for Parole Agents

Parole agents make up the smallest sample in the report. A total of 344 agents were contacted for the survey and only 40 agreed to participate. On average, respondents have worked in parole for an average of 13 years; and a large majority (70%) of parole agents that participated have been on the job for between 12 and 24 years. Most respondents say that in a typical year, they handle cases that are drug related, have some type of violence involved or include property. About 10% of the parole agents who answered this survey say that they also deal with sex crimes.

Regarding case load, the average parole agent in this survey handles over 500 parole or mandatory supervised release cases in a year. The survey also finds that parole agents have to handle over 200 cases per year in which offenders violate conditions of their parole or mandatory supervised release. However, only an average of 40 cases end in with a revocation of parole.

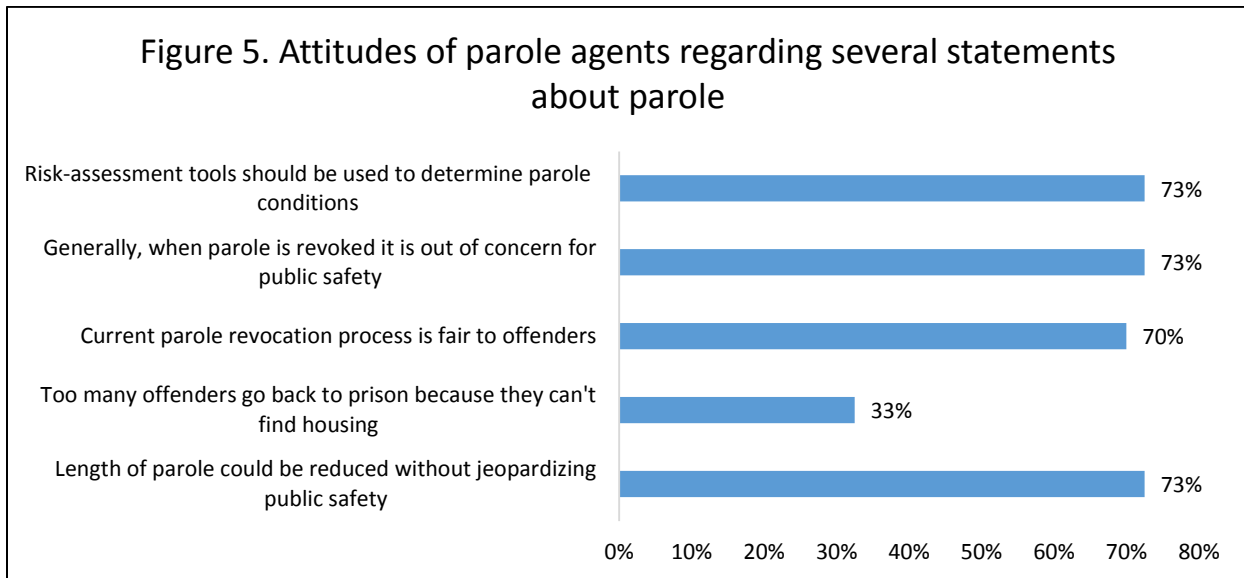
ATTITUDES ABOUT PAROLE CONDITIONS

Parole agents were asked to read through several statements about parole and answer whether they strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with them. The full battery of questions is listed below:

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The length of time spent on parole could be reduced in some cases without jeopardizing public safety. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Too many offenders are returned to prison because they cannot find housing which meets the requirements of their parole. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The current parole revocation process is fair to offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Generally, when parole is revoked, it is out of concern for public safety. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Risk-assessment tools should be used to determine parole conditions | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Figure 4. Battery of questions on parole in Illinois

Figure 5 shows how parole agents reacted to the statements. The graph shows the percentage of parole agents who say that they “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” with each of the statements. The survey finds that at least 70% of the parole agents who agreed to participate in the survey agree with four out of the five statements. A large majority of parole agents believe that the length of parole could be reduced in some cases without jeopardizing public safety (73%), that the current parole revocation process is fair to offenders (70%), that when parole is revoked it is out of concern for public safety (73%), and that risk-assessment tools should be used to determine parole conditions (73%). When asked about offenders who are returned to prison because they cannot find housing that meets the requirements of their parole, only 33% of respondents see this as a problem.

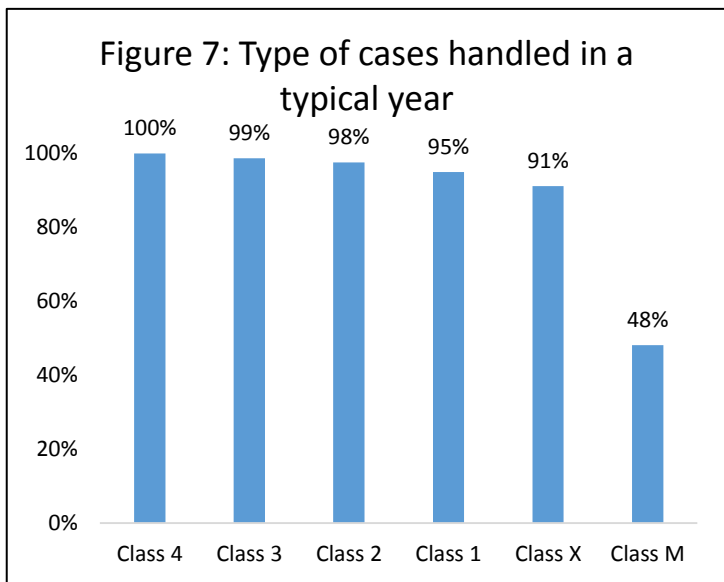
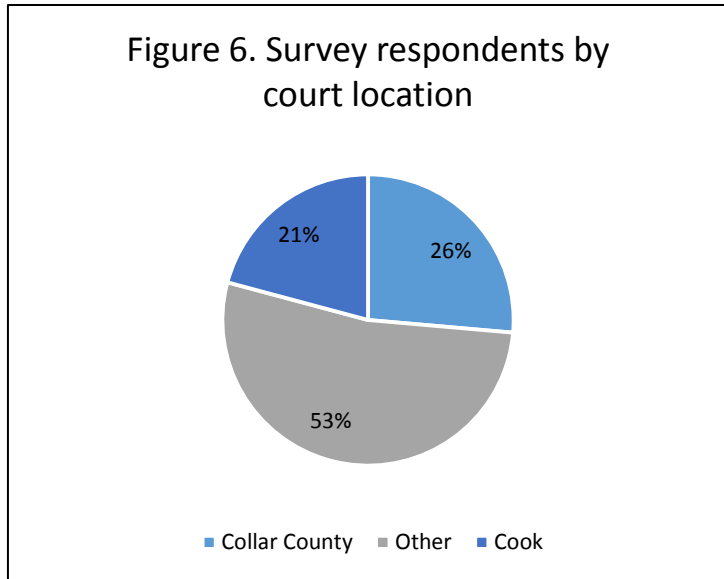


Section 3: Survey for Circuit Court Judges

A total of 80 judges took part in the research. The sample contains respondents from across Illinois and possessing differing levels of time on the bench in Illinois. Seventy-two (90%) of the judges surveyed provided the county in which their court is located. As figure 6 shows, 21% of the judges surveyed report their court location as Cook County, whereas about a quarter (26%) report their court location as a Collar County (DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry and Will counties). About half of respondents report their court location as a county not within the Chicago metro area. Judges in the survey have served as a judge in Illinois an average of 12 years. Seventy-three percent of judges have served for at least five years.

Respondents indicate they are assigned different felony dockets; though over three-quarters (76%) indicate they are assigned all felony cases in a typical year, 13% indicate they are assigned a specialized docket such as drug cases or mental health

cases, and 25% indicate they are assigned some other docket (e.g., DUI).⁶ Judges sentence an average of 223 defendants per year; this figure ranges from a low of zero to a high of 1200 defendants sentenced per year. The majority of judges in the survey indicate handling five of the six felony offense classes in a typical year (see figure 7). All of the judges surveyed (100%) indicate handling Class 4 felonies, whereas nearly all report handling Class 3 felonies (99%), Class 2 felonies (98%), Class 1 felonies (95%), and Class X felonies (91%). About half (48%) of judges surveyed indicated they handle Class M felonies.

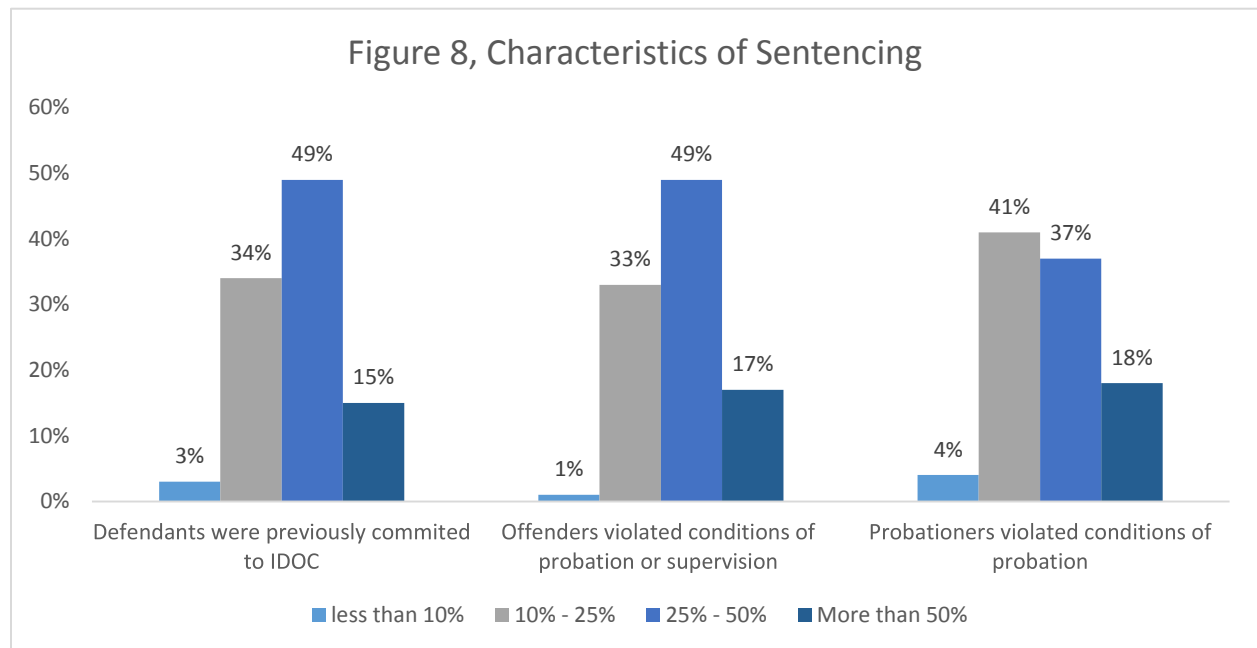


⁶ The question asked respondents to select all choices that apply.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SENTENCING

The survey asked judges what percentage of sentences include defendants previously committed to IDOC. Almost half (49%) indicate that between 25 percent and 50 percent of their sentences include such defendants whereas about a third (34%) indicate this figure is between 10 percent and 25 percent. When asked, in a typical year, what percentage of the cases they handle that they find offenders violated conditions of probation or supervision nearly half (49%) report this occurs between 25 percent and 50 percent of the time whereas a third (33%) indicate this occurs between 10 percent and 25 percent of the time.

When asked, for the percentage of probationers who violated the conditions of their probation, 41% of the judges surveyed report that probationers violate the conditions of their probation between 10 percent and 25 percent of the time whereas 37% indicate this occurs between 25 percent and 50 percent of the time. Only 4% of judges surveyed report this occurs less than 10% of the time.



FACTORS INVOLVED IN SENTENCING

The survey asked judges to “identify the factors that you consider relevant in deciding on the type or length of sentence to impose.” Judges ranked six items (including an “other” item) from first to last. Table 1. shows how each factor was ranked by respondents. Slightly over half (52%) of judges ranked “the nature and seriousness of the offense” as the most relevant consideration in deciding upon a sentence and 35% ranked this consideration second. Forty percent of judges rank the “statutorily required sentence” as the most relevant consideration with an additional 13% ranking this factor second. While just 5% of respondents ranked “an offender’s criminal history” as the most relevant consideration on deciding upon a sentence, 45% ranked this factor second and 41% ranked this factor third.

| | Rank 1 | Rank 2 | Rank 3 | Rank 4 | Rank 5 | Rank 6 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| The nature and seriousness of the offense | 52% | 35% | 12% | 0% | 0% | 1% |
| An offender's criminal history | 5% | 45% | 41% | 5% | 4% | 0% |
| Statutorily required sentence | 40% | 13% | 10% | 30% | 6% | 1% |
| An offender's life history and personal characteristics | 1% | 6% | 35% | 51% | 6% | 0% |
| Collateral consequences of the conviction | 0% | 0% | 3% | 9% | 68% | 19% |
| Other consideration | 0% | 0% | 0% | 9% | 32% | 59% |

Other considerations provided by judges related to potential resources or services available, the effect or hardship the sentence would have on others, and the defendant’s “demonstrated ability to comply with a term of probation.” Judges mentioned the lack of services available in the open-ended comments section at the end of the survey. According to respondents, there simply are not enough resources available to provide the necessary services:

“We need more resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment. FUND OUR DRUG COURT GRANT! We need more funds for probation so that it can operate more like drug court.”

“Reducing the prison population without increasing funds for mental health treatment, drug programs, enhanced monitoring, anger management, etc. is quite frankly a waste of time.”

IMPACT OF STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS

The survey asked judges whether there have been occasions in which they would have preferred to have imposed a concurrent, rather than a consecutive, sentence but were unable to do because of statutes in place. Slightly over half of respondents (51%) indicated there had been at least one occasion whereas 49% indicated there had not. Judges who answered “yes” were asked how many times in the past twelve months this has occurred. Judges reported a median number of 3 times over the past year. Judges were also asked whether, due to statutory restrictions, they were forced to issue a stricter sentence than they would have had limitations not been in place. Three quarters (75%) of respondents indicated this occurred whereas 25% indicated this has not occurred. Judges who answered yes were asked how many times this has occurred over the past twelve months. Judges indicated a median of 4 times over the past year.

Judges possess different attitudes regarding sentencing reform. For instance, one judge commented that, while he is in favor of increased discretion he can see how others may not be.

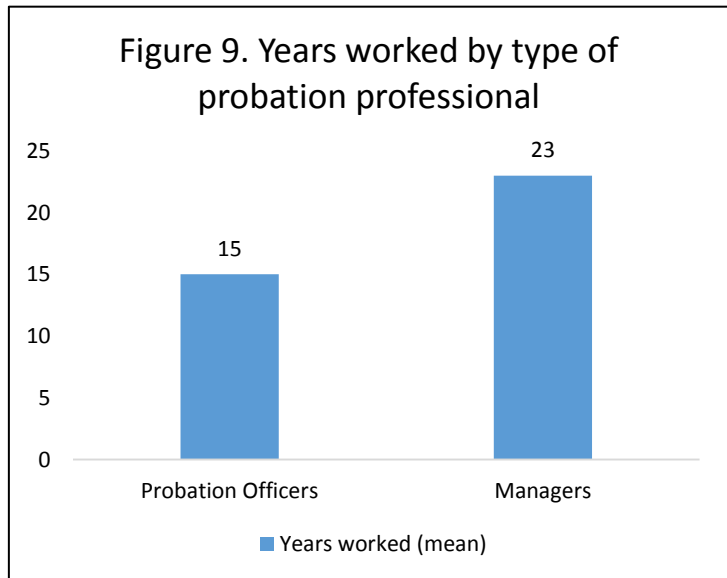
“As a judge, I am always in favor of increased judicial discretion. However, I know that is not what all judges prefer, as imposition of “maximum” terms, or non-discretionary terms, makes our jobs much easier, and also reduces our (as judges) ultimate responsibility on the outcomes – as that responsibility has been assumed by the legislature.”

Others provided specific instances of laws which mandate stricter sentences and how these harms lead to negative outcomes:

“Enhancing offenses based on a location near a school or religious structure is stupid, and causes police to arrange undercover drug sales within statutory distance...All it really does is allow a politician to claim he is doing something about crime.”

Section 4: Survey for Probation Officers and Managers

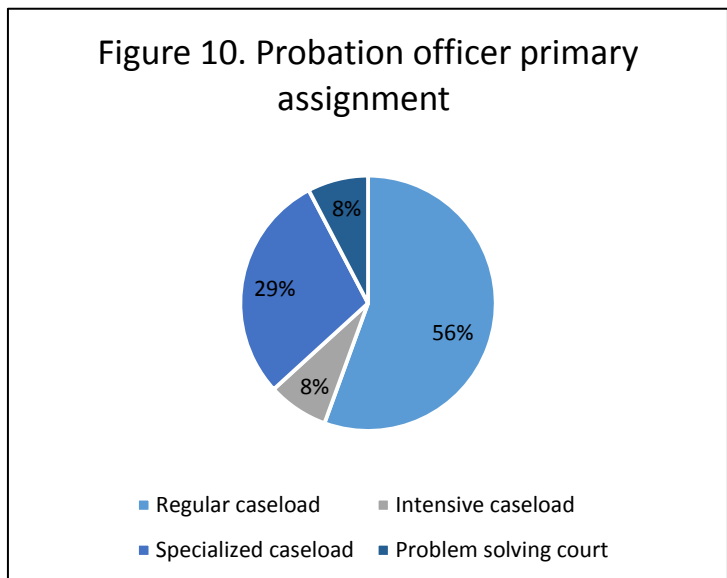
One hundred eighty-four respondents completed the survey for probation officers and managers. The survey limited participation to those probation officers who handle at least some adult felony probation cases. As noted above in the methodology section, this survey was distributed via email to individuals identified to the Survey Research Office as either the director of probation, the chief probation officer, director of court services, or some other responsible individual with the capacity to distribute the survey to probation



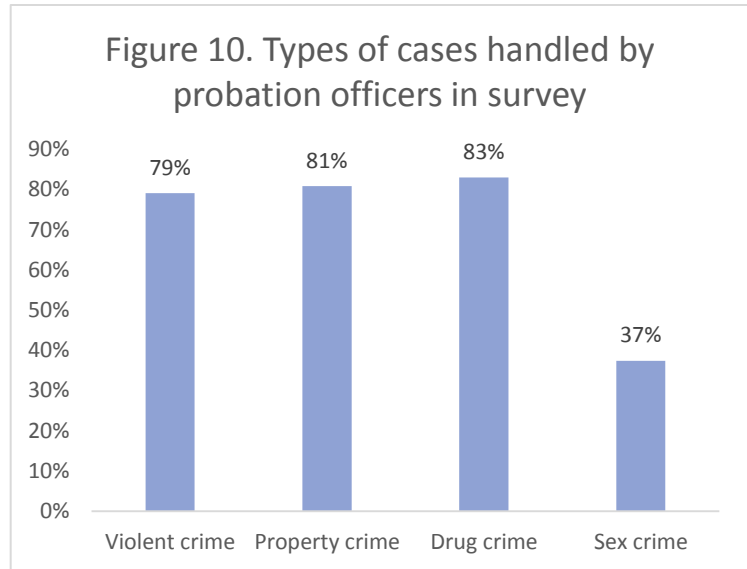
officers in his or her department. Respondents were asked to identify as either a probation officer or as a manager in a probation department and how many years they have worked in probation in Illinois. Of the 184 probation professionals who completed the survey, 118 (66%) identified as probation officers and 62 (34%) identified as managers in a probation department. On average, respondents have worked in probation for 18 years. This figure is higher for managers (23 years) than for probation officers.

TYPES OF CASES HANDLED BY PROBATION OFFICERS

Probation officers were asked to provide their primary assignment. Slightly more than half (56%) indicated a “regular caseload,” whereas 29% indicated a specialized caseload. Smaller percentages of probation officers indicated their primary assignment as handling an “intensive caseload” (8%) or as serving as a probation officer in a problem solving court (8%).

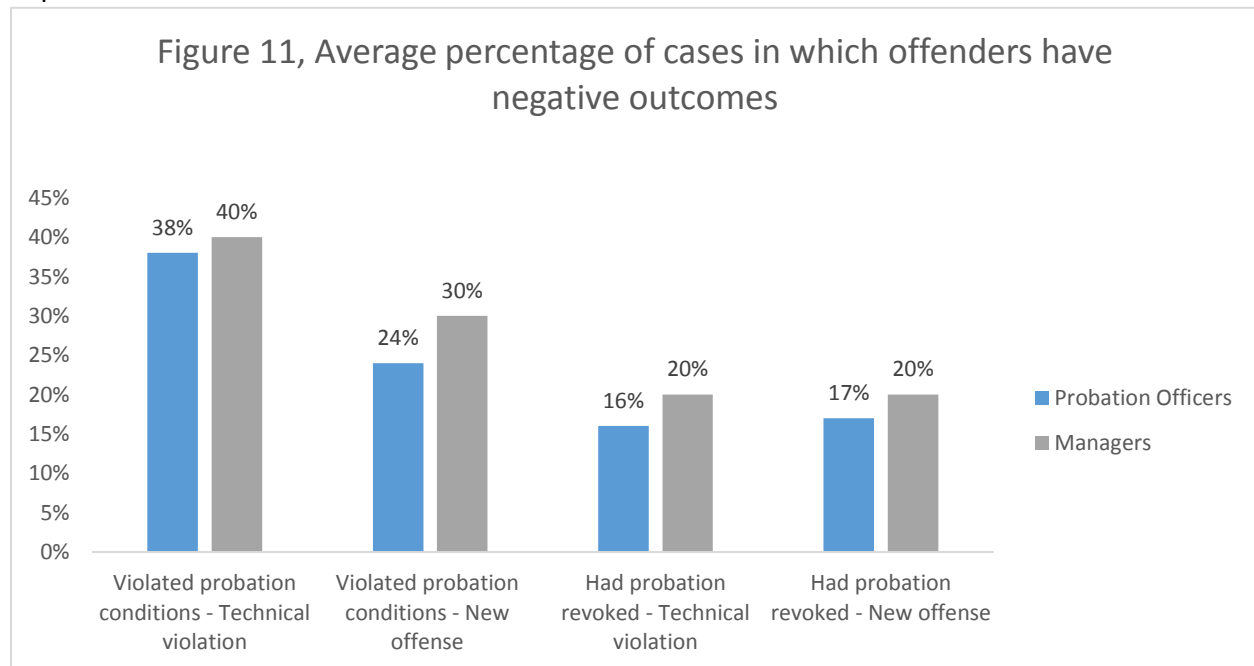


Almost all (93%) of respondents in the survey indicate that they handle cases involving drug crime (93%), property crime (81%), and violent crime (79%). Slightly more than one-third (37%) indicate they handle cases involving sex crime (see figure 10).



The average number of felony probation cases a probation officer supervising in a typical year varies across respondents. Of the 96 respondents who answered the

question 37% reported supervising less than 50 cases, 26% reported supervising between 51 and 100 cases, an additional 26% reported supervising between 101 and 200 cases, while 11% supervise more than 200 cases.



The survey asked probation officers, of the cases they supervise, how many have one of two negative outcomes: offenders violate the conditions of their probation or offenders have their probation revoked. The survey differentiated between technical violations and new offense violations in both cases. Question wording differed for managers who were asked to list how many of the felony cases officers in their department supervise have these negative outcomes. Figure 11 shows the average percentage of cases in which probation officers and managers

report these outcomes occurring. As the figure shows, the figures reported by probation officers and managers are similar. For instance, most common negative outcome for both groups is a technical violation of probation conditions (38% for officers vs. 40% for managers).

One of the goals of the probation survey was to investigate the relationship between the number of cases a probation officer handles and the number of instances in which offenders either violate the conditions of their probation or have their probation revoked. If officers are burdened by excessive caseloads then perhaps more negative outcomes would occur. The survey found no statistically significant differences between the number of cases a probation officer handles and the number of instances in which offenders violate the conditions of their probation or have their probation revoked. However, several respondents in the survey commented upon caseload pressure as well as the effect of reducing the prison population in Illinois. One probation officer commented:

“Caseloads will increase and more funding will have to go towards probation departments to support the increase in numbers. Also, with the additional increase in requirements AOIC is making for probation departments...this requires a lot more of the probation officer’s time, therefore not allowing an officer to take on as many clients as he or she once had.”

Similarly managers voiced concerns about the impact of reducing the prison population:

“If you intend on reducing the prison population and diverting criminals to probation, FUND THE SYSTEM! The state must invest in probation for us to do our jobs...The state can’t expect proper supervision of excessive caseloads. Reducing the prison population will require the state to hire more probation officers.”

Open-ended responses from both probation officers and managers highlight the necessity of providing more funding to probation departments. One manager wrote, “If you want to remove the number of people in the prison system and put more people on probation then must provide funds...” A probation officer wrote: “probation is in need of more funding to be effective. If we are to utilize community supervision more often that incarceration, more training and work will need to be put into the probation system.

Section 5: Attitudes towards Current Sentencing Structures

Some questions in the study were designed for specific populations, like judges or correction officers. Other questions, however, were asked of everyone in the survey. The questionnaire included a battery of questions designed to understand how correctional officers, parole agents, judges, and probation officers evaluate current sentencing statutes in Illinois. Table 2 (p. 20) shows the list of statements as well as the percentage of respondents across each population who said that they “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” with those statements.

The survey finds that, overall, attitudes toward current sentencing statuses vary significantly across populations. For example, two thirds (66%) of all surveyed probation officers think that current statutory requirements regarding sentence terms are good for the sentencing process, compared to only 42% among parole agents. Similarly, while 67% of the judges who took the survey think that current sentencing statuses make it certain that violent offenders will go to prison, only a small minority of probation officers (28%) agree with that assessment.

One issue that highlights the difference of opinions across populations is that of non-probationable offenses. Roughly three quarters (76%) of all judges and a slight majority (54%) agree that “there are some non-probationable offenses which should allow for probation.” Conversely, only a third (33%) of probation officers believe that some offenses should allow for probation.

Attitudes also vary on questions about specific populations. For instance, a majority of the judges who took the survey (56%) agree with the statement that “judges are able to sentence offenders fairly within the current statutory framework,” compared with 27% among parole agents and 37% among correction officers.

There are two statements, however, that seem to bring together all four populations. The study finds that minorities across all populations (31% of correction officers, 20% of parole agents, 27% of judges and 21% of probation officers) agree that current sentencing statuses facilitate the effective use of correctional resources. Also, less than half of respondents in all four groups agree with the statement that they are generally favorable towards the current sentencing structure.

The reasons some respondents gave for their answers are as varied as the answers themselves, but there are some issues that came up more than once. A correctional officer mentioned that, in his view, they do not receive enough support from their superiors.

“I think you need to do something about the upper level is always on the side of the inmate. Upper level need to support the correctional officer... the prisoners are gaining power back. you don't want that. You have to punish the inmates when they break the rules”.

| Table 2. Attitudes toward current sentencing structures (% agreement) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| | Correctional Officers | Parole Agents | Judges | Probation Officers |
| Current statutory requirements regarding sentence terms are good for sentencing process | 51% | 42% | 55% | 66% |
| Current sentencing statuses are fair | 41% | 35% | 51% | 59% |
| It is difficult to act in the best interest of the offender under current sentencing statuses | 20% | 35% | 45% | 35% |
| Current sentencing statuses make it certain that violent offenders will go to prison | 55% | 44% | 67% | 28% |
| Current sentencing statuses facilitate the effective use of correctional resources | 31% | 20% | 27% | 21% |
| <i>(Insert group)</i> are generally favorable towards our sentencing structure | 29% | 32% | 45% | 45% |
| There are some non-probationable offenses which should allow for probation | 41% | 54% | 76% | 33% |
| Judges are able to sentence offenders fairly within the current statutory framework | 37% | 27% | 56% | 54% |

Another correctional officer was more specific in his disagreement with current sentencing statuses:

“Going light on first time offenders doesn't work, it's been proven over and over. If you're going to let someone out early the inmate who's done 22 years on their 25-year sentence and hasn't had a ticket in years. Let them out. They are not coming back. First timers who got out under the old 61-day program hadn't learned these lesson or been away from their environment to make a change”.

In the view of one parole agent, sentencing reform needs to be a priority:

“This should help reduce the prison population but still allow parole agents to do our jobs. If the public had any idea that so many parolees are violating the conditions of parole, they would be outraged! Parolees have no fear of parole violations for failed drug tests and most crimes”.

Section 6: Attitudes Toward the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform

Respondents in all four groups were asked to evaluate whether the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform had sought their input throughout the process of sentencing reform and whether the Commission understands their perspective. Table 3 shows the list of statements as well as the percentage of respondents across each population who said that they “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” with those statements.

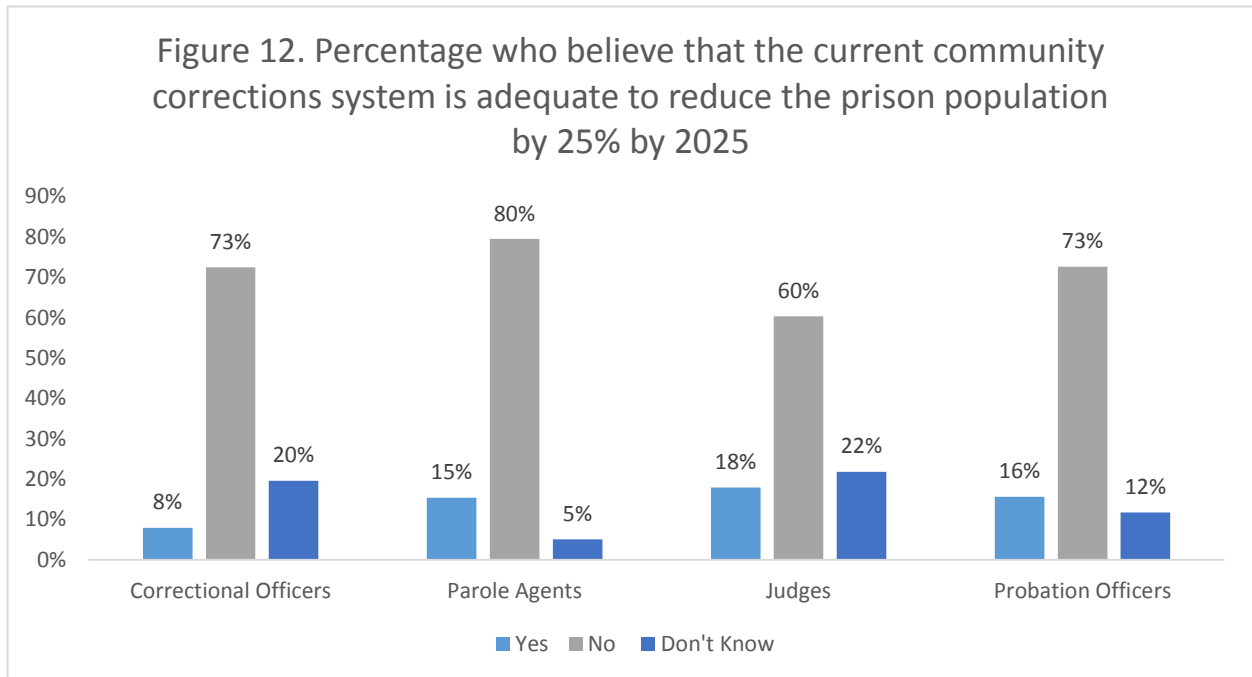
The results show that there is dissatisfaction across all groups regarding the amount of input sought by the Commission and a pervasive opinion that the Commission does not understand the perspectives of correction officers, parole agents, judges and probation officers. Only 5% of parole agents say that the commission understands their perspective on sentencing issues, while 18% agree with the statement that the commission sought their input throughout the process of sentencing reform.

Likewise, 16% of correctional officers say that their input was sought during the process of sentencing reform and 8% believes that the commission understands their perspective on sentencing issues. Perhaps unsurprisingly, large majorities in all four groups say that they should have had more input throughout the sentencing reform process.

The data also show that there is broad agreement with the importance of reducing the state’s prison population by a quarter by 2025.

| Table 3. Attitudes Toward the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform (% Agreement) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| | Correctional Officers | Parole Agents | Judges | Probation Officers |
| The Commission has sought the input of (insert group) throughout the process of sentencing reform | 16% | 18% | 27% | 20% |
| The members of the Commission understand the perspectives of (insert group) on sentencing issues | 8% | 5% | 22% | 18% |
| (Insert group) should have more input throughout the process of sentencing reform | 76% | 84% | 82% | 89% |
| How important, if at all is reducing the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025? | 70% | 82% | 78% | 85% |

Finally, all respondents were asked whether they believe that the current community corrections system is adequate to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025. Figure 12 shows that less than 20% across all groups of respondents believe that the current system is not adequate to achieve the prison population reduction goal. The graph shows that only 8% of correction officers, 15% of parole agents, 16% of probation officers and 18% of judges believe that the goal of reducing prison population by a quarter in the next decade can be achieved with the current community corrections system.



Section 7: Attitudes towards Policy Proposals

The survey asked all groups their level of support on eight different policy proposals. The proposals were adapted from ideas presented to the Commission. Table 4 shows the percentage of respondents who support⁷ the proposed policy broken down by group.

| Table 4. Attitudes Toward Proposes Policies (% Support) | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| Proposed Policy | Correctional Officers | Parole Agents | Judges | Probation Officers |
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first time non-violent offenders | 76% | 78% | 74% | 84% |
| Offenders who participate in rehabilitative programs should receive credit towards their prison sentence | 60% | 68% | 77% | 76% |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3-4 felonies who have not previously been sentenced to probation | 59% | 68% | 63% | 84% |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3-4 felonies with no prior violent conviction | 60% | 74% | 61% | 80% |
| Reclassifying Class X drug offenses to Class 1 offenses, thereby reducing the sentencing range for such offenses from 6-30 years to 4-15 years | 61% | 68% | 62% | 56% |
| Diverting non-violent Class 3 and Class 4 inmates from the Illinois Department of Corrections | 39% | 58% | 65% | 58% |
| Amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed | 30% | 42% | 34% | 29% |
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time violent offenders | 16% | 11% | 28% | 30% |

The survey found statistically significant differences among the groups for all of the eight proposed policies. Some of these differences stand out. Probation officers indicate higher levels of support than other groups on three of the four policies: limiting the length of prison sentences for first time non-violent offenders (84% support), requiring probation to be the

⁷ Respondents are considered to agree with the statement if they responded “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree.”

presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3 and 4 felonies who have not been previously sentenced to probation (84%) and who have no prior violent conviction (80%). Probation officers (76%) are also more supportive of the proposal that offenders who participate in rehabilitative programs should receive credit towards their prison sentence than either correctional officers (60%) or parole agents (68%) but not judges (77%). It is not immediately clear why probation officers are more supportive of some of these policies than other groups. It is possible, however, that probation officers are more supportive of requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence of a select number of non-violent offenders because they believe they have the capacity to help these offenders.

Correctional officers are less likely than other groups to support certain policies. Only 39% of correctional officers' support diverting non-violent Class 3 and Class 4 inmates from IDOC as compared to 58% of probation officers, 58% of parole agents, and 65% of judges. Similarly, correctional officers were less supportive (30% support) of amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed than parole agents (42%) and judges (34%) but not probation officers (29%).

Section 8: Current Non-Probationable Offenses

All respondents were asked to list “any non-probationable offenses, for which you think probation should be allowable.” The survey instructed respondents to list up to five offenses. In total, respondents provided 207 offenses. Researchers categorized the open-ended responses into categories which are displayed in table 5. By far, the greatest number of responses are drug offenses (sale, delivery, etc.). The next largest category are burglary and theft offenses (residential burglary specifically came up often especially among judges). Eight percent mentioned DUIs as a non-probationable offense they would like to see allowable for probation whereas 5 percent specifically referenced non-violent offenses. Smaller percentages mentioned Class 2 felonies (4%) and firearm (3%). Three percent indicate they would like to see each offense reviewed and 18% provided some other response.

Responses vary by respondent type. For instance, whereas 35% of responses from judges pertained to burglary or theft, only 3% of responses by correctional officers mentioned these offenses. A smaller percentage of responses from probation officers (28%) pertained to drug offenses than judges (34%), correctional officers (38%) and parole agents (43%).

| Offense type | Percentage |
|---------------------|------------|
| Drug | 35% |
| Burglary/theft | 23% |
| Other | 18% |
| DUI | 8% |
| Non-violent | 5% |
| Class 2 | 4% |
| Firearms | 3% |
| Review each offense | 3% |

Appendix 1. Survey Instruments

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The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform

Survey for Correctional Officers

How many years have you worked as a correctional officer (in any capacity) in Illinois? _____ years

How many years have you worked in your current position? _____ years

What type of facility do you work at?

- Maximum Security
- Medium Security
- Minimum Security
- Transitional Security
- Other type of facility, specify: _____

Which of the following most closely describes your current role?

- Administrator
- Supervisor
- Correctional Officer

In what geographic region of Illinois (defined by agency) do you work?

North Central South

And thinking back to when you first began, what was/were the reason/s you choose corrections as your career?

The next set of questions deals with your attitudes towards current sentencing statutory requirements. Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| In general, current statutory requirements regarding sentence terms, including probation eligibility, enhancements and extended terms are good for the sentencing process. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes are fair. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is difficult to act in the best interest of the offender under current sentencing statutes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes make it fairly certain that violent or dangerous offenders will go to prison. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Current sentencing statutes facilitate the effective use of correctional resources. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Correctional officers are generally favorable towards our sentencing structure. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are some non-probationable offences which should allow for probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Judges are able to sentence offenders fairly within the current statutory framework | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

In the space provided below, please list any non-probationable offenses, for which you think probation should be allowable. If there are none, please leave the space blank.

The next set of questions deals specifically with the *Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform*. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has sought the input of correctional officers throughout the process of sentencing reform.</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>The members of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform understand the perspectives of correctional officers on sentencing issues.</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>Correctional officers should have more input throughout the process of sentencing reform.</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform is interested in strategies that help reduce the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025. How important, if at all, is reducing the Illinois prison population?

Very important
 Somewhat important
 Not very important
 Not at all important

Prior to today, had you heard about the initiative aimed at reducing the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025?

Yes
 No
 Don't know

Do you believe that the current community corrections system is adequate to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025?

Yes
 No
 Don't know

The following items are proposed strategies which have been presented to the Commission. Please identify your level of support, if any, for each of the following proposals. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following items?

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time non-violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reclassifying Class X drug offenses to Class 1 offenses, thereby reducing the sentencing range for such offenses from 6-30 years to 4-15 years. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offenders who participate in rehabilitative programs should receive credit towards their prison sentence. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Diverting non-violent Class 3 and Class 4 inmates from the Illinois Department of Corrections. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3- 4 felonies who have not previously been sentenced to probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3- 4 felonies with no prior violent conviction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

The next set of questions deals with your current attitudes towards your workplace environment. Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The information I get through formal communication channels helps me to perform my job effectively. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In the IDOC, it is often unclear who has the formal authority to make a decision. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It's really not possible to change things in this institution. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am told promptly when there is a change in policy, rules, or regulations that affects me. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have the authority I need to accomplish my work objectives. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Employees do not have much opportunity to influence what goes on in IDOC. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Under the present system, promotions are seldom related to employee performance. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Management at this institution is flexible enough to make changes when necessary. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In the IDOC, authority is clearly delegated. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In general, this institution is run very well. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Since you began working at IDOC, have you received sufficient training on offender mental health issues in order to effectively meet the needs of the prison population?

Yes

No

In general, how many hours of training have you spent on offender mental health? _____ hours.
If none, please leave blank. An estimated number of hours is fine.

Please use the space below to provide any other comments that you wish to make concerning items under the purview of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

Thank you very much for your participation!



The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform

Survey for IDOC Parole Agents

How many years have you worked in the IDOC parole division? _____ years

In a typical year, which of the following types of cases do you handle? Please select all that apply.

Violent crime Property crime Drug crime Sex crime

In a typical year, approximately how many parole or mandatory supervised release cases do you handle?

_____ cases per year

In a typical year, approximately how many cases do you handle in which offenders violated the conditions their parole or mandatory supervised release?

_____ cases per year

In a typical year, approximately how many cases do you handle in which offenders have their parole revoked?

_____ cases per year

In what geographic region of Illinois (defined by agency) do you work?

North Central South

The next set of questions deals with your attitudes towards current sentencing statutory requirements. Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| In general, current statutory requirements regarding sentence terms, including probation eligibility, enhancements and extended terms are good for the sentencing process. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes are fair. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is difficult to act in the best interest of the offender under current sentencing statutes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Current sentencing statutes make it fairly certain that violent or dangerous offenders will go to prison. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes facilitate the effective use of correctional resources. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Parole agents are generally favorable towards our sentencing structure. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are some non-probationable offences which should allow for probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Judges are able to sentence offenders fairly within the current statutory framework | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The length of time spent on parole could be reduced in some cases without jeopardizing public safety. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Too many offenders are returned to prison because they cannot find housing which meets the requirements of their parole. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The current parole revocation process is fair to offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Generally, when parole is revoked, it is out of concern for public safety. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Risk-assessment tools should be used to determine parole conditions | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

In the space provided below, please list any non-probationable offenses, for which you think probation should be allowable. If there are none, please leave the space blank.

In the space provided below, please list the ways in which the parole revocation process in Illinois could be improved. If you don't believe there ways to improve the process, please leave the space blank.

The next set of questions deal specifically with the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has sought the input of parole agents throughout the process of sentencing reform.</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>The members of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform understand the perspectives of parole agents on sentencing issues.</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <i>IDOC parole agents should have more input throughout the process of sentencing reform.</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform is interested in strategies that help reduce the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025. How important, if at all, is reducing the Illinois prison population?

Very important
 Somewhat important
 Not very important
 Not at all important

Prior to today, had you heard about the initiative aimed at reducing the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025?

Yes
 No
 Don't know

Do you believe that the current community corrections system is adequate to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025?

Yes
 No
 Don't know

The following items are proposed strategies which have been presented to the Commission. Please identify your level of support, if any, for each of the following proposals. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following items?

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time non-violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reclassifying Class X drug offenses to Class 1 offenses, thereby reducing the sentencing range for such offenses from 6-30 years to 4-15 years. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offenders who participate in rehabilitative programs should receive credit towards their prison sentence. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Diverting non-violent Class 3 and Class 4 inmates from the Illinois Department of Corrections. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3- 4 felonies who have not previously been sentenced to probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3- 4 felonies with no prior violent conviction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Please use the space below to provide any other comments that you wish to make concerning items under the purview of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

Thank you very much for your participation!

Survey for Circuit Court Judges

Default Question Block

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform Survey for Circuit Court Judges

Purpose: The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform is conducting a survey to learn about judicial practices and opinions towards current sentencing practices and statutes. The Commission is comprised of criminal justice practitioners, lawmakers, and policymakers and is tasked with reviewing Illinois' criminal justice and sentencing structure, sentencing practices, community supervision, and use of alternatives to incarceration with the goal of reducing the prison population by 25% in ten years. The survey results will help inform the Commission's sentencing reform recommendations.

Confidentiality: The Commission has contracted with University of Illinois Springfield's Survey Research Office (SRO) to conduct this survey. Please know that your personal identifying information will be held in confidence by SRO, and will not be attached to your responses. An identification number is attached to your responses for tracking purposes only and will not be used to identify you as a respondent. In addition, please note that while your completion of the questionnaire would be greatly appreciated, your participation is voluntary. No negative consequences will result from your non-participation in this survey. You do not have to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable or you do not wish to answer.

This research has been reviewed by the Human Subjects Review Officer, Dr. James Klein who is available to answer any questions about your rights as a volunteer participant in this project. He may be reached at 217-206-6883.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and the online survey will save your entered responses and you can come back to the survey at a later time. If you have any questions about this research, please contact the Survey Research Office at (217) 206-6591 or email sro@uis.edu.

How many years have you been a judge in Illinois?

Please list the Illinois county in which your court is located

- Cook
- Lake
- Will
- McHenry
- DuPage
- Kane
- Other

In a typical year, which felony dockets are you assigned?

- All felony cases
- Specialized docket (e.g., drug, mental health)
- Other

Approximately how many felony defendants do you sentence in a typical year?

In a typical year, please identify the felony offense classes of the cases you handle? Please select all that apply.

- Class 4
- Class 3
- Class 2
- Class 1
- Class X
- Class M

In a typical year, what percent of sentences include defendants previously committed to DOC?

- Less than 10%
- 10% - 25%
- 25% - 50%
- More than 50%

In a typical year, approximately how many cases do you handle in which you find that offenders violated the conditions of their probation or supervised release (regardless of whether you modified or revoked their supervision)?

- Less than 10%
- 10% - 25%
- 25% - 50%
- More than 50%

In a typical year, approximately what percentage of probationers do you find that violated the conditions of their probation?

- Less than 10%
- 10% - 25%
- 25% - 50%
- More than 50%

The next set of questions deals with your attitudes towards current sentencing statutory requirements.

Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| In general, current statutory requirements regarding sentencing terms, including probation eligibility, enhancements and extended terms are good for the sentencing process. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes are fair. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is difficult to act in the best interest of the offender under current sentencing statutes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes make it fairly certain that violent or dangerous offenders will go to prison. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Strongly agree | Somewhat Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| Current sentencing statutes facilitate the effective use of correctional resources. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Judges are generally favorable towards our sentencing structure. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are some current non-probationable offenses which should allow for probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am able to sentence offenders fairly within the current statutory framework. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Please identify the factors that you consider relevant in deciding on the type of length of sentence to impose. Please rank the items from 1 to 6 in order of relevance with "1" indicating the item that you believe is "most relevant" and "6" indicating the item you believe is "least relevant."

- The nature and seriousness of the offense
- An offender's criminal history
- Statutorily required sentence
- An offender's life history and personal characteristics
- Collateral consequences of the conviction
- Other, please specify

In the space provided below, please list any non-probationable offenses, for which you think probation should be allowable. If there are none, please leave the space blank.

Offense 1

Offense 2

Offense 3

Offense 4

Offense 5

Please identify whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Please select "yes" if you agree with the statement and select "no" if you disagree with the statement.

There have been times when I felt that imposing a concurrent sentence in place of a consecutive sentence was appropriate but was unable to do so due to the statutes in place.

- Yes
- No

And how often in the past twelve months has this occurred?

There have been times when, due to statutory limitations, I was forced to issue a stricter sentence than I would have had those limitations not been in place.

- Yes
- No

And how often in the past twelve months has this occurred?

The next set of questions deal specifically with the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

How much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has sought the input of judges throughout the process of sentencing reform. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The members of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform understand the perspectives of judges on sentencing issues. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Illinois circuit judges should have more input throughout the process of sentencing reform. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform is interested in strategies that help reduce the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025. How important, if at all, is reducing the Illinois prison population?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

Prior to today, had you heard about the initiative aimed at reducing the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Do you believe that the current level of judicial discretion is adequate to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The following items are proposed strategies which have been presented to the Commission. Please identify your level of support, if any, for each of the following proposals. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following proposals?

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time non-violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reclassifying Class X drug offenses to Class 1 offenses, thereby reducing the sentencing range for such offenses from 6-30 years to 4-15 years. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offenders who participate in rehabilitative programs should receive credit towards their prison sentence. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
| Amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Diverting non-violent Class 3 and Class 4 inmates from the Illinois Department of Corrections. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3-4 felonies who have not previously been sentenced to probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3-4 felonies with no prior violent conviction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Please use the space below to provide any other comments that you wish to make concerning items under the purview of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

Survey for Probation Officers and Managers

Default Question Block

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform Survey for Probation Officers and Managers

Purpose: The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform is conducting a survey to learn about judicial practices and opinions towards current sentencing statutes. The Commission is comprised of criminal justice practitioners, lawmakers, and policymakers and is tasked with reviewing Illinois' criminal justice and sentencing statutes, sentencing practices, community supervision, and use of alternatives to incarceration with the goal of reducing the prison population by 25% in ten years. The survey results will help inform the Commission's sentencing reform recommendations.

Confidentiality: The Commission has contracted with University of Illinois Springfield's Survey Research Office (SRO) to conduct this survey. Please know that your personal identifying information will be held in confidence by SRO, and will not be attached to your responses. An identification number is attached to your responses for tracking purposes only and will not be used to identify you as a respondent. In addition, please note that while your completion of the questionnaire would be greatly appreciated, your participation is voluntary. No negative consequences will result from your non-participation in this survey. You do not have to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable or you do not wish to answer.

This research has been reviewed by the Human Subjects Review Officer, Dr. James Klein who is available to answer any questions about your rights as a volunteer participant in this project. He may be reached at 217-206-6883.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and the online survey will save your entered responses and you can come back to the survey at a later time. If you have any questions about this research, please contact the Survey Research Office at (217) 206-6591 or email sro@uis.edu.

Do you agree to participate in this survey?

- Yes
- No

This survey examines the attitudes and opinions of probation officers who handle cases with adult offenders. Individuals who handle cases only with juvenile offenders are ineligible to participate. Do you handle any cases with adult offenders, or do you only handle cases with juvenile offenders?

- I handle at least some cases with adult offenders
- I handle cases with juvenile offenders only

How many years have you worked in probation in Illinois?

Please select the best description of your current position:

- Manager in probation department
- Probation officer for adult felony cases

What is your primary assignment?

- Regular caseload
- Intensive caseload
- Specialized caseload
- Problem solving court

In a typical year, which of the following types of cases do you handle? Please select all that apply.

- Violent crime
- Property crime
- Drug crime
- Sex crime

In a typical year, approximately how many felony probation cases did you supervise?

In a typical year, approximately how many felony cases do you supervise in which offenders were found to have violated the conditions of their probation?

Technical violations

New offense violations

In a typical year, approximately how many cases do you handle in which offenders have their probation revoked?

Technical violations

New offense violations

In a typical year, what is the average number of felony probation cases an officer in your department serves?

In a typical year, approximately how many felony cases have officers in your department supervised in which offenders were found to have violated the conditions of their probation?

Total technical violations

Total new offense violations

In a typical year, approximately how many felony cases have officers in your department supervised in which offenders have their probation revoked?

Total technical violations

Total new offense violations

The next set of questions deals with your attitudes towards current sentencing statutory requirements.

Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| In general, current statutory requirements regarding sentencing terms, including probation eligibility, enhancements and extended terms are good for the sentencing process. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes are fair. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is difficult to act in the best interest of the offender under current sentencing statutes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes make it fairly certain that violent or dangerous offenders will go to prison. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Current sentencing statutes facilitate the effective use of correctional resources. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Probation officers are generally favorable towards our sentencing structure. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| There are some current non-probationable offenses which should allow for probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Judges are able to sentence offenders fairly within the current statutory framework. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

In the space provided below, please list any non-probationable offenses, for which you think probation should be allowable. If there are none, please leave the space blank.

- Offense 1
- Offense 2
- Offense 3
- Offense 4
- Offense 5

The next set of questions deals specifically with the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

How much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

| | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has sought the input of probation officers throughout the process of sentencing reform. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The members of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform understand the perspectives of correctional officers on sentencing issues. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Probation officers should have more input throughout the process of sentencing reform. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform is interested in strategies that help reduce the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025. How important, if at all, is reducing the Illinois prison population?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

Prior to today, had you heard about the initiative aimed at reducing the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Do you believe that the curret community corrections system is adequate to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The following items are proposed strategies which have been presented to the Commission. Please identify your level of support, if any, for each of the following proposals. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following proposals?

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time non-violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time violent offenders. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reclassifying Class X drug offenses to Class 1 offenses, thereby reducing the sentencing range for such offenses from 6-30 years to 4-15 years. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offenders who participate in rehabilitative programs should receive credit towards their prison sentence. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Neither support nor oppose | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
| Amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Diverting non-violent Class 3 and Class 4 inmates from the Illinois Department of Corrections. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3- 4 felonies who have not previously been sentenced to probation. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3 -4 felonies with no prior violent conviction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Please use the space below to provide any other comments that you wish to make concerning items under the purview of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

Appendix X. Top Line Report

SECTION ONE: FREQUENCIES FOR SHARED QUESTIONS (N= 546)

The next set of questions deals with your attitudes towards current sentencing statutory requirements. Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

In general, current statutory requirements regarding sentencing terms, including probation eligibility, enhancements and extended terms are good for the sentencing process.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 15.9% (86) |
| Agree | 40.3% (218) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 19.6% (106) |
| Disagree | 17.2% (93) |
| Strongly Disagree | 7% (38) |

Current sentencing statutes are fair.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 11.3% (61) |
| Agree | 36.9% (200) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 15.7% (85) |
| Disagree | 26.2% (142) |
| Strongly Disagree | 54% (10) |

It is difficult to act in the best interest of the offender under current sentencing statutes.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 7% (38) |
| Agree | 24.2% (131) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 33.1% (179) |
| Disagree | 20.5% (111) |
| Strongly Disagree | 15.2% (82) |

Current sentencing statutes make it fairly certain that violent or dangerous offenders will go to prison.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 14% (76) |
| Agree | 32.8% (178) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 15.3% (83) |
| Disagree | 26% (141) |
| Strongly Disagree | 11.8% (64) |

Current sentencing statuses facilitate the effective use of correctional resources.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 5.4% (29) |
| Agree | 20.8% (112) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 27.5% (148) |
| Disagree | 31.4% (169) |
| Strongly Disagree | 15% (81) |

Correctional officers/Parole Agents/Judges/Probation Officers are generally favorable towards our sentencing structure.⁸

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 6.7% (36) |
| Agree | 30.4% (164) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 31.5% (170) |
| Disagree | 23% (124) |
| Strongly Disagree | 8.5% (46) |

There are some current non-probationable offenses which should allow for probation.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 13.4% (72) |
| Agree | 31.2% (168) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 25.6% (138) |
| Disagree | 17.6% (95) |
| Strongly Disagree | 12.2% (66) |

Judges are able/ I am able to sentence offenders fairly within the current statutory framework.⁹

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 9.3% (50) |
| Agree | 35.6% (192) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 25.8% (139) |
| Disagree | 22.3% (120) |
| Strongly Disagree | 7.1% (38) |

The next set of questions deal specifically with the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform. How much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

⁸ Question wording differs slightly depending on survey

⁹ Question wording differs slightly depending on survey

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform has sought the input of correctional officers/parole agents/judges/probation officers throughout the process of sentencing reform.¹⁰

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 5.6% (30) |
| Agree | 14.3% (76) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 29.6% (158) |
| Disagree | 21.6% (115) |
| Strongly Disagree | 28.9% (154) |

The members of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform understand the perspectives of correctional officers/parole agents/judges/probation officers on sentencing issues.¹¹

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 3.2% (17) |
| Agree | 9.6% (51) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 32.5% (173) |
| Disagree | 23.5% (125) |
| Strongly Disagree | 31.3% (167) |

Correctional officers/parole agents/judges/probation officers should have more input throughout the process of sentencing reform.¹²

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 46.4% (247) |
| Agree | 35.2% (187) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 13.2% (70) |
| Disagree | 3.4% (18) |
| Strongly Disagree | 1.9% (10) |

The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform is interested in strategies that help reduce the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025. How important, if at all, is reducing the Illinois prison population?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Very important | 42.5% (227) |
| Somewhat important | 35% (187) |
| Not very important | 13.9% (74) |
| Not at all important | 8.6% (46) |

¹⁰ Question wording differs slightly depending on survey

¹¹ Question wording differs slightly depending on survey

¹² Question wording differs slightly depending on survey

Prior to today, had you heard about the initiative aimed at reducing the Illinois prison population by 25% by 2025.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 62.3% (335) |
| No | 35.1% (189) |
| Don't know | 2.6% (14) |

Do you believe that the current community corrections system is adequate to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 12.5% (67) |
| No | 71.3% (382) |
| Don't know | 16.2% (87) |

The following items are proposed strategies which have been presented to the Commission. Please identify your level of support, if any, for each of the following proposals. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following items?

Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time non-violent offenders.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 40.2% (213) |
| Somewhat support | 36.8% (195) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 10.6% (56) |
| Somewhat oppose | 6.6% (35) |
| Strongly oppose | 5.8% (31) |

Limiting the length of prison sentences for first-time violent offenders.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 5.5% (29) |
| Somewhat support | 16.5% (88) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 12% (64) |
| Somewhat oppose | 31.2% (166) |
| Strongly oppose | 34.8% (185) |

Reclassifying Class X drug offenses to Class 1 offenses, thereby reducing the sentencing range for such offenses from 6-30 years to 4-15 years.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 22.5% (120) |
| Somewhat support | 37.3% (199) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 13.5% (72) |
| Somewhat oppose | 12.4% (66) |
| Strongly oppose | 14.3% (76) |

Offenders who participate in rehabilitative programs should receive credit towards their prison sentence.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 28.4% (151) |
| Somewhat support | 40.3% (214) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 11.3% (60) |
| Somewhat oppose | 10.5% (56) |
| Strongly oppose | 9.4% (50) |

Amending truth in sentencing statutes so that prisoners can receive more credit for time served than is currently allowed.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 11% (58) |
| Somewhat support | 20.3% (107) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 22.3% (118) |
| Somewhat oppose | 23.5% (124) |
| Strongly oppose | 22.9% (121) |

Diverting non-violent Class 3 and Class 4 inmates from the Illinois Department of Corrections.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 18.4% (98) |
| Somewhat support | 32.1% (171) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 18.8% (100) |
| Somewhat oppose | 17.9% (95) |
| Strongly oppose | 12.8% (68) |

Requiring probation to the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3-4 felonies who have not previously been sentenced to probation.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 26% (138) |
| Somewhat support | 42.6% (226) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 15.4% (82) |
| Somewhat oppose | 9% (48) |
| Strongly oppose | 7% (37) |

Requiring probation to be the presumptive sentence for offenders with non-violent Class 3-4 felonies with no prior violent conviction.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly support | 26.7% (142) |
| Somewhat support | 41.2% (219) |
| Neither support nor oppose | 13.5% (72) |
| Somewhat oppose | 10.2% (54) |
| Strongly oppose | 8.5% (45) |

SECTION TWO: CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS SURVEY (n=240)

How many years have you worked as a correctional officer (in any capacity) in Illinois?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to Four | 26.2% (61) |
| Five to Eleven | 21% (49) |
| Twelve to Seventeen | 29.6% (69) |
| Eighteen to Twenty-four | 21.5% (50) |
| Twenty-five or more | 1.7% (4) |

How many years have you worked in your current position?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to Four | 30.7% (71) |
| Five to Eleven | 22.9% (53) |
| Twelve to Seventeen | 26.4% (61) |
| Eighteen to Twenty-four | 18.6% |
| Twenty-five or more | 1.3% (3) |

What type of facility do you work at?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Maximum Security | 28.6% (69) |
| Medium Security | 43.6% (105) |
| Minimum Security | 22.4% (54) |
| Other type of facility, specify | 5.4% (13) |

Which of the following most closely describes your current role?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Supervisor | 1.7% (4) |
| Correctional Officer | 98.3% (232) |

In what geographic region of Illinois (defined by agency) do you work?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------|-------------------|
| North | 23.8% (57) |
| Central | 40.4% (97) |
| South | 35.8% (86) |

And thinking back to when you first began, what was/were the reason/s you chose corrections as your career? (CODED RESPONSES)

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Advancement opportunities / new career | 4.2% (9) |
| College studies | 5.2% (11) |
| Desire to work in law enforcement | 11.3% (24) |
| Easy transition/ steady work/ needed a job | 15.5% (33) |
| Desire to help people/ personal calling | 3.8% (8) |
| Pay/ benefits | 56.8% (121) |
| Other reason | 3.3% (7) |

The next set of questions deals with your current attitudes towards your workplace environment. Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

The information I get through formal communication channels helps me to perform my job effectively.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 13.1% (31) |
| Agree | 25.3% (60) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 18.6% (44) |
| Disagree | 19.4% (46) |
| Strongly Disagree | 23.6% (56) |

In the IDOC, it is often unclear who has the formal authority to make a decision.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 35.0% (84) |
| Agree | 32.1% (77) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 6.3% (15) |
| Disagree | 15.0% (36) |
| Strongly Disagree | 11.7% (28) |

It's really not possible to change things in the institution.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 21.6% (51) |
| Agree | 22.5% (53) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 16.5% (39) |
| Disagree | 19.9% (47) |
| Strongly Disagree | 19.5% (46) |

I am told promptly when there is a change in policy, rules, or regulations that affects me.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 16.3% (39) |
| Agree | 28.9% (69) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 8.8% (21) |
| Disagree | 22.6% (54) |
| Strongly Disagree | 23.4% (56) |

I have the authority I need to accomplish my work objectives.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 14.6% (35) |
| Agree | 22.1% (53) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 10.8% (26) |
| Disagree | 22.1% (53) |
| Strongly Disagree | 30.4% (73) |

Employees do not have much opportunity to influence what goes on in IDOC.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 58.4% (139) |
| Agree | 22.7% (54) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 8.8% (21) |
| Disagree | 5.9% (14) |
| Strongly Disagree | 4.2% (10) |

Under the present system, promotions are seldom related to employee performance.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 54.7% (129) |
| Agree | 19.5% (46) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 9.7% (23) |
| Disagree | 9.3% (22) |
| Strongly Disagree | 6.8% (16) |

Management at this institution is flexible enough to make changes when necessary.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 8.0% (19) |
| Agree | 26.5% (63) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 15.5% (37) |
| Disagree | 23.9% (57) |
| Strongly Disagree | 26.1% (62) |

In the IDOC, authority is clearly delegated.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 16.9% (39) |
| Agree | 26.4% (61) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 20.3% (47) |
| Disagree | 16.0% (37) |
| Strongly Disagree | 20.3% (47) |

In general, this institution is run very well.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 10.5% (25) |
| Agree | 27.4% (65) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 17.7% (42) |
| Disagree | 18.6% (44) |
| Strongly Disagree | 26.7% (61) |

Since you began working at IDOC, have you received sufficient training on offender mental health issues in order to effectively meet the needs of the prison population?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-----|-------------------|
| Yes | 33.9% (78) |
| No | 66.1% (152) |

In general, how many hours of training have you spent on offender mental health?

If none, please leave blank. An estimated number of hours is fine.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than Ten | 64.6% (82) |
| Eleven to Twenty-five | 26.8% (34) |
| Twenty-six to Fifty | 4.7% (6) |
| Fifty-one to one hundred | 0.8% (1) |
| More than one hundred | 3.1% (4) |

SECTION THREE: PAROLE AGENTS SURVEY (n=40)

How many years have you worked in the IDOC parole division?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to four | 20% (8) |
| Five to eleven | 7.5% (3) |
| Twelve to Seventeen | 50% (20) |
| Eighteen to Twenty-four | 20% (8) |
| Twenty-five or more | 2.5% (1) |

In a typical year, which of the following types of cases do you handle? *Please select all that apply.*

| | Percent of cases (n) |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Violent crime | 90.0% (36) |
| Property crime | 75.5% (31) |
| Drug crime | 97.5% (39) |
| Sex Crime | 27.5% (11) |

In a typical year, approximately how many parole or mandatory supervised release cases do you handle?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Up to 200 | 55% (22) |
| 201 - 500 | 20% (8) |
| 501 – 1000 | 7.5% (3) |
| 1001 – 2000 | 15% (6) |
| 2001 or more | 2.5% (1) |

In a typical year, approximately how many cases do you handle in which offenders violated the conditions of their parole or mandatory supervised release?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Up to 50 | 33.3% (13) |
| 51 – 100 | 23.1% (9) |
| 101 – 200 | 30.8% (12) |
| 201 – 500 | 5.1% (2) |
| 501 or more | 7.7% (3) |

In a typical year, approximately how many cases do you handle in which offenders have their parole revoked?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Up to 200 | 22.5% (9) |
| 201 - 500 | 35% (14) |
| 501 – 1000 | 12.5% (5) |
| 1001 – 2000 | 15% (6) |
| 2001 or more | 15% (6) |

In what geographic region of Illinois (defined by agency) do you work?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------|-------------------|
| North | 70.0% (28) |
| Central | 17.5% (7) |
| South | 12.5% (5) |

The next set of questions deals with your attitudes towards current sentencing statutory requirements.

Please identify how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

The length of time spent on parole could be reduced in some cases without jeopardizing public safety.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 45.0% (18) |
| Somewhat Agree | 27.5% (11) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 7.5% (3) |
| Somewhat Disagree | 15.0% (6) |
| Strongly Disagree | 5.0% (2) |

Too many offenders are returned to prison because they cannot find housing which meets the requirements of their parole.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 15.0% (6) |
| Somewhat Agree | 17.5% (7) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 12.5% (5) |
| Somewhat Disagree | 20.0% (8) |
| Strongly Disagree | 35.0% (14) |

The current parole revocation process is fair to offenders.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 40.0% (16) |
| Somewhat Agree | 30.0% (12) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 17.5% (7) |
| Somewhat Disagree | 2.5% (1) |
| Strongly Disagree | 10.0% (4) |

Generally, when parole is revoked, it is out of concern for public safety.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 35.0% (14) |
| Somewhat Agree | 37.5% (15) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 7.5% (3) |
| Somewhat Disagree | 2.5% (1) |
| Strongly Disagree | 17.5% (7) |

Risk-assessment tools should be used to determine parole conditions.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 40.0% (16) |
| Somewhat Agree | 32.5% (13) |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 12.5% (5) |
| Somewhat Disagree | 7.5% (3) |
| Strongly Disagree | 7.5% (3) |

SECTION FOUR: JUDGES SURVEY (n=80)

How many years have you been a judge in Illinois?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to Five | 26.8% (15) |
| Five to Eleven | 19.6% (11) |
| Twelve to Seventeen | 23.2% (13) |
| Eighteen to Twenty-four | 19.6% (11) |
| Twenty-three or more | 10.7% (6) |

Please list the Illinois County in which your court is located

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------|-------------------|
| Cook | 18.8% (15) |
| Lake | 2.5% (2) |
| Will | 6.3% (5) |
| McHenry | 2.5% (2) |
| DuPage | 6.3% (5) |
| Kane | 6.3% (5) |
| Other | 57.5% (46) |

In a typical year, which felony dockets are you assigned?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| All felony cases | 76.3% (61) |
| Specialized docket (e.g., drug, mental health) | 12.5% (10) |
| Other | 25.0% (20) |

Approximately how many felony defendants do you sentence in a typical year?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Less than Fifty | 34.5% (19) |
| 51 to 100 | 25.5% (14) |
| 101 to 200 | 12.7% (7) |
| 201 to 400 | 27.3% (15) |
| 400 or more | 19.1% (13) |

In a typical year, please identify the felony offense classes of the cases you handle? Please select all that apply.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------|-------------------|
| Class 4 | 98.8% (79) |
| Class 3 | 97.5% (78) |

| | |
|---------|------------|
| Class 2 | 96.3% (77) |
| Class 1 | 93.8% (75) |
| Class X | 90.0% (72) |
| Class M | 47.5% (38) |

In a typical year, what percent of sentences include defendants previously committed to DOC?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Less than 10% | 2.6% (2) |
| 10% - 25% | 34.2% (26) |
| 25% - 50% | 48.7% (37) |
| More than 50% | 14.5% (11) |

In a typical year, approximately how many cases do you handle in which you find that offenders violated the conditions of their probation or supervised release (regardless of whether you modified or revoked their supervision)?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Less than 10% | 1.3% (1) |
| 10% - 25% | 33.3% (26) |
| 25% - 50% | 48.7% (38) |
| More than 50% | 16.7% (13) |

In a typical year, approximately what percentage of probationers do you find that violated the conditions of their probation?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Less than 10% | 3.8% (3) |
| 10% - 25% | 41.0% (32) |
| 25% - 50% | 37.2% (29) |
| More than 50% | 17.9% (14) |

Please identify the factors that you consider relevant in deciding on the type of length of sentence to impose. Please rank the items from 1 to 6 in order of relevance with "1" indicating the item that you believe is "most relevant" and "6" indicating the item you believe is "least relevant."

The nature and seriousness of the offense:

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------|-------------------|
| Rank 1 | 52.6% (41) |
| Rank 2 | 34.6% (27) |
| Rank 3 | 11.5% (9) |
| Rank 4 | 0% (0) |
| Rank 5 | 0% (0) |
| Rank 6 | 1.3% (1) |

An offender's criminal history

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------|-------------------|
| Rank 1 | 5.1% (4) |
| Rank 2 | 44.9% (35) |

| | |
|--------|----------|
| Rank 3 | 41% (32) |
| Rank 4 | 5.1% (4) |
| Rank 5 | 3.8% (3) |
| Rank 6 | 0% (0) |

Statutorily required sentence

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------|-------------------|
| Rank 1 | 39.7% (31) |
| Rank 2 | 12.8% (10) |
| Rank 3 | 10.3% (8) |
| Rank 4 | 29.5% (23) |
| Rank 5 | 6.4% (5) |
| Rank 6 | 1.3% (1) |

An offender's life history and personal characteristics

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------|-------------------|
| Rank 1 | 1.3% (1) |
| Rank 2 | 6.4% (5) |
| Rank 3 | 34.6% (27) |
| Rank 4 | 51.3% (40) |
| Rank 5 | 6.4% (5) |
| Rank 6 | 0% (0) |

Collateral consequences of the conviction

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------|-------------------|
| Rank 1 | 1.3% (1) |
| Rank 2 | 0% (0) |
| Rank 3 | 2.6% (2) |
| Rank 4 | 9% (7) |
| Rank 5 | 67.9% (53) |
| Rank 6 | 19.2% (15) |

Other, please specify:

| | Valid percent (n) |
|--------|-------------------|
| Rank 1 | 0% (0) |
| Rank 2 | 0% (0) |
| Rank 3 | 0% (0) |
| Rank 4 | 8.8% (4) |
| Rank 5 | 32.4% (11) |
| Rank 6 | 58.8% (34) |

Other: Statutory factors in mitigation/aggravation; Statutory factors in agg/mit; Statement of allocution; Services available; Rehabilitative potential; previous opportunities for rehabilitation; potential for rehabilitation; other factors in aggravation or mitigation; local resources for rehab; likelihood to reoffend; Hardship on Others; Good time available; Family; Effect of sentence on victim; Deterrence and incapacitation; Deter others; Demonstrated (in)ability to comply with a term of probation; Defendant's character; Community rehabilitation resource availability; An offenders progress on pre-trial; Alternative sentencing options such as drug court

Please identify whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Please select "yes" if you agree with the statement and select "no" if you disagree with the statement.

There have been times when I felt that imposing a concurrent sentence in place of a consecutive sentence was appropriate but was unable to do so due to the statutes in place.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-----|-------------------|
| Yes | 51.3% (39) |
| No | 48.7% (37) |

If Yes

And how often in the past twelve months has this occurred?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Less than three times | 53.8% (14) |
| Four to eight times | 23.1% (6) |
| Nine to fifteen times | 15.4% (4) |
| Sixteen to twenty-four times | 3.8% (1) |
| Twenty-five times or more | 3.8% (1) |

There have been times when, due to statutory limitations, I was forced to issue a stricter sentence than I would have had those limitations not been in place.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-----|-------------------|
| Yes | 75.3% (58) |
| No | 24.7% (19) |

If Yes

And how often in the past twelve months has this occurred?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Once | 17.1% (6) |
| Two to five times | 54.3% (19) |
| Six to ten times | 8.6% (3) |
| Eleven to Fifteen times | 8.6% (3) |
| Sixteen times or more | 11.4% (4) |

SECTION FOUR: PROBATION OFFICERS SURVEY (n=186)

This survey examines the attitudes and opinions of probation officers who handle cases with adult offenders. Individuals who handle cases only with juvenile offenders are ineligible to participate. Do you handle any cases with adult offenders, or do you only handle cases with juvenile offenders?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| I handle at least some cases with adult offenders | 98% (193) |
| I handle cases with juvenile offenders only | 0% (0) |

How many years have you worked in probation in Illinois?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to Four | 13.7% (25) |
| Five to Eleven | 12.1% (22) |
| Twelve to Seventeen | 24.2% (44) |
| Eighteen to Twenty-four | 20.3% (37) |
| Twenty-five or more | 29.7% (54) |

Please select the best description of your current position:

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Manager in probation department | 37.2% (71) |
| Probation officer for adult felony cases | 62.8% (120) |

If “Probation officer for adult felony cases” is selected

What is your primary assignment?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Regular caseload | 55.5% (66) |
| Intensive caseload | 8.4% (10) |
| Specialized caseload | 28.6% (34) |
| Problem solving court | 7.6% (9) |

In a typical year, which of the following types of cases do you handle? Please select all that apply.

| | Valid percent (n) |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Violent crime | 46.7% (92) |
| Property crime | 47.7% (94) |
| Drug crime | 55.3% (109) |
| Sex crime | 21.8% (43) |

In a typical year, approximately how many felony probation cases did you supervise?

| | Valid percent (n) |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Up to 50 | 36.5% (35) |
| 51 – 100 | 26% (25) |
| 101 – 200 | 26% (25) |
| 201 – 500 | 5.2% (5) |
| 501 or more | 6.3% (6) |

In a typical year, approximately how many felony cases do you supervise in which offenders were found to have violated the conditions of their probation? (Percentage of cases)

Technical violations

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------|-------------------|
| Up to 25% | 39.3% (33) |
| 26% – 50% | 28.6% (24) |
| 51% – 75% | 19% (16) |
| 76% - 100% | 13.1% (11) |

New offense violations

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------|-------------------|
| Up to 25% | 69.3% (61) |
| 26% – 50% | 23.9% (21) |
| 51% – 75% | 4.5% (4) |
| 76% - 100% | 2.3% (2) |

In a typical year, approximately how many fellow cases do you supervise in which offenders have their probation revoked? (Percentage of cases)

Technical violations

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------|-------------------|
| Up to 25% | 80.2% (65) |
| 26% – 50% | 14.8% (12) |
| 51% – 75% | 3.7% (3) |
| 76% - 100% | 1.2% (1) |

New offense violations

| | Valid percent (n) |
|------------|-------------------|
| Up to 25% | 82.1% (69) |
| 26% – 50% | 10.7% (9) |
| 51% – 75% | 3.6% (3) |
| 76% - 100% | 3.6% (3) |

If “Manager in probation department” is selected

In a typical year, what is the average number of felony probation cases an officer in your department serves?

| | Valid percent (<i>n</i>) |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Up to 50 | 28.8% (15) |
| 51 – 100 | 23.1% (12) |
| 101 – 200 | 42.3% (22) |
| 201 – 500 | 3.8% (2) |
| 501 or more | 1.9% (1) |

In a typical year, approximately how many felony cases have officers in your department supervised in which offenders were found to have violated the conditions of their probation? (Percentage of cases)

Total technical violations

| | Valid percent (<i>n</i>) |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Up to 25% | 42.9% (15) |
| 26% – 50% | 22.9% (8) |
| 51% – 75% | 22.9% (8) |
| 76% - 100% | 11.4% (4) |

Total new offense violations

| | Valid percent (<i>n</i>) |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Up to 25% | 52.6% (20) |
| 26% – 50% | 34.2% (13) |
| 51% – 75% | 5.3% (2) |
| 76% - 100% | 7.9% (3) |

In a typical year, approximately how many felony cases have officers in your department supervised in which offenders have their probation revoked? (Percentage of cases)

Total technical violations

| | Valid percent (<i>n</i>) |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Up to 25% | 65.8% (25) |
| 26% – 50% | 28.9% (11) |
| 51% – 75% | 5.3% (2) |
| 76% - 100% | 0% (0) |

Total new offense violations

| | Valid percent (<i>n</i>) |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Up to 25% | 78.9% (30) |
| 26% – 50% | 13.2% (5) |
| 51% – 75% | 2.6% (1) |
| 76% - 100% | 5.3% (2) |
| Up to 25% | 0% (0) |

Appendix X. Responses to Open-ended Questions

In the space provided below, please list any non-probationable offenses for which you think probation should be allowable.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER RESPONSES

| |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| aggravated OUI |
| All offenses but murder and sex crime should be considered |
| always short on a place to put them so do what's right. |
| any non-violent crime |
| As correctional officers we are merely the "keepers" and really don't come into contact of the decisions regarding these issues. |
| cannabis conspiracy |
| cannabis trafficking |
| Cannabis under a certain amount |
| Carrying or transporting of marijuana in large amounts for first time offenders |
| Case by case crimes committed in extreme youth, poverty. |
| Conviction of methamphetamine control act |
| Delivery of controlled substance |
| delivery of counterfeit or look-alike |
| Driving on revoked licenses |
| driving with revoked |
| Drug laws |
| drug offenses |
| drug offenses(certain ones) |
| Drug related offenses |
| DUI |
| DUI |
| DUIs |
| DUI's and pot offenses need to be looked at right away |
| Every crime not punishable by prison or jail |
| Every offense in 730CS 5/5-5-3(c) should be looked at in a case by case basis |
| First time plus offenses |
| However some of these offenses people seem to keep doing over and over |
| If it's not allowed now it never should be |
| Institutional vandalism |
| lower level drug offenses |
| Marijuana offenses of low amounts |
| minor drug violations |
| Most drug cases and drug use cases |
| Most drug convictions |

| |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No violent crimes |
| Non violent crimes |
| Non violent crimes committed by the mentally ill or addicts |
| non-class X |
| None |
| Non-violent offences |
| Non-violent offenses |
| Not sure which offenses are non probational |
| Offenders who have drugs or alcohol charges need rehab and probation. Not 10 years in prison, this does nothing to help on addict. |
| other minor offenses that seem to get people sent to prison |
| petty theft |
| Possession of Controlled Substance |
| Possession of Drug Paraphernalia |
| probation should be a case by case decision not decided by a panel of people once a month 50 IM at a time. |
| Second or subsequent driving on suspended or revoked, unlawful purchase of a fire arm, unlawful use of weapons when the weapon is a machine gun, or silence or a little within a barrel shorter than 18 inches |
| shoplifting (up to 3rd offense) |
| Some drug offenses for first time offenders. They should have strict guidelines- Have to have GED, job, community service. Make them work to stay out of prison. If they don't comply or complete they serve their sentence. |
| some minor drug charges |
| Stiffer sentences will reduce prison population as a deterrent to committing the actual crime not getting softer. Bring back death row and use it. |
| substances(not the real thing) |
| Suspended drivers licence offenses |
| This should be up to a judge. Just because a crime is non violent mean the person doesn't need to be on probation. |
| Unlawful purchase of firearm |
| Use of Mary Jane |
| Violent crimes. |
| With the over crowding of the reception centers many petty crimes that carry a sentence of 2 years or less should automatically be put on parole/probation. Prisons are already dangerous under staffed. |

PAROLE AGENT RESPONSES

| |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st conviction of theft valued at less than \$500.00 |
| any offense due to being on illegal drugs |
| burglary due to illegal drug use |
| burglary to a motor vehicle, mob action |
| Cannabis possession |

| |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Delivery of Cannabis |
| driving offenses, |
| Drug case |
| DUI |
| higher class drug offenses |
| Marijuana possession |
| Most parole agents will not know what offenses to choose from. |
| offenders with mental health issues |
| Parole in Illinois no longer works |
| petty retail theft |
| Possession of a controlled substance (Class X) |
| Possession of controlled substance- small amounts street value less than \$1,000 |
| Possession of drugs |
| possession of Marijuana less than 15-30 grams |
| Probation in Illinois no longer works |
| theft under retail theft |
| thefts due to illegal drug use |
| Too many |

JUDGE RESPONSES

| |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2d Class 2 |
| 2d meth. |
| 2nd meth offense |
| 4th DUI |
| Aggravated Battery to a Child |
| Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault |
| aggravated UUW |
| All Drug offenses. |
| All mandatory sentences for Class 2 crimes where a defendant has a prior class 2 conviction within 10 years or 2 class 2 convictions regardless of when they occurred |
| All other non-violent offenses. |
| Any X drug crimes |
| certain drug offenses |
| Certain firearms offenses |
| Certain sex offender registration offenses due to priors |
| Class 1 Mfg/Del Drugs that is Class X due to 1000 foot enhancement |
| Class 2 or Greater with prior Class 2 or greater within 10 years |
| Class 2 w/in 10 years |
| class X based on prior convictions alone |
| class x drug cases |
| Criminal Sexual Assault when consensual "statutory rape" of older teenager |

| |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Delivery of a Controlled Substance within 1000 feet of anything |
| Delivery of Con Substance |
| Drug delivery within 1000 feet of listed areas. |
| Drug induced homicide |
| drug offense bases solely on prior convictions |
| drug possession cases |
| Drug possession cases based on amount only |
| FOID Firearm (Class 3) |
| guns |
| Institutional Vandalism (2nd, over \$300) |
| Man/Del. Cont. Subst. |
| Many drug related offenses |
| Meth possession |
| most drug cases |
| Most Felonies enhanced to Class X sentencing due to prior record |
| Non X enhanced to X |
| Offenses that are non-probationable due to priors |
| offenses within 1000 feet if no school ect. is in session |
| PCS w intent, 100 ft. park or church |
| PCS w intent, more 3 grams |
| Posses Weapon by Felon (if non-firearm) |
| possession of firearm with revoked foid |
| possession only drug offenses |
| Purchase of Sudafed by felon |
| residential burglary |
| Residential burglary |
| Residential Burglary |
| RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY |
| residential burglary |
| Residential Burglary |
| residential burglary in some instances |
| residential burglary other than TASC |
| Residential burglary |
| Res. Burglary first offender |
| second 2 felony in 10 years |
| Second class 2 |
| second meth felony |
| sexual assaults with mitigating circumstances |
| some class X drug offenses |
| some second time cl. 2 |
| some small quantity deliveries |

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Theft (500k-1M) |
| Unlawful possession with intent |
| UPCS w/in 1000 feet |
| various drug offenses |

PROBATION OFFICER RESPONSES

| |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aggravated Driving While License Revoked |
| Any class 2 felonies after more than two in ten years |
| any drug offense |
| Court fines |
| current meth offense with a previous meth related conviction |
| disability fraud |
| Drug cases |
| DRUG CASES |
| drug offenses |
| drug related offenses |
| DUI |
| Dui redcued to reckless driving |
| DUI/death |
| DWLR |
| foreclosure responsibility |
| gun charges |
| multiple DUI offenses |
| pcs |
| Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver |
| Repeat drug offenses |
| reporting fees |
| residential burglary |
| Residential Burglary |
| Residential Burglary |
| Residential Burglary-first offenders without drug problems |
| resist police peace officer |
| Some drug charges that require mandatory DOC sentences |
| theft charges |
| Violation of pre trial |

Please use the space below to provide any other comments you wish to make concerning items under the purview of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER RESPONSES

Address what is needed to lower popularity. you will not correct the problem by sentencing laws. people will break the laws and post felons will make the prison a revolving door. Randy Pfister is making STA/NRC run so much better. He deserves an award. Feel lucky to have guys like Pfister working for IDOC.

Any facility is only as good as the employees it has. Over the past 17 years I have seen a decline in the quality of the work force. Most of which is due to the threat of taking away from the very workers that go to work day to day to make people look good and things happen. IDOC don't have the issues some states have and that's because we get what we get. It all starts with staff.

As a first year correction officer, the focus was on safety and maintaining security. No reforms were discussed during training or on the job. Information regarding inmates sentence are generally unknown.

As far as mental health goes, why do we spend so much money on a violent mentally ill offender when there are honorable veterans that don't get mental health care.

Before giving promotions at ILDOC check credentials used by employees for validity.

Bring back the death penalty and use it.

Bring back the death penalty! treat inmates like inmates. They get more rights and healthcare than myself, parents, elderly and vets. The health care spent on violent I/m's is outrageous!

Bring back the death penalty. Victims families end up paying for these killers with their tax money!

change needs to happen within 1000. supervisor roles (majors, wardens) needs to be reduced or removed. The way promotions are done needs to change; more merit base wardens should have more of a say so/in put on who gets promoted.

Change promotional procedure! Seniority cannot continue to rule!

Change the AD's and ID's that are to be enforced not to be put to make the lists longer. Officers are told to pick on they are concerned with and then if the officer writes to many IDR's, he is told to quit writing to many IDRs even if necessary to be written. It means officers are held back from doing their jobs, some wardens do this to make their facility better than it is.

Correctional officers are trained not to be judge or jury so officers do not know what statutes sentencing. In general, we have too many offenders to take time to get to know them and are trained not to get personal with offenders. Offenders 9 out of 10 will lie to an officer to get our sympathy and to get a "con" from an officer. "Mentally ill" inmates need to be in a mental hospital with corrections not main streaming with other offenders who take advantage or turn a m/i inmate into a "lucky". Officers in the last few weeks have just started getting the training for M/I and PREA. The state needs to reopen mental health institutions and help families prevent conduct disorder and sociopathic in children and young adults.

Corruption in corrections is out of control -Good luck. My former workplace is a "work camp" helped rehabilitate. New place "medium security" is just a human warehouse, get politics out of corrections. A person should move up based on experience, training and evaluations, not who you know or what "party" is in charge.

Criminals do not think like the law abiding citizens. Most of them are poor and the people around their home are criminals to get by. Honestly, the only way to keep criminals out of the prison is to

have a good economy so people can have jobs. I hear them tell other criminals that they will return because they can't afford to keep themselves. Last week one said "I'll be back in a few months, so I can be with my family for a while and do some dope."

For a so called "rehabilitation" facility, this is the worst run prison, corrections staff are treated like crap, the inmates are treated like gold. What rehab facility in the United States provides TV services for rent at \$1 a month with access to pornography? Counselors having sex with inmates, officers as well, access to information of things to look out(safety) are NOT a priority. Razors, screwdrivers found on inmates result in the officer getting reprimanded, while the inmate goes to his bunk to watch TV. No discipline. This institution is a step away from a riot, with managerial staff that would have no clue how to solve/remedy the situation. I used to be proud to serve the citizens of the state. It wouldn't matter if you killed them all or paroled them. We'll get new inmates on Tuesday. IDOC has lost touch with reality.

General problems. Govt corruption, unions, Chicago public school system, children being born out of wedlock, inmates with no education, recidivism rates, lack of term limits for politicians, no open primary voting, state of Illinois low credit rating, lack of economic growth in Illinois + lack of budget. Lack of independent drawing of legislative districts. Should not have closed super max prison "TAMS".

Get rid of the academy-they tell you you will get what you need when you get to your facility. Bwks of pure waste other than being bullied by your peers. OST you don't lose the it's when they quit. Get rid of CMS as they lose your grades and help provide what they want. More training for those who really want it. Get rid of the union.

Have competent deputy directors and certain wardens. Promote within IDOC and not off street or politicians friends that have never worked in IDOC (several people in authority are in IDOC based on who they know).

Hire and promote officer who do good job instead of the ones that have political connections and that they have more training from officers that have 2 years or more time at current place of work.

I am not fully informed on current sentencing statutes. Therefore, it is difficult to have an opinion on them. In the current IDOC, too many upper management positions have been awarded as political favors instead of actual job knowledge. This becomes obvious to the staff when decisions are based on what "they think would look good" versus what would make the institution function better.

I believe most non-violent crime sentences are too long. I also think that child molester sentences are too short. Anyone that rapes a child should spend at least 25 years in prison not 18 months. The liberal society has tied our (c/o's) hands and we are constantly worried that we may say or do something that will get us sued or fired.

I feel that offenders are using the new mental health regulations to use the system and get what they want. For example we have a lot of offenders that act a certain way to the doctors to get on medication while in the IDOC because they know when they get out they will get disability pay from the state of IL, and the majority of the inmates will not take the medication when given to them.

I feel that the decisions the department makes (i.e. policy changes, new procedures, etc.) don't make any sense. It seems that if something does make sense on ways to do things, the state does the exact opposite. I also feel that the prisoners run the prison and not the officers, or other staff. The two prisons I have worked at seem to let the inmates basically do what they want. I have the feeling that management believes an inmates word over an officer's word. Overall, I do not think that IDOC cares about their officers or other front line staff, they treat us like we are expendable.

I find it very disturbing that drug offenses get more of a sentence then a sex offender. I feel sex offenders should be given more time to perhaps detour them from repeating their offense.

I should not be trained at all on mental health issues. That's the job of the mental health staff. My job is a corrections officer.

I think class x felonies should be harsher in sentencing. There should be some deterrent to keep them from coming back to prison. At which point their is nothing to deter them. The state should not be handing out toilet paper every Tuesday and/or soup. The state or IDOC would sneak out money that way. Correctional officers should be allowed to carry handcuffs and O.C. spray to keep I/m's in line at all facilities.

I think it is important to point out that many of the questions in the survey are beyond my purvion as a correctional officer. We are tasked with enforcing rules & regulations and reporting infractions of such. Job safety & training would have been much more beneficial to survey a correctional officer's input on.

I think some offenders will never change. They don't know anything else and you cannot change that individual. there should be other programs for first time non-violent offenders. They should have to attend counseling, make sure they receive a GED and hold a job. It is easier for offenders to serve their time and be done rather than be accountable and they will tell you that.

I think there should not be convicted offenders of DUI and some small and minor drug possession offences sentenced for 10 years to 9 maximum security prison.

I think you need to do something about the upper level is always on the side of the inmate. upper level need to support the correctional officer. something bad is going to happen in the DOC with the way they are the inmates power again in the pension. Remember Richi and spelk the prisoners are gaining power back. you don't want that. you have a punish the inmates when they break the rules not torn your head. Taking CES time away gives the no power. Tickets do nothing.

I worked at Dixon cc for thirteen years and the mental health issue was a joke. even at the institution I am at now, mental health is a joke.

I would like to have LT.S/MAS/Warden's who trust offices over inmates. Danville is more about hugging inmates than disciplinary action that is needed. Our warden has no idea how to run a prison. He never worked at one (a prison) before he was made warden.

I would need a much larger box to answer

IDOC administration are less concerned with the safety of officers and security staff than they are with harassing those same staff members. Inmate control, safety and punishment for rule violations have taken a backseat to staff intimidation.

if a community based corrections system is to be properly implemented to reduce the prison population by 2015 more funding and personnel will have to be given and hired within the IDOC as well as the counties who will be responsible for funding the increased number of offenders on probation. it would be unfair for the counties to have to foot the bill on a program that they had no input on.

If they do the crime they can do the TIME!!

If this commission has any influence on bringing back trade and job training and GED classes it would give offenders more opportunities to stay out of prison.

if you are not a friend of the union, AFSCME, you have less of chance to be promoted, even if qualified. you must keep quiet. not be a republican. be one on good terms with union officials. Warden must have a set of balls to put the union in its place.

Illinois is the most crooked state in the union with its main worries to be keeping Chicago happy and welfare and the government to steal money from funds and hide it where they see fit.

In 2016 we just start training on mental health. We are required to have 16 hours now on SMI offenders. Sentencing needs to be more equal and not increased on election years to make yourself look better.

in considering mental health issues, I presume that violent crime is not committed by same people. home environment and gang activity all contributes to delinquency; it is a social problem. put a bunch

of crazy people together in a piecemeal way and it perpetuates. Baby steps, one case at a time. this is the only way to reform, move, command. staff is imperative.

In my institution mental health has been very minimal until recently. In the past we had very few cases but now seeing more by the day. Mental cases need their own prison they shouldn't be mixed with regular offenders it's not a good situation for either. Also handicap and sick offenders need a separate location. This state's prisons should be divided and regulated differently.

In references to sentencing: Going light of first time offenders doesn't work, it's been proven over and over. If you going to let someone out early the inmate who's done 22 years on their 25-year sentence and hasn't had a ticket in years. Let them out. They are not coming back. First timers who got out under the old 61-day program hadn't learned these lesson or been away from their environment to make a change. Judges need to require inmates get schooling as part of the sentence, education and drugs rehabilitation is key. In reference to work place environment: Illinois prisons have become down right unsafe for staff and inmates with the present policies in place.

in the 20+ years I've been in corrections, no one or any group has ever asked my opinion as an officer. I appreciate the opportunity to provide some input. I would be very in interested to be more invoked in this process

In the first 15 years (1995-2010) the annual in-service training was 5 days with several classes dealing with different aspects of mental. The last 5 years our training is 2 days a year, mostly reading directives with 1 one hour mental health class.

Inmates use mental health for the wrong reasons. i.e. to get what they want, to get out of trouble. If the court does not deem them mentally ill, they shouldn't be able to use it later.

Inmates with drug cases should not get 2x more time on their sentence than inmates that are pedophiles and sex offenders. Also the leadership in IDOC is the worst leadership I have ever had to deal with especially at Lincoln correctional center.

It would be nice if you consulted correctional officers on what could be done to improve IDOC since we are the ones that work with inmates daily.

Laws on sentencing make it hard for a judge to do his job. Not every crime is the same nor is the time one gets should be the same. Look into things people sometimes the way a crime is committed needs to be less or more of what is mandated. We waste more time on 1 year terms for let's say (drugs) the offender only does 61 days. Do you know that, most people do not? I'd rather them do a full year or let a judge decide if probation and rehab is right.

Let people who actually worked in a correction faculty make the decisions in Springfield and state wide.

life in prison should not be allowed bring back death penalty or give parole hearings. the current training and stance on mental health inmates is too lenient. it is going get an officer killed and is causing socialization between officer and inmate.

lowering sentence does not lower crime. this is the wrong way to approach this. take your ass and take Chicago back from gang. problem fixes

Making prisons a place of punishment and actually making them do rehabilitation programs would help decrease prison populations; so inmates do not want to return.

Many inmates that have non-violent drug offenses do have violent tendencies. I have seen many programs that seem to be totally ineffective. I feel the biggest problem in human behavior today all comes back to the family unit. No government program can take the place pf the traditional Nuclear family unit.

Many of the questions in this survey were not appropriate for correctional officers. The average correctional officer is no more knowledgeable about the legal terms used than is the average citizen. Correctional officers aren't involved in those parts of the process. We don't need to know these

things to do our jobs and don't receive any training to understand them. There's no priority. Inmates are simply human inventory. We don't make or process the inventory, we only warehouse it according to the guidance we are provided. As such, any questions dependent upon a legal definition which I did not understand received a neutral response.

many prison guards should be hold the job. they hate everyone! guards and inmates. guards need to be evaluated yearly with 40% fired. you will never change prison system until this is done!

Marcus Hardy has no business running anything in corrections. Calling your staff "racist rednecks" should get you fired. He has no clue how to run a prison and only causes problems when he visits. People are not killing each other and law enforcement. They are also selling/doing drugs which is making this world dangerous. They do not need special treatment. They need to do their time. How would you feel if your relative's murderer was let free without punishment? What would prevent that person from doing it again if they are not punished?

Mental health for offenders should be on the back burner, due to the fact that the abuse of the MH system is running amuck by offenders to get their way. and abuse rules. without consequences. Over population cannot be fixed at the institutional level!

Mental health inmates should be at mental health facility. there should be AD or max inmates at a medium facility. Segregate inmates from max facility should never be at medium facility

mental health inmates should be housed in separate housing from general population.

mental ill patients should NOT be in prison; they should be somewhere else that offers care for them. prison is NO place for them. Its dangerous for them and the staff trying to protect them.

Mentally ill offenders need to be placed appropriately, severely mentally ill offenders should be placed in facilities that solely deal with needs of severely mentally ill. A great number of improperly placed severely mentally ill pose a great risk to staff and other offenders. Overcrowding means it is much harder to focus on a handful of offenders when there are 100's more a % is responsible for. I could write forever, but have no more room! Drug treatment programs are generally not taken seriously by offenders. Many just enter these programs because they are given "good time". These offenders ruin the programs for the minority of offenders who take the programs seriously, also these housing units tend to be the most unruly houses in the institution.

Minor drug possession should be a petty offense. Find something other than prison for multiple driving on revoked license. Violent crimes should be sentenced heavily and serve 100% except for possible credit for good works while incarcerated. The most difficult part for our job is administrators and politicians creating hostility and showing that they don't get what the day to day job entails.

My opinion, you break the law commit a felony you go to prison. If I commit a felony, I would expect to go to prison. The answer is not reducing inmates, but to use our unused resources. i.e. Tamms, Murphysboro institutions which would house excess offenders.

My personal observations-IDOC is not a deterrent to a large number of inmates, most seem to only learn the right answers to the questions about their current situations. I believe most sentences could be reduced, but served at 100% with limited but appropriate reductions.

My role doesn't involve sentencing. Training is hard to come by. Promotions have nothing to do with performance. Our institution has a T/A warden of operations that thrives on drama and staff write-ups.

No one knows what prison guards go through on a daily basis. We put our lives on the line every day, leave our family and friends behind to protect and serve. We don't get enough credit for what we do. Let the govern or anyone else do our job for one day they couldn't handle what we do.

Not enough offenders are offered the Boot camp program. The opportunity to serve 4 months versus their 2-8year sentence could save the state thousands of dollars. Boot camp also offers the offender invaluable lessons.

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| our mental health inmates need to be some where else other than prison |
| Our state has a set of rules that everyone must follow. These laws should be upheld with force and not be amended because our state has budget problems. To be that's letting the "bad guys" win. |
| Over crowded-need more prisons recidivism is too high for short timers. Create more prisons and more jobs. |
| Overall, the prison is running very poorly. We are under informed and under trained. The decisions that are made for our institution are made by people that have never stepped foot in our prison. i took this job because of the benefits and now they threaten me to take that away. it seems that the inmates are better taken care of than the employees we have to remind ourselves that these inmates are dangerous to the people of this. Some mental health is not going to fix then |
| Predicting that you can reduce the population by 25% is a false narrative that implies you can control how many people commit crimes. Quite frankly, IDOC is way friendly in terms of discipline. Large percentage of population never had a father figure with strict rules. IDOC would be stricter with discipline. Stability will always be an issue with offenders putting them back on the street early just because they slammed through some bogus program will never solve the problem. This embarrassing excuse for a survey will never solve anything. |
| Prisons within Illinois are becoming like a vacation to inmates. No repercussions for their actions. They claim "SMI" but aren't only so they can assault staff and other inmates and hardly be punished. |
| Programs are a joke. 95% of inmates only do it for the good time. Administration has become too lenient on inmates creating dangerous work areas. If inmates don't think there will be punishment for their behavior, then they tend to act out more. |
| Programs are necessary to provide adequate rehabilitation and good conduct for inmates. These are programs that provide inmates a skill that will enable them to remain free once released. Non-mandatory programs give inmates who want to better their lives, options. We are hiring correctional officers in large numbers and closing programs which is exactly the opposite of what is needed for reform. |
| Programs need to be filled with motivated inmates that show they don't want to return to prison. We are wasting resources and money to include any and all to attend for sentence reduction only. Prison should be a deterrent! |
| Promotions are given most often by seniority, not qualification. |
| Promotions are not based on job performance due to seniority or upward mobility, wrong people continue to get promoted just because they have this and they are not qualified as supervisor nor as a leader. Officers do not perform better because they have nothing to look forward to. If they system would change and you would promote based on performance, you would see an attitude, upward mobility has to go. |
| Provisions should not be made to the rules for mental health offenders. |
| Put the offenders to work or school. Whenever they sit around idle they either get into trouble or at the very least support each others poor life choices. Offenders should be required to have a work or school assignment. Also unassigned offenders should receive no state-pay. |
| Reducing punishment for offenders is just going to cause more work for the court system. Offenders will see they just get probation or a short sentence and keep committing crimes. This reform is going to weaken the prison system and the crime rate will rise. The number of people on drugs will increase. The number of babies born addicted to drugs will increase. Illinois does not need more criminals on the streets getting by with crime and just being told not to get in trouble. They need to be locked up. |
| Reducing sentences or making some offenses more adaptable to certain program qualifications can be done but, ONLY if they are MANAGED properly and not an unfunded and unregulated mandate or |

part of the IDOC apathetic management. The IDOC absolutely needs to put a lot more Parole Agents on the streets ahead of any sentencing changes or reductions in current sentences. Doing this would allow for proper supervision of qualified offenders to better guarantee successful completion of their sentence while protecting the citizens of Illinois. Placing more non-violent offenders out of the institutional setting can better shift cost away from the State and on the offender or his/her family. I would strongly suggest opening or enlarging the adult transition centers (ATC) to further the success of offender entering society. In closing, without these supervisory tools in place, lowering sentences will not be successful and will fail. The failure will come at a price to the citizens of Illinois and as an embarrassment to the IDOC and State government officials. Anyone who does not believe these tools are needed, are living in theory, not practice.

Reducing sentencing for any violent offenses is an insane idea. I understand non-violent drug cases, but violent crime must continue to be punished at full capacity.

reform needs to be stricter with much harder sentencing and punishment. 13 years ago when I started, an inmate couldn't even look at me. now they can be insolent and disrespect me and laugh in my face because they know they can get away with it. I am currently only there because of health insurance. I used to love my job and now dead going to work every day.

Reform should cover whole IDOC system due to: unfair seniority system which favors old officers and drives new officers to quit. Racial and sexual favoritism at work place, reversed racism coming from high ranking officers (majors), poor support from institution and leaders, working at subhuman conditions.

Seniority system prevents proper promotions Working environment is hazardous-leaking ceiling, bare roofs, sink holes Officers are expected to take care of everything on comp from maintenance, to mental health issues. We receive no credit but must accept all blame.

Sentence reform may be a noble cause and I would agree that there are great disparities in sentencing, however I think that setting and numeric goal of violation is a poor method of operation.

Sentencing for some offenses is very unfair for examples I have seen people doing 30+ years for a marijuana case and that person has a cell mate doing 4 years for murder. Also, I have seen the programs offered often times abused by being participated in for the sole purpose of getting good time credit when the offender has no intention of changing their behavior. I think substance abuse programs see this the most.

sex offender need to be sentenced to do more time, first time drug offenders should do less.

Sex offenders in my opinion deserve longer sentences because they usually repeat their behavior when they get out. There are people doing more time for drugs than them sometimes, also inmates that are older and pretty much bud ridden due to health issues, etc. There needs to be a certain prison for these for these I/m's that are more or less home type.

sex offenses and child abuse offenses are way too lenient

SMI inmates need tougher restrictions, because they seem to face punishment for tickets issued. sexual assault inmates or child offenders are spoiled. all inmates face no fear of restrictions or punishment when violating IDOC rules. We are babysitters who have no authority and are attacked daily by inmates and our own state government.

Stateville is a poorly ran institution. Morale is low, officers stay in easy positions for years based off of who they are friends with. Inmates' words are taken over officers! Officers who come to work are severely punished with mandates and receive suspensions and discipline when they refuse mandates. Most officers made it there. They just come for the pay. Nobody cares about anything there.

Stop closing prisons! And re-open the prisons that were closed. There are other places in Illinois that can be cut. Not IDOC or their staff.

Thank you for including staff in this survey. It is the first time I have been asked my input in 17 years

with the Dept.

The commission on a whole is a woefully un-informed body, filled with politically appointed yes men. Whose view of corrections was formed from behind a desk. It should be filled with correctional professional from all security levels and years of service. Correctional professionals= Correctional officers!

the correcting in corrections is nonexistent. over population and not enough programs. poor leadership, work release for nonviolent. need to utilize the man power in corrections and put the incarcerated to work on infrastructure and local communities convict work programs, more work force opportunity. Utilize modern technology to create open world opportunities instead of imprisonment.

The Illinois prison system is too soft on inmates. Often doing your job pisses off inmates that in return create issues. Management will often back inmates over officers to calm the incident in which shows the inmates that officers have no authority and which trains inmates that bad behavior is rewarded. Inmates blatantly discuss how to manipulate the system to reduce time, get out of tickets and receive extra supplies or food. Moral is the lowest I have seen in 3 years between Rauner and poor management. Hop this helps.

The institution I work is usually ran well, but when they change wardens like they change underwear, you don't know how it's going to run. Most wardens really don't run their prisons, they take orders from directors in Springfield and to tell the truth, most are idiots who never actually been in a prison and like to micro-manage to act like a big shot. Officers, sergeants and Lieutenants are the bottom tier and they just have to take orders no matter if they are right or not.

The mental health staff are a major problem. They think they can assess an inmate in an hour or less. I've had several inmates say they just tell mental health a sad story to be put on SMI status. I've known many inmates that should be SMI that aren't. Basically the mental health staff aren't smart enough to see what real SMI is and are getting conned by the inmates that don't really need help. I see their mental states 8 hrs./day.

The mentally ill should not be housed with general population. They need a whole different atmosphere that people you are trying to reform an stop them from coming back, and the hug a thug program doesn't work it's been proven before the return rate will go up the more you treat them like their a client verses an inmate that is in corrections for doing wrong and paying for it.

The only thing that is consistent in the Dept. of corrections is inconsistency. They do not care about corrections officers. Even with long prison sentences, people change over time within the correctional system and cannot function in society due to their disassociation. Someone who has done over 20-30 years in prison and is released cannot function in society and will often purposely return to prison because that is all they know. It will change them forever.

The only thing that will result from lowering the sentence length of offenders sentences is a decrease in the safety of our communities. The recidivism rate shows that these individuals are not being rehabilitated, so letting them out earlier will only allow them to have more time to pray on the innocents of our communities.

The prison population of Illinois needs to be reduced, but our sentencing guidelines are not the root of the problem. The problem is overly complexed with no one in politics willing to honestly and effectively tackle the problems of why people are sent to prison. For example; poverty, lack of employment opportunities, the broken families of this state and county, the lack of accountability of one's own actions. Until those problems are addressed the cycle of reincarnation of offenders will continue. When they get out earlier, other crimes will be committed if they return to society with nothing to look forward to.

The public/politicians think "first time offenders" are placed in prison when they should be on

probation/ankle monitor. Truth is these offenders just didn't commit a crime and are sent to prison. They have committed several crimes and have been in front of judges their whole life before being incarcerated. I could write ten pages on how messed up IDOC is

The same problem people who created the current issues are still in play. Until you remove Hardy and the gang, nothing will change from the officers perspective.

The warden for Danville Correctional Center has neither the knowledge base or experience to oversee this facility in a manner that is safe for staff or inmates.

The warden of the facility should regain a greater authority in issues related to his facility instead of Springfield managing operations. Also too much attention is given to manipulative inmates instead of those with real MH issues by MH professionals that have little empowerment dealing with aggressive manipulative offenders.

They need to years of experience in DOC the same as college degrees they need to let the wardens run their prisons instead of having to get the okay from Springfield.

Things cannot become better until those who've started ad correctional officers and have rightfully worked their way through the ranks began to hold the positions of decision making take control.

This is a max security PRISON. Not a mental health facility. Inmates are making the system more mad more every day and succeeding.

This SMI rating for inmate is a farce. They can still hold jobs in the kitchen, act appropriately (seeable tickets) and walk away with no punishment, This mental health craze is getting too big and has no end.

This SMI stuff is completely out of hand already. You do the offense you do the punishment. Offenders are using this SMI classification as an excuse to do whatever they want with little to no repercussions. Good people (staff and offenders) will wind up being killed because the SMI's know they can do it and get away with it.

Too many loop holes for an inmate to be declared SMI. Once on SMI list offenses are disregarded and usually no seg time. Inmates have already learned how to play the SMI system and see getting away with everything! Staff assaulter + SMI= No SEG Time!

training is with outdated videos- little talk on basic ops(WRITS) with little hands on with equip

Violent offenders need locked up for a long time. non-violent offenders should be handled differently. When I see a drug user get 10 years it bothers me. Conversely, when I see one murderer get life and another get 25 years that also bothers me. A man who commits a crime (murder) at age 19 and gets life and has been locked up for 30 years, I think these offenders should be reviewed because a 19-year-old teenager is not the same man at the age 50. All things relative in that have a non-violent incarnation history.

Violent offenders that commit new crimes within the facility should have new cases. If an inmate assaults an inmate or another officer, new charges should hold the same ground as if it happened outside of the prison.

wardens at my institution are incompetent with no managerial experience, chosen only because of race.

We have just started our severely mentally ill training and I have not received it yet. We are a prison system and not a health system. The ones who use SMI clearly are dangerous. The others who claim to be SMI's just use it to run a scam for a transfer or medicine. They try to get SSI when they get out so they don't have to work. Our med. line has increased by 35% approx. in the past 2 years.

We need more programs geared to help the inmates once he is released. Those inmates that are recidivist are making tax payer dish out more money. Programs helping the inmates with trades once they're out will reduce recidivism.

When you go to every prison take the time and walk around to talk to a C/O that's been there more

than 5 years. get his/her input and do it one on one so C/O has nothing to worry about by giving you the truth. A lot of shit is going on in a short time. i hope the guy at the top knows what he's doing because some people are going to get hurt.

Where is our back pay? What's going on with it?

Why are we feeling so sorry for inmates (what about the victims)? Everyone is so focused on inmates (who mostly are scamming) what about what we have to go through dealing with this group, until you spend 1-2 years dealing with these people you have no idea!

Worked for IDOC for 18 years. It's a political sham. Wardens and assistant wardens are political hacks for the most part. Springfield runs IDOC, most have no idea what goes on in corrections. Almost zero mental health training. It's do as you are told get them back on the streets, don't look here everything is fine attitude. We have zero authority as officers. The IDOC is a sinking ship that is on fire! You have no idea!

Working at 4 prisons I find one big problem is that 60% to 70% cannot or have trouble reading. This is what prisoners tell me. Also in every house, inmates have volunteered to help inmates with reading, writing, and math. Where inmate tutors have helped recidivism reduced 30% reading builds self-esteem in inmates who improve and inmates who are helping. Material and book cost is less than \$30.

You can get a PhD in mental health how much can you really teach correctional officers in few hours of training? Look at the gun violence in Chicago. Therefore, people terrorizing communities in Chicago. They are released back into these communities very quick. There are people that need to spend more time locked up in prison. However, I also have worked with inmates that have been locked up for a very long time, and I think they are ready for the real world. I believe they would not offend again but have many years to serve still.

You picked the right officer for this. I am the one who was attacked by an offender that was not screened properly, had mental issues, was not ok'd by Dr. Tweedy. I'm not taking his meds hired by the warden. Inmate had 3 charges filed on him because of what he did to me and I got the shaft.

PAROLE AGENT RESPONSES

Allow small stipends to offenders who remain crime free and compliant with their parole. It costs much more to keep them locked up. \$150 per month stipends.

Driving offenses should be diverted from IDOC and dealt with at a county level. Due to current MSR rules, sentences are cut in half right away. If an offender sets 10 years, they only do 5 years or less with time served. This is well known by criminals and taken into account when they commit crimes, this practice should stop. Offenders respond better when released when they spend more time in prison.

Get rid of TASC! They cost a huge amount of money and provide nothing parole has not been doing forever. Take this huge amount of money we are giving TASC and use it for offender services either in the institution or for re-entry services while they are on parole. This can fund many of the programs we need.

I believe reducing the numbers of incarcerated people will come largely from educating and better preparing inmates while incarcerated and while they are on parole. Sentencing reform is needed but has to be part of bigger picture.

I feel Parole Agents should play a part on Illinois State Commission Justice and Sentencing Reform. Offender that commit low level drug possession crimes should be steered towards drug treatment instead of prison.

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| I get survey in Feb, 2016, but it's due November of 2015? Kind of late getting it to us. |
| if you want to know about the parole agents job ride with them for a week or two, it is not the agents job to say if the parole was sentenced long enough, but only to supervise them on street and make sure they follow the rules set by the prison review board. |
| In my experience, rehabilitative programs generally fail when an offender is required to attend. |
| It cost more to keep offenders in jail than to rehabilitate and integrate them back to society. some offenders are remorseful after committing their crime and are willing and ready to be given a second chance to turn their life around. |
| It has to be case by case, without politics, stop the plea bargaining insanity. Realize that when you create min or max sentences, it is used as a plea bargaining. Offenses, batteries, domestics become simple batteries. Stiffer penalties. |
| Making class 3 and 4 felonies probation only sends the wrong messages to offenders. |
| Parole agent duties, can be better implemented by eliminating the fire arm requirement. 98% of agents should be designated as office agents in-contest to field agents. reduce the number of commanders. eliminate duplicating administrative positions. |
| Parole Agents should be able to immediately put a parolee on house arrest when a problem comes up, without waiting for a month for order to get approved by the parole board. |
| Parolees need more Free Supportive Services to help them once they Parole Out into the Community. |
| Programs that are tied to "good time credits" tend to not be successful because the only motivation to participate is for the "good time" and not necessary towards self-improvement or change of deviant behavior. |
| Repeat offender-ones who refuse to change, should not benefit from the new reform. |
| Resume Adult Transition Centers in areas of the state. The program had a very positive effect on offenders prior to release from custody. Reduce the use of EM on parolees and increase the use of ED for inmates with less than 3 months' incarceration. Treatment immediately for drug users. Most state funding for detox centers and agent access to Narcan/Naloxone. |
| See prior comments. The problem isn't sentencing or lowering the bar for more people to be able to step over it. The problem is getting people not to commit crime in the first place. That has to be a grass roots effort. A class 3 felony many times starts out as a higher crime and is pled to a lesser charge. One should consider the original offense, not the plea bargain, to determine parole eligibility earlier current guidelines allow. We are not holding criminals accountable for their crimes and are finding ways to make sentences a joke. We have a lot of people who are victimizing people that keep getting away with it. Any crime where someone is injured or loses property, wealth, or is harmed in any way should be dealt with in a stricter way, not by finding ways to let more people go that manipulate the system. We see and deal with real criminals that look to harm a lot of people. I have no real objection to drug crimes of personal use being diverted if treatment is available but crime where there are victims and the offender has been arrested 15-20+ times and keeps getting "another chance" isn't fair to the public. I whole heartedly believe in rehabilitation but it has to be for people that WANT it with all their heart soul and work towards a different life. People who manipulate the system to get multiple probation terms followed by multiple parole chances and still keep violating, they need to go. |
| Sentencing reform must be first priority! This should help reduce the prison population but still allow parole agents to do our jobs. If the public had any idea that so many parolees are violating the conditions of parole, they would be outraged! Parolees have no fear of parole violations for failed drug tests and most crimes. |
| Talk to parole agents, Surveys do not explain in detail. |

The idea of diverting non-violent class 3+4 offending is a good idea. But as we all know many of these class 3+4 non-violent offenders have pleaded to his charge. if you do away with the plea bargain in violent cases then this concept will work.

The largest issue we have facing corrections, 60-70 percent of the population, largest cost to house currently, are people who used substances which led to crime. We need to lead and wake up on how to serve this population. We have the structure, we have the money which currently we waste babysitting them in prisons, now is the time to make prisons into full picture systems for this majority where we address the needs of people who go to crime due to an illness defined as abuse/addiction. We are putting people in cages when if you understand anything about substance use/abuse/addiction you would know we are failing at the approach to this major issue. The majority I serve don't want to be on the drugs, don't want to commit crime, but do have to support the addiction. Class X drug dealers are just like sex offenders; they are destroying our society causing death and a huge cost to all of us so let's go after them, support the victims-substance users doing crime, and then we will save money and win all around. I am so upset where we are now, keep wasting money, looking for quick fixes, go into 20,000 houses of parolees like I have and see what the problems are and you will learn how to fix them. Destroy supply, give structure to the ones you can save, watch crime behavior goes down, see what happens when we deal with the root of the issue. Parole Agents are stuck out here with no support, most give up and do nothing, lets wake up the passion and stop pretending and watching our prison populations grow. I proud to do what I do for the parolees I have served, I'm sad the big shots never get a clue.

The only way to stop or slow crime is with punishment, by lowering standards of punishment you will be responsible for increasing crime. Look at the streets of Chicago or across the country! Criminal behavior thrives on freedom and chances!

The parole agent should have all the police power.

Truth in sentencing (i.e. why would an inmate be released that had 200-500 years? This happened in 2015, he had murdered 3 correction and employees, to receive his light sentence that was commuted.

When I began parole, the mission was to reduce the percentage of recidivist. It is my opinion, that a recidivist is a person that has completed his or her term of mandatory supervised release and is returned to the Illinois Department of Corrections due to a new felony conviction, and not a parole revocation. By the numbers provided by IDOC, it may appear that the system in place is accomplishing this mission. As an agent that often worked closely with law enforcement agencies in my work area, I can tell you that parolees are victimizing their communities at a rate never before seen by law enforcement. It is extremely hard to support the department's efforts while trying to explain to law enforcement that a parolee who committed a significant offense while on parole, is not returned to custody. The fact that the department condones this type of behavior along with other infractions, has only led to the parolees displaying a blatant disregard to the rules set forth in the mandatory supervised agreement. I have been with IDOC for approximately 26 years, and based on my experiences, I believe that most rehabilitative programs are unsuccessful to the majority of the offenders due to their lack of desire and ability to conform to the rules of society. Most of these programs are provided at a cost that is unaffordable to the offenders who are unemployed and lack financial support. I strongly agree that every infraction does not warrant the return to IDOC, but the current system does not protect members of the community as well as it should. As an agent assigned to a rural area in the central part of the state, I strongly encourage sentencing reform for non-violent victim-less offenses such as obstructing justice and certain driving offenses. The totality of the circumstances involving these types of offenses should be considered in the sentence guidelines as well. For instance, I have had a parolee convicted and sentenced to IDOC for driving on a revoked

license while op

JUDGE RESPONSES

As a judge, I am always in favor of increased judicial discretion. However, I know that is not what all judges prefer, as imposition of "maximum" terms, or non-discretionary terms, makes our jobs much easier, and also reduces somewhat our (as judges) ultimate responsibility on the outcomes - as that responsibility has been assumed by the legislature.

As a strong proponent of Evidence Based Sentencing and the use of Risk Assessment Tools, it would be helpful to have a risk assessment tool for pleas. Since the majority of felony cases are resolved by plea, Judges are often uninformed regarding risk and protective factors and have no way to analyze whether or not the sentence is appropriate. Certainly this would require additional probation personnel, a cost to counties that are already reducing budgets so would be helpful to have funding from the state.

Enhancing offenses based on a location near a school or religious structure is stupid, and causes police to arrange undercover drug sales within statutory distance. If an offender is selling to school kids, that fact is considered at sentencing. Additionally, if such arbitrary enhancements actually work, then all we are doing is moving the illegal activity away from a school or church, and toward or near some other victim. All it really does is allow a politician to claim he is doing something about crime.

gun enhancement sentences can be draconian. May want to change it to make a presumptive or discretionary enhancement. Another thought would be to reduce the current enhancements to something less than 15, 20 and 25. The deterrence aspect of the sentence is not having the desired effect.

I believe that mandatory enhancements for class X felonies is creating a large amount of backlog in cases. It also takes the discretion away from judges in situations where the enhancements maybe inappropriate.

I believe violent offenders must be incarcerated. Non violent offenders should be allowed multiple opportunities for rehabilitation. Addicted defendants should be allowed multiple chances for recovery. The problem defendants are those with extensive low level offenses on their record, who are constant problems in their community. These defendants cause problems and are chronically unable to successfully complete probations, treatment or other programs designed to address their problems. At some point warehousing protects the citizens. This issue does not appear to have a solution.

I have been in felony court for 14 years and I do not sentence defendants to prison on a first time felony unless it is a serious violent offense. We exhaust all community based services before anyone ends up in prison. Prison is the last resort as a sentence when all else have failed. We have Drug court, special drug probation, mental health court and domestic violence court. These resources are always made available to defendants. Many fail to take advantage of them. It is only the repeat offenders that end up in prison. I do not find any problems with the current sentencing requirements.

I wish that defendant's charged with misdemeanor domestic battery could receive court supervision. This would allow more defendants to plead guilty to domestic battery as opposed to generally what happens is the State amends the charge to battery and then gives the defendant court supervision. If the defendant were allowed court supervision on a domestic battery and then was unable to successfully complete the terms of his sentence his court supervision could be revoked and a conviction would enter.

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| In the long run, it is better to devise strategies that promote keeping families together when non-violent charges exist. |
| It is apparent that the commission members do not understand Illinois Criminal Law and Procedure. |
| It should be understood that the overwhelming number of those I sentence are done through plea agreements. |
| It would be helpful if mandatory consecutive sentences were not required. Methamphetamine is horribly addictive requiring prison on a second conviction is wrong. |
| Judges have to have the discretion to sentence some non-violent class 3 & 4 offenders (with non-violent criminal histories) to DOC. Many, many times we see defendants with very long criminal histories (20+ convictions) of felony retail theft and unlawful possession of controlled substance who are unmotivated for treatment. The only way to keep those people from re-offending is to lock them up. I'm not talking about people who are amenable to treatment. There is a segment of the population, however, that doesn't want treatment (many have tried and failed repeatedly). Putting those people on probation is setting them up for a violation and subjecting society to further crimes. |
| local incarceration (county jail time) is not economically feasible as a sentencing alternative in the vast majority of the cases I deal with. Indiana has a system under which, for many offences, a sentence to the department of corrections is a sentence to a local state funded work release center. That should be looked at as an option to reducing conventional prison populations in Illinois. |
| Mandatory sentences are a huge problem. More discretion for judges would be very beneficial. |
| Not mentioned in your survey is services for probationers. Reducing the prison population without increasing funds for mental health treatment, drug programs, enhanced monitoring, anger management, etc. is, quite frankly, a waste of time. |
| Probation is already the presumptive sentence for crimes that do require mandatory incarceration. Certain questions should not affect the judiciary. The administrative end of government has the responsibility for prisons, the legislative body enacts laws, the judiciary should follow the laws and not be concerned with administrative or legislative matters. |
| Start using best practices in all criminal courts to frame sentences to the needs of the Defendants. AOIC is slowly changing toward rehabilitation with Defendants rather than just reporting compliance or violations. Should have been the model thirty years ago. Specialty Courts are the model we should look at closer. |
| Statutes already exist which indicate that probation for most felony offenses is the preferred sentence unless the judge makes certain findings to demonstrate a need for incarceration. My experience as a prosecutor for 13 years and now a judge for 13 years is that judges uniformly follow the requirements of the statutes in this regard. The main reason the penitentiary is full is not because judges are sending persons there on nonviolent offenses and with little or no criminal history. It is because the legislature repeatedly passes laws with either mandatory minimum, consecutive, truth in sentencing or other sentencing provisions that require penitentiary sentences. |
| The Class X sentencing based on priors for victimless crimes in some cases seems very unfair compared to the sentencing range for other victim crimes. |
| The criminal justice system is a bandage on society's bigger problems. People commit crimes for any number of reasons, most of which are beyond what the courts can do. We can't provide a good education, a good job, good parents or family support, a sense of personal responsibility for people who never got that from family, friends, education or society in general. The legislative branch passes laws, expects the police to arrest people who break those laws and the courts to deal with those arrests. Maybe, for example, it should not be a felony for someone selling a pirated DVD to be subject to a felony, but the Motion Picture Association wants that, so the law is on the books. Don't blame the police for arresting people for breaking laws that the people's representatives passed and don't |

blame the courts for having to take seriously the laws on the books. If you want to cut the prison population, maybe there are some laws that just should not be the class level they are. The legislature has usually never met a criminal law they didn't like because they don't want to be soft on crime come (constant) election time. If you pass laws, you have to expect consequences like the police and courts thinking we have to do our job to enforce the laws you passed. To finish this screed - pass the damn budget.

The numbers used are based upon estimates. I did not have data available upon which I based my answers. I recommend a correctional setting be created somewhere between prison and a drug half-way house. Many Class 3 and Class 4 felons with drug addictions or mental health concerns are not fit to be in the community while they work on their issues, but do not need to be in a traditional prison. Some sort of a setting with ankle bracelets rather than armed guards and walls would cut down on the cost but serve a similar purpose as prison.

The war on drugs has been lost. We've spent 30 years trying to "win the war" by "getting tough". It's time we tried something new. Marijuana should be decriminalized. We are wasting valuable resources for something that is not a major problem in our criminal justice system. The judges, prosecutors and police that I speak with do not believe that marijuana is a problem that our criminal justice system needs to focus on. Alcohol and other drugs cause major criminal problems, marijuana does not. I will continue to uphold the laws and sentence those that commit marijuana violations accordingly, but I do not believe we are making the State of Illinois a better place by doing so. The resources should be spent on drugs that do create major problems such as heroin, meth and cocaine. The focus should be on treatment and not punishment for these more serious drugs. There is a time for punishment in the criminal justice system, but we focus too much on that aspect and not enough on actually solving the underlying issue with these drug cases.

This survey and the focus of the Commission ignores the total lack of funding and resolve on the part of legislators and governor to provide the mental health, drug rehabilitation, job training, and education programs required at the local level to effectively provide meaningful alternatives to DOC sentences and to make probation an effective tool to accomplish its real purpose. This COMMISSION is window dressing. Simply sending fewer convicted felons to DOC without providing the necessary resources for meaningful alternatives is irresponsible and will only compound the "prison overcrowding" reality. These required programs needed to address conditions which lead to criminal conduct must be implemented and adequately funded if we expect to reduce DOC population. There is a gross lack of perception here. Not even a lone voice in the wilderness. Survey is pointless.

We need more resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment. FUND OUR DRUG COURT GRANT! We need more funds for probation so that it can operate more like drug court.

We need strong executive and legislative support for sentencing changes. Judges cannot be expected to carry this forward by themselves, as Circuit Judges run for election or retention, and no one ever lost an election because they were perceived to be too hard on crime. This needs to be a unified effort by all three branches.

we spend too much time sentencing retail thieves to idoc regardless of their criminal history an 80.00-dollar theft where nothing is lost should never result in a prison sentence..... 60, 90 or 120 in a treatment program in ccdoc is cost effective helpful, and expedient

PROBATION OFFICER AND MANAGER RESPONSES

1. probation works when resources are made available to officers and offenders.

As much as the effort there to reduce the prison population particularly with drug offenses there is a growing need to add to the prisons for domestic related convictions. Majority of the d/v cases are misdemeanors with minimal sentences of 12 - 18 months' probation. Pled down convictions and "male" points of view in the judicial process minimize the extent of sentencing no matter the levels of harm to victims and their families. When d/v cases are classified as felonies, the prison population dilemma will again raise its ugly head. We know the magic word if funding but in the meantime heads are turned away from domestic victims who need it the most. Did you know there are more animal shelters than female victim shelters? Put that in your commission and smoke it - but makes sure no one catches you!

As we attempt to limit DOC sentences we must expand community corrections. we cannot reduce the budget of both. The savings in diverting defendants to probation is huge compared to placing them in DOC. The only exception should be violent and repeat offenders.

Charges such as second degree murder are eligible for probation. This is ridiculous. Sex offenders are placed on probation when the research has shown that it is highly unlikely that they can be rehabilitated through sex offender treatment. Those types of charges should be mandatory IDOC terms and not eligible for probation.

Cook Co Judges seem very reluctant to ever act on a violation, and ultimately probationers learn that the system is a paper tiger, that no time will ever be handed down. If there were more action on VOPs, simply a week in custody no bond, violations and non compliance would drop dramatically. The system seems overwhelmed and politics lean towards less people in custody, when that is not always the best direction. When I get a guy at 18 with 32 arrests, when is the system gonna work for this guy, or for his community? He's a menace!

Cook County has wasted money & resources. Social Service Dept. & Probation Depts. need to be streamlined & stop the cronyism & hiring practices which allow for unqualified personnel to be employed. P.O.'s could be providing the treatment offenders need but cannot afford. Many positions could be dissolved in favor of updated equipment & more skilled workers.

Current Sentencing standards are a joke. Armed Robbery 7 years is not a deterrent it is a incentive to commit more crimes, especially when several of those years can be served on home monitoring. Keep the criminals who harm others albeit property or personal in jail, let the self inflicted harm offenders seek the alternative sentences.

Defendants in central Illinois receive probation multiples times before actually being sentenced to DOC. Many violent/weapons offenses are reduced by the State to be able to receive a probation sentence and then the community is at a higher risk of being victimized by repeat offenders. The commission should consider the fact that if offenders actually served their entire sentence in DOC, it may actually be a deterrent. There are offenders now willing to accept a DOC sentence instead of probation, because they are fully aware that they will be released in 62 days.

drug addition should have alternatives ,, other than prison

For any sentencing initiatives to be helpful the judges must be more informed about the practices in probation. There should be more education for them at the state level to help them feel more comfortable utilizing the resources available to them through community corrections, and it should not require the county level probation managers to provide such education.

I agree with a lot of the recommendations in the initial report of the IL State Commission on Criminal & Sentencing Reform and the goal to reduce the prison population by 25% by 2025. However,

implementation of evidence based sentencing, will require significantly more resources in probation. Expansion of PSI's and the use of risk assessments pre-sentence (SB164) cannot be done with existing resources. My county has not approved any new positions for the last 2 years and I don't expect that to change for FY 2017. Without adequate funding to probation departments across the state, it's unrealistic for the goals in the report to be achieved.

I am happy to be involved with the survey. It is an important topic and I believe moving away from incarcerating so many people are the right thing to do. I do hope that when decreasing DOC sentences we INCREASE the amount of money and resources provided to non-custodial corrections (probation, client services in the community, etc.). It seems to me this plan will fail miserably if that step is not taken... to provide services in the community where these offenders can learn to make changes in their lives and remove themselves from the criminal justice system. If the offenders are simply not sent to prison but also not offered any services, the problem will never be solved. Also, the statistics mentioned are estimates, but the AOIC should have information regarding all the counties in IL.

I am hopeful that the Pre-trial division will play a part in this reform.

I believe probation is under-utilized and counties should be more considerate in the sentencing conditions to allow probation officer more actual decision making. Our States Attorney ties our hands by not giving POs discretion to properly supervise clients and make decisions toward adequate supervision. Then the SA doesn't back us up when we request leeway to require further requirements of our clients, since "it's not on the court order". The standard condition, "cooperate fully with probation" means nothing if we have no power to use it.

I believe the focus should be on reducing the likelihood of a prison sentence for nonviolent offenders currently sentenced to the Department of Corrections for drug possession and property crimes. I support the continued incarceration of offenders who are sentenced for violent offenses against other people.

I believe there will need to be a drastic increase in government funded programming (mental health, addiction etc.) for those defendant's seeking treatment oriented probation in place of prison.

I deal more with misdemeanor domestic violence cases. I would rather see people like that eligible for prison when they are being arrested 15+ times for being violent to their partners. I see more people go to prison for DWLS and theft and those who need intensive drug rehab that is NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE to get people into now. We need major reform around this state.

I feel that the Commission should consider non violent offenders for probation in more cases than not and to consider specific situations offenders may be in with respect to the offense. I also feel some offenders are being sentenced to an excessive number of years for class X felonies when their criminal background consists mostly of non violent offenses and they're convicted by a jury of people who have no idea about their lives or customs or who they are beyond the trial setting. I feel if we are to have truth in sentencing it needs to first be a complete overhaul in the system of how we convict offenders with respect to our jury system. The current jury system is flawed at best and is comprised of men and women mostly reluctant to be there and ready to go home rather than honestly and fairly assess innocence or guilt. Many offenders are over charged by the States Attorney's office and there is not enough oversight as to the disparity in charges filed in the first place. Lastly, there is not nearly enough checks and balance with judges on the bench and how they wield their authority or influence with instructions given to juries as well as when there is a jury trial. There seems not to be fairness in sentencing with bench trials and oversight is needed greatly there as well.

I support reducing the prison population and giving more people a chance on probation. However, caseloads will increase and more funding will have to go towards probation departments to support the increase in numbers (hiring additional staff). Also, with the additional increase in requirements

AOIC is making for probation departments regarding assessments and case plans, this requires a lot more of the probation officers time, therefore, not allowing an officer to take on as many clients as he/she once had. IF AOIC really wants to enforce the new standards regarding case plans and to have it be successful, each officer's caseload needs to be reduced and AOIC needs to be able to recognize that. Also, when an offender does violate, sanctions needs to be swift and just instead of dragging a violation out for 3 years which commonly happens in our county. Offenders are given 4th and 5th chances and violations are not resolved for at least a year. This is uncalled for. Again, I am in favor of the reform and the shift from prison to probation, but the end result will need to be more support and structure for probation departments and the court. Thank you.

I think a lot more resources for offenders living in the community should be a priority and not just opening the prison walls. A lot of support and community based monitoring needs to be in place. Otherwise, outta sight outta mind.

I think its more important to keep our community safe than to worry about reducing sentences.

I think that a few judge who sentence people to probation don't take their probations seriously as they tend to reinforce the probationer's negative behavior by not having consequences for negative behavior.

I think that the Commission has failed to include valuable information regarding pretrial detention in their studies. Statistics have proven that pretrial defendants who are incarcerated pretrial have a much higher rate of detention as part of their ultimate sentence. Those who are allowed release prior to disposition end up serving much less time and get lighter sentences. The goal should be to send the defendants who are violent and continuously recidivate to prison and work with those who show a level of cooperation release. A strong Pretrial Release program with a validated risk assessment up front will assists the courts in many ways in the back end. Please go to the Pretrial Justice Institute's website (PJI.org) for valuable information regarding Pretrial Release.

I would like to see more resources available for 24 hour walk in mental health facilities in Illinois. It would also be beneficial if current substance abuse facilities had more open beds and more staff so our heroin addicts are not detoxed and then on a waiting list for treatment for 6-8 weeks (leaving them out and about to cont. to commit crimes and/or overdose). I agree with reducing prison population and using prison for violent offenders as well as sex offenders who chose NOT to cooperate with the recommended treatment. There is no cure for sex offenders and they are unwilling to get help to stop offending on people then jail and prison is the only way to keep them from victimizing innocent people (which then creates more offenders).

I would strongly recommend that Pre-Sentence Investigations be ordered in Felony cases only. Ordering PSI's in traffic and misdemeanor cases which can only receive a probation sentence is a waste of time and resources for probation departments.

If a sentence of probation is imposed in lieu of a prison sentence, it is imperative that more positions are made available to the Cook County Adult Probation Department in order to accommodate this expansion. This matter needs to addressed on all levels of department operations, from management, line staff officers, pre-trial officers, & support staff. To increase the probation client population without addressing proper funding, staffing & resource issues would be ineffective & futile.

If offenders are going to be diverted from prison, resources MUST be available in the community to address their issues, especially substance abuse and mental health. Right now, it is extremely difficult to get offenders into treatment because insurance coverage is extremely limited and often requires the payment of a deductible.

If probation is going to be used to assist in reducing the prison population, there needs to be additional funding for community corrections. Illinois has had a hiring freeze for YEARS and the legislature continuously imposes certain criteria/programs but does not provide additional funding to

assist in supporting this additional legislation

If the state moves forward with reducing the prison population by 20-25% then the State needs to make sure Probation Departments are able to handle this increase by hiring more staff. In addition, if more offenders will be receiving treatment services in the community the State needs to start funding these services again. There would be no point in implementing any of this if it can't be supported by enough treatment services or enough Probation staff.

If we are not willing to put people in a cage for drug offenses we should be legalizing drugs.

If you have a judge that does not hold offenders accountable, there can be no 'sentencing reform'.

If you intend on reducing the prison population and diverting criminals to probation, **FUND THE SYSTEM!** The state must invest in probation for us to do our jobs. As well as fund infrastructure (modernization of equipment, hiring, resources, ect.) in the probation department. The state can't expect proper supervision of excessive caseloads. Reducing the prison population will require the state to fund the hiring of more probation officers.

If you want to remove the number of people in the prison system and put more people on probation, then you must give probation the funds to provide staff and money to purchase services for offenders to do the job. Simply dumping more people into the probation population without the resources is not appropriate. Drug court and other specialty courts have been given funds and resources that are not available to the general probation population but that is where resources need to be also. Specialty courts not only have money for resources but they have much lower caseloads for the officer to have the time to do more work with offender.

IF....you are going to inundate the Criminal Justice System, specifically the Probation Department with many of the defendants who would otherwise, NOT be clients of ours you cannot cut funding for Probation and probably should INCREASE funding. Do NOT just leave staffing the way it is...inundate the system...and then wonder why it's (probation) is not working, that makes ZERO sense.

Increase access and eligibility for specialized courts, such as drug court, micap, redeploy, veteran's, etc.

It appears that defendants are sentenced based on the skills of his/her attorney. a defendant can commit the same crime and get different sentences. misdemeanor cases should have a longer period of probation (I.E.: longer than 2 years' sentence/ however, the jail sentence of 1 year or less can be maintained). a defendant's violation should extend the defendant's original sentence. but 4 or more violation the defendant should receive some form jail time.

It is difficult to assist someone with alcohol/drug treatment or any other treatment that is part of a mandated sentence, when there are fewer agencies to make referrals to. Also, it is difficult to have someone attempt to complete a mandated treatment when they have no funds to pay for it, therein creating a potential violation of probation for non-compliance.

It is imperative that if we are to reduce DOC populations for violent offenders we begin the sentencing process with a risk assessment and a PSI for all cases where a probation sentence is being questioned and DOC is being sought. Additionally, Illinois Probation needs to cease supervising all misdemeanors and all low risk felony conviction cases. We do not generally need more staff, just smarter use of the current assets.

It was difficult to answer some of the questions because I wanted to insert "it depends" on many of them. The piece of the survey that I did not capture was based on the offender's risk. I strongly support the empirical data for evidenced-based sentencing. A main variable of evidenced-based sentencing is the risk of the offender to commit additional criminal acts and/or commit acts of violence in the community. The greater the risk in either of these two areas necessitates greater supervision, longer sentences and/or confinement. The probation field is blessed with great evidenced-based risk assessment tools. So there is an ability to provide this information to the court

for sentencing purposes. There was a question about the system's ability to handle the change. At this time I do not see probation's ability to handle a change of reducing the prison population. This is based on the assumption that the individuals being diverted from prison will be diverted to probation. As such there will have to be measures taken to build capacity in local probation departments to supervise (effectively as to the evidenced-based practices standards as set for by the United States Department of Justice and the National Institute of Corrections) and for resources for the offender to make changes.

Make requirement for all drug related commitments to DOC to complete educational program in DOC before parole. Not all areas where they reside have available resources to them and too many barriers preventing them from obtaining the education that they need.

Many of these cases need common sense. Repeat, habitual, violent offenders should no longer be probationable. Courts should not stack probations on top of probations. Citizens with drug/nonviolent backgrounds should no later in life, be charged as felons for petty thefts, DUI repeat offenders should have mandatory short jail sentences pending the right circumstances. There should be direct communication with all law enforcement agencies. Liaisons that can offer assistance readily. Repeat DUI offenders who are undocumented should be addressed consistently and thoroughly with more communications between departments. Chicago Police and CCAPD need to work more closely in all areas from the sentencing to rehabilitation.

More than prison, The true Rehabilitation comes from the Courts sentencing and not terminating Offenders who have not completed a recommended treatment needed. Such as Treatment for Addiction, Mental Health problems, Anger management etc. Having HRDI (treatment within prison) and delivering adequate Psychiatric Services is a good start for the Offenders. Jail time serves as a way to make an offender comply sometimes but for other Offenders is some how a routine and are somewhat "used to it". It is also important to make treatment accessible to the Offender who don't have the financial means to enter treatment. I believe that the Treatment Provider's that the court utilizes to referred the offenders should be effective in their treatment outcomes. Some of the repeated offenders are unable to find jobs due to their backgrounds, which places the offender back where they started and the probability of returning to prison or to commit an offense is greater.

No comment

No comments

No matter what happens with reform, judges and prosecuting attys. are the weak link to the system. Judges do not follow sentencing recommendations, nor do they follow the minimum statutory requirements. It appears that many of the key players in the judicial system are afraid to follow the law. It takes several in-fractions/crimes/convictions to be sentenced to significant incarceration in Cook County. Alternative sentencing with alcohol/drug/anger management/domestic counseling should most always be tried first. However, aggravating circumstances on many cases are overlooked, there is an alarming practice of waving Pre-Sentencing Investigation Reports in Cook County. Many times the States Atty. and Judge is not full aware of the client's true background. Our head States Attorney in our District did not know that we/they could pull out of state records!

Probation can be utilized however there are very limited resources available and record keeping via computers are very antiquated. There are not enough officers to supervise cases adequately.

Probation is being utilized too much for first time offenders. Probation would be most beneficial after other resources of the court have been utilized such as Conditional Discharge, Court Supervision and other means.

Probation is in need of more funding in order to be effective. If we are to utilize community supervision more often than incarceration, more training and work will need to be put into the probation system.

Probation Officer's time is being wasted with large caseloads of offenders on minor charges including driving without a license (non citizens) and marijuana possession and worse, possession of marijuana paraphernalia. We need more affordable resources to handle heroin and crack cocaine addiction as many of these individuals would not be involved in the criminal justice system if not for their addictions. Judges need to stop over punishing (jail time) for minor offenses like positive urinalysis for thc while allowing heroin addicts to continue, month after month in the community, with no punishment because there are no resources for them (Think DuPage County Judges, Judge Mitton in particular). In addition, more Mental Health/ Substance Abuse treatment services needs to be funded by the state! There is no consistency in sentencing across the state. As an example, on a charge of 2-3 pills of ecstasy or Adderall, a 20-year-old in McLean County will get 180 days in jail, 24 months Probation and a felony conviction. That same individual, in Cook County or, with a good attorney in other collar counties, would have the charges reduced to a misdemeanor with 24 months' probation and no jail time. We need to recognize that brains are not fully developed until the age of 24 and any drug or alcohol related conviction during young adulthood should have a path to having the felony removed based on years of subsequent good behavior for example. I feel like college students in smaller Illinois towns are being set up by police to deliver drugs to Confidential Informants who are being pressured by police to talk them into finding the drugs for them. McLean County should be ashamed of themselves. They ruin students lives and some that I have dealt with after the fact feel they have PTSD as a result of dealing with police and prosecutors there.

Reconsider classification of some offenses, such as Obstructing Justice (Class 4 dropped to Class A), to help reduce the # of offenses that may have DOC considered for them.

Reduction in the prison population without increased funding to community supervision entities (namely, probation) is futile. The need for supervision does not disappear with a change in statutes; an offense that was once deemed appropriate for incarceration if committed should not lose its seriousness because of a change in supervision setting. Without funding for probation services individuals serving community-based sentences cannot be appropriately monitored.

Sentencing reform is needed in Illinois. The fact that there is limited resources and the inability to address the core issues makes this problem almost epidemic. The use of the probation department as it now exists fails to help the client or the community. Core issues of family, accountability, and uniformity which are never addressed or discussed make probation an option not worth the paper it is written on. There needs to be a complete overhaul starting with the laws, judges and use of resources.

Strongly Support cognitive based group classes

The Commission needs to have much better representation from the probation field on their committees and sub-committees. Probation composes the vast majority of those under correctional control. On any given day, there are about 7 million offenders in the U.S. under correctional control, 5 million of which are already under community supervision. There needs to be swift and certain consequences for those who repeatedly violate their probation or parole. Additionally, the prison system needs to aggressively promote rehabilitation within the prison walls. The prison system continues to warehouse offenders. Letting more into the community will not solve the problem until IDOC gets serious about helping offenders. IDOC needs to work in cooperation with the probation system and not just parole. The Commission needs to acknowledge that probation is a vital cog in this endeavor to make communities safer. It must not dump offenders into the laps of probation departments like California did. Striving to keep communities safer is much more complex than reaching the 25% plateau.

The criminal justice system is not effective anymore. Probation officers should only follow the Probation Officer Act. That is the foundation. Investigate and enforce Court Orders. The treatment

providers are asking for assistance and PO's give the "you get a time-out" for being bad. A defendant may get Drug Court in one county and move to another with no drug court. On first violation go to prison. The defendant thinking that in the first county they were given numerous breaks. The new trends have made Court Orders meaningless. The defendants even question why we are "working" on one thing when they were arrested for another.

The current statutes governing DUI offenders without a license needs to be reviewed. Majority of the Aggravated Dui charges are committed by undocumented/illegal immigrants, which creates a vicious cycle because the offender will no longer be eligible to apply for a driver's license. Fair laws need to be created for undocumented immigrants and all citizens in general. This will benefit our society as a whole. Also, its promising to know that the Illinois State Commission is taking the time to ask probation officers/correctional officers for their opinion, especially because we have firsthand knowledge of the offenders needs and problems. Asking the people at the frontline, those who are face-to-face with the offenders on a DAILY basis, is what our criminal justice system needs. thank you

The group has to receive direct feedback from probation officers and management identifying the needs of community corrections if we are to absorb those cases that will no longer be sent to prison. Prior to this action, there is a need for strategic planning by probation managers to increase the capacity and competency to meet the needs of this high risk population. AOIC needs to provide leadership in moving probation in that direction. This will be a huge undertaking that requires not only increased funding for more staff but improved training and competency development. I fully support the initiative. I also support the need for more coordination and collaboration between the committee and the field. This is an exciting to be working in this field.

The Probation Department I work for is severely understaffed and underfunded. We have been expected to take on roles that the Illinois budget has eliminated (substance abuse, mental health, public services). Judges are sentencing individuals to Probation that normally would be sentenced to IDOC with the explanation "the lack of funding and overcrowding prevent an IDOC sentence and against my better judgment, I am sentencing you to Probation." However, community corrections used as a catch all stretches us too thin and puts the community at risk. Our caseloads are way too high. Our access to services is nearly depleted. The Affordable Care Act has hindered adequate access to care.

The problem that we have in our county is the failure of the State's Attorneys to do records check and offenders receiving probation after probation and having no consequences leads them to continue to commit crimes.

There is no accountability. Offenders know the system and have no respect for it. Offenders rarely face any consequences when their case has been violated. cases will usually terminate satisfactorily, despite non-compliance with court ordered conditions.

There needs to be a place in the system for the mentally ill. Right now, many of our cases are people who are in the criminal justice system because there is no place to get help. Also, Judges in domestic violence court especially, need to start paying attention to alcohol and drug abuse. Officers in cook county need urine drug tests that show results for alcohol - we currently do not have that option.

There should be "Truth in Sentencing". One year of IDOC should be closer to one year of incarceration...not this joke perpetuated on the public of 60, or 66 days, or whatever the current calculation is. We see it all the time where a Probationer is not afraid of having his/her probation violated/revoked if all they are looking at is 1 year IDOC when they will just "dress in & dress out" after 60 or so days & be back home without having to do all they would have had to do if they had stayed on Probation.

There should be more resources in prison, as well as after prison to make sure that clients are able to re-enter to society. (employment, counseling etc.)

They need to have more strict law on hand guns.

This is a small, rural county. We have no resources within this county to refer our probationers to. If felons are not going to be in DOC where services are available, then the resources in the communities need to be set up before any sentencing laws are changed. Almost all out probationers have links to drugs and/or mental health issues. The only time that crime went down in this country was during the War on Crime which funded substance abuse and mental health treatment. I do not believe that without adequate resources anything is going to change, especially with the amount of Heroin use everywhere, even in the high schools. Probation Officers see clients for minutes every week or month. They have to want to change and that is difficult in a culture where they don't even have a family member that does not use drugs. We need resources not just more people to supervise.

Truth in sentencing should go the other way - they should be required to serve a greater percentage of sentence in all cases. Day for day should cap at 5% of sentence. I don't get more than 5% of work year as vacation.

we need to have tougher sentences for crime no matter what the cost. people know what is right and what is wrong. some people make mistakes, however for the rest of society who do not break the law, they want to know that people have been consequential for laws broken. society wants to feel safe and know that justice has been served. if your looking to save money within the criminal justice system you can have criminals start paying for their time in prison. have defendants who have cases go on for 3,4,5 years pay money every time the case is in court. stop the cronyism within cook county so that people who are earning a pay check actually work for it and want to make these criminals change their way of thinking and doing. wasted funds for specialized groups within the probation dept., defendants already going to outside providers for specialized services. there are ways to make monies within the prison system also. old fashion chain-gang that can work have monies go back into prison system. vegetable gardens in which inmates can eat their own produce. have visitation fees for all entering the prisons. I'm sure if you mail this survey to every home owner in the state you would get pretty much the same response. you don't have to work in the system to figure out ways to save money and have the system work better!!! Laws and sentences are in place for a reason , to deter criminals and make the rest of society safe.

While I would like to see less non violent offenders in prison, it can only happen with more community resources. We need drug addicts to receive treatment in our communities that is effective. There is also a great need for mental health treatment facilities and easier access to psychiatrists for the mental health clients being served in our community. Also, I would like to see that the local counties have more regulations in sentencing such as less plea bargaining for a lesser sentence than probation, when the offender has been on probation before. It is my opinion that if you have served a term of felony probation that for another felony you should not be eligible for conditional discharge. This has been a recent trend in our county and it seems like a slap on the wrist.

You don't have enough Community Correction Personnel to let these offenders out of jail. Don't put the cart before the horse.

And thinking back to when you first began, what was/were the reason/s you chose corrections as your career? (Asked only of correctional officers)

| |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 75k a year job |
| A fairly secure well-paying job in southern IL. |
| a job in law enforcement and to secure my future, with a great pension |
| A job that wouldn't be outsourced and possibly have a stable retirement. |
| Advancement and expensive |
| after honorable discharge from the navy I wanted a career in law enforcement. corrections has to be a stepping stone but I enjoy the service to my community and the comradery the department offers. |
| After I graduated from college I was unable to find work. A friend told me about a position as a CO. |
| After leaving the Armed Forces working in NC DOC Smithfield moving home to Illinois I continued my career choice, chosen after the service. |
| Age and Insurance |
| as a stepping stone for state police |
| At the time it was the benefits and pay |
| Attended WIU for LEJA and learned about corrections, thought I would give it a try |
| Benefit package |
| Benefits |
| Benefits a salary |
| Benefits and job security |
| benefits and pay |
| Benefits and pay |
| Benefits and pensions |
| Benefits and retirement |
| Benefits and retirement |
| Benefits retirement |
| Benefits, career opportunities |
| Benefits, i.e. health, dental, vision, life, pay, vacation. |
| Benefits, pay, law enforcement |
| benefits, salary |
| Benefits, state retirement |
| better pay / better benefits / was a good retirement? |
| career in law enforcement + stability |
| Challenge |
| challenging and financial reasons |
| Change career. Better pay, better health care and insurance coverage, union and to make a difference if possible. |
| Change in career |
| chose corrections for opportunities and advancement |
| Close to home |

| |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| close to home and appeared to be a good job |
| Coal mines were laying off and no other jobs in the region - needed paycheck |
| Corrections is my true calling. |
| Corrections was a career and not just a job. The other reasons were that corrections was a part of law enforcement, the pay, benefits, and being able to advance in corrections. |
| Could live where I wanted in IL with decent pay and can retire at 50. |
| Criminology was something I always believed was my strong suit. I believe I can change/make a difference. |
| Degree in law enforcement, hopeful it would be a stepping stone. Politics are too involved in promotion. |
| due to a closure |
| Economic, I felt that it suited my training and personal motivations. |
| Education benefits, retirement, and healthcare |
| Employment security and retirement potential |
| Ended a job and put in an application for CO. |
| Excellent Benefits |
| Family history of correctional employees/ I was 18 when I began my career due to great timing and an arising opportunity |
| financial obligations |
| financial only - my factory job was eliminated, this is literally the last place I looked for employment. |
| Financial reasons |
| Foot in the door to law enforcement |
| For our region it's the best pay with my qualifications |
| full time job with benefits |
| good base salary and only having position during that time frame for my education experience. |
| Good benefits, good opportunity |
| Good career and close to home. Benefits and insurance was good. |
| Good insurance and benefits |
| Good job with good benefits in my hometown. |
| Good money, benefits for the area. |
| good pay and benefits |
| good pay and benefits !!! |
| Good pay and benefits plus good retirement |
| Good pay, benefits and retirement |
| good pay, good retirement, proud of my job, Not now!! |
| Good pay/benefits |
| Good paying job with great benefits/ retirement to provide for my family. |
| Good paying job, good benefits, good retirement plan. |
| Good pension and health care in retirement. |
| Good steady work with an earned retirement |
| Got security with benefits |
| Had a law enforcement background and pay |

| |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I always wanted to be in law enforcement and didn't make it on a few police forces so this was my choice. |
| I choose corrections because of the benefits and retirement |
| I earned a BA in criminology and criminal justice and it was the first CJ type job I could get. |
| I have a BA from SIU-Carbondale Adam. I wanted a career where I could put forth my skills obtained with my degree towards law enforcement. Plus the money is decent...for now. |
| I have a law enforcement degree and thought this would be a good way to use that degree. Also it was good pay and benefits. I had also worked as a police officer and the pay was worse. |
| I have structure and have been a supervisor for many years. |
| I joined because that is what I went to school for. |
| I needed a better paying job |
| I thought it would be a good learning experience on my way to becoming a police officer. |
| I thought it would be a good place to retire from until our beloved Governor got elected! Pay, pension, and healthcare |
| I thought it would be like the military and a 20 year retirement. |
| I thought this would be a good starting point for a career in criminal justice. |
| I wanted a career where I would work in law enforcement an make a difference in people's live. |
| I wanted to be a police officer, but being white, secondarily, I was hired by corrections. Today I would seriously urge a young correctional officer to choose another career, we are merely adult baby sitter. Our world is repetition, uncertainty, divorce, suicide, depression, alcoholism, drug abuse and paranoia with early death. |
| I wanted to get into a field that studied when I was in college and felt this was a start to begin my career. |
| I wanted to go into law enforcement from the military and corrections had good pay and benefits. |
| I wanted to pursue a career in some type of law enforcement. |
| I wanted to work in corrections and becoming a C/O was the best way in. |
| I was 22 years old. A single mother, worked and went to college full time for Administration of Justice. My instructor suggested it. |
| I was looking for a career when I applied to DOC. I knew Decatur CC had a reunification program and I was interested in that program. |
| I was looking for a job that was in criminal justice. I am using this job as a stepping stone for a future career in law enforcement |
| I was young and needed a job. |
| I work well with people. I enjoy working with large groups of people. I wanted to make a difference |
| I worked for 3 years for ComEd nuclear plant- Marseilles/Seneca, IL. As a Sgt. of armed guards. I had 2 small sons to support- Burns nuclear security has no good benefits/ oral retirement. State of IL DOC did- plus upward mobility so I could finish my college degree. Former Govern Thompson's project "Chance". |
| IDOC is one of the last department in the state where a working man has a god given right of collective bargaining. |
| Income, benefits and location of work |
| Income, insurance |
| income, job stability |
| Insurance |

| |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| insurance - pension - stability - job security - ability to support mt family financially |
| insurance - retirement |
| Insurance coverage and retirement, i.e. the benefits. |
| Interest in job, good pension |
| it had the potential for promoting |
| it is one of the best jobs in the area and best benefits for my family |
| It paid well and offered great opportunities. |
| it was available |
| It was more structured, organized, moral was high, supervisors were more effective, and the job wasn't ran by favoritism and inmates. |
| It's a good job to have and getting hired by the state is not easy. |
| job security career advancement financial gain |
| Job security |
| Job security and the pay was okay. Had employee benefits. |
| Job security with good pay and benefits. |
| Job security, benefits, pay |
| Job security, better pay |
| Job security, money and benefits |
| Job stability, decent wages, fair retirement and health care |
| Job sucks, Illinois sucks, pays the bills, not many jobs in southern IL, thanks Chicago |
| Job with good benefits and good pay |
| law enforcement / police in family background |
| Law enforcement and close to home |
| Law enforcement background part time /IDOC was first to offer full time job during recession. |
| Less wear and tear on my body from construction |
| Location of employment that offered a comfortable retirement /benefits -> This, despite the lower pay. |
| Location of employment that offered a comfortable retirement/benefits -> this, despite the lower pay. |
| Looking for a good retirement system |
| Made same amount of money and benefits were close to the same, but it was consistent, last job was seasonal. |
| Master's Degree in Adult Education with Experience in counseling. |
| money - benefits - retirement |
| money , retirement, job security |
| Money and benefits |
| Money and my schooling was criminal justice |
| Money, benefits, and retirement |
| Money, Benefits, retirement! |
| Money/Benefits |
| moved from out of state and needed a job |
| My career in medicine was cut short due to tax changes. |

| |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| My degree related, exciting everyday, good benefits, good pay |
| Need for officers |
| Need to make money and have retirement Otherwise would not have done this job! It sucks missing birthdays etc. with family. Also wondering if this is the day I am killed! |
| Needed a change in career and I liked what IDOC had to offer at the time. |
| Needed a job |
| Needed a job. IDOC was easy to obtain employment. Steady paycheck and decent insurance. |
| Never going to be out of work!! |
| Opportunities and forward advancement |
| Opportunities and salary, pension |
| Opportunities |
| Originally, it was a way to get a fast start in the criminal justice profession. It became a way to learn more than any text book or classroom could ever teach someone about the criminal mind, gangs (STG's), or the end result after sentencing. |
| Passion for law enforcement |
| Past relatives were C/O's |
| Pay |
| Pay / Benefits |
| pay + benefits |
| Pay and benefits |
| Pay and benefits |
| Pay and benefits |
| Pay and benefits |
| Pay and benefits (insurance, retirement) |
| Pay and para-military |
| Pay and work hours |
| Pay promotion from office associate |
| pay, benefits, opportunity to advance, retirement |
| pay, benefits, state job to go toward retirement when I went to Illinois state police. |
| Pay, health insurance and retirement |
| Pay, healthcare and pension |
| pay, retirement, close to home |
| Pay. Benefits, State Job to go toward retirement when I went to Illinois State Police |
| Pay/benefits to support family. |
| pay/retirement/benefits/stability |
| Pension |
| pension \ better pay |
| Rehabilitation of those inmates in within the center. |
| retired from 3d years in construction/ son working in constructions |
| retirement , insurance, hourly wage |
| Retirement, benefits, and pay |
| Salary / Benefits |

| |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Salary and retirement benefits. |
| Salary, pension, upward mobility |
| Secure job with a retirement plan |
| Security background, good benefits, good retirement |
| Serve the people and state of Illinois, gain understanding of corrections |
| Similar atmosphere when I went to screening as my military background. A "Brotherhood" |
| some thing I did in military |
| something in law enforcement if I didn't get on with a police dept. |
| stable career field, geographically close to home, great benefits |
| State job, insurance, pension |
| steady and stable public office career in which growth opportunities benefits is retirement. |
| Steady job |
| Steady job while my wife pursued her education. |
| Steady paycheck, retirement, health insurance |
| Steady work |
| Stepping stone to be a police officer |
| Support me/family, free schooling |
| tested and was called 2 weeks later and offered the position |
| The income was appealing. |
| The pay |
| The pay and benefits, to provide for my family. |
| The pay, stability, benefits. I received my degree in this. |
| The pay, the benefits, the opportunity of advancement |
| The retirement |
| they were hiring. good money |
| This is what I studied in college (corrections) |
| to further my career in law enforcement |
| To gain law enforcement experience while actively seeking employment with a police department. |
| To support my family and make a change |
| To work in law enforcement. |
| Wages, benefits/insurance, retirement for me and my family |
| Wanted to work in law enforcement and help people. |
| Was a career was qualified for that allowed a fairly seamless transition from military tenure. |
| Was in my career studies |
| Yes it was financial |