At Abt Associates, we study some of the most difficult issues facing the justice system and offer practical solutions to policymakers, practitioners and funders. Our research informs real-world practices. Our technical assistance supports skill development and practice improvement. Through data-driven strategies, our work aids service providers, programs and communities.

**Key Features of Our Community Supervision Work**

- Apply innovative and rigorous methods to evaluate aspects of community supervision such as field work and reentry programming
- Provide evaluation capacity building and technical assistance to programs, communities and criminal-justice agencies
- Design and validate instrumentation for agencies to monitor populations they supervise
- Develop advanced, Abt original data systems designed to maximize clients’ monitoring and information capabilities and provide reporting and outcome assessments
- Analyze trends and emerging issues, with a particular focus on topics in our areas of expertise

**Community Corrections Expertise**

- Home and Field Contacts
- Caseload/Workload
- Recidivism
- Reentry Services and Programming
- Officer Stress
- High-Risk Supervisees
- Risk, Needs, Responsivity Assessments and Approaches

**Services/Capabilities**

- Research and Evaluation Design
- Process and Outcome Program Evaluation
- Technical Assistance
- Statistical Modeling and Performance Measurement
- Instrument and Web-based Systems Development
- Project Management
- Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis
- Data Collection and Management

**Featured Projects**

**Evaluating the Impact of Probation/Parole Field Contacts**

Abt received funding from the National Institute of Justice to evaluate the effectiveness of probation/parole field contacts in maintaining public safety and promoting compliance with supervision requirements. Abt conducted a nationwide survey of community supervision agencies’ field contact policies and practices, quasi-experimental evaluations of the impact of field contacts on supervision outcomes, and a qualitative examination of supervision field contacts.
Evaluation of a Vocational Opportunities, Training, Education and Employment (VOTEE) Unit

Abt is conducting a mixed-method evaluation of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency’s VOTEE unit, which provides educational and employment assistance to adults under community supervision in Washington, D.C. The evaluation uses a rigorous quasi-experimental design to assess the impact of VOTEE and descriptive and qualitative methods to describe the organization and operation of the program.

Validating Oregon’s Risk Assessment Instrument

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission has contracted with Abt to conduct a validation of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) risk assessment instrument used by Oregon’s community supervision program. This study assesses the validity of the instrument in predicting recidivism in Oregon and includes a quasi-experimental evaluation of the impact of supervision conditions on risk scores.

Evaluation Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Implementation Evaluation for Roca, Inc.

Abt conducts a process and implementation evaluation of Roca’s model as it continues to expand its services for high-risk young men in Massachusetts. Abt provides Roca with evaluation capacity building and technical assistance, an assessment of implementation, the identification of barriers to effective model delivery and an evaluation of Roca’s success in producing intermediate outcomes among its clients.

Evaluation of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Programming at Roca, Inc.

Roca contracted with Abt to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of its CBT curriculum. This mixed-method evaluation assesses the degree of implementation of CBT by youth workers and staff, adherence to the model, and CBT’s impact on changes in criminal thinking and negative behavioral incidents, including arrests.

Testing the Effect of Caseload Size on Probationer Outcomes

In a multi-jurisdictional study funded by the National Institute of Justice, Abt used a randomized controlled trial to test the effect of caseload size and evidence-based practices on outcomes for medium and high-risk probationers.

Developing a Model to Improve Federal Community Corrections

For the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, we help implement the technical and analytical phases of a results-based performance management framework to evaluate operations in the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office (PPSO). Abt provides PPSO with assembled analytic files for offenders (on post-conviction supervision) and defendants (on pretrial supervision). Abt also provides statistical analyses of outcomes for federal defendants and offenders.

Improving Information on Community Supervision in the United States

The National Correctional Reporting Program is operated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to gather data from state correctional authorities on persons serving time in state prisons and under post-conviction community supervision (PCCS). Since 2010, BJS has funded Abt to improve the quality of the data and meet a number of policy-relevant purposes. Abt expanded the PCCS data collection, which improved the understanding of recidivism, time on PCCS and other patterns across jurisdictions, time and offense types.

For More Information, Contact:

Meg Chapman
Senior Associate/Scientist
Division of Health and Environment
301.634.1740
Meg_Chapman@abtassoc.com

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