



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

Division of Parole and Probation
Supervisee Victimization Report

December 2023

Governor Wes Moore
Lt. Governor Aruna Miller
Secretary Carolyn J. Scruggs

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Correctional Services Article § 6-122, SB 763/Ch. 141, 2022, the Division of Parole and Probation is required to submit a report on supervisee victimization. The statute specifically states:

On or before December 1, 2022, and each December 1 thereafter, the Division [of Parole and Probation] shall report, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee on:

(1) measures it will take to improve oversight of offenders under the supervision of the division who are involved in homicides; and

(2) the number of offenders supervised by the division that were shooting victims, homicide victims, or charged with homicide, nonfatal shooting, rape, police-involved shooting, or any crime involving the offender's use of a firearm.

OVERVIEW

The Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) supervises probationers, parolees and mandatory releasees in the community. Currently, there are approximately 42,395 individuals under community supervision. This includes criminal and serious traffic offenses (Driving While Intoxicated, Driving Under the Influence and Driving While Suspended). The majority of these individuals have been released to the community by the courts on probation supervision, by the Maryland Parole Commission under parole supervision, or by the Division of Correction under mandatory release supervision. DPP additionally monitors approximately 7,933 offenders who have been placed in the Drinking Driver Monitor Program due to alcohol-related motor vehicle violations. These offenders are supervised and monitored by DPP employees located in 36 field offices throughout the State.

Parole and Probation Agents are responsible for the supervision of individuals in the community who have been adjudicated for criminal offenses. Drinking Driver Monitors are responsible for the supervision of individuals in the community who have been adjudicated for serious traffic offenses.

DPP's field operations consists of the four regions listed below:

- West Region: Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties.
- Baltimore Metro Region: Baltimore County and Baltimore City.
- Capital Region: Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties.

- East Region: Cecil Harford, Kent, Queen Annes, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties.

SUPERVISEES IDENTIFIED AS SHOOTING VICTIMS, HOMICIDE VICTIMS, OR CHARGED WITH OR IDENTIFIED AS SUSPECTS IN A HOMICIDE, NON-FATAL SHOOTING, ROBBERY, RAPE, POLICE INVOLVED SHOOTING OR ANY CRIME INVOLVING THE OFFENDERS USE OF A FIREARM

In calendar year 2022, there were 597 homicides and 1283 non-fatal shootings. In calendar year 2023, ending in November 16, 2023 there were 471 homicides and 1114 non-fatal shootings

The breakdown of DPP involved individuals in calendar year 2022 were as follows:

- 461 DPP supervisees either involved in a homicide or shooting
 - 66 (11%) were homicide suspects - a decrease from CY 2021 by 4
 - 58 (5%) were NFS suspects - an increase from CY 2021 by 7
 - 107¹ (18%) were homicide victims - an increase from CY 2021 by 2
 - 230 (18%) were NFS victims - a increase from CY 2021 by 13
- Zero rape suspects
- 39² new arrests on firearm related offenses
- Eight new arrests on robbery related offenses

The breakdown of DPP involved individuals in calendar year 2023 to November 16, 2023 were as follows:

- 404 DPP supervisees either involved in a homicide or shooting
- 60 (13%) were homicide suspects
- 69 (6%) were NFS suspect
- 91 (19%) were homicide victims
- 185 (17%) were non-fatal shooting victims

For this time period there have been 35 rape suspects and 473 new arrest on firearm related offenses

ACTIONS TAKEN TO EXAMINE AND REVIEW MURDERS INVOLVING OFFENDERS WHO ARE SUPERVISED BY DPP

DPP has processes in place to swiftly review and take action when information is received that a supervisee was involved in criminal activity. These processes include the Critical Incident Analysis (CIA) procedure and Case Staffing practices. Since 2009, DPP has

¹ An additional victim was shot and killed by police

² One offense related to possession of a BB gun

utilized the CIA as an after action review. The CIA is conducted every time a DPP supervised individual is involved in a violent incident, including:

- Shooting Victim or Suspect
- Homicide Victim or Suspect
- Robbery suspect
- Rape suspect
- Any crime involving the offender's use of a firearm
- Involvement with a police-involved shooting (when an officer discharges his/her firearm while performing their lawful duties)

The CIA process involves a thorough review of the supervision of any case involving the aforementioned events, including homicides and non-fatal shootings. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) embedded Intelligence Unit Liaisons in law enforcement agencies. These Intelligence and Investigative Division (IID) Liaisons learn of a supervised individual's involvement in any violent incident via daily bulletins from the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), where information is tracked for homicides and non-fatal shootings (NFS) throughout the State. Upon being notified of a supervisee being involved in a homicide or NFS, as either a suspect or a victim, the CIA must be completed by the Agent, Monitor, and Supervisors within one business day.

As part of CIA processes, case staffing is conducted at the unit level between the agent, other agents, the immediate supervisor (Field Supervisor I), and the intermediate level supervisor (Field Supervisor II). The regional supervisor is included in this analysis as deemed necessary.

When a supervisee is determined to be the victim of an NFS, the analysis consists of determining if the supervisee needs additional services. Should a determination be made that the supervisee would benefit from additional services, referrals are made.

The analysis considers:

1. Whether the individual was in compliance with supervision and, if not, the analysis results determine and impose appropriate sanctions for non-compliance.
2. Whether the case plan is current and accurate based on the risk and needs of the individual; and if not, a new case plan is developed.
3. If there were any behaviors that should have been addressed through supervision.
4. Once an individual is determined to be a suspect in a homicide, attempted murder, or NFS, the DPP agent immediately requests a warrant.

A review of CY 22 findings for supervisees involved in NFS or homicides determined the following:

- In the calendar year 2022, there were 597 homicides statewide, 333 were in Baltimore City (59%), 116 in Prince George's County (19%) and 34 in Baltimore

County (6%). Of the homicides in Baltimore City, there 19 suspects on supervision, in Prince George's County, there were 21 suspects on supervision and in Baltimore County there were eight suspects on supervision.

- In the calendar year 2022, there were 1283 non-fatal shootings statewide, 688 in Baltimore City (54%), 300 in Prince George's County (23%) and 75 in Baltimore County (6%). In Baltimore City, there were 154 non-fatal shooting suspects on supervision (12%), in Prince George's County there were 22 suspects on supervision (2%) and in Baltimore County there were 10 suspects on supervision (0.8%)
- The number of homicide victims under supervision in Baltimore City were 71 (21%), Prince George's County were 15 (13%) and three (9%) in Baltimore County. The number of non-fatal shooting victims under supervision in Baltimore City were 154 (22%), Prince George's County 22 (7%) and Baltimore County 10 (13%) non-fatal shooting victims under supervision.
- The majority of the supervised individuals involved in these incidents continued to be victims, representing 4% of DPP Supervisees in CY 2022.
- The supervised individuals involved in incidents of homicide or non-fatal shootings represented a very small number of all supervised individuals statewide, representing .08% of DPP supervisees in CY 2022.

All individuals involved as a suspect or victim in a homicide or non-fatal shooting were reviewed during the monthly Field Operations Meetings and prior to that, by the Regional team. Again, all cases in which a supervisee was involved in an NFS or homicide resulted in a review by the DPP Director and the Secretary.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED TO PREVENT SUCH MURDERS

DPP recognizes the importance of responding to escalating behaviors that may be identified through new arrests while under supervision, intelligence reports from law enforcement, and reports from family members or significant others. DPP routinely reassesses the risk and needs of a supervisee which can result in an adjustment to their supervision level, increased referrals to service providers to address specific needs, and the possibility of requesting action from the sentencing authority in relation to their supervision.

DPP also partners with programs that work with high risk individuals to provide avenues away from violence. One of these partnerships is with ROCA, Inc. in Baltimore. ROCA, Inc. serves the highest risk young men ages 16 to 24 years old who are not ready, willing, or able to participate in job, education, or other programs. The target population may or may not have a high school diploma or GED, does not have consistent work history and has been unwilling to engage in or complete traditional programming services. ROCA's mission is to disrupt the cycle of incarceration and poverty by transforming lives through intensive relationships, cognitive behavioral therapy, and programming services.

Offenders between the ages of 16 – 24 years, have been shown to have an increased propensity to be involved in high risk behavior and victimization. DPP continues to focus on this cohort and seek additional support from community providers, public health, non-profit groups, and agencies servicing these clients in an effort to decrease homicides and non-fatal shootings within this demographic.

DPP is also partnering with the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) on their Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS). This partnership includes DPP along with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), US Attorney's Office for Maryland, and the States Attorney's Office of Baltimore City as a strategy to reduce violence in Baltimore. Beginning in 2021 in BPD's Western District, a DPP Agent was dedicated to the District along with representatives from each of the aforementioned agencies. These representatives meet weekly to review incidents of violence and to share information among the partners about individuals who are engaged in violence or possess risk factors that increase their potential to become victims of violence. Using a group violence intervention strategy, these individuals are targeted for intervention. Group violence intervention focuses on groups of individuals at highest risk for violent victimization and offending, with the intent to keep those members alive and out of prison. Partners communicate directly with group members to deliver a powerful message about the disapproval of violent acts; as well as providing and delivering support and assistance to participants in hopes of providing interventions intended to reduce violence. The partners work together to share clear messages about the potential legal consequences of continued engagement in violent behaviors in an effort to deter individuals from continuing to engage in violent acts.

DPP has been conducting Knock and Talks in neighborhoods in Baltimore City that experience higher crime rates, the Warrant Apprehension Unit detectives, along with Parole and Probation Agents and Departmental Social Workers visit supervisees and their families at their residences checking on them and offering resources.

In addition, DPP hosts non-violent orientations for high risk supervisees, in the DPP field offices in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, discussing alternatives to violence, particularly gun violence. Guest speakers and community partners attend and offer guidance and resources. The orientations have been expanded to Charles County and Anne Arundel County. Most recently the Annapolis office hosted one on Domestic Violence in October and Suicide Prevention in November.

ACTIVITIES TAKEN TO REDUCE MURDERS OF SUPERVISEES/MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE OVERSIGHT OF OFFENDERS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DIVISION WHO ARE INVOLVED IN HOMICIDES

DPP continues to make every effort to engage supervisees in proactive measures to reduce recidivism, encouraging prosocial behaviors. Despite this, there are some supervisees who continue to engage in at-risk behaviors. DPP agents are limited in the length of time during which they may engage with the supervisee due to the expiration of supervision. Knowing this, DPP agents provide as many services as possible while also utilizing available

resources to monitor those individuals who are not committed to compliance with supervision. DPP resources geared toward encouraging compliance with supervision include the following programs and services.

Continued Use of Intelligence Focusing on Problematic Offenders

DPP already has a strong and robust intelligence/information sharing capacity with local law enforcement through the Maryland DPSCS Watch Center. The Department provides five intelligence analysts in partnerships with law enforcement throughout the State. The Department has analysts assigned to MCAC (Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center), the Prince George's County Police Department, a part-time analyst on the Eastern Shore, and two assigned to the Baltimore City Police Department (watch center and warrant apprehension task force). The analysts provide information to law enforcement and the Agents and Monitors regarding victims and suspects. The analysts also provide public safety alerts regarding individuals under supervision while requesting that Agents and Monitors make immediate warrant requests. In addition to the Watch Center, DPP currently has eight (8) Agents attending District level intelligence meetings conducted by the Baltimore Police Department as part of its strategy to quickly identify those offenders whose behaviors may indicate higher risk of involvement in a homicide.

Once DPP obtains information relative to potential criminal involvement, Agents and supervisors review the supervisees adjustment under supervision to determine if there are issues of non-compliance. If non-compliance is found, the appropriate actions as determined by this review guide the responses. Responses can range from sanctions/interventions for singular minor infractions to requests for warrants/summons for more serious infractions or continuous infractions. Problematic offenders, who are compliant with the terms of their supervision, are then subject to increased supervision and referrals for services. DPP neither has the authority to issue warrants nor determine actions regarding initiating violation of supervision proceedings. DPP Agents have the authority to request warrants for supervision violations, however, the ultimate decision lies in the hands of the sentencing authority to issue the requested action.

Prioritization of Violent Repeat Offenders (VRO)

Upon receipt of notification that a DPP offender is a violent repeat offender (VRO), DPP prioritizes increasing the level of supervision provided the individual is not currently supervised in the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) program - the highest level of supervision. VRO is a program where States Attorney's Offices utilize specific criteria to identify individuals who may have greater risk of being involved in incidences of violence. The increased supervision allows DPP Agents to enhance service delivery to address any underlying behaviors through increased contact. An example, DPP, along with the Prince George's County Police Department and the Watch Center, has developed an active process of identifying VRO's which are then subjected to enhanced supervision strategies. This effort has led to the identification of 18 DPP offenders currently under supervision.

Revalidation of Risk Tools

As a statutory requirement under JRA, DPP must revalidate its risk/needs assessment tools every three years. DPP has recently conducted and completed its revalidation of the current risk assessment tools for general supervision populations and is currently in the process of revalidating its VPI assessment tool. The goal of revalidation is to evaluate the performance of the current tool in regard to accurately measuring risk and needs, as well as making any necessary operational adjustments based on the revalidation results.

Enhanced Warrant Service

Beginning in January 2022 in Baltimore City, DPSCS' Warrant Apprehension Unit began initiatives focusing on service of VOP warrants. This enhanced warrant service focused on VOP warrants involving VPI offenders, Sex Offenders, handgun offenders, and any high risk individual with an open warrant. This enhanced focus is intended to close the lag time between the issuance of VOP warrants and warrant service in an effort to quickly hold individuals accountable as well as interrupting escalating behavior in the community through arrest.

Law Enforcement Partnered Home Visits and Reporting Centers

DPP currently has a direct relationship with law enforcement in Anne Arundel County, Annapolis City, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert County Sheriff's Dept. Cecil County (MSP and Sheriff's Dept), Hagerstown, Howard County, Salisbury Police Department, Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Dept. Wicomico Sheriff's Dept and MSP, DPP Agents and officers perform joint home visits with clients under our supervision. Typically, the joint home visits are conducted on the highest risk populations which include VPI and supervised sex offenders. In Baltimore City, DPP has partnered with the Baltimore Police Department to conduct District Reporting in each of the nine districts. In FY 2022, 9,864 DPP clients reported to DPP Agents at the police districts.

Offenders on VPI supervision are prioritized for District reporting along with offenders who have been threatening towards staff members, offenders who recently incurred technical violations, and offenders who have been identified as engaging in problematic behavior. District reporting also allows DPP to quickly apprehend those reporting with open warrants. In FY 2022, BPD apprehended 203 DPP offenders at the Districts. DPP is always cultivating additional law enforcement partners to allow DPP Agents to utilize their facilities for District reporting.

Increased Focus on Gun Offenders/Gun Offenses

DPP currently has enhanced policies in place regarding gun offenders. Gun offenders, by the nature of their offense, are screened for VPI supervision at Intake. Eligible gun offenders are placed into this enhanced supervision model. Current DPP policy calls for the automatic request for warrant for anyone currently under supervision who is arrested for a subsequent handgun offense. The same limitations, as noted previously, exist in that

DPP can request a warrant but does not have the statutory authority to issue a warrant. In instances where an offender is arrested for a new gun offense and a VOP warrant is not issued by the sentencing authority, the supervision is automatically upgraded to VPI.

Collaborative Partnerships

- Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) – MCIN is a criminal justice strategy, coordinated at the local, state, and federal levels targeting gangs, drug, firearms and human trafficking. MCIN focuses on those criminal networks that are affecting multiple jurisdictions and accomplishes this by sharing information across borders. It is a key element of Maryland’s public safety strategy and provides the basis for data-driven decision making both operationally and for policy development. MCIN’s goals focus on identifying, disrupting, and dismantling criminal networks through collaboration and comprehensive data sharing. The purpose of the MCIN program is to enhance coordination among public safety partner agencies to ensure that tactics, resources, and intelligence are integrated for the purposes of targeting criminal networks and gangs. This integration includes enforcement, prevention, intervention, and reentry strategies. MCIN aligns state resources to provide for a streamlined and coordinated operational plan which currently includes the following 13 coalitions: Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Carroll County, Cecil County, Cumberland, Dorchester County, Frederick, Hagerstown, Hyattsville, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County and Salisbury. DPP has a Program Manager who oversees the collaboration of DPP and MCIN sites. The Program Manager participates in a rotation of monthly coalition meetings of the MCIN Advisory Board along with agents. During these meetings, information about high incidents of crime are shared by representatives of law enforcement and community organizations that participate in the monthly meetings. The Program Manager communicates with agents from each site to share best practices and to discuss any concerns from the team meetings.
- War Room – The War Room is a focused coordinated law enforcement effort on offenders identified as violent repeat offenders who are on probation or parole. The lead agency is the State’s Attorney Office for Baltimore City (SAO), working closely with the Department, specifically the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS) and the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP). DPP has two liaisons embedded in the War Room who coordinate between the SAO and DPP. The liaisons obtain current case information regarding an identified offender’s compliance with supervision. If the SAO determines that it will pursue violation of probation action regardless of the outcome of the new case, the DPP liaison will communicate that to the Agent/Monitor and advise the Agent/Monitor, per this cooperative agreement, that a request for a warrant to the court/parole commission is appropriate. At this direction the Agent/Monitor will immediately submit a Request for Warrant to the releasing authority.
- Gun Violence Orientations - Beginning in May 2022, DPP began holding gun violence orientations in the Baltimore Metro Region which focuses on a message of

hope, service delivery, and how gun violence affects not only the individuals involved as either victims or suspects, but family members and significant others as well. The sessions are interactive and engaging, listening to valuable feedback from attendees in addition to giving valuable information about the importance of staying away from gun violence and avoiding potentially harmful situations that could lead to gun violence. DPP prioritizes new clients placed on probation/parole, VPI clients, gun offenders, and those who are marginally compliant to non-compliant with supervision for participation in these events. To date, 140 DPP offenders have reported to these sessions.

CLOSING

DPP recognizes the serious impact crimes of violence have upon the community. The goal of DPP is to maintain and guide individuals convicted of criminal acts to lead productive and crime-free lifestyles. As evidenced in this report, only a small fraction of DPP offenders engage in risky behavior that places them at risk for re-offending or victimization. This is consistent with all available criminal justice research which indicates that a small number of individuals are the drivers of a large amount of violent crime. The efforts of DPP along with its collaborative efforts with service providers in the community and law enforcement partners can be a driving force in reducing DPP supervisee involvement in these events. DPP is just one part of a larger ecosystem operating to assist offenders under supervision to be productive citizens while holding accountable those who are engaging in continued criminal activity and risky behavior. DPP along with the efforts of the community, other government entities, and fellow criminal justice partners can play a collaborative role in ultimately reducing the number of homicide victims and suspects under DPP's purview.