



Community Corrections
Fines and Fees Study

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The Community Corrections Fines and Fees Study is a multi-state, mixed-methods study that examines how fines and fees operate in community corrections (probation and parole) and how fines and fees impact the ability of individuals to succeed on supervision in several U.S. states.



About the Community Corrections Fines and Fees Study

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, by the end of 2016 there were approximately 4.5 million adults serving sentences on community supervision (probation and parole). The total amount of fines and fees those individuals pay varies by jurisdiction, offense type, court orders, and other conditions. Because fines and fees vary greatly, little is known about the true impact of those fines and fees for the individuals who are required to pay them. Yet, these monetary burdens may influence an individual's ability to successfully complete their community supervision (fees are typically ordered as conditions of supervision), potentially putting those individuals at risk for revocation back to prison or extended sentences if they are unable to pay. These fines and fees may place additional burdens on their families and communities and could have greater economic consequences on corrections systems. Jurisdictions and states are aware that fines and fees can have far-reaching implications for individuals as well as the correctional system and seek to understand how they might reduce revocations in order to minimize the growth of prison populations and to help individuals successfully complete their supervision. This study will seek to understand the implications of those monetary requirements for the individual and on the criminal justice system.

The Community Corrections Fines and Fees Study Seeks to Answer the Following Questions:

- What types and amounts of fines, fees, and restitution are individuals on probation and parole assessed?
- How many probationers/parolees have their fines and fees waived or adjusted? What are the reasons for these waivers and adjustments?
- What is the total departmental revenue collected from fees and fines in a given year? What proportion of agency budgets are funded by supervision fees?
- Are probationers/parolees receiving civil judgments for nonpayment? If so, what types of civil judgments do they receive?
- Are probationers/parolees who owe more or have nonpayment of fines and fees more likely to receive sanctions, abscond, or have their sentence extended or revoked? Are they less likely to complete supervision successfully?

The Community Corrections Fines and Fees Study is led by University of Cincinnati Assistant Professor Dr. Ebony Ruhland (Principal Investigator). The team includes partnerships with co-investigators and researchers from Drexel University (Dr. Jordan Hyatt), Georgia State University (Dr. Shytierra Gaston), Indiana University - Bloomington (Dr. Miriam Northcutt Bohmert), University of Michigan Law School (Dr. Meghan O'Neil), University of Minnesota Law School - Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice (Dr. Julia Laskorunsky and Kelly Lyn Mitchell, J.D.), and Rutgers University (Dr. Nathan Link).



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