



Delaware Department of Correction Probation & Parole

Operation Safe Streets & Governor's Task Force

How Delaware Probation and Parole works collaboratively with law enforcement partners to meet its dual mission of reentry and public safety.



Executive Summary:

This report provides an overview of the effective partnerships among Delaware Probation & Parole, Delaware State Police, and local police agencies that help keep Delawareans safe, particularly in high-crime communities, by strengthening public safety, enhancing offender compliance with community supervision, and providing incentives to probationers to successfully complete their court-ordered sentence.

Each year, activities led by Operations Safe Streets (OSS) and the Governor's Task Force (GTF) remove large amounts of dangerous drugs and firearms from our streets and our communities. **Over the past two years, OSS/GTF operations have seized more than 600 illegal guns and more than 245,000 grams of illegal drugs and narcotics.**

Highlights from 2020 OSS and GTF data:

- 9,672 probationer curfew checks were conducted, revealing 65% compliance.
- 327 Administrative Warrants were executed which immediately return a probationer to DOC custody for non-compliance. Note the significant **25:1** ratio of curfew checks vs. administrative warrants. This demonstrates the primary focus of OSS/GTF in performing checks for probationer compliance over making arrests.
- 96% of Administrative Warrants included a new criminal offense.
- 62% of Administrative Warrants included a possession of a firearm or deadly weapon.
- 4% of Administrative Warrants cited only a technical violation of probation.
- Less than 1% of OSS/GTF Administrative Warrants were due only to curfew non-compliance.
- Less than 10% of Violation of Probation filings included a curfew violation by Level I – III probationers.
- OSS/GTF operations represent only a small fraction of P&P officers; approximately 5% of officers are assigned to OSS/GTF teams.



About Operation Safe Streets & the Governor's Task Force

Operation Safe Streets (OSS) and the Governor's Task Force (GTF) are statewide crime reduction initiatives that partner police officers with probation and parole officers to identify, monitor, and investigate high risk and/or repeat offenders who have demonstrated criminal behavior that is a risk to public safety. OSS and GTF teams enhance ongoing supervision efforts of caseload supervision officers by performing curfew checks, conducting surveillance and special investigations, implementing supplemental supervision activities, serving arrest warrants for high risk offenders, and following up on tips provided by community members. OSS was established in 1996 in the City of Wilmington in response to the increase in firearm-related violence. OSS and GTF teams have expanded to New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties through partnerships with Delaware State Police, Dover Police and New Castle County Police.

OSS and GTF Officers do not supervise probationer caseloads and are not reentry coordinators. Instead, they provide supplemental supervision efforts to caseload officers, which strengthen public safety. The DOC currently has 15 Officers assigned to OSS and GTF teams – approximately 5% of all P&P officers.

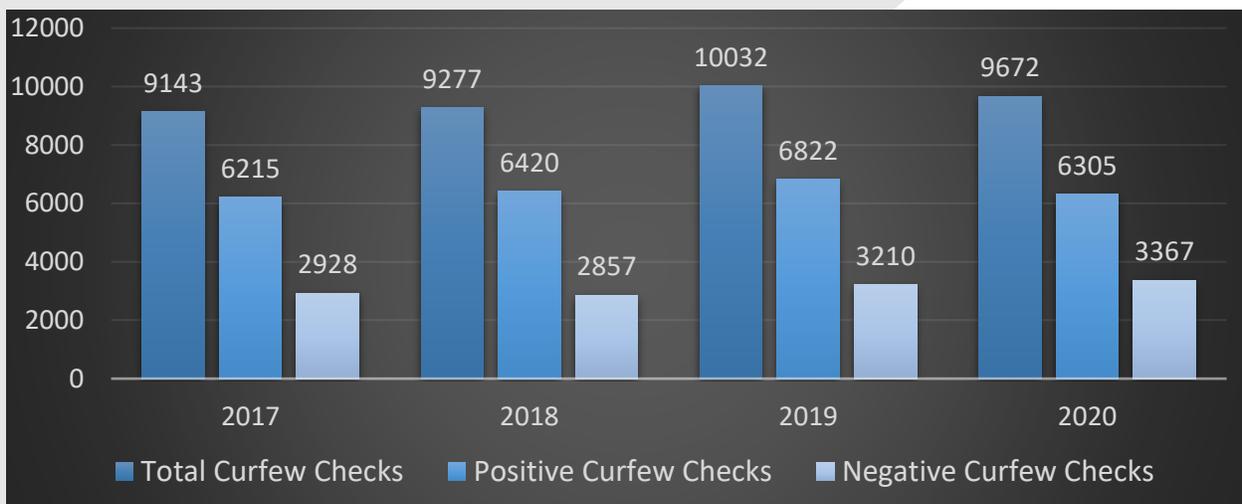
OSS/GTF Partnership	P&P Officers Assigned	Police Officers Assigned
Delaware State Police – GTF New Castle	3	7
Delaware State Police – GTF Kent	2	7
Delaware State Police – GTF Sussex	2	7
Wilmington Police – OSS	4	5
New Castle County Police – OSS	2	4
Dover Police Department – OSS	2	4



Curfew Checks

In 2019, OSS/GTF conducted 10,032 curfew checks, resulting in a **66% compliance rate**, and in 2020, OSS/GTF conducted 9,672 curfew checks, resulting in a **65% compliance rate**. When the OSS/GTF program was first established, a curfew violation frequently resulted in a Violation of Probation filing or an immediate arrest on an Administrative Warrant. Today, curfew violations are commonly addressed with *Graduated Sanctions*, which provide additional opportunities to resolve non-compliance in the community, rather than an immediate return to incarceration. *Graduated Incentives* serve to reinforce positive, pro-social behaviors. Moreover, finding compliance through curfew checks creates opportunities to reward probationers with *Graduated Incentives* such as a later curfew, decreased reporting requirements, or early discharge from probation.

The graph below provides the number of compliance curfew checks completed on high-risk offenders and designated probationers by OSS/GTF officers by year. It reveals that approximately two-thirds result in positive findings.



Administrative Warrants

Under Delaware Law, when there is substantial reason to believe a Probationer has violated the conditions of supervision, he/she may be arrested without warrant by Probation & Parole or another deputized officer. These *Administrative Warrants* are used in circumstances that require an immediate response based on risk to the community, self, and/or an identified victim.

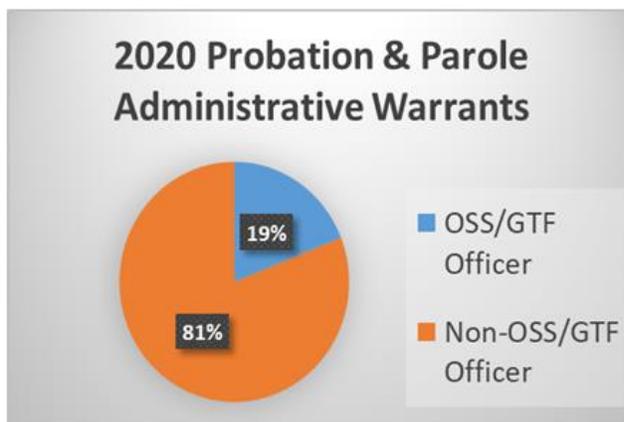


Administrative Warrants are on the decline. The use of Administrative Warrants by Probation & Parole **decreased by 57% over the past six years.**



In 2020, Probation & Parole executed 1,681 Administrative Warrants, including 327 (19%) that were executed by OSS/GTF Officers. Of these 327 Administrative Warrants executed by OSS/GTF:

- ❖ **96%** included a **new criminal charge**.
- ❖ **62%** included a **charge of possession of a firearm or deadly weapon**.
- ❖ **4%** were for **technical violations only**, including one where the person was cited for possession of a HK .22 caliber AR-15 style semi-automatic rifle.
- ❖ **Less than 1%** cited only **condition 13** (failure to abide by a curfew).



Conducting Investigations to support safe communities

OSS/GTF teams provide invaluable investigative support to P&P's community supervision effort. Information is obtained while conducting community visits and curfew checks through contact with probationers, family members, and associates. That shared information assists caseload supervision officers, supports treatment recommendations, and helps prevent future criminal behavior and victimization.



These joint investigations led by OSS and GTF are responsible for removing narcotics and illegal and military-style weapons from the streets of Delaware’s most dangerous communities. In 2019 and 2020, **OSS and GTF removed more than 600 illegal firearms and more than 245,000 grams of illegal drugs from the community:**

	2019	2020
Firearms	256	380
Cocaine	6,865 grams	10,788 grams
Marijuana	83,247 grams	107,029 grams
Heroin	21,588 grams	5,284 grams
Methamphetamines	2,527 grams	8,626 grams

Increased Use of Graduated Responses to drive compliance and support reentry success (Graduated Incentives/Graduated Sanctions)

Graduated Responses are strategies used to motivate and reward positive behavior (incentives) and discourage and hold probationers accountable for negative behavior (sanctions). Graduated Sanction responses are designed to give Probation & Parole Officers options in addressing non-compliance with conditions of supervision without having to utilize the formal Violation of Probation process. The supplemental supervision activities performed by OSS and GTF provide additional opportunities to motivate positive and discourage negative behavior. Probation & Parole’s balanced approach to offender supervision is necessary to meet its responsibilities of keeping the public safe, holding offenders accountable, and increasing the likelihood of offenders successfully reintegrating into the community. The use of intermediate sanctions and rewards is a key component to this balanced approach and has helped reserve Violation of Probation and Administrative Warrants for serious violations.

CASE STUDIES: Use of Graduated Incentives

“Tom” was on probation for Drug Dealing, Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, and Conspiracy. He was assessed as high risk and remained at the highest level (Level III) of community supervision. Because of his risk assessment, OSS/GTF Officers conducted multiple curfew check to supplement the assigned Officer’s supervision efforts. Tom continued to comply with the terms of his supervision and was rewarded with multiple



graduated incentives, which resulted in his successful discharge from probation seven months early.

“Sam” was on Level III supervision for Violation of Probation on a Burglary offense. OSS/GTF Officers conducted multiple curfew checks in support of his assigned Officer’s supervision. Sam continued to comply with the terms of his supervision and was rewarded with a graduated incentive, which resulted in his successful discharge from probation more than two months early.

CASE STUDIES: Use of Graduated Sanctions

“Stacey”, a level II probationer, was found in possession of cocaine and heroin following a traffic stop by GTF. The GTF Probation Officer was able to look at supervision records and see that Stacey had tested positive cocaine and fentanyl with her Probation Officer and her assigned officer scheduled a substance abuse evaluation for the following day. The Probation Officer used discretion by not filing a new charge for Violation of Probation, but instead imposed a Graduated Sanction. The Probation Officer kept in close contact with Stacey and encouraged her follow through with her referred drug treatment. Through additional coaching, enhanced supervision, and substance abuse treatment, Stacey went on to meet her conditions of supervision, continued to test negative through drug screens, attended substance abuse treatment, and enrolled in court-ordered domestic violence treatment.

“Max” was serving probation for a Violation of Probation for Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon and Aggravated Menacing. Multiple OSS/GTF curfew checks were completed however Max was only home once. Max was given multiple graduated sanctions for non-compliance with his curfew, which included a verbal warning and an earlier curfew. His criminal behavior continued, and in August 2020, Max was arrested by Wilmington Police and charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon, and Possession of Marijuana. Shortly after his release on bail he was charged with Disregarding a Police Officer’s Signal, Reckless Driving, Unreasonable Speed, and Failure to Stop at a Red Light after leading Wilmington Police on a vehicle chase. He was also charged with Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition and Hindering Prosecution in a separate incident where two handguns and heroin were recovered. This behavior resulted in Max’s arrest for a Violation of Probation. Max remains incarcerated at this time.



Operation Rise-N-Shyne

Operation Rise-N-Shyne was a multi-jurisdictional investigation involving illegal gang activity that included large scale distribution of drugs. This operation was conducted by the City of Dover and Delaware State Police Departments, The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Delaware Department of Correction Probation and Parole, United States Marshal Service, Delaware Department of Justice, and United States Attorneys Office. Operation Rise-N-Shyne began as a result of information obtained during arrests in Dover early in 2020. In response to an increase in violent crime, the Dover Police Department and Delaware State Police partnered with other law enforcement agencies to address criminal activity in the Dover region. The operation began in June of 2020 and lasted through mid-November when a multi-agency warrant roundup was completed. Operation Rise-N-Shyne led to over 50 arrests in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. In addition to the arrests, law enforcement seized 28 firearms, 15,000+ doses of ecstasy, 72 grams of MDMA powder, 12.8 grams of

methamphetamine, 3.675 grams of heroin, and over \$22,000 in drug proceeds. The arrests and seizures also impacted four local criminal street gangs in Dover and the surrounding area. Evidence and information gathered during the operation has been connected to multiple cases involving violent crimes in the Dover region.



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Conclusion

Delaware's Probation & Parole (P&P) system protects the public and supports successful offender reentry through a balanced approach that promotes accountability through enforcement as well as rewards compliance and pro-social behavior. That work is strengthened through law enforcement partnerships that promote enforcement efforts, and through community, non-profit, and social service partnerships that serve as a force multiplier in P&P's expanding reentry network.

This reports demonstrates the high value of Probation and Parole's partnership with Operation Safe Streets (OSS) and the Governor's Task Force (GTF). This partnership assists Probation and Parole in meeting our public safety mission by addressing high-risk criminal behavior of probationers, with a primary focus on illegal weapons and drug-related offenses, which commonly involve violence and victimization. These public safety enforcement efforts complement the supplemental supervision activities OSS and GTF Officers provide by performing curfew checks, information-gathering, and facilitating the safe arrest of high-risk individuals.

With the enhanced use of Graduated Responses by probation officers, the focus of Administrative Warrants executed by OSS/GTF is on new and serious criminal offenses (96%), including weapon charges (62%). In fact, a very small number of Administrative Warrants executed by OSS/GTF teams are for technical violations only (less than 4%). Moreover, the supplemental investigative work conducted by OSS/GTF Officers through contact with probationers and community members helps probation officers more thoroughly implement a 'reward system' of Graduated Incentives for probationers who are found to be engaging in pro-social activities and in compliance with the terms of their probation. The invaluable work of OSS and GTF teams statewide strongly support the dual role of probation officers in meeting the DOC's mission of public safety and rehabilitation through the use of proven evidence-based practices and strategies to support reentry, improve compliance by probationers, and reduce the rate of reincarceration.

