

*The Alaska Department of Corrections estimates more than \$1 million is saved annually by moving low-risk offenders to community supervision.*

## **Alaska's House Arrest Program (HAP) Eases Prison Overcrowding, Targets Recidivism, Reduces Costs**



Photo Courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- A continuum of technology allows officials to match offender risk with the appropriate supervision regimen
- An integrated approach to community supervision drives good results
- Program helps save costly institutional beds for serious criminals by monitoring lower risk offenders in the community
- Program was rolled out successfully statewide

## THE PROGRAM

For almost a decade, Alaskan lawmakers informally encouraged the use of electronic monitoring. In 1998, the state legislature established by law the House Arrest Program (HAP), a statewide Department of Corrections program that includes electronic monitoring, mandatory sobriety, case management and counseling to help ease prison overcrowding and reduce recidivism. The program has grown over the last decade and today monitors an average of 250 offenders daily. Based in Anchorage, the HAP program has expanded to include offices in Fairbanks, Juneau, Palmer, Wasilla, Ketchikan, Kenai and Sitka.

HAP continues to reduce institutional overcrowding, save taxpayers money while maintaining public safety through close supervision, and allow offenders to maintain employment and family connections. There are two primary components to HAP: electronic supervision technology and treatment. Offenders are being held accountable for their crimes through continuous, 24-hour electronic supervision, alcohol monitoring and ongoing treatment for their problems. HAP supervising officers refer offenders to treatment as needed while they are in the community.

Offenders are carefully screened for eligibility in HAP and may participate only if they:

- Meet community custody classification
- Meet the DOC's furlough matrix score of 20 or below
- Are serving sentences greater than three days, but less than three years
- Have no pending disciplinary actions or infractions in the last 120 days
- Do not have current charges that involve domestic violence
- Have no current or past convictions related to sexual offenses
- Agree in writing to the terms and conditions of the program
- Had a negative drug urinalysis immediately prior to entering the program

The Alaska DOC uses several BI supervision technologies to support the program. Different technologies are employed to match the risks and needs of the offender. For example, the DOC uses BI HomeGuard® 200, an electronic monitoring system that monitors for schedule and curfew compliance. Certain offenders are being monitored with BI ExacuTrack®, a GPS tracking system that allows the agency to monitor the movement of an offender within the

community. Two systems are being used to monitor for sobriety: BI Sobriotor® and BI TAD™. Sobriotor allows the agency to obtain remote, unsupervised alcohol tests via a handheld device. TAD is a new device that continuously monitors for alcohol consumption through a noninvasive skin sensor worn on an offender's ankle. TAD has the dual capability of radio-frequency electronic monitoring too. HAP has a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and drug violations, with violators being returned immediately to custody. The DOC uses BI GuardCenter®, BI's national monitoring center for offender data management, alert notifications and support. Finally, the agency uses BI Drive-BI®, which allows officers to monitor offenders from outside school, work or counseling sessions – at pre-approved times away from home.

The Alaska DOC charges offenders who participate in the program. While this \$14 daily fee is only a portion of the technology and related service costs, it does help the agency to reduce the cost to administer the program significantly, a benefit to taxpayers.

## THE RESULTS

The Alaska DOC has achieved positive results through its HAP program.

- As the program has matured, more individuals are being monitored in the community. Today, 250 are monitoring through HAP daily.
- Each year, the state estimates it avoids more than \$1 million in costs that would have been spent on incarceration fees (\$125/day) for offenders housed in state-run correctional or Community Residential Centers (\$65/day).
- Average offender time in HAP is 67 days, and successful completion rates range from 90% to 93%, with limited violations recorded each year.

- Officials say HAP allows offenders to obtain treatment for substance abuse and other problems while closely supervising them in the community. This is treatment, designed to change criminal behavior, offenders would not typically receive while incarcerated.
- The offender fee to participate further reduces the cost benefits to taxpayers.

### TECHNOLOGY:

- BI ExacuTrack®
- BI TAD™
- BI HomeGuard® 200
- BI GuardCenter®
- BI Drive-BI®
- BI Sobriotor®



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