

*The CCNO electronic monitoring program has reduced jail overcrowding, enhanced community supervision, and become a trusted alternative sanction for judges.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Electronic monitoring program in Ohio diverted more than 950 offenders from incarceration in 2009 and nearly 9,000 offenders since 1997
- The electronic monitoring program significantly reduced jail overcrowding and prevented unconditional release of offenders into the community
- Offenders pay to participate in the program, increasing savings to taxpayers
- GPS tracking was incorporated for the highest level of offender monitoring

## THE PROGRAM

The Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (CCNO) operates an electronic monitoring program partially funded by a Community Corrections Act Grant from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. CCNO is a regional jail in northwest Ohio that services approximately 23 courts in Fulton, Defiance, Henry, Williams, and Lucas counties as well as Toledo. CCNO also provides supervision for four county juvenile courts. The program was designed to help alleviate the continued overcrowding problems at CCNO and provide courts with a viable alternative to incarceration. The first offender was enrolled in the program in January 1997.

When initiating the program, CCNO selected BI Incorporated for equipment and monitoring services. CCNO has remained with BI since then and incorporated the use of many BI technologies to support the program. Specifically, the program uses these BI technologies:

- BI ExacuTrack®, a passive GPS tracking system, BI ExacuTrack® AT, an active GPS tracking system, BI ExacuTrack® One, a GPS tracking system requiring only an ankle-worn unit. Through these systems, precise exclusion and inclusion boundaries are drawn for offenders for locations they can and cannot travel within the community. These systems also ensure that offenders follow prescribed home curfews. ExacuTrack data is forwarded to the monitoring center once a day while the ExacuTrack AT and ExacuTrack One GPS data is relayed in near real-time.
- BI HomeGuard® 200 electronic monitoring system, a radio frequency system that ensures offenders adhere to court-ordered schedules and curfews by monitoring the presence or absence of individuals at home.
- BI Sobriotor®, a remote alcohol monitoring system that conducts sobriety tests from the offender's home.
- BI TAD™, a system that provides both continuous alcohol monitoring and radio frequency capabilities.

Initially, the program began slowly as local judges learned more about electronic monitoring and BI's capabilities and technology. In fact, in 1997 the program diverted only 90 offenders, well below a projection of 150. In 1998, the program expanded to include Lucas County Municipal Courts and Toledo as these courts had exceeded their allotted beds at CCNO, causing an overcrowding emergency to be declared. The emergency caused administrative release of offenders with no community supervision. Lucas County and Toledo-area courts began diverting offenders to the program in 1998 and total offenders in the program jumped to 325 by yearend. The program has grown steadily since, with nearly 9,000 offenders enrolled since 1997, including more than 950 in 2009 alone.

As the program grew, officials decided to bring the 24/7 monitoring of offenders in-house. In 2002, officials purchased a BI GuardServer® host system, trained staff, and established an in-house monitoring center to transition from BI GuardCenter services.

Adding GPS tracking to the CCNO program was an important step in 2005. First, BI ExacuTrack was incorporated. Due to the positive results of using ExacuTrack, CCNO added ExacuTrack AT in April 2007. Now, CCNO also uses ExacuTrack One. GPS tracking allows CCNO officials a full range of supervision technologies to monitor offenders who present different risks and supervision needs.

To help lower the costs of CCNO's electronic monitoring program, an offender pay component was implemented. Offenders pay from \$3.25 to \$15 a day, depending on which monitoring technology is used.

## THE RESULTS

The CCNO electronic monitoring program has provided major benefits to corrections officials, judges, offenders and the community at large. The program has significantly reduced jail overcrowding to manageable levels. The lower jail population helps avoid safety issues at the facility and unconditional release of sentenced offenders to the community.

After more than 10 years, area courts view the program as a safe alternative to incarceration and are committed to using the program to help alleviate the continued CCNO overcrowding issues. The program offers area judges a trusted alternative sanction that they can employ with appropriate offenders.

Staff supervises an average of 85 offenders each day. In addition, the program offers many offenders a second chance as they are able to keep their jobs, maintain families, and avoid incarceration while serving their sentence.

The offender self-pay component reaps significant savings for taxpayers. Not only are incarceration costs being avoided (\$68 daily), but offenders must maintain jobs, pay fines, make child support payments, and contribute to the local economy.

### TECHNOLOGY:

- ExacuTrack® One
- ExacuTrack® AT
- ExacuTrack®
- BI HomeGuard® 200
- BI GuardServer®
- BI TAD™
- BI Sobriotor®



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