

## BI CASE STUDY: Johnson County Community Corrections Franklin, Indiana

*“GPS tracking provides us an extra level of supervision for knowing exactly where offenders go each day. BI has been great to work with for this technology—very responsive to our needs.”*

– Albert Hessman, Executive Director,  
Johnson County Community Corrections

### Johnson County Moves Offenders from EM to GPS Monitoring



#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Program handles a variety of offenders countywide— from felons to misdemeanants
- Offenders pay an electronic monitoring fee, reducing the cost to taxpayers substantially
- More than 100 offenders are monitored with the BI ExacuTrack® GPS system daily

## THE PROGRAM

The Johnson County Community Corrections department, based in Franklin, Indiana, was established to provide coordinated sanctions for both supervised juvenile and adult offenders. The department was formed in 1989 to address jail overcrowding concerns for a growing population and to reduce the extra work and coordination managing weekend holds created. In addition, reducing commitments to the state Department of Corrections and providing effective alternatives to detention were factors in establishing this department.

Today, the department's goal is to hold offenders accountable while they are supervised in the community and work, attend school, and contribute to their family responsibilities. The department supervises approximately 220 adults and juveniles involved in a mix of programs, including a work release component, day reporting, community service work crew, criminogenic programming, alcohol and drug treatment referrals, and home detention using electronic monitoring.

About half of the offenders supervised by Johnson County Community Corrections (about 100 today) have been referred to the department's home detention, an alternative to incarceration that allows participants to live at home under strict guidelines, schedules and curfews. After undergoing a comprehensive assessment by the prosecuting attorney, defense attorneys and judges, candidates for home detention are deemed in need of a higher level of supervision. Criminal history, nature of the crime and financial family matters are all considered prior to each referral. The department coordinates this assessment to lower the risk to public safety but ultimately referrals are court ordered.

For home detention monitoring equipment and service, Johnson County officials have worked with BI Incorporated since 1990. Johnson County originally used BI's radio

frequency-based systems, but in mid-2005 the department transferred offenders to BI ExacuTrack, a comprehensive offender monitoring system that includes the use of Global

Position System (GPS) technology. The ExacuTrack system is a hybrid of proven technologies, including radio-frequency electronic monitoring, GPS, precise mapping software and the Internet. "This system provides us with an extra layer of security and knowledge where this person has been during the day," said Albert Hessman, executive director, Johnson County Community Corrections.

ExacuTrack consists of an ankle bracelet transmitter worn by the offender and a belt-mounted GPS tracking unit when away from home. When the individual returns home he or she sets the tracking unit in a base station. At that point, GPS data is immediately transmitted to Johnson County's monitoring database to verify the offender is in compliance with predetermined schedules and boundaries within the community. An offender's schedule will include "exclusion" or "inclusion" zones—locations for which a person must not leave or areas where they are forbidden. Johnson County officials have direct access to offender data through a password-protected web portal, BI TotalAccess®. Johnson County will soon incorporate BI ExacuTrack One units into its home detention program. This system combines the transmitter and GPS tracking technology into a single unit housed in an ankle bracelet.

Officers are involved in individuals' supervision beyond the use of GPS monitoring with random in-home visits, scheduled appearances at the community corrections office, and drug and alcohol tests. Finally, participants pay \$15 daily to be monitored with the GPS tracking system, an important consideration that helps reduce the cost of the program and expand its use to more candidates.

## THE RESULTS

As the population of Johnson County has grown to more 160,000 citizens, the community corrections department has served as a release valve for the local correctional system and a cost-effective alternative to incarceration. Success for the program can be measured in several ways:

- GPS tracking provides additional sentencing options for the local judiciary
- The department and the use of GPS monitoring as a tool provides a high level of detail about supervised offenders as they live in the community
- GPS tracking can be used as an addendum for sentenced offenders who can be moved from incarceration to home detention
- The cost of the home detention program is reduced through an offender pay component—offenders pay \$15/day to participate in the program
- While offenders are in the home detention program, costly days in jail are avoided. If the 100 offenders on the ExacuTrack system were incarcerated, it would cost more than \$5,000 daily. At the same time, most offenders are working, paying taxes and contributing to family needs.

## TECHNOLOGY:

- BI ExacuTrack®
- BI TotalAccess®



## BI Incorporated

6400 Lookout Road  
Boulder, Colorado 80301  
(800) 701.5171  
www.bi.com