Monitoring Technologies for Community Supervision

The Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium, a program of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), released a four-part brief series on technologies that support agencies tasked with monitoring individuals released to community supervision. The primary technology brief, *Monitoring Technologies for Community Supervision*, provides an overview of three solutions described more completely in the subsequent briefs, including location tracking systems, alcohol and drug monitoring, and smartphone applications.
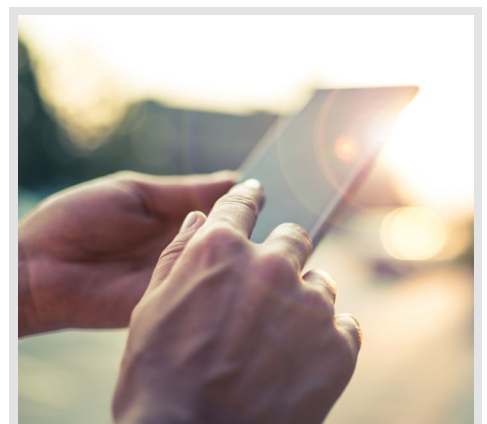
Primary Report Takeaways

The key findings of the consortium's research include:

- In recent years, agencies have faced many challenges in community supervision, including factors related to COVID-19, which spiked interest and pilots in available supervision technologies.

- Today, there is a wide continuum of technologies deployed for community supervision, and agencies are applying these systems based on an individual's risk level.

- Agencies evaluating monitoring technologies should consider their goals first, which may include efficacy, burden, access and costs, as well as vendor support, training and expertise.

The brief reviews typical supervision models—pretrial release, probation, and parole—and provides recent incarceration and community supervision data, including the fact that more than 3.7 million individuals were on probation and parole supervision alone as of 2021.

Monitoring Technologies for Community Supervision also highlights the challenges driving agency use of technology. These include limited internal resources, stress of higher caseloads, a shift in mentality by supervising agencies as they train officers to be "coaches" versus "referees," and the belief that supervision aided by technology may reduce the barrier of compliance to conditions of release. For example, if an individual can submit a BrAC test remotely, it can save travel time to a testing site. The report highlights that COVID-19 magnified these challenges and accelerated the use of monitoring technologies.

The brief provides an overview of trends and insights into location tracking systems, alcohol and drug monitoring solutions, and smartphone applications. The brief also discusses important considerations agencies should review when deploying supervision technology, including practical issues; technical factors; and ethical, equity, and legal matters. The brief concludes with a checklist of questions for agencies to answer and assess in each of these critical areas.

The four monitoring supervision technology briefs developed in August 2023 by the NIJ's Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium include:

Monitoring Technologies for Community Supervision

Smartphone Applications for Community Supervision

Location Tracking Systems for Community Supervision

Alcohol and Drug Monitoring for Community Supervision

BI Incorporated Solutions Match Trending Technology Usage

A key element of the Monitoring Technologies in Community Supervision brief is the wide range of proven technologies available to agencies today, which support a variety of individual risk levels. For more than four decades, BI Incorporated has developed and supported a comprehensive technology continuum, including systems that fall within the three areas reviewed in the NIJ briefs—location tracking systems, alcohol and drug monitoring, and smartphone applications.
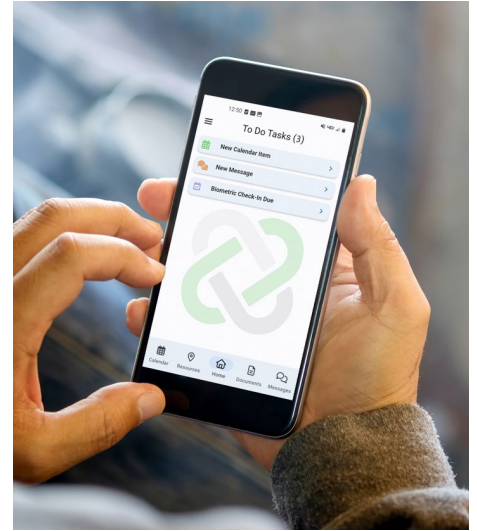
Location Tracking Systems

- **BI VeriWatch®**, a discreet wrist-worn device that uses GPS and state-of-the-art technology to provide reliable real-time monitoring.

- **BI LOC8® XT**, an ankle-worn device that provides detailed information about an individual's movements in the community via a mix of technologies, including GNSS, Wi-Fi, and cellular data.

- **BI HomeGuard® 20|20**, a system that includes a radio frequency ankle bracelet and base station to monitor the absence or presence of an individual at a specific location, typically at home.

Alcohol and Drug Monitoring

- **BI SL3®**, a portable sobriety monitoring device that enables individuals to submit BrAC tests to officers discreetly while they work, attend school, and live in the community.

- **BI TAD®**, an ankle bracelet system that monitors location data as well as sobriety through transdermal alcohol monitoring sensors.

Smartphone Applications

- **BI SmartLINK®**, an app downloaded to an individual's smartphone or a BI Mobile® device that securely monitors individuals, collects data, and automates administrative work, while enhancing compliance and accountability to conditions of release.

- **BI Mobile**, a device provided to clients with BI SmartLINK pre-installed. This device provides a vehicle for communication with supervising officers, calendar reminders, and more.

- **BI Notifi®**, an iOS and Android compatible mobile app, offers agencies a solution for individuals who are involved in a domestic violence situation. The mobile app measures the distance between the BI Notifi app user and a GPS-supervised client.

For more information, visit bi.com