

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

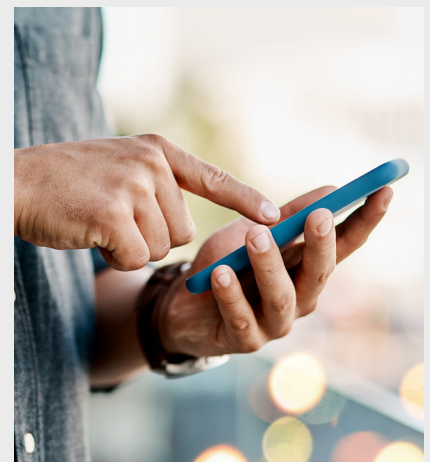
The key findings of the consortium's research include:

- 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

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 45 years, 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



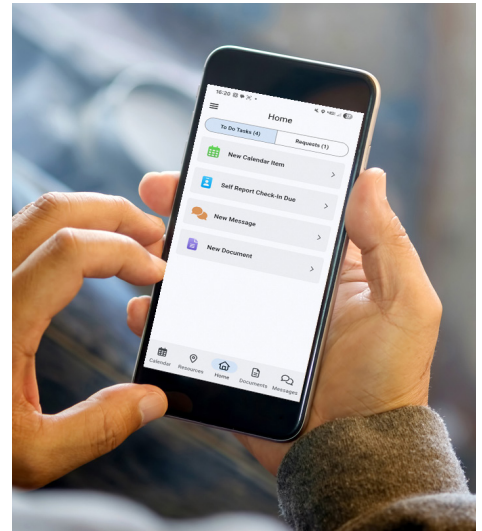
- **BI VeriWatch® 2**, is intelligently engineered to support discreet and effective client supervision. This wrist-worn location tracking solution offers enhanced security, improved battery life, and a location acquisition frequency as little as one minute.
- **BI LOC8® XT**, an ankle-worn device that provides detailed information about an individual's movements in the community via a mix of technologies, including GNSS, Wi-Fi, and cellular data.
- **BI SmartBAND™ 1.0** uses Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology to pair with BI SmartLINK®, providing community corrections agencies with a reliable mobile location tracking solution. The secure, wrist-worn device provides a wireless tether between the client and the SmartLINK app to authenticate smartphone proximity and location.
- **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 SoberTech™**, a portable sobriety monitoring device that enables individuals to submit BrAC tests 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**, a case management app downloaded to an individual's smartphone or a BI Mobile® device, securely monitors individuals, automates administrative work, and uses distance-based tracking technology to enhance compliance and accountability to conditions of release.
- **BI Notifi®**, an iOS and Android compatible mobile app, meets legislation that calls for mobile app technology to alert at-risk individuals if a GPS-supervised client comes within a 5-mile radius, based on court-ordered proximity zones.
- **BI Mobile**, a secure device provided to clients with BI SmartLINK or BI Notifi preinstalled. This device alleviates challenges agencies and clients may face related to access to a phone.