



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ALLEGAN COUNTY PAROLE AND PROBATION

2025 Annual Area Report

**Allegan County Parole/Probation Office
Allegan County Sheriff's Office and Corrections Center
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General Information

The State of Michigan currently has a 21.0% recidivism rate, which consequently is the lowest rate on State record. The rate is measured by those who are three years from their parole date and records the number of individuals that have reoffended and returned to prison within that timeframe. The numbers currently show a 79.0% success rate of those that parole without being returned to prison. These numbers are reflective of the great work of local communities coming together in order work together for the sake of public safety and offender success. Allegan County's prison commitment rate is frequently the lowest in our region and the lowest among our State. This shows the level of dedication not only among Allegan's MDOC staff, but also the community partners (Courts, Sheriff's Office, CCAB, Law Enforcement Agencies, Treatment Providers, Offender Success personnel, etc.) that are vested in our community and take very seriously the cooperative interests of public safety and offender success.

The Allegan County Parole Probation Department oversees offenders convicted of felony and high-court misdemeanor offenses. Probation may be imposed for all misdemeanors and felonies except for murder, treason, armed robbery, criminal sexual conduct in the first or third degree, and those felonies in which a firearm was used. The maximum probation term that may be imposed is five years for felony convictions and up to two years for misdemeanor convictions. Probation terms may include up to one year in jail in conjunction with the probation term as well as associated payments (restitution, fines, court ordered costs, and supervision fees). Those released on parole supervision from prison also have similar conditions imposed. Increased accountability of offenders is also achieved utilizing electronic monitoring (Tether and/or SCRAM).

Once placed on probation or parole, agents monitor offenders' behavior and enforce the terms of the order. The special conditions imposed typically include employment, education, treatment, community service, and the prohibition of alcohol and drugs. More specific conditions are created and imposed based upon the offender's individual specific needs. Probation staff are also involved in the supervision of offenders in Swift and Sure as well as Allegan Treatment Court (Drug Court). Specialty courts combine increased supervision along with a higher level of collaboration and case management between Court personnel, probation, and treatment agencies.

The probation department also completes presentence investigation (PSI) reports for the court. Provided within the PSI is a recommendation for sentencing that is formulated utilizing the background information of an offender as well as completed sentencing guidelines considering the crime(s) committed.

Allegan County Parole Probation Office is part of the Michigan Department of Corrections Region 4b, which includes Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, and Ottawa Counties.

Total Clients: Approximately 461, as of September 30, 2025 (similar numbers to 2024 – 444 total clients)

- Probation: 377
- Parole: 84

Clients on Electronic Monitoring (SCRAM – Alcohol Monitoring, Curfew – Tether, GPS)

- SCRAM: 8
- Curfew/Tether: 12
- GPS: 10

Sentencing Options

Sentencing options include:

- 1) Probation
- 2) Jail
- 3) Prison
- 4) Fines, Costs, and Restitution
- 5) Combination of Jail and Probation
- 6) Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) “Boot Camp”

In addition to the standard terms of supervision, options for supervision may also include the use of electronic monitoring, placement in treatment facilities, and the Special Alternative Incarceration (also known as “Boot Camp”). These are often used as diversion programs from jail and prison for low-risk offenders and technical violators.

The mission of the Michigan Department of Corrections is to protect the public. Agents enforce the rules and special conditions ordered by the judge or parole board. Failure to comply with the order of probation may result in probation violation charges being initiated. Agents utilize evidence-based principles designed to make full use of community sanctions. The Risk-Based Violation Response guidelines provide a range of possible responses to violation behavior. Agents determine the best possible response which ultimately includes a continuum of alternative sanctions that protect the public, hold offenders accountable for their behavior, and help reduce the likelihood of the offender engaging in criminal activity.

The Allegan Parole/Probation Office continues to work closely with the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) to develop and use other sentencing options available to the courts. Through our collaboration, we strive to minimize the impact on the jail and prison populations.

Electric Monitoring System (Tether) is used as a resource to enhance supervision. Tether allows active monitoring of an offender 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a curfew enforcer that determines when an offender is to be at “home” during designated times and allowing the offender to maintain employment, attend treatment, participate in community service, etc. Most offenders are placed on the system in lieu of jail, providing a more cost-effective manner of supervising offenders. Currently, offenders pay for electronic monitoring within the confines of their ordered Supervision Fee that is paid to the Michigan Department of Corrections. When an offender is placed on probation with electronic monitoring, the offender pays \$60.00 per month (an offender pays \$30.00 per month when NOT on electronic monitoring).

SCRAM is an additional tool targeted to monitor alcohol use. These systems allow an offender to be tested for alcohol use at a random rate determined by the Agent. This equipment has been used frequently for OUIL 3rd cases as well as those who violate supervision for the use of alcohol.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) units are primarily used to monitor paroled sex offenders or those who are convicted of Stalking offenses. The GPS collects data points as the parolee moves throughout the community. The system is monitored 24 hours from a center (Electronic Monitoring Center) in Lansing, and the agent is alerted to any violations. As part of GPS monitoring, the agent is required to review the GPS points of the parolee to monitor their activity within the community. Currently, Allegan County has 13 offenders being monitored by the GPS system.

Presentence Investigation Reports (PSI)

Presentence Investigation (PSI) reports are prepared by agents and used by Judges when sentencing an offender. The PSI includes an evaluation of the offender, circumstances of the offense, and background information regarding the offender. The agent also completes an assessment, utilizing an assessment tool (COMPAS), to gauge risk to the public as well as the needs of the offender. Agents will utilize sentencing guidelines to formulate an appropriate recommendation for sentencing. During the investigation process, the agent contacts victims of offenses to include their statements within the PSI report. The agent also determines the amount of restitution and forwards this as a part of the recommendation to the court.

Through the course of business, the office will write a variety of other reports pertaining to offenders, whether it be from violations, investigating placements for paroling clients, transfer investigations for offenders moving to/from another county, or various case reports as requested by the Michigan Department of Corrections, court, or other counties requesting information from our cases.

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 – Reports

Total number of reports written (ALL): 1421
Average number of reports per month: 118

Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports: 355
Pre-Sentence Investigation Update Reports: 164
Pre-Sentence Investigation Misdemeanor Reports: 67
Pre-Sentence Investigation Delay Reports: 3
Pre-Sentence Investigation No-Show Reports: 56

Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports (Total): 645
Average Number of Pre-Sentence Reports per Month: 54

“Other Reports” (Parole Violation Reports, Probation Violation Reports, Pre-Parole Investigations, Case Reports, Transfer Investigations, Requests from other counties, Interstate Compact Agreement cases – ICOTS, etc.): 776
Average Number of “Other Reports” per Month: 65

Fee Collections

Restitution, court costs, fines, and other related fees are typically ordered as a term of probation. The agents oversee the collections of these fees and work closely with court personnel to ensure these fees are paid as directed. There continues to be an emphasis on the collection of restitution to help victims recover their losses.

Drug Testing

The Allegan Parole/Probation Office completed a total of 2,559 substance use tests October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025. Of these tests, 150 tests were “positive.” Oral Substance Use Test Panels test for Amphetamine (AMP), Cocaine (COC), Fentanyl (FYL), Methamphetamine (MET), Opiates (OPI), Oxycodone (OXY), and Tramadol (TML). The urinalysis tests utilize can test the same substances as the oral tests, however, may also include Marijuana (THC).

SUD Test	Test Count	Positive Test Count	Positive Percentage
Admission	6	6	100%
PBT (Breath)	34	4	11.80%
Saliva Test	2503	133	5.30%
Urinalysis	16	7	43.8
Totals	2559	150	5.90%

Summary

The Allegan County Parole/Probation Office has representatives in the Allegan County Sheriff’s Office and Corrections Center. The 15.3 staff are employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections. Allegan County provides office space, supplies, and other operating necessities.

Allegan County Parole/Probation Staff: 12 Agents, 2 Clerical, and 1.3 Supervisors.

Cost to State of Staffing 15.3 Positions:

- Agent Cost: \$118,231.78 (*Total agents: \$1,418,781.36*) *
- Clerical Cost: \$79,553.14 (*Total clerical: \$159,109.28*) *
- Supervisor Cost: \$143,606.11 (*Total supervisors: \$186,687.94*) *
 - **Total State Staffing Cost: \$1,764,578.58***

* *These approximations include salary, fringe, medical, and retirement benefits.*

Caseload Specializations: GPS Parole Sex Offenders, Probation Sex Offenders, Probation EMS (SCRAM and Tether), Allegan County Treatment Court (Drug Court), Veterans, Gender Specific (Females), Gang, ICOTS, Swift and Sure Sanctions Program, and PSI Writers.

Programs/Treatment:

- Swift & Sure Sanctions Program and Allegan County Treatment Court (ATC)
- Outpatient Substance Abuse Services (OnPoint, Arbor Circle) w/ Gender Specific Counseling Group
- Domestic Violence (Catholic Charities, Secure Counseling, Solutions)
- Sex Offender Therapy (Catholic Charities)
- Trauma Counseling for both Parole and Probation Clients
- OnPoint service expansion with Arbor Circle for substance use disorders (IOP), MAT, etc.
- Through Offender Success (MDOC) expanded resources of employment and support navigators.

Special Activities: Case Management Team Meetings for Sex Offenders, Nighthawk Outings, Transition Team Meetings, and Prisoner Re-Entry Services.

Challenges for Allegan County Offenders: Transportation, Housing, and long-term residential substance abuse for female offenders.

Comments:

The State continues to provide computers, cell phones, and State Vehicles for agents' use, including maintenance and repair.

The State continues to provide oral drug testing supplies for both parolees and probationers.

Training provided by the state for agent development includes topics of disability awareness, public service, discriminatory harassment, overfamiliarity, CPR, fire safety, suicide prevention, just to name a few.

The staff of Allegan County Probation and Parole continue to work for the citizens of Allegan County to provide for the safety of the community through the very best service for clients and citizens.

Submitted by: 
Nicholas Knebl, Probation/Parole Manager