

Setting the Foundation for Workgroup Improvements to Community Supervision

This brief summarizes some of the findings MT's Effective Supervision and Conditions Workgroups have considered that inform their goals and objectives.

Effective Supervision Workgroup

Purpose: Provide guidance on how P&P officers can better respond to individualized behavior-change needs through proactive case plans, case distribution, and meaningful contacts with supervisees.



Conditions Workgroup

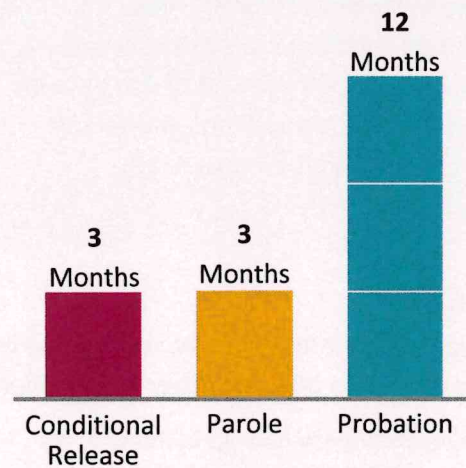
Purpose: Address options for streamlining the condition-setting process and individualizing conditions in a manner that advances public safety and rehabilitation, thereby reducing barriers to success.

Factors Informing the Effective Supervision Workgroup

Revoked individuals often experience:

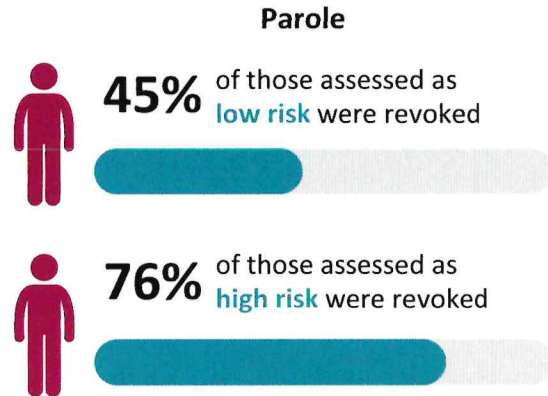
- ▶ **Housing Instability**
2x more likely than people who successfully complete supervision
- ▶ **Substance Use Challenges**
98% of people revoked
- ▶ **Mental Health Challenges**
61% of people revoked
- ▶ **Unemployment**
78% of people revoked

Revocations are occurring relatively early in the supervision period, making the first year of supervision the most critical.



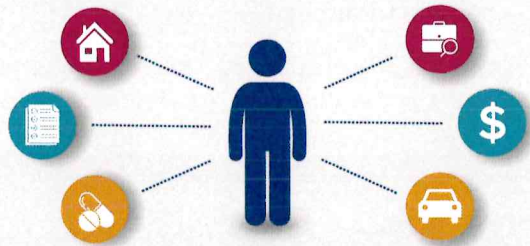
Peaks in Revocation Rates

Revocation rates were much higher for those assessed as high risk.



Factors Informing the Conditions Workgroup

Condition Setting and Revocations:



- ▶ The median number of probation conditions among those ultimately revoked increased nearly **30%** from 2012 to 2019.
- ▶ Between standard, statutory, and specialized conditions, an individual on supervision may be ordered to comply with up to **40** different conditions, more than double the national average of **17**.

Next Steps:

Workgroups will continue to meet in 2024 and bring recommendations to DOC and other stakeholders.

Note: Data supporting the findings in this brief are discussed in more detail within our full report: [Improving Outcomes and Safely Reducing Revocations from Community Supervision in Montana](#)

Practitioner listening sessions revealed the following key takeaways about the **purpose** of supervision conditions:

Judges:

Conditions are used to deter criminal behavior and support accountability.

Public Defenders:

Conditions are used to support an individual’s rehabilitation and reentry.

County Attorneys:

Conditions are used to hold individuals accountable and promote public safety.

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