

Is there anything else you would like for us to know regarding how COVID-19 impacted your agency's operation?

1. Since opened back to jury trials has created a great deal of stress/pressure on my staff to keep up with the trial schedule. A deputy prosecutor has to spend a great deal of time preparing for each case that goes to trial.
2. The backlog of cases has increased the number of jury trials pending and made it very stressful on deputies to be constantly in trial to deal with the backlog.
3. One question you should be asking is how has the impact of COVID-19 impacted your backlog of active cases?
4. Not being able to have jury trials created a backlog we are still digging out of. Defendants are increasingly showing disrespect to our judges.
5. Bottlenecked dispositions as trials were not a visible option.
6. Issues with jail overcrowding and a negative impact on the number of cases we are able to take to trial, cause a backlog of unresolved cases.
7. COVID caused court dates to be reset, and therefore prevented resolution of cases which has created a backlog
8. Now that Jury Trials have resumed, we are overwhelmed.
9. Back log of Jury Trials
10. Covid impacted our DPA's in regard to work/family balance. Many are leaving our profession due to work demands (50+hrs weekly), low pay, no overtime, constant deadlines. Courts treat prosecutors differently than civil attorneys, very difficult for us to have continuances granted compared to civil litigation. (Courts worried about caseloads, so are we but- DPA's are not plug and play, each have their own cases and know them, so they can't just be "sent over" to cover hearings or jump in and prepare a jury trial in less than a week. This would never occur with civil firms.
11. Courts seem not to appreciate the work demands of doing intake, the police are busy, and the reports have increased. Just an fyi, would request a committee take a look at Prosecutor's caseload, and perhaps prosecutors having more input on the docket, which cases proceed on trial dates. Having pretrials with 20+ cases and demanding we be ready to go to trial on any of them by trial date is not sustainable.
12. All the extra duties pertaining to keeping inmates, separate and cleaning has put a tremendous strain on our officers. That are already short handed
13. We have implemented a 14 day quarantine for all new intakes. Jail staff continues to wear masks. The jail went on lockdown, no outside face to face contact with the public. It created a shortage of staff for us and still does. Any staff member who comes in contact with a Covid

positive person, be it on the job or off the job, cannot come back to work until they have quarantined the recommended CDC number of days. This has had a terrible impact on staffing and overtime hours worked by other staff members.

14. The practice of Quarantine of new inmates for 10 or more days placed pressure on the Small Facility, with limited cell space. Sanitation, Cleaning was every day and extensive and time consuming for the Jail. Continual Vigilance of all personnel working in the jail was mind numbing, with moral suffering. Jail staff have and continue to be the Backbone of the Sheriffs Office with no fanfare or public notice. I have nothing but praise for the Jail Commander and all the staff during this continued trying times.
15. Staff shortages has greatly challenged the operations of our agency and ability to provide service. Challenge of using technology for supervision and court.
16. we use UV lighting machines to aid in cleaning efforts. health dept has been a good partner on vaccination for inmates. DOC has been a good resource-
17. Shifted from home and community-based services to remote services.
18. Initially it was very very hard to get proper PPE and supplies. We had to be very creative and resourceful
19. We used telephonic appointments, then some used Zoom for appointments when the pandemic started. We continue to use these, as do other jurisdictions. I would love to see some direction on contact standards based on these new contacts.
20. Cut out all in person meetings with clients. All text, email, and zoom
21. We rely much more on Video Conferencing via Webex.
22. We are requiring masks in our department and no longer meet with defendants in our personal offices.
23. We realized we are behind the times as far as communications for remote check-ins. We did not have the funding to adequately keep up operations with new platforms such as teleconferencing. Since that time we have used ARP funds to purchase laptops for all Probation Officers.
24. It did a great deal, but we've moved beyond it. Now, we're trying to re-calibrate for a post-pandemic world.
25. There was a short period of time when enforcement clearly went down at the beginning of COVID-19 and though the caseload is not returned to previous levels the caseload is slowly picking back up.
26. In 2020 we went without COVID until the last 45 days. With the 2nd "wave" we had approx. 20 inmates that were positive along with 3 staff. We have been following all protocols set out by IDOC, IN Dept of Health and our medical company since this all started in 2020 and adjusted accordingly.

27. Probation not referring to treatment. Their offices are limiting who is in the office which then impacts clients because they aren't seeing them as often. Probation is referring to MAT but not follow up treatment.
28. No, just frustrations like everyone else. It's difficult to find the right balance between my officer's safety and the safety of the community and helping offenders.
29. It allowed a temporary reset and the ability for catch up. It subsequently backed things up with the system, however and it is now creating a wave of increases in casework and supervision.
30. Police were arresting less, therefore less cases being processed. Courts continued many hearings so delayed sentencing.
31. Created a dangerous situation for the community. Jails refusing to hold violators. DOC leadership ordering reduced warrant/return requests to ease potential issues, regardless of danger to community.
32. it was harder to supervise offenders who used a "covid exposure" as an excuse to not report for two weeks.
33. It has made us really reassess our operational practices (for the better)
34. Many service providers went virtual and our clients were not impacted at an effective level.
35. COVID impacted nearly every part of our daily operations including staffing, budgeting, equipment needs, and how we serve the Courts and clients in a pandemic.
36. Our community corrections program largest component is home detention and receives a great deal of referrals of people that violated probation. We are used as the next step up in supervision for those that violated probation. Due to Covid-19, the probation departments were not able to supervise at the same level as before, so the amount of probation violations decreased. Therefore, as a result, referrals to community corrections (home detention) lowered causing our numbers served to lower. Also, there were not as many filings of new cases, which reduced the executed sentence referrals to community corrections (home detention).
37. Caseloads decreased drastically due to shutdown and and then court referrals after opening back up. Courts were still running minimally
38. Field checks have significantly decreased. We can control the number of people who come into our office and clean after each person. We cannot do that in the field, so to protect staff, our field checks have greatly decreased.
39. We have not received any extra funds but have to change our operation to keep the staff and clients safe. Face to face meetings are done through a barrier and by zoom.
40. COVID-19 closed down our courts for a time so less referrals were sent to Community Corrections. The Sheriff requested courts place WR clients on HD and then closed down Work Release permanently as of 1/1/2021.

41. Probationers seem to avoid office visits and drug screens. Using the excuses of Covid-19.
42. We are currently reviewing the Delta and Lambda variants and the spread in the state and our county.

Is there anything we did not address in this survey that you would like for us to know about the impact of HEA 1006 on your community?

1. Community Corrections did not notice an impact for HEA 1006. We did see the jail increase significantly in numbers for a time period.
2. All it has done is fill up local jails rather than State DOC facilities
3. Jail overcrowding. Seems to be a common thing among most counties. It seems worse now that F6s cannot be sent to IDOC unless they have enough exposure.
4. Expanded the number of people in community corrections and in the county jails. Four of the jails now have in house behavioral health/substance abuse services. Valley Oaks provides these services in 3 of the local jails. Also there are many many more local people in jails that are there for lacking capacity to stand trial.
5. It made it so that we have had to build a new POD to increase beds.
6. It has been an incredible slap in the face equating to \$18,000,000. jail expansion. Coupled with not receiving the appropriate amount in return for housing level 6 cons.
7. HEA 1006's biggest impact on our community has been the number of offenders being housed in our already overcrowded and aged jail. We give low level/non violent offenders many chances to stay out of jail, however, there comes a point when nothing else works except jail and those people end up serving sentences in our jail and taking up valuable space. This on top of the criminal code "reform" placing more crimes into the Level 6 felony category which cause even further overcrowding during a time of significant concerns of a health crisis inside the jail where there needs to be options for quarantining and separation.
8. In Dubois County it has increased the number of inmates at our jail, leading to jail overcrowding at times and the need to build a new facility.
9. Defendants free on pretrial release continue to commit new offenses. Level 6 Felonies increase in spite of making thefts a misdemeanor and reduction of misdemeanor possession w/prior.
10. Our L6 and misdemeanors are increasing as the def. are released from jail and return to criminal activity. Our local mental health provider say they have a 90% no show for these persons at their appointment given when release. We have multiple persons with mulitple crimes committed while out. Most are thefts, battery, drug use, victims want an explanation, police are burning up officers time in these frequent fliers. just an fyi,
11. We have seen an impact due to holding level 6 in our population. I refer to " book and release"

on lower-level felonies and misdemeanor charges we have seen many of the same people repeatedly come through the jail on repeat charges.

12. Our offenders don't seem to worry as much about consequences. One commented to me about how he keeps getting arrested but just can get released back out pretty quickly.
13. It has contributed to an increase in new/open cases by each individual defendant.
14. We rely on HEA 1006/DOC grant funding to provide essential personnel, supplies, and services for both our agency and those clients that we serve.
15. We need more funding, but HEA 1006 is a bit onerous to use in substantive way for all but the most well-resourced counties that have departments that are already well-resourced.
16. Housing L6 felony defendants in the local jail has placed a huge burden on our local jail and county government. Balancing the DOC/State budget on the backs of the counties is shameful.
17. It is becoming clearer in our area that the system is pushing more people down through IDOC and onto the local jails and community supervision programs that may be at more risk to re-offend, leaving it more difficult for supervision and heightened danger to the communities. Further, if it were not for grant dollars through other programs, our department would not be capable to do the proper supervision of these individuals, getting the services they need, protection of the community, provide the other statutory duties required by the Courts, and continue to conduct pre-trial services as now required.
18. Yes, in the past we could send low level offenders to prison (D Felons). Now we are stuck with them along with all of their health issues. This has created an unnecessary burden on the county jails, in my opinion. Jails were never designed for long term holds but that is exactly what we have. Again, in my opinion, prisons have far more programs than a local county jail. We would love to implement more programs but we only have enough staff to maintain.
19. The funding "formula" needs regular review for the L6 convicted. The funding should follow the inmate better (think of schools model). Has signing up inmates for insurance been a positive? Is there data to support this?
20. The level of funding for reimbursement for housing L6 felons is insufficient. The amount paid was about \$130,000 less than what we would have billed
21. Community corrections is underfunded by the State. They are expected to provide community-based rehabilitation but receive little to no funding. Drug dealing offenses are rising in severity because the penalty for dealing (as well as the absence of minimum mandatory sentences) was drastically reduced.
22. Some good, some bad, those who faired the worse in re-offending or FTA while a case was pending were primarily ones released by ROR, no bond.
23. Increase in Failure to Appears.
24. Yes. The change in credit time on L1-L5 felonies has produced the effect that our prosecutors

are writing pleas that are actually harsher. It feels as though the prosecutors have become emboldened to be tough on crime. Additionally, we are now seeing our prosecutor's office file the Habitual Felony Offender enhancement whenever available. Prior to HR 1006, the HFO came into play if the Defendant was uncooperative in plea negotiations. Frankly, it seems in practice that more negative than positive came from HR 1006.

25. Has not reduced the number of felony convictions due to the use of enhancements since HEA 1006 took effect in 2014; need to return to the spirit of HEA 1006 and have judges use the fact sentence can and should be suspended for drug offenses and that multiple convictions should not lead to enhanced level of felony
26. Much of HEA 1006 success will continue to depend on the level of an agencies ability and SUPPORT (community, court, prosecutor, state) for implementing evidence based-best practices. Implementing EBP began in community corrections and moved to probation. I feel we are educating in the wrong direction. As is, community corrections and probation are trying to implement something from the bottom up and getting support from prosecutors and judges in superior positions is not always an easy task. Especially since the public expects to see results from those elected officials. I personally get frustrated when community corrections and probation are tasked with, and monies threatened, based on the whole local judiciary complying with things that we have input on, but no actual control. Example: Courts/Prosecutors not confident in the IRAS-CST, and as a result referring to us what the state sees as low risk clients. Here in the real world, we do what the judges tell us, and our agency's compliance is vital.
27. We are hustling. Small counties take big changes the worst I feel.
28. In the number of cases question, you didn't say for the office or per attorney, but I picked per attorney. That would be the open files. My part-time deputies handle about 320 cases per year-- more if misdemeanors, and fewer if felonies.
29. The first few questions are poorly worded. In small counties like ours, the elected prosecutors such as myself have a full caseload the same as our deputy(ies). There are no questions reflecting that reality. Additionally, the BBC question asking how many cases do you have now is very vague as it does not specify what types of cases, the time frame of when they might be filed, or who is responsible for the cases. It was hard to determine what information you were seeking.

I can tell you the overall effect of the recent changes to our criminal code has been that a great percentage of our cases are level) felonies that we now have to deal with on a local level where we have few resources. Our office is also inundated with requests for modifications and expungements to the point that we are spending a good chunk of our week dealing with old cases. Too much time in my opinion.