



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Community Sentencing Program Proving Successful**

According to the Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2006, 88% of participating offenders who successfully completed the program prior to July 1, 2003, remained in the community as of June 30, 2006. Only 12% had been received as an inmate of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Recidivism studies in corrections most often identify as a recidivist, an offender who is incarcerated within three years of his release from probation supervision or from prison. Of the 10,355 offenders who have received a community sentence since the program began in March, 2000, 21% failed and were sent to prison.

The average cost for fiscal year 2006, per offender was \$1,711.00. There were 36 funded community sentencing councils encompassing 61 participating counties. The success rate, one of the best for diversion programs in Oklahoma, demonstrates that Community Sentencing is a proven investment in public safety.