

Cora Mills &
cora.mills@marquette.edu

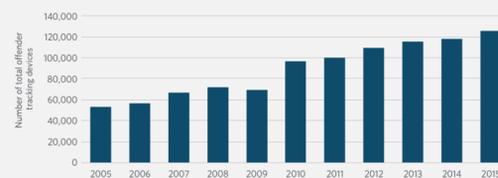
Dr. Anya Degenshein

Background

Traditional Electronic Monitoring:

- Electronic monitoring describes the use of electronic devices in criminal justice to extend penological supervision into the community.
- Monitors are commonly implemented during pretrial release or post-conviction supervision.
- Traditional forms of electronic monitoring include: wrist or ankle monitors, biometric security systems, and ignition interlock devices.

Figure 1
Number of Active Electronic Offender-Tracking Devices Rose Nearly 140%
Manufacturers report steady increase between 2005 and 2015



Note: The survey counted active GPS and radio frequency devices, except those used in immigration-related cases, every Oct. 31 in the years studied. The count does not include information from manufacturers that went out of business or were acquired by other companies between 2005 and 2015, so the actual numbers for each year may be higher than reported.
© 2016 The Pew Charitable Trusts

App-Based Electronic Monitoring:

- App-based electronic monitoring involves the use of smartphone applications for monitoring purposes.
- Implemented for the same types of offenders as traditional monitoring = low-risk/non-violent
- Correctional use of apps increased dramatically during COVID-19

Sources

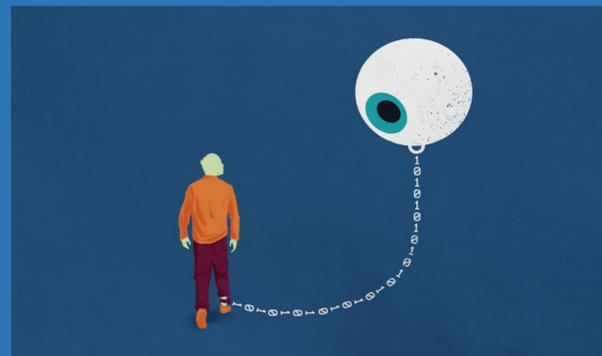
Scan the QR code to access an annotated bibliography of the sources we've utilized thus far:



TRACKED:

The Creation, Use, and Social Implications of Criminal Justice Apps

This ongoing research project explores the evolution of electronic monitoring, focusing on the creation/utilization of surveillance apps in the criminal justice system, and the potential implications of this technology on future penological practices.



Surveillance Apps – An Overview:

We have compiled data on over 15 companies currently advertising the sale of surveillance apps, specifically designed for the criminal justice system.

*In the interest of maintaining the confidentiality of such companies which may be used in future research, no specific names of organizations will be given.

Features of Apps:

- GPS Tracking
- Biometric facial + voice recognition
- Automated court reminders
- Online probation check-ins
- Connections to local social services

Mission Statements:

- Less invasive + more rehabilitative approach to electronic monitoring
- Emphasize need for increased communication in community corrections

Why It Matters

Although the rise of COVID-19 expedited the use of surveillance apps in the criminal justice system, app-based electronic monitoring is still in its infancy and few research exists on the long-term effects of its implementation. The topic of electronic monitoring has sparked controversy in recent years due to concerns over the incorporation of private economic sectors into the public corrections system. It is vital for researchers to keep up with new developments and trends in app-based monitoring and to act as a safeguard against potential adverse effects of surveillance apps, as well as provide guidance on how to navigate this new world of technology-based corrections.

Looking To The Future

1. IRB Approval:

We are currently in the process of submitting an IRB proposal, which is required for any projects conducting research with human participants.

- All participating researchers must receive specialized research training
- Required to submit a detailed outline/timeframe for the project
- Once approved – IRB must be notified of subsequent modifications or problems

2. Potential Research Questions:

- What demographic of offenders are most likely to be sentenced to app-based electronic monitoring?
- What trends emerge when examining the attitudes of participants placed on app-based electronic monitoring?
- Compared to traditional electronic monitoring, are surveillance and monitoring apps more effective at reducing recidivism?
- What potential violations of privacy arise from the use of app-based electronic monitoring?

3. Methodology:

All future data will be collected using qualitative methods of research including interviews and archival research. Data & records will be collected from Lake County, IL and surrounding areas.

- Interviews: We intend to conduct several interviews both from actors within the criminal justice system and the field of technology. Collecting data on opposing perspectives of the purpose and operation of this new technology and looking for trends in the use of app-based electronic monitoring.
- Archival Research: We will extract data from existing public records concerning the use of surveillance apps in courts. Also gathering critical perspectives of electronic monitoring from past research projects.

Acknowledgements

I would like to give a quick shout out to my mentor, Dr. Anya Degenshein, for being a remarkable mentor and helping me to navigate through the elaborate world of research. I would also like to thank everyone involved in the MU4Gold program for providing me with the opportunity to engage in undergraduate research and the chance to share it with all of you.