

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION NETWORK
ELECTRONIC GPS MONITORING REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Governing Board promotes collaboration and cooperation among justice and public safety agencies. The Board assisted with initiatives such as LinX, NC-DEx, VIPER, and CJLEADS. The CJIN Board ensures that processes are streamlined to reduce any duplication of efforts.

The Board has been tasked with overseeing the CJIN Electronic Global Positioning System (GPS) Monitoring Program by the North Carolina General Assembly. This program is unique in the United States and is the very definition of emerging technologies, which is a vital part of the CJIN Board mission. In fact, through the course of the program, no victim lethality or harm can be attributed to a defendant that has been placed on this program, thus it is keeping victims safe on a daily basis.

The program is an active monitoring system to enforce court-mandated "no-contact" orders for defendants accused of crimes related to stalking, sexual assault, domestic abuse, and violations of a domestic violence protective order. The program provides the victims of these crimes the option to also have a unit that is paired with the defendant's GPS monitoring unit. The unit allows the victims to have immediate notification of a violation of the court ordered exclusion zone. No matter the victim's choice a 24-hour call center will reach out to the victim's provided contact information, to notify them of a violation of the court ordered exclusion zone. The Board understands that this Program supports judicial personnel, law enforcement, victims of crime and the defendant. It is necessary to have that knowledge to develop recommendations for statewide implementation.

The Board's staff had the opportunity to partner with eBodyGuard to help assist in the protection of domestic violence victims. This is an application that can be downloaded on a mobile device as a personal safety assistant. An individual fills out the profile information, which includes identifying information, medical conditions, pet information, who they might be afraid of, and emergency contact information. The application allows for an individual to create a "word or phrase" that will initiate the application on voice command up to 30 feet away. If the application is deployed, it will immediately call 911 and begin recording. This recording is not on the device but in the cloud and on the 911 call, which allows for evidence to be obtained even if the device is destroyed. The application also sends the profile information to the 911 center, so they are aware of who is contacting them, even if the

individual is unable to respond. This allows for public safety personnel to be better prepared answering the call for assistance. The profile information is not retained once the call for service has been completed. The application also allows for GPS locating, so even if there is no cell service, it uses satellite technology to geocentrically locate the device and with the profile information sent, responders will know who needs assistance. This isn't just for domestic violence situations; eBodyGuard also has partnered with the Western Counties in NC impacted by Hurricane Helene for assisting rescuers with locating and providing much needed medical help for individuals and families who did not have any other way to communicate. This application is also being shared with college campuses for students who would like an extra sense of security.

This partnership allows for victims of crime to be offered a measure of safety when the CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring Program is unable to be utilized. It can also be used in conjunction with the CJIN program with no impact to the functionality of the program design. With this partnership, the CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring Program has been enhanced as well as the safety of domestic violence and other crime victims.

The Board remains committed to serving as a resource for decision makers across North Carolina, providing guidance and support to promote integrated justice and enhance safety outcomes through the use of technology. The Board will continue to work closely with justice and public safety agencies, stakeholders, and the General Assembly to identify opportunities for improvement and to ensure that North Carolina remains at the forefront of innovative and effective approaches for the criminal justice community.

CJIN ELECTRONIC GPS MONITORING PROGRAM

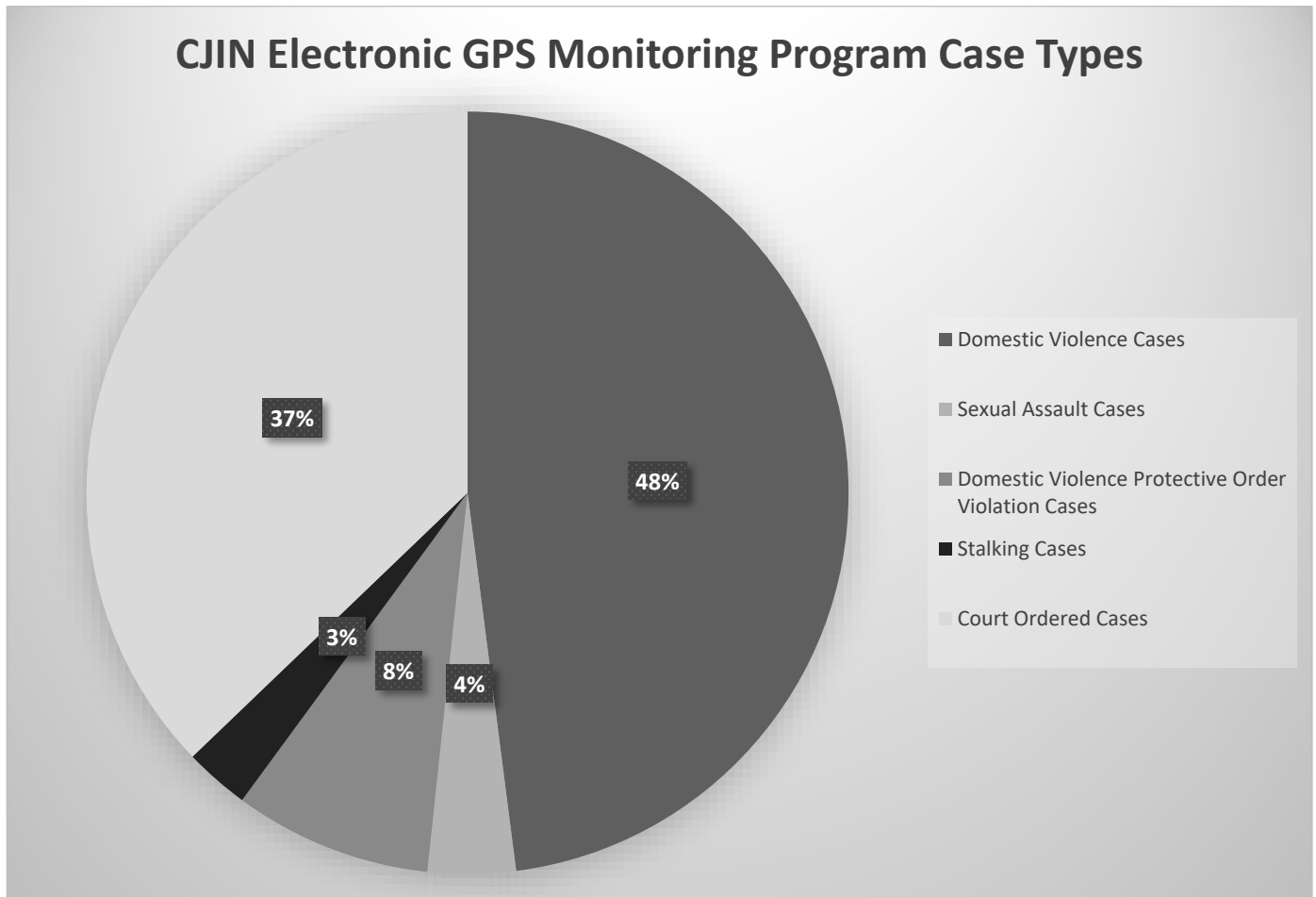
The CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring Program is an active Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring program implemented in North Carolina to enforce court-mandated "no-contact" orders for defendants accused of crimes related to stalking, sexual assault, domestic abuse, and violations of a domestic violence protective order. This program is part of a broader effort to develop innovative and effective responses to crime victims and represents a unique and promising new approach to addressing these types of crimes, with the potential to improve safety for victims and reduce the likelihood of future harm. Since the program has been implemented no victim lethality or harm can be attributed to a defendant that has been placed on this program.

It is important to understand the motivation behind this innovative and emerging tactic to pretrial release monitoring using GPS technology in North Carolina was in memory of Laura "Caitlyn" Whitehurst, a young woman who lost her life to domestic violence-murder suicide. Caitlyn's Courage a 501(c)(3) non-profit, was created in response to this tragedy. The organization's mission is to prevent domestic violence and support survivors through education, advocacy, and awareness-raising campaigns. Caitlyn's Courage is a groundbreaking initiative that implements GPS monitoring for defendants on pretrial release, in order to protect victims, has exceeded its pilot goals and is now under the oversight of the CJIN Governing Board to scale statewide.

The North Carolina General Assembly has given a recurring appropriation to CJIN in the amount of \$3,430,912.00. There is an additional appropriation that has been given to DPS for Expansion of Alternatives to Pre-Trial Detention Fund. The General Assembly appropriated to the Department of Public Safety, the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in recurring funds for the Alternatives to Pre-Trial Detention Fund to expand the electronic monitoring program in accordance with Section 19A.7B(a) through (e) of S.L. 2021-180 and Section 5.3 of S.L. 2021-189, which is the statute that gave oversight of the Electronic GPS Monitoring Program to the Criminal Justice Information Network.

Program Utilization by Case Type Percentage

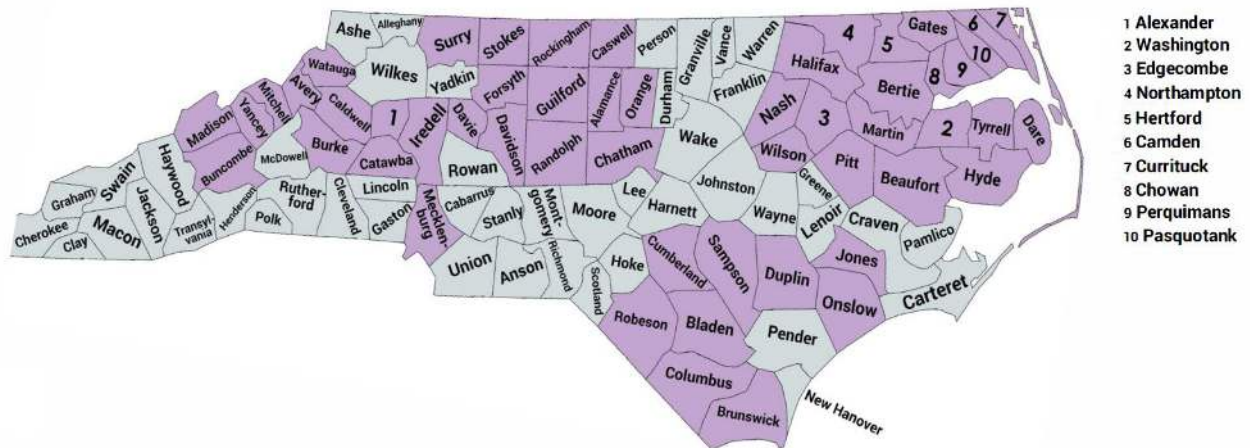
According to the analysis of the cases that were court ordered to the program, the breakdown of the types of cases include 48% domestic violence cases, 37% court ordered cases, 8% domestic violence protective order violations, 3% stalking cases and 4% sexual assault cases.



Program Utilization by Judicial Districts

The CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring Program has been implemented in the following counties:

Dare, Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Gates, Hyde, Martin, Beaufort, Tyrrell, Washington, Pitt, Northampton, Hertford, Bertie, Halifax, Onslow, Jones, Duplin, Sampson, Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson, Cumberland, Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, Alamance, Orange, Chatham, Robeson, Surry, Stokes, Rockingham, Caswell, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Randolph, Forsyth, Alexander, Iredell, Davie, Davidson, Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and Buncombe,



As of October 2024, there are over 1,000 units in use per day in the participating judicial districts. As the CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring Program continues to expand Statewide, that number will increase. It is important to note that even with the devastation of Hurricane Helene, there has not been a single defendant who has violated the terms of the program.

Recommendations: Looking Ahead

As the CJIN Electronic GPS Monitoring Program enters its fourth year of management, staff are dedicated to evaluating the program's technology, processes, court procedures, and data collection methods. This ongoing and continuous evaluation aims to identify areas for improvement and to automate data collection where possible. With these findings an informed set of recommendations have emerged:

- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the program, it is recommended that a comparison of all district's implementation models be made, and recommendations taken from the field that represents best practices. Best practices will become part of the onboarding process and will be shared with participating districts.
- The CJIN Board recommends additional funding be appropriated to provide the program on a statewide basis to include additional personnel to ensure functionalities for all judicial districts and specialty courts. As this program is unique to the entire United States it puts North Carolina on the cutting edge of crime victim protection.