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Federal Offenders under Community Supervision, 1987-96

By
William P. Adams
Jeffrey A. Roth
The Urban Institute

John Scalia
Bureau of Justice Statistics

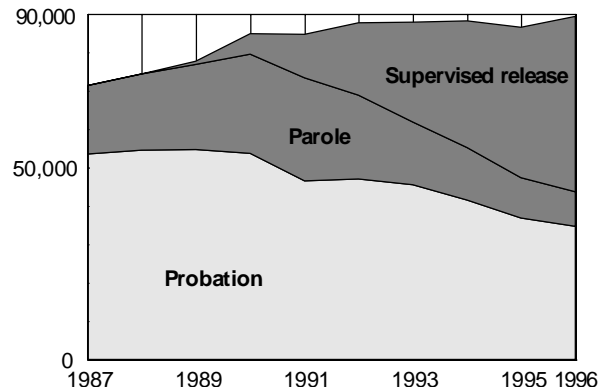
Following the implementation of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, which took effect on November 1, 1987, Federal community supervision underwent two major changes:

- (1) a greater proportion of defendants convicted of a Federal offense were sentenced to a term of imprisonment as opposed to probation
- (2) offenders sentenced to prison, while no longer eligible for parole, were required to serve a defined term of supervision following release from prison.

Additionally, the Sentencing Reform Act required the adoption and use of sentencing guidelines. The Federal sentencing guidelines, which also took effect on November 1, 1987, established sentencing ranges for each offense category. Many offenses for which probation was the typical preguideline sentence, particularly property and regulatory offenses, under the guidelines routinely result in sentences to prison.

Highlights

Number of Federal offenders under community supervision



- The number of Federal offenders under community supervision increased on average 2.5% annually, from 71,361 at midyear 1987 to 89,332 at midyear 1996.
- Offenders required to comply with at least one special condition of supervision increased from 67.3% of entrants during 1987 to 90.7% during 1996.
- The number of entrants to probation and parole decreased 34% and 83%, respectively, between 1987 and 1996. These decreases were offset by the increase in the number of entrants to supervised release.
- The number of offenders on probation under community supervision decreased 35% from 53,457 at midyear 1987 to 34,668 at midyear 1996.
- The decrease in probation corresponds to the increase in prison sentences: between 1987 and 1996, the rate of imprisonment increased from 53% of those convicted to 68.5%.
- The number of those serving a term of post-incarceration supervision increased from 17,904 at midyear 1987 to 54,664 at midyear 1996.
- Between 1987 and 1996 the number of offenders on parole decreased by 8,902 while the number on supervised release increased by 45,662.

Table 1. Number of offenders under Federal community supervision, by type of supervision, 1987-96

Year	Total	Probation	Post-incarceration		
			Total	Parole	Supervised release
1987	71,361	53,457	17,904	17,904	‡
1988	74,271	54,487	19,784	19,784	‡
1989	77,600	54,635	22,965	22,121	844
1990	84,801	53,754	31,047	25,770	5,277
1991	84,623	46,491	38,132	26,788	11,344
1992	87,731	46,947	40,784	21,852	18,932
1993	87,820	45,539	42,281	16,351	25,930
1994	88,210	41,596	46,614	13,551	33,063
1995	86,436	36,881	49,555	10,470	39,085
1996	89,332	34,668	54,664	9,002	45,662

Note: Counts represent offenders under active Federal community supervision on June 30 of each year.

‡No offenders were serving a term of supervised release.

Data source: Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Federal supervision data file, annual.

on parole decreased to 9,002 at midyear 1996 from the high of 26,788 at midyear 1991.

- In place of parole supervision, supervised release became the primary form of community supervision for offenders released from Federal prison: at midyear 1996, over 80% (45,662) of former prisoners under community supervision were serving a sentence of supervised release.

The changes in the supervised population were largely attributable to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 and related legislation. The Sentencing Reform Act abolished parole in the Federal criminal justice system. In lieu of parole most offenders are required to serve a term of supervised release following release from Federal prison. During 1996, 98.2% of those sentenced to prison pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act were also sentenced to serve a term of supervised release (not shown in a table).

Between 1987 and 1996 the proportion of defendants sentenced to prison increased from 53% of those convicted to 68.5% (figure 1). Approximately 30% of those sentenced during 1996 were subject to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment (not shown in a table).

Offenders supervised

As a result of these changes to Federal sentencing policy, between 1987 and 1996 the number of entrants to probation decreased 34% from 22,762 to 14,959: two-thirds of this decrease occurred since 1990. The number of entrants to parole decreased 84% from 10,664 to 1,737, while the number of entrants to supervised release increased to 21,107. Entrants are those offenders receiving supervision for the first time on a sentence and do not include persons reentering active supervision after either a period of inactive supervision or a reincarceration following a supervision revocation.

The number of offenders on Federal community supervision increased 2.5% annually, on average, from 71,361 at midyear 1987 to 89,332 at midyear 1996 (table 1). In addition to the overall increase in the number of offenders on Federal community supervision, the composition of the supervised population changed considerably:

- The number of offenders serving a sentence of probation decreased 35% from 53,457 to 34,668;
- With the elimination of parole for most persons sentenced after November 1, 1987, the number of offenders

Other aspects of Federal community supervision also changed as a result of the Sentencing Reform Act. Between 1987 and 1996 the proportion of offenders required to comply with at least one special supervision condition increased from 67.3% of entrants to 90.7%. More than twice as many offenders were required to serve a term of community confinement, to undergo drug treatment, or to submit to periodic drug testing.

Sentences of imprisonment imposed following probation revocations decreased from 13 months, on average, to 8.9 months. Throughout the period, sentences of imprisonment following supervised release revocations were considerably shorter than those following parole revocations.

Federal defendants convicted of a violent, property, drug, or public-order offense sentenced to prison, 1987-96

Percent of convicted defendants sentenced to prison

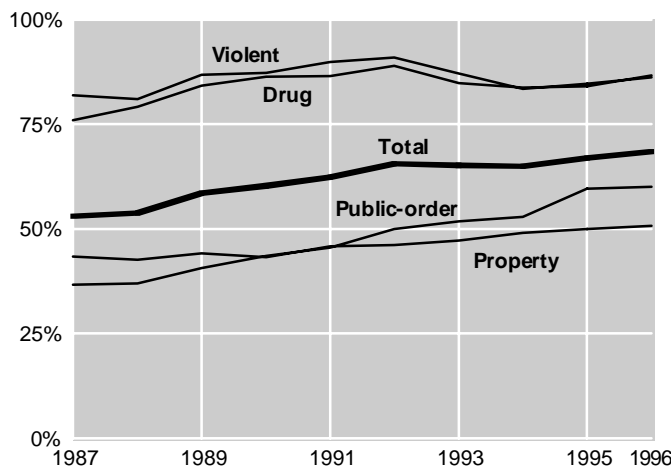
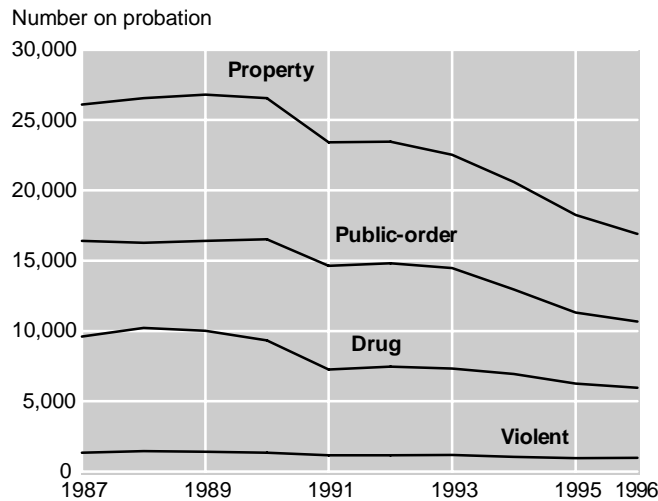


Figure 1

**Federal offenders on probation,
by most serious offense, 1987-96**



Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Federal probation and supervision data file, annual

Figure 2

Defendants convicted of public-order offenses— weapons, immigration, and regulatory offenses— had the greatest increase in the likelihood of imprisonment. Between 1987 and 1996 the proportion sentenced to prison among those convicted of public-order offenses increased from 36.6% to 60.1%. Those convicted of regulatory or weapons offenses were the most affected: the proportion of defendants convicted of regulatory offenses who were sentenced to prison rose from 32.5% to 43.9%, and the proportion of defendants convicted of a weapons offense who were sentenced to prison increased from 68.7% to 90%.¹

¹BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics*, annual (table 4.1).

Defendants convicted of property and drug offenses were more likely to be sentenced to prison under guideline sentencing practices than under preguideline practices. The proportion of convicted property offenders sentenced to prison increased from 43.4% to 50.7% between 1987 and 1996, and the proportion of drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 75.9% to 86.7%.

Probation

Corresponding to the increase in the proportion of offenders sentenced to prison, between 1987 and 1996, the number of entrants to probation decreased by more than a third from

22,762 during 1987 to 14,959 during 1996 (table 2). As a result of the decrease in entrants, the number of offenders on probation decreased from 53,457 at midyear 1987 to 34,668 at midyear 1996 (table 1).

Property offenders accounted for approximately half of the decrease in the total number of offenders serving a sentence of probation: between 1987 and 1996, the number of property offenders serving a sentence of probation decreased from 26,094 to 16,898 (figure 2).

Post-incarceration supervision

The number of entrants to post-incarceration supervision (parole and supervised release) more than doubled between 1987 and 1996 from 10,664 to 22,844 (table 2). As a result of the increase in entrants, the total number of offenders under post-incarceration supervision increased from 17,904 at midyear 1987 to 54,664 at midyear 1996 (table 1).

Parole With the elimination of parole in the Federal system, the number of offenders released on parole decreased considerably after peaking at 12,451 during 1988 (table 2). In 1996, 1,737 offenders were released on parole, an 86% decrease from the peak in 1988. As a result of the continued decrease in entrants, the total number of offenders on parole fell from the high of 26,788 at midyear 1991 to 9,002 at midyear 1996 (table 1).

Supervised release The increase in the number of offenders on Federal community supervision was primarily attributable to the supervised release requirement of the Sentencing Reform Act. During 1989 the first cohort of 2,400 offenders was released from Federal prison to serve a term of supervised release (table 2). During 1996, 21,107 offenders were released on supervised release.

Supervised release has become the primary form of Federal community supervision. Since the implementation of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the number of offenders serving a term of supervised release at midyear has

Table 2. Number of offenders entering Federal community supervision, by type of supervision, 1987-96

Year	Total	Probation*	Post-incarceration		
			Total	Parole	Supervised release
1987	33,426	22,762	10,664	10,664	‡
1988	34,386	21,935	12,451	12,451	‡
1989	35,320	20,471	14,849	12,449	2,400
1990	38,454	20,295	18,159	11,251	6,908
1991	35,669	15,862	19,807	10,702	9,105
1992	34,108	15,822	18,286	6,228	12,058
1993	34,365	15,583	18,782	3,887	14,895
1994	34,837	14,614	20,223	3,048	17,175
1995	35,373	14,412	20,961	2,227	18,734
1996	37,803	14,959	22,844	1,737	21,107

Note: Excludes offenders reentering active supervision after a period of inactive supervision.

‡No offenders were serving a term of supervised release.

*Includes offenders serving split or mixed sentences of probation following incarceration.

Data source: Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Federal supervision data file, annual.

Table 3. Selected special conditions of supervision, 1987-96

Year	Percent of offenders entering supervision						
	Any special condition	Community confinement	Community service	Drug treatment	Drug testing	Fine	Restitution
1987	67.3%	5.5%	13.2%	16.0%	1.6%	27.9%	18.7%
1988	68.5	6.1	12.9	17.4	1.7	28.9	18.6
1989	72.3	8.4	12.4	20.3	1.5	31.0	18.8
1990	75.4	9.6	12.4	23.3	2.3	31.7	18.9
1991	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1992	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1993	83.3	12.5	13.7	29.1	2.7	29.8	21.2
1994	85.6	12.9	12.9	31.7	2.8	29.4	21.5
1995	82.9	12.6	12.0	32.0	3.4	26.0	20.7
1996	90.7	13.2	11.6	34.0	4.9	27.8	21.5

Note: Statistics represent offenders entering Federal community supervision for the first time on a sentence during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year.
 ... Data were not available because of changes in the FPSIS data system.

Data source: Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Federal supervision data file, annual.

increased to 45,662 at midyear 1996 (table 1). During 1994 the number of entrants to supervised release surpassed the number of entrants to probation. At midyear 1995 the number of offenders on supervised release surpassed the number on probation. At midyear 1996 more than half of all offenders on Federal community supervision were serving a term of supervised release.

Special conditions of supervision imposed by the courts

As part of the supervision order, the sentencing court may require an offender to comply with certain discretionary or special conditions of supervision. These conditions include community confinement, fines, restitution, community service, and alcohol and/or drug abuse treatment. Between 1987 and 1996 the proportion

of entrants to Federal community supervision required to comply with at least one special condition of supervision increased from 67.3% of all entrants during 1987 to 90.7% during 1996 (table 3). This increase was largely attributable to the increase in the proportion of offenders required to serve a sentence of community confinement as part of the supervision order, to participate in a drug treatment program, and/or to submit to periodic drug testing.

The proportion of offenders required to pay a fine, make restitution, or perform community service as part of their supervision remained relatively stable between 1987 and 1996. On average for the 10 years, 29% of offenders under community supervision were sentenced to pay a fine; 20%, to pay

Table 4. Percent of entrants to Federal community supervision with a special condition of supervision requiring community confinement, 1987-96

Year	Total	Probation	Post-incarceration		
			Total	Parole	Supervised release
1987	5.5%	7.3%	1.7%	1.7%	‡
1988	6.1	8.5	1.8	1.8	‡
1989	8.4	12.1	3.3	2.5	7.5
1990	9.6	14.0	4.8	3.1	7.5
1991	...	...	...	...	...
1992	...	...	...	...	...
1993	12.5	16.2	9.4	5.7	10.4
1994	12.9	18.7	8.7	4.9	9.4
1995	12.6	18.6	7.7	4.9	8.8
1996	13.2	20.6	8.4	5.3	8.6

Note: Statistics represent offenders entering Federal community supervision for the first time on a sentence during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year.
 ‡No offenders entered community supervision on supervised release.
 ... Data were not available because of changes in the FPSIS data system.

Data source: Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Federal supervision data file, annual.

restitution; and 12%, to perform community service.

Community confinement

The Sentencing Reform Act and the Federal sentencing guidelines formalized and structured the use of community confinement as part of a supervision order.² Pursuant to the Federal sentencing guidelines, community confinement includes confinement in a community treatment facility or halfway house, intermittent confinement nights and weekends in a prison or jail, and home detention.³

In cases where the recommended guideline sentencing range is 10 to 16 months of imprisonment or less, the sentencing court may, as part of a sentence of supervision, substitute community confinement for imprisonment on a day-for-day basis. In other cases, community confinement may be imposed as part of the supervision order.

Between 1987 and 1996 the proportion of entrants to Federal community supervision required to serve a term of community confinement increased from 5.5% to 13.2%. During 1987, 7.3% of probation entrants were required to serve a term of community confinement compared to 20.6% during 1996 (table 4). Similarly, during 1987, 1.7% of parole entrants were required to serve a term of community confinement compared to 5.3% during 1996. For supervised release, the proportion was relatively constant at approximately 8% of entrants between 1987 and 1996.

Drug abuse treatment and monitoring

The proportion of entrants to Federal community supervision required to participate in a drug treatment program or submit to periodic drug testing more than doubled between 1987 and 1996:

² See, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563, 3583 and U.S.S.G. §§ 5B1.1, 5D1.3(e).
³ U.S.S.G. §§ 5F1.1, comment 1, and 5F1.2, comment 2.

Table 5. Percent of entrants to Federal community supervision with a special condition of supervision requiring drug treatment or monitoring, 1987-96

Year	Total	Probation	Post-incarceration		
			Total	Parole	Supervised release
1987	17.6%	16.5%	19.7%	19.7%	‡
1988	19.1	16.9	22.8	22.8	‡
1989	21.8	17.4	28.0	27.3	31.6
1990	25.6	19.6	32.3	29.5	37.0
1991	...	...	...	...	...
1992	...	...	...	...	...
1993	31.8	20.5	41.2	35.1	42.8
1994	34.5	21.9	43.4	36.8	44.7
1995	35.4	22.1	41.1	36.4	45.5
1996	38.9	24.3	48.6	40.7	49.2

Note: Statistics represent offenders entering Federal community supervision for the first time on a sentence during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year.
 ‡No offenders entered community supervision on supervised release.
 ... Data were not available because of changes in the FPSIS data system.

Data source: Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Federal supervision data file, annual.

- The proportion required to participate in a drug treatment program— including drug testing — increased from 16% during 1987 to 34% during 1996.
- The proportion required to submit to periodic drug testing that was not part of a drug treatment program increased from 1.6% during 1987 to 4.9% during 1996.

Between 1987 and 1996 the proportion of offenders required to be treated or tested for drugs increased more for entrants to post-incarceration supervision (19.7% to 48.6%) than for entrants to probation (16.5% to 24.3%) (table 5).

Termination of supervision

Active community supervision terminates, at least temporarily, when an

offender is moved to inactive supervision status. An offender may be moved to inactive supervision several times during the course of the supervision period for reasons such as the offender's being hospitalized or a fugitive. Active supervision terminates permanently when (1) the offender successfully completes the supervision or (2) the offender's supervision is revoked for cause.

Active supervision may also terminate for administrative reasons such as the death of the offender, deportation, or incarceration for an unrelated offense. During 1996, approximately 3% of supervision terminations were for administrative reasons. (These administrative terminations are excluded from further analysis.)

Table 6. Percent of offenders terminating community supervision successfully, by type of supervision, 1987-96

Year	Percent of offenders terminating successfully —				
	Total	Probation	Post-incarceration		
			Total	Parole	Supervised release
1987	75.2%	79.0%	67.6%	67.6%	‡
1988	76.1	79.0	70.5	70.5	‡
1989	77.0	80.4	70.3	70.3	--
1990	77.9	83.1	66.8	66.8	--
1991	75.5	85.0	61.6	65.8	46.4
1992	73.9	85.4	58.8	63.2	51.1
1993	75.4	85.3	62.2	68.7	57.2
1994	74.9	85.4	62.9	65.9	61.4
1995	74.5	85.4	63.9	64.4	63.7
1996	74.3	84.8	65.3	63.1	65.8

‡No offenders terminated a supervised release.
 --Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

Data source: Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Federal supervision data file, annual.

State community supervision

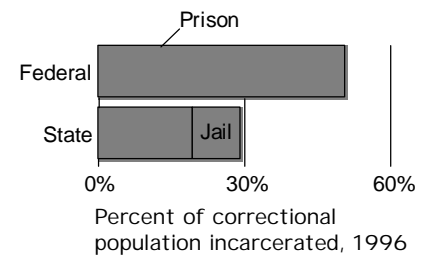


Figure 3

At yearend 1996 more than twice as many State offenders were serving a sentence of community supervision (71%) as serving a sentence in prison or jail (29% —19.3% in prison and 9.7% in jail). By contrast, about an equal proportion of Federal offenders were serving a sentence of community supervision (49.6%) as were incarcerated in Federal prisons (50.4%).

The number of offenders serving a sentence of community supervision increased at both the Federal and State levels between 1987 and 1996. By contrast to the decrease in the number of Federal probationers, the number of State probationers increased from approximately 2.2 million at yearend 1987 to 3.15 million at yearend 1996. The number of offenders supervised after release from prison increased from 343,902 at yearend 1987 to 645,576 at yearend 1996.

Number of offenders under State community supervision, by type of supervision, 1987-96

Year	Total	Probation	Parole
1987	2,530,678	2,186,776	343,902
1988	2,712,543	2,325,398	387,145
1989	2,898,400	2,463,019	435,381
1990	3,121,726	2,612,012	509,714
1991	3,242,123	2,673,236	568,887
1992	3,383,815	2,765,126	618,689
1993	3,475,093	2,854,703	620,390
1994	3,567,654	2,938,713	628,941
1995	3,670,364	3,042,404	627,960
1996*	3,791,638	3,146,062	645,576

*Preliminary.

Source: BJS, *Correctional Populations in the United States*, annual.

Table 7. Unsuccessful terminations of Federal community supervision, by reason for revocation, 1987-96

Year	Number of offenders*	Percent of unsuccessful terminations			
		Technical violation	Drug use	Fugitive status	New offense
1987	7,933	35.8%	16.6%	10.2%	37.4%
1988	8,175	38.7	17.8	10.4	33.1
1989	7,863	40.7	18.9	8.7	31.7
1990	8,335	41.6	19.1	7.7	31.6
1991	8,541	40.6	19.9	7.9	31.6
1992	9,195	38.9	23.1	8.6	29.4
1993	8,200	39.0	19.7	10.3	30.9
1994	8,647	34.5	21.2	11.3	33.0
1995	9,177	34.8	23.2	11.5	30.5
1996	9,454	30.7	24.4	12.2	32.7

Note: Statistics represent offenders terminating Federal community supervision during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year.

*Includes offenders for whom the reason for the unsuccessful termination could not be determined.

Data source: Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Federal probation and supervision data file, annual.

Successful completion of supervision

Overall, approximately three-quarters of the offenders terminating Federal community supervision between 1987 and 1996 completed their supervision successfully (table 6). Offenders on probation successfully completed their

supervision at the greatest rate: more than 8 in 10 successfully completed their supervision. By contrast, fewer than 7 in 10 on parole or supervised release successfully completed their supervision.

Between 1987 and 1996 the proportion of probationers who successfully

completed their supervision increased from 79.0% to 84.8%. The proportion of those on supervised release successfully completing their supervision increased from 46.4% during 1991 to 65.8% during 1996. The proportion of those on parole successfully completing their supervision decreased slightly from 67.6% during 1987 to 63.1% during 1996.

Reasons for unsuccessful termination of active supervision

The proportion of offenders under supervision required to participate in drug treatment programs or drug testing consistently increased between 1987 and 1996 (table 3). The proportion of offenders whose supervision was terminated unsuccessfully for drug use has also increased. Terminations for drug use increased 47% between 1987 and 1996 from 16.6% of all unsuccessful terminations to 24.4% (table 7).

The proportion of unsuccessful probationers terminated for drug use increased from 12.4% of all unsuccessful probation terminations during 1987 to 19.7% during 1996 (figure 4). The proportion of unsuccessful offenders on supervised release terminated for drug use increased from 20.7% during 1991 (the first year with an exiting cohort) to 25.0% during 1996. For parolees, the proportion increased from 22.2% to 30.8%.

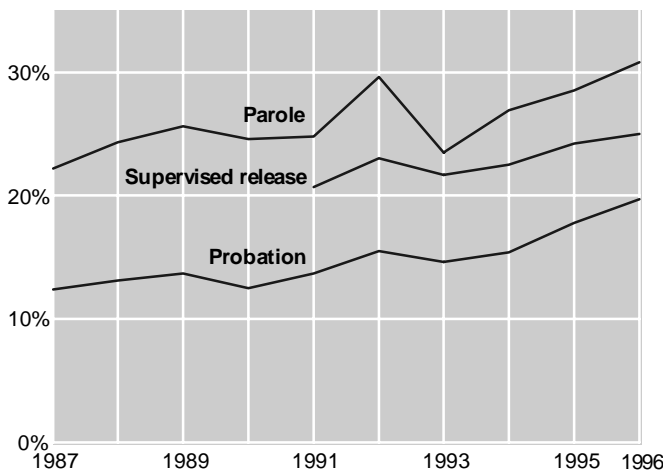
Between 1987 and 1996 terminations for new offenses decreased from 37.4% of all unsuccessful terminations to 32.7%; and terminations for technical violations decreased from 35.8% to 30.7% (table 7).

Length of revocation period

An unsuccessful termination of supervision may result in the revocation of the community supervision and a term of imprisonment. For offenders on probation and supervised release, the revocation sentence is imposed by the court with jurisdiction over the offender. With the implementation of the Sentencing Reform Act, sentences

Federal offenders whose parole, supervised release, or probation was terminated for drug use, 1987-96

Of all Federal offenders with revoked supervision, percent terminated for drug use



Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Federal probation and supervision data file, annual

Figure 4

of imprisonment following revocation are imposed pursuant to Federal sentencing guidelines.⁴ These revocation sentences are in addition to any sentence to prison the offender may have previously served for the original offense.

⁴See, U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1 *et seq.*, p.s.

For parolees, however, the U.S. Parole Commission makes the revocation decision.⁵ In contrast to revocations of probation and supervised release, offenders with revoked parole are reincarcerated for the remainder of the sentence originally imposed. The Parole Commission may reparole these offenders.⁶

⁵28 C.F.R. § 2.50.

⁶28 C.F.R. § 2.21.

Revocation sentences imposed

Between 1987 and 1996, sentences of imprisonment following the revocation of probation decreased from 21.9 months, on average, to 9.2 months (figure 5). Sentences for supervised release violators were stable at approximately 13 months.

Because parole violators are recommitted to serve the unserved portion of the sentence originally imposed, sentences for parole violators were considerably longer than those for probation or supervised release violators. While variable between 1987 and 1994, sentences for parole violators have increased from 57.8 months, on average, during 1994 to 72.3 months during 1996. This increase may be an artifact of the elimination of Federal parole. As offenders eligible for release on parole leave the Federal criminal justice system, those remaining are more and more limited to the offenders who had originally received longer sentences. As a result, length of imprisonment for parole revocations will increase.

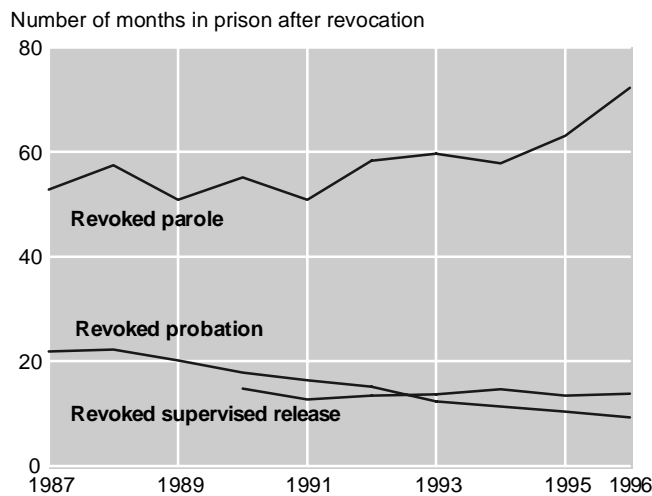
Time served

For offenders incarcerated for probation and supervised release violations time actually served by these offenders followed the same pattern as sentences imposed:

- Time served by probation violators decreased from 13 months, on average, for offenders released during 1987 to 8.9 months for those released during 1996.
- Time served by supervised release violators was stable at approximately 10 months (table 8).

For offenders incarcerated for parole violations, time served initially decreased from 21.9 months, on average, for those released during 1987 to 16.4 months for those released during 1991. Since 1991, time served has remained stable between 16.7 months and 18 months.

Average number of months of imprisonment after a supervision revocation, 1987-96



Note: The number of months following parole revocation is the time remaining on the original sentence to prison. The offender may be repared. The number of months for revoked probation and revoked supervised release is a new sentence imposed by the court.

Figure 5

Table 8. Average time served after supervision revocations, by type of supervision, 1987-96

Year	Average number of months released offenders served in prison after supervision revocation			
	Probation	Total	Parole	Supervised release
1987	13.0 mo	21.9 mo	21.9 mo	‡
1988	12.6	21.3	21.3	‡
1989	12.1	19.4	19.4	--
1990	12.7	17.8	18.0	8.1
1991	12.8	15.5	16.4	9.0
1992	12.2	15.1	17.1	9.7
1993	10.8	14.2	16.7	10.3
1994	10.3	13.8	17.2	10.3
1995	9.1	13.0	16.8	10.3
1996	8.9	13.1	18.0	10.3

Note: Statistics represent offenders completing a term of imprisonment imposed for a supervision revocation during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year.

‡No offenders on supervised release were revoked.

--Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

Data source: Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY data file, annual.

Federal probation officers, 1987-96

Federal probation officers are responsible for supervising all offenders under Federal community supervision, whether under the jurisdiction of U.S. district courts, the U.S. Parole Commission, or military tribunals.

As a result of the increased number of Federal offenders under supervision and the changes brought about by the Sentencing Reform Act, both the number of offenders supervised and the proportion with special supervision requirements such as drug treatment or community confinement increased between 1987 and 1996. Additionally, in 1991 the Federal Probation Service implemented a program of enhanced supervision that required intensive, individualized planning of supervision for each offender.

Over the 10 years the number of Federal probation officers increased 84% from 1,903 to 3,495.

Year	Number of Federal probation officers
1987	1,903
1988	2,069
1989	2,169
1990	2,396
1991	2,846
1992	3,361
1993	3,431
1994	3,454
1995	3,465
1996	3,495

Source: John M. Hughes and Karen S. Henkel, "The Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System since 1975: An Era of Growth and Change," *Federal Probation*, pp. 103-111 (March 1997).

Methodology

Data sources

The source of data for tables presented in this report is the BJS Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP) database (ICPSR 9296). The FJSP database is constructed from source files provided by the Executive Office for the United States Attorneys, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the United States Sentencing Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts also maintains data collected by the Federal probation offices. The Federal Probation Supervision Information System (FPSIS) describes offenders on probation, parole, and supervised release who are supervised by Federal probation officers. Data tabulations, except where otherwise indicated, were prepared from contractor analysis of the source agency datasets. Data presented in this report do not include defendants on pretrial supervision, supervision following adjudication by military tribunals, and organizational defendants.

In the FPSIS data file, each record corresponds to a person-case that resulted in a period of supervision during the reporting period. An offender was considered under active supervision if the offender was regularly reporting to a probation officer during the reporting period. An offender on inactive supervision was not reporting to a probation officer for reasons such as the offender had been hospitalized for an extended time, the offender was a fugitive, or the offender was incarcerated either on the current sentence or another sentence.

Counts of entries into active supervision represent offenders initially received under active supervision. The counts do not include offenders entering supervision following revocation. Counts of removals from active supervision represent the sum of offenders

moved from active supervision to inactive supervision and all closures of active supervision. Counts of entries and removals represent activity during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year.

Counts of stocks are based on the last event recorded prior to the end of the reporting period. If the last action recorded was a receipt, activation, or reinstatement into active supervision, the offender was considered part of the supervised population. If the last action recorded was a removal from active status or a closure of an active case, the offender is not considered part of the supervised population. Stock counts represent the supervised population as of June 30 of each year.

The offense categories used in this report are based primarily on the offense codes established by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. *The Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics* provides a detailed description of the United States code titles and sections included in each offense category.

Comparability with statistics reported by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts

The statistics in this report differ in several ways from similar statistics reported by the Administrative Office:

- In this report counts of actions are based on the date for which a particular event actually occurred. For 1987-95 counts of actions reported by the Administrative Office were based on the date a particular event was posted to the data system. Beginning in 1996 the Administrative Office switched to an event-based system.
- Because of the inherent posting lags, extracts from several years were used to compile complete information describing the processing of a particular offender. For those cases for which a posting date was recorded without a corresponding action date, the posting

date was used as a proxy for the action date. In these cases subsequent action dates were adjusted accordingly to accommodate any illogical date sequences that might have resulted from the action date proxy.

- Transfers from one jurisdiction to another are not considered actions.
- Offenders on supervision following adjudication in a military tribunal are not included.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

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William P. Adams and Jeffrey A. Roth of the Urban Institute with John Scalia of the Bureau of Justice Statistics wrote this report. William J. Sabol of the Urban Institute provided statistical review. Tom Hester produced and edited the report. Marilyn Marbrook, assisted by Yvonne Boston and Jayne Robinson, administered final production.

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Data from the Federal Justice Statistics Program (ICPSR 9296) can be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The archive, as well as the report and supporting documentation, is also accessible through the BJS web site:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>