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# Probation and Parole in the United States, 2001

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The total Federal, State, and local adult correctional population — incarcerated or in the community — grew by 148,400 during 2001 to reach a new high of over 6.5 million. About 3.1% of the U.S. adult population, or 1 in every 32 adults, were incarcerated or on probation or parole at yearend 2001.

A total of 3,932,751 adult men and women were on probation at yearend 2001, representing a growth of 2.8% during the year. The adult parole population grew 1.1%, rising to a total of 732,351 by December 31, 2001. Since 1995 the parole population has been the slowest growing correctional population, up 1.3% per year, compared to jails (up 3.7% annually) prisons (up 3.6% annually), and probation (up 3.4% annually).

**Persons under adult correctional supervision, 1990, 1995-2001**

Year	Total estimated correctional population <sup>a</sup>	Community supervision		Incarceration	
		Probation	Parole	Jail	Prison
1990	4,350,300	2,670,234	531,407	405,320	743,382
1995	5,342,900	3,077,861	679,421	507,044	1,078,542
1996	5,490,700	3,164,996	679,733	518,492	1,127,528
1997 <sup>b</sup>	5,734,900	3,296,513	694,787	567,079	1,176,564
1998 <sup>b</sup>	6,134,200	3,670,441	696,385	592,462	1,224,469
1999 <sup>b</sup>	6,340,800	3,779,922	714,457	605,943	1,287,172
2000	6,445,600	3,826,209	724,486	621,149	1,316,333
2001	6,594,000	3,932,751	732,351	631,240	1,330,980
Percent change 2000-01	2.3%	2.8%	1.1%	1.6%	1.1%
Average annual percent change 1995-2001	3.6%	3.4%	1.3%	3.7%	3.6%

Note: Counts are for December 31, except for jail counts, which are for June 30. Jail and prison counts include inmates held in private facilities. Totals in 1998 through 2001 exclude probationers held in jail or prison.

<sup>a</sup>Because some offenders may have multiple statuses, totals were rounded to the nearest 100.

<sup>b</sup>Coverage of probation agencies was expanded. For counts based on the same reporting agencies, use 3,266,837 in 1997 (to compare with 1996); 3,417,613 in 1998 (to compare with 1997); and 3,773,624 in 1999 (to compare with 1998). The average annual percent change was adjusted for the change in coverage.

## Highlights

### Probation —

- The adult probation population grew 2.8% in 2001, an increase of 106,542 probationers, less than the average annual growth of 3.4% since 1995.
- 53% of all probationers had been convicted of a felony, 45% of a misdemeanor, and 1% of other infractions. Twenty-five percent were on probation for a drug law violation, and 18% for driving while intoxicated.
- Four States had an increase of 10% or more in their probation population in 2001, led by Maine (up 15%) and Colorado, Kentucky, and Virginia (all up 12%). The adult probation population decreased in 17 States, led by Nevada with the only double-digit decrease (down 14%).
- Idaho had the highest rate of probationers per 100,000 residents, 3,747; New Hampshire had the lowest, 385.

### Parole —

- Overall, the Nation's parole population grew by about 7,900 in 2001, or 1.1%.
- Mandatory releases from prison as a result of a sentencing statute or good-time provision comprised 55% of those entering parole in 2001; in 1995 they were 45%.
- A total of 11 States had double-digit increases in their parole population in 2001. Two States had a parole population increase of more than 20%: Oklahoma, up 87%, and Kentucky, up 23%.
- Seventeen States had a decrease in their parole population. Two States — West Virginia (down 16%) and North Carolina (down 12%) — had a decrease of more than 10%.

## Over 4.6 million adult men and women were on probation or parole

At yearend 2001 the number of adult men and women in the United States who were being supervised in the community reached a record high 4,665,102, up from 3,757,282 on December 31, 1995. These data were collected in the 2001 Annual Probation Survey and the 2001 Annual Parole Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

In 2001 the number of adults under supervision in the community increased 2.5%, which was less than the average annual increase of 3.7% since 1995.

The total adult correctional population, including those incarcerated and those being supervised in the community, reached a new high of 6,594,000 at the end of 2001. At yearend 2001, 3.1%, or about 1 in every 32 adults in the United States, were in State or Federal prisons, local jails, or under the supervision of probation or parole authorities, up from 2.7% in 1995.

## Texas and California led the Nation in number of adults supervised in the community

More than 1 million persons being supervised in the community in 2001, or about 1 in 5 probationers and parolees, were in Texas and California (table 1). Texas led the Nation with 551,372 persons on probation or parole, followed by California with 468,672.

Washington and Texas led the Nation with the largest percentage of its adult population under community supervision (each with 3.6% at yearend 2001), followed by Delaware (3.4%). California's community supervision rate of 1.9% was about half that of Texas.

Twelve States reported that fewer than 1% of their adult populations were on probation or parole. New Hampshire had the lowest rate of supervision in the community (486 offenders per 100,000 adults).

Number under supervision per 100,000 adult residents

New Hampshire	486
West Virginia	508
North Dakota	638
Virginia	784
Mississippi	827
Utah	891
Maine	909
New Mexico	914
Kentucky	924
Nevada	936
Kansas	971
Massachusetts	980

## 4 States reported an increase of 10% or more in their probation population

Maine reported an increase of 15% in the number of adults on probation during 2001. Colorado, Virginia, and Kentucky (each up 12%) also reported an increase of at least 10% in their adult probation populations.

Seventeen States had fewer adults on probation at the end of 2001 than at the beginning of the year, led by Nevada, down 14%, the only double-digit decrease during 2001 (table 2).

**Table 1. Community corrections among the States, yearend 2001**

10 States with the largest 2001 community corrections populations	Number supervised	10 States with the largest percent increase	Percent increase, 2000-01	10 States with the highest rates of supervision, 2001	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*	10 States with the lowest rates of supervision, 2001	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*
<b>Probation:</b>							
Texas	443,684	Maine	14.8%	Idaho	3,747	New Hampshire	385
California	350,768	Colorado	12.1	Washington	3,551	West Virginia	441
Florida	294,626	Kentucky	12.1	Delaware	3,321	North Dakota	613
New York	196,835	Virginia	11.6	Minnesota	3,081	Nevada	654
Ohio	195,403	Wyoming	8.8	Rhode Island	3,049	Utah	667
Michigan	176,406	South Dakota	5.9	Texas	2,873	Virginia	694
Washington	159,119	Arizona	5.5	Indiana	2,481	Kentucky	716
Illinois	141,508	Utah	5.4	Michigan	2,385	Mississippi	741
New Jersey	132,846	New York	5.3	Florida	2,304	Kansas	769
Pennsylvania	125,928	Missouri	4.6	Ohio	2,302	New Mexico	782
<b>Parole:</b>							
California	117,904	Oklahoma	86.6%	Pennsylvania	921	Maine	3
Texas	107,688	Kentucky	23.1	Oregon	729	Washington	4
Pennsylvania	86,238	Idaho	19.7	Texas	720	North Dakota	24
New York	56,719	Arkansas	19.0	Louisiana	718	Nebraska	42
Illinois	30,157	Montana	14.3	Arkansas	517	Rhode Island	47
Louisiana	23,330	Connecticut	13.8	California	479	Florida	48
Georgia	20,809	Rhode Island	13.3	New York	397	North Carolina	49
Oregon	18,761	Mississippi	12.0	Georgia	346	West Virginia	67
Ohio	17,885	Nevada	11.4	Maryland	340	Massachusetts	77
Michigan	16,501	Nebraska	11.3	Illinois	329	Connecticut	83

Note: This table excludes the District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction, and Georgia, which provided case-based counts for private agencies.

\*Rates are computed using the estimated U.S. adult resident population on July 1, 2001.

## 106,542 probationers added in 2001

During 2001 the probation population grew 106,500, an increase of 2.8% (table 3). This was more than double the annual increase recorded in 2000 (46,287) and slightly lower than the average increase since 1995 (up 113,148 per year).

At yearend 2001 the probation supervision rate totaled 1,849 probationers per 100,000 adult U.S. residents — the equivalent of 1 in every 54 adults. Idaho with 3,747 probationers per 100,000 adult State residents had the highest rate of probation supervision; New Hampshire (with 385 per 100,000) had the lowest.

More than 2.1 million adults entered probation supervision during 2001, an increase of over 78,500 probation entries from 2000. Since 1995 the annual number of entries to probation has risen by 34%, an increase of more than 532,000.

	Entries to probation supervision
1995	1,578,182
1996	1,651,544
1997	1,725,431
1998	1,771,952
1999	2,041,167
2000	2,032,089
2001	2,110,550

Year	Annual increase	
	Number	Percent change
1995	96,839	3.2%
1996	87,135	2.8
1997	101,841	3.2
1998 <sup>a</sup>	121,100	3.7
1999 <sup>a</sup>	109,481	3.0
2000	46,287	1.2
2001	106,542	2.8
Total increase, 1995-2001 <sup>b</sup>	854,890	27.8%
Average annual increase, 1995-2001 <sup>c</sup>	113,148	3.4%

<sup>a</sup>Survey coverage was expanded to include 186 additional agencies in 1998 and 1999. Annual increases reflect comparable reporting agencies in each year.  
<sup>b</sup>Based on the overall survey counts in 1995 and 2001.  
<sup>c</sup>Based on comparable reporting agencies, excluding 176,005 probationers in 2001 who were in agencies added since 1995.

**Table 2. Adults on probation, 2001**

Region and jurisdiction	Probation population, 1/1/01	2001		Probation population, 12/31/01	Percent change, 2001	Number on probation per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/01
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	3,826,209	2,110,550	1,999,164	3,932,751	2.8%	1,849
Federal	31,669	13,828	13,893	31,561	-0.3%	15
State	3,794,540	2,096,722	1,985,271	3,901,190	2.8	1,834
<b>Northeast</b>	573,280	232,600	209,691	596,189	4.0%	1,462
Connecticut	47,636	22,752	20,556	49,832	4.6	1,928
Maine	7,788	7,179	6,028	8,939	14.8	906
Massachusetts	45,233	39,871	40,985	44,119	-2.5	904
New Hampshire <sup>a,b</sup>	3,629	2,798	2,762	3,665	1.0	385
New Jersey	130,610	55,010	52,774	132,846	1.7	2,075
New York	186,955	43,199	33,319	196,835	5.3	1,374
Pennsylvania <sup>b</sup>	121,176	48,245	43,493	125,928	3.9	1,344
Rhode Island <sup>a</sup>	20,922	8,482	4,645	24,759	--	3,049
Vermont	9,331	5,063	5,128	9,266	-0.7	1,988
<b>Midwest</b>	896,061	569,740	550,868	914,606	2.1%	1,903
Illinois	139,029	62,911	60,432	141,508	1.8	1,532
Indiana	109,251	90,845	87,395	112,701	3.2	2,481
Iowa	21,147	18,870	19,220	20,797	-1.7	950
Kansas	15,992	21,338	22,080	15,250	-4.6	769
Michigan <sup>b</sup>	170,276	118,999	112,536	176,406	3.6	2,385
Minnesota	115,906	62,194	64,487	113,613	-2.0	3,081
Missouri	53,299	25,741	23,273	55,767	4.6	1,327
Nebraska	21,483	14,570	15,206	20,847	-3.0	1,651
North Dakota	2,847	1,782	1,728	2,901	1.9	613
Ohio <sup>b</sup>	189,375	123,269	117,247	195,403	3.2	2,302
South Dakota	4,214	3,404	3,156	4,462	5.9	805
Wisconsin	53,242	25,817	24,108	54,951	3.2	1,362
<b>South</b>	1,573,215	921,288	874,971	1,616,358	2.7%	2,117
Alabama	40,178	16,019	15,580	40,617	1.1	1,215
Arkansas	28,409	11,308	13,159	26,558	-6.5	1,319
Delaware	20,052	11,792	11,849	19,995	-0.3	3,321
District of Columbia	10,664	8,542	8,738	10,468	-1.8	2,291
Florida <sup>b</sup>	296,139	245,593	244,827	294,626	-0.5	2,304
Georgia <sup>b,d</sup>	321,407	203,155	166,532	358,030	--	--
Kentucky	19,620	11,255	8,884	21,993	12.1	716
Louisiana	35,854	11,857	11,967	35,744	-0.3	1,101
Maryland	81,523	42,602	43,417	80,708	-1.0	2,006
Mississippi	15,118	8,074	7,757	15,435	2.1	741
North Carolina	105,949	61,596	56,869	110,676	4.5	1,776
Oklahoma <sup>a,b</sup>	30,969	15,086	15,786	30,269	-2.3	1,179
South Carolina	44,632	14,815	17,039	42,408	-5.0	1,388
Tennessee	40,682	24,374	23,070	41,089	1.0	946
Texas	441,848	202,476	200,640	443,684	0.4	2,873
Virginia	33,955	29,642	25,715	37,882	11.6	694
West Virginia <sup>b</sup>	6,216	3,102	3,142	6,176	-0.6	441
<b>West</b>	751,984	373,094	349,741	774,037	2.9%	1,630
Alaska	4,779	908	832	4,855	1.6	1,091
Arizona	59,810	39,464	36,192	63,082	5.5	1,598
California <sup>a</sup>	343,145	157,440	149,817	350,768	2.2	1,388
Colorado <sup>b</sup>	50,460	29,125	23,018	56,567	12.1	1,702
Hawaii	15,525	5,813	5,757	15,581	0.4	1,675
Idaho <sup>c</sup>	35,103	30,324	29,757	35,670	1.6	3,747
Montana	6,108	3,526	3,376	6,258	2.5	928
Nevada	12,189	5,528	7,263	10,454	-14.2	654
New Mexico	10,461	7,735	6,561	10,335	-1.2	782
Oregon <sup>a</sup>	46,023	17,419	16,902	46,540	1.1	1,770
Utah	9,800	5,036	4,505	10,331	5.4	667
Washington <sup>b</sup>	154,466	68,401	63,748	159,119	3.0	3,551
Wyoming	4,115	2,376	2,014	4,477	8.8	1,223

Note: Because of incomplete data, the population for some jurisdictions on December 31, 2001, does not equal the population on January 1, 2001 plus entries, minus exits.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>All data were estimated.

<sup>b</sup>Data for entries and exits were estimated for nonreporting agencies.

<sup>c</sup>Counts include estimates for misdemeanors based on annual admissions.

<sup>d</sup>Counts include private agency cases and may overstate the number under supervision.

**At yearend 2001, 1 in 5 probationers were women;  
1 in 3 were black**

Nationwide, women represented a slightly larger percentage of the probation population in 2001 than in 1990. Women were 22% of adults on probation in 2001(870,000), up from 18% in 1990.

At yearend 2001 about half of all probationers were white (2,175,600); a third were black (1,228,700); and an eighth were of Hispanic origin (469,800). Persons of other races comprised about 2% of probationers (58,600).

**Half of all probationers convicted of a felony; a quarter convicted of a drug law violation**

Probationers are criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of conditional supervision in the community. At yearend 2001, 53% had been convicted of a felony offense.

More than half of those on probation (54%) had a direct sentence to probation; 25% had received a sentence to incarceration that had been suspended; and 9% had received a split sentence that included incarceration followed by probation. An additional 10% had entered probation before completion of all court proceedings (including those who entered probation before final verdict).

Approximately 3 of every 4 probationers were under active supervision and were required to regularly report to a probation authority in person, by mail, or by telephone. The percent of probationers required to report regularly has dropped steadily, from 83% in 1990 to 79% in 1995 and to 74% in 2001.

At yearend 2001 at least 1 in 10 probationers had absconded — though still on probation, they had failed to report and could not be located. Among all persons on probation, absconders have increased from 6% in 1990 to 10% in 2001.

In 2001, 25% of probationers had a drug law violation; 18% were sentenced for driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol; 7% for minor traffic offenses; and 7% for domestic violence.

More than 3 out of 5 of the nearly 2 million adults discharged from probation in 2001 had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. Approximately 13% of those discharged from probation supervision were incarcerated because of a rule violation or new offense. An additional 3% of those discharged had absconded, and 11% had their probation sentence revoked without incarceration.

**Table 4. Characteristics of adults on probation, 1990, 1995, and 2001**

Characteristic	1990	1995	2001
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	82%	79%	78%
Female	18	21	22
<b>Race<sup>a</sup></b>			
White	52%	53%	55%
Black	30	31	31
Hispanic	18	14	12
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1	1	1
Asian/Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	--	--	1
<b>Status of supervision</b>			
Active	83%	79%	74%
Inactive	9	8	11
Absconded	6	9	10
Supervised out of State	2	2	2
Other	**	2	3
<b>Adults entering probation</b>			
Without incarceration	87%	72%	76%
With incarceration	8	13	17
Other types	5	15	7
<b>Adults leaving probation</b>			
Successful completions	69%	62%	62%
Returned to incarceration	14	21	13
With new sentence	3	5	3
With the same sentence	9	13	7
Unknown	2	3	4
Absconder <sup>c</sup>	7	**	3
Other unsuccessful	2	**	11
Death	--	1	1
Other	7	16	10
<b>Type of offense of adults on probation<sup>d</sup></b>			
Felony	48%	54%	53%
Misdemeanor	52	44	45
Other infractions	1	2	1
<b>Most serious offense</b>			
Driving while intoxicated	21%	16%	18%
Drug law violations	**	**	25
Minor traffic offenses	**	**	7
Domestic violence	**	**	7
Other	79	84	43
<b>Status of probation</b>			
Direct imposition	38%	48%	54%
Split sentence	6	15	9
Sentence suspended	41	26	25
Imposition suspended	14	6	10
Other	1	4	1

Note: For every characteristic there were persons of unknown status or type. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.  
\*\*Not available.

--Less than 0.5%.

<sup>a</sup>In 2001 race/Hispanic origin was collected as a single item.

For comparison, percents were recalculated for prior years.

<sup>b</sup>Includes Native Hawaiians.

<sup>c</sup>In 1995 absconder status was reported among "other."

<sup>d</sup>In 2001 type of offense was limited to three categories. Driving while intoxicated was reported among the most serious offense. For comparison, percents were recalculated for prior years.

**Table 5. Adults on parole, 2001**

Region and jurisdiction	Parole population, 1/1/01	2001		Parole population, 12/31/01	Percent change, 2001	Number on parole per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/01
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	724,486	473,688	464,050	732,351	1.1%	350
Federal	76,069	28,066	25,586	78,013	2.6%	37
State	648,417	445,622	438,464	654,338	0.9	313
<b>Northeast</b>	159,653	69,416	66,081	162,986	2.1%	402
Connecticut	1,868	1,986	1,728	2,126	13.8	83
Maine	28	1	2	27	-3.6	3
Massachusetts	3,703	3,715	3,698	3,718	0.4	77
New Hampshire <sup>a,b</sup>	944	492	483	953	1.0	103
New Jersey	11,709	10,810	10,588	11,931	1.9	189
New York	57,858	25,644	26,783	56,719	-2.0	397
Pennsylvania <sup>b</sup>	82,345	26,015	22,122	86,238	4.7	921
Rhode Island	331	439	395	375	13.3	47
Vermont	867	313	281	899	3.7	195
<b>Midwest</b>	103,331	86,909	85,412	104,828	1.4%	220
Illinois	30,196	33,685	33,724	30,157	-0.1	329
Indiana <sup>c</sup>	4,917	5,734	5,312	5,339	8.6	118
Iowa <sup>b,c</sup>	2,763	3,019	2,706	3,076	11.3	140
Kansas <sup>c</sup>	3,829	4,492	4,330	3,991	4.2	202
Michigan	15,753	9,998	9,250	16,501	4.7	225
Minnesota	3,072	3,515	3,431	3,156	2.7	87
Missouri	12,563	8,479	8,178	12,864	2.4	309
Nebraska	476	699	645	530	11.3	42
North Dakota	110	240	234	116	5.5	24
Ohio	18,248	10,567	10,930	17,885	-2.0	211
South Dakota <sup>a</sup>	1,481	937	886	1,532	3.4	277
Wisconsin	9,923	5,544	5,786	9,681	-2.4	242
<b>South</b>	226,543	102,933	103,661	224,620	-0.8%	301
Alabama	5,484	2,403	2,224	5,663	3.3	170
Arkansas	8,659	7,928	6,286	10,301	19.0	517
Delaware	579	123	172	530	-8.5	90
District of Columbia	5,332	2,272	3,151	4,453	--	974
Florida	5,982	4,674	4,456	5,891	-1.5	48
Georgia	21,556	9,975	10,223	20,809	-3.5	346
Kentucky	5,202	2,896	1,692	6,406	23.1	210
Louisiana	22,860	13,814	13,344	23,330	2.1	718
Maryland	13,666	7,871	8,122	13,415	-1.8	340
Mississippi <sup>c</sup>	1,596	841	649	1,788	12.0	86
North Carolina	3,352	3,684	4,082	2,954	-11.9	49
Oklahoma <sup>a</sup>	1,825	2,314	733	3,406	86.6	133
South Carolina	4,378	1,132	1,410	4,100	-6.3	137
Tennessee	8,093	3,765	3,397	8,074	-0.2	188
Texas <sup>a</sup>	111,719	35,289	39,320	107,688	-3.6	720
Virginia	5,148	3,457	3,732	4,873	-5.3	91
West Virginia	1,112	495	668	939	-15.6	67
<b>West</b>	158,890	186,364	183,310	161,904	1.9%	351
Alaska	525	311	314	522	-0.6	120
Arizona <sup>c</sup>	3,474	6,737	6,675	3,536	1.8	94
California <sup>c</sup>	117,647	156,267	156,132	117,904	0.2	479
Colorado	5,500	4,605	4,372	5,733	4.2	179
Hawaii	2,504	1,028	924	2,608	4.2	285
Idaho	1,409	1,145	868	1,686	19.7	182
Montana <sup>c</sup>	621	582	493	710	14.3	106
Nevada	4,056	2,957	2,494	4,519	11.4	304
New Mexico	1,670	1,744	1,510	1,742	4.3	133
Oregon	17,579	8,046	6,864	18,761	6.7	729
Utah	3,231	2,574	2,334	3,471	7.4	229
Washington <sup>a</sup>	160	13	18	155	-3.1	4
Wyoming	514	355	312	557	8.4	153

Note: Because of incomplete data, the population on December 31, 2001, does not equal the population on January 1, 2001, plus entries, minus exits.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>All data were estimated.

<sup>b</sup>Data for entries and exits were estimated for nonreporting agencies.

<sup>c</sup>Data do not include parolees in one or more of the following categories: absconder, out of State, or inactive.

**Parole population up by fewer than 8,000 during 2001**

Also serving time in the community at the end of 2001 were 732,351 adults on parole (table 5). Parole is a period of conditional supervised release following a prison term. Prisoners may be released to parole either by a parole board decision or by mandatory conditional release.

The 1.1% growth in parole during 2001 — a net increase of 7,865 parolees — was slightly smaller than the average annual increase of 1.3% in parole since 1995 (table 6). Nearly all parolees had been convicted of a felony (95%).

**11 States had double-digit increases in their parole populations; 2 had similar decreases**

For the year ending December 31, 2001, 11 States reported an increase of 10% or more in their parole population. Oklahoma led with 87%, followed by three other States with increases of 19% or higher: Kentucky (23%), Idaho (20%), and Arkansas (19%).

A total of 17 States reported a decrease in their adult parole population during 2001. Two States reported double-digit decreases, led by West Virginia (down 16%) and North Carolina (down 12%).

**Table 6. Change in the number of adults on parole, 1995-2001**

Year	Annual increase	
	Number	Percent change
1995	-10,950	-1.6%
1996	312	0.0
1997	15,054	2.2
1998	1,598	0.2
1999	18,072	2.6
2000	10,029	1.4
2001	7,865	1.1
Total increase, 1995-2001	52,930	7.8%
Average annual increase, 1995-2001	8,822	1.3%

**Women accounted for more than 1 of every 8 adults on parole in 2001**

About 1 of every 8 adults on parole in 2001 (90,700) were women (table 7). Women represented a larger percentage of the parole population (12%) in 2001 than in 1990 when they were 8%.

More than 2 out of 5 adults on parole on December 31, 2001, (299,400) were black; more than 1 in 3 were white (285,500). Nineteen percent of parolees were Hispanic (136,500). About 2% were of other races (9,800).

**Since 1990 discretionary releases to parole have dropped, while mandatory releases have risen**

Discretionary releases of prisoners to parole supervision by a parole board have decreased from 59% of adults entering parole in 1990 to 36%, or 161,100, in 2001. Mandatory releases to parole supervision increased from 41% in 1990 to 55% (248,000) in 2001.

At yearend 2001 more than 4 of every 5 parolees were under active supervision and were required to maintain regular contact with the paroling agency. About 7% of parolees were absconders and could not be located.

**40% of parolees discharged from supervision were incarcerated**

Of the more than 464,500 parolees discharged from supervision in 2001, 46% had successfully met the conditions of their supervision, while 40% had been returned to incarceration either because of a rule violation or new offense. An additional 9% had absconded and 2% had failed to successfully meet the conditions of supervision but were discharged without incarceration.

The success rate among those discharged from parole dropped from 50% in 1990 to 46%; however, the percent incarcerated also dropped (from 46% to 40%). These declines were offset by increases in absconders (from 1% to 9%).

**Correctional supervision rate highest in Texas and lowest in New Hampshire**

Texas led the Nation at yearend 2001 with 4,818 adults under correctional supervision per 100,000 adult State residents, followed by Idaho (4,786) and Delaware (4,545) (table 8). New Hampshire (924 per 100,000), West Virginia (940), and North Dakota (1,008) had the fewest adults on probation or parole or in prison or jail relative to their State populations.

Offenders on probation or parole represented nearly 71% of all persons under correctional supervision at yearend. The 10 States with the highest rates of correctional supervision were also the 10 States with the highest rates of probation supervision.

10 States with the Highest Correctional Supervision Rate	Probation supervision, yearend 2001	
	Rate*	Rank
Texas	2,873	6
Idaho	3,747	1
Delaware	3,321	3
Washington	3,551	2
Minnesota	3,081	4
Michigan	2,385	8
Rhode Island	3,049	5
Indiana	2,481	7
Florida	2,304	9
Ohio	2,302	10

\* Number under probation supervision per 100,000 adult State residents.

Except for Texas, with 27% of its correctional population in prison or jail, States with the highest correctional supervision rate had an appreciably lower percentage of their correctional populations incarcerated. Minnesota with the 3,474 persons under supervision per 100,000 adult residents had the lowest percent incarcerated (8.9% of all persons under supervision).

**Table 7. Characteristics of adults on parole, 1990, 1995, and 2001**

Characteristic	1990	1995	2001
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	92%	90%	88%
Female	8	10	12
<b>Race<sup>a</sup></b>			
White	36%	34%	39%
Black	46	45	41
Hispanic	18	21	19
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1	1	1
Asian/Pacific Islander*	--	--	1
<b>Status of supervision</b>			
Active	82%	78%	84%
Inactive	6	11	4
Absconded	6	6	7
Supervised out of State	6	4	5
Other	**	--	--
<b>Sentence length</b>			
Less than 1 year	5%	6%	5%
1 year or more	95	94	95
<b>Adults entering parole</b>			
Discretionary parole	59%	50%	36%
Mandatory parole	41	45	55
Reinstatement	**	4	7
Other	**	2	2
<b>Adults leaving parole</b>			
Successful completion	50%	45%	46%
Returned to incarceration	46	41	40
With new sentence	17	12	9
Other	29	29	30
Absconder <sup>b</sup>	1	**	9
Other unsuccessful	1	**	2
Transferred	1	2	1
Death	1	1	1
Other	**	10	1

Note: For every characteristic there were persons of unknown status or type. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

\*\*Not available.

--Less than 0.5%.

<sup>a</sup>In 2001 race/Hispanic origin was collected as a single item. For comparison, percents were estimated for prior years.

<sup>b</sup>In 1995 absconder status was reported among "other."

Other States with a low percentage incarcerated included Vermont and Rhode Island (with 12%) and Washington State (with 15%). Mississippi with 60% of its correctional population incarcerated had the highest percentage among States, followed by Virginia (55%) and Nevada (51%).

**Table 8. Total under adult correctional supervision and number supervised per 100,000 adult residents, by jurisdiction, yearend 2001**

Region and jurisdiction	Total under correctional supervision, 12/31/01	Number on probation or parole <sup>a</sup>	Number in prison or jail	Supervision rate per 100,000 adults <sup>b</sup>	Percent of correctional population incarcerated
<b>U.S. total</b>	6,594,000	4,631,800	1,962,200	3,101	29.8%
Federal	259,400	109,600	149,900	122	57.8%
State	6,334,600	4,522,200	1,812,400	2,979	28.6
<b>Northeast</b>	1,022,100	757,800	262,900	2,503	25.8%
Connecticut	69,500	52,000	17,500	2,688	25.2
Maine	11,800	9,000	2,800	1,197	24.1
Massachusetts	70,500	47,800	22,700	1,444	32.2
New Hampshire	8,800	4,600	4,200	924	47.5
New Jersey	187,400	144,800	42,600	2,927	22.7
New York	355,400	253,600	101,800	2,481	28.6
Pennsylvania	278,700	212,200	66,500	2,975	23.9
Rhode Island	27,200	23,800	3,400	3,344	12.4
Vermont	11,600	10,200	1,400	2,482	12.1
<b>Midwest</b>	1,354,600	1,014,200	340,300	2,819	25.1%
Illinois	234,300	171,700	62,700	2,536	26.7
Indiana	151,600	118,000	33,600	3,339	22.2
Iowa	34,700	23,900	10,800	1,586	31.2
Kansas	32,400	19,200	13,200	1,637	40.7
Michigan	256,900	192,100	64,800	3,473	25.2
Minnesota	128,100	116,800	11,400	3,474	8.9
Missouri	104,100	68,600	35,400	2,476	34.1
Nebraska	27,400	21,400	6,000	2,169	22.0
North Dakota	4,800	3,000	1,700	1,008	36.7
Ohio	272,000	208,900	63,100	3,205	23.2
South Dakota	9,900	6,000	3,900	1,791	39.6
Wisconsin	98,200	64,600	33,600	2,434	34.2
<b>South</b>	2,625,200	1,823,300	801,800	3,438	30.5%
Alabama	81,500	45,200	36,300	2,438	44.6
Arkansas	52,800	36,300	16,400	2,622	31.2
Delaware	27,400	20,500	6,800	4,545	25.0
District of Columbia	17,700	14,900	2,700	3,863	15.5
Florida	424,500	297,400	127,000	3,319	29.9
Georgia	459,200	378,800	80,400	--	--
Kentucky	50,700	28,300	22,300	1,650	44.1
Louisiana	104,400	59,100	45,400	3,218	43.4
Maryland	129,300	94,100	35,200	3,214	27.2
Mississippi	41,000	16,400	24,600	1,969	60.0
North Carolina	160,100	113,600	46,500	2,569	29.0
Oklahoma	61,500	33,700	27,800	2,394	45.2
South Carolina	77,500	46,500	31,000	2,535	40.0
Tennessee	86,200	48,100	37,000	1,959	43.5
Texas	755,100	540,400	203,800	4,818	27.4
Virginia	95,300	42,800	52,500	1,746	55.1
West Virginia	13,200	7,100	6,000	940	45.9
<b>West</b>	1,334,100	926,800	407,300	2,809	30.5%
Alaska	9,800	5,400	4,400	2,210	45.3
Arizona	105,400	66,600	38,800	2,671	36.8
California	704,900	468,700	236,300	2,790	33.5
Colorado	84,400	57,700	26,600	2,539	31.6
Hawaii	23,300	18,200	5,100	2,505	22.0
Idaho	45,600	37,300	8,200	4,786	18.0
Montana	11,400	7,000	4,400	1,684	38.7
Nevada	30,200	14,900	15,300	1,891	50.7
New Mexico	23,000	12,100	11,000	1,744	47.6
Oregon	82,300	64,600	17,600	3,127	21.4
Utah	21,700	12,000	9,600	1,400	44.5
Washington	184,500	157,200	27,300	4,118	14.8
Wyoming	7,600	5,000	2,600	2,074	33.6

Note: Counts are for December 31, 2001, except for jail counts which were for June 29. Jail counts by State were estimated based on the *Census of Jails, 1999*, and the *Annual Survey of Jails, 2000 and 2001*. Because some offenders under supervision may have multiple statuses, counts were rounded to the nearest 100.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes by State and region 23,355 probationers in jail and 9,962 probationers in prison.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the estimated number of adult State residents on July 1, 2001, using the *2000 Census of Population and Housing* and adjusting for population change since April 2000.

## Methodology

The Annual Probation and Parole Surveys provide a count of the total number of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, 2001, and a count of the number entering and leaving supervision during the year. These surveys cover all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal system.

Data for the Federal system are from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts as provided to the BJS Federal Justice Statistics Program.

Because many States update their population counts, the January 1, 2001, numbers may differ from those previously published for December 31, 2000.

### Probation

The 2001 Annual Probation Survey was sent to 477 respondents —36 central State reporters and 441 separate State, county or court agencies. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (9), Florida (44), Georgia (5), Idaho (2), Kentucky (3), Michigan (132), Missouri (2), New Mexico (2), Ohio (190), Oklahoma (3), Tennessee (3), Washington (35), and West Virginia (2).

Since 1997 the survey coverage has been expanded to include 186 additional agencies previously excluded from the survey. At yearend 2001, 176,005 probationers were under the supervision of these agencies. For year-to-year comparisons, use total counts based on the same reporting agencies — 3,266,837 in 1997 to compare with the final 1996 counts; 3,417,613 in 1998 to compare with final 1997; and 3,773,624 in 1999 to compare with final 1998.

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*Parole*

The 2001 Annual Parole Survey was sent to 54 respondents, including 52 central reporters, the California Youth Authority, and 1 municipal agency. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (2) and California (2).

Federal parole as defined here includes supervised release, parole, military parole, special parole, and mandatory release.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is the director.

BJS Bulletins present the first release of findings from permanent data collection programs such as the Annual Probation and Parole Surveys.

Lauren E. Glaze wrote this report while under the supervision of Allen J. Beck. Jennifer C. Karberg provided statistical verification. Data collection and processing were conducted by Lauren Glaze with assistance from Lara E. Reynolds. Tom Hester edited the report. Jayne Robinson administered final production.

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This report in portable document format and in ASCII, its tables, and related statistical data are available at the BJS World Wide Web Internet site:  
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