



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991

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Probation and Parole Violators in State Prison, 1991

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In 1991, 45% of State prisoners were persons who, at the time they committed their offense, were under conditional supervision in the community — either on probation or on parole.

Based on the offense that brought them to prison, the 162,000 probation violators committed at least 6,400 murders, 7,400 rapes, 10,400 assaults, and 17,000 robberies, while under supervision in the community an average of 17 months.

Based on the offense that brought parolees back to prison, these 156,000 offenders committed at least 6,800 murders, 5,500 rapes, 8,800 assaults, and 22,500 robberies, while under supervision in the community an average of 13 months.

These are some of the results of a national survey in which personal interviews were conducted with 13,986 inmates in 277 State correctional facilities nationwide. Data were collected on individual characteristics of State prison inmates: their status at time of admission, past and current offenses, their victims, their criminal histories, and their prior drug and alcohol use.

Highlights

- Thirty-five percent of State prison inmates in 1991 were convicted of a new offense that they had committed while they were on probation or parole from a previous sentence; 10% of the inmates had been returned to prison for technically violating the conditions of their probation or parole.
- Probation and parole violators comprised 30% of all the offenders in State prison for a violent crime. Probation and parole violators comprised 56% of inmates incarcerated for property offenses, 41% for drug offenses, and 85% of those in prison for public-order offenses.
- Collectively, probation and parole violators committed 90,639 violent crimes while being supervised in the community (based on reported convictions).
- More than 1 in 4 probation and parole violators were in prison for conviction for a violent crime.
- Fifty-five percent of probationers and parolees reported that, in the month before their current offense, they were using drugs. An estimated 41% were using drugs daily. While drug testing of probationers and parolees is widespread, 2% of the drug-using probation and parole violators reported being revoked for failing a drug test.
- Felony probationers and parolees are not permitted to possess a firearm while under supervision. Yet 21% of probation and parole violators imprisoned for a new offense reported possessing a firearm while under supervision.
- Of probation and parole violators who owned or possessed a handgun in the month before arrest, almost 3 out of every 4 were armed when they committed their current offense.
- Between 1975 and 1991, the number of parole and other conditional release violators entering State prisons increased from 18,000 to 142,000 — twice the rate of growth of offenders newly committed from courts.

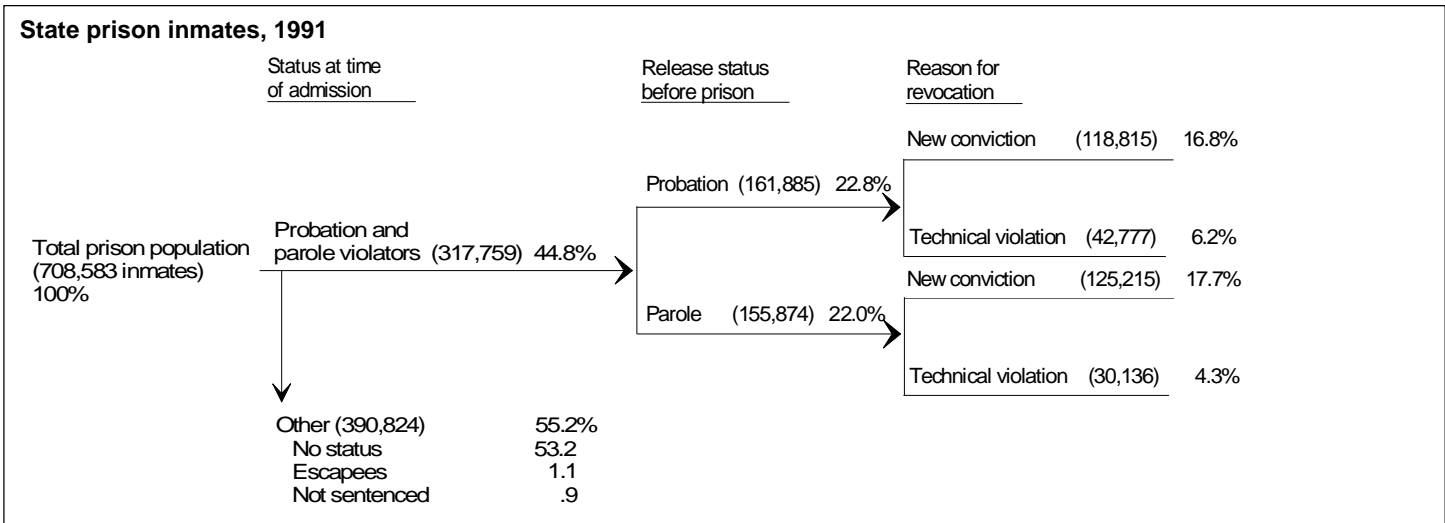


Figure 1

Criminal justice status defined

In prison at any given time, inmates who were on probation or parole at the time of their offense are called *violators*, and those who were not on probation or parole are called *no status* (figure 1).

Probation is a sentence imposed by the court upon a convicted offender, requiring the offender to meet certain conditions of supervision in the community. Generally, probation is given directly, but it may be combined with a period of confinement (often called shock probation or a split sentence) or be imposed in lieu of a suspended jail or prison sentence. Violations (which include new offenses) of the conditions of supervised release may result in the court removing a person from probationary status and ordering incarceration under the suspended sentence of the prior conviction offense, a new offense, or both. Responsibility for enforcing the conditions of supervision in the community normally rests with a probation officer.

The term parole refers to both the process for releasing offenders from prison prior to the expiration of their sentences and to the period of conditional supervision in the community following imprisonment. Parole release is an administrative procedure, generally carried out by an appointed commission or board, designed to as-

sist the offender in the transition from confinement to full discharge into the community. Because release from prison to parole supervision occurs prior to the expiration of a sentence, violations of the conditions of release may result in the parolee being removed from parole status and returned to prison for the unexpended balance of the sentence.

Reason for imprisonment: new conviction or technical violation

Probation and parole violators were sent to prison either because they committed a new offense (for which they were convicted) while on probation or parole, or because they violated a technical condition of their release. A technical violator has failed to comply with the conditions that were imposed at the time he/she was placed on probation or released from prison on parole. Conditions frequently include, but are not limited to, abstaining from drug use, avoiding contact with other criminals, maintaining steady employment, and periodically reporting to a probation or parole officer.

Of the 161,885 probation violators in prison, 74% had been convicted of a new offense and the remaining 26% had violated a technical condition of their community supervision. While technical violators had not been convicted of a new crime, a substantial number of them self-reported that they

had been arrested for a new crime while on probation (87%).¹ Technical probation violators in prison who said they were not arrested for a new crime while on probation comprised about 1% of the prison population.

Of the 155,874 parole violators in prison, 80% were in confinement following conviction for a new crime and the remaining 20% had been imprisoned for a technical violation. About 4 in 10 of these technical violators (43%), while not convicted of a new crime, had been arrested for a new crime while on parole supervision in the community.² Technical parole violators in prison who said they were not arrested for a new crime while on parole comprised about 3% of the prison population.

Overall, for 77% of probation and parole violators the reason for their confinement was a new conviction for a crime committed while under community supervision. For the remaining 23% the reason was a technical violation during their period of supervision. Among these technical violators, 69% were arrested for a new crime.³

¹An arrest for violating probation conditions was not counted as an arrest for a new crime.

²An arrest for violating parole conditions was not counted as an arrest for a new crime.

³Refer to footnotes 1 and 2.

Trends in probation and parole violators in State prisons

In 1991 probation and parole violators comprised 45% of the State prison-population, up from 17% in 1974, when the first national inmate survey was conducted.

National surveys of State prison inmates

Year	Percent of total State prison population			
	Total	Violators		Other
1974	17%	12%	5%	83%
1979	35	19	16	65
1986	44	21	23	56
1991	45	23	22	55

Longer-trend data based solely on characteristics of persons *entering* State prisons show similar increases (appendix table 2).⁴ In 1926 "condi-

⁴Historically, two categories of offenders have comprised around 90% (sometimes more) of all persons entering prison: new court commitments and conditional release violators. New court commitments are sentenced directly to prison by the courts. Conditional release violators did not obey the conditions of their release from prison.

Reasons for imprisoning technical violators

As conditions of their release into the community, persons placed on probation or parole are routinely required to stay out of trouble, abstain from using drugs, avoid contacts with known offenders, maintain steady employment, and report to a probation or parole officer. In addition, such persons are also frequently required to obey special conditions, tailored to their specific circumstances.

For example, an offender with a known alcohol problem may be required to participate in alcohol treatment and abstain from drinking. A man convicted of assaulting his ex-wife may be required to obey a restraining order that bars him from trying to see her again. A known drug addict may be required to undergo periodic drug testing.

Although the prison inmate survey did not ask probation and parole violators what their specific conditions of release had been during the time they were on probation or parole, it did ask what conditions they had violated. Once a violation occurs, probation/parole may be revoked. Sometimes revocation means the offender is removed from probation or parole and sent to prison. However, prison does not automatically follow revocation. In some jurisdictions, the offender's probation or parole is revoked but then immediately reinstated. New conditions may be added or the offender may receive a warning that continued infractions will result in imprisonment.

Technical violators differ from violators who were sent to prison for committing a new offense while under supervision in that they were not convicted of a crime. While these violators are labeled technical in nature, they were not necessarily crime free.

All of the technical violators in prison admitted to violating conditions of their release. Some simply reported being arrested for a new crime. Some reported failing to meet with their probation/parole officer. Others reported combinations of such violations. Which particular violation caused the person to be sent to prison was not determined in the survey. However, this much is known:

- 87% of probation violators had at least one arrest for a new crime. However only 25% had a revocation hearing for being arrested for a new crime.
- 43% of parole violators had at least one arrest for a new crime. However only 27% had a revocation hearing for being arrested for a new crime.
- 10% had a revocation hearing for failing a drug test.^a
- 36% of probation/parole violators had a revocation hearing for failure to report to their probation/parole officer or absconded.^b
- Parole violators were more likely than probation violators to have had a revocation hearing because they left the jurisdiction without permission from their probation/parole officer (14% versus 8%).
- Probation violators were more likely than parole violators to report they had a revocation hearing for failure to pay fines, restitution, or other financial obligations (12% versus 3%).

^aAn estimated 2% of violators in prison for conviction of a new offense while under supervision in the community reported that in addition to a new conviction they had failed a drug test.

^bApproximately 10% of violators in prison for conviction of a new offense while under supervision in the community reported that in addition to a new conviction they had failed to report to their probation/parole officer or absconded.

Technical violations committed while under supervision in the community

Type of violation	Technical violators*	
	Probation	Parole
Arrest for new offense	87.0%	43.0%
Positive test for drug use	9.6	10.2
Failure to report for drug testing/treatment	4.9	4.4
Failure to report for alcohol treatment	1.8	2.0
Failure to report to other counseling	3.8	2.3
Failure to report to probation/parole officer/absconded	36.8	34.2
Left jurisdiction without permission	8.2	14.1
Failure to secure or maintain employment	1.5	2.8
Failure to pay fines, restitution, or other financial obligation	11.5	2.9
Maintained contact with other known offenders	1.7	2.5
Failure to report change of address	.5	2.5
Alcohol or drug use	3.3	2.3
Weapons	.7	2.5
Other reasons	12.0	17.0
Number of inmates	42,777	30,136

*Detail adds to more than 100% because some inmates had more than one type of violation.

tional release violators" (parolees and other such persons — released conditionally but returned to prison for violating the terms of their release) comprised 5% of all persons sent to prison (figure 2). Following decades of generally upward growth, the number reached 30% in 1992.

Current commitment offense

In 1991 nonstatus offenders (persons not on probation or parole when they committed their crime) outnumbered violators among State prison inmates. However, for certain offenses, violators outnumbered those who had no status (table 1).

Percent of State prison admissions who were on parole or other conditional release when admitted to prison, 1926-92



Note: The graph line is extrapolated for 1972 and 1973, years for which data were not available. Sources: See appendix table 2.

Table 1. Violators as a percentage of total State prison population, by most serious current offense, 1991

Most serious offense	Total number of inmates	Criminal justice status at admission				
		Total	Violator Total	Probation	Parole	No status ^a
All offenses	690,286	100%	45.9%	23.4%	22.5%	54.1%
Violent offense	305,509	100%	29.7%	14.5%	15.2%	70.3%
Murder ^b	72,435	100	18.2	8.9	9.4	81.8
Manslaughter	11,994	100	16.4	12.6	3.8	83.6
Kidnaping	8,043	100	35.2	16.1	19.0	64.8
Rape	24,129	100	23.7	11.7	11.9	76.3
Other sexual assault	38,937	100	18.5	11.6	7.0	81.5
Robbery	95,197	100	41.5	17.8	23.6	58.5
Assault	51,330	100	37.3	20.3	17.0	62.7
Other violent ^c	3,444	100	31.9	11.1	20.8	68.1
Property offense	144,875	100%	55.5%	24.3%	31.2%	44.5%
Burglary	74,688	100	53.0	22.3	30.7	47.0
Larceny/theft	27,458	100	58.9	25.9	33.0	41.1
Motor vehicle theft	11,969	100	65.4	25.6	39.7	34.6
Arson	4,252	100	28.3	21.2	7.1	71.7
Fraud	15,491	100	57.4	29.3	28.1	42.6
Stolen property	8,094	100	60.2	25.7	34.4	39.8
Other property ^d	2,923	100	65.0	29.6	35.4	35.0
Drug offense	129,824	100%	41.4%	22.8%	18.7%	58.6%
Possession	42,957	100	50.2	25.7	24.5	49.8
Trafficking	84,425	100	36.7	20.9	15.8	63.3
Other/unspecified	2,442	100	49.3	35.7	13.6	50.7
Public-order offense	107,597	100%	85.0%	48.4%	36.6%	15.0%
Probation/parole violation ^e	72,913	100	100.0	58.7	41.3	--
Weapons	11,369	100	59.7	26.7	33.1	40.2
Other public-order ^f	23,315	100	50.4	27.1	23.3	49.6
Other offenses	2,482	100%	25.1%	15.0%	10.1%	74.9%
Number of inmates	690,286		316,943	161,592	155,351	373,344

Note: Excludes an estimated 4,155 inmates whose offense was unknown. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

--Not applicable.

^aExcludes escapees.

^bIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^cIncludes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, and criminal endangerment.

^dIncludes destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving without bodily injury, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools.

^eIncludes probation and parole violators whose most serious offense was a violation and who were currently incarcerated for technically violating their probation or parole.

^fIncludes escape from custody, driving while intoxicated, violations against morals and decency, and commercialized vice.

For example, violators comprised 55% of property offenders, and 85% of public-order offenders. One reason violators comprised such a large percentage of public-order offenders is that, by definition, public-order offenses include a type of offense—technical violation of probation and parole conditions—that only those on probation or parole can commit.

Violators returned to prison as a result of a technical violation of the conditions of their supervision in the community comprised close to 70%

of all public-order offenders admitted to prison.

About 1 in 4 violators were serving a current sentence for a violent crime (table 2). More than half of nonstatus offenders (58%) were serving a current sentence for a violent offense.

Property offenses were more characteristic of violators than of nonstatus offenders. Among those with no status, 17% were in prison for a property offense. Among probation violators it was 22%, and among parole violators it was 29%.

Approximately 1 in 6 probation and parole violators had a drug offense as their commitment offense. An estimated 15% of parole violators had robbery as their commitment offense compared to 11% of probation violators. The commitment offense of burglary was also more characteristic of parole than probation violators: 15% of parole violators versus 10% of probation violators.

By definition, the most serious offense of violators who entered prison for technically violating the conditions of their probation/parole (who were not convicted of a crime) was a probation/parole violation. A probation/parole violation offense was more characteristic of probation than parole violators:

Table 2. Status at time of prison admission, by most serious offense of State prison inmates, 1991

Most serious offense	Total	Criminal justice status at admission		
		Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
All offenses	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Violent offenses	44.3%	27.4%	29.8%	57.6%
Murder ^a	10.5	4.0	4.4	15.9
Manslaughter	1.7	.9	.3	2.7
Kidnaping	1.2	.8	1.0	1.4
Rape	3.5	1.8	1.9	4.9
Other sexual assault	5.6	2.8	1.7	8.5
Robbery	13.8	10.5	14.5	14.9
Assault	7.4	6.4	5.6	8.6
Other violent ^b	.5	.2	.5	.6
Property offenses	21.0%	21.8%	29.1%	17.3%
Burglary	10.8	10.3	14.8	9.4
Larceny/theft	4.0	4.4	5.8	3.0
Motor vehicle theft	1.7	1.9	3.1	1.1
Arson	.6	.6	.2	.8
Fraud	2.2	2.8	2.8	1.8
Stolen property	1.2	1.3	1.8	.9
Other property ^c	.4	.5	.7	.3
Drug offenses	18.8%	18.3%	15.6%	20.4%
Possession	6.2	6.8	6.8	5.7
Trafficking	12.2	10.9	8.6	14.3
Other/unspecified	.4	.5	.2	.3
Public-order offenses	5.0%	5.8%	5.9%	4.3%
Weapons	1.6	1.9	2.4	1.2
Other public-order ^d	3.4	3.9	3.5	3.1
Other offenses	.4%	.2%	.2%	.5%
Probation/parole violators^e	10.6%	26.5%	19.4%	--
Number of inmates	690,286	161,592	155,351	373,344

Note: Excludes an estimated 4,155 inmates in 1991 for whom the offense was unknown. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
--Not applicable.

^aIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^bIncludes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, and criminal endangerment.

^cIncludes destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving without bodily injury, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools.

^dIncludes escape from custody, driving while intoxicated, morals and decency, and commercialized vice.

^eIncludes probation and parole violators whose most serious offense was a violation and were currently incarcerated for technically violating their probation or parole.

Table 3. Status at time of prison admission, by characteristics of State prison inmates, 1991

Characteristic	Total	Criminal justice status at admission		
		Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
Sex				
Male	94.5%	93.1%	96.0%	94.6%
Female	5.5	6.9	4.0	5.4
Race/Hispanic origin				
White	35.2%	34.8%	31.2%	37.1%
Black	45.7	46.0	48.4	44.5
Hispanic	16.7	17.1	17.9	16.0
Other ^a	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.4
Age				
17 or younger	.6%	.7%	.2%	.8%
18-24	21.3	33.9	15.1	18.5
25-29	24.2	27.3	26.1	22.0
30-34	21.5	18.3	25.9	21.0
35-39	14.1	10.9	16.0	14.7
40-44	8.6	4.7	9.0	10.1
45-54	6.5	3.2	5.9	8.2
Over 54	3.2	1.0	1.9	4.6
Median age	30 yrs	27 yrs	31 yrs	31 yrs
Education^b				
8th grade or less	19.4%	18.1%	19.3%	20.0%
Some high school	46.4	51.2	48.9	43.2
High school graduate	21.9	21.0	20.4	22.8
Some college	12.4	9.7	11.4	14.0
Marital status				
Married	18.2%	15.2%	17.5%	19.7%
Widowed	1.8	1.1	1.4	2.4
Divorced	18.6	13.3	18.9	20.7
Separated	6.2	6.1	7.0	5.9
Never married	55.2	64.3	55.1	51.3
Citizen of United States				
Yes	95.6%	95.4%	97.8%	94.8%
No	4.4	4.6	2.2	5.2
Number of inmates	694,442	161,885	155,875	376,684

Note: In 1991 data were missing on education for 5,101 cases, and on marital status for 7,181 cases.

^aIncludes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and other racial groups.

^bBased on highest grade completed.

27% of probation violators versus 19% of parole violators.

Demographic characteristics

Demographic characteristics of probation violators, parole violators, and nonstatus offenders varied little (table 3). Probation violators were younger than parole violators (median age 27 versus 31) or nonstatus offenders (median age 31). Their younger age probably reflects the fact that judges are more likely to sentence a younger offender to probation than an older offender who has a more extensive criminal history. Being younger, probation violators were slightly less likely ever to have been married (36%) than parole violators (45%) or nonstatus offenders (49%).

Both among violators and nonstatus offenders, male inmates far outnumbered female inmates. Males comprised over 90% of inmates, whether or not they were violators.

Nonstatus offenders were more likely to have completed some college prior to their imprisonment (14.0%) than probation (9.7%) and parole (11.4%) violators.

Among violators who had dropped out of school, 45% of parole violators compared to 33% of probation violators had obtained a GED. Overall, parole violators were more likely than probation violators to have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent as the highest level of education (51% versus 44%). Some parole violators may have obtained their high school equivalent degrees during their prior confinement(s).

An estimated 4.6% of probation violators were not citizens of the United States, compared to 2.2% of parole violators.

Criminal history

State prison inmates reported the number of times they had been on probation or incarcerated in the past. Of those with no status at the time

of admission, about half reported they had been on probation in the past. With respect to a history of incarceration, about half of nonstatus offenders reported they were serving their first confinement sentence (table 4). By definition, all parole violators had previously been incarcerated and all probation violators had previously been on probation.

Substantial numbers of violators reported repeated prior incarceration and probation sentences. Probation violators were more likely than parole violators to have been on probation in the past. Among probation violators, 27% reported they had served time on probation 3 or more times.

Parole violators were more likely than probation violators to have been incar-

cerated. Among parole violators, 43% reported they had been incarcerated in jail or prison 3 or more times.

Time periods served defined

Violators were depicted at three different time periods.

Period 1 (time served in jail/prison prior to probation or parole status — table 6)	Period 2 (time served under community supervision probation/parole — table 7)	Period 3 (time expected to serve after probation/parole status was removed — table 8)
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The first period is the amount of time incarcerated for the offense that resulted in probation or parole — this is referred to as the prior conviction offense. This period is not relevant to most probation violators because

Table 4. Status at time of prison admission, by State prison inmates who had ever been on probation or incarcerated prior to their current imprisonment, 1991

State prison inmates who had ever been:	Total	Criminal justice status at admission		
		Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
On probation				
None	33.1%	0 %	26.6%	50.1%
Juvenile only	14.6	4.9*	18.5	17.1
Adult only	34.0	64.0	31.2	22.3
Both	18.3	31.1	23.7	10.5
Number of times on probation				
0	33.1%	0 %	26.6%	50.1%
1	34.5	44.2	35.2	30.1
2	17.1	28.6	19.0	11.5
3-5	12.3	21.9	15.4	6.9
6-10	2.3	4.5	2.7	1.2
11 or more	.6	.8	1.2	.3
Incarcerated				
None	37.7%	41.6%	0 %	51.7%
Juvenile only	4.1	3.8	2.9*	4.6
Adult only	42.6	41.2	68.6	32.4
Both	15.7	13.4	28.5	11.3
Number of times incarcerated				
0	37.7%	41.6%	0 %	51.7%
1	24.1	23.2	37.8	18.8
3	12.9	11.2	19.4	11.0
3 - 5	16.0	14.7	26.8	12.0
6-10	5.9	5.7	10.3	4.2
11 or more	3.4	3.6	5.7	2.3
Number of inmates	689,915	160,876	154,944	374,095

Note: Excludes an estimated 8,254 inmates for whom current offense and prior sentences to probation were unknown, and 4,526 inmates for whom data on prior sentences to incarceration were unknown.

*Probation violators who reported they were on probation as a juvenile only and parole violators who reported they were incarcerated as a juvenile only more than likely had a new arrest and conviction while on probation or parole as a juvenile and were waived to the adult system.

most were not incarcerated. Approximately 20% of probation violators had served a short jail sentence as part of their probation sentence.

The second time period is the amount of time spent under community supervision. For parole violators this period began when they were released from prison.

The third period is the amount of time inmates expected to serve in prison. This is based on violators' estimates of when they expected to be released from prison for their current offense.

Prior conviction offense that resulted in probation or parole

Violent offenses are more likely to result in a prison sentence than non-violent offenses. Not surprisingly, therefore, violent offenses comprised a relatively large percentage (33%) of the offenses that originally resulted in parole violators being placed on parole (appendix table 1). By comparison, violent offenses comprised 20% of the offenses that originally resulted in probation violators being placed on probation.

Time on probation or parole prior to being sent to prison

About half of probation violators were on probation less than a year before being removed from probation and placed in prison (table 5).⁵ The period of community supervision was shorter for parole violators. Half of them had been on parole for 8 months or less before being returned to prison.⁶

⁵Approximately 32,104 probation violators reported that they had served some time in prison prior to probation. This combination of prison term and probation is often called "shock probation" or "split sentences."

⁶Before being released from prison and placed on parole, parole violators had served an average of 33 months in prison (tables 5 and 6). Time served in prison before parole release varied widely by offense (table 6).

Table 5. Time served in confinement and the community by probation/parole violators, 1991

Time	Probation violators		Parole violators		
	Time spent out on probation	Total time expected to serve in prison	Time served in prison prior to parole	Time spent out on parole	Total time expected to serve in prison
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Less than 3 months	11.9%	2.9%	1.7%	17.9%	3.7%
3-5	15.2	7.2	4.8	16.8	5.2
6-11	21.5	16.2	15.2	27.0	15.0
12-23	23.5	23.9	27.3	21.3	20.8
24-35	13.7	13.3	16.3	8.1	12.8
36-47	6.8	9.0	12.2	3.9	7.8
48-59	3.6	5.7	6.6	2.2	5.8
60 or more	3.9	21.8	16.1	2.9	28.8
Number of months					
Median	12 mo	24 mo	24 mo	8 mo	28 mo
Mean	17	49	33	13	63
Number of inmates	159,143	145,000 ^a	151,080	151,296	135,911 ^b

Note: Excludes an estimated 2,741 inmates who were on probation and for whom length of time spent on probation was unknown and 15,249 inmates who did not report the total time expected to serve in prison. Also excludes an estimated 4,794 inmates who were on parole for whom length of time spent in jail or prison was unknown, 4,578 inmates who did not report length of time spent on parole, and 16,966 inmates who did not report the total time expected to serve in prison.

^aExcludes 1,635 (1%) probation violators who did not expect to ever be released from prison.
^bExcludes 2,997 (2%) parole violators who did not expect to ever be released from prison.

Table 6. Time served in confinement for prior conviction offense by parole violators in State prison, by the offense for which they received parole, 1991

Prior conviction offense for which State prison inmate received parole	Parole violators			
	Time served in prison for prior conviction offense			
	New conviction		Technical	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Total	33 mo	24 mo	33 mo	22 mo
Violent offenses	51 mo	42 mo	52 mo	40 mo
Homicide ^a	75	60	89	78
Sexual assault ^b	58	48	56	60
Robbery	51	42	45	36
Assault	34	24	43	36
Other violent ^c	75	72	48	18
Property offenses	26 mo	20 mo	27 mo	22 mo
Burglary	29	24	29	24
Larceny	21	16	23	18
Other property ^d	21	16	28	24
Drug offenses	21 mo	16 mo	18 mo	13 mo
Possession	17	12	15	11
Trafficking	23	18	21	18
Drugs, other	13	9	36	13
Public-order offenses	23 mo	18 mo	21 mo	12 mo
Other offenses	16 mo	12 mo	17 mo	15 mo
Probation/parole violation	16 mo	12 mo	18 mo	14 mo
Number of inmates	120,782	120,782	28,995	28,995

^aIncludes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.

^bIncludes rape.

^cIncludes kidnapping.

^dIncludes motor vehicle theft, fraud, stolen property, and arson.

Probation and parole violators were placed on probation or parole as a result of their prior conviction offense. For each offense category, probation violators spent more time on average in the community than parole violators (table 7). For offenders who had a prior violent offense and were convicted of a new offense while in the community, probation violators, on average, spent 5 months more than parole violators; for property offenses, 5 months more; drug offenses, 4 months more; and public-order offenses, 5 months more.⁷

⁷The longer time in the community for probation violators as compared to parole violators does not take into account the fact that many of the probation violators may not have been free to commit new crimes during a portion of their probationary period because they were behind bars serving a short jail sentence. This combination jail-probation sentence, often called a "split sentence" or "shock probation," is widely imposed.

Expected time to serve in prison

Probation and parole violators were asked to report how much time they expected to serve in prison before release.⁸ Their "expected time to serve" is the inmate's own estimate of the time he or she will spend in confinement. Expected time to serve in prison before release was longer for

⁸Technical violators serve the suspended portion of the original sentences they received prior to probation/parole. It's not known if violators convicted of a new crime received a new sentence, were serving the suspended portion of the original sentence they received prior to probation/parole, or if additional time was added to the suspended portion of that sentence. This issue cannot be addressed by this survey.

parole violators than for probation violators. The average expected time from admission date to release date was 63 months for parole violators versus 49 months for probation violators (table 5 and 8). An estimated 29% of parole violators expect to serve 5 years or more in prison compared to 22% of probation violators.

Of those convicted of a new offense, parole violators expect on average to serve 14 months more than probation violators (mean sentences of 63 and

Table 7. Prior conviction offense for which State prison inmates received probation/parole, by amount of time spent out in the community, 1991

Prior conviction offense for which violators received probation/parole	Probation violators				Parole violators			
	Time spent out in the community while on probation				Time spent out in the community while on parole			
	New conviction		Technical		New conviction		Technical	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
All offenses	17 mo	12 mo	18 mo	12 mo	13 mo	8 mo	14 mo	8 mo
Violent offenses	21 mo	12 mo	21 mo	12 mo	16 mo	11 mo	19 mo	10 mo
Homicide ^a	23	9	30	12	24	14	38	22
Sexual assault ^b	31	18	22	17	19	11	17	7
Robbery	21	15	19	12	16	10	17	10
Assault	16	9	20	13	11	8	12	8
Other violent ^c	18	12	26	12	11	7	8	8
Property offenses	17 mo	12 mo	19 mo	12 mo	12 mo	8 mo	13 mo	8 mo
Burglary	18	12	23	14	12	8	13	6
Larceny	14	10	18	13	11	8	13	10
Other property ^d	16	12	16	11	13	8	14	8
Drug offenses	15 mo	11 mo	14 mo	12 mo	11 mo	7 mo	11 mo	8 mo
Possession	14	12	14	12	11	7	10	8
Trafficking	15	11	14	12	11	7	11	6
Drugs, other	9	6	16	4	6	7	16	11
Public-order offenses	15 mo	10 mo	16 mo	11 mo	10 mo	7 mo	11 mo.	4 mo
Other offenses	23 mo	24 mo	25 mo	18 mo	8 mo	5 mo	5 mo.	7 mo
Probation/parole violation	4 mo	1 mo	17 mo	6 mo	10 mo	6 mo	7 mo.	6 mo
Number of inmates	114,307	114,307	42,106	42,106	120,916	120,916	29,040	29,040

^aIncludes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.

^bIncludes rape.

^cIncludes kidnaping.

^dIncludes motor vehicle theft, fraud, stolen property, and arson.

49, respectively) (table 8). Those who technically violated their probation and were currently in prison for a probation violation offense expected to serve on average 2 months more than those who were in prison for a parole violation offense (means of 29 and 27, respectively).

For many offense categories, parole violators convicted of a new offense expected to serve more time on average in prison than probation violators convicted of a new offense. For violent offenses, parole violators expected to serve an average of 36 months longer than probation violators; and for property offenses, 5 months longer.

Public-order was the only offense category in which probation violators expected to serve longer than parole violators. Probation violators expected to serve a mean of 42 months, 8 months longer than parole violators.

Table 8. Total time expected to serve in prison, by most serious current offense of probation and parole violators in State prison, 1991

Most serious current offense	Time expected to serve in prison			
	Probation violators		Parole violators	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Total	49 mo	24 mo	63 mo	28 mo
Violent offenses	88 mo	56 mo	124 mo	83 mo
Homicide ^a	159	128	217	173
Sexual assault ^b	90	63	119	90
Robbery	68	48	105	75
Assault	67	34	102	59
Other violent ^c	136	72	187	105
Property offenses	41 mo	24 mo	46 mo	24 mo
Burglary	51	31	55	31
Larceny	34	17	31	17
Other property ^d	30	19	41	22
Drug offenses	37 mo	21 mo	37 mo	23 mo
Possession	25	17	28	19
Trafficking	45	23	44	26
Drugs, other	13	11	18	11
Public-order offenses	42 mo	17 mo	34 mo	20 mo
Other offenses	56 mo	26 mo	85 mo	81 mo
Probation/parole violation	29 mo	15 mo	27 mo	12 mo
Number of inmates	144,871	144,871	135,611	135,611

^aIncludes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.
^bIncludes rape.

^cIncludes kidnapping.
^dIncludes motor vehicle theft, fraud, stolen property, and arson.

Criminal justice status at time of offense

Surveys conducted among persons at the different stages of the justice system — at arrest, in pretrial detention, in jail or prison serving their sentence — all show that many of these persons were on probation, on parole,

or on pretrial release (out on bail, for example), or in some other criminal justice status at the time they committed (or were alleged to have committed) their crime. For example, of all persons who were arrested for the murder of a law enforcement officer from 1988 to 1992, 22% were on probation

or parole at the time of the killing. Similarly, of arrested murderers who were convicted, acquitted, or whose cases were otherwise disposed in 1992 in urban courts, 38% were on probation, on parole, on pretrial release, or in some other criminal justice status at the time of the murder.

	Total number of offenders	Total	Without criminal justice status	Criminal justice status at time of offense ^a				
				Total	Probation	Parole	Pretrial release for earlier case	Other ^b
Persons arrested for murder:								
— of law enforcement officers, 1988-1992 ^d	474	100%	-- %	-- %	22.0% ^e	--%	--%	--%
— and disposed in 1992 ^e	492	100%	62.0	38.0	19.0	11.0	8.0	0
— and in jail awaiting trial, 1989 ^f	8,199	100%	66.1	33.9	18.1	8.6	5.1	2.0
Persons convicted of murder:								
— and sentenced in State prison, 1991 ^g	73,035	100%	81.1%	18.9%	8.8%	9.3%	--%	.8%
— and on death row awaiting execution, 1993 ^h	2,418	100%	57.7	42.3	9.5	20.3	7.2	5.3
Persons arrested for any offense:								
— misdemeanor or felony, in jail awaiting trial, 1989 ^f	162,441	100%	54.6%	45.4%	23.5%	11.6%	8.9%	1.4%
— felony only, disposed in 1992 ^e	42,482	100%	62.0	38.0	17.0	8.0	12.0	1.0
Persons convicted of any offense:								
— and in State prison, 1991 ^g	708,583	100%	53.2%	46.8%	22.8%	22.0%	--%	2.0%

--Detail not available.

^aOffense refers to an arrest for a crime or for a technical violation.

^bIncludes prison furloughs, work/study releases, and escapees.

^cThe only statistics that were available pertaining to alleged murders of law enforcement officers were the combined number of offenders who were on probation or parole. The 22% figure is the percentage who were on probation or parole.

^dSource: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1992*.

^eSource: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1990*, NCJ-141872, May 1993.

^fSource: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates*, NCJ-129097, April 1991.

^gSource: BJS, *Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991*, NCJ-136949, March 1993.

^hSource: BJS, *Capital Punishment 1993*, NCJ-150042, December 1994.

Current conviction offense versus prior conviction offense that resulted in probation or parole

The prior conviction offense was violent for 43% of probation violators with a current violent offense (table 9). Similarly, among prisoners who had been on probation after conviction for a drug offense, 41% had a new conviction for a drug crime which brought them to prison.

The prior conviction offense was violent for 50% of parole violators with a current violent offense (table 10). Among those prisoners who had been on parole after conviction for a drug offense, 46% had a new conviction for a drug crime that brought them to prison.

Probation violators were as likely as parole violators to currently be convicted for the same crime that originally resulted in a probation or parole status prior to imprisonment:

Prior conviction offense for which they received probation/parole	Offense currently imprisoned for:	
	Probation violator	Parole violator
Robbery	37.2%	42.0%
Assault	18.8	20.5
Burglary	37.2	41.9
Larceny/theft	22.0	33.7
Fraud	31.0	37.8
Drug possession/trafficking	58.1	59.9

Characteristics of offenses committed while on probation or parole

Probation violators— During their average 17 months on probation, the nearly 162,000 imprisoned probation violators collectively committed 44,000 violent crimes for which they were convicted and sent to prison (derived from table 2). The number of probation violators convicted of property crimes totaled 35,000; drug offenses, 30,000; other offenses, nearly 10,000. These estimates are conservative because they are based only on crimes for which there was a conviction and sentence to prison, and many crimes do not result in conviction or imprisonment. Furthermore, these estimates do not take into account the number of persons victimized by a particular crime.

In greater detail, over the course of an average 17 months in their communities, collectively the 162,000 probation violators:

- murdered 6,400 people (more than half of them strangers)
- raped or sexually assaulted 6,700 females and 700 males (a third were under the age of 12; 63% under 18)
- robbed 17,000 people (86% of them strangers)

- assaulted 10,400 people (9% of them wives, ex-wives, girlfriends and ex-girlfriends; half of them strangers)

- burglarized 16,600 homes and businesses
- stole 3,100 motor vehicles.

Parole violators— During their average 13 months on parole, the 156,000 parole violators collectively committed a conservatively estimated:

- 46,000 violent crimes
- 45,000 property crimes
- 24,000 drug offenses
- 9,000 other offenses

In greater detail, based on convictions of the 156,000 collectively:

- murdered 6,800 people (half of them strangers)
- raped or sexually assaulted 4,900 females and 600 males (21% were under the age of 12; 47% under 18)
- robbed 22,500 people (86% of them strangers)
- assaulted 8,800 people (14% of them wives, ex-wives, girlfriends and ex-girlfriends; more than half of them strangers)
- burglarized 23,000 homes and businesses
- stole 4,800 motor vehicles.

Table 9. Prior conviction offense that resulted in probation versus current offense for which imprisoned, 1991

Prior conviction offense for which they received probation	Number of inmates	Total	Not convicted of new offenses while on probation	Offense committed while on probation and currently imprisoned for				
				Total	Violent	Property	Drugs	Public-order
Violent	31,027	100%	27.0%	73.0%	43.0%	14.0%	10.8%	5.0%
Property	66,809	100	24.6	75.4	25.9	36.7	9.0	3.8
Drugs	43,691	100	30.3	69.7	15.8	9.5	40.6	3.8
Public-order	16,807	100	26.6	73.4	33.1	7.1	10.9	22.4

Note: Excludes 3,416 inmates for whom prior offense that resulted in probation or current offense was unknown.

Table 10. Prior conviction offense that resulted in parole versus current offense for which imprisoned, 1991

Prior conviction offense for which they received parole	Number of inmates	Total	Not convicted of new offenses while on parole	Offense committed while on parole and currently imprisoned for				
				Total	Violent	Property	Drugs	Public-order
Violent	50,629	100%	19.3%	80.7%	49.7%	15.3%	9.2%	6.5%
Property	64,016	100	17.9	82.1	23.0	47.4	8.0	3.7
Drugs	26,502	100	22.8	77.2	12.3	14.9	45.6	4.3
Public-order	12,671	100	21.8	78.2	21.8	22.5	13.8	20.1

Note: Excludes 1,532 inmates for whom prior offense that resulted in parole or current offense was unknown.

Based on those with a current conviction for a violent crime, probation violators were more likely to victimize a minor compared to parole violators (13% versus 8%) (table 11). Victim injury was also more prevalent among probation violators (60%) than parole violators (50%).

Death, rape and sexual assault were more prevalent among nonstatus offenders at the time of admission in prison for a violent offense than

among violators. About 17% of probation violators reported that they had sexually assaulted or raped their victim. About 12% of parole violators reported they had raped or sexually assaulted their victim.

Probation and parole violators in prison for a violent crime were more likely to have victimized a stranger (59%), compared to 46% of nonstatus offenders in prison for a violent crime.

Drug and alcohol use

An estimated 55% of probation and parole violators who were convicted of a new offense while on probation or parole reported they had used drugs in the month before their arrest. However, 2% of violators who had used drugs in the month before their current offense reported a "positive test for drug use" as the reason for their revocation.⁹ This suggests that much illegal drug use by probationers and parolees may go undetected.

⁹About equal percentages of probation and parole violators (1.7% and 2.6%) had used drugs in the month before their current offense and reported that they had a violation resulting from a positive test for drug use. There is no significant difference between probation and parole violators.

Table 11. Status at time of admission to prison, by victim and offender characteristics of convicted violent State prison inmates, 1991

Victim and offender characteristic	Total	Criminal justice status at admission		
		Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
Number of victims				
1	76.7%	75.8%	72.9%	77.7%
2	13.6	13.8	14.2	13.4
3 or more	9.7	10.4	13.0	8.9
Age of victims				
Minor	17.8%	13.3%	7.7%	20.8%
Adult	79.7	83.7	89.4	76.9
Mixed	2.5	3.1	2.8	2.4
Type of injury to victim				
Any injury	68.1%	60.4%	50.0%	73.3%
Death	27.8	17.8	15.8	32.5
Rape/sexual assault	20.8	16.7	12.1	23.6
Knife or stab wound	3.5	5.1	4.8	2.9
Gun shot, bullet wounds	4.4	4.3	3.3	4.6
Broken bones	2.3	3.9	2.0	2.0
Other internal injuries	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.3
Knocked unconscious	2.1	3.3	2.3	1.8
Minor bruises and cuts	8.3	12.6	9.9	7.0
Other	2.2	2.5	1.2	2.4
Relationship of inmates to their victims				
Close	17.3%	11.2%	8.9%	20.2%
Intimate	7.4	5.4	5.7	8.2
Relative	9.9	5.8	3.2	12.1
Known	33.0%	32.3%	29.8%	33.8%
Well known	14.7	14.9	12.0	15.3
Acquaintance	11.9	10.8	11.0	12.3
By sight only	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.3
Stranger	49.7%	56.5%	61.3%	45.9%
Number of inmates	305,509	44,328	46,311	214,871

Note: Excludes an estimated 10,709 inmates for whom data on numbers of victim(s) were unknown, 28,156 inmates for whom data on age of victim(s) were unknown, 16,041 inmates who did not report the type of injury to victim(s), and 15,175 inmates who did not report relationship to the victim. Except for offenses in which victims died, more than one type of injury could be reported. Excludes an estimated 72,974 inmates not convicted for a new offense when they violated their probation or parole.

There was no significant difference in drug use between probation and parole violators (table 12). About 55% of violators had used drugs in the month before the current offense, compared to 46% among nonstatus offenders. Probation and parole violators were also more likely than nonstatus offenders to have used drugs daily in the month

preceding their offense (41%), and to have been under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense (35%).

Probation violators were more likely to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the current offense (34%) compared to parole violators (28%). Probation violators were also

more likely to have been under the influence of both alcohol and drugs at the time of the current offense (17%) compared to parole violators (12%). Violators were more likely to have committed their offense to obtain money to buy drugs than nonstatus offenders. While under supervision, about 1 in 5 violators reported committing their offense to get money to buy drugs.

More than half of probation and parole violators reported drug use in the month before their current offense and about a third were under the influence of drugs at the time of that crime (table 13). Heroin or opiate usage was greater among parole violators while marijuana use was greater among probation violators. Crack and cocaine use was similar for the two groups.

At the time of the current offense, probation violators were just as likely to be using cocaine as they were marijuana. Parole violators were just as likely to be using heroin as they were marijuana.

Table 12. Status at time of prison admission, by drug and alcohol use of convicted State prison inmates, 1991

Drug and alcohol use	Total	Criminal justice status at admission		
		Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
Used drugs in the month before current offense	49.2%	55.6%	54.2%	45.6%
Used drugs daily in the month before current offense	35.6	41.0	41.3	32.0
Under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the current offense				
Alcohol only	17.6	17.3	16.1	18.3
Drugs only	16.3	19.3	20.5	14.0
Both	13.7	16.7	12.2	13.2
Neither	52.4	46.7	51.2	54.6
Committed offense to obtain money to buy drugs	16.8	20.2	21.6	14.2
Number of inmates	620,123	118,759	125,189	376,174

Note: Excludes an estimated 1,207 inmates who did not report their drug use in the month before the current offense, 6,640 inmates who did not report their drug use on a daily basis in the month before the current offense. Also excludes 591 inmates who did not report if they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the current offense, and 12,911 inmates who did not say whether they committed the offense to get money to buy drugs. Also excludes an estimated 72,974 inmates not convicted for a new offense when they violated their probation/parole.

Table 13. Status at time of prison admission, by type of drug convicted State prison inmates used, 1991

Type of drug	Percent of inmates using drugs:					
	In the month before the offense			At the time of the offense		
	Probation violator	Parole violator	No status	Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
Any drug	55.6%	54.2%	45.6%	36.5%	33.6%	27.6%
Marijuana ^a	36.9	31.9	30.7	14.7	8.9	11.3
Crack	12.8	10.4	8.5	6.9	4.8	4.3
Cocaine	23.4	23.4	18.2	13.0	11.3	9.6
Heroin/opiates ^b	9.0	16.1	7.3	5.1	10.1	4.4
Barbiturates ^c	4.0	4.4	3.5	.8	.8	1.0
Stimulants ^d	9.0	9.0	6.3	3.3	3.5	2.3
Hallucinogens ^e	5.0	3.6	3.3	2.2	1.2	1.6
Number of inmates	118,815	124,931	375,761	117,459	122,102	370,838

Note: Detail may add to more than total because an inmate may have been using more than one drug. Excludes 1,207 inmates who did not report their drug use in the month before current offense and 10,315 inmates who did not report if they were under the influence of drugs at the time of the current offense. Also excludes an estimated 72,974 inmates not convicted for a new offense when they violated their probation/parole.

^aIncludes marijuana and hashish.

^bIncludes heroin, opiates, and methadone.

^cIncludes barbiturates and quaaludes or downers.

^dIncludes amphetamines and methamphetamines.

^eIncludes LSD, PCP, and other hallucinogens.

Weapons

An estimated 24% of probation violators compared to 19% of parole violators convicted of a new offense owned or possessed a firearm in the month before their arrest, a period when they presumably were on probation or parole (table 14). Federal law prohibits felons from possessing a firearm, and in many cases, such possession is a violation of State law. Depending on the State, some or all probationers and parolees convicted of misdemeanors are forbidden by law or as a standard condition of probation or parole from possessing a firearm. Therefore, those probation and parole violators who possessed a firearm during their period of supervision were probably eligible to be revoked for a weapons violation. The data on type of violation suggest that of those who could have been revoked for possession of a firearm, less than 1% were actually revoked for a weapons violation.

Approximately 21% of probation and parole violators owned or possessed a firearm in the month before arrest (table 14). Of those violators who possessed a firearm, an estimated 2 in 3 were armed with a firearm when they committed their current offense.

Although 14% of violators (35,000) reported having a firearm when they committed their current offense, 1 out of every 5 of them (7,000) were actually convicted of a weapons offense.

Probation violators are just as likely as parole violators to possess a handgun in the month before arrest. About 3 out of 4 violators who owned or possessed a handgun in the month before their arrest were armed with a handgun when committing their current offense. Of those violators armed with a handgun when committing their current offense, 1 out of every 3 fired the handgun during the offense.

Nonstatus offenders were more likely than violators to have been under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and armed with a firearm at the time of the current offense. Of all violators who were armed with a firearm when committing their current offense (14%), more than half were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at that time.

Armed with firearm when committing current offense	Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
— and under the influence of drug and/or alcohol	8.0%	7.1%	9.6%

Table 14. Convicted State prison inmates who owned or possessed a firearm, by status at admission, 1991

Use of weapons	Total	Criminal justice status at admission		
		Probation violator	Parole violator	No status
Ever owned or possessed a firearm	43.6%	41.2%	43.7%	44.3%
Any type of firearm				
Owned or possessed a firearm in month before arrest	24.6%	23.7%	19.2%	26.6%
Armed with firearm when committing current offense	17.4	14.7	14.2	19.3
Fired firearm during current offense	8.4	5.0	5.5	10.5
Handguns				
Owned or possessed a handgun in month before arrest	18.6%	18.0%	16.1%	19.6%
Armed with handgun when committing current offense	14.1	12.1	12.2	15.4
Fired handgun during current offense	6.6	4.0	4.6	8.1
Number of inmates	620,714	118,815	125,215	376,684

Note: Excludes an estimated 609 inmates who did not report if they had a handgun in the month before the current offense, 9,912 inmates who did not report if they had a firearm, handgun, or fired a handgun during the current offense, and 9,859 who did not report if they fired any type of firearm during the current offense. Excludes an estimated 72,974 inmates not convicted for a new offense when they violated their probation/parole.

Methodology

The 1991 Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities was administered for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Personal interviews were conducted with 13,986 inmates to collect data on individual characteristics of State prison inmates, current offense and sentences, characteristics of victims of violent inmates, criminal histories, prior drug and alcohol use, and drug and alcohol treatment provided in prison. Similar surveys were conducted in 1974, 1979, and 1986.

Sample design

The sample for the 1991 survey was selected from a universe of 1,239 state prisons enumerated in the 1990 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities or had been opened between completion of the census and February 29, 1991. The sample design was a stratified, two-stage selection.

In the first stage correctional facilities were separated into two sampling frames; prisons with male inmates and prisons with female inmates. Prisons holding both sexes were included on both lists. Within each frame, prisons were separated into eight strata defined by census region (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West) and facility type (confinement and community-based).

All prisons with 1,950 or more men were selected from the male frame, and all prisons with 380 or more women were selected from the female frame. The remaining prisons in the male frame were grouped into equal sized strata of approximately 2,600 males and then stratified by security level (maximum, medium, minimum, and classified). The remaining prisons in the female frame were grouped into strata of approximately 574 females. A systematic sample of prisons was then selected within strata on each frame, with probabilities proportional to the size of each prison. Overall, a total of 277 prisons were selected.

Appendix table 1. Prior conviction offense for probation/parole violators currently in State prison, 1991

Prior conviction offense for which they received probation/parole	Probation violators		Parole violators	
	New conviction	Technical ^a	New conviction	Technical ^a
All offenses	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Violent offenses	19.6%	19.7%	33.0%	32.5%
Murder ^b	.3	.6	2.1	3.3
Manslaughter	.5	.3	1.1	1.7
Kidnaping	.4	.1	1.0	.7
Rape	.7	.5	1.4	1.1
Other sexual assault	2.1	4.2	1.3	2.2
Robbery	7.3	5.4	19.9	15.5
Assault	7.6	7.8	6.0	7.7
Other violent ^c	.6	.8	.2	.3
Property offenses	43.5%	38.6%	42.5%	38.1%
Burglary	18.1	16.1	23.6	16.3
Larceny/theft	9.2	9.1	6.9	9.2
Motor vehicle theft	5.3	2.8	4.7	5.2
Arson	.6	.6	.1	.5
Fraud	5.3	6.9	3.7	4.5
Stolen property	3.1	2.0	3.0	2.2
Other property ^d	1.9	1.1	.5	.2
Drug offenses	26.3%	31.2%	16.5%	20.1%
Possession	12.5	16.4	6.6	10.6
Trafficking	12.7	13.6	9.5	8.5
Other/unspecified	1.1	1.2	.4	1.0
Public-order offenses	9.8%	8.2%	4.8%	5.1%
Weapons	2.3	2.1	1.8	2.0
Other public-order ^e	7.5	6.1	3.0	3.1
Other offenses	.5%	.5%	.4%	.6%
Probation/parole violation^f	.4%	1.8%	2.8%	3.7%
Number of inmates	115,845	42,502	123,832	30,101

Note: Excludes an estimated 4,663 inmates in 1991 for whom the offense for which they received probation/parole was unknown. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

^aTechnical violators in State prison are currently serving the suspended portion of their prior conviction offense.

^bIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^cIncludes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse and criminal endangerment.

^dIncludes destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving without bodily injury, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools.

^eIncludes escape from custody, driving while intoxicated, violations of morals and decency, and commercialized vice.

^fIncludes probation and parole violators whose most serious offense was a violation and who were incarcerated for technically violating their probation or parole.

In the second stage, interviewers visited each selected facility and systematically selected a sample of male and female inmates using predetermined procedures. As a result, approximately 1 in 52 males and 1 in 11 females were selected. A total of 13,986 interviews were completed, yielding an overall response rate of 93.7%. Based on the completed interviews, estimates for the entire

population were developed using weighting factors derived from the original probability of selection in the sample. These factors were adjusted for variable rates of nonresponse across strata and inmate characteristics. Further adjustments were made to control the survey estimates to mid-year 1991 custody counts projected from data obtained in the National Prisoner Statistics series (NPS-1).

Accuracy of the estimates

The accuracy of the estimates presented in this report depends on two types of errors: sampling and non-sampling. Sampling error is variation that may occur by chance because a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population was conducted. Nonsampling error can be attributed to many sources, such as nonresponse, differences in the interpretation of questions among inmates, recall difficulties, and processing errors. In any survey the full extent of the nonsampling error is never known.

The sampling error, as measured by an estimated standard error, varies by the size of the estimate and the size of the base population. Estimates of the standard errors have been calculated for the 1991 survey of prison inmates, (see appendix table 4). These standard errors may be used to construct confidence intervals around percentages in this report. For example, the 95-percent confidence interval around the percentage of probation violators who are between the ages of 18-29 is 61.2 plus or minus 1.96 times 1.3 (or 58.7% to 63.7%).

These standard errors may also be used to test the statistical significance of the difference between two sample statistics by pooling the standard error of the two sample estimates. For example, the standard error of the difference in the percentage of probation violators in 1991 who were between the ages of 18 and 29 compared to parole violators between the ages of 18 and 29 would be 1.94 (or the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors in each category). The 95-percent confidence interval around the difference would be 1.96 times 1.91% (or 3.8%). Since the observed difference of 20% (61.2% minus 41.2%) is greater than 3.8%, the difference would be considered significant.

Comparisons discussed in this report were determined to be statistically significant at the 95-percent confidence level. Statements of comparison qualified by language such as "slightly", "somewhat," or "marginal" indicate statistical significance at the 90-percent level (1.6 standard errors). Because of the sample design, State, local, or other subnational estimates cannot be made.

Self-reported information

Through a series of questions, inmates were asked if they were currently serving a sentence. Those inmates who responded they were not, but were pending trial, sentencing, or a probation or parole revocation hearing, were considered not sentenced and were not included in this report. The data presented here and the results will differ somewhat from those in other BJS reports.

Criminal history data are based on self-reported information provided by each respondent. Through a series of questions, inmates were asked to report on past probation sentences as juveniles and as adults and on past sentences to incarceration up to 10 prior times. For each sentence, the inmates were asked the offenses for which they were sentenced, the type of institution in which they served time, the date of admission, and the length of time expected to serve. From this information, a criminal history profile was constructed.

Appendix table 2. Percent of State prison admissions who were on parole or other conditional release, 1926-1992

(a) Year	(b) New court commitments ^a	(c) Parole or other conditional release violators returned ^b	(d) Total admissions from court to State prisons (b+c)	(e) Violators as a percent of total (c/d)	(f) Number of States included in admissions total shown in column b	(g) Number of States included in violators returned total shown in column c
1926	41,990	2,202	44,192	5.0%	44	43
1927	46,915	2,357	49,272	4.8	46	41
1928	50,176	2,687	52,863	5.1	45	44
1929	49,172	2,778	51,950	5.3	44	43
1930	56,213	3,079	59,292	5.2	44	43
1931	60,905	3,538	64,443	5.5	46	44
1932	57,825	4,085	61,910	6.6	45	44
1933	54,468	3,896	58,364	6.7	45	44
1934	52,976	3,993	56,969	7.0	46	45
1935	53,886	4,503	58,389	7.7	46	40
1936	49,466	4,227	53,693	7.9	46	43
1937	52,381	5,491	57,872	9.5	46	46
1938	55,788	5,406	61,194	8.8	47	45
1939	53,997	5,255	59,252	8.9	47	47
1940	66,084	5,824	71,908	8.1	47	46
1941	61,869	6,356	68,225	9.3	47	46
1942	52,604	6,265	58,869	10.6	47	47
1943	42,033	6,020	48,053	12.5	47	47
1944	39,937	6,489	46,426	14.0	47	46
1945	42,273	6,160	48,433	12.7	49	47
1946	49,094	6,636	55,730	11.9	49	49
1947	55,333	7,317	62,650	11.7	49	49
1948	58,395	7,127	65,700	10.8	49	48
1949	58,573	7,550	66,123	11.4	49	49
1950	55,236	7,321	62,557	11.7	49	49
1951	52,260	7,898	60,158	13.1	49	49
1952	54,681	8,470	63,151	13.4	49	48
1953	56,923	9,080	66,003	13.8	49	48
1954	63,261	9,453	72,714	13.0	49	48
1955	63,193	9,892	73,085	13.5	49	49
1956	64,534	10,569	75,103	14.1	49	49
1957	67,252	10,856	78,108	13.9	49	48
1958	74,922	11,540	86,462	13.3	49	48
1959	73,394	12,056	85,450	14.1	49	49
1960	74,952	13,586	88,538	15.3	50	50
1961	80,073	14,822	94,895	15.6	50	49
1962	75,568	15,593	91,161	17.1	50	50
1963	74,944	17,256	92,200	18.7	50	50
1964	75,096	17,867	92,963	19.2	50	50
1965	74,724	17,570	92,294	19.0	50	38
1966	66,349	15,916	82,265	19.3	50	49
1967	66,403	15,809	82,212	19.2	50	49
1968	60,938	15,825	76,763	20.6	43	43
1969	63,688	14,237	77,925	18.3	46	46
1970	67,304	15,764	83,068	19.0	46	46
1971	84,099	14,821	98,920	15.0	49	49
1972	--	--	103,212	--	--	--
1973	--	--	110,516	--	--	--
1974	89,243	15,884	105,127	15.1	50	50
1975	112,803	17,675	130,478	13.5	51	51
1976	112,045	21,038	133,083	15.8	51	51
1977	114,230	19,617	133,847	14.7	51	51
1978	122,874	22,415	145,289	15.4	51	51
1979	118,428	24,214	142,642	17.0	51	51
1980	131,215	27,177	158,392	17.2	51	51
1981	149,186	33,965	183,151	18.5	51	51
1982	164,648	36,686	201,334	18.2	51	51
1983	173,289	42,985	216,274	19.9	51	51
1984	166,927	49,532	216,459	22.9	51	51
1985	183,131	56,192	239,323	23.5	51	51
1986	203,315	68,783	272,098	25.3	51	51
1987	225,627	80,524	306,151	26.3	51	51
1988	245,310	98,610	343,920	28.7	51	51
1989	297,827	120,545	418,372	28.8	51	51
1990	323,069	133,870	456,939	29.3	51	51
1991	317,237	142,100	459,337	30.9	51	51
1992	334,301	141,961	476,262	29.8	51	51

--Detail not available.

Sources: See *appendix table 3* for column b and column c sources.

^aIncludes inmates who were sentenced directly to prison by the courts. Included among new court commitments are probation violators who were removed from probation and sent to prison.

^bIncludes those who were released from prison conditionally, but did not obey those conditions.

Such violators are predominantly parolees who failed to obey their release conditions, but they also include mandatory releases, shock probation, and other types of releases involving community supervision.

Appendix table 3

Sources for total admissions from courts and violators returned (columns c and d), appendix table 2

1926	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1926</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1929, p. 6, table 3	1939	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1939</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1941, p. 4, table 2	1962-64	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1965</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 40, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1966, p. 14, table 5
1927	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1927</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1931, p. 5, table 3	1940-46	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1946</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1948, p. 6, table 3	1965-66	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1967</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 44, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1969, p. 12, table 5
1928	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1928</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1931, p. 6, table 3	1947	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1947</i> , Current Population Reports Prisoners, number 15, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1949, p. 2, table 2	1967-69	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1968, 1969, 1970</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 47, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1972, p. 8, table 5
1929	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1929 and 1930</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1932, p. 7, table 4b	1948	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1948</i> , Current Population Reports Prisoners, number 1, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1950, p. 4, table 3	1970-71	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1974</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, number 48, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, 1976, p. 22, table 5
1930	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1929 and 1930</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1932, p. 6, table 4a	1949	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1949</i> , Current Population Reports Prisoners, number 3, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1951, p. 3, table 3	1974	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1971</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, SD-NPS-PSF-2, Bureau of Prisons, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, 1976, p. 22, table 5
1931-32	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1931 and 1932</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1934, p. 4, table 4	1950	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1966</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 43, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1968, p. 11 and p. 20, tables 2 and 8	1975	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1975</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, SD-NPS-PSF-3, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, 1973, p. 6, table 5
1933	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1934</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1936, p. 8, table 6	1951	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1951</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 7, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1952, p. 3, table 2	1976	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 1976</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, SD-NPS-PSF-4, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, 1978, p. 22, table 4
1934	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1935</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1937, p. 9, table 6	1952	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1952</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 9, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1953, p. 3, table 2	1977	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1977</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, SD-NPS-PSF-5, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, 1979, p. 16, table 7
1935-36	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1936</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1938, p. 10, table 6	1953	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1953</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 11, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1954, p. 3, table 2	1978	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1978</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, SD-NPS-PSF-6, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice, 1980, p. 22-23, table 10
1937	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1937</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1939, p. 4, table 2	1954	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1954</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 13, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1955, p. 3, table 2	1979	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1979</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, NCJ-73719, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1981, p. 20, table 10
1938	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories 1938</i> , Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1941, p. 4, table 2	1955-61	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions for Adult Felons 1962</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Report, number 33, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 1963, p. 17, table 3	1980	<i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1980</i> , National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, NCJ-80520, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1982, p. 24, table 12

Appendix table 3 (continued)

Sources for appendix table 2

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|---|---|---|
| <p>1981 <i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1981</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, NCJ-86485, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1983, p. 26, table 12</p> | <p>1986 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1986</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-111611, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1989, p. 53, table 5.10a</p> | <p>1991 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1991</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-142729, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1993, p. 61, table 5.10a</p> |
| <p>1982 <i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1982</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, NCJ-93311, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1984, p. 24, table 12</p> | <p>1987 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1987</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-118762, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1989, p. 95, table 5.10a</p> | <p>1992 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1992</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-146413, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1995, p. 73, table 5.10a</p> |
| <p>1983 <i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1983</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, NCJ-99861, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1986, p. 22, table 10</p> | <p>1988 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1988</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-124280, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1991, p. 67, table 5.10a</p> | |
| <p>1984 <i>Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1984</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Bulletin, NCJ-103768, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1987, p. 22, table 10</p> | <p>1989 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1989</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-130445, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1991, p. 73, table 5.10a</p> | |
| <p>1985 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1985</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-103957, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1987, p. 61, table 5.10a</p> | <p>1990 <i>Correctional Populations in the United States, 1990</i>, National Prisoner Statistics Report, NCJ-134946, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1992, p. 87, table 5.10a</p> | |

Appendix table 4. Standard errors of the estimated percentages, State prison inmates, 1991

Denominator of the estimate	Estimated percentage					
	98 or 2	95 or 5	90 or 10	80 or 20	70 or 30	50
3,000	2.9	4.4	6.1	8.2	9.3	10.2
5,000	2.2	3.4	4.7	6.3	7.2	7.9
10,000	1.6	2.4	3.4	4.5	5.1	5.6
15,000	1.3	2.0	2.7	3.6	4.2	4.6
20,000	1.1	1.7	2.4	3.2	3.6	3.9
30,000	.9	1.4	1.9	2.6	3.0	3.2
40,000	.8	1.2	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.8
50,000	.7	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.3	2.5
100,000	.5	.8	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.8
110,000	.5	.7	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7
120,000	.5	.7	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.6
130,000	.4	.7	.9	1.2	1.4	1.5
140,000	.4	.7	.9	1.2	1.4	1.5
150,000	.4	.6	.9	1.2	1.3	1.4
160,000	.4	.6	.8	1.1	1.3	1.4
170,000	.4	.6	.8	1.1	1.2	1.4
694,442*	.2	.3	.4	.5	.6	.7

Note: The reliability of an estimated percentage depends on the size and its base (or denominator). Each standard error when multiplied by 1.96 provides a 95-percent confidence interval around an estimated percentages. To calculate the difference between two estimated percentages, take the square root of the sum of each squared standard error for the percentage being compared.

*The total number of violators and non-violators in State prisons in 1991.

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