



# Department of Justice

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## **NATION'S PROBATION AND PAROLE POPULATION REACHED NEW HIGH LAST YEAR**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- More than 3.9 million adult men and women--a new record--were on probation or parole at the end of 1997, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced today. The 2.9 percent increase of about 110,000 people almost matched the average annual increase of 3.0 percent since 1990.

The total federal, state and local adult correctional population--incarcerated or in the community--reached a new high of 5.7 million at the end of 1997. About 2.9 percent of the U.S. adult population, or about one in every 35 adults, were incarcerated or on probation or parole.

There were 3,261,888 adults serving a probation sentence at the end of last year, with felony convictions accounting for more than half (54 percent). More than one-quarter of adult probationers (28 percent) had been convicted of a misdemeanor. Fourteen percent were on probation for driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, and 4 percent for other offenses.

Also serving time in the community at the end of 1997 were 685,033 adults on parole, which is conditional supervised release following a prison term. Nearly all parolees had been convicted of a felony (96 percent). One-half of the persons entering parole last year had received a mandatory release because of a sentencing statute or a good-time provision that released them from prison and 45 percent entered parole because of a parole board decision.

Almost one-quarter of all persons being supervised in the community during 1997 were in Texas or California. Texas led the nation with 538,500 persons on probation or parole at the end of 1997, followed by California with 408,900.

West Virginia had the nation's lowest rate of community supervision at the end of last year, with about one-half of 1 percent of its adults on probation or parole (502 offenders per 100,000 adults), followed by Kentucky (554) and North Dakota (584). Four states had more than 3,000 adult offenders per 100,000 residents on probation or parole--Texas (3,884), Delaware (3,332), Washington (3,189) and Georgia (3,098).

(MORE)

Four states reported an increase of 10 percent or more in their probation population during 1997--Nevada (up 11.7 percent), Maine (10.7), New Hampshire (10.5) and Arizona (10.4). Nine states reported increases in their parole populations of at least 10 percent. Colorado led the nation with a parole population increase of 25.7 percent, which may have largely resulted from a state law that mandates a period of parole supervision for all persons sentenced to prison for crimes committed on or after July 1, 1993.

Women represented a larger fraction of both the probation and parole populations in 1997 than they did in 1990. Twenty-one percent of all probationers in 1997 (524,200) were women, up from 18 percent (408,000) in 1990. Eleven percent of all parolees in 1997 (75,300) were women, up from 8 percent (39,400) in 1990.

Blacks represented more than a third of probationers (775,600) at year-end 1997, and nearly half of parolees (281,000). Two-thirds of probationers (1,413,100) and more than half of parolees (339,000) were white. Persons of other races accounted for about 1 percent of each population (30,000 probationers and 8,200 parolees). Hispanics, who may be of any race, comprised 16 percent of probationers (287,100) and 21 percent of parolees (108,300).

More than 1.6 million probationers and over 400,000 parolees were discharged from supervision in 1997. More than three out of five of those exiting probation (708,200) and over two out of five of those exiting parole (179,900) had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. During the same year 18 percent of probationers (211,800) who were discharged from supervision in 1997 and 41 percent of parolees leaving supervision (168,000) were incarcerated because of a rule violation or new offense.

The data were collected and analyzed by BJS statistician Thomas P. Bonczar with assistance from Lauren E. Glaze. Copies may be obtained from the BJS fax-on-demand system (301/519-5550, document number 123), by calling the BJS Clearinghouse at 1-800/732-3277 (order no. NCJ 172216) or by downloading from the BJS Internet site at:

**<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>**

Additional criminal justice information can be obtained from the Office of Justice Programs Internet homepage at:

**<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>**

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After hours contact: Stu Smith at 301/983-9354

## Adults on probation, 1997

Region and jurisdiction	Probation population, 1/1/97	1997		Probation population, 12/31/97	Percent change in probation population during 1997	Number on probation on 12/31/97 per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	3,161,030	1,725,834	1,628,403	3,261,888	3.2%	1,647
Federal	34,202	14,756	16,331	32,627	-4.6%	16
State	3,126,828	1,711,078	1,612,072	3,229,261	3.3	1,630
<b>Northeast</b>	551,727	249,991	229,955	572,594	3.8%	1,470
Connecticut	55,978	38,275	38,264	55,989	0	2,260
Maine <sup>a</sup>	7,753	:	:	8,584	10.7	909
Massachusetts	44,858	39,021	37,449	46,430	3.5	995
New Hampshire	4,414	3,585	3,123	4,876	10.5	556
New Jersey	125,881	59,651	54,967	130,565	3.7	2,153
New York	174,406	47,634	36,159	185,881	6.6	1,369
Pennsylvania	110,532	47,366	45,405	112,493	1.8	1,229
Rhode Island	20,446	8,473	9,271	19,648	-3.9	2,607
Vermont	7,459	5,986	5,317	8,128	9.0	1,833
<b>Midwest</b>	704,965	491,274	465,678	730,005	3.6%	1,579
Illinois	115,503	63,296	59,318	119,481	3.4	1,370
Indiana	93,509	81,799	78,263	97,045	3.8	2,222
Iowa	15,386	15,428	13,980	16,834	9.4	791
Kansas <sup>b,c</sup>	15,732	19,502	19,029	16,205	3.0	850
Michigan <sup>a,d</sup>	147,598	124,731	117,525	154,236	4.5	2,122
Minnesota <sup>a</sup>	90,202	55,258	55,509	90,707	0.6	2,641
Missouri <sup>d,e</sup>	42,368	20,718	16,785	46,301	9.3	1,159
Nebraska	14,363	14,696	14,534	14,525	1.1	1,198
North Dakota	2,599	1,498	1,440	2,657	2.2	559
Ohio <sup>a,d</sup>	116,865	64,512	61,957	118,761	1.6	1,423
South Dakota <sup>a,f</sup>	3,548	4,768	4,764	3,467	-2.3	641
Wisconsin <sup>g</sup>	47,292	25,068	22,574	49,786	5.3	1,302
<b>South</b>	1,272,488	667,472	651,235	1,292,339	1.6%	1,850
Alabama <sup>a,d</sup>	37,865	2,153	1,669	35,723	-5.7	1,100
Arkansas	25,178	8,529	7,315	26,392	4.8	1,419
Delaware <sup>a,e</sup>	16,528	:	:	17,872	8.1	3,225
District of Columbia	9,740	9,875	8,818	10,797	10.9	2,560
Florida <sup>a,d</sup>	237,117	196,263	196,902	239,932	1.2	2,146
Georgia <sup>d</sup>	143,457	65,452	60,489	148,420	3.5	2,699
Kentucky <sup>h</sup>	11,689	6,087	5,683	12,093	3.5	410
Louisiana	35,375	11,815	11,737	35,453	0.2	1,122
Maryland	70,553	39,163	35,104	74,612	5.8	1,950
Mississippi <sup>a,b,c</sup>	10,376	3,547	3,926	10,997	6.0	556
North Carolina	102,483	59,327	56,394	105,416	2.9	1,899
Oklahoma <sup>a,d</sup>	28,090	13,812	13,131	28,733	2.3	1,178
South Carolina	42,417	15,046	15,059	42,404	0	1,512
Tennessee <sup>d</sup>	37,002	20,305	19,056	38,251	3.4	946
Texas <sup>i</sup>	429,329	193,128	193,364	429,093	-0.1	3,095
Virginia <sup>e</sup>	29,620	22,970	22,588	30,002	1.3	589
West Virginia <sup>a,d,e</sup>	5,669	:	:	6,149	8.5	438
<b>West</b>	597,648	302,341	265,204	634,323	6.1%	1,473
Alaska	3,999	2,038	1,659	4,378	9.5	1,040
Arizona <sup>d,e</sup>	40,607	29,604	25,398	44,813	10.4	1,368
California	286,526	164,882	146,877	304,531	6.3	1,306
Colorado <sup>a,d,e</sup>	42,688	20,153	16,051	45,447	6.5	1,580
Hawaii	14,027	7,521	6,147	15,401	9.8	1,742
Idaho <sup>j</sup>	5,855	2,308	1,796	6,367	8.7	741
Montana <sup>h,k</sup>	4,473	1,257	1,052	4,678	4.6	720
Nevada <sup>a</sup>	9,760	:	:	10,902	11.7	884
New Mexico <sup>d</sup>	8,903	7,470	7,478	8,895	-0.1	723
Oregon	42,292	16,210	14,522	43,980	4.0	1,808
Utah	9,306	4,107	3,952	9,461	1.7	690
Washington <sup>a,d</sup>	125,780	44,511	38,016	132,014	5.0	3,177
Wyoming	3,432	2,280	2,256	3,456	0.7	993

:Not known.

<sup>a</sup>Because of nonresponse or incomplete data, the population on December 31, 1997, does not equal the population on January 1, 1997, plus entries, minus exits.

<sup>b</sup>Data do not include absconders.

<sup>c</sup>Data do not include out-of-State cases.

<sup>d</sup>Multiple agencies reporting.

<sup>e</sup>All data are estimated.

<sup>f</sup>Data are for year ending June 30, 1997.

<sup>g</sup>Data are provisional, pending further review by the State.

<sup>h</sup>Data do not include inactive cases.

<sup>i</sup>Data are for year ending August 31, 1997.

<sup>j</sup>Total entries are estimated.

<sup>k</sup>Total exits are estimated.

**Adults on parole, 1997**

Region and jurisdiction	Parole population, 1/1/97	1997		Parole population, 12/31/97	Percent change in parole population during 1997	Number on parole on 12/31/97 per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	675,986	420,615	410,839	685,033	1.3%	346
Federal <sup>a</sup>	56,591	23,884	21,648	58,827	4.0%	30
State	619,395	396,731	389,191	626,206	1.1	316
<b>Northeast</b>	154,959	78,667	72,493	160,737	3.7%	413
Connecticut	1,083	1,058	1,145	996	-8.0	40
Maine	57	4	2	59	3.5	6
Massachusetts <sup>b</sup>	4,836	3,809	3,653	4,596	-5.0	98
New Hampshire	1,066	872	855	1,083	1.6	124
New Jersey	14,545	14,608	12,250	16,903	16.2	279
New York	57,137	27,096	24,563	59,670	4.4	439
Pennsylvania	75,013	30,211	28,992	76,232	1.6	833
Rhode Island	573	587	629	531	-7.3	70
Vermont	649	422	404	667	2.8	150
<b>Midwest</b>	87,987	62,604	61,922	88,683	0.8%	192
Illinois	30,064	23,595	23,311	30,348	0.9	348
Indiana <sup>c,d</sup>	3,580	4,549	4,085	4,044	13.0	93
Iowa <sup>b</sup>	2,200	2,343	2,506	2,051	-6.8	96
Kansas <sup>c</sup>	6,004	4,650	4,504	6,150	2.4	323
Michigan	14,609	8,758	9,016	14,351	-1.8	197
Minnesota	2,377	2,632	2,563	2,446	2.9	71
Missouri	13,087	4,720	5,293	12,514	-4.4	313
Nebraska	688	770	770	688	0.0	57
North Dakota	100	212	193	119	19.0	25
Ohio	6,331	5,258	4,786	6,803	7.5	81
South Dakota	725	675	540	860	18.6	159
Wisconsin <sup>e</sup>	8,222	4,442	4,355	8,309	1.1	217
<b>South</b>	241,668	98,173	104,626	234,780	-2.9%	336
Alabama <sup>b,f,g</sup>	4,966	0	0	4,742	-4.5	146
Arkansas <sup>f</sup>	5,459	3,225	2,817	5,867	7.5	315
Delaware <sup>f</sup>	591	196	196	591	--	107
District of Columbia	7,120	2,310	2,363	7,067	-0.7	1,676
Florida	9,243	3,596	4,362	8,477	-8.3	76
Georgia <sup>b</sup>	21,146	11,567	10,587	21,915	3.6	399
Kentucky	4,621	2,853	3,241	4,233	-8.4	144
Louisiana	19,082	10,819	9,974	19,927	4.4	630
Maryland	16,246	9,732	10,215	15,763	-3.0	412
Mississippi <sup>j,c,d,h</sup>	1,326	1,233	1,181	1,378	3.9	70
North Carolina	12,358	8,774	12,984	8,148	-34.1	147
Oklahoma	2,159	442	673	1,928	-10.7	79
South Carolina	5,036	1,343	1,369	5,010	-0.5	179
Tennessee <sup>d</sup>	8,934	4,294	4,535	8,693	-2.7	215
Texas <sup>f</sup>	112,594	27,682	30,839	109,437	-2.8	789
Virginia <sup>f</sup>	9,918	9,538	8,746	10,710	8.0	210
West Virginia	869	569	544	894	2.9	64
<b>West</b>	134,781	157,287	150,150	142,006	5.4%	330
Alaska	642	466	356	752	17.1	179
Arizona	3,785	6,141	6,548	3,378	-10.8	103
California <sup>g</sup>	99,578	134,345	129,514	104,409	4.9	448
Colorado	3,294	3,744	2,899	4,139	25.7	144
Hawaii	1,733	699	639	1,793	3.5	203
Idaho	692	600	472	820	18.5	95
Montana <sup>c,h,i</sup>	771	444	409	806	4.5	124
Nevada <sup>b</sup>	3,216	:	:	3,304	2.7	268
New Mexico	1,426	1,617	1,417	1,626	14.0	132
Oregon	15,800	6,649	5,634	16,815	6.4	691
Utah	2,920	2,329	1,930	3,319	13.7	242
Washington <sup>f</sup>	560	32	112	480	-14.3	12
Wyoming	364	221	220	365	0.3	105

:Not known.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Defined as persons received for supervision upon release from prison. Includes supervised release, parole, military parole, special parole, and mandatory release.

<sup>b</sup>Because of nonresponse or incomplete data, the population on December 31, 1997, does not equal the population on January 1, 1997, plus entries, minus exits.

<sup>c</sup>Data do not include absconders.

<sup>d</sup>Data do not include out-of-State cases.

<sup>e</sup>Data are provisional, pending further review by the State.

<sup>f</sup>All data are estimated.

<sup>g</sup>Multiple agencies were reporting.

<sup>h</sup>Data do not include inactive cases.

<sup>i</sup>Total exits are estimated.

**Number of adults under community supervision or incarcerated, 1990-97**

Year	Total estimated correctional population <sup>a</sup>	Community supervision		Incarceration		Adults under community supervision as percent of total correctional population	Adults under any correctional supervision as percent of all U.S. adult residents
		Probation	Parole	Jail	Prison		
1990 <sup>b</sup>	4,348,000	2,670,234	531,407	403,019	743,382	73.6%	2.3%
1991 <sup>b</sup>	4,535,600	2,728,472	590,442	424,129	792,535	73.2	2.4
1992 <sup>b</sup>	4,762,600	2,811,611	658,601	441,781	850,566	72.9	2.5
1993 <sup>b</sup>	4,944,000	2,903,061	676,100	455,500	909,381	72.4	2.6
1994	5,141,300	2,981,022	690,371	479,800	990,147	71.4	2.7
1995	5,335,100	3,077,861	679,421	499,300	1,078,542	70.4%	2.7%
1996	5,475,000	3,161,030	676,045	510,400	1,127,528	70.1	2.8
1997 <sup>c</sup>	5,690,700	3,261,888	685,033	557,974	1,185,800	69.4	2.9
Percent change							
1996-97	3.9%	3.2%	1.3%	9.3%	5.2%		
1990-97	30.9	22.2	28.9	38.4	59.5		
Average annual percent change							
1990-97	3.9%	2.9%	3.7%	4.8%	6.9%		

Note: Counts are for December 31, except for jail counts, which are for June 30. Counts of adults in jail facilities for 1993-96 were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100. Parole counts for 1996 dropped from the previously reported 704,709 because of reporting changes in New Jersey and other jurisdictions. Prisoner counts are for inmates in custody.

<sup>a</sup>A small number of individuals have multiple correctional statuses; consequently, the total of persons under correctional supervision is an overestimate. The total is rounded to the nearest 100.

<sup>b</sup>The estimated jail population for 1990-93 includes an unknown number of persons supervised outside jail facilities.

<sup>c</sup>The prison population in custody is estimated.

**Community corrections among the States, yearend 1997**

10 States with the largest 1997 community corrections populations	Number supervised	10 States with the largest percent increase	Percent increase	10 States with the highest rates of supervision, 1997	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*	10 States with the lowest rates of supervision, 1997	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*
<b>Probation:</b>							
Texas	429,093	Nevada	11.7%	Delaware	3,225	Kentucky	410
California	304,531	Maine	10.7	Washington	3,177	West Virginia	438
Florida	239,932	New Hampshire	10.5	Texas	3,095	Mississippi	556
New York	185,881	Arizona	10.4	Georgia	2,699	New Hampshire	556
Michigan	154,236	Hawaii	9.8	Minnesota	2,641	North Dakota	559
Georgia	148,420	Alaska	9.5	Rhode Island	2,607	Virginia	589
Washington	132,014	Iowa	9.4	Connecticut	2,260	South Dakota	641
New Jersey	130,565	Missouri	9.3	Indiana	2,222	Utah	690
Illinois	119,481	Vermont	9.0	New Jersey	2,153	Montana	720
Ohio	118,761	Idaho	8.7	Florida	2,146	New Mexico	723
<b>Parole:</b>							
Texas	109,437	Colorado	25.7%	Pennsylvania	833	Maine	6
California	104,409	North Dakota	19.0	Texas	789	Washington	12
Pennsylvania	76,232	South Dakota	18.6	Oregon	691	North Dakota	25
New York	59,670	Idaho	18.5	Louisiana	630	Connecticut	40
Illinois	30,348	Alaska	17.1	California	448	Nebraska	57
Georgia	21,915	New Jersey	16.2	New York	439	West Virginia	64
Louisiana	19,927	New Mexico	14.0	Maryland	412	Mississippi	70
New Jersey	16,903	Utah	13.7	Georgia	399	Rhode Island	70
Oregon	16,815	Indiana	13.0	Illinois	348	Minnesota	71
Maryland	15,763	Virginia	8.0	Kansas	323	Florida	76

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded.

\*Rates are computed using U.S. adult resident population on July 1, 1997.

**Characteristics of adults on probation, 1990 and 1997**

Characteristic of adults on probation	1990	1997
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	82 %	79 %
Female	18	21
<b>Race</b>		
White	68 %	64%
Black	31	35
Other races	1	1
<b>Hispanic origin</b>		
Hispanic	18 %	16 %
Non-Hispanic	82	84
<b>Status of supervision</b>		
Active supervision	83 %	79 %
Inactive supervision	9	8
Absconded from supervision	6	10
Supervised out of State	2	2
Other	**	2
<b>Entries</b>		
Probation without incarceration	87 %	76 %
Probation with incarceration	8	17
Probation of other types	5	6
<b>Exits</b>		
Successful completions	69 %	62%
Returned to incarceration	14	18
With new sentence	3	5
With the same sentence	11	13
Other unsuccessful	9	12
Death	--	1
Other	7	7
<b>Type of offense</b>		
Felony	48 %	54%
Misdemeanor	31	28
Driving while intoxicated	21	14
Other infractions	1	4

Note: For every characteristic there were persons of unknown status or type.

\*\*Not available.

--Less than 0.5%.

**Characteristics of adults on parole, 1990 and 1997**

Characteristic of adults on parole	1990	1997
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	92%	89%
Female	8	11
<b>Race</b>		
White	52%	54%
Black	47	45
Other races	1	1
<b>Hispanic origin</b>		
Hispanic	18%	21%
Non-Hispanic	82	79
<b>Status of supervision</b>		
Active supervision	82%	80%
Inactive supervision	6	7
Absconded from supervision	6	7
Supervised out of State	6	5
Other	**	1
<b>Entries</b>		
Discretionary parole	59%	45%
Mandatory parole	41	50
Reinstatement	**	4
Other	**	1
<b>Exits</b>		
Successful completions	50%	44%
Returned to incarceration	46	41
With new sentence	17	13
With revocation pending	11	28
Other	18	1
Transferred to another State	1	2
Death	1	1
Other	2	11
<b>Length of sentence</b>		
Less than 1 year	5%	4%
One year or more	95	96

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

\*\*Not available.

**Explanatory notes**

The 1997 Probation and Parole Data Surveys provide a count of the total of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, 1997, 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.

**Probation —**

The 1997 Probation Data Survey was sent to 271 respondents — 39 central reporters and 232 separate State, county or court agencies. States with reporters were Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (9), Florida (14), Georgia (2), Michigan (114), Missouri (2), New Mexico (2), Ohio (52), Oklahoma (3), Tennessee (3), Washington (24), and West Virginia (2).

Two local agencies in Michigan and one local agency in Washington did not provide data. For these cases the 12/31/96 population count was used as the 1/1/97 count and the 12/31/97 count.

**Parole —**

The 1997 Parole Data Survey was sent to 54 respondents — 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.

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