



Department of Justice

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U.S. CORRECTIONAL POPULATION REACHES 6.3 MILLION MEN AND WOMEN REPRESENTS 3.1 PERCENT OF THE ADULT U.S. POPULATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The number of adult men and women under the supervision of Federal, state and local correctional authorities rose to a record 6.3 million in 1999, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced today. This number, which represents 3.1 percent of all adult residents in the United States, or one in every 32 adults, includes persons incarcerated in jails and prisons and those supervised in the community under probation or parole.

During 1999, the correctional population increased by 164,400 (2.7 percent). At mid-year 1999, there were approximately 1,254,600 adults in federal or state prisons and 596,500 adults in local jails. The 1990-1999 increase averaged 4.2 percent annually, and was a 44.6 percent gain for the nine-year period. There were 1.9 million more under correctional supervision in 1999 than in 1990.

At the end of 1999, there were approximately 3,773,600 adults on probation and 712,700 on parole. More than 1 million of the nation's probationers and parolees—slightly less than one-quarter of the total—were in Texas (556,410) and California (446,460). From 1990 through 1999 the percentage of the total correctional population under community supervision declined from 74 percent to 71 percent.

States with the largest percentage of their adult population under community supervision were Georgia (5.8 percent) and Idaho (4.2 percent), and rates exceeding 3 percent were also found in Texas (3.9 percent), Delaware (3.8 percent), Washington (3.7 percent), and Minnesota (3.1 percent). Nine states had less than one percent of their population under community supervision.

Among probationers, criminal offenders sentenced to a period of correctional supervision in the community, slightly more than half (51 percent) had been convicted for committing a felony, 48 percent for a misdemeanor and 1 percent for other infractions. Seventy-seven percent of probationers were being actively supervised at the end of 1999; 10 percent were inactive cases and 9 percent had absconded.

Probation population gains of 10 percent or more during 1999 were recorded in Idaho (up 17.7 percent), Vermont (up 17.1 percent), Arizona (up 11.2 percent) and Montana (up 10.2 percent). Eleven states reported a decline in their probation population, led by West Virginia (down 7.9 percent) and Nevada (down 6.2 percent).

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Parole is a period of conditional supervision following a prison term, and almost all parolees had been convicted of a felony (97 percent). Mandatory release from prison because of a sentencing statute or good-time provisions accounted for one-half of the persons entering parole during 1999; 42 percent entered parole because of a parole board decision, 6 percent were reinstatements and 2 percent were other actions.

California had the largest number of persons in the nation under parole supervision (114,046), surpassing Texas (109,310). Eight states reported a 10 percent or greater increase in their parole population during 1999, led by Ohio (39.6 percent), South Dakota (20.9 percent), West Virginia (18.8 percent), Louisiana (16.8 percent) and Iowa (14.6 percent). Twenty-four states reported a decline in their parole population during 1999 led by Washington (down 46.7 percent), North Carolina (down 24.4 percent), Montana (down 17.7 percent) and Virginia (down 12.5 percent).

More than 1.9 million probationers and 400,000 parolees were discharged from supervision in 1999. More than 60 percent of those exiting probation (1,053,700) and more than 40 percent of those exiting parole (177,300) had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. During 1999, 14 percent of probationers (244,700) who were discharged from supervision in 1999 and 42 percent of parolees leaving supervision (173,800) were incarcerated because of a rule violation or new offense.

Women represented a larger percentage of the probation and parole populations in 1999 than in 1990. Twenty-two percent of all probationers in 1999 (up from 18 percent in 1990) and 12 percent of those on parole (up from 8 percent in 1990) were women.

Blacks were more than a third of probationers at year-end 1999 (1,310,000), and nearly half of parolees (312,100). Almost two-thirds of probationers (2,394,400) and more than half of parolees (390,700) were white. Persons of other races accounted for about 2 percent of the probation population (69,300) and 1 percent of the parole population (9,900). Hispanics, who are of any race, comprised 16 percent of probationers (600,200) and 21 percent of parolees (152,000).

Data tables, prepared by BJS statisticians Thomas P. Bonczar and Lauren E. Glaze, as well as other information about the nation's correctional populations may be obtained from the BJS Internet site under press releases at:

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

Additional criminal justice materials can be obtained from the Office of Justice Programs Website at:

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

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Table 1. Adults under community supervision or in jail or prison, 1990-99

Year	Total estimated correctional population ^a	Probation ^b	Parole	Jail	Prison
1990	4,348,000	2,670,234	531,407	403,019	743,382
1995	5,335,100	3,077,861	679,421	499,300	1,078,542
1996	5,482,700	3,164,996	679,733	510,400	1,127,528
1997	5,725,800	3,296,513	694,787	557,974	1,176,564
1998	6,124,200	3,670,591	696,385	584,372	1,222,436
1999	6,288,600	3,773,624	712,713	596,485	1,254,577
Percent change ^c					
1998-99	2.7%	2.8%	2.3%	2.1%	3.7%
1990-99	44.6	41.3	34.1	48.0	68.8
Average annual percent change					
1990-99	4.2%	3.9%	3.3%	4.5%	6.4%

Note: The probation and parole counts may vary from previously reported estimates. Counts are for December 31, except for jail counts and the 1999 prison count, which are for June 30. All jail and prison counts are for inmates in custody.

^aA small number of individuals has multiple correctional statuses; consequently, the total of persons under correctional supervision is an overestimate, and is rounded to the nearest 100.

^bTotals in 1999 exclude 23,907 probationers in jail, 22,758 probationers in prison, and 2,163 probationers in an Immigration and Naturalization Service holding facility.

^cPercent change in the prison population was calculated for 6/30/98 to 6/30/99 and for 12/31/90 to 6/30/99.

Table 2. Community corrections among the States, yearend 1999

10 States with the largest community corrections population	Number supervised	10 States with the largest percent increase, 1998-99	Percent increase	10 States with the highest rates of supervision, 1999	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult residents*	10 States with the lowest rates of supervision, 1999	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult residents*
Probation							
Texas	447,100	Idaho	17.7%	Georgia	5,368	West Virginia	427
California	332,414	Vermont	17.1	Idaho	4,073	North Dakota	576
Georgia	307,653	Arizona	11.2	Washington	3,705	Virginia	616
Florida	292,399	Montana	10.2	Delaware	3,673	Mississippi	618
Ohio	184,867	New Mexico	8.6	Texas	3,121	Kentucky	634
New York	183,686	Maine	8.2	Minnesota	2,986	South Dakota	647
Michigan	170,978	Mississippi	8.0	Rhode Island	2,902	Utah	663
Washington	158,213	Kentucky	7.9	Florida	2,533	Maine	782
Illinois	134,270	Iowa	6.7	Indiana	2,399	Nevada	894
New Jersey	128,634	Louisiana	6.3	Michigan	2,341	Montana	896
Parole							
California	114,046	Ohio	39.6%	Pennsylvania	916	Maine	3
Texas	109,310	South Dakota	20.9	Texas	763	Washington	5
Pennsylvania	83,702	West Virginia	18.8	Oregon	718	North Dakota	33
New York	57,956	Louisiana	16.8	Louisiana	688	Nebraska	50
Illinois	30,484	Iowa	14.6	California	471	Rhode Island	55
Georgia	22,003	Hawaii	12.1	New York	421	New York	56
Louisiana	21,904	Delaware	10.8	Arkansas	404	Oklahoma	62
Oregon	17,874	Missouri	10.4	Maryland	389	Connecticut	62
Ohio	15,776	Arkansas	9.5	Georgia	384	Mississippi	67
Michigan	15,541	Connecticut	9.3	Illinois	341	North Carolina	77

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

*Rates are computed using the adult resident population in each State on July 1, 1999.

Table 3. Adults on probation, 1999

Region and jurisdiction	Probation population				Percent change during 1999	Number on probation on 12/31/99 per 100,000 adult residents
	1/1/99	1999		12/31/99		
		Entries	Exits			
U.S. total	3,670,591	1,819,403	1,714,630	3,773,624	2.8%	1,864
Federal	33,390	14,571	14,793	32,816	-1.7%	16
State	3,637,201	1,804,832	1,699,837	3,740,808	2.8	1,848
Northeast	572,832	195,038	187,977	575,270	0.4%	1,465
Connecticut	55,000	30,000	29,930	55,070	0.1	2,244
Maine	6,953	5,379	4,808	7,524	8.2	782
Massachusetts ^a	46,567	40,676	40,976	46,267	-0.6	983
New Hampshire	5,175	:	:	3,160
New Jersey ^a	129,377	58,500	59,543	128,634	-0.6	2,095
New York ^a	178,612	45,618	40,544	183,686	2.8	1,335
Pennsylvania ^{a,b}	121,094	1,072	623	118,635	-2.0	1,298
Rhode Island	21,049	7,972	7,268	21,753	3.3	2,902
Vermont	9,005	5,821	4,285	10,541	17.1	2,320
Midwest	849,703	458,923	436,681	871,319	2.5%	1,858
Illinois	131,850	58,695	56,275	134,270	1.8	1,501
Indiana ^a	104,624	87,517	86,270	105,871	1.2	2,399
Iowa ^a	18,447	18,863	17,635	19,675	6.7	915
Kansas	17,219	21,090	20,542	17,767	3.2	909
Michigan ^a	170,997	69,124	69,210	170,978	**	2,341
Minnesota	100,818	60,872	58,164	104,615	3.8	2,986
Missouri	49,992	26,037	23,536	52,493	5.0	1,290
Nebraska	16,527	19,095	15,160	20,462	...	1,674
North Dakota	2,726	1,620	1,617	2,729	0.1	576
Ohio ^{a,c}	178,830	68,480	60,661	184,867	5.2	2,198
South Dakota	3,441	3,064	3,044	3,461	0.6	647
Wisconsin	54,232	24,466	24,567	54,131	-0.2	1,387
South	1,503,679	837,091	783,397	1,556,507	3.5%	2,170
Alabama	40,379	15,835	14,457	41,757	3.4	1,264
Arkansas	28,698	8,537	6,755	30,480	6.2	1,612
Delaware	20,030	11,015	10,069	20,976	4.7	3,673
District of Columbia	11,234	10,877	9,265	12,129	8.0	2,863
Florida ^a	283,965	194,529	189,140	292,399	3.0	2,533
Georgia ^a	278,669	183,322	154,944	307,653	...	5,368
Kentucky ^a	17,594	16,848	12,311	18,988	7.9	634
Louisiana	33,028	14,425	12,335	35,118	6.3	1,104
Maryland	78,051	41,117	37,882	81,286	4.1	2,105
Mississippi ^a	11,530	5,748	4,830	12,448	8.0	618
North Carolina	105,227	59,195	59,327	105,095	-0.1	1,841
Oklahoma	29,093	12,257	13,213	27,997	-3.8	1,131
South Carolina	46,482	15,244	16,797	44,929	-3.3	1,534
Tennessee ^{a,d}	38,924	23,289	22,153	40,060	2.9	967
Texas	443,688	198,573	195,161	447,100	0.8	3,121
Virginia	30,576	26,280	24,758	32,098	5.0	616
West Virginia	6,511	:	:	5,994	-7.9	427
West	710,987	313,780	291,782	737,712	3.8%	1,653
Alaska ^a	4,274	1,795	1,552	4,517	5.7	1,069
Arizona	51,329	32,611	26,864	57,076	11.2	1,657
California	324,427	162,543	152,604	332,414	2.5	1,372
Colorado ^a	45,502	26,601	26,613	45,339	-0.4	1,516
Hawaii	15,711	7,228	7,232	15,707	**	1,753
Idaho	31,172	2,970	3,033	36,705	17.7	4,073
Montana ^a	5,358	1,102	634	5,906	10.2	896
Nevada	12,561	:	:	11,787	-6.2	894
New Mexico ^a	10,397	8,850	7,956	11,291	8.6	907
Oregon	44,809	17,140	16,459	45,490	1.5	1,828
Utah	9,482	3,843	3,899	9,426	-0.6	663
Washington ^a	152,140	47,213	43,088	158,213	4.0	3,705
Wyoming	3,825	1,884	1,848	3,841	0.4	1,089

Note: Because of nonresponse or incomplete data, the probation population for some jurisdictions on December 31, 1999, does not equal the population on January 1, 1999, plus entries, minus exits. During 1999 an estimated 2,042,500 persons entered probation supervision, and 1,927,700 exited, based on imputations for agencies which did not provide data.
 :Not known.

... Comparable percentage or rate could not be calculated.

**Between -0.05% and 0.05%.

^aData do not include cases in one or more of the following categories: absconder, out of State, inactive, intensive supervision, or electronic monitoring.

^bEntries and exits do not include county data.

^cPercent change in probation population during 1999 excludes 134 local probation agencies for which a single population estimate was obtained for 12/31/99.

^dData are for the period beginning May 1, 1999, and ending April 30, 2000.

Table 4. Adults on parole, 1999

Region and jurisdiction	Parole population				Percent change during 1999	Number on parole on 12/31/99 per 100,000 adult residents
	1/1/99	1999		12/31/99		
		Entries	Exits			
U.S. total	696,385	429,172	412,167	712,713	2.3%	352
Federal	67,169	26,653	22,575	71,020	5.7%	35
State	629,216	402,519	389,592	641,693	2.0	317
Northeast	162,006	49,962	51,023	162,840	0.5%	415
Connecticut	1,396	1,338	1,208	1,526	9.3	62
Maine	33	0	2	31	-6.1	3
Massachusetts*	4,489	4,033	3,689	4,304	-4.1	91
New Hampshire	1,141	:	:	1,146	0.4	128
New Jersey	13,218	10,394	10,644	12,968	-1.9	211
New York	59,548	25,200	26,792	57,956	-2.7	421
Pennsylvania	81,001	8,199	7,917	83,702	3.3	916
Rhode Island	432	515	534	413	-4.4	55
Vermont*	748	283	237	794	6.1	175
Midwest	94,110	77,648	71,737	100,021	6.3%	213
Illinois	30,432	25,422	25,370	30,484	0.2	341
Indiana*	4,258	4,898	4,617	4,539	6.6	103
Iowa*	2,194	2,805	2,485	2,514	14.6	117
Kansas	6,025	5,352	5,468	5,909	-1.9	302
Michigan	15,331	9,681	9,471	15,541	1.4	213
Minnesota	2,995	3,464	3,308	3,151	5.2	90
Missouri	10,366	8,501	7,419	11,448	10.4	281
Nebraska*	624	687	699	612	-1.9	50
North Dakota	174	370	387	157	-9.8	33
Ohio	11,304	11,237	6,765	15,776	39.6	188
South Dakota*	1,125	964	729	1,360	20.9	254
Wisconsin	9,282	4,267	5,019	8,530	-8.1	219
South	223,922	96,430	94,250	223,469	-0.2%	312
Alabama*	5,221	1,861	2,170	5,005	-4.1	151
Arkansas	6,979	5,519	4,853	7,645	9.5	404
Delaware*	572	268	206	634	10.8	111
District of Columbia	7,055	:	:	5,103	...	1,204
Florida*	6,487	4,780	4,413	6,418	-1.1	56
Georgia	20,482	12,149	10,290	22,003	7.4	384
Kentucky*	4,508	3,117	2,757	4,868	8.0	163
Louisiana	18,759	14,185	11,040	21,904	16.8	688
Maryland*	15,528	8,059	8,580	15,007	-3.4	389
Mississippi	1,489	688	821	1,356	-8.9	67
North Carolina	5,806	5,603	7,020	4,389	-24.4	77
Oklahoma	1,532	610	615	1,527	-0.3	62
South Carolina	4,404	786	1,246	3,944	-10.4	135
Tennessee	7,605	3,288	3,555	7,338	-3.5	177
Texas	109,820	30,316	30,826	109,310	-0.5	763
Virginia	6,700	4,357	5,197	5,860	-12.5	113
West Virginia	975	844	661	1,158	18.8	83
West	149,178	178,479	172,582	155,363	4.1%	348
Alaska*	478	321	306	493	3.1	117
Arizona*	3,742	6,490	6,517	3,715	-0.7	108
California*	108,424	153,571	148,303	114,046	5.2	471
Colorado*	5,204	3,979	3,920	5,263	1.1	176
Hawaii*	2,009	1,058	911	2,252	12.1	251
Idaho*	1,309	873	872	1,310	0.1	145
Montana*	667	500	618	549	-17.7	83
Nevada	4,055	:	:	3,893	-4.0	295
New Mexico	1,773	1,710	1,561	1,922	8.4	154
Oregon	17,270	7,485	6,881	17,874	3.5	718
Utah	3,424	2,249	2,285	3,388	-1.1	238
Washington	375	15	190	200	-46.7	5
Wyoming	448	228	218	458	2.2	130

Note: Because of nonresponse or incomplete data, the probation population for some jurisdictions on December 31, 1999, does not equal the population on January 1, 1999, plus entries, minus exits. During 1999 an estimated 451,600 persons entered parole supervision, and 434,300 exited, based on imputations for agencies that did not provide data.

... Comparable percentage could not be calculated.

:Not known.

*Data do not include parolees in one or more of the following categories: absconder, out of State, inactive, intensive supervision, or electronic monitoring.

Table 5. Characteristics of adults on probation, 1990 and 1999

Characteristic	1990	1999
Total	100%	100%
Gender	100%	100%
Male	82	78
Female	18	22
Race	100%	100%
White	68	63
Black	31	35
Other	1	2
Hispanic origin	100%	100%
Hispanic	18	16
Non-Hispanic	82	84
Status of supervision	100%	100%
Active	83	77
Inactive	9	10
Absconded	6	9
Supervised out of State	2	2
Other	--	2
Adults entering probation	100%	100%
Without incarceration	87	79
With incarceration	8	16
Other	5	5
Adults leaving probation	100%	100%
Successful completion	69	61
Returned to incarceration	14	14
With new sentence	3	4
With the same sentence	11	7
Type of return unknown	0	3
Absconder	7	3
Other unsuccessful	2	11
Death	**	1
Other	7	9
Severity of offense		100%
Felony	--	51
Misdemeanor	--	48
Other infractions	--	1
Status of probation	100%	100%
Direct imposition	38	58
Split sentence	6	10
Sentence suspended	41	22
Imposition suspended	14	8
Other	1	3

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

--Not available.

**Less than 0.5%.

Table 6. Characteristics of adults on parole, 1990 and 1999

Characteristic	1990	1999
Total	100%	100%
Gender	100%	100%
Male	92	88
Female	8	12
Race	100%	100%
White	52	55
Black	47	44
Other	1	1
Hispanic origin	100%	100%
Hispanic	18	21
Non-Hispanic	82	79
Status of supervision	100%	100%
Active	82	83
Inactive	6	5
Absconded	6	7
Supervised out of State	6	5
Other	--	**
Adults entering parole	100%	100%
Discretionary parole	59	42
Mandatory parole	41	50
Reinstatement	--	6
Other	--	2
Adults leaving parole	100%	100%
Successful completion	50	43
Returned to incarceration	46	42
With new sentence	17	11
Other	29	31
Absconder	1	10
Other unsuccessful	1	2
Transferred	1	1
Death	1	1
Other	--	2
Length of sentence	100%	100%
Less than 1 year	5	3
One year or more	95	97

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

--Not available.

**Less than 0.5%.

Explanatory notes

The 1999 Probation and Parole Data Surveys provide a count of the total number of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, 1999, 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.

Probation

The 1999 Probation Data Survey was sent to 485 respondents — 36 central State reporters and 449 separate State, county, or court agencies. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (9), Florida (44), Georgia (6), Idaho (2), Kentucky (3), Michigan (132), Missouri (2), Montana (4), New Mexico (2), Ohio (193), Oklahoma (3), Tennessee (3), Washington (39), and West Virginia (2).

Data were not received from one local jurisdiction in Alabama and two local jurisdictions in Michigan. For these cases, the 12/31/98 population count was used as the 1/1/99 count and the 12/31/99 count. A total of 134 local probation agencies in Ohio provided a single estimate of their probation population for 12/31/99, which was also used for 1/1/99.

Parole

The 1999 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.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, July 2000, NCJ 183508