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# Probation and Parole in the United States, 2004

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During 2004 the total Federal, State, and local adult correctional population — incarcerated or in the community — grew by 59,900 to reach nearly 7 million. The growth of 0.9% during the year was a third of the average annual increase of 2.7% since 1995. About 3.2% of the U.S. adult population, or 1 in every 31 adults, were incarcerated or on probation or parole at yearend 2004.

The probation population reached 4,151,125 on December 31, 2004. This represented an increase of 0.2% for the year, less than a tenth of the average annual increase of 2.8% since 1995. During 2004 the adult parole population grew 2.7%, more than double the average annual increase of 1.3% since 1995, to a total of 765,355.

**Persons under adult correctional supervision, 1995-2004**

Year	Total estimated correctional population <sup>a</sup>	Community supervision		Incarceration	
		Probation	Parole	Jail	Prison
1995	5,342,900	3,077,861	679,421	507,044	1,078,542
2000	6,445,100	3,826,209	723,898	621,149	1,316,333
2001	6,581,700	3,931,731	732,333	631,240	1,330,007
2002	6,758,800	4,024,067	750,934	665,475	1,367,547
2003	6,895,300	4,073,987	774,588	691,301	1,392,796
2003 (revised) <sup>b</sup>	6,936,600	4,144,782	745,125	691,301	1,392,796
2004	6,996,500	4,151,125	765,355	713,990	1,421,911
Percent change, 2003-04	0.9%	0.2%	2.7%	3.3%	2.1%
Average annual percent change, 1995-2004 <sup>c</sup>	2.7%	2.8%	1.3%	3.9%	3.1%

Note: Counts of probationers, parolees, and prisoners are for December 31. All jail counts are for June 30. Jail and prison counts include inmates held in private facilities. Totals in 2000 through 2004 exclude probationers held in jail or prison.

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

<sup>b</sup>Due to changes in reporting, total probation and parole counts include estimated counts for Massachusetts and Pennsylvania based on reporting methods comparable to 2004.

<sup>c</sup>Percent change based on comparable reporting agencies, excluding 219,195 probationers from agencies added since 1995. See *Methodology*.

## Highlights

### Probation —

- The adult probation population grew 0.2% in 2004. This was the smallest annual growth rate since the survey began in 1979.
- 50% of all probationers had been convicted of a misdemeanor, 49% of a felony, and 1% of other infractions. Twenty-six percent were on probation for a drug law violation, and 15% for driving while intoxicated.
- Four States had an increase of 10% or more in their probation population in 2004: Kentucky (15%), Mississippi (12%), New Mexico (11%), and New Jersey (10%).
- The adult probation population decreased in 21 States. Washington State was the only State with a double-digit decrease (down 27%).

### Parole —

- Overall, the Nation's parole population grew 20,230 in 2004, or 2.7%, more than twice the average annual increase of 1.3% since 1995.
- Mandatory releases from prison as a result of a sentencing statute or good-time provision comprised 52% of those entering parole in 2004, up from 45% in 1995.
- A total of 10 States had double-digit increases in their parole population in 2004, led by Nebraska (24%).
- 9 States had a decrease in their parole population. Nevada (down 13%) was the only State with a decrease of more than 10%.

## Nearly 5 million persons on probation or parole

The number of adult men and women in the United States who were being supervised on probation or parole at the end of 2004 reached a new high of 4,916,480, up from 3,757,282 on December 31, 1995. These data were collected in the 2004 Annual Probation Survey and the 2004 Annual Parole Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

Probationers are criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of correctional supervision in the community in lieu of incarceration. Parole is a period of conditional supervised release following a prison term. Prisoners may be released to parole either by a parole board decision or by mandatory conditional release.

In 2004 the growth in the community supervision population was 0.5%, or 26,573 additional persons added during the year. The increase was less than a fifth of the average annual increase of 3.0% since 1995.

## Probationers accounted for half the growth in the correctional population since 1990

Probationers accounted for half the total growth in the correctional population since 1990 (figure 1). Overall, the correctional population increased by nearly 2.5 million, or 57%, from 1990 to 2004. Probationers accounted for 51% of the growth (or 1,262,000), followed by prisoners (27% or 679,000), jail inmates (12% or 309,000), and parolees (9% or 234,000).

	Increase in correctional population, 1990-2004	
	Number	Percent
Total <sup>a</sup>	2,483,000	100%
Probation <sup>b</sup>	1,262,000	50.8%
Parole	234,000	9.4
Prison	679,000	27.3
Jail	309,000	12.4

<sup>a</sup>Totals may not sum due to rounding.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes 219,195 probationers from agencies added since 1995. See *Methodology*.

## Community supervision declined as a percentage of the correctional population

Between 1990 and 2004 the prison population was the fastest growing correctional population, with an average annual increase of 4.7%, followed by jails (4.1%), probation (2.8%), and parole (2.6%).

As a percentage of the correctional population, offenders under community supervision accounted for 70% in 2004 (down from nearly 74% in 1990), while those incarcerated accounted for 30% (up from 26% in 1990).

Probationers continued to account for the majority of all persons under correctional supervision in 2004 (59%, compared to 61% in 1990). Parolees were 11% of the total population in 2004 (down from 12% in 1990). In contrast, prisoners increased to 20% of the total correctional population in 2004 (up from 17% in 1990), and jail inmates increased to 10% (up from 9% in 1990).

## Correctional supervision rate rose sharply from 1980 to 2004

The rate of U.S. adult residents under correctional supervision nearly tripled between 1980 (1,132 per 100,000) and 2004 (3,175 per 100,000). During 2004 the U.S. resident population increased at a higher rate (1.2%) than the population under correctional supervision (0.9%). Despite growth in the total correctional population from 6,936,600 in 2003 to 6,996,500 in 2004, the rate of U.S. men and women under correctional supervision fell from 3,186 per 100,000 adult residents to 3,175 in 2004.

Year	Total estimated correctional population	Supervision rate per 100,000 adults*
1980	1,842,100	1,132
1985	3,013,100	1,719
1990	4,350,300	2,348
1995	5,342,900	2,751
2000	6,445,100	3,072
2001	6,581,700	3,097
2002	6,758,800	3,142
2003	6,936,600	3,186
2004	6,996,500	3,175

\*Rates are computed using the U.S. adult resident population on July 1, except for 1980 which is based on April 1.

Number of persons under correctional supervision, by type of supervision, 1990-2004

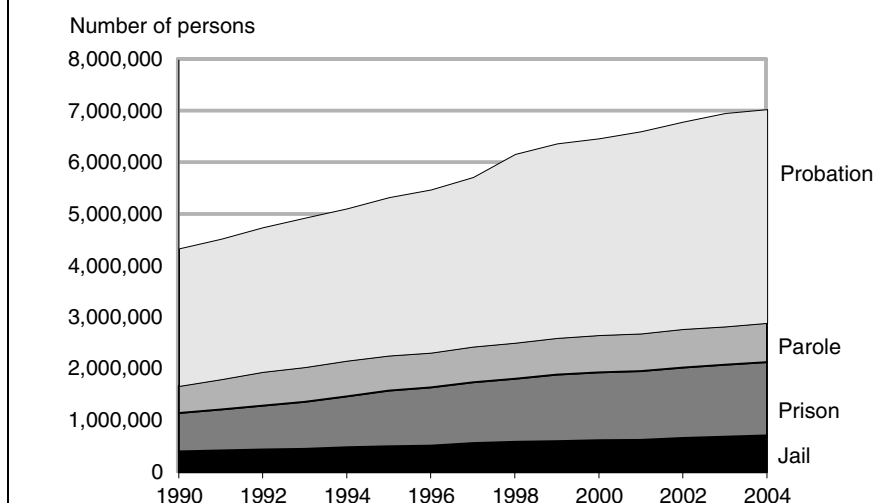


Figure 1

**Table 1. Community corrections among the States, yearend 2004**

10 States with the largest 2004 community corrections populations	Number supervised	10 States with the largest percent increase	Percent increase, 2003-04	10 States with the highest rates of supervision, 2004	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*	10 States with the lowest rates of supervision, 2004	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*
<b>Probation:</b>							
Texas	428,773	Kentucky	15.3%	Massachusetts	3,301	New Hampshire	431
California	384,852	Mississippi	11.6	Rhode Island	3,117	West Virginia	488
Florida	281,170	New Mexico	11.5	Minnesota	2,959	Utah	621
Ohio	227,891	New Jersey	10.0	Delaware	2,940	Kansas	697
Michigan	176,083	New Hampshire	7.5	Washington	2,654	Nevada	723
Pennsylvania	167,180	Tennessee	6.8	Texas	2,643	North Dakota	744
Massachusetts	163,471	Iowa	6.6	Ohio	2,626	Virginia	769
Illinois	143,871	Hawaii	6.4	Indiana	2,511	New York	833
New Jersey	143,315	Arizona	5.8	Michigan	2,323	Maine	901
Washington	125,222	Colorado	5.1	Hawaii	2,224	South Dakota	926
<b>Parole:</b>							
California	110,261	Nebraska	24.2%	Pennsylvania	806	Washington	3
Texas	102,072	Vermont	15.8	Oregon	761	Maine	3
Pennsylvania	77,175	New Mexico	14.9	Louisiana	728	Florida	36
New York	54,524	Washington	14.3	Arkansas	715	Rhode Island	44
Illinois	34,277	South Dakota	14.0	Texas	629	North Carolina	45
Louisiana	24,387	Arkansas	12.6	California	419	North Dakota	48
Georgia	23,344	Colorado	12.6	Missouri	398	Nebraska	61
Michigan	20,924	Iowa	11.5	South Dakota	382	Virginia	78
Oregon	20,858	Alabama	11.4	New York	372	Massachusetts	78
Ohio	18,882	Georgia	10.3	Illinois	362	Delaware	85

Note: This table excludes the District of Columbia, a wholly urban jurisdiction, Georgia probation counts, which included probation case-based counts for private agencies, and Idaho probation counts in which estimates for misdemeanors were based on admissions.  
 \*Rates are computed using the U.S. adult resident population on July 1, 2004.

**6 of the 10 States with largest probation populations also had large parole populations**

Texas, California, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Illinois had 6 of the 10 largest probation populations in the Nation at yearend 2004 (table 1). These six States accounted for more than a third of all probationers (37%). The same six States were among the 10 States with the largest parole populations in the Nation. Almost half of all parolees were supervised within these six States (48%).

Texas and California alone accounted for more than 1 million adults supervised in the community, or about 1 in 5 probationers and parolees. Texas led the Nation with 530,845 persons on probation or parole, followed by California with 495,113.

Among the States, Massachusetts had the largest percentage of its adult population under community supervision (3.4% at yearend 2004), followed by Texas (3.3%) and Rhode Island (3.2%).

Despite having the largest parole population and the second largest probation population in the Nation, the percentage of California's adult population under community supervision was 1.9%, or slightly below the Nation's percentage of 2.2%.

Eight States reported that less than 1,000 per 100,000 adult residents were under community supervision. New Hampshire had the lowest rate of supervision in the community (553 offenders per 100,000 adults).

	Number under supervision per 100,000 adult residents
New Hampshire	553
West Virginia	573
North Dakota	792
Utah	822
Virginia	846
Maine	904
Kansas	918
Nevada	932

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

In 2004 Kentucky reported the largest increase (15%) in the number of adults on probation, followed by Mississippi (12%), New Mexico (11%), and New Jersey (10%). A total of twenty-six States reported an increase in their adult probation population during 2004.

Twenty-one States had fewer adults on probation at the end of 2004 than at the beginning of the year, led by Washington State, down 27%, the only double-digit decrease during 2004.

**Table 2. Adults on probation, 2004**

Region and jurisdiction	Probation population, 1/1/04	2004		Probation population, 12/31/04	Percent change, 2004	Number on probation per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/04
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total<sup>a</sup></b>	4,144,782	2,217,900	2,210,400	4,151,125	0.2%	1,884
Federal	30,601	12,780	14,895	28,346	-7.4%	13
State (reported)	4,087,012	1,957,306	1,951,231	4,122,779	--	--
State (estimated) <sup>a</sup>	4,114,181	2,205,100	2,195,500	4,122,779	0.2%	1,871
<b>Northeast<sup>a,b</sup></b>	689,053	263,100	254,700	697,508	1.2%	1,671
Connecticut	52,192	15,656	15,756	52,092	-0.2	1,955
Maine	9,855	5,676	6,209	9,322	-5.4	901
Massachusetts <sup>b,c</sup>	166,464	76,800	79,800	163,471	-1.8	3,301
New Hampshire <sup>d</sup>	3,987	1,595	1,297	4,285	7.5	431
New Jersey	130,303	45,166	32,154	143,315	10.0	2,190
New York	126,138	38,647	42,758	122,027	-3.3	833
Pennsylvania <sup>a,e</sup>	137,206	4,157	3,476	167,180	--	1,747
Rhode Island	25,929	6,279	6,123	26,085	0.6	3,117
Vermont	9,810	4,919	4,998	9,731	-0.8	2,000
<b>Midwest</b>	943,026	593,700	585,200	951,498	0.9%	1,922
Illinois	144,454	62,354	62,937	143,871	-0.4	1,518
Indiana	118,773	93,918	96,260	116,431	-2.0	2,511
Iowa	21,413	15,080	13,679	22,832	6.6	1,004
Kansas	14,740	19,577	20,008	14,309	-2.9	697
Michigan <sup>b,d</sup>	179,486	124,000	127,400	176,083	-1.9	2,323
Minnesota	110,046	66,775	62,595	114,226	3.8	2,959
Missouri <sup>d</sup>	54,543	25,105	25,816	53,832	-1.3	1,232
Nebraska	18,412	15,282	15,700	17,994	-2.3	1,371
North Dakota	3,566	2,525	2,404	3,687	3.4	744
Ohio <sup>b,d</sup>	218,239	140,800	131,100	227,891	4.4	2,626
South Dakota	5,236	3,310	3,243	5,372	2.6	926
Wisconsin	54,118	24,929	24,077	54,970	1.6	1,308
<b>South</b>	1,652,705	932,100	915,300	1,668,111	0.9%	2,196
Alabama <sup>b</sup>	39,660	14,700	17,500	36,795	-7.2	1,071
Arkansas	28,164	8,388	7,424	29,128	3.4	1,403
Delaware	18,921	15,083	15,279	18,725	-1.0	2,940
District of Columbia <sup>d</sup>	7,116	6,944	6,313	7,747	8.9	1,745
Florida <sup>b,d</sup>	286,769	246,200	251,800	281,170	-2.0	2,099
Georgia <sup>b,d,f</sup>	402,694	217,100	200,400	419,350	--	--
Kentucky <sup>b</sup>	28,869	20,200	15,800	33,286	15.3	1,051
Louisiana	36,813	14,350	12,693	38,470	4.5	1,148
Maryland	77,875	40,018	41,217	76,676	-1.5	1,842
Mississippi	19,116	8,483	6,275	21,324	11.6	990
North Carolina	113,161	60,069	61,693	111,537	-1.4	1,737
Oklahoma <sup>d</sup>	28,326	14,044	13,935	28,435	0.4	1,068
South Carolina	40,354	13,972	15,470	38,856	-3.7	1,224
Tennessee <sup>b</sup>	44,359	25,700	21,400	47,392	6.8	1,051
Texas	431,981	198,130	201,338	428,773	-0.7	2,643
Virginia	41,663	25,409	23,602	43,470	4.3	769
West Virginia <sup>b</sup>	6,864	3,300	3,200	6,977	1.6	488
<b>West</b>	829,397	416,200	440,300	805,662	-2.9%	1,620
Alaska	5,406	998	857	5,547	2.6	1,187
Arizona <sup>d</sup>	65,554	43,660	39,871	69,343	5.8	1,652
California <sup>d</sup>	374,701	177,896	167,745	384,852	2.7	1,463
Colorado <sup>b,d</sup>	55,297	29,400	26,500	58,108	5.1	1,698
Hawaii	20,165	8,541	7,260	21,446	6.4	2,224
Idaho <sup>d,g</sup>	42,375	36,762	34,930	44,580	--	--
Montana <sup>b</sup>	6,914	4,000	3,700	7,221	4.4	1,005
Nevada	12,159	6,755	6,393	12,521	3.0	723
New Mexico	15,899	8,414	6,588	17,725	11.5	1,256
Oregon	43,415	17,183	16,163	44,435	2.3	1,620
Utah	10,339	5,490	5,585	10,244	-0.9	621
Washington <sup>b,d</sup>	172,511	75,300	122,600	125,222	-27.4	2,654
Wyoming	4,662	1,846	2,090	4,418	-5.2	1,134

Note: Because of incomplete data, the population for some jurisdictions on December 31, 2004, does not equal the population on January 1, 2004, plus entries, minus exits.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Due to a change in reporting, January 1, 2004, county probation counts for Pennsylvania were estimated. The comparable total was 164,375. Because of nonreporting, total entries (68,400) and exits (65,600) were estimated to include county probationers.

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

<sup>c</sup>Data are for June 30, 2003, and 2004. Some data for June 30, 2003 are estimated. Due to a change in reporting criteria, data are not comparable to previous reports.

<sup>d</sup>Some or all data were estimated.

<sup>e</sup>Reported data for entries and exits include only State probationers.

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

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

## 6,343 probationers added in 2004

During 2004 the probation population grew by 6,343. The growth in the number of probationers (0.2%) was less than a tenth of the average annual increase since 1995 (2.8%).

At yearend 2004 the probation supervision rate totaled 1,884 probationers per 100,000 adult U.S. residents — the equivalent of almost 1 in every 53 adults (table 2). Two States, Massachusetts (3,301 per 100,000) and Rhode Island (3,117 per 100,000), had more than 3% of their adult resident population under probation supervision.

A total of 11 States had less than 1% of their adult resident population under probation supervision. Two States had a rate below 500 probationers per 100,000 adult residents: New Hampshire (431 per 100,000) and West Virginia (488 per 100,000).

## Probation population grew less in 2004 than in any of the previous 25 years

During 2004 the probation population increased 0.2%, the smallest increase in the population since the survey was introduced in 1979. The number of entries (2,217,900) exceeded the number of exits (2,210,400) during 2004. Compared to 2003 the number of entries to probation (2,217,900) declined (from 2,229,700 in 2003), and the number of exits (2,210,400) increased (from 2,179,800).

Since 2000 entries to probation have increased at a slower rate annually (0.7%) than exits (1.3% annually).

Year	Entries	Exits
2000	2,153,300	2,095,300
2001	2,110,600	1,997,200
2002	2,129,100	2,064,500
2003	2,229,700	2,179,800
2004	2,217,900	2,210,400
Percent change, 2003-04	-0.5%	1.4%
Average annual percent change, 2000-04	0.7%	1.3%

## Growth in probation since 1990 linked to entries

Since 1990 the probation population has steadily increased from 2,649,300 to 4,151,100 in 2004 (figure 2). Although the number of entries decreased from 1990 (1,637,600) to 1994 (1,397,500), entries exceeded exits during that period, resulting in an average annual increase of 3.0% in the probation population. The number entering probation has increased each year since 1994, except for a 2.0% decrease in 2001 and a 0.5% decrease in 2004.

Between 1995 and 1999 the probation population increased an average of about 100,000 each year (figure 3). Beginning in 2001 the annual increase in the number of probationers declined from 105,500, to 92,300 in 2002, to 49,900 in 2003. In 2004 the annual

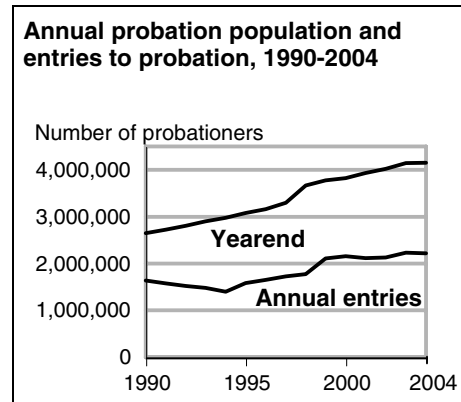


Figure 2

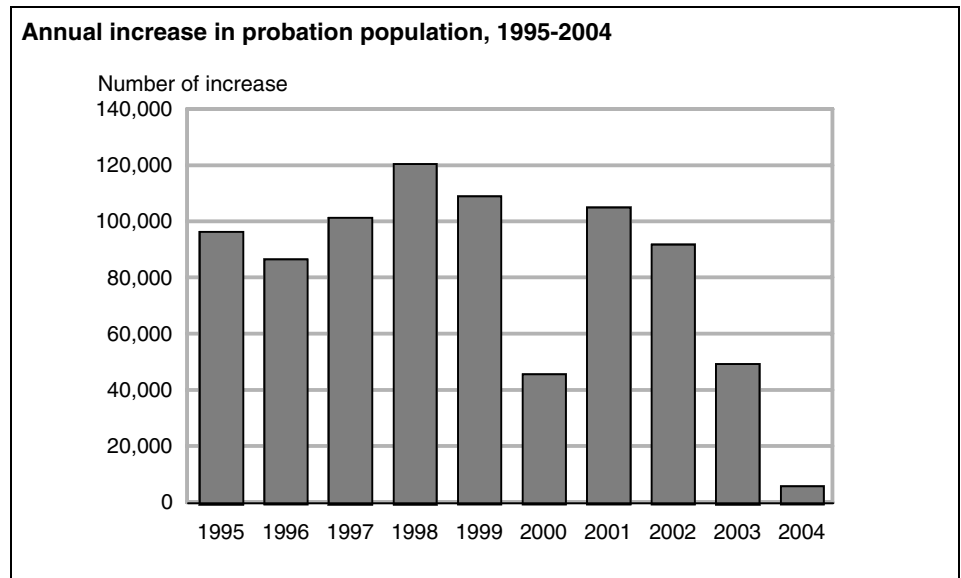


Figure 3

increase reached its lowest since data collection began in 1979 — an additional 6,300 probationers.

## 5 States accounted for nearly a third of the growth in probation from 1995 to 2004

In absolute numbers the probation population increased 854,100 between 1995 and 2004. California experienced the largest growth (104,300), followed by Pennsylvania (60,400), Michigan (34,700), Illinois (34,400), and Minnesota (30,400). These five States accounted for 31% of the growth in probation since 1995.

In 2004 three States, the Federal system, and the District of Columbia had at least 2,000 fewer adult men and women on probation at yearend compared to yearend 1995. New York had the largest decrease in the number of probationers (46,000).

### Largest increases, 1995-2004

California	104,300
Pennsylvania	60,400
Michigan	34,700
Illinois	34,400
Minnesota	30,400

### Largest decreases, 1995-2004

New York	-46,000
Federal system	-7,100
District of Columbia	-2,700
Connecticut	-2,400
Kansas	-2,200

**At yearend 2004 almost 1 in 4 probationers were female; more than 1 in 2 were white**

Nationwide women represented a slightly larger percentage of the probation population in 2004 than in 1995 (table 3). Women were 23% of adults on probation in 2004 (957,600), up from 21% in 1995.

At yearend 2004 more than half of all probationers were white (2,325,300); almost a third were black (1,235,100); and an eighth were Hispanic (518,100). Persons of other races comprised about 2% of probationers (72,700).

**Direct sentences to probation more common in 2004 than 1995**

A larger percentage of probationers in 2004 had received a direct sentence to probation (56%) than in 1995 (48%). A smaller percentage had a probation sentence combined with incarceration (8%, compared to 15% in 1995). The percentage of probationers that received a sentence to incarceration which was suspended has slowly declined (26% in 1995, to 25% in 2000, to 24% in 2004).

**Half of all probationers convicted of a misdemeanor; success rates have remained stable since 1995**

For the first time since data collection began in 1979, probationers convicted of a misdemeanor (50%) accounted for a larger percentage of the population than probationers convicted of a felony (49%).

The largest percentage of the probation population was convicted of a drug law violation (26%), followed by a DWI (15%) and larceny/theft (12%).

Almost 3 in 4 probationers were under active supervision at yearend. Probationers under active supervision are required to regularly report to a probation authority in person, by mail, or by telephone. The percentage of probationers required to report regularly declined steadily, from 79% in 1995 to 76% in 2000 and to 74% in 2004.

About 1 in 11 probationers had absconded at yearend 2004. Though still on probation, absconders had failed to report and could not be located. Absconders remained stable at 9% of all persons on probation between 1995 and 2004.

Sixty percent of the more than 2.2 million adults discharged from probation in 2004 had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. The percentage of probationers discharged successfully remained stable, from 62% in 1995 to 60% in 2000 and 2004. Probationers discharged from supervision because of incarceration due to a rule violation or new offense decreased from 21% in 1995 to 15% in 2000 and 2004. Another 4% of those discharged from probation had absconded, and 10% had their probation revoked without incarceration.

**Table 3. Characteristics of adults on probation, 1995, 2000, and 2004**

Characteristic	1995	2000	2004
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	79%	78%	77%
Female	21	22	23
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>			
White <sup>a</sup>	53%	54%	56%
Black <sup>a</sup>	31	31	30
Hispanic	14	13	12
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	1	1	1
Asian/Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	--	1	1
<b>Status of probation</b>			
Direct imposition	48%	56%	56%
Split sentence	15	11	8
Sentence suspended	26	25	24
Imposition suspended	6	7	10
Other	4	1	1
<b>Status of supervision</b>			
Active	79%	76%	74%
Residential/other treatment program	**	**	1
Inactive	8	9	9
Absconder	9	9	9
Warrant status	**	**	5
Supervised out of State	2	3	2
Other	2	3	--
<b>Type of offense</b>			
Felony	54%	52%	49%
Misdemeanor	44	46	50
Other infractions	2	2	1
<b>Most serious offense</b>			
Sexual assault	**	**	3%
Domestic violence	**	**	6
Other assault	**	**	10
Burglary	**	**	5
Larceny/theft	**	**	12
Fraud	**	**	5
Drug law violations	**	24	26
Driving while intoxicated	16	18	15
Minor traffic offenses	**	6	7
Other	84	52	10
<b>Adults entering probation</b>			
Without incarceration	72%	79%	76%
With incarceration	13	16	14
Other types	15	5	10
<b>Adults leaving probation</b>			
Successful completions	62%	60%	60%
Incarceration	21	15	15
With new sentence	5	3	8
With the same sentence	13	8	6
Unknown	3	4	1
Absconder <sup>b</sup>	**	3	4
Discharge to custody, detainer, or warrant	**	1	1
Other unsuccessful <sup>b</sup>	**	11	10
Death	1	1	1
Other	16	9	9

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

\*\*Not available.

--Less than 0.5%.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

<sup>b</sup>In 1995 "absconder" and "other unsuccessful" statuses were reported among "other."

**Table 4. Adults on parole, 2004**

Region and jurisdiction	Parole population, 1/1/04	2004		Parole population, 12/31/04	Percent change, 2004	Number on parole per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/04
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total<sup>a</sup></b>	745,125	503,200	483,000	765,355	2.7%	347
Federal	86,567	37,712	34,149	89,821	3.8%	41
State (reported)	685,745	450,632	434,642	675,534	--	--
State (estimated) <sup>a</sup>	658,558	465,500	448,800	675,534	2.6%	307
<b>Northeast<sup>a,b</sup></b>	152,488	69,100	66,800	154,819	1.5%	371
Connecticut	2,343	2,857	2,648	2,552	8.9	96
Maine	32	0	0	32	0.0	3
Massachusetts	3,597	4,862	4,605	3,854	7.1	78
New Hampshire <sup>c</sup>	1,199	766	753	1,212	1.1	122
New Jersey	13,248	11,030	10,098	14,180	7.0	217
New York	55,853	23,715	25,044	54,524	-2.4	372
Pennsylvania <sup>a,d</sup>	102,244	10,083	8,665	77,175	--	806
Rhode Island	363	403	398	368	1.4	44
Vermont	796	546	420	922	15.8	190
<b>Midwest</b>	122,678	101,898	96,736	127,840	4.2%	258
Illinois	35,008	35,260	35,991	34,277	-2.1	362
Indiana	7,019	7,028	6,548	7,499	6.8	162
Iowa <sup>e</sup>	2,974	2,839	2,496	3,317	11.5	146
Kansas <sup>e</sup>	4,145	4,542	4,162	4,525	9.2	221
Michigan	20,233	11,330	10,639	20,924	3.4	276
Minnesota	3,596	4,770	4,494	3,872	7.7	100
Missouri <sup>c</sup>	15,830	13,299	11,729	17,400	9.9	398
Nebraska	648	1,112	955	805	24.2	61
North Dakota	225	650	636	239	6.2	48
Ohio	18,427	11,724	11,269	18,882	2.5	218
South Dakota	1,944	1,865	1,592	2,217	14.0	382
Wisconsin	12,629	7,479	6,225	13,883	9.9	330
<b>South</b>	224,995	106,059	98,779	231,994	3.1%	305
Alabama <sup>c</sup>	6,950	3,999	3,204	7,745	11.4	225
Arkansas	13,180	7,182	5,518	14,844	12.6	715
Delaware	529	269	259	539	1.9	85
District of Columbia <sup>c</sup>	4,861	2,203	1,746	5,318	9.4	1,198
Florida	5,098	5,540	5,750	4,888	-4.1	36
Georgia	21,161	13,178	10,995	23,344	10.3	359
Kentucky <sup>e</sup>	7,744	4,083	3,821	8,006	3.4	253
Louisiana	23,743	13,517	12,873	24,387	2.7	728
Maryland	13,742	8,145	7,536	14,351	4.4	345
Mississippi	1,816	1,056	893	1,979	9.0	92
North Carolina	2,677	3,411	3,206	2,882	7.7	45
Oklahoma <sup>c</sup>	4,047	1,926	1,644	4,329	7.0	163
South Carolina	3,242	1,313	1,263	3,292	1.5	104
Tennessee	7,957	3,394	2,660	8,410	5.7	186
Texas <sup>c</sup>	102,271	33,463	33,662	102,072	-0.2	629
Virginia <sup>c</sup>	4,834	2,601	3,043	4,392	-9.1	78
West Virginia	1,143	779	706	1,216	6.4	85
<b>West</b>	158,397	188,413	186,496	160,881	1.6%	324
Alaska <sup>e</sup>	927	630	606	951	2.6	204
Arizona	5,367	8,211	7,907	5,671	5.7	135
California <sup>e</sup>	110,338	154,402	155,046	110,261	-0.1	419
Colorado	6,559	6,094	5,270	7,383	12.6	216
Hawaii	2,240	831	775	2,296	2.5	238
Idaho	2,329	1,578	1,537	2,370	1.8	232
Montana <sup>e</sup>	815	648	653	810	-0.6	113
Nevada	4,126	2,422	2,938	3,610	-12.5	209
New Mexico	2,328	2,062	1,714	2,676	14.9	190
Oregon	19,456	8,919	7,517	20,858	7.2	761
Utah	3,229	2,289	2,206	3,312	2.6	201
Washington <sup>c</sup>	105	48	33	120	14.3	3
Wyoming	578	279	294	563	-2.6	145

Note: Because of incomplete data, the December 31, 2004 total does not equal the January 1 total, plus entries, minus exits. --Not calculated. <sup>a</sup>Due to a change in reporting, January 1, 2004 county counts for Pennsylvania were estimated. The comparable total was 75,057. Total entries (24,900) and exits (22,800) were estimated to include county counts. <sup>b</sup>Data for entries and exits were estimated for nonreporting agencies. <sup>c</sup>All data were estimated. <sup>d</sup>Reported data for entries and exits include only State parolees. <sup>e</sup>Excludes parolees in one of the following categories: absconder, out of State, or inactive.

**Growth in parole twice the average annual increase since 1995**

At the end of 2004 a total of 765,355 adult men and women were on parole (table 4). The population grew 20,230 during the year, or 2.7%, more than double the average annual increase of 1.3% since 1995. The growth in the parole population during 2004 was the second largest increase since 1995 (3.1% in 2003) (table 5).

At yearend 2004, 347 persons were under parole supervision per 100,000 adult residents, or 1 out of every 288 adults in the United States. Pennsylvania (806 per 100,000) was the State with the highest rate of parole supervision, while Washington and Maine had the lowest rates of supervision (3 per 100,000). Both the latter States abolished discretionary parole, in 1984 and 1975, respectively.

**Parole population increased in 39 States**

A total of 39 States had more adults on parole at the end of 2004 than at the beginning of the year. Double-digit increases were reported in 10 States. Nebraska (24%) was the only State to report an increase of over 20%.

A total of nine States reported a decrease in their parole population during 2004, with Nevada (13%) having the only double-digit decrease. One State, Maine, reported no change in the parole population during the year.

**Table 5. Change in the number of adults on parole, 1995-2004**

Year	Annual increase	
	Number	Percent change
1995	-10,950	-1.6%
1996	312	0.0
1997	15,054	2.2
1998	1,598	0.2
1999	18,072	2.6
2000	9,441	1.3
2001	8,435	1.2
2002	18,601	2.5
2003	23,654	3.1
2004	20,230	2.7
Total increase, 1995-2004	85,934	12.6%
Average annual increase, 1995-2004	9,548	1.3%

### State parole population increasing after stability during the 1990's

From 1980 to 1992 the State parole population increased from 196,800 to 618,700, or an average of 10% annually (figure 4). During the period from 1992 to 1998, the growth in the population slowed, increasing a total of 10,500, the equivalent of an average annual increase of nearly 0.3%. In the following period, 1998 to 2004, the State parole population added 46,300 additional parolees, the equivalent of a 1% increase annually.

### Growth in State parole linked to entries

From 1980 to 1990 the number of entries to State parole supervision more than tripled from 113,400 to 349,000. State parole entries continued to rise during the 1990's (up an average of 2.4% annually), but were offset by an increase in parole discharges (up an average of 4.6% annually).

From 2000 to 2004 the number of State parole entries continued to exceed the number of exits, but both grew at a slower pace; entries grew 1.3% annually while exits grew 1.0%.

Year	State entries	State exits
2000	441,600	432,200
2001	445,600	439,100
2002	436,300	420,000
2003	459,100	440,500
2004	465,500	448,800
Average annual percent change, 2000-04	1.3%	1.0%

### Since 1980 discretionary releases to parole supervision have steadily declined

As a percentage of all releases from State prison, discretionary releases by a parole board steadily declined from 55% in 1980 to 22% in 2003 (figure 5). From 1980 to 1995 mandatory parole releases increased (from 19% to 39%). These trends were consistent with the change in release policy occurring within many States after 1980, resulting in a shift away from discretionary releases in favor of determinate sentences and mandatory supervised release. (See *Trends in State Parole, 1990-2000*, October 2001, NCJ 184735.)

Compared to the increase during the 15-year period from 1980 to 1995, mandatory parole releases remained relatively stable from 1995 (39%) to 2003 (36%).

Releases from State prison due to expiration of sentence increased from 13% of all releases in 1990 to 21% in 2001. That type of release declined to 19% in 2003.

From 1995 to 2002 other conditional releases from State prison rose slightly (from 10% in 1995 to 12% in 2000). These releases include unspecified releases and releases to probation. In 2003 other conditional releases comprised nearly 15% of all releases from State prison.

### 1 in 8 parolees were female

At yearend 2004 women made up about 1 out of every 8 adults on parole (94,400) (table 6). Women (12%) represented a growing percentage of the parole population since 1995 (10%).

From 1995 to 2004 black parolees decreased as a percentage of all parolees (45% down to 41%). During this same period, the percentage of parolees who were white steadily increased (34% in 1995, 38% in 2000, and 40% in 2004). Almost 1 in 5 parolees were Hispanic (136,500). About 2% of parolees were of other races (11,700).

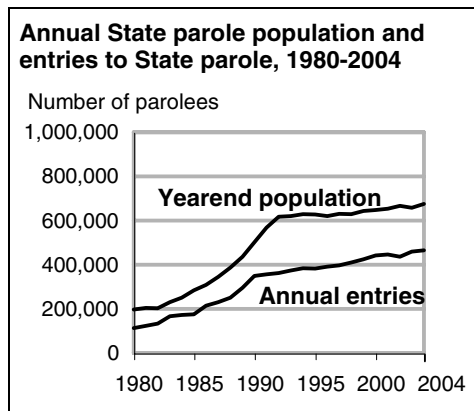


Figure 4

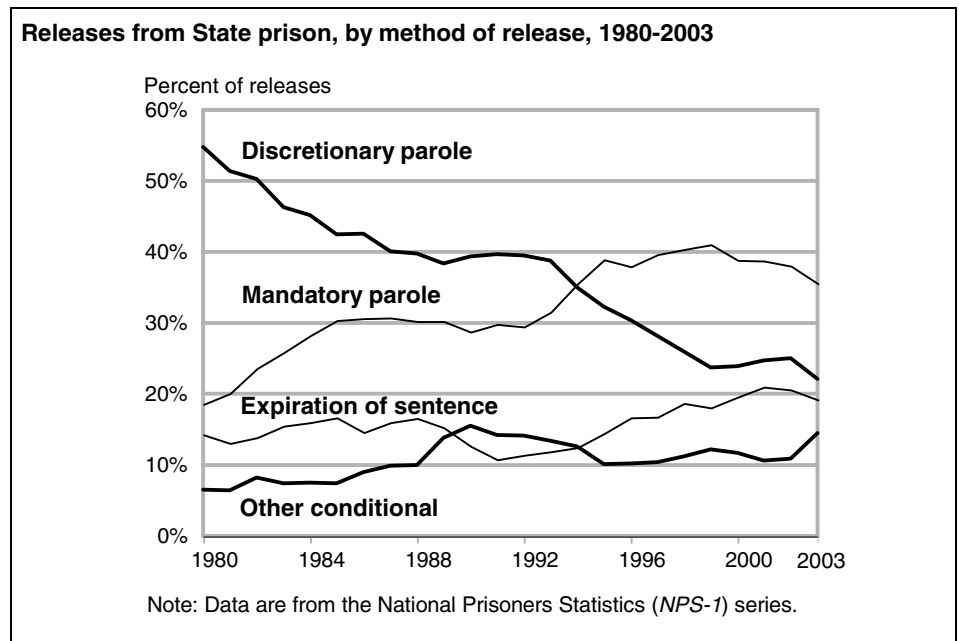


Figure 5



**Table 6. Characteristics of adults on parole, 1995, 2000, and 2004**

Characteristic	1995	2000	2004
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	90%	88%	88%
Female	10	12	12
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>			
White <sup>a</sup>	34%	38%	40%
Black <sup>a</sup>	45	40	41
Hispanic	21	21	18
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	1	1	1
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	--	--	1
<b>Status of supervision</b>			
Active	78%	83%	85%
Inactive	11	4	3
Absconder	6	7	7
Supervised out of State	4	5	4
Other	--	1	1
<b>Sentence length</b>			
Less than 1 year	6%	3%	5%
1 year or more	94	97	95
<b>Type of offense</b>			
Violent	**	**	24%
Property	**	**	26
Drug	**	**	38
Other	**	**	12
<b>Adults entering parole</b>			
Discretionary parole	50%	37%	31%
Mandatory parole	45	54	52
Reinstatement	4	6	8
Other	2	2	9
<b>Adults leaving parole</b>			
Successful completion	45%	43%	46%
Returned to incarceration	41	42	39
With new sentence	12	11	12
With revocation pending	18	30	26
Other	11	1	1
Absconder <sup>b</sup>	**	9	10
Other unsuccessful <sup>b</sup>	**	2	2
Transferred	2	1	1
Death	1	1	1
Other	10	2	1

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

\*\*Not available.

--Less than 0.5%.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

<sup>b</sup>In 1995 "absconder" and "other unsuccessful" statuses were reported among "other."

### More than 8 in 10 parolees were under active supervision

Active supervision requires parolees to regularly report to a parole authority in person, by mail, or by telephone. This type of supervision steadily increased as a percentage of all parolees from 78% in 1995, to 83% in 2000, to 85% in 2004. Parolees on inactive status, excluded from regular reporting but still on parole, decreased as a percentage of all parolees, from 11% in 1995 to 3% in 2004. Another 7% of all parolees in 2004 had absconded, 4% were supervised out of State, and 1% were supervised through some other type of status.

### About 4 in 10 parolees served a sentence for a drug offense

About 95% of all parolees had been sentenced to 1 year or more in State or Federal prison at yearend 2004. The largest percentage of parolees had been convicted of a drug offense (38%), followed by a property offense (26%) and a violent offense (24%). Another 12% of parolees had been convicted of other offenses, such as public order violations.

### Rates of success for parolees have remained stable since 1995

As a percentage of all discharges, parolees who successfully met the conditions of their supervision have remained nearly stable between 1995 (45%) and 2004 (46%) (figure 6). During this period the success rates for parolees were consistently lower than the success rates for probationers (62% in 1995 and 60% in 2004).

**Percent of successful exits, by type of supervision, 1995-2004**

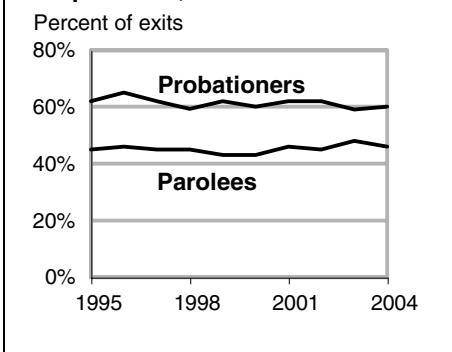


Figure 6

Since 1995 the total estimated number of parolees discharged from supervision increased from 391,300 to 483,000 in 2004. During this time, the number of successful exits increased from 176,300 in 1995 to 223,400 in 2004.

Estimated exits from parole	1995	2004
Total	391,300	483,000
Successful	176,300	223,400
Returned to incarceration	160,000	187,000
Transferred	9,800	5,400
Death	4,400	4,700
Other <sup>a</sup>	40,800	62,400

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Includes "absconder" and "other unsuccessful" exits.

In 2004, 187,000 parolees were discharged from supervision and returned to incarceration because of a rule violation or new offense, up from 160,000 in 1995. Despite the increase in the number of parolees returned to incarceration, the percentage of all exits resulting from re-incarceration have remained nearly stable between 1995 and 2004 (41% and 39%, respectively).

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## Methodology

The Annual Probation Survey and the Annual Parole Survey provide a count of the total number of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, 2004, 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. The first annual report on probation and parole appeared in 1979.

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

Because many States update their population counts, the January 1, 2004, numbers may differ from those previously published for December 31, 2003.

### *Probation*

The 2004 Annual Probation Survey was sent to 468 respondents — 34 central State reporters, the District of Columbia, the Federal system, and 432 separate State, county, or court

agencies. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (8), Florida (43), Georgia (5), Idaho (2), Kentucky (3), Michigan (128), Missouri (2), Montana (4), New Mexico (2), Ohio (187), Oklahoma (3), Tennessee (3), Washington (35), and West Virginia (2). A locality in Ohio did not provide data. For this agency, the 12/31/03 population count was used as the 1/1/04 and 12/31/04 counts.

Since 1995 the survey coverage has been expanded to include 179 additional agencies. At yearend 2004, 219,195 probationers were under the supervision of these agencies. For year-to-year comparisons, use total counts based on the same reporting agencies — 3,266,837 in 1997 to compare with the final 1996 counts; 3,417,613 in 1998 to compare with final 1997; and 3,772,773 in 1999 to compare with final 1998.

This report in portable document format and in ASCII, its tables, and related statistical data are available at the BJS World Wide Web Internet site:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

**Office of Justice Programs**  
Partnerships for Safer Communities  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>

### *Parole*

The 2004 Annual Parole Survey was sent to 54 respondents, including 52 central reporters, the California Youth Authority, and 1 municipal agency. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (2) and California (2).

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

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

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

Lauren E. Glaze and Seri Palla wrote and produced this report under the supervision of Allen J. Beck. Christopher J. Mumola provided statistical assistance. Todd D. Minton and Paige M. Harrison provided statistical verification. Seri Palla and Lauren Glaze also conducted the collection and processing of data. Tina Dorsey and Tom Hester produced and edited the report. Jayne Robinson prepared the report for publication.

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