

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Statistics



Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

Probation and Parole 1986

During 1986 the number of adults on probation or on parole from prison increased for the eighth year in a row. State and Federal agencies reported that 2,094,405 offenders were on probation and 326,752 offenders were on parole--1.36% of all adults in the United States.

The total number of adults in the Nation under some form of correctional supervision, including those in local jails or State and Federal prisons, reached a new high of over 3.2 million--an increase of 7% since 1985 and 30% since 1983. About 1 out of every 55 adults in the United States were under some form of correctional supervision on a given day in 1986.

Probation

The probation population in 1986 showed a 6.4% gain over the previous year's count (table 1). The percentage increase for the States as a whole was 6.4% and for the Federal system, 6.8%. The increase in the probation population occurred in every region, with the Northeast reporting the highest gain (7.7%) and the West, the lowest (5.5%).

Six States reported increases of over 12%: Missouri (18.6%), New Hampshire (16.9%), Indiana (15.1%), Connecticut (13.8%), Washington (12.7%), and Arizona (12.3%). Six States showed decreases in their probation populations, ranging from 1% in South Dakota to 2.7% in Mississippi.

As a ratio per 100,000 adult residents, the probation population in the South was the highest--1,377 offenders per 100,000 adult residents. This ratio surpassed that for the Northeast by 337 persons, the West by 343, and the Midwest by 374.

Of individual States, Texas had the highest rate of persons on probation--2,468 per 100,000 adult residents of the

State. Georgia, Maryland, and Massachusetts also had more than 2,000 persons on probation for every 100,000 adult residents.

Parole

The parole population grew an estimated 8.9% over the previous year (table 2). From 1979--the first year the Bureau of Justice Statistics began reporting on probation and parole--until 1985, the number of persons on parole increased more slowly than the number on probation. In 1986, however, the parole population was the fastest growing of the four components of corrections.

Seven States reported increases above 20% of their 1985 parole populations: Washington (26.9%), Louisiana (24.5%), Hawaii (23.6%), Alabama (23.3%), Georgia (22.1%), Texas (21.1%), and Nebraska (20.3%). Among the regions of the country, the parole populations in the South and West showed the largest percentage increases over the year, gaining about 12% each. States in the Midwest had the slowest growing parole population, with a regional increase of 3.2%.

Fifteen States in 1986 reported a declining parole population. The average decrease for these States was 7.3%. Alaska, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Michigan reduced their parole populations more than 11% during 1986.

The Northeast, which had a 6.6% increase in the number of persons on parole, had the highest ratio of parolees to residents: 233 per 100,000 adults. Of the States, Texas had the highest ratio, 489 per 100,000. Pennsylvania added 26,622 parolees from local facilities to its State caseload in 1986 and reported the second highest ratio, 432 per 100,000 adults.

December 1987

This is the sixth annual Bureau of Justice Statistics bulletin presenting statistics from the Uniform Parole Reports (UPR) and the National Probation Reports (NPR). In conjunction with counts of jail and prison populations, the data presented here indicate the relative use of different types of correctional sanctions in the United States.

The generous cooperation of probation and parole agencies in participating in these surveys is gratefully acknowledged.

Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

Adults under correctional supervision

Of the more than 3.2 million adults under the care or custody of a correctional agency on a given day in 1986, 3 out of 4 offenders were living in the community:

Supervised in the community	74.7%
Probation	64.6
Parole	10.1
Incarcerated	25.3%
Jail	8.4
Prison	16.9

Total under correctional supervision 100%

The probation and parole populations not only exceeded the number of persons in correctional facilities, but, from 1983 to 1986, they increased at a higher rate (table 3). The community-based population was nearly a third larger at the end of the 4-year period; in comparison, the number of jail and prison inmates had increased about a fourth.

Mandatory releases from prison

Unlike releases on discretionary parole, mandatory releases from prison do not result from decisions by parole boards or commissions; however, like those leaving prison on discretionary parole, prisoners with a mandatory release enter community supervision by a parole agency for some specified period of time. Authorities subtract time off for good behavior in prison from the offender's sentence to determine the time of mandatory release from prison.

The percent of mandatory releases from prison increased about fivefold during the past decade, from about 6% in 1977 to over 31% in 1986 (table 4). By contrast, prisoners released by a parole board decision declined from nearly 72% of all releases in 1977 to 43% in 1986.

Probation notes

Many States update their population counts, so the January 1, 1986, numbers may differ from those previously published for December 1985.

Alabama--The number of exits was estimated from the known number of admissions and the 1986 yearend count.

Indiana--The data came from calendar year 1985.

Iowa--Entries include 2,509 transfers, and exits include 2,110 transfers.

Kentucky--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because the State began to exclude the estimated count of the inactive caseload.

Massachusetts--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because the count now includes the administrative supervision caseload of 61,960 cases. Probation officers enforce court orders for payment of restitution or support. Probationers failing to comply with court orders may be returned to court.

Michigan--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because the report added 47 local agencies with 24,203 persons on probation.

Missouri--The State estimates all caseload data.

Montana--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because the State had used the previous year's count for 1985. Reported data are now current.

Nevada--The State estimates all population counts.

Ohio--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because the State added 5,435 persons from the Cleveland Municipal Probation Department.

Table 1. Adults on probation, 1986

Regions and jurisdictions	Probation population 1/1/86	1986 ^a		Probation population 12/31/86	Percent change in probation population 1985-86	1986 probationers per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
U. S. total	1,968,712	1,265,748	1,140,055	2,094,405	6.4 %	1,178
Federal	55,378	25,797	22,005	59,170	6.8	
State	1,913,334	1,239,951	1,118,050	2,035,235	6.4	1,145
Northeast	366,040	203,996	175,653	394,383	7.7	1,040
Connecticut	36,805	30,237	25,168	41,874	13.8	1,723
Maine	4,451	4,661	4,492	4,620	3.8	530
Massachusetts	86,597	50,925	46,359	91,163	5.3	2,030
New Hampshire	3,096	2,477	1,955	3,618	16.9	472
New Jersey	47,483	28,077	22,530	53,030	11.7	916
New York	99,183	41,168	32,794	107,557	8.4	803
Pennsylvania	75,591	39,183	35,789	78,985	4.5	874
Rhode Island	7,536	4,416	3,778	8,174	8.5	1,093
Vermont	5,298	2,852	2,788	5,362	1.2	1,337
Midwest	408,880	312,341	284,600	436,621	6.8	1,003
Illinois	74,156	46,992	44,945	76,203	2.8	897
Indiana ^a	42,800	45,345	38,880	49,265	15.1	1,224
Iowa	12,063	12,108	11,587	12,584	4.3	598
Kansas	16,204	9,093	9,344	15,953	-1.5	879
Michigan	99,365	77,732	72,235	104,862	5.5	1,571
Minnesota ^b	32,986	28,332	26,091	35,227	6.8	1,135
Missouri	26,081	20,474	15,633	30,922	18.6	823
Nebraska	10,720	12,264	11,719	11,265	5.1	963
North Dakota	1,569	802	827	1,544	-1.6	316
Ohio	66,810	43,975	38,863	71,922	7.7	911
South Dakota	2,249	3,967	3,990	2,226	-1.0	436
Wisconsin	23,877	11,257	10,486	24,648	3.2	701
South	789,702	511,433	464,817	836,318	5.9	1,377
Alabama ^c	16,520	5,400	4,895	17,025	3.1	579
Arkansas	9,268	2,526	1,659	10,135	9.4	587
Delaware	7,139	4,624	3,778	7,985	11.9	1,688
Dist. of Columbia	11,777	10,253	9,723	12,307	4.5	2,522
Florida	130,399	152,522	142,672	140,249	7.6	1,551
Georgia	94,461	57,738	51,636	100,563	6.5	2,290
Kentucky	6,594	4,916	4,669	6,841	3.8	252
Louisiana	26,638	11,767	10,728	27,677	3.9	877
Maryland	67,138	40,648	38,652	69,134	3.0	2,062
Mississippi	6,636	3,018	3,196	6,458	-2.7	354
North Carolina	56,207	32,123	29,686	58,644	4.3	1,245
Oklahoma	21,480	11,237	9,726	22,991	7.0	956
South Carolina	17,979	10,210	9,948	18,241	1.5	748
Tennessee	26,205	16,399	16,313	26,291	.3	740
Texas	269,909	139,033	118,868	290,074	7.5	2,468
Virginia	17,447	6,730	6,448	17,729	1.6	408
West Virginia	3,905	2,289	2,220	3,974	1.8	281
West	348,712	212,181	192,980	367,913	5.5	1,034
Alaska	2,606	1,308	1,029	2,885	10.7	797
Arizona	18,068	9,241	7,026	20,283	12.3	842
California	210,449	126,155	115,862	220,742	4.9	1,111
Colorado	17,612	10,585	10,980	17,217	-2.2	717
Hawaii	7,986	5,102	4,684	8,404	5.2	1,082
Idaho	3,414	2,130	1,774	3,770	10.4	546
Montana	2,637	1,277	971	2,943	11.6	501
Nevada ^b	5,365	2,593	2,440	5,518	2.9	762
New Mexico	4,130	3,831	3,786	4,175	1.1	403
Oregon	23,000	13,589	13,934	22,655	-1.5	1,126
Utah	6,330	3,559	3,511	6,378	.8	610
Washington	45,399	31,630	25,873	51,156	12.7	1,547
Wyoming	1,716	1,181	1,110	1,787	4.1	506

^aIndiana reported 1985 data for 1986.

^bState estimated all data.

^cAlabama estimated 1986 exit data.

Pennsylvania--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because the State added an administrative caseload of 10,305 cases to its report.

South Dakota--The probation data are from the fiscal year ending June 30, 1986.

Tennessee--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because the State began to count inactive and out-of-State cases.

Virginia--The probation data are from the fiscal year ending June 30, 1986.

Washington--The January 1, 1986, population differs from that reported for December 31, 1985, because two local agencies with 1,151 persons on probation were added to the count.

Parole notes

Many States update their population counts, so the January 1, 1986, numbers may differ from those previously published for December 1985.

Federal--The 1986 yearend count excludes 3,878 persons under the active, special parole supervision that follows the regular parole term. Military parolees (531 persons) are also excluded.

Alabama--Data include an unknown number of parolees from city or county facilities.

Alaska--The State excludes data describing 180 persons on mandatory parole.

California--The State reports releases to parole from both the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the California Youth Authority. Exits include 7,953 absconders (DOC).

Colorado--The State places absconders in an inactive caseload, omitting them from population counts.

District of Columbia--The District adjusted the previously reported yearend 1985 population, adding 238 inactive cases and 926 persons under warrants.

Delaware--The State does not supervise persons who were incarcerated for less than a year.

Idaho--The yearend count includes persons who absconded in 1986.

Illinois--The yearend 1986 count includes persons under parole supervision in other States. Illinois reported 10,882 persons under active supervision within the State.

Indiana--Data exclude Interstate Compact cases.

Kansas--The State monitors absconders apart from the regular parole caseload and omits them from the reported counts. In 1986, 147 absconded; how many of those were absconders at yearend is unknown.

Kentucky--The difference between the previously reported yearend 1985 count and the current January 1986 figure remains unexplained.

Louisiana--The difference between the previously reported yearend 1985 count and the current January 1986 figure remains unexplained.

Maine--The State abolished parole in 1976, so the number of persons remaining on parole is negligible.

Massachusetts--The State estimates data for entries and exits.

Mississippi--Yearend population counts omit absconders.

Table 2. Adults on parole, 1986

Regions and jurisdictions	Parole population 1/1/86	1986		Parole population 12/31/86	Percent change in parole population 1985-86	1986 parolees per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
U. S. total	300,203	223,182	196,633	326,752	8.9%	184
Federal	17,064	8,749	8,501	17,312	1.5	
State	283,139	214,433	188,132	309,440	9.3	174
Northeast	82,849	45,139	39,656	88,332	6.6	233
Connecticut	695	166	258	603	-13.2	25
Massachusetts	4,496	3,382	3,880	3,998	-11.1	89
New Hampshire	453	207	121	539	19.0	70
New Jersey	13,385	7,565	6,886	14,064	5.1	243
New York	28,289	13,444	12,408	29,325	3.7	219
Pennsylvania	34,785	19,762	15,539	39,008	12.1	432
Rhode Island	402	414	358	458	13.9	61
Vermont	344	199	206	337	-2.0	84
Midwest	41,722	33,222	31,871	43,073	3.2	99
Illinois	11,421	8,358	7,468	12,311	7.8	145
Indiana	2,797	4,836	4,360	3,273	17.0	31
Iowa	1,971	1,592	1,634	1,329	-2.1	92
Kansas	2,282	1,255	1,177	2,360	3.4	130
Michigan	6,639	4,238	4,975	5,902	-11.1	88
Minnesota	1,364	1,390	1,317	1,437	5.4	46
Missouri	4,485	3,166	2,455	5,196	15.9	138
Nebraska	246	440	390	296	20.3	25
North Dakota	166	158	165	159	-4.2	33
Ohio	6,509	4,932	5,294	6,147	-5.5	78
South Dakota	415	407	414	408	-1.7	80
Wisconsin	3,427	2,450	2,222	3,655	6.7	104
South	110,894	77,236	63,482	124,648	12.4	205
Alabama	2,425	1,723	1,157	2,991	23.3	102
Arkansas	3,891	1,743	1,793	3,841	-1.3	222
Delaware	864	522	408	978	13.2	207
District of Columbia	3,504	1,651	1,435	3,720	6.2	762
Florida	4,214	3,011	3,747	3,478	-17.5	39
Georgia	8,538	9,480	7,597	10,421	22.1	237
Kentucky	3,694	2,637	2,779	3,552	-3.8	131
Louisiana	3,346	2,795	1,975	4,166	24.5	132
Maryland	7,308	4,924	4,738	7,494	2.5	224
Mississippi	3,392	1,644	1,582	3,454	1.8	189
North Carolina	3,184	5,522	5,384	3,322	4.3	71
Oklahoma	1,625	611	494	1,742	7.2	72
South Carolina	3,261	879	1,236	2,904	-10.9	119
Tennessee	7,899	6,828	6,127	8,600	8.9	242
Texas	47,471	27,255	17,217	57,509	21.1	489
Virginia	5,640	5,506	5,376	5,770	2.3	133
West Virginia	638	505	437	706	10.7	50
West	47,674	58,836	53,123	53,387	12.0	150
Alaska	155	114	150	119	-23.2	33
Arizona	1,717	2,613	2,296	2,034	18.5	85
California	30,127	45,553	42,518	33,162	10.1	167
Colorado	2,003	2,013	2,025	1,991	- .6	83
Hawaii	716	292	123	885	23.6	114
Idaho	483	274	226	531	9.9	77
Montana	634	312	278	668	5.4	114
Nevada*	1,313	1,446	1,230	1,529	16.5	211
New Mexico	1,092	1,162	1,107	1,147	5.0	114
Oregon	1,894	2,084	1,839	2,139	12.9	106
Utah	1,169	678	659	1,188	1.6	114
Washington*	6,039	2,105	478	7,666	26.9	232
Wyoming	332	190	194	328	-1.2	93

Note: Maine no longer releases prisoners to parole. The number on parole is now negligible.

*Nevada and Washington estimate their parole population counts.

Missouri--Persons paroled from county jails are supervised as persons on probation and are counted in the probation report.

Montana--Montana estimates the number of exits. It also omits from the count parolees transferred to other jurisdictions.

Nevada--The State estimates all numbers.

New York--Although the State supervises parolees from county facilities, it excludes 331 such cases from the count.

Oklahoma--The smaller number of exits from parole resulted from two new statutes, according to State

Table 3. Correctional populations, percent of adult population under sanction, and percent change, 1983-86

	1983		1984		1985		1986		Percent increase in correctional populations 1983-86
	Number	Percent of adult population	Number	Percent of adult population	Number	Percent of adult population	Number	Percent of adult population	
Correctional populations total	2,488,450	1.45%	2,705,525	1.56%	3,027,227	1.72%	3,240,552	1.82%	30.2%
Probation	1,582,947	.92	1,740,948	1.00	1,968,767	1.12	2,094,405	1.18	32.3
Jail*	221,815	.13	233,018	.13	254,936	.15	272,736	.15	23.0
Prison	437,248	.26	464,567	.27	503,271	.29	546,659	.31	25.0
Parole	246,440	.14	266,992	.15	300,203	.17	326,752	.18	32.6
Note: The following are estimates of the U.S. resident population age 18 and older on July 1: 1983-171,332,000; 1984-173,469,000; 1985-175,727,000; 1986-177,807,000.			Population counts for probation, parole, and prison are for December 31, and jail counts are for June 30. Every year some States update their report; this table uses the corrected counts.			*Estimates of jail populations include convicted and unconvicted adult inmates.			

Table 4. State prison releases, by method, 1977-86

Year	Total releases from prisons	Percent of prison releases						
		All	Discretionary parole	Mandatory release	Expiration of term	Probation	Commutation	Other
1977	115,213	100%	71.9%	5.9%	16.1%	3.6%	1.1%	1.4%
1978	119,796	100	70.4	5.8	17.0	3.3	.7	2.8
1979	128,954	100	60.2	16.9	16.3	3.3	.4	3.0
1980	136,968	100	57.4	19.5	14.9	3.6	.5	4.0
1981	142,489	100	54.6	21.4	13.9	3.7	2.4	4.0
1982	157,144	100	51.9	24.4	14.4	4.8	.3	4.2
1983	191,237	100	48.1	26.9	16.1	5.2	.5	3.2
1984	191,499	100	46.0	28.7	16.3	4.9	.5	3.6
1985	203,895	100	43.2	30.8	16.9	4.5	.4	4.1
1986	230,672	100	43.2	31.1	14.8	4.5	.3	6.0
Note: The data are from the National Prisoner Statistics reporting program. The total releases from State prisons are those			for which the method of release was reported. Deaths, unspecified releases, transfers, and escapes were not included. Altogether, 247,247			persons were released or removed from State prisons in 1986.		

officials. The two laws, the House Arrest Law and the Capacity Law (Emergency Releases), first went into effect in 1986.

Pennsylvania--The State added 26,622 parolees from local facilities to its 1986 count.

Rhode Island--Parole data for 1986 include 27 persons being held on detention warrants, 2 persons serving Federal sentences, 4 persons being supervised by the U. S. Immigration Service, and 2 participants in the Federal Witness Protection Program.

South Dakota--The reporting period is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1986.

Tennessee--The January 1986 count differs from that reported for yearend 1985 because the State began to include parolees living out-of-State.

Texas--The reporting period is for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1986.

Virginia--The State reported 768 transfers as entries and 475 transfers as exits.

Washington--The State estimates the number of entries and exits. It places absconders in an inactive caseload and omits them from the population count.

Wyoming--The State reported some 1985 data after completion of the 1985 survey. The yearend counts do not include absconders and inactive cases.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by BJS staff. This bulletin was written by Thomas Hester of BJS. It was edited by Frank D. Balog. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administered report production, assisted by Jeanne Harris, Betty Sherman, and Arlene F. James. Diana Cull, Lisa McNelis, and Art Ciampa of the U.S. Bureau of the Census carried out the collection and processing of the data.

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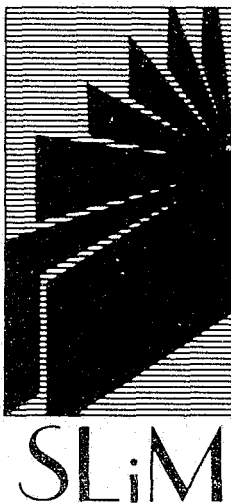
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National Crime Survey

Criminal victimization in the U.S.:

- 1985 (final report), NCJ-104273, 5/87
- 1984 (final report), NCJ-100435, 5/86
- 1983 (final report), NCJ-96459, 10/85

BJS special reports:

- Elderly victims, NCJ-107676, 11/87
- Violent crime trends, NCJ-107217, 11/87
- Robbery victims, NCJ-104638, 4/87
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