



Bureau of Justice Statistics Executive Summary

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Correctional Populations in the United States

The Nation's correctional population jumped more than 2½ times from 1980 through 1993. During 1993 approximately 2.6% of the U.S. population — 4.9 million adults — were on parole, on probation, or in jails or prisons, an increase of 3 million people since 1980. More than 909,000 men and women were in the custody of State and Federal prisons, 455,500 were in local jails, 671,000 on parole, and 2.8 million on probation.

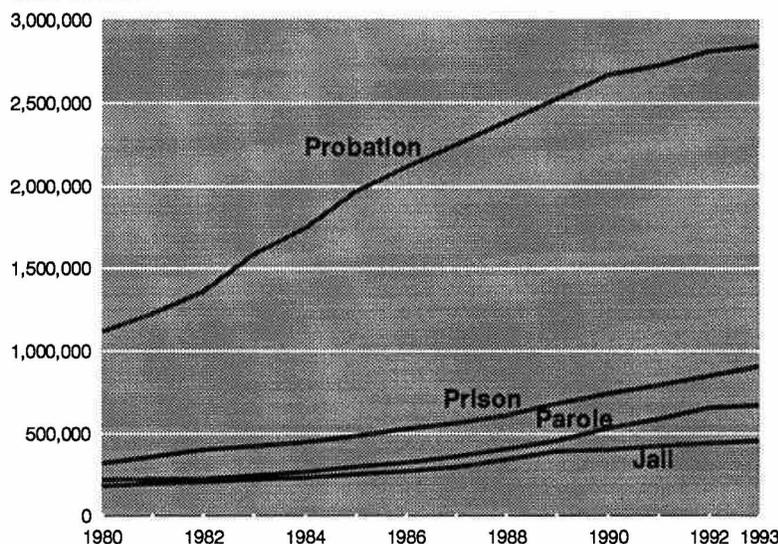
During the 1980-92 period, the percent of black State and Federal prisoners increased from 46.5% to 50% at a time when the percentage of blacks in the general population

increased from 11.8% to 12.4%. The Hispanic prison population doubled from 7.7% to 14.1%, while Hispanics in the general population increased from 6.5% to 9.5%.

At yearend 1992, there were 4,094 black male inmates per 100,000 black adults in the U.S. population, compared to 502 white male inmates per 100,000 adult white residents. Among U.S. adults who neither graduated from high school nor earned a general equivalence degree (GED), almost 6% of blacks and 1% of whites were in a Federal or State prison serving a sentence of a year or more.

Adults in jail, on probation, in prison, or on parole
In the United States, 1980-93

Number of
adult offenders



- More than two-thirds of the 4.9 million persons under correctional supervision were on probation or parole.
- The Nation's parole population had the fastest rate of growth, 205% from 1980 to 1993.
- During the 13 years between 1980 and 1993, the probation population grew by more than 1.7 million, larger than the increase in any other correctional population.
- In 1993 nearly 1.4 million offenders were in local jail and State or Federal prison.

The number of convicted drug offenders increased ninefold (from 19,000 to 172,300) from 1980 through 1992. The number of violent offenders accounted for a larger share of the growth in the total prison population (41%, compared to 32% for drug offenders). The total number of violent offenders in State prison increased by nearly 200,000 during the 12-year period.

The number of returned parole violators and newly admitted probation violators soared between 1980 and 1992. Almost one in every three offenders admitted to State prisons (142,000) in 1992 were probation or parole violators, compared to 1 in every 6 (27,000) in 1980.

Violent offenders were more likely to be sent to prison in 1992 than they were in 1980. Relative to the number of victims of murder, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault, the number of violent offenders admitted to State prison increased during the 12-year period, from 18 admissions per 1,000 violent victimizations to 27 per 1,000.

Between 1980 and 1992 the rate of incarceration in State and Federal prisons more than doubled, from 139 sentenced inmates (inmates serving 1 year or more) per 100,000 U.S. residents to 332 per 100,000. In 1992 incarceration rates were nearly 19 times higher among adult men than among adult women (883 per 100,000 compared to 47) and 8 times higher among adult black men than among adult white men.

Number of adults on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole, 1980-93

Year	Total estimated correctional population	Probation	Jail ^a	Prison	Parole
1980 ^b	1,840,400	1,118,097	182,288	319,598	220,438
1981 ^b	2,006,600	1,225,934	195,085	360,029	225,539
1982	2,192,600	1,357,264	207,853	402,914	224,604
1983	2,475,100	1,582,947	221,815	423,898	246,440
1984	2,689,200	1,740,948	233,018	448,264	266,992
1985	3,011,500	1,968,712	254,986	487,583	300,203
1986	3,239,400	2,114,621	272,735	526,436	325,638
1987	3,459,600	2,247,158	294,092	562,814	355,505
1988	3,714,100	2,356,483	341,893	607,766	407,977
1989	4,055,600	2,522,125	393,303	683,367	456,803
1990	4,348,000	2,670,234	403,019	743,382	531,407
1991	4,536,200	2,729,322	424,129	792,535	590,198
1992	4,763,200	2,811,611	441,781	851,205	658,601
1993 ^b	4,879,600	2,843,445	455,500	909,185	671,470
1980-93	165%	154%	150%	184%	205%

Note: Counts for probation, prison, and parole population are for December 31 each year. Jail population counts are for June 30 each year. Prisoner counts are for those in custody only. Because some persons may have multiple statuses, the sum of the number of persons incarcerated or under community supervision overestimates the total correctional population.

^aIncludes convicted and unconvicted adult inmates.

^bJail counts are estimated.

Adults in jail, on probation, in prison, or on parole, 1992

Number per 100,000 adults

