



103683

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

Probation and Parole 1985

103683

During 1985, the Nation's adult probation population grew by 7.4% to reach a record 1,870,132 adult offenders serving a sentence of probation supervision in the community. The number of offenders under parole supervision in the community after release from a State or Federal prison climbed by 3.9% to 277,438—also a new record population at yearend. Including those serving sentences in local jails or in State or Federal prisons, the number of adults in the United States under some form of correctional supervision at the end of 1985 reached 2.9 million, an increase of nearly 200,000 during the year.

Probation

Forty-three States (including the District of Columbia) reported increases in their probation population during 1985 (table 1). Probation population growth was most rapid in the Southern States, with an overall increase of 9%. Texas, which accounted for less than 14% of the Nation's probationers in 1984, contributed 27% of the increase for the Nation during 1985. Probation populations in the Midwest and West grew almost as fast (8.2% and 7.5%) as in the South. Texas (269,909), California (210,449), Florida (130,767), and New York (100,816) were the States with the largest probation populations at yearend. South Dakota's increase of nearly 50% during the year was attributed by that State to changes in the sentencing of drunk driving offenders. The Federal probation population grew at a slower pace than the State probation population (5.5% vs. 7.5%).

Parole

Thirty-one States had increases in parole populations during 1985 (table 2). Parole populations include those released from prison by a parole board

as well as those released to a term of supervision after completion of a determinate, or fixed, sentence (mandatory release). Parole populations grew most rapidly in the Western States, with California accounting for nearly two-thirds of the region's increase. In Midwestern States, by contrast, the number of offenders under parole supervision decreased by nearly 10%, largely because of declines in Michigan and Ohio. The number of Federal parolees at the end of 1985 was essentially unchanged from a year earlier.

Methods of release from prison have been changing in recent years, reflecting a diminished role for parole boards (table 3). In 1977 nearly 72% of State prison releases were by a parole board decision; by 1985 this had dropped to 43%. Conversely, the percentage of mandatory releases from State prisons grew from about 6% of all releases in 1977 to 31% in 1985.

Adults under correctional supervision

Of the 2.9 million adults under the care or custody of a correctional agency at the end of 1985, 3 out of 4 were being supervised in the community:

Supervised in the community	74.0%
Probation	64.4
Parole	9.6
Incarcerated	26.0%
Jail	8.7
Prison	17.3
Total under correctional supervision	100%

An estimated 1.65% of all adults in the Nation, or about 1 of every 61 adults, was on probation, in jail, in prison, or on parole at yearend 1985, up from 1.45% 2 years earlier (table 4).

January 1987

This is the fifth annual Bureau of Justice Statistics bulletin presenting statistics for 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

Probation populations increased by about 18% during the 2 years, compared to growth of about 15% in prison and jail populations and 13% in the number of those under parole supervision. Nearly 87% of the total correctional population was male and 64% was white, 34% black, and just over 1% were of other races.

NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

Probation notes

Alabama--The number of exits was estimated based on the known number of admissions and the final yearend count.

Arkansas--Population counts were estimated.

Connecticut--Jurisdiction over 12,990 pretrial alcohol cases was transferred to the Pre-Trial Bail Commission; they are no longer counted as probation supervision cases.

Illinois--Population exits were estimated.

Indiana--Probation data are for calendar year 1984.

Maryland--The Maryland case count was reduced 10% to provide an estimate of the number of individuals.

Montana--Probation data are for 1984.

Nevada--Population counts were estimated.

Oklahoma--The number of entries was estimated.

Pennsylvania--The number of entries and exits were estimated and the population increase was attributed by State authorities to additional "driving while intoxicated" cases now under supervision.

South Dakota--The number of entries and exits could not be reported by the State. The increase in the population was attributed to growth in the number of "driving while intoxicated" cases now under supervision.

Utah--State authorities attribute the decline in the probation population to a law that restricts the length of probation terms and limits the use of probation for less serious crimes.

Vermont--Population counts were estimated.

Virginia--Probation data are for July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985.

Table 1. Adults on probation, 1985

Regions and jurisdictions	Probation population 12/31/84	1985 ^a		Probation population 12/31/85	Percent change in probation population 1984-85	1985 probationers per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
U. S., total	1,740,948	1,174,832	1,046,383	1,870,132	7.4%	1,064
Federal	52,351	24,293	21,427	55,217	5.5	31
State	1,688,597	1,150,539	1,024,956	1,814,915	7.5	1,033
Northeast	287,728	182,169	173,506	296,391	3.0	786
Connecticut ^b	46,681	37,486	47,362	36,805		1,522
Maine	4,368	3,124	3,041	4,451	1.9	518
Massachusetts	23,141	18,005	16,509	24,637	6.5	553
New Hampshire	3,126	2,338	2,368	3,096	-1.0	416
New Jersey	44,208	26,704	22,446	48,466	9.6	850
New York	90,011	39,360	28,555	100,816	12.0	752
Pennsylvania	64,310	47,830	46,854	65,286	1.5	727
Rhode Island	7,147	3,946	3,557	7,536	5.4	1,014
Vermont	4,736	3,376	2,814	5,298	11.9	1,341
Midwest	347,357	257,300	229,380	376,012	8.2	869
Illinois	63,477	40,990	30,311	74,156	16.8	879
Indiana	36,004	37,167	34,050	39,121	8.7	980
Iowa	11,924	12,693	12,554	12,063	1.2	571
Kansas	15,576	8,235	8,338	15,473	-7	867
Michigan	70,948	54,456	50,242	75,162	5.9	1,138
Minnesota	31,440	29,101	27,555	32,986	4.9	1,080
Missouri	23,574	17,063	13,877	26,760	13.5	723
Nebraska	10,763	12,200	12,243	10,720	-4	926
North Dakota	1,517	822	770	1,569	3.4	322
Ohio	58,194	33,734	30,463	61,465	5.6	781
South Dakota	1,514	2,249	48.5	448
Wisconsin	22,426	10,839	8,977	24,288	8.3	696
South	730,682	513,211	448,519	795,374	8.9	1,327
Alabama	16,338	5,399	5,217	16,520	1.1	569
Arkansas	8,238	2,049	1,019	9,268	12.5	541
Delaware	6,373	4,316	3,586	7,103	11.5	1,528
District of Columbia	10,319	10,455	8,997	11,777	14.1	2,384
Florida	118,318	142,021	129,572	130,767	10.5	1,481
Georgia	90,057	52,820	48,416	94,461	4.9	2,188
Kentucky	15,004	4,493	4,610	14,887	-8	551
Louisiana	26,733	12,779	12,874	26,638	-4	852
Maryland	64,827	39,297	36,986	67,138	3.6	2,038
Mississippi	6,570	2,647	2,581	6,636	1.0	364
North Carolina	52,600	31,874	28,267	56,207	6.9	1,205
Oklahoma	18,809	9,445	7,944	20,310	8.0	854
South Carolina	17,043	9,606	8,685	17,964	5.4	741
Tennessee	23,598	16,464	15,414	24,648	4.5	698
Texas	235,568	160,267	125,926	269,909	14.6	2,332
Virginia	16,690	7,000	6,454	17,236	3.3	404
West Virginia	3,597	2,279	1,971	3,905	8.6	275
West	322,830	197,859	173,551	347,138	7.5	995
Alaska	2,064	1,196	654	2,606	26.3	742
Arizona	16,687	7,911	6,422	18,176	8.9	786
California	195,864	108,979	94,394	210,449	7.4	1,078
Colorado	16,693	10,462	9,543	17,612	5.5	744
Hawaii	6,686	5,252	3,952	7,986	19.4	1,045
Idaho	3,151	2,135	1,872	3,414	8.3	501
Montana	2,471	1,172	931	2,712	9.8	458
Nevada	5,226	2,351	2,212	5,365	2.7	749
New Mexico	3,926	3,151	2,892	4,185	6.6	418
Oregon	21,452	13,961	13,036	22,377	4.3	1,132
Utah	7,721	3,541	4,932	6,330	-18.0	614
Washington	39,181	36,674	31,607	44,248	12.9	1,370
Wyoming	1,708	1,074	1,104	1,678	-1.8	481

... Data not available.

^aTotals do not include South Dakota's entries and exits. See State notes for other limitations on the data.

^bConnecticut transferred jurisdiction of

12,990 pretrial alcohol cases from the probation staff to the Pre-Trial Bail Commission. Thus, yearend counts were not comparable.

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Parole notes

Federal--The parole count for 1985 excludes 3,530 "special parolees" who are drug offenders and must serve a supplemental period of supervision at the completion of their regular parole terms. Military parolees (391 offenders) are also excluded.

California--Parole data include both releases from the Department of Corrections and the California Youth Authority. Entries include 6,246 absconders who were reinstated on parole; exits include 6,185 suspended parolees who were at large as a result of absconding.

Connecticut--This State abolished parole supervision in 1981. The small number of parolees reflects persons convicted of crimes that occurred prior to the change in the law.

District of Columbia--Cases on inactive supervision for 1984 and 1985 are included in the parole counts.

Idaho--Data for 1985 were estimated.

Iowa--Exits due to death are not known.

Kansas--Data for 1985 were estimated.

Maine--This State abolished parole supervision in 1976. The small number of parolees reflects persons convicted of crimes that occurred prior to the change in the law.

Massachusetts--Parole data exclude parolees from other States being supervised in Massachusetts.

Mississippi--Entries include 35 supervised work release cases and 2 supervised earned release cases.

Missouri--Data for 1985 were estimated.

Montana--Data are for calendar year 1984.

Nevada--Data for 1985 were estimated.

New Jersey--Exits include those cases recalled by the courts.

New York--Data exclude county jail parolees.

Ohio--Exits include closed cases supervised for other States under the Interstate Compact.

Oregon--Parole data exclude inactive cases and misdemeanants.

Pennsylvania--Data exclude 19,536 county parolees who are supervised by county parole authorities and include 783 "special parolees" with sentences of less than 2 years who were certified to be under the jurisdiction of the State parole board by local courts.

Rhode Island--Parole data for 1985 include 17 persons being held on detention warrants, 2 persons serving Federal sentences, 2 persons being supervised by the U.S. Immigration Service, and 2

Table 2. Adults on parole, 1985

Regions and jurisdictions	Parole population 12/31/84	1985		Parole population 12/31/85	Percent change in parole population 1984-85	1985 parolees per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
U. S., total	266,992	183,422	172,976	277,438	3.9%	158
Federal	16,854	7,932	7,926	16,860	—	10
State	250,138	175,490	165,050	260,578	4.2	148
Northeast	54,419	29,631	26,934	57,116	5.0	152
Connecticut	868	300	571	597	-31.2	25
Maine	122	0	54	68	-44.3	8
Massachusetts	4,447	3,382	3,333	4,496	1.1	101
New Hampshire	455	147	149	453	-4	61
New Jersey	12,206	7,849	6,670	13,385	9.7	235
New York	24,212	12,458	11,391	25,279	4.4	189
Pennsylvania	11,371	5,017	4,188	12,200	7.3	136
Rhode Island	394	347	339	402	2.0	54
Vermont	344	131	239	236	-31.4	60
Midwest	46,967	30,485	35,140	42,312	-9.9	98
Illinois	11,383	8,268	8,230	11,421	.3	135
Indiana	2,900	3,208	3,311	2,797	-3.6	70
Iowa	1,662	1,932	1,623	1,971	18.6	93
Kansas	1,997	1,207	922	2,282	14.3	128
Michigan	9,365	3,698	6,424	6,639	-29.1	101
Minnesota	1,418	1,327	1,381	1,364	-3.8	45
Missouri	4,366	2,507	2,339	4,534	3.8	123
Nebraska	361	396	393	364	.8	31
North Dakota	159	156	149	166	4.4	34
Ohio	9,065	4,792	7,348	6,509	-28.2	83
South Dakota	438	375	398	415	-5.3	83
Wisconsin	3,853	2,619	2,622	3,850	—	110
South	102,128	65,269	57,978	109,419	7.1	183
Alabama	2,194	1,459	1,228	2,425	10.5	84
Arkansas	3,463	1,673	1,306	3,830	10.6	224
Delaware	830	520	486	864	4.1	186
District of Columbia	2,696	1,256	1,612	2,340	-13.2	474
Florida	5,661	3,947	5,394	4,214	-25.6	48
Georgia	7,246	7,964	6,672	8,538	17.8	198
Kentucky	3,567	2,482	2,578	3,471	-2.7	128
Louisiana	3,087	2,137	1,506	3,718	20.4	119
Maryland	7,046	4,885	4,623	7,308	3.7	222
Mississippi	3,108	1,798	1,514	3,392	9.1	186
North Carolina	3,892	4,575	5,283	3,184	-18.2	68
Oklahoma	1,880	619	874	1,625	-13.6	68
South Carolina	3,441	1,076	1,256	3,261	-5.2	135
Tennessee	6,524	4,530	3,555	7,499	14.9	212
Texas	40,783	21,291	14,603	47,471	16.4	410
Virginia	5,986	4,690	5,035	5,641	-5.8	132
West Virginia	724	367	453	638	-11.9	45
West	46,624	50,105	44,998	51,731	11.0	148
Alaska	147	114	106	155	5.4	44
Arizona	1,660	2,433	2,376	1,717	3.4	74
California	30,645	36,900	33,562	33,983	10.9	174
Colorado	1,709	2,002	1,708	2,003	17.2	85
Hawaii	526	304	114	716	36.1	94
Idaho	381	302	200	483	26.8	71
Montana	691	291	288	694	.4	117
Nevada	1,187	1,242	1,116	1,313	10.6	183
New Mexico	1,194	894	973	1,115	-6.6	111
Oregon	1,764	2,527	2,281	2,010	13.9	102
Utah	1,115	663	604	1,174	5.3	114
Washington	5,253	2,234	1,448	6,039	15.0	187
Wyoming	352	199	222	329	-6.5	94

— Less than 0.1%.

persons under the supervision of the Federal Witness Protection Program.

South Carolina--Data for 1985 include "provisional parolees," excluded from prior year counts.

Texas--Data are for September 1, 1984, to August 31, 1985.

Utah--Data exclude Interstate Compact cases.

Vermont--Data for 1985 were estimated.

Virginia--Entry and exit categories include in-State and out-of-State transfers.

Washington--Data for 1985 were estimated.

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Bulletin

Table 3. State prison releases by method, 1977-85

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

Source: National Prisoner Statistics.

Table 4. Correctional populations, percent of adult population under sanction, and percent change, 1983-1985

	1983		1984		1985		Percent change in correctional populations 1983-85
	Number	Percent of adult population	Number	Percent of adult population	Number	Percent of adult population	
Correctional population, total	2,488,450	1.45%	2,705,525	1.56%	2,904,979	1.65%	16.7%
Probation	1,582,947	.92	1,740,948	1.00	1,870,132	1.06	18.1
Jail	221,815	.13	233,018	.13	254,094	.14	14.6
Prison	437,248	.26	464,567	.27	503,315	.29	15.1
Parole	246,440	.14	266,992	.15	277,438	.16	12.6

Note: The following are estimates of the resident population aged 18 and over on July 1: 1983 - 171,332,000; 1984 - 173,469,000;

1985 - 175,727,000. Population counts for probation, parole, and prison are for December 31, and jail counts are for June 30.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by BJS staff. This report was written by Lawrence A. Greenfeld, corrections unit chief. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administered report production, assisted by Jeanne Harris, Arlene F. James, and Betty Sherman. Diana Cull, Stephanie Brown, and Art Ciampa of the U.S. Bureau of the Census carried out the collection and processing of these data.

January 1987, NCJ-103683

Crime and Justice Facts, 1985 summarizes much of what BJS has learned about crime and justice in the United States since December 31, 1985. It is intended to bridge the gap between the first and second editions of the Report to the Nation on Crime and Justice, a comprehensive statistical portrait of crime and justice in the United States, first published in October 1983.

Crime and Justice Facts, 1985 may be ordered (NCJ-100757) from the Justice Statistics Clearinghouse, NCJRS, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850, toll-free 800-732-3277 (local number 301-251-5500). Postage and handling are charged for bulk orders.

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Crime and Justice Facts, 1985

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New releases from BJS

- Violent crime by strangers and non-strangers, BJS Special Report, NCJ-103702, 1/87
- 1986 directory of automated criminal justice information systems, NCJ-102260, 1,000 pp., 1/87
- Probation and parole, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-103683, 1/87
- Criminal justice "hot" files: Criminal justice information policy series, 75 pp., NCJ-101850, 1/87
- Population density in State prisons, BJS Special Report, NCJ-103204, 12/86
- State and Federal prisoners, 1925-85, BJS Bulletin, NCJ-102494, 12/86
- Data quality policies and procedures: Proceedings of a BJS/SEARCH conference, 82 pp., NCJ-101849, 12/86
- Teenage victims, 16 pp., NCJ-103138, 11/86
- Tracking offenders: White-collar crime, BJS Special Report, NCJ-102867, 11/86
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National Crime Survey

Criminal victimization in the U.S.:

- 1984 (final report), NCJ-100435, 5/86
- 1983 (final report), NCJ-96459, 10/85
- 1982 (final report), NCJ-92820, 11/84
- 1973-82 trends, NCJ-90541, 9/83
- 1980 (final report), NCJ-84015, 4/83
- 1979 (final report), NCJ-76710, 12/81

BJS special reports:

- Preventing domestic violence against women, NCJ-102037, 8/86
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- The use of weapons in committing crimes, NCJ-99643, 1/86
- Reporting crimes to the police, NCJ-99432, 12/85
- Locating city, suburban, and rural crime, NCJ-99535, 12/85
- The risk of violent crime, NCJ-97119, 5/85
- The economic cost of crime to victims, NCJ-93450, 4/84
- Family violence, NCJ-93449, 4/84

BJS bulletins:

- Households touched by crime, 1985, NCJ-101685, 6/86
- Criminal victimization, 1984, NCJ-98904, 10/85
- The crime of rape, NCJ-96777, 3/85
- Household burglary, NCJ-96021, 1/85
- Criminal victimization, 1983, NCJ-93869, 6/84
- Vigilant crime by strangers, NCJ-80829, 4/82
- Crime and the elderly, NCJ-79614, 1/82
- Measuring crime, NCJ-75710, 2/81
- Teenage victims, NCJ-103138, 12/86
- Response to screening questions in the National Crime Survey (BJS technical report), NCJ-97624, 7/85
- Victimization and fear of crime: World perspectives, NCJ-93872, 1/85
- The National Crime Survey: Working papers, vol. I: Current and historical perspectives, NCJ-75374, 8/82
- vol. II: Methodological studies, NCJ-90307, 12/84
- Issues in the measurement of victimization, NCJ-74682, 10/81
- The cost of negligence: Losses from preventable household burglaries, NCJ-53527, 12/79
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- An introduction to the National Crime Survey, NCJ-43732, 4/78
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Parole and probation

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- Parole in the U.S., 1980 and 1981, NCJ-87387, 3/86
- Characteristics of persons entering parole during 1978 and 1979, NCJ-87243, 5/83
- Characteristics of the parole population, 1978, NCJ-66479, 4/81
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