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# Probation and Parole in the United States, 2003

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The total Federal, State, and local adult correctional population — incarcerated or in the community — grew by 130,700 during 2003 to reach a new high of nearly 6.9 million. About 3.2% of the U.S. adult population, or 1 in every 32 adults, were incarcerated or on probation or parole at yearend 2003.

A total of 4,073,987 adult men and women were on probation at yearend 2003, representing a growth of 1.2% during the year. The adult parole population grew 3.1%, rising to a total of 774,588 by December 31, 2003. Since 1995 the parole population has been the slowest growing correctional population, increasing 1.7% annually, compared to jails (4.0% annually), prisons (3.4%), and probation (2.9%).

**Persons under adult correctional supervision, 1995-2003**

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					
June 30		--	--	665,475	1,355,494
December 31	6,759,100	4,024,067	750,934	--	1,367,856
2003					
June 30		--	--	691,301	1,387,269
December 31	6,889,800	4,073,987	774,588	--	--
Percent change, 2002-03					
	1.9%	1.2%	3.1%	3.9%	2.3%
Average annual percent change, 1995-2003 <sup>b</sup>					
	2.9%	2.9%	1.7%	4.0%	3.4%

Note: Counts of probationers, parolees, and prisoners are for December 31, unless specified elsewhere. All jail counts are for June 30. Jail and prison counts include inmates held in private facilities. Totals in 2000 through 2003 exclude probationers held in jail or prison.

--Not available.

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

<sup>b</sup>Percent change based on comparable reporting agencies, excluding 193,607 probationers in agencies added since 1995.

## Highlights

### Probation —

- The adult probation population grew 1.2% in 2003, an increase of 49,920 probationers, less than half the average annual growth of 2.9% since 1995.
- 49% of all probationers had been convicted of a felony, 49% of a misdemeanor, and 2% of other infractions. Twenty-five percent were on probation for a drug law violation, and 17% for driving while intoxicated.
- Four States had an increase of 10% or more in their probation population in 2003: Kentucky (up 17%), Mississippi (up 15%), and Nebraska and New Hampshire (each up 12%). The adult probation population decreased in 19 States, led by Minnesota with the only double-digit decrease (down 10%).
- Washington State had the highest rate of probationers per 100,000 residents, 3,767; New Hampshire had the lowest, 426.

### Parole —

- Overall, the Nation's parole population grew by 23,654 in 2003, or 3.1%, almost double the average annual growth of 1.7% since 1995.
- Mandatory releases from prison as a result of a sentencing statute or good-time provision comprised 51% of those entering parole in 2003; in 1995 they were 45%.
- A total of 17 States had double-digit increases in their parole population in 2003. Five States had a parole population increase of 20% or more: North Dakota (up 53%), Alabama (up 31%), Kentucky (up 27%), New Hampshire (up 25%), and New Mexico (up 23%).
- 12 States had a decrease in their parole population. Hawaii (down 11%) was the only State with a decrease of more than 10%.

## Over 4.8 million adult men and women on probation or parole

At yearend 2003 the number of adult men and women in the United States who were being supervised on probation or parole reached a record high 4,848,575, up from 3,757,282 on December 31, 1995. These data were collected in the 2003 Annual Probation Survey and the 2003 Annual Parole Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

In 2003 the number of adults under supervision in the community increased 1.5%, which was less than the average annual increase of 3.2% since 1995.

The total adult correctional population, including those incarcerated and those being supervised in the community, reached a new high of 6,889,800 at the end of 2003. At yearend 2003, 3.2%, or about 1 in every 32 adults in the United States, were in State or Federal prisons, local jails, or under the supervision of probation or parole authorities, up from 2.7% in 1995.

## Texas and California led the Nation in number of adults supervised in the community

More than 1 million persons being supervised in the community in 2003, or about 1 in 5 probationers and parolees, were in Texas and California (table 1). Texas led the Nation with 534,260 persons on probation or parole, followed by California with 485,039.

Washington led the Nation with the largest percentage of its adult population under community supervision (3.8% at yearend 2003), followed by Texas (3.3%) and Rhode Island (3.2%). California's community supervision rate of 1.9% was slightly more than half that of Texas.

Nine States reported that fewer than 1% of their adult populations were on probation or parole. New Hampshire had the lowest rate of supervision in the community (549 offenders per 100,000 adults).

Number under supervision per 100,000 adult residents

New Hampshire	549
West Virginia	568
North Dakota	784
Virginia	829
Utah	852
Kansas	932
Nevada	960
Maine	987
Mississippi	997

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

In 2003 Kentucky reported an increase of 17% in the number of adults on probation, followed by Mississippi (up 15%), and Nebraska and New Hampshire (each up 12%) (table 2). Twenty-nine States reported an increase in their adult probation population during 2003.

Nineteen States had fewer adults on probation at the end of 2003 than at the beginning of the year, led by Minnesota, down 10%, the only double-digit decrease during 2003.

**Table 1. Community corrections among the States, yearend 2003**

10 States with the largest 2003 community corrections populations	Number supervised	10 States with the largest percent increase	Percent increase, 2002-03	10 States with the highest rates of supervision, 2003	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*	10 States with the lowest rates of supervision, 2003	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*
<b>Probation:</b>							
Texas	431,989	Kentucky	17.2%	Washington	3,767	New Hampshire	426
California	374,701	Mississippi	14.9	Rhode Island	3,143	West Virginia	487
Florida	287,641	Nebraska	11.8	Delaware	3,058	Utah	646
Ohio	219,658	New Hampshire	11.6	Minnesota	2,953	Nevada	716
Michigan	176,392	North Dakota	8.5	Texas	2,698	Kansas	725
Washington	172,814	West Virginia	6.7	Massachusetts	2,585	North Dakota	737
Illinois	144,454	Hawaii	5.2	Ohio	2,573	Virginia	743
Pennsylvania	137,206	Pennsylvania	4.9	Indiana	2,424	New York	859
Massachusetts	127,135	California	4.6	Michigan	2,364	Mississippi	911
New York	124,295	Iowa	4.6	Florida	2,169	Kentucky	921
<b>Parole:</b>							
California	110,338	North Dakota	52.7%	Pennsylvania	1,084	Washington	2
Texas	102,271	Alabama	30.9	Louisiana	766	Maine	3
Pennsylvania	102,244	Kentucky	26.9	Oregon	733	Florida	37
New York	55,853	New Hampshire	24.6	Arkansas	672	North Carolina	42
Illinois	35,008	New Mexico	22.7	Texas	639	Rhode Island	48
Louisiana	25,065	Indiana	19.4	California	424	North Dakota	48
Georgia	22,135	Connecticut	18.9	New York	386	Nebraska	51
Michigan	20,233	Idaho	18.8	Illinois	374	West Virginia	81
Oregon	19,769	South Dakota	18.5	Massachusetts	370	Delaware	85
Ohio	18,427	Arizona	17.0	Missouri	357	Virginia	86

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 in which misdemeanor probation counts were not reported in 2003.

\*Rates are based on the estimated number of adult State residents on December 31, 2003.

## 49,920 probationers added in 2003

During 2003 the probation population grew by 49,920, an increase of 1.2% (table 3).

At yearend 2003 the probation supervision rate totaled 1,876 probationers per 100,000 adult U.S. residents — the equivalent of almost 1 in every 53 adults. Washington State with 3,767 probationers per 100,000 adult State residents had the highest rate of probation supervision; New Hampshire (with 426 per 100,000) had the lowest.

More than 2.2 million adults entered probation supervision during 2003, an increase of almost 100,600 probation entries from 2002. Since 1995 the annual number of entries to probation, however, has fluctuated — increasing from 1995 to 2000, dropping in 2001, and then increasing again in 2002 and 2003.

	Entries to probation
1995	1,761,691
2000	2,153,259
2001	2,110,550
2002	2,129,084
2003	2,229,668

\*Entries and exits were estimated for nonreporting agencies. See *Methodology*.

Year	Annual increase	
	Number	Percent change
1995	96,839	3.2%
1996	87,135	2.8
1997	101,841	3.2
1998 <sup>a</sup>	121,100	3.7
1999 <sup>a</sup>	109,481	3.0
2000	46,287	1.2
2001	105,522	2.8
2002 <sup>b</sup>	92,336	2.4
2003	49,920	1.2
Total increase, 1995-2003 <sup>c</sup>	996,126	32.4%
Average annual increase, 1995-2003 <sup>d</sup>	100,315	2.9%

<sup>a</sup>Survey coverage was expanded to include 186 additional agencies in 1998 and 1999. Annual increases reflect comparable reporting agencies in each year.  
<sup>b</sup>Based on data reported in 2002, using comparable methods in New York and Massachusetts.  
<sup>c</sup>Based on overall survey counts, 1995 and 2003.  
<sup>d</sup>Based on comparable reporting agencies, excluding 193,607 probationers in 2003 who were in agencies added since 1995.

**Table 2. Adults on probation, 2003**

Region and jurisdiction	Probation population, 1/1/03	2003		Probation population, 12/31/03	Percent change, 2003	Number on probation per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/03
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	4,024,067	2,229,668	2,179,847	4,073,987	1.2%	1,876
Federal	31,330	13,989	14,449	30,599	-2.3%	14
State	3,992,737	2,215,679	2,165,398	4,043,388	1.3	1,862
<b>Northeast</b>	629,503	233,044	247,722	614,825	-2.3%	1,491
Connecticut	50,984	24,384	23,176	52,192	2.4	1,983
Maine	9,446	6,625	6,216	9,855	4.3	984
Massachusetts <sup>a,b,c</sup>	131,319	56,933	61,117	127,135	--	2,585
New Hampshire <sup>d</sup>	3,702	1,480	1,052	4,130	11.6	426
New Jersey	134,290	40,601	50,610	124,281	-7.5	1,907
New York <sup>b</sup>	132,966	39,590	48,261	124,295	-6.5	859
Pennsylvania <sup>c</sup>	130,786	52,072	45,652	137,206	4.9	1,454
Rhode Island	25,914	6,451	6,436	25,929	0.1	3,143
Vermont	10,096	4,908	5,202	9,802	-2.9	2,085
<b>Midwest</b>	937,378	606,152	607,511	936,387	-0.1%	1,926
Illinois	141,544	63,000	60,090	144,454	2.1	1,542
Indiana	114,209	94,741	97,324	111,626	-2.3	2,424
Iowa	19,970	14,600	13,685	20,885	4.6	945
Kansas <sup>c</sup>	15,217	23,315	23,981	14,551	-4.4	725
Michigan <sup>c,d</sup>	174,577	130,857	129,029	176,392	1.0	2,364
Minnesota	122,692	59,517	71,484	110,725	-9.8	2,953
Missouri	54,584	26,512	25,486	55,610	1.9	1,305
Nebraska	16,468	15,845	13,901	18,412	11.8	1,432
North Dakota	3,229	2,332	2,059	3,502	8.5	737
Ohio <sup>c,d</sup>	215,186	146,723	142,616	219,658	2.1	2,573
South Dakota	5,088	3,261	3,129	5,236	2.9	933
Wisconsin	54,614	25,449	24,727	55,336	1.3	1,354
<b>South</b>	1,623,038	960,243	910,074	1,673,206	3.1%	2,135
Alabama	39,713	15,152	15,213	39,652	-0.2	1,177
Arkansas	27,377	9,168	8,419	28,126	2.7	1,380
Delaware	20,201	13,962	15,242	18,921	-6.3	3,058
District of Columbia <sup>c,d</sup>	9,389	6,597	8,755	7,231	--	1,612
Florida <sup>c,d</sup>	291,315	257,539	261,212	287,641	-1.3	2,169
Georgia <sup>c,e</sup>	367,349	230,686	173,650	424,385	--	--
Kentucky <sup>c</sup>	24,480	16,165	11,949	28,696	17.2	921
Louisiana	36,257	13,875	13,455	36,677	1.2	1,120
Maryland	81,982	39,037	43,144	77,875	-5.0	1,890
Mississippi <sup>c,f</sup>	16,633	8,773	6,290	19,116	14.9	911
North Carolina	112,900	60,782	60,521	113,161	0.2	1,770
Oklahoma <sup>d</sup>	29,881	15,299	16,854	28,326	-5.2	1,082
South Carolina	41,574	14,760	16,287	40,047	-3.7	1,285
Tennessee <sup>c</sup>	42,712	24,256	24,132	42,836	0.3	968
Texas	434,486	200,450	202,947	431,989	-0.6	2,698
Virginia	40,359	30,669	29,365	41,663	3.2	743
West Virginia <sup>c</sup>	6,430	3,072	2,638	6,864	6.7	487
<b>West</b>	802,818	416,241	400,092	818,970	2.0%	1,672
Alaska	5,229	973	796	5,406	3.4	1,185
Arizona <sup>d</sup>	66,485	39,115	39,795	65,805	-1.0	1,586
California <sup>d</sup>	358,121	180,636	164,059	374,701	4.6	1,441
Colorado <sup>c,d</sup>	57,328	28,954	30,985	55,297	-3.5	1,623
Hawaii	16,772	7,006	6,126	17,652	5.2	1,822
Idaho <sup>d,g</sup>	31,361	25,360	24,501	32,220	2.7	--
Montana	6,703	3,898	3,687	6,914	3.1	1,006
Nevada	12,290	5,869	6,000	12,159	-1.1	716
New Mexico	16,287	7,662	7,813	16,136	-0.9	1,186
Oregon	45,397	16,275	16,847	44,825	-1.3	1,662
Utah	10,646	5,429	5,696	10,379	-2.5	646
Washington <sup>c,d</sup>	171,603	93,132	91,921	172,814	0.7	3,767
Wyoming	4,596	1,932	1,866	4,662	1.4	1,255

Note: Because of incomplete data, the population for some jurisdictions on December 31, 2003, does not equal the population on January 1, 2003, plus entries, minus exits.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Data are for June 30, 2002, and 2003. Some data for June 30, 2002, were estimated.

<sup>b</sup>Due to change in reporting criteria, data are not comparable to previous reports.

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

<sup>d</sup>All data were estimated.

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

<sup>f</sup>Data are for year ending December 1, 2003.

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

**At yearend 2003, 1 in 5 probationers were women;  
1 in 3 were black**

Nationwide, women represented a slightly larger percentage of the probation population in 2003 than in 1995. Women were 23% of adults on probation in 2003 (933,100), up from 21% in 1995.

At yearend 2003 more than half of all probationers were white (2,298,600); almost a third were black (1,209,000); and an eighth were of Hispanic origin (491,700). Persons of other races comprised about 2% of probationers (74,800).

**Half of all probationers convicted of a felony;  
a quarter convicted of a drug law violation**

Probationers are criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of conditional supervision in the community. At yearend 2003, 49% had been convicted of a felony offense.

Fifty-four percent of probationers had a direct sentence to probation; 25% had received a sentence to incarceration that had been suspended; and 8% had received a split sentence which included incarceration followed by probation. An additional 13% had entered probation before completion of all court proceedings (including those who entered probation before final verdict).

About 7 in 10 probationers were under active supervision and were required to regularly report to a probation authority in person, by mail, or by telephone. The percentage of probationers required to report regularly dropped steadily, from 79% in 1995 to 76% in 2000 and to 71% in 2003.

At yearend 2003, 1 in 9 probationers had absconded: though still on probation, they had failed to report and could not be located. Among all persons on probation, absconders increased from 9% in 1995 to 11% in 2003.

In 2003, 25% of probationers had a drug law violation; 17% were sentenced for driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol; 12% for larceny/theft; and 9% for other assault, excluding sexual assault and domestic violence. Fewer than 10% were sentenced to probation for domestic violence (7%), minor traffic offenses (6%), burglary (5%), fraud (4%), and sexual assault (3%).

About 3 in 5 of the more than 2 million adults discharged from probation in 2003 had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. The percentage of probationers discharged from probation supervision because of incarceration due to a rule violation or new offense varied from 21% in 1995 to 15% in 2000 to 16% in 2003. Another 4% of those discharged had absconded, and 13% had their probation sentence revoked without incarceration.

**Table 4. Characteristics of adults on probation, 1995, 2000, and 2003**

Characteristics of adults on probation	1995	2000	2003
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	79%	78%	77%
Female	21	22	23
<b>Race</b>			
White	53%	54%	56%
Black	31	31	30
Hispanic	14	13	12
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1	1	1
Asian/Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	--	1	1
<b>Status of probation</b>			
Direct imposition	48%	56%	54%
Split sentence	15	11	8
Sentence suspended	26	25	25
Imposition suspended	6	7	10
Other	4	1	3
<b>Status of supervision</b>			
Active	79%	76%	71%
Residential/other treatment program	**	**	1
Inactive	8	9	9
Absconder	9	9	11
Warrant status	**	**	4
Supervised out of State	2	3	2
Other	2	3	2
<b>Type of offense</b>			
Felony	54%	52%	49%
Misdemeanor	44	46	49
Other infractions	2	2	2
<b>Most serious offense</b>			
Sexual assault	**	**	3%
Domestic violence	**	**	7
Other assault	**	**	9
Burglary	**	**	5
Larceny/theft	**	**	12
Fraud	**	**	4
Drug law violations	**	24	25
Driving while intoxicated	16	18	17
Minor traffic offenses	**	6	6
Other	84	52	12
<b>Adults entering probation</b>			
Without incarceration	72%	79%	73%
With incarceration	13	16	22
Other types	15	5	6
<b>Adults leaving probation</b>			
Successful completions	62%	60%	59%
Returned to incarceration	21	15	16
With new sentence	5	3	5
With the same sentence	13	8	7
Unknown	3	4	4
Absconder <sup>b</sup>	**	3	4
Discharge to custody, detainer, or warrant	**	1	1
Other unsuccessful <sup>b</sup>	**	11	13
Death	1	1	1
Other	16	9	7

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

**Table 5. Adults on parole, 2003**

Region and jurisdiction	Parole population, 1/1/03	2003		Parole population, 12/31/03	Percent change, 2003	Number on parole per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/03
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	750,934	492,727	470,538	774,588	3.1%	357
Federal	83,063	33,590	31,088	86,459	4.1%	40
State	667,871	459,137	439,450	688,129	3.0	317
<b>Northeast</b>	174,591	77,381	71,903	180,069	3.1%	437
Connecticut	2,186	3,260	2,847	2,599	18.9	99
Maine	32	0	0	32	0.0	3
Massachusetts	3,951	6,305	6,552	3,704	-6.3	370
New Hampshire <sup>a</sup>	963	719	482	1,200	24.6	124
New Jersey	12,576	10,322	9,650	13,248	5.3	203
New York	55,990	25,049	25,186	55,853	-0.2	386
Pennsylvania <sup>b</sup>	97,712	30,870	26,338	102,244	4.6	1,084
Rhode Island	384	456	448	392	2.1	48
Vermont	797	400	400	797	0.0	170
<b>Midwest</b>	114,173	95,242	87,882	121,533	6.4%	250
Illinois	35,458	32,476	32,926	35,008	-1.3	374
Indiana	5,877	7,304	6,162	7,019	19.4	152
Iowa <sup>c</sup>	2,787	2,787	2,475	3,099	11.2	140
Kansas <sup>c</sup>	3,990	4,146	3,991	4,145	3.9	207
Michigan	17,648	12,579	9,994	20,233	14.6	271
Minnesota	3,577	4,121	4,102	3,596	0.5	96
Missouri	13,533	10,407	8,720	15,220	12.5	357
Nebraska	574	839	763	650	13.2	51
North Dakota	148	585	507	226	52.7	48
Ohio	17,853	11,670	11,096	18,427	3.2	216
South Dakota	1,640	1,451	1,147	1,944	18.5	346
Wisconsin	11,088	6,877	5,999	11,966	7.9	293
<b>South</b>	219,849	104,142	96,351	227,668	3.6%	291
Alabama	5,309	4,098	2,457	6,950	30.9	206
Arkansas	12,128	7,379	5,813	13,694	12.9	672
Delaware	551	217	239	529	-4.0	85
District of Columbia <sup>a,b</sup>	5,297	3,136	3,369	5,064	--	1,129
Florida	5,223	4,409	4,680	4,952	-5.2	37
Georgia	20,822	11,738	10,391	22,135	6.3	344
Kentucky <sup>c</sup>	5,968	4,719	3,115	7,572	26.9	243
Louisiana	23,049	13,468	11,452	25,065	8.7	766
Maryland	13,271	8,059	7,588	13,742	3.5	334
Mississippi <sup>d</sup>	1,816	1,103	963	1,816	0.0	87
North Carolina	2,805	3,214	3,342	2,677	-4.6	42
Oklahoma <sup>a</sup>	3,573	1,995	1,521	4,047	--	155
South Carolina	3,491	1,025	1,306	3,210	-8.0	103
Tennessee	7,949	3,130	3,314	7,967	0.2	180
Texas <sup>a</sup>	103,068	32,847	33,644	102,271	-0.8	639
Virginia	4,530	2,779	2,475	4,834	6.7	86
West Virginia	999	826	682	1,143	14.4	81
<b>West</b>	159,258	182,371	183,313	158,859	-0.3%	324
Alaska <sup>c</sup>	900	614	587	927	--	203
Arizona <sup>b</sup>	4,587	8,895	8,115	5,367	17.0	129
California <sup>c</sup>	113,185	148,915	152,305	110,338	-2.5	424
Colorado	6,215	5,298	4,954	6,559	5.5	193
Hawaii	2,525	906	1,191	2,240	-11.3	231
Idaho	1,961	1,486	1,118	2,329	18.8	236
Montana <sup>c</sup>	845	601	631	815	-3.6	119
Nevada	3,971	2,956	2,801	4,126	3.9	243
New Mexico	1,962	1,977	1,532	2,407	22.7	177
Oregon	19,090	8,059	7,380	19,769	3.6	733
Utah	3,352	2,300	2,353	3,299	-1.6	205
Washington <sup>a</sup>	95	45	35	105	10.5	2
Wyoming	570	319	311	578	1.4	156

Note: Because of incomplete data, the population on December 31, 2003, does not equal the population on January 1, 2003, plus entries, minus exits.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>All data were estimated.

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

<sup>c</sup>Excludes parolees in one of the following categories: absconder, out of State, or inactive.

<sup>d</sup>Data are for the year ending December 1, 2003.

**Parole growth in 2003 almost double average annual growth since 1995**

Also serving time in the community at the end of 2003 were 774,588 adults on parole (table 5). 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.

The 3.1% growth in parole during 2003 — a net increase of 23,654 parolees — was almost double the average annual increase of 1.7% in parole since 1995 (table 6). This was also the largest increase in the parole population from 1995 to 2003. Nearly all parolees had been convicted of a felony (95%).

**17 States report double-digit increases in parole populations**

For the year ending December 31, 2003, 17 States reported an increase of 10% or more in their parole population. North Dakota led with 53%, followed by four other States exceeding 20%: Alabama (31%), Kentucky (27%), New Hampshire (25%), and New Mexico (23%).

A total of 12 States reported a decrease in their adult parole population during 2003. Hawaii's decrease of 11% for the year ending December 31, was followed by three other States with a decrease of 5% or more.

**Table 6. Change in the number of adults on parole, 1995-2003**

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
Total increase, 1995-2003	95,167	14.0%
Average annual increase, 1995-2003	11,896	1.7%

## Women accounted for 1 of every 8 adults on parole in 2003

About 1 of every 8 adults on parole in 2003 (96,900) were women (table 7). The female parole population has increased steadily: from 10% in 1995 to 12% in 2000 to 13% in 2003.

About 41% of adults on parole on December 31, 2003, were black (316,900); 40% were white (309,900). Almost 1 in 5 parolees were Hispanic (136,700). About 1% were of other races (11,200).

## Since 1995 mandatory releases to parole have increased

Discretionary releases of prisoners to parole supervision by a parole board have decreased from 50% of adults entering parole in 1995 to 39%, or 178,800, in 2003. Mandatory releases to parole supervision increased from 45% in 1995 to 51% (237,500) in 2003.

At yearend 2003 more than 4 of every 5 parolees were under active supervision and were required to maintain regular contact with the paroling agency. About 7% of parolees were absconders and could not be located.

## About 2 of every 5 parolees discharged from supervision returned to incarceration

Of the more than 470,500 parolees discharged from supervision in 2003, 47% had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. The success rate among those discharged from parole remained fairly stable after 1995 (45% in 1995, 43% in 2000, and 47% in 2003).

Of those parolees discharged in 2003, 38% had been returned to incarceration either because of a rule violation or new offense. Another 9% had

absconded, and 1% had failed to successfully meet the conditions of supervision but were discharged without incarceration.

## Correctional supervision rate highest in Texas and lowest in New Hampshire

Texas led the Nation at yearend 2003 with 4,609 adults under correctional supervision per 100,000 adult State residents, followed by Washington State (4,350), and Delaware (4,235) (table 8). New Hampshire (974 per 100,000), West Virginia (991), and North Dakota (1,189) had the fewest adults on probation or parole or in prison or jail relative to their State populations.

Offenders on probation or parole represented 70% of all persons under correctional supervision at yearend. The eight States with the highest rates of correctional supervision were also the eight States with the highest rates of probation supervision, except for Massachusetts, which ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in correctional supervision but 6<sup>th</sup> in probation supervision.

	Yearend 2003		
	Total correctional supervision Rate*	Probation supervision Rate*	Rank
Texas	4,609	2,698	5
Washington	4,350	3,767	1
Delaware	4,235	3,058	3
Ohio	3,530	2,573	7
Michigan	3,527	2,364	9
Minnesota	3,411	2,953	4
Indiana	3,373	2,424	8
Rhode Island	3,357	3,143	2

\*Number under correctional or probation supervision per 100,000 adult State residents.

Minnesota with 3,411 persons under supervision per 100,000 adult residents had the lowest percentage incarcerated (11% of all persons under supervision). Other States with a low percentage incarcerated included Vermont (with 12%), Rhode Island (with 13%), and Washington State and Massachusetts (each with 15%). Mississippi with 56% of its

correctional population incarcerated had the highest percentage among States, followed by Virginia (55%) and West Virginia (51%).

**Table 7. Characteristics of adults on parole, 1995, 2000, and 2003**

Characteristic	1995	2000	2003
Total	100%	100%	100%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	90%	88%	87%
Female	10	12	13
<b>Race</b>			
White	34%	38%	40%
Black	45	40	41
Hispanic	21	21	18
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1	1	1
Asian/Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	--	--	1
<b>Status of supervision</b>			
Active	78%	83%	83%
Inactive	11	4	4
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	**	**	28%
Property	**	**	26
Drug	**	**	36
Other	**	**	10
<b>Adults entering parole</b>			
Discretionary parole	50%	37%	39%
Mandatory parole	45	54	51
Reinstatement	4	6	8
Other	2	2	2
<b>Adults leaving parole</b>			
Successful completion	45%	43%	47%
Returned to incarceration	41	42	38
With new sentence	12	11	11
With revocation			
pending	18	30	26
Other	11	1	1
Absconder <sup>b</sup>	**	9	9
Other unsuccessful <sup>b</sup>	**	2	1
Transferred	2	1	1
Death	1	1	1
Other	10	2	2

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>Includes Native Hawaiians.

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

**Table 8. Total under adult correctional supervision and number supervised per 100,000 adult residents, by jurisdiction, 2003**

Region and jurisdiction	Total under correctional supervision, 12/31/03	Number on probation or parole, <sup>a</sup> 12/31/03	Number in prison or jail, 6/30/03	Supervision rate per 100,000 adults <sup>b</sup>	Percent of correctional population incarcerated
<b>U.S. total</b>	6,889,800	4,811,200	2,078,600	3,173	30.2%
Federal	282,800	117,100	165,800	130	58.6%
State	6,607,000	4,694,100	1,912,800	3,042	29.0
<b>Northeast</b>	1,067,000	792,700	274,200	2,588	25.7%
Connecticut	74,100	54,800	19,300	2,815	26.0
Maine	13,400	9,900	3,500	1,341	26.4
Massachusetts	153,300	130,800	22,500	3,117	14.6
New Hampshire	9,400	5,300	4,100	974	43.6
New Jersey	183,600	137,500	46,100	2,817	25.1
New York	278,400	180,100	98,200	1,925	35.3
Pennsylvania	315,000	239,500	75,600	3,339	24.0
Rhode Island	27,700	24,200	3,500	3,357	12.8
Vermont	12,000	10,600	1,400	2,559	11.9
<b>Midwest</b>	1,418,300	1,055,300	363,000	2,918	25.6%
Illinois	244,400	179,500	65,000	2,609	26.6
Indiana	155,300	118,600	36,700	3,373	23.6
Iowa	36,200	24,000	12,200	1,638	33.7
Kansas	34,400	18,700	15,700	1,715	45.7
Michigan	263,100	195,800	67,400	3,527	25.6
Minnesota	127,900	114,300	13,600	3,411	10.6
Missouri	110,600	70,800	39,800	2,595	36.0
Nebraska	25,800	19,100	6,800	2,009	26.2
North Dakota	5,700	3,700	1,900	1,189	34.0
Ohio	301,400	236,300	65,000	3,530	21.6
South Dakota	11,600	7,200	4,400	2,069	38.2
Wisconsin	101,800	67,300	34,500	2,491	33.9
<b>South</b>	2,730,900	1,879,100	851,800	3,485	31.2%
Alabama	74,200	45,100	29,100	2,202	39.2
Arkansas	59,600	41,800	17,800	2,924	29.9
Delaware	26,200	19,400	6,800	4,235	25.9
District of Columbia <sup>c</sup>	15,400	12,300	3,100	3,440	20.3
Florida	423,900	289,100	134,900	3,197	31.8
Georgia	533,500	446,500	87,000	--	--
Kentucky	63,100	35,700	27,400	2,028	43.4
Louisiana	106,600	58,100	48,400	3,255	45.5
Maryland	128,400	91,600	36,800	3,117	28.6
Mississippi	47,500	20,900	26,600	2,264	56.0
North Carolina	165,500	115,800	49,600	2,589	30.0
Oklahoma	62,100	32,400	29,700	2,372	47.9
South Carolina	79,400	43,300	36,200	2,547	45.5
Tennessee	90,900	49,400	41,400	2,054	45.6
Texas	738,000	524,200	213,800	4,609	29.0
Virginia	102,500	46,500	56,000	1,827	54.6
West Virginia	14,000	6,900	7,100	991	50.5
<b>West</b>	1,390,800	967,000	423,800	2,840	30.5%
Alaska	10,900	6,300	4,500	2,382	41.7
Arizona	112,700	71,200	41,600	2,717	36.9
California	725,600	485,000	240,500	2,791	33.2
Colorado	84,700	56,800	27,900	2,486	33.0
Hawaii	25,200	19,900	5,300	2,600	21.0
Idaho	43,600	34,500	9,100	--	--
Montana	12,500	7,700	4,800	1,817	38.1
Nevada	32,400	16,300	16,100	1,909	49.7
New Mexico	30,100	17,000	13,100	2,211	43.6
Oregon	83,100	64,500	18,600	3,082	22.4
Utah	22,400	11,900	10,500	1,397	46.9
Washington	199,500	170,600	28,900	4,350	14.5
Wyoming	8,100	5,200	2,900	2,186	35.5

Note: Counts were rounded to the nearest 100. Jail counts by State were estimated, using the average daily population from *Deaths in Custody, 2002* and the *Annual Survey of Jails, 2003*.

--Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes by State and region 25,497 probationers in jail and 11,872 probationers in prison.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the estimated number of adult State residents on December 31, 2003, using the 2000 *Census of Population and Housing* and adjusting for population change since April 2000.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes inmates held by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

## Methodology

The Annual Probation and Parole Surveys provide a count of the total number of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, 2003, 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, 2003, numbers may differ from those previously published for December 31, 2002.

### Probation

The 2003 Annual Probation Survey was sent to 469 respondents — 34 central State reporters, the District of Columbia, the Federal system, and 433 separate State, county, or court agencies. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (9), 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 12/31/02 population count was used as the 1/1/03 and 12/31/03 counts. Misdemeanor data in Idaho was not available. The 12/31/02 misdemeanor population count was used as the 1/1/03 and 12/31/03 counts.

Since 1997 the survey coverage has been expanded to include 186 additional agencies. At yearend 2003, 193,607 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.

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Entries to probation supervision were estimated for nonreporting agencies beginning in 1995 and 2000-2003. Reported entries for the period were as follows: 1,578,182 in 1995, 1,963,414 in 2000, 1,918,640 in 2001, 1,888,485 in 2002, and 1,918,470 in 2003.

*Parole*

The 2003 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.

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

Lauren E. Glaze and Seri Palla wrote and produced this report under the supervision of Allen J. Beck. Thomas P. Bonczar provided statistical verification. Seri Palla and Lauren Glaze also conducted the collection and processing of data.

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

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