



**PROBATION AND PAROLE IN THE
UNITED STATES
2005**

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In December 2006 the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the bulletin *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2005*. Data come from the 2005 Annual Probation Survey and the 2005 Annual Parole Survey, as well as from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Probationers are defined here as criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of correctional supervision in the community in lieu of incarceration. Parole is defined as a period of conditional supervised release (determined by a parole board or by mandatory conditional release) following a prison term.

The following are highlights taken from this report.

- In 2005, the total federal, state, and local adult correctional population (incarcerated or in the community) grew 0.9 percent to more than seven million. About one in every 32 adults were incarcerated or on probation or parole at yearend 2005.
 - Probation population increased 0.5 percent to 4,162,536.
 - Parole population increased 1.6 percent to 784,408.
- The rate of U.S. adult residents under correctional supervision nearly tripled between 1980 and 2005.
 - Despite the increase in total estimated correctional population from 2004 to 2005, the rate of adults under correctional supervision in 2005 (3,156 per 100,000 adult residents) remained about the same as in 2004.
- Although the prison population was the fastest-growing correctional population between 1990 and 2005, probationers accounted for 53 percent of the total increase in the correctional population since 1990.
- Probationers accounted for 58 percent of all persons under correctional supervision in 2005, with the remainder of the correctional population consisting of parolees (11 percent), prisoners (20 percent), and jail inmates (10 percent).

Probation statistics

- At yearend 2005, the probation supervision rate was 1,858 probationers per 100,000 adult U.S. residents, or approximately one in every 54 adults.
- The probation population increased 0.5 percent in 2005, which is the smallest increase in this population in the last 26 years.
- Texas, California, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Illinois had six of the 10 largest probation populations in the U.S. at yearend 2005, accounting for 37 percent of all probationers.
 - Ohio ranked fourth in the total number on probation, with 239,036. This represents an increase of 3.6 percent from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005.
 - In terms of the rate of persons on probation, Ohio ranked fifth — 2,745 persons per 100,000 adult U.S. residents were under correctional supervision in 2005.

- Characteristics of probationers in 2005:
 - 23 percent female, 77 percent male.
 - 55 percent White, 30 percent Black, 13 percent Hispanic.
 - 50 percent were on probation for a felony offense, 49 percent for a misdemeanor offense, and 1 percent for some other infraction.
 - 76 percent entered probation without incarceration.
 - 28 percent of probationers had a drug law violation as their most serious offense, followed by driving while intoxicated (15 percent), larceny/theft (12 percent), and other assault (10 percent).
 - 59 percent successfully completed probation, 16 percent were incarcerated, 3 percent absconded, and 22 percent did not complete probation for other reasons.

Parole statistics

- In 2005, 350 persons per 100,000 adult residents were under parole supervision, or approximately 1 out of every 286 adults in the U.S.
- The parole population increased 1.6 percent in 2005.
- Texas, California, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Illinois were also among the 10 states with the largest parole populations in the U.S. Forty-six percent of all parolees were supervised within these six states.
 - Ohio ranked 10th in the total number on parole, with 19,512. This represents an increase of 3.3 percent from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005.
 - Ohio's parole rate of 224 per 100,000 adult residents was less than the national average of 350 per 100,000 adult residents.
- Characteristics of parolees in 2005:
 - 12 percent female, 88 percent male.
 - 41 percent White, 40 percent Black, 18 percent Hispanic.
 - 94 percent had a sentence length of one year or more.
 - 37 percent had been convicted of a drug offense, 25 percent for a property offense, and 25 percent for a violent offense.
 - 45 percent successfully completed parole, 38 percent returned to incarceration, 11 percent absconded.

To view the complete report, go to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' web site:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus05.pdf>.