

At year-end 2016, an estimated 4,537,100 adults were under community supervision (probation or parole), down 49,800 offenders (down 1.1%) from January 1, 2016. The total community supervision population in 2016 was at its lowest level since 1999, and followed a downward trend that began in 2008 with annual declines that have ranged from 0.5% to 2.6%.

About community supervision

The community supervision population is comprised of probationers and parolees. The Bureau of Justice Statistics defines probation as a court-ordered period of correctional supervision in the community, generally as an alternative to incarceration. Parole is a period of conditional supervised release in the community following a prison term.

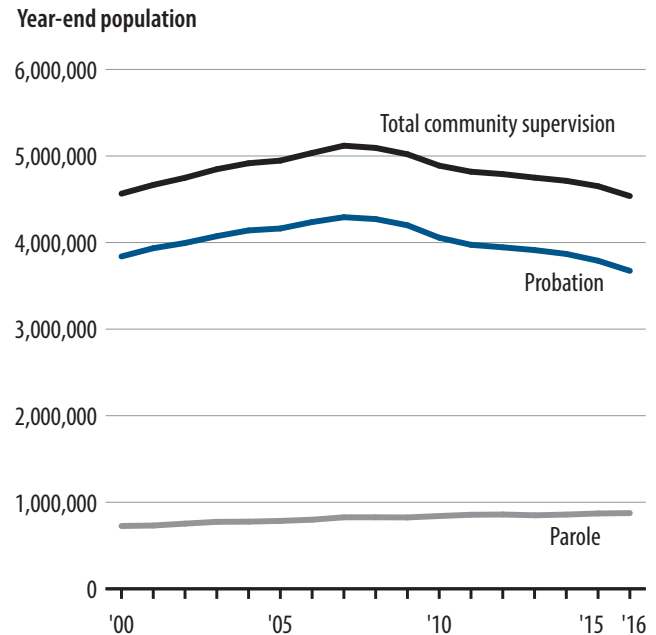
Approximately 1 in 55 adults in the United States were under community supervision at year-end 2016. Similarly, the rate of adults on probation declined during this period, down from 1 in 66 at year-end 2015 to 1 in 68 at year-end 2016. Parole rates also declined from 2015 (1 in 285 adults) to 2016 (1 in 287).

Probation trends

The adult probation population declined by 1.4% from January 1, 2016, to December 1, 2016, falling by 52,500 (to 3,673,100). Because probationers made up the majority (81%) of the community supervision population, the decline in the number of persons on community supervision in 2016 was entirely due to this drop in the probation population. This was similar to the trend observed in previous years. From 2008 to 2016, the community supervision population decreased 11% due to declines in the probation population.

Movements onto (entries) and off (exits) probation increased 1.8% from 2015 (4.0 million) to 2016 (4.1 million). This increase was the first in 7 years, as overall movements declined an average of 1.7% each year from 2008 to 2015. Entries increased 2% from 2015 (1.97 million) to 2016 (2.01 million). Meanwhile,

Adults under community supervision, probation, and parole on December 31, 2000–2016



Note: Estimates are based on most recent data and may differ from previously published statistics. The total community supervision population excludes parolees on probation to avoid double counting and will not equal the sum of probation and parole populations.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey and Annual Parole Survey, 2000–2016.

probation exits increased from 2,043,200 in 2015 to 2,071,400 in 2016, and exceeded the number of entries for the eighth year in a row. Exits from probation included offenders who successfully completed their term of supervision and those who left to receive treatment or serve a period of incarceration.

Parole trends

In comparison, the adult parole population increased by 0.5% (up 4,300) from year-end 2015 to an estimated 874,800 at year-end 2016. This was the third consecutive year the parole population increased but the smallest increase since 2010 (0.3%). The parole

population has increased by more than 20% since 2000. However, because parolees make up less than a fifth (19%) of the total number of offenders on community supervision, the rise in the parole population did not offset the overall decline in the community supervision population.

Overall movements onto and off parole decreased from 938,900 offenders in 2015 to 913,100 in 2016. The number of entries onto parole exceeded the number of exits from parole for the seventh consecutive year and increased for the seventh time in 8 years. Parole entries declined 3.8% from 2015 (475,200) to 2016 (457,100). Exits from parole decreased from an estimated 463,700 in 2015 to 456,000 in 2016.

The full report (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2016*, NCJ 251148), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.

