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Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998

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The total Federal, State, and local adult correctional population — incarcerated or in the community — grew by 164,100 during 1998 to reach a new high of 5.9 million. About 2.9% of the U.S. adult population, or about 1 in every 34 adults, were incarcerated or on probation or parole at yearend 1998.

A total of 3,417,613 adult men and women were on probation in the United States at yearend 1998, representing a growth of 3.7% during the year. The adult parole population grew 1.5%, rising to a total of 704,964 by December 31, 1998.

Adults under community supervision or in jail or prison, 1990-98

Year	Total estimated correctional population ^a	Community supervision		Incarceration	
		Probation	Parole	Jail	Prison
1990	4,348,000	2,670,234	531,407	403,019	743,382
1995	5,335,100	3,077,861	679,421	499,300	1,078,542
1996	5,482,700	3,164,996	679,733	510,400	1,127,528
1997	5,726,200	3,296,513	694,787	557,974	1,176,922
1998 ^b	5,890,300	3,417,613	704,964	584,372	1,232,900
Percent change					
1997-98	2.9%	3.7%	1.5%	4.7%	4.8%
1990-98	35.5	28.0	32.7	45.0	65.9
Average annual percent change					
1990-98	3.9%	3.1%	3.6%	4.8%	6.5%

Note: The probation and parole counts may vary from previously reported estimates. Counts are for December 31, except for jail counts for June 30. All jail and prison counts are for inmates in custody.

^aA small number of individuals had multiple correctional statuses; consequently, the total is an overestimate. The total for 1998 excludes 36,527 probationers in jail and 13,012 probationers in prison.

^bThe 1998 prison count is an estimate.

Highlights

Probation —

- The adult probation population grew 3.7% in 1998, an increase of 121,100 probationers, exceeding the average annual growth of 3.1% since 1990.
- 57% of all probationers had been convicted of a felony, 40% of a misdemeanor, and 3% of other infractions. Twenty-four percent were on probation for a drug law violation, and 17%, for driving while intoxicated.
- Eight States registered an increase of 10% or more in their probation population in 1998, led by Vermont and Idaho, each with a 21% increase. Eleven States reported a decrease in their adult probation population during 1998, led by Louisiana and South Dakota, each down 7%.
- Washington had the highest rate of probationers per 100,000 residents, 3,619; Kentucky had the lowest, 437.

Parole —

- Overall, the Nation's parole population grew by about 10,000 in 1998, or 1.5% — less than half the average annual increase of 3.6% since 1990.
- Mandatory releases from prison as a result of a sentencing statute or good-time provision comprised 53% of those entering parole in 1998; in 1990 they were 41%.
- A total of 12 States registered double-digit increases in their parole population in 1998. Six States had a parole population increase exceeding 20% in 1998: Ohio, 66%; Idaho, 55%; North Dakota, 51%; South Dakota, 32%; Colorado, 26%; and Minnesota, 22%.
- Eleven States had a decrease of 10% or more in their parole population, led by Virginia, down 37%, and North Carolina, down 30%.

Over 4 million adult men and women were on probation or parole

At yearend 1998 the number of adult men and women in the United States who were being supervised in the community surpassed 4 million for the first time, to a record 4,122,577 adults under supervision on December 31, 1998. These data were collected in the 1998 Probation Data Survey and the 1998 Parole Data Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

The 3.3% increase of 131,277 in the number of adults under supervision in the community was more than the average annual increase of 3.2% since 1990.

The total adult correctional population, including those incarcerated and those being supervised in the community, reached a new high of 5,890,300 at the end of 1998.

At yearend 1998, 2.9%, or about 1 in every 34 adults in the United States, were in State or Federal prisons, local

jails, or under the supervision of probation or parole authorities, up from 2.3% in 1990. During the same time, there was a steady decline in the percentage of the correctional population under supervision in the community, from 74% of the total adult correctional population in 1990 to 69% in 1998.

Year	Percent of correctional population under community supervision	Percent of U.S. adults under correctional supervision
1990	73.6%	2.3%
1991	73.2	2.4
1992	72.9	2.5
1993	72.4	2.6
1994	71.4	2.7
1995	70.4	2.7
1996	70.8	2.8
1997	69.7	2.9
1998	69.1	2.9

persons on probation or parole, followed by California with 435,044.

Texas also led the Nation with the largest percentage of its adult population under community supervision (3.9% at yearend 1998), followed by Delaware and Washington, each with 3.6%. California's community supervision rate of 1.8% was less than half that of Texas.

Twelve States reported that fewer than 1% of their adult populations were on probation or parole. West Virginia had the lowest rate of supervision in the community (521 offenders per 100,000 adults).

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

Nearly 1 million persons being supervised in the community in 1998, or about 1 in 4 probationers and parolees, were in Texas and California (table 1). Texas led the Nation with 555,780

	Number under supervision per 100,000 adult residents
West Virginia	521
Kentucky	590
North Dakota	596
Mississippi	653
New Hampshire	713
Virginia	724
Maine	737
South Dakota	851
Montana	884
Utah	948
Iowa	965
New Mexico	993

Table 1. Community corrections among the States, yearend 1998

10 States with the largest 1998 community corrections populations	Number supervised	10 States with the largest percent increase	Percent increase	10 States with the highest rates of supervision, 1998	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*	10 States with the lowest rates of supervision, 1998	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents*
Probation:							
Texas	443,758	Vermont	21.0%	Washington	3,619	Kentucky	437
California	324,427	Idaho	20.6	Delaware	3,548	West Virginia	452
Florida	239,021	Arkansas	18.7	Texas	3,140	North Dakota	559
New York	190,518	New Mexico	17.5	Rhode Island	2,710	Mississippi	578
Michigan	172,147	Arizona	17.3	Georgia	2,702	New Hampshire	584
Washington	152,609	Alabama	13.8	Minnesota	2,625	Virginia	594
Georgia	151,865	Pennsylvania	11.9	Michigan	2,369	South Dakota	648
New Jersey	133,227	Illinois	10.4	Indiana	2,326	Utah	678
Illinois	131,850	Montana	9.6	Connecticut	2,316	Maine	730
Pennsylvania	121,094	Iowa	9.6	New Jersey	2,175	Montana	782
Parole:							
Texas	112,022	Ohio	66.2%	Pennsylvania	910	Maine	7
California	110,617	Idaho	55.4	Texas	793	Washington	9
Pennsylvania	83,168	North Dakota	50.9	Oregon	703	North Dakota	37
New York	59,548	South Dakota	32.2	Louisiana	590	Connecticut	48
Illinois	30,432	Colorado	25.7	California	466	Nebraska	51
Georgia	20,482	Minnesota	22.4	New York	436	Oklahoma	62
Louisiana	18,759	Connecticut	19.0	Maryland	404	Rhode Island	62
Oregon	17,270	Nevada	17.1	Georgia	364	Florida	65
Maryland	15,528	Utah	15.0	Illinois	344	West Virginia	69
Michigan	15,331	Arkansas	11.4	Arkansas	338	Mississippi	75

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded.
*Rates are computed using the U.S. adult resident population on July 1, 1998.

Table 2. Adults on probation, 1998

Region and jurisdiction	Probation population, 1/1/98	1998		Probation population, 12/31/98	Percent change in probation population during 1998	Number on probation per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/98
		Entries	Exits			
U.S. total	3,296,513	1,672,910	1,555,762	3,417,613	3.7%	1,705
Federal ^a	33,532	14,871	14,861	33,254	-0.8%	17
State	3,262,981	1,658,039	1,540,901	3,384,359	3.7	1,688
Northeast	561,707	238,520	209,318	590,684	5.2%	1,509
Connecticut	55,989	32,318	30,797	57,510	2.7	2,316
Maine ^a	7,178	:	:	6,953	-3.1	730
Massachusetts	46,430	40,165	40,028	46,567	0.3	993
New Hampshire	4,876	3,760	3,461	5,175	6.1	584
New Jersey ^b	130,565	58,200	55,538	133,227	2.0	2,175
New York	181,105	48,384	38,971	190,518	5.2	1,393
Pennsylvania ^b	108,230	43,091	30,227	121,094	11.9	1,325
Rhode Island ^b	19,648	7,099	6,404	20,343	3.5	2,710
Vermont	7,686	5,503	3,892	9,297	21.0	2,068
Midwest	746,286	441,239	416,898	774,455	3.8%	1,664
Illinois	119,481	68,232	55,863	131,850	10.4	1,488
Indiana	96,752	84,946	79,798	101,900	5.3	2,326
Iowa	16,834	17,184	15,571	18,447	9.6	862
Kansas ^{c,d}	16,339	19,306	19,482	16,163	-1.1	837
Michigan ^{a,b,e}	165,449	61,755	58,729	172,147	4.0	2,369
Minnesota	94,920	54,671	58,618	90,973	-4.2	2,625
Missouri ^{b,e}	46,301	17,815	16,110	48,006	3.7	1,191
Nebraska	16,439	12,560	13,062	15,937	-3.1	1,309
North Dakota	2,700	1,622	1,664	2,658	-1.6	559
Ohio ^{a,b,e}	113,493	74,298	70,719	117,618	3.6	1,406
South Dakota ^{a,d,f}	3,730	4,098	3,958	3,480	-6.7	648
Wisconsin	53,848	24,752	23,324	55,276	2.7	1,427
South	1,306,375	658,788	638,146	1,327,705	1.6%	1,874
Alabama ^{a,b,e}	38,720	17,279	15,626	44,047	13.8	1,348
Arkansas ^g	28,294	13,668	8,379	33,583	18.7	1,782
Delaware ^b	18,837	11,013	9,820	20,030	6.3	3,548
District of Columbia	10,043	9,840	9,278	10,605	5.6	2,524
Florida ^{a,b,e}	239,694	144,384	142,007	239,021	-0.3	2,101
Georgia ^e	149,963	60,206	58,304	151,865	1.3	2,702
Kentucky	12,093	6,554	5,755	12,892	6.6	437
Louisiana	35,453	16,136	18,561	33,028	-6.8	1,039
Maryland	74,612	40,179	36,740	78,051	4.6	2,029
Mississippi ^{c,d,h}	10,997	6,461	5,928	11,530	4.8	578
North Carolina	105,416	59,436	60,154	104,698	-0.7	1,861
Oklahoma ^{b,e}	28,790	13,912	13,760	28,942	0.5	1,173
South Carolina	43,095	15,280	17,066	41,309	-4.1	1,436
Tennessee ^{b,e}	35,836	23,368	21,796	37,408	4.4	913
Texas	438,232	196,385	190,859	443,758	1.3	3,140
Virginia	30,002	24,687	24,113	30,576	1.9	594
West Virginia ^{a,g}	6,298	:	:	6,362	1.0	452
West	648,613	319,492	276,539	691,515	6.6%	1,576
Alaska ^{c,g}	4,212	1,745	1,501	4,456	5.8	1,057
Arizona ^{b,e}	44,813	28,944	21,177	52,580	17.3	1,544
California ^g	304,531	167,106	147,210	324,427	6.5	1,366
Colorado ^{a,b,e}	45,499	26,477	21,337	47,792	5.0	1,631
Hawaii	15,401	7,443	7,133	15,711	2.0	1,756
Idaho	6,367	3,138	1,828	7,677	20.6	875
Montana ^{a,g}	4,683	:	:	5,133	9.6	782
Nevada ^b	11,670	5,794	4,903	12,561	7.6	981
New Mexico ^{b,e}	8,905	8,926	7,371	10,460	17.5	849
Oregon	43,980	16,876	16,047	44,809	1.9	1,824
Utah	9,519	4,130	4,174	9,475	-0.5	678
Washington ^{a,b,e}	145,547	45,839	41,123	152,609	4.9	3,619
Wyoming	3,486	3,074	2,735	3,825	9.7	1,088

: Not known.

^aBecause of incomplete data, the population on December 31, 1998, does not equal the population on January 1, 1998, plus entries, minus exits.

^bSome data are estimated.

^cData do not include absconders.

^dData do not include out-of-State cases.

^eMultiple agencies reporting.

^fData are for year beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 1998.

^gAll data are estimated.

^hData do not include inactive cases.

Nearly 3 out of 5 probationers were convicted of a felony

Probationers are criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of correctional supervision in the community. On December 31, 1998, a total of 3,417,613 adult men and women were serving a probation sentence in the United States (table 2). Nearly 3 out of 5 probationers had been convicted of a felony offense; 2 out of 5 had been convicted of a misdemeanor.

Type of sentence	Percent of adults on probation
Felony	57%
Misdemeanor	40
Other infractions	3

Note: Information on type of sentence was not available for 6% of probationers.

Twenty-four percent of probationers had a drug law violation, and 17% were sentenced for driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol.

Specific offense	Percent of adults on probation
DWI/DUI	17%
Drug law violation	24

Note: DWI/DUI status was not available for 33% of probationers; drug law violation, 42%.

121,100 probationers added in 1998

During 1998 the probation population grew by 121,100, an increase of 3.7% (table 3). This was greater than the 3.1% average annual increase recorded since yearend 1990 — the equivalent of 93,422 probationers

Table 3. Change in the number of adults on probation, 1990-98

Year	Annual increase	
	Number	Percent change
1991	58,238	2.2%
1992	83,139	3.0
1993	91,450	3.3
1994	77,961	2.7
1995	96,839	3.2
1996	87,135	2.8
1997	131,517	4.2
1998	121,100	3.7
Total increase, 1990-98	747,379	28.0%
Average annual increase, 1990-98	93,422	3.1%

added each year. Since yearend 1990 the probation population only grew faster in 1997, when the addition of 131,517 probationers resulted in an increase of 4.2%.

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

Vermont and Idaho each reported an increase of 21% in the number of adults on probation during 1998. Other States that reported an increase of at least 10% in their adult probation population were Arkansas (19%), New Mexico (17%), Arizona (17%), Alabama (14%), Pennsylvania (12%), and Illinois (10%).

Eleven States had fewer adults on probation at the end of 1998 than at the beginning of the year, led by Louisiana and South Dakota, each down 7%.

Direct and split sentences more common in 1998 than 1990

In 1998, 51% (1,740,100) of all adults on probation had received a direct sentence to probation from court, up from 38% in 1990; and 10% (341,200) had received a split sentence to incarceration and probation in 1998, up from 6% in 1990 (table 4). Smaller percentages of probationers in 1998 had a suspended sentence to incarceration (27%, down from 41% in 1990), or had the imposition of their sentence to probation suspended (10%, down from 14% in 1990).

1 in 5 probationers are women; 2 in 3 are white

Nationwide, women represented a larger percentage of the probation population in 1998 than in 1990. Women were 21% of adults on probation in 1998 (721,400), up from 18% in 1990.

At yearend 1998 more than a third of probationers (1,179,400) were black. Two-thirds (2,186,600) were white. Persons of other races accounted for about 2% of probationers (51,600).

Table 4. Characteristics of adults on probation, 1990 and 1998

Characteristic	1990	1998
Total	100%	100%
Gender	100%	100%
Male	82	79
Female	18	21
Race	100%	100%
White	68	64
Black/African American	31	35
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1	1
Asian/Pacific Islander*	--	1
Hispanic origin	100%	100%
Hispanic	18	15
Non-Hispanic	82	85
Status of supervision	100%	100%
Active	83	77
Inactive	9	9
Absconded	6	10
Supervised out of State	2	2
Other	**	2
Adults entering probation	100%	100%
Without incarceration	87	77
With incarceration	8	17
Other types	5	6
Adults leaving probation	100%	100%
Successful completions	69	59
Returned to incarceration	14	17
With new sentence	3	9
With the same sentence	11	9
Absconder	7	3
Other unsuccessful	2	9
Death	--	--
Other	7	11
Status of probation	100%	100%
Sentence suspended	41	27
Imposition suspended	14	10
Direct imposition	38	51
Split sentence	6	10
Other	1	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%.

*Includes Native Hawaiians.

Hispanics, who may be of any race, comprised 15% of probationers (515,000).

Nearly 3 out of 5 of the 1.6 million adults discharged from probation in 1998 had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. An additional 17% of probationers who were discharged from supervision in 1998 were incarcerated because of a rule violation or new offense.

Table 5. Adults on parole, 1998

Region and jurisdiction	Parole population, 1/1/98	1998		Parole population, 12/31/98	Percent change in parole population during 1998	Number on parole per 100,000 adult residents, 12/31/98
		Entries	Exits			
U.S. total	694,787	434,209	423,661	704,964	1.5%	352
Federal ^a	63,512	24,895	21,238	66,761	5.1%	33
State	631,275	409,314	402,423	638,203	1.1	318
Northeast	162,782	72,626	69,713	165,313	1.6%	422
Connecticut	996	1,449	1,260	1,185	19.0	48
Maine ^b	67	2	4	65	-3.0	7
Massachusetts ^a	4,596	3,718	3,443	4,489	-2.3	96
New Hampshire	1,083	565	507	1,141	5.4	129
New Jersey ^b	16,903	16,281	18,627	14,557	-13.9	238
New York	59,670	25,096	25,218	59,548	-0.2	436
Pennsylvania ^b	78,264	24,726	19,822	83,168	6.3	910
Rhode Island	526	532	589	469	-10.8	62
Vermont	677	257	243	691	2.1	154
Midwest	89,860	69,798	65,939	93,719	4.3%	201
Illinois	30,348	23,773	23,689	30,432	0.3	344
Indiana ^{c,d}	4,044	4,681	4,467	4,258	5.3	97
Iowa	2,037	2,608	2,451	2,194	7.7	103
Kansas ^c	6,150	4,982	5,107	6,025	-2.0	312
Michigan	14,351	10,503	9,523	15,331	6.8	211
Minnesota	2,446	3,011	2,462	2,995	22.4	86
Missouri ^e	12,514	5,034	7,182	10,366	-17.2	257
Nebraska	688	710	774	624	-9.3	51
North Dakota	116	338	279	175	50.9	37
Ohio	6,803	9,275	4,774	11,304	66.2	135
South Dakota	823	825	560	1,088	32.2	203
Wisconsin	9,540	4,058	4,671	8,927	-6.4	231
South	236,743	99,334	109,084	227,473	-3.9%	321
Alabama ^{a,b,f}	6,356	2,423	2,059	6,785	6.7	208
Arkansas ^e	5,719	5,415	4,763	6,371	11.4	338
Delaware ^{a,b,g}	591	:	192	572	-3.2	101
District of Columbia ^{a,b}	7,761	1,553	2,975	6,625	-14.6	1,577
Florida	8,477	4,315	5,371	7,421	-12.5	65
Georgia ^a	21,915	10,360	11,749	20,482	-6.5	364
Kentucky	4,233	2,938	2,663	4,508	6.5	153
Louisiana	19,927	13,533	14,701	18,759	-5.9	590
Maryland	15,763	8,459	8,694	15,528	-1.5	404
Mississippi ^{c,d,h}	1,378	1,094	983	1,489	8.1	75
North Carolina ^b	8,148	6,923	9,331	5,740	-29.6	102
Oklahoma ^b	1,928	317	713	1,532	-20.5	62
South Carolina	4,813	939	1,393	4,359	-9.4	152
Tennessee	8,693	3,086	4,174	7,605	-12.5	186
Texas ^e	109,437	32,189	29,604	112,022	2.4	793
Virginia	10,710	5,115	9,125	6,700	-37.4	130
West Virginia	894	675	594	975	9.1	69
West	141,890	167,556	157,687	151,698	6.9%	346
Alaska ^e	472	313	293	492	4.2	117
Arizona	3,378	6,207	5,843	3,742	10.8	110
California ^{c,f}	104,412	140,724	134,519	110,617	5.9	466
Colorado	4,139	4,421	3,356	5,204	25.7	178
Hawaii	1,827	791	609	2,009	10.0	225
Idaho	820	832	378	1,274	55.4	145
Montana ^{a,e}	755	:	:	667	-11.7	102
Nevada ^b	3,463	2,606	2,014	4,055	17.1	317
New Mexico	1,626	1,671	1,524	1,773	9.0	144
Oregon	16,815	7,010	6,555	17,270	2.7	703
Utah	3,281	2,686	2,195	3,772	15.0	270
Washington ^{a,e}	480	23	155	375	-21.9	9
Wyoming ^b	422	272	246	448	6.2	127

: Not known.

^aBecause of incomplete data, the population on December 31, 1998, does not equal the population on January 1, 1998, plus entries, minus exits.

^bSome data are estimated.

^cData do not include absconders.

^dData do not include out-of-State cases.

^eAll data are estimated.

^fMultiple agencies reporting.

^gData are for period beginning March 30, 1998, and ending December 31, 1998.

^hData do not include inactive cases.

Parole growth in 1998 less than half average annual growth since 1990

Also serving time in the community at the end of 1998 were 704,964 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 1.5% growth in parole during 1998 — a net increase of about 10,000 parolees — was less than half the average annual increase of 3.6% in parole since 1990. Nearly all parolees had been convicted of a felony (96%).

Length of sentence	Percent of adults on parole
Less than 1 year	4%
One year or more	96

Note: Information on length of sentence was not available for 20% of parolees.

Double-digit increases and decreases in parole population reported by many States

Twelve States reported an increase of 10% or more in their adult parole population for the year ending December 31, 1998. Ohio led with 66%, followed by five other States exceeding 20%: Idaho (55%), North Dakota (51%), South Dakota (32%), Colorado (26%), and Minnesota (22%).

Decreases of 10% or more in parole population during 1998 were reported by 11 other States. Virginia's parole population decrease of 37% for the year ending December 31, 1998, was followed by three other States with a decrease of 20% or more: North Carolina (-30%), Washington (-22%), and Oklahoma (-21%).

Sharp increases in parole entries linked to rise in parole population

Ten of the twelve States experiencing the largest growth in their parole populations also reported increases of 13% or more in the number of entries to parole in 1998 as compared with 1997. Among States with a 10% or more increase in their parole popula-

Jurisdictions having changes in 1998 parole population of ±10% or more	Percent change, 1997-98		Total population
	Entries	Exits	
Decreases			
Virginia*	-46%	4%	-37%
North Carolina*	-21	-28	-30
Washington*	-28	38	-22
Oklahoma*	-28	6	-21
Missouri*	7	36	-17
Dist. of Col.*	-33	26	-15
New Jersey*	11	52	-14
Tennessee*	-28	-8	-13
Florida*	20	23	-12
Montana	:	:	-12
Rhode Island	-9	-6	-11
Increases			
Ohio*	76%	-- %	66%
Idaho	39	-20	55
North Dakota*	59	45	51
South Dakota	22	4	32
Colorado	18	16	26
Minnesota*	14	-4	22
Connecticut*	37	10	19
Nevada	:	:	17
Utah*	15	14	15
Arkansas	68	69	11
Arizona*	1	-11	11
Hawaii	13	-5	10

*Meet Federal truth-in-sentencing requirements.
:Not known.
--Less than -0.5%.

tion, Arizona was an exception. In Arizona the number of persons entering parole increased 1%. The population growth in Arizona during 1998 resulted primarily from an 11% decrease in the number of exits from parole.

Among States with parole population decreases of 10% or more during 1998, seven reported a decrease in the number of entries to parole as compared with 1997. In three States (Florida, New Jersey, and Missouri) where the number of entries increased in 1998 as compared with 1997, exits increased even more, resulting in a net decrease in the parole population during 1998.

Parole growth varied among truth-in-sentencing States

Restrictions on early release from prison and other reforms to reduce the discrepancy between sentence imposed and actual time served in prison have come to be known as truth in sentencing. First enacted in Washington State in 1984, these laws require offenders to serve a greater

portion of the prison sentence before being released. Definitions of truth in sentencing vary among the States, as do the percentage of sentence required to be served and the crimes covered by the laws (with most targeting violent offenders).¹

Adoption of truth-in-sentencing laws might be expected over time to result in a net decrease in the number of persons on parole. As such laws are phased-in, the number of persons entering parole might be expected to decrease as prison time served by affected offenders increases. Subsequently, offenders who have served more time in prison may have less time to spend on parole.

The nine States reporting the largest decreases in parole during 1998 had all enacted restrictions on early release. Each met Federal requirements for truth-in-sentencing incentive grants; the remaining two States with parole decreases of 10% or more during 1998 did not.² Truth-in-sentencing laws, however, had also been enacted by 6 of the 12 States reporting parole increases of 10% or more.

Overall, 16 of the 22 States that had a decrease in their parole population during 1998 met the Federal truth-in-sentencing requirements, compared to 13 of the 29 States that had an increase in their parole population.

Parole population change in 1998	All States	Number of States meeting Federal truth-in-sentencing requirements
Decrease	22	16
Increase	29	13

¹See *Truth in Sentencing in State Prisons*, BJS Special Report, January 1999, NCJ 170032 for more information.

²For eligibility criteria, see *Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-In-Sentencing Incentive Grants: Program Guidance and Application Kit, FY98*, Office of Justice Programs, NCJ 168942.

Mandatory releases to parole have increased since 1990

Discretionary releases of prisoners to parole supervision by a parole board have decreased from 59% of adults entering parole in 1990 to 41%, or 176,600, in 1998 (table 6). During this same period, mandatory releases to parole supervision increased from 41% of parole entries in 1990 to 53% (or 230,600) in 1998. Even though mandatory releases had increased during the 1990's, 62% of all parolees on December 31, 1998, had been released as the result of a parole board decision.

Type of sentence of adults on parole	Percent of adults on parole
Discretionary parole	62%
Mandatory parole	37
Special conditional release	--
Other	--

Note: Information on type of sentence was not available for 3% of adults on parole.
-- Less than 0.5%.

Women accounted for more than 1 in 8 adults on parole in 1998

About 1 of every 8 adults on parole in 1998 (82,300) were women. Women represented a larger percentage of the parole population (12%) in 1998 than in 1990 when they were 8%.

More than 2 out of 5 adults on parole on December 31, 1998, (311,300) were black; half (384,700) were white. About 1% of parolees were of other races (9,000). Twenty-one percent of parolees (144,900) were Hispanics, who may be of any race.

Of 423,700 parolees discharged from supervision in 1998, 45% had successfully met the conditions of their supervision, while 42% had been returned to incarceration either because of a rule violation or new offense. Absconders accounted for 9% of those discharged from parole in 1998, up from 1% in 1990.

Table 6. Characteristics of adults on parole, 1990 and 1998

Characteristic	1990	1998
Total	100%	100%
Gender	100%	100%
Male	92	88
Female	8	12
Race	100%	100%
White	52	55
Black/African American	47	44
Other	1	1
Hispanic origin	100%	100%
Hispanic	18	21
Non-Hispanic	82	79
Status of supervision	100%	100%
Active	82	81
Inactive	6	5
Absconded	6	8
Supervised out of State	6	5
Other	**	--
Adults entering parole	100%	100%
Discretionary parole	59	41
Mandatory parole	41	53
Reinstatement	**	5
Other	**	1
Adults leaving parole	100%	100%
Successful completion	50	45
Returned to incarceration	46	42
With new sentence	17	13
Other	29	29
Absconder	1	9
Other unsuccessful	1	1
Transferred	1	1
Death	1	1
Other	**	1

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%.

Methodology

The Probation and Parole Data Surveys provide a count of the total number of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, 1998, 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.

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, 1998, numbers may differ from those previously published for December 31, 1997.

Probation

The 1998 Probation Data Survey was sent to 304 respondents: 39 central State reporters and 265 separate State, county, or court agencies, representing a net increase of 33 local respondents as compared with the 1997 Probation Data Survey. Changes in authority and fragmentation of local agencies led to 35 additional agencies as follows: Georgia (1), Michigan (18), Ohio (1), and Washington (15). One local agency in Washington closed, and two local agencies in Michigan are now reported on a single form. Inclusion of these probation agencies accounted for an increase of 27,039 probationers on 1/1/98 and 29,329 probationers on 12/31/98.

States with multiple reporters in the 1998 Probation Data Survey were Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (9), Florida (14), Georgia (3), Michigan (131), Missouri (2), New Mexico (2), Ohio (53), Oklahoma (3), Tennessee (3), Washington (38), and West Virginia (2). Two local agencies in Michigan and one in Alabama did not provide data. For these the 12/31/97 population count was used as the 1/1/98 and 12/31/98 count.

Parole

The 1998 Parole Data 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. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

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

Thomas P. Bonczar wrote this report with the assistance of Lauren E. Glaze while under the supervision of Allen J. Beck. The authors conducted the data collection. Todd D. Minton provided statistical verification. Tom Hester edited the report. Jayne Robinson administered final production.

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This report in portable document format and in ASCII, its tables, and related statistical data are available at the BJS World Wide Web Internet site:
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