

At yearend 2014, 1 in 52 U.S. adults were supervised in the community on probation or parole. On December 31, 2014, an estimated 4,708,100 adults were under community supervision—a decrease of about 45,300 offenders or 1% from the same day in 2013. Although this change was small, it was part of a larger trend. In the past 7 years, adults under community supervision declined between 0.5% and 2.6% annually, or by nearly 400,000 offenders. All of the decline in the community supervision population was due to a drop in the number of adults on probation. The decline was offset slightly by an increase in the number of adults on parole.

### Probation trends

BJs defines probation as a court-ordered period of correctional supervision in the community, generally as an alternative to incarceration. Probationers accounted for the majority (82%) of the community corrections population. Between yearend 2013 and 2014, the probation population declined from an estimated 3,910,600 offenders to 3,864,100. This 1% decline marked the seventh consecutive year of declines. Since yearend 2007, the probation population fell 10%, from 4.3 million offenders.

In 2014, there were an estimated 2,067,100 entries to probation, down 1.3% from 2,094,100 during 2013. The number of probation exits also declined during 2014 from an estimated 2,131,300 in 2013 to 2,130,700. During 2014, the incarceration rate (5%) among probationers at risk of violating their conditions of supervision—including incarceration for a new offense, a revocation, and other reasons—was similar to the rate observed in 2013 (5.4%). Since 2000, the incarceration rate has remained relatively stable, ranging from 4.5% to 6.1%.

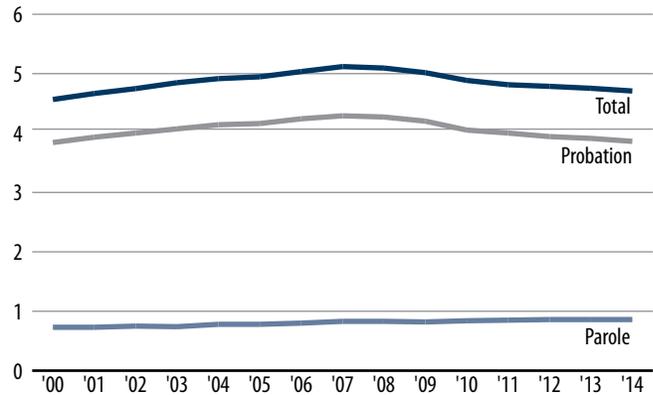
### Parole trends

Parole is defined as a period of conditional supervised release in the community following a prison term. From yearend 2007 to yearend 2014, the parole population increased nearly 4%. At yearend 2014, an estimated 856,900 offenders were on parole, up from 855,200 at yearend 2013. Over the same period, the parole rate declined from 350 offenders per 100,000 U.S. adult residents in 2013 to 348 per 100,000.

From 2013 to 2014, parole entries declined by about 6,600 offenders (from 466,800 to 460,200) and exits declined by about 7,700 offenders (from 459,600 to 451,900). An

### Adults under community supervision at yearend, 2000–2014

Yearend population (in millions)



Note: Estimates based on most recent data and may differ from previously published statistics. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey and Annual Parole Survey, 2000–2014.

estimated 9% of parolees who were at risk of reincarceration during 2014 were incarcerated, similar to the rate in 2013 (9.3%). Since 2000, the rate of reincarceration of at-risk parolees has fluctuated slightly but has declined overall.

### Population characteristics

At yearend 2014, 25% of probationers were female, compared to 22% of probationers in 2000. In 2014, more than half of probationers (54%) were non-Hispanic white, about 30% were non-Hispanic black, and 13% were Hispanic, which was similar to rates observed in 2000. The percentage of probationers supervised for a felony offense increased during the past 15 years, from 52% in 2000 to 56% in 2014.

In 2014, males made up 88% of the adult parole population, the same percentage reported in 2000. The parole population was 16% Hispanic, a decrease from 21% in 2000. In 2014, 43% of the parole population was white, compared to 38% in 2000. More than 60% of parolees were being supervised for a violent offense or a drug crime in 2014.

The full report (*Probation and Parole in the United States, 2014*, NCJ 249057), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

