



**PROBATION AND PAROLE
IN THE UNITED STATES
2008**

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

1970 W. Broad Street, 4th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43223

Toll-Free: (888) 448-4842

Telephone: (614) 466-7782

Fax: (614) 466-0308

www.ocjs.ohio.gov



TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR
CATHY COLLINS-TAYLOR, DIRECTOR

PROBATION AND PAROLE IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008

In December 2009 the Bureau of Justice Statistics released *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2008*. Data come from the 2008 Annual Probation Survey and the 2008 Annual Parole Survey, as well as from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The surveys cover the federal system, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia.

Probation is defined here as a court-ordered period of correctional supervision in the community, generally as an alternative to incarceration. Parole is defined as a period of conditional supervised release in the community following a prison term.

The following are highlights taken from this report.

- In 2008, over 7.3 million people (or 1 in every 31 adults) were under some type of correctional supervision.
- In 2008, 5,095,200 people were on community supervision. The majority, 84%, were on probation, while 16% were on parole. Since 2000, approximately 82% of the growth in community supervision has been due to an increase in probation.

Probation statistics

- The U.S. probation population increased 0.9% in 2008 to 4,270,917 adults on probation.
- At yearend 2008, the probation supervision rate was 1,845 probationers per 100,000 adult U.S. residents.
- Ohio ranked fifth in the total number on probation, with an estimated 260,962. This represents an increase of 1.2% from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.
- Ohio's probation rate of 2,973 per 100,000 adult residents was greater than the national rate of 1,845 per 100,000 adult residents.
- Characteristics of probationers in the U.S. in 2008 (much of the detailed Ohio data was not available):
 - 24% female, 76% male
 - 56% White, 29% Black, 13% Hispanic or Latino
 - 49% felony offense, 48% misdemeanor offense, 2% other infraction
 - 19% of probationers under supervision in 2008 had a violent offense as their most serious offense.
 - 29% of probationers had a drug law violation as their most serious offense, followed by property offense (25%), public-order offense (17%), which includes driving while intoxicated and other traffic offenses only, and other offenses (10%).
 - 71% were under active supervision, and 8% were absconders.

Parole statistics

- The parole population in the U.S. increased 0.9% in 2008 to 828,169 adults on parole, or 16% of all on community supervision.
- In 2008, 358 persons per 100,000 adult U.S. residents were under parole supervision.
- Ohio ranked twelfth in the total number on parole, with 19,119. This represents an increase of 4.0% from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.
- Ohio's parole rate of 218 per 100,000 adult residents was less than the national average of 358 per 100,000 adult residents.
- Characteristics of parolees in the U.S. and in Ohio during 2008:
 - U.S.: 12% female, 88% male
Ohio: 9% female, 91% male
 - U.S.: 41% White, 38% Black, 19% Hispanic or Latino
Ohio: 55% White, 44% Black, 1% Hispanic or Latino
 - U.S.: 37% convicted of a drug offense, 26% convicted of a violent offense, and 23% convicted of a property offense
Ohio: 13% convicted of a drug offense, 56% convicted of a violent offense, and 23% convicted of a property offense
- Of the total number of adults leaving parole in 2008, 48% successfully completed their time, and 35% returned to jail or prison. Of those who returned to jail or prison, 71% returned with revocation.
 - In Ohio, there were 9,367 adults exiting parole in 2008. Of these, 61% successfully completed their term, and 33% returned to jail or prison.

To view the statistical tables, go to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' website:
<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus08.pdf>.