Improving Outcomes for People under Community Supervision

The majority of people in the U.S. criminal justice system are not held in secure correctional facilities, but under correctional supervision in their communities. The two main types of community supervision are probation, a court order through which a person is placed under the supervision of a probation field staff member and is expected to meet certain standards of conduct; and parole, the term of supervision that occurs once someone is conditionally released to the community after serving a prison term.

Between 1980 and 2008, the number of adults on probation or parole grew from 1.3 to 5.1 million.\(^1\)

Approximately two-thirds of people released from state prisons in 2005 were arrested for a new crime within 3 years, and three-quarters were arrested within 5 years.\(^3\)

The adult parole population increased by 12,800 people from 2014 to 2015.\(^4\)

Approximately 1 in 53 U.S. adults were under community supervision at yearend 2015.\(^2\)

Approximately 56% of people in the criminal justice system were on probation in 2016.\(^5\)


