



Alaska Offender Profile: Adult Probation/Parole, 2002-2012

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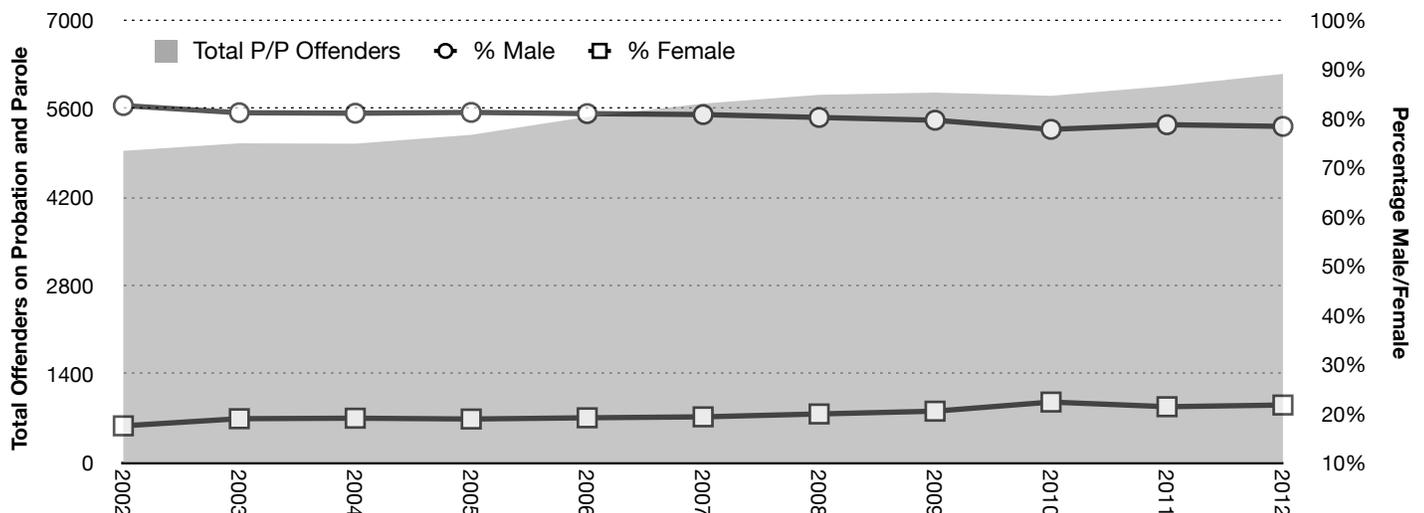
This fact sheet presents data on the characteristics of offenders under the supervision of the Alaska Department of Corrections, Division of Probation and Parole (DOC-PP). In Alaska, probation and parole supervision are limited to *adult felony offenders*. The Alaska Department of Corrections does not have an adult misdemeanor probation supervision program. Adult misdemeanants may be ordered by a court into informal “open court” probation which carries with it suspended jail time and/or fines that will be put into effect if an individual does not comply with probation conditions. This form of misdemeanor probation does not include supervision by a Department of Corrections probation officer, however. Occasionally DOC-PP will assume supervision of certain high-risk

misdemeanants. This sort of arrangement is exceedingly rare, however. Juvenile probationers are supervised by the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice.

The numbers presented in the figures and tables below reflect characteristics of all probationers and parolees that came under the supervision of DOC-PP for each calendar year, 2002-2012. All of the probation/parole offender data were extracted from the Alaska Department of Corrections’s annual *Offender Profile* publication. Offender statistics are not differentiated by probation/parole designation in the *Offender Profile*, and thus are not depicted separately in this fact sheet. (Readers can access reports online at: <http://www.correct.state.ak.us/administrative-services/research-records>.)

FIGURE 1.

Total Number of Offenders on Probation/Parole, and Percentage of Probationers/Parolees Male and Female: State of Alaska, 2002-2012



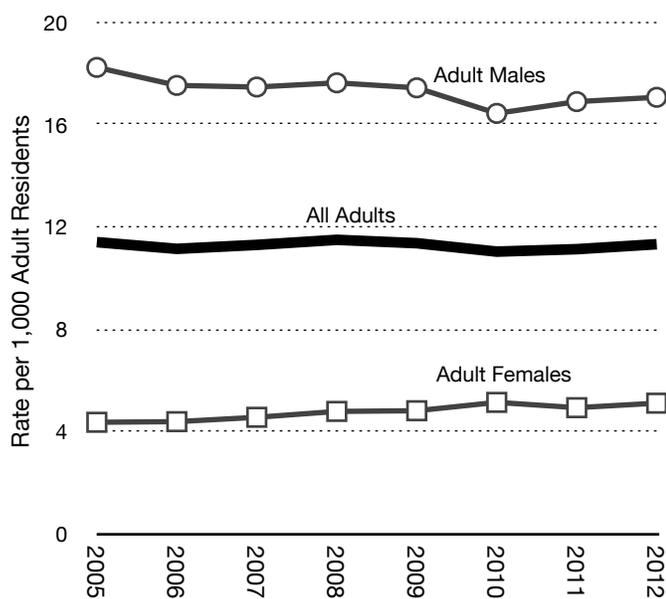
Source: State of Alaska, Department of Corrections, Division of Administrative Services (2003-2013). *Offender Profile*. Available online at: <http://www.correct.state.ak.us/administrative-services/research-records>.

Offenders on Probation/Parole. Figure 1 (previous page) presents information on the total number of offenders on probation/parole for the 2002-2012 period (grey shaded area), as well as the percentage of male and female offenders for each year. Since 2002, the total number of offenders on probation and parole increased 24.7% - from 4,927 offenders on probation/parole supervision in 2002 to 6,143 in 2012. As with the adult correctional population more generally, the vast majority of individuals under the supervision of DOC-PP during the 2002-2012 period were male. (On average, 80% of all probation/parole offenders were male each year.) Importantly, the overall percentage of male probation/parole offenders decreased from 82.5% in 2002 to 78.3% in 2012, while the percentage of female offenders increased over the 2002-2012 period, from 17.5% to 21.7%.

Probation/Parole Supervision Rates. Figure 2 (below) depicts the probation/parole supervision rate *per 1,000 adult residents* in Alaska for the period 2005-2012. (Population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's *American Community Survey*, which are used to calculate the rates presented below, are available beginning in 2005. Therefore, the trend data presented in Figure 2 span 2005-2012 rather than 2002-2012.) Overall, the *rate* of adult probation/parole supervision between 2005 and

FIGURE 2.

Probation/Parole Supervision Rate per 1,000 Adult Residents, State of Alaska: 2005-2012



Source: State of Alaska, Department of Corrections, Division of Administrative Services (2006-2013). *Offender Profile*. Available online at: <http://www.correct.state.ak.us/administrative-services/research-records>.

TABLE 1.

Racial Group Membership of Offenders Under Adult Probation/Parole Supervision: 2012

Racial Group	N	%
Alaska Native/American Indian	1580	25.7
Asian/Pacific Islander (combined)	311	5.0
Black/African American	552	9.0
White/Caucasian	3449	56.2
All Other (combined)	251	4.1
TOTALS	6143	100.0

Source: State of Alaska, Department of Corrections, Division of Administrative Services (2013). *2012 Offender Profile*. Available online at: <http://www.correct.state.ak.us/administrative-services/research-records>.

2012 remained stable. In 2005, an estimated 11.4 adults per 1,000 adult residents were supervised by DOC-PP; in 2012, the rate stood at 11.3 per 1,000. Like the overall percentage of male offenders on probation/parole, the rate of adult males on probation/parole also declined. In 2005, approximately 18.2 out of every 1,000 adult males in Alaska were on probation or parole; by 2012, that rate had declined to 17.1 per 1,000 adult males. This represents a 6% decline. Meanwhile, the probation/parole supervision rate for adult women rose from an estimated 4.4 per 1,000 in 2005 to 5.1 per 1,000 adult females in the state in 2012 - an increase of nearly 16%.

Offender Race. In 2012, over 50% of all adults on probation/parole in Alaska were White/Caucasian, more than 25% were Alaska Native/American Indian, 9% were Black/African American, 5% were either Asian or Pacific Islander, and just over 4% were of some other race (see Table 1, above).

Figure 3 (next page) presents the percentage of the adult Alaska population for each racial group/combination (black bars) alongside the percentage of offenders within each race category reported by the Alaska Department of Corrections (grey bars) for 2011 - the last year for which age- and race-specific population data are available from the U.S. Census Bureau. These data provide a visual representation of the extent to which Alaska Native/American Indian and Black/African American adults are proportionally overrepresented in the Alaska probation/parole system. In 2011, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, approximately 14.1% of the adult population was Alaska Native/American

Indian, and an estimated 3.4% of the adult population was Black African American. Meanwhile, according to the Alaska Department of Corrections, 25.1% of the probation/parole population was reported to be Alaska Native/American Indian, and an additional 8.6% were Black/African American. In contrast, White/Caucasian and Asian/Pacific Islanders were underrepresented among the Alaska probation/parole population.

Probation/Parole Caseloads. Figure 4 shows the percentage of adult probation/parole cases assigned to the three largest field offices of DOC-PP: Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Palmer. Data are also presented for all other probation/parole offices combined. Since 2002, probation/parole caseloads remained quite stable, although the Anchorage field office did experience a slight increase in its caseload - from 48.1% in 2002 to 51.4% in 2012. Together, the Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Palmer offices supervised 74% of all probationers and parolees in 2012. The Anchorage office alone supervised more than half (51.4%) of all adult probationers/parolees in 2012.

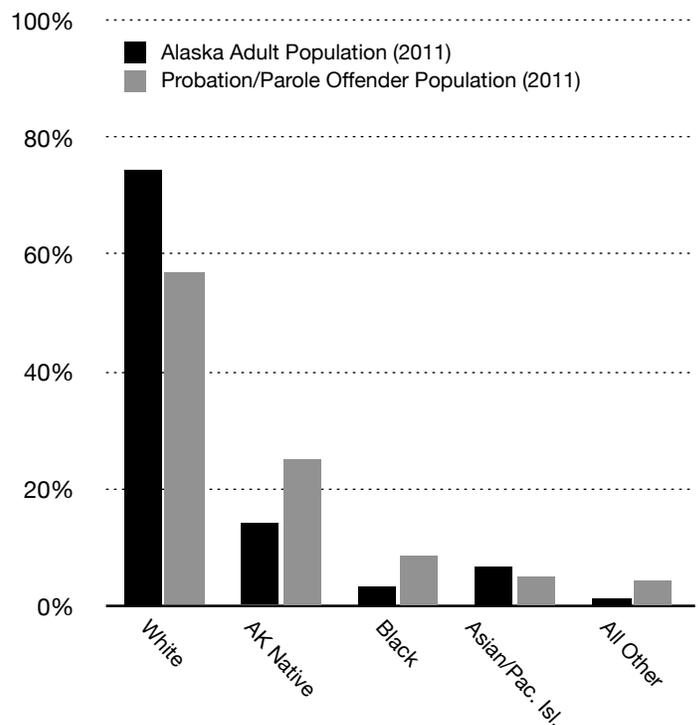
Summary. This fact sheet presented summary information on the Alaska adult probation/parole population for the period 2002-2012, including: the total number of persons under probation/parole supervision, the overall rate of adult probation/parole supervision in Alaska, the percentage breakdown of the probation/parole population by sex and race, and finally the distribution of probation/parole cases among the three largest DOC-PP offices.

The data show that there has been a notable increase in the total number of persons subject to probation/parole supervision in the state of Alaska. However, this increase has not outpaced the state's population growth. In other words, while the *number* of persons on probation/parole has increased, the overall per-capita rate of probation/parole supervision has remained steady.

These data also show that trends in probation/parole supervision rates in Alaska vary according to sex: supervision rates declined 6% between 2005 and 2012 for men, but increased 16% for women.

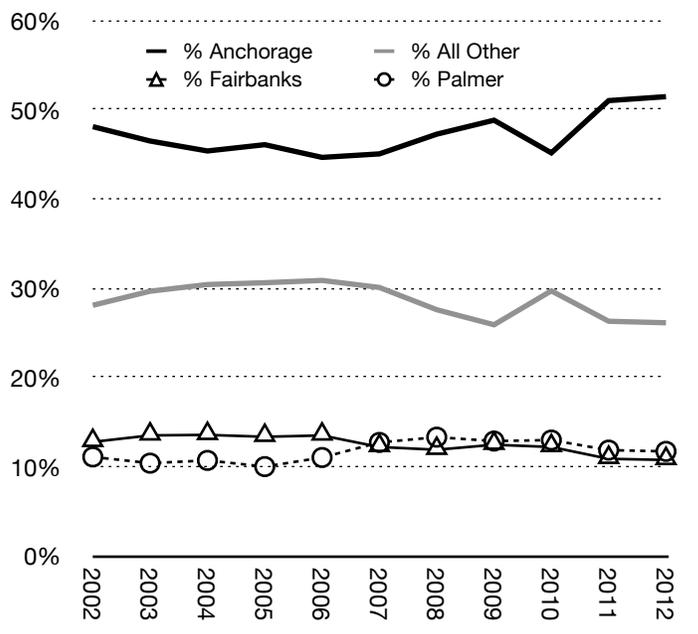
Data from the Alaska Department of Corrections and the U.S. Census Bureau pertaining to the racial group membership of probationers and parolees was also presented and compared. Results show that

FIGURE 3. Comparison of Racial Group Membership: Alaska Adult Population (2011) vs. Alaska Probation/Parole Population (2011)



Sources: State of Alaska, Department of Corrections, Division of Administrative Services (2012). *2011 Offender Profile*. Available online at: <http://www.correct.state.ak.us/administrative-services/research-records>. U.S. Census Bureau (2012). *American Community Survey*.

FIGURE 4. Percentage of Offenders Under Probation/Parole Supervision, by Supervising Authority



Sources: State of Alaska, Department of Corrections, Division of Administrative Services (2003-2013). *Offender Profile*. Available online at: <http://www.correct.state.ak.us/administrative-services/research-records>.

Alaska Natives/American Indians and Blacks/African Americans are overrepresented in the probation/parole population. In contrast, Whites/Caucasians and Asians/Pacific Islanders were underrepresented.

Finally, a breakdown of probationers/parolees according to supervisory office shows that nearly three out of every four offenders are supervised by probation/parole officers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Palmer. The Anchorage office alone supervises more than half of the Department of Corrections's total probation/parole cases each year.

Notes on Probation and Parole in Alaska. In Alaska, probation and parole share a great deal in common. Whereas in other states, adult probation supervision is typically for both misdemeanor and felony offenders, in Alaska supervision by probation officers is almost exclusively limited to felons. (As noted previously, in rare circumstances DOC-PP may assume supervision of high-risk misdemeanants.) In addition, in other jurisdictions, probation is a form of pre-incarceration community supervision; that is, it is supervision of offenders prior to any incarcerative sentence in jail or prison. In Alaska, however, probation is limited to post-incarceration community supervision. Thus, Alaska's version of probation is very much like

parole in other states.

The key difference between probation and parole in Alaska is the nature of the time being served. If the person under DOC-PP supervision is serving *suspended time*, they are on *probation*. Suspended time refers to prison time that is not imposed so long as an offender abides by the behavior/performance conditions of their probation. Typically, offenders are placed on probation for a period of 5 years.

If the person under DOC-PP supervision is serving actual *imposed sentence time*, they are on parole. In Alaska, the law requires the Department of Corrections to deduct "good time" from the imposed sentence in the amount of one day for every two days served. If an offender does not lose their "good time" due to misbehavior, they will be released to *mandatory parole* after serving two-thirds of their imposed sentence, where they will serve the remainder of their sentence under the supervision of a Department of Corrections parole officer. Offenders may also be eligible for *discretionary parole* after serving at least one-third of their imposed sentence.

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center

About

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) was established by Administrative Order No. 89, signed by Governor William Sheffield on July 2, 1986. Since that time the AJSAC has been housed within the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center. The AJSAC assists Alaska criminal justice agencies, as well as state and local governments and officials, with the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice programs and policies through the collection, analysis, and reporting of crime and justice statistics.

Since 1972, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and its predecessor agency, the National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, has provided support to state and territorial governments to establish and operate Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice to federal, state, and local levels of government, and to share state-level information nationally. There are currently 53 SACs located in the United States and its Territories. The AJSAC is a member of the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), a national nonprofit organization comprised of SAC directors, researchers, and practitioners dedicated to policy-oriented research and analysis.

Contact Information

Location

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) is housed in the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, which is located on the second floor of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, Suite 213.

Mailing Address

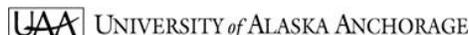
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