

DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

ADULT PROBATION

The source of this information is the monthly summary data reports submitted by county probation departments.

These data include information about adults placed on supervised probation as of December 31 of each year. Data regarding court probation, diversion, and summary probation are not included in this report.

Adult probation data are limited to original grants of probation and do not include subsequent grants of probation to those already under supervised probation in the same county. Probationers are counted for each jurisdiction in which they are on probation. However, probationers with cases in multiple jurisdictions are counted more than one time in statewide totals.

"Other" includes transfers of jurisdiction from one county to another, death, sentence vacated, successful appeal, and deportation.

Statewide probation removal data from 2003 through 2007 may not match previously reported data due to programmatic adjustments made at the county level.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND LIMITATIONS

In 2014, the San Bernardino County Probation Department discovered inaccurate probation statistics due to a flaw in their Case Management Records system. Correcting the flaw resulted in a probation caseload decrease of 10,000 from previous years. 2014 Probation statistics for the San Bernardino County Probation Department are accurate, but should not be used in trending data against previous years.

For 2013, Lake County Probation Department statistics are inconsistent due to problems with new database.

For 2013, Plumas County Probation Department statistics are inconsistent due to problems with case management system.

The Imperial County Probation Department did not report data for May through June 2009. During these months there were problems encountered by the department in converting from a manual report to an automated report generated from their new case management system.

Counts for adults on active probation for felony offenses may also include adults on probation for misdemeanor offenses for the following counties and years: Contra Costa (2000-2013), Kern (2010-2013), Lake (2001-2012), Merced (2003-2013), Sacramento (2003-2013), Siskiyou (2002-2012), Tulare (2000-2009), and Yolo (2000-2009).

In 2009, the Santa Barbara County Probation Department discovered that counts for offenders added to probation through reinstatement were being underreported. Adjustments were made to their December report to correct the 2009 total. Although the problem was identified as occurring in 2007 and 2008, no adjustments were made for the prior years.

As a result of a caseload audit, the Yolo County Probation Department made adjustments to its January 2007 beginning caseload counts.

The Ventura County Probation Department made adjustments to its 2003 through 2005 data. Therefore, data for Ventura County and statewide will not match previously reported data.

The San Francisco County Probation Department was unable to report for 2001 through 2005 because of computer program issues and budget cuts.