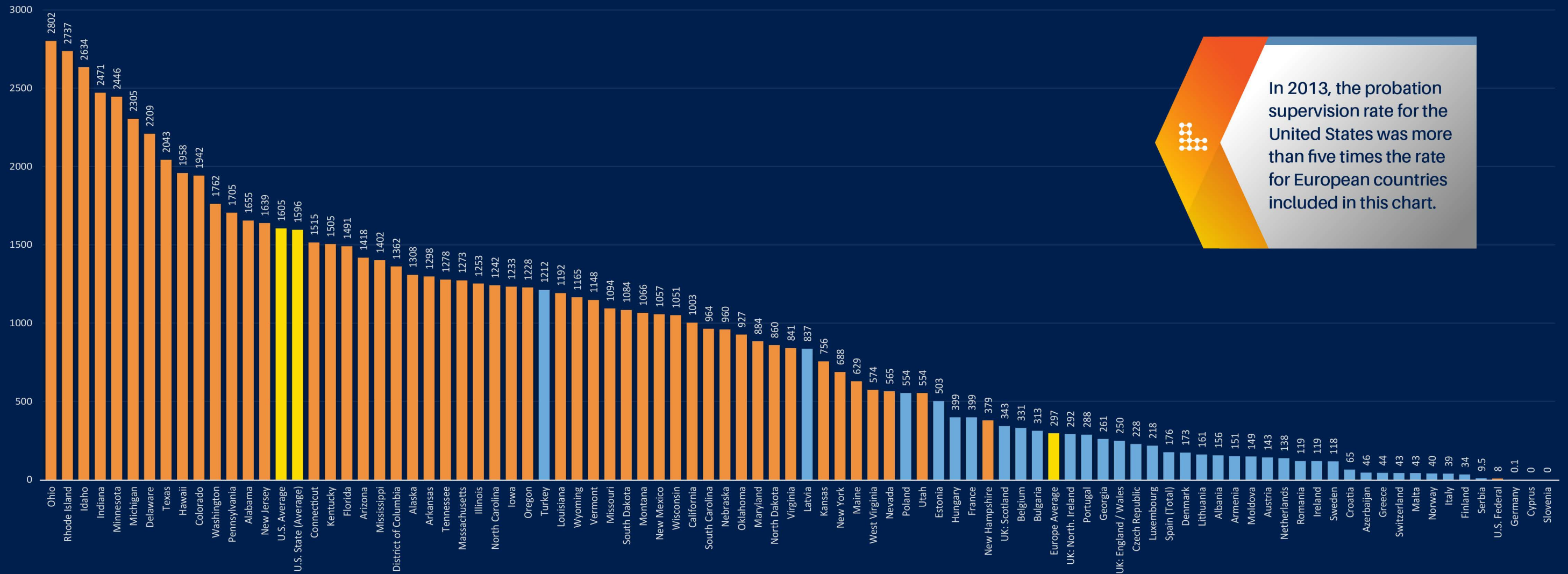


# American Exceptionalism in Probation Supervision

Probation Supervision Rates in the United States and Europe, 2013 Rates per 100,000 Adult Residents



In 2013, the probation supervision rate for the United States was more than five times the rate for European countries included in this chart.

Citation: Mariel Alper, Alessandro Corda, and Kevin R. Reitz, *American Exceptionalism in Probation Supervision* (Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice 2016).

**Notes:**

- This chart makes use of Council of Europe (CoE) statistics on "community sanctions and measures (CMS)," and attempts to combine all CSM categories that would be classified as "on probation" under Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) counting rules. Difficulty occasionally arose in aligning CoE and BJS data. Some CSM populations cannot definitively be classified as "on probation" or "not on probation" in BJS terms. For example, a handful of CSM categories include forms of full or partial prison release that would likely be counted as "parole" by the BJS. In addition, some groups arguably on probation in CoE data might be excluded as on "bail" by the BJS. To resolve such doubts, we have erred in the direction of including all ambiguous CSM classifications in our estimates of European probation populations. Accordingly, the chart may overstate rates of probation supervision in some European countries compared to rates as reported in the U.S. If so, the chart's message is not undermined. If anything, the chart understates American Exceptionalism in probation supervision as compared with Europe.
- The three yellow bars on the chart indicate weighted averages for the entire U.S. probation supervision population (including federal probation), all 50 U.S. States (without federal probationers), and all included European countries. Average rates are calculated per total U.S. adult population and the total adult populations of all reporting European countries.
- European countries were excluded when adult population counts were not available or when community supervision data were not reported by CoE or were incomplete. The countries for which adult population counts were not available were Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, and San Marino. The additional countries for which adequate community supervision counts were not available were Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, and Slovak Republic.
- The U.S. State of Georgia is not included in the chart. Georgia reports dramatically higher probation rates to BJS than any other state. We believe this is because Georgia reports numbers of probation "cases" rather than the number of individuals actually on supervision, and therefore its reporting is incompatible with that of other states.
- The 2013 probation population for Oklahoma was not available from BJS. The average rate of 2012 and 2014 was used.
- BJS imputed missing probation population counts for non-reporting counties and district agencies in Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, and Washington.

**Sources:**

- European probation rates: Marcelo F. Aebi & Julien Chopin, Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics: SPACE II survey 2013: Persons Serving Non-custodial Sanctions and Measures in 2013 (2015), available at [http://wp.unil.ch/space/files/2011/02/Council-of-Europe\\_SPACE-II-2013-E\\_Final\\_150205.pdf](http://wp.unil.ch/space/files/2011/02/Council-of-Europe_SPACE-II-2013-E_Final_150205.pdf).
- European adult population counts: United Nations, World Population Prospects 2013, available at (<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD/>).
- UK adult population counts: UK Office for National Statistics, UK Population by Individual Country of Birth - Mid 2013; Data downloaded from: [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/search/index.html?newquery=\\*%&newoffset=50&pageSize=50&nsc1=Population+Estimates+by+Age+and+Sex&nsc2=Population+Estimates+by+Age+and+Sex&content-type=Reference+table&content-type=Dataset&sortBy=pubdate&sortDirection=DESCENDING&applyFilters=true](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/search/index.html?newquery=*%&newoffset=50&pageSize=50&nsc1=Population+Estimates+by+Age+and+Sex&nsc2=Population+Estimates+by+Age+and+Sex&content-type=Reference+table&content-type=Dataset&sortBy=pubdate&sortDirection=DESCENDING&applyFilters=true).
- United States probation rates: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Probation and Parole in the United States, 2013 (2014), available at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus13.pdf>.
- Oklahoma probation supervision rate: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Probation and Parole in the United States, 2014 (2015) available at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus14.pdf>; Bureau of Justice Statistics, Probation and Parole in the United States, 2012 (2013) available at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus12.pdf>.