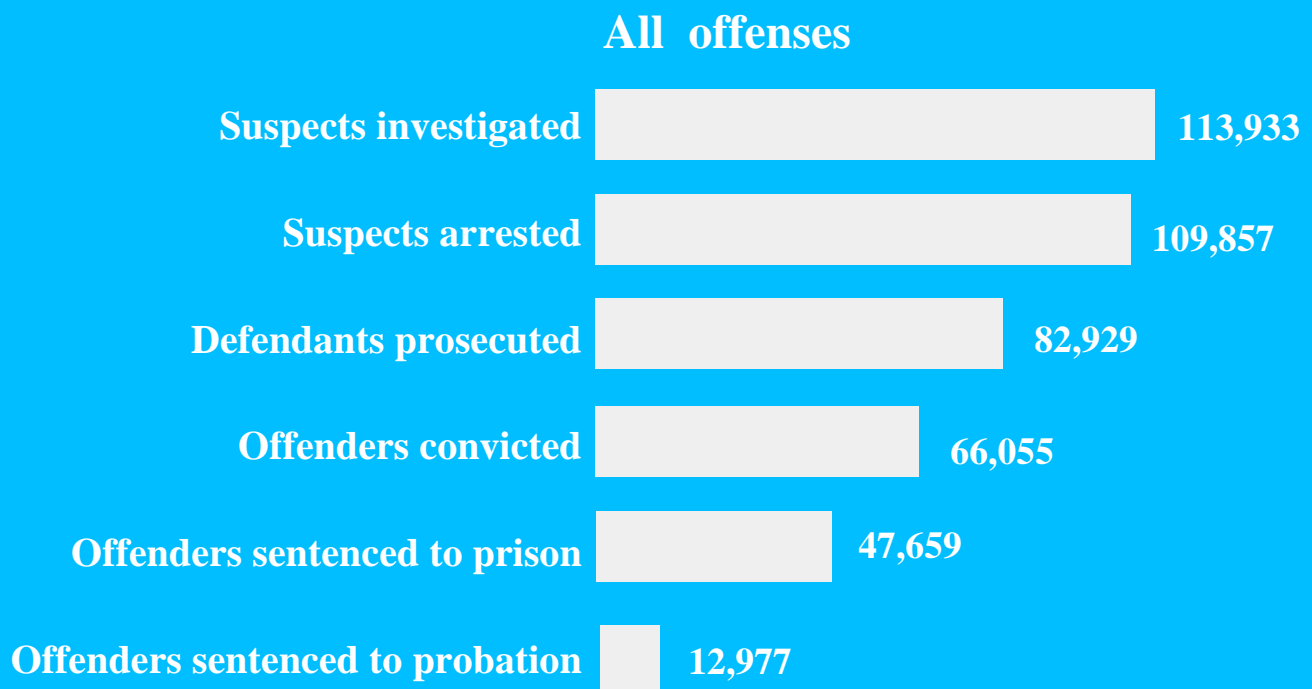




Bureau of Justice Statistics

Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1999

Federal criminal case processing, October 1, 1998, through September 30, 1999



A Federal Justice Statistics Program Report

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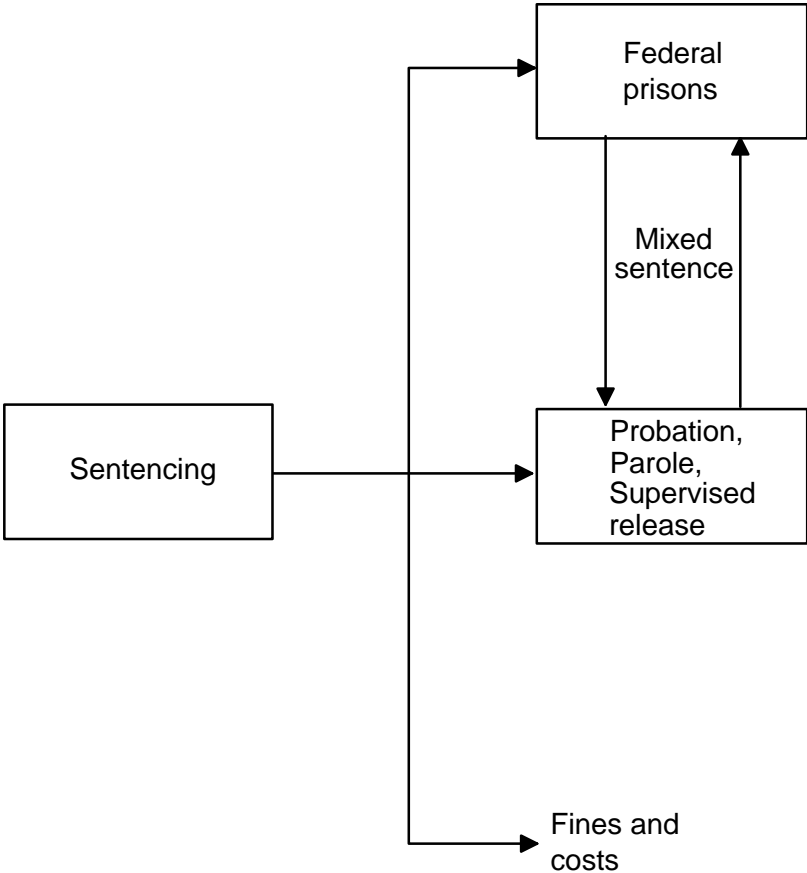
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Sentencing



Depending upon the type and severity of the offense, convicted offenders may be sentenced to incarceration, probation, a fine, or a combination of sanctions such as a split or mixed sentence (imprisonment as well as a period of probation supervision). (For a definition of mixed sentences, see *Glossary*, p. 113.) The Federal sentencing guidelines require a term of supervised release following service of any prison sentence of more than 1 year. In addition, courts have the discretion to impose supervised release in any other case.

Except where otherwise indicated, tables in this chapter are based on the most serious offense of conviction. They are not directly comparable with tables in earlier chapters that are based on the most serious offense investigated or most serious offense charged (see "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 109).

Offenders convicted and sentences imposed (table 5.1)

Of the 66,055 offenders sentenced during 1999, 47,659 (72%) were sentenced to prison; 12,977 (20%) were sentenced to probation; and 3,148 (5%) were ordered to pay only a fine. (Offenders given an intermediate sanction such as intermittent confinement or community confinement that also included probation supervision are counted among offenders given probation.) Of the 47,659 offenders sentenced to prison, 46,070 (97%) were convicted of felonies, and 83% of convicted felons were sentenced to prison. Felony drug and violent offenders were more likely to receive prison sentences (92% and 91% respectively) than were either property (59%) or public-order (84%) offenders (figure 5.1).

Among public-order offenders, persons convicted of weapons (93%), immigration offenses (90%), and escape (91%) were almost as likely to receive prison sentences as were violent and drug offenders.

Among property offenders, persons convicted of arson or the use of

Defendants convicted of drug and violent felonies had the highest rates of imprisonment, while those convicted of property and public-order offenses had the highest rates of probation

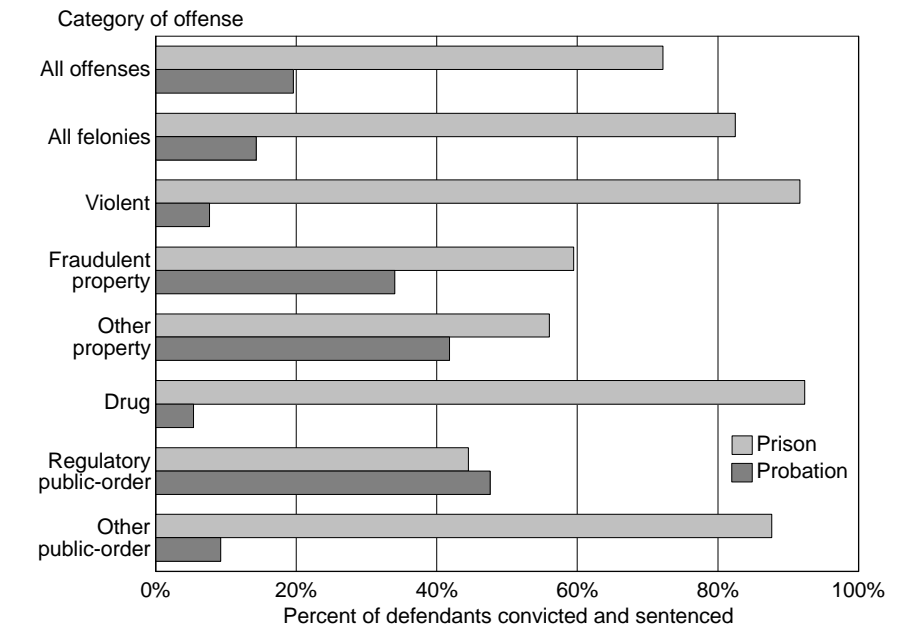


Figure 5.1. Rates of incarceration and probation for offenders convicted and sentenced in cases that terminated during October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

explosives (82%) were the most likely to receive prison sentences.

Overall, 20% of convicted offenders were sentenced to probation. The percentage of misdemeanants sentenced to probation (49%) was three times that of convicted felons (14%). Among felons, persons convicted of postal law violations were the most likely to be given probation (91%) followed by persons convicted of communication (65%) and agriculture (64%) violations.

While less than 1% of all convicted felons were ordered to only pay a fine, 31% of the felons convicted of anti-trust violations were so ordered. Fines generally were reserved for misdemeanor offenders, 28% of whom received fines.

Average prison sentences imposed (table 5.2)

For all offenders given prison terms, the average term of imprisonment imposed was 57.8 months. Persons

convicted of felonies received an average prison term of 59.4 months.

The average length of prison sentence imposed varied among major offense categories (figure 5.2). Property offenders received the shortest sentence, on average, while violent offenders received the longest (24.0 months compared to 87.7 months). Drug offenders received 75.4 months, on average, and public-order offenders received 48.7 months. The average prison term for public-order offenders was primarily attributable to sentences imposed for weapons offenders. The 3,191 weapons offenders sentenced to prison comprised 22% of the 14,683 public-order offenders sent to prison; weapons offenders received an average prison term of 98.7 months, and public-order offenders other than weapons offenders received an average prison term of 34.8 months.

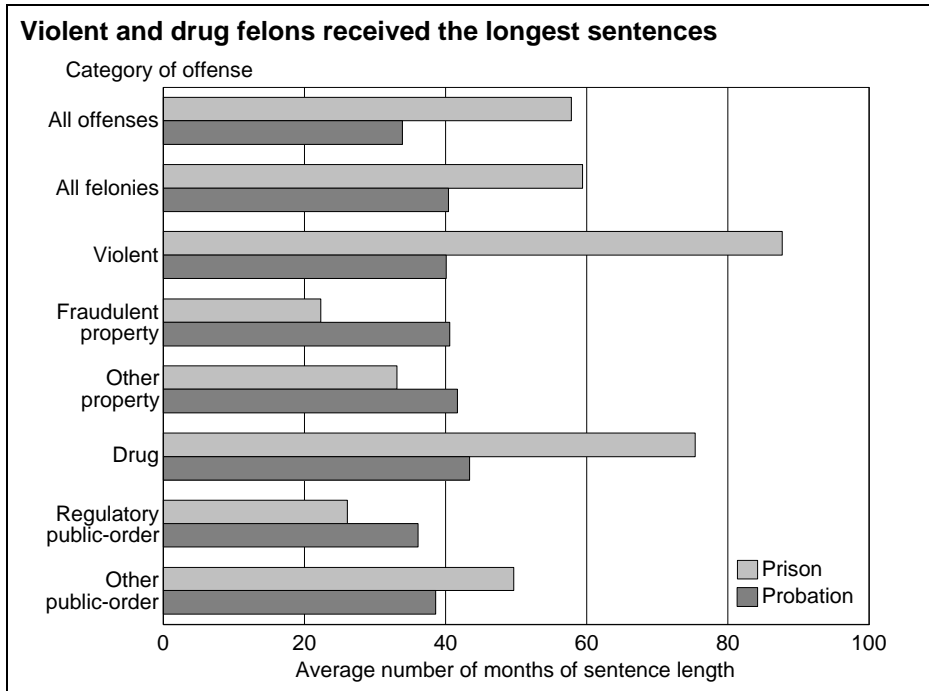


Figure 5.2. Incarceration and probation sentence lengths (in months) of offenders convicted and sentenced in cases that terminated during October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Relationship between sentence imposed and mode of conviction (table 5.3)

Offenders convicted by plea were less likely to receive prison sentences than those convicted at trial. Seventy-two percent of the offenders convicted by guilty plea received some prison time, while 85% of the offenders convicted at trial received prison sentences.

For violent offenders, 91% of those convicted by plea received prison sentences, as did 97% of those convicted at trial. For fraudulent property offenders, 58% of those convicted by plea received prison sentences, compared to 84% of those convicted at trial. And, for regulatory public-order offenders, 43% of those convicted by plea went to prison, but 79% of those convicted at trial did.

The average prison term imposed on defendants convicted at trial was longer than the term imposed on defendants convicted by plea. Defendants convicted at trial received 155.4 months, on average, while those convicted by plea received an average of

52.3 months (figure 5.3). Drug offenders convicted at trial received an average of 209.7 months as compared to the 67.9 months for drug offenders convicted by a guilty plea. Violent offenders who went to trial received an average sentence of 163.4 months as compared to the 80.6 months for those convicted by plea.

Characteristics of offenders sentenced to prison (tables 5.4-5.6)

The majority of persons convicted during 1999 were male (84%), white (67%), non-Hispanic (58%), and U.S. citizens (66%). (Percents were calculated from numbers in table 5.4.) The percentage sentenced to prison was not uniform across all categories of age, race, sex, education, and ethnicity. Similarly, the average sentences imposed were not uniform across these categories (table 5.5). However, conclusions about the effect that characteristics may have had on sentencing cannot be drawn from the aggregate patterns in the data. Such an assessment would require detailed information for each category showing the

presence or absence of factors that are legally intended to affect sentencing, such as offense severity, weapon use, role in the offense, victim injury, dollar loss, and so forth.

One such study of the factors affecting sentencing found that "nearly all of the aggregate differences among sentences for whites, blacks, and Hispanics during 1989-90 can be attributed to characteristics of offenses and offenders that current law and sentencing guidelines establish as legitimate considerations in sentencing decisions."*

Average sentences imposed were longest for males (60.5 months), blacks (86.8 months), non-Hispanics (67.2 months), and U.S. citizens (67.2 months). These longer terms are due in large part because these categories of offenders (males, blacks, non-Hispanics, and U.S. citizens) are more highly concentrated in the offense types (table 5.4) that also are associated with longer average sentences (table 5.2). For example, incarceration rates for blacks exceed those of whites in the violent, drug, as well as regulatory and nonregulatory public-order offense categories. These offenses are associated with longer average sentences (table 5.2, figure 5.2) than are property offenses or misdemeanors — the categories in which whites' incarceration rates exceed those of blacks. In general, within categories of offender characteristics, average prison terms were longer for violent and drug offenses than for property and regulatory public-order offenses. These two offense categories generally are considered to be more serious under the Federal sentencing guidelines than are property and regulatory public-order offenses. As a result, for aggregate tables like the ones presented in this chapter, persons with a certain

*Douglas C. McDonald and Kenneth E. Carlson, *Sentencing in the Federal Courts: Does Race Matter?* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, December 1993 (NCJ145328).

characteristic may appear to receive more severe sentences on average. The primary reason for the longer averages is the larger number of serious offenses that made up the average sentences.

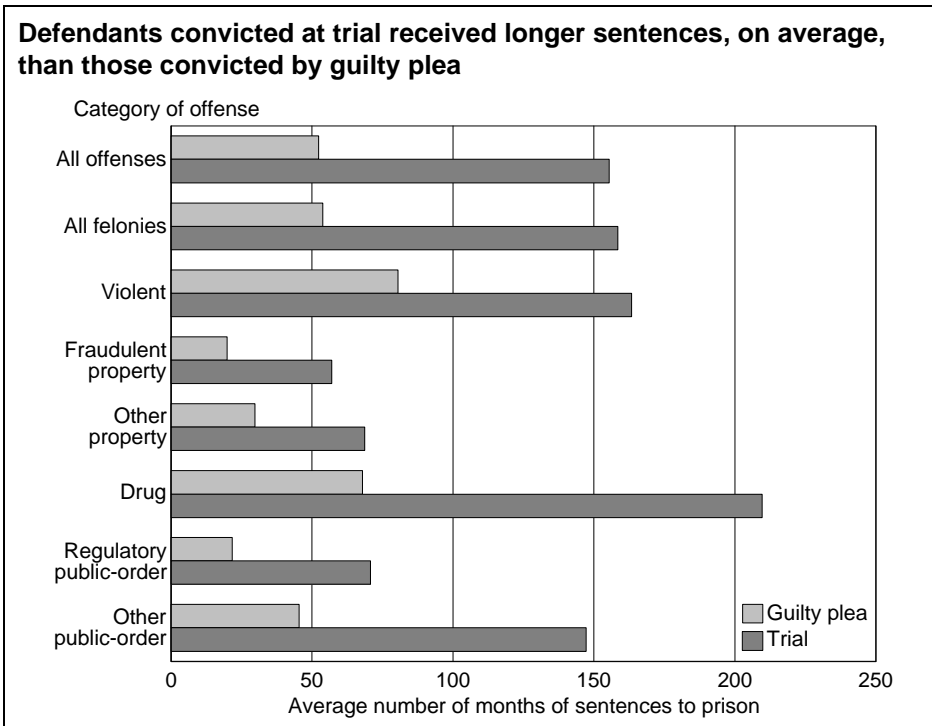


Figure 5.3. Average prison sentences imposed on defendants convicted at trial or by guilty plea, October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Table 5.1. Sentence types in cases terminated, by offense, October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Most serious offense of conviction	Total offenders sentenced ^a	Percent of offenders convicted and sentenced to—			
		Incarceration ^b	Probation ^c	Mixed sentence ^d	Fine (only)
All offenses^e	66,055	72.2%	19.6%	0.9%	4.8%
Felonies	55,864	82.5%	14.3%	0.8%	0.5%
Violent offenses	2,715	91.7%	7.7%	1.0%	0.1%
Murder ^f	296	88.9	8.8	0	0.3
Assault	304	74.7	22.4	1.0	0
Robbery	1,656	96.6	3.7	1.2	0.1
Sexual abuse ^f	299	85.3	14.7	0.7	0
Kidnaping	138	92.0	2.9	0.7	0.7
Threats against the President	22	81.8	18.2	0	0
Property offenses	12,232	58.9%	35.3%	1.2%	1.2%
Fraudulent	10,203	59.5%	34.0%	1.3%	1.3%
Embezzlement	903	51.9	32.1	0.9	2.1
Fraud ^f	7,920	60.5	33.4	1.4	1.4
Forgery	128	41.4	55.5	0	0
Counterfeiting	1,252	60.4	37.0	0.9	0.3
Other	2,029	56.0%	41.8%	0.8%	0.5%
Burglary	76	65.8	34.2	2.6	0
Larceny ^f	1,339	47.9	50.1	0.9	0.5
Motor vehicle theft	139	69.8	25.9	0.7	0
Arson and explosives	168	82.1	14.3	1.2	0.6
Transportation of stolen property	269	72.1	26.0	0	1.1
Other property offenses ^f	38	44.7	55.3	0	0
Drug offenses	23,476	92.4%	5.4%	0.6%	0.2%
Trafficking	21,698	92.7	5.1	0.6	0.1
Possession and other drug offenses	1,778	88.7	9.2	0.6	0.7
Public-order offenses	17,441	84.2%	12.4%	0.9%	0.5%
Regulatory	1,410	44.5%	47.6%	0.4%	3.2%
Agriculture	56	33.9	64.3	1.8	1.8
Antitrust	45	20.0	46.7	0	31.1
Food and drug	42	23.8	59.5	0	14.3
Transportation	73	42.5	53.4	1.4	4.1
Civil rights	75	77.3	24.0	1.3	0
Communications	26	26.9	65.4	0	7.7
Custom laws	102	46.1	45.1	0	4.9
Postal laws	33	9.1	90.9	0	0
Other regulatory offenses	958	46.2	45.8	0.3	1.5
Other	16,031	87.7%	9.3%	1.0%	0.3%
Weapons	3,423	93.2	8.0	2.5	0.1
Immigration offenses	9,357	90.1	4.7	0.3	0.2
Tax law violations ^f	653	52.7	48.2	2.5	0.5
Bribery	165	53.9	46.7	2.4	1.2
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	274	65.0	30.7	0.7	2.6
National defense	44	54.5	34.1	0	9.1
Escape	496	90.9	7.9	0.8	0
Racketeering and extortion	1,127	84.3	13.8	0.4	0.3
Gambling	24	45.8	54.2	0	0
Nonviolent sex offenses	399	88.0	15.0	3.3	0
Obscene material ^f	10	—	—	—	—
Traffic offenses	22	86.4	9.1	0	4.5
Migratory birds	2	—	—	—	—
All other felonies ^f	35	37.1	60.0	2.9	2.9
Misdemeanors^f	10,118	15.4%	49.2%	0.9%	28.4%
Fraudulent property offense	1,492	21.5	67.0	0.6	3.6
Larceny	1,224	13.2	73.1	0.9	13.6
Drug possession ^f	1,078	24.3	62.5	0.9	5.5
Immigration	1,011	37.2	12.2	0.6	5.1
Traffic offenses	3,543	5.2	32.5	1.0	62.3
Other misdemeanors	1,770	14.2	63.9	1.2	18.9
Unknown or indeterminable offense	73	45.2%	53.4%	1.4%	0

Note: For further information, see *Chapter notes*, item 1, p. 73.

—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

^aIncludes offenders receiving incarceration, probation, split or mixed sentences, and fines. Not represented in the percentage columns, but also included in the totals, are offenders receiving deportation, suspended sentences, sealed sentences, imprisonment of 4 days or less, and no sentences.

^bAll sentences to incarceration, including split, mixed, life, and indeterminate.

^cIncludes offenders with split and mixed sentences.

^dSentences to probation combined with incarceration.

^eTotal includes offenders whose sentence could not be determined and defendants for whom offense category could not be determined.

^fIn this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter; "Sexual abuse" includes only violent sex offenses; "Fraud" excludes tax fraud; "Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property; "Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespassing; "Tax law violations" includes tax fraud; "Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof; "All other felonies" includes felonies with unclassifiable offense type; "Misdemeanors" includes misdemeanors, petty offenses, and unknown offense levels; and "Drug possession" also includes other drug misdemeanors.

Table 5.2. Type and length of sentences imposed, by offense, October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Most serious offense of conviction	Offenders convicted and sentenced in cases that terminated during fiscal year 1999							
	Total	Number			Sentence length			
		Incarceration ^a	Probation ^b	Fine (only)	Incarceration ^c		Probation ^c	
				Mean	Median	Mean	Median	
All offenses	66,055	47,659	12,977	3,148	57.8 mo	33.0 mo	33.9 mo	36.0 mo
Felonies	55,864	46,070	7,965	275	59.4 mo	36.0 mo	40.4 mo	36.0 mo
Violent offenses	2,715	2,489	208	3	87.7 mo	60.0 mo	40.1 mo	36.0 mo
Murder ^d	296	263	26	1	87.1	51.0	37.3	36.0
Assault	304	227	68	0	39.8	30.0	34.6	36.0
Robbery	1,656	1,599	62	1	95.5	70.0	41.5	36.0
Sexual abuse ^d	299	255	44	0	73.3	42.0	45.8	60.0
Kidnaping	138	127	4	1	114.1	70.0	—	—
Threats against the President	22	18	4	0	33.3	31.5	—	—
Property offenses	12,232	7,204	4,317	141	24.0 mo	15.0 mo	40.8 mo	36.0 mo
Fraudulent	10,203	6,067	3,469	130	22.3 mo	14.0 mo	40.6 mo	36.0 mo
Embezzlement	903	469	290	19	14.2	8.0	38.7	36.0
Fraud ^d	7,920	4,789	2,645	107	23.5	15.0	41.3	36.0
Forgery	128	53	71	0	20.5	12.0	40.9	36.0
Counterfeiting	1,252	756	463	4	19.9	13.0	37.9	36.0
Other	2,029	1,137	848	11	33.1 mo	18.0 mo	41.7 mo	36.0 mo
Burglary	76	50	26	0	31.3	24.0	44.0	37.5
Larceny ^d	1,339	641	671	7	27.1	13.0	41.6	36.0
Motor vehicle theft	139	97	36	0	27.2	18.0	46.7	48.0
Arson and explosives	168	138	24	1	70.3	57.0	36.5	36.0
Transportation of stolen property	269	194	70	3	31.9	21.0	44.2	36.0
Other property offenses ^d	38	17	21	0	14.3	10.0	33.0	24.0
Drug offenses	23,476	21,694	1,271	45	75.4 mo	51.0 mo	43.4 mo	36.0 mo
Trafficking	21,698	20,117	1,108	32	74.8	48.0	44.5	36.0
Possession and other drug offenses	1,778	1,577	163	13	83.4	60.0	36.1	36.0
Public-order offenses	17,441	14,683	2,169	86	48.7 mo	30.0 mo	37.9 mo	36.0 mo
Regulatory	1,410	627	671	45	26.1 mo	15.0 mo	36.1 mo	36.0 mo
Agriculture	56	19	36	1	19.5	12.0	36.5	25.0
Antitrust	45	9	21	14	—	—	27.4	24.0
Food and drug	42	10	25	6	—	—	34.5	36.0
Transportation	73	31	39	3	20.9	12.0	38.5	36.0
Civil rights	75	58	18	0	59.2	31.0	38.2	36.0
Communications	26	7	17	2	—	—	39.5	36.0
Custom laws	102	47	46	5	18.7	10.0	31.5	36.0
Postal laws	33	3	30	0	—	—	36.6	36.0
Other regulatory offenses	958	443	439	14	23.4	15.0	36.6	36.0
Other	16,031	14,056	1,498	41	49.7 mo	30.0 mo	38.6 mo	36.0 mo
Weapons	3,423	3,191	275	2	98.7	60.0	38.0	36.0
Immigration offenses	9,357	8,427	438	17	30.7	27.0	39.2	36.0
Tax law violations ^d	653	344	315	3	21.0	12.0	37.1	36.0
Bribery	165	89	77	2	18.8	15.0	38.2	36.0
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	274	178	84	7	43.7	21.0	32.1	36.0
National defense	44	24	15	4	71.0	29.0	34.4	36.0
Escape	496	451	39	0	22.6	15.0	33.1	36.0
Racketeering and extortion	1,127	950	156	3	87.9	57.0	42.0	36.0
Gambling	24	11	13	0	39.9	34.0	36.9	36.0
Nonviolent sex offenses	399	351	60	0	41.6	30.0	45.3	36.0
Obscene material ^d	10	7	3	0	—	—	—	—
Traffic offenses	22	19	2	1	12.7	12.0	—	—
Migratory birds	2	1	0	1	—	—
All other felonies ^d	35	13	21	1	17.1	13.0	49.9	60.0
Misdemeanors^d	10,118	1,556	4,973	2,873	10.7 mo	4.0 mo	23.3 mo	18.0 mo
Fraudulent property offense	1,492	321	1,000	54	4.6	1.0	30.2	36.0
Larceny	1,224	161	895	167	10.0	6.0	22.3	12.0
Drug possession ^d	1,078	262	674	59	19.7	6.0	22.2	18.0
Immigration	1,011	376	123	52	9.3	4.0	26.8	24.0
Traffic offenses	3,543	184	1,150	2,207	10.6	3.0	14.3	12.0
Other misdemeanors	1,770	252	1,131	334	11.8	6.0	27.7	24.0
Unknown or indeterminable offense	73	33	39	0	61.4 mo	36.0 mo	37.5 mo	36.0 mo

Note: Total includes offenders with an indeterminable sentence and defendants with an indeterminable offense category. Total exceeds sum of individual sanctions, as split and mixed sentences are counted in both prison and probation. See *Chapter notes*, item 1, p. 73.
 —Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data. ... No cases of this type occurred in the data.
^aAll sentences to incarceration, including split, mixed, life, and indeterminate sentences.
^bIncludes offenders with split and mixed sentences.
^cExcludes sentences of life, death, and indeterminate sentences (1% of all incarcerations).
^dIn this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter; "Sexual abuse" includes only violent

sex offenses; "Fraud" excludes tax fraud; "Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property; "Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespassing; "Tax law violations" includes tax fraud; "Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof; "All other felonies" includes felonies with unclassifiable offense type; "Misdemeanors" includes misdemeanors, petty offenses, and unknown offense levels; and "Drug possession" also includes other drug misdemeanors.

Table 5.3. Sentences imposed on convicted offenders, by offense of conviction and method of disposition, October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Offense of conviction and method of disposition	Number of convicted offenders	Number of offenders in terminated cases convicted and sentenced to—			Offenders sentenced to some incarceration		
		Incarceration ^a	Probation ^b	Fine (only)	Percent of convicted offenders	Sentence length ^c	
						Mean	Median
All offenses	66,055	47,659	12,977	3,148	72.2%	57.8 mo	33.0 mo
Guilty plea ^d	62,819	44,900	12,670	2,957	71.5	52.3	30.0
Trial	3,236	2,759	307	191	85.3	155.4	113.0
Felonies	55,864	46,070	7,965	275	82.5%	59.4 mo	36.0 mo
Guilty plea	53,012	43,369	7,801	271	81.8	53.8	33.0
Trial	2,852	2,701	164	4	94.7	158.5	120.0
Violent offenses	2,715	2,489	208	3	91.7%	87.7 mo	60.0 mo
Guilty plea	2,473	2,254	198	3	91.1	80.6	60.0
Trial	242	235	10	0	97.1	163.4	121.0
Property offenses							
Fraudulent	10,203	6,067	3,469	130	59.5%	22.3 mo	14.0 mo
Guilty plea	9,736	5,677	3,395	129	58.3	19.9	13.0
Trial	467	390	74	1	83.5	57.0	36.0
Other	2,029	1,137	848	11	56.0%	33.1 mo	18.0 mo
Guilty plea	1,928	1,042	841	11	54.0	29.8	16.0
Trial	101	95	7	0	94.1	68.7	54.5
Drug offenses	23,476	21,694	1,271	45	92.4%	75.4 mo	51.0 mo
Guilty plea	22,160	20,396	1,246	44	92.0	67.9	48.0
Trial	1,316	1,298	25	1	98.6	209.7	168.0
Public-order offenses							
Regulatory	1,410	627	671	45	44.5%	26.1 mo	15.0 mo
Guilty plea	1,340	572	658	43	42.7	21.8	14.0
Trial	70	55	13	2	78.6	70.8	41.0
Other	16,031	14,056	1,498	41	87.7%	49.7 mo	30.0 mo
Guilty plea	15,375	13,428	1,463	41	87.3	45.4	30.0
Trial	656	628	35	0	95.7	147.3	87.0
Misdemeanors	10,118	1,556	4,973	2,873	15.4%	10.7 mo	4.0 mo
Guilty plea ^d	9,742	1,502	4,834	2,686	15.4	10.4	4.0
Trial	376	54	139	187	14.4	19.6	6.0
Unknown or indeterminable offense	73	33	39	0	45.2%	61.4 mo	36.0 mo

Note: Total includes offenders whose sentence could not be determined. Total includes defendants for whom offense category could not be determined. For further information, see *Chapter notes*, item 1, p. 73.

^aAll sentences to incarceration, including split, mixed, life, and indeterminate sentences.

^bIncludes offenders with split and mixed sentences.

^cExcludes sentences of life, death, and indeterminate sentences (1% of all incarceration).

^dIncludes nolo contendere.

Table 5.4. Convicted offenders sentenced to incarceration, by offense and offender characteristics, October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Offender characteristic	Total number of convicted offenders	Percent of convicted offenders sentenced to incarceration in cases terminated during 1999							
		All offenses ^a	Violent offenses	Felonies		Drug offenses	Public-order offenses		Misdemeanors
				Property offenses	Fraudulent		Regulatory	Other	
All offenders^a	66,055	72.2%	91.7%	59.5%	56.0%	92.4%	44.5%	87.7%	15.4%
Male/female									
Male	48,092	81.4%	93.8%	64.2%	64.1%	94.2%	51.9%	89.7%	22.7%
Female	8,844	56.6	80.2	48.7	34.6	82.9	37.3	64.6	12.7
Race									
White	37,566	78.2%	91.6%	60.9%	59.0%	91.7%	47.8%	88.3%	21.6%
Black	15,423	79.9	95.5	59.2	51.5	95.0	51.2	91.3	19.2
Native American	959	71.9	90.6	50.0	56.8	72.0	36.4	71.8	24.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,544	53.7	84.6	55.0	50.0	93.1	50.0	69.8	6.0
Other	223	72.6	100	73.5	71.4	82.8	50.0	79.2	17.4
Ethnicity									
Hispanic	21,892	86.6%	87.8%	63.3%	63.2%	94.4%	50.9%	91.8%	34.5%
Non-Hispanic	34,642	72.2	93.1	59.5	55.9	91.3	46.7	83.1	14.9
Age									
16-18 years	459	65.1%	92.1%	69.2%	22.2%	84.4%	54.5%	80.2%	10.1%
19-20 years	2,695	74.9	89.4	52.0	56.2	89.9	60.9	87.3	14.1
21-30 years	21,531	82.0	93.2	59.2	49.7	93.5	52.7	91.6	18.2
31-40 years	16,556	80.5	94.1	62.2	62.7	93.0	48.7	89.6	22.6
Over 40 years	13,548	71.6	92.3	59.4	57.3	91.1	42.6	80.3	18.8
Citizenship									
U.S. citizen	36,975	74.0%	92.9%	58.9%	55.2%	91.4%	46.3%	82.8%	16.1%
Not U.S. citizen	19,267	85.4	86.7	65.8	73.1	95.2	51.8	92.1	29.8
Education									
Less than high school graduate	23,442	86.7%	93.4%	63.8%	62.0%	94.5%	55.4%	91.8%	28.1%
High school graduate	15,746	75.8	92.8	58.3	56.2	92.4	48.7	85.3	14.7
Some college	9,632	68.8	92.7	58.8	49.4	88.5	40.5	79.2	13.4
College graduate	3,507	61.6	82.4	59.9	59.6	82.9	40.8	72.9	16.5
Criminal record									
No convictions	25,794	65.3%	83.0%	50.3%	41.7%	89.4%	41.2%	73.6%	14.2%
Prior adult convictions ^b	31,186	87.6	96.8	72.9	70.7	95.3	65.1	94.6	31.7

Note: Excludes corporations. Includes life sentences and indeterminate sentences. Offenders are classified by the most serious offense of conviction. The percentages in this table report the percent of convicted persons having a particular characteristic who were incarcerated. For example, 81.4% of all convicted males were incarcerated, and 93.8% of males convicted of a violent offense were incarcerated. Offender characteristics are not comparable to the 1993 and prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 73.

^aIncludes offenders for whom offense or characteristics are unknown.
^bPrior adult convictions are limited; see *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 73. Classifications of lengths of prior sentences of incarceration differ from the 1993 and prior compendia and are not directly comparable to those earlier years; see *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 73.

Table 5.5. Average incarceration sentence lengths imposed, by offense and offender characteristics, October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Offender characteristic	Mean sentence length for offenders convicted of—							
	All offenses ^a	Felonies						Misdemeanors
		Violent offenses	Property offenses		Drug offenses	Public-order offenses		
			Fraudulent	Other		Regulatory	Other	
All offenders^a	57.8 mo	87.7 mo	22.3 mo	33.1 mo	75.4 mo	26.1 mo	49.7 mo	10.7 mo
Male/female								
Male	60.5 mo	89.8 mo	23.3 mo	34.3 mo	78.4 mo	27.3 mo	50.2 mo	11.2 mo
Female	35.9	50.2	16.8	17.6	48.4	18.8	33.6	5.8
Race								
White	45.9 mo	82.8 mo	22.8 mo	33.1 mo	57.5 mo	24.7 mo	40.0 mo	9.8 mo
Black	86.8	101.4	20.1	28.6	106.9	31.0	90.1	14.4
Native American	55.8	66.3	21.3	26.7	57.2	23.5	51.8	11.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	53.5	87.8	21.3	36.8	79.7	11.8	61.2	7.1
Other	48.3	37.1	25.5	29.6	83.4	21.5	38.9	31.0
Ethnicity								
Hispanic	45.3 mo	99.0 mo	19.5 mo	38.8 mo	58.8 mo	18.4 mo	35.3 mo	6.5 mo
Non-Hispanic	67.2	85.1	22.2	30.8	86.9	29.9	72.8	13.9
Age								
16-18 years	34.3 mo	84.9 mo	19.8 mo	44.5 mo	28.7 mo	14.0 mo	29.2 mo	7.0 mo
19-20 years	49.1	95.2	15.6	24.1	51.5	23.6	44.0	11.0
21-30 years	59.9	79.7	17.2	28.2	73.5	27.5	51.5	11.0
31-40 years	60.7	94.0	22.5	31.7	79.4	21.3	51.4	11.5
Over 40 years	55.7	86.0	25.3	35.5	77.6	28.8	49.3	16.2
Citizenship								
U.S. citizen	67.2 mo	85.2 mo	22.3 mo	31.2 mo	83.2 mo	30.5 mo	71.8 mo	15.0 mo
Not U.S. citizen	42.3	103.5	19.9	36.7	56.7	15.7	35.2	5.4
Education								
Less than high school graduate	58.5 mo	90.0 mo	20.2 mo	31.4 mo	71.0 mo	23.4 mo	47.4 mo	12.2 mo
High school graduate	67.8	90.1	21.3	30.1	81.2	29.3	70.4	15.3
Some college	55.3	73.8	22.5	31.3	75.1	21.5	57.5	12.6
College graduate	38.7	60.7	24.7	38.6	67.7	30.5	36.4	16.1
Criminal record								
No convictions	41.3 mo	65.6 mo	19.8 mo	31.0 mo	51.1 mo	23.7 mo	35.8 mo	7.5 mo
Prior adult convictions ^b	67.9	95.0	23.7	31.9	93.3	28.8	54.0	12.6

Note: Excludes corporations, life sentences, and indeterminate sentences. Includes prison portion of split or mixed sentences. Offender characteristics are not comparable to the 1993 and prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 73.

^aIncludes offenders for whom offense or characteristics are unknown.
^bPrior adult convictions are limited; see *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 73. Classifications of lengths of prior sentences of incarceration differ from the 1993 and prior compendia and are not directly comparable to those earlier years; see *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 73.

Table 5.6. Median incarceration sentence lengths imposed, by offense and offender characteristics, October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

Offender characteristic	Median sentence length for offenders convicted of—							
	All offenses ^a	Felonies						Misdemeanors
		Violent offenses	Property offenses		Drug offenses	Public-order offenses		
			Fraudulent	Other		Regulatory	Other	
All offenders^a	33.0 mo	60.0 mo	14.0 mo	18.0 mo	51.0 mo	15.0 mo	30.0 mo	4.0 mo
Male/female								
Male	37.0 mo	60.0 mo	15.0 mo	18.0 mo	57.0 mo	16.0 mo	30.0 mo	5.0 mo
Female	21.0	37.0	12.0	12.0	33.0	12.0	16.0	3.0
Race								
White	30.0 mo	57.0 mo	15.0 mo	18.0 mo	37.0 mo	13.5 mo	30.0 mo	4.0 mo
Black	60.0	70.0	13.0	15.0	78.0	24.0	57.0	6.0
Native American	30.0	41.0	12.0	22.5	24.0	21.0	24.0	11.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	30.0	55.5	12.0	16.5	60.0	7.0	33.0	1.0
Other	27.0	41.0	11.0	14.0	63.0	21.5	24.0	15.0
Ethnicity								
Hispanic	30.0 mo	52.0 mo	12.0 mo	25.0 mo	37.0 mo	12.5 mo	30.0 mo	3.0 mo
Non-Hispanic	37.0	60.0	14.5	16.5	60.0	18.0	40.0	6.0
Age								
16-18 years	18.0 mo	37.0 mo	12.0 mo	44.5 mo	18.0 mo	13.5 mo	12.0 mo	6.0 mo
19-20 years	28.0	51.0	10.0	12.0	30.0	13.0	24.0	6.0
21-30 years	37.0	52.0	12.0	15.0	48.0	16.0	30.0	5.0
31-40 years	37.0	70.0	15.0	18.0	57.0	14.0	30.0	6.0
Over 40 years	30.0	60.5	15.0	24.0	54.0	15.0	30.0	6.0
Citizenship								
U.S. citizen	37.0 mo	60.0 mo	14.0 mo	16.0 mo	60.0 mo	20.0 mo	37.0 mo	6.0 mo
Not U.S. citizen	30.0	54.5	12.0	26.5	37.0	12.0	30.0	2.0
Education								
Less than high school graduate	37.0 mo	60.0 mo	13.0 mo	18.0 mo	46.0 mo	17.0 mo	30.0 mo	6.0 mo
High school graduate	41.0	63.0	13.0	15.0	59.0	18.0	41.0	6.0
Some college	30.0	52.0	13.0	18.0	48.0	12.0	30.0	6.0
College graduate	21.0	46.0	15.0	24.0	46.0	12.0	21.0	6.0
Criminal record								
No convictions	24.0 mo	41.0 mo	12.0 mo	15.0 mo	37.0 mo	12.0 mo	18.0 mo	2.0 mo
Prior adult convictions ^b	41.0	66.0	16.0	18.0	63.0	24.0	34.0	6.0

Note: Excludes corporations, life sentences, and indeterminate sentences. Includes prison portion of split or mixed sentences. Offender characteristics are not comparable to the 1993 and prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 73.

^aIncludes offenders for whom offense or characteristics are unknown.
^bPrior adult convictions are limited; see *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 73. Classifications of lengths of prior sentences of incarceration differ from the 1993 and prior compendia and are not directly comparable to those earlier years; see *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 73.

Chapter notes

- 1) Tables 5.1-5.3 were derived from the AOUSC criminal master data files. Only records of defendants sentenced during October 1, 1998, through September 30, 1999, were selected. Offenses shown in these tables — offenses of conviction — are based on the longest actual sentence imposed.
- 2) Tables 5.4-5.6 were created from AOUSC criminal master data files, supplemented with linked data on offender characteristics from two sources: the United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) monitoring system files (which are limited to records of defendants sentenced under the Federal sentencing guidelines); and the Pretrial Services Information Act System database, maintained by the Pretrial Services Agency (PSA). These two supplemental data files contain information on the characteristics of defendants. Table 5.4 indicates the number of records for which relevant data were available. Percentage distributions were based on records with known values of defendant characteristics and offenses. Means and medians in tables 5.5 and 5.6 were based on the number of records shown in table 5.4.
- 3) Criminal record, as reported in tables 5.4-5.6, is limited to prior adult convictions. For some defendants in these tables, it is further limited to the portion of their criminal record that is relevant for calculating sentences under the Federal sentencing guidelines. In general, this is limited to sentences imposed within 15 years of the current offense and sentences for offenses committed within the United States. For most defendants, the criminal history used to calculate sentencing guideline ranges is the same as their adult criminal history.