



U.S. Department of Justice  
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**Bureau of Justice Statistics**

# **State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000**



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# State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 Statistical Tables

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/scsc00st.htm>

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## **Methodology**

## Methodology

### Sampling

The 2000 "National Judicial Reporting Program" (NJRP) sample consisted of 429,471 persons convicted of a felony in State courts in 344 counties selected to be nationally representative. Of these convicted felons, 272,889 cases were in the 75 largest counties. Additional details on the sampling are in the BJS publication *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996* (NCJ 173939).

### Sampling error

NJRP data were obtained from a sample and not from a complete enumeration; consequently, they are subject to sampling error. A standard error, which is a measure of sampling error, is associated with each number in these statistical tables. In general, if the difference between two numbers is at least twice the standard error of that difference (the criterion used in these tables), there is at least 95% confidence that the two numbers do in fact differ; that is, the apparent difference is not simply the result of surveying a sample rather than the entire population.

National estimates of the number of convictions for individual crime categories and for the aggregate total had a coefficient of variation of 3.6%. Standard errors for some of these tables are available on the Internet: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/fssc00.htm>. Standard errors did not take into account missing data, which are sometimes substantial for certain tables.

### Sources of data

State courts were the source of NJRP data for about 61% of the 344 counties sampled. For other counties, sources included statistical agencies, sentencing commissions, department of public safety, probation departments, state police departments, and department of corrections. Individual-level NJRP records were obtained through a variety of collection methods, including electronically (83% of the counties) and manually (17%).

Electronic methods of data submission included diskettes, magnetic tape, and Internet transmission. Manual methods included photocopies of official documents, survey questionnaires completed by court officials, and on-site collections by Census Bureau staff. All data were collected by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Targeted population

The survey targeted and recorded initial sentences imposed in 2000. If a sentence was imposed on one date and then modified at a later date, the revision was ignored. The survey recorded sentences that were actually executed. If a prison sentence was initially imposed but immediately suspended in its entirety, the case was coded as probation because that was the actual sentence.

Because the year of conviction was not a defining characteristic, some cases in the sample were of persons convicted before 2000 but not sentenced until 2000.

In 2 counties sampled from Florida, 10 counties from Minnesota, 21 from Pennsylvania, and 1 from Virginia it was impractical to target sentences in 2000. Cases sampled from these counties were all sentenced in 1999.

The 2000 conviction data that were submitted by four Illinois counties — McHenry, Rock Island, St. Clair, and Sangamon — were very different from prior years' NJRP data files as well as other court data sources. Consequently, the conviction data submitted by these counties for the 1998 survey were used in place of the 2000 data.

In 2000 Missouri was unable to provide data for seven counties in the sample (Andrew, Boone, Franklin, Jasper, Madison, Oregon, and St. Charles). These counties were replaced with seven others in the same respective strata (Lawrence and Bath Counties, Kentucky; Lafourche Parish, Louisiana; Cole County, Missouri; Lancaster County, Virginia; and Mercer and Northumberland Counties, Pennsylvania).

The second stage weights for two sampled counties from Florida — St. Lucie and Hillsborough — were adjusted to account for less than a full year of reporting.

### Crime definitions

Crime definitions are in the BJS publication *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996* (NCJ 173939).

### Related reading

Data used in these statistical tables were also used in the BJS publication *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 2000* (NCJ 198821).

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director.

These statistical tables were prepared by Matthew R. Durose and Patrick A. Langan of BJS. Erica Schmitt and Maureen Henneberg assisted with verification. Priscilla Middleton edited these tables.

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Data presented in these statistical tables may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. These statistical tables and data are also available on the BJS website at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>.

**State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables**

**Table 1.1. Estimated number of felony convictions in State courts, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Felony convictions in State courts	
	Number	Percent
<b>All offenses</b>	924,700	100 %
<b>Violent offenses</b>	173,200	18.7 %
Murder	8,600	0.9
Murder	6,400	0.7
Manslaughter /a	2,100	0.2
Sexual assault /b	31,500	3.4
Rape	10,600	1.1
Other sexual assault	20,900	2.3
Robbery	36,800	4.0
Armed	10,400	1.1
Unarmed	11,000	1.2
Unspecified	15,300	1.7
Aggravated assault	79,400	8.6
Other violent /c	17,000	1.8
<b>Property offenses</b>	262,000	28.3 %
Burglary	79,300	8.6
Residential	10,900	1.2
Nonresidential	16,300	1.8
Unspecified	52,100	5.6
Larceny /d	100,000	10.8
Motor vehicle theft	11,900	1.3
Other theft	88,100	9.5
Fraud /e	82,700	8.9
Fraud	40,500	4.4
Forgery	42,200	4.6
<b>Drug offenses</b>	319,700	34.6 %
Possession	116,300	12.6
Trafficking	203,400	22.0
Marijuana	25,300	2.7
Other	54,400	5.9
Unspecified	123,700	13.4
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	28,200	3.1 %
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	141,600	15.3 %

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

This table is based on an estimated 924,700 cases.

a/ Defined as nonnegligent manslaughter only.

A small number of cases were classified as nonnegligent manslaughter when it was unclear if the conviction offense was murder or nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/ Includes rape.

c/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

d/ In a small number of cases, the type of larceny - vehicle theft versus other theft - was unknown. They were classified as "other theft."

e/ Includes embezzlement.

f/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables

Table 1.2. Distribution of types of felony sentences imposed by State courts, by offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons sentenced to --				
	Total	Incarceration			Probation
		Total	Prison	Jail	
<b>All offenses</b>	100 %	68 %	40 %	28 %	32 %
<b>Violent offenses</b>	100 %	78 %	54 %	24 %	22 %
Murder /a	100	95	93	2	5
Sexual assault /b	100	84	64	20	16
Rape	100	90	70	20	10
Other sexual assault	100	80	60	20	20
Robbery	100	89	74	15	11
Aggravated assault	100	71	40	31	29
Other violent /c	100	71	42	29	29
<b>Property offenses</b>	100 %	64 %	37 %	27 %	36 %
Burglary	100	76	52	24	24
Larceny /d	100	63	33	30	37
Motor vehicle theft	100	73	41	32	27
Fraud /e	100	54	29	25	46
<b>Drug offenses</b>	100 %	67 %	38 %	29 %	33 %
Possession	100	64	33	31	36
Trafficking	100	69	41	28	31
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	100 %	70 %	41 %	29 %	30 %
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	100 %	66 %	32 %	34 %	34 %

**Table 1.2. Distribution of types of felony sentences imposed by State courts, by offense, 2000 (cont.)**

Most serious conviction offense	Estimated number of felons sentenced to --				
	Total	Incarceration			Probation
	Total	Prison	Jail		
<b>All offenses</b>	924,700	630,900	370,400	260,500	293,800
<b>Violent offenses</b>	173,200	135,900	94,400	41,500	37,300
Murder /a	8,600	8,200	8,000	200	400
Sexual assault /b	31,500	26,300	20,100	6,300	5,200
Rape	10,600	9,500	7,400	2,100	1,100
Other sexual assault	20,900	16,800	12,600	4,200	4,100
Robbery	36,800	32,600	27,100	5,500	4,200
Aggravated assault	79,400	56,700	32,100	24,600	22,700
Other violent /c	17,000	12,100	7,100	5,000	4,900
<b>Property offenses</b>	262,000	167,700	97,300	70,400	94,300
Burglary	79,300	60,600	41,000	19,600	18,700
Larceny /d	100,000	62,700	32,500	30,200	37,300
Motor vehicle theft	11,900	8,700	4,900	3,900	3,200
Fraud /e	82,700	44,500	23,900	20,600	38,300
<b>Drug offenses</b>	319,700	214,400	122,200	92,200	105,300
Possession	116,300	74,500	38,600	35,900	41,900
Trafficking	203,400	140,000	83,600	56,400	63,400
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	28,200	19,600	11,400	8,200	8,600
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	141,600	93,300	45,100	48,200	48,300

Note: For persons receiving a combination of sentences, the sentence designation came from the most severe penalty imposed -- prison being the most severe, followed by jail, then probation. Prison includes death sentences. In this table "probation" is defined as straight probation. Felons receiving a sentence other than incarceration or probation are classified under "probation." Percentages in this table are based on an estimated 919,387 cases. However, estimated numbers are adjusted for cases missing a designation of sentence type. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

a/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/ Includes rape.

c/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

e/ Includes forgery and embezzlement.

f/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.



**State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables**

**Table 1.3. Average felony sentence lengths in State courts, by offense and type of sentence, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Mean maximum sentence length (in months) for felons sentenced to --			
	Incarceration			
	Total	Prison	Jail	Probation
<b>All offenses</b>	36 mo	55 mo	6 mo	38 mo
<b>Violent offenses</b>	66 mo	91 mo	7 mo	44 mo
Murder /a	242	248	18	64
Sexual assault /b	87	108	8	64
Rape	110	136	8	79
Other sexual assault	73	92	8	61
Robbery	82	94	11	52
Aggravated assault	37	59	6	40
Other violent /c	33	50	7	36
<b>Property offenses</b>	27 mo	42 mo	6 mo	38 mo
Burglary	39	52	7	41
Larceny /d	21	34	6	37
Motor vehicle theft	18	27	5	37
Fraud /e	21	34	6	37
<b>Drug offenses</b>	30 mo	47 mo	6 mo	36 mo
Possession	20	34	5	33
Trafficking	35	52	7	39
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	25 mo	38 mo	7 mo	36 mo
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	22 mo	38 mo	6 mo	40 mo

**Table 1.3. Average felony sentence lengths in State courts, by offense and type of sentence, 2000 (cont.)**

Most serious conviction offense	Median maximum sentence length (in months) for felons sentenced to --			
	Incarceration			Probation
	Total	Prison	Jail	
<b>All offenses</b>	16 mo	36 mo	5 mo	36 mo
<b>Violent offenses</b>	36 mo	60 mo	6 mo	36 mo
Murder /a	264	291	12	60
Sexual assault /b	48	70	6	60
Rape	72	96	6	60
Other sexual assault	36	60	6	60
Robbery	60	61	10	48
Aggravated assault	16	36	5	36
Other violent /c	16	34	5	36
<b>Property offenses</b>	12 mo	27 mo	5 mo	36 mo
Burglary	24	36	6	36
Larceny /d	12	24	5	36
Motor vehicle theft	12	24	4	36
Fraud /e	12	24	4	36
<b>Drug offenses</b>	12 mo	36 mo	5 mo	36 mo
Possession	10	24	3	24
Trafficking	18	36	6	36
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	16 mo	24 mo	6 mo	36 mo
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	12 mo	24 mo	4 mo	36 mo

Note: See note on table 1.2.

Means exclude sentences to death or to life in prison.

This table is based on an estimated 852,616 cases.

a/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/ Includes rape.

c/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

e/ Includes forgery and embezzlement.

f/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

**State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables**

**Table 1.4. Estimated percent of felons sentenced to life in State prison, by offense, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Life sentences as a percent of --	
	All sentences*	All prison sentences
<b>All offenses</b>	0.4 %	1.0 %
Murder	23.3	25.5
Sexual assault	1.6	2.4
Rape	2.5	3.4
Other sexual assault	1.1	1.7
Robbery	0.9	1.1
Aggravated assault	0.3	0.7
Other violent	0.3	0.7
Burglary	0.1	0.3
Larceny	--	0.1
Motor vehicle theft	0.1	0.2
Fraud	--	0.1
Drug possession	0.2	0.7
Drug trafficking	0.1	0.2
Weapons	0.2	0.4
Other	0.1	0.2

Note: See table 1.2 for estimated number of felony sentences.

\*Includes sentences to probation and jail as well as prison.

-- Less than 0.05%

**State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables**

**Table 1.5. Estimated time to be served in State prison, by offense, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Mean prison sentence	To be served in prison, estimated --	
		Percent of sentence /a	Time /b
<b>All offenses</b>	55 mo	55 %	30 mo
<b>Violent offenses</b>	91 mo	62 %	56 mo
Murder /c	248	64	158
Sexual assault /d	108	64	69
Rape	136	65	88
Other sexual assault	92	64	58
Robbery	94	58	55
Aggravated assault	59	64	38
Other violent /e	50	61	31
<b>Property offenses</b>	42 mo	56 %	23 mo
Burglary	52	55	29
Larceny /f	34	59	20
Motor vehicle theft	27	63	17
Fraud /g	34	51	17
<b>Drug offenses</b>	47 mo	49 %	23 mo
Possession	34	49	17
Trafficking	52	49	26
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	38 mo	67 %	25 mo
<b>Other offenses /h</b>	38 mo	53 %	20 mo

a/ Percentages are based on data from 219,044 persons released from State prisons in 2000 (National Corrections Reporting Program, 2000 tables 2-8 and 2-12). These percentages included credited jail time.

b/ Derived by multiplying the percentage of sentence to be served by the mean sentence imposed.

c/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

d/ Includes rape.

e/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

f/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

g/ Includes forgery and embezzlement.

h/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

## State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables

**Table 1.6. Distribution of the number of felony conviction offenses for persons sentenced in State courts, by most serious offense, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Total	Percent of convicted felons with --		
		One felony conviction	Two felony convictions	Three or more felony convictions
<b>All offenses</b>	100 %	74 %	16 %	10 %
<b>Violent offenses</b>	100 %	68 %	18 %	14 %
Murder /a	100	59	22	19
Sexual assault /b	100	67	19	14
Robbery	100	67	17	16
Aggravated assault	100	68	18	14
Other violent /c	100	77	14	9
<b>Property offenses</b>	100 %	70 %	17 %	13 %
Burglary	100	62	21	17
Larceny /d	100	82	12	6
Fraud /e	100	65	18	17
<b>Drug offenses</b>	100 %	75 %	16 %	9 %
Possession	100	83	12	5
Trafficking	100	72	17	11
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	100 %	76 %	16 %	8 %
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	100 %	86 %	11 %	3 %

Note: This table is based on an estimated 924,743 cases.

The number of convictions pertains to current, not past, convictions.

a/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/ Includes rape.

c/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

e/ Includes forgery and embezzlement.

f/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

## State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables

**Table 1.7. Convicted felons sentenced to prison by State courts, by number of conviction offenses, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons sentenced to prison following --		
	One felony conviction	Two felony convictions	Three or more felony convictions
<b>All offenses</b>	38 %	44 %	50 %
<b>Violent offenses</b>	50 %	61 %	66 %
Murder /a	92	95	96
Sexual assault /b	58	73	77
Robbery	70	81	82
Aggravated assault	37	45	52
Other violent /c	40	50	47
<b>Property offenses</b>	35 %	40 %	46 %
Burglary	50	52	59
Larceny /d	31	37	41
Fraud /e	27	29	35
<b>Drug offenses</b>	38 %	38 %	41 %
Possession	34	31	32
Trafficking	41	41	44
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	39 %	48 %	42 %
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	31 %	35 %	43 %

Note: See note on table 1.2. This table is based on an estimated 919,387 cases.

The number of convictions pertains to current, not past, convictions.

a/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/ Includes rape.

c/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

e/ Includes forgery and embezzlement.

f/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables

**Table 1.8. Mean sentence lengths for State felony sentences imposed, by the number and category of the conviction offense, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Mean maximum sentence length (in months) for felons sentenced to --			
	Incarceration			
	Total	Prison	Jail	Probation
<b>One conviction offense</b>				
<b>All offenses</b>	31 mo	49 mo	6 mo	38 mo
<b>Violent offenses</b>	56 mo	79 mo	7 mo	43 mo
Murder /a	219	226	21	60
Sexual assault /b	67	86	9	59
Robbery	71	83	11	53
Aggravated assault	33	55	6	38
Other violent /c	30	46	7	36
<b>Property offenses</b>	25 mo	38 mo	6 mo	37 mo
Burglary	37	50	8	41
Larceny /d	19	31	6	36
Fraud /e	19	30	6	36
<b>Drug offenses</b>	28 mo	44 mo	6 mo	36 mo
Possession	20	33	4	32
Trafficking	34	50	7	39
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	24 mo	35 mo	7 mo	35 mo
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	21 mo	37 mo	6 mo	40 mo
<b>Two or more conviction offenses</b>				
<b>All offenses</b>	46 mo	69 mo	6 mo	40 mo
<b>Violent offenses</b>	86 mo	111 mo	7 mo	49 mo
Murder /a	277	282	10	74
Sexual assault /b	123	144	8	82
Robbery	103	114	11	49
Aggravated assault	44	66	6	44
Other violent /c	42	62	7	36
<b>Property offenses</b>	33 mo	49 mo	6 mo	40 mo
Burglary	42	56	6	41
Larceny /d	28	44	6	39
Fraud /e	24	39	5	39
<b>Drug offenses</b>	33 mo	53 mo	6 mo	37 mo
Possession	22	38	5	36
Trafficking	37	57	6	38
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	30 mo	46 mo	6 mo	38 mo
<b>Other offenses /f</b>	27 mo	42 mo	6 mo	43 mo

Note: See note on tables 1.2 and 1.3.

This table is based on an estimated 852,616 cases.

The number of convictions pertains to current, not past, convictions.

a/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/ Includes rape.

c/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

e/ Includes forgery and embezzlement.

f/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

## State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 -- Statistical Tables

**Table 1.9. Felons sentenced to an additional penalty by State courts, by offense, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons with an additional penalty of --				
	Fine	Restitution	Treatment /a	Community service	Other
<b>All offenses</b>	25 %	14 %	7 %	5 %	7 %
<b>Violent offenses</b>	20 %	13 %	7 %	4 %	7 %
Murder /b	9	11	3	1	3
Sexual assault /c	19	11	9	3	8
Rape	14	10	8	2	8
Other sexual assault	22	11	9	4	8
Robbery	13	13	3	3	4
Aggravated assault	22	13	8	6	10
Other violent /d	36	15	6	5	4
<b>Property offenses</b>	24 %	26 %	7 %	6 %	7 %
Burglary	21	24	6	5	6
Larceny /e	24	25	6	7	9
Motor vehicle theft	19	27	5	5	19
Fraud /f	27	31	8	6	7
<b>Drug offenses</b>	27 %	6 %	7 %	6 %	7 %
Possession	20	4	12	7	12
Trafficking	31	6	5	5	4
<b>Weapon offenses</b>	19 %	6 %	4 %	5 %	8 %
<b>Other offenses /g</b>	27 %	10 %	7 %	6 %	9 %

Note: Where the data indicated affirmatively that a particular additional penalty was imposed, the case was coded accordingly. Where the data did not indicate affirmatively or negatively, the case was treated as not having an additional penalty.

These procedures provide a conservative estimate of the prevalence of additional penalties. A felon receiving more than one kind of additional penalty appears under more than one table heading. This table is based on an estimated 924,743 cases.

a/ Includes any type of counseling, rehabilitation, treatment, or mental hospital confinement.

b/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

c/ Includes rape.

d/ Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

e/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

f/ Includes forgery and embezzlement.

g/ Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.