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State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000



State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2000 Statistical Tables

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

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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 4.1. Estimated number of felony convictions in State courts, by offense and type of conviction, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Estimated number of felons convicted by --				Guilty plea
	Total	Trial			
	Total	Jury	Bench		
All offenses	924,700	45,700	29,300	16,400	879,200
Violent offenses	173,200	19,700	15,300	4,400	153,500
Murder /a	8,600	3,600	3,200	400	5,000
Sexual assault /b	31,500	3,700	3,100	600	27,800
Rape	10,600	2,100	1,700	400	8,600
Other sexual assault	20,900	1,700	1,400	300	19,300
Robbery	36,800	4,100	3,100	1,100	32,700
Aggravated assault	79,400	6,800	4,700	2,100	72,600
Other violent /c	17,000	1,500	1,200	300	15,500
Property offenses	262,000	7,000	3,700	3,300	255,000
Burglary	79,300	2,800	1,800	1,000	76,500
Larceny /d	100,000	2,600	1,300	1,300	97,400
Motor vehicle theft	11,900	300	200	100	11,700
Fraud /e	82,700	1,700	700	1,100	81,100
Drug offenses	319,700	12,000	6,300	5,800	307,400
Possession	116,300	3,300	1,400	1,900	112,700
Trafficking	203,400	8,700	4,800	3,900	194,700
Weapon offenses	28,200	2,100	1,000	1,100	26,100
Other offenses /f	141,600	4,800	3,000	1,800	137,200

Note: Detail may not add to the total because of rounding.

This table is based on an estimated 558,871 cases. However, figures are adjusted for cases missing a designation of conviction type.

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 4.2. Distribution of types of felony convictions
in State courts, by offense, 2000**

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons convicted by --				
	Total	Trial		Bench	Guilty plea
		Total	Jury		
All offenses	100 %	5 %	3 %	2 %	95 %
Violent offenses	100 %	11 %	9 %	2 %	89 %
Murder /a	100	42	38	4	58
Sexual assault /b	100	12	10	2	88
Rape	100	19	16	3	81
Other sexual assault	100	8	7	1	92
Robbery	100	11	8	3	89
Aggravated assault	100	9	6	3	91
Other violent /c	100	9	7	2	91
Property offenses	100 %	3 %	2 %	1 %	97 %
Burglary	100	3	2	1	97
Larceny /d	100	3	2	1	97
Motor vehicle theft	100	2	1	1	98
Fraud /e	100	2	1	1	98
Drug offenses	100 %	4 %	2 %	2 %	96 %
Possession	100	3	1	2	97
Trafficking	100	4	2	2	96
Weapon offenses	100 %	7 %	3 %	4 %	93 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	3 %	2 %	1 %	97 %

Note: See note on table 4.1.

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 4.3. Offense distribution of felons convicted in State courts, by type of conviction, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent convicted by --				
	Total	Total	Jury	Bench	Guilty plea
All offenses	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Violent offenses	19 %	43 %	52 %	27 %	17 %
Murder /a	1	8	11	2	1
Sexual assault /b	3	8	10	4	3
Robbery	4	9	11	6	4
Aggravated assault	9	15	16	13	8
Other violent /c	2	3	4	2	2
Property offenses	28 %	15 %	13 %	20 %	29 %
Burglary	9	6	6	6	9
Larceny /d	11	6	4	8	11
Fraud /e	9	4	2	6	9
Drug offenses	35 %	26 %	21 %	35 %	35 %
Possession	13	7	5	11	13
Trafficking	22	19	16	24	22
Weapons offenses	3 %	5 %	3 %	7 %	3 %
Other offenses /f	15 %	11 %	10 %	11 %	16 %

Note: See note on tables 4.1.

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 4.4. Distribution of types of felony sentences imposed by State courts, by type of conviction and offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons sentenced to --						
	Total	Incarceration			Nonincarceration		
		Total	Prison	Jail	Total	Probation	Other
Trial							
All offenses	100 %	87 %	70 %	16 %	13 %	11 %	2 %
Violent offenses	100 %	93 %	82 %	11 %	7 %	5 %	1 %
Murder /a	100	100	98	2	--	--	--
Sexual assault /b	100	98	90	7	3	2	1
Robbery	100	95	89	7	5	4	1
Aggravated assault	100	87	68	19	13	10	2
Other violent /c	100	86	61	24	14	13	1
Property offenses	100 %	78 %	57 %	21 %	22 %	19 %	3 %
Burglary	100	90	77	12	11	10	--
Larceny /d	100	73	46	27	27	21	5
Fraud /e	100	68	41	27	32	28	4
Drug offenses	100 %	87 %	68 %	19 %	13 %	12 %	2 %
Possession	100	77	42	35	23	21	2
Trafficking	100	90	76	14	10	9	1
Weapon offenses	100 %	84 %	62 %	22 %	16 %	14 %	2 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	75 %	52 %	23 %	25 %	21 %	5 %
Jury							
All offenses	100 %	91 %	79 %	12 %	9 %	7 %	2 %
Violent offenses	100 %	95 %	87 %	8 %	5 %	4 %	1 %
Murder /a	100	100	98	2	--	--	--
Sexual assault /b	100	98	94	4	2	2	--
Robbery	100	96	92	4	4	3	1
Aggravated assault	100	90	77	13	10	7	3
Other violent /c	100	88	63	25	12	11	1
Property offenses	100 %	86 %	70 %	17 %	14 %	10 %	4 %
Burglary	100	95	89	6	5	4	1
Larceny /d	100	77	51	27	23	17	6
Fraud /e	100	81	57	24	19	13	6
Drug offenses	100 %	89 %	73 %	16 %	11 %	9 %	2 %
Possession	100	88	57	31	12	9	3
Trafficking	100	90	77	12	10	9	1
Weapon offenses	100 %	91 %	78 %	13 %	9 %	6 %	3 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	76 %	57 %	19 %	24 %	17 %	7 %

Table 4.4. Distribution of types of felony sentences imposed by State courts, by type of conviction and offense, 2000 (cont.)

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons sentenced to --						
	Total	Incarceration			Nonincarceration		
		Total	Prison	Jail	Total	Probation	Other
Bench							
All offenses	100 %	80 %	56 %	24 %	20 %	18 %	2 %
Violent offenses	100 %	88 %	66 %	22 %	12 %	11 %	1 %
Murder /a	100	100	100	--	--	--	--
Sexual assault /b	100	94	77	17	6	5	1
Robbery	100	95	81	14	5	5	--
Aggravated assault	100	81	49	33	19	17	1
Other violent /c	100	77	54	23	22	22	--
Property offenses	100 %	69 %	43 %	26 %	31 %	28 %	3 %
Burglary	100	82	61	20	18	18	1
Larceny /d	100	68	38	29	32	27	6
Fraud /e	100	59	29	29	42	39	3
Drug offenses	100 %	84 %	62 %	22 %	16 %	14 %	2 %
Possession	100	69	30	39	31	29	2
Trafficking	100	91	75	15	9	8	2
Weapon offenses	100 %	78 %	48 %	30 %	22 %	21 %	1 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	69 %	38 %	30 %	32 %	29 %	2 %
Guilty plea							
All offenses	100 %	66 %	39 %	27 %	34 %	29 %	5 %
Violent offenses	100 %	75 %	52 %	23 %	25 %	21 %	4 %
Murder /a	100	93	91	2	7	5	3
Sexual assault /b	100	80	61	19	20	17	3
Robbery	100	86	70	17	14	11	3
Aggravated assault	100	67	39	28	33	27	5
Other violent /c	100	68	41	27	32	28	5
Property offenses	100 %	62 %	36 %	26 %	38 %	33 %	5 %
Burglary	100	75	52	23	25	22	3
Larceny /d	100	59	28	31	41	34	7
Fraud /e	100	54	30	24	46	41	5
Drug offenses	100 %	65 %	39 %	26 %	35 %	31 %	4 %
Possession	100	60	35	25	40	34	6
Trafficking	100	68	41	27	32	29	4
Weapon offenses	100 %	68 %	39 %	29 %	32 %	27 %	5 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	64 %	31 %	33 %	36 %	31 %	5 %

Note: See note on table 1.2.

--Less than 0.5%.

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 4.5. Average felony sentence lengths in State courts, by the type of conviction, type of sentence imposed, and offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Maximum sentence length (in months) for convictions by --									
	Total		Trial				Bench		Guilty plea	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Sentences to prison										
All offenses	56 mo	36 mo	126 mo	84 mo	150 mo	120 mo	78 mo	36 mo	50 mo	36 mo
Violent offenses	95 mo	60 mo	179 mo	144 mo	192 mo	180 mo	142 mo	90 mo	80 mo	54 mo
Murder /a	257	300	326	**	325	**	363	420	221	218
Sexual assault /b	113	72	220	156	232	168	157	120	94	60
Robbery	95	72	162	144	172	156	138	96	85	60
Aggravated assault	62	39	109	60	122	81	78	48	55	36
Other violent /c	53	36	107	60	120	72	55	48	45	30
Property offenses	43 mo	24 mo	90 mo	24 mo	116 mo	36 mo	47 mo	18 mo	41 mo	24 mo
Burglary	54	30	113	48	134	63	70	24	50	30
Larceny /d	36	36	56	84	73	105	28	48	35	36
Fraud /e	33	24	78	36	117	60	27	24	32	24
Drug offenses	45 mo	36 mo	80 mo	57 mo	104 mo	72 mo	50 mo	36 mo	43 mo	36 mo
Possession	34	24	55	32	67	36	34	24	33	24
Trafficking	50	36	84	60	111	84	52	36	47	36
Weapon offenses	40 mo	30 mo	68 mo	54 mo	77 mo	60 mo	56 mo	36 mo	37 mo	26 mo
Other offenses /f	38 mo	24 mo	62 mo	36 mo	73 mo	48 mo	42 mo	24 mo	36 mo	24 mo
Sentences to jail										
All offenses	7 mo	6 mo	10 mo	7 mo	10 mo	6 mo	11 mo	8 mo	7 mo	6 mo
Violent offenses	8 mo	6 mo	13 mo	8 mo	14 mo	7 mo	13 mo	10 mo	8 mo	6 mo
Murder /a	23	12	10 *	9 *	10 *	9 *	23 *	23 *	31	12
Sexual assault /b	10	6	14	6	14	6	17	6	10	6
Robbery	13	12	25	18	37	12	21	23	12	12
Aggravated assault	7	5	12	9	14	9	11	8	6	4
Other violent /c	8	5	7	6	6	6	12	12	8	5
Property offenses	7 mo	5 mo	8 mo	6 mo	6 mo	3 mo	9 mo	7 mo	7 mo	5 mo
Burglary	8	6	11	12	11	12	10	9	8	6
Larceny /d	7	5	7	6	5	3	8	6	7	5
Fraud /e	6	4	7	6	4	2	8	7	6	4
Drug offenses	7 mo	5 mo	9 mo	6 mo	8 mo	6 mo	10 mo	6 mo	7 mo	5 mo
Possession	5	3	5	3	5	3	4	3	5	3
Trafficking	8	6	12	12	10	9	15	12	8	6
Weapon offenses	8 mo	6 mo	10 mo	9 mo	7 mo	6 mo	11 mo	9 mo	7 mo	6 mo
Other offenses /f	7 mo	5 mo	8 mo	6 mo	7 mo	5 mo	11 mo	10 mo	7 mo	5 mo

Table 4.5. Average felony sentence lengths in State courts, by the type of conviction, type of sentence imposed, and offense, 2000 (cont.)

Most serious conviction offense	Maximum sentence length (in months) for convictions by --										
	Total		Trial						Guilty plea		
	Mean	Median	Total		Jury		Bench		Mean	Median	
		Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Sentences to probation											
All offenses	37 mo	36 mo	35 mo	24 mo	37 mo	28 mo	32 mo	24 mo	37 mo	36 mo	
Violent offenses	44 mo	36 mo	44 mo	36 mo	39 mo	36 mo	49 mo	36 mo	44 mo	36 mo	
Murder /a	57	48	60 *	60 *	60 *	60 *	/	/	57	48	
Sexual assault /b	66	60	62	60	72	60	44 *	60 *	66	60	
Robbery	47	48	43	48	40	24	48 *	48 *	47	48	
Aggravated assault	39	36	44	24	36	36	51	24	39	36	
Other violent /c	36	36	35	36	31	24	41 *	48 *	36	36	
Property offenses	36 mo	36 mo	33 mo	24 mo	38 mo	36 mo	30 mo	24 mo	36 mo	36 mo	
Burglary	40	36	33	36	33	36	30	24	40	36	
Larceny /d	35	30	34	24	34	30	33	24	35	30	
Fraud /e	35	24	32	24	49	60	28	24	35	24	
Drug offenses	34 mo	24 mo	31 mo	24 mo	36 mo	36 mo	26 mo	24 mo	34 mo	24 mo	
Possession	31	24	24	24	29	24	21	24	32	24	
Trafficking	35	30	37	36	38	36	34	36	35	30	
Weapon offenses	35 mo	36 mo	36 mo	24 mo	26 mo	24 mo	38 mo	24 mo	35 mo	36 mo	
Other offenses /f	38 mo	36 mo	30 mo	24 mo	35 mo	24 mo	24 mo	24 mo	38 mo	36 mo	

Note: See note on tables 1.2 and 1.3.

/ No sample cases available for estimate.

* Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

** Because the median includes felons sentenced to life in prison, the median sentence to prison is greater than 50 years.

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 4.6. Distribution of types of sentences imposed on felons convicted of murder or nonnegligent manslaughter, by type of conviction, 2000

Type of conviction	Type of sentence for murder or nonnegligent manslaughter			
	Total	Life	Death	Other*
Total	100 %	23 %	2 %	75 %
Trial	100	41	4	55
Jury	100	43	4	53
Bench	100	20	1	79
Guilty plea	100	15	1	84

*Includes a probation or an incarceration sentence expressed in days, months, or years.

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

Table 4.7. Distribution of the number of felony conviction offenses for persons sentenced in State courts, by type of conviction, 2000

Type of conviction	Percent convicted of --		
	Total	One offense	Two or more offenses
Total	100 %	71 %	29 %
Trial	100	64	36
Jury	100	60	40
Bench	100	78	22
Guilty plea	100	71	29

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

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Table 4.8. Distribution of types of felony sentences imposed by State courts, by number of felony conviction offenses and type of conviction, 2000

Type of conviction	Percent of felons sentenced to --						
	Total	Incarceration			Nonincarceration		
		Total	Prison	Jail	Total	Probation	Other
Convicted of one offense							
Total	100 %	67 %	39 %	28 %	33 %	28 %	5 %
Trial	100	84	64	21	16	13	3
Jury	100	88	72	16	12	9	3
Bench	100	79	52	27	21	19	2
Guilty plea	100	66	38	28	34	29	5
Convicted of multiple offenses							
Total	100 %	67 %	45 %	22 %	33 %	29 %	4 %
Trial	100	91	82	9	9	8	1
Jury	100	94	88	6	6	5	1
Bench	100	83	68	15	17	16	1
Guilty plea	100	65	43	23	35	31	4

Note: See note on table 1.2.

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

Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

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

Table 4.9. Time between arrest and felony conviction in State courts, by offense and type of conviction, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Median time (in days)	Following arrest, cumulative percent convicted within --				
		1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Total						
All offenses	116	7 %	15 %	40 %	70 %	93 %
Violent offenses	139	6 %	13 %	33 %	62 %	90 %
Murder /a	294	6	7	11	27	61
Sexual assault /b	158	4	7	27	56	87
Robbery	139	6	13	33	63	91
Aggravated assault	125	8	16	38	67	92
Other violent /c	128	5	11	35	67	92
Property offenses	109	5 %	14 %	42 %	75 %	94 %
Burglary	112	6	15	42	73	93
Larceny /d	101	5	16	45	77	94
Fraud /e	115	4	10	38	74	93
Drug offenses	110	9 %	18 %	43 %	71 %	93 %
Possession	84	14	28	52	76	94
Trafficking	123	6	13	38	68	93
Weapon offenses	117	5 %	15 %	40 %	70 %	91 %
Other offenses /f	120	6 %	12 %	37 %	71 %	94 %
Trial						
All offenses	210	1 %	1 %	7 %	40 %	83 %
Violent offenses	236	1 %	1 %	7 %	33 %	76 %
Murder /a	324	1	1	4	19	56
Sexual assault /b	252	1	1	6	23	77
Robbery	224	--	1	5	36	81
Aggravated assault	193	1	2	13	46	84
Other violent /c	277	0	0	1	29	77
Property offenses	186	-- %	-- %	6 %	49 %	91 %
Burglary	222	--	1	5	34	87
Larceny /d	170	--	--	6	57	93
Fraud /e	177	0	0	6	51	93
Drug offenses	210	1 %	2 %	5 %	37 %	86 %
Possession	200	2	3	11	45	88
Trafficking	222	1	1	3	33	85
Weapon offenses	173	1 %	2 %	12 %	52 %	87 %
Other offenses /f	191	1 %	2 %	9 %	47 %	88 %