

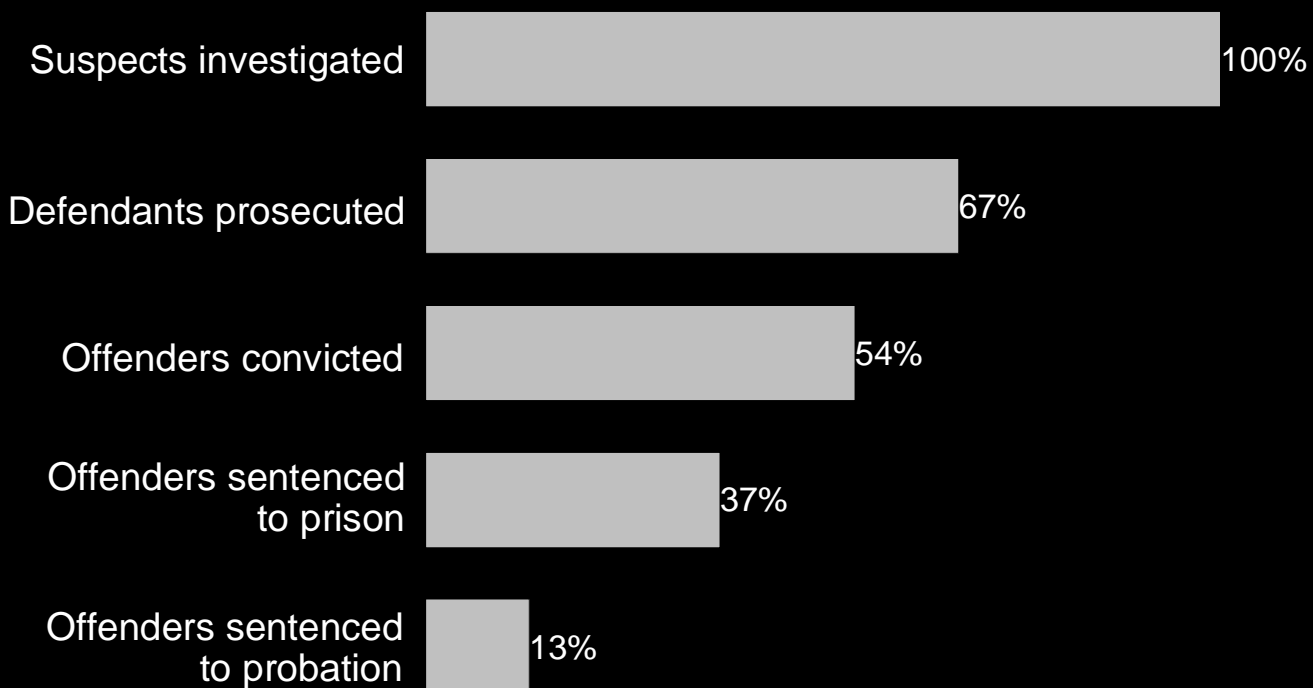


Bureau of Justice Statistics

Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1996

Federal criminal case processing in matters concluded by United States attorneys, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

All offenses



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics



Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1996

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Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.
Director, BJS

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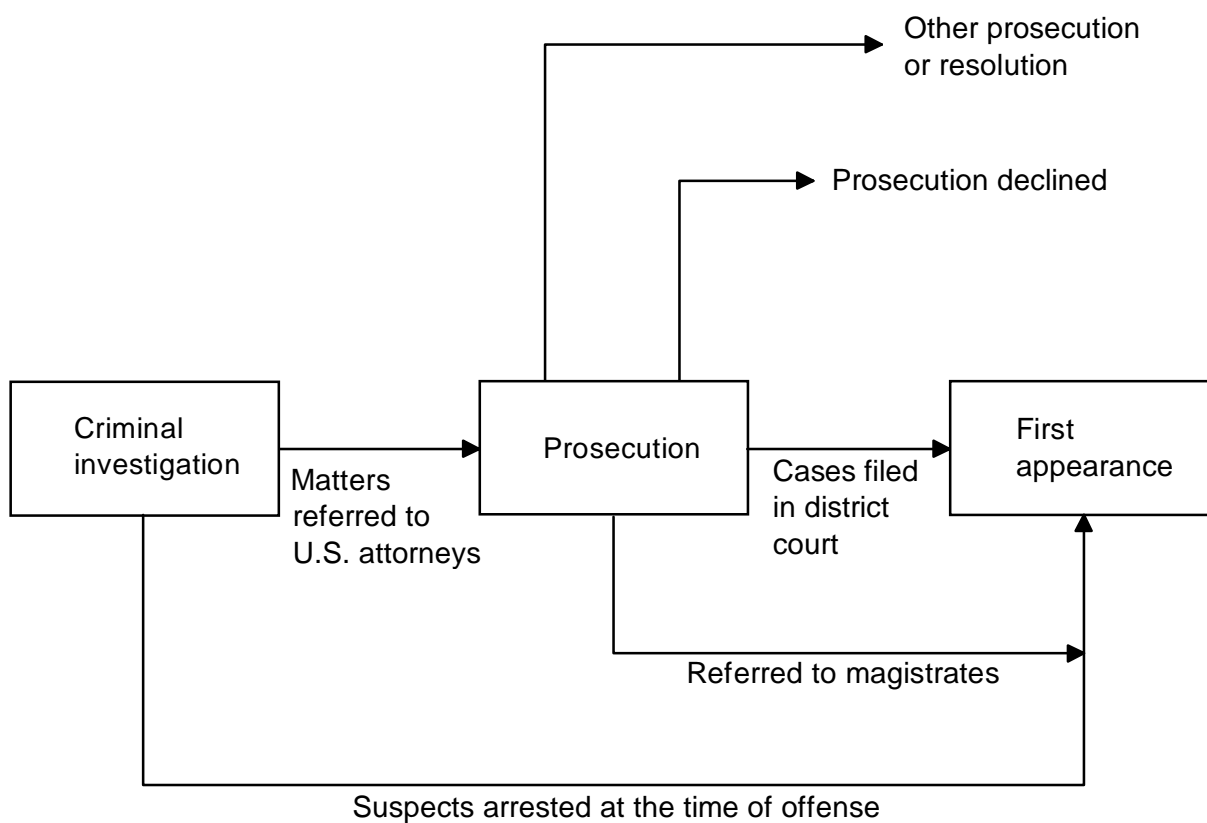
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Chapter 1

Prosecution



Federal criminal cases may be brought by the U. S. Attorney's Office, by the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, or by other authorized agencies. The 93 U.S. attorneys serve as the chief Federal law enforcement officers within their respective districts.

Investigations are most commonly referred to a U.S. attorney by a Federal investigative agency (primarily the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Postal Inspection Service; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; and the Secret Service), by the Criminal Division, or by a State or local investigative agency. Investigations may also be initiated — and cases brought directly — by U.S. attorneys or by the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. This chapter reports only on suspects that were at least partially investigated by U.S. attorneys.

U.S. attorneys' decisions

After criminal investigations are initiated and criminal suspects are referred to them, U.S. attorneys may file charges against defendants in a U.S. district court, or they may decline to file these charges for reasons such as weak or insufficient evidence, minimal Federal interest, lack of resources, or lack of criminal intent. Matters that are declined may be referred to another authority for prosecution or be settled through alternative resolution procedures. U.S. attorneys may also file cases before U.S. magistrates, who have the authority to adjudicate misdemeanor offenses (18 U.S.C. § 3401). U.S. attorneys consider these cases to be criminal matters because of their relatively less serious nature and because they are handled by magistrates.

The decision to prosecute a suspect in a criminal matter depends upon many factors, including the Attorney General's priorities, U.S. attorney priorities and resources, laws governing each type of offense, and the strength

Drug and violent suspects were more likely to be prosecuted than property and public-order suspects

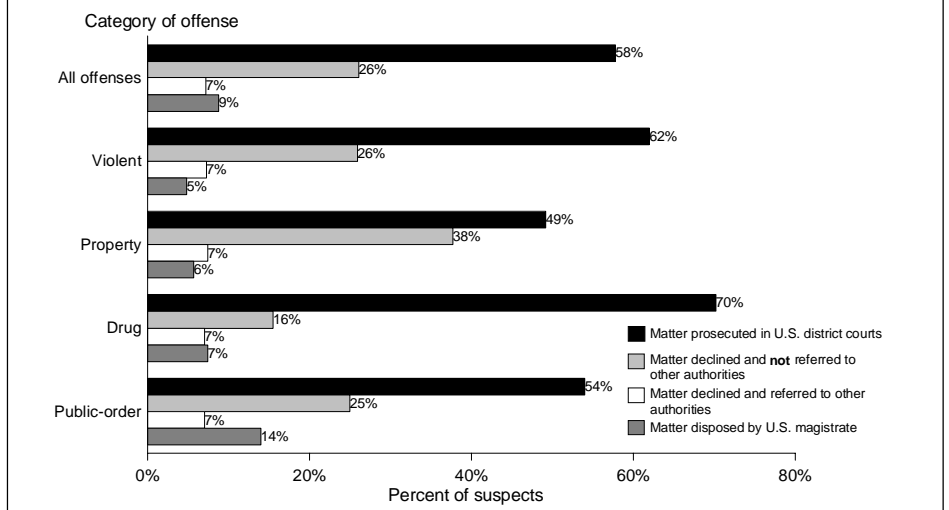


Figure 1.1. Suspects in matters concluded: Percentage of suspects that were prosecuted, declined, referred to other authorities for disposition, or disposed by U.S. magistrate, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

of evidence in each case. During 1996, 58% of suspects in all offense categories were prosecuted. Suspects were prosecuted at different rates depending on their offense. Suspects involved in violent and drug offenses were more likely to be prosecuted before U.S. district court judges than were those involved in property and public-order offenses. Drug offense suspects were the most likely (70%) to be prosecuted (figure 1.1). Suspects in property offenses were the least likely to be prosecuted (49%). However, suspects involved in property offenses were more likely to be referred to other authorities — including authorities who resolved criminal matters by restitution or by civil or administrative procedures — than were suspects involved in other types of criminal matters.

Suspects in matters received (table 1.1)

During 1996 there were 97,776 suspects in new matters received for investigation by U.S. attorneys.¹ Of these suspects, about 32% were

investigated for public-order offenses, 31% for drug offenses, and 30% for property offenses. Just under 7% of all suspects were investigated for violent crimes. Relative percentages of offenses reflect criminal activity as well as Federal investigative, prosecutorial, and statutory priorities. For example, during 1996 priority areas for U.S. attorneys included violent crimes (including firearms prosecutions and violent street gangs), international and domestic terrorism, narcotics prosecutions, immigration, organized crime, white collar crime, government regulatory offenses, child support recovery, and civil rights prosecutions.²

Suspects in matters concluded (tables 1.2-1.5)

Upon receiving a matter, a U.S. attorney will either immediately decline it for prosecution or further investigate. Upon conclusion of the investigation, a matter may be filed as a criminal case in a U.S. district court, referred to a U.S. magistrate, or declined for

¹See Chapter notes, item 1, p. 20. The 1996 data are not directly comparable to the 1993 and prior compendia.

²Statistical Report, United States Attorneys' Offices, Fiscal Year 1996. U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Washington, DC.

Of matters declined for prosecution, suspects in drug offenses were more likely than others to be referred to other authorities for prosecution or have their case settled through alternative resolution

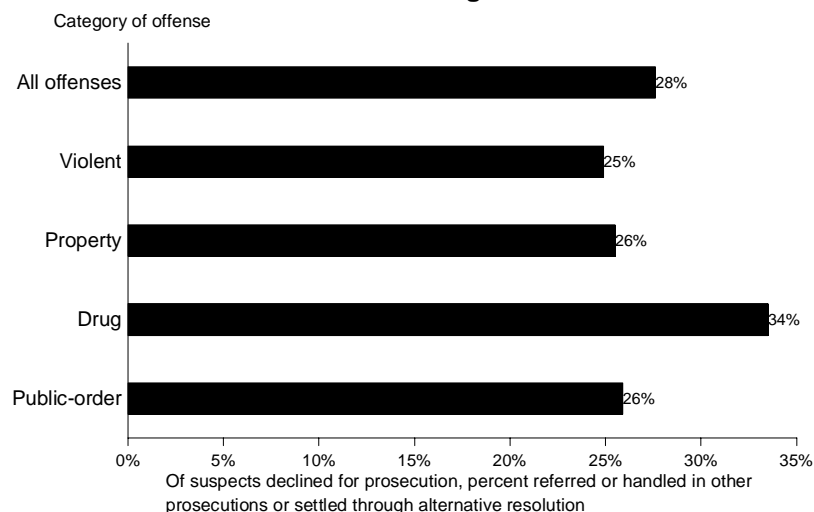


Figure 1.2. Of suspects in matters declined, percent referred or handled in other prosecutions or settled through alternative resolution, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

prosecution. Of the 98,454 suspects in criminal matters concluded during 1996, 58% were prosecuted in U.S. district court, 33% were declined for prosecution, and 9% were referred to U.S. magistrates.³

Suspects prosecuted (table 1.2) — The likelihood of prosecution in U.S. district court varied widely across offense categories. Drug and violent offenders were more likely to be prosecuted than those involved in property and public-order offenses. U.S. attorneys prosecuted approximately 70% of suspects in drug offenses, 62% of those in violent offenses, 54% of those in public-order offenses, and 49% of those in property offenses.

Differences in rates of prosecution within major categories were substantial. For example, among violent offenders, 78% of robbery suspects were prosecuted, while 63% of murder, 48% of assault, and 39% of rape suspects were prosecuted. Among property offenders, suspects investigated for counterfeiting were

prosecuted at a higher rate than those involved in fraud (72% compared with 48%), and among suspects in public-order offenses, immigration (84%), weapons (63%), and tax law violators (61%) were much more likely to be prosecuted than suspects in communications (30%) and civil rights (6%) offenses.

Suspects in matters declined (tables 1.3-1.4) — Suspects in matters involving violent offenses were less likely to be declined for prosecution (33%) than those in property offenses (45%) but more likely than those in drug offenses (23%). Suspects in public-order offenses were slightly less likely to be declined for prosecution than those involved in violent offenses (32% compared to 33%).

The decision to decline prosecution is based on a number of factors, including the lack of prosecutable offense, alternative resolution, or case- and suspect-related reasons (table 1.3). Of the 32,832 declinations during 1996, 27% occurred because of case-related reasons, mostly due to weak evidence (23%); 23% occurred because there was no crime or criminal intent was lacking; and 19% occurred for other reasons, such as agency

requests (6%) and minimal Federal interest (4%).

Not all suspects whose matters were declined for prosecution avoided prosecution. Approximately 22% of the suspects in matters declined were referred to another authority for prosecution (table 1.4). An additional 6% were settled through alternative resolution procedures. While property offense suspects constituted the largest number of suspects who were referred by U.S. attorneys to other authorities for prosecution or resolution (figure 1.1), drug offense suspects were the most likely of suspects whose matters were declined to be referred to other authorities for prosecution or alternative resolution (figure 1.2). Thirty-four percent of the drug suspects whose matters were declined prosecution by U.S. attorneys were referred for other prosecution or resolution, as were 26% of the public-order, 26% of the property, and 25% of violent offense suspects.

Within major offense categories, the likelihood that suspects in matters declined for prosecution were referred to other authorities for prosecution or alternative resolution varied among specific offenses. Within property offenses, referral occurred with 38% of persons involved in motor vehicle theft, compared to 16% of suspects in arson and explosives cases. Within public-order offenses, referral occurred with 30% of weapons suspects were referred to other authorities or had their case settled through alternative procedures, compared to 8% of suspects in civil rights cases.

Defendants in cases concluded by U.S. magistrates (table 1.2) —

Cases concluded by U.S. magistrates are, by statute, misdemeanors.⁴ Overall, U.S. magistrates disposed of

⁴At the time that U.S. attorneys receive them, matters may not be classifiable as felonies or misdemeanors. By the time a U.S. magistrate disposes of a case — or what the U.S. attorneys call a matter — its offense level has been determined and it is, by statute, a misdemeanor.

³The number of suspects in criminal matters concluded is not comparable to the 1993 and prior compendia. See *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 20, for details.

about 9% of all criminal matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. For most offenses, the likelihood that a U.S. magistrate concluded the matter was also relatively low. The most notable exception was escape, for which 57% of matters were concluded by U.S. magistrates. The escape offense category accounted for 21% of all cases concluded by U.S. magistrates.

Most of the 3,369 escape violations were against defendants who absconded to avoid prosecution in State courts, the so-called "unlawful flight to avoid prosecution." Upon apprehension of the fugitive, these cases are normally dismissed by U.S. magistrates and turned over to the State for prosecution on the original warrant.

Other types of offenses having comparably high rates of disposal by U.S. magistrates included postal law violations (30%); conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses (29%); and other property violations (20%).

Processing times (table 1.5) — For matters concluded during 1996, the average number of months from receipt of a matter to its conclusion by a U.S. attorney as a case filing or declination or its disposal by a U.S. magistrate was 10.3 months. However, the time to process matters varied with the outcome of the matter. Matters concluded by U.S. magistrates in which the suspect was convicted took the least amount of time — an average of 3.7 months, and at least 50% of these convictions occurred in about 43 days. Similarly, 50% of the matters declined for prosecution were declined within 12.9 months.

Overall, suspects in violent and drug offenses were processed more quickly than suspects in other offenses. For key decisions, such as whether to file a case or decline a matter for prosecution, violent offenses were concluded more quickly than drug offenses. At an average of 15.8 months, fraudulent property

offenses took longer to conclude than other offenses.



Table 1.1. Suspects in matters received by U.S. attorneys, by offense, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Suspects in criminal matters received by U.S. attorneys	
	Number	Percent ^b
All offenses^c	97,776	100%
Violent offenses	6,570	6.8%
Murder/manslaughter ^d	540	0.6
Assault	1,184	1.2
Robbery	2,854	3.0
Rape	770	0.8
Other sex offenses ^d	697	0.7
Kidnaping	407	0.4
Threats against the President	118	0.1
Property offenses	28,962	30.1%
Fraudulent	25,245	26.2%
Embezzlement	4,114	4.3
Fraud ^d	19,220	20.0
Forgery	1,463	1.5
Counterfeiting	448	0.5
Other	3,717	3.9%
Burglary	53	0.1
Larceny ^d	1,753	1.8
Motor vehicle theft	800	0.8
Arson and explosives	686	0.7
Transportation of stolen property	109	0.1
Other property offenses ^d	316	0.3
Drug offenses	30,227	31.4%
Public-order offenses	30,502	31.7%
Regulatory	5,154	5.4%
Agriculture	276	0.3
Antitrust	32	—
Food and drug	231	0.2
Transportation	358	0.4
Civil rights	1,854	1.9
Communications	118	0.1
Custom laws	360	0.4
Postal laws	207	0.2
Other regulatory offenses	1,718	1.8
Other	25,348	26.3%
Weapons	4,462	4.6
Immigration offenses	7,122	7.4
Tax law violations ^d	1,428	1.5
Bribery	396	0.4
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	722	0.8
National defense	266	0.3
Escape	3,590	3.7
Racketeering and extortion	3,507	3.6
Gambling	315	0.3
Liquor offenses	28	—
Obscene material ^d	27	—
Migratory birds	175	0.2
Conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional	2,827	2.9
All other offenses ^d	483	0.5
Unknown or indeterminable offense	1,515	

Note: The data in this table are not directly comparable to data in the 1993 or prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

—Less than .05%.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 91.

^bPercentage distribution based on the suspects for whom the offense category could be determined.

^cIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^dIn this table, "Murder" includes non-negligent manslaughter; "Other sex offenses" may include some nonviolent offenses; "Fraud" excludes tax fraud; "Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property; "Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespass; "Tax law violations" includes tax fraud; "Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof; and "All other offenses" includes offenses with unknown or unclassifiable offense type.

Table 1.2. Disposition of suspects in matters concluded, by offense, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Suspects in criminal matters concluded							
	Number				Percent			
	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court ^b	Declined	Disposed by U.S. magistrates	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court ^b	Declined	Disposed by U.S. magistrates
All offenses^c	98,454	56,938	32,832	8,684	100%	57.8%	33.3%	8.8%
Violent offenses	6,107	3,784	2,028	295	100%	62.0%	33.2%	4.8%
Murder/manslaughter ^d	475	297	153	25	100	62.5	32.2	5.3
Assault	1,127	536	482	109	100	47.6	42.8	9.7
Robbery	2,691	2,099	478	114	100	78.0	17.8	4.2
Rape	705	275	426	4	100	39.0	60.4	0.6
Other sex offenses ^d	689	388	285	16	100	56.3	41.4	2.3
Kidnaping	317	164	130	23	100	51.7	41.0	7.3
Threats against the President	103	25	74	4	100	24.3	71.8	3.9
Property offenses	31,038	15,270	13,997	1,771	100%	49.2%	45.1%	5.7%
Fraudulent	27,294	13,337	12,446	1,511	100%	48.9%	45.6%	5.5%
Embezzlement	4,169	2,110	1,578	481	100	50.6	37.9	11.5
Fraud ^d	21,297	10,111	10,356	830	100	47.5	48.6	3.9
Forgery	1,395	803	412	180	100	57.6	29.5	12.9
Counterfeiting	433	313	100	20	100	72.3	23.1	4.6
Other	3,744	1,933	1,551	260	100%	51.6%	41.4%	6.9%
Burglary	50	31	19	0	100	62.0	38.0	0
Larceny ^d	1,751	1,080	531	140	100	61.7	30.3	8.0
Motor vehicle theft	827	389	411	27	100	47.0	49.7	3.3
Arson and explosives	676	251	398	27	100	37.1	58.9	4.0
Transportation of stolen property	150	80	61	9	100	53.3	40.7	6.0
Other property offenses ^d	290	102	131	57	100	35.2	45.2	19.7
Drug offenses	30,708	21,548	6,898	2,262	100%	70.2%	22.5%	7.4%
Public-order offenses	29,562	15,974	9,460	4,128	100%	54.0%	32.0%	14.0%
Regulatory	4,843	1,396	3,172	275	100%	28.8%	65.5%	5.7%
Agriculture	351	135	197	19	100	38.5	56.1	5.4
Antitrust	58	34	24	0	100	58.6	41.4	0
Food and drug	204	68	117	19	100	33.3	57.4	9.3
Transportation	328	141	179	8	100	43.0	54.6	2.4
Civil rights	1,559	97	1,459	3	100	6.2	93.6	0.2
Communications	102	31	66	5	100	30.4	64.7	4.9
Custom laws	375	173	164	38	100	46.1	43.7	10.1
Postal laws	252	117	59	76	100	46.4	23.4	30.2
Other regulatory offenses	1,614	600	907	107	100	37.2	56.2	6.6
Other	24,719	14,578	6,288	3,853	100%	59.0%	25.4%	15.6%
Weapons	4,673	2,935	1,601	137	100	62.8	34.3	2.9
Immigration offenses	6,929	5,830	324	775	100	84.1	4.7	11.2
Tax law violations ^d	1,403	862	509	32	100	61.4	36.3	2.3
Bribery	405	168	212	25	100	41.5	52.3	6.2
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	681	283	367	31	100	41.6	53.9	4.6
National defense	267	93	142	32	100	34.8	53.2	12.0
Escape	3,369	784	681	1,904	100	23.3	20.2	56.5
Racketeering and extortion	3,673	1,718	1,838	117	100	46.8	50.0	3.2
Gambling	275	162	104	9	100	58.9	37.8	3.3
Liquor offenses	21	14	7	0	100	66.7	33.3	0
Obscene material ^d	32	15	13	4	100	46.9	40.6	12.5
Migratory birds	146	96	36	14	100	65.8	24.7	9.6
Conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses	2,517	1,414	362	741	100	56.2	14.4	29.4
All other offenses ^d	328	204	92	32	100	62.2	28.0	9.8
Unknown or indeterminable offense	1,039	362	449	228	100%	34.8%	43.2%	21.9%

Note: The data in this table are not directly comparable to data in the 1993 or prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 91.

^bThe suspects included in this column are limited to those whose cases were filed in U.S. district court before U.S. district court judges. These data are not directly comparable to the number in the 1993 or prior compendia, which included appeals cases handled by U.S. attorneys; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 20.

^cIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^dIn this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter; "Other sex offenses" may include some nonviolent offenses; "Fraud" excludes tax fraud; "Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property; "Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespass; "Tax law violations" includes tax fraud; "Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof; and "All other offenses" includes offenses with unknown or unclassifiable offense type.

Table 1.3. Basis for declination of prosecution by U.S. attorneys, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

Basis for declination	Suspects in criminal matters declined by U.S. attorneys	
	Number	Percent ^a
Total declinations^b	32,832	100%
No crime	7,483	23.4%
No true bill returned	41	0.1
No Federal offense	3,001	9.4
Lack of criminal intent	4,441	13.9
Referred or handled in other prosecution	6,926	21.6%
Removed	1,192	3.7
Prosecuted on other charges	1,755	5.5
Prosecuted by other authorities	3,978	12.4
Complaint combined with other indicators	1	—
Alternative resolution	1,915	6.0%
Restitution	119	0.4
Civil or administrative alternative	884	2.8
Pretrial diversion	912	2.8
Suspect-related reasons	897	2.8%
Suspect serving sentence	175	0.5
No known suspect	372	1.2
Suspect a fugitive	90	0.3
Suspect deceased	216	0.7
Suspect deported	44	0.1
Case-related reasons	8,716	27.2%
Stale case	443	1.4
Weak evidence	7,429	23.2
Statute of limitations exceeded	167	0.5
Jurisdiction or venue problems	296	0.9
Witness problems	381	1.2
All other reasons	6,074	19.0%
Minimal Federal interest	1,316	4.1
Petite policy	98	0.3
Lack of resources	921	2.9
Court policy	1	—
DOJ policy	497	1.6
U.S. attorney policy	930	2.9
Agency request	1,871	5.8
Juvenile suspect	60	0.2
Offender's health, age, prior record, or other personal circumstances	111	0.3
Suspect's cooperation	266	0.8
Motion hearings	3	—
Unknown or indeterminable reason	821	

Note: For further information, see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

—Less than .05%

^aPercent based on suspects for whom a basis for declination could be determined.

^bIncludes suspects for whom basis for declination could not be determined; *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

Table 1.4. Disposition of matters declined for prosecution by U.S. attorneys, by offense, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Number of suspects in declined matters				Percent of suspects in declined matters			
	Total ^b	Referred or handled in other prosecution ^c	Resolved with restitution, civil/administrative procedure, pre-trial diversion	Other	Total ^b	Referred or handled in other prosecution ^c	Resolved with restitution, civil/administrative procedure, pre-trial diversion	Other
All offenses^d	32,832	6,926	1,915	23,170	100%	21.6%	6.0%	72.4%
Violent offenses	2,028	436	57	1,485	100%	22.0%	2.9%	75.1%
Murder/manslaughter ^e	153	24	4	121	100	16.1	2.7	81.2
Assault	482	80	13	370	100	17.3	2.8	79.9
Robbery	478	176	18	279	100	37.2	3.8	59.0
Rape	426	38	3	372	100	9.2	0.7	90.1
Other sex offenses ^e	285	68	15	195	100	24.5	5.4	70.1
Kidnaping	130	45	1	82	100	35.2	0.8	64.1
Threats against the President	74	5	3	66	100	6.8	4.1	89.2
Property offenses	13,997	2,233	1,229	10,117	100%	16.4%	9.1%	74.5%
Fraudulent	12,446	1,871	1,141	9,053	100%	15.5%	9.5%	75.0%
Embezzlement	1,578	157	289	1,069	100	10.4	19.1	70.6
Fraud ^e	10,356	1,622	803	7,618	100	16.2	8.0	75.9
Forgery	412	68	47	292	100	16.7	11.5	71.7
Counterfeiting	100	24	2	74	100	24.0	2.0	74.0
Other	1,551	362	88	1,064	100%	23.9%	5.8%	70.3%
Burglary	19	4	2	13	100	21.1	10.5	68.4
Larceny ^e	531	128	61	333	100	24.5	11.7	63.8
Motor vehicle theft	411	140	11	250	100	34.9	2.7	62.3
Arson and explosives	398	61	2	326	100	15.7	0.5	83.8
Transportation of stolen property	61	12	1	44	100	21.1	1.8	77.2
Other property offenses ^e	131	17	11	98	100	13.5	8.7	77.8
Drug offenses	6,898	2,098	163	4,481	100%	31.1%	2.4%	66.5%
Public-order offenses	9,460	1,991	406	6,869	100%	21.5%	4.4%	74.1%
Regulatory	3,172	394	208	2,526	100%	12.6%	6.6%	80.8%
Agriculture	197	52	23	113	100	27.7	12.2	60.1
Antitrust	24	2	0	22	100	8.3	0	91.7
Food and drug	117	29	6	79	100	25.4	5.3	69.3
Transportation	179	24	30	119	100	13.9	17.3	68.8
Civil rights	1,459	90	29	1,329	100	6.2	2.0	91.8
Communications	66	9	4	53	100	13.6	6.1	80.3
Custom laws	164	16	21	124	100	9.9	13.0	77.0
Postal laws	59	16	15	28	100	27.1	25.4	47.5
Other regulatory offenses	907	156	80	659	100	17.4	8.9	73.6
Other	6,288	1,597	198	4,343	100%	26.0%	3.2%	70.8%
Weapons	1,601	445	25	1,078	100	28.7	1.6	69.6
Immigration offenses	324	62	11	240	100	19.8	3.5	76.7
Tax law violations ^e	509	100	17	378	100	20.2	3.4	76.4
Bribery	212	17	14	177	100	8.2	6.7	85.1
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	367	51	31	275	100	14.3	8.7	77.0
National defense	142	24	12	101	100	17.5	8.8	73.7
Escape	681	432	11	234	100	63.8	1.6	34.6
Racketeering and extortion	1,838	324	30	1,452	100	17.9	1.7	80.4
Gambling	104	19	6	78	100	18.4	5.8	75.7
Liquor offenses	7	3	2	2	100	—	—	—
Obscene material ^e	13	1	1	11	100	7.7	7.7	84.6
Migratory birds	36	6	2	26	100	17.6	5.9	76.5
Conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses	362	83	34	237	100	23.4	9.6	66.9
All other offenses ^e	92	30	2	54	100	34.9	2.3	62.8
Unknown or indeterminable offense	449	168	60	218	100%	37.7%	13.5%	48.9%

Note: For further information, see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 91.

^bIncludes 821 suspects for whom reason for declination could not be determined.

^cIncludes suspects in matters removed, prosecuted on other charges, prosecuted by other authorities, complaints filed with other indictments, youthful offenders, and those transferred to State authority.

^dIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^eIn this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter; "Other sex offenses" may include some nonviolent offenses; "Fraud" excludes tax fraud; "Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property; "Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespass; "Tax law violations" includes tax fraud; "Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof; and "All other offenses" includes offenses with unknown or unclassifiable offense type.

Table 1.5. Mean and median processing times from receipt to filing or declination, by offense, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Number of months from receipt of matter to decision						
	All suspects	Disposed by U.S. magistrate			Concluded by U.S. attorney		
		Total	Convicted	Not convicted	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court ^b	Declined
Mean							
All offenses^c	10.3 mo	10.5 mo	3.7 mo	13.0 mo	10.3 mo	5.3 mo	18.6 mo
Violent offenses	6.1	12.1	5.1	13.2	5.8	2.9	11.1
Property offenses	15.2	14.3	4.6	18.6	15.2	9.0	21.9
Fraudulent offenses ^d	15.8	14.7	4.6	19.3	15.9	9.5	22.6
Other offenses ^e	10.6	12.0	4.3	14.8	10.5	5.4	16.7
Drug offenses	6.7	7.2	2.2	9.2	6.7	3.7	15.6
Public-order offenses	9.9	10.9	4.1	13.4	9.7	4.5	17.9
Regulatory offenses	14.6	12.7	8.7	15.4	14.7	9.9	16.8
Other offenses	8.9	10.8	3.6	13.3	8.5	4.0	18.5
Median							
All offenses^c	2.8 mo	1.6 mo	1.4 mo	1.7 mo	3.0 mo	0.9 mo	12.9 mo
Violent offenses	1.4	1.3	2.1	1.1	1.5	0.7	6.6
Property offenses	8.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	8.9	3.0	16.6
Fraudulent offenses ^d	9.0	2.7	2.5	2.9	9.5	3.5	17.3
Other offenses ^e	4.5	2.5	3.2	2.1	4.7	1.4	12.9
Drug offenses	1.0	0.9	1.4	0.6	1.0	0.7	10.8
Public-order offenses	2.2	2.1	0.9	2.8	2.2	0.7	11.8
Regulatory offenses	8.3	6.3	5.8	8.3	8.5	2.3	11.1
Other offenses	1.6	2.0	0.7	2.6	1.5	0.7	12.4
Number of suspects^f	94,970	8,232	2,233	5,999	86,738	54,164	32,574
With unknown or indeterminable offense or processing time ^g	4,523	680	272	408	3,843	3,136	707

Note: The data in this table are not directly comparable to data in the 1993 or prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 91.

^bThe suspects included in this column are limited to those whose cases were filed in U.S. district court before U.S. district court judges. These data are not directly comparable to the number in the 1993 or prior compendia, which included appeals cases handled by U.S. attorneys; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 20.

^cIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^dExcluding tax fraud.

^eIncluding tax fraud.

^fExcludes suspects with insufficient data to determine processing time.

^gMay include some suspects with unknown or indeterminable offenses or processing time.

Chapter notes

1) Tables 1.1-1.5 were created from the Central System data files of the EOUSA. For table 1.1, only records which showed a matter received during 1996 were selected. For tables 1.2-1.5, only records which show a matter terminated by reason of declination, disposition by a U.S. magistrate, or filed as a case in U.S. district court from October 1, 1995, through September 30, 1996, were selected. In all of these tables, matters “declined immediately” — those cases in which the U.S. attorney spent less than 1 hour investigating — were excluded.

2) The number of suspects in matters investigated in table 1.1, and the number of suspects in matters concluded in tables 1.2 and 1.5 are not directly comparable to counts in the 1993 and prior compendia. In those years, these statistics included appellants in appeals filed or appeals terminated. In table 1.1 of this *Compendium* and the 1994 and subsequent compendia, the number of suspects in matters received is limited to suspects in criminal matters that were filed as cases in U.S. district courts, handled by U.S. magistrates, or declined for prosecution. In the 1993 and prior compendia, the number of suspects in criminal matters received included criminal appeals. To obtain a number of suspects comparable to the statistic reported in the 1993 and prior compendia, add to the data in table 1.1 of this *Compendium*, the number of appellants in appeals that were handled by U.S. attorneys. The table below shows these data for major offense categories.

Nature of the underlying offense	Number of appellants in appeals filed and handled by U.S. attorneys
All offenses	9,503
Violent offenses	690
Property offenses	1,911
Fraudulent property	1,600
Other property	311
Drug offenses	4,600
Public-order offenses	2,191
Regulatory public order	123
Other public order	2,068
Unknown or indeterminate offenses	111

In tables 1.2 and 1.5 of this *Compendium* and in the 1994 and subsequent compendia, the number of suspects in matters concluded also is limited to those suspects whose matters were concluded by a case filing in a U.S. district court, by declination, or by disposition by a U.S. magistrate. In the 1993 and prior compendia, this number included appellants in criminal appeals terminated.

To obtain a number that is comparable to the number reported in the 1993 and prior compendia, the number of appellants in appeals terminated and handled by U.S. attorneys needs to be added to the totals in table 1.2. The table below shows the number of appellants in appeals cases terminated during fiscal 1996.

Nature of the underlying offense	Number of appellants in appeals concluded by U.S. attorneys
All offenses	8,542
Violent offenses	633
Property offenses	1,653
Fraudulent property	1,393
Other property	260
Drug offenses	4,159
Public-order offenses	2,012
Regulatory public order	129
Other public order	1,883
Unknown or indeterminate offenses	85

3) Offenses in the Central System data files are classified by the title and section of the United States Code for the most serious offense investigated, as determined by the assistant U.S. attorney responsible for the matter. For tables in this *Compendium*, these citations were translated into the corresponding four-digit offense codes used by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC). These four-digit codes were then aggregated into the categories shown in the tables.

U.S. Code citations often do not permit detailed classification of drug offenses by the type of criminal activity involved. A person charged with conspiracy is classified under the substantive offense alleged (for example, conspiracy to defraud is classified as fraud) unless type of conspiracy cannot be determined from the U.S. Code citation. Unclassified conspiracies are included among “conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses” in tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, and 1.5.

The most serious offense investigated is based on the criminal lead charge as determined by the assistant U.S. attorney responsible for the criminal matter.

4) In the tables in this chapter, the “all offenses” row or “total declinations” row (in table 1.3) includes records whose offense category (basis for declination) is missing or indeterminate. The percentage distributions in these tables, however, are based on the number of observations with non-missing offenses (basis for declination) values. The number of missing values are reported either on a separate line or in a footnote.