



Bureau of Justice Statistics

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

Felony sentences in State courts, 2000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Profile of felons convicted in State courts, 2000

Table 2.1. Demographic characteristics of persons convicted of felonies by State courts, by offense, 2000

Table 2.2. Offense distribution of felons convicted in State courts, by gender, race, and age of felons, 2000

Table 2.3. Average age of convicted felons in State courts, by offense, 2000

Table 2.4. Distribution of types of felony sentences imposed by State courts, by gender of felons and offense, 2000

Table 2.5. Distribution of types of felony sentences imposed by State courts, by race of felons and offense, 2000

Table 2.6. Mean length of felony State court sentences imposed, by offense and gender of felons, 2000

Table 2.7. Mean length of felony State court sentences imposed, by offense and race of felons, 2000

Table 2.8. Offense distribution of felons sentenced to incarceration or prison by State courts, by gender and race of felons, 2000

Table 2.9. Gender and race of felons sentenced to jail or probation by State courts, by offense, 2000

Table 2.10. Percent of convicted felons sentenced by State courts to incarceration or prison, by gender, race, and offense, 2000

Table 2.11. Percent of convicted felons sentenced by State courts to jail or probation, by gender, race, and offense, 2000

Table 2.12. Mean length of State felony sentences to incarceration or prison, by gender, race, and offense, 2000

Table 2.13. Mean length of State felony sentences to jail or probation, by gender, race, and offense, 2000

Felons sentenced to probation in State courts, 2000

Table 3.1. Among felons convicted in State courts in 2000, percent sentenced to probation, by offense; and offense distribution, by type of sentence

Table 3.2. Distribution of types of State felony sentences to probation or incarceration, by offense, 2000

Table 3.3. Average probation sentence lengths of felons convicted in State courts, by offense, 2000

Table 3.4. Average incarceration sentence lengths for felons receiving sentences with or without probation, by offense, 2000

Table 3.5. Distribution of the number of felony conviction offenses for persons sentenced to probation in State courts, by offense, 2000

Table 3.6. Offense distribution of convicted felons receiving sentences with or without probation in State courts, by gender of felons, 2000

Table 3.7. Offense of felons receiving probation or a sentence without probation in State courts, by gender of felons, 2000

Table 3.8. Offense of felons receiving probation or a sentence without probation in State courts, by race of felons, 2000

Table 3.9. Offense distribution of convicted felons receiving sentences with or without probation in State courts, by race of felons, 2000

Table 3.10. Average age of felons receiving probation or a sentence without probation in State courts, by offense, 2000

Table 3.11. Felons sentenced to probation in State courts, by offense and age at sentencing, 2000

Felony case processing in State courts, 2000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 4.10. Time between felony conviction and sentencing in State courts, by offense and type of conviction, 2000

Table 4.11. Time between arrest and sentencing for persons convicted of a felony in State courts, by offense and type of conviction, 2000

Table 4.12. Average felony sentence lengths in State courts, by number of felony conviction offenses, type of conviction, and type of sentence, 2000

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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June 2003. NCJ 198822

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 3.1. Among felons convicted in State courts in 2000, percent sentenced to probation, by offense; and offense distribution, by type of sentence

Most serious conviction offense	Sentence type within offense			Offense within sentence type		
	Total	Probation	No probation	Total	Probation	No probation
All offenses	100 %	56 %	44 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Violent offenses	100 %	48 %	52 %	19 %	16 %	22 %
Murder /a	100	16	84	1	--	2
Sexual assault /b	100	50	50	3	3	4
Robbery	100	32	68	4	2	6
Aggravated assault	100	55	45	9	8	9
Other violent /c	100	57	43	2	2	2
Property offenses	100 %	59 %	41 %	28 %	30 %	26 %
Burglary	100	51	49	9	8	10
Larceny /d	100	58	42	11	11	10
Fraud /e	100	69	31	9	11	6
Drug offenses	100 %	57 %	43 %	35 %	35 %	34 %
Possession	100	60	40	13	13	12
Trafficking	100	55	45	22	22	22
Weapon offenses	100 %	52 %	48 %	3 %	3 %	3 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	59 %	41 %	15 %	16 %	14 %

Note: This table is based on an estimated 924,733 cases.

In this table persons are counted as probation cases so long as their sentences included probation and without regard to whether a term of incarceration was also included.

Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

-- 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 3.2. Distribution of types of State felony sentences to probation or incarceration, by offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felony convictions by type of --							
	Straight probation	Probation sentence			Nonprobation sentence			
		Split sentence			No incarceration	Incarceration		
		Total	Prison	Jail		Total	Prison	Jail
All offenses	28 %	28 %	11 %	17 %	4 %	40 %	29 %	11 %
Violent offenses	19 %	29 %	13 %	16 %	3 %	49 %	41 %	8 %
Murder /a	3	13	12	1	1	83	82	1
Sexual assault /b	14	36	21	15	2	48	43	5
Robbery	10	22	13	9	2	66	60	6
Aggravated assault	25	31	11	20	4	41	30	11
Other violent /c	25	32	12	20	3	39	30	10
Property offenses	32 %	27 %	11 %	17 %	4 %	37 %	26 %	10 %
Burglary	21	30	14	16	2	46	38	8
Larceny /d	33	26	9	17	5	37	24	13
Fraud /e	43	27	10	16	4	27	19	9
Drug offenses	29 %	28 %	11 %	17 %	4 %	39 %	27 %	12 %
Possession	31	28	10	18	5	36	23	13
Trafficking	28	27	11	16	3	42	30	12
Weapon offenses	26 %	25 %	10 %	16 %	4 %	44 %	31 %	14 %
Other offenses /f	30 %	30 %	8 %	21 %	4 %	36 %	24 %	13 %

Note: See note on table 3.1.

This table is based on an estimated 919,377 cases.

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 3.3. Average probation sentence lengths of felons convicted in State courts, by offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Probation sentence (in months) in case of --				
	Total	Straight probation	Split sentence		
			Total	Prison	Jail
Mean sentence					
All offenses	39 mo	38 mo	40 mo	44 mo	38 mo
Violent offenses	48 mo	44 mo	50 mo	56 mo	44 mo
Murder /a	70	64	71	73	55
Sexual assault /b	69	64	70	72	68
Robbery	52	52	52	54	49
Aggravated assault	40	40	40	46	37
Other violent /c	40	36	42	45	41
Property offenses	39 mo	38 mo	40 mo	44 mo	38 mo
Burglary	42	41	43	43	43
Larceny /d	37	37	37	42	35
Fraud /e	38	37	41	46	37
Drug offenses	37 mo	36 mo	37 mo	38 mo	36 mo
Possession	33	33	33	34	32
Trafficking	39	39	40	40	39
Weapon offenses	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	33 mo	38 mo
Other offenses /f	39 mo	40 mo	38 mo	40 mo	37 mo
Median sentence					
All offenses	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo
Violent offenses	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	48 mo	36 mo
Murder /a	60	60	60	60	60
Sexual assault /b	60	60	60	60	60
Robbery	48	48	48	36	60
Aggravated assault	36	36	36	36	36
Other violent /c	36	36	36	36	36
Property offenses	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo
Burglary	36	36	36	36	36
Larceny /d	36	36	36	36	36
Fraud /e	36	36	36	36	36
Drug offenses	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo
Possession	30	24	36	30	36
Trafficking	36	36	36	36	36
Weapon offenses	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo
Other offenses /f	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo	36 mo

Note: See note on tables 1.3 and 3.1.

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 3.4. Average incarceration sentence lengths for felons receiving sentences with or without probation, by offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Maximum incarceration sentence length (in months) for --					
	Split sentence			Incarceration without probation		
	Total	Prison	Jail	Total	Prison	Jail
Mean sentence						
All offenses	18 mo	36 mo	5 mo	47 mo	62 mo	8 mo
Violent offenses	33 mo	60 mo	6 mo	86 mo	102 mo	10 mo
Murder /a	155	168	10	261	265	28
Sexual assault /b	51	76	7	112	124	11
Robbery	46	64	8	93	101	14
Aggravated assault	18	40	5	50	66	8
Other violent /c	17	34	6	45	57	8
Property offenses	15 mo	29 mo	5 mo	36 mo	47 mo	8 mo
Burglary	21	35	6	50	59	9
Larceny /d	12	25	5	27	37	8
Fraud /e	13	24	4	29	39	8
Drug offenses	15 mo	30 mo	5 mo	39 mo	53 mo	7 mo
Possession	11	23	4	27	39	5
Trafficking	17	33	5	45	59	9
Weapon offenses	14 mo	27 mo	5 mo	31 mo	42 mo	8 mo
Other offenses /f	13 mo	30 mo	5 mo	29 mo	40 mo	8 mo
Median sentence						
All offenses	7 mo	24 mo	4 mo	24 mo	36 mo	6 mo
Violent offenses	12 mo	36 mo	4 mo	48 mo	60 mo	8 mo
Murder /a	108	120	12	300	309	12
Sexual assault /b	20	48	6	72	84	12
Robbery	24	48	6	60	72	12
Aggravated assault	7	24	4	30	48	6
Other violent /c	8	24	4	24	36	6
Property offenses	7 mo	18 mo	3 mo	24 mo	36 mo	6 mo
Burglary	10	24	4	36	42	8
Larceny /d	6	14	3	18	24	6
Fraud /e	6	14	3	18	30	6
Drug offenses	6 mo	18 mo	4 mo	24 mo	36 mo	6 mo
Possession	6	12	3	16	24	4
Trafficking	8	24	4	36	48	6
Weapon offenses	8 mo	21 mo	3 mo	24 mo	32 mo	6 mo
Other offenses /f	6 mo	20 mo	4 mo	18 mo	30 mo	6 mo

Note: See note on tables 1.3 and 3.1.

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 3.5. Distribution of the number of felony conviction offenses for persons sentenced to probation in State courts, by offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons sentenced to probation when their conviction offenses numbered --			
	One or more	One	Two	Three or more
All offenses	56 %	57 %	55 %	53 %
Violent offenses	48 %	49 %	46 %	41 %
Murder /a	16	16	14	15
Sexual assault /b	50	52	50	41
Robbery	32	32	30	32
Aggravated assault	55	57	55	49
Other violent /c	57	58	55	53
Property offenses	59 %	60 %	60 %	59 %
Burglary	51	50	54	52
Larceny /d	58	59	58	53
Fraud /e	69	69	68	68
Drug offenses	57 %	57 %	57 %	54 %
Possession	60	60	57	55
Trafficking	55	55	57	54
Weapon offenses	52 %	52 %	48 %	55 %
Other offenses /f	59 %	60 %	57 %	55 %

Note: See note on table 3.1.

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 3.6. Offense distribution of convicted felons receiving sentences with or without probation in State courts, by gender of felons, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of sentences to probation			Percent of sentences without probation		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
All offenses	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Violent offenses	16 %	18 %	10 %	22 %	23 %	13 %
Murder /a	--	--	--	2	2	1
Sexual assault /b	3	4	--	4	4	--
Robbery	3	3	1	6	7	3
Aggravated assault	8	9	7	8	9	7
Other violent /c	2	2	1	2	2	1
Property offenses	31 %	27 %	45 %	26 %	25 %	37 %
Burglary	8	9	4	9	10	5
Larceny /d	11	10	16	11	10	17
Fraud /e	11	8	25	6	5	16
Drug offenses	35 %	36 %	34 %	35 %	34 %	40 %
Possession	13	13	14	12	11	16
Trafficking	22	22	20	23	23	24
Weapon offenses	3 %	3 %	1 %	3 %	4 %	1 %
Other offenses /f	15 %	16 %	10 %	14 %	15 %	10 %

Note: See note on table 3.1.

This table is based on an estimated 712,825 cases.

Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

-- 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 3.7. Offense of felons receiving probation or a sentence without probation in State courts, by gender of felons, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of sentences to probation			Percent of sentences without probation		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
All offenses	100 %	80 %	20 %	100 %	87 %	13 %
Violent offenses	100 %	88 %	12 %	100 %	93 %	7 %
Murder /a	100	86	14	100	92	8
Sexual assault /b	100	98	2	100	98	2
Robbery	100	90	10	100	95	5
Aggravated assault	100	84	16	100	89	11
Other violent /c	100	88	12	100	91	9
Property offenses	100 %	70 %	30 %	100 %	82 %	18 %
Burglary	100	90	10	100	94	6
Larceny /d	100	71	29	100	80	20
Fraud /e	100	54	46	100	68	32
Drug offenses	100 %	80 %	20 %	100 %	85 %	15 %
Possession	100	79	21	100	83	17
Trafficking	100	81	19	100	87	13
Weapon offenses	100 %	94 %	6 %	100 %	96 %	4 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	86 %	14 %	100 %	91 %	9 %

Note: See note on table 3.1.

This table is based on an estimated 712,825 cases.

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 3.8. Offense of felons receiving probation or a sentence without probation in State courts, by race of felons, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of sentences to probation				Percent of sentences without probation			
	All	White	Black	Other	All	White	Black	Other
All offenses	100 %	59 %	39 %	2 %	100 %	48 %	51 %	1 %
Violent offenses	100 %	60 %	37 %	4 %	100 %	47 %	51 %	2 %
Murder /a	100	52	43	4	100	41	56	2
Sexual assault /b	100	69	25	6	100	67	31	2
Robbery	100	39	59	2	100	32	67	1
Aggravated assault	100	60	36	3	100	49	49	2
Other violent /c	100	71	27	2	100	61	38	2
Property offenses	100 %	62 %	35 %	2 %	100 %	55 %	44 %	1 %
Burglary	100	68	30	2	100	57	42	1
Larceny /d	100	61	37	3	100	53	45	2
Fraud /e	100	60	38	3	100	54	45	1
Drug offenses	100 %	51 %	47 %	2 %	100 %	38 %	61 %	1 %
Possession	100	54	44	2	100	42	58	1
Trafficking	100	49	49	2	100	37	63	1
Weapon offenses	100 %	51 %	47 %	2 %	100 %	38 %	61 %	1 %
Other offenses /f	100 %	69 %	28 %	3 %	100 %	61 %	38 %	2 %

Note: See note on table 3.1.

This table is based on an estimated 618,833 cases.

Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

Racial categories include Hispanics.

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 3.9. Offense distribution of convicted felons receiving sentences with or without probation in State courts, by race of felons, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of sentences to probation				Percent of sentences without probation			
	All	White	Black	Other	All	White	Black	Other
All offenses	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Violent offenses	16 %	16 %	15 %	25 %	21 %	21 %	21 %	28 %
Murder /a	--	--	--	1	2	2	2	3
Sexual assault /b	3	4	2	9	3	5	2	5
Robbery	3	2	4	2	6	4	8	6
Aggravated assault	8	8	7	12	8	8	8	12
Other violent /c	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	3
Property offenses	31 %	33 %	28 %	32 %	26 %	30 %	23 %	31 %
Burglary	8	9	6	7	9	11	8	10
Larceny /d	12	12	11	13	11	12	9	15
Fraud /e	11	11	11	13	6	7	6	5
Drug offenses	35 %	31 %	43 %	24 %	35 %	28 %	42 %	19 %
Possession	13	12	15	9	12	10	13	6
Trafficking	23	19	28	15	23	18	29	13
Weapon offenses	3 %	2 %	3 %	2 %	3 %	3 %	4 %	2 %
Other offenses /f	15 %	18 %	11 %	17 %	14 %	18 %	10 %	19 %

Note: See note on table 3.1.

This table is based on an estimated 618,833 cases.

Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

Racial categories include Hispanics.

-- 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 3.10. Average age of felons receiving probation or a sentence without probation in State courts, by offense, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Probation		Sentence without probation	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
All offenses	31 yr	30 yr	32 yr	31 yr
Violent offenses	31 yr	29 yr	31 yr	29 yr
Murder /a	29	24	31	28
Sexual assault /b	33	31	35	34
Robbery	25	22	27	24
Aggravated assault	32	30	31	30
Other violent /c	33	33	32	31
Property offenses	30 yr	29 yr	32 yr	31 yr
Burglary	27	23	30	29
Larceny /d	31	29	33	32
Fraud /e	32	31	33	32
Drug offenses	32 yr	30 yr	33 yr	32 yr
Possession	33	32	34	34
Trafficking	31	29	32	30
Weapon offenses	31 yr	28 yr	30 yr	27 yr
Other offenses /f	33 yr	32 yr	34 yr	33 yr

Note: See note on table 3.1.

This table is based on an estimated 765,802 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 3.11. Felons sentenced to probation in State courts, by offense and age at sentencing, 2000

Most serious conviction offense	Percent of felons' age group who received a probation sentence			
	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40 or older
All offenses	64 %	56 %	53 %	54 %
Violent offenses	50 %	47 %	45 %	51 %
Murder /a	16	21	10	15
Sexual assault /b	60	56	46	46
Robbery	43	32	27	28
Aggravated assault	55	55	51	58
Other violent /c	65	52	56	62
Property offenses	72 %	62 %	55 %	55 %
Burglary	69	54	41	41
Larceny /d	72	61	53	52
Fraud /e	80	70	66	67
Drug offenses	66 %	57 %	53 %	54 %
Possession	67	60	56	54
Trafficking	65	56	52	54
Weapon offenses	56 %	47 %	49 %	56 %
Other offenses /f	68 %	57 %	55 %	57 %

Note: This table is based on an estimated 765,802 cases.

In this table persons are counted as probation cases so long as their sentences included probation and without regard to whether a term of incarceration was also included.

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 vandalism.