



# Federal Justice Statistics, 2011–2012

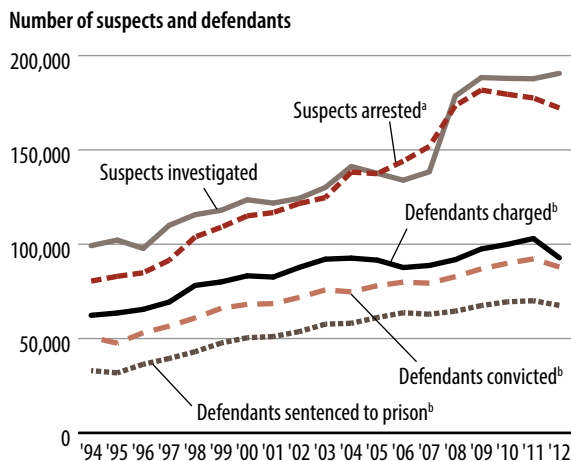
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During fiscal year 2012, the number of suspects arrested for a federal offense declined to 172,248 after reaching a record 181,726 suspects in 2009. From 1994 to 2012, the number of suspects arrested by federal law enforcement more than doubled, from 80,450 in 1994 to 172,248 in 2012 (figure 1). In recent years, federal law enforcement activity has slowed along with the later stages of cases processing in U.S. district court (persons charged, convicted, and sentenced to prison). From 2010 to 2012, arrests decreased at an annual average rate of 1.9%.<sup>1</sup>

At yearend 2012, about 414,000 offenders were under some form of federal correctional control: 47% were confined by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), 15% were confined in pretrial detention, 32% were on post-conviction supervision in the community, and 6% were under pretrial supervision in the community (table 1).

<sup>1</sup>The reporting period used throughout this report is the fiscal year, which is from October 1 to September 30. All percent changes referenced in this report are calculated using the average of the annual change between years.

**FIGURE 1**  
Suspects and defendants processed in the federal justice system, 1994–2012



<sup>a</sup>Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests.

<sup>b</sup>Represents defendants charged with a felony or Class A misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems; Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS data base; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2012.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- At yearend 2012, 414,065 persons were under some form of federal correctional control—62% were in confinement and 38% were under supervision in the community (table 1).
- Fifteen percent of federal prisoners released in 2010 were returned to federal prison within 3 years. Over half (54%) were returned for supervision violations (table 15).
- In 2012, five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border accounted for 60% of federal arrests, 53% of suspects investigated, and 41% of offenders sentenced to prison.
- In 2012, 3,171 suspects were arrested for a sex offense. Defendants convicted of a felony sex offense were the most likely (97%) to receive a prison sentence following conviction (table 13).
- During 2012, 172,248 suspects were booked by the U.S. Marshals Service, a 2% decline from 179,034 booked in 2010 (table 2).
- Most (60%) defendants in cases disposed in 2012 had a prior conviction. A third of those with a prior conviction were for a misdemeanor offense (table 9).
- More than half (56%) of defendants charged in U.S. district court were of Hispanic origin (table 10). Hispanic offenders accounted for 32% of inmates in federal prison (table 14).
- A third (34%) of defendants charged in U.S. district court were from Mexico, 5% were from countries in Central America, and 2% were from countries in the Caribbean (table 10).
- At yearend 2012, 19% of offenders in federal prison were from Mexico, 3% were from countries in the Caribbean, and 2% were from countries in Central America (table 14).

## Summary

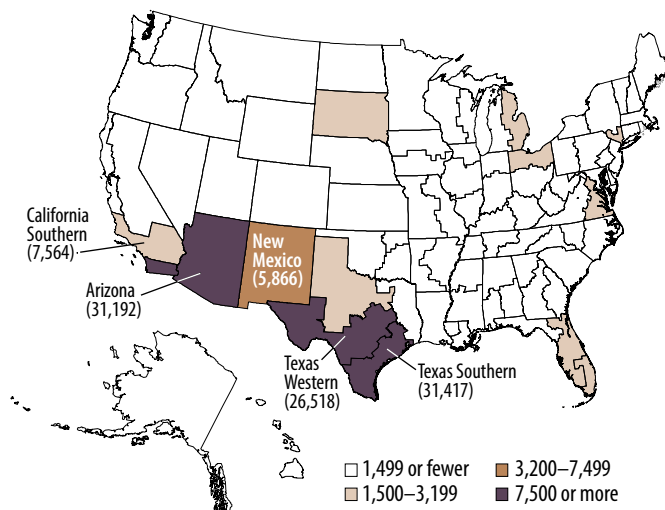
The number of federal arrests declined from 179,034 in 2010 to 172,248 in 2012. The decline in arrests was due to decreases across several offense types, including property (down 3,381), drug (down 2,786), and supervision violations (down 2,607). During this period, arrests for immigration offenses increased by 3,203. Illegal immigration (50%) was the most common arrest offense in 2012, followed by drug (15%) and supervision (13%) violations. From 2010 to 2012, arrests for regulatory offenses increased from 266 to 300 (average annual increase of 6%). Sex offense arrests increased at the next fastest rate (up 3% per year), followed by immigration offenses (up 2%). During this period, fraud offenses (down 10% per year) declined the most, followed by other property (down 6%) and supervision (down 5%) offenses.

The five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border (California Southern, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern) accounted for 60% of all federal arrests in 2012, up from 45% of all arrests in 2006 (**map 1**) (see *Federal Justice Statistics, 2010*, NCJ 239913, BJS web, December 2013). In 2012, these five districts also accounted for 53% of suspects investigated by U.S. attorneys, 54% of suspects detained prior to trial, 39% of defendants convicted, and 41% of offenders sentenced to federal prison.

In 2012, about 9 in 10 defendants in cases adjudicated in U.S. district court were convicted. Ninety-one percent of felonies charged in U.S. district court were disposed by a guilty plea. Of defendants convicted, about 8 in 10 received a prison sentence. The median federal prison sentence imposed was 33 months.

Between fiscal yearend 2011 and 2012, the number of persons under federal correctional control increased by 2,764 (up 0.7%). During this period, the number of federally sentenced persons in BOP confinement increased by 1,217 offenders and the number of persons under community supervision increased by 1,993. The number of persons on probation decreased from 22,866 in 2011 to 22,307 in 2012.

**MAP 1**  
Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service, by federal judicial district, 2012



Not shown on map: Guam (1,499 or fewer), Puerto Rico (1,499 or fewer), District of Columbia (1,500-3,199), and Virgin Islands (1,499 or fewer). A total of 172,248 suspects were arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service in 94 federal judicial districts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal year 2012.

**TABLE 1**  
Offenders in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community, 2011 and 2012

	2011		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	411,301	100%	414,065	100%
<b>In secure confinement</b>	254,995	62.0%	255,766	61.8%
Pretrial detention	61,701	15.0	61,255	14.8
Federal Bureau of Prisons (post-sentencing)*	193,294	47.0	194,511	47.0
<b>In the community</b>	156,306	38.0%	158,299	38.2%
Pretrial release supervision	27,366	6.7	26,567	6.4
Post-sentencing supervision	128,940	31.3	131,732	31.8
Supervised release	104,273	25.4	107,802	26.0
Probation	22,866	5.6	22,307	5.4
Parole	1,801	0.4	1,623	0.4

Note: Federal offender populations are shown as of September 30, 2011 and 2012.

\*Federally sentenced inmates in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Counts exclude persons in federal prison for D.C. code offenses, military code offenses, treaty transfer cases, and as state boarders. Unsensenced federal offenders are included in pretrial detention counts.

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Probation and Pretrial Services' Federal Probation and Supervision Information System; U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information Systems; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY data base, fiscal yearend 2011 and 2012.

This report describes defendants processed at each stage of the federal justice system—arrest and booking, investigation and prosecution, pretrial detention, adjudication and sentencing, corrections, and supervision in the community. Data are from the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). The FJSP collects, standardizes, and reports on administrative data received from six federal justice agencies: the U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the BOP, and the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

## Arrest and booking

The U.S. Marshal is the primary law enforcement officer for the U.S. Marshals Service, and each of the 94 federal judicial districts has one. Deputy U.S. Marshals oversee tasks involved in taking federal suspects charged with a crime into custody, including booking, processing and detention, court security, and prisoner transportation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>The unit of count for federal arrest data reported in this section is a suspect arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service. The phrase “suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service” is used to describe arrests and bookings where each arrest and booking for an individual suspect occurring in the same year is counted separately.

## In 2012, the U.S. Marshals Service arrested and booked 172,248 suspects for a federal offense

The number of suspects arrested and booked for violations of federal law decreased from 179,034 in 2010 to 172,248 in 2012—a decrease of 6,786 suspects (table 2). The number of suspects arrested and booked increased each year from 1994 to 2009, and declined each year from 2009 to 2012.

## Immigration offenses comprised half of federal suspects arrested and booked in 2012

In 2012, the U.S. Marshals Service arrested and booked 85,458 immigration suspects, up 3,203 from 2010 and up 2,252 from 2011. Immigration offenses made up 46% of suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service in 2010 and 50% in 2012. Drug offenses (15% or 25,929 suspects) were the second most common offense among suspects arrested and booked in 2012 as 25,929 drug suspects were arrested and booked. This was down from 29,954 drug suspects arrested and booked in 2011.

**TABLE 2**  
**Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service, by offense and federal district at arrest, 2010, 2011, and 2012**

	2010		2011		2012		Average annual growth rate, 2010–2012*
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total suspects arrested</b>	179,034	100%	177,547	100%	172,248	100%	-1.9%
<b>Offense at arrest</b>							
Violent	3,421	1.9%	3,261	1.8%	3,114	1.8%	-4.6%
Property	17,872	10.0	16,695	9.4	14,491	8.5	-9.9
Fraud	15,669	8.8	14,664	8.3	12,541	7.3	-10.4
Other	2,203	1.2	2,031	1.2	1,950	1.1	-5.9
Drug	28,715	16.1	29,954	17.0	25,929	15.1	-4.5
Public order	6,540	3.7	6,537	3.7	5,955	3.5	-4.4
Regulatory	266	0.2	268	0.2	300	0.2	6.3
Other	6,274	3.5	6,269	3.6	5,655	3.3	-5.0
Sex offense	3,034	1.7	3,472	2.0	3,171	1.9	2.8
Weapons	7,902	4.4	7,543	4.3	7,672	4.5	-1.4
Immigration	82,255	46.1	83,206	47.1	85,458	49.9	2.0
Material witness	4,271	2.4	3,654	2.1	3,901	2.3	-3.8
Supervision violations	24,297	13.6	22,439	12.7	21,690	12.7	-5.4
<b>Federal judicial district of arrest</b>							
U.S.-Mexico border districts	101,218	56.5%	103,011	58.0%	102,557	59.5%	0.7%
Arizona	34,085	19.0	36,670	20.7	31,192	18.1	-5.3
California Southern	8,241	4.6	8,713	4.9	7,564	4.4	-3.6
New Mexico	7,182	4.0	6,492	3.7	5,866	3.4	-9.6
Texas Southern	29,917	16.7	29,206	16.5	31,417	18.2	2.6
Texas Western	21,793	12.2	21,930	12.4	26,518	15.4	10.8
Other districts	77,816	43.5%	74,536	42.0%	69,691	40.5%	-5.3%

Note: Offense percentages based on available data. Data on type of offense were missing for 727 arrests in 2010, 786 arrests in 2011, and 867 in 2012. Suspects arrested more than once in a fiscal year are counted as separate arrests. Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests.

\*Calculated using each fiscal year count from 2010 to 2012.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

**Nearly 60% of federal suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service in 2012 were in five judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border**

In 2012, 102,557 suspects were arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals in five U.S.-Mexico border districts (California Southern, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern), compared to 69,691 in the remaining 89 districts. The Southern District of Texas in 2012, and the district of Arizona both had 18%. From 2010 to 2012, the rate of suspects arrested and booked in U.S.-Mexico border districts increased by less than 1% annually. In comparison, the number of suspects arrested and booked in other border districts declined by 5% annually (from 77,816 in 2010 to 69,691 in 2012).

**Suspects arrested in the Western District of Texas increased at the fastest rate from 2010 to 2012**

Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service in the Western District of Texas increased by an annual average of 10.8% from 2010 to 2012 and had the third most federal arrests in the United States (after the Southern District of Texas and the District of Arizona). The number of suspects

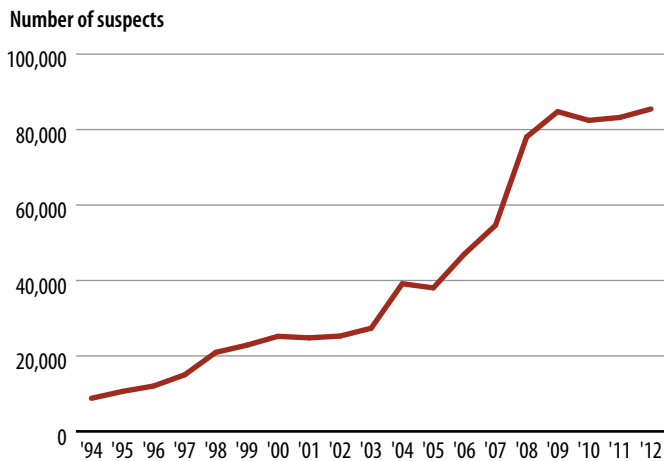
arrested in the Western District of Texas increased from 21,793 suspects in 2010 to 21,930 suspects in 2011, and then increased to 26,518 in 2012. The number of suspects arrested in Texas Southern increased by 1,500 during this period. On average, from 2010 to 2012, federal arrests decreased in the districts of New Mexico (down 9.6% annually), Arizona (down 5.3%), and California Southern (down 3.6%).

**From 2010 to 2012, regulatory offenses increased at the fastest rate**

Regulatory arrests increased by an average of 6.3% per year from 2010 (266 arrests) to 2012 (300), making it the fastest growing offense among suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service. Immigration arrests doubled from 1994 to 1998, doubled from 1998 to 2004, and doubled again from 2004 to 2008 (figure 2).

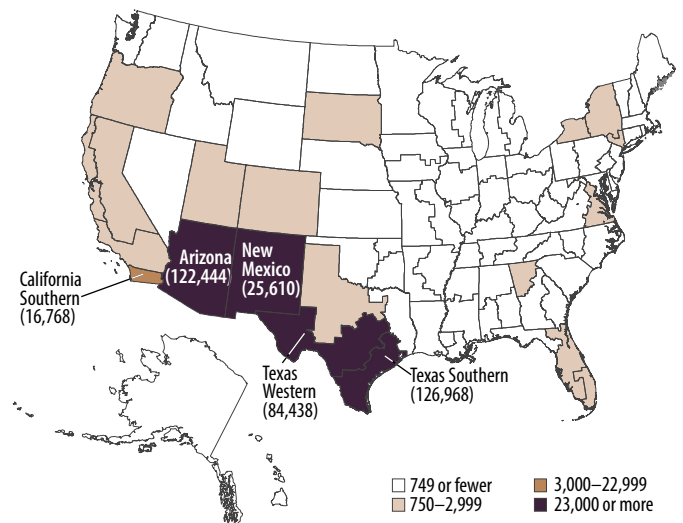
From 2008 to 2012, the U.S. Marshals Service arrested and booked 413,700 immigration suspects. Ninety-one percent of immigration suspects over this period were arrested in five judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border (map 2).

**FIGURE 2**  
Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service for an immigration offense, 1994–2012



Note: Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests. Immigration offenses include illegal entry, illegal reentry, alien smuggling, and visa fraud. A total of 785,505 suspects were arrested and booked for an immigration offense from fiscal years 1994 to 2012. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 1994–2012.

**MAP 2**  
Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service for an immigration offense, by federal judicial district, 2008–2012



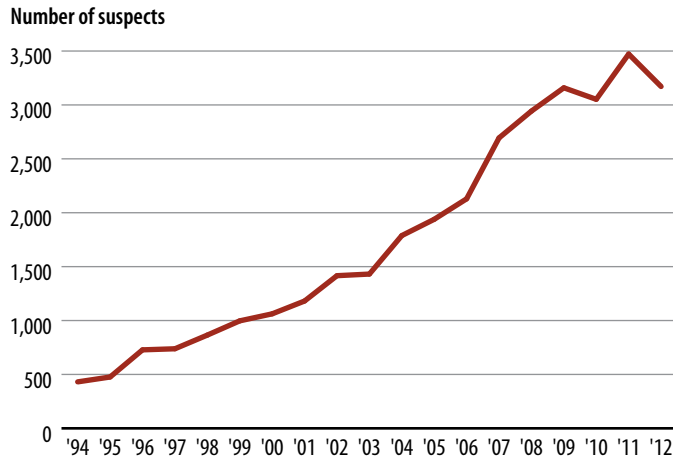
Note: Immigration offenses include illegal entry, illegal reentry, alien smuggling, and visa fraud. A total of 413,700 suspects were arrested and booked for an immigration offense from fiscal years 2008 to 2012. Not shown on map: Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (749 or fewer), Puerto Rico (750–2,999), District of Columbia (750–2,999), and U.S. Virgin Islands (749 or fewer).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 2008–2012.

**Sex offenses were the second fastest growing federal arrest offense from 2010 to 2012**

The number of suspects arrested and booked for a sex offense (e.g., child pornography, sex abuse, and illegal sex transportation) doubled from 1994 to 1998. Suspects arrested for sex offenses doubled again from 1998 to 2004 (figure 3). Sex offenses increased by an annual average of 3%, from 3,034 arrests in 2010 to 3,171 arrests in 2012.

**FIGURE 3**  
Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service for a federal sex offense, 1994–2012

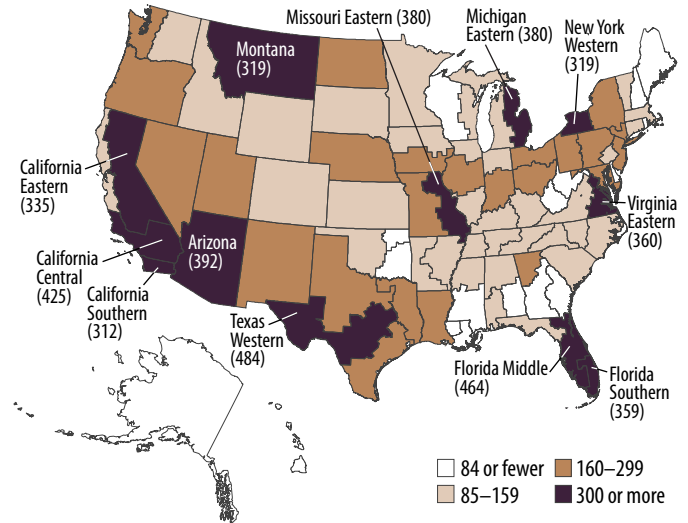


Note: Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests. Sex offenses include sex abuse, possession, distribution, and production of child pornography, and illegal sex transportation. A total of 33,672 suspects were arrested and booked for a federal sex offense from fiscal years 1994 to 2012.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 1994–2012.

Suspects arrested and booked for a sex offense were relatively dispersed by federal district of arrest. From 2008 to 2012, the U.S. Marshals Service arrested and booked 15,779 sex offense suspects. Twelve federal districts had more than 300 sex offense arrests from 2008 to 2012 (map 3). During this period, the Western District of Texas (484), Florida Middle (464), and California Central (425) had the most sex offense arrests, followed by the district of Arizona (392) and Missouri Eastern and Michigan Eastern (380 each).

**MAP 3**  
Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service for a federal sex offense, by federal judicial district of arrest, 2008–2012



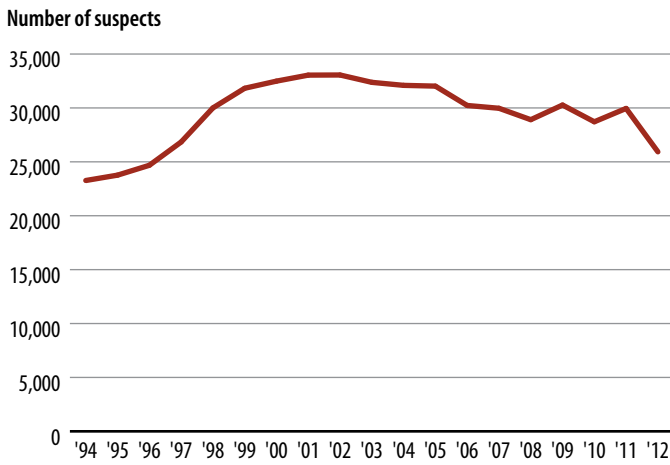
Note: Sex offenses include sex abuse, possession, distribution, and production of child pornography, and illegal sex transportation. A total of 15,779 suspects were arrested and booked for a sex offense from fiscal years 2008 to 2012. Not shown on map: Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (84 or fewer), Puerto Rico (85–159), District of Columbia (85–159), and U.S. Virgin Islands (84 or fewer).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 2008–2012.

**Drug offenses were the second most common offense among suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service in 2012**

The U.S. Marshals Service arrested and booked 25,929 suspects for drug offenses in 2012. This represented a 4.5% average annual decrease from 2010. From 1994 to 2012, the number of drug arrests was highest in 2002 (33,056) then declined each year from 2002 to 2008 and increased in 2009. From 2010 to 2012, drug arrests declined to the lowest level since 1997 (figure 4).

**FIGURE 4**  
Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service for a federal drug offense, 1994–2012

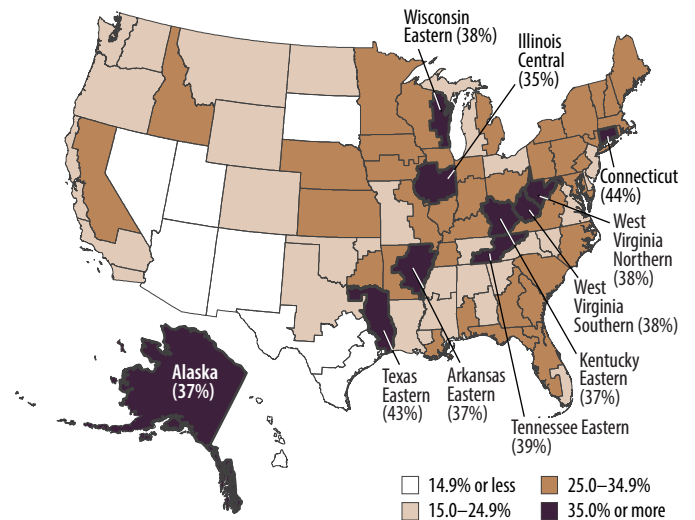


Note: Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests. A total of 559,434 suspects were arrested and booked for a federal drug offense from fiscal years 1994 to 2012.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 1994–2012.

From 2008 to 2012, drug offenses (143,777) accounted for 16% of the total number (884,018) of arrests (not shown). In 10 districts, the percentage of drug arrests as a share of total arrests from 2008 to 2012 exceeded 35%. In two districts, Connecticut (44%) and Texas Eastern (43%), drug arrests made up more than 40% of total arrests during the same period. In 8 districts, drug arrests made up less than 15% of total arrests made during this period (map 4).

**MAP 4**  
Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service for a federal drug offense as a percent of the total arrests in a federal judicial district, 2008–2012



Note: A total of 143,777 suspects were arrested and booked for drug offenses from fiscal years 2008 to 2012. Not shown on map: Guam or Northern Marianas Islands (15.0–24.9%), Puerto Rico (35.0% or more), District of Columbia (14.9% or less), and U.S. Virgin Islands (25.0–34.9%).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 2008–2012.

## DHS law enforcement agencies made more than half of federal arrests in 2012

Agencies of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) accounted for 58% of suspects arrested in 2012 (table 3). DHS agencies include Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Secret Service, and others. Department of Justice (DOJ) agencies made 37% of suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service in 2012. DOJ agencies include the FBI; Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the U.S. Marshals Service; and others.

## Arrests made by DHS law enforcement agencies increased at the fastest rate from 2008 to 2012

Arrests by DHS agencies increased at an average annual rate of 2.0% from 2008 to 2012. Arrests made by ICE increased by an annual average of 22.1%, and those made by CBP declined by an annual average of 5.8%. Arrests by DOJ agencies decreased annually by about 0.8% from 2008 to 2012, with FBI arrests increasing by 3.3% and U.S. Marshals Service arrests decreasing by an average of 2.3%. The annual number of arrests made by ATF changed little between 2008 and 2012.

**TABLE 3**  
**Suspects arrested and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service, by arresting authority, 2008, 2011, and 2012**

Arresting department/agency	2008		2011		2012		Average annual growth rate, 2008–2012 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>All agencies</b>	173,463	100%	177,547	100%	172,248	100%	5.8%
<b>Justice</b>	66,468	38.3%	68,920	38.8%	63,799	37.0%	-0.8
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	6,151	3.5	6,294	3.5	6,132	3.6	--
U.S. Marshals Service	39,165	22.6	37,216	21.0	35,208	20.4	-2.3
Drug Enforcement Administration	11,196	6.5	12,579	7.1	10,380	6.0	-1.4
Federal Bureau of Investigation	9,931	5.7	12,011	6.8	11,219	6.5	3.3
Other <sup>b</sup>	25	--	820	0.5	860	0.5	--
<b>Homeland Security</b>	91,854	53.0%	100,184	56.4%	99,393	57.7%	2.0%
Customs and Border Protection	68,265	39.4	39,965	22.5	48,108	27.9	-5.8
Immigration and Customs Enforcement	21,336	12.3	50,210	28.3	42,788	24.8	22.1
Secret Service	1,799	1.0	2,250	1.3	1,793	1.0	0.8
Other <sup>c</sup>	454	0.3	7,739	4.4	6,689	3.9	--
<b>Interior</b>	1,258	0.7%	1,213	0.7%	1,164	0.7%	-1.2%
<b>Defense</b>	413	0.2%	391	0.2%	314	0.2%	-5.7%
<b>Agriculture</b>	284	0.2%	267	0.2%	240	0.1%	-2.5%
<b>State</b>	354	0.2%	201	0.1%	157	0.1%	-10.8%
<b>Treasury</b>	797	0.5%	923	0.5%	1,153	0.7%	10.5%
<b>Postal Service</b>	1,263	0.7%	1,512	0.9%	1,269	0.7%	2.2%
<b>Federal Judiciary</b>	654	0.4%	259	0.1%	335	0.2%	-6.7%
<b>Other<sup>d</sup></b>	10,118	5.8%	2,726	1.5%	3,463	2.0%	-13.1%

Note: Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests. In 2008, no records were missing arresting agency information. In 2011, 951 records were missing arresting agency information. In 2012, 961 records were missing agency information.

-- Less than 0.05%.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using each fiscal year count from 2008 to 2012.

<sup>b</sup>Includes U.S. Parole Commission, U.S. Trustees, and other agencies.

<sup>c</sup>Includes Citizenship and Immigration Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Transportation Security Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard.

<sup>d</sup>Includes self-surrender, independent agencies (Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Drug Administration, Housing and Urban Development), state and local law enforcement, and task forces.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 2008, 2011, and 2012.

## Patterns in DEA drug arrests

### In 2012, the DEA made 31,628 state and federal arrests

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 31,628 drug arrests in 2012, down from 32,379 in 2011.<sup>3</sup> The number of drug arrests by the DEA increased over the 1990s to a peak of 46,435 arrests in 2000, followed by a decline to 29,238 in 2003. From 2003 to 2012, the number of DEA arrests increased annually by an average of 1% (figure 5).

Marijuana arrests by the DEA increased at the fastest annual average rate from 2002 to 2012 (2.0%), followed by opiates (2.1%). The number of DEA arrests for marijuana coincided with the number of arrests for methamphetamine from 1998 until 2006. However, since 2006, the annual number of marijuana arrests has been greater. Arrests for crack cocaine (annual average decrease of 4.6%), powder cocaine (down 2.4%), and methamphetamine (down 0.9%) each declined from 2002 to 2012.

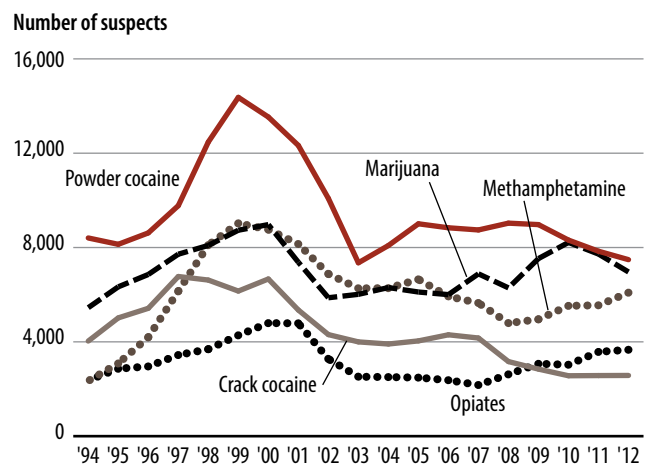
### Cocaine was the most common drug type involved in arrests by the DEA in 2012

Suspects arrested for offenses involving cocaine powder (7,485) and crack cocaine (2,575) accounted for 32% of all suspects arrested by the DEA in 2012 (table 4). Twenty-four percent of suspects were arrested for offenses involving

<sup>3</sup>The unit of count for the federal drug arrest data received from the DEA reported in this section is a suspect arrested by the DEA. The phrase "suspects arrested by the DEA" is used to describe arrests where each arrest for an individual suspect is counted separately. Individual suspects can be arrested and booked by the DEA more than once in a year. The DEA data do not distinguish between arrests that are referred for state versus federal prosecution.

crack cocaine and 8% were arrested for crack cocaine. The remaining suspects arrested by the DEA in 2012 were for marijuana (6,963), methamphetamine (6,087), opiates (3,664), and other or nondrug offenses (4,854). Marijuana was the second most common drug at arrest by the DEA from 2006 to 2012. In 2012, more than half (53%) of arrests made by the DEA involved marijuana that had been cultivated domestically compared to internationally (47%) (not shown).

**FIGURE 5**  
Suspects arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration, by drug type, 1994–2012



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 1994–2012.

*Continued on next page*



## Patterns in DEA drug arrests (continued)

**TABLE 4**  
**Demographic characteristics of suspects arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration, by type of drug, 2012**

Demographic characteristic	Total arrested		Drug type					Other/ nondrug <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent	Cocaine powder	Crack cocaine	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Opiates	
Number of arrestees <sup>b</sup>	31,628	100%	7,485	2,575	6,963	6,087	3,664	4,854
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	26,216	83.2%	88.0%	86.6%	87.3%	78.4%	84.2%	73.4%
Female	5,300	16.8	12.0	13.4	12.8	21.6	15.8	26.6
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>c</sup></b>								
White	8,652	28.4%	10.4%	7.1%	33.1%	41.3%	20.0%	51.3%
Black/African American	7,323	24.0	27.8	76.9	17.6	3.2	29.4	21.6
Hispanic/Latino	13,719	45.0	61.0	14.3	44.0	53.3	49.9	23.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	151	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.5
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	625	2.1	0.6	0.8	4.7	1.6	0.5	3.0
<b>Age</b>								
17 or younger	77	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
18–20	1,604	5.1	3.5	5.7	7.1	4.5	6.4	4.2
21–24	4,064	12.9	10.7	15.2	14.1	11.4	16.2	13.0
25–34	11,970	38.0	38.5	42.2	37.1	39.2	37.2	35.6
35–44	8,232	26.2	30.6	22.8	23.9	27.3	23.8	24.6
45–54	3,943	12.5	12.3	10.7	11.9	13.7	11.3	14.2
55–64	1,329	4.2	3.7	2.7	4.6	3.5	4.4	6.2
65 or older	259	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.6	2.2
Median age <sup>d</sup>	33 yrs.		34 yrs.	31 yrs.	32 yrs.	33 yrs.	32 yrs.	34 yrs.

Note: Data were missing for the following: sex (52), race/Hispanic origin (966), and age (151). Data include arrests that are referred for state and federal prosecution.

<sup>a</sup>Includes pharmaceutical controlled substances, equipment used to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia.

<sup>b</sup>Includes suspects for whom characteristics are not known.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

<sup>d</sup>Median age is the midpoint or the age at which half of the suspects were older than the median age and half were younger.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal year 2012.

*Continued on next page*

## Patterns in DEA drug arrests (continued)

Hispanic suspects made up nearly half (45%) of suspects arrested by the DEA in 2012

In 2012, about half (45%) of suspects arrested by the DEA were of Hispanic or Latino origin, followed by white (28%) and black (24%) suspects. Hispanic suspects were involved in 3 in 5 (61%) arrests for cocaine powder, more than half (53%) of arrests for methamphetamine, and less than half (44%) of arrests for marijuana offenses. Seventy-seven percent of crack cocaine suspects were black, and 41% of methamphetamine suspects were white. White suspects composed the largest share (51%) of suspects arrested by the DEA for other or nondrug offenses.

**Most suspects arrested by the DEA in 2012 were male (83%) and age 34 or younger (56%)**

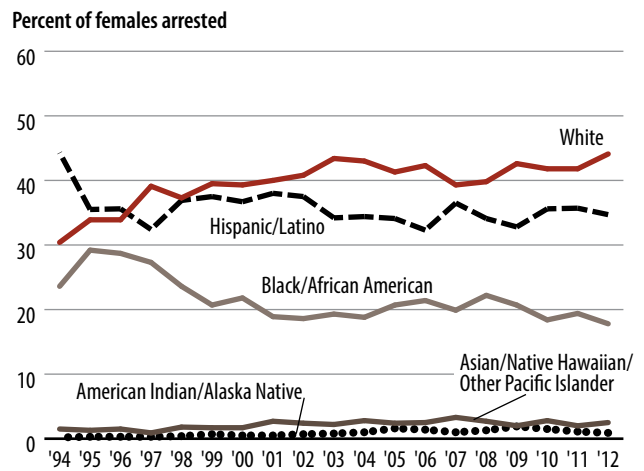
About a quarter of male suspects were arrested for cocaine powder (25%) or marijuana (23%), followed by methamphetamine (18%). Females accounted for 17% of all DEA drug arrests and 22% of all methamphetamine arrests. About a quarter (25%) of females arrested by the DEA for drug violations were arrested for methamphetamine, followed by other drug offenses (24%) and cocaine powder and marijuana offenses (each 17%). More than half of all suspects arrested by the DEA were age 34 or younger, and the median age was similar across all drug types. Five percent of arrests by the DEA were of suspects age 55 or older.

**In 2012, most females arrested by the DEA were white, while most males were Hispanic**

For both males and females, the proportion of Hispanic suspects arrested by the DEA dropped in the early 1990s and has increased since then. Among females arrested by the DEA in 2012, 44% were white, 35% were Hispanic, and 18% were black. Between 1994 and 2012, white females almost always had the greatest share of female DEA arrests. The percentage of black female arrests by the DEA increased from 24% in 1994 to 29% in 1995, and declined to 18% in 2012 (figure 6).

In 2012, Hispanics accounted for 47% of male arrests made by the DEA. This represented a relatively consistent level in the Hispanic share of male arrests since 1994. Blacks made up 25% of arrests of males by the DEA in 2012, and whites composed 25% of male arrests (figure 7).

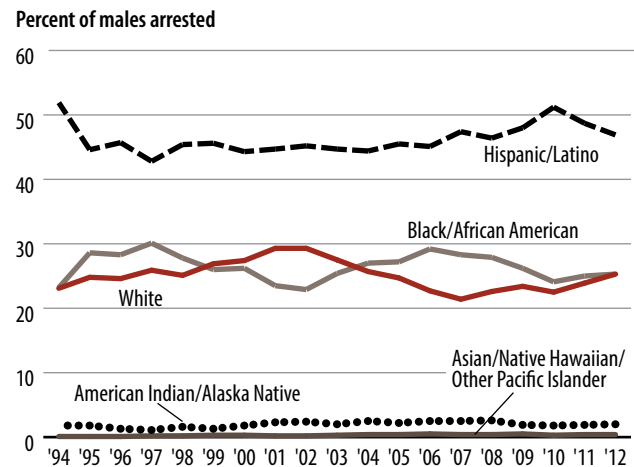
**FIGURE 6**  
Females arrested by the DEA, by race and Hispanic origin, 1994–2012



Note: Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 1994–2012.

**FIGURE 7**  
Males arrested by the DEA, by race and Hispanic origin, 1994–2012



Note: Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 1994–2012.

## Prosecution

The 93 U.S. attorneys serve as the chief federal law enforcement officers within their respective districts.<sup>4</sup> Investigations are most commonly referred to a U.S. attorney by a federal law enforcement agency. State and local law enforcement agencies are also sources of criminal referrals to U.S. attorney's offices in their district. U.S. attorneys determine which cases they will prosecute and establish policies and priorities within their federal judicial districts. U.S. attorneys take into account a variety of factors, such as DOJ priorities, available resources, state and local priorities, and law enforcement priorities.

Federal legislation influences the work of federal prosecutors, especially the types of offenses that are referred for prosecution. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-296) reorganized key federal law enforcement agencies and coincided with increased enforcement of immigration laws, especially in federal districts along the U.S.-Mexico border. The act transferred responsibility for the U.S. Customs Service and the Secret Service from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to DHS. Responsibility for the Immigration and Naturalization Service transferred from DOJ to DHS, and ATF transferred from the Treasury to DOJ.

### In 2012, five federal judicial districts referred more than half (53%) of suspects to U.S. attorneys

In 2012, 190,596 matters were referred to U.S. attorneys. Five federal districts along the U.S.-Mexico border referred 101,265 (53%) of these matters (map 5). After the border districts, the districts with the most referrals included California Central (3,532), Florida Southern (3,463), and Virginia Eastern (3,436).

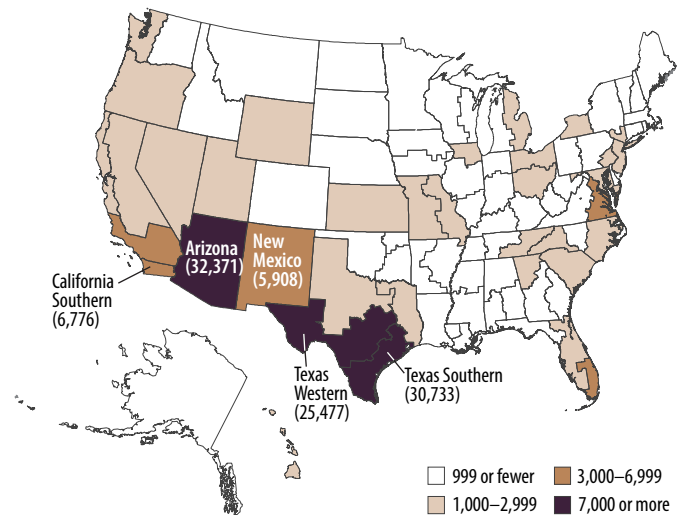
### In 2012, 57% of suspects in matters concluded by U.S. attorneys had been referred by the Department of Homeland Security

Ten years after the reorganization of federal law enforcement agencies under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, DHS agencies referred 57% of all matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2012, down from 60% of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2008 (table 5). Law enforcement agencies within the DOJ referred 28% of suspects in matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2012, compared to 23% of referrals in 2008 and 57% of referrals in 2001. Suspects in matters concluded by U.S. attorneys referred by the Department of Treasury made up 2% of all matters concluded in 2012, down from 20% in 2001.

<sup>4</sup>One U.S. attorney serves two districts (Guam and Northern Mariana Islands). This section of the report combines Northern Mariana Islands with Guam for statistical reporting.

MAP 5

### Number of suspects referred to U.S. attorneys, 2012



Note: A total of 190,596 suspects were investigated by U.S. attorneys in 94 federal judicial districts. Not shown on map: Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (999 or fewer), Puerto Rico (1,000–2,999), District of Columbia (1,000–2,999), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (999 or fewer).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal year 2012.

TABLE 5

### Suspects in matters concluded by U.S. attorneys, by referring authority, 2001, 2008, 2011, and 2012

Department or authority	2001	2008	2011	2012
Total	118,321	182,723	193,534	196,109
Justice	56.6%	23.1%	29.7%	27.6%
Homeland Security	...	59.8	53.3	56.5
Treasury	20.2	1.7	1.4	1.5
Interior	4.2	1.3	1.3	1.4
Defense	3.3	2.8	3.4	2.9
Federal/state task forces	3.2	2.2	1.9	1.8
Other*	12.5	9.4	8.8	8.4

\*Includes: U.S. Postal Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, and State Department.

...Not available, as Homeland Security transition was effective mid-fiscal year 2003 (March).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 2001, 2008, 2011, and 2012.

**Immigration and drug charges made up two-thirds of all matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2012**

U.S. attorneys concluded 196,109 matters in 2012 (table 6). Forty-eight percent of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2012 involved an immigration offense, and 20% involved a drug charge. Overall, the number of matters concluded increased by an annual average of 2% from 2008 to 2012. Among matters concluded by U.S. attorneys during this period, immigration (4%), sex offenses (1%), and regulatory offenses (1%) increased at the fastest annual rate. The number of weapon offenses decreased by an annual average of 1%, from 11,744 matters concluded in 2008 to 11,162 in 2012.

**Matters concluded in five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border increased by 5% from 2008 to 2012**

More than half (53%) of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2012 occurred in the five federal judicial districts of California Southern, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern. In comparison, these districts handled less than half (48%) of matters concluded in 2008. The number of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in all other districts decreased, from 95,939 matters concluded in 2008 to 92,185 matters in 2012.

**TABLE 6**  
**Suspects in matters concluded by U.S. attorneys, by type of offense, 2008, 2011, and 2012**

	2008		2011		2012		Average annual growth rate, 2008–2012 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total</b>	182,723	100%	193,534	100%	196,109	100%	1.8%
<b>Lead charge<sup>b</sup></b>							
Violent	4,479	2.5%	4,571	2.4%	4,261	2.2%	-1.2%
Property	25,713	14.1	28,209	14.8	25,421	13.2	0.0
Fraud	23,321	12.8	25,880	13.5	23,200	12.1	0.2
Other	2,392	1.3	2,329	1.2	2,221	1.2	-1.7
Drug	36,715	20.2	40,073	21.0	37,832	19.6	0.9
Public order	18,095	9.9	18,633	9.7	16,611	8.6	-1.9
Regulatory	4,779	2.6	5,121	2.7	4,976	2.6	1.2
Other	13,316	7.3	13,512	7.1	11,635	6.0	-3.0
Sex offense	4,764	2.6	5,429	2.8	4,969	2.6	1.3
Weapons	11,744	6.5	11,014	5.8	11,162	5.8	-1.2
Immigration	80,615	44.3	83,324	43.6	92,345	48.0	3.7
<b>U.S.-Mexico border district<sup>c</sup></b>							
Yes	86,784	47.5%	96,308	49.8%	103,924	53.0%	4.7%
No	95,939	52.5	97,226	50.2	92,185	47.0	1.0

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using each fiscal year count from 2008 to 2012. Percentages are based on records with no missing offense information (598 records were missing offense information in 2008, 2,281 records were missing offense information in 2011, 3,508 records were missing offense information in 2012).

<sup>b</sup>The substantive charge that is the primary basis of the matter.

<sup>c</sup>Includes Arizona, California Southern, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 2008, 2011, and 2012.

**Almost half of suspects in matters concluded in 2012 were prosecuted by U.S. attorneys**

Matters involving drug and weapons offenses were the most likely to be prosecuted in 2012. Suspects charged with drug (75%) and weapons (71%) offenses had the highest prosecution rates in 2012, followed by sex (61%), violent (57%), property (50%), and public order (40%) offenses (table 7).

U.S. attorneys may file charges and prosecute defendants in U.S. district court, or they may file charges and prosecute matters before U.S. magistrates, who have the authority to adjudicate misdemeanor offenses (18 U.S.C. § 3401). U.S. attorneys may also decline to file 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 also be referred to other authorities for prosecution or be settled through alternative resolution procedures.

**Nearly 4 in 10 matters concluded in 2012 were disposed by U.S. magistrates**

Thirty-nine percent of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2012 were disposed by U.S. magistrates, while 15% were declined for further prosecution. Offenses that were most likely to be disposed by U.S. magistrates included immigration (71%), other public order (23%), and other property (15%) offenses. In the five U.S.-Mexico border districts, two-thirds (66%) of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys were disposed by U.S. magistrates, compared to 9% of matters in other districts. Suspects involved in regulatory offenses were most likely to be declined for prosecution (52%), followed by fraud (37%) and other property (35%) offenses.

**TABLE 7**  
**Outcome and case processing time of suspects in matters concluded, 2012**

	Total matters concluded		Outcome of matters concluded			Case processing time (median) <sup>a</sup>			
			Number	Percent	Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed by U.S. magistrate	Declined	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court
<b>Total</b>	196,109	100%	45.5%	39.4%	15.1%	15 days	25 days	0 days	438 days
<b>Lead charge</b>									
Violent	4,261	100%	56.9%	10.3%	32.8%	57 days	25 days	100 days	230 days
Property	25,421	100%	49.8	10.1	37.1	250	107	50	573
Fraud	23,200	100%	53.1	9.6	37.3	262	116	29	580
Other	2,221	100%	50.1	14.9	35.0	142	37	99	512
Drug	37,832	100%	75.0	9.3	15.7	28	26	29	467
Public order	16,611	100%	39.7	18.4	41.9	189	50	98	446
Regulatory	4,976	100%	39.4	8.6	52.0	270	69	121	465
Other	11,635	100%	39.8	22.6	37.6	147	42	94	432
Sex offense	4,969	100%	60.9	4.5	34.6	118	51	154	333
Weapons	11,162	100%	70.9	2.7	26.4	42	26	76	249
Immigration	92,345	100%	28.1	71.1	0.8	1	22	0	424
<b>U.S.-Mexico border district<sup>b</sup></b>									
Yes	103,924	100%	30.9%	66.3%	2.7%	1 day	23 days	0 days	348 days
No	92,185	100%	61.5	9.3	29.2	90	29	99	448

Note: Offense type was missing for 3,508 matters.

<sup>a</sup>The median is the midpoint or the number of days for which half of the suspects were processed more slowly than the median days and half were processed more quickly. A median of zero means that half of the suspects were processed on the same day as they were referred.

<sup>b</sup>Includes California Southern, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal year 2012.

**Case processing time to conclude a matter decreased from over 3 months in 1994 to about 2 weeks in 2012**

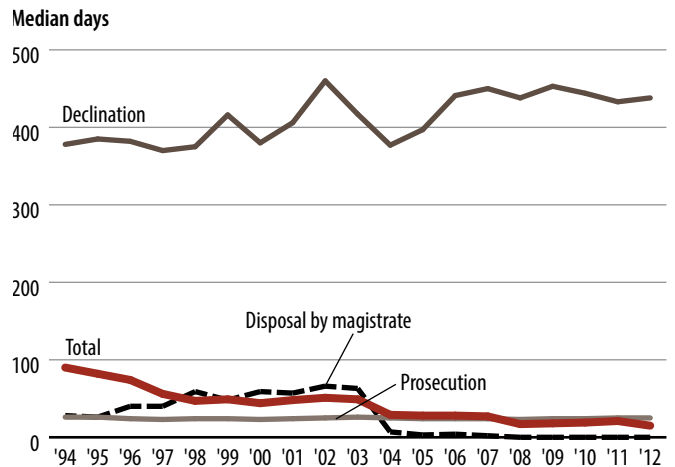
The median time from receipt of a matter by U.S. attorneys to prosecute, decline, or dispose by U.S. magistrate was 15 days in 2012. This was a decrease from 99 days in 1994. In 2012, the median processing time took far longer for matters that were declined (438 days) than for matters prosecuted (25 days) or disposed by a U.S. magistrate (half were disposed on the same day). The median case processing time for matters prosecuted remained relatively stable, declining slightly from 26 days in 1994 to 25 days in 2012 (figure 8). The median case processing time for a matter disposed by magistrate increased from 28 days in 1994 to 63 days in 2003, before dropping sharply to 0 days in 2012. A median of 0 days means that at least half of the matters were concluded on the same day they were opened.

The drop in the total case processing time was due in part to a steady decrease in the number of matters declined and to an increase in the number of immigration matters disposed by U.S. magistrate beginning in 2004. In addition, the increase in immigration enforcement along the U.S.-Mexico border was accompanied by a strategy to expedite case processing by charging first-time illegal entrants with a petty misdemeanor offense.

**Six law enforcement agencies referred 80% of matters concluded in 2012**

Eighty percent (155,943) of the 196,109 matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2012 were referred by six federal law enforcement agencies. The top agency was from DHS: CBP (66,879 suspects). The FBI referred the second largest number of suspects (22,489), followed by ICE (21,266), Citizenship and Immigration Services (17,940), DEA (15,865), and ATF (11,504).

**FIGURE 8**  
**Median days from receipt of matter to disposition, 1994–2012**



Note: The median is the midpoint or the number of days for which half of the suspects were processed more slowly than the median days and half were processed more quickly. A median of zero means that half of the suspects were processed on the same day as they were referred.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 1994–2012.

Among these six agencies, prosecution rates in 2012 varied from a high of 81% for suspects referred by ICE, followed by 76% for suspects referred by DEA and 72% for suspects referred by ATF (table 8). Twenty-five percent of suspects referred by CBP were prosecuted in U.S. district courts, 75% were disposed by U.S. magistrates, and less than 1%

were declined. The FBI had a prosecution rate of 56%. Five percent of suspects were disposed by U.S. magistrate and 39% of matters were declined. These six agencies differed in case processing time from receipt of the matter to the decision to prosecute. The FBI had a median case processing time of 63 days, compared to 22 to 26 days for the other five agencies.

**TABLE 8**  
**Outcomes of suspects in matters concluded by Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice, 2012**

Investigating department/agency	Total suspects in matters concluded		Outcome of matters concluded			Number prosecuted	Median days from receipt of matter to prosecution <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent	Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed by U.S. magistrate	Declined		
<b>All agencies</b>	196,109	100%	45.3%	39.5%	15.2%	88,839	24 days
<b>Department of Homeland Security</b>	111,944	100%	34.5%	61.5%	4.0%	38,605	23 days
Customs and Border Protection	66,879	100%	25.0	74.8	0.2	16,692	23
Immigration and Customs Enforcement	21,266	100%	80.6	9.3	10.1	17,141	22
Citizenship and Immigration Services	17,940	100%	7.5	92.1	0.5	1,341	23
Secret Service	4,223	100%	54.7	3.6	41.8	2,308	83
Joint DHS/state/local task forces	286	100%	72.7	7.7	19.6	208	23
Other <sup>b</sup>	1,350	100%	67.8	10.7	21.5	915	26
<b>Department of Justice</b>	56,834	100%	65.0%	5.2%	29.8%	36,933	30 days
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives	11,504	100%	71.8	2.7	25.5	8,255	28
Joint ATF/state/local task forces	902	100%	61.9	3.2	34.9	558	28
U.S. Marshals Service	2,261	100%	47.2	11.1	41.7	1,068	21
Joint USMS/state/local task forces	43	100%	51.2	14.0	34.9	22	11
Drug Enforcement Administration	15,865	100%	76.0	6.4	17.6	12,058	26
Joint DEA/state/local task forces	1,527	100%	74.5	4.5	21.0	1,138	22
Federal Bureau of Investigation	22,489	100%	56.3	5.2	38.5	12,660	63
Joint FBI/state/local task forces	959	100%	62.8	2.3	34.9	602	222
Other <sup>c</sup>	1,284	100%	44.5	7.1	48.4	572	23

<sup>a</sup>The median is the midpoint or the number of days for which half of the suspects were prosecuted more slowly than the median days and half were prosecutions more quickly.

<sup>b</sup>Includes Federal Emergency Management Agency, Transportation Security Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard.

<sup>c</sup>Includes U.S. Parole Commission and U.S. Trustees.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal year 2012.

## Pretrial detention, adjudication, and sentencing

The terms for release and detention of defendants facing charges in federal courts are set under Title 18 U.S.C. § 3141. According to the statute, a defendant must be brought before a judicial officer without unnecessary delay upon arrest for an initial appearance. The judicial officer, usually a U.S. magistrate, determines whether the defendant will be released or detained prior to trial. The Bail Reform Act of 1984 requires the court to weigh risk of flight, threat of crime commission, and presumption of innocence in deciding whether to order detention or release of a defendant. According to the act, preventive detention is applicable in instances where the defendant was charged with (1) a crime of violence, (2) an offense with a statutory maximum sentence of life imprisonment or death, (3) a drug offense with a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years or more imprisonment, or (4) any felony offense if the defendant had been convicted on two or more occasions of a previously described offense or a similar state-level offense.

### Most immigration defendants were detained prior to case disposition

In 2012, more than 3 in 4 defendants (77%) in cases terminated had been detained by the court prior to case disposition (table 9). The defendants most likely to be detained were those charged with immigration (88%), weapons (86%), violent (84%), and drug (84%) offenses. Immigration defendants made up 40% of all defendants in cases terminated in 2012 and 46% of all defendants detained prior to case disposition. Property (37%) and public order (46%) defendants were less likely than other defendants to be detained. In 2012, 76% of defendants charged with a sex offense were detained prior to case disposition.

### The likelihood of being detained prior to case disposition increased with the number of prior convictions

Eighty-five percent of defendants with five or more prior convictions were detained in 2012, compared to 84% of defendants with two to four prior convictions, 81% with one prior conviction, and 67% with no prior convictions. The likelihood of being detained also increased with the severity of the defendant's criminal history. Eighty-eight percent of defendants with a prior violent felony conviction were detained

by the court, compared to defendants with only a prior felony (other drug or violent) (80%) or misdemeanor (79%) conviction. Eighty-five percent of defendants charged in U.S.-Mexico border districts were detained prior to case disposition in 2012, while 69% were detained in other districts.

**TABLE 9**  
**Defendants detained at any time prior to case termination, 2012**

	Number of defendants in cases disposed	Defendants detained	
		Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	105,320	80,786	76.7%
<b>Offense type</b>			
Violent	2,210	1,860	84.2
Property	14,992	5,506	36.7
Fraud	12,669	4,777	37.7
Other	2,323	729	31.4
Drug	29,766	25,084	84.3
Public order	5,370	2,463	45.9
Regulatory	1,264	599	47.4
Other	4,106	1,864	45.4
Sex offense	3,354	2,538	75.7
Weapons	7,327	6,284	85.8
Immigration	41,749	36,801	88.1
<b>Number of prior convictions</b>			
None	42,324	28,263	66.8%
1	17,963	14,576	81.1
2-4	25,315	21,143	83.5
5 or more	19,718	16,804	85.2
<b>Type of prior convictions</b>			
Misdemeanor only	20,584	16,336	79.4%
Felony other	10,347	8,238	79.6
Felony drug	15,490	13,314	86.0
Felony violent	16,573	14,634	88.3
<b>U.S.-Mexico border district*</b>			
Yes	51,655	43,765	84.7%
No	53,665	37,021	69.0

Note: Detained defendants included defendants who were detained at any time prior to case termination. There were 552 records missing offense type and 2 records missing prior conviction information. Prior felony convictions were classified where prior violent felonies were counted first, followed by prior drug felonies and prior other felonies. The database does not contain additional details about prior felonies for other offenses.

\*Includes Arizona, California Southern, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), fiscal year 2012.



**Defendants charged with immigration offenses increased from 1994 to 2010 and declined in 2011 and 2012**

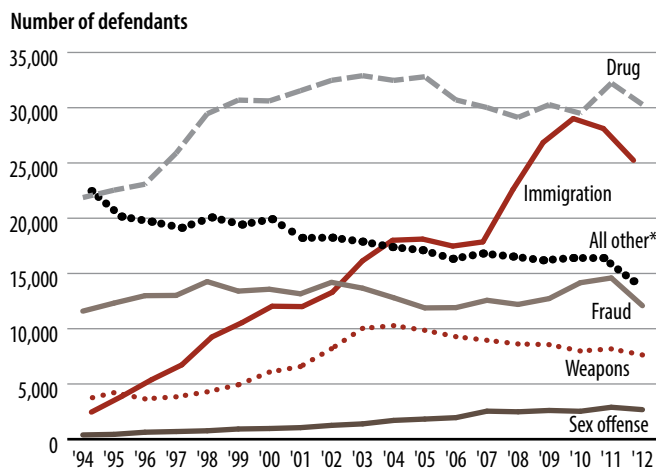
Immigration offenses accounted for 76% of the total increase among all felony cases filed from 1994 to 2012 (figure 9). After increasing from 21,871 cases filed in 1994 to 32,897<sup>1</sup> cases filed in 2003, drug offenses declined to 29,493 in 2010 before increasing to 32,227 in 2011 and decreasing to 30,292 in 2012. Weapons offenses increased from 3,557 cases filed in 1994 to a peak of 10,278 in 2004, then declined to 7,627 in 2012.

**More than half of defendants charged in U.S. district courts in 2012 were U.S. citizens**

In 2012, 57% of defendants charged in U.S. district court were U.S. citizens. Noncitizens charged included persons with legal status (5%) (i.e., permanent residents, persons in possession of a green card, persons with a valid temporary visa, and persons with refugee status) and persons in the country without legal authorization (39%). Of the 43% of defendants who were noncitizens, 34% were from Mexico, followed by persons from Central America (5%), the Caribbean (2%), and South America (1%). Defendants from Asia and Oceania, Europe, and Africa together represented 1% of defendants charged in U.S. district court (figure 10).

<sup>1</sup>The number of felony cases filed increased by 29,000 cases between 1994 and 2012. Immigration (22,790) made up 76% of the total growth.

**FIGURE 9**  
Defendants in cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, 1994–2012



\*Includes violent, other property, and public order offenses.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2012.

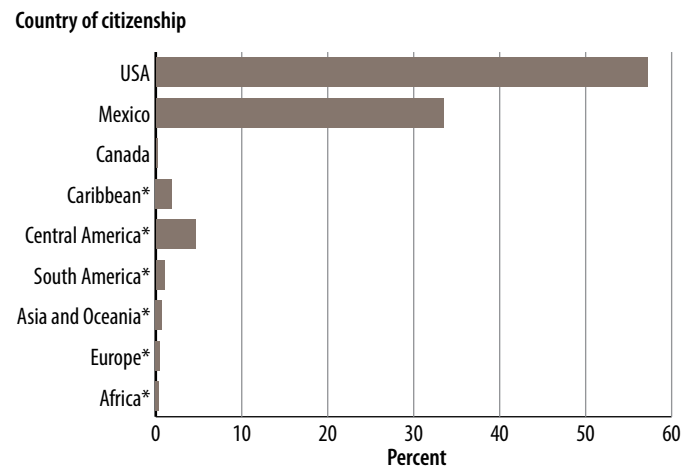
**More than half of defendants charged in U.S. district courts in 2012 were of Hispanic origin**

In 2012, most defendants charged in U.S. district court were Hispanic (56%) and ages 25 to 44 (65%) (table 10). Defendants age 50 or older accounted for 13% of defendants charged. The youngest (age 19 or younger) and oldest (age 65 or older) defendants together composed 3% of defendants charged in 2012.

**Most defendants charged in U.S. court in 2012 were males**

Males made up 86% of defendants charged in federal court in 2012. Most males charged were of Hispanic origin (58%), followed by white (20%) and black or African American (19%). In comparison, most females charged were of Hispanic origin (42%), followed by white (34%) and black (19%) females. The median age for females (36 years) was similar to males (34 years). Females charged were mostly U.S. citizens (78%), with 6% having legal alien status and 16% having illegal alien status. Males charged were more evenly split between U.S. citizens (53%) and non U.S. citizens (47%). Thirty-nine percent of males charged in U.S. district court were from Mexico, followed by those from Central America (5%), the Caribbean (2%), and South America (1%). Sixteen percent of females charged were from Mexico, followed by those from Central America (2%), the Caribbean (1%), and South America (1%).

**FIGURE 10**  
Country of citizenship of offenders charged in U.S. district court, 2012



Note: Includes defendants charged with a felony or Class A misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. A total of 76,369 defendants were charged in U.S. district court in 2012.

\*Countries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), fiscal year 2012.

**TABLE 10****Demographic characteristics of federal defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex of defendant, 2012**

Demographic characteristic	All defendants		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	76,347	100%	65,873	100%	10,450	100%
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup></b>						
White	16,435	21.9%	13,012	20.1%	3,419	33.6%
Black/African American	13,975	18.6	12,021	18.6	1,949	19.1
Hispanic/Latino	41,885	55.9	37,588	58.1	4,283	42.0
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,297	1.7	1,039	1.6	258	2.5
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1,116	1.5	880	1.4	236	2.3
Two or more races	256	0.3	213	0.3	43	0.4
<b>Age</b>						
17 or younger	88	0.1%	78	0.1%	10	0.1%
18–19	808	1.1	693	1.1	115	1.1
20–24	9,231	12.1	7,924	12.0	1,304	12.5
25–29	13,479	17.7	11,787	17.9	1,687	16.2
30–34	14,392	18.9	12,631	19.2	1,752	16.8
35–39	12,098	15.9	10,678	16.2	1,419	13.6
40–44	9,367	12.3	8,024	12.2	1,340	12.8
45–49	6,774	8.9	5,758	8.7	1,014	9.7
50–54	4,417	5.8	3,617	5.5	799	7.7
55–59	2,806	3.7	2,281	3.5	525	5.0
60–64	1,586	2.1	1,314	2.0	272	2.6
65 or older	1,276	1.7	1,064	1.6	212	2.0
Median age	35 yrs.	~	34 yrs.	~	36 yrs.	~
<b>Citizenship</b>						
U.S. citizen	42,935	56.5%	34,830	53.1%	8,095	77.8%
Legal alien	3,815	5.0	3,159	4.8	654	6.3
Illegal alien	29,261	38.5	27,594	42.1	1,655	15.9
<b>Country of citizenship</b>						
North America	76,015	97.4%	65,584	97.5%	10,065	97.2%
United States	42,935	57.2	34,252	50.9	8,095	78.1
Mexico	25,134	33.5	26,487	39.4	1,612	15.6
Canada	164	0.2	159	0.2	31	0.3
Caribbean <sup>b</sup>	1,424	1.9	1,587	2.4	149	1.4
Central America <sup>b</sup>	3,481	4.6	3,099	4.6	178	1.7
South America <sup>b</sup>	763	1.0	691	1.0	115	1.1
Asia and Oceania <sup>b</sup>	560	0.8	491	0.7	81	0.8
Europe <sup>b</sup>	366	0.5	302	0.5	61	0.6
Africa <sup>b</sup>	269	0.4	246	0.4	37	0.4

Note: Includes defendants charged with a felony or Class A misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Data were missing for the following: sex (24), race/Hispanic origin (1,405), age (47), citizenship (358), and country of citizenship (1,273).

~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

<sup>b</sup>Countries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), fiscal year 2012.

## 9 in 10 defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court were convicted in 2012

Of the 96,260 defendants adjudicated in 2012, 91% were convicted (table 11). Almost all immigration violation defendants (97%) in 2012 were convicted, as were most defendants with sex offenses (95%), weapons (93%), and drug violations (92%). Of the 96,260 adjudicated defendants convicted in 2012, most (89%) were convicted following a guilty plea.

## 8% of adjudicated defendants were dismissed in 2012

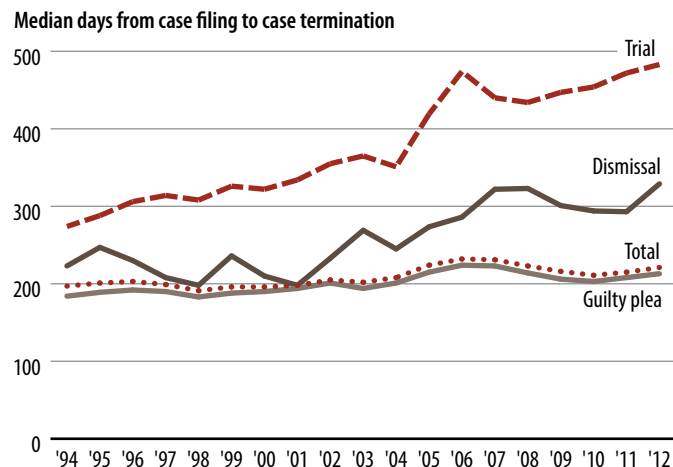
Misdemeanors had the highest percentage of dismissals (27%), followed by public order (11%) and other property (11%) offenses. Violent offenses (7%) and regulatory offenses (5%) had the highest percentage of trials. In 2012, defendants adjudicated in U.S.-Mexico border districts had a higher conviction rate (95%) than defendants in districts not located on the border (89%). Dismissals (a median of 245 days) and guilty pleas (202 days) took less time to process than trials ending in conviction (505 days) or ending in acquittal (281 days).

## In 2012, a felony case took a median of 206 days to process from filing to disposition

The median case processing time for felonies from case filing to disposition increased from 197 days in 1994 to 221 days in 2012 (figure 11). Guilty pleas made up 89% of the case outcomes, which influenced the overall median case processing

time. The median case processing time of felony cases terminated by a guilty plea increased by 29 days, from 184 days in 1994 to 213 days in 2012, and remained the disposition with the fastest case time.

**FIGURE 11**  
Median days from felony case filing to case termination by mode of disposition, 1994–2012



Note: Includes defendants charged with a felony as the most serious charge at case termination. Trial includes defendants who were convicted and defendants who were not convicted either before a jury or before a judge (bench trial).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2012.

**TABLE 11**  
Disposition and case processing time of defendants in cases terminated in U.S. district court, 2012

Most serious offense at termination	Total cases terminated		Percent convicted			Percent not convicted		
	Number	Percent	Total	Guilty plea	Bench/jury trial	Total	Bench/jury trial	Dismissed
<b>All offenses</b>	96,260	100%	91.3%	88.9%	2.2%	8.7%	0.5%	8.2%
<b>Type of charge</b>								
Felony	87,172	100%	93.3%	90.9%	2.4%	6.7%	0.5%	6.2%
Violent	1,951	100%	91.1	85.6	5.6	8.9	0.9	7.9
Property	13,129	100%	91.2	87.8	3.4	8.8	0.7	8.1
Fraud	11,678	100%	91.6	88.0	3.5	8.5	0.7	7.7
Other	1,453	100%	88.4	85.7	2.7	11.6	0.6	11.0
Drug	29,058	100%	92.3	89.8	2.5	7.8	0.4	7.4
Public order	5,194	100%	88.2	83.1	5.1	11.8	1.2	10.7
Regulatory	991	100%	87.3	83.3	4.0	12.7	1.4	11.3
Other	4,205	100%	88.4	83.0	5.3	11.6	1.1	10.5
Sex offense	2,733	100%	95.0	90.6	4.3	5.1	0.8	4.2
Weapons	7,904	100%	92.8	88.8	4.0	7.3	0.8	6.5
Immigration	26,579	100%	96.7	96.3	0.3	3.3	0.1	3.3
Misdemeanor	9,088	100%	72.3	71.6	0.7	27.7	0.5	27.3
<b>U.S.-Mexico border district</b>								
Yes	36,047	100%	94.7%	93.9%	0.8%	5.3%	0.2%	5.2%
No	60,213	100%	89.3	86.2	3.1	10.7	0.6	10.1
<b>Median days from filing of disposition</b>	~		206 days	202 days	505 days	248 days	281 days	245 days

Note: Offense type was missing for 624 records. The median is the midpoint or the number of days for which half of the defendant's cases were disposed more slowly than the median days and half were disposed more quickly.

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal year 2012.

## Cases terminated by a bench or jury trial decision took the longest time to process

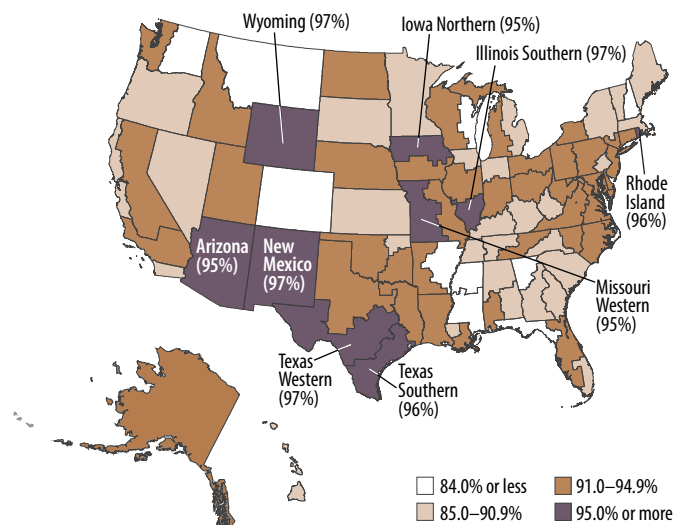
In 2012, felony cases terminated by a trial took a median of 483 days, a 76% increase from 274 days in 1994. Cases terminated by dismissal took a median of 329 days in 2012, up from 223 days in 1994, or a 48% increase in median case processing time.

The number of guilty pleas increased by an annual average rate of 2% from 2008 to 2012 (table 12). The number of defendants who were found guilty following a bench trial (down 5%) or a jury trial (down 6%) declined the most, on average, from 2008 to 2012. The number of defendants who were dismissed decreased annually by 1% from 2008 to 2012.

## The percent of felony cases disposed ending in a guilty plea varied by district

In 2012, nine federal districts disposed of felony cases with a guilty plea 95% or more of the time (map 6). This included districts along the U.S.-Mexico border (with the exception of California Southern) and the districts of Wyoming (97%), Illinois Southern (97%), and Rhode Island (96%).

**MAP 6**  
Felony cases ending in a guilty plea, by federal judicial district, 2012



Note: There were 87,172 defendants terminated in U.S. court with a felony charge; 79,267 (90.9%) were convicted following a guilty plea. Percentages represent the share that guilty pleas make up of total felony cases adjudicated in U.S. district court in each federal judicial district. Not shown on map: Guam or Northern Marianas Islands (84.0% or less), Puerto Rico (85.0 to 90.9%), District of Columbia (84.0% or less), and U.S. Virgin Islands (84.0% or less).  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal year 2012.

**TABLE 12**  
Disposition and sentence received in cases terminated in U.S. district court, 2008, 2011, and 2012

Cases terminated	2008		2011		2012		Average annual growth rate, 2008-2012 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Disposition</b>							
Total disposed	91,728	100%	101,500	100%	96,260	100%	1.3%
Convicted	82,823	90.3%	92,240	90.9%	87,908	91.3%	1.6%
Plea	80,184	87.4	89,918	87.2	85,774	89.1	1.8
Bench/jury trial	2,639	2.9	2,322	3.6	2,134	2.2	-5.1
Not convicted	8,905	9.7	9,260	9.1	8,352	8.7	-1.4
Dismissed	8,360	9.1	8,841	8.7	7,922	8.2	-1.1
Bench/jury trial	545	0.6	419	0.4	430	0.5	-5.5
<b>Sentence imposed<sup>b</sup></b>							
Total convicted	82,823	100%	92,240	100%	87,908	100%	1.6%
Prison <sup>c</sup>	64,529	78.7	70,049	76.4	67,582	77.3	1.2
Probation only	9,526	11.6	9,886	10.8	9,090	10.4	-1.1
Fine only	2,803	3.4	2,796	3.1	1,985	2.3	-7.3
Suspended sentence	5,185	6.3	8,970	9.8	8,799	10.1	14.7

Note: Percentages are based on available data. Sentence type was missing for 780 records in 2008, 539 records in 2011, and 452 records in 2012.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using each fiscal year count from 2008 to 2012.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes cases missing sentence imposed.

<sup>c</sup>Includes all sentences to incarceration, including split sentences.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 2008, 2011, and 2012.

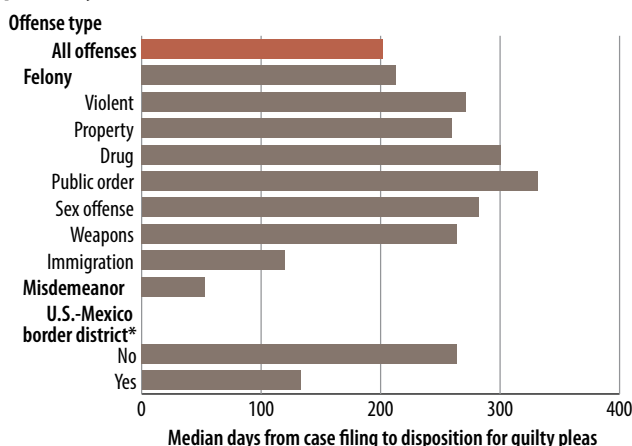
**In 2012, the median time from case filing to guilty plea was more than 6 months**

Of the 85,774 defendants in cases terminated in 2012 that ended in a guilty plea, the median time from case filing to plea was about 202 days (figure 12). Defendants pleading guilty to a felony public order offense took the longest to reach disposition (a median of 332 days), followed by defendants pleading guilty to drug, weapons, sex, and violent offenses. Defendants pleading guilty to a felony immigration offense took 120 days from case filing to case termination. Defendants pleading guilty to a misdemeanor took 55 days, compared to defendants pleading guilty to a felony (202 days). Defendants pleading guilty in U.S.-Mexico border districts (a median of 133 days) were quicker to reach disposition than defendants pleading guilty in other districts (264 days).

**77% of convicted defendants were sentenced to prison in 2012**

Of the 87,908 defendants convicted in U.S. district court in 2012, 77% were sentenced to prison (table 13). This percentage is similar to the 79% of convicted defendants sentenced to prison in 2008. The number of persons who were sentenced to prison increased from 64,529 in 2008 to 67,582 in 2012.

**FIGURE 12**  
Median days from case filing to case termination for guilty pleas, by offense and U.S.-Mexico border district, 2012



Note: The median is the midpoint or the number of days for which half of the defendants were processed more slowly than the median and half were processed more quickly. Offense type is the most serious offense at termination.

\*Includes Arizona, California Southern, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal year 2012.

**TABLE 13**  
Defendants convicted and sentenced to a federal prison term, by type of offense, 2008 and 2012

Most serious offense at termination	Number convicted		Percent sentenced to prison		Median prison term imposed	
	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012
All offenses	82,823	87,908	78.7%	77.3%	30 mos.	33 mos.
Type of offenses						
Felony	75,958	81,340	84.7%	81.2%	37 mos.	35 mos.
Violent	2,061	1,778	93.6	92.2	65	63
Property	11,908	11,975	63.3	61.8	21	24
Fraud	10,371	10,691	64.9	62.9	21	24
Other	1,537	1,284	52.2	52.9	18	18
Drug	26,323	26,806	92.1	90.8	60	60
Public order	4,738	4,581	68.1	70.7	30	31
Regulatory	810	865	47.9	54.3	21	21
Other	3,928	3,716	72.3	74.5	30	36
Sex offense	2,077	2,597	96.6	96.8	82	96
Weapons	8,054	7,332	92.6	91.5	60	51
Immigration	20,671	25,695	86.1	76.6	18	16
Misdemeanor	6,865	6,568	11.8	28.8	3	5
U.S.-Mexico border district*						
Yes	25,436	34,129	86.4%	80.9%	18 mos.	16 mos.
No	57,387	53,779	75.2	75.0	36	36

Note: Sentence type was missing for 780 records in 2008 and 452 in 2012.

\*Includes Arizona, California Southern, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 2008 and 2012.

Ten percent of convicted defendants in 2012 (9,090 out of 87,908) were sentenced to a term of probation only, down from 12% in 2008. Persons sentenced to probation decreased from 9,526 in 2008 to 9,090 in 2012. Two percent of defendants were ordered only to pay a fine in 2012. Persons receiving a fine-only sentence decreased from 2,803 in 2008 to 1,985 in 2012. The fastest growing outcome at sentencing from 2008 to 2012 was a suspended sentence, which increased an annual average of 15%. In 2012, about 10% of all convicted defendants received a suspended sentence, up from 6% in 2008.

### Defendants convicted of sex offenses were most likely to receive a prison sentence

In 2012, sex offense convictions (97%) were most likely to receive a prison sentence, followed by violent and weapons offenses (92% each) and drug offenses (91%). Defendants convicted of other property offenses (53%) and regulatory public order offenses (54%) were least likely to receive a prison sentence. Defendants convicted in one of the five U.S.-Mexico border districts (81%) were more likely than defendants in all other districts (75%) to receive a prison sentence.

### Median prison terms increased slightly from 2008 to 2012

The median prison sentence decreased from 33 months in 2008 to 30 months in 2012. Drug offenders received a median prison sentence of 60 months in 2012, which was unchanged from 2008. Violent offenders received a median of 65 months in prison in 2012, down from 63 months in 2008. Weapons offenders received a median sentence of 51 months in 2012,

down from 60 months in 2008. The median prison sentence decreased for immigration offenders, from 18 months in 2008 to 16 months in 2012.

### Median prison sentences for defendants convicted of sex offenses had the greatest increase

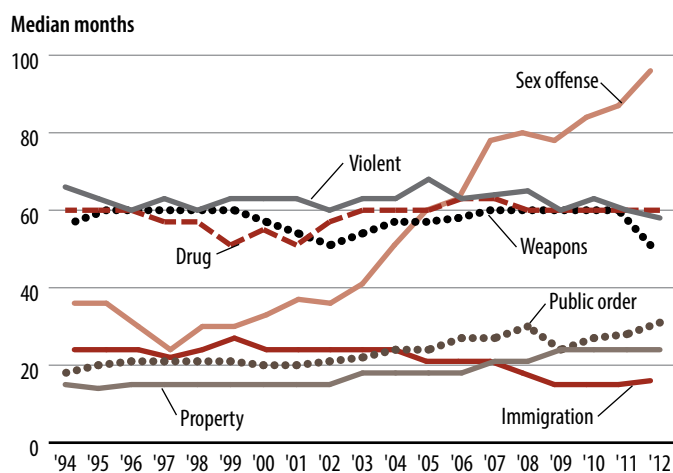
Defendants convicted and sentenced to prison for a felony sex offense had the greatest median prison sentence in 2012 (96 months), up from a median term of 36 months in 1994 (figure 13). From 1994 to 2012, the median prison term imposed on sex offenders increased by an annual average of 6%. In comparison, the median prison term imposed for violent, weapons, and drug offenses remained relatively stable during this period. The median prison term imposed for immigration offenses decreased from 24 months in 1994 to 16 months in 2012.

### Corrections and post-conviction supervision

#### Most persons were incarcerated in federal prison for a drug offense in 2012

Drug offenses were the most prevalent offense type of prisoners in federal prison on September 30, 2012 (figure 14). Drug offenders declined from 57% of the prison population in 2002 to 51% in 2012, while weapons offenders increased from 10% of the prison population in 2002 to 15% in 2012. The share of violent offenders in federal prison decreased from 9% in 2002 to 5% in 2012. Immigration offenders made up 12% of the prison population in 2012, rising slightly from 11% of the population in 2002.

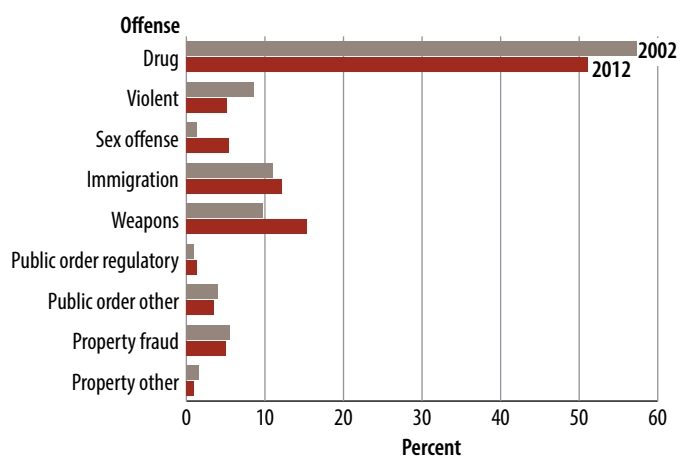
**FIGURE 13**  
Median prison sentence imposed, by most serious felony offense at sentencing, 1994–2012



Note: The median is the midpoint of the number of months for which half of the defendants were sentenced to shorter sentences than the median sentence and half received longer sentences than the median sentence.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2012.

**FIGURE 14**  
Federally sentenced prisoners in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by commitment offense, 2002 and 2012



Note: Includes prisoners sentenced in U.S. district court and excludes D.C. code offenders, military code offenders, foreign treaty transfers, state boarders, and presentenced offenders. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. Offense type was missing for 1,003 records in 2002 and 1,335 in 2012.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2002 and 2012.

### Males made up 94% of inmates in 2012

The average annual rate of growth from 2002 to 2012 was slightly greater for males (3.3%) than for females (2.4%) (table 14). The percentage of males (94%) in federal prison on September 30, 2012, was slightly greater than the percentage of males in prison on September 30, 2002 (93%).

### Federal prisons housed a greater share of older prisoners in 2012

The median age of prisoners was 38 years in 2012, compared to a median age of 36 years in 2002. The number of prisoners age 65 or older more than doubled during this period, from 1,805 prisoners in 2002 to 4,271 prisoners in 2012. Offenders age 60 or older accounted for about 5% of the total prison population in 2012, compared to 3% in 2002.

**TABLE 14**  
**Demographic characteristics of federally sentenced offenders in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 2002, 2011 and 2012**

Offender characteristic	2002		2011		2012		Average annual growth rate, 2002–2012 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
All inmates	142,061	100%	193,294	100%	194,511	100%	3.2%
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	132,137	93.0%	180,950	93.6%	181,982	93.6%	3.3%
Female	9,924	7.0	12,344	6.4	12,529	6.4	2.4
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>b</sup></b>							
White	39,244	27.6%	51,551	26.7%	52,097	26.8%	2.9%
Black/African American	53,330	37.5	68,855	35.6	67,774	34.8	2.4
Hispanic/Latino	45,388	32.0	66,577	34.4	68,294	35.1	4.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,247	1.6	3,485	1.8	3,550	1.8	4.7
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1,852	1.3	2,826	1.5	2,796	1.4	4.3
<b>Age</b>							
17 and younger	36	--	27	--	18	--	-4.8%
18–19	500	0.4%	370	0.2%	356	0.2%	-2.2
20–24	11,914	8.4	10,037	5.2	9,975	5.1	-1.7
25–29	25,356	17.9	26,456	13.7	25,143	12.9	0.0
30–34	29,503	20.8	38,465	19.9	37,685	19.4	2.5
35–39	24,424	17.2	36,294	18.8	36,321	18.7	4.1
40–44	19,001	13.4	28,598	14.8	29,819	15.3	4.6
45–49	13,284	9.4	21,075	10.9	21,574	11.1	5.0
50–54	8,541	6.0	14,392	7.5	14,882	7.7	5.7
55–59	5,109	3.6	8,650	4.5	9,207	4.7	6.1
60–64	2,587	1.8	5,093	2.6	5,260	2.7	7.4
65 or older	1,805	1.3	3,837	2.0	4,271	2.2	9.0
Median age	36 yrs.	~	38 yrs.	~	38 yrs.	~	~
<b>Citizenship</b>							
U.S. citizen	101,564	71.7%	141,333	73.2%	143,126	73.6%	3.5%
Non U.S. citizen	40,005	28.3	51,851	26.8	51,302	26.4	2.5
<b>Country of citizenship</b>							
North America	134,768	95.3%	188,137	97.5%	189,601	97.6%	3.5%
United States	101,564	71.8	141,333	73.2	143,126	73.7	3.5
Mexico	24,350	17.2	37,507	19.4	37,313	19.2	4.4
Canada	261	0.2	423	0.2	376	0.2	3.9
Caribbean <sup>c</sup>	6,925	4.9	5,118	2.7	4,798	2.5	-3.5
Central America <sup>c</sup>	1,668	1.2	3,756	2.0	3,988	2.1	9.3
South America <sup>c</sup>	4,054	2.9	2,717	1.4	2,519	1.3	-4.6
Asia and Oceania <sup>c</sup>	1,258	0.9	1,330	0.7	1,288	0.7	0.3
Europe <sup>c</sup>	739	0.5	436	0.2	432	0.2	-5.1
Africa <sup>c</sup>	561	0.4	414	0.2	442	0.2	-2.1

Note: Includes prisoners sentenced in U.S. district court and excludes D.C. Code offenders, military code offenders, foreign treaty transfers, state boarders, and pre-sentenced offenders. Percentages are based on non-missing data. In 2002, 492 records were missing citizenship and 681 records were missing country of citizenship. In 2011, 110 records were missing citizenship and 260 records were missing country of citizenship. In 2012, 83 records were missing citizenship and 229 records were missing country of citizenship.

-- Less than .05%.

~ Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using each fiscal year count from 2002 to 2012.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

<sup>c</sup>Countries aggregated by region.

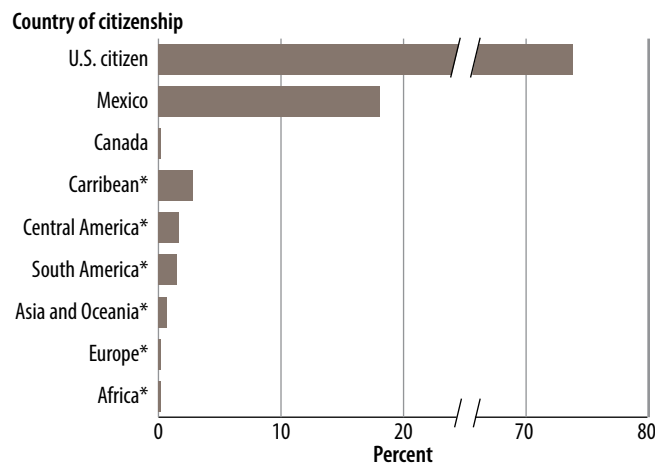
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2002, 2011, and 2012.

**From 2002 to 2012, American Indian or Alaska Natives and Hispanics in federal prison had the greatest average annual increases**

In 2012, 35% of the federal prison population was black, 35% was Hispanic, and 27% was white. American Indians or Alaska Natives (2%) and Asians, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islanders (1%) made up the remainder of the prison population. American Indian offenders had the greatest average annual increase from 2002 to 2012 (5%), followed by Hispanic offenders (4%). Seventy-four percent of persons in federal prison at fiscal yearend 2012 were U.S. citizens, up from 72% in 2002 (figure 15). Of the 26% non U.S. citizens in federal prison in 2012, 19% were citizens of Mexico, 3% were

citizens of Caribbean countries, 2% were citizens of Central America, and 1% were citizens of South American countries. Non U.S. citizens in federal prison at fiscal yearend 2012 with citizenship in a Central American country increased by an annual average of 9% from 2002 to 2012. In comparison, the annual average growth in prisoners who were citizens of Mexico was 4%. The number of prisoners from South America declined, from 4,054 in 2002 to 2,519 in 2012 (a 5% annual average decrease). Five federal judicial districts (Arizona, Texas Western, Texas Southern, Florida Southern, and Florida Middle) committed 20% of offenders in federal prison at yearend 2012 (map 7).

**FIGURE 15**  
**Federally sentenced offenders in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by country of citizenship, 2012**

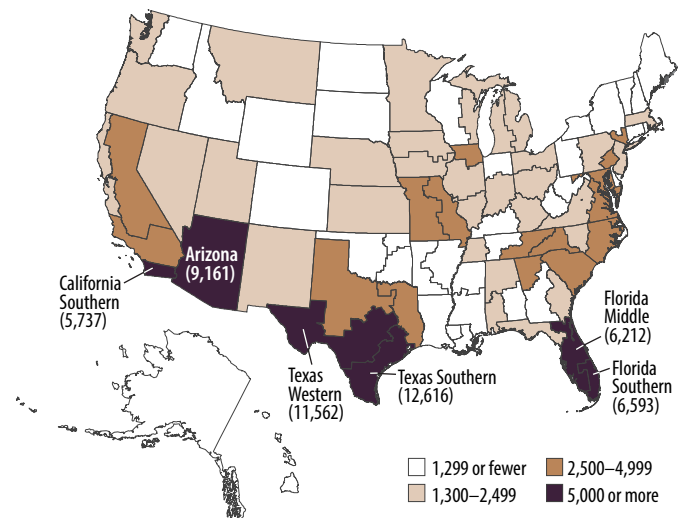


Note: Includes prisoners sentenced in U.S. district court and excludes D.C. code offenders, military code offenders, foreign treaty transfers, state boarders, and pre-sentenced offenders. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. Country of citizenship was missing for 225 records. There were 194,511 federally sentenced offenders in BOP custody at fiscal yearend 2012.

\*Countries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2012.

**MAP 7**  
**Federally sentenced offenders in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by federal judicial district of commitment, September 30, 2012**



Note: Includes prisoners sentenced in U.S. district court and excludes D.C. code offenders, military code offenders, foreign treaty transfers, state boarders, and presentenced offenders. There were 194,511 federally sentenced offenders in the custody of the BOP at fiscal yearend 2012. Not shown on map: Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (1,299 or fewer), Puerto Rico (2,500–4,999), District of Columbia (1,299 or fewer), and U.S. Virgin Islands (1,299 or fewer).

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2012.



## Offenders returning to federal prison from 1998 to 2012

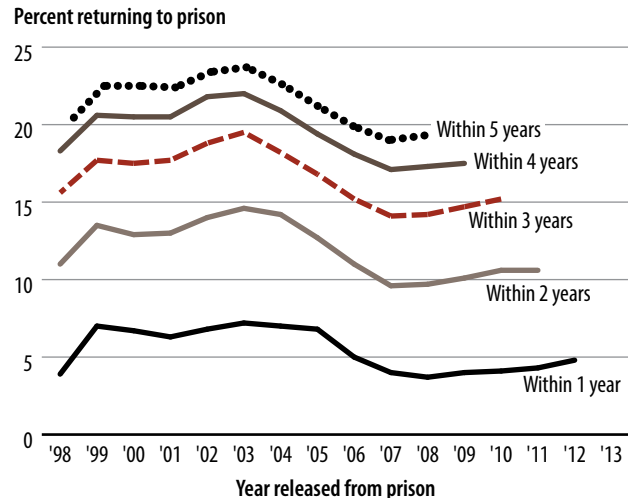
### 15% of offenders released from federal prison in 2010 returned to federal prison within 3 years

Five percent of offenders released in 2012 returned to federal prison within 1 year, 11% of offenders released in 2011 returned to federal prison with 2 years, 15% of offenders released in 2010 were returned to federal prison within 3 years, 18% of offenders released in 2009 returned within 4 years, and 19% of offenders released in 2008 returned within 5 years (figure 16). These recidivism percentages do not take into account the recidivism of offenders who, after release from federal prison, were imprisoned in a state prison for a new offense.

### Supervision violations were the most common reason for return to prison within 3 years

The most common reason for federal prisoners released in 2010 to return to federal prison within 3 years was violation of conditions of supervision (54%). Returns for a new court commitment or new offense accounted for 43% of returns (table 15).

**FIGURE 16**  
Percent of offenders returning to federal prison after release from a U.S. district court commitment, by time to return, 1998–2012



Note: The percentages reflect the share of prisoners returning to federal prison within 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years of release from federal prison. Includes only offenders first released from federal prison, or those who served a term of imprisonment resulting from a conviction in U.S. district court. See *Methodology*.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 1998–2013.

*Continued on next page*

## Offenders returning to federal prison from 1998 to 2010 (continued)

**TABLE 15**

### Offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years of first release from a U.S. district court commitment, 2010

Characteristic	Number released	Number returned	Percent returned	Offenders returned to federal prison within 3 years after release for—			
				Total	New offense	Supervision violation	Other
<b>Total</b>	61,374	9,324	15.2%	100%	42.9%	54.4%	2.7%
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	55,213	8,800	15.9%	100%	44.2%	53.1%	2.8%
Female	6,078	521	8.6	100%	21.5	76.2	2.3
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup></b>							
White	14,174	1,897	13.4%	100%	16.0%	83.2%	0.8%
Black/African American	12,469	2,425	19.4	100%	12.0	78.5	9.5
Hispanic/Latino	32,803	4,577	14.0	100%	73.4	26.5	0.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	866	362	41.8	100%	12.4	87.3	0.3
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	979	60	6.1	100%	6.7	91.7	1.7
<b>Age</b>							
17 or younger	9	3	--	--	--	--	--
18–24	6,093	1,283	21.1%	100%	43.7%	55.4%	0.9%
25–44	41,432	6,656	16.1	100%	43.1	53.7	3.3
45–64	12,844	1,344	10.5	100%	41.7	56.3	1.9
65 or older	912	34	3.7	100%	32.4	67.7	--
<b>Original conviction offense</b>							
Violent	1,683	517	30.7	100%	16.3%	83.2%	0.6%
Property	6,541	710	10.9	100%	13.1	86.8	0.1
Drug	20,883	2,253	10.8	100%	17.4	72.0	10.6
Public order	2,751	364	13.2	100%	33.8	66.2	--
Sex offense	991	148	14.9	100%	10.8	88.5	1.0
Weapons	6,057	1,506	24.9	100%	9.9	89.5	0.6
Immigration	21,789	3,723	17.1	100%	84.0	16.0	--
<b>Citizenship</b>							
U.S. citizen	30,873	5,586	18.1%	100%	12.4%	83.2%	4.5%
Non U.S. citizen	30,374	3,734	12.3	100%	88.6	11.3	--
Mexico	24,577	3,362	13.7	100%	90.0	10.0	--
Other	5,797	372	6.4	100%	76.3	23.1	0.5
<b>U.S.-Mexico border district<sup>b</sup></b>							
Yes	26,455	4,394	16.6%	100%	68.3%	31.5%	0.3%
No	34,898	4,930	14.1	100%	20.3	74.8	4.9

Note: Describes offenders returning to federal prison following a release from a U.S. district court commitment. Offenders released following incarceration for supervision violations or CBP/ICE detentions are excluded. Data were missing for the following: sex (43), race/Hispanic origin (43), age (45), citizenship (108), and original offense of conviction (595).

--Less than 0.05%.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

<sup>b</sup>Includes Arizona, California Southern, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern.

Data source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2010-2013.

*Continued on next page*

## Offenders returning to federal prison from 1998 to 2010 (continued)

### Return-to-prison rates were highest for younger released offenders

Offenders ages 18 to 24 who were released in 2010 had a 3-year return-to-prison rate of 21%. Of these returns, 55% was for a supervision violation and 44% was for a new court commitment. Among released prisoners ages 25 to 44, 16% returned to prison within 3 years, as did 11% of prisoners ages 45 to 64 and 4% of prisoners age 65 or older.

### Males had a 16% 3-year return-to-prison rate, compared to 9% for female offenders

Among males who were released from federal prison in 2010 and returned, 53% returned for violations of supervision and 44% returned for a new court commitment. In comparison, 76% of females returned to prison for supervision violations and 22% returned with a new court commitment.

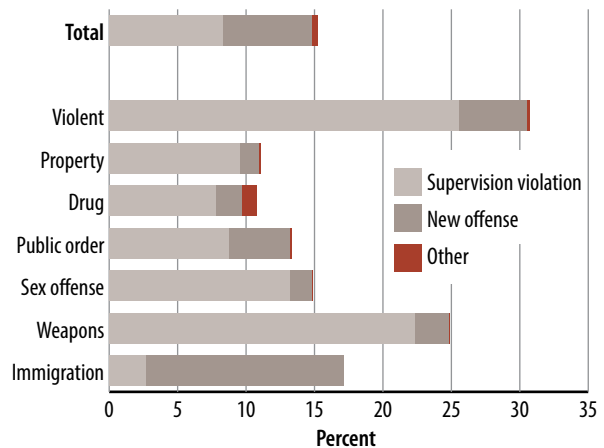
### American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners had the highest 3-year return-to-prison rate among all racial and ethnic groups

Forty-two percent of American Indian or Alaska Natives first released from federal prison in 2010 returned to federal prison within 3 years. Eighty-seven percent of American Indians returned for a violation of supervision, and 12% returned for a new court commitment. Black prisoners had the second highest 3-year return-to-prison rate (19%), with 79% returned for supervision violations and 12% returned for a new court commitment. White prisoners had a 13% return rate, Hispanic prisoners had a 14% return rate, and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander prisoners had a 6% return rate.

### Violent and weapons offenders returned to prison at higher rates than other offenders

The 3-year return-to-prison rate was highest for violent (31%) and weapons (25%) offenders (figure 17). Weapons (90%) and sex offenses (89%) were most likely to be returned for supervision violations. Immigration offenders were most likely to be returned for a new offense (84%). As most immigration offenders were deported after serving a federal sentence, most who returned did so for illegally reentering the United States.

**FIGURE 17**  
Percent of offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years of first release, by type of offense at release and type of return, 2010



Note: The percentages reflect the share of prisoners returning to federal prison within 3 years following release from federal prison in 2010. Only offenders first released from federal prison in 2010 are included, or those who had served a term of imprisonment resulting from a conviction in U.S. district court. Other reasons for return include D.C. Superior Court arrests and unknown reasons for return.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2010–2013.

### Immigration offenders made up the largest number returning to federal prison within 3 years of first release

Seventeen percent of immigration offenders released in 2010 were returned to federal prison within 3 years of release, representing 40% of all recidivists over the time period. In comparison, 24% of recidivists were drug offenders and 5% were violent offenders. Immigration had the highest percentage of new offenses as a reason for return to federal prison (84%), and 16% of immigration returns were due to supervision violations. Immigration was the most common offense type of returns for new offenses.

The 3-year recidivism rate for drug offenders was 11%. Seventeen percent of drug offenders were returned for a new offense, and 72% were returned for a supervision violation. Property and drug offenses had the lowest 3-year return-to-prison rate (each 11%). Thirteen percent of property offenders were returned for a new offense, and 87% were returned for a supervision violation.

*Continued on next page*

## Offenders returning to federal prison from 1998 to 2010 (continued)

**18% of U.S. citizens and 12% of non-U.S. citizens released in 2010 returned to federal prison within 3 years**

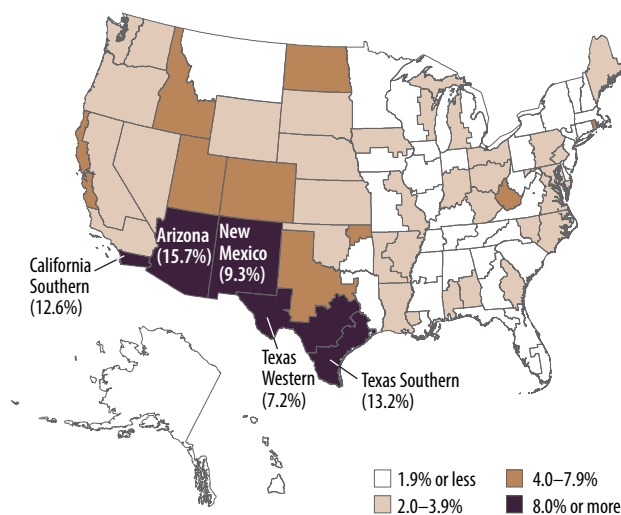
Non-U.S. citizens had a lower return rate (12%) than U.S. citizens (18%). The lower risk of return for non-U.S. citizens may be a function of differences in how non-U.S. citizen offenders are handled following release. Most non-U.S. citizens are deported immediately after serving a federal prison term. Noncitizens may then be deported or detained pending deportation by ICE. A small share of noncitizens is released to serve terms of federal supervision, so most noncitizens would not be at risk to return to prison for technical violations of supervision. About 9 in 10 noncitizens

who returned to prison in a 3-year period following first release were recommitted for a new court commitment, and 1 in 10 were returned for a supervision violation.

**Districts with the highest 3-year return-to-prison rate for new court commitments only were clustered in the west and southwestern United States**

The districts of California Southern, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas Southern had 3-year return-to-prison rates for a new offense of 8% or more in 2010 (map 8). In 2010, eight districts had 3-year return-to-prison rates of 19% or more for supervision violations (map 9). Three of these districts are adjacent to one another: Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

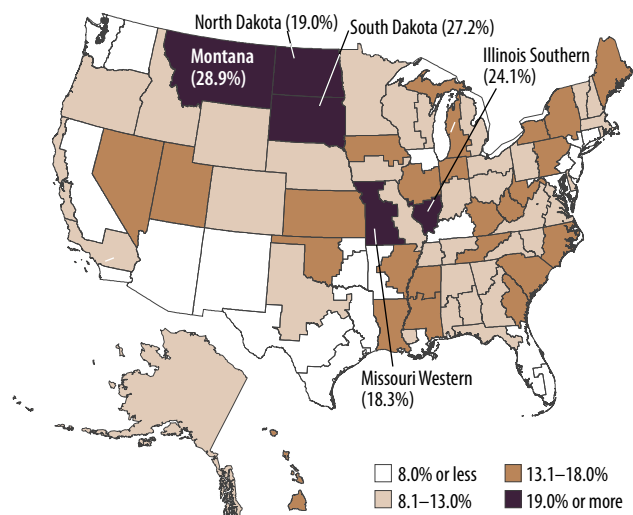
**MAP 8**  
Percent of offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years for a new offense, 2010



Note: Percentages represent the share of offenders first released from federal prison in 2010 that returned within 3 years of release for a new offense. Not shown on map: Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (1.9% or less), Puerto Rico (2.0–3.9%), District of Columbia (1.9% or less), and U.S. Virgin Islands (2.0–3.9%).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2010–2013.

**MAP 9**  
Percent of offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years for a supervision violation, 2010



Note: Percentages represent the share of offenders first released from federal prison in 2010 that returned within 3 years of release for a supervision violation. Not shown on map:

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 2010–2013.

**At fiscal yearend 2012, a total of 131,732 offenders were under active federal post-conviction supervision**

Eighty-three percent of offenders under federal post-conviction supervision received one of two forms of supervision following release from prison: supervised release (107,802) or parole (1,623) (table 16). The remainder (22,307) were on probation supervision, which is a sentence to a term of supervision in the community with and without a

confinement sentence. Among the 131,732 offenders under federal supervision at the end of fiscal year 2012, 81% were male and 19% were female. Females made up 37% of offenders on probation and 2% of offenders on parole supervision. Black offenders and white offenders both accounted for 36% of persons under supervision, followed by Hispanic offenders (22%). Black offenders made up 38% of offenders on supervised release, and white offenders made up nearly half (47%) of offenders on probation.

**TABLE 16**  
**Demographic characteristics of offenders under post-conviction federal supervision, 2012**

Demographic characteristic	Total		Type of supervised release		
	Number	Percent	Supervised release	Probation	Parole
Number of offenders <sup>a</sup>	131,732	100%	107,802	22,307	1,623
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	106,875	81.3%	84.8%	63.2%	97.7%
Female	24,526	18.7	15.2	36.8	2.3
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>b</sup></b>					
White	46,414	35.8%	33.7%	47.2%	28.6%
Black/African American	47,167	36.4	38.4	24.8	60.6
Hispanic/Latino	28,920	22.3	22.9	20.4	8.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	3,024	2.3	2.2	3.1	1.7
Asian/Native Hawaiian	3,328	2.6	2.4	3.5	0.4
Other Pacific Islander	639	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.2
<b>Age</b>					
17 or younger	62	0.1%	--	0.3%	--
18–19	180	0.1	--	0.7	--
20–24	5,391	4.1	3.2%	8.9	1.1%
25–29	14,581	11.1	10.8	13.0	3.3
30–34	22,150	16.9	17.8	13.4	4.5
35–39	22,652	17.2	18.4	12.4	8.3
40–44	19,971	15.2	15.9	12.1	10.9
45–49	15,242	11.6	11.7	11.1	13.4
50–54	12,224	9.3	9.2	9.6	14.9
55–59	8,389	6.4	6.0	7.6	16.1
60–64	5,366	4.1	3.7	5.2	13.3
65 or older	5,204	4.0	3.4	5.8	14.2
Median age		40 yrs.	39 yrs.	40 yrs.	52 yrs.
<b>Citizenship</b>					
U.S. citizen	123,321	94.1%	94.5%	92.3%	97.2%
Legal alien	2,565	2.0	1.8	3.1	0.4
Illegal alien	5,116	3.9	3.8	4.6	2.4
<b>Country of citizenship</b>					
North America	128,524	98.9%	99.0%	98.1%	99.9%
United States	125,776	96.8	96.9	95.9	98.2
Mexico	819	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.1
Canada	42	--	--	0.1	--
Caribbean <sup>c</sup>	1,727	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.7
Central America <sup>c</sup>	160	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
South America <sup>c</sup>	213	0.2	0.1	0.3	--
Asia and Oceania <sup>c</sup>	760	0.6	0.5	0.9	--
Europe <sup>c</sup>	200	0.2	0.1	0.4	--
Africa <sup>c</sup>	274	0.2	0.2	0.3	--

Note: Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. Data were missing for the following: age (320), sex (17), race/Hispanic origin (2,240), citizenship (730), and country of citizenship (1,761).

--Less than 0.05%.

<sup>a</sup>Includes offenders for whom characteristics are not known.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

<sup>c</sup>Countries aggregated by region.

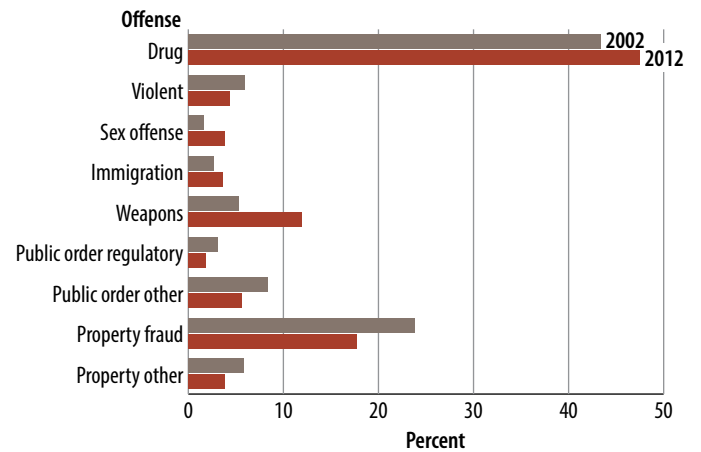
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Probation and Pretrial Services, Pretrial Services Act Information System, fiscal year 2012.

**6% of persons under federal post-conviction supervised release in the community were non-U.S. citizens**

In 2012, 6% of offenders under federal supervision were non U.S. citizens. Hispanic offenders accounted for 22% of offenders under community. The median age was similar for offenders under supervised release (age 39) and probation (age 40), but higher for persons on parole supervision (age 52).

Drug and property fraud were the two most common offenses for offenders under federal supervision in 2002 and in 2012 (figure 18). The percentage of weapons offenders under federal supervision increased from 2002 and 2012, as did drug and immigration offenders.

**FIGURE 18**  
**Offenders under federal supervision, by type of offense, 2002 and 2012**



Note: Percentages are based on nonmissing data. Offense type missing for 264 records in 2012 and for 247 cases missing offense type in 2002.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), fiscal years 2002 and 2012.

## Methodology

### The Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP)

This report uses data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). The FJSP was initiated in 1982 to serve as a central resource for information describing the case processing of federal criminal defendants and to meet BJS's statutory mandate to "collect, analyze, and disseminate comprehensive federal justice transaction statistics ... and to provide technical assistance to and work jointly with other federal agencies to improve the availability and quality of federal justice data"—42 U.S.C. 3732 (c) (15).

The FJSP receives administrative data files from six federal criminal justice agencies and standardizes this information to maximize comparability across agencies and within agencies over time. This includes (1) applying, where possible, person-case as the primary unit of count (exceptions include at arrest where the unit of count is the individual suspect, sentencing under federal sentencing guidelines where the unit of count is the sentencing event, and at imprisonment where the unit of count is the inmate); (2) delineating fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) as the period for reported events; (3) applying a uniform offense classification across agencies; and (4) classifying disposition and sentences imposed.

Where more than one offense is charged or adjudicated, the most serious offense at disposition and sentencing is used. Offense seriousness is based on maximum statutory imprisonment term, type of crime, and statutory maximum fine amount. Annual cross-sectional data files are produced and maintained by and represent the federal criminal case processing stages from arrest and prosecution through pretrial release, adjudication, sentencing, appeals, and corrections.

### FJSP data sources

The U.S. Marshals Service Prisoner Tracking System (PTS) provides information on suspects arrested for federal offenses and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service following an arrest. Suspects may be counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are arrested and booked multiple times during the period. The U.S. Marshals Service uses the PTS to track federal prisoners in U.S. Marshals Service custody. The U.S. Marshals Service

provides data from the Justice Detainee Information System (JDIS). The JDIS consolidates information on prisoners who are in Marshals Service custody or who have a federal arrest warrant issued.

The Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys' National Legal Information Office Network System (LIONS) database contains information on the investigation and prosecution of suspects in criminal matters received and concluded and criminal cases filed and terminated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects may be counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are involved in multiple matters received and concluded during the period. A matter is defined as a referral where an attorney spends an hour or more investigating. The lead charge is used to classify the most serious offense at referral and is defined as the substantive statute that is the primary basis of referral.

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' (AOUSC) criminal master file contains information about the criminal proceedings against defendants whose cases were filed and terminated in U.S. district courts. These data include information on cases involving felonies, and Class A and B misdemeanors handled by U.S. district court judges. The most serious filing or terminating offense is the offense charge that yields the greatest maximum statutory penalty. This report also uses AOUSC data from the Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), which contains information on defendants interviewed and supervised by pretrial services. These data are used to describe background characteristics of defendants arraigned and defendants detained prior to case disposition. In addition, post-conviction data from the AOUSC's Federal Probation Supervision Information System (FPSIS) are used to describe immigration offenders under post-conviction supervision in the community.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) SENTRY database contains information on all sentenced offenders admitted into or released from federal prison during a fiscal year, and offenders in federal prison at the end of each fiscal year (September 30). The most serious commitment offense is the offense with the longest sentence length. All percentage changes referred to in this report are calculated using the average of the annual change between the two reported years

### Standard Analysis Files in the FJSP

Stage of federal criminal case process	Data source agency— Data system(s)	Description of data file contents
Arrest and booking Warrants initiated and cleared	U.S. Marshals Service - Prisoner Tracking System (PTS) - Justice Detainee Information System (JDIS) - Warrant Information Network (WIN)	Contains data on warrants initiated or cleared and suspects arrested by federal enforcement agencies for violations of federal law.
Investigation and prosecution	Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys - Central system file - National Legal Information Office Network System (LIONS)	Contains information on the investigation and prosecution of suspects in criminal matters received and concluded, and criminal cases filed and cases terminated.
Pretrial release and detention	Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC): U.S. Office of Probation and Pretrial Services - Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS)	Contains data on defendants interviewed, investigated, or supervised by pretrial services. The information covers defendants' pretrial hearings, detentions, and releases from the time of interview through the disposition of their cases in district courts.
Cases filed and terminated in U.S. district court	Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC) - Criminal master file	Contains information about criminal cases from time of filing to termination in U.S. district courts.
Defendants sentenced pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984	United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) - Monitoring Database	Contains information on criminal defendants sentenced pursuant to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.
Criminal appeals filed and terminated	Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC): U.S. Court of Appeals	Contains information on criminal appeals filed and terminated in U.S. Courts of Appeals.
Probation, parole, and supervised release	Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC): U.S. Office of Probation and Pretrial Services - Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS)	Contains information about supervision provided by officers for persons placed on probation, parole, or supervised release.
Offenders entering and exiting prison	Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) - SENTRY database	Contains information covering the time from when offenders enter prison until their release from the jurisdiction of the BOP.

### Returns to federal prison

The number of offenders returning to federal prison is a count of the number of federal prisoners who returned to federal prison after first release from a U.S. district court commitment. Prisoners released from federal prison for the first time between 1998 and 2012 were identified. The BOP's SENTRY database was searched for a subsequent return to federal prison. Prisoners released in 2010 were the most recent cohort that could be tracked for 3 years following release through 2013. In addition, observation windows were included for 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year return rates following first release. The return-to-prison rate increases with the length of the window used to follow-up on prisoners. The unit of analysis is the first release from federal prison, and the return rates are computed based on the number of first releases.

In 2010, 61,374 federally sentenced prisoners were released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. This cohort of offenders was tracked for 3 years following release to count the number who returned to federal prison, whether for a new offense or a supervision violation.

### Other resources

Detailed data tables are available in *Federal Justice Statistics, 2011 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 248469, BJS web, December 2014) and *Federal Justice Statistics, 2012 –Statistical Tables* (NCJ 248470, BJS web, December 2014). FJSP data are also incorporated into a BJS web query tool that permits users to interactively query the federal data and download the query results as a spreadsheet. The query tool provides statistics by stage of the federal criminal case process, including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and incarceration. Users can currently generate queries for up to three variables from 1998 to 2012. Users can also generate queries by title and section of the U.S. criminal code by processing stage from 1994 to 2012. The query tool is available at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).





The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. William J. Sabol is acting director.

This report was written by Mark Motivans. Steven W. Perry verified the report.

Irene Cooperman, Morgan Young, and Jill Thomas edited the report. Barbara Quinn and Tina Dorsey produced the report.

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