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Bureau of Justice Statistics**



Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1988

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Acting Director

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This report inaugurates the National Pretrial Reporting Program. Based on findings from a sample representing the 75 largest counties in the United States in 1985, the report adds appreciably to our understanding of the criminal justice process. The Criminal Justice Archive at the University of Michigan will soon have available a computerized dataset for interested users.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Pretrial Services Resource Center, who collected and processed the data, thank the local court personnel who contributed their efforts to making this survey possible. We trust that policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and others interested in criminal justice affairs will find real value in these results.

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Felony defendants in large urban counties, 1988

The National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP) conducted its initial survey from February 1988 to February 1989 to describe the criminal justice process from arrest to case disposition. NPRP used a sample of cases designed to represent the Nation's 75 most populous counties (by 1985 estimates). Almost half of all reported U.S. crimes in 1985 occurred in these counties.

The data on cases of persons arrested for a felony in February 1988 came from records provided by local criminal justice personnel, predominantly court employees. The data establish the basic demographic and criminal history profiles of persons arrested for felonies. As summarized in the tables and discussed below, the survey findings describe the pretrial release, adjudication, and sentencing decisions made in the cases of these defendants.

The data collection will be repeated in mid-1990 and every 3 years thereafter.

Profile of arrestees

- The most serious arrest charge at the time of filing was a property offense for 36% of all defendants and a drug offense for 35% (table 1). A violent offense was the most serious charge for 21% of the defendants while a public-order offense accounted for 8%. (See Methodology for the specific crimes included in each offense category).

- About 6 of every 7 defendants were male (table 2). The average age of defendants was 28 years. About a third of the murder defendants and robbery defendants were under age 21. A majority of defendants in each major crime category were under age 30: Violent offenses (63%); property offenses (68%); drug offenses (65%); and public-order offenses (56%).

- Two-thirds of the defendants were known to have been arrested previously (table 3). Seventy-nine percent of those with an arrest record had at least one prior felony arrest. About a fourth of all defendants had 4 or more prior felony arrest charges.

- The average number of prior arrest charges for all defendants was 3 felony arrest charges and 3 misdemeanor arrest charges (table 4). When including only defendants who were known to have at least one prior arrest, the averages were 4 arrest charges for felonies and 5 arrest charges for misdemeanors.

- About 52% of the defendants were known to have at least one prior conviction, and 65% of those with a conviction record had at least one prior felony conviction (table 5). About a fifth of all defendants had more than one prior felony conviction.

- The average number of prior convictions for all defendants was one felony conviction and one misdemeanor conviction (table 6). Including only those defendants who were known to have at least one prior conviction, the averages were two convictions for felonies and three convictions for misdemeanors.

- About a third of the defendants already had some type of status with the criminal justice system at the time of their arrest on the current felony charge (table 7). Of those who had some type of criminal justice status at the time of arrest, 41% were on probation, and 34% were on pretrial release for a previous case that was still pending.

Pretrial release

- Two-thirds of the defendants were released before the disposition of their case and before the end of the 1-year study period (table 8). The terms of release were financial (surety bond, full cash bond, or deposit bond) for 47% of released defendants and nonfinancial (released on own recognizance, citation release, unsecured bond) for 53% of released defendants.

- About 3 in 5 defendants charged with a violent offense (59%) or property offense (62%) were released before case disposition. The percentage of defendants released pending disposition of their case was slightly higher for those charged with a drug offense (72%) or a public-order offense (70%) than for other defendants.

- The percentage of defendants who were released pending case disposition varied greatly by specific arrest charge, ranging from 39% for murder defendants to 86% for defendants charged with driving-related offenses.

- About 4% of all defendants were held without bail. This represented about 12% of the defendants who were not released pretrial. The percentage of defendants held without bail was higher for defendants charged with murder than for others. About a fourth of all murder defendants were held without bail, representing almost half of all murder defendants who were not released pretrial.

- Defendants with no prior convictions were more likely to be released (77%) than were defendants who had at least one prior conviction for a violent felony (46%) or a nonviolent felony (52%) (table 9). In cases where the defendant was released, the release was more likely to be on financial (versus nonfinancial) terms if the defendant had a prior conviction for a violent felony (61%) or a nonviolent felony (56%) than if the defendant had no prior convictions (42%).

- The median bail amount set for all defendants was \$4,500, ranging from a median of \$35,000 for murder defendants to \$2,000 for defendants charged with driving-related offenses (table 10). The median bail amount set for defendants charged with a violent offense (\$7,500) was substantially more than the median amount set for defendants charged with property offenses (\$3,000), drug offenses (\$3,500), or public-order offenses (\$3,000). Released defendants had a lower median bail amount (\$2,500) than defendants who were not released during the 1-year study period (\$6,000).

- Forty-six percent of all released defendants were released either on the day of their arrest or on the following day (table 11); however, this percentage varied according to offense category. Thirty-three percent of released defendants charged with a violent offense were released within 1 day of their arrest, compared to 53% of property defendants, 44% of drug defendants, and 51% of public-order defendants. Over 90% of released defendants were released within 1 month of their arrest.

- About three-fourths of released defendants made all scheduled court appearances (table 12). Two-thirds of those defendants who failed to appear in court at least once were returned to the court, but one-third of them (representing 8% of all released defendants) were still fugitives at the end of the 1-year study period. The percentage of defendants making all court appearances ranged from 91% for rape defendants to 71% for defendants facing charges for drug sale/trafficking offenses.

Adjudication and sentencing

- About 13% of the cases were still pending adjudication at the end of the 1-year study period. Of those cases that were adjudicated, 70% of the defendants were convicted (table 13). About three-fourths of these convictions were for a felony. Nearly all (91%) of these felony convictions were obtained through guilty pleas, with only 9% resulting from trials.

- The likelihood of a defendant being convicted of a felony varied by arrest charge. For example, only one-third of defendants originally arrested on felony assault charges were convicted of a felony, but about two-thirds of defendants arrested for murder (63%), burglary (65%), drug sale/trafficking (65%), and driving-related charges (65%) were convicted of a felony.

- The most frequent types of felony conviction offenses were property offenses (30%) and drug offenses (28%) (table 14). About 1 of every 8 felony convictions were for a violent offense.

- In cases where the defendant was convicted, the conviction was usually for the same felony offense as the original arrest charge (tables 15 and 16). For example, defendants arrested for rape and later convicted, were convicted of rape in 72% of the cases. The corresponding percentages for selected other offenses were as follows: murder (73%), robbery (70%), felony assault (48%), burglary (76%), and drug sale/trafficking (75%).

- Two-thirds of convicted defendants received a sentence of incarceration, with almost all of the remainder receiving a sentence of probation (table 17). About 59% of incarceration sentences involved State prison terms, with the remainder involving jail terms.

- Almost all defendants convicted of murder (95%) were sentenced to State prison, and about two-thirds of defendants convicted of rape and robbery received State prison sentences. However, less than half of defendants were sentenced to State prison following a felony conviction for assault (39%), theft (35%), drug sale/trafficking (41%), or a driving-related offense (34%).

- Defendants convicted of a felony on the current charges were more likely to be sentenced to State prison when they had a prior felony conviction. Sixty-three percent of those who had at least one prior violent felony conviction and 57% of those who had at least one prior nonviolent felony conviction received a prison sentence; this compares to 30% of defendants who had only prior misdemeanor convictions and 22% of those with no prior convictions (table 18).

- The median case processing time for all defendants was 85 days from arrest to adjudication (table 19). The median amount of time from arrest to adjudication for defendants released pending case disposition was 122 days. This was substantially longer than for defendants who were not released prior to case disposition (37 days).

- A majority of convicted defendants were sentenced within 1 day of adjudication, and about 90% were sentenced within 60 days of adjudication.

Methodology

The sample was designed and selected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. It is a two-stage stratified sample with 40 of the 75 most populous counties selected at the first stage (one county had to be dropped from the sample at which point no site could be substituted for it), and a systematic sample of felony filings (defendants) within each county selected at the second stage.

The 40 counties were divided into 4 first-stage strata, based on court filing information obtained through a telephone survey. Fourteen counties were included in the sample with certainty because of their large number of court filings. The remaining 26 counties were allocated to

the 3 non-certainty strata based on the variance of felony court dispositions.

The second-stage sampling (filings) was designed to represent all defendants who had felony cases filed with the court during the month of February 1988. The participating jurisdictions included every defendant who had a felony case filed on selected days during that month. The number of days selected depended on the stage-one stratum in which the county had been placed. One week's worth of filings were selected in the first two strata, 2 weeks' of filings in the third stratum, and all felony filings for the month were selected from jurisdictions in the fourth stratum.

Data on 11,063 sample felony cases were collected from the 39 sampled jurisdictions. This sample represented more than 47,000 weighted cases filed during the month of February 1988 in the 75 most populous counties. Cases that because of incomplete information could not be classified into one of the four major crime categories (violent, property, drug, public order) were omitted from the analysis. This reduced the weighted total for this report to 46,921 cases. The data collection effort was supervised by the Pretrial Services Resource Center of Washington, D.C.

This report is based on data collected from the following participating counties: Arizona (Maricopa); California (Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara); District of Columbia; Florida (Broward, Dade, Duval, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas); Georgia (Fulton); Hawaii (Honolulu); Illinois (Cook); Massachusetts (Suffolk); Michigan (Wayne); Missouri (St. Louis); New Jersey (Essex); New York (Bronx, Erie, Kings, Monroe, New York, Queens); Ohio (Hamilton); Pennsylvania (Allegheny, Montgomery, Philadelphia); Tennessee (Shelby); Texas (Dallas, Harris, Tarrant); Utah (Salt Lake); Virginia (Fairfax); Washington (King); Wisconsin (Milwaukee).

Offense categories

Felony offenses were classified into 12 categories for this report. These categories were further divided into the four major crime categories of violent offenses, property offenses, drug offenses, and public order offenses. The following listings contain a representative summary of most of the crimes contained in each category; however, these lists are not meant to be exhaustive. All offenses, except for murder, include attempts and conspiracies to commit.

Violent offenses

Murder - Includes homicide, nonnegligent manslaughter, and voluntary homicide. Does not include attempted murder (which is classified as felony assault), negligent homicide, involuntary homicide, and vehicular manslaughter (which are classified as "other violent crime").

Rape - Includes forcible intercourse, sodomy, or penetration with a foreign object. Does not include statutory rape or nonforcible acts with a minor or someone unable to give legal consent, nonviolent sexual offenses, and commercialized sex offenses.

Robbery - Includes the unlawful taking of property by force or threat of force.

Assault - Includes aggravated assault, aggravated battery, attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, felony assault or battery on a law enforcement officer, or other felony assaults. Does not include extortion, coercion, or intimidation.

Other violent offenses - Includes vehicular manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, negligent or reckless homicide, nonviolent or nonforcible sexual assault, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, child or spouse abuse, cruelty to child, reckless endangerment, hit and run with bodily injury, intimidation, and extortion.

Property offenses

Burglary - Includes any type of entry to a residence, industry, or business with or without the use of force with the intent to commit a felony or theft, such as forcible entry and breaking and entering. Does not include possession of burglary tools, trespassing, and unlawful entry where the intent is not known.

Theft - Includes grand theft, grand larceny, motor vehicle theft, or any other felony theft. Does not include receiving or dealing stolen property, fraud, forgery, or deceit.

Other property offenses - Includes receiving or buying stolen property, forgery, fraud, embezzlement, arson, reckless burning, damage to property, criminal mischief, vandalism, bad checks, counterfeiting, criminal trespassing, possession of burglary tools, and unlawful entry.

Drug offenses

Drug sale/trafficking - Includes trafficking of controlled substances, sales, distribution, possession with intent to distribute or sell, manufacturing, or smuggling. Does not include possession of controlled substances.

Other drug offenses - Includes possession of controlled substances, prescription violations, possession of drug paraphernalia, and other drug law violations.

Public-order offenses

Driving-related - Includes driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, driving with a suspended or revoked license, or any other felony in the motor vehicle code.

Other public-order offenses - Includes flight/escape, parole or probation violations, prison contraband, habitual offender, obstruction of justice, rioting, libel and slander, weapons offenses, treason, perjury, prostitution/pandering, bribery, and tax law violations.

Terms relating to pretrial release

Full cash bond - The defendant posts the full bail amount in cash with the court. If the defendant makes all court appearances, the cash is returned to him or her. If the defendant fails to appear in court, the bond is forfeited.

Deposit bond - The defendant deposits a percentage (usually 10%) of the full bail amount with the court. The full amount of the bail is required if the defendant fails to appear in court. The percentage bail is returned after the disposition of the case, but the court often retains 1% for administrative costs.

Surety bond - A third party, usually a bail bondsman, signs a promissory note to the court for the full bail amount and charges the defendant a fee for the service (usually 10% of the full bail amount). If the defendant fails to appear, the bondsman must pay the court the full bail amount. Frequently the bondsman requires the defendant to post collateral in addition to the fee.

Unsecured bond - The defendant pays no money to the court but is liable for the full amount of bail should he or she fail to appear in court.

Release on recognizance - The court releases the defendant on the promise that he or she will appear in court as required.

Citation release - Arrestees are released pending their first court appearance on a written order issued by law enforcement personnel.

**Table 1. Felony defendants,
by arrest charge, 1988**

Most serious felony arrest charge	Percent charged
All offenses	100.0%
Violent offenses	21.3%
Murder	1.4
Rape	1.8
Robbery	8.0
Assault	7.9
Other	2.3
Property offenses	35.8%
Burglary	11.4
Theft	14.0
Other	10.4
Drug offenses	34.9%
Sale/trafficking	13.9
Other	21.0
Public-order offenses	8.0%
Driving-related	1.8
Other	6.2

Note: Data for the specific arrest charge were available for 99.2% of all cases.

Table 2. Sex and age at arrest of felony defendants, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Sex		Age at arrest					Mean age
	Male	Female	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35 and over	
All offenses	86%	14%	21%	21%	23%	15%	19%	28 yrs.
Violent offenses	91%	9%	23%	19%	21%	15%	21%	28 yrs.
Murder	95	5	33	17	17	12	22	28
Rape	97	3	15	17	20	21	27	30
Robbery	94	6	31	21	23	14	11	25
Assault	87	13	19	18	21	15	27	30
Other	93	7	14	19	19	18	30	31
Property offenses	84%	16%	25%	21%	22%	15%	17%	27 yrs.
Burglary	94	6	26	21	23	16	13	26
Theft	83	17	27	20	21	15	18	27
Other	74	26	21	22	22	15	20	28
Drug offenses	85%	15%	18%	23%	24%	16%	19%	28 yrs.
Sale/trafficking	85	15	19	25	24	14	18	27
Other	84	16	17	22	25	17	19	28
Public-order offenses	89%	11%	16%	17%	23%	14%	30%	31 yrs.
Driving-related	91	9	3	11	28	16	42	35
Other	88	12	20	19	22	14	26	27

Note: Data on age of defendant were available for 98.0% of all cases, and data on sex of defendant were available for 99.7%.

Table 3. Type and number of prior arrest charges of felony defendants, by current arrest charge, 1988

Most serious current felony arrest charge	Percent of defendants											
	With no prior arrests	With one or more prior arrests	Type and number of prior arrest charges									
			Felony*					Misdemeanor only				
			Total	One	Two	Three	Four or more	Total	One	Two	Three	Four or more
All offenses	34%	66%	52%	12%	9%	7%	24%	14%	5%	3%	2%	4%
Violent offenses	36%	64%	52%	12%	8%	6%	26%	12%	5%	3%	1%	4%
Murder	39	61	50	17	7	4	22	11	4	4	0	3
Rape	33	67	53	16	6	6	25	13	7	2	1	3
Robbery	30	70	59	12	8	7	32	11	4	2	1	4
Assault	40	60	47	11	8	4	24	14	5	4	1	4
Other	39	61	47	12	6	7	22	14	6	3	1	4
Property offenses	35%	65%	51%	11%	9%	7%	24%	14%	5%	3%	2%	4%
Burglary	27	73	60	10	11	8	31	12	6	2	1	3
Theft	40	60	47	11	7	6	23	12	5	3	1	3
Other	38	62	45	13	9	6	17	16	5	3	3	5
Drug offenses	33%	67%	54%	13%	10%	7%	24%	13%	5%	3%	1%	4%
Sale/trafficking	33	67	55	13	10	7	25	12	4	3	1	4
Other	32	68	54	13	10	7	24	14	5	3	2	4
Public-order offenses	34%	66%	51%	12%	10%	7%	22%	15%	5%	3%	2%	5%
Driving-related	24	76	43	15	9	6	13	34	6	8	7	13
Other	37	63	54	11	10	8	25	9	4	1	1	3

Note: Data on prior arrests were available for 78.7% of all cases. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. *Of the defendants with at least one felony arrest, 73% also had one or more misdemeanor arrests. To maintain

Table 4. Average number of prior arrest charges for felony defendants, by current arrest charge, 1988

Most serious current felony arrest charge	All defendants			Defendants with at least one prior arrest		
	Total	Felony charges	Misdemeanor charges	Total	Felony charges	Misdemeanor charges
All offenses	5.8	2.8	3.0	8.8	4.2	4.6
Violent offenses	6.1	2.9	3.2	9.4	4.5	4.9
Murder	4.3	2.3	2.0	7.0	3.7	3.3
Rape	5.4	2.4	3.0	8.1	3.6	4.5
Robbery	7.7	3.6	4.1	11.0	5.2	5.8
Assault	5.4	2.6	2.8	9.0	4.3	4.7
Other	4.8	2.4	2.4	7.9	3.9	4.0
Property offenses	6.0	2.8	3.2	9.3	4.4	4.9
Burglary	7.1	3.6	3.5	9.7	4.9	4.8
Theft	6.2	2.8	3.4	10.2	4.6	5.6
Other	4.7	2.1	2.6	7.7	3.4	4.3
Drug offenses	5.5	2.7	2.8	8.1	4.0	4.1
Sale/trafficking	5.1	2.7	2.4	7.6	4.1	3.5
Other	5.7	2.7	3.0	8.5	4.0	4.5
Public-order offenses	5.4	2.4	3.0	8.1	3.6	4.5
Driving-related	4.9	1.4	3.5	6.3	1.8	4.5
Other	5.6	2.8	2.8	8.9	4.4	4.5

Note: See note on table 3.

Table 5. Type and number of prior convictions of felony defendants, by current arrest charge, 1988

Most serious current felony arrest charge	Percent of defendants											
	Type and number of prior convictions											
	Total with no prior convictions	Total with one or more prior convictions	Felony*					Misdemeanor only				
			Total	One	Two	Three	Four or more	Total	One	Two	Three	
All offenses	48%	52%	34%	15%	8%	4%	7%	18%	8%	4%	2%	4%
Violent offenses	50%	50%	34%	15%	8%	4%	7%	16%	8%	4%	1%	3%
Murder	51	49	29	17	7	1	4	20	9	7	3	2
Rape	47	53	37	19	6	5	7	16	9	4	0	3
Robbery	45	55	39	15	9	7	8	16	6	4	2	4
Assault	54	46	31	14	8	3	6	16	9	4	1	2
Other	54	46	31	14	8	3	6	14	8	3	--	3
Property offenses	48%	52%	34%	13%	9%	4%	8%	18%	7%	4%	2%	4%
Burglary	39	61	42	16	11	5	10	19	8	4	2	5
Theft	50	50	32	13	8	4	7	17	7	4	2	4
Other	56	44	26	11	6	4	5	17	7	4	3	3
Drug offenses	48%	52%	34%	17%	8%	3%	6%	18%	8%	4%	2%	4%
Sale/trafficking	50	50	33	17	8	3	5	17	8	4	2	3
Other	47	53	34	16	8	4	6	18	8	4	2	4
Public-order offenses	44%	56%	35%	16%	8%	4%	7%	21%	8%	5%	3%	5%
Driving-related	32	68	27	14	6	3	4	41	14	10	7	9
Other	47	53	39	17	9	5	8	15	6	4	2	3

Note: Data on prior convictions were available for 90.5% of all cases. The number of convictions refers to the number of conviction charges rather than to the act of being convicted.

Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
*Of the defendants with at least one felony conviction, 64% also had one or more misdemeanor convictions. In

order to maintain exclusive categories of felony and misdemeanor, these defendants are not included in the misdemeanor columns.
--Less than 0.5%.

Table 6. Average number of prior convictions for felony defendants, by current arrest charge, 1988

Most serious current felony arrest charge	All defendants			Defendants with at least one prior conviction		
	Total	Felony	Misdemeanor	Total	Felony	Misdemeanor
All offenses	2.3	.9	1.4	4.4	1.6	2.8
Violent offenses	2.1	.9	1.2	4.2	1.7	2.5
Murder	1.4	.6	.8	3.0	1.3	1.7
Rape	2.1	.8	1.3	4.0	1.5	2.5
Robbery	2.5	1.0	1.5	4.5	1.8	2.7
Assault	1.9	.8	1.1	4.0	1.7	2.3
Other	2.1	.8	1.3	4.6	1.7	2.9
Property offenses	2.5	.9	1.6	4.8	1.8	3.0
Burglary	2.9	1.2	1.7	4.8	2.0	2.8
Theft	2.7	.9	1.8	5.5	1.8	3.7
Other	1.7	.6	1.1	3.8	1.4	2.4
Drug offenses	2.2	.8	1.4	4.2	1.5	2.7
Sale/trafficking	1.9	.7	1.2	3.8	1.4	2.4
Other	2.3	.8	1.5	4.5	1.6	2.9
Public-order offenses	2.3	.9	1.4	4.0	1.5	2.5
Driving-related	2.8	.6	2.2	4.1	.9	3.2
Other	2.1	.9	1.2	4.0	1.8	2.2

Note: See note on table 5.

Table 7. Criminal justice status of felony defendants at time of arrest, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Total	Total with no criminal justice status	Defendants with criminal justice status at time of arrest					
			Total	Probation	Pretrial release for earlier case	Parole	Combination	Other
All offenses	100%	68%	32%	13%	11%	4%	2%	2%
Violent offenses	100%	68%	32%	11%	12%	5%	2%	2%
Murder	100	71	29	5	15	4	2	4
Rape	100	75	25	9	5	5	3	3
Robbery	100	62	38	13	13	7	3	2
Assault	100	70	30	11	12	3	1	3
Other	100	75	25	10	10	2	1	1
Property offenses	100%	67%	33%	13%	11%	4%	2%	1%
Burglary	100	63	37	15	13	6	3	1
Theft	100	68	32	12	11	4	3	2
Other	100	71	29	13	10	3	2	1
Drug offenses	100%	70%	30%	13%	10%	4%	3%	1%
Sale/trafficking	100	67	33	12	11	4	3	2
Other	100	72	28	13	9	3	3	1
Public-order offenses	100%	62%	38%	13%	12%	3%	2%	8%
Driving-related	100	78	22	12	5	1	2	2
Other	100	56	44	13	14	3	2	11

Note: Data on criminal justice status at time of arrest were available for 68.9% of all cases. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 8. Whether felony defendants were detained or released before disposition of their case, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Percent of felony defendants released												
	Percent of felony defendants detained			Total released	Financial pretrial release						Nonfinancial pretrial release		
					Bond type				Total	Recognizance or citation release	Unsecured bond		
	Total	With bail	Without bail	Total	Surety	Cash	Deposit	Other					
All offenses	34%	31%	4%	66%	31%	16%	8%	6%	1%	35%	29%	6%	
Violent offenses	41%	34%	6%	59%	32%	13%	10%	8%	2%	27%	24%	3%	
Murder	61	35	26	39	32	14	10	7	1	7	6	1	
Rape	45	41	5	55	32	12	10	9	2	22	17	5	
Robbery	48	42	7	52	29	8	12	7	1	23	21	2	
Assault	31	27	4	69	35	17	7	9	2	34	31	3	
Other	34	30	4	66	30	15	10	4	1	36	28	8	
Property offenses	38%	34%	4%	62%	25%	13%	5%	6%	1%	37%	30%	7%	
Burglary	47	43	4	53	22	10	5	7	--	31	24	7	
Theft	36	33	4	64	25	13	6	5	1	39	33	6	
Other	30	27	3	70	29	17	5	5	2	41	32	8	
Drug offenses	28%	26%	2%	72%	36%	19%	10%	6%	1%	36%	30%	7%	
Sale/trafficking	31	29	2	69	37	20	13	3	1	32	28	4	
Other	25	24	1	75	35	19	8	8	--	39	31	9	
Public-order offenses	30%	24%	6%	70%	31%	17%	9%	4%	1%	39%	34%	5%	
Driving-related	14	13	1	86	39	27	9	2	2	47	44	3	
Other	34	28	7	66	29	14	9	4	1	37	32	5	

Note: Data on detention-release outcome were available for 95.3% of all cases. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. --Less than 0.5%.

Table 9. Percent of felony defendants detained or released before case disposition, by prior conviction record and current arrest charge, 1988

Most serious prior conviction and current felony arrest charge	Total	Percent of defendants detained until case disposition			Percent of defendants released before case disposition		
		Total	With bail	Without bail	Total	Financial release	Nonfinancial release
Prior violent felony conviction							
All offenses	100%	54%	44%	10%	46%	28%	18%
Violent offenses	100	67	51	16	33	22	11
Property offenses	100	58	48	10	43	21	20
Drug offenses	100	38	35	3	62	40	22
Public-order offenses	100	49	37	12	52	29	23
Prior nonviolent felony conviction							
All offenses	100%	48%	42%	6%	52%	29%	23%
Violent offenses	100	46	37	9	53	33	20
Property offenses	100	55	49	7	44	21	23
Drug offenses	100	42	40	2	58	34	24
Public-order offenses	100	46	37	9	54	26	28
Prior misdemeanor conviction							
All offenses	100%	34%	32%	2%	66%	32%	34%
Violent offenses	100	41	38	3	59	35	24
Property offenses	100	40	39	1	61	26	35
Drug offenses	100	27	26	1	73	36	37
Public-order offenses	100	22	20	2	78	37	41
No prior conviction							
All offenses	100%	23%	21%	2%	77%	32%	45%
Violent offenses	100	29	26	3	70	33	37
Property offenses	100	24	22	2	76	27	49
Drug offenses	100	18	17	1	82	37	45
Public-order offenses	100	17	16	1	83	34	49

Note: Data on both detention-release outcome and prior conviction record were available for 88.1% of all cases.

Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 10. Median bail amount set for felony defendants, by release status and arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Median bail amount for defendants who were:		
	Total	Detained	Released
All offenses	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$2,500
Violent offenses	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$3,500
Murder	35,000	75,000	10,000
Rape	17,500	25,000	5,000
Robbery	7,500	12,000	3,500
Assault	5,000	10,000	2,500
Other	7,500	10,000	5,000
Property offenses	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
Burglary	5,000	7,500	2,500
Theft	2,500	5,000	2,000
Other	2,600	5,000	2,000
Drug offenses	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$2,500
Sale/trafficking	5,000	6,000	4,000
Other	2,500	5,000	2,500
Public-order offenses	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Driving-related	2,000	5,000	2,000
Other	3,000	5,000	2,500

Note: Data on bail amount were available for 99.1% of all cases where bail was set. Bail figures represent the original bail amount set. The actual

amount required to secure release was usually 10% of the original bail amount if the defendant was released on deposit or surety bond.

Table 11. Time from arrest to pretrial release for felony defendants, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Percent of released defendants who, after their arrest, were released within:						
	Same day	1 day*	2 days	1 week	1 month	6 months	1 year
All offenses	22.5%	45.5%	58.7%	78.2%	91.5%	99.4%	100%
Violent offenses	15.6%	33.1%	47.3%	70.2%	86.3%	98.7%	100%
Murder	19.0	26.8	40.4	56.4	79.7	91.8	100
Rape	11.5	27.3	35.7	60.3	79.2	98.0	100
Robbery	11.9	24.3	39.8	64.8	83.4	98.7	100
Assault	17.2	40.5	55.8	77.3	92.0	99.2	100
Other	20.9	35.3	45.5	69.4	80.2	100.0	100
Property offenses	28.8%	53.1%	64.1%	80.0%	93.0%	99.8%	100%
Burglary	17.8	41.9	52.7	72.0	90.0	99.1	100
Theft	29.3	56.5	70.4	84.4	94.6	100.0	100
Other	37.3	58.1	65.7	81.1	93.3	100.0	100
Drug offenses	20.0%	43.6%	58.5%	80.6%	93.5%	99.5%	100%
Sale/trafficking	13.2	39.2	54.4	76.5	91.6	99.3	100
Other	23.9	46.1	60.8	82.9	94.5	99.4	100
Public-order offenses	24.0%	50.8%	62.7%	77.8%	88.3%	99.1%	100%
Driving-related	34.1	52.6	56.6	66.3	77.0	97.7	100
Other	19.9	50.1	65.2	82.5	92.9	99.6	100

Note: Time from arrest to pretrial release was available for 96.6% of all cases involving a defendant who was released pretrial. Release data were

collected for 1 year. Defendants who were not released during the course of the study may have been released later but are excluded from the table.

*Defendants who were released on either the day of arrest or the day following.

Table 12. Court appearance record of felony defendants released pending disposition of case, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Total	Percent of released defendants who:			
		Made all court appearances	Failed to make one or more court appearances*		
			Total	Returned to court	Still fugitive after 1 year
All offenses	100%	76%	24%	16%	8%
Violent offenses	100%	80%	20%	14%	6%
Murder	100	78	22	18	4
Rape	100	91	9	6	3
Robbery	100	72	28	20	8
Assault	100	83	17	11	6
Other	100	83	17	12	5
Property offenses	100%	75%	25%	17%	8%
Burglary	100	73	27	19	8
Theft	100	74	26	18	8
Other	100	76	24	16	8
Drug offenses	100%	72%	28%	18%	10%
Sale/trafficking	100	71	29	20	9
Other	100	73	27	17	11
Public-order offenses	100%	86%	14%	10%	5%
Driving-related	100	90	10	7	3
Other	100	84	16	11	6

Note: Court appearance data were available for 99.1% of all cases involving a defendant who was released pending case disposition. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

*A defendant is considered to have failed to appear when the court issued a bench warrant for the defendant's arrest after the defendant missed a court date.

Table 13. Adjudication outcome for felony defendants, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Total	Convicted							Not convicted			
		Total con- victed	Felony			Misdemeanor			Total	Dis- missed	Acquit- ted	Other outcome*
			Total	Plea	Trial	Total	Plea	Trial				
All offenses	100%	70%	54%	49%	5%	16%	16%	--	23%	22%	1%	7%
Violent offenses	100%	61%	46%	40%	6%	15%	14%	1%	32%	30%	2%	8%
Murder	100	66	63	40	23	3	3	0	29	19	10	5
Rape	100	60	56	45	11	5	4	1	37	34	3	4
Robbery	100	66	56	50	6	10	10	--	27	26	1	7
Assault	100	53	32	28	4	21	20	1	37	35	2	10
Other	100	65	47	41	6	18	18	0	30	29	1	5
Property offenses	100%	75%	56%	52%	4%	19%	19%	--	20%	19%	1%	5%
Burglary	100	77	65	59	6	12	12	--	19	18	1	4
Theft	100	74	51	48	3	24	23	1	21	20	1	6
Other	100	75	52	50	2	23	22	1	20	19	1	5
Drug offenses	100%	69%	57%	52%	5%	12%	12%	--	23%	22%	1%	8%
Sale/trafficking	100	77	65	60	5	12	12	--	18	18	--	4
Other	100	64	52	47	5	12	12	--	26	25	1	11
Public-order offenses	100%	77%	54%	51%	3%	23%	22%	1%	19%	18%	1%	5%
Driving-related	100	88	65	64	1	23	22	1	9	9	0	2
Other	100	71	49	46	3	22	22	--	22	21	1	6

Note: Thirteen percent of all cases were still pending adjudication at the end of the 1-year study period. Data on adjudication outcome were available for 98.7% of those cases that been adjudicated. Detail may not

add to total because of rounding. Conviction offense may have differed from the arrest offense.
 --Less than 0.5%.

*Includes diversion and deferred adjudication.

Table 14. Felony defendants, by conviction offense, 1988

Most serious conviction offense	Percent
All offenses	100.0%
Violent offenses	12.7%
Murder	.9
Rape	1.1
Robbery	5.5
Assault	3.3
Other	1.8
Property offenses	29.5%
Burglary	10.3
Theft	10.8
Other	8.4
Drug offenses	27.6%
Sale/trafficking	13.1
Other	14.6
Public-order offenses	6.6%
Driving-related	1.9
Other	4.7
Felonies, type unknown	.5%
Misdemeanors	23.1%

Note: Data on conviction offense were available for 99.7% of cases involving defendants who had been convicted. All convictions are felonies unless listed under misdemeanor.

Table 15. Conviction offense of defendants arrested for a violent offense, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Most serious conviction offense								
	Total	Felony						Other felonies	Misdemeanor
		Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Other violent			
Murder	100%	73%	1%	3%	8%	7%	4%	4%	
Rape	100	0	72	0	4	10	6	7	
Robbery	100	0	0	70	2	0	12	16	
Assault	100	2	0	1	48	3	5	40	

Note: See note on table 14. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 16. Conviction offense of defendants arrested for a nonviolent offense, by arrest charge, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Most serious conviction offense								
	Total	Felony						Other felonies	Misdemeanor
		Burglary	Theft	Other property	Drug Sale	Other	Driving-related		
Burglary	100%	76%	4%	3%	0	--	0	2%	16%
Theft	100	1	60	6	--	1	--	--	32
Drug sale/trafficking	100	0	0	0	75	8	0	1	16
Driving-related	100	0	0	0	1	0	72	2	27

Note: See note on table 14. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. --Less than 0.5%.

Table 17. Sentence received by defendants convicted of a felony, by conviction offense, 1988

Most serious felony conviction offense	Percent of convicted defendants sentenced to:						
	Total	Incarceration			Nonincarceration		
		Total	State prison	Jail*	Total	Probation	Fine
All offenses	100%	67%	39%	27%	33%	32%	1%
Violent offenses	100%	80%	58%	23%	20%	19%	--
Murder	100	97	95	2	3	3	0
Rape	100	86	69	17	14	14	0
Robbery	100	88	66	22	12	12	0
Assault	100	70	39	31	30	29	1
Other	100	65	42	23	35	35	0
Property offenses	100%	62%	38%	24%	38%	37%	1%
Burglary	100	70	47	23	30	30	--
Theft	100	62	35	27	38	36	1
Other	100	51	31	20	49	48	1
Drug offenses	100%	67%	34%	33%	33%	31%	2%
Sale/trafficking	100	76	41	35	24	22	2
Other	100	59	28	31	41	39	2
Public-order offenses	100%	62%	34%	28%	38%	35%	3
Driving-related	100	69	33	36	31	30	1
Other	100	59	34	25	41	37	3

Note: Data on type of sentence were available for 92.7% of cases involving defendants who had been convicted of a known type of felony. Sentences to prison, jail, and probation may have included a fine, restitution, or community service. Fines included restitution or community service in some instances. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. *Includes sentences that also involved probation. --Less than 0.5%.

Table 18. Type of sentence received by defendants convicted of a felony, by prior conviction record and current arrest charge, 1988

Most serious prior conviction and current felony arrest charge	Percent of convicted defendants sentenced to:					
	Incarceration			Nonincarceration		
	Total	State prison	Jail*	Total	Probation	Fine
Prior violent felony conviction						
All offenses	86%	63%	22%	14%	14%	0
Violent offenses	94	73	21	6	6	0
Property offenses	85	65	20	15	15	0
Drug offenses	80	54	26	20	20	0
Public-order offenses	83	61	22	17	17	0
Prior nonviolent felony conviction						
All offenses	83%	57%	26%	17%	16%	-
Violent offenses	87	72	15	13	13	0
Property offenses	82	58	24	18	18	-
Drug offenses	83	53	30	17	16	1
Public-order offenses	83	51	33	17	16	1
Prior misdemeanor conviction						
All offenses	64%	30%	34%	36%	35%	1%
Violent offenses	82	56	26	18	18	-
Property offenses	58	30	29	42	41	1
Drug offenses	61	19	42	39	37	2
Public-order offenses	61	23	38	39	39	0
No prior conviction						
All offenses	49%	22%	27%	51%	48%	2%
Violent offenses	68	44	24	32	32	1
Property offenses	40	19	22	60	58	2
Drug offenses	54	20	34	46	43	3
Public-order offenses	32	11	21	68	62	6

Note: Data on sentence and prior conviction record were available for 84.6% of all cases involving defendants who had been convicted of a known type of felony. Sentences to prison, jail, and probation may have included a fine, restitution, or community service. Fines included

restitution or community service in some instances. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

*Includes sentences that also involved probation.

-Less than 0.5%.

Table 19. Median time from arrest to adjudication and number of days to sentencing for convicted defendants, 1988

Most serious felony arrest charge	Median time from arrest to adjudication	Percent of convicted defendants who were sentenced within:				
		Total	0-1 days	2-30 days	31-60 days	61 days or more
All felony defendants						
All offenses	85 days	100%	57%	19%	16%	9%
Violent offenses	108	100	50	20	20	10
Property offenses	75	100	61	18	14	7
Drug offenses	87	100	56	20	15	9
Public-order offenses	78	100	58	14	19	9
Detained defendants						
All offenses	37 days	100%	60%	24%	12%	4%
Violent offenses	68	100	51	24	19	6
Property offenses	32	100	65	21	10	4
Drug offenses	29	100	59	30	8	2
Public-order offenses	25	100	67	18	12	3
Released defendants						
All offenses	122 days	100%	55%	14%	19%	12%
Violent offenses	135	100	48	15	23	14
Property offenses	113	100	58	14	17	10
Drug offenses	126	100	54	14	18	13
Public-order offenses	104	100	53	13	22	12

Note: The median for time from arrest to adjudication includes cases still pending at the end of study. Including the exact times for these cases would not change the medians reported. Data on time from arrest to adjudication were

available for 96.6% of all cases that had reached adjudication. Data on time from arrest to sentencing were available for 98.6% of all cases that had reached sentencing. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.