



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics Executive Summary

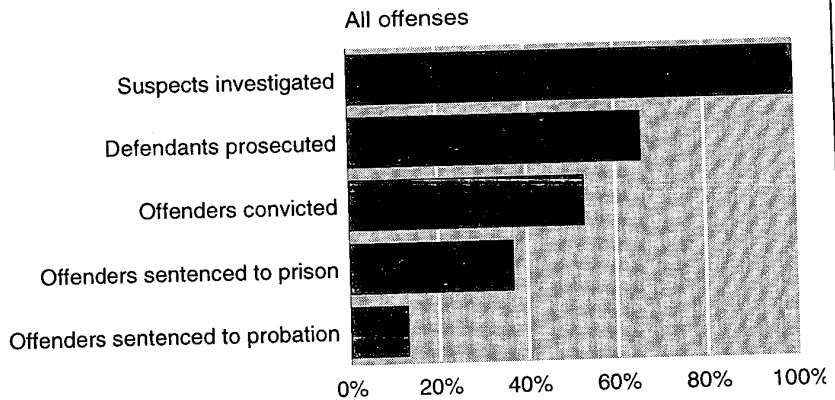
November 1996, NCJ-163171

Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1993

During 1993 approximately 63,800 defendants were prosecuted by U.S. attorneys in U.S. district courts or were processed in U.S. courts of appeals; about a third of these defendants were prosecuted for drug offenses.

The majority (86%) of the 64,640 defendants whose cases were terminated in U.S. district courts during 1993 were convicted. Among those convicted, 65% were sentenced to prison. At yearend 1993, the Federal Bureau of Prisons held more than 82,000 prisoners who were convicted of a Federal offense, an increase of 11% over 1992.

Federal criminal case processing, 1993



Prosecution

U.S. attorneys opened matters for investigation against 110,286 suspects during 1993 — 30% were investigated for drug offenses, 28% for fraudulent property offenses, and less than 6% for violent offenses such as murder, rape, assault, and robbery.

U.S. attorneys prosecuted 59% of the 108,854 suspects in matters concluded during 1993. Drug suspects were more likely than other suspects to have charges filed against them: about 75% of the suspects in drug matters were prosecuted.

Pretrial

During 1993 about 61% of the 47,755 defendants who were interviewed by pretrial services officers and whose cases were disposed had been released before disposition. Those charged with embezzlement, fraud, forgery, or tax law violations were more likely to be released (about 86% were released) than were defendants charged with drug offenses (52%), weapons (56%), immigration (39%), or violent offenses (39%).

Forty-six percent of defendants were reported to have a prior criminal history and 15% of defendants committed their offense while under supervision (probation, parole) for another offense. These defendants with a prior criminal history were less likely to

be released than defendants without such involvement.

Eighty-six percent of the defendants released prior to trial completed their periods of release without violating the conditions of their release; 5% of the released defendants had their release revoked. Defendants charged with violent or drug offenses were less likely to complete release without a violation (82% and 79%, respectively) than other defendants.

Adjudication

Cases were terminated against 64,640 defendants during 1993, 79% charged with a felony. Eighty-three percent of these defendants were convicted; most (90%) pleaded guilty.

Average time from filing to disposition was slightly more than 8 months for all cases. Felonies took longer (9½ months) compared to misdemeanors (3 months). Cases terminated by guilty plea took 7 months, on average.

<u>Most serious offense charged</u>	<u>Percent of defendants</u>
All offenses	100 %
Felonies	79.4%
Violent offenses	5.3%
Property offenses	21.7%
Fraudulent	16.9
Other	4.8
Drug offenses	35.3%
Public-order	17.1%
Regulatory	2.3
Other	14.8
Misdemeanors	20.6%
Number of defendants whose case in U.S. district court was terminated in 1993	64,640

Sentencing

Of the 53,435 defendants sentenced during 1993, 65% were incarcerated, another 30% were placed on probation (either alone or with incarceration), and 8% were ordered to pay a fine. Approximately 90% of violent offenders and drug offenders were incarcerated, compared with about half of property offenders.

The average prison sentence imposed for a felony offense was 63 months. Violent offenders (90 months) and drug offenders (82 months) received the longest average prison terms.

Corrections

A total of 20,449 offenders were under probation supervision that terminated during 1993. Most (81%) of these offenders successfully completed the term of probation. Approximately 16% did not successfully complete it: Three-quarters had their probation revoked for technical violations and a quarter for new offenses.

A total of 17,031 offenders completed terms of parole or supervised release during 1993. Approximately 57% successfully completed the term of supervision. Approximately 37% did not: Two-thirds had their parole revoked for technical violations and a third for new offenses. Offenders convicted of violent offenses had their release revoked at the highest rate (58.1%).

During 1993 the Federal Bureau of Prisons received 37,018 prisoners from U.S. district courts and an additional 10,814 prisoners from other sources (such as violations of parole, probation, or supervised release). Forty-six percent of the prisoners received from the U.S. district courts were drug offenders.

During 1993 a total of 39,973 prisoners were released. This was 7,859 fewer than the total number of prisoners received by any means. Consequently, during 1993 the number of Federal prisoners increased to 82,698.

During 1993 prisoners released for the first time on their Federal sentence had served an average of 24 months. Violent offenders released for the first time served an average of almost 5 years (56 months); drug offenders served almost 3 years (33 months).

<u>Most serious offense at conviction</u>	<u>Average number of months served</u>
All offenses	23.9 mo
Violent offenses	55.9 mo
Fraudulent	14.5
Other	18.1
Drug offenses	33.0 mo
Public-order	12.4 mo
Regulatory	***
Other	***
Weapons	***

Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1994

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Prosecution — matters received and concluded, prosecution rates, basis for declination, processing time

Pretrial release — types of release, release procedures, factors relating to release/detention, rates of release/detention, types of detention, incidence of pretrial violations, defendant characteristics

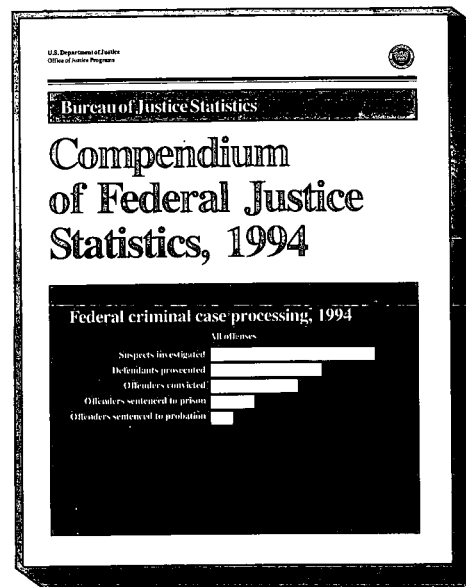
Adjudication — defendants in cases terminated, case-processing time, characteristics of convicted offenders, matters concluded by U.S. magistrates

Sentencing — offenders convicted and sentences imposed, relationship between sentence and method of case disposition, characteristics of offenders sentenced to incarceration, average prison sentence length, relationship of prison term to offender characteristics

Appeals — sentences appealed by prosecutors and defendants, convictions appealed by defendants

Corrections — probation and parole outcomes, comparison of parole and probation populations, violation rate, time served in prison, prisoner movements

Appendixes — data by Federal judicial district



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