

Table 5.2

Court-authorized orders for interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications

United States, 1969-2003

	Intercept applications authorized	
	Federal	State
1969	33	268
1970	182	414
1971	285	531
1972	206	649
1973	130	734
1974	121	607
1975	108	593
1976	137	549
1977	77	549
1978	81	489
1979	87	466
1980	81	483
1981	106	483
1982	130	448
1983	208	440
1984	289	512
1985	243	541
1986	250	504
1987	236	437
1988	293	445
1989	310	453
1990	324	548
1991	356	500
1992	340	579
1993	450	526
1994	554	600
1995	532	526
1996	581	568
1997	569	617
1998	566	763
1999	601	749
2000	479	711
2001	486	1,005
2002	497	861
2003	578	864

Note: The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts is required, in accordance with provisions of 18 U.S.C. 2519(1), to transmit to Congress a report regarding applications for orders authorizing or approving the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications. This report is required to contain information about the number of such orders and any extensions granted. Every State and Federal judge is required to file a written report on each application made. This report is required to contain information on the grants and denials, name of applicant, offense under investigation, type and location of device, and duration of authorized intercept. Prosecuting officials who have applied for intercept orders are required to file reports containing information on the cost of the intercepts; the number of days the device was in operation; the total number of intercepts; the number of incriminating intercepts recorded; whether encryption was encountered in the course of the intercept; and the results of the intercepts in terms of the number of arrests, trials, convictions, and motions to suppress evidence obtained through the use of intercepts. Forty-seven jurisdictions (the Federal Government, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and 44 States) had statutes authorizing the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications during 2003; 24 of these jurisdictions had court-authorized orders for interception during 2003 (Source, **2003**, pp. 6, 7).

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, **Report on Applications for Orders Authorizing or Approving the Interception of Wire or Oral Communications for the Period January 1, 1977 to December 31, 1977** (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 1978), p. xvi; Administrative Office of the United States Courts, **Report on Applications for Orders Authorizing or Approving the Interception of Wire, Oral, or Electronic Communications for the Period January 1, 1988 to December 31, 1988** (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1989), p. 19; and Administrative Office of the United States Courts, **1999 Wiretap Report**, p. 32; **2003**, p. 32 (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.