

Table 5.21

Mean and median length of sentences imposed on Federal offenders sentenced to incarceration in U.S. District Courts

By offense and characteristics, United States, fiscal year 2001

(In months)

Offender characteristics	Mean and median sentence length for offenders convicted of:															
	Violent offenses		Property offenses				Drug offenses		Public-order offenses				Weapons offenses		Immigration offenses	
			Fraudulent		Other				Regulatory		Other					
Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	
All offenders ^a	90.8	63.0	22.2	15.0	34.7	18.0	73.8	51.0	23.5	15.0	43.8	27.0	86.9	54.0	29.2	24.0
Sex																
Male	90.7	63.0	23.4	15.0	34.8	21.0	77.3	57.0	22.1	15.0	44.5	27.0	86.7	53.0	29.6	26.0
Female	42.5	37.0	16.4	12.0	23.3	14.0	44.7	33.0	18.3	15.0	28.4	18.0	55.4	30.0	19.8	13.0
Race																
White	84.2	63.0	22.3	15.0	34.5	19.0	59.3	40.0	19.9	15.0	41.0	27.0	73.8	46.0	29.0	24.0
Black	108.8	77.0	21.4	15.0	29.9	18.0	102.2	77.0	22.2	21.0	43.4	24.0	86.6	57.0	38.5	41.0
Native American	62.8	37.0	21.9	12.0	23.8	19.5	56.3	30.0	38.7	18.0	35.2	22.5	71.5	60.0	20.7	18.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	70.7	54.0	20.8	13.0	21.3	12.0	75.0	57.0	23.5	18.0	54.8	35.0	228.3	67.5	18.7	12.0
Other	B	B	25.7	16.0	B	B	64.2	38.5	B	B	B	B	B	B	35.4	28.5
Ethnicity																
Hispanic	86.9	63.0	17.1	12.0	30.1	21.0	57.8	37.0	16.1	13.0	46.3	21.0	67.5	44.0	29.4	24.0
Non-Hispanic	88.0	63.0	23.0	15.0	33.3	18.0	85.8	60.0	24.7	18.0	42.2	27.0	88.7	55.0	26.9	21.0
Age																
16 to 18 years	75.5	63.5	B	B	B	B	27.2	18.0	B	B	B	B	86.3	72.0	15.1	12.0
19 to 20 years	76.3	52.0	13.3	12.0	38.0	18.0	44.6	30.0	20.2	19.5	59.2	45.5	69.2	42.0	16.3	12.0
21 to 30 years	82.1	57.0	18.9	13.0	30.3	18.0	73.1	51.0	21.2	18.0	50.8	30.0	83.2	52.0	27.6	24.0
31 to 40 years	97.1	70.0	21.3	15.0	34.5	18.0	79.2	57.0	24.1	15.0	45.5	27.0	95.5	57.0	34.5	30.0
Over 40 years	93.0	66.0	26.4	18.0	33.0	21.0	74.7	55.0	19.4	15.0	36.0	24.0	84.4	46.0	32.8	30.0
Citizenship																
U.S. citizen	87.5	63.0	23.0	15.0	33.2	18.0	81.2	60.0	24.5	18.0	42.4	27.0	86.1	54.0	21.4	18.0
Not U.S. citizen	92.6	57.0	18.7	12.0	30.1	19.0	56.6	37.0	16.2	13.0	47.0	27.0	81.7	36.0	30.1	27.0
Education																
Less than high school graduate	91.4	60.0	21.6	15.0	29.5	18.0	70.0	48.0	20.4	15.0	55.1	30.0	79.5	51.0	31.5	27.0
High school graduate	88.2	64.5	21.6	15.0	33.3	18.0	79.1	60.0	24.4	18.0	42.3	27.0	93.6	57.0	32.7	30.0
Some college	83.2	60.0	21.8	15.0	33.2	18.0	73.2	48.0	22.4	15.0	39.2	27.0	89.6	54.0	26.7	20.5
College graduate	70.8	46.0	27.3	18.0	37.4	27.0	63.5	46.0	18.6	12.0	31.6	24.0	65.4	30.0	23.5	18.0
Criminal record																
No convictions	60.7	41.0	19.8	12.0	33.2	18.0	51.1	37.0	19.2	13.0	39.2	26.0	76.4	34.0	12.8	10.0
Prior adult conviction ^b	98.8	70.0	23.8	16.0	32.7	20.0	90.1	63.0	24.5	18.0	45.8	27.0	87.1	55.0	32.2	30.0

Note: See Notes, tables 5.13 and 5.18. Data exclude offenders sentenced to life sentences and indeterminate sentences; and include prison portion of split or mixed sentences. By definition, corporations are excluded from data displaying offender characteristics but included in the data for "all offenders." For methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 11.

^aIncludes corporations and offenders for whom offense category or characteristics were unknown.

^bFor some offenders, prior adult convictions are limited to those used in calculating sentences under the Federal sentencing guidelines (see Source, p. 77).

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 2001*, NCJ 201627 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2003), pp. 73, 74. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.