

**Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online**

http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t5212002.pdf

Table 5.21.2002

**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 2002

(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	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
All offenders <sup>a</sup>	88.5	60.0	23.4	15.0	34.7	18.0	76.0	57.0	25.9	18.0	41.9	27.0	83.9	51.0	27.9	24.0
<b>Sex</b>																
Male	87.7	60.0	24.1	16.0	37.8	20.5	79.1	58.0	27.2	18.0	42.5	27.0	84.4	52.0	28.1	24.0
Female	50.9	41.0	19.6	12.0	16.7	12.0	47.4	33.0	19.8	16.0	30.9	18.0	56.9	36.0	18.4	15.0
<b>Race</b>																
White	82.3	57.0	23.1	15.0	34.9	18.0	62.0	43.0	25.4	18.0	39.9	27.0	69.1	42.0	27.6	24.0
Black	100.2	70.0	23.1	16.0	34.8	15.5	104.9	78.0	29.3	21.0	49.8	30.0	97.5	60.0	33.6	30.0
Native American	66.1	37.0	20.1	13.5	29.2	18.0	54.0	30.0	B	B	25.6	16.0	64.6	46.0	16.9	17.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	56.3	37.0	23.0	14.0	16.6	13.0	65.3	50.0	20.1	18.0	37.2	24.0	87.2	41.0	19.4	12.0
Other	B	B	15.4	12.0	B	B	94.7	65.0	B	B	B	B	57.7	61.5	B	B
<b>Ethnicity</b>																
Hispanic	87.2	60.0	18.0	12.0	37.9	24.0	61.4	41.0	20.1	18.0	45.1	24.0	63.9	41.0	28.0	24.0
Non-Hispanic	85.3	60.0	24.4	16.0	33.6	18.0	86.3	60.0	30.5	21.0	40.7	27.0	86.8	57.0	25.9	21.0
<b>Age</b>																
16 to 18 years	52.8	48.0	B	B	B	B	23.8	18.0	B	B	B	B	55.3	60.0	10.9	7.0
19 to 20 years	74.8	51.0	12.7	11.0	20.8	12.0	43.9	30.0	18.6	18.0	44.6	30.0	70.1	42.0	16.2	12.5
21 to 30 years	87.1	57.0	18.1	13.0	27.6	15.0	74.7	57.0	29.2	21.0	46.3	30.0	82.2	54.0	25.2	21.0
31 to 40 years	88.3	63.5	23.2	18.0	32.8	20.0	81.5	60.0	24.7	18.0	47.8	28.0	89.8	57.0	32.0	30.0
Over 40 years	85.0	60.0	28.8	18.0	41.4	21.0	77.7	57.0	23.8	15.0	34.9	24.0	83.8	46.0	31.1	27.0
<b>Citizenship</b>																
U.S. citizen	85.3	60.0	24.4	17.0	34.1	18.0	82.2	60.0	29.5	21.0	41.3	27.0	84.8	55.0	20.5	18.0
Not U.S. citizen	87.4	51.0	18.9	12.0	33.6	24.0	59.9	40.0	19.3	15.0	44.2	24.0	70.0	30.0	28.4	24.0
<b>Education</b>																
Less than high school graduate	83.6	60.0	20.2	15.0	28.9	15.0	72.3	50.0	21.0	18.0	49.3	28.0	79.6	51.0	29.1	24.0
High school graduate	88.7	63.0	22.8	15.0	34.4	18.0	83.2	60.0	28.7	21.0	42.1	30.0	85.3	55.0	30.4	27.0
Some college	86.1	57.0	25.7	18.0	32.6	18.0	72.0	51.0	31.0	18.0	37.8	27.0	97.2	56.0	26.9	24.0
College graduate	69.4	41.0	27.0	18.0	49.4	25.5	57.4	46.0	33.0	18.0	36.6	24.0	57.2	33.0	20.7	18.0
<b>Criminal record</b>																
No convictions	61.5	38.0	22.8	13.0	33.9	18.0	52.8	37.0	25.1	15.5	34.6	25.0	71.7	30.0	14.3	12.0
Prior adult conviction <sup>b</sup>	94.6	69.0	23.5	17.0	34.4	18.0	92.1	66.0	26.8	21.0	47.7	30.0	85.5	57.0	29.8	27.0

Note: See Notes, [tables 5.13.2002](#) and [5.18.2002](#). 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](#).

<sup>a</sup>Includes corporations and offenders for whom offense category or characteristics were unknown.

<sup>b</sup>For some offenders, prior adult convictions are limited to those used in calculating sentences under the Federal sentencing guidelines (see Source, p. 75).

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 2002*, NCJ 205368 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2004), pp. 73, 74. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.