

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.21.2003

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 2003

(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 ^a	97.2	64.0	24.8	16.0	41.1	21.0	81.4	60.0	33.2	18.0	45.0	27.0	83.7	54.0	26.7	24.0
Sex																
Male	98.4	63.0	25.7	18.0	45.9	24.0	84.5	60.0	32.5	18.0	45.6	27.0	83.1	54.0	27.0	24.0
Female	65.0	46.0	18.3	13.0	20.3	12.0	49.5	37.0	18.5	15.0	35.0	18.0	56.8	30.0	18.3	15.0
Race																
White	91.2	60.0	24.4	15.0	40.3	21.0	67.6	46.0	27.0	15.0	43.5	27.0	70.5	46.0	26.5	24.0
Black	109.7	77.0	24.5	18.0	48.6	18.0	110.5	84.0	43.7	21.0	50.5	27.0	94.8	60.0	34.3	30.0
Native American	85.2	45.0	19.6	15.0	38.6	24.0	58.9	37.0	B	B	28.5	15.5	72.6	60.0	16.6	15.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	85.2	58.5	21.9	15.0	24.4	18.0	69.6	51.0	33.5	18.0	38.2	24.0	77.4	38.5	20.9	12.5
Other	B	B	16.8	13.5	B	B	74.3	60.0	X	X	B	B	76.8	31.5	33.5	30.0
Ethnicity																
Hispanic	85.3	58.0	18.3	12.0	41.6	24.0	65.7	46.0	26.9	15.0	57.0	27.0	68.3	46.0	26.9	24.0
Non-Hispanic	97.7	63.0	25.9	18.0	41.4	21.0	92.3	66.0	32.1	18.0	42.0	27.0	84.6	56.0	25.1	18.0
Age																
16 to 18 years	71.3	49.0	B	B	B	B	30.0	22.5	B	B	B	B	62.6	40.0	9.7	8.0
19 to 20 years	71.6	46.0	16.4	12.0	37.8	21.0	48.3	33.0	17.5	17.0	45.0	28.5	69.5	49.0	16.0	13.0
21 to 30 years	99.6	63.0	18.9	14.0	37.8	21.0	78.9	60.0	25.6	16.0	48.4	27.0	79.0	52.0	24.1	19.5
31 to 40 years	96.6	71.0	24.8	18.0	39.2	21.0	89.1	60.0	37.3	21.0	49.5	27.0	90.1	57.0	30.2	27.0
Over 40 years	96.5	63.0	30.7	18.0	46.9	24.0	80.3	58.0	27.9	15.0	40.1	27.0	83.1	48.0	30.9	27.0
Citizenship																
U.S. citizen	96.3	63.0	26.4	18.0	42.2	21.0	87.6	60.0	34.1	18.0	44.7	27.0	84.1	57.0	22.0	18.0
Not U.S. citizen	89.3	39.0	17.9	12.0	36.2	24.0	63.8	46.0	21.8	15.0	43.7	27.0	56.7	27.0	27.3	24.0
Education																
Less than high school graduate	98.6	63.0	21.6	15.0	51.2	24.0	78.6	57.0	28.9	18.0	49.6	27.0	79.6	53.0	27.2	24.0
High school graduate	98.7	65.0	24.2	16.0	37.5	18.0	86.9	60.0	28.7	15.0	44.4	27.0	86.4	57.0	30.0	24.0
Some college	82.8	60.0	25.1	18.0	34.4	21.0	76.7	57.0	28.5	15.0	46.1	27.0	80.0	48.0	26.3	21.0
College graduate	79.1	50.0	31.2	20.0	43.3	30.0	65.2	46.0	41.0	21.0	37.7	27.0	65.6	46.0	26.0	21.0
Criminal record																
No convictions	79.6	46.0	24.3	15.0	36.5	20.0	56.2	37.0	26.4	15.0	39.8	27.0	59.6	27.0	13.9	12.0
Prior adult conviction ^b	103.1	72.0	24.9	18.0	44.3	21.0	98.7	70.0	34.7	21.0	49.3	27.0	85.3	57.0	28.8	24.0

Note: See Notes, tables 5.13.2003 and 5.18.2003. 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. 79).

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 2003*, NCJ 210299 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2005), pp. 77, 78. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.