

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.38.2008

Defendants sentenced for violation of drug laws in U.S. District Courts

By type and length of sentence, 1945-2008

	Type of sentence										Average sentence to imprisonment <sup>d</sup> (in months)	Average sentence to probation <sup>e</sup> (in months)
	Imprisonment								Probation	Fine and other <sup>c</sup>		
	Total	Total regular	Regular sentences <sup>a</sup>				Life sentences	Other <sup>b</sup>				
		1 through 12 months	13 through 35 months	36 through 60 months	Over 60 months							
1945	861	X	308	360	140	53	NA	X	287	37	22.2	NA
1946	949	X	430	377	108	34	NA	X	369	20	18.7	NA
1947	1,128	X	471	452	161	44	NA	X	504	38	19.7	NA
1948	1,048	X	488	408	122	30	NA	X	411	23	18.6	NA
1949	1,187	X	541	451	152	43	NA	X	398	13	18.9	NA
1950	1,654	X	595	736	218	105	NA	X	471	11	21.9	NA
1951	1,659	X	473	671	328	187	NA	X	345	24	27.1	NA
1952	1,551	X	221	652	402	276	NA	X	312	6	35.2	NA
1953	1,586	X	108	789	358	331	NA	X	403	14	38.4	NA
1954	1,483	X	72	681	360	370	NA	X	411	16	41.3	NA
1955	1,457	X	47	648	360	402	NA	X	329	17	43.5	NA
1956	1,258	X	30	511	341	376	NA	X	250	13	45.8	NA
1957	1,432	X	16	326	248	842	NA	X	220	2	66.0	NA
1958	1,351	X	25	167	141	1,018	NA	X	282	8	69.4	NA
1959	1,151	X	43	126	95	887	NA	X	224	3	74.2	NA
1960	1,232	X	33	145	148	906	NA	X	271	3	72.8	NA
1961	1,258	X	42	126	105	985	NA	X	252	5	74.0	NA
1962	1,173	X	38	129	106	900	NA	X	217	13	70.5	NA
1963	1,085	X	39	144	113	789	NA	X	304	17	70.1	NA
1964	1,076	X	28	142	157	749	NA	X	309	23	63.7	NA
1965	1,257	X	53	186	197	821	NA	X	480	18	60.3	NA
1966	1,272	X	85	154	276	757	NA	X	589	13	61.3	NA
1967	1,180	X	83	139	245	713	NA	X	620	22	62.0	NA
1968	1,368	X	93	141	293	841	NA	X	728	33	64.4	NA
1969	1,581	X	110	179	500	892	NA	X	1,110	18	63.7	NA
1970	1,283	X	101	166	276	740	NA	X	1,156	22	64.8	NA
1971	1,834	X	249	300	428	857	NA	X	1,258	70	58.5	NA
1972	3,050	X	882	396	789	983	NA	X	2,068	130	46.4	NA
1973	5,097	X	1,445	744	1,343	1,565	NA	X	2,591	126	45.5	NA
1974	5,125	X	1,547	792	1,390	1,396	NA	X	3,039	81	43.7	NA
1975	4,887	X	1,366	706	1,441	1,374	NA	X	3,209	55	45.3	NA
1976	5,039	X	1,221	790	1,544	1,484	NA	X	2,927	75	47.6	NA
1977	5,223	X	1,505	886	1,366	1,466	NA	X	2,324	88	47.3	NA
1978	4,119	3,605	885	623	956	1,141	NA	514	1,630	68	51.3	38.6
1979	3,641	2,820	369	614	868	969	NA	821	1,379	47	50.8	37.8
1980	3,479	2,547	281	565	792	909	NA	932	1,232	38	54.5	38.7
1981	3,856	2,865	403	578	748	1,136	NA	991	1,371	119	55.5	36.6
1982	4,586	3,516	383	729	966	1,438	NA	1,070	1,617	133	61.4	34.1
1983	5,449	4,150	447	890	1,011	1,802	NA	1,299	1,893	148	63.8	33.7
1984	5,756	4,306	354	845	1,173	1,934	NA	1,450	1,584	119	65.7	43.2
1985	6,786	5,207	411	1,103	1,459	2,234	NA	1,579	2,039	238	64.8	36.2
1986	8,152	6,601	506	1,271	1,808	3,016	NA	1,551	2,353	259	70.0	38.7
1987	9,907	8,188	613	1,491	2,049	4,035	NA	1,719	2,680	112	73.0	39.9
1988	9,983	8,560	708	1,466	1,577	4,809	NA	1,423	3,042	137	78.0	33.4
1989	11,626	10,838	1,270	2,343	1,844	5,381	NA	788	2,358	155	73.8	32.8
1990	13,838	13,462	1,490	3,047	1,801	7,124	NA	376	2,135	215	79.3	32.3
1991	14,382	14,286	1,687	2,828	3,063	6,708	34	61	1,896	68	95.7	53.4
1992	16,040	15,775	1,810	3,423	3,397	7,145	80	185	2,011	194	87.8	38.7
1993	16,995	16,639	2,097	3,383	4,128	7,031	186	169	1,943	310	83.2	35.8
1994	15,623	15,130	1,836	3,074	3,798	6,422	238	255	1,908	73	84.3	34.4
1995	14,157	13,734	1,606	2,716	3,311	6,101	150	273	1,597	107	88.7	33.6
1996	18,333	16,684	1,643	3,334	4,025	7,113	197	372	1,534	112	82.5	35.0
1997	18,231	17,456	1,687	4,166	4,445	7,158	228	546	1,523	79	79.3	34.9
1998	19,809	19,062	2,100	4,443	4,517	8,002	180	567	1,629	91	78.0	34.9
1999	22,443	21,513	2,670	5,074	5,240	8,529	205	724	1,719	85	74.6	34.2
2000	23,120	22,207	2,523	5,095	5,452	9,137	148	765	1,591	75	75.7	35.1
2001	24,011	23,127	2,780	5,350	5,670	9,327	122	762	1,671	133	73.8	34.5
2002	25,031	23,838	2,825	5,250	5,727	10,036	168	1,025	1,947	148	75.9	33.4
2003	25,060	23,937	2,632	4,781	5,967	10,557	157	966	1,781	145	80.2	32.2
2004	23,920	22,984	2,581	4,181	5,553	10,669	146	790	1,598	184	82.5	28.4
2005	24,786	23,831	2,389	4,296	5,719	11,427	151	804	1,508	294	85.7	32.7
2006	26,488 <sup>g</sup>	25,437	2,035	4,438	6,159	12,805	195	853	1,548	275	87.9	31.8
2007	25,520	24,439	2,132	4,017	5,962	12,328	171	910	1,344	250	88.9	31.0
2008	25,305 <sup>f</sup>	24,055	2,131	4,124	5,940	11,860	157	1,092	1,389	226	86.0	34.5

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.38.2008

Defendants sentenced for violation of drug laws in U.S. District Courts

By type and length of sentence, 1945-2008--Continued

Note: Data for 1945-91 are reported for the 12-month period ending June 30. Beginning in 1992, data are reported for the Federal fiscal year, which is the 12-month period ending September 30. Between 1991 and 2004, defendants charged in two or more cases that were terminated during the year are counted only once. Beginning in 2005, defendants charged in two or more cases that were terminated during the year are counted separately for each case. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

<sup>a</sup>Includes sentences of more than 6 months that are to be followed by a term of probation (mixed sentences). Beginning in 1991, includes sentences of at least 1 month that may be followed by a term of probation.

<sup>b</sup>From 1978-88, "other" includes split sentences, indeterminate sentences, and Youth Corrections Act and youthful offender sentences. In 1989 and 1990, the category includes split sentences and indeterminate sentences. Beginning in 1991, "other" includes deportation, suspended and sealed sentences, imprisonment of 4 days or less, and no sentence.

<sup>c</sup>Includes supervised release, probation of 4 days or less, suspended sentences, sealed sentences, and no sentence.

<sup>d</sup>From 1978-90, split sentences, Youth Corrections Act and youthful offender sentences, and life sentences were not included in computing average sentence. Beginning in 1991, life sentences, death sentences, deportation, suspended and sealed sentences, imprisonment of 4 days or less, and no sentence also are not included in computing average sentence.

<sup>e</sup>From 1986-90, split sentences, indeterminate sentences, and Youth Corrections Act and youthful offender sentences were not included in computing average sentence. Beginning in 1991, supervised release, probation of 4 days or less, suspended sentences, sealed sentences, and no sentence also are not included in computing average sentence.

<sup>f</sup>Includes one death sentence.

<sup>g</sup>Includes three death sentences.

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Federal Offenders in the United States District Courts, 1984* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1986), pp. 42, 43; Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Federal Offenders in the United States District Courts, 1985* (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 1987), pp. 40, 41; Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director, 1997* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1998), pp. 217-220; Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director, 1998*, pp. 231-234; *1999*, pp. 225-227 (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts); Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Judicial Business of the United States Courts: 2000 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 224-227; *2001 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 214-217; *2002 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 214-217; *2003 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 214-217; *2004 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 220-223; *2005 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 249-254; *2006 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 253-258; *2007 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 250-255; *2008 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 248-253 (Washington, DC: USGPO); and tables provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.