

Table 5.48.2004

Mean and median maximum length of felony sentences imposed by State courts

By offense, United States, 2004

(In months)

Most serious conviction offense	Maximum sentence length for felons sentenced to:			
	Total	Incarceration Prison	Jail	Straight probation
<u>Mean sentence</u>				
All offenses	37	57	6	38
Violent offenses	68	92	7	44
Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter	232	241	10	61
Sexual assault, rape	93	116	9	53
Rape	123	154	8	70
Other sexual assault	72	90	9	48
Robbery	86	100	10	53
Aggravated assault	41	61	7	40
Other violent <sup>a</sup>	38	59	7	41
Property offenses	29	45	6	38
Burglary	40	56	7	42
Larceny, motor vehicle theft	21	35	6	36
Motor vehicle theft	17	29	6	39
Fraud, forgery, embezzlement	26	42	6	36
Drug offenses	31	51	6	38
Possession	23	37	5	37
Trafficking	37	60	7	38
Weapons offenses	32	47	7	34
Other offenses <sup>b</sup>	24	41	6	38
<u>Median sentence</u>				
All offenses	18	36	6	36
Violent offenses	36	60	6	36
Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter	240	243	12	60
Sexual assault, rape	60	72	8	36
Rape	72	96	7	60
Other sexual assault	48	60	9	36
Robbery	60	72	10	60
Aggravated assault	24	40	6	36
Other violent <sup>a</sup>	18	36	6	36
Property offenses	14	31	6	36
Burglary	24	36	6	36
Larceny, motor vehicle theft	12	24	6	36
Motor vehicle theft	12	24	6	36
Fraud, forgery, embezzlement	12	24	5	36
Drug offenses	13	36	5	36
Possession	12	24	4	36
Trafficking	18	42	6	36
Weapons offenses	23	36	6	24
Other offenses <sup>b</sup>	12	30	5	36

Note: See Notes, [tables 5.44.2004](#) and [5.47.2004](#). Means exclude sentences to death or to life in prison. The median sentence is the sentence length that marks the point below which and above which 50% of all sentence lengths fall. Sentence length data were available for 964,861 convicted felons sentenced to incarceration and probation. For survey sampling procedures and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 16](#).

<sup>a</sup>Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

<sup>b</sup>Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2004 Statistical Tables*, NCJ 217995, Table 1.3 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/scscf04st.htm> [Aug. 8, 2007].