

Table 6.19

Most serious current offense of jail inmates

By conviction status, United States, 1983, 1989, 1996, and 2002

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates						
	1983	1989	1996	2002			
				Total	Convicted	Unconvicted	Both ^a
Number of jail inmates	219,573	380,160	496,752	623,492	342,372	178,035	100,348
Violent offenses	30.7%	22.5%	26.3%	25.4%	21.6%	34.4%	22.3%
Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter	4.1	2.8	2.8	2.0	0.9	5.3	NA
Negligent manslaughter	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3
Kidnaping	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.4	0.6
Rape	1.5	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.4
Other sexual assault	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.6	1.5
Robbery	11.2	6.7	6.5	5.6	3.9	8.7	5.5
Assault	8.6	7.2	11.6	11.7	10.9	12.5	12.7
Other violent ^b	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.1
Property offenses	38.6	30.0	26.9	24.4	24.9	21.5	27.4
Burglary	14.3	10.7	7.6	6.7	6.4	6.8	8.0
Larceny/theft	11.7	7.9	8.0	7.0	7.6	5.3	7.6
Motor vehicle theft	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.6	2.6
Arson	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1
Fraud	5.0	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.3	4.2	4.7
Stolen property	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	2.5
Other property ^c	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.9
Drug offenses	9.3	23.0	22.0	24.7	24.0	23.4	30.2
Possession	4.7	9.7	11.5	10.8	10.0	10.4	14.6
Trafficking	4.0	12.0	9.2	12.1	12.6	10.6	13.5
Other drug	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.5	2.3	2.1
Public-order offenses	20.6	22.8	24.4	24.9	29.1	20.2	19.2
Weapons	2.3	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.2
Obstruction of justice	2.0	2.8	4.9	3.9	3.5	5.4	2.7
Traffic violations	2.2	2.7	3.2	3.7	4.7	2.3	2.5
Driving while intoxicated ^d	7.0	8.8	7.4	6.4	8.9	2.3	5.1
Drunkenness, morals ^e	3.4	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.8
Violation of parole, probation ^f	2.3	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.5	1.5	3.3
Immigration violations	NA	NA	0.2	1.8	1.8	2.5	0.3
Other public-order ^g	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.8	2.8	1.2
Other offenses ^h	0.8	1.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.9

Note: See Note, table 6.18. Data exclude inmates for whom offense was unknown. Some data for 1996 have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For information on methodology and survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 4](#).

^aIncludes inmates with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

^bIncludes blackmail, extortion, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, child abuse, and criminal endangerment.

^cIncludes destruction of property, vandalism, hit-and-run driving without bodily injury, trespassing, and possession of burglary tools.

^dIncludes driving while intoxicated and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

^eIncludes drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals, and commercialized vice.

^fIncludes parole or probation violations, escape, absence without leave (AWOL), and flight to avoid prosecution.

^gIncludes rioting, abandonment, nonsupport, invasion of privacy, liquor law violations, and tax evasion.

^hIncludes juvenile offenses and other unspecified offenses.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, Special Report NCJ-164620, p. 4; *2002*, Special Report NCJ 201932, p. 3 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.