

Table 5.48

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

By offense, United States, 2000

(In months)

Most serious conviction offense	Maximum sentence length for felons sentenced to:			
	Incarceration			Probation
	Total	Prison	Jail	
<u>Mean sentence</u>				
All offenses	36	55	6	38
Violent offenses	66	91	7	44
Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter	242	248	18	64
Sexual assault, rape	87	108	8	64
Rape	110	136	8	79
Other sexual assault	73	92	8	61
Robbery	82	94	11	52
Aggravated assault	37	59	6	40
Other violent ^a	33	50	7	36
Property offenses	27	42	6	38
Burglary	39	52	7	41
Larceny, motor vehicle theft	21	34	6	37
Motor vehicle theft	18	27	5	37
Fraud, forgery, embezzlement	21	34	6	37
Drug offenses	30	47	6	36
Possession	20	34	5	33
Trafficking	35	52	7	39
Weapons offenses	25	38	7	36
Other offenses ^b	22	38	6	40
<u>Median sentence</u>				
All offenses	16	36	5	36
Violent offenses	36	60	6	36
Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter	264	291	12	60
Sexual assault, rape	48	70	6	60
Rape	72	96	6	60
Other sexual assault	36	60	6	60
Robbery	60	61	10	48
Aggravated assault	16	36	5	36
Other violent ^a	16	34	5	36
Property offenses	12	27	5	36
Burglary	24	36	6	36
Larceny, motor vehicle theft	12	24	5	36
Motor vehicle theft	12	24	4	36
Fraud, forgery, embezzlement	12	24	4	36
Drug offenses	12	36	5	36
Possession	10	24	3	24
Trafficking	18	36	6	36
Weapons offenses	16	24	6	36
Other offenses ^b	12	24	4	36

Note: See Notes, [tables 5.44](#) and [5.47](#). 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 852,616 convicted felons sentenced to incarceration and probation. For survey sampling procedures and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 12](#).

^aIncludes offenses such as negligent manslaughter and kidnaping.

^bComposed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 2000*, Bulletin NCJ 198821 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, June 2003), p. 4.