



# Federal Justice Statistics, 2020

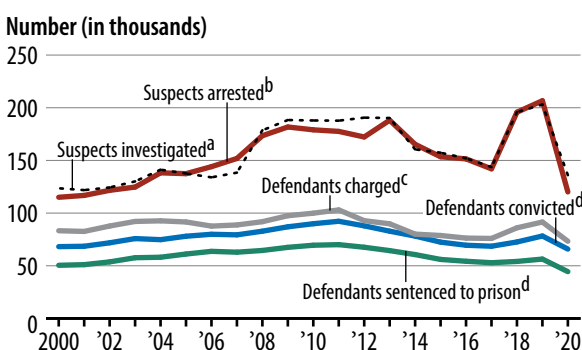
Mark Motivans, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*

Federal arrests declined 42% from fiscal year (FY) 2019 to FY 2020, reaching their lowest level since FY 2001 (**figure 1**).<sup>1</sup> Of the 346,681 persons under federal correctional control at fiscal year-end 2020, about 56% were in secure confinement and 44% were on community supervision (**table 1**). This was a decline from fiscal year-end 2010, when 401,198 persons were under federal correctional control.

This report describes cases processed by the federal criminal justice system. Data are from the Federal Justice Statistics Program, which collects, standardizes, and reports on administrative data received from six federal justice agencies: the U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC), Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and U.S. Sentencing Commission.

<sup>1</sup>In this report, annual data are for the fiscal year, which is from October 1 to September 30.

**FIGURE 1**  
Suspects and defendants processed in the federal justice system, FY 2000–2020



Note: See appendix table 1 for counts.

<sup>a</sup>Suspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

<sup>b</sup>Suspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date. See *Methodology*.

<sup>c</sup>Defendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

<sup>d</sup>Defendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one adjudicated case are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking, Justice Detainee, and CAPTURE information systems; Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2000–2020.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- During fiscal year (FY) 2020, U.S. marshals made 120,112 arrests, a 42% decrease from the 206,630 bookings in FY 2019.
- In FY 2020, five U.S.-Mexico border districts accounted for 56% of federal arrests.
- The coronavirus pandemic drove an 81% decline in arrests and 77% decline in cases charged from March to April 2020.
- Of the 26,696 Drug Enforcement Administration arrests in FY 2020, the most common drug type involved was methamphetamine (8,783 arrests), followed by powder cocaine (4,474 arrests).
- Nine in 10 defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court in FY 2020 were convicted.

**TABLE 1****Persons in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community, fiscal year-end 2010, 2019, and 2020**

	2010		2019		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	401,198	100%	373,056	100%	346,681	100%
<b>In secure confinement</b>	248,128	61.8%	221,974	59.5%	193,318	55.8%
Pretrial detention	62,438	15.6	64,816	17.4	61,027	17.6
Federal Bureau of Prisons (post-sentencing)*	185,690	46.3	157,158	42.1	132,291	38.2
<b>In the community</b>	153,070	38.2%	151,082	40.5%	153,363	44.2%
Pretrial release supervision	26,516	6.6	24,595	6.6	28,874	8.3
Post-sentencing supervision	126,554	31.5	126,487	33.9	124,489	35.9
Supervised release	101,839	25.4	110,932	29.7	110,467	31.9
Probation	22,685	5.7	14,658	3.9	13,185	3.8
Parole	2,030	0.5	897	0.2	837	0.2

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Persons in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community are shown as of September 30, 2010, 2019, and 2020.

\*Counts include federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Counts exclude persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Unsented persons in BOP custody are counted in pretrial detention counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System; U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2010, 2019, and 2020.

## Definitions of major offense categories

**Violent**—Includes murder, negligent or nonnegligent manslaughter, aggravated or simple assault, sexual abuse, robbery, kidnapping, and threats against the U.S. president.

**Property**—Includes fraudulent and other types of property offenses.

**Fraudulent property**—Includes embezzlement, fraud, forgery, and counterfeiting.

**Other property**—Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

**Drug**—Includes the manufacture, import, export, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled or counterfeit substance, or the possession of a controlled or counterfeit substance with intent to manufacture or distribute.

**Public order**—Includes regulatory and other types of public order offenses.

**Regulatory public order**—Includes violation of agriculture, antitrust, labor, food and drug, motor carrier, and other federal regulations.

**Other public order**—Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, mailing or transporting obscene materials, traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

**Weapons**—Includes violations of any of the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922–923 concerning the manufacture, import, possession, receipt, and license of firearms and ammunition.

**Immigration**—Includes offenses involving illegal entrance into the United States, illegal reentry after being deported, the willful failure to leave when ordered, or the transportation or harbor of any non-U.S. citizens not admitted by an immigration officer.

**Supervision violations**—Includes violations of bail, violations of pretrial or post-sentencing supervision in the community (probation), and failures to appear.

## Arrest and booking

Arrests in this section refer to the most serious offenses that suspects were booked for by deputy U.S. marshals. Each of the 94 federal judicial districts has a U.S. marshal, as well as deputy U.S. marshals, responsible for taking suspects charged with a federal crime into custody (which involves booking, processing, and detaining the suspects), overseeing court security, and coordinating prisoner transportation.

## In FY 2020, federal law enforcement agencies made 120,112 arrests for federal offenses

Immigration offenses were the most common arrest offense in FY 2020 (51,723 arrests) (table 2). Forty-five percent of federal arrests involved an immigration offense as the most serious arrest offense. Arrests for drug offenses (16% of all arrests) and supervision violations (16%) were the next most common. About 7 in 10 federal arrests were for immigration, drug, or supervision violations (88,355). There was a 42% decline in arrests from FY 2019 to FY 2020. The largest percentage decrease in arrests from 2019 to 2020 was for immigration offenses (56%), while the smallest was in arrests for supervision violations (21%).

**TABLE 2**  
**Federal arrests, by most serious offense and judicial district, FY 2019 and FY 2020**

	FY 2019		FY 2020		Percent change, 2019–2020
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total arrests</b>	206,630	100%	120,112	100%	-41.9%
<b>Most serious offense at arrest</b>					
Violent	3,807	1.8%	2,996	2.6%	-21.3%
Property	10,363	5.0	6,846	5.9	-33.9
Fraud	8,954	4.3	5,838	5.1	-34.8
Other	1,409	0.7	1,008	0.9	-28.5
Drug	24,432	11.8	18,170	15.7	-25.6
Public order	7,406	3.6	5,328	4.6	-28.1
Regulatory	222	0.1	170	0.1	-23.4
Other	7,184	3.5	5,158	4.5	-28.2
Weapons	11,628	5.6	6,895	6.0	-40.7
Immigration	117,425	56.8	51,723	44.8	-56.0
Material witness	8,302	4.0	5,159	4.5	-37.9
Supervision violation	23,267	11.3	18,462	16.0	-20.6
<b>Federal judicial district</b>					
U.S.-Mexico border district	136,252	65.9%	67,361	56.1%	-50.6%
Arizona	31,475	15.2	15,852	13.2	-49.6
California Southern	16,822	8.1	9,123	7.6	-45.8
New Mexico	9,247	4.5	5,215	4.3	-43.6
Texas Southern	48,358	23.4	25,270	21.0	-47.7
Texas Western	30,350	14.7	11,901	9.9	-60.8
Other	70,378	34.1	52,751	43.9	-25.0

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. The most serious offense at arrest is determined by the deputy U.S. marshal at booking. The federal judicial district is the location of the federal court where booking took place. For 2020 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee and CAPTURE information systems, fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

## Effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the federal criminal justice system

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on all stages of the federal criminal justice process, from arrest to imprisonment. In all federal judicial districts, U.S. courts modified operations in 2020. Fewer persons were arrested, prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced to prison. The largest decline in arrests and cases occurred from March 2020 to April 2020.

### Federal law enforcement: Investigations and arrests

The number of federal arrests decreased from 12,325 in March 2020 to 2,369 in April 2020, an 81% decline in a month (**figure 2**). The number of suspects investigated by U.S. attorneys decreased 50%, from 12,996 in March 2020 to 6,530 in April 2020. By September 2020, the number of arrests had increased to 7,806, which was 37% lower than the March 2020 arrest total. The number of arrests

in September 2020 remained smaller than the number of investigations (9,524).

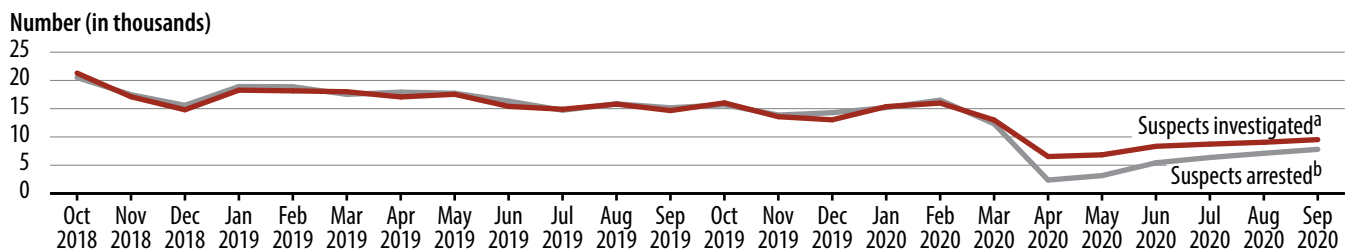
### Federal court: Charges, convictions, and prison sentences

The number of defendants charged in U.S. district courts dropped from 5,300 in March 2020 to 1,232 in April 2020, a 77% decline (**figure 3**). The number of defendants convicted in U.S. district courts declined 43% from March 2020 (5,295) to April 2020 (2,995). During that time, the number of defendants sentenced to prison decreased 70%, from 3,220 to 964.

Comparing February 2020 (before the decline) to September 2020, there were 40% fewer investigations in September 2020, about 53% fewer arrests, 10% fewer defendants charged, 33% fewer defendants convicted, and 33% fewer defendants sentenced to prison.

**FIGURE 2**

**Suspects investigated and arrested in the federal criminal justice system, October 1, 2018–September 30, 2020**



Note: See appendix table 2 for counts.

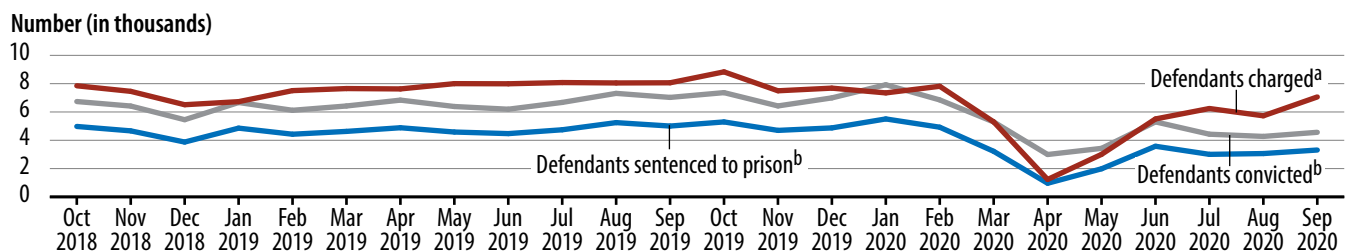
<sup>a</sup>Suspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

<sup>b</sup>Suspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system; and Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database, fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

**FIGURE 3**

**Defendants charged, convicted, and sentenced to prison in the federal criminal justice system, October 1, 2018–September 30, 2020**



Note: See appendix table 2 for counts.

<sup>a</sup>Defendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

<sup>b</sup>Defendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one adjudicated case are counted separately.

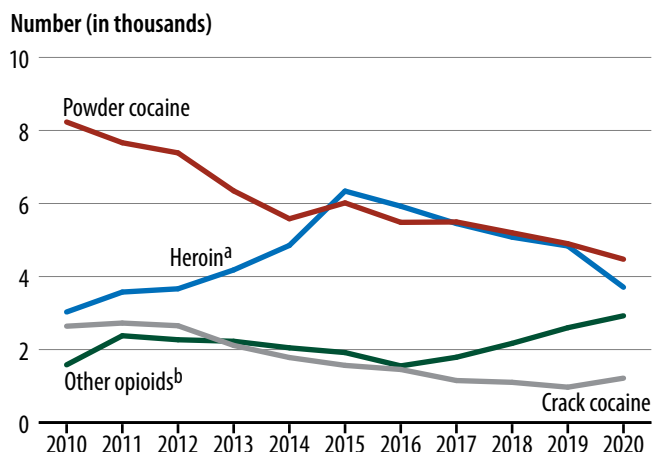
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

## Arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States, including investigating major drug violations at the national and international levels. The DEA coordinates with foreign governments and federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. It has 239 offices in the United States and 92 offices in 69 countries.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>See <https://www.dea.gov/domestic-divisions>. "Suspects arrested by the DEA" describes arrests in which each arrest of an individual suspect is counted separately. Individual suspects can be arrested by the DEA more than once in a year. Arrest counts reported by the DEA overlap with bookings data collected by the U.S. Marshals Service and reported in table 2. DEA data include all arrests made by DEA agents and do not describe whether a DEA arrest is a state or federal case. Therefore, comparisons should not be made between DEA and U.S. Marshals booking data, which include bookings for federal cases only.

**FIGURE 4**  
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and other opioids, FY 2010–2020



Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Each arrest for a person is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. See appendix table 3 for counts.

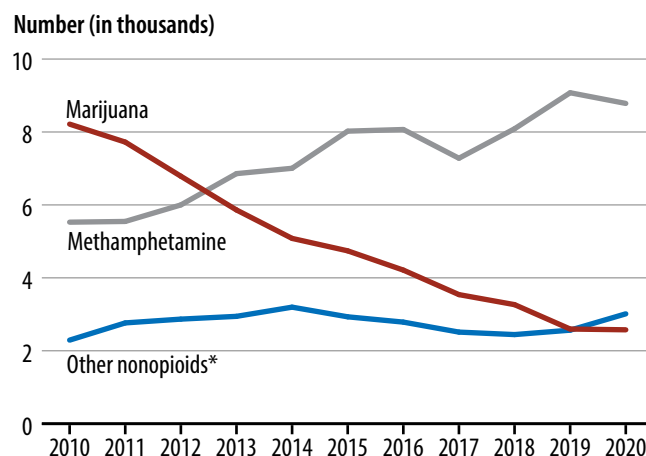
<sup>a</sup>Includes heroin, morphine, and opium base.

<sup>b</sup>Opioids are synthetic compounds that emulate the effects of natural compounds found in the opium poppy. Synthetic opioids are commonly available by prescription but can also be manufactured in labs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2010–2020.

The DEA reported 26,696 drug arrests in fiscal year (FY) 2020, which was 3% fewer than the 27,543 arrests reported by the DEA in FY 2019. (See appendix table 3.) Thirty-three percent (8,783) of drug arrests were for methamphetamine and 17% (4,474) were for powder cocaine in FY 2020 (figures 4 and 5). From FY 2010 to FY 2020, DEA arrests for other opioids increased the most (6% per year on average), followed by arrests for methamphetamine (5%). During that period, arrests declined an average of 11% for marijuana, 7% for crack cocaine, and 6% for powder cocaine each year.

**FIGURE 5**  
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving marijuana, methamphetamine, and other nonopioids, FY 2010–2020



Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Each arrest for a person is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. See appendix table 3 for counts.

\*Includes nonopioid pharmaceutical controlled substances, other depressants, sedatives, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, hallucinogens, synthetic cannabinoids, other steroids, equipment to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia. Includes drug diversion arrests where drug type is not indicated.

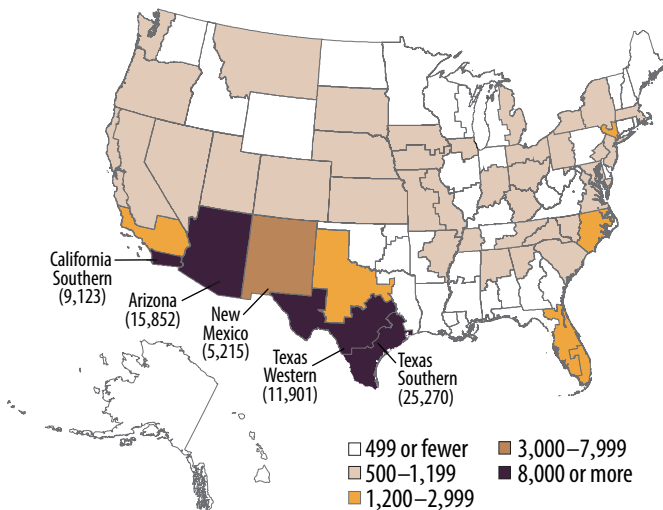
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2010–2020.



More than half (56%) of arrests in FY 2020 were in the five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border

The five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border (California Southern, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern) accounted for 56% of all federal arrests in FY 2020, down from 66% in 2019 (map 1). (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2019* (NCJ 301158, BJS, October 2021).) Texas Southern (25,270) had the most arrests, followed by Arizona (15,852) and Texas Western (11,901).

MAP 1  
Federal arrests, by judicial district, FY 2020



Note: A total of 120,112 suspects were arrested for a federal offense from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. The map shows the number of arrests by the federal judicial district, which is the location of the federal court where booking took place. For 2020 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service’s transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*. Not shown: District of Columbia (399), Guam (56), Northern Mariana Islands (17), Puerto Rico (843), and U.S. Virgin Islands (88).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system, fiscal year 2020.

Investigation and prosecution

Ninety-three U.S. attorneys served as the chief federal prosecutor within their judicial district in FY 2020.<sup>3</sup> Federal law enforcement agencies referred the most matters to U.S. attorneys in FY 2020, but referrals also came from state and local law enforcement.

In FY 2020, the Department of Homeland Security referred the most suspects of any referring authority

Agencies within the Department of Homeland Security referred 43% of the 136,009 suspects in matters sent to U.S. attorneys in FY 2020, down from 60% in FY 2019 (table 3). Law enforcement agencies within the Department of Justice (DOJ) referred 36% of suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys in FY 2020, compared to 27% in FY 2019 and 29% in FY 2010. In FY 2020, about 4% of suspects in matters opened by U.S. attorneys were referred by federal or state task forces.

<sup>3</sup>One U.S. attorney serves two districts: Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. This section combines Guam with the Northern Mariana Islands for statistical reporting.

TABLE 3  
Suspects in matters opened by U.S. attorneys, by referring authority, FY 2010, FY 2019, and FY 2020

Department/authority	FY 2010	FY 2019	FY 2020
Defense	2.8%	1.3%	1.7%
Homeland Security	54.0	59.5	43.4
Interior	1.7	0.7	0.9
Justice	29.2	26.7	36.2
Treasury	1.5	0.7	1.1
Federal/state task force	1.8	2.6	4.0
Other*	8.8	8.5	12.9
Number of suspects	187,916	203,030	136,009

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The department or authority is the entity making the referral for criminal action to the U.S. attorneys’ offices. Percentages are based on records with nonmissing referring authority data. The unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys. Suspects in more than one matter are counted separately. A matter is opened when a federal prosecutor spends 1 hour or more investigating. There were 297 records missing referring authority in 2010, 7 missing referring authority in 2019, and 2 missing referring authority in 2020.

\*Includes the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Labor, State, and Transportation; and state and local authorities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database, fiscal years 2010, 2019, and 2020.

## U.S. attorneys prosecuted 56% of suspects in matters concluded in FY 2020

U.S. attorneys establish policies and priorities within their federal judicial districts and determine which cases they prosecute. In choosing to prosecute, U.S. attorneys account for factors such as available resources and the priorities of the DOJ and state and local law enforcement. To conclude a matter, U.S. attorneys may file charges and prosecute defendants in U.S. district court, file charges and dispose of matters before U.S. magistrate judges, or decline matters, resulting in no further action in U.S. district court. In FY 2020, U.S. attorneys most commonly chose to prosecute weapons offenses (76%) and drug offenses (73%), followed by property offenses other than fraud (58%) and violent offenses (54%) (table 4).

U.S. magistrate judges have the authority to adjudicate or dispose of misdemeanor offenses under 18 U.S.C. § 3401. Magistrate judges' matters differ from prosecutions in that they typically require less than 1 hour of an assistant U.S. attorney's time and are processed quickly in court. Twenty-seven percent of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in FY 2020 were disposed of by U.S. magistrate judges. Matters that were most likely to be disposed of by U.S. magistrate judges included immigration offenses (53%) and public order offenses other than regulatory offenses (17%).

U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 17% of matters concluded in FY 2020. The cases most likely to be declined were property fraud (46%) and regulatory public order (45%) offenses.

**TABLE 4**  
**Outcome and case-processing time of suspects in matters concluded, by lead charge and judicial district, FY 2020**

	Number of suspects in matters concluded	Outcome <sup>a</sup>			Prosecutor decision/median case-processing time <sup>b</sup>			
		Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed of by U.S. magistrate	Declined to prosecute	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed of by U.S. magistrate	Declined to prosecute
<b>Total</b>	129,379	56.1%	27.2%	16.7%	27 days	27 days	2 days	570 days
<b>Lead charge<sup>c</sup></b>								
Violent	3,796	53.6%	9.3%	37.1%	86 days	34 days	83 days	339 days
Property	15,070	49.4	6.9	43.7	346	124	148	733
Fraud	13,002	48.1	6.3	45.6	391	170	158	751
Other	2,068	57.9	10.6	31.5	89	27	107	542
Drug	28,919	72.9	10.6	16.5	57	28	67	624
Public order	16,088	48.5	16.2	35.3	145	47	77	592
Regulatory	2,540	43.9	11.3	44.8	172	40	93	526
Other	13,548	49.4	17.1	33.6	143	48	76	604
Weapons	13,250	75.7	5.1	19.3	51	35	56	279
Immigration	52,233	46.3	52.5	1.2	8	23	2	487
<b>Federal judicial district</b>								
U.S.-Mexico border	60,251	47.9%	48.1%	4.0%	15 days	24 days	2 days	658 days
Arizona	15,007	25.8	68.6	5.6	0	27	0	484
California Southern	8,856	56.4	40.4	3.2	24	27	7	1,352
New Mexico	5,782	54.0	41.0	5.0	9	19	5	553
Texas Southern	18,522	47.6	49.2	3.2	13	21	2	861
Texas Western	12,084	66.6	30.0	3.3	22	24	0	495
Other	69,128	63.3	8.9	27.8	105	41	87	560

<sup>a</sup>Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately. There were 23 records missing the suspect's lead charge.

<sup>b</sup>Case-processing time reflects the time from receipt of a matter to the U.S. attorney's decision to prosecute the matter as a case in U.S. district court, refer the matter for disposal by a U.S. magistrate judge, or decline the matter, resulting in no further action in U.S. district court. The median is the midpoint of processing time. A median of 2 days means that half of the suspects received a disposition in less than 2 days of the matter's referral and half received a disposition in more than 2 days.

<sup>c</sup>The lead charge is the substantive statute that is the primary basis for referral. It is most often, but not always, the charge with the greatest potential sentence. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database, fiscal year 2020.

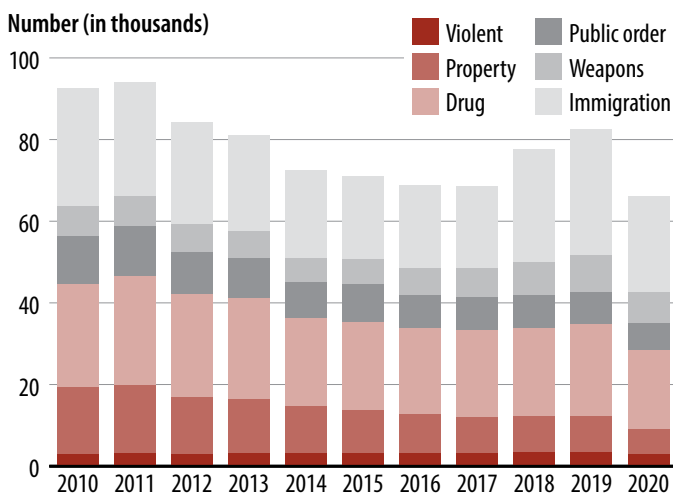
## Case filing, adjudication, and sentencing

This section describes the workload of U.S. district courts, including the disposition of criminal proceedings and the sentencing of convicted defendants. The district courts serve as the general trial courts of the federal judicial system and have original jurisdiction over any case arising under federal statutes, the U.S. Constitution, or treaties. Each U.S. district court has at least one U.S. district judge, who is appointed by the U.S. president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

### 25% fewer defendants were charged with immigration offenses in FY 2020 than in FY 2019

From FY 2019 to FY 2020, the number of defendants charged with a federal offense decreased 20%, from 82,694 to 66,059 (figure 6). During that period, the number of persons charged with property offenses

**FIGURE 6**  
Defendants in criminal cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, FY 2010–2020



Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. See appendix table 4 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2010–2020.

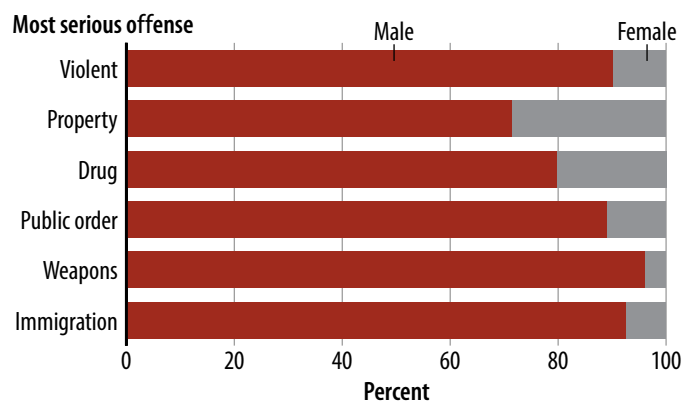
decreased 29% and the number of persons charged with immigration offenses decreased 25%. The number of persons charged with violent offenses decreased 15% from FY 2019 to FY 2020.

### Most defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2020 were male

In all offense categories, males made up the majority of defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2020. Females made up 29% of defendants charged with a property offense and 20% of defendants charged with a drug offense (figure 7).

A total of 53,950 males and 8,053 females were charged in U.S. district court in FY 2020, with males accounting for 87% of all defendants and females accounting for 13% (table 5). Forty-seven percent of females charged in U.S. district court in 2020 were Hispanic, 32% were

**FIGURE 7**  
Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and most serious offense, FY 2020



Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 167 records missing the defendant's sex and 199 records missing the defendant's offense type. See appendix table 5 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year 2020.



white, and 15% were black. Of the males charged, 57% were Hispanic, 21% were black, and 18% were white. Eighty-two percent of charged females were U.S. citizens. Males who were charged were also more likely to be U.S. citizens (57%) than non-U.S. citizens (43%). Other than the United States, the most common countries or regions of citizenship among male defendants were Mexico (31%),

Central America (8%), and the Caribbean Islands (2%). Fifty-six percent of defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2020 were Hispanic. Sixty-six percent of defendants were ages 25 to 44, and 13% were age 50 or older. The youngest defendants (age 19 or younger) and oldest defendants (age 65 or older) together made up 3% of persons charged in FY 2020.

**TABLE 5**  
**Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and demographic characteristics, FY 2020**

Demographic characteristic	All defendants		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	62,170	100%	53,950	100%	8,053	100%
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>						
White <sup>a</sup>	12,008	20.0%	9,526	18.2%	2,474	31.9%
Black <sup>a</sup>	12,332	20.5	11,128	21.3	1,198	15.4
Hispanic	33,614	56.0	29,951	57.3	3,650	47.0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	887	1.5	698	1.3	188	2.4
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	1,189	2.0	935	1.8	254	3.3
<b>Age</b>						
17 or younger	16	<0.1%	13	<0.1%	3	<0.1%
18–19	646	1.0	552	1.0	94	1.2
20–24	6,839	11.0	5,879	10.9	956	11.9
25–29	10,350	16.7	9,002	16.7	1,345	16.7
30–34	11,489	18.5	10,055	18.6	1,430	17.8
35–39	10,554	17.0	9,267	17.2	1,280	15.9
40–44	8,347	13.5	7,301	13.5	1,042	12.9
45–49	5,681	9.2	4,966	9.2	712	8.8
50–54	3,526	5.7	3,023	5.6	499	6.2
55–59	2,229	3.6	1,920	3.6	307	3.8
60–64	1,278	2.1	1,064	2.0	211	2.6
65 or older	1,066	1.7	891	1.7	174	2.2
Median age	35 yrs.	~	35 yrs.	~	35 yrs.	~
<b>Citizenship</b>						
U.S. citizen	37,325	60.4%	30,710	57.1%	6,590	82.2%
Non-U.S. citizen	24,489	39.6	23,056	42.9	1,422	17.8
<b>Country/region of citizenship</b>						
North America	60,458	97.8%	52,547	97.7%	7,876	98.3%
United States	37,325	60.4	30,710	57.1	6,590	82.3
Mexico	17,702	28.6	16,706	31.1	989	12.3
Canada	74	0.1	67	0.1	7	0.1
Caribbean Islands <sup>b</sup>	859	1.4	808	1.5	51	0.6
Central America <sup>b</sup>	4,498	7.3	4,256	7.9	239	3.0
South America <sup>b</sup>	728	1.2	673	1.3	55	0.7
Asia and Oceania <sup>b</sup>	301	0.5	256	0.5	45	0.6
Europe <sup>b</sup>	188	0.3	169	0.3	19	0.2
Africa <sup>b</sup>	139	0.2	121	0.2	17	0.2

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. There were 167 records missing the defendant's sex, 2,140 records missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, 149 records missing the defendant's age, and 356 records missing the defendant's citizenship status.

~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Defendants self-reported race and ethnicity during the pretrial interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

<sup>b</sup>Countries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year 2020.

## 9 in 10 defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court in FY 2020 were convicted

Of the 71,126 defendants adjudicated in FY 2020, about 93% were convicted (table 6). Nearly all defendants charged with immigration (98%), weapons (93%), or drug (93%) offenses were convicted. About 91% of adjudicated defendants pled guilty. Two percent of defendants were adjudicated through a bench or jury trial. Defendants adjudicated in U.S.-Mexico border

districts had a higher conviction rate (97%) than defendants in nonborder districts (90%). Among felony offenses, rates of nonconviction ranged from 2% for immigration offenses to 12% for regulatory offenses. Cases that were dismissed or otherwise concluded by the judge or prosecutor accounted for most nonconvictions (7%). Dismissals (295 days), acquittals (291 days), and guilty pleas (204 days) took less time to process from case filing to disposition than trials that ended in convictions (601 days).

**TABLE 6**

**Disposition and case-processing time of defendants in cases adjudicated in U.S. district court, by most serious offense and judicial district, FY 2020**

	Total cases adjudicated	Convicted			Not convicted		
		Total	Guilty plea	Bench/jury trial	Total	Bench/jury trial	Dismissed
All offenses	71,126	92.6%	90.9%	1.7%	7.4%	0.3%	7.1%
<b>Most serious offense at adjudication</b>							
Felony	66,761	94.4%	92.6%	1.8%	5.6%	0.3%	5.3%
Violent	2,062	91.2	85.0	6.3	8.8	1.4	7.3
Property	6,446	91.3	88.3	3.0	8.7	0.5	8.2
Fraud	5,579	91.7	88.8	2.9	8.3	0.4	7.9
Other	867	89.0	85.0	4.0	11.0	0.8	10.1
Drug	18,418	92.6	90.4	2.2	7.4	0.2	7.2
Public order	4,910	91.9	88.5	3.4	8.1	0.7	7.4
Regulatory	502	87.8	84.3	3.6	12.1	1.8	10.4
Other	4,408	92.4	89.0	3.4	7.6	0.6	7.0
Weapons	8,385	92.5	90.1	2.4	7.5	0.6	6.9
Immigration	26,540	97.8	97.5	0.3	2.2	0.1	2.1
Misdemeanor	4,365	64.2	63.5	0.7	35.8	0.3	35.5
<b>Federal judicial district</b>							
U.S.-Mexico border	29,746	96.8%	96.3%	0.5%	3.2%	0.1%	3.0%
Arizona	4,734	97.1	96.6	0.5	2.9	0.1	2.7
California Southern	4,383	89.1	88.5	0.6	10.9	0.1	10.8
New Mexico	3,296	98.1	97.8	0.2	1.9	<0.1	1.9
Texas Southern	8,652	98.7	98.4	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.2
Texas Western	8,681	98.2	97.3	0.9	1.8	0.2	1.6
Other	41,380	89.5	87.0	2.6	10.5	0.4	10.1
Median time from filing to disposition*	212 days	209 days	204 days	601 days	295 days	291 days	295 days

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Includes defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Court personnel determine the most serious offense at adjudication as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The unit of count is a defendant in a case adjudicated in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one case are counted separately. The median is the midpoint between the slowest and fastest processing times. A median of 212 days means that half of the defendants received a disposition in less than 212 days and half received a disposition in more than 212 days.

\*Includes the interval from the time a case was filed in U.S. district court to sentencing for defendants who were convicted and the interval from case filing to disposition for defendants who were not convicted or whose cases were dismissed.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal year 2020.

## 2 in 3 convicted defendants were sentenced to prison in FY 2020

Of the 65,848 defendants convicted in U.S. district court in FY 2020, two-thirds (68%) were sentenced to prison (**table 7**). The remainder received probation only (8%), a fine only (2%), or a suspended sentence (23%). Persons most likely to receive prison terms were those convicted of violent (92%), drug (89%), or weapons (88%) felonies. Twenty-four percent of persons convicted of a misdemeanor received a prison sentence in FY 2020.

## Defendants sentenced to prison in FY 2020 received a median term of 33 months

In 2018, about 75% of convicted defendants received a prison sentence, compared to 72% in 2019 and 68% in 2020 (not shown in tables). In 2018, about 14% of convicted defendants received a suspended sentence, compared to 18% in 2019 and 23% in 2020 (not shown in tables). In FY 2020, the median prison sentence for a felony was 33 months. Defendants convicted of violent offenses received a median sentence of 85 months in

prison, while drug defendants received a median of 70 months and other public order defendants received a median of 60 months. The median prison term for immigration defendants convicted of a felony was 10 months. Defendants convicted and sentenced to prison in the five U.S.-Mexico border districts received a median sentence of 13 months, compared to a median of 57 months in other districts. This was due to the higher percentage of immigration cases in the border districts. In FY 2020, the median probation sentence was 36 months for a felony and 12 months for a misdemeanor (not shown in tables).

## The type of sentence imposed in FY 2020 varied by sex, race or ethnicity, and age

Convicted males (69%) were sentenced to prison more often than convicted females (58%) (**table 8**). Twenty-one percent of convicted females received a probation-only sentence, compared to 6% of convicted males. Convicted black defendants (85%) were the most likely to receive a prison sentence, followed by convicted American Indian

**TABLE 7**  
**Type and length of sentence imposed for convicted defendants, by most serious offense and judicial district, FY 2020**

	Number convicted	Type of sentence				Median prison term
		Prison*	Probation only	Fine only	Suspended	
<b>All offenses</b>	65,848	67.7%	7.8%	1.6%	22.9%	33 mos.
<b>Most serious offense at conviction</b>						
Felony	63,047	69.7%	6.7%	0.4%	23.3%	33 mos.
Violent	1,881	92.3	3.0	0.2	4.5	85
Property	5,888	58.6	21.7	0.9	18.8	24
Fraud	5,116	60.0	19.4	0.9	19.7	24
Other	772	49.3	37.4	0.5	12.7	24
Drug	17,051	88.5	3.7	0.3	7.5	70
Public order	4,514	77.9	12.4	1.1	8.6	57
Regulatory	441	56.3	29.2	3.0	11.6	24
Other	4,073	80.3	10.6	0.9	8.2	60
Weapons	7,755	88.3	5.3	0.4	6.0	46
Immigration	25,958	51.2	5.0	0.2	43.7	10
Misdemeanor	2,801	24.0	32.5	28.4	15.1	4
<b>Federal judicial district</b>						
U.S.-Mexico border	28,804	58.3%	5.5%	0.2%	36.0%	13 mos.
Arizona	4,597	52.5	5.3	0.1	42.0	13
California Southern	3,906	61.5	5.4	0.3	32.8	24
New Mexico	3,233	98.2	1.7	<0.1	0.1	3
Texas Southern	8,543	56.5	3.3	0.1	40.1	13
Texas Western	8,525	46.6	9.2	0.5	43.7	15
Other	37,044	75.1	9.6	2.6	12.7	57

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a defendant in a case adjudicated with a conviction and sentence in U.S. district court. Defendants convicted and sentenced in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. The most serious offense is determined by court personnel as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The median prison term is the midpoint of prison terms imposed. A median of 33 months means that half of the defendants received a prison term of less than 33 months and half received a prison term of more than 33 months. There were 240 records missing type of sentence.

\*Includes sentences to incarceration, such as mixed (a prison term followed by a probation term) and life sentences.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal year 2020.

or Alaska Native (79%); white (76%); Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (67%); and Hispanic (60%) defendants. Among those sentenced to prison,

white and black defendants were both sentenced to a median of 60 months.

**TABLE 8**  
**Type and length of sentence imposed for convicted defendants, by demographic characteristics, FY 2020**

Demographic characteristic	Number convicted	Type of sentence				Median prison term
		Prison <sup>a</sup>	Probation only	Fine only	Suspended	
<b>Total</b>	65,848	67.7%	7.8%	1.6%	22.9%	33 mos.
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	55,074	69.3%	5.8%	0.8%	24.1%	30 mos.
Female	7,502	57.8	20.9	1.9	19.4	27
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>						
White <sup>b</sup>	11,390	76.3%	13.9%	1.8%	8.0%	60 mos.
Black <sup>b</sup>	11,512	84.5	8.0	1.0	6.5	60
Hispanic	37,324	60.3	5.1	0.3	34.4	16
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	823	66.6	17.3	2.2	13.9	36
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	1,035	78.8	11.3	0.6	9.3	36
<b>Age</b>						
17 or younger	18	33.3%	61.1%	<0.1%	5.6%	^
18–19	1,092	55.9	12.9	1.2	30.0	13 mos.
20–24	7,157	62.9	9.0	2.0	26.2	24
25–29	10,639	67.1	6.7	0.9	25.3	31
30–34	11,792	68.9	5.7	0.7	24.7	33
35–39	10,834	69.3	5.8	0.7	24.3	33
40–44	8,238	70.6	6.2	0.6	22.6	30
45–49	5,430	69.2	7.4	0.7	22.7	30
50–54	3,265	70.2	9.5	1.1	19.2	30
55–59	2,099	67.2	14.6	1.2	17.1	35
60–64	1,145	67.4	16.0	2.5	14.2	33
65 or older	927	58.3	26.4	3.4	11.9	33
Median age	35 yrs.	35 yrs.	36 yrs.	33 yrs.	34 yrs.	~
<b>Citizenship</b>						
U.S. citizen	32,779	79.7%	11.3%	1.4%	7.6%	54 mos.
Non-U.S. citizen	29,619	55.1	3.4	0.2	41.4	13
<b>Country/region of citizenship</b>						
North America	58,597	69.1%	7.4%	0.6%	22.9%	30 mos.
United States	31,840	80.2	11.2	1.1	7.5	51
Mexico	19,817	58.7	2.5	0.1	38.8	12
Canada	57	70.2	3.5	3.5	22.8	40
Caribbean Islands <sup>c</sup>	998	70.2	8.7	0.4	20.8	30
Central America <sup>c</sup>	5,885	43.4	3.6	0.1	52.9	10
South America <sup>c</sup>	956	55.8	7.6	0.3	36.2	52
Asia and Oceania <sup>c</sup>	287	66.2	11.5	1.7	20.6	30
Europe <sup>c</sup>	224	63.4	5.8	1.8	29.0	30
Africa <sup>c</sup>	155	78.2	7.3	0.7	13.9	39

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a defendant in a case adjudicated with a conviction in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. There were 3,272 records missing the defendant's sex, 3,764 missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, 3,212 missing the defendant's age, 3,450 missing the defendant's citizenship status, and 5,629 missing the defendant's country of citizenship.

~Not applicable.

^Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes sentences to incarceration, such as mixed (a prison term followed by a probation term) and life sentences.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Defendants self-reported race and ethnicity during the pretrial interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

<sup>c</sup>Countries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File and Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System; and U.S. Sentencing Commission, individual offender data file, fiscal year 2020.

Defendants convicted in FY 2020 had a median age of 35 years. Eighty percent of convicted U.S. citizens received a prison sentence, compared to 55% of convicted non-U.S. citizens. Forty-one percent of convicted non-U.S. citizens received a suspended sentence, compared to 8% of convicted U.S. citizens.

## Federal prison

In FY 2020, a total of 36,914 federally sentenced persons were admitted to federal prison (**table 9**). Of these, 28,747 persons entered federal prison on U.S. district court commitments. Another 8,167 persons were returned to federal prison for violating conditions of probation, parole, or supervised release or were admitted to federal prison for any reason other than a U.S. district court commitment. Thirty-seven percent (21,972) fewer admissions occurred in FY 2020 than in FY 2019. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2019* (NCJ 301158, BJS, October

2021).) In FY 2020, a total of 13,619 persons entered federal prison for a drug offense, most of whom (10,415 or 76%) had been sentenced to more than 1 year.

A total of 59,044 persons were released from federal prison in FY 2020. Most (45,694) were being released for the first time since their U.S. district court commitment. Ten percent (6,537) fewer releases occurred in 2020 than in 2019. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2019* (NCJ 301158, BJS, October 2021).) There were 22,130 fewer persons in federal prison at the end of FY 2020 (September 30, 2020) than at the start of FY 2020 (October 1, 2019), a much larger drop than in previous years due in part to the federal response to the coronavirus pandemic. The last time the year-end federal prison population was this low (132,291) was in 2000 (129,329) (not shown in tables). From the start to the end of FY 2020, 8,039 fewer persons were in prison for a drug offense and 5,492 fewer were in prison for an immigration offense.

**TABLE 9**  
**Federally sentenced persons admitted to and released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, FY 2020**

Most serious commitment offense <sup>a</sup>	Population at start of year <sup>b</sup>	Persons admitted			Persons released			Population at end of year <sup>g</sup>	Net population change
		District court <sup>c</sup>			First release <sup>d</sup>				
		Sentence of 1 year or less	Sentence of more than 1 year	All other <sup>e</sup>	Time served of 1 year or less	Time served of more than 1 year	All other <sup>f</sup>		
Total	154,421	3,114	25,633	8,167	5,948	39,746	13,350	132,291	-22,130
Violent	9,414	54	975	621	77	1,569	1,043	8,375	-1,039
Property	7,692	435	1,807	664	677	3,491	1,124	5,306	-2,386
Fraud	6,380	348	1,504	463	521	3,027	813	4,334	-2,046
Other	1,312	87	303	201	156	464	311	972	-340
Drug	70,590	307	10,415	2,897	482	16,367	4,809	62,551	-8,039
Public order	25,537	286	3,516	848	425	5,409	1,370	22,983	-2,554
Regulatory	2,727	99	635	87	179	1,156	156	2,057	-670
Other	22,810	187	2,881	761	246	4,253	1,214	20,926	-1,884
Weapons	29,373	141	5,206	1,811	220	6,676	2,722	26,913	-2,460
Immigration	11,210	1,863	3,676	1,304	4,013	6,084	2,238	5,718	-5,492

Note: The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person admitted to or released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Persons who were admitted and released in the same year are counted separately. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Offense information was missing at the start of the year for 88 persons and at the end of the year for 248. Persons who entered or left a prison temporarily (such as for transit to another location, for health care, or to serve a weekend sentence) were not counted as admitted or released.

<sup>a</sup>The offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction.

<sup>b</sup>The population as of October 1, 2019.

<sup>c</sup>Persons committed by a U.S. district court for U.S. code violations.

<sup>d</sup>Persons released after being committed by a U.S. district court.

<sup>e</sup>Persons who were committed following a return to prison for violating conditions of their supervision or who were received for examination, treatment, or transfer to another jurisdiction.

<sup>f</sup>Persons released from prison without a new court commitment after they were committed for violating conditions of their supervised release.

<sup>g</sup>The population as of September 30, 2020.

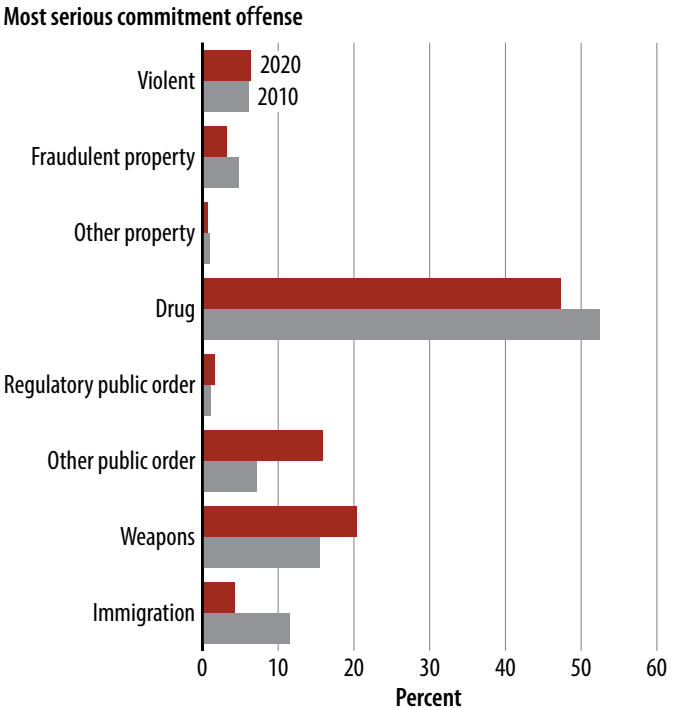
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2020.



**Persons committed for a drug offense made up less than half of federal prisoners at fiscal year-end 2020**

At fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020, more federal prisoners were serving time for a drug offense than for any other type of offense (figure 8). A drug offense was the most serious commitment offense for 47% of federal prisoners in 2020, down from 53% in 2010. During this 10-year period, persons serving time for a weapons offense increased from 16% to 20% of federal prisoners. Persons committed for an other public order offense increased from 7% to 16%, mostly due to an increase in sex offenses. Persons committed for a violent offense remained at 6%, and persons committed for an immigration offense decreased from 12% to 4%.

**FIGURE 8**  
**Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020**



Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2010 and 2020. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. See *Methodology*. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 1,181 records missing offense type in 2010 and 445 missing offense type in 2020. See appendix table 6 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020.

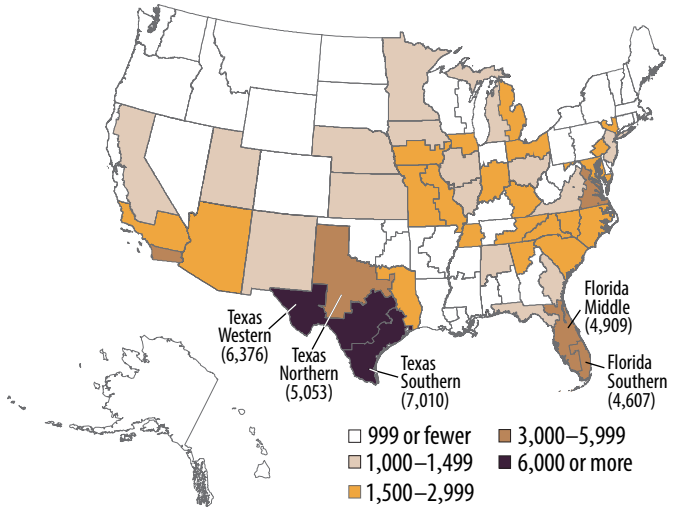
**Five judicial districts committed 21% of all persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end 2020**

At fiscal year-end 2020, more than a fifth (21%) of persons in federal prison were committed from five districts: Texas Southern (7,010), Texas Western (6,376), Texas Northern (5,053), Florida Middle (4,909), and Florida Southern (4,607) (map 2). Courts in three states (Texas, California, and Florida) committed 30% of all the persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end 2020.

**Nearly 1 in 6 federally sentenced persons in the BOP were non-U.S. citizens at fiscal year-end 2020**

At fiscal year-end 2020, nearly 11% of federally sentenced persons were citizens of Mexico, 2% were citizens of Caribbean countries, 2% were citizens of South American

**MAP 2**  
**Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by judicial district of commitment, fiscal year-end 2020**



Note: The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) had custody of 132,291 federally sentenced persons on September 30, 2020. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the BOP. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. The map shows the number of persons in BOP custody by the federal judicial district in which they received their sentence to the BOP. Not shown: District of Columbia (616), Guam (66), Northern Mariana Islands (16), Puerto Rico (2,679), and U.S. Virgin Islands (125).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2020.

countries, and 1% were citizens of Central American countries (table 10). From fiscal year-end 2010 to 2020, the portion of federal prisoners who were non-U.S. citizens

decreased from 26% to 17%. During that period, the number of Mexican nationals in prison decreased by an average of 8% annually.

**TABLE 10**

**Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by demographic characteristics, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020**

Demographic characteristic	2010		2020		Average annual percent change, 2010–2020 <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Total</b>	185,690	100%	132,291	100%	-3.3%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	173,509	93.4%	123,941	93.7%	-3.3%
Female	12,181	6.6	8,350	6.3	-3.7
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>					
White <sup>b</sup>	51,091	27.5%	39,490	29.9%	-2.5%
Black <sup>b</sup>	68,180	36.7	47,192	35.7	-3.6
Hispanic	60,268	32.5	40,622	30.7	-3.9
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	2,820	1.5	1,810	1.4	-4.3
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	3,331	1.8	3,177	2.4	-0.5
<b>Age</b>					
17 or younger	23	<0.1%	2	<0.1%	-21.7%
18–19	268	0.1	57	<0.1	-14.3
20–24	9,887	5.3	4,489	3.4	-7.6
25–29	26,740	14.4	14,189	10.7	-6.1
30–34	37,391	20.1	21,310	16.1	-5.5
35–39	34,924	18.8	24,637	18.6	-3.4
40–44	26,543	14.3	22,742	17.2	-1.5
45–49	20,093	10.8	17,083	12.9	-1.6
50–54	13,673	7.4	11,516	8.7	-1.7
55–59	7,895	4.3	7,838	5.9	-0.1
60–64	4,719	2.5	4,540	3.4	-0.4
65 or older	3,534	1.9	3,888	2.9	1.0
Median age	38 yrs.	~	40 yrs.	~	~
<b>Citizenship</b>					
U.S. citizen	138,011	74.4%	109,983	83.1%	-2.2%
Non-U.S. citizen	47,551	25.6	22,306	16.9	-7.3
<b>Country/region of citizenship</b>					
North America	180,446	97.2%	128,406	97.1%	-3.3%
United States	138,011	74.4	109,983	83.1	-2.2
Mexico	33,600	18.1	14,000	10.6	-8.4
Canada	424	0.2	159	0.1	-9.3
Caribbean Islands <sup>c</sup>	5,228	2.8	2,398	1.8	-7.5
Central America <sup>c</sup>	3,183	1.7	1,866	1.4	-5.2
South America <sup>c</sup>	2,823	1.5	2,395	1.8	-1.6
Asia and Oceania <sup>c</sup>	1,280	0.7	689	0.5	-6.0
Europe <sup>c</sup>	548	0.3	406	0.3	-3.0
Africa <sup>c</sup>	465	0.3	393	0.3	-1.7

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2010 and 2020. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. There were 128 records missing citizenship in 2010 and 2 records missing citizenship in 2020.

~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using fiscal year-end counts in 2010 and in 2020. See *Methodology*.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Defendants self-reported race and ethnicity during the presentence interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

<sup>c</sup>Countries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020.

### The number of prisoners age 65 or older increased 1% from fiscal year-end 2010 to 2020

The median age of prisoners was 40 years at fiscal year-end 2020, compared to 38 years at fiscal year-end 2010. The number of prisoners age 65 or older increased 1%, from 3,534 prisoners in 2010 to 3,888 prisoners in 2020. Persons age 65 or older made up about 3% of all federal prisoners in 2020, compared to 2% in 2010.

### The type of commitment offense varied by race or ethnicity at fiscal year-end 2020

Hispanic, black, and white persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end 2020 were most commonly committed for drug offenses ([table 11](#)). More Hispanics were serving time for a drug (25,111) or immigration (5,442) offense than members of any other racial or ethnic group. More black persons were serving time for a weapons (16,090) or violent (2,916) offense than persons of any other race or ethnicity. The largest number of persons serving time for a public order offense (13,196) were white. Among persons who were American Indian or Alaska Native, the most common commitment offenses were violent (1,876), drug (500), and weapons (380) offenses.

**TABLE 11**

**Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and race or ethnicity, fiscal year-end 2020**

Most serious commitment offense	White*	Black*	Hispanic	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander*	American Indian/Alaska Native*
Violent	2,406	2,916	1,097	80	1,876
Property	2,059	1,989	946	206	106
Drug	15,336	20,756	25,111	848	500
Public order	13,196	5,210	3,857	437	283
Weapons	6,130	16,090	4,088	225	380
Immigration	148	106	5,442	7	15

Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2020. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. See *Methodology*. There were 445 records missing offense type.

\*Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2020.

## Time served in federal prison

During FY 2020, a total of 45,694 persons were released from federal prison for the first time after serving a sentence imposed in U.S. district court. Of these, 38,711 persons were released by standard means (table 12). Standard releases include the most common methods of exiting prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving an entire sentence with good time, and release to parole. Persons released in FY 2020 served a median of 28 months. Persons released after serving sentences for other public order offenses (53 months),

which includes sex offenses; violent offenses (52 months); and drug offenses (51 months) served the most time. Among persons released from federal prison, males (31 months) served more time than females (21 months) and black persons (50 months) served more time than white persons (39 months) or American Indian or Alaska Native persons (29 months). Older persons served more time before release than younger persons, and U.S. citizens served more time than non-U.S. citizens. Black persons served a greater median time in federal prison than white persons for all offense types except other property offenses.

**TABLE 12**

**Time served by persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by commitment offense and demographic characteristics, FY 2020**

Demographic characteristic	Number of persons released	Median time served								
		All offenses	Violent	Property		Drug	Public order		Weapons	Immigration
				Fraudulent	Other		Regulatory	Other		
<b>Total</b>	38,711	28.2 mos.	52.0 mos.	21.4 mos.	18.0 mos.	51.1 mos.	20.5 mos.	52.7 mos.	41.7 mos.	12.0 mos.
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	34,732	30.6 mos.	55.3 mos.	22.2 mos.	20.8 mos.	52.5 mos.	23.0 mos.	55.2 mos.	42.2 mos.	12.0 mos.
Female	3,938	20.5	30.8	20.4	11.9	26.8	20.4	25.6	25.6	11.1
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>										
White*	8,347	38.5 mos.	54.8 mos.	21.8 mos.	20.4 mos.	51.1 mos.	22.2 mos.	55.1 mos.	39.2 mos.	12.8 mos.
Black*	10,017	50.3	78.1	25.6	19.4	68.2	23.0	53.4	43.5	13.7
Hispanic	18,912	20.4	48.7	20.4	20.4	41.7	20.5	51.2	39.2	12.0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander*	554	27.3	28.6	20.5	12.0	39.9	18.8	31.6	41.7	11.9
American Indian/ Alaska Native*	840	29.0	34.9	12.0	15.4	30.6	9.0	25.9	30.7	12.0
<b>Age at release</b>										
17 or younger	2	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
18–19	149	9.0 mos.	^	^	^	10.3 mos.	^	^	12.8 mos.	6.0 mos.
20–24	2,304	17.7	21.4 mos.	17.9 mos.	15.3 mos.	20.5	20.4 mos.	26.3 mos.	22.1	10.2
25–29	5,014	23.0	35.9	20.4	18.0	30.6	16.5	44.4	29.5	10.3
30–34	6,643	25.6	46.1	24.0	19.2	40.9	20.4	56.6	38.1	11.0
35–39	6,808	30.6	53.6	21.8	20.5	52.5	20.5	59.7	48.2	12.0
40–44	5,998	33.2	64.0	23.9	20.4	61.3	23.0	59.7	56.4	12.8
45–49	4,373	35.0	76.2	20.5	23.0	71.5	20.5	57.1	71.6	12.8
50–54	3,101	37.5	68.2	20.4	18.0	74.4	23.0	51.3	72.5	15.3
55–59	1,981	43.5	106.4	25.6	15.4	71.5	21.1	61.4	81.8	15.4
60–64	1,191	49.5	102.3	25.6	11.5	78.4	23.0	64.8	101.0	15.4
65 or older	1,106	51.2	89.4	25.6	11.5	81.8	29.4	59.7	153.4	17.9
<b>Citizenship</b>										
U.S. citizen	24,285	39.3 mos.	52.7 mos.	21.8 mos.	18.0 mos.	51.5 mos.	20.5 mos.	52.9 mos.	41.8 mos.	12.8 mos.
Non-U.S. citizen	14,334	17.8	43.5	20.5	12.0	43.5	23.0	51.1	37.9	12.0

Note: Includes persons committed by U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2020 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the most common ways persons exit prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving an entire sentence with good time, and release to parole. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and persons released from federal prison by extraordinary means (death, commutation, or transfer). Time served is calculated as the interval between a person's admission to and first release from BOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited. There were 41 records missing the person's sex, 41 missing the person's race or ethnicity, 41 missing the person's age at release, and 92 missing the person's citizenship status.

^Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.

\*Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Persons self-reported race and ethnicity during the presentence interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2020.

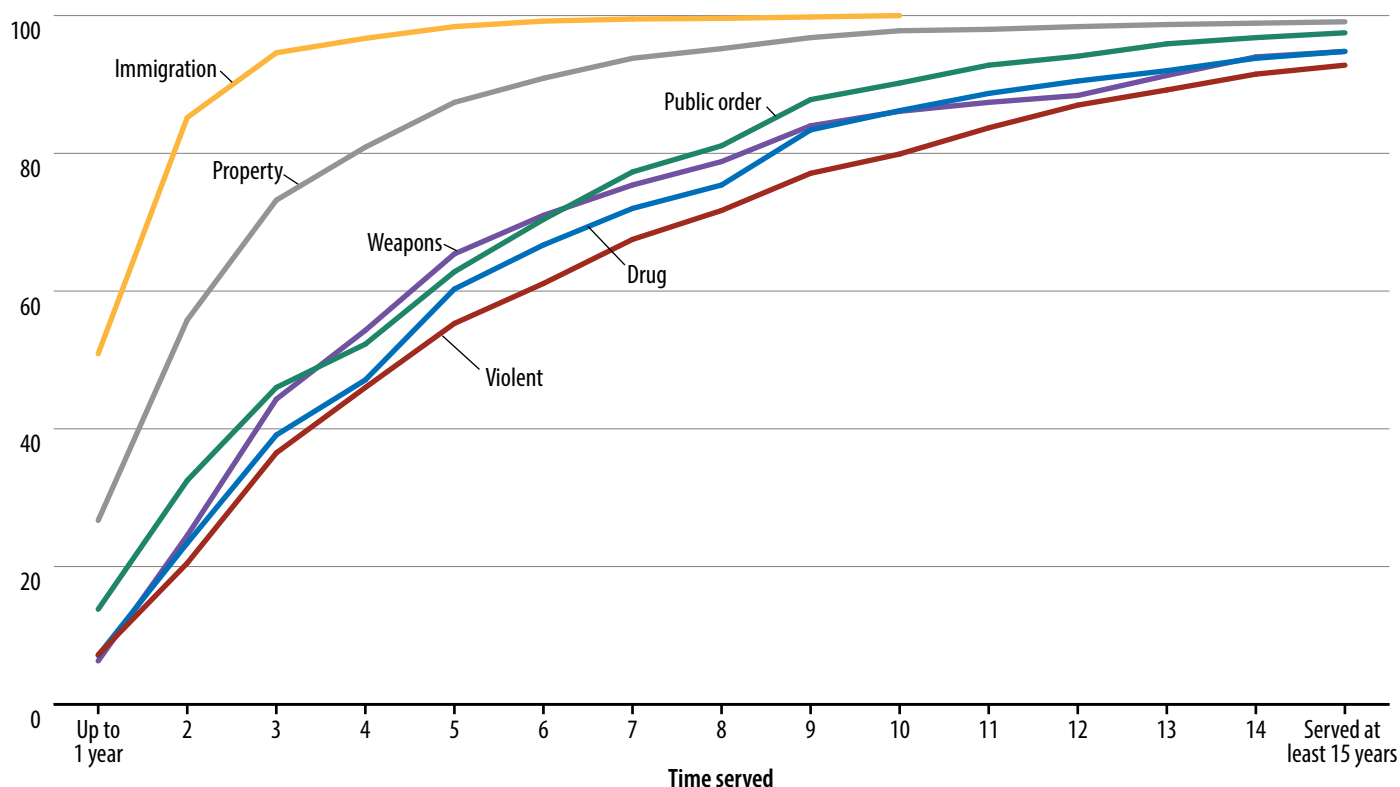
Of prisoners first released in FY 2020, about 51% who had been committed for an immigration offense and 27% who had been committed for a property offense were first released after serving up to 1 year in prison (figure 9). Seven percent of prisoners who had been

committed for violent or drug offenses and who were first released in FY 2020 were released after serving up to 1 year. Eighty percent of persons serving time for a violent offense and first released in FY 2020 had served up to 10 years in prison.

**FIGURE 9**

**Federally sentenced persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and time served, FY 2020**

Cumulative percent of persons released



Note: Includes persons committed by U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2020 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the most common ways persons exit prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving an entire sentence with good time, and release to parole. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and persons released from federal prison by extraordinary means (death, commutation, or transfer). Time served is calculated as the interval between a person's admission to and first release from BOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited. See appendix table 7 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2020.



## Federal supervision in the community

The AOUSC's Probation and Pretrial Services system oversees the supervision of persons released before trial and persons supervised in the community after being convicted. Federal probation officers monitor compliance with the court-ordered conditions of supervision.

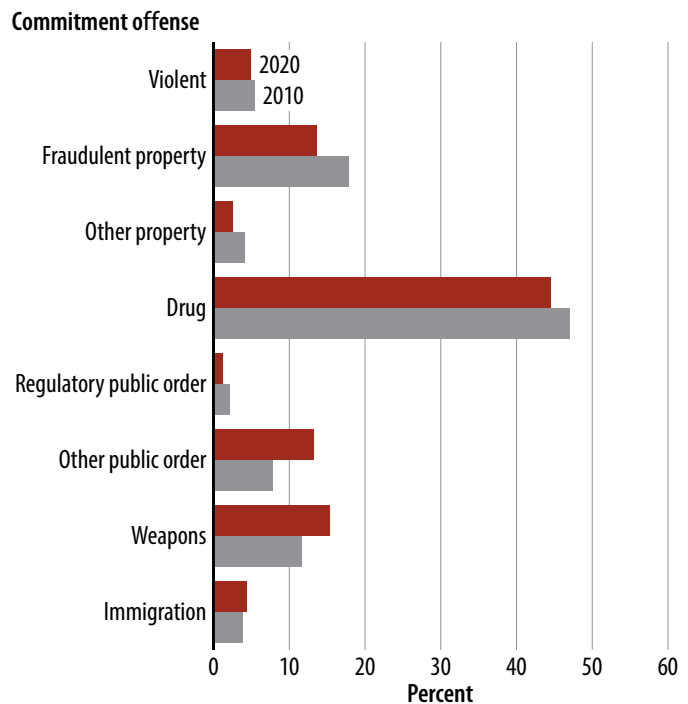
### 89% of persons under federal supervision in the community at fiscal year-end 2020 had been released from prison

At fiscal year-end 2020, a total of 124,489 persons were under federal supervision in the community (table 13). About 89% of persons under federal community supervision were on supervised release (111,304). The remaining 11% were on probation (13,121), which is a sentence to a term of supervision in the community. About 84% of all persons under community supervision in 2020 were male, and 16% were female. Black (43,942) and white (40,166) released persons together made up 69% of persons under federal supervision in the community in 2020. The median age of released persons on probation was 41 years. The median age of released persons under supervised release was 42 years. Three percent of persons under post-conviction federal supervision were non-U.S. citizens.

The number of persons on post-conviction supervision in the community decreased from 126,183 in FY 2010 to 124,489 in FY 2020 (not shown in tables). Persons admitted to supervision for drug offenses made up a slightly smaller share of persons under federal supervision, decreasing from 47% at fiscal year-end 2010 to 45% at fiscal year-end 2020 (figure 10). During that period, persons under supervision for fraudulent property offenses decreased from 18% to 14% of persons under supervision, while persons committed for other public order offenses increased from 8% to 13%, mostly due to an increase in sex offenses, and persons committed for weapons offenses increased from 12% to 15% of persons under supervision.

**FIGURE 10**

**Persons under federal supervision in the community, by commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020**



Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence. The unit of count is a person serving a term under federal supervision in the community. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 374 records missing commitment offense in 2010 and 247 missing commitment offense in 2020. See appendix table 8 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020.

**TABLE 13****Persons under post-conviction federal supervision, by demographic characteristics, fiscal year-end 2020**

Demographic characteristic	All persons <sup>a</sup>		Probation		Supervised release <sup>b</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	124,489	100%	13,121	10.6%	111,304	89.4%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	104,941	84.4%	8,197	63.5%	96,688	86.9%
Female	19,339	15.6	4,717	36.5	14,614	13.1
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>						
White <sup>c</sup>	40,166	33.2%	5,115	41.5%	35,002	32.2%
Black <sup>c</sup>	43,942	36.3	3,223	26.2	40,714	37.4
Hispanic	31,604	26.1	3,109	25.3	28,489	26.2
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>c</sup>	2,516	2.1	455	3.7	2,060	1.9
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>c</sup>	2,938	2.4	412	3.4	2,525	2.3
<b>Age</b>						
17 or younger	13	<0.1%	12	0.1%	1	<0.1%
18–19	192	0.2	103	0.8	89	0.1
20–24	4,264	3.4	1,162	9.0	3,102	2.8
25–29	11,180	9.0	1,614	12.5	9,566	8.6
30–34	16,760	13.5	1,710	13.2	15,050	13.5
35–39	19,883	16.0	1,675	13.0	18,208	16.4
40–44	19,916	16.0	1,440	11.2	18,476	16.6
45–49	16,371	13.2	1,319	10.2	15,052	13.5
50–54	12,462	10.0	1,086	8.4	11,376	10.2
55–59	9,464	7.6	985	7.6	8,477	7.6
60–64	6,407	5.2	742	5.8	5,644	5.1
65 or older	7,369	5.9	1,066	8.3	6,262	5.6
Median age	~	42 yrs.	~	41 yrs.	~	42 yrs.
<b>Citizenship</b>						
U.S. citizen	120,612	97.2%	12,295	95.2%	108,253	97.4%
Non-U.S. citizen	3,497	2.8	618	4.8	2,879	2.6
<b>Country/region of citizenship</b>						
North America	123,085	99.2%	12,676	98.2%	109,528	99.3%
United States	120,612	97.2	12,295	95.2	108,253	97.4
Mexico	817	0.7	176	1.4	641	0.6
Canada	31	<0.1	8	0.1	23	<0.1
Caribbean Islands <sup>d</sup>	1,390	1.1	132	1.0	1,258	1.1
Central America <sup>d</sup>	235	0.2	65	0.5	170	0.2
South America <sup>d</sup>	150	0.1	34	0.3	116	0.1
Asia and Oceania <sup>d</sup>	526	0.4	130	1.0	396	0.4
Europe <sup>d</sup>	183	0.2	37	0.3	146	0.1
Africa <sup>d</sup>	165	0.1	36	0.3	129	0.1

Note: The unit of count is a person serving a term under federal supervision in the community on September 30, 2020. Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. There were 208 records missing the defendant's age, 209 records missing the defendant's sex, 3,323 records missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, and 380 records missing the defendant's citizenship status.

~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Includes persons for whom characteristics were unknown.

<sup>b</sup>Includes persons on parole supervision.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>d</sup>Countries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year-end 2020.

## Methodology

This report uses data from the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP), a collection from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The FJSP receives administrative data files from six federal criminal justice agencies. Data represent the federal criminal case-processing stages from arrest to imprisonment and release. BJS standardizes this information to maximize comparability across and within agencies over time. This includes—

- applying, where possible, the person-case as the primary unit of count. Exceptions include at arrest, where the unit of count is the individual suspect; at sentencing under federal sentencing guidelines, where the unit of count is the sentencing event; and at imprisonment, where the unit of count is the prisoner. The unit of analysis in this report is a combination of a person and arrest, matter, or case. For example, if a person is arrested and booked twice in the indicated time period, such as with a supervision violation and again with a new offense, this is counted as two arrests or bookings. The unit of analysis for incarceration, probation, parole, or other supervised release is a person entering custody or supervision, a person leaving custody or supervision, or a person in custody or supervision at year-end. For example, if a person is convicted in two concurrent cases and committed once to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in the indicated time period, they are counted as one admission to a term of incarceration.
- delineating the fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) as the period for reported events.
- applying a uniform offense classification across agencies. Offense categories for federal arrestees are based on the FBI's National Crime Information Center offense classifications, which are aggregated into the offense categories shown in the report. Offense categories for persons in prison are based on offense classifications used by the BOP, while offense categories for those on federal supervision are based on offense classifications used by Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC). Data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys is classified using U.S. Code titles and sections and then aggregated into the offense categories used in the tables.
- classifying dispositions and sentences imposed.

## FJSP data sources

**U.S. Marshals Service:** The Justice Detainee Information System provides information on suspects arrested for federal offenses. Suspects are counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are arrested multiple times during the period. This report uses the most serious arrest offense that suspects were booked for by the deputy U.S. marshal. Deputy U.S. marshals take federal suspects who have been charged with a crime into custody (which includes booking, processing, and detaining the suspects), oversee court security, and coordinate prisoner transportation, among other duties.

The 2020 file is based on the custody start date being between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020 (fiscal year). The fiscal year files prior to 2020 were created using the arrest date. There are slightly more records with a nonmissing custody date than with a nonmissing arrest date. This is because not all bookings have the arrest date recorded. To ensure all bookings are captured, the custody date is used. Some arrests that would have been incorporated in previous years are excluded from the 2020 file because the associated custody start date is outside of the fiscal year. Similarly, some arrests occurring outside of the fiscal year are retained because they are associated with a custody start date during the fiscal year.

**Drug Enforcement Administration:** The Defendant Statistical System contains data on suspects arrested within the United States by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents. The data include information on the characteristics of persons arrested and the type of drug for which they were arrested. Suspects are counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are arrested multiple times by the DEA during the period.

**Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys:** The Legal Information Office Network System database contains information on the investigation and prosecution of suspects in criminal matters received and concluded and criminal cases filed and adjudicated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects are counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are involved in multiple matters received and concluded during the period. A matter is defined as a referral in which an attorney spends 1 hour or more investigating. The lead charge is used to classify the most serious offense at referral and is defined as the substantive statute that is the primary basis of referral.

**Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts:** The Criminal Master File contains information about the criminal proceedings against defendants whose cases were filed and adjudicated in U.S. district courts. A criminal case is initiated by the government, usually through the U.S. attorney's office in coordination with a law enforcement agency. A criminal case is adjudicated when a defendant is convicted following plea or trial, acquittal of the defendant after trial, or dismissal of the case. The Criminal Master File includes information on cases involving felonies and Class A and B misdemeanors handled by U.S. district judges.<sup>4</sup>

Offenses are based on the most serious charged offense, as determined by the probation officer responsible for interviewing the defendant. The probation officer classifies the major offense charged into AOUSC four-digit offense codes, which are maintained and updated by the AOUSC. For defendants charged with more than one offense on an indictment, the probation officer chooses the offense carrying the most severe penalty or, in the case of two or more charges carrying the same penalty, the one with the highest offense severity. The offense severity level is determined by the AOUSC, which ranks offenses according to the maximum sentence, type of crime, and maximum fine amount.

This report also uses AOUSC data from the Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), which contains information on defendants interviewed and supervised by pretrial services. These data are used to describe background characteristics of persons who are arraigned. PACTS data are also used to describe persons under post-sentencing supervision in the community.

**U.S. Sentencing Commission:** The Monitoring Database contains information on criminal defendants sentenced pursuant to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. Data files are limited to defendants whose court records have been obtained by the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

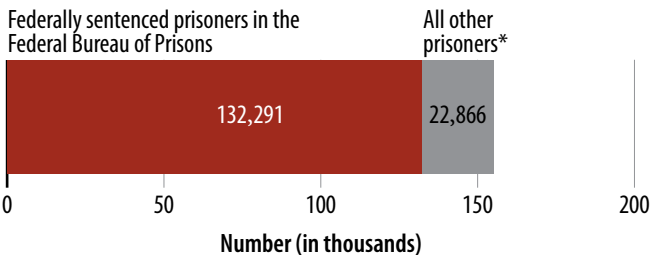
**Federal Bureau of Prisons:** The SENTRY database contains information on all federally sentenced persons admitted to or released from federal prison during

<sup>4</sup>A felony is classified as an offense for which the maximum term of imprisonment is more than 1 year in prison. Offenses classified as misdemeanors include those for which the maximum term of imprisonment is less than 1 year in prison. Class A misdemeanors include offenses for which the maximum term of imprisonment is 1 year or less but more than 6 months in prison. Class B misdemeanors include offenses for which the maximum term of imprisonment is 6 months or less but more than 30 days in prison.

a fiscal year and persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end (September 30). The prisoner count reported by the FJSP differs from what is reported by the BOP, although data are from the same source (SENTRY). For example, the BOP reported 155,562 prisoners as of September 30, 2020. (See [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population\\_statistics.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population_statistics.jsp).) The FJSP starts with data extracted from SENTRY that differs slightly from this total (155,157). The difference (405 records) may be due to the timing of when the data request was made.

The data reported by the BOP draws on a more current extract of the database that includes updated records. Of the 155,157 records, 19,241 records were removed from analysis because the prisoner was not listed at a BOP custodial facility. The excluded records included designations to community confinement, home confinement, a hospital, Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, material witness, and presentence admission. Next, 245 records were excluded due to missing commitment offense, and 2,939 were excluded because the prisoner was sentenced by the District of Columbia Superior Court. Finally, 441 records were removed because the prisoner was held as a state boarder, a foreign treaty transfer, or serving a sentence from a military court commitment.

**FIGURE 11**  
**Universe of prisoners held under the Federal Bureau of Prisons' jurisdiction and federally sentenced prisoners in custody, fiscal year-end 2020**



Note: Excludes records missing commitment offense, persons sentenced to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and prisoners designated to community confinement, home confinement, presentence detention, a hospital, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention. See appendix table 9 for counts.

\*Includes federally sentenced prisoners held in private facilities.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2020.

Of the 155,157 prisoners reported by the BOP in custody on September 30, 2020, a total of 132,291 (85% of the BOP population) met the criteria as federally sentenced prisoners (**figure 11**). The average annual percent change detailed in table 10 and appendix tables 1 and 3 measures the average rate of growth (or decline) in the number per year between 2010 and 2020. The following formula is used:

$$\left[ \left( \frac{\text{n}^{\text{th}} \text{ year}}{\text{first year}} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

The total average annual percent change in the BOP custody population (2010–2020) is computed as follows:

$$\left[ \left( \frac{132,291}{185,690} \right)^{\frac{1}{2020 - 2010}} - 1 \right] \times 100 = [(0.71242^{0.10}) - 1] \times 100 = (0.96666 - 1) \times 100 \approx -3.3\%$$

## Other resources

FJSP data are available in the Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics Tool, an interactive BJS web tool that permits users to query the federal data and download the results as a spreadsheet.<sup>5</sup> It provides statistics by the stage of the federal criminal case process, including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and incarceration. Users can also generate queries by the title and section of the U.S. criminal code.

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<sup>5</sup>BJS's Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) query tool is available at <https://www.bjs.gov/fjsrc/>.



# APPENDIX TABLE 1

## Counts for figure 1: Suspects and defendants processed in the federal justice system, FY 2000–2020

Fiscal year	Suspects investigated <sup>a</sup>	Suspects arrested <sup>b</sup>	Defendants charged <sup>c</sup>	Defendants convicted <sup>d</sup>	Defendants sentenced to prison <sup>d</sup>
2000	123,559	115,025	83,251	68,156	50,451
2001	121,818	116,777	82,614	68,533	51,057
2002	124,335	121,610	87,727	71,798	53,682
2003	130,078	124,708	92,085	75,805	57,629
2004	141,215	138,223	92,645	74,782	58,106
2005	137,590	137,411	91,578	78,042	61,151
2006	133,935	144,072	87,650	79,904	63,699
2007	138,410	151,844	88,742	79,356	62,893
2008	178,570	173,463	91,835	82,823	64,529
2009	188,341	181,726	97,513	86,975	67,499
2010	187,916	179,034	99,921	89,902	69,494
2011	187,735	177,547	103,021	92,240	70,049
2012	190,596	172,248	92,789	87,908	67,582
2013	190,267	188,164	89,843	82,838	64,390
2014	160,505	165,265	80,051	78,155	60,626
2015	157,313	153,478	78,742	72,427	56,018
2016	151,994	151,460	76,276	69,487	54,274
2017	143,684	142,008	75,936	68,553	52,898
2018	195,842	195,771	86,024	72,588	54,112
2019	203,030	206,630	91,520	78,256	56,366
2020	136,009	120,112	73,256	65,848	44,429
Average annual percent change, 2010–2020 <sup>e</sup>	-3.2%	-3.9%	-3.1%	-3.1%	-4.4%
Percent change, 2019–2020	-33.0	-41.9	-20.0	-15.9	-21.2

<sup>a</sup>Suspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

<sup>b</sup>Suspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

<sup>c</sup>Defendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

<sup>d</sup>Defendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one adjudicated case are counted separately.

<sup>e</sup>Average annual percent change measures the change over a period of 2 years or more. It shows the average rate of increase (or decrease) per year from 2010 to 2020. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking, Justice Detainee, and CAPTURE information systems; Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2000–2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2**

**Counts for figures 2 and 3: Suspects investigated and arrested and defendants charged, convicted, and sentenced to prison in the federal criminal justice system, October 1, 2018–September 30, 2020**

Month	Suspects investigated <sup>a</sup>	Suspects arrested <sup>b</sup>	Defendants charged <sup>c</sup>	Defendants convicted <sup>d</sup>	Defendants sentenced to prison <sup>d</sup>
October 2018	21,291	20,505	7,850	6,737	4,977
November 2018	17,112	17,471	7,457	6,419	4,665
December 2018	14,804	15,590	6,512	5,454	3,875
January 2019	18,274	18,915	6,729	6,668	4,858
February 2019	18,154	18,880	7,508	6,119	4,428
March 2019	17,996	17,528	7,654	6,423	4,628
April 2019	17,078	17,924	7,628	6,837	4,886
May 2019	17,544	17,732	8,001	6,386	4,583
June 2019	15,407	16,340	7,991	6,195	4,471
July 2019	14,898	14,728	8,078	6,675	4,742
August 2019	15,806	15,859	8,050	7,314	5,248
September 2019	14,666	15,158	8,062	7,029	5,005
October 2019	16,027	15,687	8,834	7,366	5,297
November 2019	13,578	13,872	7,496	6,426	4,699
December 2019	13,031	14,288	7,684	6,995	4,874
January 2020	15,361	15,205	7,347	7,924	5,508
February 2020	15,996	16,511	7,814	6,852	4,924
March 2020	12,996	12,325	5,300	5,295	3,220
April 2020	6,530	2,369	1,232	2,995	964
May 2020	6,835	3,157	3,006	3,429	1,985
June 2020	8,344	5,426	5,507	5,300	3,578
July 2020	8,730	6,361	6,245	4,429	3,006
August 2020	9,057	7,105	5,729	4,273	3,062
September 2020	9,524	7,806	7,062	4,564	3,312

<sup>a</sup>Suspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

<sup>b</sup>Suspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

<sup>c</sup>Defendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

<sup>d</sup>Defendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one adjudicated case are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system; Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Counts for figures 4 and 5: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, other opioids, marijuana, methamphetamine, and other nonopioids, FY 2010–2020**

Fiscal year	Total	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	Heroin <sup>a</sup>	Other opioids <sup>b</sup>	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Other nonopioids <sup>c</sup>
2010	31,517	8,231	2,640	3,029	1,582	8,215	5,527	2,293
2011	32,379	7,664	2,726	3,575	2,379	7,723	5,547	2,765
2012	31,628	7,386	2,653	3,664	2,269	6,787	6,000	2,869
2013	30,532	6,346	2,113	4,181	2,227	5,862	6,858	2,945
2014	29,548	5,582	1,782	4,852	2,048	5,082	7,005	3,197
2015	31,538	6,017	1,567	6,340	1,918	4,741	8,023	2,932
2016	29,486	5,484	1,455	5,926	1,553	4,213	8,068	2,787
2017	27,223	5,495	1,152	5,452	1,790	3,541	7,280	2,513
2018	27,348	5,198	1,103	5,078	2,170	3,266	8,088	2,445
2019	27,543	4,899	970	4,837	2,598	2,597	9,076	2,566
2020	26,696	4,474	1,217	3,707	2,925	2,576	8,783	3,014
Average annual percent change, 2010–2020 <sup>d</sup>	-1.6%	-5.9%	-7.5%	2.0%	6.3%	-11.0%	4.7%	2.8%
Percent change, 2019–2020	-3.1	-8.7	25.5	-23.4	-12.6	-0.8	-3.2	17.5

Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Each arrest for a person is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

<sup>a</sup>Includes heroin, morphine, and opium base.

<sup>b</sup>Opioids are synthetic compounds that emulate the effects of natural compounds found in the opium poppy. Synthetic opioids are commonly available by prescription but can also be manufactured in labs.

<sup>c</sup>Includes nonopioid pharmaceutical controlled substances, other depressants, sedatives, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, hallucinogens, synthetic cannabinoids, other steroids, equipment to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia. Includes drug diversion arrests where drug type is not indicated.

<sup>d</sup>Average annual percent change measures the change over a period of 2 years or more. It shows the average rate of increase (or decrease) in DEA drug arrests per year from 2010 to 2020. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2010–2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Counts for figure 6: Defendants in criminal cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, FY 2010–2020**

Fiscal year	Total	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order	Weapons	Immigration
2010	92,540	2,990	16,362	25,096	11,898	7,312	28,882
2011	93,997	3,157	16,688	26,724	12,074	7,352	28,002
2012	84,237	2,994	13,868	25,310	10,145	6,863	25,057
2013	81,045	3,200	13,078	24,745	9,929	6,501	23,592
2014	72,453	3,112	11,647	21,318	8,989	5,782	21,605
2015	71,072	3,086	10,613	21,588	9,208	6,142	20,435
2016	68,862	3,227	9,424	21,288	8,022	6,507	20,394
2017	68,584	3,180	8,743	21,348	8,069	7,157	20,087
2018	77,579	3,401	8,952	21,524	7,925	8,306	27,471
2019	82,694	3,374	8,792	22,563	7,918	8,942	31,105
2020	66,059	2,867	6,211	19,395	6,512	7,706	23,368
Percent change, 2019–2020	-20.1%	-15.0%	-29.4%	-14.0%	-17.8%	-13.8%	-24.9%

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2010–2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Percentages for figure 7: Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and most serious offense, FY 2020**

Most serious offense	Male	Female
Violent	90.1%	9.9%
Property	71.5	28.5
Drug	79.8	20.2
Public order	89.1	10.9
Weapons	96.0	4.0
Immigration	92.5	7.5

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 167 records missing the defendant's sex and 199 records missing the defendant's offense type.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6****Percentages for figure 8: Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020**

Most serious commitment offense	2010	2020
Violent	6.1%	6.4%
Fraudulent property	4.8	3.3
Other property	1.0	0.7
Drug	52.5	47.4
Regulatory public order	1.1	1.6
Other public order	7.2	15.9
Weapons	15.5	20.4
Immigration	11.6	4.3

Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2010 and 2020. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. See *Methodology*. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 1,181 records missing offense type in 2010 and 445 missing offense type in 2020.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 7**

**Percentages for figure 9: Federally sentenced persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and time served, FY 2020**

Time served	Cumulative percent					
	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order	Weapons	Immigration
Up to 1 year	7.2%	26.7%	7.1%	13.8%	6.3%	50.9%
2	20.5	55.8	23.4	32.5	24.5	85.2
3	36.5	73.2	39.1	46.0	44.3	94.6
4	46.0	80.9	47.1	52.3	54.3	96.7
5	55.3	87.4	60.3	62.8	65.4	98.4
6	61.1	90.9	66.7	70.4	71.0	99.2
7	67.5	93.8	72.0	77.3	75.4	99.5
8	71.7	95.2	75.4	81.1	78.8	99.6
9	77.1	96.8	83.4	87.8	84.0	99.8
10	79.9	97.8	86.2	90.2	86.1	100
11	83.7	98.0	88.7	92.8	87.4	100
12	87.0	98.4	90.5	94.1	88.4	100
13	89.2	98.7	92.0	95.9	91.3	100
14	91.5	98.9	93.8	96.8	94.0	100
Served at least 15 years	92.8	99.1	94.8	97.5	94.8	100
Number of persons released	1,521	3,456	12,182	4,799	6,519	10,046

Note: Includes persons committed by U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2020 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the most common ways persons exit prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving an entire sentence with good time, and release to parole. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and persons released from federal prison by extraordinary means (death, commutation, or transfer). Time served is calculated as the interval between a person's admission to and first release from BOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 8**

**Percentages for figure 10: Persons under federal supervision in the community, by commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020**

Commitment offense	2010	2020
Violent	5.5%	4.9%
Fraudulent property	17.9	13.6
Other property	4.1	2.6
Drug	47.0	44.6
Regulatory public order	2.1	1.3
Other public order	7.9	13.3
Weapons	11.7	15.3
Immigration	3.9	4.4

Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence. The unit of count is a person serving a term under federal supervision in the community. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 374 records missing commitment offense in 2010 and 247 missing commitment offense in 2020.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year-end 2010 and 2020.

**APPENDIX TABLE 9**

**Counts for figure 11: Universe of prisoners held under the Federal Bureau of Prisons' jurisdiction and federally sentenced prisoners in custody, fiscal year-end 2020**

Jurisdiction	Number
Total	155,157
Federally sentenced prisoners in the Federal Bureau of Prisons	132,291
All other prisoners*	22,866

Note: Excludes records missing commitment offense, persons sentenced to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and prisoners designated to community confinement, home confinement, presentence detention, a hospital, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention.

\*Includes federally sentenced prisoners held in private facilities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2020.





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This report was written by Mark Motivans. George E. Browne verified the report.

Eric Hendrixson edited the report. Carrie Epps-Carey produced the report.

May 2022, NCJ 304314



NCJ 304314

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