Federal Justice Statistics, 2023
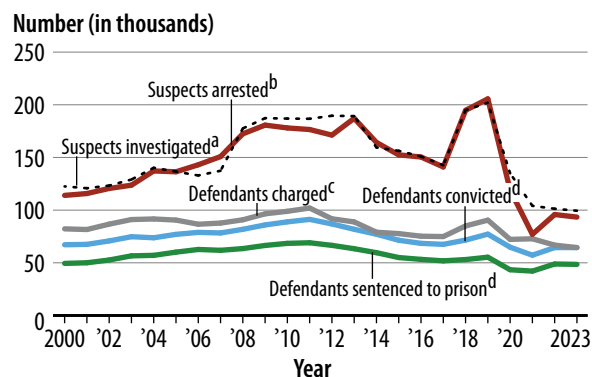
Mark A. Motivans, PhD, *BJS Statistician*

Federal arrests decreased 3% from fiscal year (FY) 2022 to FY 2023 **(figure 1)**.[1] After gradually increasing from 2000 to 2013, federal arrests decreased from 2014 to 2017 before increasing in 2018 and 2019. In FY 2021, arrests dropped to the lowest level in 20 years (78,068). Federal arrests rose to 96,857 in FY 2022 and dropped to 94,411 in FY 2023.

At fiscal yearend 2023, 342,556 persons were in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community **(table 1)**. This was a 17% decline from fiscal yearend 2013, when 410,659 persons were in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community. This decline was driven by a drop in the number of persons in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) (from 195,744 in 2013 to 137,477 in 2023). About 57% were in secure confinement and 43% were on community supervision.

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[1]In this report, annual data are for the fiscal year, which is from October 1 to September 30.

Bulletin

FIGURE 1
Suspects and defendants processed in the federal criminal justice system, FY 2000–2023

Note: Each arrest is counted separately, so individuals with more than one arrest are counted more than once. See appendix table 1 for counts.
[a]Suspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys.
[b]Suspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 to 2023 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date. See *Methodology*.
[c]Defendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.
[d]Defendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.
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 2000–2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During fiscal year (FY) 2023, 94,411 suspects were arrested by federal law enforcement and booked by the U.S. Marshals Service, a 3% decrease from 96,857 in FY 2022.

- Of the 25,110 Drug Enforcement Administration arrests in FY 2023, the most common type of drug involved was methamphetamine (7,381 arrests), followed by other opioids (6,688 arrests), which includes fentanyl.

- The median number of days from the receipt of an investigation to the decision by a U.S. attorney to prosecute or decline a matter was 61 days in FY 2023, similar to FY 2022.

- U.S. attorneys prosecuted 61% of suspects in matters concluded in FY 2023. The percentage of suspects prosecuted was highest in immigration (70%), drug offenses (70%), and weapons offenses (68%).

- The median number of days from case filing in U.S. district court to case disposition was 316 days in FY 2023, about the same as in FY 2022.

TABLE 1
Persons in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community, fiscal yearend 2013, 2022, and 2023

	2013		2022		2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	410,659	100%	350,402	100%	342,556	100%
In secure confinement	254,398	61.9%	199,928	57.1%	194,468	56.8%
Pretrial detention	58,654	14.3	62,325	17.8	56,991	16.6
Federal Bureau of Prisons (post-sentencing)*	195,744	47.7	137,603	39.3	137,477	40.1
In the community	156,261	38.1%	150,474	42.9%	148,088	43.2%
Pretrial release supervision	26,314	6.4	29,615	8.5	27,184	7.9
Post-sentencing supervision	129,947	31.6	120,859	34.5	120,904	35.3
Supervised release	107,596	26.2	107,768	30.8	108,175	31.6
Probation	20,899	5.1	12,466	3.6	12,167	3.6
Parole	1,452	0.4	625	0.2	562	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, 2013, 2022, and 2023.

*Counts include federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) and persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Counts exclude persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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. Unsentenced persons in FBOP 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 yearend 2013, 2022, and 2023.

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 violations 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, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), 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.

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, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC), Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, FBOP, and the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Arrest and booking

Arrests in this section refer to the most serious offenses that suspects were booked for by deputy U.S. marshals. In each federal judicial district, deputy U.S. marshals are 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 2023, federal law enforcement agencies made 94,411 arrests

The most common arrest offenses in FY 2023 were immigration offenses (26% of all arrests), supervision violations (22%), and drug offenses (19%) (table 2).[2]

These three violations comprised nearly two-thirds of all federal arrests in FY 2023 (59,909). The largest percentage increase in arrests from FY 2022 to FY 2023 was for immigration offenses (5%). Arrests for drug offenses decreased by 7% from FY 2022 to FY 2023. Arrests for weapons offenses decreased 6% from 8,068 arrests in FY 2022 to 7,560 arrests in FY 2023.

[2]This report uses the most serious arrest offense that suspects were booked for by the deputy U.S. marshal.

TABLE 2
Federal arrests, by most serious offense at arrest and federal judicial district, FY 2022 and FY 2023

	FY 2022		FY 2023		Percent change, 2022–2023
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total arrests	96,857	100%	94,411	100%	-2.5%
Most serious offense at arrest					
Violent	3,409	3.8%	3,434	3.9%	0.7%
Property	7,253	8.0	6,926	7.8	-4.5
Fraud	6,227	6.9	5,904	6.6	-5.2
Other[a]	1,026	1.1	1,022	1.2	-0.4
Drug	18,563	20.5	17,205	19.4	-7.3
Public order	6,229	6.9	6,287	7.1	0.9
Regulatory	252	0.3	184	0.2	-27.0
Other[b]	5,977	6.6	6,103	6.9	2.1
Weapons	8,068	8.9	7,560	8.5	-6.3
Immigration	21,831	24.1	22,916	25.8	5.0
Material witness	4,576	5.0	4,686	5.3	2.4
Supervision violation	20,790	22.9	19,788	22.3	-4.8
Federal judicial district[c]					
U.S.-Mexico border district	39,121	40.4%	38,449	40.7%	-1.7%
Arizona	11,017	11.4	11,639	12.3	5.6
Texas Southern	10,676	11.0	9,520	10.1	-10.8
Texas Western	8,977	9.3	9,291	9.8	3.5
California Southern	5,450	5.6	5,143	5.4	-5.6
New Mexico	3,001	3.1	2,856	3.0	-4.8
Other	57,736	59.6	55,962	59.3	-3.1

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Each arrest is counted separately, so individuals 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 district is the location of the federal court where booking takes place. The custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in years prior to FY 2020) because not all bookings 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*.

[a]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

[b]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

[c]Five listed districts have the greatest number of arrests out of all districts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee and CAPTURE information systems, fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

Response to immigration violations by the federal criminal justice system

The number of persons processed for immigration offenses varied across the federal criminal justice system, with the greatest differences at the early stages of arrest and investigation.[3] In fiscal year (FY) 2013, immigration offenses made up more than half of total arrests and bookings by the U.S. Marshals Service (96,374), which is the entry point into the federal criminal case process **(figure 2)**. By FY 2023, immigration comprised about a quarter (26%; 22,916) of total arrests and bookings.

Criminal immigration referrals to U.S. attorneys that were prosecuted in U.S. district court made up 29% of all referrals in 2013, 34% in 2018, and 31% in 2023 **(figure 3)**. The relative drop between the percentage of immigration suspects arrested and the percentage of immigration suspects prosecuted generally occurred due to the exclusion of matters disposed by the U.S. magistrate from the prosecution count. Petty immigration matters
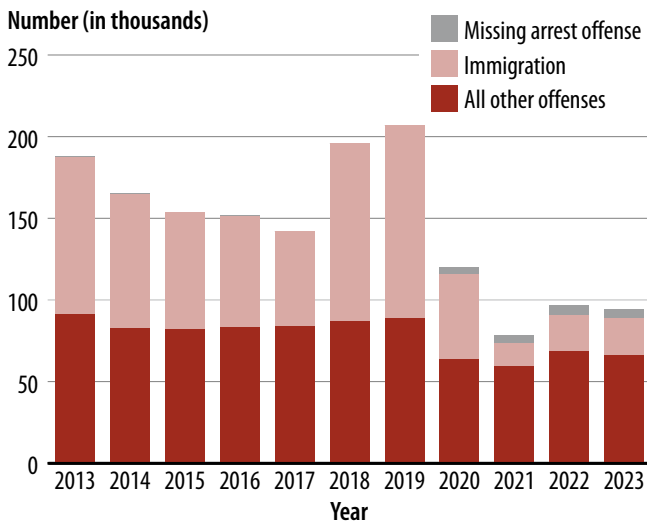
appeared in the arrest and investigation stages but were excluded from later stages of the judicial process because they were not prosecuted in U.S. district court.[4] In 2023, persons convicted for an immigration offense made up 29% of the federal court's case load, which was the same in 2013 (29%) but lower than 2018 (34%).

The percentage of persons admitted to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) for immigration offenses decreased from 30% of all persons admitted in FY 2013, to 22% in FY 2018, and 17% in FY 2023. The proportion of persons admitted to federal supervision for an immigration offense was 9% in FY 2023, an increase from both FY 2013 (5%) and FY 2018 (6%).

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[4]A petty offense is defined in 18 U.S.C. §19 as a Class B misdemeanor, a Class C misdemeanor, or an infraction, with limitations on fines of no more than $5,000 for an individual and $10,000 for an organization. Petty immigration matters include entry without inspection (8 U.S.C. §1825) and are misdemeanors with a maximum sentence of 6 months.
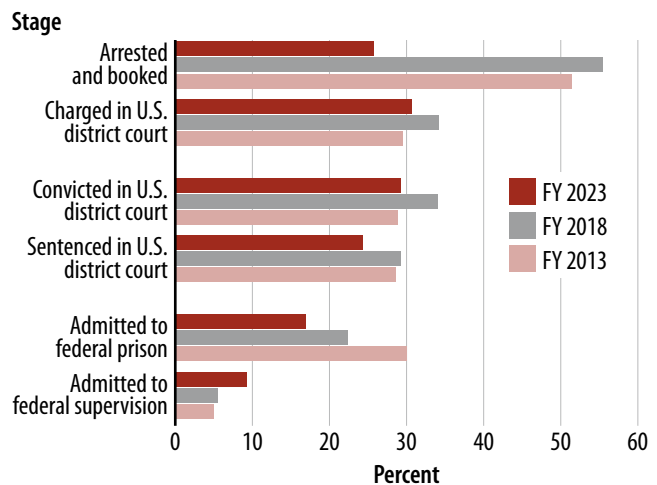
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[3]Immigration offenses include illegal entry, illegal reentry, human smuggling, and visa fraud.

FIGURE 2
Number of federal arrests and bookings by immigration and all other offenses, FY 2013–2023

Note: Each arrest is counted separately, so individuals with more than one arrest are counted more than once. For 2020 to 2023 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in years prior to FY 2020) because not all bookings 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*. See appendix table 2 for counts.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking, Justice Detainee, and CAPTURE information systems; fiscal years 2013–2023.

FIGURE 3
Immigration offenses as a percent of total federal criminal case load, by stage, FY 2013, FY 2018, and FY 2023

Note: Stages represent the percent of total persons at each stage in the federal criminal case load with immigration as the most serious offense. Percentages computed based on cases not missing offense type. See appendix table 3 for counts.
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; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File; Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY data base; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal years 2013, 2018, and 2023.
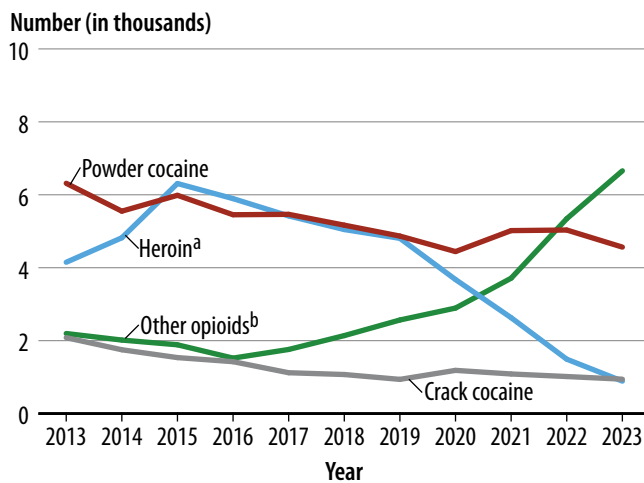
Arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States, including investigating major drug offenses 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.[5]

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[5]See https://www.dea.gov/domestic-divisions. Arrest counts reported by the DEA overlap with bookings data collected by the U.S. Marshals Service and are 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 Service booking data, which include bookings for federal cases only.

The DEA reported 25,110 drug arrests in fiscal year (FY) 2023, 4% fewer than in FY 2022. (See appendix table 4.) In 2023, methamphetamine accounted for 29% of drug arrests, while 27% were for other opioids, including fentanyl (figures 4 and 5). From FY 2013 to FY 2023, DEA arrests for other opioids, including fentanyl, increased the most (12% per year on average). During that period, arrests declined an average of 14% for heroin, 11% for marijuana, 7% for crack cocaine, and 3% for powder cocaine each year. Methamphetamine arrests made up 22% of DEA arrests in FY 2013 and 29% in FY 2023, increasing an average of 1% per year during this period.

FIGURE 4
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and other opioids, FY 2013–2023

Number (in thousands)

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 4 for counts.

[a]Includes heroin, morphine, and opium base.

[b]Includes fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, opioid treatment pharmaceuticals, hydromorphone, palladone, and oxymorphone.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2013–2023.

FIGURE 5
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving marijuana, methamphetamine, and other nonopioids, FY 2013–2023
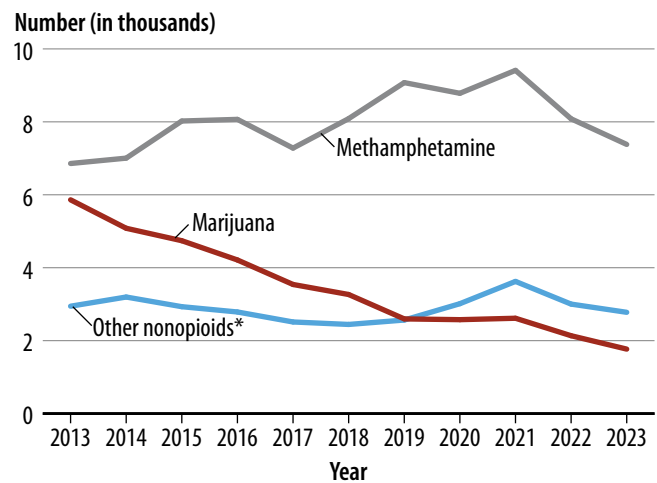

Number (in thousands)

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 4 for counts.
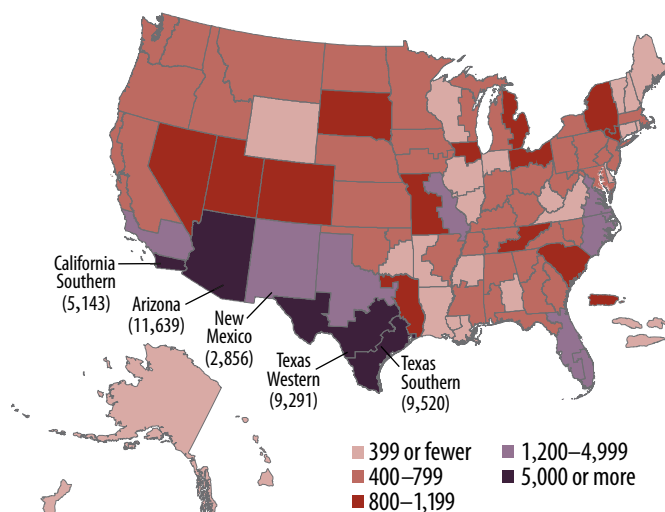
*Includes nonopioid pharmaceutical controlled substances, other depressants, sedatives, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, hallucinogens, synthetic cannabinoids, other steroids, equipment to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2013–2023.

About 41% of arrests in FY 2023 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 41% of all federal arrests in FY 2023, similar to 2022 (40%) (map 1). (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2022* (NCJ 307553, BJS, January 2024).) Arizona (11,639) had the most arrests, followed by Texas Southern (9,520), Texas Western (9,291), California Southern (5,143), and New Mexico (2,856).

MAP 1
Federal arrests, by judicial district, FY 2023

California Southern (5,143)
Arizona (11,639)
New Mexico (2,856)
Texas Western (9,291)
Texas Southern (9,520)

399 or fewer
400–799
800–1,199
1,200–4,999
5,000 or more

Note: A total of 94,411 suspects were arrested for a federal offense from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. 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. Not shown: District of Columbia (378), Guam (72), Northern Mariana Islands (32), Puerto Rico (1,151), and U.S. Virgin Islands (110). See appendix table 5 for counts.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system, fiscal year 2023.

Investigation and prosecution

Ninety-three U.S. attorneys served as the chief federal prosecutor within their judicial district in FY 2023.[6] Federal law enforcement agencies referred the most matters to U.S. attorneys in FY 2023, but referrals also came from state and local law enforcement.

In FY 2023, the Department of Justice referred the most suspects of any referring authority

In FY 2023, there were 100,445 suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys, down from 102,329 in FY 2022. Law enforcement agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice referred 45% of those suspects in both FY 2022 and FY2023, compared to 26% in FY 2013 (table 3). Agencies within the Department of Homeland Security referred 33% in matters sent to U.S. attorneys in FY 2023, down from 57% in FY 2013. This decline coincided with a drop in immigration matters referred (92,189 matters in FY 2013, 24,909 in FY 2022, and 25,506 in FY 2023; not shown in table). In FY 2023, 4% of suspects in matters opened by U.S. attorneys were referred by federal or state task forces.

[6]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 2013, FY 2022, and FY 2023

Department/authority	FY 2013		FY 2022		FY 2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Defense	4,096	2.2%	1,569	1.5%	1,600	1.6%
Homeland Security	108,981	57.4	32,985	32.2	33,112	33.0
Interior	3,567	1.9	1,027	1.0	961	1.0
Justice	49,343	26.0	46,373	45.3	45,037	44.8
Treasury	3,635	1.9	1,232	1.2	1,396	1.4
Federal/state task force	3,407	1.8	5,008	4.9	4,321	4.3
Other*	16,940	8.9	14,120	13.8	14,003	13.9
Number of suspects	190,267	100%	102,329	100%	100,445	100%

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 15 records missing referring authority in 2023, 15 missing referring authority in 2022, and 298 missing referring authority in 2013.
*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 2013, 2022, and 2023.

U.S. attorneys prosecuted 61% of suspects in matters concluded in FY 2023

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 2023, the offenses that U.S. attorneys most commonly chose to prosecute included immigration and drug offenses (both 70%), weapons offenses (68%), property offenses other than fraud (54%), and violent offenses (53%) (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. Thirteen percent of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in FY 2023 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 (29%) and public order offenses other than regulatory offenses (16%).

U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 26% of matters concluded in FY 2023. The cases most likely to be declined were property fraud (54%) and regulatory public order (47%) offenses. The median time from receipt of an investigation to the decision by a U.S. attorney to prosecute or decline a matter was 61 days in FY 2023, similar to FY 2022 (60 days). (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2022* (NCJ 307553, BJS, January 2024).)

TABLE 4
Outcome and case-processing time of suspects in matters concluded, by lead charge and judicial district, FY 2023

	Number of suspects in matters concluded	Outcome[a]			Prosecutor decision/median case-processing time[b]			
		Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed of by U.S. magistrate	Declined to prosecute	All cases	Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed of by U.S. magistrate	Declined to prosecute
Total	103,088	60.7%	13.0%	26.3%	61 days	28 days	22 days	643 days
Lead charge[c]								
Violent	4,222	53.0%	7.1%	39.9%	125 days	40 days	122 days	385 days
Property	15,921	44.4	4.0	51.6	518	235	311	781
Fraud	13,798	42.9	3.5	53.6	576	289	301	815
Other[d]	2,123	54.2	7.4	38.4	221	62	338	562
Drug	25,611	69.9	6.3	23.8	109	34	117	715
Public order	16,640	43.1	14.6	42.3	263	66	115	674
Regulatory	2,768	43.2	9.3	47.5	307	37	181	691
Other[e]	13,872	43.1	15.7	41.2	254	70	109	670
Weapons	13,220	67.7	4.1	28.3	80	41	105	378
Immigration	27,444	70.0	28.5	1.5	22	24	16	649
Federal judicial district								
U.S.-Mexico border	34,038	68.5%	24.5%	7.0%	25 days	28 days	22 days	643 days
Arizona	10,022	44.6	47.9	7.5	22	26	15	676
California Southern	3,890	87.2	8.3	4.5	27	27	27	880
New Mexico	3,032	62.5	23.9	13.6	68	57	64	840
Texas Southern	7,391	82.5	11.5	6.0	21	21	24	688
Texas Western	9,703	77.1	16.7	6.2	25	24	25	492
Other	69,050	56.8	7.3	35.9	196	60	119	639

[a]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 30 records missing the suspect's lead charge.
[b]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 60 days means that half of the suspects received a disposition in less than 60 days of the matter's referral and half received a disposition in more than 60 days.
[c]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.
[d]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.
[e]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.
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 2023.
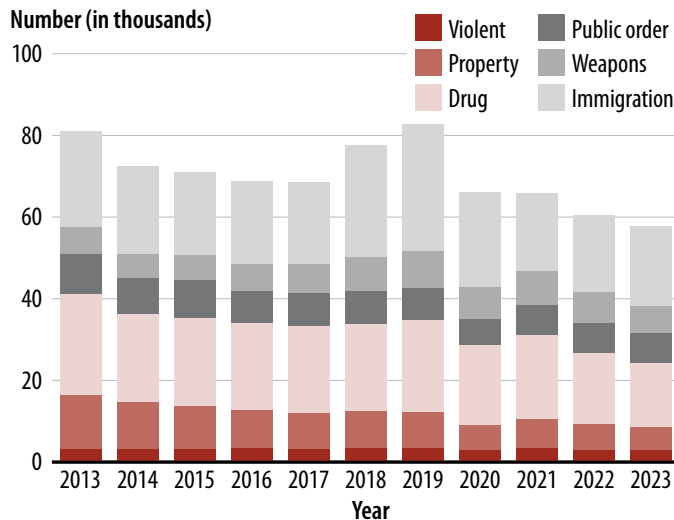
Case filing, adjudication, and sentencing

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.

11% fewer defendants were charged with property offenses in FY 2023 than in FY 2022

From FY 2022 to FY 2023, the number of defendants charged with a federal offense decreased by 5%, from 60,490 to 57,697 (figure 6). During that period, the number of persons charged with property offenses decreased 11% and the number of persons charged with drug and weapons offenses decreased 10%.
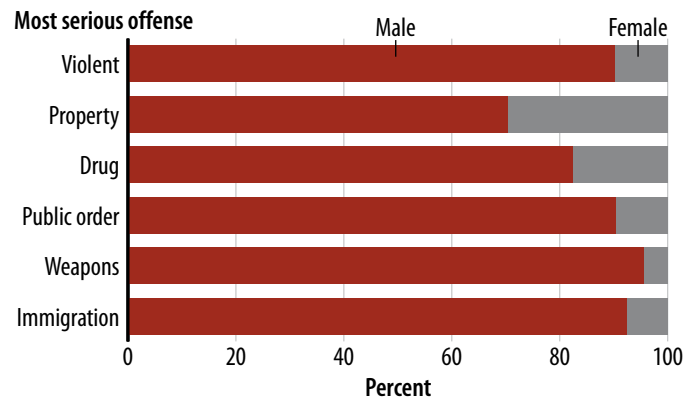
Most defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2023 were male

A total of 48,177 males and 6,942 females were charged in U.S. district court in FY 2023, with males accounting for 87% of all defendants and females accounting for 13% (table 5). Females made up 30% of defendants charged with a property offense and 18% of defendants charged with a drug offense (figure 7).

Fifty-two percent of defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2023 were Hispanic. Forty-one percent of females charged in U.S. district court in 2023 were Hispanic, 32% were white, and 21% were black. Of the males charged, 54% were Hispanic, 25% were black, and 18% were white. Eighty-five percent of females charged were U.S. citizens. Thirty-six percent of all defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2023 were non-U.S. citizens. Other than the United States (61%), the most common countries or regions of citizenship among male defendants charged were Mexico (27%), Central America (7%), and the Caribbean Islands (2%).

Sixty-three percent of defendants were ages 25 to 44. The youngest defendants (age 19 or younger) and oldest defendants (age 65 or older) together made up 3% of persons charged in FY 2023.

FIGURE 6
Number of defendants in criminal cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, FY 2013–2023

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 6 for counts.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2013–2023.

FIGURE 7
Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and most serious offense, FY 2023

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 143 records missing the defendant's sex and 141 missing the defendant's offense type. See appendix table 7 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 2023.

TABLE 5
Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and demographic characteristics, FY 2023

Demographic characteristic	All defendants		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	55,262	100%	48,177	100%	6,942	100%
Race/ethnicity						
White[a]	10,443	19.8%	8,350	18.1%	2,091	31.9%
Black[a]	12,844	24.3	11,471	24.8	1,368	20.9
Hispanic	27,444	52.0	24,727	53.5	2,704	41.2
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander[a]	806	1.5	651	1.4	153	2.3
American Indian/Alaska Native[a]	1,231	2.3	988	2.1	243	3.7
Age						
19 or younger	667	1.2%	596	1.2%	71	1.0%
20–24	5,894	10.7	5,223	10.8	670	9.7
25–29	7,932	14.4	6,916	14.4	1,015	14.6
30–34	9,622	17.5	8,326	17.3	1,293	18.6
35–39	9,230	16.7	8,151	16.9	1,068	15.4
40–44	7,943	14.4	7,002	14.5	938	13.5
45–49	5,535	10.0	4,868	10.1	666	9.6
50–54	3,721	6.8	3,203	6.7	516	7.4
55–59	2,177	4.0	1,845	3.8	329	4.7
60–64	1,293	2.4	1,098	2.3	195	2.8
65 or older	1,114	2.0	933	1.9	180	2.6
Median age	36 yrs.	~	36 yrs.	~	36 yrs.	~
Citizenship						
U.S. citizen	35,358	64.4%	29,493	61.5%	5,852	84.8%
Non-U.S. citizen	19,540	35.6	18,474	38.5	1,053	15.2
Country/region of citizenship						
North America	53,405	97.3%	46,632	97.2%	6,751	97.8%
United States	35,358	64.4	29,493	61.5	5,852	84.8
Mexico	13,456	24.5	12,749	26.6	699	10.1
Canada	47	0.1	42	0.1	5	0.1
Caribbean Islands[b]	978	1.8	926	1.9	52	0.8
Central America[b]	3,566	6.5	3,422	7.1	143	2.1
South America[b]	717	1.3	653	1.4	62	0.9
Asia and Oceania[b]	388	0.7	329	0.7	57	0.8
Europe[b]	214	0.4	193	0.4	21	0.3
Africa[b]	174	0.3	160	0.3	14	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 143 records missing the defendant's sex, 2,494 missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, 134 missing the defendant's age, and 364 missing the defendant's citizenship status.

~Not applicable.

[a]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.

[b]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 2023.
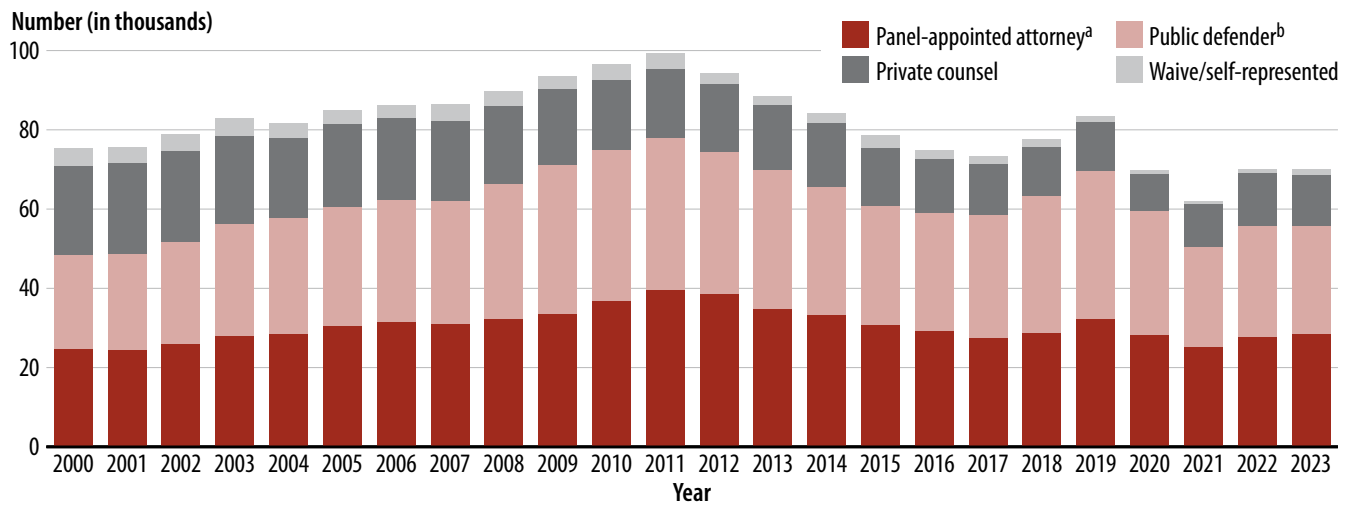
Type of counsel in the federal criminal justice system

The Criminal Justice Act was enacted in 1964 and requires that attorneys be appointed to represent defendants unable to pay for their own counsel. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts provides for two types of counsel for federal indigent defendants: public defenders and panel-appointed attorneys consisting of private attorneys. These panel-appointed attorneys accept appointments to represent eligible defendants for reimbursement from the government.

Almost all (98%) of the nearly 70,000 defendants in cases concluded with a known counsel type in FY 2023 had some type of counsel (figure 8). Eight in 10 defendants were indigent defendants represented by either panel-appointed attorneys (28,425) or public defenders (27,133). Private counsel represented 13,004 of defendants in FY 2023. The remaining defendants (1,373) waived representation or were self-represented in cases that were mostly charged with misdemeanors. From FY 2000 to FY 2023, the use of private counsel decreased by an annual average rate of 2%, the use of public defenders increased at an annual average rate of less than 1%, and the use of panel-appointed attorneys increased at an annual average rate of less than 1%. Defendants waiving counsel or representing themselves decreased by 5%.

FIGURE 8
Number of defendants in federal criminal cases, by type of representation at adjudication, 2000–2023

Note: See appendix table 8 for counts.

[a]Panel-appointed attorneys consist of panels of private attorneys who accept appointments to represent eligible defendants for reimbursement from the government.

[b]Includes 510 records where pro-bono counsel was indicated. Pro-bono counsel consists of private attorneys acting as co-counsel with public defenders who are responsible for the case.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2000–2023.

9 in 10 defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court in FY 2023 were convicted

About 91% of the 71,866 defendants adjudicated in FY 2023 were convicted (table 6). Nearly all defendants charged with immigration (98%), weapons (94%), drug or other regulatory offenses (both 92%) offenses were convicted. About 89% of defendants adjudicated pled guilty. Two percent of defendants were convicted through a bench or jury trial. Defendants adjudicated in U.S.-Mexico border districts had a higher conviction rate (96%) than defendants in non-border districts (88%). Among felony offenses, rates of nonconviction ranged from 2% for immigration offenses to 12% for public

order regulatory offenses. The largest percentage of adjudicated cases that were not convicted were dismissed or otherwise concluded by the judge or prosecutor (9%). Acquittals (median 475 days), dismissals (median 469 days), and guilty pleas (median 302 days) took less time to process from case filing to disposition than trials that ended in convictions (median 797 days). The median days from case filing in U.S. district court to case disposition (316 days) was similar to FY 2022 (314 days). (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2022* (NCJ 307553, BJS, January 2024).) From FY 2022 to FY 2023, the median case processing time increased the most for cases disposed by a dismissal (up 49%).

TABLE 6
Disposition and case-processing time of defendants in cases adjudicated in U.S. district court, by most serious offense and federal judicial district, FY 2023

	Total cases adjudicated	Convicted			Not convicted		
		Total	Guilty plea	Bench/jury trial	Total	Bench/jury trial	Dismissed
All offenses	71,866	91.1%	88.9%	2.2%	8.9%	0.4%	8.5%
Most serious offense at adjudication							
Felony	66,854	93.5%	91.2%	2.3%	6.5%	0.4%	6.1%
Violent	2,971	92.5	84.8	7.6	7.5	1.1	6.4
Property	7,137	88.8	85.2	3.6	11.2	0.7	10.5
Fraud	6,156	88.9	85.3	3.6	11.1	0.8	10.4
Other[a]	981	88.3	84.6	3.7	11.7	0.6	11.1
Drug	21,398	91.9	89.9	2.0	8.1	0.3	7.8
Public order	6,625	91.3	86.2	5.1	8.7	0.9	7.7
Regulatory	800	88.1	83.6	4.5	11.9	3.2	8.6
Other[b]	5,825	91.8	86.6	5.2	8.2	0.6	7.6
Weapons	9,569	94.1	91.6	2.5	5.9	0.4	5.5
Immigration	19,154	97.7	97.4	0.2	2.3	0.1	2.2
Misdemeanor	5,012	59.4	58.3	1.1	40.6	0.2	40.4
Federal judicial district							
U.S.-Mexico border	25,494	95.9%	95.3%	0.6%	4.1%	0.2%	3.9%
Arizona	5,044	97.1	96.6	0.4	2.9	0.1	2.8
California Southern	3,883	91.7	91.0	0.7	8.3	0.3	8.0
New Mexico	2,109	97.0	96.3	0.7	3.0	0.1	2.9
Texas Southern	6,669	96.2	95.8	0.4	3.8	0.1	3.7
Texas Western	7,789	96.8	95.9	0.9	3.2	0.1	3.1
Other	46,372	88.5	85.4	3.1	11.5	0.5	11.0
Median time from filing to disposition[c]	316 days	310 days	302 days	797 days	469 days	475 days	469 days

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Includes information on felony defendants; Class A misdemeanor defendants, whether cases were handled by U.S. district judges or U.S. magistrate judges; and other misdemeanor defendants, provided their cases were handled by U.S. district judges. 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 316 days means that half of the defendants received a disposition in less than 316 days and half received a disposition in more than 316 days.

[a]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

[b]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

[c]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 2023.

3 in 4 defendants convicted were sentenced to prison in FY 2023

Of the 65,482 defendants convicted in U.S. district court in FY 2023, more than three-quarters (76%) were sentenced to prison (table 7). The remainder received probation only (8%), a fine only (2%), or other sentence (15%), which includes case dismissals, sealed cases, or sentences to time served.

In 2023, about 79% of persons convicted of a felony received a prison sentence. Persons convicted of violent (93%), drug (90%), or weapons (89%) felonies were most likely to receive prison terms. Twenty-one percent of persons convicted of a misdemeanor received a prison sentence in FY 2023.

Defendants sentenced to prison in FY 2023 received a median term of 40 months

Convicted defendants received a median sentence of 108 months in prison for a violent offense, 72 months for a drug offense, and 60 months for a nonregulatory public order offense (table 7). Nonregulatory public order offenses include receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials, or child pornography. These offenses carry lengthy mandatory minimum penalties, which will increase the overall sentence length of this group of offenses. The median prison term for immigration defendants convicted of a felony was 14 months. Defendants convicted and sentenced to prison in the five U.S.-Mexico border districts received a median sentence of 18 months, compared to a median of 60 months in other districts. This was due to the higher proportion of immigration cases in the border districts which receive relatively shorter sentences than other offenses.

The type of sentence imposed in FY 2023 varied by sex, race or ethnicity, and age

In FY 2023, the median prison sentence for a felony was 40 months, about the same as the median of 41 months in FY 2022 (See table 8 in this report and *Federal Justice Statistics, 2022* (NCJ 307553, BJS, January 2024).) Convicted males (79%) were sentenced to prison more often than convicted females (64%). Nineteen percent of convicted females received a probation-only sentence, compared to 6% of convicted males. Convicted defendants who were black (85%) were the most likely to receive a prison sentence, followed by those who were American Indian or Alaska Native (84%); white (78%); Hispanic (72%); and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (70%). Among those sentenced to prison, white and black defendants were both sentenced to a median of 60 months. The median age of defendants sentenced in FY 2023 was 36 years. Eighty-two percent of convicted U.S. citizens received a prison sentence, compared to 68% of convicted non-U.S. citizens. Twenty percent of convicted non-U.S. citizens received other outcomes (including suspension, time served, and sealed cases) compared to 7% of convicted U.S. citizens.

TABLE 7
Type and length of sentence imposed for defendants convicted, by most serious offense and federal judicial district, FY 2023

	Number convicted	Type of sentence				Median prison term
		Prison[a]	Probation only[b]	Fine only	Other[c]	
All offenses	65,482	76.0%	7.6%	1.7%	14.7%	40 mos.
Most serious offense at conviction						
Felony	62,507	78.6%	6.1%	0.4%	14.9%	41 mos.
Violent	2,747	93.1	2.3	0.2	4.4	108
Property	6,336	64.2	21.8	1.2	12.8	24
Fraud	5,470	66.0	19.7	1.3	13.0	25
Other[d]	866	52.7	35.2	0.8	11.3	24
Drug	19,666	89.7	2.9	0.4	7.1	72
Public order	6,051	81.1	10.4	0.8	7.8	60
Regulatory	705	63.2	21.4	2.4	13.0	24
Other[e]	5,346	83.4	8.9	0.6	7.7	60
Weapons	9,001	88.8	5.6	0.3	5.3	48
Immigration	18,706	63.9	3.7	0.1	32.2	14
Misdemeanor	2,975	20.5	38.6	29.3	11.5	6
Federal judicial district						
U.S.-Mexico border	24,458	69.8%	5.3%	0.3%	24.6%	18 mos.
Arizona	4,896	59.8	10.0	0.4	29.8	14
California Southern	3,560	71.0	5.8	0.4	22.8	24
New Mexico	2,046	97.4	2.7	<0.1	<0.01	12
Texas Southern	6,414	72.6	2.8	0.2	24.5	18
Texas Western	7,542	65.9	4.9	0.4	28.8	21
Other	41,024	79.6	9.0	2.6	8.8	60

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 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 40 months means that half of the defendants received a prison term of less than 40 months and half received a prison term of more than 40 months. There were 263 records missing type of sentence.

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

[b]Includes sentences to supervision in the community only.

[c]Includes suspended sentences, sealed sentences, and sentences to time served.

[d]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

[e]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal year 2023.

TABLE 8
Type and length of sentence imposed for defendants convicted, by demographic characteristics, FY 2023

Demographic characteristic	Number convicted	Type of sentence				Median prison term
		Prison[a]	Probation only[b]	Fine only	Other[c]	
Total	65,482	76.0%	7.6%	1.7%	14.7%	40 mos.
Sex						
Male	53,467	78.5%	5.6%	1.0%	15.0%	41 mos.
Female	7,798	63.6	19.1	1.3	15.9	27
Race/ethnicity						
White[d]	12,975	78.4%	12.2%	1.6%	7.9%	60 mos.
Black[d]	14,624	85.1	7.9	0.9	6.1	60
Hispanic	30,934	72.3	4.4	0.3	23.0	24
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander[d]	918	69.6	17.0	2.3	11.1	37
American Indian/Alaska Native[d]	1,255	84.0	8.0	0.8	7.3	45
Age						
19 or younger	771	60.2%	16.0%	1.6%	22.2%	18 mos.
20–24	6,243	73.0	9.1	2.1	15.9	33
25–29	9,056	77.5	6.3	1.0	15.2	40
30–34	10,927	78.4	5.8	0.8	15.0	42
35–39	10,477	78.1	5.5	0.7	15.7	42
40–44	8,790	78.4	5.8	0.7	15.2	41
45–49	5,968	77.5	6.4	0.8	15.3	37
50–54	3,960	75.9	9.2	0.7	14.2	37
55–59	2,467	74.6	11.1	1.2	13.0	36
60–64	1,382	72.4	13.1	1.4	13.1	36
65 or older	1,213	64.6	23.1	2.6	9.6	36
Median age	36 yrs.	36 yrs.	37 yrs.	34 yrs.	36 yrs.	
Citizenship						
U.S. citizen	39,668	81.9%	9.7%	1.2%	7.2%	57 mos.
Non-U.S. citizen	21,326	67.5	2.5	0.3	29.8	18
Country/region of citizenship						
North America	57,551	77.8%	6.9%	0.7%	14.6%	37 mos.
United States	38,692	82.4	9.5	1.0	7.2	57
Mexico	14,023	68.6	1.4	0.1	29.9	15
Canada	55	58.2	9.1	3.6	29.1	38
Caribbean Islands[e]	1,228	79.4	3.9	0.6	16.2	40
Central America[e]	3,553	63.1	1.9	0.0	34.9	15
South America[e]	775	71.4	2.6	0.3	25.8	51
Asia and Oceania[e]	463	70.6	11.8	2.0	15.6	21
Europe[e]	223	66.7	7.2	0.9	25.2	26
Africa[e]	242	82.6	8.7	0.4	8.3	36

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 4,217 records missing the defendant's sex, 4,776 missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, 4,228 missing the defendant's age, 4,488 missing the defendant's citizenship status, and 6,228 missing the defendant's country of citizenship.
[a]Includes sentences to incarceration, such as mixed (a prison term followed by a probation term) and life sentences.
[b]Includes suspended cases, sealed cases, and sentences to time served.
[c]Includes suspended sentences, sealed sentences, and sentences to time served.
[d]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.
[e]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 2023.

Federal prison

In FY 2023, a total of 51,117 federally sentenced persons were admitted to federal prison (table 9). Of these, 36,906 persons entered federal prison on U.S. district court commitments with a sentence of 1 year or more, and 3,140 entered with a sentence of less than 1 year. Another 11,071 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. In FY 2023, a total of 18,635 persons entered federal prison for a drug offense, most of whom (14,850 or 80%) had been sentenced to more than 1 year.

A total of 54,708 persons were released from federal prison in FY 2023. More than two-thirds (37,610) were released for the first time since their U.S. district court commitment after serving more than 1 year. Eleven percent (5,239) more releases occurred in FY 2023 than in FY 2022. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2022* (NCJ 307553, BJS, January 2024).) There were 3,591 fewer persons in federal prison at the end of FY 2023 (September 30, 2023) than at the start of FY 2023 (October 1, 2022). From the start to the end of FY 2023, 1,663 fewer persons were in prison for a drug offense and 584 more persons were in prison for a public order offense. Most (80%) of the increase in other public order offenses was due to receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials, or child pornography offenses (not shown in table).

TABLE 9
Federally sentenced persons admitted to and released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, FY 2023

| | | Persons admitted | | | Persons released | | | | |
| | | District court[c] | | | First release[e] | | | | |
Most serious commitment offense[a]	Population at start of year[b]	Sentence of 1 year or less	Sentence of more than 1 year	All other[d]	Time served of 1 year or less	Time served of more than 1 year	All other[f]	Population at end of year[g]	Net population change
Total	141,068	3,140	36,906	11,071	5,249	37,610	11,849	137,477	-3,591
Violent	8,586	43	1,784	729	62	1,522	884	8,674	88
Property	5,348	391	2,202	646	479	2,788	779	4,541	-807
Fraud	4,182	301	1,772	441	359	2,318	531	3,488	-694
Other[h]	1,166	90	430	205	120	470	248	1,053	-113
Drug	63,267	220	14,850	3,565	247	16,154	3,897	61,604	-1,663
Public order	24,589	517	5,517	1,267	567	4,884	1,266	25,173	584
Regulatory	2,275	196	1,247	117	198	1,084	116	2,437	162
Other[i]	22,314	321	4,270	1,150	369	3,800	1,150	22,736	422
Weapons	29,645	165	7,310	3,171	156	7,056	3,021	30,058	413
Immigration	9,279	1,770	5,181	1,670	3,699	5,091	1,972	7,138	-2,141

Note: The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person admitted to or released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP). 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 FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 354 persons and at the end of the year for 289. 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.
[a]The offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction.
[b]The population as of October 1, 2022.
[c]Persons committed by a U.S. district court for U.S. code violations.
[d]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.
[e]Persons released after being committed by a U.S. district court.
[f]Persons released from prison without a new court commitment after they were committed for violating conditions of their supervised release.
[g]The population as of September 30, 2023.
[h]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.
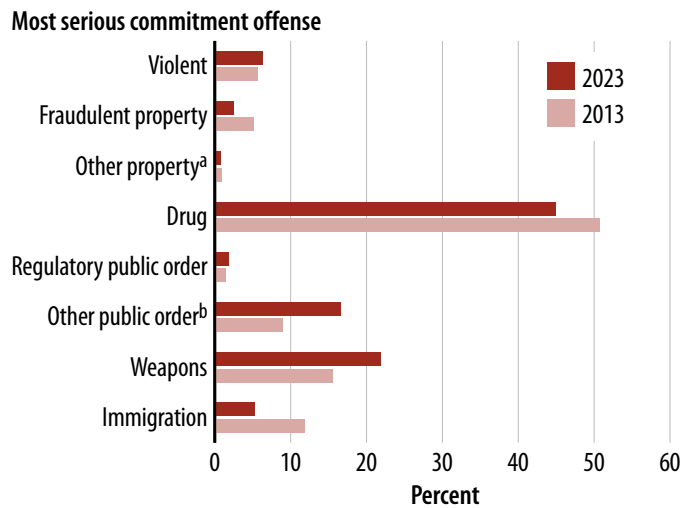[i]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2023.

Persons committed for a drug offense made up less than half of federal prisoners at fiscal yearend 2023

At fiscal yearend 2023, a drug offense was the most serious commitment offense for 45% of federal prisoners, down from 51% at fiscal yearend 2013 (figure 9). During this 10-year period, persons serving time for a weapons offense increased from 16% to 22% of federal prisoners. Persons committed for a nonregulatory public order offense increased from 9% to 17%, mostly due to an increase in receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials, or child pornography offenses. Persons committed for a violent offense remained at 6%, and persons committed for an immigration offense decreased from 12% at fiscal yearend 2013 to 5% at fiscal yearend 2023.

FIGURE 9
Percent of federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, fiscal yearend 2013 and 2023

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 (FBOP) on September 30, 2013 and 2023. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 data. There were 1,371 records missing offense type in 2013 and 289 missing offense type in 2023. See appendix table 9 for percentages.

[a]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.
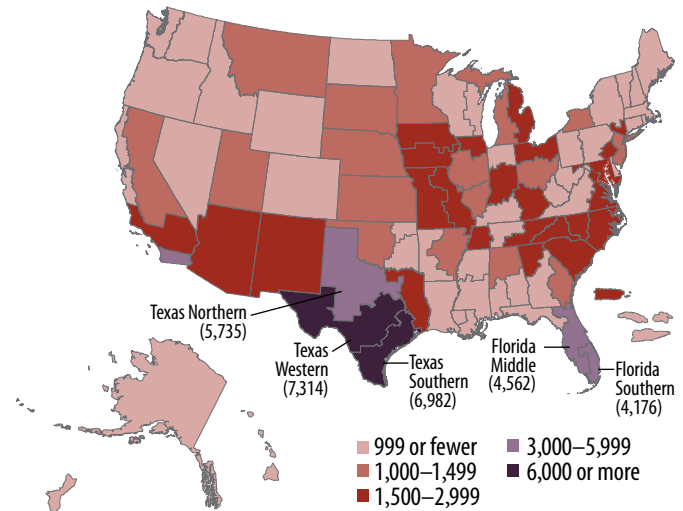
[b]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal yearend 2013 and 2023.

Five judicial districts committed 21% of all persons in federal prison at fiscal yearend 2023

At fiscal yearend 2023, more than one-fifth (21%) of persons in federal prison were committed from five districts: Texas Western (7,314), Texas Southern (6,982), Texas Northern (5,735), Florida Middle (4,562), and Florida Southern (4,176) (map 2). Courts in three states (Texas, California, and Florida) committed 29% of all the persons in federal prison at fiscal yearend 2023.

MAP 2
Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by judicial district of commitment, fiscal yearend 2023

Note: The Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) had custody of 137,477 federally sentenced persons on September 30, 2023. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the FBOP. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 FBOP custody by the federal judicial district in which they received their sentence to the FBOP. Not shown: District of Columbia (737), Guam (53), Northern Mariana Islands (19), Puerto Rico (2,635), and U.S. Virgin Islands (106). There were 10 records missing federal district. See appendix table 10 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal yearend 2023.

Nearly 1 in 6 federally sentenced persons in the FBOP were non-U.S. citizens at fiscal yearend 2023

Of the 137,477 federally sentenced persons in FBOP custody at fiscal yearend 2023, 9% were citizens of Mexico, 2% were citizens of South American countries, 2% were citizens of Caribbean Islands, and 2% were citizens of Central American countries (table 10). From fiscal yearend 2013 to 2023, the portion of federal prisoners who were non-U.S. citizens decreased from 26% to 15%. During that period, the number of Mexican citizens in prison decreased by an average of 11% annually. The number of Canadian citizens 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 yearend 2013 and 2023

Demographic characteristic	2013 Number	2013 Percent	2023 Number	2023 Percent	Average annual percent change, 2013–2023[a]
Total	195,744	100%	137,477	100%	-3.5%
Sex					
Male	182,769	93.4%	128,461	93.4%	-3.5%
Female	12,975	6.6	9,016	6.6	-3.6
Race/ethnicity					
White[b]	52,605	26.9%	41,955	30.5%	-2.2%
Black[b]	67,527	34.5	49,114	35.7	-3.1
Hispanic	69,303	35.4	41,005	29.8	-5.1
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander[b]	2,722	1.4	1,820	1.3	-3.9
American Indian/Alaska Native[b]	3,587	1.8	3,583	2.6	0
Age					
19 or younger	327	0.2%	120	0.1%	-9.5%
20–24	9,569	4.9	4,745	3.5	-6.8
25–29	24,212	12.4	13,626	9.9	-5.6
30–34	36,847	18.8	22,718	16.5	-4.7
35–39	36,428	18.6	24,494	17.8	-3.9
40–44	30,777	15.7	24,463	17.8	-2.3
45–49	22,009	11.2	17,860	13.0	-2.1
50–54	15,677	8.0	12,480	9.1	-2.3
55–59	9,672	4.9	7,810	5.7	-2.1
60–64	5,491	2.8	4,791	3.5	-1.4
65 or older	4,735	2.4	4,370	3.2	-0.8
Median age	39 yrs.	~	41 yrs.	~	~
Citizenship					
U.S. citizen	144,991	74.1%	116,798	85.0%	-2.1%
Non-U.S. citizen	50,699	25.9	20,674	15.0	-8.6
Country/region of citizenship					
North America	190,991	97.6%	133,736	97.3%	-3.5%
United States	144,991	74.1	116,798	85.0	-2.1
Mexico	36,837	18.8	12,125	8.8	-10.5
Canada	346	0.2	148	0.1	-8.1
Caribbean Islands[c]	4,619	2.4	2,352	1.7	-6.5
Central America[c]	4,198	2.2	2,313	1.7	-5.8
South America[c]	2,417	1.2	2,346	1.7	-0.3
Asia and Oceania[c]	1,182	0.6	629	0.5	-6.1
Europe[c]	553	0.3	356	0.3	-4.3
Africa[c]	547	0.3	405	0.3	-3.0

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 (FBOP) on September 30, 2013 and 2023. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 54 records missing citizenship in 2013 and 5 missing citizenship in 2023.
~Not applicable.
[a]Calculated using fiscal yearend counts in 2013 and in 2023. See *Methodology*.
[b]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.
[c]Countries aggregated by region.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal yearend 2013 and 2023.

The number of prisoners in prison age 65 or older decreased less than 1% from fiscal yearend 2013 to 2023

The median age of prisoners was 41 years at fiscal yearend 2023, compared to 39 years at fiscal yearend 2013. The number of prisoners age 65 or older decreased by less than 1%, from 4,735 prisoners in FY 2013 to 4,370 prisoners in FY 2023. Persons age 65 or older made up about 3% of all federal prisoners in FY 2023, compared to 2% in FY 2013.

The type of commitment offense varied by race or ethnicity at fiscal yearend 2023

Hispanic, black, and white persons in federal prison at fiscal yearend 2023 were most commonly committed for drug offenses (table 11). More Hispanics were serving time for a drug (23,670) or immigration (6,581) offense than members of any other racial or ethnic group. More black persons were serving time for a weapons (18,525) or violent (2,722) offense than persons of any other race or ethnicity. The largest number of persons serving time for a public order offense (14,263) were white. Among persons who were American Indian or Alaska Native, the most common commitment offenses were violent (2,016), drug (570), and weapons (518) 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 yearend 2023

Most serious commitment offense	White*	Black*	Hispanic	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander*	American Indian/ Alaska Native*
Violent	2,563	2,722	1,267	106	2,016
Property	1,808	1,751	698	180	104
Drug	16,643	19,902	23,670	819	570
Public order	14,263	5,877	4,219	475	339
Weapons	6,274	18,525	4,517	224	518
Immigration	285	242	6,581	8	22

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 (FBOP) on September 30, 2023. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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. There were 289 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). Defendants 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 yearend 2023.

Time served in federal prison

During FY 2023, a total of 42,859 persons were released from federal prison for the first time after serving a sentence imposed in U.S. district court (not shown in table). Of these, 25,437 persons were released by standard means (table 12). Standard means of release 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 2023 served a median of 32 months. Persons released after serving sentences for nonregulatory public order offenses (median time served 67 months) served the most time, more than those released after serving sentences for violent offenses (64 months) or drug offenses (55 months). The higher levels of time served for nonregulatory public order releases result from that offense category including persons who were serving sentences for receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials, or child pornography offenses.

Among persons released from federal prison, males (median 32 months) served more time than females (median 20 months). Time served ranged from 10 months for persons age 19 or younger to 66 months for persons age 65 years or older. U.S. citizens (median 50 months) served more time than non-U.S. citizens (15 months). Both black and white persons exiting federal prison in FY 2023 had served more time (a median of 51 months) for their commitment offense than persons of any other racial or ethnic group (a median of 18 to 38 months). This was true in general and for most offense types. Black persons served the most time for violent (median 88 months), nonregulatory public order (median 76 months), and drug (median 62 months) offenses. American Indian or Alaska Native persons served the most time for drug (median 41 months) and violent offenses (39 months) than for any other type of offense. The greatest difference in time served between white and black persons was for violent offenses (white persons served a median of 21 fewer months).

TABLE 12
Time served by persons released by standard means from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by commitment offense and demographic characteristics, FY 2023

Demographic characteristic	Number of persons released	Median time served								
				Property			Public order			
		All offenses	Violent	Fraudulent	Other[a]	Drug	Regulatory	Other[b]	Weapons	Immigration
Total	25,437	31.5 mos.	63.5 mos.	21.3 mos.	20.9 mos.	55.1 mos.	20.4 mos.	66.5 mos.	44.5 mos.	11.1 mos.
Sex										
Male	23,954	31.9 mos.	66.5 mos.	23 mos.	24.1 mos.	59.4 mos.	20.6 mos.	68.2 mos.	44.7 mos.	11.1 mos.
Female	1,456	19.7	28.9	14.9	10.0	28.1	10.6	18.1	34.9	10.0
Race/ethnicity										
White[c]	4,852	51.1 mos.	67.4 mos.	22.0 mos.	24.7 mos.	58.0 mos.	16.2 mos.	66.5 mos.	44.0 mos.	10.3 mos.
Black[c]	7,055	51.2	87.8	23.7	20.9	62.2	25.6	76.3	46.0	12.8
Hispanic	12,609	17.8	71.6	20.4	20.5	51.9	17.9	62.2	42.6	11.0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander[c]	240	38.3	^	15.4	^	51.1	^	51.1	42.0	^
American Indian/ Alaska Native[c]	654	34.9	39.1	^	21.5	40.9	^	28.1	34.5	10.2
Age at release										
19 or younger	78	10.1 mos.	^	^	^	11.9 mos.	^	^	^	5.9 mos.
20–24	1,491	17.9	25.6 mos.	18.3 mos.	17.3 mos.	23.1	12.8 mos.	23.9 mos.	25.6 mos.	10.0
25–29	3,371	25.6	40.6	21.4	20.9	41.8	16.6	51.6	33.2	10.2
30–34	4,809	32.0	62.2	21.8	27.7	52.0	20.5	66.5	41.9	10.3
35–39	4,815	31.6	61.4	23.5	28.5	58.5	24.1	69.8	48.6	10.3
40–44	4,152	36.2	72.9	23.0	28.6	66.5	21.3	70.0	55.4	11.9
45–49	2,827	35.9	90.7	34.1	20.5	71.6	20.4	75.2	71.6	11.9
50–54	1,760	40.9	97.1	21.0	30.7	69.2	15.3	74.2	72.3	12.8
55–59	1,016	48.7	90.0	20.4	12.8	79.2	20.5	83.3	103.6	12.7
60–64	630	54.2	129.4	10.6	^	74.1	15.3	92.5	78.4	13.6
65 or older	461	66.5	127.8	21.9	^	73.6	15.3	81.8	148.6	12.8
Citizenship										
U.S. citizen	15,546	49.5 mos.	63.6 mos.	21.3 mos.	22.2 mos.	56.3 mos.	17.8 mos.	67.8 mos.	44.4 mos.	12.7 mos.
Non-U.S. citizen	9,749	15.3	66.7	25.2	21.1	52.5	21.3	53.0	49.5	10.5

Note: Includes persons committed by U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2023 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) 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 FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 FBOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited. There were 27 records missing the person's sex, 27 missing the person's race or ethnicity, 27 missing the person's age at release, and 142 missing the person's citizenship status.

^Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.

[a]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

[b]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.
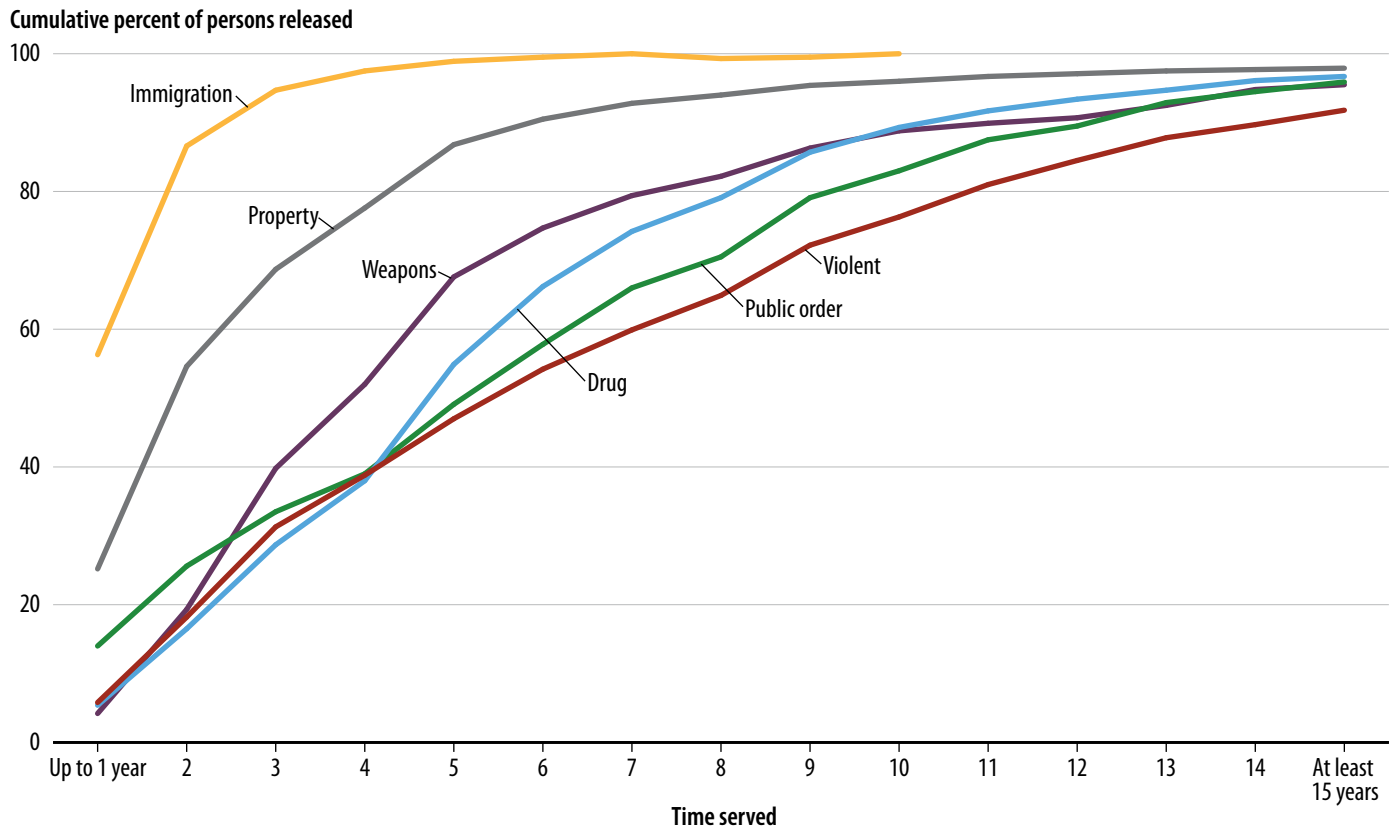
[c]Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Persons self-reported race and ethnicity during the presentence interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2023.

About 56% of prisoners first released in FY 2023 who had been committed for an immigration offense were first released after serving up to 1 year in prison (figure 10). Similarly, 25% of those who had been committed for a property offense were first released after serving up to 1 year in prison. Comparatively, a smaller percentage of persons who were released after serving up to 1 year had been committed for violent offenses (6%) and drug offenses (5%). Seventy-six percent of persons serving time for a violent offense and first released in FY 2023 had served up to 10 years in prison.

Cumulative percent of federally sentenced persons released by standard means from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and time served, FY 2023

Note: Includes persons committed by a U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2023 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) 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 FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 FBOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited. See appendix table 11 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2023.
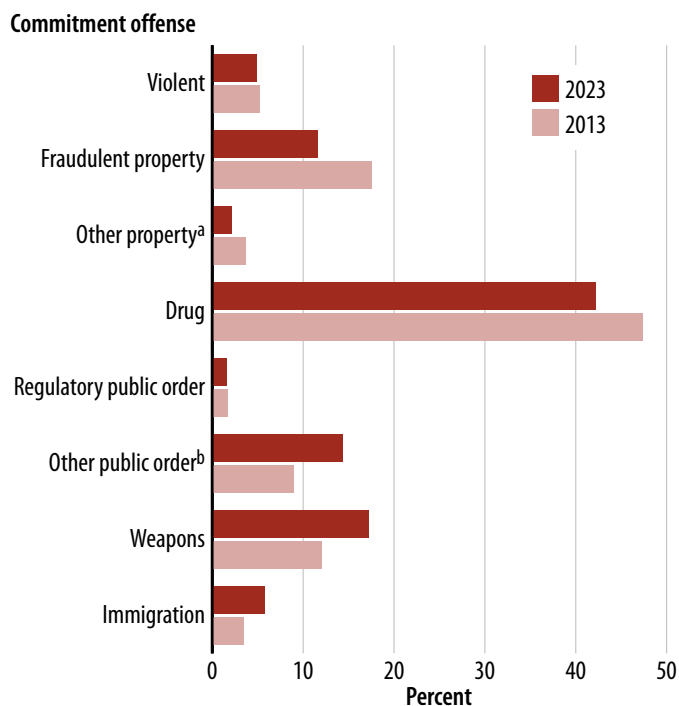
Federal supervision in the community

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' 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.

90% of persons under federal supervision in the community at fiscal yearend 2023 were on supervised release

At fiscal yearend 2023, a total of 120,904 persons were under post-conviction federal supervision in the community (table 13). Ninety percent (109,021) of persons under federal community supervision were on supervised release. The remaining 10% (11,883) were on probation. Eighty-four percent (101,571) of all persons under community supervision in 2023 were male, and 16% (19,107) were female. Black (40,006) and white (39,362) persons together made up 67% of persons under federal supervision in the community. The median age of released persons on probation was 41 years. The median age of released persons under supervised release was 43 years. Four 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 129,947 in FY 2013 to 120,904 in FY 2023 (not shown in tables). Persons admitted to supervision for drug offenses made up a slightly smaller proportion of persons under federal supervision, decreasing from 47% at fiscal yearend 2013 to 42% at fiscal yearend 2023 (figure 11). During that period, persons under supervision for fraudulent property offenses decreased from 18% to 12% of persons under supervision, while persons committed for other public order offenses increased from 9% to 14%, mostly due to an increase in sex offenses including receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials, or child pornography. Persons committed for weapons offenses increased from 12% to 17% of persons under supervision.

FIGURE 11
Persons under federal supervision in the community, by commitment offense, fiscal yearend 2013 and 2023

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 209 records missing commitment offense in 2013 and 224 missing commitment offense in 2023. See appendix table 12 for percentages.
[a]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.
[b]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.
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 yearend 2013 and 2023.

TABLE 13
Persons under post-conviction federal supervision in the community, by demographic characteristics, fiscal yearend 2023

Demographic characteristic	All persons[a] Number	All persons[a] Percent	Probation Number	Probation Percent	Supervised release[b] Number	Supervised release[b] Percent
Total	120,904	100%	11,883	9.8%	109,021	90.2%
Sex						
Male	101,571	84.2%	7,512	64.4%	94,059	86.3%
Female	19,107	15.8	4,148	35.6	14,959	13.7
Race/ethnicity						
White[c]	39,362	33.4%	4,622	41.3%	34,740	32.6%
Black[c]	40,006	34.0	3,015	26.9	36,991	34.7
Hispanic	33,047	28.1	2,881	25.7	30,166	28.3
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander[c]	2,495	2.1	409	3.7	2,086	2.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native[c]	2,816	2.4	271	2.4	2,545	2.4
Age						
19 or younger	186	0.2%	108	0.9%	78	0.1%
20–24	4,348	3.6	1,058	9.1	3,290	3.0
25–29	10,476	8.7	1,370	11.8	9,106	8.4
30–34	16,645	13.8	1,617	13.9	15,028	13.8
35–39	18,274	15.1	1,472	12.6	16,802	15.4
40–44	19,101	15.8	1,414	12.1	17,687	16.2
45–49	15,963	13.2	1,126	9.7	14,837	13.6
50–54	12,711	10.5	1,053	9.0	11,658	10.7
55–59	8,893	7.4	822	7.1	8,071	7.4
60–64	6,721	5.6	686	5.9	6,035	5.5
65 or older	7,361	6.1	934	8.0	6,427	5.9
Median age	~	43 yrs.	~	41 yrs.	~	43 yrs.
Citizenship						
U.S. citizen	116,270	96.4%	11,040	94.6%	105,230	96.6%
Non-U.S. citizen	4,368	3.6	634	5.4	3,734	3.4
Country/region of citizenship						
North America	119,370	98.9%	11,428	97.9%	107,942	99.1%
United States	116,270	96.4	11,040	94.6	105,230	96.6
Mexico	1,356	1.1	183	1.6	1,173	1.1
Canada	39	<0.1	8	0.1	31	0.0
Caribbean Islands[d]	1,247	1.0	112	1.0	1,135	1.0
Central America[d]	458	0.4	85	0.7	373	0.3
South America[d]	249	0.2	45	0.4	204	0.2
Asia and Oceania[d]	603	0.5	117	1.0	486	0.5
Europe[d]	175	0.2	34	0.3	141	0.1
Africa[d]	241	0.2	50	0.4	191	0.2

Note: The unit of count is a person serving a term under federal supervision in the community on September 30, 2023. Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. There were 225 records missing the defendant's age, 226 missing the defendant's sex, 3,178 missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, and 266 missing the defendant's citizenship status.

~Not applicable.

[a]Includes persons for whom characteristics were unknown.

[b]Includes persons on parole supervision.

[c]Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

[d]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 yearend 2023.

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 during the indicated 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 yearend. For example, if a person is convicted in two concurrent cases and committed once to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) during the indicated 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 FBOP, 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: CAPTURE 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 2020–2023 file is based on the custody start date being between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2023 (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 2020–2023 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. Not all bookings had an offense type associated with them, resulting in offense types missing at higher rates for 2020 to 2023 than in the prior years.

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, the defendant is acquitted 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.[7]

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.

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[7]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.

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 a fiscal year and persons in federal prison at fiscal yearend (September 30). The prisoner count reported by the FJSP differs from what is reported by the FBOP, although data are from the same source (SENTRY). For example, the FBOP reported 158,424 prisoners as of September 30, 2023. (See https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population_statistics.jsp.) The FJSP starts with data extracted from SENTRY that differs slightly from this total (158,050). The difference (374 records) may be due to the timing of when the data request was made.

The data reported by the FBOP draws on a more current extract of the database that includes updated records. Of the 158,050 records, 16,531 records were removed from analysis because the prisoner was not listed at an FBOP 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, 1,153 records were excluded due to missing commitment offense, and 2,497 were excluded because the prisoner was sentenced by the District of Columbia Superior Court. Finally, 392 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.

Of the 158,050 prisoners reported by the FBOP in custody on September 30, 2023, a total of 137,477 (87% of the FBOP population) met the criteria as federally sentenced prisoners **(figure 12)**. 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 of persons in FBOP custody per year between 2013 and 2023. The following formula is used:

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

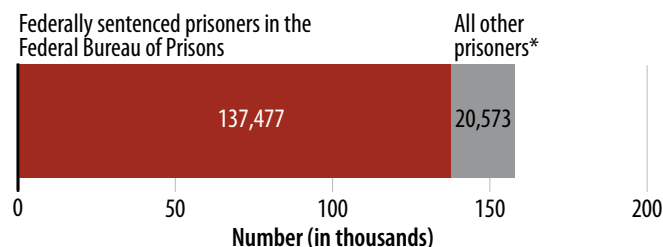The total average annual percent change in the FBOP custody population (2013–2023) is computed as follows:

$$\left[\left(\frac{137,477}{195,744}\right)^{\frac{1}{2023-2013}} - 1\right] \times 100 = [(0.70233^{0.10}) - 1] \times 100 =$$
$$(0.965282 - 1) \times 100 \approx \text{-}3.5\%$$

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.[8] 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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[8]BJS's Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) query tool is available at https://www.bjs.gov/fjsrc/.

FIGURE 12
Universe of prisoners held under the Federal Bureau of Prisons' jurisdiction, fiscal yearend 2023

Note: 158,050 persons were under the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (FBOP) jurisdiction at fiscal yearend 2023. Excludes records missing commitment offense; persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 yearend 2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 1
Counts for figure 1: Suspects and defendants processed in the federal criminal justice system, FY 2000–2023

Fiscal year	Suspects investigated[a]	Suspects arrested[b]	Defendants charged[c]	Defendants convicted[d]	Defendants sentenced to prison[d]
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	135,993	120,112	73,256	65,848	44,429
2021	105,121	78,068	73,835	58,271	43,157
2022	102,329	96,857	67,807	65,470	49,897
2023	100,445	94,411	65,478	65,482	49,535
Average annual percent change, 2013–2023[e]	-6.2%	-6.7%	-3.1%	-2.3%	-2.6%
Percent change, 2022–2023	-1.8	-2.5	-3.4	0.0	-0.7

[a]Suspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

[b]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 to 2023 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 to 2023 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*.

[c]Defendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

[d]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.

[e]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 2013 to 2023. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, 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 2000–2023.

Counts for figure 2: Number of federal arrests and bookings by immigration and all other offenses, FY 2013–2023

Fiscal year	Immigration		All other offenses		Missing arrest offense		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2013	96,374	51.2%	91,226	48.5%	564	0.3%	188,164	100%
2014	81,881	49.5%	82,931	50.2%	453	0.3%	165,265	100%
2015	71,189	46.4%	82,152	53.5%	137	0.1%	153,478	100%
2016	68,362	45.1%	83,096	54.9%	2	0.0%	151,460	100%
2017	58,099	40.9%	83,908	59.1%	1	0.0%	142,008	100%
2018	108,776	55.6%	86,995	44.4%	0	0.0%	195,771	100%
2019	117,714	57.0%	88,916	43.0%	0	0.0%	206,630	100%
2020	51,747	43.1%	63,832	53.1%	4,533	3.8%	120,112	100%
2021	14,449	18.5%	59,180	75.8%	4,439	5.7%	78,068	100%
2022	21,836	22.5%	68,883	71.1%	6,138	6.3%	96,857	100%
2023	22,916	24.3%	65,886	69.8%	5,609	5.9%	94,411	100%

Note: Each arrest is counted separately, so individuals with more than one arrest are counted more than once. For 2020 to 2023 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in years prior to FY 2020) because not all bookings 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. Not all bookings had an offense type associated with them, resulting in offense type missing at rates higher for 2020 to 2023 than in the prior years. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking, Justice Detainee, and CAPTURE information systems; fiscal years 2013–2023.

Counts for figure 3: Immigration offenses as a percent of total federal criminal case load, by stage, FY 2013, FY 2018, and FY 2023

	FY 2013					FY 2018					FY 2023				
	Total		Immigration		Missing offense	Total		Immigration		Missing offense	Total		Immigration		Missing offense
Stage	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Arrested and booked	188,164	100%	96,374	51.4%	564	195,771	100%	108,667	55.5%	0	94,411	100%	22,916	25.8%	5,609
Charged in U.S. district court	85,832	100%	25,271	29.5%	27	83,103	100%	28,448	34.2%	20	62,566	100%	19,213	30.7%	19
Convicted in U.S. district court	82,838	100%	23,921	28.9%	0	72,588	100%	24,659	34.0%	0	65,482	100%	19,139	29.2%	0
Sentenced in U.S. district court	64,390	100%	18,409	28.6%	0	54,112	100%	15,816	29.2%	0	49,535	100%	12,034	24.3%	0
Admitted to federal prison	76,144	100%	22,864	30.0%	0	59,285	100%	13,202	22.4%	264	51,166	100%	8,621	16.9%	121
Admitted to federal supervision	58,392	100%	2,937	5.0%	98	52,221	100%	2,885	5.5%	111	54,321	100%	5,043	9.3%	117

Note: Stages represent the percentage of total persons at each stage in the federal criminal case load with immigration as the most serious offense. Percentages are based on records with nonmissing offense data.

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; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File; Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY data base; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal years 2013, 2018, and 2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 4
Counts for figure 4: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and other opioids, FY 2013–2023; and figure 5: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving marijuana, methamphetamine, and other nonopioids, FY 2013–2023

Fiscal year	Total	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	Heroin[a]	Other opioids[b]	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Other nonopioids[c]
2013	30,532	6,346	2,113	4,181	2,227	5,862	6,858	2,945
2014	29,549	5,582	1,782	4,852	2,048	5,082	7,005	3,197
2015	31,593	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
2021	28,224	5,049	1,118	2,661	3,744	2,615	9,412	3,625
2022	26,233	5,065	1,048	1,523	5,375	2,136	8,083	3,003
2023	25,110	4,597	975	922	6,688	1,769	7,381	2,778
Average annual percent change, 2013–2023[d]	-1.9%	-3.2%	-7.4%	-14.0%	11.6%	-11.3%	0.7%	-0.6%
Percent change, 2022–2023	-4.3	-9.2	-7.0	-39.5	24.4	-17.2	-8.7	-7.5

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. There was one record missing drug type in 2014 and 55 records missing drug type in 2015.

[a]Includes heroin, morphine, and opium base.

[b]Includes fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, opioid treatment pharmaceuticals, hydromorphone, palladone, and oxymorphone.

[c]Includes nonopioid pharmaceutical controlled substances, other depressants, sedatives, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, hallucinogens, synthetic cannabinoids, other steroids, equipment to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia.

[d]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 2013 to 2023. 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 2013–2023.

Counts for map 1: Federal arrests, by judicial district, FY 2023

Federal judicial district	Number	Federal judicial district	Number
Total	94,411	Montana	731
Alabama Middle	266	Nebraska	633
Alabama Northern	696	Nevada	839
Alabama Southern	473	New Hampshire	187
Alaska	243	New Jersey	777
Arizona	11,639	New Mexico	2,856
Arkansas Eastern	754	New York Eastern	675
Arkansas Western	246	New York Northern	804
California Central	1,408	New York Southern	1,113
California Eastern	685	New York Western	525
California Northern	578	North Carolina Eastern	1,504
California Southern	5,143	North Carolina Middle	560
Colorado	603	North Carolina Western	659
Connecticut	352	North Dakota	506
Delaware	137	Northern Mariana Islands	32
District of Columbia	378	Ohio Northern	1,198
Florida Middle	1,640	Ohio Southern	730
Florida Northern	424	Oklahoma Eastern	287
Florida Southern	2,057	Oklahoma Northern	666
Georgia Middle	464	Oklahoma Western	747
Georgia Northern	760	Oregon	676
Georgia Southern	552	Pennsylvania Eastern	684
Guam	72	Pennsylvania Middle	531
Hawaii	177	Pennsylvania Western	552
Idaho	484	Puerto Rico	1,151
Illinois Central	365	Rhode Island	133
Illinois Northern	869	South Carolina	953
Illinois Southern	335	South Dakota	884
Indiana Northern	341	Tennessee Eastern	915
Indiana Southern	437	Tennessee Middle	427
Iowa Northern	544	Tennessee Western	518
Iowa Southern	627	Texas Eastern	1,081
Kansas	640	Texas Northern	1,964
Kentucky Eastern	616	Texas Southern	9,520
Kentucky Western	487	Texas Western	9,291
Louisiana Eastern	337	U.S. Virgin Islands	110
Louisiana Middle	150	Utah	1,121
Louisiana Western	396	Vermont	297
Maine	243	Virginia Eastern	1,218
Maryland	780	Virginia Western	384
Massachusetts	595	Washington Eastern	514
Michigan Eastern	924	Washington Western	534
Michigan Western	424	West Virginia Northern	544
Minnesota	662	West Virginia Southern	295
Mississippi Northern	269	Wisconsin Eastern	452
Mississippi Southern	489	Wisconsin Western	166
Missouri Eastern	1,319	Wyoming	354
Missouri Western	1,033		

Note: A total of 94,411 suspects were arrested for a federal offense from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. 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.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system, fiscal year 2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 6
Counts for figure 6: Number of defendants in criminal cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, FY 2013–2023

Fiscal year	Total	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order	Weapons	Immigration
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
2021	65,880	3,382	6,981	20,610	7,358	8,423	19,126
2022	60,490	2,939	6,352	17,442	7,268	7,521	18,968
2023	57,697	2,873	5,671	15,689	7,278	6,770	19,416
Percent change, 2022–2023	-4.6%	-2.2%	-10.7%	-10.1%	0.1%	-10.0%	2.4%

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 2013–2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 7
Percentages for figure 7: Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and most serious offense, FY 2023

Most serious offense	Male	Female
Violent	90.1%	9.9%
Property	70.3	29.7
Drug	82.3	17.7
Public order	90.3	9.7
Weapons	95.5	4.5
Immigration	92.4	7.6

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 143 records missing the defendant's sex and 141 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 2023.

Counts for figure 8: Number of defendants in federal criminal cases, by type of representation at adjudication, FY 2000–2023

Fiscal year	Panel-appointed attorney[a]	Private counsel	Public defender[b]	Waive/ self-represented	Missing counsel type	Total
2000	24,603	22,616	23,725	4,307	1,701	76,952
2001	24,403	22,782	24,245	4,216	1,499	77,145
2002	25,775	22,931	25,910	4,171	1,637	80,424
2003	27,828	22,198	28,511	4,437	2,132	85,106
2004	28,464	20,343	29,142	3,742	1,700	83,391
2005	30,319	20,935	30,162	3,548	1,716	86,680
2006	31,432	20,830	30,693	3,312	1,827	88,094
2007	30,962	20,301	30,935	4,233	2,078	88,509
2008	32,152	19,811	34,058	3,641	2,066	91,728
2009	33,470	19,126	37,575	3,502	2,218	95,891
2010	36,702	17,698	38,180	3,978	1,931	98,489
2011	39,576	17,628	38,125	3,863	2,308	101,500
2012	38,560	17,267	35,710	2,795	1,928	96,260
2013	34,656	16,343	35,258	2,177	1,699	90,133
2014	33,232	16,066	32,290	2,601	1,592	85,781
2015	30,694	14,637	30,104	3,089	1,642	80,166
2016	29,030	13,404	30,029	2,502	1,674	76,639
2017	27,277	12,663	31,210	2,026	1,341	74,517
2018	28,652	12,247	34,600	2,034	1,463	78,996
2019	32,157	12,169	37,463	1,571	1,422	84,782
2020	28,137	9,328	31,301	1,129	1,231	71,126
2021	25,122	10,772	25,359	758	1,369	63,380
2022	27,560	13,400	28,088	907	1,587	71,542
2023	28,425	13,004	27,146	1,373	1,918	71,866
Average annual percent change, 2000–2023[c]	0.6%	-2.4%	0.6%	-4.8%	0.5%	0.3%
Percent change, 2022–2023	3.1	-3.0	-3.4	51.4	20.9	0.5

[a]Panel-appointed attorneys consist of panels of private attorneys who accept appointments to represent eligible defendants for reimbursement from the government.

[b]Includes 510 records where pro-bono counsel was indicated. Pro-bono counsel consists of private attorneys acting as co-counsel with public defenders who are responsible for the case.

[c]Average annual percent measures the change over a period of 2 years or more. It shows the average rate of increase (or decrease) in federal criminal cases adjudicated per year from 2000 to 2023.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2000–2023.

Percentages for figure 9: Percent of federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, fiscal yearend 2013 and 2023

Most serious commitment offense	2013	2023
Violent	5.6%	6.3%
Fraudulent property	5.1	2.5
Other property[a]	0.9	0.8
Drug	50.7	44.9
Regulatory public order	1.4	1.8
Other public order[b]	8.9	16.6
Weapons	15.5	21.9
Immigration	11.8	5.2

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 (FBOP) on September 30, 2013 and 2023. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 data. There were 1,371 records missing offense type in 2013 and 289 missing offense type in 2023.

[a]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

[b]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal yearend 2013 and 2023.

Counts for map 2: Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by judicial district of commitment, fiscal yearend 2023

Federal judicial district	Number	Federal judicial district	Number
Total	137,477	Montana	1,052
Alabama Middle	458	Nebraska	1,397
Alabama Northern	1,222	Nevada	819
Alabama Southern	878	New Hampshire	373
Alaska	390	New Jersey	1,356
Arizona	2,645	New Mexico	1,844
Arkansas Eastern	1,244	New York Eastern	1,166
Arkansas Western	802	New York Northern	788
California Central	2,208	New York Southern	2,654
California Eastern	1,155	New York Western	1,058
California Northern	840	North Carolina Eastern	2,844
California Southern	3,226	North Carolina Middle	1,660
Colorado	930	North Carolina Western	1,828
Connecticut	654	North Dakota	946
Delaware	190	Northern Mariana Islands	19
District of Columbia	737	Ohio Northern	2,506
Florida Middle	4,562	Ohio Southern	1,236
Florida Northern	910	Oklahoma Eastern	431
Florida Southern	4,176	Oklahoma Northern	753
Georgia Middle	987	Oklahoma Western	1,078
Georgia Northern	1,601	Oregon	724
Georgia Southern	1,223	Pennsylvania Eastern	1,646
Guam	53	Pennsylvania Middle	1,031
Hawaii	423	Pennsylvania Western	1,068
Idaho	761	Puerto Rico	2,635
Illinois Central	1,148	Rhode Island	174
Illinois Northern	1,581	South Carolina	2,267
Illinois Southern	1,146	South Dakota	1,217
Indiana Northern	951	Tennessee Eastern	2,694
Indiana Southern	1,865	Tennessee Middle	793
Iowa Northern	1,592	Tennessee Western	1,593
Iowa Southern	2,062	Texas Eastern	2,685
Kansas	1,172	Texas Northern	5,735
Kentucky Eastern	1,839	Texas Southern	6,982
Kentucky Western	879	Texas Western	7,314
Louisiana Eastern	797	U.S. Virgin Islands	106
Louisiana Middle	315	Utah	1,263
Louisiana Western	912	Vermont	199
Maine	421	Virginia Eastern	2,848
Maryland	1,991	Virginia Western	975
Massachusetts	867	Washington Eastern	664
Michigan Eastern	1,903	Washington Western	639
Michigan Western	1,182	West Virginia Northern	684
Minnesota	1,391	West Virginia Southern	685
Mississippi Northern	362	Wisconsin Eastern	764
Mississippi Southern	977	Wisconsin Western	494
Missouri Eastern	2,669	Wyoming	540
Missouri Western	2,943		

Note: The Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) had custody of 137,477 federally sentenced persons on September 30, 2023. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the FBOP. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 FBOP custody by the federal judicial district in which they received their sentence to the FBOP. Not shown: District of Columbia (737), Guam (53), Northern Mariana Islands (19), Puerto Rico (2,635), and U.S. Virgin Islands (106). There were 10 records missing federal district.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal yearend 2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 11
Cumulative percent of federally sentenced persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and time served, FY 2023

Time served	Cumulative percent					
	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order	Weapons	Immigration
Up to 1 year	5.8%	25.2%	5.4%	14.0%	4.2%	56.3%
2	18.2	54.6	16.5	25.6	19.3	86.6
3	31.3	68.7	28.7	33.5	39.8	94.7
4	38.8	77.6	38.0	39.0	52.0	97.5
5	47.0	86.8	54.9	49.1	67.6	98.9
6	54.2	90.5	66.2	57.8	74.7	99.5
7	59.9	92.8	74.2	66.0	79.4	100
8	64.9	94.0	79.1	70.5	82.2	100
9	72.2	95.4	85.7	79.1	86.3	100
10	76.3	96.0	89.3	83.0	88.8	100
11	81.0	96.7	91.7	87.5	89.9	100
12	84.5	97.1	93.4	89.5	90.7	100
13	87.8	97.5	94.7	92.9	92.5	100
14	89.7	97.7	96.1	94.5	94.8	100
At least 15 years	91.8	97.9	96.7	95.9	95.5	100
Number of persons released	1,234	1,149	6,014	3,088	5,976	7,909

Note: Includes persons committed by a U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2023 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) 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 FBOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to FBOP 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 FBOP 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 2023.

APPENDIX TABLE 12
Percentages for figure 11: Persons under federal supervision in the community, by commitment offense, fiscal yearend 2013 and 2023

Commitment offense	2013	2023
Violent	5.2%	4.9%
Fraudulent property	17.5	11.6
Other property[a]	3.7	2.2
Drug	47.4	42.2
Regulatory public order	1.7	1.6
Other public order[b]	9.0	14.4
Weapons	12.0	17.2
Immigration	3.5	5.8

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 209 records missing commitment offense in 2013 and 224 missing commitment offense in 2023.

[a]Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

[b]Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, receipt and distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (child pornography), traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

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 yearend 2013 and 2023.

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