



Time Served in State Prison, 2018 – Supplemental Tables

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TABLE 1
Time served in state prison before initial release, by most serious offense, 2018

Most serious offense	Percent of total releases	Time served in prison ^a	
		Median ^b	Mean
All offenses	100%	1.3 yrs.	2.7 yrs.
Violent	29.8%	2.4 yrs.	4.8 yrs.
Murder	1.7	17.5	17.8
Non-negligent manslaughter ^c	0.4	7.0	8.2
Negligent manslaughter	0.8	3.7	5.3
Rape	1.5	7.2	9.6
Other sexual assault	3.4	3.6	5.0
Robbery	7.4	3.2	4.8
Assault	11.6	1.4	2.5
Kidnapping	0.8	3.4	6.5
Extortion ^d	0.8	1.0	1.6
Other violent ^e	1.4	1.4	2.4
Property	25.7%	13 mos.	21 mos.
Burglary	10.6	17	27
Larceny-theft	6.8	11	17
Motor-vehicle theft	1.5	11	15
Fraud ^f	3.8	11	17
Arson	0.4	20	33
Other property ^g	2.6	11	17
Drug	24.6%	12 mos.	21 mos.
Possession	8.6	9	13
Trafficking	9.4	17	26
Other drug ^h	6.6	14	23
Public order	19.2%	13 mos.	21 mos.
Weapons	5.9	15	23
Other public order ⁱ	13.3	12	20
Other/unspecified	0.7%	16 mos.	31 mos.
Number of releases	376,993	~	~

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Initial release does not refer to first-time offenders but to offenders' first release from a given sentence (whether they are first-time offenders or not), as opposed to a re-release after a subsequent parole violation. Statistics are based on 44 states, and data exclude state prisoners with sentences of one year or less; those with missing values for most serious offense or calculated time served; those released by transfer, appeal, or detainer; and those who escaped. Data include 3,266 deaths in 2018.

~Not applicable.

^aExcludes time served in jail.

^bThe statistical median represents the value at which 50% of the values are larger and 50% are smaller in a sequence of numbers.

^cIncludes unspecified and other homicides.

^dIncludes extortion, intimidation, and blackmail.

^eIncludes hit and run with injury and other unknown violent offenses.

^fIncludes forgery and embezzlement.

^gIncludes receiving and trafficking of stolen property, destruction of property, trespassing, and other unknown property offenses.

^hIncludes forging prescriptions, possession of drug paraphernalia, and other unspecified offenses.

ⁱIncludes DUIs/DWIs; court offenses; commercialized vice, morals, and decency offenses; liquor law violations; and other public-order offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Corrections Reporting Program, 2018.



TABLE 2**Cumulative percent of prisoners who served a given length of time before initial release, by most serious offense, 2018**

Most serious offense	<6 months ^a	<1 year ^b	<2 years	<3 years	<5 years	<10 years	<20 years	20 years or longer
All offenses	19.9%	41.9%	66.1%	77.1%	87.7%	95.8%	99.0%	1.0%
Violent	11.1%	24.7%	44.8%	56.7%	71.2%	86.8%	95.8%	4.2%
Murder	2.0	3.1	5.7	8.9	14.7	29.5	58.0	42.0
Non-negligent manslaughter ^c	2.2	4.1	9.4	14.7	28.3	62.3	97.7	2.3
Negligent manslaughter	6.0	15.6	30.9	43.3	60.9	85.2	98.9	1.1
Rape	4.3	8.6	17.3	23.9	38.2	63.9	87.1	12.9
Other sexual assault	6.5	14.7	31.0	43.5	64.2	87.0	98.8	1.2
Robbery	6.6	15.5	34.1	47.7	66.4	88.5	98.2	1.8
Assault	16.3	37.1	63.3	75.9	87.9	96.4	99.4	0.6
Kidnapping	9.6	19.7	37.0	46.6	60.5	79.7	92.6	7.4
Extortion ^d	22.6	49.0	74.4	86.2	95.0	99.0	100	<0.1
Other violent ^e	16.9	36.1	63.5	76.7	88.5	96.8	99.5	0.4
Property	21.8%	46.9%	73.5%	84.6%	93.7%	98.8%	99.8%	0.2%
Burglary	16.4	36.7	63.4	77.0	89.8	97.8	99.7	0.3
Larceny-theft	26.1	54.8	80.9	90.3	96.7	99.5	100	0
Motor-vehicle theft	21.4	54.0	84.3	94.0	98.5	99.8	99.9	0.1
Fraud ^f	26.2	54.5	81.0	90.3	96.7	99.5	100	0
Arson	15.3	32.2	56.5	70.4	85.7	95.9	99.4	0.6
Other property ^g	24.1	53.4	80.9	89.4	96.0	99.4	100	<0.1
Drug	23.6%	48.7%	74.5%	85.3%	94.0%	98.8%	99.9%	0.1%
Possession	33.7	65.2	87.9	94.2	98.2	99.7	100	0
Trafficking	16.4	36.7	64.4	78.8	91.2	98.3	99.9	0.1
Other drug ^h	20.6	44.4	71.4	83.1	92.5	98.3	99.9	0.1
Public order	21.2%	46.9%	74.5%	85.6%	94.3%	98.9%	99.9%	0.2%
Weapons	16.4	39.8	69.8	83.2	93.6	98.7	99.7	0.3
Other public order ⁱ	23.3	49.7	75.9	86.0	94.1	98.9	99.9	0.1
Other/unspecified	21.8%	42.1%	63.0%	73.2%	85.4%	95.6%	99.5%	0.5%

Note: Details may not sum to total due to rounding. Categories cumulative through <20 years (e.g., <1 year includes <6 months). First release does not refer to first-time offenders but to offenders' first release from a given sentence (whether they are first-time offenders or not), as opposed to a re-release after a subsequent parole violation. Statistics are based on 44 states, and data exclude state prisoners with sentences of one year or less; those with missing values for most serious offense or calculated time served; those released by transfer, appeal, or detainer; and those who escaped. Data include 3,266 deaths in 2018.

^aFor initial release with average time served of less than 6 months, deaths accounted for 6.0% of murder "releases," 1.4% of manslaughter "releases," 2.4% of rape "releases," and 2.1% of other sexual assault "releases" in 2018. Deaths made up less than 0.5% of all other offense categories.

^bFor initial release with average time served of less than one year, deaths accounted for 9.0% of murder "releases," 1.5% of manslaughter "releases," 3.3% of rape "releases," and 7.4% of other sexual assault "releases" in 2018. Deaths made up less than 0.4% of all other offense categories.

^cIncludes unspecified and other homicides.

^dIncludes extortion, intimidation, and blackmail.

^eIncludes hit and run with injury and other unknown violent offenses.

^fIncludes forgery and embezzlement.

^gIncludes receiving and trafficking of stolen property, destruction of property, trespassing, and other unknown property offenses.

^hIncludes forging prescriptions, possession of drug paraphernalia, and other unspecified offenses.

ⁱIncludes DUIs/DWIs; court offenses; commercialized vice, morals, and decency offenses; liquor law violations; and other public-order offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Corrections Reporting Program, 2018.

TABLE 3**Average sentence length and percent of sentence served before initial release, by most serious offense, 2018**

Most serious offense	Average sentence length ^a	Percent of sentence served ^b
All offenses	6.7 yrs.	44.4%
Violent	10.8 yrs.	52.5%
Murder	48.8	57.6
Non-negligent manslaughter ^c	14.3	63.2
Negligent manslaughter	10.2	54.3
Rape	18.2	67.8
Other sexual assault	10.4	58.1
Robbery	9.4	56.6
Assault	5.8	47.2
Kidnapping	13.3	56.9
Extortion ^d	4.3	40.7
Other violent ^e	6.6	40.4
Property	4.9 yrs.	40.7%
Burglary	6.0	42.1
Larceny-theft	3.8	41.3
Motor-vehicle theft	3.8	37.1
Fraud ^f	4.4	37.9
Arson	6.7	43.9
Other property ^g	4.2	39.2
Drug	5.2 yrs.	39.2%
Possession	3.7	34.9
Trafficking	7.0	38.2
Other drug ^h	4.6	46.0
Public order	4.4 yrs.	43.4%
Weapons	4.8	44.8
Other public order ⁱ	4.4	43.1
Other/unspecified	9.3 yrs.	37.4%
Number of releases	375,234	~

Note: First release does not refer to first-time offenders but to offenders' first release from a given sentence (whether they are first-time offenders or not), as opposed to a re-release after a subsequent parole violation. Statistics are based on 44 states, and data exclude state prisoners with sentences of one year or less; those with missing values for most serious offense or calculated time served; those released by transfer, appeal, or detainer; and those who escaped. Data include 3,266 deaths in 2018.

~Not applicable.

^aAverage sentence length reflects the total maximum sentence that prisoners received. Sentences of more than 100 years, including life sentences and death sentences, are set to a maximum sentence of 100 years.

^bAverage percentage of sentence served is the percentage of the maximum sentence served before the first release and excludes time served in jail. In cases of death, percentage of sentence served equals 100%. Including life sentences, death sentences, and deaths has little effect on offenses apart from murder. If they were excluded, then the average sentence for murder would be 20.2 years and the percentage of time served for murder would be 53.6%.

^cIncludes unspecified and other homicides.

^dIncludes extortion, intimidation, and blackmail.

^eIncludes hit and run with injury and other unknown violent offenses.

^fIncludes forgery and embezzlement.

^gIncludes receiving and trafficking of stolen property, destruction of property, trespassing, and other unknown property offenses.

^hIncludes forging prescriptions, possession of drug paraphernalia, and other unspecified offenses.

ⁱIncludes DUIs/DWIs; court offenses; commercialized vice, morals, and decency offenses; liquor law violations; and other public-order offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Corrections Reporting Program, 2018.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

These tables were prepared by Danielle Kaeble. Derek Mueller, PhD, and Richard Kluckow, DSW, verified the report.

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