



Federal Justice Statistics, 2013-2014

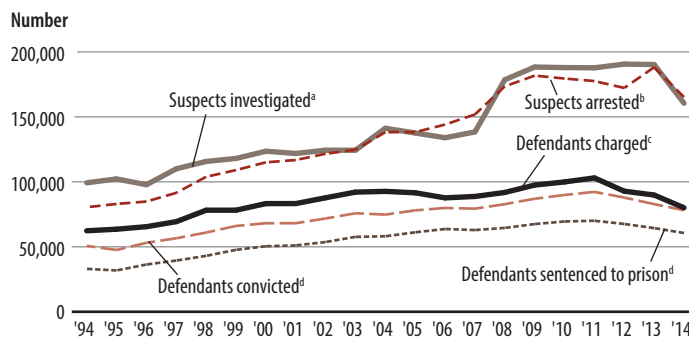
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Federal arrests decreased from 188,164 in fiscal year 2013 to 165,265 in fiscal year 2014. Arrests by federal law enforcement more than doubled between 1994 (80,450) and 2013, and then declined by 12% from 2013 to 2014 (**figure 1**).¹

At fiscal yearend 2014, about 400,000 offenders were under some form of federal correctional control. Nearly half (48%) were confined by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), 14% were confined in pretrial detention, 33% were on post-sentencing supervision in the community, and 6% were under pretrial supervision in the community (**table 1**).

¹In this report, annual data are for the fiscal year, which is from October 1 to September 30. A percentage change for multiple years is calculated using the average of the annual change between year

FIGURE 1
Suspects and defendants processed in the federal justice system, 1994–2014



^aSuspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

^bSuspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Suspects arrested more than once are counted separately.

^cDefendants charged with a felony or Class A misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

^dDefendants in cases terminated with a felony or Class A misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one terminated case are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information System; Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database; Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2014.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During 2014, federal law enforcement made 165,265 arrests, a 12% decrease from 188,164 arrests in 2013.
- In 2014, the five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border accounted for 61% of federal arrests, 55% of suspects investigated, and 39% of offenders sentenced to federal prison.
- There were 81,881 federal immigration arrests made in 2014—one-half of all federal arrests.
- Cocaine (25%) was the most common drug type involved in arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration in 2014.
- Ninety-one percent of felons in cases terminated in U.S. district court in 2014 were convicted as the result of a guilty plea, 6% were dismissed, and 3% received a jury or bench trial.
- In 2014, public defenders (38%) and Criminal Justice Act–appointed counsel (39%) handled most of federal defendants charged in U.S. district court.
- Most (59%) defendants in cases disposed in 2014 had a prior federal or state conviction. A third (33%) of those with a prior conviction were convicted of misdemeanor offenses only.
- In 2014, defendants charged with immigration (89%), weapons (87%), drug (85%), or violent (83%) offenses were more likely than other defendants to be detained prior to trial.
- In 2014, defendants convicted of a felony sex offense in U.S. district court were most likely (96%) to receive a prison sentence and had the longest median prison sentence (90 months).

- Nearly a third (32%) of defendants charged in U.S. district court in 2014 were from Mexico, 5% were from Central America, and 2% were from the Caribbean.
- More than half (55%) of defendants charged in U.S. district court in 2014 were of Hispanic origin. Fifty-seven percent of male and 40% of female defendants were of Hispanic origin.
- In 2014, non-U.S. citizens made up 42% of defendants charged in U.S. district court and 25% of federally sentenced prisoners in the Federal Bureau of Prisons on September 30.
- Of the 400,367 persons under some form of federal correctional control at fiscal yearend 2014, 61% were in confinement and 39% were under supervision in the community.
- Fifteen percent of federal prisoners released in 2012 were returned to federal prison within 3 years. Half of those returned within 3 years were returned for supervision violations.
- Seventeen percent of immigration offenders released in 2012 were returned to federal prison within 3 years of release.
- On September 30, 2014, a total of 130,409 offenders were under active federal post-conviction supervision.

TABLE 1
Offenders in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community, 2010, 2013, and 2014

	2010		2013		2014	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	401,290	100%	410,185	100%	400,367	100%
In secure confinement	248,220	61.9%	253,926	61.9%	245,802	61.4%
Pretrial detention	62,530	15.6	58,182	14.2	54,306	13.6
Federal Bureau of Prisons*	185,690	46.3	195,744	47.7	191,496	47.8
In the community	153,070	38.1%	156,259	38.1%	154,565	38.6%
Pretrial release supervision	26,516	6.6	26,314	6.4	24,156	6.0
Post-sentencing supervision	126,554	31.5	129,945	31.7	130,409	32.6
Supervised release	101,839	25.4	107,594	26.2	109,287	27.3
Probation	22,685	5.7	20,899	5.1	19,754	4.9
Parole	2,030	0.5	1,452	0.4	1,368	0.3

*Federally sentenced inmates in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Counts exclude persons in federal prison for D.C. Superior Court code offenses, military code offenses, and treaty transfer cases. Unsensenced federal offenders in the BOP are counted in pretrial detention counts.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Probation and Pretrial Services' Federal Probation and Supervision Information System; U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal yearend 2010, 2013, and 2014.

Definitions of major offense categories

Violent—Includes murder, nonnegligent or negligent manslaughter, aggravated or simple assault, robbery, kidnapping, and threats against the President. Excludes violent sex offenses.

Property—Includes fraudulent and other types of property offenses.

Fraudulent property—Includes embezzlement, fraud (including tax 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 offenses prohibiting the manufacture, import, export, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance (or counterfeit substance), or the possession of a controlled substance (or a counterfeit substance) with intent to manufacture, import, export, distribute, or dispense.

Sex—Includes aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse, abusive sexual contact, sexual exploitation of children, child pornography, illegal sex transportation offenses, prostitution, and obscene materials. (See *Methodology* for further details.)

Public order—Includes regulatory and other types of offenses.

Regulatory public order—Includes violation of regulatory laws and regulation in agriculture, antitrust, labor law, food and drug, motor carrier, and other regulatory offenses.

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

Weapons—Includes violations of any of the provision of 18 U.S.C. 922–923 concerning the manufacturing, importing, possessing, receiving, and licensing of firearms and ammunition.

Immigration—Includes offenses involving illegal entrance into the United States, illegally reentering after being deported, willfully failing to deport when so ordered, or bringing in or harboring any aliens not duly admitted by an immigration officer.

This report describes defendants processed at each stage of the federal justice system: arrest, investigation and prosecution, pretrial detention, adjudication and sentencing, corrections, and supervision in the community. Data are from the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). The FJSP collects, standardizes, and reports on administrative data received from six federal justice agencies: the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC), Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the BOP, and the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Arrest

This section of the report uses most serious offense type as classified by the deputy U.S. Marshal at the time of booking. Each of the 94 federal judicial districts has a U.S. Marshal. Deputy U.S. Marshals take into custody federal suspects charged with a crime (including booking, processing and detaining suspects), oversee court security, and coordinate prisoner transportation.

In 2014, federal law enforcement agencies made 12% fewer arrests for a federal offense than in 2013

In 2014, there were 81,881 arrests for an immigration offense, down from 96,374 in 2013. Half (50%) of federal arrests involved an immigration offense as the most serious arrest offense. Drug offenses and supervision violations (14% each) were the next most common offenses in 2014. Nearly 8 in 10 (78%) federal arrests in 2014 were for immigration, drug, or supervision violations.

Arrests for violations of federal law decreased 12% from 2013 to 2014 (table 2). This represents the largest year-to-year change in arrests since 1994 (figure 2). Sixty-four percent of the decline was due to a decrease in immigration offenses, 16% was due to a decrease in drug arrests, and 8% was due to a decrease in property offenses. Sixty-eight percent of the decline between 2013 and 2014 occurred in the five southwest border districts. Arrests in each of the five southwest border districts declined from 2013 to 2014.

TABLE 2
Federal arrests by most serious offense and federal district, 2010, 2013, and 2014

	2010		2013		2014		Average annual percent change, 2010–2013 ^a	Percent change 2013–2014 ^b
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Total arrests	179,034	100%	188,164	100%	165,265	100%	1.8%	-12.2%
Most serious offense at arrest								
Violent ^c	3,421	1.9%	3,243	1.7%	3,082	1.9%	-1.7%	-5.0%
Property	17,872	10.0%	14,631	7.8	12,837	7.8	-6.3	-12.3
Fraud	15,669	8.8	12,512	6.7	11,025	6.7	-7.0	-11.9
Other	2,203	1.2	2,119	1.1	1,812	1.1	-1.0	-14.5
Drug	28,715	16.1%	27,353	14.6	23,703	14.4	-1.2	-13.3
Public order	6,540	3.7%	5,485	2.9	4,920	3.0	-5.6	-10.3
Regulatory	266	0.2	253	0.1	331	0.1	-1.0	30.8
Other	6,274	3.5	5,232	2.8	4,589	2.8	-5.8	-12.3
Sex offense	3,034	1.7%	3,718	2.0%	3,447	2.1%	7.7%	-7.3%
Weapons	7,902	4.4%	7,803	4.2%	6,984	4.2%	-0.4%	-10.5%
Immigration	82,255	46.1%	96,374	51.4%	81,881	49.7%	5.6%	-15.0%
Material witness	4,271	2.4%	4,952	2.6%	5,019	3.1%	6.4%	1.4%
Supervision violations	24,297	13.6%	24,041	12.8%	22,939	13.9%	0.0%	-4.6%
Federal judicial district								
U.S.-Mexico border district	101,218	56.5%	116,172	61.7%	100,656	60.9%	4.9%	-13.4%
Arizona	34,085	19.0	32,857	17.5	31,952	19.3	-0.7	-2.8
California Southern	8,241	4.6	7,728	4.1	6,972	4.2	-1.8	-9.8
New Mexico	7,182	4.0	8,020	4.3	5,398	3.3	5.8	-32.7
Texas Southern	29,917	16.7	40,510	21.5	33,050	20.0	11.4	-18.4
Texas Western	21,793	12.2	27,057	14.4	23,284	14.1	7.8	-13.9
Other districts	77,816	43.5%	71,992	38.3%	64,609	39.1%	-2.5%	-10.3%

Note: Suspects with more than one arrest are counted separately. Most serious arrest is determined by the Deputy U.S. Marshal at booking. Federal district is determined by location of the federal court where booking takes place. Offense data were missing in 2010 (727), 2013 (564), and 2014 (453). Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests.

^aCalculated using the average of the annual change between 2010 and 2013.

^bCalculated using the percent change between 2013 and 2014.

^cExcludes violent sex offenses. (See *Methodology* for further details.)

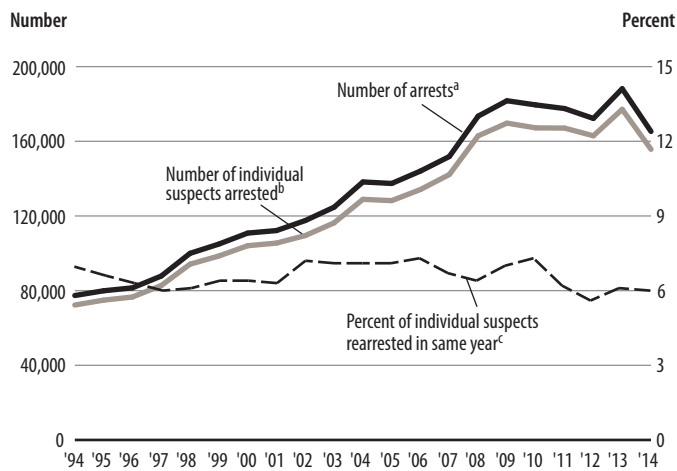
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal years 2010, 2013, and 2014.

Nearly two-thirds of federal arrests in 2014 were in the five districts along the U.S.-Mexico border

In 2014, there were 100,656 arrests in the five U.S.-Mexico border districts, compared to 64,609 in the remaining 89 districts. Texas Southern (33,050) had the most arrests, followed by Arizona (31,952) and Texas Western (23,284) (map 1). From 2013 to 2014, the number of suspects arrested in U.S.-Mexico border districts decreased by 13%, compared to a decrease of 10% in other border districts. In 2014, there were 165,265 federal arrests of 155,699 individual suspects (table 3).² The gap between the number of arrests and individual suspects was relatively consistent from 1994 to 2014 (figure 2).

²Analysis of suspects with more than one arrest is based on the USMS's unique identifier (U.S. Marshals Number) for individual suspects.

FIGURE 2
Arrests and individual suspects arrested, 1994–2014



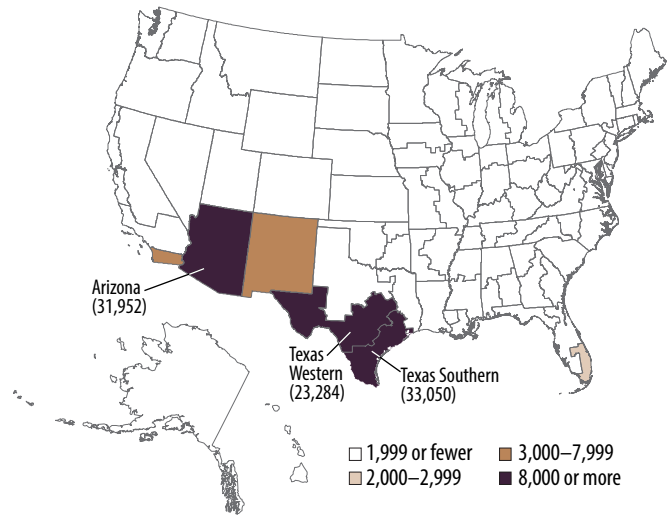
^aThe unit of count is a federal arrest. Suspects with more than one arrest are counted separately. Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests.

^bIndividual suspects are counted only once.

^cNumber of arrests divided by the number of suspects.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal years 1994–2014.

MAP 1
Federal arrests, by federal judicial district, 2014



Note: A total of 165,265 suspects were arrested for a federal offense from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. Suspects with more than one arrest are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal year 2014.

TABLE 3
Federal arrests and individual suspects arrested, by most serious offense and federal district, 2014

	Number of arrests ^a		Number of individual suspects arrested ^b	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total suspects arrested	165,265	100%	155,699	100%
Most serious offense				
Violent	3,082	1.9%	2,972	1.9%
Property	12,837	7.8%	12,636	8.1%
Fraud	11,025	6.7	10,849	7.0
Other	1,812	1.1	1,787	1.2
Drug	23,703	14.4%	23,052	14.8%
Public order	4,920	3.0%	4,817	3.1%
Regulatory	331	0.2	321	0.2
Other	4,589	2.8	4,496	2.9
Sex offense	3,447	2.1%	3,376	2.2%
Weapons	6,984	4.2%	6,819	4.4%
Immigration	81,881	49.7%	76,624	49.3%
Material witness	5,019	3.1%	4,821	3.1%
Supervision violations	22,939	13.9%	20,202	13.0%
Federal judicial district				
U.S.-Mexico border districts	100,656	60.9%	93,471	60.2%
Arizona	31,952	19.3	29,792	17.5
California Southern	6,972	4.2	6,261	4.0
New Mexico	5,398	3.3	4,947	4.3
Texas Southern	33,050	20.0	30,497	21.4
Texas Western	23,284	14.1	21,974	14.6
Other districts	64,609	39.1%	61,848	39.8%

Note: Percentages are based on available data. Data on offense type were missing for 453 records. Excludes D.C. Superior Court arrests.

^aSuspects arrested more than once are counted as separate arrests.

^bIndividual suspects arrested are counted only once in 2014.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal year 2014.

Immigration arrests

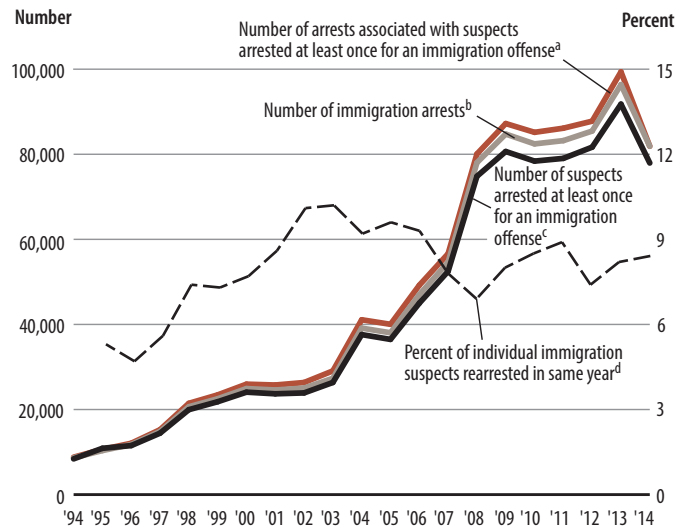
There were 81,881 immigration arrests made in 2014

Immigration offenses include illegal entry, illegal reentry, alien smuggling, and visa fraud. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has primary law enforcement responsibility for immigration offenses, and its law enforcement agencies made 99% of the 81,881 immigration arrests in 2014. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a DHS agency, was the arresting agency for 68% of immigration arrests in 2014, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was the arresting agency for 30%. Department of Justice (DOJ) law enforcement agencies (mostly the USMS) made 1% of immigration arrests in 2014 (not shown).

Immigration arrests doubled from 1994 to 1998, doubled again from 1998 to 2006, and doubled again from 2006 to 2013

The number of immigration arrests increased at a slightly faster rate than the number of individual suspects arrested for an immigration offense (figure 3). Starting in 2009, the greater relative increase in arrests (not individual suspects) was the result of an increase in the number of multiple arrests per suspect. This corresponded with a period of increased

FIGURE 3
Federal immigration arrests and individual immigration suspects arrested, 1994–2014



^aThe unit of count is a federal immigration arrest as most serious charge. Suspects with more than one immigration arrest are counted separately.

^bThe unit of count is an immigration suspect. Suspects with at least one immigration arrest as most serious charge are counted once even when they are arrested more than once in a year.

^cPercent of immigration suspects arrested in the same year is the number of total arrests divided by the number of suspects with at least one immigration as most serious charge.

^dThe unit of count is any arrest involving a suspect with at least one immigration arrest as most serious charge.

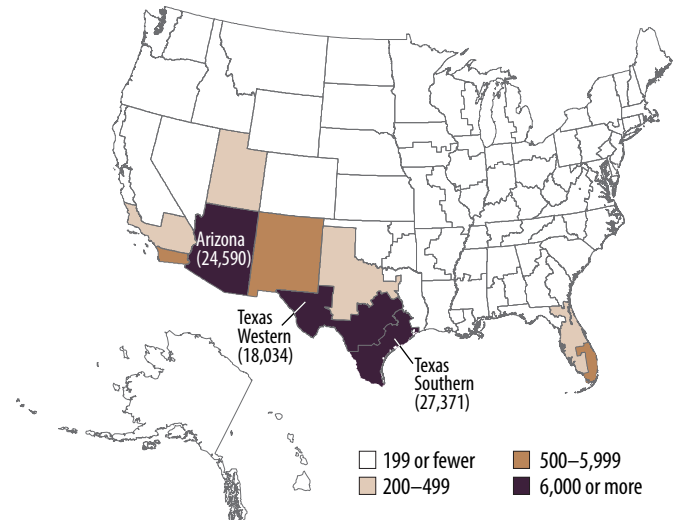
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal years 1994–2014.

federal criminal justice efforts to deter illegal entry and reentry along the southwest border by increasing the likelihood of apprehension and criminal consequences. Suspects whose most serious offense was an immigration offense were also arrested an additional 2,665 times for either an immigration or some other offense in 2014.

Most immigration arrests in 2014 were in the five districts along the U.S.-Mexico border

Ninety-three percent of federal immigration arrests in 2014 occurred in five federal districts along the U.S.-Mexico border (map 2). The busiest court city for immigration arrests in 2014 was Tucson, Arizona (17,731). Laredo, Texas (15,207), in Texas Southern was the second busiest court city for immigration arrests in 2014 (not shown).

MAP 2
Federal immigration arrests, by federal judicial district, 2014



Note: There were a total of 81,881 arrests for an immigration offense from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. Immigration suspects arrested more than once in a fiscal year are counted separately. Immigration offenses include illegal entry, illegal reentry, alien smuggling, and visa fraud.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal year 2014.

Sex offense arrests

Sex offenses were the fastest growing federal arrest offense from 2010 to 2014

Federal law enforcement arrested 3,447 sex offense suspects in 2014, a 4% increase from 2010. (See *Methodology* for classification of sex offenses.) This period was marked by closer surveillance of registered sex offenders and more restrictions of sex offenders on supervision in the community. The FBI (39%) made the most sex offense arrests in 2014, followed by the USMS (29%) and ICE (20%). The number of suspects arrested for a sex offense doubled from 1994 to 1998, doubled again from 1998 to 2004, and doubled again from 2004 to 2013 (figure 4). From 2010 to 2014, sex offenses made up 2% (16,842) of the total number of federal arrests (882,713) (not shown).

In 2014, arrests for federal sex offenses made up 4% of federal, state, and local sex offense arrests

In 2014, there were an estimated 21,007 arrests for rape and 55,456 arrests for sex offenses (excluding prostitution) reported by state and local law enforcement.³ A total of 79,910 arrests for sex offenses was comprised of 76,463 state and local law enforcement arrests and 3,447 federal arrests. Federal arrests accounted for 4% of national sex offense arrests.

Seven districts had 80 or more federal sex offense arrests in 2014 (map 3). Florida Middle (131), Texas Western (120), and Arizona (100) had 100 or more sex offense arrests. The busiest court cities for federal sex offense arrests in 2014 were San Diego, California (62); Phoenix, Arizona (62); Portland, Oregon (57); and Springfield, Illinois (54).

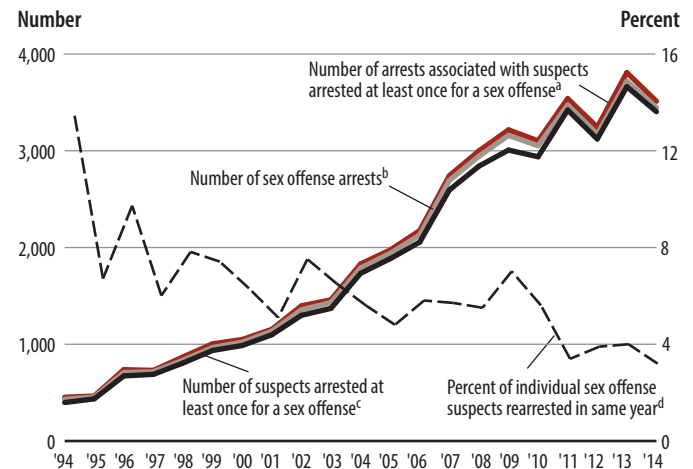
³FBI, *Crime in the United States, 2014*, table 29.

Enforcement initiatives targeting sex offenders

Recent initiatives that have targeted sex offenders include the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Project Safe Childhood, which was initiated in 2006 to address the expanding use of technology in the sexual exploitation of children.

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (P.L. 109-248) was passed in 2006 and authorized the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to investigate registered sex offenders and assist state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement with apprehending sex offenders. The USMS established the National Sex Offender Targeting Center to improve the tracking and apprehension of fugitive sex offenders. In 2008, the Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats to Our Children Act of 2008 (PROTECT Our Children Act) required the DOJ to create a national strategy to combat child exploitation across levels of government and the private sector (P.L. 110-401).

FIGURE 4
Federal sex offense arrests and individual sex offense suspects arrested, 1994–2014



^aThe unit of count is any arrest involving a suspect with at least one sex offense arrest as most serious charge.

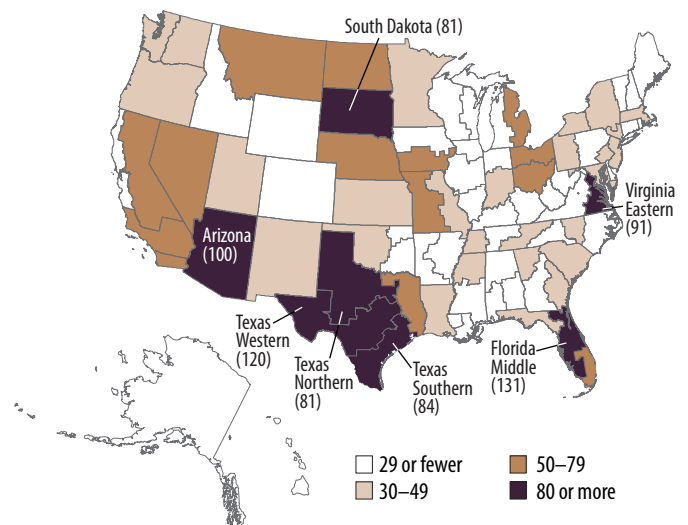
^bThe unit of count is a federal sex offense arrest as most serious charge. Suspects with more than one sex offense arrest are counted separately.

^cThe unit of count is a sex offense suspect. Suspects with at least one sex offense arrest as most serious charge are counted once.

^dPercent of sex offense suspects arrested in the same year is the number of total arrests divided by the number of suspects with at least one sex offense as most serious charge.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal years 1994–2014.

MAP 3
Federal sex offense arrests, by federal judicial district, 2014



Note: There were a total of 3,447 arrests for a sex offense from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. Sex offense suspects arrested more than once in a fiscal year are counted separately. Sex offenses include sex abuse, possession, distribution, and production of child pornography, and illegal sex transportation.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal year 2014.

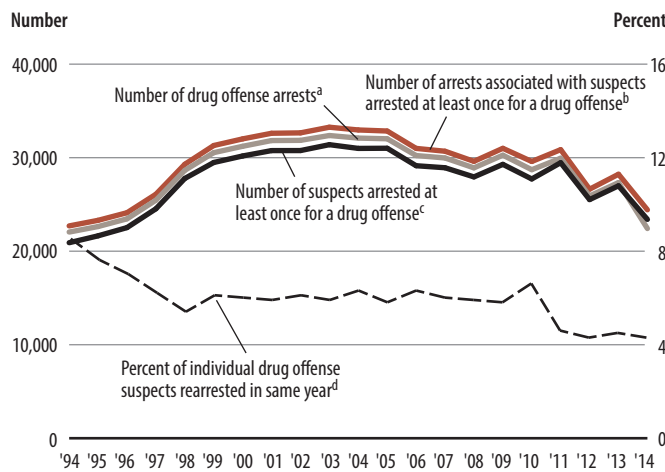
Drug offense arrests

Drug offenses were the second most common arrest offense in 2014

There were 23,703 arrests for drug offenses in 2014, a 13% decrease from 2013. Drug arrests declined to their lowest levels since 1996 (figure 5). From 2010 to 2014, drug offenses (135,789) accounted for 15% of the total number of federal arrests (882,713) (not shown).

The DEA (34%) made the most federal drug arrests in 2014, followed by USMS (17%), ICE (13%), and the FBI (12%). In 2014, drug offense suspects were arrested 731 times for crimes other than drug offenses. Sixty percent of nondrug offense arrests were for supervision violation offenses, 28% were for immigration, and 6% were for weapons offenses (not shown).

FIGURE 5
Federal drug offense arrests and individual drug offense suspects arrested, 1994–2014



^aThe unit of count is a federal drug offense arrest as most serious charge. Suspects with more than one drug offense arrest are counted separately.

^bThe unit of count is any arrest involving a suspect with at least one drug offense arrest as most serious charge.

^cThe unit of count is a drug offense suspect. Suspects with at least one drug offense arrest as most serious charge are counted once.

^dPercent of drug offense suspects arrested in the same year is the number of total arrests divided by the number of suspects with at least one drug offense as most serious arrest offense.

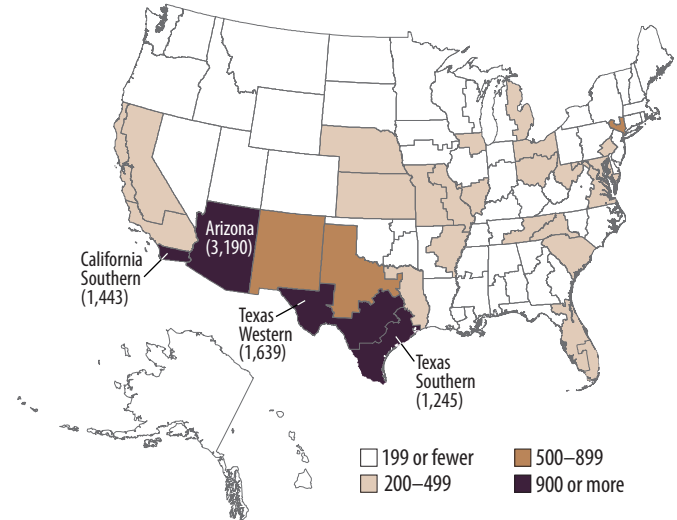
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal years 1994–2014.

In 2014, federal drug arrests made up 1% of all federal, state, and local drug arrests

In 2014, a total of 1,584,934 drug arrests were made by law enforcement.⁴ State and local law enforcement made 1,561,231 arrests for drug violations in 2014. Federal law enforcement made 23,703 drug arrests in 2014, or 1% of all drug arrests in the United States. Four of the five districts with the largest number of federal drug arrests were located along the southwest border, including Arizona (3,190), Texas Western (1,639), California Southern (1,443), and Texas Southern (1,245) (map 4). The busiest court cities for drug arrests in 2014 were Tucson, Arizona (2,897); San Diego, California (1,257); and El Paso, Texas (689) (not shown).

⁴FBI, *Crime in the United States, 2014*, table 29.

MAP 4
Federal drug arrests, by federal judicial district, 2014



Note: There were a total of 23,703 arrests for a drug offense from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. Drug offense suspects arrested more than once in a year are counted separately. Drug offenses include trafficking, conspiracy, and possession.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking and Justice Detainee Information Systems, fiscal year 2014.

Patterns in DEA drug arrests

The DEA made 29,549 arrests in 2014

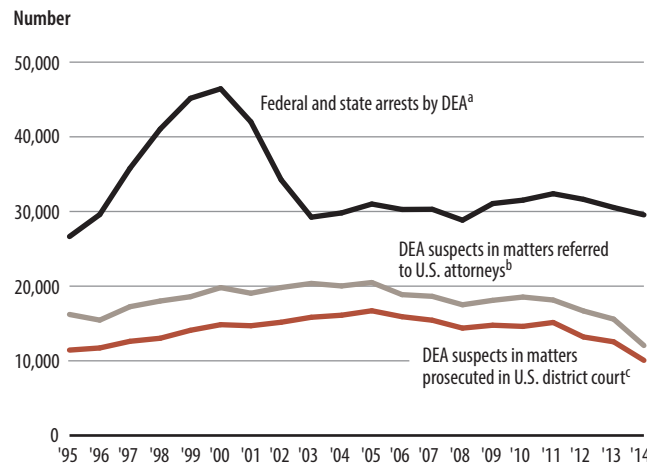
Created in 1973, the mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States. This includes investigating major drug offenders at the national and international levels. Targeted offenders include organized gangs involved in drug trafficking, violent offending, and money laundering. The DEA coordinates with foreign governments and federal, state, and local agencies. They focus on programs designed to reduce the availability of illicit drugs, including methods such as crop eradication, crop substitution, and training of foreign officials. The DEA has 221 domestic offices in the United States and 86 offices in 67 countries (see <http://www.dea.gov/about/mission.shtml>).

The DEA reported 29,549 drug arrests in 2014, down from 30,532 in 2013. Drug arrests by the DEA increased during the 1990s to a peak of 46,435 arrests in 2000, followed by a decline to 29,238 in 2003 (figure 6). DEA data do not distinguish between arrests that are referred for either state or federal prosecution. The Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys keeps records of the agencies that refer matters to federal prosecutors and whether the matters are prosecuted in U.S. district court.⁵

Suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys by the DEA increased from 16,207 in 1995 to a peak of 20,486 in 2005. From 1995-2014, DEA federal referrals made up 54% of DEA arrests. In 2014, 10,063 suspects were referred by the DEA to U.S. attorneys and prosecuted in federal court.

⁵The unit of count reported in this section is an arrest by the DEA where each arrest of an individual suspect is counted separately. The unit of count for suspects referred by the DEA to U.S. attorneys is an investigation or matter where each investigation of an individual is counted separately.

FIGURE 6
Federal and state arrests by the DEA, suspects referred by the DEA to U.S. attorneys, and DEA suspects prosecuted in U.S. district court, 1995–2014



^aThe unit of count is an arrest by the DEA where each arrest for an individual suspect is counted separately. Includes arrests that are referred by the DEA for state or federal prosecution.

^bThe unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys by the DEA. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

^cThe unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred by the DEA and prosecuted by U.S. attorneys. Suspects prosecuted in more than once matter are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Defendant Statistical System, and the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 1995–2014.

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Patterns in DEA drug arrests (continued)

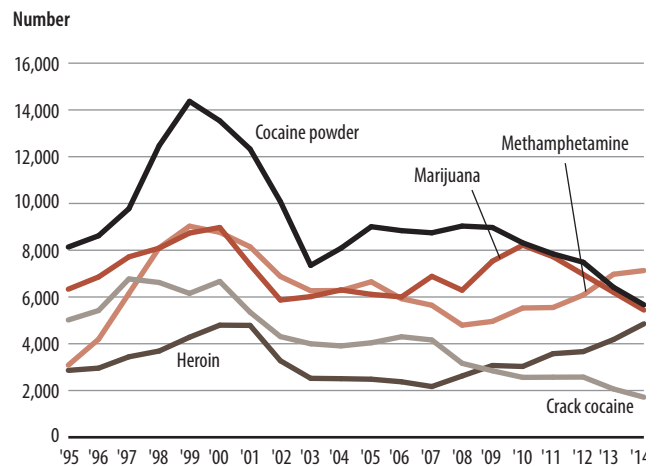
Heroin arrests by the DEA increased at the fastest annual average rate from 2002 to 2014

Among specific drug types, heroin arrests (4%) by the DEA increased at the fastest annual average rate from 2002 to 2014, followed by methamphetamine (1%) (figure 7). During the same period, arrests for crack cocaine declined by an annual average of 7% and arrests for cocaine powder declined by 4%.

Cocaine (25%) was the most common drug type involved in arrests by the DEA in 2014

Arrests involving cocaine powder (5,666) and crack cocaine (1,715) accounted for a quarter (25%) of all arrests by the DEA in 2014 (table 4). Nineteen percent of arrests by the DEA were for offenses involving cocaine powder and 6% were for crack cocaine. The remaining arrests by the DEA in 2014 were for methamphetamine (24%), marijuana (18%), heroin (16%), and other or nondrug offenses (16%). Arrests for methamphetamine and heroin have increased each year since 2008.

FIGURE 7
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration, by drug type, 1995–2014



Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the DEA where each arrest for an individual is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 1995–2014.

TABLE 4
Demographic characteristics of Drug Enforcement Administration arrestees, by type of drug, 2014

Characteristic	Total arrested		Cocaine powder		Crack cocaine		Marijuana		Methamphetamine		Heroin		Other/nondrug ^a	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Number of arrestees ^b	29,549	100%	5,666	100%	1,715	100%	5,441	100%	7,131	100%	4,852	100%	4,744	100%
Sex														
Male	23,968	81.3%	4,943	87.5%	1,464	85.4%	4,683	86.2%	5,490	77.2%	3,960	81.8%	3,428	72.4%
Female	5,521	18.7	707	12.5	250	14.6	751	13.8	1,625	22.8	882	18.2	1,306	27.6
Race/Hispanic origin														
White ^c	8,727	30.7%	641	11.8%	154	9.4%	1,603	30.5%	3,013	43.5%	1,196	25.6%	2,120	46.8%
Black/African American ^c	6,922	24.3	1,652	30.3	1,292	78.6	1,054	20.0	384	5.5	1,337	28.6	1,203	26.6
Hispanic/Latino	12,085	42.4	3,116	57.2	190	11.6	2,334	44.4	3,280	47.3	2,109	45.1	1,056	23.3
American Indian/ Alaska Native ^c	134	0.5	10	0.2	1	0.1	29	0.6	55	0.8	10	0.2	29	0.6
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^c	607	2.1	26	0.5	6	0.4	241	4.6	196	2.8	20	0.4	118	2.6
Age														
17 or younger	64	0.2%	4	0.1%	2	0.1%	26	0.5%	9	0.1%	15	0.3%	8	0.2%
18–20	1,466	5.0	175	3.1	77	4.5	431	8.0	315	4.4	268	5.5	200	4.2
21–24	3,813	13.0	577	10.2	226	13.2	837	15.4	846	11.9	746	15.4	581	12.3
25–34	11,058	37.6	2,025	35.9	743	43.5	2,044	37.7	2,705	38.1	1,884	39.0	1,657	35.0
35–44	7,788	26.5	1,825	32.4	416	24.3	1,209	22.3	1,980	27.9	1,183	24.5	1,175	24.9
45–54	3,673	12.5	747	13.3	165	9.7	582	10.7	955	13.4	530	11.0	694	14.7
55–64	1,299	4.4	235	4.2	68	4.0	234	4.3	253	3.6	185	3.8	324	6.9
65 or older	281	1.0	47	0.8	13	0.8	59	1.1	47	0.7	25	0.5	90	1.9
Median age^d	33 yrs.		35 yrs.		32 yrs.		31 yrs.		33 yrs.		32 yrs.		34 yrs.	

Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the DEA where each arrest for an individual is counted separately. The DEA agent makes the determination of the primary drug associated with an arrest. Data were missing for the following: sex (60), race/Hispanic origin (1,070), and age (107). Data include arrestees referred for state or federal prosecution.

^aIncludes pharmaceutical controlled substances, equipment used to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia.

^bIncludes suspects for whom characteristics are not known.

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless otherwise specified.

^dMedian age is the midpoint or the age at which half of the suspects were older than the median age and half were younger.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Defendant Statistical System, fiscal year 2014.

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Patterns in DEA drug arrests (continued)

Suspects of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 42% of DEA arrestees in 2014

In 2014, Hispanic or Latino (42%) arrestees made up the largest number of suspects arrested by the DEA, followed by white (31%) and black (24%) suspects. Hispanic suspects made up 57% of arrests for cocaine powder offenses, 47% of arrests for methamphetamine, and 45% of arrests for heroin offenses.

More than three-quarters (79%) of crack cocaine suspects were black, and 44% of methamphetamine suspects were white. White suspects made up nearly half (47%) of suspects arrested by the DEA for other drug types or nondrug offenses. These include pharmaceutical narcotics such as oxycodone, other controlled substances such as LSD, and offenses involving drug equipment.

Most DEA arrestees in 2014 were male (81%) and age 34 or younger (56%)

Males accounted for 81% of all DEA arrests in 2014. Twenty-three percent of male suspects were arrested for methamphetamine, compared to 21% for powder cocaine and 20% for marijuana. Twenty-nine percent of females arrested by the DEA for drug violations were arrested

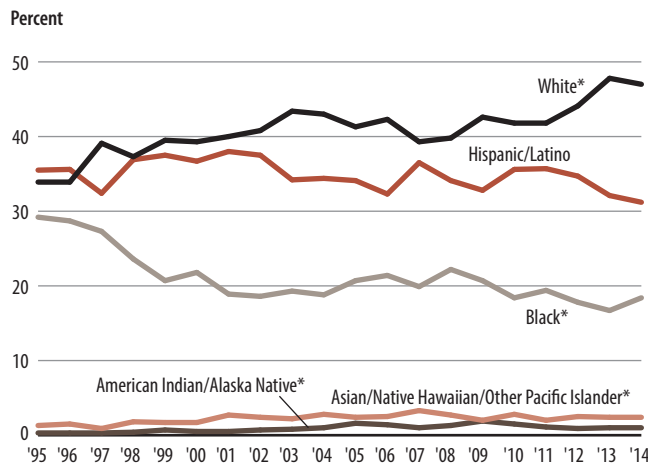
for methamphetamine, compared to 24% for other drug offenses, 14% for marijuana, and 13% for cocaine powder offenses. Females accounted for 19% of all DEA drug arrests and made up 23% of all methamphetamine arrests. More than half (56%) of all suspects arrested by the DEA were age 34 or younger. The median age was similar across all drug types, ranging from ages 32 to 35. Five percent of arrests by the DEA were of suspects age 55 or older, and 5% of suspects were age 20 or younger.

In 2014, most females arrested by the DEA were white, while most males were Hispanic

Among females arrested by the DEA in 2014, 47% were white, 31% were Hispanic, and 18% were black. Between 1995 and 2014, white females almost always made up the greatest share of females arrested by the DEA. The percentage of black female arrests by the DEA declined from 29% in 1995 to 18% in 2014 (figure 8).

In 2014, Hispanics accounted for 43% of males arrested by the DEA. This represents a consistent level in the Hispanic share of male arrests since 1995. Whites (26%) and blacks (25%) made up a similar percentage of arrests of males by the DEA in 2014 (figure 9).

FIGURE 8
Females arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration, by race and Hispanic origin, 1995–2014

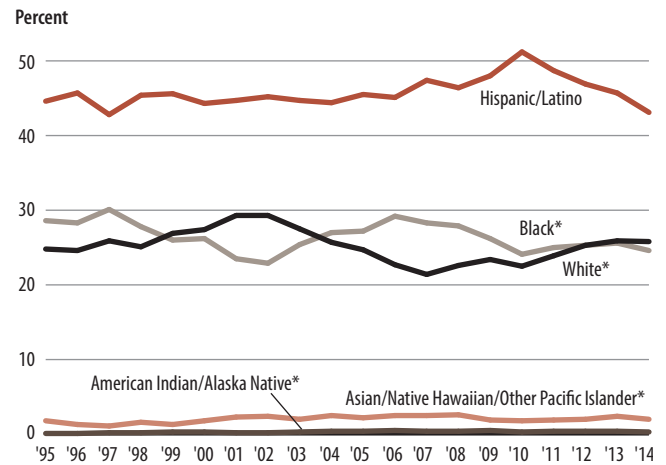


Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the DEA where each arrest for an individual is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

*Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 1995–2014.

FIGURE 9
Males arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration, by race and Hispanic origin, 1995–2014



Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the DEA where each arrest for an individual is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

*Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin.

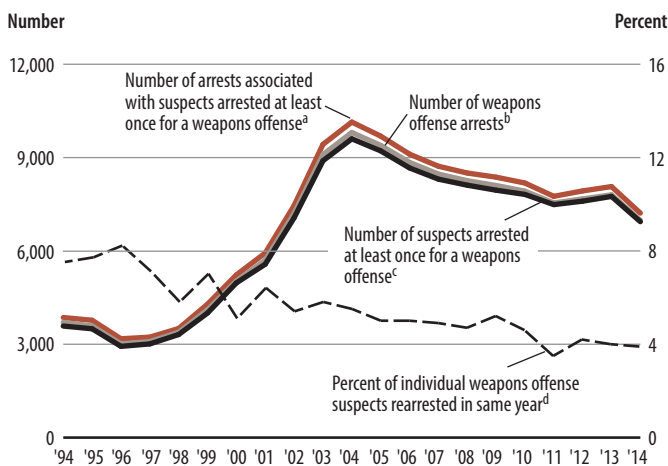
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 1995–2014.

Weapons offense arrests

Weapons offenses made up 4% of federal arrests in 2014

Federal law enforcement made 6,984 arrests for weapons offenses in 2014, an 11% decrease from 2013. Federal law includes multiple provisions that regulate unlawful possession or use of firearms or receipt or transfer of firearms. The Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) was the arresting agency in less than half (48%) of federal weapons arrests in 2014. The USMS was the arresting agency in 28% of weapons arrests, and the FBI was the arresting agency in 10% of weapons arrests in 2014. Weapons arrests peaked in 2004 then declined each year from 2005 to 2011 (figure 10). From 2010 to 2014, weapons offenses accounted for 4% (37,922) of the total number of arrests (882,713) during this period (not shown). Of the 233 weapons suspects with one or more nonweapons arrests in 2014, two-thirds (66%) were arrested for a supervision violation and nearly a fifth (18%) were arrested for a drug offense (not shown).

FIGURE 10
Federal weapons offense arrests and individual weapons offense suspects arrested, 1994–2014



^aThe unit of count is any arrest involving a suspect with at least one weapons arrest as most serious charge.

^bThe unit of count is a federal weapons offense arrest as most serious charge. Suspects with more than one weapons arrest are counted separately.

^cThe unit of count is a weapons suspect. Suspects with at least one weapons arrest as most serious charge are counted once.

^dPercent of weapons offense suspects arrested in the same year is the number of total arrests divided by the number of suspects with at least one weapons offense as most serious arrest offense.

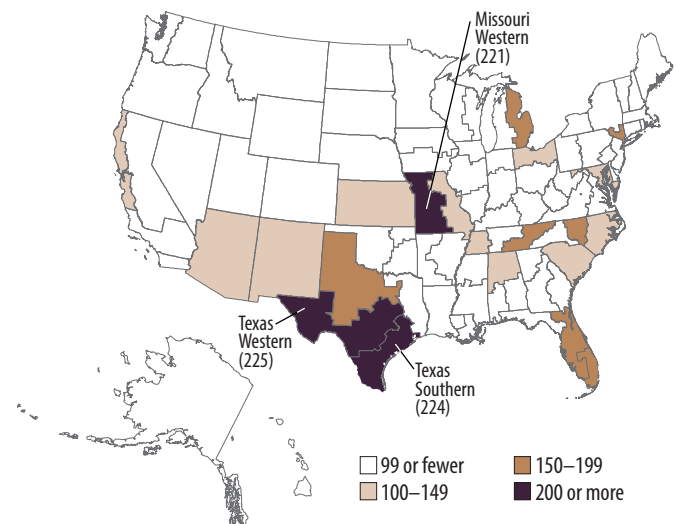
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal years 1994–2014.

In 2014, federal weapons arrests made up 5% of federal, state, and local weapons arrests

In 2014, a total of 147,697 weapons arrests were made by federal, state, and local law enforcement.⁶ State and local law enforcement made an estimated 140,713 weapons arrests. Federal law enforcement made 6,984 weapons arrests (5% of all weapons arrests). Federal districts with the largest number of weapons arrests in 2014 included Puerto Rico (401), Texas Western (225), Texas Southern (224), and Missouri Western (221) (map 5). The busiest court city for weapons arrests in 2014 was Hato Rey, Puerto Rico (395), followed by Kansas City, Missouri (215) (not shown).

⁶FBI, *Crime in the United States, 2014*, table 29.

MAP 5
Federal weapons arrests, by federal judicial district, 2014



Note: There were a total of 6,984 arrests for a weapons offense from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. Weapons suspects arrested more than once in a year are counted separately. Weapons offenses include possession, transfer, importing, and manufacturing.

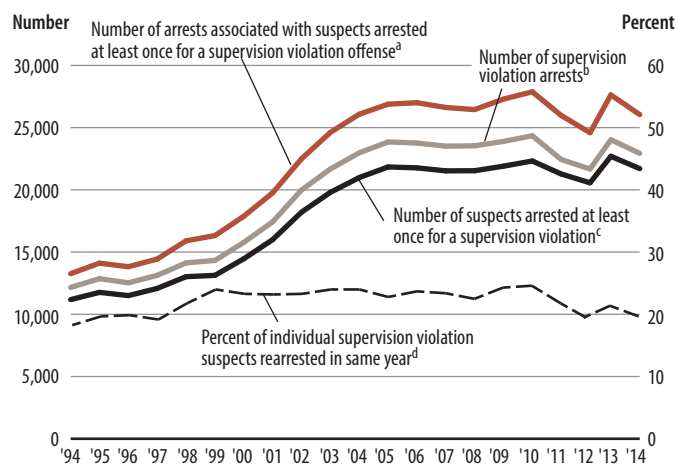
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal year 2014.

Supervision violation arrests

Supervision violations were the third most common arrest offense in 2014

In 2014, there were 22,939 arrests for supervision violations involving 20,202 individual suspects. From 2013 to 2014, supervision violations decreased by 5%. Supervision violations include violations of bail, probation, post-incarceration supervision, and failure to appear. The USMS was the arresting agency in 94% of supervision violation arrests in 2014. Arrests for supervision violations increased by an annual average of 3% from 1994 to 2014 (figure 11). In 2014, a third of federal supervision violations occurred in six districts: Texas

FIGURE 11
Federal arrests for a supervision violation and individual supervision violation suspects arrested, 1994–2014



^aThe unit of count is any arrest involving a suspect with at least one supervision violation arrest as most serious charge.

^bThe unit of count is a federal supervision violation offense arrest as most serious charge. Suspects with more than one supervision violation arrest are counted separately.

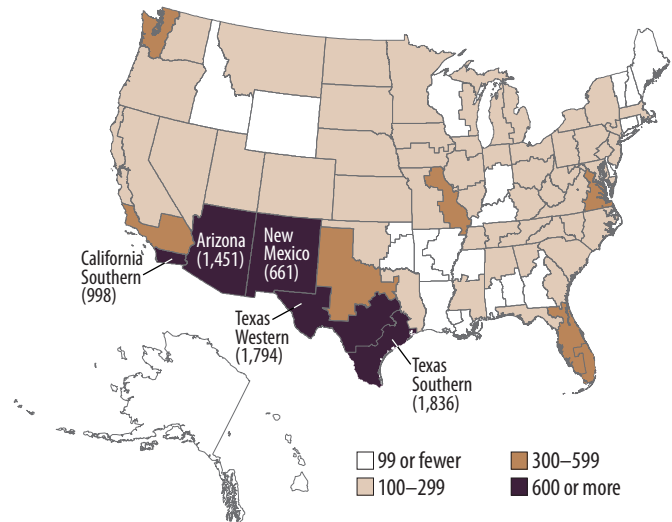
^cThe unit of count is a supervision violation suspect. Suspects with at least one supervision violation arrest as most serious charge are counted once.

^dThe share of suspects with at least one supervision violation arrest as most serious charge plus one or more additional arrests in the same year.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal years 1994–2014.

Southern, Texas Western, Arizona, California Southern, New Mexico, and Virginia Eastern (map 6). The busiest court city for supervision arrests and bookings in 2014 was Washington, D.C. (1,423), followed by San Diego, California (886), and Tucson, Arizona (834) (not shown).

MAP 6
Federal supervision violation arrests, by federal judicial district, 2014



Note: There were a total of 22,939 arrests for a supervision violation from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. Supervision violation suspects arrested more than once in a fiscal year are counted separately. Supervision violation offenses include violation of pretrial or post-conviction supervision and failure to appear.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee Information System, fiscal year 2014.

Investigation and prosecution

Suspects in matters investigated

In 2014, U.S. attorneys investigated 138,177 suspects in matters involving 160,505 suspects

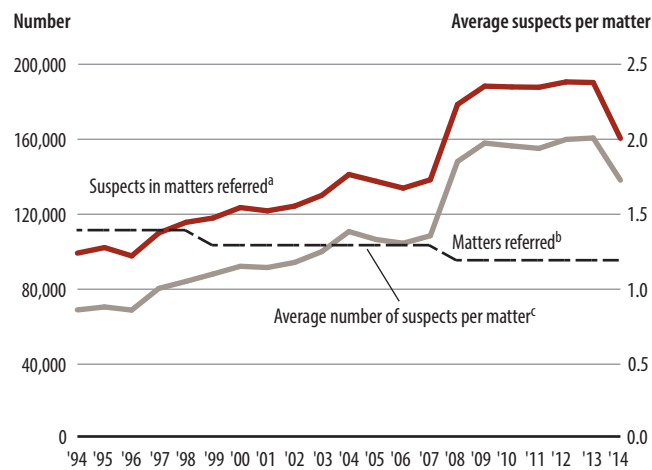
Each year from 2010 to 2014, an average of about 180,000 suspects were investigated (figure 12). A total of 2,346,026 matters were opened from 1994 to 2014. Matters may include multiple suspects. A total of 2,977,837 suspects were investigated from 1994 to 2014. This was an average of 1.3 suspects per matter.

The majority of suspects in matters investigated in 2014 by the U.S. attorneys were referred by the DHS

Fourteen years after the reorganization of federal law enforcement agencies under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, DHS agencies referred 58% of all suspects in matters received by U.S. attorneys in 2014, up from 57% in 2013 (table 5).⁷ Law enforcement agencies within the DOJ referred 25% of suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys in 2014, compared to 26% in 2013, 27% in 2012, and 56% in 2001. In 2014, the Department of Treasury made up 2% of all suspects in matters referred in 2014, down from 20% in 2001.

⁷In this section, each suspect is counted separately in matters investigated.

FIGURE 12
Matters referred and suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys, 1994–2014



^aThe unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys. Suspects in more than one matter are counted separately.

^bThe unit of count is a matter referred to U.S. attorneys. A matter is counted once.

^cThe number of suspects in matters referred divided by the number of matters referred.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 1994–2014.

TABLE 5

Suspects in matters opened by U.S. attorneys, by referring authority, 2001, 2012, 2013, and 2014

Department or authority	2001	2012	2013	2014
Justice	55.8%	26.9%	26.0%	25.2%
Homeland Security	...	56.7	57.4	58.0
Treasury	20.2	1.8	1.9	1.7
Interior	4.4	2.0	1.9	1.6
Defense	3.9	2.3	2.2	2.2
Federal/state task forces	3.5	1.8	1.8	1.8
Other*	12.1	8.5	8.9	9.6
Total	121,818	190,596	190,267	160,505

Note: Department or authority is the entity making the referral for criminal action to the U.S. attorneys' offices. Data were missing in 2001 (894), 2012 (333), 2013 (298), and 2014 (236). 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.

...Not available: Homeland Security transition was effective mid-fiscal year 2003 (March).

*Other includes Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Labor, State, Transportation, and state/local authorities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 2001, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

U.S. attorneys serve as the chief federal law enforcement officers within their respective districts

U.S. attorneys serve as chief federal law enforcement officer within their respective districts. One U.S. attorney serves both the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands districts.⁸ Most investigations referred to a U.S. attorney come from a federal law enforcement agency. State and local law enforcement agencies are also sources of criminal referrals to U.S. attorneys' offices. U.S. attorneys determine which cases they will prosecute and establish policies and priorities within their federal judicial districts. They take into account a variety of factors, such as the Department of Justice priorities, available resources, state and local priorities, and law enforcement priorities. The national priorities for U.S. attorneys in 2014 included the disruption and prevention of terrorism, violent offenses, civil rights violations, financial fraud, crimes against vulnerable victims, hate crimes, and human trafficking (see <http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/usao/legacy/2014/09/22/13statrpt.pdf>).

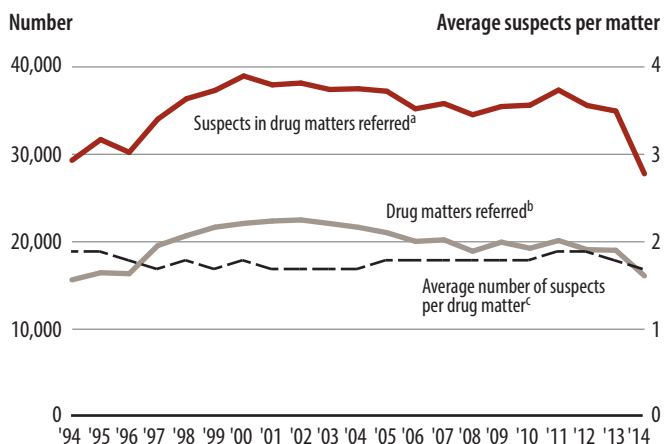
⁸This section of the report combines Northern Mariana Islands and Guam for statistical reporting.

Two-thirds of suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys in 2014 were charged with an immigration or drug offense as the most serious charge

In 2014, there were 160,505 suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys in 2014 (table 6). Half of suspects in matters referred involved an immigration offense as the most serious charge. Seventeen percent involved a drug offense as the most serious charge. A total of 414,924 drug matters were opened from 1994 to 2014 (figure 13). Drug matters may include multiple suspects. A total of 738,397 suspects were investigated for a drug offense as the primary charge from 1994 to 2014, or an average of 1.8 suspects per drug matter.

Overall, suspects in matters referred decreased by an annual average of 4% from 2010 to 2014. Among suspects in matters referred during this period, public order (7%) and property and drug (6%) offenses decreased at the fastest annual rate.

FIGURE 13
Drug offense matters referred and suspects in drug matters referred to U.S. attorneys, 1994–2014



Note: A matter is a referral in which a federal prosecutor spends 1 hour or more investigating.

^aThe unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys where a drug offense is the lead charge. Suspects in more than 1 drug matter are counted separately.

^bThe unit count is a matter referred to U.S. attorneys where the lead charge is a drug offense. A matter is counted once.

^cThe number of suspects in drug matters divided by the number of drug matters.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 1994–2014.

TABLE 6
Suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys, by offense type and federal district of referral, 2010, 2013, and 2014

	2010		2013		2014		Average annual growth rate, 2010–2014 ^a
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	187,916	100%	190,267	100%	160,505	100%	-3.6%
Lead charge^b							
Violent	4,438	2.4%	4,148	2.2%	3,735	2.3%	-4.2%
Property	27,103	14.6	25,151	13.2	20,730	12.9	-6.1
Fraud	24,868	13.4	22,030	11.6	18,198	11.4	-7.1
Other	2,235	1.2	3,121	1.6	2,532	1.6	5.4
Drug	35,621	19.1%	34,987	18.4%	27,775	17.3%	-5.6%
Public order	19,938	10.7%	17,727	9.3%	15,114	9.4%	-6.6%
Regulatory	5,949	3.2	5,386	2.8	4,613	2.9	-5.6
Other	13,989	7.5	12,341	6.5	10,501	6.6	-6.5
Sex offense	4,688	2.5%	5,311	2.8%	4,627	2.9%	0.1%
Weapons	10,616	5.7%	10,434	5.5%	8,901	5.6%	-4.1%
Immigration	83,690	45.0%	92,189	48.5%	79,340	49.5%	-0.9%
Federal judicial district							
U.S.-Mexico border district	93,551	49.8%	102,422	53.8%	88,762	55.3%	-1.0%
Arizona	32,377	17.2	27,843	14.6	27,836	17.3	-3.5
California Southern	7,082	3.8	6,051	3.2	5,259	3.3	-6.8
New Mexico	7,137	3.8	7,898	4.2	5,140	3.2	-4.8
Texas Southern	26,386	14.0	35,554	18.7	28,938	18.0	3.3
Texas Western	20,569	11.0	25,076	13.2	21,589	13.5	2.6
Other districts	94,365	50.2%	87,845	46.2%	71,743	44.7%	-6.3%

Note: 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. Offense data were missing for 2010 (1,822), 2013 (320), and 2014 (283).

^aCalculated using each fiscal year count from 2010 to 2014.

^bLead charge is the substantive statute that is the primary basis for referral. It is most often the charge with the greatest potential sentence, but not always.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 2010–2014.

Weapons offenses decreased by an annual average of 4% between 2010 and 2014

Weapons offenses decreased by an annual average of 4%, from 10,616 matters referred in 2010 to 8,901 in 2014. A total of 370,350 fraud matters were opened from 1994 to 2014 (figure 14). Fraud matters may include multiple suspects. A total of 503,844 suspects were investigated for a fraud offense as the primary charge from 1994 to 2014, or an average of 1.4 suspects per fraud matter.

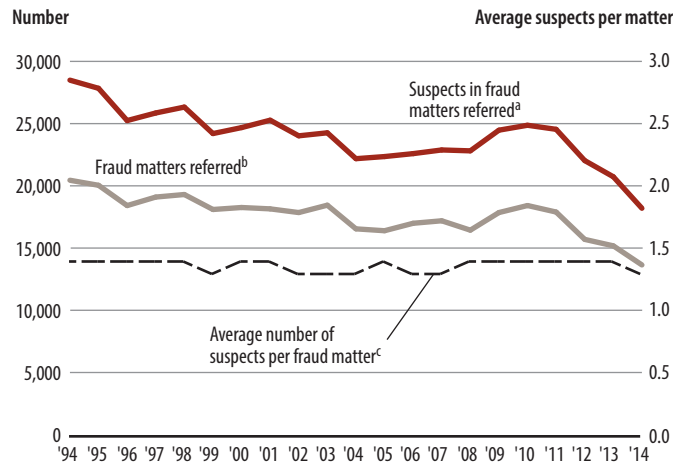
In 2014, more than half (55%) of suspects referred to U.S. attorneys were in the five southwest border districts

Federal prosecutors in the five federal districts along the U.S.-Mexico border handled matters involving 88,762 suspects in 2014, or 55% of all suspects handled nationwide (map 7). Suspects in matters referred in these five districts decreased by an annual average of 1% from 2010 to 2014. Among nonborder districts, the districts with the most referrals included Florida Southern (3,021), California Central (2,420), and Virginia Eastern (2,522). Suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys in nonborder districts decreased from 94,365 matters referred in 2010, an annual average decrease of 6%.

Role of federal prosecutor in charging suspects

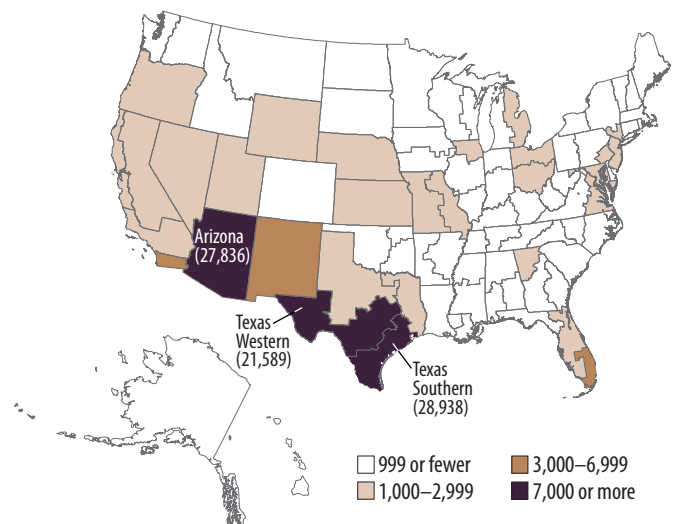
U.S. attorneys may decline to file charges for reasons such as weak or insufficient evidence, minimal federal interest, lack of resources, and lack of criminal intent. Matters that are declined may also be referred to other authorities for prosecution or be settled through alternative resolution procedures. U.S. attorneys may file charges and prosecute defendants in U.S. district court or before a U.S. magistrate. U.S. magistrates have the authority to adjudicate misdemeanor offenses (18 U.S.C. § 3401). With the exception of misdemeanor offenses or when suspects waive their right to a grand jury indictment, the U.S. attorney presents evidence to a grand jury. The grand jury deliberates and decides whether the suspect should be indicted for committing a crime. If the grand jury returns an indictment, the U.S. attorney may file criminal charges in U.S. district court.

FIGURE 14
Fraud offense matters referred and suspects in fraud matters referred to U.S. attorneys, 1994–2014



Note: A matter is a referral in which a federal prosecutor spends 1 hour or more investigating.
^aThe unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys where a fraud offense is the lead charge. Suspects in more than one fraud matter are counted separately.
^bThe unit count is a matter referred to U.S. attorneys where the lead charge is a fraud offense. A matter is counted once.
^cThe number of suspects in fraud matters divided by the number of fraud matters.
 Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 1994–2014.

MAP 7
Suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys, by federal district, 2014



Note: A total of 160,505 suspects were investigated in matters opened by U.S. attorneys from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. A matter is opened when a federal prosecutor spends 1 hour or more investigating. 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.
 Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal year 2014.

The number of suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys varied by offense type

The number of suspects involved in matters varied by type of offense. Nearly all immigration (99%) and sex offense (97%) matters involved a single suspect (table 7). About 28% drug matters involved more than one suspect, while 5% involved

five or more suspects. Most investigations with more than one suspect involved two suspects. Drug (14%), fraud (11%), and regulatory offenses (8%) had the greatest share of matters with two suspects. A total of 13,644 fraud matters were referred to U.S. attorneys' offices in 2014. Two percent involved five or more suspects, and 16% involved two to four co-suspects.

TABLE 7
Suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys, by offense type, 2014

	Number of suspects investigated		Number of matters investigated ^a		Total	Number of suspects per matter investigated				
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		1	2	3	4	5 or more
Total	160,505	100%	138,177	100%	100%	92.4%	4.5%	1.5%	0.7%	1.0%
Lead charge^b										
Violent	3,735	2.3%	3,154	2.3%	100%	89.5%	6.3%	2.4%	1.1%	0.8%
Property	20,730	12.9	15,740	11.4	100%	82.8	10.6	3.5	1.6	1.6
Property fraud	18,198	11.4	13,644	9.9	100%	81.9	11.0	3.8	1.7	1.7
Property other	2,532	1.6	2,096	1.5	100%	88.7	7.5	2.0	1.0	0.9
Drug	27,775	17.3	16,108	11.7	100%	72.2	14.3	5.4	2.9	5.2
Public order	15,144	9.4	12,249	8.9	100%	88.5	7.0	2.4	1.0	1.2
Regulatory	4,613	2.9	3,784	2.7	100%	86.8	8.4	3.1	0.9	0.8
Other public order	10,501	6.6	8,465	6.1	100%	89.2	6.4	2.1	1.0	1.3
Sex offense	4,627	2.9	4,469	3.2	100%	97.3	2.2	0.3	--	0.1
Weapons	8,901	5.6	7,912	5.7	100%	92.1	5.7	1.2	0.5	0.5
Immigration	79,340	49.5	78,265	56.8	100%	99.0	0.8	0.1	0.1	--
Federal judicial districts										
U.S.-Mexico border districts	88,762	55.3%	83,743	60.6%	100%	96.9%	2.0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%
Arizona	27,836	17.3	25,932	18.8	100%	96.4	2.0	0.7	0.4	0.5
California Southern	5,259	3.3	4,699	3.4	100%	92.9	5.2	1.0	0.4	0.5
New Mexico	5,140	3.2	4,641	3.4	100%	94.1	3.8	1.1	0.4	0.7
Texas Southern	28,938	18.0	27,835	20.1	100%	98.0	1.3	0.4	0.1	0.2
Texas Western	21,589	13.5	20,636	14.9	100%	97.6	1.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
Other districts	71,743	44.7	54,434	39.4	100%	85.6	8.4	2.8	1.3	1.9

Note: 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.

--Less than 0.05%.

^aDetail may not sum to total because matters may include more than one offense type.

^bLead charge is the substantive statute that is the primary basis for referral. It is most often the charge with the greatest potential sentence, but not always. A matter is opened when a federal prosecutor spends one hour or more investigating. Lead charge was missing for 283 records.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal year 2014.

Suspects in matters concluded

46% of suspects in matters concluded in 2014 were prosecuted by U.S. attorneys

Suspects charged with weapons (72%) and drug (71%) offenses had the highest prosecution rates in 2014, followed by sex (64%), violent (60%), property (52%), and public order (42%) offenses (table 8).

4 in 10 matters concluded in 2014 were disposed by U.S. magistrates

U.S. magistrates have the authority to adjudicate misdemeanor offenses (18 U.S.C. § 3401). Thirty-eight percent of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2014 were disposed by U.S. magistrates. Offenses that were most likely to be disposed by U.S. magistrates included immigration (69%), other public order (19%), and other property (18%) offenses. Other public order offenses include an array of offenses, such as tax law violations, bribery, perjury, national defense, racketeering, and extortion (see *Methodology*).

In the five U.S.-Mexico border districts, nearly two-thirds (65%) of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys were disposed by U.S. magistrates, compared to less than a tenth (6%) of matters in other districts. This was the result of immigration enforcement along the southwest border. Generally, first-time illegal entry defendants who agreed to plead guilty to a petty misdemeanor charge were sentenced to 30 days or less of confinement by U.S. magistrate and were subsequently removed from the United States upon completion of the sentence.

Seventeen percent of matters were declined for prosecution in 2014. Suspects involved in regulatory offenses were most likely to be declined for prosecution (49%), followed by fraud (42%), other public order (38%), and sex (35%) offenses.

TABLE 8
Outcome and case processing time of suspects in matters concluded, 2014

	Number of suspects in matters concluded	Outcome of matters concluded				Prosecutor decision case processing time (median) ^a			
		Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed by U.S. magistrate	Declined	Total	Decision to prosecute in U.S. district court	Decision to dispose by U.S. magistrate	Decision to decline matter
Total	170,161	100%	45.7%	37.6%	16.6%	14 days	24 days	0 days	503 days
Lead charge^b									
Violent	3,993	100%	60.3%	6.2%	33.5%	55 days	24 days	107 days	337 days
Property	23,619	100%	52.3%	7.0%	40.7%	290	111	35	665
Fraud	20,893	100%	52.3	5.6	42.1	328	134	40	677
Other	2,726	100%	51.8	18.1	30.1	76	22	31	503
Drug	31,714	100%	70.5%	9.7%	19.8%	30	26	8	511
Public order	15,487	100%	42.4%	16.4%	41.2%	156	28	90	482
Regulatory	4,179	100%	40.1	10.5	49.4	233	39	123	483
Other	11,308	100%	43.3	18.6	38.1	123	26	85	480
Sex offense	4,929	100%	63.6%	1.8%	34.5%	99	41	92	313
Weapons	9,068	100%	72.2%	1.5%	26.3%	37	23	42	258
Immigration	81,305	100%	30.0%	69.3%	0.7%	0	19	0	475
Federal judicial district									
U.S.-Mexico border districts	91,158	100%	32.3%	65.1%	2.6%	1 day	22 days	0 days	518 days
Arizona	28,383	100%	18.3	78.6	3.0	0	23	0	554
California Southern	5,773	100%	82.3	14.8	2.9	24	26	14	461
New Mexico	5,491	100%	86.3	7.2	6.5	9	8	9	414
Texas Southern	29,355	100%	25.4	73.4	1.3	0	19	0	742
Texas Western	22,156	100%	33.0	64.3	2.7	3	23	1	427
Other districts	79,003	100%	61.2%	6.0%	32.8%	115	30	96	502

Note: 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. Offense data were missing for 46 matters.

^aProsecutor case processing time reflects the time from receipt of a matter to the prosecutor's decision to: 1) Prosecute as a case in U.S. district court, 2) Refer for disposal in U.S. magistrate court, or 3) Decline the matter resulting in no further action in U.S. district or U.S. magistrate court. The median is the midpoint of processing time. A median of zero means that half of the suspects received a disposition on the same day as the matter was referred.

^bLead charge is the substantive statute that is the primary basis for referral. It is most often the charge with the greatest potential sentence, but not always.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal year 2014.

Six law enforcement agencies referred more than three-quarters of all matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2014

Eighty-six percent (145,647) of the 170,161 matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in 2014 were referred by six federal law enforcement agencies. CBP referred the largest number of suspects (58,127 matters), followed by the FBI (20,265) and Citizenship and Immigration Services (17,523). The other three agencies included ICE (17,064), the DEA (12,375), and ATF (8,214). Among these six agencies, the highest prosecution rates in 2014 for matters referred by ICE (81%),

the DEA (73%), and ATF (72%) (table 9). Twenty-nine percent of suspects referred by CBP were prosecuted in U.S. district courts, 71% were disposed by U.S. magistrate, and fewer than 1% were declined. The prosecution rate for suspects referred by the FBI was 56%. Forty-one percent of suspects referred by the FBI were declined, and 3% were disposed by U.S. magistrate. These six agencies differed in the time from receipt of the matter to the decision to prosecute. The FBI had a median time of 57 days, compared to 22 to 29 days for the other five agencies.

TABLE 9
Outcomes of suspects in matters concluded by Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice, 2014

Investigating department/agency	Number of suspects in matters concluded	Outcome of matters concluded				Number prosecuted	Median days from receipt of matter to prosecutorial decision ^a
		Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed by U.S. magistrate	Declined		
All agencies	170,161	100%	45.7%	37.6%	16.6%	77,823	24 days
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	98,459	100%	35.7%	60.0%	4.3%	35,174	21 days
Customs and Border Protection	58,127	100%	28.8	71.0	0.2	16,738	21
Immigration and Customs Enforcement	17,064	100%	80.9	7.6	11.5	13,798	20
Citizenship and Immigration Services	17,523	100%	6.3	93.2	0.4	1,111	23
Secret Service	3,575	100%	56.1	2.7	41.2	2,004	96
Joint DHS/state/local task forces	433	100%	74.1	2.5	23.3	321	28
Other ^b	1,737	100%	69.2	4.1	26.7	1,202	27
Department of Justice	47,188	100%	63.4%	3.0%	33.6%	29,898	33 days
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)	8,214	100%	71.6	1.5	27.0	5,879	27
Joint ATF/state/local task forces	713	100%	66.6	1.7	31.7	475	42
U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)	2,143	100%	48.9	8.3	42.9	1,047	15
Joint USMS/state/local task forces	88	100%	40.9	5.7	53.4	36	19
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)	12,375	100%	73.2	3.2	23.5	9,064	29
Joint DEA/state/local task forces	1,257	100%	79.5	2.5	18.0	999	30
FBI	20,265	100%	55.8	3.0	41.2	11,309	57
Joint FBI/state/local task forces	872	100%	62.0	1.9	36.0	541	41
Other ^c	1,261	100%	43.5	5.1	51.5	548	22

Note: The unit of count is a suspect in a matter concluded by U.S. attorneys. Suspects concluded in more than one matter are counted separately. Investigating department or agency is the entity making the referral for criminal action to the U.S. attorney's office.

^aThe median is the midpoint of processing time. A median of zero means that half of the suspects received a prosecutorial decision on the same day as the matter was referred.

^bIncludes Federal Emergency Management Agency, Transportation Security Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard.

^cIncludes U.S. Parole Commission and U.S. Trustees.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal year 2014.

Case processing time

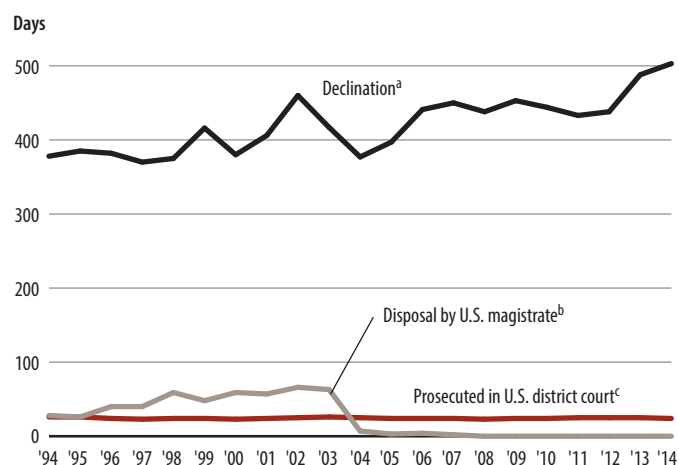
Prosecutorial decisions involve whether to prosecute, refer to U.S. magistrate, or decline a matter. The time it took U.S. attorneys to decide how they would handle a matter varied with the decision made and the charges involved. Matters that were declined for prosecution in 2014 took a median 503 days to conclude. In 2014, the decision to prosecute a matter in a district court took U.S. attorneys a median of 24 days. In comparison, most matters disposed by a U.S. magistrate in 2014 were disposed on the same day they were opened.

Among those matters that were declined in 2014, fraud (677 days) and drug (511 days) matters took the longest time to reach the declination decision. Matters that were declined in 2014 in U.S.-Mexico border districts (518 days) took a similar time to process than in other districts. The median case processing time varied by type of offense, with fraud (328 days) and regulatory (233 days) offenses taking the longest to reach a prosecutorial decision. The median case processing time for immigration (0 days) and drug (30 days) offenses took the shortest time to reach a decision by the federal prosecutor's office.

The median time for matters sent to the district court remained relatively stable from 1994 to 2014, declining slightly from 26 to 24 days during the 21-year period (figure 15). The median time for matters sent to a magistrate increased from 28 days in 1994 to 63 days in 2003, and then dropped sharply to a median of 0 days for each year from 2008 to 2014.

The overall median time dropped in part because of a steady decrease in the number of matters declined and an increase in the number of immigration matters handled by U.S. magistrate beginning in 2005 (not shown). Operation Streamline, a federal zero-tolerance prosecutorial initiative, began in the Border Patrol's Del Rio Sector (located in Texas Western) in December 2005. Under Operation Streamline, offenders caught making their first illegal entry are charged with a misdemeanor and face up to 6 months in prison before being deported. Versions of this approach have been expanded and implemented in Arizona (Tucson and Yuma), Texas Southern (Laredo, Brownsville, and McAllen), and New Mexico (Las Cruces). El Paso in Texas Western also has a Streamline-type program.

FIGURE 15
Median days from matter referral to prosecutor decision for case handling, 1994–2014



Note: The median is the midpoint of processing time. A median of zero means that half of the suspects received a disposition on the same day as the matter was referred. The unit of count is suspects in matters concluded. Suspects in more than one matter are counted separately.

^aDecision by the federal prosecutor to not continue with an investigation after a matter has been opened and under review for prosecution.

^bLess serious matters (e.g., Class B or C misdemeanors or petty offenses) are tried before a U.S. magistrate judge.

^cDecision by the federal prosecutors (e.g., information) or by a Grand Jury (indictment) to file formal charges in U.S. district court.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National LIONS database, fiscal years 1994–2014.

Pretrial detention

Type of offense for persons detained

Immigration defendants were most likely to be detained prior to case disposition

More than 3 in 4 defendants (78%) in cases terminated in 2014 had been detained by the court prior to case disposition (table 10). Two-thirds (67%) of defendants had been detained for the entire pretrial period and about a tenth (12%) were detained for part of the period and released. The defendants most likely to be detained were those charged with immigration (89%), weapons (87%), drug (85%), and violent (83%) offenses as the most serious charge. The most serious charge is determined by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts as the offense with greatest maximum

statutory penalty. Immigration defendants made up 41% of all defendants in cases terminated in 2014 and 47% of all defendants detained prior to case disposition. Eighty-seven percent of immigration defendants were detained for the entire period, while 2% of immigrant defendants were detained for part of the pretrial period and then released. Eleven percent of immigration defendants were not detained prior to case disposition in 2014.

Of the 36% of property defendants detained, the majority were more likely to be detained for part of the period—rather than the entire period—than defendants charged with other offenses. For cases terminated in 2014, 81% of defendants charged with a sex offense were detained prior to case disposition. More than half (59%) of sex offenders were detained for the entire pretrial period, and nearly a quarter (22%) were detained for part of the period.

TABLE 10
Defendants detained at any time prior to case termination, 2014

	Number of defendants in cases disposed	Total		Defendants detained				Defendants not detained	
		Number	Percent	Entire period	Part of period	Number	Percent		
Total	98,639	76,964	78.0%	65,563	66.5%	11,401	11.6%	21,675	22.0%
Most serious offense^a									
Violent	2,180	1,798	82.5%	1,425	65.4%	373	17.1%	382	17.5%
Property	13,324	4,844	36.4%	3,073	23.1%	1,771	13.3%	8,480	63.6%
Fraud	11,034	4,118	37.3	2,643	24.0	1,475	13.4	6,916	62.7
Other	2,290	726	31.7	430	18.8	296	12.9	1,564	68.3
Drug offenses	26,717	22,730	85.1%	16,781	62.8%	5,949	22.3%	3,987	14.9%
Public order	5,264	2,421	46.0%	1,850	35.1%	571	10.8%	2,843	54.0%
Regulatory	1,170	508	43.4	327	28.0	181	15.5	662	56.6
Other	4,094	1,913	46.7	1,523	37.2	390	9.5	2,181	53.3
Sex offenses	3,327	2,701	81.2%	1,960	58.9%	741	22.3%	626	18.8%
Weapons	6,896	5,992	86.9%	4,891	70.9%	1,101	16.0%	904	13.1%
Immigration	40,523	36,239	89.4%	35,390	87.3%	849	2.1%	4,284	10.6%
Number of prior convictions									
None	40,692	28,736	70.6%	23,771	58.4%	4,965	12.2%	11,956	29.4%
1	15,998	12,977	81.1	11,280	70.5	1,697	10.6	3,021	18.9
2–4	22,649	18,925	83.6	16,320	72.1	2,605	11.5	3,724	16.4
5 or more	18,831	16,229	86.2	14,149	75.1	2,080	11.1	2,602	13.8
Type of prior convictions^b									
Misdemeanor only	18,864	15,125	80.1%	12,589	66.7%	2,536	13.4%	3,739	19.8%
Felony other	9,368	7,495	80.0	6,685	71.4	810	8.7	1,873	20.0
Felony drug	13,694	11,738	85.7	10,203	74.5	1,535	11.2	1,956	14.3
Felony violent	15,552	13,773	88.6	12,272	78.9	1,501	9.7	1,779	17.4
Federal judicial district									
U.S.-Mexico border districts	48,688	42,753	87.8%	39,837	81.8%	2,916	6.0%	5,935	12.2%
Arizona	24,278	23,130	95.3	22,629	93.2	501	2.1	1,148	4.7
California Southern	5,375	3,609	67.2	2,891	53.8	718	13.4	1,766	32.9
New Mexico	4,614	4,533	98.2	4,159	90.1	374	8.1	81	1.8
Texas Southern	7,223	5,125	71.0	4,469	61.9	656	9.1	2,098	29.1
Texas Western	7,198	6,356	88.3	5,689	79.0	667	9.3	842	11.7
Other districts	49,951	34,211	68.5%	25,726	51.5%	8,485	17.0%	15,740	31.5%

Note: Includes defendants who were detained at any time prior to case termination, those released after a period of detention, and those who were never released. The unit of count is a defendant in a case disposed in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one disposed case are counted separately. A case is disposed following a court finding of guilty plea or trial conviction, dismissal, or acquittal after which the defendant is no longer under supervision of federal pretrial services. Data were missing for offense type (408) and prior conviction (469).

^aBased on the most serious charged offense determined by court personnel as the offense with greatest statutory maximum sentence.

^bPrior felony convictions are classified with prior violent felonies counted first, followed by prior drug felonies and prior other felonies. The database does not contain additional details about prior felonies for other offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Probation and Pretrial Services, Pretrial Services Act Information System, fiscal year 2014.

Prior convictions of detainees

Eighty-six percent of defendants with five or more prior convictions were detained in cases terminated in 2014, compared to 71% with no prior convictions. The likelihood of being detained also increased with the severity of the defendant's criminal history. Eighty-nine percent of defendants with a prior violent felony conviction were detained, compared to defendants with a prior drug felony (86%). Defendants with a prior felony (other than violent or drug-related) were detained at the same rate (80%) as defendants with only prior misdemeanor convictions. Defendants with a prior misdemeanor conviction only (13%) were more likely to be detained for part of the pretrial period.

Eighty-eight percent of defendants charged in the southwest border districts were detained prior to case disposition in 2014, compared to 69% for nonsouthwest border districts. The pretrial detention rate for defendants in cases disposed in a southwest border district ranged from 67% in California Southern and 95% in Arizona to 98% in New Mexico.

Adjudication

Defendants in cases filed in federal court

There were 80,051 defendants in 61,977 cases filed in 2014

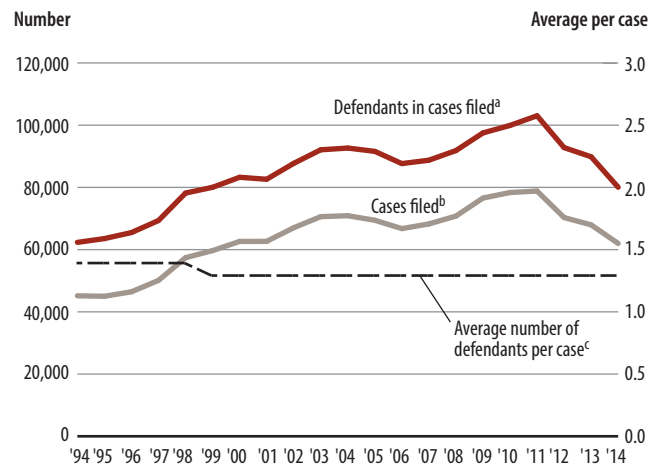
For the 21-year period from 1994 to 2014, a total of 1,346,811 criminal cases were filed in U.S. district court involving 1,780,173 defendants. This was an average of 1.3 defendants per case filed. The number of cases filed declined from 78,825 in 2011 to 61,977 in 2014, and the number of defendants in cases filed decreased from 103,021 in 2011 to 80,051 in 2014 (figure 16).

Immigration offenses increased from 2,453 cases filed in U.S. district court in 1994 to a peak of 29,016 cases filed in 2010 (figure 17). In 2014, 21,789 immigration cases were filed. Drug offenses increased from 21,871 cases filed in 1994 to 32,897 in 2003 before declining to 29,493 in 2010. There were 25,595 drug cases filed in 2014. Weapons offenses increased from 3,557 cases filed in 1994 to a peak of 10,278 in 2004. Since 2004, weapons cases filed in U.S. district court declined to pre-2001 levels (6,288) by 2014.⁹

During 2014, 80,051 defendants were charged in federal court with a criminal offense, 89% of whom were charged with felonies (table 11). Of the 71,483 defendants charged with felonies in 2014, 32% were charged for drug, 30% for immigration, 16% for property, and 3% for violent offenses. The number of defendants charged with a felony sex offense increased by an annual average of 10% from 2012 to 2014.

⁹The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' criminal master file provides one record per defendant in a case, allowing for identification of multiple defendants per case. A defendant may be counted multiple times if involved in more than one case.

FIGURE 16
Criminal cases filed and individual defendants in cases filed in U.S. district court, 1994–2014



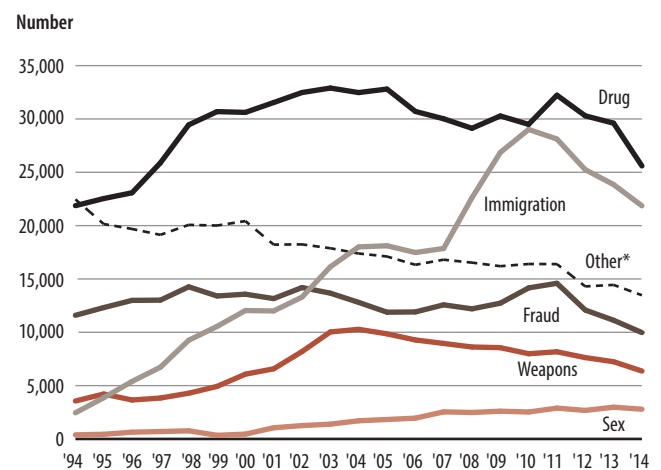
^aThe unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one case are counted separately.

^bThe unit of count is a case filed in U.S. district court.

^cThe number of defendants in cases filed divided by the number of cases filed.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2014.

FIGURE 17
Defendants in cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, 1994–2014



Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one case filing are counted separately. Most serious charged offense is determined by court personnel as the offense with greatest statutory maximum sentence. Includes defendants charged with a felony or Class A or B misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.

*Includes violent, other property, and public order offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2014.

TABLE 11**Defendants in cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense type and district, 2012, 2013, and 2014**

	2012		2013		2014		Average annual growth rate, 2012–2014 ^a
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
All offenses	92,789	100%	89,843	100%	80,051	100%	-7.0%
Most serious offense filed^b							
Felony	84,241	90.8%	81,080	90.2%	71,483	89.3%	-7.8%
Violent	2,033	2.2%	2,084	2.3%	1,901	2.4%	-3.2%
Property	12,851	13.9%	12,679	14.2%	11,151	13.9%	-6.7%
Fraud	11,171	12.1	10,530	11.8	9,375	11.7	-8.4
Other	1,680	1.8	2,149	2.4	1,776	2.2	5.3
Drug	28,693	31.1%	27,009	30.3%	22,897	28.6%	-10.6%
Public order	4,733	5.1%	4,765	5.3%	4,195	5.2%	-5.7%
Regulatory	1,032	1.1	940	1.1	893	1.1	-6.9
Other	3,701	4.0	3,825	4.3	3,302	4.1	-5.1
Sex offense	2,675	2.9%	2,978	3.3%	3,262	4.1%	10.4%
Weapons	7,586	8.2%	7,183	8.0%	6,288	7.9%	-8.9%
Immigration	25,102	27.2%	23,781	26.6%	21,789	27.2%	-6.8%
Misdemeanor	8,548	9.2%	8,763	9.8%	8,568	10.7%	0.1%
Federal judicial district							
U.S.-Mexico border districts	33,038	35.6%	31,222	34.8%	28,899	36.1%	-6.4%
Arizona	7,482	8.1	6,600	7.4	6,592	8.2	-6.0
California Southern	6,313	6.8	5,512	6.1	4,251	5.3	-17.8
New Mexico	3,133	3.4	4,080	4.5	4,405	5.5	19.1
Texas Southern	7,077	7.6	7,210	8.0	6,579	8.2	-3.5
Texas Western	9,033	9.7	7,820	8.7	7,072	8.8	-11.5
Other districts	59,751	64.4%	58,621	65.3%	51,152	63.9%	-7.3%

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one case filing are counted separately. Offense data were missing in 2012 (568) and 2013 (601).

^aCalculated using each fiscal year count from 2012 to 2014.

^bDetermined by court personnel as the offense with greatest statutory maximum sentence.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

In 2014, drug cases were more likely to have multiple defendants than other offense types

Overall, 12% of all cases filed in U.S. district court in 2014 had multiple defendants (table 12). The percentage varied greatly by offense. For example, 28% of all drug

cases filed in U.S. district court in 2014 had more than one defendant and 6% had 5 or more defendants. In comparison, 3% of cases involving an immigration or sex offense had multiple defendants.

TABLE 12
Defendants in cases filed in U.S. district court, by offense type, 2014

	Number of defendants in cases filed ^a		Number of cases filed ^b		Total	Number of defendants per case filed				
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		1	2	3	4	5 or more
Total	80,051	100%	61,977	100%	100%	88.5%	6.3%	2.2%	1.1%	1.9%
Most serious offense^c										
Felony	71,483	89.3%	54,498	87.9%	100%	87.9%	6.7%	2.2%	1.1%	2.0%
Violent	1,901	2.4%	1,608	2.6%	100%	85.7%	8.8%	3.3%	1.4%	0.8%
Property	11,151	13.9%	8,044	13.0%	100%	81.2%	10.4%	3.6%	2.0%	2.9%
Fraud	9,375	11.7	6,608	10.7	100%	79.5	11.1	3.9	2.2	3.3
Other	1,776	2.2	1,472	2.4	100%	86.7	7.7	3.1	1.0	1.5
Drug	22,897	28.6%	12,462	20.1%	100%	71.8%	13.8%	5.4%	2.7%	6.3%
Public order	4,195	5.2%	3,166	5.1%	100%	80.9%	8.9%	3.2%	2.0%	5.0%
Regulatory	893	1.1	728	1.2	100%	79.3	14.0	3.4	1.4	1.9
Other public order	3,302	4.1	2,454	4.0	100%	80.9	7.6	3.3	2.2	6.0
Sex offense	3,262	4.1%	3,151	5.1%	100%	97.3%	2.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
Weapons	6,288	7.9%	5,619	9.1%	100%	89.9%	6.2%	1.7%	0.9%	1.3%
Immigration	21,789	27.2%	20,990	33.9%	100%	97.3%	2.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Misdemeanor	8,568	10.7%	7,479	12.1%	100%	92.3%	3.7%	1.8%	1.1%	1.2%
Federal judicial district										
U.S.-Mexico border districts	28,899	36.1%	24,786	40.0%	100%	91.6%	5.1%	1.6%	0.8%	0.9%
Arizona	6,592	8.2	5,118	8.3	100%	85.8	7.6	3.1	1.7	1.8
California Southern	4,251	5.3	3,688	6.0	100%	91.9	5.7	1.2	0.5	0.7
New Mexico	4,405	5.5	4,075	6.6	100%	95.9	2.8	0.6	0.2	0.6
Texas Southern	6,579	8.2	5,680	9.2	100%	91.6	5.5	1.5	0.7	0.8
Texas Western	7,072	8.8	6,225	10.0	100%	93.4	3.9	1.3	0.6	0.8
Other districts	51,152	63.9%	37,191	60.0%	100%	86.5%	7.1%	2.6%	1.4%	2.5%

Note: Defendants were charged with a felony or Class A or B misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.

^aThe unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one case filing are counted separately.

^bThe unit of count is a case filed in U.S. district court. A case is counted once even if it contains more than one defendant. Detail does not sum to total because cases may include more than one offense type.

^cDetermined by court personnel as the offense with greatest statutory maximum sentence.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal year 2014.

Demographic characteristics of defendants charged

2 in 5 defendants charged in U.S. district court in 2014 were non-U.S. citizens

Forty-two percent of defendants charged in U.S. district courts in 2014 were non-U.S. citizens. Noncitizens charged included persons with legal (5%) status (permanent residents, persons in possession of a green card, persons with a valid temporary visa,

and persons with refugee status) and persons in the country without legal authorization (37%). Of the 42% of defendants who were noncitizens, 32% were from Mexico, 5% were from Central America, 2% were from the Caribbean, and 1% were from South America. Noncitizens from Asia and Oceania, Europe, and Africa together represented 2% of defendants charged in U.S. district court (**table 13**).

TABLE 13
Demographic characteristics of federal defendants in cases charged in U.S. district court, by sex of defendant, 2014

Defendant characteristic	All defendants		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	65,159	100%	55,640	100%	9,253	100%
Race/Hispanic origin						
White ^a	14,107	22.3%	11,161	20.5%	2,943	33.0%
Black/African American ^a	12,258	19.4	10,332	19.0	1,920	21.5
Hispanic/Latino	34,551	54.6	31,006	57.1	3,540	39.7
American Indian/Alaska Native ^a	1,164	1.8	939	1.7	225	2.5
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^a	1,177	1.8	887	1.6	285	3.2
Age						
17 or younger	43	0.1%	39	0.1%	4	--
18–19	661	1.0	566	1.0	95	1.0%
20–24	7,406	11.4	6,256	11.3	1,146	12.4
25–29	11,072	17.1	9,536	17.1	1,535	16.6
30–34	12,021	18.5	10,506	18.9	1,511	16.3
35–39	10,616	16.4	9,241	16.6	1,369	14.8
40–44	8,221	12.7	7,090	12.8	1,128	12.2
45–49	5,661	8.7	4,836	8.7	824	8.9
50–54	4,056	6.3	3,369	6.1	687	7.4
55–59	2,498	3.9	2,009	3.6	489	5.3
60–64	1,430	2.2	1,185	2.1	243	2.6
65 or older	1,216	1.9	996	1.8	220	2.4
Median age	35 yrs.	~	35 yrs.	~	36 yrs.	~
Citizenship						
U.S. citizen	37,531	58.3%	30,182	54.7%	7,340	80.0%
Legal alien	3,056	4.8	2,504	4.5	550	6.0
Illegal alien	23,783	37.0	22,488	40.8	1,288	14.0
Country of citizenship						
North America	62,218	97.4%	53,326	97.4%	8,877	97.1%
United States	37,531	58.7	30,182	55.1	7,340	80.3
Mexico	20,139	31.5	18,946	34.6	1,190	13.0
Canada	107	0.2	90	0.2	17	0.2
Caribbean ^b	1,253	2.0	1,117	2.0	135	1.5
Central America ^b	3,188	5.0	2,991	5.5	195	2.1
South America ^b	675	1.1%	582	1.1%	93	1.0%
Asia and Oceania ^b	486	0.8%	390	0.7%	93	1.0%
Europe ^b	307	0.5%	251	0.5%	56	0.6%
Africa ^b	224	0.4%	197	0.4%	27	0.3%

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one case filing are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or Class A or B misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Data were missing for the following: sex (266), race/Hispanic origin (1,902), age (258), citizenship (789), and country of citizenship (1,249).

--Less than 0.05%.

~Not applicable.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless otherwise specified.

^bCountries 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 2014.

The majority (55%) of defendants charged in U.S. district courts in 2014 were of Hispanic origin

Defendants of Hispanic origin made up more than half of defendants charged in U.S. district court. Two-thirds (65%) of defendants charged were between ages 25 and 44. Defendants age 50 or older made up 14% of defendants charged. The youngest (age 19 or younger) and oldest defendants (age 65 or older) together made up 3% of defendants charged in 2014.

Males (85%) made up most of defendants charged in U.S. district court in 2014

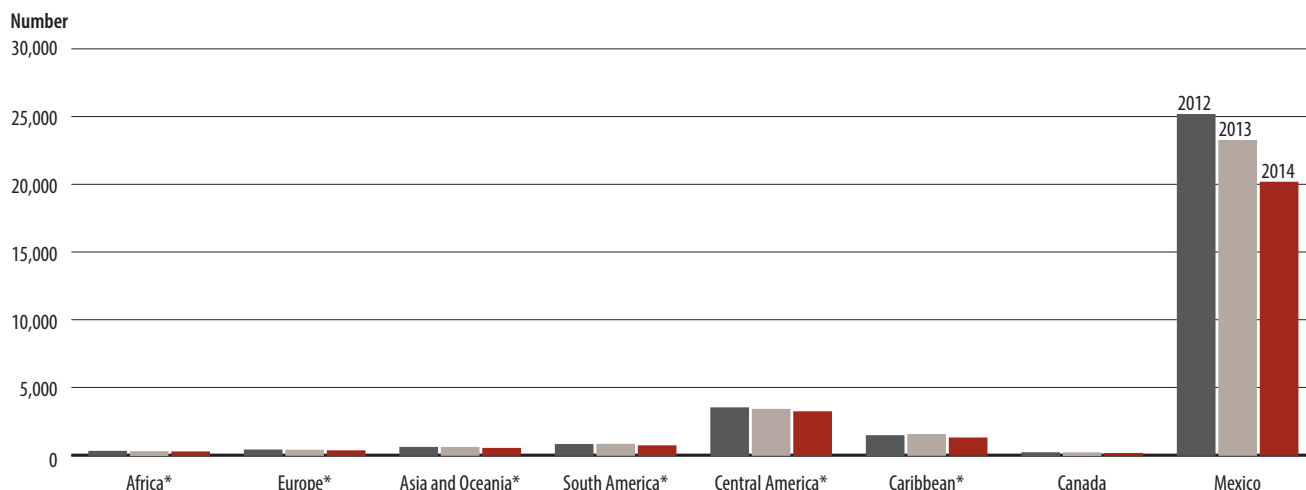
Fifteen percent of defendants charged in federal court in 2014 were female. Most females charged were of Hispanic origin (40%), followed by white (33%) and black or African American (22%). The male racial profile had a similar ordering. Most males charged were of Hispanic origin (57%), followed by white (21%) and black or African American (19%). The median age for females (age 36) was similar to males (age 35). Females

charged were mostly U.S. citizens (80%), with 6% having legal alien status and 14% having illegal alien status. Males charged were more evenly split between U.S. (55%) and non-U.S. citizens (45%). Among males, the most common countries of nationality apart from the United States included Mexico (35%), Central America (6%), the Caribbean (2%), and South America (1%). Among females, the most common countries of nationality apart from the United States were similar to that of males. They included Mexico (13%), Central America (2%), the Caribbean (2%), and South America (1%).

Mexican nationals made up a declining number of noncitizens charged in U.S. district court from 2012 to 2014

In 2014, defendants with Mexican citizenship who were charged in U.S. district court decreased from 25,134 in 2012 to 20,139 in 2014. Central American defendants charged in federal court decreased modestly, from 3,481 defendants in 2012 to 3,188 defendants in 2014. Defendants from South America decreased from 763 in 2012 to 675 in 2014 (figure 18).

FIGURE 18
Nationality of non-U.S. citizens charged in U.S. district court, 2012–2014



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

*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 years 2012–2014.

Defendants in cases terminated

9 in 10 defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court in 2014 were convicted

Of the 85,781 defendants adjudicated in 2014, 91% were convicted (table 14). More than 90% of all defendants charged with immigration (97%), sex (94%), weapons (93%), drug (93%), and violent (92%) offenses were convicted. In 2014, 89% of adjudicated defendants were convicted following a guilty plea. Three percent of defendants were adjudicated through a bench or jury trial. Adjudicated defendants charged with violent (7%) or regulatory (7%) offense had the highest percentage of trials in 2014.

9% of adjudicated defendants were dismissed in 2014

Misdemeanants had the highest percentage of dismissals (28%), followed by defendants charged with regulatory (11%) and other property (9%) offenses. In 2014, defendants adjudicated in the southwest border districts had a higher conviction rate (96%) than defendants in nonborder districts (89%). In 2014, dismissals (304 days), acquittals (304 days), and guilty pleas (212 days) took less time to process from case filing to disposition than trials ending in conviction (516 days).

TABLE 14
Disposition and case processing time of defendants in cases terminated in U.S. district court, 2014

Most serious offense at termination	Total cases terminated		Percent convicted			Percent not convicted		
	Number	Percent	Total	Guilty plea	Bench/jury trial	Total	Bench/jury trial	Dismissed
Total	85,781	100%	91.1%	88.9%	2.2%	8.9%	0.4%	8.5%
Most serious offense								
Felony	76,139	100%	93.5%	91.1%	2.4%	6.5%	0.4%	6.1%
Violent	1,850	100%	91.8	86.4	5.4	8.2	1.6	6.7
Property	12,037	100%	91.0	87.4	3.6	9.0	0.6	8.4
Fraud	10,479	100%	91.2	87.3	3.9	8.8	0.5	8.3
Other	1,558	100%	90.2	88.0	2.2	9.8	1.0	8.8
Drug	24,640	100%	92.5	90.2	2.3	7.5	0.3	7.2
Public order	5,086	100%	89.4	84.9	4.6	10.6	1.4	9.2
Regulatory	905	100%	88.1	82.7	5.4	11.9	1.2	10.7
Other	4,181	100%	89.7	85.4	4.4	10.3	1.4	8.9
Sex offense	3,268	100%	93.6	89.9	3.7	6.4	0.5	5.9
Weapons	7,444	100%	93.3	89.5	3.8	6.7	0.8	5.9
Immigration	21,814	100%	97.2	96.8	0.4	2.8	0.1	2.7
Misdemeanor	9,642	100%	72.1%	71.5%	0.6%	27.9%	0.3%	27.6%
Federal judicial district								
U.S.-Mexico border districts	29,681	100%	95.7%	94.9%	0.7%	4.3%	0.1%	4.2%
Arizona	6,901	100%	96.4	95.6	0.8	3.6	0.1	3.5
California Southern	4,719	100%	89.6	88.5	1.1	10.4	0.3	10.1
New Mexico	4,440	100%	98.7	98.4	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.3
Texas Southern	6,573	100%	96.2	95.7	0.5	3.8	0.2	3.6
Texas Western	7,048	100%	96.6	95.6	1.0	3.4	0.2	3.3
Other districts	56,100	100%	88.7%	85.8%	2.9%	11.3%	0.6%	10.7%
Median days from filing to disposition	214 days		212 days	212 days	516 days	304 days	304 days	304 days

Note: Most serious offense at termination determined by court personnel as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The unit of count is a defendant in a case terminated in U.S. district court. Defendants terminated in more than one case are counted separately. The median is the midpoint of processing time.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal year 2014.

Case processing time

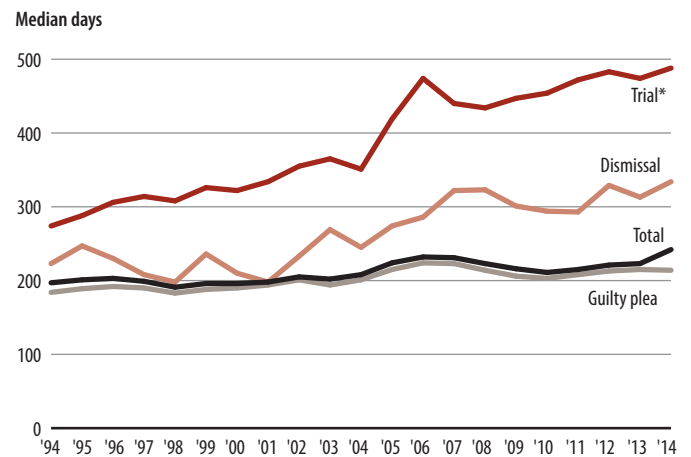
In 2014, a felony case took a median of 214 days to process from filing to disposition

The median case processing time for felonies from case filing to disposition increased from 197 days in 1994 to 242 days in 2014 (figure 19). Guilty pleas made up 89% of the case outcomes, which influenced the overall median case processing time. The median case processing time of felony cases terminated by a guilty plea increased from 184 days in 1994 to 214 days in 2014.

Time to terminate a case by a bench or jury trial decision increased from 1994 to 2014

In 2014, felony cases terminated by a trial took a median of 488 days, a 78% increase from 274 days in 1994. Cases terminated by dismissal took a median of 334 days in 2014, up 50% from 223 days in 1994. The number of defendants who were found guilty following a trial declined by an annual average of 5% from 2010 to 2014, and the number of defendants who were found not guilty at trial decreased by 4% during this period. The number of guilty pleas decreased by an average annual rate of 3% from 2010 to 2014, while case dismissals decreased by 3% (table 15).

FIGURE 19
Median days from felony case filing to case termination, by mode of disposition, 1994–2014



Note: The median is the midpoint of processing time. Includes defendants charged with a felony as the most serious charge at case termination.

*Includes defendants who were either convicted or not convicted either before a jury or before a judge (bench trial).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2014.

TABLE 15
Disposition and sentence received for defendants in cases terminated in U.S. district court, 2010, 2013, and 2014

Cases terminated	2010		2013		2014		Average annual growth rate, 2010–2014 ^a
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Disposition							
Total cases terminated	98,489	100%	90,133	100%	85,781	100%	-3.2%
Convicted	89,902	91.3%	82,838	91.9%	78,155	91.1%	-3.2%
Guilty plea	87,567	88.9	80,710	89.5	76,282	88.9	-3.2
Bench/jury trial	2,335	2.4	2,128	2.4	1,873	2.2	-5.2
Not convicted	8,587	8.7%	7,295	8.1%	7,626	8.9%	-2.5%
Dismissed	8,166	8.3	6,920	7.7	7,270	8.5	-2.5
Bench/jury trial	421	0.4	375	0.4	356	0.4	-3.9
Sentence imposed							
Total convicted	89,902	100%	82,838	100%	78,155	100%	-3.2%
Prison ^b	69,494	77.8	64,390	78.1	60,626	78.0	-3.2
Probation only	9,627	10.8	8,333	10.1	8,275	10.6	-3.5
Fine only	2,758	3.1	1,828	2.2	1,758	2.3	-9.3
Suspended sentence	7,483	8.4	7,932	9.6	7,113	9.1	-0.4

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case terminated in U.S. district court. Defendants terminated in more than one case are counted separately. Sentence type was missing in 2010 (540), 2013 (355), and 2014 (383).

^aCalculated using each fiscal year count from 2010 to 2014.

^bIncludes all sentences to incarceration including split sentences.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 2010, 2013, and 2014.

The use of public defenders and appointed counsel increased with the growth in the federal criminal caseload

The Criminal Justice Act (CJA) was enacted in 1964 (Title 18 U.S.C. § 3006A) and requires that attorneys be appointed to represent defendants unable to pay for their own counsel. The Defender Services Division of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC) oversees expenditures for federal defendants through two types of programs. The first type of program comprises panel attorneys who are appointed case-by-case by the court from a list of private attorneys. The second type draws from federal defender organizations, which can take one of two forms: federal public defender organizations staffed with federal government employees and headed by a public defender appointed by the court of appeals, or community defender organizations that are incorporated, nonprofit legal service organizations that receive grants from the AOUSC. At the end of their cases, more than three-quarters (78%) of federal defendants in 2014 were represented by public defenders or assigned counsel, up from more than half (54%) in 1994.¹⁰

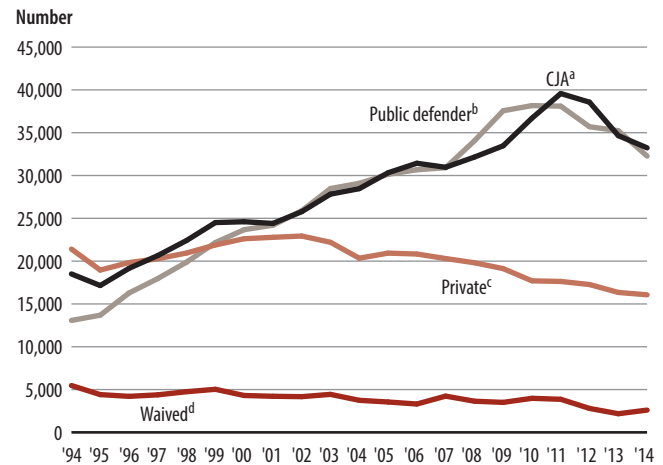
For cases concluding in 2014, most defendants had some type of counsel

Almost all (97%) of the more than 85,781 defendants in cases concluded in 2014 had some type of counsel, either hired or appointed. The remaining defendants (3%) waived representation or were self-represented in cases that were mostly misdemeanors.

In 2014, public defenders represented 38% of defendants (up from 21% in 1994), panel-appointed attorneys represented 39% (up from 30% in 1994), and private attorneys represented 19% of defendants (down from 35% in 1994). From 1994 to 2014, the use of public defenders increased at an annual average rate of 5%, and the use of CJA attorneys increased at an annual average rate of 3%. Use of private attorneys decreased by an average of 1% from 1994 to 2014, and defendants waiving counsel or representing themselves decreased annually by 3% (figure 20).

¹⁰In this report, the type of counsel for federal defendants was the type at case termination. Other counsel may have represented the defendant earlier. Data describing counsel at filing or initiation were not used because they were incomplete or unavailable.

FIGURE 20
Defendants in criminal cases terminated in U.S. district court, by type of representation, 1994–2014



Note: Reflects type of counsel at case termination. The unit of count is a defendant in a case terminated in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one terminated case are counted separately.

^aCriminal Justice Act (CJA) counsel include attorneys from community defender organizations who are designated CJA and private attorneys retained as CJA counsel.

^bIncludes defense counsel working for federal public defender organizations (comprised of federal employees) and community defender organizations (nonprofit defense counsel organizations incorporated under state laws).

^cPaid for by defendant.

^dDefendants represent themselves as counsel.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2014.

Continued on next page

The use of public defenders and appointed counsel increased with the growth in the federal criminal caseload (continued)

Growth in immigration cases increased public defender and panel-appointed attorney caseloads

In 2014, defendants charged with immigration offenses made up the largest share of cases terminated with a public defender (43%), followed by drug offenses (15%) (table 16). Drug offenses (41%) made up the largest share of cases terminated with CJA attorneys, followed by immigration offenses (21%). Drug (35%) and property (26%) offense cases made up more than half of private counsel caseloads. Nearly all (97%) defendants that waived counsel were charged with misdemeanors.

In 2014, about 42% of cases terminated with a public defender were in the five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border

Forty-two percent of cases terminated with a public defender in 2014 were in the U.S.-Mexico border districts. About 39% of cases terminated with a CJA attorney were also in the U.S.-Mexico border districts; most were in Arizona (15%). Eighteen percent of cases terminated with a private attorney were in the U.S.-Mexico border districts. The median days from filing to case termination was longest for cases involving private attorneys (304 days), followed by CJA attorneys (244 days). Cases handled by public defenders (153 days) had the shortest median case processing time in part due to the greater share of immigration cases, which were processed more quickly.

TABLE 16
Defendants in cases terminated in U.S. district court, by type of counsel and district, 2014

	Total cases		Criminal Justice Act counsel ^a	Private counsel ^b	Public defender ^c	Self-represented ^d
	Number	Percent				
All offenses		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Most serious offense						
Felony	76,139	88.8%	91.3%	92.3%	92.1%	2.3%
Violent	1,850	2.2	2.1	0.8	3.1	0.2
Property	12,037	14.0	12.5	25.9	10.8	0.4
Fraud	10,479	12.2	11.1	23.5	8.6	0.4
Other	1,558	1.8	1.4	2.4	2.1	--
Drug	24,640	28.7	40.6	35.3	15.2	0.9
Public order	5,086	5.9	5.7	12.4	3.2	0.4
Regulatory	905	1.1	0.8	2.7	0.6	0.1
Other	4,181	4.9	5.0	9.7	2.6	0.3
Sex offense	3,268	3.8	1.9	5.2	5.5	--
Weapons	7,444	8.7	8.0	6.3	11.5	0.3
Immigration	21,814	25.4	20.6	6.4	43.0	0.1
Misdemeanor	9,642	11.2%	8.7%	7.7%	7.9%	97.7%
Federal judicial district						
U.S.-Mexico border districts	29,681	34.6%	38.9%	18.2%	42.0%	0.5%
Arizona	6,901	8.0	14.5	2.0	5.3	0.2
California Southern	4,719	5.5	7.3	2.7	5.6	--
New Mexico	4,440	5.2	6.2	1.2	6.8	0.1
Texas Southern	6,573	7.7	5.0	6.2	12.0	0.1
Texas Western	7,048	8.2	6.0	6.1	12.4	--
Other districts	56,100	65.4%	61.1%	81.8%	58.0%	99.5%
Median days from filing to disposition	214 days		244 days	304 days	153 days	122 days
Total cases terminated	85,781		33,232	16,066	32,268	2,601

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case terminated in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one terminated case are counted separately. Most serious offense determined by court personnel as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The median is the midpoint of case processing time. Reflects type of counsel at case termination. Data were missing for type of counsel (1,614).

--Less than 0.05%.

^aCriminal Justice Act (CJA) counsel include attorneys from community defender organizations who are designated CJA and private attorneys retained as CJA counsel.

^bPaid for by defendant.

^cPublic defenders include defense counsel working for federal public defender organizations (comprised of federal employees) and community defender organizations (nonprofit defense counsel organizations incorporated under state laws).

^dRepresented themselves as counsel.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal year 2014.

Sentencing

Type of sentence

3 in 4 convicted defendants were sentenced to prison in 2014

Of the 78,155 defendants convicted in U.S. district court in 2014, more than three-quarters (78%) were sentenced to prison. This proportion was unchanged from 2010. In comparison, about a third (65%) of convicted defendants received a prison sentence in 1994. The number of persons who were sentenced to prison decreased from 69,494 in 2010 to 60,626 in both 2013 and 2014.

1 in 10 convicted defendants in 2014 were sentenced to a term of probation

The number of persons sentenced to probation decreased an annual average of 16%, from 9,627 in 2010 to 8,275 in 2014. In 2014, 2% of defendants were ordered to pay a fine only. Persons receiving a fine-only sentence decreased from 2,758 in 2010 to 1,758 in 2014. In 2014, 9% of all convicted defendants received a suspended sentence, up from 8% of convicted defendants sentenced in 2010 (not shown).

Prison terms

Median prison terms increased slightly from 30 months in 2010 to 33 months in 2014

The median prison sentence for federal offenders increased from 30 months in 2010 to 33 months in 2014 (table 17). Drug offenders received a median prison sentence of 60 months in 2014, which was unchanged from 2010. Violent offenders received a median of 60 months in prison in 2014, down from 63 months in 2010. Weapons offenders received a median sentence of 57 months in 2014, down from 60 months in 2010. The median prison sentence was the same in 2010 and 2014 for immigration offenders (15 months). Defendants convicted and sentenced to prison in 2014 in the five southwest border districts received a median sentence of 18 months, compared to a median of 48 months in other districts. This was largely the result of the relatively higher percentage of immigration cases in the southwest districts.

TABLE 17
Defendants in cases ending in conviction and sentence to a federal prison term, by type of offense, 2010 and 2014

	Number convicted		Percent sentenced to prison		Median prison term imposed	
	2010	2014	2010	2014	2010	2014
All offenses	89,902	78,155	77.8%	78.0%	30 mo.	33 mo.
Most serious offense						
Felony	80,720	71,204	83.2%	81.7%	33 mo.	36 mo.
Violent	2,040	1,698	93.3	92.5	63	60
Property	11,413	10,959	63.3	64.4	24	24
Fraud	10,042	9,554	65.2	66.2	24	24
Other	1,371	1,405	49.0	52.2	18	22
Drug	25,416	22,784	91.0	89.3	60	60
Public order	4,489	4,549	67.1	68.0	27	30
Regulatory	889	797	50.6	57.3	18	24
Other	3,600	3,752	71.1	70.3	30	30
Sex offense	2,426	3,059	96.4	95.7	84	90
Weapons	7,669	6,946	92.0	92.1	60	57
Immigration	27,004	21,209	82.4	79.0	15	15
Misdemeanor	9,182	6,951	30.0%	39.9%	3 mo.	6 mo.
Federal judicial district						
U.S.-Mexico border districts	33,927	28,394	83.5%	83.6%	15 mo.	18 mo.
Arizona	6,938	6,651	87.0	84.9	14	12
California Southern	5,518	4,229	83.5	80.6	18	24
New Mexico	3,743	4,381	97.8	96.9	4	2
Texas Southern	8,738	6,325	88.4	92.6	18	24
Texas Western	8,990	6,808	70.0	67.3	18	21
Other districts	55,975	49,761	74.3%	74.7%	48 mo.	48 mo.

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case terminated with a conviction and sentence in U.S. district court. Defendants convicted and sentenced in more than one case are counted separately. Most serious offense determined by court personnel as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The median is the midpoint of prison term. Sentence type was missing for 2010 (540) and 2014 (383).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 2010 and 2014.

Sex offender sentences

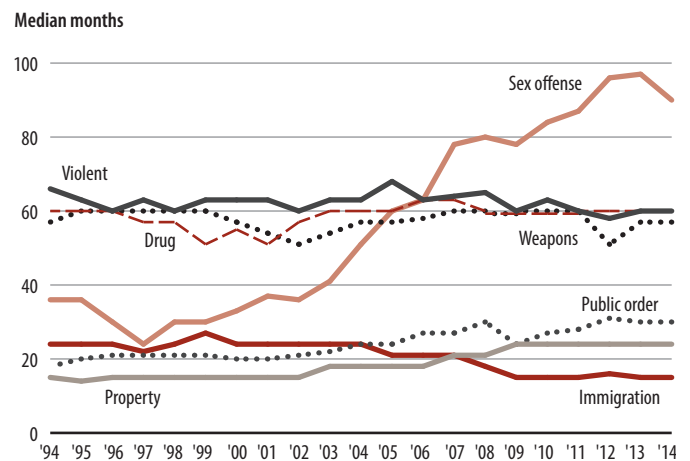
Median prison sentences for defendants convicted of sex offenses had the greatest increase from 1994 to 2014

The median prison sentence imposed on defendants convicted for a felony sex offense increased an annual average of 5%, from 36 months in 1994 to 90 months in 2014 (figure 21). In comparison, the median prison term imposed for weapons (57 months) and drug offenses (60 months) remained stable during this period. The median prison term imposed for immigration offenses decreased from 24 months in 1994 to 15 months in 2014.

Defendants convicted of sex offenses were most likely to receive a prison sentence

In 2014, sex offense convictions (96%) were the most likely to receive a prison sentence, followed by violent (93%), weapons (92%), and drug (89%) offense convictions. Seventy-nine percent of convicted immigration offenders were sentenced to prison in 2014, down from 82% in 2010. Defendants convicted of other property offenses (52%) and regulatory public order offenses (57%) were least likely to receive a prison sentence. Defendants convicted in one of the five southwest border districts (84%) were more likely to receive a prison sentence as defendants in all other districts (75%).

FIGURE 21
Median prison sentence imposed, by most serious felony offense at sentencing, 1994–2014



Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a felony case terminated with a conviction and sentence in U.S. district court. Defendants convicted and sentenced in more than one case are counted separately. Most serious offense determined by court personnel as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The median is the midpoint of prison term.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, criminal master file, fiscal years 1994–2014.

Federal prison population

Type of offense

Most persons in federal prison in 2014 were incarcerated for a drug offense

Drug offenses were the most prevalent offense type of prisoners in federal prison on September 30, 2014 (figure 22). Prisoners with a drug offense as the most serious commitment offense made up 49% of the prison population in 2014, down from 56% in 2004. Weapons offenders increased from 12% of the prison population in 2004 to 16% in 2014. The share of violent offenders in federal prison decreased from 8% in 2004 to 7% in 2014. Sex offenders increased from 2% of the prison population in 2004 to 7% in 2014. Immigration offenders made up 10% of the prison population in 2014, decreasing from 12% of the prison population in 2004.

Age

The federal prison population contained a higher percentage of older prisoners in 2014 than in 2004

The median age of prisoners was 39 years in 2014, compared to a median age of 36 years in 2004 (table 18). The number of prisoners age 65 or older more than doubled, from 2,137 prisoners in 2004 to 4,966 prisoners in 2014. Offenders age 60 and older made up about 6% of the total prison population in 2014, compared to 3% in 2004.

Gender

From 2004 to 2014, males, American Indian or Alaska Natives, and Hispanics in federal prison had the greatest average annual increases

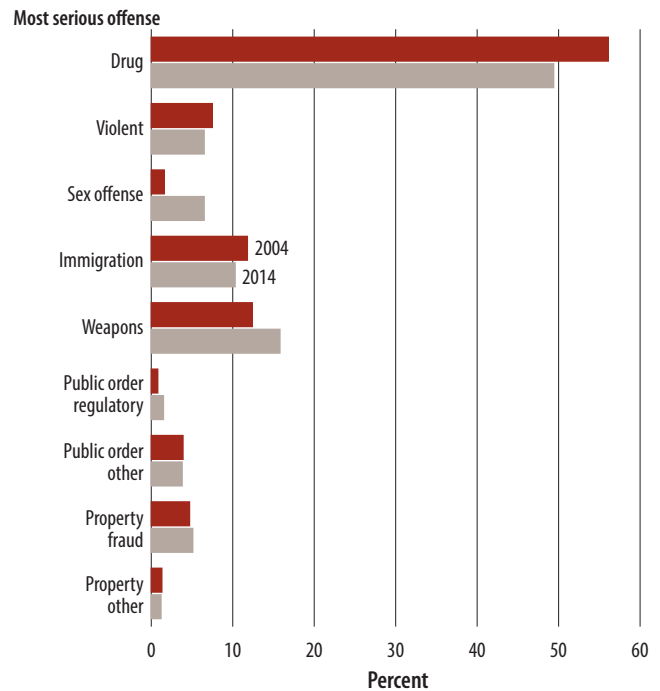
Males made up 94% of inmates in 2014. The average annual rate of growth from 2004 to 2014 was similar for males and females (up 2%). In 2014, 35% of the federal prison population was Hispanic, 35% was black, and 27% was white. American Indians or Alaska Natives (2%) and Asians (1%) made up the remainder of the prison population. American Indians or Alaska Natives and Hispanics shared the greatest average annual increase from 2004 to 2014 (3%).

Citizenship

In 2014, 1 in 4 federally sentenced prisoners in the BOP were non-U.S. citizens

In 2014, 18% of federally sentenced prisoners were citizens of Mexico, 2% were citizens of Caribbean countries, 2% were citizens of Central America, and 1% were from South American countries. The proportion of noncitizens in federal prison decreased from 28% in 2004 to 25% in 2014. Noncitizens in federal prison with citizenship in a Central American country increased by an average of 8% annually from 2004 to 2014, while the average annual decline in prisoners who were citizens of Caribbean countries was 4%. The number of prisoners from South America declined an annual average of 5%, from 3,745 in 2004 to 2,291 in 2014.

FIGURE 22
Prisoners in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, 2004 and 2014



Note: The unit of count is the individual federally sentenced prisoner in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons on September 30 in 2004 and 2014. Includes prisoners sentenced in U.S. district court and excludes D.C. code offenders, military code offenders, foreign treaty transfers, state boarders, and pre-sentenced offenders. See *Methodology*. Data were missing in 2004 (1,121) and 2014 (1,512).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2004 and 2014.

TABLE 18**Demographic characteristics of federally sentenced offenders in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 2004, 2013, and 2014**

Offender characteristic	2004		2013		2014		Average annual growth rate, 2004–2014 ^a
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
All inmates	154,978	100%	195,744	100%	191,496	100%	2.1%
Sex							
Male	144,405	93.2%	182,769	93.4%	178,743	93.4%	2.2%
Female	10,573	6.8	12,975	6.6	12,753	6.6	1.9
Race/Hispanic origin							
White ^b	42,724	27.6%	52,605	26.9%	51,847	27.1%	2.0%
Black/African American ^b	57,481	37.1	67,527	34.5	66,600	34.8	1.5
Hispanic/Latino	50,063	32.3	69,303	35.4	66,784	34.9	3.0
American Indian/Alaska Native ^b	2,646	1.7	3,587	1.8	3,567	1.9	3.0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^b	2,064	1.3	2,722	1.4	2,698	1.4	2.8
Age							
17 or younger	44	--	15	--	14	--	-9.3%
18–19	399	0.3%	312	0.2%	259	0.1%	-3.0
20–24	11,702	7.6	9,569	4.9	8,723	4.6	-2.8
25–29	26,761	17.3	24,212	12.4	22,783	11.9	-1.5
30–34	32,734	21.1	36,847	18.8	34,506	18.0	0.6
35–39	26,726	17.2	36,428	18.6	36,302	19.0	3.2
40–44	21,506	13.9	30,777	15.7	30,619	16.0	3.6
45–49	14,896	9.6	22,009	11.2	21,885	11.4	4.0
50–54	9,362	6.0	15,677	8.0	15,919	8.3	5.5
55–59	5,778	3.7	9,672	4.9	9,891	5.2	5.6
60–64	2,932	1.9	5,491	2.8	5,629	2.9	6.8
65 or older	2,137	1.4	4,735	2.4	4,966	2.6	8.8
Median age	36 yrs.		39 yrs.		39 yrs.		
Citizenship							
U.S. citizen	111,959	72.4%	144,991	74.1%	144,580	75.5%	2.6%
Non-U.S. citizen	42,787	27.6	50,693	25.9	46,865	24.5	1.0
Country of citizenship							
North America	148,447	96.0%	191,010	97.6%	186,957	97.7%	2.4%
United States	111,959	72.4	144,991	74.2	144,580	75.6	2.6
Mexico	27,664	17.9	36,837	18.8	33,512	17.5	2.1
Canada	280	0.2	346	0.2	330	0.2	1.9
Caribbean ^c	6,638	4.3	4,638	2.4	4,399	2.3	-4.0
Central America ^c	1,906	1.2	4,198	2.2	4,136	2.2	8.3
South America ^c	3,745	2.4%	2,416	1.2%	2,291	1.2%	-4.8%
Asia and Oceania ^c	1,283	0.8%	1,220	0.6%	1,177	0.6%	-0.8%
Europe ^c	598	0.4%	438	0.2%	454	0.2%	-2.5%
Africa ^c	498	0.3%	437	0.2%	404	0.2%	-1.8%

Note: Includes prisoners sentenced in U.S. district court and excludes D.C. Code offenders, military code offenders, foreign treaty transfers, state boarders, and pre-sentenced offenders. Citizenship data were missing in 2004 (232), 2013 (60), and 2014 (51). Country of citizenship data were missing in 2004 (407), 2013 (223), and 2014 (213).

--Less than 0.05%.

^aCalculated using each fiscal year count from 2004 through 2014.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless otherwise specified.

^cCountries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, as of September 30, 2004, 2013, and 2014.

Race/ethnicity

Mexican nationals made up 72% of noncitizens in federal prison at fiscal yearend 2014

Mexican nationals in federal prison increased from 27,664 prisoners in 2004 to 36,837 in 2013 and decreased to 33,512 in 2014. Mexican nationals made up 72% of noncitizens in federal prison at fiscal yearend 2014, up from 65% of noncitizens in prison in 2004. The number of Central American nationals in federal prison increased from 1,906 prisoners in 2004 to 4,136 in 2014. Caribbean nationals in federal prison declined from 6,638 in 2004 to 4,399 in 2014. Federal prisoners from South American countries declined from 3,745 in 2004 to 2,291 inmates in 2014.

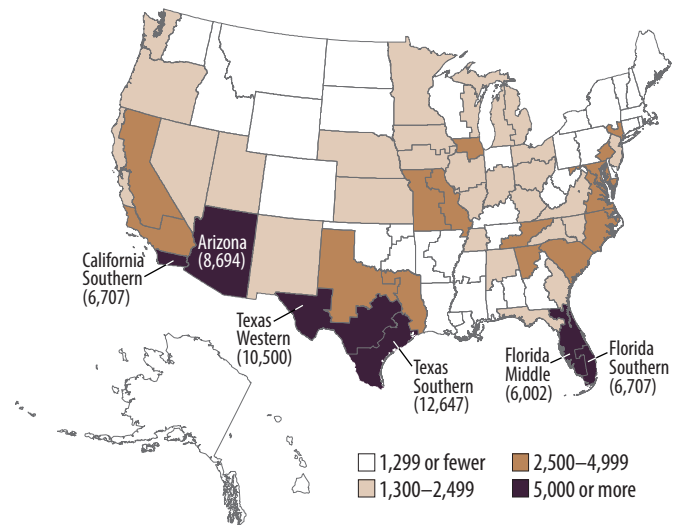
Location

Six districts committed 26% of inmates in federal prison at yearend 2014

At yearend 2014, more than a quarter (26%) of inmates in federal prison came from six districts: Texas Southern (12,647), Texas Western (10,500), Arizona (8,694), Florida Southern (6,707), Florida Middle (6,002), and California Southern (5,699) (**map 8**).

MAP 8

Federally sentenced offenders in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by judicial district of commitment, September 30, 2014



Note: There were 191,490 federally sentenced offenders in the custody of the BOP on September 30, 2014. District of commitment data were missing for four records. The unit of count is the individual federally sentenced prisoner in the custody of the BOP. Includes prisoners sentenced in U.S. district court and excludes D.C. code offenders, military code offenders, foreign treaty transfers, state boarders, and pre-sentenced offenders. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), SENTRY database, fiscal year 2014.

Supervised release/parole

Offenders under federal post-conviction supervision

130,409 offenders were under active federal post-conviction supervision at fiscal yearend 2014

Eighty-five percent of offenders under federal post-conviction supervision in 2014 received one of two forms of supervision following release from prison: supervised release (109,287) or parole (1,368) (table 19). The remainder (19,754) were on probation supervision, which is a sentence to a term of supervision in the community with and without a subsequent confinement sentence. Among the 130,409 offenders under federal supervision at the end of fiscal year 2014, 82% were male and 18% were female. Females made up 15% of offenders under supervised release, 37% of offenders on probation, and 3% of offenders on parole supervision.

White and black offenders made up the largest number of offenders on federal supervision

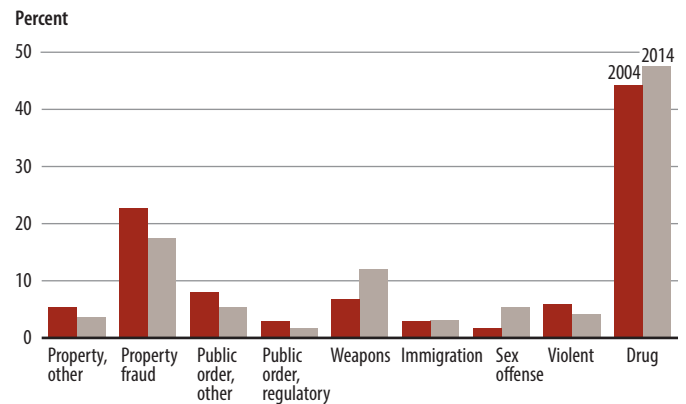
White and black (36% each) offenders made up nearly three in four persons on post-conviction federal supervision on September 30, 2014.

White offenders made up nearly half (47%) of offenders on probation. Black offenders made up 37% of offenders on supervised release. Asians made up 3% of persons on supervised release and 4% of persons on probation. Native Americans made up 2% of persons on supervised release and 3% of persons on probation.

The median age was similar for offenders on supervised release (40 years old) or on probation (41 years old) and higher (54 years old) for persons on parole supervision. Seven percent of persons under federal post-conviction supervised release in the community in 2014 were non-U.S. citizens.

Drug offenses made up a growing share of offenses committed by offenders under federal supervision, from 44% in 2004 to 48% in 2014 (figure 23). The percentage of fraud offenders under supervision decreased from 23% in 2004 to 17% in 2014. Weapons offenders under federal supervision increased from 7% in 2004 to 12% in 2014.

FIGURE 23
Offenders under federal supervision, by type of offense, 2004 and 2014



Note: Offense data were missing for 2004 (247) and 2014 (207).

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 years 2004 and 2014.

Supervising federal offenders in the community

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts oversees the supervision of federal offenders in the community. This includes persons released prior to trial and persons on supervision following conviction. U.S. probation and pretrial offices are located in 93 of the 94 federal judicial districts. Federal pretrial and probation officers monitor the compliance of offenders placed on supervision conditions ordered by the court. Violations include commission of a

new federal, state, or local offense or violation of conditions of supervision. Examples of violations include prohibited possession of guns or other weapons, possession or use of illegal drugs, and contact with victims or witnesses. The court may order additional conditions depending on the offense and the offender, such as requiring that a person in the United States illegally be subject to deportation as a condition of release of supervision.

TABLE 19**Demographic characteristics of offenders under post-conviction federal supervision, 2014**

Offender characteristic	Total		Type of supervised release		
	Number	Percent	Supervised release	Probation	Parole
Number of offenders ^a	130,409	100%	109,287	19,754	1,368
Sex					
Male	106,352	81.7%	84.9%	63.1%	97.4%
Female	23,752	18.3	15.1	36.9	2.6
Race/Hispanic origin^b					
White	45,459	35.7%	33.8%	46.8%	28.3%
Black/African American	45,423	35.7	37.0	26.3	58.9
Hispanic/Latino	29,950	23.5	24.3	19.7	10.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	3,129	2.5	2.4	2.9	1.9
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3,450	2.7	2.5	4.3	0.6
Age					
17 or younger	34	--	--	0.2%	^
18–19	132	0.1%	--	0.6	^
20–24	4,542	3.5	2.9%	7.1	0.7%
25–29	13,607	10.5	10.1	12.8	4.7
30–34	20,256	15.6	16.1	13.2	3.7
35–39	22,792	17.5	18.5	12.7	5.7
40–44	20,268	15.6	16.2	12.2	11.4
45–49	15,476	11.9	12.1	11.1	10.9
50–54	12,503	9.6	9.5	9.9	14.2
55–59	8,846	6.8	6.5	7.8	15.3
60–64	5,652	4.3	3.9	5.9	14.9
65 or older	5,999	4.6	4.1	6.6	18.5
Median age		40 yrs.	40 yrs.	41yrs.	54 yrs.
Citizenship					
U.S. citizen	120,873	93.2%	93.7%	89.8%	95.7%
Legal alien	3,903	3.0	2.7	5.1	0.5
Illegal alien	4,977	3.8	3.6	5.2	3.9
Country of citizenship					
North America					
United States	124,638	96.6%	96.9%	95.2%	97.4%
Mexico	1,057	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.5
Canada	40	--	--	0.1	^
Caribbean ^c	1,591	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.5
Central America ^c	197	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1
South America ^c	217	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%
Asia and Oceania ^c	752	0.6%	0.5%	1.2%	0.3%
Europe ^c	228	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	^
Africa ^c	273	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	^

Note: The unit of count is an individual offender under federal supervision on September 30, 2014. Data were missing for the following: age (302), sex (305), race/Hispanic origin (2,998), citizenship (656) and country of citizenship (1,416).

--Less than 0.05%.

^Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

^aIncludes suspects for whom characteristics are not known.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless otherwise specified.

^cCountries aggregated by region.

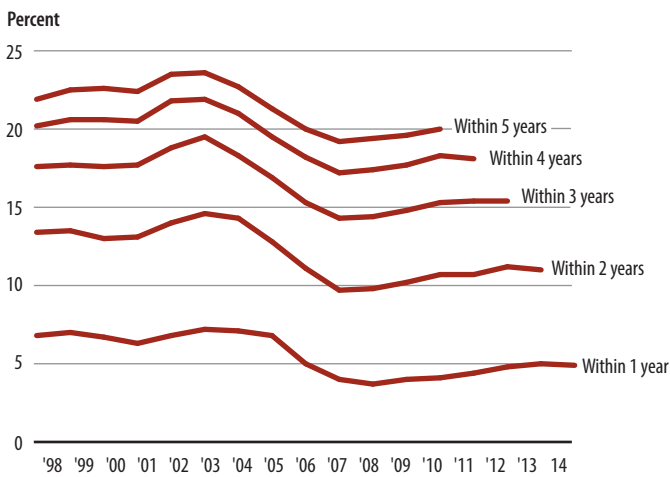
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Probation and Pretrial Services, Pretrial Services Act Information System, fiscal year 2014.

Offenders returning to federal prison from 1998 to 2014

15% of offenders released from federal prison in 2012 returned to federal prison within 3 years of release

This section describes offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years of release. In 2012, 66,620 offenders were released from federal prison. Of those offenders, 15% (10,236) returned to federal prison within 3 years (figure 24). The proportion of offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years decreased from 18% of those released during 1998 to 15% of those released during 2012.

FIGURE 24
Offenders returning to federal prison after release from a U.S. district court commitment, by year of release and time to return, 1998–2014



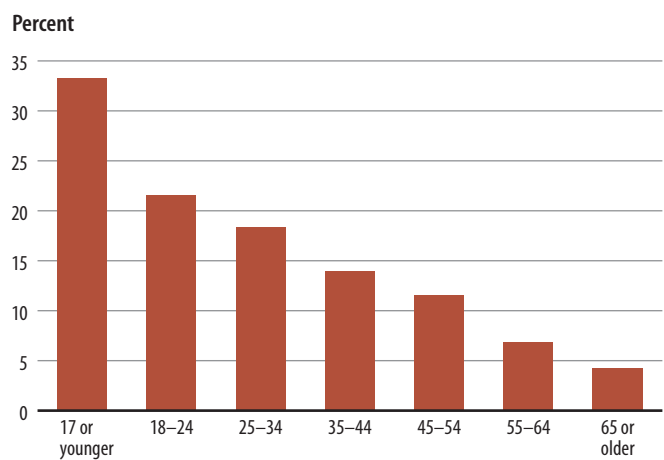
Note: Includes offenders first released from federal prison after serving a term of imprisonment resulting from a conviction in U.S. district court. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal years 1998–2014.

Return-to-prison rates were highest for younger released offenders

Offenders age 17 or younger (33%) and those ages 18 to 24 (22%) who were released in 2012 had the highest 3-year return-to-prison rates (figure 25). Of these returns, 50% were for a supervision violation and 48% were for a new court commitment. Among released prisoners ages 25 to 34, 18% returned to prison within 3 years, as did 14% of prisoners ages 35 to 44, 12% of prisoners ages 45 to 54, and 7% of prisoners ages 55 to 64. Four percent of released prisoners age 65 or older returned to prison within 3 years.

FIGURE 25
Offenders returned to federal prison within 3 years of release in 2012 from U.S. district court commitment, by age at release



Note: The percentages reflect the share of prisoners returning to federal prison within 3 years following release from federal prison in 2012. Excludes offenders released following a D.C. Superior Court commitment, those released following incarceration for supervision violations or Customs and Border Protection/Immigration and Customs Enforcement detentions, and those released due to death (382). Data were missing on age for 44 records.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2012.

Supervision violations was the most common reason for return to prison within 3 years

A violation of conditions of supervision (50%) was the most common reason for federal prisoners released in 2012 to return to federal prison within 3 years, followed by returns for a new court commitment or new offense (46%) (table 20). Among males released in 2012 and returned to federal prison,

48% were for violations of supervision and 48% were for a new court commitment. In comparison, 76% of females returned to prison for supervision violations and 22% returned with a new court commitment. Males released in 2012 had a higher 3-year recidivism rate than females. Within 3 years of release, 16% of males had returned to prison, compared to 9% of females.

TABLE 20
Demographic characteristics of offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years of release from a U.S. district court commitment, 2012

Offender characteristic	Number released	Number returned	Percent returned	Offenders returned to federal prison within 3 years after release for—			
				Total	New offense	Supervision violation	Other
Total	66,620	10,236	15.4%	100%	46.0%	49.5%	4.5%
Sex							
Male	60,529	9,668	16.0%	100%	47.5%	48.0%	4.6%
Female	6,047	568	9.4	100%	21.5	76.1	2.5
Age at first release							
17 or younger	12	4	33.3%	100%	^	^	^
18–24	5,995	1,293	21.6	100%	47.9%	49.7%	2.5%
25–34	24,203	4,461	18.4	100%	43.4	50.9	5.7
35–44	21,136	2,955	14.0	100%	49.8	46.1	4.2
45–54	10,488	1,220	11.6	100%	46.5	50.6	3.0
55–64	3,728	258	6.9	100%	39.2	57.8	3.1
65 or older	1,014	45	4.4	100%	37.8	55.6	6.7
Race/Hispanic origin							
White*	14,000	1,935	13.8%	100%	17.2%	81.5%	1.3%
Black/African American*	14,039	2,659	18.9	100%	12.4	72.1	15.5
Hispanic/Latino	36,668	5,247	14.3	100%	76.3	23.4	0.3
American Indian/Alaska Native*	953	339	35.6	100%	13.6	86.1	0.3
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander*	916	56	6.1	100%	3.6	94.6	1.8
Citizenship							
U.S. citizen	32,987	5,744	17.4%	100%	12.3%	79.8%	7.9%
Non-U.S. citizen	33,508	4,487	13.4%	100%	89.3%	10.7%	--
North America	31,896	4,455	14.0	100%	89.7	10.3	--
Mexico	27,073	3,968	14.7	100%	90.8	9.2	^
Canada	174	0	^	100%	^	^	^
Caribbean	1,661	78	4.7	100%	52.6	44.9	2.6%
Central America	2,988	409	13.7	100%	85.8	14.2	^
South America	727	9	1.2	100%	^	^	^
Asia/Oceania	465	11	2.4	100%	^	^	^
Europe	233	2	0.9	100%	^	^	^
Africa	187	10	5.3	100%	^	^	^

Note: Describes offenders returning to federal prison following a release from a U.S. district court commitment. Excludes offenders released following D.C. Superior Court commitment, those released following incarceration for supervision violations or U.S. Customs and Border Protection/Immigration and Customs Enforcement detentions, and those released due to death (382). Data were missing for the following: sex (44), race/Hispanic origin (44), age (44), and citizenship (125).

--Less than 0.05%.

^Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

*Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless otherwise specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2012.

American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners had the highest 3-year return-to-prison rate among all racial and ethnic groups

Thirty-six percent of American Indian or Alaska Natives first released from federal prison in 2012 returned to federal prison within 3 years. Eighty-six percent of American Indians returned for a violation of supervision, and 14% were returned for a new court commitment. Asians released from federal prison in 2012 had the lowest rate of return within 3 years (6%). Ninety-five percent of Asians returned for a violation of supervision, and 4% were returned for a new court commitment. Black prisoners had the second highest 3-year return-to-prison rate (19%), with 72% returned for supervision violations and 12% returned for a new court commitment. Whites had a 14% return rate, with 82% returned for supervision violations and 17% returned for a new court commitment. Hispanics had a 14% return rate with 23% returned for supervision violations and 76% returned for a new court commitment.

17% of U.S. citizens and 13% of non-U.S. citizens released in 2012 returned to federal prison within 3 years

Non-U.S. citizens (13%) had a lower 3-year return-to-prison rate than U.S. citizens (17%). The lower risk of return for non-U.S. citizens may have been a function of differences in how non-U.S. citizen offenders were handled following release. Most non-U.S. citizens were deported immediately after serving a federal prison term, while a small share of noncitizens were released to serve terms of federal supervision. About 9 in 10 noncitizens who returned to prison in a 3-year period following release were recommitted for a new court commitment, and 1 in 10 were returned for a supervision violation.

Violent and weapons offenders returned to prison at higher rates than other offenders

The 3-year return-to-prison rate was highest for violent (28%) and weapons (27%) offenders (table 21). Violent (82%) and weapons (84%) offenders were most likely to be returned for supervision violations. Immigration offenders were most likely to be returned for a new offense (86%). Because most immigration offenders are deported after serving a federal sentence, most are returned to prison for illegally reentering the United States.

TABLE 21**Offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years of release from a U.S. district court commitment, by offense characteristics, 2012**

	Number released	Number returned	Percent returned	Offenders returned to federal prison within 3 years after release for—			
				Total	New offense	Supervision violation	Other
Total	66,620	10,235	15.4%	100%	46.0%	49.5%	4.5%
Original offense of conviction							
Violent ^a	1,639	461	28.1%	100%	17.1%	82.2%	0.7%
Murder ^b	98	38	38.8	100%	15.8	81.6	2.6
Assault	401	138	34.4	100%	13.0	86.2	0.7
Robbery	1,076	269	25.0	100%	19.0	80.7	0.4
Other ^c	64	16	25.0	100%	25.0	75.0	^
Property	5,935	672	11.3%	100%	18.8%	81.3	^
Fraud	4,492	387	8.6	100%	23.8	76.2	^
Forgery, counterfeiting, embezzlement	541	124	22.9	100%	12.1	87.9	^
Other ^d	902	161	17.8	100%	11.8	88.2	^
Drug	23,607	2,795	11.8%	100%	25.7%	59.9%	14.4%
Trafficking	23,297	2,758	11.8	100%	25.2	60.3	14.5
Possession and other	310	37	11.9	100%	67.6	32.4	^
Public order	2,880	270	9.4%	100%	15.6%	82.6%	1.9%
Regulatory	974	72	7.4	100%	20.8	79.2	^
Other public order	1,906	198	10.4	100%	13.6	83.8	2.5
Tax violations	319	6	1.9	100%	33.3	66.7	^
Racketeering	1,029	92	8.9	100%	20.7	76.1	3.3
Bribery, perjury	109	6	5.5	100%	^	100	^
Escape	144	75	52.1	100%	8.0	90.7	1.3
Other ^e	304	13	4.3	100%	^	92.3	7.7
Sex offense	1,243	177	14.2%	100%	13.0%	86.4%	0.6%
Weapons	6,093	1,644	27.0%	100%	13.1%	84.1%	2.9%
Immigration	24,502	4,082	16.7%	100%	85.5%	14.5%	^
Time served before release							
Less than 1 year	18,945	2,999	15.8%	100%	78.9%	21.1%	^
1–2 years	12,733	2,070	16.3	100%	49.8	49.9	0.3%
2–3 years	9,817	1,453	14.8	100%	35.2	62.5	2.3
3–5 years	11,408	1,773	15.5	100%	26.5	66.6	7.0
More than 5 years	13,716	1,840	13.4	100%	17.2	67.8	15.1
Federal judicial district							
U.S.-Mexico border districts	28,882	5,204	18.0%	100%	75.8%	23.8%	0.4%
Arizona	9,642	1,853	19.2	100%	87.8	12.1	0.1
California Southern	3,738	702	18.8	100%	67.8	32.2	^
New Mexico	1,121	189	16.9	100%	43.9	55.6	0.5
Texas Southern	7,829	1,524	19.5	100%	82.0	17.9	0.1
Texas Western	6,552	936	14.3	100%	54.5	43.9	1.6
Other districts	37,738	5,031	13.3%	100%	15.2%	76.1%	8.7%

Note: Describes offenders returning to federal prison following a release from a U.S. district court commitment. Excludes offenders released following D.C. Superior Court commitment, those released following incarceration for supervision violations or U.S. Customs and Border Protection/Immigration and Customs Enforcement detentions, and those released due to death (382). Data for offense type was missing for 721 records.

^Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

^aExcludes violent sex offenses. (See *Methodology* for further details.)

^bIncludes negligent manslaughter.

^cIncludes kidnapping and threats against the President.

^dIncludes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other felony property offenses.

^eIncludes traffic, environmental, and wildlife violations.

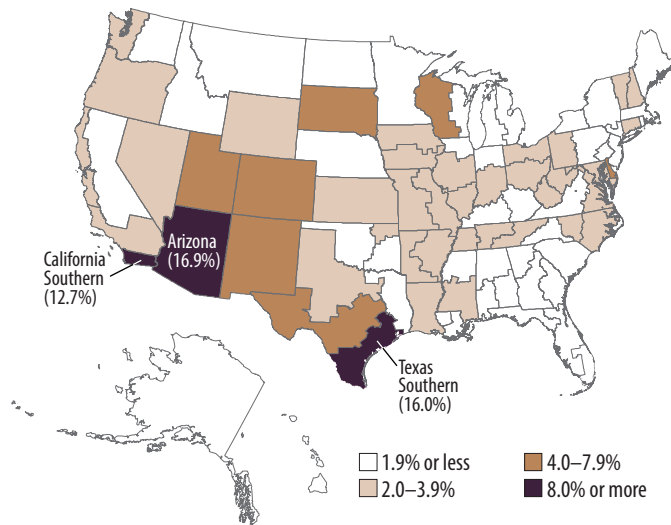
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2012.

Immigration offenders made up the largest group of recidivists

Seventeen percent of immigration offenders released in 2012 were returned to federal prison within 3 years of release, representing 40% of all recidivists. In comparison, 27% of recidivists were drug offenders and 5% were violent offenders during the same period. Immigration offenders had the highest percentage of new offenses as a reason for returning to federal prison (86%). Fifteen percent of immigration offenders were returned for supervision violations.

Immigration was the most common offense type among all returns for new offenses. Property (11%) and drug (12%) offenses had the lowest 3-year return-to-prison rate. Twenty-six percent of drug offenders released in 2012 were returned for a new offense, 60% were returned for a supervision violation, and 14% were returned for other reasons. Nineteen percent of property offenders were returned for a new offense, and 81% were returned for a supervision violation.

MAP 9
Percent of offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years for a new offense, 2012



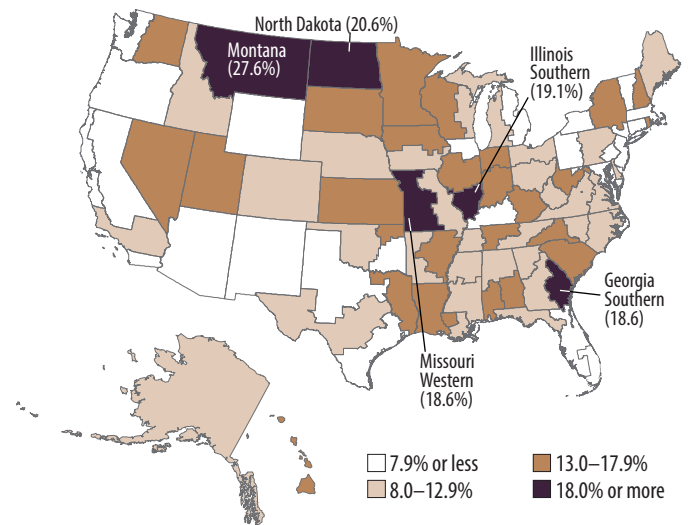
Note: Percentages represent the share of offenders first released from federal prison in 2012 that returned within 3 years of release for a new offense.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2012.

Districts with the highest 3-year return-to-prison rate for new court commitments only were clustered in the southwestern United States

The districts of Arizona (17%), Texas Southern (16%), and California Southern (13%) had the highest 3-year return-to-prison rates for a new court commitment among 2012 releasees (map 9). Both the release and return offenses in these districts were primarily for immigration. Among 2012 releasees, six districts had 3-year return-to-prison rates of 18% or more for supervision violations (map 10). Two of these districts were adjacent to one another: Montana (28%) and North Dakota (21%). These two districts also had the highest rates of return to federal prison.

MAP 10
Percent of offenders returning to federal prison within 3 years for a supervision violation, 2012



Note: Percentages represent the share of offenders first released from federal prison in 2012 that returned within 3 years of release for a supervision violation.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2012.

Methodology

Background of the Federal Justice Statistics Program

This report uses data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). The FJSP was initiated in 1982 to serve as a central resource for information describing the case processing of federal criminal defendants and to meet BJS's statutory mandate to "collect, analyze, and disseminate comprehensive federal justice transaction statistics ... and to provide technical assistance to and work jointly with other federal agencies to improve the availability and quality of federal justice data"—42 U.S.C. 3732 (c) (15).

The FJSP receives administrative data files from six federal criminal justice agencies and standardizes this information to maximize comparability across agencies and within agencies over time. This includes—

- applying, where possible, 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 inmate)
- delineating fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) as the period for reported events
- applying a uniform offense classification across agencies
- classifying disposition and sentences imposed.

Where more than one offense is charged or adjudicated, the most serious offense at disposition and sentencing is used. Offense seriousness is based on maximum statutory imprisonment term, type of crime, and statutory maximum fine amount. Annual, cross-sectional data files are produced and maintained. They represent the federal criminal case processing stages from arrest and prosecution through pretrial release, adjudication, sentencing, appeals, and corrections.

FJSP data sources

U.S. Marshals Service (USMS): The Justice Detainee Information System (JDIS) provides information on suspects arrested for federal offenses. Suspects may be counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are arrested multiple times during the period. The USMS uses the Prisoner Tracking System to track federal prisoners in custody of the Marshals Service and provides data from the JDIS. The JDIS consolidates information on prisoners who are in Marshals Service custody or who have a federal arrest warrant issued.

Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys: The National LIONS (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 terminated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects may be 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 where an attorney spends one 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 (AOUSC): The criminal master file contains information about the criminal proceedings against defendants whose cases were filed and terminated in U.S. district courts. These data include information on cases involving felonies and Class A and B misdemeanors handled by U.S. district court judges. Offenses in the Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS) database 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. For defendants charged with more than one offense on an indictment, the probation officer chooses as the major charged offense the one 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. These four-digit codes are then aggregated into the primary offense charges used for this report. This report also uses AOUSC data from the PACTS, which contains information on defendants interviewed and supervised by pretrial services. These data are used to describe background characteristics of defendants arraigned and defendants detained prior to case disposition. Post-conviction data from the AOUSC's Federal Probation Supervision Information System are used to describe immigration offenders under post-conviction supervision in the community.

Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP): The SENTRY database contains information on all federally sentenced offenders admitted into or released from federal prison during a fiscal year and offenders in federal prison at the end of each fiscal year (September 30). The inmate count reported by the FJSP differs from what is reported by the BOP although the data are from the same source (SENTRY). For example, the BOP reports 214,149 inmates as of September 30, 2014.¹¹ The FJSP starts with data extracted from SENTRY that differs slightly (down 300) from this total (213,849). Of the 213,849 records,

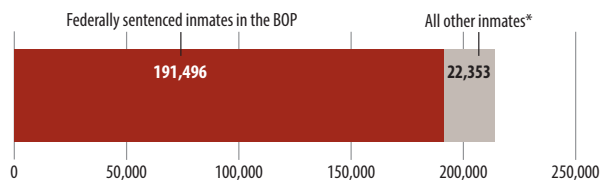
⁸See www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population_statistics.jsp.

16,046 records were dropped because the inmate was not designated at an assigned BOP custodial facility. The excluded records include designations to community confinement, home confinement, hospital, Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, material witness, and pre-sentence admission. Next, 662 were excluded due to missing obligation offense and 5,096 inmates were dropped as they were committed by the District of Columbia District Court. Finally, 549 inmate records were dropped because the inmate was a state boarder, treaty transfer, or serving a sentence from a military court commitment. Of the 213,849 inmates reported by the BOP in custody on September 30, 2014, 196,496 (90% of the total population) met the criteria as federally sentenced inmates (figure 26).

Returns to federal prison

Tracking recidivism rates involved identifying prisoners released from federal prison following a U.S. district court commitment between 1998 and 2014. The BOP's SENTRY database was searched and identified a subsequent return to federal prison. Prisoners released in 2012 were the most recent cohort that could be tracked for 3 years following release (through September 30, 2015). In addition, observation windows were included for 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year return rates following first release. The return-to-prison rate increases with the length of the window used to follow up on prisoners. The unit of analysis is the first release from federal prison and the return rates are computed using the number of first releases. In 2012, there were 66,620 federally sentenced prisoners released from the BOP. This cohort of offenders was tracked for 3 years following release to count the number who returned to federal prison, whether for a new offense or a violation of supervision.

FIGURE 26
Universe of inmates held under BOP jurisdiction and federally sentenced inmates in the custody of the BOP on September 30, 2014



*Excludes records missing obligation offense, inmates committed by D.C. Superior Court, inmates housed as state boarders, treaty transfers, or from military court commitment, and inmates designated to community confinement, home confinement, pre-sentence detention, hospital, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prison (BOP), SENTRY database, fiscal year 2014.

Classification of sex offenses

Sex offenses include all violent and nonviolent sex offenses. Violent sex offenses, either completed or attempted, include *aggravated sexual abuse* (18 USC 2241) and *sexual abuse* (18 USC 2242), defined as causing a person to engage in a sexual act by use of force, threat or fear or with a person who is unconscious, impaired due to drugs, intoxicants or other substances, or is otherwise incapable of declining participation); *sexual abuse of a minor or ward* (18 USC 2243); and *abusive sexual contact* (18 USC 2244), in which the person knowingly engages in or causes sexual contact with or by another person without that person's permission or with a person under age 12. Nonviolent sex offenses include *sexual exploitation of children and child pornography* (18 USC 2251-2252A); *coercing, enticing or transporting* (interstate) of an individual (including minors) with the intent and purpose of engaging in *prostitution* or any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense (18 USC 2422); and possession with intent to sell or sales and distribution of *obscene materials* (18 USC 1460-1470). See the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data for a detailed crosswalk for codes used by U.S. Marshals, AOUSC, EOUSA, USSC, and BOP.

Other resources

Detailed data tables are available in *Federal Justice Statistics, 2013 - Statistical Tables* (NCJ 249150, BJS web, February 2017) and *Federal Justice Statistics, 2014 - Statistical Tables* (NCJ 250183, BJS web, February 2017). FJSP data are also incorporated into the *Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics Tool*, an interactive BJS web query tool that permits users to query the federal data and download the results as a spreadsheet. This query tool is available on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov. It provides statistics by stage of the federal criminal case process, including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and incarceration. Users can currently generate queries for up to three variables between 1998 and 2014. Users can also generate queries by title and section of the U.S. criminal code by processing stage between 1994 and 2014.



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 and valid 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. Jeri M. Mulrow is acting director.

This report was written by Mark Motivans, Ph.D. Steven W. Perry verified the report.

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