

The Federal Justice Statistics Program collects, standardizes, and reports on administrative data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and U.S. Sentencing Commission about persons who were—

- arrested
- investigated and prosecuted
- detained prior to trial
- adjudicated and sentenced
- imprisoned
- supervised in the community.

Federal arrests

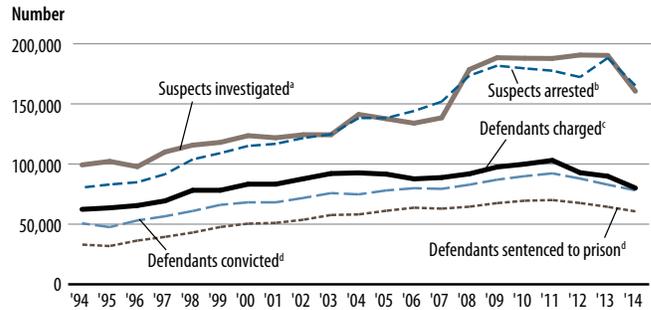
The number of federal arrests decreased 12% from fiscal year 2013 (188,164) to fiscal year 2014 (165,265). Nearly two-thirds (61%) of all federal arrests in 2014 were in the five districts along the U.S.-Mexico border. In half (50%) of 2014 federal arrests, the most serious arrest offense was an immigration offense. Supervision violations and drug offenses (14% each) were the next most common offenses. There were 23,703 arrests for drug offenses in 2014, a 13% decrease from 2013 and the lowest number since 1996. In 2014, among DEA drug arrests, cocaine (25%) was the most common drug type.

Prosecution and courts

U.S. attorneys investigated 138,177 matters involving 160,505 suspects in 2014. For two-thirds of suspects in matters referred to U.S. attorneys in 2014, their most serious charge was an immigration or drug offense. In 2014, there were 170,161 suspects in matters concluded, of which 46% were prosecuted in U.S. district court, 38% were disposed by U.S. magistrate, and 17% were declined. The time from receipt of a matter to a prosecutorial decision decreased from more than 3 months in 1994 to about 2 weeks in 2014.

More than half (55%) of defendants charged in U.S. district court in 2014 were of Hispanic origin and 42% were not U.S. citizens. In 2014, 91% of defendants in felony cases terminated in U.S. district court were convicted as a result of a guilty plea, 6% of felony cases were dismissed, and 3% of defendants in felony cases received a jury or bench trial. Of the 78,155 defendants convicted in 2014 for any offense, 78% received incarceration, 11% received probation, and 2% received a fine only. Defendants convicted of a felony sex offense were most likely (96%) to receive a prison sentence and had the longest median sentence (90 months).

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.

Corrections and supervision

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. In 2014, 1 in 4 federally sentenced prisoners in the BOP were non-U.S. citizens. Prisoners whose most serious commitment offense was a drug offense made up 49% of the prison population in 2014, down from 56% in 2004.

In 2014, about a third (35%) of the federal prison population was Hispanic, about a third (35%) was black, and about a quarter (27%) was white. From 2004 to 2014, American Indians or Alaska Natives and Hispanics had the greatest average annual increase (3%). During that period, the median age of federal prisoners increased, from 36 years in 2004 to 39 years in 2014. Also, the number of prisoners age 65 or older more than doubled during that period, from 2,137 prisoners in 2004 to 4,966 prisoners in 2014. Fifteen percent of prisoners released in 2012 returned to federal prison within 3 years.

The full report (*Federal Justice Statistics, 2013-2014*, NCJ 249149), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.