



# Federal Justice Statistics, 2019

SUMMARY | NCJ 301158

OCTOBER 2021

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

## Arrest and booking

During FY 2019, federal law enforcement made 206,630 arrests, a 6% increase from the 195,771 arrests in FY 2018. An immigration offense was the most serious arrest offense in 57% of federal arrests in FY 2019.

## Investigation and prosecution

Agencies within the Department of Homeland Security referred 59% of the 203,030 suspects in matters sent to U.S. attorneys in FY 2019. The Department of Justice referred 27% of suspects, and 3% of suspects were referred by federal or state task forces.

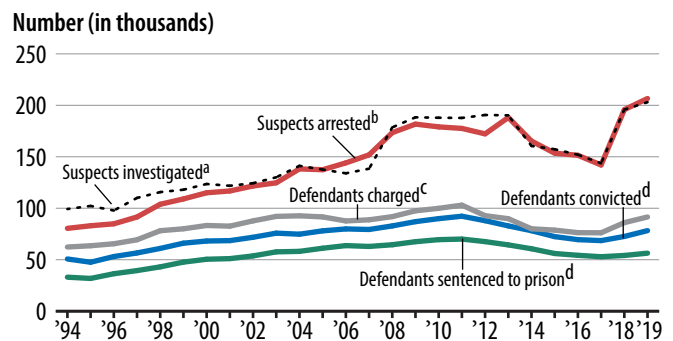
## Case filing, adjudication, and sentencing

From FY 2018 to FY 2019, the number of persons charged with a federal offense grew 7%. During that period, the number of persons charged with immigration offenses increased 13% and those charged with weapon offenses increased 8%. The number of persons charged with property offenses decreased 2%.

## Federal prison

In FY 2019, there were 58,886 federally sentenced persons admitted to federal prison, including 21,075 persons admitted for drug offenses, most of whom (15,574, or 74%) had been sentenced to more than 1 year.

## Suspects and defendants processed in the federal justice system, FY 1994–2019



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

<sup>b</sup>Suspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Suspects arrested more than once are counted separately. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests.

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

<sup>d</sup>Defendants in cases terminated with a felony or a Class A misdemeanor 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 Legal Information Office Network System database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 1994–2019.

## Federal supervision in the community

At fiscal year-end 2019, about 88% of persons on federal community supervision were on supervised release (110,932) or parole (897) after release from prison. The remaining 12% were on probation (14,658).

The full report (*Federal Justice Statistics, 2019*, NCJ 301158), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at [bjs.ojp.gov](http://bjs.ojp.gov).