



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1994

Federal criminal case processing, 1994



Discussion 11

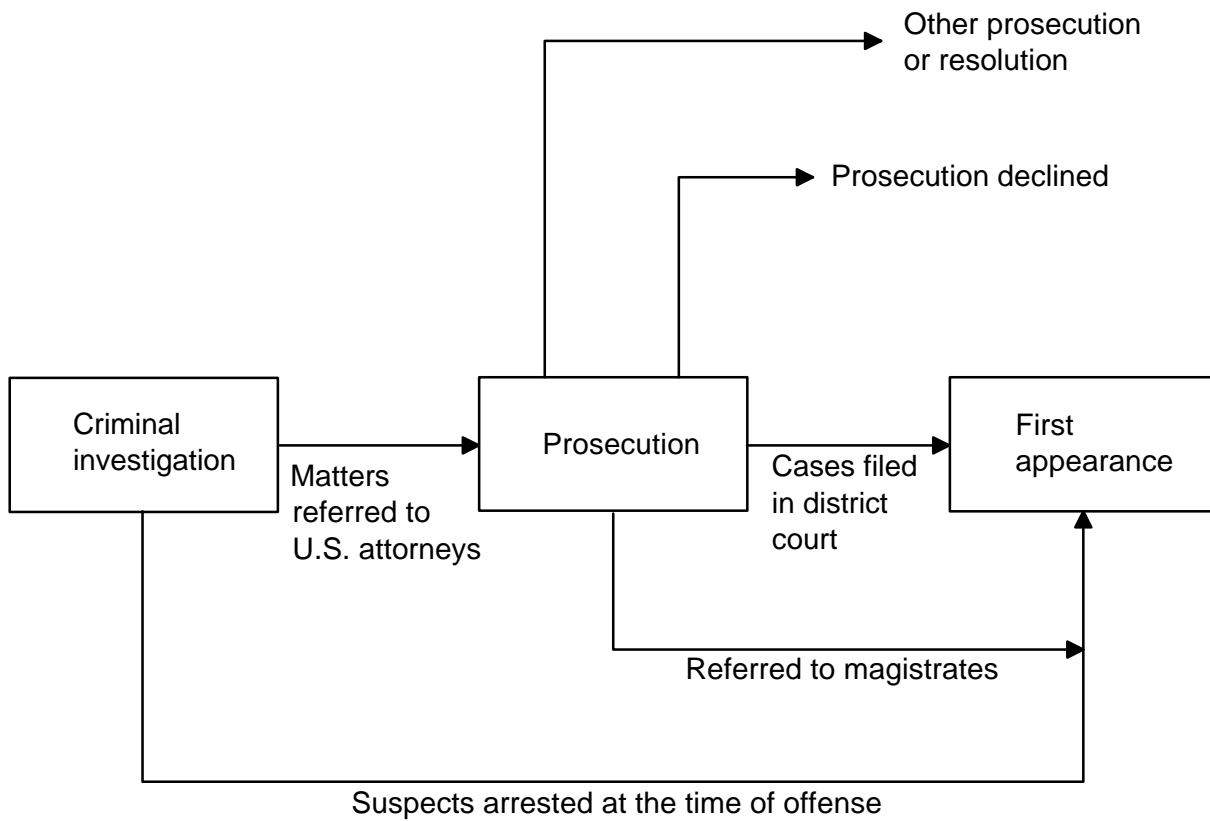
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Prosecution



Federal criminal cases may be brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office, by the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, or by other authorized agencies.

Investigations are most commonly referred to a U.S. attorney by the Criminal Division, by a Federal investigative agency (primarily the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Postal Inspection Service; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; and the Secret Service), or by a State or local investigative agency. Investigations may also be initiated — and cases brought directly — by U.S. attorneys or by the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. This chapter reports only on suspects investigated, at least in part, by U.S. attorneys.

U.S. attorney processing

After criminal investigations are initiated and criminal suspects are referred to them, U.S. attorneys may file charges against defendants in a U.S. district court or they may decline to file these charges for reasons such as weak or insufficient evidence, minimal Federal interest, lack of resources, or lack of Federal offense or criminal intent. Matters that are declined may be referred to another authority for prosecution or be settled through alternative resolution procedures. The U.S. attorney may also file a case before a U.S. magistrate. U.S. magistrates have the authority to adjudicate misdemeanor offenses (18 U.S.C. § 3401). Because of the relatively less serious nature of these cases, and because they are handled by magistrates, the U.S. attorneys count these cases as criminal matters disposed by U.S. magistrates.

U.S. attorneys select offenses for prosecution at different rates. In the aggregate, there is little difference between the distribution of offenses in matters received and matters concluded during 1994. The similarity masks the differences in selection. In general, violent and drug offenses are more likely to be prosecuted before U.S. district court judges than

Drug and violent suspects were more likely to be prosecuted than property and public-order suspects

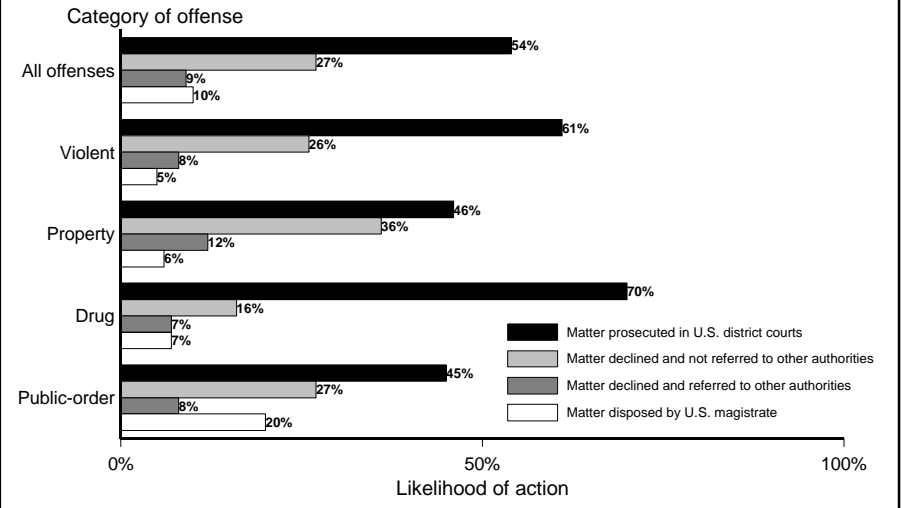


Figure 1.1. Suspects in matters concluded: Percentage of suspects that were prosecuted, declined, referred to other authorities for disposition, or disposed by U.S. magistrate, October 1, 1993–September 30, 1994.

are property and public-order offenses. Violent and drug offenses are also less likely to be declined for prosecution than property or public-order offenses (figure 1.1). Further, those violent and drug offenses that are declined for prosecution are more likely to be referred to other prosecutions; or to be resolved through restitution, civil procedures, or administrative procedures; than are property and public-order offenses, weapons offenses excepted. Violent and drug offenses are more likely to be appealed than other offenses.

Differences between matters received and rates of prosecution may reflect a number of factors like prosecutorial priorities and laws governing each type of offense.

Suspects in matters received (table 1.1)

During 1994 there were 99,251 suspects in matters received by U.S. attorneys.¹ Of these suspects (table 1.1), about 33% were investigated for property offenses, 31% for public-order offenses, and 30% for drug offenses (table 1.1). Just under

6% of all suspects were investigated for violent crimes. The relative distribution of offenses during 1994 were comparable to those during 1993. Relative percentages of offenses reflect criminal activity as well as Federal investigative, prosecutorial, and statutory priorities. For example, during 1994 priority areas for prosecution by U.S. attorneys included violent crimes, narcotics prosecutions, organized crime, white collar crime, and civil rights.²

Suspects in matters concluded (tables 1.2–1.5)

Upon receiving a matter, a U.S. attorney will either immediately decline it for prosecution or conduct further investigation, which can take from 1 hour to a few years. A matter may then be filed as a criminal case in a U.S. district court, referred to a U.S. magistrate, or declined for prosecution. Of the 94,980 suspects in criminal matters concluded during 1994, about 33% were investigated for property offenses, 31% for public-order offenses, 29% for drug

²Statistical Report, United States Attorneys' Offices, Fiscal Year 1994. U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Washington, DC.

¹See Chapter notes, item 1, p.20. The 1994 data are not directly comparable to the 1993 or prior compendia.

offenses, and just under 6% were for violent offenses (table 1.2). Of the suspects in matters concluded, about 54% were prosecuted in U.S. district court, 10% were referred to U.S. magistrates, and 36% were declined for prosecution.³

Suspects prosecuted (table 1.2)—

The likelihood that a matter was prosecuted varied widely across offense categories during 1994. Drug and violent offenses were more likely to be prosecuted than property or public-order offenses. U.S. attorneys prosecuted approximately 70% of drug offenses, 61% of violent crimes, 46% of property offenses, and 45% of public-order offenses. Differences in rates of prosecution within specific categories can be substantial. For example, among violent offenses, 76% of robbery suspects were prosecuted while 57% of murder, 40% of rape, and 47% assault suspects were prosecuted. Among property offenses, counterfeiting was prosecuted at a much higher rate than fraud (69% compared to 44%), and among public-order offenses, tax law violations were more likely to be prosecuted than bribery (63% versus 48%).

Suspects in matters declined (tables 1.2–1.4) — As with the decision to prosecute a case, the likelihood that a matter is declined for prosecution varies across offense categories. Violent offenses are less likely to be declined for prosecution (34%) than property offenses (48%) but more likely than drug offenses (23%). Public-order offenses are only slightly more likely to be declined for prosecution than violent offenses (36% compared to 34%).

Suspects accused of civil rights violations were most likely to have their matters declined for prosecution (95%). Immigration offenses were the least likely (6%) of all offenses to be declined for prosecution. Most civil rights cases were declined be-

cause of weak evidence (30%) or departmental policy (26%), although a number were also declined due to the absence of a Federal offense (11%) and lack of criminal intent (12%) (not shown in a table).

The decision to decline prosecution is based on a number of factors, including the lack of a prosecutable offense, alternative resolution, or case- and suspect-related reasons (table 1.3). Of the 34,424 declinations during 1994, 20% were declined because there was no crime or criminal intent was lacking; 25% were declined because of case-related reasons, mostly due to weak evidence (22%); and another 25% were declined for other reasons, such as minimal Federal interest (6%) or U.S. attorney policy (5%).

The U.S. attorneys also reported that 2,314 cases (7%) were declined due to lack of resources. Over a third of these declinations were fraud cases and almost a fifth were drug offenses. Additionally, 177 racketeering and extortion cases, 133 weapons cases, and 113 embezzlement cases were declined due to lack of resources (not shown in a table).

Not all suspects whose matters are declined for prosecution avoid prosecution. Approximately 20% of the matters declined for prosecution by U.S. attorneys were referred to another authority for prosecution. An additional 6% were settled through alternative resolution procedures (table 1.4). Almost 33% of suspects in drug matters declined for prosecution were referred or handled in other prosecutions, as were 21% of suspects in violent offenses, 18% of public-order suspects, and 16% of property offense suspects. Within major offense categories, specific offenses were referred for prosecution by other authorities at different rates. For example, about 33% of robbery and kidnaping suspects were handled in other prosecutions compared to 12% of rapes. Within the property offense category, more than 33% of persons involved in motor vehicle thefts or burglaries were referred to

other authorities for prosecution, compared to 11% of suspects in fraud offenses.

Defendants in cases concluded by U.S. magistrates (table 1.2) —

Cases referred to U.S. magistrates are, by statute, misdemeanors. Overall, U.S. magistrates disposed of about 10% of all criminal matters originally handled by U.S. attorneys. For most offenses, the likelihood that a U.S. magistrate concluded the matter is also low. Exceptions include suspects in the escape and immigration offense categories. Fifty-eight percent of matters involving escape offenses and 42% of those involving immigration offenses were concluded by U.S. magistrates. Together, these two categories accounted for 45% of the 9,754 matters concluded by U.S. magistrates.

Most of the escape violations are against defendants who have absconded to avoid prosecution in State courts. These cases are normally dismissed by U.S. magistrates and turned over to the State for prosecution on the original warrant. Other types of offenses having comparatively high rates of referral to U.S. magistrates include assault (14%), regulatory food and drug offenses (15%), postal law violations (28%), and conspiracy, aiding and abetting; traffic; and jurisdictional offenses (35%).

Processing times (table 1.5) — The time to process matters varies with the outcome of a matter. Matters concluded by U.S. magistrates in which the suspect was convicted took the least amount of time — an average of 1.8 months. Matters ultimately declined for prosecution by U.S. attorneys took the longest amount of time — an average of almost 17 months. Matters prosecuted in U.S. district court generally fell between these extremes. While the average processing time for a conviction by a U.S. magistrate was 1.8 months, at least 50% of those convictions occurred in about 3 days. Similarly, 50% of the matters declined for prosecution were declined in fewer than 13 months.

³The number of suspects in criminal matters concluded is not comparable to 1993 or prior compendia. See *Chapter notes, item 2, p.20*, for details.

Overall, suspects in violent and drug offenses were processed more quickly than suspects in other types of offenses. For key decisions, such as whether to file a case or decline a matter for prosecution, suspects in matters involving violent offenses were processed more quickly than those in matters involving drug offenses. At an average of 14 months, fraudulent property offenses took longer to process than other offenses.

Table 1.1. Suspects in matters received by U.S. attorneys, by offense, October 1, 1993–September 30, 1994

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Suspects in criminal matters received by U.S. attorneys	
	Number	Percent ^b
All offenses^c	99,251	100 %
Violent offenses	5,570	5.7%
Murder/manslaughter ^d	328	0.3
Assault	1,210	1.2
Robbery	2,852	2.9
Rape	568	0.6
Other sex offenses ^d	220	0.2
Kidnaping	273	0.3
Threats against the President	119	0.1
Property offenses	32,579	33.2%
Fraudulent	28,491	29.0%
Embezzlement	4,603	4.7
Fraud ^d	21,805	22.2
Forgery	1,789	1.8
Counterfeiting	294	0.3
Other	4,088	4.2%
Burglary	74	0.1
Larceny	1,794	1.8
Motor vehicle theft	976	1.0
Arson and explosives	648	0.7
Transportation of stolen property	131	0.1
Other property offenses ^d	465	0.5
Drug offenses	29,311	29.9%
Public-order offenses	30,665	31.3%
Regulatory	5,059	5.2%
Agriculture	392	0.4
Antitrust	55	0.1
Food and drug	164	0.2
Transportation	274	0.3
Civil rights	2,016	2.1
Communications	131	0.1
Custom laws	306	0.3
Postal laws	259	0.3
Other regulatory offenses	1,462	1.5
Other	25,606	26.1%
Weapons	5,996	6.1
Immigration offenses	5,526	5.6
Tax law violations ^d	1,473	1.5
Bribery	574	0.6
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	631	0.6
National defense	289	0.3
Escape	4,355	4.4
Racketeering and extortion	3,597	3.7
Gambling	227	0.2
Liquor offenses	15	—
Obscene material ^d	39	—
Migratory birds	132	0.1
Conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional	2,444	2.5
All other offenses	308	0.3
Unknown or indeterminable offense	1,126	

Note: The data in this table are not directly comparable to data in the 1993 or prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

—Less than .05%.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 89.

^bPercentage distribution based on the suspects for whom the offense category could be determined.

^cIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^dIn this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

"Other sex offenses" may include some nonviolent offenses.

"Fraud" excludes tax fraud.

"Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property.

"Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespass.

"Tax law violations" includes tax fraud.

"Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof.

Table 1.2. Disposition of suspects in matters concluded, by offense, October 1, 1993–September 30, 1994

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Suspects in criminal matters concluded							
	Number				Percent			
	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court ^b	Declined	Disposed by U.S. magistrates	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court ^b	Declined	Disposed by U.S. magistrates
All offenses^c	94,980	50,802	34,424	9,754	100%	53.5%	36.2%	10.3%
Violent offenses	5,339	3,256	1,819	264	100%	61.0%	34.1%	4.9%
Murder/manslaughter ^d	345	198	136	11	100	57.4	39.4	3.2
Assault	1,112	528	433	151	100	47.5	38.9	13.6
Robbery	2,737	2,075	585	77	100	75.8	21.4	2.8
Rape	548	221	323	4	100	40.3	58.9	0.7
Other sex offenses ^d	263	93	165	5	100	35.4	62.7	1.9
Kidnaping	234	111	112	11	100	47.4	47.9	4.7
Threats against the President	100	30	65	5	100	30.0	65.0	5.0
Property offenses	31,752	14,680	15,291	1,781	100%	46.2%	48.2%	5.6%
Fraudulent	28,038	12,683	13,819	1,536	100%	45.2%	49.3%	5.5%
Embezzlement	4,616	2,163	2,020	433	100	46.9	43.8	9.4
Fraud ^d	21,367	9,414	11,062	891	100	44.1	51.8	4.2
Forgery	1,823	946	679	198	100	51.9	37.2	10.9
Counterfeiting	232	160	58	14	100	69.0	25.0	6.0
Other	3,714	1,997	1,472	245	100%	53.8%	39.6%	6.6%
Burglary	66	37	28	1	100	56.1	42.4	1.5
Larceny ^d	1,851	1,061	649	141	100	57.3	35.1	7.6
Motor vehicle theft	793	477	292	24	100	60.2	36.8	3.0
Arson and explosives	590	244	326	20	100	41.4	55.3	3.4
Transportation of stolen property	110	59	51	0	100	53.6	46.4	0
Other property offenses ^d	304	119	126	59	100	39.1	41.4	19.4
Drug offenses	27,697	19,427	6,449	1,821	100%	70.1%	23.3%	6.6%
Public-order offenses	29,604	13,195	10,571	5,838	100%	44.6%	35.7%	19.7%
Regulatory	4,990	1,297	3,495	198	100%	26.0%	70.0%	4.0%
Agriculture	370	132	213	25	100	35.7	57.6	6.8
Antitrust	62	34	28	0	100	54.8	45.2	0
Food and drug	189	98	63	28	100	51.9	33.3	14.8
Transportation	235	83	152	0	100	35.3	64.7	0
Civil rights	1,916	88	1,827	1	100	4.6	95.4	0.1
Communications	131	27	104	0	100	20.6	79.4	0
Custom laws	349	154	187	8	100	44.1	53.6	2.3
Postal laws	232	112	54	66	100	48.3	23.3	28.4
Other regulatory offenses	1,506	569	867	70	100	37.8	57.6	4.6
Other	24,614	11,898	7,076	5,640	100%	48.3%	28.7%	22.9%
Weapons	5,992	3,821	1,982	189	100	63.8	33.1	3.2
Immigration offenses	5,299	2,789	293	2,217	100	52.6	5.5	41.8
Tax law violations ^d	1,478	927	502	49	100	62.7	34.0	3.3
Bribery	666	320	325	21	100	48.0	48.8	3.2
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	628	276	331	21	100	43.9	52.7	3.3
National defense	338	99	160	79	100	29.3	47.3	23.4
Escape	3,782	845	768	2,169	100	22.3	20.3	57.4
Racketeering and extortion	3,533	1,588	1,881	64	100	44.9	53.2	1.8
Gambling	340	168	171	1	100	49.4	50.3	0.3
Liquor offenses	8	2	6	0	100	25.0	75.0	0
Obscene material ^d	69	22	46	1	100	31.9	66.7	1.4
Migratory birds	119	34	53	32	100	28.6	44.5	26.9
Conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses	2,252	962	501	789	100	42.7	22.2	35.0
All other offenses ^d	110	45	57	8	100	40.9	51.8	7.3
Unknown or indeterminable offense	588	244	294	50	100%	41.5%	50.0%	8.5%

Note: The data in this table are not directly comparable to data in the 1993 or prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 89.

^bThe suspects included in this column are limited to those whose cases were filed in U.S. district court before U.S. district court judges. These data are not directly comparable to the number in the 1993 or prior compendia, which included appeals cases handled by U.S. attorneys; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 20.

^cIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^dIn this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

"Other sex offenses" may include some nonviolent offenses.

"Fraud" excludes tax fraud.

"Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property.

"Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespass.

"Tax law violations" includes tax fraud.

"Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof.

Table 1.3. Basis for declination of prosecution by U.S. attorneys, October 1, 1993–September 30, 1994

Basis for declination	Suspects in criminal matters declined by U.S. attorneys	
	Number	Percent ^a
Total declinations^b	34,424	100 %
No crime	6,917	20.1%
No true bill returned	38	0.1
No Federal offense	2,791	8.1
Lack of criminal intent	4,088	11.9
Referred or handled in other prosecution	6,897	20.0%
Removed	943	2.7
Prosecuted on other charges	1,633	4.7
Prosecuted by other authorities	4,321	12.6
Alternative resolution	2,089	6.1%
Restitution	166	0.5
Civil or administrative alternative	854	2.5
Pretrial diversion	1,069	3.1
Suspect-related reasons	1,079	3.1%
Suspect serving sentence	171	0.5
No known suspect	533	1.5
Suspect a fugitive	109	0.3
Suspect deceased	244	0.7
Suspect deported	22	0.1
Case-related reasons	8,684	25.2%
State case	370	1.1
Weak evidence	7,411	21.5
Statute of limitations exceeded	168	0.5
Jurisdiction or venue problems	329	1.0
Witness problems	406	1.2
All other reasons	8,747	25.4%
Minimal Federal interest	1,935	5.6
Petite policy	153	0.4
Lack of resources	2,314	6.7
Court policy	1	—
DOJ policy	33	0.1
U.S. attorney policy	630	1.8
Speedy trial act	1,534	4.5
Agency request	1,629	4.7
Juvenile suspect	74	0.2
Offender's health, age, prior record, or other personal circumstances	123	0.4
Suspect's cooperation	305	0.9
Motion hearings	16	—
Unknown or indeterminable reason	11	—

Note: For further information, see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

—Less than .05%

^aPercent based on suspects for whom a basis for declination could be determined.

^bIncludes suspects for whom basis for declination could not be determined; *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

Table 1.4. Disposition of matters declined for prosecution by U.S. attorneys, by offense, October 1, 1993–September 30, 1994

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Number of suspects in declined matters				Percent of suspects in declined matters			
	Total ^b	Referred or handled in other prosecution ^c	Resolved with restitution, civil/administrative procedure, pre-trial diversion	Other	Total ^b	Referred or handled in other prosecution ^c	Resolved with restitution, civil/administrative procedure, pre-trial diversion	Other
All offenses^d	34,424	6,897	2,089	25,427	100%	20.0%	6.1%	73.9%
Violent offenses	1,819	387	60	1,371	100%	21.3%	3.3%	75.4%
Murder/manslaughter ^e	136	29	0	107	100	21.3	0	78.7
Assault	433	62	26	345	100	14.3	6.0	79.7
Robbery	585	196	3	386	100	33.5	0.5	66.0
Rape	323	37	4	282	100	11.5	1.2	87.3
Other sex offenses ^e	165	23	23	119	100	13.9	13.9	72.1
Kidnaping	112	36	0	76	100	32.1	0	67.9
Threats against the President	65	4	4	56	100	6.3	6.3	87.5
Property offenses	15,291	2,386	1,492	11,410	100%	15.6%	9.8%	74.6%
Fraudulent	13,819	2,051	1,365	10,400	100%	14.8%	9.9%	75.3%
Embezzlement	2,020	230	393	1,397	100	11.4	19.5	69.2
Fraud ^e	11,062	1,689	878	8,493	100	15.3	7.9	76.8
Forgery	679	111	93	474	100	16.4	13.7	69.9
Counterfeiting	58	21	1	36	100	36.2	1.7	62.1
Other	1,472	335	127	1,010	100%	22.8%	8.6%	68.6%
Burglary	28	13	1	14	100	46.4	3.6	50.0
Larceny ^e	649	122	71	456	100	18.8	10.9	70.3
Motor vehicle theft	292	107	5	180	100	36.6	1.7	61.6
Arson and explosives	326	69	2	255	100	21.2	0.6	78.2
Transportation of stolen property	51	12	1	38	100	23.5	2.0	74.5
Other property offenses ^e	126	12	47	67	100	9.5	37.3	53.2
Drug offenses	6,449	1,993	76	4,376	100%	30.9%	1.2%	67.9%
Public-order offenses	10,571	2,027	427	8,114	100%	19.2%	4.0%	76.8%
Regulatory	3,495	300	172	3,021	100%	8.6%	4.9%	86.5%
Agriculture	213	42	26	145	100	19.7	12.2	68.1
Antitrust	28	4	5	19	100	14.3	17.9	67.9
Food and drug	63	9	14	39	100	14.5	22.6	62.9
Transportation	152	19	11	122	100	12.5	7.2	80.3
Civil rights	1,827	70	31	1,725	100	3.8	1.7	94.5
Communications	104	10	2	92	100	9.6	1.9	88.5
Custom laws	187	28	21	138	100	15.0	11.2	73.8
Postal laws	54	7	12	35	100	13.0	22.2	64.8
Other regulatory offenses	867	111	50	706	100	12.8	5.8	81.4
Other	7,076	1,727	255	5,093	100%	24.4%	3.6%	72.0%
Weapons	1,982	584	30	1,367	100	29.5	1.5	69.0
Immigration offenses	293	37	13	243	100	12.6	4.4	82.9
Tax law violations ^e	502	78	28	396	100	15.5	5.6	78.9
Bribery	325	25	23	277	100	7.7	7.1	85.2
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	331	43	13	275	100	13.0	3.9	83.1
National defense	160	18	12	130	100	11.3	7.5	81.3
Escape	768	511	14	243	100	66.5	1.8	31.6
Racketeering and extortion	1,881	246	23	1,612	100	13.1	1.2	85.7
Gambling	171	32	8	131	100	18.7	4.7	76.6
Liquor offenses	6	3	0	3	100	—	—	—
Obscene material ^e	46	5	2	39	100	10.9	4.3	84.8
Migratory birds	53	7	17	29	100	13.2	32.1	54.7
Conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses	501	105	71	325	100	21.0	14.2	64.9
All other offenses ^e	57	33	1	23	100	57.9	1.8	40.4
Unknown or indeterminable offense	294	104	34	156	100%	35.4%	11.6%	53.1%

Note: For further information, see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.

—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 89.

^bIncludes 11 suspects for whom reason for declination could not be determined.

^cIncludes suspects in matters removed, prosecuted on other charges, prosecuted by other authorities, complaints filed with other indictments, youthful offenders, and those transferred to State authority.

^dIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^eIn this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

"Other sex offenses" may include some nonviolent offenses.

"Fraud" excludes tax fraud.

"Larceny" excludes transportation of stolen property.

"Other property offenses" excludes fraudulent property offenses, and includes destruction of property and trespass.

"Tax law violations" includes tax fraud.

"Obscene material" denotes the mail or transport thereof.

Table 1.5. Mean and median processing times from receipt to filing or declination, by offense, October 1, 1993–September 30, 1994

Most serious offense investigated ^a	Number of months from receipt of matter to decision						
	All suspects	Disposed by U.S. magistrate			Concluded by U.S. attorney		
		Total	Convicted	Not convicted	Total	Prosecuted in U.S. district court ^b	Declined
Mean							
All offenses^c	10.0 mo	6.8 mo	1.8 mo	11.2 mo	10.3 mo	5.7 mo	16.9 mo
Violent offenses	6.1	6.7	2.8	8.0	6.1	2.6	12.1
Property offenses	13.5	8.9	3.2	14.7	13.8	8.9	18.4
Fraudulent offenses ^d	14.0	9.0	3.1	15.4	14.3	9.4	18.6
Other offenses ^e	9.9	8.5	4.1	11.2	10.0	5.6	15.8
Drug offenses	7.0	6.0	1.8	9.1	7.0	3.9	16.0
Public-order offenses	9.6	6.5	1.4	11.2	10.4	5.5	16.3
Regulatory offenses	13.4	12.5	8.0	15.0	13.5	7.7	15.5
Other offenses	8.8	6.2	1.2	11.0	9.6	5.2	16.7
Median							
All offenses^c	3.3 mo	1.0 mo	0.1 mo	2.4 mo	3.9 mo	0.9 mo	12.7 mo
Violent offenses	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.3	0.7	8.3
Property offenses	8.2	1.9	1.0	4.4	8.7	3.3	14.5
Fraudulent offenses ^d	8.8	1.9	0.9	5.2	9.3	3.7	14.7
Other offenses ^e	4.5	1.9	1.7	1.9	4.8	1.4	12.6
Drug offenses	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.7	12.5
Public-order offenses	2.7	0.9	—	2.7	3.8	0.9	11.2
Regulatory offenses	8.5	5.1	5.0	5.1	8.7	2.2	11.1
Other offenses	1.9	0.8	—	2.7	2.7	0.9	11.2
Number of suspects^f							
With unknown or indeterminable offense or processing time	92,612	9,467	4,435	5,032	83,145	48,967	34,178

Note: The data in this table are not directly comparable to data in the 1993 or prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, items 1 and 2, p. 20.
 —Three or fewer days.

^aSee *Chapter notes*, item 3, p.20, and "Offense classifications" in *Methodology*, p. 89.

^bThe suspects included in this column are limited to those whose cases were filed in U.S. district court before U.S. district court judges. These data are not directly comparable to the number in the 1993 or prior compendia, which included appeals cases handled by U.S. attorneys; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 20.

^cIncludes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined; see *Chapter notes*, item 4, p. 20.

^dExcluding tax fraud.

^eIncluding tax fraud.

^fExcludes suspects with insufficient data to determine processing time.

1) Tables 1.1- 1.5 were created from the Central System data files of the EOUSA. For table 1.1, only records which showed a matter received during fiscal year 1994 were selected. For tables 1.2–1.5, only records which show a matter terminated by reason of declination, disposition by a U.S. magistrate, or filed as a case in U.S. district court from October 1, 1993, through September 30, 1994, were selected. In all of these tables, matters “declined immediately” were excluded.

2) The number of suspects in matters investigated in table 1.1, and the number of suspects in matters concluded in tables 1.2 and 1.5 are not directly comparable to previous compendia counts. In prior years, these statistics included appellants in appeals filed or appeals terminated. In table 1.1 of this *Compendium*, the number of suspects in matters received is limited to suspects in criminal matters that were filed as cases in U.S. district courts, handled by U.S. magistrates, or declined for prosecution. In the 1993 and prior compendia, the number of suspects in criminal matters received included individuals in those criminal appeals which involved U.S. attorneys. To obtain a number of suspects that is comparable to the statistic reported in the 1993 and prior compendia, add to the data in table 1.1 of this *Compendium*, the number of appellants in appeals filed which were handled by U.S. attorneys. The table below shows these data for the major offense categories.

Nature of the underlying offense	Number of appellants in appeals filed & handled by U.S. attorneys
All offenses	9,459
Violent offenses	704
Property offenses	1,805
Fraudulent property	1,473
Other property	332
Drug offenses	4,625
Public-order offenses	2,269
Regulatory public order	142
Other public order	2,127
Unknown or indeterminable offenses	56

In tables 1.2 and 1.5 of this *Compendium*, the number of suspects in matters concluded also is limited to those suspects whose matters were concluded by a case filing in a U.S. district court, by declination, or by disposition by a U.S. magistrate. In the 1993 and prior compendia, this number included appellants in criminal appeals terminated.

To obtain a number that is comparable to the number reported in these earlier compendia, the number of appellants in appeals terminated and handled by U.S. attorneys needs to be added to the totals in table 1.2. The table below shows the number of appellants in appeals cases terminated during fiscal year 1994.

Nature of the underlying offense	Number of appellants in appeals concluded by U.S. attorneys
All offenses	9,547
Violent offenses	725
Property offenses	1,738
Fraudulent property	1,484
Other property	254
Drug offenses	4,840
Public-order offenses	2,199
Regulatory public order	146
Other public order	2,053
Unknown or indeterminable offenses	45

3) Offenses in the Central System data files are classified by the title and section of the United States Code for the most serious offense investigated, as determined by the assistant U.S. attorney responsible for the matter. For tables in this compendium, these citations were translated into the corresponding four-digit offense codes used by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC). These four-digit codes were then aggregated into the categories shown in the tables. U.S. Code citations often do not permit detailed classification of drug offenses by type of criminal activity involved. A person charged with conspiracy is classified under the substantive offense alleged (for example, conspiracy to defraud is classified as a fraud) unless the type of conspiracy cannot be determined from the U.S. Code citation. Unclassified conspiracies are included among “conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses” in tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, and 1.5.

The most serious offense investigated is based on the criminal lead charge as determined by the assistant U.S. attorney responsible for the criminal matter.

4) In the tables in this chapter, the “all offenses” row or “total declinations” row (in table 1.3) includes records whose offense category (basis for declination) is missing or indeterminable. The percentage distributions in these tables, however, are based on the number of observations with non-missing offenses (basis for declination) values. The number of missing values are reported either on a separate line or in a footnote.