

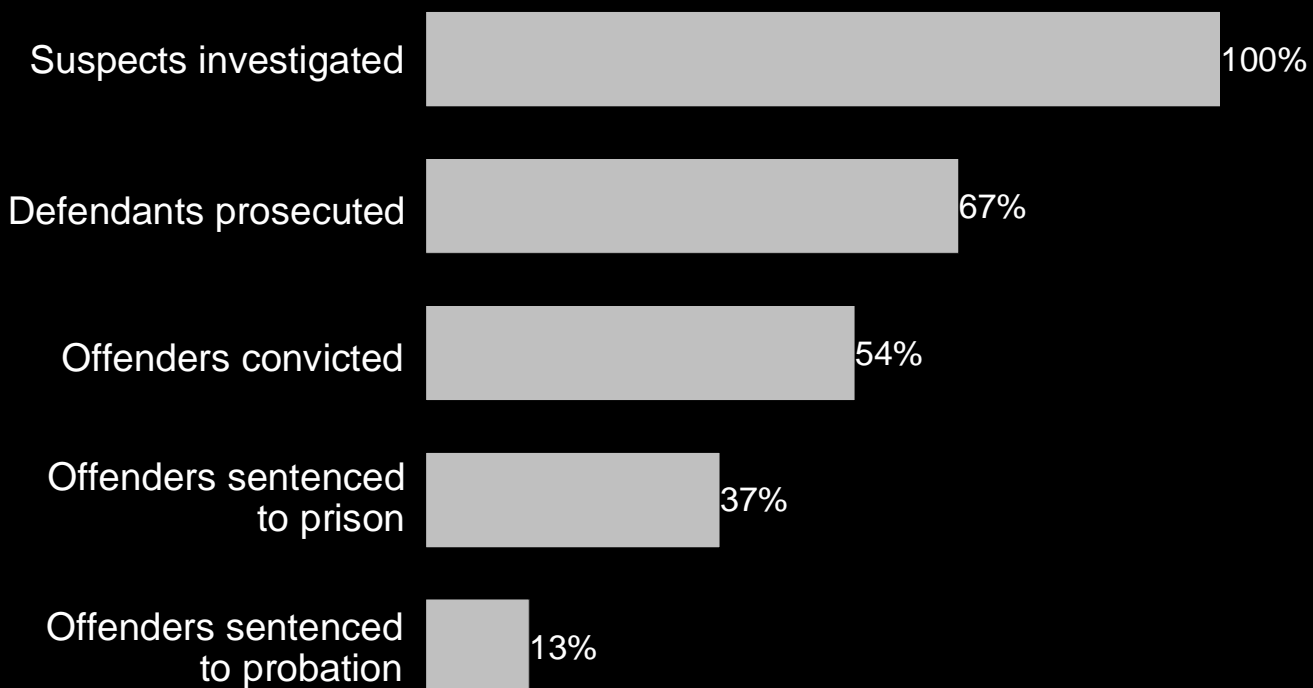


## Bureau of Justice Statistics

# Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1996

Federal criminal case processing in matters concluded by United States attorneys, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

### All offenses



(reverse of front cover)

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics



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# Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1996

November 1998, NCJ172849

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## **U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

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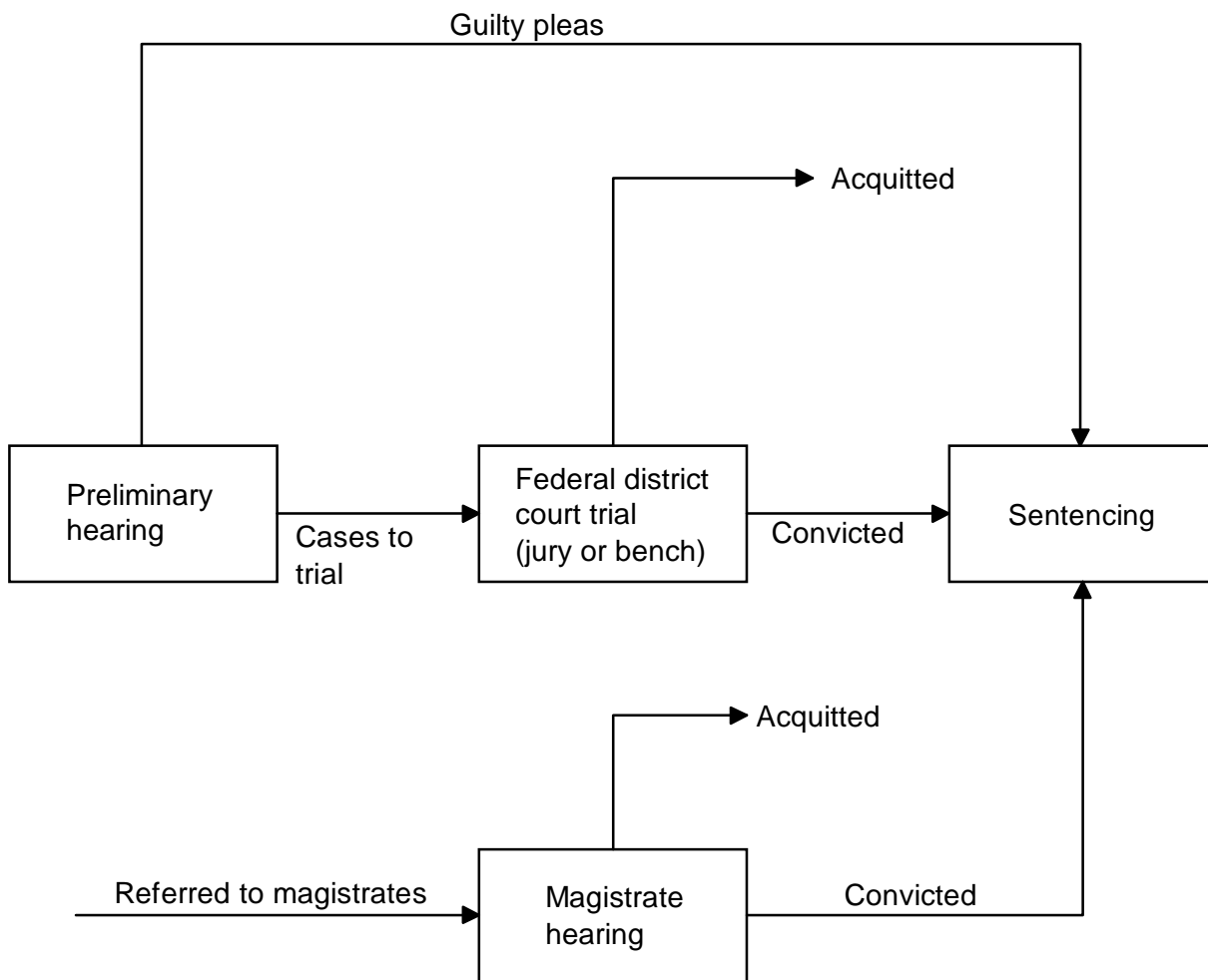
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## Chapter 3

### Adjudication

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Federal criminal cases may result in conviction of the defendant following plea or trial, acquittal of the defendants after trial, or dismissal of the case.<sup>1</sup>

### Defendants in cases commenced (table 3.1)

During 1996, 65,480 defendants had criminal charges commenced against them in U.S. district courts, and 52,656 (80%) of those defendants were charged with felonies. The 21,677 felony drug defendants comprised one-third of all criminal defendants in cases commenced and 41% of all felony defendants. Felony property and public-order defendants comprised 22% and 20%, respectively, of all defendants in cases commenced. The number of misdemeanor cases commenced was 12,774 in 1996. Approximately 39% of all misdemeanors were charged with traffic violations during 1996.

### Defendants in cases terminated (table 3.2)

Cases were terminated against 61,434 defendants during 1996, 49,283 (80%) of whom were felony defendants. During 1996 the 20,305 felony drug defendants comprised 33% of all defendants and 41% of all felony defendants.

Over 86% of all defendants were convicted, as were 89% of all felony defendants and 76% of misdemeanor defendants. For major felony offense categories, conviction rates ranged from 88% for drug offenses to 90% for property and public-order offenses. Within major offense categories, however, the conviction rates varied more widely. For example, within violent offenses, the conviction rate ranged from 77% for those

<sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise noted, data describe felony and misdemeanor cases in U.S. district courts and include Class A misdemeanors handled by U.S. magistrates. The data also include infrequent Class B misdemeanors that are handled by U.S. district court judges.

### Defendants convicted at trial received longer sentences, on average, than those convicted by guilty plea

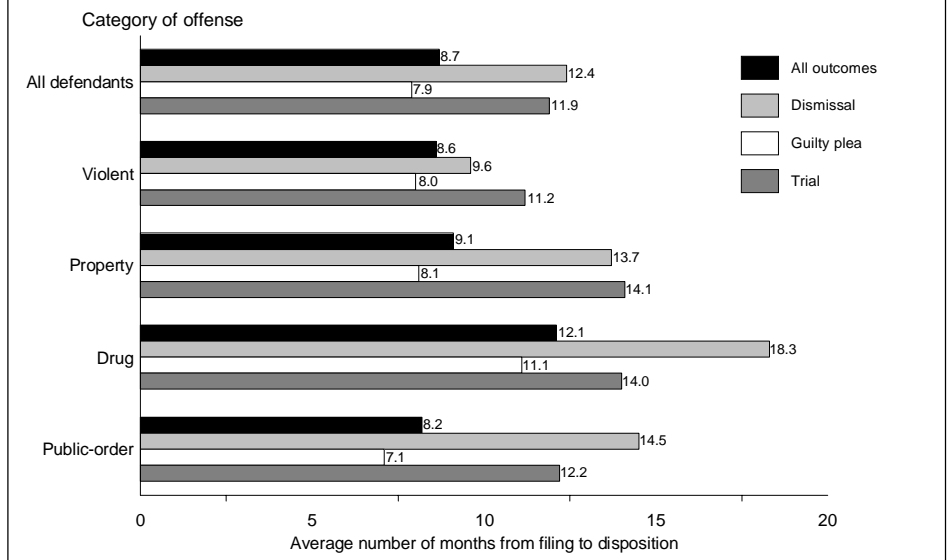


Figure 3.1. Average time from filing to disposition of cases terminating during October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

charged with making threats against the President to 95% for those charged with sex offenses other than rape. Within the public-order category, the conviction rate ranged from 65% for civil rights violations to 91% for tax law violations and 96% for immigration offenses.

Most (92%) defendants who were convicted pleaded guilty. For felony offenses, 91% pleaded guilty to their charges. For the major felony offense categories, guilty pleas were registered for 93% of property offenders, 92% of public-order offenders, 91% of drug offenders, and 88% of violent offenders.

During 1996, 5,085 defendants exercised their right to a trial. A higher percentage of violent offenders went to trial than drug, public-order, and property offenders. Fourteen percent of violent offenders went to trial, as did 9% of drug and public-order offenders and 7% of property offenders.

Of defendants who exercised their right to a trial, 4,104 (81%) were convicted either by a jury or bench trial. The felony trial conviction rate was 84%, while the misdemeanor conviction rate was 59%. Among felony

offenses, trial conviction rates ranged from 80% for violent and property defendants to 87% for drug defendants. Public-order offenders fell in between, as 83% of them were convicted at trial.

### Case processing times (table 3.3)

The data in table 3.3 cover the interval from the time a case is filed in U.S. district court to sentencing for those convicted as well as the interval from case filing to disposition for those not convicted or those whose cases are dismissed. Title I of the Speedy Trial Act of 1974, as amended, sets time requirements for processing criminal cases in Federal courts. Except for certain exclusions, indictment must occur within 30 days of arrest; defendants are guaranteed at least 30 days to prepare for trial; and the Government must be ready for trial within 70 days. The Speedy Trial Act does not specify a time interval from trial to sentencing,<sup>2</sup> and

<sup>2</sup>The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 specifies minimum intervals for the disclosure and objections to the presentence report. See Rule 31, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

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the time limits set by the Act exclude several enumerated periods of pre-trial procedure such as time spent awaiting rulings on motions.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, defendants may waive their rights within the Speedy Trial Act. As a result, the actual processing time for most defendants can be longer than the statutory limits without violating the provisions of the Act.

Overall, the average time for processing defendants was 8.7 months (figure 3.1). For felony defendants, the overall processing time average was 10 months; for those convicted of misdemeanor crimes, the average processing time was 3.6 months. Defendants who pleaded guilty were processed faster (7.9 months) on average than defendants who went to trial (11.9 months). Defendants whose cases were ultimately dismissed took longest to process (12.4 months), on average. Among major felony offense categories, case processing times were similar to the overall pattern, with two exceptions. For those convicted of violent offenses, those whose cases went to trial took longest to process. The same pattern applies to those convicted of property offenses.

some higher education (60%), and had some criminal history (53%).

Among defendants convicted there were over 5 times as many men as women (84% versus 16%); over twice as many whites as blacks (65% versus 30%); and over 2 times as many non-Hispanics as Hispanics (69% versus 31%). U.S. citizens comprised 72% of defendants; non citizens comprised 28%. Persons over age 30 represented 58% of defendants.

### **Convictions by U.S. magistrates (table 3.4)**

During 1996 U.S. magistrates disposed of 11,173 misdemeanor criminal defendants, over 76% of whom were convicted. Those charged with traffic violations comprised 41% of the defendants disposed by U.S. magistrates, while misdemeanor property offenses comprised another 31% of U.S. magistrates' cases.

### **Characteristics of convicted defendants (table 3.5)**

Of defendants who were convicted, 84% were men, 65% were white, 30% were black, and 31% were Hispanic. Most were U.S. citizens (72%), had graduated high school or completed

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<sup>3</sup>18 U.S.C. § 3161 et. seq.



**Table 3.1. Defendants in cases commenced from October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996, by offense**

Most serious offense charged	Defendants in cases commenced during 1996	
	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup>
<b>All offenses</b>	65,480	100%
<b>Felonies</b>	52,656	80.4%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	3,457	5.3%
Murder <sup>b</sup>	422	0.6
Negligent manslaughter	2	—
Assault	379	0.6
Robbery	1,789	2.7
Rape	264	0.4
Other sex offenses <sup>b</sup>	352	0.5
Kidnaping	225	0.3
Threats against the President	24	—
<b>Property offenses</b>	14,130	21.6%
<b>Fraudulent</b>	11,525	17.6%
Embezzlement	1,115	1.7
Fraud <sup>b</sup>	9,105	13.9
Forgery	197	0.3
Counterfeiting	1,108	1.7
<b>Other</b>	2,605	4.0%
Burglary	77	0.1
Larceny <sup>b</sup>	1,646	2.5
Motor vehicle theft	133	0.2
Arson and explosives	243	0.4
Transportation of stolen property	447	0.7
Other property offenses <sup>b</sup>	59	0.1
<b>Drug offenses</b>	21,677	33.1%
Trafficking	20,522	31.3
Possession and other drug offenses	1,155	1.8
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	13,392	20.5%
<b>Regulatory</b>	1,123	1.7%
Agriculture	64	0.1
Antitrust	47	0.1
Food and drug	41	0.1
Transportation	83	0.1
Civil rights	102	0.2
Communications	24	—
Custom laws	128	0.2
Postal laws	32	—
Other regulatory offenses	602	0.9
<b>Other</b>	12,269	18.7%
Weapons	3,651	5.6
Immigration offenses	5,390	8.2
Tax law violations <sup>b</sup>	707	1.1
Bribery	196	0.3
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	368	0.6
National defense	53	0.1
Escape	657	1.0
Racketeering and extortion	1,129	1.7
Gambling	25	—
Obscene material <sup>b</sup>	17	—
Migratory birds	11	—
All other felonies <sup>b</sup>	65	0.1
<b>Misdemeanors<sup>b</sup></b>	12,774	19.5%
Fraudulent property offense	1,466	2.2
Larceny	2,060	3.1
Drug possession <sup>b</sup>	1,402	2.1
Immigration	442	0.7
Traffic offenses	4,993	7.6
Other misdemeanors	2,411	3.7
<b>Unknown or indeterminable offense</b>	50	

Note: For further information, see *Chapter notes*, item 1, p. 46.

—Less than .05%.

<sup>a</sup>Percent distribution based on defendants whose categories could be determined.

In this table, "Murder" includes nonnegligent manslaughter; "Other sex offenses" may include some non-violent 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; "All other felonies" includes felonies with unknown or unclassifiable offense type; "Misdemeanors" includes misdemeanors, petty offenses, and unknown offense levels; and "Drug possession" also includes other drug misdemeanors.

**Table 3.2. Disposition of cases terminating from October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996, by offense**

Most serious offense charged	Total defendants	Percent of all defendants convicted	Number of defendants in cases terminating during 1996 who were—									
			Convicted						Not convicted			
			Total	Guilty plea	Nolo contendere	Trial		Total	Dismissed	Trial		
			Jury	Non-jury			Jury <sup>a</sup>	Non-jury				
<b>All offenses</b>	61,434	86.4%	53,076	48,694	278	3,623	481	8,358	7,377	643	338	
<b>Felonies</b>	49,283	89.0%	43,883	40,121	50	3,585	127	5,400	4,689	619	92	
<b>Violent offenses</b>	3,091	88.1%	2,722	2,382	7	309	24	369	284	77	8	
Murder <sup>b</sup>	412	81.1	334	255	1	69	9	78	55	22	1	
Negligent manslaughter	3	—	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Assault	398	78.4	312	270	0	42	0	86	68	17	1	
Robbery	1,630	93.5	1,524	1,380	4	134	6	106	91	13	2	
Rape	260	80.8	210	181	1	21	7	50	30	16	4	
Other sex offenses <sup>b</sup>	202	94.6	191	173	1	16	1	11	9	2	0	
Kidnaping	152	80.3	122	95	0	26	1	30	25	5	0	
Threats against the President	34	76.5	26	25	0	1	0	8	6	2	0	
<b>Property offenses</b>	12,816	89.5%	11,476	10,695	22	737	22	1,340	1,154	152	34	
<b>Fraudulent</b>	10,260	89.6%	9,189	8,606	19	547	17	1,071	921	123	27	
Embezzlement	1,095	91.1	997	940	4	53	0	98	86	10	2	
Fraud <sup>b</sup>	7,969	88.9	7,085	6,599	14	456	16	884	759	102	23	
Forgery	226	91.2	206	199	0	7	0	20	18	2	0	
Counterfeiting	970	92.9	901	868	1	31	1	69	58	9	2	
<b>Other</b>	2,556	89.5%	2,287	2,089	3	190	5	269	233	29	7	
Burglary	82	90.2	74	70	0	4	0	8	7	1	0	
Larceny <sup>b</sup>	1,540	90.3	1,390	1,331	3	54	2	150	131	15	4	
Motor vehicle theft	153	86.3	132	118	0	14	0	21	20	1	0	
Arson and explosives	289	89.6	259	193	0	63	3	30	21	9	0	
Transportation of stolen property	448	88.2	395	345	0	50	0	53	47	3	3	
Other property offenses <sup>b</sup>	44	84.1	37	32	0	5	0	7	7	0	0	
<b>Drug offenses</b>	20,305	88.3%	17,932	16,252	6	1,640	34	2,373	2,121	230	22	
Trafficking	19,486	88.3	17,210	15,582	5	1,589	34	2,276	2,036	218	22	
Possession and other drug offenses	819	88.2	722	670	1	51	0	97	85	12	0	
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	13,071	89.9%	11,753	10,792	15	899	47	1,318	1,130	160	28	
<b>Regulatory</b>	1,151	82.5%	949	881	1	60	7	202	166	33	3	
Agriculture	89	76.4	68	60	0	6	2	21	18	3	0	
Antitrust	50	66.0	33	30	0	3	0	17	6	11	0	
Food and drug	42	83.3	35	34	0	0	1	7	5	2	0	
Transportation	81	86.4	70	59	0	10	1	11	11	0	0	
Civil rights	104	65.4	68	58	0	9	1	36	24	10	2	
Communications	18	66.7	12	12	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	
Custom laws	97	84.5	82	79	0	3	0	15	13	1	1	
Postal laws	41	78.0	32	31	1	0	0	9	9	0	0	
Other regulatory offenses	629	87.3	549	518	0	29	2	80	74	6	0	
<b>Other</b>	11,920	90.6%	10,804	9,911	14	839	40	1,116	964	127	25	
Weapons	3,843	87.5	3,364	2,851	4	488	21	479	402	69	8	
Immigration offenses	5,111	96.1	4,912	4,837	2	64	9	199	196	1	2	
Tax law violations <sup>b</sup>	687	91.0	625	567	1	57	0	62	49	11	2	
Bribery	232	90.1	209	186	3	19	1	23	16	4	3	
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	300	77.7	233	180	1	47	5	67	49	14	4	
National defense	57	77.2	44	40	0	4	0	13	12	1	0	
Escape	552	79.5	439	415	1	23	0	113	107	6	0	
Racketeering and extortion	1,016	86.7	881	744	2	133	2	135	111	21	3	
Gambling	38	73.7	28	27	0	1	0	10	10	0	0	
Obscene material <sup>b</sup>	17	82.4	14	14	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	
Migratory birds	18	83.3	15	14	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	
All other felonies <sup>b</sup>	49	81.6	40	36	0	2	2	9	6	0	3	
<b>Misdemeanors<sup>b</sup></b>	12,115	75.6%	9,164	8,545	228	38	353	2,951	2,682	24	245	
Fraudulent property offense	1,437	92.1	1,323	1,312	3	5	3	114	111	2	1	
Larceny	1,896	64.8	1,228	1,153	15	4	56	668	625	4	39	
Drug possession <sup>b</sup>	1,413	77.0	1,088	1,058	10	2	18	325	310	1	14	
Immigration	414	95.7	396	394	1	1	0	18	18	0	0	
Traffic offenses	4,693	75.0	3,519	3,195	143	12	169	1,174	1,009	4	161	
Other misdemeanors	2,262	71.2	1,610	1,433	56	14	107	652	609	13	30	
<b>Unknown or indeterminable offense</b>	36	80.6%	29	28	0	0	1	7	6	0	1	

Note: For further information, see *Chapter notes*, item 1, p. 46.

—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

<sup>a</sup>Includes mistrials.

<sup>b</sup>In 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; "All other felonies" includes felonies with unknown or unclassifiable offense type; "Misdemeanors" includes misdemeanors, petty offenses, and unknown offense levels; and "Drug possession" also includes other drug misdemeanors.

**Table 3.3. Time from filing to disposition of cases terminating from October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996**

Most serious offense charged	Average time from filing to disposition for defendants in cases resulting in—			
	All outcomes	Dismissal <sup>a</sup>	Guilty plea	Trial <sup>b</sup>
<b>All offenses</b>	8.7 mo	12.4 mo	7.9 mo	11.9 mo
<b>Felonies</b>	10.0 mo	15.7 mo	9.0 mo	13.3 mo
<b>Violent offenses</b>	8.6 mo	9.6 mo	8.0 mo	11.2 mo
Murder <sup>c</sup>	10.9	10.3	10.5	12.3
Negligent manslaughter	—	—	—	—
Assault	8.3	11.6	7.1	9.8
Robbery	7.9	8.6	7.5	11.1
Rape	8.5	8.0	8.5	8.7
Other sex offenses <sup>c</sup>	8.1	—	7.6	13.6
Kidnaping	11.3	8.2	11.8	12.4
Threats against the President	9.4	—	7.9	—
<b>Property offenses</b>	9.1 mo	13.7 mo	8.1 mo	14.1 mo
<b>Fraudulent</b>	8.9 mo	13.5 mo	8.0 mo	14.1 mo
Embezzlement	7.6	8.8	6.8	18.5
Fraud <sup>c</sup>	9.3	14.1	8.3	14.0
Forgery	9.3	22.1	8.2	—
Counterfeiting	7.4	9.8	7.1	10.8
<b>Other</b>	9.6 mo	14.9 mo	8.6 mo	13.9 mo
Burglary	9.0	—	7.3	—
Larceny <sup>c</sup>	8.1	10.1	7.7	11.6
Motor vehicle theft	13.4	21.8	12.3	11.8
Arson and explosives	12.5	12.9	11.3	15.5
Transportation of stolen property	12.1	26.5	9.6	15.9
Other property offenses <sup>c</sup>	8.2	—	7.9	—
<b>Drug offenses</b>	12.1 mo	18.3 mo	11.1 mo	14.0 mo
Trafficking	12.2	18.7	11.2	14.2
Possession and other drug offenses	8.5	8.2	8.3	10.8
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	8.2 mo	14.5 mo	7.1 mo	12.2 mo
<b>Regulatory</b>	10.1 mo	14.2 mo	8.7 mo	15.6 mo
Agriculture	7.3	4.9	7.6	9.2
Antitrust	8.3	—	5.4	13.1
Food and drug	13.2	—	11.8	—
Transportation	8.9	—	7.9	16.4
Civil rights	8.7	6.4	9.7	8.5
Communications	11.7	—	5.1	—
Custom laws	7.8	12.1	7.1	—
Postal laws	6.7	—	7.1	—
Other regulatory offenses	11.4	19.8	9.3	24.1
<b>Other</b>	8.0 mo	14.5 mo	6.9 mo	11.9 mo
Weapons	9.8	12.5	9.2	10.7
Immigration offenses	4.0	8.0	3.7	9.0
Tax law violations <sup>c</sup>	10.4	22.6	8.9	16.1
Bribery	11.6	17.9	10.7	14.4
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	12.4	12.6	11.7	14.0
National defense	12.2	—	11.1	—
Escape	13.4	26.9	10.9	7.5
Racketeering and extortion	14.3	21.2	13.0	15.4
Gambling	12.5	10.2	13.3	—
Obscene material <sup>c</sup>	11.2	—	11.3	—
Migratory birds	5.6	—	5.6	—
All other felonies <sup>c</sup>	5.1	—	5.2	—
<b>Misdemeanors<sup>c</sup></b>	3.6 mo	6.8 mo	2.7 mo	2.3 mo
Fraudulent property offense	2.6	7.6	2.2	7.4
Larceny	4.1	6.5	2.9	3.0
Drug possession <sup>c</sup>	4.8	8.4	3.9	3.1
Immigration	1.4	9.8	1.0	—
Traffic offenses	3.0	7.0	2.0	0.9
Other misdemeanors	4.5	5.8	4.0	4.1
<b>Unknown or indeterminable offense</b>	4.3 mo	—	4.6 mo	—

Note: Interval from filing to disposition includes periods which may be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act of 1974 (18 U.S.C. §3161, et seq.). See *Chapter notes*, item 1, p. 46.

—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

<sup>a</sup>Includes nolle prosequi, deferred prosecution, Narcotics Addicts Rehabilitation Act (NARA) Titles I and II, and all dismissals.

<sup>b</sup>Includes mistrials.

<sup>c</sup>In 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; "All other felonies" includes felonies with unknown or unclassifiable offense type; "Misdemeanors" includes misdemeanors, petty offenses, and unknown offense levels; and "Drug possession" also includes other drug misdemeanors.

**Table 3.4. Dispositions by U.S. magistrates, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996**

Most serious offense charged	Defendants in criminal cases concluded by U.S. magistrates			
	Total	Convicted	Not convicted	Percent convicted
<b>All offenses<sup>a</sup></b>	11,173	8,546	2,627	76.5%
<b>Violent offenses<sup>b</sup></b>	187	140	47	74.9%
Murder <sup>c</sup>	5	4	1	—
Assault	158	118	40	74.7
Robbery	1	0	1	—
Rape	8	7	1	—
Other sex offenses <sup>c</sup>	14	11	3	78.6
Kidnaping	1	0	1	—
<b>Property offenses</b>	3,413	2,588	825	75.8%
<b>Fraudulent</b>	1,341	1,253	88	93.4%
Embezzlement	234	197	37	84.2
Fraud <sup>c</sup>	996	958	38	96.2
Forgery	104	91	13	87.5
Counterfeiting	7	7	0	—
<b>Other</b>	2,072	1,335	737	64.4%
Burglary	4	3	1	—
Larceny <sup>c</sup>	1,862	1,214	648	65.2
Motor vehicle theft	2	2	0	—
Arson and explosives	3	3	0	—
Transportation of stolen property	1	1	0	—
Other property offenses <sup>c</sup>	200	112	88	56.0
<b>Drug offenses</b>	1,351	1,058	293	78.3%
Possession	1,278	998	280	78.1
Trafficking	69	57	12	82.6
Other drug offenses	4	3	1	—
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	6,220	4,758	1,462	76.5%
<b>Regulatory</b>	579	444	135	76.7%
Agriculture	105	86	19	81.9
Fair labor standards	12	11	1	91.7
Food and drug	21	20	1	95.2
Other regulatory offenses	441	327	114	74.1
<b>Other</b>	5,641	4,314	1,327	76.5%
Weapons	106	65	41	61.3
Immigration offenses	312	304	8	97.4
Tax law violations <sup>c</sup>	131	127	4	96.9
Bribery	4	4	0	—
National defense	24	15	9	62.5
Escape	58	38	20	65.5
Racketeering and extortion	4	4	0	—
Liquor offenses	12	12	0	100
Conspiracy, aiding and abetting, traffic, and jurisdictional offenses	4,554	3,465	1,089	76.1
Migratory birds	11	9	2	81.8
All other offenses <sup>c</sup>	425	271	154	63.8
<b>Missing or indeterminable offense</b>	2	2	0	—

Note: Data in this table are not directly comparable to data in the 1993 and prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, item 1, p. 46.

—Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

<sup>a</sup>Includes suspects for whom offense category could not be determined.

<sup>b</sup>May include some nonviolent offenses.

<sup>c</sup>In 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; and "All other offenses" includes offenses with unknown or unclassifiable offense type.

**Table 3.5. Characteristics of convicted offenders, October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996**

Offender characteristic	Total number of offenders	Percent of defendants convicted of—							
		All offenses <sup>a</sup>	Violent offenses	Felonies		Drug offenses	Public-order offenses		Misdemeanors
				Fraudulent	Other		Regulatory	Other	
<b>All Offenders<sup>b</sup></b>	53,076	100%	5.1%	17.3%	4.3%	33.8%	1.8%	20.4%	17.3%
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	37,747	84.3%	93.3%	73.4%	77.8%	87.5%	75.6%	93.0%	74.5%
Female	7,011	15.7	6.7	26.6	22.2	12.5	24.4	7.0	25.5
<b>Race</b>									
White	28,508	65.0%	50.1%	66.7%	63.9%	60.1%	75.0%	73.6%	68.1%
Black	13,157	30.0	33.0	27.0	27.3	37.9	18.8	22.7	24.3
Other	2,181	5.0	16.9	6.3	8.8	2.0	6.3	3.7	7.6
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic	13,951	31.3%	9.0%	12.0%	8.9%	37.6%	30.9%	48.3%	28.5%
Non-Hispanic	30,689	68.7	91.0	88.0	91.1	62.4	69.1	51.7	71.5
<b>Age</b>									
16-18 years	314	0.7%	2.8%	0.2%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	2.2%
19-20 years	1,770	4.0	6.8	1.4	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.7	7.9
21-30 years	16,312	37.1	37.1	27.0	31.3	41.5	28.8	40.2	37.5
31-40 years	13,814	31.4	31.9	31.8	31.9	32.1	29.1	31.9	26.4
Over 40 years	11,749	26.7	21.4	39.6	31.4	21.6	38.2	23.8	26.0
<b>Citizenship</b>									
U.S. citizen	32,009	72.1%	93.7%	84.1%	91.7%	71.9%	74.9%	52.4%	71.9%
Not U.S. citizen	12,407	27.9	6.3	15.9	8.3	28.1	25.1	47.6	28.1
<b>Education</b>									
Less than high school graduate	17,166	40.5%	38.4%	20.4%	27.3%	47.3%	29.8%	54.5%	31.7%
High school graduate	12,600	29.7	35.8	29.3	34.7	30.5	30.1	24.2	34.0
Some college	9,295	21.9	20.5	33.3	27.7	18.7	25.9	14.9	24.3
College graduate	3,363	7.9	5.4	17.0	10.3	3.5	14.2	6.3	10.1
<b>Criminal record</b>									
No convictions	20,748	47.3%	32.5%	61.4%	50.3%	44.9%	72.0%	31.5%	65.4%
Prior adult convictions <sup>c</sup>	23,151	52.7	67.5	38.6	49.7	55.1	28.0	68.5	34.6

Note: Offender characteristics are not comparable with the 1993 and prior compendia; see *Chapter notes*, item 2, p. 46. Offenders are classified by the most serious offense charged.

<sup>a</sup>Includes defendants for whom offense categories could not be determined.

<sup>b</sup>Includes offenders for whom these characteristics could not be determined.

<sup>c</sup>See *Chapter notes*, item 3, p. 46.

## Chapter notes

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- 1) Tables 3.1-3.4 were derived from the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts (AOUSC) criminal master data files. Only records with cases filed in U.S. district court (table 3.1) or cases that terminated in U.S. district court during October 1, 1995, through September 30, 1996, were selected. Offenses were classified according to the most serious offense charged. In the case of multiple offenses, the offense carrying the most severe potential penalty was selected.  
  
In this *Compendium*, carjacking offenses are classified as robberies, based on title and section of the U.S. Code. In prior compendia, they were classified as motor vehicle thefts, based on the AOUSC offense classifications. In the forthcoming *Federal Criminal Statistics: Reconciled Data*, which shows trends from 1994 through the present, carjackings are classified as robberies.
- 2) Table 3.5 was created by matching the AOUSC master data files with the U.S. Sentencing Commission (USSC) monitoring system files and the Pretrial Services Agency (PSA) data files. These latter two data files contain information on the characteristics of defendants. The USSC monitoring system files are limited to records of defendants sentenced under the Federal sentencing guidelines only. These include defendants convicted of felonies or Class A misdemeanors. Excluded from the USSC data were defendants convicted only of Class B or C misdemeanors or infractions, defendants whose offenses were committed before November 1, 1987, and juvenile offenders. Juveniles are not subject to guidelines, and they were not included in table 3.5. Some of the defendants excluded from the USSC data files were included in the PSA data. (See Chapter 2 *Chapter notes* for more information on the PSA data.) Table 3.5 indicates the number of records for which relevant data were available. Percentage distributions were based on records with known values of defendant characteristics and offenses.
- 3) A criminal record, as reported in table 3.5, is limited to prior adult convictions. For some defendants in this table, it is further limited to the portion that is relevant for calculating sentences under the Federal sentencing guidelines. In general, this is limited to sentences imposed within a 15-year period prior to the current offense and offenses committed within the United States. For most defendants, the criminal history used to calculate sentencing guideline ranges includes their entire adult criminal history.