



2007 National Census of State Court Prosecutors

# Prosecutors in State Courts, 2007 - Statistical Tables

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In 2007, 2,330 state prosecutors' offices served state judicial districts in the United States. The offices reported a total estimated budget of \$5.8 billion in 2007 and employed nearly 78,000 attorneys, investigators, paralegals, and support staff. State prosecutors closed 2.9 million cases charged as felonies in state courts in 2007, approximately 94 cases for each prosecuting attorney on staff.

The 2007 Census of State Court Prosecutors marked the second BJS survey of all prosecutors' offices in the United States. The first census, conducted in 2001, included the 2,341 offices in operation at that time. The second census included the 2,330 state court prosecutors' offices operating in 2007. Neither census included offices of municipal attorneys or county attorneys, who primarily operate in courts of limited jurisdiction.

State court prosecutors serve in the executive branch of state governments and handle felony cases in state courts of general jurisdiction. By law, these prosecutors are afforded broad discretion in determining who is charged with an offense and whether a case goes to trial. The chief prosecutor, also referred to as the district attorney, county attorney, commonwealth attorney, or state's attorney, represents

**TABLE 1**  
State prosecutors' offices, by population served, 2007

Population served	Number	Percent
All offices	2,330	100%
Full-time offices serving a population of—		
1,000,000 or more	43	1.8%
250,000 to 999,999	211	9.1
100,000 to 249,999	341	14.6
99,999 or less	1,389	59.6
Part-time offices	346	14.8

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

the state in criminal cases and is answerable to the public as an elected or appointed public official.

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia is the only federal prosecutor included in the census. This unique office is responsible for prosecution of serious local crimes committed in the District and also for prosecution of federal cases, whether criminal or civil.

These tables describe the operational and administrative functions of the offices that prosecute criminal offenses in state courts, including felony caseloads, office budgets and staffing, and prosecution of particular criminal offenses in 2007.

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# Summary findings

## Populations served

- In 2007, 2,330 prosecutors' offices across the United States served districts with populations ranging in size from 500 to 9.9 million residents (not shown in table).
- Most (74%) prosecutors' offices served districts with a population of less than 100,000 residents. Fifteen percent of prosecutors' offices were part-time offices with no full-time chief prosecutor (table 1).
- State prosecutors' districts (85%) generally correspond with county boundaries. Alaska, Delaware, Connecticut, and Rhode Island had a single prosecutors' office for the entire state (not shown in table).

## Operating budgets and staffing levels

- The total operating budget (\$5.8 billion) of state prosecutors' offices in 2007 decreased by 5% from the \$6.1 billion budget for 2001 (inflation-adjusted to 2007 dollars) (not shown in table).
- The average operating budget for full-time prosecutors' offices in 2007 ranged from \$526,000 for those serving fewer than 100,000 residents to \$49.3 million in jurisdictions serving more than 1 million. The average part-time office's budget was \$157,000 (table 2).
- State prosecutors' offices employed almost 78,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in 2007.\*
- The nearly 25,000 FTE assistant prosecutors employed in 2007 represented a 7% increase from the number reported in 2001 (not shown in table).
- Prosecutors' offices serving populations of 1 million or more employed an average of 535 FTE staff, including 187 assistant prosecutors, 31 supervisory attorneys, 16 victim advocates, 51 investigators, and 183 support staff.
- In full-time offices serving fewer than 100,000 residents, on average, offices included one chief prosecutor, three assistant prosecutors, one victim advocate, one legal services staff, one investigator, and three support staff.
- Assistant prosecutors comprised 32% of the total staff in prosecutors' offices in 2007. Support staff, including administrative and clerical staff, accounted for 33% of the total staff (table 3).

\*Full-time equivalent (FTE) is a computed statistic calculated by dividing the total number of hours worked by part-time employees by the standard number of hours for a full-time employee (40 hours per week) and then adding the resulting quotient to the number of full-time employees.

## Felony cases processing and dispositions

- Prosecutors' offices reported closing 2.9 million cases charged as felonies in 2007 through convictions, acquittals, dismissals, or other dispositions (table 4).
- Offices in districts with more than 1 million residents closed an average of 17,652 felony cases in 2007. Offices serving jurisdictions with 250,000 to 999,999 residents closed an average of 4,431 felony cases.
- In 2007, prosecuting attorneys in offices in districts with 100,000 to 249,999 residents closed an average of 121 felony cases each. The average caseload per prosecuting attorney across all full-time offices was 94 felony cases.
- The budgeted cost per felony case closed, calculated as the total office budget in 2007 divided by the number of felony cases closed, was \$2,792 in offices serving 1 million or more residents.
- Prosecutors' offices reported 2.2 million convictions for cases charged as felonies in 2007.
- Prosecutors' offices serving 1 million or more residents had an average of 11,952 felony case convictions, while full-time offices serving populations of less than 100,000 had an average of 315 felony case convictions.
- Felony cases adjudicated through jury verdicts were rare across state prosecutors' offices, accounting for an average of 3% of all felony case dispositions and 2% of dispositions litigated by offices serving 1 million or more residents.

## Tenure and salary

- The average annual salary of a chief prosecutor in 2007 was \$98,000, with mean salaries ranging from \$165,700 for chief prosecutors in the largest offices to less than \$45,000 in part-time offices (table 5).
- In 2007, the average tenure of a chief prosecutor was 9 years.
- Sixty-four percent of chief prosecutors had been in office for more than 5 years, and 38% had been in office for more than 10 years. The longest serving prosecutor had been in the position for 42 years.
- The average annual salary for assistant prosecutors ranged from \$33,460 for entry-level assistant prosecutors in part-time offices to \$108,434 for assistant prosecutors with 6 or more years of experience in offices serving jurisdictions of 1 million or more residents (table 6).

- In offices serving 1 million or more residents, the average assistant prosecutor's salary started at \$51,354 for those with no experience and at \$73,010 for those with 6 years or more experience, a difference of 42% (figure 1).
- In offices serving between 250,000 and 999,999 residents, the average assistant prosecutor's salary started at \$47,580 for those with no experience and at \$65,400 for those with 6 years or more experience, a difference of 37%.
- In full-time offices serving less than 100,000 residents, the average assistant prosecutor's salary started at \$42,380 for those with no experience and at \$53,113 for those with 6 years or more experience, a difference of 25%.
- In part-time offices the average assistant prosecutor's salary started at \$33,460 for those with no experience and at \$36,481 for those with 6 years or more experience, a difference of 9%.

### Threats against prosecutors' offices

- In 2007, almost half (47%) of prosecutors' offices had received a written threat, a threatening phone call, a face-to-face threat, or had staff who were victims of battery or assault (table 7).
- About 26% of offices reported receiving written threats, while 32% received threatening phone calls and 29% received face-to-face verbal threats. About 3% of offices reported that one of their staff had been a victim of battery or assault.
- Most offices (89%) serving populations of 1 million or more received a threat during 2007, as did most offices (69%) in jurisdictions with 250,000 to 999,999 residents.
- More than two-thirds of offices serving populations of 100,000 or more reported that the chief prosecutor, an assistant prosecutor, or a staff investigator carried a firearm.
- The percentage of offices reporting that a staff investigator carried a firearm (34%) was greater than the percentage reporting that the chief prosecutor (21%) or assistant prosecutors (18%) carried one.
- The percentage of prosecutors' staff that reported carrying firearms has remained steady since 2001.
- The majority (58%) of offices that had received a threat reported that office staff carried a firearm, compared to 37% of offices that had not received a threat (not shown in table).

### Specific felony offenses

- In 2007, the majority of prosecutors' offices reported prosecuting felony cases involving methamphetamine production (71%), child exploitation involving the internet (58%), or elder abuse (55%) (table 8).

- More than 90% of offices in districts serving 1 million residents reported prosecuting felony offenses involving use of the internet for child exploitation, elder abuse, gang-related violence, and school violence involving firearms.
- In 2007, part-time offices and those serving less than 100,000 residents were less likely than offices serving larger populations to handle cases involving children and elderly victims or school crime (figure 2).
- The percentage of offices prosecuting cases involving elder abuse (55%) or child exploitation using the internet (57%) was about 50% higher than the percentage prosecuting cases of school violence involving a firearm (27%).
- About 6% of offices serving less than 250,000 residents (including part-time offices) prosecuted police officers for excessive force, while 55% of offices serving populations larger than 1 million prosecuted such cases.

### Use of DNA evidence in felony cases

- In 2007, most prosecutors' offices (75%) used DNA evidence in plea negotiations or in felony trials (table 9).
- The majority (84%) of prosecutors' offices reported that they had submitted DNA evidence to a laboratory for analysis. Most (80%) offices used forensic laboratories operated by the state government.
- More than half (60%) of state prosecutors' offices that had submitted evidence to a laboratory in 2007 reported excessive delays in receiving the DNA results.

### Case disposition information reported to repositories

- A large majority of prosecutors' offices reported case dispositions to either federal, state, or local repositories in 2007 (table 10).
- Most offices reported data on felony convictions (93%) and misdemeanor convictions (80%) to data repositories, while about 30% reported data on court determination of mental status (figure 3).
- Fewer than a third of the offices reported dispositions for commitment to mental institutions (31%).
- Among the offices that did not provide final case disposition information to federal, state, or local repositories, about 72% indicated another agency was responsible for submitting this information (not shown in table).

**TABLE 2****State prosecutors' offices budget and staffing, by population served, 2007**

	All offices	Full-time offices serving a population of—								Part-time offices	
		1,000,000 or more		250,000 to 999,999		100,000 to 249,999		99,999 or less		Mean	Median
		Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Resident population served (thousands)	299,567	2,025	1,470	496	445	158	150	36	29	13	7
Budget (thousands)	\$5,807,914	\$49,291	\$35,981	\$9,998	\$7,000	\$2,327	\$1,809	\$526	\$336	\$157	\$98
Budget per population served		\$23	\$21	\$19	\$15	\$14	\$11	\$17	\$13	\$18	\$14
Full-time equivalent personnel*	77,927	535	445	131	113	39	33	10	8	3	2
Chief prosecutor	2,157	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant prosecutors	24,937	187	133	43	36	12	11	3	2	1	0
Civil attorneys	1,666	12	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Supervisory attorneys	3,824	31	22	7	7	2	1	0	0	0	0
Managing attorneys	1,704	13	6	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Victim advocates	4,841	16	9	8	6	3	3	1	1	0	0
Legal services	4,278	35	28	7	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Investigators	7,311	51	45	15	8	3	2	1	0	0	0
Support staff	25,759	183	139	41	36	13	10	3	3	1	1
Other	1,451	6	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Table is based on operating budgets, not actual expenditures. Data were missing for 5.5% (128) of offices surveyed. Total budget, total staff, chief prosecutor, and assistant prosecutor values were imputed using data from 2001 and 2007 Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, stratified by population served and state. See *Methodology* for details on imputation procedures.

\*Full-time equivalent (FTE) is a computed statistic calculated by dividing the total number of hours part-time employees worked by the standard number of hours for a full-time employee (40 hours per week) and then adding the resulting quotient to the number of full-time employees. Statistics for job categories were imputed using mean values for valid data from the 2007 Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, stratified by population served.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2001 and 2007.

**TABLE 3****Personnel employed in state prosecutors' offices, 2007**

Job categories <sup>a</sup>	Percent of total full-time equivalent personnel in prosecutors' offices nationwide <sup>b</sup>
Total	100%
Support staff	33%
Assistant prosecutors	32
Investigators	9
Victim advocates	6
Legal services	5
Supervisory/managing Attorneys	7
Chief prosecutor	3
Civil attorneys	2
Other	2
Estimated total full-time equivalent staff	77,927

Note: Table is based on operating budgets, not actual expenditures. Data were missing for 5.5% (128) of offices surveyed. Total budget, total staff, chief prosecutor, and assistant prosecutor values were imputed using data from 2001 and 2007 Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, stratified by population served and state. See *Methodology* for details on imputation procedures.

<sup>a</sup>Statistics for job categories were imputed using mean values for valid data from 2007 Census of State Court Prosecutors Offices, stratified by population served.

<sup>b</sup>Full-time equivalent (FTE) is a computed statistic calculated by dividing the total number of hours part-time employees worked by the standard number of hours for a full-time employee (40 hours per week) and then adding the resulting quotient to the number of full-time employees.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2001 and 2007.

**TABLE 4**  
**Felony cases closed by state prosecutor's offices, by population served, 2007**

Felony cases	All offices	Full-time offices serving a population of—				Part-time offices
		1,000,000 or more	250,000 to 999,999	100,000 to 249,999	99,999 or less	
<b>Total closed—</b>	2,906,795	759,057	934,884	622,073	555,050	35,731
Per office						
Mean <sup>a</sup>	1,248	17,652	4,431	1,824	400	103
Median	300	14,304	3,347	1,427	226	32
Per prosecuting attorney <sup>b</sup>						
Mean <sup>c</sup>	94	81	87	121	106	99
Median	75	82	77	102	73	42
<b>Budgeted cost per case closed</b>						
Mean <sup>d</sup>	\$1,998	\$2,792	\$2,256	\$1,276	\$1,317	\$1,525
Median	\$1,764	\$2,376	\$2,140	\$1,307	\$1,667	\$2,968
<b>Total felony jury trial verdicts</b>	73,274	14,077	25,721	16,974	15,450	1,051
Mean <sup>e</sup>	31	327	122	50	11	3
Median	7	230	69	30	5	1
<b>Percent closed by jury verdict</b>						
Mean <sup>f</sup>	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Median	2	2	2	2	2	1
<b>Total felony cases convicted</b>	2,176,723	513,918	718,540	476,337	437,338	30,591
Mean <sup>g</sup>	934	11,952	3,405	1,397	315	88
Median	240	8,730	2,500	1,089	175	25

Note: Based on imputed data from 2001 and 2007 Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, stratified by population served and state. See *Methodology* for details on imputation procedures.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using the total number of felony cases divided by the total number of offices.

<sup>b</sup>Includes full-time equivalent positions of prosecutors who carry a caseload (chief and assistant prosecutors and supervisors).

<sup>c</sup>Calculated using the total number of felony cases divided by the total number of litigating attorneys (chief and assistant prosecutors and supervisors).

<sup>d</sup>Calculated using the total budget divided by the total number of felony cases.

<sup>e</sup>Calculated using total number of jury trial verdicts divided by the total number of offices.

<sup>f</sup>Calculated using total number of felony cases closed by jury verdict divided by the total number of felony cases closed in 2007.

<sup>g</sup>Calculated using the total number of cases convicted divided by the total number of offices.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2001 and 2007.

**TABLE 5****Tenure and salary of chief prosecutors in state prosecutors' offices, by population served, 2007**

Chief prosecutor	All offices	Full-time offices serving a population of—				Part-time offices
		1,000,000 or more	250,000 to 999,999	100,000 to 249,999	99,999 or less	
<b>Salary<sup>a</sup></b>						
Mean	\$98,024	\$165,732	\$138,017	\$121,771	\$96,956	\$44,981
Median	\$101,700	\$158,000	\$139,000	\$119,800	\$99,750	\$42,660
<b>Tenure<sup>b</sup></b>						
Mean	9.4 yr.	9.5 yr.	9.8 yr.	9.6 yr.	9.0 yr.	10.5 yr.
Median	7.0	7.6	8.0	7.2	7.0	7.0
<b>Percent of chief prosecutors with tenure of—</b>						
Less than 1 year	3%	5%	5%	3%	2%	5%
1–2	19	15	12	23	18	21
3–4	14	10	14	15	15	9
5–10	26	30	27	16	29	22
11–20	25	35	28	30	24	24
More than 20	12	5	14	13	11	19

<sup>a</sup>Values for chief prosecutors' salary were imputed using valid data from the 2001 and 2007 Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, stratified by population served and state. See *Methodology* for further information on imputation procedures.

<sup>b</sup>Data on the tenure of the chief prosecutor were missing for 7.4% of offices surveyed. All percentages were calculated from reporting offices only.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2001 and 2007.

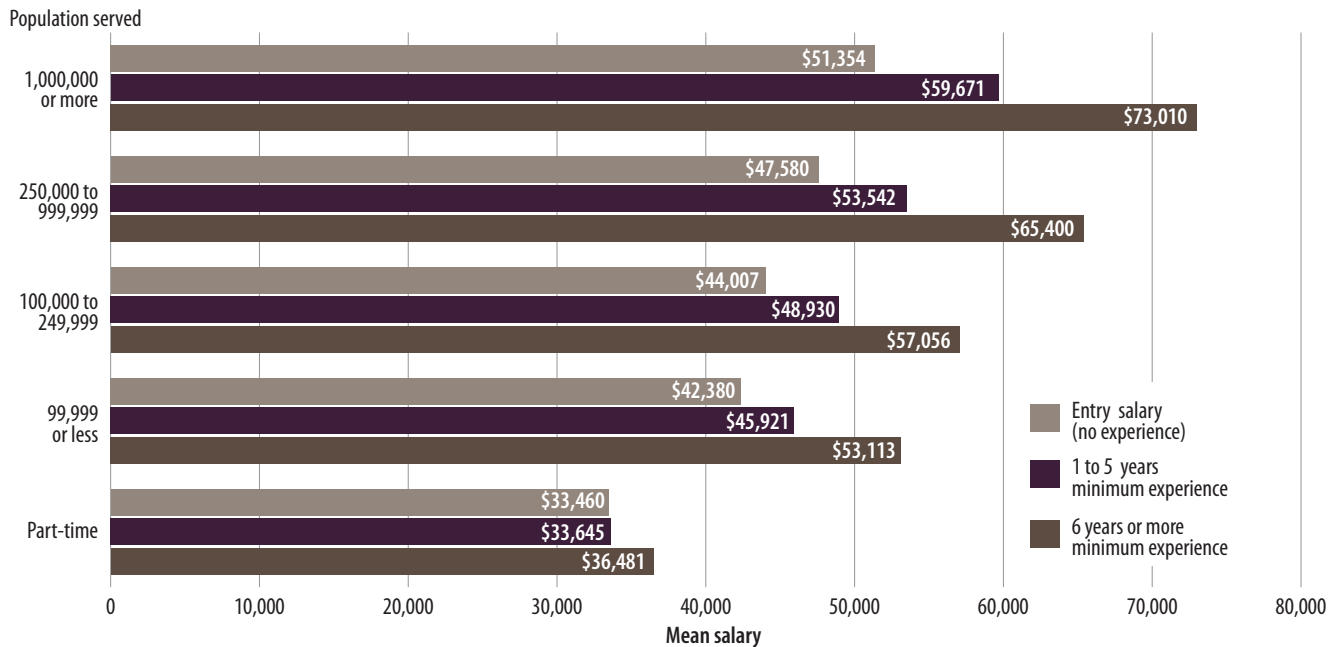
**TABLE 6****Assistant prosecutors' average minimum and maximum salary in state prosecutors' offices, by population served, 2007**

Salary	Full-time offices serving a population of—									
	1,000,000 or more		250,000 to 999,999		100,000 to 249,999		99,999 or less		Part-time	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
<b>Entry level assistant prosecutor</b>										
Minimum	\$51,354	\$51,378	\$47,580	\$46,704	\$44,007	\$43,000	\$42,380	\$42,931	\$33,460	\$34,307
Maximum	\$64,517	\$58,013	\$57,759	\$51,707	\$55,263	\$48,000	\$50,050	\$46,000	\$36,712	\$39,000
<b>Assistant prosecutor with 1 to 5 years experience</b>										
Minimum	\$59,671	\$56,478	\$53,542	\$51,604	\$48,930	\$47,000	\$45,921	\$46,000	\$33,645	\$37,550
Maximum	\$82,227	\$79,296	\$68,993	\$65,000	\$62,074	\$57,585	\$55,248	\$53,134	\$36,391	\$40,691
<b>Assistant prosecutor with 6 or more years experience</b>										
Minimum	\$73,010	\$68,609	\$65,400	\$64,000	\$57,056	\$57,000	\$53,113	\$54,000	\$36,481	\$40,000
Maximum	\$108,434	\$111,987	\$94,257	\$90,796	\$83,139	\$79,566	\$64,932	\$65,000	\$42,473	\$44,990

Note: Based on data from prosecutors' offices that responded. Salary data were missing for about 50% of offices.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.



**FIGURE 1****Assistant prosecutors' average minimum salary, by experience and population served, 2007**

Note: Based on data from all prosecutors' offices that responded. Salary data were missing for about 50% of offices.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

**TABLE 7****State prosecutors' offices receiving threats and percent with staff who carry firearms, by population served, 2007**

Type of threat/staff carrying firearm	All offices		Full-time offices serving a population of—								Part-time offices	
	Number	Percent	1,000,000 or more	250,000 to 999,999	100,000 to 249,999	99,999 or less	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Any threat*</b>	960	47%	34	89%	132	69%	154	54%	555	45%	85	28%
Written threat	537	26	30	79	93	49	105	37	273	22	36	12
Threatening phone call	646	32	27	71	101	54	107	38	350	28	61	20
Face-to-face verbal threat	602	29	27	71	90	48	101	36	338	28	46	15
Battery/assault	55	3	5	13	13	7	9	3	24	2	4	1
<b>Any staff carry firearm*</b>	971	47%	36	90%	158	82%	189	66%	526	43%	62	20%
Chief prosecutor carries a firearm	421	21	6	15	32	17	59	21	275	22	49	16
Assistant prosecutor carries a firearm	377	18	13	33	64	33	81	29	199	16	20	7
Staff investigator carries a firearm	685	34	35	88	150	78	162	57	324	27	14	5

Note: Based on data from all prosecutors' offices that responded. Data were missing for 12% of offices.

\*Detail adds to more than total due to multiple responses.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

**TABLE 8****Prosecution of specific felony offenses, by population served, 2007**

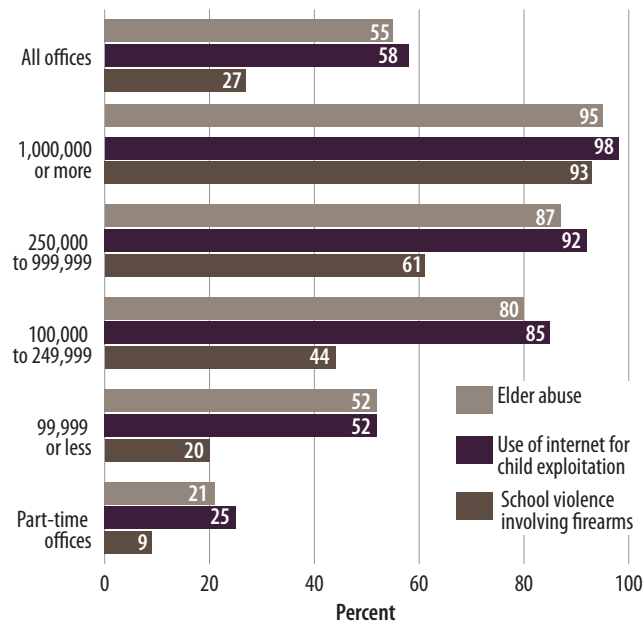
Type of felony offense	All offices	Full-time offices serving a population of—					Part-time
		1,000,000 or more	250,000 to 999,999	100,000 to 249,999	99,999 or less		
Methamphetamine production	71.1%	87.5%	76.2%	78.8%	71.8%	56.0%	
Use of internet for child exploitation	57.5	97.5	92.1	85.4	52.3	25.3	
Elder abuse	55.2	95.0	87.3	79.9	51.6	21.1	
Gang-related violence	33.6	95.0	90.5	66.8	21.1	8.3	
School violence involving firearms	27.2	92.5	61.4	44.2	20.3	8.7	
Police use of excessive force	9.2	55.0	29.6	14.2	5.1	2.0	
Terrorism/homeland security	3.9	17.5	4.8	4.4	3.5	3.0	
Human trafficking	3.8	40.0	11.6	2.6	2.1	1.7	

Note: Based on data from all prosecutors' offices that responded. Data were missing for 15% of offices.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

**FIGURE 2**

**Percent of prosecutors' offices handling cases involving elder abuse, use of internet for child exploitation, and school violence involving firearms, by population served, 2007**



Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

**TABLE 9**

**State court prosecutors' office use of DNA evidence, 2007**

Type of DNA use	Percent
DNA evidence submitted to any laboratory for analysis <sup>a</sup>	84.0%
FBI forensic laboratory	10.3
State forensic laboratory	80.0
Local government forensic laboratory	9.9
Privately operated forensic laboratory	26.7
Used DNA evidence in plea negotiations or in felony trials	74.5%
Problems associated with use of DNA evidence <sup>b</sup>	
Improper evidence collection by police	14.7%
Inconclusive DNA results	38.8
Excessive delay in getting DNA results from laboratory	60.0
Difficulty in getting DNA results admitted in court as evidence	2.5
Authorized to search and submit DNA <sup>b</sup>	
Convicted offender database	47.8%
Forensic database containing profiles from unsolved cases	29.2

Note: Detail adds to more than total due to multiple responses to the survey.

<sup>a</sup>Based on data from all prosecutors' offices that responded. Data are missing for 15% of offices.

<sup>b</sup>Based on offices that submitted evidence to any laboratory.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

**TABLE 10**

**Type of disposition information reported to data repositories, by state court prosecutors' offices, 2007**

Type of repository and case	All offices	Full-time offices serving a population of—				
		1,000,000 or more	250,000 to 999,999	100,000 to 249,999	99,999 or less	Part-time
<b>Type of repository</b>						
Any <sup>a</sup>	56%	50%	62%	59%	56%	50%
Federal	9	18	13	12	9	5
State	50	45	56	52	49	47
Local	26	33	32	28	26	21
<b>Type of case disposition information reported<sup>b</sup></b>						
Felony convictions	93%	95%	88%	92%	93%	96%
Guilty pleas	82	80	83	84	82	79
Misdemeanor convictions	80	80	75	73	80	90
Felony acquittals	79	85	77	80	79	78
Dismissal of charges by court	77	85	77	78	77	74
Misdemeanor acquittals	67	75	63	65	67	72
Sex offender registration requirements	61	60	61	57	62	60
Indictments	56	70	61	69	55	43
Probation and parole violations	54	55	48	53	55	57
Declination to prosecute	47	55	58	52	47	32
Protection orders	43	55	44	44	44	39
Commitment to mental institutions	31	50	42	33	29	21
Court determination of mental status	30	45	40	32	30	20

Note: Based on data from all prosecutors' offices that responded. Data are missing for 15% of offices.

<sup>a</sup>Detail adds to more than total due to multiple responses.

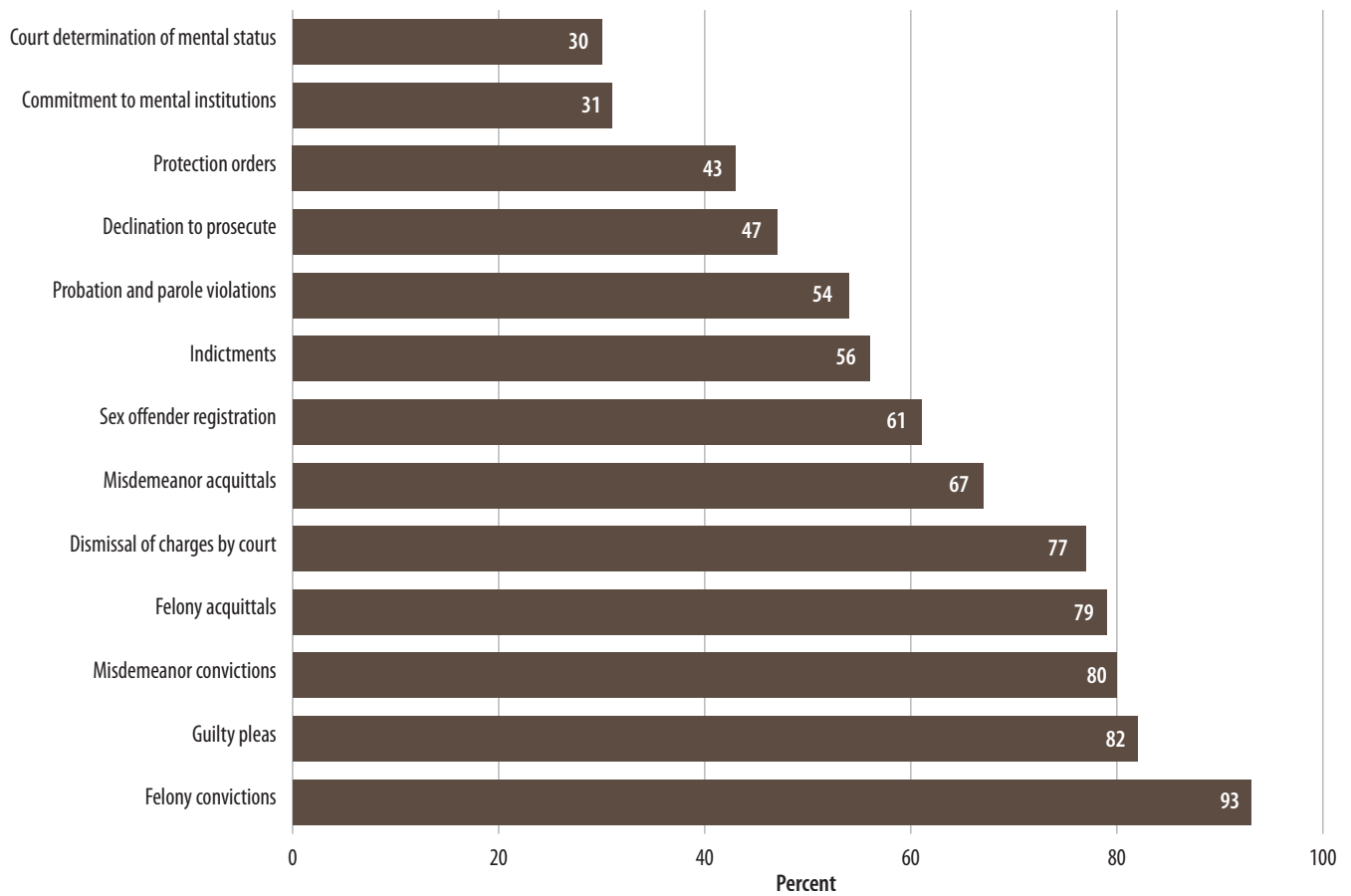
<sup>b</sup>Analysis restricted to offices that provided case disposition information to any repository.

Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.



**FIGURE 3**

**State court prosecutors' offices that report data to repositories, by type of data reported, 2007**



Note: Data on participation in record repositories were missing for 15% of prosecutors' offices. Percentages based on valid data only.  
Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

## Methodology

The 2007 National Census of State Court Prosecutors (NCSP-07) included 2,330 chief prosecutors in the United States that handled felony cases in state courts of general jurisdiction. State court prosecutors serve districts determined by each state's court structure.

**Data collection.** The Urban Institute collected the data on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The National District Attorneys Association helped review the data collection instrument, provided their national directory of district attorneys, and provided a medium for advertisement via their bi-monthly publication, *The Prosecutor*. The Urban Institute conducted the collection through a mailed questionnaire and a web automated instrument. The NCSP-07 form is available on the BJS website at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

**Response rates.** The NCSP-07 had an overall response rate of 95.6% from the 2,330 prosecutors' offices across the nation. After the initial mailings, BJS followed up to obtain a returned survey from each prosecutors' office. The follow-up process involved phone calls, email, fax communications, a second mailing of questionnaires, and follow-up letters. Completed surveys were received from 1,303 (56%) prosecutors' offices. Follow-up telephone calls, emails, and faxes resulted in an additional 924 (40%) offices providing a sufficient partially completed form, to make a final total of 2,227 responses from the eligible 2,330. A total of 4.4% (103) of the offices either did not respond (47) or directly refused participation (56). Among the 103 court prosecutors' offices that did not respond, 84% were in districts that served populations of less than 250,000.

**Calculated variables.** Several variables were calculated using reported and imputed data collected from the survey instrument.

- Full-time equivalent (FTE) is a computed statistic calculated by dividing the total number of hours part-time employees worked by the standard number of hours for a full-time employee (40 hours per week), and then adding the resulting quotient to the number of full-time employees. (See *U.S. Census Bureau Government Employment, 1997*, at [http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long\\_58632.htm](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_58632.htm).)
- Attorneys carrying a caseload (supervisory attorneys, assistant prosecutors, and chief prosecutors) were included as FTE prosecuting attorneys. Managing attorneys who did not prosecute cases were excluded.
- Cases closed per prosecuting attorney was calculated for each office by dividing the number of felony cases closed by the office in 2007 by the number of FTE prosecuting attorneys on staff in 2007.
- The budgeted cost per felony case closed was calculated for each office by dividing the total office budget in 2007 by the number of felony cases closed.
- The proportion of felony cases closed by jury verdict was calculated for each office by dividing the number of felony cases closed by jury verdict by the number of felony cases closed in 2007.

### Data Imputations

BJS used a combination of hot and cold deck approaches to impute values for nine critical variables. These variables included the number of chief prosecutors, number of full-time assistant prosecutors, number of full-time staff, number of part-time staff, annual salary of chief prosecutor, total office operating budget, number of felony cases closed, number of felony cases resulting in a conviction, and the

**TABLE 11**  
Standard errors of critical variables, by data source, 2007

Critical variable	Reported data were*—						All reported data		
	Imputed			Provided by respondent					
	Number	Mean	Standard error of mean	Number	Mean	Standard error of mean	Number	Mean	Standard error of mean
Chief prosecutor	132	0.80	0.04	2,198	0.85	0.01	2,330	0.85	0.01
Full-time assistant prosecutors	129	11.82	2.57	2,201	10.29	0.77	2,330	10.38	0.74
Full-time staff	142	29.69	5.42	2,188	32.24	2.09	2,330	32.09	1.99
Part-time staff	238	1.67	0.18	2,092	2.42	0.17	2,330	2.35	0.15
Felony cases closed	543	1,074.36	104.92	1,785	1301.63	89.36	2,328	1248.62	72.77
Felony cases resulting in a conviction	576	863.17	71.25	1,752	958.64	67.46	2,328	935.02	53.75
Felony cases tried before a jury	535	27.65	2.70	1,794	32.60	2.76	2,329	31.46	2.21
Annual salary of chief prosecutor	313	\$101,273	\$2,317	1,968	\$97,507	\$865	2,281	\$98,024	\$811
Total office operating budget	378	\$1,553,999	\$223,372	1,952	\$2,674,437	\$248,044	2,330	\$2,492,667	\$211,098

Note: Excludes data for which no suitable donor for imputation was available.

\*A suitable donor for imputation purposes was not identified for all cases, and these data remained missing.

number of felony cases tried before a jury. Data were missing for approximately 6% of all offices for staffing critical variables, 16% of offices were missing budget information, and 23% of offices were missing caseload information (table 9).

The 2007 data file was merged with the 2001 Census of State Court Prosecutors data file to allow imputation from previously collected valid data from the same prosecutorial office.

For each jurisdiction with valid 2001 and 2007 data, an adjustment ratio was calculated as the ratio of the critical variable's 2001 value to its 2007 value. All ratios greater than the 90th percentile were discarded for imputation purposes.

Where only 2001 data were available, a hot deck imputation procedure was employed to impute the adjustment ratio value from the jurisdiction's nearest neighbor in terms of

state and population size. Where there were no suitable donors in the same state, a donor of similar population size was used. The 2001 data were then adjusted using the imputed adjustment ratio to create the imputed 2007 value for the missing critical variable.

### **Adjusting for Inflation**

Financial data for fiscal years preceding 2007 were inflation-adjusted using Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflators prepared by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The GDP deflator chain-type price index, as appropriate for state and local government salaries, was applied to 2001 prosecutors' office salary data. The constant dollar salaries were then used to impute 2007 salary data for offices that did not provide salary data. (See table B-7, *Chain-type price indexes for gross domestic product, 1962-2010*, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/eop/tables11.html> for further details.)

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The full text of each report is available in PDF and ASCII formats on the BJS website at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov). Tables are also available in PDF and CSV formats. Related datasets are made available on the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data website at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/index.jsp>.