



Federal Justice Statistics, 2021

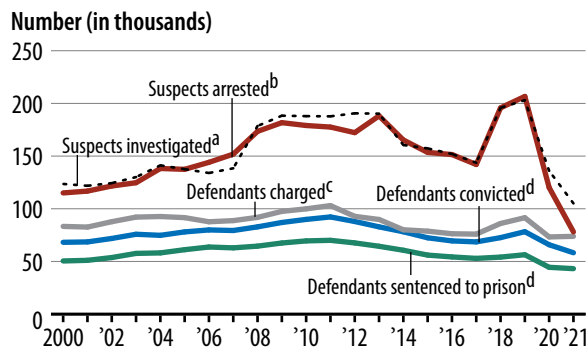
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Federal arrests declined 35% from fiscal year (FY) 2020 to FY 2021, reaching their lowest level over the past two decades (**figure 1**).¹ A total of 350,543 persons were under federal correctional control at fiscal year-end 2021, a 15% decline from the 410,887 at fiscal year-end 2011 (**table 1**). Approximately 3 in 5 of these persons were in secure confinement and 2 in 5 were on community supervision in each year.

This report describes cases processed by the federal criminal justice system. Data are from the 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 (AOUSC), Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and U.S. Sentencing Commission.

¹In this report, annual data are for the fiscal year, which is from October 1 to September 30.

FIGURE 1
Suspects and defendants processed in the federal criminal justice system, FY 2000–2021



Note: Suspects or defendants who had more than one arrest, charge, or case are counted separately. See appendix table 1 for counts.

^aSuspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys.

^bSuspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 and 2021 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date. See *Methodology*.

^cDefendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.

^dDefendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking, Justice Detainee, and CAPTURE information systems; 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 2000–2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During fiscal year (FY) 2021, federal law enforcement agencies made 78,068 arrests, a 35% decrease from the 120,112 arrests in FY 2020.
- A total of 350,543 persons were under federal correctional control at fiscal year-end 2021.
- Immigration arrests declined by 72% from 51,723 arrests in FY 2020 to 14,446 arrests in FY 2021.
- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, arrests declined 81% and cases charged declined 77% from March to April 2020, with an additional decline of 25% in arrests and 20% in cases charged from October 2020 to February 2021.
- Black persons exiting federal prison in FY 2021 had served more time (a median of 51 months) for their commitment offense than persons of any other racial or ethnic group (a median of 28 to 43 months).
- The median days from case filing in U.S. district court to case termination was 300 days in FY 2021, up from 212 days in FY 2020.
- The median time from receipt of an investigation to the decision by a U.S. attorney to prosecute or decline a matter was 70 days in FY 2021, up from 27 days in FY 2020.

TABLE 1**Persons in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community, fiscal year-end 2011, 2020, and 2021**

	2011		2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	410,887	100%	346,681	100%	350,543	100%
In secure confinement	254,582	62.0%	193,318	55.8%	197,898	56.5%
Pretrial detention	61,288	14.9	61,027	17.6	64,172	18.3
Federal Bureau of Prisons (post-sentencing)*	193,294	47.0	132,291	38.2	133,726	38.1
In the community	156,305	38.0%	153,363	44.2%	152,645	43.5%
Pretrial release supervision	27,366	6.7	28,874	8.3	32,253	9.2
Post-sentencing supervision	128,939	31.4	124,489	35.9	120,392	34.3
Supervised release	104,273	25.4	110,467	31.9	107,338	30.6
Probation	22,865	5.6	13,185	3.8	12,332	3.5
Parole	1,801	0.4	837	0.2	722	0.2

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Persons in federal confinement or under federal supervision in the community are shown as of September 30, 2011, 2020, and 2021.

*Counts include federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Counts exclude persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Unsentenced persons in BOP custody are counted in pretrial detention counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System; U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system; and Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2011, 2020, and 2021.

Definitions of major offense categories

Violent—Includes murder, negligent or nonnegligent manslaughter, aggravated or simple assault, sexual abuse, robbery, kidnapping, and threats against the U.S. president.

Property—Includes fraudulent and other types of property offenses.

Fraudulent property—Includes embezzlement, fraud, forgery, and counterfeiting.

Other property—Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, transportation of stolen property, and other property offenses, such as destruction of property and trespassing.

Drug—Includes the manufacture, import, export, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled or counterfeit substance, or the possession of a controlled or counterfeit substance with intent to manufacture or distribute.

Public order—Includes regulatory and other types of public order offenses.

Regulatory public order—Includes violation of agriculture, antitrust, labor, food and drug, motor carrier, and other federal regulations.

Other public order—Includes nonregulatory violations concerning tax law (tax fraud), bribery, perjury, national defense, escape, racketeering and extortion, gambling, liquor, mailing or transporting obscene materials, traffic, migratory birds, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, jurisdiction, and other offenses.

Weapons—Includes violations of any of the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922–923 concerning the manufacture, import, possession, receipt, and license of firearms and ammunition.

Immigration—Includes offenses involving illegal entrance into the United States, illegal reentry after being deported, the willful failure to leave when ordered, or the transportation or harbor of any non-U.S. citizens not admitted by an immigration officer.

Supervision violations—Includes violations of bail, violations of pretrial or post-sentencing supervision in the community (probation), and failures to appear.

Arrest and booking

Arrests in this section refer to the most serious offenses that suspects were booked for by deputy U.S. marshals. In each federal judicial district, the U.S. marshal and deputy U.S. marshals are responsible for taking suspects charged with a federal crime into custody (which involves booking, processing, and detaining the suspects), overseeing court security, and coordinating prisoner transportation.

In FY 2021, federal law enforcement agencies made 78,068 arrests for federal offenses

Supervision violations were the most common arrest offense in FY 2021 (17,256 arrests) (table 2). Twenty-three percent of federal arrests involved a supervision violation as the most serious arrest offense. Arrests for drug offenses (22% of all arrests) and immigration offenses (20%) were the next most common. About 6 in 10 federal arrests were for immigration, drug, or supervision violations (48,257). There was a 35% decline in arrests from FY 2020 to FY 2021. The largest percentage decrease in arrests during this period was for immigration offenses (down 72%). Arrests for property offenses increased 11% from FY 2020 to FY 2021.

TABLE 2
Federal arrests, by most serious offense and judicial district, FY 2020 and FY 2021

	FY 2020		FY 2021		Percent change, 2020–2021
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total arrests	120,112	100%	78,068	100%	-35.0%
Most serious offense at arrest					
Violent	2,996	2.6%	2,834	3.8%	-5.4%
Property	6,846	5.9	7,612	10.3	11.2
Fraud	5,838	5.1	6,466	8.8	10.8
Other	1,008	0.9	1,146	1.6	13.7
Drug	18,170	15.7	16,555	22.5	-8.9
Public order	5,328	4.6	5,483	7.4	2.9
Regulatory	170	0.1	194	0.3	14.1
Other	5,158	4.5	5,289	7.2	2.5
Weapons	6,895	6.0	5,840	7.9	-15.3
Immigration	51,723	44.8	14,446	19.6	-72.1
Material witness	5,159	4.5	3,603	4.9	-30.2
Supervision violation	18,462	16.0	17,256	23.4	-6.5
Federal judicial district					
U.S.-Mexico border district	67,361	56.1%	29,664	38.0%	-56.0%
Arizona	15,852	13.2	5,397	6.9	-66.0
California Southern	9,123	7.6	4,671	6.0	-48.8
New Mexico	5,215	4.3	2,497	3.2	-52.1
Texas Southern	25,270	21.0	10,430	13.4	-58.7
Texas Western	11,901	9.9	6,669	8.5	-44.0
Other	52,751	43.9	48,404	62.0	-8.2

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Each arrest is counted separately, so individuals with more than one arrest are counted more than once. The most serious offense at arrest is determined by the deputy U.S. marshal at booking. The federal district is the location of the federal court where booking takes place. For 2020 and 2021 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 and 2021 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system, fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

Effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the federal criminal justice system

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on all stages of the federal criminal justice process, from arrest to imprisonment. In all federal judicial districts, U.S. courts modified operations in 2020 and 2021. Fewer persons were arrested, prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced to prison. The largest decline in arrests and cases occurred from March 2020 to April 2020. The second largest decline in arrests and cases occurred between October 2020 and February 2021. Declines in federal criminal case processing generally coincided with waves or periods of sharp increases in confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States.² The number of arrests and

cases in September 2021 remained lower than at the start of the pandemic in January 2020.

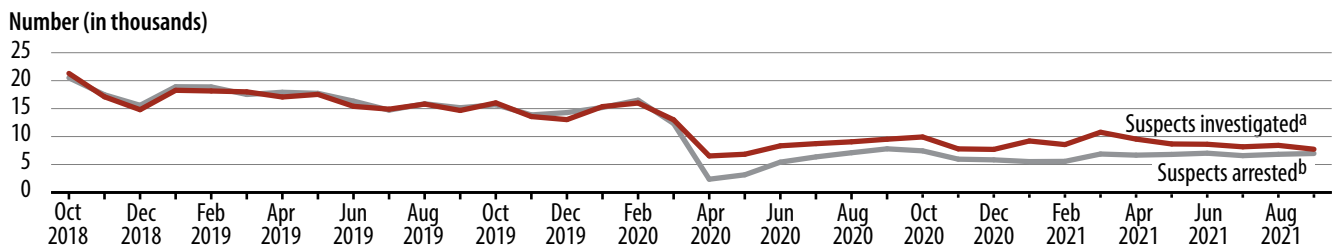
Federal law enforcement: Investigations and arrests

The number of federal arrests decreased from 12,325 in March 2020 to 2,369 in April 2020, an 81% decline in 1 month (figure 2). The number of suspects investigated by U.S. attorneys decreased 50% during this period, from 12,995 to 6,529.

From April 2020 to October 2020, the number of arrests grew 214% and the number of suspects investigated by U.S. attorneys rose 52%. Fewer suspects were arrested than investigated for 19 consecutive months by the end of September 2021, when there were 6,971 arrests and 7,730 investigations.

²Trends in confirmed cases are available at Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Research Center at <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/united-states>.

FIGURE 2
Suspects investigated and arrested in the federal criminal justice system, October 1, 2018–September 30, 2021



Note: See appendix table 2 for counts.

^aSuspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

^bSuspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 and 2021 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 and 2021 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system; and Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database, fiscal years 2019–2021.

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Effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the federal criminal justice system

Federal court: Charges, convictions, and prison sentences

The number of defendants charged in U.S. district courts dropped from 5,300 in March 2020 to 1,232 in April 2020, a 77% decline (figure 3). During this period, the number of defendants convicted in U.S. district courts declined 43%, from 5,295 to 2,995, while the number sentenced to prison decreased 70%, from 3,220 to 964.

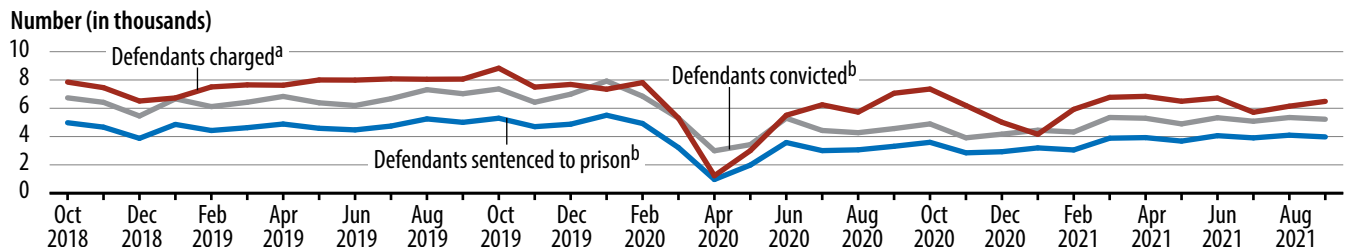
The number of defendants charged with a federal offense increased sixfold from April 2020 (1,232) to October 2020 (7,378), while the number convicted in U.S. district courts grew by more than half (from 2,995 to 4,894) and the number sentenced to prison almost quadrupled (from 964 to 3,593). These patterns reversed with the third wave of

confirmed coronavirus cases, which began in the United States around October 2020.

From October 2020 to January 2021, the number of defendants convicted decreased 9% and the number sentenced to prison fell 11%. There was a sharper (44%) decline in the number of defendants charged during this 4-month period, in part due to courts convening fewer grand juries in response to the rise in coronavirus infections. During the 6 months from October 2020 to March 2021, the number of persons processed in the federal criminal justice system varied by just under 10%, with increases in persons investigated (up 9%), convicted (up 9%), and sentenced to prison (up 8%) and decreases in persons arrested and charged (down 8% each).

FIGURE 3

Defendants charged, convicted, and sentenced to prison in the federal criminal justice system, October 1, 2018–September 30, 2021



Note: See appendix table 2 for counts.

^aDefendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

^bDefendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one adjudicated case are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2019–2021.

Arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration

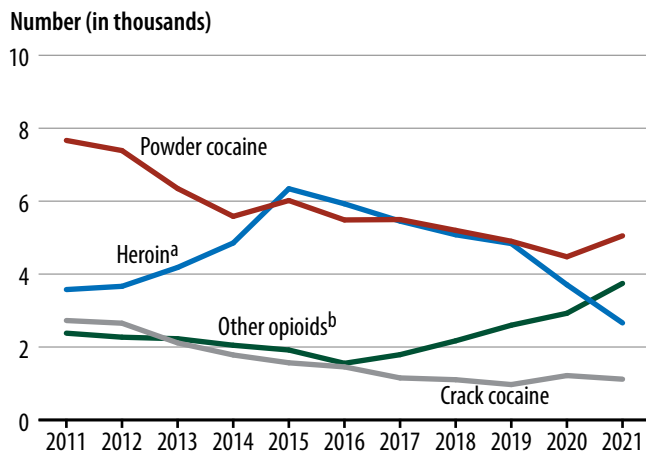
The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States, including investigating major drug violations at the national and international levels. The DEA coordinates with foreign governments and federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. It has 239 offices in the United States and 92 offices in 69 countries.³

The DEA reported 28,224 drug arrests in fiscal year (FY) 2021, which was 6% more than the 26,696 reported in FY 2020. (See appendix table 3.) Thirty-three percent (9,412) of DEA drug arrests were for methamphetamine

³See <https://www.dea.gov/domestic-divisions>.

and 18% (5,049) were for powder cocaine in FY 2021 (figures 4 and 5). From FY 2011 to FY 2021, DEA arrests for methamphetamine increased the most (5% per year on average). During that period, arrests declined an average of 10% for marijuana, 9% for crack cocaine, and 4% for powder cocaine each year. DEA arrests for heroin declined 24% from 2015 to 2019 and 45% from 2019 to 2021. Arrests for other opioids increased 44% from 2019 to 2021 as a result of a growth in arrests for fentanyl. Fentanyl arrests increased 78% over this period, and for the first time in 2021, the number of DEA arrests for fentanyl exceeded the number of arrests for heroin (not shown in figure).

FIGURE 4
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and other opioids, FY 2011–2021



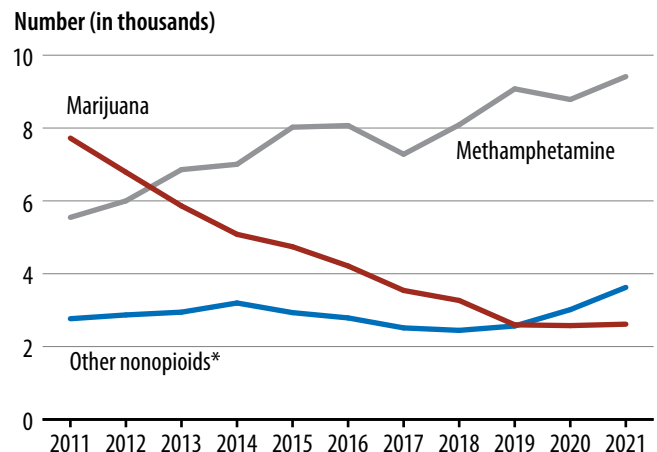
Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Each arrest for a person is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. See appendix table 3 for counts.

^aIncludes heroin, morphine, and opium base.

^bIncludes fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, opioid treatment pharmaceuticals, hydromorphone, palladone, and oxymorphone.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2011–2021.

FIGURE 5
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving marijuana, methamphetamine, and other nonopioids, FY 2011–2021



Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Each arrest for a person is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. Includes drug diversion arrests where drug type is not indicated. See appendix table 3 for counts.

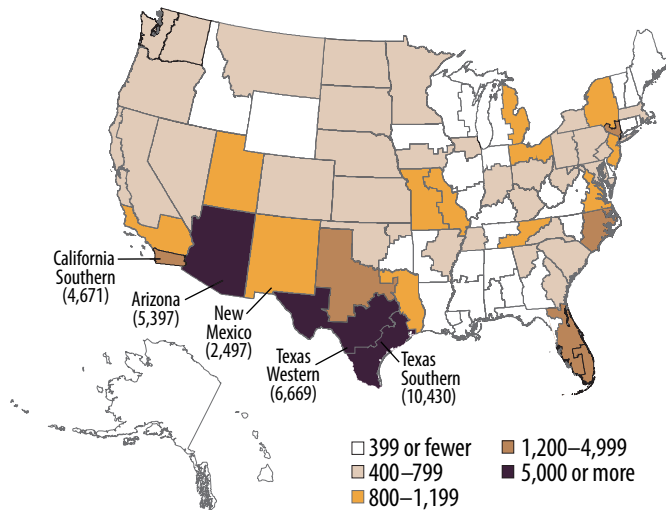
*Includes nonopioid pharmaceutical controlled substances, other depressants, sedatives, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, hallucinogens, synthetic cannabinoids, other steroids, equipment to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2011–2021.

Nearly 40% of arrests in FY 2021 were in the five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border

The five federal judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border (California Southern, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas Western, and Texas Southern) accounted for 38% of all federal arrests in FY 2021, down from 56% in 2020 (map 1). (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2020* (NCJ 304314, BJS, May 2022).) Texas Southern (10,430) had the most arrests, followed by Texas Western (6,669) and Arizona (5,397).

MAP 1
Federal arrests, by judicial district, FY 2021



Note: A total of 78,068 suspects were arrested for a federal offense from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. The map shows the number of arrests by the federal judicial district, which is the location of the federal court where booking took place. For 2021 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2021 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*. Not shown: District of Columbia (1,045), Guam (63), Northern Mariana Islands (19), Puerto Rico (1,199), and U.S. Virgin Islands (73).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE information system, fiscal year 2021.

Investigation and prosecution

Ninety-three U.S. attorneys served as the chief federal prosecutor within their judicial district in FY 2021.⁴ Federal law enforcement agencies referred the most matters to U.S. attorneys in FY 2021, but referrals also came from state and local law enforcement.

In FY 2021, the Department of Justice referred the most suspects of any referring authority

Law enforcement agencies within the Department of Justice (DOJ) referred 48% of the 105,121 suspects in matters sent to U.S. attorneys in FY 2021, compared to 36% in FY 2020 and 30% in FY 2011 (table 3). Agencies within the Department of Homeland Security referred 28% of suspects in FY 2021, down from 43% in FY 2020. In FY 2021, about 5% of suspects in matters opened by U.S. attorneys were referred by federal or state task forces.

⁴One U.S. attorney serves two districts: Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

TABLE 3
Suspects in matters opened by U.S. attorneys, by referring authority, FY 2011, FY 2020, and FY 2021

Department/authority	FY 2011	FY 2020	FY 2021
Defense	2.5%	1.7%	1.8%
Homeland Security	53.7	43.4	28.2
Interior	1.8	0.9	1.0
Justice	29.5	36.2	48.1
Treasury	1.7	1.1	1.4
Federal/state task force	1.8	4.0	4.9
Other*	8.9	12.9	14.7
Number of suspects	187,735	135,993	105,121

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The department or authority is the entity making the referral for criminal action to the U.S. attorneys' offices. The unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys. Suspects in more than one matter are counted separately. A matter is opened when a federal prosecutor spends 1 hour or more investigating. Percentages are based on records with nonmissing referring authority data. There were 322 records missing referring authority in 2011, 2 missing referring authority in 2020, and 6 missing referring authority in 2021.

*Includes the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Labor, State, and Transportation and state and local authorities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database, fiscal years 2011, 2020, and 2021.

U.S. attorneys prosecuted 69% of suspects in matters concluded in FY 2021

U.S. attorneys establish policies and priorities within their federal judicial districts and determine which cases they prosecute. In choosing to prosecute, U.S. attorneys account for factors such as available resources and the priorities of the DOJ and state and local law enforcement. To conclude a matter, U.S. attorneys may file charges and prosecute defendants in U.S. district court, file charges and dispose of matters before U.S. magistrate judges, or decline matters, resulting in no further action in U.S. district court. In FY 2021, U.S. attorneys most commonly chose to prosecute immigration offenses (86%), drug offenses (75%), and weapons offenses (73%), followed by violent offenses (60%) and property offenses other than fraud (58%) (table 4).

U.S. magistrate judges have the authority to adjudicate or dispose of misdemeanor offenses under 18 U.S.C. § 3401. Magistrate judges' matters differ from prosecutions in that they typically require less than 1 hour of an assistant U.S. attorney's time and are processed quickly in court. Nine percent of matters concluded by U.S. attorneys in FY 2021 were disposed of by U.S. magistrate judges. Matters that were most likely to be disposed of by U.S. magistrate judges included public order offenses other than regulatory offenses (16%) and immigration offenses (12%).

U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 22% of matters concluded in FY 2021. The cases most likely to be declined were property fraud (45%) and regulatory public order (44%) offenses. The median time from receipt of an investigation to the decision by a U.S. attorney to prosecute, dispose, or decline a matter was 70 days in FY 2021, up from 27 days in FY 2020. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2020* (NCJ 304314, BJS, May 2022).)

TABLE 4
Outcome and case-processing time of suspects in matters concluded, by lead charge and judicial district, FY 2021

	Number of suspects in matters concluded	Outcome ^a			Prosecutor decision/median case-processing time ^b			
		Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed of by U.S. magistrate	Declined to prosecute	All cases	Prosecuted in U.S. district court	Disposed of by U.S. magistrate	Declined to prosecute
Total	105,769	68.6%	9.1%	22.3%	70 days	29 days	83 days	529 days
Lead charge^c								
Violent	4,628	60.1%	8.4%	31.6%	89 days	40 days	154 days	296 days
Property	16,422	51.0	5.4	43.6	398	204	270	661
Fraud	14,181	49.8	4.8	45.4	443	250	297	680
Other	2,241	58.1	9.6	32.3	145	51	157	500
Drug	29,952	75.2	7.8	17.0	83	37	147	587
Public order	17,138	49.2	14.9	35.9	183	58	116	511
Regulatory	2,902	46.5	9.7	43.9	198	47	138	516
Other	14,236	49.8	16.0	34.2	180	60	113	509
Weapons	14,885	73.3	4.3	22.4	67	40	124	324
Immigration	22,722	85.9	12.3	1.8	24	23	28	451
Federal judicial district								
U.S.-Mexico border	32,938	82.3%	11.7%	5.9%	26 days	25 days	29 days	522 days
Arizona	6,696	78.3	10.8	10.9	59	56	41	403
California Southern	4,843	89.2	8.2	2.6	27	27	28	814
New Mexico	2,906	65.1	24.4	10.5	84	69	92	753
Texas Southern	10,154	85.1	11.2	3.7	21	20	22	581
Texas Western	8,339	84.3	10.7	5.0	23	22	28	437
Other	72,831	62.4	7.9	29.7	158	61	159	529

^aDetails may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a suspect in a matter referred to U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately. There were 22 records missing the suspect's lead charge.

^bCase-processing time reflects the time from receipt of a matter to the U.S. attorney's decision to prosecute the matter as a case in U.S. district court, refer the matter for disposal by a U.S. magistrate judge, or decline the matter, resulting in no further action in U.S. district court. The median is the midpoint of processing time. A median of 70 days means that half of the suspects received a disposition in less than 70 days of the matter's referral and half received a disposition in more than 70 days.

^cThe lead charge is the substantive statute that is the primary basis for referral. It is most often, but not always, the charge with the greatest potential sentence.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database, fiscal year 2021.

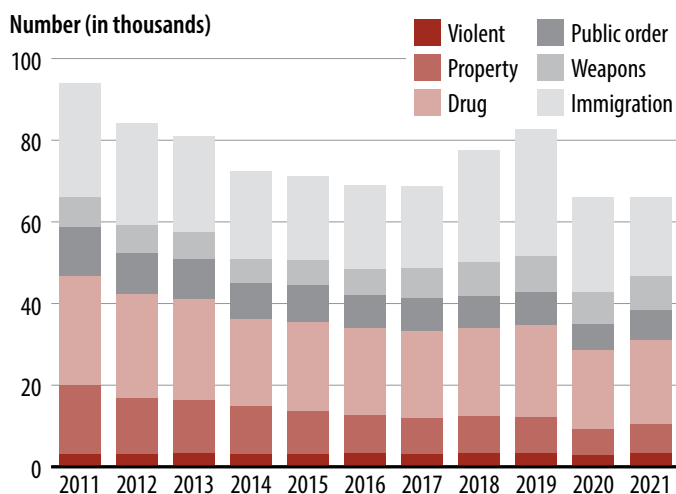
Case filing, adjudication, and sentencing

This section describes the workload of U.S. district courts, including the disposition of criminal proceedings and the sentencing of convicted defendants. The district courts serve as the general trial courts of the federal judicial system and have original jurisdiction over any case arising under federal statutes, the U.S. Constitution, or treaties. Each U.S. district court has at least one U.S. district judge, who is appointed by the U.S. president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

515 (18%) more defendants were charged with violent offenses in FY 2021 than in FY 2020

From FY 2020 to FY 2021, the number of defendants charged with a federal offense decreased less than 1%, from 66,059 to 65,880 (figure 6). During that period, the number of persons charged with violent offenses increased 18% and the number charged with public order offenses increased 13%. The number of persons charged with immigration offenses decreased 18% from FY 2020 to FY 2021.

FIGURE 6
Defendants in criminal cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, FY 2011–2021



Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. See appendix table 4 for counts.

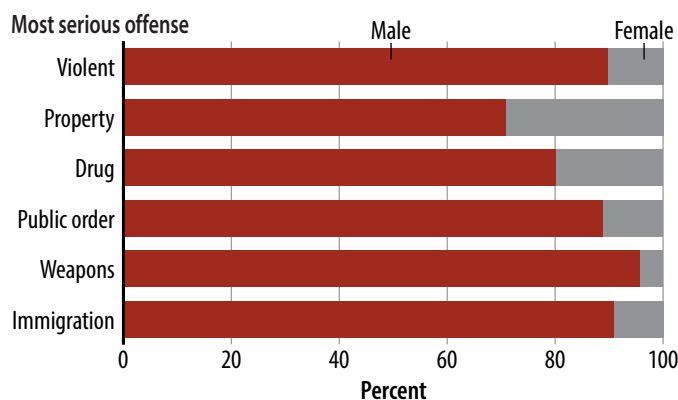
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2011–2021.

Most defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2021 were male

A total of 52,470 males and 8,665 females were charged in U.S. district court in FY 2021, with males accounting for 86% of all defendants and females accounting for 14% (table 5). Females made up 29% of defendants charged with a property offense and 20% of defendants charged with a drug offense (figure 7).

Forty-four percent of females charged in U.S. district court in FY 2021 were Hispanic, 33% were white, and 18% were black. Of the males charged, 51% were Hispanic, 24% were black, and 21% were white. Eighty-seven percent of charged females were U.S. citizens. Males who were charged were also more likely to be U.S. citizens (65%) than non-U.S. citizens (35%). Other than the United States (65%), the most common countries or regions of citizenship among male defendants were Mexico (24%), Central America (7%), and the Caribbean Islands (2%). Fifty percent of defendants charged in U.S. district court in FY 2021 were Hispanic. Sixty-five percent of defendants were ages 25 to 44, and 14% were age 50 or older. The youngest defendants (age 19 or younger) and oldest defendants (age 65 or older) together made up 3% of persons charged in FY 2021.

FIGURE 7
Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and most serious offense, FY 2021



Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 184 records missing the defendant's sex and 165 missing the defendant's offense type. See appendix table 5 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year 2021.

TABLE 5**Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and demographic characteristics, FY 2021**

Demographic characteristic	All defendants		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	61,589	100%	52,740	100%	8,665	100%
Race/ethnicity						
White ^a	13,056	22.3%	10,405	20.6%	2,648	32.5%
Black ^a	13,805	23.6	12,348	24.5	1,450	17.8
Hispanic	29,435	50.2	25,839	51.3	3,579	43.9
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^a	921	1.6	736	1.5	185	2.3
American Indian/Alaska Native ^a	1,371	2.3	1,080	2.1	287	3.5
Age						
19 or younger	690	1.1%	588	1.1%	102	1.2%
20–24	6,724	11.0	5,701	10.8	1,016	11.7
25–29	9,750	15.9	8,329	15.8	1,414	16.3
30–34	11,058	18.0	9,560	18.1	1,490	17.2
35–39	10,293	16.8	8,918	16.9	1,370	15.8
40–44	8,646	14.1	7,496	14.2	1,143	13.2
45–49	5,581	9.1	4,827	9.2	752	8.7
50–54	3,690	6.0	3,144	6.0	546	6.3
55–59	2,403	3.9	2,032	3.9	370	4.3
60–64	1,395	2.3	1,144	2.2	249	2.9
65 or older	1,197	2.0	985	1.9	212	2.5
Median age	36 yrs.	~	36 yrs.	~	36 yrs.	~
Citizenship						
U.S. citizen	41,848	68.4%	34,355	65.4%	7,468	86.8%
Non-U.S. citizen	19,322	31.6	18,166	34.6	1,141	13.3
Country/region of citizenship						
North America	59,810	97.8%	51,308	97.7%	8,464	98.3%
United States	41,848	68.4	34,355	65.4	7,468	86.8
Mexico	13,161	21.5	12,439	23.7	712	8.3
Canada	51	0.1	42	0.1	9	0.1
Caribbean Islands ^b	960	1.6	903	1.7	57	0.7
Central America ^b	3,790	6.2	3,569	6.8	218	2.5
South America ^b	720	1.2	655	1.3	63	0.7
Asia and Oceania ^b	310	0.5	261	0.5	49	0.6
Europe ^b	164	0.3	145	0.3	19	0.2
Africa ^b	166	0.3	152	0.3	14	0.2

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. There were 184 records missing the defendant's sex, 3,001 missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, 162 missing the defendant's age, and 419 missing the defendant's citizenship status.

~Not applicable.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Defendants self-reported race and ethnicity during the pretrial interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

^bCountries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year 2021.

9 in 10 defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court in FY 2021 were convicted

Of the 63,380 defendants adjudicated in FY 2021, about 92% were convicted (table 6). Nearly all defendants charged with immigration (98%), weapons (94%), or drug (92%) offenses were convicted. About 91% of adjudicated defendants pled guilty. Two percent of defendants were adjudicated through a bench or jury trial. Defendants adjudicated in U.S.-Mexico border districts had a higher conviction rate (96%) than defendants in nonborder districts (90%). Among felony offenses, rates of nonconviction ranged from 2% for immigration offenses to 13% for regulatory offenses.

Among the 8.1% of cases that resulted in nonconvictions, most (7.7%) had been dismissed or otherwise concluded by the judge or prosecutor. Acquittals (400 days), dismissals (384 days), and guilty pleas (291 days) took less time to process from case filing to disposition than trials that ended in convictions (784 days). The median days from case filing in U.S. district court to case termination increased 42% from FY 2020 to FY 2021, from 212 to 300 days. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2020* (NCJ 304314, BJS, May 2022).) During this period, the median case-processing time increased the most for cases disposed by a guilty plea (up 43%), followed by cases ending in acquittal at trial (up 37%).

TABLE 6
Disposition and case-processing time of defendants in cases adjudicated in U.S. district court, by most serious offense and judicial district, FY 2021

	Total cases adjudicated	Convicted			Not convicted		
		Total	Guilty plea	Bench/jury trial	Total	Bench/jury trial	Dismissed
All offenses	63,380	91.9%	90.5%	1.4%	8.1%	0.3%	7.7%
Most serious offense at adjudication							
Felony	59,364	93.6%	92.2%	1.4%	6.4%	0.3%	6.1%
Violent	2,291	89.3	84.9	4.3	10.7	2.0	8.8
Property	6,098	89.8	87.6	2.2	10.2	0.5	9.7
Fraud	5,191	89.6	87.3	2.3	10.4	0.5	9.9
Other	907	90.4	88.9	1.5	9.6	0.9	8.7
Drug	19,587	92.2	90.8	1.4	7.8	0.2	7.6
Public order	5,447	91.9	89.2	2.7	8.1	0.4	7.7
Regulatory	658	87.5	84.4	3.2	12.5	0.9	11.5
Other	4,789	92.5	89.8	2.6	7.5	0.3	7.2
Weapons	9,001	93.7	91.6	2.0	6.3	0.4	5.9
Immigration	16,940	97.7	97.5	0.2	2.3	0.1	2.2
Misdemeanor	4,016	67.4	66.8	0.7	32.6	0.4	32.2
Federal judicial district							
U.S.-Mexico border	23,186	95.6%	95.2%	0.5%	4.4%	0.2%	4.2%
Arizona	4,524	97.5	97.2	0.3	2.5	0.1	2.5
California Southern	3,417	87.6	87.2	0.4	12.4	0.1	12.4
New Mexico	1,541	95.3	95.2	0.1	4.7	0.2	4.5
Texas Southern	8,278	97.0	96.8	0.3	3.0	0.1	2.8
Texas Western	5,426	97.1	96.0	1.1	2.9	0.3	2.6
Other	40,194	89.8	87.9	1.9	10.2	0.4	9.8
Median time from filing to disposition*	300 days	295 days	291 days	784 days	385 days	400 days	384 days

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Includes information on felony defendants; Class A misdemeanor defendants, whether cases were handled by U.S. district judges or U.S. magistrate judges; and other misdemeanor defendants, provided their cases were handled by U.S. district judges. Court personnel determine the most serious offense at adjudication as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The unit of count is a defendant in a case adjudicated in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one case are counted separately. The median is the midpoint between the slowest and fastest processing times. A median of 300 days means that half of the defendants received a disposition in less than 300 days and half received a disposition in more than 300 days.

*Includes the interval from the time a case was filed in U.S. district court to sentencing for defendants who were convicted and the interval from case filing to disposition for defendants who were not convicted or whose cases were dismissed.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal year 2021.

3 in 4 convicted defendants were sentenced to prison in FY 2021

Of the 58,271 defendants convicted in U.S. district court in FY 2021, nearly three-quarters (74%) were sentenced to prison (table 7). The remainder received probation only (8%), a fine only (2%), or a suspended sentence (15%). Persons most likely to receive prison terms were those convicted of violent (93%), weapons (89%), or drug (88%) felonies. Sixteen percent of persons convicted of a misdemeanor received a prison sentence in FY 2021.

About 72% of convicted defendants received a prison sentence in 2019, compared to 68% in 2020 and 74% in 2021 (not shown in tables). In 2019, about 18% of convicted defendants received a suspended sentence, compared to 23% in 2020 and 15% in 2021 (not shown in tables).

The median prison sentence for offenders convicted in FY 2021 was 37 months

The 43,157 offenders sentenced to prison in FY 2021 received a median of 37 months of imprisonment, up from a median of 33 months in FY 2020. (See table 7 in this report and *Federal Justice Statistics, 2020* (NCJ 304314, BJS, May 2022).) Defendants convicted of violent offenses in FY 2021 received a median sentence of 96 months in prison, while drug defendants received a median of 70 months and other public order defendants received a median of 60 months. The median prison term for immigration defendants convicted of a felony was 15 months. Defendants convicted and sentenced to prison in the five U.S.-Mexico border districts received a median sentence of 18 months, compared to a median of 60 months in other districts. This was due to the higher percentage of immigration cases in the border districts. In FY 2021, the median probation sentence was 36 months for a felony and 12 months for a misdemeanor (not shown in tables).

TABLE 7
Type and length of sentence imposed for convicted defendants, by most serious offense and judicial district, FY 2021

	Number convicted	Type of sentence				Median prison term
		Prison*	Probation only	Fine only	Suspended	
All offenses	58,271	74.3%	8.2%	2.0%	15.4%	37 mos.
Most serious offense at conviction						
Felony	55,564	77.1%	6.9%	0.4%	15.6%	37 mos.
Violent	2,045	92.5	2.6	0.2	4.8	96
Property	5,473	59.9	24.4	0.8	14.9	24
Fraud	4,653	62.0	21.3	0.8	15.9	24
Other	820	47.8	42.3	0.5	9.4	23
Drug	18,055	87.6	3.6	0.3	8.4	70
Public order	5,005	78.2	12.2	0.9	8.7	57
Regulatory	576	56.5	28.3	2.3	12.9	24
Other	4,429	81.0	10.1	0.8	8.1	60
Weapons	8,430	89.2	5.0	0.3	5.5	46
Immigration	16,556	63.0	4.5	0.1	32.4	15
Misdemeanor	2,707	16.4	36.6	35.9	11.1	4
Federal judicial district						
U.S.-Mexico border	22,172	68.6%	5.4%	0.3%	25.7%	18 mos.
Arizona	4,409	55.9	6.2	0.2	37.7	15
California Southern	2,992	68.5	4.5	0.3	26.7	24
New Mexico	1,469	96.1	3.9	<0.01	<0.01	15
Texas Southern	8,033	69.9	4.3	0.1	25.7	18
Texas Western	5,269	69.6	7.2	0.9	22.3	24
Other	36,009	77.9	10.0	3.1	9.1	60

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a defendant in a case adjudicated with a conviction and sentence in U.S. district court. Defendants convicted and sentenced in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor as the most serious charge. The most serious offense is determined by court personnel as the offense with the greatest statutory maximum sentence. The median prison term is the midpoint of prison terms imposed. A median of 37 months means that half of the defendants received a prison term of less than 37 months and half received a prison term of more than 37 months. There were 205 records missing type of sentence.

*Includes sentences to incarceration, such as mixed (a prison term followed by a probation term) and life sentences.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal year 2021.

The type of sentence imposed in FY 2021 varied by sex, race or Hispanic origin, and age

In FY 2021, convicted males (77%) were sentenced to prison more commonly than convicted females (59%)

(table 8). Twenty-one percent of convicted females received a probation-only sentence, compared to 6% of convicted males. Convicted defendants who were black (85%) were the most likely to receive a prison sentence,

TABLE 8
Type and length of sentence imposed for convicted defendants, by demographic characteristics, FY 2021

Demographic characteristic	Number convicted	Type of sentence				Median prison term
		Prison ^a	Probation only	Fine only	Suspended	
Total	58,271	74.3%	8.2%	2.0%	15.4%	37 mos.
Sex						
Male	47,709	77.2%	6.1%	1.2%	15.5%	37 mos.
Female	7,196	58.8	21.0	2.6	17.6	30
Race/ethnicity						
White ^b	11,849	76.6%	13.9%	1.9%	7.6%	60 mos.
Black ^b	12,311	84.5	8.2	1.2	6.2	60
Hispanic	28,115	70.6	4.9	0.3	24.2	24
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^b	901	68.7	18.4	2.9	10.0	40
American Indian/Alaska Native ^b	1,158	81.5	8.8	0.4	9.3	40
Age						
19 or younger	714	53.9%	16.7%	3.5%	25.9%	20 mos.
20–24	6,029	70.1	8.9	3.4	17.6	30
25–29	9,206	75.9	6.8	1.5	15.9	37
30–34	10,065	77.3	5.9	1.0	15.8	38
35–39	9,219	76.9	6.0	0.9	16.3	40
40–44	7,349	77.2	6.1	0.6	16.1	37
45–49	4,866	76.3	7.9	0.8	15.1	36
50–54	3,241	74.1	10.5	1.2	14.2	36
55–59	2,047	71.3	14.2	1.3	13.2	40
60–64	1,171	68.4	19.7	1.4	10.6	36
65 or older	1,006	57.1	28.6	3.5	10.8	36
Median age	35 yrs.	35 yrs.	38 yrs.	30 yrs.	35 yrs.	~
Citizenship						
U.S. citizen	35,657	79.9%	11.0%	1.4%	7.8%	51 mos.
Non-U.S. citizen	18,925	66.3	2.3	0.3	31.1	18
Country/region of citizenship						
North America	51,705	76.0%	7.8%	0.8%	15.4%	37 mos.
United States	34,715	80.4	10.8	1.1	7.7	51
Mexico	12,978	67.9	1.3	0.1	30.7	18
Canada	45	72.7	4.6	2.3	20.5	39
Caribbean Islands ^c	832	76.5	6.2	0.4	17.0	36
Central America ^c	3,135	61.2	1.8	0.1	36.9	15
South America ^c	536	79.7	2.8	0.9	16.6	63
Asia and Oceania ^c	316	63.0	15.5	2.5	19.0	33
Europe ^c	216	72.4	5.6	0.9	21.0	30
Africa ^c	163	74.7	11.1	0.0	14.2	36

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is a defendant in a case adjudicated with a conviction in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants adjudicated in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. There were 3,366 records missing the defendant’s sex, 3,937 missing the defendant’s race or ethnicity, 3,358 missing the defendant’s age, 3,689 missing the defendant’s citizenship status, and 5,335 missing the defendant’s country of citizenship.

~Not applicable.

^aIncludes sentences to incarceration, such as mixed (a prison term followed by a probation term) and life sentences.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Defendants self-reported race and ethnicity during the pretrial interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

^cCountries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File and Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System; and U.S. Sentencing Commission, individual offender data file, fiscal year 2021.

followed by those who were American Indian or Alaska Native (82%); white (77%); Hispanic (71%); and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (69%). Among those sentenced to prison, both white and black defendants were sentenced to a median of 60 months. Defendants convicted in FY 2021 had a median age of 35 years. Eighty percent of convicted U.S. citizens received a prison sentence, compared to 66% of convicted non-U.S. citizens. Thirty-one percent of convicted non-U.S. citizens received a suspended sentence, compared to 8% of convicted U.S. citizens.

Federal prison

In FY 2021, a total of 45,617 federally sentenced persons were admitted to federal prison (table 9). Of these, 35,842 persons entered federal prison on U.S. district court commitments. Another 9,775 persons were returned to federal prison for violating conditions of probation, parole, or supervised release, or were admitted

to federal prison for a reason other than a U.S. district court commitment. Twenty-four percent (8,703) more admissions occurred in FY 2021 than in FY 2020. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2020* (NCJ 304314, BJS, May 2022).) In FY 2021, a total of 18,124 persons entered federal prison for a drug offense, most of whom (14,484 or 80%) had been sentenced to more than 1 year.

A total of 47,226 persons were released from federal prison in FY 2021. Most (36,958) were being released for the first time since their U.S. district court commitment. Twenty percent (11,818) fewer releases occurred in FY 2021 than in FY 2020. (See *Federal Justice Statistics, 2020* (NCJ 304314, BJS, May 2022).) There were 1,609 fewer persons in federal prison at the end of FY 2021 (September 30, 2021) than at the start of FY 2021 (October 1, 2020). From the start to the end of FY 2021, 808 fewer persons were in prison for a property offense and 591 fewer were in prison for an immigration offense.

TABLE 9
Federally sentenced persons admitted to and released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, FY 2021

Most serious commitment offense ^a	Population at start of year ^b	Persons admitted			Persons released			Population at end of year ^g	Net population change
		Sentence of 1 year or less	Sentence of more than 1 year	All other ^d	First release ^e		All other ^f		
Time served of 1 year or less	Time served of more than 1 year								
Total	135,335	1,631	34,211	9,775	1,855	35,103	10,268	133,726	-1,609
Violent	8,569	41	1,225	695	53	1,537	785	8,155	-414
Property	5,808	333	2,155	659	311	2,908	736	5,000	-808
Fraud	4,707	260	1,758	454	231	2,453	514	3,981	-726
Other	1,101	73	397	205	80	455	222	1,019	-82
Drug	62,793	214	14,484	3,426	196	14,628	3,670	62,423	-370
Public order	23,388	308	4,990	1,036	313	4,839	1,072	23,498	110
Regulatory	2,182	103	795	99	91	969	106	2,013	-169
Other	21,206	205	4,195	937	222	3,870	966	21,485	279
Weapons	27,529	130	7,196	2,381	119	6,807	2,276	28,034	505
Immigration	6,804	571	4,104	1,550	836	4,277	1,703	6,213	-591

Note: The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person admitted to or released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Persons who were admitted and released in the same year are counted separately. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Offense information was missing at the start of the year for 444 persons and at the end of the year for 403. Persons who entered or left a prison temporarily (such as for transit to another location, for health care, or to serve a weekend sentence) were not counted as admitted or released.

^aThe offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction.

^bThe population as of October 1, 2020.

^cPersons committed by a U.S. district court for U.S. code violations.

^dPersons released after being committed by a U.S. district court.

^ePersons who were committed following a return to prison for violating conditions of their supervision or who were received for examination, treatment, or transfer to another jurisdiction.

^fPersons released from prison without a new court commitment after they were committed for violating conditions of their supervised release.

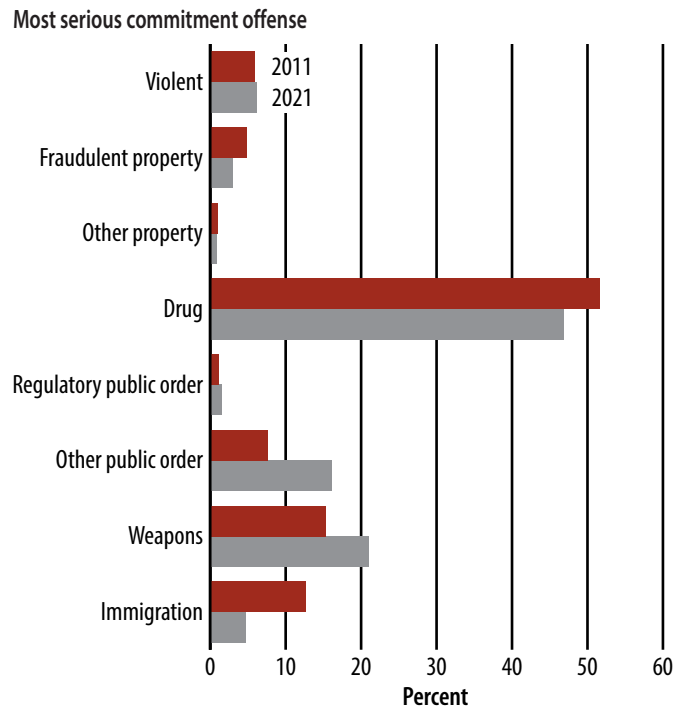
^gThe population as of September 30, 2021.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2021.

Persons committed for a drug offense made up less than half of federal prisoners at fiscal year-end 2021

At fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021, more federal prisoners were serving time for a drug offense than for any other type of offense (figure 8). A drug offense was the most serious commitment offense for 47% of federal prisoners at fiscal year-end 2021, down from 52% at fiscal year-end 2011. During this 10-year period, persons serving time for a weapons offense increased from 15% to 21% of federal prisoners. Persons committed for another public order offense increased from 8% to 16%, mostly due to an increase in sex offenses. Persons committed for a violent offense remained at 6%, and persons committed for an immigration offense decreased from 13% to 5%.

FIGURE 8
Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021



Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2011 and 2021. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 1,265 records missing offense type in 2011 and 403 missing offense type in 2021. See appendix table 6 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021.

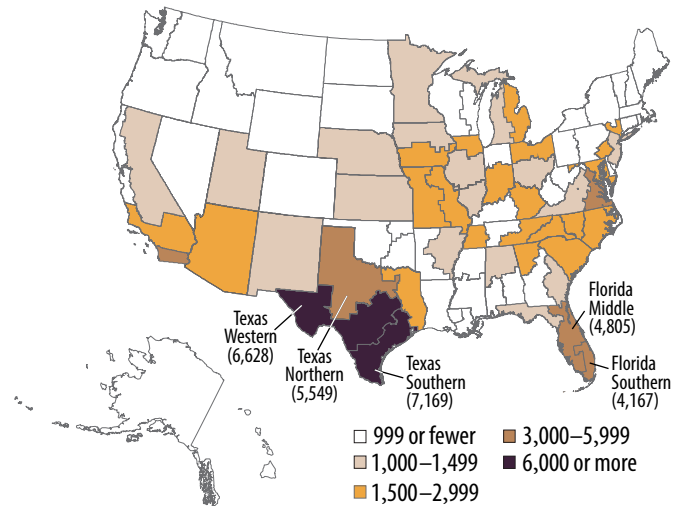
Five judicial districts committed 21% of all persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end 2021

At fiscal year-end 2021, more than a fifth (21%) of persons in federal prison were committed from five districts: Texas Southern (7,169), Texas Western (6,628), Texas Northern (5,549), Florida Middle (4,805), and Florida Southern (4,167) (map 2). Courts in three states (Texas, California, and Florida) committed 30% of all persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end 2021.

Nearly 1 in 6 federally sentenced persons in BOP facilities were non-U.S. citizens at fiscal year-end 2021

At fiscal year-end 2021, 10% of federally sentenced persons were citizens of Mexico, 2% were citizens of South American countries, 2% were citizens of Caribbean countries, and 2% were citizens of Central

MAP 2
Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by judicial district of commitment, fiscal year-end 2021



Note: The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) had custody of 133,726 federally sentenced persons on September 30, 2021. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the BOP. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. The map shows the number of persons in BOP custody by the federal judicial district in which they received their sentence to the BOP. Not shown: District of Columbia (587), Guam (55), Northern Mariana Islands (18), Puerto Rico (2,604), and U.S. Virgin Islands (120).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2021.

American countries (table 10). From fiscal year-end 2011 to 2021, the portion of federal prisoners who were non-U.S. citizens decreased from 27% to 16%. During

that period, the number of Mexican citizens in prison decreased by an average of 10% annually.

TABLE 10
Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by demographic characteristics, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021

Demographic characteristic	2011		2021		Average annual percent change, 2011–2021 ^a
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	193,294	100%	133,726	100%	-3.6%
Sex					
Male	180,950	93.6%	124,949	93.4%	-3.6%
Female	12,344	6.4	8,777	6.6	-3.4
Race/ethnicity					
White ^b	51,551	26.7%	40,499	30.3%	-2.4%
Black ^b	68,855	35.6	47,399	35.4	-3.7
Hispanic	66,577	34.4	40,650	30.4	-4.8
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^b	2,826	1.5	1,809	1.4	-4.4
American Indian/Alaska Native ^b	3,485	1.8	3,369	2.5	-0.3
Age					
19 or younger	397	0.2%	94	0.1%	-13.4%
20–24	10,037	5.2	4,570	3.4	-7.6
25–29	26,456	13.7	14,064	10.5	-6.1
30–34	38,465	19.9	22,162	16.6	-5.4
35–39	36,294	18.8	24,276	18.2	-3.9
40–44	28,598	14.8	23,497	17.6	-1.9
45–49	21,075	10.9	16,917	12.7	-2.2
50–54	14,392	7.5	11,780	8.8	-2.0
55–59	8,650	4.5	7,730	5.8	-1.1
60–64	5,093	2.6	4,642	3.5	-0.9
65 or older	3,837	2.0	3,994	3.0	0.4
Median age	38 yrs.	~	40 yrs.	~	~
Citizenship					
U.S. citizen	141,333	73.2%	112,433	84.1%	-2.3%
Non-U.S. citizen	51,856	26.8	22,291	15.9	-8.5
Country/region of citizenship					
North America	188,110	97.4%	129,875	97.1%	-3.6%
United States	141,333	73.2	112,433	84.1	-2.3
Mexico	37,507	19.4	13,063	9.8	-10.0
Canada	423	0.2	175	0.1	-8.4
Caribbean Islands ^c	5,091	2.6	2,217	1.7	-8.0
Central America ^c	3,756	1.9	1,987	1.5	-6.2
South America ^c	2,720	1.4	2,416	1.8	-1.2
Asia and Oceania ^c	1,302	0.7	668	0.5	-6.5
Europe ^c	537	0.3	388	0.3	-3.2
Africa ^c	520	0.3	377	0.3	-3.2

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2011 and 2021. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. There were 105 records missing citizenship in 2011 and 2 missing citizenship in 2021.

~Not applicable.

^aCalculated using fiscal year-end counts in 2011 and in 2021. See *Methodology*.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Defendants self-reported race and ethnicity during the presentence interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

^cCountries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021.

The number of prisoners age 65 or older increased from fiscal year-end 2011 to 2021

The median age of prisoners was 40 years at fiscal year-end 2021, compared to 38 years at fiscal year-end 2011. The number of prisoners age 65 or older increased, from 3,837 prisoners at fiscal year-end 2011 to 3,994 prisoners at fiscal year-end 2021. Persons age 65 or older made up about 3% of all federal prisoners at fiscal year-end 2021, compared to 2% at fiscal year-end 2011.

The type of commitment offense varied by race or Hispanic origin at fiscal year-end 2021

Hispanic, black, and white persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end 2021 were most commonly committed for drug offenses (table 11). More Hispanic persons were serving time for a drug (24,721) or immigration (5,853) offense than members of any of the racial groups studied. More black persons were serving time for a weapons (16,855) or violent (2,812) offense than persons of any other race or Hispanic origin. Most persons serving time for a public order offense (13,511) were white. Persons who were American Indian or Alaska Native were most commonly committed for a violent (1,932), drug (553), or weapons (437) offense.

TABLE 11
Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and race or ethnicity, fiscal year-end 2021

Most serious commitment offense	White*	Black*	Hispanic	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander*	American Indian/ Alaska Native*
Violent	2,272	2,812	1,057	82	1,932
Property	1,996	1,857	850	192	105
Drug	16,057	20,263	24,721	829	553
Public order	13,511	5,353	3,872	460	302
Weapons	6,292	16,855	4,217	233	437
Immigration	188	140	5,853	5	27

Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2021. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. There were 403 records missing offense type.

*Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Defendants self-reported race and ethnicity during the presentence interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2021.

Time served in federal prison

During FY 2021, a total of 36,958 persons were released from federal prison for the first time after serving a sentence imposed in U.S. district court. Of these, 31,028 persons were released by standard means (table 12). Standard releases include the most common methods of exiting prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving a partial sentence with good time credit, and release to parole. Persons released in FY 2021 served a median of 37 months. Persons released after serving sentences for other public order offenses (57 months), violent offenses (55 months), and drug

offenses (51 months) served the most time. Other public order offenses include mailing or transporting obscene materials such as child pornography. Among persons released from federal prison, males (39 months) served more time than females (26 months). Older persons served more time before release than younger persons, and U.S. citizens served more time than non-U.S. citizens.

Black persons exiting federal prison in FY 2021 had served more time (a median of 51 months) for their commitment offense than persons of any other racial or ethnic group (a median of 28 to 43 months). This

TABLE 12
Time served by persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by commitment offense and demographic characteristics, FY 2021

Demographic characteristic	Number of persons released	Median time served								
		All offenses	Violent	Property		Drug	Public order		Weapons	Immigration
				Fraudulent	Other		Regulatory	Other		
Total	31,028	36.7 mos.	54.5 mos.	25.6 mos.	23.1 mos.	51.2 mos.	25.6 mos.	57.1 mos.	41.8 mos.	17.1 mos.
Sex										
Male	27,884	39.2 mos.	56.8 mos.	26.8 mos.	25.5 mos.	53.8 mos.	28.1 mos.	61.3 mos.	42.0 mos.	17.8 mos.
Female	3,108	25.6	40.7	23.0	18.5	30.7	23.0	25.8	31.1	15.4
Race/ethnicity										
White*	7,634	42.6 mos.	57.9 mos.	25.6 mos.	20.5 mos.	51.2 mos.	28.1 mos.	60.5 mos.	41.0 mos.	15.6 mos.
Black*	9,063	51.0	84.5	28.2	28.2	62.2	29.0	61.3	43.4	20.4
Hispanic	13,120	28.2	51.6	25.6	26.5	48.6	24.4	52.5	40.3	17.1
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander*	483	29.7	51.2	25.6	10.3	35.8	20.5	34.3	33.2	15.3
American Indian/ Alaska Native*	692	32.0	35.0	20.6	31.5	31.6	30.6	27.5	34.8	16.5
Age at release										
19 or younger	47	12.7 mos.	^	^	^	13.6 mos.	^	^	^	12.4 mos.
20–24	1,654	20.5	25.6 mos.	20.4 mos.	17.9 mos.	23.0	20.4 mos.	31.6 mos.	21.8 mos.	14.6
25–29	4,032	30.7	43.1	23.1	24.4	34.0	24.4	51.1	33.2	15.3
30–34	5,190	34.1	48.0	28.2	23.1	45.2	22.5	55.9	39.2	15.4
35–39	5,426	39.3	59.6	25.6	20.4	52.8	23.9	66.5	49.5	17.1
40–44	4,876	41.9	67.1	25.6	20.5	61.4	23.1	60.5	52.5	17.9
45–49	3,502	46.0	72.0	26.0	23.0	69.1	27.1	56.2	67.4	20.4
50–54	2,514	48.6	76.6	25.6	23.0	73.3	25.6	59.6	68.2	20.4
55–59	1,774	49.7	81.9	25.6	24.0	68.1	28.1	61.4	92.9	20.5
60–64	1,062	51.1	81.2	29.6	25.7	73.7	31.4	66.4	102.3	21.3
65 or older	915	53.7	102.3	39.3	31.5	93.7	31.6	74.1	154.9	21.7
Citizenship										
U.S. citizen	22,225	42.6 mos.	55.1 mos.	25.6 mos.	23.0 mos.	52.1 mos.	25.6 mos.	59.0 mos.	41.8 mos.	16.7 mos.
Non-U.S. citizen	8,726	25.6	41.8	27.8	34.0	51.0	25.6	51.1	44.3	17.8

Note: Includes persons committed by U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2021 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the most common ways persons exit prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving an entire sentence with good time, and release to parole. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and persons released from federal prison by extraordinary means (death, commutation, or transfer). Time served is calculated as the interval between a person's admission to and first release from BOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited. There were 36 records missing the person's sex, 36 missing the person's race or ethnicity, 36 missing the person's age at release, and 77 missing the person's citizenship status.

^Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.

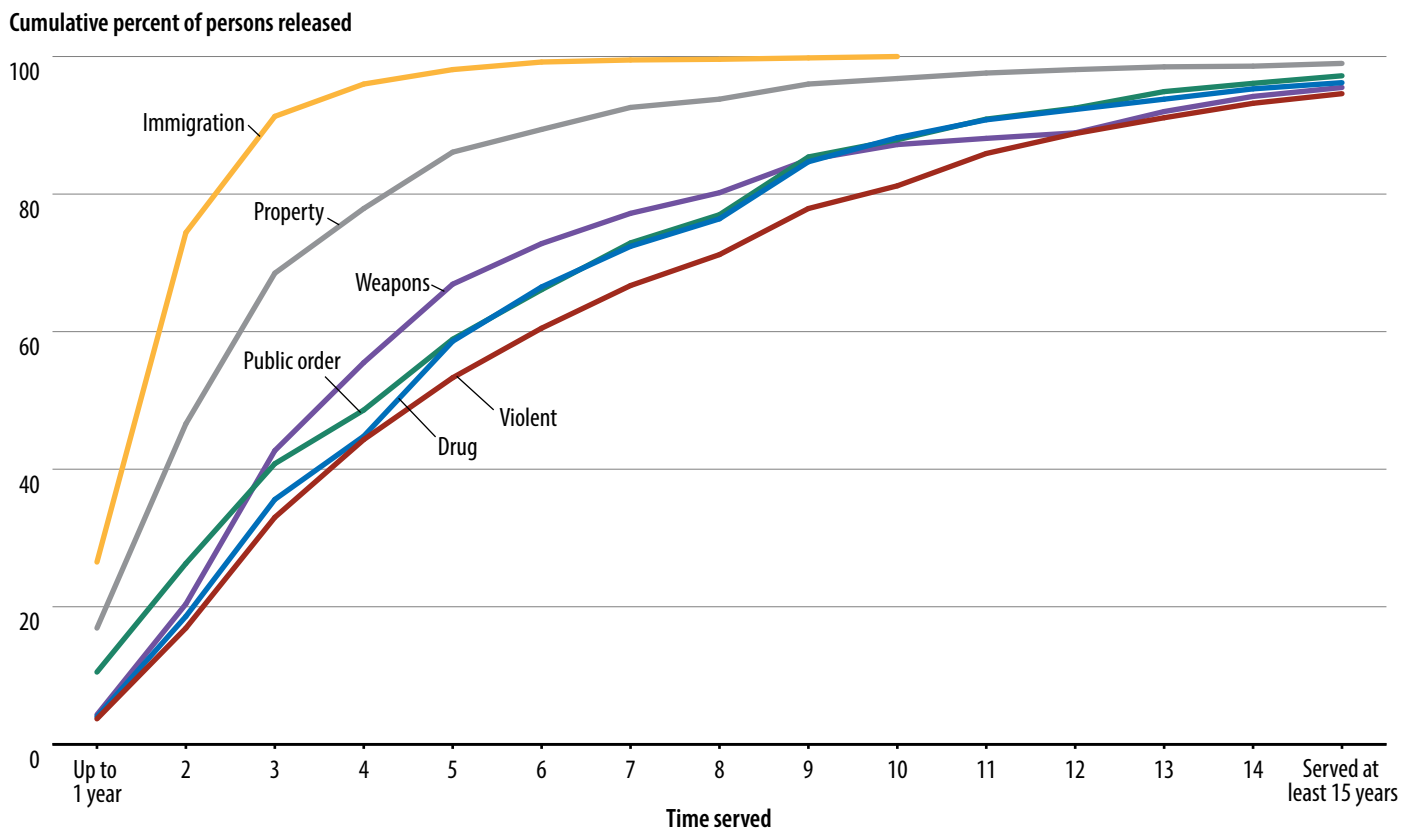
*Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons). Persons self-reported race and ethnicity during the presentence interview. Information was collected for one race and one ethnicity category.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2021.

was true in general and for most offense types. Black persons served the most time for violent (84 months), drug (62 months), and other public order (61 months) offenses. American Indian or Alaska Native persons served the most time for other violent and weapons offenses (35 months each). The greatest difference in time served between white and black persons was for violent offenses (white persons served 27 fewer months), followed by drug offenses (white persons served 11 fewer months).

Of prisoners first released in FY 2021, about 26% who had been committed for an immigration offense and 17% who had been committed for a property offense were first released after serving 1 year or less in prison (figure 9). Four percent of prisoners who had been committed for violent or drug offenses were first released after serving up to 1 year. Eighty-one percent of persons serving time for a violent offense were first released after serving up to 10 years in prison.

FIGURE 9
Federally sentenced persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and time served, FY 2021



Note: Includes persons committed by a U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2021 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the most common ways persons exit prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving an entire sentence with good time, and release to parole. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and persons released from federal prison by extraordinary means (death, commutation, or transfer). Time served is calculated as the interval between a person's admission to and first release from BOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited. See appendix table 7 for percentages.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2021.

Federal supervision in the community

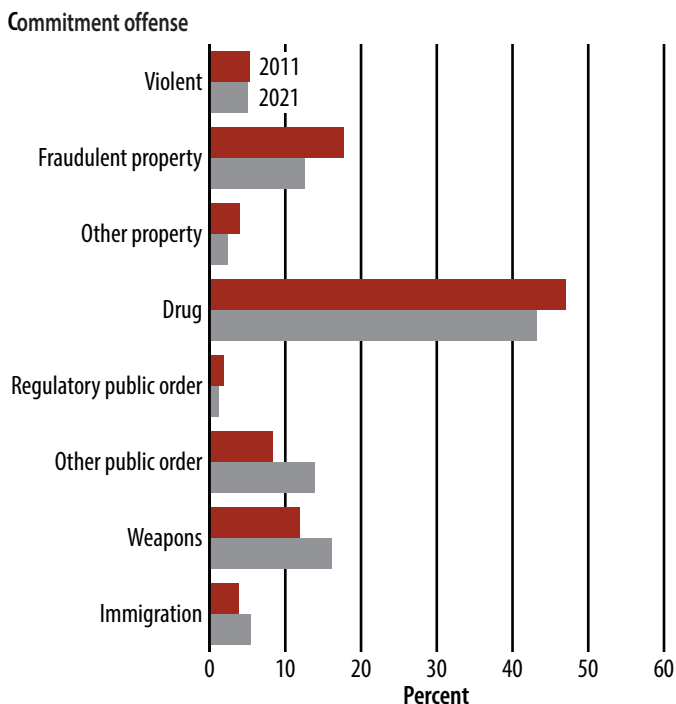
The AOUSC's Probation and Pretrial Services system oversees the supervision of persons released before trial and persons supervised in the community after being convicted. Federal probation officers monitor compliance with the court-ordered conditions of supervision.

90% of persons under federal supervision in the community at fiscal year-end 2021 had been released from prison

At fiscal year-end 2021, a total of 120,392 persons were under federal supervision in the community (table 13). About 90% (108,060) of these persons were on supervised release. The remaining 10% (12,332) were on probation, which is a sentence to a term of supervision in the community. About 85% of all persons under community supervision in 2021 were male, and 15% were female. Black (41,755) and white (38,713) released persons together made up 69% of persons under federal supervision in the community in 2021. The median age of released persons on probation was 40 years. The median age of released persons under supervised release was 43 years. Four percent of persons under post-conviction federal supervision were non-U.S. citizens.

The number of persons on post-conviction supervision in the community decreased from 128,945 in FY 2011 to 120,392 in FY 2021 (not shown in tables). Persons who had served time for drug offenses made up a slightly smaller share of persons under federal supervision, decreasing from 47% at fiscal year-end 2011 to 43% at fiscal year-end 2021 (figure 10). During that period, persons under supervision for fraudulent property offenses decreased from 18% to 13% of persons under supervision, while persons committed for other public order offenses increased from 8% to 14%, mostly due to an increase in mailing or transporting obscene materials such as child pornography. Persons committed for weapons offenses increased from 12% to 16% of persons under supervision.

FIGURE 10
Persons under federal supervision in the community, by commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021



Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence. The unit of count is a person serving a term under federal supervision in the community. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 297 records missing commitment offense in 2011 and 218 missing commitment offense in 2021. See appendix table 8 for percentages. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021.

TABLE 13**Persons under post-conviction federal supervision, by demographic characteristics, fiscal year-end 2021**

Demographic characteristic	All persons ^a		Probation		Supervised release ^b	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	120,392	100%	12,332	10.2%	108,060	89.8%
Sex						
Male	101,647	84.6%	7,693	63.5%	93,954	86.9%
Female	18,532	15.4	4,429	36.5	14,103	13.1
Race/ethnicity						
White ^c	38,713	33.0%	4,688	40.5%	34,025	32.2%
Black ^c	41,755	35.6	3,021	26.1	38,734	36.6
Hispanic	31,708	27.0	3,100	26.7	28,608	27.1
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^c	2,398	2.0	415	3.6	1,983	1.9
American Indian/ Alaska Native ^c	2,769	2.4	367	3.2	2,402	2.3
Age						
19 or younger	179	0.1%	101	0.8%	78	0.1%
20–24	4,238	3.5	1,154	9.5	3,084	2.9
25–29	10,712	8.9	1,605	13.2	9,107	8.4
30–34	16,197	13.5	1,569	12.9	14,628	13.5
35–39	18,550	15.4	1,562	12.9	16,988	15.7
40–44	19,456	16.2	1,411	11.6	18,045	16.7
45–49	15,607	13.0	1,166	9.6	14,441	13.4
50–54	12,309	10.2	1,058	8.7	11,251	10.4
55–59	9,300	7.7	862	7.1	8,438	7.8
60–64	6,348	5.3	689	5.7	5,659	5.2
65 or older	7,282	6.1	945	7.8	6,337	5.9
Median age	42 yrs.	~	40 yrs.	~	43 yrs.	~
Citizenship						
U.S. citizen	115,568	96.2%	11,522	95.0%	104,046	96.4%
Non-U.S. citizen	4,519	3.8	609	5.0	3,910	3.6
Country/region of citizenship						
North America	118,978	99.1%	11,917	98.2%	107,061	99.2%
United States	115,568	96.2	11,522	95.0	104,046	96.4
Mexico	1,504	1.3	209	1.7	1,295	1.2
Canada	29	<0.1	9	0.1	20	<0.1
Caribbean Islands ^d	1,374	1.1	109	0.9	1,265	1.2
Central America ^d	503	0.4	68	0.6	435	0.4
South America ^d	199	0.2	29	0.2	170	0.2
Asia and Oceania ^d	515	0.4	116	1.0	399	0.4
Europe ^d	179	0.2	30	0.3	149	0.1
Africa ^d	216	0.2	39	0.3	177	0.2

Note: The unit of count is a person serving a term under federal supervision in the community on September 30, 2021. Percentages are based on nonmissing cases. There were 214 records missing the defendant's age, 213 missing the defendant's sex, 3,049 missing the defendant's race or ethnicity, and 305 missing the defendant's citizenship status.

~Not applicable.

^aIncludes persons for whom characteristics were unknown.

^bIncludes persons on parole supervision.

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic white persons and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^dCountries aggregated by region.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year-end 2021.

Methodology

This report uses data from the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP), a collection from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The FJSP receives administrative data files from six federal criminal justice agencies. Data represent the federal criminal case-processing stages from arrest to imprisonment and release. BJS standardizes this information to maximize comparability across and within agencies over time. This includes—

- applying, where possible, the person-case as the primary unit of count. Exceptions include at arrest, where the unit of count is the individual suspect; at sentencing under federal sentencing guidelines, where the unit of count is the sentencing event; and at imprisonment, where the unit of count is the prisoner. The unit of analysis in this report is a combination of a person and arrest, matter, or case. For example, if a person is arrested and booked twice in the indicated time period, such as with a supervision violation and again with a new offense, this is counted as two arrests or bookings. The unit of analysis for incarceration, probation, parole, or other supervised release is a person entering custody or supervision, a person leaving custody or supervision, or a person in custody or supervision at yearend. For example, if a person is convicted in two concurrent cases and committed once to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in the indicated time period, they are counted as one admission to a term of incarceration.
- delineating the fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) as the period for reported events.
- applying a uniform offense classification across agencies. Offense categories for federal arrestees are based on the FBI's National Crime Information Center offense classifications, which are aggregated into the offense categories shown in the report. Offense categories for persons in prison are based on offense classifications used by the BOP, while offense categories for those on federal supervision are based on offense classifications used by Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC). Data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys is classified using U.S. Code titles and sections and then aggregated into the offense categories used in the tables.
- classifying dispositions and sentences imposed.

FJSP data sources

U.S. Marshals Service: The Justice Detainee Information System provides information on suspects arrested for federal offenses. Suspects are counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are arrested multiple times during the period. This report uses the most serious arrest offense that suspects were booked for by the deputy U.S. marshal. Deputy U.S. marshals take federal suspects who have been charged with a crime into custody (which includes booking, processing, and detaining the suspects), oversee court security, and coordinate prisoner transportation, among other duties.

The fiscal year 2021 file is based on the custody start date being between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021. The fiscal year files prior to 2020 were created using the arrest date. There are slightly more records with a nonmissing custody date than with a nonmissing arrest date. This is because not all bookings have the arrest date recorded. To ensure all bookings are captured, the custody date is used. Some arrests that would have been incorporated in previous years are excluded from the fiscal year 2021 file because the associated custody start date is outside of the fiscal year. Similarly, some arrests occurring outside of the fiscal year are retained because they are associated with a custody start date during the fiscal year.

Drug Enforcement Administration: The Defendant Statistical System contains data on suspects arrested within the United States by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents. The data include information on the characteristics of persons arrested and the type of drug for which they were arrested. Suspects are counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are arrested multiple times by the DEA during the period.

Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys: The Legal Information Office Network System database contains information on the investigation and prosecution of suspects in criminal matters received and concluded and criminal cases filed and adjudicated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects are counted more than once in a fiscal year if they are involved in multiple matters received and concluded during the period. A matter is defined as a referral in which an attorney spends 1 hour or more investigating. The lead charge is used to classify the most serious offense at referral and is defined as the substantive statute that is the primary basis of referral.

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts: The Criminal Master File contains information about the criminal proceedings against defendants whose cases were filed and adjudicated in U.S. district courts. A criminal case is initiated by the government, usually through the U.S. attorney's office in coordination with a law enforcement agency. A criminal case is adjudicated when a defendant is convicted following plea or trial, acquittal of the defendant after trial, or dismissal of the case. The Criminal Master File includes information on cases involving felonies and Class A and B misdemeanors handled by U.S. district judges.⁵

Offenses are based on the most serious charged offense, as determined by the probation officer responsible for interviewing the defendant. The probation officer classifies the major offense charged into AOUSC four-digit offense codes, which are maintained and updated by the AOUSC. For defendants charged with more than one offense on an indictment, the probation officer chooses the offense carrying the most severe penalty or, in the case of two or more charges carrying the same penalty, the one with the highest offense severity. The offense severity level is determined by the AOUSC, which ranks offenses according to the maximum sentence, type of crime, and maximum fine amount.

This report also uses AOUSC data from the Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), which contains information on defendants interviewed and supervised by pretrial services. These data are used to describe background characteristics of persons who are arraigned. PACTS data are also used to describe persons under post-sentencing supervision in the community.

⁵A felony is classified as an offense for which the maximum term of imprisonment is more than 1 year in prison. Offenses classified as misdemeanors include those for which the maximum term of imprisonment is less than 1 year in prison. Class A misdemeanors include offenses for which the maximum term of imprisonment is 1 year or less but more than 6 months in prison. Class B misdemeanors include offenses for which the maximum term of imprisonment is 6 months or less but more than 30 days in prison.

U.S. Sentencing Commission: The Monitoring Database contains information on criminal defendants sentenced pursuant to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. Data files are limited to defendants whose court records have been obtained by the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Federal Bureau of Prisons: The SENTRY database contains information on all federally sentenced persons admitted to or released from federal prison during a fiscal year and persons in federal prison at fiscal year-end (September 30). The prisoner count reported by the FJSP differs from what is reported by the BOP, although data are from the same source (SENTRY). For example, the BOP reported 155,826 prisoners as of September 30, 2021. (See https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/population_statistics.jsp.) The FJSP starts with data extracted from SENTRY that differs slightly from this total (155,529). The difference (297 records) may be due to the timing of when the data request was made.

The data reported by the BOP draws on a more current extract of the database that includes updated records. Of the 155,529 records, 18,258 were removed from analysis because the prisoner was not listed at a BOP custodial facility. The excluded records included designations to community confinement, home confinement, a hospital, Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, material witness, and presentence admission. Next, 572 records were excluded due to missing commitment offense, and 2,549 were excluded because the prisoner was sentenced by the District of Columbia Superior Court. Finally, 424 records were removed because the prisoner was held as a state boarder, a foreign treaty transfer, or serving a sentence from a military court commitment.

Of the 155,529 prisoners reported by the BOP in custody on September 30, 2021, a total of 133,726 (86% of the BOP population) met the criteria as federally sentenced prisoners (figure 11). The average annual percent change detailed in table 10 and appendix tables 1 and 3 measures the average rate of growth (or decline) in the number per year between 2011 and 2021. The following formula is used:

$$\left[\left(\frac{\text{n}^{\text{th}} \text{ year}}{\text{first year}} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

The total average annual percent change in the BOP custody population (2011–2021) is computed as follows:

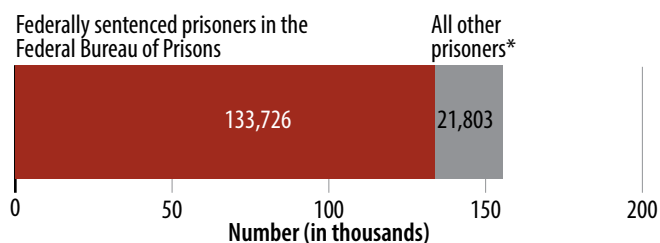
$$\left[\left(\frac{133,726}{193,294} \right)^{\frac{1}{2021 - 2011}} - 1 \right] \times 100 = [(0.69182^{0.10}) - 1] \times 100 = (0.96382 - 1) \times 100 \approx -3.6\%$$

Other resources

FJSP data are available in the Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics Tool, an interactive BJS web tool that permits users to query the federal data and download the results as a spreadsheet.⁶ It provides statistics by the stage of the federal criminal case process, including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and incarceration. Users can also generate queries by the title and section of the U.S. criminal code.

⁶BJS’s Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) query tool is available at <https://www.bjs.gov/fjsrc>.

FIGURE 11
Universe of prisoners held under the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ jurisdiction, fiscal year-end 2021



Note: 155,529 persons were under the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ jurisdiction at fiscal year-end 2021. Excludes records missing commitment offense, persons sentenced to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the District of Columbia Superior Court, and military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and prisoners designated to community confinement, home confinement, presentence detention, a hospital, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention.

*Includes federally sentenced prisoners held in private facilities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Counts for figure 1: Suspects and defendants processed in the federal criminal justice system, FY 2000–2021

Fiscal year	Suspects investigated ^a	Suspects arrested ^b	Defendants charged ^c	Defendants convicted ^d	Defendants sentenced to prison ^d
2000	123,559	115,025	83,251	68,156	50,451
2001	121,818	116,777	82,614	68,533	51,057
2002	124,335	121,610	87,727	71,798	53,682
2003	130,078	124,708	92,085	75,805	57,629
2004	141,215	138,223	92,645	74,782	58,106
2005	137,590	137,411	91,578	78,042	61,151
2006	133,935	144,072	87,650	79,904	63,699
2007	138,410	151,844	88,742	79,356	62,893
2008	178,570	173,463	91,835	82,823	64,529
2009	188,341	181,726	97,513	86,975	67,499
2010	187,916	179,034	99,921	89,902	69,494
2011	187,735	177,547	103,021	92,240	70,049
2012	190,596	172,248	92,789	87,908	67,582
2013	190,267	188,164	89,843	82,838	64,390
2014	160,505	165,265	80,051	78,155	60,626
2015	157,313	153,478	78,742	72,427	56,018
2016	151,994	151,460	76,276	69,487	54,274
2017	143,684	142,008	75,936	68,553	52,898
2018	195,842	195,771	86,024	72,588	54,112
2019	203,030	206,630	91,520	78,256	56,366
2020	135,993	120,112	73,256	65,848	44,429
2021	105,121	78,068	73,835	58,271	43,157
Average annual percent change, 2011–2021 ^e	-5.6%	-7.9%	-3.3%	-4.5%	-4.7%
Percent change, 2020–2021	-22.7	-35.0	0.8	-11.5	-2.9

^aSuspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

^bSuspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 and 2021 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 and 2021 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

^cDefendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

^dDefendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one adjudicated case are counted separately.

^eAverage annual percent change measures the change over a period of 2 years or more. It shows the average rate of increase (or decrease) per year from 2011 to 2021. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Detainee and CAPTURE information systems; 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 2000–2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Counts for figures 2 and 3: Suspects investigated and arrested and defendants charged, convicted, and sentenced to prison in the federal criminal justice system, October 1, 2018–September 30, 2021

Month	Suspects investigated ^a	Suspects arrested ^b	Defendants charged ^c	Defendants convicted ^d	Defendants sentenced to prison ^d
October 2018	21,291	20,505	7,850	6,737	4,977
November 2018	17,112	17,471	7,457	6,419	4,665
December 2018	14,804	15,590	6,512	5,454	3,875
January 2019	18,274	18,915	6,729	6,668	4,858
February 2019	18,154	18,880	7,508	6,119	4,428
March 2019	17,996	17,528	7,654	6,423	4,628
April 2019	17,078	17,924	7,628	6,837	4,886
May 2019	17,544	17,732	8,001	6,386	4,583
June 2019	15,407	16,340	7,991	6,195	4,471
July 2019	14,898	14,728	8,078	6,675	4,742
August 2019	15,806	15,859	8,050	7,314	5,248
September 2019	14,666	15,158	8,062	7,029	5,005
October 2019	16,027	15,687	8,834	7,366	5,297
November 2019	13,576	13,872	7,496	6,426	4,699
December 2019	13,031	14,288	7,684	6,995	4,874
January 2020	15,360	15,205	7,347	7,924	5,508
February 2020	15,996	16,511	7,814	6,852	4,924
March 2020	12,995	12,325	5,300	5,295	3,220
April 2020	6,529	2,369	1,232	2,995	964
May 2020	6,834	3,157	3,006	3,429	1,985
June 2020	8,338	5,426	5,507	5,300	3,578
July 2020	8,727	6,361	6,245	4,429	3,006
August 2020	9,057	7,105	5,729	4,273	3,062
September 2020	9,523	7,806	7,062	4,564	3,312
October 2020	9,926	7,441	7,378	4,894	3,593
November 2020	7,794	5,955	6,197	3,912	2,851
December 2020	7,704	5,832	5,027	4,170	2,928
January 2021	9,209	5,520	4,167	4,448	3,199
February 2021	8,562	5,562	5,935	4,322	3,053
March 2021	10,771	6,877	6,786	5,349	3,885
April 2021	9,544	6,673	6,854	5,295	3,926
May 2021	8,673	6,804	6,508	4,896	3,679
June 2021	8,619	7,022	6,741	5,330	4,063
July 2021	8,165	6,585	5,724	5,083	3,907
August 2021	8,424	6,826	6,156	5,347	4,097
September 2021	7,730	6,971	6,499	5,225	3,976

^aSuspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys. Suspects investigated in more than one matter are counted separately.

^bSuspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Each arrest is counted separately, so persons with more than one arrest are counted more than once. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 and 2021 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date (as in prior years) because not all bookings in 2020 and 2021 had arrest dates, due to the U.S. Marshals Service's transition to a new data system. The custody date is used to ensure all bookings are enumerated, including records that are missing an arrest date. See *Methodology*.

^cDefendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately.

^dDefendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court. Defendants in more than one adjudicated case are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, CAPTURE 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 2019–2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Counts for figure 4: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and other opioids, FY 2011–2021; and figure 5: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving marijuana, methamphetamine, and other nonopioids, FY 2011–2021

Fiscal year	Total	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	Heroin ^a	Other opioids ^b	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Other nonopioids ^c
2011	32,379	7,664	2,726	3,575	2,379	7,723	5,547	2,765
2012	31,628	7,386	2,653	3,664	2,269	6,787	6,000	2,869
2013	30,532	6,346	2,113	4,181	2,227	5,862	6,858	2,945
2014	29,549	5,582	1,782	4,852	2,048	5,082	7,005	3,197
2015	31,593	6,017	1,567	6,340	1,918	4,741	8,023	2,932
2016	29,486	5,484	1,455	5,926	1,553	4,213	8,068	2,787
2017	27,223	5,495	1,152	5,452	1,790	3,541	7,280	2,513
2018	27,348	5,198	1,103	5,078	2,170	3,266	8,088	2,445
2019	27,543	4,899	970	4,837	2,598	2,597	9,076	2,566
2020	26,696	4,474	1,217	3,707	2,925	2,576	8,783	3,014
2021	28,224	5,049	1,118	2,661	3,744	2,615	9,412	3,625
Average annual percent change, 2011–2021 ^d	-1.4%	-4.1%	-8.5%	-2.9%	4.6%	-10.3%	5.4%	2.8%
Percent change, 2020–2021	5.7	12.9	-8.1	-28.2	28.0	1.5	7.2	20.3

Note: The unit of count is an arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Each arrest for a person is counted separately. Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

^aIncludes heroin, morphine, and opium base.

^bIncludes fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, opioid treatment pharmaceuticals, hydromorphone, palladone, and oxymorphone.

^cIncludes nonopioid pharmaceutical controlled substances, other depressants, sedatives, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, hallucinogens, synthetic cannabinoids, other steroids, equipment to manufacture controlled substances, and drug use paraphernalia.

^dAverage annual percent change measures the change over a period of 2 years or more. It shows the average rate of increase (or decrease) in DEA drug arrests per year from 2011 to 2021. Includes drug diversion arrests where drug type is not indicated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2011–2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Counts for figure 6: Defendants in criminal cases filed in U.S. district court, by most serious offense, FY 2011–2021

Fiscal year	Total	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order	Weapons	Immigration
2011	93,997	3,157	16,688	26,724	12,074	7,352	28,002
2012	84,237	2,994	13,868	25,310	10,145	6,863	25,057
2013	81,045	3,200	13,078	24,745	9,929	6,501	23,592
2014	72,453	3,112	11,647	21,318	8,989	5,782	21,605
2015	71,072	3,086	10,613	21,588	9,208	6,142	20,435
2016	68,862	3,227	9,424	21,288	8,022	6,507	20,394
2017	68,584	3,180	8,743	21,348	8,069	7,157	20,087
2018	77,579	3,401	8,952	21,524	7,925	8,306	27,471
2019	82,694	3,374	8,792	22,563	7,918	8,942	31,105
2020	66,059	2,867	6,211	19,395	6,512	7,706	23,368
2021	65,880	3,382	6,981	20,610	7,358	8,423	19,126
Percent change, 2020–2021	-0.3%	18.0%	12.4%	6.3%	13.0%	9.3%	-18.2%

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2011–2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 5**Percentages for figure 7: Defendants charged in U.S. district court, by sex and most serious offense, FY 2021**

Most serious offense	Male	Female
Violent	89.8%	10.2%
Property	70.9	29.1
Drug	80.1	19.9
Public order	88.9	11.1
Weapons	95.6	4.4
Immigration	90.2	9.1

Note: The unit of count is a defendant in a case filed in U.S. district court. Defendants charged in more than one case are counted separately. Includes defendants charged in U.S. district court with a felony or a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 184 records missing the defendant's sex and 165 missing the defendant's offense type.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year 2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 6**Percentages for figure 8: Federally sentenced persons in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021**

Most serious commitment offense	2011	2021
Violent	5.9%	6.1%
Fraudulent property	4.8	3.0
Other property	1.0	0.8
Drug	51.6	46.8
Regulatory public order	1.1	1.5
Other public order	7.6	16.1
Weapons	15.3	21.0
Immigration	12.7	4.7

Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence imposed at conviction. The unit of count is the individual, federally sentenced person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on September 30, 2011 and 2021. Includes persons sentenced in U.S. district court. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, and persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 1,265 records missing offense type in 2011 and 403 missing offense type in 2021.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 7**Percentages for figure 9: Federally sentenced persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by most serious commitment offense and time served, FY 2021**

Time served	Cumulative percent					
	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order	Weapons	Immigration
Up to 1 year	3.7%	16.9%	4.0%	10.5%	4.3%	26.5%
2	16.9	46.6	18.6	26.3	20.4	74.4
3	33.0	68.5	35.6	40.8	42.7	91.3
4	44.3	77.9	44.8	48.6	55.5	96.0
5	53.3	86.1	58.6	58.9	66.9	98.1
6	60.5	89.4	66.5	66.1	72.8	99.2
7	66.7	92.6	72.4	72.9	77.2	99.5
8	71.2	93.8	76.4	77.0	80.2	99.6
9	77.9	96.0	84.7	85.4	85.0	99.8
10	81.2	96.8	88.2	87.9	87.2	100
11	85.9	97.6	90.8	90.9	88.1	100
12	88.8	98.1	92.3	92.5	88.9	100
13	91.1	98.5	93.8	94.9	92.0	100
14	93.2	98.6	95.3	96.1	94.2	100
Served at least 15 years	94.6	99.0	96.2	97.2	95.5	100
Number of persons released	1,419	2,679	10,958	4,364	6,428	5,068

Note: Includes persons committed by a U.S. district court and released during fiscal year 2021 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) by the most common ways persons exit prison, such as upon serving an entire sentence, serving an entire sentence with good time, and release to parole. Excludes persons sentenced to the BOP by the District of Columbia Superior Court, military prisoners transferred to BOP facilities to serve their sentence, U.S. citizen prisoners transferred to the United States from another country to serve their sentence closer to home, persons convicted of a state offense but serving time in a federal prison for their security needs, and persons released from federal prison by extraordinary means (death, commutation, or transfer). Time served is calculated as the interval between a person's admission to and first release from BOP custody, plus any jail time served and credited.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY database, fiscal year 2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 8**Percentages for figure 10: Persons under federal supervision in the community, by commitment offense, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021**

Commitment offense	2011	2021
Violent	5.3%	5.1%
Fraudulent property	17.7	12.6
Other property	4.0	2.4
Drug	47.0	43.2
Regulatory public order	1.9	1.3
Other public order	8.3	13.9
Weapons	11.9	16.2
Immigration	3.9	5.4

Note: Data are based on the offense with the longest sentence. The unit of count is a person serving a term under federal supervision in the community. Percentages are based on nonmissing data. There were 297 records missing commitment offense in 2011 and 218 missing commitment offense in 2021.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year-end 2011 and 2021.

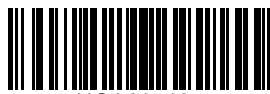


The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Alexis R. Piquero, PhD, is the director.

This report was written by Mark Motivans. George E. Browne verified the report.

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