

Table 5.53

**Felony sentences imposed by State courts**

By offense, United States, 1994

| Most serious conviction offense | Total | Percent of felons sentenced to: |        |      |                    |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--------|------|--------------------|
|                                 |       | Incarceration                   |        |      | Straight probation |
|                                 |       | Total                           | Prison | Jail |                    |
| All offenses                    | 100%  | 71%                             | 45%    | 26%  | 29%                |
| Violent offenses                | 100   | 82                              | 62     | 20   | 18                 |
| Murder <sup>a</sup>             | 100   | 97                              | 95     | 2    | 3                  |
| Rape                            | 100   | 88                              | 71     | 17   | 12                 |
| Robbery                         | 100   | 88                              | 77     | 11   | 12                 |
| Aggravated assault              | 100   | 75                              | 48     | 27   | 25                 |
| Other violent <sup>b</sup>      | 100   | 75                              | 45     | 30   | 25                 |
| Property offenses               | 100   | 68                              | 42     | 26   | 32                 |
| Burglary                        | 100   | 75                              | 53     | 22   | 25                 |
| Larceny <sup>c</sup>            | 100   | 66                              | 38     | 28   | 34                 |
| Fraud <sup>d</sup>              | 100   | 60                              | 32     | 28   | 40                 |
| Drug offenses                   | 100   | 69                              | 42     | 27   | 31                 |
| Possession                      | 100   | 66                              | 34     | 32   | 34                 |
| Trafficking                     | 100   | 71                              | 48     | 23   | 29                 |
| Weapons offenses                | 100   | 69                              | 42     | 27   | 31                 |
| Other offenses <sup>e</sup>     | 100   | 66                              | 36     | 30   | 34                 |

Note: See Note, table 5.49. Data on sentence type were available for 867,709 of the estimated total of 872,217 convicted felons. For persons receiving a combination of sentences, the sentence designation came from the most serious penalty imposed -- prison being the most serious, followed by jail, then probation. "Prison" includes sentences to death. "Straight probation" includes probation sentences not combined with a term of incarceration in prison or jail. For survey sampling procedures and definitions of terms, see Appendix 14.

<sup>a</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>b</sup>Includes offenses such as negligent manslaughter, sexual assault, and kidnaping.

<sup>c</sup>Includes motor vehicle theft.

<sup>d</sup>Includes forgery and embezzlement.

<sup>e</sup>Composed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and vandalism.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1994*, Bulletin NCJ-163391 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, January 1997), p. 2, Table 2.