

Table 5.25

**Average length of sentences imposed on offenders sentenced to incarceration in U.S. District Courts**

By offense and characteristics, United States, fiscal year 1994

(In months)

Offender characteristics	Average sentence length for offenders convicted of:							
	All offenses	Violent offenses	Felonies		Drug offenses	Public-order offenses		Misdemeanors
			Fraudulent	Other		Regulatory	Other	
All offenders <sup>a</sup>	61.4	95.9	15.8	20.8	81.1	16.1	45.0	8.7
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	64.4	97.6	17.3	22.2	83.7	17.0	46.2	9.7
Female	36.3	58.5	10.6	11.0	58.3	9.7	26.5	0.7
<b>Race</b>								
White	50.4	86.4	16.3	23.0	66.4	16.4	40.8	15.3
Black	83.6	113.4	15.6	17.3	106.7	14.9	61.6	3.4
Other	49.9	71.1	13.7	15.6	78.7	14.4	29.6	0.1
<b>Ethnicity</b>								
Hispanic	55.4	85.6	11.9	17.7	70.6	18.8	29.4	X
Non-Hispanic	63.9	96.7	16.2	21.2	87.1	15.5	54.3	9.1
<b>Age</b>								
16 to 18 years	64.9	119.1	5.8	16.8	49.8	41.5	39.8	2.2
19 to 20 years	61.1	85.6	8.3	26.1	71.3	23.9	35.0	X
21 to 30 years	64.0	95.5	12.2	21.1	81.8	14.9	43.0	5.1
31 to 40 years	62.0	95.7	15.6	17.2	80.3	15.7	50.0	17.2
Over 40 years	57.3	98.1	19.0	23.2	83.9	16.6	45.5	X
<b>Citizenship</b>								
U.S. citizen	65.0	96.7	16.5	21.4	84.8	16.9	56.8	9.6
Not U.S. citizen	51.5	73.4	11.6	16.7	72.2	10.7	26.0	X
<b>Education</b>								
Less than high school graduate	66.2	103.1	14.7	19.4	79.3	16.5	45.5	2.8
High school graduate	65.0	94.0	15.3	23.1	84.8	15.9	53.0	6.1
Some college	54.9	86.9	16.3	18.3	81.6	16.5	42.4	22.6
College graduate	39.7	74.1	18.4	24.4	71.9	13.8	33.5	X
<b>Criminal record</b>								
None	48.2	68.4	13.7	20.3	66.5	16.3	27.0	0.5
<b>Prior adult conviction<sup>b</sup></b>								
Never incarcerated	58.8	74.3	14.2	16.3	78.1	14.8	31.4	29.7
<b>Incarcerated</b>								
13 months or less <sup>c</sup>	60.8	88.8	16.1	16.0	86.3	12.9	33.4	X
More than 13 months	86.9	124.8	24.6	28.0	118.7	18.6	66.5	24.0

Note: See Note, table 5.11. Data exclude corporations, offenders sentenced to life sentences, and indeterminate sentences; and include prison portion of split or mixed sentences. For methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 13.

<sup>c</sup>Classifications of lengths of prior sentences of incarceration differ from previous Federal justice compendia and are not directly comparable to earlier years (see Source, p. 113).

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1994*, NCJ-163063 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1997), p. 83.

<sup>a</sup>Includes offenders for whom offense category or characteristics were unknown.

<sup>b</sup>Prior adult convictions are limited to those used in calculating guideline sentences (see Source, p.113).