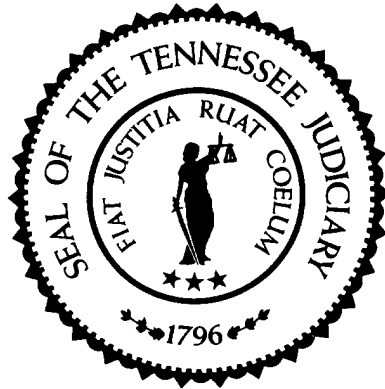


Sentencing Practices in Tennessee



Administrative Office of the Courts

Information for Cases Sentenced
Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2021

TDOC Data Extracted: February 2022
Released: March 2022

Sentencing Practices in Tennessee

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Methodology

The data used in evaluating sentencing practices comes from the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC); where individual offense data is captured. Each offense sentence is recorded individually, including cases of multiple offense convictions and eliminating the potential confusion in determining sentence lengths created by these multiple offense convictions. To establish a baseline for comparison purposes, data from multiple years was queried. The initial focus of this analysis consisted of cases where the defendants received incarceration only, either in a TDOC facility or a local jail. That has been expanded to include probation and alternative sentencing information as well. This data is not a sample, but is the entire population of sentences captured by the TDOC during the analyzed time frame.

Sentence lengths are reported for standard offenders, multiple offenders and for all offender types as a group from the body of convicted felons in the State Criminal or Circuit Criminal Courts. Standard and multiple offender defendant types were chosen because they comprise over 90% of all sentences in Tennessee.

Specific offenses are included in analysis first by choosing the top three most frequently occurring offenses in each felony class, then by a combination of occurrence frequency, overall impact on sentence length and by the increasing in frequency of the occurrence of the offense (i.e. the offense is happening in increasing amounts, but was not historically happening in large numbers). The following offenses make nearly 70% of convicted offenses and are included in the statistic table report.

Class A
Rape of a Child
Second Degree Murder
Especially Aggravated Kidnapping
Class B
Schedule II Drugs: Cocaine
Aggravated Robbery
Aggravated Sexual Battery
Class C
Aggravated Burglary
Aggravated Assault
Schedule II Drugs: Cocaine < 1/2 Gram
Schedule II Drugs: Up to \$100,000 Fine
Class D
Theft: \$1,000 to \$10,000
Burglary: Other than Habitation or Auto
Identity Theft
Obtain Drugs by Fraud
Class E
Forgery: Up to \$1,000
Burglary: Auto
Theft: \$500 to \$1,000
Schedule VI Drugs: Not Less than ½ Ounce
Habitual Traffic Offender
Failure to Appear (Felony)