



SENTENCE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Defendant: David Jefferson

SUBGROUP

Lead Guideline §2D1.1 · Criminal History Category I · Total Offense Level 29

Fiscal Years 2010-2024 · Excl. 5K1.1 · No Mand. Min

Generated July 13, 2026

**This report has applied the identified variables as filter points to the U.S. Sentencing Commission datafiles, resulting in a subgroup of 1,582 comparable cases of similarly (and in some cases identically) situated defendants.*

CONFIDENTIAL · ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

 **DEFENDANT PROFILE**

FULL NAME

David Jefferson

AGE / DOB

60 (11/21/1965)

EDUCATION

High School / GED

GENDER

Male

RACE

Black/African American

 **CASE DETAILS**

JUDGE

Sam A. Lindsay

DISTRICT

Texas, Northern

DOCKET NUMBER

2:26-cr-20017-ABC

CALCULATED SENTENCE PARAMETERS				
LEAD GUIDELINE	CRIMINAL HISTORY CAT.	OFFENSE LEVEL	SENTENCING ZONE	GUIDELINE RANGE
\$2D1.1	I	29	Zone D	87 to 108 months
MODE OF CONVICTION	\$5K1.1 DEPARTURE		MANDATORY MINIMUM	STATUTORY MAXIMUM
Plea	No		0 months	240 months

STATUTES OF CONVICTION: No statutes listed for this report.

OFFENSE-SPECIFIC PARAMETERS		
ROLE	SAFETY VALVE	DRUG TYPE
-2 Minor Participant	Yes	Cocaine (powder)

SITUATIONAL ATTRIBUTES	
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	MENTAL HEALTH
Yes	None

SENTENCE DATA SUMMARY										
REGION	N=	AVG	MED	MIN/MAX	IQR	PROB %	% BELOW GL	DEG. BELOW	% WITHIN GL	% ABOVE GL
National	1,582	54.5	57.1	0 / 180	36-78	4.9%	73.1%	48.3%	26.8%	0.1%
5th Circuit	315	65.8	70.0	0 / 180	52-87	6.7%	52.7%	38.5%	47.0%	0.3%
Texas, Northern	135	69.6	72.0	0 / 108	60-87	3.7%	48.1%	32.5%	51.9%	0.0%

JUDICIAL DISCRETION INDEX

RANK **69**

of 69 districts

INDEX **-.53**



Texas, Northern ranks **69th** out of **69** districts nationally for judicial discretion within the filtered dataset, with an index of **-.53** on a scale of -1 to +1.

View our full [Judicial Discretion Index](#).

SENTELLIGENCE INSIGHTS

KEY FINDINGS

1. Over Fiscal Years **2010** through **2024**, **1,582** defendants received sentences under §2D1.1 at Criminal History Category I and Offense Level 29 (exclusive of 5K1.1 cooperators and zero-month mandatory minimums).
2. Sentences averaged **54.5** months, with a median of **57.1** months and an interquartile range from **36** to **78** months.
3. A significant majority of sentences (**73.1%**) fell below the Guideline range, representing a substantial degree of variance.
4. The Guideline minimum of **87** months sat above the upper quartile (at or above the 75th percentile of actual cohort sentences), making it likely that a within-Guideline sentence would create an unwarranted sentencing disparity.
5. The distribution of sentences exhibited left skewness, indicating a clustering of sentences toward the higher end of the cohort range with a long tail extending toward shorter sentences.
6. In the Northern District of Texas, the median sentence was **72** months (**26%** higher than the national median of **57.1** months), and below-Guideline sentences were granted in **48.1%** of cases (**25** percentage points lower than the national rate of **73.1%**).
7. The defendant is **60** years old; an oft-cited, published, peer-reviewed study by Dr. Evelyn J. Patterson reveals a **2-year** decline in life expectancy for each year served in prison. A life expectancy analysis is recommended.
8. Among the top reasons cited for varying below the Guidelines were family ties and responsibilities (**239** sentences), reduction of unwarranted disparity (**214** sentences), age of the defendant (**191** sentences) - a factor relevant to the defendant - Criminal History Issues (aggregated reason) (**174** sentences), and early disposition program (**142** sentences).

AI ANALYSIS

SENTELLIGENCE STRATEGIC BRIEFING

Federal courts sentencing under §2D1.1 frequently grapple with the tension between the Guideline's rigid drug-quantity tables and the reality of localized offense conduct. The guideline's heavy reliance on weight often drives prescribed ranges higher than many judges find necessary for defendants with minimal roles or strong mitigating factors.

This cohort comprised 1,582 previously sentenced defendants under Lead Guideline §2D1.1 over Fiscal Years 2010-2024, excluding §5K1.1 cooperators and mandatory minimums above 0 months. The median sentence was 57.1 months and the average was 54.5 months. A significant majority of defendants (73.1%) received a sentence below the prescribed Guideline range, while a small share (4.9%) received probation.

Defendants who varied below the range did so by a substantial 48.3%, on average, off the Guideline minimum. Judges consistently found the baseline ranges disconnected from the actual offense conduct.

As a structural consequence of this magnitude of departure, the Guideline minimum of 87 months sat between the 78.1st and 93.3rd percentile of actual cohort sentences. The Guideline maximum of 108 months sat between the 98.3rd and 99.9th percentile of actual cohort sentences, underscoring that even the lower end of the advisory range sits well above where judges typically landed.

This pattern was further underscored by judges citing reduction of unwarranted sentencing disparity 214 times -- among the top reasons cited.

(5H1.1) Age was the 3rd-most-cited reason for departure in this cohort, invoked in 191 sentences. An oft-cited, published, peer-reviewed study by Dr. Evelyn J. Patterson reveals a 2-year decline in life expectancy for each year served in prison. The frequency with which judges cited age showed awareness that incarceration can impose distinctive harm on older defendants.

The defendant's minor role aligns with a judicial pattern observable in this cohort. When judges cited Mule/Role in the offense as a reason for departure (95 sentences cited this rationale), median sentences imposed were 36 months versus the cohort median of 57.1 months. The probation rate in those cases was 6.3%, compared to 4.9% overall. Counsel may wish to consider surfacing this alignment to the court.

The defendant's history of substance abuse aligns with a judicial pattern observable in this cohort. When judges cited (5H1.4) Drug dependence and alcohol abuse as a reason for departure (93 sentences cited this rationale), median sentences imposed were 42 months versus the cohort median of 57.1 months. The probation rate in those cases was 10.7%, compared to 4.9% overall. Counsel may wish to consider surfacing this alignment to the court.

The Northern District of Texas handles a substantial volume of federal drug prosecutions, and its judges frequently encounter defendants whose roles are secondary to the primary conspiracy. This analysis does not include specific contextual patterns regarding Judge Sam A. Lindsay.

Given the strength of the minor role alignment, the 95 sentences in this cohort citing Mule/Role in the offense are individually identifiable; pulling their indictments, plea agreements, and sentencing transcripts would yield a tight set of comparable cases counsel can quote directly. Beneath this analysis, our case-identification service has already mapped 182* dockets nationally for this Guideline and offense-level profile, providing a verifiable record substrate for any deeper review counsel may pursue. Building on the Patterson finding, an actuarial life-expectancy analysis would translate the sentence range into expected remaining lifespan for the defendant at age 60.

** The docket numbers cited above were derived by an AI model and have not been verified by a human. Our CaseMatch service has sentencing-data experts verify the docket numbers and expands the matched-docket count within the cohort, maximizing counsel's opportunity to examine comparable cases.*

DISPOSITION SUMMARY

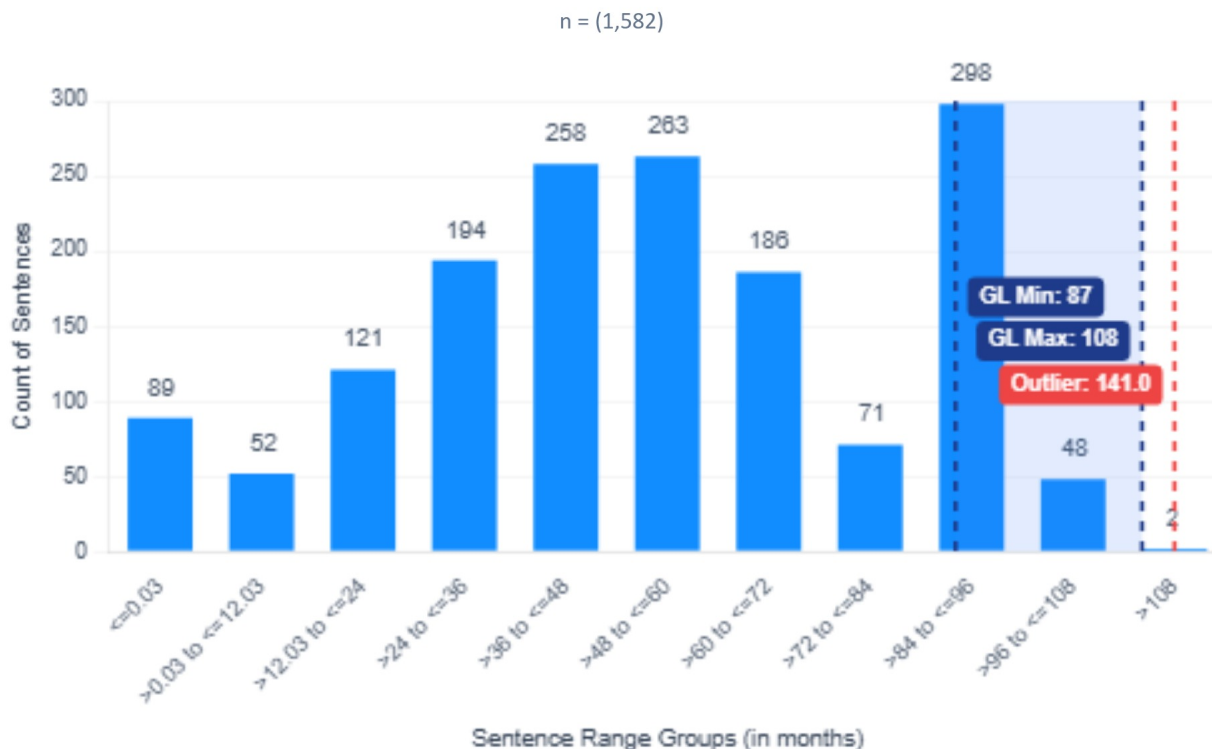
LEVEL	COUNT	AVG	MED	MIN	MAX	PERCENTAGE	RATE BELOW GL
Plea	1,569	54.5	57.0	0	180	75.7%	73.0%
Trial	10	51.4	53.0	30	87	0.5%	90.0%
5K1.1	491	38.2	41.0	0	80	23.7%	100.0%
Other*	3	70.3	70.0	54	87	0.1%	66.7%

** The "Other" category reflects cases in which the U.S. Sentencing Commission recorded a disposition as indeterminate—typically where the underlying data was missing, could not be classified, or where both a guilty plea and a trial were recorded for the same sentence.*

The table above reflects **2,073** sentences, of which **1,569** sentences were pled and did not feature a 5K1.1 enhancement, **491** featured a 5K1.1 enhancement, and **10** were imposed after trial. The average sentence for non-5K1.1 defendants who pled guilty was **54** months, while the average for sentences imposed after trial was **51** months. **73%** of non-5K1.1 pled sentences fell below the federal sentencing guidelines, while **90%** of trial sentences fell below the federal sentencing guidelines. **100%** of 5K1.1 sentences fell below the guidelines.

Note: the total number of cases above may be higher than other elements of this report, due to the addition of 5K1.1 sentences for comparison.

NATIONWIDE SENTENCING DISTRIBUTION SEGMENTED BY SELECT RANGES



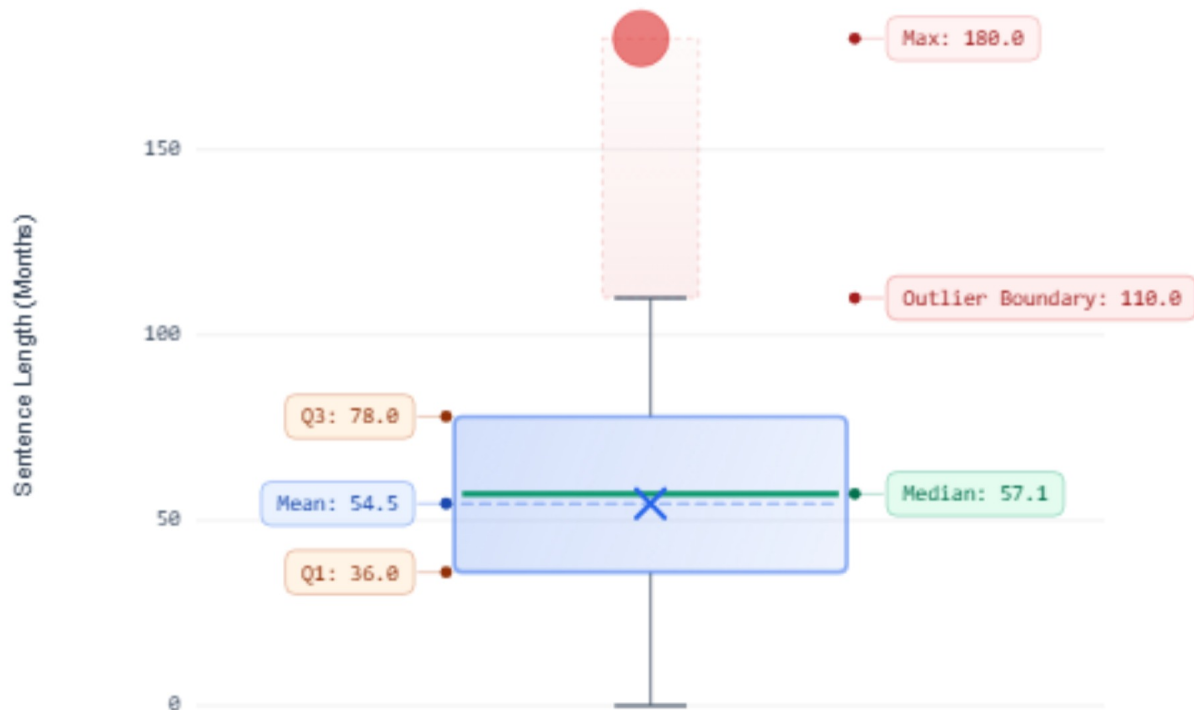
The sentencing distribution histogram above displays ranges of sentences in vertical bars. Overall, the distribution is approximately symmetric, with little evidence of meaningful skew. The distribution appears bimodal, with two materially separated peaks — one near 48-60 months and another near 84-96 months. It reveals **1,156** sentences (73.1%) fell below the guideline minimum, **424** sentences (26.8%) fell within the guideline range, and **2** sentences (0.1%) fell above the guideline range. This demonstrates that a significant majority of judges have opted to depart below the FSG in comparable cases.

The Guideline Range overlay displays the boundary of the advisory guideline range, with a guideline minimum of **87** months and a guideline maximum of **108** months. The Outlier Boundary signifies where statistical outliers begin. Sentences beyond this boundary are likely to create unwarranted sentencing disparities.

Note: Sentences are included in the guideline comparison only when the Guideline Minimum and/or Guideline Maximum needed for that comparison are present. As a result, cases with blank guideline range values (GLMIN/GLMAX) are excluded from the below/within/above counts and percentages. Additional context: The Guideline Minimum and Guideline Maximum overlays on the chart are derived from the U.S. Sentencing Commission's Sentencing Table, by referencing the defendant's offense level and criminal history category. The IQR method (Tukey, 1977) is the standard approach for identifying outliers in skewed distributions such as federal sentencing data.

BOXPLOT DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL SENTENCES

n = (1,582) | 1 outliers

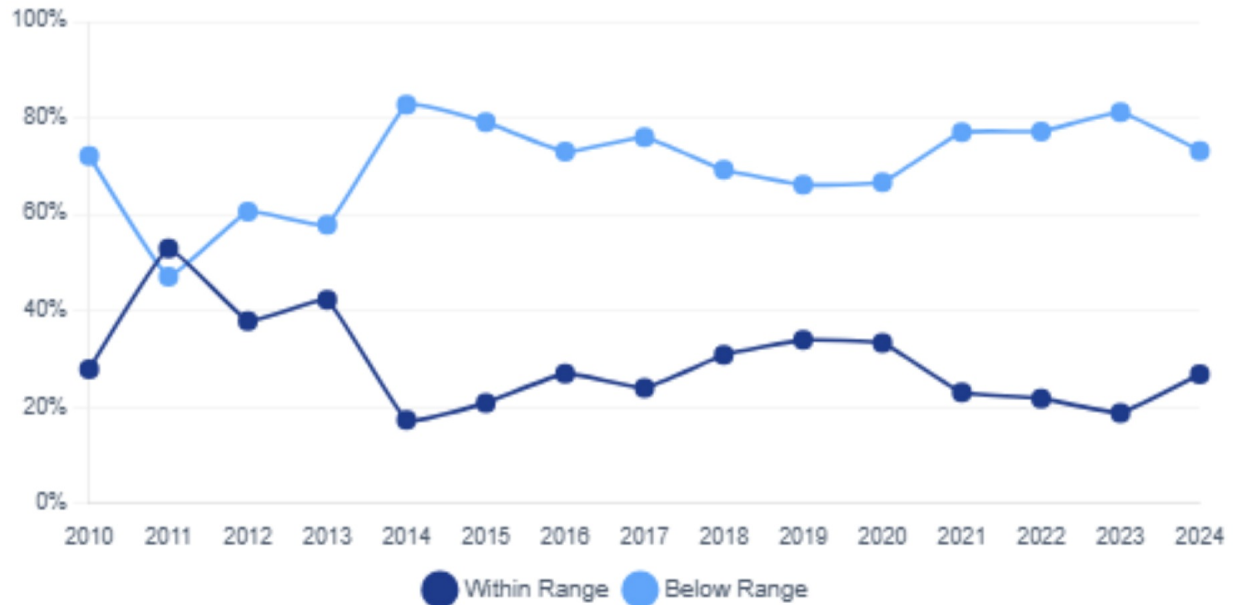


The boxplot above visualizes the distribution of **1,582** sentences by illustrating the interquartile range (25th to 75th percentile) within the rectangular box. The first quartile (Q1) of **36.0** months defines the lower boundary, while the third quartile (Q3) of **78.0** months defines the upper boundary. Typical historical sentences fell within this range. The mean (average) of **54.5** months is indicated by the dashed line with an **X** marker, and the median of **57.1** months by the solid green line bisecting the box. The whiskers extending above and below the box represent the outlier fence — the farthest data points within 1.5× the IQR (interquartile range) of the box boundaries. The upper fence is **110.0** months and the lower is **0.0** months. Any sentences beyond the whiskers are considered statistical outliers — **1** sentences (**0.1%**) fall outside this range.

Note: the IQR method (Tukey, 1977) is the standard approach for identifying outliers in skewed distributions such as federal sentencing data.

TREND: WITHIN GL VS BELOW GL

Year over Year Percentage

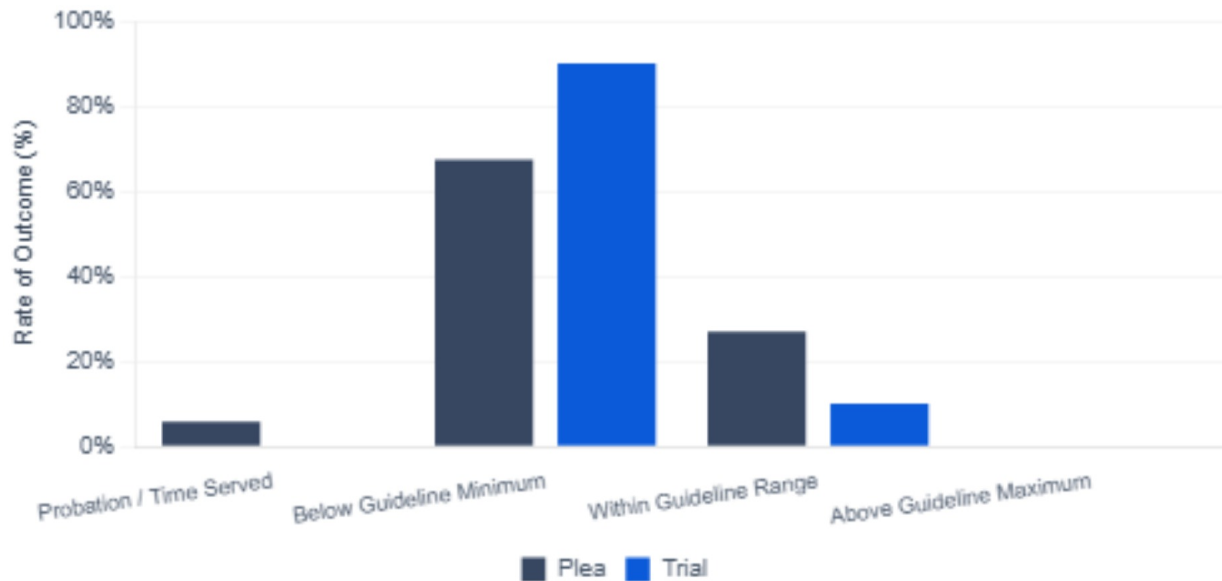


The chart compares the percentage of sentences that fell below their relative Guideline minimums to those that fell within the Guidelines range, covering fiscal years **2010** through **2024**. The **dark blue** line tracks **within-Guidelines sentences**, which decreased by **1.1** percentage points, falling from **27.9%** in 2010 to **26.8%** in 2024. The **light blue** line tracks **below-Guidelines sentences**, which increased by **1.1** percentage points, rising from **72.1%** in 2010 to **73.2%** in 2024.

Note: Within Range and Below Range reflect guideline compliance rates. Degree of Variance measures the average percentage below the Guideline minimum for below-range sentences only. Probation Rate reflects sentences with zero imprisonment.

DISTRIBUTION OF SENTENCING OUTCOMES

Rate of Outcome by Plea and Trial

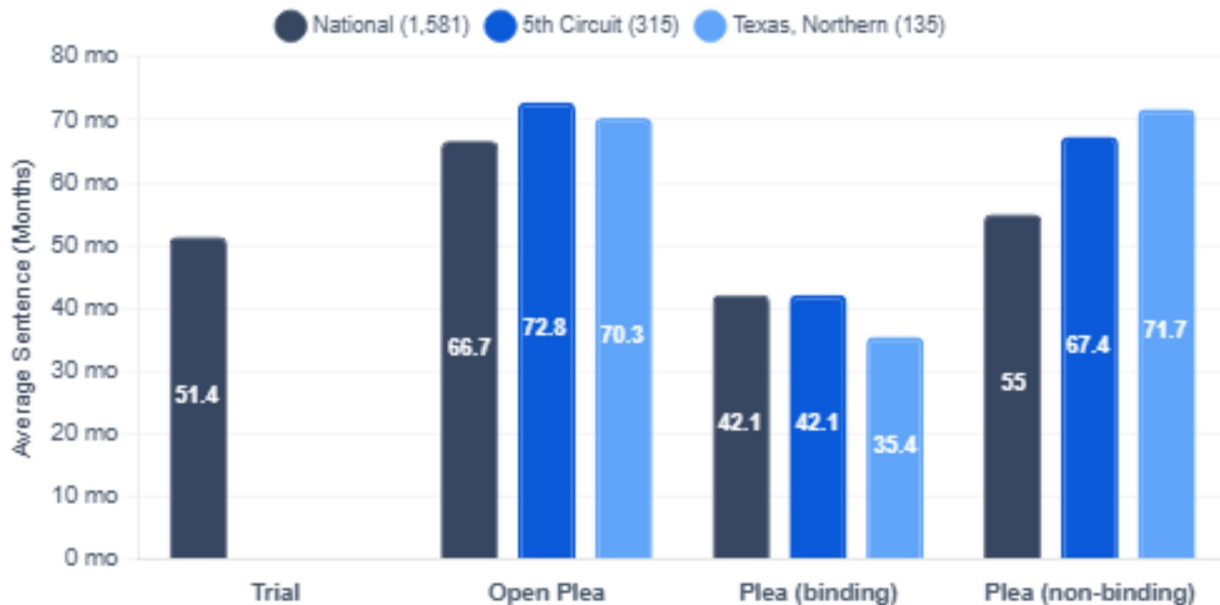


The chart above reflects the relative rate of case outcome(s) by percentage, in which a defendant was sentenced to imprisonment within the guideline range, above the guideline range, below the guideline range or received a sentence of probation or time served.

Note: Each category (Plea and Trial) sums to 100% independently, as the chart compares how outcomes are distributed within each disposition type rather than across the total population. This allows for a direct comparison of outcome rates between plea-resolved and trial-resolved cases regardless of their difference in volume. We do not currently measure mistrial, acquitted by jury, acquitted by court, or cases resolved via dismissal or nolle prosequi.

|| AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH BY MODE OF CONVICTION

Comparing National vs 5th Circuit vs Texas, Northern — 1,581 national sentences



The chart above compares the average sentence length by mode of conviction within the filtered dataset, contrasting sentences of defendants convicted after trial, defendants who pled guilty through an open plea (without a plea agreement), defendants who executed a binding plea agreement, and defendants who executed a non-binding plea agreement. The visual groups these values at the National, 5th Circuit, and Texas, Northern levels for direct comparison.

At the **National** level, **Open Plea** carries the highest average sentence at **66.7 months**, while **Plea (binding)** carries the lowest at **42.1 months** — a spread of **24.6 months**. Only **0.6%** of cases went to trial, yet trial defendants received substantially longer sentences on average — underscoring the well-documented “trial penalty” in federal sentencing.

Note: Mode of conviction reflects the procedural path by which a defendant was found guilty. Open pleas are entered without a plea agreement, binding pleas lock both parties to agreed terms, and non-binding pleas allow the court to depart from the agreement. Trial convictions include both jury and bench trials. Sentence averages are arithmetic means of total months of imprisonment imposed.

TOP REASONS GIVEN BY JUDGES FOR GUIDELINE DEPARTURES/VARIANCES

Top 15 reasons ranked by count (descending) — filtered by this report's cohort

DIRECTION	PRIMARY REASON	COUNT	AVG.	MED.	% BELOW GL	DEG. OF DEPARTURE BELOW GL	IQR
D	(5H1.6) Family ties and responsibilities	239	38.0	37.0	100.0%	55.1%	24-60
D	Reduce Disparity (aggregated reason)	214	43.8	42.0	100.0%	49.1%	30-62
D	(5H1.1) Age (Defendant's youth or old age)	191	40.6	42.0	100.0%	52.3%	24-60
B	Criminal History Issues (aggregated reason)	174	44.8	48.0	100.0%	47.0%	30-60
D	(5K3.1) Early Disposition. Fast Track program	142	36.4	36.0	99.3%	58.3%	28-46
D	(5H1.5) Previous employment record	132	36.5	36.0	100.0%	56.3%	18-57
B	Avoid unwarranted sentencing disparities among defendants	107	47.7	48.0	100.0%	43.2%	36-60
B	Mule/Role in the offense	95	39.5	36.0	100.0%	52.1%	24-60
D	(5H1.4) Drug dependence and alcohol abuse	93	40.9	42.0	100.0%	52.2%	24-60
D	(5H1.4) Physical condition	82	33.5	36.0	100.0%	60.2%	1-60

The table above displays the reasons for departure given by judges at sentencing, as recorded by the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Judges' Statement(s) of Reasons for each defendant. Generic reasons have been filtered out. The table is sorted by the reason(s) cited most often. Direction refers to whether the reason is intended for use as a reason in both above range and below range cases (B), only in above range/upwards (U) cases, or only below range/downwards (D) cases. The % of Departure Below GL column calculates the aggregate average percentage between the relative Guideline minimum for each row, and zero. The % of Departure Above GL column calculates the aggregate average percentage between the relative Guideline maximum for each row, and 470.

Note: Judges have occasionally cited a reason marked "D" when applying an upward departure or variance.

DISCLAIMER

This Sentence Intelligence Report compiles publicly available information for lawful sentencing preparation. It is not legal advice. Sentencing outcomes depend on facts not available in public sources, including sealed sentencing memoranda, PSR calculations, and in-court demeanor. The recommended manner in which to share this report with the court is via an expert declaration from SentencingStats. Some docket numbers and judge data were matched to U.S. Sentencing Commission data via a machine-learning algorithm; these dockets should be confirmed via PACER by hand prior to relying on them for drawing conclusions. Claims are confidence-rated throughout. The underlying research was completed in April 2026.