



Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Compliance and Average Sentence for the Most Common Person, Drug and Property Offenses (Fiscal Year 2009)

The tables below summarize Maryland sentencing guidelines compliance and average sentence for the five most common offenses in each crime category (person, drug, and property). The tables are based on sentencing guidelines worksheets submitted to the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) for circuit court convictions sentenced between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Only single count cases were included. The accuracy and completeness of the sentencing data summarized below are directly related to the quality of the information entered in each guidelines worksheet.

A sentence is deemed compliant with the guidelines if the initial sentence (defined as the sum of incarceration, credited time, and home detention) falls within the applicable guidelines range. In addition, as of July 2001, all sentences pursuant to an American Bar Association (ABA) plea agreement are considered compliant, as they reflect the consensus of the parties and the court within the specific community they represent. Similarly, sentences to correctional options programs (e.g., substance abuse treatment, home detention) are deemed compliant provided that the initial sentence plus any suspended sentence falls within or above the applicable guidelines range and the case does not include a crime of violence, sexual child abuse, or escape.



Person Offenses – Fiscal Year 2009

Person Offenses	Cases with Valid Data	Guidelines Compliance			% Incarcerated	Average Sentence Length Among Those Incarcerated:	
		% Within	% Below	% Above		Total Sentence	Total Sentence, Less Suspended Sentence
Assault, 2 nd Degree [CR, §3-203]	879	82.5%	11.8%	5.7%	71.7%	4.8 years (3.2)	1 year (1.6)
Robbery [CR, §3-402]	479	82.5%	13.8%	3.8%	89.8%	7.6 years (4.2)	2.4 years (2.9)
Robbery with Dangerous Weapon [CR, §3-403]	251	71.7%	23.1%	5.2%	88.8%	10.7 years (5.3)	4.5 years (4.8)
Wear, Carry, Transport Handgun, 1 st offense [CR, §4-203(c)(2)(i)]	219	95.4%	4.6%	0%	75.8%	2.4 years (.9)	.7 years (.7)
Assault, 1 st Degree [CR, §3-202]	207	62.8%	32.4%	4.8%	87.4%	13.2 years (6.3)	5.1 years (5.2)

NOTE: The standard deviation is listed in parentheses below each mean. The standard deviation measures the spread of a set of data around the mean of the data. In a normal distribution, approximately 68 percent of scores fall within plus or minus one standard deviation of the mean, and 95 percent fall within plus or minus two standard deviations of the mean.



Drug Offenses – Fiscal Year 2009

Drug Offenses	Cases with Valid Data	Guidelines Compliance			% Incarcerated	Average Sentence Length Among Those Incarcerated:	
		% Within	% Below	% Above		Total Sentence	Total Sentence, Less Suspended Sentence
Distribute Cocaine [CR, §5-608(a)]	1,235	76.6%	21.5%	1.9%	77%	7.9 years (5.1)	2.7 years (3.2)
Distribute Marijuana [CR, §5-607(a)]	638	89.7%	8.9%	1.4%	61.6%	3.3 years (1.7)	.8 years (1.0)
Distribute Heroin [CR, §5-608(a)]	618	88.7%	10.8%	.5%	70.4%	7.3 years (4.5)	2 years (2.4)
Possess Marijuana or Possess/Distribute Paraphernalia [CR, §5-601(c)(2)] [CR, §5-620(d)(2)]	286	72%	2.8%	25.2%	48.3%	.7 years (.3)	.2 years (.3)
Possess Cocaine or Possess/Distribute Paraphernalia [CR, §5-601(c)(1)] [CR, §5-620(d)(1)]	238	77.7%	16.8%	5.5%	72.4%	2.8 years (1.3)	1.1 years (1.1)

NOTE: The standard deviation is listed in parentheses below each mean. The standard deviation measures the spread of a set of data around the mean of the data. In a normal distribution, approximately 68 percent of scores fall within plus or minus one standard deviation of the mean, and 95 percent fall within plus or minus two standard deviations of the mean.



Property Offenses – Fiscal Year 2009

Property Offenses	Cases with Valid Data	Guidelines Compliance			% Incarcerated	Average Sentence Length Among Those Incarcerated:	
		% Within	% Below	% Above		Total Sentence	Total Sentence, Less Suspended Sentence
Felony Theft or Theft Scheme, \$500 or Greater [CR, §7-104]	387	75.7%	18.6%	5.7%	64.9%	6.4 years (4.4)	1.9 years (2.6)
Burglary, 1 st Degree [CR, §6-202]	226	76.5%	21.2%	2.2%	78.9%	7.2 years (5.2)	2.9 years (3.8)
Burglary, 2 nd Degree [CR, §6-203(c)(1)]	185	73%	23.8%	3.2%	75.1%	7 years (4.5)	3 years (3.5)
Misdemeanor Theft or Theft Scheme, Less Than \$500 [CR, §7-104]	162	72.8%	18.5%	8.6%	67.9%	1.2 years (.4)	.6 years (.5)
Burglary, 4 th Degree [CR, §6-205]	137	67.9%	18.2%	13.9%	62.8%	2 years (1.1)	.7 years (.8)

NOTE: The standard deviation is listed in parentheses below each mean. The standard deviation measures the spread of a set of data around the mean of the data. In a normal distribution, approximately 68 percent of scores fall within plus or minus one standard deviation of the mean, and 95 percent fall within plus or minus two standard deviations of the mean.