



SENTENCING SNAPSHOT

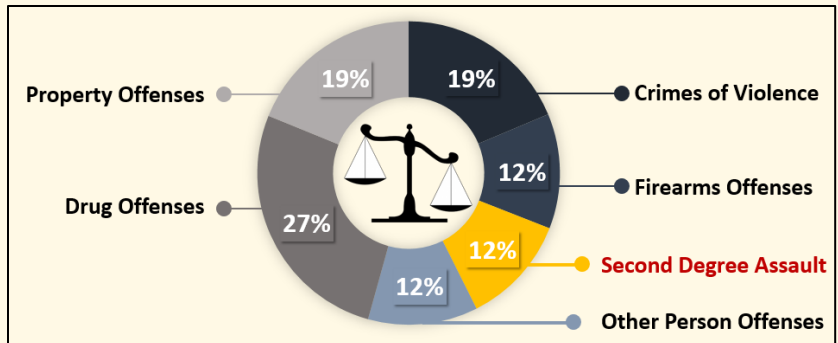


ISSUE 2—OCTOBER 2020

SECOND DEGREE ASSAULT IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS

Second degree assault, per Criminal Law Article, § 3-203, is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 10 years incarceration in Maryland. Because the crime is classified as a misdemeanor with a penalty greater than three years, both the District Court and circuit courts share jurisdiction over the offense. Second degree assault is one of the most commonly convicted offenses in Maryland. While the majority of these offenses are prosecuted in the District Court, second degree assault is also one of the most commonly convicted offenses in Maryland circuit courts. The second degree assault charges that originate in Maryland circuit courts tend to be more serious assaults. These second degree assaults may be pled down from a more serious charge and/or may be convicted along with more serious offenses. This Sentencing Snapshot takes a closer look at the characteristics of and average sentences for second degree assaults that originated in Maryland circuit courts in calendar years 2017 through 2019. Methodology and offense-specific information for analyses in this report may be found on the [MSCCSP website](http://www.mscdsp.org).

CALENDAR YEARS 2017 THROUGH 2019	
44,971	Total Criminal Offenses
8,392	Crimes of Violence
5,522	Firearms Offenses
5,233	Second Degree Assault
5,268	Other Person Offenses
12,075	Drug Offenses
8,481	Property Offenses

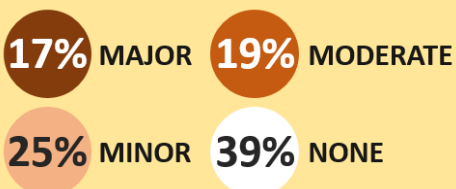


CHARACTERISTICS OF SECOND DEGREE ASSAULTS IN CIRCUIT COURTS

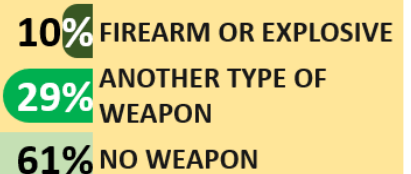
SINGLE VERSUS MULTIPLE OFFENSE SENTENCING EVENTS



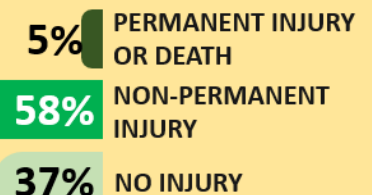
PRIOR RECORD SCORE



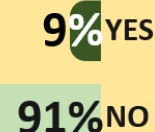
WEAPON PRESENCE



VICTIM INJURY



SPECIAL VICTIM VULNERABILITY

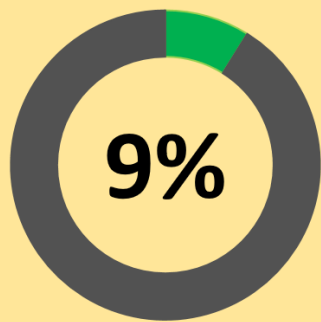
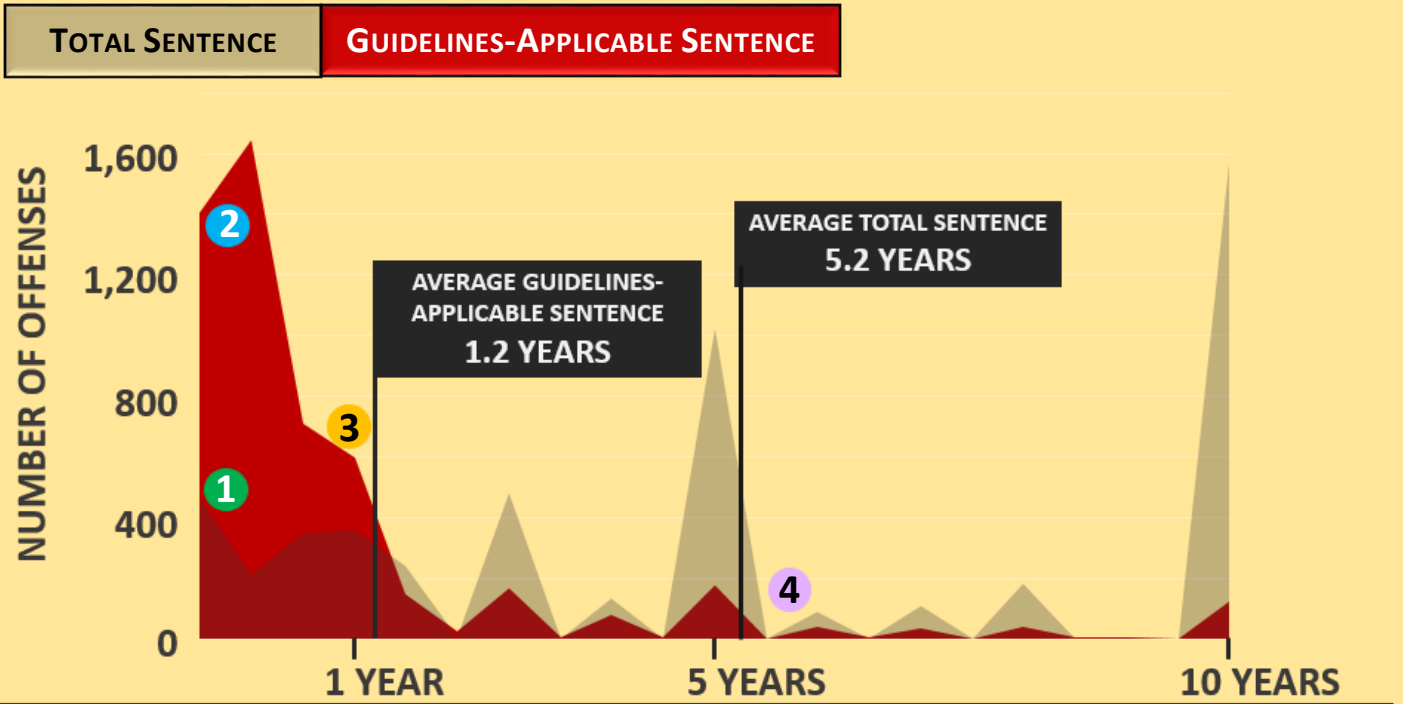




SENTENCES FOR SECOND DEGREE ASSAULTS IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS

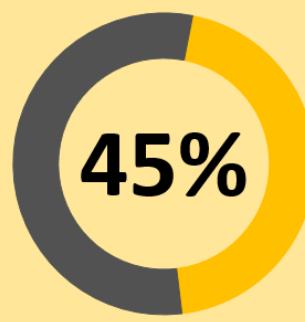
TERMS TO KNOW	
Total Sentence	Includes jail/prison time, credit for time served, home detention, and suspended time
Guidelines-Applicable Sentence	Includes jail/prison time, credit for time served, and home detention Does not include suspended time

SECOND DEGREE ASSAULT IN CIRCUIT COURTS - SENTENCE LENGTH DISTRIBUTION



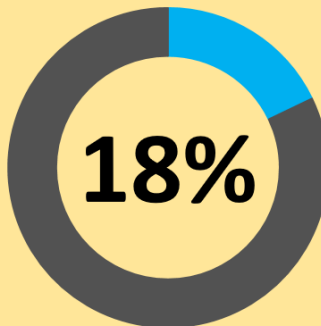
1. NO SENTENCE OR PROBATION ONLY

Just over 80% of defendants who received no sentence or probation only had no prior record.



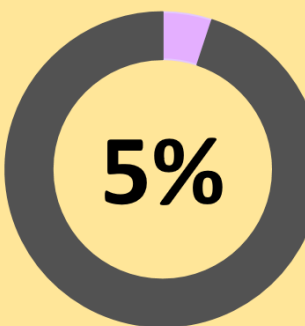
3. INCARCERATED FOR 1 YEAR OR LESS

The largest percentage of second degree assaults fall into this category, receiving a guidelines-applicable sentence of 1 year or less.



2. SENTENCE FULLY SUSPENDED

Just over half of defendants who received a fully suspended sentence had no prior record.



4. INCARCERATED FOR GREATER THAN 5 YEARS

Just over half of defendants in this category had a major prior record. Over half of these offenses involved a weapon, and nearly 20% involved a permanent injury or death.