



METHODOLOGY

Data provided in Issue 8 (September 2022) of the *Sentencing Snapshot* were obtained from sentencing guidelines worksheets submitted to the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) via the Maryland Automated Guidelines System (MAGS) or paper guidelines worksheets for sentences imposed from calendar year (CY) 2017 through CY 2021. A sentencing guidelines worksheet is completed for all criminal sentencing events involving an incarcerable offense that originate in and are sentenced in Maryland circuit courts. Additionally, a guidelines worksheet is completed for sentencing events involving jury trial prayers and appeals from the District Court if a pre-sentence investigation (PSI) is ordered. A sentencing event is defined as one defendant, sentenced in front of the same judge, on the same day. A sentencing event may contain multiple offenses from multiple crime categories. These analyses exclude sentencing guidelines worksheets submitted for non-original sentencing events, including sentence reconsideration hearings and three-judge panel reviews. From 2017 through 2021, approximately 1% of sentencing events for which a guidelines worksheet was submitted were for sentence reconsideration hearings or three-judge panel reviews. The sentencing guidelines do not apply to violations of probation or parole. Sentencing guidelines worksheets are not submitted to the MSCCSP for District Court cases. **The MSCCSP data and the average sentence lengths provided in this *Snapshot* do not reflect statewide totals or average sentences for those offenses in which the District Court has exclusive jurisdiction.**

The MSCCSP received guidelines worksheets for 46,473 guidelines-eligible, original sentencing events, including 64,676 guidelines-eligible convicted offenses, sentenced in circuit courts from 2017 through 2021.¹ *Sentencing Snapshot #8* focuses specifically on Murder, 1st degree, and Murder, 2nd degree, including completed offenses, attempts, conspiracies, and solicitations.

Table 1 provides the total number of guidelines-eligible criminal sentencing events and offenses, sentenced from 2017 through 2021 and disaggregated by crime category, for which the MSCCSP received a sentencing guidelines worksheet. Tables 2 and 3 provide the statutory sources and maximum penalties for murder. Tables 3 and 4 provide frequencies for murder, by offense mode and judicial circuit. Tables 5 and 6 provide the characteristics of defendants sentenced for murder in Maryland circuit courts. Tables 7 through 15 provide weapon presence and average sentences for murder convictions in Maryland circuit courts. Tables 12 through 15 illustrate the recommended guidelines ranges for murder, by offense mode.

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¹ The MSCCSP staff routinely conducts data checks and corrects errors identified in the data. Therefore, the numbers reported in this *Snapshot* may differ slightly from previous *Snapshots*.



TABLE 1. GUIDELINES-ELIGIBLE CRIMINAL SENTENCING EVENTS AND OFFENSES SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, BY OFFENSE TYPE, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Offenses		Sentencing Events Included One or More:	
	#	%	#	%
Crimes of violence	11,749	18.2%	8,103	17.4%
Firearms/other weapons offenses	8,648	13.4%	7,564	16.3%
Other person offenses	16,153	25.0%	12,846	27.6%
Drug offenses	16,526	25.6%	14,805	31.9%
Property offenses	11,600	17.9%	9,081	19.5%
Total	64,676		46,473	

Note. Sentencing event percentages do not sum to 100% as a sentencing event may contain multiple offenses from multiple crime categories.

TABLE 2. STATUTORY SOURCES AND MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR MURDER IN MARYLAND

	Source	Statutory Maximum	Minimum Term	Seriousness Category	Classification
Murder, 1 st degree	CR, § 2-201	Life	Life	I	Felony
Murder, 1 st degree, attempted	CR, § 2-205	Life		II	Felony
Murder, 1 st degree, conspiracy ¹	Common law	Life		I	Misd.
Murder, 1 st degree, solicitation ¹	Common law	Life		II	Misd.
Murder, 2 nd degree ²	CR, § 2-204	30Y (Through 9/20/2017) 40Y (10/1/2017-present)		II	Felony
Murder, 2 nd degree, attempted	CR, § 2-206	30Y		III	Felony

¹ Effective October 1, 2019, a person who solicits another or conspires with another to commit murder in the first degree is guilty of murder in the first degree if the death of another occurs as a result of the solicitation or conspiracy (Chapter 247 of the 2019 Laws of Maryland/Senate Bill 198).

² Effective October 1, 2017, the statutory maximum penalty for Murder, 2nd degree (excluding attempts), increased from 30 years to 40 years (Chapter 515 of the 2016 Laws of Maryland/SB 1005).



TABLE 3. MURDER CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Offenses		Sentencing Events Included One or More:	
	#	% Total	#	% Total
Murder, 1st Degree				
Completed offense	399	61.0%	355	69.9%
Attempt	165	25.2%	149	29.3%
Conspiracy	83	12.7%	79	15.6%
Solicitation	7	1.1%	6	1.2%
Total	654		508	
Murder, 2nd Degree				
Completed offense	278	60.8%	268	63.2%
Attempt	174	38.1%	158	37.3%
Conspiracy	5	1.1%	5	1.2%
Total	457		424	

TABLE 4. MURDER CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, BY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AND DEGREE, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Total Offenses	Murder, All		Murder, 1 st Degree, All		Murder, 2 nd Degree, All	
		#	% State	#	% State	#	% State
1 st Circuit (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)	4,799	59	5.3%	33	5.0%	26	5.7%
2 nd Circuit (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties)	3,833	18	1.6%	9	1.4%	9	2.0%
3 rd Circuit (Baltimore and Harford Counties)	12,195	149	13.4%	90	13.8%	59	12.9%
4 th Circuit (Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties)	3,521	28	2.5%	15	2.3%	13	2.8%
5 th Circuit (Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties)	8,409	109	9.8%	60	9.2%	49	10.7%
6 th Circuit (Montgomery and Frederick Counties)	9,096	93	8.4%	61	9.3%	32	7.0%
7 th Circuit (Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s, and St. Mary’s Counties)	10,386	221	19.9%	96	14.7%	125	27.4%
8 th Circuit (Baltimore City)	12,437	434	39.1%	290	44.3%	144	31.5%
Total offenses	64,676	1,111		654		457	

Note. Figures include completed offenses, attempts, conspiracies, and solicitations.



TABLE 5. DEMOGRAPHICS OF DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS FOR MURDER AND OTHER PERSON OFFENSES, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Murder (All)		All Person Offenses	
Mean age (years)	29.5 years		31.2 years	
	#	Valid %	#	Valid %
Gender				
Male	838	94.6%	22,124	90.3%
Female	48	5.4%	2,374	9.7%
Missing	27		1,834	
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	657	74.5%	15,457	64.1%
White	135	15.3%	6,279	26.0%
Hispanic	82	9.3%	2,051	8.5%
Other	8	0.9%	341	1.4%
Missing	31		2,204	
Prior record score				
None	270	29.7%	9,792	37.3%
Minor	179	19.7%	5,916	22.5%
Moderate	191	21.0%	5,500	21.0%
Major	269	29.6%	5,037	19.2%
Missing	4		87	
Involvement in the criminal justice system at the time of the instant offense				
No	614	67.5%	19,954	76.0%
Yes	295	32.5%	6,290	24.0%
Missing	4		88	
Total sentencing events	913		26,332	

Note. Figures for murder include defendants sentenced for Murder, 1st degree or 2nd degree, including completed offenses, attempts, conspiracies, and solicitations. Defendant age is as of the date of the offense. Race and Ethnicity are separate fields on the sentencing guidelines worksheet. The following selections are available for Race: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, Other, and Unknown. The guidelines worksheet preparer may make more than one selection in the Race field. For the purposes of these analyses, the following races were collapsed into the other race category: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Other. Cases in which multiple race options were selected were also classified as other race for the purposes of these analyses. Cases in which “Unknown” race was selected were classified as missing. The Ethnicity field asks if the defendant is of Hispanic or Latino Origin. The possible responses are yes or no. If “yes” was marked in response to Hispanic or Latino Origin, the defendant was defined as Hispanic for the purposes of these analyses, regardless of selections made in the Race field. Worksheets with missing race, ethnicity, or gender, sentenced from calendar years 2018 through 2020, were supplemented with race, ethnicity, and gender data from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), where available. Instructions for calculating the prior record score are located in the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual (MSGM), Chapter 7.1(C). A defendant is defined as involved in the criminal justice system if, at the time of the instance offense, the defendant was on parole, on probation, incarcerated, on work release, on mandatory supervision, was an escapee, or had a comparable status as result of an adjudication of guilt as an adult (MSGM, Chapter 7.1(A)). Valid percentages are based on non-missing data.



TABLE 6. DISPOSITION TYPE FOR DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS FOR MURDER, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Murder, All		All Person Offenses	
	#	Valid %	#	Valid %
MSCCSP binding plea agreement	362	40.5%	12,033	46.4%
Other plea agreement	152	17.0%	8,861	34.1%
Plea, no agreement	70	7.8%	3,543	13.7%
Jury trial	293	32.8%	1,290	5.0%
Court trial	17	1.9%	226	0.9%
Missing	19		379	
Total sentencing events	913		26,332	

Note. Figures for murder include defendants sentenced for Murder, 1st degree or 2nd degree, including completed offenses, attempts, conspiracies, and solicitations. Prior to April 1, 2021, an MSCCSP binding plea agreement was referred to in the MSGM as an ABA plea agreement and was defined as “A plea agreement that a court has approved relating to a particular sentence, disposition, or other judicial action. The agreement is binding on the court under Maryland Rule 4-243(c).” (MSGM, Version 12.4). Effective April 1, 2021, the term ABA plea agreement was replaced in the MSGM with MSCCSP binding plea agreement. An MSCCSP binding plea agreement is defined as, “A plea agreement presented to the court in agreement by an attorney for the government and the defendant’s attorney, or the defendant when proceeding pro se, that a court has approved relating to a particular sentence and disposition. An MSCCSP binding plea agreement means an agreement to a specific amount of active time (if any), not merely a sentence cap or range. The court has the discretion to accept or reject the plea. The agreement is binding on the court under Maryland Rule 4-243(c) if the court accepts the plea.” (MSGM, Version 14.0). Other plea agreement is defined as a “disposition resulted from a plea agreement reached by the parties that did not include an agreement to a specific amount of active time (if any) and/or the agreement was not approved by, and thus not binding on, the court.” A plea, no agreement occurs when “the defendant pleaded guilty without any agreement from the prosecutor or judge to perform in a particular way.” A jury trial is defined as a “disposition resulted from a trial in which a jury decided the factual questions.” A court trial is defined as a “disposition resulted from a trial without a jury in which the judge decided the factual questions.” Valid percentages are based on non-missing data.

TABLE 7. WEAPON PRESENCE FOR MURDER CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Murder, 1 st Degree, All		Murder, 2 nd Degree, All	
	#	Valid %	#	Valid %
No weapon	28	4.3%	34	7.5%
Weapon other than firearm/explosive	154	23.7%	132	28.9%
Firearm or other explosive	469	72.0%	290	63.6%
Missing	3		1	
Total offenses	654		457	

Note. Figures include defendants sentenced for completed offenses, attempts, conspiracies, and solicitations. Weapon presence is defined in the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 6.1(C)) as “the presence of an article or device which reasonably appears capable of causing injury or the presence of an article that could result in conviction under CR, §4-101.” Valid percentages are based on non-missing data.



TABLE 8. LIFE SENTENCES FOR MURDER, 1ST DEGREE, CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, BY OFFENSE MODE, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Total	Imposed Active Life Sentence		Imposed Life Sentence, Partially Suspended		Imposed Non-Life Sentence	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Completed offense	399	229	57.4%	170	42.6%	0	0.0%
Attempt	165	31	18.8%	58	35.2%	76	46.1%
Conspiracy	83	35	42.2%	24	28.9%	24	28.9%
Solicitation	7	2	28.6%	0	0.0%	5	71.4%
Total	654	297	45.4%	252	38.5%	105	16.1%

Note. Murder, 1st degree, excluding attempts, conspiracies, and solicitations, shall be sentenced to life imprisonment, a portion of which may be suspended (CR, § 2-201).

TABLE 9. MEAN GUIDELINES-APPLICABLE SENTENCE FOR MURDER, 1ST DEGREE, CONVICTIONS IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS WHERE A PARTIALLY-SUSPENDED AND/OR NON-LIFE SENTENCE WAS GIVEN, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	#	Mean Guidelines-Applicable Sentence
Completed offense	170	40.1 years
Attempt	134	24.9 years
Conspiracy	48	28.8 years
Solicitation	5	11.8 years
Total	357	

Note. The guidelines-applicable sentence is defined as the sum of incarceration, credit for time served, and home detention. It does not include suspended time.

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TABLE 10. MEAN TOTAL AND GUIDELINES-APPLICABLE SENTENCES FOR MURDER, 2ND DEGREE, CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Total	Mean Total Sentence	Mean Guidelines-Applicable Sentence	Guidelines-Applicable Sentence = Statutory Maximum	
	#			#	%
Completed offense	278	31.1 years	24.0 years	100	36.0%
Attempt	174	24.3 years	13.6 years	26	14.9%
Conspiracy	5	19.0 years	15.2 years	0	0.0%
Total offenses	457				

Note. The statutory maximum penalty for Murder, 2nd degree, was 30 years through September 30, 2017, and increased to 40 years, effective October 1, 2017.

TABLE 11. SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMPLIANCE FOR MURDER CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, BY OFFENSE, 2017 THROUGH 2021

	Total	Within		Below		Above	
	#	#	Valid%	#	Valid%	#	Valid%
Murder, 1 st Degree, Completed offense	399	324	81.2%	59	14.8%	16	4.0%
Murder, 1 st Degree, Attempt	165	133	80.6%	7	4.2%	25	15.2%
Murder, 1 st Degree, Conspiracy	83	64	78.0%	15	18.3%	3	3.7%
Murder, 1 st Degree, Solicitation	7	3	42.9%	1	14.3%	3	42.9%
Murder, 2 nd Degree, Completed offense	278	236	84.9%	16	5.8%	26	9.4%
Murder, 2 nd Degree, Attempt	174	136	78.2%	8	4.6%	30	17.2%
Murder, 2 nd Degree, Conspiracy	5	4	80.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%

Note. For the purposes of these analyses, sentencing guidelines compliance is computed at the offense-level. A sentence is defined as guidelines-compliant if it meets at least one of the following conditions: the guidelines-applicable sentence (defined as the sum of incarceration, credit for time served, and home detention) is within the guidelines range; the guidelines-applicable sentence exceeds the upper guidelines limit but includes only credit for time served; the sentencing event was disposed of via an ABA plea agreement or, effective April 1, 2021, an MSCSP binding plea agreement; or the sentencing event involved the imposition of one or more corrections options and the total sentence falls within or above the recommended guidelines range (excluding sentencing events that contain a crime of violence, child sexual abuse, or escape). One murder, 1st degree, conspiracy, conviction sentenced from 2017 through 2021 was missing offense-level compliance.



Tables 12 through 15 illustrate the guidelines ranges for Murder, 1st degree, attempt; Murder, 1st degree, conspiracy; Murder, 2nd degree, completed offense; and Murder, 2nd degree, attempt, respectively. The guidelines range for Murder, 1st degree (completed offense) is always life to life (MSGM, Version 14.0, Chapter 10.3).

TABLE 12. SENTENCING GUIDELINES RANGES FOR MURDER, 1ST DEGREE, ATTEMPT, CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, FY 2017 THROUGH FY 2021

PERSON MATRIX											
OFFENDER SCORE											
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Total # (% Valid total)	
OFFENSE SCORE	8	Range	4Y-9Y	5Y-10Y	5Y-12Y	7Y-13Y	8Y-15Y	10Y-18Y	12Y-20Y	15Y-25Y	-
		# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.2%)	1 (0.6%)	4 (2.4%)
	9	Range	5Y-10Y	7Y-13Y	8Y-15Y	10Y-15Y	12Y-18Y	15Y-25Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-30Y	-
		# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
	10	Range	10Y-18Y	10Y-21Y	12Y-25Y	15Y-25Y	15Y-30Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-35Y	20Y-L	-
		# (% Valid total)	8 (4.9%)	5 (3.0%)	2 (1.2%)	3 (1.8%)	3 (1.8%)	5 (3.0%)	2 (1.2%)	4 (2.4%)	32 (19.5%)
	11	Range	12Y-20Y	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	20Y-30Y	20Y-30Y	25Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	-
		# (% Valid total)	10 (6.1%)	7 (4.3%)	4 (2.4%)	11 (6.7%)	7 (4.3%)	8 (4.9%)	10 (6.1%)	12 (7.3%)	69 (42.1%)
	12	Range	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-35Y	20Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	25Y-L	-
		# (% Valid total)	10 (6.1%)	4 (2.4%)	10 (6.1%)	5 (3.0%)	3 (1.8%)	6 (3.7%)	10 (6.1%)	10 (6.1%)	58 (35.4%)
13	Range	20Y-30Y	25Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	25Y-L	30Y-L	L	L	-	
	# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	
	Total	# (% Valid total)	28 (17.1%)	18 (11.0%)	16 (9.8%)	19 (11.6%)	13 (7.9%)	19 (11.6%)	24 (14.6%)	27 (16.5%)	165

Top 10 Most Common Guidelines Ranges: Murder, 1st Degree, Attempt

Note. "L" equals life. The offender score is a composite measure scored for all defendants and based on the defendant's prior adult record, involvement in the criminal justice system at the time of the instant offense, prior probation or parole violations, and, for defendants under the age of 23 years, prior juvenile record. The total offender score can range from zero to 11 points. For additional details on the offender score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 7). The offense score is a composite measure scored for person offenses and based on the offense's seriousness category classification, victim injury, weapon presence, and special victim vulnerability. The offense score can range from 1 to 15 points. The offense score for Murder, 1st degree, attempt, can range from 8 points to 13 points. For additional details on the offense score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 6). Percentages are based on non-missing data. The offense score for one Murder, 1st degree, attempt, conviction was miscalculated and is excluded from the present table.



TABLE 13. SENTENCING GUIDELINES RANGES FOR MURDER, 1ST DEGREE, CONSPIRACY, CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, FY 2017 THROUGH FY 2021

		PERSON MATRIX									
		OFFENDER SCORE									
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Total # (% Valid total)	
OFFENSE SCORE	11	Range	12Y-20Y	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	20Y-30Y	20Y-30Y	25Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	-
		# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)
	12	Range	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-35Y	20Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	25Y-L	-
		# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
	13	Range	20Y-30Y	25Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	25Y-L	30Y-L	L	L	-
		# (% Valid total)	6 (7.4%)	3 (3.7%)	2 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)
	14	Range	20Y-L	25Y-L	28Y-L	30Y-L	L	L	L	L	-
		# (% Valid total)	11 (13.6%)	4 (4.9%)	9 (11.1%)	7 (8.6%)	3 (3.7%)	6 (7.4%)	8 (9.9%)	8 (9.9%)	8 (9.9%)
	15	Range	25Y-L	30Y-L	35Y-L	L	L	L	L	L	-
		# (% Valid total)	1 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	# (% Valid total)	18 (22.2%)	7 (8.6%)	11 (13.6%)	10 (12.3%)	5 (6.2%)	9 (11.1%)	11 (13.6%)	10 (12.3%)	83	

Top 10 Most Common Guidelines Ranges: Murder, 1st Degree, Conspiracy

Note. "L" equals life. The offender score is a composite measure scored for all defendants and based on the defendant's prior adult record, involvement in the criminal justice system at the time of the instant offense, prior probation or parole violations, and, for defendants under the age of 23 years, prior juvenile record. The total offender score can range from zero to 11 points. For additional details on the offender score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 7). The offense score is a composite measure scored for person offenses and based on the offense's seriousness category classification, victim injury, weapon presence, and special victim vulnerability. The offense score can range from 1 to 15 points. The offense score for Murder, 1st degree, conspiracy, can range from 10 points to 15 points. For additional details on the offense score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 6). Percentages are based on non-missing data. Two Murder, 1st degree, conspiracy, convictions were missing the total offense score and/or total offender score and are, therefore, excluded from the present table.



TABLE 14. SENTENCING GUIDELINES RANGES FOR MURDER, 2ND DEGREE, COMPLETED OFFENSE, CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, FY 2017 THROUGH FY 2021

PERSON MATRIX										
OFFENDER SCORE										
OFFENSE SCORE		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Total # (% Valid total)
	8	Range	4Y-9Y	5Y-10Y	5Y-12Y	7Y-13Y	8Y-15Y	10Y-18Y	12Y-20Y	15Y-25Y
# (% Valid total)		0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
9	Range	5Y-10Y	7Y-13Y	8Y-15Y	10Y-15Y	12Y-18Y	15Y-25Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-30Y	-
	# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
10	Range	10Y-18Y	10Y-21Y	12Y-25Y	15Y-25Y	15Y-30Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-35Y	20Y-L	-
	# (% Valid total)	1 (0.4%)	4 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.7%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.7%)	5 (1.8%)	4 (1.5%)	19 (6.9%)
11	Range	12Y-20Y	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	20Y-30Y	20Y-30Y	25Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	-
	# (% Valid total)	29 (10.6%)	14 (5.1%)	6 (2.2%)	3 (1.1%)	5 (1.8%)	7 (2.6%)	10 (3.6%)	10 (3.6%)	84 (30.7%)
12	Range	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-35Y	20Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	25Y-L	-
	# (% Valid total)	37 (13.5%)	29 (10.6%)	13 (4.7%)	19 (6.9%)	14 (5.1%)	17 (6.2%)	27 (9.9%)	10 (3.6%)	166 (60.6%)
13	Range	20Y-30Y	25Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	25Y-L	30Y-L	L	L	-
	# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	4 (1.5%)
Total	# (% Valid total)	67 (24.5%)	48 (17.5%)	20 (7.3%)	25 (9.1%)	20 (7.3%)	27 (9.9%)	42 (15.3%)	25 (9.1%)	278

Top 10 Most Common Guidelines Ranges: Murder, 2nd Degree, Completed Offense

Note. “L” equals life. The offender score is a composite measure scored for all defendants and based on the defendant’s prior adult record, involvement in the criminal justice system at the time of the instant offense, prior probation or parole violations, and, for defendants under the age of 23 years, prior juvenile record. The total offender score can range from zero to 11 points. For additional details on the offender score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 7). The offense score is a composite measure scored for person offenses and based on the offense’s seriousness category classification, victim injury, weapon presence, and special victim vulnerability. The offense score can range from 1 to 15 points. The offense score for Murder, 2nd degree (completed offense) can range from 8 points to 13 points. For additional details on the offense score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 6). Percentages are based on non-missing data. One Murder, 2nd degree, conviction was missing the total offense score and/or total offender score and is, therefore, excluded from the present table. The offense score for three Murder, 2nd degree, convictions were miscalculated and are excluded from the present table.



TABLE 15. SENTENCING GUIDELINES RANGES FOR MURDER, 2ND DEGREE, ATTEMPT, CONVICTIONS SENTENCED IN MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS, FY 2017 THROUGH FY 2021

PERSON MATRIX										
OFFENDER SCORE										
OFFENSE SCORE		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Total # (% Valid total)
	5	Range	3M-4Y	6M-5Y	1Y-6Y	2Y-7Y	3Y-8Y	4Y-10Y	6Y-12Y	8Y-15Y
# (% Valid total)		0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)
6	Range	1Y-6Y	2Y-7Y	3Y-8Y	4Y-9Y	5Y-10Y	7Y-12Y	8Y-13Y	10Y-20Y	-
	# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.2%)
7	Range	3Y-8Y	4Y-9Y	5Y-10Y	6Y-12Y	7Y-13Y	9Y-14Y	10Y-15Y	12Y-20Y	-
	# (% Valid total)	8 (4.7%)	10 (5.8%)	7 (4.1%)	5 (2.9%)	3 (1.8%)	5 (2.9%)	5 (2.9%)	5 (2.9%)	48 (28.1%)
8	Range	4Y-9Y	5Y-10Y	5Y-12Y	7Y-13Y	8Y-15Y	10Y-18Y	12Y-20Y	15Y-25Y	-
	# (% Valid total)	13 (7.6%)	12 (7.0%)	4 (2.3%)	2 (1.2%)	10 (5.8%)	10 (5.8%)	16 (9.4%)	9 (5.3%)	76 (44.4%)
9	Range	5Y-10Y	7Y-13Y	8Y-15Y	10Y-15Y	12Y-18Y	15Y-25Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-30Y	-
	# (% Valid total)	8 (4.7%)	6 (3.5%)	4 (2.3%)	2 (1.2%)	3 (1.8%)	5 (2.9%)	6 (3.5%)	4 (2.3%)	38 (22.2%)
10	Range	10Y-18Y	10Y-21Y	12Y-25Y	15Y-25Y	15Y-30Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-35Y	20Y-L	-
	# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.8%)
11	Range	12Y-20Y	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	20Y-30Y	20Y-30Y	25Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	-
	# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.2%)	2 (1.2%)
12	Range	15Y-25Y	18Y-25Y	18Y-30Y	20Y-35Y	20Y-35Y	25Y-40Y	25Y-L	25Y-L	-
	# (% Valid total)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
Total	# (% Valid total)	29 (17.0%)	29 (17.0%)	16 (9.4%)	9 (5.3%)	17 (9.9%)	21 (12.3%)	30 (17.5%)	20 (11.7%)	174

Top 10 Most Common Guidelines Ranges: Murder, 2nd Degree, Attempt

Note. “L” equals life. The offender score is a composite measure scored for all defendants and based on the defendant’s prior adult record, involvement in the criminal justice system at the time of the instant offense, prior probation or parole violations, and, for defendants under the age of 23 years, prior juvenile record. The total offender score can range from zero to 11 points. For additional details on the offender score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 7). The offense score is a composite measure scored for person offenses and based on the offense’s seriousness category classification, victim injury, weapon presence, and special victim vulnerability. The offense score can range from 1 to 15 points. The offense score for Murder, 2nd degree, attempt, can range from 5 points to 10 points. For additional details on the offense score calculation, see the MSGM (Version 14.0, Chapter 6). Percentages are based on non-missing data. Three Murder, 2nd degree, attempt, convictions were missing the total offense score and/or total offender score and are, therefore, excluded from the present table.