

1980 STATISTICS  
FOR CONVICTIONS IN  
MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURTS

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to document the total number of convictions and their dispositions from the Massachusetts Superior Courts from the years 1972 to 1980. This data is categorized according to twenty four different offenses which were selected based on seriousness and frequency.

The statistics in this report were collected and compiled from Massachusetts Superior Courts Return Forms which are submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Correction in accordance with the General Laws Chapter 124 Section 8.

TABLE 1  
NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS IN THE  
MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURTS FROM 1972 TO 1980  
CLASSIFIED BY OFFENSE

OFFENSE	NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS BY YEAR									AVERAGE
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	
MANSLAUGHTER	45	66	81	103	70	69	71	68	71	71
RAPE	110	125	112	165	206	187	263	259	266	188
INDECENT ASSAULT	37	41	46	31	36	64	69	56	49	48
ABUSE OF F. CHILD	74	47	72	44	23	31	39	20	75	47
ROBBERY	813	1039	930	1114	1094	1065	1152	978	995	1020
ASSLT & ATT MURDER	86	65	80	76	83	90	188	125	125	102
ASSLT W/DANG WEAPON	430	477	492	470	527	572	790	731	766	584
KIDNAPPING	39	35	60	58	75	69	70	88	84	64
ASSLT & BATTERY	309	441	393	500	517	665	702	497	413	493
ARSON	49	95	61	55	115	133	171	157	159	111
BREAK & ENTER	1752	1505	1343	1112	1308	1358	1230	881	748	1249
POSS BURG TOOLS	294	278	245	211	239	262	321	149	104	234
LARCENY	1083	988	1026	1128	950	1193	1477	911	804	1062
FORGERY	615	513	402	401	308	306	410	334	493	420
LARC OF AUTO	116	144	119	111	86	120	128	59	53	104
UNLAW APP OF AUTO	112	142	113	103	131	80	183	73	74	112
REC. STOLEN GOODS	447	366	344	310	346	423	576	297	353	385
PROPERTY INJURIES	136	149	194	216	204	371	363	532	193	262
WEAPONS	201	183	222	242	232	283	580	204	274	269
COMMON NIGHTWALKER	13	16	49	50	53	37	109	17	1	38
DRUG OFFENSES	1806	1528	1512	1361	1214	1351	1072	1081	944	1319
DRIVING TO ENDANGER	273	288	283	267	215	278	342	141	43	237
DRIVING U/INFL	404	505	385	209	166	231	252	145	42	260
VIOL M.V. LAWS	1181	1096	1025	1104	1024	1359	1535	493	217	1004

TABLE 2

INCARCERATION RATES FOR CONVICTIONS IN THE  
MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURTS  
FROM 1972 TO 1980

CLASSIFIED BY OFFENSE

OFFENSE	INCARCERATION RATES BY YEAR									AVERAGE
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	
MANSLAUGHTER	64	73	77	81	67	80	74	75	77	74
RAPE	69	63	60	61	69	68	55	65	59	63
INDECENT ASSAULT	30	54	63	45	44	56	39	48	57	48
ABUSE OF F. CHILD	42	36	24	43	57	52	49	70	68	49
ROBBERY	63	72	61	67	69	64	54	63	60	64
ASSLT & ATT MURDER	70	71	71	70	73	64	41	58	62	64
ASSLT W/DANG WEAPON	42	45	38	43	44	41	33	46	40	41
KIDNAPPING	74	66	58	62	65	61	53	64	49	61
ASSLT & BATTERY	23	29	25	25	26	28	27	27	25	26
ARSON	29	29	36	29	41	47	35	40	36	36
BREAK & ENTER	39	39	35	41	47	39	42	49	53	43
POSS BURG TOOLS	37	37	38	46	50	38	40	48	39	41
LARCENY	31	36	27	36	38	31	23	29	27	31
FORGERY	40	53	31	48	35	30	29	21	23	34
LARC OF AUTO	35	35	38	35	43	30	31	27	25	33
UNLAW APP OF AUTO	30	25	39	26	31	19	28	29	34	29
REC. STOLEN GOODS	34	27	31	32	35	39	33	41	39	35
PROPERTY INJURIES	14	12	20	17	30	30	25	13	30	21
WEAPONS	38	43	41	47	61	65	36	50	55	48
COMMON NIGHTWALKER	15	0	10	4	11	5	6	29	100	20
DRUG OFFENSES	24	27	22	27	30	27	26	28	32	27
DRIVING TO ENDANGER	5	7	6	7	13	18	11	19	21	12
DRIVING U/INFL	3	5	3	11	11	13	11	12	10	9
VIOL M.V. LAWS	10	15	9	12	10	15	13	17	15	13

TABLE 3

PROBATION RATES FOR CONVICTIONS IN THE  
 MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURTS  
 FROM 1972 TO 1980

OFFENSE	CLASSIFIED BY OFFENSE									
	PROBATION RATES BY YEAR									
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	AVERAGE
MANSLAUGHTER	27	26	21	19	31	20	20	15	18	22
RAPE	21	27	30	28	24	26	25	27	35	27
INDECENT ASSAULT	57	41	33	45	53	36	48	39	24	42
ABUSE OF F. CHILD	55	62	71	55	43	45	44	25	31	48
ROBBERY	34	26	34	28	28	34	24	30	34	30
ASSLT & ATT MURDER	24	28	18	20	18	32	24	30	26	24
ASSLT W/DANG WEAPON	47	45	51	43	45	50	33	40	46	44
KIDNAPPING	15	23	33	29	23	30	17	23	40	26
ASSLT & BATTERY	45	42	49	49	52	49	42	49	52	48
ARSON	71	61	54	62	55	37	43	50	54	54
BREAK & ENTER	55	53	57	48	44	48	38	38	35	46
POSS BURG TOOLS	50	49	53	45	39	48	7	36	37	43
LARCENY	47	48	58	44	50	51	39	50	58	49
FORGERY	41	39	62	32	50	35	38	54	64	46
LARC OF AUTO	52	53	41	38	43	50	29	44	45	44
UNLAW APP OF AUTO	50	59	48	54	64	68	33	42	45	51
REC. STOLEN GOODS	56	51	49	50	48	41	39	40	46	47
PROPERTY INJURIES	57	39	48	42	45	45	43	72	51	49
WEAPONS	41	35	40	35	26	19	36	33	28	33
COMMON NIGHTWALKER	62	56	49	64	81	86	24	24	0	50
DRUG OFFENSES	60	52	58	49	49	47	41	49	46	50
DRIVING TO ENDANGER	18	16	27	16	29	30	29	29	30	25
DRIVING U/INFL	16	11	19	24	38	35	42	37	29	28
VIOL M.V. LAWS	16	17	19	15	18	16	18	18	27	18

TABLE 4

RATES FOR THE DISPOSITION OF FILED CASES IN THE  
 MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURTS  
 FROM 1972 TO 1980

## CLASSIFIED BY OFFENSE

OFFENSE	RATES FOR FILED CASES BY YEAR									
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	AVERAGE
MANSLAUGHTER	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	10	4	2
RAPE	7	6	8	10	7	5	19	6	4	8
INDECENT ASSAULT	11	2	4	10	3	8	13	11	16	9
ABUSE OF F. CHILD	0	2	4	2	0	3	8	5	0	3
ROBBERY	2	1	3	5	3	2	21	5	6	5
ASSLT & ATT MURDER	6	0	6	11	8	1	34	10	11	10
ASSLT W/DANG WEAPON	8	8	6	12	10	8	28	11	11	11
KIDNAPPING	8	11	8	9	9	9	30	13	11	12
ASSLT & BATTERY	15	14	18	17	16	14	21	18	18	17
ARSON	0	9	5	9	3	14	20	8	8	8
BREAK & ENTER	5	7	7	10	7	9	17	12	10	9
POSS BURG TOOLS	13	12	9	9	8	12	29	15	24	15
LARCENY	18	13	12	16	9	15	30	16	13	16
FORGERY	18	7	7	18	14	33	30	22	11	18
LARC OF AUTO	9	11	19	24	10	18	34	20	26	19
UNLAW APP OF AUTO	13	11	9	18	5	10	31	21	22	16
REC. STOLEN GOODS	9	18	14	15	14	17	22	13	13	15
PROPERTY INJURIES	23	23	26	27	18	18	25	12	13	21
WEAPONS	15	19	15	16	11	12	24	15	12	15
COMMON NIGHTWALKER	0	0	2	6	4	5	53	24	0	10
DRUG OFFENSES	14	19	17	20	19	19	27	19	18	19
DRIVING TO ENDANGER	10	13	9	15	16	10	21	26	23	16
DRIVING U/INFL	7	4	2	12	13	15	10	19	45	14
VIOL M.V. LAWS	32	28	34	35	38	32	27	37	53	35

TABLE 5

RATES FOR THE DISPOSITION OF FINES FOR CONVICTIONS IN THE  
 MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURTS  
 FROM 1972 TO 1980

## CLASSIFIED BY OFFENSE

## RATES FOR THE DISPOSITION OF FINES BY YEAR

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
MANSLAUGHTER	9	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
RAPE	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
INDECENT ASSAULT	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0.4
ABUSE OF F. CHILD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
ROBBERY	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
ASSLT & ATT MURDER	0	2	5	0	0	2	1	2	0	1
ASSLT W/DANG WEAPON	2	2	3	2	1	2	5	3	3	3
KIDNAPPING	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1
ASSLT & BATTERY	17	16	8	10	6	9	10	6	4	10
ARSON	0	0	3	0	1	2	2	3	2	1
BREAK & ENTER	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
POSS BURG TOOLS	0	2	0	0	3	1	4	1	0	1
LARCENY	3	3	3	4	3	3	8	5	2	4
FORGERY	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	2	1
LARC OF AUTO	1	0	0	3	3	2	5	8	0	2
UNLAW APP OF AUTO	4	6	4	1	0	4	8	8	0	4
REC. STOLEN GOODS	2	4	5	3	3	3	6	5	2	4
PROPERTY INJURIES	7	25	7	13	7	7	7	3	6	9
WEAPONS	5	4	4	2	2	4	4	1	51	3
COMMON NIGHTWALKER	23	44	39	26	4	3	17	24	0	20
DRUG OFFENSES	1	2	3	5	3	7	5	5	4	4
DRIVING TO ENDANGER	68	65	59	61	42	42	39	26	26	48
DRIVING U/INFL	76	81	75	53	35	37	37	32	17	49
VIOL M.V. LAWS	38	40	38	38	34	36	42	28	5	33



TABLE 6

AVERAGE DISPOSITION RATES FOR CONVICTIONS IN THE  
MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURTS  
FROM 1972 TO 1980

CLASSIFIED BY OFFENSE

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>AVERAGE DISPOSITION RATES</u>			
	<u>INCARCERATION</u>	<u>PROBATION</u>	<u>FILED</u>	<u>FINE</u>
MANSLAUGHTER	74	22	2	1
RAPE	63	27	8	1
INDECENT ASSAULT	48	42	9	*
ABUSE OF F. CHILD	49	48	3	*
ROBBERY	64	30	5	1
ASSLT & ATT MURDER	64	24	10	1
ASSLT W/DANG WEAPON	41	44	11	3
KIDNAPPING	61	26	12	1
ASSLT & BATTERY	26	48	17	10
ARSON	36	54	9	1
BREAK & ENTER	43	46	9	1
POSS BURG TOOLS	41	43	15	1
LARCENY	31	49	16	4
FORGERY	34	46	18	1
LARC OF AUTO	33	44	19	2
UNLAW APP OF AUTO	29	51	16	4
REC. STOLEN GOODS	35	47	15	4
PROPERTY INJURIES	21	49	21	9
WEAPONS	48	33	15	3
COMMON NIGHTWALKER	20	50	10	20
DRUG OFFENSES	27	50	19	4
DRIVING TO ENDANGER	12	25	16	48
DRIVING U/INFL	9	28	14	49
VIOL M.V. LAWS	13	18	35	33

\* = less than one percent

TABLE 7  
DISPOSITION RATES FOR CONVICTIONS IN SUPERIOR COURTS  
FOR 1980

OFFENSE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS	ON FILE		PROBATION		FINE		IMPRISONMENT	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
MANSLAUGHTER	71	3	4	13	18	0	0	55	77
RAPE	266*	11	4	94	35	1	0.3	158	59
INDECENT ASSAULT	49*	8	16	12	24	0	0	28	57
ABUSE OF F. CHILD	75	0	0	23	31	1	1	51	68
ROBBERY	995*	58	6	334	34	2	0.2	600	60
ASSLT & ATT MURDER	125	14	11	33	26	0	0	78	62
ASSLT W/DANG WEAPON	766	87	11	353	46	23	3	303	40
KIDNAPPING	84	9	11	34	40	0	0	41	49
ASSLT & BATTERY	413	76	18	216	52	17	4	104	25
ARSON	159	12	8	86	54	3	2	58	36
BREAK & ENTER	748	75	10	265	35	8	1	400	53
POSS BURG TOOLS	104	25	24	38	37	0	0	41	39
LARCENY	804*	105	13	464	58	20	2	214	27
FORGERY	493	55	11	316	64	10	2	112	23
LARC OF AUTO	53*	14	26	24	45	0	0	13	25
UNLAW APP OF AUTO	74	16	22	33	45	0	0	25	34
REC. STOLEN GOODS	353	46	13	164	46	7	2	136	39
PROPERTY INJURIES	193	26	13	98	51	12	6	57	30
WEAPONS	274	33	12	76	28	13	5	152	55
COMMON NIGHTWALKER	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100
DRUG OFFENSES	944	171	18	434	46	39	4	300	32
DRIVING TO ENDANGER	43	10	23	13	30	11	26	9	21
DRIVING U/INFL	42	19	45	12	29	7	17	4	10
VIOL M.V. LAWS	217	115	53	59	27	11	5	32	15

\*includes individuals convicted but not yet sentenced.