

06 October 2023

C171952



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 14 August 2023 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting data on the mean and median duration of sentences served upon release. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Hi there - i'm trying to find data on the mean and median duration of sentences served upon release broken down by offense category over time, dating back to 2010 or as far back as the data is available if it doesn't go back that far. Is this data available?

We have interpreted your request as referring to the average and median duration of prison sentences calculated for people who have concluded those sentences.

Corrections manages people at the direction of the Courts and the New Zealand Parole Board – we do not determine whether a person is sentenced to prison or the length of their sentence.

Please find the requested information attached as Appendix One, which shows the average and median duration of sentences served by people who have completed a sentence of imprisonment for each financial year since 2009/10, broken down by category. Please note, as the category of violence encompasses a broad range of offences that vary significantly, we have also provided a specific breakdown of this data by types of violent crime.

The information attached shows the average and median duration of a person's prison sentence prior to that person's first time being released from prison while on a sentence. This means if the same person is released on conditions and subsequently recalled, they will not be counted twice.

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Leigh Marsh
National Commissioner

Appendix One: the average and median duration of sentences served by people who have completed a sentence of imprisonment for each financial year since 2009/10, broken down by category.

Table one: Average Number of Days Served in Prison since 2009/10

Average days served	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Breaches	46	47	52	54	52	56	54	57	61	59	62	65	68	66
Burglary	333	339	358	343	350	353	350	354	377	456	382	416	421	358
Dishonesty	169	169	173	166	165	168	181	163	184	202	184	208	217	194
Drugs	457	440	491	528	586	583	639	594	646	725	708	789	729	721
Property	292	307	371	304	320	330	364	270	326	432	422	340	362	243
Sexual	1191	1160	1193	1171	1240	1250	1304	1154	1295	1365	1540	1706	1633	1709
Traffic	131	139	149	151	146	153	150	147	160	172	176	188	197	160
Violence	421	460	471	505	488	500	470	433	454	549	523	576	621	587
Weapons	183	132	185	191	147	167	143	172	193	201	222	236	234	229
Other	121	115	138	150	132	129	142	143	154	167	169	171	188	159

Table two: Median Number of Days Served in Prison since 2009/10

Median days served	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Breaches	29	34	41	41	41	41	41	43	44	44	44	44	45	54
Burglary	207	196	213	208	212	227	228	238	257	299	260	273	263	255
Dishonesty	117	106	113	116	104	105	119	121	132	137	137	146	152	149
Drugs	300	301	318	362	448	482	505	462	518	594	642	660	543	491
Property	169	136	125	111	111	166	180	142	133	182	198	203	224	184
Sexual	930	860	905	879	864	900	981	840	903	1007	1001	1217	1092	1243
Traffic	106	105	112	118	117	122	123	121	134	136	149	149	148	138
Violence	182	194	195	223	223	223	196	195	211	243	259	274	291	256
Weapons	111	89	118	133	116	120	104	131	151	163	181	197	182	178
Other	90	76	91	90	90	91	104	120	119	118	120	120	128	122

Table three: Average Number of Days Served in Prison for Violent Offences since 2009/10

Average days served	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Abduction And Kidnapping	1020	726	1227	809	1281	797	1314	983	902	888	997	977	890	1005
Assault	293	312	309	351	341	360	340	309	346	380	382	407	460	397
Attempts To Murder	2119	2339	2163	2621	2168	1437	2270	1364	2038	1864	3295	2103	2303	1727
Blackmail And Extortion	418	490	591	604	449	683	441	399	461	437	483	475	487	433
Deprivation Of Liberty/False Imprisonment					672						687	918	817	
Harassment And Threatening Behaviour	172	147	165	155	197	145	179	171	179	174	202	186	187	190
Homicide And Related Offences Not Further Defined		1826	418								121		272	115

Manslaughter And Driving Causing Death	1436	1338	1279	1072	1262	1266	1283	1160	1339	1263	1266	1201	1049	1098
Murder	4521	4599	5089	5124	4590	4893	4912	5481	4911	6631	5124	5742	6021	6406
Other Acts Intended To Cause Injury	316	617	832	706	538	649	737	1374	577	787	776	991	759	902

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Table Four: Median Number of Days Served in Prison for Violent Offences since 2009/10

Average days served	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Abduction And Kidnapping	786	668	927	797	1095	747	1283	930	713	818	913	879	857	949
Assault	148	151	154	176	180	180	180	181	182	204	220	228	249	230
Attempts To Murder	2244	2541	2128	2746	1698	1437	2191	1335	1910	1983	3435	2018	2374	1781
Blackmail And Extortion	235	299	476	457	330	323	288	317	302	300	337	340	460	317
Deprivation Of Liberty/False Imprisonment					672						629	918	817	
Harassment And Threatening Behaviour	121	105	117	104	118	107	122	132	134	133	137	151	143	162
Homicide And Related Offences Not Further Defined		1826	418								121		272	111

Manslaughter And Driving Causing Death	1031	1257	1102	866	903	1215	1013	780	1273	1047	805	852	904	1056
Murder	4582	4398	5167	4543	4494	4771	4853	5554	4782	6467	4716	5852	5869	6243
Other Acts Intended To Cause Injury	295	457	874	791	618	704	582	1095	574	891	799	825	763	738

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