

Fleeing a Peace Officer, Motor Vehicle, § 609.487 Subd 3: Statewide, Sentenced 2019-2023

Data Request

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission has a statutory charter to serve as the state's clearinghouse and information center for the collection, preparation, analysis, and dissemination of information on sentencing practices.¹ This data request serves to fulfill this charter.²

Information Requested: Departure rate for Fleeing a Peace Officer, Motor Vehicle.

Offense Details:

- Flees, or Attempts to Flee, by Means of a Motor Vehicle, a Peace Officer, under Minn. Stat. § 609.487 Subd 3.
- Excludes attempts under Minn. Stat. § 609.17 and conspiracies under Minn. Stat. § 609.175.
- Severity Level 1.

Analysis:

- Statewide.
- Sentenced 2019-2023.
- Dispositional departure rates by presumptive disposition and criminal history score.
- Durational departure rates by prison sentence and criminal history score.
- Most frequently cited reasons for mitigated departures.
- Prosecutorial agreement for mitigated departures.

Note on Data:

Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) monitoring data are person-based, meaning cases represent persons rather than individual charges. Persons sentenced within the same county in a one-month period are generally counted only once, based on their most serious offense. This data request was prepared by the research staff of MSGC in fulfillment of the Commission's statutory role as a clearinghouse and information center for information on sentencing practices. This is not a policy document. Nothing in this request should be construed as a statement of existing policy or recommendation of future policy on behalf of the Commission itself, or as an authoritative interpretation of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines, Minnesota statutes, or case law.

¹ See [Minn. Stat. § 244.09, subd. 6](#).

² Submit data requests online at <https://mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines/contact/data-requests.jsp>

Dispositional Departures

Statewide, from 2019-2023, 3,333 people were sentenced for Flees, or Attempts to Flee, by Means of a Motor Vehicle, a Peace Officer, under Minn. Stat. § 609.487 Subd 3. 2,796 (83.9%) had a presumptive disposition of stay and 537 (16.1%) had a presumptive disposition of commit.

Among persons with a presumptive stay/non-prison sentence, 2,672 (95.6%) were not departures; 114 (4.1%) were not departures, but the defendant requested an executed prison sentence even when the court pronounced a stayed sentence³; 9 (0.3%) were aggravated dispositional departures, when the Guidelines recommended a stayed sentence, but the court pronounced an executed prison sentence; and 1 (0.0%) was an aggravated departure where the defendant requested an executed prison sentence even when the court pronounced a stayed sentence⁴.

Among persons with a presumptive commit/prison sentence, 376 (70.0%) were not departures and 161 (30.0%) were mitigated dispositional departures, when the Guidelines recommended a commit/prison sentence, but the court pronounced a stayed sentence.

Table 1. Dispositional Departure Rate by Criminal History Score

Fleeing a Peace Officer, Motor Vehicle, § 609.487 Subd 3: Statewide, Sentenced 2019-2023

CHS	All Cases Total	Presumptive Disposition ^a		Dispositional Departures ^b					
				Presumptive Stays ^c				Presumptive Commits ^f	
				No Departures ^d		Aggravated Departures ^e		None ^g	Mit
		Stay	Commit	None	None (Req) ^g	Agg ^g	Agg (Req) ^g		
0	1293	1293	0	1286	5	2	0	--	--
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	99.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	--	--
1	358	358	0	349	7	2	0	--	--
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	97.5%	2.0%	0.6%	0.0%	--	--
2	331	331	0	318	11	1	1	--	--
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	96.1%	3.3%	0.3%	0.3%	--	--
3	291	291	0	271	19	1	0	--	--
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	93.1%	6.5%	0.3%	0.0%	--	--
4	293	293	0	254	38	1	0	--	--
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	86.7%	13.0%	0.3%	0.0%	--	--
5	230	230	0	194	34	2	0	--	--
	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	84.3%	14.8%	0.9%	0.0%	--	--
6 or more	537	0	537	--	--	--	--	376	161
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	--	--	--	--	70.0%	30.0%
Total	3333	2796	537	2672	114	9	1	376	161
	100.0%	83.9%	16.1%	95.6%	4.1%	0.3%	0.0%	70.0%	30.0%

Source: Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission Monitoring Data. Notes: Percents refer to rows, cases within each group of defendants by criminal history score (CHS).

a. **Presumptive Disposition:** Guidelines recommended sentence based on offense severity and defendant CHS; either a "Stay" a stayed/non-prison sentence; or "Commit" a commit/prison sentence.

b. **Dispositional Departures:** when the court pronounced a sentenced that was different from the presumptive sentence provided by the Guidelines.

c. **Among Presumptive Stays:** Dispositional departures among only presumptive stayed sentences; only aggravated dispositional departures are possible for presumptive stays.

d. **No Departures:** includes "None", no departure, and "None (Req)", where the defendant used their right to demand/request execution of their prison sentence even when the presumptive sentence was stay and the court pronounced a stayed sentence; for offenses on or after 8/1/2015 the Guidelines no longer deemed these cases to be departures. See Guidelines § 2.D.1.

e. **Aggravated Departures:** includes "Agg", an aggravated dispositional departure, where the Court pronounced a commit sentence (prison) but the Guidelines recommended a stayed sentence (non-prison), and "Agg (Req)" an aggravated dispositional departure, where the defendant used their right to demand/request execution of their prison sentence even when the presumptive sentence was stay and the court pronounced a stayed sentence; for offenses before 8/1/2015 the Guidelines deemed these cases to be departures. See Guidelines § 2.D.1.

f. **Among Presumptive Commits:** Dispositional departures among only presumptive commit sentences; includes "None", no departure, and "Mit", a mitigated dispositional departure when the Court pronounced a stayed sentence (non-prison) when the Guidelines recommended a commit sentence (prison); only mitigated dispositional departures are possible for presumptive commits.

g. The total number of defendants who received a prison sentence is a combination of presumptive stayed sentences which demanded a prison sentence, "None (Req)", and who received an aggravated dispositional departure, "Agg" or "Agg (Req)", as well as presumptive commits which did not receive a mitigated departure, "None".

³ Offenses committed on or after 8/1/2015 are not considered aggravated departures, see amendments to Guidelines § 2.D.1.

⁴ Offenses committed before 8/1/2015 are considered aggravated departures, see amendments to Guidelines § 2.D.1.

The most common reasons cited⁵ among the 161 mitigated dispositional departures were amenable to probation (87; 54.0%), amenable to treatment (70; 43.5%), and shows remorse/accepts responsibility (48; 29.8%).

Table 2. Reasons Provided for Mitigated Dispositional Departures
Fleeing a Peace Officer, Motor Vehicle, § 609.487 Subd 3: Statewide, Sentenced 2019-2023

Reasons Provided for Mitigated Dispositional Departure ^a	Number	Percent ^b
Amenable to probation	87	54.0%
Amenable to treatment	70	43.5%
Shows remorse/accepts responsibility	48	29.8%
Recommended by court services	18	11.2%
Compliance with probation/extended supervision	17	10.6%
Less onerous/weapon type less serious/gun not loaded	16	9.9%
Inadvertent/worksheet error	5	3.1%
Unknown	5	3.1%
Imposed rest. or other financial penalty/ensure paid	4	2.5%
Drug Court-No reasons in transcript	4	2.5%
Lacked substantial capacity for judgment (non-drug)	3	1.9%
Sentence appropriate/just	3	1.9%
Save taxpayers cost of a trial/judicial efficiency	3	1.9%
Reasons not requested--no worksheet completed	3	1.9%
Cooperated with police and other law enforcement	2	1.2%
Stayed sentence as or more severe/Time already served	2	1.2%
Make eligible for ICS/work release/CI	2	1.2%
Priors overemphasize CH/same behavioral incident	1	0.6%
Defendants health problems	1	0.6%
Serving time in another state/lives in another state	1	0.6%
Report/Transcrip Received-Reasons Unclear/Case on Appeal	1	0.6%
Total Cases	161	.

Source: Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission Monitoring Data.

Notes: Percents refer to the proportion of mitigated dispositional departures receiving each reason.

a. **Mitigated Dispositional Departures:** When the Court pronounced a stayed sentence (non-prison) when the Guidelines recommended a commit sentence (prison); mitigated dispositional departures are only possible for presumptive commits.

b. **Percent:** Since each sentence may receive multiple reasons, combined percents may not add up to 100.0%.

The prosecutor agreed to/recommended/ did not object to the departure in 106 (65.8%) cases, objected to the departure in 16 (9.9%) cases, and in 39 (24.2%) cases the position of the prosecutor was unknown.

⁵ The court may provide multiple reasons for mitigated dispositional departures; percents may not add up to 100.0%.

Durational Departures

Statewide, from 2019-2023, among people sentenced for Flees, or Attempts to Flee, by Means of a Motor Vehicle, a Peace Officer, under Minn. Stat. § 609.487 Subd 3, in total, 500 (15.0%) people received a prison sentence⁶, and 2,833 (85.0%) people received a non-prison sentence.

Of the people that received a non-prison sentence, 2,236 (78.9%) were not departures, 46 (1.6%) received an aggravated durational departure, 33 (1.2%) received a mitigated durational departure, and 518 (18.3%) received a mitigated departure to a misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor sentence.

Of the people that received prison, 391 (78.2%) were not departures, 14 (2.8%) received an aggravated durational departure, and 95 (19.0%) received a mitigated durational departure.

Table 3. Durational Departure Rate by Criminal History Score

Fleeing a Peace Officer, Motor Vehicle, § 609.487 Subd 3: Statewide, Sentenced 2019-2023

CHS	All Cases	Executed Prison Sentence ^a		Durational Departures ^b						
		No	Yes	Non-Prison Sentences ^c				Prison Sentence ^d		
	Total			None	Agg	Mit	Misd/GM	None	Agg	Mit
0	1293	1286	7	887	11	0	388	7	0	0
	100.0%	99.5%	0.5%	69.0%	0.9%	0.0%	30.2%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1	358	349	9	296	6	0	47	8	1	0
	100.0%	97.5%	2.5%	84.8%	1.7%	0.0%	13.5%	88.9%	11.1%	0.0%
2	331	318	13	285	7	0	26	13	0	0
	100.0%	96.1%	3.9%	89.6%	2.2%	0.0%	8.2%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3	291	271	20	247	3	6	15	14	4	2
	100.0%	93.1%	6.9%	91.1%	1.1%	2.2%	5.5%	70.0%	20.0%	10.0%
4	293	254	39	225	6	7	16	30	3	6
	100.0%	86.7%	13.3%	88.6%	2.4%	2.8%	6.3%	76.9%	7.7%	15.4%
5	230	192	38	168	4	7	13	30	1	7
	100.0%	83.5%	16.5%	87.5%	2.1%	3.6%	6.8%	78.9%	2.6%	18.4%
6 or more	537	163	374	128	9	13	13	289	5	80
	100.0%	30.4%	69.6%	78.5%	5.5%	8.0%	8.0%	77.3%	1.3%	21.4%
Total	3333	2833	500	2236	46	33	518	391	14	95
	100.0%	85.0%	15.0%	78.9%	1.6%	1.2%	18.3%	78.2%	2.8%	19.0%

Source: Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission Monitoring Data. Notes: Percents refer to rows, cases within each group of defendants by criminal history score (CHS).

a. **Executed Prison Sentence:** the pronounced disposition from the Court, either "No," a non-prison sentence (stay), or "Yes," a prison sentence (commit; regardless of the Guidelines recommendation).

b. **Durational Departures:** when the Court pronounced a sentence duration that is different from the recommended duration provided by the Guidelines; either more or less than the fixed duration for presumptive stays, or outside of the duration range (15% lower and 20% higher) for presumptive commits, provided the minimum sentence is not less than one year and the maximum sentence is not more than the statutory maximum (See section 2.C.1-2).

c. **Non-Prison Sentences:** among non-prison sentences, "None" the pronounced non-prison sentence length from the Court matched the length recommended by the Guidelines; "Agg" an aggravated durational departure for a non-prison sentence when the pronounced non-prison sentence was more than the fixed duration for a presumptive stay or more than 20% higher than the fixed duration for a presumptive commit sentence; "Mit" a mitigated durational departure for a non-prison sentence when the pronounced non-prison sentence was less than the fixed duration for a presumptive stay or more than 15% lower than the fixed duration for a presumptive commit sentence; "Misd/GM" a mitigated durational departure where the Court imposed a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor sentence for a felony-level conviction, meaning up to 364 days of confinement in a local jail or other non-jail sanctions can be imposed as a condition of probation.

d. **Prison Sentence:** Among prison sentences, "None" the pronounced prison sentence length from the Court matched the length recommended by the Guidelines; "Agg" an aggravated durational departure for a prison sentence when the pronounced prison sentence was more than the fixed duration for a presumptive stay or more than 20% higher than the fixed duration for a presumptive commit sentence; "Mit" a mitigated durational departure for a prison sentence when the pronounced prison sentence was less than the fixed duration for a presumptive stay or more than 15% lower than the fixed duration for a presumptive commit sentence.

⁶ The total number of defendants that received a prison includes the following: persons who demanded execution of sentence where it was not considered an aggravated dispositional departure, all aggravated dispositional departures among presumptive stays, and non-departures among presumptive commits.

The most common reasons⁷ cited among the 95 mitigated durational departures among prison sentences were crime less onerous (38; 40.0%) and shows remorse/accepts responsibility (28; 29.5%).

Table 4. Reasons Provided for Mitigated Durational Departures among Prison Sentences
Fleeing a Peace Officer, Motor Vehicle, § 609.487 Subd 3: Statewide, Sentenced 2019-2023

Reasons for Mitigated Durational Departure Among Prison Sentences ^a	Number	Percent ^b
Less onerous/weapon type less serious/gun not loaded	38	40.0%
Shows remorse/accepts responsibility	28	29.5%
Inadvertent/worksheet error	18	18.9%
Unknown	5	5.3%
Amenable to probation	4	4.2%
Save taxpayers cost of a trial/judicial efficiency	3	3.2%
Lacked substantial capacity for judgment (non-drug)	2	2.1%
Report/Transcrip Received-Reasons Unclear/Case on Appeal	2	2.1%
Has failed on probation before/unamen probation	1	1.1%
Judge chose not to Hernandize current offenses	1	1.1%
Def demanded that sentence be executed	1	1.1%
Cooperated with police and other law enforcement	1	1.1%
Recommended by court services	1	1.1%
Stayed sentence as or more severe/Time already served	1	1.1%
Prevent trauma to victim from testifying	1	1.1%
Amenable to treatment	1	1.1%
Sentence appropriate/just	1	1.1%
Reasons not requested--no worksheet completed	1	1.1%
Total Cases	95	.

Source: Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission Monitoring Data.

Notes: Percents refer to the proportion of mitigated dispositional departures receiving each reason.

a. **Mitigated Durational Departures Among Prison Sentences:** When the pronounced prison sentence was less than the fixed duration for a presumptive stay or more than 15% lower than the fixed duration for a presumptive commit sentence.

b. **Percent:** Since each sentence may receive multiple reasons, combined percents may not add up to 100.0%.

The prosecutor agreed to/recommended/ did not object to the departure in 72 (75.8%) cases, objected to the departure in none of the cases, and in 23 (24.2%) cases the position of the prosecutor was unknown.

⁷ The court may provide multiple reasons for prison sentences receiving mitigated durational departures; percents may not add up to 100.0%.