From fiscal year (FY) 2015 to FY 2016, federal arrests decreased by 1%, from 153,478 arrests to 151,460. The number of defendants sentenced to federal prison decreased by 3%, down from 56,018 in FY 2015 to 54,274 in FY 2016.

**Federal arrests**

More than half (58%) of all federal arrests in FY 2016 took place in the five judicial districts along the U.S.-Mexico border, which was up from 45% in FY 2006. Nearly 8 in 10 (77% or 115,881) federal arrests in 2016 were for immigration, drug, or supervision violations. Forty-five percent of federal arrests in FY 2016 involved an immigration offense as the most serious arrest offense, followed by drug offenses and supervision violations (16% each).

From 2015 to 2016, federal arrests increased for weapons violations (up 8%) and supervision violations (up 6%), including violations of bail, failure to appear, and post-custody community supervision. However, arrests declined for property (down 11%), immigration (down 4%), and drug (down less than 1%) offenses.

**Drug arrests**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 29,486 drug arrests in 2016, down from 31,593 in 2015. From FY 2006 to 2016, arrests for heroin or other opioids increased 154%. The annual average number of arrests by the DEA for other opioids (up 13% each year) increased the most of any drug category, followed by arrests for heroin (up 10%) and methamphetamine (up 4%).

**Defendant characteristics**

In FY 2016, 41% of defendants charged in all U.S. district courts were not U.S. citizens: 30% were Mexican citizens, 5% were from Central America, and 6% were citizens of other foreign nations. Five percent of defendants charged in U.S. district courts in FY 2016 were legal aliens and 36% were illegal aliens. More than 9 in 10 defendants charged with immigration (98%), weapons (94%), drug (92%), property (92%), and violent (91%) offenses were convicted. Of the 69,487 defendants convicted in U.S. district court in 2016, 78% were sentenced to prison.

**Federal correctional control**

Of the nearly 380,000 persons under federal correctional control at fiscal year-end 2016, 59% were in secure confinement and 41% were under community supervision. This was down from fiscal year-end 2015, when 392,212 persons were under federal correctional control (60% in secure confinement and 40% on supervision in the community).

The full report (Federal Justice Statistics, 2015-2016, NCJ 251770), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.