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The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is a transnational Salafi-jihadist terrorist group, designated as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) by the U.S. Department of State. Since 2014 when the leader of ISIS declared the global caliphate, 280 individuals have been federally charged with ISIS-related crimes in U.S. federal courts. Since ISIS is a designated FTO, most cases (74.28%) involving ISIS-related activity involve the use of material support statutes. This brief summarizes the scope of federal court cases related to ISIS in the U.S. since 2014.

ISIS Federal Cases by the Numbers

Since 2014, 280 individuals have been federally charged for ISIS-related activity in the U.S. Defendants ranged from 17 to 56 years old with an average age of 27 years old. Of the defendants, 231 (82.50%) were U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents of the U.S. The vast majority of ISIS related defendants are male (90.71%). 208 individuals (74.28%) received a charge of material support of terrorism. As of September 1, 2026, 239 defendants (85.35%) have been found guilty or pled guilty to their charges.

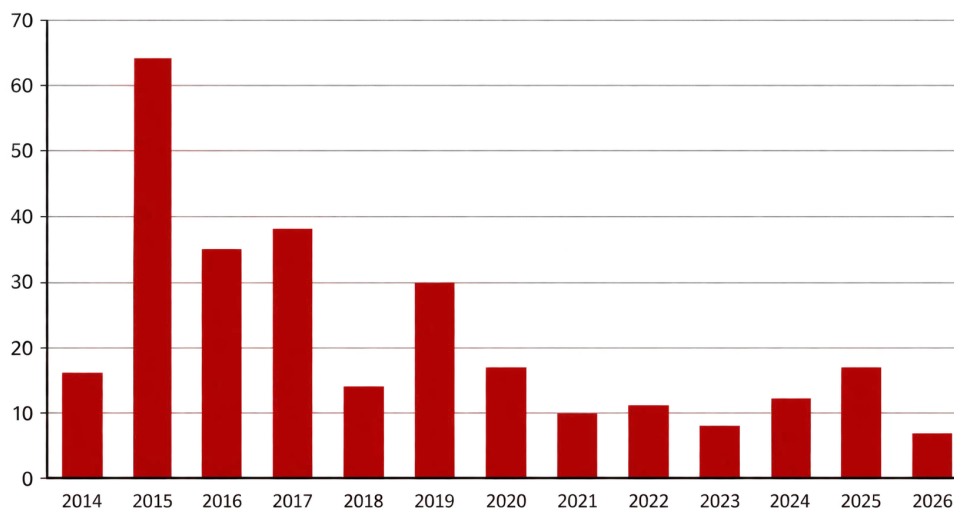
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DISCLAIMER

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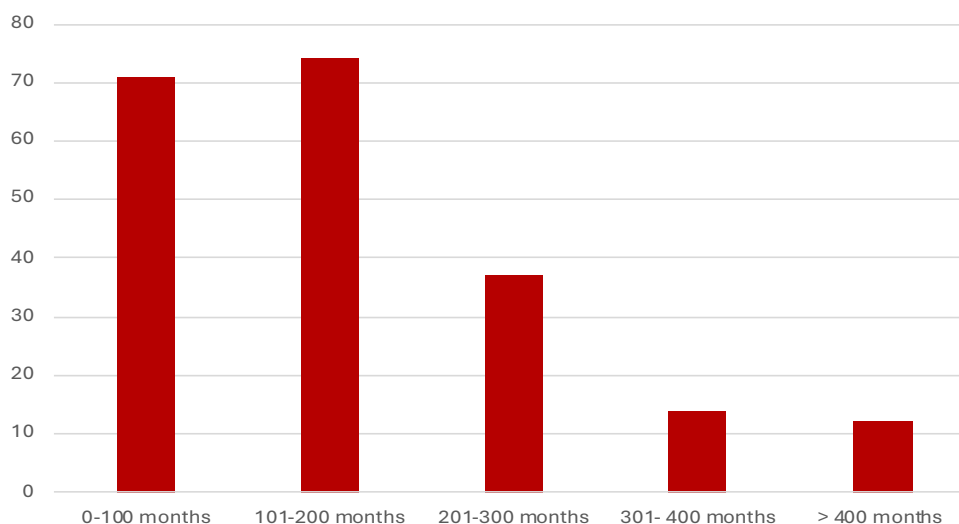
Federal Cases for ISIS-related Activity by Year



Sentencing ISIS-adherents

Since 2014, 227 defendants have been sentenced for ISIS-related activity. Of those cases, the shortest sentence was time served and the longest was life in prison. The average sentence for ISIS-related activity was 12.93 years' imprisonment. The majority of defendants (57.14%) received sentences under 200 months.

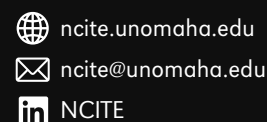
Length of Sentences for ISIS Cases in the U.S.



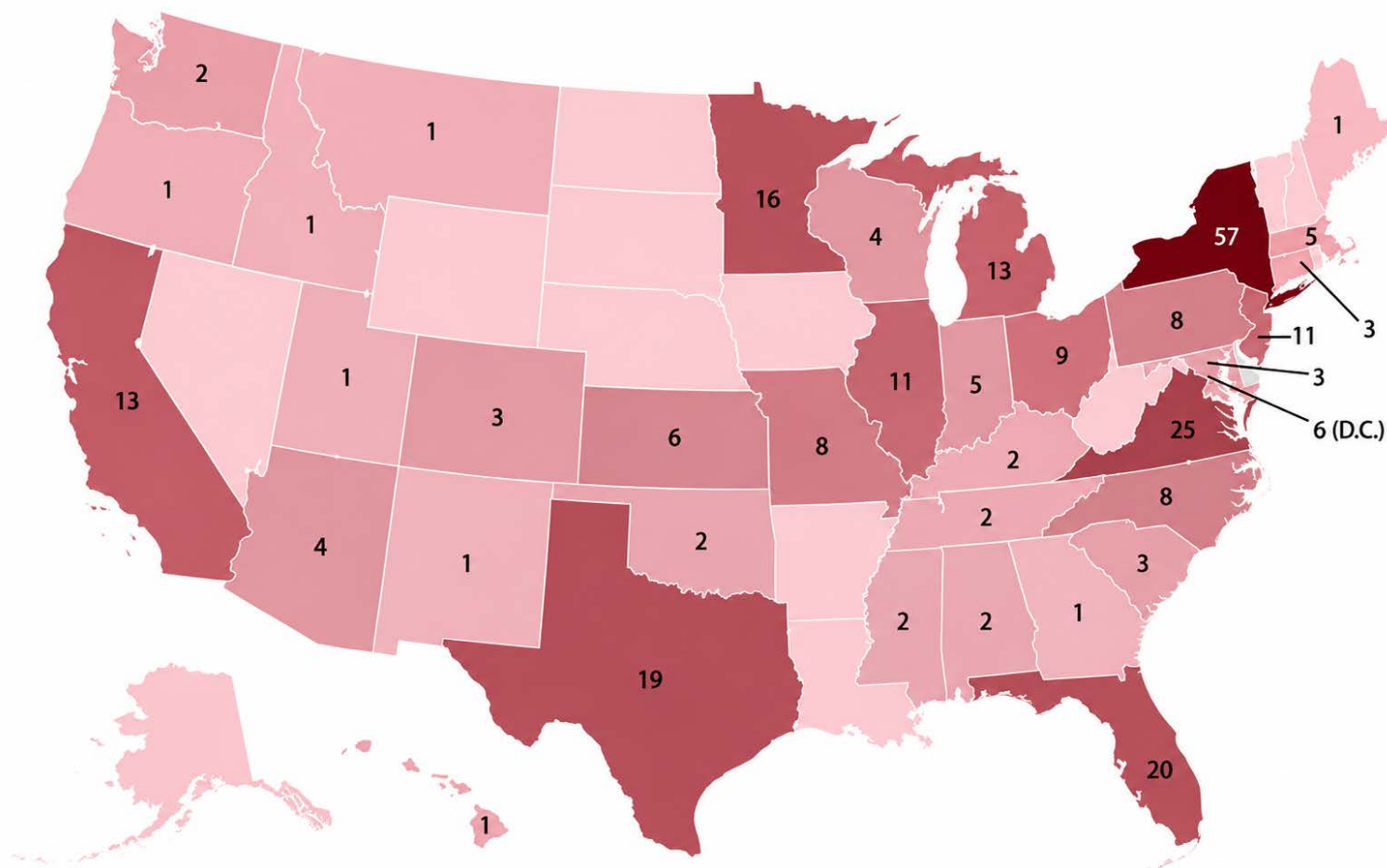
Note: Sentence lengths are referring to the number of months imprisonment the defendant received.

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ISIS Federal Cases Across the U.S.



Method and Inclusion Criteria

The dataset used in this infographic is comprised of open-source U.S. federal court records. Cases were included if the individual was charged with a federal crime and self-described or was described by the investigating agency as an ISIS member or adherent. Cases were also cross-referenced from the court records database with Department of Justice press releases on arrests. This snapshot is a part of a project examining federal charges used to address the growing threat posed by terrorists and other homeland threat actors in the U.S. The data does not include state-level charges.

To Cite this Report

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