In fiscal year 2013, there were 5,333 methamphetamine offenders, who accounted for 24.0% of all offenders sentenced under the drug trafficking guidelines. The number of methamphetamine offenders has increased by 35.1% since fiscal year 2009.

### Offender and Offense Characteristics
- In fiscal year 2013, most offenders convicted of methamphetamine trafficking were male (79.0%).
- More than half were Hispanic (55.4%) followed by White (37.5%), Black (3.2%), and Other Races (4.0%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 35 years.
- More than two-thirds (69.6%) of methamphetamine traffickers were United States citizens.
- Half (50.1%) of methamphetamine traffickers had little or no prior criminal history (i.e., assigned to Criminal History Category I).
- The median base offense level in these cases was 34. This corresponds to a quantity of drugs between 3.3 and 11 pounds of methamphetamine.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were increased for:
  - 15.7% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
  - 5.2% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were decreased for:
  - Almost a quarter (23.1%) of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
  - Nearly forty percent (37.7%) of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

### Punishment
- Most methamphetamine trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (98.8%).
- The average sentence length for methamphetamine traffickers was 92 months.
- Most methamphetamine traffickers were convicted of a drug offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (83.2%).
  - However, over sixty percent (61.4%) of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
    - 20.1% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders, 31.0% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision, and 10.3% received both forms of relief.
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Over the last five years, the proportion of methamphetamine trafficking offenders sentenced within the guideline range has decreased substantially from 42.0% in fiscal year 2009 to 32.6% in fiscal year 2013.

- In each of the last five years, the proportion of methamphetamine trafficking offenders sentenced below the applicable guideline range because the government sponsored the below range sentence has increased from 39.7% in fiscal year 2009 to 45.0% in fiscal year 2013.

  - Substantial assistance departures were granted in approximately thirty percent of methamphetamine trafficking cases over the past five years.
    - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 43.9%.

  - Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures\(^2\) have increased in each of the last five years from 2.5% in fiscal year 2009 to 8.0% in fiscal year 2013.
    - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 42.0%.

  - A growing proportion of methamphetamine traffickers received a below range sentence sponsored by the government for reasons other than substantial assistance or participation in an Early Disposition Program.
    - The rate of other government sponsored below range sentences has increased in each of the last five years from 4.6% in fiscal year 2009 to 8.8% in fiscal year 2013.
      - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 35.2%.

- The rate of non-government sponsored below range sentences for methamphetamine traffickers has increased in each of the last five years from 17.9% in fiscal year 2009 to 22.0% in fiscal year 2013.
  - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 31.3%.

- Over the last five years, the average guideline minimum for methamphetamine traffickers has slightly increased while the average sentence has decreased.
  - The average guideline minimum increased slightly to 124 months in fiscal year 2013 after holding steady at 121 months from fiscal year 2010 through fiscal year 2012.
  - The average sentence decreased from 96 months in fiscal year 2009 to 92 months in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

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\(^2\) “Early Disposition Program (or EDP) departures” are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.