

QuickFacts

Drug Trafficking Offenses



Population Snapshot

64,142 cases were reported in FY22

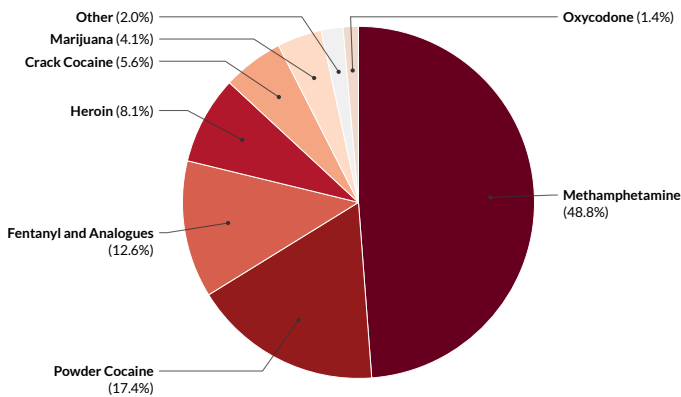
20,037 involved drugs;¹

19,851 involved drug trafficking.²

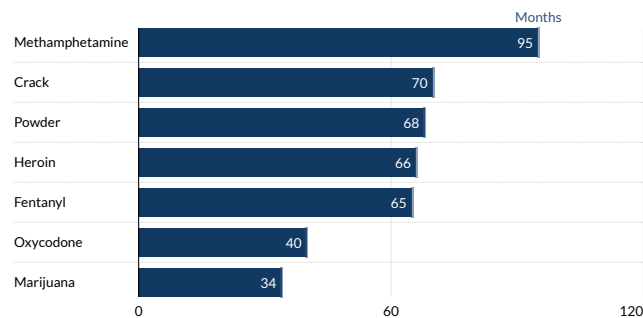
Seven drug types

account for 98% of drug trafficking offenses.

Most Common Drugs Trafficked³



Average Sentence Length for Drug Traffickers



Means of Relief from the Mandatory Minimum



Offender and Offense Characteristics⁴

82.2% of drug trafficking offenders were men.

42.7% were Hispanic, 28.1% were Black, 26.0% were White, and 3.2% were Other races.

Their average age was 37 years.

84.0% were United States citizens.

41.7% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.5% were career offenders.

Sentences were increased for:

- possessing a weapon (26.4%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (6.2%).

Sentences were decreased for:

- minor or minimal participation in the offense (19.5%);
- meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (34.7%).

The top five districts for drug trafficking offenders were:

- Southern District of California (1,755);
- Southern District of Texas (975);
- Western District of Texas (955);
- Northern District of Texas (715);
- Northern District of Ohio (534).

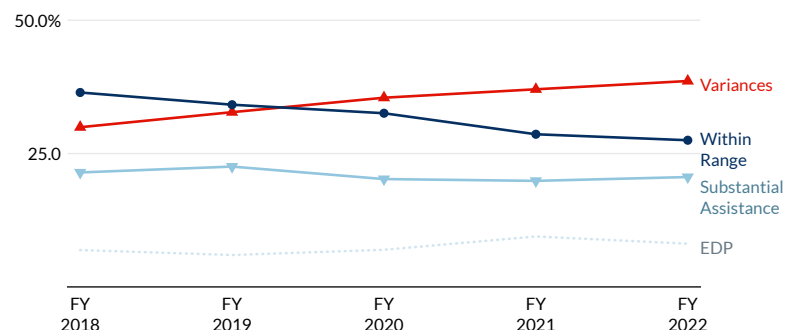
Punishment

The average sentence for drug trafficking offenders was 78 months but varied by drug type.

96.6% were sentenced to prison.

64.7% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 55.4% of those offenders were relieved of that penalty.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range





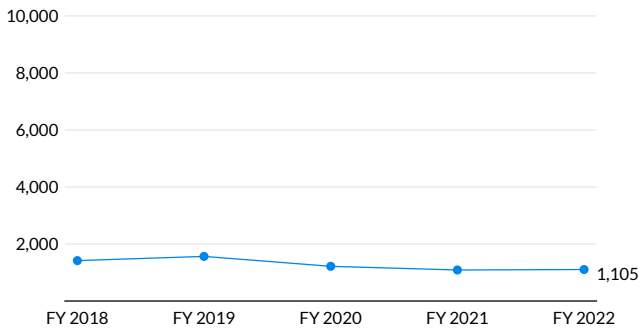
QuickFacts

Drug Trafficking Offenses

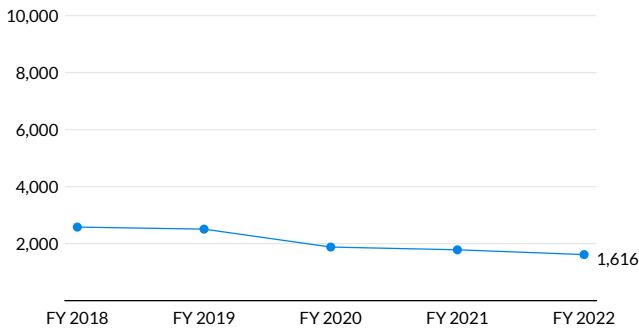
Change in number of trafficking offenders from FY 2018 to FY 2022:

- Methamphetamine increased 28.8%;
- Crack Cocaine decreased 22.0%;
- Powder Cocaine decreased 5.0%;
- Heroin decreased 37.4%;
- Fentanyl³ increased 435.4%;
- Oxycodone decreased 33.3%;
- Marijuana decreased 61.9%.

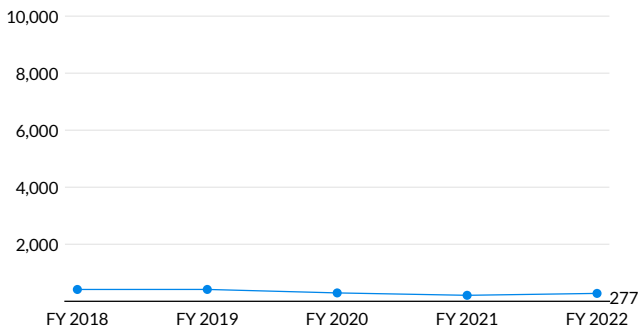
Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenders



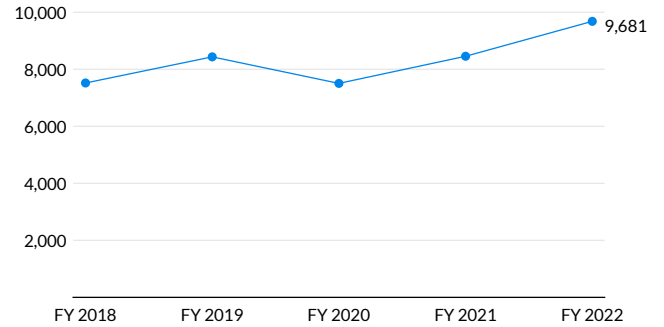
Heroin Trafficking Offenders



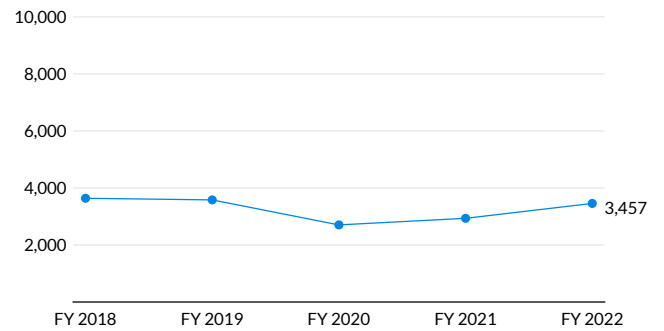
Oxycodone Trafficking Offenders



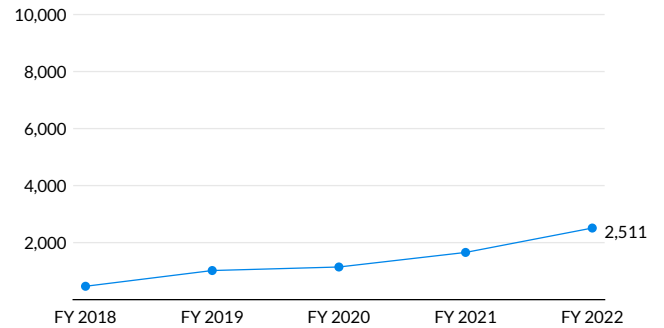
Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders



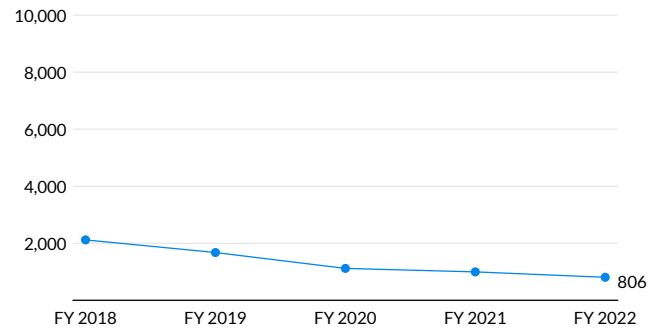
Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenders



Fentanyl Trafficking³ Offenders



Marijuana Trafficking Offenders



¹ Drug offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs).

² Drug Trafficking offenders were sentenced under USSG §§2D1.1 (Drug Trafficking), 2D1.2 (Protected Locations), 2D1.5 (Continuing Criminal Enterprise), 2D1.6 (Use of a Communication Facility), 2D1.8 (Rent/Manage Drug Establishment), 2D1.10 (Endangering Human Life), or 2D1.14 (Narco-Terrorism).

³ The 'Fentanyl' category includes both Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide) and Fentanyl Analogue.

⁴ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.