



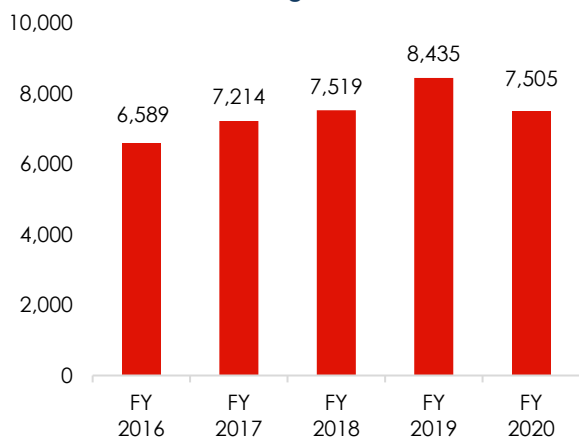
# Quick Facts

## — Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses —

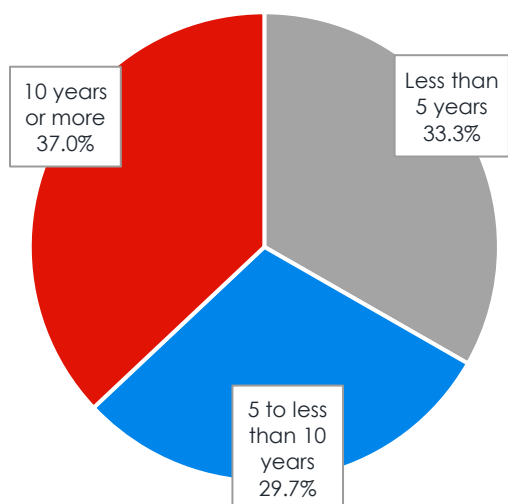
### Fiscal Year 2020

- ▶ IN FY 2020, 64,565 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U. S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 16,501 CASES INVOLVED DRUGS.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ 16,287 CASES INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ 46.1% OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED METHAMPHETAMINE.
- ▶ METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE INCREASED BY 13.9% SINCE FY 2016.

**Number of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders**



**Sentence Length FY 2020**



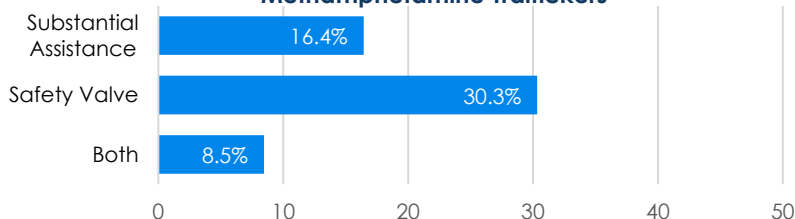
### Offender and Offense Characteristics<sup>3</sup>

- 77.6% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were men.
- 41.5% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 40.2% were White, 14.3% were Black, and 4.0% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 84.1% were United States citizens.
- 36.9% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.6% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 32, corresponding to between 1.5 and five kilograms of methamphetamine mixture, or 150 and 500 grams of methamphetamine actual or "ICE."
- Sentences were increased for:
  - ◆ possessing a weapon (27.9%);
  - ◆ a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (4.7%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - ◆ minor or minimal participation in the offense (22.2%);
  - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (34.9%).
- The top five districts for methamphetamine trafficking offenders were:
  - ◆ Southern District of California (899);
  - ◆ Northern District of Texas (406);
  - ◆ Western District of Texas (363);
  - ◆ Eastern District of Tennessee (286);
  - ◆ Southern District of Texas (246).

### Punishment

- The average sentence for methamphetamine trafficking offenders was 95 months.
- 98.6% were sentenced to prison.
- 82.5% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 55.2% were relieved of that penalty.

**Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Methamphetamine Traffickers**



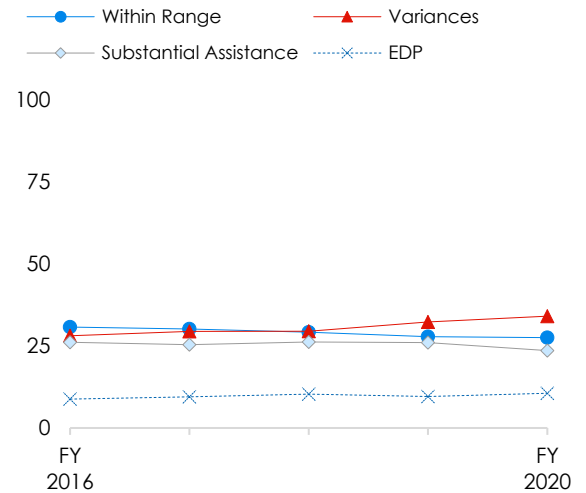


— Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses —

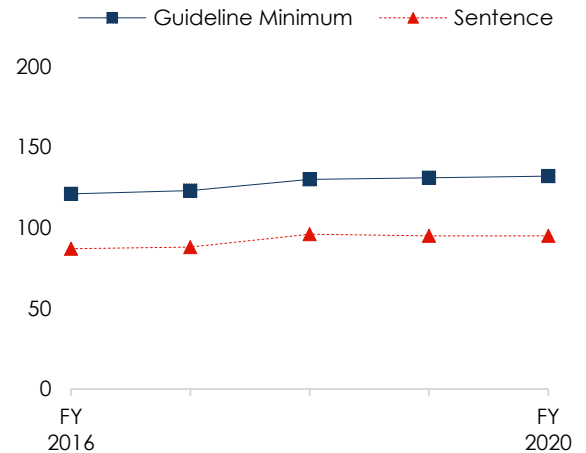
**Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range**

- Of the 66.0% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
  - 41.7% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 35.7% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 47.2%.
  - 16.0% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.<sup>4</sup>
    - Their average sentence reduction was 61.0%.
- 34.0% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 98.4% received a downward variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 34.2%.
  - 1.6% received an upward variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 61.6%.
- The average guideline minimum and the average sentence imposed increased over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum increased from 121 months in fiscal year 2016 to 132 months in fiscal year 2020.
  - The average sentence imposed increased from 87 months in fiscal year 2016 to 95 months in fiscal year 2020.

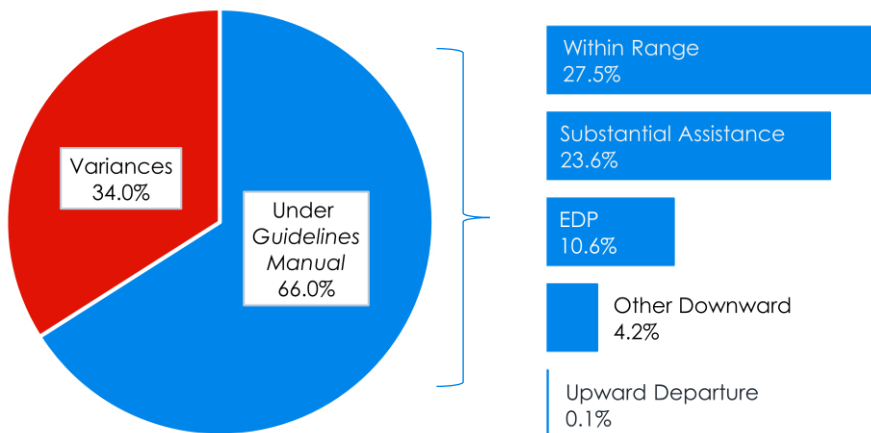
**Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)**



**Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)**



**Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2020**



<sup>1</sup> Drug offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 7,537 methamphetamine offenders sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2020.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from analysis.

<sup>4</sup> "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.