



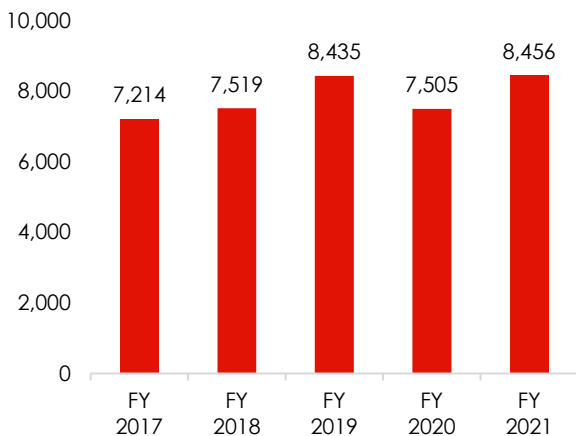
Quick Facts

— Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses —

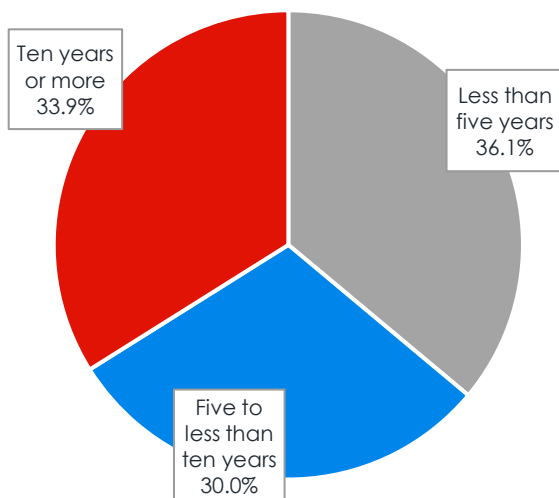
Fiscal Year 2021

- ▶ IN FY 2021, 57,287 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U. S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 17,692 CASES INVOLVED DRUGS.¹
- ▶ 17,520 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.²
- ▶ 48.3% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED METHAMPHETAMINE.
- ▶ METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE INCREASED BY 17.2% SINCE FY 2017.

Number of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders



Sentence Length FY 2021



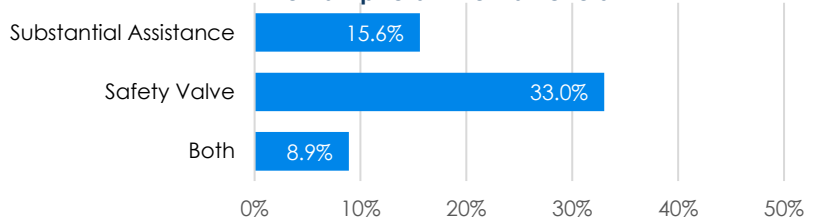
Offender and Offense Characteristics³

- 76.9% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were men.
- 41.9% were Hispanic, 38.8% were White, 15.0% were Black, and 4.3% were Other races.
- Their average age was 37 years.
- 86.8% were United States citizens.
- 37.3% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.7% 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/“ICE.”
- Sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ possessing a weapon (26.1%);
 - ◆ a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (4.7%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ minor or minimal participation in the offense (24.3%);
 - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (37.4%).
- The top five districts for methamphetamine trafficking offenders were:
 - ◆ Southern District of California (1,215);
 - ◆ Western District of Texas (514);
 - ◆ Northern District of Texas (403);
 - ◆ Southern District of Texas (323);
 - ◆ District of Arizona (306).

Punishment

- The average sentence for methamphetamine trafficking offenders was 90 months.
- 98.4% were sentenced to prison.
- 80.4% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 57.6% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Methamphetamine Traffickers





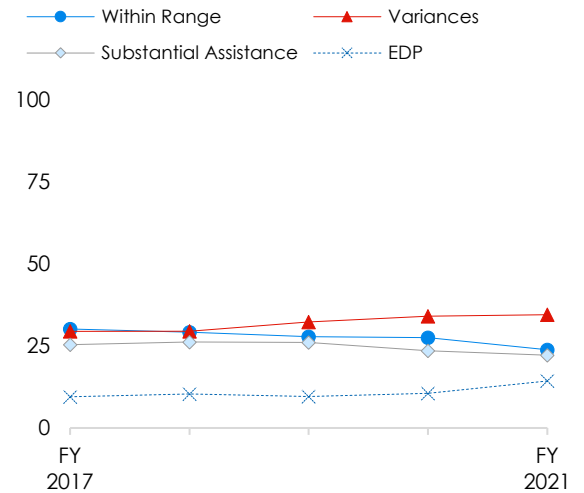
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— Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses —

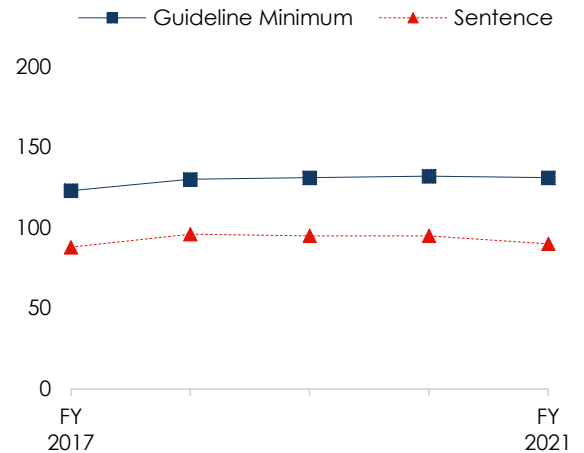
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 65.5% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
 - 36.4% were sentenced within the guideline range.
 - 33.8% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 48.4%.
 - 21.9% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.⁴
 - Their average sentence reduction was 66.6%.
- 34.5% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - 98.6% received a downward variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 35.3%.
 - 1.4% received an upward variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 45.2%.
- The average guideline minimum increased and the average sentence imposed fluctuated over the past five years.
 - The average guideline minimum increased from 123 months in fiscal year 2017 to 131 months in fiscal year 2021.
 - The average sentence imposed increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average sentence was 88 months in fiscal year 2017 and 90 months in fiscal year 2021.

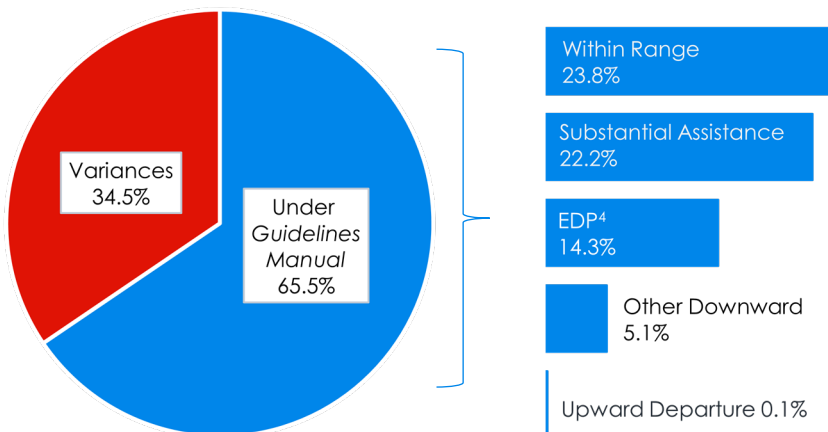
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2021



¹ Drug offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 8,494 methamphetamine offenders sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2021.

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 Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from analysis.

⁴ "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.

SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2017 through FY 2021 Datafiles, USSCFY17-USSCFY21.