



# Quick Facts

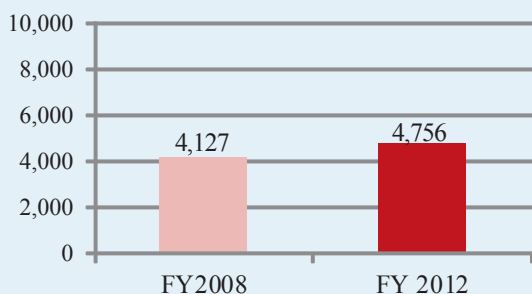
▶ THERE WERE 84,173 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2012.

▶ OF THESE CASES, 24,563 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.<sup>1</sup>

▶ 19.4% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED METHAMPHETAMINE.

## Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

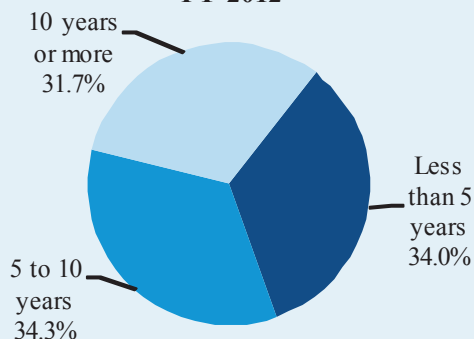
**Number of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders**



**Top Five Districts Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders FY 2012**

|  |
|--|
| Southern District of California<br>(N=659) |
| Central District of California<br>(N=209)  |
| Western District of Texas<br>(N=197)       |
| District of Arizona<br>(N=190)             |
| Middle District of Florida<br>(N=147)      |

**Sentence Length of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders FY 2012**



### Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2012, most offenders convicted of methamphetamine trafficking were male (80.3%).
- Nearly equal proportions were White (47.6%) or Hispanic (45.4%) followed by Black (2.5%) and Other Races (4.5%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 35 years.
- More than two-thirds of methamphetamine traffickers are United States citizens (68.0%).
- Just over half of methamphetamine traffickers had little or no prior criminal history (51.4% of these offenders were 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:
  - ◆ 15.4% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
  - ◆ 6.2% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were decreased for:
  - ◆ Almost a quarter (23.5%) of all offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
  - ◆ Almost forty percent (37.9%) of all offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

### Punishment

- Most methamphetamine trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (98.9%).
- The average sentence length for methamphetamine traffickers was 92 months.
- Most methamphetamine traffickers were convicted of a drug offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (83.8%).
  - ◆ However, nearly two thirds of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
    - ◇ 32.1% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders;
    - ◇ another 29.7% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision.

<sup>1</sup> Drug trafficking offenses include cases with complete guideline application information in which the offender was sentenced under USSC §§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).

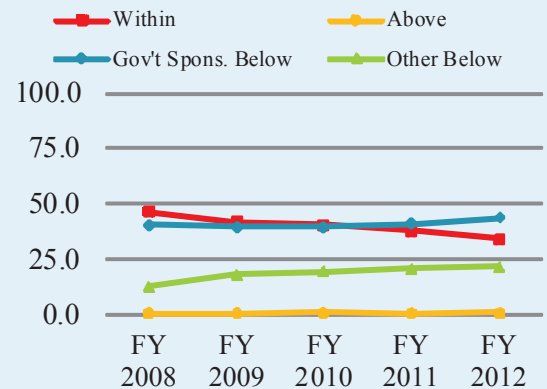
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## Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

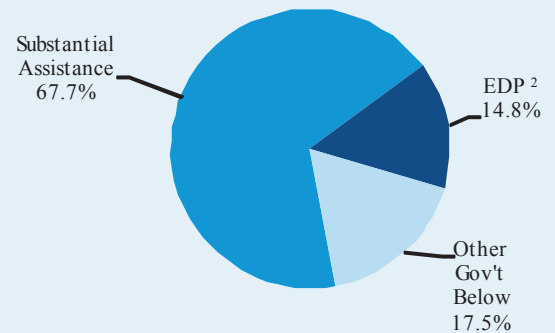
### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- The rate of within range sentences for methamphetamine trafficking cases has decreased substantially over the last five years (from 46.3% in fiscal year 2008 to 34.1% in fiscal year 2012).
- In each of the last five years, approximately 40% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders received a sentence below the applicable guideline range because the government sponsored the below range sentence.
  - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted in approximately 30% of methamphetamine trafficking cases over the past five years.
    - ◇ In fiscal year 2012, these offenders received an average reduction of 43.2% in their sentence (which corresponds to an average reduction of 56 months).
- Over the last five years, the rate of non-government sponsored below range sentences for methamphetamine traffickers has increased substantially (from 12.8% in fiscal year 2008 to 21.6% in fiscal year 2012).
  - ◆ In fiscal year 2012, these offenders received an average reduction of 30.2% in their sentence (which corresponds to an average reduction of 33 months).
- The average guideline minimum for methamphetamine traffickers has remained stable for the past five years, while the average sentence imposed has decreased.
  - ◆ The average guideline minimum was consistently between 121 and 122 months during that period;
  - ◆ The average sentence imposed decreased from 98 to 92 months.

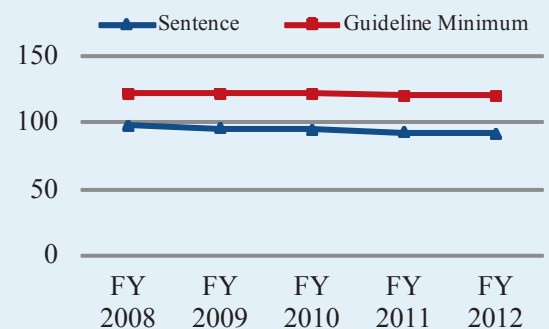
### Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



### Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2012



### Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)



<sup>2</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.

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SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, 2008 through 2012 Datafiles, USSCFY08-USSCFY12.



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