

Table 43

**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR
DOWNWARD DEPARTURES FROM THE GUIDELINE RANGE¹
Fiscal Year 2024**

REASONS	N	%
Substantial assistance with government motion (§5K1.1)	6,099	14.1
Early disposition program (EDP) (§5K3.1)	4,436	10.2
The history and characteristics of the defendant	3,695	8.5
Family ties and responsibilities (§5H1.6)	2,144	4.9
Reflect seriousness of offense/promotes respect for law/just punishment	1,716	4.0
The nature and circumstances of the offense	1,611	3.7
Afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct	1,555	3.6
Criminal history issues	1,536	3.5
General mitigating circumstances (§5K2.0)	1,440	3.3
Age (§5H1.1)	1,236	2.8
Avoid unwarranted sentencing disparity	1,162	2.7
Remorse	1,073	2.5
Drug dependence and alcohol abuse (§5H1.4)	1,030	2.4
Rehabilitation	1,022	2.4
Protect public from further crimes	977	2.3
Previous employment record (§5H1.5)	887	2.0
Acceptance of responsibility	866	2.0
Mental and emotional conditions	862	2.0
Lack of youthful guidance/tragic or troubled childhood	781	1.8
Pursuant to plea agreement	620	1.4
Waiver of appeal	564	1.3
Role in the offense	562	1.3
Conduct while on release, bond, or supervision	517	1.2
Nonviolent offense	477	1.1
Physical condition (§5H1.4)	473	1.1
Aberrant behavior (§5K2.20)	465	1.1
Applied proposed guideline amendment (Amendment 821)	332	0.8
Provide correctional treatment	287	0.7
Community ties (§5H1.6)	286	0.7
Early plea	243	0.6
Provide educational or vocational training	236	0.5
Waiver of indictment	228	0.5
Other	3,985	9.2
TOTAL	43,403	100.0

¹ Of the 61,678 cases, in 12,712 the sentence was a downward departure from the guideline range. Courts may cite multiple reasons for sentencing outside the guideline range; consequently, the total number of reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 43,403 reasons were cited for the 12,712 cases. The 'Other' category includes all reasons cited fewer than 200 times among relevant cases and 324 cases where the Statement of Reasons was received, but there was insufficient documentation provided to determine some of the reasons for the sentence. Descriptions of the variables used in this table are provided in Appendix A.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, 2024 Datafile, USSCFY24.