

**Table 44**

**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR  
DOWNWARD VARIANCES FROM THE GUIDELINE RANGE<sup>1</sup>**

**Fiscal Year 2024**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
The history and characteristics of the defendant	12,013	12.3
Reflect seriousness of offense/promotes respect for law/just punishment	8,378	8.6
Afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct	7,076	7.3
The nature and circumstances of the offense	6,413	6.6
Protect public from further crimes	4,961	5.1
Avoid unwarranted sentencing disparity	4,323	4.4
Family ties and responsibilities (§5H1.6)	4,176	4.3
Criminal history issues	3,859	4.0
Age (§5H1.1)	3,022	3.1
Acceptance of responsibility	2,985	3.1
Drug dependence and alcohol abuse (§5H1.4)	2,894	3.0
Remorse	2,612	2.7
Mental and emotional conditions	2,530	2.6
Lack of youthful guidance/tragic or troubled childhood	2,336	2.4
Previous employment record (§5H1.5)	2,179	2.2
Rehabilitation	2,041	2.1
Role in the offense	1,884	1.9
Provide correctional treatment	1,578	1.6
Conduct while on release, bond, or supervision	1,341	1.4
Nonviolent offense	1,310	1.3
Provide educational or vocational training	1,229	1.3
Physical condition (§5H1.4)	1,224	1.3
General mitigating circumstances (§5K2.0)	1,191	1.2
Pursuant to plea agreement	1,001	1.0
Community ties (§5H1.6)	866	0.9
Provide medical care	798	0.8
Waiver of appeal	763	0.8
Early plea	753	0.8
Cooperation without motion (not §5K1.1)	719	0.7
Provide restitution to any victims	697	0.7
Aberrant behavior (§5K2.20)	652	0.7
Applied proposed guideline amendment (Amendment 821)	493	0.5
Time served/ <i>U.S. v. Barrera-Saucedo</i>	490	0.5
Charitable service/good works	480	0.5
Other	8,292	8.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,559</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Of the 61,678 cases, in 18,147 the sentence was a variance below 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, 97,559 reasons were cited for the 18,147 cases. The 'Other' category includes all reasons cited fewer than 480 times among relevant cases and 978 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.