



QuickFacts

Individuals in the Federal Bureau of Prisons¹

Population Snapshot

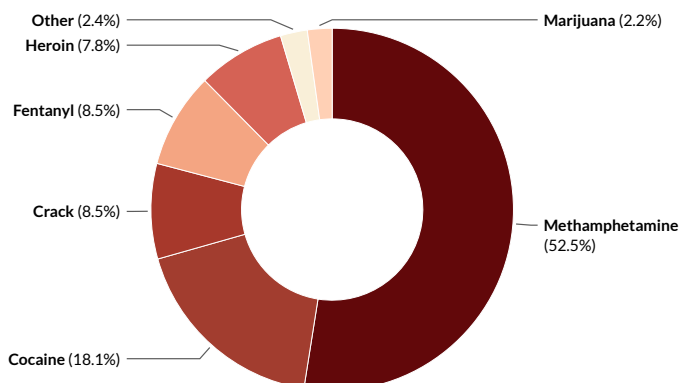
156,532 individuals
incarcerated in the Federal Bureau of
Prisons as of January 2024

137,967
serving a sentence for
a federal conviction²

Most Common Crime Type³

Drug Trafficking	65,096
Firearms	20,701
Sexual Abuse	9,396
Robbery	9,255
Child Pornography	7,879
Immigration	6,687
Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement	4,871
Murder	4,286
Money Laundering	2,942
Assault	1,954
Other	4,011

Most Common Drug Type Trafficked⁴



This document was produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense.

Individual and Offense Characteristics

88.1% of individuals in federal prison were sentenced within the past ten years; 67.1% were sentenced within the past five years.

93.0% are men.

34.8% are Black, 31.1% are Hispanic, 29.9% are White, and 4.2% are Other races.

Their average age is 42 years.

- 22.2% are 50 years or older;
- 7.1% are 60 years or older.

85.2% are United States citizens.

30.3% have little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I);

- 9.6% are CHC II;
- 14.9% are CHC III;
- 12.0% are CHC IV;
- 9.4% are CHC V;
- 23.7% are CHC VI.

90.2% pleaded guilty.

31.0% of individuals in federal prison are serving a sentence for an offense involving a weapon:

- 13.2% were convicted of possessing, brandishing, or discharging a firearm under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c);
- 15.7% received a weapon enhancement under the guidelines;⁵
- 2.0% were convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) and received a weapon enhancement under the guidelines.

Among individuals sentenced for fraud, the median loss amount was \$1,108,933.

Sentences were increased for:

- qualifying as a “career offender” or armed career criminal (11.7%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (10.7%).

Sentences were decreased for:

- acceptance of responsibility (87.4%);
- minor or minimal participation in the offense (3.7%).



QuickFacts

Federal Offenders in Prison

Punishment

The average guideline minimum for individuals in federal prison was 169 months. The average length of imprisonment imposed was 149 months.

98.2% were also sentenced to serve a period of supervision after release from prison.

62.3% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those individuals, 22.0% were relieved of that penalty.

1.3% received a sentence reduction under Rule 35(b)—providing substantial assistance after sentencing.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

97.9% of individuals in federal prison were sentenced after the *United States v. Booker* decision, which changed the sentencing guidelines from mandatory to advisory.⁶

Of the 64.2% of individuals sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:

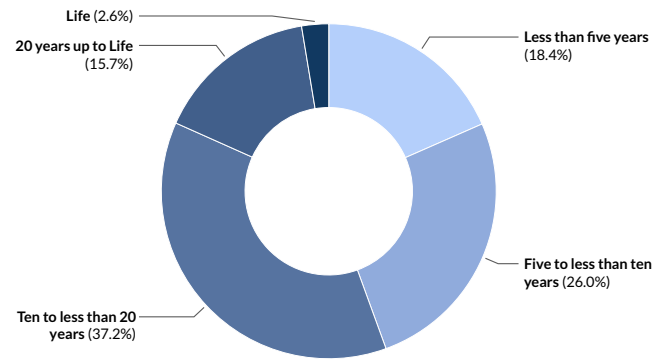
- 71.0% were sentenced within the guideline range.
- 17.3% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 36.7%.
- 6.4% received some other downward departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 28.9%.
- 3.5% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.⁷
 - Their average sentence reduction was 42.6%.

35.8% received a variance; of those individuals:

- 89.3% received a downward variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 26.3%.
- 10.7% received an upward variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 61.1%.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 1991 through FY 2023 Datafiles, USSCFY91-USSCFY23, and Preliminary Data from FY 2024, USSCFY24.

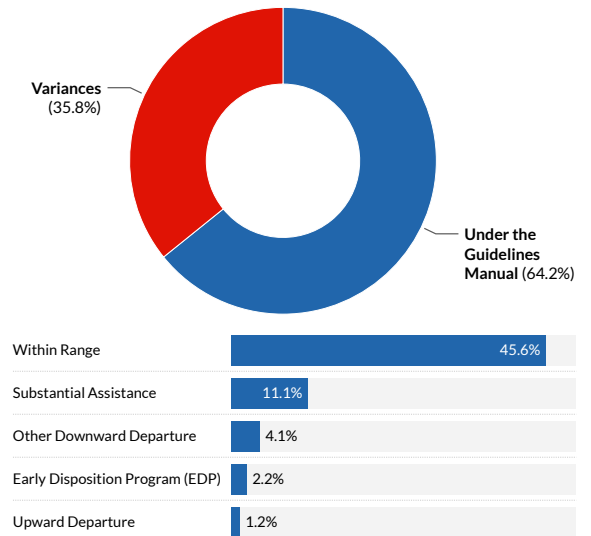
Length of Imprisonment



Means of Relief from the Mandatory Minimum



Sentences Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range



¹ Individuals in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons as of January 27, 2024.

² Commission records could be matched to 137,119 of these individuals and were used for this analysis. Another 18,565 offenders in BOP custody are pre-trial offenders, offenders sentenced in the courts of the District of Columbia, or military offenders.

³ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

⁴ The 'Fentanyl' category includes both Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide) and Fentanyl Analogue.

⁵ See e.g., USSG §2D1.1(b)(1). This enhancement applies if the weapon is present, unless it is clearly improbable that the weapon was connected to the offense. The government is not required to prove that the individual personally possessed the weapon.

⁶ *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005) was decided on January 12, 2005.

⁷ "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.