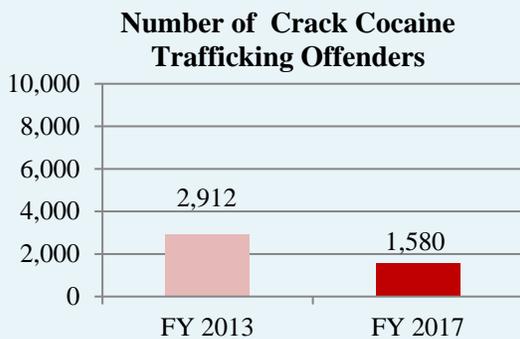




Quick Facts

- ▶ THERE WERE 66,873 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2017.
- ▶ OF THESE CASES, 19,240 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.¹
- ▶ 8.2% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED CRACK COCAINE.

Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses



In fiscal year 2017, there were 1,580 crack cocaine trafficking offenders, who accounted for 8.2% of all offenders sentenced under the drug trafficking guidelines. The number of crack cocaine offenders has decreased by 45.7% since fiscal year 2013.

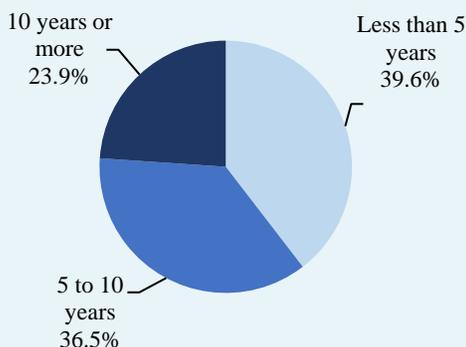
Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2017, the majority of crack cocaine trafficking offenders were men (91.1%).
- Eighty percent of crack cocaine trafficking offenders were Black (80.2%) followed by Hispanic (14.5%), White (4.8%), and Other Races (0.6%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 35 years.
- Nearly all crack cocaine trafficking offenders were United States citizens (97.9%).
- 17.7% of crack cocaine traffickers had little or no prior criminal history and were assigned to Criminal History Category I.
 - ◆ 17.8% of crack cocaine traffickers were classified as Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
 - ◇ This career offender rate is nearly twice as high as the rate in heroin trafficking offenses, the drug trafficking offense with the second highest rate (11.6%).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 24. This corresponds to a quantity of drugs between 28 and 112 grams of crack cocaine.
- Crack cocaine trafficking sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ 34.2% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
 - ◆ 7.0% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Crack cocaine trafficking sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ 4.6% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
 - ◆ 6.3% of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

Top Five Districts Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenders FY 2017

Southern District of New York (N=197)
Western District of North Carolina (N=68)
Western District of Texas (N=60)
Eastern District of North Carolina (N=55)
District of South Carolina (N=50)

Sentence Length of Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenders FY 2017



Punishment

- Most crack cocaine trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (97.5%).
- The average sentence for crack cocaine trafficking offenders was 80 months.
- Nearly half of all crack cocaine trafficking offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (45.3%).
 - ◆ However, one-quarter (25.0%) of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
 - ◇ 19.7% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders, 3.2% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision, and 2.1% received both forms of relief.

¹ Drug trafficking offenses include cases with complete guideline application information in which the offender was 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).

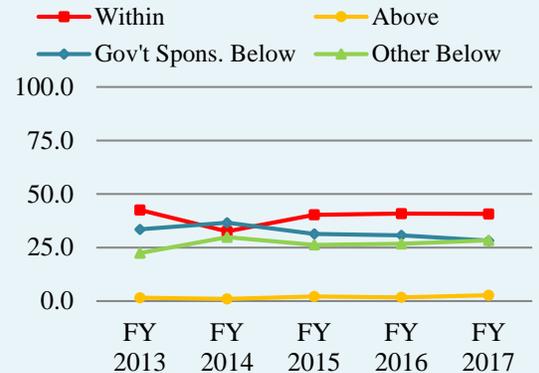
Quick Facts

Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses

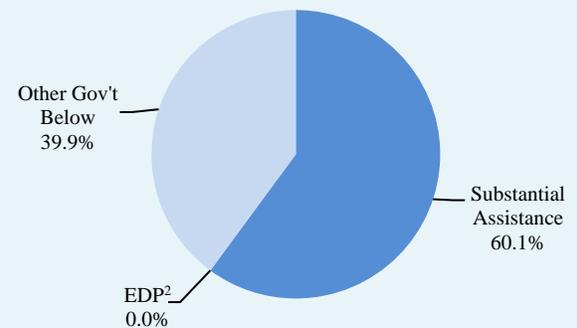
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- The rate of within range sentences for crack cocaine trafficking offenders fell from fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2014 before increasing in fiscal year 2015. It has remained stable since that year. The within range rate was 40.7% in fiscal year 2017.
- The rate of government sponsored below range sentences for crack cocaine trafficking offenders increased from fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2014 before decreasing in each of the past three years. The rate of government sponsored below range sentences was 28.2% in fiscal year 2017.
 - ◆ The rate at which substantial assistance departures were granted for crack cocaine trafficking offenders decreased in each of the last five years. This rate was 17.0% in fiscal year 2017.
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2017, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 50.9%.
 - ◆ The rate of crack cocaine trafficking offenders receiving a below range sentence sponsored by the government for reasons other than substantial assistance or participation in an Early Disposition Program (EDP)² has fluctuated during the past five years, with the rate increasing from 9.8% in fiscal year 2016 to 11.3% in fiscal year 2017.
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2017, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 39.2%.
- Non-government sponsored below range sentences have also fluctuated over the past five years. The rate increased from fiscal year 2013 to 2014 before decreasing in fiscal year 2015. The rate remained steady in fiscal year 2016 and increased to 28.4% in fiscal year 2017.
 - ◆ In fiscal year 2017, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 36.3%.
- The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed for crack cocaine trafficking offenders generally have decreased over the last five years, although average sentences for these offenders increased by one month from fiscal year 2016 to 2017.
 - ◆ The average guideline minimum decreased from 125 months in fiscal year 2013 to 106 months in fiscal year 2017;
 - ◆ The average sentence imposed decreased from 96 months in fiscal year 2013 to 79 months in fiscal year 2016, but increased to 80 months in fiscal year 2017.

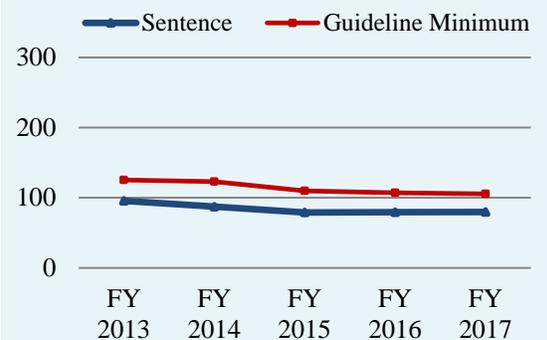
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2017



Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)



² "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.

