



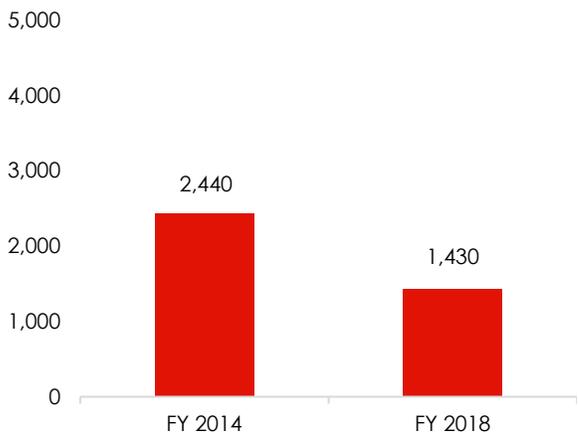
Quick Facts

— Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses —

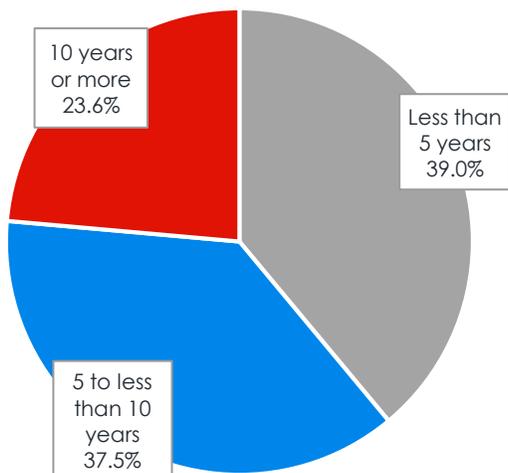
Fiscal Year 2018

- ▶ IN FY 2018, 69,425 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 18,964 OF THESE INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.^{1,2}
- ▶ 7.5% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED CRACK COCAINE.
- ▶ CRACK COCAINE TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE DECREASED BY 41.4% SINCE FY 2014.

Number of Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenders



Sentence Length FY 2018



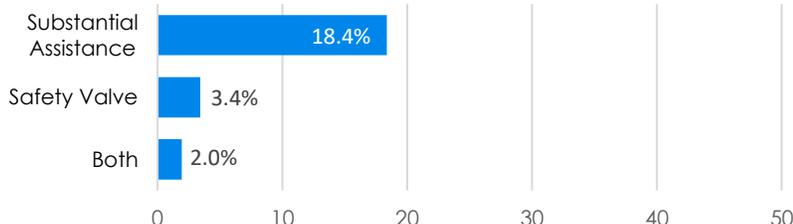
Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 92.4% of crack cocaine trafficking offenders were men.
- 80.0% of crack cocaine trafficking offenders were Black, 13.0% were Hispanic, 6.3% were White, and 0.7% were Other races.
- Their average age was 35 years.
- 97.9% were United States citizens.
- 18.7% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 15.9% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 24, corresponding to between 28 and 112 grams of crack cocaine.
- Sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ possessing a weapon (38.2%);
 - ◆ having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (5.9%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ having minor or minimal participation in the offense (4.2%);
 - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (5.5%).
- The top five districts for crack cocaine trafficking offenders were:
 - ◆ Southern District of New York (167);
 - ◆ District of South Carolina (68);
 - ◆ Eastern District of North Carolina (66);
 - ◆ District of Maryland (46);
 - ◆ District of Connecticut (43).

Punishment

- The average sentence for crack cocaine trafficking offenders was 78 months.
- 97.4% were sentenced to prison.
- 44.0% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 23.7% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Crack Cocaine Traffickers



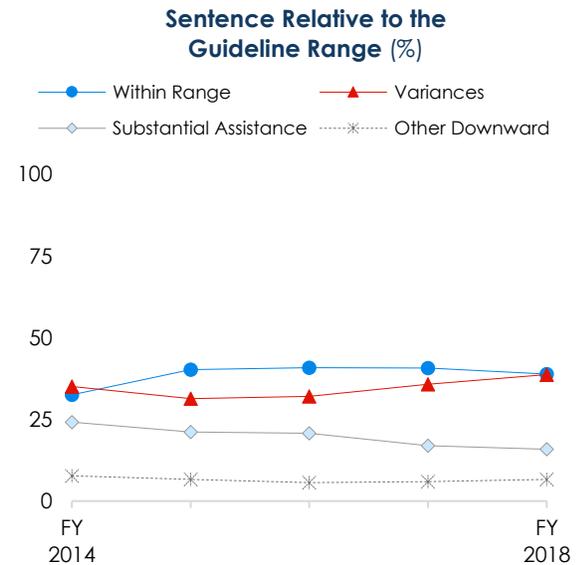


www.ussc.gov
pubaffairs@ussc.gov
@theusscgov

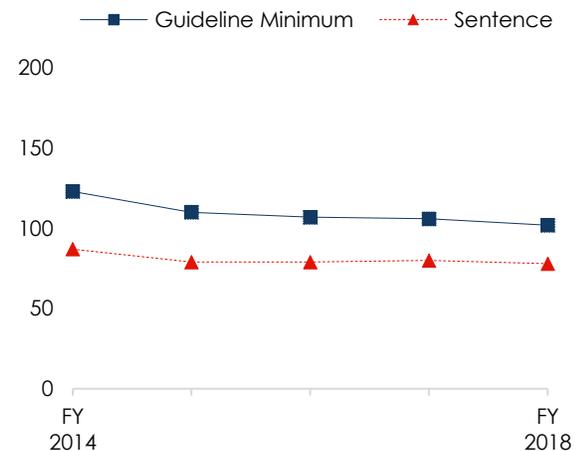
— Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses —

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

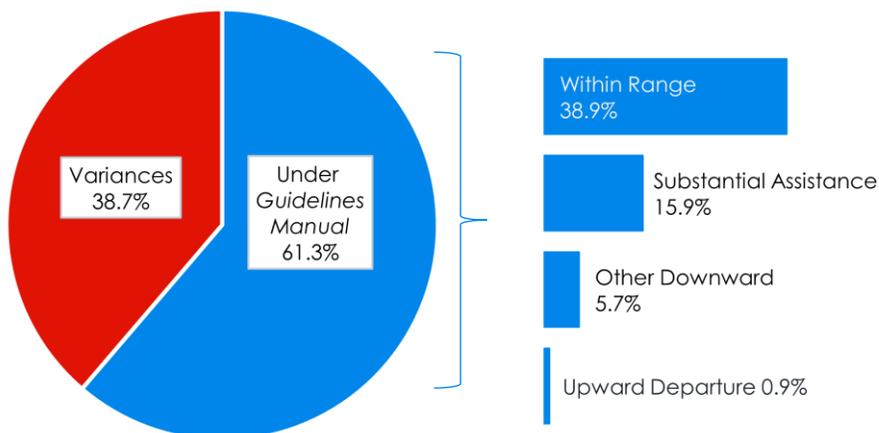
- Of the 61.3% of crack cocaine trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
 - 63.5% were sentenced within the guideline range;
 - 25.9% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 52.5%.
 - 9.2% received some other downward departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 40.6%.
- 38.7% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - 93.5% received a below range variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 35.0%.
 - 6.5% received an above range variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 41.9%.
- The average guideline minimum and the sentence imposed decreased from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015, but has remained steady over the past three years.
 - The average guideline minimum decreased from 123 months in fiscal year 2014 to 102 months in fiscal year 2018.
 - The average sentence imposed decreased from 87 months in fiscal year 2014 to 78 months in fiscal year 2018.



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2018



¹ Drug trafficking offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs).

² Offenders were 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). Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.