



QuickFacts

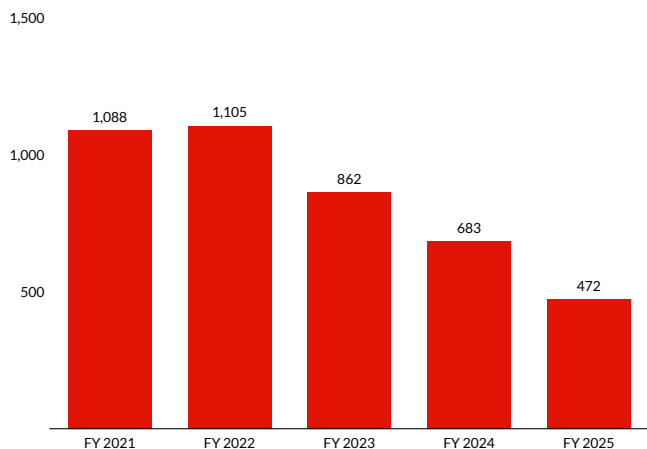
Crack Cocaine Trafficking

Population Snapshot

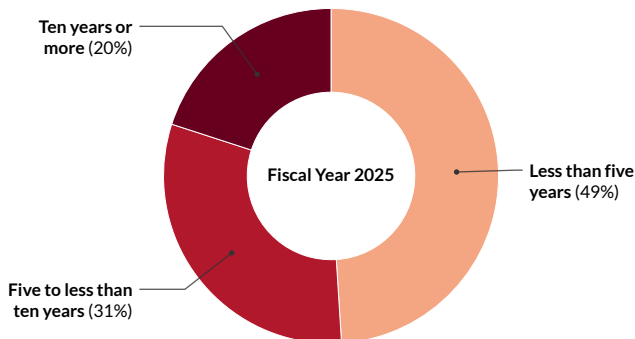
66,662 cases were reported in FY25;
16,234 involved drugs,¹
16,144 involved drug trafficking.²

3% of such cases involved crack cocaine, down 57% since FY21.

Number of Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses



Sentence Length³



Individual and Offense Characteristics

90% of individuals sentenced for crack cocaine trafficking were men.

73% were Black, 16% were Hispanic, 10% were White, and 2% were Other races.

Their average age was 39 years.

97% were United States citizens.

26% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 13% were individuals sentenced under the career offender guideline (§4B1.1).

The median base offense level in these cases was 26, corresponding to between 112 and 196 grams of crack cocaine.

Sentences were increased for:

- possessing a weapon (57%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (7%).

Sentences were decreased for:

- minor or minimal participation in the offense (6%);
- meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (8%).

The top five districts for crack cocaine trafficking offenses were:

- District of Vermont (52);
- Southern District of New York (40);
- Eastern District of Missouri (21);
- Western District of Pennsylvania (20);
- Eastern District of North Carolina (19).

Punishment

The average sentence for individuals trafficking crack cocaine was 70 months.

96% were sentenced to prison.

21% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 33% of those individuals were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Crack Cocaine Trafficking

Means of Relief	Percent
Safety Valve	4%
Substantial Assistance	26%
Both	3%



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Crack Cocaine Trafficking

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

45% of sentences for crack cocaine trafficking were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 25% were within the guideline range.
- 15% were substantial assistance departures.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 72%.*
- 4% were some other downward departure.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 39%.*
- Less than 1% were upward departures.⁴

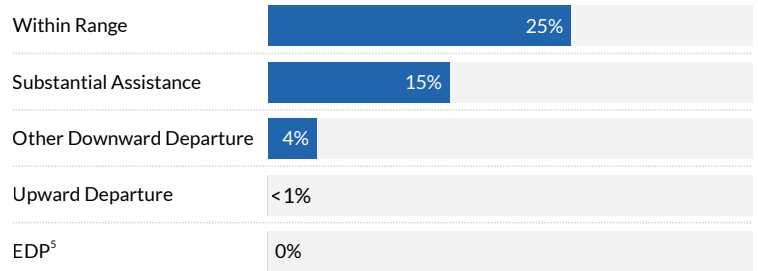
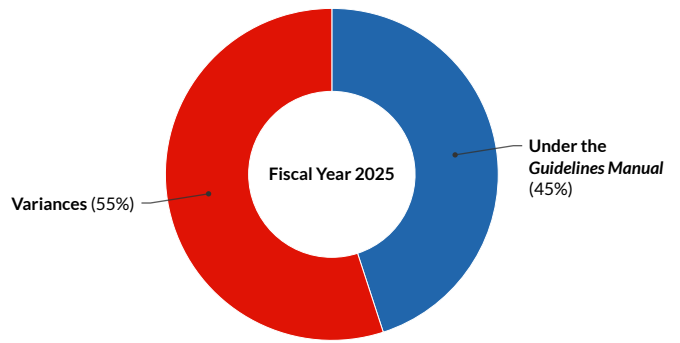
55% of sentences for crack cocaine trafficking were variances.

- 54% were downward variances.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 49%.*
- 2% were upward variances.
 - *The average sentence increase was 131%.*

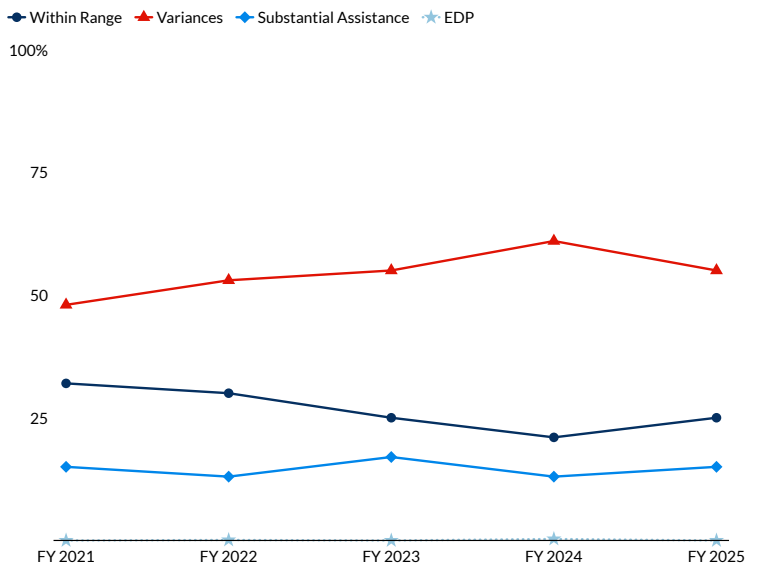
The average guideline minimum increased and the average sentence imposed fluctuated over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum increased from 96 months in fiscal year 2021 to 111 months in fiscal year 2025.
- The average sentence imposed was 69 months in fiscal year 2021 and 70 months in fiscal year 2025.

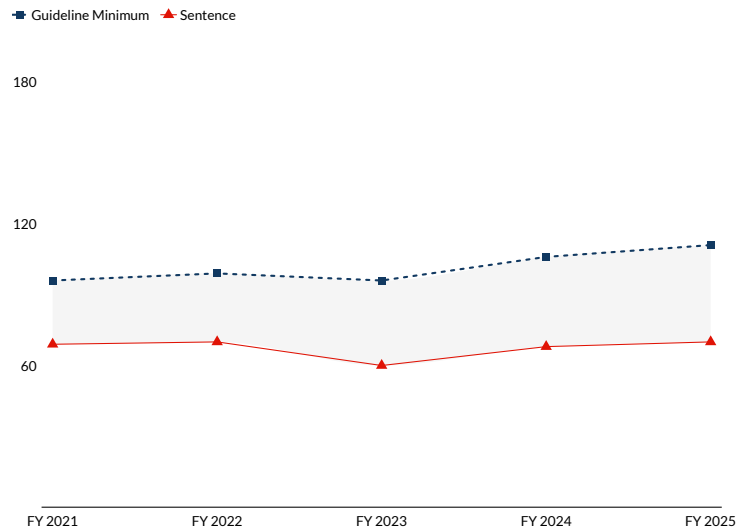
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range by Fiscal Year



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



¹ Drug offenses include cases where individuals were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 478 individuals sentenced for crack cocaine offenses under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2025.

² Individuals sentenced for drug trafficking 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).

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

⁴ The Commission does not report the average for categories with fewer than three cases.

⁵ "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.