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
- Seven drug types accounted for 96.5% of drug trafficking offenses.

**Distribution of Drug Types FY 2018**

- Meth 39.8%
- Crack Cocaine 19.5%
- Powder Cocaine 19.3%
- Marijuana 11.5%
- Heroin 13.7%
- Fentanyl 2.3%
- Oxycodone 2.4%
- Other 3.5%

**Average Sentence Length FY 2018**

- Meth 96 months
- Crack 78 months
- Powder 74 months
- Fentanyl 74 months
- Heroin 69 months
- Oxy 50 months
- MJ 29 months

**Offender and Offense Characteristics**

- 83.5% of drug trafficking offenders were men.
- 48.0% of drug trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 25.0% were Black, 24.1% were White, and 2.9% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 75.5% were United States citizens.
- 46.7% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 6.6% were Career Offenders.

Sentences were increased for:
- possessing a weapon (22.1%);
- having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (7.0%).

Sentences were decreased for:
- having minor or minimal participation in the offense (20.6%);
- meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (32.1%).

The top five districts for drug trafficking offenders were:
- Western District of Texas (1,341);
- Southern District of California (1,291);
- Southern District of Texas (1,036);
- District of Arizona (779);
- Northern District of Texas (632).

**Punishment**

- The average sentence for drug trafficking offenders was 76 months, but varied by drug type.
- 96.3% were sentenced to prison.
- 58.4% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 53.5% of those offenders were relieved of that penalty.

**Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Drug Traffickers**

- Substantial Assistance: 17.8%
- Safety Valve: 27.8%
- Both: 7.8%

For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.uscc.gov/research/quick-facts.
Drug trafficking offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). 

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.


Change in number of trafficking offenders from FY 2014 to FY 2018:

- Methamphetamine increased 19.6%;
- Crack Cocaine decreased 41.4%;
- Powder Cocaine decreased 26.3%;
- Heroin increased 6.8%;
- Fentanyl increased 4,711.1%;
- Oxycodone decreased 60.2%;
- Marijuana decreased 44.9%;

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.