In FY 2019, 76,538 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

- 20,085 cases involved drugs.
- 19,765 involved drug trafficking.
- Seven drug types account for 96.5% of drug trafficking offenses.

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 83.3% of drug trafficking offenders were men.
- 44.0% of drug trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 27.6% were Black, 25.3% were White, and 3.2% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 78.9% were United States citizens.
- 44.9% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 6.7% were Career Offenders.

Sentences were increased for:
- possessing a weapon (23.9%);
- having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (7.3%).

Sentences were decreased for:
- having minor or minimal participation in the offense (19.3%);
- meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (34.2%).

The top five districts for drug trafficking offenders were:
- Western District of Texas (1,249);
- Southern District of California (1,183);
- Southern District of Texas (946);
- District of Arizona (728);
- Northern District of Texas (683).

Punishment

- The average sentence for drug trafficking offenders was 77 months, but varied by drug type.
- 96.4% were sentenced to prison.
- 65.6% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 57.6% of those offenders were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief for Drug Traffickers from Mandatory Minimum Penalty

- Substantial Assistance: 17.0%
- Safety Valve: 31.3%
- Both: 9.3%

For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts.
Drug Trafficking Offenses

1 Drug offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs).
2 Drug Trafficking 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).
3 Cases with incomplete guideline application information were excluded from analysis.