In FY 2021, 57,287 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.

17,692 CASES INVOLVED DRUGS.1

17,520 CASES INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.2

SEVEN DRUG TYPES ACCOUNT FOR 97.8% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 82.2% of drug trafficking offenders were men.
- 44.7% were Hispanic, 26.1% were White, 26.0% were Black, and 3.2% were Other races.
- Their average age was 37 years.
- 82.6% were United States citizens.
- 43.5% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.6% were career offenders.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - possessing a weapon (24.3%);
  - a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (5.9%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (20.4%);
  - meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (36.7%).
- The top five districts for drug trafficking offenders were:
  - Southern District of California (1,604);
  - Western District of Texas (998);
  - Southern District of Texas (937);
  - Northern District of Texas (625);
  - District of Arizona (571).

Punishment

- The average sentence for drug trafficking offenders was 74 months; but varied by drug type.
- 96.6% were sentenced to prison.
- 67.8% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 58.8% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Drug Traffickers

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Drug Trafficking Offenses

Change in number of trafficking offenders from FY 2017 to FY 2021:

- Methamphetamine increased 17.2%.
- Crack Cocaine decreased 32.0%.
- Powder Cocaine decreased 26.2%.
- Heroin decreased 33.8%.
- Fentanyl\(^3\) increased 897.6%.
- Oxycodone decreased 61.9%.
- Marijuana decreased 63.7%.

\(^1\) 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).

\(^3\) The 'Fentanyl' category includes both Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-[2-phenylethyl]-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide) and Fentanyl Analogue.

\(^4\) Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.