Quick Facts

Drug Trafficking Offenses

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 82.2% of drug trafficking offenders were men.
- 42.7% were Hispanic, 28.1% were Black, 26.0% were White, and 3.2% were Other races.
- Their average age was 37 years.
- 84.0% were United States citizens.
- 41.7% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.5% were career offenders.

Sentences were increased for:
- possessing a weapon (26.4%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (6.2%).

Sentences were decreased for:
- minor or minimal participation in the offense (19.5%);
- meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (34.7%).

The top five districts for drug trafficking offenders were:
- Southern District of California (1,755);
- Southern District of Texas (975);
- Western District of Texas (955);
- Northern District of Texas (715);
- Northern District of Ohio (534).

Punishment

- The average sentence for drug trafficking offenders was 78 months but varied by drug type.
- 96.6% were sentenced to prison.
- 64.7% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 55.4% of those offenders were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from the Mandatory Minimum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means of Relief</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantial Assistance</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Valve</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most Common Drugs Trafficked

- Methamphetamine (48.8%)
- Powder Cocaine (17.4%)
- Heroin (8.1%)
- Fentanyl and Analogues (12.6%)
- Marijuana (4.1%)
- Crack Cocaine (5.6%)
- Oxycodone (1.4%)
- Other (2.0%)

Population Snapshot

- 64,142 cases were reported in FY22
- 20,037 involved drugs; 19,851 involved drug trafficking.

Seven drug types account for 98% of drug trafficking offenses.

Average Sentence Length for Drug Traffickers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>Average Sentence (Months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powder Cocaine</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentanyl</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxycodone</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- 50.0% of sentences were within the guideline range.
- 30.5% received a safety valve sentence.
- 15.6% received substantial assistance.
- 4.3% of all sentences were EDPs.

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Change in number of trafficking offenders from FY 2018 to FY 2022:

- Methamphetamine increased 28.8%;
- Crack Cocaine decreased 22.0%;
- Powder Cocaine decreased 5.0%;
- Heroin decreased 37.4%;
- Fentanyl increased 435.4%;
- Oxycodone decreased 33.3%;
- Marijuana decreased 61.9%.

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.