

QuickFacts

Drug Trafficking Offenses



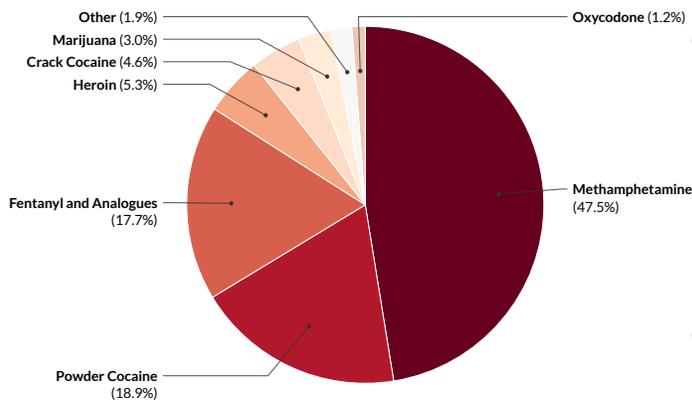
Population Snapshot

64,124 cases were reported in FY23;

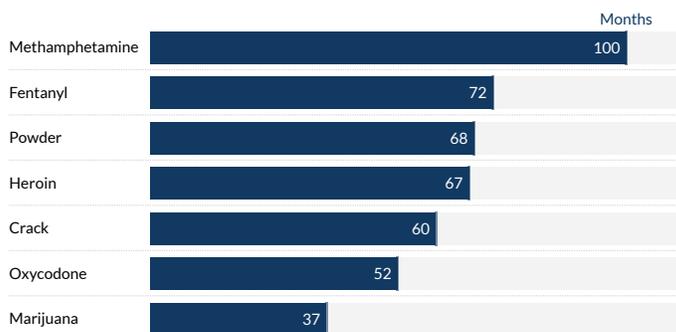
19,066 involved drugs;¹
18,939 involved drug trafficking.²

Seven drug types
account for 98.1% of drug
trafficking offenses.

Most Common Drugs Trafficked³



Average Sentence Length for Drug Traffickers



Means of Relief from the Mandatory Minimum



Individual and Offense Characteristics⁴

83.6% of individuals sentenced for drug trafficking were men.
43.5% were Hispanic, 27.6% were Black, 25.8% were White, and 3.0% were Other races.

Their average age was 38 years.

81.9% were United States citizens.

42.5% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.6% were career offenders.

Sentences were increased for:

- possessing a weapon (28.8%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (6.3%).

Sentences were decreased for:

- minor or minimal participation in the offense (18.3%);
- meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (33.2%).

The top five districts for drug trafficking offenses were:

- Southern District of California (1,457);
- Western District of Texas (920);
- Southern District of Texas (884);
- Northern District of Texas (722);
- District of Puerto Rico (573).

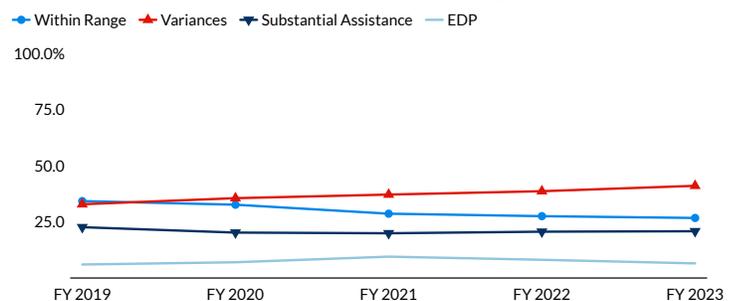
Punishment

The average sentence for drug traffickers was 82 months but varied by drug type.

97.2% were sentenced to prison.

62.1% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 53.5% of those individuals were relieved of that penalty.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range





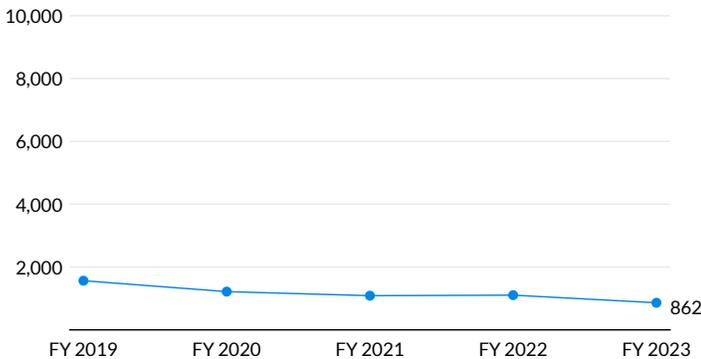
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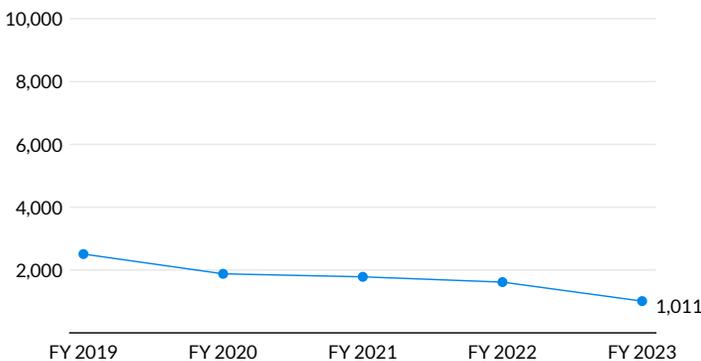
Change in number of individuals sentenced for drug trafficking from FY 2019 to FY 2023:

- Methamphetamine increased 6.6%;
- Crack cocaine decreased 44.9%;
- Powder cocaine decreased 0.1%;
- Heroin decreased 59.7%;
- Fentanyl³ increased 228.5%;
- Oxycodone decreased 46.4%;
- Marijuana decreased 66.5%.

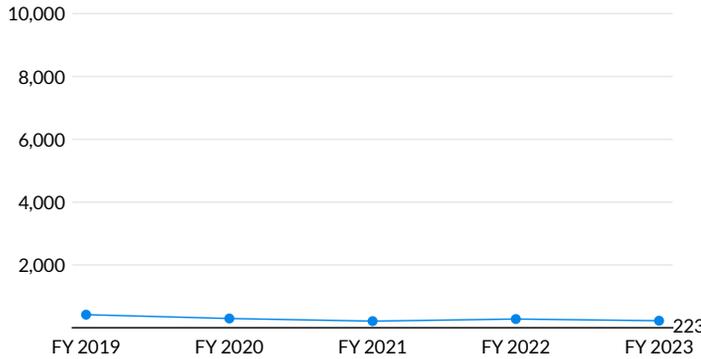
Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses



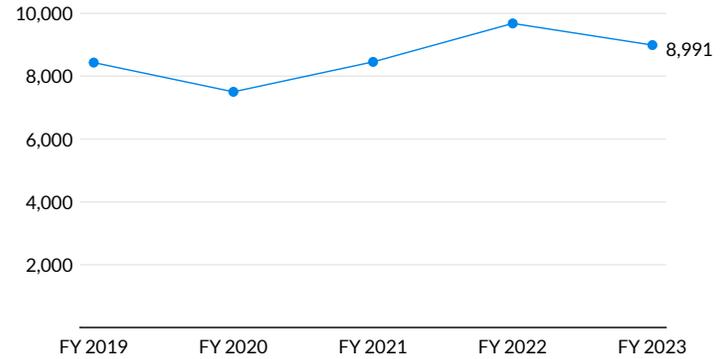
Heroin Trafficking Offenses



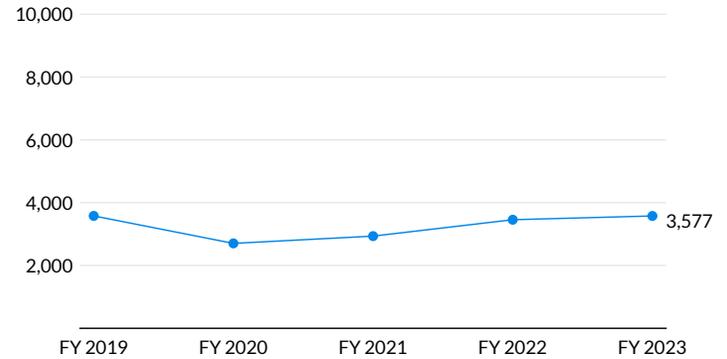
Oxycodone Trafficking Offenses



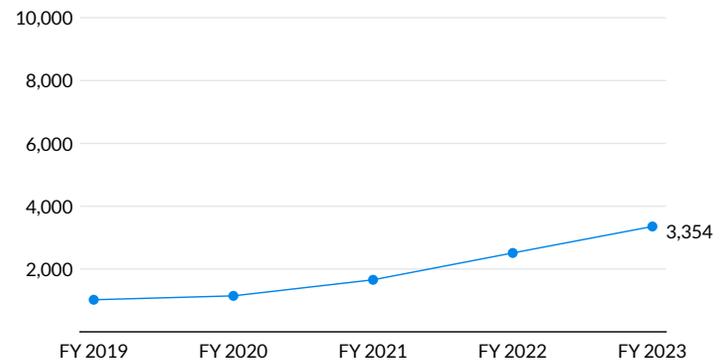
Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses



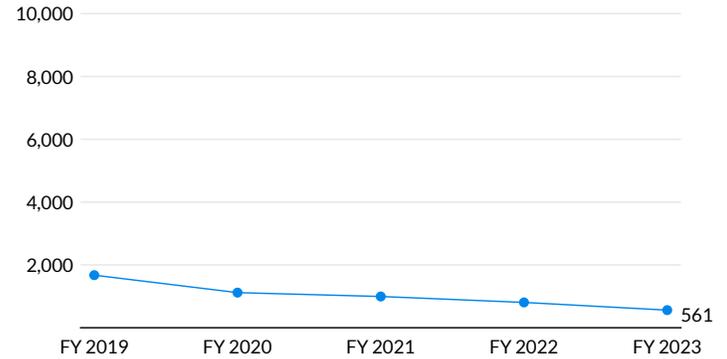
Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses



Fentanyl Trafficking Offenses



Marijuana Trafficking Offenses



¹ Drug offenses include cases where individuals were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs).

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 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.