

▶ THERE WERE 66,873 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2017.

▶ OF THESE CASES, 8,112 INVOLVED FEMALE OFFENDERS.

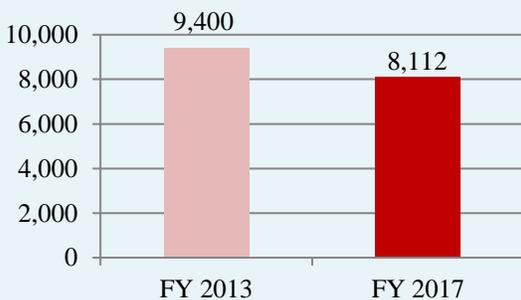
▶ FEMALE OFFENDERS ACCOUNTED FOR 13.1% OF OFFENDERS IN FISCAL YEAR 2017.

# Quick Facts



## Women in the Federal Offender Population

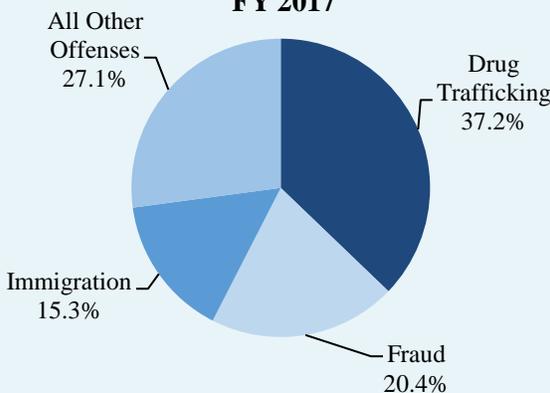
**Number of Female Federal Offenders**



**Top Five Districts Female Federal Offenders FY 2017**

Southern District of Texas (N=739)
Western District of Texas (N=731)
District of Arizona (N=507)
Southern District of California (N=433)
Southern District of Florida (N=320)

**Most Common Offenses Female Federal Offenders FY 2017**



Females make up a small percentage of federal offenders. The proportion of federal offenders who were women decreased slightly from 13.3% in fiscal year 2013 to 13.1% in fiscal year 2017.

### Offender and Offense Characteristics<sup>1</sup>

- In fiscal year 2017, nearly three quarters of all female offenders were sentenced for drug trafficking (37.2%), fraud (20.4%), or immigration (15.3%) offenses.
- In only one offense, embezzlement, were female offenders in the majority (52.7%).
- More than one-third were Hispanic (39.9%) followed by White (32.7%), Black (21.0%), and Other Races (6.5%).
  - ◆ The largest racial group of female *drug trafficking offenders* was Hispanic (43.9%) followed by White (35.5%), Black (14.8%), and Other Races (5.7%).
  - ◆ The largest racial group of female *fraud offenders* was Black (37.8%), followed by White (37.4%), Hispanic (19.6%), and Other Races (5.2%).
  - ◆ Most female *immigration offenders* were Hispanic (88.2%), followed by White (6.5%), Other Races (3.1%), and Black (2.2%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 37 years.
- The majority of female offenders were United States citizens (81.7%).
- More than two-thirds of female offenders (68.0%) had little or no prior criminal history (*i.e.*, assigned to Criminal History Category I). The proportion of female offenders in other Criminal History Categories was as follows:
  - ◆ 11.1% of these offenders were in Category II;
  - ◆ 10.5% were in Category III;
  - ◆ 4.6% were in Category IV;
  - ◆ 2.5% were in Category V; and
  - ◆ 3.3% were in Category VI.
- Districts with the highest proportion of their overall caseload comprising female offenders were:
  - ◆ District of Guam (34.5% of overall caseload);
  - ◆ District of Virgin Islands (30.3%);
  - ◆ Eastern District of Oklahoma (27.4%);
  - ◆ District of Montana (21.7%); and
  - ◆ Western District of Oklahoma (21.3%).
- Weapons were involved less frequently (6.1%) in cases involving women than in cases involving men (10.1%).

<sup>1</sup> In comparison, male offenders are more likely to be Hispanic (54.8%), non-citizens (43.3%), and have a more extensive criminal history (only 39.5% of male offenders were assigned to Criminal History Category I).

# Quick Facts

## Women in the Federal Offender Population

### Punishment

- More than three-quarters (76.9%) of female offenders were sentenced to imprisonment, which is less than the rate for male offenders in fiscal year 2017 (93.8%).
  - ◆ Female *drug trafficking offenders* were often sentenced to imprisonment (88.8%), although at a lower rate than male drug trafficking offenders in fiscal year 2017 (96.9%).
  - ◆ Female *fraud offenders* were sentenced to imprisonment at a lower rate (62.3%) than were male fraud offenders (77.1%).
  - ◆ Female *immigration offenders* were sentenced to imprisonment at a lower rate (80.9%) than were male immigration offenders (96.6%).
- Female offenders were convicted of a statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty at a lower rate (15.7%) than were male offenders (22.1%).
  - ◆ The average sentence length for females convicted of a statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty was 75 months.
  - ◆ The average sentence length for females not convicted of a statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty was 19 months.

### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

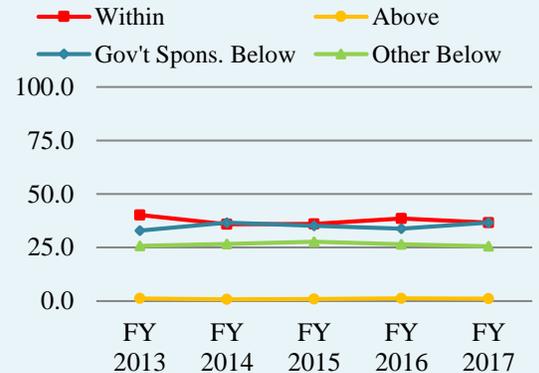
- For each of the past five years, female offenders were sentenced within the guideline range in less than half of all cases (40.2% in fiscal year 2013 and 36.6% in fiscal year 2017), compared to 49.8% and 49.2% for male offenders.
- The rate of government sponsored below range sentences increased from 32.9% in fiscal year 2013 to 36.6% in fiscal year 2017, compared to 28.7% and 27.3% for male offenders.
  - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted in 18.4% of cases involving female offenders in fiscal year 2017. This represents 50.2% of all government sponsored below range sentences for female offenders.
  - ◆ Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures<sup>2</sup> were granted in 8.6% of cases involving female offenders.
  - ◆ Other government sponsored below range sentences were granted in 9.7% of cases involving female offenders.
- The percentage of female offenders who received a non-government sponsored below range sentence remained relatively stable over the last five years (from 25.8% of cases in fiscal year 2013 to 25.6% in fiscal year 2017), compared to 19.2% and 20.4% for male offenders.
- The average guideline minimum for female offenders has increased over the last five years from 41 months in fiscal year 2013 to 44 months in fiscal year 2017.
- The average sentence imposed slightly increased over the last five years, from 27 months in fiscal year 2013 to 28 months in fiscal year 2017.

<sup>2</sup> “Early Disposition Program (or EDP) departures” are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government’s Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.

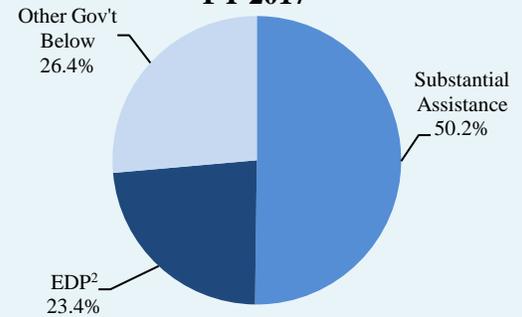
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SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, 2013 through 2017 Datafiles, USSCFY13-USSCFY17.

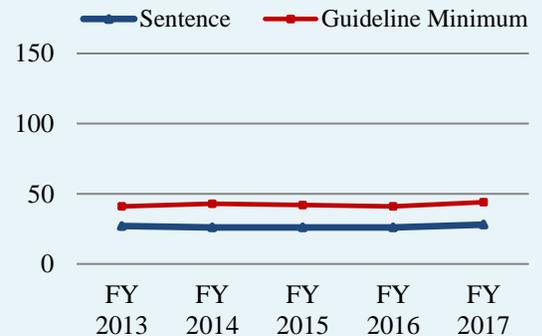
### Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



### Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2017



### Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)



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