



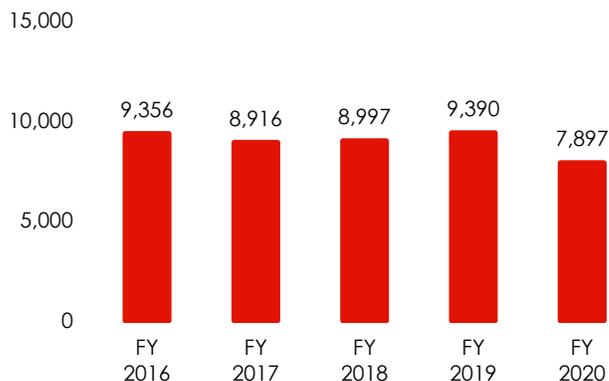
# Quick Facts

— Women in the Federal Offender Population —

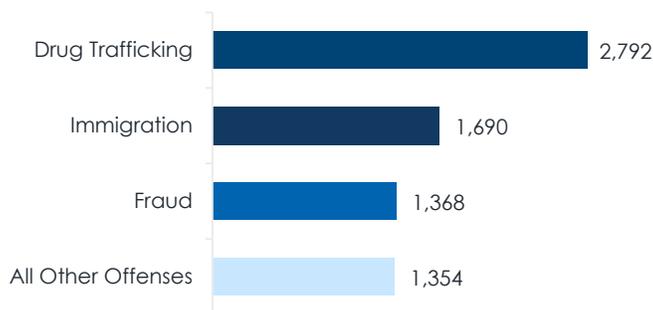
## Fiscal Year 2020

- ▶ In FY 2020, 64,565 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- ▶ 7,897 of these involved female offenders.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Female offenders accounted for 12.3% of all federal offenders sentenced in FY 2020.

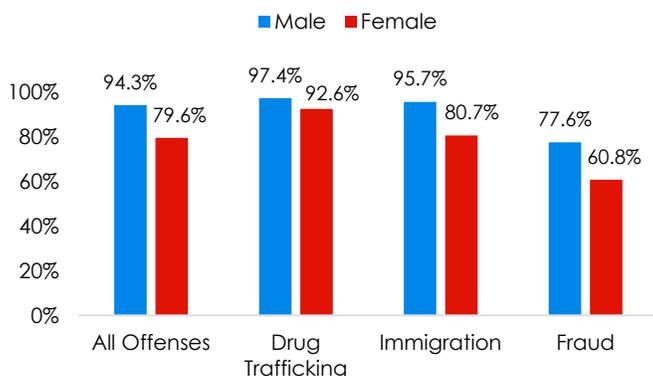
Number of Female Federal Offenders



Most Common Guidelines for Female Offenders



Male and Female Offenders Sentenced to Prison by Guideline



## Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 44.8% of female offenders were Hispanic, 33.1% were White, 15.8% were Black, and 6.3% were Other races.<sup>2</sup>
  - ◆ Among **female drug trafficking offenders**, 41.0% were White followed by Hispanic (40.4%), Black (13.5%), and Other races (5.1%).
  - ◆ Among **female immigration offenders**, 89.2% were Hispanic followed by White (6.0%), Other races (3.2%), and Black (1.6%).
  - ◆ Among **female fraud offenders**, 44.3% were White, followed by Black (29.3%), Hispanic (19.9%), and Other races (6.5%).
- Their average age was 37 years.
- 79.2% were United States citizens.
- 65.7% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I);
  - ◆ 11.1% were CHC II;
  - ◆ 11.1% were CHC III;
  - ◆ 5.2% were CHC IV;
  - ◆ 2.8% were CHC V;
  - ◆ 4.1% were CHC VI.
- 7.2% of female offenders were sentenced for an offense involving weapons, compared to 10.3% of male offenders.
- The top five districts for female offenders were:
  - ◆ Western District of Texas (795);
  - ◆ Southern District of Texas (766);
  - ◆ Southern District of California (535);
  - ◆ District of Arizona (393);
  - ◆ District of New Mexico (310).
- The top five districts where female offenders comprised the highest proportion of the overall caseload were:
  - ◆ District of Northern Mariana Islands (57.1%);
  - ◆ District of Virgin Islands (28.0%);
  - ◆ District of Vermont (24.8%);
  - ◆ Western District of Virginia (24.7%);
  - ◆ Eastern District of Tennessee (22.3%).

## Punishment

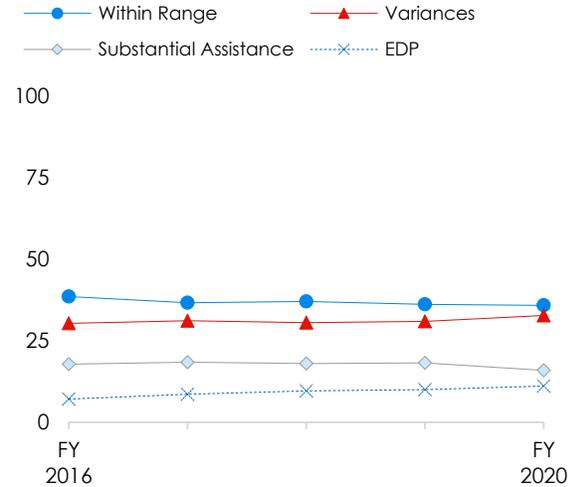
- The average sentence for female offenders was 30 months, compared to 44 months for male offenders.
- 79.6% were sentenced to prison, compared to 94.3% of male offenders.
- 29.6% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, compared to 24.0% of male offenders.



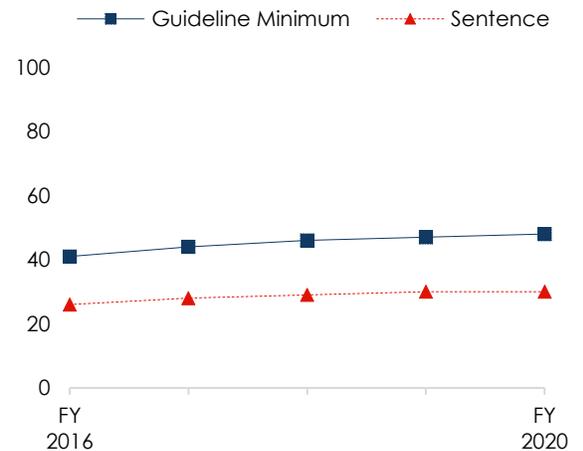
### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 67.3% of female offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
  - 53.2% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 23.6% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 61.4%.
  - 16.5% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.<sup>3</sup>
    - Their average sentence reduction was 59.8%.
  - 6.2% received some other downward departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 55.9%.
- 32.7% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 96.9% received a downward variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 57.9%.
  - 3.1% received an upward variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 96.1%.
- The average guideline minimum and sentence imposed slightly increased over the past five years.<sup>4</sup>
  - The average guideline minimum increased from 41 months in fiscal year 2016 to 48 months in fiscal year 2020.
  - The average sentence imposed increased from 26 months in fiscal year 2016 to 30 months in fiscal year 2020.

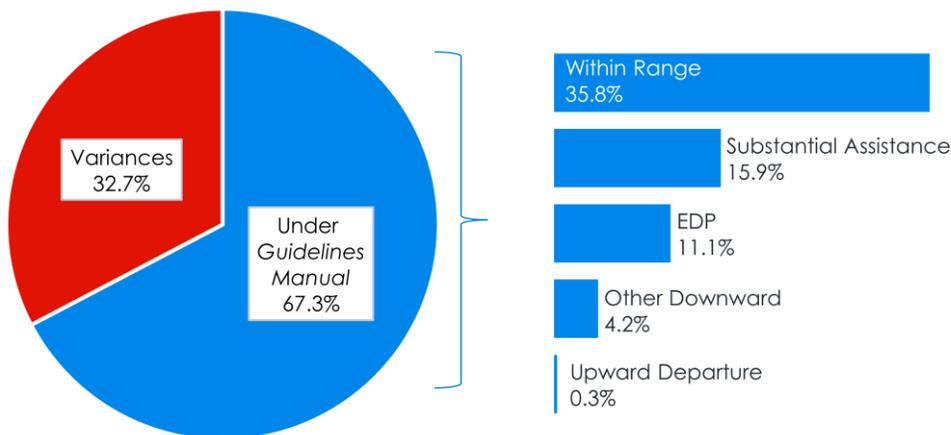
### Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)



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



### Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2020



<sup>1</sup> Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Among male offenders, 58.5% were Hispanic; 52.3% were United States citizens; and, their average age was 36 years. Male offenders had more extensive criminal histories (41.1% were Criminal History Category I).

<sup>3</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.

<sup>4</sup> For male offenders, the average guideline minimum decreased from 62 months in fiscal year 2016 to 55 months in fiscal year 2020. The average sentence imposed decreased from 49 months in fiscal year 2016 to 44 months in fiscal year 2020.