



Quick Facts

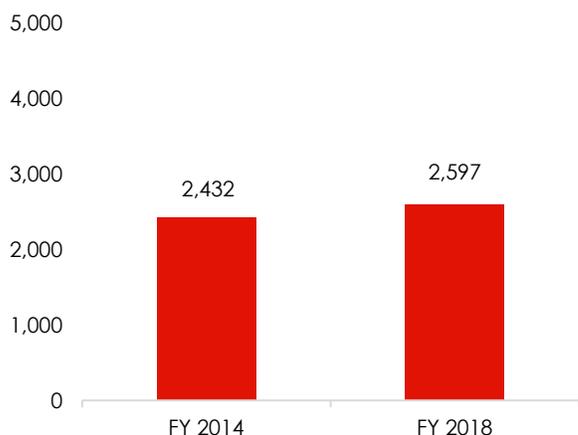


— Heroin Trafficking Offenses —

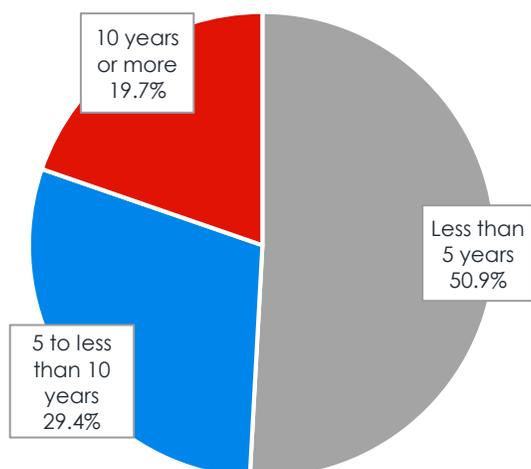
Fiscal Year 2018

- ▶ IN FY 2018, 69,425 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 18,964 OF THESE INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.^{1,2}
- ▶ 13.7% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED HEROIN.
- ▶ HEROIN TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE INCREASED BY 6.8% SINCE FY 2014.

Number of Heroin Trafficking Offenders



Sentence Length FY 2018



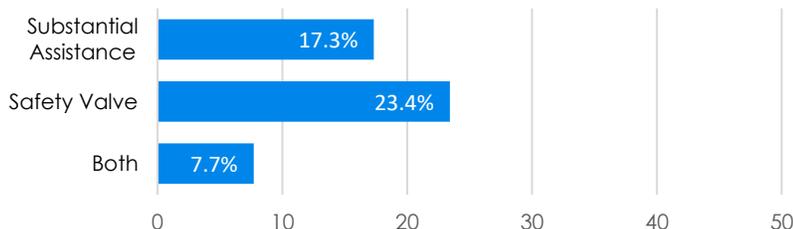
Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 83.7% of heroin trafficking offenders were men.
- 43.8% of heroin trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 39.7% were Black, 15.3% were White, and 1.2% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 81.6% were United States citizens.
- 39.4% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 9.8% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 26, corresponding to between 400 and 700 grams of heroin.
- Sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ possessing a weapon (21.6%);
 - ◆ having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (8.8%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ having minor or minimal participation in the offense (14.8%);
 - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (24.6%).
- The top five districts for heroin trafficking offenders were:
 - ◆ Southern District of New York (146);
 - ◆ District of Maryland (113);
 - ◆ Northern District of Illinois (96);
 - ◆ Western District of Texas (90);
 - ◆ Southern District of California (89).

Punishment

- The average sentence for heroin trafficking offenders was 69 months.
- 97.2% were sentenced to prison.
- 53.5% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 48.5% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Heroin Traffickers





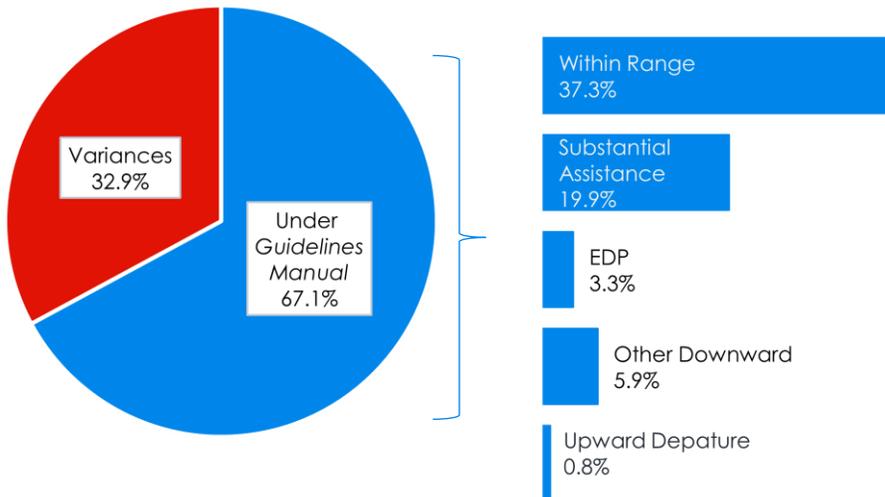
www.ussc.gov
pubaffairs@ussc.gov
@theusscgov

— Heroin Trafficking Offenses —

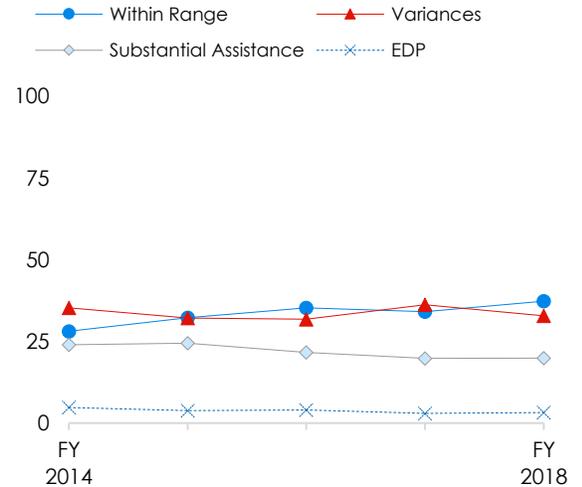
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 67.1% of heroin trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
 - 55.6% were sentenced within the guideline range.
 - 29.7% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 53.3%.
 - 4.9% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.³
 - Their average sentence reduction was 51.0%.
- 32.9% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - 92.7% received a below range variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 39.5%.
 - 7.3% received an above range variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 114.2%.
- The average guideline minimum and the sentence imposed has remained steady over the past five years.
 - The average guideline minimum increased from 66 months in fiscal year 2014 to 69 months in fiscal year 2018.
 - The average sentence imposed decreased from 93 months in fiscal year 2014 to 92 months in fiscal year 2018.

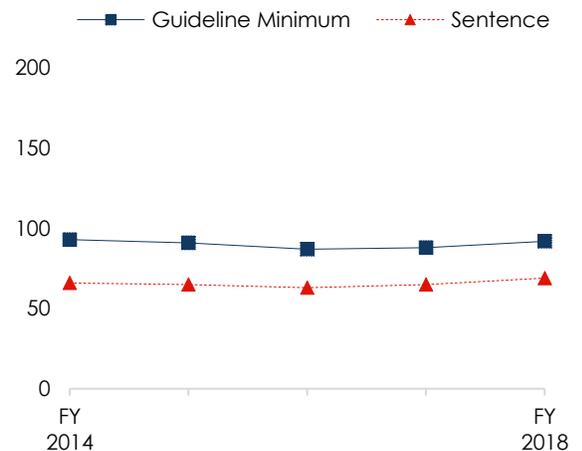
Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2018



Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



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

² 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). Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

³ "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.