



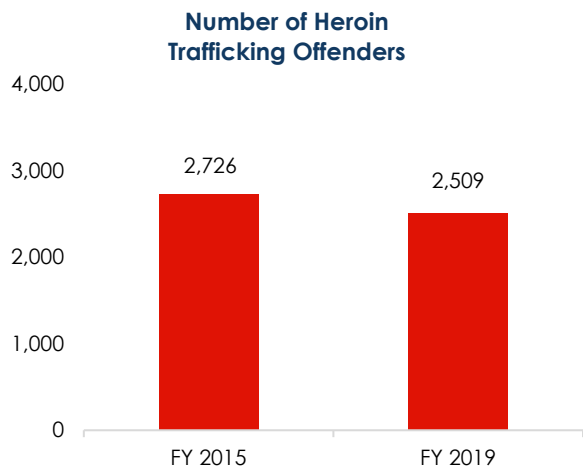
Quick Facts



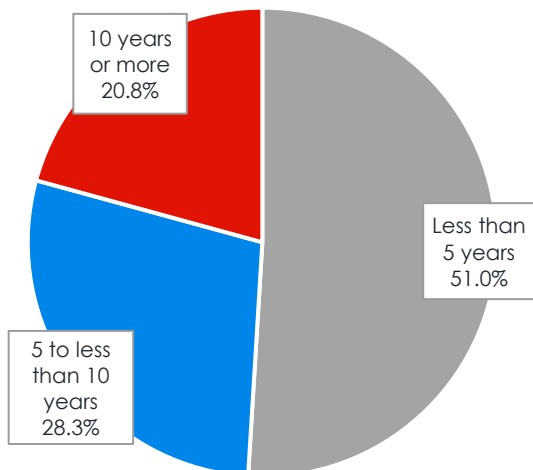
— Heroin Trafficking Offenses —

Fiscal Year 2019

- ▶ IN FY 2019, 76,538 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 20,085 CASES INVOLVED DRUGS.¹
- ▶ 19,765 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.²
- ▶ 12.7% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED HEROIN.
- ▶ HEROIN TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE DECREASED BY 8.0% SINCE FY 2015.



Sentence Length FY 2019



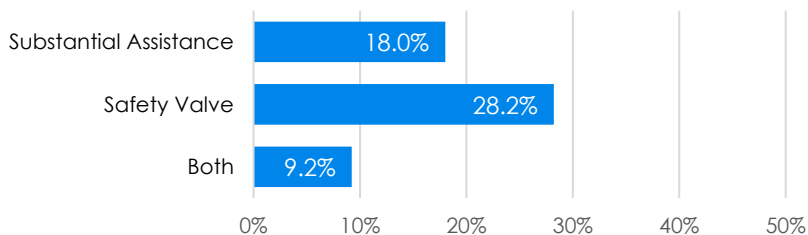
Offender and Offense Characteristics³

- 86.0% of heroin trafficking offenders were men.
- 42.8% of heroin trafficking offenders were Black, 40.6% were Hispanic, 15.5% were White, and 1.1% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 81.9% were United States citizens.
- 37.4% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 9.3% 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 (21.2%);
 - ◆ having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (9.5%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ having minor or minimal participation in the offense (15.3%);
 - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (28.0%).
- The top five districts for heroin trafficking offenders were:
 - ◆ Southern District of New York (169);
 - ◆ District of Maryland (85);
 - ◆ Western District of Texas (83);
 - ◆ Eastern District of North Carolina (79);
 - ◆ Middle District of Pennsylvania (77).

Punishment

- The average sentence for heroin trafficking offenders was 70 months.
- 96.8% were sentenced to prison.
- 58.5% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 55.4% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Heroin Traffickers





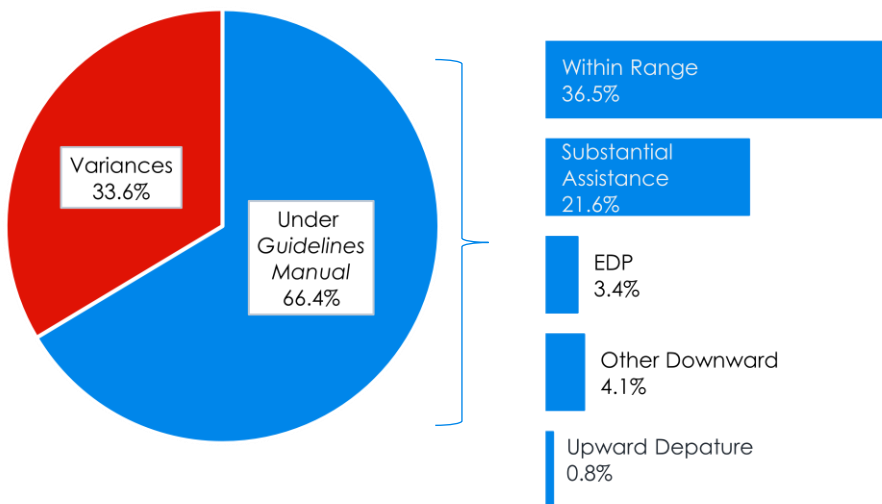
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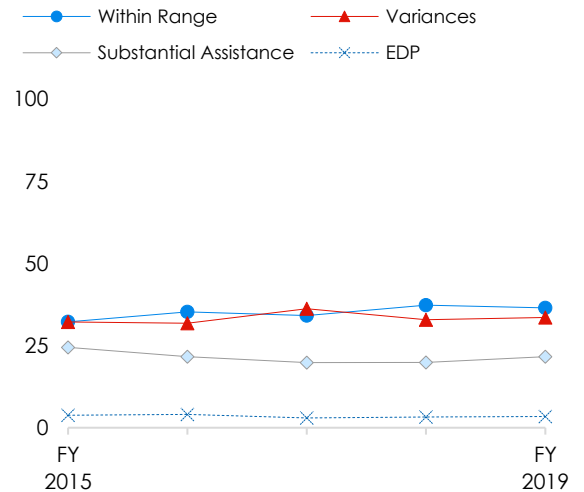
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 66.4% of heroin trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
 - 54.9% were sentenced within the guideline range.
 - 32.6% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 53.2%.
 - 5.1% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.⁴
 - Their average sentence reduction was 51.2%.
- 33.6% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - 92.9% received a below range variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 40.3%.
 - 7.1% received an above range variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 57.0%.
- The average guideline minimum and the sentence imposed has remained relatively steady over the past five years.
 - The average guideline minimum increased from 91 months in fiscal year 2015 to 95 months in fiscal year 2019.
 - The average sentence imposed increased from 65 months in fiscal year 2015 to 70 months in fiscal year 2019.

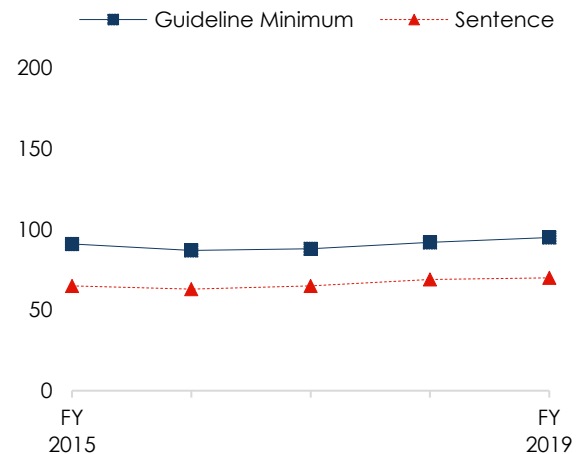
Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2019



Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



¹ Drug offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 2,537 heroin offenders sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2019.

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 Cases with incomplete guideline application information were excluded from analysis.

⁴ "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.