



Quick Facts

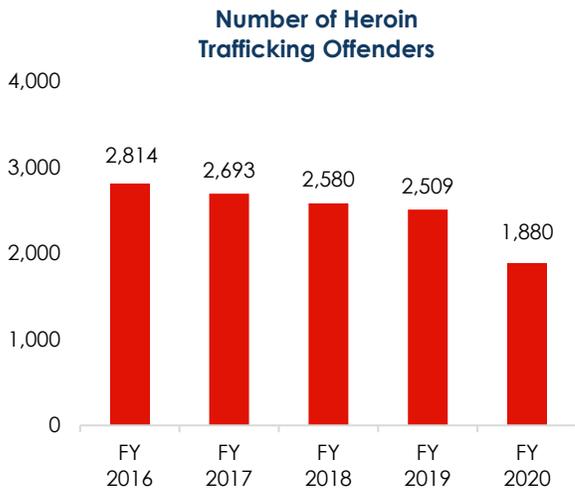
— Heroin Trafficking Offenses —

Fiscal Year 2020

- ▶ IN FY 2020, 64,565 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 16,501 CASES INVOLVED DRUGS.¹
- ▶ 16,287 CASES INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.²
- ▶ 11.6% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED HEROIN.
- ▶ HEROIN TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE DECREASED BY 33.2% SINCE FY 2016.

Offender and Offense Characteristics³

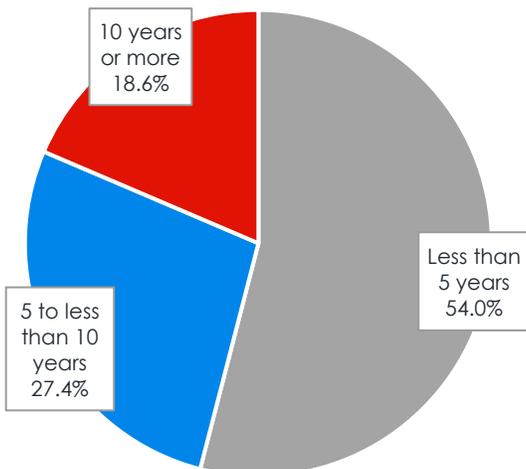
- 83.6% of heroin trafficking offenders were men.
- 43.1% of heroin trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 39.1% were Black, 16.2% were White, and 1.6% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 79.4% were United States citizens.
- 38.5% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 7.7% 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 (20.9%);
 - ◆ a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (7.6%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ minor or minimal participation in the offense (15.7%);
 - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (30.6%).
- The top five districts for heroin trafficking offenders were:
 - ◆ Southern District of New York (120);
 - ◆ District of New Jersey (101);
 - ◆ Southern District of California (73);
 - ◆ Western District of Texas (59);
 - ◆ District of Connecticut (54).



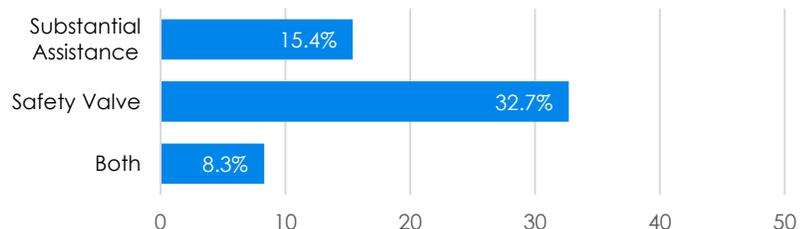
Punishment

- The average sentence for heroin trafficking offenders was 66 months.
- 97.1% were sentenced to prison.
- 60.6% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 56.4% were relieved of that penalty.

Sentence Length FY 2020



Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Heroin Traffickers

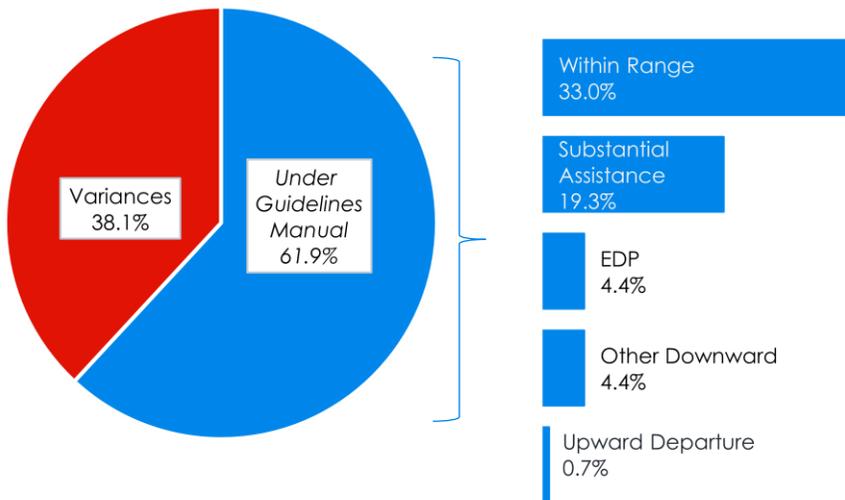




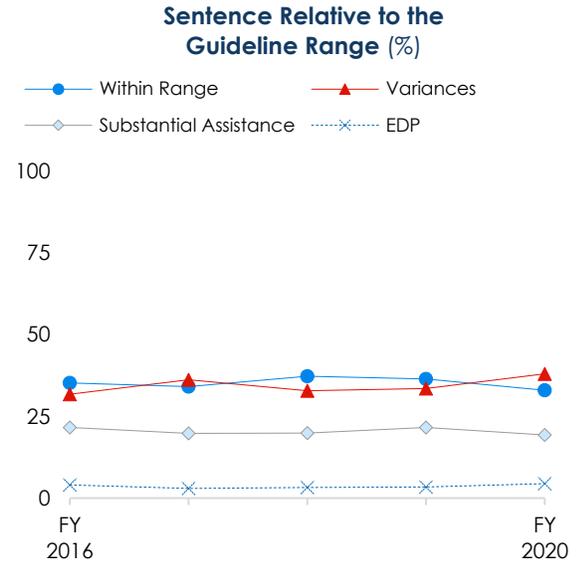
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 61.9% of heroin trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
 - 53.3% were sentenced within the guideline range.
 - 31.2% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 52.1%.
 - 7.2% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.⁴
 - Their average sentence reduction was 55.6%.
- 38.1% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - 93.9% received a downward variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 40.8%.
 - 6.1% received an upward variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 144.8%.
- The average guideline minimum and the average sentence imposed slightly increased over the past five years.
 - The average guideline minimum increased from 87 months in fiscal year 2016 to 90 months in fiscal year 2020.
 - The average sentence imposed increased from 63 months in fiscal year 2016 to 66 months in fiscal year 2020.

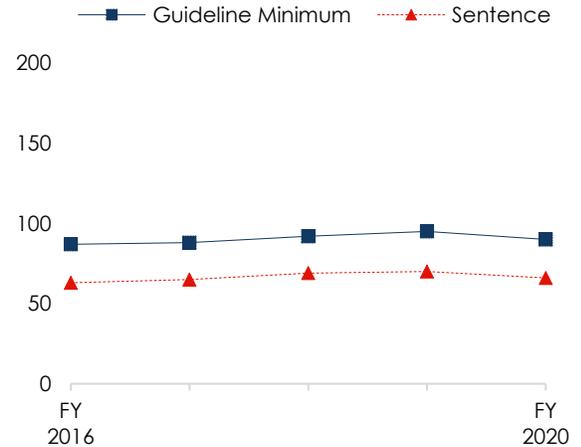
Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2020



Heroin Trafficking Offenses



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 1,900 heroin offenders sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2020.

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 sentencing 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.