

Quick Facts

Illegal Reentry Offenses

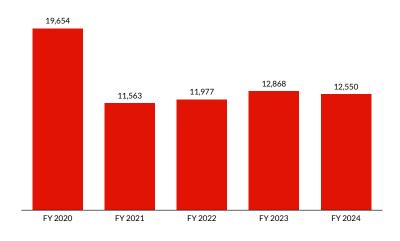
Population Snapshot

61,678 cases were reported in FY24;

17,336 involved immigration offenses;¹ 72.4% involved illegal reentry.²

Illegal reentry offenses decreased by 36.1% since FY20 and 2.5% from the previous year.

Number of Illegal Reentry Offenses



Districts with the Most Illegal Reentry Offenses³

Western District of Texas	4,577
Southern District of Texas	2,795
District of Arizona	1,890
District of New Mexico	904
Southern District of California	352

Individual and Offense Characteristics

97.1% of individuals sentenced for illegal reentry were men.

99.0% were Hispanic, 0.5% were White, 0.5% were Black, and fewer than 0.1% were Other races.

Their average age was 39 years.

33.8% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I);

- 30.4% were CHC II;
- 22.0% were CHC III;
- 7.9% were CHC IV;
- 4.0% were CHC V;
- 1.9% were CHC VI.

For individuals sentenced under the 2016 *Guidelines Manual* or later:

- 34.0% of individuals received sentencing enhancements for a previous illegal entry conviction:
 - 31.3% for a felony reentry offense;
 - 2.7% for two or more convictions for misdemeanor illegal entry.
- 41.6% of individuals received sentencing enhancements for a previous felony conviction other than illegal reentry or three misdemeanor drug trafficking/crime of violence convictions:
 - 20.6% only received an enhancement for a conviction *before* the individual's first deportation;
 - 18.4% only received an enhancement for a conviction *after* the individual's first deportation;
 - 2.7% received enhancements for convictions *before and after* the individual's first deportation.
- 58.4% received no enhancement for a previous nonillegal reentry felony conviction or three misdemeanor drug trafficking/crime of violence convictions.

The top five districts where illegal reentry offenses comprised the highest proportion of their overall caseload were:

- Western District of Texas (60.4%);
- District of New Mexico (53.9%);
- District of Arizona (50.9%);
- Southern District of Texas (49.8%);
- District of Delaware (28.4%).





Punishment

The average sentence for individuals sentenced for illegal reentry was 12 months.

95.7% were sentenced to prison.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

85.9% of sentences for illegal reentry were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 65.0% were within the guideline range.
- 16.7% were Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures.⁴
 - The average sentence reduction was 41.4%.
- 3.8% were some other downward departure.
 - The average sentence reduction was 37.1%.

14.1% of sentences for illegal reentry were variances.

- 9.7% were downward variances.
 - The average sentence reduction was 41.0%.
- 4.3% were upward variances.
 - The average sentence increase was 74.5%.

The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed have fluctuated over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average guideline minimum was 9 months in fiscal year 2020 and 12 months in fiscal year 2024.
- The average sentence imposed increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average sentence imposed was 8 months in fiscal year 2020 and 12 months in fiscal year 2024.

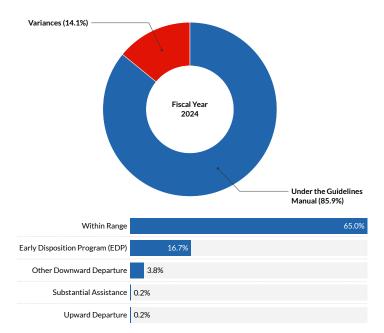
¹ Immigration offenses include cases where individuals were sentenced under USSG §§2L1.1 (Smuggling, Transporting or Harboring an Unlawful Alien), 2L1.2 (Illegal Reentry), 2L2.1 (Trafficking in Documents Relating to Citizenship), 2L2.2 (Fraudulently Acquiring Documents Relating to Citizenship), and 2L2.5 (Failure to Surrender Cancelled Naturalization Certificate).

 $^2\,$ Illegal reentry involves cases in which the court applied USSG 2L1.2 as the primary sentencing guideline.

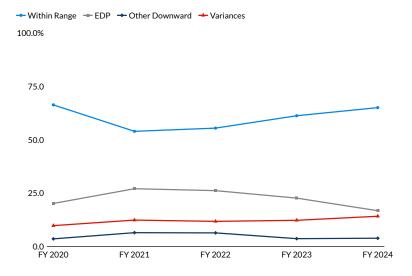
 $^{\scriptscriptstyle 3}$ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

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.

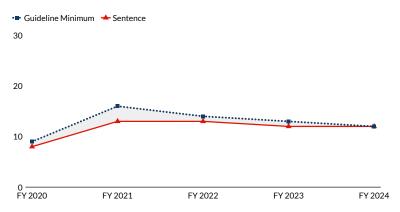
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range by Fiscal Year



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2020 through FY 2024 Datafiles, USSCFY20-USSCFY24.