



QuickFacts

Mandatory Minimum Penalties

Population Snapshot

66,662 cases were reported in FY25.

13,926 involved an offense carrying a statutory mandatory minimum penalty.¹

15% of all sentenced individuals were subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.

Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status

Yes
No

Convicted of an offense carrying a Mandatory Minimum Penalty?

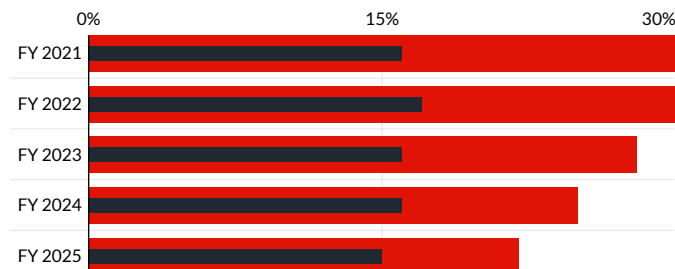


Subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty?

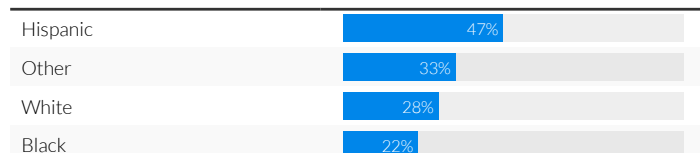


Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status Over Time

Convicted of an Offense Carrying a Mandatory Minimum Penalty
Subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty at Sentencing



Relief by Race



Overview

21% of all cases carried a mandatory minimum penalty.

Of all cases carrying a mandatory minimum penalty:

- 68% were drug trafficking;
- 8% were sexual abuse;
- 7% were child pornography;
- 5% were firearms;
- 3% were fraud.

33% of individuals convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty were relieved of the penalty;

- 14% received relief through the safety valve provision;²
- 15% provided the government with substantial assistance;³
- 5% received relief through both.

Of individuals convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty:

- 30% of males received relief;
- 61% of females received relief;
- 28% of U.S. citizens received relief;
- 58% of non-U.S. citizens received relief.

67% of individuals convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty did not receive relief.

35% of individuals convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty were Hispanic, 32% were Black, 29% were White, and 4% were Other races.

Individuals and Sentencing

The average sentence length was:

- 158 months for those subject to the mandatory minimum penalty;
- 74 months for those receiving relief;
- 28 months for individuals who were not convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.

The top six districts where cases involving a mandatory minimum penalty comprised the highest percentage of the overall caseload were:

- Eastern District of Tennessee (54%);
- Eastern District of Kentucky (52%);
- Southern District of Indiana (52%);
- District of Hawaii (52%);
- Western District of Kentucky (51%);
- Eastern District of California (51%).



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Mandatory Minimum Penalties

Offense Categories

Identity Theft Offenses

- 82% of the 550 individuals sentenced for **identity theft offenses**⁴ were subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
 - Their average sentence was 60 months; 26 months with relief.

Drug Offenses

- 58% of the 16,073 individuals sentenced for **drug offenses** were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty;
 - 57% remained subject to that penalty at sentencing.
 - Their average sentence was 144 months; 72 months with relief.
- 66% of the 3,028 individuals sentenced for **powder cocaine** offenses were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, compared to 46% of individuals sentenced for marijuana offenses.
- 76% of the 163 individuals sentenced for **crack cocaine** offenses remained subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing, compared to 52% of individuals sentenced for marijuana offenses.

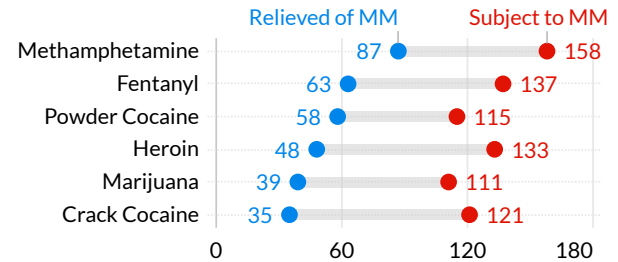
Firearms Offenses

- 26% of the 9,993 individuals sentenced for **firearms offenses** were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
- 2,382 were convicted under **18 U.S.C. § 924(c)**;
 - 84% remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
 - Their average sentence was 158 months; 99 months with relief.
- 159 qualified as **Armed Career Criminals** under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e);
 - 82% remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
 - Their average sentence was 208 months; 118 months with relief.

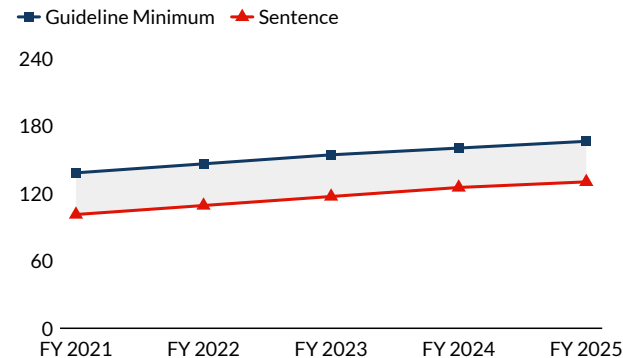
Sex Offenses

- 72% of the 2,812 individuals sentenced for **sex offenses**—sexual abuse or child pornography—were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
- 78% of the 1,390 individuals sentenced for **sexual abuse** were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty;
 - 96% remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
 - Their average sentence was 268 months; 183 months with relief.
- 67% of the 1,422 individuals sentenced for **child pornography** were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty;
 - 98% remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
 - Their average sentence was 147 months; 141 months with relief.

Average Sentence by Drug Type⁵ (months)



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



¹ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

² See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f).

³ See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e).

⁴ Convicted of an offense under 18 U.S.C. § 1028A.

⁵ The 'Fentanyl' category includes both Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide) and Fentanyl Analogue.