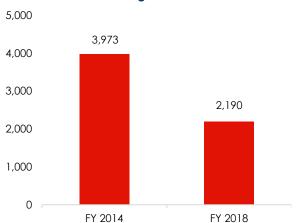


— Marijuana Trafficking Offenses —

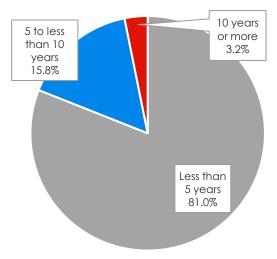
Fiscal Year 2018

- IN FY 2018, 69,425 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
 - ▶ 18,964 OF THESE INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING. 1,2
 - ► 11.5% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED MARIJUANA.
 - MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE DECREASED BY 44.9% SINCE FY 2014.

Number of Marijuana Trafficking Offenders



Sentence Length FY 2018



For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts.

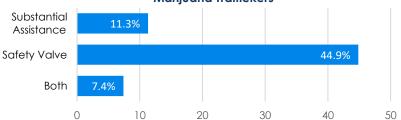
Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 86.8% of marijuana trafficking offenders were men.
- 71.9% of marijuana trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 12.3% were Black, 11.5% were White, and 4.3% were Other races.
- Their average age was 33 years.
- 53.3% were United States citizens.
- 61.1% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 2.2% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 20, corresponding to between 60 and 80 kilograms of marijuana.
- Sentences were increased for:
 - possessing a weapon (11.4%);
 - having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (4.2%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - having minor or minimal participation in the offense (41.9%);
 - meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (48.3%).
- The top five districts for marijuana trafficking offenders were:
 - ♦ Western District of Texas (613);
 - District of Arizona (375):
 - Southern District of Texas (336);
 - District of New Mexico (107);
 - ♦ Eastern District of California (51).

Punishment

- The average sentence for marijuana trafficking offenders was 29 months.
- 91.1% were sentenced to prison.
- 31.8% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 63.6% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Marijuana Traffickers





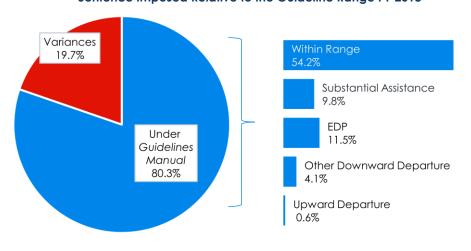
— Marijuana Trafficking Offenses —

Within Range

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

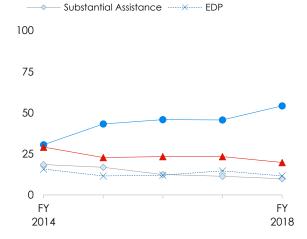
- Of the 80.3% of marijuana trafficking offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
 - ♦ 67.5% were sentenced within the guideline range.
 - 12.2% received a substantial assistance departure.
 Their average sentence reduction was 52.9%.
 - 14.3% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.³
 Their average sentence reduction was 53.4%.
- 19.7% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - ♦ 94.9% received a below range variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 41.1%.
 - ♦ 5.1% received an above range variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 83.9%.
- The average guideline minimum has decreased and the sentence imposed has remained steady over the past five years.
 - The average guideline minimum decreased from 47 months in fiscal year 2014 to 36 months in fiscal year 2018.
 - The average sentence imposed decreased from 33 months in fiscal year 2014 to 29 months in fiscal year 2018.

Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2018



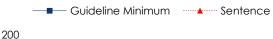
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)

─▲ Variances



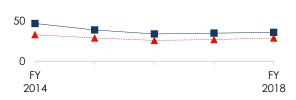
Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence





150

100



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