**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.\(^2\)
  - 6.9% of drug trafficking cases involved marijuana.
- **Marijuana trafficking offenders have decreased by 67.3% since FY 2016.**

**Number of Marijuana Trafficking Offenders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016</td>
<td>3,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>2,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>2,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>1,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>1,118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Offender and Offense Characteristics\(^3\)**

- 88.8% of marijuana trafficking offenders were men.
- 62.0% of marijuana trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 17.9% were Black, 14.9% were White, and 5.2% were Other races.
- Their average age was 34 years.
- 59.8% were United States citizens.
- 65.4% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 1.9% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 22, corresponding to between 80 and 100 kilograms of marijuana.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - possessing a weapon (18.4%);
  - a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (5.2%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (37.1%);
  - meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (51.7%).
- The top five districts for marijuana trafficking offenders were:
  - Western District of Texas (308);
  - Southern District of Texas (137);
  - District of Arizona (66);
  - Eastern District of California (47);
  - District of Puerto Rico (36).

**Punishment**

- The average sentence for marijuana trafficking offenders was 29 months.
- 88.0% were sentenced to prison.
- 33.1% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 73.9% were relieved of that penalty.

**Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Marijuana Traffickers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Relief</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantial Assistance</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Valve</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Marijuana Trafficking Offenses

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 69.9% of marijuana trafficking offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 67.9% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 16.7% received a substantial assistance departure. Their average sentence reduction was 65.1%.
  - 7.6% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure. Their average sentence reduction was 57.9%.
- 30.1% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 93.3% received a downward variance. Their average sentence reduction was 45.2%.
  - 6.7% received an upward variance. Their average sentence increase was 169.1%.
- The average guideline minimum and the average sentence imposed slightly increased over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum increased from 34 months in fiscal year 2016 to 38 months in fiscal year 2020.
  - The average sentence imposed increased from 26 months in fiscal year 2016 to 29 months in fiscal year 2020.