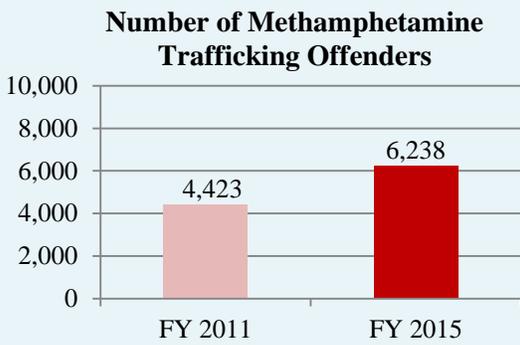




Quick Facts

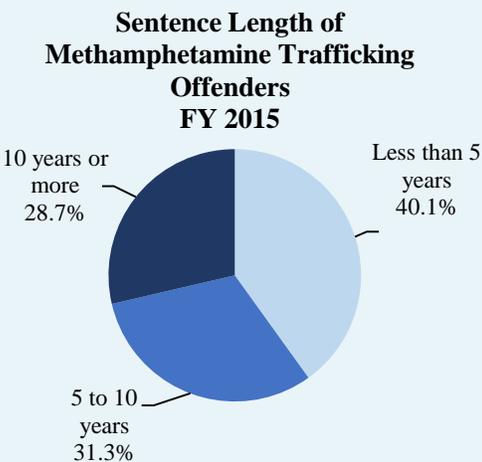
- ▶ THERE WERE 71,003 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2015.
- ▶ OF THESE CASES, 19,792 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.¹
- ▶ 31.5% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED METHAMPHETAMINE.

Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses



Top Five Districts Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders FY 2015

Southern District of California (N=744)
Western District of Texas (N=397)
Northern District of Texas (N=330)
Eastern District of Texas (N=278)
District of Arizona (N=232)



In fiscal year 2015, there were 6,238 methamphetamine trafficking offenders, who accounted for 31.5% of all offenders sentenced under the drug trafficking guidelines. The number of methamphetamine offenders has increased by 41.0% since fiscal year 2011.

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2015, the majority of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were male (79.8%).
- Just over half of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were Hispanic (51.5%) followed by White (38.2%), Black (5.2%), and Other Races (5.1%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 36 years.
- Three-quarters of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were United States citizens (75.7%).
- Less than half (45.3%) of methamphetamine trafficking offenders had little or no prior criminal history (i.e., assigned to Criminal History Category I) while 7.2% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median base offense level in these cases was 32. This corresponds to a quantity of drugs between 3.3 and 11.0 pounds of methamphetamine.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ 18.8% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
 - ◆ 6.2% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ 19.9% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
 - ◆ 31.5% of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

Punishment

- Most methamphetamine trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (98.2%).
- The average sentence for methamphetamine trafficking offenders was 85 months.
- More than half of all methamphetamine trafficking offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (55.1%).
 - ◆ However, almost half (49.1%) of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
 - ◇ 25.3% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders, 15.9% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision, and 7.9% received both forms of relief.

¹ Drug trafficking offenses include cases with complete guideline application information in which the offender was 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).

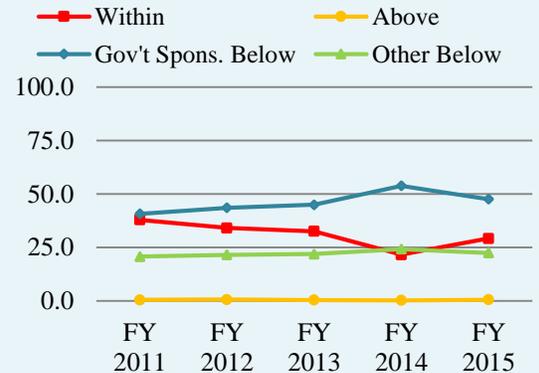
Quick Facts

Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

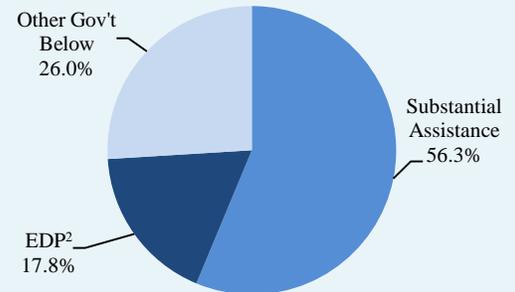
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- The rate of within range sentences for methamphetamine trafficking offenders in fiscal year 2015 was 29.2%.
- The rate of government sponsored below range sentences for methamphetamine trafficking offenders increased in recent years before decreasing to 47.6% in fiscal year 2015.
 - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted for approximately one-quarter of offenders in fiscal year 2015 (26.8%).
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2015, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 45.4%.
 - ◆ Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures² were granted for a small but growing proportion of methamphetamine trafficking offenders over each of the last five years (5.3% in fiscal year 2011 compared to 8.5% in fiscal year 2015).
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2015, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 55.2%.
 - ◆ The rate of methamphetamine trafficking offenders receiving a below range sentence sponsored by the government for reasons other than substantial assistance or participation in an Early Disposition Program increased in recent years before decreasing to 12.4% in fiscal year 2015.
 - In fiscal year 2015, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 38.2%.
- The rate of non-government sponsored below range sentences for methamphetamine traffickers has increased in recent years, but decreased to 22.5% in fiscal year 2015.
 - ◆ In fiscal year 2015, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 33.6%.
- The average guideline minimum for methamphetamine trafficking generally increased in recent years, but decreased in fiscal year 2015 while average sentences have generally decreased.
 - ◆ The average guideline minimum increased between fiscal years 2011 and 2014, and decreased to 119 months in fiscal year 2015;
 - ◆ The average sentence imposed decreased from 93 months in fiscal year 2011 to 85 months in fiscal year 2015.

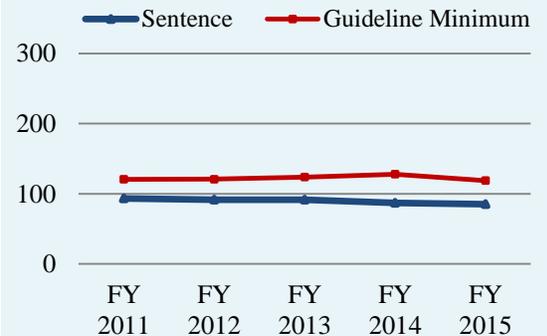
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2015



Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)



² "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.

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SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, 2011 through 2015 Datafiles, USSCFY11-USSCFY15.



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