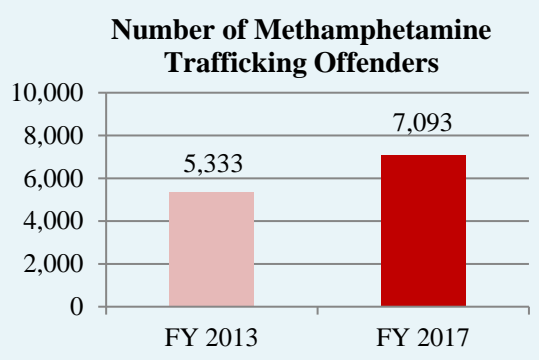




Quick Facts

- ▶ THERE WERE 66,873 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2017.
- ▶ OF THESE CASES, 19,240 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.¹
- ▶ 36.9% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED METHAMPHETAMINE.

Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses



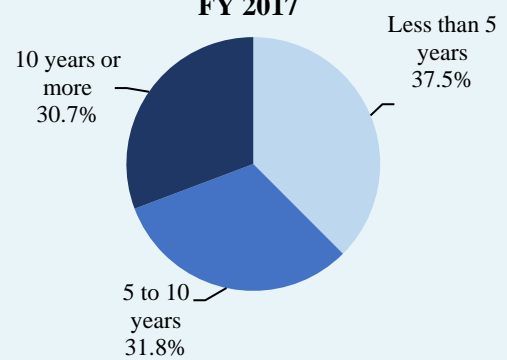
| Top Five Districts Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders FY 2017 |
|--|
| Southern District of California (N=682) |
| Western District of Texas (N=518) |
| Northern District of Texas (N=468) |
| District of Arizona (N=344) |
| Southern District of Texas (N=234) |

In fiscal year 2017, there were 7,093 methamphetamine trafficking offenders, who accounted for 36.9% of all offenders sentenced under the drug trafficking guidelines. The number of methamphetamine offenders has increased by 33.0% since fiscal year 2013.

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2017, the majority of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were men (78.4%).
- Approximately half of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were Hispanic (49.9%) followed by White (37.5%), Black (8.0%), and Other Races (4.7%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 36 years.
- Slightly more than three-quarters of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were United States citizens (77.9%).
- Over forty percent (42.6%) of methamphetamine trafficking offenders had little or no prior criminal history (*i.e.*, assigned to Criminal History Category I) while 5.1% 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:
 - ◆ 23.1% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
 - ◆ 5.9% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ 22.9% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
 - ◆ 29.0% of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

Sentence Length of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders FY 2017



Punishment

- Nearly all methamphetamine trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (97.7%).
- The average sentence for methamphetamine trafficking offenders was 88 months.
- More than half of all methamphetamine trafficking offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (52.6%).
 - ◆ However, almost half (46.5%) of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
 - ◇ 26.3% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders, 13.2% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision, and 7.0% 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).

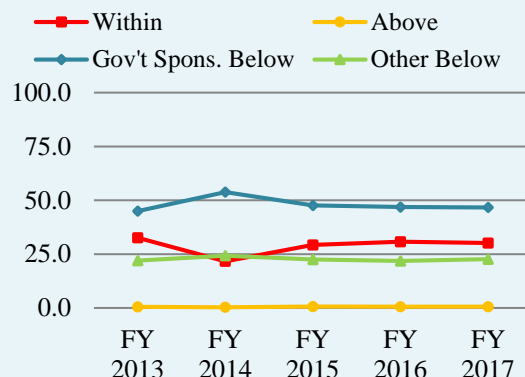
Quick Facts

Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

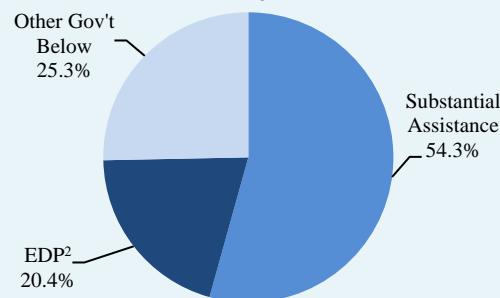
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- The rate of within range sentences for methamphetamine trafficking offenders decreased from fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2014 before increasing in fiscal year 2015 and remaining relatively stable. The within range rate was 30.1% in fiscal year 2017.
- The rate of government sponsored below range sentences for methamphetamine trafficking increased from fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2014 before decreasing in fiscal year 2015 and remaining relatively stable. The rate of government sponsored below range sentences was 46.7% in fiscal year 2017.
 - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted for one-quarter of offenders in fiscal year 2017 (25.4%). This continues a slight downward trend in the rate of substantial assistance departures for methamphetamine trafficking offenders in recent years.
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2017, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 45.3%.
 - ◆ Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures² were granted for a small but growing proportion of methamphetamine trafficking offenders over each of the last five years (9.5% in fiscal year 2017).
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2017, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 55.5%.
 - ◆ 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 EDP was 11.8% in fiscal year 2017. This rate has been relatively stable since fiscal year 2015.
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2017, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 41.3%.
- Non-government sponsored below range sentences were granted for just under a quarter of methamphetamine traffickers in each of the last five years (22.6% in fiscal year 2017).
 - ◆ In fiscal year 2017, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 33.8%.
- The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed for methamphetamine trafficking offenders have both increased since fiscal year 2015.
 - ◆ The average guideline minimum increased from 119 months in fiscal year 2015 to 123 months in fiscal year 2017.
 - ◆ The average sentence imposed increased from 85 months in fiscal year 2015 to 88 months in fiscal year 2017.

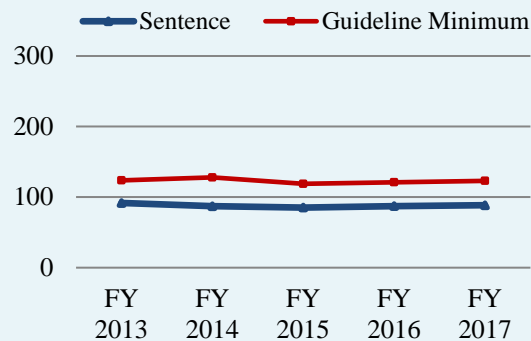
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2017



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.

