



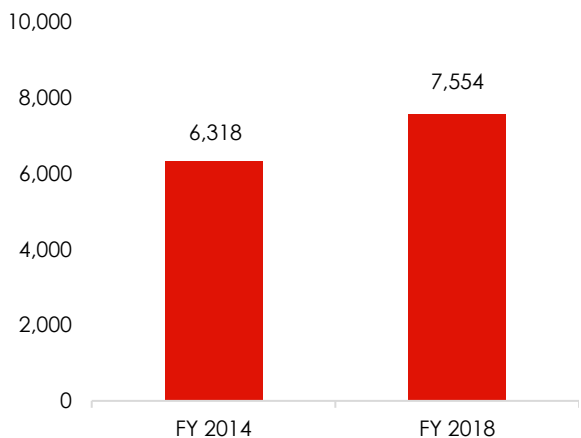
# Quick Facts

— Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses —

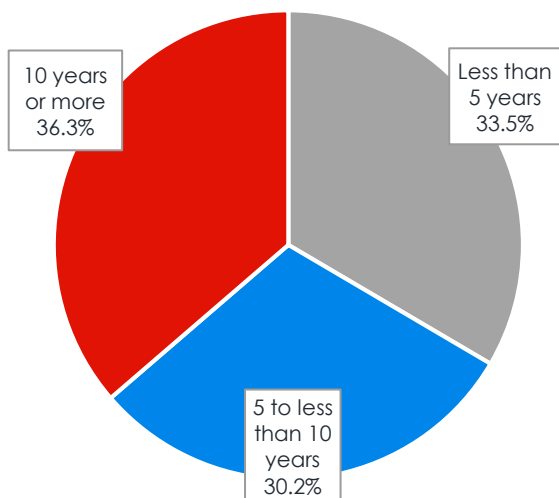
## Fiscal Year 2018

- ▶ IN FY 2018, 69,425 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 18,964 OF THESE INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ▶ 39.8% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED METHAMPHETAMINE.
- ▶ METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE INCREASED BY 19.6% SINCE FY 2014.

**Number of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders**



**Sentence Length FY 2018**



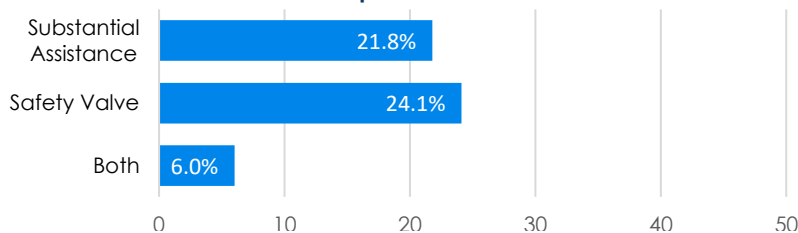
## Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 78.2% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were men.
- 45.8% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 39.9% were White, 10.3% were Black, and 4.1% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 80.3% were United States citizens.
- 41.3% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.8% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 32, corresponding to between 1.5 and five kilograms of methamphetamine mixture, or 150 and 500 grams of methamphetamine actual/"ICE."
- Sentences were increased for:
  - ◆ possessing a weapon (25.6%);
  - ◆ having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (5.8%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - ◆ having minor or minimal participation in the offense (22.3%);
  - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (29.7%).
- The top five districts for methamphetamine trafficking offenders were:
  - ◆ Southern District of California (892);
  - ◆ Northern District of Texas (439);
  - ◆ Western District of Texas (368);
  - ◆ District of Arizona (271);
  - ◆ Southern District of Texas (265).

## Punishment

- The average sentence for methamphetamine trafficking offenders was 96 months.
- 98.2% were sentenced to prison.
- 72.3% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 51.9% were relieved of that penalty.

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





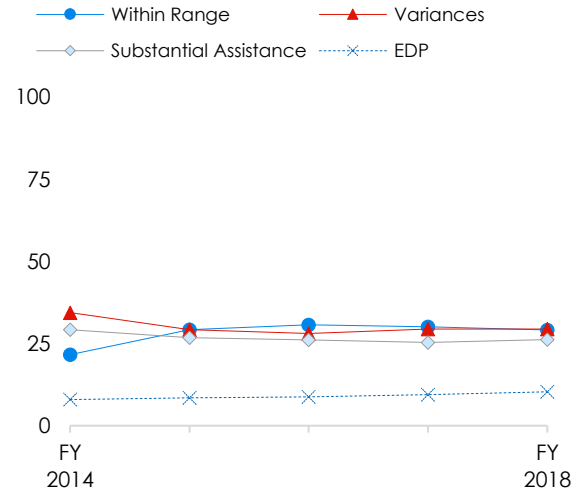
www.ussc.gov  
pubaffairs@ussc.gov  
@theusscgov

## — Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses —

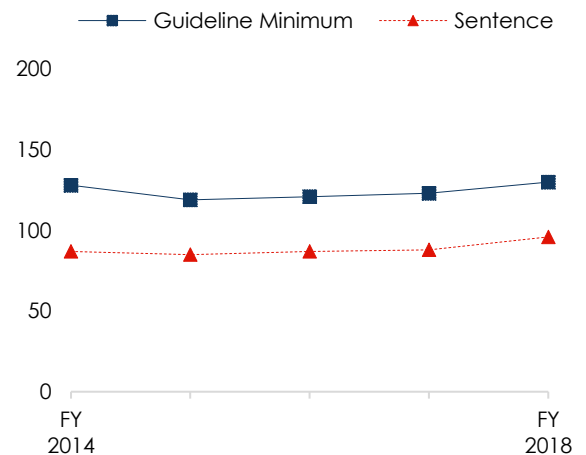
### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 70.5% of methamphetamine trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
  - ◆ 41.4% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - ◆ 37.1% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - ◇ Their average sentence reduction was 45.5%.
  - ◆ 14.6% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.<sup>3</sup>
    - ◇ Their average sentence reduction was 53.9%.
- 29.5% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - ◆ 98.2% received a below range variance.
    - ◇ Their average sentence reduction was 33.6%.
  - ◆ 1.8% received an above range variance.
    - ◇ Their average sentence increase was 29.0%.
- The average guideline minimum has remained relative steady over the past five years, while the sentence imposed has increased slightly.
  - ◆ The average guideline minimum increased from 128 months in fiscal year 2014 to 130 months in fiscal year 2018.
  - ◆ The average sentence imposed increased from 87 months in fiscal year 2014 to 96 months in fiscal year 2018.

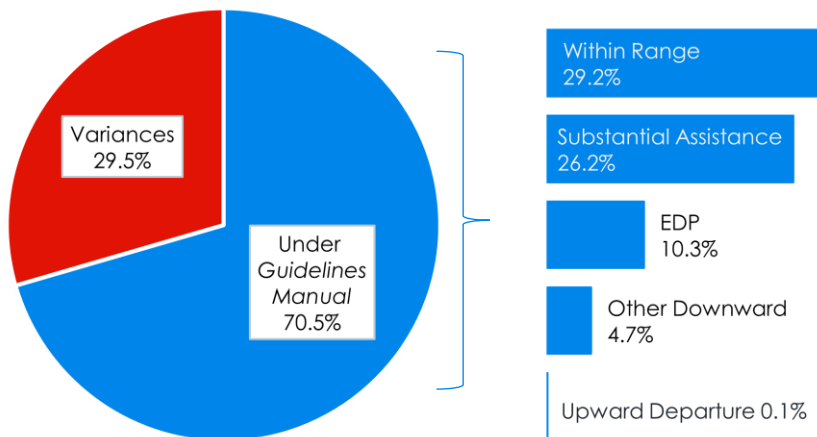
**Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)**



**Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)**



### Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2018



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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> "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.