



QuickFacts

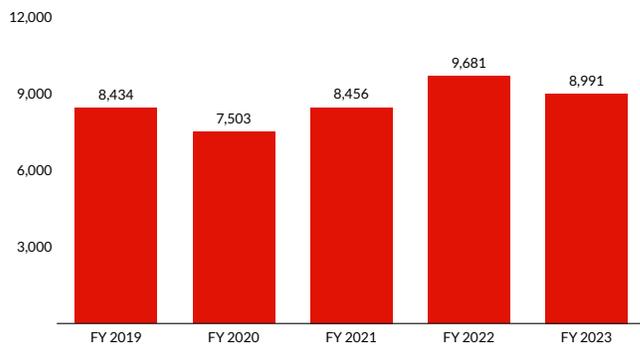
Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

Population Snapshot

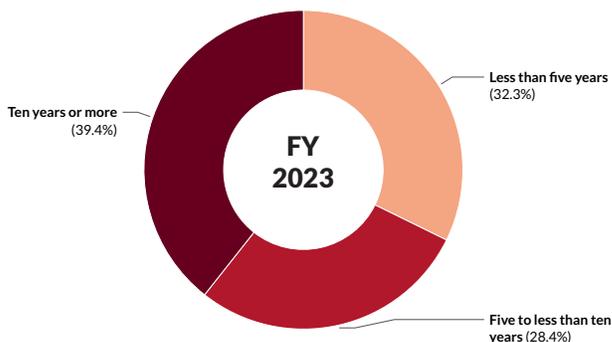
64,124 cases were reported in FY23;
19,066 involved drugs;¹
18,939 involved drug trafficking.²

47.5% of such cases involved methamphetamine, up 6.6% since FY 2019.

Number of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses



Sentence Length



Individual and Offense Characteristics³

- 79.8% of individuals sentenced for methamphetamine trafficking were men.
- 38.8% were Hispanic, 38.2% were White, 19.3% were Black, and 3.6% were Other races.
- Their average age was 39 years.
- 85.4% were United States citizens.
- 35.1% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 6.6% were sentenced under the career offender guideline (§4B1.1).
- The median base offense level in these cases was 34, corresponding to between 5 and 15 kilograms of methamphetamine mixture or 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine actual/“ICE.”
- Sentences were increased for:
 - possessing a weapon (31.1%);
 - a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (4.7%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - minor or minimal participation in the offense (20.0%);
 - meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (32.3%).
- The top five districts for methamphetamine trafficking offenses were:
 - Southern District of California (964);
 - Northern District of Texas (484);
 - Western District of Texas (457);
 - Southern District of Texas (290);
 - Eastern District of Tennessee (248).

Punishment

- The average sentence for methamphetamine traffickers was 100 months.
- 98.4% were sentenced to prison.
- 70.0% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 50.4% of those individuals were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Methamphetamine Traffickers

	Percent
Safety Valve	23.0%
Substantial Assistance	17.6%
Both	9.7%



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Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

Of the 59.3% of individuals sentenced for methamphetamine trafficking under the *Guidelines Manual*:

- 38.5% were sentenced within the guideline range.
- 38.5% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 49.1%.
- 14.2% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.⁴
 - Their average sentence reduction was 66.7%.
- 8.6% received some other downward departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 49.5%.

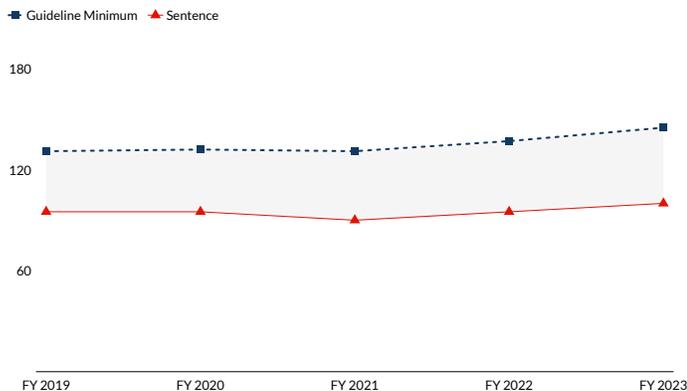
40.7% received a variance; of those individuals:

- 99.0% received a downward variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 35.3%.
- 1.0% received an upward variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 57.1%.

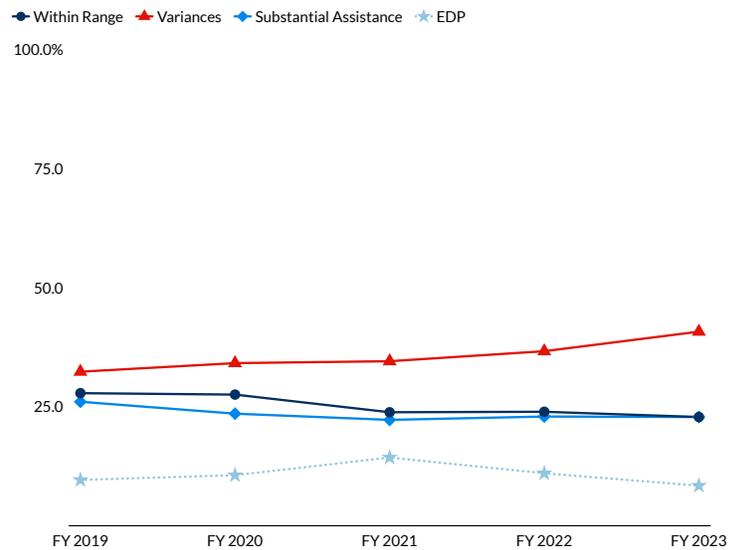
The average guideline minimum and the average sentence imposed increased over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum increased from 131 months in fiscal year 2019 to 145 months in fiscal year 2023.
- The average sentence was 95 months in fiscal year 2019 and 100 months in fiscal year 2023.

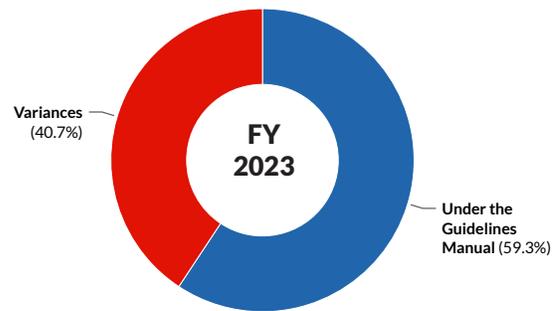
Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (in months)



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Category	Percentage
Within Range	22.8%
Substantial Assistance	22.8%
EDP	8.4%
Other Downward	5.1%
Upward Departure	0.1%

¹ Drug offenses include cases where individuals were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 9,021 individuals sentenced for methamphetamine offenses sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2023.

² Individuals sentenced for drug trafficking 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).

³ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

⁴ "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.