



QuickFacts

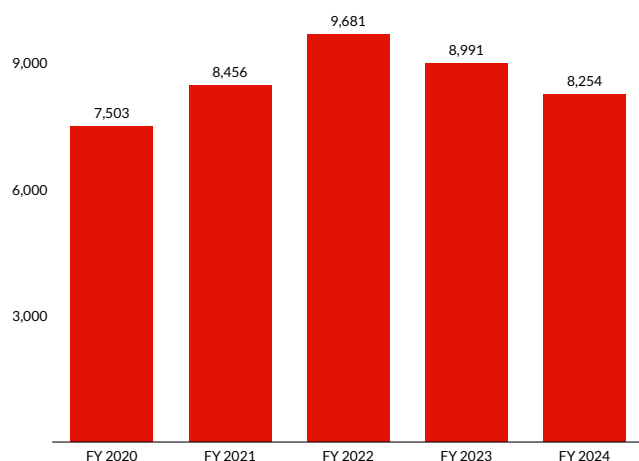
Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

Population Snapshot

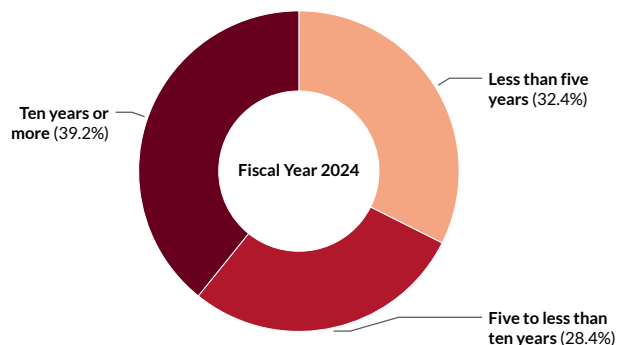
61,678 cases were reported in FY24;
18,150 involved drugs;¹
18,029 involved drug trafficking.²

45.8% of such cases involved
methamphetamine, up
10.0% since FY20.

Number of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses



Sentence Length³



Individual and Offense Characteristics

80.9% of individuals sentenced for methamphetamine trafficking were men.

38.4% were Hispanic, 34.4% were White, 22.6% were Black, and 4.6% were Other races.

Their average age was 39 years.

84.8% were United States citizens.

36.7% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 6.8% 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 (32.4%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (5.9%).

Sentences were decreased for:

- minor or minimal participation in the offense (19.2%);
- meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (32.8%).

The top five districts for methamphetamine trafficking offenses were:

- Southern District of California (679);
- Western District of Texas (350);
- Northern District of Texas (342);
- Southern District of Texas (298);
- Eastern District of Texas (255).

Punishment

The average sentence for individuals trafficking methamphetamine was 100 months.

97.6% were sentenced to prison.

61.2% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; 45.3% of those individuals were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Methamphetamine Trafficking

Means of Relief	Percent
Safety Valve	18.6%
Substantial Assistance	17.9%
Both	8.7%



QuickFacts

Methamphetamine Trafficking

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

59.2% of sentences for methamphetamine trafficking were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 25.8% were within the guideline range.
- 22.2% were substantial assistance departures.
 - The average sentence reduction was 48.7%.
- 6.5% were Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures.⁴
 - The average sentence reduction was 64.2%.
- 4.5% were some other downward departure.
 - The average sentence reduction was 47.2%.
- 0.1% were upward departures.
 - The average sentence increase was 132.1%.

40.8% of sentences for methamphetamine trafficking were variances.

- 40.2% were downward variances.
 - The average sentence reduction was 35.2%.
- 0.6% were upward variances.
 - The average sentence increase was 22.1%.

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

- The average guideline minimum was 132 months in fiscal year 2020 and 140 months in fiscal year 2024.
- The average sentence imposed was 95 months in fiscal year 2020 and 100 months in fiscal year 2024.

¹ Drug offenses include cases where individuals were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 8,288 individuals sentenced for methamphetamine offenses sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2024.

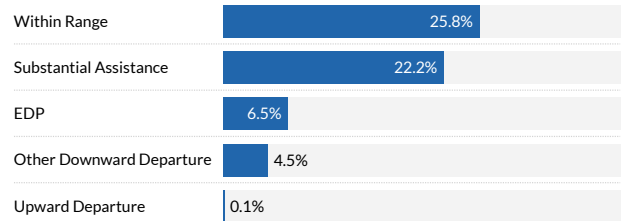
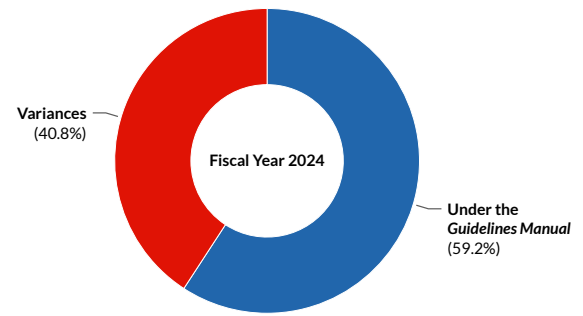
² Individuals sentenced for drug trafficking were sentenced under USSG §§2D1.1 (Drug Trafficking), 2D1.2 (Protected Locations), 2D1.5 (Continuing Criminal Enterprise), 2D1.6 (Use of a Communication Facility), 2D1.8 (Rent/Manage Drug Establishment), 2D1.10 (Endangering Human Life), or 2D1.14 (Narco-Terrorism).

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

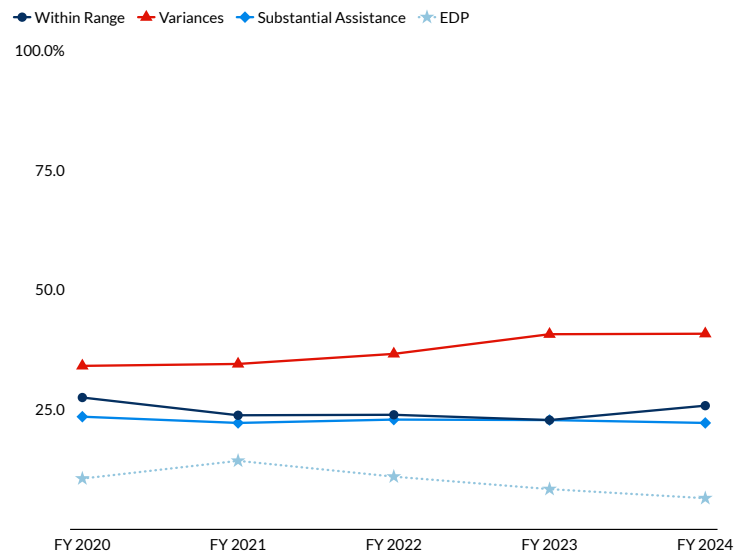
⁴ "Early Disposition Program" (or EDP) departures are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.

SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2020 through FY 2024 Datafiles, USSCFY20-USSCFY24.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range by Fiscal Year



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)

