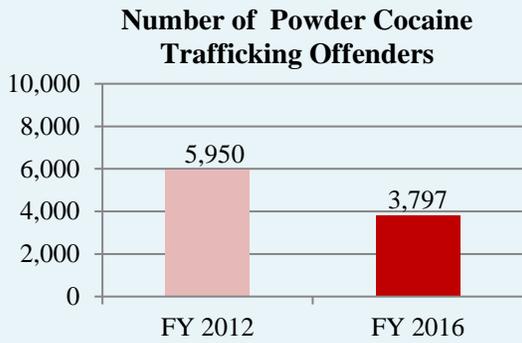




Quick Facts

- ▶ THERE WERE 67,742 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2016.
- ▶ OF THESE CASES, 19,222 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.¹
- ▶ 19.8% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED POWDER COCAINE.

Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses



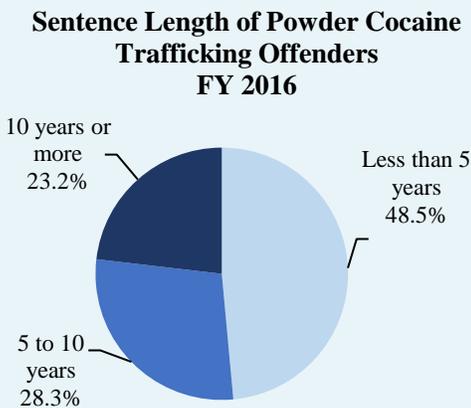
In fiscal year 2016, there were 3,797 powder cocaine trafficking offenders, who accounted for 19.8% of all offenders sentenced under the drug trafficking guidelines. The number of powder cocaine offenders has decreased by 36.2% since fiscal year 2012.

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2016, the majority of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were male (89.2%).
- Over sixty percent of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were Hispanic (61.9%) followed by Black (30.1%), White (6.9%), and Other Races (1.1%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 37 years.
- Approximately sixty-five percent of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were United States citizens (64.8%).
- Over half (62.3%) of powder cocaine traffickers had little or no prior criminal history (*i.e.*, assigned to Criminal History Category I). A small percentage were career offenders (6.5%).
- The median base offense level in these cases was 30. This corresponds to a quantity of drugs between 11 and 33 pounds of powder cocaine.
- Powder cocaine trafficking sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ 17.0% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
 - ◆ 10.0% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Powder cocaine trafficking sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ 18.0% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
 - ◆ 41.0% of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

Top Five Districts Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenders FY 2016

District of Puerto Rico (N=396)
Middle District of Florida (N=369)
Southern District of Florida (N=306)
Southern District of Texas (N=251)
Western District of Texas (N=175)



Punishment

- Most powder cocaine trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (97.2%).
- The average sentence for powder cocaine trafficking offenders was 70 months.
- Approximately sixty percent of all powder cocaine trafficking offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (60.4%).
 - ◆ However, more than half (59.6%) of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
 - ◇ 16.6% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders, 30.5% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision, and 12.5% 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).

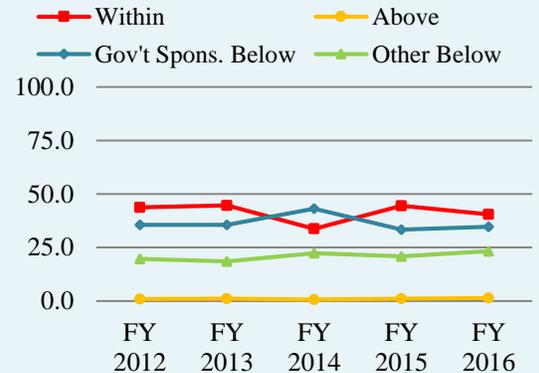
Quick Facts

Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses

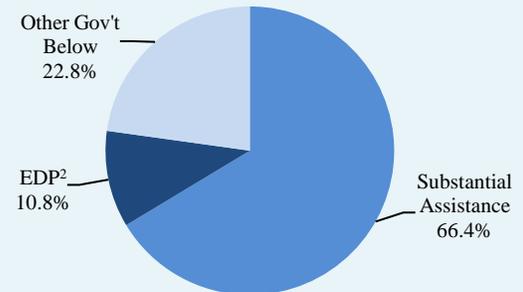
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- The rate of within range sentences for powder cocaine trafficking offenders in fiscal year 2016 was 40.5%.
- The rate of government sponsored below range sentences for powder cocaine trafficking offenders in fiscal year 2016 was 34.8%.
 - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted for approximately a quarter of offenders in each of the past five years. The rate was 23.1% in fiscal year 2016.
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2016, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 51.3%.
 - ◆ Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures² were granted for a small proportion of approximately three to four percent of powder cocaine trafficking offenders in each of the last five years.
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2016, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 51.1%.
 - ◆ The rate of powder cocaine trafficking offenders receiving a below range sentence sponsored by the government for reasons other than substantial assistance or participation in an Early Disposition Program was 7.9% in fiscal year 2016.
 - ◇ In fiscal year 2016, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 39.7%.
- The rate of non-government sponsored below range sentences for powder cocaine traffickers has generally increased in recent years, from 20.9% in fiscal year 2015 to 23.3% in fiscal year 2016.
 - ◆ In fiscal year 2016, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 36.0%.
- The average guideline minimum for powder cocaine trafficking offenders has slightly decreased since fiscal year 2012 with average sentences following the same pattern.
 - ◆ The average guideline minimum decreased from 95 months in fiscal year 2015 to 94 months in fiscal year 2016;
 - ◆ The average sentence imposed decreased from 72 months in fiscal year 2015 to 70 months in fiscal year 2016.

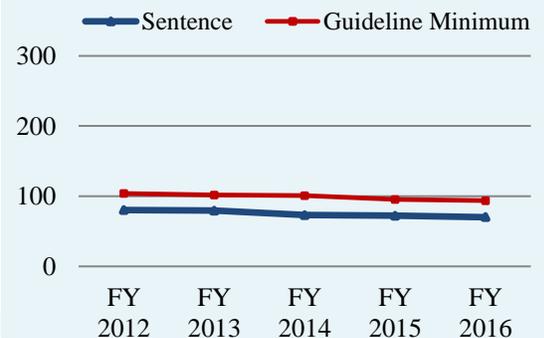
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2016



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.

