



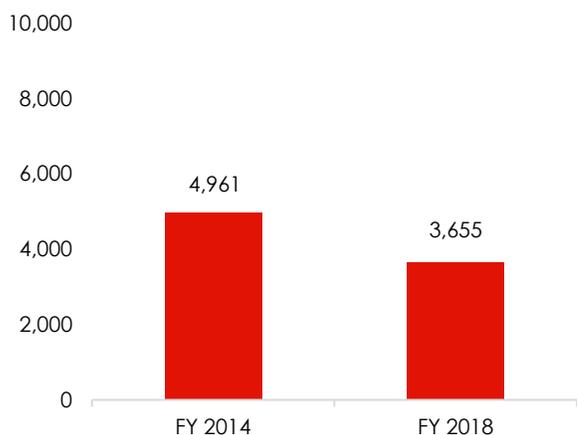
# Quick Facts

## — Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses —

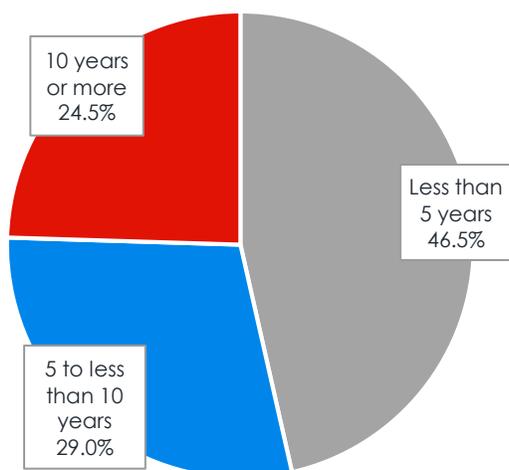
### Fiscal Year 2018

- ▶ 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>
- ▶ 19.3% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED POWDER COCAINE.
- ▶ POWDER COCAINE TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE DECREASED BY 26.3% SINCE FY 2014.

**Number of Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenders**



**Sentence Length FY 2018**



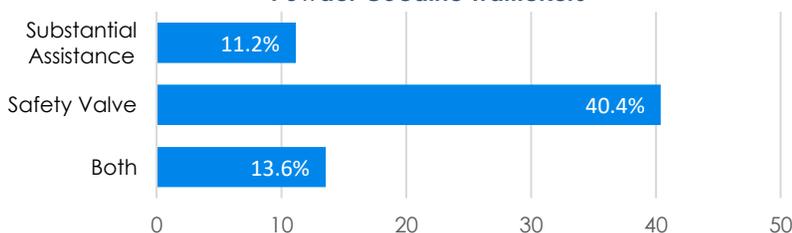
### Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 89.8% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were men.
- 66.3% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 27.3% were Black, 5.7% were White, and 0.7% were Other races.
- Their average age was 37 years.
- 60.0% were United States citizens.
- 64.5% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 5.1% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 30, corresponding to between five and 15 kilograms of powder cocaine.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - ◆ possessing a weapon (16.7%);
  - ◆ having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (8.6%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - ◆ having minor or minimal participation in the offense (19.0%);
  - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (45.0%).
- The top five districts for powder cocaine trafficking offenders were:
  - ◆ Southern District of Texas (348);
  - ◆ Middle District of Florida (329);
  - ◆ Southern District of Florida (317);
  - ◆ Southern District of California (233);
  - ◆ Western District of Texas (215).

### Punishment

- The average sentence for powder cocaine trafficking offenders was 74 months.
- 97.7% were sentenced to prison.
- 69.8% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 65.1% were relieved of that penalty.

**Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Powder Cocaine Traffickers**





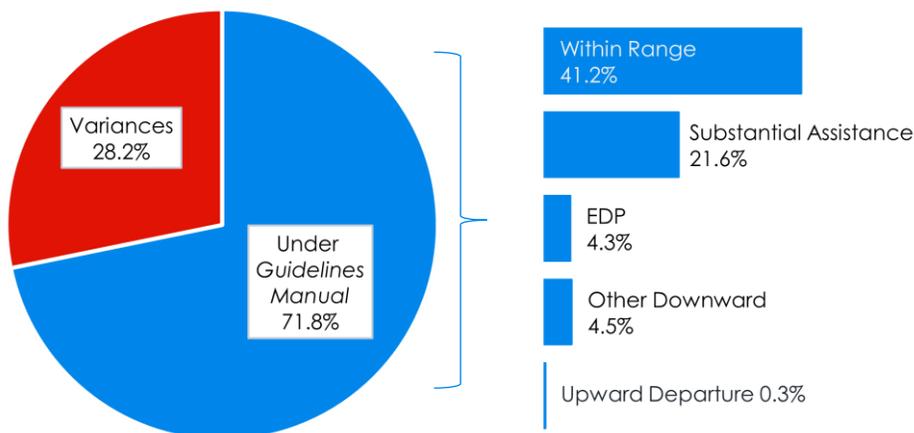
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## — Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses —

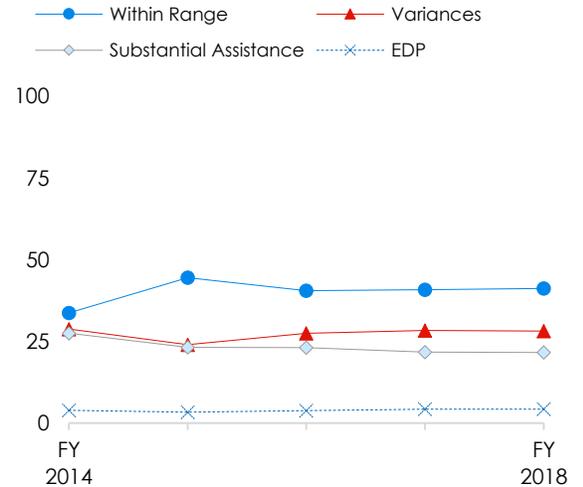
### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 71.8% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
  - 57.4% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 30.1% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 46.5%.
  - 5.9% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.<sup>3</sup>
    - Their average sentence reduction was 50.2%.
- 28.2% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 96.5% received a below range variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 34.8%.
  - 3.5% received an above range variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 56.9%.
- The average guideline minimum decreased while the sentence imposed has remained steady over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum decreased from 101 months in fiscal year 2014 to 94 months in fiscal year 2018.
  - The average sentence imposed increased from 73 months in fiscal year 2014 to 74 months in fiscal year 2018.

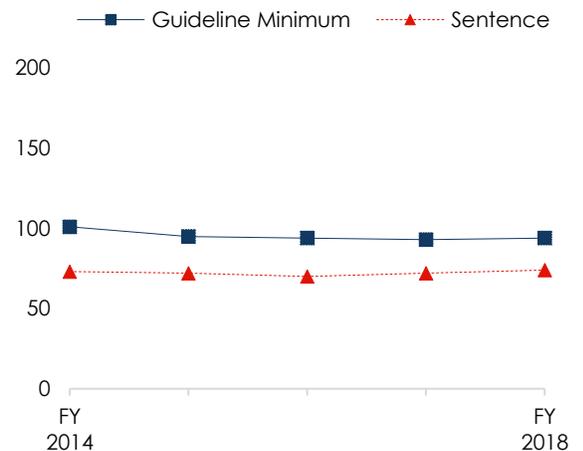
### Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2018



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



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



<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.