In FY 2019, 76,538 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

20,085 cases involved drugs.1

19,765 involved drug trafficking.2

18.1% of drug trafficking cases involved powder cocaine.

Powder cocaine trafficking offenders have decreased by 14.6% since FY 2015.

Number of Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2015</td>
<td>4,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>3,581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Offender and Offense Characteristics3

- 89.0% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were men.
- 65.3% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 27.4% were Black, 6.4% were White, and 0.9% were Other races.
- Their average age was 38 years.
- 64.4% were United States citizens.
- 62.3% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 4.4% 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 (19.3%);
  - having a leadership/supervisory role in the offense (9.5%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - having minor or minimal participation in the offense (18.2%);
  - meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (45.2%).
- The top five districts for powder cocaine trafficking offenders were:
  - District of Puerto Rico (344);
  - Southern District of Texas (308);
  - Middle District of Florida (283);
  - Southern District of Florida (273);
  - Western District of Texas (192).

Punishment

- The average sentence for powder cocaine trafficking offenders was 70 months.
- 96.9% were sentenced to prison.
- 75.3% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 66.1% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Powder Cocaine Traffickers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Relief</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantial Assistance</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Valve</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts.
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 69.0% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 57.4% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 31.7% received a substantial assistance departure. Their average sentence reduction was 50.8%.
  - 5.3% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure. Their average sentence reduction was 52.0%.

- 31.0% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 95.5% received a below range variance. Their average sentence reduction was 38.4%.
  - 4.5% received an above range variance. Their average sentence increase was 41.7%.

- The average guideline minimum and the sentence imposed has remained steady over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum decreased from 95 months in fiscal year 2015 to 92 months in fiscal year 2019.
  - The average sentence imposed decreased from 72 months in fiscal year 2015 to 70 months in fiscal year 2019.

Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2019

- Within Range 39.6%
- Substantial Assistance 21.8%
- EDP 3.7%
- Other Downward 3.7%
- Upward Departure 0.2%
- Variances 31.0%
- Under Guidelines Manual 69.0%

1 Drug offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 3,592 powder cocaine offenders sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2019.

2 Drug Trafficking 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).

3 Cases with incomplete guideline application information were excluded from 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.