



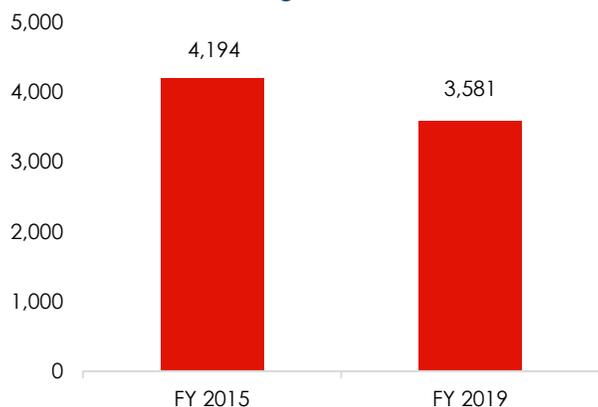
Quick Facts

— Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses —

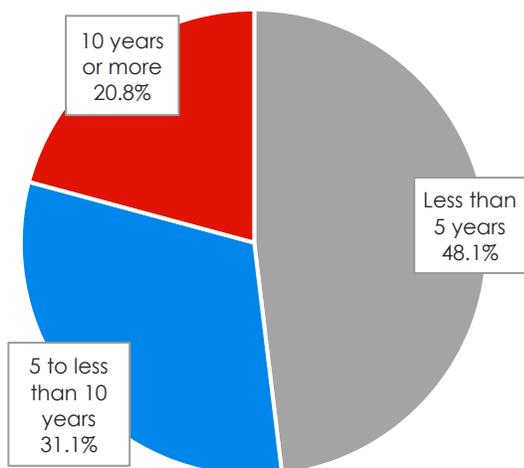
Fiscal Year 2019

- ▶ 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



Sentence Length FY 2019



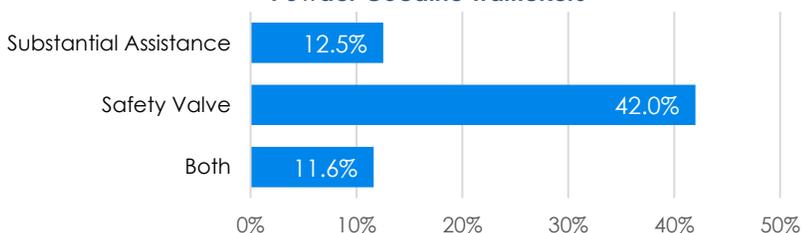
Offender and Offense Characteristics³

- 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





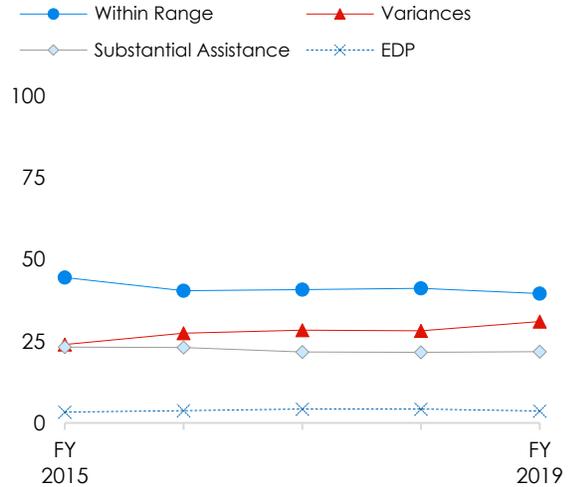
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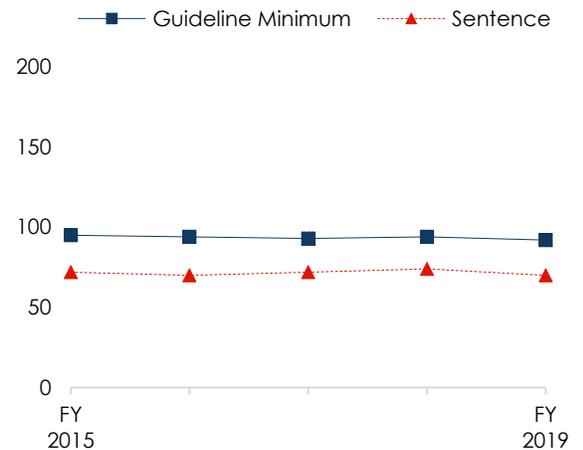
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- 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.⁴
 - 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.

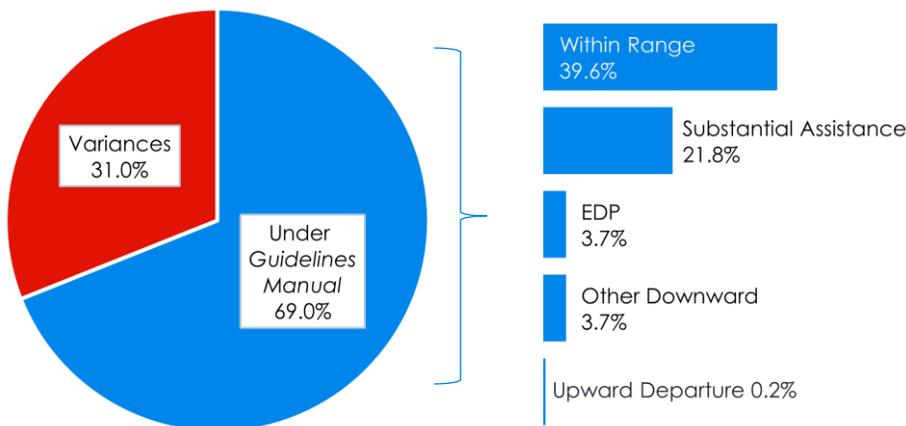
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2019



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.

SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2015 through FY 2019 Datafiles, USSCFY15-USSCFY19.