

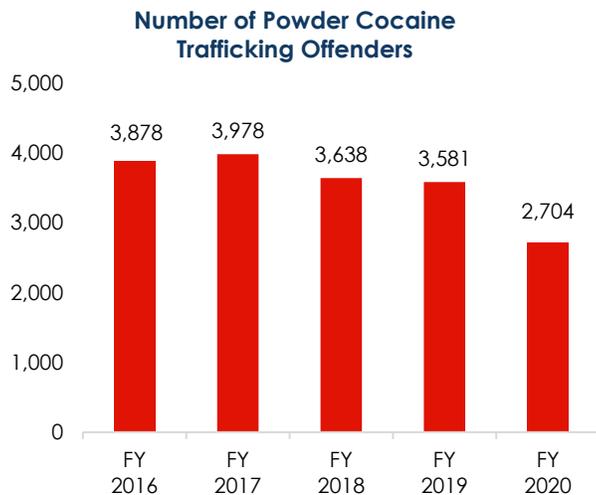


Quick Facts

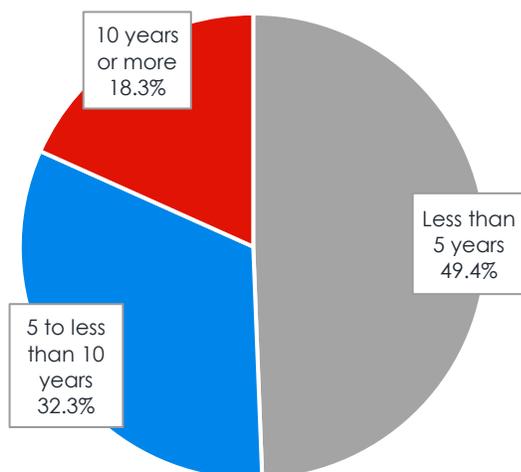
— Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses —

Fiscal Year 2020

- ▶ IN FY 2020, 64,565 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U. S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 16,501 CASES INVOLVED DRUGS.¹
- ▶ 16,287 CASES INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.²
- ▶ 16.6% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES INVOLVED POWDER COCAINE.
- ▶ POWDER COCAINE TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS HAVE DECREASED BY 30.3% SINCE FY 2016.



Sentence Length FY 2020



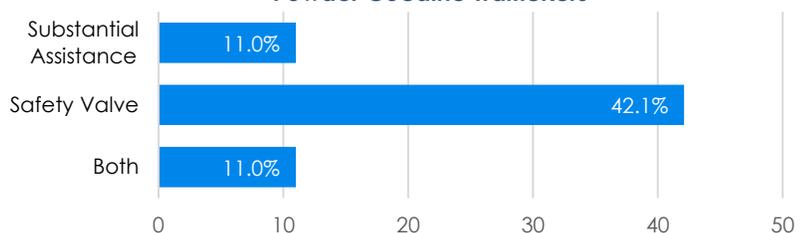
Offender and Offense Characteristics³

- 89.9% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were men.
- 64.4% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders were Hispanic, 27.3% were Black, 7.0% were White, and 1.3% were Other races.
- Their average age was 38 years.
- 64.9% were United States citizens.
- 60.8% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 4.2% were Career Offenders (§4B1.1).
- The median Base Offense Level in these cases was 28, corresponding to between 3.5 and five kilograms of powder cocaine.
- Sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ possessing a weapon (19.6%);
 - ◆ a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (8.6%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ minor or minimal participation in the offense (18.3%);
 - ◆ meeting the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines (43.5%).
- The top five districts for powder cocaine trafficking offenders were:
 - ◆ District of Puerto Rico (316);
 - ◆ Middle District of Florida (219);
 - ◆ Southern District of Florida (191);
 - ◆ Southern District of Texas (170);
 - ◆ Southern District of California (152).

Punishment

- The average sentence for powder cocaine trafficking offenders was 66 months.
- 97.5% were sentenced to prison.
- 72.2% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 64.1% were relieved of that penalty.

Means of Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalty for Powder Cocaine Traffickers



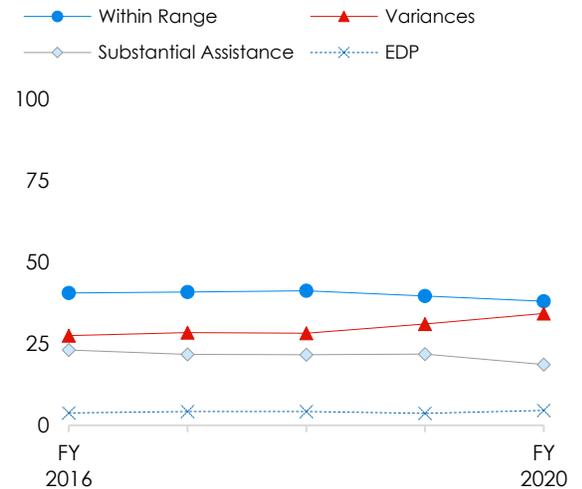


— Powder Cocaine Trafficking Offenses —

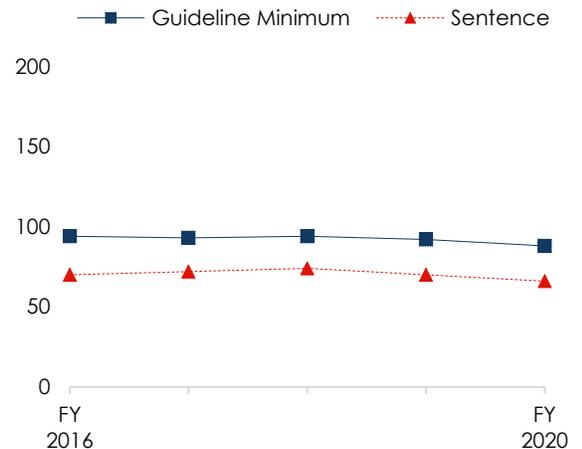
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 65.8% of powder cocaine trafficking offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
 - 57.8% were sentenced within the guideline range.
 - 28.3% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 51.8%.
 - 7.0% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.⁴
 - Their average sentence reduction was 54.0%.
- 34.2% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - 95.0% received a below range variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 37.6%.
 - 5.0% received an above range variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 41.8%.
- The average guideline minimum slightly decreased and the average sentence imposed fluctuated over the past five years.
 - The average guideline minimum decreased from 94 months in fiscal year 2016 to 88 months in fiscal year 2020.
 - The average sentence imposed increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average sentence was 70 months in fiscal year 2016 and 66 months in fiscal year 2020.

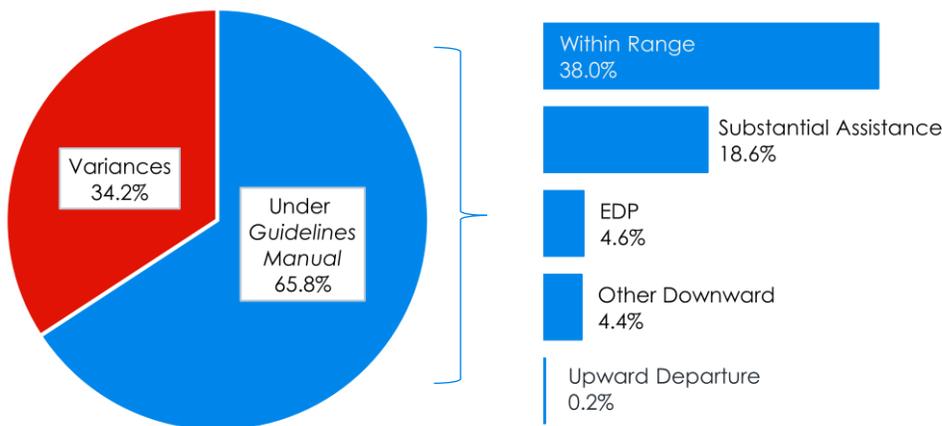
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2020



¹ Drug offenses include cases where offenders were sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs). There were 2,717 powder cocaine offenders sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part D (Drugs) in FY 2020.

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 sentencing 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.