- THERE WERE 80,035 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2013.
- OF THESE CASES, 22,215 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.¹

Distribution of Drug Types

FY 2013

Other

3.0%

Top Five Districts

Drug Trafficking Offenders

FY 2013

Western District of Texas (N=1,587)

Southern District of California

(N=1.426)

Southern District of Texas (N=1,279)

District of Arizona

(N=1,162) District of Puerto Rico

(N=687)

Meth

24.0%

Powder.

Cocaine

24.1%

SIX DRUG TYPES ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY ALL DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

Marijuana

21.5%

Crack Cocaine

13.1%

Heroin

9.8%

Oxycodone

4.6%

Quick Facts

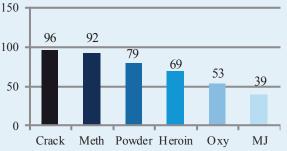
Drug Trafficking Offenses

There were 9.6% fewer drug trafficking offenders in fiscal year 2013 than in fiscal year 2012. Despite this reduction, drug trafficking offenses accounted for 30.4% of all offenses in fiscal year 2013. The drug types most often involved in these offenses were powder cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana.

Offender and Offense Characteristics²

- In fiscal year 2013, most offenders convicted of drug trafficking were male (85.8%).
- Almost half of the offenders were Hispanic (47.9%) followed by Black (26.7%), White (22.3%), and Other Races (3.1%), although the composition of offenders varied substantially across the different drug types.
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 35 years.
- Most drug traffickers were United States citizens (73.7%), although this rate varied substantially depending on the type of drug involved.
- Almost half (49.5%) of drug traffickers had little or no prior criminal history (i.e., were assigned to Criminal History Category I).
- Drug trafficking sentences were increased for:
 - ♦ 16.3% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
 - ♦ 7.0% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Drug trafficking sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ 18.0% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
 - ♦ 34.7% of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

Average Sentence Length (Months)



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).

Offender and offense characteristics as well as the length of punishment differ by primary drug type. Separate Quick Facts publications are available for each primary drug type at www.ussc.gov/Quick_Facts.

Punishment

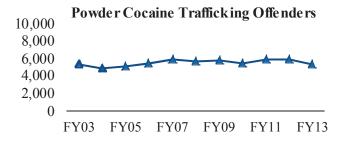
- Most drug trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (96.3%).
- More than three-quarters of drug traffickers were sentenced either within the guideline range (39.7%) or below the range at the government's request (38.5%).
 An additional 20.7% of drug traffickers received a non-government sponsored below range sentence, with the remaining 1.1% of offenders sentenced above the guideline range.
- The average sentence length for all drug traffickers was 72 months. The average sentence varied substantially depending on the type of drug trafficked in the offense.
- 63.7% of all drug trafficking offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; however, less than half of these offenders (41.3%) remained subject to that penalty at sentencing.
 - ♦ 20.0% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders, 28.5% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision, and 10.2% received both forms of relief.



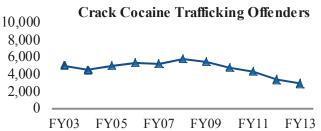
Drug Trafficking Offenses

Six drug types accounted for 97.0% of drug trafficking offenses in fiscal year 2013.

The number of powder cocaine traffickers has remained relatively stable for much of the past decade.

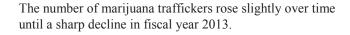


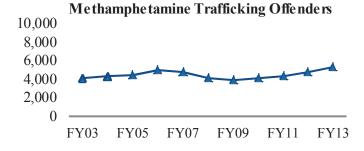
The number of crack cocaine traffickers has decreased since fiscal year 2008 when reductions in crack cocaine penalties were first implemented.

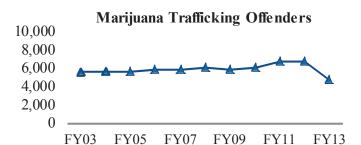


The number of methamphetamine traffickers decreased after

fiscal year 2006 but has been steadily increasing again since fiscal year 2009.

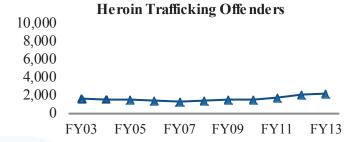


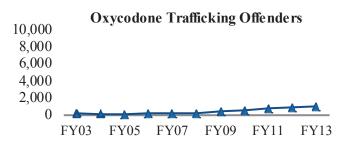




After remaining relatively stable for much of the past decade, the number of heroin traffickers has increased in recent years.

Although the number of oxycodone traffickers remains low compared to most other drug types, there has been a substantial increase in recent years.





One Columbus Circle, N.E. Suite 2-500, South Lobby Washington, DC 20002-8002 T: (202) 502-4500 F: (202) 502-4699 www.ussc.gov