In fiscal year 2016, the Commission received data on 13,604 offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty. Over 60 percent (61.3%) of offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty did not receive relief from the penalty and, therefore, remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing, accounting for 13.4% of all federal offenders.

### Overview
- In 21.9% of all cases, the offender was convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
- Drug trafficking offenses accounted for almost two-thirds (67.3%) of the offenses carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, followed by child pornography (6.9%), fraud (6.6%), and firearms (5.7%).
- Almost 40 percent (38.7%) of offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum were relieved of the mandatory minimum penalty because:
  - 18.8% received relief solely by providing the government with substantial assistance;\(^2\)
  - 14.3% received relief solely through the statutory safety valve provision;\(^3\) and
  - 5.5% received relief through both the statutory safety valve provision and by providing substantial assistance to the government.
- Over 60 percent (61.3%) of offenders convicted of a mandatory minimum did not receive relief from the mandatory minimum penalty, and therefore, remained subject to the mandatory minimum at sentencing, accounting for 13.4% of all federal offenders.

### Offenders and Sentencing
- Hispanic offenders accounted for the largest group (40.4%) of offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, followed by Black (29.7%), White (27.2%), and Other Races (2.7%).
- The average sentence length of offenders who remained subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing was 138 months, over twice the average sentence of offenders receiving relief from such a penalty (67 months). The average sentence for offenders not convicted of any offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty was 28 months.
- Districts with the highest proportion of the overall caseload comprising convictions of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty:
  - District of Puerto Rico (51.6% of overall caseload);
  - District of Hawaii (45.7%);
  - Middle District of Florida (45.6%);
  - Central District of Illinois (44.2%); and
  - Northern District of Florida (44.0%).
Mandatory Minimum Penalties

Offense Categories

- Of the 19,584 **drug offenders** sentenced in fiscal year 2016, less than one-half (46.8%) were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
  - Half (50.0%) of drug offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty remained subject to that penalty at sentencing.
    - The average sentence for drug offenders subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing was 125 months (with relief, 64 months) compared to 39 months for drug offenders not convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
  - Drug offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty most often in powder cocaine cases (62.7%). In contrast, such a penalty applied least often in marijuana cases (27.8%).
  - Crack cocaine offenders remained subject to mandatory minimum penalties at sentencing most often (in 71.4% of crack cocaine cases involving a conviction for an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty). In contrast, 33.6% of marijuana offenders remained subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
- There were 2,338 offenders convicted of a **firearms offense** carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (1,975 of whom were convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) and 305 of whom qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e)).
  - Almost 80 percent (78.3%) of section 924(c) offenders remained subject to the mandatory minimum at sentencing.
    - The average sentence for section 924(c) offenders subject to the mandatory minimum penalty was 166 months (with relief, 95 months).
  - Almost 80 percent (78.8%) of Armed Career Criminals remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
    - The average sentence for Armed Career Criminals subject to the mandatory minimum penalty was 198 months (with relief, 112 months).
- Of the 2,690 **sex offenders** (cases involving sexual abuse or child pornography), 60.9% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
  - Of the 1,120 **sexual abuse offenders**, 62.6% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
    - The average sentence for sexual abuse offenders subject to the mandatory minimum penalty was 249 months (with relief, 128 months).
  - Of the 1,570 **child pornography offenders**, 59.6% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
    - The average sentence for child pornography offenders subject to the mandatory minimum penalty was 134 months (with relief, 119 months).
- Of the 978 **identity theft offenders** convicted of an offense under 18 U.S.C. § 1028A, 84.3% were subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
  - The average sentence for identity theft offenders subject to the mandatory minimum penalty was 54 months (with relief, 32 months).