**Fiscal Year 2020**

- IN FY 2020, 64,565 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- 15,274 INVOLVED AN OFFENSE CARRYING A MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTY.
- 13.7% OF ALL OFFENDERS REMAINED SUBJECT TO MANDATORY MINIMUMS AT SENTENCING.

### Offenders Convicted of Offenses Carrying Mandatory Minimum Penalties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory Minimum Penalty</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Mandatory</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Relief</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Relief from Mandatory Minimum Penalties by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overview**

- 25.2% of all cases carried a mandatory minimum penalty.
- Of all cases carrying a mandatory minimum penalty:
  - 75.1% were drug trafficking;
  - 5.2% were firearms;
  - 4.3% were child pornography;
  - 4.2% were sexual abuse;
  - 3.8% were fraud.
- 44.1% of offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum were relieved of the penalty because:
  - 23.5% received relief through the safety valve provision;
  - 14.1% provided the government with substantial assistance;
  - 6.5% received relief through both.
- Of offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty:
  - 39.6% of male offenders received relief;
  - 71.0% of female offenders received relief;
  - 37.6% of U.S. citizen offenders received relief;
  - 71.4% of non-U.S. citizen offenders received relief.
- 55.9% of offenders convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty did not receive relief.
- 41.2% of offenders convicted of a mandatory minimum penalty were Hispanic, 29.5% were White, 26.4% were Black, and 2.9% were Other races.

### Offenders and Sentencing

- The average sentence length was:
  - 138 months for those subject to the mandatory minimum;
  - 59 months for those receiving relief;
  - 22 months for offenders who were not convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
- The top five districts where cases involving a mandatory minimum penalty comprised the highest percentage of the overall caseload were:
  - Eastern District of Tennessee (59.3%);
  - Southern District of Indiana (55.9%);
  - Eastern District of Kentucky (55.4%);
  - District of Puerto Rico (53.5%);
  - Central District of Illinois (52.7%).

### Offense Categories

**Identity Theft Offenders**

- 81.9% of the 652 identity theft offenders were subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
- Their average sentence was 48 months, 24 months with relief.

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1. Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

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Offense Categories (continued)

Drug Offenders

- 69.6% of drug offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty;
  - 46.1% remained subject to that penalty at sentencing.
  - Their average sentence was 129 months, 57 months with relief.

- 84.1% of methamphetamine offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, compared to 39.2% of marijuana offenders.

- 74.9% of crack cocaine offenders remained subject to a mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing, compared to 38.3% of marijuana offenders.

Firearms Offenders

- 2,810 offenders were convicted of a firearms offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
  - 2,500 were convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c);
    - 81.2% remained subject to the mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing.
    - Their average sentence was 147 months, 97 months with relief.
  - 257 qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e);
    - 82.9% remained subject to mandatory minimum penalties at sentencing.
    - Their average sentence was 204 months, 120 months with relief.

Sex Offenders

- 68.1% of the 1,889 sex offenders—sexual abuse or child pornography offenders—were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
  - 72.7% of the 874 sexual abuse offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty;
    - 93.7% remained subject to the mandatory minimum at sentencing.
    - Their average sentence was 251 months, 147 months with relief.
  - 64.2% of the 1,015 child pornography offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty;
    - 96.8% remained subject to the mandatory minimum at sentencing.
    - Their average sentence was 126 months, 105 months with relief.