



Quick Facts

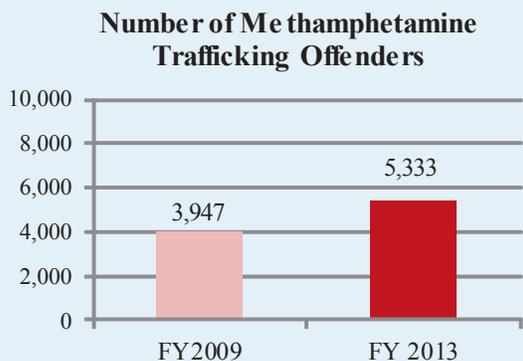
▶ THERE WERE 80,035 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2013.

▶ OF THESE CASES, 22,215 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.¹

▶ 24.0% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED METHAMPHETAMINE.

Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

In fiscal year 2013, there were 5,333 methamphetamine offenders, who accounted for 24.0% of all offenders sentenced under the drug trafficking guidelines. The number of methamphetamine offenders has increased by 35.1% since fiscal year 2009.



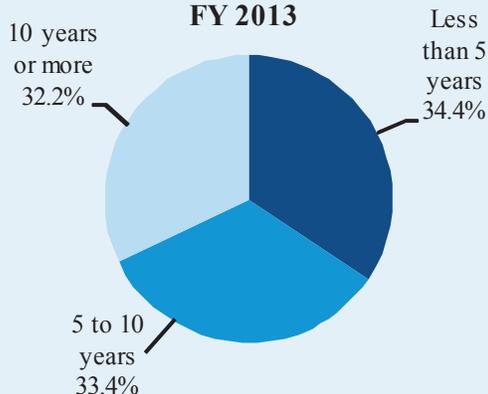
Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2013, most offenders convicted of methamphetamine trafficking were male (79.0%).
- More than half were Hispanic (55.4%) followed by White (37.5%), Black (3.2%), and Other Races (4.0%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 35 years.
- More than two-thirds (69.6%) of methamphetamine traffickers were United States citizens.
- Half (50.1%) of methamphetamine traffickers had little or no prior criminal history (i.e., assigned to Criminal History Category I).
- The median base offense level in these cases was 34. This corresponds to a quantity of drugs between 3.3 and 11 pounds of methamphetamine.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ 15.7% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
 - ◆ 5.2% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Methamphetamine trafficking sentences were decreased for:
 - ◆ Almost a quarter (23.1%) of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
 - ◆ Nearly forty percent (37.7%) of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

Top Five Districts Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders FY 2013

Southern District of California (N=765)
Western District of Texas (N=261)
District of Arizona (N=221)
Northern District of Texas (N=204)
Central District of California (N=201)

Sentence Length of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenders FY 2013



Punishment

- Most methamphetamine trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (98.8%).
- The average sentence length for methamphetamine traffickers was 92 months.
- Most methamphetamine traffickers were convicted of a drug offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (83.2%).
 - ◆ However, over sixty percent (61.4%) of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
 - ◇ 20.1% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders, 31.0% were eligible for relief through the statutory safety valve provision, and 10.3% received both forms of relief.

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).

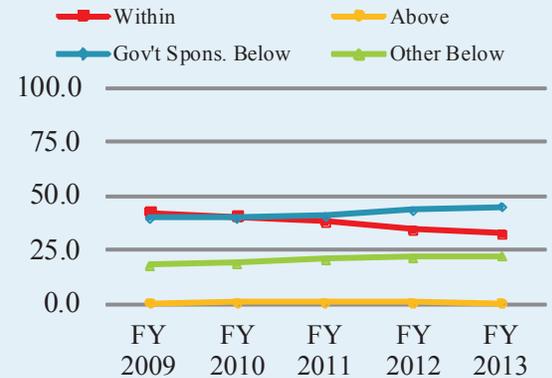
Quick Facts

Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

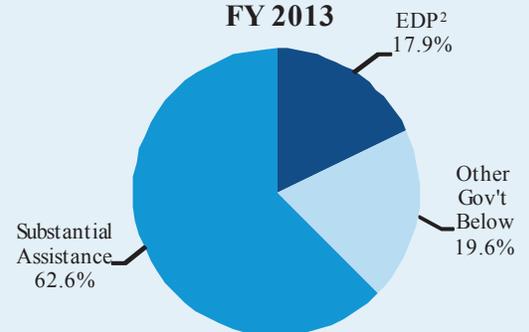
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Over the last five years, the proportion of methamphetamine trafficking offenders sentenced within the guideline range has decreased substantially from 42.0% in fiscal year 2009 to 32.6% in fiscal year 2013.
- In each of the last five years, the proportion of methamphetamine trafficking offenders sentenced below the applicable guideline range because the government sponsored the below range sentence has increased from 39.7% in fiscal year 2009 to 45.0% in fiscal year 2013.
 - Substantial assistance departures were granted in approximately thirty percent of methamphetamine trafficking cases over the past five years.
 - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 43.9%.
 - Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures² have increased in each of the last five years from 2.5% in fiscal year 2009 to 8.0% in fiscal year 2013.
 - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 42.0%.
 - A growing proportion of methamphetamine traffickers received a below range sentence sponsored by the government for reasons other than substantial assistance or participation in an Early Disposition Program.
 - The rate of other government sponsored below range sentences has increased in each of the last five years from 4.6% in fiscal year 2009 to 8.8% in fiscal year 2013.
 - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 35.2%.
- The rate of non-government sponsored below range sentences for methamphetamine traffickers has increased in each of the last five years from 17.9% in fiscal year 2009 to 22.0% in fiscal year 2013.
 - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 31.3%.
- Over the last five years, the average guideline minimum for methamphetamine traffickers has slightly increased while the average sentence has decreased.
 - The average guideline minimum increased slightly to 124 months in fiscal year 2013 after holding steady at 121 months from fiscal year 2010 through fiscal year 2012.
 - The average sentence decreased from 96 months in fiscal year 2009 to 92 months in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

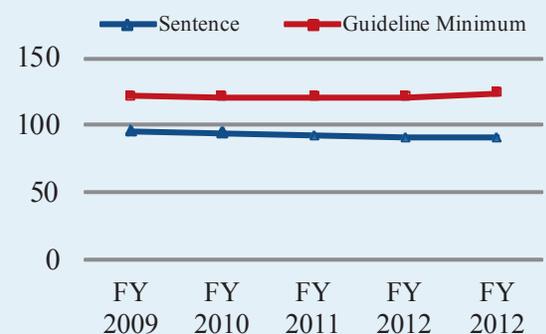
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2013



Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)



² "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.

For other Quick Facts publications, visit our website at www.ussc.gov/Quick_Facts.

