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

► OF THESE CASES, 22,215 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.<sup>1</sup>

► 4.6% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED OXYCODONE.

Number of



### **Oxycodone Trafficking Offenses**

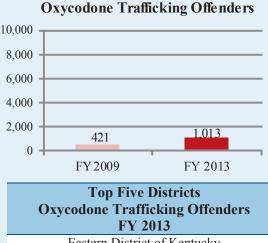
In fiscal year 2013, there were 1,013 oxycodone offenders, who accounted for 4.6% of all offenders sentenced under the drug trafficking guidelines. The number of oxycodone offenders has more than doubled during the last five years.

### **Offender and Offense Characteristics**

- In fiscal year 2013, almost three-quarters (72.0%) of offenders convicted of oxycodone trafficking were male.
- Two-thirds of offenders were White (68.0%) followed by Black (21.5%), Hispanic (7.8%), and Other Races (2.7%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 38 years.
- Nearly all oxycodone traffickers were United States citizens (96.8%).
- Slightly less than half (48.5% )of oxycodone 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 26. This corresponds to a quantity of drugs between 497 and 1,990 30-milligram pills of oxycodone.
- Oxycodone trafficking sentences were increased for:
  - 10.5% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
  - 8.9% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Oxycodone trafficking sentences were decreased for:
  - 10.0% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense;
  - 33.7% of offenders because they met the safety valve criteria in the sentencing guidelines.

#### Punishment

- Most oxycodone trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (90.9%).
- The average sentence length for oxycodone traffickers was 53 months.
- There are no mandatory minimum penalties for oxycodone trafficking. A very small portion of oxycodone traffickers (3.8%) were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty because they also trafficked in other drugs during the course of the offense involving oxycodone.



 FY 2013

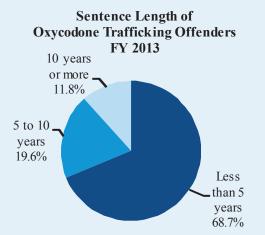
 Eastern District of Kentucky (N=108)

 Eastern District of Tennessee (N=88)

 Middle District of Florida (N=65)

 District of Maine (N=59)

 Southern District of West Virginia (N=57)



<sup>1</sup> 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

### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

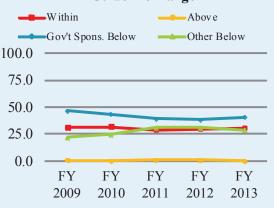
- In each of the last five years, approximately thirty percent of oxycodone traffickers were sentenced within the guideline range.
- The rate of government sponsored below range sentences has decreased for oxycodone traffickers from 46.6% in fiscal year 2009 to 40.8% in fiscal year 2013, although this represents a slight increase from the rates in fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012.
  - The rate of substantial assistance departures granted in oxycodone trafficking cases has decreased from 43.5% in fiscal year 2009 to 33.2% in fiscal year 2013.
    - ◊ In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 49.5%.
  - A small but growing proportion of oxycodone 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 doubled over the last five years from 3.1% in fiscal year 2009 to 7.4% in fiscal year 2013.
      - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 42.6%.
- The rate of non-government sponsored below range sentences for oxycodone traffickers steadily increased from 21.9% in fiscal year 2009 to 31.1% in fiscal year 2012, but decreased slightly in fiscal year 2013 to 28.6%.
  - In fiscal year 2013, these offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 46.5%.
- The average guideline minimum for oxycodone traffickers generally increased from fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2012, but decreased slightly in fiscal year 2013, and the average sentence imposed has followed a similar pattern.
  - The average guideline minimum increased from 74 months in fiscal year 2009 to 80 months in fiscal year 2012, and decreased to 75 months in fiscal year 2013.
  - The average sentence imposed increased from 52 months in fiscal year 2009 to 57 months in fiscal year 2012, and decreased to 53 months in fiscal year 2013.

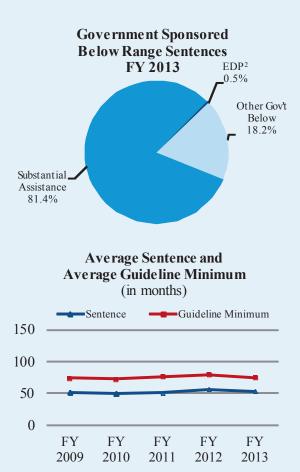
<sup>2</sup> "Early Disposition Program (or EDP) departures" are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.

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## **Oxycodone Trafficking Offenses**

# Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range







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SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, 2009 through 2013 Datafiles, USSCFY09-USSCFY13.