



QuickFacts

Zero-Point Individuals

Who is a Zero-Point Individual?

Section §4C1.1 of the Guidelines Manual provides for a 2-point reduction in the offense level for individuals assigned zero criminal history points at sentencing and whose instant offense did not involve specified aggravating factors.¹

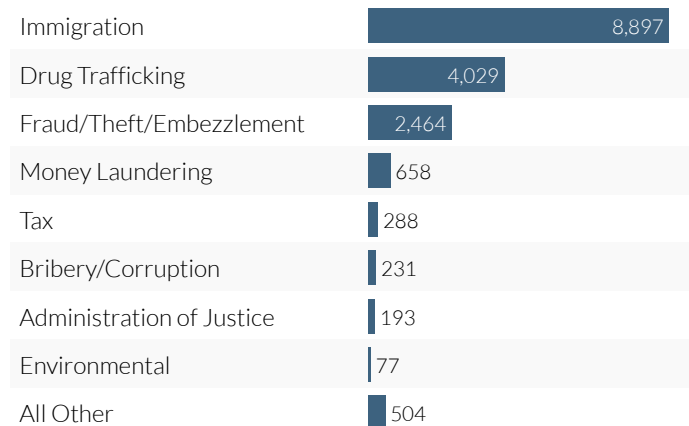
Population Snapshot

66,662 cases were reported in FY25;

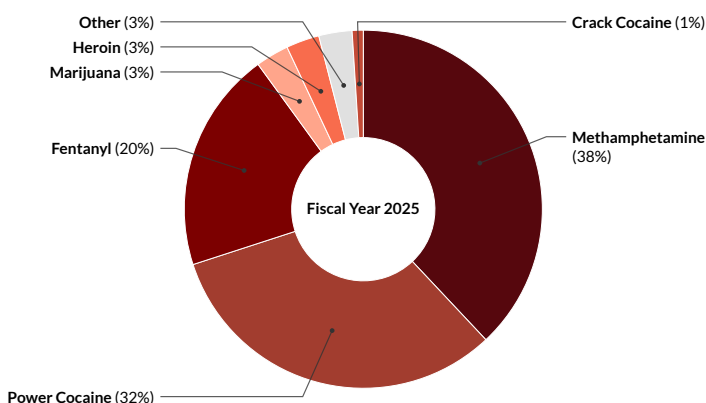
24,607 involved individuals assigned zero criminal history points at sentencing.²

72% (17,341) of these individuals received an adjustment under §4C1.1.³

Most Common Offense Types⁴



Most Common Drugs Trafficked



Individual and Offense Characteristics

80% of zero-point individuals receiving an adjustment under §4C1.1 were men.⁵

74% were Hispanic, 13% were White, 10% were Black, and 3% were Other races.

Their average age was 38 years.

39% were United States citizens.

The most common offense types in cases where §4C1.1 was applied were: Immigration (51%), Drug Trafficking (23%), Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement (14%), Money Laundering (4%), and Tax Fraud (2%).

- The most common offense types for zero-point individuals **not** receiving an adjustment under §4C1.1 were: Drug Trafficking (23%), Firearms (16%), Child Pornography (13%), Sexual Abuse (12%), and Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement (9%).

The top five districts with the most cases in which §4C1.1 was applied were:

- Western District of Texas (4,159);
- Southern District of Texas (2,327);
- District of New Mexico (1,245);
- District of Arizona (1,011);
- Southern District of California (903).

The top five districts with the highest proportion of §4C1.1 application were:

- District of Northern Mariana Islands (71%);
- Southern District of California (49%);
- District of Virgin Islands (47%);
- District of New Mexico (46%);
- Western District of Texas (46%).

Punishment

The average sentence for zero-point individuals receiving an adjustment under §4C1.1 was 15 months, compared to 90 months for zero-point individuals not receiving the adjustment.⁶

85% were sentenced to prison, compared to 93% of zero-point individuals not receiving the adjustment.



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12% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, compared to 38% of zero-point individuals not receiving the adjustment.

- 83% of those individuals convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty were relieved of that penalty, compared to 15% of zero-point individuals not receiving the adjustment.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

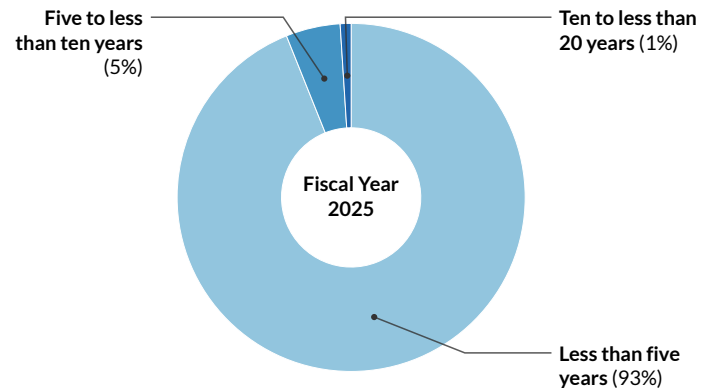
75% of sentences in cases with an adjustment under §4C1.1 were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 61% were within the guideline range.
- 8% were substantial assistance departures.
 - The average sentence reduction was 67%.
- 5% were Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures.⁷
 - The average sentence reduction was 62%.
- 2% were some other downward departure.
 - The average sentence reduction was 59%.

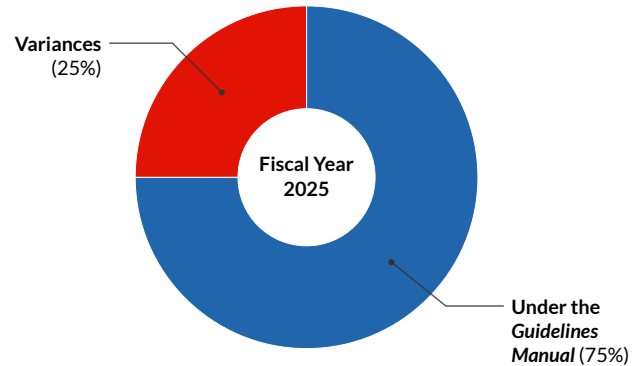
25% of sentences in cases with an adjustment under §4C1.1 were variances.

- 21% were downward variances.
 - The average sentence reduction was 54%.
- 4% were upward variances.
 - The average sentence increase was 77%.

Length of Sentence Imposed



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Within Range	61%
Substantial Assistance	8%
Early Disposition Program (EDP)	5%
Other Downward Departure	2%
Upward Departure	<1%

¹ Effective November 1, 2023, sentenced individuals are eligible for an adjustment under §4C1.1 if they meet the criteria specified under §4C1.1(a)(1) – (a)(11). Individuals sentenced prior to November 1, 2023 are eligible to seek a reduction in their sentence through the retroactive application of this provision under §1B1.10 but are not included in this analysis.

² Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

³ In fiscal year 2025, 425 individuals were assigned zero criminal history points but sentenced prior to the November 1, 2023 effective date of §4C1.1 and are not included in this analysis.

⁴ Individuals sentenced for drug trafficking were sentenced under §§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).

⁵ Among zero-point individuals who did not receive an adjustment under §4C1.1, 88% were men, 36% were Hispanic, 79% were United States citizens, and their average age was 37 years.

⁶ The average guideline minimum for zero-point individuals receiving an adjustment under §4C1.1 was 21 months, compared to 117 months for zero-point individuals not receiving the adjustment.

⁷ “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.