# U.S. Sentencing Commission Part B of the 2023 Criminal History Amendment Retroactivity Data Report



March 2024

#### **Introduction**

As part of its ongoing mission, the United States Sentencing Commission provides Congress, the judiciary, the executive branch, and the general public with data extracted from and based on sentencing documents submitted by courts to the Commission.<sup>1</sup> Data is reported on an annual basis in the Commission's *Annual Report* and *Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission also reports preliminary data for an on-going fiscal year in order to provide real-time analysis of sentencing practices in the federal courts. Since 2005, the Commission has published a series of quarterly reports that are similar in format and methodology to tables and figures produced in the *Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*. The quarterly reports contain cumulative data for the on-going fiscal year (i.e., data from the start of the fiscal year through the most current quarter).

On three separate occasions in recent years the Commission has amended the federal sentencing guidelines to lower the punishment for certain drug trafficking crimes, and also voted to apply those reductions retroactively.<sup>3</sup> The Commission has also periodically reported on the number of offenders who received a sentence reduction under those retroactive amendments and presented other data regarding those cases.<sup>4</sup>

On April 27, 2023, the United States Sentencing Commission submitted to Congress Amendment 821 to the federal sentencing guidelines revising two criminal history provisions found in Chapter Four of the *Guidelines Manual*. Part A of the amendment made targeted changes to reduce the impact of providing additional criminal history points for offenders under a criminal justice sentence (commonly known as "status points"). Part B provided a two-level downward adjustment for certain offenders with zero criminal history points under the guidelines.

Amendment 821 went into effect on November 1, 2023. On August 24, 2023, the Commission voted to give retroactive effect to Amendment 821 beginning on February 1, 2024. To effectuate that decision, the Commission promulgated Amendment 825, which added Amendment 821 to the list of amendments in §1B1.10 (Reduction in Term of Imprisonment as a Result of an Amended Guideline Range)(Policy Statement) that apply retroactively and added a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In each federal felony or Class A misdemeanor case, sentencing courts are required to submit the following documents to the Commission: the Judgment and Commitment Order, the Statement of Reasons, the plea agreement (if applicable), the indictment or other charging document, and the Presentence Report. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 994(w).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Electronic copies of the 1995-2023 ANNUAL REPORT and SOURCEBOOK OF FEDERAL SENTENCING STATISTICS are available at the Commission's website at <u>www.ussc.gov</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Amendment 706, as amended by Amendment 711, and made retroactive by Amendment 713 (the 2007 Crack Cocaine Amendment); Amendment 750, made retroactive by Amendment 759 (the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act Amendment); and Amendment 782 (the 2014 Drug Guidelines Amendment, often referred to as "Drugs Minus Two"), made retroactive by Amendment 788.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> These retroactivity analyses and data reports are available at https://www.ussc.gov/research/datareports/retroactivity-analyses-and-data-reports.

new provision at subsection (e)(2) of that policy statement providing, "The court shall not order a reduced term of imprisonment based on Part A or Part B, Subpart 1 of Amendment 821 unless the effective date of the court's order is February 1, 2024, or later.".

Under section 3582(c)(2) of title 18, courts are authorized to reduce the sentences of incarcerated persons pursuant to any retroactive guideline amendment. The data in this report represents information concerning motions for a reduced sentence pursuant to the retroactive application of Part B of Amendment 821 decided through March 11, 2024 and for which court documentation was received, coded, and edited at the Commission by March 15, 2024.

## MOTIONS FOR RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT BY DISTRICT <sup>1</sup>

	Total	Granted		Denie	ed		Total	Granted		Denied	d
District	N	Ν	%	Ν	%	District	N	Ν	%	Ν	%
TOTAL	2,280	1,087	47.7	1,193	52.3						
Southern Texas	287	177	61.7	110	38.3	Northern West Virginia	11	5	45.5	6	54.5
Western Texas	285	232	81.4	53	18.6	Western Missouri	11	4	36.4	7	63.6
Northern Texas	212	45	21.2	167	78.8	Southern Alabama	10	1	10.0	9	90.0
Southern Florida	176	49	27.8	127	72.2	Maine	9	2	22.2	7	77.8
Puerto Rico	153	48	31.4	105	68.6	Delaware	9	1	11.1	8	88.9
Southern New York	64	4	6.3	60	93.8	Eastern North Carolina	9	7	77.8	2	22.2
Eastern Kentucky	56	17	30.4	39	69.6	Western Washington	9	4	44.4	5	55.6
Eastern Texas	44	31	70.5	13	29.5	Rhode Island	8	2	25.0	6	75.0
Northern Oklahoma	38	17	44.7	21	55.3	Northern Ohio	8	4	50.0	4	50.0
Northern Georgia	34	31	91.2	3	8.8	Southern Indiana	8	6	75.0	2	25.0
Middle Florida	31	26	83.9	5	16.1	Eastern Oklahoma	8	5	62.5	3	37.5
Eastern Arkansas	30	16	53.3	14	46.7	District of Columbia	7	3	42.9	4	57.1
Western New York	29	8	27.6	21	72.4	South Carolina	7	7	100.0	0	0.0
Western North Carolina	29	11	37.9	18	62.1	Middle Louisiana	7	6	85.7	1	14.3
Southern Illinois	28	18	64.3	10	35.7	Eastern Tennessee	7	6	85.7	1	14.3
Southern Ohio	26	23	88.5	3	11.5	Northern New York	6	6	100.0	0	0.0
Southern Iowa	26	3	11.5	23	88.5	Western Kentucky	6	3	50.0	3	50.0
Nebraska	26	15	57.7	11	42.3	Western Arkansas	6	0	0.0	6	100.0
Southern Georgia	26	20	76.9	6	23.1	Idaho	6	6	100.0	0	0.0
Eastern Virginia	25	14	56.0	11	44.0	Eastern Wisconsin	5	0	0.0	5	100.0
Massachusetts	23	12	52.2	11	47.8	Eastern California	5	3	60.0	2	40.0
Utah	22	10	45.5	12	54.5	Northern California	5	3	60.0	2	40.0
New Jersey	21	14	66.7	7	33.3	Montana	5	1	20.0	4	80.0
Western Oklahoma	21	3	14.3	18	85.7	Wyoming	5	0	0.0	5	100.0
Eastern Louisiana	20	14	70.0	6	30.0	Middle Georgia	5	5	100.0	0	0.0
Arizona	20	0	0.0	20	100.0	Northern Illinois	4	2	50.0	2	50.0
Middle Pennsylvania	19	7	36.8	12	63.2	Southern California	4	3	75.0	1	25.0
Central Illinois	19	0	0.0	19	100.0	Northern Florida	4	1	25.0	3	75.0
Northern Indiana	19	5	26.3	14	73.7	Eastern New York	3	1	33.3	2	66.7
Western Louisiana	18	6	33.3	12	66.7	Hawaii	3	2	66.7	1	33.3
Eastern Michigan	18	9	50.0	9	50.0	Western Tennessee	2	0	0.0	2	100.0
Northern Iowa	18	4	22.2	14	77.8	Nevada	2	1	50.0	1	50.0
Western Virginia	17	8	47.1	9	52.9	Oregon	2	2	100.0	0	0.0
Middle North Carolina	16	8	50.0	8	50.0	Western Wisconsin	1	0	0.0	1	100.0
Eastern Missouri	16	5	31.3	11	68.8	Guam	1	1	100.0	0	0.0
South Dakota	16	5	31.3	11	68.8	New Mexico	1	0	0.0	1	100.0
New Hampshire	14	13	92.9	1	7.1	Connecticut	0	0		0	
Southern Mississippi	14	3	21.4	11	78.6	Vermont	0	0		0	
Western Michigan	14	1	7.1	13	92.9	Western Pennsylvania	0	0		0	
Northern Alabama	14	6	42.9	8	57.1	Virgin Islands	0	0		0	
Minnesota	13	5	38.5	8	61.5	Maryland	0	0		0	
Central California	13	6	46.2	7	53.8	Northern Mississippi	0	0		0	
Colorado	13	13	100.0	0	0.0	Middle Tennessee	0	0		0	
Middle Alabama	13	7	53.8	6	46.2	North Dakota	0	0		0	
Southern West Virginia	12	4	33.3	8	66.7	Alaska	0	0		0	
Eastern Washington	12	4	33.3	8	66.7	Northern Mariana Islands	0	0		0	
Eastern Pennsylvania	11	7	63.6	4	36.4	Kansas	0	0		0	

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## MOTIONS FOR RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT BY YEAR OF ORIGINAL SENTENCE<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Of the 2,280 cases reported to the Commission with motion status information, one was excluded from this analysis because the case cannot be matched with an original case in the Commission's records.

	Total	Defenda	nt <sup>2</sup>	Director B	ОР	Court	5
CIRCUIT	N	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%
TOTAL	1,083	606	56.0	0	0.0	477	44.0
D.C. CIRCUIT	3	3	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
FIRST CIRCUIT	77	62	80.5	0	0.0	15	19.5
SECOND CIRCUIT	19	13	68.4	0	0.0	6	31.6
THIRD CIRCUIT	27	27	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
FOURTH CIRCUIT	64	44	68.8	0	0.0	20	31.3
FIFTH CIRCUIT	513	182	35.5	0	0.0	331	64.5
SIXTH CIRCUIT	63	36	57.1	0	0.0	27	42.9
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	31	31	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	57	39	68.4	0	0.0	18	31.6
NINTH CIRCUIT	35	33	94.3	0	0.0	2	5.7
TENTH CIRCUIT	48	39	81.3	0	0.0	9	18.8
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT	146	97	66.4	0	0.0	49	33.6

## ORIGIN OF GRANTED MOTIONS FOR RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Of the 1,087 cases in which the court granted a motion for a sentence reduction due to the retroactive application of Part B of the 2023 Criminal History Amendment, four cases were excluded from this analysis because the information received by the Commission prevented a determination of motion origin.

 $^{2}$  In four cases, documents provided to the Commission indicated that an attorney for the government made a joint motion. Those cases appear to be clerical errors.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR INDIVIDUALS
MAKING MOTIONS FOR RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF
PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT <sup>1</sup>

	Grant	ed	Denie	d
Demographics	Ν	%	Ν	%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	155	14.3	215	18.1
Black	110	10.1	207	17.4
Hispanic	801	73.7	721	60.6
Other	21	1.9	47	3.9
Total	1,087	100.0	1,190	100.0
Citizenship				
U.S. Citizen	567	52.2	705	59.3
Non-Citizen	520	47.8	484	40.7
Total	1,087	100.0	1,189	100.0
Gender				
Male	847	77.9	1,008	84.5
Female	240	22.1	185	15.5
Total	1,087	100.0	1,193	100.0
Average Age at Original Sente	ence	37		39
Average Age at Motion Decision	on	40		43

<sup>1</sup> Of the 2,280 cases reported to the Commission with motion status information, cases were excluded from each section of this table due to the following reasons: missing race information (3), missing citizenship information (4), and missing age information (1).

## SELECTED SENTENCING FACTORS FOR INDIVIDUALS MAKING MOTIONS FOR RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT<sup>1</sup>

	Granted	Denied
Sentencing Factors	%	%
Weapon <sup>2,3</sup>	0.9	26.3
Weapon Specific Offense Characteristic	0.9	19.1
Firearms Mandatory Minimum Applied	0.0	7.6
Safety Valve <sup>2</sup>	83.5	27.4
Guideline Role Adjustments <sup>2</sup>		
Aggravating Role (USSG §3B1.1)	0.3	22.5
Mitigating Role (USSG §3B1.2)	27.6	3.5
Obstruction Adjustment (USSG §3C1.1)	2.9	5.4
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range		
Within Range	66.3	42.4
Above Range	0.5	4.5
Below Range	33.2	53.1
Criminal History Category		
Ι	100.0	82.1
II	0.0	7.7
III	0.0	4.3
IV	0.0	2.3
V	0.0	1.0
VI	0.0	2.6
Career Offender (§4B1.1) <sup>2</sup>	0.0	1.0

<sup>1</sup> Of the 2,280 cases reported to the Commission with motion status information, one was excluded from this analysis because the case cannot be matched with an original case in the Commission's records.

 $^{2}$  This section was limited to the 2,234 cases with complete guideline application information.

<sup>3</sup> In five cases the court applied the weapon specific offense characteristic and the offender was also convicted of a firearms offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.

TYPE OF CRIME	Ν	%
TOTAL	1,087	100.0
Administration of Justice	4	0.4
Antitrust	0	0.0
Arson	0	0.0
Assault	0	0.0
Bribery/Corruption	15	1.4
Burglary/Trespass	0	0.0
Child Pornography	0	0.0
Commercialized Vice	3	0.3
Drug Possession	0	0.0
Drug Trafficking	875	80.5
Environmental	0	0.0
Extortion/Racketeering	0	0.0
Firearms	0	0.0
Food and Drug	0	0.0
Forgery/Counter/Copyright	1	0.1
Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement	108	9.9
Immigration	16	1.5
Individual Rights	0	0.0
Kidnapping	1	0.1
Manslaughter	0	0.0
Money Laundering	43	4.0
Murder	1	0.1
National Defense	0	0.0
Obscenity/Other Sex Offenses	3	0.3
Prison Offenses	1	0.1
Robbery	1	0.1
Sexual Abuse	0	0.0
Stalking/Harassing	0	0.0
Tax	15	1.4
Other	0	0.0

## TYPE OF CRIME FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT

TYPE OF CRIME	Ν	%
TOTAL	1,192	100.0
Administration of Justice	6	0.5
Antitrust	0	0.0
Arson	0	0.0
Assault	9	0.8
Bribery/Corruption	13	1.1
Burglary/Trespass	0	0.0
Child Pornography	11	0.9
Commercialized Vice	0	0.0
Drug Possession	0	0.0
Drug Trafficking	767	64.3
Environmental	0	0.0
Extortion/Racketeering	0	0.0
Firearms	50	4.2
Food and Drug	0	0.0
Forgery/Counter/Copyright	0	0.0
Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement	137	11.5
Immigration	27	2.3
Individual Rights	1	0.1
Kidnapping	10	0.8
Manslaughter	1	0.1
Money Laundering	70	5.9
Murder	19	1.6
National Defense	3	0.3
Obscenity/Other Sex Offenses	4	0.3
Prison Offenses	0	0.0
Robbery	21	1.8
Sexual Abuse	30	2.5
Stalking/Harassing	2	0.2
Tax	11	0.9
Other	0	0.0

## TYPE OF CRIME FOR INDIVIDUALS DENIED RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Of the 1,193 cases in which the court denied a motion for a sentence reduction due to the retroactive application of Part B of the 2023 Criminal History Amendment, one was excluded from this analysis because the case cannot be matched with an original case in the Commission's records.

# EXTENT OF SENTENCE REDUCTIONS DUE TO RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT<sup>1</sup>

			ľ	Mean	
<b>CIRCUIT</b> District	N	Current Sentence In Months	New Sentence In Months	Decrease In Months From Current Sentence <sup>2</sup>	Percent Decrease From Current Sentence
TOTAL	985	74	61	12	17.4
		74	01	12	17.4
D.C. CIRCUIT	0				
District of Columbia	0				
FIRST CIRCUIT	72	91	75	16	17.2
Maine	2				
Massachusetts	12	60	49	10	17.2
New Hampshire	8	81	71	11	16.2
Puerto Rico	48	102	83	19	17.9
Rhode Island	2				
SECOND CIRCUIT	16	63	51	12	20.8
Connecticut	0				
New York	Ū				
Eastern	1				
Northern	6	47	36	11	28.3
Southern	4	61	50	11	18.3
Western	5	89	76	13	13.0
Vermont	0				
THIRD CIRCUIT	20	50	42	8	16.9
Delaware	1				
New Jersey	14	49	41	9	18.1
Pennsylvania					
Eastern	1				
Middle	4	57	49	8	12.7
Western	0				
Virgin Islands	0				
FOURTH CIRCUIT	60	64	53	11	17.9
Maryland	0				
North Carolina					
Eastern	7	70	57	13	18.2
Middle	8	84	74	10	13.0
Western	10	65	53	12	20.6
South Carolina	7	47	37	10	21.5
Virginia					
Eastern	12	49	39	10	18.3
Western	7	101	88	13	11.8
West Virginia					
Northern	5	33	26	7	21.5
Southern	4	56	45	11	19.7

			Ι	Mean	
CIRCUIT		Current Sentence	New Sentence	Decrease In Months From	Percent Decrease From
District	Ν	In Months	In Months	Current Sentence <sup>2</sup>	<b>Current Sentence</b>
FIFTH CIRCUIT	504	74	61	13	17.4
Louisiana					
Eastern	11	47	39	8	20.3
Middle	5	66	62	4	7.4
Western	6	88	76	12	13.4
Mississippi					
Northern	0				
Southern	3	33	26	7	27.3
Texas	5				2,10
Eastern	30	92	74	18	19.2
Northern	44	121	100	21	17.4
Southern	173	80	67	13	16.1
Western	232	59	49	10	18.2
SIXTH CIRCUIT	41	73	61	12	18.0
Kentucky		~-			
Eastern	16	67	56	10	17.4
Western	3	65	53	13	19.3
Michigan					
Eastern	6	60	49	11	18.0
Western	1				
Ohio					
Northern	3	63	50	13	21.2
Southern	12	97	81	16	17.5
Tennessee					
Eastern	0				
Middle	0				
Western	0				
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	24	72	60	13	17.7
Illinois					
Central	0				
Northern	0				
Southern	18	78	64	14	18.8
Indiana					
Northern	4	54	46	8	16.3
Southern	2				
Wisconsin					
Eastern	0				
Western	0				
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	43	88	73	14	16.5
Arkansas					
Eastern	16	85	72	13	16.2
Western	0				
Iowa					
Northern	4	92	79	13	16.0
Southern	3	77	64	13	18.2
Minnesota	0				
Missouri	č				
Eastern	2				
Western	2				
Nebraska	15		81	17	15.5
North Dakota	0			I / 	
South Dakota	1				
Soulli Dakola	1				

## Table 8 (cont.)

			Ι	Mean	
CIRCUIT		Current Sentence In Months	New Sentence In Months	Decrease In Months From	Percent Decrease From Current Sentence
District	Ν			Current Sentence <sup>2</sup>	
NINTH CIRCUIT	34	59	48	11	18.9
Alaska	0				
Arizona	0				
California					
Central	6	39	32	7	20.5
Eastern	3	37	30	7	24.4
Northern	3	47	38	8	15.9
Southern	3	24	19	5	18.7
Guam	1				
Hawaii	2				
Idaho	6	45	37	9	19.2
Montana	1				
Nevada	1				
Northern Mariana Islands	0				
Oregon	0				
Washington					
Eastern	4	91	75	16	18.1
Western	4	126	104	22	14.1
TENTH CIRCUIT	40	71	58	13	17.5
Colorado	5	76	61	15	19.4
Kansas	0				
New Mexico	0				
Oklahoma					
Eastern	5	72	59	14	19.0
Northern	17	67	55	13	19.1
Western	3	97	81	17	16.4
Utah	10	65	55	10	13.5
Wyoming	0				
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT	131	74	63	11	16.7
Alabama					
Middle	7	89	76	13	17.1
Northern	6	85	68	17	20.2
Southern	1				
Florida					
Middle	24	99	83	17	17.3
Northern	1				
Southern	46	71	61	10	15.1
Georgia					
Middle	2				
Northern	27	69	60	9	15.8
Southern	17	44	37	8	18.8

### Table 8 (cont.)

<sup>1</sup> Of the 1,087 cases in which the court granted a motion for a sentence reduction due to the retroactive application of Part B of the 2023 Criminal History Amendment, 99 cases were excluded from this analysis because the resulting term of imprisonment could not be determined from the records received by the Commission. Another three cases were excluded because the court document provided that the new sentence was a "time served" sentence without specifying the length of time that had been served.

 $^2$  The average sentence lengths and the average decrease in months from the current sentence are rounded to the nearest whole number. Consequently, the average decrease in months from the current sentence may not equal the difference between the rounded average current sentence and the rounded average new sentence.

## REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR DENIAL OF MOTION FOR RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF PART B OF THE 2023 CRIMINAL HISTORY AMENDMENT<sup>1</sup>

REASONS	Ν	%
Not eligible under §4C1.1(b)	787	55.6
Assigned more than zero criminal history points at sentencing	265	18.7
Firearm possessed, etc. in connection with offense	222	15.7
Aggravating Role adjustment applied (USSG §3B1.1)	155	10.9
Defendant caused substantial financial hardship	32	2.3
Violence or threat of violence used in connection with offense	31	2.2
Conviction was a sex offense	29	2.0
Offense resulted in death or serious bodily injury	24	1.7
21 U.S.C. § 848 conviction	17	1.2
Hate crime adjustment applied (USSG §3A1.1)	11	0.8
Terrorism adjustment applied at sentencing (USSG §3A1.4)	1	0.1
Civil rights guideline applied (USSG §2H1.1)	0	0.0
Serious human rights offense adjustment applied (USSG §3A1.5)	0	0.0
Not eligible under §1B1.10	275	19.5
Current sentence below new guideline range and no §5K1.1	161	11.4
Statutory mandatory minimum penalty controls sentence	79	5.6
Defendant will be released before effective date of amendment	8	0.6
Guideline range does not change	7	0.5
Original sentence has been served	6	0.4
Sentenced to trumping statutory maximum penalty	6	0.4
Career Offender or Armed Career Criminal provisions control sentence	4	0.3
Offender received Amendment 821 reduction at original sentencing	4	0.3
Denied on the merits	134	9.5
18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) factors	89	6.3
Offender has already benefitted from departure or variance	31	2.2
Post-sentencing or post-conviction conduct	7	0.5
Binding plea agreement determined sentence	7	0.5
No reason provided/Other reason	222	15.7
No reason provided	197	13.9
Other	25	1.8

<sup>1</sup> Courts may cite multiple reasons for denying a motion; consequently, the total number of reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 1,418 reasons were cited in the 1,193 cases in which the court denied a motion for a sentence reduction due to the retroactive application of Part B of the 2023 Criminal History Amendment.