



Quick Facts

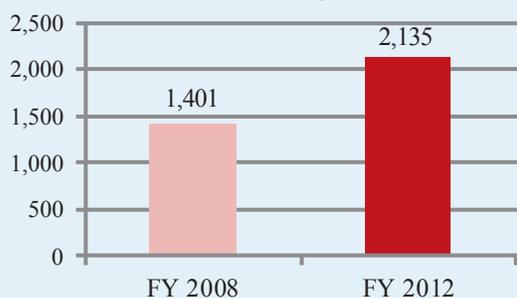
Heroin Trafficking Offenses

▶ THERE WERE 84,173 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2012.

▶ OF THESE CASES, 24,563 INVOLVED DRUG TRAFFICKING.¹

▶ 8.7% OF DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES INVOLVED HEROIN.

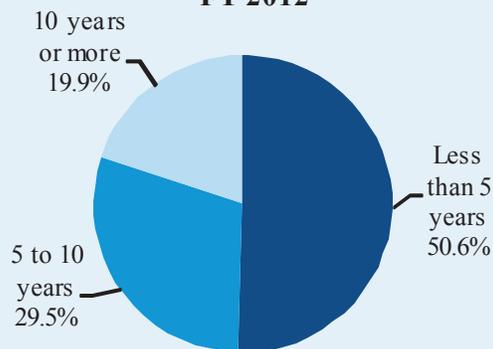
Number of Heroin Trafficking Offenders



Top Five Districts Heroin Trafficking Offenders FY 2012

Southern District of New York (N=127)
District of Maryland (N=119)
Eastern District of New York (N=114)
Western District of Texas (N=113)
Southern District of California (N=95)

Sentence Length of Heroin Trafficking Offenders FY 2012



Offender and Offense Characteristics

- The number of heroin trafficking cases has increased steadily during the past five years.
- In fiscal year 2012, most offenders convicted of heroin trafficking were male (85.9%).
- The largest demographic group was Hispanic (47.0%) followed by Black (36.3%), White (15.7%) and Other Races (1.0%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 35 years.
- Almost three-quarters (72.7%) of heroin traffickers were United States citizens.
- Just under half of heroin traffickers had little or no prior criminal history (48.6% of these offenders were assigned to Criminal History Category I).
- The median base offense level for heroin offenders was 28. This corresponds to a quantity of drugs between 0.9 and 1.5 pounds of heroin.
- Heroin trafficking sentences were increased for:
 - ◆ 13.8% of offenders because the offense involved the possession of a weapon;
 - ◆ 8.0% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense.
- Heroin traffickers received sentence reductions in:
 - ◆ Almost twenty percent (19.5%) of all cases because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense.
- Thirty-five percent (35.1%) of heroin traffickers met the statutory safety valve criteria authorizing the court to impose a sentence below a mandatory minimum penalty.

Punishment

- Most heroin trafficking offenders were sentenced to imprisonment (96.7%).
- The average sentence length for persons convicted of trafficking heroin was 70 months.
- Most heroin traffickers were convicted of a drug offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty (66.4%).
 - ◆ However, 57.4% of these offenders were not subject to any mandatory minimum penalty at sentencing because:
 - ◇ 27.3% provided the government with substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of other offenders;
 - ◇ another 30.1% were eligible for relief through the safety valve provision.

¹ Drug trafficking offenses include cases with complete guideline application information 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).

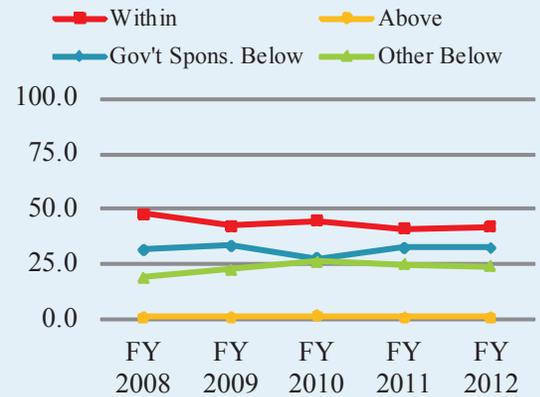
Quick Facts

Heroin Trafficking Offenses

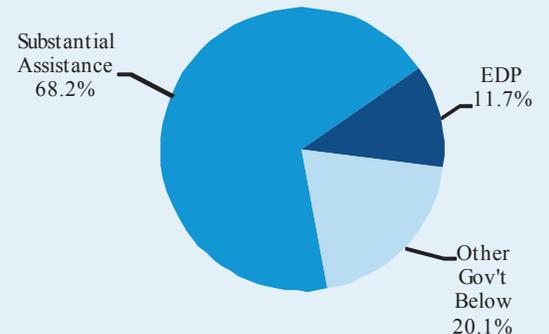
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- The rate of within range sentences for heroin cases has generally decreased over the past five years from 48.0% to 41.9%.
- In each of the past five years, approximately thirty percent of heroin trafficking offenders received a sentence below the applicable guideline range because the government sponsored the below range sentence.
 - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted in approximately a quarter of heroin trafficking cases in each of the past five years.
 - ◇ These offenders received an average reduction in their sentence of 50.3% in fiscal year 2012 (which corresponds to a reduction of 53 months).
- Non-government sponsored below range sentences were imposed in 24.0% of cases in fiscal year 2012, down slightly from 26.2% in fiscal year 2010.
 - ◆ The average reduction was 35.8% in fiscal year 2012 (which corresponds to a reduction of 28 months).
- The average sentence and the average guideline minimum for heroin traffickers have remained stable during the past five years.
 - ◆ The sentence imposed averaged around 69 months during that period;
 - ◆ The guideline minimum averaged approximately 90 months.

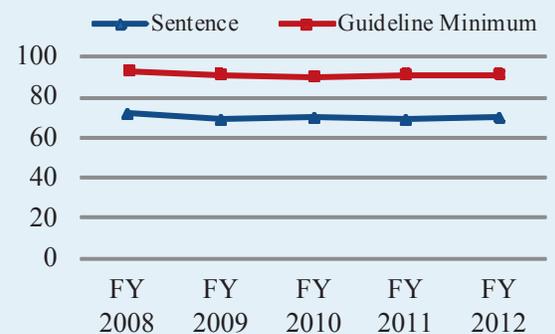
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



Government Sponsored Rates FY 2012



Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)



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



One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Suite 2-500, South Lobby
Washington, DC 20002-8002
T: (202) 502-4500
F: (202) 502-4699
www.ussc.gov