U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

November 2024, NCJ 309288

Bulletin

Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Other Psychostimulant Offenses in Federal Courts, 2022

Mark Motivans, PhD, *BJS Statistician*

Fifty-five percent (14,392) of the total arrests (26,233) the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made during fiscal year (FY) 2022 were for methamphetamine, cocaine, and other psychostimulant offenses (figure 1, table 1).[1] Psychostimulants include methamphetamine, cocaine (powder and crack), methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA or ecstasy), and other amphetamines. From FY 2021 to FY 2022, arrests for all psychostimulants decreased 9%. During that period, there was a 32% decrease in arrests for MDA and MDMA, a 14% decrease for methamphetamine, and a 7% decrease for crack cocaine.

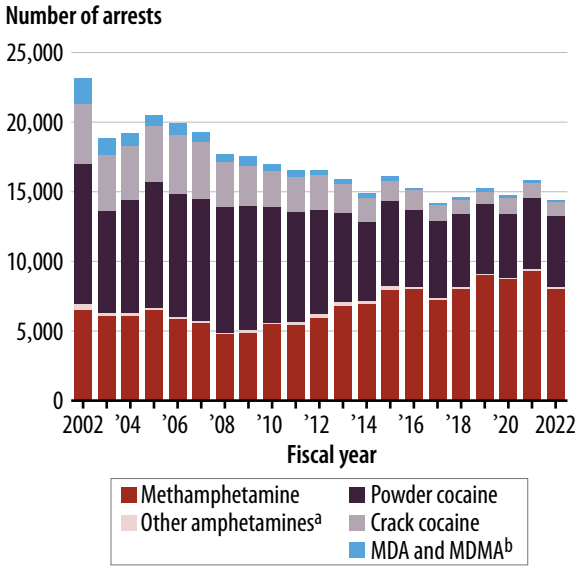
Psychostimulant arrests decreased by an average of 2% annually from FY 2002 to FY 2022. Methamphetamine arrests increased by an average of 1% annually from FY 2002 to FY 2022, while arrests for powder cocaine decreased by 3% annually. DEA arrests for powder cocaine decreased by nearly half, from 10,082 arrests in FY 2002 to 5,118 arrests in FY 2022.

This report uses data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP) to describe persons arrested and convicted for a federal offense involving methamphetamine, cocaine, MDA and MDMA, and other amphetamines.[2]

[1]Annual federal justice data are reported for the fiscal year, which is from October 1 to September 30.

[2]The FJSP includes data received from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and other agencies. (See *Methodology*.)

FIGURE 1
Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving psychostimulants, FY 2002–2022



Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. See appendix table 1 for counts.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, synthetic cathinones, and amphetamine/stimulant-related chemicals.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2002–2022.

HIGHLIGHTS

- From FY 2021 to FY 2022, the number of arrests the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made for psychostimulants decreased by 9%, from 15,846 to 14,392.
- More than half (55%) of the arrests the DEA made in FY 2022 were for psychostimulants.
- Of the 26,233 total arrests by the DEA in FY 2022, 8,035 (31%) were for methamphetamine, 5,118 (20%) were for powder cocaine, 1,009 (4%) were for crack cocaine, and 230 (<1%) were for other psychostimulants.
- DEA arrests for methamphetamine increased from 6,518 in FY 2002 to 9,335 in FY 2021, then decreased to 8,035 in FY 2022.
- In FY 2022:
  - Most persons sentenced for a drug offense involving crack cocaine (98%) or methamphetamine (90%) had a prior criminal history at sentencing.
  - Persons sentenced for a drug offense involving methamphetamine received a median prison term of 94 months, persons sentenced for crack cocaine received a median prison term of 69 months, and persons sentenced for powder cocaine received a median prison term of 67 months.
  - Ninety-eight percent of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants were sentenced for drug trafficking.

Persons arrested

Drug arrests by the DEA decreased 7% from FY 2021 to FY 2022

The DEA reported a 7% (1,991) decrease in total arrests from FY 2021 (28,224) to FY 2022 (26,233) (table 1). The largest percentage decreases during this period were in arrests for heroin (42%), MDA and MDMA (32%), and other opioids (30%), while the greatest percentage increase was in arrests for fentanyl (57%).[3]

The DEA made fewer than 100 arrests for fentanyl in each fiscal year from 2002 to 2015. Starting in FY 2016, the number of arrests for fentanyl rose substantially, reaching 4,924 in FY 2022. Methamphetamine made up 19% of DEA arrests in FY 2002 and 31% in FY 2022, increasing an average of 1% per year during this period. The largest average annual percent decreases from FY 2002 to FY 2022 were in arrests for MDA and MDMA (down 12%), crack cocaine (down 7%), and amphetamines other than methamphetamine (down 7%).

The remainder of this report focuses on psychostimulants, including their classification under the Controlled Substances Act (P.L. 91–513), persons arrested for a federal offense involving psychostimulants, deaths due to overdose, and persons sentenced for a federal offense involving these substances.

[3]Other opioids include Oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone (Palladone), oxymorphone, opioid treatment pharmaceuticals, opium, and morphine.

The Drug Enforcement Administration

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is the primary federal law enforcement agency responsible for enforcing controlled substances laws, including diversion control efforts for prescription drugs, and for shaping federal drug enforcement policy. One example is Operation Crystal Shield, a coordinated enforcement effort in areas with high seizure amounts of methamphetamine. Federal prosecutors work with the DEA to prosecute drug traffickers involved with methamphetamine and other psychostimulants.

In addition to being responsible for making drug arrests at the federal level, the DEA works with state and local law enforcement agencies to make arrests. Tables in this report use DEA data that combine arrests referred to state and local prosecutor offices and arrests referred to U.S. attorney's offices. To protect the identity of agents and operations, the DEA does not provide the Bureau of Justice Statistics with geographic information, such as the federal judicial district where the arrest occurred. DEA data do not provide the type of drug arrest (e.g., drug trafficking or drug possession). Data that are made publicly available from the DEA are posted on the Data and Statistics page of their website (https://www.dea.gov/resources/data-and-statistics).

TABLE 1

Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration, by drug type, FY 2002–2022

		Psychostimulants						Opioids					
Fiscal year	Total arrests	Total	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]	Total	Heroin	Fentanyl	Other opioids[c]	Marijuana	Other/ non-drug[d]
2002	34,245	23,197	6,518	363	10,082	4,307	1,927	3,319	3,136	6	177	5,870	1,859
2003	29,238	18,865	6,053	223	7,352	3,998	1,239	2,590	2,467	5	118	6,015	1,768
2004	29,807	19,171	6,070	222	8,085	3,908	886	2,715	2,473	1	241	6,302	1,619
2005	30,998	20,508	6,491	169	9,006	4,040	802	2,974	2,421	3	550	6,113	1,403
2006	30,268	19,925	5,853	116	8,837	4,299	820	2,942	2,344	16	582	6,002	1,399
2007	30,296	19,256	5,546	151	8,745	4,162	652	2,783	2,159	23	601	6,884	1,373
2008	28,834	17,711	4,747	129	9,033	3,163	639	3,549	2,592	12	945	6,289	1,285
2009	31,061	17,524	4,855	182	8,972	2,844	671	4,364	3,010	12	1,342	7,532	1,641
2010	31,517	17,013	5,460	126	8,315	2,562	550	4,611	2,977	19	1,615	8,215	1,678
2011	32,379	16,535	5,452	198	7,843	2,570	472	5,954	3,535	24	2,395	7,723	2,167
2012	31,628	16,550	5,941	224	7,485	2,575	325	5,933	3,594	17	2,322	6,963	2,182
2013	30,532	15,880	6,764	287	6,413	2,064	352	6,408	4,113	22	2,273	6,198	2,046
2014	29,549	14,897	6,907	235	5,666	1,715	374	6,900	4,784	31	2,085	5,441	2,311
2015	31,593	16,066	7,947	226	6,107	1,489	297	8,258	6,272	60	1,926	5,006	2,263
2016	29,486	15,268	8,017	111	5,566	1,385	189	7,479	5,864	248	1,367	4,448	2,291
2017	27,223	14,166	7,238	94	5,566	1,094	174	7,242	5,412	697	1,133	3,815	2,000
2018	27,348	14,614	8,022	81	5,247	1,067	197	7,248	5,001	1,227	1,020	3,439	2,047
2019	27,543	15,232	9,023	69	4,961	919	260	7,435	4,742	1,759	934	2,739	2,137
2020	26,696	14,788	8,712	94	4,545	1,159	278	6,632	3,649	2,305	678	2,646	2,630
2021	28,224	15,846	9,335	112	5,101	1,084	214	6,405	2,591	3,138	676	2,698	3,275
2022	26,233	14,392	8,035	85	5,118	1,009	145	6,898	1,499	4,924	475	2,185	2,758
Average annual percent change, FY 2002–2022[e]	-1.3%	-2.4%	1.1%	-7.0%	-3.3%	-7.0%	-12.1%	3.7%	-3.6%	39.9%	5.1%	-4.8%	2.0%
Percent change, FY 2021–2022	-7.1%	-9.2%	-13.9%	-24.1%	0.3%	-6.9%	-32.2%	7.7%	-42.1%	56.9%	-29.7%	-19.0%	-15.8%

Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, synthetic cathinones, and amphetamine/stimulant-related chemicals.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Includes oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone (Palladone), oxymorphone, opioid treatment pharmaceuticals, opium, and morphine.

[d]Includes non-opioid pharmaceutical controlled substances, other depressants, sedatives, hallucinogens, synthetic cannabinoids, other steroids, equipment to manufacture controlled substances, and drug-use paraphernalia.

[e]Calculated using fiscal year counts in 2002 and in 2022. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2002–2022.

Classification of psychostimulants using the Controlled Substances Act's drug schedule

This report distinguishes between prescription psychostimulants, such as those used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and depression, and illicit psychostimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine. The Controlled Substances Act (CSA, P.L. 91–513) designates a schedule of controlled substances based on acceptable medical use and their abuse or dependency potential.[4] The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is the federal agency responsible for enforcing the CSA.

Psychostimulants are controlled substances with classifications ranging from Schedule I to Schedule V, depending on medical usefulness, abuse potential, safety, and drug dependence profile.

- **Schedule I** drugs have a high potential for abuse and a potential to create severe psychological and/or physical dependence, have no currently accepted medical use, and are not safe for use under medical supervision. N,N-Dimethylamphetamine; 3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA); 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA or ecstasy); and cathinone (component of Khat plant) and methcathinone (synthetic cathinone) are examples of Schedule I drugs in this report.[5]
- **Schedule II** drugs also have a high potential for abuse but have a currently accepted medical use, with severe restrictions. Examples include cocaine, amphetamine (e.g., Dexedrine and Adderall), methamphetamine (e.g., Desoxyn), methylphenidate (e.g., Ritalin), lisdexamfetamine (e.g., Vyvanse), and P2P (i.e., phenyl-2-propanone). This also includes a crystallized form of d-methamphetamine hydrochloride of at least 80% purity.[6] Many amphetamines are Schedule II stimulants, which means that they have a high potential for abuse but are currently acceptable for medical use (in FDA-approved products). Schedule II pharmaceutical products are available only through a prescription that cannot be refilled.
- **Schedule III** drugs have a lower potential for abuse than the drugs in Schedules I and II and have an accepted medical use. Examples include ketamine and anabolic steroids.
- **Schedule IV** drugs have a lower potential for abuse than the drugs in Schedule III and have an accepted medical use. Examples include Xanax, Valium, and Ativan.
- **Schedule V** drugs have a lower potential for abuse than the drugs in Schedule IV and have a currently accepted medical use. Schedule V substances consist primarily of preparations containing limited quantities of certain narcotics generally used for analgesic purposes.[7]

[4]The schedules went into effect on October 27, 1970 (Title 21 U.S.C. § 812) and are updated and republished on an annual basis per the CSA.

[5]See Drug Enforcement Administration. List of Controlled Substances by Drug Schedule. https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c_cs_alpha.pdf.

[6]U.S. Sentencing Commission, *Guidelines Manual*, App. C, amend. 370 (effective November 1, 1991).

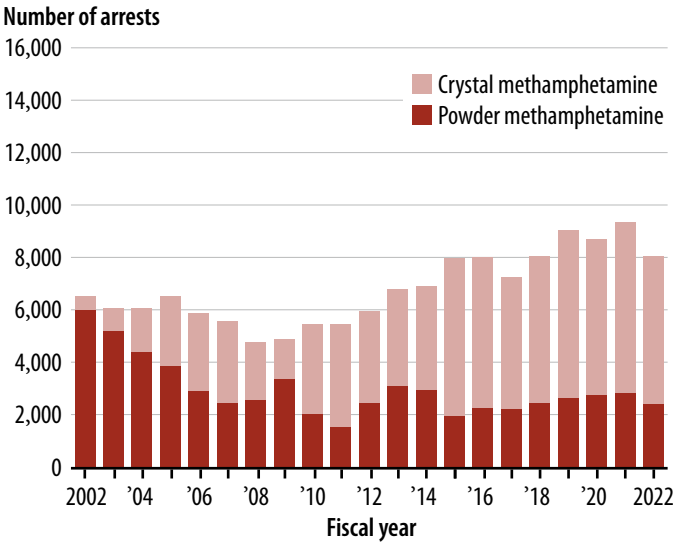
[7]Drug Enforcement Administration. 2023. Practitioner's Manual: An Informational Outline of the Controlled Substances Act. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

DEA arrests for crystal methamphetamine increased from 544 arrests in FY 2002 to 5,653 in FY 2022

On average, DEA arrests for crystallized (crystal) methamphetamine increased (up 12% annually) each year from FY 2002 to FY 2022, while arrests for powder methamphetamine decreased (down 5% annually) (figure 2). DEA arrests for cocaine decreased during this period, and the decline was greater for crack cocaine (down 7% on average annually) than for powder cocaine (down 3% on average annually) (figure 3).

FIGURE 2

Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine, FY 2002–2022

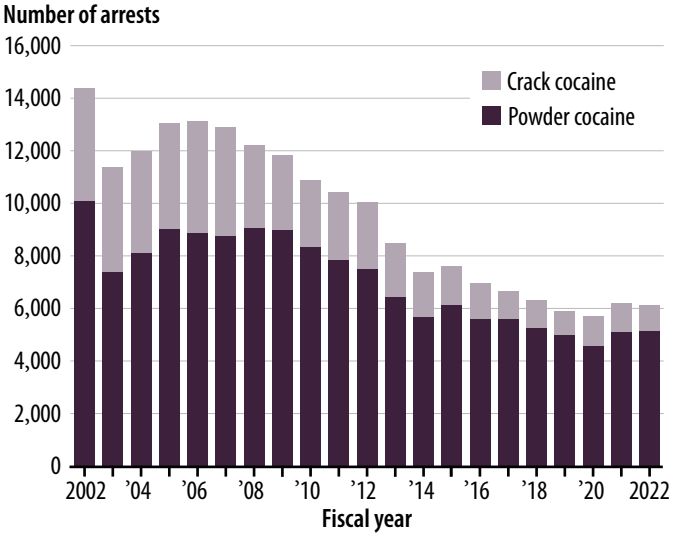


Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. See appendix table 2 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2002–2022.

FIGURE 3

Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine and crack cocaine, FY 2002–2022



Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. See appendix table 3 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2002–2022.

Most (84%) persons arrested by the DEA for psychostimulants in FY 2022 were ages 21 to 49

About 84% of the 14,392 persons arrested by the DEA for psychostimulants in FY 2022 were ages 21 to 49, 13% were age 50 or older, and 3% were age 20 or younger (table 2). Males made up 82% of persons arrested by the DEA for psychostimulants. Seventy-seven percent of the persons arrested for methamphetamine were male, and 23% were female. Among persons arrested for powder cocaine, 89% were male, and 11% were female. For both males and females, the psychostimulant for which the DEA made the most arrests in FY 2022 was methamphetamine, followed by powder cocaine, crack cocaine, MDA and MDMA, and other amphetamines.

TABLE 2

Persons arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration for a psychostimulant offense, by sex and age, FY 2022

Demographic characteristic	Total		Methamphetamine		Other amphetamines[a]		Powder cocaine		Crack cocaine		MDA and MDMA[b]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	14,392	100%	8,035	100%	85	100%	5,118	100%	1,009	100%	145	100%
Sex												
Male	11,315	81.9%	5,957	77.2%	62	77.5%	4,369	88.9%	817	83.9%	110	79.1%
Female	2,506	18.1	1,755	22.8	18	22.5	547	11.1	157	16.1	29	20.9
Age												
20 or younger	439	3.1%	241	3.0%	2	2.3%	137	2.7%	47	4.7%	12	8.3%
21–34	6,002	41.8	3,262	40.7	31	36.5	2,236	43.8	392	39.0	81	55.9
35–49	6,104	42.5	3,544	44.2	43	50.6	2,086	40.9	386	38.4	45	31.0
50–64	1,669	11.6	899	11.2	8	9.4	592	11.6	164	16.3	6	4.1
65 or older	142	1.0	75	1.0	1	1.2	48	0.9	17	1.7	1	0.7

Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA. Data were missing age for 36 persons arrested and sex for 571 persons arrested. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, synthetic cathinones, and amphetamine/stimulant-related chemicals.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal year 2022.

Abuse and overdose deaths due to psychostimulants

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the national public health agency of the United States and its National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides data on public health and safety. NCHS reported an estimated 57,497 fatal overdoses involving cocaine and other psychostimulants with abuse potential potential, mostly methamphetamine, during the 12-month period ending in December 2022. This represented a marked increase from 5,423 overdose deaths in 2002. **(figure 4)**.

The NCHS reports that synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths, followed by methamphetamine and cocaine. Methamphetamine, cocaine, and other psychostimulant overdose deaths often involve synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.[8] From 2014 to 2022, the majority of psychostimulant overdose deaths have involved an opioid **(figure 5)**.

[8]National Center for Health Statistics. Drug Overdose Deaths: Facts and Figures, 1999–2022. https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates.

FIGURE 4

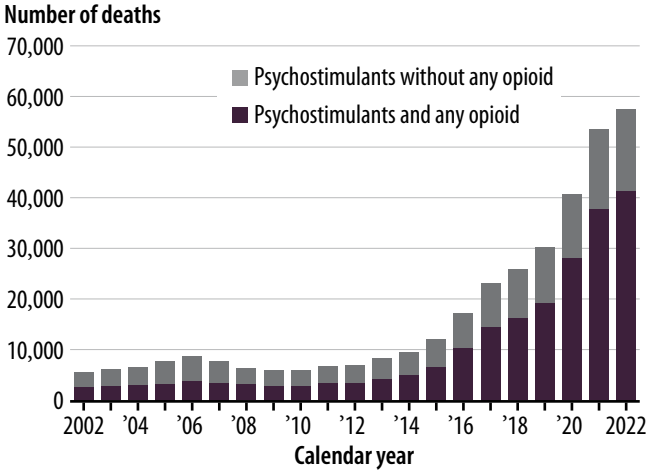
Number of drug overdose deaths involving cocaine and other psychostimulants with abuse potential, 2002–2022

Note: Other psychostimulants with abuse potential includes drugs such as methamphetamine, amphetamine, and methylphenidate. See appendix table 4 for counts.

Source: CDC WONDER, Multiple Causes of Death, National Overdose (OD) Deaths, 1999–2022. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html.

FIGURE 5

Number of drug overdose deaths involving psychostimulants and opioids, 2002–2022



Note: See appendix table 5 for counts.

Source: CDC WONDER, Multiple Causes of Death, National Overdose (OD) Deaths, 1999–2022. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html.

Persons sentenced

This section uses data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission (USSC) to describe sentences imposed on persons sentenced for a psychostimulant-related drug offense in federal courts.[9] The 1984 Sentencing Reform Act (P.L. 98–473) established the USSC with a directive to develop sentencing guidelines for federal crimes to ensure uniformity and proportionality in sentencing.[10]

In FY 2022, 14,420 persons were sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants, an increase from 12,616 in FY 2021 (figure 6).[11] Methamphetamine (9,704) was the psychostimulant type that the largest number of persons were sentenced for in FY 2022, followed by powder cocaine (3,476) and crack cocaine (1,117).

The number of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving methamphetamine increased 14% from FY 2021 to FY 2022

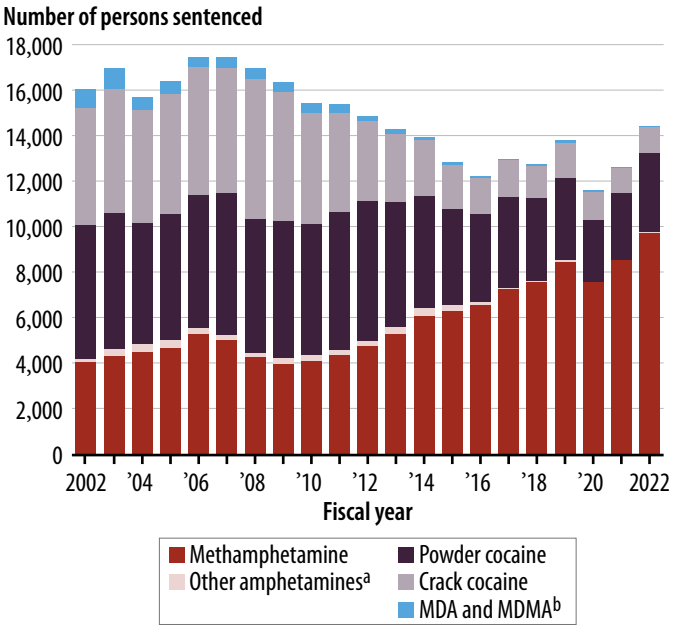
The increase in persons sentenced for psychostimulants from FY 2021 to FY 2022 was mostly the result of an increase in persons sentenced for methamphetamine (up 1,214) and powder cocaine (up 536). The number of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving methamphetamine increased 14% from FY 2021 (8,490) to FY 2022 (9,704).[12] The number of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving powder cocaine increased 18% (from 2,940 to 3,476) during that period.

The number of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants decreased by 1% annually from FY 2002 to FY 2022

On average, the number of persons sentenced for psychostimulants decreased by 1% annually from FY 2002 to FY 2022. More persons were sentenced for methamphetamine (up 5% annually) in FY 2022 than in FY 2002. Fewer persons were sentenced for drug offenses involving MDA and MDMA (down 11% annually) crack cocaine (down 7% annually) and other amphetamines (down 4% annually) in FY 2022 than in FY 2002.

FIGURE 6

Number of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants as the primary drug, FY 2002–2022



Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under the guidelines for drug offenses outlined in Chapter 2, Part D, of the U.S. Sentencing Commission's *Guidelines Manual*. Psychostimulants are the primary drug type. The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). See appendix table 6 for counts.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal years 2002–2022.

[9]The federal sentencing guidelines apply to most felony and Class A misdemeanor cases in the federal courts. The sentencing guidelines do not apply to Class B or C misdemeanors or infractions that are subject to prison sentences of 6 months or less. (See USSC §1B1.9.)

[10]See https://www.ussc.gov/guidelines.

[11]The primary guideline at sentencing is used for reporting persons sentenced for a drug offense.

[12]Offenses involving methamphetamine include powder methamphetamine, methamphetamine mixture, and crystal methamphetamine.

In Guam, Puerto Rico, Idaho, Nebraska, and Wyoming, 90% or more of drug offenses for which a person was sentenced involved psychostimulants, a higher rate than in any other state (map 1).

Most (82%) persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 were male

Males accounted for 82% of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving a psychostimulant in FY 2022 and 78% of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving methamphetamine (table 3). Larger percentages of persons sentenced for methamphetamine (22%) and other amphetamines (27%) than for other psychostimulant drug types were female.

The median age of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants was 37. The median age of persons sentenced for MDA and MDMA (31 years) was lower than the median age of those sentenced for crack cocaine (36 years), powder cocaine (37 years), methamphetamines (37 years), and other amphetamines (38 years).

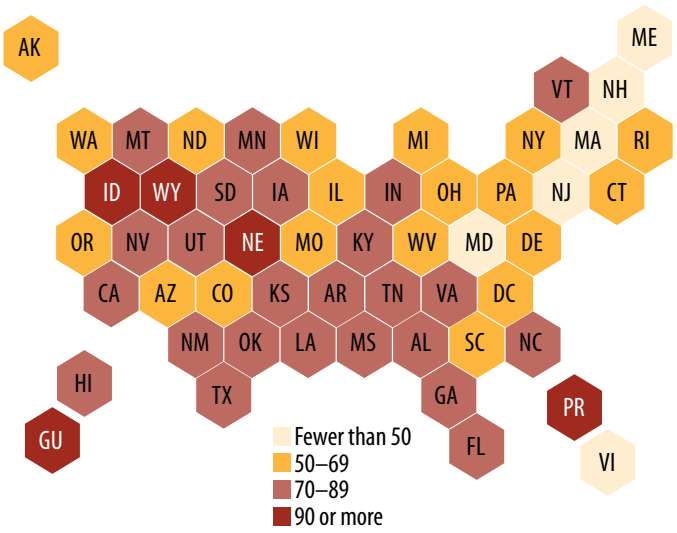
In FY 2022, about 45% of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants as the primary drug were Hispanic, 27% were white, and 25% were black, with Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander persons (2%) and American Indian or Alaska Native persons (1%) making up the remainder.[13] Most (84%) persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants were U.S. citizens.[14] About 9% of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants were citizens of Mexico, and 1% were from Central American countries.

[13]Race and Hispanic origin were categorized based on the Office of Management and Budget's standards for federal statistical and administrative reporting. (See *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-10-30/pdf/97-28653.pdf.) All of the race categories are "single race," meaning that only one race was self-reported in the presentence report. The federal presentence report is prepared by the probation officer following conviction and contains information about the offense conduct, custody status, victim impact, criminal history, and person characteristics. The information is used by the judge to inform sentencing.

[14]Citizenship is recorded in the presentence report and is used by the USSC for reporting purposes.

MAP 1

Rates of sentences imposed for psychostimulants per 100 drug sentences, by state or territory, FY 2022



Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Psychostimulants includes methamphetamine, powder and crack cocaine, methylenedioxyamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine, and other amphetamines such as methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones. Rates are computed based on fewer than 25 persons sentenced for a drug offense in Guam (12), Delaware (22), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (24). See appendix table 7 for counts and rates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

TABLE 3
Demographic characteristics of persons sentenced for a psychostimulant offense, FY 2022

Demographic characteristic	All persons		Psychostimulant type				
	Number	Percent	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]
Total persons	14,420	100%	9,704	51	3,476	1,117	72
Sex							
Male	11,799	81.8%	78.1%	72.6%	90.0%	89.1%	90.3%
Female	2,620	18.2	21.9	27.4	10.0	10.9	9.7
Race/Hispanic origin[c]							
White	3,811	27.1%	37.1%	58.3%	5.4%	7.6%	30.0%
Black/African American	3,450	24.6	17.7	33.3	25.9	78.3	30.0
Hispanic	6,364	45.3	41.2	4.2	67.7	13.7	24.3
American Indian/ Alaska Native	197	1.4	1.9	--	0.4	0.1	--
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	231	1.6	2.1	4.2	0.6	0.3	15.7
Age							
18–20	219	1.5%	1.5%	--	1.5%	1.4%	0.0%
21–24	1,015	7.0	7.3	3.9%	6.5	6.2	6.9
25–34	4,703	32.6	32.5	23.5	31.3	36.2	56.9
35–44	4,993	34.6	35.1	45.1	33.1	35.2	23.6
45–54	2,493	17.3	16.3	19.6	20.7	15.4	6.9
55–64	845	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	5.6
65 or older	152	1.1	1.0	2.0	1.3	0.6	--
Median	37 years		37 years	38 years	37 years	36 years	31 years
Education level							
Less than high school	4,996	34.8%	32.5%	31.2%	40.9%	36.7%	14.1%
High school graduate	6,082	42.3	43.6	35.4	37.6	47.1	23.9
Some college	2,934	20.4	21.6	16.7	18.3	14.8	46.5
College graduate	357	2.5	2.3	16.7	3.1	1.1	15.5
Citizenship							
U.S. citizen	12,071	83.8%	87.7%	95.9%	67.9%	98.3%	86.1%
Non-U.S. citizen	2,341	16.2	12.3	4.1	32.1	1.7	13.9
Country/region of citizenship							
North America	13,920	96.7%	99.4%	95.9%	88.3%	99.7%	90.3%
United States	12,071	83.8	87.7	95.9	67.9	98.3	86.1
Mexico	1,360	9.4	10.2	--	10.6	0.2	1.4
Caribbean islands[d]	313	2.2	0.6	--	7.2	0.9	--
Central America[d]	176	1.2	0.9	--	2.4	0.3	--
South America[d]	404	2.8	0.1	--	11.3	0.1	6.9
Asia[d]	51	0.4	0.5	--	0.1	--	2.8
Other[d,e]	37	0.3	0.1	4.1	0.5	0.3	2.8

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Data were missing for the following: sex (1), race/Hispanic origin (367), education level (51), and citizenship (8). Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data.

--Less than 0.05%.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Excludes persons of Hispanic origin, unless specified.

[d]Countries aggregated by region.

[e]Includes one country and two regions with fewer than 20 cases: Canada (11), Europe (18), and Africa (8).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

About three-quarters (77%) of persons sentenced for an offense with psychostimulants as the primary drug type were high school graduates (42%) or had less than a high school education (35%) as their highest level of education. Roughly one-quarter (23%) had some college education (20%) or were college graduates (3%).

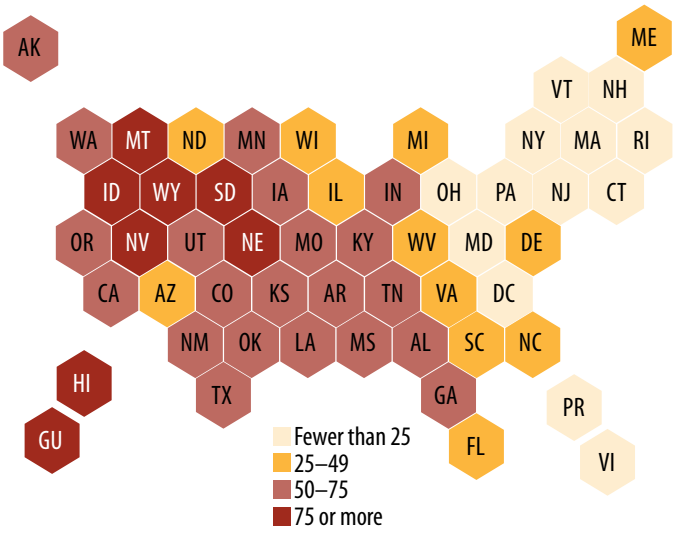
Sixty-eight percent of persons sentenced for methamphetamine were ages 25 to 44, 7% were age 55 or older, and 2% were ages 18 to 20. In FY 2022, 41% of persons sentenced for a methamphetamine offense were Hispanic; 37% were white; 18% were black; 2% were Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander; and 2% were American Indian or Alaska Native.

Persons were sentenced for methamphetamine at greater rates in western states than in other regions in FY 2022

Sentences imposed for methamphetamine made up a larger share of drug sentences imposed in western states than in other regions in FY 2022. The states with the highest rates of methamphetamine sentences per 100 drug sentences imposed were Wyoming (88), Idaho (87), Nebraska (83), Montana (82), and Hawaii (81) (map 2). All 12 persons (100%) sentenced for a drug offense in the territory of Guam were sentenced with methamphetamine as the primary drug.

MAP 2

Rates of sentences imposed for methamphetamine per 100 drug sentences, by state or territory, FY 2022



Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Methamphetamine includes powder methamphetamine, methamphetamine mixture, and crystal methamphetamine. Rates are computed based on fewer than 25 persons sentenced for a drug offense in Guam (12), Delaware (22), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (24). See appendix table 8 for counts and rates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

Most (78%) persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants were represented by a panel-appointed attorney or a public defender

Panel-appointed attorneys represented more than half (54%) of persons sentenced for psychostimulants, while public defenders represented about one-quarter (24%) and private counsel represented less than one-quarter (22%) (table 4).[15]

[15]The Criminal Justice Act was enacted in 1964 (Title 18 U.S.C. §3006a) and requires that attorneys be appointed to represent defendants unable to pay for their own counsel. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts provides for two types of counsel for federal indigent persons: federal public defenders and panels of private attorneys (referred to as panel-appointed attorneys) who accept appointments to represent eligible persons for reimbursement from the government. Private counsel are hired directly by the defendant.

In FY 2022, persons sentenced for a drug offense involving crack cocaine (61%) or methamphetamine (56%) were more likely to be represented by a panel-appointed attorney than those sentenced for other psychostimulant types. Most persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 were convicted following a guilty plea (98%) rather than a bench or jury trial (2%).

TABLE 4
Sentencing characteristics of persons sentenced for a psychostimulant offense, FY 2022

	All persons		Psychostimulant type				
Defendant characteristic	Number	Percent	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]
Total	14,420	100%	9,704	51	3,476	1,117	72
Type of counsel							
Panel-appointed attorney	7,016	54.3%	55.8%	35.0%	48.7%	60.9%	27.0%
Private counsel	2,784	21.5	17.6	32.5	33.6	15.3	50.8
Public defender	3,131	24.2	26.6	32.5	17.7	23.8	22.2
Disposition							
Guilty plea	13,931	97.9%	98.0%	96.1%	97.8%	97.0%	100.0%
Trial	301	2.1	1.1	3.9	2.2	3.0	0.0
Aggravating role enhancement							
No role enhancement	13,371	93.9%	95.0%	92.2%	91.7%	91.9%	91.6%
Leadership/supervisory role enhancement	861	6.1	5.0	7.8	8.3	8.1	8.4
Weapon enhancement							
No weapon enhancement	10,338	72.6%	71.4%	68.6%	80.0%	60.7%	71.8%
Weapon enhancement	3,894	27.4	28.6	31.4	20.0	39.3	28.2
Criminal history							
No criminal history, first offense	2,091	14.7%	10.4%	21.6%	30.4%	2.3%	18.3%
Prior criminal history	12,141	85.3	89.6	78.4	69.6	97.7	81.7
Acceptance of responsibility							
Did not accept responsibility	554	3.9%	3.8%	5.9%	3.7%	5.6%	1.4%
Accepted responsibility	13,678	96.1	96.2	94.1	96.3	94.4	98.6
Career offender status							
No career offender status	13,433	94.4%	94.2%	96.1%	96.9%	87.9%	98.6%
Career offender status	799	5.6	5.8	3.9	3.1	12.1	1.4

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). Psychostimulants are the primary drug type. The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Complete guideline application information was missing for 63 persons sentenced. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

More than 1 in 4 persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 received a sentence increase for use or possession of a weapon

Sentences may be increased in drug trafficking offenses for possession of a dangerous weapon (including a firearm) during the commission of the offense (i.e., a weapon enhancement). During FY 2022, 27% of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants received a weapon enhancement at sentencing. Weapon enhancements were twice as prevalent in offenses involving crack cocaine (39%) as in offenses involving powder cocaine (20%).

3 in 4 persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 received a sentence below the guideline range

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 were sentenced below the applicable guideline range (table 5). Thirty-five percent of persons sentenced received a downward departure (a more lenient sentence than the guideline range). The most common (21%) downward departure was a substantial assistance departure for assisting the authorities in the investigation or prosecution of another person or organization. Nine percent of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving

TABLE 5
Sentencing outcomes of persons sentenced for a psychostimulant offense, FY 2022

	All persons		Psychostimulant type				
Sentencing outcome	Number	Percent	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]
Total	14,420	100%	9,704	51	3,476	1,117	72
Sentence imposed relative to the guideline range							
Within guideline range	3,858	26.8%	23.9%	43.1%	33.2%	31.2%	16.7%
Guideline departure	5,034	34.9	39.7	23.5	27.5	16.9	30.6
Upward departure	23	0.2	0.1	--	0.3	0.4	--
§5K1.1 Substantial Assistance	3,030	21.0	22.8	23.5	18.6	12.6	22.2
§5K3.1 Early Disposition Program	1,231	8.5	11.2	--	4.0	0.1	--
Other downward departure	750	5.2	5.6	--	4.6	3.8	8.3
Variance[c]	5,523	38.3	36.3	33.3	39.3	51.9	52.8
Above range variance	127	0.9	0.5	3.9	1.2	3.2	1.4
Government-sponsored	1,880	13.0	12.7	7.8	12.0	19.4	12.5
Downward range variance	3,516	24.4	23.1	21.6	26.0	29.2	38.9
Sentence imposed							
Prison only	13,555	94.0%	94.2%	74.5%	94.1%	93.5%	88.9%
Prison/community split	518	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.1	2.1	4.2
Probation and confinement	65	0.5	0.4	2.0	0.6	0.7	--
Probation only	280	1.9	1.5	19.6	2.2	3.8	6.9
Median prison sentence received[d]	70 months		94 months	43 months	67 months	69 months	40 months

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). Psychostimulants are the primary drug type. The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Complete guideline application information was missing for 188 persons sentenced. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data.

--Less than 0.05%.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Includes cases where the sentence imposed was above or below the applicable guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part VI of the Statement of Reasons form (Court Determination for a Variance). Variances are initiated as motions by the government or by the defendant. A "variance," is imposed when a sentence is above or below the final sentencing range based on application of the other statutory factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). See: https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/training/primers/Primer_Departure_and_Variance.pdf.

[d]Sentences of probation only are included as 0 months of imprisonment.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

psychostimulants received an early disposition program departure, which occurs when the government seeks a sentence below the guideline range because the person participated in the government's expedited guilty plea program. An additional 37% of persons sentenced for a psychostimulant drug offense received either a downward range variance (24%) or a government-sponsored variance (13%).[16] Reductions in sentences, both departures and variances, were due to prosecutors' motions 43% of the time.[17]

Most (94%) persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 received a prison sentence

In FY 2022, 94% of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants were sentenced to imprisonment only. The median term of imprisonment for persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants was 70 months. Persons sentenced for a drug offense involving methamphetamine received a median prison term of 94 months in FY 2022.

More than 2 in 3 persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 were convicted of an offense that carried a mandatory minimum sentence

Of 14,420 persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants during FY 2022, the majority (69%) were convicted of an offense that required a judge to impose a statutorily defined minimum prison term (table 6). A mandatory minimum sentence is usually due to a specified drug quantity or the defendant's prior convictions. A similar share of persons sentenced for a powder cocaine offense (71%) or a methamphetamine offense (73%) were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty. Thirty-nine percent of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving crack cocaine were convicted of an offense that carried a mandatory minimum penalty. There were 4,427 (31%) persons convicted of an offense involving psychostimulants that did not include a mandatory minimum penalty in its statute.

[16]Departures are sentences outside of the guideline range authorized by specific policy statements in the USSC *Guidelines Manual*. Variances are sentences outside of the guideline range that are not imposed within the guidelines' framework but are imposed due to the guidelines' advisory nature following *United States v. Booker* (543 U.S. 220, 259 (2005)). Sentencing courts typically calculate any departures prior to considering whether to issue a variance. See https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/training/primers/2023_Primer_Departure_Variance.pdf.

[17]Government-sponsored departures include §5K1.1 Substantial Assistance to Authorities, §5K3.1 Early Disposition Programs, and government-sponsored variances.

TABLE 6

Persons sentenced for a psychostimulant offense, by whether the offense carried a mandatory minimum sentence, FY 2022

	All persons		Psychostimulant type				
Mandatory minimum sentence	Number	Percent	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]
Total	14,420	100%	9,704	51	3,476	1,117	72
Conviction offense carried a mandatory minimum penalty[c]	9,993	69.3	72.9%	11.8%	71.3%	38.7%	6.9%
Conviction offense did not carry a mandatory minimum penalty[d]	4,427	30.7	27.1	88.2	28.7	61.3	93.1

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). Psychostimulants are the primary drug type. The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Complete guideline application information was missing for 188 persons sentenced.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Includes persons who were sentenced for the type and quantity of drug that would trigger a mandatory minimum sentence.

[d]Includes persons who were not sentenced for the type and quantity of drug that would trigger a mandatory minimum sentence.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

About half of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 that carried a mandatory minimum sentence had the penalty applied

In FY 2022, 51% of the 9,993 persons convicted of a drug offense involving psychostimulants that carried a mandatory minimum penalty had that penalty applied at sentencing (table 7). Twenty-three percent of persons received a 5-year mandatory minimum, 28% received a 10-year mandatory minimum, and less than 1% received a 20-year mandatory minimum penalty. Fifty-four percent of persons convicted of a drug offense involving methamphetamine that carried a mandatory minimum penalty had that penalty applied at sentencing, compared to 74% of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving crack cocaine.

In FY 2022, 49% of persons convicted of a drug offense involving psychostimulants that carried a mandatory minimum penalty did not receive that penalty at sentencing because they were granted relief through a guideline provision. Thirty-one percent did not receive that penalty due to a "safety valve" provision granting them relief from the mandatory minimum penalty.[18] An additional 10% received relief at sentencing through a substantial assistance departure, and 9% received relief through both the safety valve provision and a substantial assistance departure.[19]

[18]The "safety valve" provision is codified at 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f) and incorporated into the guidelines by §5C1.2(a). Eligibility for relief from a mandatory sentence for a drug offense is determined by the following factors: no more than one criminal history point under guidelines (Criminal History Category I); offense was nonviolent, no dangerous weapon possessed; offense did not result in death or serious bodily injury; defendant was not an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor; and the defendant provided full disclosure to the government about crime of conviction.

[19]Substantial assistance departures include persons who received relief from mandatory minimum penalties under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 35(b) by providing substantial assistance to the federal government.

TABLE 7

Persons sentenced for a psychostimulant offense that carried a mandatory minimum sentence, by whether the penalty was applied, FY 2022

Mandatory minimum sentence	All persons		Psychostimulant type									
			Methamphetamine		Other amphetamines[a]		Powder cocaine		Crack cocaine		MDA and MDMA[b]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Conviction offense carries a mandatory minimum penalty	9,993	100%	7,073	100%	6	100%	2,477	100%	432	100%	5	100%
Mandatory minimum penalty applied	5,048	50.5%	3,816	54.0%	2	^	910	36.7%	318	73.6%	2	^
5 year mandatory minimum	2,259	22.6	1,506	21.3	2	^	507	20.5	242	56.0	2	^
10 year mandatory minimum	2,766	27.7	2,298	32.5	0	^	394	15.9	74	17.1	0	^
20 year mandatory minimum	23	0.2	12	0.2	0	^	9	0.4	2	0.5	0	^
Mandatory minimum penalty not applied	4,945	49.5%	3,257	46.0%	4	^	1,567	63.3%	114	26.4%	3	^
Substantial assistance[c]	1,012	10.1	735	10.4	3	^	217	8.8	56	13.0	1	^
Safety valve[d]	3,054	30.6	1,890	26.7	1	^	1,111	44.9	50	11.6	2	^
Both	879	8.8	632	8.9	0	^	239	9.6	8	1.9	0	^

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). Psychostimulants are the primary drug type. The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Complete guideline application information was missing for 188 persons sentenced. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data.

^Too few (<10) cases to compute a stable percentage. See *Methodology*.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Includes persons who received relief from mandatory minimum penalties under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 35(b) by providing substantial assistance to the federal government.

[d]Includes persons who received relief from mandatory minimum penalties by meeting "safety valve" criteria (less extensive criminal histories that involve nonviolent crimes) for a below-minimum sentence.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

Among persons convicted of a drug offense with a mandatory minimum penalty, a larger proportion of those convicted for a powder cocaine offense (63%) than for a methamphetamine (46%) or crack cocaine (26%) offense received relief from that penalty.

Most (98%) persons convicted for a drug offense involving psychostimulants in FY 2022 were sentenced for drug trafficking

In FY 2022, drug trafficking was the most common (98%) conviction offense among persons sentenced in federal district court for a psychostimulant offense (table 8). About 1% were sentenced for trafficking in protected locations, such as schools, and less than 1% were sentenced for drug possession.

TABLE 8

Persons sentenced in federal district court for a psychostimulant offense, by primary guideline, FY 2022

	All persons		Psychostimulant type				
Primary drug guideline	Number	Percent	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]
Total	14,420	100%	9,704	51	3,476	1,117	72
Drug trafficking[c]	14,149	98.1%	99.4%	84.3%	95.0%	97.2%	98.6%
Trafficking in protected locations[d]	182	1.3	0.2	--	4.3	1.4	--
Drug possession[e]	62	0.4	0.3	3.9	0.6	1.1	1.4
Acquiring drugs by fraud[f]	7	0.1	--	9.8	--	--	--
Other[g]	20	0.1	0.1	2.0	0.1	0.3	--

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). Psychostimulants are the primary drug type. The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). There were no persons sentenced under 2D1.6 (Use of Communication Facility in Committing Drug Offense), 2D1.10 (Endangering Human Life While Illegally Manufacturing a Controlled Substance), or 2D1.14 (Narco-Terrorism) as the primary guideline.

--Less than 0.05%.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Restricted to cases where §2D1.1 is the primary guideline.

[d]Restricted to cases where §2D1.2 is the primary guideline.

[e]Restricted to cases where §2D2.1 is the primary guideline.

[f]Restricted to cases where §2D2.2 is the primary guideline.

[g]Restricted to cases where §2D1.5, §2D1.8, §2D1.12, §2D1.13, or §2D3.1 is the primary guideline.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

Methodology

This report uses data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP). The FJSP receives administrative data files from six federal criminal justice agencies: the U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, U.S. Sentencing Commission, and Federal Bureau of Prisons. Data represent the federal criminal case-processing stages from arrest to imprisonment and release. BJS standardizes these data to maximize comparability across and within agencies over time. This includes:

- applying, where possible, the person-case as the primary unit of count
- delineating the fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) as the period for reported events
- applying a uniform offense classification across agencies[20]
- classifying dispositions and sentences imposed.

This report uses data from the FJSP and other published sources to describe persons arrested and sentenced for a federal drug offense involving psychostimulants, including methamphetamine, cocaine, methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), and other amphetamines. Offenses involving methamphetamine include powder methamphetamine, methamphetamine mixture, and crystal methamphetamine. The FJSP provides a system perspective of the annual activity, workloads, and outcomes associated with offenders handled in federal criminal courts. Data are standardized by applying unified offense and case disposition categories across agencies and a common unit of analysis and reporting period. The classification of psychostimulants was standardized across the data sets provided by the DEA and the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Data in this report are based on the fiscal year (FY). Data quality checks are performed on the data files in preparation for data analysis. This includes documenting new codes appearing in the data and confirming records with missing or invalid information.

[20]Offense categories for federal arrestees are based on the FBI's National Crime Information Center offense classifications, which are aggregated into the offense categories shown in the report.

FJSP data sources

Drug Enforcement Administration: The Defendant Statistical System contains data on persons arrested within the United States by DEA agents. The data include information on the characteristics of persons arrested and the type of drug for which they were arrested. Persons are counted more than once in a fiscal year if they were arrested multiple times by the DEA during the period. DEA data include all arrests made by DEA agents and do not describe whether a DEA arrest is a state or federal case. To protect the identity of agents and operations, the DEA does not provide BJS with geographic information, such as the federal judicial district where the arrest occurred. Data that are made publicly available from the DEA are posted on the Data and Statistics page of their website (https://www.dea.gov/resources/data-and-statistics).

U.S. Sentencing Commission: Data received from the U.S. Sentencing Commission were used to analyze persons sentenced under the federal guidelines for offenses involving psychostimulants. The U.S. Sentencing Commission Monitoring File does not include data on Class B and Class C misdemeanors or infractions with a maximum prison sentence of 6 months or less, juvenile offenders, or death penalty cases. The data include persons convicted and sentenced under the federal sentencing guidelines.[21] The data do not include persons whose case ended in a dismissal or acquittal and do not include probation violations or supervised release revocations.

The average annual percent change used in this report measures the average rate of growth (or decline) in the number per year between FY 2002 and FY 2022. The following formula is used:

$$\left[\left(\frac{n^{th}\ year}{first\ year}\right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1\right] \times 100$$

The total average annual percent change in federal and state arrests by the DEA involving psychostimulants, FY 2002 to FY 2022, is computed as follows:

$$\left[\left(\frac{14{,}392}{23{,}197}\right)^{\frac{1}{2022\text{-}2002}} - 1\right] \times 100 = [(0.62042^{0.05}) - 1] \times 100 =$$
$$(0.976415 - 1) \times 100 \approx 2.4\%$$

[21]See https://www.ussc.gov/guidelines.

Other resources

FJSP data are available in the Federal Criminal Case Processing Statistics (FCCPS) Data Tool, an interactive BJS web tool that permits users to query the federal data and download the results in a spreadsheet.[22] It provides statistics by stage of the federal criminal case process, including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and incarceration. Users can generate queries on persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants for up to three variables using data for the years 1998 to 2022. Additional information can be found on the BJS Federal Justice Statistics webpage: https://bjs.ojp.gov/topics/federal-justice-system.

[22]The FCCPS data tool is available at https://fccps.bjs.ojp.gov.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Counts for figure 1: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving psychostimulants, FY 2002–2022

Fiscal year	Total	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]
2002	23,197	6,518	363	10,082	4,307	1,927
2003	18,865	6,053	223	7,352	3,998	1,239
2004	19,171	6,070	222	8,085	3,908	886
2005	20,508	6,491	169	9,006	4,040	802
2006	19,925	5,853	116	8,837	4,299	820
2007	19,256	5,546	151	8,745	4,162	652
2008	17,711	4,747	129	9,033	3,163	639
2009	17,524	4,855	182	8,972	2,844	671
2010	17,013	5,460	126	8,315	2,562	550
2011	16,535	5,452	198	7,843	2,570	472
2012	16,550	5,941	224	7,485	2,575	325
2013	15,880	6,764	287	6,413	2,064	352
2014	14,897	6,907	235	5,666	1,715	374
2015	16,066	7,947	226	6,107	1,489	297
2016	15,268	8,017	111	5,566	1,385	189
2017	14,166	7,238	94	5,566	1,094	174
2018	14,614	8,022	81	5,247	1,067	197
2019	15,232	9,023	69	4,961	919	260
2020	14,788	8,712	94	4,545	1,159	278
2021	15,846	9,335	112	5,101	1,084	214
2022	14,392	8,035	85	5,118	1,009	145
Average annual percent change, FY 2002–2022[c]	-2.4%	1.1%	-7.0%	-3.3%	-7.0%	-12.1%
Percent change, FY 2021–2022	-9.2%	-13.9%	-24.1%	0.3%	-6.9%	-32.2%

Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, synthetic cathinones, and amphetamine/stimulant-related chemicals.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Calculated using fiscal year counts in 2002 and in 2022. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2002–2022.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Counts for figure 2: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine, FY 2002–2022

Fiscal year	Total	Powder methamphetamine	Crystal methamphetamine
2002	6,518	5,974	544
2003	6,053	5,174	879
2004	6,070	4,381	1,689
2005	6,491	3,852	2,639
2006	5,853	2,864	2,989
2007	5,546	2,431	3,115
2008	4,747	2,531	2,216
2009	4,855	3,352	1,503
2010	5,460	2,014	3,446
2011	5,452	1,505	3,947
2012	5,941	2,410	3,531
2013	6,764	3,061	3,703
2014	6,907	2,902	4,005
2015	7,947	1,939	6,008
2016	8,017	2,230	5,787
2017	7,238	2,198	5,040
2018	8,022	2,440	5,582
2019	9,023	2,628	6,395
2020	8,712	2,728	5,984
2021	9,335	2,820	6,515
2022	8,035	2,382	5,653
Average annual percent change, FY 2002–2022*	1.1%	-4.5%	12.4%
Percent change, FY 2021–2022	-13.9%	-15.5%	-13.2%

Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

*Calculated using fiscal year counts in 2002 and in 2022. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2002–2022.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Counts for figure 3: Federal and state arrests by the Drug Enforcement Administration involving powder cocaine and crack cocaine, FY 2002–2022

Fiscal year	Total	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine
2002	14,389	10,082	4,307
2003	11,350	7,352	3,998
2004	11,993	8,085	3,908
2005	13,046	9,006	4,040
2006	13,136	8,837	4,299
2007	12,907	8,745	4,162
2008	12,196	9,033	3,163
2009	11,816	8,972	2,844
2010	10,877	8,315	2,562
2011	10,413	7,843	2,570
2012	10,060	7,485	2,575
2013	8,477	6,413	2,064
2014	7,381	5,666	1,715
2015	7,596	6,107	1,489
2016	6,951	5,566	1,385
2017	6,660	5,566	1,094
2018	6,314	5,247	1,067
2019	5,880	4,961	919
2020	5,704	4,545	1,159
2021	6,185	5,101	1,084
2022	6,127	5,118	1,009
Average annual percent change, FY 2002–2022*	-4.2%	-3.3%	-7.0%
Percent change, FY 2021–2022	-0.9%	0.3%	-6.9%

Note: The unit of count is each individual arrest made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Includes state and federal arrests made by the DEA.

*Calculated using fiscal year counts in 2002 and in 2022. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Defendant Statistical System, fiscal years 2002–2022.

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Counts for figure 4: Number of drug overdose deaths involving cocaine and other psychostimulants with abuse potential, 2002–2022

Calendar year	Total
2002	5,423
2003	6,215
2004	6,591
2005	7,606
2006	8,668
2007	7,697
2008	6,320
2009	5,824
2010	5,914
2011	6,765
2012	6,879
2013	8,338
2014	9,395
2015	12,122
2016	17,258
2017	23,136
2018	25,877
2019	30,231
2020	40,643
2021	53,495
2022	57,497

Note: Other psychostimulants with abuse potential includes drugs such as methamphetamine, amphetamine, and methylphenidate.

Source: CDC WONDER, Multiple Causes of Death, National Overdose (OD) Deaths, 1999–2022. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html.

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Counts for figure 5: Number of drug overdose deaths involving psychostimulants and opioids, 2002–2022

Calendar year	Psychostimulants and any opioid	Psychostimulants without any opioid
2002	2,578	2,845
2003	2,732	3,483
2004	2,850	3,741
2005	3,215	4,391
2006	3,764	4,904
2007	3,394	4,303
2008	3,085	3,235
2009	2,766	3,058
2010	2,662	3,252
2011	3,255	3,510
2012	3,340	3,539
2013	4,037	4,301
2014	4,999	4,396
2015	6,594	5,528
2016	10,222	7,036
2017	14,455	8,684
2018	16,165	9,712
2019	19,192	11,039
2020	27,966	12,677
2021	37,682	15,813
2022	41,361	16,136

Source: CDC WONDER, Multiple Causes of Death, National Overdose (OD) Deaths, 1999–2022. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html.

APPENDIX TABLE 6

Counts for figure 6: Number of persons sentenced for a drug offense involving psychostimulants as the primary drug, FY 2002–2022

Fiscal year	Total	Methamphetamine	Other amphetamines[a]	Powder cocaine	Crack cocaine	MDA and MDMA[b]
2002	16,009	4,043	121	5,875	5,178	792
2003	16,944	4,303	284	5,989	5,462	906
2004	15,696	4,448	359	5,358	4,935	596
2005	16,398	4,619	361	5,556	5,283	579
2006	17,445	5,253	280	5,841	5,624	447
2007	17,463	5,007	192	6,282	5,477	505
2008	16,955	4,225	193	5,890	6,168	479
2009	16,345	3,943	243	6,033	5,684	442
2010	15,447	4,069	284	5,720	4,897	477
2011	15,386	4,334	249	6,038	4,361	404
2012	14,873	4,724	256	6,134	3,512	247
2013	14,262	5,245	329	5,506	2,975	207
2014	13,923	6,061	327	4,961	2,440	134
2015	12,826	6,265	278	4,208	1,958	117
2016	12,209	6,511	141	3,891	1,582	84
2017	12,980	7,217	84	3,990	1,613	76
2018	12,735	7,528	60	3,655	1,430	62
2019	13,776	8,444	74	3,592	1,573	93
2020	11,589	7,530	40	2,717	1,224	78
2021	12,616	8,490	32	2,940	1,097	57
2022	14,420	9,704	51	3,476	1,117	72
Average annual percent change, FY 2002–2022[c]	-0.5%	4.5%	-4.2%	-2.6%	-7.4%	-11.3%
Percent change, FY 2021–2022	14.3%	14.3%	59.4%	18.2%	1.8%	26.3%

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). Psychostimulants are the primary drug type. The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved).

[a]Includes amphetamines, methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones.

[b]Includes methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), also known as ecstasy. This includes synthetic psychoactive substances belonging to the amphetamine and phenethylamine classes of drugs.

[c]Calculated using fiscal year counts in 2002 and in 2022. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal years 2002–2022.

APPENDIX TABLE 7

Counts and rates for map 1: Rates of sentences imposed for psychostimulants per 100 drug sentences, by state or territory, FY 2022

State	Total number of drug sentences	Sentences imposed for psychostimulants	Psychostimulant rate per 100 drug sentences
Total	20,036	14,420	72
Alabama	328	234	71
Alaska	64	34	53
Arizona	509	281	55
Arkansas	308	249	81
California	2,512	2,058	82
Colorado	163	107	66
Connecticut	171	86	50
Delaware	22	13	59
District of Columbia	54	34	63
Florida	1,004	812	81
Georgia	578	481	83
Guam	12	12	100
Hawaii	93	81	87
Idaho	164	148	90
Illinois	378	245	65
Indiana	268	206	77
Iowa	316	248	78
Kansas	162	122	75
Kentucky	366	267	73
Louisiana	268	193	72
Maine	97	45	46
Maryland	179	84	47
Massachusetts	179	68	38
Michigan	244	165	68
Minnesota	106	81	76
Mississippi	157	138	88
Missouri	645	446	69
Montana	141	122	87
Nebraska	203	182	90
Nevada	96	80	83
New Hampshire	116	40	34
New Jersey	212	91	43
New Mexico	274	199	73
New York	969	569	59
North Carolina	591	467	79
North Dakota	167	83	50
Ohio	770	386	50
Oklahoma	297	232	78
Oregon	150	103	69
Pennsylvania	610	310	51
Puerto Rico	396	363	92
Rhode Island	30	20	67
South Carolina	277	188	68
South Dakota	185	152	82
Tennessee	622	454	73
Texas	3,003	2,356	78
U.S. Virgin Islands	24	9	38
Utah	279	199	71
Vermont	70	51	73
Virginia	381	267	70
Washington	226	143	63
West Virginia	329	220	67
Wisconsin	209	139	67
Wyoming	58	52	90

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Psychostimulants includes methamphetamine, powder and crack cocaine, methylenedioxyamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine, and other amphetamines such as methcathinone, dextroamphetamine, khat, Ritalin, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, bath salts, and synthetic cathinones. Rates are computed based on fewer than 25 persons sentenced for a drug offense in Guam (12), Delaware (22), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (24).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

APPENDIX TABLE 8

Counts and rates for map 2: Rates of sentences imposed for methamphetamine per 100 drug sentences, by state or territory, FY 2022

State	Total number of drug sentences	Sentences imposed for methamphetamine	Methamphetamine rate per 100 drug sentences
Total	20,036	9,704	48
Alabama	328	182	55
Alaska	64	34	53
Arizona	509	243	48
Arkansas	308	228	74
California	2512	1767	70
Colorado	163	88	54
Connecticut	171	4	2
Delaware	22	8	36
District of Columbia	54	4	7
Florida	1004	254	25
Georgia	578	377	65
Guam	12	12	100
Hawaii	93	75	81
Idaho	164	143	87
Illinois	378	160	42
Indiana	268	177	66
Iowa	316	217	69
Kansas	162	106	65
Kentucky	366	237	65
Louisiana	268	133	50
Maine	97	25	26
Maryland	179	5	3
Massachusetts	179	6	3
Michigan	244	97	40
Minnesota	106	76	72
Mississippi	157	110	70
Missouri	645	390	60
Montana	141	115	82
Nebraska	203	168	83
Nevada	96	74	77
New Hampshire	116	24	21
New Jersey	212	23	11
New Mexico	274	170	62
New York	969	81	8
North Carolina	591	275	47
North Dakota	167	77	46
Ohio	770	181	24
Oklahoma	297	223	75
Oregon	150	96	64
Pennsylvania	610	110	18
Puerto Rico	396	2	1
Rhode Island	30	5	17
South Carolina	277	83	30
South Dakota	185	146	79
Tennessee	622	380	61
Texas	3003	1589	53
U.S. Virgin Islands	24	0	0
Utah	279	184	66
Vermont	70	7	10
Virginia	381	149	39
Washington	226	112	50
West Virginia	329	148	45
Wisconsin	209	68	33
Wyoming	58	51	88

Note: Includes cases where persons were sentenced under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Chapter Two, Part D (Drug Guidelines). The primary drug is the drug that results in the greatest penalty (when multiple drugs are involved). Methamphetamine includes powder methamphetamine, methamphetamine mixture, and crystal methamphetamine. Rates are computed based on fewer than 25 persons sentenced for a drug offense in Guam (12), Delaware (22), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (24).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Monitoring File, fiscal year 2022.

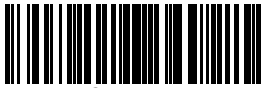
The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

This report was written by Mark Motivans, PhD. Ryan Kling verified the report.

Eric Hendrixson edited the report. Jeffrey Link produced the report.

November 2024, NCJ 309288

BJS



Office of Justice Programs
Building Solutions • Supporting Communities • Advancing Justice
www.ojp.gov