

Annual Report Key Findings

1. The number of felony cases and offenders sentenced has increased for the first time since 2010 (Page 20).
2. Prison sentences were imposed for less than half all felony cases for the first time since 2010 (Page 22).
3. Similar to 2015, offenses in the M8 severity group accounted for 32.6% of all felony cases sentenced in 2016 (Page 25).
4. In 2016, the Commission observed a 5% increase in the percentage of both Drug and Weapon counts sentenced. The remaining offense categories, Homicide, Sex, Property, Violent, and Other crimes, remained relatively stable between 2015 and 2016 (Page 27).
5. Violent crime was the dominant offense category in 2016, accounting for 31% of all non-drug felony cases. Within the Violent offense category, Robbery was the most frequent specific offense sentenced; representing 39.7% of all offenses in the category (Page 26).
6. Among both male and female offender cases sentenced, Violent offenses were the most common offense type, followed by Drug offenses. For the first time since 2010, Violent offenses surpassed the Other offense category as the dominant female offense category (Page 31).
7. During 2016, 58.5% of all offenders sentenced were between the age of 18 and 30 (Page 33).
8. For the 15-17 age category, there has been a relatively steady increase in the number of cases sentenced between 2010 and 2016. The category contained 1.2% of cases sentenced in 2010 and 3.6% in 2016 (Page 33).
9. The rate of judicial compliance with the Sentencing Guidelines has remained above 90%, since 2012. The 97.5% compliant rate in 2016 was the highest rate ever observed by the Commission since the inception of the Guidelines in 2004 (Page 43).
10. In 2016, in-the-box compliance rate was 90.3%. This shows that less than 10% of all felony counts initially sentenced fell outside the recommended Guideline sentence duration and disposition type (Page 45).
11. When the Court did not utilize the Guidelines, the sentence imposed was less severe than the recommended Guidelines range and/or sentence type for 96.2% of counts sentenced (Page 48).