

Chapter 5

DEMOGRAPHICS OF FEDERAL COCAINE OFFENDERS

This chapter updates the demographic data presented in the 1995 Commission Report. The data from the Commission's 1992 and 2000 monitoring datafiles provide information on race and ethnicity, citizenship, gender, and age comparisons for federal powder cocaine and crack cocaine offenders.

Table 3 presents the demographic characteristics of federal cocaine offenders. The overwhelming majority of crack cocaine offenders consistently have been black: 91.4 percent in 1992 and 84.7 percent in 2000. For powder cocaine, Hispanics accounted for 39.8 percent of powder cocaine offenders in 1992 but more than half (50.8%) by 2000. The increase in Hispanic powder cocaine offenders in part may be attributable to the increase in the prosecutions of couriers and mules bringing powder cocaine into the United States as described in the previous chapter.¹³⁰ Whites comprised 32.3 percent of offenders in 1992, but the proportion of white powder cocaine offenders decreased by approximately half by 2000 to 17.8 percent.

Nearly all crack cocaine offenders were United States citizens (93.4% in 2000), reflecting the fact that this form of the drug almost exclusively is produced and trafficked domestically.¹³¹ In contrast, only 63.9 percent of powder cocaine offenders were U.S. citizens in 2000, and 36.1 percent were non-U.S. citizens, reflecting international aspects of the powder cocaine trade that are absent for crack cocaine.¹³²

The two drug types are similar in other demographic measures. Male offenders comprised the overwhelming majority of offenders for both drug types, which is consistent with federal drug offenders generally across drug type and over time. There was a small difference in the average age of powder cocaine and crack cocaine offenders, with powder cocaine offenders being slightly older.

¹³⁰ Hispanic offenders consistently have accounted for more than half of powder cocaine mules/couriers, comprising 55.2 percent and 56.7 percent in the 1995 and 2000 drug samples, respectively.

¹³¹ See USSC, *supra* note 1, ch. 4.

¹³² See United States Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, *National Drug Threat Assessment 2002*, December 2001.

Table 3
Demographic Characteristics of Federal Cocaine Offenders¹³³

	<u>Powder Cocaine</u>				<u>Crack Cocaine</u>			
	1992		2000		1992		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity								
White	2,113	32.3	932	17.8	74	3.2	269	5.6
Black	1,778	27.2	1,596	30.5	2,096	91.4	4,069	84.7
Hispanic	2,601	39.8	2,662	50.8	121	5.3	434	9.0
Other	44	0.7	49	0.9	3	0.1	33	0.7
Total	6,536	100.0	5,239	100.0	2,294	100.0	4,805	100.0
Citizenship								
U.S. Citizen	4,499	67.7	3,327	63.9	2,092	91.3	4,482	93.4
Non-Citizen	2,147	32.3	1,881	36.1	199	8.7	318	6.6
Total	6,646	100.0	5,208	100.0	2,291	100.0	4,800	100.0
Gender								
Female	787	11.8	722	13.8	270	11.7	476	9.9
Male	5,886	88.2	4,518	86.2	2,032	88.3	4,330	90.1
Total	6,673	100.0	5,240	100.0	2,302	100.0	4,806	100.0
Average Age								
	Average=33.5		Average=33.9		Average=28.4		Average=29	

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission 1992 and 2000 Datafiles, MONFY92 and USSCFY00.

¹³³ The table is derived from cases sentenced under the primary drug trafficking guideline only, USSG §2D1.1. The total number of cases in each category varies due to cases excluded for missing information.