



District of Columbia Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission

DCSC (FZ)

MISSION

The mission of the District of Columbia Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission is to promote fair and consistent sentencing policies, to increase public understanding of sentencing policies and practices, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the guidelines system in order to recommend changes based on actual sentencing and corrections practice and research.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

The Commission advises the District of Columbia on policy matters relating to criminal law, sentencing and corrections. The Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission Amendment Act of 2007 established permanent sentencing guidelines and requires the Commission to monitor judicial usage and make adjustments as needed. The Advisory Commission on Sentencing Amendment Act of 2006 requires the Commission to conduct a multi-year study of criminal code reform, including analysis of the current criminal code and proposals to create a uniform and coherent body of criminal law in the District of Columbia.

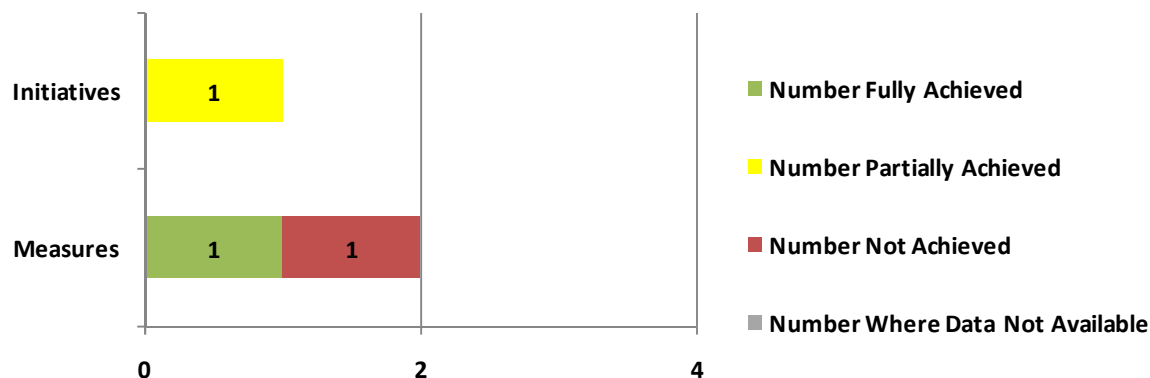
AGENCY OBJECTIVES

1. Promote the accurate, timely, and effective consultation of the sentencing guidelines in every felony case.
2. Promote compliance with and actual use of the guidelines in at least 80 percent of all felony cases, in recognition that a small number of exceptional cases will merit a judicial departure from the guidelines.
3. Analyze the District of Columbia's current criminal code and administration of existing criminal laws, and propose reforms in the criminal code to create a uniform and coherent body of criminal law in the District of Columbia.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT

- ✓ The Commission continues to achieve high compliance with its sentencing guidelines, indicating that judges are using the guidelines as intended and departing in rare cases which contain atypical aggravating or mitigating circumstances.

OVERVIEW OF AGENCY PERFORMANCE





Performance Initiatives – Assessment Details

Performance Assessment Key:

 Fully achieved  Partially achieved  Not achieved  Data not reported


OBJECTIVE 1: Promote the accurate, timely, and effective consultation of the sentencing guidelines in every felony case.

No initiatives reported for this objective for FY08.

OBJECTIVE 2: Promote compliance with and actual use of the guidelines in at least 80 percent of all felony cases, in recognition that a small number of exceptional cases will merit a judicial departure from the guidelines.

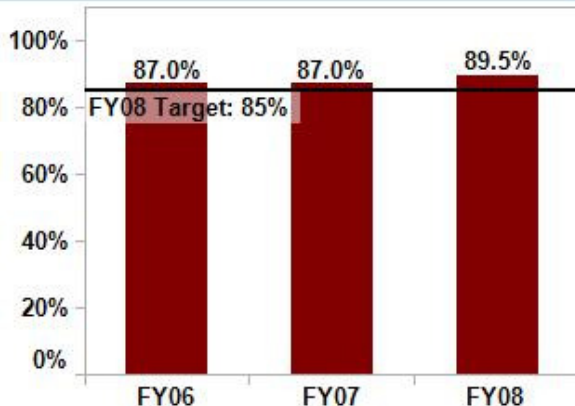
No initiatives reported for this objective for FY08.

OBJECTIVE 3: Analyze the District of Columbia’s current criminal code and administration of existing criminal laws, and propose reforms in the criminal code to create a uniform and coherent body of criminal law in the District of Columbia.

-  **INITIATIVE 3.1: Reduce the confusion and inconsistency in the District of Columbia’s current criminal code.**
Partially Achieved: The Criminal Code Revision Project is just beginning a multi-year project. The Advisory Commission on Sentencing Amendment Act of 2006 (Law 16-126) requires that the Commission make recommendations to the District of Columbia Council to revise the language of criminal statutes; organize existing criminal statutes in a logical order; assess the penalty structure; and propose a rational system of classification.

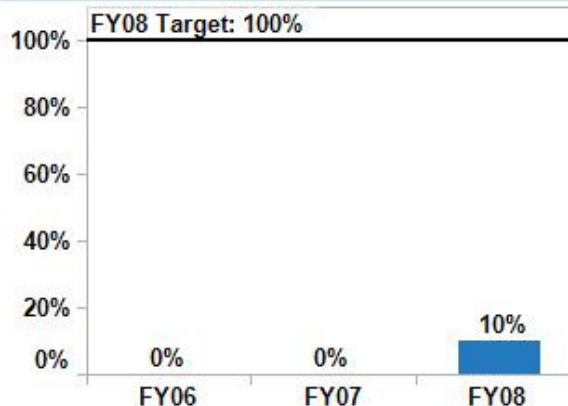
Key Performance Indicators – Highlights

From Objective 2: Percent of Felony Sentences Complying with Guidelines



FULLY ACHIEVED

From Objective 2: Percent Expansion of DC SC Data Related to Sentencing Decisions



NOT ACHIEVED

More About These Indicators:

How did the agency's actions affect this indicator?

- The Commission continues an active program of training and consultation with Court professionals, including judges, attorneys, and probation officers. The high levels of compliance can be attributed to continued engagement with all parties to promote guideline compliance.

What external factors influenced this indicator?

- The Court and other parties continue to be strong supporters of the sentencing guideline program. Without their active support, this high compliance level could not be achieved.

How did the agency's actions affect this indicator?

- The Commission is developing a web-based application (Sentencing Guidelines Web) to extract data directly from the Court's database (through JUSTIS) for all sentenced felons, to include information on compliance with the sentencing guideline recommendations. We are the first agency extracting Court information through JUSTIS, and the contractor has experienced delays. We have also encountered unforeseen problems outside the scope of the contract. Work is scheduled to be concluded before the Annual Report is due on April 30.

What external factors influenced this indicator?

- Because we are the first agency extracting Court information through JUSTIS, we are in a sense a test case. We have met by conference call with teams of specialists from JUSTIS, OCTO, and the contractor to iron out the procedures to extract the information through JUSTIS. The system has been tested successfully but more work is needed before we can extract and report actual data (see above).



Key Performance Indicators – Details

Performance Assessment Key:

- Fully achieved
 ● Partially achieved
 ● Not achieved
 ● Data not reported

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Actual	FY08 Target	FY08 Actual	FY09 Projection
OBJECTIVE 1: Promote the accurate, timely, and effective consultation of the sentencing guidelines in every felony case .					
<i>None for this objective for FY08</i>					
OBJECTIVE 2: Promote compliance with and actual use of the guidelines in at least 80 percent of all felony cases, in recognition that a small number of exceptional cases will merit a judicial departure from the guidelines.					
● Percent of Felony Sentences Complying with Guidelines.	87.0%	87.0%	85.0%	89.5%	85.0%
● Percent expansion of DCSC data related to sentencing decisions.	0%	0%	100%	10%	100%
OBJECTIVE 3: Analyze the District of Columbia’s current criminal code and administration of existing criminal laws, and propose reforms in the criminal code to create a uniform and coherent body of criminal law in the District of Columbia.					
<i>None for this objective for FY08</i>					