



District of Columbia Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission DCSC (FZ)

MISSION

The mission of the District of Columbia Sentencing Commission is to implement, monitor and support the District's voluntary sentencing guidelines, 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.

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.

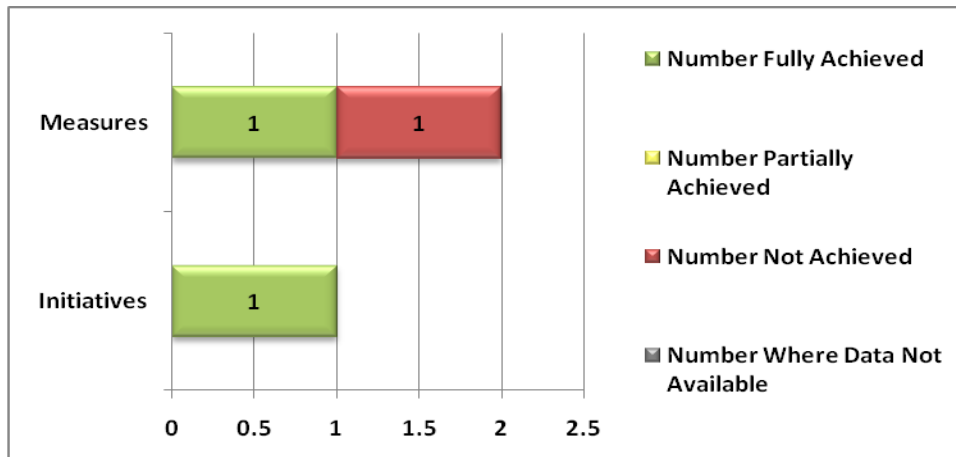
AGENCY OBJECTIVES

1. Promote the accurate, timely and effective use of the sentencing guidelines in felony cases.
2. Promulgate compliance with the guidelines in at least 85 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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Inventoried and coded all DC criminal statutes as the initial step in the Criminal Code Revision.
- ✓ FY 09 Judicial compliance with the sentencing guidelines exceeded 89% a two percent increase over FY 07 demonstrating departures are limited to very "rare exceptions."
- ✓ Collected criminal history data on 2,500 sentenced felony offenders.


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 USE OF THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES IN FELONY CASES.

INITIATIVE 1: Reduce confusion and inconsistency in the District of Columbia’s criminal code.

The current DC Criminal Code is inconsistent, cumbersome and often confusing since it has had many authors over a long time period. The commission has been directed to undertake a comprehensive revision of Criminal Code to be completed by September 2010. The Commission began the revision by undertaking an exhaustive search of the criminal statutes contained in the criminal and other related codes. A comprehensive list of criminal statutes was compiled and coded and will serve as the foundation for the code revision.



OBJECTIVE 2: PROMULGATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES IN AT LEAST 85 PERCENT OF ALL FELONY CASES, IN RECOGNITION THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF EXCEPTIONAL CASES WILL MERIT A JUDICIAL DEPARTURE FROM THE GUIDELINES.

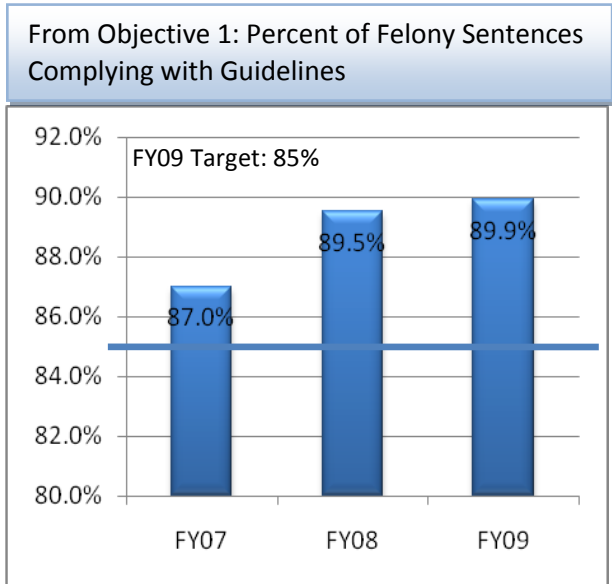
There are no initiatives for this objective

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.

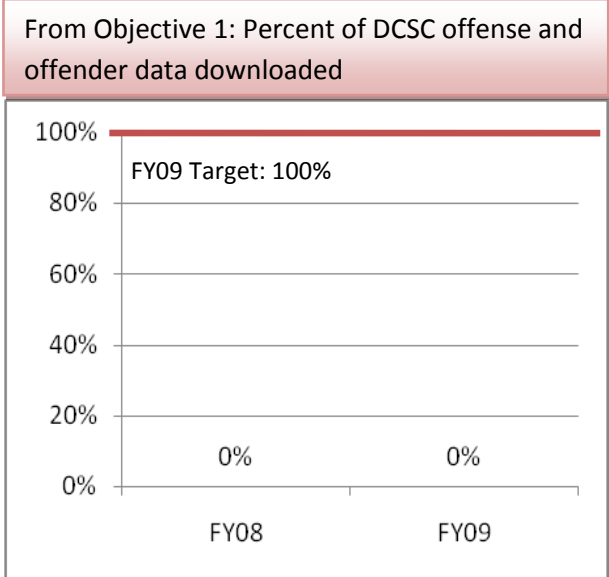
There are no initiatives for this objective



Key Performance Indicators – Highlights




FULLY ACHIEVED


NOT ACHIEVED


More About These Indicators:

How did the agency's actions affect this indicator?

- The commission continues to serve as an information resource to the judiciary, prosecutors, defense counsel and CSOSA providing timely responses to guideline inquiries that enable practitioners to understand and apply the guidelines in an effective manner. In addition, modifications to the guidelines are proposed by the commission as necessary

What external factors influenced this indicator?

- The length of time since implementation of the guidelines and strong judicial support for the guidelines has positively impacted the increasing compliance rate.

How did the agency's actions affect this indicator?

- The commission contracted a web-based application to extract data from the courts through JUSTIS to analyze sentencing trends, patterns and departures.
- The commission serves as an information resource to the judiciary, prosecutors, defense counsel and CSOSA providing timely responses to guideline inquiries that enable practitioners to understand and apply the guidelines in an effective manner.

What external factors influenced this indicator?



- There have been a number of obstacles faced in the development of the web-based application from the contractor involving changes in the court's data system and other obstacles outside the scope of this project which have caused significant delays. The application is now in the testing phase and anticipated to be fully operational within the next six months.



Key Performance Indicators – Details

Performance Assessment Key:

 Fully achieved  Partially achieved  Not achieved  Data not reported

	Measure Name	FY2008 YE Actual	FY2009 YE Target	FY2009 YE Actual	FY2009 YE Rating	Budget Program
	1.1 Percent of Felony Sentences Complying with Guidelines	89.5%	85%	89.8%	105.76%	SENTENCING COMMISSION
	1.2 Percent of DCSC offense and offender data downloaded	0%	100%	0%	0%	SENTENCING COMMISSION