



QuickFacts

18 U.S.C. § 922(g) Firearms Offenses

What is 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)?

18 U.S.C. § 922(g) prohibits certain persons from shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition while subject to a prohibition from doing so most commonly because of a prior conviction for a felony offense.

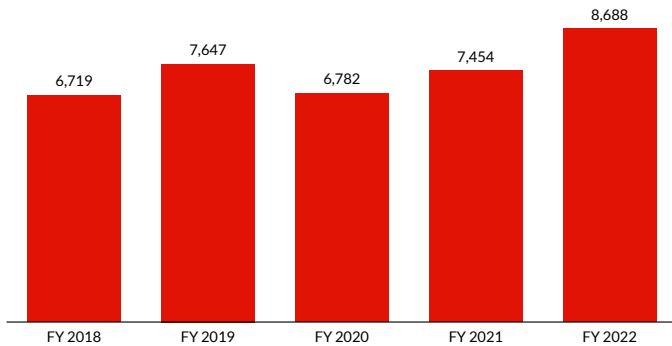
Population Snapshot

64,142 cases were reported in FY22;

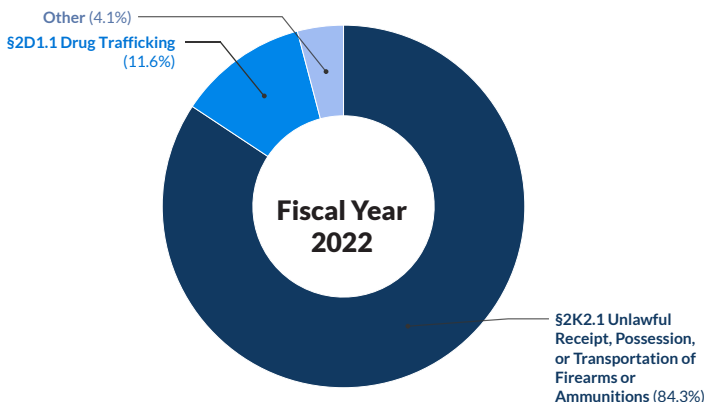
8,688 involved convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).¹

87.8% were convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) because of a prior felony conviction.

Numbers Over Time



Primary Sentencing Guideline



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Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 97.5% of section 922(g) offenders were men.
- 58.1% were Black, 23.1% were White, 15.6% were Hispanic, and 3.2% were Other races.
- Their average age was 35 years.
- 96.6% were United States citizens.
- 26.0% were in the highest Criminal History Category (Criminal History Category VI);
 - 6.8% were CHC I;
 - 8.6% were CHC II;
 - 21.3% were CHC III;
 - 21.4% were CHC IV;
 - 15.9% were CHC V.
- The top five districts for section 922(g) offenders were:
 - Eastern District of Missouri (441);
 - Northern District of Ohio (358);
 - Northern District of Texas (306);
 - Western District of Texas (280);
 - Western District of Missouri (243).
- Districts with the highest proportion of section 922(g) cases were:
 - Middle District of Tennessee (51.1%);
 - Eastern District of Missouri (43.2%);
 - Northern District of Iowa (41.6%);
 - Northern District of Alabama (40.7%);
 - Middle District of North Carolina (39.6%).

Punishment

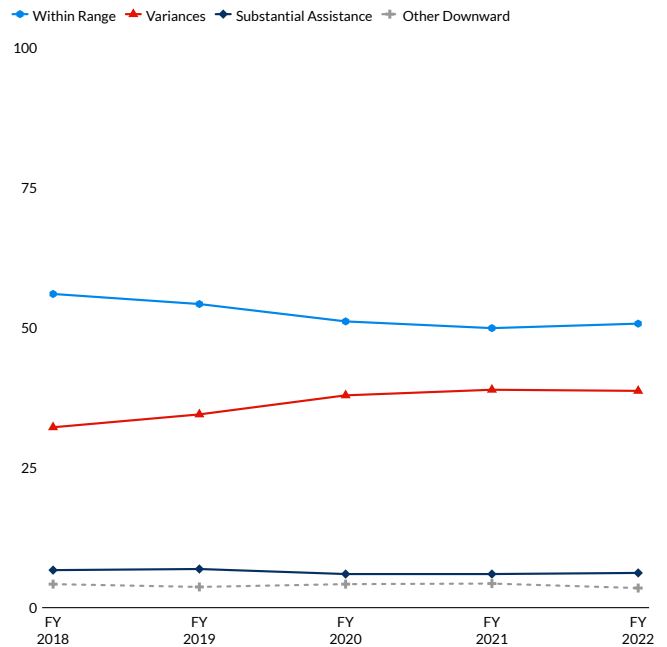
- 97.4% of section 922(g) offenders were sentenced to prison; sentences varied widely by whether a mandatory minimum penalty applied in the case.
- 15.0% of section 922(g) offenders were convicted of one or more statutes with a mandatory minimum penalty:
 - 2.8% were sentenced under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e), the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA);²
 - 5.2% were convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 924(c);
 - 7.0% were convicted of another statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, most of which were drug offenses.



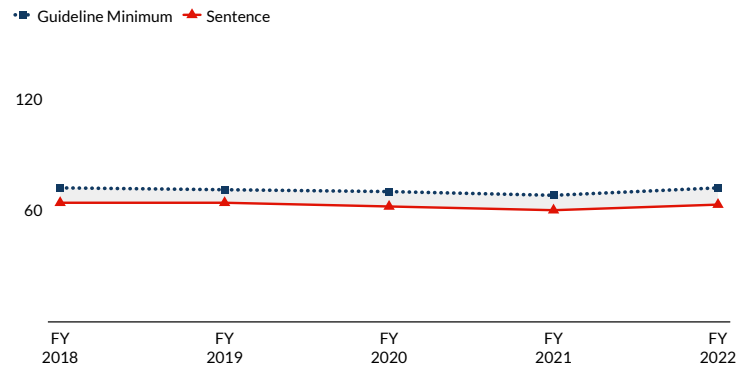
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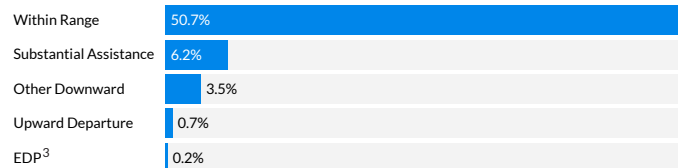
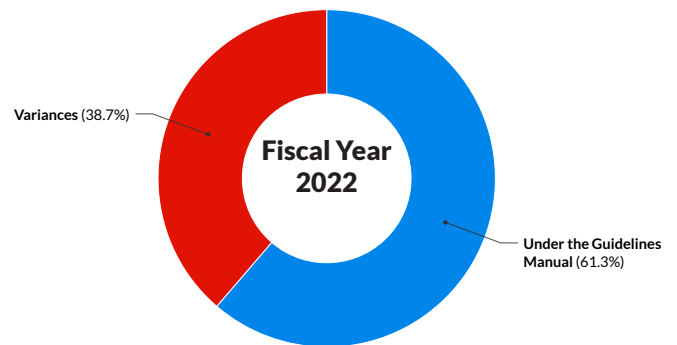
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



The average sentence for all section 922(g) offenders was 63 months.

- The average sentence for offenders convicted of violating section 922(g) and sentenced under ACCA was 186 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of violating section 922(g) but not sentenced under ACCA was 60 months.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

Of the 61.3% of section 922(g) offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:

- 82.7% were sentenced within the guideline range.
- 10.1% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 46.1%.
- 5.7% received some other downward departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 39.7%.

38.7% received a variance; of those offenders:

- 89.3% received a downward variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 35.7%.
- 10.7% received an upward variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 41.9%.

The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed remained steady over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum was 72 months in fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2022.
- The average sentence imposed decreased from 64 months in fiscal year 2018 to 63 months in fiscal year 2022.

¹ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

² 18 U.S.C. § 924(e) requires a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty be imposed on offenders convicted of violating section 922(g) with three previous convictions for a violent felony or serious drug crime.

³ "Early Disposition Program (or EDP) departures" are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.