In FY 2018, 69,425 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

1,414 of these involved child pornography.

Child pornography offenders have decreased 12.4% since FY 2014.

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 45.5% of child pornography offenders were sentenced for trafficking child pornography; 43.3% were sentenced for possessing child pornography; and 11.2% were sentenced for receiving child pornography.
- 99.3% of child pornography offenders were men.
- 83.3% were White, 9.5% were Hispanic, 4.2% were Black, and 3.0% were Other races.
- Their average age was 41 years.
- 97.8% were United States citizens.
- 76.5% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
  - 9.5% were CHC II;
  - 8.0% were CHC III;
  - 3.2% were CHC IV;
  - 1.8% were CHC V;
  - 1.0% were CHC VI.
- The top six districts for child pornography offenders were:
  - Southern District of Texas (54);
  - Eastern District of Virginia (51);
  - Western District of Missouri (50);
  - Eastern District of Missouri (38);
  - Middle District of Florida (38);
  - Western District of Texas (35).

Punishment

- 99.1% of child pornography offenders were sentenced to prison; their average sentence was 104 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of trafficking in child pornography was 136 months:
  - 86.6% of these offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 116 months.
  - 13.4% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 269 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of receiving child pornography was 105 months:
  - 87.1% of offenders sentenced for receiving child pornography were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 85 months.
  - 2.9% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 241 months.
Punishment (continued)

- The average sentence for offenders convicted of possessing child pornography was 70 months:
  - 81.0% of offenders were convicted of an offense not carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 54 months.
  - Another 19.0% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 10-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 138 months.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- 37.2% of child pornography offenders were sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 28.4% of all child pornography offenders were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 2.0% of all child pornography offenders received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 42.7%.
  - 6.2% of all child pornography offenders received some other downward departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 43.6%.

- 62.8% of all child pornography offenders received a variance:
  - 61.2% of all child pornography offenders received a below range variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 40.1%.
  - 1.7% of all child pornography offenders received an above range variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 43.9%.