**Fiscal Year 2022**

- In FY 2022, 64,142 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
  - 1,435 of these involved child pornography.¹
  - Child pornography offenses have increased by 1.3% since FY 2018.

**Offender and Offense Characteristics²**

- 45.0% of child pornography offenders were sentenced for possessing child pornography; 43.9% were sentenced for trafficking child pornography; and 11.1% were sentenced for receiving child pornography.
- 98.9% of child pornography offenders were men.
- 78.1% were White, 12.4% were Hispanic, 6.5% were Black, and 3.0% were Other races.
- Their average age was 41 years.
- 97.5% were United States citizens.
- 71.3% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I);
  - 8.6% were CHC II;
  - 12.9% were CHC III;
  - 3.6% were CHC IV;
  - 1.9% were CHC V;
  - 1.7% were CHC VI.
- The top five districts for child pornography offenders were:
  - Eastern District of Missouri (51);
  - Southern District of Texas (42);
  - Northern District of Texas (41);
  - Southern District of Florida (38);
  - Western District of Missouri (37).

**Punishment**

- 98.7% of child pornography offenders were sentenced to prison; their average sentence was 110 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of trafficking child pornography was 145 months:³
  - 88.0% of these offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 135 months.
  - 12.0% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 215 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of receiving child pornography was 101 months:
  - 86.5% of these offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 89 months.
  - 13.5% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 181 months.

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¹ This document was produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense. For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts.
Punishment (continued)

- The average sentence for offenders convicted of possessing child pornography was 78 months:4
  - 75.6% of offenders were not convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 62 months.
  - 24.4% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a ten-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 130 months.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- 41.6% of child pornography offenders were sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 34.1% of all child pornography offenders were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 4.8% of all child pornography offenders received some other downward departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 40.3%.
  - 2.0% of all child pornography offenders received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 40.6%.

- 58.4% received a variance:
  - 55.6% of all child pornography offenders received a downward variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 40.2%.
  - 2.8% of all child pornography offenders received an upward variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 34.4%.

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1 Child pornography offenders are those convicted of Trafficking in Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; Receiving, Transporting, Shipping, or Advertising Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; Possessing Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor with Intent to Traffic; Possessing Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (§2G2.2). It does not include cases where offenders are convicted of Production of Child Pornography (§2G2.1).

2 Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis. Cases that do not meet logical criteria were also excluded.

3 Offenders convicted of Trafficking in Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor and Receiving, Transporting, Shipping, or Advertising Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor are subject to a five-year mandatory minimum penalty, or 15 years with a prior conviction for sexual abuse or child pornography.

4 Offenders convicted of Possessing Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (§2G2.2) are subject to a ten-year mandatory minimum penalty with a prior conviction for sexual abuse or child pornography.