



QuickFacts

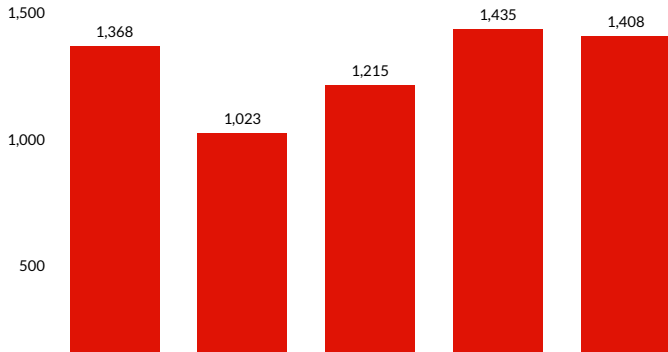
Child Pornography Offenses

Population Snapshot

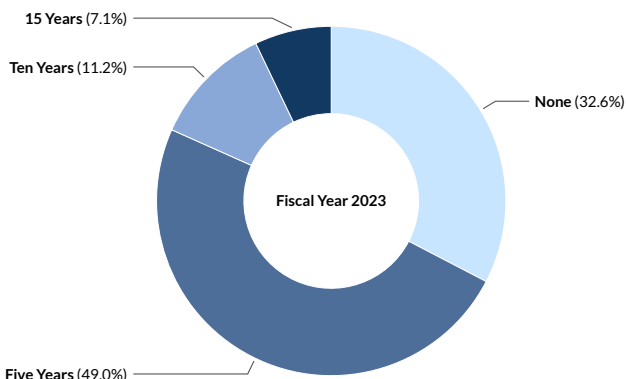
64,124 cases were reported in FY23;
1,408 involved child pornography.¹

Child pornography offenses
have increased 2.9%
since FY19.

Number of Child Pornography Offenses



Length of Mandatory Minimums for Child Pornography Offenses



Individual and Offense Characteristics²

47.3% of individuals sentenced for child pornography were sentenced for trafficking child pornography; 43.9% for possessing child pornography; and 8.8% for receiving child pornography.

98.8% were men.

77.1% were White, 12.8% were Hispanic, 5.8% were Black, and 4.3% were Other races.

Their average age was 41 years.

96.2% were United States citizens.

71.2% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I);

- 9.0% were CHC II;
- 13.7% were CHC III;
- 3.2% were CHC IV;
- 1.6% were CHC V;
- 1.2% were CHC VI.

The top five districts for individuals sentenced for child pornography were:

- Eastern District of Virginia (55);
- Southern District of Texas (52);
- Middle District of Florida (50);
- Southern District of Florida (48);
- Western District of Texas (44, tie);
- Eastern District of Missouri (44, tie).

Punishment

99.0% of individual sentenced for child pornography were sentenced to prison; their average sentence was 114 months.

The average sentence for individuals convicted of **trafficking child pornography** was 148 months:³

- 87.3% of these individuals were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 135 months.
- 12.7% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 236 months.



QuickFacts

Child Pornography Offenses

Punishment (continued)

The average sentence for individuals convicted of **possessing child pornography** was 79 months:⁴

- 74.4% of these individuals were not convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 62 months.
- 25.6% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a ten-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 129 months.

The average sentence for individuals convicted of **receiving child pornography** was 101 months:

- 87.5% of these individuals were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 87 months.
- 12.5% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 195 months.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

39.9% of individuals sentenced for child pornography were sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*. Of all individuals sentenced for child pornography:

- 33.7% were sentenced within the guideline range.
- 3.4% received some other downward departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 35.8%.
- 2.3% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 37.6%.
- 0.3% received an upward departure.
 - Their average sentence increase was 25.8%.

60.1% received a variance. Of those individuals:

- 57.1% received a downward variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 38.8%.
- 3.0% received an upward variance.
 - Their average sentence increase was 36.2%.

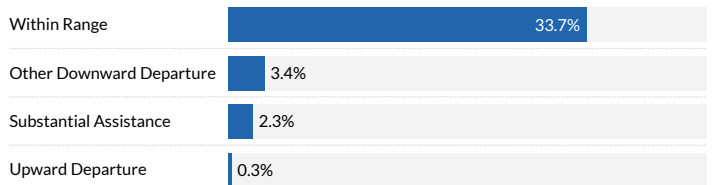
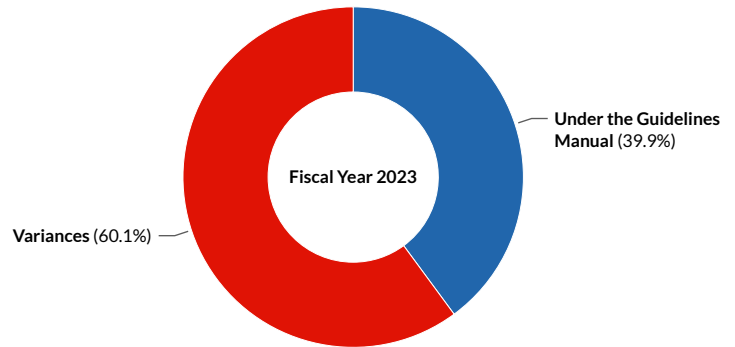
¹ Individuals sentenced for child pornography are those convicted of Trafficking in Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; Receiving, Transporting, Shipping, or Advertising Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; Possessing Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of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

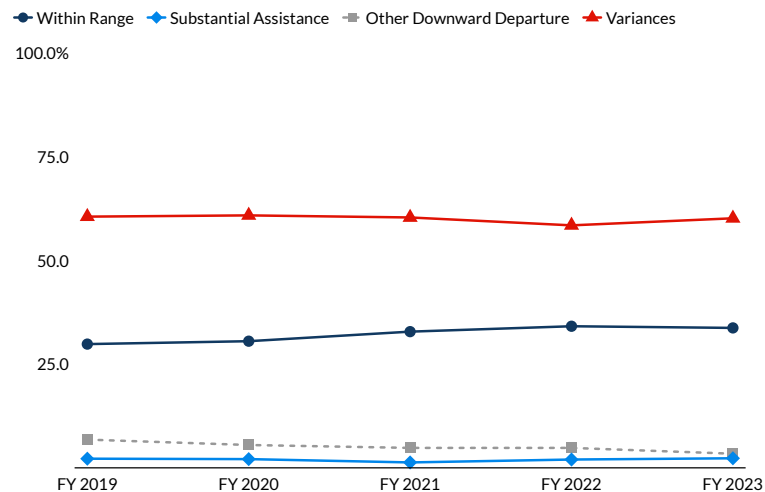
³ Individuals convicted of Trafficking in Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor and Receiving, Transporting, Shipping, or Advertising Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor are subject to a five-year mandatory minimum penalty, or 15 years with a prior conviction for sexual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

⁴ Individuals 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.

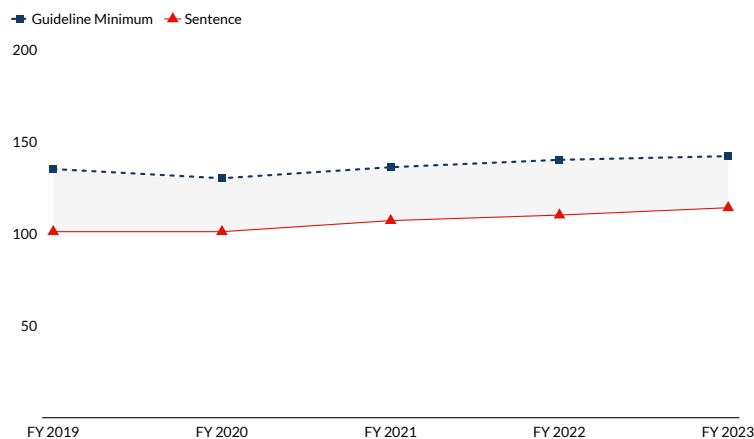
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2019 through FY 2023 Datafiles, USSCFY19-USSCFY23.