



QuickFacts

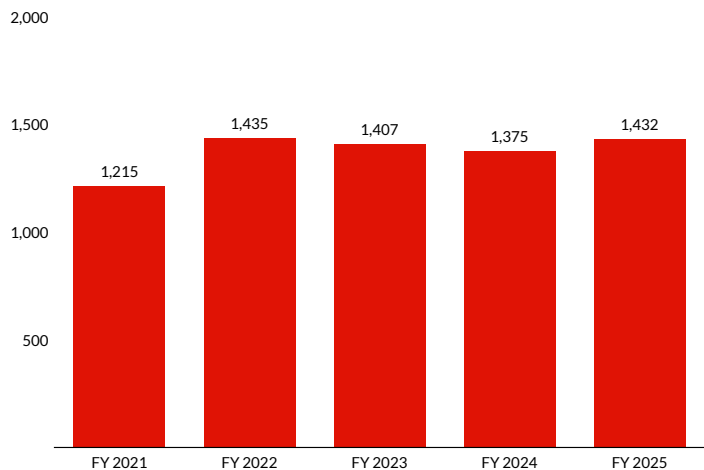
Child Pornography Offenses

Population Snapshot

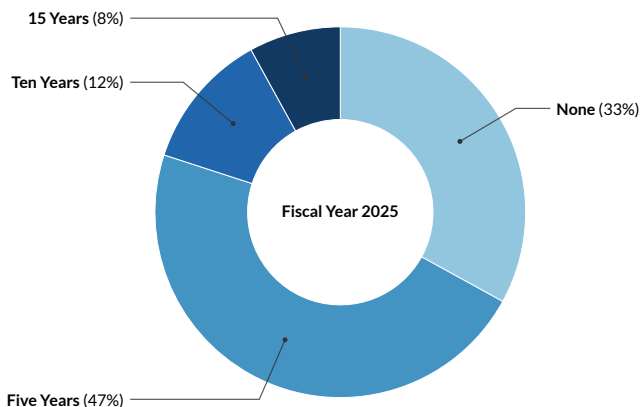
66,662 cases were reported in FY25;
1,432 involved child pornography.¹

Child pornography offenses
have increased 18%
since FY21.

Number of Child Pornography Offenses



Length of Mandatory Minimum Penalties²



Individual and Offense Characteristics

46% of individuals sentenced for child pornography were sentenced for possessing child pornography; 44% for trafficking child pornography; and 10% for receiving child pornography.

98% were men.

73% were White, 16% were Hispanic, 6% were Black, and 5% were Other races.

Their average age was 41 years.

95% were United States citizens.

74% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I);

- 16% were CHC II;
- 6% were CHC III;
- 2% were CHC IV;
- 2% were CHC V;
- 1% were CHC VI.

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

- Middle District of Florida (70);
- Eastern District of Missouri (61);
- Southern District of Florida (54);
- Southern District of Texas (52);
- Western District of Texas (38);
- Western District of Missouri (38).

Punishment

The average sentence for individuals sentenced for child pornography was 118 months.

99% were sentenced to prison.

The average sentence for individuals convicted of *possessing child pornography* was 83 months:³

- 73% of these individuals were not convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 65 months.
- 27% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a ten-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 132 months.



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Child Pornography Offenses

The average sentence for individuals convicted of **trafficking child pornography** was 156 months:⁴

- 86% of these individuals were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 141 months.
- 14% 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.

The average sentence for individuals convicted of **receiving child pornography** was 114 months:

- 86% of these individuals were convicted of an offense carrying a five-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 102 months.
- 14% had a prior sexual abuse or child pornography conviction and were subject to a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 194 months.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

43% of sentences for child pornography were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 38% were within the guideline range.
- 2% were substantial assistance departures.
 - The average sentence reduction was 40%.
- 3% were some other downward departure.
 - The average sentence reduction was 35%.
- Less than 1% were upward departures.
 - The average sentence increase was 45%.

57% of sentences for child pornography were variances.

- 54% were downward variances.
 - The average sentence reduction was 37%.
- 3% were upward variances.
 - The average sentence increase was 50%.

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).

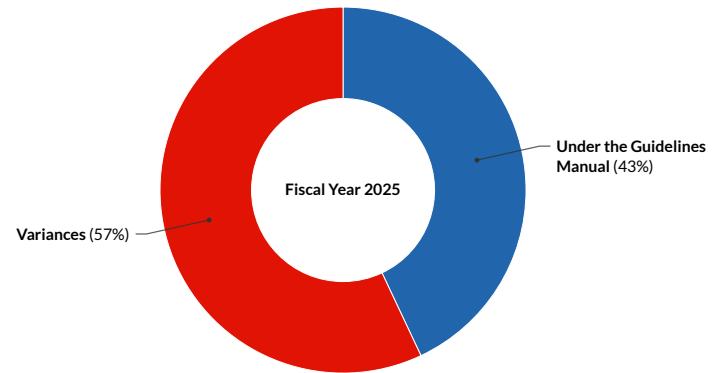
² Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis. Cases that do not meet logical criteria were also excluded.

³ Individuals convicted of Possessing Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor are subject to a ten-year mandatory minimum penalty with a prior conviction for sexual abuse or child pornography.

⁴ Individuals convicted of Trafficking in Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor or Receiving, Transporting, Shipping, or Advertising Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor are subject to a five-year mandatory minimum penalty, or a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty with a prior conviction for sexual abuse or child pornography.

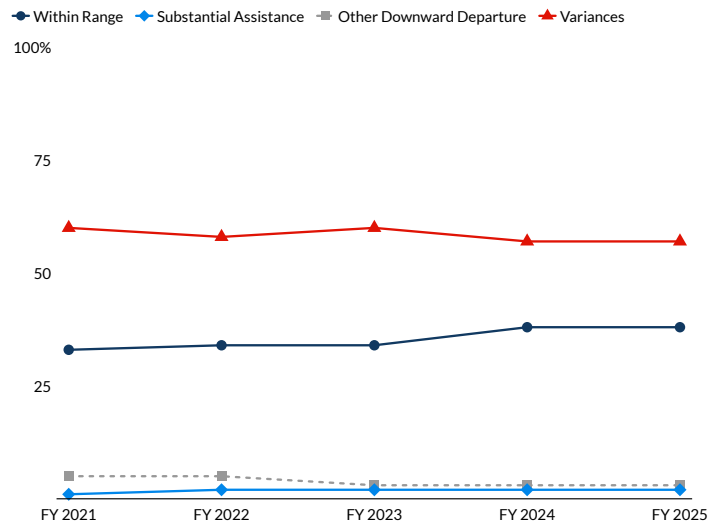
⁵ "Early Disposition Program" (or EDP) departures are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

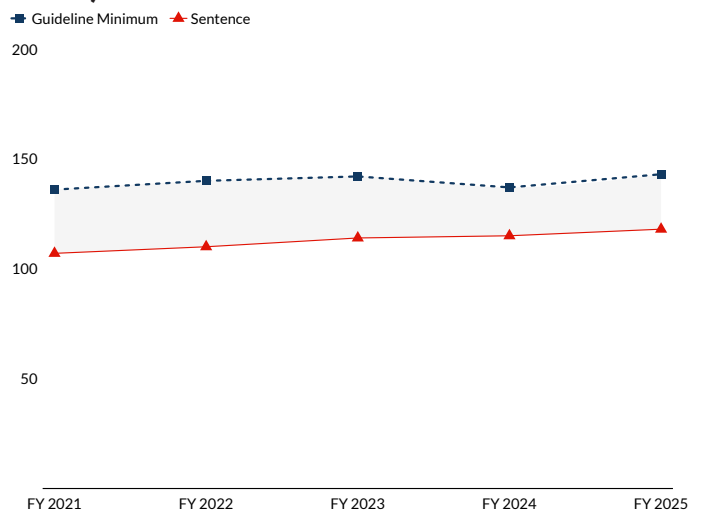


Within Range	38%
Other Downward Departure	3%
Substantial Assistance	2%
Upward Departure	<1%
Early Disposition Program (EDP) ⁵	0%

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range by Fiscal Year



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2021 through FY 2025 Datafiles, USSCFY21-USSCFY25.