**Quick Facts**

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**Fiscal Year 2018**

- 7,647 involved convictions under 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.

**Offender and Offense Characteristics**

- 97.7% of felons in possession of a firearm were men.
- 55.4% were Black, 24.8% were White, 17.1% were Hispanic, and 2.7% were Other races.
- Their average age was 34 years.
- 94.6% were United States citizens.
- 24.7% were in the highest Criminal History Category (Criminal History Category VI):
  - 9.1% were CHC I;
  - 9.2% were CHC II;
  - 21.3% were CHC III;
  - 20.8% were CHC IV;
  - 14.9% were CHC V.
- The top five districts for felons in possession of a firearm were:
  - Eastern District of Missouri (467);
  - District of South Carolina (229);
  - Western District of Missouri (220);
  - Eastern District of North Carolina (216);
  - Northern District of Texas (216).
- Districts with the highest proportion of felons in possession of a firearm cases were:
  - Northern District of Alabama (43.1%);
  - Eastern District of Missouri (40.2%);
  - Middle District of North Carolina (33.8%);
  - Southern District of Alabama (33.1%);
  - District of Alaska (31.4%).

**Punishment**

- 97.4% of felons in possession of a firearm were sentenced to prison; sentences varied widely by whether a mandatory minimum penalty applied in the case.
- 15.6% of felons in possession of a firearm were convicted of one or more statutes with a mandatory minimum penalty:
  - 4.0% were sentenced under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e), the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA);
  - 6.0% were convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 924(c);
  - 5.6% were convicted of another statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, most of which were drug offenses.

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For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts.
Punishment (continued)

- The average sentence for all felons in possession of a firearm offenders was 64 months.
  - The average sentence for offenders convicted of violating only section 922(g) and under ACCA was 188 months.
  - The average sentence for offenders convicted of violating only section 922(g) but not sentenced under ACCA was 58 months.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- 65.5% of felons in possession of a firearm offenders were sentenced under the Guidelines Manual; of those offenders:
  - 82.8% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 10.5% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 44.3%.
  - 5.6% received some other downward departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 34.9%.
- 34.6% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 89.7% received a below range variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 34.3%.
  - 10.3% received an above range variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 52.4%.
- The average guideline minimum and sentence for felons in possession of a firearm offenses has declined over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum was 71 months in fiscal year 2019, down from 81 months in fiscal year 2015.
  - The average sentence was 64 months in fiscal year 2019, down from 72 months in fiscal year 2015.

Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2019

1. 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.
2. “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.