



# QuickFacts

## 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) Firearms Offenses

### What is 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.

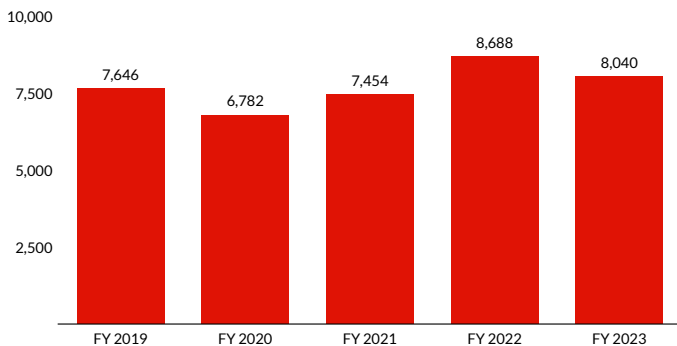
### Population Snapshot

**64,124 cases** were reported in FY23;

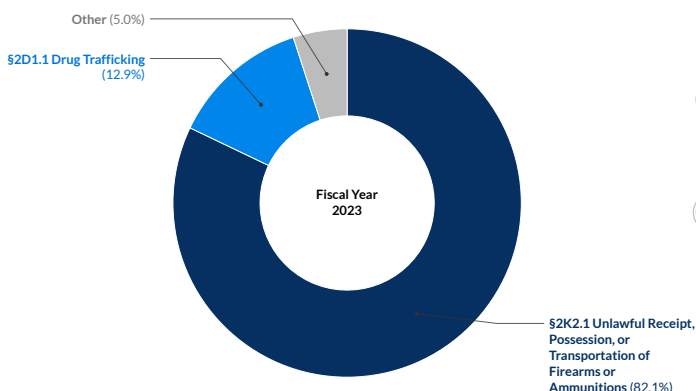
**8,040** involved convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).<sup>1</sup>

**88.5%** were convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) because of a prior felony conviction.

### Numbers Over Time



### Primary Sentencing Guideline



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### Individual and Offense Characteristics

- 97.9% of section 922(g) individuals were men.
- 58.8% were Black, 21.6% were White, 16.5% were Hispanic, and 3.2% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 95.9% were United States citizens.
- 26.2% were in the highest Criminal History Category (Criminal History Category VI);
  - 7.4% were CHC I;
  - 9.1% were CHC II;
  - 20.9% were CHC III;
  - 20.7% were CHC IV;
  - 15.7% were CHC V.
- The top five districts for section 922(g) individuals were:
  - Eastern District of Missouri (367);
  - Northern District of Texas (277);
  - Northern District of Ohio (259);
  - Western District of Texas (224);
  - Western District of Missouri (211).
- Districts with the highest proportion of section 922(g) cases were:
  - Middle District of Tennessee (42.2%);
  - Eastern District of Missouri (38.9%);
  - Northern District of Iowa (41.6%);
  - Northern District of Alabama (37.5%);
  - Middle District of North Carolina (36.3%).

### Punishment

- 97.5% of section 922(g) individuals were sentenced to prison; sentences varied widely by whether a mandatory minimum penalty applied in the case.
- 16.2% of section 922(g) individuals were convicted of one or more statutes with a mandatory minimum penalty:
  - 2.3% were sentenced under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e), the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA);<sup>2</sup>
  - 5.7% were convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 924(c);
  - 8.1% were convicted of another statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, most of which were drug offenses.



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Firearms Offenses

The average sentence for all section 922(g) individuals was 68 months.

- The average sentence for individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) and sentenced under ACCA was 203 months.
- The average sentence for individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) but not sentenced under ACCA was 65 months.

## Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

Of the 59.8% of section 922(g) individuals sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:

- 83.1% were sentenced within the guideline range.
- 9.4% received a substantial assistance departure.
  - Their average sentence reduction was 47.9%.
- 5.9% received some other downward departure.
  - Their average sentence reduction was 37.8%.

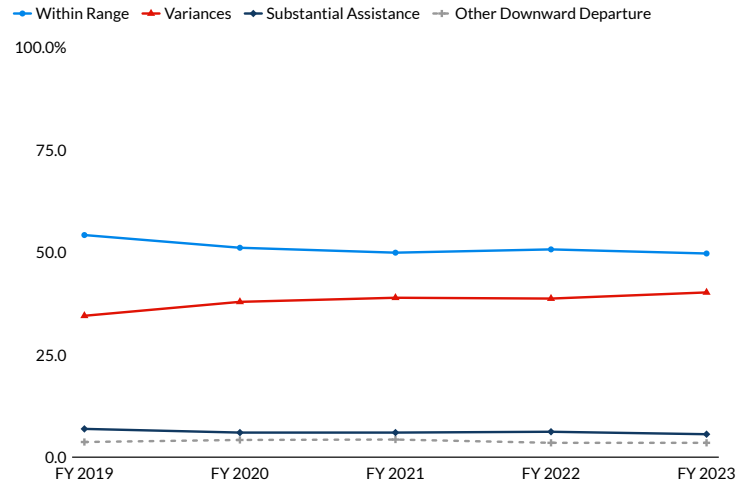
40.2% received a variance; of those individuals:

- 89.1% received a downward variance.
  - Their average sentence reduction was 35.5%.
- 10.9% received an upward variance.
  - Their average sentence increase was 52.4%.

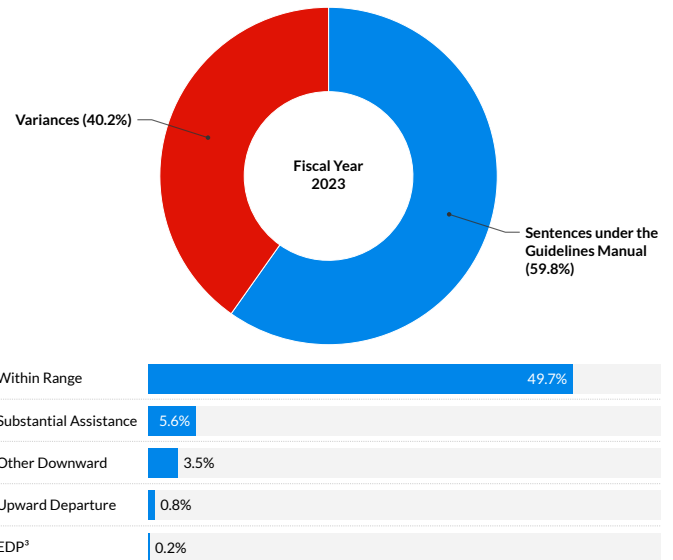
The average guideline minimum fluctuated and the average sentence imposed remained steady over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average guideline minimum was 71 months in fiscal year 2019 and 78 months in fiscal year 2023.
- The average sentence imposed increased from 64 months in fiscal year 2019 to 68 months in fiscal year 2023.

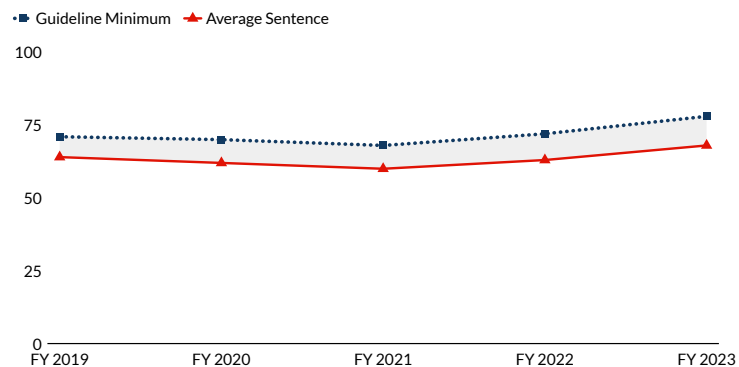
## Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



## Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



## Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



<sup>1</sup> Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

<sup>2</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 924(e) requires a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty be imposed on individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) with three previous convictions for a violent felony or serious drug crime.

<sup>3</sup> "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.