



# QuickFacts

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

What is 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)?

18 U.S.C. § 922(g) makes it unlawful for prohibited persons to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition, most commonly because of a prior conviction for a felony offense.

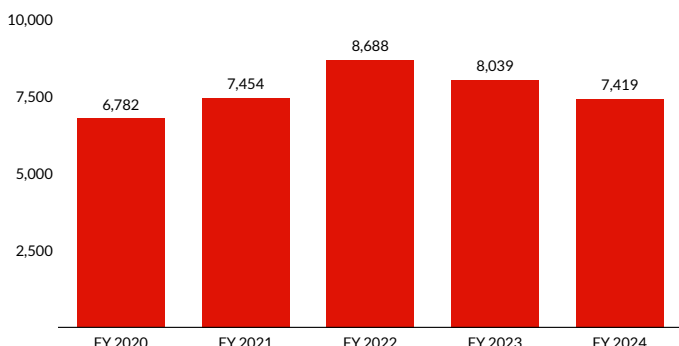
### Population Snapshot

61,678 cases were reported in FY24;

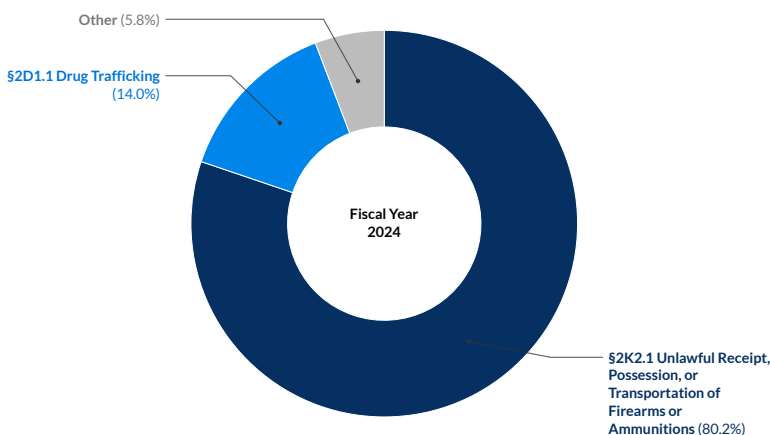
7,419 involved convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).<sup>1</sup>

90.4% were convicted under Section 922(g) because of a prior felony conviction.

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



### Primary Sentencing Guideline



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### Individual and Offense Characteristics

98.0% of section 922(g) individuals were men.

58.1% were Black, 20.8% were White, 17.1% were Hispanic, and 4.0% were Other races.

Their average age was 36 years.

95.4% were United States citizens.

23.6% were in the highest Criminal History Category (CHC VI);

- 8.6% were CHC I;
- 13.2% were CHC II;
- 23.8% were CHC III;
- 16.1% were CHC IV;
- 14.7% were CHC V.

The top five districts for section 922(g) individuals were:

- Eastern District of Missouri (421);
- Western District of Texas (218);
- Western District of Missouri (198);
- Northern District of Ohio (196);
- Eastern District of Arkansas (188).

Districts with the highest proportion of section 922(g) cases were:

- Eastern District of Missouri (42.2%);
- Eastern District of Arkansas (37.7%);
- Middle District of North Carolina (37.3%);
- Middle District of Tennessee (36.3%);
- Northern District of Iowa (34.9%).

### Punishment

97.7% of section 922(g) individuals were sentenced to prison; sentences varied widely by whether a mandatory minimum penalty applied in the case.

16.5% of section 922(g) individuals were convicted of one or more statutes with a mandatory minimum penalty:

- 2.6% were sentenced under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e), the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA);<sup>2</sup>
- 5.9% were convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 924(c);
- 8.0% were convicted of another statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, most of which were drug offenses.



## QuickFacts

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

The average sentence for all section 922(g) individuals was 71 months.

- The average sentence for individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) and sentenced under ACCA was 199 months.
- The average sentence for individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) but not sentenced under ACCA was 67 months.

### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

61.2% of sentences for convictions under section 922(g) were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 51.4% were within the guideline range.
- 5.9% were substantial assistance departures.
  - *The average sentence reduction was 45.9%.*
- 0.1% were Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures.<sup>3</sup>
  - *The average sentence reduction was 25.8%.*
- 3.1% were some other downward departure.
  - *The average sentence reduction was 36.2%.*
- 0.7% were upward departures.
  - *The average sentence increase was 40.3%.*

38.8% of sentences for convictions under section 922(g) were variances.

- 33.6% were downward variances.
  - *The average sentence reduction was 34.7%.*
- 5.2% were upward variances.
  - *The average sentence increase was 45.2%.*

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

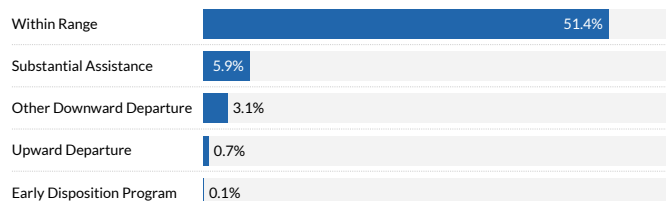
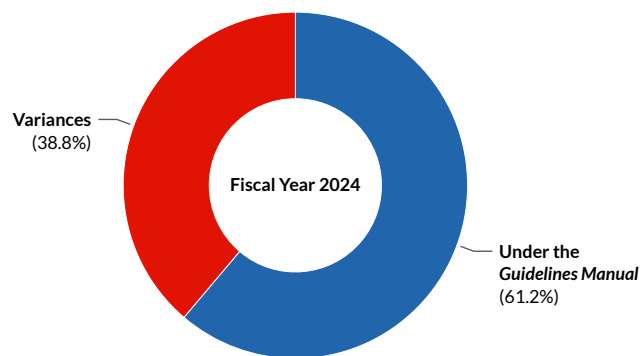
- The average guideline minimum was 70 months in fiscal year 2020 and 80 months in fiscal year 2024.
- The average sentence imposed was 62 months in fiscal year 2020 and 71 months in fiscal year 2024.

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

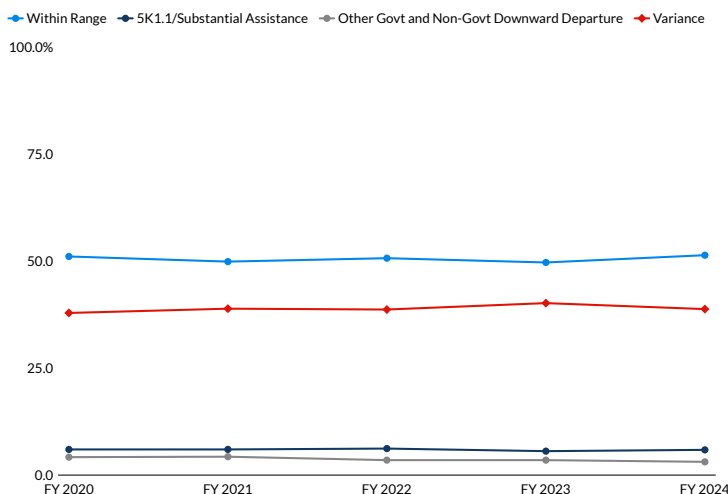
<sup>2</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 924(e) requires a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty be imposed on individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) with three previous convictions for a violent felony or serious drug crime.

<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.

### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



### Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range by Fiscal Year



### Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)

