



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.

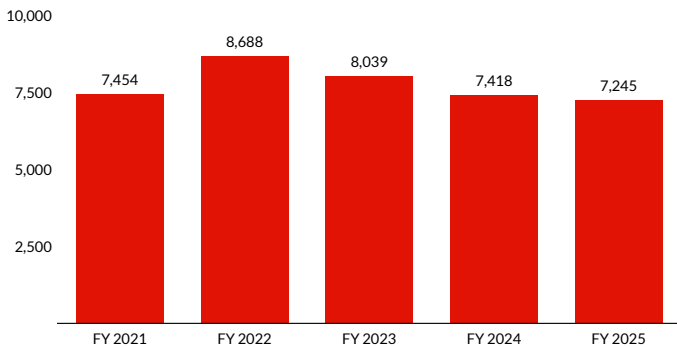
Population Snapshot

66,662 cases were reported in FY25;

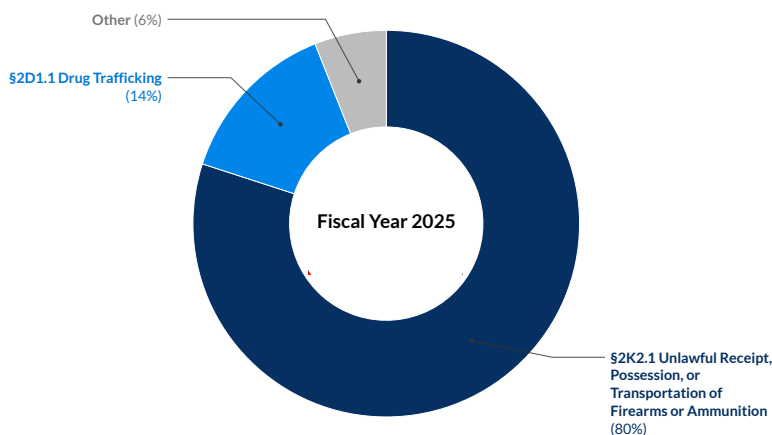
7,245 involved convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).¹

89% 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% of section 922(g) individuals were men.

59% were Black, 20% were White, 18% were Hispanic, and 3% were Other races.

Their average age was 37 years.

94% were United States citizens.

23% were in the highest Criminal History Category (CHC VI);

- 10% were CHC I;
- 14% were CHC II;
- 23% were CHC III;
- 15% were CHC IV;
- 15% were CHC V.

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

- Eastern District of Missouri (336);
- Northern District of Texas (213);
- Western District of Texas (197);
- Western District of Missouri (194);
- Middle District of Florida (194).

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

- Middle District of North Carolina (43%);
- Middle District of Tennessee (41%);
- Eastern District of Missouri (34%);
- Western District of North Carolina (34%);
- Eastern District of Louisiana (33%);
- Northern District of Alabama (33%);
- Northern District of Iowa (33%).

Punishment

98% of section 922(g) individuals were sentenced to prison; sentences varied widely by whether a mandatory minimum penalty applied in the case.

17% of section 922(g) individuals were convicted of one or more statutes with a mandatory minimum penalty:

- 2% were sentenced under 18 U.S.C. § 924(e), the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA);²
- 6% were convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 924(c);
- 8% were convicted of another statute carrying a mandatory minimum penalty, most of which were drug offenses.



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The average sentence for all section 922(g) individuals was 72 months.

- The average sentence for individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) and sentenced under ACCA was 192 months.
- The average sentence for individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) but not sentenced under ACCA was 70 months.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

60% of sentences for convictions under section 922(g) were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 50% were within the guideline range.
- 5% were substantial assistance departures.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 47%.*
- Less than 1 percent were Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures.³
 - *The average sentence reduction was 42%.*
- 3% were some other downward departure.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 35%.*
- 1% were upward departures.
 - *The average sentence increase was 56%.*

40% of sentences for convictions under section 922(g) were variances.

- 35% were downward variances.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 35%.*
- 6% were upward variances.
 - *The average sentence increase was 57%.*

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

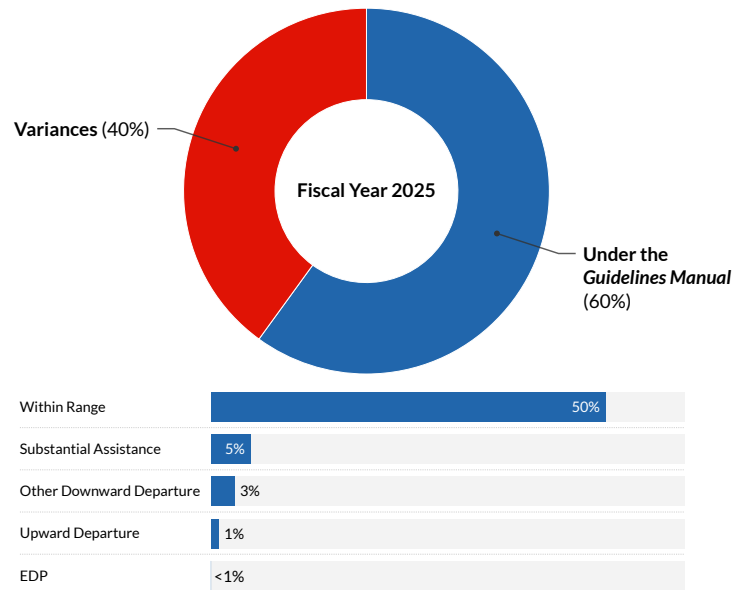
- The average guideline minimum increased from 68 months in fiscal year 2021 to 81 months in fiscal year 2025.
- The average sentence imposed increased from 60 months in fiscal year 2021 to 72 months in fiscal year 2025.

¹ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

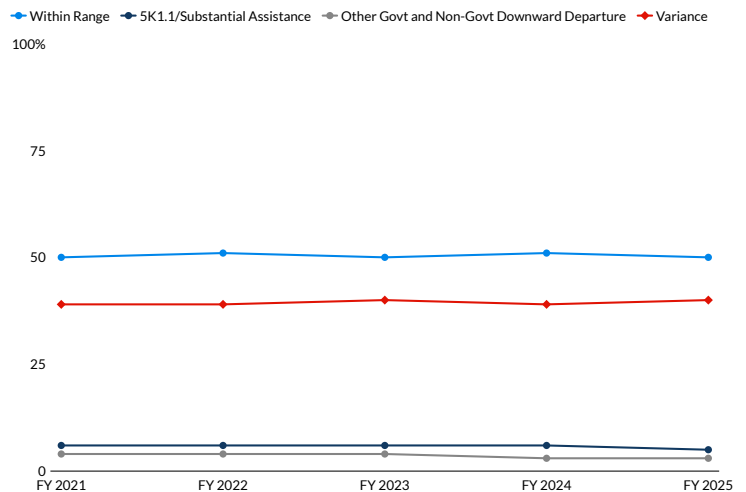
² 18 U.S.C. § 924(e) requires a 15-year mandatory minimum penalty be imposed on individuals convicted of violating section 922(g) with three previous convictions for a violent felony or serious drug crime.

³ "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)

