Fiscal Year 2019

- In FY 2019, 76,538 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- 3,142 involved convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).1
- Offenses under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) involve the use or carrying of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime, or the possession of a firearm in furtherance of those crimes.

Number of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) Offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2015</td>
<td>2,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016</td>
<td>2,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>2,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>2,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>3,142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Offenders and Sentencing

- 96.5% of section 924(c) offenders were men.
- 52.6% were Black, 21.1% were White, 23.7% were Hispanic, and 2.6% were Other races.
- Their average age was 33 years.
- 95.2% were United States citizens.
- 24.6% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
  - 13.3% were CHC II;
  - 20.2% were CHC III;
  - 14.3% were CHC IV;
  - 8.9% were CHC V;
  - 18.7% were CHC VI.
- The top five districts for 924(c) firearms offenders were:
  - District of Puerto Rico (259);
  - Southern District of New York (174);
  - Eastern District of North Carolina (126);
  - District of South Carolina (110);
  - Southern District of Florida (88).
- 9.3% were career offenders (§4B1.1).
- 5.7% were convicted of multiple counts of section 924(c) in fiscal year 2019.

Punishment

- All but one section 924(c) offender was sentenced to prison.4
- The average sentence was 138 months.
  - 76 months for offenders convicted only under section 924(c).
  - 138 months for offenders also convicted of an offense not carrying a mandatory minimum.
  - 203 months for offenders determined to be career offenders.
  - 280 months for offenders convicted under multiple counts of section 924(c).

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

- 86.7% of section 924(c) offenders were also convicted of another offense:
  - 53.8% for drug trafficking, 27.1% for robbery, and 8.7% for another firearms offense.

- 31.2% of all section 924(c) offenders were convicted of another offense carrying a mandatory minimum. In most cases, the other offense was a drug trafficking crime.

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

Section 924(c) Only Offenders

- 90.6% of offenders with a conviction only under section 924(c) were sentenced under the Guidelines Manual; 5 of those offenders:
  - 10.4% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 43.0%.

Section 924(c) Cases Involving Career Offender

- 42.0% of section 924(c) offenders determined to be career offenders were sentenced under the Guidelines Manual; of those offenders:
  - 41.7% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 48.1%.

- 58.0% received a variance.
  - 98.0% received a below range variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 39.0%.

All Section 924(c) Cases

- The average guideline minimum and sentence for all section 924(c) offenders has declined over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum decreased from 203 months in fiscal year 2015 to 185 months in fiscal year 2019.
  - The average sentence decreased from 149 months in fiscal year 2015 to 138 months in fiscal year 2019.

1 Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.
2 These values represent the highest mandatory minimum an offender was subject to under section 924(c).
3 The “Other” category includes offenders with a mandatory minimum of 25 years (1.5%), 30 years (0.2%), and life (0.1%).
4 Offenses under section 924(c) carry one of several mandatory minimum penalties depending on the circumstances of the offense.
5 The guideline sentence for a section 924(c) offense is the minimum term of imprisonment required by statute. USSG §2K2.4. Punishments under section 924(c) run consecutive to any other term of imprisonment. 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(D)(ii).