

# - Sexual Abuse Offenders -

### Fiscal Year 2018

► IN FY 2018, 69,425 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.

▶ 1,067 OF THESE INVOLVED SEXUAL ABUSE OFFENSES.<sup>1</sup>

SEXUAL ABUSE OFFENDERS HAVE INCREASED 5.7% SINCE 2014 BUT DECREASED 2.7% IN FY 2018.

Number of Sexual Abuse Offenders



**Primary Sentencing Guideline for Sexual** 

Abuse Offenders FY 2018 Statutory Other Rape Abusive 3.0% 3.7% Sexual Contact 3.9% Rape 8.5% Production of Child Pornography<sup>2</sup> 42.7% Travel for Prohibited Sexual Conduct 38.3%

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

#### Offender and Offense Characteristics<sup>3</sup>

- 92.1% of sexual abuse offenders were men.
- 51.6% were White, 21.7% were Black, 12.9% were Hispanic, 11.9% were Native American, and 1.9% were Other races.
  - 75.1% of offenders in cases involving child pornography were White.
  - 43.1% of offenders in cases involving travel for prohibited sexual contact were White and 37.3% were Black.
  - 52.8% of offenders in cases involving criminal sexual abuse (rape) were Native American.
  - 73.2% of offenders in cases involving abusive sexual contact were Native American.
  - 84.6% of offenders in cases involving statutory rape were Native American.
- Their average age was 37 years.
- 95.9% were United States citizens.
- 65.2% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
  - ♦ 8.8% were CHC II;
  - ♦ 9.9% were CHC III;
  - ◆ 5.9% were CHC IV;
  - ◆ 5.1% were CHC V;
  - ♦ 5.1% were CHC VI.
- 8.3% of sexual abuse offenders were convicted at trial, compared to 2.6% of all other federal offenders.
- The top five districts for sexual abuse offenders were:
  - Northern District of Texas (48);
  - Eastern District of Michigan (42);
  - District of Arizona (35);
  - District of South Dakota (32);
  - Middle District of Florida (31).

#### Punishment

- 98.8% of sexual abuse offenders were sentenced to prison; their average sentence was 191 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of production of child pornography was 262 months:
  - 93.9% of these offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 274 months. The average sentence without a mandatory minimum was 89 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of travel to engage in prohibited sexual conduct with a minor was 147 months:
  - 63.8% of these offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 187 months. The average sentence without a mandatory minimum was 76 months.



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# Punishment (continued)

- The average sentence for offenders convicted of rape was 178 months:
  - 19.1% of these offenders were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; their average sentence was 318 months. The average sentence without a mandatory minimum was 145 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of abusive sexual contact was 27 months.
- The average sentence for offenders convicted of statutory rape was 30 months.

# Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- 54.9% of sexual abuse offenders were sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 40.1% of all sexual abuse offenders were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 7.5% of all sexual abuse offenders received a substantial assistance departure.
    - $\diamond$  Their average sentence reduction was 45.4%.
  - 7.0% of all sexual abuse offenders received some other downward departure.
    - ♦ Their average sentence reduction was 32.0%.
- 45.1% of sexual abuse offenders received a variance:
  - 42.1% of all sexual abuse offenders received a below range variance.
    Their average sentence reduction was 36.4%.
  - 3.0% of all sexual abuse offenders received an above range variance.
    - ♦ Their average sentence increase was 36.5%.



Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)

– Sexual Abuse Offenders –





<sup>1</sup> Sexual abuse offenders are those convicted of Criminal Sexual Abuse – Rape (§2A3.1), Statutory Rape (§2A3.2), Criminal Sexual Abuse of a Ward (§2A3.3), Abusive Sexual Contact (§2A3.4), Promoting a Commercial Sex Act (§2G1.1), Travel to Engage in Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor (§2G1.3), Production of Child Pornography (§2G2.1), or Child Exploitation Enterprises (§2G2.6).

<sup>2</sup> Production of Child Pornography does not include cases where offenders were convicted of Trafficking in Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; Receiving, Transporting, Shipping, or Advertising Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; Possessing Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor with Intent to Traffic; Possessing Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (§2G2.2).

<sup>3</sup> Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

## Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2018