



District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

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Hon. Milton C. Lee
Chairperson

Linden Fry
Executive Director

DATE: Response provided in December 2023

SUBJECT: D.C. Gun Registry Eligibility – Sentences Imposed between 2020 and 2022

This data response provides a high-level analysis of the 2020-2022 sentencing trends for convictions that require participation in the D.C. Gun Registry. Throughout this analysis, these convictions are referred to as Gun Registry Offenses. The convictions include the following offenses:¹

- Convictions for any offense that was committed while armed, where it was determined that the individual was armed with a gun, firearm, pistol, or shot gun (as reported by D.C. Superior Court)
- Gun possession offenses, such as Carrying a Pistol without a License, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence
- Transportation, purchasing, licensing, and ammunition firearms related offenses

The analysis is presented at the individual level, which means that the data is reflective of the total number of individuals who were convicted and sentenced for a gun registry offense between 2020 and 2022. During this timeframe there were 1,983 adults sentenced for a gun registry offense. This was determined using the unique PDID number assigned to each individual arrested. Individuals convicted of multiple gun registry offenses during this time period are only counted once, where they are counted for their most serious offense of conviction. The most serious count was determined as follows:

Felony cases:

- The convicted offense with the highest Offense Severity Group (OSG) is marked as the most serious. If there are multiple offenses with the same OSG, then the sentence type and lengths are compared for those sentences.
 - o More severe sentence type (incarceration, long split, short split, probation)
 - o Greatest sentence imposed (in months)
- If the OSG, sentence type, and sentence length are the same, then the lowest count number is selected as the most serious (i.e. charge 1 vs. charge 2).

Misdemeanor Cases:

- A similar approach is taken for individuals who were convicted of only misdemeanor offenses. Because misdemeanors are not sentenced under the Guidelines, they are not assigned an OSG (which is the first point of determination for felony offenses). As such, this step is skipped; the most serious offense is determined by the sentence type, followed by the sentence length, and lastly, the lowest count number (count 1 vs. count 2).

¹ A complete list of sentenced offenses is contained in the Sentencing Analysis section of this response.

I. Sentencing Analysis

Between 2020 and 2022, there was a total of 1,983 adults convicted and sentenced for a gun registry eligible offense. The top offense sentenced was carrying a pistol without a license (CPWL; 535 individuals), followed by attempted CPWL (414 individuals). When combined, these two offenses represented just under half (949 individuals, 48%) of all individuals sentenced for a gun registry offense.

The table below displays the total number of individuals convicted of each offense, as well as the average sentence imposed for each offense. Note that the data is presented at the **individual level**. Individuals are classified under their most serious convicted (gun registry) offense during this time period. Individuals are not double counted. Additionally, the average sentence imposed includes all sentence types (incarceration, long split, short split, and probation) and is reflective of the executed portion of the sentence only, it does not account for any time suspended.

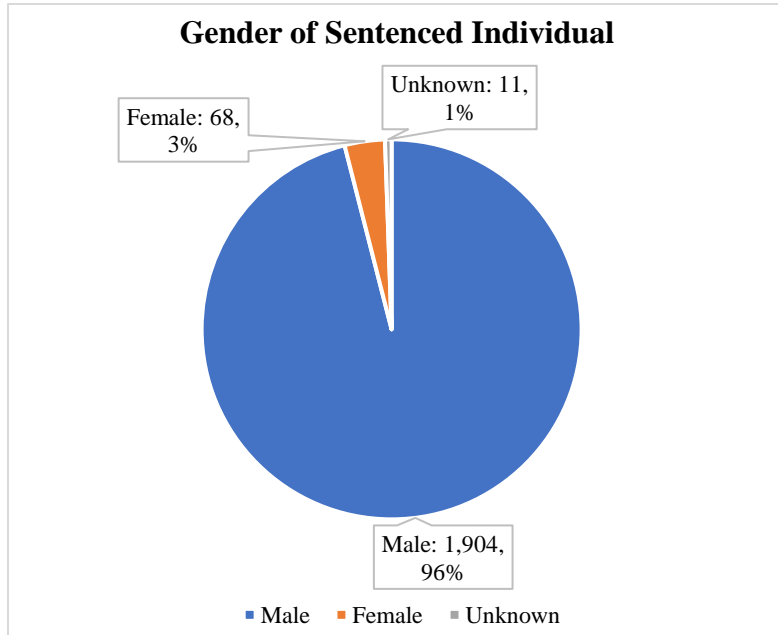
Offense	Statute(s)	Total Individuals Sentenced	Average Sentence Imposed (months)
CPWL	22DC4504(A)(1)X(2001) 22DC4504(A)(2)-Y-2 22DC4504(A)(2)-Y-3 22DC4504(A)(2)-Z-3 22DC4504(A)-Y-3 22DC4504(A)-Z-3 22DC4504A1-Y 22DC4504A1-Y-1	535	12.1
Attempted CPWL	22DC4504(A)(1)X(2001) 22DC4504(A)(2)-Y-2 22DC4504(A)(2)-Y-3 22DC4504(A)-Y-2 22DC4504(A)-Y-3 22DC4504(A)-Z-3 22DC4504A1-Y 22DC4504A1-Y-1 22DC4504A-X 22DC4504A-X-1	414	4.5
UPF-Prior Felony	22DC4503(A)(2) 22DC4503(A)(6) 22DC4503A1	367	19.2
ADW	22DC402-Y	76	43.9
Attempted ADW	22DC402-Y	73	19.1
Possession of Unregistered Firearm (Attempt)	7DC2502.01(A)X	64	1.6
Possession of Unregistered Firearm (Attempt)	7DC2502.01(A)X	62	4.5
Possession of a Prohibited Weapon (Attempt)	22DC4503-X 22DC4514 22DC4514[A][C] 22DC4514A 22DC4514B	50	3.4
Possession of a Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device (Attempt)	7DC2506.01(B)	45	3.8
Voluntary Manslaughter W/A	22DC2105-V	36	122.8
Possession of a Firearm during a Crime of Violence	22DC4504B	31	69.3

Offense	Statute(s)	Total Individuals Sentenced	Average Sentence Imposed (months)
Armed Robbery	22DC2801	28	70.7
UPF-Prior COV	22DC4503(A)(1)(B)(1)	27	36.3
Unlawful Possession of Ammunition (Attempt)	7DC2506.01 7DC2506.01(3) 7DC2506.01(A)	25	2.4
Possession of a Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device	7DC2506.01(B)	24	6.7
Murder II W/A	22DC2103	23	170.9
Possession of a Prohibited Weapon	22DC4514 22DC4514[A][C] 22DC4514B	22	9.5
Aggravated Assault Knowingly W/A	22DC404.01A1	11	97.1
Unlawful Possession Ammunition	7DC2506.01 7DC2506.01(3) 7DC2506.01(A)	10	2
Possession of Unregistered Firearm/Unlawful Possession of a Firearm or Destructive Device	7DC2502.01	10	3.3
Carrying a Dangerous Weapon	22DC4504(A)(1) 22DC4504(A)(2) 22DC4504(A)-Y	8	13.9
AWIK W/A	22DC401-U	4	129
Murder I W/A	22DC2101-Y	4	279
CDW (Attempt)	22DC4504(A)(1) 22DC4504(A)(2) 22DC4504(A)-Z	4	4
Carrying a Rifle or Shotgun	22DC4504(A-1)	4	8.5
Possession of Unregistered Firearm/Unlawful Possession of a Firearm or Destructive Device (Attempt)	7DC2502.01	3	3
Assault on a Polic Officer W/A	22DC405C	3	66.7
Carrying a Pistol while Impaired	7DC2509.06(B)	3	1.3
Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm	22DC4503 22DC4503.01	3	7.3
Armed Carjacking	22DC2803B1	2	135
Unlawful Possession of a Firearm (Attempt)	22DC4503-Z	2	6.5
Armed Kidnapping	22DC2001	2	58.5
Felony Murder W/A	22DC2101-X	2	360
Assault with Intent to Commit Robbery W/A	22DC401-X	2	84
Possession Prohibited Weapon	22DC4503-X	1	12
PWID W/A	48DC904.01A1-X	1	36
Simple Assault W/A	22DC404A	1	3
Carrying a Rifle or Shotgun (Attempt)	22DC4504(A-1)	1	4

II. Demographic Analysis

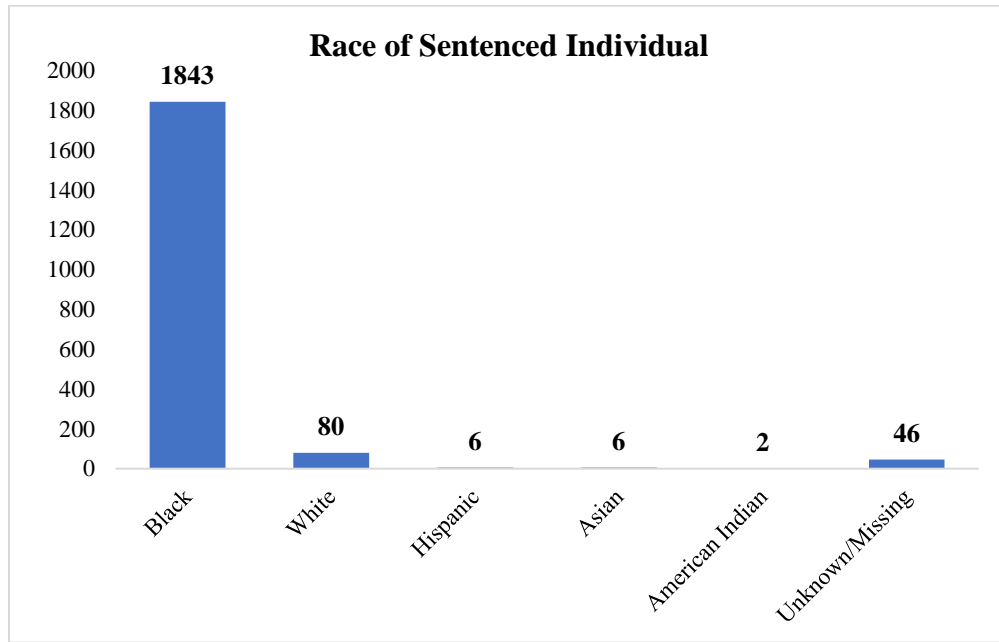
Demographic trends of the 1,983 individuals sentenced for a gun registry offense between 2020 and 2022 are presented below. An overwhelming majority of individuals were black males (1,783 individuals, 90%).

A. Gender²



² The Commission's data on gender is a limited binary categorization (i.e. only male or female). Gender information is obtained from Superior Court records.

B. Race³



³ Race category data used by the Commission does not capture ethnicity, thus Black individuals of Hispanic origin or White individuals of Hispanic origin are not separately presented.