



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

March 5, 2013

2013-R-0174

CASE STATISTICS FOR FIREARMS-RELATED OFFENSES

By: Christopher Reinhart, Chief Attorney

You asked for case statistics for firearms-related offenses. This report updates OLR Report [2007-R-0442](#).

SUMMARY

Using information provided by the Judicial Branch to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, we (1) identified 50 firearms-related offenses and (2) compiled statistics on these offenses for the last five fiscal years (2008 to 2012). With one exception, we did not include hunting offenses.

These 50 offenses range from permitting violations to committing manslaughter with a firearm. The total number of charges for these offenses ranges from a low of 4,326 in fiscal year (FY) 2012 to a high of 5,119 in FY 08.

For individual offenses, the number of charges varies greatly over this five year period. There are very few charges for some offenses, such as failing to surrender a revoked pistol permit (two charges in FY 08 and one charge each in FY 09 and FY 10). For some offenses, such as carrying a pistol without a permit, there are a large number of charges in each year. This offense saw a high of 681 charges in FY 08.

BACKGROUND-UNDERSTANDING THE STATISTICS

The data used in this report is based on individual charges disposed by the courts, not individual cases. An individual may (1) be charged with multiple offenses in the same case and (2) have multiple charges and cases during a year. The data shows initial charges for crimes and does not include any substitute charges that prosecutors might add later in a case.

Offenses can be disposed of in a number of ways. In some cases, an initial charge may be dismissed when a substitute charge is added. In many cases, an individual is charged with multiple offenses in the same case and some charges will be dismissed or nolle (the prosecutor declines to prosecute the charge) as part of an agreement to plead guilty to other charges. We do not have data on individual cases and the impact plea bargaining has on charges. In addition, some charges may be dismissed when an offender satisfactorily completes a diversionary program. For example, an offender who is allowed to participate in accelerated rehabilitation and successfully completes the program can have his or her charges dismissed ([CGS § 54-56e](#)).

STATISTICS ON FIREARM-RELATED OFFENSES

Table 1 provides the number of charges and their disposition for firearm-related offenses in fiscal years 2008 to 2012, listed in order by statutory citation. For each statute, the table only includes those fiscal years in which a charge was reported.

Table 1: Firearms-Related Offenses, Case Information from FY 08 to FY 12

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
VIOLATING PISTOL PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS (CGS § 29-28)				
2008	7	0	0	7
2009	1	0	0	1
2010	10	3	0	7
2011	8	1	0	7
2012	5	0	0	5
FAILING TO SURRENDER REVOKED PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 29-32)				
2008	2	1	0	1
2009	1	0	0	1
2010	1	1	0	0

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 29-33)				
2008	107	34	0	73
2009	71	24	0	47
2010	99	42	0	57
2011	206	38	0	168
2012	60	22	0	38
MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS RELATED TO A PISTOL OR REVOLVER TRANSFER (CGS § 29-34(a))				
2008	1	0	0	1
2009	1	0	0	1
2012	2	0	0	2
TRANSFERRING A PISTOL OR REVOLVER TO SOMEONE UNDER AGE 21 (CGS § 29-34(b))				
2008	7	1	0	6
2011	1	0	0	1
2012	2	0	0	2
CARRYING A PISTOL WITHOUT A PERMIT (CGS § 29-35(a))				
2008	681	312	3	366
2009	649	344	5	300
2010	675	327	6	342
2011	655	307	3	345
2012	652	306	6	340
FAILING TO CARRY A PISTOL PERMIT (CGS § 29-35(b))				
2008	7	1*	0	5
2009	9	3	0	6
2010	12	3*	0	8
2011	9	2	0	7
2012	8	2	0	6
*Violating this statute is an infraction. In addition to the convictions under this statute, one charge in 2008 and one in 2010 was disposed of by paying a mail-in fine for the infraction, like paying the fine for a motor vehicle moving violation.				
ALTERING FIREARM IDENTIFICATION MARK, NUMBER, OR NAME (CGS § 29-36)				
2008	103	21	0	82
2009	102	19	0	83
2010	90	20	0	70
2011	110	13	0	97
2012	78	15	0	63

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
FAILING TO SURRENDER A REVOKED GUN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE (CGS § 29-36i)				
2009	1	1	0	0
2010	3	3	0	0
FAILING TO TRANSFER OR SURRENDER A FIREARM—PERSON INELIGIBLE TO POSSESS FIREARMS (CGS § 29-36k)				
2008	4	0	0	4
2009	1	0	0	1
2010	2	1	0	1
2012	1	0	0	1
RETAILERS—FAILING TO PROVIDE GUN LOCKING DEVICES (CGS § 29-37b)				
2008	1	0	0	1
2009	1	0	0	1
2010	3	0	0	3
2011	2	0	0	2
2012	1	0	0	1
MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT RELATED TO TRANSFERRING A FIREARM OTHER THAN A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 29-37e)				
2008	8	5	0	3
2009	22	9	0	13
2010	9	4	0	5
2011	5	1	0	4
2012	6	3	0	3
VIOLATING LOADED FIREARM SAFE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO MINORS (CGS § 29-37i)				
2008	17	0	0	17
2009	7	0	0	7
2010	26	1	0	25
2011	20	0	0	20
2012	12	0	0	12
PURCHASING A FIREARM FOR TRANSFER TO A PROHIBITED PERSON (CGS § 29-37j(a))				
2009	8	0	0	8
2010	8	4	0	4
2011	7	0	0	7
2012	3	0	0	3
SOLICITING PURCHASE OF A FIREARM TO TRANSFER TO A PROHIBITED PERSON (CGS § 29-37j(b))				
2008	1	0	0	1

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
PURCHASING OR SOLICITING PURCHASE OF A FIREARM TO TRANSFER TO A PROHIBITED PERSON WITHIN FIVE YEARS AFTER A PRIOR FELONY CONVICTION (CGS § 29-37)(c)				
2012	2	0	0	2
USING A MACHINE GUN IN A VIOLENT CRIME (CGS § 53-202(b))				
2008	2	0	0	2
2009	1	0	0	1
2012	1	0	0	1
USING A MACHINE GUN FOR AN AGGRESSIVE PURPOSE OR GIVING ONE TO SOMEONE UNDER AGE 16 (CGS § 53-202(c))				
2008*	3	1	1	1
2010*	5	0	0	5
2012*	4	0	0	4
*Prior to October 1, 2009, this statute only punished using a machine gun for an offensive purpose. Since then, it covers both use for an offensive purpose and giving a machine gun to someone under age 16.				
MANUFACTURER-FAILING TO KEEP MACHINE GUN REGISTER (CGS § 53-202(f))				
2009	1	0	0	1
ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING AN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202b(a)(1))				
2008	9	1	0	8
2009	7	1	0	6
2010	5	1	0	4
2011	5	2	0	3
2012	6	0	0	6
ILLEGALLY POSSESSING AN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202c)				
2008	23	11	0	12
2009	7	1	0	6
2010	11	8	0	3
2011	16	6	0	10
2012	13	8	0	5
ILLEGALLY POSSESSING AN ASSAULT WEAPON—1ST TIME VIOLATOR WHOSE POSSESSION WAS PREVIOUSLY LEGAL (CGS § 53-202c)				
2008	32	9	0	23
2009	25	10	0	15
2010	18	8	0	10
2011	34	10	0	24
2012	31	8	0	23

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING AN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202f)				
2009	1	0	0	1
2010	3	0	0	3
FAILING TO REPORT A LOST OR STOLEN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202g)				
2008	3*	0**	0	1
2009	6*	0**	0	2
2011	2*	0**	0	0
2012	7*	0**	0	4
*In each year, one charge was disposed of through bond forfeiture. **First unintentional violations of this statute are infractions. One charge in 2008, three in 2009, one in 2011, and two in 2012 were disposed of by paying a mail-in fine for the infraction, like paying the fine for a motor vehicle moving violation.				
USING AN ASSAULT WEAPON TO COMMIT A CLASS A, B, OR C FELONY (CGS § 53-202j)				
2008	1	0	0	1
USING A FIREARM TO COMMIT A CLASS A, B, OR C FELONY (CGS § 53-202k)				
2008	12	2	0	10
2009	13	2	0	11
2010	19	4	0	15
2011	14	3	0	11
2012	16	2	1	13
TRANSFERRING AMOR PIERCING OR INCENDIARY AMMUNITION (CGS § 53-202l)				
2012	1	0	0	1
TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS (CGS § 53-202aa)				
2012	4	0	0	4
ILLEGALLY DISCHARGING A FIREARM (CGS § 53-203)				
2008	171	29	1	141
2009	174	25	1	148
2010	190	39	3	148
2011	192	36	0	156
2012	173	39	1	133
HUNTING OR DISCHARGING A FIREARM FROM A PUBLIC HIGHWAY (CGS § 53-204)				
2008	9*	1	0	7
2009	5	0	0	5
2010	1	0	0	1
2011	2	0	0	2

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
2012	2	0	0	2
*In 2008, one charge was disposed of through bond forfeiture.				
CARRYING A LOADED SHOTGUN, RIFLE, OR MUZZLELOADER IN A VEHICLE OR SNOWMOBILE (CGS § 53-205)				
2008	12	1	0	11
2009	6	3	0	3
2010	18	3	0	15
2011	10	0	0	10
2012	11	4	0	7
TRANSFERRING A FACSIMILE FIREARM (CGS § 53-206c(b))				
2008	1	1	0	0
2009	2	1	0	1
2010	2	1	0	1
2011	5	1	0	4
2012	2	0	0	2
CARRYING OR USING A FACSIMILE FIREARM (CGS § 53-206c(c))				
2008	71	15	0	56
2009	65	12	0	53
2010	61	16	0	45
2011	57	9	0	48
2012	56	11	0	45
USING A FACSIMILE FIREARM NEAR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL (CGS § 53-206c(d))				
2008	2	0	0	2
2010	3	0	0	3
2012	3	1	0	2
CARRYING A LOADED FIREARM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL (CGS § 53-206d(a))				
2008	37*	6	0	31*
2009	39	8	0	31
2010	82	11	0	71
2011	77	8	0	69
2012	72	11	0	61
*One additional charge under this statute was dismissed but it is unclear whether the charge involved carrying under the influence or hunting under the influence, which is punished under (b) of this statute.				

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
1ST DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-55a)				
2008	13	12	0	1
2009	21	19	2	0
2010	14	11	2	1
2011	16	12	2	2
2012	14	14	0	0
2ND DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-56a)				
2009	3	3	0	0
2012	2	2	0	0
2ND DEGREE ASSAULT WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-60a)				
2008	29	7	0	22
2009	24	2	0	22
2010	16	5	0	11
2011	14	4	0	10
2012	34	13	0	21
2ND DEGREE ASSAULT OF AN ELDERLY, BLIND, DISABLED, PREGNANT, OR INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED PERSON WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-60c)				
2008	3	0	0	3
2009	3	0	0	3
2010	3	0	0	3
2011	4	1	0	3
2012	1	0	0	1
3RD DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-72b)				
2009	1	0	0	1
2010	1	0	0	1
2011	1	0	0	1
1ST DEGREE KIDNAPPING WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-92a)				
2008	21	9	1	11
2009	36	4	0	32
2010	19	2	0	17
2011	29	8	1	20
2012	37	5	3	29

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
2ND DEGREE KIDNAPPING WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-94a)				
2008	4	3	0	1
2009	13	7	0	6
2010	3	2	0	1
2011	6	4	1	1
2012	1	0	0	1
2ND DEGREE BURLARY WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-102a)				
2008	10	4	0	6
2009	1	1	0	0
2010	2	1	0	1
2011	4	2	0	2
2012	3	2	0	1
3RD DEGREE BURGLARY WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-103a)				
2008	9	6	0	3
2009	8	1	0	7
2010	9	6	0	3
2011	5	3	0	2
2012	5	2	0	3
POSSESSING A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN OR SILENCER (CGS § 53a-211)				
2008	63	30	0	33
2009	38	16	0	22
2010	46	21	1	24
2011	49	20	0	29
2012	34	15	0	19
STEALING A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-212)				
2008	392	119	1	272
2009	395	114	0	281
2010	400	121	0	279
2011	448	115	2	331
2012	357	106	2	249
CRIMINAL USE OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON (CGS § 53a-216)				
2008	55	2	1	52
2009	71	1	1	69
2010	54	1	0	53
2011	54	3	1	50
2012	57	4	0	53

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON (CGS § 53a-217)				
2008	506	224	10	272
2009	417	179	2	236
2010	409	191	3	215
2011	454	203	7	244
2012	442	216	2	224
CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT STORAGE OF A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-217a)				
2008	11	2	0	9
2009	8	1	0	7
2010	17	1	0	16
2011	8	1	0	7
2012	10	1	0	9
CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 53a-217c)				
2008	371	167	2	202
2009	339	168	2	169
2010	335	164	0	171
2011	372	167	3	202
2012	343	144	2	197

Three other statutes punish possessing or carrying a variety of weapons including metal knuckles, certain knives, and firearms. We include these offenses separately, in Table 2, because it is likely that some of these charges involve firearms but it is unclear how many.

Table 2: Weapons-Related Offenses that May Include Firearms, Case Information from FY 08 to FY 12

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
POSSESSING A WEAPON IN A VEHICLE (CGS § 29-38)				
2008	1,273	310	0	963
2009	1,073	248	0	825
2010	1,026	222	0	804
2011	1,089	235	3	851
2012	945	224	6	715
CARRYING A DANGEROUS WEAPON (CGS § 53-206)				
2008	1,001	280	2	719
2009	953	254	0	699
2010	1,010	238	3	769
2011	876	206	1	669
2012	790	197	0	593
POSSESSING A FIREARM OR DEADLY WEAPON ON SCHOOL GROUNDS (CGS § 53a-217b)				
2008	24	7	0	17
2009	20	7	0	13
2010	20	4	0	16
2011	29	5	0	24
2012	17	2	0	15

CR:ts