

Case Statistics for Firearms-Related Offenses

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Issue

Provide case statistics for firearms-related offenses for the last five fiscal years (2013 to 2017).

Summary

Using information provided by the Judicial Branch to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, we (1) identified about 50 firearms-related offenses and (2) compiled statistics on these offenses for the last five fiscal years (2013 to 2017). With one exception, we did not include hunting offenses.

Case Statistics for Fiscal Years 2012 and Prior

This report expands on OLR Report [2013-R-0174](#) which provides case statistics for firearms-related offenses for fiscal years 2008 to 2012.

The offenses range from permitting violations to committing manslaughter with a firearm. The total number of charges for all firearms-related offenses ranges from a low of 2,615 in fiscal year (FY) 16 to a high of 2,800 in FY 15.

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 permit to carry a pistol or revolver (one charge in FY 13). 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 649 charges in FY 17.

Background — Understanding the Statistics

The data used in this report is based on individual charges disposed of 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 given 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 2013 to 2017, listed in order by statutory citation. For each statute, the table only includes those fiscal years in which a charge was reported. Statutes for which there were no charges are excluded (i.e., [CGS §§ 29-36k, -37b, -37j\(b\)](#) & [53-202j](#)).

Table 1: Firearms-Related Offenses, Case Information from FY 13 to FY 17

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
VIOLATING PISTOL PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS (CGS § 29-28)				
2013	4	0	0	4
2014	3	0	0	3
2015	5	2	0	3
2016	7	2	0	5
2017	10	0	0	10
FAILING TO SURRENDER REVOKED PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 29-32)				
2013	1	0	0	1

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)				
2013	100	36	0	64
2014	75	23	0	52
2015	116	57	0	59
2016	77	17	0	60
2017	79	23	0	56
MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS RELATED TO A PISTOL OR REVOLVER TRANSFER (CGS § 29-34(a))				
2015	1	0	0	1
2017	2	0	0	2
TRANSFERRING A PISTOL OR REVOLVER TO SOMEONE UNDER AGE 21 (CGS § 29-34(b))				
2014	1	0	0	1
2015	1	1	0	0
2016	2	1	0	1
CARRYING A PISTOL WITHOUT A PERMIT (CGS § 29-35(a))				
2013	646	321	1	324
2014	603	334	7	262
2015	619	288	3	328
2016	604	279	5	320
2017	649	312	9	328
FAILING TO CARRY A PISTOL PERMIT (CGS § 29-35(b))				
2013	8	2*	0	5
2014	8	3	0	5
2015	16	4*	0	7
2016	7	0	0	7
2017	112	1	0	111
*Violating this statute is an infraction. In addition to the convictions under this statute, one charge in 2013 and five in 2015 were 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)				
2013	82	10	1	71
2014	84	13	0	71
2015	96	16	0	80
2016	91	17	0	74
2017	115	23	0	92
FAILING TO SURRENDER A REVOKED GUN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE (CGS § 29-36i)				
2015	1	1	0	0

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT RELATED TO TRANSFERRING A FIREARM OTHER THAN A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 29-37e)				
2013	8	4	0	4
2014	4	2	0	2
2015	4	3	0	1
2016	6	1	0	5
2017	6	4	0	2
VIOLATING LOADED FIREARM SAFE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO MINORS (CGS § 29-37i)				
2013	10	0	0	10
2014	12	0	0	12
2015	12	1	0	11
2016	7	0	0	7
2017	13	2	0	11
PURCHASING A FIREARM FOR TRANSFER TO A PROHIBITED PERSON (CGS § 29-37j(a))				
2014	3	3	0	0
2015	3	0	0	3
2016	7	3	0	4
PURCHASING OR SOLICITING PURCHASE OF A FIREARM TO TRANSFER TO A PROHIBITED PERSON WITHIN FIVE YEARS AFTER A PRIOR FELONY CONVICTION (CGS § 29-37j(c))				
2017	1	0	0	1
USING A MACHINE GUN IN A VIOLENT CRIME (CGS § 53-202(b))				
2014	1	0	0	1
2015	1	0	0	1
2016	1	0	0	1
2017	2	0	0	2
USING A MACHINE GUN FOR AN AGGRESSIVE PURPOSE OR GIVING ONE TO SOMEONE UNDER AGE 16 (CGS § 53-202(c))				
2013	1	1	0	0
2014	7	1	0	6
2015	9	0	0	9
2016	1	0	0	1
2017	3	0	1	2
MANUFACTURER-FAILING TO KEEP MACHINE GUN REGISTER (CGS § 53-202(f))				
2013	1	0	0	1
2015	1	0	0	1
FAILING TO REGISTER MACHINE GUN ADAPTED TO USE PROJECTILES OF ANY CALIBER (CGS § 53-202(g))				
2016	1	0	0	1

Fiscal Year	Charges	Convictions	Not Guilty	Nolle
ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING AN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202b(a)(1))				
2013	3	1	0	2
2014	2	2	0	0
2015	22	11	0	11
2016	17	6	0	11
2017	4	1	0	3
ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING, SELLING, OR GIVING AN ASSAULT WEAPON TO SOMEONE UNDER AGE 18 (CGS § 53-202b(a)(2))				
2014	1	0	0	1
ILLEGALLY POSSESSING AN ASSAULT WEAPON—1ST TIME VIOLATOR WHOSE POSSESSION WAS PREVIOUSLY LEGAL (CGS § 53-202c)				
2013	20	4	0	16
2014	19	10	0	9
2015	31	8	0	23
2016	59	8	0	51
2017	32	8	0	24
ILLEGALLY POSSESSING AN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202c)				
2013	11	6	0	5
2014	11	4	0	7
2015	31	12	0	19
2016	19	8	0	11
2017	15	9	0	6
ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING AN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202f)				
2013	1	1	0	0
2015	2	0	0	2
2016	4	0	0	4
2017	7	3	0	4
FAILING TO REPORT A LOST OR STOLEN ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202g)				
2013	4	0	0	4
2014	6	0**	0	4
2015	3*	0**	0	1
2016	7	0**	0	3
2017	3*	0	0	2
<p>*One charge in 2015 and one in 2017 were disposed of through bond forfeiture. **First unintentional violations of this statute are infractions. Two charges in 2014, one in 2015, and four in 2016 were disposed of by paying a mail-in fine for the infraction, like paying the fine for a motor vehicle moving violation.</p>				

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
USING A FIREARM TO COMMIT A CLASS A, B, OR C FELONY (CGS § 53-202k)				
2013	27	10	3	14
2014	13	3	0	10
2015	5	2	0	3
2016	7	1	1	5
2017	15	8	2	5
TRANSFERRING AMOR PIERCING OR INCENDIARY AMMUNITION (CGS § 53-202l)				
2014	1	0	0	1
2017	1	0	0	1
TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS (CGS § 53-202aa)				
2013	13	3	0	10
2014	7	2	0	5
2015	17	12	0	5
2016	16	0	0	16
2017	10	3	0	7
ILLEGALLY DISCHARGING A FIREARM (CGS § 53-203)				
2013	161	34	0	127
2014	196	41	0	155
2015	174	33	0	141
2016	146	36	0	110
2017	170	34	0	136
HUNTING OR DISCHARGING A FIREARM FROM A PUBLIC HIGHWAY (CGS § 53-204)				
2013	4	0	0	4
2014	18	0	0	18
2015	11	1	0	10
2016	1	0	0	1
2017	2	0	0	2
CARRYING A LOADED SHOTGUN, RIFLE, OR MUZZLELOADER IN A VEHICLE OR SNOWMOBILE (CGS § 53-205)				
2013	16	0	0	16
2014	8	1	0	7
2015	9	1	0	8
2016	7	1	0	6
2017	4	1	0	3

Fiscal Year	Charges	Convictions	Not Guilty	Nolle
SELLING, CARRYING, BRANDISHING A FACSIMILE FIREARM (CGS § 53-206c)				
2013	73	17	0	56
2014	86	22	0	64
2015	78	18	0	60
2016	79	22	0	57
2017	71	21	0	50
CARRYING A LOADED FIREARM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL (CGS § 53-206d(a))				
2013	94	7	1	86
2014	75	8	0	67
2015	92	10	0	82
2016	82	16	0	66
2017	91	16	0	75
1ST DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-55a)				
2013	14	11	0	3
2014	14	12	2	0
2015	23	22	1	0
2016	29	20	5	4
2017	17	11	4	2
2ND DEGREE MANSLAUGHTER WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-56a)				
2013	2	1	0	1
2014	2	2	0	0
2017	1	1	0	0
2ND DEGREE ASSAULT WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-60a)				
2013	17	8	0	9
2014	15	5	0	10
2015	17	4	0	13
2016	18	8	0	10
2017	14	4	0	10
2ND DEGREE ASSAULT OF AN ELDERLY, BLIND, DISABLED, PREGNANT, OR INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED PERSON WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-60c)				
2013	2	1	0	1
2017	2	1	0	1
3RD DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-72b)				
2013	2	1	0	1
2017	2	2	0	0

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
1ST DEGREE KIDNAPPING WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-92a)				
2013	38	11	4	23
2014	16	3	0	13
2015	18	3	0	15
2016	20	3	1	16
2017	10	3	3	4
2ND DEGREE KIDNAPPING WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-94a)				
2013	4	4	0	0
2014	9	6	0	3
2015	2	0	0	2
2016	1	1	0	0
2017	6	3	1	2
2ND DEGREE BURLARY WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-102a)				
2013	3	2	0	1
2014	7	4	0	3
2015	3	3	0	0
2016	3	3	0	0
2017	3	3	0	0
3RD DEGREE BURGLARY WITH A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-103a)				
2013	5	4	0	1
2014	6	1	0	5
2016	1	0	0	1
2017	1	0	0	1
POSSESSING A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN OR SILENCER (CGS § 53a-211)				
2013	43	15	1	27
2014	50	27	0	23
2015	32	13	0	19
2016	22	10	0	12
2017	30	10	0	20
STEALING A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-212)				
2013	349	100	0	249
2014	322	98	0	224
2015	422	117	1	304
2016	350	88	1	261
2017	308	77	0	231

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Convictions</i>	<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>Nolle</i>
CRIMINAL USE OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON (CGS § 53a-216)				
2013	49	1	0	48
2014	47	1	1	45
2015	45	2	0	43
2016	43	4	1	38
2017	33	1	0	32
CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON (CGS § 53a-217)				
2013	640	258	6	376
2014	580	344	9	227
2015	573	282	1	290
2016	573	247	7	319
2017	592	273	5	314
CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT STORAGE OF A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-217a)				
2013	18	0	0	18
2014	16	0	0	16
2015	6	1	0	5
2016	12	1	0	11
2017	5	1	0	4
CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 53a-217c)				
2013	305	142	1	162
2014	295	160	3	132
2015	299	133	3	163
2016	288	141	4	143
2017	281	139	2	140

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 13 to FY 17**

<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)				
2013	854	201	1	652
2014	847	204	0	643
2015	826	184	4	638
2016	841	206	2	633
2017	932	223	1	708
CARRYING A DANGEROUS WEAPON (CGS § 53-206)				
2013	806	210	2	594
2014	735	177	0	558
2015	804	191	2	611
2016	707	197	2	508
2017	613	185	0	428
POSSESSING A FIREARM OR DEADLY WEAPON ON SCHOOL GROUNDS (CGS § 53a-217b)				
2013	22	3	0	19
2014	8	1	0	7
2015	15	4	0	11
2016	19	2	0	17
2017	12	1	0	11

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