

Connecticut Sex Crimes Statistics (Convictions 2015-2019)

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February 5, 2020 | 2020-R-0023

Issue

Summarize Connecticut sex crimes convictions from 2015–2019, distinguishing crimes where the statute specifically protects minor victims.

Summary

This report summarizes case outcomes in Connecticut for offenders convicted of criminal offenses involving sexual misconduct (“sex crimes”) over the last five years using Judicial Branch data, including the:

1. total convictions for each calendar year,
2. aggregate number of convictions where the offender received actual jail time,
3. aggregate number of convictions where the offender received probation, and
4. range of the sentences.

The report also distinguishes convictions for sex crimes where the statute specifically protects minor victims by specifying the victim’s age.

There was a total of 2,651 sex crime convictions in Connecticut from 2015 through 2019, representing approximately 1,896 offenders (a single offender may receive multiple convictions, depending on the nature of the crime).

Calendar year 2016 had the highest number of convictions (609), while 2018 had the lowest (456). Of the total 2,651 convictions, 1,461 (55.1%) were for crimes that specifically categorize the victim as a minor or otherwise account for the victim’s age; while 1,190 (44.9%) were for other sex crimes.

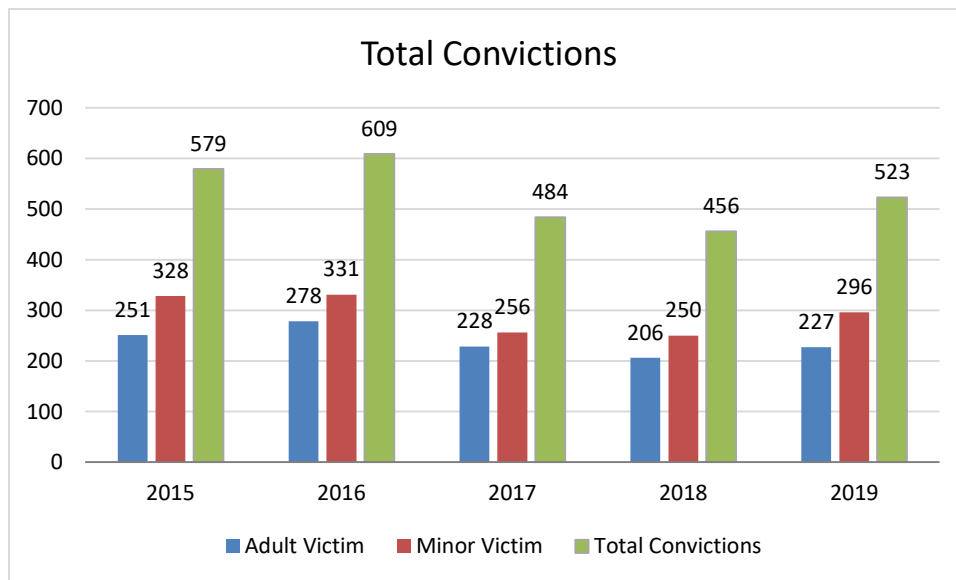
For the sex crimes that specify the minor victim’s age, approximately 92.5% of the convictions had a sentence of actual jail time and 59.1% had a sentence that included at least probation. For the other sex crimes, approximately 56.6% of the convictions had a sentence of actual jail time and 50.8% had a sentence that included at least probation.

The actual jail time shown in this report reflects the portion of any jail sentence that was not suspended. For example, if an offender received a sentence of 5 years in prison suspended after 2 years, the actual jail time is 2 years.

Sex Crime Convictions by Year, 2015–2019

Sex offender convictions has averaged approximately 530 a year for the last five years. Total convictions peaked at 609 in 2016 then fell to a low of 456 in 2018. However, in 2019 it increased to 523, closer to the average for the five-year period. The year over year trends are generally similar. Chart 1 shows the total sex offender convictions for each calendar year for sex crimes where the victim age is not specified, those where the crime specifies the victim as a minor, and the combined total.

Chart 1: Sex Crime Convictions – 2015 through 2019



Sex Crime Convictions – Victim not Specified as a Minor

Table 1 lists the sex crimes for which the victim's age is not specified and includes the number of convictions per crime for each of the last five years.

Table 1: Convictions for Sex Crimes That the Statute Does Not Specify the Victim as a Minor

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Statute - CGS §</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>Total</i>
1 st degree sexual assault	53a-70	36	22	17	24	14	113
1 st degree aggravated sexual assault	53a-70a	0	6	2	1	4	13
2 nd degree sexual assault	53a-71	10	18	18	18	14	78
3 rd degree sexual assault	53a-72a	27	22	22	25	25	121
3 rd degree sexual assault with a firearm	53a-72b	0	2	0	1	0	3
4 th degree sexual assault	53a-73a	63	92	80	65	87	387
1 st degree promoting prostitution	53a-86	1	2	0	1	0	4
2 nd degree promoting prostitution	53a-87	4	3	2	5	0	14
3 rd degree promoting prostitution	53a-88	10	7	6	4	7	34
Disseminating voyeuristic material	53a-189b	1	1	1	2	1	6
Obscenity	53a-194	1	10	2	4	1	18
Patronizing a prostitute	53a-83	9	5	9	5	5	33
Patronizing a prostitute from a motor vehicle**	53a-83a	0	0	1	0	0	1
Permitting prostitution	53a-89	3	2	5	7	0	17
Prostitution	53a-82	81	74	49	30	19	253
Sexual assault in spousal or cohabiting relationship*	53a-70b	4	1	3	0	5	13
Trafficking in persons	53a-192a	0	2	1	1	4	8
Unlawful dissemination of an intimate image	53a-189c	0	1	1	5	22	29
Voyeurism	53a-189a	1	8	9	8	19	45
Total		251	278	228	206	227	1190

Source: Judicial Branch

* Repealed by [PA 19-189](#)

** Repealed by [PA 17-32](#), § 10

As the table above shows, 4th degree sexual assault had the highest number of convictions each year followed by prostitution, 3rd degree sexual assault, and 1st degree sexual assault. Almost 75% of all convictions under this section were for these four crimes.

Patronizing a prostitute from a motor vehicle, had the lowest number of convictions for the time period, however that crime was repealed effective October 1, 2017.

Sex Crime Convictions – Victim Specified as a Minor

Table 2 lists the sex crimes for which the statute specifies the minor victim's age. It also shows the number of convictions for each of these crimes for each of the last five years.

Table 2: Convictions for Sex Crimes That Specify That the Victim is a Minor

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Statute - CGS §</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>Total</i>
1 st degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-70	44	28	18	34	33	157
2 nd degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-71	66	58	43	42	50	259
3 rd degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-72a	5	6	13	3	10	37
4 th degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-73a	32	55	32	42	42	203
1 st degree illegal possession of child pornography	53a-196d	14	8	7	19	8	56
2 nd degree illegal possession of child pornography	53a-196e	26	14	17	7	22	86
3 rd degree illegal possession of child pornography	53a-196f	18	26	16	5	12	77
1 st degree promoting prostitution - victim under age 18	53a-86(a)(2)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Aggravated sexual assault of a minor	53a-70c	1	2	0	2	0	5
Commercial sexual abuse of a minor	53a-83b(a)(1)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Employing a minor in an obscene performance	53a-196a	0	0	1	1	3	5
Enticing a minor	53a-90a	5	11	8	4	6	34
Illegal sexual contact with a child	53-21(a)(2)	113	118	100	87	95	513
Importing child pornography	53a-196c	0	0	0	0	2	2
Misrepresenting age to entice a minor	53a-90b	0	1	0	0	0	1
Obscenity as to minors	53a-196	0	0	0	1	0	1
Patronizing a prostitute - victim under age 18	53a-83(c)	0	0	0	1	6	7
Promoting a minor in an obscene performance	53a-196b	4	4	1	2	5	16
Total		328	331	256	250	296	1461

Source: Judicial Branch

As the table above shows, illegal sexual contact with a child was the crime with the most convictions each year from 2015 through 2019 and accounted for 35.1% of the total convictions for the five-year period. Second degree sexual assault of a minor had the second highest number of convictions every year, making up 17.7% of the total convictions for these crimes. Convictions for 4th degree sexual assault of a minor was the third highest, 13.9% of the total convictions for these crimes for the five-year period.

Additionally, convictions for the top four sex crimes in which the minor victim's age is specified – illegal sexual conduct with a child, 2nd degree sexual assault, 4th degree sexual assault, and 1st degree sexual assault – represent over 75% of all convictions under this section.

Sex Crime Sentences

This report also provides aggregate data for the sentences for the sex crime convictions, including the number with actual jail time and range of the time period received. In this report, actual jail time accounts for the portion of the prison sentence that was not suspended. Some offenders received a prison sentence with no time suspended, others received probation only (i.e., no prison sentence included or a prison sentence that was fully suspended), and some received a split sentence (i.e., prison sentence suspended after a specified time period). Many received a sentence that included jail time as well as a period of probation to be served upon release from prison. According to the Judicial Branch, the actual time spent in jail for any given offender varies based on individual circumstances, including whether there are charges for other crimes, and any consecutive or concurrent designation that impacts overall jail time.

Some offenders also received “special parole,” which a judge imposes as part of a criminal sentence. This means the offender serves a period of special parole under parole supervision after he or she completes the prison sentence. Of the 2,024 aggregate convictions with a sentence of actual jail time, approximately 17.5% (354) also had a sentence of special parole generally ranging from one year to 18 years.

Sex Crime Sentences – Victim not Specified as a Minor in Statute

Of the convictions for sex crimes that do not specify that the victim is a minor, Table 3 shows the aggregate number that had a sentence that included actual jail time, the number with a sentence that included probation, and the range of the sentences.

Table 3: Sentences by Crime 2015–2019 – Victim Age not Specified in Statute

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Statute - CGS §</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Jail Time</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Probation</i>	<i>Range</i>
1 st degree sexual assault	53a-70	113	113	731 days - 25 yrs	41	10 yrs - 35 yrs
1 st degree aggravated sexual assault	53a-70a	13	13	7 yrs - 20 yrs	2	15 yrs & 12 yrs
2 nd degree sexual assault	53a-71	78	77	1 yr - 10 yrs	71	2 yrs - 35 yrs
3 rd degree sexual assault	53a-72a	121	99	45 days - 10 yrs	85	3 yrs - 20 yrs
3 rd degree sexual assault with a firearm	53a-72b	3	3	3 yrs - 7 yrs	1	10 yrs
4 th degree sexual assault	53a-73a	387	212	30 days - 5 yrs	124	2 mths - 10 yrs
1 st degree promoting prostitution	53a-86	4	3	90 mths - 4 yrs	2	2 yrs & 3 yrs
2 nd degree promoting prostitution	53a-87	14	10	9 mths - 5 yrs	11	3 yrs - 5 yrs
3 rd degree promoting prostitution	53a-88	34	19	30 days - 3 yrs	25	1 yr - 5 yrs
Disseminating voyeuristic material	53a-189b	6	4	10 mths - 3 yrs	5	3 yrs - 5yrs
Obscenity	53a-194	18	3	15 days - 3 mths	16	1 yr - 3 yrs
Patronizing a prostitute	53a-83	33	1	60 days	13	1 yr - 3 yrs

Table 3 (continued)

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Statute - CGS §</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Jail Time</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Probation</i>	<i>Range</i>
Patronizing a prostitute from a motor vehicle**	53a-83a	1	0	n/a	1	1 yr
Permitting prostitution	53a-89	17	8	50 days - 9 mths	7	2 yrs - 3 yrs
Prostitution	53a-82	253	53	30 days - 1 yr	146	1 yr - 3 yrs
Sexual assault in spousal or cohabiting relationship*	53a-70b	13	13	41 mths - 14 yrs	7	5 yrs - 35 yrs
Trafficking in persons	53a-192a	8	8	90 days - 10 Yrs	6	3 yrs - 5 yrs
Unlawful dissemination of an intimate image	53a-189c	29	14	3 mths - 1 yr	1	2 yrs
Voyeurism	53a-189a	45	20	30 days - 3 yrs	40	18 mths - 10 yrs
Total		1190	673		604	

Source: Judicial Branch

* Repealed by [PA 19-189](#)

** Repealed by [PA 17-32](#), § 10

As the table above shows, of the 1,190 convictions for these crimes, 56.6% (673) had a sentence of actual jail time generally ranging from 15 days to 25 years. Slightly over half (50.8%, 604 total) had a sentence that included at least a probation period, generally ranging from two months to 35 years. Of the 673 convictions where the sentence included actual jail time, 78 (11.6%) of them also included a special parole sentence to be served after the jail time has been completed.

Sex Crime Sentences – Minor Victim

For crimes that specifically categorize the victim as a minor, Table 4 shows the aggregate number of convictions that had a sentence of actual jail time, the number with sentences that included probation, and the range of the sentences.

Table 4: Sentences by Crime 2015–2019 – Minor Victim

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Statute - CGS §</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Jail Time</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Probation</i>	<i>Range</i>
Aggravated sexual assault of a minor	53a-70c	5	5	25 yrs each	0	n/a
1 st Degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-70	157	157	5 yrs - 20 yrs	50	10 yrs - 35 yrs
2 nd Degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-71	259	259	9 mths - 15 yrs	203	1yr - 35yrs
3 rd Degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-72a	37	29	18 mths - 10 yrs	24	10 yrs - 25 yrs
4 th Degree Sexual Assault - victim is a minor	53a-73a	203	150	30 days - 5 yrs	108	2 yrs - 20 yrs
1 st Degree illegal possession of child pornography	53a-196d	56	56	5 yrs - 15 yrs	35	10 yrs - 25 yrs

Table 4 (continued)

Crime	Statute - CGS §	Total	Jail Time	Range	Probation	Range
2 nd Degree illegal possession of child pornography	53a-196e	86	86	2 yrs - 7 yrs	68	5 yrs - 20 yrs
3 rd Degree illegal possession of child pornography	53a-196f	77	76	1 yr - 5 yrs	62	2 yrs - 15 yrs
1 st Degree promoting prostitution - victim under age 18	53a-86(a)(2)	1	1	4 yrs	1	5 yrs
Commercial sexual abuse of a minor	53a-83b(a)(1)	1	1	18 mths	1	5 yrs
Employing a minor in an obscene performance	53a-196a	5	5	12 yrs - 15 yrs	3	10 yrs each
Enticing a minor	53a-90a	34	28	1 day - 7 yrs	17	3 yrs - 25 yrs
Illegal sexual contact with a child	53-21	513	477	3 mths - 20 yrs	276	18 mths - 35 yrs
Importing child pornography	53a-196c	2	2	66 mths & 8 yrs	1	10 yrs
Misrepresenting age to entice a minor	53a-90b	1	0	n/a	1	5 yrs
Obscenity as to minors	53a-196	1	1	1 yr	0	n/a
Patronizing a prostitute - victim under age 18	53a-83(c)	7	5	1 yr - 10 yrs	3	2 yrs - 10 yrs
Promoting a minor in an obscene performance	53a-196b	16	13	18 mths - 8 yrs	10	5 yrs - 30 yrs
Total		1461	1351		863	

Source: Judicial Branch

As the table above shows, of the 1,461 convictions for these crimes, 92.5% (1,351) had a sentence that included actual jail time, generally ranging from 1 day to 25 years. Over half (59.1%, 863) had sentences that included probation, generally ranging from two to 35 years. Of the 1351 sex convictions with a sentence of actual jail time, 276 (20.4%) of them also included special parole.

Additional Resources

1. OLR Report [2018-R-0073](#) – *Connecticut Penal Code – Updated and Revised*.
2. This report lists all crimes in the Connecticut Penal Code ([Title 53a](#) of the General Statutes) and their penalties.
3. OLR Report [2019-R-0191](#) – *Changes in State Laws on Civil Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault Victims*.
4. OLR Report [2018-R-0038](#) – *Summary of Connecticut’s Special Parole System*.

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