

# D.C. Sentencing Commission - Fast Facts

April 2021

## Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence

Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2020 there were a total of:

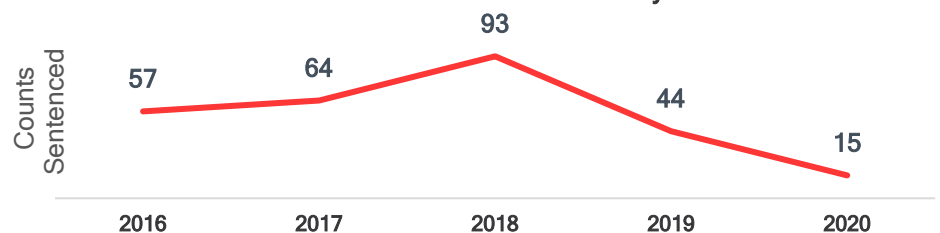
- 273 PF-COV counts sentenced
- 132 PF-COV cases sentenced
- 132 PF-COV individuals sentenced

## PF-COV

### Sentencing Information

- PF-COV represented 3% (273 counts) of all felony offenses (9,152) sentenced between 2016 and 2020
- Of the 132 PF-COV cases sentenced, 59 (45%) contained multiple PF-COV counts. These 59 cases represented approximately 75% of all PF-COV counts sentenced
  - PF-COV was the most serious count sentenced in 57(43%) of PF-COV cases
- All but three PF-COV counts were initially charged as PF-COV
  - One count was initially charged as Armed Robbery and two were initially charged as Unlawful Possession of a Firearm Prior Crime of Violence
- The vast majority (270 counts, 99%) of PF-COV counts received a prison sentence
  - Only three (3) counts received non-prison sentence; all three counts were sentenced under the Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA)
- The average prison sentence imposed for PF-COV was 71 months; while the median sentence imposed was 60 months
- Plea agreements typically account for 90% of all sentences imposed each year, however only 20% of PF-COV counts were resolved via a plea agreement in this timeframe
  - The remaining 80% (217 counts) were resolved via a jury trial
- 11(c)(1)(C) pleas represented 8% (22 counts) of all PF-COV counts sentenced
- The number of PF-COV counts sentenced gradually increased from 2016 until peaking in 2018, then experienced a sharp decline in 2019 which continued into 2020

### PF-COV Counts Sentenced - Yearly Trends



\*\*2020 data is heavily impacted by the limited operations of D.C. Superior Court due to Covid-19

### Criminal History and Compliance

- About 80% of individuals sentenced for PF-COV had a prior conviction
- 22% of PF-COV offenders fall in the lowest criminal history group, while 2% fall in the highest criminal history group
  - Criminal History Group C represented the largest proportion (37%) of offenders sentenced for PF-COV
- All but one (< 0.5%) PF-COV count received the Guidelines recommended sentence

### Offender Demographics

- On average, individuals sentenced for PF-COV were years 25 old at the time of the offense; the median age at offense was 24
- Of all 132 individuals sentenced for PF-COV, only one (< 1%) was female
- 96% of individuals sentenced for PF-COV were black, 2% were white; the race of two individuals is unknown

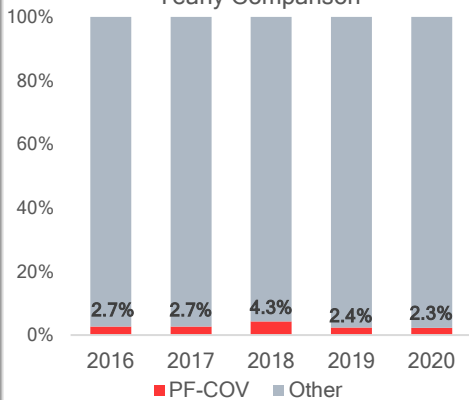


### Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence (PF-COV)

*Definition: Possessing a pistol, machine gun, shotgun, rifle, or any other firearm or imitation firearm while committing a crime of violence or dangerous crime.*

Mandatory Minimum: 5 years  
Statutory Maximum: 15 years

### Proportion of PF-COV of all Counts Sentenced Yearly Comparison



*The proportion of PF-COV counts sentenced has remained relatively stable between 2016 and 2020, representing between 2.3% and 4.3% of all counts sentenced each year.*

*While COVID-19 may have impacted the volume of counts sentenced, the proportion of PF-COV counts sentenced in 2020 did not appear to be affected.*