

# **U.S. Sentencing Commission Compassionate Release Data Report**

**Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022**



**September 2022**

## Introduction

As part of its ongoing mission, the United States Sentencing Commission provides Congress, the judiciary, the executive branch, and the general public with data extracted from and based on sentencing documents submitted by courts to the Commission.<sup>1</sup> Data is reported on an annual basis in the Commission's *Annual Report* and *Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission also reports preliminary data for an ongoing fiscal year in order to provide real-time analysis of sentencing practices in the federal courts. Since 2005, the Commission has published a series of quarterly reports that are similar in format and methodology to tables and figures produced in the *Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*. The quarterly reports contain cumulative data for the ongoing fiscal year (*i.e.*, data from the start of the fiscal year through the most current quarter). From time to time the Commission also reports data regarding other sentencing trends, such as resentencings or other modifications of sentences previously imposed.

Section 3582(c)(1)(A) of title 18, United States Code, provides courts with the authority to reduce a term of imprisonment after it has been imposed in specific circumstances. One of the circumstances provided in the statute is that “extraordinary and compelling reasons” warrant such a reduction. Motions asserting that reason are commonly referred to as “compassionate release” motions. When considering any motion under section 3582(c)(1)(A), courts are also required to consider the factors set forth in section 3553(a) of title 18 and to find that any reduction “is consistent with applicable policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission.”<sup>3</sup>

Before December 2018, courts were authorized to consider motions under section 3582(c)(1)(A) only if they were filed by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons. In December 2018, Congress amended that portion of section 3582 to authorize courts to also consider motions filed by offenders, in certain circumstances.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In each federal felony or Class A misdemeanor case, sentencing courts are required to submit the following documents to the Commission: the Judgment and Commitment Order, the Statement of Reasons, the plea agreement (if applicable), the indictment or other charging document, and the Presentence Report. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 994(w).

<sup>2</sup> Electronic copies of the 1995-2021 ANNUAL REPORT and SOURCEBOOK OF FEDERAL SENTENCING STATISTICS are available at the Commission's website at [www.ussc.gov](http://www.ussc.gov).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. SENTENCING COMM'N, Guidelines Manual §1B1.13 (Nov. 2021) [hereinafter USSG].

<sup>4</sup> The First Step Act of 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-391 (2018)) went into effect on December 21, 2018. Section 603 of the Act amended section 3582(c)(1)(A) of title 18 to authorize “defendants” (*i.e.*, offenders) to file a motion for compassionate release “after the defendant has fully exhausted all administrative rights to appeal a failure of the Bureau of Prisons to bring a motion on the defendant's behalf or the lapse of 30 days from the receipt of such a request by the warden of the defendant's facility, whichever is earlier.”

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic,<sup>5</sup> the courts received thousands of compassionate release motions, most filed by offenders. This report provides an analysis of the compassionate release motions filed with the courts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The data in this report reflects compassionate release motions decided by the courts during fiscal years 2020 through the first half of fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2022). Prior to October 1, 2020, courts submitted to the Commission documentation regarding motions for all compassionate release that were granted, but not for compassionate release motions that were denied. For the time period of January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020, the Commission obtained documentation for compassionate release motions that were denied, where available, by searching court records using the PACER system. Beginning October 1, 2020, courts began submitting to the Commission documentation for all compassionate release motions, regardless of whether they were granted or denied. The data in this report is limited to motions for which the Commission received or obtained court documentation and completed its analysis by June 10, 2022.

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<sup>5</sup> The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. President Trump declared a national emergency concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 13, 2020.

**Table 1****MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE  
BY MONTH OF COURT DECISION<sup>1</sup>**

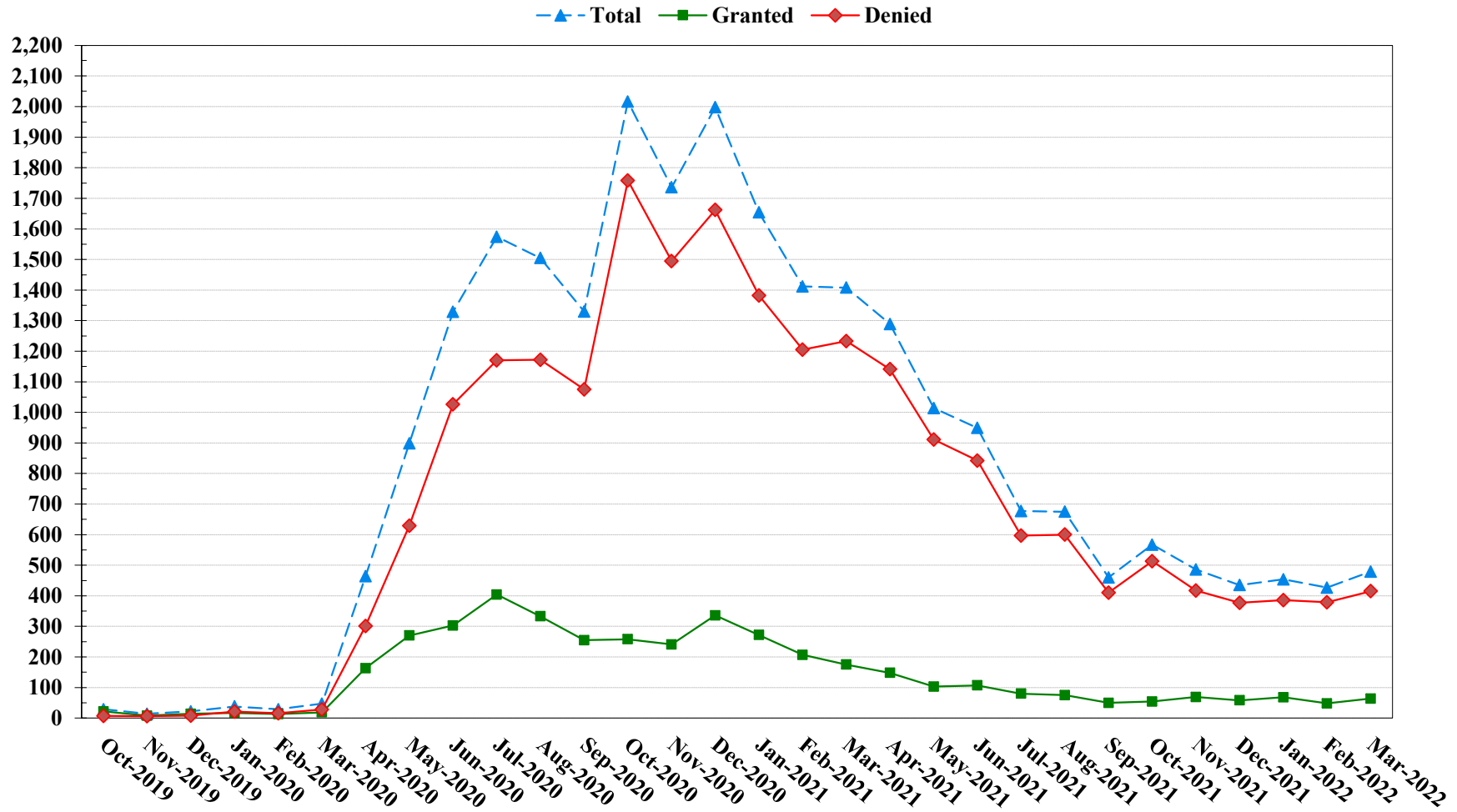
<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Granted</b>		<b>Denied</b>	
		<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25,416</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>21,182</b>	<b>83.3</b>
2019	October	29	22	75.9	7	24.1
2019	November	14	8	57.1	6	42.9
2019	December	22	14	63.6	8	36.4
2020	January	38	17	44.7	21	55.3
2020	February	29	13	44.8	16	55.2
2020	March	47	19	40.4	28	59.6
2020	April	464	163	35.1	301	64.9
2020	May	899	270	30.0	629	70.0
2020	June	1,329	303	22.8	1,026	77.2
2020	July	1,574	404	25.7	1,170	74.3
2020	August	1,505	333	22.1	1,172	77.9
2020	September	1,330	255	19.2	1,075	80.8
2020	October	2,016	258	12.8	1,758	87.2
2020	November	1,736	241	13.9	1,495	86.1
2020	December	1,998	336	16.8	1,662	83.2
2021	January	1,654	272	16.4	1,382	83.6
2021	February	1,412	207	14.7	1,205	85.3
2021	March	1,408	175	12.4	1,233	87.6
2021	April	1,289	148	11.5	1,141	88.5
2021	May	1,014	103	10.2	911	89.8
2021	June	949	107	11.3	842	88.7
2021	July	677	80	11.8	597	88.2
2021	August	675	75	11.1	600	88.9
2021	September	460	50	10.9	410	89.1
2021	October	567	54	9.5	513	90.5
2021	November	486	69	14.2	417	85.8
2021	December	435	58	13.3	377	86.7
2022	January	454	68	15.0	386	85.0
2022	February	427	48	11.2	379	88.8
2022	March	479	64	13.4	415	86.6

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<sup>1</sup> Of the 26,212 cases reported to the Commission, 796 were excluded due to indeterminable motion status.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Figure 1**  
**MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE**  
**BY MONTH OF COURT DECISION**



SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 2**

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE BY DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>**

District	Total			Granted			Denied				
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,416</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>21,182</b>	<b>83.3</b>						
Southern Florida	1,108	147	13.3	961	86.7	Eastern Tennessee	220	45	20.5	175	79.5
Eastern Virginia	915	139	15.2	776	84.8	Hawaii	220	38	17.3	182	82.7
Middle Florida	886	51	5.8	835	94.2	Southern West Virginia	193	12	6.2	181	93.8
Maryland	738	244	33.1	494	66.9	District of Columbia	193	57	29.5	136	70.5
Northern Texas	688	38	5.5	650	94.5	Colorado	190	29	15.3	161	84.7
Western North Carolina	611	26	4.3	585	95.7	Nebraska	188	22	11.7	166	88.3
Southern New York	598	130	21.7	468	78.3	Eastern Arkansas	185	6	3.2	179	96.8
Western Missouri	587	55	9.4	532	90.6	Eastern Louisiana	184	19	10.3	165	89.7
South Carolina	567	98	17.3	469	82.7	Western Wisconsin	178	13	7.3	165	92.7
Eastern North Carolina	565	115	20.4	450	79.6	Utah	177	26	14.7	151	85.3
Southern Iowa	558	46	8.2	512	91.8	Massachusetts	174	78	44.8	96	55.2
Northern Illinois	550	149	27.1	401	72.9	Northern Georgia	174	80	46.0	94	54.0
Eastern Michigan	539	171	31.7	368	68.3	South Dakota	169	18	10.7	151	89.3
Minnesota	462	99	21.4	363	78.6	Oregon	169	100	59.2	69	40.8
Eastern Missouri	446	46	10.3	400	89.7	North Dakota	166	7	4.2	159	95.8
Southern Indiana	434	40	9.2	394	90.8	Southern Alabama	155	15	9.7	140	90.3
Middle North Carolina	426	25	5.9	401	94.1	Maine	155	11	7.1	144	92.9
Middle Pennsylvania	419	22	5.3	397	94.7	Southern Ohio	154	45	29.2	109	70.8
Western Texas	417	32	7.7	385	92.3	Northern Alabama	150	21	14.0	129	86.0
Central Illinois	407	61	15.0	346	85.0	Middle Tennessee	139	34	24.5	105	75.5
Eastern Texas	387	10	2.6	377	97.4	Alaska	131	28	21.4	103	78.6
New Jersey	386	50	13.0	336	87.0	Eastern Washington	131	27	20.6	104	79.4
Northern Iowa	386	22	5.7	364	94.3	Middle Alabama	130	7	5.4	123	94.6
Eastern California	373	61	16.4	312	83.6	New Hampshire	129	24	18.6	105	81.4
Eastern Kentucky	351	21	6.0	330	94.0	Western New York	123	32	26.0	91	74.0
Eastern New York	345	76	22.0	269	78.0	Northern West Virginia	119	8	6.7	111	93.3
Southern Texas	328	96	29.3	232	70.7	Northern Mississippi	116	15	12.9	101	87.1
Eastern Pennsylvania	324	99	30.6	225	69.4	Northern Florida	115	46	40.0	69	60.0
Western Pennsylvania	306	38	12.4	268	87.6	Wyoming	107	22	20.6	85	79.4
Northern California	304	112	36.8	192	63.2	Vermont	106	44	41.5	62	58.5
Western Virginia	301	70	23.3	231	76.7	Northern Oklahoma	89	34	38.2	55	61.8
Western Washington	298	65	21.8	233	78.2	Rhode Island	84	33	39.3	51	60.7
Western Michigan	296	12	4.1	284	95.9	Western Oklahoma	81	3	3.7	78	96.3
Northern Ohio	291	60	20.6	231	79.4	Nevada	79	35	44.3	44	55.7
Central California	289	93	32.2	196	67.8	Eastern Oklahoma	68	4	5.9	64	94.1
Northern Indiana	281	21	7.5	260	92.5	Northern New York	67	18	26.9	49	73.1
Southern Georgia	272	6	2.2	266	97.8	Arizona	63	21	33.3	42	66.7
Southern Illinois	250	15	6.0	235	94.0	Middle Louisiana	57	3	5.3	54	94.7
Western Kentucky	248	13	5.2	235	94.8	New Mexico	57	21	36.8	36	63.2
Connecticut	247	92	37.2	155	62.8	Western Louisiana	47	16	34.0	31	66.0
Southern California	247	96	38.9	151	61.1	Puerto Rico	28	23	82.1	5	17.9
Southern Mississippi	247	14	5.7	233	94.3	Western Arkansas	27	2	7.4	25	92.6
Montana	246	30	12.2	216	87.8	Idaho	23	8	34.8	15	65.2
Middle Georgia	238	4	1.7	234	98.3	Delaware	21	4	19.0	17	81.0
Kansas	234	98	41.9	136	58.1	Guam	16	8	50.0	8	50.0
Western Tennessee	231	14	6.1	217	93.9	Virgin Islands	6	0	0.0	6	100.0
Eastern Wisconsin	230	49	21.3	181	78.7	Northern Mariana Islands	6	1	16.7	5	83.3

<sup>1</sup> Of the 26,212 cases reported to the Commission, 796 were excluded due to indeterminable motion status.

**Table 3**

**MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE  
IN EACH CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>**

<b>CIRCUIT</b> District	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Granted</b>		<b>Denied</b>	
	N	N	%	N	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,416</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>21,182</b>	<b>83.3</b>
<b>D.C. CIRCUIT</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>70.5</b>
District of Columbia	193	57	29.5	136	70.5
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>70.4</b>
Maine	155	11	7.1	144	92.9
Massachusetts	174	78	44.8	96	55.2
New Hampshire	129	24	18.6	105	81.4
Puerto Rico	28	23	82.1	5	17.9
Rhode Island	84	33	39.3	51	60.7
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,486</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>73.6</b>
Connecticut	247	92	37.2	155	62.8
New York					
Eastern	345	76	22.0	269	78.0
Northern	67	18	26.9	49	73.1
Southern	598	130	21.7	468	78.3
Western	123	32	26.0	91	74.0
Vermont	106	44	41.5	62	58.5
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>85.4</b>
Delaware	21	4	19.0	17	81.0
New Jersey	386	50	13.0	336	87.0
Pennsylvania					
Eastern	324	99	30.6	225	69.4
Middle	419	22	5.3	397	94.7
Western	306	38	12.4	268	87.6
Virgin Islands	6	0	0.0	6	100.0
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>83.4</b>
Maryland	738	244	33.1	494	66.9
North Carolina					
Eastern	565	115	20.4	450	79.6
Middle	426	25	5.9	401	94.1
Western	611	26	4.3	585	95.7
South Carolina	567	98	17.3	469	82.7
Virginia					
Eastern	915	139	15.2	776	84.8
Western	301	70	23.3	231	76.7
West Virginia					
Northern	119	8	6.7	111	93.3
Southern	193	12	6.2	181	93.8

**Table 3 (cont.)**

CIRCUIT District	TOTAL	Granted		Denied	
	N	N	%	N	%
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,471</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>90.2</b>
Louisiana					
Eastern	184	19	10.3	165	89.7
Middle	57	3	5.3	54	94.7
Western	47	16	34.0	31	66.0
Mississippi					
Northern	116	15	12.9	101	87.1
Southern	247	14	5.7	233	94.3
Texas					
Eastern	387	10	2.6	377	97.4
Northern	688	38	5.5	650	94.5
Southern	328	96	29.3	232	70.7
Western	417	32	7.7	385	92.3
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>2,054</b>	<b>83.2</b>
Kentucky					
Eastern	351	21	6.0	330	94.0
Western	248	13	5.2	235	94.8
Michigan					
Eastern	539	171	31.7	368	68.3
Western	296	12	4.1	284	95.9
Ohio					
Northern	291	60	20.6	231	79.4
Southern	154	45	29.2	109	70.8
Tennessee					
Eastern	220	45	20.5	175	79.5
Middle	139	34	24.5	105	75.5
Western	231	14	6.1	217	93.9
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>85.1</b>
Illinois					
Central	407	61	15.0	346	85.0
Northern	550	149	27.1	401	72.9
Southern	250	15	6.0	235	94.0
Indiana					
Northern	281	21	7.5	260	92.5
Southern	434	40	9.2	394	90.8
Wisconsin					
Eastern	230	49	21.3	181	78.7
Western	178	13	7.3	165	92.7
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>89.8</b>
Arkansas					
Eastern	185	6	3.2	179	96.8
Western	27	2	7.4	25	92.6
Iowa					
Northern	386	22	5.7	364	94.3
Southern	558	46	8.2	512	91.8
Minnesota	462	99	21.4	363	78.6
Missouri					
Eastern	446	46	10.3	400	89.7
Western	587	55	9.4	532	90.6
Nebraska	188	22	11.7	166	88.3
North Dakota	166	7	4.2	159	95.8
South Dakota	169	18	10.7	151	89.3



**Table 3 (cont.)**

CIRCUIT District	TOTAL	Granted		Denied	
	N	N	%	N	%
<b>NINTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>72.1</b>
Alaska	131	28	21.4	103	78.6
Arizona	63	21	33.3	42	66.7
California					
Central	289	93	32.2	196	67.8
Eastern	373	61	16.4	312	83.6
Northern	304	112	36.8	192	63.2
Southern	247	96	38.9	151	61.1
Guam	16	8	50.0	8	50.0
Hawaii	220	38	17.3	182	82.7
Idaho	23	8	34.8	15	65.2
Montana	246	30	12.2	216	87.8
Nevada	79	35	44.3	44	55.7
Northern Mariana Islands	6	1	16.7	5	83.3
Oregon	169	100	59.2	69	40.8
Washington					
Eastern	131	27	20.6	104	79.4
Western	298	65	21.8	233	78.2
<b>TENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>76.4</b>
Colorado	190	29	15.3	161	84.7
Kansas	234	98	41.9	136	58.1
New Mexico	57	21	36.8	36	63.2
Oklahoma					
Eastern	68	4	5.9	64	94.1
Northern	89	34	38.2	55	61.8
Western	81	3	3.7	78	96.3
Utah	177	26	14.7	151	85.3
Wyoming	107	22	20.6	85	79.4
<b>ELEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>88.3</b>
Alabama					
Middle	130	7	5.4	123	94.6
Northern	150	21	14.0	129	86.0
Southern	155	15	9.7	140	90.3
Florida					
Middle	886	51	5.8	835	94.2
Northern	115	46	40.0	69	60.0
Southern	1,108	147	13.3	961	86.7
Georgia					
Middle	238	4	1.7	234	98.3
Northern	174	80	46.0	94	54.0
Southern	272	6	2.2	266	97.8

<sup>1</sup> Of the 26,212 cases reported to the Commission, 796 were excluded due to indeterminable motion status.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 4****MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE  
BY YEAR OF ORIGINAL SENTENCE<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Granted</b>		<b>Denied</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,310</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>21,116</b>	<b>83.4</b>
2022	14	3	21.4	11	78.6
2021	429	48	11.2	381	88.8
2020	2,719	391	14.4	2,328	85.6
2019	4,195	564	13.4	3,631	86.6
2018	3,142	442	14.1	2,700	85.9
2017	2,421	297	12.3	2,124	87.7
2016	1,856	228	12.3	1,628	87.7
2015	1,642	246	15.0	1,396	85.0
2014	1,364	202	14.8	1,162	85.2
2013	1,182	221	18.7	961	81.3
2012	962	195	20.3	767	79.7
2011	771	130	16.9	641	83.1
2010	670	122	18.2	548	81.8
2009	642	129	20.1	513	79.9
2008	530	120	22.6	410	77.4
2007	424	89	21.0	335	79.0
2006	361	103	28.5	258	71.5
2005	286	80	28.0	206	72.0
2004	262	69	26.3	193	73.7
2003	210	57	27.1	153	72.9
2002	169	49	29.0	120	71.0
2001	143	52	36.4	91	63.6
2000	158	60	38.0	98	62.0
1999	120	46	38.3	74	61.7
1998	103	38	36.9	65	63.1
1997	120	34	28.3	86	71.7
1996	97	42	43.3	55	56.7
1995	82	40	48.8	42	51.2
1994	77	28	36.4	49	63.6
1993	70	25	35.7	45	64.3
1992	47	18	38.3	29	61.7
1991	30	18	60.0	12	40.0
1990	12	8	66.7	4	33.3

<sup>1</sup> Of the 25,416 cases reported to the Commission, 100 were excluded from this analysis because the cases cannot be matched with an original case in the Commission's records.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 5**

**ORIGIN OF GRANTED MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE<sup>1</sup>**

CIRCUIT	Total	Defendant		Director BOP		Attorney for the Government		Joint Motion <sup>2</sup>	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>4,071</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2.5</b>
D.C. CIRCUIT	57	56	98.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
FIRST CIRCUIT	167	164	98.2	1	0.6	0	0.0	2	1.2
SECOND CIRCUIT	390	389	99.7	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
THIRD CIRCUIT	213	201	94.4	2	0.9	0	0.0	10	4.7
FOURTH CIRCUIT	736	728	98.9	5	0.7	1	0.1	2	0.3
FIFTH CIRCUIT	240	231	96.3	7	2.9	2	0.8	0	0.0
SIXTH CIRCUIT	415	406	97.8	4	1.0	0	0.0	5	1.2
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	348	341	98.0	4	1.1	0	0.0	3	0.9
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	323	285	88.2	1	0.3	0	0.0	37	11.5
NINTH CIRCUIT	722	669	92.7	7	1.0	2	0.3	44	6.1
TENTH CIRCUIT	237	231	97.5	4	1.7	0	0.0	2	0.8
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT	377	370	98.1	5	1.3	2	0.5	0	0.0

<sup>1</sup> Of the 4,234 cases in which the court granted a motion for compassionate release, nine cases were excluded from this analysis because the information received by the Commission prevented a determination of motion origin.

<sup>2</sup> Joint motion by the defendant and the attorney for the government.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 6****DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR OFFENDERS MAKING MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Demographics</b>	<b>Granted</b>		<b>Denied</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White	1,348	32.2	6,578	31.2
Black	1,910	45.7	10,224	48.5
Hispanic	757	18.1	3,542	16.8
Other	166	4.0	721	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,181</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21,065</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Citizenship</b>				
U.S. Citizen	3,781	91.0	19,443	92.3
Non-Citizen	374	9.0	1,623	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21,066</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	3,819	90.2	19,241	90.9
Female	413	9.8	1,931	9.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21,172</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Average Age at Original Sentence</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	
<b>Average Age at Release</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Of the 25,416 cases reported to the Commission, cases were excluded from each section of this table due to the following reasons: missing race information (170), missing citizenship information (195), missing gender information (12), and missing age information (153).

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 7**

**SELECTED SENTENCING FACTORS FOR OFFENDERS  
MAKING MOTIONS FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Sentencing Factors</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Denied</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Weapon<sup>2,3</sup></b>	34.1	34.3
Weapon Specific Offense Characteristic	16.8	19.3
Firearms Mandatory Minimum Applied	20.3	17.5
<b>Safety Valve<sup>2</sup></b>	9.1	7.0
<b>Guideline Role Adjustments<sup>2</sup></b>		
Aggravating Role (USSG §3B1.1)	17.4	16.5
Mitigating Role (USSG §3B1.2)	4.0	2.0
Obstruction Adjustment (USSG §3C1.1)	9.0	7.7
<b>Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range</b>		
Within Range	45.0	48.6
Above Range	2.4	4.5
Below Range	52.6	47.0
<b>Criminal History Category</b>		
I	29.9	25.8
II	10.1	9.6
III	14.3	15.5
IV	10.2	11.1
V	6.5	7.9
VI	29.1	30.2
<b>Career Offender (§4B1.1)<sup>2</sup></b>	17.7	17.0

<sup>1</sup> Of the 25,416 cases reported to the Commission, 100 were excluded from this analysis because the cases cannot be matched with an original case in the Commission's records.

<sup>2</sup> This section was limited to the 24,361 cases with complete guideline application information.

<sup>3</sup> In 594 cases the court applied the weapon specific offense characteristic and the offender was also convicted of a firearms offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 8****TYPE OF CRIME FOR OFFENDERS  
RECEIVING COMPASSIONATE RELEASE<sup>1</sup>**

<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,181</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Administration of Justice	14	0.3
Antitrust	2	0.0
Arson	9	0.2
Assault	22	0.5
Bribery/Corruption	22	0.5
Burglary/Trespass	0	0.0
Child Pornography	134	3.2
Commercialized Vice	4	0.1
Drug Possession	1	0.0
Drug Trafficking	2,222	53.1
Environmental	4	0.1
Extortion/Racketeering	13	0.3
Firearms	513	12.3
Food and Drug	0	0.0
Forgery/Counter/Copyright	6	0.1
Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement	368	8.8
Immigration	42	1.0
Individual Rights	7	0.2
Kidnapping	8	0.2
Manslaughter	1	0.0
Money Laundering	146	3.5
Murder	76	1.8
National Defense	11	0.3
Obscenity/Other Sex Offenses	4	0.1
Prison Offenses	13	0.3
Robbery	425	10.2
Sexual Abuse	66	1.6
Stalking/Harassing	3	0.1
Tax	42	1.0
Other	3	0.1

<sup>1</sup> Of the 4,234 cases in which the court granted a motion for compassionate release, 38 were excluded from this analysis because the cases cannot be matched with an original case in the Commission's records. Of the remaining cases, 15 were excluded due to missing information on the type of crime.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 9****TYPE OF CRIME FOR OFFENDERS  
DENIED COMPASSIONATE RELEASE<sup>1</sup>**

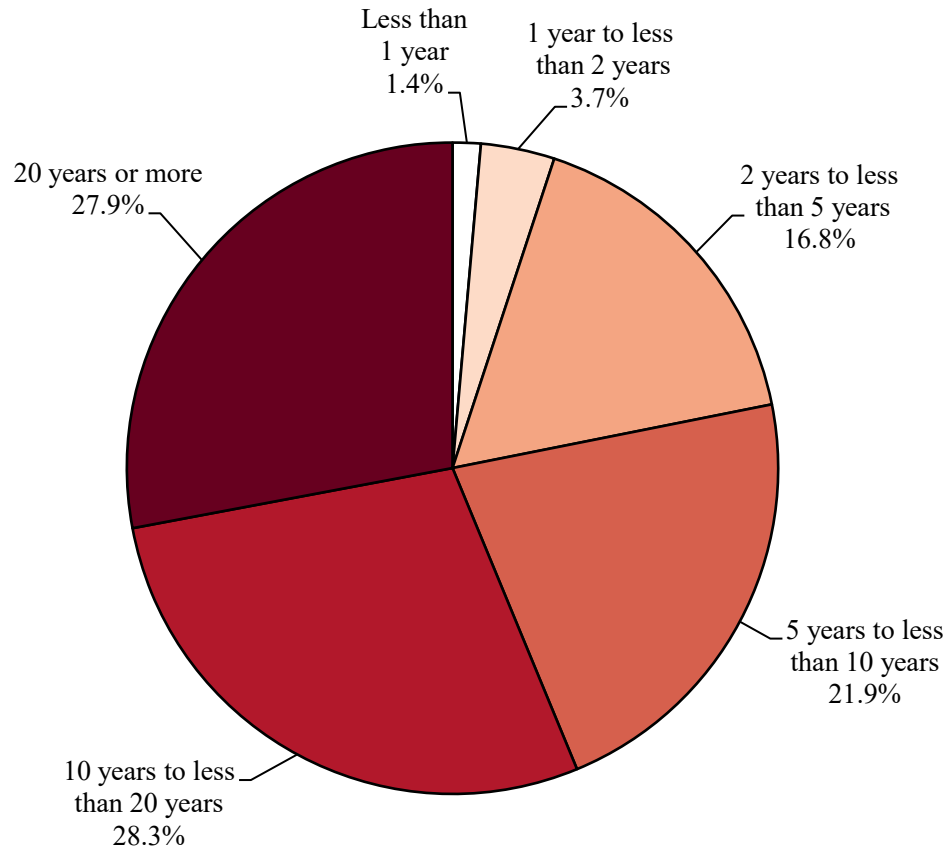
<b>TYPE OF CRIME</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,102</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Administration of Justice	51	0.2
Antitrust	2	0.0
Arson	43	0.2
Assault	172	0.8
Bribery/Corruption	58	0.3
Burglary/Trespass	5	0.0
Child Pornography	895	4.2
Commercialized Vice	15	0.1
Drug Possession	2	0.0
Drug Trafficking	10,917	51.7
Environmental	3	0.0
Extortion/Racketeering	74	0.4
Firearms	3,104	14.7
Food and Drug	6	0.0
Forgery/Counter/Copyright	16	0.1
Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement	1,545	7.3
Immigration	97	0.5
Individual Rights	29	0.1
Kidnapping	108	0.5
Manslaughter	8	0.0
Money Laundering	589	2.8
Murder	490	2.3
National Defense	47	0.2
Obscenity/Other Sex Offenses	25	0.1
Prison Offenses	76	0.4
Robbery	1,698	8.0
Sexual Abuse	811	3.8
Stalking/Harassing	49	0.2
Tax	148	0.7
Other	19	0.1

<sup>1</sup> Of the 21,182 cases in which the court denied a motion for compassionate release, 62 were excluded from this analysis because the cases cannot be matched with an original case in the Commission's records. Of the remaining cases, 18 were excluded due to missing information on the type of crime.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Figure 2**

**ORIGINAL SENTENCE LENGTH FOR OFFENDERS RECEIVING COMPASSIONATE RELEASE<sup>1</sup>**



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<sup>1</sup> Of the 4,234 cases in which the court granted a motion for compassionate release, information on the original sentence length was missing in 80 cases.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.



**Table 10**  
**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR**  
**FOR GRANTED MOTIONS<sup>1</sup>**  
**Fiscal Year 2020**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
COVID-19/pandemic	1,303	61.5
Missing/no reason provided	254	12.0
Serious physical or medical condition (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(ii))	187	8.8
Terminal illness (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(i))	68	3.2
Rehabilitation	49	2.3
Age 65 and deteriorating health and served 10 years/75% (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(B))	43	2.0
Multiple 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) penalties	37	1.7
Extraordinary and compelling (not specified)	34	1.6
Deteriorating physical or mental health due to aging process (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A))	25	1.2
Family circumstance - care for minor child (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(C))	23	1.1
Nearly meets requirements of USSG §1B1.13, Notes (1)(A)-(C)	17	0.8
Career Offender issues	11	0.5
Serious functional or cognitive impairment (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(ii))	10	0.5
Family circumstance - care for spouse or registered partner (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(C))	8	0.4
21 U.S.C. § 851 enhanced drug penalties	7	0.3
Other mandatory minimum penalties/long sentence	6	0.3
Mandatory nature of guideline at sentencing	4	0.2
BOP failure to provide treatment	3	0.1
Age 70 and served 30 years of sentence (18 U.S.C. § 3559)	2	0.1
Safety Valve disqualification	2	0.1
BOP Program Statement	1	0.0
Other	23	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,117</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The court granted a motion for compassionate release in 1,821 cases in Fiscal Year 2020. Courts may cite multiple reasons for granting motions; consequently, the total number of granted reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 2,117 reasons were cited for the 1,821 cases.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 11**  
**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS**  
**FOR DENIAL OF MOTION<sup>1</sup>**  
**Fiscal Year 2020**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
18 U.S.C § 3553(a) factors	2,159	22.5
Not at risk from COVID/pandemic	2,105	21.9
Failure to exhaust administrative remedies	1,714	17.8
No extraordinary and compelling reason provided	1,109	11.5
Protection of the public	1,019	10.6
Insufficient proof of serious physical and medical condition	430	4.5
Defendant able to provide self-care in prison	196	2.0
Does not meet age or length of time served requirement under 18 U.S.C. § 3559	179	1.9
Missing/no reason provided	164	1.7
Rehabilitation insufficient	84	0.9
Post-sentencing/post-conviction conduct	59	0.6
Other care available for minor child	53	0.6
Insufficient proof of deteriorating physical or mental health	17	0.2
Other care available for spouse or partner	17	0.2
Insufficient proof of serious functional or cognitive impairment	11	0.1
Mandatory minimum penalty	8	0.1
Binding plea agreement	6	0.1
Other	277	2.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,607</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The court denied a motion for compassionate release in 5,459 cases in Fiscal Year 2020. Courts may cite multiple reasons for denying motions; consequently, the total number of denial reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 9,607 reasons were cited for the 5,459 cases.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 12**  
**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR**  
**FOR GRANTED MOTIONS<sup>1</sup>**  
**Fiscal Year 2021**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
COVID-19/pandemic	1,276	50.2
Missing/no reason provided	293	11.5
Rehabilitation	237	9.3
Serious physical or medical condition (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(ii))	158	6.2
Multiple 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) penalties	145	5.7
Family circumstance - care for minor child (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(C))	50	2.0
Extraordinary and compelling (not specified)	48	1.9
Terminal illness (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(i))	47	1.8
21 U.S.C. § 851 enhanced drug penalties	41	1.6
Career Offender issues	26	1.0
Nearly meets requirements of USSG §1B1.13, Notes (1)(A)-(C)	24	0.9
Other mandatory minimum penalties/long sentence	21	0.8
Deteriorating physical or mental health due to aging process (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A))	20	0.8
Age 65 and deteriorating health and served 10 years/75% (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(B))	20	0.8
Mandatory nature of guideline at sentencing	15	0.6
Family circumstance - care for spouse or registered partner (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(C))	10	0.4
Serious functional or cognitive impairment (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(ii))	6	0.2
Conviction/sentencing errors	6	0.2
Guideline amendment	6	0.2
BOP failure to provide treatment	5	0.2
ACCA issues	5	0.2
Age 70 and served 30 years of sentence (18 U.S.C. § 3559)	3	0.1
Safety Valve disqualification	2	0.1
BOP Program Statement	1	0.0
Other	78	3.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The court granted a motion for compassionate release in 2,052 cases in Fiscal Year 2021. Courts may cite multiple reasons for granting motions; consequently, the total number of granted reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 2,543 reasons were cited for the 2,052 cases.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 13**  
**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS**  
**FOR DENIAL OF MOTION<sup>1</sup>**  
**Fiscal Year 2021**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
18 U.S.C § 3553(a) factors	7,360	31.0
No extraordinary and compelling reason provided	4,016	16.9
Not at risk from COVID/pandemic	3,840	16.2
Protection of the public	2,168	9.1
Failure to exhaust administrative remedies	1,979	8.3
Insufficient proof of serious physical and medical condition	1,069	4.5
Defendant able to provide self-care in prison	616	2.6
Does not meet age or length of time served requirement under 18 U.S.C. § 3559	446	1.9
Missing/no reason provided	350	1.5
Other care available for minor child	200	0.8
Rehabilitation insufficient	174	0.7
Post-sentencing/post-conviction conduct	119	0.5
Insufficient proof of deteriorating physical or mental health	30	0.1
Other care available for spouse or partner	28	0.1
Binding plea agreement	25	0.1
Mandatory minimum penalty	16	0.1
Insufficient proof of serious functional or cognitive impairment	6	0.0
Other	1,264	5.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,706</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The court denied a motion for compassionate release in 13,236 cases in Fiscal Year 2021. Courts may cite multiple reasons for denying motions; consequently, the total number of denial reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 23,706 reasons were cited for the 13,236 cases.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 14**  
**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS FOR**  
**FOR GRANTED MOTIONS<sup>1</sup>**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**  
**(October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022)**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
COVID-19/pandemic	92	17.7
Rehabilitation	74	14.2
Serious physical or medical condition (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(ii))	52	10.0
Multiple 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) penalties	51	9.8
Missing/no reason provided	48	9.2
Terminal illness (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(i))	26	5.0
Extraordinary and compelling (not specified)	25	4.8
Family circumstance - care for minor child (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(C))	16	3.1
Career Offender issues	15	2.9
Deteriorating physical or mental health due to aging process (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A))	13	2.5
Age 65 and deteriorating health and served 10 years/75% (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(B))	13	2.5
21 U.S.C. § 851 enhanced drug penalties	13	2.5
Nearly meets requirements of USSG §1B1.13, Notes (1)(A)-(C)	12	2.3
Other mandatory minimum penalties/long sentence	10	1.9
Conviction/sentencing errors	5	1.0
Family circumstance - care for spouse or registered partner (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(C))	4	0.8
Mandatory nature of guideline at sentencing	3	0.6
Age 70 and served 30 years of sentence (18 U.S.C. § 3559)	2	0.4
BOP failure to provide treatment	2	0.4
ACCA issues	2	0.4
Serious functional or cognitive impairment (USSG §1B1.13, Note 1(A)(ii))	1	0.2
Other	41	7.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The court granted a motion for compassionate release in 361 cases in the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2022. Courts may cite multiple reasons for granting motions; consequently, the total number of granted reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 520 reasons were cited for the 361 cases.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.

**Table 15**

**REASONS GIVEN BY SENTENCING COURTS  
FOR DENIAL OF MOTION<sup>1</sup>  
Fiscal Year 2022  
(October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022)**

<b>REASONS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
18 U.S.C § 3553(a) factors	1,350	27.9
Not at risk from COVID/pandemic	896	18.5
No extraordinary and compelling reason provided	750	15.5
Insufficient proof of serious physical and medical condition	340	7.0
Failure to exhaust administrative remedies	278	5.7
Protection of the public	274	5.7
Defendant able to provide self-care in prison	234	4.8
Rehabilitation insufficient	159	3.3
Other care available for minor child	85	1.8
Does not meet age or length of time served requirement under 18 U.S.C. § 3559	61	1.3
Missing/no reason provided	44	0.9
Other care available for spouse or partner	16	0.3
Post-sentencing/post-conviction conduct	9	0.2
Binding plea agreement	8	0.2
Insufficient proof of deteriorating physical or mental health	4	0.1
Mandatory minimum penalty	3	0.1
Insufficient proof of serious functional or cognitive impairment	2	0.0
Other	326	6.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,839</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> The court denied a motion for compassionate release in 2,487 cases in the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2022. Courts may cite multiple reasons for denying motions; consequently, the total number of denial reasons cited generally exceeds the total number of cases. In this table, 4,839 reasons were cited for the 2,487 cases.

SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission, Compassionate Release Datafile.