



Delaware Department of Justice
Data-Driven Decision Lab (D3L)

Attempted Murder Charges

January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

To: Corie Priest, Director of Community Engagement
From: Ishrat Azeem, Data Visualization Specialist
Date: 04/13/2026
Subject: Attempted Murder Charges From January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025

Purpose

This memo was prepared at the request of Corie Priest, Director of Community Engagement to analyze the number of individuals who have been charged under Attempted Murder 1st Degree and Attempted Murder 2nd Degree from 2024 through 2025.

Summary

- There were 75 attempted murder charges brought against 44 individuals.
- Municipal police departments shoulder the majority of the policing burden, particularly in Wilmington.
- Eighty-four percent of attempted murders occurred in Wilmington.

Methodology

Data was extracted from DELJIS via COGNOS and exported to Excel using queries filtered for Attempted Murder 1st and Attempted Murder 2nd charges. The dataset was cleaned and aggregated using SQL Server Management Studio. A Power BI dashboard was developed to support visual analysis. Data were further filtered by agency and selected cities.

Data Limitations

- There are no recorded cases of Attempted Murder 2nd Degree in the dataset. The absence of Attempted Murder 2nd Degree charges across the dataset raises potential classification or charging considerations. This may reflect statutory preference,

- prosecutorial discretion, or data coding practices rather than a true absence of qualifying incidents.
- Middletown does not have any recorded Attempted Murder data within the selected timeframe.

Findings

Attempted Murder charges are highly concentrated both geographically and operationally. Of the 75 charges during the 2024–2025 period, 84% were associated with Wilmington alone, indicating that this offense type is overwhelmingly urban and localized rather than statewide.

This level of concentration is even more pronounced than overall violent crime patterns, suggesting that attempted homicide is not just clustered, but intensely concentrated in a single jurisdiction. This has direct implications for both enforcement and prosecution, as trends in Wilmington will largely determine statewide patterns for this charge.

From an agency perspective, City police departments, particularly Wilmington Police Department, are the primary drivers of these cases, accounting for the majority of charges. This indicates that prosecutorial workload and case outcomes for attempted murder are heavily dependent on municipal investigations, especially in Wilmington.

Additionally, the sharp decline in Wilmington charges from 2024 (43) to 2025 (20) warrants further examination. While this may suggest a reduction in incidents, it could also reflect changes in enforcement, charging decisions, or reporting timelines. Given the relatively small total volume, year-over-year fluctuations should be interpreted cautiously.

Overall, the data suggests that attempted murder in Delaware is highly localized (Wilmington-driven), operationally dependent on a single police agency, and sensitive to small changes in volume and classification.

- Of the 75 charges, 63 charges were associated with Wilmington (2024: 43 Charges, 2025: 20 Charges) representing the highest number among the selected cities.
 - Wilmington PD: 57
 - DSP: 1
 - New Castle County PD: 2
 - Other Agencies: 3
- Distribution by agency:
 - City Police Departments: 65
 - DSP: 5
 - NCCPD: 2
 - Other Agencies: 3

Figure 1: Charges by City

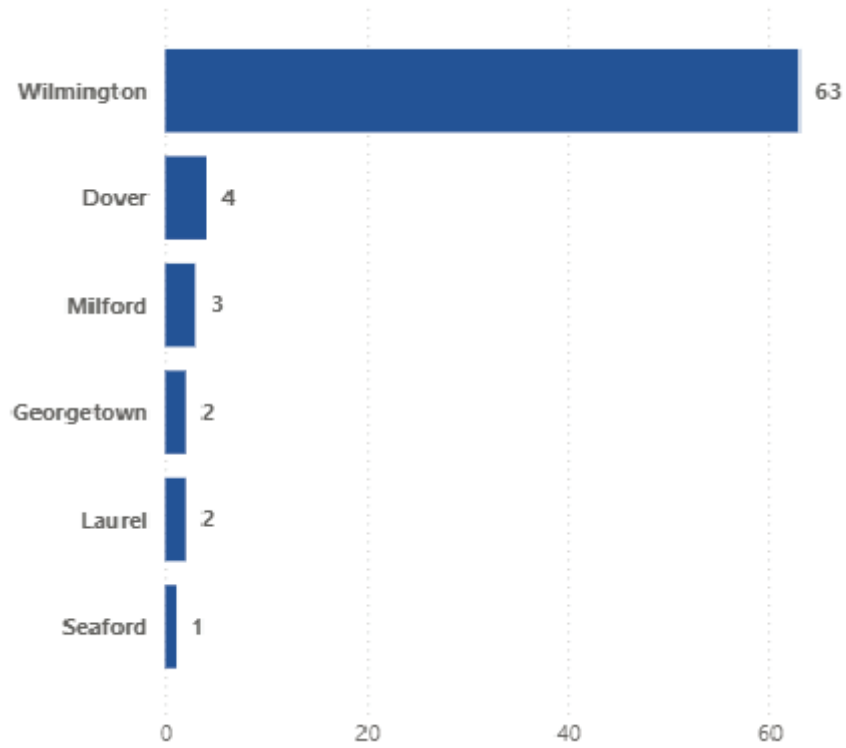


Figure 2: Charges by Agency

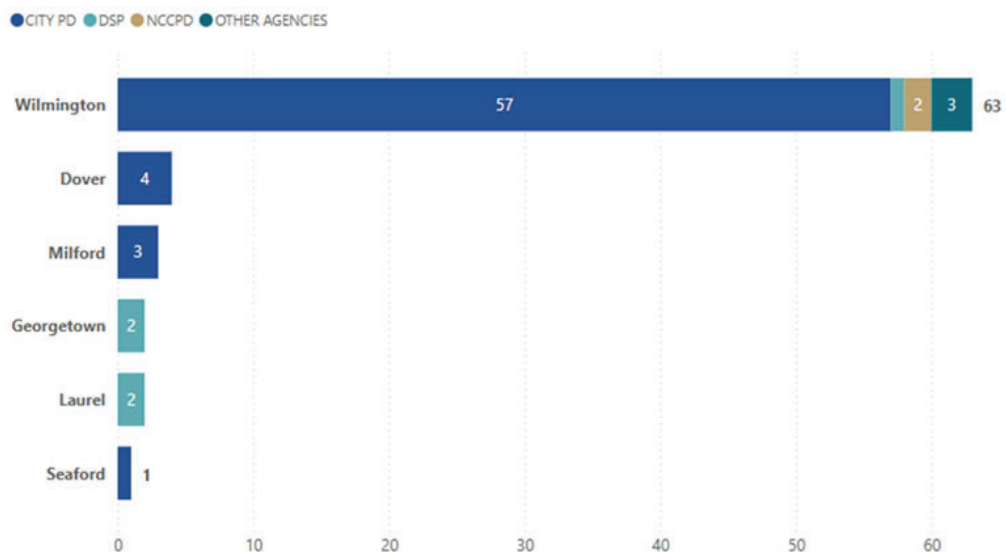
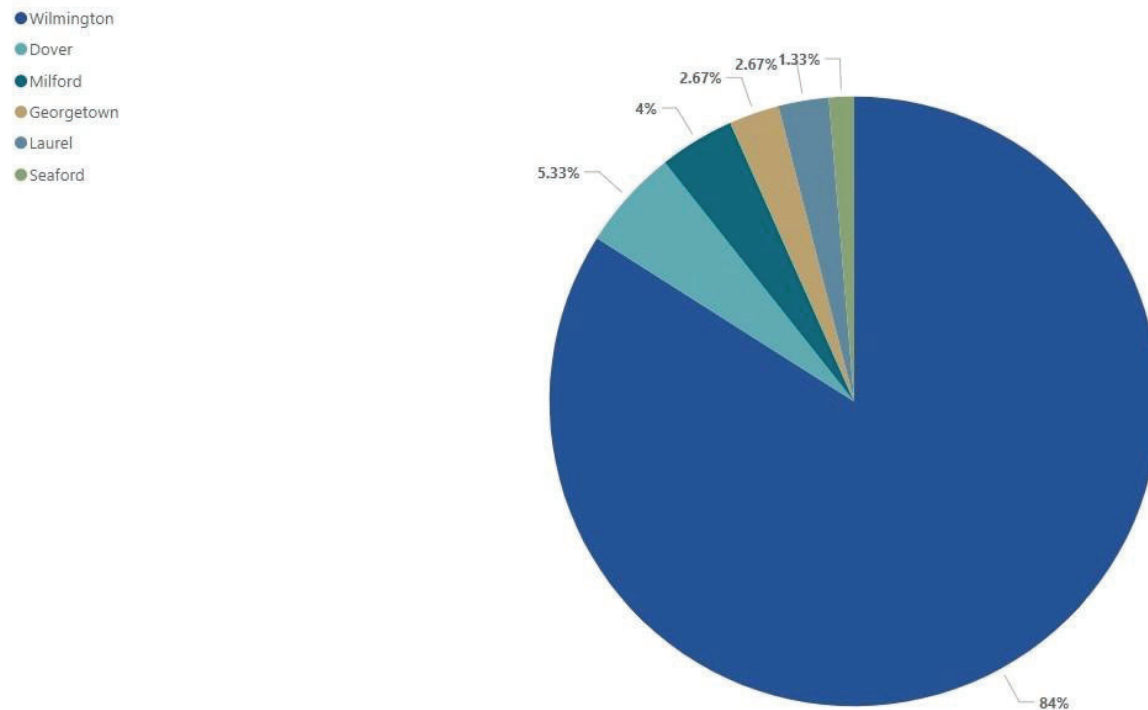


Figure 3: Percent of Charges



- Eighty-four percent of the charges were attributable to cases in Wilmington.
- The distribution of charges for the remainder of cities (16%) is as follows:
 - Dover: 5.33%
 - Georgetown: 2.67%
 - Laurel: 2.67%
 - Milford: 4.00%
 - Seaford: 1.33