



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

Violent Crime Charges

January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

To: Corie Priest, Director of Community Engagement
From: Rapsody J. Johnson, Director of Research, Planning, and Special Projects
Date: April 2, 2026
Subject: Violent Crime Charges (January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025)

Overview

This memo responds to your request for statewide Violent Crime data from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025. Specifically, you requested:

- The total number of violent crimes statewide,
- The total number of crimes in select cities

For the purpose of this data extract, “violent crimes” refers to crimes as enumerated under Title 11, § 3901(e).

These include: Title 11, Section

- 803 Arson in the first degree
- 826 Burglary in the first degree
- 825 Burglary in the second degree
- 826A Home Invasion
- 636 Murder in the first degree
- 635 Murder in the second degree
- 632 Manslaughter
- 783 Kidnapping in the second degree
- 783A Kidnapping in the first degree

606 Abuse of a pregnant female in the first degree

613 Assault in the first degree

832 Robbery in the first degree

836 Carjacking in the first degree

772 Rape in the second degree

773 Rape in the first degree

777A Sex offender unlawful sexual conduct against a child

778(1), (2) or (3) Sexual Abuse of a Child by a Person in a Position of Trust, Authority or Supervision in the First Degree

1254 Assault in a detention facility

1447A Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony or for any sentence for Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited where the criminal defendant was previously convicted of a Title 11 violent felony.

Summary

- From January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, 3304 violent crimes occurred.
- During that same period, there were 189 charges brought: 96 in 2023 and 93 in 2024.

Methodology

Data were extracted from DELJIS via COGNOS using queries filtered by violent Crimes, per Title 11, § 3901(e) and date range. The data was cleaned and aggregated using JMP statistical software.

Data Limitations

- Arrest date was used rather than the occurrence date because this list includes sexual abuse cases. As sexual abuse is often not discovered or disclosed until years after the fact and there is no statute of limitation on these crimes, the arrest date was used so not to exclude crimes committed decades earlier but brought to light within the requested time period.
- Any attempts of the listed crimes (e.g., Attempted Murder First, Attempted Rape Second) were not include in this extraction.

Findings

The data show a high and sustained level of violent crime activity across Delaware during the 2024–2025 period, with 3,441 total charges across 2,516 cases involving 1,344 individuals. While total charges declined from 2024 (1,832) to 2025 (1,608), the reduction is modest and does not indicate a substantial shift in overall violent crime patterns.

A significant driver of the total volume is firearm-related offenses under §1447A, which account for 1,334 charges, approximately 39% of all violent crime charges.¹ This concentration suggests that firearm involvement is a central feature of violent crime in Delaware and may warrant targeted intervention strategies focused on illegal possession and repeat offenders.

Violent crime is also highly concentrated geographically. Just seven cities account for 57% of all charges, with Wilmington alone representing 1,141 charges, or roughly one-third of the statewide total.² Dover is a distant second with 381 charges, followed by smaller but still notable concentrations in Seaford, Milford, and Georgetown. This clustering indicates that violent crime is not evenly distributed but instead concentrated in specific jurisdictions, suggesting that place-based strategies could yield disproportionate impact.

Looking at offense types, burglary (first and second degree combined: 777 charges) and robbery (430 charges) remain consistently high-volume crimes. These offenses, often tied to economic drivers and repeat offending patterns, appear relatively stable year-over-year, indicating persistent underlying conditions rather than short-term fluctuations.

More severe offenses such as murder (125 total across first and second degree) and rape (232 total across first and second degree) show lower absolute counts but remain critical due to their severity and impact. Notably, several categories (e.g., home invasion, carjacking, and abuse of a pregnant female) show zero reported charges, which may reflect either true absence, underreporting, or classification/reporting inconsistencies rather than definitive lack of occurrence.

The year-over-year decline observed in several categories (e.g., first-degree assault, rape, and firearm-related charges) could indicate early signs of improvement, but the short timeframe and continued high baseline levels suggest caution in interpreting this as a sustained trend. Additionally, the use of arrest date rather than offense date introduces variability, particularly for crimes such as sexual assault, where reporting delays are common.

Overall, the data point to three key realities:

1. Violent crime in Delaware is heavily concentrated both geographically and by offense type.
2. Firearm-related charges are a dominant component of violent crime activity.
3. While there are slight declines in 2025, the overall level of violent crime remains elevated and structurally persistent.

¹ See Table 1.

² See Table 2.

These patterns suggest that broad, statewide approaches may be less effective than targeted strategies focused on high-incidence locations, repeat offenders, and firearm-related enforcement and prevention.

Table 1: Violent Crimes by Year (Annual Totals)

CHARGE	TITLE	2024	2025	TOTAL
Arson in the first degree	803	7	10	17
Burglary in the first degree	826	185	170	355
Burglary in the second degree	825	206	216	422
Home Invasion	826A	0	0	0
Murder in the first degree	636	67	44	111
Murder in the second degree	635	6	8	14
Manslaughter	632	16	10	26
Kidnapping in the second degree	783	24	5	29
Kidnapping in the first degree	783A	21	16	37
Abuse of a pregnant female in the first degree	606	0	0	0
Assault in the first degree	613	138	107	245
Robbery in the first degree	832	211	219	430
Carjacking in the first degree	836	0	0	0
Rape in the second degree	772	99	59	158
Rape in the first degree	773	42	32	74
Sex offender unlawful sexual conduct against a child	777A	37	36	73
Sexual Abuse of a Child by a Person in a Position of Trust, Authority or Supervision in the First Degree	778(1), (2), or (3)	28	34	62
1254 Assault in a detention facility	1254	39	14	53
1447A Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony or for any sentence for Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited where the criminal defendant was previously convicted of a Title 11 violent felony.	1447A	706	628	1334
TOTAL	--	1832	1608	3440

Table 2. Violent Crimes by Select City and Year

LOCATION	2024	2025	TOTAL
Dover	221	160	381
Georgetown	55	40	95
Laurel	45	41	86
Middletown	27	43	70
Milford	57	50	107
Seaford	64	57	121
Wilmington	598	543	1141

Figure 1 highlights a clear distribution pattern in how violent crime charges are generated across law enforcement agencies, with activity largely concentrated among a small number of primary policing bodies.

City police departments account for the majority of charges, which is consistent with the geographic concentration of violent crime in municipalities such as Wilmington, Dover, and other incorporated areas. This reinforces the earlier finding that violent crime is primarily an urban issue, with municipal agencies bearing the largest operational burden for both enforcement and case initiation.

The Delaware State Police (DSP) appear to play a significant but more geographically diffuse role. Their contribution likely reflects coverage in unincorporated and rural areas, as well as support functions such as highway enforcement and specialized units. The presence of DSP across all counties suggests they serve as both a primary agency in non-municipal areas and a supplemental force in complex or multi-jurisdictional cases.

New Castle County Police Department (NCCPD) represents a more targeted contributor, limited to specific jurisdictions within New Castle County. Their relatively narrower footprint but meaningful contribution indicates overlap in policing authority in certain areas, which may lead to shared responsibility (or fragmentation) in enforcement depending on coordination practices.

“Other agencies” contribute only a small fraction of charges, indicating that smaller or specialized departments (e.g., UD Campus Police, Capitol Police, or the State Fire Marshall) play a minimal role in violent crime charging at the statewide level. However, their presence may still be strategically important in specific contexts or for particular offense types.

Taken together, the distribution suggests a tiered enforcement structure:

- **Primary responsibility:** Municipal police departments in high-density areas
- **Secondary/support role:** Delaware State Police across broader geography
- **Localized/shared jurisdiction:** NCCPD in select areas
- **Minimal but specialized role:** Other agencies

Overall, Figure 1 underscores who is making the arrests and where matters just as much as the volume of crime itself when designing enforcement strategies and policy responses.

Figure 1.

