Shooting Incidents in Delaware
Mapping Supplement for the 2015-2016 Statewide Reports

October 2017

State of Delaware
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Overview

This document contains maps of Delaware shooting incidents for calendar years 2015 and 2016. These maps are intended to supplement the detailed information provided in the 2015 and 2016 versions of *Delaware Shootings: An Overview of Incidents, Suspects, Victims, and Dispositions* (available at https://sac.delaware.gov/crime/).

The maps included in this supplement cover the entire State of Delaware, New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties, and the cities of Wilmington and Dover. These maps distinguish between fatal and non-fatal incidents and between those with a single victim and those with multiple victims. The resolution provides enough information to determine relative incident locations without compromising victim and witness privacy issues.

Mapping Methodology

Once the final set of shooting incidents for each year was identified, complaint numbers and incident characteristic information (fatality versus non-fatality, number of victims) were extracted from each respective database. Complaint numbers were used to query location information from the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).

With the location information available, shooting incidents are plotted on a map of Delaware using the software ArcMAP developed by ESRI. The resulting map plots are reviewed for accuracy (for locations that appear outside of Delaware indicating inaccurate location data, etc.) The shooting circumstance information (fatal/non-fatal and number of victims) was then used to categorize each shooting in one of five categories: Non-Fatal/1 Victim, Non-Fatal/2+ Victims, Fatal/1 Victim, Fatal/Others Injured, and Multiple Fatal. Each category is given a distinct mapping symbol for clarity.

Once all shooting incidents were identified and categorized, the various maps were then created and exported for inclusion into this supplement.

Limitations & Considerations

The maps in this supplement do not cover all instances where a gun is involved or where shots have been fired. Also, shooting-related injuries or deaths that are due to accidental discharges or were self-inflicted are not included in the mapping data set. This supplement specifically examines non-accidental criminal shootings that resulted in the injury or death of another person.

Incident location data in CJIS does not always reflect the true location of an incident. In some circumstances police officers are unable to locate a physical scene and must determine the approximate location based on victim and witness statements. Due to the nature of some
shootings, such as those involving drugs or gang related activity, a victim or witness may not be forthcoming and give accurate location information. In these instances, police officers must estimate the location where the shooting most likely took place based on the totality of evidence (i.e. witness and victim statements, 911 calls, data from video cameras and other means of surveillance.)

Point of Interest

In Wilmington, there were fewer shooting incidents (compared to 2015) in the area west of downtown (bordered by 11th St. to the North, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. to the South, Interstate 95 to the West, and Tatnall St. to the East). However, there were more incidents in the area of the city east of downtown (bounded by 10th St. to the North, 4th St. to the South, Walnut St. to the West, and Church St to the East. Also, incidents that occurred north of the Brandywine River appeared to be more geographically scattered compared to 2015.

In New Castle County, Wilmington incidents dominate the map. However, in 2016 there were more shooting incidents in the county south of the city of New Castle, along and west of the U.S. 13 and 40 corridors.

In Kent County, most incidents (as usual) occur in Dover. However, in 2016 there were fewer incidents in the communities immediately south of the city, as compared to 2015. Dover saw fewer incidents in 2016, overshadowing any changes in geographic distribution within the city.

Relatively few shooting incidents occur in Sussex County, with 2016 being no exception. Incidents are generally widely distributed geographically. However, in 2016 there was a small cluster of incidents in the Seaford area.
For detailed shooting information refer to full report *Delaware Shootings 2016*, page 5
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2015 Delaware Shooting Locations - Wilmington

Types of Shootings
- 2 Deaths (1)
- 1 Death/Others Injured (10)
- 1 Death/No Other Victims (39)
- Non-Fatal/2+ Victims (20)
- Non-Fatal/1 Victim (166)
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