State of Delaware

Crime in Delaware: Geographic Displays of 2015 Offenses

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Statistical Analysis Center
Delaware Criminal Justice Council
In Conjunction with the State
Bureau of Identification
Crime in Delaware: 2011 – 2015
Geographic Displays of 2015 Offenses

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The full Crime in Delaware 2011 – 2015 report is available at:

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The points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the official position of the United States Department of Justice.

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Please visit our website at http://cjc.delaware.gov/sac/publications/crime.shtml
Introduction

_Crime in Delaware: 2011 – 2015_ is the official report of serious crimes known to law enforcement from 2011 through 2015. The report provides extensive data about crime at the state and county levels. This supplement reintroduces a geographic representation of crime data throughout the State of Delaware. This supplement/insert represents an initial effort to re-introduce mapping into our Crime in Delaware reports.

**Note to the reader**

Data for a calendar year are not considered final for the purposes of the _Crime in Delaware_ report until offense counts become sufficiently stable, usually 12 – 15 months after the end of that year. Therefore, the data used to create these maps is preliminary and could change over time due to delayed reporting.


Delaware, the “First State,” is the second smallest state in the United States with a total area of 1,982 square miles. The current Delaware population is estimated at almost 946,000, making it among the least populated states (7th least populous, including Washington, D.C.). Delaware borders New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and has coastal areas on the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay. The state has seen a 5.3% growth in population since 2010, with the number of residents predicted to reach one million by 2020.

Delaware is a diverse state. More than 60% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 65 and 51.6% is female. Delaware’s racial-ethnic composition is 70.4% White, 22.4% African American, 3.9% Asian, 3.3% multi-racial or another race, and 9.0% of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Delaware is composed of three counties: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex. More than half of the state’s population lives in New Castle County (58.9%), while 18.3% live in Kent County, and 22.8% in Sussex County. The largest city, Wilmington, is located in New Castle County and has a population of 71,948 (7.6% of the state’s total, 12.9% of the county’s). Sussex is the state’s fastest growing county, with 9% growth since 2010.

New Castle and Kent County’s demographics generally mirror those of the state. Sussex County, however, is predominantly White (82%), and almost one-quarter of its residents are 65 or older, reflecting a notable influx of retirees due to Delaware favorable housing costs and tax rates and the county’s attractive beach regions. The city of Wilmington differs substantially from State and New Castle averages, with African Americans comprising the majority of residents (58%), fewer senior citizens (12%), and more Hispanic/Latinos (12%).
New Castle County, the state’s northern most county, is the smallest of the three but the most densely populated. The Interstate 95 corridor traverses the county, connecting Delaware with Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Kent County is located in the central part of the state and contains Dover, the state’s capital. Also located in the county is Dover Air Force Base, a major logistical anchor for the U.S. Air Force and the Armed Services Mortuary Service. Sussex County is the state’s largest and southernmost county, comprising almost half of Delaware’s land area and known for its agriculture and chicken industry, as well as its extensive beach areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Delaware</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
<th>Wilmington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>945,934</td>
<td>556,779</td>
<td>173,533</td>
<td>215,622</td>
<td>71,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% under 18 yrs</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>24.4%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 65 and older</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Female</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% White</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
<td>66.0%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% African American</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Asian</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Other</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Demographic estimates (gender, age, and race/ethnicity) for Wilmington for 2015 are not currently available for 2015 from the U.S. Census Bureau. As a result, the most recently available Census Bureau estimates are provided—those from 2010.
Methodology

To create the maps that follow, we extracted complaint numbers and offense codes from Delaware’s 2015 NIBRS trace files (which contain the individual complaint information that is the basis for SBI’s summary reports). Complaint numbers were then used to acquire latitude and longitude data for each complaint via Delaware’s Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).

The resulting location information was then plotted on an ArcGIS Online-provided 2014 map that displays zip code boundaries based on 2014 zip code information along with 2014 population estimates using U.S. Census data. The population estimates in the map data does differ from the statewide population used in the Crime in Delaware report due to the fact of no zip code level population figures being available for 2015 at the time the report was created. The map shows a state population of 927,077 while the Crime in Delaware report shows a population of 943,879. This is about a 1.5% difference. Since this small difference affects both individual zip code crime rates and the state averages used in these maps equally, the comparison between the two would be minimally affected.

Each offense category is represented at a statewide level and also a county level. Due to the size of the map, zip code labels were removed from the statewide level maps to maintain clarity. Some municipality labels were able to be retained for the statewide view.

Considerations and Limitations

It should be noted that population estimates available through ArcGIS and the accompanying zip code map are slightly lower (1.5%) than those listed in the official Crime in Delaware report. The averages contained in the maps are slightly different than those presented in the Crime in Delaware report.

The query of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) returned valid GPS coordinates for more than 99% of all 2015 complaints. Due to automation and improved documentation techniques we expect this very high completion rate to continue in future years.

The unincorporated neighborhood of Yorklyn had to be merged with a larger neighboring zip code. This was done due to Yorklyn showing a population of 2 in the U.S. Census. This caused a very skewed representation when factoring offenses per 1,000 people.
Understanding the Maps

All maps contained in this section are displayed using the “Number of Offenses per 1,000 People” living in that zip code. This was done to fairly compare zip codes with varying populations. A base map of the state and each county with major roadways is included for reference purposes.

The crime maps are separated by county and then crime categories to present the information in the most clear and efficient way. Each county has the four main serious crime categories followed by the six most common, specific crime categories. The four main serious crime categories are All, Violent, Serious Property, Drug and Other Property & Social Offenses. The next section shows the six most common crime categories by offenses: Larceny/Theft, Assault, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property, Drug, Fraud and Burglary Offenses.

Due to the size of the map, zip code identification was removed from the statewide level maps to maintain clarity. Some municipality identification was able to be retained for the statewide view.

It should be noted that a zip code can cover a large, varying geographic area. As a result, the crime rate for a zip code is not a perfect representation of crime rates in all parts of a zip code. Dense pockets of crime in one or more areas alter a zip code’s crime rate as a whole. Therefore, the reader should use caution in making generalizations from a zip code’s rate. A map with all offense locations accompanies the “All Offenses” maps to provide some insight into this phenomenon and demonstrate the fluctuations within zip codes.

1 The “Drug Offenses” map is contained in the main serious crime categories, and also as one of the top 6 specific crimes since there are no sub-categories within that class. The map for “Drug Offenses” for each county can be found in the main crime categories portion of each county.
Statewide Crime Maps

- Base map including major roadways

**Four Main Crime Categories**
- All Offenses
- All Offenses with Offense locations (to show clustering)
- Violent Offenses
- Serious Property Offenses
- Drug Offenses
- Other Property & Social Offenses

**Six Most Common Offenses Statewide**
- Larceny/Theft Offenses
- Assault Offenses
- Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property
- Drug Offenses (refer to identical “Drug Offenses” map within Main Crime portion)
- Fraud Offenses
- Burglary Offenses

For a full description of the State of Delaware and County population figures, demographics and general information please refer back to this report’s Introduction section

For detailed crime information for the State of Delaware and each County please look to the separate *Crime in Delaware 2011-2015* report
2015 Total Offenses Per Capita

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30%-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Total Offenses State Average
89.31 per 1,000 People
23.9 Min/259.89 Max
2015 Serious Property Offenses Per Capita

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Serious Property Offenses State Average
28.9 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/115.94 Max
2015 Drug Offenses Per Capita

Statewide

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30%-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Drug Offenses State Average
12.5 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/39.68 Max
2015 Larceny Offenses Per Capita

Statewide

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-%<50% Below
  - 10-%<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Larceny Offenses State Average
22.04 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/94.2 Max
2015 Assault Offenses Per Capita

Statewide

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Assault Offenses State Average
19.94 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/79.48 Max
2015 Destr. Offenses Per Capita

Statewide

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Destruction of Property Offenses State Average
12.82 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/42.83 Max

Dover Milford Wilmington Newark Middletown Smyrna Lewes Millsboro Seaford Bridgeville Laurel Camden Georgetown Selbyville Millville Milton New Castle Harrington Clayton Delmar Ocean View Cheswold Frederica Dagsboro Delaware City Elsmere Houston Ellendale Townsend Hartford Woodside Smyrna Clayton Kenton Hartly Woodside Milford Little Creek Dover Houston New Castle Harrington Farmington Greenwood Bridgeville Rehoboth Beach Dewey Beach Henlopen Acres Bethany Beach Bethel Laurel Blades Bethel Ocean View Selbyville Henlopen Acres Rehoboth Beach Dewey Beach Henlopen Acres Bethany Beach Bethel Laurel Blades
2015 Fraud Offenses Per Capita

Statewide

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Fraud Offenses State Average
7.35 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/21.51 Max
2015 Burglary Offenses Per Capita

Statewide

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Burglary Offenses State Average
5.29 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/21.74 Max
2015 Total Offenses Per Capita

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30%-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Total Offenses State Average
89.31 per 1,000 People
23.9 Min/259.89 Max
2015 Total Offenses Per Capita

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses in 2015
- Offenses vs State Avg

50+% Below
30-<50% Below
10-<30% Below
<10% Below-10% Above
>10-30% Above
>30%-50% Above
>50% Above

New Castle County

Total Offenses State Average
89.31 per 1,000 People
23.9 Min/259.89 Max
2015 Violent Offenses Per Capita

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Violent Offenses State Average
22.70 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/94.49 Max
2015 Serious Property Offenses Per Capita

New Castle County

Legend

- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Serious Property Offenses State Average
28.9 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/115.94 Max
2015 Drug Offenses Per Capita

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30%-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Drug Offenses State Average
12.5 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/39.68 Max

New Castle County
2015 Larceny Offenses Per Capita

New Castle County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Larceny Offenses State Average
22.04 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/94.2 Max
2015 Assault Offenses Per Capita

New Castle County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries

Offenses vs State Avg
- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30-50% Above
- >50% Above

Assault Offenses State Average
19.94 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/79.48 Max
2015 Destruction Offenses Per Capita

New Castle County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-50% Below
  - 10-30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Destruction of Property Offenses State Average
12.82 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/42.83 Max
2015 Total Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend

State and County Boundaries
- Offenses in 2015

Offenses vs State Avg
- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30%-50% Above
- >50% Above

Total Offenses State Average
89.31 per 1,000 People
23.9 Min/259.89 Max
2015 Violent Offenses Per Capita

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Violent Offenses State Average
22.70 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/94.49 Max
2015 Serious Property Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries

Offenses vs State Avg
- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30-50% Above
- >50% Above

Serious Property Offenses State Average
28.9 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/115.94 Max
2015 Drug Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend

State and County Boundaries

Offenses vs State Avg

- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30%-50% Above
- >50% Above

Drug Offenses State Average
12.5 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/39.68 Max
2015 Other Property/Social Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Other Property/Social Offenses State Average
25.21 per 1,000 People
5.91 Min/71.69 Max
2015 Larceny Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend

- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Larceny Offenses State Average
22.04 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/94.2 Max
2015 Assault Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries

Offenses vs State Avg
- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30-50% Above
- >50% Above

Assault Offenses State Average
19.94 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/79.48 Max
2015 Destruction Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Destruction of Property Offenses State Average
12.82 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/42.83 Max
2015 Fraud Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Fraud Offenses State Average
7.35 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/21.51 Max
2015 Burglary Offenses Per Capita

Kent County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Burglary Offenses State Average
5.29 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/21.74 Max
2015 Total Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30%-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Total Offenses State Average
- 89.31 per 1,000 People
- 23.9 Min/259.89 Max

Sussex County
- Total Offenses Per Capita
- 2015
- Sussex County Map
- Cities and Towns:
  - Milford
  - Lewes
  - Millsboro
  - Seaford
  - Harrington
  - Bridgeville
  - Laurel
  - Harrington
  - Greenwood
  - Ellendale
  - Georgetown
  - Dagsboro
  - Selbyville
  - Frankford
  - Bethany Beach
  - Dewey Beach
  - Rehoboth Beach
  - Bethel
2015 Violent Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries

Offenses vs State Avg
- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30-50% Above
- >50% Above

Violent Offenses State Average
22.70 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/94.49 Max
2015 Serious Property Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend

- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Serious Property Offenses State Average
28.9 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/115.94 Max
2015 Drug Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend

State and County Boundaries

Offenses vs State Avg

- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30%-50% Above
- >50% Above

Drug Offenses State Average
12.5 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/39.68 Max
2015 Other Property/Social Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend

State and County Boundaries
Offenses vs State Avg

50+% Below
30-<50% Below
10-<30% Below
<10% Below-10% Above
>10-30% Above
>30-50% Above
>50% Above

Other Property/Social Offenses State Average
25.21 per 1,000 People
5.91 Min/71.69 Max
2015 Larceny Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries

Offenses vs State Avg
- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30-50% Above
- >50% Above

Larceny Offenses State Average
22.04 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/94.2 Max
2015 Assault Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend

- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Assault Offenses State Average
19.94 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/79.48 Max
2015 Destruction Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend
- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
  - 50+% Below
  - 30-<50% Below
  - 10-<30% Below
  - <10% Below-10% Above
  - >10-30% Above
  - >30-50% Above
  - >50% Above

Destruction of Property Offenses State Average
12.82 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/42.83 Max
2015 Burglary Offenses Per Capita

Sussex County

Legend

- State and County Boundaries
- Offenses vs State Avg
- 50+% Below
- 30-<50% Below
- 10-<30% Below
- <10% Below-10% Above
- >10-30% Above
- >30-50% Above
- >50% Above

Burglary Offenses State Average
5.29 per 1,000 People
0.00 Min/21.74 Max