Crime in Delaware: 2015 – 2019
Geographic Displays of 2019 Offenses

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Director

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The full Crime in Delaware 2015 – 2019 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
Crime in Delaware: 2015 – 2019 is the official report of serious crimes known to law enforcement from 2015 through 2019. The report provides extensive data about crime at the state and county levels. This supplement continues a geographic representation of crime data throughout the State of Delaware.

Introduction

Delaware, the “First State,” is the second smallest state in the United States with a total area of 1,982 square miles. According to the Delaware Population Consortium the 2019 Delaware population was estimated at just over 972,000, 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 2.8% growth in population since 2015, with the number of residents predicted to reach one million around 2025.

Delaware is a diverse state. According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey\(^1\), 60.3% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 65 and 51.6% is female. Delaware’s racial-ethnic composition is 68.2% White, 22.5% Black, 4.0% Asian, 5.3% multi-racial or another race, and almost 9.5% 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 (57.9%), while 18.3% live in Kent County, and 23.8% in Sussex County. The largest city, Wilmington, is located in New Castle County and has a population of 71,670 (7.4% of the state’s total, 12.7% of the county’s).

New Castle and Kent County’s demographics generally mirror those of the state. Sussex County, however, is predominantly White (82.7%), and 27.8% of its residents are 65 or older, reflecting a notable influx of retirees due to Delaware’s 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 Black residents comprising a majority of the population (58.0%) and fewer senior citizens (11.8%).

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.

\(^1\) At the time of this report’s creation, the US Census Bureau did not have 2019 population estimates listed in their American Community Survey tables. The most current 2018 demographic estimates were used for the report.
Service. Sussex County is the state’s largest and southernmost county, comprising almost half of Delaware’s land area and known for its agriculture, chicken industry, and 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>972,332</td>
<td>562,694</td>
<td>178,019</td>
<td>231,619</td>
<td>71,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% under 18 yrs</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 65 and older</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Female</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>51.9%</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% White</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
<td>82.7%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Black</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Asian</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Other</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Demographic estimates (gender, age, and race/ethnicity) for the State of Delaware, Counties and the City of Wilmington were taken from the most current 2018 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) Comparative Demographic Estimates data (Report CP05) due to 2019 estimates not being available.

**Methodology**

To create the maps that follow, we extracted complaint numbers and offense codes from Delaware’s 2019 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 map that displays zip code boundaries based on 2019 zip code information along with 2018 U.S Census population estimates provided within the zip code map layer provided by ESRI’s Living Atlas. The population estimates in the map data differ from the statewide population used in the *Crime in Delaware* report due to the fact that zip code level population figures are not available from the Delaware Population Consortium. The map shows a state population of 988,072 while the *Crime in Delaware* report shows a population of 972,332. This is a 1.6% 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. Zip code labels were removed from the various maps to maintain clarity due to the underlying map layer displaying location names.
Considerations and Limitations

It should be noted that population estimates available through ArcGIS and the accompanying zip code map are slightly higher (1.6%) than those listed in the official *Crime in Delaware* report. The *Crime in Delaware* report derives its population from the Delaware Population Consortium while ArcGIS Pro contains population data that is taken from the ESRI Zip Code Layer and based off U.S. Census Population projections. The averages contained in the maps are slightly different than those presented in the *Crime in Delaware* report due to this difference.

The query of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) returned valid GPS coordinates for almost 100% of all 2019 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 single digit population in the zip code population data. This caused a very skewed representation when factoring offenses per 1,000 people.

Some smaller zip codes still suffer from this low population issue, but it was decided that their populations were more substantial than Yorklyn and they were left in the zip code analysis. Care should be taken to understand how the low population totals for some smaller zip codes can greatly influence the averages displayed there.
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.

The crime maps are separated by county and then crime categories to represent 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.

Crime Mapping Statistics

The below table presents various statistics retrieved from the mapping files that are to be used when comparing various maps and zip codes. Previous reports included some of these values within the map, but they were removed for clarity and presented in a single table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Crime Mapping Statistics</th>
<th>Total Offenses Reported</th>
<th>State Average (Per 1,000 People)</th>
<th>Highest Value (Per 1,000 People)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Offenses</td>
<td>75,348</td>
<td>76.26</td>
<td>235.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Offenses</td>
<td>18,306</td>
<td>18.53</td>
<td>67.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Property Offenses</td>
<td>22,872</td>
<td>23.15</td>
<td>66.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Offenses</td>
<td>13,195</td>
<td>13.35</td>
<td>38.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Property Offenses</td>
<td>20,975</td>
<td>21.23</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Frequent Crimes</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/Theft</td>
<td>18,085</td>
<td>18.30</td>
<td>49.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>16,417</td>
<td>16.62</td>
<td>58.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug</td>
<td>13,195</td>
<td>13.35</td>
<td>38.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Destruction</td>
<td>9,294</td>
<td>9.41</td>
<td>42.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>6,614</td>
<td>6.69</td>
<td>18.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>3,049</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>10.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 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

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 2015-2019 report
All 2019 Offenses Per Capita

- >50% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- >50% Below Avg.
2019 Drug Offenses Per Capita

Drug Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Other Property Offenses Per Capita

Other Property Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Assault Offenses Per Capita

Assault Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Vandalism Offenses Per Capita

Vandalism Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Fraud Offenses Per Capita

Fraud Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
All 2019 Offenses Per Capita
2019 Violent Offenses Per Capita

Violent Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Serious Property Offenses Per Capita
2019 Drug Offenses Per Capita
2019 Other Property Offenses Per Capita

Other Property Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Larceny Offenses Per Capita

Larceny Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Assault Offenses Per Capita

Assault Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Vandalism Offenses Per Capita
2019 Fraud Offenses Per Capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50% Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-50% Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-30% Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within 10% of Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-30% Above Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-50% Above Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50% Above Avg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2019 Violent Offenses Per Capita

Violent Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Serious Property Offenses Per Capita

Serious Property Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Drug Offenses Per Capita

Drug Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Other Property Offenses Per Capita

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Property Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50% Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-50% Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-30% Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within 10% of Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-30% Above Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-50% Above Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50% Above Avg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2019 Assault Offenses Per Capita
2019 Vandalism Offenses Per Capita

Vandalism Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Fraud Offenses Per Capita

Fraud Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
All 2019 Offenses Per Capita

Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Violent Offenses Per Capita

Violent Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Drug Offenses Per Capita

Drug Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
- 10-30% Below Avg.
- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Assault Offenses Per Capita

Assault Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg
- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
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- Within 10% of Avg.
- 10-30% Above Avg.
- 30-50% Above Avg.
- >50% Above Avg.
2019 Vandalism Offenses Per Capita

Vandalism Offenses
Offenses Per Capita Vs State Avg

- >50% Below Avg.
- 30-50% Below Avg.
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- >50% Above Avg.