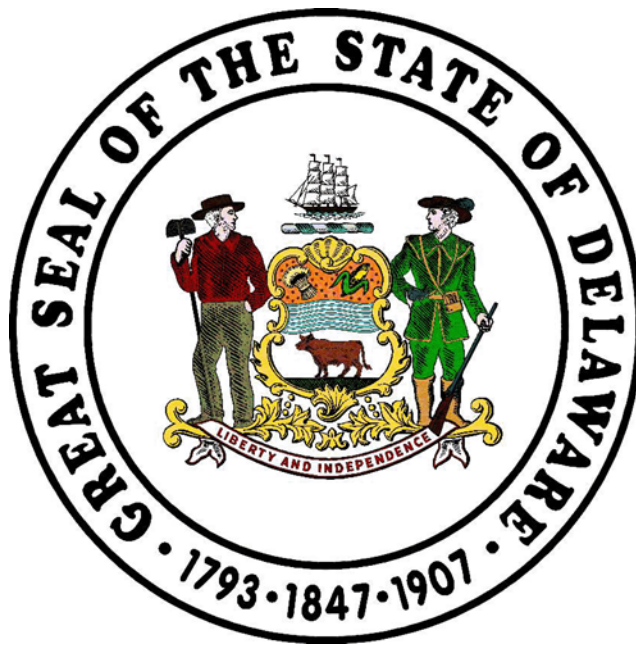


Crime in Delaware 2021 – 2025 Executive Brief



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Prepared by the
Statistical Analysis Center
Delaware Criminal Justice Council
In Conjunction with the
State Bureau of Identification

Crime in Delaware: 2021 – 2025

Executive Brief

An Analysis of Serious Crime in Delaware

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Please visit our website at <http://sac.delaware.gov/>

Crime in Delaware 2021 – 2025

Executive Brief

This executive brief provides an overview of the findings presented in the full report, *Crime in Delaware 2021 – 2025*. *Crime in Delaware* is the official report of serious crime known to Delaware law enforcement agencies. This report covers data about serious crimes reported to state, county, and local police agencies for the years 2021 through 2025. Serious crimes for the purpose of this report are those the Federal Bureau of Investigation identifies as “Group A Offenses” in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The “Group A Offenses” are those more serious/significant crimes such as Murder, Rape, Robbery, Theft, etc. Not covered in this report are NIBRS “Group B” Offenses, which tend to be more minor in nature, such as Curfew/Vagrancy violations and Disorderly Conduct.

Crime in Delaware provides information for 24 Violent, Serious Property, Drug/Narcotic, and Other Property and Social Offenses reported in Delaware’s implementation of NIBRS operated by the State Bureau of Identification of the Delaware State Police. Additional years of data are included in specific graphs to illustrate long-term trends.

The full *Crime in Delaware 2021 – 2025* report contains extensive data and is available on the Statistical Analysis Center’s website (<http://sac.delaware.gov/>).

Detailed jurisdiction-level offense data can be viewed and downloaded from the Delaware Open Data Portal:

<https://data.delaware.gov/Public-Safety/State-of-Delaware-NIBRS-Crime-Report-Totals-by-Jur/8njr-fz7r>

CAUTION

Since the 2017-2021 Crime in Delaware report, the Center has encouraged caution when interpreting statistics from 2020 and 2021 and comparing trends based on the totals for those years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent State of Emergency declarations, court closings, and travel restrictions within the State of Delaware, it was previously not possible to discern if, or how much, those events impacted year-to-year changes in offense totals, though the data suggested differential impacts on crime and arrests.

However, as more regional, national and international research has emerged on the pandemic’s impact on police agencies, correctional systems, judicial systems, and on crime (e.g., Police Executive Research Forum, 2021; Lum, Maupin, & Stoltz, 2022), some patterns have become evident that can inform an exploration of the relationship between the pandemic and Delaware crime during 2020 and 2021. Such an exploration was still in progress as this report was being finalized. Publication of the resulting report is expected to occur later in 2026.

It is important to reiterate that caution for both this report and the previous one (the 2020-2024 and 2021-2025 report series): data for a pandemic year serves as the baseline year for the five-year comparisons. For some crimes, 2021 values will be significantly elevated compared to pre-COVID years, while for others, 2021 values may be substantially lower. Also, arrest counts generally appear to have been suppressed in 2021 as compared to what would be expected based on prior year data. It is important, therefore, to not draw any conclusions based just on differences between 2021 and 2025 without first carefully examining the longer-term trends in the data.

Key Findings/Trends

The full *Crime in Delaware 2021 – 2025* report contains extensive data and statistics on serious offenses, clearances, adult and juvenile arrests, and crimes against law enforcement officers. This report includes a summary of this data at the state and county levels, followed by a more detailed breakdown based on five major topic areas: 1) Violent Offenses, 2) Serious Property Offenses, 3) Drug/Narcotic Offenses, 4) Other Property and Social Offenses, and 5) Crimes Against Law Enforcement Officers. The data for each topic area is organized by state and county. Below are key findings from this extensive set of Delaware crime data.

Serious Offenses

- ***Overall, reported serious crime has decreased 10% since 2021.*** The number of serious criminal offenses known to police in 2021 was 69,596 compared with 62,479 in 2025 (see Table E-1 and Figure E-1). Violent Offenses experienced a 6% increase. Serious Property Offenses, Drug Offenses, and Other Property and Social Offenses all decreased (11%, 15%, and 20%, respectively) compared to 2021. Offense trends by County are presented later in this brief (Figures E4-E6).
 - In New Castle County, total reported offenses decreased by 18% from 2021 to 2025. New Castle County accounted for 51% of the statewide total in 2025.
 - For Kent County, the number of total offenses in 2025 compared to 2021 was 4% higher. Kent County accounted for nearly 25% of the overall statewide offenses.
 - In Sussex County, total offenses in 2025 compared to 2021 decreased 5%. Sussex County accounted for 25% of the overall statewide reported offenses.
- ***Statewide violent crime is higher overall.*** The number of Violent Offenses reported increased 6% from 2021 to 2025 (see Table E-1 and Figure E-1).
 - In New Castle County, the number of Violent Offenses was essentially unchanged in 2025 when compared to 2021 (an increase of <1%).
 - Kent and Sussex Counties both saw increases in Violent Offenses from 2021 to 2025, 9% and 13%, respectively.
- ***There were 54 statewide homicides in 2025—43 Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter, 9 Vehicular Homicide, and 2 Other Negligent Manslaughter. The number of Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter offenses was 55% lower compared to 2021, 27% lower compared to 2024.¹***
 - There were 38 homicides in New Castle County in 2025—30 Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter and 8 Vehicular Homicide. The number of Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter offenses was 58% lower compared to 2021, 14% lower than 2024.

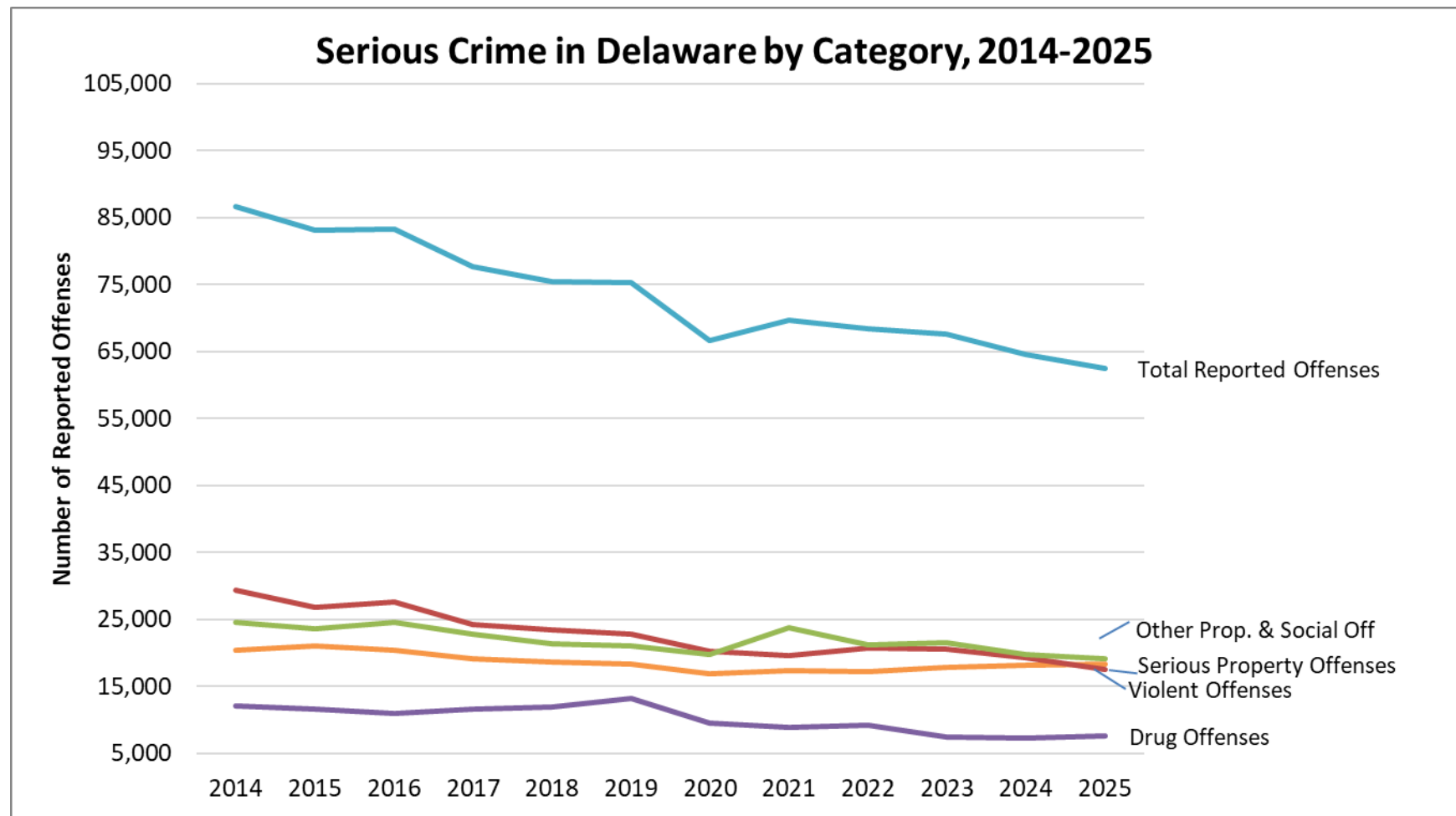
¹ In 2019, the FBI began including Vehicular Homicides under the Criminally Negligent Manslaughter category. Starting with the 2018-22 report, the SAC began reporting offenses for this crime separately from other Negligent Manslaughter offenses to allow for better insights regarding Criminal Homicide.

- Kent County had 8 homicides in 2025—6 Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter and 2 Other Negligent Manslaughter. The number of Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter offenses was 63% lower compared to 2021, 57% lower than 2024.
- Sussex County also experienced 8 homicides in 2025—7 Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter and 1 Vehicular Homicide. The number of Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter offenses was 13% lower compared to 2021, 30% lower than 2024.

Table E-1: Delaware Offenses Received, Clearances, and Differences, 2021 – 2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Offenses Received	69,596	68,461	67,573	64,583	62,479
Percent Cleared	47.5%	50.1%	49.8%	52.2%	54.6%
Violent Offenses	17,334	17,278	17,887	18,122	18,345
Percent Cleared	74.0%	75.2%	76.3%	77.5%	77.4%
Serious Property Offenses	19,607	20,678	20,585	19,322	17,477
Percent Cleared	24.2%	24.6%	26.9%	29.6%	32.5%
Drug Offenses	8,942	9,220	7,521	7,350	7,561
Percent Cleared	94.5%	95.6%	94.9%	94.6%	95.3%
Other Property, Social Offenses	23,713	21,285	21,580	19,789	19,096
Percent Cleared	29.7%	34.8%	33.9%	35.5%	36.8%
	2024 - 2025	2021 - 2025	Avg. 2021-2024 vs 2025		
Total Offenses Received	-3.3%	-10.2%	-7.5%		
Violent Offenses	1.2%	5.8%	3.9%		
Serious Property Offenses	-9.6%	-10.9%	-12.8%		
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	2.9%	-15.4%	-8.4%		
Other Property, Social Offenses	-3.5%	-19.5%	-11.6%		

Figure E-1: Serious Crime in Delaware by Category, 2014 – 2025



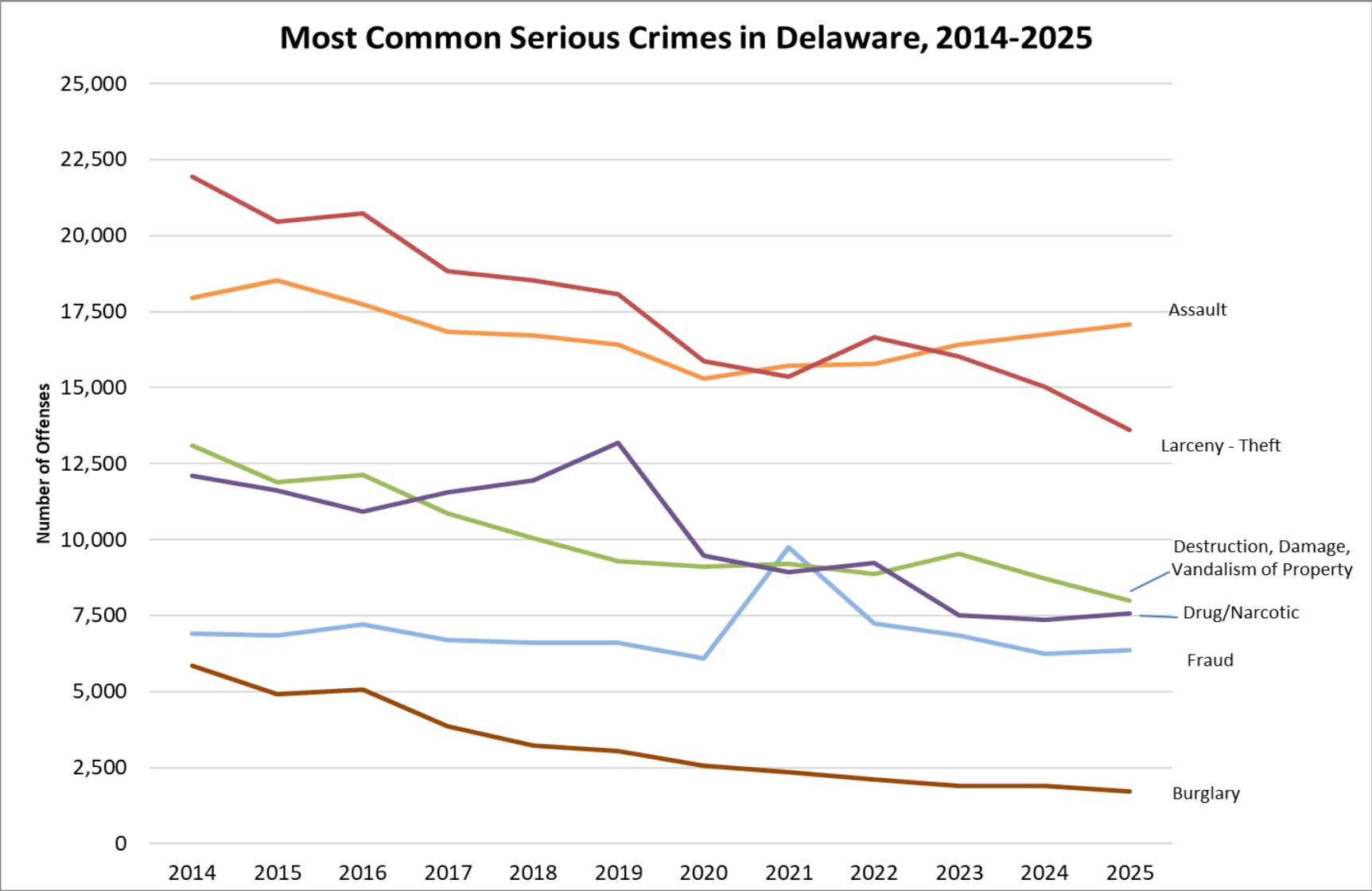
- ***The crime rate is lower.*** The statewide crime rate decreased from 67.3 offenses per 1,000 persons in 2021 to 57.2 in 2025. This change in the crime rate reflects a 10% decrease in the number of offenses and a 4.6% increase in Delaware’s population.
- ***Serious Property crime is down.*** The overall number of reported Serious Property Offenses decreased 11% from 2021 to 2025. Burglary offenses decreased 27% from 2021 to 2025 and Larceny by 12%. However, Motor Vehicle Theft offenses increased 15%, though there was a 10% decrease from 2024 to 2025 (see Table E-1 and Figure E-1).
 - In New Castle County, the number of Serious Property Offenses in 2025 was 17% lower compared to 2021. Burglary decreased 34% from 2021, with Larceny decreasing 19%. Motor Vehicle Theft was 14% higher for the same period, but experienced a 14% decrease from 2024 to 2025.
 - Kent County saw a 13% increase from 2021 to 2025. Burglary decreased 14% since 2021. Larceny offenses increased 14% for the same period, but decreased 8% compared to 2024. Motor Vehicle Theft offenses increased 30% compared to 2021.
 - Sussex County decreased 14% from 2021 to 2025. Burglary decreased 18% since 2021, Larceny by 15%. However, Motor Vehicle Theft offenses increased 4%.
- ***Overall Drug/Narcotic Offenses decreased 15% from 2021, with a 3% increase compared to 2024.²*** Drug/Narcotic Possession offenses decreased 28% over this period, while Drug Equipment offenses increased 12% (see Table E-1 and Figure E-1).
 - In New Castle County, from 2021 to 2025 Possession offenses decreased 43% and Drug Equipment offenses increased by 1%.
 - In Kent County, there was a 6% decrease in Possession offenses from 2021, but a 26% increase in Drug Equipment offenses.
 - Sussex County Possession offenses decreased 21% compared to 2021, but Drug Equipment offenses increased 6%.

² In December 2015, Delaware passed legislation that decriminalized certain Marijuana Possession Offenses. Depending on various circumstances, these offenses are civil offenses. Due to the Federal Government still recording these offenses as criminal in 2022, they are part of the Drug Offense totals in this report.

- ***The overall number of Other Property and Social Offenses was 20% lower compared to 2021.*** Fraud saw a decrease of 35%, with Weapon Law Violations and Destruction, Damage, or Vandalism of Property decreasing 12%, and 13%, respectively. (see Table E-1 and Figure E-1).
 - Between 2021 and 2025, Kent, Sussex, and New Castle Counties each experienced decreases in Other Property and Social Offenses (10%, 13%, and 25%, respectively).
 - Property Destruction/Vandalism offenses decreased 14% in New Castle, 8% in Kent, and 17% in Sussex. Weapon Law Violations, however, experienced a 22% decrease in New Castle, but increases of 10% and 2%, respectively, in Kent and Sussex. However, from 2024 to 2025, New Castle totals increased 4% while Sussex totals decreased 13%.

- ***The trends for firearm-related offenses from 2021 to 2025 were lower, overall.*** Weapons Law Violations were 12% lower compared to 2021. Robberies with a Firearm offenses decreased 29% from 2021. Assaults with a Firearm decreased 25% since 2021.
 - In New Castle County, Robbery with a Firearm offenses decreased 22% since 2021. Assault with a Firearm offenses decreased 35% since 2021.
 - In Kent County, Robbery with a Firearm offenses were infrequent, but declined 27% from 2021. Assault with a Firearm offenses decreased 14% from the 2021 total.
 - In Sussex County, Robbery with a Firearm offenses were infrequent, but decreased 71% compared with 2021 totals. Assault with a Firearm offenses were basically unchanged compared to 2021 (a decrease of <1%), but decreased 5% from 2024 to 2025.

Figure E-2: Most Common Serious Crimes in Delaware, 2014 – 2025



Clearances

For crime reporting and analysis purposes, an offense is considered cleared when a suspect is either arrested and subsequently referred for prosecution or cannot be arrested but is otherwise clearly identifiable.

- ***Based on 2025 data, offenses in all crime categories were cleared at rates comparable to prior reporting periods*** (see Figure E-3). Overall, all crime categories had clearance rates at or near those of previous years, with over half of the total number of offenses (54.6%) in 2025 cleared by the end of the calendar year. Drug and Violent Offenses continue to be cleared at high rates (95.3% and 77.4%, respectively). Serious Property Offenses and Other Property and Social Offenses were cleared at rates of 32.5% and 36.8%, respectively.
 - In New Castle County, 45.9% of all 2025 offenses were cleared, with the highest clearance rates for Drug/Narcotic Offenses (91.1%) and Violent Offenses (71%).
 - In Kent County, 63.1% of 2025 offenses were cleared, with Drug/Narcotic Offenses (97%) and Violent Offenses (82.7%) being cleared at the highest rates.
 - In Sussex County, 64% of all 2025 offenses were cleared, with Drug/Narcotic Offenses (97.4%) and Violent Offenses (83.6%) having the highest clearance rates.

Arrests

Generally, changes in arrest counts appear to reflect the impact of the COVID pandemic. Compared to prior years, counts for both adult and juvenile arrests appear suppressed in both 2020 and 2021, with arrest counts gradually returning toward pre-pandemic levels in recent years. Therefore, caution should be used in drawing conclusions about arrest activity based on the 2021-2025 comparisons.

- The number of arrests in 2025 increased 9% compared to 2021, while there was a 10% decrease in the number of reported offenses over the same period. Increases occurred across all main offense categories except Drug Offenses, which saw a 2% decline (see Table E-2 and Figure E-3). The most notable increase was for Serious Property Offenses (26%). Juvenile arrests were higher across three of the four crime categories during this period (a 34% increase overall). Total adult arrests were 7% higher with all categories but Drug Offenses showing increases. Arrest trends by county are located at the end of this report (Figures E4-E6).
 - In New Castle County, total arrests were 2% higher in 2025 compared to 2021. Overall, juvenile arrests were 27% higher in 2025, with increases in arrests for three of the four categories. Total adult arrests were unchanged, with half of the four categories experiencing decreases balanced by nearly equal increases in the other categories.
 - In Kent County, the number of total arrests was 24% higher, with increases in all four categories. Overall, juvenile arrests were 58% higher than in 2021, but 12% lower

compared to 2024. Adult arrests were 22% higher, with increases in all four categories.

- In Sussex County, arrests were 7% higher than in 2021 with increases in all four categories. Overall, juvenile arrests were 35% higher than in 2021, but 23% lower compared to 2024. The total number of adult arrests was 5% higher, with increases in three of the four categories.

Table E-2: Statewide Arrests for Serious Offenses, 2021 – 2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Arrests	18,641	18,756	19,171	19,635	20,224
Violent Offenses	7,706	7,581	8,086	8,172	8,237
Serious Property Offenses	3,588	3,639	4,154	4,401	4,536
Drug Offenses	4,437	4,473	3,729	3,917	4,329
Other Property and Social Offenses	2,910	3,063	3,202	3,145	3,122
Total Adult Arrests	17,263	17,086	17,033	17,633	18,379
Violent Offenses	6,969	6,734	7,049	7,108	7,255
Serious Property Offenses	3,329	3,335	3,606	3,956	4,090
Drug Offenses	4,318	4,317	3,610	3,798	4,231
Other Property and Social Offenses	2,647	2,700	2,768	2,771	2,803
Total Juvenile Arrests	1,378	1,670	2,138	2,002	1,845
Violent Offenses	737	847	1,037	1,064	982
Serious Property Offenses	259	304	548	445	446
Drug Offenses	119	156	119	119	98
Other Property and Social Offenses	263	363	434	374	319

Figure E-3: All Delaware Offenses, Clearances, and Arrests, 2014 – 2025

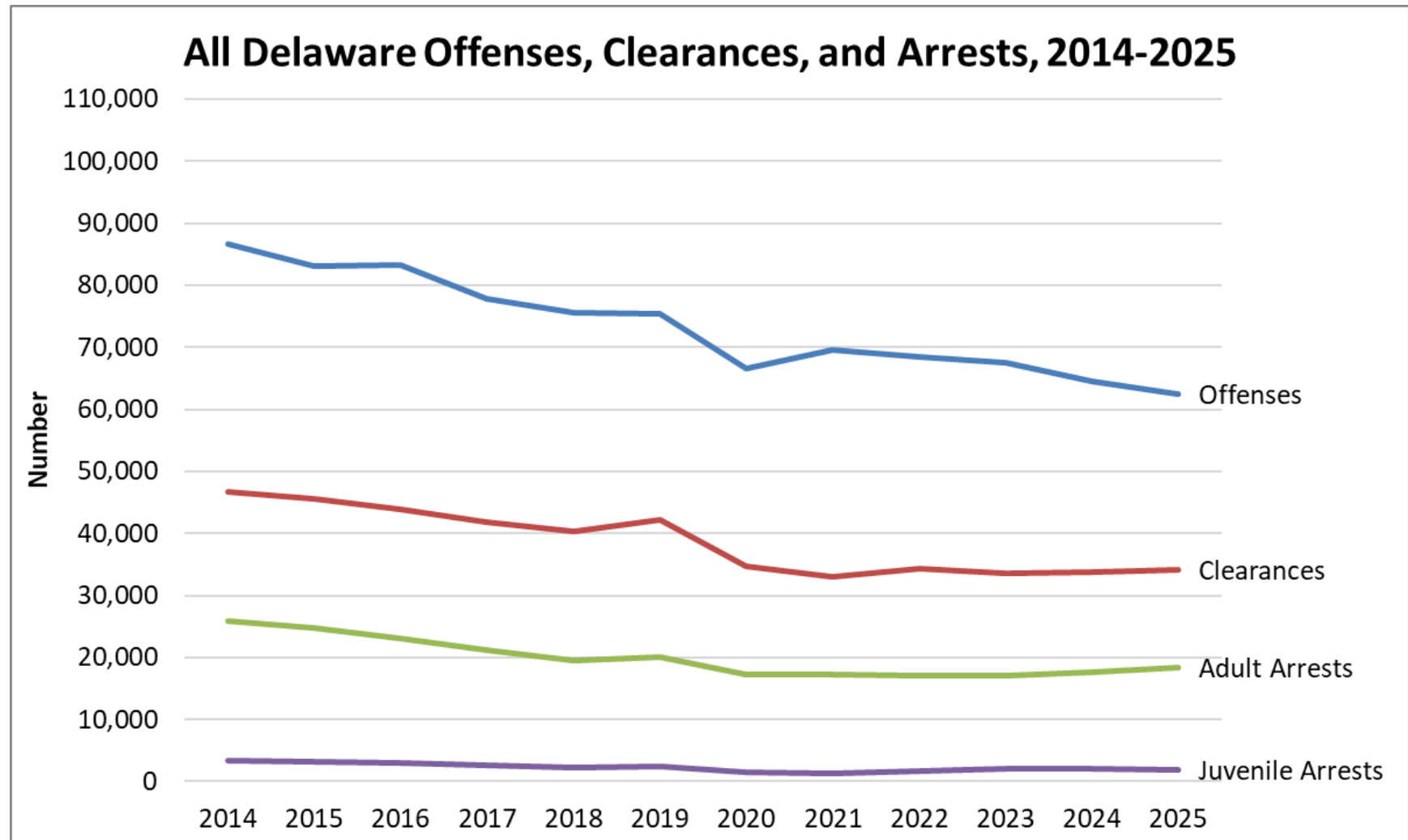


Figure E4: All New Castle County Offenses, Clearances, and Arrests, 2014 -2025

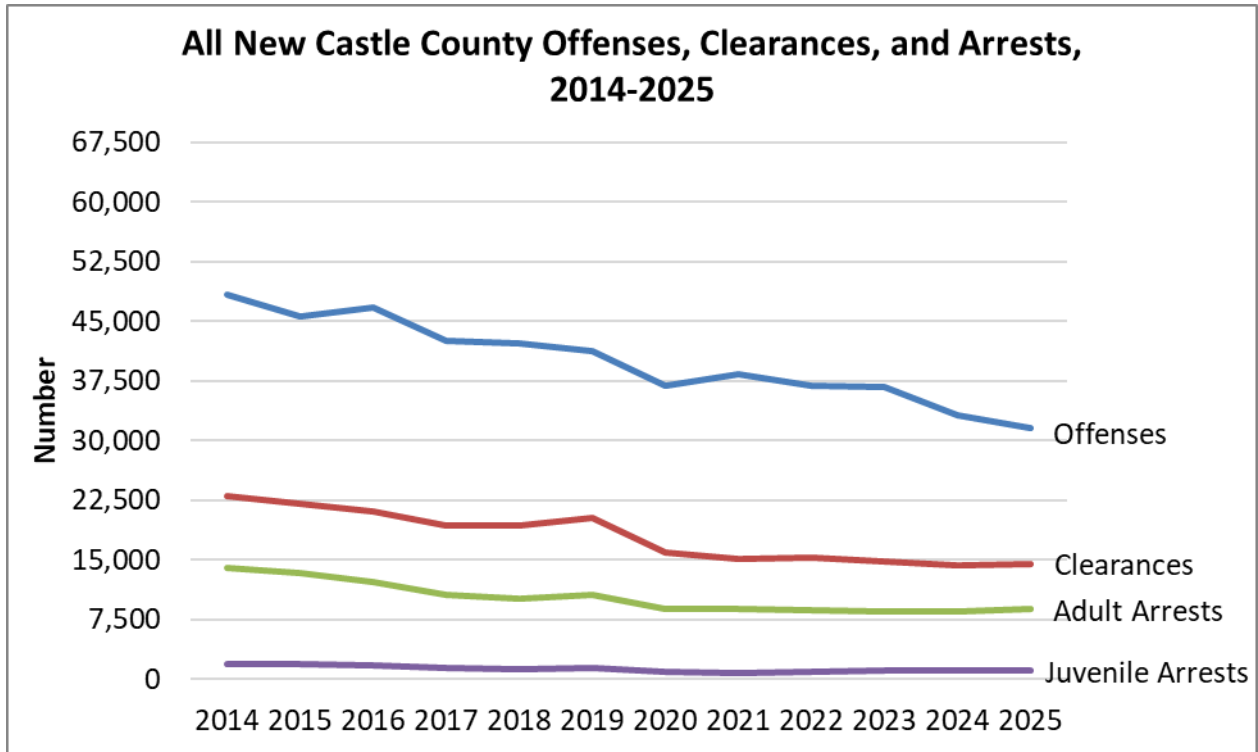


Figure E5: All Kent County Offenses, Clearances, and Arrests, 2014-2025

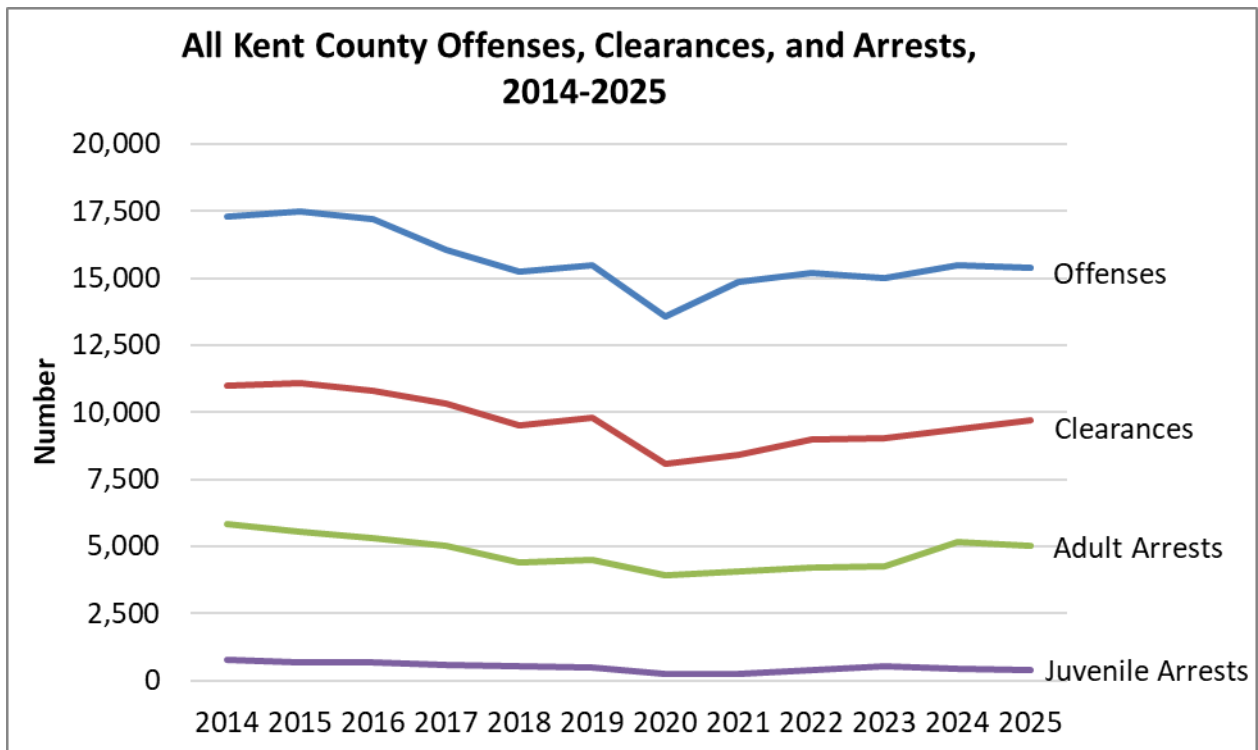
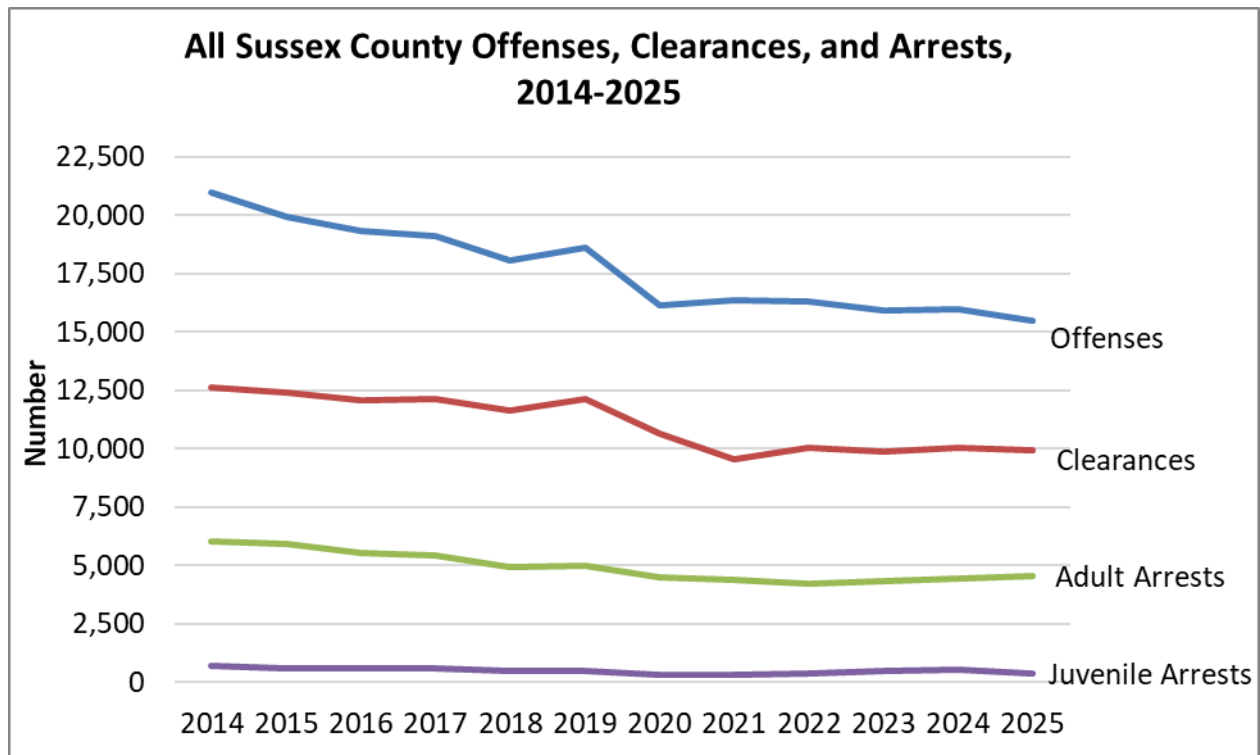


Figure E6: All Sussex County Offenses, Clearances, and Arrests, 2014 – 2025



Violent Crime Against Law Enforcement Officers

- ***In 2025, 437 assault-related offenses were committed against Law Enforcement Officers, slightly lower (1%) when compared to 2021, but 6% higher than 2024.*** Almost all offenses (94%) were cleared before the end of 2025. Assaults against officers continue to be cleared at rates near or above 93%.
 - In New Castle County, there were 220 assault offenses against officers in 2025, down 9% from 2021, but up 5% from 2024. More than 20% of assaults against officers in 2025 resulted in injury (22%).
 - In Kent County, there were 91 assaults on officers, 8% higher than 2021, but 13% lower than 2024. More than one-third of assaults resulted in injuries in Kent County (35%), a high for the report period.
 - Sussex County assaults on officers (126) were up 7% from 2021, 30% compared to 2024. One in five assaults in 2025 led to an injury.

Most assault-related offenses occurred while responding to disturbances, attempting an arrest, and handling prisoners. Responding to a disturbance, attempting an arrest, and handling prisoners accounted for 60% of assaults against officers in 2025. These activities accounted for 60-65% of assaults from 2021 to 2025. Three-quarters of all assaults on an officer were from the subject using their hands, fists, or feet. Firearms were not often used to injure a law enforcement officer (6%), a rate similar to the past five years.

One officer was killed in 2025 and 25% of assault-related offenses resulted in injuries. Overall, one officer was killed in the line of duty from 2021 to 2025. The percentage of assault-related offenses in 2025 that resulted in injury was comparable to previous years. There were 3 attempted homicides of an officer in 2025.

Table E-3: Violent Offenses Committed Against Delaware Law Enforcement Officers, 2021–25

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Officers Assaulted	443	414	391	411	437
Officers Killed	0	0	0	0	1
Attempted Homicides on Officers	5	1	1	0	3
Assaults Resulting in Officer Injury	24.1%	24.1%	21.7%	23.4%	24.5%
Assault-related Offenses Cleared	93.0%	94.9%	93.6%	93.4%	93.6%

References

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