
Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2013–2022

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Criminal Justice Research Center

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Introduction

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) report *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2013–2022* describes how violent index crimes increased and property index crimes decreased in Virginia over the decade, how these changes occurred across different regions and localities in Virginia over this period, and how drug arrest rates decreased over the ten years. It also showed increases in Virginia’s overall violent and property crime rates from 2021 to 2022.

Understanding crime in Virginia also requires knowing how crime in Virginia compares to crime in the U.S. and other states in the region. *Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2013–2022* provides these comparisons. Virginia’s crime and drug arrest trends are compared with those from the U.S. and from five states that border Virginia (Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia).

Crimes included in this report are the violent and property index offenses, considered the most serious crimes. These are the violent crimes of homicide (murder/non-negligent manslaughter), rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Trends are shown for all violent crimes combined and all property crimes combined, rather than for each individual type of violent and property crime (for more details on Virginia trends for specific types of violent and property crime, and drug arrests, see *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrests Trends 2013–2022*).

Recent Changes in How Offenses are Counted

Switch from Summary to Incident-Based Data for 2021

On January 1, 2021, the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program transitioned from a “summary” reporting standard, where a hierarchy rule was used to identify and count only the single most serious offense in a criminal incident, to a mandatory incident-based reporting (NIBRS) standard, where *all* crimes in a criminal incident are identified and counted, and additional information about the criminal incident (such as crime location, weapon use, and victims) is reported. Because more crimes within every incident may be counted, this change resulted in a larger number of crimes overall and makes summary crime counts incomparable with incident-based counts.¹

Missing Data in 2021

Not all states transitioned to the NIBRS standard in time to submit complete 2021 crime and arrest data to the national repository in NIBRS format. To produce national and state-level crime statistics for 2021, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) used rigorous weighting and imputation processes to estimate missing NIBRS crimes and crime indicators using data that was submitted by NIBRS-reporting agencies:

“In 2021, about 12,760 agencies representing 66 percent of the population in the United States submitted through NIBRS. The 34 percent of the population represented by agencies that had not transitioned to NIBRS in 2021 contribute to coverage error. As such, coverage-adjusted survey weights will be assigned to all of the 12,760 agencies that submitted NIBRS so they may represent all law enforcement agencies in the population.”²

Return to Summary Data in 2022

While all 50 states have been certified to collect and report crime and arrest data in NIBRS format, many still have been unable to submit NIBRS-format data to the national repository. Instead of estimating missing NIBRS data, FBI resumed collecting summary UCR data from states that had not completed the transition to NIBRS and resumed converting all received NIBRS submissions to summary format. The return to summary data in 2022 provided more reliable and complete national crime statistics compared to the estimates produced by FBI/BJS in 2021.

Drug Arrest Data

The collection and counting of drug arrests were not qualitatively affected by the change from summary to NIBRS. However, because of the transition to NIBRS in 2021 many of the largest U.S. jurisdictions submitted limited or no arrest data, and unlike NIBRS crimes and crime indicators, drug arrest estimates were not produced by FBI/BJS for 2021. Since the total number of drug arrests nationwide for 2021 was limited, so there is no nationwide drug arrest rate for 2021. With the return to summary submissions in 2022 national drug arrest data for 2022 is more complete and there is a nationwide drug arrest rate for 2022.

Rape Definition

The UCR definition of violent sexual assault was revised effective January 1, 2013, from the legacy definition of “forcible rape” (“...the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will”) to the revised definition of “rape” as three distinct types of offenses (rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object) against a victim of any gender.

¹ All homicides are counted in both summary and incident-based UCR.

² From *Producing Representative Weights for NIBRS Estimates: A Primer*, downloaded from <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads> <Methodology, Topic, and Resource Narratives>

Summary

The UCR violent index, property index, and drug arrest counts and rates presented in this report span the ten-year period 2013 through 2022. All total violent index crime totals within include the revised “Rape” offenses. The different crime data collection and counting standards make summary data (2013–2020 and 2022) incomparable to NIBRS data (2021).

Characteristics of UCR data for years 2013 through 2022

	2013–2020 and 2022	2021
Violent and property index crime and drug arrest data source	Online tables from the FBI annual Crime in the U.S. publication	FBI Crime Data Explorer online data tool
Data reporting standard	Summary revised	Incident-based (NIBRS)
Index offense counting rule	Single most serious violent <i>or</i> property index crime in each incident	All violent and property index crimes in each incident.
Violent sex offense definition	Revised “Rape” (Expanded from legacy “forcible rape” definition to include three types of offenses against a victim of any gender)	Revised “Rape”
Violent sex offense victim counting rule	If revised “Rape” most serious incident offense, victim counted once. <i>More victims are counted because of the expanded definition of violent sex offense.</i>	All victims of any of the three violent sex offenses included under the revised “Rape” category are counted. <i>Victims of multiple index offenses are counted multiple times.</i>
Crime counts and rates	Reported (missing data estimated); 2022 was the second year of transition to NIBRS and all NIBRS submissions converted to summary and FBI resumed collecting summary data from agencies that had not yet converted to NIBRS	First year of transition from summary to NIBRS; crime counts from NIBRS agencies weighted to produce national and state-level estimates; no estimated crime counts or rates for many of the largest U.S. jurisdictions.

In previous editions of this report, Virginia ten-year and most recent two-year crime and drug arrest trends were compared with trends from the U.S. and from the five states that border Virginia (Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia). Because of the UCR data changes described above, only ten-year (2013–2022) trends are described for violent and property index crime. Ten-year and most recent two-year drug arrest trends *are* included because arrest data is not subject to the differences between summary crime counts and incident-based crime counts.

The crime and arrest rates for 2013 through 2020 and for 2022 are from *Crime in the United States (CIUS)*, an annual publication of the FBI. The crime and arrest rates for 2021 come from the FBI’s online data tool, Crime Data Explorer. Virginia crime and arrest rates published by the FBI may differ slightly from rates published in *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest and Trends 2013–2022* due to differences in how the FBI and DCJS calculate Virginia crime and arrest statistics. For consistency, all Virginia and national data used in this report is based on the FBI’s calculations. See **Notes on Data** on page 15 for further details.

Violent Crime

- In 2013, Virginia’s violent crime rate ranked 48th out of the 50 states. In 2022, Virginia’s violent crime rate ranked 38th out of the 46 states³ that reported sufficient crime data.
- Over the ten-year period 2013–2022, the number of violent crimes in Virginia increased by 25% while the number of violent crimes nationwide increased by 7%. The violent crime rate per 100,000 population in Virginia increased by 19%, and the U.S. violent crime rate increased by 1%.
- From 2013–2022, both the number of violent crimes and the violent crime rate per 100,000 increased in all but one of the states bordering Virginia.
- Despite the increase in violent crime in Virginia, the Virginia violent crime rate remained below rates for the U.S. and for the bordering states from 2013–2021 (Virginia had the second-lowest rate in 2022).

Property Crime

- Virginia’s property crime rate ranked 43 out of 50 states in 2013, and Virginia’s property crime rate ranked 30 out of 46 states in 2022.
- From 2013–2022, total property index crime rates trended downward for Virginia, the U.S., and the states bordering Virginia. Virginia’s property index crime rate was lower than the U.S. and bordering states from 2013 through 2017.
- Virginia’s property crime rate decreased by 18% over the ten-year period, while the U.S. rate decreased by 28%.
- In 2022, the total property index crime rate in Virginia (1,695.7 offenses per 100,000 population) was below the U.S. rate (1,954.4) and rates for two of the bordering states.

Drug Arrests

- The drug arrest rate in Virginia ranked 22 out of 50 states in 2013. In 2022, Virginia’s ranking was 33 out of 46 states³.
- From 2013 to 2022 the drug arrest rate decreased by 67% in Virginia, from 465.1 arrests per 100,000 in 2013 to 153.9 in 2022. Drug arrest rates also decreased in the U.S. and four of the states bordering Virginia (Maryland is excluded from comparison because of limited 2022 data). The decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use in Virginia, effective July 1, 2020, played a significant role in the decrease in drug arrests statewide from 2013 to 2022.

³ Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and Pennsylvania reported limited violent and property crime and drug arrest data for 2022 so rates are unavailable for these states.

VIOLENT CRIME

How did the change in Virginia’s total number of violent index crimes compare with the change in total numbers for the U.S. and for the five states that border Virginia?

Violent index crimes include homicide (murder and non-negligent manslaughter), rape (rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object), robbery, and aggravated assault.⁴ The total violent index crime rate is the total number of violent index crimes reported per 100,000 population.

Maryland is excluded from the following violent crime comparisons due to limited 2022 data.

Total Number of Violent Index Crimes Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2013, 2021 and 2022				
	Summary revised 2013	Incident-based 2021	Summary revised 2022	% Change 2013-2022
U.S.	1,191,988	1,332,900	1,268,880	+6.5%
Tennessee	38,364	48,000	43,829	+14.2%
North Carolina	33,700	46,200	43,344	+28.6%
Maryland*	28,089	n/a	n/a	n/a
Virginia	16,205	20,000	20,269	+25.1%
Kentucky	9,222	13,000	9,663	+4.8%
West Virginia	5,568	6,600	4,934	-11.4%

2013 and 2022 Source: *Crime in the U.S.* ; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2021 and 2022

Incident-based totals are not comparable to summary totals (see Introduction)

- From 2013 to 2022, the volume of violent index crime increased in Virginia, the U.S., and four of the five states bordering Virginia.
- The number of violent index crimes increased by 25% in Virginia and by 6% nationwide.

⁴ Homicide, rape, and aggravated assault crimes are counts of victims. Robbery crimes are counts of offenses.

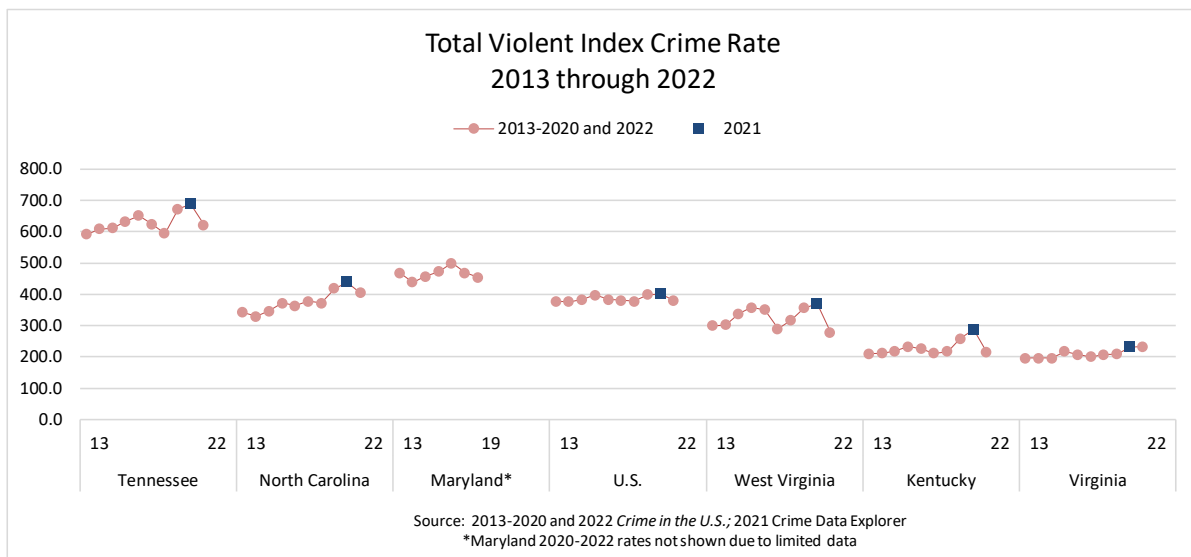
How did Virginia’s total violent index crime rate compare with rates for the U.S. and rates for the five states bordering Virginia?

Violent Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Population Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2013, 2021 and 2022				
	Summary revised 2013	Incident-based 2021	Summary revised 2022	% Change 2013-2022
Tennessee	590.6	688.4	621.6	+5.2%
North Carolina	342.2	438.1	405.1	+18.4%
Maryland*	473.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
U.S.	377.1	401.6	380.7	+1.0%
West Virginia	300.3	370.5	277.9	-7.5%
Virginia	196.2	231.7	234.0	+19.3%
Kentucky	209.8	288.3	214.1	+2.0%

2013 and 2022 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2021 and 2022

Incident-based rates are not comparable to summary rates (see Introduction)



- Violent index crime rates trended upward over the ten-year period for Virginia, the U.S., and three of the states that border Virginia.
- Each year from 2013 to 2021, Virginia’s violent index crime rate was lower than the national rate and the rates of the bordering states (Virginia had the second-lowest rate in 2022).
- In 2013, Virginia’s total violent index crime rate was 196.2 violent crimes per 100,000, and in 2022 the total violent index crime rate in Virginia was 234.0 violent crimes per 100,000, a 19% increase. The total violent index crime rate for the U.S. increased by 1% over the decade.
- From 2013 to 2022, violent crime rates increased for all but one of the states bordering Virginia.
- In 2022, the total violent index crime rate in Virginia remained below the U.S. rate and rates for all but one of the states bordering Virginia.

How did Virginia's total violent index crime rate compare with rates for all other states?

Virginia ranked 48 out of 50 states for violent index crime rate in 2013 and 38 out of 46 states for 2022.

States violent index crime rate and relative rank, 2013, 2021 and 2022

Source: *Crime in the U.S. (2013 and 2022)* and *Crime Data Explorer (2021)*

	Rate per 100,000 population			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2013 summary revised	2021 NIBRS	2022 summary revised	2013	2021	2022
U.S.	377.1	401.6	380.7			
Alabama	430.8	596.7	409.1	14	4	18
Alaska	640.4	543.9	758.9	1	5	2
Arizona	416.5	262.8	431.5	15	31	13
Arkansas	460.3	712.3	645.3	10	1	3
California*	402.1	n/a	499.5	18	n/a	6
Colorado	308.0	493.1	492.5	27	9	7
Connecticut	262.5	168.0	150.0	36	39	44
Delaware	491.4	434.6	383.5	7	15	20
Florida*,**	470.4	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	n/a
Georgia	365.7	399.1	367.0	21	17	23
Hawaii	251.6	n/a	259.6	41	n/a	34
Idaho	217.0	247.9	241.4	44	33	37
Illinois*,**	380.2	n/a	n/a	20	n/a	n/a
Indiana	357.4	320.2	306.2	22	25	26
Iowa	271.4	303.9	286.5	34	27	29
Kansas	339.9	422.0	414.6	24	16	17
Kentucky	209.8	288.3	214.1	46	28	40
Louisiana	518.5	662.7	628.6	5	3	4
Maine	129.3	113.7	103.3	49	41	46
Maryland*,**	473.8	n/a	n/a	8	n/a	n/a
Massachusetts	413.4	306.4	322.0	16	26	25
Michigan	449.9	498.1	461.0	11	8	10
Minnesota	234.4	324.3	280.6	42	24	31
Mississippi	274.6	245.8	245.0	33	34	35
Missouri	433.4	540.9	488.0	13	6	9
Montana	252.9	473.5	417.9	40	10	16
Nebraska	262.1	248.3	282.8	37	32	30
Nevada	603.0	436.5	454.0	3	14	11
New Hampshire	215.3	138.1	125.6	45	40	45
New Jersey*	288.5	n/a	202.9	30	n/a	41
New Mexico*	613.0	n/a	780.5	2	n/a	1
New York*	393.7	n/a	429.3	19	n/a	14
North Carolina	342.2	438.1	405.1	23	13	19
North Dakota	270.1	264.8	279.6	35	29	32
Ohio	286.2	336.5	293.6	31	22	28
Oklahoma	441.2	445.0	419.7	12	12	15
Oregon	254.0	358.1	342.4	39	20	24
Pennsylvania*,**	335.4	n/a	n/a	25	n/a	n/a
Rhode Island	257.2	206.9	172.3	38	37	43
South Carolina	508.5	534.2	491.3	6	7	8
South Dakota	316.5	394.7	377.4	26	18	21
Tennessee	590.6	688.4	621.6	4	2	5
Texas	408.3	467.3	431.9	17	11	12
Utah	224.0	263.3	241.8	43	30	36
Vermont	121.1	185.6	221.9	50	38	39
Virginia	196.2	231.7	234.0	48	36	38
Washington	289.1	340.5	375.6	29	21	22
West Virginia	300.3	370.5	277.9	28	19	33
Wisconsin	277.9	330.0	297.0	32	23	27
Wyoming	205.1	242.1	201.9	47	35	42

*Limited data for 2021 available for California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, NY, and Pennsylvania.

**Limited data for 2022 available for Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

2021 NIBRS rates are not comparable to 2013 and 2022 summary rates (see introductory Note).

Virginia crime and arrest rates from FBI may differ slightly from rates published by Virginia State Police and DCJS.

PROPERTY CRIME

How did the change in Virginia’s total number of property index crimes compare with the change in total numbers for the U.S. and for the five states bordering Virginia?

Property index crimes are burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The total property index crime rate is the total number of property index crimes reported per 100,000 population.

Maryland is excluded from the following property crime comparisons due to limited 2022 data.

Total Number of Property Index Crimes Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2013, 2021 and 2022				
	Summary revised 2013	Incident-based 2021	Summary revised 2022	% Change 2013-2022
U.S.	8,632,512	6,254,700	6,513,829	-24.5%
North Carolina	308,049	224,100	220,841	-28.3%
Tennessee	206,629	156,300	162,342	-21.4%
Virginia	170,654	125,400	147,249	-13.7%
Maryland*	157,913	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kentucky	103,857	74,400	65,375	-37.1%
West Virginia	39,013	30,500	21,836	-44.0%

2013 and 2022 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2021 and 2022

Incident-based totals are not comparable to summary totals (see Introduction)

- From 2013 to 2022, the number of reported property crimes declined in the U.S., Virginia and each of the states bordering Virginia. The number of reported property crimes decreased by 14% in Virginia and by 24% nationwide.

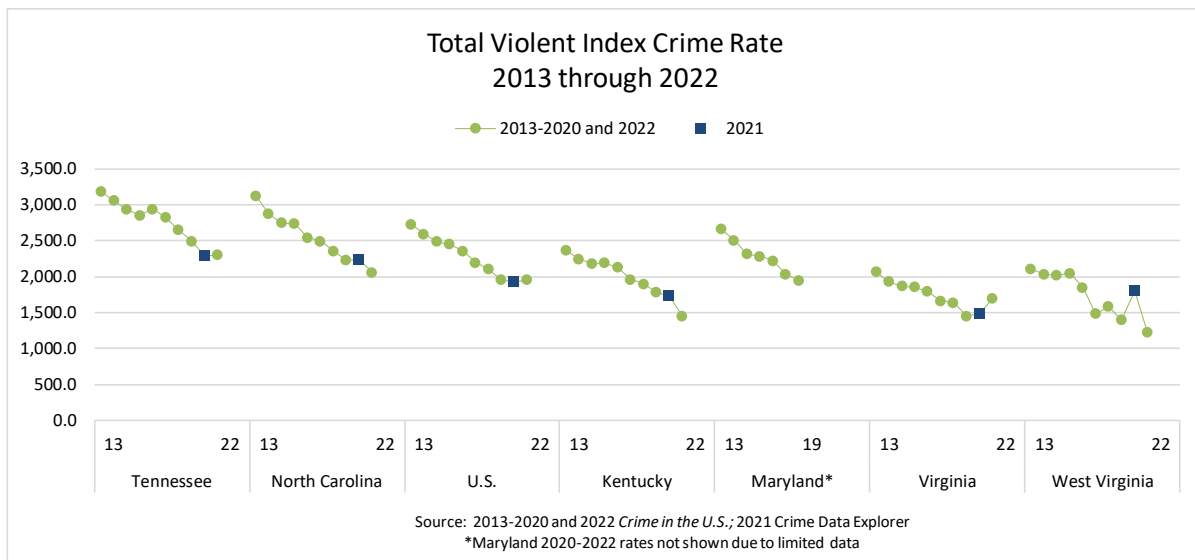
How did Virginia’s total property index crime rate compare with rates for the U.S. and rates for the five states bordering Virginia?

Property Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Population Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2013, 2021 and 2022				
	Summary revised 2013	Incident-based 2021	Summary revised 2022	% Change 2013-2022
Tennessee	3,180.9	2,284.3	2,302.3	-27.6%
North Carolina	3,128.0	2,240.3	2,064.1	-34.0%
U.S.	2,730.7	1,933.4	1,954.4	-28.4%
Kentucky	2,362.9	1,734.2	1,448.8	-38.7%
Maryland*	2,753.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Virginia	2,065.9	1,477.9	1,695.7	-17.9%
West Virginia	2,103.9	1,803.6	1,230.1	-41.5%

2013 and 2022 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2021 and 2022

Incident-based totals are not comparable to summary totals (see Introduction)



Source: 2013-2020 and 2022 *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Crime Data Explorer
*Maryland 2020-2022 rates not shown due to limited data

- Total property index crime rates trended downward over the decade for Virginia, the U.S. and each of the states bordering Virginia.
- Virginia’s total property index crime rate decreased by 18% from 2013 to 2022, with 2,065.9 property crimes per 100,000 population reported in 2013 and 1,695.7 reported in 2022. Like Virginia, the bordering states and the U.S. all had decreasing property index crime rates from 2013 to 2022.
- While Virginia’s property crime rate decreased by 18% over the ten-year period, the U.S. rate decreased by 28%.
- In 2022, the total property index crime rate in Virginia was below the U.S. rate and rates for all but one of the bordering states.

How did Virginia's total property index crime rate compare with rates for all other states?

Virginia's property index crime rate ranked 43 out of 50 states in 2013 and 30 out of 46 states in 2022.

States property index crime rate and relative rank, 2013, 2021 and 2022

Source: *Crime in the U.S. (2013 and 2022)* and Crime Data Explorer (2021)

	Rate per 100,000 population			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2013 summary revised	2021 NIBRS	2022 summary revised	2013	2021	2022
U.S.	2,730.7	1,933.4	1,954.4			
Alabama	3,351.3	2,585.3	1,739.0	7	8	27
Alaska	2,885.2	1,151.1	1,789.0	21	38	24
Arizona	3,399.1	1,435.4	2,057.6	6	33	16
Arkansas	3,602.6	2,646.6	2,451.5	4	5	6
California*	2,658.1	n/a	2,343.2	27	n/a	9
Colorado	2,658.5	3,135.4	3,147.6	26	1	2
Connecticut	1,974.1	1,509.9	1,494.0	46	31	36
Delaware	3,065.5	1,943.6	1,964.1	16	19	20
Florida**,**	3,105.3	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	n/a
Georgia	3,346.6	1,749.2	1,690.8	8	25	31
Hawaii	3,053.7	n/a	2,434.7	17	n/a	7
Idaho	1,864.3	1,045.3	926.9	49	40	46
Illinois**,**	2,274.3	n/a	n/a	35	n/a	n/a
Indiana	2,854.0	1,658.3	1,544.2	22	27	34
Iowa	2,193.9	1,568.3	1,331.5	39	28	40
Kansas	2,946.8	2,079.6	1,992.2	19	17	18
Kentucky	2,362.9	1,734.2	1,448.8	32	26	37
Louisiana	3,582.0	2,672.5	2,748.2	5	4	5
Maine	2,292.2	1,165.7	1,213.5	34	37	43
Maryland**,**	2,663.5	n/a	n/a	25	n/a	n/a
Massachusetts	2,051.2	1,044.4	1,070.1	45	41	44
Michigan	2,327.6	1,380.5	1,536.8	33	34	35
Minnesota	2,420.4	2,064.1	1,966.8	31	18	19
Mississippi	2,724.7	1,786.7	1,746.8	24	24	26
Missouri	3,137.0	2,378.4	2,340.1	13	9	10
Montana	2,556.5	2,152.4	1,918.6	29	15	21
Nebraska	2,623.4	1,546.6	1,888.8	28	29	23
Nevada	2,837.7	2,301.1	2,380.1	23	10	8
New Hampshire	2,194.3	1,063.1	1,010.9	38	39	45
New Jersey*	1,882.8	n/a	1,416.7	48	n/a	38
New Mexico*	3,704.8	n/a	2,984.0	2	n/a	3
New York*	1,824.8	n/a	1,721.6	50	n/a	29
North Carolina	3,128.0	2,240.3	2,064.1	14	12	15
North Dakota	2,094.0	2,191.0	1,994.8	42	14	17
Ohio	2,927.5	1,846.1	1,782.7	20	22	25
Oklahoma	3,273.7	2,600.9	2,332.4	9	6	11
Oregon	3,173.9	2,818.3	2,935.3	12	3	4
Pennsylvania**,**	2,060.8	n/a	n/a	44	n/a	n/a
Rhode Island	2,442.0	1,246.6	1,285.3	30	36	41
South Carolina	3,624.2	2,588.0	2,308.2	3	7	12
South Dakota	1,914.7	1,891.0	1,737.0	47	20	28
Tennessee	3,180.9	2,284.3	2,302.3	11	11	13
Texas	3,258.2	2,191.5	2,299.9	10	13	14
Utah	2,950.4	2,129.8	1,895.1	18	16	22
Vermont	2,214.2	1,344.0	1,671.1	36	35	32
Virginia	2,065.9	1,477.9	1,695.7	43	32	30
Washington	3,710.3	3,133.6	3,356.4	1	2	1
West Virginia	2,103.9	1,803.6	1,230.1	41	23	42
Wisconsin	2,188.7	1,534.9	1,385.0	40	30	39
Wyoming	2,198.4	1,862.2	1,636.8	37	21	33

*Limited data for 2021 available for California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, NY, and Pennsylvania.

**Limited data for 2022 available for Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

2021 NIBRS rates are not comparable to 2013 and 2022 summary rates (see introductory Note).

Virginia crime and arrest rates from FBI may differ slightly from rates published by Virginia State Police and DCJS.

DRUG ARRESTS

How did the change in Virginia’s total number of drug arrests compare with the change in numbers for the U.S. and for the five states bordering Virginia?

Drug offenses are defined as the unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance (drug arrest rates reported here exclude arrests for drug equipment violations). The drug arrest rate is the number of arrests for drug offenses per 100,000 arrest-age population (ages ten and older). Drug arrest statistics can reflect law enforcement anti-drug activities and are not an accurate indicator of drug prevalence.

Traditional ten-year (2013–2022) and one-year (2021–2022) drug arrest trends follow below because the drug arrest counting method was not affected by the transition to NIBRS in 2021.

Maryland is excluded from the following drug arrest comparisons due to limited 2022 data. Also, there was no national drug arrest rate available for 2021 so there is no U.S. drug arrest trend from 2021 to 2022.

Total Number of Drug Arrests Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2013, 2021 and 2022					
	2013	2021	2022	Percent change	
				2013-2022	2021-2022
Maryland*	34,006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tennessee	46,923	41,579	36,196	-22.9%	-12.9%
West Virginia	6,651	5,943	4,295	-35.4%	-27.7%
Kentucky	21,830	20,758	16,068	-26.4%	-22.6%
North Carolina	35,470	34,780	32,150	-9.4%	-7.6%
U.S.*	1,209,661	n/a	907,958	-24.9%	n/a
Virginia	39,536	14,568	13,252	-66.5%	-9.0%

2013 and 2022 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2021 and 2022; limited U.S. data for 2021

- From 2013 to 2022, the number of drug arrests in Virginia decreased⁵ by 66% and decreased nationwide by 25%.
- The number of drug arrests decreased in the states bordering Virginia (excluding Maryland) and across the U.S. over the decade 2013–2022.
- From 2021 to 2022, the number of drug arrests decreased in Virginia, the U.S., and the states that border Virginia.

⁵ The decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use in Virginia, effective July 1, 2020, played a significant role in the decrease of the number of drug arrests from 2013 to 2022.

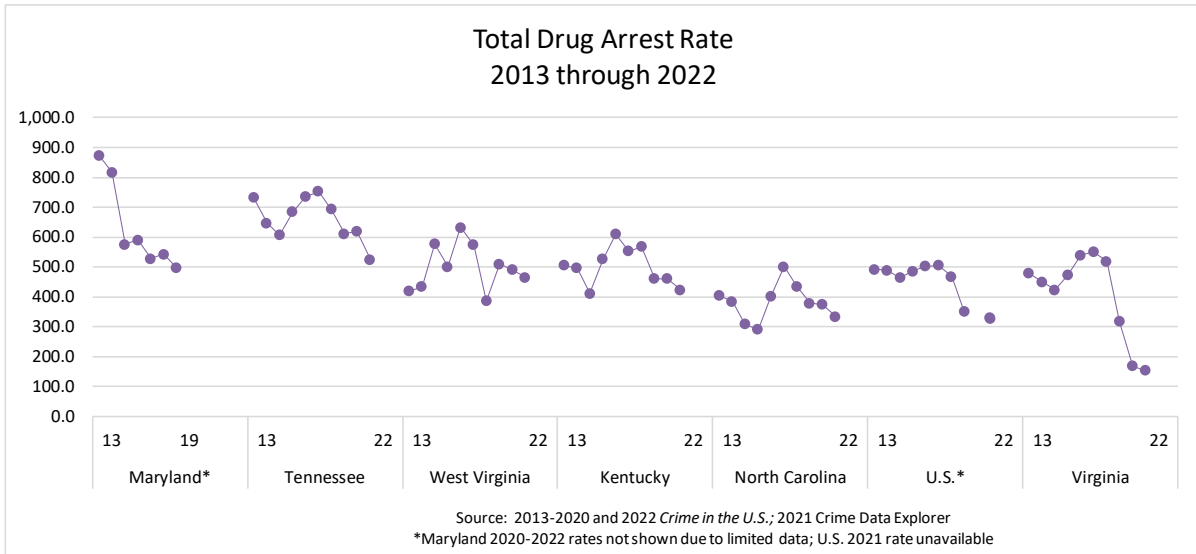
How did Virginia’s total drug arrest rate compare with rates for the U.S. and rates for the five states bordering Virginia?

**Drug Arrest Rate per 100,000 Population
Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2013, 2021 and 2022**

	2013	2021	2022	Percent change	
				2013-2022	2021-2022
Maryland*	742.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tennessee	741.0	619.1	525.6	-29.1%	-15.1%
West Virginia	489.6	491.1	466.0	-4.8%	-5.1%
Kentucky	504.3	460.7	423.9	-15.9%	-7.99%
North Carolina	435.5	375.3	334.9	-23.1%	-10.8%
U.S.*	494.2	n/a	327.7	-33.7%	n/a
Virginia	465.1	169.4	153.9	-66.9%	-9.1%

2013 and 2022 Source: *Crime in the U.S.* ; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2021 and 2022; limited U.S. data for 2021



- Drug arrest rates per 100,000 population decreased in Virginia, the bordering states (excluding Maryland), and nationwide from 2013 to 2022.
- More recently from 2021 to 2022, the decrease in drug arrest rates continued for Virginia, the bordering states and for the U.S. overall.

How did Virginia’s total drug arrest rate compare with rates for the U.S. and rates for the five states bordering Virginia?

In 2013, Virginia ranked 22 out of 50 states for drug arrest rate. In 2022, Virginia ranked 33 out of 46 states. (U.S. drug arrest rate unavailable for 2021).

States drug arrest rate and relative rank, 2013, 2021 and 2022

Source: *Crime in the U.S. (2013 and 2022)* and Crime Data Explorer (2021)

	Rate per 100,000 population			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2013	2021	2022	2013	2021	2022
U.S.*	492.2	n/a	327.7			
Alabama	386.3	292.6	408.3	35	25	16
Alaska	311.4	120.2	113.6	43	36	40
Arizona	478.8	265.0	328.9	23	27	21
Arkansas	414.7	568.2	492.0	32	5	9
California*	568.2	n/a	305.0	17	n/a	23
Colorado	242.2	179.7	192.7	45	31	30
Connecticut	267.9	95.5	84.0	44	39	43
Delaware	676.9	356.0	358.5	7	19	19
Florida**,**	647.3	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	n/a
Georgia	495.0	344.1	293.2	20	20	25
Hawaii	680.9	93.0	87.3	6	40	42
Idaho	472.6	583.1	536.1	24	3	3
Illinois**,**	1,219.2	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
Indiana	326.7	375.3	359.2	42	16	18
Iowa	330.2	296.5	316.1	41	24	22
Kansas	393.0	468.3	421.7	34	12	14
Kentucky	505.8	460.7	423.9	19	14	13
Louisiana	665.6	535.2	517.7	8	8	6
Maine	422.9	206.3	185.4	30	29	31
Maryland**,**	872.1	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a
Massachusetts	174.8	77.4	64.2	50	41	45
Michigan	371.0	126.9	121.3	36	35	38
Minnesota	351.6	244.9	218.8	39	28	29
Mississippi	623.3	497.1	451.6	14	10	12
Missouri	631.0	453.6	395.5	11	15	17
Montana	201.8	160.6	133.2	48	33	36
Nebraska	624.6	550.6	532.2	13	6	4
Nevada	440.6	277.1	247.7	29	26	27
New Hampshire	363.7	298.3	243.5	37	22	28
New Jersey*	591.4	n/a	124.1	15	n/a	37
New Mexico*	353.7	n/a	151.1	38	n/a	34
New York*	587.2	n/a	150.2	16	n/a	35
North Carolina	404.9	375.3	334.9	33	17	20
North Dakota	468.1	537.8	492.2	25	7	8
Ohio	341.8	204.0	183.3	40	30	32
Oklahoma	457.1	299.7	303.6	27	21	24
Oregon	689.7	106.3	80.2	5	38	44
Pennsylvania**,**	457.3	n/a	n/a	26	n/a	n/a
Rhode Island	213.0	149.6	118.2	47	34	39
South Carolina	627.0	533.3	544.2	12	9	2
South Dakota	692.4	795.2	729.5	4	1	1
Tennessee	731.6	619.1	525.6	3	2	5
Texas	523.1	297.0	289.6	18	23	26
Utah	480.8	467.2	462.5	21	13	11
Vermont	216.4	118.1	112.5	46	37	41
Virginia	479.2	169.4	153.9	22	32	33
Washington	191.1	25.8	17.4	49	42	46
West Virginia	418.9	491.1	466.0	31	11	10
Wisconsin	455.1	371.4	419.7	28	18	15
Wyoming	639.1	574.9	503.1	10	4	7

*Limited data for 2021 available for U.S., California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, NY, and Pennsylvania.

** Limited data for 2022 available for Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Virginia arrest rates from FBI may differ slightly from rates published by Virginia State Police and DCJS.

Notes on Data

This document supplements *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2013–2022*, which also is produced by the DCJS Criminal Justice Research Center. *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2013–2022* describes trends for Virginia, Virginia localities, and Virginia State Police divisions using incident-based Uniform Crime Reports submitted by local Virginia law enforcement agencies to the central repository managed by the Virginia Department of State Police. The 2013–2020 and 2022 crime and arrest rates presented in this report come from *Crime in the United States (CIUS)*, published annually by the FBI, and the 2021 crime and arrest rates were downloaded from the FBI’s online UCR data tool, Crime Data Explorer.

The rates published by FBI and shown in this report may differ from rates published by DCJS in *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2013–2022*. The differences are largely attributed to:

1. Different methodologies used to estimate missing or underreported crime or arrest data.
2. The FBI may “freeze” the crime data reported in *CIUS* later than the data reported in *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends* resulting in small differences in the number of crimes used to calculate the rates.
3. Population estimates used to calculate rates may be of a differing vintage due to FBI publishing deadlines.
4. DCJS calculates Virginia arrest rates using the Virginia “arrest age” population of persons ten-years and older, which is often considered the “age of criminal responsibility.” However, the FBI calculates all state arrest rates using the total population (age one year and older).