



Virginia, U.S. and Bordering States Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2007–2016

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 2007–2016* illustrated how violent and property index crimes decreased in Virginia over the last decade, how these decreases occurred across different regions and localities in Virginia over this period, and how drug arrest rates increased over the ten years. It also showed an increase in Virginia violent crime rates from 2015 to 2016.

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 2007–2016* provides these comparisons. Virginia’s ten-year and one-year crime trends and drug arrest trends are compared with trends from the U.S. and from the 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 murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible 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.¹

All of the crime and arrest rates used in this report come from *Crime in the United States* (CIUS), published annually by the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation.²

Violent Crime

- In 2016, Virginia’s violent crime rate ranked 47th out of the 50 states in the U.S. Only Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont reported a violent crime rate lower than Virginia’s.
- Over the decade 2007–2016, Virginia’s violent crime rate dropped by nearly 23%, and consistently remained below the U.S. violent crime rate.
- Throughout most of the last decade, Virginia’s violent crime rate was lower than most of the states that border Virginia. Since 2008, Virginia’s rate has been lower than the rate for any of the five states that border Virginia.
- From 2015 to 2016, total violent crime rates increased nationwide and in all of the states bordering Virginia. Virginia’s rate increased by 12%, from 185.5 crimes per 100,000 in 2015 to 208.4 crimes per 100,000 in 2016.

¹ 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 2007–2016*.

² Virginia crime and arrests rates published by the FBI in CIUS may slightly differ from rates published in the DCJS *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2007–2016* due to differences how the FBI and DCJS calculate Virginia crime and arrest statistics. For consistency, all Virginia and national data used in this report are based on the FBI’s calculations. See page 13 for details.

Property Crime

- Virginia's property crime rate ranked 41 out of 50 states in 2016.
- Total property index crime rates trended downward over the decade for Virginia, the U.S., and the five states bordering Virginia. Virginia's property index crime rate was lower than the U.S. and bordering states in all years except 2010.
- Virginia's property crime rate decreased by 25% over the decade.
- Virginia's property crime rate decreased by less than 1% from 2015 to 2016, compared to a 1.5% decrease nationwide.

Drug Arrests

- The drug arrest rate in Virginia ranked 26th out of 50 states in 2016.
- From 2007 to 2016 drug arrest rates increased in Virginia, but decreased across the U.S. and all other border states except West Virginia. Over the ten-year period, Virginia's drug arrest rate was consistently lower than the U.S. rate, and was consistently one of the lowest compared with rates for the bordering states.
- Virginia's drug arrest rate increased by almost 12% from 2015 to 2016.

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 are murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape (legacy definition), robbery, and aggravated assault. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, and aggravated assault are counts of victims. Robbery is counts of offenses.

**Total Number of Violent Crimes Reported
Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2007–2016**

	2007	2015	2016	10-year % change	1-year % change
U.S.	1,408,337	1,197,704	1,248,185	-11.4%	+4.2%
Tennessee	46,380	39,690	41,374	-10.8%	+4.2%
North Carolina	42,262	34,107	37,006	-12.4%	+8.5%
Maryland	36,062	26,980	27,910	-22.6%	+3.4%
Virginia	20,798	15,552	17,530	-15.7%	+12.7%
Kentucky	12,513	9,181	9,841	-21.4%	+7.2%
West Virginia	4,987	5,979	6,368	+27.7%	+6.5%

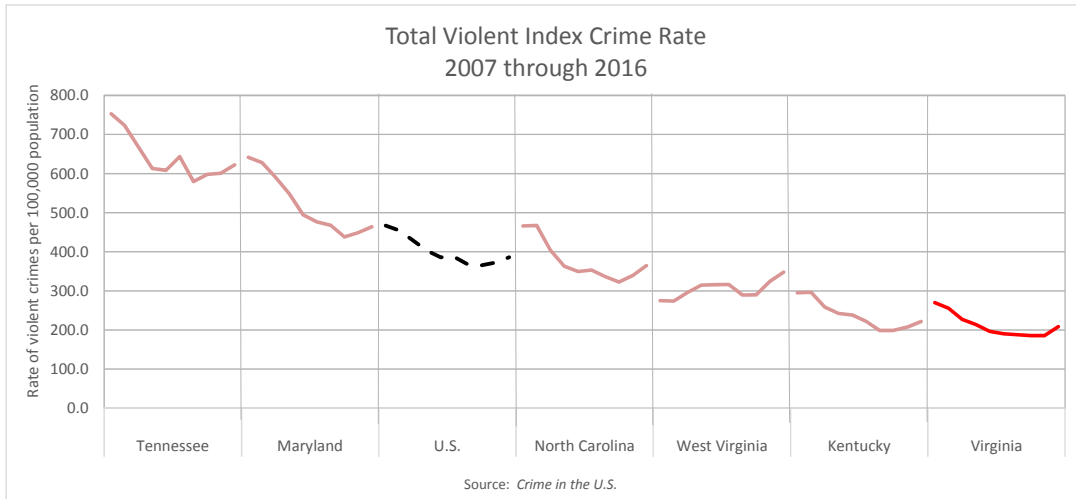
Source: *Crime in the U.S.*

From 2007 to 2016, the number of violent crimes declined in the U.S., Virginia, and all but one of the states bordering Virginia. The number of violent crimes in Virginia declined by 16% over the ten-year period.

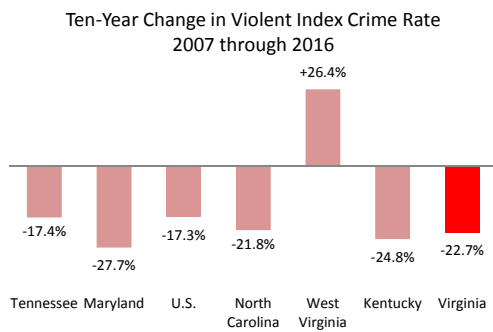
While the volume of violence decreased in Virginia from 2007–2016, there were more violent offenses reported in 2016 than in 2015. The number of violent crimes reported in Virginia increased by 13% (1,978 offenses) from 2015 to 2016. The number of violent crimes also increased in each of the bordering states and across the U.S.

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

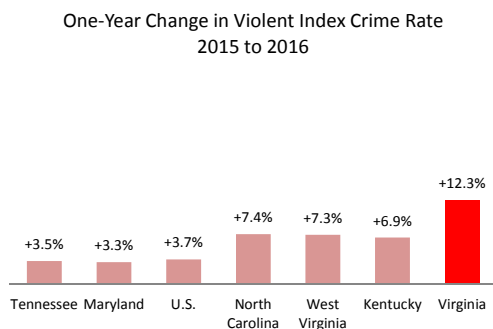
The total violent index crime rate is the total number of violent index crimes reported per 100,000 population.



Total violent index crime rates trended downward over the decade for Virginia, the U.S., and all but one of the states that border Virginia (West Virginia). Virginia’s violent index crime rate has consistently been one of the lowest compared to the areas shown above, and from 2008 on Virginia’s violent crime rate has been lower than the national rate and the rates of all five bordering states.



In 2007, Virginia’s total violent index crime rate was 269.7 violent crimes per 100,000, and in 2016 the total violent index crime rate in Virginia was 208.4 violent crimes per 100,000, a decrease of almost 23%. The total violent index crime rate for the U.S. decreased by 17% over the decade.



From 2015 to 2016, total violent index crime rates increased nationwide and in all of the states bordering Virginia. Virginia’s total violent index crime rate increased by 12%, from 185.5 violent crimes per 100,000 in 2015 to 208.4 violent crimes per 100,000 in 2016. Virginia had the largest percentage *increase* in violent crime rate from 2015 to 2016 of all areas shown, but Virginia also had the lowest violent crime rate of all areas shown in both 2015 and 2016.

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

In 2007, Virginia ranked 40 out of 50 states for violent index crime rate. In 2016, Virginia ranked 47. In 2016 only three states—Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont—reported violent index crime rates lower than Virginia.

States violent index crime rate and relative rank, 2007, 2015, and 2016

Source: *Crime in the U.S.*

	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2007	2015	2016	2007	2015	2016
U.S.	466.9	372.6	386.3			
Alabama	448.0	460.4	521.4	21	10	7
Alaska	661.2	696.2	764.3	8	1	1
Arizona	482.7	398.3	458.0	18	16	12
Arkansas	529.4	500.1	530.8	12	6	6
California	522.6	417.6	436.3	13	13	14
Colorado	347.8	304.9	325.7	25	29	28
Connecticut	256.0	213.2	221.5	41	44	45
Delaware	689.2	488.6	499.7	6	8	9
Florida	722.6	451.4	420.3	5	11	18
Georgia	493.2	369.2	388.0	17	24	21
Hawaii	272.8	282.2	297.2	39	32	30
Idaho	239.4	205.9	219.0	42	46	46
Illinois	533.2	373.9	426.4	11	22	16
Indiana	333.6	378.2	394.9	27	19	20
Iowa	294.7	276.3	280.3	32	34	34
Kansas	452.7	377.4	368.7	20	20	23
Kentucky	295.0	207.5	221.8	31	45	44
Louisiana	729.5	529.8	555.7	4	5	5
Maine	118.0	121.0	115.4	50	49	50
Maryland	641.9	449.2	463.9	9	12	11
Massachusetts	431.5	384.1	369.1	22	18	22
Michigan	536.0	392.5	438.8	10	17	13
Minnesota	288.7	231.1	231.5	35	39	41
Mississippi	291.3	264.4	268.0	33	35	36
Missouri	504.9	485.9	508.4	15	9	8
Montana	287.5	338.4	352.6	37	26	26
Nebraska	302.4	263.2	277.6	30	36	35
Nevada	750.6	680.4	663.1	3	2	3
New Hampshire	137.3	186.8	185.6	48	47	48
New Jersey	329.3	251.5	240.9	29	37	38
New Mexico	664.2	634.2	682.8	7	3	2
New York	414.1	371.2	367.7	24	23	24
North Carolina	466.4	339.6	364.7	19	25	25
North Dakota	142.4	230.3	239.7	47	41	39
Ohio	343.2	283.3	287.8	26	31	33
Oklahoma	499.6	409.3	436.3	16	14	14
Oregon	287.6	249.2	253.3	36	38	37
Pennsylvania	416.5	305.8	307.0	23	28	29
Rhode Island	227.3	231.1	228.1	45	39	43
South Carolina	788.3	492.4	488.2	1	7	10
South Dakota	169.2	376.8	403.4	46	21	19
Tennessee	753.3	601.3	622.1	2	4	4
Texas	510.6	400.1	421.8	14	15	17
Utah	234.8	217.8	229.5	44	42	42
Vermont	124.3	115.6	149.7	49	50	49
Virginia	269.7	185.5	208.4	40	48	47
Washington	333.1	277.3	291.0	28	33	32
West Virginia	275.2	324.2	347.8	38	27	27
Wisconsin	290.9	296.1	296.9	34	30	31
Wyoming	239.3	214.0	234.8	43	43	40

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

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.

**Total Number of Property Crimes Reported
Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2007–2016**

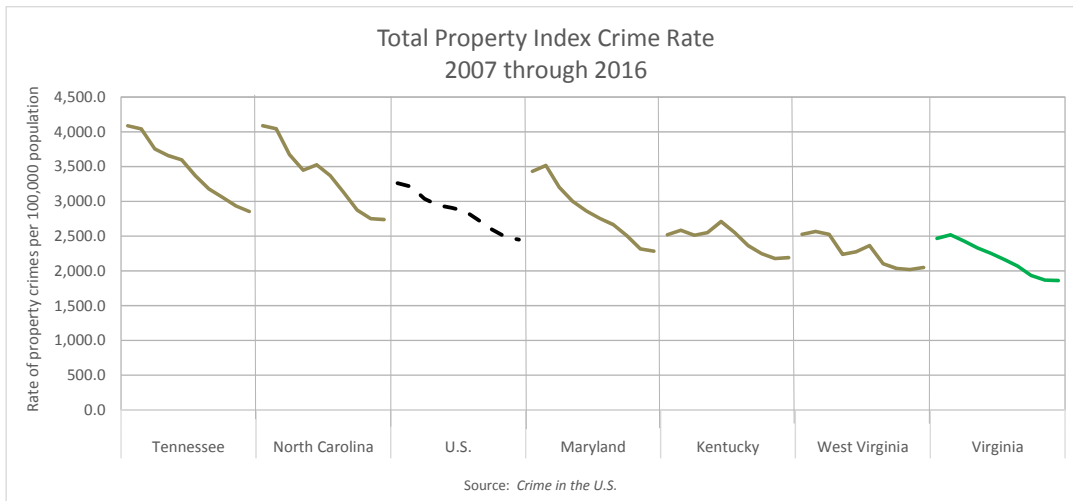
	2007	2015	2016	10-year % change	1-year % change
U.S.	9,843,481	7,993,631	7,919,035	-19.6%	-0.9%
North Carolina	370,354	276,183	277,765	-25.0%	+0.6%
Tennessee	251,724	193,796	189,835	-24.6%	-2.0%
Virginia	190,209	156,470	156,412	-17.8%	-0.04%
Maryland	192,796	139,048	137,445	-28.7%	-1.2%
Kentucky	106,813	96,362	97,158	-9.0%	+0.8%
West Virginia	45,753	37,251	37,487	-18.1%	+0.6%

Source: *Crime in the U.S.*

From 2007 to 2016, the number of reported property crimes declined in the U.S., Virginia, and all of the states bordering Virginia.

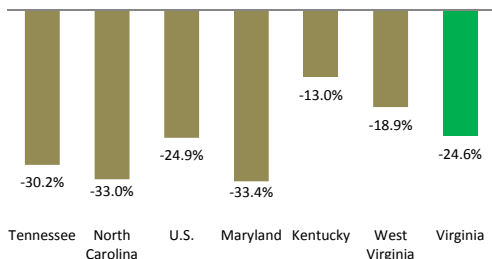
From 2015 to 2016, the number of reported property crimes declined in the U.S. and declined slightly in Virginia. The number of property crimes in 2016 increased slightly in three of the bordering states.

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



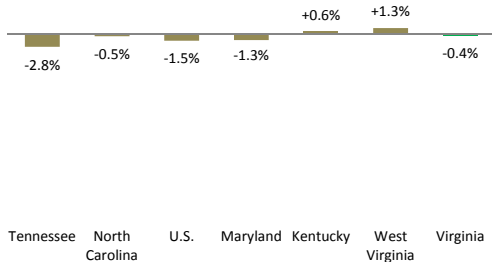
Total property index crime rates trended downward over the decade for Virginia, the U.S. and each of the five states bordering Virginia. Virginia’s property index crime was the lower than the U.S. and bordering states in all years shown except 2010.

Ten-Year Change in Property Index Crime Rates 2007 through 2016



Virginia’s total property index crime rate decreased by 25% over the decade, with 2,466.4 property crimes per 100,000 population reported in 2007 and 1,859.4 reported in 2016. Like Virginia, the five bordering states and the U.S. all had decreasing property index crime rates from 2007 to 2016.

One-Year Change in Property Index Crime Rates 2015 through 2016



Virginia, the U.S., and three of five bordering states continued to report decreases in property index crime rates from 2015 to 2016. Virginia’s rate decreased slightly—by less than 1%—over the one-year period compared to the 1.5% decrease nationwide.

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

Virginia's property index crime rate ranked 39 in 2007 and ranked 41 in 2016.

States property index crime rate and relative rank, 2007, 2015, and 2016

Source: *Crime in the U.S.*

	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2007	2015	2016	2007	2015	2016
U.S.	3,263.5	2,487.0	2,450.7			
Alabama	3,971.6	2,978.9	2,947.8	10	10	13
Alaska	3,379.5	2,817.6	3,353.0	23	17	3
Arizona	4,414.0	3,033.2	2,978.4	1	7	10
Arkansas	3,953.1	3,251.5	3,268.6	11	6	5
California	3,033.0	2,618.3	2,553.0	29	25	27
Colorado	3,006.1	2,641.5	2,740.7	30	23	19
Connecticut	2,399.9	1,812.0	1,808.0	41	44	42
Delaware	3,370.1	2,691.0	2,766.0	24	21	17
Florida	4,089.3	2,813.2	2,686.8	5	18	22
Georgia	3,901.0	3,022.3	3,004.5	12	8	7
Hawaii	4,225.4	3,796.2	2,992.7	3	1	8
Idaho	2,246.6	1,743.8	1,744.2	45	46	43
Illinois	2,935.8	1,988.6	2,049.0	31	35	34
Indiana	3,396.6	2,596.0	2,589.4	22	26	24
Iowa	2,615.6	2,047.3	2,086.0	36	33	33
Kansas	3,678.7	2,720.1	2,695.5	16	20	21
Kentucky	2,518.3	2,177.6	2,189.7	38	31	31
Louisiana	4,076.0	3,353.4	3,297.7	8	4	4
Maine	2,428.8	1,830.0	1,645.7	40	42	46
Maryland	3,431.5	2,315.0	2,284.5	21	28	29
Massachusetts	2,391.5	1,690.7	1,561.1	42	47	47
Michigan	3,065.7	1,885.6	1,909.9	27	40	39
Minnesota	3,036.6	2,222.1	2,133.3	28	30	32
Mississippi	3,200.8	2,833.6	2,768.1	25	15	16
Missouri	3,738.4	2,854.2	2,799.1	14	14	15
Montana	2,765.4	2,623.6	2,683.5	34	24	23
Nebraska	3,161.4	2,241.1	2,263.3	26	29	30
Nevada	3,777.8	2,668.3	2,586.6	13	22	25
New Hampshire	1,892.0	1,745.7	1,512.9	48	45	50
New Jersey	2,213.1	1,626.5	1,544.6	46	48	49
New Mexico	3,725.7	3,697.4	3,937.1	15	2	1
New York	1,978.6	1,604.0	1,545.6	47	49	48
North Carolina	4,087.3	2,750.1	2,737.5	7	19	20
North Dakota	1,889.6	2,116.5	2,295.9	49	32	28
Ohio	3,455.2	2,587.7	2,577.5	20	27	26
Oklahoma	3,526.4	2,885.9	2,982.9	17	13	9
Oregon	3,526.2	2,946.6	2,964.4	18	11	11
Pennsylvania	2,361.3	1,812.8	1,742.7	43	43	44
Rhode Island	2,622.6	1,897.5	1,898.7	35	39	40
South Carolina	4,271.7	3,293.3	3,243.8	2	5	6
South Dakota	1,652.3	1,943.0	1,980.6	50	37	36
Tennessee	4,088.6	2,936.2	2,854.1	6	12	14
Texas	4,121.2	2,831.3	2,759.8	4	16	18
Utah	3,500.3	2,980.0	2,951.5	19	9	12
Vermont	2,322.7	1,406.6	1,697.4	44	50	45
Virginia	2,466.4	1,866.5	1,859.4	39	41	41
Washington	4,030.8	3,463.8	3,494.1	9	3	2
West Virginia	2,525.0	2,020.0	2,047.2	37	34	35
Wisconsin	2,837.7	1,974.0	1,933.3	33	36	38
Wyoming	2,865.9	1,902.6	1,957.3	32	38	37

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

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 population. Drug arrest statistics can reflect law enforcement anti-drug activities and are not an accurate indicator of drug prevalence.

**Total Number of Drug Arrests Reported
Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2007–2016**

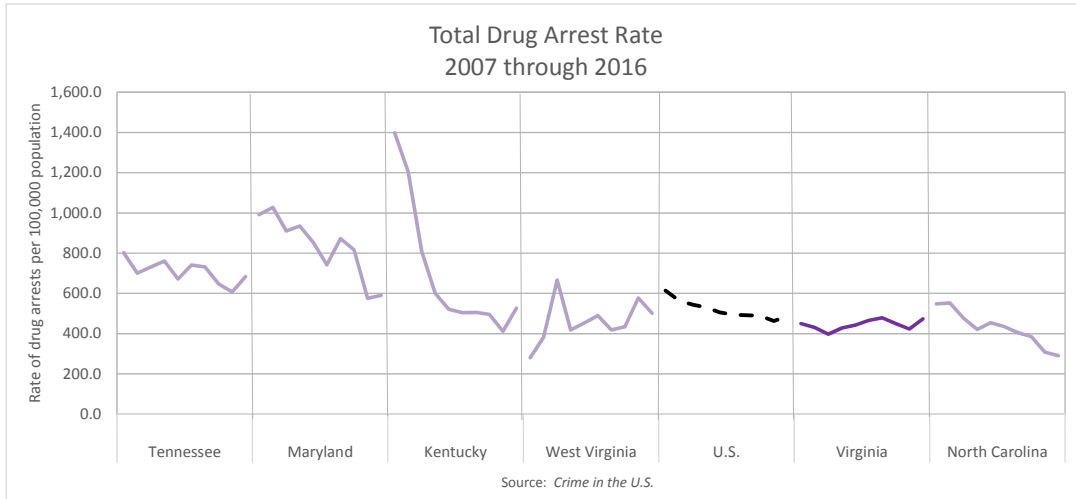
	2007	2015	2016	10-year % change	1-year % change
U.S.	1,386,394	1,144,021	1,250,650	-9.8%	+9.3%
Tennessee	38,899	38,486	44,185	+13.6%	+14.8%
Virginia	32,941	33,558	39,132	+18.8%	+16.6%
Maryland	55,155	26,154	30,692	-44.4%	+17.4%
Kentucky	11,883	22,106	23,308	+96.1%	+5.4%
North Carolina	38,343	21,487	18,247	-52.4%	-15.1%
West Virginia	3,928	6,187	6,267	+59.5%	+1.3%

Source: *Crime in the U.S.*

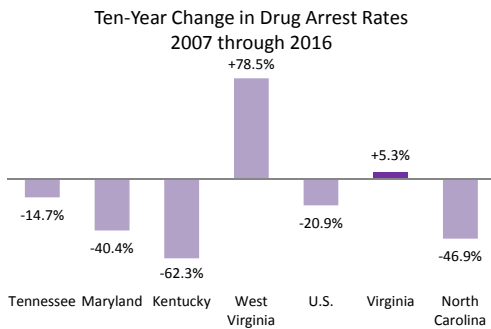
From 2007 to 2016, the number of drug arrests dropped in the U.S., Maryland, and North Carolina while the number of drug arrests in Virginia increased by 19%.

From 2015 to 2016, the number of drug arrests increased in the U.S., Virginia, and all but one of the states that border Virginia.

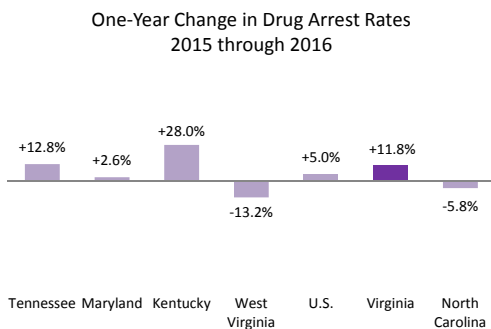
How did Virginia’s total drug arrest rate compare with rates for the U.S. and rates for the five states bordering Virginia?



Drug arrest rates from 2007 to 2016 decreased for all areas shown except Virginia and West Virginia.



The total drug arrest rate across Virginia rate increased by 5% from 2007 to 2016. The Virginia rate in 2007 was 449.6 drug arrests per 100,000 population and in 2016 the drug arrest rate was 473.4. Drug arrest rates decreased nationwide by 21%.



Drug arrest rates increased for all but two of the areas shown. The drug arrest rate in Virginia increased by almost 12% from 2015 to 2016, from a rate of 423.4 drug arrests per 100,000 population in 2015 to a rate of 473.4 in 2016. The drug arrest rate increased by 5% nationwide over the one-year period.

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

In 2007, Virginia ranked 32 out of 49 states* for drug arrest rate. In 2016, Virginia ranked 26 out of 50 states.

States drug arrest rate and relative rank, 2007, 2015, and 2016

Source: *Crime in the U.S.*

*Hawaii 2007 drug arrest rate was not published in *Crime in the U.S.*

	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2007	2015	2016	2007	2015	2016
U.S.	614.8	463.3	486.4			
Alabama	497.1	244.8	268.2	28	42	42
Alaska	268.7	164.9	136.2	47	48	50
Arizona	595.6	487.3	474.2	18	24	25
Arkansas	530.8	472.7	564.8	23	25	16
California	810.4	529.9	561.4	7	19	17
Colorado	419.6	282.6	295.3	34	41	39
Connecticut	452.0	231.3	265.1	31	43	43
Delaware	672.8	606.2	451.1	11	10	30
Florida	930.1	568.6	557.0	5	18	18
Georgia	744.0	448.6	485.8	9	28	24
Hawaii	n/a	185.5	180.2	n/a	45	45
Idaho	409.5	431.6	606.2	35	31	13
Illinois	1,849.7	837.7	451.1	1	2	30
Indiana	501.7	351.4	419.0	27	37	33
Iowa	343.7	324.2	339.8	42	39	38
Kansas	397.6	411.7	434.1	37	33	32
Kentucky	1,397.3	504.5	526.8	2	21	20
Louisiana	877.5	716.7	658.0	6	5	9
Maine	435.1	448.1	408.7	33	29	34
Maryland	991.5	575.4	590.5	3	16	14
Massachusetts	349.6	157.6	151.8	41	49	49
Michigan	364.7	374.3	399.9	39	36	35
Minnesota	370.5	329.2	294.0	38	38	40
Mississippi	950.4	750.2	752.7	4	3	3
Missouri	661.7	634.7	722.4	12	7	4
Montana	195.0	219.7	254.5	49	44	44
Nebraska	651.4	732.8	689.8	13	4	6
Nevada	585.3	401.1	468.4	20	34	27
New Hampshire	288.1	602.5	654.5	45	11	10
New Jersey	626.7	571.4	703.9	14	17	5
New Mexico	489.2	455.6	462.0	29	27	28
New York	581.4	592.0	615.6	21	13	12
North Carolina	547.9	308.9	291.0	22	40	41
North Dakota	309.7	601.2	676.2	44	12	8
Ohio	507.3	396.5	361.0	25	35	37
Oklahoma	617.3	497.3	590.4	16	22	15
Oregon	529.8	581.0	367.9	24	14	36
Pennsylvania	502.3	436.4	453.7	26	30	29
Rhode Island	334.8	166.3	166.5	43	47	48
South Carolina	734.0	628.2	626.1	10	8	11
South Dakota	352.7	893.0	1,002.0	40	1	1
Tennessee	802.3	607.0	684.6	8	9	7
Texas	626.7	488.5	518.0	14	23	21
Utah	398.9	526.5	539.4	36	20	19
Vermont	268.1	104.5	170.2	48	50	46
Virginia	449.6	423.4	473.4	32	32	26
Washington	592.0	168.5	169.9	19	46	47
West Virginia	280.5	577.1	500.8	46	15	22
Wisconsin	469.4	459.8	496.6	30	26	23
Wyoming	602.1	705.3	815.3	17	6	2

Virginia crime and arrest rates from *CIUS* 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 2007–2016*, which also is produced by the DCJS Research Center. *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2007–2016* describes trends for Virginia, Virginia localities, and Virginia State Police divisions using Uniform Crime Reports submitted by local Virginia law enforcement agencies to the central repository managed by the Virginia Department of State Police. The crime and arrest rates presented in this report come from *Crime in the United States* (CIUS), published annually by the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The rates published in CIUS and shown in this report may differ from rates published by DCJS in *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2007–2016*. 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 10 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).