## Virginia, U.S. and Bordering States Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2006–2015

Department of Criminal Justice Services Criminal Justice Research Center

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### Introduction

The previous DCJS report *Virginia Crime and Arrests Trends 2006-2015* illustrated how violent and property index crimes decreased in Virginia over the last decade, and how these decreases occurred across different regions and localities in Virginia over this period.

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 2006–2015* 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

### **Violent Crime**

- In 2015, Virginia's violent crime rate ranked 48<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states in the U.S. Only Maine and Vermont reported a violent crime rate lower than Virginia's.
- Over the decade 2006-2015, Virginia's violent crime rate dropped by nearly 31%, 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 2014 to 2015, total violent crime rates increased in all of the states bordering Virginia, reversing previous trends of declining rates. However, Virginia's rate decreased slightly (less than 1%), from 196.2 crimes per 100,000 in 2014 to 195.6 crimes per 100,000 in 2015.

### **Property Crime**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more details on Virginia trends for specific types of violent and property crime, and drug arrests, see *Virginia Crime and Arrests Trends 2006-2015.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Virginia crime and arrests rates published by the FBI in CIUS may slightly differ from rates published in the DCJS *Virginia Crime and Arrest Trends 2006-2015* 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.

- Virginia's property crime rate ranked 41 out of 50 states in both 2006 and 2015.
- 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 proprty crime rate decreased by 3% from 2014 to 2015, compared to a 4% decrease nationwide.

### **Drug Arrests**

- In 2006, Virginia ranked 29th out of 50 states for drug arrest rate. In 2015, Virginia ranked 32 out of the 50 states.
- From 2006 to 2015 drug arrest rates decreased in Virginia, the U.S., and all but one of the bordering states. 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 from the bordering states.
- Virginia's drug arrest rate decreased by almost 6% from 2014 to 2015.

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### 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 bordering Virginia?

#### Total Number of Violent Crimes Reported Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2006-2015

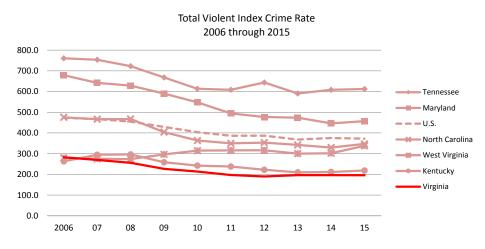
Source: Crime in the	U.S.				
				10-year	1-year
	2006	2014	2015	change	change
Total Number of	Violent Crimes				
U.S.	1,418,043	1,165,383	1,197,704	-15.5%	2.8%
Kentucky	11,063	9,340	9,676	-12.5%	3.6%
Maryland	38,110	26,661	27,462	-27.9%	3.0%
North Carolina	42,124	32,767	34,852	-17.3%	6.4%
Tennessee	45,907	39,848	40,400	-12.0%	1.4%
Virginia	21,568	16,340	16,399	-24.0%	0.4%
West Virginia	5,087	5,588	6,231	22.5%	11.5%

From 2006 to 2015, the number of violent crimes reported in Virginia declined by 24%. Virginia had a larger percentage drop in number of violent crimes than the U.S. or any state bordering Virginia except for Maryland.

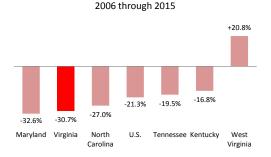
The number of violent crimes reported in the U.S., Virginia and the states bordering Virginia increased from 2014 to 2015. However, Virginia's increase of 0.4% (59 crimes) was the smallest of these increases.

# 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 crimes are murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The total violent index crime rate is the total number of violent index crimes reported per 100,000 population.

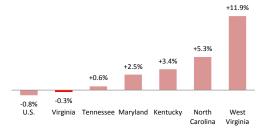


Total violent index crime rates trended downward over the decade for Virginia, the U.S., and all but one of the states that border Virginia. Virginia's violent index crime rate has consistently been one of the lowest compared to the areas shown above, and from 2008 on Virginia's violent crime rate has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



Ten-Year Change in Violent Index Crime Rate

One-Year Change in Violent Index Crime Rate 2014 to 2015



In 2006, Virginia's total violent index crime rate was 282.2 violent crimes per 100,000, and in 2015 the total violent index crime rate in Virginia was 195.6 violent crimes per 100,000, a decrease of almost 31%. The total violent index crime rate for the U.S. decreased by 21% over the decade.

From 2014 to 2015, total violent index crime rates increased in all of the states bordering Virginia, reversing the steady decline in rates from 2006 to 2014 for all but Tennessee. Virginia's total violent index crime rate decreased by less than 1%, from 196.2 violent crimes per 100,000 in 2014 to 195.6 violent crimes per 100,000 in 2015. The violent crime rate nationwide also decreased slightly from 2014 to 2015.

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

In 2006, Virginia ranked 34 out of 50 states for violent index crime rate. In 2015, Virginia ranked 48. In 2015 only two states, Maine and Vermont, reported violent index crime rates lower than Virginia.

Source: Crime in t	the U.S.					
_	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2006	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	2006	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
U.S.	473.6	365.5	372.6			
Alabama	425.2	427.4	472.4	23	12	10
Alaska	688.0	635.8	730.2	6	1	1
Arizona	501.4	399.9	410.2	16	16	17
Arkansas	551.6	480.1	521.3	11	9	6
California	532.5	396.1	426.3	14	17	13
Colorado	391.6	309.1	321.0	25	28	28
Connecticut	280.8	236.9	218.5	37	39	45
Delaware	681.6	489.1	499.0	7	8	8
Florida	712.0	540.5	461.9	4	5	11
Georgia	471.0	377.3	378.3	19	20	24
Hawaii	281.2	259.2	293.4	36	38	31
Idaho	247.2	212.2	215.6	42	44	46
Illinois	541.6	370.0	383.8	13	21	21
Indiana	314.8	365.3	387.5	29	22	20
lowa	283.5	273.5	286.1	33	35	33
Kansas	425.0	348.6	389.9	24	23	19
Kentucky	263.0	211.6	218.7	40	45	44
Louisiana	697.8	514.7	539.7	5	6	5
Maine	115.5	127.8	130.1	50	49	49
Maryland	678.6	446.1	457.2	8	10	12
Massachusetts	447.0	391.4	390.9	20	18	18
Michigan	562.4	427.3	415.5	10	13	15
Minnesota	312.0	229.1	242.6	30	41	39
Mississippi	298.6	278.5	275.8	31	34	35
Missouri	545.6	442.9	497.4	12	11	9
Montana	253.7	323.7	349.6	41	26	25
Nebraska	281.8	280.4	274.9	35	33	36
Nevada	741.6	635.6	695.9	3	2	2
New Hampshire	138.7	196.1	199.3	47	47	47
New Jersey	351.6	261.2	255.4	26	37	38
New Mexico	643.2	597.4	656.1	9	4	3
New York	434.9	381.8	379.7	22	19	23
North Carolina	475.6	329.5	347.0	18	24	26
North Dakota	127.9	265.1	239.4	49	36	41
Ohio	350.3	284.9	291.9	27	32	32
Oklahoma	497.4	406.0	422.0	17	14	14
Oregon	280.3	232.3	259.8	38	40	37
Pennsylvania	439.4	314.1	315.1	21	27	29
Rhode Island	227.5	219.2	242.5	44	42	40
South Carolina	765.5	497.7	504.5	1	7	7
South Dakota	171.4	326.5	383.1	46	25	22
Tennessee	760.2	608.4	612.1	2	3	4
Texas	516.3	405.9	412.2	15	15	16
Utah	224.4	215.6	236.0	45	43	42
Vermont	136.6	99.3	118.0	48	50	50
Virginia	282.2	196.2	195.6	34	46	48
Washington	345.9	285.2	284.4	28	31	34
West Virginia	279.7	302.0	337.9	39	29	27
Wisconsin	284.0	290.3	305.8	32	30	30
Wyoming	239.6	195.5	222.1	43	48	43

States violent index crime rate and relative rank, 2006, 2014 and 2015 Source: *Crime in the U.S.* 

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

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## 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?

#### Total Number of Property Crimes Reported Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2006-2015

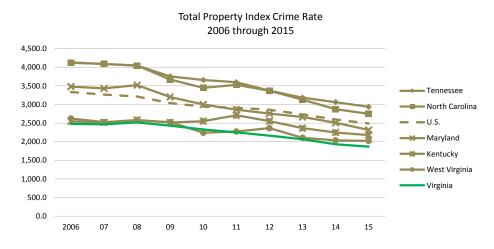
Source: Crime in the U.S.								
-				10-year	1-year			
	2006	2014	2015	change	change			
Total Number of F	Property Crimes							
U.S.	9,983,568	8,277,829	7,993,631	-19.9%	-3.4%			
Kentucky	107,023	99,166	96,362	-10.0%	-2.8%			
Maryland	195,476	149,859	139,048	-28.9%	-7.2%			
North Carolina	364,960	285,697	276,183	-24.3%	-3.3%			
Tennessee	249,297	200,447	193,796	-22.3%	-3.3%			
Virginia	189,406	160,720	156,470	-17.4%	-2.6%			
West Virginia	47,672	37,648	37,251	-21.9%	-1.1%			

From 2006 to 2015, the number of reported property crimes declined in the U.S., Virginia and all of the states bordering Virginia.

From 2014 to 2015, the number of reported property crimes also declined in the U.S., Virginia and all of the states bordering Virginia.

# 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 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 property index crime rates trended downward over the decade for Virginia, the U.S., 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. Property index crime rates may be converging: in 2006 rates ranged from 2,478.2 property crimes per 100,000 in Virginia to 4,128.3 in Tennessee. In 2015 rates ranged from 1,866.5 property crimes per 100,000 in Virginia to 2,936.2 in Tennessee.



Virginia's total property index crime rate decreased by 25% over the decade, with 2,478.2 property crimes per 100,000 population reported in 2006 and 1,866.5 reported in 2015. Like Virginia, the five bordering states and the U.S. all had decreasing property index crime rates from 2006 to 2015.

One-Year Change in Property Index Crime Rates 2014 through 2015



Virginia, the U.S., and the five bordering states all continued to report decreases in property index crime rates from 2014 to 2015. Virginia's rate decreased by 3% over the one-year period compared to the 4% 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 41 out of 50 states in both 2006 and in 2015.

-	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2006	2014	2015	2006	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
U.S.	3,334.5	2,596.1	2,487.0			
Alabama	3,936.1	3,177.6	2,978.9	13	9	10
laska	3,604.9	2,760.0	2,817.6	19	21	17
Arizona	4,627.9	3,197.5	3,033.2	1	8	7
Arkansas	3,967.5	3,338.0	3,251.5	11	6	6
California	3,170.9	2,441.1	2,618.3	29	29	25
Colorado	3,451.3	2,530.1	2,641.5	24	25	23
Connecticut	2,504.1	1,920.4	1,812.0	40	44	44
Delaware	3,417.9	2,982.0	2,691.0	25	14	21
lorida	3,986.1	3,415.5	2,813.2	10	5	18
ieorgia	3,889.2	3,281.2	3,022.3	14	7	8
lawaii	4,230.4	3,050.0	3,796.2	4	11	1
daho	2,418.8	1,854.8	1,743.8	43	47	46
linois	3,019.6	2,075.9	1,988.6	31	36	35
ndiana	3,502.4	2,649.4	2,596.0	22	23	26
owa	2,802.7	2,093.8	2,047.3	34	34	33
ansas	3,750.2	2,735.2	2,720.1	16	22	20
entucky	2,544.5	2,246.9	2,177.6	38	31	31
ouisiana	3,993.7	3,458.8	3,353.4	9	4	4
Iaine	2,518.7	1,986.4	1,830.0	39	39	42
laryland	3,480.9	2,507.5	2,315.0	23	27	28
lassachusetts	2,391.0	1,857.1	1,690.7	44	46	47
1ichigan	3,212.8	2,043.9	1,885.6	27	37	40
linnesota	3,079.5	2,297.5	2,222.1	30	30	30
lississippi	3,208.8	2,921.2	2,833.6	28	15	15
1issouri	3,826.5	2,906.5	2,854.2	15	16	14
Iontana	2,687.5	2,472.9	2,623.6	35	28	24
lebraska	3,340.7	2,523.5	2,241.1	26	26	29
levada	4,088.8	2,625.4	2,668.3	7	20	22
lew Hampshire	1,874.1	1,962.7	1,745.7	49	41	45
ew Jersey	2,291.9	1,734.1	1,626.5	46	48	48
lew Mexico	3,937.2	3,542.3	3,697.4	12	2	-40
lew York	2,052.7	1,718.2	1,604.0	47	49	49
orth Carolina	4,120.8	•	2,750.1	6	49	49 19
lorth Dakota	2,000.3	2,873.1 2,110.3	2,116.5	48	33	32
hio	3,678.6	2,799.1	2,587.7	48	20	27
Iklahoma			2,885.9	20	13	13
	3,604.2	2,990.7		18	13	13
regon	3,672.1	2,879.0	2,946.6			
ennsylvania	2,443.5	1,931.7	1,812.8	42	42	43
hode Island	2,586.9	2,173.6	1,897.5	37	32	39
outh Carolina	4,242.3	3,460.3	3,293.3	3	3	5
outh Dakota	1,619.6	1,863.9	1,943.0	50	45	37
ennessee	4,128.3	3,060.6	2,936.2	5	10	12
exas	4,081.5	3,019.4	2,831.3	8	12	16
tah .	3,516.4	2,878.5	2,980.0	21	18	9
ermont	2,304.7	1,524.4	1,406.6	45	50	50
irginia	2,478.2	1,930.3	1,866.5	41	43	41
Vashington	4,480.0	3,706.1	3,463.8	2	1	3
Vest Virginia	2,621.5	2,034.7	2,020.0	36	38	34
Visconsin	2,817.8	2,088.3	1,974.0	33	35	36
Vyoming	2,980.6	1,964.7	1,902.6	32	40	38

States property index crime rate and relative rank, 2006, 2014 and 2015
Source: Crime in the U.S.

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

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# 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?

				10-year	1-year
	2006	2014	2015	change	change
Total Number of	Drug Arrests				
U.S.	1,379,887	1,223,505	1,144,021	-17.1%	-6.5%
Kentucky	12,192	21,644	22,106	81.3%	2.1%
Maryland	55,466	37,780	26,154	-52.8%	-30.8%
North Carolina	35,066	34,695	21,487	-38.7%	-38.1%
Tennessee	35,455	41,493	38,486	8.5%	-7.2%
Virginia	29,273	36,988	33,558	14.6%	-9.3%
West Virginia	4,100	5,994	6,187	50.9%	3.2%

#### Total Number of Drug Arrests Reported Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2006-2015

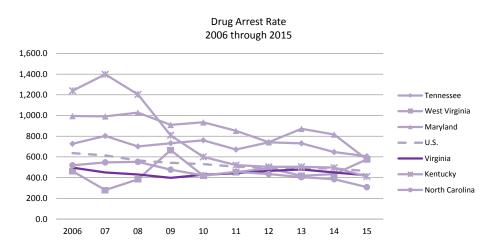
Source: Crime in the U.S.

From 2006 to 2015, the number of drug arrests dropped in the U.S., Maryland and North Carolina. The number of drug arrests increased by 14.6% in Virginia, and also increased in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

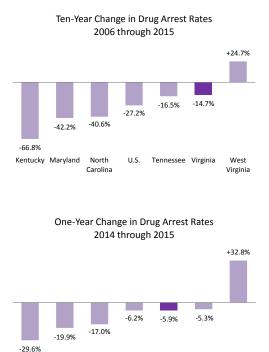
From 2014 to 2015, the number of drug arrests dropped in the U.S., Virginia and three of the five states that border Virginia. Only Kentucky and West Virginia had increases in the number of drug arrests.

# How did Virginia's total drug arrest rate compare with rates for the U.S., rates 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 10 and older). Drug arrest statistics can reflect law enforcement anti-drug activities and are not an accurate indicator of drug prevalence.



Drug arrest rates from 2006 to 2015 decreased for Virginia, the U.S., and all but one of the bordering states. 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 from the bordering states. Drug arrest rates may be converging for the areas shown: there was a greater range of rates in 2006 than in 2015.



Maryland North Kentucky Tennessee Virginia U.S. West Carolina Virginia The total drug arrest rate across Virginia rate decreased by 15% from 2006 to 2015. The Virginia rate in 2006 was 496.4 drug arrests per 100,000 arrest-age population and in 2015 the drug arrest rate was 423.4. Drug arrest rates decreased nationwide by 27%, and decreased in all bordering states except West Virginia. Virginia had the smallest 10-year rate change of all areas shown.

The 2014-to-2015 trend followed the ten-year trend, with the drug arrest rate decreasing in Virginia, the U.S. and in all bordering states except West Virginia. The drug arrest rate in Virginia decreased by almost 6% from 2014 to 2015, from a rate of 450.0 drug arrests per 100,000 arrest-age population in 2014 to a rate of 423.4 in 2015.

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

In 2006, Virginia ranked 29 out of 50 states for drug arrest rate. In 2015, Virginia ranked 32.

ource: <i>Crime in tl</i>	he U.S.					
-	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)		
	2006	2014	2015	2006	2014	2015
U.S.	636.8	489.0	463.3			
Alabama	456.7	259.3	244.8	32	43	42
Alaska	265.3	247.0	164.9	47	45	48
Arizona	601.8	470.7	487.3	19	24	24
Arkansas	573.9	424.3	472.7	20	34	25
California	830.5	591.7	529.9	8	14	19
Colorado	434.3	257.6	282.6	35	44	41
Connecticut	573.1	276.0	231.3	21	42	43
Delaware	648.9	660.3	606.2	14	7	10
Florida	933.2	616.2	568.6	7	13	18
Georgia	1,064.8	486.5	448.6	4	23	28
Hawaii	224.5	691.6	185.5	48	5	45
Idaho	427.4	453.4	431.6	36	27	31
Illinois	1,909.2	1,025.8	837.7	1	1	2
Indiana	524.7	334.7	351.4	26	40	37
lowa	343.2	323.8	324.2	42	41	39
Kansas	365.8	391.4	411.7	40	35	33
Kentucky	1,238.8	496.2	504.5	2	22	21
Louisiana	1,142.3	623.4	716.7	3	11	5
Maine	438.5	436.9	448.1	34	31	29
Maryland	995.6	816.8	575.4	6	2	16
Massachusetts	324.0	173.7	157.6	43	48	49
Michigan	359.5	356.2	374.3	41	37	36
Minnesota	394.5	350.9	329.2	37	38	38
Mississippi	1,001.4	658.4	750.2	5	8	3
Missouri	778.6	589.7	634.7	9	15	7
Montana	n/a	223.3	219.7	n/a	46	44
Nebraska	-		732.8	1/2	40	44
	668.6	706.9 442.8	401.1	24	30	34
Nevada	555.5			44		
New Hampshire	310.6	511.0	602.5		20	11
New Jersey	641.3	618.4	571.4	15	12	17
New Mexico	455.3	340.7	455.6	33	39	27
New York	653.7	582.4	592.0	13	16	13
North Carolina	519.6	385.7	308.9	27	36	40
North Dakota	310.0	563.1	601.2	45	17	12
Ohio	551.0	425.9	396.5	25	33	35
Oklahoma	639.8	466.0	497.3	16	25	22
Oregon	559.9	548.2	581.0	22	18	14
Pennsylvania	497.7	461.6	436.4	28	26	30
Rhode Island	386.6	181.3	166.3	38	47	47
South Carolina	740.6	638.5	628.2	10	10	8
South Dakota	175.1	709.7	893.0	49	3	1
Tennessee	726.9	647.3	607.0	11	9	9
Texas	605.3	509.2	488.5	18	21	23
Utah	381.9	511.8	526.5	39	19	20
Vermont	267.6	118.7	104.5	46	50	50
Virginia	496.5	450.0	423.4	29	28	32
Washington	557.0	171.2	168.5	23	49	46
West Virginia	462.9	434.4	577.1	31	32	15
Wisconsin	478.4	447.2	459.8	30	29	26
Wyoming	628.4	660.4	705.3	17	6	6

#### States drug arrest rate and relative rank, 2006, 2014 and 2015 So

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 Crime and Arrest Trends 2006-2015*, which also is produced by the DCJS Research Center. *Virginia Crime and Arrest Trends 2006-2015* 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 Crime and Arrest Trends 2006-2015*. 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 Crime and 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).