

Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2012–2021

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Introduction

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) report *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2012–2021* 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 10 years. It also showed increases in Virginia’s overall violent crime rates and decreases in property crime rates and drug arrest rates from 2020 to 2021.

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 2012–2021* 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 2012–2021*).

Recent Changes in How Offenses are Counted

Switch from Summary to Incident-Based Data

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 will result in a larger number of crimes overall.

Missing Data

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-compliant 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.”¹

Drug 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

¹ 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>

2021. The total number of drug arrests nationwide for 2021 was limited, so there is no nationwide drug arrest rate for 2021.

Rape Definition

Additionally, 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. This revised definition resulted in an increase in the number of victims of violent sexual assault compared to the legacy definition.

Summary

The UCR violent index, property index, and drug arrest counts and rates presented in this report span the 10-year period 2012 through 2021. As described above, this UCR data went through two definitional changes – one in 2013 and another in 2021. Total violent index crime data for 2012 include legacy “forcible rape” offenses, while violent index crime totals for 2013 through 2020 include revised “rape” offenses. The different crime data collection and counting standards make the overall summary data incomparable to the NIBRS data.

Characteristics of UCR data for years 2012 through 2021

	2012	2013–2020	2021
Violent and property index crime and drug arrest data source	Online tables from the FBI annual Crime in the U.S. publication	Online tables from the FBI annual Crime in the U.S. publication	FBI Crime Data Explorer online data tool
Data reporting standard	Summary	Summary	Incident-based (NIBRS)
Index offense counting rule	Single most serious violent <i>or</i> property index crime in each incident	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	Legacy “Forcible rape” (“the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will”)	Revised “Rape” (Expanded to three types of offenses against a victim of any gender)	Revised “Rape”
Violent sex offense victim counting rule	If “forcible rape” most serious incident offense, victim counted once.	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)	Reported (missing data estimated)	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 all previous editions of this report, Virginia 10-year and one-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 and limitations described above, nine-year (2012–2020) instead of 10-year (2012–2021) trends are presented for violent and property index crime. Also, no one-year (2020–2021) crime trends are presented; instead, 2021 crime rates are compared alone. *Ten-year and one-year drug arrest trends are included* because drug arrest data was not affected by the transition to NIBRS.

The crime and arrest rates for 2012 through 2020 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 Explorer². Virginia crime and arrest rates published by the FBI may differ slightly from rates published in the DCJS

² *CIUS 2020* was the final issue released by the FBI. With the advent of the NIBRS era, national crime and arrest data is being released by the FBI through the Crime Data Explorer online tool at <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads>.

Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest and Trends 2011–2020 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 “*How did Virginia’s total drug arrest rate compare with rates for the U.S. and rates for the five states bordering Virginia?*” on page 13 for further details.

Violent Crime

- In 2012, Virginia’s violent crime rate ranked 47th out of the 50 states. In 2020, Virginia’s violent crime rate ranked 45th out of the 50 states in the U.S. Only New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine reported a violent crime rate lower than Virginia in 2020.
- Over the nine-year period 2012–2020, the number of violent crimes in Virginia increased by 15% while the number of violent crimes nationwide increased by 8%. The violent crime rate per 100,000 population in Virginia increased by 10%, and the U.S. violent crime rate increased by 3%.
- From 2012–2020, both the number of violent crimes and the violent crime rate per 100,000 increased in each of the states bordering Virginia.
- Despite the increase in violent crime in Virginia, the violent crime rate statewide remained below rates for the U.S. and for the bordering states in each year 2012–2020.
- In 2021, the total violent index crime rate in Virginia (231.7 per 100,000 population) remained below the U.S. rate (401.6) and rates for the bordering states.

Property Crime

- Virginia’s property crime rate ranked 43 out of 50 states in 2012, and Virginia’s property crime rate ranked 40 out of 50 states in 2020.
- From 2012–2020, 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 2011 through 2017.
- Virginia’s property crime rate decreased by 33% over the nine-year period, while the U.S. rate decreased by 31%.
- In 2021, the total property index crime rate in Virginia (1,477.9 offenses per 100,000 population) was below the U.S. rate (1,933.4) and rates for the bordering states.

Drug Arrests

- The drug arrest rate in Virginia ranked 24 out of 50 states in 2012. In 2020, Virginia’s ranking was 27.
- From 2012 to 2021 the drug arrest rate decreased by 64% in Virginia, from 465.1 arrests per 100,000 in 2011 to 169.4 in 2021. Drug arrest rates also decreased in three of the states bordering Virginia (Maryland and the U.S. are excluded from comparison because of limited 2021 data).
- From 2020 to 2021, the Virginia drug arrest rate decreased by 47%. 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 2020 to 2021.

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), forcible rape (CY2012 only), rape (rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object; CY2013–2021), robbery, and aggravated assault.³ The total violent index crime rate is the total number of violent index crimes reported per 100,000 population.

Total Number of Violent Index Crimes Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2012, 2020 and 2021				
	Summary (legacy) 2012	Summary (revised) 2020	Incident-based 2021	% Change 2012-2020
U.S.	1,214,462	1,313,105	1,332,900	+8.1%
Tennessee	41,550	46,328	48,000	+11.5%
North Carolina	34,464	44,451	46,200	+29.0%
Maryland*	28,055	n/a	n/a	n/a
Virginia	15,564	17,925	20,000	+15.2%
Kentucky	9,752	11,600	13,000	+18.9%
West Virginia	5,869	6,352	6,600	+8.2%

2012 and 2020 Source: *Crime in the U.S.* ; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2020; no Maryland estimate for 2021

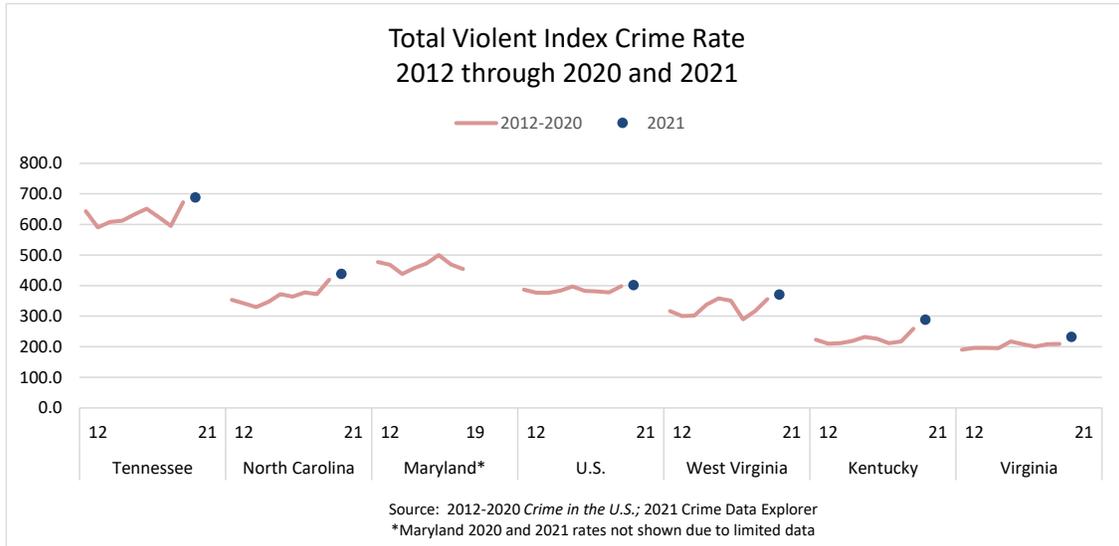
2012 totals above include the offense "forcible rape"; 2020 and 2021 totals include the offense "rape"

2021 totals are incident-based and are not comparable to summary totals (see Introduction)

- From 2012 to 2020, the volume of violent index crime increased in Virginia, the U.S., and four of the five states bordering Virginia (Maryland is excluded from comparisons due to limited 2020 data).
- This nine-year increase in total violent index crime across the four border states, Virginia, and the U.S. was not simply the result of the increase in the number of violent sex offenses due to the expanded definition of rape, because from 2012 to 2020 the number of homicides and aggravated assaults increased in Virginia, the U.S. and each of the four states bordering Virginia.

³ Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, 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 rates trended upward over the nine-year period for Virginia, the U.S., and the states that border Virginia (Maryland is excluded from comparison due to limited 2020 data).
- Each year from 2012 to 2020, Virginia’s violent index crime rate was lower than the national rate and the rates of each of the bordering states.

Violent Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Population Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2012, 2020 and 2021				
	Summary (legacy) 2012	Summary (revised) 2020	Incident-based 2021	% Change 2012-2020
Tennessee	643.6	672.7	688.4	+4.5%
North Carolina	353.4	419.3	438.1	+18.6%
Maryland*	476.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
U.S.	386.9	398.5	401.6	+3.0%
West Virginia	316.3	355.9	370.5	+12.5%
Kentucky	222.6	259.1	288.3	+16.4%
Virginia	190.1	208.7	231.7	+9.8%

2012 and 2020 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2020; no Maryland estimate for 2021

2012 rates above include the offense "forcible rape"; 2020 and 2021 rates include the offense "rape"

2021 rates are incident-based and are not comparable to summary rates (see Introduction)

- In 2012, Virginia’s total violent index crime rate was 190.1 violent crimes per 100,000, and in 2020 the total violent index crime rate in Virginia was 208.7 violent crimes per 100,000, a 10% increase. The total violent index crime rate for the U.S. increased by 3% over the decade.
- From 2012 to 2020, violent crime rates increased for all states bordering Virginia (Maryland excluded from all comparisons due to incomplete 2020 data).
- In 2021, the total violent index crime rate in Virginia remained below the U.S. rate and rates for the states bordering Virginia.

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

Virginia ranked 47 out of 50 states for violent index crime rate in 2012 and 45 out of 50 states for 2020. Due to limited 2021 data, rankings are not calculated for that year.

States violent index crime rate (2012, 2020 and 2021) and relative rank (2012 and 2020)

Source: *Crime in the U.S. (2012 and 2020)* and *Crime Data Explorer (2021)*

	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)	
	2012 (summary legacy)	2020 (summary revised)	2021 (NIBRS)	2012	2020
U.S.	386.3	398.5	401.6		
Alabama*	449.9	453.6	596.7	14	14
Alaska	603.2	837.8	543.9	3	1
Arizona	428.9	484.8	262.8	15	9
Arkansas	469.1	671.9	712.3	11	4
California**	423.1	442.0	n/a	16	16
Colorado	308.9	423.1	493.1	28	20
Connecticut	283.0	181.6	168.0	32	47
Delaware	547.4	431.9	434.6	6	17
Florida**	487.1	383.6	n/a	8	25
Georgia	378.9	400.1	399.1	21	22
Hawaii	239.2	254.2	n/a	41	41
Idaho	207.9	242.6	247.9	44	42
Illinois**	414.8	425.9	n/a	17	18
Indiana	345.7	357.7	320.2	25	27
Iowa	263.9	303.5	303.9	35	34
Kansas	354.6	425.0	422.0	22	19
Kentucky	222.6	259.1	288.3	43	40
Louisiana	496.9	639.4	662.7	7	5
Maine	122.7	108.6	113.7	50	50
Maryland*,**	476.8	399.9	n/a	9	23
Massachusetts	405.5	308.8	306.4	20	32
Michigan	454.5	478.0	498.1	12	10
Minnesota	230.9	277.5	324.3	42	38
Mississippi	260.8	291.2	245.8	36	37
Missouri	450.9	542.7	540.9	13	6
Montana	272.2	469.8	473.5	34	11
Nebraska	259.4	334.1	248.3	37	29
Nevada	607.6	460.3	436.5	2	12
New Hampshire	187.9	146.4	138.1	48	49
New Jersey**	290.2	195.4	n/a	31	46
New Mexico**	559.1	778.3	n/a	4	2
New York**	406.8	363.8	n/a	19	26
North Carolina	353.4	419.3	438.1	23	21
North Dakota	244.7	329.0	264.8	40	30
Ohio	299.7	308.8	336.5	29	32
Oklahoma	469.3	458.6	445.0	10	13
Oregon	247.6	291.9	358.1	39	36
Pennsylvania*,**	348.7	389.5	n/a	24	24
Rhode Island	252.4	230.8	206.9	38	44
South Carolina	558.8	530.7	534.2	5	7
South Dakota	321.8	501.4	394.7	26	8
Tennessee	643.6	672.7	688.4	1	3
Texas	408.6	446.5	467.3	18	15
Utah	205.8	260.7	263.3	45	39
Vermont	142.6	173.4	185.6	49	48
Virginia	190.1	208.7	231.7	47	45
Washington	295.6	293.7	340.5	30	35
West Virginia	316.3	355.9	370.5	27	28
Wisconsin	280.5	323.4	330.0	33	31
Wyoming	201.4	234.2	242.1	46	43

*Limited data for 2020 available for Alabama, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

**Limited data for 2021 available for California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, NY, and Pennsylvania. 2021 NIBRS rates are not comparable to 2012 and 2020 summary rates (see introductory Note).

Virginia crime and arrest rates from FBI 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 Index Crimes Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2012, 2020 and 2021				
	Summary (legacy) 2012	Summary (revised) 2020	Incident-based 2021	% Change 2012-2020
U.S.	8,975,438	6,452,038	6,254,700	-28.1%
North Carolina	328,594	236,026	224,100	-28.2%
Tennessee	217,664	171,675	156,300	-21.1%
Virginia	176,985	125,114	125,400	-29.3%
Maryland*	162,031	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kentucky	111,826	79,673	74,400	-28.8%
West Virginia	43,878	24,976	30,500	-43.1%

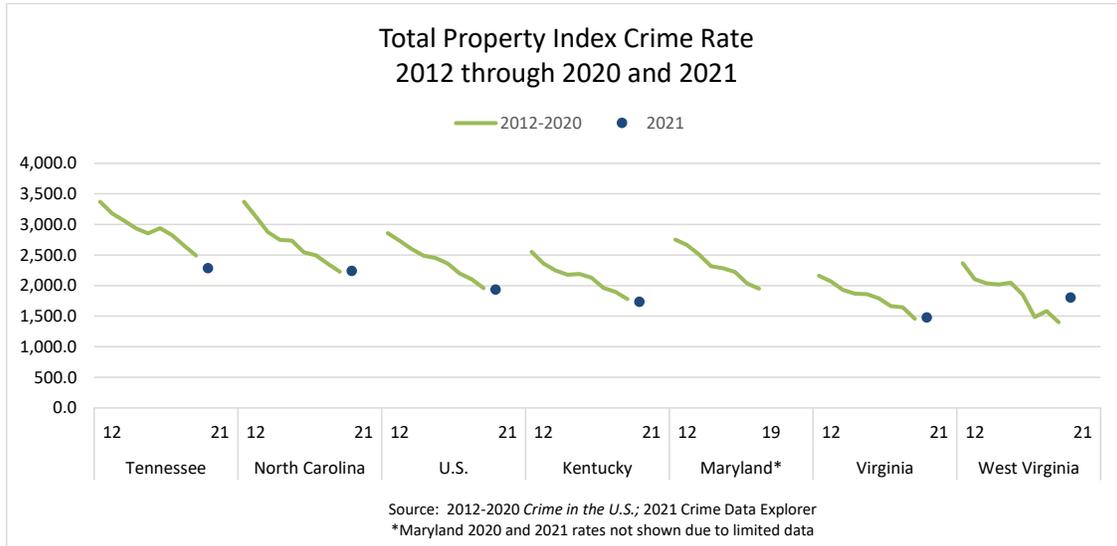
2012 and 2020 Source: *Crime in the U.S.* ; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2020; no Maryland estimate for 2021

2021 totals are incident-based and are not comparable to summary totals (see Introduction)

- From 2012 to 2020, the number of reported property crimes declined in the U.S., Virginia and each of the states bordering Virginia (Maryland is excluded from comparisons due to limited 2020 data). The number of reported property crimes decreased by 29% in Virginia and by 28% 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?



- Total property index crime rates trended downward over the decade for Virginia, the U.S. and each of the states bordering Virginia.

Property Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Population Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2012, 2020 and 2021				
	Summary (legacy)	Summary (revised)	Incident-based	% Change
	2012	2020	2021	2012-2020
Tennessee	3,371.4	2,492.8	2,284.3	-26.1%
North Carolina	3,369.5	2,226.5	2,240.3	-33.9%
U.S.	2,859.2	1,958.2	1,933.4	-31.5%
Kentucky	2,552.9	1,779.5	1,734.2	-30.3%
Maryland*	2,753.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Virginia	2,162.1	1,456.4	1,477.9	-32.6%
West Virginia	2,364.9	1,399.4	1,803.6	-40.8%

2012 and 2020 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer

*Limited Maryland data for 2020; no Maryland estimate for 2021

2021 rates are incident-based and are not comparable to summary rates (see Introduction)

- Virginia’s total property index crime rate decreased by 33% from 2012 to 2020, with 2,162.1 property crimes per 100,000 population reported in 2012 and 1,456.4 reported in 2020. Like Virginia, the bordering states and the U.S. all had decreasing property index crime rates from 2012 to 2020.
- While Virginia’s property crime rate decreased by 33% over the nine-year period, the U.S. rate decreased by 31%.
- In 2021, the total property index crime rate in Virginia (1,477.9 offenses per 100,000 population) was below the U.S. rate (1,933.4) and rates for 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 in 2012 and 40 in 2020. Due to limited 2021 data, rankings are not calculated for that year.

States property index crime rate (2012, 2020, and 2021) and relative rank (2012 and 2020)

Source: *Crime in the U.S. (2012 and 2020)* and Crime Data Explorer (2021)

	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)	
	2012	2020	2021	2012	2020
	(summary legacy)	(summary revised)	(NIBRS)		
U.S.	2,859.2	1,958.2	1,933.4		
Alabama*	3,502.2	2,136.8	2,585.3	7	19
Alaska	2,739.4	2,260.5	1,151.1	27	13
Arizona	3,539.2	2,227.7	1,435.4	6	15
Arkansas	3,660.1	2,613.4	2,646.6	2	8
California**	2,758.7	2,138.9	n/a	24	18
Colorado	2,684.7	2,833.8	3,135.4	28	3
Connecticut	2,140.0	1,565.1	1,509.9	45	37
Delaware	3,340.9	1,961.4	1,943.6	13	25
Florida**	3,276.7	1,769.4	n/a	15	32
Georgia	3,410.6	2,007.4	1,749.2	8	24
Hawaii	3,075.2	2,411.4	n/a	19	12
Idaho	1,983.5	1,111.9	1,045.3	49	48
Illinois**	2,578.7	1,559.4	n/a	30	38
Indiana	3,029.2	1,783.2	1,658.3	20	30
Iowa	2,271.8	1,698.2	1,568.3	41	33
Kansas	3,143.2	2,199.1	2,079.6	17	17
Kentucky	2,552.9	1,779.5	1,734.2	33	31
Louisiana	3,540.6	2,884.4	2,672.5	5	1
Maine	2,509.9	1,156.2	1,165.7	35	47
Maryland*,**	2,753.5	1,609.8	n/a	26	36
Massachusetts	2,153.0	1,053.2	1,044.4	44	50
Michigan	2,530.5	1,360.9	1,380.5	34	43
Minnesota	2,568.3	2,124.9	2,064.1	32	20
Mississippi	2,811.0	2,101.6	1,786.7	22	23
Missouri	3,314.4	2,531.0	2,378.4	14	9
Montana	2,583.7	2,120.8	2,152.4	29	22
Nebraska	2,754.9	1,909.2	1,546.6	25	28
Nevada	2,809.4	1,926.6	2,301.1	23	27
New Hampshire	2,324.0	1,098.9	1,063.1	39	49
New Jersey**	2,047.3	1,158.2	n/a	47	46
New Mexico**	3,600.7	2,841.9	n/a	4	2
New York**	1,922.0	1,410.7	710.1	50	41
North Carolina	3,369.5	2,226.5	2,240.3	11	16
North Dakota	2,010.1	2,124.1	2,191.0	48	21
Ohio	3,117.4	1,850.3	1,846.1	18	29
Oklahoma	3,401.0	2,705.6	2,600.9	9	6
Oregon	3,224.2	2,659.0	2,818.3	16	7
Pennsylvania*,**	2,166.3	1,644.1	n/a	42	34
Rhode Island	2,572.3	1,245.5	1,246.6	31	44
South Carolina	3,822.2	2,721.1	2,588.0	1	5
South Dakota	2,060.1	1,956.7	1,891.0	46	26
Tennessee	3,371.4	2,492.8	2,284.3	10	10
Texas	3,361.8	2,245.0	2,191.5	12	14
Utah	2,991.8	2,464.4	2,129.8	21	11
Vermont	2,398.7	1,217.0	1,344.0	37	45
Virginia	2,162.1	1,456.4	1,477.9	43	40
Washington	3,658.6	2,732.4	3,133.6	3	4
West Virginia	2,364.9	1,399.4	1,803.6	38	42
Wisconsin	2,453.8	1,485.7	1,534.9	36	39
Wyoming	2,293.8	1,610.6	1,862.2	40	35

*Limited data for 2020 available for Alabama, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

**Limited data for 2021 available for California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, NY, and Pennsylvania. 2021 NIBRS rates are not comparable to 2012 and 2020 summary rates (see introductory Note).

Virginia crime and arrest rates from FBI 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 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.

Traditional 10-year (2012–2021) and one-year (2020–2021) drug arrest trends follow below because drug arrest data was not affected by the transition to NIBRS.

Total Number of Drug Arrests Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2012-2021					
	2012	2020	2021	Percent change	
				2012-2021	2020-2021
U.S.*	1,200,538	1,155,610	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tennessee	43,448	37,188	41,579	-4.3%	+11.8%
North Carolina	38,240	33,156	34,780	-9.0%	+4.9%
Virginia	38,038	27,090	14,568	-61.7%	-46.2%
Kentucky	21,141	17,118	20,758	-1.8%	+21.3%
West Virginia	6,647	6,015	5,943	-10.6%	-1.2%
Maryland*	39,733	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

2012 and 2020 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explore

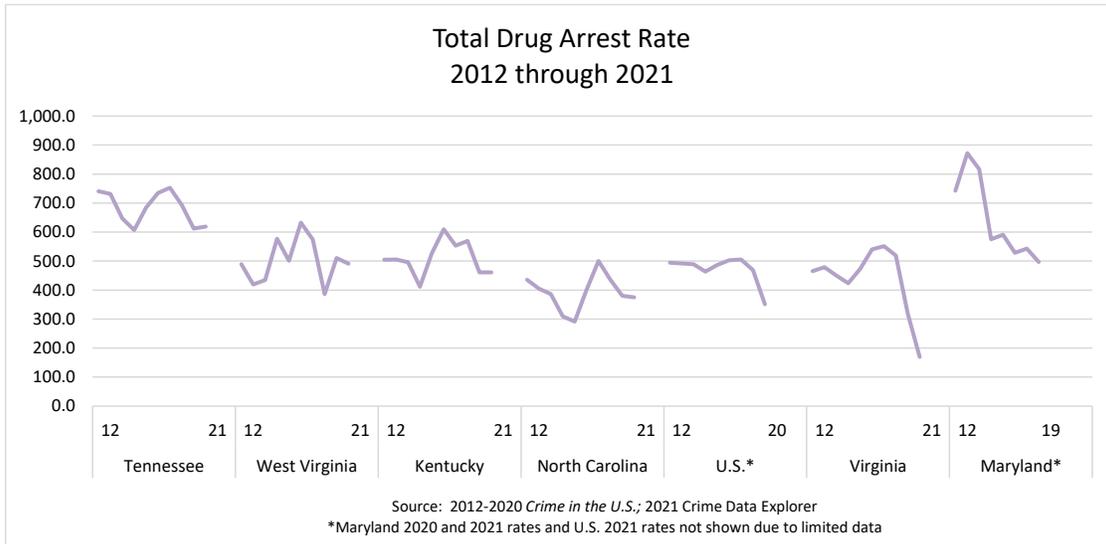
*Limited Maryland data for 2020 and 2021; limited U.S. data for 2021

(Maryland is excluded from the following drug arrest comparisons due to limited 2020 and 2021 data).

- From 2012 to 2021, the number of drug arrests in Virginia decreased⁴ by 62%.
- The number of drug arrests decreased in all states bordering Virginia over the decade 2012–2021.
- From 2020 to 2021, the number of drug arrests decreased in Virginia and in one of the states that border Virginia.

⁴ 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 2012 to 2021.

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



- Virginia, and three bordering states each reported decreases in the drug arrest rate per 100,000 population from 2012 to 2021 (Maryland and the U.S. are excluded from comparison due to limited 2021 data for both).

Drug Arrest Rate per 100,000 Population Virginia, U.S., and Bordering States, 2012-2021					
	2012	2020	2021	Percent change	
				2012-2021	2020-2021
Tennessee	741.0	612.1	619.1	-16.4%	+1.1%
West Virginia	489.6	510.9	491.1	+0.3%	-3.9%
Kentucky	504.3	460.9	460.7	-8.6%	-0.04%
North Carolina	435.5	379.7	375.3	-13.8%	-1.2%
U.S.*	494.2	350.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Virginia	465.1	318.3	169.4	-63.6%	-46.8%
Maryland*	742.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

2012 and 2020 Source: *Crime in the U.S.*; 2021 Source: FBI Crime Data Explore
 *Limited Maryland data for 2020 and 2021; limited U.S. data for 2021

- More recently, Virginia, and three bordering states each reported decreases in the drug arrest rate per 100,000 population from 2020 to 2021.

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

In 2012, Virginia ranked 24 out of 50 states for drug arrest rate. In 2020, Virginia ranked 27 out of 50 states. (U.S. drug arrest rate unavailable for 2021).

States drug arrest rate and relative rank, 2012, 2020 and 2021

Source: *Crime in the U.S.* and Crime Data Explorer

	Rate per 100,000			Rank (1=highest rate)	
	2012 (summary legacy)	2020 (summary revised)	2021 (NIBRS)	2012	2020
U.S.**	494.2	350.7	n/a		
Alabama*	371.7	196.7	292.6	36	38
Alaska	332.7	112.4	120.2	43	48
Arizona	458.7	339.9	265.0	26	22
Arkansas	441.5	560.1	568.2	30	7
California**	519.3	476.9	406.3	19	11
Colorado	339.4	181.9	179.7	41	40
Connecticut	284.8	124.3	95.5	46	44
Delaware	595.9	336.0	356.0	11	24
Florida**	663.1	316.5	n/a	6	28
Georgia	485.9	284.7	344.1	22	33
Hawaii	561.9	309.8	93.0	n/a	29
Idaho	432.6	551.3	583.1	33	8
Illinois**	1,248.5	193.4	170.4	1	39
Indiana	439.9	338.7	375.3	31	23
Iowa	320.1	286.5	296.5	45	32
Kansas	369.2	460.8	468.3	37	14
Kentucky	504.3	460.9	460.7	20	13
Louisiana	683.5	596.3	535.2	5	5
Maine	418.3	236.2	206.3	34	36
Maryland*,**	742.4	123.2	116.8	2	45
Massachusetts	189.4	95.4	77.4	50	50
Michigan	347.4	115.2	126.9	40	47
Minnesota	321.1	263.3	244.9	44	34
Mississippi	695.5	465.2	497.1	4	12
Missouri	622.6	500.3	453.6	8	10
Montana	218.7	221.0	160.6	49	37
Nebraska	616.9	405.5	550.6	9	18
Nevada	545.7	323.6	277.1	16	26
New Hampshire	337.4	334.2	298.3	42	25
New Jersey**	591.7	425.6	106.9	12	16
New Mexico**	455.2	141.5	163.9	27	42
New York**	609.7	358.5	101.4	10	21
North Carolina	435.5	379.7	375.3	32	20
North Dakota	357.0	605.0	537.8	38	4
Ohio	374.5	181.8	204.0	35	41
Oklahoma	464.9	291.0	299.7	25	31
Oregon	524.3	244.0	106.3	18	35
Pennsylvania*,**	453.9	406.8	200.6	29	17
Rhode Island	351.0	133.7	149.6	39	43
South Carolina	660.7	585.6	533.3	7	6
South Dakota	584.6	886.0	795.2	13	1
Tennessee	741.0	612.1	619.1	3	3
Texas	527.7	307.8	297.0	17	30
Utah	454.9	436.7	467.2	28	15
Vermont	249.1	120.9	118.1	47	46
Virginia	465.1	318.3	169.4	24	27
Washington	245.6	108.2	25.8	48	49
West Virginia	489.6	510.9	491.1	21	9
Wisconsin	485.2	394.1	371.4	23	19
Wyoming	583.5	667.9	574.9	14	2

*Limited data for 2020 available for Alabama, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

**Limited data for 2021 available for U.S., California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, NY, 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 2012–2021*, which also is produced by the DCJS Criminal Justice Research Center. *Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2012–2021* 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 2012–2020 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 2012–2021*. 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).