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# Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends 2012–2021

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Criminal Justice Research Center

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## Note

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Crime counts and rates discussed throughout this document should not be compared to those published in previous versions of this report because the method for counting index crimes has changed.

Crime counts and rates in previous issues of this report were based on the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) “summary” standard, where a hierarchy rule was used to identify and then count only the single most serious offense in a criminal incident. This was the nationwide UCR standard until January 1, 2021, when the UCR program transitioned to an incident-based reporting (IBR) standard, where *all* crimes in an incident are identified and counted.

While Virginia law enforcement agencies have been reporting IBR format crime and arrest data since calendar year 2000, the DCJS Research Center previously converted Virginia IBR data to summary format to make the Virginia data comparable for trending and analysis with UCR data from other states and the U.S. Beginning with this report, all Virginia crime counts and rates within will be based on the IBR standard. Note that the change in counting rules does not apply to homicides or drug arrests.

There are two other notable changes to the crime counting methodology:

- The UCR definition of rape has been revised from the summary definition of “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will” to the IBR definition of three distinct types of offenses (rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object) against any victim regardless of gender. This change results in a significant increase in the number and rate of rape victims under the IBR standard, compared to the summary standard. While the revised definition of rape was effective January 1, 2013, rape counts and rates for calendar years 2000 through 2021 presented in this report are based on the IBR standard.
- The incident-based motor vehicle theft (MVT) counting rule is defined as the sum of all *attempted* MVT offenses added to the actual number of motor vehicles stolen (this counting rule was effective January 1, 2019). This is a revision from the summary standard rule of counting the total number of attempted and completed MVT offenses in incidents where MVT was the most serious offense. All MVT counts and rates for calendar years 2000 through 2021 in this report are based on the 2019 counting rule.

# Executive Summary

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This report describes Virginia violent and property crime and drug arrest trends for the decade 2012–2021. Understanding these trends is important because the numbers of crimes and arrests reported are “leading indicators” for other parts of the criminal justice system, including prosecutions, court caseloads, and correctional populations. They also provide public safety officials with information to guide policies, legislation and resources aimed at preventing and reducing future crime.

Data in this report is drawn from crimes and arrests reported by local Virginia law enforcement agencies to the Virginia State Police Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data repository.<sup>1</sup> Trends are discussed for the index offenses, considered the most serious types of crime, and for drug arrests. The index offenses are the violent crimes of homicide (murder and non-negligent manslaughter), rape (rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling), robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft (MVT).

Crime and arrest trends are presented across time and geography. For historical context, 30-year (1992–2021) crime trends are shown, although primary attention is given to trends over the last decade.<sup>2</sup> This context is important, because single year-to-year variations in crime can be too volatile to inform statewide policies and legislation. Geography is important because crime trends are not the same everywhere in Virginia. Therefore, trends are presented at three geographic levels: statewide, by the seven Virginia State Police divisions, and by locality.

The major findings of the report follow.

## ***Violent Index Crime Trends***

The volume of violent index crime in Virginia increased over the last decade. The *number* of violent crimes rose by 18% from 2012 to 2021, and the *rate* of violent crimes (per 100,000 population) increased by 11%. From 2020 to 2021, the total number of violent crimes reported and the violent crime rate both increased by 7%. The increase in the total number of violent crimes occurred during a decade when Virginia’s population increased by 6%, from almost 8.2 million in 2012 to over 8.6 million in 2021.

- Homicide, rape, and aggravated assault were the violent index crimes that increased in both number and rate from 2012 to 2021. Robbery decreased in both number and rate from 2012 to 2021.
- The number of homicides increased from 316 in 2012 to 562 in 2021, a 78% increase. The homicide rate increased by 68% during this time.
- The proportion of homicides involving a firearm increased from 70% in 2012 to 79% in 2022.
- The number of rapes increased from 2,368 in 2012 to 2,696 in 2021, a 14% increase. The rate of rape increased by 8%.
- The number of robberies dropped, from 4,729 in 2012 to 2,929 in 2021, a 38% decrease. The robbery rate decreased by 41%.

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<sup>1</sup> The UCR program is a nationwide standardized system of collecting and analyzing select crime and arrest statistics gathered by participating law enforcement agencies (state/agency participation in the UCR program is voluntary). Virginia law enforcement agencies have participated in the UCR program since 1975.

<sup>2</sup> The charts illustrating 30-year crime trends show summary crime counts and rates for years 1992 through 1999, and IBR crime counts and rates for years 2000 through 2021.

## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

- The number of aggravated assaults increased from 9,148 in 2012 to 13,274 in 2021, a 45% increase. The aggravated assault *rate* increased by 37%.
- The proportion of aggravated assaults involving a firearm increased from 22% in 2012 to 45% in 2021.

More recent trends in violence were mixed. The total violent index crime rate was mostly flat from 2013 through 2015, increased in 2016, decreased in 2017 and again in 2018, increased in 2019, decreased in 2020, then increased in 2021. The same mixed trend continued for the individual types of violent crime.

From 2020 to 2021 the total violent index crime rate increased by 7%, from 210.5 violent crimes per 100,000 population in 2020 to 225.2 in 2021.

- The number of homicides increased from 528 in 2020 to 562 in 2021, a 6% increase. The murder rate also increased by 6%.
- The proportion of homicides involving a firearm decreased by 1%, from 80% in 2020 to 79% in 2021.
- The number of rapes increased from 2,350 in 2020 to 2,696 in 2021, a 15% increase. The rate of rape victimization increased by 15%.
- The number of robberies decreased slightly, from 2,964 in 2020 to 2,929 in 2021, a 1% decrease. The robbery rate also decreased by 1%.
- The number of aggravated assaults increased from 12,331 victims in 2020 to 13,274 in 2021, an 8% increase. The aggravated assault rate increased by 8%.
- The proportion of aggravated assaults involving a firearm increased by 3%, from 42% in 2020 to 45% in 2021.

### ***Property Index Crime Trends***

Overall property crime in Virginia dropped over the past decade. The total *number* of property crimes decreased by 29% from 2012 to 2021, and the *rate* of property crimes (per 100,000 population) decreased by 33%. From 2020 to 2021, both the total number of property crimes and the property crime rate decreased by 1%.

- The number of burglaries declined from 28,759 in 2012 to 10,464 in 2021, a 64% decrease. The burglary rate decreased by 66%.
- The number of larcenies dropped from 140,786 in 2012 to 104,546 in 2021, a 26% decrease. The larceny rate decreased by 30%.
- Motor vehicle theft was the only type of property crime that increased in number and rate from 2012 to 2021. The number of motor vehicle thefts increased from 9,299 in 2012 to 11,638 in 2021, a 25% increase. The motor vehicle theft rate increased by 19%.

More recent trends in property crime show that from 2020 to 2021, the decrease in both the number and rate of property crimes has slowed.

- The number of burglaries declined from 11,413 in 2020 to 10,464 in 2021, an 8% decrease. The burglary rate also decreased by 8%.
- The number of larcenies decreased slightly from 104,830 in 2020 to 104,546 in 2021, a decrease of less than 1%. The larceny rate also decreased by less than 1%.

## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

- The number of motor vehicle thefts increased from 11,209 in 2020 to 11,638 in 2021, a 4% increase, and the motor vehicle theft rate also increased by 4%.

### **Drug Arrest Trends**

Due to the covert nature of drug use and distribution, there is no direct measure of drug offenses in Virginia during the last decade. Instead, the criminal justice system's primary measure of drug offending is the number of arrests reported for illegal drug sales and possession.

The total *number* of arrests for drug sale and possession decreased by 61% from 2012 to 2021, and the *rate* of drug arrests (per 100,000 arrest-age population) decreased by 63%. The total number of drug arrests decreased by 47% from 2020 to 2021.

- Marijuana arrests accounted for 70% of all drug arrests from 2012 to 2019. After the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use in Virginia on July 1, 2020, this percentage dropped to 56% for calendar year 2020 and to 19% for calendar year 2021.
- From 2012 to 2021, the number of arrests for stimulants (cocaine, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine/amphetamine/other stimulants) increased by 27%, from 5,079 in 2012 to 6,426 in 2021. This class of drugs had the largest percentage increase in number of arrests compared to all other drug groups.
- The 10-year increase in the number of arrests for stimulants was the result of increases in the number of arrests for methamphetamine/amphetamines/other stimulants which increased from 838 in 2012 to 3,826 in 2021, a 357% increase. At the same time, the number of arrests for cocaine decreased by 25% and arrests for crack decreased by 53%. From 2020 to 2021, arrests for crack and cocaine decreased, arrests for meth/amphetamine/other stimulants increased, and total arrests for all types of stimulants decreased by 7%.
- From 2012 to 2021 the number of arrests for all opioids (including heroin and fentanyl) decreased by 15%, from 3,122 arrests in 2012 to 2,664 in 2021. The increasing trend in arrests for all opioids leveled off after 2015. While the number of arrests for heroin increased by 25% over the decade, from 1,139 in 2012 to 1,419 in 2021, the number of arrests for heroin decreased by 22% from 2020 to 2021. The number of arrests for other narcotics (including fentanyl) increased by 4% from 2020 to 2021.
- Arrests for barbiturates, hallucinogens and all other drugs decreased by 28% from 2012 (1,476 arrests) to 2021 (1,057 arrests) and increased by 5% from 2020 to 2021.
- Adults were consistently arrested for drug violations at a higher rate than juveniles, and drug arrest rates declined for both juveniles and adults. The adult drug arrest rate decreased by 61% over the decade, and juvenile drug arrest rates declined by 89%. From 2020 to 2021, drug arrest rates decreased for both juveniles and adults.

# Violent Index Crime

Violent index crimes are homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.<sup>3</sup> From 2012 to 2021 the total number of violent crimes reported increased by 18% while the total state population increased by 6% over the ten-year period.

## Change in number and rate of violent index crime in Virginia, 2012–2021

Year	Number of violent crimes					Violent crime rate per 100,000 population				
	Total	Homicide*	Rape**	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Total	Homicide*	Rape**	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
2012	16,561	316	2,368	4,729	9,148	202.3	3.9	28.9	57.8	111.8
2013	16,303	317	2,323	4,571	9,092	197.4	3.8	28.1	55.3	110.1
2014	16,471	337	2,370	4,304	9,460	197.8	4.0	28.5	51.7	113.6
2015	16,558	383	2,404	4,458	9,313	197.5	4.6	28.7	53.2	111.1
2016	18,435	480	2,798	4,796	10,361	219.2	5.7	33.3	57.0	123.2
2017	17,784	458	2,956	4,326	10,044	210.0	5.4	34.9	51.1	118.6
2018	17,209	391	3,007	3,625	10,186	202.0	4.6	35.3	42.6	119.6
2019	17,993	428	2,899	3,541	11,125	210.8	5.0	34.0	41.5	130.3
2020	18,173	528	2,350	2,964	12,331	210.5	6.1	27.2	34.3	142.9
2021	19,461	562	2,696	2,929	13,274	225.2	6.5	31.2	33.9	153.6
10-yr % change	+18%	+78%	+14%	-38%	+45%	+11%	+68%	+8%	-41%	+37%
1-yr % change	+7%	+6%	+15%	-1%	+8%	+7%	+6%	+15%	-1%	+8%

1-yr = 2020 to 2021

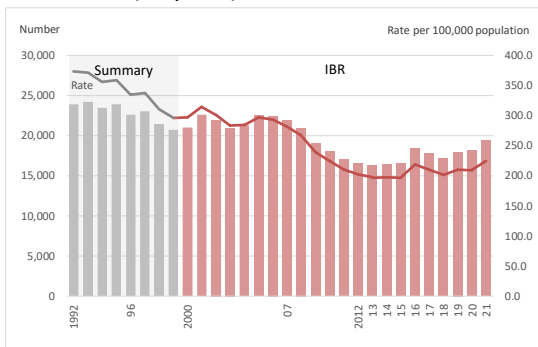
\*Murder and non-negligent manslaughter.

\*\*Revised definition (Rape, Sodomy, and Sexual Assault with an Object) is not comparable to legacy definition counts and rates published in all previous editions of this report.

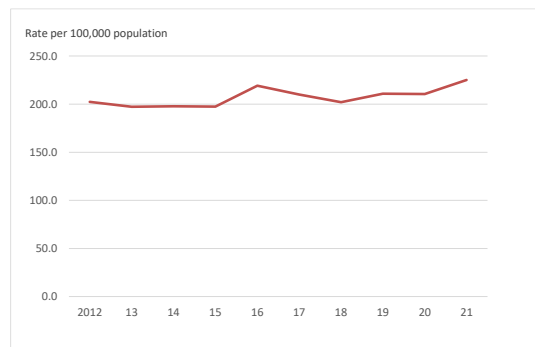
More recently, the number of violent crimes across Virginia have continued to increase. From 2020 to 2021, the total number of violent crimes reported increased by 7%. The number of victims of homicide, rape, and aggravated assault increased from 2020 to 2021, while the number of robbery offenses decreased.

## Number and rate of total violent index crime

1992–2021 (30 years)



2012–2021 (most recent 10 years)



The statewide total violent crime *rate* increased by 11% from 2012 to 2021, from a rate of 202.3 violent crimes per 100,000 population in 2012 to 225.2 in 2021. The total violent crime rate trend was mixed over the decade, ranging between 197.4 and 225.2 violent crimes per 100,000 population.

<sup>3</sup> Homicide, rape, and aggravated assault crimes are the actual number of victims reported. Robberies are the number of crimes reported. All crime rates are per 100,000 population.

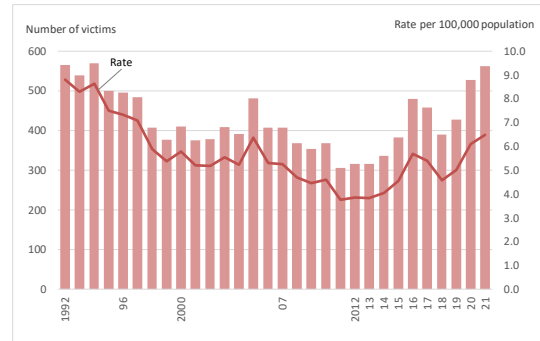
## Homicide (Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter)

The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. Note that the rule for counting homicides is the same under the summary standard (1992–1999) as it is under the IBR standard (2000 forward).

### From 1992 to 2021 (30 years)

- The 1992–2001 10-year average murder rate was 7.0 victims per 100,000 population.
- The 2002–2011 10-year average murder rate was 5.0 victims per 100,000 population.
- The 2012–2021 10-year average murder rate was 5.0 victims per 100,000 population.

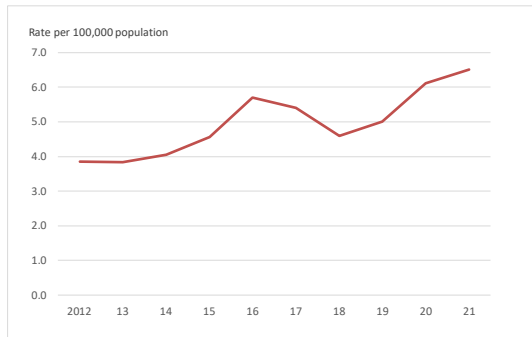
**Number and rate of homicides per 100,000 population, 1992–2021**



### From 2012 to 2021 (most recent 10 years)

- The statewide homicide rate per 100,000 population increased by 68%, from 3.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2012 to 6.5 in 2021.
- The 10-year trend was mixed, with an overall increase in the murder rate from 2012 to 2016, followed by a two-year decrease through 2018, then a continuous increase each year through 2021.
- The proportion of homicides that involved a firearm increased from 70% in 2012 to 79% in 2021.

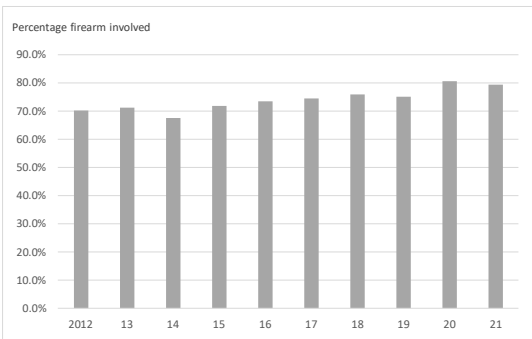
**Homicide rate per 100,000 population, 2012–2021**



### From 2020 to 2021 (1 year)

- The homicide rate across Virginia increased by 6%, from 6.1 victims per 100,000 population in 2020 to 6.5 in 2021.
- The proportion of homicides that involved a firearm decreased by 1%.

**Percentage of homicides firearm-related by year, 2012–2021**





## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### Rape

Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. “Rape” is comprised of three different types of offenses: rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object.

#### From 1992 to 2021 (30 years)

*The definition of rape was revised with the advent of incident-based crime reporting. Under the summary crime reporting standard (1992–1999), “forcible rape” was defined as “...the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.” Under the incident-based crime reporting standard (2000 forward), “rape” is redefined as 3 distinct types of sexual assault against a victim of any gender. The redefinition resulted in a substantial increase in the number of victims and the victimization rate and makes summary forcible rape rates incomparable to IBR rape rates.*

- The 2002–2011 10-year average rape rate was 34.1 victims per 100,000 population.
- The 2012–2021 10-year average rape rate was 31.0 victims per 100,000 population.

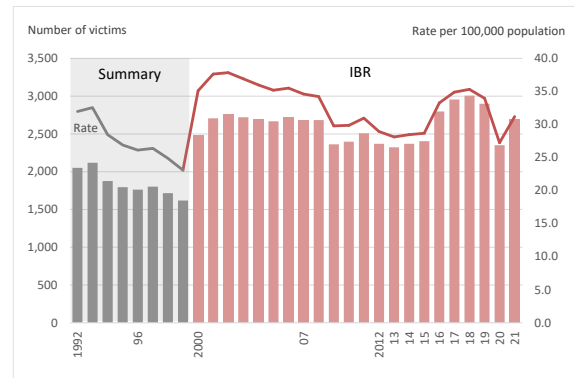
#### From 2012 to 2021 (most recent 10 years)

- The Virginia rape rate per 100,000 population increased by 8%, from 28.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2012 to 31.2 in 2021.
- The 2020 rape rate was the lowest since Virginia IBR reporting started in 2000.

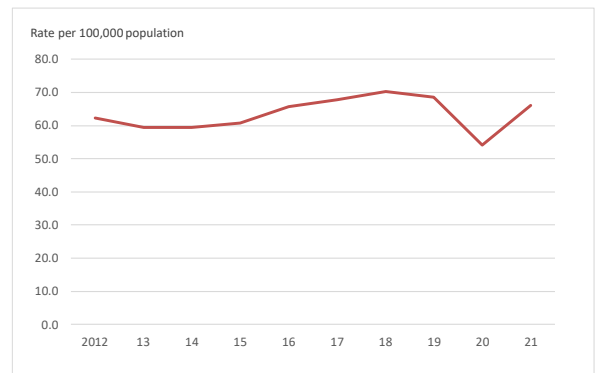
#### From 2020 to 2021 (1 year)

- The rate of rape per 100,000 population increased by 15%, from 27.2 victims in 2020 to 31.2 in 2021.

**Number and rate of rape per 100,000 population, 1992–2021**



**Rape rate per 100,000 population, 2012–2021**



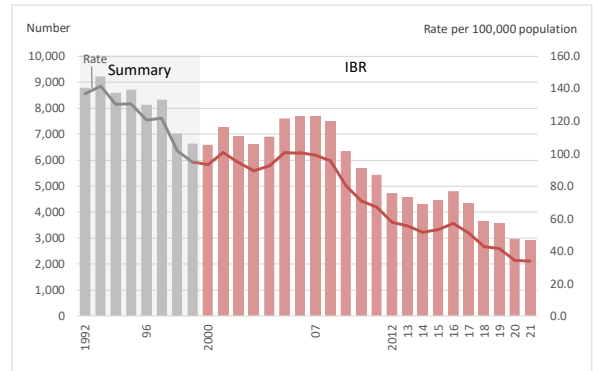
## Robbery

The taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm. Robbery is a violent crime against property. Robberies are counts of offenses. UCR summary counts are shown below for years 1992 through 1999, and IBR counts are shown for years 2000 forward.

### From 1992 to 2021 (30 years)

- The 1992–2001 10-year average robbery rate was 117.3 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2002–2011 10-year average robbery rate was 89.0 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2012–2021 10-year average robbery rate was 47.8 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2021 robbery rate of 33.9 offenses per 100,000 population was the lowest rate during the 30 years.

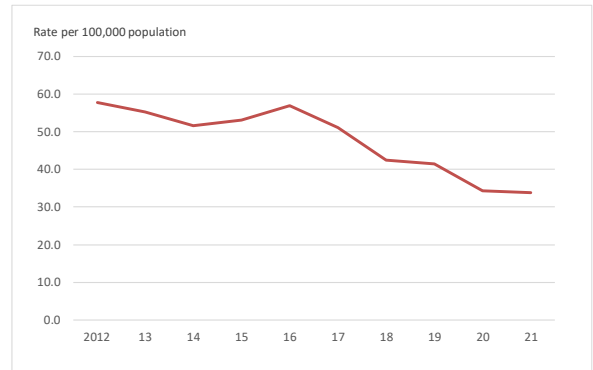
**Number and rate of robbery offenses per 100,000 population, 1992–2021**



### From 2012 to 2021 (most recent 10 years)

- The robbery rate across Virginia decreased by 41%, from 57.8 offenses per 100,000 population in 2012 to 33.9 offenses in 2021.
- Robbery was the only violent crime that decreased in number and rate.

**Robbery rate per 100,000 population, 2012–2021**



### From 2020 to 2021 (1 year)

- The decrease in robbery rate has slowed. The robbery rate decreased by 1%, from 34.3 offenses per 100,000 population in 2020 to 33.9 in 2021.

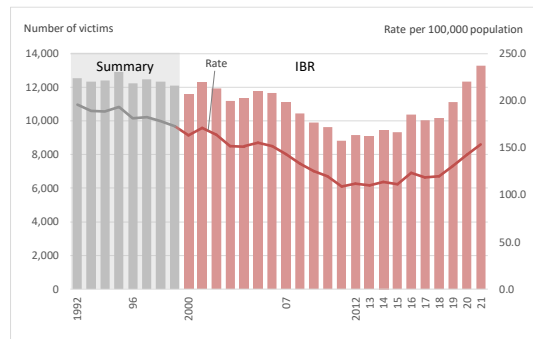
## Aggravated Assault

An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness. UCR summary counts are shown below for years 1992 through 1999, and IBR counts are shown for years 2000 forward.

### From 1992 to 2021 (30 years)

- The 1992–2001 10-year average aggravated assault rate was 181.6 victims per 100,000 population.
- The 2002–2011 10-year average aggravated assault rate was 140.4 victims per 100,000 population.
- The 2012–2021 10-year average aggravated assault rate was 123.5 victims per 100,000 population.

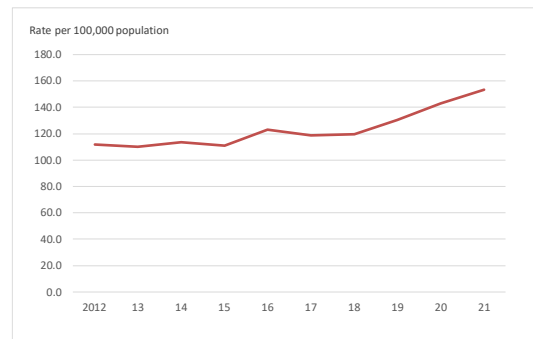
**Number and rate of aggravated assault per 100,000 population, 1992–2021**



### From 2012 to 2021 (most recent 10 years)

- The aggravated assault rate across Virginia increased by 37%, from 111.8 victims per 100,000 population in 2012 to 153.6 in 2021.
- The proportion of aggravated assaults that involved a firearm increased from 22% in 2012 to 45% in 2021.

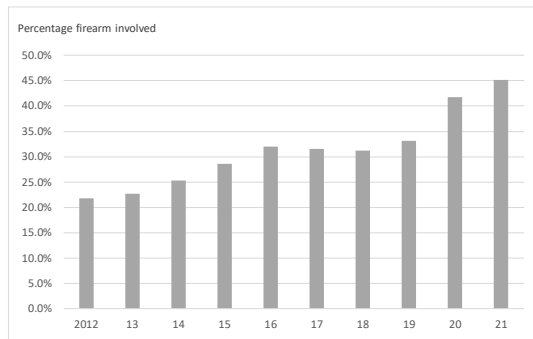
**Aggravated assault rate per 100,000 population, 2012–2021**



### From 2020 to 2021 (1 year)

- The aggravated assault rate increased by 8%, from 142.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2020 to 153.6 in 2021.
- The proportion of aggravated assaults that involved a firearm increased by 3%.

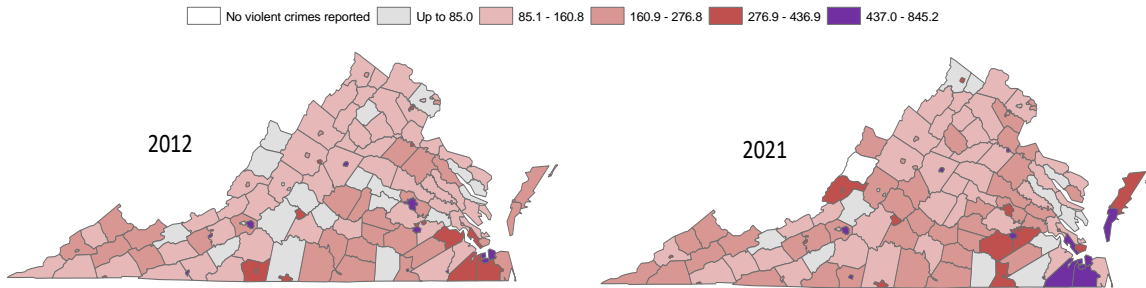
**Percentage of aggravated assaults firearm-related, 2012–2021**



# Violent Index Crime Rates by Area

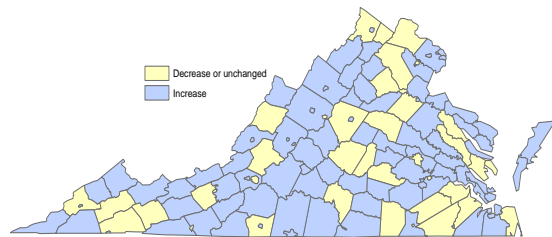
Among localities reporting violent crimes, 2012 locality violent crime rates ranged from a low rate of 14.3 violent crimes per 100,000 population to a high rate of 658.2, and 2021 locality violent crime rates ranged from a low locality rate of 35.1 violent crimes per 100,000 population to a locality high rate of 789.0. In both 2012 and 2021, 18 of the 20 localities with the highest violent crime rates were cities. The change in locality violent crime rates is shown in the maps below, where many localities with lighter shading (indicating lower rates) in the 2012 map are shaded noticeably darker in the 2021 map.

## Total violent index crime rate per 100,000 population, by locality and year



While the maps above show locality violent index crime rates in 2021 relative to rates in 2012, a locality with no change in shading could still have an increase or decrease in violent crime rate.

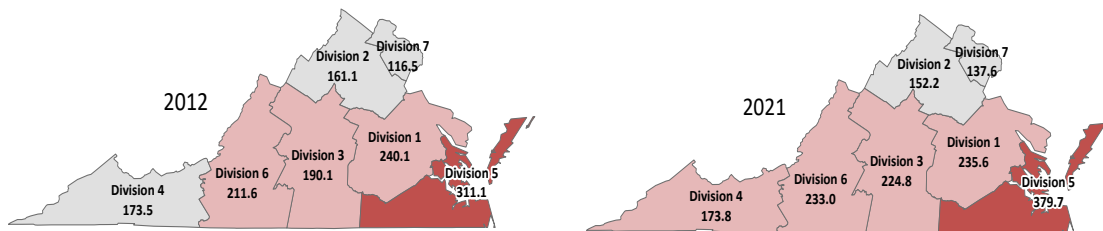
## Change in violent index crime rate by locality, 2012 to 2021



Total violent crime rates decreased in 9 of Virginia’s 38 cities and in 29 of Virginia’s 95 counties over the ten-year period.

Violent index crime rates decreased in Virginia State Police Divisions 1 and 2 from 2012 to 2021 and increased in all other divisions.

## Total violent index crime rate by State Police division and year, 2012 and 2021



## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### Total violent index crime rate per 100,000 population by locality

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2021</b>
VIRGINIA	202.3	225.2

COUNTIES	2012	2021
Accomack Co	212.8	339.8
Albemarle Co	115.5	108.3
Alleghany Co	117.3	393.7
Amelia Co	211.8	203.4
Amherst Co	58.6	236.6
Appomattox Co	39.5	165.1
Arlington Co	143.7	205.6
Augusta Co	120.8	122.4
Bath Co	42.8	0.0
Bedford Co	60.3	111.0
Bland Co	14.8	48.5
Botetourt Co	90.5	82.6
Brunswick Co	64.5	43.9
Buchanan Co	171.8	242.2
Buckingham Co	175.7	129.8
Campbell Co	130.7	205.4
Caroline Co	176.0	204.2
Carroll Co	106.9	113.6
Charles City Co	55.7	181.9
Charlotte Co	193.2	131.0
Chesterfield Co	129.9	152.4
Clarke Co	118.7	40.3
Craig Co	133.8	143.8
Culpeper Co	156.9	102.6
Cumberland Co	193.1	144.6
Dickenson Co	95.6	174.0
Dinwiddie Co	246.0	311.6
Essex Co	276.8	122.9
Fairfax Co	85.0	92.0
Fauquier Co	102.2	90.7
Floyd Co	71.2	83.5
Fluvanna Co	69.2	151.4
Franklin Co	113.6	125.5
Frederick Co	108.3	77.8
Giles Co	100.2	156.9
Gloucester Co	102.9	71.6
Goochland Co	84.3	105.9
Grayson Co	118.5	162.7
Greene Co	117.3	123.9
Greensville Co	168.1	279.7
Halifax Co	195.4	213.4
Hanover Co	116.3	196.2
Henrico Co	180.5	205.3
Henry Co	380.3	270.6
Highland Co	44.7	179.6
Isle of Wight Co	138.5	122.2
James City Co	118.7	136.4
King & Queen Co	113.0	75.0

COUNTIES	2012	2021
King George Co	101.7	170.9
King William Co	100.2	159.5
Lancaster Co	80.0	256.2
Lee Co	156.6	168.3
Loudoun Co	97.8	92.1
Louisa Co	143.4	95.2
Lunenburg Co	198.3	251.5
Madison Co	90.8	164.9
Mathews Co	89.8	35.1
Mecklenburg Co	207.5	267.7
Middlesex Co	73.8	139.1
Montgomery Co	132.1	200.0
Nelson Co	121.5	243.4
New Kent Co	99.3	230.1
Northampton Co	171.3	438.5
Northumberland Co	89.1	99.7
Nottoway Co	163.6	218.0
Orange Co	105.2	153.2
Page Co	142.0	147.0
Patrick Co	130.1	272.6
Pittsylvania Co	55.7	91.7
Powhatan Co	67.5	170.2
Prince Edward Co	142.3	205.1
Prince George Co	100.0	312.5
Prince William Co	156.7	216.7
Pulaski Co	253.1	177.7
Rappahannock Co	80.5	148.5
Richmond Co	22.1	77.6
Roanoke Co	178.6	241.2
Rockbridge Co	89.4	189.9
Rockingham Co	91.7	118.4
Russell Co	263.7	203.5
Scott Co	96.6	191.4
Shenandoah Co	117.3	143.0
Smyth Co	173.0	128.9
Southampton Co	152.3	55.5
Spotsylvania Co	223.4	96.7
Stafford Co	160.8	202.0
Surry Co	381.1	76.5
Sussex Co	234.4	167.2
Tazewell Co	176.1	202.8
Warren Co	123.5	127.0
Washington Co	135.0	113.7
Westmoreland Co	119.8	138.8
Wise Co	213.1	148.6
Wythe Co	109.1	131.3
York Co	155.8	159.3

CITIES	2012	2021
Alexandria C	171.6	215.2
Bristol C	360.6	428.0
Buena Vista C	73.8	151.4
Charlottesville C	477.6	505.7
Chesapeake C	376.6	474.7
Colonial Heights C	331.3	410.4
Covington C	240.6	314.8
Danville C	337.6	381.3
Emporia C	629.4	388.2
Fairfax C	89.7	90.6
Falls Church C	91.0	103.4
Franklin C	470.0	620.6
Fredericksburg C	423.5	556.9
Galax C	534.0	270.2
Hampton C	254.6	288.9
Harrisonburg C	232.6	244.9
Hopewell C	411.5	324.1
Lexington C	14.3	53.6
Lynchburg C	353.6	421.4
Manassas C	376.2	262.2
Manassas Park C	151.2	223.5
Martinsville C	298.3	443.8
Newport News C	436.9	642.5
Norfolk C	572.7	789.0
Norton C	98.4	436.4
Petersburg C	581.4	741.8
Poquoson C	90.7	135.1
Portsmouth C	512.6	764.5
Radford C	532.0	303.0
Richmond C	658.2	415.7
Roanoke C	575.8	497.6
Salem C	35.9	94.5
Staunton C	188.0	233.8
Suffolk C	332.1	486.5
Virginia Beach C	180.9	113.1
Waynesboro C	346.2	257.2
Williamsburg C	172.1	314.3
Winchester C	267.4	284.3

## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### **County and city ranking of total violent crime rate per 100,000 population, by year**

Counties are ranked against other counties (highest rate ranked 1, lowest rate ranked 95)

Cities are ranked against other cities (highest rate ranked 1, lowest rate ranked 38)

COUNTIES	2012	2021	COUNTIES	2012	2021	CITIES	2012	2021
Accomack Co	10	3	King George Co	64	37	Alexandria C	30	31
Albemarle Co	55	73	King William Co	65	44	Bristol C	16	13
Alleghany Co	51	2	Lancaster Co	81	10	Buena Vista C	36	32
Amelia Co	11	26	Lee Co	30	39	Charlottesville C	9	7
Amherst Co	88	15	Loudoun Co	69	79	Chesapeake C	14	10
Appomattox Co	93	41	Louisa Co	34	78	Colonial Heights C	21	16
Arlington Co	33	20	Lunenburg Co	13	11	Covington C	25	20
Augusta Co	46	67	Madison Co	73	42	Danville C	19	18
Bath Co	92	95	Mathews Co	75	94	Emporia C	2	17
Bedford Co	87	72	Mecklenburg Co	12	9	Fairfax C	35	37
Bland Co	95	91	Middlesex Co	82	56	Falls Church C	33	35
Botetourt Co	74	84	Montgomery Co	40	29	Franklin C	10	5
Brunswick Co	86	92	Nelson Co	45	12	Fredericksburg C	12	6
Buchanan Co	23	13	New Kent Co	68	16	Galax C	6	25
Buckingham Co	21	61	Northampton Co	24	1	Hampton C	24	23
Campbell Co	41	21	Northumberland Co	77	76	Harrisonburg C	26	28
Caroline Co	20	24	Nottoway Co	26	17	Hopewell C	13	19
Carroll Co	60	71	Orange Co	61	47	Lexington C	38	38
Charles City Co	89	33	Page Co	36	52	Lynchburg C	17	14
Charlotte Co	15	60	Patrick Co	42	7	Manassas C	15	26
Chesterfield Co	43	48	Pittsylvania Co	89	81	Manassas Park C	31	30
Clarke Co	48	93	Powhatan Co	85	38	Martinsville C	22	11
Craig Co	39	54	Prince Edward Co	35	23	Newport News C	11	4
Culpeper Co	28	75	Prince George Co	67	4	Norfolk C	5	1
Cumberland Co	16	53	Prince William Co	29	18	Norton C	32	12
Dickenson Co	71	36	Pulaski Co	5	35	Petersburg C	3	3
Dinwiddie Co	6	5	Rappahannock Co	80	51	Poquoson C	34	33
Essex Co	3	66	Richmond Co	94	86	Portsmouth C	8	2
Fairfax Co	78	80	Roanoke Co	18	14	Radford C	7	22
Fauquier Co	63	82	Rockbridge Co	76	32	Richmond C	1	15
Floyd Co	83	83	Rockingham Co	72	69	Roanoke C	4	8
Fluvanna Co	84	49	Russell Co	4	25	Salem C	37	36
Franklin Co	56	64	Scott Co	70	31	Staunton C	27	29
Frederick Co	59	85	Shenandoah Co	51	55	Suffolk C	20	9
Giles Co	65	46	Smyth Co	22	62	Virginia Beach C	28	34
Gloucester Co	62	89	Southampton Co	32	90	Waynesboro C	18	27
Goochland Co	79	74	Spotsylvania Co	8	77	Williamsburg C	29	21
Grayson Co	50	43	Stafford Co	27	28	Winchester C	23	24
Greene Co	51	65	Surry Co	1	87			
Greensville Co	25	6	Sussex Co	7	40			
Halifax Co	14	19	Tazewell Co	19	27			
Hanover Co	54	30	Warren Co	44	63			
Henrico Co	17	22	Washington Co	38	70			
Henry Co	2	8	Westmoreland Co	47	57			
Highland Co	91	34	Wise Co	9	50			
Isle of Wight Co	37	68	Wythe Co	58	59			
James City Co	48	58	York Co	31	45			
King & Queen Co	57	88						

# Property Index Crime

Property index crimes are burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. There were over 52,000 fewer property crimes reported in Virginia in 2021 than in 2012, a 29% decrease in the number of offenses.

## Change in number and rate of property index crime in Virginia, 2012–2021

Year	Number of property crimes				Property crime rate per 100,000 population			
	Total	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft*	Total	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft*
2012	178,844	28,759	140,786	9,299	2,184.8	351.3	1,719.9	113.6
2013	171,370	26,363	136,289	8,718	2,074.6	319.1	1,649.9	105.5
2014	161,990	22,636	131,486	7,868	1,945.5	271.9	1,579.2	94.5
2015	158,269	21,057	128,880	8,332	1,888.0	251.2	1,537.4	99.4
2016	157,796	19,947	127,941	9,908	1,875.9	237.1	1,521.0	117.8
2017	153,372	18,361	124,640	10,371	1,810.8	216.8	1,471.5	122.4
2018	142,353	15,106	117,169	10,078	1,671.3	177.3	1,375.6	118.3
2019	142,412	13,978	117,859	10,575	1,668.5	163.8	1,380.8	123.9
2020	127,452	11,413	104,830	11,209	1,476.6	132.2	1,214.5	129.9
2021	126,648	10,464	104,546	11,638	1,465.4	121.1	1,209.7	134.7
10-yr % change	-29%	-64%	-26%	+25%	-33%	-66%	-30%	+19%
1-yr % change	-1%	-8%	-0.3%	+4%	-1%	-8%	-0.4%	+4%

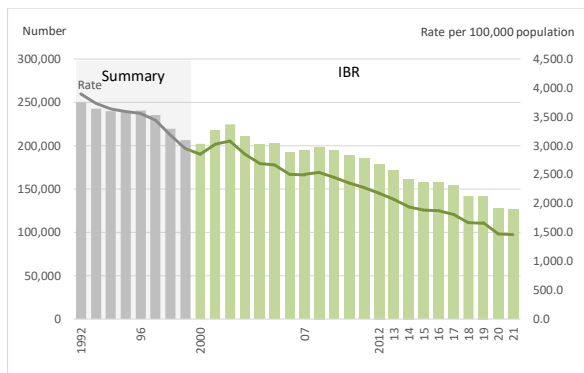
1-yr = 2020 to 2021

\*Counted using 2019 MVT counting rule.

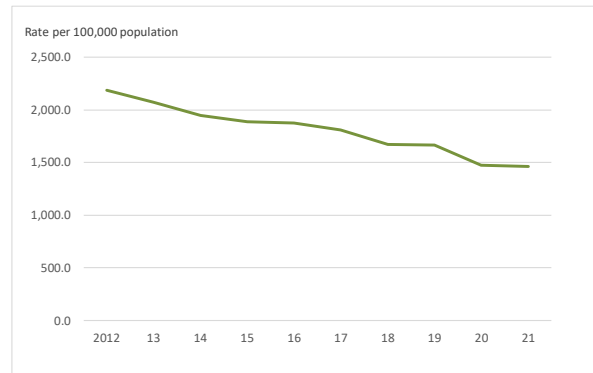
The total property crime *rate* decreased by 33% over the decade, with 2,184.8 property crimes per 100,000 total population reported in 2012, and 1,465.4 property crimes reported in 2021.

## Number and rate of total property index crime

1992–2021 (30 years)



2012–2021 (most recent 10 years)



While Virginia’s total property index crime rate decreased continuously over the decade, the change in rate flattened from 2018 to 2019 and from 2020 to 2021. The 2021 property crime rate of 1,465.4 offenses per 100,000 population was the lowest during the 30 years.

## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

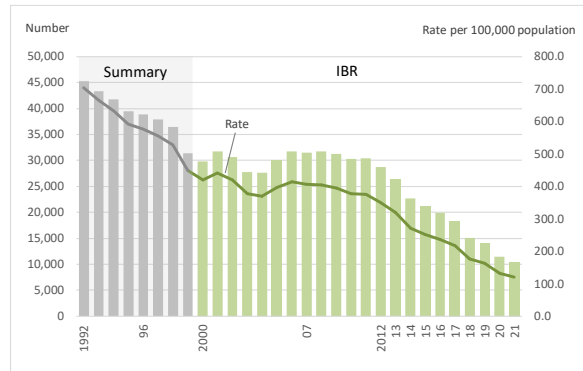
### Burglary

The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. UCR summary counts are shown below for years 1992 through 1999, and IBR counts are shown for years 2000 forward.

#### From 1992 to 2021 (30 years)

- The 1992–2001 10-year average burglary rate was 556.4 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2002–2011 10-year average burglary rate was 393.5 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2012–2021 10-year average burglary rate was 224.2 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2021 burglary rate of 121.1 offenses per 100,000 population was the lowest rate in 30 years.

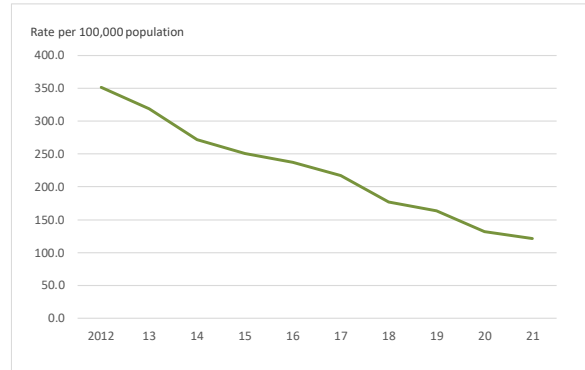
**Number and rate of burglary offenses per 100,000 population, 1992–2021**



#### From 2012 to 2021 (most recent 10 years)

- The burglary rate across Virginia decreased by 66%, from 351.3 offenses per 100,000 population in 2012 to 121.1 offenses in 2021.
- The burglary rate declined continuously over the decade.

**Burglary rate per 100,000 population, 2012–2021**



#### From 2020 to 2021 (1 year)

- The burglary rate decreased by 8%, from 132.2 offenses per 100,000 population in 2020 to 121.1 offenses in 2021.



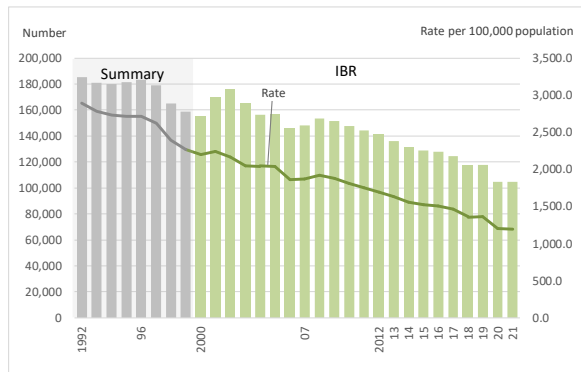
## Larceny-Theft

The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another person. Larceny-theft is comprised of 8 distinct offenses: pocket-picking, purse snatching, shoplifting, theft from building, theft from coin-operated machine or device, theft from motor vehicle (except theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories), theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories, and “all other larceny.” UCR summary counts are shown below for years 1992 through 1999, and IBR counts are shown for years 2000 forward.

### From 1992 to 2021 (30 years)

- The 1992–2001 10-year average larceny-theft rate was 2,556.6 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2002–2011 10-year average larceny-theft rate was 1,941.3 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2012–2021 10-year average larceny-theft rate was 1,450.0 offenses per 100,000 population.
- The 2021 larceny-theft rate of 1,209.7 offenses per 100,000 population was the lowest rate in 30 years.

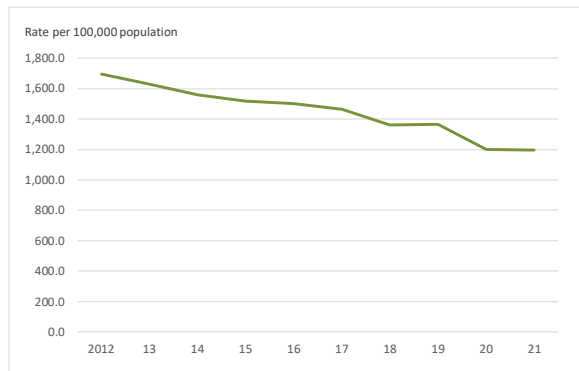
**Number and rate of larceny-theft offenses per 100,000 population, 1992–2021**



### From 2012 to 2021 (most recent 10 years)

- The larceny-theft rate statewide decreased by 30%, from 1,719.9 offenses per 100,000 population in 2012 to 1,209.7 in 2021.

**Larceny-Theft rate per 100,000 population, 2012–2021**



### From 2020 to 2021 (1 year)

- The larceny-theft rate decreased by less than 1%, from 1,214.5 offenses per 100,000 population in 2020 to 1,209.7 in 2021.
- All types of larceny offenses decreased in number except purse snatching (from 188 in 2020 to 227 in 2021) and theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories (from 8,928 in 2020 to 11,736 in 2021).

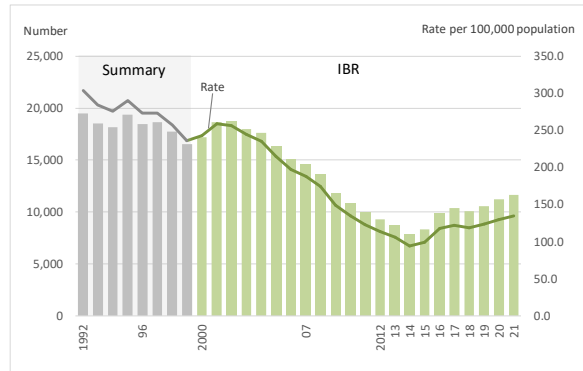
### Motor Vehicle Theft

The theft of a self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails. It includes automobiles, buses, recreational vehicles, trucks, and other motor vehicles, e.g., motorcycles, trail bikes, golf carts, snowmobiles, and mopeds. UCR summary counts are shown below for years 1992 through 1999, and IBR counts are shown for years 2000 forward.

#### From 1992 to 2021 (30 years)

- The 1992–2001 10-year average MVT rate was 269.8 per 100,000 population.
- The 2002–2011 10-year average MVT rate was 191.8 per 100,000 population.
- The 2012–2021 10-year average MVT rate was 116.0 per 100,000 population.
- The 2014 MVT rate of 94.5 per 100,000 population was the lowest rate during the 30 years.

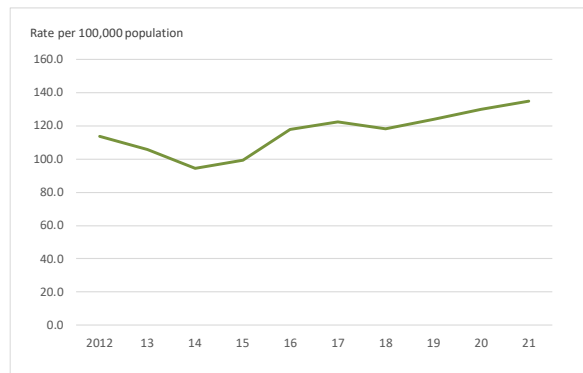
**Number and rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 population, 1992–2021**



#### From 2012 to 2021 (most recent 10 years)

- The MVT rate across Virginia increased by 19%, from 113.6 per 100,000 population in 2012 to 134.7 in 2021.
- MVT was the only category of property index crime that increased in volume and rate.

**Motor vehicle theft rate per 100,000 population, 2012–2021**



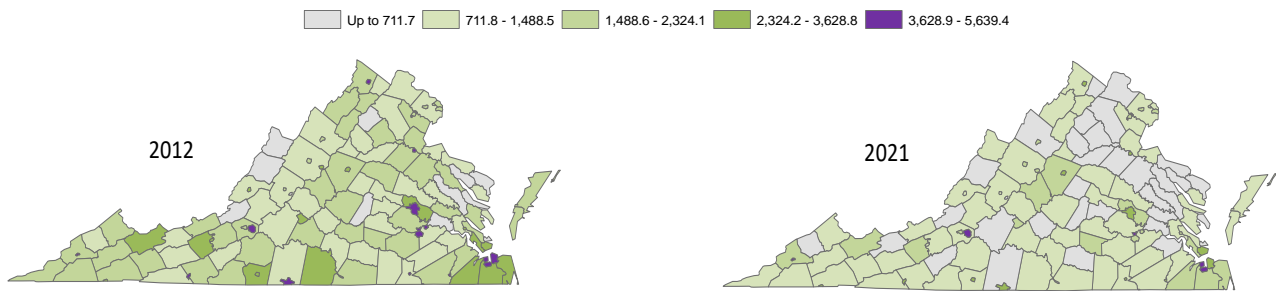
#### From 2020 to 2021 (1 year)

- The MVT rate statewide increased by 4%, from 129.9 per 100,000 population in 2020 to 134.7 in 2021.

# Property Index Crime Rates by Area

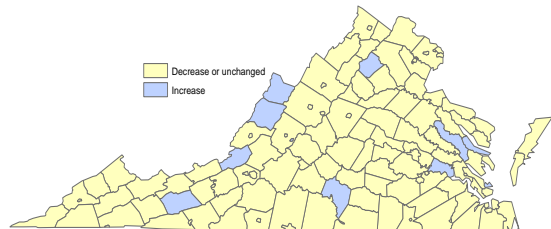
2012 locality property crime rates ranged from a low rate of 125.5 property crimes per 100,000 population to a high rate of 5,639.4. By comparison, 2021 locality property crime rates ranged from a low locality rate of 310.5 property crimes per 100,000 population to a locality high rate of 4,937.3. In 2012, 19 of the 20 localities with the highest property crime rates were cities. In 2021, 18 cities and 2 counties were the 20 localities with the highest property crime rates. The change in locality property crime rates is shown in the maps below, where many localities with darker shading (indicating higher rates) in the 2012 map are shaded noticeably lighter (indicating lower rates) in the 2021 map.

## Total property index crime rate per 100,000 population, by locality and year



While the maps above show locality property index crime rates in 2021 relative to rates in 2012, a locality with no change in shading could still have an increase or decrease in property crime rate.

## Change in total property index crime rate, 2012–2021



Total property crime rates decreased in 36 of Virginia’s 38 cities and in 86 of Virginia’s 95 counties over the ten-year period.

Property crime rates decreased in all Virginia State Police divisions from 2012 to 2021.

## Total property index crime rate by State Police division and year, 2012 and 2021



## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### Total property index crime rate per 100,000 population by locality

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2021</b>
VIRGINIA	2,184.8	1,465.4

COUNTIES	2012	2021
Accomack Co	1,816.6	1,118.9
Albemarle Co	1,770.5	1,690.2
Alleghany Co	1,488.5	927.5
Amelia Co	1,247.4	1,168.2
Amherst Co	1,474.4	1,218.3
Appomattox Co	883.6	587.0
Arlington Co	1,792.3	1,426.4
Augusta Co	1,165.2	924.4
Bath Co	556.9	559.1
Bedford Co	1,105.9	646.4
Bland Co	1,022.1	502.2
Botetourt Co	875.6	761.8
Brunswick Co	821.1	752.8
Buchanan Co	1,977.9	1,276.7
Buckingham Co	1,716.8	1,162.4
Campbell Co	1,567.1	1,128.1
Caroline Co	1,626.0	657.5
Carroll Co	1,604.1	957.0
Charles City Co	125.5	379.1
Charlotte Co	1,103.0	1,126.8
Chesterfield Co	2,189.2	1,349.4
Clarke Co	1,291.8	551.0
Craig Co	229.5	698.9
Culpeper Co	1,858.2	707.1
Cumberland Co	711.7	454.5
Dickenson Co	1,301.1	652.8
Dinwiddie Co	1,818.8	992.4
Essex Co	2,143.2	595.9
Fairfax Co	1,400.8	1,214.1
Fauquier Co	1,131.9	415.9
Floyd Co	945.6	436.8
Fluvanna Co	804.4	465.3
Franklin Co	1,542.8	1,108.5
Frederick Co	2,062.4	942.2
Giles Co	1,745.1	875.5
Gloucester Co	1,921.1	875.4
Goochland Co	1,044.5	965.2
Grayson Co	1,198.3	983.1
Greene Co	1,333.2	839.4
Greensville Co	1,009.1	909.3
Halifax Co	2,571.4	1,037.4
Hanover Co	1,219.8	946.2
Henrico Co	2,506.0	2,116.0
Henry Co	2,471.3	1,363.2
Highland Co	223.6	1,437.6
Isle of Wight Co	1,676.2	998.0
James City Co	1,398.8	928.9
King & Queen Co	367.5	420.3

COUNTIES	2012	2021
King George Co	1,437.2	851.2
King William Co	952.0	588.9
Lancaster Co	1,272.5	814.4
Lee Co	1,675.7	1,428.4
Loudoun Co	1,189.3	619.5
Louisa Co	1,533.3	774.8
Lunenburg Co	959.9	519.9
Madison Co	1,150.8	581.0
Mathews Co	1,326.0	620.2
Mecklenburg Co	2,166.3	1,348.8
Middlesex Co	545.0	899.7
Montgomery Co	1,897.2	1,365.9
Nelson Co	1,660.7	1,575.4
New Kent Co	1,725.6	648.6
Northampton Co	1,957.9	835.7
Northumberland Co	462.0	382.4
Nottoway Co	1,813.3	1,513.4
Orange Co	1,102.2	588.9
Page Co	1,892.9	1,184.5
Patrick Co	1,740.7	1,249.9
Pittsylvania Co	1,012.2	596.9
Powhatan Co	835.3	510.7
Prince Edward Co	2,229.7	1,354.2
Prince George Co	1,297.8	925.8
Prince William Co	1,642.4	1,100.0
Pulaski Co	3,256.5	2,298.6
Rappahannock Co	241.7	378.0
Richmond Co	707.4	310.5
Roanoke Co	1,645.3	1,285.9
Rockbridge Co	1,404.3	998.2
Rockingham Co	895.7	654.1
Russell Co	1,649.1	1,084.1
Scott Co	1,752.3	1,442.6
Shenandoah Co	1,609.8	940.7
Smyth Co	2,230.8	1,126.3
Southampton Co	1,964.5	760.9
Spotsylvania Co	1,912.2	510.2
Stafford Co	1,757.2	791.3
Surry Co	1,026.2	321.6
Sussex Co	1,339.5	919.8
Tazewell Co	2,804.3	1,653.1
Warren Co	2,324.1	1,084.9
Washington Co	2,210.5	1,428.2
Westmoreland Co	1,209.5	646.0
Wise Co	2,190.2	1,559.7
Wythe Co	971.9	1,405.4
York Co	2,053.3	1,119.7

COUNTIES	2012	2021
Alexandria C	2,070.3	1,809.9
Bristol C	3,628.8	2,345.5
Buena Vista C	620.2	666.6
Charlottesville C	3,450.4	2,717.2
Chesapeake C	2,816.4	1,729.2
Colonial Heights C	5,639.4	4,115.4
Covington C	2,629.8	1,346.9
Danville C	4,547.8	2,963.4
Emporia C	5,280.6	2,576.3
Fairfax C	1,893.3	1,713.6
Falls Church C	1,616.2	1,311.0
Franklin C	4,324.3	3,079.0
Fredericksburg C	4,048.9	2,897.7
Galax C	4,229.2	3,558.6
Hampton C	3,508.0	2,527.1
Harrisonburg C	2,121.1	1,584.7
Hopewell C	3,967.6	1,862.6
Lexington C	1,903.3	871.8
Lynchburg C	2,731.1	2,127.6
Manassas C	2,279.7	1,802.9
Manassas Park C	1,487.0	870.5
Martinsville C	3,027.4	2,360.0
Newport News C	3,292.4	1,992.0
Norfolk C	4,818.6	3,441.2
Norton C	5,313.7	4,937.3
Petersburg C	4,505.5	2,255.5
Poquoson C	280.6	381.7
Portsmouth C	5,069.2	3,828.7
Radford C	3,150.4	1,242.5
Richmond C	4,676.6	3,005.2
Roanoke C	4,934.3	3,812.3
Salem C	2,323.2	2,017.9
Staunton C	2,189.4	1,932.9
Suffolk C	2,673.9	1,794.3
Virginia Beach C	2,640.7	1,570.8
Waynesboro C	3,585.7	1,853.7
Williamsburg C	3,157.5	1,629.2
Winchester C	4,509.2	2,452.4

## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### County and city ranking of total property index crime rate per 100,000 population, by year

Counties are ranked against other counties (highest rate ranked 1, lowest rate ranked 95)

Cities are ranked against other cities (highest rate ranked 1, lowest rate ranked 38)

COUNTIES	2012	2021	COUNTIES	2012	2021	COUNTIES	2012	2021
Accomack Co	25	31	King George Co	49	55	Alexandria C	32	24
Albemarle Co	28	3	King William Co	78	76	Bristol C	15	16
Alleghany Co	47	47	Lancaster Co	59	58	Buena Vista C	37	37
Amelia Co	60	25	Lee Co	36	10	Charlottesville C	18	11
Amherst Co	48	22	Loudoun Co	64	73	Chesapeake C	23	27
Appomattox Co	81	78	Louisa Co	46	60	Colonial Heights C	1	2
Arlington Co	27	12	Lunenburg Co	77	82	Covington C	27	32
Augusta Co	65	49	Madison Co	66	79	Danville C	8	9
Bath Co	88	80	Mathews Co	55	72	Emporia C	3	12
Bedford Co	68	70	Mecklenburg Co	12	18	Fairfax C	34	28
Bland Co	73	85	Middlesex Co	89	52	Falls Church C	35	33
Botetourt Co	82	61	Montgomery Co	21	14	Franklin C	11	7
Brunswick Co	84	63	Nelson Co	37	5	Fredericksburg C	13	10
Buchanan Co	16	20	New Kent Co	33	69	Galax C	12	5
Buckingham Co	34	26	Northampton Co	18	57	Hampton C	17	13
Campbell Co	44	27	Northumberland Co	90	91	Harrisonburg C	31	30
Caroline Co	41	66	Nottoway Co	26	7	Hopewell C	14	22
Carroll Co	43	42	Orange Co	70	76	Lexington C	33	35
Charles City Co	95	92	Page Co	22	24	Lynchburg C	24	18
Charlotte Co	69	28	Patrick Co	32	21	Manassas C	29	25
Chesterfield Co	11	17	Pittsylvania Co	74	74	Manassas Park C	36	36
Clarke Co	58	81	Powhatan Co	83	83	Martinsville C	22	15
Craig Co	93	65	Prince Edward Co	8	16	Newport News C	19	20
Culpeper Co	23	64	Prince George Co	57	48	Norfolk C	6	6
Cumberland Co	86	87	Prince William Co	40	33	Norton C	2	1
Dickenson Co	56	68	Pulaski Co	1	1	Petersburg C	10	17
Dinwiddie Co	24	39	Rappahannock Co	92	93	Poquoson C	38	38
Essex Co	13	75	Richmond Co	87	95	Portsmouth C	4	3
Fairfax Co	51	23	Roanoke Co	39	19	Radford C	21	34
Fauquier Co	67	90	Rockbridge Co	50	37	Richmond C	7	8
Floyd Co	79	88	Rockingham Co	80	67	Roanoke C	5	4
Fluvanna Co	85	86	Russell Co	38	35	Salem C	28	19
Franklin Co	45	32	Scott Co	30	8	Staunton C	30	21
Frederick Co	14	44	Shenandoah Co	42	45	Suffolk C	25	26
Giles Co	31	53	Smyth Co	7	29	Virginia Beach C	26	31
Gloucester Co	19	54	Southampton Co	17	62	Waynesboro C	16	23
Goochland Co	71	41	Spotsylvania Co	20	84	Williamsburg C	20	29
Grayson Co	63	40	Stafford Co	29	59	Winchester C	9	14
Greene Co	54	56	Surry Co	72	94			
Greensville Co	75	51	Sussex Co	53	50			
Halifax Co	3	36	Tazewell Co	2	4			
Hanover Co	61	43	Warren Co	6	34			
Henrico Co	4	2	Washington Co	9	11			
Henry Co	5	15	Westmoreland Co	62	71			
Highland Co	94	9	Wise Co	10	6			
Isle of Wight Co	35	38	Wythe Co	76	13			
James City Co	52	46	York Co	15	30			
King & Queen Co	91	89						

# Drug Arrests

The total number of drug arrests<sup>4</sup> in Virginia decreased by 61% from 2012 to 2021. There were over 23,000 fewer drug arrests in 2021 than in 2012. This large decrease was due mostly to the drop in the number of marijuana arrests, as possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use was decriminalized in Virginia effective July 1, 2020.

## Change in number and rate of drug arrests in Virginia, 2012–2021<sup>5</sup>

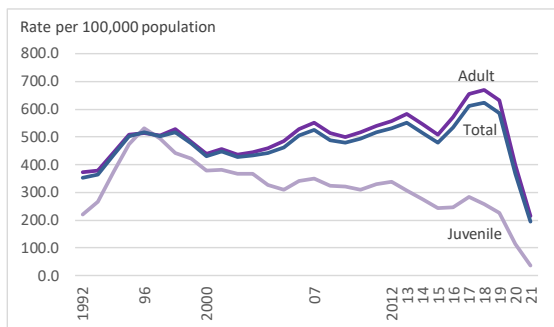
Year	Number of drug arrests			Drug arrest rate		
	Total	Juvenile	Adult	Total	Juvenile	Adult
2012	38,121	2,802	35,319	532.6	338.3	558.0
2013	39,762	2,545	37,217	550.3	306.8	581.9
2014	37,490	2,299	35,191	514.2	275.5	545.0
2015	35,138	2,042	33,096	478.1	244.0	508.2
2016	39,484	2,065	37,419	534.9	245.7	572.0
2017	45,557	2,382	43,175	612.1	282.8	654.1
2018	46,752	2,167	44,585	624.0	256.6	670.7
2019	44,036	1,903	42,133	586.0	226.4	631.2
2020	27,867	966	26,901	366.2	110.2	399.5
2021	14,851	318	14,533	194.6	36.4	215.1
10-yr % change	-61%	-89%	-59%	-63%	-89%	-61%
1-yr % change	-47%	-67%	-46%	-47%	-67%	-46%

Rate per 100,000 population (juveniles age 10-17 or adults age 18+)  
1-yr=2020 to 2021

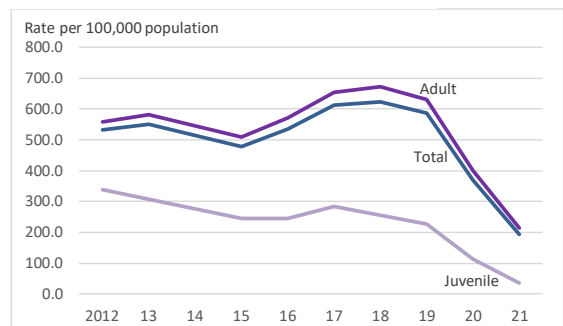
The total drug arrest *rate* decreased by 63% from 2012 to 2021, with 532.6 arrests per 100,000 total arrest age population reported in 2012 and 194.6 reported in 2021. The drug arrest rate for juveniles decreased by 89% over the ten-year period and the drug arrest rate for adults decreased by 61%. Drug arrest rates across Virginia reached 30-year lows in 2021.

## Total drug arrest rate per 100,000 population age 10 and older by age group

1992–2021 (30 years)



2012–2021 (most recent 10 years)



<sup>4</sup> Drug arrests covered here include arrests for possession or sale-manufacture of illicit drugs and exclude arrests for drug equipment violations. Drug arrests are an indicator of law enforcement activity and are not an indicator of drug prevalence.

<sup>5</sup> This table shows the total number of drug arrests reported statewide whether or not the primary drug type seized was known at the time of arrest.

# Arrests by Known Primary Drug Type

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## ***Marijuana (includes Hashish)***

- From 2012 through 2019, marijuana was the primary drug type seized in 70% of drug arrests (where the drug type was known). After the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana for personal use in Virginia on July 1, 2020, this percentage dropped to 56% for calendar year 2020 and to 19% for calendar year 2021.
- From 2012 through 2021, the number of drug arrests for marijuana decreased by 90%.
- From 2020 to 2021, the number of marijuana arrests decreased by 83%, from 13,899 arrests in 2020 to 2,369 in 2021.

## ***Stimulants (Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamine/Amphetamine and other)***

- The number of arrests for all stimulants increased by 27%, from 5,079 in 2012 to 6,426 in 2021.
- The increase in arrests was led by a large increase in arrests for methamphetamine and other amphetamines, from 838 arrests in 2012 to 3,826 in 2021, a 357% increase.
- At the same time, arrests for crack decreased by 53% and arrests for cocaine decreased by 25%.
- From 2020 to 2021, overall arrests for stimulants decreased by 7%. While the number of arrests for methamphetamine and other amphetamines increased by 5%, the number of arrests for cocaine and crack cocaine both decreased by 21%.

## ***Opioids (Heroin, Opium, Morphine, and other narcotics both prescription and illicit)***

- From 2012 to 2021 the number of arrests for all types of opioids decreased by 15%, from 3,122 arrests in 2012 to 2,664 arrests in 2021.
- The number of arrests for heroin increased from 1,139 arrests in 2012 and 1,419 in 2021, a 25% increase.
- The number of arrests for other narcotics (which include prescription opioids as well as illicit fentanyl) decreased by 35%, from 1,769 in 2012 to 1,142 in 2021.
- From 2020 to 2021, the total number of arrests for all opioids decreased, from 2,994 in 2020 to 2,664 in 2021, an 11% drop in number.
- From 2020 to 2021, the number of heroin arrests decreased by 22%, from 1,823 arrests in 2020 to 1,419 in 2021.
- The number of arrests for other narcotics (which include prescription opioids and illicit fentanyl) increased by 4%, from 1,093 in 2020 to 1,142 in 2021.

## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### All Other Drugs (Barbiturates, LSD, PCP, Depressants, Synthetic and “Club” Drugs)

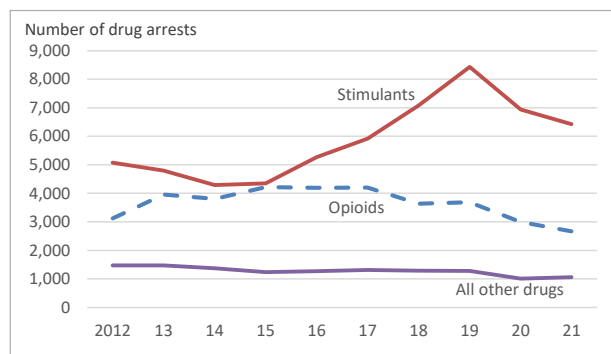
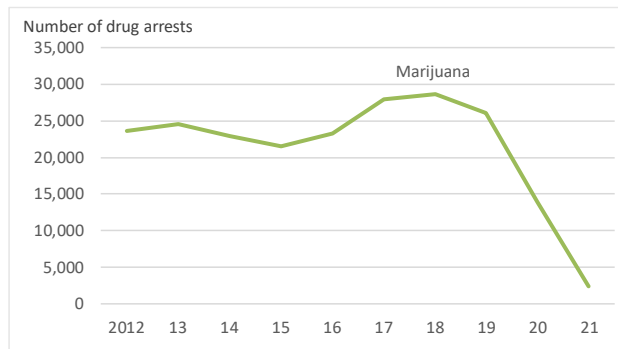
- The total number of arrests for all other drugs decreased by 28% over the decade, from 1,476 arrests in 2012 to 1,057 in 2021.
- From 2020 to 2021, the number of arrests for these drugs increased by 5%.

### Number of Virginia drug arrests by primary drug type, 2012–2021

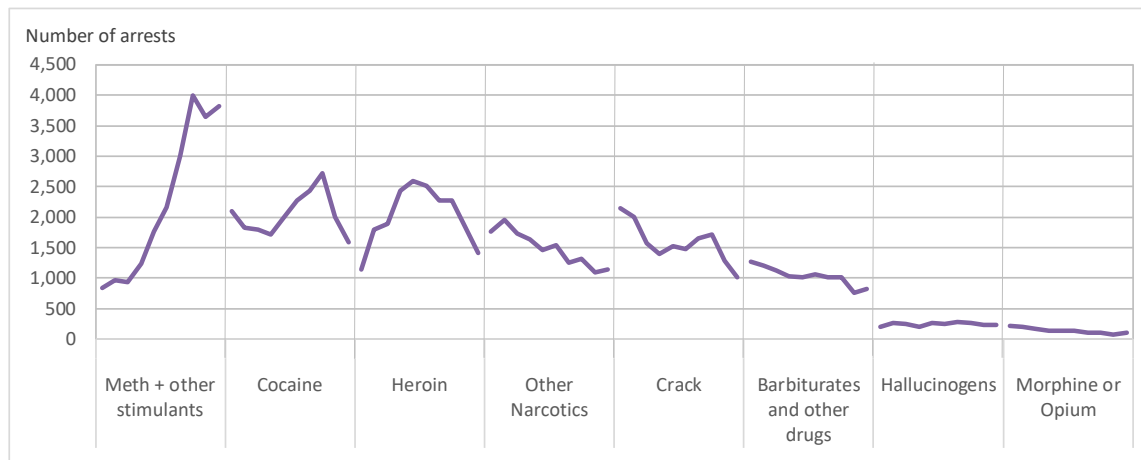
Year	Total drug arrests	Marijuana and Hashish	Stimulants				Opioids			All other drugs			Drug type unknown at arrest	
			Total	Cocaine	Crack	Meth and other	Total	Heroin	Other narcotics	Morphine and opium	Total	Hallucinogens		Barbiturates and other
2012	38,121	23,690	5,079	2,100	2,141	838	3,122	1,139	1,769	214	1,476	206	1,270	4,754
2013	39,762	24,631	4,795	1,832	1,998	965	3,961	1,798	1,956	207	1,471	264	1,207	4,904
2014	37,490	22,985	4,292	1,789	1,569	934	3,802	1,897	1,729	176	1,374	254	1,120	5,037
2015	35,138	21,574	4,353	1,719	1,391	1,243	4,217	2,436	1,638	143	1,236	206	1,030	3,758
2016	39,484	23,252	5,272	1,990	1,520	1,762	4,196	2,592	1,464	140	1,271	259	1,012	5,493
2017	45,557	27,953	5,916	2,277	1,482	2,157	4,199	2,518	1,544	137	1,311	252	1,059	6,178
2018	46,752	28,645	7,087	2,429	1,648	3,010	3,634	2,275	1,255	104	1,287	276	1,011	6,099
2019	44,036	26,089	8,436	2,726	1,717	3,993	3,689	2,270	1,316	103	1,283	263	1,020	4,539
2020	27,867	13,899	6,937	2,004	1,282	3,651	2,994	1,823	1,093	78	1,008	241	767	3,029
2021	14,851	2,369	6,426	1,585	1,015	3,826	2,664	1,419	1,142	103	1,057	235	822	2,335
10-yr % change	-61%	-90%	+27%	-25%	-53%	+357%	-15%	+25%	-35%	-52%	-28%	+14%	-35%	-51%
1-yr % change	-47%	-83%	-7%	-21%	-21%	+5%	-11%	-22%	+4%	+32%	+5%	-2%	+7%	-23%

1-yr = 2020 to 2021

### Number of drug arrests by primary drug group, 2012–2021



### Number of drug arrests by drug type (excluding marijuana), 2012–2021



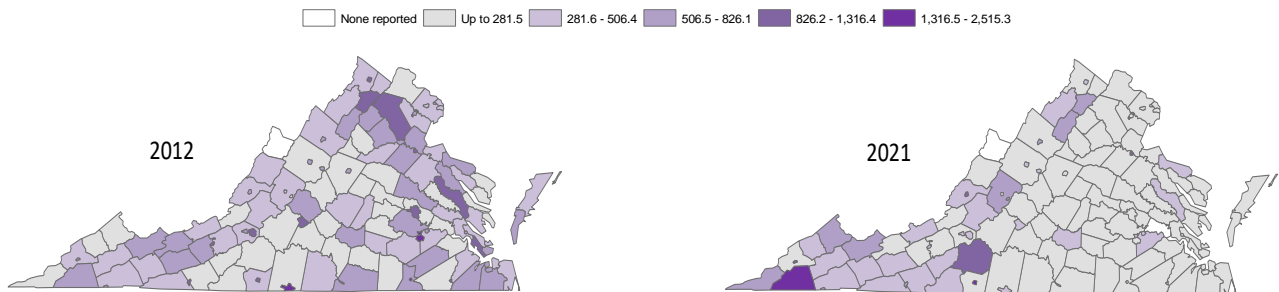


# Drug Arrests by Area

The maps below illustrate how drug arrest rates changed from 2012 to 2021 in each Virginia locality and in each State Police division.

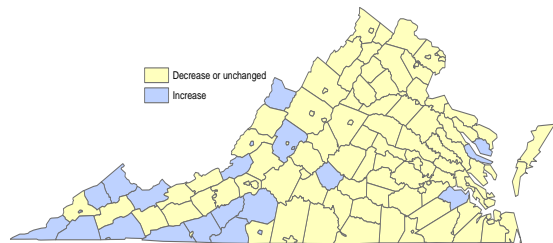
Among localities reporting drug arrests, in 2012, drug arrest rates ranged from a low of 20.2 drug arrests per 100,000 population to a high rate of 2,515.3, and in 2021, locality drug arrest rates ranged from a low locality rate of 19.2 drug arrests per 100,000 population to a locality high rate of 1,364.7. In 2012, 17 cities and 3 counties comprised the 20 localities with the highest drug arrest rates. In 2021, 9 cities and 11 counties were the 20 localities with the highest drug arrest rates.

## Drug arrest rate per 100,000 population, by locality and year



Total drug arrest rates decreased in 33 of Virginia’s 38 cities and in 77 of Virginia’s 95 counties over the ten-year period.

## Change in drug arrest rate, 2012–2021



Drug arrest rates increased in Virginia State Police Division 4 from 2012 to 2021 and decreased in all other divisions.

## Drug arrest rate by State Police division and year, 2012 and 2021



## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### **Drug arrest rate per 100,000 arrest-age population (ages 10 and older) by locality**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>VIRGINIA</b>	532.6	194.6

COUNTIES	2012	2021
Accomack Co	334.2	50.6
Albemarle Co	227.4	51.2
Alleghany Co	417.2	375.3
Amelia Co	150.2	59.1
Amherst Co	747.9	139.3
Appomattox Co	104.5	111.5
Arlington Co	319.6	107.4
Augusta Co	181.8	172.3
Bath Co	324.4	133.7
Bedford Co	216.4	128.7
Bland Co	552.5	192.7
Botetourt Co	456.2	309.2
Brunswick Co	246.1	144.0
Buchanan Co	207.8	734.1
Buckingham Co	412.6	149.5
Campbell Co	229.5	181.6
Caroline Co	463.1	120.4
Carroll Co	253.7	439.0
Charles City Co	45.6	0.0
Charlotte Co	172.0	147.8
Chesterfield Co	801.9	257.1
Clarke Co	328.7	73.9
Craig Co	128.2	180.1
Culpeper Co	652.7	267.0
Cumberland Co	367.5	46.1
Dickenson Co	265.4	418.2
Dinwiddie Co	423.8	20.1
Essex Co	595.8	177.5
Fairfax Co	403.8	86.6
Fauquier Co	958.8	123.2
Floyd Co	138.8	405.7
Fluvanna Co	126.9	56.0
Franklin Co	281.5	1,030.4
Frederick Co	440.2	253.0
Giles Co	443.3	403.2
Gloucester Co	385.4	206.0
Goochland Co	155.0	38.5
Grayson Co	391.0	470.0
Greene Co	209.8	92.4
Greensville Co	760.2	152.1
Halifax Co	423.1	106.4
Hanover Co	629.8	239.7
Henrico Co	258.0	236.3
Henry Co	294.1	189.2
Highland Co	0.0	0.0
Isle of Wight Co	285.6	154.4
James City Co	363.2	51.5
King & Queen Co	960.8	331.7

COUNTIES	2012	2021
King George Co	372.9	166.5
King William Co	179.7	62.6
Lancaster Co	106.2	158.9
Lee Co	113.9	689.0
Loudoun Co	241.8	47.2
Louisa Co	254.2	75.0
Lunenburg Co	106.3	93.6
Madison Co	213.3	48.0
Mathews Co	134.0	63.5
Mecklenburg Co	649.3	77.1
Middlesex Co	20.2	50.7
Montgomery Co	406.8	259.0
Nelson Co	217.1	126.2
New Kent Co	497.0	190.9
Northampton Co	563.1	45.8
Northumberland Co	123.8	90.0
Nottoway Co	391.7	99.9
Orange Co	291.9	136.5
Page Co	737.4	719.5
Patrick Co	256.6	371.6
Pittsylvania Co	225.1	25.6
Powhatan Co	217.7	92.2
Prince Edward Co	648.5	345.8
Prince George Co	437.4	381.4
Prince William Co	487.3	141.6
Pulaski Co	651.2	225.7
Rappahannock Co	634.5	235.9
Richmond Co	303.3	85.2
Roanoke Co	474.0	213.3
Rockbridge Co	449.4	517.9
Rockingham Co	308.1	214.6
Russell Co	483.9	361.3
Scott Co	613.6	1,364.7
Shenandoah Co	506.4	319.9
Smyth Co	498.2	348.9
Southampton Co	182.0	104.4
Spotsylvania Co	727.6	119.4
Stafford Co	552.3	232.7
Surry Co	81.2	84.3
Sussex Co	606.8	30.3
Tazewell Co	618.6	679.0
Warren Co	940.3	737.1
Washington Co	397.2	429.4
Westmoreland Co	612.8	451.6
Wise Co	296.8	158.9
Wythe Co	694.6	449.0
York Co	427.0	57.7

CITIES	2012	2021
Alexandria C	367.9	46.1
Bristol C	715.3	728.8
Buena Vista C	167.8	532.6
Charlottesville C	630.0	58.2
Chesapeake C	749.9	230.2
Colonial Heights C	1,818.4	396.3
Covington C	724.1	960.4
Danville C	1,946.3	306.3
Emporia C	1,709.6	122.4
Fairfax C	338.1	19.2
Falls Church C	655.9	39.3
Franklin C	1,242.8	316.0
Fredericksburg C	1,316.4	881.7
Galax C	1,088.2	710.2
Hampton C	747.4	257.3
Harrisonburg C	690.1	539.3
Hopewell C	753.4	323.2
Lexington C	378.5	173.7
Lynchburg C	1,246.3	446.0
Manassas C	826.1	266.9
Manassas Park C	974.4	427.9
Martinsville C	942.4	1,354.7
Newport News C	989.3	208.6
Norfolk C	389.5	93.4
Norton C	640.7	1,312.1
Petersburg C	2,515.3	152.8
Poquoson C	375.1	98.1
Portsmouth C	658.6	111.0
Radford C	1,234.6	357.6
Richmond C	1,131.6	134.0
Roanoke C	1,190.5	288.6
Salem C	741.6	297.3
Staunton C	592.3	499.7
Suffolk C	556.4	71.6
Virginia Beach C	478.8	186.6
Waynesboro C	596.7	285.1
Williamsburg C	659.1	171.6
Winchester C	1,034.8	335.8

## Virginia Index Crime and Drug Arrest Trends – 2012–2021

### **County and city ranking of drug arrest rates per 100,000 arrest-age population, by year**

Counties are ranked against other counties (highest rate ranked 1, lowest rate ranked 95)

Cities are ranked against other cities (highest rate ranked 1, lowest rate ranked 38)

COUNTIES	2012	2021
Accomack Co	50	85
Albemarle Co	69	83
Alleghany Co	39	18
Amelia Co	82	79
Amherst Co	6	54
Appomattox Co	91	62
Arlington Co	53	63
Augusta Co	78	44
Bath Co	52	56
Bedford Co	73	57
Bland Co	22	38
Botetourt Co	31	25
Brunswick Co	66	52
Buchanan Co	76	4
Buckingham Co	40	50
Campbell Co	68	41
Caroline Co	30	60
Carroll Co	65	12
Charles City Co	93	94
Charlotte Co	80	51
Chesterfield Co	4	28
Clarke Co	51	76
Craig Co	85	42
Culpeper Co	10	26
Cumberland Co	48	88
Dickenson Co	61	14
Dinwiddie Co	37	93
Essex Co	20	43
Fairfax Co	42	71
Fauquier Co	2	59
Floyd Co	83	15
Fluvanna Co	86	81
Franklin Co	60	2
Frederick Co	34	29
Giles Co	33	16
Gloucester Co	46	37
Goochland Co	81	90
Grayson Co	45	9
Greene Co	75	68
Greensville Co	5	49
Halifax Co	38	64
Hanover Co	15	30
Henrico Co	62	31
Henry Co	57	40
Highland Co	95	94
Isle of Wight Co	59	48
James City Co	49	82
King & Queen Co	1	23

COUNTIES	2012	2021
King George Co	47	45
King William Co	79	78
Lancaster Co	90	46
Lee Co	88	6
Loudoun Co	67	87
Louisa Co	64	75
Lunenburg Co	89	67
Madison Co	74	86
Mathews Co	84	77
Mecklenburg Co	12	74
Middlesex Co	94	84
Montgomery Co	41	27
Nelson Co	72	58
New Kent Co	26	39
Northampton Co	21	89
Northumberland Co	87	70
Nottoway Co	44	66
Orange Co	58	55
Page Co	7	5
Patrick Co	63	19
Pittsylvania Co	70	92
Powhatan Co	71	69
Prince Edward Co	13	22
Prince George Co	35	17
Prince William Co	27	53
Pulaski Co	11	34
Rappahannock Co	14	32
Richmond Co	55	72
Roanoke Co	29	36
Rockbridge Co	32	8
Rockingham Co	54	35
Russell Co	28	20
Scott Co	17	1
Shenandoah Co	24	24
Smyth Co	25	21
Southampton Co	77	65
Spotsylvania Co	8	61
Stafford Co	23	33
Surry Co	92	73
Sussex Co	19	91
Tazewell Co	16	7
Warren Co	3	3
Washington Co	43	13
Westmoreland Co	18	10
Wise Co	56	46
Wythe Co	9	11
York Co	36	80

CITIES	2012	2021
Alexandria C	36	36
Bristol C	22	5
Buena Vista C	38	8
Charlottesville C	28	35
Chesapeake C	18	23
Colonial Heights C	3	12
Covington C	21	3
Danville C	2	17
Emporia C	4	30
Fairfax C	37	38
Falls Church C	26	37
Franklin C	7	16
Fredericksburg C	5	4
Galax C	11	6
Hampton C	19	22
Harrisonburg C	23	7
Hopewell C	17	15
Lexington C	34	26
Lynchburg C	6	10
Manassas C	16	21
Manassas Park C	14	11
Martinsville C	15	1
Newport News C	13	24
Norfolk C	33	33
Norton C	27	2
Petersburg C	1	28
Poquoson C	35	32
Portsmouth C	25	31
Radford C	8	13
Richmond C	10	29
Roanoke C	9	19
Salem C	20	18
Staunton C	30	9
Suffolk C	31	34
Virginia Beach C	32	25
Waynesboro C	29	20
Williamsburg C	24	27
Winchester C	12	14

# Appendix

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## **Notes on the data used in this report**

- Data in this report is from crimes and arrests reported by Virginia law enforcement agencies to the Virginia State Police Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data repository, which publishes an annual *Crime in Virginia* report.
- The crime and arrest figures in this report may differ slightly from those in *Crime in Virginia*. For example, the UCR data repository may receive last-minute data updates from local agencies that are not available to the DCJS Research Center.<sup>6</sup> Also, the Research Center estimated missing crime and arrest counts for 2017 and 2018 for those agencies that had missing data due to technical issues at the agency or at the statewide UCR repository. *Crime in Virginia* contains crime and arrest reports submitted to the Virginia State Police with any missing data noted but does not estimate the missing data.
- Crime rates used in this report are the number of crimes reported per 100,000 total (all ages) population. Crimes rates are used to allow for comparisons between areas or localities with different population sizes.
- Arrest rates used in this report are the number of arrests reported per 100,000 total *arrest-age* population. The arrest age population is individuals ages 10 and older. Juvenile arrest rates are calculated per the juvenile population ages 10 to 17, and adult arrest rates are calculated per the adult population ages 18 and older. U.S. Census Bureau population estimates were used to calculate all rates. For clarity, all crime and arrest *counts* are shown as whole numbers, and all crime and arrest *rates* are shown as decimal numbers.
- In this report, crimes and arrests reported by towns are included with those reported by the surrounding county. The city of Bedford became a town effective July 1, 2013. For consistency, the crimes and arrests reported by the former city of Bedford are included in the totals for Bedford County for each year 2012 through 2021.
- In the data used for this report, the primary drug type seized at arrest was unavailable for all drug arrests reported in data files received in November and December 2020. Because of this, primary drug type seized totals for calendar year 2020 were estimated based on the distribution of known primary drug types seized reported in all other data files used to finalize the calendar year 2020 arrest data.

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<sup>6</sup> The DCJS Research Center estimated missing agency-level crime and arrest counts for the years 2000–2009 because during this time some law enforcement agencies reported incomplete data as they transitioned from summary-based crime and arrest reporting to incident-based reporting.