

Statistics on Crime, Incarceration, and Community Supervision (Probation and Parole)

Including Violent and Non-violent Offenses

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Definitions of Violent Crime and Nonviolent Crime

There are numerous ways to define and categorize crime. The U.S. Department of Justice FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program provides the following definitions:

- **Violent crime:** offenses involving force or threat of force to include 1) murder and non-negligent manslaughter, 2) forcible rape, 3) robbery, and 4) aggravated assault.
- **Property (non-violent) crime:** offenses of the theft-type with the object of taking money or property, but without force or threat of force against the victims, to include: 1) burglary, 2) larceny-theft, 3) motor vehicle theft, and 4) arson. Property crimes are defined as non-violent unless coupled with a violent crime. ¹

The Bureau of Justice Statistics categorizes drug-related crimes as the use, possession, manufacturing, or distributing of drugs classified as having a potential for abuse. Drug-related offenses can be:

- **Drug-defined:** violations of laws prohibiting or regulating the possession, distribution, or manufacture of illegal drugs.
- **Drug-related:** Offenses in which a drug's pharmacologic effects contribute; offenses motivated by the user's need for money to support continued use; and offenses connected to drug distribution itself. ²

State statutes differ in their definitions of violent crime. **South Carolina's definition of violent crime** can be found in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 16-1-60 Violent Crimes Defined. These include but are not limited to murder, assault and battery, criminal sexual conduct, kidnapping, trafficking in persons, robbery, 1st and 2nd degree burglary, carjacking, domestic violence, drug trafficking, drug manufacturing, sexual exploitation, and child abuse and neglect. All other crimes not found in Section 16-1-60 are considered nonviolent by the state. ³

Law.com offers the following definitions for the terms “felony” and “misdemeanor:”

- **Felony:** a crime sufficiently serious to be punishable by death or a term in state or federal prison. It can also be defined as a crime carrying a minimum term of one year or more in state prison. A sentence upon conviction for a felony may sometimes be less than one year at the discretion of the judge and within limits set by statute.
- **Misdemeanor:** a lesser crime punishable by a fine and/or county jail time for up to one year. ⁴

Other types of infractions include traffic violations, cyber-crime, identify-theft, hate crimes, public order crimes, and more.⁵

¹ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2011). Violent crime. Retrieved at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/violent-crime>

² Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2013). Drugs and crime. Retrieved at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=35>

³ South Carolina Legislature. (2011). South Carolina Code of Laws Unannotated, Title 16 – Crimes and Offenses. Retrieved at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t16c001.php>

⁴ Law.com. (2016). Legal dictionary. ALM Media Properties, LLC. Retrieved at <http://www.law.com/resources>

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2016). Crime type. Retrieved at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=3>

Criminal Offense Statistics

United States, 2014

According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR), nationwide in 2014 there were an estimated:

- 1,165,383 violent crime offenses
- 365.5 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants
- 8,277,829 property (non-violent) crime offenses
- 2,596.1 property (non-violent) crimes per 100,000 inhabitants
- The incidence of non-violent property crime occurs 7.1 times more frequently than violent crime.⁶

South Carolina, 2014

According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR), in South Carolina in 2014 there were an estimated:

- 24,052 violent crime offenses
- 497.7 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants
- 167,217 property (non-violent) crime offenses
- 3,460.3 property crimes per 100,000 inhabitants.
- The incidence of non-violent property crime occurs 7.0 times more frequently than violent crime.⁷

Criminal Arrest Statistics

United States, 2014

According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR), nationwide in 2014 there were an estimated:

- 11,205,833 arrests nationwide for all offenses
- 498,666 arrests for all violent crimes (4.4%)
- 1,553,980 arrests for all property (non-violent) offenses (13.9%)
- 1,561,231 arrests for drug law violations (13.9%)
 - Drug abuse arrests involving the sale or manufacture of drugs - 16.9%
 - Drug abuse arrests involving the possession of drugs - 83.1%⁸

South Carolina, 2014

According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR), in South Carolina in 2014 there were an estimated:

- 157,253 arrests in SC for all offenses
- 6,693 arrests for all violent crimes (4.3%)
- 26,158 arrests for all property (non-violent) offenses (16.6%)
- 26,720 arrests for drug abuse violations (17%)⁹

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2011). FBI releases 2010 crime statistics. Retrieved at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/summary>

⁷ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. (N.D.). Crime in the United States by State, 2014. Retrieved at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/tables/table-5>

⁸ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. (N.D.). Persons arrested, 2014. Retrieved at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/persons-arrested/main>

⁹ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation. (N.D.). Arrests, by state. Retrieved at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/tables/table-69>

Numbers and statistics of Incarcerated Adults

United States, 2014 Year End

There were 2,224,400 adults estimated to be incarcerated:

- 744,600 in jails
- 210,600 in federal prisons
- 1,351,000 in state prisons ¹⁰

South Carolina

- In April 2016, there were 21,026 adults estimated to be incarcerated in SC state prison facilities. ¹¹
- There were 9,282 adults released from SC state prison facilities in FY 2015 (excluding deaths). ¹²
- The following list illustrates types and percentages of criminal offenses by prisoners admitted to SCDOC in FY 2015. Criminal offenses at less than .5% are not shown. ¹³

Estimate of violent crimes

Assault (8.5%)
 Robbery (6.0%)
 Family Offense (6.0%)
 Homicide (3.1%)
 Sex Offenses (2.7%)
 Sexual Assault (2.3%)
 Kidnapping (.9%)

Estimate of Crime (Not enough data to define as violent or non-violent)

Dangerous Drugs (19.8%)
 Burglary (15.6% 2015)

Estimate of non-violent crimes

Larceny (9.7%)
 Traffic Offense (6.5%)
 Fraudulent Activity (3.9%)
 Weapon Offense (3.6%)
 Stolen Vehicle (2.6%)
 Obstructing Police (2.4%)
 Forgery/Counterfeit (2.3%)
 Stolen Property (1.3%)
 Accessory to Felony (.7%)

Greenville County Detention Centers

Though Greenville County does not provide data on number of people jailed, its three facilities have an official rated capacity of 1,277. ¹⁴

Spartanburg County Detention Services

According to a list of current people jailed, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is holding 831 people in jail as of May 23, 2016. ¹⁵

¹⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2016). Estimated number of persons supervised by U.S. adult correctional systems, by correctional status, 1980-2014, p. 2. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus14.pdf>

¹¹ SC Department Of Corrections. (2016). Inmate Population Summary for April 15, 2016. Retrieved at http://www.doc.sc.gov/pubweb/research/SystemOverview/yearlycomparisonofinmatesandbedcounts_041516.pdf

¹² SC Department Of Corrections. (2016). Admissions To and Releases From SCDC Base Population, FY 2015. Retrieved from http://www.doc.sc.gov/pubweb/research/SystemOverview/ADM_REL_FromBASEPOP_FY15.pdf

¹³ SC Department Of Corrections. (2016). Most Serious Offense of Inmates Admitted, Fiscal Years 2011 - 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.doc.sc.gov/pubweb/research/AdmissionsTrend/AdmissionTrendMSODistributionFY11-15.pdf>

<http://www.spartanburgsheriff.org/detention-services-division.php>

¹⁴ Greenville County (N.D.) Detention center adult facility. Retrieved from https://www.greenvillecounty.org/Detention_Center/adult_facility.asp

¹⁵ Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. (N.D.). Current inmates sorted alphabetically. Retrieved from <http://www.spartanburgsheriff.org/detention-services-division.php>

Definitions of Probation and Parole

The Bureau of Justice Statistics defines probation and parole as:

Probation: a court-ordered period of correctional supervision in the community, generally as an alternative to incarceration. In some cases, probation can be a combined sentence of incarceration followed by a period of community supervision.

Parole: a period of conditional supervised release in the community following a prison term. It includes parolees released through discretionary or mandatory supervised release from prison, those released through other types of post-custody conditional supervision, and those sentenced to a term of supervised release.¹⁶

Violent and Non-violent offenders on Probation and Parole

United States

At least 95 %of state prisoners will eventually be released, with nearly 80% released to parole supervision.¹⁷

Nationwide in 2014, there were 4,708,100 adults estimated to be under supervision (1 in 52 adults). An estimated 3,864,100 (82%) were on probation. An estimated 856,900 (18%) were on parole.

- For those on probation, the types of offenses included felonies (56%), misdemeanors (42%), and other (2%).
- For those on probation, the most serious offenses included violent offenses (19%), nonviolent offenses (68%), and other (11%).
- For those on parole, the most serious offenses included violent offenses (31%), nonviolent offenses (57%), and other (12%).¹⁸

Probation – US

Violent 19%

- Domestic violence 4%
- Sex Offence 3%
- Other 12%

Nonviolent 68%

- Property 28%
- Drug 24%
- Public Order 16%
 - DWI/DUI 14%
 - Other Traffic 2%

Other 11%

Parole - US

Violent 31%

- Sex Offence 7%
- Other 24%

Nonviolent 68%

- Property 22%
- Drug 31%
- Weapon 4%

Other (Incl. Public Order) 12%

¹⁶ Bonczar, T. P., Kaeble, D., & Maruschak, L. (2015). Probation and parole in the United States, 2014. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), p.2. Retrieved at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus14.pdf>

¹⁷ Hughes, T. & D.J. Wilson. *Reentry Trends in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2002. Retrieved from [bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/reentry.pdf](https://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/reentry.pdf)

¹⁸ Bonczar, T. P., Kaeble, D., & Maruschak, L. (2015). Probation and parole in the United States, 2014. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), p.5,7. Retrieved at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus14.pdf>

Violent and Non-violent offenders on Probation and Parole, cont.

South Carolina, FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15)

There were 30,929 people under active supervision by the SC Dept. of Probation, Parole, & Pardon Services (1 in 97 adults).¹⁹

There were 17,124 people admitted to SCDPPPS programs during this period. Of those:

- 1,525 (9%) people were admitted due to violent crime
- 15,599 (91%) people were admitted due to non-violent crime

Greenville County, FY 2015

There were 1,855 people admitted to SCDPPPS programs. Of those:

- 174 (9%) people were admitted due to violent crime
- 1681 (91%) people were admitted due to non-violent crime

Spartanburg County, FY 2015

There were 1,496 people admitted to SCDPPPS programs. Of those:

- 142 (9%) people were admitted due to violent crime
- 1354 (91%) people were admitted due to non-violent crime²⁰

Recidivism Rates of Prisoners Released and Arrested

Based on a 30 State Study from 2005 - 2010

- 68% of 405,000 prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 were arrested for a new crime within three years of release from prison.
- 77% percent prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 were arrested for a new crime within five years of release from prison.
- The arrest of former prisoners after release increased with the extent of their criminal history.
- The longer released prisoners went without being arrested, the less likely they were to be arrested at all during the 5 year follow-up period.
- Recidivism rates declined with age.
- Regardless of the incarceration offense, 58% of released prisoners were arrested for a public order offense within five years of release; an estimated 39% were arrested for a drug offense, 38% for a property offense, and 29% for a violent offense.
- Released prisoners who were incarcerated for a violent, property or drug crime were more likely than other released inmates to be arrested for a similar type of crime.²¹

¹⁹ SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. (2015). Annual Statistical Report, Fiscal Year 2015, p. 13. Retrieved from <http://www.dppps.sc.gov/content/download/84662/1940568/file/Annual+Statistical+Report++FY2015.pdf>

²⁰ Ibid, p. 10.

²¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2014). 3 in 4 former prisoners in 30 states arrested within 5 years of release. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/press/rprts05p0510pr.cfm>