

South Dakota Department of Corrections

External Data Brief: South Dakota Crime Trends

February 2023 : No 1-E

KEY FINDINGS

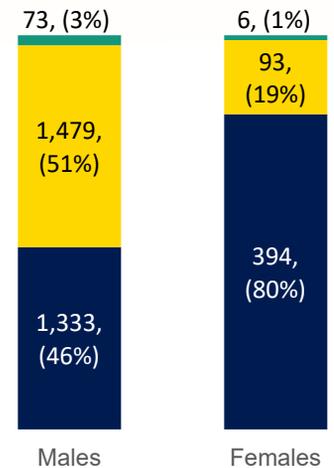
- Most males were incarcerated for a violent offense, while most females were incarcerated for a nonviolent offense.
- The female prison population had a 33% increase in offenders with violent crimes since 2013.
- The male prison population had a 10% increase in offenders with violent crimes between 2013 and 2018.
- The female prison population had a 66% increase in drug crimes since 2013.
- The male prison population had an increase of 34% in drug crimes since 2013.
- In 2021, there were eleven counties that had crime rates higher than the state's overall rate.
- The homicide rate in South Dakota increased 109% over the last 10 years.

OVERVIEW

Based on the June 30, 2022 offender population, 51% (1,479) of male offenders were incarcerated for a violent offense and 46% (1,333) were incarcerated for a non-violent offense. For females, 19% (93) offenders were incarcerated for a violent offense and 80% (394) for a non-violent offense.

The charts below show the distribution of non-violent offenses by drug crimes and other non-violent crimes for the same June 30, 2022 population.

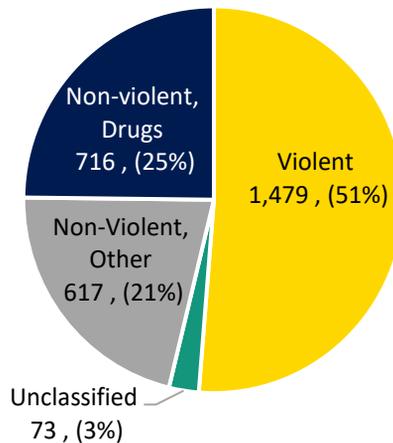
Violent vs Non-Violent Offenders



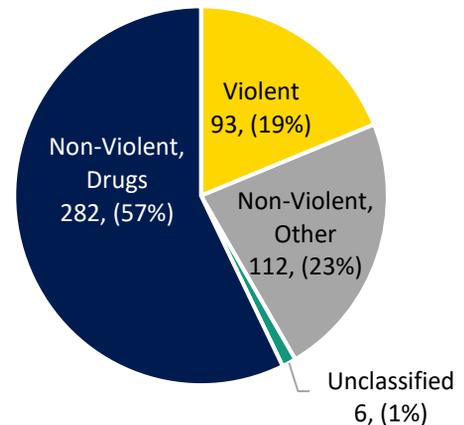
■ Non-Violent ■ Violent ■ Unclassified

Most Serious Offense Crime Categories

Males



Females



Drug crimes account for the majority of non-violent offenses for both males and females, while property and public order crimes account for the remainder of non-violent offenses.

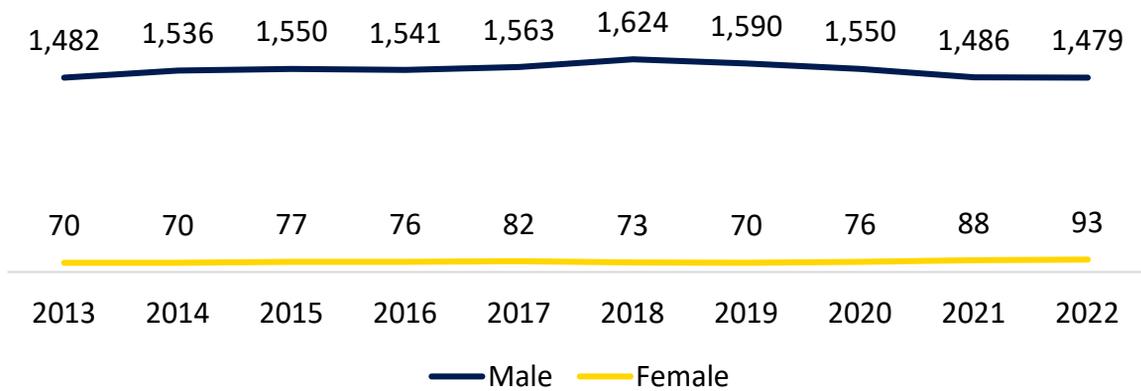
Unclassified offenders include federal offenders and new admission pending court judgement documentation.



OFFENDERS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FOR VIOLENT CRIMES

The graph below shows the trend in all violent crimes for male and female offenders between 2013 and 2022. Since 2013, the number of female offenders with a crime of violence increased by 33% (23). The number of male offenders with a crime of violence increased by 10% (142) between 2013 and 2018 and decreased by 9% (145) between 2018 and 2022.

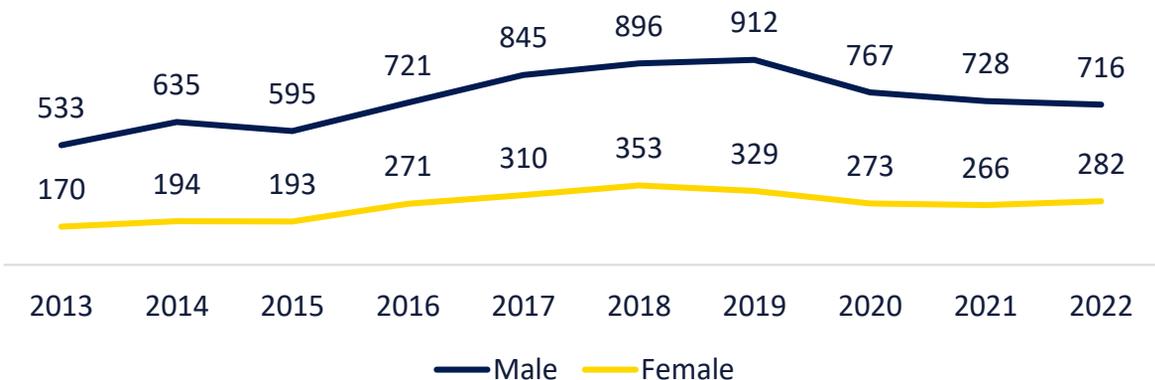
End of Fiscal Year Violent Crime Classification



OFFENDERS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FOR DRUG CRIMES

Because drug crimes account for most non-violent offenses for both male and females, the graph below shows the trend of drug crimes between 2013 and 2022. Since 2013, offenders with drug crimes increased by 66% (112) for females and 34% (183) for males. Drug crimes spiked for females in 2018 at 353 offenders or 64% of the population, and for males in 2019 at 912 offenders or 28% of the population.

End of Fiscal Year Drug Crime Classification



INCREASING CRIMES

The table on the right shows crimes that increased between 2020 and 2021 in South Dakota.

Negligent manslaughter and human trafficking had the highest percentage changes with low numbers in 2020 more than doubling in 2021. The crime with the highest numerical increase was intimidation with 111 more crimes in 2021.

* Crime data was obtained from the SD Office of the Attorney General, Division of Criminal Investigation, Offense Density Report, 2021: <https://sdcime.nibrs.com/Reports/Index/List>

¹ At the time this data was accessed, DCI's website reported that there were technical issues with their record management system, which accounts for differences in data in the dashboards.

INCREASING CRIMES IN 2021			
Crime	2020	2021	Change
Negligent Manslaughter ¹	11	24	118%
Sexual Assault with Object	5	7	40%
Fondling ¹	433	454	5%
Intimidation ¹	1,679	1,790	7%
Incest	14	17	21%
Statutory Rape	146	161	10%
Human Trafficking	2	7	250%
Gambling Offenses	11	13	18%
Pornography/Obscene Material	234	257	10%
Prostitution	33	34	3%
Weapons Law Violation ¹	721	745	3%
Animal Cruelty ¹	20	35	75%

COUNTIES WITH CRIME RATES ABOVE STATE CRIME RATE IN 2021

State/County	2021 Crime Rate
Hughes County	22,207
Pennington County	9,486
Minnehaha County	6,246
Codington County	6,216
Brown County	6,126
Davison County	6,056
Meade County	5,861
Bennett County	5,724
Moody County	5,658
Yankton County	5,542
Custer County	5,290
South Dakota	5,172

LOCALITIES DRIVING THE INCREASE

The table on the left shows 2021 crimes rates for counties in South Dakota compared to the statewide rate of 5,172 crimes per 100,000 residents. The 11 counties shown all had crime rates higher than the average rate for the entire state.

Hughes County, which houses the state's capital and has the twelfth highest population in the state, had the highest rate of crime in 2021 at 22,207 crimes per 100,000 residents. This is over four times the state crime rate.

Pennington County had the next highest rate of crime at 9,486 crimes per 100,000 residents. Crimes in this county are nearly double the average state rate.

Minnehaha and Codington Counties had the next highest rates for counties in the state.

The remaining seven counties were all within 16% of each other and at least 2% higher than the state rate.

HOMICIDE RATES

According to the SD Division of Criminal Investigation's (DCI) Crime in South Dakota Report, homicide rates increased by 109%, from 2.2 (18) in 2012 to 4.6 (41) in 2021. The lowest rate during that period was 1.7 in 2013, with 14 homicides. The rate peaked in 2020 at 5.7 (51) after a sharp increase of 138% between 2018 and 2020. However, the homicide rate decreased by 13% between 2020 and 2021.

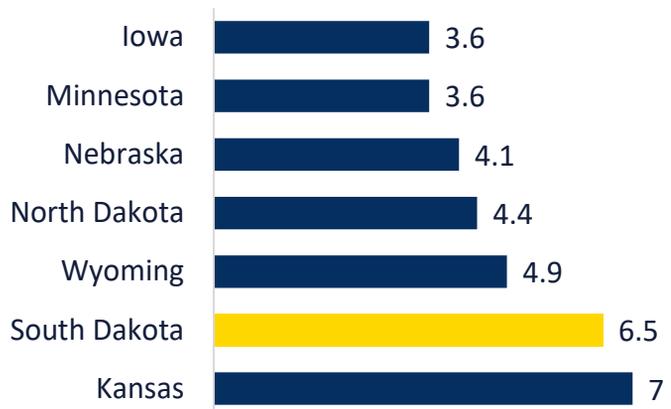
Homicide Rates and Numbers



* Homicide data was obtained from the SD Office of the Attorney General, Division of Criminal Investigation, Crime in South Dakota Reports: <https://sdcrime.nibrs.com/CrimePublication/CrimePublicationReports>

To compare South Dakota's homicide rate with other states in the region, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) Homicide Mortality Rate data was used. South Dakota had the second highest homicide mortality rate in the region in 2020 according to the CDC. The CDC reported a 6.5 homicide rate for South Dakota in 2020, which is higher than the 5.7 rate from the DCI data. The CDC uses an age-adjusted death rate, which is a rate that factors in the effects of differences in population age distributions.

2020 CDC Homicide Mortality Rate by States in the Region



* State homicide rates were obtained from the CDC Homicide Mortality by State data, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/homicide_mortality/homicide.htm

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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