

GEORGIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA LANDSCAPE INSIGHTS

GEORGIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE
DATA HANDBOOK



Carl Vinson Institute of Government
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Introduction

The Georgia Criminal Justice Data Handbook is a resource guide to available federal and state criminal justice data sources. The guide is designed for people new to criminal justice data, researchers, and policymakers interested in Georgia’s adult and youth criminal justice systems. As stakeholders continue to shape future Georgia criminal justice policies, access to updated and comprehensive data sources can improve context and insights.

While several data tools are available online, this handbook serves as a one-stop reference for data sources on Georgia criminal justice topics. The Georgia Criminal Justice Data Handbook contains over fifty resources, centralized in one location, that fit within the following broad topics: crimes and arrests, prisons, jails, probation and parole, juvenile justice, courts, and agency employment and expenditures data.

Criteria for inclusion in the handbook included:

- The latest year of available data is no more than four years old,
- Data comes from a governmental or nonpartisan source,
- Sources include geographical units of state-level data or smaller,
- Utilizing the data requires minimal or no technical skills,
- The data are regularly updated (i.e., cannot be a one-off analysis), and
- There is no need to request or have special access to the data.

The Georgia Criminal Justice Data Handbook is intended to be an efficient reference to access data of interest. An [accompanying resource](#) provides a URL for each data source and information on years available, geographic levels, data collection, limitations, and contact information for further questions.

Crime and Arrest Data Resources

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION’S CRIME DATA EXPLORER

Types of Data: Reported crimes, crime rates, offender and victim demographics and relationships, particulars about crime incidents

Geographies: National, state, law enforcement agency jurisdiction

Years Available: 1985–2021

The [FBI's Crime Data Explorer \(CDE\)](#) presents crime and arrest data at the national, state, and law enforcement agency levels, beginning in 1985.¹ The tool relies on information sourced from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program data files, which have been collected since 1930.^{2,3} Local law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit monthly reports to the FBI UCR program based on standard definitions of crimes. In Georgia, law enforcement agencies submit monthly reports to the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC), a division of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI).⁴ The GCIC compiles this information and reports it to the FBI.⁵

Although monthly submissions are required by law in Georgia and many other states, not all agencies report each month due to budget constraints, personnel shortages, or inadequate training. The FBI uses estimation methods to account for non-reporting agencies at the national and state levels. However, the FBI does not create agency or county-level estimates due to their unreliability. The FBI only releases estimates for crime data; arrest data is as reported.⁶

In 2015, the FBI announced it would transition all law enforcement agencies to a new data collection system by January 1, 2021.⁷ Unlike the old data collection system, the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) collects data on individual crime incidents. Previously, Georgia and the rest of the country used the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to report crime data to the UCR. Unlike the SRS, which collected data only on the most serious offense committed during an incident, NIBRS records up to 10 offenses per incident and gathers information on the characteristics of the crime, such as the use of weapons, the type and quantity of property lost, and demographic details of both the victim and the perpetrator.⁸

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS: LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTED CRIME ANALYSIS TOOL

Types of Data: Reported crimes, crime rates, offender and victim demographics and relationships

Geographies: National, state, county, metropolitan statistical area (MSA)

Years Available: 2016–2021

The US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) [Law Enforcement Agency Reported Crime Analysis Tool \(LEARCAT\)](#) presents data about reported crimes at both the incident and victimization levels from 2016 to the latest available. Like the FBI's Crime Data Explorer, the data is sourced from the NIBRS program, as mentioned above. Users can view the data by crime incident ("Crime View") or victim characteristics ("Victim View"). In addition to changing the view, users can filter the data by geography (national, state, county, or

metropolitan statistical area), crime, victim characteristics, or relationship between the offender and victim.⁹ Table 1 contains a comparison of the FBI CDE and BJS LEARCAT.

Table 1. Comparison of Data Available from the FBI Crime Data Explorer and the BJS LEARCAT

	FBI CDE	BJS LEARCAT
Agency	Federal Bureau of Investigation	Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice
Data Source	FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program	FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program
Geographies Available	National, state, law enforcement agency	National, state, county, MSA
Years Available	1985–2021	2016–2021
Is the user able to compare different entities easily?	No	Yes
Is the user able to do trend analysis easily?	Yes	Yes
URL	https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov	https://learcat.bjs.ojp.gov

GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION: CRIME STATISTICS REPORTS

Types of Data: Index crimes, arrestee demographics, family violence

Geographies: Georgia, Georgia county, MSA

Years Available: 2009–2021

In addition to the FBI CDE and BJS LEARCAT tools, users interested in Georgia’s crime data can consult the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) [Crime Statistics Reports](#), which include the data GCIC collects for the FBI UCR program. Unlike the FBI, the GBI does not provide estimates for non-reporting agencies and only presents what agencies report.¹⁰ Additionally, the reports include only index crimes, also known as Part 1 offenses, which are criminal homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, arson, and human-trafficking.¹¹

Prison Data Resources

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS: CORRECTIONS STATISTICAL ANALYSIS TOOL – PRISONERS

Types of Data: Federal and state prisoner population, admissions, releases, prisoner demographics and offense type

Geographies: National, state

Years Available: 1978–2019

The US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) [Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool – Prisoners \(CSAT – Prisoners\)](#) allows users to examine data on individuals incarcerated under the jurisdiction of both federal and state authorities and generate statistics, figures, and maps on various metrics such as admissions, releases, and year-end prison populations. Data for the tool comes from two BJS collections: The National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program and the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP). The NPS provides aggregate information from states, while the NCRP focuses on offender-level data such as prison admissions, releases, and community supervision.¹²

Since its inception in 1926, the NPS has undergone several changes in responsibility and federal oversight. Today, the BJS administers the survey, but the Census Bureau serves as the primary data collection agent.¹³ The Census Bureau has been collecting data for the NCRP annually on prison admissions, releases, and community supervision since 1983. Participation by state departments of corrections in both surveys is voluntary.¹⁴

It is important to note that the sum of offender-level records in NCRP may differ from the aggregate totals provided by NPS for several reasons. Differences may be due to variations in definitions, the time of year when the data is compiled, or different methodologies. Users are also cautioned against comparing offender profiles between states with unified jail and prison systems (Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont) and other states that only have jurisdiction over offenders serving a sentence of more than one year.¹⁵ For more information about which individuals are included in survey counts and differences between the two surveys, users can consult the [CSAT – Prisoners Tool methodology page](#) on BJS's official website.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: STATISTICAL REPORTS

Types of Data: Georgia prison population, admissions, releases, prisoner demographics, and offense type

Geographies: Georgia, Georgia county, facility

Years Available: 1925–2023 (depending on the report)

The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) provides [detailed statistical reports](#) on their population of incarcerated people, covering demographics, admissions and releases, sentencing information, facility information, and recidivism rates. These reports are released regularly, either annually, monthly, or on some other standing basis.

The information in the GDC reports is collected from various sources throughout the organization, including demographics and sentence data collected at admission, some of which is self-reported by individuals. Medical and mental health care information is provided by local-level staff, care providers, or counselors. The “Not Reported” category indicates there is no data available for the given field, due either to timing of when the report was run or for other reasons.¹⁶

Jail Data Resources

GEORGIA SHERIFF’S ASSOCIATION: MONTHLY JAIL REPORTS

Types of Data: Jail population, jail capacity

Geographies: Georgia, Georgia county

Years Available: 2007–2023

The Georgia Sheriff’s Association publishes [monthly jail reports](#). Data tables and visualizations from 2007 through 2023 are available online and contain jail capacity data by Georgia county, including the following:

- Number of inmates in jail,
- Jail capacity,
- Inmates as a percent of capacity,
- Number and percent of inmates sentenced to state,



- Number and percent of inmates awaiting trial,
- Number and percent of inmates serving county sentences, and
- Number and percent of other inmates.

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) collected this information until it retired data collection in 2023. While historical reports from the DCA will be preserved and available upon request, the Georgia Sheriff's Association has undertaken the role of data collection and publishes reports monthly.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS INFORMATION CENTER: STATE STATISTICS INFORMATION

Types of Data: Number of jail facilities, jail populations

Geographies: National, state

Years Available: 2015–2020

The National Institute of Corrections Information Center (NICIC)'s [State Statistics Information](#) provides several key criminal justice data at the state level, including annual jail populations and number of jail facilities. Users can compare states to each other or look at a particular state's data profile. The NICIC uses only publicly available information to create the visualizations on its website.¹⁷

Probation and Parole Data Resources

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION: ANNUAL POPULATION DASHBOARD

Types of Data: Probation and parole counts, probationer and parolee offense type and demographics

Geographies: Georgia, Georgia county

Years Available: 2017–2023

The Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS) [Community Supervision Annual Population Dashboard](#) provides descriptive details of the community supervision population

(adults on felony probation or parole, and Class A and B youth offenders^a) in Georgia as of January 1 of the selected year. The dashboard provides visualizations of the data by demographics, legal status (i.e., probation or parole), conviction county, and offense type. Data are available from 2017 to the latest year available.¹⁸

Juvenile Justice Data Resources

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION: STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

Types of Data: Youth in residential placement, youth offender and victim demographics, juvenile court cases, number of juvenile justice facilities

Geographies: National, state, county

Years Available: 1980–2020 (depending on the tool)

The US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) [Statistical Briefing Book](#) contains tools that provide easy access to data on youth crime and victimization, including:

- [Easy Access to Juvenile Populations \(EZAPOP\)](#): National, state, county, and jurisdiction-level youth population data by demographics from 1990 to the latest available.
- [Easy Access to the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports \(EZASHR\)](#): National and state data on youth homicide offenders and victims with demographics and victim-offender relationship, and type of weapon used from 1980 to the latest available.
- [Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts \(EZACO\)](#): State and county juvenile court case counts for delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases from 1997 to the latest available.
- [Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement \(EZACIRP\)](#): National, state, and jurisdictional level data on the characteristics of youth held in residential

^a A Class A or B youth offender is a child of 13 years of age or older who committed a felonious act that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony offense. Class A felonies include the Seven Deadly Sins as well as a variety of other offenses, such as home invasion, arson, participating in criminal gang activity, and so forth. Class B felonies include some of the same crimes as Class A felonies but with a lesser degree tied to them. Class B felonies also include such crimes as racketeering and smash-and-grab burglary (O.C.G.A. § 15-11-2).

placement facilities, including detailed demographics, placement status, length of stay, and most serious offense from 1997 to the latest available.

- [Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook \(JRFCDB\)](#): National, state, and jurisdictional level data on the characteristics of youth residential placement facilities, including facility operation, classification, size, and capacity from 2000 to the latest available.

The Statistical Briefing Book also contains additional resources not included in the list above because those resources have only national data or are not updated as frequently.¹⁹

GEORGIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL: JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA CLEARINGHOUSE

Types of Data: Youth at each decision point, demographics

Geographies: Georgia, Georgia counties, Georgia judicial circuit

Years Available: 2005–2019

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)'s Georgia [Juvenile Justice Data Clearinghouse](#) contains dashboards and reports of Georgia statewide, county, district, and circuit-level juvenile justice admissions, commitments, decision points,^b and disproportionate minority contact^c data.²⁰ It is produced by the CJCC, the Juvenile Data Exchange Committee, and partner agencies including the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, Department of Juvenile Justice, GBI, and Georgia Public Defender Council. The CJCC contracts with the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government for assistance.²¹

^b Throughout Georgia's juvenile justice system are a series of decision points or decisions that must be made about whether youth continue further into the justice system or can be diverted. They are arrest, referral, diversion, secure detention, petition, delinquent, commitment, secure confinement, and superior court sentenced.

^c Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) refers to the over- or under-representation of minority youth within the juvenile justice system as compared to white youth.

Court Data Resources

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS: COURT CASELOAD REPORTS

Types of Data: Court filings by class of court

Geographies: Georgia, Georgia county

Years Available: 2019–2021

The Judicial Council of Georgia's Administrative Office of the Courts (JC/AOC) maintains [data dashboards](#) that include a variety of court cases and filing data for superior, state, magistrate, probate, juvenile, and municipal courts.²²

The JC/AOC is statutorily required to compile statistical and financial data on the judicial work of the courts and serve as the state archive of court statistical information.²³ Because Georgia's court system is not centralized, each court class may have a different data collection methodology, but the JC/AOC aligns caseload information with a reporting framework outlined in the [Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting](#).

All classes of courts must report their caseloads to the JC/AOC on an annual basis beginning in January. Court clerks report their caseload data through an online portal. After submission, the data are reviewed by staff at JC/AOC to ensure completeness. Additionally, staff compare it with data from prior years to identify any potential questions or issues related to data reliability. If there are any questions or concerns, the clerks given the opportunity to edit or provide additional verifications before the data is certified as final.²⁴ On June 29, 2019, the AOC was hacked in a ransomware attack.²⁵ Many years of data were lost and, as of the production of this report, had not been fully recovered.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS: SUPERIOR COURT WORKLOAD REPORTS

Types of Data: Number of superior court judges, court workload, and factors affecting workload

Geographies: Georgia, Georgia county

Years Available: 2018–2021

In addition to the data dashboards, the Office of Research and Data Analysis at JC/AOC produces annual [Superior Court Workload Reports](#). The reports contain data on the resources

needed to operate Georgia’s superior courts, such as workloads, caseloads, population, and other resources by Georgia judicial circuit.²⁶

Criminal Justice Agency Employment and Expenditures Data Resources

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS: JUSTICE EXPENDITURE AND EMPLOYMENT TOOL

Types of Data: Expenditures, number of employees, average pay

Geographies: National, state, counties with populations of 500,000 or more, cities with populations of 200,000 or more

Years Available: 2016–2019

The US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics’s [Justice Expenditure and Employment Tool \(JEET\)](#) provides data on employment in criminal justice fields—police (sworn and nonsworn), corrections, and judicial/legal—including the number of employees in each sector and the total payroll for each sector at the state and local levels. The tool uses data from the US Census Bureau’s Annual Government Finance Survey and Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll. The data is updated annually and provides historical data back to 2016.²⁷



Endnotes

- ¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer (FBI CDE). n.d. "About the Crime Data Explorer." Retrieved from cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/about
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- ¹⁹ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), DOJ. n.d. "Statistical Briefing Book, Data Analysis Tools." Retrieved from ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/dat.html
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- ²² Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts (JC/AOC). Office of Research and Data Analysis. n.d. "Caseload Reports." Retrieved from research.georgiacourts.gov/data-and-statistics/
- ²³ O.C.G.A. § 15-5-24(3)
- ²⁴ JC/AOC. 2023, April. "Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting." Retrieved from research.georgiacourts.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/04/Georgia-Court-Guide-to-Statistical-Reporting-April-2023.pdf



²⁵ Niese, Mark. 2019, July 5. "Georgia court agency hacked in ransom attack." *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Retrieved from ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/georgia-court-agency-hacked-ransom-attack/P3UaTuigNhT6JfREQaiKZK/

²⁶ JC/AOC. 2023, January 9. "2021 Superior Court Workload Assessment." Retrieved from research.georgiacourts.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/01/2021-Superior-Workload-Assessment-Publication.pdf

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