



SEXUAL ASSAULT DATA AND CHARLESTON COUNTY



INTRODUCTION

August 2026

CJCC RESEARCH BRIEF

Sexual assault investigations and subsequent court proceedings in Charleston County are marked by significant complexity. Multiple agencies—local jail, state law enforcement, and the courts—each use distinct reporting structures, making it challenging to track cases across systems. The **Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)** aims to summarize key data and trends from the past decade, offering insight into both the numbers and encouraging discussion on the nuanced realities behind them. **The end of this brief contains a compilation of Charleston County resources for those seeking support and assistance.**

CHARLESTON COUNTY JAIL BOOKING RATES

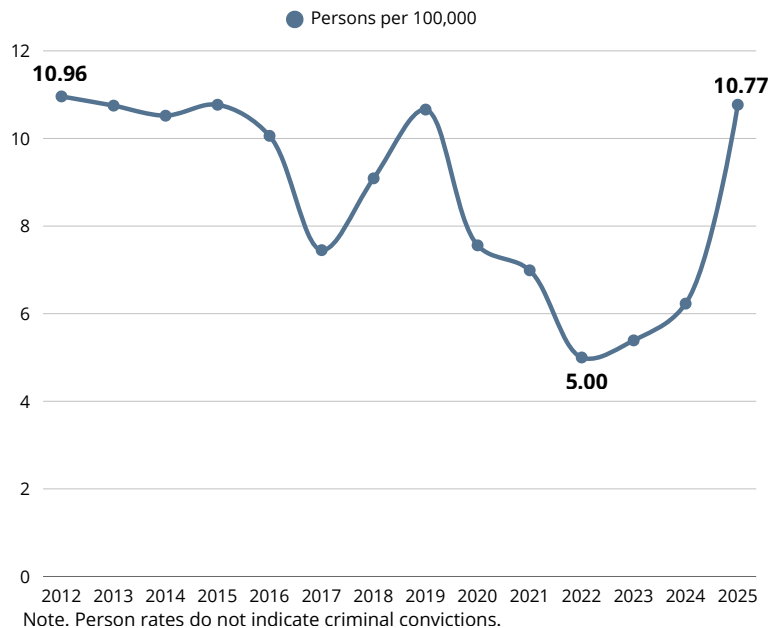
Sexual assault charges examined exclude offenses involving minors, sex offender registrations, and exploitation. Figures are presented in rates per 100,000 and calculated with census figures to represent population fluctuations. Rates can be interpreted as: **for every 100,000 people in Charleston County, 10.77 (see 2025) are booked on sexual assault related charges.** These charges are recorded by the jail as Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) offenses.

From 2012 to 2025, the rate of CSC charges per 100,000 residents varied widely. In several years, rates reached above 10 (e.g., 2019 and 2025), while in others rates dropped sharply (e.g., 2020-2022). Since 2022, booking rates have continued to climb, seeing a 72% raise between 2024 and 2025 alone.

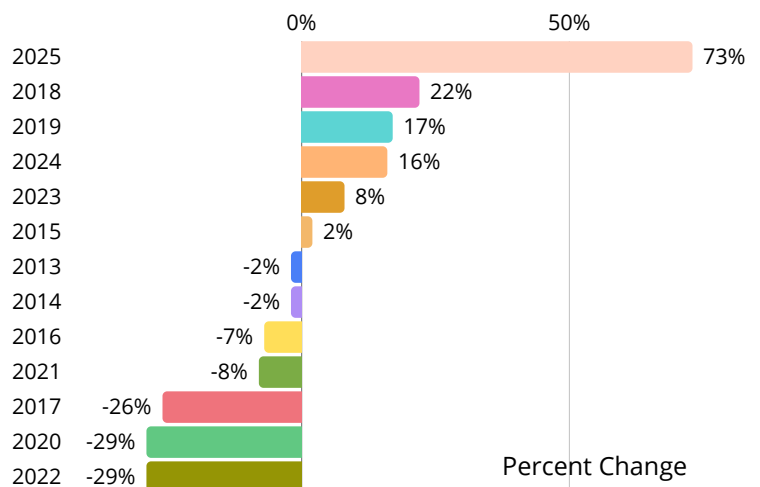
SCIBRS REPORTED INDICIDENTS

SCBIRS data is retrieved from the State Law Enforcement Division's public database and categorizes reported sexual assault incidents as Criminal Sexual Conduct or Rape. In an attempt to best mirror Charleston County Jail's use of CSC categorization, Rape and Criminal Sexual Contact (CSC) reported incidents were combined and viewed as incidents per 100,000.

CSC Jail Booking Rate per 100,000

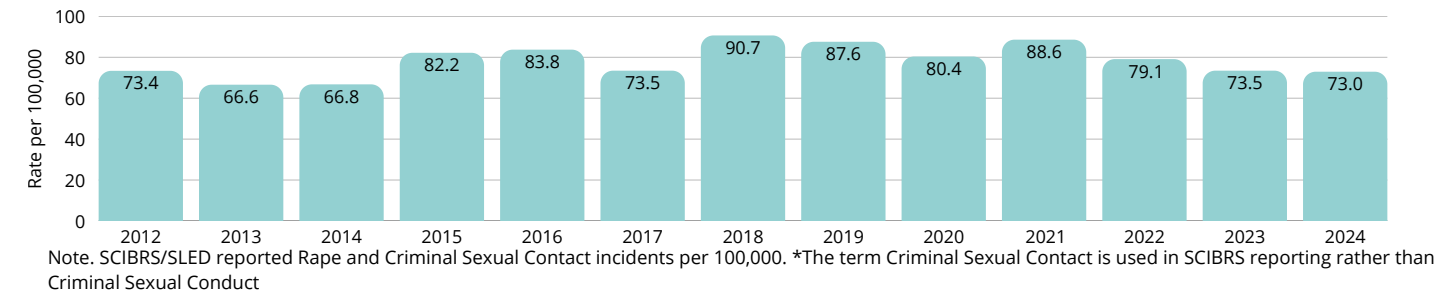


CSC Jail Booking Rate Percent Changes by Year

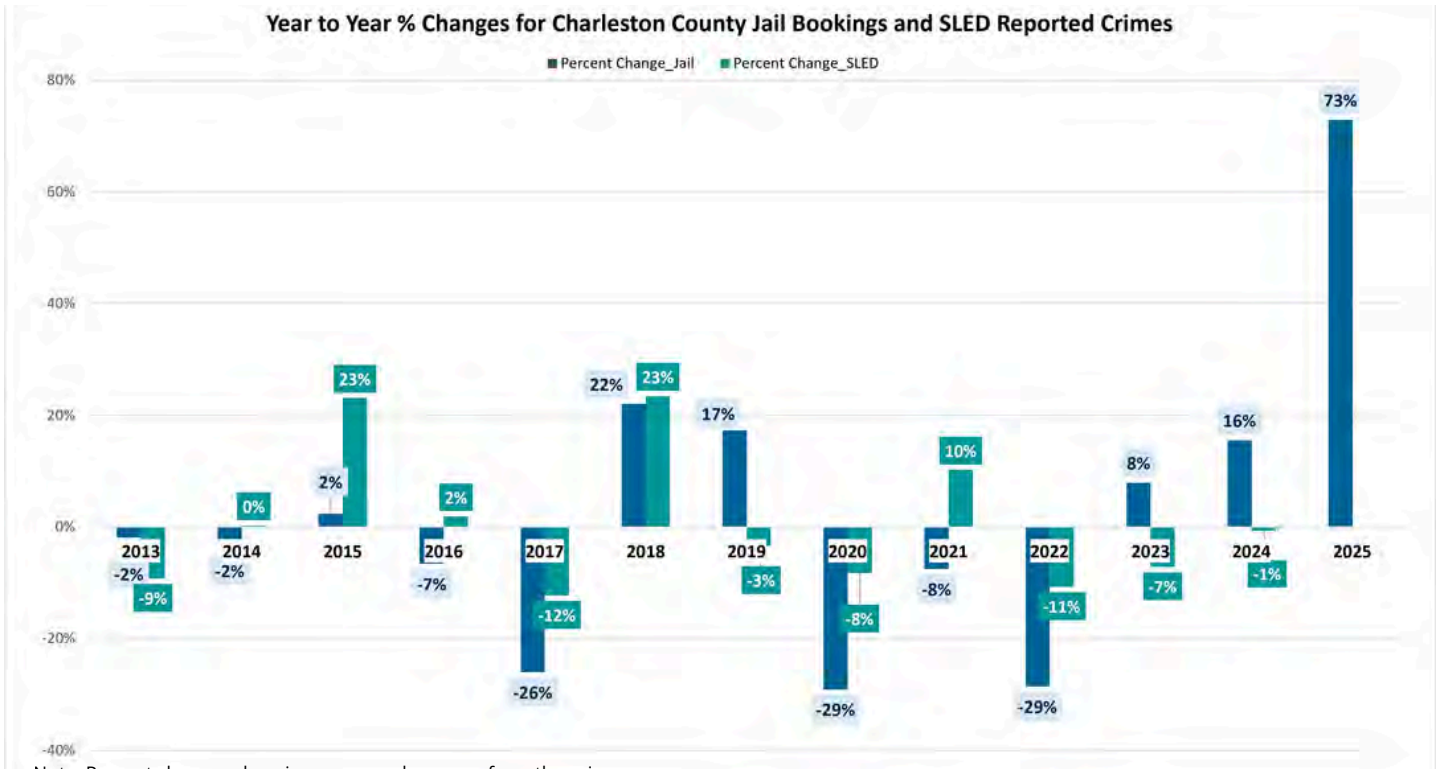


Note. Percent changes demonstrate increases or decreases from the prior year. For example, a -29% change indicates a 29% decrease in 2020 compared to 2019 figures.

Charleston County Rape and Criminal Sexual Contact* Rates - SCIBRS



Rates ranged from 66.61 (2013) to 90.69 (2018) per 100,000. Since 2021, SCIBRS rates have seen a continual decrease, with overall less variability between year-to-year changes than observations from jail booking figures.



Note. Percent changes show increases or decreases from the prior year.

A known limitation of SCIBRS data is the accessibility of recent data, as 2025 year-end data is not yet available. It should also be noted that SCIBRS reports receive information from law enforcement directly, and not from the jail. Due to contextual differences in reporting practices between the Charleston County jail and SCIBRS reporting agencies, figures are defined differently, and thus caution must be exercised when attempting to infer comparisons between the two. What may be observed, however, are discrepancies in percentage change between the two reporting systems, in several cases observed during the same report year.



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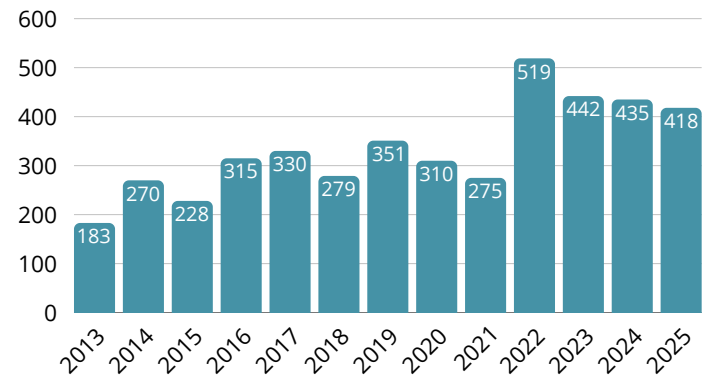
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COURT DISPOSITIONS

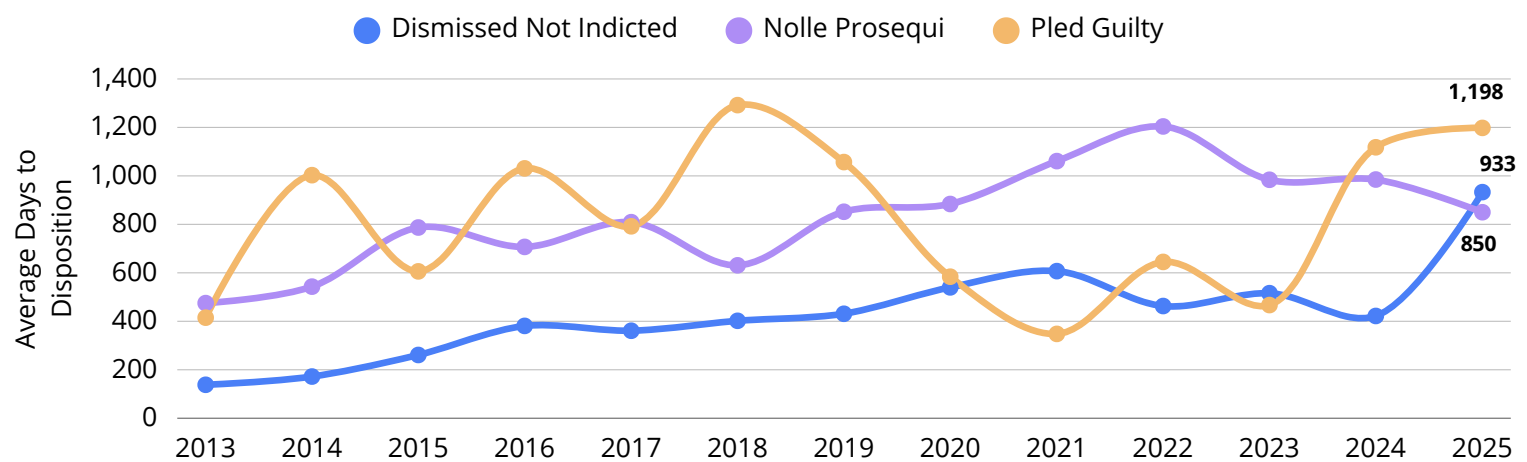
The average time to disposition examines the average number of days for a sexual assault case to be resolved in the courts. Over time, sexual assault disposition times have increased, from 183 days in 2013 to over 400 days in recent years.

Following the most frequent disposition types, as reported in the CJCC Annual Report, were "Dismissed Not Indicted," "Nolle Prosequi," and "Pled Guilty." The average days to disposition varied by category, with "Pled Guilty" cases often taking longer.

Sexual Assault Time to Disposition in Days



Charleston County Sexual Offense Average Days to Disposition by Disposition Type



Steady decreases (2023-2025) in time to disposition in recent years may reflect progress on the pending court backlog. As older cases are included in those disposed of each year, the average time to disposition will increase. Importantly, a key characteristic of sexual assault investigations often includes the presence of biological evidence, which must be submitted and analyzed in a laboratory environment. The timeline between collection, laboratory submission, and completed analysis is a critical benchmark for these investigations.

TAKEAWAY

Understanding sexual assault case trends in Charleston County requires navigating complex reporting systems and interpreting fluctuating data. While recent years show a decrease in reported crimes, increases in jail bookings and the underlying complexities and delays in case resolution underscore the need for continued attention and improvement in tracking, reporting, and supporting all parties involved.

The following pages provide a list of local Charleston County resources for individuals seeking support or assistance, provided through the support of Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S.



RESOURCES IN CHARLESTON COUNTY

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Hotline and Crisis Resources

Tri-County SPEAKS Sexual Assault Services

Trained advocates respond to MUSC to support survivors in the evidence collection process, along with pregnancy and STI/STD prevention and management. Provides a 24/7 support line and access to text and chat services. Survivors can access case management services through advocates at TCS.

www.tricountyspeaks.org
843-745-0144



National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center

Sexual Assault Services at the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center is a MUSC clinic that provides mental health care to people who have experienced sexual assault. Clinicians provide evidence-based early intervention and therapy for common problems after sexual assault. Services can be offered via phone, video, in-person office visits, or via outreach in the community. To contact Sexual Assault Services, call or text: [843-860-5508](tel:843-860-5508)

Mobile Crisis

BHDD Office of Mental Health Mobile Crisis clinicians provide 24/7/365 day community-based crisis response anywhere in South Carolina. Individuals, organizations, and the community at large may call our mobile crisis hotline at any time day or night. A trained clinician will triage the call, assess the situation, and deploy a clinical team to the location of the crisis. At that time, the mobile crisis team will work with law enforcement and others to fully assess the situation and to provide mental health interventions and recommendations. 833-364-2274

<https://bhdd.sc.gov/office-mental-health/services/mobile-services/mobile-crisis>

MUSC EmPATH

Short-term specialized care space at MUSC designed to provide rapid psychiatric care for people in crisis. EmPATH offers a range of psychiatric treatments, including medication, therapy, and crisis intervention, and clients will see a specialist within an hour of being transferred from the ED. Care lasts up to 72 hours, at which point the care team will reassess if the client is ready to go home or if additional treatment is recommended. Adult and pediatric units both open at MUSC.

<https://muschealth.org/medical-services/psychiatry/empath-units>

TriCounty Crisis Stabilization Center

A 10 bed voluntary adult crisis unit serving the tri-county area. TCSC is a short-term treatment option, with an average length of stay of 3.5 days. The focus of the unit is to stabilize symptoms and stressors which led to the individual's crisis and help them to transition back to their natural support systems as quickly as possible.

Charleston Clinic: (843) 852-4100

Dorchester Clinic: (843) 873-5063

Live Oak

A facility through Trident Healthcare that provides addiction treatment services, psychiatric inpatient care, intensive outpatient care, adolescent health and wellness programming, and partial hospitalization. Capacity will be increasing from the current 60 beds to 84 beds around January 2026.

<https://www.tridenthealthsystem.com/locations/live-oak-mental-health-and-wellness>

988

National, confidential mental health helpline. Call or text 988.

<https://988lifeline.org/>

1 in 6

Nonprofit dedicated to providing services to male survivors of sexual assault, including weekly online support groups.

<https://1in6.org/>

Housing Resources

South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN)

SCVAN provides financial assistance to survivors of crime. The crime must occur in South Carolina, and the financial assistance is provided for financial hardship that has occurred as a result of being a victim of crime. The application must be submitted by an advocate or adjacent position. Incident report is preferred, but a letter of recommendation from an advocate will be accepted.

<https://www.scvan.org/transitional-housing-program>

<https://quickbase.formengine.com/#!/render-template?templateId=f4b95795-bb3c-4985-bb43-e3cd09a71b91&action=submit>

The Navigation Center

The Navigation Center provides centralized services and resources, tailored plans, and intensive case management to help vulnerable populations navigate from crisis to sustainable independent living. Staff is composed of social workers, mental health professionals, medical professionals, and employment specialists who work collaboratively to provide wrap-around care. Services include housing support, financial assistance, employment support, medical and mental health clinics, veteran services, and nightly dinner.

<https://thenavigationcenter.org>



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Housing Resources

Trident United Way Resource Center

Offers free services for community members seeking financial stability. Trident United Way initiatives begin with addressing basic needs of clients, followed by increasing basic skills, increasing income and savings, and gaining and sustaining assets. Through these initiatives, Trident United Way can partner with other local nonprofit agencies to improve financial outcomes.
<https://www.tuw.org>

I AM VOICES

I AM VOICES is a woman, minority, and survivor-led 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to providing housing, support, and resources to women, especially those impacted by sexual assault, human trafficking, and homelessness. They run the Blooming Flowers Housing Program, a three-phase program aimed at initially stabilizing clients through temporary housing/counseling and crisis intervention/individualized support services, then finding long-term housing as well as teaching clients about health, wellness, career development, and community involvement, with the final goal of moving them towards self-sufficiency.
<https://iamvoices.org>

One80 Place

An organization operating in the Lowcountry and Midlands with a mission to end homelessness. They provide shelter, housing support, a community clinic, veteran services, and a community kitchen.
<https://www.one80place.org>

My Sister's House

Domestic violence organization that provides emergency shelter (subject to funding/availability) and services such as court advocacy, therapy/support groups, and a crisis line. They have a dedicated housing manager who can refer clients out to various housing opportunities and has relationships with some private landlords in the area.
<https://www.mysistershouse.org>

Healthcare, Mental Health, and Addiction

Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic

Provides services including primary care to uninsured adults in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester; eligibility requirements are on their website.
<https://bifmc.org/patient-services/>

Charleston Center

A substance use prevention, intervention, education, and treatment center. The mission of the Charleston Center is to help Charleston County residents live productive lives, free from the impact of alcohol, other drugs, and addictive behaviors.
(843) 958-3300
<https://www.charlestoncounty.gov/departments/charleston-center/>

Palmetto Project

Created through Insure SC, a one-stop shop to get information about health coverage options including Medicaid, Medicare, Marketplace, and private insurance. All services are free.
843-577-4122
<https://insure-sc.org/>

Fetter Healthcare

Healthcare network serving the tri-county area as well as Colleton County. Can assist uninsured individuals, as well as possibly assist with finding insurance. Services include primary care, pediatrics, dental services, women's health, case management, and more. Multiple clinic locations
<https://fetterhealthcare.org/>
<https://muschealth.org/medical-services/cares>

MUSC Ryan White Clinic

Free HIV/AIDS testing available at multiple locations, including MUSC downtown (Rutledge Ave).
https://www.dph.sc.gov/sites/scdph/files/2024-07/SC_RW_Providers_2024.pdf

Planned Parenthood

Provides services such as pap smears, birth control prescriptions, emergency contraception, STD testing, and more. Spanish-language services available, walk-ins accepted. Charleston (West Ashley) contact number:
<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/south-carolina/charleston/29407>
843-628-4380

Shifa Clinic

Free clinic for those living in poverty that can provide primary, vision, and pediatric care, as well as hunger prevention programs.
<https://www.icnarelief.org/shifaclinics/>



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Food Pantries

LowCountry Food Bank

Serves 10 counties with multiple locations across the state.

<https://lowcountryfoodbank.org/find-food/pantry/>

843-747-8146

Helping Hands of Goose Creek

A leading non-profit for the county. There is a free food pantry, applications to TANF cash aid or SNAP food stamps, job training, and IT classes, among other services.

<https://helpinghandsofgoosecreek.org>

843- 553-7132

Free and Fresh

A program run by Charleston County Public Library that provides fresh produce for free. 3 community fridge locations accessible during library operating hours (downtown Charleston, North Charleston, and Hollywood).

ccpl.org/freeandfresh

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/sc/charleston/ashley-river-rd-corps/>

Other

Seek Then Speak

A tool for survivors: you can privately gather information and explore your options for medical care, supportive services, and reporting to police. If you choose, you can even begin the process of reporting to police by completing a self-guided interview in SPEAK.

<https://seekthenspeak.app/?>

[utm_source=evawi&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=sts_mvp
&utm_content=evawi_stsmainpage](https://seekthenspeak.app/?utm_source=evawi&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=sts_mvp&utm_content=evawi_stsmainpage)

211

Community service resource that can connect callers to resources based on eligibility, location, and more. Website in English and Spanish. Dial 211

<https://www.211.org/>

