



DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

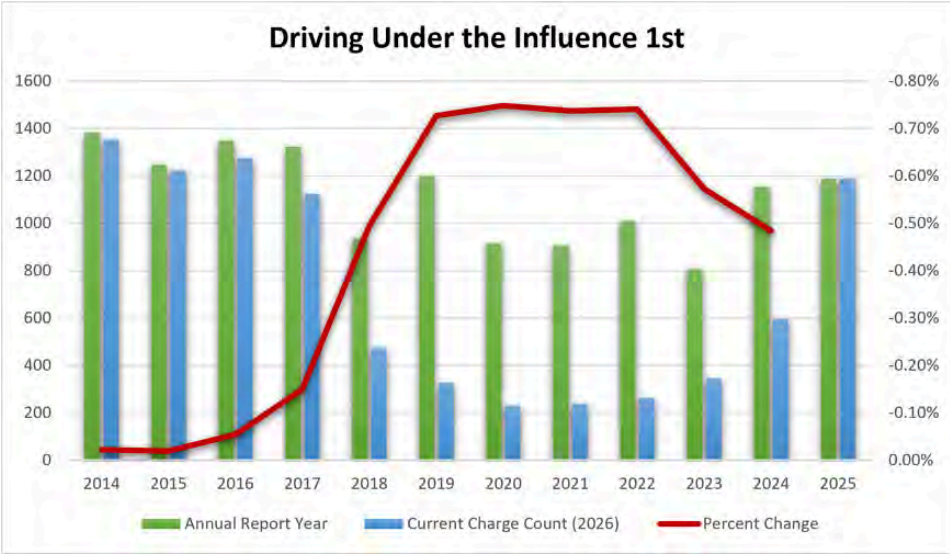
TOP CHARGE AT A GLANCE

As reported in the **Charleston County CJCC 2025 Annual report**, Driving Under the Influence (1st Offense) has been a recurring top charge in the Charleston County local detention center throughout the CJCC's data reporting history. Using ten years' worth of data, charge counts for DUI 1st were reviewed to gain an understanding of DUI activity in Charleston County.

METHOD

Counts of DUI (1st) charges were gathered from CJCC Annual Reports (**Annual Report Year**), which provide a snapshot of charge activity at the time of the report's publication for the corresponding year. Next, the number of charges for DUI 1st (**Current Charge Count**) were identified for each calendar year, as reflected in the CJCC Data

Warehouse as of February 2026. The difference between Annual Report year and Current Change Count was then recorded for each year as a percent difference (**Percent Change**). No percent change was noted for 2025, as the reporting year and the current charge count observations are the same.





CJCC RESEARCH BRIEF

June 2026



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OBSERVATIONS

Percent difference observations ranged from 2%-5% between 2014 and 2016, and increased to 15% in 2017. The highest percent differences were observed between 2019 and 2022, with four consecutive years reported as over 70%, followed by a continued decrease through 2024.

As stated in the 2025 Annual Report, “Data information pertaining to legal cases evolve and undergo dynamic changes to include expungements, disposition updates, [and] changes to arrest/charge descriptions...” (p. 6). Contextual markers, such as the systemic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, should also be considered.

Fluctuations between report year and charge count **exemplify how charges may change over time, emphasizing the importance of capturing justice system snapshots** to accurately reflect operations in Charleston County.

Summary: Driving Under the Influence charge counts fluctuate over time, reinforcing the importance of snapshot data to accurately reflect operations in Charleston County.

	Annual Report Year	Charge Count (2026)	Percent Change
2014	1,383	1,352	-2%
2015	1,248	1,224	-2%
2016	1,349	1,275	-5%
2017	1,323	1,124	-15%
2018	937	473	-50%
2019	1,198	327	-73%
2020	915	230	-75%
2021	906	238	-74%
2022	1010	262	-74%
2023	806	345	-57%
2024	1,155	596	-48%
2025	1,188	1,188	0%

Note. Charges do not reflect convictions or distinct individual jail admissions

For more insights into Charleston County’s justice system, visit the [CJCC website](#).