



CJCC RESEARCH BRIEF

July 2026



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARLESTON COUNTY TRENDS

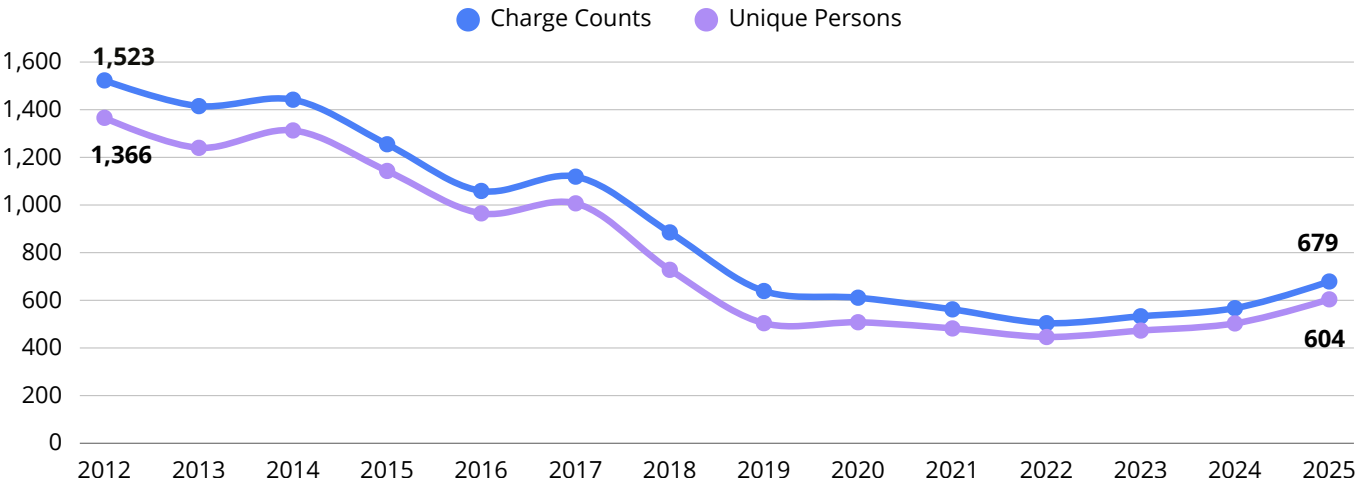
With over a decade of local criminal justice data, the **Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)** remains committed to informing stakeholders on trends related to public safety. Domestic Violence remains a critical and often unreported crime, resulting in challenges to produce an accurate representation of persons impacted. By using data specific to Charleston County, the CJCC aims to inform the community on how domestic violence data appears locally.

DETENTION CENTER DATA

Over the past twelve years, the overall number of domestic violence-related charges and unique persons being admitted to the jail has declined by **55%** since 2012. However, since 2022, a steady increase has been observed (**35%** overall).

Variations of domestic violence-related charges in the jail population sample include: *Criminal Domestic Violence (1st, 2nd, 3rd degree)*, *Domestic Violence (1st, 2nd, 3rd degree)*, as well as enhancements of each charge by the addition of “a High and Aggravated Nature” (HAN).

Charleston County SACDC Domestic Violence Booking Activity



Note. Charges and Persons do not indicate criminal convictions.

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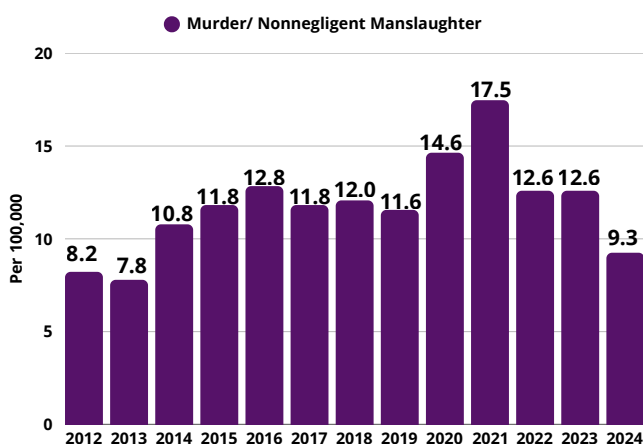
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VICTIMIZATION RATES

Adding to the complexities of tracking the impact of Domestic Violence in Charleston County, local victimization rates are reported by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. It should be noted that while domestic violence is included in the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, it is not classified as a standalone category. Instead, it is captured within the UCR's definition of violent crimes when the victim-to-offender relationship meets the UCR's domestic and family violence definition.

Between 2012 and 2024, victimization rates for Charleston County decreased overall for Simple Assault and Intimidation (**14% and less than 1%**), respectively. While Aggravated Assault (**15%**) and Murder/ Nonnegligent Manslaughter (**13%**) both increased.

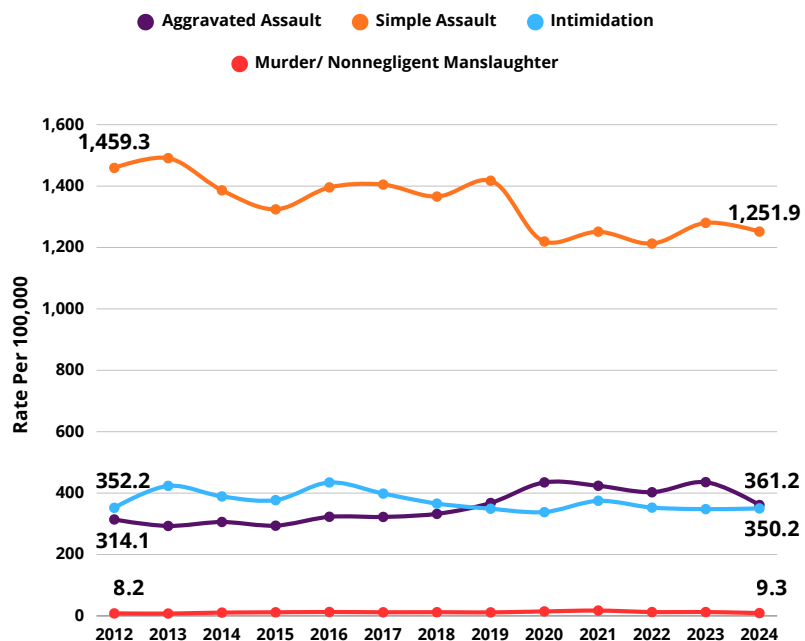
Charleston County Murder / Nonnegligent Manslaughter Victimization Rates



Note. Rates reported by [SCIBRS](#)

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

Charleston County Domestic Violence Victimization Rate



Note. Rates reported by [SCIBRS](#) via the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

OBSERVATIONS

Nationally, the percentage of violent crimes involving domestic relationships has slightly increased for most years since 2020 ([Department of Justice, 2026](#)). For Charleston County, these year-to-year fluctuations show some consistency with national trends. However, it is important to note that comparisons against charge counts and victimization rates, even at the local level, derive from two separate sources and should not be viewed as interdependent. Thus, identifying a clear need to further research efforts, as well as enhance reporting practices.

If you believe you or someone you know may be experiencing domestic abuse, contact [My Sister's House](#) for support and resources.
Crisis Line: 1-800-273-4673

