

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ATTORNEY GENERAL
KATHLEEN JENNINGS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Friends,

With another year behind us, I'm proud to present to you the Delaware Department of Justice's 2024 Annual Report.

I am especially thrilled to share with you that the progress we've made in recent years on gun violence and violent crime continues apace: we began 2024 by marking an all-time low for violent crime in Delaware, along with a 60% reduction in recidivism and a 25% decrease in the inmate population. This kind of progress seemed unfathomable just a short time ago—and we didn't get here by accident.



It's a cumulative effect of years of steadfast work from Delaware's law enforcement, courts, corrections and probation teams, community leaders, social workers, parents, policymakers, and prosecutors. At the same time, we must be unequivocal that this progress is the beginning of our work, not the ending. There is no "acceptable" violent crime rate, and any victim is one too many. We have a recipe for success—but we have to keep up the pressure and ensure that our focus remains first and foremost on victims.

2024 was also a banner year for corporate accountability, consumer protection, and policy advocacy. Our office secured multimillion-dollar national consumer settlements, continued our investigation of the gun industry's role in illegal ammunition trafficking, and successfully advocated for landmark data privacy protections for Delawareans and their children.

Neither these accomplishments nor the others detailed in this report would have been possible without the DOJ staff and their tireless work. Our team at the Delaware Department of Justice consistently gives their all and then some, day in and day out. I am honored for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated, fair-minded, and courageous individuals. These achievements belong to them.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we will continue to build a safer, fairer, and more just Delaware.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Grays".



DOJ ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Attorney General Jennings Announces \$150 Million Settlement with Hikma Pharmaceuticals to Help Combat Opioid Crisis.** Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced a \$150 million multistate settlement with Hikma Pharmaceuticals for its role in the opioid crisis, including \$115 million in cash and \$35 million in addiction treatment medication. Hikma allegedly failed to monitor and report suspicious opioid orders from 2006 to 2021 despite knowing their systems were inadequate. The settlement, led by multiple state attorneys general, aims to fund recovery and abatement efforts across affected communities.
- **Federal judge sides with AG Jennings against Cabela's.** A U.S. District Court rejected Cabela's attempt to block Delaware's investigation into the theft of 500,000 rounds of ammunition from its Christiana store, sending the case back to Superior Court and awarding legal fees to the DOJ. The Attorney General's office alleges Cabela's failed to secure ammunition or cooperate with investigators, with much of the stolen ammo believed to have ended up in the hands of criminals. The investigation, tied to Delaware's Safe Firearms Sales Act, highlights Cabela's alleged negligence and broader concerns about gun violence linked to local gun dealers.

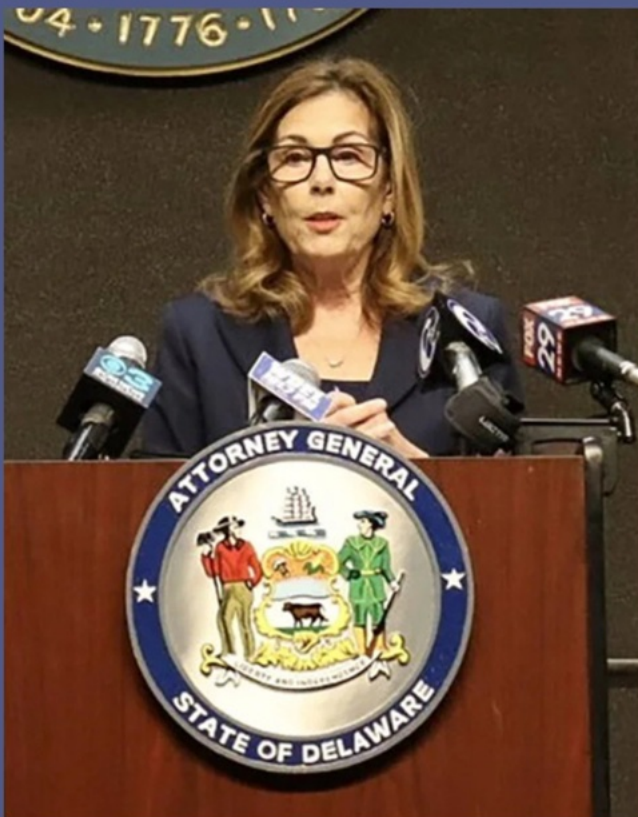


- **AG Jennings, law enforcement leaders announce record low violent crime rates.** Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced that Delaware's violent crime rate has dropped 40% since 2008, reaching its lowest recorded level. Key factors include targeted enforcement of gun offenders, bail reform, and community policing, with shootings and homicides significantly down in cities like Wilmington and Dover. Alongside these gains, Delaware has also reduced its prison population by 25% and recidivism by 60%, while maintaining high conviction rates for violent crimes.
- **AG Jennings announces new data privacy rights available to Delawareans.** Attorney General Kathy Jennings announced that the Delaware Personal Data Privacy Act, effective in 2024, grants Delawareans new rights over their personal data. The law requires businesses to obtain consent before using sensitive information, allows consumers to opt out of data sales and targeted ads, and mandates transparency in data practices. It also adds stronger protections for minors and gives the DOJ authority to enforce data privacy violations.
- **Jennings can fight for Nemours funding, appeals court rules.** A Florida appellate court has upheld Attorney General Kathy Jennings' authority to advocate for increased funding for Nemours Children's Hospital, supporting efforts to honor Alfred I. duPont's will, which prioritized care for Delaware's children and elderly. The ruling reverses a previous decision that had limited Delaware's involvement, allowing the DOJ to continue pushing for enforcement of a long-standing agreement that caps out-of-state spending. AG Jennings emphasized the importance of protecting duPont's legacy and ensuring Nemours remains a top priority for Delaware families.
- **AG Jennings launches portal to help businesses prepare for Personal Data Privacy Act enforcement.** On July 1, the Delaware DOJ launched a new data privacy portal, privacy.delaware.gov, to help consumers and businesses prepare for the Delaware Personal Data Privacy Act, which takes effect in January 2025. The law requires businesses handling data from over 35,000 Delaware residents to be transparent, obtain consent for sensitive data use, ensure data security, and respond to consumer requests to access, correct, or delete their data. Attorney General Kathy Jennings emphasized the importance of giving Delawareans more control over their personal information and urged businesses to begin preparations now.

YEAR END DATA

We are pleased to present data insights from the 2024 fiscal year. We're beyond grateful to our partners, stakeholders, and the citizens of Delaware for their continued support and collaboration throughout this productive year.

ACCOUNTABILITY



The DOJ maintains a robust framework for holding individuals, businesses, and public institutions accountable, reflecting its commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law.

This accountability extends to not just prosecuting street-level criminal activity, but includes fraud, corruption, and regulatory oversight, ensuring that violators face appropriate legal consequences.

By investigating and litigating cases involving consumer protection, investor protection and environmental regulations, the DOJ holds corporations and institutions responsible for unethical practices.

In 2024, there were several notable investigations and prosecutions.

- **\$700 Million Settlement Against Johnson and Johnson** - Attorney General Kathy Jennings and 42 other states secured a \$700 million nationwide settlement with Johnson & Johnson over deceptive marketing of talc-containing baby and body powders. Johnson & Johnson has agreed to permanently stop manufacturing, marketing, and selling these talc products in the U.S., following allegations that the powders posed serious health risks. Delaware will receive over \$4.9 million from the settlement, which is pending judicial approval.
- **Bipartisan coalition of 30 states announce finalization of settlement with Kroger over opioid crisis** - Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings joined a bipartisan coalition to secure a \$1.37 billion settlement with Kroger over its role in the opioid crisis, with Delaware set to receive over \$2.7 million for opioid abatement. The settlement also requires Kroger's pharmacies, including Harris Teeter stores in Delaware, to monitor and report suspicious opioid prescription activity. This marks the twelfth opioid-related settlement Jennings has secured, with funds directed to a state commission to support recovery and reduce opioid harms.

Additionally, DCRPT is responsible for monitoring systemic practices within police agencies to promote adherence to laws and ethical standards. This includes assessing compliance with use-of-force policies, examining patterns of behavior that may indicate systemic issues, and recommending reforms to improve police practices.

Transparency in these investigations is key, with findings made public to maintain community confidence, and demonstrate the DOJ's commitment to uphold justice, reinforce the standards of professional conduct within the police force, and protect civil rights.

13

Cases Indicted or
Arrests Authorized

11

Actual Innocence
Applicants

174

Online portal
complaints reviewed

24

Use of Force
Incidents referred



2024 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIME DATA



The Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ) employs a comprehensive and integrated approach to combat domestic violence through a multifaceted strategy encompassing training and state-wide protocols.

The DOJ works closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure these cases are handled with utmost care and efficiency. The DOJ, in collaboration with members of the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, has drafted a Statewide Strangulation Protocol that sets forth the best practice guidelines for law enforcement in the investigation of these cases.

Alongside these efforts, the DVU has spent 2024 training police departments across the state on how to handle cases regarding Strangulation, Stalking, and Evidence-Based Prosecution in Domestic Violence Cases.

The DVU is focused on evidence-based prosecution in hopes of spreading this strategy across the state of Delaware in 2025. In 2024, cases where victims were uncooperative routinely pled to lead charges. The trials that were moved forward almost entirely involved cooperative victims. resolution, especially in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by gun violence.

This year, the DVU met with professors from the University of Delaware where they discussed the viability of using experts to testify in Domestic Violence cases to explain counter-intuitive victim behavior and how trauma affects memory. These concepts will be a focus going into 2025.

DIVERSION

Diversionary tactics in criminal justice remain a vital strategy in Delaware's efforts to move offenders away from incarceration and toward rehabilitative and restorative paths. In 2024, a total of 986 Delawareans benefited from diversion instead of imprisonment through programs such as mental health court, arbitration, mediation, school diversion, community service, restorative justice, and treatment initiatives. These approaches focus on addressing the root causes of criminal behavior—such as substance abuse, mental health challenges, and socioeconomic pressures—rather than relying solely on punitive measures.

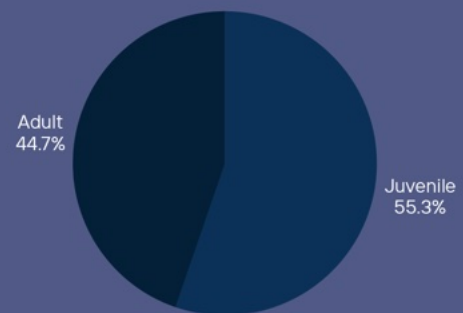
By targeting these underlying issues, diversion aims to reduce recidivism and help participants reintegrate successfully into their communities. In 2024, 545 juveniles and 441 adults participated in diversionary programs. Notably, 213 individuals took part in mental health court, 304 cases were resolved through arbitration or mediation, 198 youth were steered into school-based diversion, 156 participants completed community service or restorative agreements, and 115 individuals entered treatment programs for substance abuse or mental health needs.

These strategies not only lessen the strain on Delaware's courts and correctional facilities but also reduce the long-term social and economic impacts of criminal records, offering participants a greater chance at stability and success.

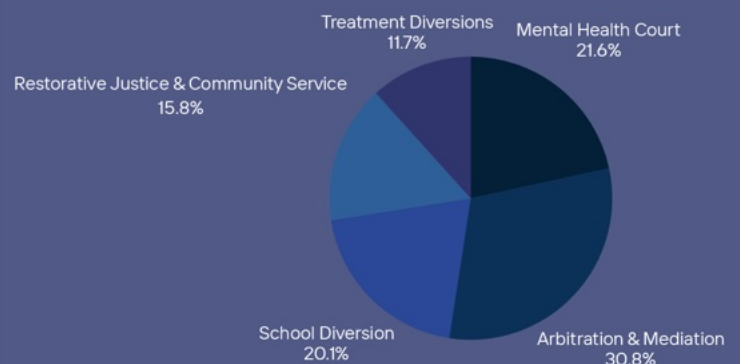
BY THE NUMBERS

986

Total number of Delawareans who received diversion instead of imprisonment. (This includes mental health court, arbitration, mediation, school diversion programs, community service, restorative justice initiatives, and treatment programs.)



545 juveniles were sentenced to diversion versus 441 adults.



Mental Health Court: 213 participants

Arbitration & Mediation: 304 cases resolved without formal prosecution

School Diversion: 198 cases diverted from the juvenile justice system

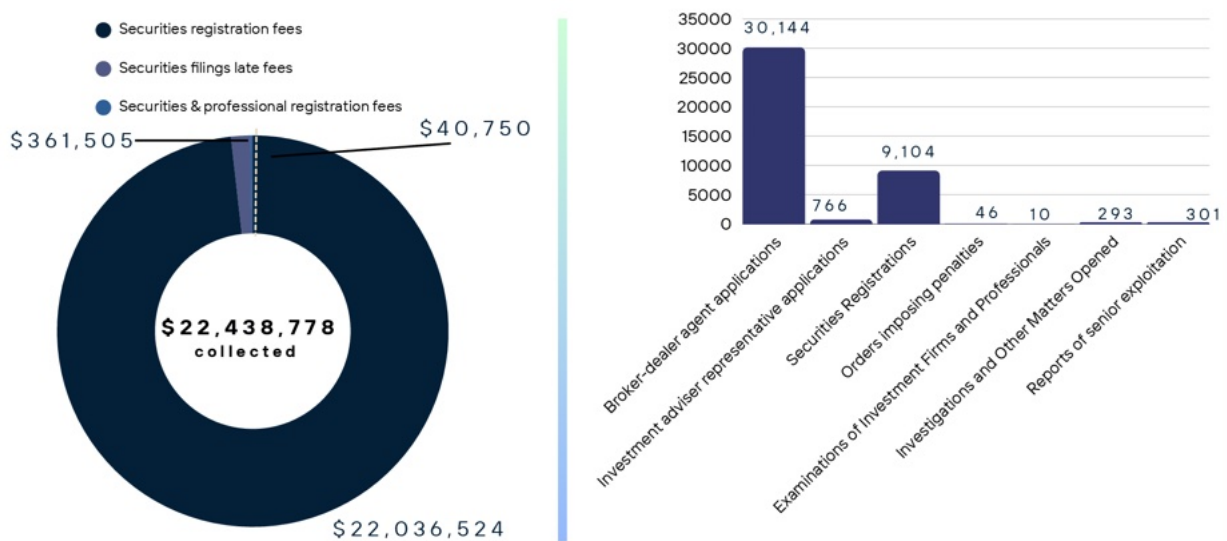
Restorative Justice & Community Service: 156 participants completing service agreements or restorative actions

Treatment Diversions: 115 individuals referred to substance abuse or mental health treatment instead of incarceration

The DOJ's Consumer Protection Unit continued its mission in 2024 to safeguard Delawareans from fraud, deception, and unfair business practices. The unit enforced consumer protection laws, investigated complaints, and took legal action against businesses engaging in unlawful conduct. It also provided public education to help residents make informed choices, avoid scams, and resolve disputes. By maintaining vigilant oversight of the marketplace, the Consumer Protection Unit worked to ensure a fair, transparent, and trustworthy economic environment for Delaware consumers.



The Investor Protection Unit is responsible for enforcing securities laws and safeguarding investors from fraudulent and unethical practices. This unit investigates complaints about investment fraud, unregistered securities, and deceptive practices in the securities industry. It conducts examinations of investment firms, takes enforcement actions against violators, and educates the public on investment-related risks and best practices.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The DOJ's Community Engagement Unit hosted a multitude of events throughout 2024 to improve the lives of Delawareans.

- The Delaware Department of Justice's Community Engagement Unit (CEU) hosted a **Back to School Community Resource Fair** on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at Helen Chambers Playground in Wilmington. This free event featured a backpack giveaway with school supplies, nail painting, music, drinks, food, haircuts, and a variety of community resources—families connected with organizations dedicated to empowerment and support.
- The Delaware Department of Justice's Community Engagement Unit hosted a series of **Community Pop-Up Events** designed to bring vital resources directly to neighborhoods. These gatherings provided a welcoming, one-stop setting where residents accessed free services such as a mobile pantry, diaper support, clothing, household items, mental health and substance abuse assistance, food, beverages, and more.
- **The Second Chance Record Clearing Clinic and Employment Fair**, sponsored by Chase, provided expungement and pardon services along with employment resources. This event created a supportive, one-stop setting where attendees accessed free assistance with record clearing, employment opportunities, and related services. Held on Monday, April 29, 2024, at Delaware State University's Student Center in Dover, it also offered walk-in services while encouraging pre-registration. Partners included Delaware State University, DART, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Office of Defense Services, APEX, Delaware Center for Justice, and Wilmington Alliance.





Holiday Gift Drive

Each November, the Carvel State Building's employees and visitors began to see snowflake displays featuring holiday wish lists. By late December, these displays were replaced by a multitude of volunteers moving gifts throughout the building. This annual tradition was a true labor of love, spearheaded by the Family Division's Islanda Finnamore and Kendra O'Neal. Alongside dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and key partners, they successfully fulfilled holiday wish lists for nearly 300 foster children this year.

Over the years, this toy drive grew significantly to the point where a DART bus was needed to deliver all the toys. This year, every inch of space on the bus was utilized, and then some!

This event consistently stood out as one of the team's highlights of the year. The organizers expressed immense gratitude for the support received from the Melson-Arsht Inn of Court, Soul to Soul, the Pulaski Legion, Spur Impact, the DSBA Young Lawyers, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT), and countless volunteers and gift-givers who made this heartwarming initiative possible, brightening the season for hundreds of children.



DIVISIONS

CRIMINAL DIVISION (WILMINGTON): (302) 577-8500

CRIMINAL DIVISION (DOVER): (302) 739-4211

CRIMINAL DIVISION (GEORGETOWN): (302) 856-5353

CIVIL DIVISION: (302) 577-8400

FRAUD DIVISION: (302) 683-8839

**DIVISION OF CIVIL RIGHTS & PUBLIC TRUST:
(302) 577-5400**

HOTLINES

CHILD ABUSE: (800) 292-9582

DELAWARE CRIME STOPPERS: (800) TIP-3333

CONSUMER PROTECTION & MORTGAGE: (800) 220-5424

INVESTOR PROTECTION: (302) 577-8424

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER FRAUD: (302) 577-5000

ANTI-BULLYING: (800) 220-5414

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: (800) 799-SAFE

ATTORNEY.GENERAL@DELAWARE.GOV

PARA ASISTENCIA EN ESPAÑOL: (877) 851-0482