

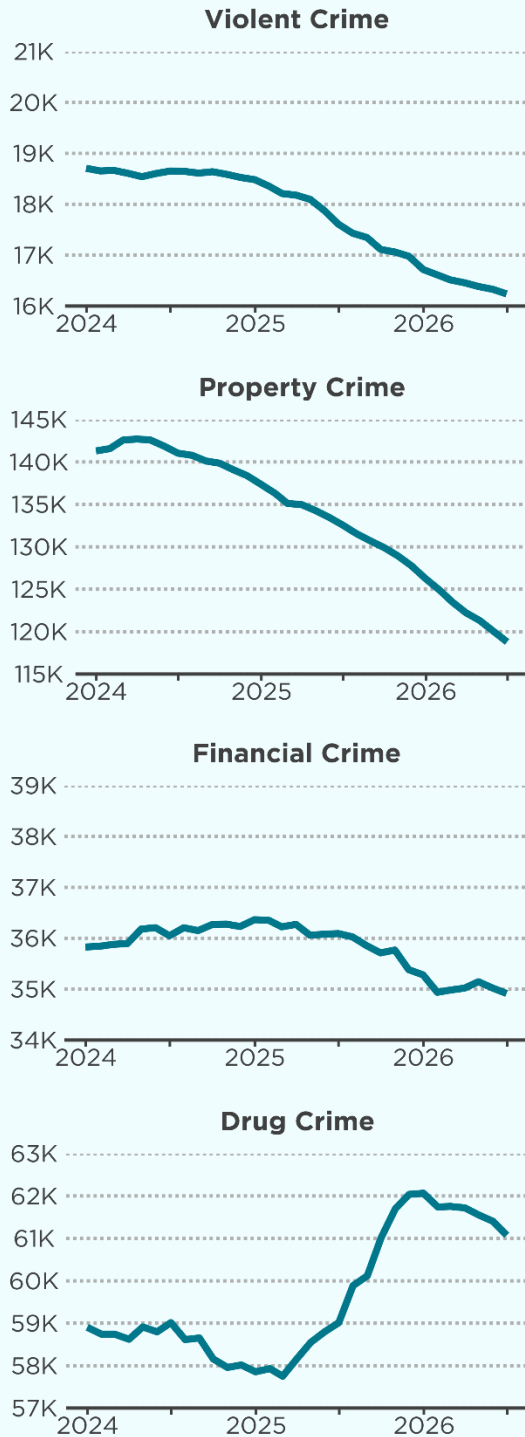


Governor's Crime Commission
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

TRENDS IN REPORTED CRIME IN NC

JANUARY - JUNE 2026

Panel 1. Major Crime
12-Month Moving Offense Totals



Source: NIBRS. Note: A 12-month moving offense total sums the number of offenses in each month plus the preceding 11 months. This smooths out short-term spikes, making it easier to identify trends over time.

Reported crime fell across all four major crime categories in North Carolina during the first six months of 2026.

Compared to the same period (January-June) in 2025:

- **Violent crime is down 5.8%**, extending declines in 2024 and 2025 following the pandemic-era spike. The 2021 rise was steep and the fall has been just as fast.
- **Property crime is down 11.9%**, the steepest decline of the four categories, over double the rate of violent crime.
- **Financial crime is down 2.1%**, also falling steadily since 2024, though at a slower pace than violent or property crime.
- **Drug crime is down 3.2%**. Unlike the other categories, it fell in 2024 before rising through 2025. The current decline may signal a turning point, but it's too early to know whether it will hold.

Panel 1 shows the 12-month moving offense totals for each category, illustrating longer-term trends.

Table 1 compares individual offenses reported in January-June 2026 to the same period in 2025. Almost all offenses showed year-over-year declines. **Extortion/blackmail was the only major offense that increased, continuing a rise that began in 2020. The steepest declines were in counterfeiting/forgery and motor vehicle theft, which fell by over 20%.** Motor vehicle thefts had a faster drop than the same period last year, a notable reversal after the rise in motor vehicle thefts during 2022 and 2023.

Table 1. Individual Offense YTD comparison

Offense	Crime Category	Change
Murder	Violent crime	-12.4%
Aggravated Assault	Violent crime	-3.1%
Rape/Sexual Assault	Violent crime	-5.0%
Robbery	Violent crime	-17.7%
Burglary	Property crime	-14.2%
Larceny/Theft	Property crime	-9.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	Property crime	-22.6%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Financial crime	-25.2%
Embezzlement	Financial crime	-7.0%
Extortion/Blackmail	Financial crime	15.6%
Fraud	Financial crime	-0.3%
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug crime	-2.9%
Drug Equipment Violations	Drug crime	-3.7%

Firearm homicides fell 14.1%, other firearm-related crimes fell 8.0%, and weapons violations rose 2.1% in the first six months of 2026 compared to the same period last year. This reduction in violence continues a decline from pandemic-era highs, with firearm homicide peaking in 2021.

Table 2 compares homicide and other firearm-related offenses in January-June 2026 versus the same period last year.

Table 2. Firearm Violence YTD Comparison

Offense	Change
Firearm Homicide	-14.1%
Other Firearm Crime	-8.0%
Weapons Violations	2.1%

EMERGING TRENDS

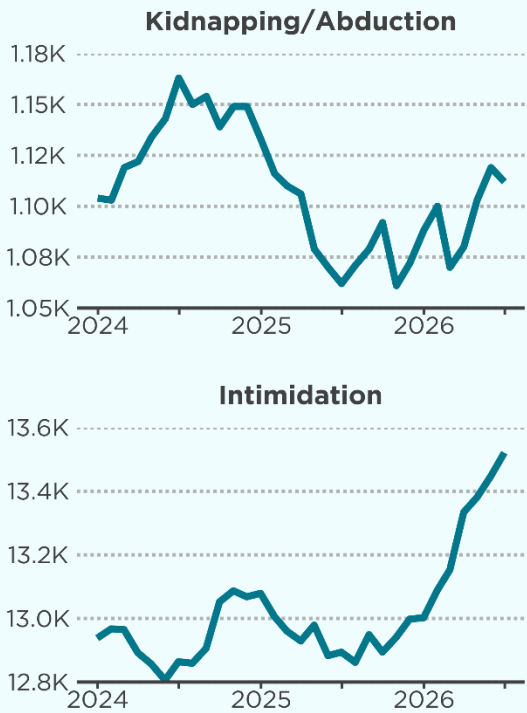
While reported criminal offenses are down across all major crime categories, two crimes have notably increased. Compared to the same period last year:

- **Kidnapping/abduction offenses increased by 4.6%.** Kidnapping includes detaining a person against their will.
- **Intimidation offenses increased by 8.2%.** Intimidation includes the crime of stalking.

Together these crimes suggest that levels of intimate partner violence and threats/stalking may be rising even as violent crime declines overall.

So far in 2026, 58% of intimidation victims and 79% of kidnapping/abduction victims were women. Of all kidnapping offenses, 54% were committed by intimate partners. Of all intimidation offenses, 15% were committed by intimate partners and 42% by a known person (not family).

**Panel 2. Emerging Crime
12-Month Moving Offense Totals**



Panel 2 shows longer-term trends in both offenses. **The share of kidnappings committed by intimate partners has risen more than 10 percentage points since 2023.** Twelve-month kidnapping levels remain below 2024’s but have been climbing through the spring and early summer—a trend worth watching in the second half of the year.

METHODOLOGY

This report uses data from a sample of 221 North Carolina law enforcement agencies that have consistently reported crime incidents on a monthly basis to the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Together, these agencies cover 60% of the North Carolina population, including rural, urban, and suburban areas. We checked this sample against 2025 data and found that its trends closely matched the numbers once all agencies had reported. To be included, an agency had to report data every month from January through June 2026 and for at least 33 out of the prior 36 months. We also excluded agencies whose monthly counts were revised significantly after the fact. Revisions to NIBRS data may occur because of submission delays, updates, and new cases where the incident occurred in previous months. To ensure data completeness, we flagged an agency’s data as having major revisions if a month’s incident count changed by over 50% three months to a year after the fact, with a minimum of 20 incidents reported before or after that revision. Because most such revisions happen within two months of the original report, we retrieve the data for these reports at least two months after the period of study.