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**SLED 2022 CRIME IN SC REPORT:
DATA SHOWS RISE IN WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

Data reported to SLED from participating law enforcement agencies across the state shows that the Weapon Law Violation rate increased by 11.1% from 2021 to 2022 and 106.2% from 2013 to 2022.

2022 is the ninth straight year that has seen an increase in Weapon Law Violations, with handguns being involved in 73.43% of these cases.

“I continue to be extremely concerned about the gun violence we are seeing, especially among young people,” said SLED Chief Mark Keel. “We cannot give up on the next generation of South Carolinians. Law enforcement, elected officials, and our community partners need to continue to work together so that those who should not have access to guns are held accountable and families can feel safe.”

The 2022 SLED data for Weapon Law Violations compared to 2021 is as follows*:

	WEAPON LAW VIOLATION OFFENSES		WEAPON LAW VIOLATION ARRESTS		
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Reported	9,856	11,140	Adult	6,666	7,048
Cleared	7,625	8,387	Juvenile	699	1,008

The state’s aggravated assault rate is up by 0.5% from 2021 to 2022. South Carolina has seen a 5-year trend increase of 13.3% from 2018 to 2022 for aggravated assaults. However, the data shows a reduction in both violent crime and murder rates for 2022, and sexual battery is at the lowest reported rate in the last 30 years.

The 2022 SLED data for violent and property crime compared to 2021 is as follows*:

	VIOLENT CRIME		PROPERTY CRIME		
	2021	2022	2021	2022	
Murders	573	514	Burglary	19,656	18,682
Sexual Battery	2,607	2,374	Larceny/Theft	99,000	95,969
Robbery	2,661	2,213	Arson	732	675
Aggravated Assault	21,822	22,318	Motor Vehicle Theft	15,807	14,433

Data compiled for SLED's Crime in South Carolina Annual Report comes from state and local law enforcement agencies across the state.

"Law enforcement officers continue to face challenges at a volume many have never experienced before," said Chief Keel. "I have no doubt that if it weren't for the brave men and women serving their communities, the numbers in this year's crime report would be much worse. We can and will improve, and we must all work together."

The 2022 Crime Book serves as a valuable resource for all communities in South Carolina. The data included in this year's report can provide essential context to policymakers and law enforcement partners working to help make and keep South Carolina safe.

The Crime in South Carolina 2022 Annual Report can be found on SLED's website:
www.sled.sc.gov/CrimeStatistics

**Please note that, as data is provided to SLED from law enforcement partners across the state, numbers may be updated to reflect this information.*

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