



**Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Last in Pay, First in Performance
ACPO Ranks Near Bottom Statewide in Compensation While Leading New Jersey in Workload and
Crime Reduction**

MAYS LANDING, NJ—The 2024 Staffing Resource Analysis issued by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General confirms that the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office (ACPO) ranks near the bottom of New Jersey counties in compensation across multiple employment classifications—despite leading the State in workload and delivering historic reductions in violence, fatal crashes, and drug-related deaths.

The data reflects both compensation metrics and workload comparisons among all 21 counties and the Division of Criminal Justice.

State Data Confirms Severe Compensation Disparities

Attorney Compensation – 20th of 21 Counties

The median Assistant Prosecutor salary is \$82,000 in Atlantic County.

ACPO employs 49 attorneys (9th statewide), yet Atlantic County prosecutors earn approximately \$20,000–\$25,000 less than counterparts in higher-paying counties.

Support Staff – Dead Last in the State

- Mean Salary: \$48,652 — Dead Last (22nd including DCJ)

Support professionals essential to victim services, evidence management, and courtroom operations are compensated at the lowest level in New Jersey.

Detective Division – 17th of 21 Counties in Pay

The Detective division Mean Salary: \$111,244 (17th of 21)

Detectives bring among the highest experience levels in the State while handling complex violent crime, sex crimes, narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, fatal crashes, and major investigations.

Overall, ACPO employs 180 professionals ranks 19th in mean salary and last (21st) among all counties in New Jersey in median salary.

Leading the State in Workload

By a significant margin, Atlantic County receives and clears more criminal cases than any other county in New Jersey, despite having a smaller population and workforce than many jurisdictions. Atlantic City draws an estimated 28 million visitors per year, further increasing the public safety demands placed on law enforcement.

Workload Highlights for Court Year 7/1/24–6/30/25

- Criminal Cases Received by Court: 4,613 (State Avg: 1,910) – Ranked 1st
- Indictable Cases Cleared: 4,304 (State Avg: 1,898) – Ranked 1st
- Detention Motions Filed: 1,204 (3rd)
- Detention Motions Granted: 714 (60.8% – 2nd)
- Juvenile Clearance Rate: 111.1% (7th)
- Domestic Violence Clearance Rate: 102.1% (3rd)

However, sustained understaffing and underinvestment in staffing is reflected in backlog metrics:

- Backlog criminal cases per 100 Monthly Filings: 360 (16th)
- DV Contempt Backlog per 100 Filings: 160 (21st)
- Weapons Forfeiture Backlog per 100 Filings: 234 (20th)

Backlog pressures can only be addressed with sufficient numbers of well-paid and experienced attorneys handling a reasonable caseload.

Historic Public Safety Results

Despite ranking at the bottom in compensation, ACPO has delivered measurable and historic outcomes.

Homicides & Shootings

- Homicides reduced 50% (16 to 8) from 2024 to 2025
- 100% homicide clearance rate in 2025
- Non-fatal shootings reduced 50% (28 to 14)
- Total shootings reduced 69% (45 in 2021 to 14 in 2025)
- Shooting clearance rates improved from 62% to 86%
- 1 non Fatal shooting in 2026 and Zero homicides in 2026

Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes

- Reduced 48% (56 to 29)

Drug-Related Deaths

- Reduced 66% since 2022 (255 to 86)
- Reduced 45.9% from 2024 to 2025

Strategy Behind the Results

Since 2022, Atlantic County has experienced a significant reduction in violent crime, gun violence, and overdose deaths. These results were not achieved through increased funding or expanded

staffing. In fact, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office remains one of the most underfunded and understaffed prosecutor's offices in New Jersey based on volume of cases and serious crime.

What has changed is our approach.

The ACPO has embraced technology, intelligence-driven policing, and data analysis to identify emerging crime trends and focus resources where they matter most. By using modern investigative tools and strategically deploying our limited personnel, we have been able to operate more efficiently and effectively than ever before.

Equally important has been our commitment to partnership. Public safety cannot be achieved by one agency alone. The ACPO works hand-in-hand with local police departments throughout Atlantic County, as well as our state and federal partners, sharing intelligence, manpower, and resources to address the most pressing threats to our communities.

Our philosophy is simple: check the ego at the door. When agencies collaborate rather than compete, the result is stronger cases, faster investigations, and a unified strategy that maximizes the capabilities of every officer, detective, and prosecutor involved.

Finally, our strategy is focused and deliberate. We prioritize targeted investigations and aggressive prosecutions aimed at the small number of individuals who drive the majority of violent crime. When law enforcement identifies and charges the most dangerous offenders—and when the courts detain those individuals pending trial—the impact on public safety is immediate and measurable.

By concentrating on the people responsible for the greatest harm, we disrupt cycles of violence, prevent retaliatory crime, and create safer neighborhoods for the residents of Atlantic County.

Budget Authority and County Responsibility

The ACPO budget and the compensation levels reflected in the State's report are the result of county administration funding decisions.

For years, ACPO has exemplified the adage of "doing more with less." However, long-term underinvestment has impacted recruiting and retention.

Since 2022, more than 100 of 180 employees have been newly hired. More often than not, employees leave due solely to salary and affordability issues.

Attorneys rank near the bottom statewide in average years of service.

Despite extraordinary productivity, sustained disparity affects experience levels and contributes to backlog pressures.

Statement from Prosecutor William E. Reynolds

Prosecutor William E. Reynolds stated:

"I could not be more proud of the men and women of this Office. Every day, our prosecutors, detectives, and support professionals deliver extraordinary results for the people of Atlantic

County, despite being among the lowest compensated offices in the State.

Their dedication and professionalism have produced historic reductions in violence, traffic fatalities, and drug-related deaths. They deserve recognition, respect, and investment.”

Reynolds further stated:

“Our team sees humanity at its worst. They investigate and prosecute sex offenders, child predators, human traffickers, violent offenders, murderers, drug dealers, and those who prey upon the vulnerable.

They carry that emotional burden every day with courage and professionalism. This work is demanding, it is critically important, and it deserves the full support of the County.”