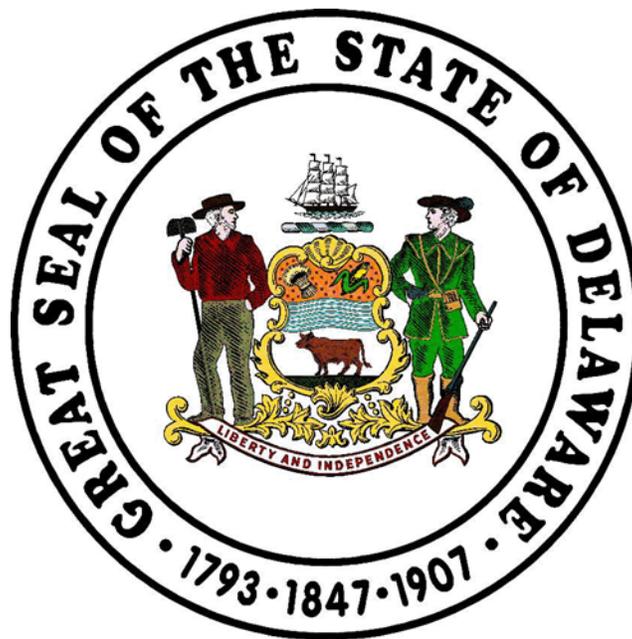


# Crime in Delaware

## 2017-2021

### Mapping Supplement



December 2022

Prepared by the  
Statistical Analysis Center  
Delaware Criminal Justice Council  
In Conjunction with the  
State Bureau of Identification

# Crime in Delaware: 2017 – 2021

## Mapping Supplement of 2021 NIBRS Offenses

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The full *Crime in Delaware 2017 – 2021* report is available at:  
<https://sac.delaware.gov/crime/>

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The points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the official position of the United States Department of Justice.

State of Delaware Document number 100703-22-12-05

Please visit our website at <https://sac.delaware.gov> This mapping supplement provides an overview of the geographic locations where serious crimes are reported to occur. These offenses presented in the full report, *Crime in Delaware 2017-2021*. *Crime in Delaware* is the official report of serious crime known to Delaware law enforcement agencies. This report covers data about serious crimes reported to state, county, and local police agencies for 2021.

## Introduction

Delaware is the second smallest state in the United States with a total area of 1,982 square miles. According to the Delaware Population Consortium, the 2021 Delaware population was estimated at just over 998,000, making it among the least populated states (7th least populous, including Washington, D.C.). Delaware borders New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and has coastal areas on the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay. The state has seen 3.2% growth in population since 2017, with the number of residents predicted to reach one million by 2025.

Delaware is a diverse state. According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey\*, 61.8% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 65 and 52.3% is female. Delaware's racial-ethnic composition is 67.7% White, 22.5% Black, 3.8% Asian, 6.0% multi-racial or another race, and 9.6% of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Delaware is composed of three counties: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex. More than half of the state's population lives in New Castle County (57.4%), while 18.4% live in Kent County, and 24.3% in Sussex County. The largest city, Wilmington, is located in New Castle County and has a population of 70,075 (7.1% of the state's total, 12.4% of the county's).

New Castle and Kent County's demographics generally mirror those of the state. Sussex County, however, is predominantly White (80.9%), and 28.9% of its residents are 65 or older, reflecting a notable influx of retirees due to Delaware's favorable housing costs, tax rates and the county's attractive beach regions. The City of Wilmington differs substantially from State and New Castle averages, with Black residents comprising a majority of the population (55.3%) and fewer senior citizens (13.2%).

New Castle County, the state's northern most county, is the smallest of the three counties but the most densely populated. The Interstate 95 corridor traverses the county, connecting Delaware with Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Kent County is located in the central part of the state and contains Dover, the state's capitol. Also located in the county is Dover Air Force Base, a major logistical anchor for the U.S. Air Force and the Armed Services Mortuary Service. Sussex County is the state's largest and southernmost county, comprising almost half of Delaware's land area and known for its agriculture, chicken industry, and beach areas.

*\*Data taken from Report DP05 on [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov), ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates*

## Methodology

To create the following maps, complaint numbers and offense codes were extracted from Delaware’s 2021 NIBRS trace files (which contain the individual complaint information that is the basis for SBI’s summary reports). Complaint numbers were then used to acquire latitude and longitude data for each complaint via Delaware’s Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). After reviewing the data for accuracy and completeness, the resulting location information was plotted on an ArcGIS Online-provided base map that displays the general areas within Delaware including waterways, major roadways, and larger towns and cities. A layer showing State and County boundaries is also utilized to differentiate the areas of the State.

In previous versions of this report, offenses were used to calculate a crime rate that displayed the number of crimes that occur within a zip code. A map of zip code boundaries was then modified to display their crime rate on a color scale based on a comparison of their crime rate and the State average. It was decided to change this format and display actual offense locations from a statewide perspective to give readers a better idea where most offenses occur.

## Considerations and Limitations

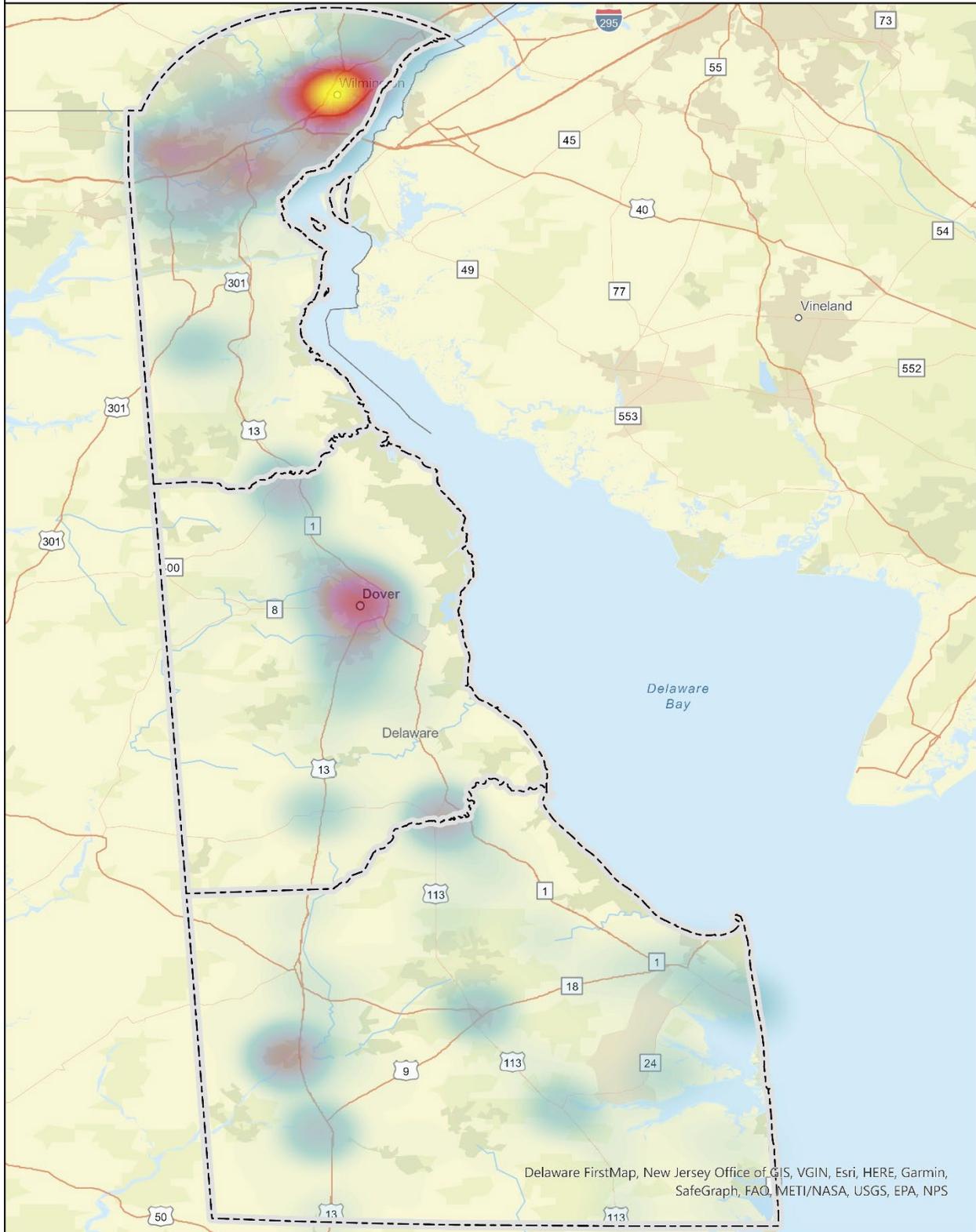
The query of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) returned valid GPS coordinates for almost 100% of all 2021 complaints. The recorded location of a given offense is only as accurate as the information contained within the complaint. Some offenses, such as Fraud, could be recorded with a location at a victim’s home where the complaint is taken. The actual offense could have occurred somewhere else, even with no physical location such as over the phone scams and on the internet.

## Understanding the Maps

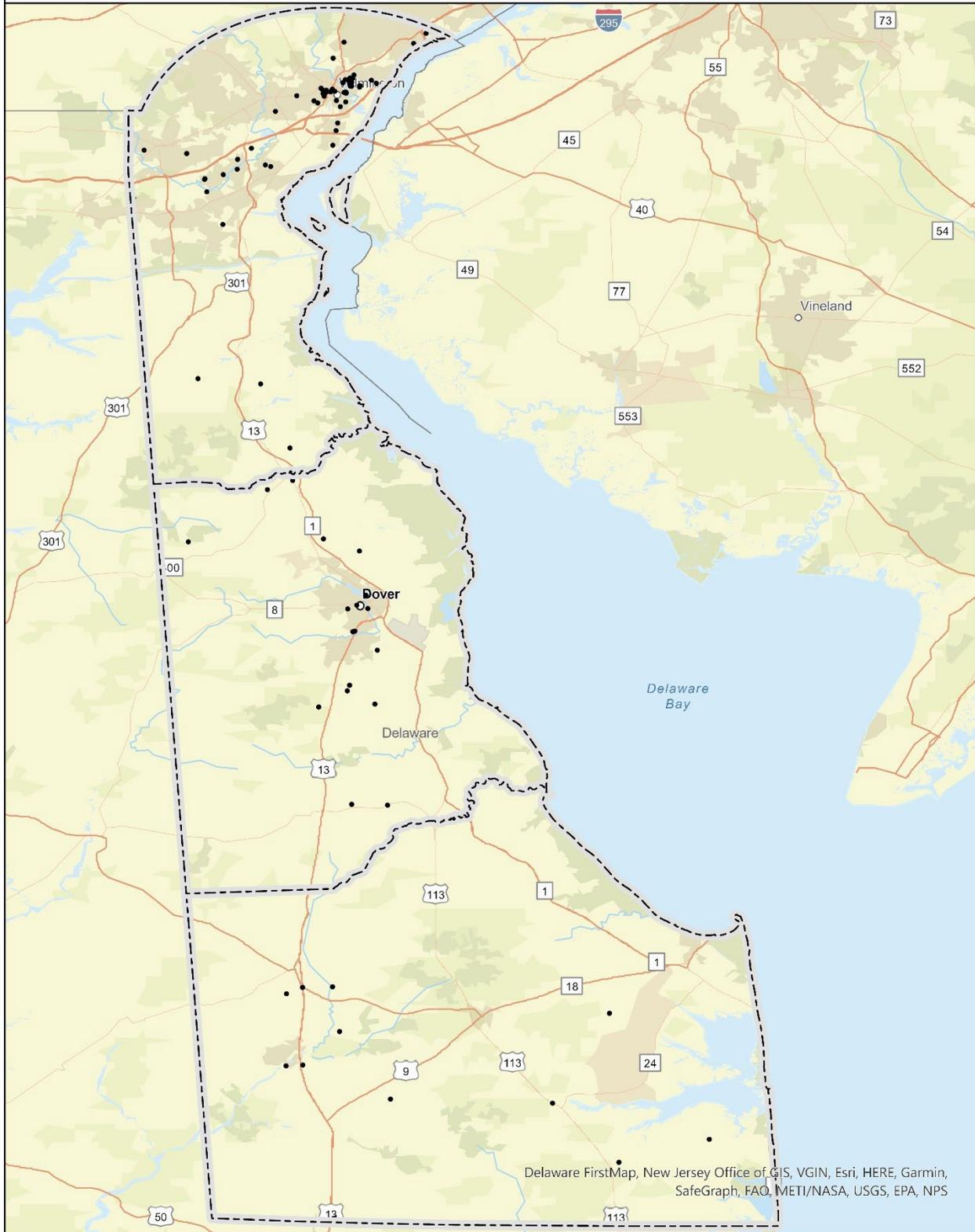
The maps in this supplement are separated into the four Main Offense Categories. These categories include “Violent”, “Serious Property”, “Drug”, and “Other Property & Social” Offenses. Within each category are multiple individual offenses that make up that category. The four Main Offense categories are displayed as “heat maps” to show offense location concentrations from low (Blue) to medium (Red) to high (Yellow). The individual offenses in each category are displayed with “pins” at the actual offense locations where they occurred. The map displaying locations of Assault Offenses is done in two separate colors to differentiate between the more serious “Aggravated Assaults” and “Other Assaults” that are less severe in terms of injuries and the lack of weapons being involved.

A detailed breakdown of offenses within each of these categories can be found in the *Crime in Delaware* main report as well as the Executive Summary.

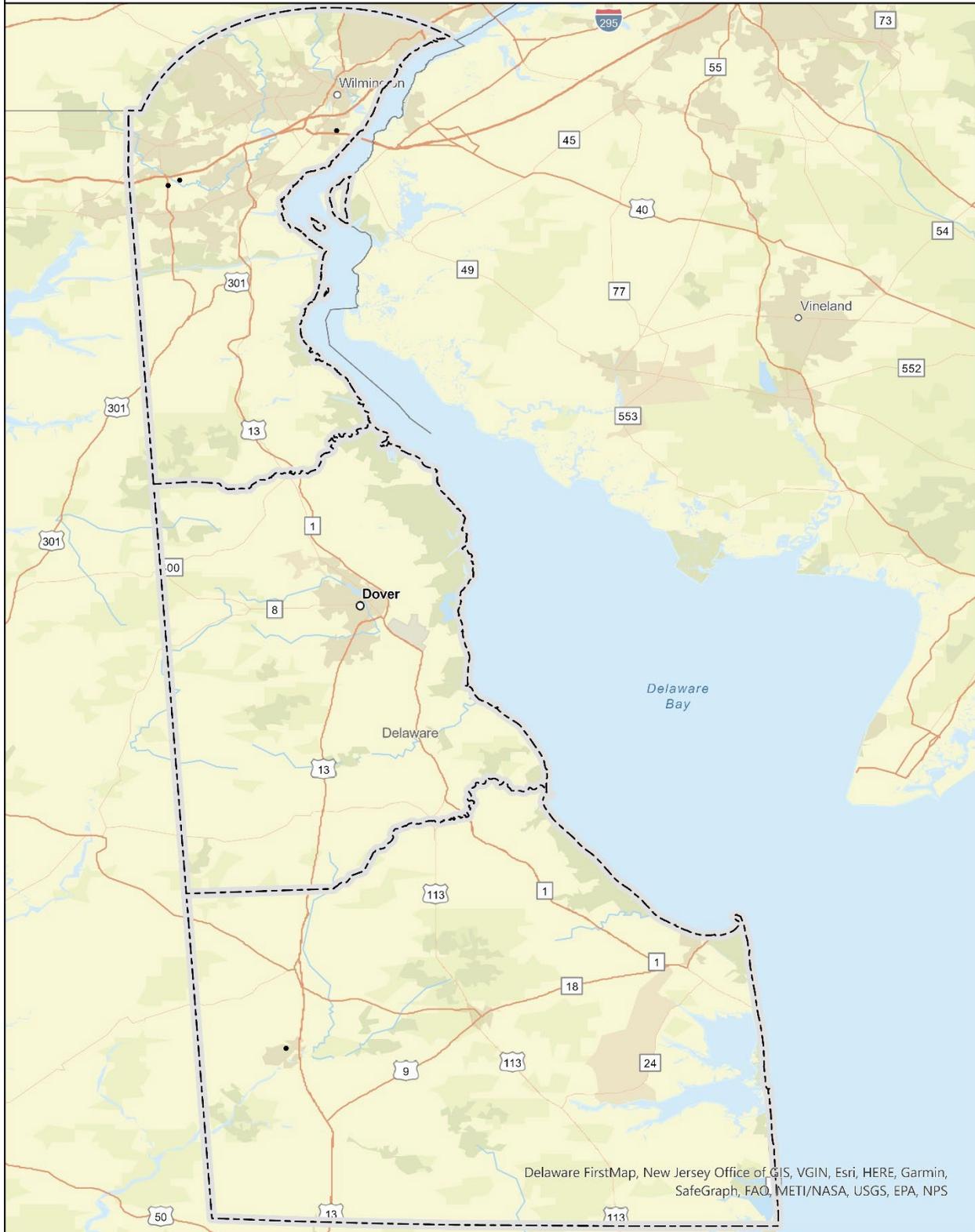
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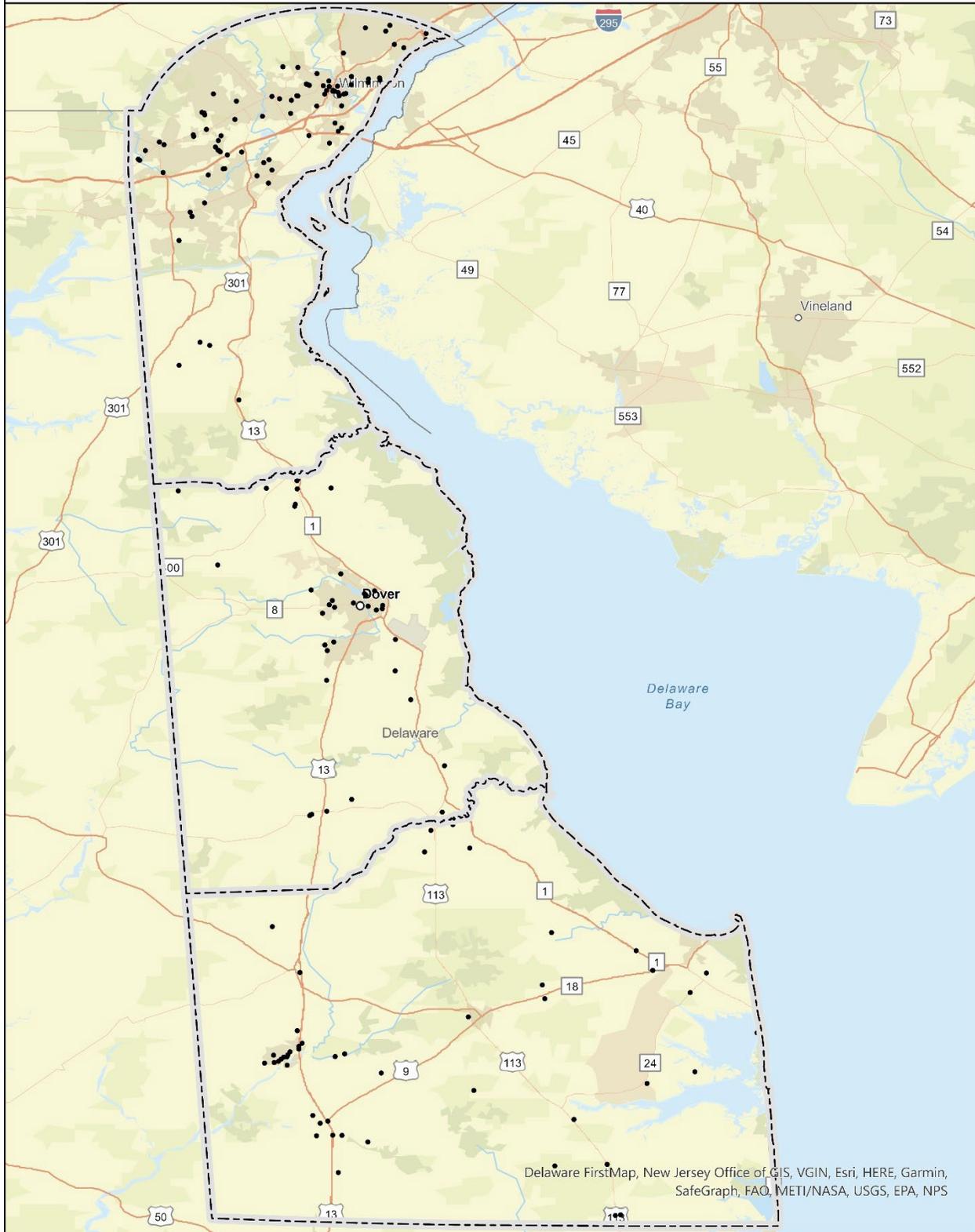
# All Homicide Offenses 2021



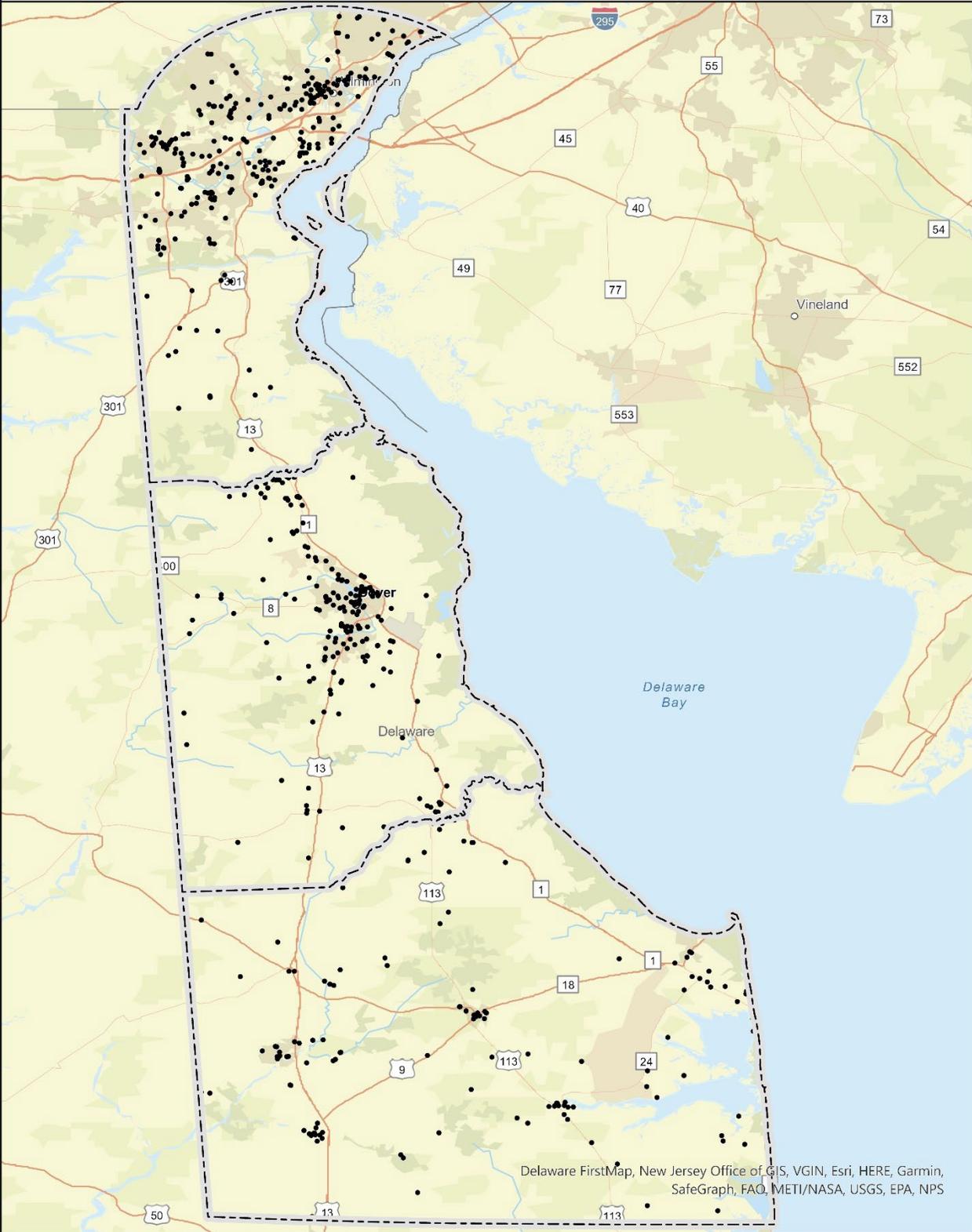
# All Human Trafficking Offenses 2021



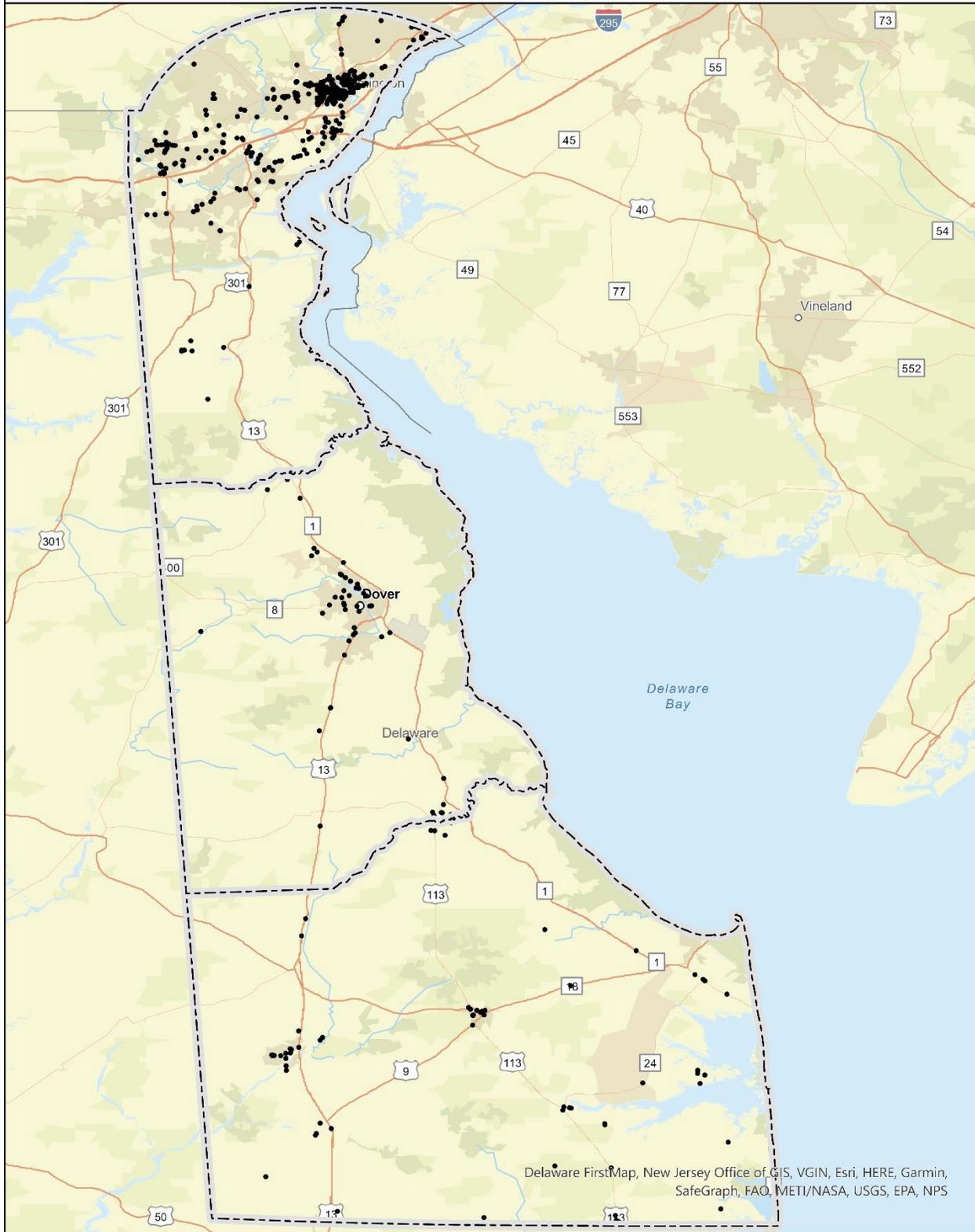
# All Kidnapping Offenses 2021



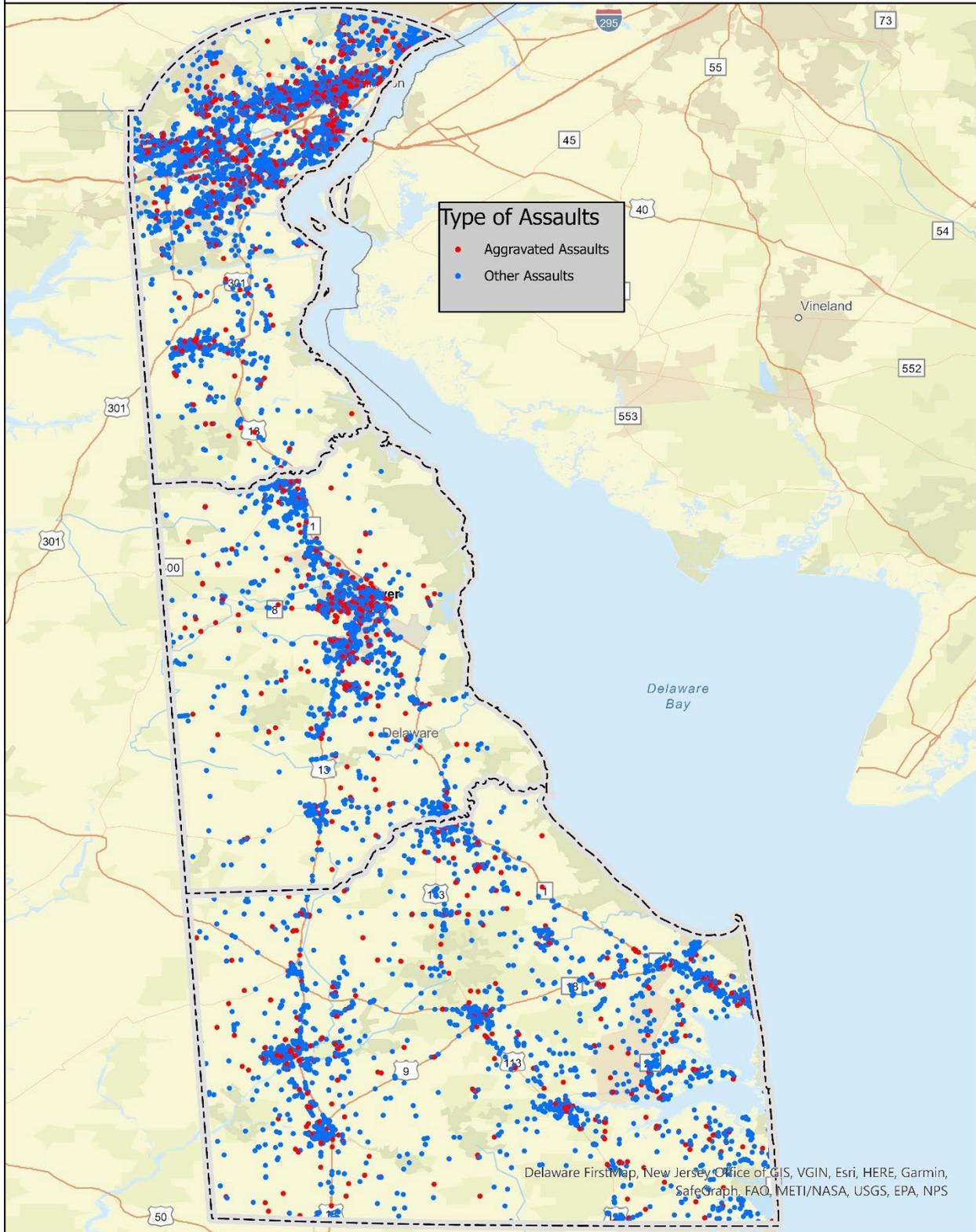
# All Forcible Sex Offenses 2021



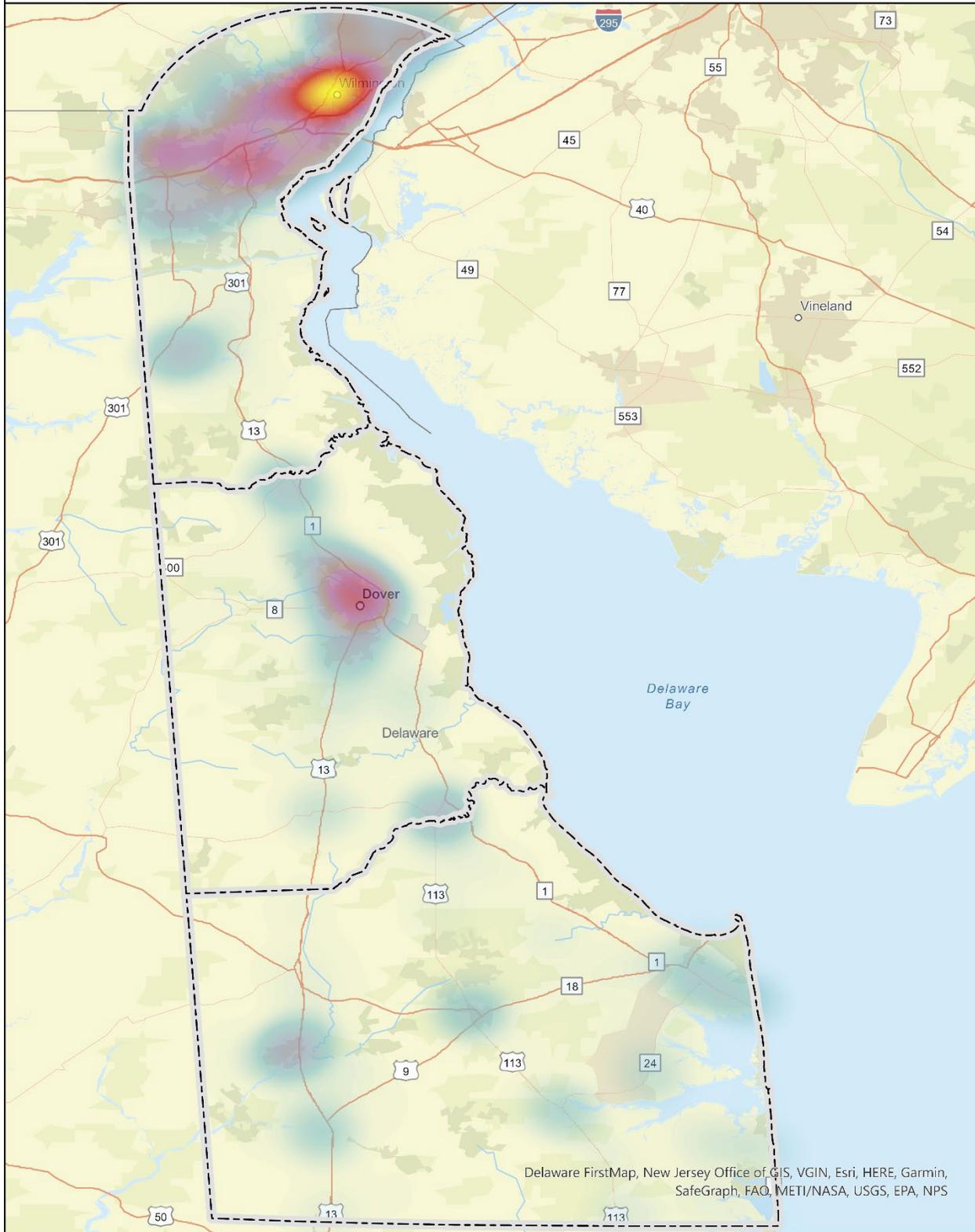
# All Robbery Offenses 2021



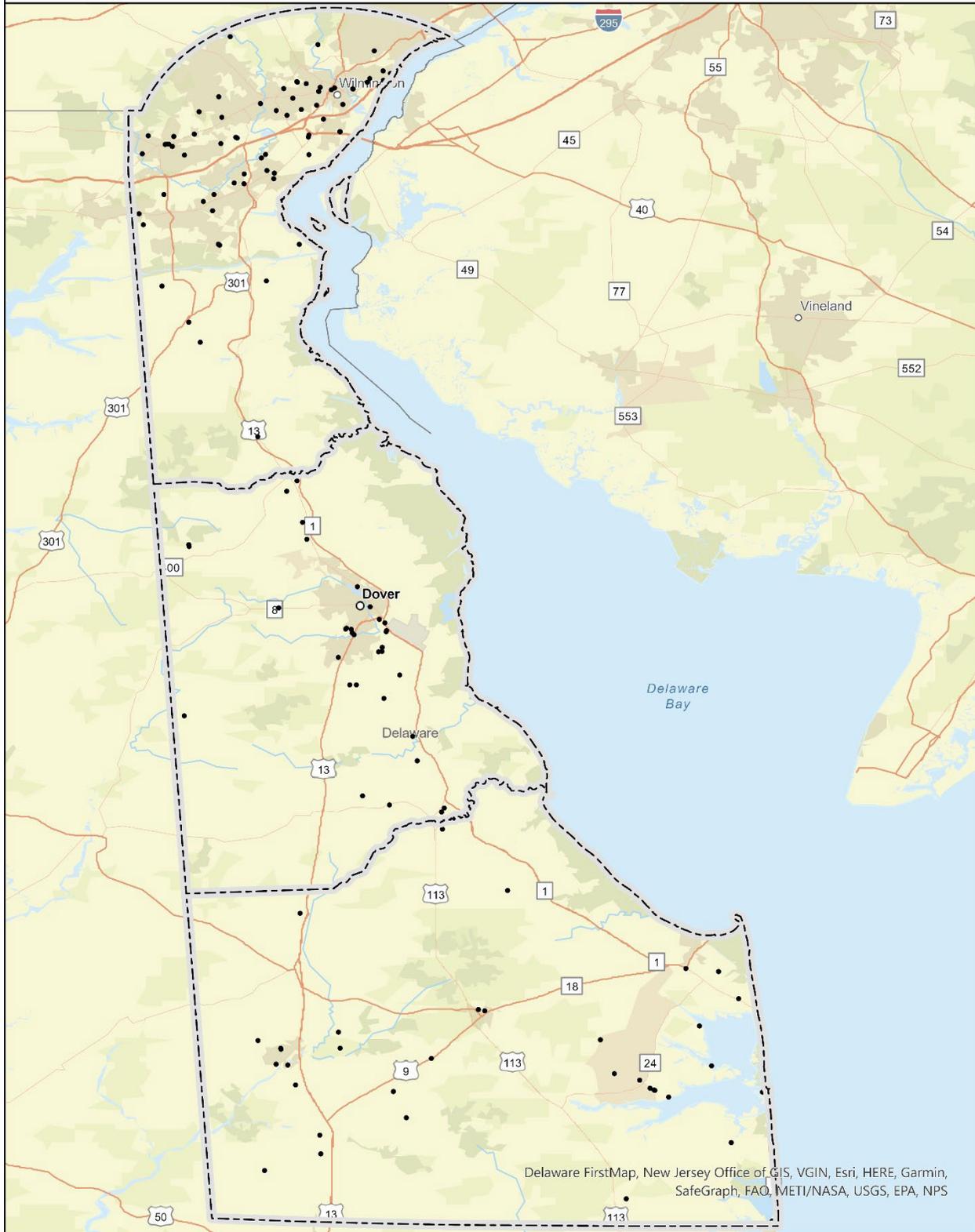
# All Assault Offenses 2021



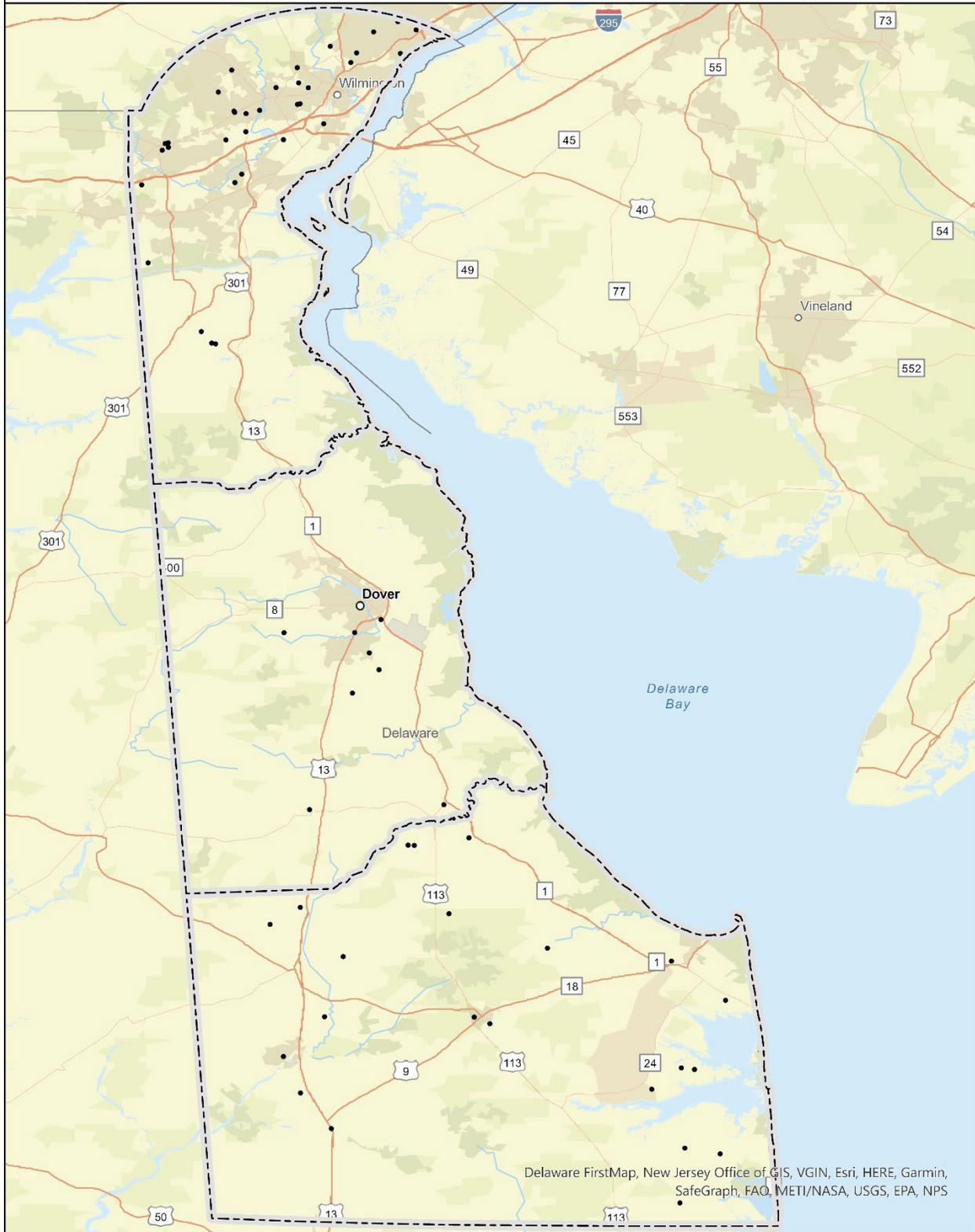
# All Serious Property Offenses 2021



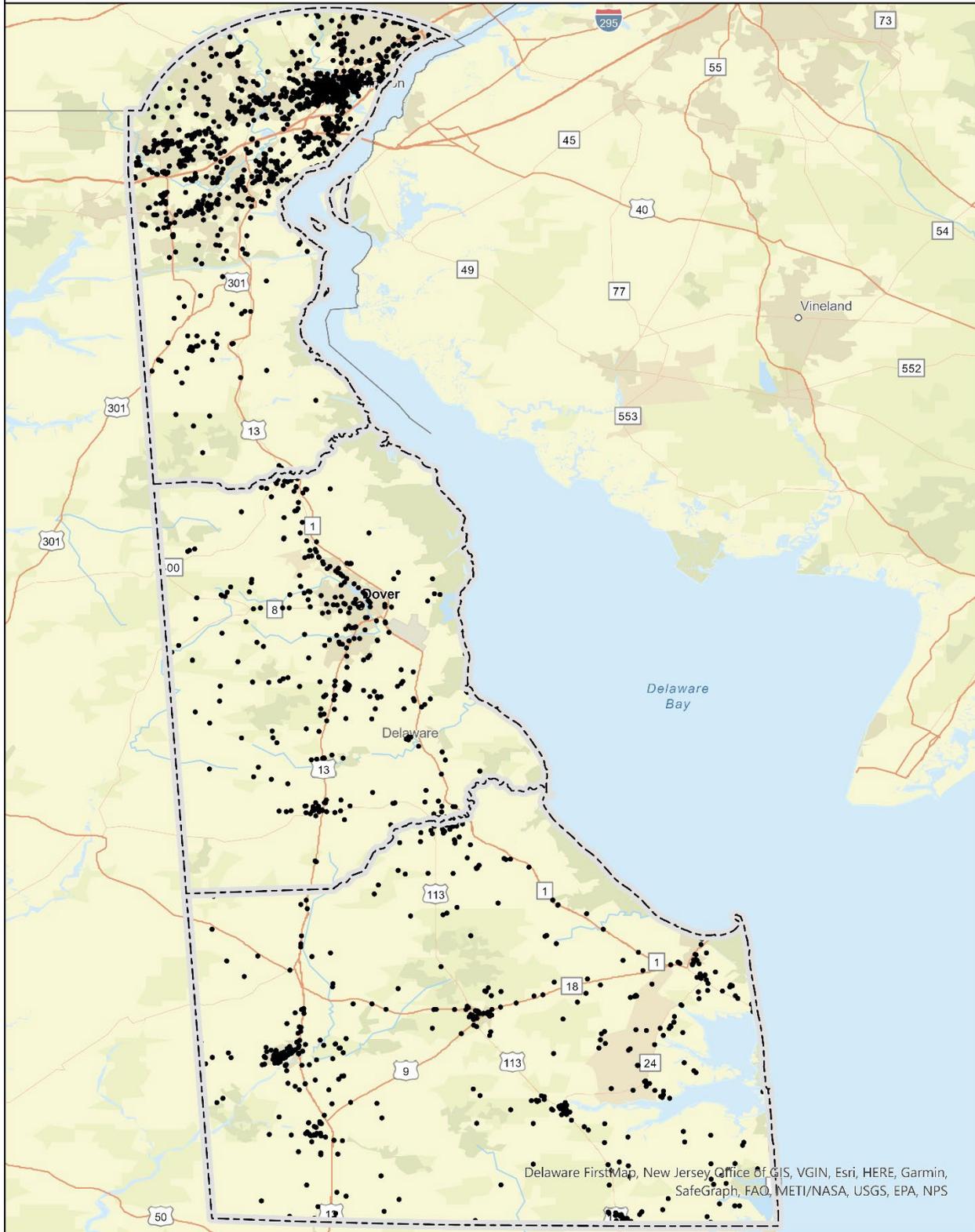
# All Arson Offenses 2021



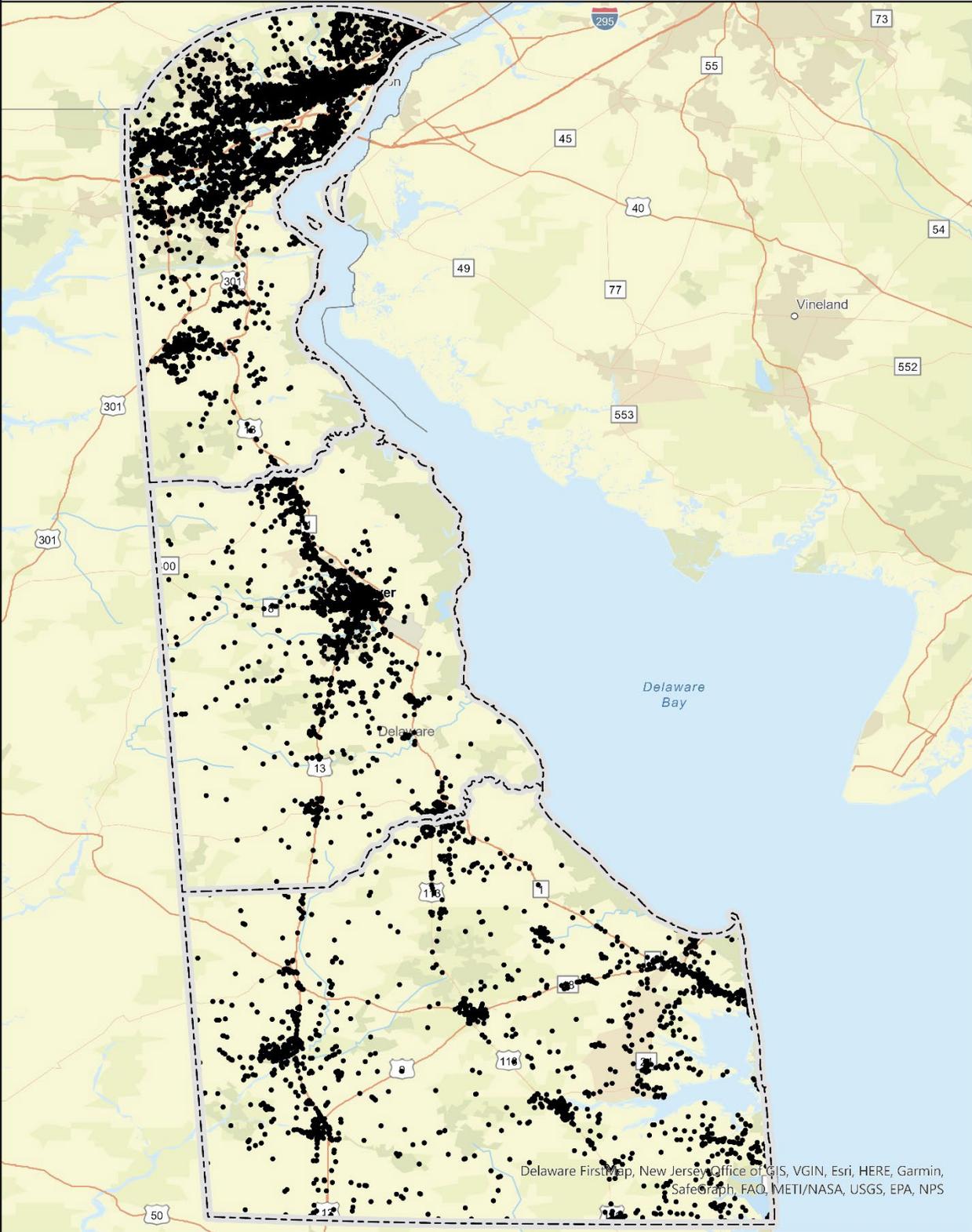
# All Extortion Offenses 2021



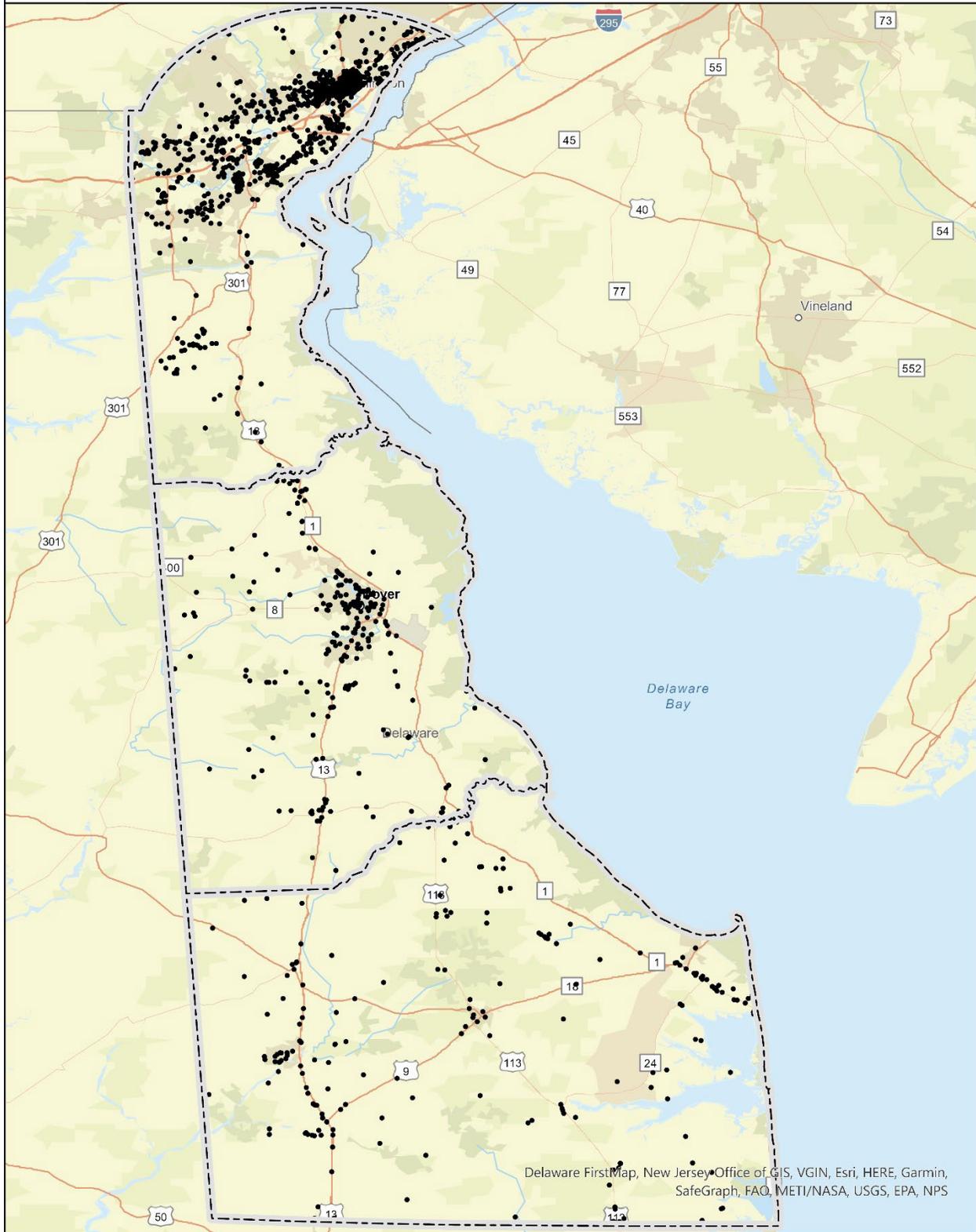
# All Burglary Offenses 2021



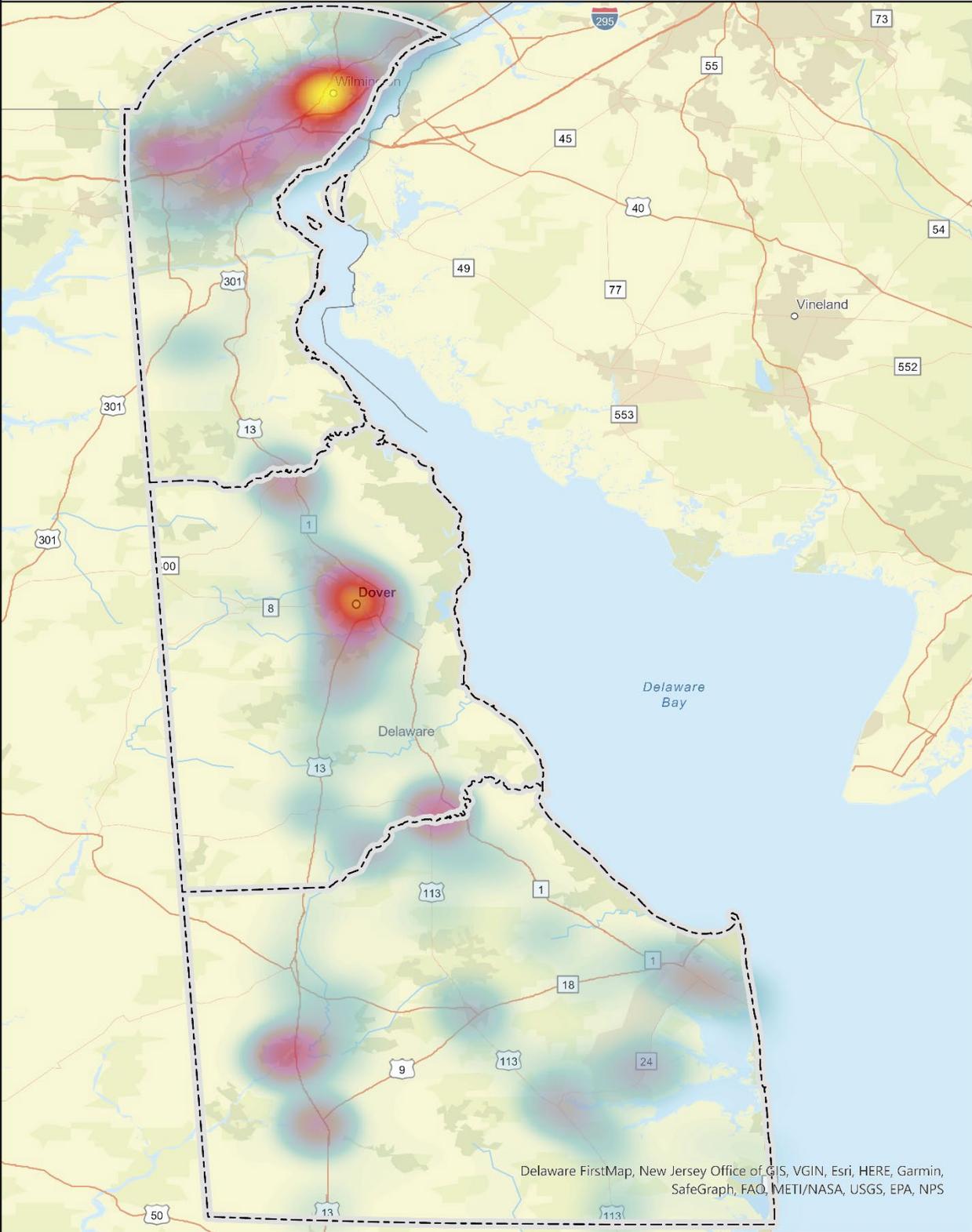
# All Larceny Offenses 2021



# All Motor Vehicle Theft Offenses 2021

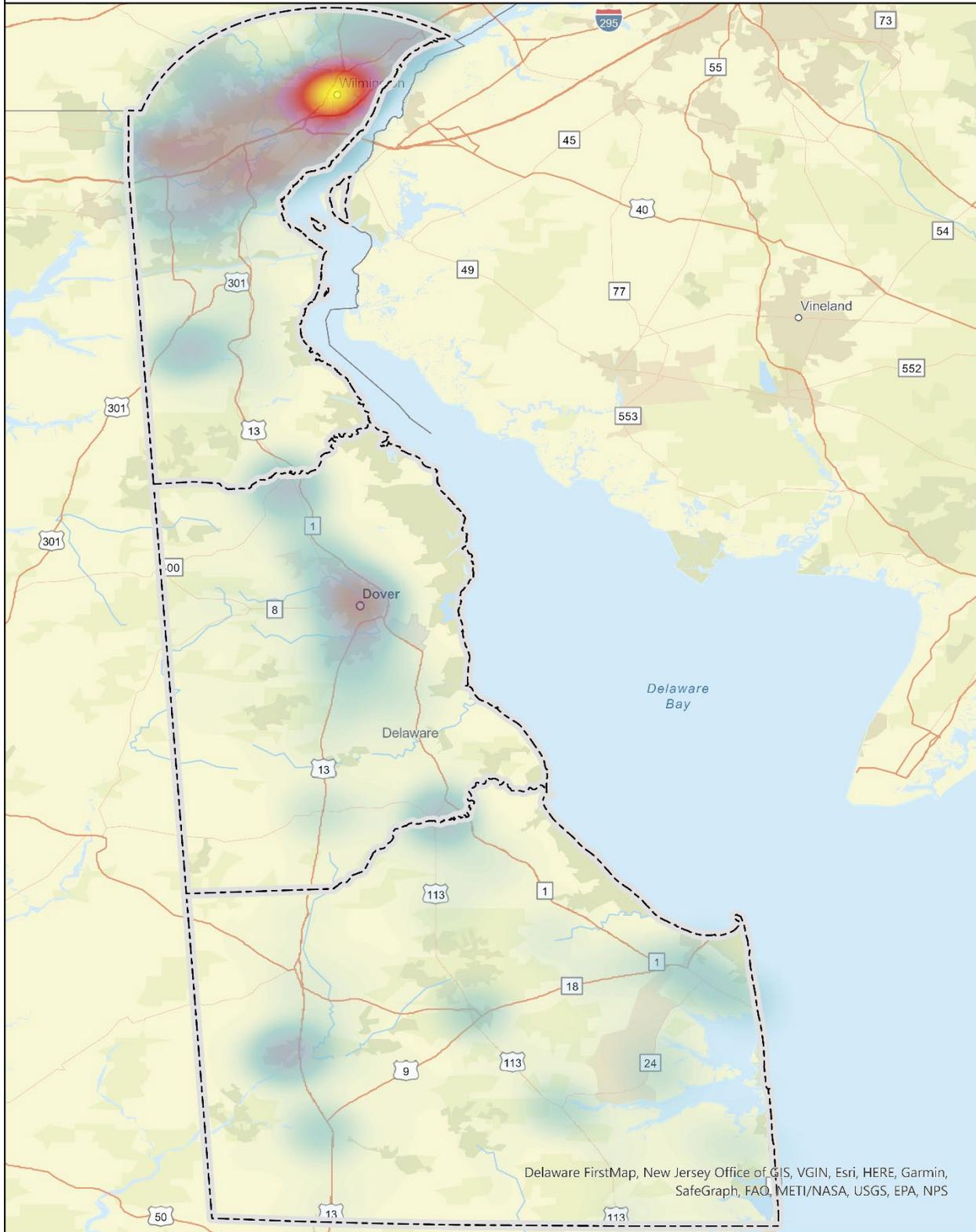


# All Drug Offenses 2021

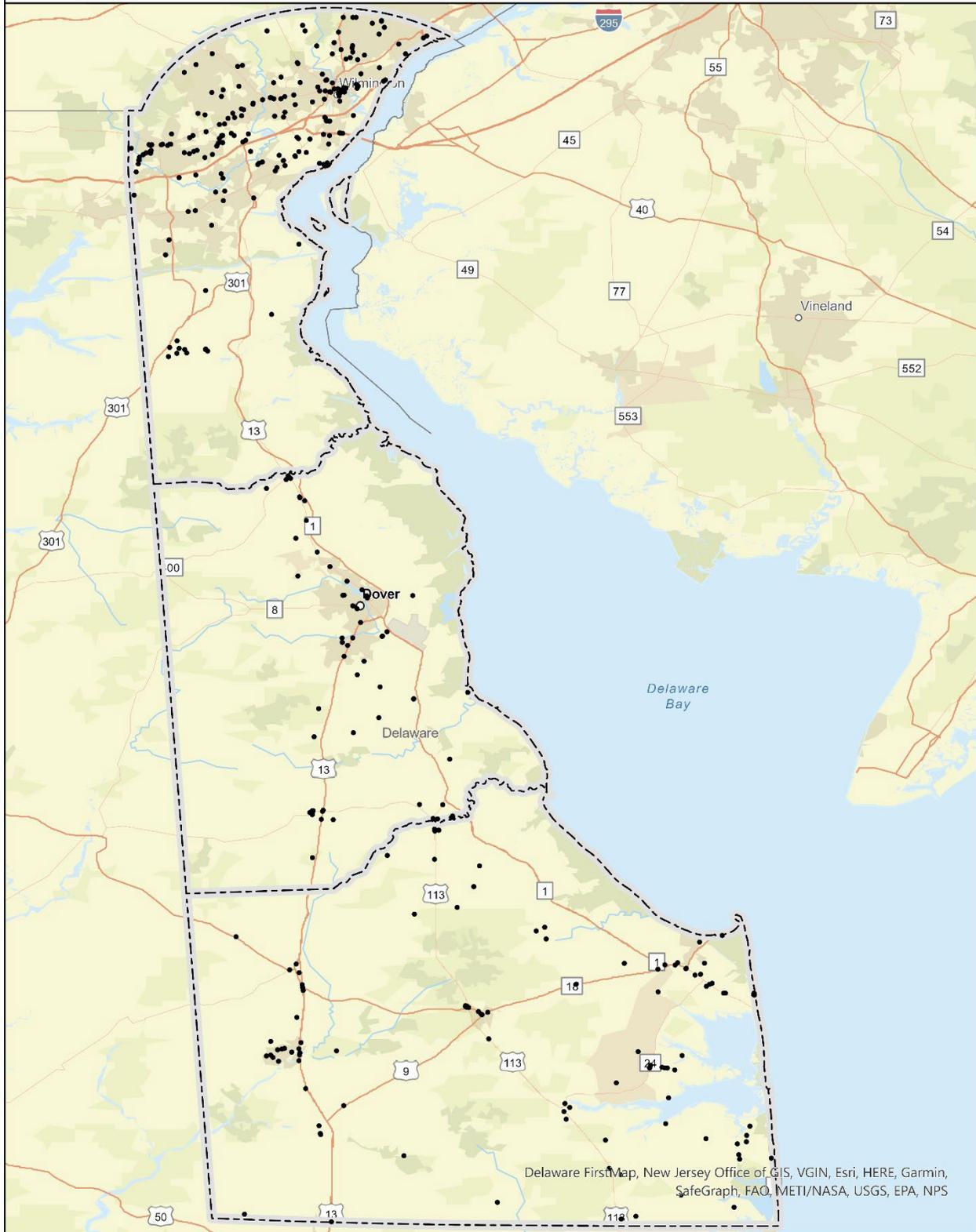




# All Other Property & Social Offenses 2021

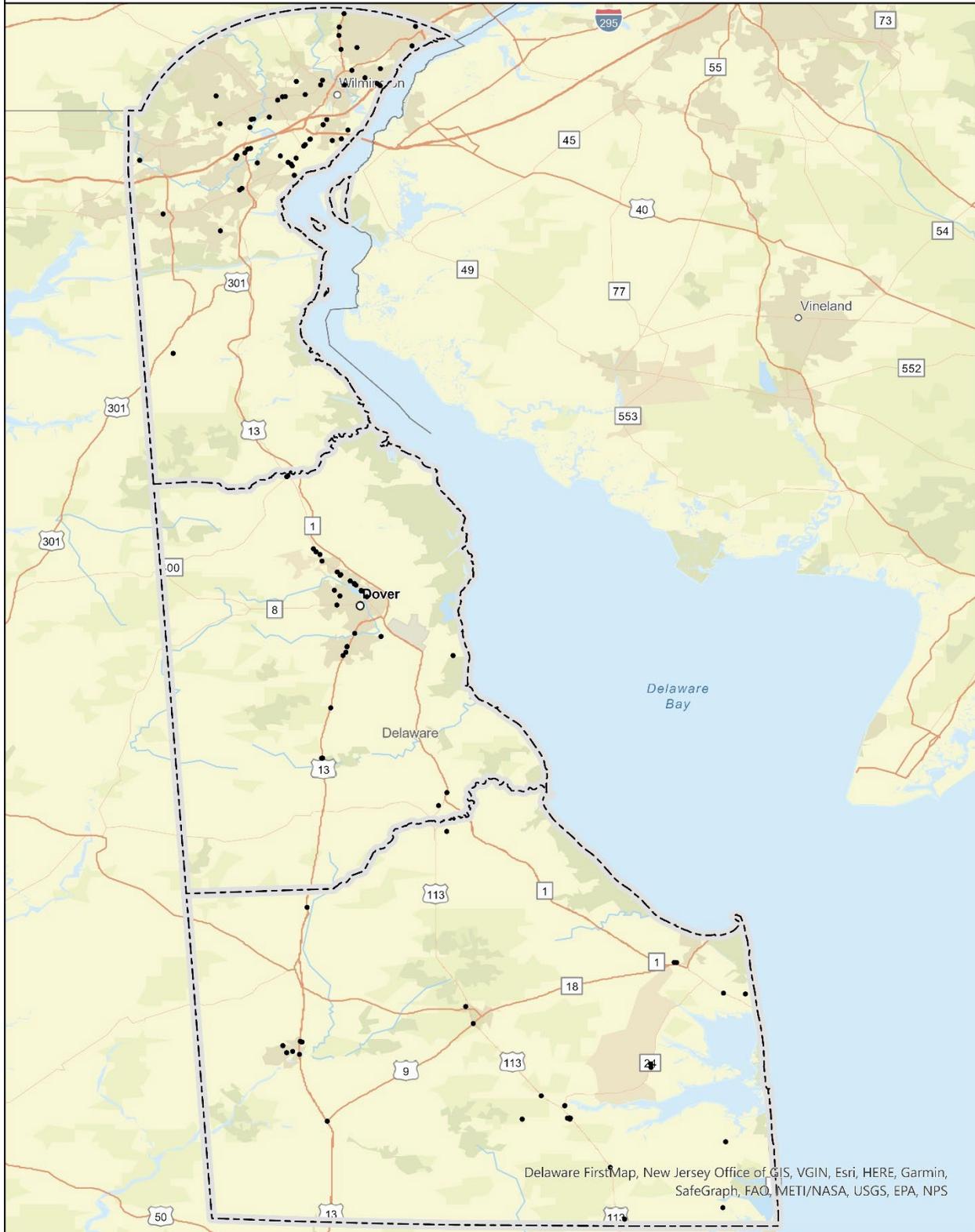


# All Counterfeiting Offenses 2021

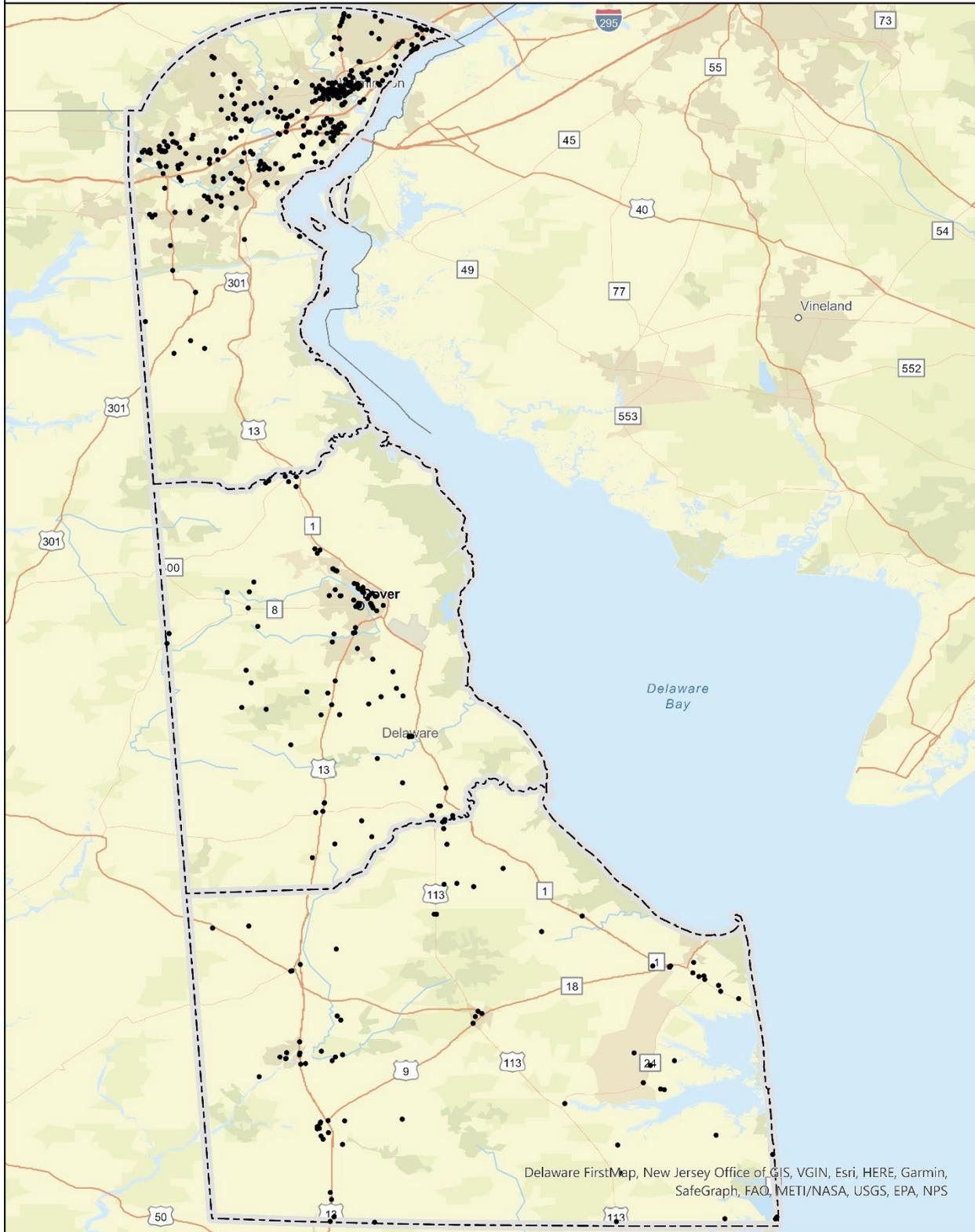




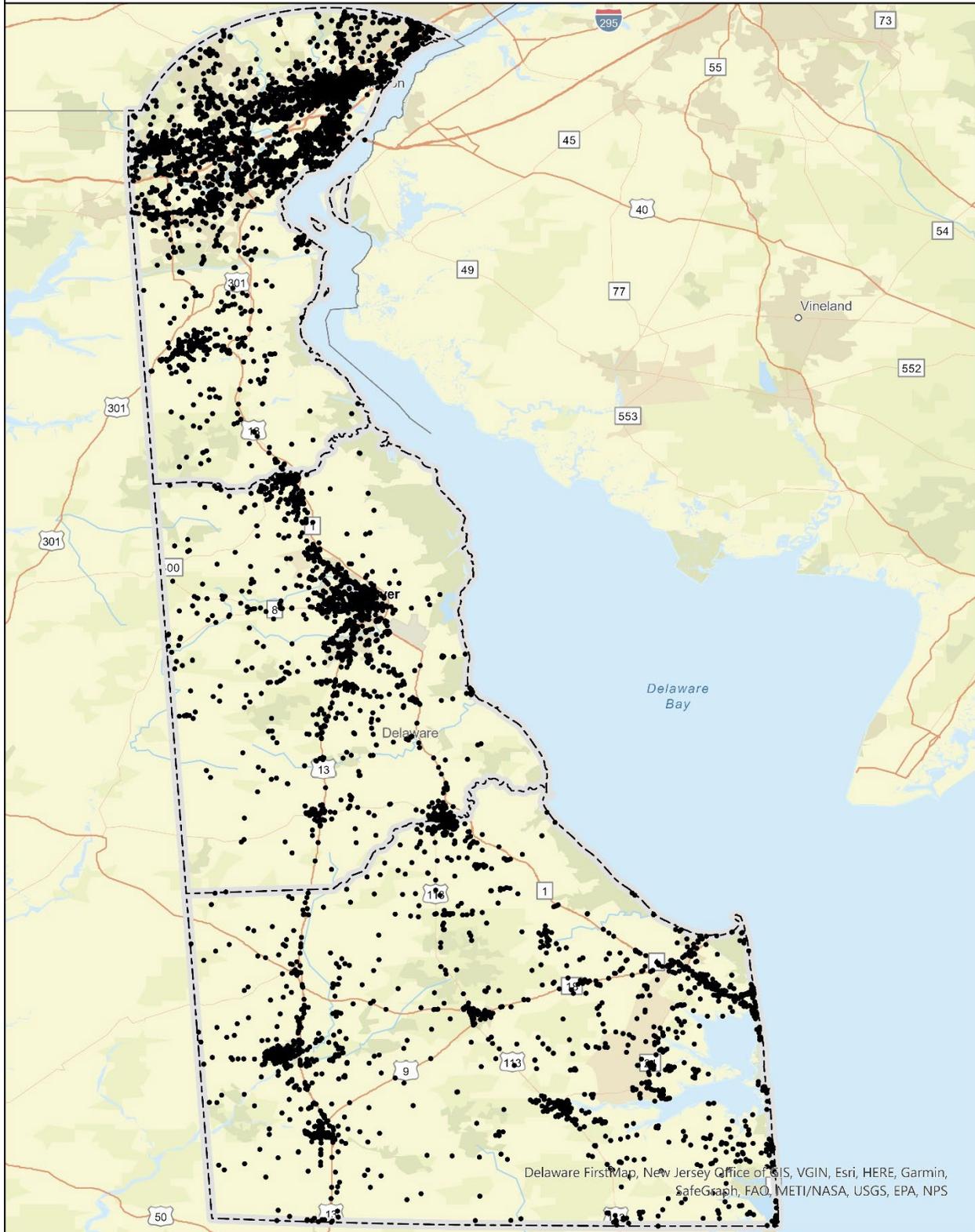
# All Embezzlement Offenses 2021



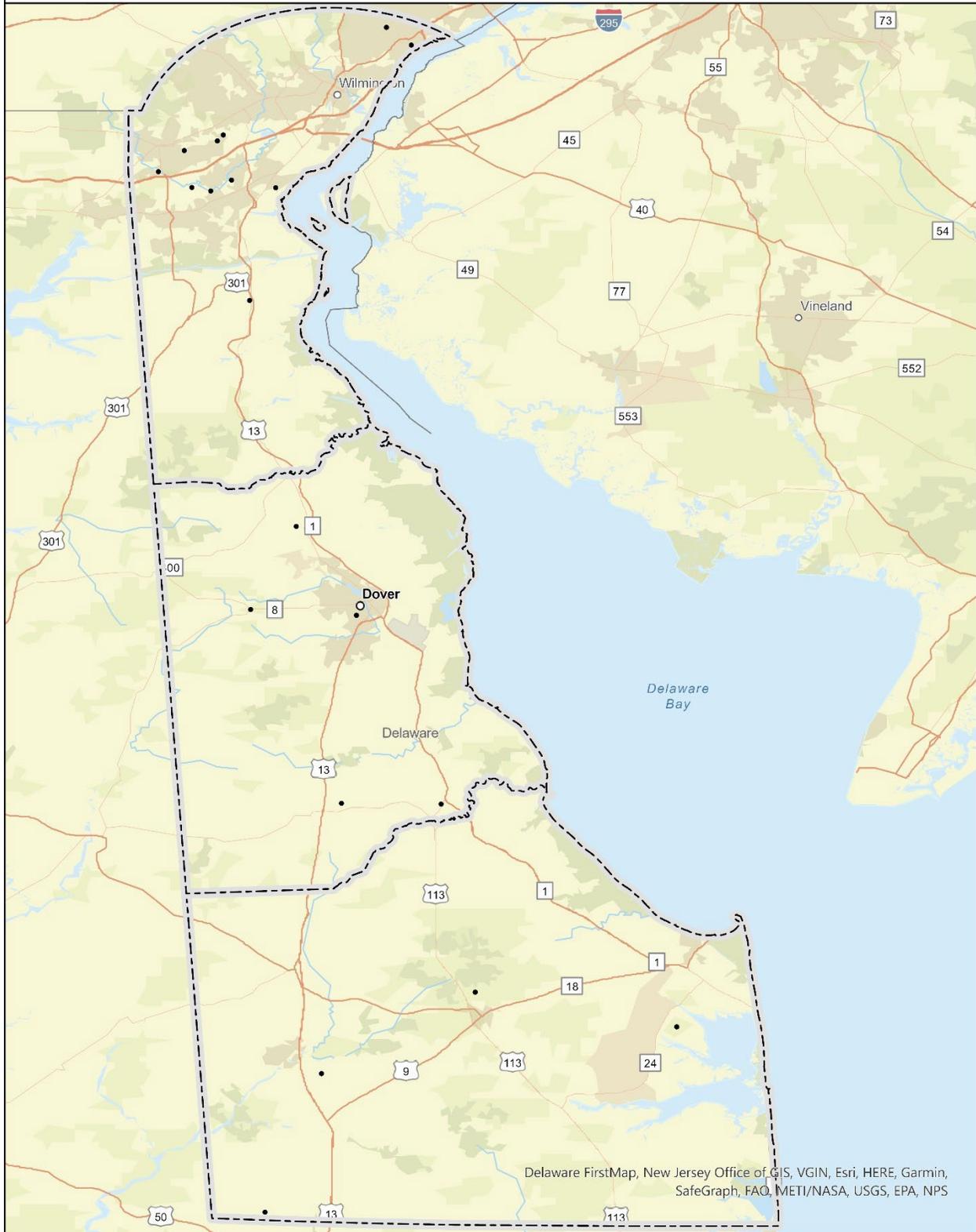
# All Stolen Property Offenses 2021



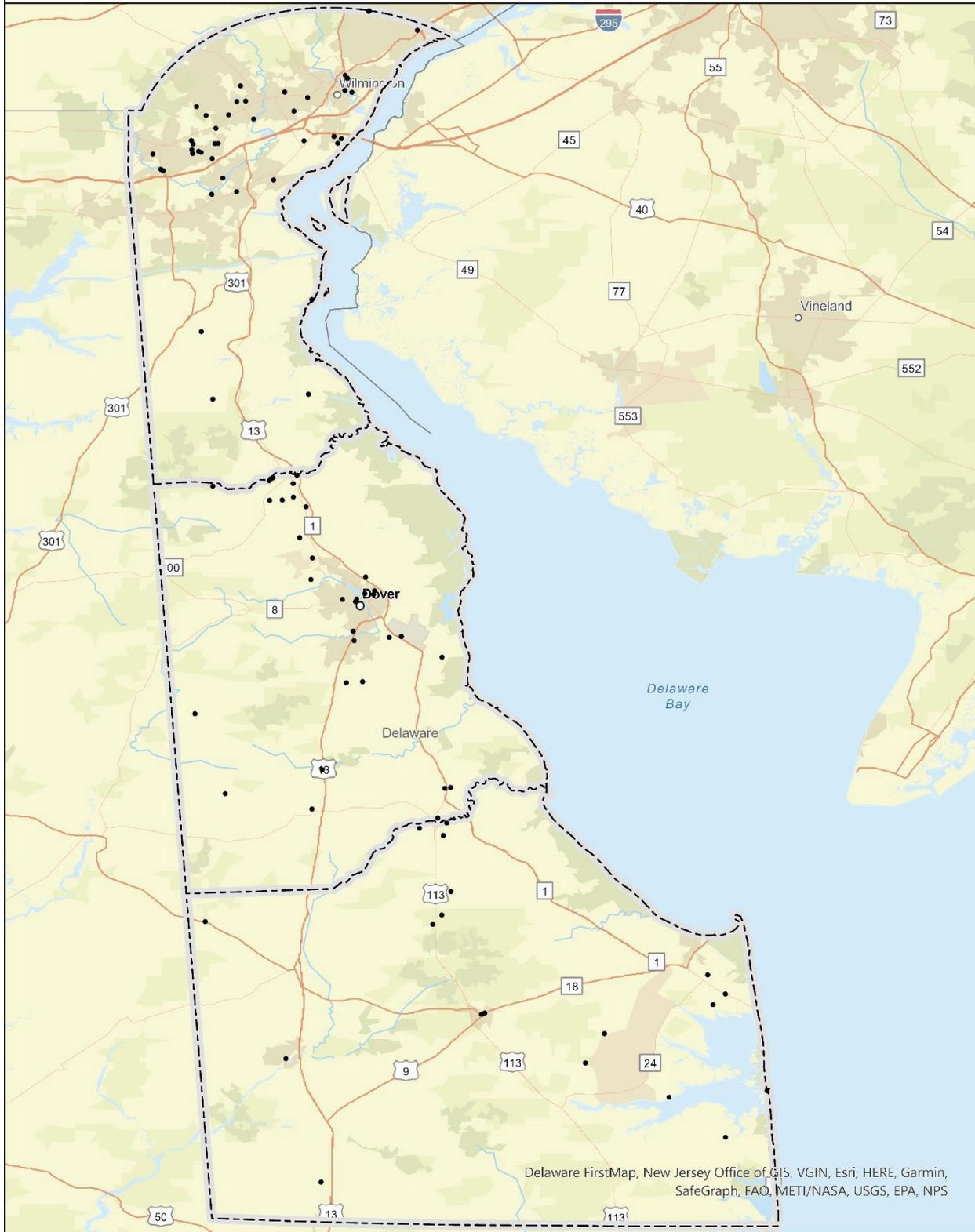
# All Property Destruction Offenses 2021



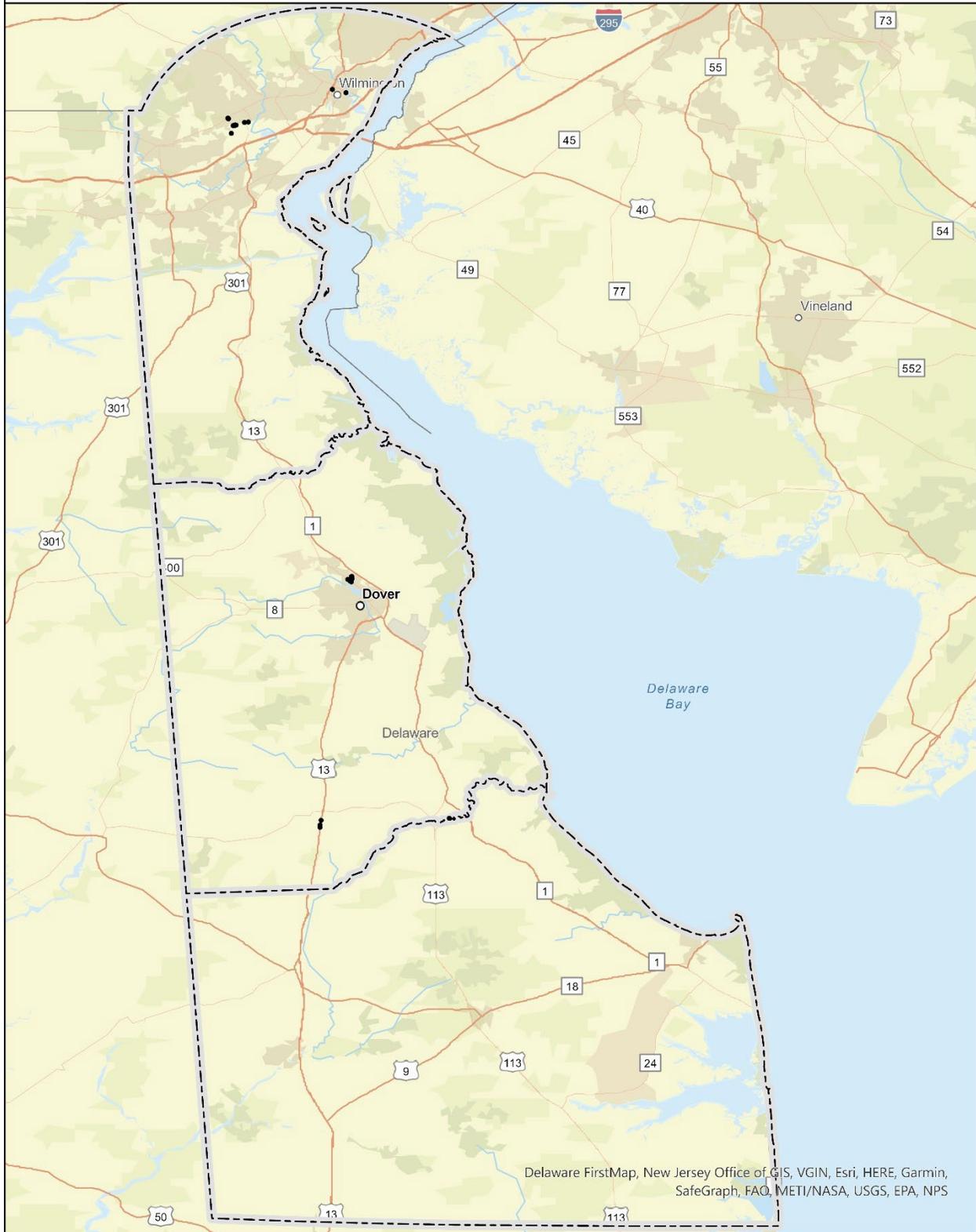
# All Non-Forcible Sex Offenses 2021



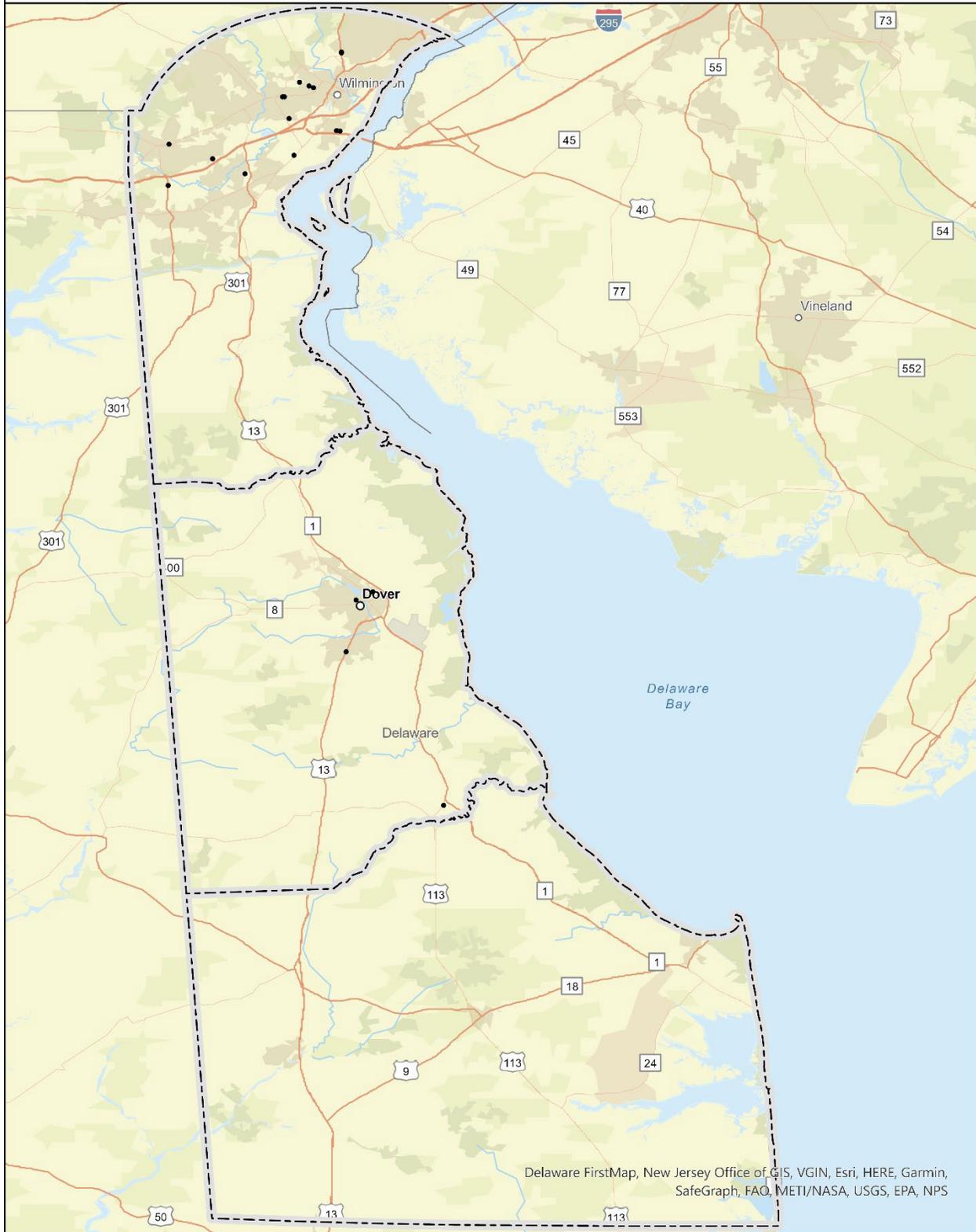
# All Pornography Offenses 2021



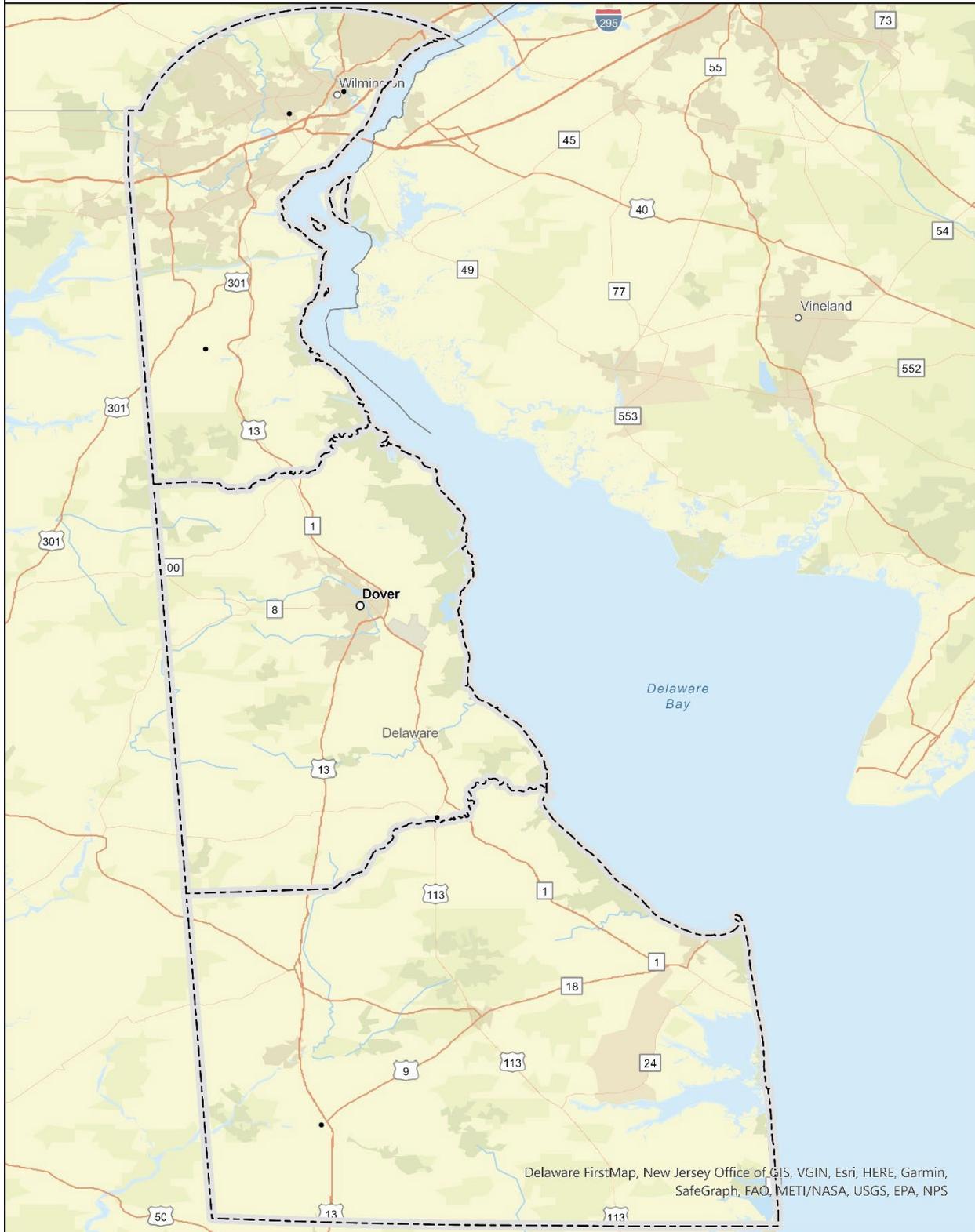
# All Gambling Offenses 2021



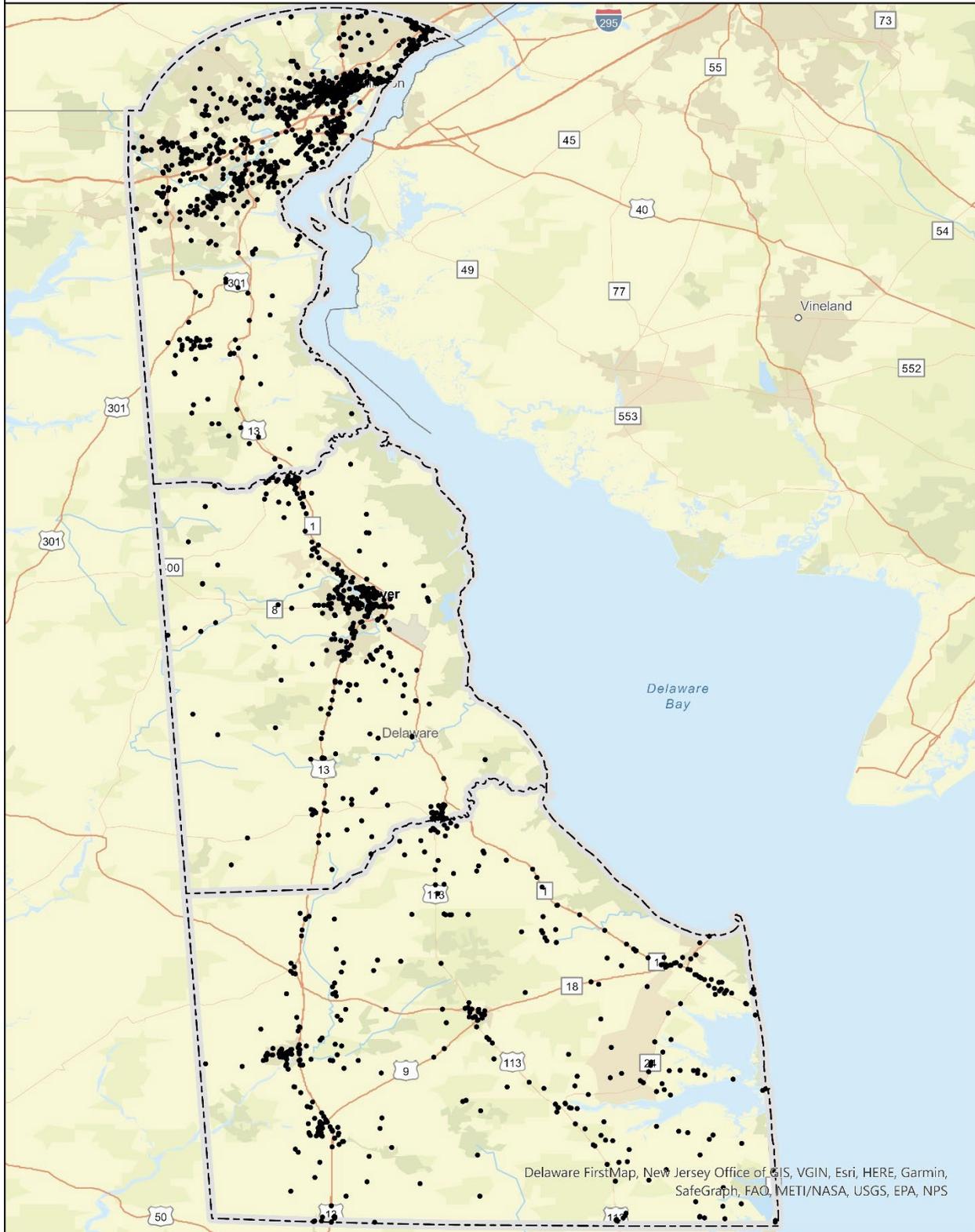
# All Prostitution Offenses 2021



# All Bribery Offenses 2021



# All Weapon Law Violation Offenses 2021



# All Cruelty To Animal Offenses 2021

