

The Largest Crime Drop in 90 Years

New FBI data confirm 2025 delivered the biggest one-year decline in the violent crime rate since national estimates began in 1936. Preliminary FBI data for the first half of 2026 show the decline continuing.

▼9.7%**Violent crime rate**

Largest annual drop ever recorded

▼18.1%**Murder rate**

4.1 per 100k, tied for lowest ever recorded

▼18.5%**Robbery**

Lowest rate in 20 years

▼12.4%**Property crime**

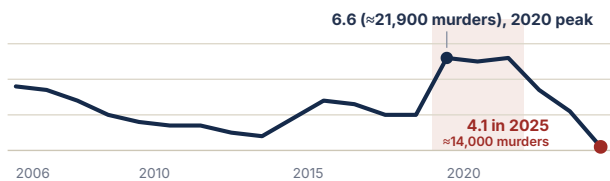
Burglary at a 20-year low

▼22.7%**Motor vehicle theft**

Down 38.8% from 2023

U.S. MURDER RATE, 2006–2025

Rate per 100,000 inhabitants; raw counts derived from FBI rates × U.S. population



2020–2022: The murder rate averaged 6.6 per 100,000, its highest sustained level since the mid-1990s.

2023–2025: The rate fell in each of the next three years, reaching 4.1 in 2025. That is the largest one-year decline on record.

7,900

fewer murders per year than at the 2020 peak. The 2020 increase was fully erased in five years.

CRIME DROP FACTORS

- National Guard Deployments:** Guard units were directed into D.C. by the President and into Memphis and New Orleans at their governors' requests. In D.C., ~2,000 Guard members **more than doubled the visible uniformed presence**, which researchers tied to a 24% drop in property crime (Niskanen Center).
- Clearance Rates:** Police solved a larger share of violent crime in 2025. **Clearance rates rose from 43.8% in 2024 to 47.4% in 2025** (FBI).
- Prosecutions:** In D.C., the U.S. Attorney charged **16,724 cases in the task force's first year, up 67%** over the prior year. In Memphis, 195 federal defendants were charged in the task force's first three months.
- Joint Task Forces:** **59 Homeland Security Task Forces were created by executive order in 2025**, drawing more than 20 federal agencies and 440 state and local agencies into joint operations (CRS).

CITIES WITH FEDERAL TASK FORCE OPERATIONS IN 2025–26

Washington, D.C.

GUARD DEPLOYED AUG. 11, 2025

▼41%

Homicides, First Half of 2026

▼24%

Property Crime Tied to Guard Presence

Safe & Beautiful Task Force: **16,000+ arrests**, ~2,000 illegal guns seized, 100+ gang members and 35 homicide suspects apprehended.

Memphis, TN

SAFE TASK FORCE, SEPT. 29, 2025

▼44%

Murders, First Half of 2026

▼62%

Motor Vehicle Theft

Tennessee Guard + a dozen-plus federal agencies: **10,000+ arrests**, 1,700+ illegal guns seized, 154 missing children located. Violent crime down 40%+ in 2026.

New Orleans, LA

OPERATION NOLA SAFE, JAN. 2026

▼55%

Murders Since 2022

3rd

Straight Year of Decline

Louisiana Guard, deployed at Gov. Landry's request: **175 arrests**, 100+ guns and 20 kg of cocaine seized, 4 trafficking victims rescued.

2026 IS ON PACE TO BEAT IT

▼10.6%

Violent Crime, Jan–Jun*

▼23.0%

Murder, Jan–Jun*

▼19.6%

Robbery, Jan–Jun*

▼17.2%

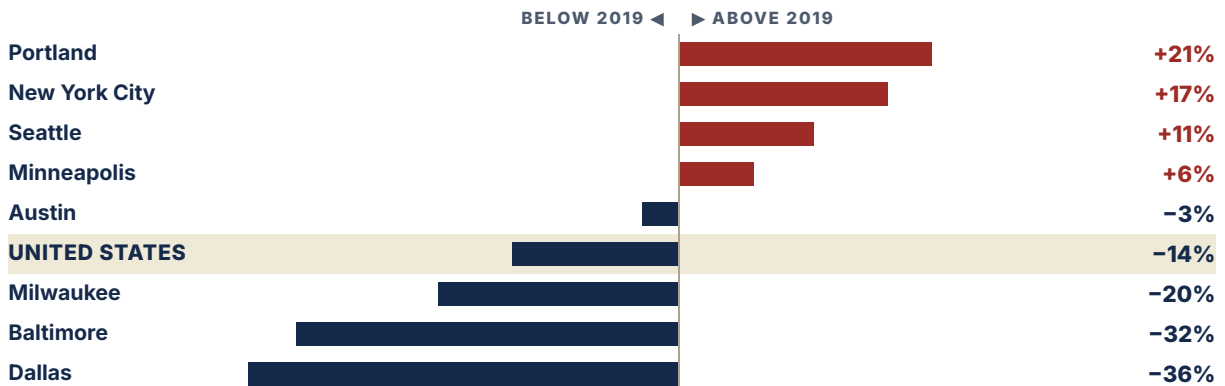
Big-City Homicides (66 Cities)

Not Every City Got Safer

The national decline was not universal. Measured against 2019, the last full year before crime spiked amid the pandemic and the unrest that followed George Floyd's murder, U.S. violent crime is down 13.6% and homicide down 18.1%. Portland, Seattle, Minneapolis, Austin, and New York remain at or above where they started. Dallas and Baltimore cut crime at roughly twice the national pace.

VIOLENT CRIME

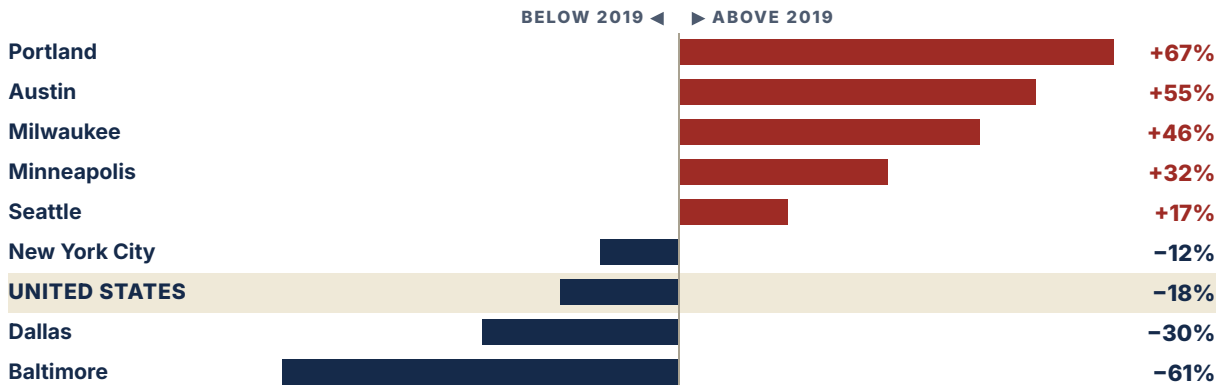
Change in reported offenses since 2019 (U.S. = rate per 100,000)



Dallas backed its police department and adopted evidence-based hot-spot policing (Dallas Police Department). **Baltimore** seated a new state's attorney in January 2023 and reached a half-century low in homicides.

HOMICIDE

Change in reported offenses since 2019 (U.S. = rate per 100,000)



Austin and Milwaukee cut violent crime while homicides climbed. Austin's violent crime fell 3% since 2019, but homicides rose 55%; Milwaukee's violent crime fell 20%, but homicides rose 46%. New York is the mirror image: homicides fell 12% while violent crime rose 17%.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT SINCE 2019

+183%

New York City
5,522 → 15,611

+98%

Chicago
9,092 → 18,027

-9%

United States
rate per 100,000

Sources: FBI, UCR Summary of Reported Crimes in the Nation, 2025 and 2024; FBI Crime Data Explorer, agency-level reported offense counts; *FBI preliminary reported-offense trends, Jan-Jun 2026; Major Cities Chiefs Association Mid-Year 2026 survey; Niskanen Center (May 2026); Congressional Research Service; U.S. Marshals Service; U.S. Attorney's Offices for the District of Columbia and the Western District of Tennessee; White House and Louisiana National Guard task-force reporting; Metropolitan, Memphis, Dallas & New Orleans Police Departments.