

Staff Memorandum 2023-03

Violent Crime Data for Early 2023

This memorandum is to update Committee members on recent data about violent crime in California.¹

Newly-released data compiled by the Major Cities Chiefs Association, an international association of police executives, show that violent crime has declined across California in the first three months of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. The data does not include information on property crimes.

The drop in violent crime is greater in California than in the other cities across the United States surveyed by the Major Cities Chiefs.

The data, which consists of violent offenses reported to law enforcement, cover the eight most populous California cities, as well as jurisdictions patrolled by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. For this group of cities in California, overall violent crime is down 7% in the first three months of 2023 compared to the first three months of 2022. This decline includes a nearly 20% drop in murders, a 14% drop in reported rapes, and a 10% drop in reported robberies. Reported aggravated assaults are also down 4%.

California performed better in every category of violent crime than cities outside of California, which saw overall violent crime drop only 4% and murders 6%.

Los Angeles County has three law enforcement agencies in the data, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and the Long Beach Police Department. Taken as a group, overall violent crime declined by 7% in the Los Angeles County jurisdictions. Every category of violent crime saw a decline, with murders dropping 23%, reported robberies dropping 14%, reported rapes dropping 7%, and reported aggravated assaults dropping 2%.

Violent crime dropped in every California jurisdiction surveyed by the Major Cities Chiefs, except Long Beach — which saw a 13% increase in violent crime, driven by a 41% increase in reported aggravated assaults — and San Francisco, which saw a 6% increase in violent crime, which was driven by a 17% increase in reported robberies and a 5% increase in reported aggravated assaults.

¹ Though statewide crime statistics are generally not available from the California Department of Justice until the summer following the relevant calendar year, Committee staff has provided earlier updates on crime statistics using available information. See, e.g., Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, *2022 Annual Report*, 8 (December 2022); Presentation on Crime Statistics by Professor Steven Raphael to Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, June 23, 2021 (available on Committee website).

Year-to-date violent crime statistics January–March, 2023 vs. 2022

Agency	All violent crime	Homicides	Homicide percent change	Rapes	Rape percent change	Robberies	Robbery percent change	Aggravated assaults	Aggravated assault percent change
Fresno PD	-11.73%	-8	-66.67%	-9	-18.37%	-44	-16.73%	-28	-6.44%
Long Beach PD	+13.25%	-8	-57.14%	0	0%	-51	-23.94%	+141	+41.35%
Los Angeles PD	-8.97%	-17	-19.77%	-49	-9.51%	-407	-17.30%	-217	-4.58%
Los Angeles Sheriff	-2.88%	-10	-19.61%	-7	-3.50%	-42	-4.60%	-45	-1.84%
Oakland PD	-5.24%	-5	-16.67%	8	+14.04%	-39	-5.65%	-44	-5.87%
Sacramento PD	-26.31%	-3	-27.27%	-37	-50.68%	-33	-11.15%	-238	-29.68%
San Diego PD	-9.33%	+1	+9.09%	-47	-32.64%	-54	-16.51%	-37	-3.75%
San Francisco PD	+5.56%	+2	+22.22%	-56	-54.37%	+95	+16.99%	+27	+4.89%
San Jose PD	-1.61%	+4	+100%	+2	+0.91%	-15	-4.15%	-12	-1.77%
CA cities combined	-6.63%	-44	-19.30%	-195	-13.81%	-589	-9.90%	-453	-3.86%
<i>LA County jurisdictions</i>	-5.97%	-35	-23.18%	-56	-7.31%	-500	-14.37%	-121	-1.61%
<i>Non-CA Cities</i>	-4.18%	-116	-6.30%	-498	-7.30%	-1740	-7.41%	-1,569	-2.54%

Notes: Author's calculation based on Major Cities Chiefs Association, *Violent Crime Survey – National Totals, First Quarter Comparison, January 1 to March 31, 2023, and 2022*, May 15, 2023. LA County jurisdictions are Long Beach PD, Los Angeles PD, and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Non-CA cities are the 61 non-California U.S. cities included in the Major Cities Chiefs Association survey.

Note that these crime reports are preliminary and may differ from the final numbers reported by each jurisdiction. In addition, year-to-date comparisons should be treated with caution as early data may not reflect overall trends for the year.²

Respectfully submitted,

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² See, e.g., Jeff Asher, *How Early Is Too Early For YTD Crime Stats?*, Jeff-alytics, March 16, 2023.