

Staff Memorandum 2023-13

Violent Crime Data through Third Quarter 2023

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

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

The data, which consists of violent offenses reported to law enforcement, cover seven of the most populous California cities, as well as jurisdictions patrolled by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.² For this group of cities in California, overall violent crime is down 3% in the first nine months of 2023 compared to the first nine months of 2022.

While violent crime declined in cities outside California by a slightly larger percentage (3.9% compared to 3.2% in California), California saw greater percentage drops in homicides (16% compared to 10% outside of California) and rapes (10% compared to 7% outside of California) than cities outside California, and an almost equal fall in aggravated assaults (3.3% in California and 3.6% outside of California). Robberies declined 1% in the California cities and 3% in the cities outside of California.

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 4% in the Los Angeles County jurisdictions. Every category of violent crime saw a decline, with murders dropping 16%, reported robberies dropping 7%, reported rapes dropping 6%, and reported aggravated assaults dropping 3%.

Violent crime dropped in every California jurisdiction surveyed by the Major Cities Chiefs, except Long Beach — which saw a 23% increase in violent crime, driven by a 39% increase in reported aggravated assaults — and Oakland, which saw a 22% increase in violent crime, including a 35% increase in robberies and a 13% increase in 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., Staff Memorandum 2023-09; Presentation on Crime Statistics by Professor Steven Raphael to Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, June 23, 2021 (available on Committee website).

² San Jose is also included in the data but excluded from this analysis because it only reported information for the six months of 2023.

Year-to-date violent crime statistics January–September, 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	-8.54%	-19	-41.30%	+8	+3.05%	-69	-8.98%	-135	-9.36%
Long Beach PD	+22.88%	-13	-43.33%	+22	+13.17%	-2	-0.31%	+448	+38.96%
Los Angeles PD	-5.65%	-66	-21.29%	-131	-8.28%	-677	-9.53%	-517	-3.31%
Los Angeles Sheriff	-5.81%	0	0.00%	-27	-4.23%	-109	-3.62%	-557	-6.85%
Oakland PD	+21.90%	+1	+1.04%	+1	+0.70%	+724	+34.57%	+316	+13.04%
Sacramento PD	-18.16%	-18	-40.00%	-63	-40.13%	-59	-6.19%	-519	-20.99%
San Diego PD	-1.69%	-4	-10.00%	-49	-12.50%	-89	-9.11%	+64	+2.00%
San Francisco PD	-7.09%	0	0.00%	-120	-46.69%	+127	+7.08%	-297	-14.86%
CA cities combined	-3.15%	-119	-15.80%	-359	-9.97%	-154	-0.89%	-1197	-3.28%
<i>LA County jurisdictions</i>	-4.23%	-79	-16.26%	-136	-5.70%	-788	-7.32%	-626	-2.51%
Non-CA Cities	-3.85%	-590	-10.06%	-1343	-7.11%	-1844	-2.99%	-6521	-3.60%

Notes: Author's calculation based on Major Cities Chiefs Association, *Violent Crime Survey – National Totals, Comparison, January 1 to September 30, 2023, and 2022*, November 5, 2023. San Jose excluded from analysis because it did not report data past June 2023. LA County jurisdictions are Long Beach PD, Los Angeles PD, and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Non-CA cities are the 60 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 final trends.³

Respectfully submitted,

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³ See, e.g., Jeff Asher, *How Early Is Too Early For YTD Crime Stats?*, Jeff-alytics, March 16, 2023.