

Staff Memorandum 2024-03

Violent Crime Data for 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 declined across many parts of California in 2023 compared to 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 was down less than 1% (specifically, 0.56%) in 2023 compared to 2022.

While violent crime declined in cities outside California by a larger percentage (3.14% compared to 0.56% in California), California saw a greater percentage drop in reported rapes than cities outside of California — 11.08% in California compared to 7.77% to cities outside 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 less than 1% (specifically, 0.85%) in the Los Angeles County jurisdictions. Every category of violent crime except aggravated assault saw a decline, with murders dropping 8%, reported robberies dropping 1%, and reported rapes dropping 6%. Reported aggravated assaults were essentially flat, with 2 more aggravated assaults in 2023 than in 2022.

Oakland saw the largest increase in reported violent crimes of the cities surveyed, with an overall 21% increase in violent crime, including a 38% increase in robberies and a 10% increase in aggravated assaults. With Oakland excluded from the data, violent crime dropped 2.52%.

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 first six months of 2023.

Year-to-date violent crime statistics 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	-8.40%	-25	-41.67%	-31	-14.98%	-82	-8.01%	-129	-6.83%
Long Beach PD	+21.78%	-10	-27.78%	-1	-0.43%	+81	+9.85%	+517	+32.21%
Los Angeles PD	-2.46%	-55	-14.10%	-163	-7.75%	-415	-4.55%	-149	-0.74%
Los Angeles Sheriff	-1.48%	+17	+8.72%	-21	-2.57%	+137	+3.42%	-366	-3.42%
Oakland PD	+21.43%	+4	+3.28%	+6	+3.35%	+1010	+37.69%	+309	+9.59%
Sacramento PD	-18.37%	-16	-29.63%	-54	-29.35%	-42	-3.38%	-762	-23.27%
San Diego PD	+0.75%	-6	-11.76%	-104	-23.37%	-83	-6.47%	+238	+5.60%
San Francisco PD	-4.26%	-2	-3.57%	-128	-41.56%	+185	+7.80%	-282	-10.89%
CA cities combined	-0.56%	-93	-9.65%	-496	-11.08%	+791	+3.51%	-624	-1.31%
<i>LA County jurisdictions</i>	-0.85%	-48	-7.73%	-185	-5.87%	-197	-1.41	+2	+0.01%
Non-CA Cities	-3.14%	-815	-10.57%	-2032	-7.77%	-886	-1.07%	-7414	-3.10%

Notes: Author's calculation based on Major Cities Chiefs Association, *Violent Crime Survey – National Totals, Year End Comparison, January 1 to December 31, 2023, and 2022, January 29, 2024*. 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.

These crime reports are preliminary and may differ from the final numbers reported by each jurisdiction.

In addition on March 18, 2024, the FBI released preliminary 2023 crime data from more than 40 large cities in California and staff plans to provide analysis of this data soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Nosewicz
Legal Director