

Staff Memorandum 2024-11

Violent Crime Data for Midyear 2024

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 six months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. The data does not include information on property crimes.²

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 3.3% in the first six months of 2024 compared to the first six months of 2023.³

While violent crime declined in cities outside California by a larger percentage (6.7% compared to 3.3% in California), California saw greater percentage drop in reported rapes (a 16% decrease in California compared to 8% outside of California). Comparison of other offenses are shown in the below table.

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 a percentage point (.22%) in the Los Angeles County jurisdictions. Every category of violent crime saw a decline except robbery, with murders dropping 2.3%, reported rapes dropping 9%, and reported aggravated assaults dropping 4%. Report robberies increased 11%.

Violent crime dropped in every California jurisdiction surveyed by the Major Cities Chiefs, except Long Beach — which saw a 5% increase in violent crime, driven by a 36% increase in reported robberies — and the areas patrolled by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, which was essentially flat with a .01% increase.

¹ Though statewide crime data are generally not available from the California Department of Justice until the summer following the relevant calendar year, Committee staff regularly provides earlier updates on crime statistics. See, e.g., Staff Memorandum 2024-07.

² The FBI has also begun releasing extensive estimated crime data, and staff reports on that data when available. See Staff Memorandum 2024-07. But the FBI data has not been updated since the last staff memorandum on crime statistics, so the Major Cities Chiefs data is presented here.

³ Data in some non-California jurisdictions may be unreliable — for example, Columbus, Ohio, saw an overall 40% decline in violent crime — but is included in the non-Californai sample.

Year-to-date violent crime statistics January–June, 2024 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	-0.63%	-5	-26.32%	+1	+1.11%	-23	-5.04%	+18	+2.10%
Long Beach PD	+4.97%	+7	+58.33%	+17	+7.08%	+140	+35.35%	-79	-7.44%
Los Angeles PD	-0.93%	0	0.00%	-141	-14.23%	+358	+8.82%	-355	-3.70%
Los Angeles Sheriff	+0.01%	-13	-14.29%	-15	-3.94%	+196	+10.25%	-167	-3.34%
Oakland PD	-10.33%	-5	-9.62%	-7	-7.37%	-231	-14.60%	-102	-6.34%
Sacramento PD	-13.68%	-1	-4.76%	-19	-26.39%	-59	-10.03%	-213	-14.65%
San Diego PD	-3.66%	-16	-47.06%	-32	-17.49%	-34	-5.70%	-25	-1.18%
San Francisco PD	-11.28%	-8	-32.00%	-11	-11.83%	-220	-16.77%	-59	-4.87%
San Jose PD	-8.25%	+2	+15.38%	-189	-54.94%	-23	-4.52%	+29	+2.19%
CA cities combined	-3.33%	-39	-9.24%	-396	-15.91%	+104	+0.91%	-953	-3.93%
<i>LA County jurisdictions</i>	-0.22%	-6	-2.33%	-139	-8.62%	+694	+10.90%	-601	-3.83%
Non-CA Cities	-6.69%	-620	-18.45%	-1012	-8.45%	-3058	-8.24%	-6698	-5.69%

Notes: Author's calculation based on Major Cities Chiefs Association, *Violent Crime Survey – National Totals, Midyear Comparison, January 1 to June 30, 2024, and 2023*, August 8, 2024. 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. San Jose data is through May only.

Note that these crime reports are preliminary and may differ from final numbers. And year-to-date comparisons this early in the year may not reflect final trends.⁴

Respectfully submitted,

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⁴ See, e.g., Jeff Asher, *The FBI's Data Shows A Massive Decline in Crime in Q1 2024, But Is It Accurate?*, Jeff-alytics, June 10, 2024.