Crime Rate by City in the U.S. – 2025 Overview

Understanding crime rates across U.S. cities is crucial for gauging the safety and freedom of our communities. In recent years, Americans have become increasingly concerned about crime, even as overall trends show a long-term decline [1] [2]. As of 2025, the latest data offers a nuanced picture: nationally, violent crime **decreased** slightly in 2023 (about a 3% drop from 2022) while property crime **rose** for the first time in decades (up ~7% in 2022) [3] [4]. This article examines the latest crime statistics, highlights differences among major U.S. cities (especially those with populations over 100,000), and compares American crime rates with those in Europe. We approach this topic from our Freedom For All Americans perspective – emphasizing justice, inclusivity, and hope for safer communities free from fear.

National Crime Trends (2023 Data)

Recent FBI data suggest that the United States has seen **moderating crime rates**. In 2022, there were approximately **380.7 violent crimes per 100,000 people** nationwide, far lower than the early 1990s peak but roughly steady in the past decade [5] [6]. By 2023, preliminary figures show a further **3% drop in violent crime** overall [3]. Notably, **homicides** – which spiked in 2020 – fell substantially (an **11.6% decrease in 2023** alone) [7] [8]. This is an encouraging sign that the pandemic-era surge in lethal violence is receding. Other serious offenses like rape and aggravated assault also declined in 2023 [9]. However, **robberies** ticked up slightly in recent data, and **property crimes** have been on the rise: 2022 saw a **6.7% increase in property crime** nationally, averaging about **1,954 property crimes per 100,000 people** [5] [4]. By 2023, motor vehicle theft in particular continued to climb (up 11% in the latest reports) [10].

These national averages mask considerable variation by region and city size. Overall, property crimes like theft are **far more common** than violent crimes, accounting for the bulk of incidents [5]. For example, larceny (theft without violence) alone made up roughly 60% of all reported crimes in 2022 [11]. The good news is that both violent and property crime rates remain **dramatically lower than the highs of the 1990s** – FBI data shows violent crime nationally is down about 49% since 1993 [1]. Americans today are safer on average than 30 years ago, even if **public perception** often suggests otherwise [2]. Our nation's challenge now is to **continue this progress** while addressing the specific places and communities still afflicted by high crime.

Crime Rates in Major U.S. Cities (>100,000 Population)

Crime in the United States is **not uniform** – it varies widely from city to city. Among cities with over 100,000 residents, some face significantly higher crime rates than others. The FBI's 2023 data (covering 236 large cities) reveals that **Memphis, Tennessee** currently has one of the highest violent crime rates in the nation, at around **2,572 violent crimes per 100,000 people** [12]. Following Memphis are cities like **Detroit, Michigan** (~2,005 per 100k) and **Little Rock, Arkansas** (~1,815 per 100k) [12]. By contrast, many communities enjoy very low crime – for instance, **Carmel, Indiana** reported only **59 violent crimes per 100,000** residents, one of the lowest rates among cities over 100k [13]. These stark differences mean a person's likelihood of encountering crime can depend heavily on where they live.

To put these numbers in perspective, the **national violent crime rate** in 2023 is roughly in the high 300s per 100,000 people [14] [3] . That means a city like Memphis has about **7 times** the national average rate of violent crime, while Carmel has a tiny fraction of it. Another analysis of FBI data (including some mid-sized cities) found **Oakland, California** with an even higher violent crime rate – approximately **3,640 per 100,000** in 2023 [15] – though data reporting differences mean Oakland may not appear in all rankings. The takeaway is that **urban crime is highly localized**: certain cities and neighborhoods bear a far greater burden of violence.

Major cities often have moderate crime rates relative to these extremes. For example, **New York City**, the nation's largest metropolis, had a 2022 homicide rate of about **5.3 per 100,000**, lower than the U.S. average (6.3) and vastly below the rates in some smaller cities like **New Orleans (71.9)** or **St. Louis (69.8)** [16] . In 2023, NYC's overall violent crime rate was reported around 684 per 100,000 [17] – higher than the national figure, but much safer than places like Memphis or Detroit. Other large cities such as **Los Angeles and Chicago** were **missing from the 2023 FBI dataset** due to reporting gaps [18] . But historically, their crime rates have been in the middle of the pack for big cities (e.g. Chicago has high violence in some areas but not citywide worst; Los Angeles's violent crime rate is typically lower than many smaller high-crime cities). Meanwhile, **Baltimore, Maryland** recently surpassed Detroit as the **deadliest large city** (among those over 500,000 people), posting the highest per-capita murder and robbery rates in its category [19] . This indicates that even among major cities, specific local factors (like poverty, gang activity, policing strategy) can drive divergent outcomes.

To illustrate the range of crime rates, here are **some U.S. cities over 100,000 and their recent violent crime rates** (per 100,000 residents):

- **Memphis, TN:** ~2,572 (highest among large cities) [12]
- **Detroit, MI:** ~2,005 [13]
- **Little Rock, AR:** ~1,815 [13]
- **Oakland, CA:** ~3,641 (one analysis's finding for 2023, exceptionally high) [15]
- **Baltimore, MD:** ~1,572 (noted for highest big-city murder rate) [20]
- **New York, NY:** ~684 (much lower than the above, homicide ~5.3) [16]
- **Phoenix, AZ:** ~ **[data]** (for example, Phoenix often falls near the national average; exact 2023 data not cited here)
- **Seattle, WA:** ~612 (Seattle's violent rate is relatively modest, but see property crime below)
- **Carmel, IN:** ~59 (one of the lowest) [13]

(Note: Figures are approximate; they come from FBI 2023 reports and city/state sources. Some cities' data were incomplete or not reported. For instance, Los Angeles and Chicago are not listed in 2023 FBI crime rate tables due to data gaps [18] .)

As we can see, **dozens of U.S. cities over 100k population have violent crime rates above 1000 per 100,000** (which is quite high), while many others are below 100. There are **236 cities of this size in the FBI's report** for 2023 [21] , and crime rankings can spark debate – but broadly, **Southern and Midwestern cities** (like Memphis, Detroit, Birmingham, St. Louis) often top the violent crime lists, whereas many **suburban cities** (often in the Northeast or West) rank as safest. We encourage readers to look at their own city's statistics in context of these national patterns. A community's safety is influenced by complex factors: economic conditions, social services, policing practices, and more. A key part of securing freedom and

justice is **learning from lower-crime communities** and applying those lessons to places still struggling with violence.

Property Crime: A Different Picture

It's important to highlight that **property crime** (burglary, theft, car theft) shows a different city-by-city pattern than violent crime. Some cities that are relatively safe from violence still suffer high rates of property offenses. For example, **Seattle, WA and San Francisco, CA** have been notorious for surges in property crime – in 2022, San Francisco led the nation in larceny (theft), and Seattle in burglary rates among large cities [22] . These crimes of opportunity have been rising in certain West Coast cities, partly due to enforcement and economic factors. Nationwide, **Memphis** again tops the charts in 2023 with about **8,463 property crimes per 100,000 people** – an extraordinarily high level of theft and burglary [23] . It's followed by **St. Louis, MO (6,234)** and **Denver, CO (5,783)** in property crime rates [23] . By contrast, some communities have very little property crime: **Meridian, Idaho** had only **494 per 100,000** in 2023 [23] , and many small cities report similarly low theft rates.

The disparity in property crime reminds us that not all crime is violent. **Big cities known for pickpocketing or car break-ins** might feel unsafe in a day-to-day nuisance sense, even if their rates of assault or murder are low. Conversely, a city might have a high murder rate but relatively lower property crime (often due to targeted violence in specific areas, rather than widespread theft). Both kinds of crime affect people's sense of security. As a society that values freedom, we believe people should be free **both from violence and from the constant fear of theft**. High property crime can erode quality of life, just as violent crime does, and addressing it requires community engagement and smart policing. Encouragingly, **property crime had been declining for decades** before its recent uptick, and even after rising, the national property crime rate in 2022 was roughly **1,954 per 100,000** – nearly half what it was thirty years ago [1] [24] . With renewed focus, cities can hopefully curb the theft wave while continuing to keep violent crime in check.

U.S. vs. Europe: An International Comparison

When examining crime rates, it's useful to compare the U.S. with other parts of the world, especially other developed regions. The United States has a **higher rate of violent crime, particularly homicide, than most of Western Europe**. For example, the intentional homicide rate (murders per 100,000 people) in the U.S. was about **5.76** in 2023 [25] . In contrast, here are homicide rates for several European countries (latest available data):

- **United Kingdom:** ~**1.1** per 100,000 (England & Wales, 2021) [26]
- **Germany:** ~**0.8** per 100,000 (2022) [27]
- **France:** ~**1.3** per 100,000 (2023) [28]
- **Spain:** ~**0.7** per 100,000 (2023) [29]
- **Italy:** ~**0.5** per 100,000 (2022) [30]
- **Russia:** ~**6.8** per 100,000 (2021) [31]

These figures show that **most Western European nations experience far fewer murders per capita** than the United States – often only one-tenth to one-eighth of the U.S. rate. Countries like Italy and Spain have under 1 homicide per 100k people, which is a testament to various factors (such as stricter gun laws, robust social safety nets, and different policing methods). The **UK and France** have slightly higher rates around 1+,

but still only about 20% of the U.S. level [26] [28] . **Germany** consistently has one of the lowest violent crime rates for a large country, under 1 per 100k [27] .

On the other hand, **Russia's** homicide rate is comparable to or even higher than the U.S., at roughly 6–7 per 100k [31] . This reminds us that high violence is not uniquely American – it can occur in any society facing economic upheaval, organized crime, or governance challenges. Eastern Europe and parts of Latin America historically have higher violence than Western Europe, though still generally below the most violent regions in the world.

If we compare **cities**, American cities tend to have more gun violence than European cities of similar size. A city like **London (UK)** or **Berlin (Germany)** typically has only a few dozen homicides a year, translating to a **homicide rate near 1 per 100k**, whereas a U.S. city of comparable population (for instance, Philadelphia or Houston) might have a rate several times higher. For example, New York City's homicide rate ~5 is considered low by U.S. standards but is still higher than most European capitals [16] . Meanwhile, **cities in the UK** often deal with crimes like assault or knife attacks, but the absence of widespread firearms means fewer deaths. **European crime** often manifests in different ways (e.g., property crimes, cybercrime, or concentrated gang-related violence in specific suburbs) but rarely the level of lethal violence seen in some U.S. cities.

Why the difference? There are many theories. **Gun prevalence** is a major factor often cited – the U.S. has far more firearms per capita and a higher rate of gun homicides than any other high-income country [32] . Social safety nets, policing practices, and cultural factors (like inequality and historical crime trends) also play roles. It's notable that **America's overall crime rate (excluding homicide)** is not dramatically higher than Europe's – for instance, theft rates in the U.S. and UK can be of similar magnitude. But when it comes to **violent crime and murder**, the U.S. stands out among Western nations. This international context is important: it shows that **lower crime is achievable**, and it challenges us in the U.S. to strive for solutions that have worked elsewhere while respecting our own freedoms and values.

Hate Crimes and the Impact on Freedom

A discussion of crime and freedom in 2025 must also address **hate crimes** – offenses motivated by bias against someone's identity. These crimes strike at the heart of our values of equality and inclusion, and they remain a serious issue. According to FBI data, there were **11,862 criminal incidents in 2023** that law enforcement identified as **motivated by bias** (hate crimes) [33] . These included **13,829 offenses** targeting victims for their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or gender identity [34] . While the total reported hate crime incidents *decreased slightly* (down 0.6% from 2022) [35] , the number is still unacceptably high. In practice, this means thousands of Americans – often people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, religious minorities, or other marginalized groups – faced harassment, assault or worse **simply for who they are**.

For a website like ours that **supports the LGBTQ+ community and liberal values**, these statistics hit home. We believe that **true freedom requires not just low crime in general, but equal safety for everyone**. A city isn't truly safe if any group lives in fear of being targeted for their identity. The good news is that many communities are working proactively to combat hate crimes through education, hate crime task forces, and stronger community-police relationships. The slight decline in reported bias incidents in 2023 is encouraging [35] , but we know there's more work to be done to spread understanding and love. As we talk

about crime rates by city, we must remember that **justice is not only about numbers** – it's about ensuring *all* citizens, regardless of background, can walk their streets without fear.

Towards a Safer, More Just Future

The data on crime rates by city in the U.S. paints a complex picture as we head further into the 2020s. Overall, America is safer than in past decades, but **certain cities and neighborhoods face chronic high crime** that demands attention. Addressing these disparities is essential for freedom: people cannot fully enjoy their rights and liberties if they are living under the shadow of violence. The comparisons with Europe show that lower violent crime is an achievable goal for a modern, developed society [27] [28] . Achieving that in the U.S. will likely require a mix of smart policy – from sensible gun safety measures to community investment, mental health services, and fair policing reforms that build trust.

It is also heartening to note that recent trends (up to 2023) are moving in the right direction for violent crime [7] . Cities like New York have maintained relatively low homicide rates, and even historically violent cities saw murders drop in 2023. Community-led initiatives, such as violence interruption programs and youth outreach, are making a difference at the local level. Technology and data-driven policing (when used judiciously and without bias) offer new ways to prevent crime. And importantly, citizens are raising their voices for **criminal justice reform** – calling for approaches that reduce crime while also ending racial disparities and excessive use of force. All these efforts align with our vision of freedom and justice for all.

In our fight to reduce crime, **we must not give in to fear or despair**. The fact that most Americans *perceive* crime as worsening even when it's down long-term [2] suggests a need for better communication and community engagement. Fear can be corrosive to freedom – it can lead to division, prejudice, and reactionary policies. Instead, we advocate for **hope and solidarity**. Every statistic represents real people's lives, and even one life lost to violence is too many. Yet, we have seen how love and unity in communities can overcome even the toughest challenges. Neighbors looking out for each other, police working as partners with the communities they serve, local leaders focusing on education and opportunity – these are the ingredients of safer cities.

At Freedom For All Americans, **we don't love crime – we love freedom, justice, and each other**. Our commitment is to continue supporting policies and initiatives that make our cities safer **for everyone**, regardless of who you are or whom you love. The goal is a country where **no city is left behind** in the progress toward peace and security. By learning from data, from each other, and from global examples, we can ensure that the trend of the 2020s and beyond is one of **falling crime and rising unity**. A more **peaceful America** is a more free America – and that's a future we can all work toward together.

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