

CRIME

This brief will examine crime within the U.S. through different perspectives because there is no single lens that we can use to fully appreciate whether crime is on the upswing or not. We will examine the data: whether immigration impacts the increase in crime; the availability of guns; and the interaction of perception versus reality.

Immigration (Source: Stanford Institute for Economic Research, March 2024 Revised)

The metric used by Stanford is the incarceration data. The study found that the likelihood of an immigrant be incarcerated is **60 percent lower** as compared to both White and Black Americans born in the U.S.

Immigrants are more likely to be unemployed, unmarried, and in poor health. However, immigrants have a tendency to take on manual jobs which have been stable. Immigrants are, among other characteristics, highly adaptable and resilient.

Guns (Source: Violence Policy Center, 2022)

The highest rates of overall gun death in the U.S. are those states with weak gun violence prevention laws and a higher rate of gun ownership, The states with the lowest overall gun

States with the Five <i>Highest</i> Overall Gun Death Rates				States with the Five <i>Lowest</i> Overall Gun Death Rates			
Rank	State	Household Gun Ownership	Gun Death Rate per 100,000	Rank	State	Household Gun Ownership	Gun Death Rate per 100,000
1	Mississippi	50.9 percent	27.57	50	Hawaii	10.4 percent	3.55
2	Wyoming	68.8 percent	26.45	49	Massachusetts	12.5 percent	3.89
3	Louisiana	46.6 percent	25.47	48	New Jersey	15.2 percent	4.99
4	Alaska	54.6 percent	23.93	47	Rhode Island	15.0 percent	5.11
5 (tie)	Missouri	42.2 percent	23.18	46	New York	20.5 percent	5.44
5 (tie)	Alabama	48.3 percent	23.18				

death rates have the strongest gun violence laws and a lower rate of gun ownership.

Perception Versus Reality (Source: Christian Science Monitor, 2024)

According to a Gallup poll in November 2023, approximately 77 percent of the respondents say they believe there is more crime in 2023 as compared to 2020. The data does not support this belief. Nearly 2 out of 3 Americans say crime in the country is extremely or very serious. It is important to identify the factors that may be driving crime in local communities and what law enforcement and community interventions may be playing in the perception security or lack thereof.

Homicide Rates in Major Cities are Decreasing (2023)

- Los Angeles: crime rate has decreased by 15.5%
- San Antonio: crime rate has decreased by 35.6%
- Oklahoma City: crime rate has decreased by 20%
- Fort Worth: crime rate has decreased by 19%
- Houston: crime rate has decreased by 20.6%
- Chicago: crime rate has decreased by 13%
- Indianapolis: crime rate has decreased by 19%
- Philadelphia: crime rate has decreased by 24.9%
- New York City: crime rate has decreased by 11.9%

...Yet new data hints at a historic drop in crime: (Preliminary FBI data for the first three-quarters of 2023 shows a major reduction in crime in every category except auto theft)

- All Violent Crime has decreased by 8.2%
- Homicide has decreased by 15.6%
- Rape has decreased by 14.8%
- Robbery has decreased by 9.4%
- Aggravated Assault has decreased by 6.8%
- All Property crime has decreased by 6.3%
- Burglary has decreased by 11.7%
- Larceny/Theft has decreased by 8.5%
- Arson has decreased by 11.8%
- Motor Vehicle Theft has increased by 10.1%