

# **Implementation of the Department of Justice's Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime**

**January 16, 2025**

**The Violent Crime Reduction Steering Committee**

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## INTRODUCTION

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*“Since the start of this administration, this Department has been laser-focused on targeting the most significant drivers of violent crime — with gun violence at the top of that list.*

*Our strategy is data-driven and focuses on doing what we do best: acting as a force multiplier with our state and local law enforcement partners — who are on the front lines of the fight against violent crime — and deploying technology and other cutting-edge tools to go after the individuals most responsible for crime in our communities.*

*We are seeing returns on our efforts. After a peak during the pandemic, violent crime is on a downward trajectory — including double-digit drops in homicide rates across many major cities.” — [Deputy Attorney General Monaco, January 2024](#)*

In 2021, the country faced an uptick in violent crime that started during the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after taking office, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland [announced](#) that Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco would be issuing and implementing a [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#). Recognizing that every jurisdiction — large, small, rural, urban — faces unique challenges that cannot be addressed by a one-size-fits-all policy — the strategy was data-driven and deployed federal resources, including cutting-edge tools, in the most effective way: to act as a force multiplier for state and local law enforcement on the front lines of the fight against violent crime.

And the progress since then has been unmistakable. After peaking during the pandemic, violent crime [began to trend significantly downwards in 2023](#), including double-digit drops in homicide rates across many major cities. 2023 had one of the lowest violent crime rates in the past half-century and [preliminary data for 85 major cities in 2024](#) shows that violent crime has continued to decline considerably, including a 17.5% decline in murder, 7.1% decrease in rape, 3.6% decrease in aggravated assault, and 7.8% decline in robbery over the first three quarters of the year.

There is no single cause for the declining violent crime rate, just as there was no single cause for the increase that preceded it. But the work of law enforcement across the country — a partnership between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies — has no doubt played a leading role. This report summarizes the contributions that the Department made in that all-of-government effort.

Since it was first announced in 2021, the Department’s strategy was clear: focus on the most significant drivers of violent crime — including gun violence and repeat offenders — and measure the results of these efforts by impact, through actual decreases in violent crime. The

strategy prioritized locally designed strategies, building trust in communities, and investing in community-based prevention and intervention programs.

Specifically, the Department’s strategy recognized that “violent crime is not a problem that can be solved by law enforcement alone” and that any efforts to reduce violent crime must be rooted in the following, key principles:

1. Setting strategic enforcement priorities.
2. Fostering trust and building legitimacy in the communities we serve.
3. Investing in community-based prevention and intervention programs.
4. Measuring the results of our efforts.

To ensure the [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#) was successfully implemented, Deputy Attorney General Monaco established the Violent Crime Reduction Steering Committee to increase coordination between components and leaderships, to make recommendations on the Department’s efforts to reduce violent crime, and to ensure that the Department effectively and appropriately implements the strategy. The Violent Crime Reduction Steering Committee, composed of leadership and representatives from across the Department and most recently chaired by Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General Marshall Miller, met regularly to ensure continued collaboration; discuss the status of Department’s implementation of the [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#) and the significant efforts it has taken to combat violent crime; and to provide recommendations to Department leadership regarding additional policy and enforcement strategies.

The Steering Committee shared the impact of these efforts in reports from its convenings on [May 28, 2024](#), [September 5, 2024](#), and [December 9, 2024](#), and included the most up-to-date violent crime statistics.

This report details the Department’s successful implementation of its comprehensive strategy to drive down violent crime.

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## SETTING STRATEGIC ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES

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From the beginning of this Administration, the Department has focused on targeting the most significant drivers of violent crime. The Department recognizes that different communities have different drivers of violent crime—“whether it is gun violence, domestic violence, criminal organizations, narcotics trafficking, or other forces”—there is no one-size-fits-all approach [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#).

Specifically, the Department has focused its resources on supporting data-driven, city-specific anti-crime initiatives; cracking down on illegal firearms trafficking; using technology to link crime scene evidence to the most violent trigger-pullers; and keeping the most dangerous and lethal weapons away from criminals.

### **1. Nationwide Enforcement Efforts**

#### *a. Opening New Crime Gun Intelligence Centers*

Since 2021, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Department have opened more than 60 new Crime Gun Intelligence Centers (CGICs) and enhanced existing facilities, contributing to the decline in violent crime in these cities. CGICs are centralized law enforcement hubs that focus exclusively on investigating and preventing gun violence in local communities. They use cutting-edge technologies, including ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and eTrace systems, to rapidly develop and pursue investigative leads. In support of these efforts, OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance, working in partnership with ATF, has invested over \$20 million in the Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration (CGIC) Initiative to help state and local governments reduce violent crime and the illegal use of firearms by enabling them to integrate with their local ATF CGICs.

Among other initiatives, ATF opened new CGIC facilities in Cleveland and Chicago, and the National Crime Gun Intelligence Center of Excellence at Wichita State University. As Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco stated in the opening of the Chicago CGIC: "We are putting agents, cops, detectives, deputies, and prosecutors, all from different agencies across law enforcement, in one room working together. Each morning, they are reviewing key evidence from the previous night's shootings, using real-time, state of the art intelligence. It is a true game changer." Currently there are 26 ATF CGIC Locations; 10 ATF and HIDTA Joint CGICs, 12 Joint ATF and LE Partner CGICs, and 32 additional Consortium CGICs jointly run by ATF and multiple other partners. And, as of the end of 2023, there were 6.5 million entries of ballistic evidence in NIBIN, which generated over 1,060,000 investigative leads provided to ATF's federal, state, local, Tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement partners.

*b. Combating Emerging Firearms Threats*

The Department and ATF took several critical steps to confront the newest and most sophisticated firearm threats, such as machine gun conversion devices (MCDs) and firearm trafficking networks. Notable accomplishments include efforts on:

- *MCDs.* On September 6, 2024, ATF and the Department hosted their first-ever federal convening focused on combating the production of unlawful MCDs, which convert semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic machineguns. The conference engaged the 3D printing industry, members of academia, and law enforcement partners. The Department also inaugurated a standing committee dedicated to investigating and implementing best practices to stop the proliferation of MCDs.
- *ATF's Emerging Threats Center.* In January 2023, the Emerging Threats Center (ETC) was established due to the proliferation of Privately Made Firearms, MCDs, silencers, and other firearms related technology posing a substantial risk to public safety and the law enforcement community. Since January 2023, the ETC has initiated / referred approximately eighty (80) cases to the field mainly involving MCDs and NFA related items.
- *ATF's Firearms Trafficking Strike Forces.* In June 2021, as part of the DOJ's Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Gun Violence (CSCGV), the ATF launched eight firearms trafficking strike forces to combat the flow of illegal firearms into major metropolitan areas, including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San

Francisco, Boston, Baltimore, Newark, and Washington, D.C. Moreover, on April 2, 2024, ATF announced the establishment of the National Firearms Trafficking Center (NFTC). The NFTC integrates ATF's intelligence, operations, and partnerships in a centralized, whole-of-government center.

c. *Apprehending the Most Violent Fugitives*

In 2022, the Department launched Operation North Star, a violence reduction effort focused on apprehending fugitives connected to the most serious crimes. Through Operation North Star, the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) identifies locations with a significant increase in homicides and shootings and then priorities and focuses its resources on targeting fugitives within those cities that have used firearms in the commission of their crimes or with other significant risk factors for violence, allowing USMS to maximize its impact. And, to date, Operation North Star has resulted in the arrest of more than 8,000 violent fugitives nationwide.

Specifically, the first four phases of Operation North Star produced the following results:

Operation North Star		
Phase 1-4 Statistics		
PHASE	YEAR OF OPERATION	VIOLENT FUGITIVES ARRESTED
PHASE 1 (10 LOCATIONS)	2022	1,501
PHASE 2 (10 LOCATIONS)	2023	833
PHASE 3 (20 LOCATIONS)	2023	4,455
PHASE 4 (10 LOCATIONS)	2024	3,421

2. **Data-Driven, City Specific Anti-Crime Initiatives**

a. *Violent Crime Initiative*

On September 29, 2022, the Department [announced](#) the launch of the Houston Violent Crime Initiative, led by Criminal Division's Violent Crime and Racketeering Section (VCRS) in coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas as well as dedicated investigative agents, analysts and forensic experts from the FBI, ATF, USMS, the Houston Police Department, and the Harris County Sheriff's Office. As part of this initiative, the Department directed additional law enforcement tools and resources to the Houston area and employed these resources—utilizing a data-driven approach—to target the criminals and gang members responsible a disproportionate amount of violent crime in the area. In addition, the

Department provided \$2 million in OJP grants to community and hospital-based programs focused on prevention, intervention, and reentry.

The Violent Crime Initiative in Houston has been a success. To date, VCRSC has brought 10 indictments charging 51 total defendants, and law enforcement has seized approximately 132 firearms, 32 MCDs, one inert hand grenade, approximately 20 pounds of fentanyl, approximately 43 kilograms of powder cocaine, and approximately \$1.7 million in cash. And the data demonstrates the positive impact of these efforts. Specifically, as of September 30, 2024, data from Houston showed a significant decrease in violent crime, murder, robbery, and aggravated assault.

## Houston Violent Crime Reduction Statistics

### 2023 Year-End Counts, *Official*

CRIME COUNTS THROUGH DECEMBER 31 OF BOTH YEARS

	2023	2022	CHG.	% CHG.
VIOLENT CRIME	25,156	25,987	-831	-3.2%
MURDER	343	433	-90	-20.8%
ROBBERY	6,814	6,955	-141	-2.0%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	16,591	17,459	-868	-5.0%

Counts as Reported by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports

### 2024 Year-to-Date Counts, *Preliminary*

PRELIMINARY CRIME COUNTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 OF BOTH YEARS

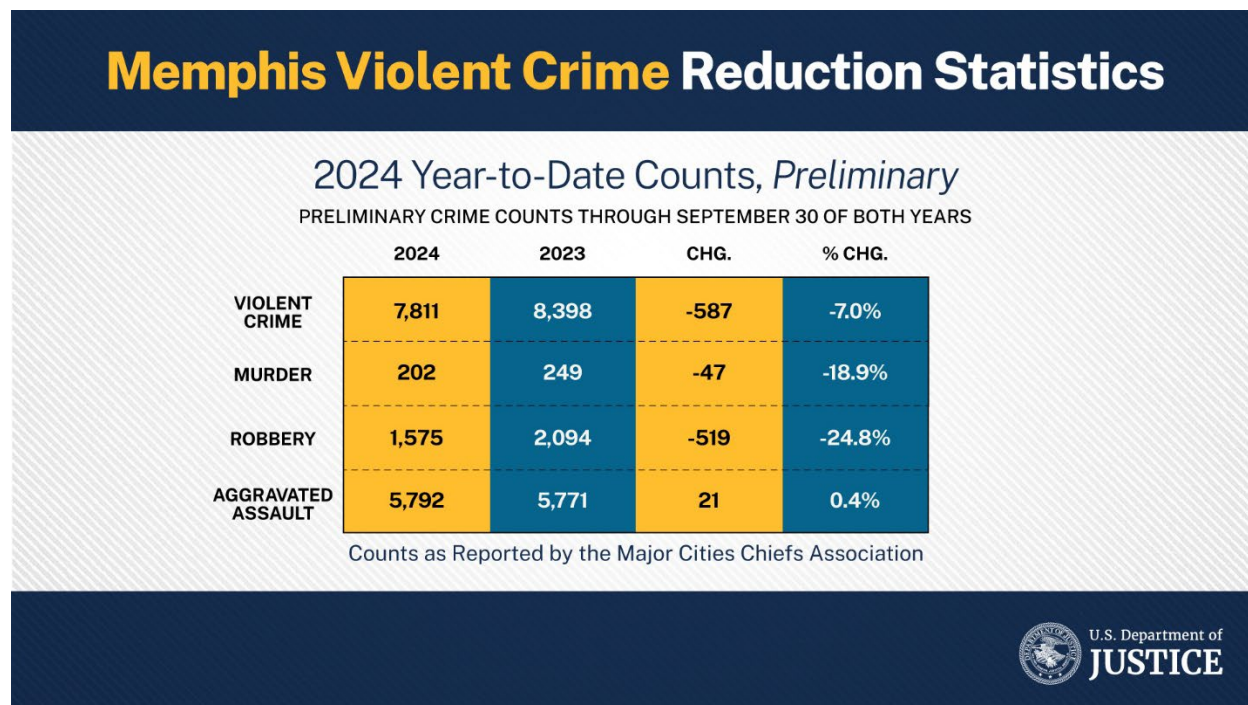
	2024	2023	CHG.	% CHG.
VIOLENT CRIME	18,480	19,164	-684	-3.6%
MURDER	240	277	-37	-13.4%
ROBBERY	4,796	5,000	-204	-4.1%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	12,248	12,777	-529	-4.1%

Counts as Reported by the Major Cities Chiefs Association



In November 2023, the Department built on its success in Houston and launched a Violent Crime Initiative in Memphis, Tennessee. To date, as part of the Memphis initiative, VCRS has brought 6 indictments charging 31 total defendants, and law enforcement has seized approximately 37 guns, approximately one kilogram cocaine, approximately 2.5 pounds of

methamphetamine, approximately two pounds of fentanyl, and approximately 42.5 pounds of marijuana. VCRS and the USAO are working to cooperate some of these defendants and bring superseding Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) or Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering (VICAR) indictments that will charge additional defendants and more wide-ranging criminal conduct. Again, the data demonstrates the positive impact of these efforts. As of September 30, 2024, data from Memphis also showed a significant decrease in violent crime, murder, and robbery.



Following this success, in April 2024, the Department again [expanded](#) the Violent Crime Initiative, this time to target crime in St. Louis, Missouri; Jackson Mississippi; and Hartford, Connecticut. The Department also devoted an additional surge of resources to Washington, D.C. In the short time VCRS has been operating in St. Louis, Jackson, and Hartford, VCRS has already secured a handful of gun and drug indictments against either particularly dangerous gang members or potential cooperators, and VCRS is currently drafting prosecution memoranda for either RICO or VICAR charges. And each of these cities where data is available saw a decline in murders last year.

b. *Carjacking Task Forces*

The Department identified carjackings as a strategic enforcement priority, with cities seeing significant increases in the number of carjackings. In response, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the District of Columbia, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Middle District of Florida, in collaboration with the FBI, ATF, and local partners, launched carjacking task forces to focus their efforts and resources on addressing this public safety threat. The Department's efforts are working, with data showing decreases in carjacking rates. For example, in Philadelphia, where there is an entire ATF enforcement group, seven FBI special agents, and sixteen full-time FBI Task Force Officers dedicated to this

initiative, the Philadelphia Police Department reported a [31% decline in carjackings](#) from 2022 to 2023 and a continued decline in 2024.

The Department continued to build on these successes, and, on April 17, 2024, [launched](#) seven additional carjacking task forces—led by U.S. Attorneys’ Offices, the FBI, and ATF, with support from state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement—in District of Oregon, Eastern District of Texas, Northern District of Alabama, Northern District of California, Eastern District of Louisiana, Southern District of Mississippi, and Western District of Washington.

c. *Operation Overdrive*

On February 1, 2022, the Department [launched](#) Operation Overdrive, a data-driven and intelligence-led initiative to reduce drug-related violence and drug poisoning deaths. Through Operation Overdrive, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has worked closely with state and local law enforcement officials to identify the communities with the highest rates of violence and drug poisoning deaths and then actively engages with its state, local, and federal law enforcement and prosecutorial partners to target the criminal networks and individuals driving the most harm in these communities. And, to date, Operation Overdrive led to more than 2,000 arrests, over 1,000 seized firearms, and over 10 million deadly doses of fentanyl and methamphetamine removed from the criminal market.

The first three phases of Operation Overdrive produced the following results:

Operation Overdrive				
Phase 1-3 Statistics				
OVERDRIVE PHASE	DEADLY DOSES REMOVED METH	DEADLY DOSES REMOVED FENTANYL	TOTAL ARRESTS	FIREARMS (SEIZED/ ENCOUNTERED)
PHASE 1 (34 CITIES)	684,000	3,400,000	1,034	498
PHASE 2 (57 CITIES)	441,000	10,100,000	1,185	919
PHASE 3 (32 CITIES)	92,480	348,660	394	239

The Department launched Phase 4 of Operation Overdrive in July 2024. The first wave of Phase 4 is targeting five cities in five different states, and, as of December 20, 2024, these targeted enforcement efforts had already led to 74 arrests and the seizure of 568,949 deadly doses of fentanyl and 202,798 deadly doses of methamphetamine.

d. *All Hands on Deck*

On November 2, 2023, the Department [announced](#) the launch of the “All Hands on Deck” initiative, a joint initiative involving the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California, DEA, the FBI, ATF, USMS, Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Secret

Service, the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service, and state and local law enforcement and prosecutors. The initiative specifically targets drug dealing in Tenderloin District of San Francisco by ramping up arrests of street dealers; tracking down and arresting suppliers of fentanyl; charging the money services operations who are being utilized for drug trafficking and money laundering purposes; stemming the flow of drugs into San Francisco; and initiating more federal prosecutors.

### **3. Keeping the most dangerous and lethal weapons away from criminals**

On June 24, 2022, Congress passed, and the following day the President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Public Law No: 117-159 (BSCA), the most significant federal gun safety legislation in 30 years. The Department has used this landmark legislation, and every other tool at its disposal, to prevent dangerous and lethal weapons from getting into the wrong hands, including by implementing enhanced background checks required by the BSCA; providing Federal Firearm Licensees (FFLs) with additional tools; and pursuing targeted enforcement efforts.

#### *a. Enhanced Background Checks*

The FBI conducts background checks for individuals that would like to purchase a firearm by running the individual's name through the NICS databases to determine if the individual has any potentially disqualifying information. The BSCA included a mandate that the FBI conduct additional, enhanced checks for individuals under the age of 21. Specifically, the BSCA requires the FBI to conduct outreach to state juvenile justice, mental health, and local law enforcement to determine if purchasers under the age of 21 have any juvenile criminal conviction or mental health records that could potentially disqualify them from purchasing the firearm and, where cause exists, provides up to seven additional business days to conduct these background checks.

The FBI implemented the BSCA's mandate,<sup>1</sup> and, in October 2022, began conducting enhanced background checks, helping ensure that guns do not fall into the hands of dangerous individuals. As of January 13, 2024, there has been over 370,000 enhanced checks conducted. Of these, 985 firearm purchases were denied solely because the enhanced check revealed information indicating that the potential purchaser was prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms, including a prospective buyer who had been convicted of rape; a prospective buyer who was in jail on charges that included domestic violence, robbery, and assault with a dangerous weapon; and a purchaser that had a juvenile record that included sexual battery, possession of a knife at school, and intimidation.

#### *b. Federal Firearm Licensee Tools*

The Department has also engaged in the following regulatory actions to provide FFLs with additional tools to help keep the most dangerous and lethal weapons away from criminals:

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<sup>1</sup> On December 4, 2024, the Department published a notice of proposed rulemaking, titled "[Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 – Implementation Revisions for National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#)," that, if finalized, would codify the BSCA enhanced background check mandate.

- On July 1, 2024, the Department published an interim final rule, titled “[Bipartisan Safer Communities Act - Access to Records of Stolen Firearms in the National Crime Information Center Interim Final Rule](#),” implementing parts of the BSCA by allowing licensed importers, manufactures, and dealers of firearms to access records of stolen firearms in the National Crime Information Center (“NCIC”), subject to appropriate controls, for the purpose of voluntarily verifying whether a firearm that has been offered to them for purchase has been reported stolen.
- On December 12, 2024, the Department published a notice of proposed rulemaking, titled “[Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 – Criteria for National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(“NICS”\) Background Checks of Firearm Handlers](#),” that, if finalized, would implement parts of the BSCA by authorizing certain FFLs to use NICS to voluntarily conduct background checks relating of certain current or prospective employees.

c. *Enhanced Regulatory Enforcement Strategy*

On June 23, 2021, President Biden and Attorney General Merrick Garland announced a [Gun Crime Prevention Strategy](#). Part of that strategy focuses on Industry Operations conducting [compliance inspections](#) of FFLs aimed at further identifying licensees who commit willful violations of the Gun Control Act (GCA). The overwhelming majority of FFLs comply with federal law and are critical partners in preventing gun violence, by conducting background checks and helping in traces of recovered crime guns. At the same time, ATF’s Enhanced Enforcement Strategy made clear that certain willful violations of the GCA would result in a notice of revocation, absent extraordinary circumstances. Under this policy, ATF revoked the licenses of over 300 FFLs due to their willful violations of important firearms laws.

d. *Firearm Regulations- Clarifying Legal Requirements*

ATF regulations provide a roadmap for law enforcement, FFLs, and gun owners to follow in adhering to federal firearms laws. Key statutory provisions were updated in accordance with BSCA, an ATF promulgated revised regulations clarifying that law and other statutory language.

- On April 10, 2024, the Attorney General signed ATF’s final rule, Definition of “Engaged in the Business” as a Dealer in Firearms, implementing the provisions of the BSCA, which broadened the definition of when a person is considered “engaged in the business” as a dealer in firearms. The final rule clarifies when an individual is presumed to be engaged in the business of selling firearms with the intent to “predominantly earn a profit” absent reliable evidence to the contrary.
- On April 11, 2022, the Attorney General signed ATF final rule 2021R-05F, Definition of “Frame or Receiver” and Identification of Firearms. The goal of the final rule is to ensure the proper marking, recordkeeping, and traceability of all firearms manufactured, imported, acquired and disposed by FFLs. The final rule has helped to combat the spread of unserialized “ghost guns,” which complicate or make crime gun tracing impossible.

e. *Firearms Trafficking and Straw Purchasing Prosecutions*

The BSCA created the first stand-alone prohibitions on firearms trafficking and straw purchasing. Because straw purchasers and traffickers frequently funnel firearms to felons and others prohibited from possessing firearms, and who intend to use guns for nefarious purposes, stopping these crimes is critical to public safety. To date, over 700 defendants have been charged with straw purchasing or firearms trafficking under these new authorities, keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

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## FOSTERING TRUST IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

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The Department has worked tirelessly to foster trust in the communities it serves, as “[m]eaningful law enforcement engagement with and accountability to the community are essential underpinnings of any effective strategy to address violent crime, as well as important ends in themselves. Distrust hampers the Department’s ability to work collaboratively with those most affected by violent crime.” [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#). Specifically, the Department, consistent with the [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#), has taken the following, concrete steps over the past four years to ensure that all people are treated with dignity and respect, to continue to push towards a culture of “transparency and accountability,” and to demonstrate “our broad commitment to procedural justice and community policing:”

### 1. National Law Enforcement Accountability Database

On December 18, 2023, the Department, as directed by [Executive Order 14074](#), *Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety*, launched the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database (NLEAD). The NLEAD connects all federal law enforcement agencies under one infrastructure and serves as a central repository for official records documenting instances of misconduct as well as commendations and awards for federal law enforcement. The NLEAD is accessible by authorized federal law enforcement hiring personnel, provides these hiring personnel with more accurate and complete information about a potential job candidate’s past, and ultimately allows agencies to make more informed hiring decisions. And the Department requires all its law enforcement components to submit records to, and use, NLEAD in connection with hiring, promoting, or reassigning federal law enforcement officers. In [December 2024](#), the Bureau of Justice Statistics, within the Department’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP), published the first [public report](#) analyzing federal law enforcement incidents and officers included in the database, and the database’s usage, in order to maintain transparency and accountability. As Attorney General Merrick B. Garland [remarked](#) in connection with the launch of the NLEAD, “[n]o law enforcement agency — including the Justice Department — can effectively do its work without the trust of the public,” and the NLEAD is an “an important new tool for vetting and hiring officers and agents that will help strengthen our efforts to build and retain that trust.”

### 2. Tribal Justice Efforts

To prosecute and prevent violent crime in and around Tribal communities, the Department has launched joint operations to address violent and drug-related crimes in Tribal communities. These include FBI’s Operation Not Forgotten to surge resources into Tribal

communities to address unsolved crimes and the [Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons \(MMIP\) Regional Outreach Program](#).

### **3. Achievements and Initiatives by US Attorneys' Offices.**

All 93 US Attorneys have worked to implement the Department's [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#) and made landmark achievements in reducing violent crime and building trust within their communities. The following are just a few examples of their achievements to date:

- **District of South Dakota** – Helped establish a Violent Crime Unit (VCU) to foster collaboration between federal, state, and local agents and officials. The VCU executed 90 felony arrests in just its first year.
- **Northern District of Alabama** – Launched Operation Safe Families to target domestic violence offenders who violate federal firearms laws and to partner with victim services providers to provide comprehensive support for survivors and their children.
- **Western District of Oklahoma** – Launched Operation 922, which brings law enforcement and prosecutors together to hold domestic abusers accountable by prioritizing prosecutions of federal firearms offenses, using a survivor-centered approach that connects domestic violence survivors with comprehensive victim assistance services and support.
- **District of Oregon** – Established Special Victims Unit to focus on child exploitation cases, and domestic violence and sexual assault occurring in Indian Country.
- **District of Connecticut** – Implemented enforcement strategy in four key cities, leading to substantial reductions in violent crime, homicides and non-fatal shootings. Advanced FED-UP anti-violence program for middle school students, which has now expanded to other cities.
- **Middle District of Georgia** – Worked closely with Macon Violence Prevention (MVP), an initiative that involves prosecution, intervention and prevention which contributed to a 46% decrease in homicides in Macon, Georgia between 2022 to 2023, with the number of homicides in 2023 marking the lowest number since 2019.
- **Middle District of North Carolina** – PSP/PSN initiative in Guilford County produced a strong federal, state, and local partnership that, as a result of the cooperation and information sharing, has seen a substantial reduction in homicides in the county.
- **Eastern District of New York** – Charged approximately 740 violent crimes, by far the highest number of violent crime cases of any 4-year Administration period in at least the past 20 years. District saw substantial declines in murders and shootings over this time.
- **Eastern District of Michigan** – Created the One Detroit Violence Reduction Partnership. One Detroit links evidenced-based strategies with a coalition of stakeholders around enforcement, prevention, and reentry. 2023 saw the fewest homicides in Detroit since 1966, and initial data from 2024 shows additional, substantial declines.

- **Southern District of Iowa** – Integrated a Public Safety Partnership, Group Violence Intervention program, and targeted enforcement efforts in Davenport, Iowa, resulting in large-scale decreases in non-fatal shootings and stolen vehicle incidents.
- **Southern District of Illinois** – Public Safety Enforcement Group initiative helped to significantly decrease violent crime in East St. Louis. Through a sustained investigative presence and efforts to increase community engagement, there were substantial declines in homicides and nonfatal shootings and a major increase in the homicide solve rate.
- **Western District of North Carolina** – Created the Think Again Initiative, an informational multi-media campaign aimed at educating the public on how to prevent illegal firearms from getting into the wrong hands. As a result, ATF saw a 250% increase in calls received reporting felons and prohibited individuals in possession of a firearm.

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## INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

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The Department has made significant investments in community-based prevention and intervention programs, as “prevention and intervention can be highly effective complements to the strategic enforcement of criminal laws” and “these kinds of programs are almost always best coordinated by local community and government partners.” [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#).

Over the last four years, the Justice Department invested over \$17 billion in public safety and justice through grant funding at state, local, and Tribal levels. Specifically, the Department has taken the following, concrete steps over the past four years to support the prevention and intervention efforts of our local partners through grant funding, training, and technical assistance:

### 1. **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Grants**

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the BSCA, a landmark, bipartisan law focused on reducing and protecting communities from gun violence, in part through the authorization of a total of \$1.4 billion in funding for new and existing violence-prevention and intervention programs between 2022 and 2026. The Department has worked tirelessly to invest these funds in prevention and intervention programs designed to keep our communities safe. Notably, at the two-year anniversary of the BSCA, the Department had already provided:

- Over \$385 million in Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program [grants, administered by OJP’s Bureau of Justice Assistance](#), to states for the creation and implementation of extreme risk protection order programs, designed to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others; state crisis intervention court proceedings; and other gun violence reduction initiatives.
- Over \$115 million in supplemental STOP School Violence [grants from OJP](#) to enhance school security, which, in part, funded more than 3,500 school enhanced intervention teams; more than 2,300 school formed intervention teams; and 141 school implemented school safety plans, protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

- \$40 million in supplemental Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Grant Program [grants](#), which provide funding in support of school violence prevention efforts.
- Over \$108 million in [National Criminal History Improvement Program \(NCHIP\)](#) Supplemental Funding, administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics within OJP, supporting state and local efforts to improve the accuracy and utility of criminal history and related records.

## **2. Community Violence Intervention Prevention Initiative (CVIPI)**

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Department [launched](#) the [Community Violence Intervention Prevention Initiative](#) (CVIPI), a historic federal grant program led by OJP. Funded in part through the BSCA, CVIPI represents an unparalleled federal commitment to comprehensive and evidence informed community violence intervention models that strengthen safety by interrupting violence among the highest-risk individuals. To date, OJP has [awarded](#) over \$270 million to support lifesaving interventions, along with related research and capacity-building assistance, including direct investments in over 100 sites in 35 states nationwide.

## **3. National Extreme Risk Protection Order Resource Center (ERC)**

In 2023, OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions, established the [ERC](#). The ERC provides state and local law enforcement, judicial officers, clinicians, attorneys and community partners in states with existing ERPO laws with new tools and technical assistance in implement effective extreme risk protection order programs and ensures that those receiving Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program grants to create and implement extreme risk protection order programs are effectively utilizing these funds.

## **4. Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success Initiative**

On April 11, 2024, OJP's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [announced](#) \$17 million in FY 2023 awards to state and local jurisdictions with high rates of youth incarceration to develop community and evidence-based prevention and intervention services designed to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system, create diversion opportunities for those already in the system, and provide youth with the skills needed to be productive, safe, healthy, and law-abiding citizens. This initiative leveraged decades of evidence-based learning and has been proven to be cost effective, with Justice Policy Institute [research](#) showing that it costs states an average \$588 a day to confine youth in comparison to as little as \$75 per day for the community-based programs at the heart of this initiative.

## **5. COPS Funding**

Since 1994, the COPS Office has appropriated more than \$20 billion to help advance community policing, with the COPS office distributing over \$2 billion in grants over the last four years alone, including over \$650 million in [COPS Hiring Program \(CHP\)](#) grants with a focus on violent crime reduction. These CHP grants allowed law enforcement agencies across the country to hire new, fulltime officers:

- 2024: [\\$157 million](#) to 235 law enforcement agencies to hire nearly 1,200 officers.

- 2023: [\\$217 million](#) to 394 law enforcement agencies to hire 1,730 officers.
- 2022: [\\$139 million](#) to 180 law enforcement agencies to hire 973 officers.

Notably, in addition to the CHP, the COPS Office offered the following grant funding in support of community policing initiatives and violent crime reduction in fiscal year 2024:

- [Almost \\$14 million](#) in [Community Policing Development \(CPD\) Microgrants](#), to supports innovative community policing strategies;
- [\\$73 million](#) for the [School Violence Prevention Program \(SVPP\)](#), for school safety measures in and around K-12 schools;
- [\\$46 million](#) to combat the distribution and trafficking of opioids and methamphetamine through the COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) program and the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP);
- [Over \\$31 million](#) for the Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP), with an additional \$500,000 in technical assistance;
- [Over \\$9 million](#) for the [Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act \(LEMHWA\) Program](#) to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement and support staff and \$750,000 for the Implementation of the De-Escalation Training Act;
- [\\$10.5 million](#) for the Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Program, which provides training for first responders through scenario-based, multidisciplinary training classes;
- [Over \\$4 million](#) for Promoting Access to Crisis Teams, which supports the implementation of crisis intervention teams, including embedding behavioral or mental health professionals with law enforcement agencies; and
- [\\$6.5 million](#) for law enforcement agency accreditation, for programs that allow police departments and sheriff's agencies to obtain accreditation by independent credentialing bodies.

## **6. Domestic Violence Resources**

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) funds the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms (NRCDVF), which is operated by the Battered Women's Justice Project. NRCDVF offers training, technical assistance, and resources, including a model firearms relinquishment protocol, community strategies, and examples of successful approaches. NRCDVF provides a library of information and tools and promotes a community-based peer mentor system to share implementation and enforcement efforts. In addition, OVW and Office of Justice Programs have developed a [resource list](#) of the Department's funding, training, and partnership opportunities to enforce firearms laws intended to keep domestic violence survivors safe.

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## MEASURING RESULTS

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The results of the Department's efforts are clear, a consistent and continuing downward trend in violent crime across the country. Following a significant uptick in homicides and other violent crimes at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Department executed its [Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime](#), to restore safety and security to American communities. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, over the last four years violent crime has steadily decreased. And the most recent data from the nation's major cities reflects violent crime, including homicide, is at historic lows, with preliminary data from 85 cities (comparing data through the third quarter of 2023 to 2024) showing a 17.5% decline in murders.

From 2021 to 2022, the [UCR data](#) showed the following changes in criminal offenses:

- Violent crime decreased 1.7%
- Murder and non-negligent manslaughter decreased 6.1%
- Rape decreased 5.4%
- Aggravated assault decreased 1.1%
- Robbery increased 1.3%

From 2022 to 2023, [UCR data](#) showed the following changes in criminal offenses:

- Violent crime decreased 3%
- Murder and non-negligent manslaughter decreased 11.6%
- Rape decreased 9.4%
- Aggravated assault decreased 2.8%
- Robbery decreased 0.3%

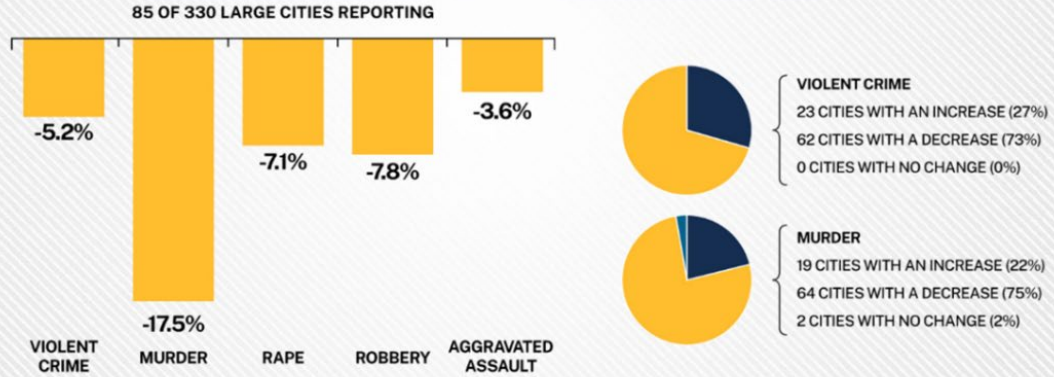
The most recent preliminary [UCR data](#), comparing data through the second quarter of 2023 to 2024 shows the following changes:

- Violent crime decreased 10.3%
- Murder decreased 22.7%
- Rape decreased 17.7%
- Aggravated assault decreased 8.1%
- Robbery decreased 13.6%

In addition, preliminary data from 85 cities comparing data through the third quarter of 2023 to 2024 shows the following changes:

# Violent Crime Reduction Statistics

## 2024 Year-To-Date Violent Crime Trends



Sources: Publicly available data from 1) local police department websites; and 2) a quarterly violent crime surveys published by the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) of its member agencies, available at: <https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/MCAA-Violent-Crime-Report-2024-and-2023-January-to-September.pdf>.  
Note: Violent Crime is the combined total of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.



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