

LOS ANGELES COUNTY JURISDICTIONS SHOW DIVERGING CRIME TRENDS DURING JUSTICE REFORM ERA, 2010-2016



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Fact Sheet

Since 2010, legislation, voter-approved initiatives, and court mandates have brought major changes to California’s justice system, including Public Safety Realignment, Proposition 47, and Proposition 57. Taken together, these reforms have instituted a new paradigm in justice policy, and can be termed the “justice reform era.”

A recent study of city crime trends across California found wide variation in property and violent crime rates during the justice reform era, with most jurisdictions showing a decrease in crime (CJCJ, 2017). Los Angeles County’s average crime trends differ somewhat from the rest of California, but are comprised of similar local variation. For example, while property crime rates fell nearly 6 percent in the rest of California between 2010 and 2016, Los Angeles County’s property crime rate rose by more than 4 percent, producing a net statewide rate decline of just over 3 percent (Table 1). Despite the relative stability of the county’s average crime trends, cities and local jurisdictions varied substantially across LA County, including declining property crime rates in El Monte (-4.4%), Monrovia (-25.7%) and Pasadena (-18.4%) and increasing rates in neighboring Rosemead (+9.2%) and South Pasadena (+55.4%). This local variation suggests that crime patterns in Los Angeles County, as in the rest of the state, result from local policies and practices rather than statewide reform.

Table 1. Change in reported crime rates per 100,000 population during justice reform era, 2010 vs. 2016

	All Part I	Violent	Property	Homicide	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Vehicle Theft	Theft
Rest of California	-5%	-2%	-6%	3%	-10%	-2%	-26%	11%	-2%
Los Angeles County	5%	8%	4%	-3%	-12%	18%	-8%	5%	8%
City of Los Angeles	9%	27%	4%	-6%	-11%	60%	-14%	3%	11%

Source: DOF, 2017; DOJ, 2017.

Findings

The Los Angeles County crime rate is comprised of dozens of divergent local trends. In LA County and throughout California, crime rates in the justice reform era appear to be highly localized with some cities showing dramatic decreases while others experience an increase. Although a majority of jurisdictions elsewhere in California (259 of 422) showed decreases in their crime rates from 2010 to 2016, roughly half of LA County’s 89 jurisdictions showed an increase in crime (53%) and half showed a decrease (47%).

Both the 48 cities in Los Angeles County that had overall increases in Part I crime (including the City of Los Angeles) and the 42 cities that had decreases in crime showed changes in property crime rates that were not as large as the changes in corresponding cities elsewhere in California (Table 2). Grouped together, the cities in Los Angeles County that reported a total decline in crime showed, on average, a 10 percent decrease in property crime specifically. Those showing increases in total crime averaged a 9 percent increase in property crime rates. By contrast, cities in the rest of California that reported decreasing rates of total crime showed a full 19 percent drop in property crime from 2010 to 2016 and those reporting increases showed a 15 percent rise in property offenses.

Los Angeles County's trends are strongly dependent on those of the City of Los Angeles, which encompasses 40 percent of the county's population and over half the county's reported crimes (DOF, 2017; DOJ, 2017). The City of Los Angeles reported rising property crime during the reform period, but its increase (+4%) was smaller than the average rate increase for the 47 cities in LA County with total crime increases (+9%). The City of Los Angeles also showed a very large increase in violent crime due to a 60 percent increase in reported assaults, but experienced a decline in other violent crimes, such as homicide and robbery. Importantly, the accuracy of the city's crime reports has been called into question in the past (Los Angeles Times, 2014).

Table 2. Change in reported crime rates per 100,000 population during reform era, categorized by increase or decrease in total Part 1 crime, 2016 vs. 2010

	All Part I	Violent	Property	Homicide	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Vehicle theft	Theft
Rest of California (Excluding Los Angeles County)									
Jurisdictions showing an increase in total Part I crime (163)									
2010 rate	3,005.9	408.4	2,597.5	4.5	146.6	233.5	596.7	371.7	1,629.1
2016 rate	3,415.2	439.5	2,975.7	4.9	146.4	251.9	514.5	507.9	1,953.3
Change	14%	8%	15%	11%	0%	8%	-14%	37%	20%
Jurisdictions showing a decrease in total Part I crime (259)									
2010 rate	3,257.7	422.0	2,835.7	4.3	122.7	272.8	698.7	419.1	1,717.9
2016 rate	2,696.4	387.6	2,308.8	4.2	101.1	251.5	468.6	399.1	1,441.1
Change	-17%	-8%	-19%	-2%	-18%	-8%	-33%	-5%	-16%
Los Angeles County									
Jurisdictions showing an increase in total Part I crime (47)									
2010 rate	2,870.4	532.7	2,337.7	6.5	236.8	266.9	491.6	432.3	1,413.8
2016 rate	3,159.1	610.8	2,548.3	6.5	215.3	344.1	459.0	474.3	1,615.1
Change	10%	15%	9%	-1%	-9%	29%	-7%	10%	14%
Jurisdictions showing a decrease in total Part I crime (42)									
2010 rate	2,933.5	446.4	2,487.1	5.5	180.3	243.6	529.4	471.9	1,485.8
2016 rate	2,600.5	371.0	2,229.5	4.9	142.0	196.6	460.8	437.0	1,331.7
Change	-11%	-17%	-10%	-11%	-21%	-19%	-13%	-7%	-10%
City of Los Angeles									
2010 rate	2,931.7	566.5	2,365.2	7.7	288.0	246.4	459.0	449.5	1,456.7
2016 rate	3,182.9	716.8	2,466.2	7.3	256.4	394.8	393.5	462.4	1,610.2
Change	9%	27%	4%	-6%	-11%	60%	-14%	3%	11%

Source: DOF, 2017; DOJ, 2017.

The major cities in Los Angeles County showing total Part I crime increases from 2010 to 2016 include not just the City of Los Angeles, but also Burbank, Lancaster, Long Beach, and Torrance (see Appendix). Major cities showing crime decreases include Downey, Glendale, Inglewood, Monrovia, Palmdale, Pasadena, Pomona, and Santa Clarita. The total crime rate changes varied widely across the county, from a 112 percent increase in Artesia to a 52 percent decline in Avalon. The jurisdictions showing decreased crime from 2010 to 2016 had higher average crime rates at the beginning of the reform period than jurisdictions showing increased crime. By 2016, the two categories of jurisdictions had reversed positions, with the formerly higher-crime cities now showing lower average crime rates than the formerly lower-crime jurisdictions.

Conclusion

As is the case statewide, jurisdictions in Los Angeles County showed wide variations in crime rates amid California's justice reform era, suggesting that crime trends are impacted by local policies and conditions. Of particular interest, the cities that showed reductions in total crime generally had higher crime rates prior to the

reform era than those that showed increases, suggesting that some jurisdictions, especially those that began with elevated crime, have devised successful policies and practices that are improving local safety.

Given the localized nature of crime rates, cities in Los Angeles County that showed rate reductions through the reform era could serve as county or statewide models for successful local approaches to crime reduction amid justice reform.

References

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Appendix

Percent change in reported crime rates per 100,000 for Los Angeles County jurisdictions, 2010 vs. 2016

City/Local Area	All Part I	Violent	Property	Homicide	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Vehicle Theft	Theft
Agoura Hills	0.5%	-19.4%	2.0%	--	190.2%	-35.5%	36.1%	141.8%	-16.1%
Alhambra	-4.3%	-24.3%	-2.6%	-100.0%	-14.6%	-33.2%	17.4%	-15.4%	-4.9%
Arcadia	-7.0%	-7.2%	-7.0%	96.8%	20.3%	-29.4%	40.6%	-28.5%	-18.8%
Artesia	112.3%	36.6%	130.6%	--	-10.7%	96.5%	140.1%	65.2%	145.6%
Avalon	-52.4%	-58.2%	-50.5%	--	--	-66.6%	-90.4%	-93.7%	-10.3%
Azusa	-9.8%	-27.6%	-6.3%	-53.3%	-31.7%	-31.4%	-11.6%	32.6%	-11.1%
Balance of County	1.5%	-1.2%	2.5%	10.5%	-8.5%	-1.0%	-24.5%	14.0%	11.5%
Baldwin Park	-10.0%	15.0%	-13.6%	150.0%	-28.4%	29.1%	16.4%	-32.8%	-13.0%
Bell	17.5%	-5.8%	26.8%	387.2%	-38.3%	13.0%	17.4%	8.6%	41.5%
Bell Gardens	-6.3%	-27.5%	-1.5%	-41.0%	-43.8%	-9.5%	-32.5%	-19.0%	28.2%
Bellflower	8.7%	-5.6%	12.0%	299.8%	-9.1%	-8.0%	9.6%	7.2%	15.5%
Beverly Hills	41.3%	39.1%	41.5%	-100.0%	37.8%	28.2%	14.5%	59.6%	50.7%
Bradbury	-48.4%	--	-48.4%	--	--	--	-37.0%	--	-62.2%
Burbank	6.1%	-6.5%	7.2%	--	-49.8%	21.6%	-19.3%	-5.2%	15.5%
Calabasas	-12.7%	10.0%	-13.6%	--	-4.7%	16.5%	3.4%	21.8%	-22.9%
Carson	1.6%	-0.8%	2.2%	63.4%	24.4%	-14.3%	-2.4%	10.3%	0.9%
Cerritos	30.9%	17.7%	31.6%	--	-3.4%	39.5%	53.3%	-4.9%	33.2%
Claremont	6.2%	16.2%	5.6%	--	3.9%	50.1%	21.1%	19.2%	-1.6%
Commerce	16.3%	-10.1%	20.0%	-50.9%	1.8%	-21.0%	-25.6%	6.4%	42.9%
Compton	-14.2%	-18.0%	-12.5%	35.0%	-26.2%	-16.7%	-57.8%	6.7%	7.8%
Covina	-21.9%	-6.5%	-23.5%	-2.5%	-39.2%	4.3%	-20.1%	-17.6%	-25.8%
Cudahy	-50.6%	-54.0%	-49.5%	-26.9%	-62.5%	-55.8%	-41.2%	-35.5%	-57.2%
Culver City	23.3%	38.6%	21.9%	--	41.3%	38.8%	66.5%	22.7%	15.9%
Diamond Bar	13.5%	34.0%	12.3%	--	53.1%	23.4%	41.9%	-10.0%	0.5%
Downey	-15.5%	-7.0%	-16.3%	-83.6%	-7.2%	-7.5%	-21.1%	-18.9%	-13.9%
Duarte	-15.9%	-3.2%	-18.0%	--	-23.4%	12.2%	-35.2%	-7.1%	-13.3%

City/Local Area	All Part I	Violent	Property	Homicide	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Vehicle Theft	Theft
El Monte	-8.4%	-25.9%	-4.4%	-0.7%	-37.4%	-19.6%	10.4%	-14.3%	-5.4%
El Segundo	35.9%	55.4%	34.7%	--	46.6%	99.3%	31.5%	81.9%	30.7%
Gardena	-1.5%	-5.5%	-0.6%	45.6%	-23.1%	9.3%	27.1%	1.3%	-10.3%
Glendale	-12.3%	-21.9%	-11.5%	--	-32.7%	-29.7%	-11.5%	5.5%	-13.6%
Glendora	4.6%	8.2%	4.4%	--	-36.1%	65.2%	6.3%	-8.0%	4.9%
Hawaiian Gardens	14.1%	-15.0%	24.3%	-35.6%	-18.5%	-5.7%	-1.6%	49.4%	24.6%
Hawthorne	7.4%	-3.7%	10.7%	-25.2%	2.0%	-10.0%	-34.9%	26.9%	31.2%
Hermosa Beach	-2.0%	16.6%	-3.3%	--	-26.9%	45.5%	-21.2%	29.4%	-0.6%
Hidden Hills	-20.1%	-67.1%	-12.3%	--	--	-100.0%	-21.0%	--	-1.3%
Huntington Park	-9.6%	-18.9%	-7.1%	-67.4%	-46.4%	37.0%	-13.0%	3.0%	-11.4%
Industry	3.4%	27.8%	1.8%	--	7.9%	26.2%	51.1%	4.9%	-5.8%
Inglewood	-10.8%	-6.0%	-12.3%	-23.6%	1.7%	-18.1%	-33.5%	7.3%	-12.6%
Irwindale	44.6%	-5.2%	51.6%	-100.0%	20.1%	-15.3%	10.9%	72.8%	65.1%
La Canada Flintridge	-15.0%	-38.9%	-13.5%	--	-29.5%	-34.2%	-1.2%	6.4%	-19.5%
La Habra Heights	25.5%	-44.2%	31.5%	--	--	-67.4%	13.0%	11.7%	48.9%
La Mirada	19.5%	12.7%	20.2%	--	-14.5%	17.8%	40.7%	7.0%	18.5%
La Puente	-8.5%	-20.4%	-5.1%	-50.8%	-9.6%	-30.1%	-0.1%	14.5%	-16.4%
La Verne	-19.2%	-31.3%	-18.2%	--	-47.9%	-44.8%	-12.7%	-19.2%	-19.6%
Lakewood	27.6%	-23.9%	35.7%	--	-10.8%	-33.3%	12.5%	-3.1%	51.4%
Lancaster	5.7%	21.6%	1.5%	-0.8%	32.3%	17.3%	1.7%	38.6%	-7.1%
Lawndale	-4.3%	-16.4%	1.1%	-100.0%	4.1%	-23.8%	-39.9%	13.2%	21.6%
Lomita	-0.6%	-20.3%	4.5%	--	27.8%	-38.1%	-26.7%	40.8%	13.6%
Long Beach	14.5%	0.8%	17.7%	-0.7%	-8.8%	5.3%	-1.7%	25.8%	23.7%
Los Angeles	8.6%	26.5%	4.3%	-5.7%	-11.0%	60.3%	-14.3%	2.9%	10.5%
Lynwood	8.9%	-26.0%	25.1%	118.2%	-29.5%	-31.0%	-39.4%	50.6%	53.8%
Malibu	16.1%	45.0%	14.0%	-100.0%	115.0%	4.7%	18.2%	86.8%	8.0%
Manhattan Beach	21.2%	9.6%	21.8%	-100.0%	51.2%	-35.5%	17.0%	5.2%	24.4%
Maywood	-13.2%	-21.0%	-10.7%	-100.0%	-18.9%	-24.6%	-37.7%	11.1%	-10.1%
Monrovia	-25.4%	-19.7%	-25.7%	--	-29.6%	-26.0%	-19.5%	-41.4%	-24.5%
Montebello	-0.4%	-2.1%	-0.3%	-100.0%	21.3%	-16.5%	9.3%	11.7%	-17.9%
Monterey Park	88.1%	33.8%	94.2%	-67.3%	1.5%	71.5%	105.9%	6.7%	135.7%
Norwalk	-5.5%	-6.7%	-5.2%	75.0%	-12.6%	-6.2%	-15.1%	-21.5%	8.2%
Palmdale	-20.8%	-19.3%	-21.2%	-3.7%	-18.1%	-22.2%	-35.1%	-16.2%	-15.4%
Palos Verdes Estates	-6.6%	-21.3%	-5.9%	--	-1.7%	-26.3%	-37.4%	129.4%	8.3%
Paramount	4.9%	-11.7%	8.6%	-3.2%	-21.5%	-3.9%	-26.4%	-21.9%	41.4%
Pasadena	-18.2%	-16.9%	-18.4%	-35.7%	-16.3%	-25.0%	-0.2%	-17.3%	-23.8%
Pico Rivera	0.5%	-12.5%	2.6%	-1.7%	-27.0%	-1.0%	37.2%	36.5%	-16.9%
Pomona	-2.6%	-15.7%	0.0%	-21.7%	-12.0%	-24.8%	-5.2%	-7.4%	5.7%
Rancho Palos Verdes	-6.9%	-37.5%	-3.9%	--	16.7%	-53.0%	-28.3%	78.3%	6.0%
Redondo Beach	4.3%	-26.2%	8.4%	-3.1%	-17.3%	-35.6%	92.0%	50.5%	-9.7%
Rolling Hills	-11.3%	-100.0%	33.1%	--	--	-100.0%	-41.9%	--	158.1%
Rolling Hills Estates	-9.8%	-26.6%	-7.9%	--	166.9%	-75.0%	10.1%	-16.6%	-12.8%
Rosemead	7.7%	-2.2%	9.2%	-80.4%	-9.7%	12.5%	36.3%	9.9%	0.4%
San Dimas	11.0%	-0.1%	12.4%	--	-16.4%	-12.6%	11.1%	31.6%	10.1%
San Fernando	27.2%	102.4%	14.7%	--	52.9%	110.5%	10.0%	33.2%	8.8%
San Gabriel	12.9%	12.6%	13.0%	--	0.3%	14.6%	33.4%	-7.2%	6.8%
San Marino	13.7%	12.6%	13.7%	--	583.4%	-43.1%	50.0%	241.7%	-5.6%
Santa Clarita	-9.4%	-27.0%	-6.9%	65.4%	-18.0%	-41.8%	-6.4%	40.5%	-13.3%
Santa Fe Springs	-10.1%	36.1%	-12.9%	33.0%	-16.0%	80.1%	-19.9%	-10.3%	-11.9%
Santa Monica	23.3%	16.2%	24.2%	91.8%	8.6%	10.4%	44.7%	36.4%	20.0%
Sierra Madre	-31.1%	77.0%	-39.2%	--	-25.6%	88.4%	-19.7%	296.6%	-53.6%
Signal Hill	87.6%	63.7%	89.8%	--	61.9%	47.1%	13.7%	60.1%	120.9%

City/Local Area	All Part I	Violent	Property	Homicide	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Vehicle Theft	Theft
South El Monte	8.9%	-21.4%	17.4%	-35.6%	-5.6%	-32.9%	57.8%	9.3%	6.7%
South Gate	22.5%	5.7%	26.3%	-31.6%	-26.6%	42.8%	0.3%	16.1%	42.6%
South Pasadena	52.7%	6.4%	55.4%	--	-24.2%	146.4%	49.2%	5.9%	68.2%
Temple City	25.2%	-21.5%	31.8%	--	-13.8%	-24.0%	84.3%	3.1%	6.9%
Torrance	9.2%	-12.0%	11.4%	-75.3%	-22.6%	-5.4%	-12.2%	29.0%	14.5%
Vernon	-36.7%	-42.3%	-36.2%	--	-46.4%	-38.8%	-45.2%	-18.3%	-41.9%
Walnut	10.1%	-16.5%	11.8%	--	69.5%	-38.4%	73.6%	-24.9%	-21.9%
West Covina	-8.2%	-18.0%	-7.1%	--	-9.8%	-26.9%	-3.8%	-17.5%	-4.8%
West Hollywood	-6.9%	-32.1%	-0.5%	-68.0%	-25.8%	-43.4%	-19.7%	3.2%	4.0%
Westlake Village	45.9%	163.5%	41.0%	-100.0%	-1.2%	229.4%	-23.8%	97.6%	72.9%
Whittier	6.9%	-26.8%	11.6%	-2.7%	-1.6%	-40.3%	10.1%	32.7%	8.5%
County Total	4.7%	7.9%	4.0%	-3.1%	-11.5%	17.8%	-8.3%	5.2%	8.0%

Source: DOF, 2017; DOJ, 2017. Note: Regions not encompassed by cities, as well as small agencies such as college campus and transportation authority police are grouped together and identified as "Balance of County."

Please note: Jurisdictions submit their data to the official statewide or national databases maintained by appointed governmental bodies. While every effort is made to review data for accuracy and to correct information upon revision, CJCJ cannot be responsible for data reporting errors made at the county, state, or national level.

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