

URBAN CRIME TRENDS REMAIN STABLE THROUGH CALIFORNIA'S POLICY REFORM ERA (2010-2016)



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Fact Sheet

Newly released Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) statistics for the first six months of 2016 show California's reported urban crime rate remained stable from 2010 through 2016, despite the implementation of large-scale criminal justice reforms during that period.

- **Total urban crime fell in the first half of 2016 compared to the first half of 2015.**

The first six months of 2016 saw a decline in California's urban crime rate compared to the first six months of 2015, though trends in specific crime categories were wide-ranging. During this period, reported crime declined 3 percent overall, driven by a 4 percent reduction in property offenses. Burglary, arson, and theft decreased, while vehicle theft increased, resulting in approximately 7,400 fewer property offenses in early 2016. At the same time, violent crime rose 4 percent, with total violent offenses increasing by approximately 2,800 from early 2015 to early 2016.¹

- **The statewide urban crime rate stabilized from 2010 to 2016, after decades of decline.**

Urban crime rates in California declined precipitously through the 1990s and 2000s (See Appendix A). Since 2010, crime in California has stabilized, hovering near historically low levels. Comparing the first six months of 2016 to the first six months of 2010, total crime rates experienced no net change, while property crime declined by 1 percent and violent crime increased by 3 percent (see Table 1).

Table 1. California urban crime trends, January-June (2010 to 2016)

	January-June crime rate per 100,000 population							Rate change		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2010	2016 v 2014	2016 v 2015
Total Part I Offenses	1,615.6	1,570.1	1,677.2	1,652.8	1,550.4	1,664.5	1,617.9	0%	4%	-3%
Violent Offenses	230.3	221.5	226.9	215.7	205.4	226.4	236.1	3%	15%	4%
Homicide	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.7	-4%	6%	7%
Robbery	99.4	93.9	97.2	95.8	81.6	89.9	90.1	-9%	10%	0%
Assault	128.1	124.7	126.5	117.1	121.3	133.9	143.3	12%	18%	7%
Rape*	11.0	10.4	11.1	9.5	12.1	18.5	19.5	*	*	5%
Property Offenses	1,374.3	1,338.2	1,439.3	1,427.6	1,333.0	1,419.6	1,362.3	-1%	2%	-4%
Burglary	288.1	285.1	310.3	304.3	281.8	254.1	236.0	-18%	-16%	-7%
Theft	854.0	832.2	883.2	874.3	819.9	922.9	873.5	2%	7%	-5%
MV theft	232.2	220.8	245.8	249.0	230.2	242.6	251.5	8%	9%	4%
Arson	11.2	10.2	11.7	10.9	11.8	11.4	10.2	-9%	-14%	-11%

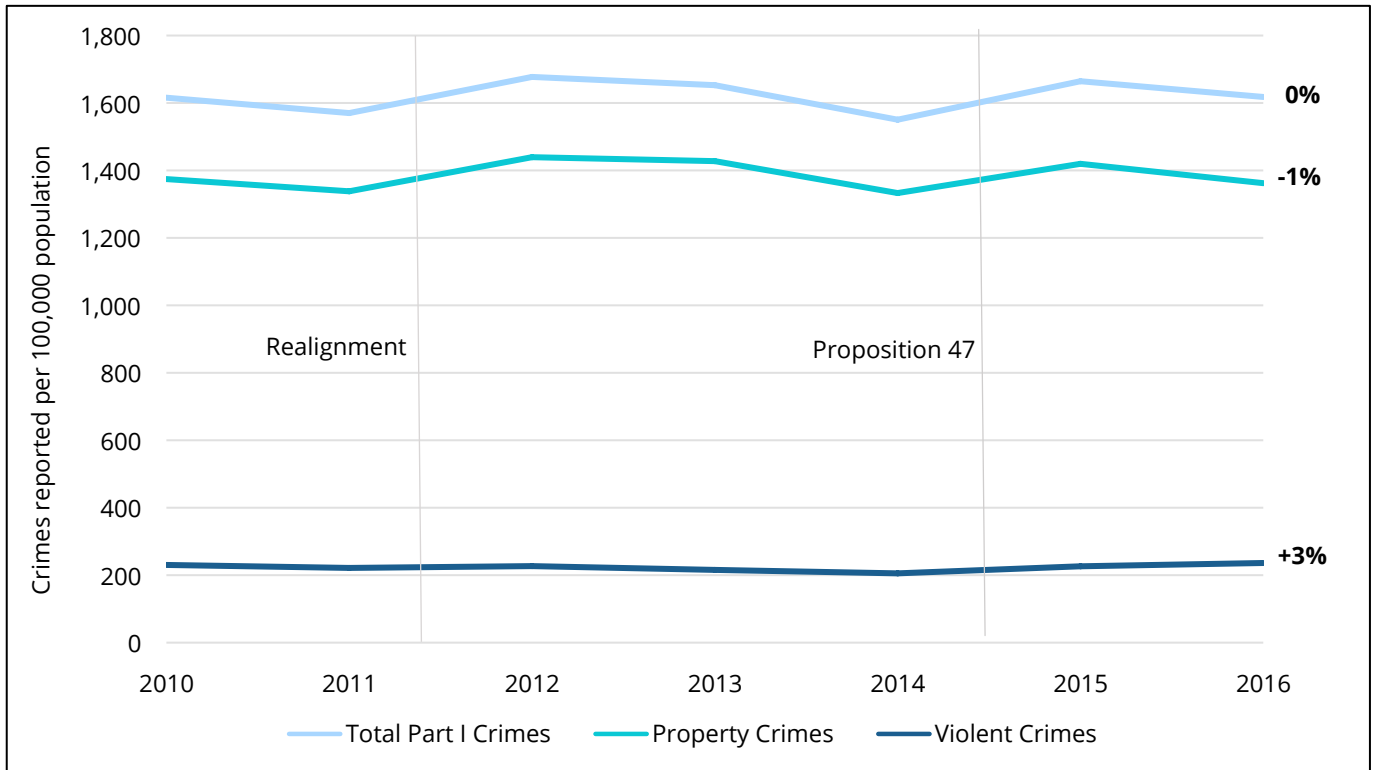
Sources: FBI (2017); DOF (2017). *Violent crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013 but law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses did not become consistent until 2015.

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- **Historically low urban crime rates have persisted through an era of justice reform.**

Crime rates have remained low and stable through several major criminal justice reforms, particularly Public Safety Realignment and Proposition 47. Realignment, which was enacted in 2011 through Assembly Bill 109, shifted responsibility for those with nonviolent, non-sexual, and non-serious convictions from the state to the county in an attempt to reduce prison populations. In 2014, California voters passed Prop 47, which reduced six minor drug and property felonies to misdemeanors, prompting the resentencing and release of thousands from jails and prisons across the state. Though each policy was met with some initial concerns over public safety, a seven-year view of the data suggests that no visible change in crime resulted from Realignment (CJCJ, 2015). More data are needed before drawing conclusions about Prop 47’s effect on crime (CJCJ, 2016).

Figure 2. Statewide trends in urban crime, January-June (2010 to 2016)



Sources: FBI (2017); DOF (2017). Note: Violent crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013 but law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses did not become consistent until 2015.

- **One-year changes in the crime rate varied across California’s 69 largest cities.**

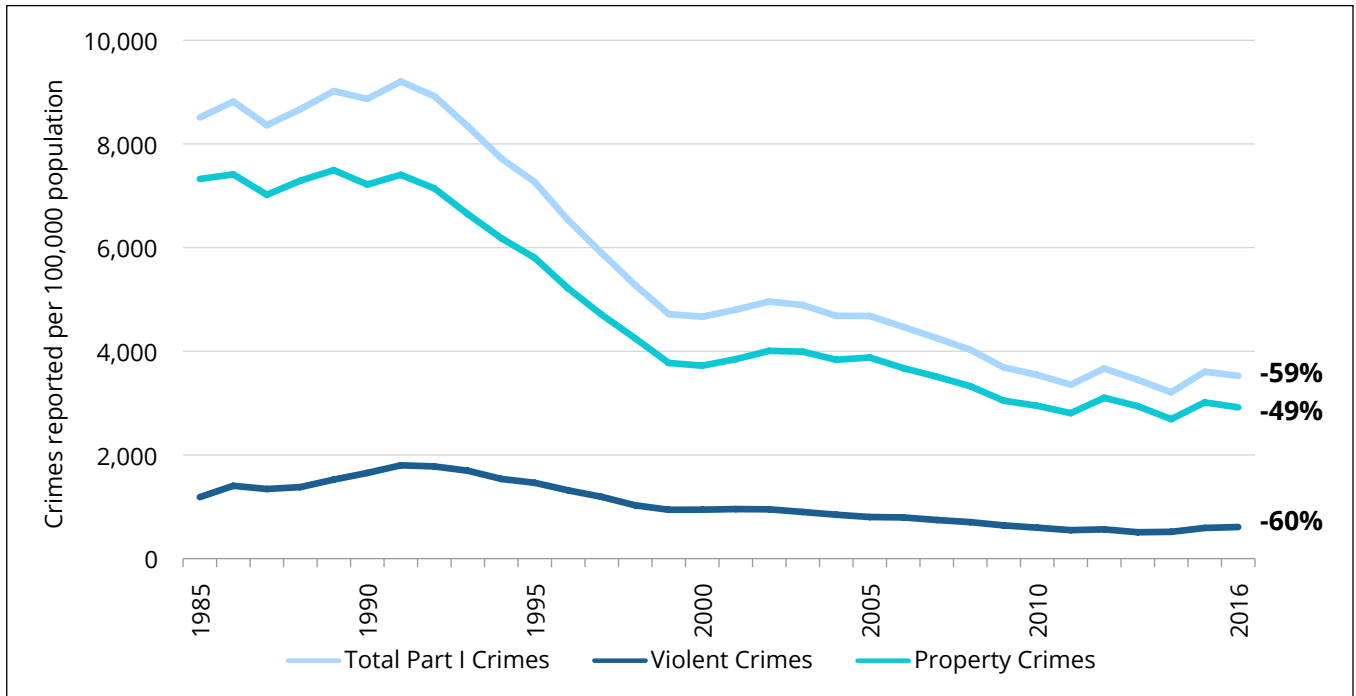
Despite the stability of statewide trends, crime rates at the local level have varied considerably. Changes in city crime rates from early 2015 to early 2016 ranged from an 18 percent rise in Downey to a 29 percent decrease in Santa Clara. Overall, 28 cities reported increased total crime during this one year period, and 41 cities showed decreases. For violent crime, 46 cities showed increases while 23 showed decreases, and 25 cities reported increased property crime while 44 showed declines. Of the major cities (population greater than 400,000), Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Jose reported increased violent crime, while Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco reported declines. Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego reported increased property crime, while Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco, and San Jose reported declines (see Appendix B).

References

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Appendix

Appendix A. Crime trends in the 15 largest California cities (1985-2016)



Sources: DOJ (2017); DOF (2017). Notes: Violent crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013 but law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses did not become consistent until 2015. Crime rates include all California cities with populations of 250,000 or greater, which includes Anaheim, Bakersfield, Chula Vista, Fresno, Irvine, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana, and Stockton. These 15 cities comprised approximately 30 percent of California's total population in 2016.

Appendix B. Part I violent and property crime rates and rate changes, Jan-June 2016 v Jan-June 2015

California cities with populations larger than 100,000 in 2016	Change in offense rate, 2016 v 2015			Jan-June 2016 reported offense rate		
	Total Part I	Violent	Property	Total Part I	Violent	Property
Anaheim	1.5%	-2.0%	1.9%	1,611.4	173.1	1,438.3
Antioch	-8.0%	1.4%	-9.9%	1,905.0	350.5	1,554.4
Bakersfield	5.3%	4.0%	5.4%	2,423.8	244.0	2,179.8
Berkeley	-9.5%	-3.4%	-10.1%	2,417.5	218.5	2,199.1
Burbank	7.9%	50.3%	5.6%	1,390.9	98.9	1,292.0
Carlsbad	8.9%	0.2%	9.6%	1,085.6	78.8	1,006.8
Chula Vista	7.6%	13.1%	6.9%	1,033.3	136.6	896.7
Clovis	-6.4%	12.0%	-7.8%	1,515.2	121.3	1,393.9
Concord	-11.5%	-9.5%	-11.7%	1,801.8	170.4	1,631.4
Corona	3.1%	1.3%	3.2%	1,190.9	57.7	1,133.3
Costa Mesa	3.6%	5.2%	3.4%	2,325.4	173.6	2,151.8
Daly City	-17.2%	-1.4%	-19.4%	837.5	120.0	717.4
Downey	18.3%	25.5%	17.6%	1,567.7	165.5	1,402.2
El Cajon	15.1%	27.3%	13.4%	1,441.3	197.4	1,243.9
El Monte	12.3%	16.2%	11.6%	1,244.2	198.4	1,045.8
Elk Grove	-17.4%	-7.7%	-19.3%	921.0	165.5	755.5
Escondido	0.3%	-5.3%	1.2%	1,274.9	170.5	1,104.4
Fairfield	-17.1%	10.2%	-21.0%	1,477.3	244.1	1,233.2
Fontana	3.7%	14.8%	1.7%	1,272.5	213.0	1,059.6
Fremont	4.7%	40.6%	2.3%	1,065.3	89.0	976.3
Fresno	0.4%	18.8%	-1.9%	2,295.5	309.9	1,985.6
Garden Grove	-1.6%	-6.2%	-1.1%	1,375.6	142.1	1,233.5
Glendale	5.7%	18.8%	4.9%	946.6	56.5	890.1
Hayward	-3.6%	0.3%	-4.1%	1,612.7	187.4	1,425.3
Huntington Beach	-10.2%	-5.8%	-10.5%	1,197.2	87.1	1,110.1
Inglewood	-1.1%	15.2%	-5.5%	1,389.7	344.6	1,045.0
Irvine	-0.5%	22.2%	-1.2%	793.8	28.6	765.1
Lancaster	5.1%	13.8%	2.7%	1,471.1	350.1	1,121.0
Long Beach	1.5%	6.4%	0.6%	1,712.5	289.7	1,422.8
Los Angeles	8.0%	15.4%	6.1%	1,541.9	340.5	1,201.4
Modesto	2.6%	4.2%	2.3%	2,852.2	488.0	2,364.3
Moreno Valley	3.1%	64.9%	-2.5%	1,714.4	228.4	1,486.0
Murrieta	-8.7%	54.2%	-11.0%	760.1	46.6	713.6
Norwalk	0.5%	4.4%	-0.3%	1,087.5	192.8	894.7
Oakland	-12.2%	-7.6%	-13.3%	3,405.9	698.1	2,707.8
Oceanside	-1.0%	-2.5%	-0.8%	1,397.6	174.5	1,223.1
Ontario	-7.3%	12.2%	-9.3%	1,547.7	175.4	1,372.2
Orange	-13.6%	7.9%	-15.0%	980.1	73.5	906.5
Oxnard	-1.4%	-0.1%	-1.6%	1,807.3	217.4	1,589.9
Palmdale	-19.6%	-14.1%	-21.0%	1,008.9	219.3	789.6

California cities with populations larger than 100,000 in 2016	Change in offense rate, 2016 v 2015			Jan-June 2016 reported offense rate		
	Total Part I	Violent	Property	Total Part I	Violent	Property
Pasadena	-9.7%	17.1%	-12.5%	1,392.0	170.9	1,221.1
Pomona	-3.7%	-17.4%	-1.3%	1,703.0	214.6	1,488.4
Rancho Cucamonga	7.4%	15.3%	6.9%	1,250.2	67.9	1,182.3
Rialto	-3.0%	21.7%	-8.0%	1,118.0	236.7	881.4
Richmond	-12.8%	0.3%	-15.7%	2,064.7	429.4	1,635.3
Riverside	10.5%	21.4%	9.0%	1,932.6	256.2	1,676.3
Sacramento	-3.5%	-6.0%	-3.0%	1,978.2	356.8	1,621.4
Salinas	6.4%	-27.5%	14.8%	1,967.8	267.6	1,700.2
San Bernardino	-7.7%	14.2%	-13.0%	2,704.1	647.8	2,056.2
San Diego	4.4%	-7.9%	7.0%	1,258.1	190.0	1,068.1
San Francisco	-17.9%	-14.4%	-18.3%	2,979.5	344.7	2,634.8
San Jose	-8.3%	11.6%	-10.9%	1,284.1	184.1	1,100.0
San Mateo	1.6%	-8.9%	2.8%	1,098.8	106.2	992.6
Santa Ana	-2.7%	11.7%	-5.8%	1,252.7	253.1	999.6
Santa Clara	-29.4%	9.4%	-31.0%	1,119.2	71.1	1,048.1
Santa Clarita	1.5%	-8.7%	2.8%	743.1	71.0	672.1
Santa Maria	-3.7%	24.4%	-7.8%	1,571.8	258.6	1,313.2
Santa Rosa	-22.5%	6.0%	-26.4%	1,165.3	189.6	975.7
Simi Valley	-2.1%	5.8%	-2.9%	682.6	69.2	613.4
Statewide	-2.3%	4.9%	-3.5%	1,626.8	257.0	1,369.8
Stockton	-4.9%	6.0%	-8.4%	2,557.1	683.8	1,873.3
Sunnyvale	-18.5%	-13.8%	-18.8%	727.9	45.8	682.1
Temecula	-17.3%	20.2%	-18.6%	1,192.0	56.8	1,135.1
Thousand Oaks	-6.0%	27.2%	-8.6%	637.6	62.7	574.9
Torrance	10.2%	11.1%	10.1%	1,144.2	78.8	1,065.4
Vallejo	-1.0%	2.5%	-1.7%	2,502.5	440.7	2,061.8
Ventura	-5.3%	-7.1%	-5.1%	1,876.4	168.6	1,707.9
Victorville	-6.3%	-17.6%	-4.1%	1,738.3	254.2	1,484.1
Visalia	-3.9%	-15.7%	-2.0%	1,714.6	202.7	1,511.9
West Covina	-0.3%	19.8%	-2.0%	1,472.1	135.3	1,336.8
Statewide Average	-2.3%	4.9%	-3.5%	1,626.8	257.0	1,369.8

Sources: FBI (2017); DOF (2017). Note: Violent crime rates include rape because the definition was consistent for 2015 and 2016.

Please note: Each year, every jurisdiction submits their data to the official 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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