

CRIME IN CALIFORNIA CITIES REMAINS STABLE THROUGH JUSTICE REFORM ERA (2010-2017)



Mike Males, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

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Fact Sheet

Recently released crime statistics for the 73 California cities with populations of 100,000 or more (aggregate population, 19.9 million) show California’s urban crime rate remained stable between the first six months of 2010 and the first six months of 2017, a period marked by large-scale criminal justice reform.

- **Total urban crime remained virtually unchanged from early 2016 to early 2017.**

The first six months of 2017 saw a small increase in California’s urban property crime rate (0.6%) and a small decrease in the violent crime rate (-0.7%) compared to the first six months of 2016, though trends in specific crime categories varied. Burglary, motor vehicle theft, and assault decreased slightly, while homicide, robbery, theft, and arson increased slightly.¹

- **After decades of decline, California’s urban crime rate stabilized from 2010 to 2017.**

Crime rates in large California cities declined rapidly through the 1990s and 2000s (See Appendix A). Since 2010, urban crime has stabilized, fluctuating around historically low levels. From January-June 2010 to January-June 2017, total crime and property crime rates rose by less than 1 percent, while violent crime increased by less than 3 percent (see Table 1).

Table 1. California urban crime trends, January-June 2010 to January-June 2017

	January-June crime rate per 100,000 population								Rate change, 2017 vs:		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2010	2014	2016
All Part I Offenses*	1,602.0	1,533.3	1,662.4	1,654.3	1,527.2	1,585.4	1,608.5	1,615.6	0.8%	5.8%	0.4%
Violent Offenses*	228.4	208.5	225.4	216.7	204.0	211.2	236.0	234.3	2.6%	14.9%	-0.7%
Homicide	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.8	-0.7%	10.0%	3.3%
Robbery	98.5	87.9	96.6	96.1	80.9	82.2	89.2	91.8	-6.8%	13.5%	3.0%
Assault	127.0	117.9	125.7	117.8	120.5	126.8	144.1	139.7	10.0%	15.9%	-3.1%
Rape*	10.9	10.1	11.0	9.5	11.6	16.0	19.6	21.2	*	*	*
Property Offenses	1,373.7	1,324.8	1,437.0	1,437.6	1,323.2	1,374.3	1,372.6	1,381.3	0.6%	4.4%	0.6%
Burglary	285.6	276.9	308.1	304.7	259.9	246.8	235.0	225.9	-20.9%	-13.1%	-3.8%
Theft	846.7	823.6	877.2	873.5	826.1	888.8	874.8	894.6	5.7%	8.3%	2.3%
MV theft	230.2	214.2	244.2	249.9	225.6	229.4	252.0	249.9	8.5%	10.8%	-0.8%
Arson	11.1	10.0	7.5	9.5	11.7	9.3	10.862	10.871	-1.8%	-6.7%	0.1%

Sources: FBI (2018); DOF (2018). *Violent and total crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013, and law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses is gradually becoming more consistent. Rates for 2012 and 2016 are adjusted to reflect 366-day leap year.

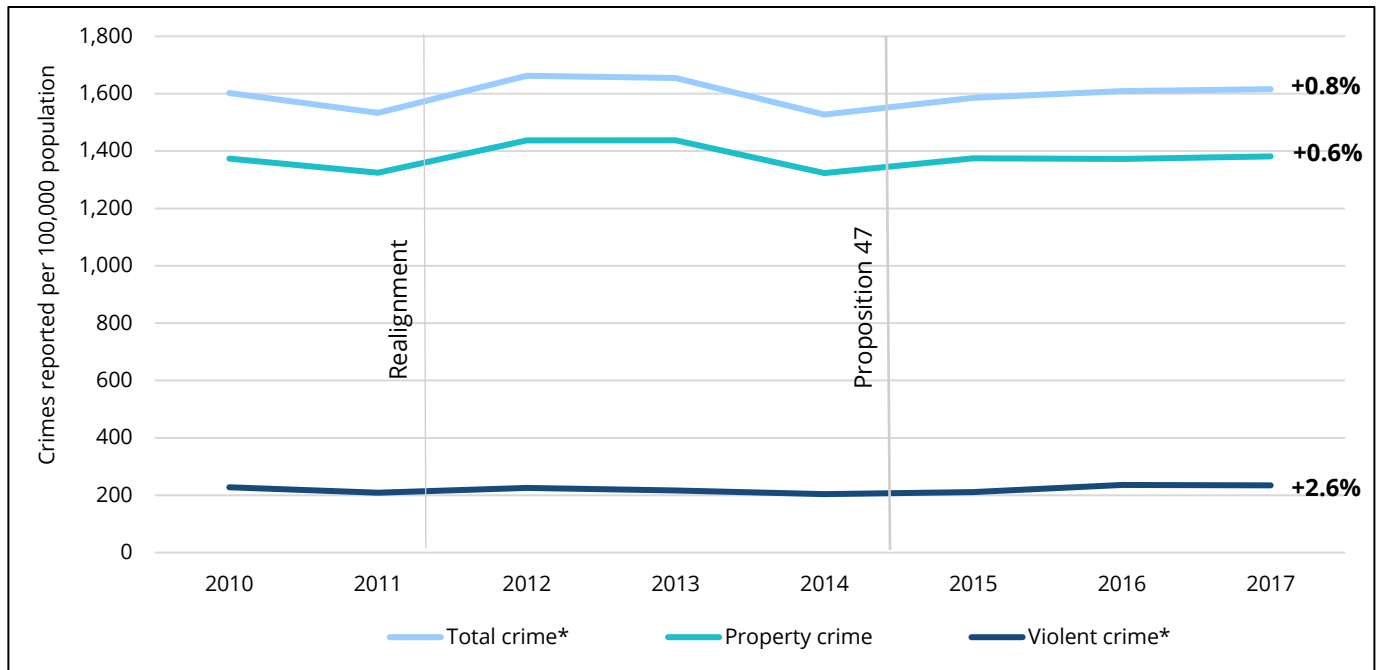
- **Urban crime has remained low through a period of justice reform.**

Crime rates in California cities have remained low through major criminal justice reforms, including 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 counties in an attempt to reduce prison populations. Proposition 47, which was approved by California voters in 2014, reduced several minor drug and property offenses from felonies to misdemeanors, prompting the resentencing and release

¹ Violent crime excludes rape because the definition was broadened in 2013, and law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses is gradually becoming more consistent.

of thousands from jails and prisons across the state. Though each policy was met with some initial concerns over public safety, an eight-year view of the data suggests that, overall, no visible change in crime resulted from the reforms; in fact, jurisdictions showed widely varying trends in the years following Realignment and Proposition 47, suggesting that crime trends were highly localized during the justice reform era (CJCJ, 2015; 2016; 2017).

Figure 1. Statewide trends in urban crime, January-June 2010 to January-June 2017



Sources: FBI (2018); DOF (2018). *Violent and total crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013, and law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses is gradually becoming more consistent.

- **One-year changes in the crime rate varied across California’s 73 largest cities.**

Despite the stability of statewide trends, crime rates at the local level have varied considerably. Changes in city crime rates from early 2016 to early 2017 ranged from a 23 percent rise in Sunnyvale to a 21 percent decrease in Escondido. Overall, 34 cities reported increased total crime during this one-year period, and 39 cities showed decreases. For violent crime, 39 cities showed increases while 34 showed decreases, and 32 cities reported increased property crime while 41 showed declines. Of the major cities, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Francisco reported increased violent crime, while Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Jose reported declines. Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose reported increased property crime, while Fresno, Long Beach, Sacramento, and San Diego reported declines (see Appendix B).

References

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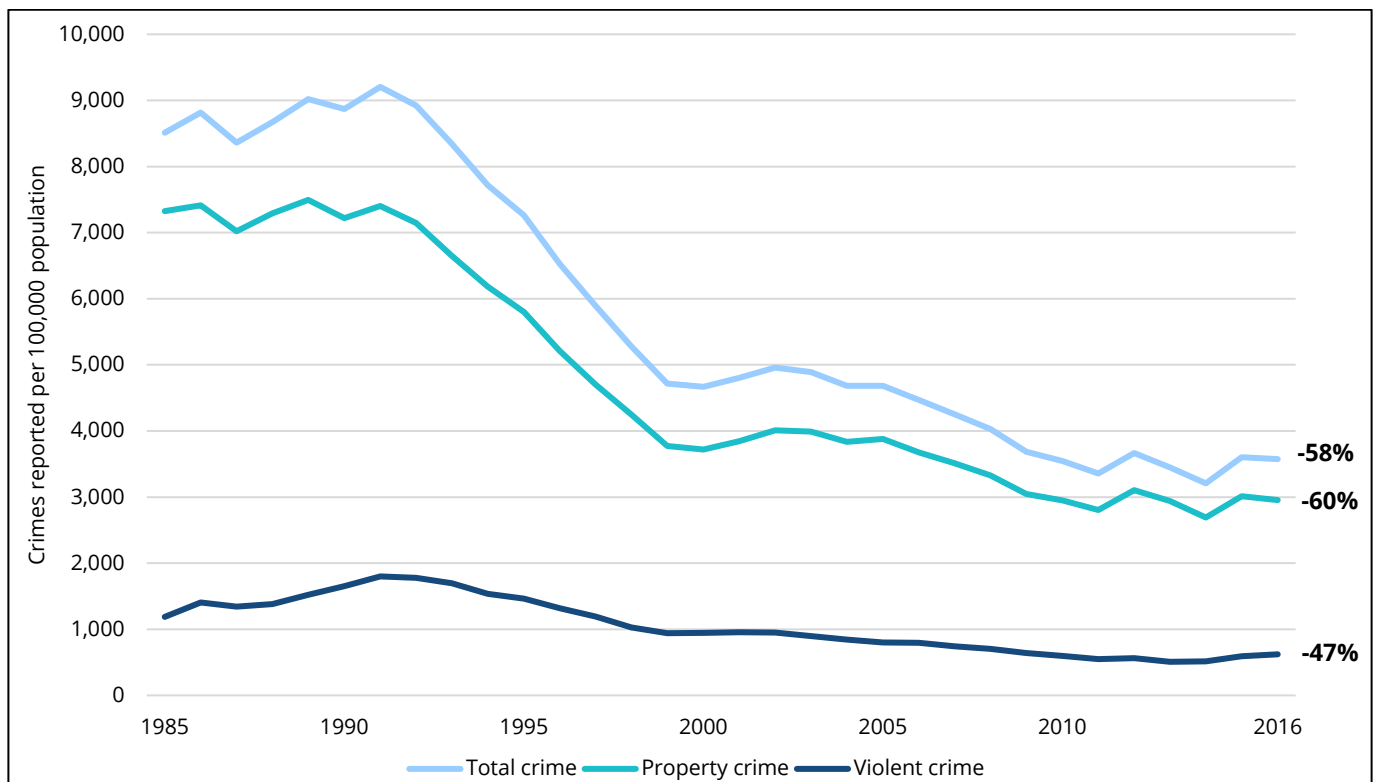
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Appendix

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



Sources: DOJ (2017); DOF (2017). * Violent crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013, and law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses is gradually becoming more consistent. Note: Crime rates include all California cities with populations of 250,000 or greater: 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 2017.

**Appendix B. Part I violent and property crime rates and rate changes, Jan-June 2017 v Jan-June 2016
(Cities of 100,000 population or more in 2017)**

California cities with 100,000 or more population	Change in offense rate, 2017 v 2016			Jan-June 2017 reported offense rate		
	Total Part I	Violent	Property	Total Part I	Violent	Property
Anaheim	-10.1%	-3.8%	-10.8%	1,458.7	167.6	1,291.0
Antioch	0.6%	-23.2%	6.0%	1,907.4	267.9	1,639.5
Bakersfield	-8.5%	-0.5%	-9.4%	2,216.1	242.2	1,973.9
Berkeley	7.0%	21.6%	5.6%	2,585.8	265.6	2,320.2
Burbank	9.2%	8.7%	9.2%	1,519.5	107.6	1,411.9
Carlsbad	-9.3%	18.2%	-11.5%	984.8	93.2	891.6
Chula Vista	-8.6%	16.9%	-12.3%	841.3	138.1	703.2
Clovis	-1.0%	7.3%	-1.7%	1,498.7	130.0	1,368.7
Concord	0.5%	-0.1%	0.6%	1,831.4	172.2	1,659.3
Corona	-4.6%	11.1%	-5.4%	1,141.5	64.4	1,077.1
Costa Mesa	-8.4%	-17.7%	-7.7%	2,181.6	146.4	2,035.2
Daly City	5.7%	9.2%	5.1%	890.3	131.8	758.6
Downey	2.1%	-3.3%	2.8%	1,611.1	160.8	1,450.4
El Cajon	-5.8%	-6.9%	-5.7%	1,357.9	183.8	1,174.1
El Monte	-6.1%	-1.8%	-7.1%	1,270.7	238.9	1,031.8
Elk Grove	13.4%	3.9%	15.2%	955.8	139.7	816.1
Escondido	-21.3%	-2.5%	-24.2%	1,004.0	166.3	837.7
Fairfield	1.4%	1.2%	1.4%	1,503.2	247.9	1,255.3
Fontana	-20.5%	-29.4%	-18.7%	1,015.6	150.9	864.7
Fremont	18.9%	-1.9%	20.7%	1,265.2	87.2	1,178.0
Fresno	-2.4%	-7.1%	-1.7%	2,238.2	287.7	1,950.4
Fullerton	14.7%	-12.7%	17.2%	1,488.4	93.5	1,394.9
Garden Grove	3.2%	22.6%	1.0%	1,425.6	172.5	1,253.1
Glendale	-11.0%	35.2%	-14.0%	846.6	76.8	769.8
Hayward	7.2%	-13.8%	10.0%	1,728.1	161.5	1,566.7
Huntington Beach	-0.5%	20.0%	-2.1%	1,183.4	103.8	1,079.6
Inglewood	9.5%	2.3%	11.9%	1,543.1	356.0	1,187.1
Irvine	-11.4%	4.8%	-12.0%	706.9	32.2	674.7
Jurupa Valley	-7.9%	-9.6%	-7.7%	1,470.7	136.2	1,334.5
Lancaster	-9.6%	-4.2%	-11.3%	1,323.0	333.9	989.1
Long Beach	-5.8%	10.3%	-9.1%	1,630.9	323.0	1,307.9
Los Angeles	2.1%	0.5%	2.5%	1,597.4	357.3	1,240.1
Modesto	-13.6%	-3.7%	-15.7%	2,458.6	469.1	1,989.5
Moreno Valley	3.3%	-21.6%	7.2%	1,777.5	179.9	1,597.6
Murrieta	2.0%	39.5%	0.7%	763.2	34.8	728.4
Norwalk	4.1%	-0.5%	5.1%	1,129.6	191.4	938.2
Oakland	9.0%	-6.4%	13.0%	3,709.4	652.9	3,056.5
Oceanside	-1.3%	8.7%	-2.8%	1,379.9	189.8	1,190.1
Ontario	-6.1%	1.3%	-7.1%	1,449.9	177.3	1,272.6
Orange	2.2%	18.2%	0.9%	1,004.4	87.3	917.1
Oxnard	-16.2%	0.4%	-18.6%	1,520.9	223.8	1,297.1
Palmdale	0.3%	-2.5%	1.1%	1,021.4	215.6	805.8
Pasadena	-7.9%	15.9%	-11.2%	1,283.0	198.1	1,084.9
Pomona	-1.0%	25.4%	-4.8%	1,702.4	271.7	1,430.7
Rancho Cucamonga	-2.6%	22.2%	-4.0%	1,213.6	83.5	1,130.1
Rialto	-14.6%	-26.4%	-11.4%	966.9	176.5	790.4
Richmond	14.5%	7.3%	16.4%	2,370.6	461.6	1,909.0
Riverside	-4.3%	-5.8%	-4.1%	1,854.7	242.4	1,612.3
Roseville	3.7%	10.5%	3.2%	1,335.9	80.2	1,255.6

California cities with 100,000 or more population	Change in offense rate, 2017 v 2016			Jan-June 2017 reported offense rate		
	Total Part I	Violent	Property	Total Part I	Violent	Property
Sacramento	-7.7%	-4.5%	-8.5%	1,823.4	340.3	1,483.1
Salinas	-10.5%	17.1%	-14.8%	1,757.2	312.7	1,444.6
San Bernardino	-9.1%	1.2%	-12.3%	2,492.9	662.3	1,830.7
San Diego	-11.4%	-6.0%	-12.4%	1,115.5	178.8	936.7
San Francisco	17.7%	1.6%	19.8%	3,514.3	351.1	3,163.2
San Jose	6.9%	-1.1%	8.3%	1,380.8	183.2	1,197.6
San Mateo	-0.6%	11.4%	-1.9%	1,088.7	118.0	970.7
Santa Ana	5.6%	-9.7%	9.5%	1,334.7	230.6	1,104.2
Santa Clara	17.1%	-0.3%	18.3%	1,311.5	71.0	1,240.5
Santa Clarita	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	836.6	80.0	756.6
Santa Maria	-13.5%	-18.1%	-12.6%	1,356.8	210.8	1,146.0
Santa Rosa	-5.7%	11.9%	-9.1%	1,098.4	212.1	886.3
Simi Valley	14.8%	-8.3%	17.4%	783.9	63.6	720.3
Stockton	-3.5%	-2.9%	-3.7%	2,459.8	661.4	1,798.4
Sunnyvale	22.7%	18.4%	23.0%	889.7	54.1	835.6
Temecula	13.3%	-10.8%	14.5%	1,343.9	50.4	1,293.4
Thousand Oaks	7.9%	-9.8%	9.8%	693.8	57.1	636.7
Torrance	0.3%	25.0%	-1.5%	1,148.2	98.6	1,049.6
Vallejo	-1.5%	3.9%	-2.6%	2,459.4	456.5	2,002.9
Ventura	0.3%	25.7%	-2.2%	1,878.7	211.4	1,667.4
Victorville	-10.1%	30.3%	-17.1%	1,567.6	333.4	1,234.2
Visalia	4.4%	-4.2%	5.6%	1,796.5	193.8	1,602.7
Vista	-10.5%	0.3%	-12.8%	918.5	185.7	732.8
West Covina	-10.8%	2.7%	-12.2%	1,313.4	139.1	1,174.3
73 California Cities	0.5%	0.0%	0.6%	1,636.8	255.5	1,381.3

Sources: FBI (2018); DOF (2018). *Violent and total crime rates include rape because the definition was consistent for 2016 and 2017.

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.

Contact: cjcjmedia@cjcj.org, (415) 400-5214, www.cjcj.org