

Chicago, New Orleans were the nation's murder capitals in 2022

A Wirepoints survey of America's 75 largest cities

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About Us

Wirepoints is a nonpartisan, Illinois-based research and news organization dedicated to connecting the dots between the health of America’s communities and the actions of their politicians.

Chicago, New Orleans were the nation's murder capitals in 2022

Just 90 minutes into the new year came Chicago's first criminal homicide of 2023. Dead was 38-year-old Austin McAllister. No activists picketed City Hall the next morning. No one cried, "Say His Name." Why? 2022 had just ended with far too many Chicago homicides to remember any names – a nation-leading 697.¹

In Baltimore, after yet another December murder, Mayor Brandon Scott could only ask, "why are people shooting and killing each other?" And in New Orleans, when pressed for answers on the city's nation-leading homicide rate, Mayor LaToya Cantrell could only resort to blaming covid and guns.^{2,3}

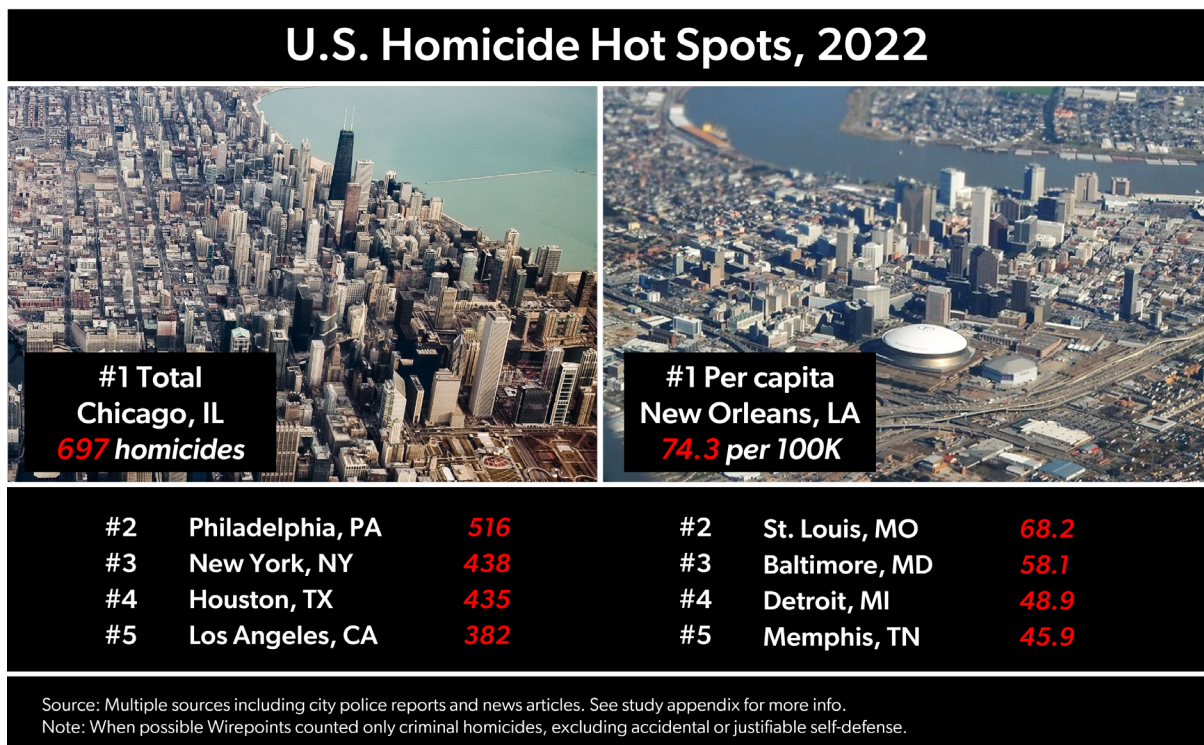
Local governments in America's homicide hot-spots continue to falter in their role as protectors of public safety, even though the nation is now more than two years removed from George Floyd's murder and the pandemic is largely in the rear view mirror.

Wirepoints surveyed publicly-available crime data from the 75 largest U.S. cities to identify which suffered the most and least criminal homicides in 2022, and to track the upward trend in violence since 2019. That was the

year before George Floyd's death roiled the nation and helped spark an ongoing wave of violent crime.

See Appendix A for the complete 75-city ranking.

This report ends with a deeper look at the causes of the crises occurring in the nation's worst homicide hubs. Chicago suffers from a trifecta of failure: Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, the county's Chief Judge Timothy Evans and Mayor Lori Lightfoot have crippled criminal justice and destroyed police morale. Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner blames everything but his own permissive policies for his city's crime wave. And New Orleans' ethically-challenged Mayor Cantrell has shown no leadership in dealing with her city's worsening violence.



The report's key findings include:

- **Chicago's 697 criminal homicides in 2022 were the most in the nation for the 11th-straight year.** Philadelphia suffered the 2nd-most with 516. New York City (438), Houston (435) and Los Angeles (382) rounded out the top 5. By contrast, cities with the fewest homicides out of the 75 surveyed were Plano, TX and Gilbert, AZ. They suffered 1 and 3 murders, respectively.
- **New Orleans' 2022 homicide rate of 74.3 homicides per 100,000 residents was the nation's highest of the 75 cities surveyed.** Rounding out the top 5 were St. Louis (68.2), Baltimore (58.1), Detroit (48.9) and Memphis (45.9). By comparison the nationwide homicide rate was 6.5 per 100,000 in 2020 (the most recent reliable national rate).
- **The safest of the nation's 75 largest cities by homicide rate was Plano, TX with just 0.3 per 100,000.** Following were Gilbert, AZ at 1.1 per 100,000, Henderson, NV with 1.6, Chandler, AZ at 3.2 and San Jose, CA with 3.6.
- **The nation's safe havens are increasingly concentrated in the West.** All but one of the 10 cities with the nation's highest homicide rates were located on or east of the Mississippi River in 2022. Of the 10 cities with the lowest homicide rates, all but one were located west of the Mississippi.
- **2022 homicide rates were typically much worse across the nation's 20 "homicide hubs" compared to 2019.** Half of those cities experienced a 50 percent or higher increase in their homicide rate versus 2019. Pittsburgh's homicide rate grew 92 percent between 2019 and 2022. New Orleans' rate grew 139 percent and Milwaukee's 129 percent.

The 75 cities surveyed for this report are the largest by population in the United States for which 2022 homicide data were publicly available. See Appendix C for more information.

Chicago and New Orleans were the nation's murder capitals in 2022

Nation's 75 largest cities: Top 20 cities by total homicides and homicide rate, 2022

City	Total homicides	Rank	City	Homicides per 100K	Rank
Chicago, IL	697	1	New Orleans, LA	74.3	1
Philadelphia, PA	516	2	St. Louis, MO	68.2	2
New York, NY	438	3	Baltimore, MD	58.1	3
Houston, TX	435	4	Detroit, MI	48.9	4
Los Angeles, CA	382	5	Memphis, TN	45.9	5
Baltimore, MD	335	6	Cleveland, OH	45.7	6
Detroit, MI	309	7	Milwaukee, WI	37.6	7
Memphis, TN	288	8	Atlanta, GA	34.2	8
New Orleans, LA	280	9	Kansas City, MO	32.8	9
San Antonio, TX	231	10	Philadelphia, PA	32.7	10
Phoenix, AZ	223	11	Washington, D.C.	30.3	11
Dallas, TX	214	12	Oakland, CA	27.7	12
Milwaukee, WI	214	12	Chicago, IL	25.8	13
Indianapolis, IN	210	14	Louisville, KY	25.5	14
Washington, D.C.	203	15	Cincinnati, OH	24.9	15
St. Louis, MO	200	16	Buffalo, NY	24.6	16
Atlanta, GA	170	17	Toledo, OH	23.8	17
Cleveland, OH	168	18	Indianapolis, IN	23.8	18
Kansas City, MO	167	19	Pittsburgh, PA	23.6	19
Louisville, KY	160	20	Las Vegas, NV	22.6	20

Source: Multiple sources including city police reports and news articles. See study appendix for more info.

Note: When possible Wirepoints counted only criminal homicides, excluding accidental or justifiable self-defense.

Chicago and Philadelphia led the nation in number of homicides

Chicago led the nation in criminal homicides again with 697 murders in 2022. That was by far the most among the top 75 cities. Only Philadelphia came remotely close with 516 homicides. It was the 11th-straight year Chicago led the nation in homicides.

Rounding out the top 10 were New York (438), Houston (435), Los Angeles (382), Baltimore (335), Detroit (309), Memphis (288), New Orleans (280), and San Antonio (231). See Appendix A for the complete 75-city ranking.

Hopes for Chicago were high in 2019. The city's 500 homicides were far lower compared to the murderous years that defined the city from the 1970s through the 1990s, and almost back in line with the relatively peaceful period of 2004 through 2015. (See Appendix B.) The city seemed ready to turn the corner. But then came a new wave of deadly violence in 2020 after George Floyd's death. It hasn't let up yet.

Second-place Philadelphia suffered 516 homicides in 2022. That was 46 fewer than in 2021 but still far more than its 2019 total of 353. Murders have gotten so bad that officials there have debated bringing back the controversial police practice called "stop and frisk." It hasn't happened yet, except on a limited test

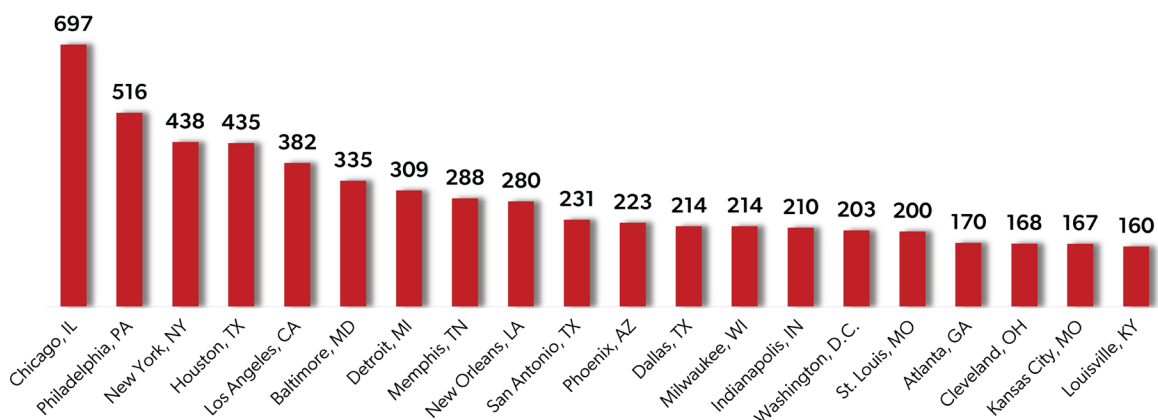
basis. But that such a politically reviled, yet legitimate, practice was again on the table reveals how serious Philadelphia's problems have become.⁴

Third-place New York City experienced 438 homicides – a high total but one of the lowest homicide rates (5.2 per 100K) of U.S. cities.

Houston had the fourth-highest number of criminal homicides in 2022 and the 23rd-highest homicide rate. That's no victory; the city's rate (19.0 per 100K) is more than triple the national rate. The city reported a slight one-year drop in criminal homicide totals for 2022, but the year's 435 murders remained far higher than the 280 in 2019. "There's still work to be done when people are dying in our city," Police Chief Troy Finner warned. The city needs a comprehensive plan, he added, focused on "getting violent defenders where they need to be - prosecuted, in jail, and then convicted."^{5,6}

Chicago suffered the nation's most homicides in 2022

Nation's 75 largest cities: Top 20 cities by total number of homicides, 2022



Source: Multiple sources including city police reports and news articles. See study appendix for more info.
Note: When possible Wirepoints counted only criminal homicides, excluding accidental or justifiable self-defense.

New Orleans and St. Louis led the nation in homicide rates

New Orleans suffered the nation's worst big-city homicide rate in 2022 with 74.3 homicides per 100,000 population. The Big Easy was followed by St. Louis (68.2), Baltimore (58.1), Detroit (48.9), and Memphis (45.9). Rounding out the worst 10 were Cleveland (45.7), Milwaukee (37.6), Atlanta (34.2), Kansas City (32.8), and Philadelphia (32.7). Those homicide rates are all multiples higher than the 2020 national average of 6.5 per 100,000, the most recent reliable national calculation available.

New Orleans is failing to tamp down its runaway homicide rate and the issue of political leadership sticks out as a reason why. In mid-2022, two city council members blasted Mayor LaToya Cantrell for failing to develop a violence mitigation strategy. They claimed she has downplayed rampant deadly violence to protect the city's reputation as a tourism destination. They also said she has prioritized public appearances and sound bites instead of leading a strong response to the city's killings.⁷

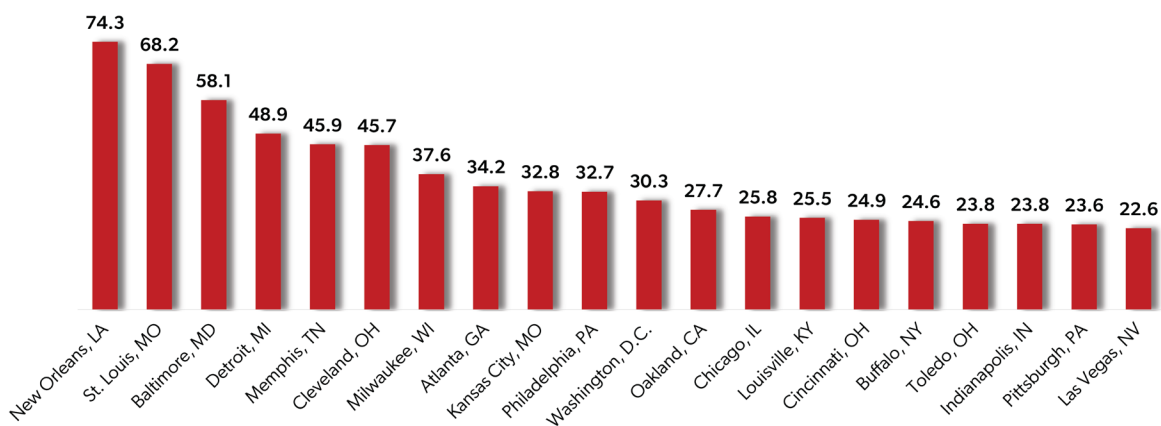
St. Louis ended 2022 with the nation's second highest homicide rate of 68.2 per 100,000 residents. The city's long history of homicide has helped drive a dramatic population decline from more than 600,000 in 1970 to less than 300,000 in 2022.⁸

As killings mounted last summer, Third Ward Committeewoman Lucinda Frazier remarked, "I am so sick of this violence. I don't think it's drug dealers. I don't think it's gang bangers. I think a lot of these crimes are being committed by young people who feel like they're going to be dead at a certain age, so they might as well do what they want. It's unconscionable."⁹

Among the nation's 20 biggest cities, Philadelphia suffered the highest homicide rate of 32.7 per 100,000. Chicago was second with 25.8, followed by Indianapolis with 23.8, Houston with 19, and Dallas at 16.6 homicides per 100,000.

New Orleans suffered the nation's highest homicide rate in 2022

Nation's 75 largest cities: Top 20 cities by homicides per 100,000 residents, 2022



Source: Multiple sources including city police reports and news articles. See study appendix for more info.
Note: When possible Wirepoints counted only criminal homicides, excluding accidental or justifiable self-defense.

Safe havens mainly concentrated in the Western U.S.

Most of the safer cities among the nation's 75 largest, whether based on total homicides or homicide rate, are located in the Western United States. Plano, TX was the nation's safest big city with just one reported murder in all of 2022. That's a homicide rate per 100,000 of just 0.3.

Next-safest was Gilbert, AZ, with just three homicides and a rate of only 1.1 per 100,000. Rounding out the five safest cities – based on homicide rate – were Henderson, NV; Chandler, AZ; and San Jose, CA.

There was one notable exception to the “western-cities-equal-safer” observation. Las Vegas was among the 20 cities with the highest homicide rates in 2022. And a handful in the eastern U.S. – Jersey City, Virginia

Beach, New York City, and Boston – were among the 20 cities with the lowest homicide rates.

The pattern of safe sanctuaries clustered in the West fits with the ongoing exodus of Americans from many Northeastern and some Midwest states to more hospitable locales in the Southeast, South, and West. High taxes, higher costs of living, failing urban public schools and poor job climates – on top of violent crime – all play a role in the nationwide shift.¹⁰

The nation's safest big cities are located in the Western U.S.

Nation's 75 largest cities: Top 20 cities by lowest homicide rate, 2022

City	Location	2021 population	Total homicides	Homicides per 100,000 population
Plano, TX	West	288,253	1	0.3
Gilbert, AZ	West	273,136	3	1.1
Henderson, NV	West	322,178	5	1.6
Chandler, AZ	West	279,458	9	3.2
San Jose, CA	West	983,489	35	3.6
San Diego, CA	West	1,381,611	51	3.7
Lincoln, NE	West	292,657	11	3.8
Arlington, TX	West	392,786	16	4.1
El Paso, TX	West	678,415	28	4.1
Jersey City, NJ	East	283,927	13	4.6
Virginia Beach, VA	East	457,672	22	4.8
New York, NY	East	8,467,513	438	5.2
Reno, NV	West	268,851	16	6.0
Mesa, AZ	West	509,475	31	6.1
Omaha, NE	West	487,300	30	6.2
Boston, MA	East	654,776	41	6.3
Austin, TX	West	964,177	66	6.8
San Francisco, CA	West	815,201	56	6.9
Honolulu, HI	West	345,510	24	6.9
Seattle, WA	West	733,919	52	7.1

Source: Multiple sources including city police reports and news articles. See study appendix for more info.

Note: When possible Wirepoints counted only criminal homicides, excluding accidental or justifiable self-defense.

Most 2022 homicide hubs are much worse off compared to 2019

There's been an explosion of homicides since George Floyd's death in 2020. Half of today's top homicide hubs saw jumps of 50 percent or more in their homicide rates compared to pre-Floyd 2019.

Chicago's homicide rate climbed to 25.8 per 100,000 in 2022 from 18.6 in 2019, a 39 percent increase. Philadelphia's rate jumped almost 50 percent, to 32.7 from 22.3. Atlanta's homicide rate climbed 75 percent.

But it was the smaller cities that experienced the most dramatic increases. Pittsburgh's homicide rate grew to 23.6 per 100,000 from just 12.3 in 2019, a 92 percent spike. New Orleans' homicide rate more than

doubled to 74.3 in 2022. Milwaukee's rate also more than doubled from 2019 – up 129 percent to 37.6 per 100,000.

Finally, there were a small handful of the most-homicide-prone cities in 2022 that fit a different profile. Call it “steady-state mayhem.” The homicide rates of St. Louis and Baltimore were already dramatic outliers in 2019 and stayed relatively unchanged in 2022.

Half of 2022's top homicide hubs saw jumps of 50% or more in their murder rates compared to 2019

Nation's 75 largest cities: Top 20 cities homicide rate per 100K in 2022 vs. homicide rate in 2019

City	2022 homicide rate	2019 homicide rate	Difference in rate	Percentage change
New Orleans, LA	74.3	31.0	43.3	139%
St. Louis, MO	68.2	64.5	3.6	6%
Baltimore, MD	58.1	58.6	-0.5	-1%
Detroit, MI	48.9	41.8	7.1	17%
Memphis, TN	45.9	29.8	16.1	54%
Cleveland, OH	45.7	32.8	12.8	39%
Milwaukee, WI	37.6	16.4	21.2	129%
Atlanta, GA	34.2	19.5	14.7	75%
Kansas City, MO	32.8	30.7	2.2	7%
Philadelphia, PA	32.7	22.3	10.5	47%
Washington, D.C.	30.3	23.5	6.8	29%
Oakland, CA	27.7	18.0	9.6	54%
Chicago, IL	25.8	18.6	7.3	39%
Louisville, KY	25.5	15.1	10.4	69%
Cincinnati, OH	24.9	22.0	2.9	13%
Buffalo, NY	24.6	18.4	6.2	33%
Toledo, OH	23.8	13.2	10.6	81%
Indianapolis, IN	23.8	17.3	6.5	37%
Pittsburgh, PA	23.6	12.3	11.3	92%
Las Vegas, NV	22.6	13.1	9.5	73%

Source: Multiple sources including city police reports and news articles. See study appendix for more info.

Note: When possible Wirepoints counted only criminal homicides, excluding accidental or justifiable self-defense.

A closer look at Chicago, Philadelphia and New Orleans

The 2022 homicide data as a whole prompts a number of questions, including: What is driving the dismal state of affairs in the most murder-prone U.S. cities? To explore that question more fully, this report takes a closer look at Chicago, Philadelphia, and New Orleans.

Chicago: A case study in failed leadership

Law and order has taken a big hit in Chicago after the city's 2020 riots and looting. Right on the heels of George Floyd's death, Chicago murders reached 18 in one May day and then 105 in July. There was a dramatic annual surge in Chicago murders in 2020 and 2021. At center stage have been the failed policies of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, and the county's Chief Judge Timothy Evans.^{11,12,13,14}

Emblematic, horrifying stories abound. A woman out on bail for stabbing a random pedestrian was charged with doing the same thing again to four people. Little thought was given to the dangers posed by pretrial release of an accused stabber. It's one more dismaying episode among hundreds in recent years which capture the revolving door in Chicagoland criminal courts and the surrender of the city's streets to violence and disorder.^{15,16,17}

Much of the deadly violence traces back to a broader decriminalization effort by officials that has increased tolerance for lower-level crimes. Foxx has effectively decriminalized retail theft under \$1,000, while state legislation successfully pushed by her political mentor, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, has limited the practice of prosecuting armed juvenile carjackers as adults.^{18,19}

Since then, young carjackers granted leniency in court have subsequently been charged with killing drivers in new carjacking attempts. As the killing continued, Preckwinkle seemed to want it both ways: giving lip service to horror at deadly violence yet in the same breath offloading responsibility for it on "historic disinvestment and marginalization" among communities of color. The county government chief's remarks came after a 49-year-old black mother of six who worked as a hairdresser was senselessly slain as she parked her car to hustle to a 5 a.m. client appointment on Chicago's South Side.^{20,21,22,23}

Foxx dropped 30 percent of felony prosecutions in her first three years as state's attorney versus 19 percent in her predecessor's last three. Her highest dismissal rates were for defendants charged with narcotics offenses, escape, and retail theft. Foxx has also found new ways to sidestep prosecution of suspects charged in fatal shootings by calling them "mutual combatants."^{24,25,26}



The state's attorney's policies have contributed to an exodus of staff from her office. One former top official said, "...exposing the population of Cook County to dangerous criminals who every reasonable person agrees should not be allowed to walk the streets should not comport with anybody's sense of integrity and morals and ethics, and that's why I'm not surprised that all these [prosecutors] are leaving in the numbers that they are."²⁷

Top Cook County Judge Tim Evans has played a big role, too, in Chicagoland's ongoing violent crime problem. He issued a "bail reform" policy in late 2017 that tipped the scales so local judges began to let even serious offenders out before trial on low-cash or no-cash bail. The result by midyear 2022 was an

additional 15,000 new offenses for charged suspects already awaiting trial. Some get released to electronic home monitoring, but too often the ankle bracelets have failed to deter pretrial defendants from racking up new charges. Adding to Chicago's grave public disorder is lax sentencing seen in murder charges for suspects who were already on probation, parole, or out on bail before trial.^{28,29,30}

Meanwhile, Lightfoot's leadership and executive temperament have faltered as crime has mounted. When McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski rightly warned that outsized crime threatened the city's economic future, Lightfoot wouldn't hear of it and said he needed to "educate himself." She calls her critics on crime "haters" even as the city in 2022 clocked a 41 percent increase in major crimes vs. 2021, and a 33 percent increase since 2019.^{31,32,33,34}

Police morale has plunged under Lightfoot's management. Many officers have fled regular patrols for assignments in special units. Retirements and resignations are common; more than 1,000 officers

left in 2022. A string of suicides has rocked the department. Replacements are being hired but sworn officer staffing levels are down 12 percent between January of 2019 and January of 2023.^{35,36,37,38}

All that contributed to the more than 400,000 high-priority 911 calls put onto "backlog" status in 2021 because no police were available to respond.³⁹

Increasingly Chicago Police suffer political abuse and are unable to do their jobs. Foot and car chases by police are effectively banned. Activists stand ready to accuse them of murder and link them to racism even when they're acting in justifiable self-defense. A political party representing several city council members called the police department "white supremacist" and a council staffer called them "pigs."^{40,41,42}

From City Hall to the county prosecutor's office and the county courts, Chicago is a case study in failed leadership during an ongoing urban violence crisis.

Philadelphia: The debacle of Larry Krasner

As in other high-homicide cities, Philadelphia's District Attorney Larry Krasner has focused on the rights of the accused and social programs instead of tough prosecutions and sentencing.

Data from Krasner's office shows a sharp drop in the conviction rate for weapons offenses tried by his staff in recent years. There has also been a large jump in weapons cases withdrawn or dismissed by his prosecutors.⁴³

Unsurprisingly, Philadelphia murders reached a record high of 562 in 2021.

Yet Krasner blamed the stunning climb in homicides on covid and shutdowns of after-school and arts programs and remarkably claimed, "We don't have a crisis of lawlessness. We don't have a crisis of crime. We don't have a crisis of violence."^{44,45}

This prompted a tart reply from black, Democratic ex-Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter. In a Philadelphia Inquirer op-ed, Nutter wrote, "Krasner should also use his words to send a message to the shooters, murderers, and criminals of this city by committing to actually prosecute them, rather than coddle them, make excuses, reduce or drop charges. He should commit to locking them up for carrying illegal weapons or shooting people. If Krasner does not have the fortitude or the guts to carry out those duties, he should resign and turn things over to someone who is not trying to sell Philadelphians on the false choice of having either public safety or police reform."⁴⁶

Krasner's excuses for the city's violence were torpedoed by 2022 year-end data. With Covid largely in the rear-view mirror and programs restored, Philadelphia's homicide rate was still 32.7 – up nearly 50 percent compared to 2019.

The conflict between Krasner and Nutter neatly captured the tensions which persist in major U.S. homicide hubs. But Philadelphia is more than just the story of dueling narratives around homicide. The city also illustrates that structural issues in local governance – including the timing of elections – play to the advantage of officials who emphasize their vision of social justice over traditional notions of criminal justice.



Krasner was re-elected in an off-year election in November 2021 which garnered a scant 22 percent voter turnout. This happened just a month before his claim that the city's new homicide record didn't indicate any sort of crime or violence crisis.⁴⁷

Off-year contests are common to many other major cities including Chicago and New Orleans. Though 2023 may be an exception in Chicago due to growing crime concerns, they often lead to anemic turnout in local elections easily dominated by well-organized special interest groups. Mayor Lightfoot won her 2019 Chicago mayoral run-off with just 33 percent turnout. New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell was reelected in 2021 with a turnout of 28 percent.^{48,49}

New Orleans: Fiddling while the city burns

New Orleans has also suffered from misguided priorities in prosecuting crime. The city's first progressive prosecutor Jason Williams took office in 2021 and vowed to be "more selective" about prosecutions. He delivered. The percentage of violent felonies accepted for prosecution dropped to 21 percent in 2021 from 57 percent in 2019.⁵⁰

Mayor LaToya Cantrell's missteps also haven't helped in a city of runaway homicides. She raised hackles among police, political allies and victims when she attended the sentencing hearing of a juvenile defendant who got probation for multiple carjackings committed in two days with a fake gun. The mayor sat with his family and spoke during proceedings to the defendant and his mother. It left many wondering whose side she was on.^{51,52}

Cantrell created more controversy in early 2023 when she appointed a task force to develop a homicide-fighting plan; its members are mainly city bureaucrats who've presided over the city's decline.^{53,54}

Then there are the mayor's ethical troubles. Cantrell has been under fire for violating city policy by using \$30,000 in taxpayer funds to pay for first-class airfare upgrades. She refused to reimburse the city, saying the upgrades were necessary for her protection as a black woman. She later reversed course, but only after a finance staffer called her out for violating city policy.^{55,56,57,58}

Currently, Cantrell is at the center of a scandal regarding her use of city property for personal purposes and related allegations of a possible extra-marital affair with a member of her security detail. The

mayor has angrily denied those allegations, but the city's Inspector General is investigating.⁵⁹

In a city as heavily beset with violence as New Orleans is, a real leader would elevate the common good and minimize personal and political missteps to enlist the public as key allies to stem bloodshed. Cantrell's troubled reign underscores the pitfalls of failing that test. Leadership requires focus and personal integrity. But if officials are battling persistent allegations of misfeasance, the bad guys will have even more leverage than if leaders were fully engaged.



It's still Condition Red in Crescent City. New Orleans' new year began with a dozen homicides in 11 days.⁶⁰

Perhaps the city is beginning to figure things out: in February New Orleans police announced they'd be offering gun safety classes.⁶¹

Wanted: A new class of urban political leaders

In the end, Chicago is Philadelphia is Memphis is New Orleans is St. Louis is Milwaukee. Cities with outsized homicides all suffer from similar social and political maladies which stand in the way of permanently reducing homicide to far lower levels.

Solutions to contain urban homicide require real bravery to implement. But instead of bravery, political careerists abound in our nation's homicide hubs. They put the interests of the criminal class above the safety of their communities and the blacks and Latinos who are overwhelmingly the real victims.

U.S. homicide hubs need a new class of urban leaders who can bring more than the tired and defensive political rhetoric of the past to a now stubbornly pervasive threat. Sadly, it's very unclear if or when that time will actually come.

And until it does, the tragedies will continue.

Austin McAllister – the Chicago victim that led off this paper – was a father of six, an Iraq War veteran and a fitness trainer. He'd been working as a bouncer at a hookah lounge when he was slain by an angry patron.⁶²

Austin's sister, retired Chicago cop Denotra Allen, lamented the senselessness of his death: "He got hurt in Iraq to come home to Chicago and be killed because he turned a patron away from the hookah lounge? He wasn't out there partying. He wasn't drinking. He was out there working for his kids and for himself...He was at a job, protecting other people while they were enjoying themselves. We got to stop allowing this to be OK. We've got to stop letting the next story come two minutes later or three minutes later."

"We need people to care."

Appendix A: 2022 homicide data table

Nation's 75 largest cities ranked by total number of homicides, 2022

City	2021 population	Geography	Total homicides	Rank	Homicides per 100,000 population	Rank	Data period for homicide count*
Chicago, IL	2,696,555	East	697	1	25.8	13	Through year-end
Philadelphia, PA	1,576,251	East	516	2	32.7	10	Through year-end
New York, NY	8,467,513	East	438	3	5.2	64	Through year-end
Houston, TX	2,288,250	West	435	4	19.0	23	Through year-end
Los Angeles, CA	3,849,297	West	382	5	9.9	50	Through year-end
Baltimore, MD	576,498	East	335	6	58.1	3	Through year-end
Detroit, MI	632,464	East	309	7	48.9	4	Through year-end
Memphis, TN	628,127	East	288	8	45.9	5	Through year-end
New Orleans, LA	376,971	East	280	9	74.3	1	Through year-end
San Antonio, TX	1,451,853	West	231	10	15.9	28	Through year-end
Phoenix, AZ	1,624,569	West	223	11	13.7	34	Through year-end
Dallas, TX	1,288,457	West	214	12	16.6	25	Through year-end
Milwaukee, WI	569,330	East	214	12	37.6	7	Through year-end
Indianapolis, IN	882,039	East	210	14	23.8	18	Through year-end
Washington, D.C.	670,050	East	203	15	30.3	11	Through year-end
St. Louis, MO	293,310	East	200	16	68.2	2	Through year-end
Atlanta, GA	496,461	East	170	17	34.2	8	Through year-end
Cleveland, OH	367,991	East	168	18	45.7	6	Through year-end
Kansas City, MO	508,394	West	167	19	32.8	9	Through year-end
Louisville, KY	628,594	East	160	20	25.5	14	Through year-end
Las Vegas, NV	646,790	West	146	21	22.6	20	Through year-end
Columbus, OH	906,528	East	140	22	15.4	30	Through year-end
Jacksonville, FL	954,614	East	127	23	13.3	36	Through year-end
Oakland, CA	433,823	West	120	24	27.7	12	Through year-end
Albuquerque, NM	562,599	West	115	25	20.4	21	Through year-end
Charlotte, NC	879,709	East	110	26	12.5	38	Through year-end
Nashville, TN	678,851	East	102	27	15.0	32	Through year-end
Fort Worth, TX	935,508	West	100	28	10.7	46	Through year-end
Portland, OR	641,162	West	97	29	15.1	31	Through year-end
Denver, CO	711,463	West	88	30	12.4	40	Through year-end
Minneapolis, MN	425,336	West	81	31	19.0	22	Through year-end
Cincinnati, OH	308,935	East	77	32	24.9	15	Through year-end
Tulsa, OK	411,401	West	75	33	18.2	24	Through year-end
Oklahoma City, OK	687,725	West	73	34	10.6	48	Through year-end
Pittsburgh, PA	300,431	East	71	35	23.6	19	Through year-end
Buffalo, NY	276,807	East	68	36	24.6	16	Through year-end
Austin, TX	964,177	West	66	37	6.8	59	Through year-end
Tucson, AZ	543,242	West	65	38	12.0	42	Through year-end
Toledo, OH	268,508	East	64	39	23.8	17	Through year-end

Appendix A: 2022 homicide data table (continued)

Nation's 75 largest cities ranked by total number of homicides, 2022

City	2021 population	Geography	Total homicides	Rank	Homicides per 100,000 population	Rank	Data period for homicide count*
Fresno, CA	544,510	West	60	40	11.0	45	Through year-end
San Francisco, CA	815,201	West	56	41	6.9	58	Through year-end
Colorado Springs, CO	483,956	West	54	42	11.2	44	Through year-end
Sacramento, CA	525,041	West	54	42	10.3	49	Through year-end
Aurora, CO	389,347	West	52	44	13.4	35	Through year-end
Seattle, WA	733,919	West	52	44	7.1	56	Through year-end
San Diego, CA	1,381,611	West	51	46	3.7	70	Through year-end
Newark, NJ	307,220	East	50	47	16.3	26	Through year-end
Stockton, CA	322,120	West	50	47	15.5	29	49 through Dec. 25
Tampa, FL	387,050	East	48	49	12.4	39	Through year-end
Miami, FL	439,890	East	47	50	10.7	47	Through year-end
Durham, NC	285,527	East	46	51	16.1	27	Through year-end
Raleigh, NC	469,124	East	43	52	9.2	52	Through year-end
Boston, MA	654,776	East	41	53	6.3	60	Through year-end
Greensboro, NC	298,263	East	41	53	13.7	33	Through year-end
Orlando, FL	309,154	East	40	55	12.9	37	Through year-end
Bakersfield, CA	407,615	West	39	56	9.6	51	Through year-end
Lexington, KY	321,793	East	39	56	12.1	41	Through year-end
Long Beach, CA	456,062	West	36	58	7.9	54	Through year-end
St. Paul, MN	307,193	West	36	58	11.7	43	Through year-end
San Jose, CA	983,489	West	35	60	3.6	71	Through year-end
Mesa, AZ	509,475	West	31	61	6.1	62	Through year-end
Omaha, NE	487,300	West	30	62	6.2	61	Through year-end
Wichita, KS	395,699	West	30	62	7.6	55	Through year-end
El Paso, TX	678,415	West	28	64	4.1	67	Through year-end
Honolulu, HI	345,510	West	24	65	6.9	57	Through year-end
Fort Wayne, IN	265,974	East	23	66	8.6	53	23 through Dec. 28
Virginia Beach, VA	457,672	East	22	67	4.8	65	Through year-end
Arlington, TX	392,786	West	16	68	4.1	68	Through year-end
Reno, NV	268,851	West	16	68	6.0	63	Through year-end
Jersey City, NJ	283,927	East	13	70	4.6	66	13 through Dec. 25
Lincoln, NE	292,657	West	11	71	3.8	69	Through year-end
Chandler, AZ	279,458	West	9	72	3.2	72	Through year-end
Henderson, NV	322,178	West	5	73	1.6	73	Through year-end
Gilbert, AZ	273,136	West	3	74	1.1	74	Through year-end
Plano, TX	288,253	West	1	75	0.3	75	Through year-end

Source: Multiple sources including city police reports and news articles. See study appendix for more info.

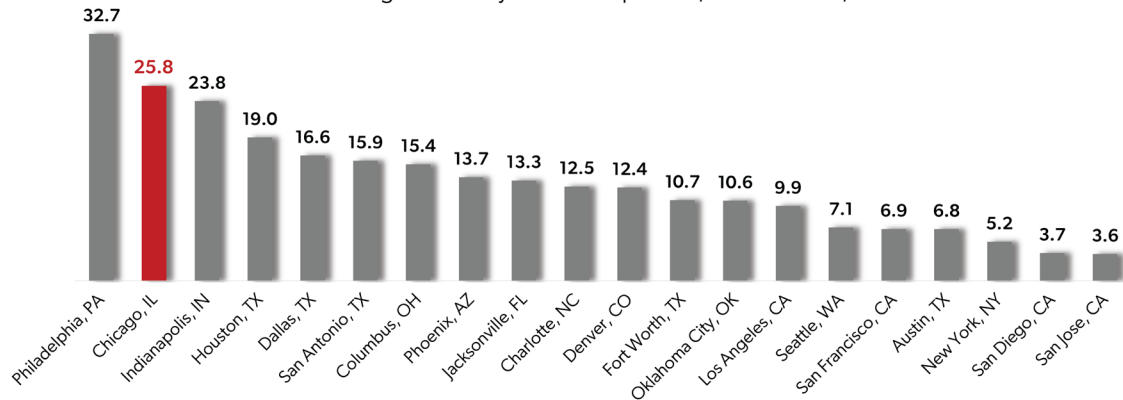
Note: When possible Wirepoints counted only criminal homicides, excluding accidental or justifiable self-defense.

*Wirepoints calculated a year-end total for cities with incomplete 2022 data using the city's current run-rate.

Appendix B: Chicago 2022 homicide charts

Chicago had the nation's 2nd-highest homicide rate of the 20 biggest cities in 2022

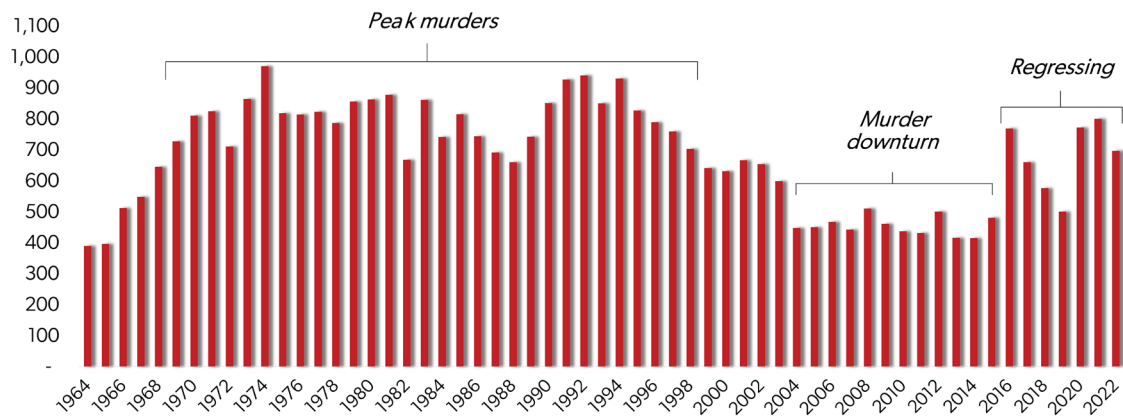
Nation's 20 largest cities by homicides per 100,000 residents, 2022



Source: Multiple sources including city police reports and news articles. See study appendix for more info.
Note: When possible Wirepoints counted only criminal homicides, excluding accidental or justifiable self-defense.

Chicago murders surge to 700-plus in recent years

Total number of homicides in the City of Chicago by year



Source: Chicago Police Department Annual Reports; FBI Crime Data Explorer

Appendix C: Data collection and source notes

General source notes

- In this report “homicide” refers to “criminal homicides” and, where specified, non-negligent manslaughter. Accidental homicides or those found to have been committed in justifiable self-defense are not counted toward criminal homicide totals.
- The 75 cities surveyed for this report are the largest by population in the United States for which 2022 homicide data were publicly available. The following cities were not covered because there was no reliable 2022 homicide data available at the time this report was prepared in early 2023: Anaheim, CA; Corpus Christi, TX; Riverside, CA; Anchorage, AK; Chula Vista, CA; North Las Vegas, NV; Madison, WI; Santa Ana, CA. The next most populous cities were added in their place.
- Homicide totals for 2022 were first sought from local police department data, and if that data was not available, from reputable media outlets. When no better data could be found, we referred in some limited instances to the 2022 Violent Crime Survey by the Major Chiefs Association.⁶³
- Wirepoints used the latest 2021 population data from the U.S. Census Bureau to calculate cities’ 2022 homicide rate per 100,000 residents.⁶⁴
- The most recent reliable national homicide rate is 2020’s 6.5 per 100,000. National homicide and crime rates are less reliable from 2021 forward. The FBI reported an even higher homicide rate of 6.9 per 100,000 in 2021, but a new reporting system meant thousands of agencies did not submit data, so unreliable estimates were widespread.⁶⁵
- 2019 homicide rates shown for a subgroup of cities in this report were based on homicide totals from the FBI’s Crime Data Explorer, police department data, or reputable media outlets. 2019 city population figures were taken from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010-2019 vintage estimates.⁶⁶
- City image credits:
Jonathan Lurie, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lurie/2339669002/sizes/l/in/photostream/>
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Anomalous_A, https://www.flickr.com/photos/anomalous_a/16241876938

Appendix C: Data collection and source notes

City	Source
Albuquerque, NM	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Arlington, TX	https://www.arlingtontx.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=14481146&pageId=15448634
Atlanta, GA	https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/atlanta-crime-homicide-theft-statistics-2022
Aurora, CO	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Austin, TX	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Bakersfield, CA	https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/2022-breaks-kerns-triple-digit-homicide-trend/
Baltimore, MD	https://homicides.news.baltimoresun.com/?range=2022
Boston, MA	https://www.bostonherald.com/2023/01/03/bostons-overall-crime-rate-is-down-1-5-in-2022-but-fatal-shootings-rose-by-8-over-2021/
Buffalo, NY	https://data.buffalony.gov/stories/s/CitiStat-Buffalo-Buffalo-Police-Department/hugq-2uun/
Chandler, AZ	https://chandlerazpd.gov/data/
Charlotte, NC	https://charlottenc.gov/CMPD/Safety/Pages/CrimeStats.aspx
Chicago, IL	https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/vrd/home.html
Cincinnati, OH	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Cleveland, OH	https://www.cleveland.com/news/2023/01/homicide-numbers-slowly-declining-in-cleveland-advocates-worry-about-youth-safety-in-the-city.html
Colorado Springs, CO	https://gazette.com/news/homicides/victim-identified-in-first-colorado-springs-homicide-of-2023/article_73a34046-91dc-11ed-8e36-97e959392f1c.html
Columbus, OH	https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/crime/2023/01/01/columbus-2022-homicide-total-hits-140-with-two-new-years-eve-deaths/69769896007/
Dallas, TX	https://dallaspolice.net/resources/CrimeReports/NIBRS%20REPORT%20Admin%20Daily%20EOY.pdf
Denver, CO	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Detroit, MI	https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/detroit-crime-stats-police-chief-james-white-shares-2022-data
Durham, NC	https://bullcityhomicide.wordpress.com/2022-homicides/
El Paso, TX	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Fort Wayne, IN	https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-homicide-numbers-decrease-big-in-2022/article_42bce5d0-86f7-11ed-8664-174d668bc873.html
Fort Worth, TX	https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/crime/article270813687.html
Fresno, CA	https://abc30.com/fresno-deadly-shooting-investigation/12641560/
Gilbert, AZ	https://www.gilbertaz.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/45634/638089601259900000
Greensboro, NC	https://journalnow.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/winston-salem-and-forsyth-county-experienced-40-homicides-combined-in-2022-with-33-killings-happening/article_70c2c0fa-8baa-11ed-bd82-3798c9e4f3b5.html
Henderson, NV	https://www.reviewjournal.com/crime/homicides/homicide-numbers-down-since-2021-but-fights-continue-to-be-deadly-2706754/
Honolulu, HI	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Houston, TX	https://cityofhouston.news/wp-content/uploads/HPD_EOY-2022-Council-Presentation.pdf (murders)
Indianapolis, IN	https://www.indystar.com/story/news/crime/2023/01/01/indianapolis-ends-year-with-fewer-homicides-still-not-back-to-pre-pandemic/69769505007/
Jacksonville, FL	https://transparency.jaxsheriff.org/Homicide/Criminal
Jersey City, NJ	https://www.nj.com/hudson/2022/12/fatal-shooting-in-jersey-city-prosecutors-office-says.html
Kansas City, MO	https://fox4kc.com/news/kansas-city-ends-2022-with-second-worst-homicide-total/
Las Vegas, NV	https://www.lvmpd.com/en-us/Documents/Statistics/CAG%20Homicide%20Log%202022%20FINAL.pdf
Lexington, KY	https://www.lexingtonky.gov/crime-data
Lincoln, NE	https://cjis.lincoln.ne.gov/HTBIN/CGI.com
Long Beach, CA	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Los Angeles, CA	https://data.lacity.org/Public-Safety/Crime-Data-from-2020-to-Present/2nrs-mtv8

Appendix C: Data collection and source notes

City	Source
Louisville, KY	https://www.wdrb.com/news/crime-reports/louisvilles-murder-rate-down-slightly-in-2022-with-160-violent-deaths/article_c30a4ff6-8874-11ed-bf17-d3e1abb08ad3.html
Memphis, TN	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Mesa, AZ	http://mesapd.blogspot.com
Miami, FL	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Milwaukee, WI	https://city.milwaukee.gov/police/Information-Services/Crime-Maps-and-Statistics
Minneapolis, MN	https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/minneapolis-homicides-down-in-2022-but-well-above-pre-pandemic-levels/89-4cc156d3-e339-4c0b-be06-2aa365898e0e
Nashville, TN	https://localtoday.news/tn/nashville-had-102-homicides-in-2022-thats-what-the-numbers-tell-us-110552.html
New Orleans, LA	https://www.wdsu.com/article/leaders-call-new-orleans-violent-2022-a-horrific-year/42390054
New York City, NY	https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-city.pdf
Newark, NJ	https://newjersey.news12.com/police-newark-reports-50-homicides-in-2022-lowest-number-in-60-years
Oakland, CA	https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/01/02/man-fatally-shot-in-oaklands-first-homicide-of-2023/
Oklahoma, OK	https://www.koco.com/article/oklahoma-city-police-homicides-down/42401012
Omaha, NE	https://police.cityofomaha.org/images/crime-statistics-reports/2018/Website_-_UCR_Tables_1-9-2023.pdf
Orlando, FL	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Philadelphia, PA	https://www.phillypolice.com/crime-maps-stats
Phoenix, AZ	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Pittsburgh, PA	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Plano, TX	https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/f2a3b371-8bc6-447a-a584-b378e71b5f23?cache=1800
Portland, OR	https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/71978
Raleigh, NC	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Reno, NV	https://nevadacrimestats.nv.gov/public/View/disview.aspx
Sacramento, CA	https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article270346967.html
San Antonio, TX	https://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/uniform-crime-reports
San Diego, CA	https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2022cumneighborhood.pdf
San Francisco, CA	https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/SFPDCompstat-Dec2022-20230111.pdf
San Jose, CA	https://www.sjpd.org/records/crime-stats-maps/crime-statistics-monthly
Seattle, WA	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
St. Louis, MO	https://www.slmfpd.org/images/Homicide_Stats_for_Website.pdf
St. Paul, MN	https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/most-violent-crime-in-st-paul-down-in-2022/
Stockton, CA	https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/stockton/christmas-eve-homicide-on-fontana/103-f7454bff-e260-41e4-bbdf-113d45c56f2a
Tampa, FL	https://www.tampabay.com/news/breaking-news/2023/01/04/efforts-fight-violent-crime-tampa-making-progress-officials-say/
Toledo, OH	https://police-transparency-toledopolice.hub.arcgis.com/pages/crime-stats
Tucson, AZ	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Tulsa, OK	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf
Virginia Beach, VA	https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/crime/2022-record-high-homicides-hampton-roads/291-82feb61b-02c9-4d5d-b025-a28207fcde0c
Washington, D.C.	https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/district-crime-data-glance
Wichita, KS	https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf

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