

URBAN CRIME DECLINES IN 2018: A POSITIVE TREND IN CALIFORNIA'S JUSTICE REFORM ERA (2010-2018)



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Fact Sheet

Newly released crime statistics for the 73 California cities with populations of 100,000 or more (a combined population of 20,047,500) for first six months of 2018 show California's reported urban crime rate generally declined from 2010 through 2018, a period termed California's justice reform era in which large-scale criminal justice reforms were implemented (FBI, 2019).

- **The total urban crime rate declined by 5 percent in the first half of 2018.**

The first six months of 2018 saw a small (2.0 percent) decrease in California's urban violent¹ crime rate and a substantial decrease (5.7 percent) in the property crime rate compared to the first six months of 2017. All forms of crime decreased except the rare offense of arson, led by a 12.8 percent decline in the homicide rate and a 9.5 percent decline in motor vehicle theft rate.

- **The statewide urban crime rate in early 2018 is the third lowest ever recorded.**

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. From January-June 2010 to January-June 2018, the rate of total crime decreased by 4.1 percent, and property crime decreased by 5.0 percent, while violent crime increased by 1.1 percent (see Table 1).

Table 1. California urban crime rates and trends, Jan-June 2010 to Jan-June 2018

	January-June crime rate per 100,000 population									Rate change, 2018 vs:			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2010	2014	2016	2017
All Part I Offenses*	1,601.3	1,532.6	1,666.8	1,654.8	1,527.5	1,586.6	1,613.3	1,618.8	1,535.4	-4.1%	0.5%	-4.8%	-5.2%
Violent Offenses*	228.3	208.4	226.0	216.8	204.0	211.3	236.6	235.6	230.8	1.1%	13.1%	-2.5%	-2.0%
Homicide	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.8	2.4	-12.6%	-3.2%	-9.4%	-12.8%
Robbery	98.5	87.9	96.8	96.2	80.9	82.2	89.4	91.9	88.7	-9.9%	9.6%	-0.8%	-3.5%
Assault	127.0	117.9	126.0	117.9	120.6	126.9	144.5	140.9	139.6	10.0%	15.8%	-3.4%	-0.9%
Rape*	10.9	10.1	11.0	9.5	11.6	16.0	19.7	21.4	22.5	*	*	*	*
Property Offenses	1,373.0	1,324.2	1,440.8	1,438.0	1,323.5	1,375.2	1,376.6	1,383.2	1,304.6	-5.0%	-1.4%	-5.2%	-5.7%
Burglary	285.5	276.8	309.0	304.8	259.9	246.9	235.6	226.2	209.3	-26.7%	-19.5%	-11.2%	-7.5%
Theft	846.3	823.2	879.5	873.7	826.3	889.5	877.4	895.2	856.3	1.2%	3.6%	-2.4%	-4.4%
MV theft	230.1	214.1	244.8	250.0	225.6	229.6	252.7	250.9	227.2	-1.3%	0.7%	-10.1%	-9.5%
Arson	11.1	10.0	7.6	9.5	11.7	9.3	10.9	10.9	11.8	7.0%	1.6%	8.7%	8.8%

Sources: FBI (2019); DOF (2019). *Violent and total crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013, hindering comparisons across this period. Law enforcement agency reporting of rape offenses is gradually becoming more consistent.

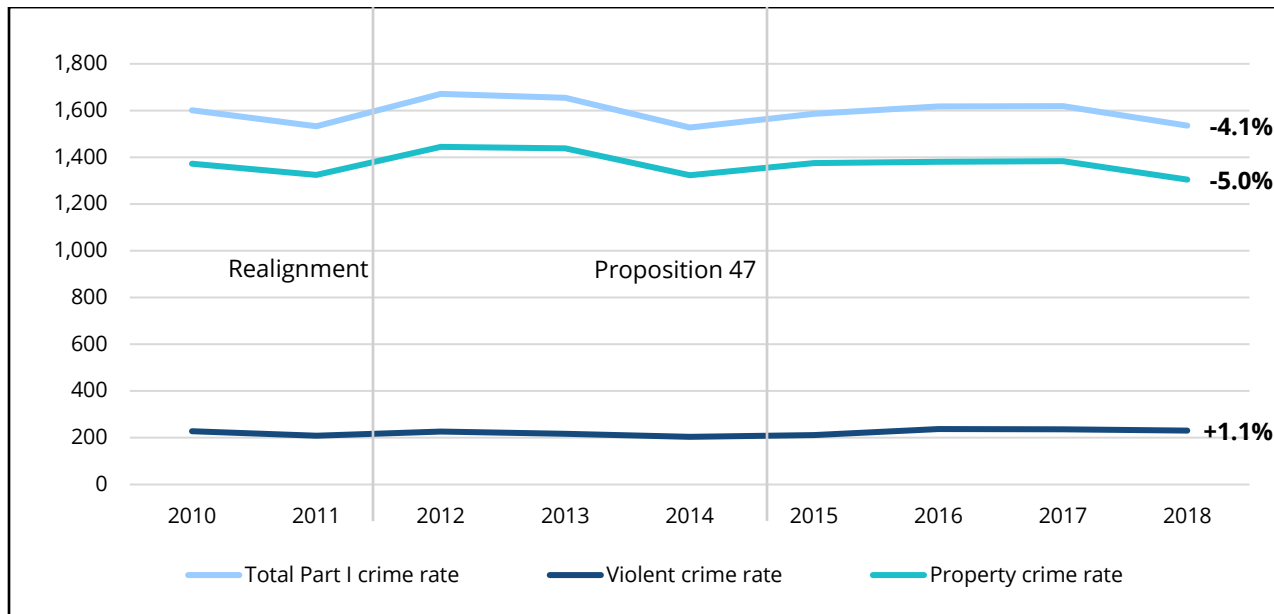
- **Historically low urban crime rates have persisted through an era of justice reform.**

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 individuals with nonviolent, non-sexual, and non-serious convictions from the state to the county in an attempt to reduce prison populations (AB 109, 2011). In 2014, California voters passed Prop 47, which reduced six minor drug and property felonies to misdemeanors, prompting the resentencing and release of

¹ Violent crime excludes rape because the definition was broadened in 2013, so later figures are not comparable to earlier ones.

thousands of people from jails and prisons across the state (Prop 47, 2014). Though each policy was met with some initial concerns over public safety, our nine-year review finds no demonstrable change in crime resulting from AB 109 or Prop 47. Jurisdictions show wide variance in trends, suggesting that local policies and practices rather than recent statewide criminal justice reforms play a significant role in cities' crime trends (CJCJ, 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018).

Figure 1. Statewide trends in urban crime, Jan-June 2010 to Jan-June 2018



Sources: FBI (2019); DOF (2018). *Violent and total crime rates exclude rape because the definition was broadened in 2013.

- **Most of California's 73 largest cities saw declines in crime from 2017 to 2018.**

Despite the stability of statewide trends, crime rates at the local level have varied considerably. Changes in urban crime rates from early 2017 to early 2018 ranged from a 20.8 percent decrease in Antioch to a 15.7 percent rise in Lancaster. Overall, 17 cities reported increased total crime during this one-year period, and 56 cities showed decreases. For violent crime, 30 cities showed increases while 43 showed decreases, and 15 cities reported increased property crime, while 58 showed declines. Of the major cities, Long Beach, San Diego, and San Jose reported increased violent crime, while Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Francisco reported declines. San Jose and Sacramento reported increased property crime, while Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fresno, Long Beach, Oakland, and San Diego reported declines (see Appendix B).

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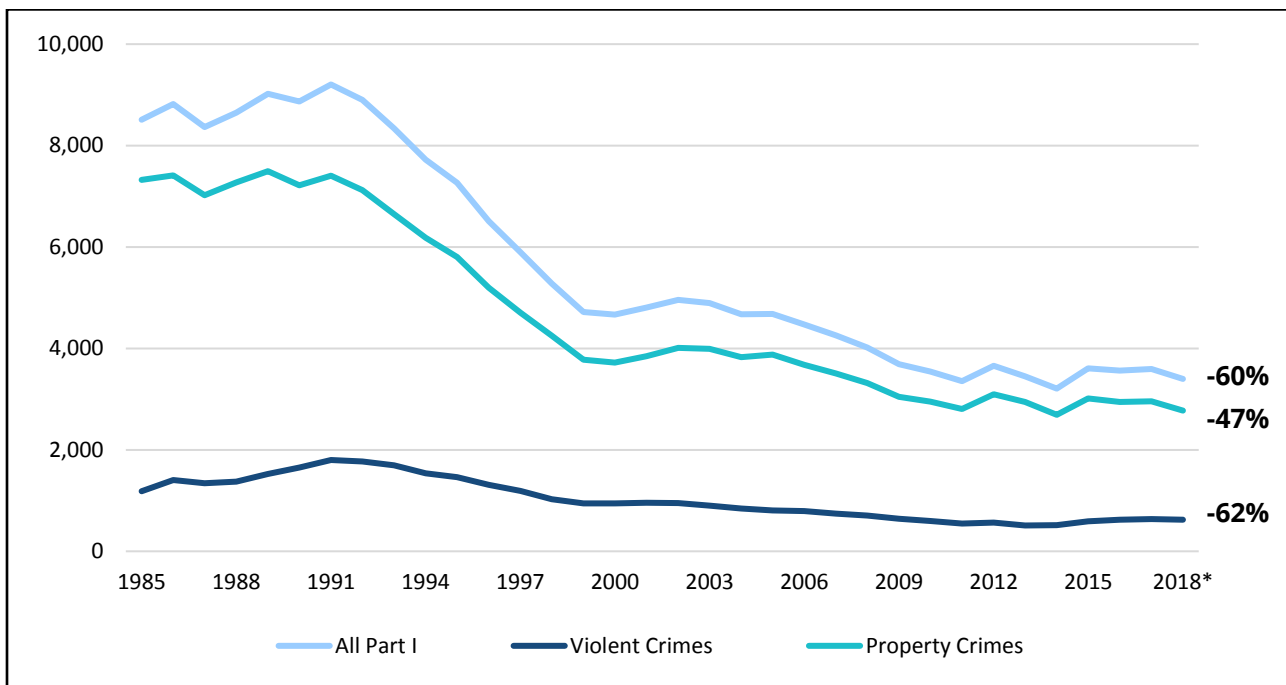
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Appendix

Appendix A. Crime trends in the 15 largest California cities, 1985-2018



Sources: DOJ (2018); DOF (2019). 2018 rates are estimated from January-June 2018 rates. Note: Crime rates in this figure 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 2018. Figures for 2017 and 2018 are for January-June pro-rated to entire year.

Appendix B. Part I violent and property crime rates and rate changes, Jan-June 2018 v Jan-June 2017

California cities with populations larger than 100,000	Change in offense rate, 2018 vs. 2017			Jan-June 2018 reported offense rate		
	Total Part I	Violent	Property	Total Part I	Violent	Property
Anaheim	-5.3%	-4.0%	-5.5%	1,393.8	161.9	1,231.9
Antioch	-20.8%	-8.2%	-22.8%	1,558.5	250.3	1,308.1
Bakersfield	5.9%	-3.0%	7.0%	2,388.8	235.5	2,153.4
Berkeley	-10.7%	-11.1%	-10.7%	2,323.7	237.1	2,086.6
Burbank	-7.3%	14.0%	-8.9%	1,391.5	120.4	1,271.1
Carlsbad	4.8%	7.1%	4.5%	1,043.4	100.3	943.1
Chula Vista	1.1%	8.8%	-0.4%	863.9	151.8	712.1
Clovis	-19.6%	-28.6%	-18.8%	1,209.1	93.1	1,116.1
Concord	0.7%	10.6%	-0.4%	1,855.9	190.5	1,665.4
Corona	-14.5%	16.4%	-16.4%	985.9	75.3	910.6
Costa Mesa	-18.8%	1.5%	-20.2%	1,760.7	147.4	1,613.2
Daly City	-14.9%	-21.6%	-13.8%	771.3	104.8	666.6
Downey	-17.2%	-5.3%	-18.6%	1,336.9	152.4	1,184.4
El Cajon	0.3%	29.8%	-4.3%	1,335.8	233.0	1,102.7
El Monte	-5.6%	-4.6%	-5.8%	1,172.3	222.7	949.6
Elk Grove	-15.8%	-25.2%	-14.2%	811.7	105.2	706.5
Escondido	5.3%	-6.3%	7.6%	1,060.9	156.5	904.4
Fairfield	13.5%	17.5%	12.7%	1,699.4	288.4	1,411.0
Fontana	-7.9%	2.2%	-9.7%	950.0	156.1	793.9
Fremont	-10.6%	33.8%	-13.9%	1,123.0	115.5	1,007.5
Fresno	-15.6%	-2.4%	-17.5%	1,879.3	276.6	1,602.7
Fullerton	-4.5%	30.2%	-6.8%	1,422.9	120.7	1,302.2
Garden Grove	-6.5%	-12.6%	-5.6%	1,335.2	150.4	1,184.9
Glendale	-9.8%	-47.4%	-6.1%	765.8	40.4	725.4
Hayward	-1.5%	26.5%	-4.4%	1,705.9	203.7	1,502.2
Huntington Beach	-11.3%	6.0%	-12.9%	1,030.9	107.6	923.3
Inglewood	-3.0%	-14.7%	0.5%	1,524.3	307.3	1,217.0
Irvine	-10.2%	-6.7%	-10.4%	635.8	30.1	605.8
Jurupa Valley	-0.3%	-5.1%	0.2%	1,436.1	126.4	1,309.7
Lancaster	15.7%	11.0%	17.3%	1,511.6	362.9	1,148.7
Long Beach	-3.4%	9.5%	-6.5%	1,596.0	355.6	1,240.4
Los Angeles	-1.2%	-2.0%	-1.0%	1,590.5	356.9	1,233.6
Modesto	-8.1%	-5.2%	-8.8%	2,284.7	446.5	1,838.3
Moreno Valley	-11.1%	4.7%	-12.8%	1,603.3	190.7	1,412.6
Murrieta	-20.4%	25.5%	-22.6%	627.1	44.9	582.2
Norwalk	6.3%	8.1%	5.9%	1,186.5	203.6	982.8
Oakland	-16.2%	-4.1%	-18.7%	3,113.6	623.8	2,489.8
Oceanside	-12.5%	-8.1%	-13.1%	1,214.5	174.2	1,040.2
Ontario	2.6%	-0.7%	3.1%	1,486.6	175.1	1,311.5
Orange	-7.7%	-26.5%	-6.0%	932.0	64.1	867.9

California cities with populations larger than 100,000 (continued)	Change in offense rate, 2018 vs. 2017			Jan-June 2018 reported offense rate		
	Total Part I	Violent	Property	Total Part I	Violent	Property
Oxnard	-5.7%	-8.8%	-5.2%	1,461.0	206.3	1,254.7
Palmdale	-6.5%	-5.1%	-6.9%	961.6	204.5	757.1
Pasadena	-9.8%	-17.5%	-8.4%	1,165.6	163.4	1,002.2
Pomona	5.2%	4.3%	5.4%	1,806.8	284.5	1,522.3
Rancho Cucamonga	-6.7%	-10.8%	-6.4%	1,145.6	75.3	1,070.4
Rialto*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richmond	-5.1%	-3.8%	-5.4%	2,304.3	450.6	1,853.7
Riverside	-2.4%	0.3%	-2.8%	1,841.3	245.8	1,595.5
Roseville	-1.0%	10.7%	-1.8%	1,340.3	89.6	1,250.6
Sacramento	0.4%	-5.6%	1.8%	1,846.0	320.3	1,525.7
Salinas	-8.4%	-4.9%	-9.1%	1,625.0	299.2	1,325.8
San Bernardino	0.8%	-1.9%	1.8%	2,492.7	640.8	1,851.9
San Diego	-2.4%	3.1%	-3.4%	1,099.6	185.2	914.4
San Francisco	-14.8%	-1.4%	-16.2%	3,011.3	346.2	2,665.2
San Jose	3.1%	7.5%	2.4%	1,435.8	197.6	1,238.3
San Mateo	6.4%	10.4%	5.9%	1,159.9	130.2	1,029.8
Santa Ana	-17.2%	-7.7%	-19.2%	1,124.0	214.9	909.1
Santa Clara	2.4%	13.4%	1.8%	1,329.4	79.5	1,250.0
Santa Clarita	-19.8%	-2.9%	-21.6%	675.9	78.0	597.9
Santa Maria	-12.6%	5.8%	-15.9%	1,170.8	219.4	951.4
Santa Rosa	-0.5%	3.5%	-1.4%	1,089.7	217.9	871.8
Simi Valley	-9.1%	35.3%	-13.1%	708.3	85.4	622.9
Stockton	-4.6%	-4.6%	-4.6%	2,433.8	649.0	1,784.8
Sunnyvale	1.1%	40.6%	-1.4%	900.3	75.6	824.7
Temecula	-7.2%	14.9%	-8.0%	1,236.1	57.4	1,178.6
Thousand Oaks	-17.9%	-32.4%	-16.6%	582.2	39.2	543.0
Torrance	-13.0%	-13.8%	-12.9%	990.3	83.8	906.6
Vallejo	-15.0%	-12.5%	-15.6%	2,094.7	397.5	1,697.2
Ventura	-5.6%	-3.6%	-5.8%	1,753.4	200.4	1,553.0
Victorville	-8.5%	-5.4%	-9.3%	1,449.5	314.5	1,135.0
Visalia	-7.2%	-18.1%	-5.9%	1,661.0	157.8	1,503.2
Vista	-5.9%	-18.3%	-2.8%	860.9	149.9	711.0
West Covina	-2.2%	-14.6%	-0.7%	1,284.1	118.3	1,165.9
All Cities	-5.0%	-1.4%	-5.7%	1,557.8	253.3	1,304.6

Sources: DOJ (2018); DOF (2019). *Rialto changed reporting practices in 2018 and is not comparable to previous years' data.

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