

Staff Memorandum 2025-11

California Crime Data for 2024

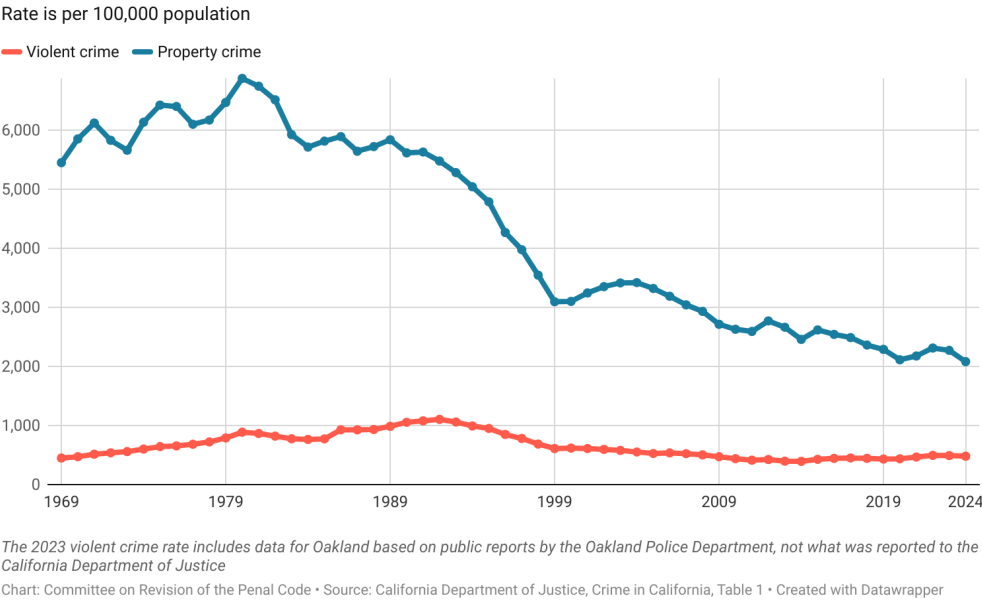
This memorandum is to update Committee members on recently-released 2024 crime data. The source of the data is local law enforcement reports to the California Department of Justice.¹

Compared to 2024, California’s violent crime rate decreased 2.1% in 2024. The property crime rate decreased 8.4%. (Violent crime is homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crime is burglary, car theft, and larceny-theft.) Offense-specific data is below.²

California crime rates, 2024 vs. 2023

| Homicide | Rape | Robbery | Agg. assault | Burglary | Car theft | Larceny-theft | Arson |
|----------|--------|---------|--------------|----------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| -12.41% | +2.33% | -6.06% | -0.90% | -9.09% | -15.22% | -5.79% | +9.99% |

California crime rates, 1969–2024

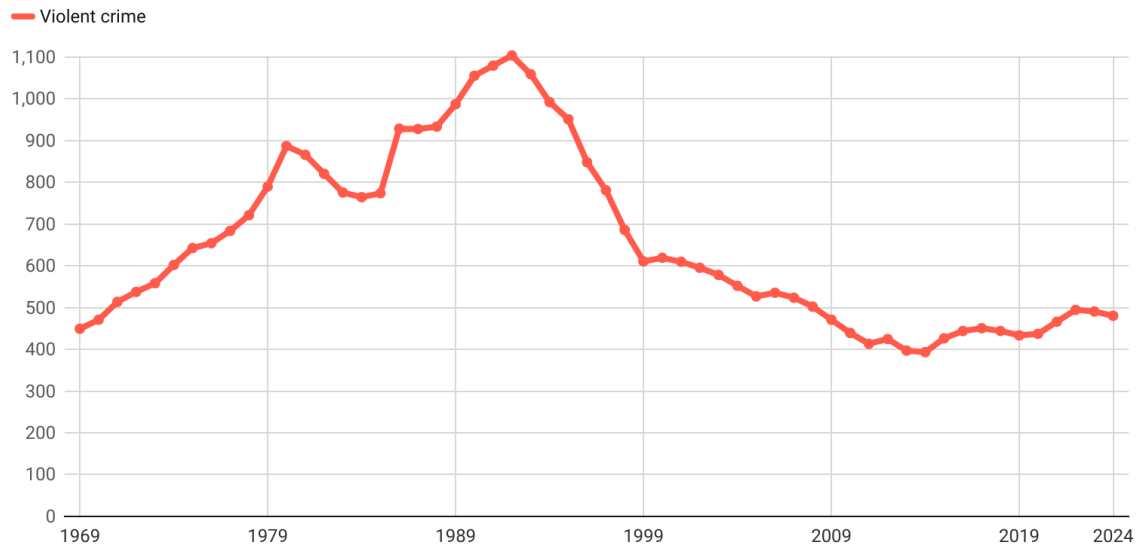


¹ See Penal Code §§ 13010–13012; 13020–13023.

² Because of acknowledged data issues, the violent crime data for 2023 in this memo uses information reported publicly by the Oakland Police Department, not what was reported to the Department of Justice. See Danielle Echeverria, *California says crime is down. But officials know the data is flawed*, San Francisco Chronicle, July 3, 2025. Also, a larger-than-usual number of agencies did not report full data in 2023. See Crimes and Clearances “READ ME”, OpenJustice, 14–16 (June 2025). Because some of the differences in crime rates for 2024 compared to 2023 were relatively small, they could change if full data was reported. See, e.g., Magnus Lofstrom, *Overcall Crime in California Fell Last Year, but Shoplifting Continued to Rise*, Public Policy Institute of California, July 22, 2025.

California violent crime rate, 1969–2024

Rate is per 100,000 population



The 2023 violent crime rate includes data for Oakland based on public reports by the Oakland Police Department, not what was reported to the California Department of Justice

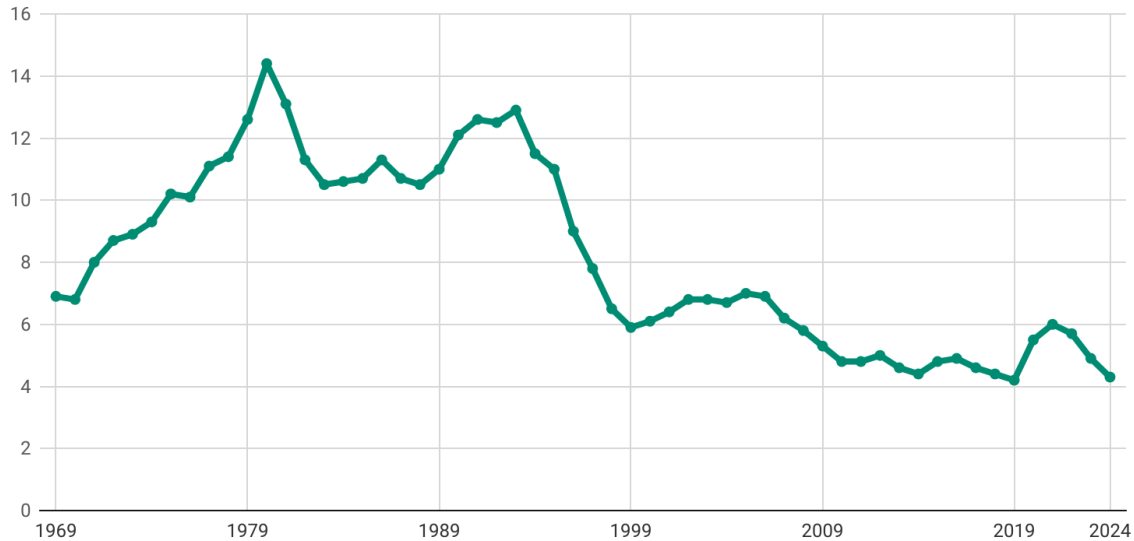
Chart: Committee on Revision of the Penal Code • Source: California Department of Justice, Crime in California, Table 1 • Created with Datawrapper

Compared to pre-pandemic levels, the violent crime rate is 10% higher in 2024 than it was in 2019. The property crime rate is the lowest in the data (which begins in 1969). The burglary rate is the lowest in the data and the overall theft rate is the second-lowest in the data, with the lowest being 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The statewide homicide rate declined 12.2% in 2024 compared to 2023 and is now the second-lowest in the data, which begins in 1966. After an increase during the COVID-19 pandemic — a trend seen throughout the United States³ — California's homicide rate is now extremely close to its pre-pandemic level (4.3 in 2024 vs. 4.2 in 2019). The 2019 homicide rate was the lowest recorded in the data.

California homicide rate, 1969–2024

Rate is per 100,000 population



2023 homicide rate includes data for Oakland based on public reports by the Oakland Police Department, now what was reported to the California Department of Justice.

Chart: Committee on Revision of the Penal Code • Source: California Department of Justice, Crime in California, Table 1. • Created with Datawrapper

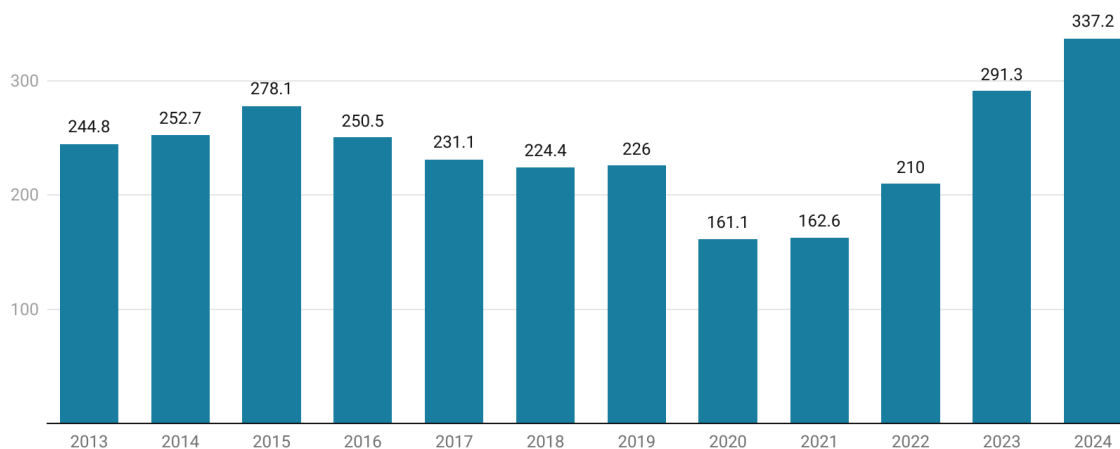
³ See, e.g., Ernest Lopez and Bobby Boxerman, *Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Year-End 2023 Update*, Council on Criminal Justice (January 2024).

The data also contains information about a number of specific theft offenses, including shoplifting and theft of car-parts.

California's shoplifting rate increased 16% in 2024 compared to 2023. The 2024 rate is 49% higher than the pre-pandemic rate in 2019. Note that shoplifting in this data is defined using a generic definition from the FBI and — unlike the California Penal Code definition of shoplifting — includes all thefts from stores regardless of value, not just those below \$950.⁴

California shoplifting rate, 2013–2024

Rate is per 100,000 population



Shoplifting is theft from a store regardless of value.

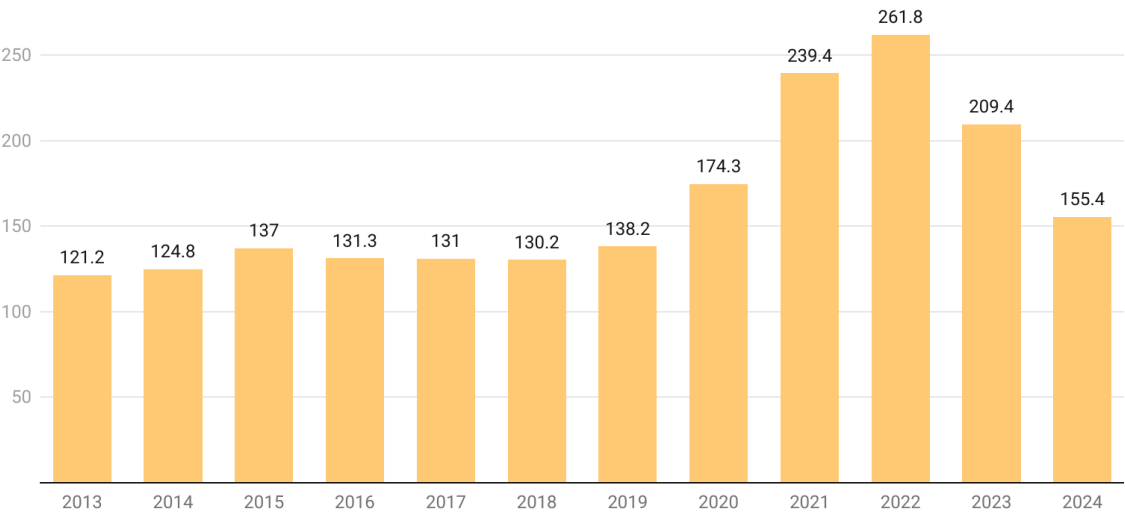
Chart: Committee on Revision of the Penal Code • Source: California Department of Justice, Crime in California, Tables 11 & 53. • Created with Datawrapper

⁴ FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, Summary Reporting System (SRS) User Manual, 46–47, June 20, 2013. See also Penal Code § 459.5 (California's shoplifting offense).

The rate of thefts of parts from cars — which should include catalytic converter theft — declined 26% in 2024 compared to 2023. The 2024 rate is 12% higher than the pre-pandemic rate in 2019.

California car-part theft rate, 2013–2024

Rate is per 100,000 population



Data includes the theft of any part or accessory attached to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle in a manner that would make the part an attachment to the vehicle or necessary for the operation of the vehicle.
Chart: Committee on Revision of the Penal Code • Source: California Department of Justice, Crime in California, Tables 11 & 53. • Created with Datawrapper

Staff looks forward to discussing this data with the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Nosewicz
Legal Director