

Staff Memorandum 2026-03

Preliminary California Crime Data for 2025

This memorandum is to update the Committee on recent data about violent and property crime in California. The data largely comes from the FBI,¹ which has recently begun releasing estimated monthly crime data from agencies that voluntarily report it to the FBI.² The FBI data was supplemented with publicly-available data from three other large agencies — Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Oakland Police Department, and San Francisco Police Department — that do not fully appear in the FBI data.³ This aggregated data covers about 83% of California's population.⁴

This data shows that in California for 2025 compared 2024:

- Violent crime overall declined by 9.94%.
 - Murder declined by 16.51%.
 - Rape declined by 10.63%
 - Robbery declined by 18.69%
 - Aggravated assaulted declined by 6.48%

- Property crime overall declined by 14.35%.
 - Burglary declined by 8.58%.
 - Larceny-theft declined by 12.12%.
 - Car theft declined by 26.20%.
 - Arson declined by 3.18%.

In addition, many agencies also report additional information about some offenses, including specific types of theft, robbery, and burglary. This additional data shows that shoplifting reports declined by 9.48%, commercial robbery reports declined by 27.28% and burglary of non-residences declined by 24.31% in 2025 compared to 2024.⁵ This additional data was reported by agencies covering about 50% of California's population, including the City of Los Angeles

¹ Prior Committee staff crime data update memos typically used data from the Major Cities Chiefs Association, but that data only included violent crime in large cities. Because the FBI data is generally more expansive, staff will use the FBI data when available for future updates.

² The data was pulled and analyzed from the FBI Crime Data API by the California Policy Lab. The data extract used in this memo was released on March 15, 2026. Only those agencies that reported for every month in 2024 and 2025 were included in this analysis.

³ In addition, 2024 City of Los Angeles Police Department data for larceny-thefts and car thefts is from the California Department of Justice because of underreporting issues with the FBI data. The Oakland data does not include the final three days of each year.

⁴ The FBI also reports the size of the population covered by each agency. Altogether, this analysis has data from 710 agencies, including 78 of the 97 agencies covering at least 100,000 people.

⁵ Commercial robbery includes gas or service stations, convenience stores, and "commercial houses."

Police Department, San Diego Police Department, San Jose Police Department, and Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.⁶

These crime reports are preliminary and may differ from final numbers. Final numbers covering all of California should be available from the California Department of Justice in July.

Respectfully submitted,

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Legal Director

⁶ Agencies were included only where monthly summarized crime reporting was complete in 2024 & 2025 and the expanded offense data were consistent with summarized totals. LAPD's shoplifting data for 2024 was sourced from the California Department of Justice because of apparent underreporting issues with the FBI data.