



Washington Association of

**SHERIFFS &
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FOR RELEASE

August 3, 2026

Statements attributable to:

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CRIME RATES DOWN IN WASHINGTON STATE IN 2025

(Lacey, WA) – Crime rates declined across all categories in Washington state in 2025, with reductions reported in murders, violent crime, and property crime.

These findings come from the annual Crime in Washington (CIW) Report (insert link), compiled by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). The report tracks crime and arrest data submitted by law enforcement agencies throughout Washington State.

According to the report, there were 236 murders in Washington in 2025, representing a 21.6% decrease compared to 2024. While this is a significant improvement, homicide levels remain higher than they were before the pandemic. Overall, crimes against persons decreased by 7.3%, with domestic violence continuing to account for nearly half of those offenses. Property crimes declined by 21.3%, and violent crimes decreased by 13.8% from 2024 to 2025.

These trends are generally consistent with national patterns. The Council on Criminal Justice's *Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Mid-Year 2026 Update* [Crime Trends in U.S. Cities: Mid-Year 2026 Update - Council on Criminal Justice](#) reports that homicide rates nationally have fallen to their lowest levels since 1990. While Washington has experienced improvements, the state's homicide rate remains slightly above levels reported as recently as 2015.

"Any reduction in crime means fewer victims, and that is great news for our communities," said Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director of WASPC. Strachan noted several anecdotal factors that may be contributing to the decline in crime, including:

- Improved policing practices and strategies, including increased proactive policing as agencies continue to recover from pandemic-related challenges.
- Changes to Washington's pursuit laws that took effect in June 2024.
- Improved staffing levels at many law enforcement agencies, although staffing challenges remain significant in some jurisdictions.
- The State of Washington's investment in diversion, deflection, and reentry programs to address substance use disorder and unmet behavioral health needs.
- More efficient court processing and case resolution.
- Community outreach and violence intervention programs designed to prevent crime and address risk factors before incidents occur.

At the same time, law enforcement leaders caution that reported crime statistics do not always capture

the full scope of criminal activity. Some chiefs and sheriffs believe that reporting rates for certain offenses have declined.

Later this year, the FBI will release data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) [National Crime Victimization Survey | Bureau of Justice Statistics](#), which measures victimization through direct surveys rather than police reports. That information may provide additional insight into the relationship between reported crime and actual victimization.

Public safety depends not only on reducing crime, but also on ensuring people feel safe in their communities. While the decline in crime is encouraging, several challenges could affect future progress, including:

- Continued understaffing of law enforcement agencies. Washington has ranked last in the nation in law enforcement staffing per capita for more than a decade.
- New public defense caseload limits adopted by the Washington Supreme Court, which have contributed to the dismissal of cases in some jurisdictions. Local law enforcement agencies will continue to respond to calls, investigate crimes, and submit cases for prosecution, but resource constraints may affect case outcomes and accountability.
- Limitations on public safety technology, including license plate reader systems and other investigative tools. At the same time, law enforcement leaders recognize the importance of appropriate safeguards, transparency, and privacy protections when these technologies are used.

Overall, the reduction in crime and victimization across Washington is a very positive development. WASPC and law enforcement agencies statewide remain committed to monitor these trends, support victims, and collaborate with communities to sustain progress and improve public safety for everyone.

CIW 2025 Facts at a Glance

- The total population for the State of Washington is **8,114,915**.
- Crimes Against Persons showed a *decrease* of **7.3%** with **100,688** offenses reported; compared to **108,664** offenses reported in 2024.
- Crimes Against Property showed a *decrease* of **21.3%** with **242,542** offenses reported; compared to **308,044** offenses reported in 2024.
- Crimes Against Society showed a *decrease* of **0.9%** with **27,754** offenses reported; compared to **27,992** offenses reported in 2024.
- Violent Crimes showed a *decrease* of **13.8%** with **24,913** offenses reported; compared to **28,900** offenses reported in 2024.
- In 2025, Murder showed a *decrease* of **21.6%** with **236** offenses reported; compared to **296** offenses reported in 2024.
- In the category of Crimes Against Property, the three offense types with the highest percentage are Larceny-Theft with **46.9%**, Destruction of Property with **20.9%**, and Burglary/Breaking & Entering with **10.0%**.
- The total arrest rate per 1,000 in population was **18.5**.
- Juveniles comprised **5.3%** of the total arrests.
- A total of **23,494** persons were arrested for DUI, including **178** juveniles.

The Crime in Washington 2025 report is compiled with data from state, county, municipal, and Tribal agencies and is designed to give residents, elected officials, and law enforcement data-driven information about crime in their communities. The numbers are derived from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) submissions. The data should not be compared to the FBI Crime in The United States 2025 report which will be published later this year. The Washington State Uniform Crime Reporting Program forwards the crime data to the FBI in the NIBRS format; however, the FBI may convert NIBRS to a Summary Reporting System format, use estimations, or omit agencies that have not submitted all twelve months for 2025.

The 2025 data used to compile this report are based on a “snapshot” of the WASPC 2025 repository database of as of March 2026. Statewide law enforcement agencies submitted their crime data to the repository throughout 2025 and were given until spring 2026 to add, update, or correct their data for inclusion in the annual report.

Note: The numbers reported are for those agencies who reported full data for both 2024 and 2025; aggregate data is for all reported numbers overall, regardless of whether the full year data was reported.

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WASPC was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal. WASPC's function is to provide specific materials and services to all law enforcement agencies in the state, members, and non-members alike.



