**FOR RELEASE**

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**Statements attributable to:**

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**Executive Director**

**MOST CRIME RATES DOWN IN WASHINGTON STATE IN 2024**

(Lacey, WA) – Overall, crime rates declined in Washington state in 2024. The rate of murders, violent and property crimes decreased slightly across the state, but crimes against society (drug-related and firearms violations) were up 31% from 2023.The annual [Crime in Washington (CIW) report](https://waspc.memberclicks.net/assets/CJIS/2024%20Crime%20in%20Washington-compressed.pdf) tracks crime and arrest data from contributing law enforcement agencies throughout Washington. The report is compiled by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

The report shows that there were 312 murders in 2024, a decrease of 18.8% over 2023, but still higher than pre-pandemic rates. Crimes against persons decreased by .08%; domestic violence makes up nearly 50% of these crimes. Property crimes decreased 13.4%, and violent crimes decreased 7.6% from 2023 to 2024. Motor vehicle thefts declined substantially as did the crimes of damage to property and vandalism.

The rate of police officers per 1,000 population remained very low at 1.38 which keeps Washington 51st out of 50 states and District of Columbia for the number of officers per capita. The national average per capita rate is 2.31.

“We have seen significant decreases in crime this past year, which is something to celebrate because that means fewer victims,” said Steven D. Strachan, executive director.  “Now, our challenge is to keep this momentum going and continue to improve public safety in our state.”

CIW 2024 Facts at a Glance

* The total population for the State of Washington is **8,035,515**.
* Crimes Against Persons showed a *decrease* of **0.8**% with **110,065** offenses reported; compared to **110,989** offenses reported in 2023.
* Crimes Against Property showed a *decrease* of **13.4**% with **308,506** offenses reported; compared to **356,438** offenses reported in 2023.
* Crimes Against Society showed an *increase* of **31.0**% with **27,973** offenses reported; compared to **21,360** offenses reported in 2023.
* Violent Crimes showed a *decrease* of **7.6**% with **29,036** offenses reported; compared to **31,441** offenses reported in 2023.

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* In the category of Crimes Against Property, the three offense types with the highest percentage are Larceny-Theft with **44.6**%, Destruction of Property with **21.4**%, and Motor Vehicle Theft with **11.0**%.
* The total arrest rate per 1,000 in population was **19.4**.
* Juveniles comprised **5.6**% of the total arrests.
* A total of **24,764** persons were arrested for DUI, including **182** juveniles.

The Crime in Washington 2024 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 2024 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 2024.

The 2024 data used to compile this report are based on a “snapshot” of the WASPC 2024 repository database of as of April 2025. Statewide law enforcement agencies submitted their crime data to the repository throughout 2024 and were given until spring 2025 to add, update, or correct their data for inclusion in the annual report.

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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. 