



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 14, 2025

Statement attribution  
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### **Washington's Crime Trends Compared to National Trends - Stronger Public Safety Support Needed**

**Lacey, WA** — The FBI has released [national crime data for 2024](#). These numbers show encouraging progress in many parts of the country: violent crime is declining, and some of the most serious offenses are trending downward. However, the situation in Washington State tells a markedly different story.

Comparing 2024 to 2023, we are grateful that there have been fewer victims of crime overall. However, when measuring crime rates from 2019, prior to the pandemic, to 2024, we continue to see concerning increases in several key crime categories in Washington compared to national trends. These numbers speak for themselves:

- **National murder rate: down 3.55%**  
**Washington murder rate: up 42.46%**
- **National violent crime rate: down 6.28%**  
**Washington violent crime rate: up 8.16%**
- **Aggravated assaults nationally: up 2.14%**  
**In Washington: up 18.84%**
- **Vehicle thefts nationally: up 15.99%**  
**In Washington: up 34.87%**

While both national and state property crime rates are falling, the decline in Washington has been more modest. And although robbery and rape are showing some decline, the growth in violent crime overall—especially aggravated assaults and homicides—remains a serious concern.

Some national [reports](#) suggest the crime increases seen during the pandemic have now largely reversed themselves. Unfortunately, that is not the case here in Washington. These trends require us to take stock and reassess what's needed to make meaningful progress.

### **A Call for Partnership and Balanced Solutions**

This is not about casting blame. It's about acknowledging the reality of where we are and that we need to work together to chart a better path forward. Washington's public safety challenges are complex, and they require thoughtful, balanced responses that:

- Support crime victims and communities
- Provide clear and fair accountability for unlawful behavior
- Build trust through transparent and professional policing

*Leading collaboration among law enforcement professionals to enhance public safety.*

- Ensure law enforcement agencies [have the staffing](#) resources, and tools they need to be effective

These are achievable goals—and they’re shared across political and community lines. We ask for renewed policy focus and meaningful support to help turn these trends around. Public safety is a core function of government. WASPC remains committed to working in partnership with policymakers and community leaders.

Here are comparisons of crime trends nationally and those in Washington State from 2019-2024:

	Crime Totals				Population Rates per 100,000		
	2019	2024	% Difference		2019	2024	% Difference
Violent Crime (US)	1214094	1167292	-3.85%		366.23	343.21	-6.28%
Violent Crime (WA)	23184	25890	11.67%		300.79	325.33	8.16%
Murder (US)	16696	16520	-1.05%		5.04	4.86	-3.55%
Murder (WA)	206	303	47.09%		2.67	3.81	42.46%
Rape (US)	142178	120430	-15.30%		42.89	35.41	-17.44%
Rape (WA)	3606	2983	-17.28%		46.79	37.48	-19.88%
Robbery (US)	262838	199052	-24.27%		79.28	58.53	-26.18%
Robbery (WA)	5343	5365	0.41%		69.32	67.41	-2.75%
Agg Assault (US)	791309	829236	4.79%		238.69	243.81	2.14%
Agg Assault (WA)	14009	17190	22.71%		181.76	216.00	18.84%
All Property Crime (US)	6718393	5691579	-15.28%		2026.57	1673.45	-17.42%
All Property Crime (WA)	207593	196898	-5.15%		2693.36	2474.16	-8.14%
Burglary (US)	1062882	746755	-29.74%		320.61	219.56	-31.52%
Burglary (WA)	34815	31853	-8.51%		451.70	400.25	-11.39%
Larceny Theft (US)	4916614	4073353	-17.15%		1483.07	1197.65	-19.25%
Larceny Theft (WA)	147070	129517	-11.94%		1908.12	1627.47	-14.71%
Vehicle Theft (US)	702716	836193	18.99%		211.97	245.86	15.99%
Vehicle Theft (WA)	24726	34431	39.25%		320.80	432.65	34.87%

Source: <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov>  
 Pop: US Census Bureau, Dec 2024

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