

# CRIME and SAFETY

**Myths:**

**"BUSTED!"**



**Immigrants bring crime into America.**

**FALSE** Years of research on the immigrant-crime connection overwhelmingly find either no relationship between the two or a beneficial one, in which immigrant communities bring economic and cultural revitalization to their neighborhoods.

[www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/30/upshot/crime-immigration-myth.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/30/upshot/crime-immigration-myth.html)Add

**Sanctuary cities have higher crime rates.**

**FALSE** Multiple studies find Sanctuary policies do not cause an increase in violent or overall crime, and they decrease property crimes somewhat.

[www.thecgo.org/research/sanctuary-cities-and-crime/](http://www.thecgo.org/research/sanctuary-cities-and-crime/)

**Criminal Justice reform increases crime.**

**FALSE** "The evidence is clear that it is the certainty and not the severity of punishment that deters potential criminals."

[www.texaspolicy.com/no-criminal-justice-reform-isnt-causing-the-current-crime-wave/](http://www.texaspolicy.com/no-criminal-justice-reform-isnt-causing-the-current-crime-wave/)

**"Defund the police" means abolish police**

**FALSE** The movement seeks to demilitarize police departments and reallocate or *increase* funding for trained mental health and social workers to reduce unnecessary violent encounters between police and citizens.

[www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/19/7-myths-about-defunding-the-police-debunked/](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/19/7-myths-about-defunding-the-police-debunked/)

**"Blue" states with liberal policies have more crime.**

**FALSE** 8 of the top 10 worst murder rate states voted for Trump in 2020. New York, California, and Illinois didn't even crack the top ten.

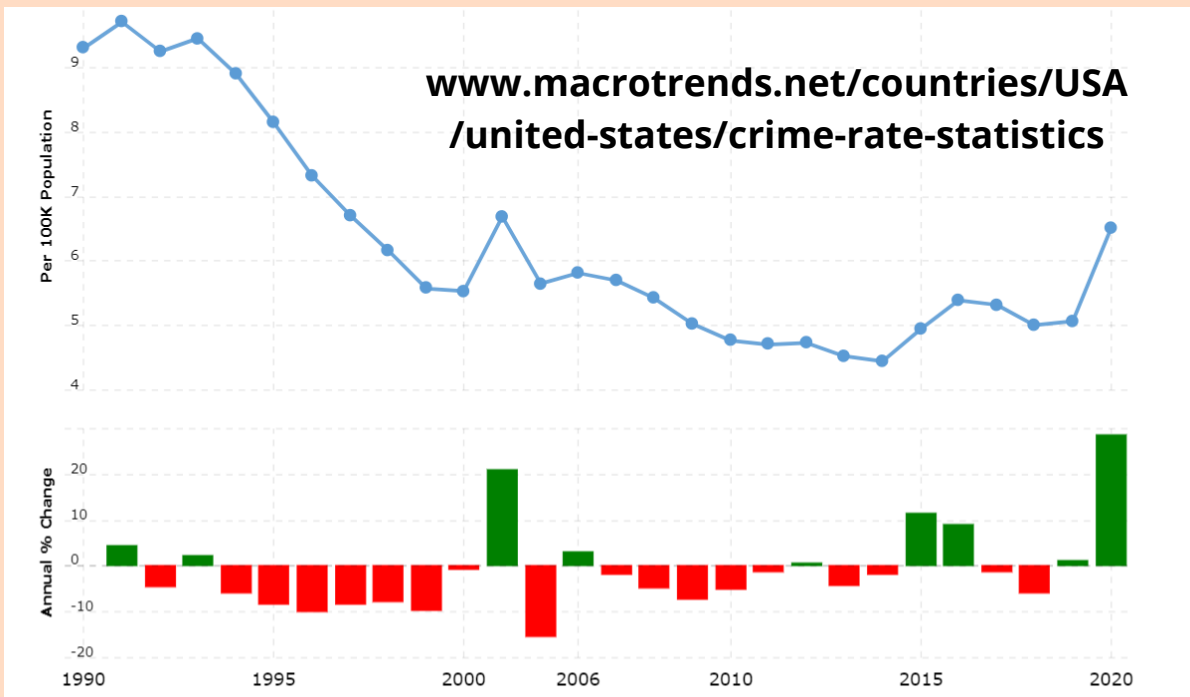
[www.thirdway.org/report/the-red-state-murder-problem](http://www.thirdway.org/report/the-red-state-murder-problem)

**BE AN INFORMED VOTER!**

See reverse side for facts and solutions

# CRIME FACTS

Since 1991, crime and murder rates dropped by more than half in America. Then in 2020, crime increased nearly 29%, with murders up by 27%:



Experts have 3 broad explanations for the spike:

- **Gun Ownership** - massive increase in 2020; number of guns whose “time to crime” was 6 months or less *increased by 90%*
- **Pandemic** – isolation, stress, fear, social services and school supports paused
- **Public Trust in Policing** - George Floyd's murder exposed systemic flaws in traditional policing

Chronic underlying causes remain a big factor:

- **Addiction** - Opiates and alcohol
- **Poverty** - Generational; linked to institutional racism policies

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## RESEARCH BASED SOLUTIONS

Sensible gun safety policies

Improve education and illiteracy rates

Improve physical environment (green space, streetlights, public housing)

Strengthen community relationships

Engage and support youth

Reduce substance abuse and financial stress

More targeted policing on high crime areas and individuals (and less dragnet approaches like “stop and frisk”)

Police Reform: Expand social services to work with police; more police accountability and college education

Prepared by Chester County Marching Forward  
[ccmarchingfwd.org](http://ccmarchingfwd.org)



Learn about President Biden's

## Safer America Plan

[www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/01/fact-sheet-president-bidens-safer-america-plan](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/01/fact-sheet-president-bidens-safer-america-plan)