

Violent Crime in Louisiana

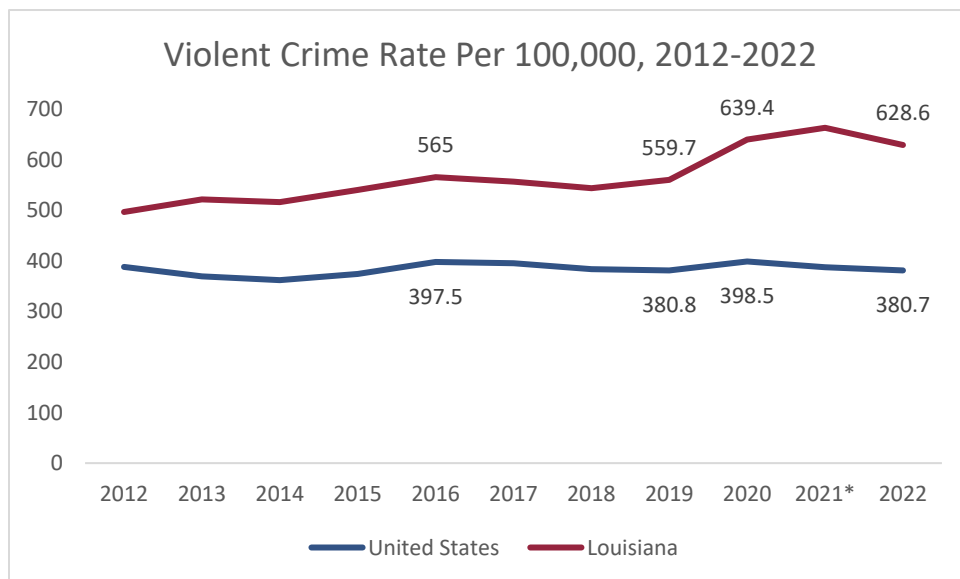
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is violent crime increasing in Louisiana?

- **No.** Between 2021 and 2022 violent crime **decreased 5%** across the state.
 - This trend has continued into 2023 with murder rates continuing to drop dramatically. New Orleans saw a murder rate **drop of 27%** and Baton Rouge saw a **decline of 20%** respectively.
- Louisiana, like nearly every state in the country, experienced an increase in violent crime during the pandemic. Between 2017 and 2019 violent crime in Louisiana remained steady (changing less than 1%). It then began to increase in 2020, **jumping 15%**, and then **another 4%** in 2021.

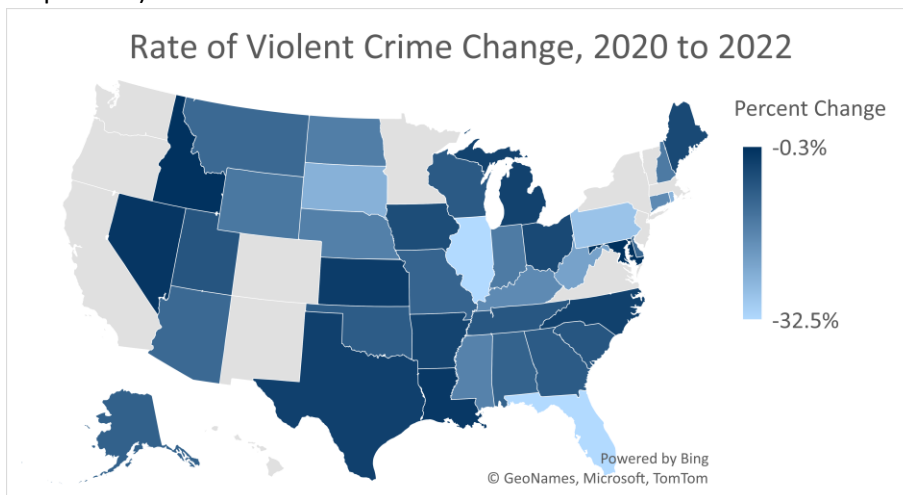
How does Louisiana’s violent crime rate compare to national trends?

- Louisiana has historically had a higher violent crime rate than the national average. As the graph below shows, Louisiana’s **crime increases have followed national trends** with an increase in violent crime beginning in 2020, continuing in 2021, and then decreasing in 2022.



Are pandemic-related violent crime increases due to changes from the 2017 Smart on Crime policies?

- **No.** Crime increased across the country between 2020 and 2021 following a national pandemic. This **increase occurred in nearly every state** regardless of whether the state made criminal justice changes or not.
- Louisiana was **one of 38 states** to have decreased their violent crime rates since the pandemic peak (see map below).



- The 2017 policies did not change sentences for any violent offenses related to the crime trend data that examines homicides, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery offenses.

| Offense | Sentence Length [2017 v. 2022] | Changed in 2017 Smart on Crime Policies |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Homicide | + 29% | No |
| Rape | + 9% | No |
| Aggravated Assault | + 29% | No |
| Robbery | - 43% | No |

Sources:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer.
- Data Analytics, Murder Comparison Dashboard, <https://www.ahdataanalytics.com/dashboards/ytd-murder-comparison/>.