

2024 Homicide Statistics for 24 U.S. Cities

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Introduction

This report examines homicide incidents that occurred in 2024 across 24 U.S. cities, including Rochester, New York. To account for population differences among the cities in this sample, we calculated the rate of homicides per 100,000 residents. This report identifies possible trends by highlighting the differences in homicide rates from 2023 to 2024 for twenty-four select U.S. cities. Cross-city comparisons are essential in understanding violence on a national scale. We used the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Crime Data Explorer tool to gather homicide data agencies had reported for 2023; homicide data for 2024 was collected from local news outlets and individual agency websites -- not the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) or other official sources. An official count of 2024 homicides cannot be determined by official sources for more than six months into the following year. We fully anticipate small discrepancies in homicide counts once official data is released. This paper is updated and released annually to reflect yearly data.

Results

Comparing U.S. Cities

Table 1 compares trends in homicide across 24 select U.S. cities¹. The table shows the percent change in homicide counts and rates from 2023 to 2024. By calculating percent change, we can identify differences in homicide rates over time. The cities are ranked from highest to lowest 2024 homicide rates. It should be noted that yearly fluctuations in homicide levels are a common feature of violence in America. There are three general conclusions that Table 1 supports: (1) homicide levels across U.S.

¹ The 24 cities were chosen based on the Rochester Homicide Statistics report for [2019](#) & [2020](#).

cities vary greatly (50.7 range in homicide rate), (2) the majority of cities observed (70.8%)

experienced decreases in homicide rates from 2023 to 2024, and (3) Rochester's homicide rate saw a decrease in 2024 from 2023, moving from 6th to 12th highest rate among the cities listed.

Table 1. 24 U.S. Cities' Homicide Number, Rate, & Percent Change for 2023 – 2024²

City	2023 Homicides	2023 Population Estimate	2023 Homicide Rate	2024 Homicides	Current Population Estimate	2024 Homicide Rate	% Change Rate
1. St. Louis, MO	158	293,109	53.9	150	275,506	54.4	0.9
2. New Orleans, LA	193	376,035	51.3	124	357,767	34.7	-32.4
3. Detroit, MI	250	636,644	39.3	203	631,524	32.1	-18.3
4. Washington, D.C.	265	672,079	39.4	186	681,683	27.3	-30.7
5. Atlanta, GA	132	510,826	25.8	127	514,465	24.7	-4.3
6. Indianapolis, IN	168	874,182	19.2	209	876,665	23.8	24
7. Richmond, VA	62	229,247	27.0	53	230,017	23.0	-14.8
8. Chicago, IL	499	2,664,454	18.7	573	2,638,159	21.7	16
9. Compton, CA	21	90,986	23.1	18	89,516	20.1	-13
10. Oakland, CA	118	438,072	26.9	81	435,024	18.6	-30.9
11. Hartford, CT	36	119,669	30.1	22	119,626	18.4	-38.9
12. Rochester, NY	47	207,264	22.7	37	206,078	18.0	-20.7
13. Syracuse, NY	18	146,211	12.3	22	145,171	15.2	23.6
14. Greensboro, NC	75	302,307	24.8	43	304,279	14.1	-43.1
15. Dallas, TX	242	1,302,868	18.6	183	1,302,753	14.0	-24.7
16. Buffalo, NY	39	274,686	14.2	38	273,720	13.9	-2.1
17. Pittsburgh, PA	43	303,620	14.2	42	303,413	13.8	-2.8
18. Newark, NJ	53	307,188	17.3	37	303,065	12.2	-29.5
19. Denver, CO	85	713,734	11.9	60	716,234	8.4	-29.4
20. Los Angeles, CA	324	3,857,897	8.4	268	3,795,936	7.1	-15.5
21. Lexington, KY	14	321,122	5.3	22	319,329	6.9	30.2
22. New York City, NY	345	8,516,202	4.1	377	8,097,282	4.7	14.6
23. Omaha, NE	16	488,197	3.3	19	480,194	4.0	21.2
24. Boston, MA	34	663,972	5.1	24	646,622	3.7	-27.5
United States	18,737	332,387,540	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

² In previous years current population estimates have been pulled from the U.S. Census website. Unfortunately, this year the information was not available; an [alternative source](#) was used which came to its conclusions by observing trends in U.S. Census data and using that data to inform "...sophisticated mathematical models to create detailed estimates and projections..."

Lexington, Kentucky experienced the largest increase in homicide from 2023 to 2024, with a year-to-year rate increase of 30.2%. This increase is notable given that the 2023 Homicide Report calculated Lexington having a 24.3% decrease in homicide between 2022 and 2023 (Alzheimer et al., 2024). It is important to note that our use of unofficial sources for the most recent year may result in fluctuations like these, reflecting preliminary data variability and potentially differing from figures calculated entirely with official data from respective police departments when it becomes available.

Indianapolis, Indiana, experienced the second-largest increase in homicide from 2023 to 2024 with a year-to-year rate increase of 24.0%. These increases were not abnormally high for the year as the next two highest cities observed experienced increases of 23.6% and 21.2%. Considering figures from the 2023 Homicide Report, however, these changes are notable. We estimated Indianapolis, Indiana, to have a year-to-year rate increase of 5.5% (Alzheimer et al., 2024). While we acknowledge the limitations of the data we use in that we cannot draw larger assumptions about trends, this finding should encourage further research on the context driving these changes.

More than half of our sample (70.8%) experienced a decrease from 2023 to 2024; a significant improvement from 2022 to 2023 when only 62.5% of cities experienced a decrease. Greensboro experienced the largest decrease in homicide from 2023 to 2024 with a year-to-year rate decrease of 43.1%. It is interesting to see Greensboro with the largest decrease in 2024, as Greensboro was the city with the highest increase in homicide between 2022 and 2023, with a year-to-year rate increase of 85.7%. There are a few measures put in place by the Greensboro police department that are likely addressing the issue of homicide in the city. The department has placed cameras all around the city to create a real-time crime surveillance system (Winkelmann, 2024). This technology provides the

police with the ability to monitor the city at all hours of the day. Greensboro also has a violent crimes reduction team that focuses on investigating non-fatal shootings to apprehend the offender before their crimes become deadly. Assistant Chief Alston from the Greensboro Police Department believes that taking the time to investigate minor crimes has paid off, as the minor offenses have less of a chance of escalating into something fatal. Additionally, Hartford experienced the second largest decrease in homicide rates from 2023 to 2024 with a decrease of 38.9%.

One of the most significant findings of this year's report is that with a homicide rate of 34.7, New Orleans no longer holds the #1 spot for highest homicide rate. In the 2023 homicide report, New Orleans was estimated to have a 2023 homicide rate of 53.8, which placed the city at the top of the list; New Orleans was also the #1 city in the 2022 homicide report. It is important to acknowledge the city's improvement in homicide rates.

Rochester had a 20.7% decrease in homicide rate from 2023 to 2024 (almost 2 times the decrease from 2022 to 2023; a significant improvement from the 56.1% increase reported in 2021). Rochester has also moved down the list from #6 to #12 in respect to highest homicide rates, and now ranks amongst the middle of the group with a homicide rate of 18.0. Compared to New York metropolitan cities in our sample, Rochester had the highest homicide rate. Like in previous years, Buffalo, Syracuse, and New York City had lower homicide rates than Rochester in 2024.

Comparing U.S. Homicide Rates among Cities with Similar Populations

To gain a broader understanding of violence in American cities, we compared 2024 homicide rates among cities of similar population sizes. Figure 1 shows a comparison of Rochester, New York, with

cities that have a population below 250,000. As seen in Figure 1, Richmond, VA, had the highest homicide rate at 23.0 homicides per 100,000 residents. Richmond and Rochester have been closely ranked in years past, with a difference of only 0.3 homicides per 100,000 residents in 2023. However, this year’s homicide rates show a more significant difference of 5 homicides per 100,000 people between the two cities, as Rochester has a rate of 18 homicides per 100,000 residents this year.

The homicide rate for the sample cities with populations below 250,000 ranges between 23 and 15.2 homicides per 100,000 residents. In 2023, the range of homicide rates for these cities was between 27.7 and 16 homicides per 100,000 residents. These findings indicate lesser variation in 2024 homicide levels among these cities.

Figure 1.

2024 Homicide Rates of Select U.S. Cities with Populations below 250,000

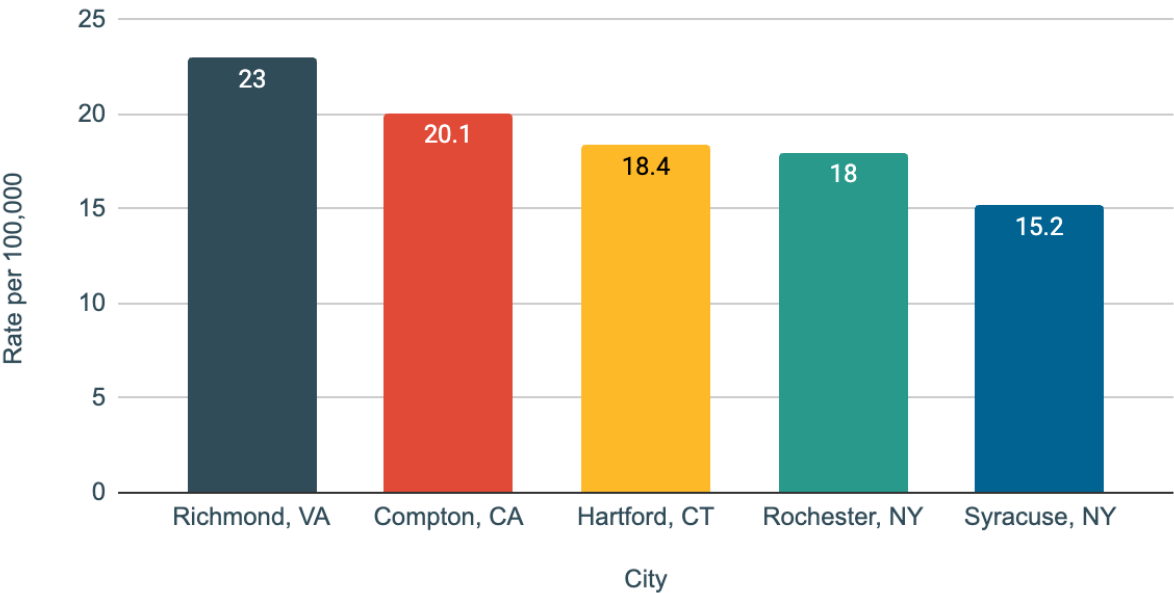


Figure 2 is a comparison of seven cities within our sample with populations between 250,000 and 400,000. St. Louis, Missouri, stands out with a significantly high rate of 54.4 homicides per 100,000 residents. This is the first time since 2021 that St. Louis has had the highest homicide rate out of the 24 select U.S. cities in the Center for Public Safety Initiatives homicide report. It should be noted that in the 2023 report, New Orleans, Louisiana, was listed as the #1 city with a homicide rate of 53.8, but after the FBI released their data, it is now clear that St. Louis was actually #1 with a homicide rate of 53.9.

Figure 2.

2024 Homicide Rates of Select U.S. Cities with Populations
Between 250,000 - 400,000

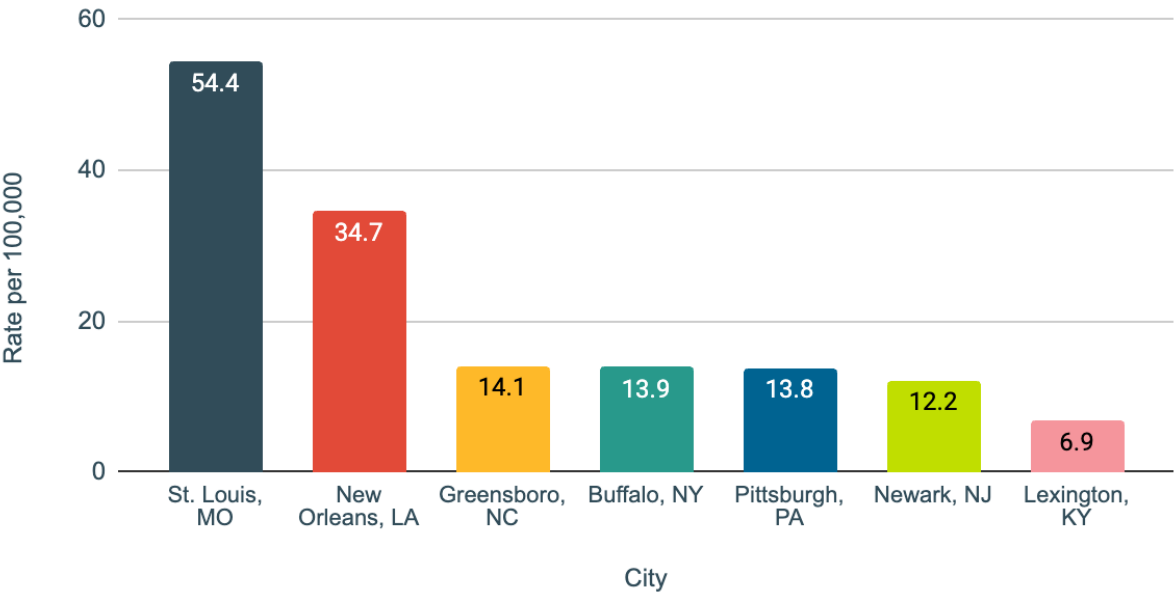


Figure 3 displays homicide rates of our sample cities with populations between 400,000 and 1,000,000. Like previous years, Detroit had the highest homicide rate in this population category, with a homicide rate of 32.1 per 100,000 residents. Despite having the highest homicide rate out of

this group of cities, Detroit did see a 18.3% decrease in its homicide rate from 2023. In 2024, Detroit again ranked third in highest homicide rate in our entire sample. Figure 3 also highlights the variations in homicide levels within this population category. Detroit's homicide rate is about 4 times higher than Denver's and about 8 times higher than Omaha's and Boston's. Conversely, several cities depicted in this figure have some of the lowest homicide rates in our sample. Denver, Omaha, and Boston currently rank 19, 23, and 24 in homicide rates, respectively. Further examination is required to attempt to explain the large differences within this population category.

Figure 3.

2024 Homicide Rates of Select U.S. Cities with Populations Between 400,000 - 1,000,000

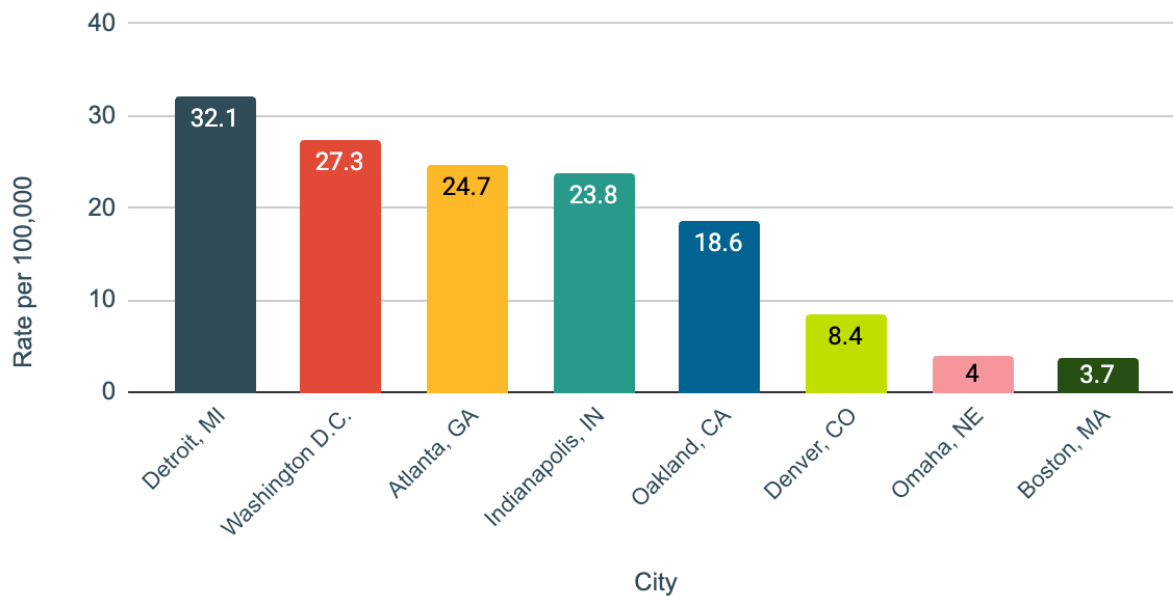


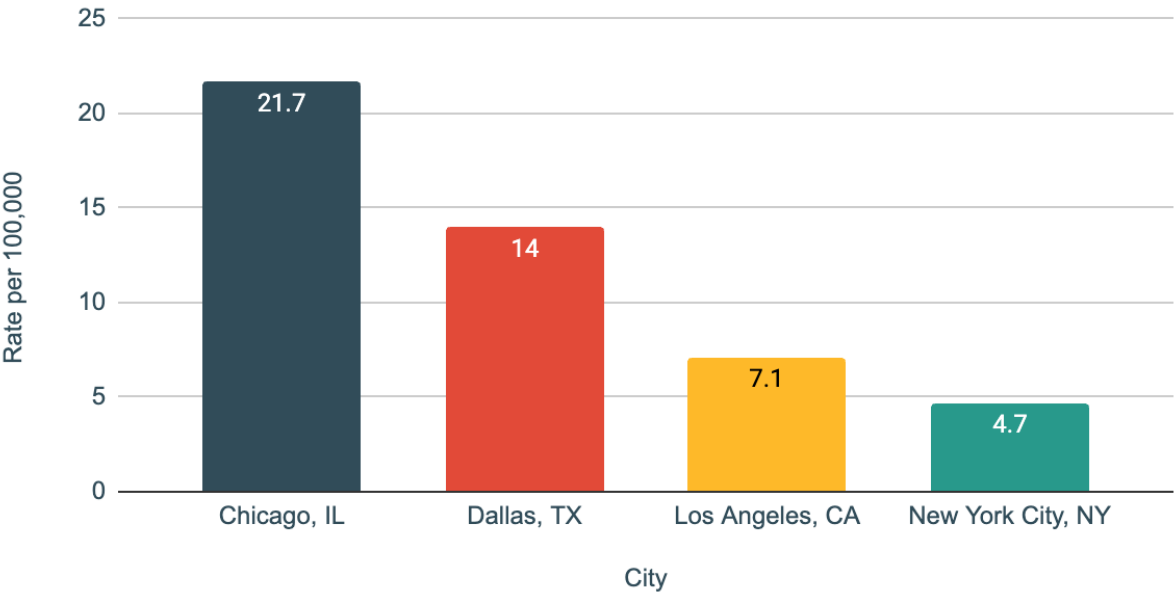
Figure 4 examines homicide rates of sample cities with populations above 1,000,000. Of these four cities, Chicago has consistently had the highest homicide rate for the past seven years. Following the trend of past years, New York City had the lowest homicide rate within our population category. New

York City also has one of the lowest homicide rates in our sample, sitting at spot #22 this year.

Though the most populous city in America and reporting the second highest total number of homicides in 2024 (377), the overall general risk of New York City residents is lower than many of the cities in the sample.

Figure 4.

2024 Homicide Rates of Select U.S. Cities with Populations Above 1,000,000



Conclusion

The overall objective of this report was to analyze homicide rates and yearly changes across the nation. We found that American cities have considerable differences in homicide levels, with rates as high as 54.4 homicides per 100,000 residents (St. Louis) and as low as 3.7 homicides per 100,000

residents (Boston). Fluctuations in homicide levels are common, but it is still unclear why these differences exist. Further research will be critical in determining the causes of this phenomenon.

Like in 2023, we found that the homicide levels in more than half (70.8%) of our sample cities experienced a decrease from 2023 to 2024. This is even more of an improvement from 62.5% of cities in this sample experiencing a decrease from 2022 to 2023. While this finding is promising it is important to remember that changes in year-to-year homicide rates are not enough to identify long-term trends. Additional research should examine five to ten years of homicide-level data to determine overall trends.

From 2023 to 2024, Rochester's homicide rate decreased by 20.7%; a marked change from the 12.1% decrease observed in 2023. While this is certainly good news for the community, it still leaves more to be desired. Current homicide reduction efforts may need revision, and it is still incredibly necessary to support the development of new initiatives to reduce homicides in American cities.

The Center for Public Safety Initiatives has conducted this study for the last few years. When the FBI releases updated data on 2024 homicides, we intend to return to this report to compare the accuracy of our calculations against theirs. We hope this report serves as a valuable tool for local agency leaders and policymakers in their attempts to evaluate current strategies to decrease violence in our city.

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