

Local Crime & Public Safety

Trump says crime in D.C. is out of control. Here's what the data shows.

Crime in D.C. and nationwide is declining from pandemic-era spikes. But individual incidents can shake residents and capture the president's attention.

Updated August 11, 2025

7 min

Summary



President Donald Trump said at a news conference on Monday he has ordered a federal takeover of D.C. police. (Eric Lee/For The Washington Post)

By [Olivia George](#), [John D. Harden](#) and [Jenny Gathright](#)

President Donald Trump once again catapulted crime in D.C. into the national conversation this week, putting District police under federal control Monday and deploying the D.C. National Guard to fight crime after surfacing an image of a young federal staffer, beaten and bloodied, in an attempted carjacking.

“It has become one of the most dangerous cities anywhere in the World. It will soon be one of the safest!!!” Trump said in a Saturday Truth

Social post, pledging action that will “essentially, stop violent crime in Washington, D.C.”

In a news conference Monday, Trump said he has ordered a federal takeover of the D.C. police and would deploy 800 National Guard troops, who will be armed and have the ability to conduct arrests if needed. Over the weekend, he ordered more federal law enforcement agents to be deployed on city streets and called for teenagers as young as 14 to be charged as adults as he continues to cast the capital as overrun with violent youngsters.

Local and federal data, though, paint a contrasting picture.

Violent crimes in D.C. have been on a decline since 2023, reports show

The rolling-crime rate per 100,000 in D.C. has fallen to its lowest point since before the pandemic.



Data is based on a 60-day rolling average to account for fluctuations and lag in reporting times. Violent crimes include homicide, robbery, sex abuse and aggravated assault.

Source: [The Metropolitan Police Department](#)

JOHN D. HARDEN / THE WASHINGTON POST

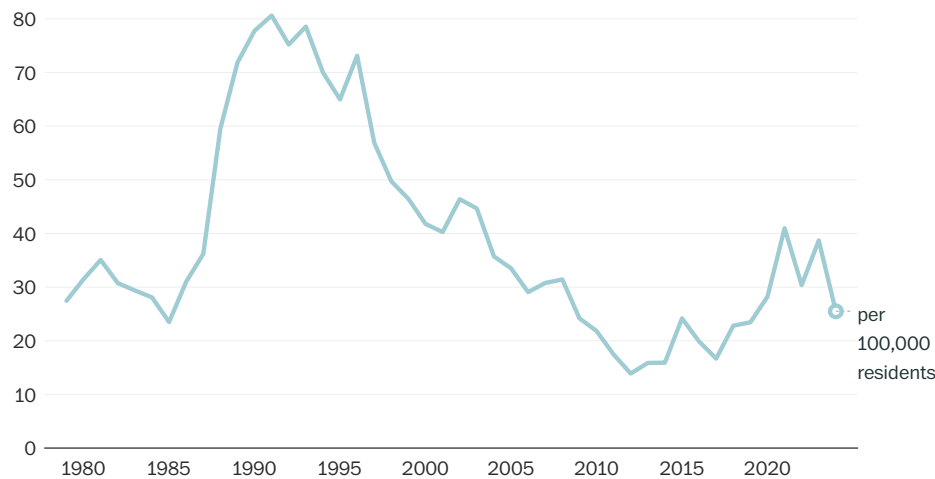
D.C. police have made about 900 juvenile arrests this year — almost 20 percent fewer than during the same time frame last year. About 200 of those charges are for violent crimes, and at least four dozen are for carjacking. This summer, D.C. officials have also implemented stricter curfew laws for teens in response to concerns about large brawls — recorded in videos that spread on social media — breaking out in communities across the city.

Violent crime in D.C. has been on the decline since 2023, when a generational spike in killings rendered the nation's capital one of America's deadliest cities, plunging communities into grief and igniting a local political crisis that escalated to Congress.

The decrease since then is part of a nationwide drop over the past two years that in 2024 brought homicide rates to their lowest level in decades. This year, homicides are down more than 30 percent in data that The Washington Post collected from more than 100 police departments in large U.S. cities. Reports of burglaries and robberies also dipped by double-digit percentages.

Homicides rates in D.C. have been in decline since the '90s


Though 2021 and 2023 saw a spike in homicides per 100,000 residents, the rate in 2024 was still less than a third of the highs in the early 1990s.



Source: FBI Summary Reporting System Estimated Crimes

ANDREW BA TRAN / THE WASHINGTON POST

Discussing crime Monday, Trump pointed to other cities that he said “are bad, very bad,” appearing to suggest the federal government could take action in places beyond Washington.

 **Follow** Trump's second term



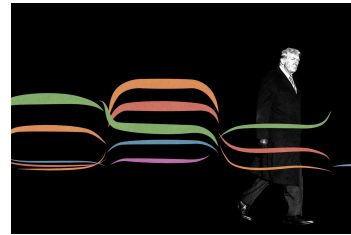
“You look at Chicago, how bad it is. You look at Los Angeles, how bad it is. We have other cities that are very bad. New York has a problem.

“And then you have, of course, Baltimore and Oakland,” Trump added, calling them “so far gone.”

Every city Trump mentioned by name has seen homicide and violent crimes decline this year.

Trump presidency

We're tracking Trump's progress on campaign promises and legal challenges to his executive orders and actions.



Not captured in statistics, though, is the grief, pain and shattered sense of safety that follow each crime.

A few hours before 19-year-old software engineer and Elon Musk protégé Edward Coristine was beaten, a man suffered a nonfatal gunshot wound. Later that day, a 27-year-old man would be fatally shot blocks from the Capitol. The following night, a 38-year-old Northwest Washington resident was killed in gunfire in Columbia Heights. None of these crimes made national headlines.

But the image Trump shared of Coristine continues to ricochet online.

President Donald Trump announced on Aug. 11 that he would deploy the National Guard to Washington, D.C. and federalize the Metropolitan Police Department. (Video: Reuters)

Last week, the president described crime in D.C. as “out of control,” with young “thugs” and “gang members” who are “randomly attacking, mugging, maiming, and shooting innocent Citizens.”

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) refuted that image Sunday, noting the recent drops in crime while adding that the city could use the federal government’s help with other law enforcement priorities, such as adding more prosecutors and judges in the city.

“If the priority is to show force in an American city, we know he can do that here,” Bowser, who had been silent since the president initially

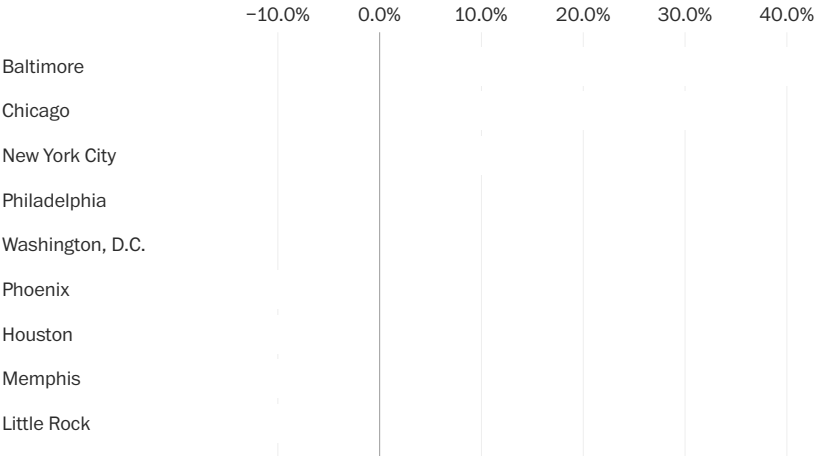
threatened to take over the city, said of Trump in an interview on MSNBC. “But it won’t be because there’s a spike in crime.”

FBI arrest data collected by The Post shows juvenile arrests nationwide have largely been dropping since the 1990s. In 2024, the rate was about 439 juvenile arrests per 100,000 juveniles, down 7 percent from 2023 and five times lower than in 1997.

Juvenile arrests are down in D.C. this year, but the trend doesn’t hold everywhere.

FBI data released this month shows how juvenile arrests in 2024 compared with 2023

Several cities reported increases, while others saw decreases. Factors such as the economy, the strength of local police forces, and the degree of urbanization can influence crime figures, according to the FBI.



The FBI’s data is compiled from voluntary submissions by law enforcement agencies, so it may be inconsistent across time periods. The Post chose cities with completed submissions for each year. Lastly, arrest figures don’t reflect unique individuals — the same person can be arrested multiple times.

Source: [FBI](#)

JOHN D. HARDEN / THE WASHINGTON POST

In Baltimore, police made 1,377 juvenile arrests in 2024, a 47.4 percent increase from the year prior, according to FBI data. In New York City, juvenile arrests were up 10.9 percent in 2024 compared with 2023 and are continuing to rise: New York police made more than 5,200 arrests from January through June this year, up almost 10 percent from the same period the year before.

And Chicago is seeing an even sharper rise, but the juvenile arrest count there remains less than half of the 2019 figure.

U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro, the Trump-appointed prosecutor who handles most of D.C.’s adult crime, said the nation’s capital shields violent youngsters from consequence. She joined the president in advocating that more teenagers, including those as young as 14, be

funneled into the adult justice system. In D.C., suspects as young as 15 can be charged as adults.

“Young people are coddled, and they don’t need to be coddled anymore,” Pirro said Thursday at a news conference. “They need to be held accountable.”



Jeanine Pirro, U.S. attorney for Washington, D.C. (Tom Brenner/For The Washington Post)

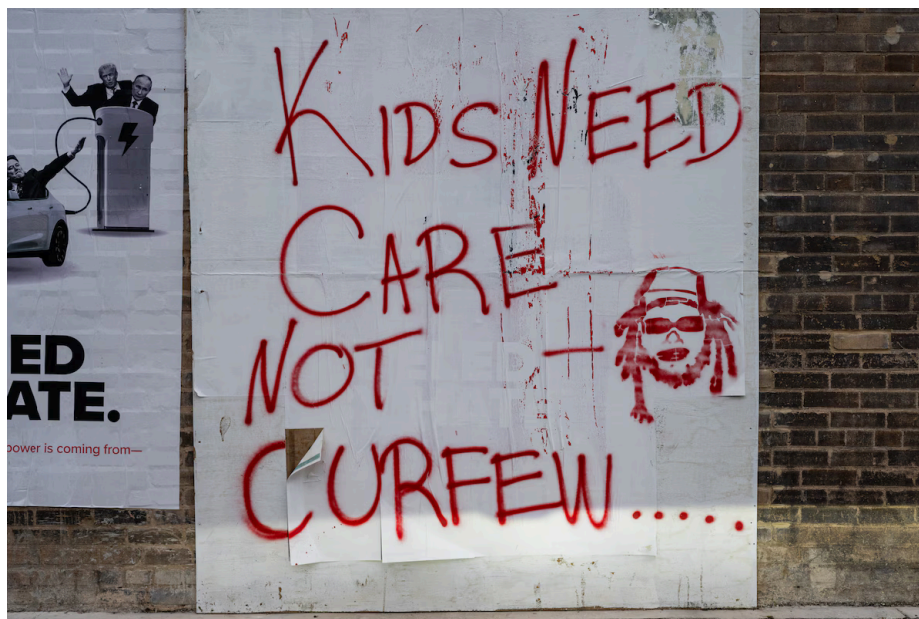
Eduardo Ferrer, policy director of Georgetown Law’s Juvenile Justice Initiative, said it was important to keep in mind that the vast majority of D.C.’s teenagers are doing the right things.

And for that minority of young people who commit serious violent crimes, the solution should not be charging them as adults, Ferrer said. He pointed to an influential Centers for Disease Control study from 2007 that found youths charged as adults were 34 percent more likely to be rearrested than those who went through the juvenile justice system.

“The evidence shows that this is a policy that may sound tough on crime but actually undermines public safety,” Ferrer said.

Since early July, an 11 p.m. citywide curfew has been in effect for those 17 and younger. It runs through August.

Local leaders also implemented stricter curfew laws for teens in response to concerns about large brawls, including at the Southwest Waterfront and in the U Street corridor in Northwest Washington.



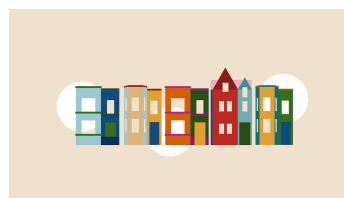
A sign in response to the city's summer curfew on youth. (Eric Lee/For The Washington Post)

The city has had four “juvenile curfew zones” this summer — locations with more restrictive rules from 8 to 11 p.m. The night Coristine was attacked, a curfew zone was in place in parts of Southwest and Northeast Washington. There have been no reported violations of those curfews, according to D.C. police.

Hours after Coristine was attacked, residents in a nearby block were rattled awake by shouting on their usually quiet, tree-lined street. One person described peeking out their window and seeing a rowdy crowd of youngsters, some in masks. Later, they saw a young man, beaten and bloodied.

Make the most of the DMV with our newsletter

Make living in D.C. a little easier and more fun. Sign up for [the Post Local newsletter](#) to get local news, weather and expert advice — where to eat, where to drink and how to get around — every weekday.



(The Washington Post)

When D.C. police arrived, “all parties had fled the scene and the officers had nothing found,” according to a department spokesperson. When asked whether there were other incidents in the area in the predawn hours of last Sunday, the spokesperson said “there were unfounded reports of suspicious groups; however, officers did not locate any such groups.”

But the weekend's incident unnerved residents, even before the nearby attack of Coristine captured the president's and the nation's attention.

"This is a safe city, but overhearing and witnessing gang threats and then watching the camera footage of the thuggery is disturbing," said one resident, speaking on the condition of anonymity over concerns of personal safety. The crowd of teens, he said, were roaming the street and appeared to be checking for unlocked cars and things to steal.

"The language Trump uses to describe D.C. is wrong," he said, "but clearly there is something bad going on that needs to stop."

Mark Berman and Andrew Ba Tran contributed to this report.

Trump presidency

We're tracking President Donald [Trump's progress on campaign promises](#) and [legal challenges to his executive orders and actions](#).

Tariffs and the economy: [China and the United States agreed to lower tariffs](#) on goods from each other's countries for 90 days. Trump's [10 percent "universal" tariff on all imports](#) is still in place. Here's [what led to the decision to ease tariffs on China](#).

First 100 days: Trump is facing growing opposition to his ambitious and controversial agenda, with his approval rating in decline, according to a [Washington Post-ABC](#)

Show more ▾

More coverage of D.C.



This group walks and listens to audiobooks. It's not just for introverts.

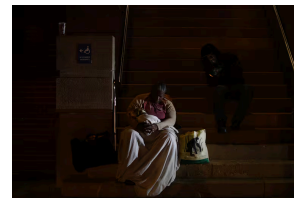
3 hours ago



D.C. alleges developer leased units despite failed safety checks

Earlier today

HAND CURATED



'Nowhere to go': What happened after Trump ordered homeless encampments cleared

Earlier today

View 3 more stories ▾



By [Olivia George](#)

Olivia George covers the impact of the Trump administration and the larger federal government on the D.C. area. Send her secure tips on Signal [@OCGeorge.59](#). [X](#) [OliviaCGeorge](#)



By [John D. Harden](#)

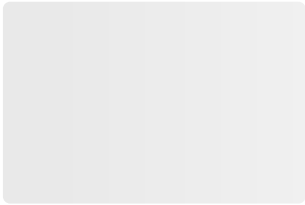
John D. Harden is a metro data reporter for The Washington Post. [X](#) @jdharden



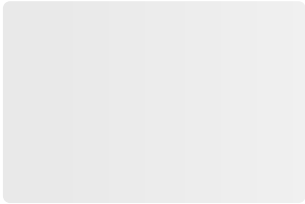
By [Jenny Gathright](#)

Jenny Gathright covers the D.C. government and city politics on The Post's Metro desk. Before coming to The Post in 2024, she reported on the District for WAMU 88.5 and DCist.com, mostly about criminal justice and public safety.

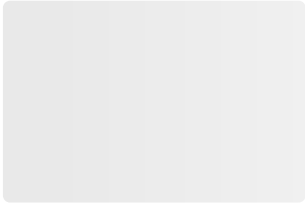
[Redacted text block]



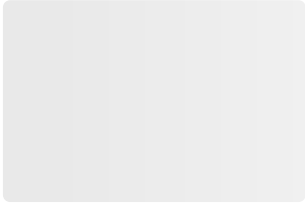
[Redacted text block]



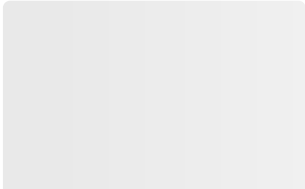
[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



Most read >



- 1 Tesla said it didn't have key data in a fatal crash. Then a hacker found it.
- 2 **Opinion** Sachin Shivaram
My workers voted for Trump. Now they're absorbing the impact.
- 3 Trump revokes Secret Service detail for Harris that Biden had extended
- 4 Where is CVS offering coronavirus vaccines? What to know about getting shots.
- 5 **Column** Carolyn Hax
Carolyn Hax: Friend feels self-consciously sad over other couple's breakup

[Sign up](#)

The Washington Post

Company

About The Post
Newsroom Policies & Standards
Diversity & Inclusion
Careers
Media & Community Relations
WP Creative Group
Accessibility Statement

Sections

Trending
Politics
Elections
Opinions
National
World
Style
Sports
Business
Climate
Well+Being


Get The Post

WP Intelligence
Enterprise Subscriptions
Become a Subscriber
Gift Subscriptions
Mobile & Apps
Newsletters & Alerts
Washington Post Live
Reprints & Permissions
Post Store
Books & E-Books
Print Special Editions Store

Contact Us

Contact the Newsroom
Contact Customer Care
Contact the Opinions Team
Advertise
Licensing & Syndication
Request a Correction
Send a News Tip
Report a Vulnerability

Terms of Use

Digital Products Terms of Sale
Print Products Terms of Sale
Terms of Service
Privacy Policy
Cookie Settings
Submissions & Discussion
Policy
RSS Terms of Service
Sitemap
Ad Choices
Your Privacy Choices 

- D.C., Md., & Va.
- Today's Paper
- Obituaries
- Public Notices
- Weather
- Arts & Entertainment
- Recipes