

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024*

**Statement on the Violent Crime Rate**

*August 10, 2024*

When Vice President Harris and I took office, our Nation had just seen the largest increase in murders ever recorded during the previous administration. Immediately, we got to work to make communities safer. Today new data confirms that our efforts are working and violent crime is at a 50-year low. An independent organization of police chiefs from across our Nation's biggest cities released data showing that violent crime fell across every category in the first half of 2024. Homicides are down 17 percent, building on the largest-ever decline in the homicide rate nationally last year.

This did not happen by accident. Our American Rescue Plan—opposed by every Republican in Congress—delivered \$15 billion to cities and States to invest in public safety and violence prevention, keeping cops on the beat while working with community leaders to interrupt and prevent crime. I also signed the most significant gun violence legislation in nearly 30 years, which is keeping guns out of dangerous hands by expanding background checks and helping States implement "red flag" laws.

Americans are safer today than when Vice President Harris and I took office. We can't stop now. That's why I will continue to urge Congress to fund 100,000 additional police officers and crime prevention and community violence intervention programs and make commonsense gun safety reforms such as a ban on assault weapons.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Violent crime rate.

*Names:* Harris, Kamala D.

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