



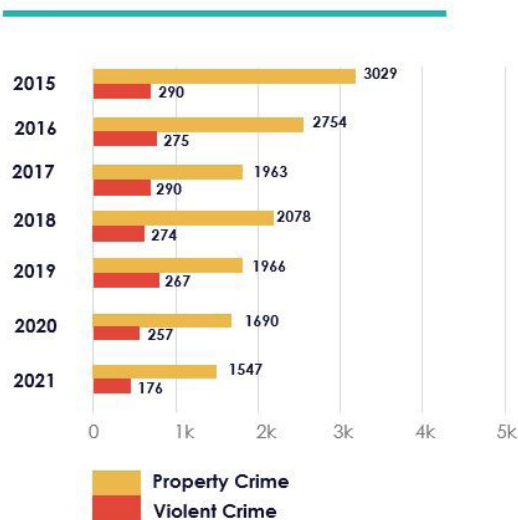
FAQs: Crime

Q. Is crime increasing in Palm Springs?

A. Crime decreased between 2015 and 2020 by 44% for property crime and violent crime decreased by 11%. 2021 analysis shows an uptick in both property crimes and violent crime incidents with data collected through June of this year. See chart below:

UCR CRIME DATA

Homicide, Rape, Burglary, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Theft, Theft from Vehicle, Auto Theft



Q. Is Palm Springs worse than other cities in California?

A. No, Palm Springs is actually lower than state averages. Online sources using a daily resident population of 47,897 (2019 Census) skews the UCR data. The data from 2020 suggests Palm Springs has a crime rate of 4,065 crimes per 100,000 people. This data also suggests crime rates in Palm Springs are 36% higher than the state average, with 2,828 crimes reported per 100,000 people. Using more accurate data to reflect permanent & seasonal residents, as well as businesses, employees, tourists, and visitors to Palm Springs, we estimate a daily

population of 75,000 people. This equates to 2,596 crimes per 100,000 people and an 8.5% lower crime rate than the 2020 reported state average.

Q. Why are we seeing crime increase in 2021?

A. The answer is complex and is related to national and state trends, changes in public policy, as well as a rapidly expanding tourist economy. However, crime rates still remain at historical lows. Here are some articles that might help provide a clearer picture of these recent trends. Some have to do with changes in public policy:

- [SB 262 Zero Bail](#)
- [Prop 57](#)
- [Prop 47](#)
- [AB109](#)

Some appear to mirror state trends:

- [CA Attorney General Crime Stats Report 2020](#)
- [Uptick in Crime amid pandemic](#)
- [Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

Data shows more than 60% of crimes in Palm Springs are crimes of opportunity, such as leaving your home or vehicle unlocked.

Q. What are some of the strategies Palm Springs Police Department is using to address crime?

A. Crime reduction is a shared responsibility with the Police Department and the community. Strategies include:

- Problem Solving – PSPD officers are encouraged to become familiar with the community, listen to citizens’ concerns & assist them with developing problem-solving strategies.
- Task force officers are assigned to narcotics, cyber crime, gangs & probation compliance teams.
- Patrol officers are focused on responding to in-progress crimes, conducting investigations, close patrols, field interviews and arrests.

Q. Strategies (Cont.)

- Bait equipment (GPS enabled items) placed in high theft areas used to identify, locate and arrest suspects who have taken the GPS enabled items.
- Bicycle Patrol officers used as high visibility and immediate response to downtown area incidents.
- PSPD vehicles are equipped with License Plate Readers that help identify stolen vehicles and vehicles associated and identified in other crimes.
- Investigators in the Detective Bureau are focused on robbery, homicide, sex crimes, fraud, forgery, theft, burglary, auto-theft, domestic violence, and more.

Q. Does the Police Department have the resources it needs?

A. Yes. The City Council recognizes the importance of a completely funded police department:

- Allocated \$1.3 million over five years for new state-of-the-art body-worn and in-car camera systems for police officers.
- Invested in a new \$1.5 million downtown police substation currently under construction, within the new downtown park.
- Recently added an additional License Plate Reader to assist officers with locating stolen vehicles.
- Implemented a \$30,000 hiring bonus for experienced police officers (This is critical because it reduces the time it takes to get officers trained and in the field).
- Approved the purchase of a new cloud-based Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System. The purchase of the new CAD will bring PSPD into the 21st Century and create greater efficiency for police officers and detectives investigating crimes, dispatchers taking calls and the community who will need easier access to report crimes.

- Allocated \$3.8 million to renovate the Police Department Training Center, Main Lobby, Detective Bureau and employee locker rooms.
- Upgraded and purchased all new police vehicles.

Q. What can I do to help the Police Department reduce crime?

- A.** Report crimes when they occur.
- More than 60% of property crimes are crimes of opportunity. Don't make it easy to be a victim. Always lock your doors and windows and turn on your alarm and don't leave valuables in plain sight.
 - Request close patrols from PSPD when away.
 - Use Neighborhood Watch protocols.
 - Add Surveillance Cameras to your home.
 - Partner with the police department.
 - Sign up for [Everbridge Alerts](#)
 - Register your cameras and share footage on Ring
 - Follow us on Social Media: [Facebook](#), Instagram: palmspringspd, Twitter: @palmspringspd, [Nextdoor](#)
 - Schedule crime prevention presentations
 - Create a [Neighborhood Watch program](#)
 - Attend our [Community Police Academy](#)
 - Join our [Citizens on Patrol](#) program
 - Report Suspicious Activity immediately