



FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT
2022-2025 OFFENSES
& BENCHMARKING
CRIME
RECOMMENDATIONS



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UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING HISTORY

Prior to January 1, 2021, crime data was collected based on a hierarchy, which means:

- Only the most egregious offense was counted in an incident.
- This is known as “Summary-Based Reporting”.

Crime data collection, as of January 1, 2021, is more robust and complicated.

- Each incident is recorded in detail, with information about the circumstances, participants, location, time, and more.
- This is known as “Incident-Based Reporting” or National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
- This method allows for multiple offenses, victims, and offenders to be tracked within a single incident.
- It also enables pattern detection and better resource allocation.

FLORIDA INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM (FIBRS/NIBRS)

The Florida Incident-Based Reporting System (FIBRS) is the statewide crime reporting framework used in Florida to collect detailed information on criminal incidents reported by law enforcement agencies. Administered by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, FIBRS supports a more comprehensive approach to crime data collection by documenting specific details about each incident rather than relying solely on summary offense totals.

As part of Florida’s alignment with national incident-based reporting standards, FIBRS improves the quality and usefulness of crime data for analysis, policy development, and public safety planning. By capturing information such as offense type, victim and offender characteristics, property involved, and circumstances surrounding an event, the system provides a clearer and more accurate picture of crime trends across the state

Why is FIBRS/NIBRS complicated?

- Different counting philosophy and recording logic.
- In NIBRS, incidents and offenses are both recorded, so totals can’t be compared directly to old UCR (summary-based) numbers.
 - NIBRS rates can be higher because it counts everything, not just the top offense.
- Crime statistics jumped after agencies moved to NIBRS — it’s not more crime, it’s more complete counting.
- Detailed categories split data into smaller, separate tallies.
- Multiple victims multiply counts of offenses.
- Offense types are subject to change based on different factors, including witness accounts, evidence, etc.

2022-2025 OFFENSES DATA

The following charts are offenses counted between January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025. Additionally, a comparison has been provided from the previous year as well as a comparison from 2025 to 2022. The data was retrieved from Fort Lauderdale Police's records management system. As previously stated, offenses are subject to change.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

Offense Type	2022	% Change	2023	% Change	2024	% Change	2025	% Change From 2022
All Crimes Against Persons	2,893	2.2%	2,957	-3.1%	2,866	-1.4%	2,826	-2.3%
Assault Offenses	2,721	2.6%	2,791	-4.3%	2,672	-0.4%	2,662	-2.2%
Aggravated Assault	713	17.7%	839	-1.0%	831	-0.7%	825	15.7%
Simple Assault	1,945	-5.0%	1,848	-3.1%	1,791	-0.2%	1,788	-8.1%
Intimidation/Stalking	63	65.1%	104	-51.9%	50	-2.0%	49	-22.2%
Homicide Offenses	15	133.3%	35	-37.1%	22	-27.3%	16	6.7%
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	15	133.3%	35	-37.1%	22	-27.3%	16	6.7%
Negligent Manslaughter	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Human Trafficking Offenses	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	3	200.0%
Commercial Sex Acts	0	N/C	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	3	N/C
Involuntary Servitude	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	-100.0%
Kidnapping/Abduction	30	-50.0%	15	6.7%	16	-18.8%	13	-56.7%
Sex Offenses	126	-8.7%	115	34.8%	155	-14.8%	132	4.8%
Rape	94	-8.5%	86	47.7%	127	-18.1%	104	10.6%
Sodomy	7	-14.3%	6	100.0%	12	-58.3%	5	-28.6%
Sexual Assault With An Object	0	N/C	1	200.0%	3	-33.3%	2	N/C
Fondling	20	-70.0%	6	83.3%	11	-18.2%	9	-55.0%
Incest	1	-100.0%	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	-100.0%
Statutory Rape	4	300.0%	16	-87.5%	2	500.0%	12	200.0%

- Crimes against persons include assault offenses, homicides, human trafficking, kidnapping, and sex offenses.
- Crimes against persons decreased by 1.4% from 2024 to 2025 and by 2.3% from 2022 to 2025.
- Aggravated assaults decreased by almost 1% from 2024 to 2025 and increased by 15.7% from 2022 to 2025.
 - Domestic incidents make up 24.8% of aggravated assaults.
- Homicide decreased by over 27% from 2024 to 2025 and increased by 6.7% from 15 homicides in 2022 to 16 homicides in 2025.
- All sex offenses decreased by almost 15% from 2024 to 2025 and increased by almost 5% from 2022 to 2025 (from 126 offenses to 132).
 - Rape decreased by 18.1% from 2024 to 2025 and increased by 10.6% from 2022 to 2025 (from 94 offenses to 104).

2022-2025 OFFENSES DATA CONT.

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CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Offense Type	2022	% Change	2023	% Change	2024	% Change	2025	% Change from 2022
All Crimes Against Property	10,950	1.8%	11,149	-12.5%	9,750	-14.0%	8,387	-23.4%
Arson	22	9.1%	24	-37.5%	15	13.3%	17	-22.7%
Bribery	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Counterfeiting/Forgery	58	-69.0%	18	33.3%	24	-29.2%	17	-70.7%
Embezzlement	33	72.7%	57	-68.4%	18	11.1%	20	-39.4%
Extortion/Blackmail	11	63.6%	18	44.4%	26	-42.3%	15	36.4%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1,146	-7.1%	1,065	-10.8%	950	-2.4%	927	-19.1%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	1,285	-1.0%	1,272	-15.7%	1,072	0.9%	1,082	-15.8%
Fraud Offenses	688	11.0%	764	-39.7%	461	-25.6%	343	-50.1%
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	83	155.4%	212	-57.1%	91	-47.3%	48	-42.2%
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	326	-19.6%	262	-25.2%	196	-5.6%	185	-43.3%
Impersonation	49	-51.0%	24	-87.5%	3	0.0%	3	-93.9%
Welfare Fraud	1	-100.0%	0	N/C	7	N/C	3	N/C
Wire Fraud	62	98.4%	123	-37.4%	77	-53.2%	36	-41.9%
Identity Theft	164	-12.8%	143	-39.2%	87	-24.1%	66	-59.8%
Hacking/Computer Invasion	3	-100.0%	0	N/C	0	N/C	2	N/C
Larceny/Theft Offenses	6,402	-0.5%	6,373	-9.8%	5,750	-15.5%	4,859	-24.1%
Pocket-picking	317	-61.5%	122	-53.3%	57	-64.9%	20	-93.7%
Purse-snatching	52	-98.1%	1	100.0%	2	-100.0%	0	-100.0%
Shoplifting	1,123	-23.5%	859	-28.6%	613	-22.7%	474	-57.8%
Theft From Building	148	102.0%	299	-65.9%	102	3.9%	106	-28.4%
Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	1	100.0%	2	0.0%	2	-50.0%	1	0.0%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	1,893	-13.4%	1,639	-9.8%	1,479	-15.3%	1,252	-33.9%
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	333	100.0%	666	-4.5%	636	-30.7%	441	32.4%
All Other Larceny	2,535	9.9%	2,785	2.7%	2,859	-10.3%	2,565	1.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,019	18.3%	1,205	-9.3%	1,093	-28.5%	782	-23.3%
Robbery	280	20.4%	337	-3.3%	326	-4.0%	313	11.8%
Stolen Property Offenses	6	166.7%	16	-6.3%	15	-20.0%	12	100.0%

- Crimes against property include burglaries, fraud offenses, larceny/theft offenses, auto thefts, robbery and stolen property offenses.
- Robbery is classified under crimes against properties by NIBRS since the offense is driven by the motive to obtain property.
- Purse-snatching is considered robbery in the state of Florida, however, NIBRS classifies it as a larceny, hence the differences in calculations.
- Crimes against property decreased by 14% from 2024 to 2025, and by 23.4% from 2022 to 2025.
- Decreases are seen amongst most of the offenses with the exception of extortion (11 offenses in 2022 to 15 in 2025) and theft of motor vehicle parts, largely attributed to a nationwide trend of catalytic converters being targeted.

2022-2025 OFFENSES DATA CONT.

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CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

Offense Type	2022	% Change	2023	% Change	2024	% Change	2025	% Change from 2022
All Crimes Against Society	604	-1.0%	598	33.9%	801	15.1%	922	52.6%
Animal Cruelty	16	93.8%	31	16.1%	36	50.0%	54	237.5%
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	494	-2.8%	480	27.9%	614	22.3%	751	52.0%
Drug/Narcotic Violations	535	-27.7%	387	22.2%	473	20.1%	568	6.2%
Drug Equipment Violations	41	126.8%	93	51.6%	141	29.8%	183	346.3%
Gambling Offenses	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Betting/Wagering	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Gambling Equipment Violations	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Sports Tampering	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Pornography/Obscene Material	2	250.0%	7	14.3%	8	12.5%	9	350.0%
Prostitution Offenses	0	N/C	1	200.0%	3	33.3%	4	N/C
Prostitution	0	N/C	1	200.0%	3	33.3%	4	N/C
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Purchasing Prostitution	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C	0	N/C
Weapon Law Violations	92	-14.1%	79	77.2%	140	-25.7%	104	13.0%

- Crimes against society has increased by 15% from 2024 to 2025 and 52.6% from 2022 to 2025.
- Animal cruelty offenses jumped by 50% from 2024 to 2025 and almost 238% from 2022 to 2025 (16 offenses in 2022 to 54 in 2025).
 - This is due to the formation of a 20-officer team in 2025 trained in conducting animal cruelty investigations and bringing charges on the offender(s). Previously cases were referred to the county for investigations.
- Narcotics offenses increased 22.3% from 2024 to 2025 and 52% from 2022 to 2025.
 - This increase is attributed to proactive policing and investigations targeting lower-level drug offenders that have a nexus in violent crime. The increase is a direct result of proactive policing and does not reflect higher drug activity than in past years.

BENCHMARKING CRIME

Benchmarking crime data is essential for making fair, meaningful, and actionable comparisons across jurisdictions, time periods, and reporting systems. Because crime patterns are shaped by differences in population, legal definitions, enforcement practices, data collection methods, and local context, benchmarks must be applied carefully and consistently. These guidelines are intended to provide a clear framework for interpreting crime metrics responsibly, reducing the risk of misleading comparisons, and supporting evidence-based analysis, policy development, and public communication.

1. Avoid Ranking Cities Solely by Crime Rates

The FBI explicitly discourages using crime data to rank cities without context because:

- Crime is affected by numerous factors such as population density, economic conditions, policing practices, cultural norms, and age distribution.
- Raw crime rates don't account for differences in how communities report crime or how agencies classify offenses.

2. Use Crime Benchmarking as a Tool—Not a Scorecard

Instead of rankings, cities should benchmark:

- Trends over time (year-to-year change in crime within the same city)
- Comparable peer cities, using demographic, geographic, and economic similarities

Example: Fort Lauderdale could be compared to cities like West Palm Beach, Miami Beach, or similar coastal cities with tourism-driven economies—not to Phoenix or Chicago.

3. Normalize by Population – But With Caveats

Crime rates are often presented as per 100,000 residents, but:

- This assumes residents are the only population at risk (not accounting for commuters, tourists, or seasonal populations).
- It can mislead for cities with large visitor populations or undercounted populations.

Some recommend using adjusted population or service population when available.

4. Include Contextual Factors in Interpretation

If benchmarking, include:

- Arrest or clearance rates
- Police staffing levels
- Call-for-service volume
- Socioeconomic data (poverty, education, unemployment)
- Community engagement and trust indicators

5. Use Multi-Year Trends, Not Snapshots

One year of data may reflect a spike or anomaly. A 3-5 year trend is more reliable for understanding real changes or patterns.

6. Use Multiple Metrics, Not Just Part I Crimes

Part I (UCR) or Group A (NIBRS) crimes are a start, but also consider:

- Quality-of-life crimes
- Domestic violence incidents
- Traffic fatalities
- Gun-related calls or shootings
- Response time and community perception surveys

Best Practice If Benchmarking

Compare to peer cities

Use rates and trends

Avoid rankings

Add context

Transparency

Description

Based on similar size, demographics, or challenges

Crime per 100k and multi-year trend lines

Raw comparisons often mislead

Include economic, policing, and reporting factors

Explain how data is collected and and limitations

Sources

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