

The Cost of... DEMOCRATS' SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES

The Cost Of... breaks down the budgetary impact of what's driving our political discourse, giving context and analysis of its impact on our exploding \$33.5 trillion national debt. Today, we will focus on *The Cost Of Democrats* soft-on-crime policies across the nation — with a particular focus on the rapid deterioration of Washington, D.C.

PRESENTING THE PROBLEM

Democrats' soft-on-crime policies have fundamentally changed policing across the country – some of the worst consequences can be seen in our nation's capital. Washington, D.C. is one of the highest crime jurisdictions in America. As of October 2023, the violent crime rate in D.C. is 664.2 per 100,000 people. For comparison, New York City has a violent crime rate of 184.4 per 100,000 people. It is shameful that our nation's capital, which should be setting the national standard, is again facing a rapid rise in violent crimes. Just look at the D.C. crime rates from 2022 to 2023:

- **Homicide** is up **37%**
- **Personal Theft** is up **22%**
- **Robbery** is up **70%**
- **Motor Vehicle Theft** is up **103%**
- **Arson** is up **125%**
- **Total Violent Crime** is up **40%**

Worse yet, the Metropolitan Police Department is losing 30 to 35 officers a month. With around 3,400 sworn officers, this rate of attrition is unsustainable. Mayor Mariel Bowser has said she would like to see 4,000 officers by 2031 but has consistently been unwilling to give the department the budgetary resources it needs to make the city safe. Former Chief of Police Robert J. Contee III projects that the force could fall to under 3,130 by the end of fiscal year 2024, according to the [Washington Post](#).

D.C. Crime Rates, They Aren't Just Numbers

[Horrendous crimes](#) are committed in D.C. every day. Residents are paralyzed with fear, and many are making plans to leave the city completely. Local businesses are suffering and adding to the already flagging economy under the Biden Administration. Above all, the incalculable loss of human life with homicides up 37% in D.C. should spur some action from D.C. leadership. Sadly, Mayor Bower and President Biden have no regard for the safety of the citizens living in D.C. Attrition rates at the Metropolitan Police Department are far and above the recruiting rates and the mayor's office will not provide the budgetary resources for the department to effectively execute its duties.

These are just some of the headlines constantly circulating in local D.C. news, demonstrating just how unlivable the Democrats' soft-on-crime policies are making it for every day residents:



- [Two young people robbed inside DC library](#): ‘Those shoes look good, give me your shoes’
- [‘It’s scary out here’](#): DC residents weigh in on city’s steps to tackle violent crime
- [US Rep. Cuellar of Texas is Carjacked](#) by three armed attackers in Navy Yard
- [Thieves ransack Columbia Heights CVS, leaving shelves empty](#)
- [Man dies at hospital after shot multiple times on street in Capitol Heights](#)
- [DC police: Woman fatally shot in SE home, suspect in custody](#)
- [Man shot in downtown DC park, just 2 blocks from White House](#)

COUNTING THE COST

Cost of Crime In Washington, D.C.

Using the RAND Corporation’s [Cost of Crime Calculator](#), we find that the aggregate cost of crime in D.C. is **\$3.2 billion annually**. This burden of crime rests on every taxpayer in the crime-ridden capital. What has the city government done to address the problem? Well, let’s look at the Council-approved FY2024 budget for the Metropolitan Police Department:

- Patrol Services Bureau North and South *CUT* by \$27.6 million
- Recruiting Division *CUT* by \$1.9 million
- Youth and Family Engagement *CUT* by \$1.4 million
- School and Safety Division *CUT* by \$2.2 million
- Agency Management *CUT* by \$5.8 million

TOTAL *CUTS* to Metropolitan Police Department: **\$20.2 million**

The endemic soft-on-crime policies present in Washington, D.C. have spread to the rest of the country. As the cost of crime continues to go up, Democrat-run jurisdictions continue to hamper the ability of law enforcement agencies to fight crime and uphold the law.

Cost of Crime in the United States

According to a study conducted by the University of Chicago, **the annual cost of crime in the U.S. is estimated to be between \$4.7 and \$5.8 trillion annually**. The study includes the “direct costs of law enforcement, criminal justice, and victims’ losses and the indirect costs of private deterrence, fear and agony, and time lost to avoidance and recovery.”



While the cost of crime explodes, Democrat-run cities continue to defund their police departments. In 2022, Los Angeles, California cut [\\$175 million](#); Oakland, California cut [\\$14.6 million](#); San Francisco, California cut [\\$120 million](#); New York, New York cut [\\$1 billion](#); and Washington, D.C. — which has one of the worst crime rates in the country — cut [\\$10 million](#) from their respective law-enforcement budgets.

The enormous cost to society of prolific crime cannot be understated. The cost is too high for Americans to bear and yet, the Biden Administration, Congressional Democrats, liberal mayors and far-left Attorneys General across the country continue to preside over one on the largest crime spikes in U.S. history. Since Biden took office, every major category of [crime is UP](#):

- **Homicides** are up **13%** since 2020.
- **Rape** is up **23.6%** since 2020.
- **Aggravated Assaults** are up **33.9%** since 2020.
- **Nine U.S. cities hit new homicide records in 2022.**
- **331 police officers** were shot in 2022.
- **62 police officers** were killed by gunfire in 2022.
- 2021 was the deadliest year in two decades for our law enforcement officers.

