

Crime in Colorado in 2022

The Data on Colorado’s Increasing Crime Problem

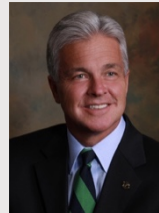
October 2022

2022 Criminal Justice Fellows



George Brauchler

Served as the elected District Attorney for the 18th Judicial District from 2013-2021.



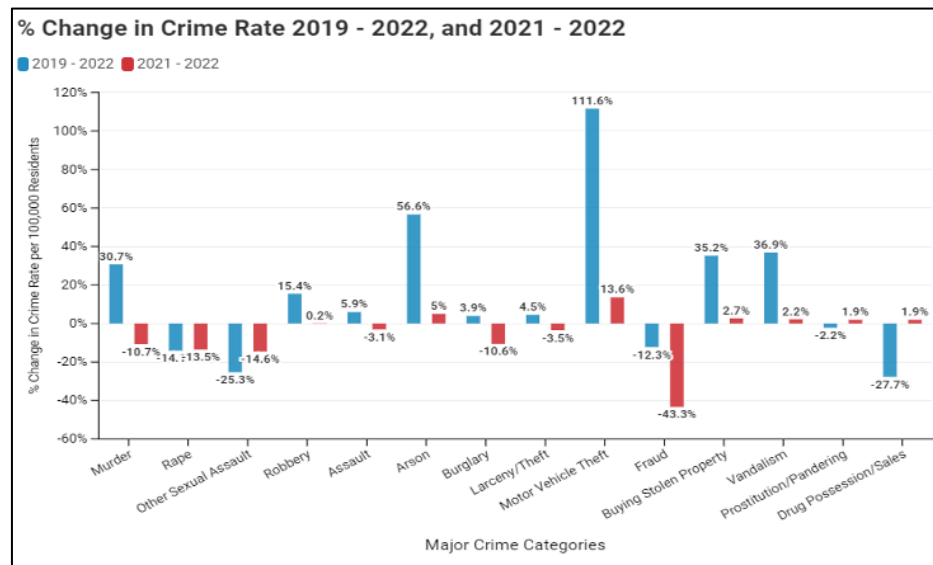
Mitch Morrissey

Served as the elected District Attorney for the 2nd Judicial District from 2005-2017.

The Colorado Crime Rate

- The number of crimes in 2022 increased in 7 major categories: robbery, arson, motor vehicle theft, buying stolen property, vandalism, prostitution/pandering, and drug possession/sales.
- Colorado ranks 1st in motor vehicle theft in the nation.** The motor vehicle theft rate has increased by another 13.6% in 2022. At this rate, there will be over 48,000 vehicle thefts in Colorado this year.
- Colorado ranks 2nd in crimes against property in U.S.**
- Cases of fraud declined by 61% as frauds associated with COVID-19 relief programs receded when the programs ended.

Crime rates in Colorado continue to top pre-pandemic levels



Compared to other states, Colorado ranks first in motor vehicle theft and second in property crimes.

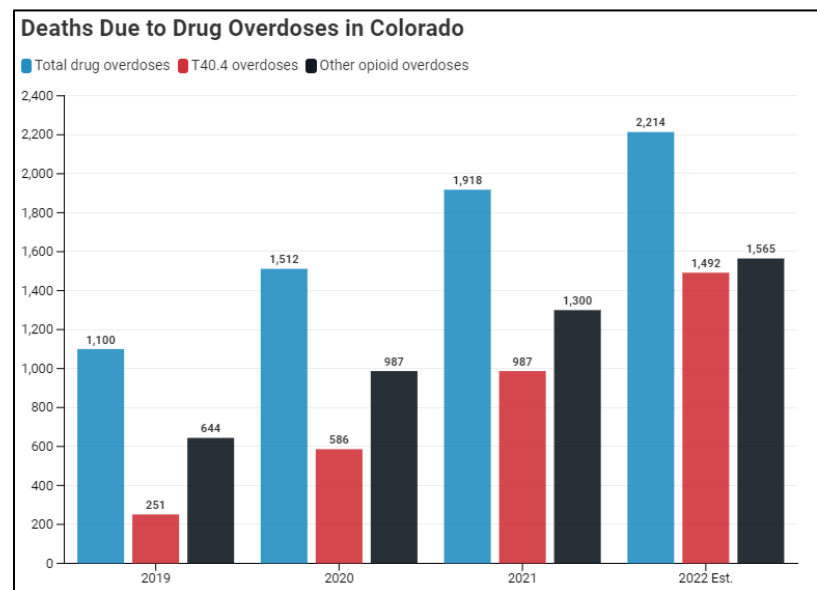
Crime Across Colorado

- Out of 167 cities reporting across the U.S. in the FBI's 2022-Q2 Quarterly Uniform Crime Report, **Pueblo ranks in the top ten** for all ten crime categories listed in the FBI's 2022-Q2 Quarterly Uniform Crime Report: aggravated assault (8th), **violent crime (5th)**, murder (8th), **rape (2nd)**, **robbery (4th)**, **property crime (5th)**, **burglary (4th)**, larceny/theft (7th), motor vehicle theft (6th), and **arson (2nd)**.
- Among 69 major cities surveyed by the Major Cities Chiefs Association in their 2022 Mid-year Comparison with 2021:
 - Aurora ranks 7th in the growth rate of homicides (35% increase), 66th in rape (32.3% decrease), 21st in robbery (21.4% increase), and **5th in aggravated assault (26.7% increase)**.
 - Denver ranks 12th in the growth rate of homicides (23.3% increase), 33rd in rape (3.8% decrease), 36th in robbery (7.3% increase), and 16th in aggravated assault (11.3% increase).

Fentanyl

- In the first five months of 2022, Colorado law enforcement seized more fentanyl (2 million dosage units), than it seized in all of 2021.
- The Colorado State Patrol has seized enough fentanyl this year to kill 93 million people.
- **Fentanyl will likely kill over 1,500 Coloradans this year, nearly 500 more than 2021.** Between 4 and 5 Coloradans are dying daily from overdosing on synthetic opioids (including fentanyl) on average in 2022. This is up from 2 to 3 Coloradans per day in 2021.

At current rates, 2,000 people will die from drug overdoses in 2022



Drug Trafficking and Overdoses

- According to the Colorado State Patrol, Colorado is in the midst of a 10-year drug trafficking record. Through August of 2022, drug seizures by the Colorado State Patrol are up 173% for fentanyl-bulk (412 pounds), and up 75% for cannabis (4,395 pounds).
- Comparing Colorado to all other states and the District of Columbia, Colorado now ranks 16th in total overdose deaths, up 7 places from 2021.
- Data show that nearly two-thirds of overdose deaths occur among people between 15 and 44 years old.

© 2022 Common Sense Institute.