



JUNE 2023

The Fight Against Crime in Colorado:

Policing, Legislation, and Incarceration

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Colorado Has a Crime Problem.

It is no secret that Colorado has been hit with a crime wave.

- The crime rate in Colorado increased by 32% from 2010 to 2022.
- The cost of crime was nearly \$30 billion in 2022.
 - Cost of crime in Denver was \$4 billion
 - Cost of crime in Colorado Springs was \$2.7 billion

Why has Colorado become less safe?

A comparison of policing and crime rates in Colorado's two largest cities uncovers distinctly different trends and outcomes.

	Denver (2010 - 2022)	Colorado Springs (2010 - 2022)
Crime Rate	Increased 32%	Decreased 15.9%
Spending Per Resident	Increased by 11%	Increased by 8.4%
Number of Uniformed Police Officers	Decreased 15.1%	Increased 5.7%
Cleared Cases	Decreased 18.6%	Increased 9.7%
Arrest Rates	Increased 49.2%	Increased 10.7%

Crime Is Impacting Taxable Sales

- In Denver, between 2016 and 2022, the crime concentration increased by 9.1% and employment- and population-adjusted taxable sales increased by only 5%.
- In Colorado Springs, the crime concentration increased by 5.7% while employment- and population-adjusted taxable sales increased by 15%.

Crime rate is increasing while Colorado's prison population is declining

Since 2010, a multitude of bills have altered penalties, sentencing and parole eligibility for convicted offenders.

- Between 2010 and 2022, the number of inmates in prison declined by 28.4% while the crime rate increased 32%.
- During the same time period, new court commitments to prison amounted to 4,345 in 2010 and only increased by 8.4% in 2022.

Policy Can be the Problem or the Solution

The legislature frequently passes new laws that impact how policing can be conducted, change penalties for those convicted of committing crime, and alter offender sentencing and parole. Since 2010, the Colorado Legislature has passed 42 bills that impact crime.