

— TOP TAKEAWAYS —

Crime Affects American Communities and Safety

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN AMERICA IS DOWN

- Americans today feel more vulnerable and insecure in their local communities than they have at almost any other point in the last fifty years.
- **56% of U.S. adults** believe that crime in their local area has increased compared to the previous year, the highest recorded since 1972. A staggering **78% of Americans** feel that crime has risen across the country.
- Crime is markedly higher than in 2019: there were **24%** more homicides in the first half of 2023 compared to the same period in 2019, and a **33.5%** surge in motor vehicle theft from 2022.

THE DEFUND MOVEMENT AFFECTED POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Propelled by high-profile incidents like the George Floyd killing, the “defund the police” movement gained considerable traction, particularly between 2020 and 2021.
- Many police departments across the nation are grappling with **a decline in staffing** due to an increase in resignations, retirements, and challenges in recruitment.
- Resignations surged by nearly **50%** in 2022 compared to figures from 2019. Even as retirements saw a slight dip in 2022, they were still nearly 20% higher than those in 2019.

WE NEED TO ADDRESS CRIME AND BUILD TRUST

- Effective policing that maintains public safety while building community trust is more needed than ever.
- Solutions include enacting crucial police reforms—like body cameras—that have widespread consensus, reaffirming our commitment to law enforcement, looking to past program efficiency, and rekindling love for community and country.

Click [HERE](#) to read the policy focus and learn more about how crime affects American communities and safety.