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Miami Sees Significant Drop in Crime, Police Aim for Record Low Homicides

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Miami is seeing a sharp decline in violent crime midway through 2025, with officials crediting data-driven policing and strong community engagement. City leaders are optimistic the current pace could lead to a historic low in homicides by year's end.

The Miami Police Department has reported a 20% decrease in homicides, a 17% drop in robberies, a 19% decline in aggravated assaults, and a notable 37% reduction in auto theft

compared to the first half of 2024. According to Police Chief Manuel Morales, 16 homicides have been recorded so far this year, placing the city within reach of breaking its all-time low of 24 killings, set back in 1946. Last year, Miami came close to matching that figure with 27.

“This is a community triumph,” Chief Morales said during a press conference Thursday. “Behind every percentage point, there’s a potential life saved, a crime prevented, and a neighborhood made safer.” Morales highlighted that the decrease in violence reflects smarter policing strategies, consistent use of crime data, and an improving relationship between officers and residents.

Mayor Francis Suarez also weighed in, citing “informed policing, targeted prevention, and enforcement” as well as the continued support of local officials as key drivers behind the drop in crime.

Despite ongoing tensions over immigration enforcement across Florida, Morales dismissed the idea that fear of deportation has discouraged victims or witnesses from reporting crimes. The chief pointed to the 37% drop in auto theft as a clear sign that the public continues to engage with law enforcement. “There’s not a lot of stolen cars running around with people saying, ‘I’m not going to report it because I’m afraid of what’s going to happen,’” Morales said.

He also clarified that local police interactions with residents do not involve immigration checks. “We don’t have access to those databases, and that’s not part of the business that we’re creating,” Morales explained.

Miami recently entered into a 287(g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a federal program allowing local officers to assist in immigration enforcement. Under the task force model adopted by the city, officers may carry out certain immigration-related duties during routine law enforcement operations.

Arrests have also increased slightly, from 9,847 at midyear 2024 to 10,542 so far in 2025. As Miami continues to emphasize law and order while prioritizing safety across communities, officials remain hopeful that smart policing and civic cooperation will keep the city on track for a historic year.