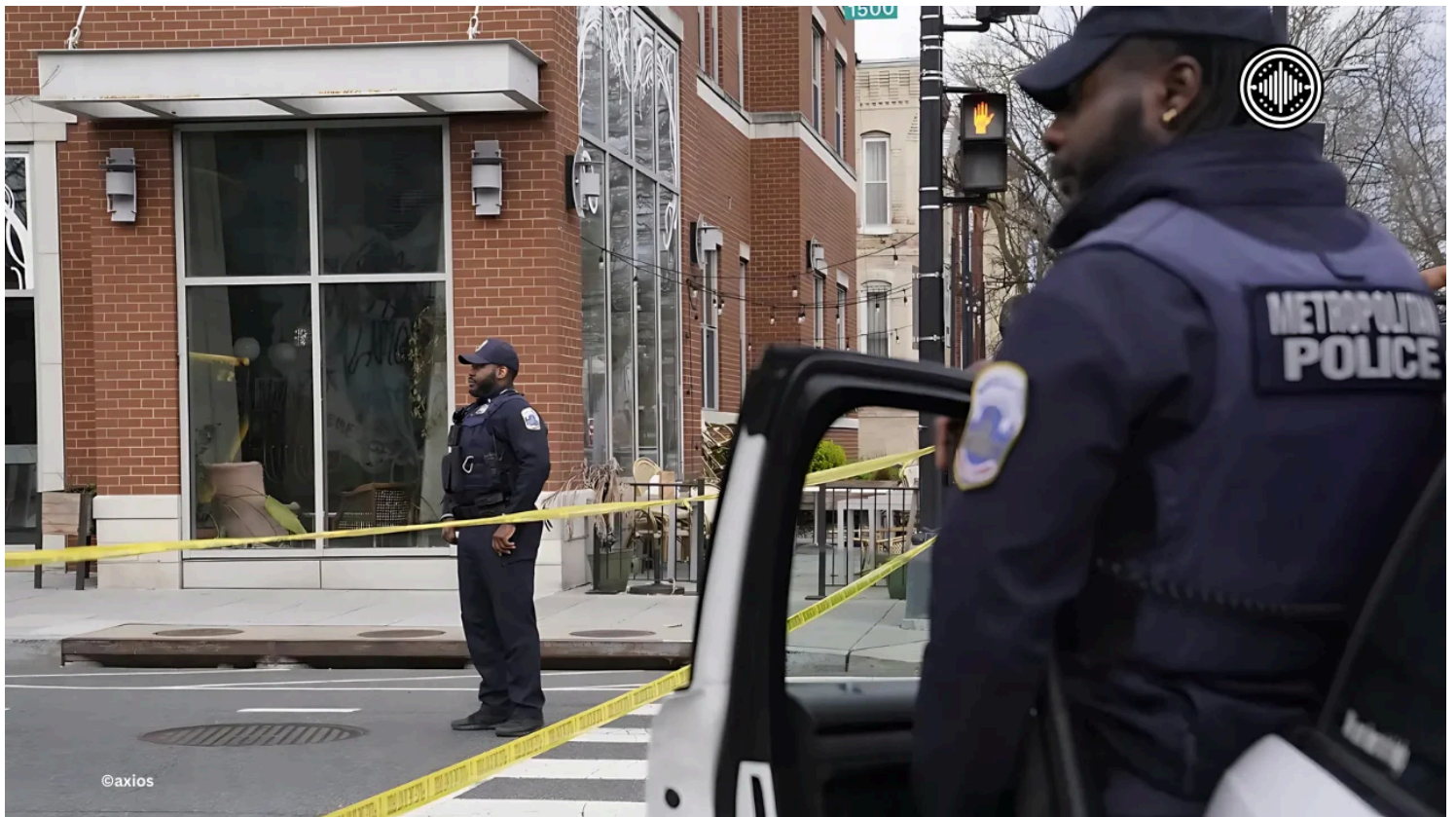


## US Cities Report Drop in Violent Crime Amid Federal Intervention

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Several U.S. cities recently saw notable declines in violent crime, even as federal officials increased their presence in Washington, D.C., citing safety concerns. The contrast between official statistics and federal statements highlights the complexity of urban crime trends across the country.

President Donald Trump deployed the first of 800 National Guard members to Washington, D.C., and indicated that other cities, including Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Oakland, might also require federal intervention due to rising crime. However, recent data from these cities suggest that violent crime has been declining in many areas.

In Washington, D.C., police statistics show a reduction in violent crime since a post-pandemic peak in 2023. Officials report decreases in several major crime categories, despite federal characterizations of the city as deteriorating.

Chicago has seen homicides fall by more than 30% and shootings decline nearly 40% in the past year, according to Mayor Brandon Johnson. In Los Angeles, homicides decreased 14% between 2023 and 2024, reflecting efforts to combine law enforcement with community-based strategies. Baltimore reported historic drops in homicides and nonfatal shootings, with carjackings down 20% in 2023 and other major crimes also declining in 2024. Officials attribute these improvements to comprehensive violence prevention plans that invest in community programs, victim support services, and targeted intervention initiatives.

Oakland reported similar trends, including a 21% reduction in homicides and a 29% decrease in overall violent crime during the first half of this year compared with the same period in 2024. City officials credited partnerships with community organizations and crisis response services as key contributors to the results.

Community leaders emphasize that collaborative approaches have been central to crime reduction. Nicole Lee, executive director of Urban Peace Movement in Oakland, said, “The hard work of community partners and organizations over the past few years has contributed significantly to safer neighborhoods.” Officials caution that interventions involving armed federal personnel or youth curfews could disrupt these progress efforts and disproportionately affect young residents.

In Savannah, Georgia, Mayor Van Johnson said federal assistance is most effective when focused on investigations and addressing multi-jurisdictional challenges, rather than visible street patrols. “Municipal law enforcement requires specific skills, and we value federal support in complementary roles,” he stated.

The federal presence in Washington currently includes National Guard members and personnel from multiple agencies performing law enforcement and safety support tasks.

Pentagon officials clarified that the troops will not be armed while assisting in patrolling and city maintenance.

As federal interventions continue, city officials are monitoring the impact on local safety efforts. Johnson noted that local leaders are committed to maintaining progress despite changes in federal policy. “City leadership adapts to challenges and focuses on strategies that have proven effective in reducing crime,” he said.

The current developments highlight ongoing collaboration between city governments and federal agencies while underscoring the importance of targeted, community-centered strategies in achieving safer urban environments.