**The public is concerned about crime and distrustful of the justice system.**

**78%** of people think there is **more crime across the United States** than in previous years.

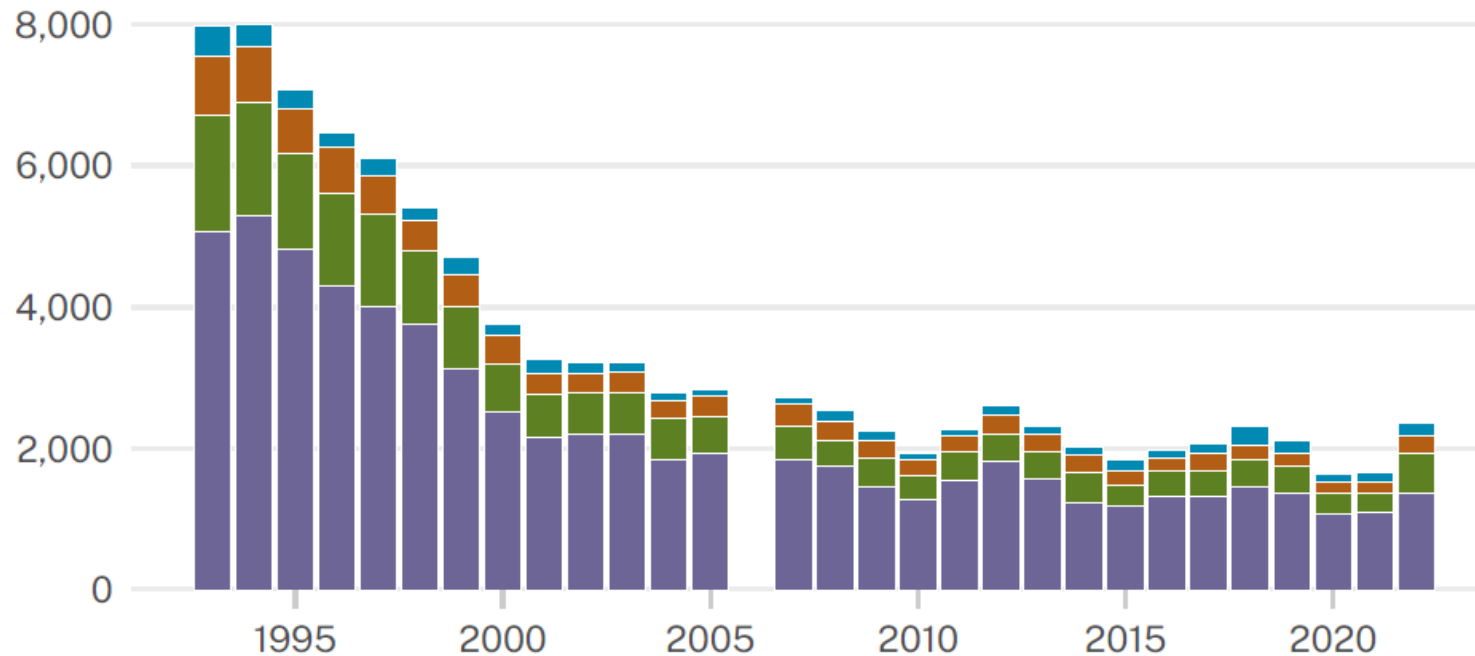**40%** of people are "very dissatisfied" with **policies to control or reduce crime.**

**17%** of people have "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of **trust in the justice system.**

Jeffrey M. Jones, "More Americans See U.S. Crime Problem as Serious," Gallup, November 16, 2023, accessed January 25, 2024, https://news.gallup.com/poll/544442/americans-crime-problem-serious.aspx.

# The rate of violent victimizations in 2022 was 70 percent lower than in 1993.

**Violent victimizations**
Rate per 100k residents, United States
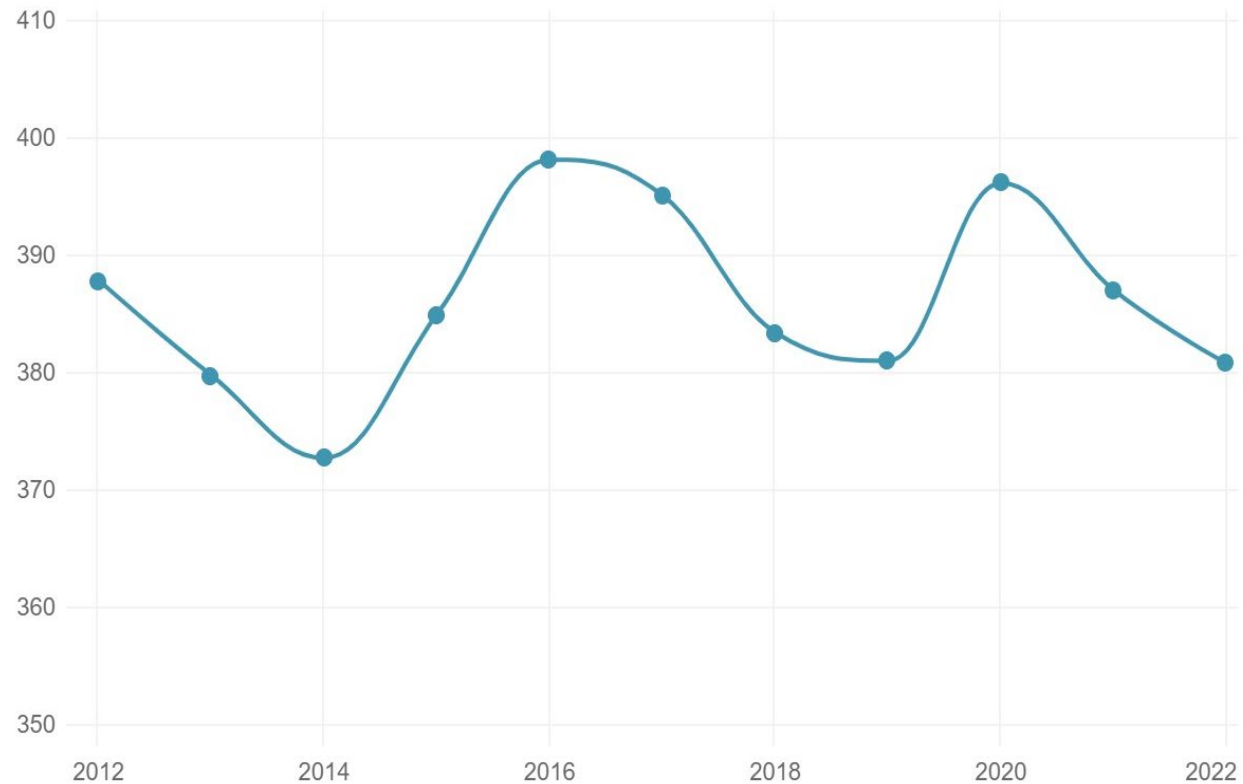
■ Simple assault  ■ Aggravated assault  ■ Robbery  ■ Rape

BJS National Crime Victimization Survey

The Council of State Governments Justice Center, *Massachusetts Criminal Justice Snapshot* (New York, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2023).

# Nationally, the violent crime rate spiked in 2020 but has since declined to pre-pandemic levels.

**Violent crime in the United States**
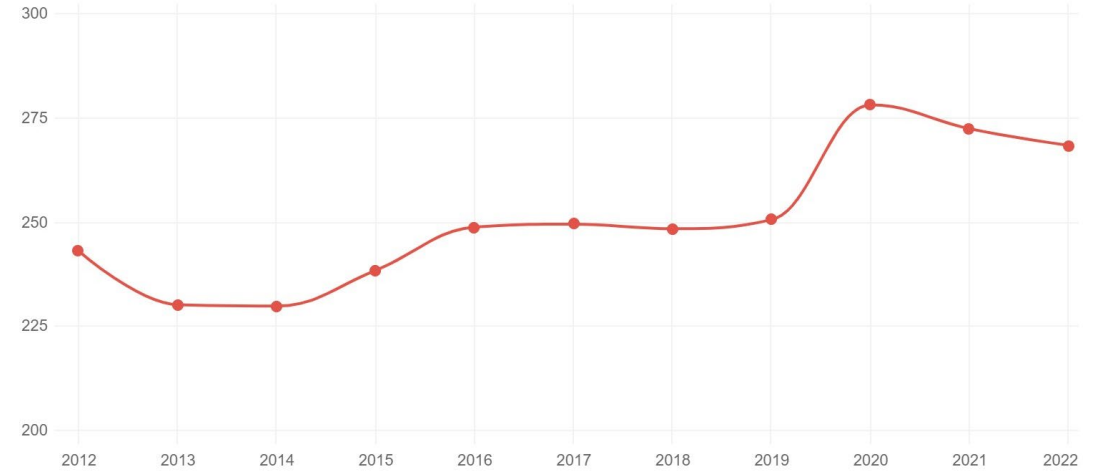Crime reported to police per 100,000 residents



The national violent crime rate includes homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, and rape.

CSG Justice Center analysis of data from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, March 2024.

The increase in violent crime rates in 2020 was driven by a sharp rise in aggravated assault followed by homicide.
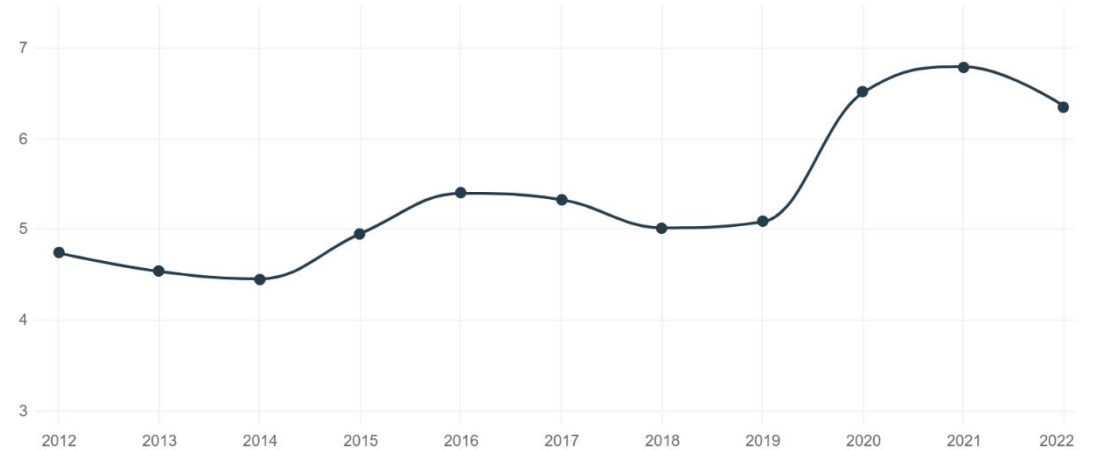
## Aggravated assault in the United States
Crime reported to police per 100,000 residents
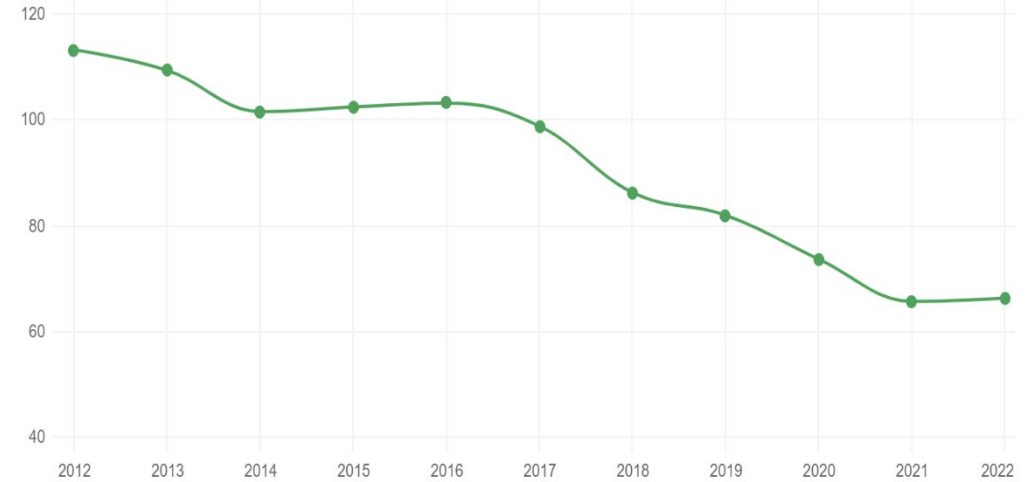


## Homicide in the United States
Crime reported to police per 100,000 residents



CSG Justice Center analysis of data from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, March 2024.

Robbery rates continued to decline through 2021 before slightly increasing in 2022.

Rape rates increased in 2021 before declining in 2022.



**Robbery in the United States**
Crime reported to police per 100,000 residents



**Rape in the United States**
Crime reported to police per 100,000 residents

CSG Justice Center analysis of data from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, March 2024.
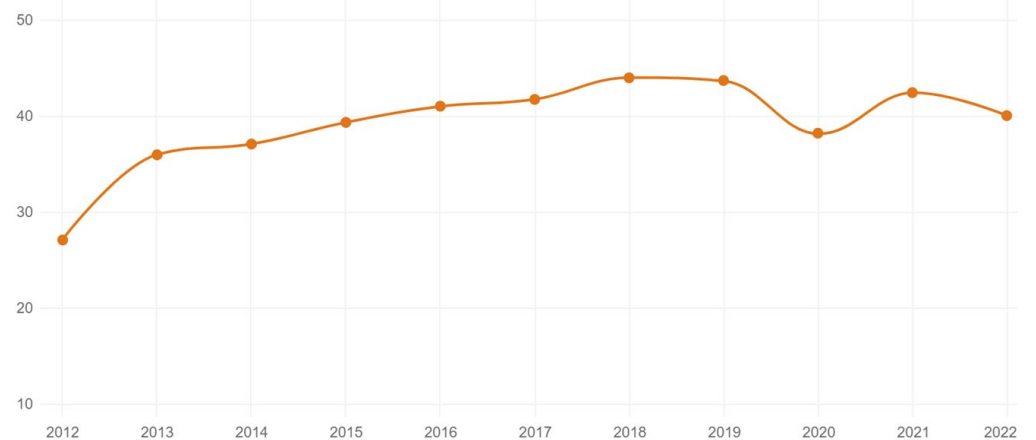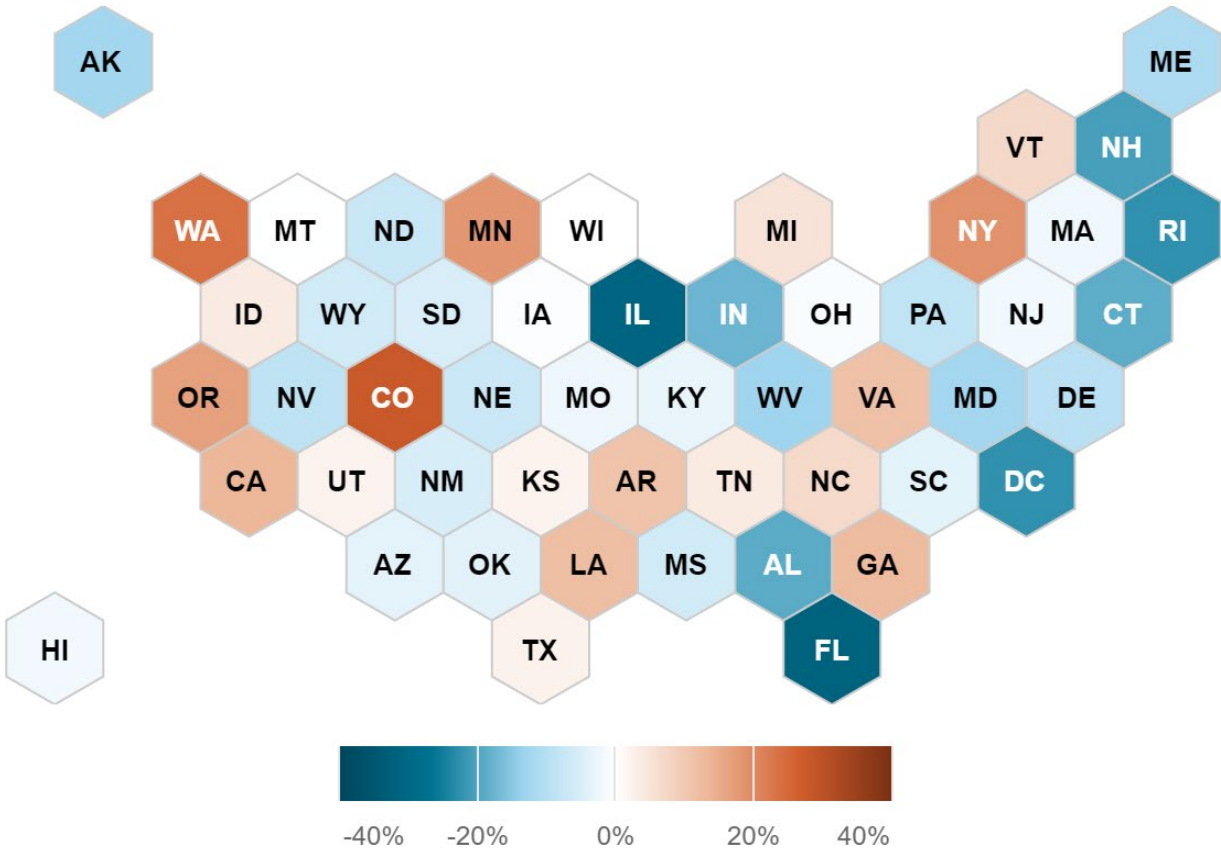
# Between 2019 and 2022, violent crime fell in 32 states (plus DC) and rose in 18 states.

## Change in violent crime 2019–2022

Percent change in crime reported to police per 100,000 residents



-40%  -20%  0%  20%  40%

CSG Justice Center analysis of data from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, March 2024.

# In the midwestern region, Michigan had the highest rate of violent crime reported to law enforcement in 2022.

**Violent index crime reported to police**
Rate per 100k residents, midwestern region, 2022
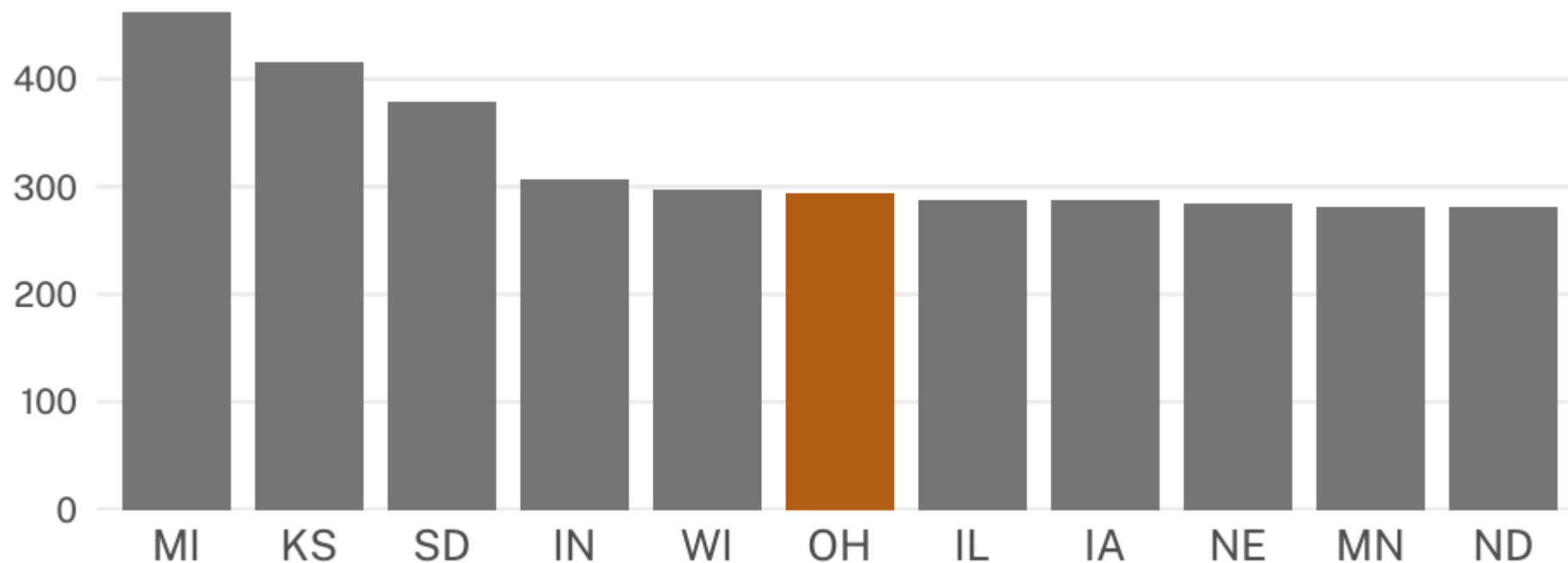
In 2022, over **63 percent of violent crimes** reported to police went unsolved in the United States.

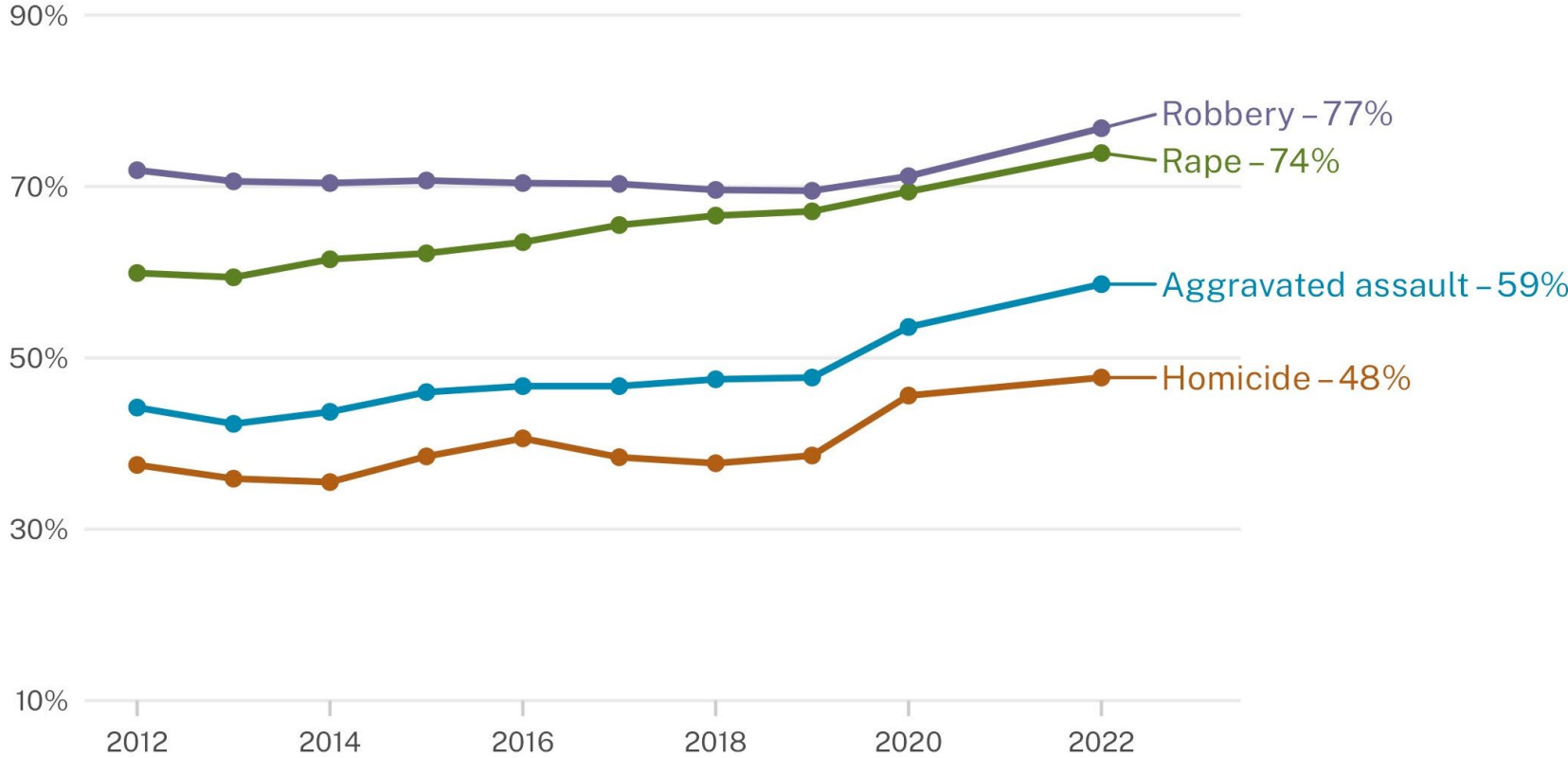CSG Justice Center analysis of data from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, March 2024.

# The percentage of violent crimes going unsolved each year has increased in the past decade.

National unsolved rate of violent crime by offense, 2012–2022



Robbery – 77%
Rape – 74%
Aggravated assault – 59%
Homicide – 48%

FBI Crime in the United States, Table 25

Change rate unsolved by offense, 2012–2022:

+10%
Homicide

+14%
Aggravated Assault

+14%
Rape

+5%
Robbery

CSG Justice Center analysis of data from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, December 2023.

# In the midwestern region, more than half of all violent crime went unsolved in 6 states in 2022.

Percentage of unsolved violent crime by state, midwestern region, 2022
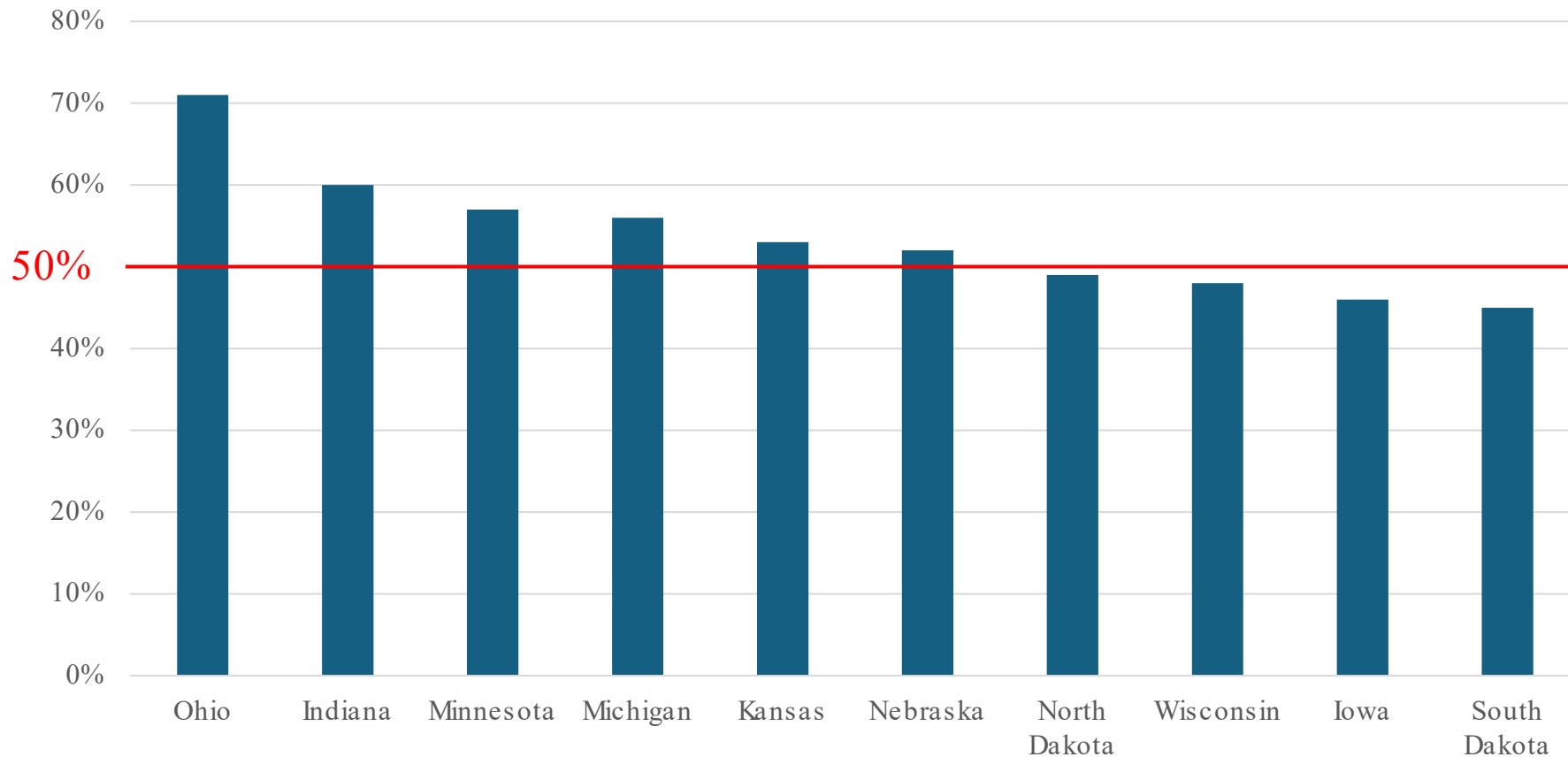


Illinois not included due to underreporting of clearance rates.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center, *Ohio Criminal Justice Snapshot* (New York, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2023)

# Clearance rates also indicate an important racial disparity in who is most likely to receive justice when harmed.

National percentage of unsolved homicides by race of victim
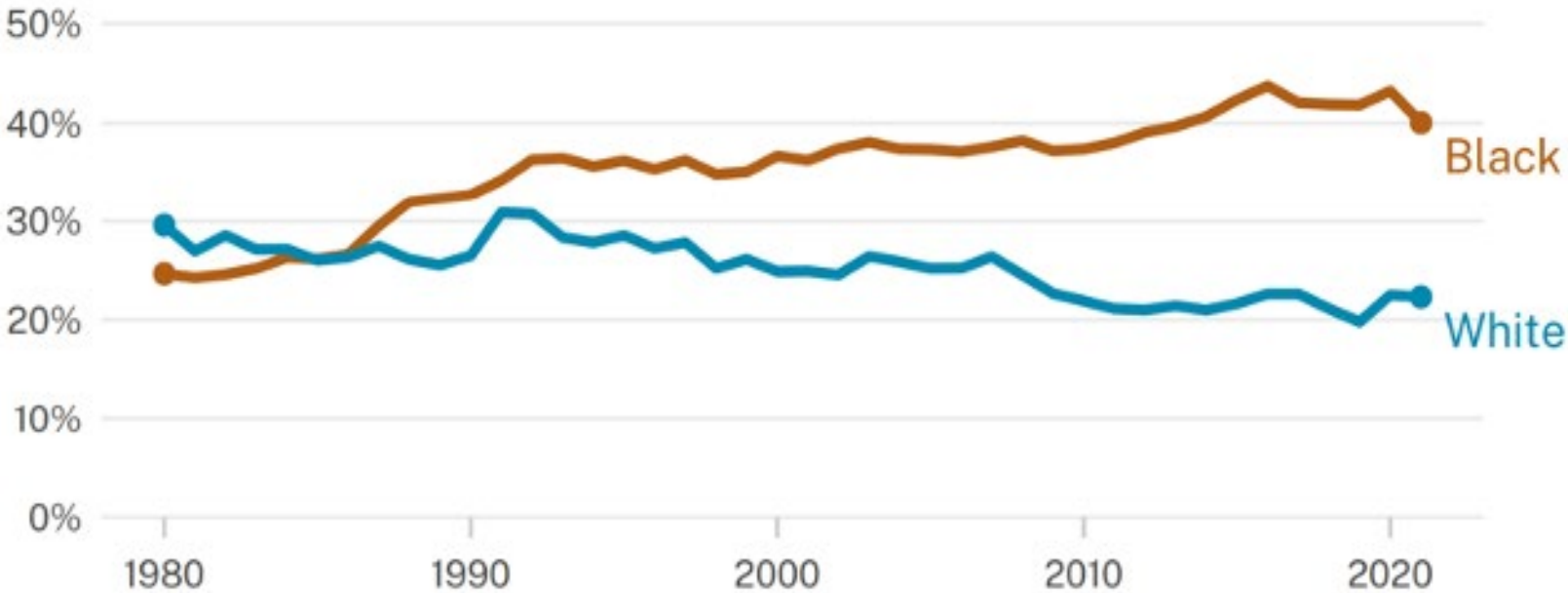


Murder Accountability Project

Homicides of Black victims are about twice as likely to go unsolved as homicides of White victims.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center, *Ohio Criminal Justice Snapshot* (New York, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2023).

# There are a variety of factors that influence agency solve rates.

Crime trends and characteristics

Technology

Staffing and caseload ratios

Public trust

Staffing and case prioritization

Investigative practices

Relationships with prosecution

Investigatory best practices

As concerns about crime **rise** and public trust **declines,** policymakers need a comprehensive plan to advance safety and justice that is grounded in their state's data and context.

## Violent Crime

**Violent Crime Reported to Police**

**Arrests for Violent Crime**

People on supervision or incarcerated for a violent offense

Between prevention and punishment, there are opportunities to **increase accountability and respond more effectively** to people who commit violent crime.

# Research is clear that the certainty—not severity—of punishment is what deters crime.

For policymakers, this means that investing in increasing accountability can do more to reduce crime than investing in increasing punishment.

**Investments in increasing accountability**
**Effective, evidence-based law enforcement practices** that build community trust

> (greater than)

**Investments in increasing the severity of punishment**
**Longer incarceration terms** for the minority of people apprehended

National Institute of Justice, Five Things About Deterrence, June 5, 2016, accessed October 4, 2023, https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/five-things-about-deterrence#one.

## With focus and resources, police are solving more violent crime.

Boston boosted its homicide solve rate **from 47 to 66 percent** after focusing on staff resources, training, use of best practices, and leadership and prioritization.

Denver created a special unit to solve nonfatal shootings, applying the same level of effort and resources as for solving homicides. Within 7 months, solve rates went **from 39 to 65 percent.**

Omaha's solve rate for homicide went from **32 percent in 2010 to 100 percent in 2023** through a comprehensive, community-driven violence-reduction effort.

Anthony Braga, "Improving Police Clearance Rates of Shootings: A Review of the Evidence," Manhattan Institute, July 20, 2021, accessed February 8, 2023, https://www.manhattan-institute.org/improving-police-clearance-rates-shootings-review-evidence; Elise Schmelzer, "Denver police solved less than half of all nonfatal shootings last year. A new solution is showing promise," *The Denver Post*, November 13, 2020, accessed November 28, 2023, https://www.denverpost.com/2020/11/13/nonfatal-shootings-denver/; "Beyond Enforcement: Omaha's Story of Community Driven Violence Reduction," (PowerPoint presentation, Violent Crime Reduction Summit, Indianapolis, IN, December 11–13, 2023).

**How can states help local law enforcement solve more violent crime?**

- **Analyze trends in agency solve rate data and provide targeted assistance** to localities with low solve rates.

- **Increase support for victims and witnesses** who experience violent crime to address trauma and support them in cooperating with investigations.

- **Expand law enforcement's capacity to focus on solving violent crime** by reducing detective caseloads with funding, supporting alternative response units, or establishing state "cold case" units.

- **Address backlogs and delays** at state crime labs that process evidence.

- **Provide grant funds** to support evidence-based approaches to increasing clearance rates including community-system partnerships.

## Roughly *half* of violent crimes are never reported to law enforcement.

### Violent Crime

### Violent Crime Reported to Police

**Develop and fund a statewide crime prevention and intervention strategy.**

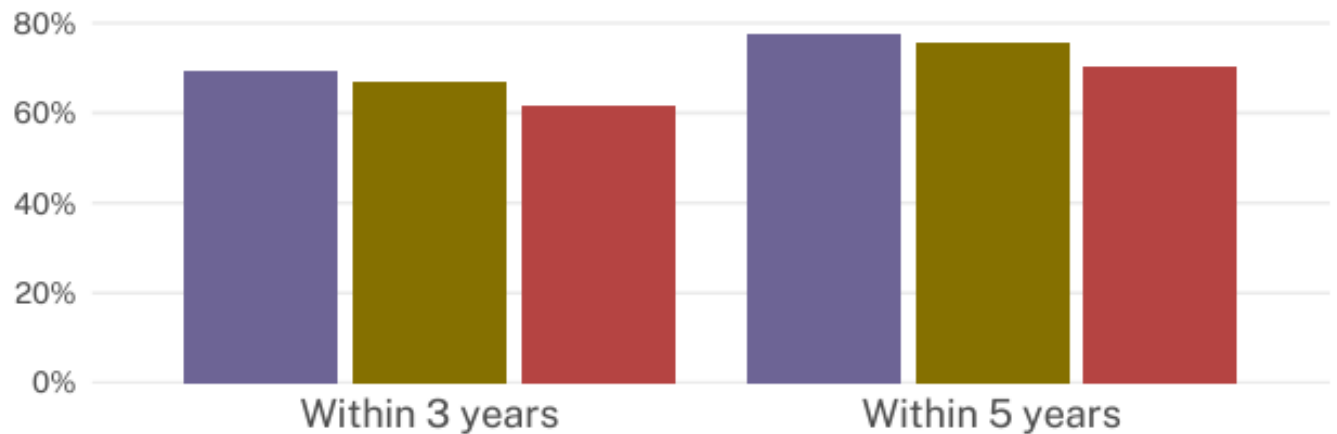Use data to focus evidence-based violence prevention and intervention efforts in communities most impacted by violent crime.

# While national recidivism rates have declined, over half of people released from prison are convicted of a new offense within 5 years.
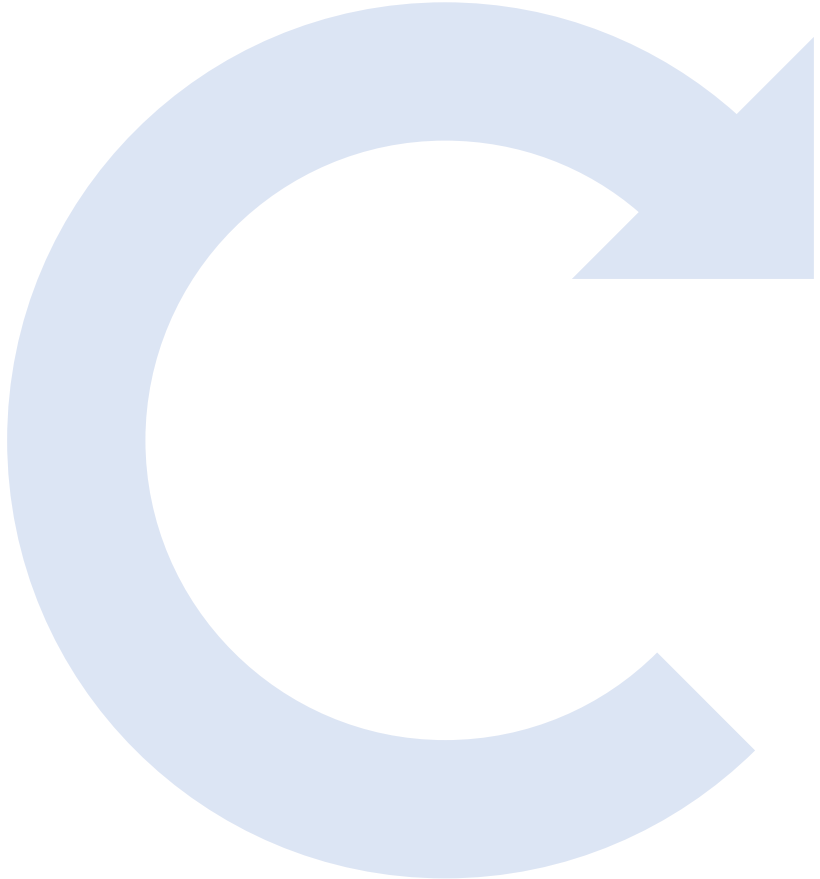
Incarceration.
Reentry.
Supervision.

Percentage of people released from prison who were arrested following release
United States

Release year ■ 2005 ■ 2008 ■ 2012



The Council of State Governments Justice Center, *Ohio Criminal Justice Snapshot* (New York, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2023).

# Trauma is a cycle that shapes patterns of offending and victimization.

Ensuring that victims and people who commit violence are connected to **relevant, trauma-informed support and resources** is critical to breaking the cycles of violence.

Building trust between communities and the justice system **requires the system to be responsive** to the needs of people who experience victimization.

# Safety and justice deserve better data.
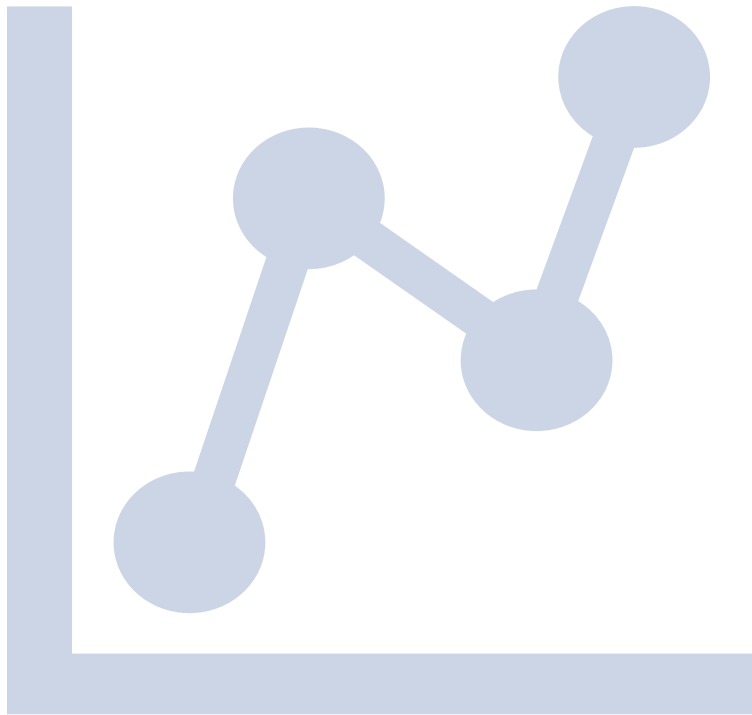
**Collect** data on crime, arrests, victimization, backlogs, and system responses.

**Analyze** data to identify local and regional challenges, racial disparities, and how recidivism is contributing to violent crime trends.
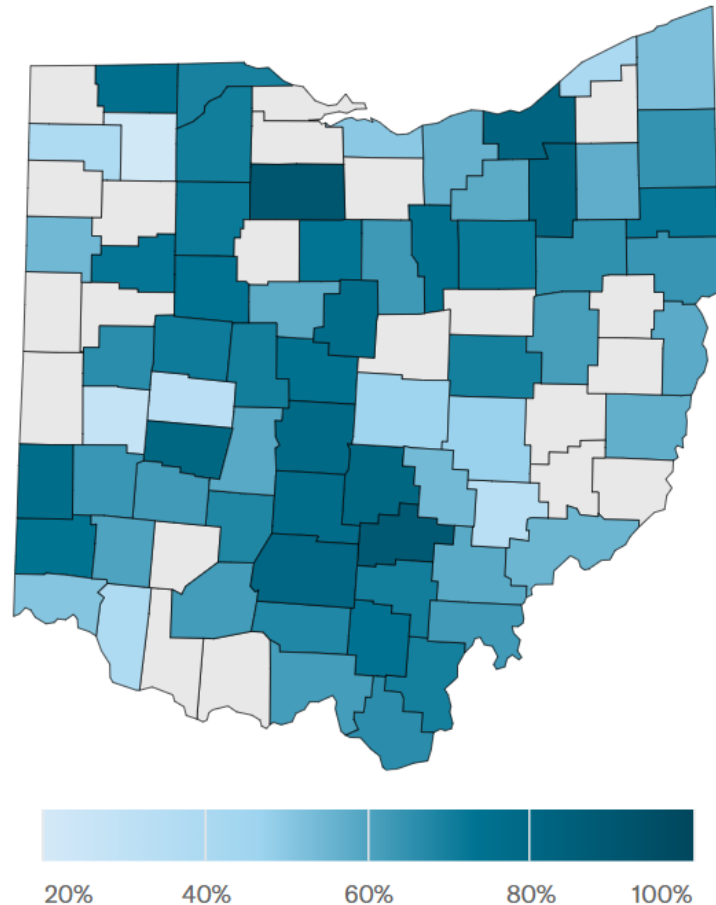
**Report** data in a way that is accessible to policymakers and the public.

**Measure** the impact of investments and policy changes to see what works.

# Tools for States to Address Crime

🏠 **50-State Crime Data**    **5 Ways States Can Reduce Violent Crime**

## Unsolved Violent Crime Rate, 2022



20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

## Scan the QR code to access your state's data.

**Madeleine Dardeau**

mdardeau@csg.org