

Trump Says Crime is Rising, But Data Says Otherwise

Law Enforcement Expert Available for Comment

Donald Trump said in a speech last night the crime rate is rising, but in fact over the last decade it's dropped 23 percent, according to [new figures out today](#).

Ronal Serpas is chairman of [Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration](#) and represents almost 200 prominent police chiefs and prosecutors in all 50 states. He is available to provide context on Trump's comments, and discuss the current state of policing and crime in America.

"Numbers show that crime has fallen significantly in the last 10 years," **said Serpas**. "A few cities have seen upticks recently, which is troubling and must be addressed, but nationally, crime rates are at historic lows. And I know from 30 years of experience that smart reforms will help keep it that way. By better allocating police resources toward our nation's most violent and dangerous criminals, we can keep crime down, protect public safety, and reduce incarceration rates in states across the country at the same time."

In 2015, [murder rates](#) went up 13.2 percent. This is largely due to an increase in Chicago, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. But overall in the last decade, 27 states lowered both crime and imprisonment rates simultaneously, the new analysis found. Nationally, the imprisonment rate has dropped 7 percent.

Serpas was the police chief in New Orleans and Nashville. He can also speak to the complex factors at play in bursts of increased gun crime – like the spike in Chicago – and the debate over the "[viral video effect](#)." He has appeared in the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), on [NPR](#), and [MSNBC](#).

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