



PUBLIC SAFETY DATA BRIEFING

The Cities Where Crime Is Quietly Rising, and No One's Reporting It

Six data points on why official crime statistics miss what's actually happening, and a catch: the reporting gap is worst exactly where the most people live.

Cross-referencing FBI Uniform Crime Reporting and NIBRS data, the Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Crime Victimization Survey, the National Retail Federation, and the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.



What's inside the full report

The complete report runs several pages and draws on sixteen primary sources. Here's the structure, plus the summary table it opens with.

- 1

The clearest case, and why
What happened when the FBI's own reporting system broke during the 2021 NIBRS transition, and which major city departments went missing from the data.
- 2

How we picked these six
What "the measurement gap," "the silence gap," and "the count gap" actually mean.
- 3

The complete six-case list
The state-by-state gap, sexual assault and domestic violence reporting, retail theft, and cybercrime, each with sourced figures.
- 4

Also worth watching
The "dark figure of crime," the decades-old criminology term for this entire problem, and what insurance claims data can reveal.
- 5

The caveat that matters most
Why the sharpest number in this report is not proof of a hidden nationwide crime wave, and what part of the pattern is not a one-year anomaly.

NO.	CONTEXT	GAP	WHY IT'S ON THE LIST
1	The 2021 to 2022 national reporting collapse	The measurement gap	32% of police agencies submitted no 2022 crime data to the FBI, including the two largest city departments in the country.
2	The state-by-state reporting gap	The measurement gap	Florida under 8% complete, 17 states nearly complete: the same national number means very different things locally.
3	Sexual assault reporting in cities	The silence gap	13% reported in urban areas versus 52% in rural areas, the largest gap of any crime type measured.
4	Domestic violence reporting decline	The silence gap	Reporting fell from about two-thirds in 2010 to 52% in 2019, with no shown reversal since.
5	Retail theft businesses don't report	The count gap	64% of retailers report fewer than half their own theft incidents to police.
6	Cybercrime and fraud	The count gap	\$20.9 billion in reported losses in 2025, up 26% in a single year.

The full report also includes an interactive dashboard version of this table, filterable case by case and grounded in the same sources.



EXCERPT FROM THE FULL REPORT

The clearest case: what happens when the reporting system itself breaks

In 2021, the FBI stopped accepting crime data submitted in its old summary format and would only take data in the new National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS, format, a switch more than three decades in the making. Nearly 40% of the nation's roughly 18,000 police agencies missed that year's submission entirely.

By 2022 the picture had improved only partly: 6,097 agencies, 32% of the total, submitted no data at all; 4,464 agencies, 24%, submitted data covering fewer than twelve months; and just 8,356 agencies, 44%, reported completely. Independent analysis found the resulting gaps affected close to one quarter of the entire US population.

Among the major agencies still missing from federal data as late as 2022 were the New York Police Department and the Los Angeles Police Department, the two largest city police departments in the country. The reasons on record are administrative rather than dramatic.

Continues in the full report, alongside the state-by-state gap, sexual assault and domestic violence reporting, retail theft, and cybercrime

GET THE FULL REPORT

This is a short taste of the complete briefing.

The full report covers all six cases in depth, the complete methodology, sixteen cited sources, and comes with a live interactive dashboard you can embed or share. Get in touch and we'll send it over, or talk to us about custom compliance or fraud-monitoring research for your own team.

THE FULL PACKAGE INCLUDES

- The complete written report (Word and PDF)
- The interactive reporting-gap dashboard, filterable by case
- Full source list with 16 primary citations
- Custom data or refresh schedule, on request

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This preview reflects public research available as of September 2026. It draws on federal statistical agencies, congressional research, and industry surveys, which use different methods and definitions, and treats each figure as one estimate rather than a universal fact. Full citations are in the complete report.