

The Rise and Fall of Crime Rates Throughout the COVID-19 Crisis



Crime levels in the U.S. are generally trending downward as the COVID-19 crisis persists at a relentless pace. The decline in criminal activity can be traced to a significant number of people under self-quarantine. With less economic activity and fewer people out and about, the opportunities for criminals to participate in their trade are fewer, too.

In a recent press conference, the San Jose California Police Department provided data showing a 46% decline in violent crime after self-quarantine started. Similarly, the Chicago Police Department registered a decrease of 23% in several major crime categories during the self-quarantine period. This trend is likely to continue as long as the self-quarantine remains in place. However, we can anticipate these crime statistics swinging in the opposite direction once the COVID-19 crisis subsides and businesses and individuals strive to recover from their losses.

The current crisis and significant downturn in economic activity will have substantial and lasting repercussions for everyone, including businesses and individuals going bankrupt and major job losses. The unemployment rate after the COVID-19 crisis, which could be as high as 20-30% by some estimates, will contribute to a likely post-crisis rise in criminal activity as lack of financial resources and options affect many people.

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