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FJP Statement on 2020 FBI Crime Statistics Report

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to today's [release](#) of the 2020 edition of the FBI's annual "Crime in the United States" report:

"Last year brought a perfect storm of challenges: a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic that strained institutions and organizations that respond to and prevent violence; a devastating economic downturn that saw mass job losses and the shuttering of too many businesses; a record year for gun purchases; and a rise in police violence that led to fracturing of relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This chain of events [contributed](#) to a rise in certain violent crimes in 2020, even as the overall crime rate decreased.

Those who remain attached to the failed 'tough-on-crime' approaches of the past may try to blame the increase in some crime statistics on the criminal justice reforms that voters are increasingly embracing and the calls for police reform that reverberated across the country in 2020. But these misleading claims are about the politics of fear – not policy. The data shows no connection between the tragic rise in homicides and gun violence and data-driven reform efforts. In fact, increases in homicides have occurred at [similar rates](#) in both cities that rejected reforms and those that pursued reforms. And in some cities led by reform-minded prosecutors – like [St. Louis County and Baltimore City](#) – homicides declined last year.

What we need now is not to point fingers and stoke fear, but instead to work together and embrace and learn from evidence-based strategies that promote public safety, starting with investment in the communities most affected by this surge of violence and the ongoing pandemic. We must expand proven [anti-violence strategies](#), including confronting our nation's gun problem, engaging and supporting our young people, and reducing the financial stress experienced by so many in our communities."

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).