



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

Crime in Washington 2022

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The report

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) has been the custodian and administrator of crime data collection on behalf of the State of Washington since 1980.

This is the 43rd annual publication of the Washington Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program of:

- criminal offenses,
- arrests,
- law enforcement officers assaulted and killed, and
- the number of full-time law enforcement employees.



The report

Funding for the Washington State UCR Program is provided through contract with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) and administration of the program is the responsibility of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Criminal Justice Information Support (CJIS) Department.

-Details regarding the data are found on page 1 of the report, including the relationship to FBI reports and the types of data collected.



What is in the report?

- Statewide crime information
- Crime data by agencies
- Staffing data for agencies
- All archived full reports dating back to 1980 are on the website
- This information goes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for their “Crime in the U.S.” annual report published in the fall and available on their searchable databases (Crime Data Explorer)
- It is intended to provide information about what is going on in each community and for overall trends statewide
- All data is a “snapshot” as of March 22, 2023 (except murder data in the *Facts at a Glance*)



Overall- 2022

Violent crime was up 8.9%, with **murders up 16.6%, to an all-time high of 394.**

In 2022, crime has increased overall 8.5%.

Robberies increased 18%.

Vehicle theft was up to 47,448 from 35,385 in 2021, a **34.1% increase.**
12,063 more cars were stolen in 2022 than in 2021.

Reflects what people are experiencing; friends, family, colleagues, neighbors- more concern about crime, and this data reflects why there is concern



Overall- 2022

In 2021, commissioned officer staffing was down 4.4% (495 net loss statewide) and per capita staffing down to 1.38 per thousand, the lowest on record.

In 2022, net statewide staffing went **down by another 70 officers, to 10,666.**

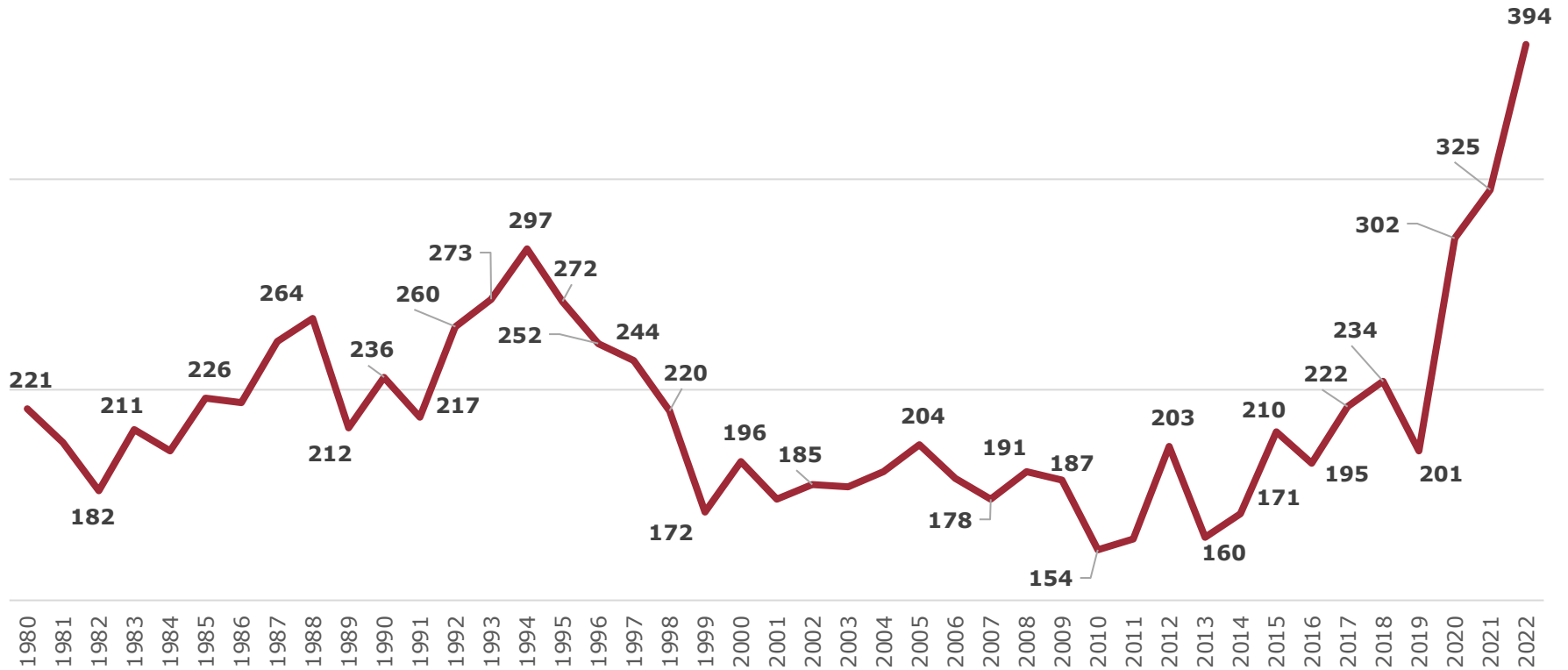
2022's per capita staffing officer total is 1.36, again the lowest on record.

Washington State ranks 51st in the nation in staffing- this is the 13th straight year of being last in the nation in law enforcement staffing



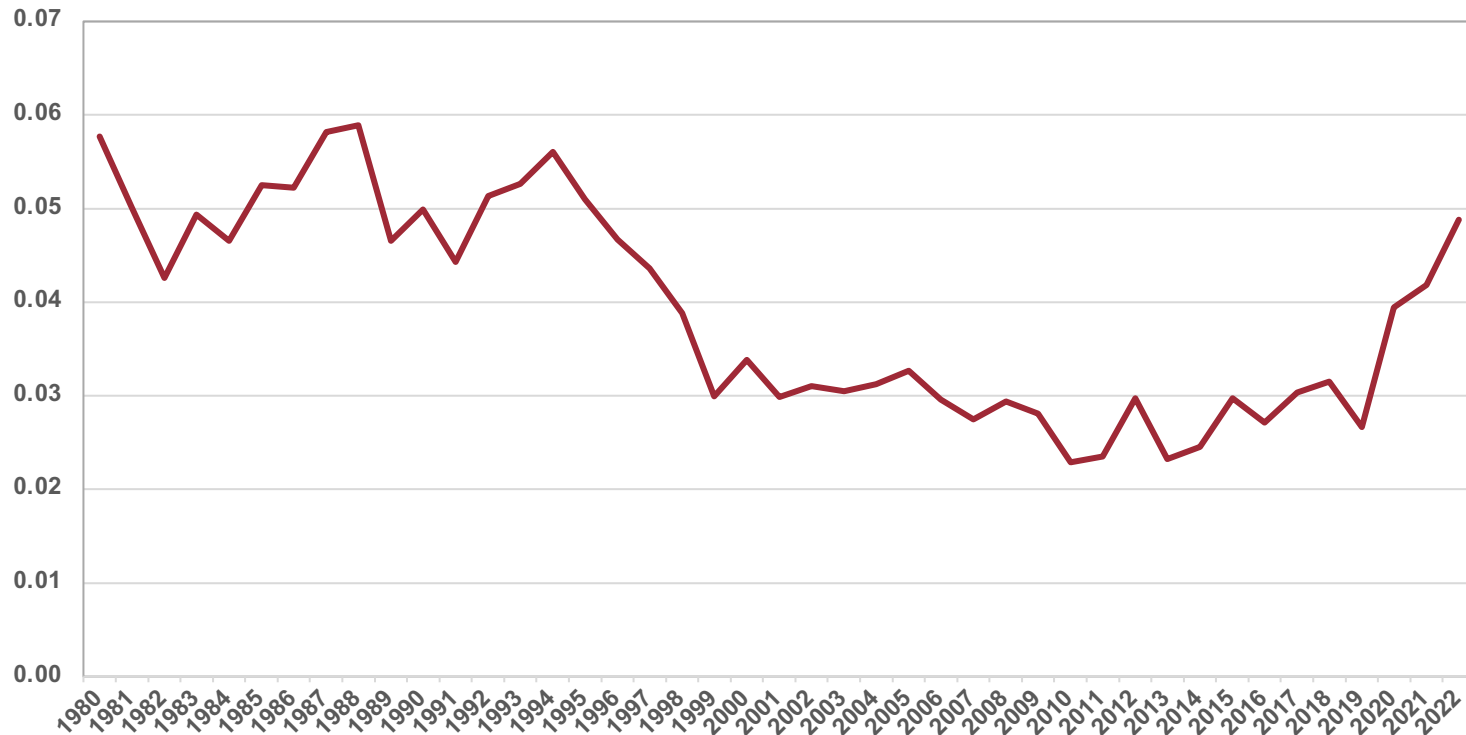
Murders- 1980-2022

Murder Numbers per Year, 1980-2022



Murder Rate- incidents per thousand since 1980

Murder Rate per 1,000 in Population, 1980 - 2022



Hate Crimes Pg. 75

Hate crimes went down 8.1%, with 544 compared to 592 reported incidents in 2021.

Definition: A *criminal offense* committed against a person or property which is motivated in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race/national origin, religion, sexual orientation, mental/physical/sensory disability, gender or ethnicity.

Report has bias motivation info and incidents by jurisdiction.

- Most frequent:
 - Intimidation 279, Simple Assault 129, Destruction of Property 116, Aggravated Assault 71

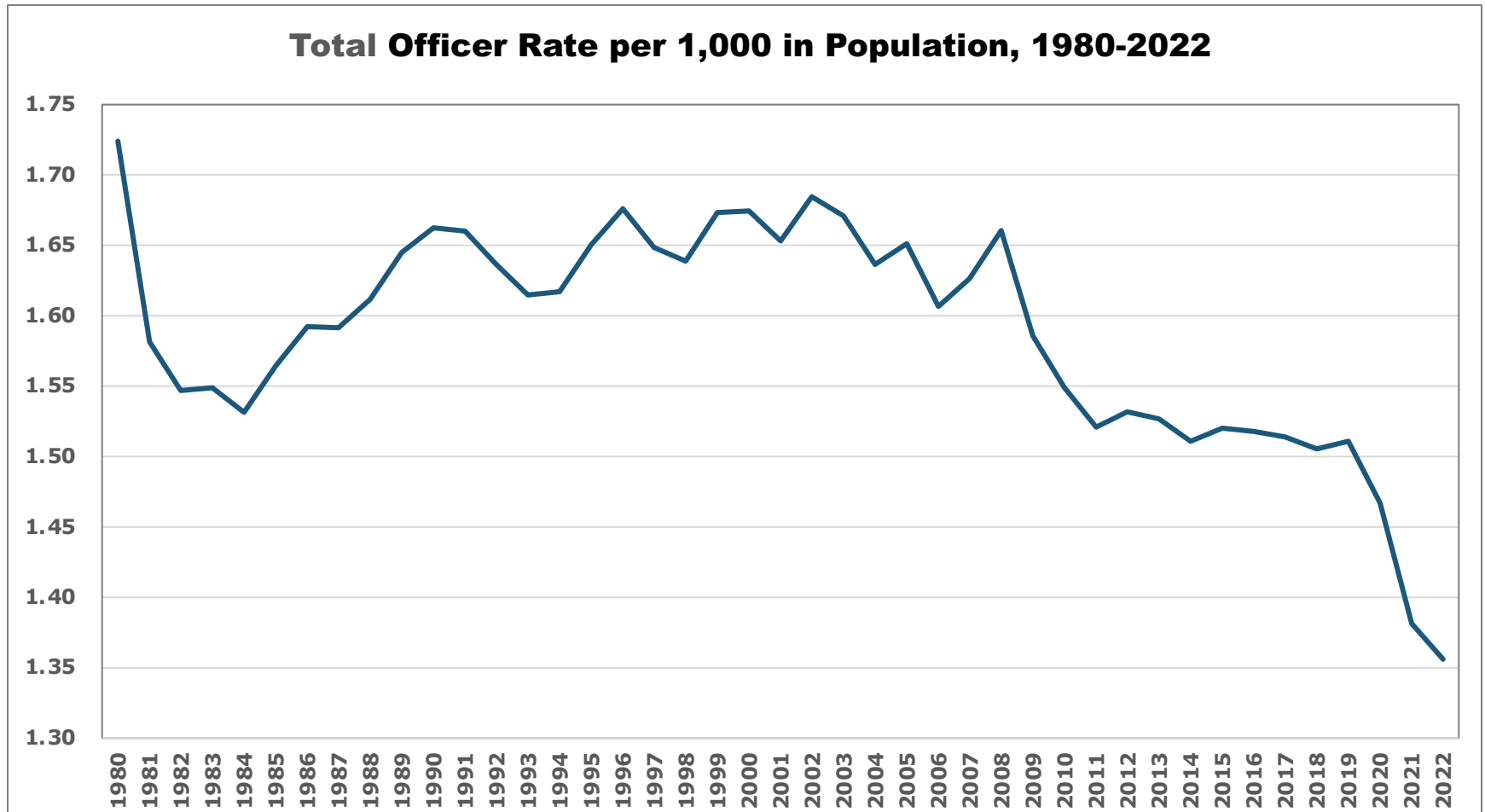


Population and Law Enforcement Staffing

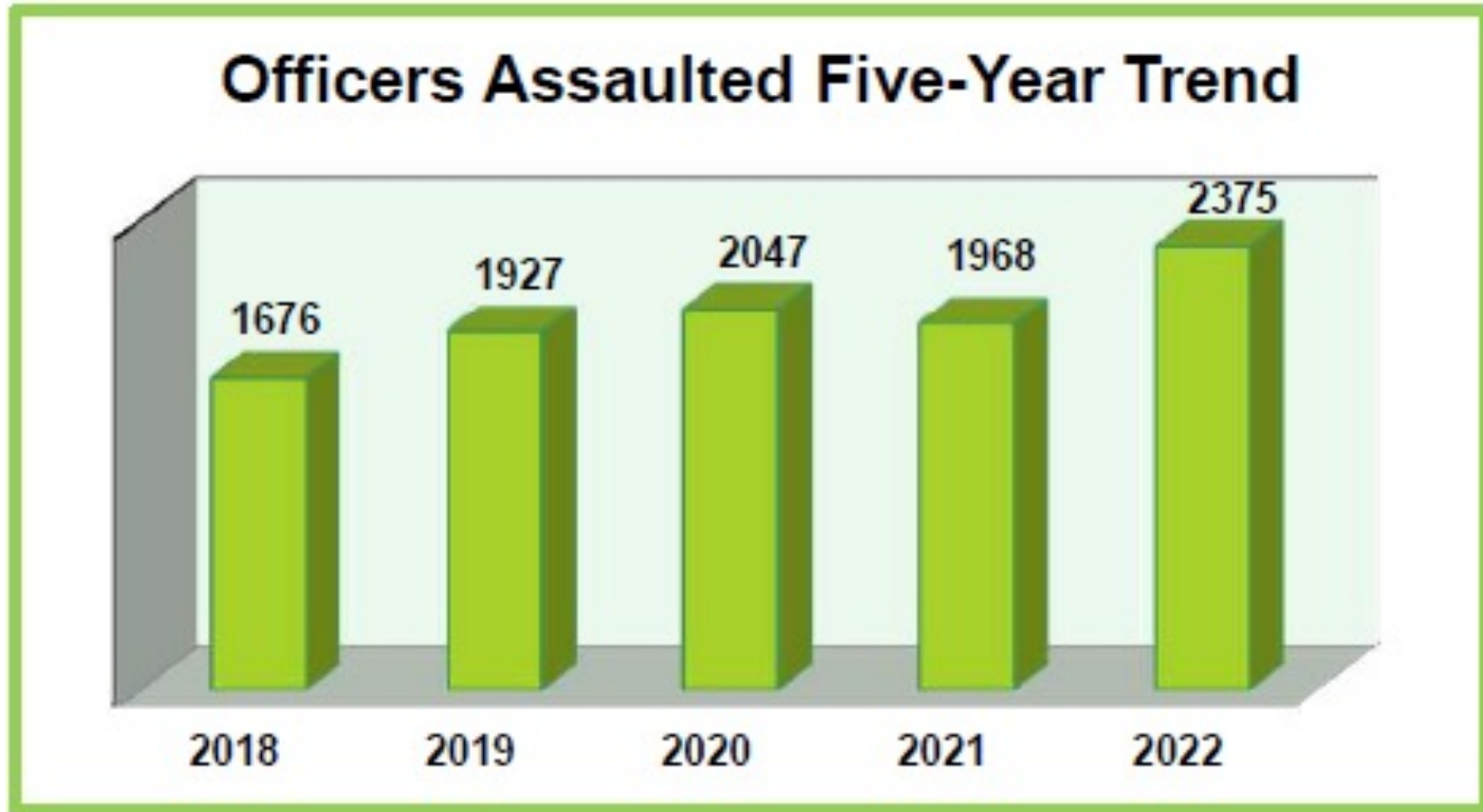
- WA State population rose 93,262 residents from 2021, to 7,865,768 (WA Ofc of Financial Mgmt)
- The number of WA State law enforcement commissioned officers fell from 11,231 in 2020 to 10,736 in 2021 to 10,666 in 2022 (page 555)
- The per capita rate of law enforcement officers fell to 1.36 per thousand statewide
- Lowest per capita rate we have recorded
- FBI data: 2022 national average per capita rate of 2.31



Officers per capita 1980-2022(total sworn)



Assaults on Officers- up 42% since 2018



Violent Crime/Staffing

- Number of murders is at an all-time high (394)
- Rate of murders was higher in 1994 (with population increases)
- Officers per capita much lower now than in 1994 (1.62 vs 1.36)
- In 1994, WA State had a per capita rate of 1.62. At that rate with current population there would be 12,719 sworn officers (2053 more than current staffing)
- If WA State had the national average of 2.31 per capita, the state would have 18,201 sworn officers (7,535 more than current staffing)



Crime and Staffing

- Reduced staffing means:
 - **Less ability to provide justice for victims**
 - More “reactive” response, and less follow up and investigation
 - Fewer people to properly de-escalate when possible and ensure a scene is safe
 - Fewer resources to provide behavioral health assistance
 - Slower response times
 - Corrections and communications also impacted
 - Greater frustration and “burn out”; officers want to serve victims and provide justice = more officers leaving, making the problem worse
 - Many agencies “treading water”



What's Next

- Balanced solutions to provide the tools and staffing to provide justice for victims
- Support for adequate staffing for safer and more supportive responses
- Recognize that increasing violent crime disproportionately impacts persons of color who are victims (page 21)
- These problems have solutions- it requires leadership, resources and consequences for criminal behavior
- All of these data represent victims



Thank you

WASPC.org

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