



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
Daniela Gonzaga
(661) 868-2381

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DA Zimmer Announces 2025 Homicide Report: Homicides Decline 41.54% from 2021-2021 Peak

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the 2025 Homicide Report, revealing the lowest number of homicides recorded in Kern County in nearly a decade. According to the Kern County District Attorney's Office calculation criteria, there were 76 identified homicides in 2025, representing a 7.32% decrease from the prior year's total of 82 and a 41.54% decline from the 2020 and 2021 record high numbers.¹

California experienced a rise in violent crime during the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020. In Kern County, homicides surged to 130 in both 2020 and 2021. Since that peak, homicide numbers have steadily declined to 102 in 2022, 77 in 2023, and 82 in 2024. This downward trend continued into 2025. The 2025 statistics reflect a 41.54% decrease from the 2020–2021 peak and mark the lowest homicide total since 2016, falling below pre-pandemic levels.

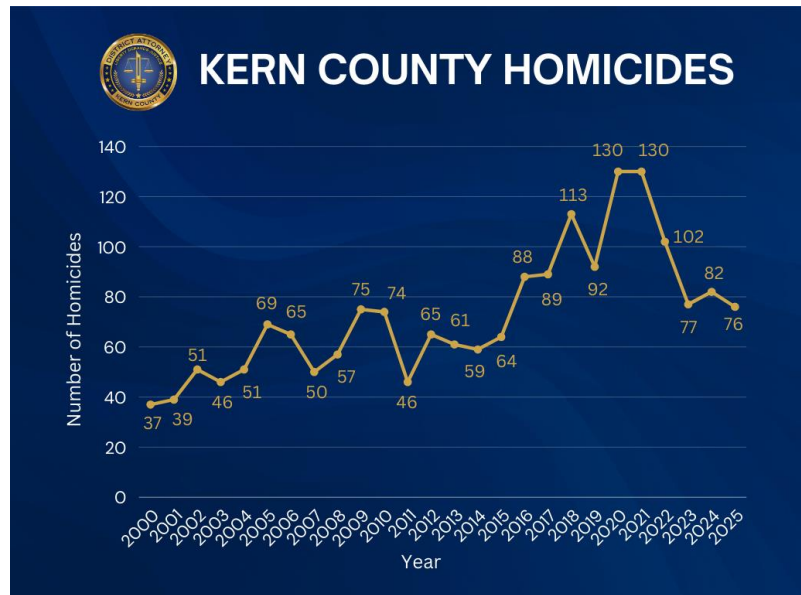


Figure 1

¹The California Department of Justice publishes county-by-county homicide numbers in a report typically issued in July; there are differences in KCDA's in-house statistics and DOJ statistics due to reporting and criteria differences and methodologies. KCDA's homicide tracking is typically more inclusive than DOJ reporting, and frequently captures and reports a more complete listing of homicides committed within Kern County than do DOJ statistics. For this purpose, KCDA used our own homicide reporting numbers for years 2018-2023 and DOJ's homicide reporting numbers for years 2000-2017.

² Consistent with DOJ reporting, KCDA calculates the homicide rate per year using the population estimates provided by the Demographic Research Unit of the California Department of Finance.

The total homicides by year in Kern County are demonstrated in Figure 1 and as follows:¹

Year	# of Homicides
2000	37
2001	39
2002	51
2003	46
2004	51
2005	69
2006	65
2007	50
2008	57
2009	75
2010	74
2011	46
2012	65
2013	61
2014	59
2015	64
2016	88
2017	89
2018	113
2019	92
2020	130
2021	130
2022	102
2023	77
2024	82
2025	76

The homicide rate per 100,000 population in Kern County is as follows:²

Year	Homicide Rate
2000	5.6
2001	5.8
2002	7.4
2003	6.5
2004	7.0
2005	9.2
2006	8.4
2007	6.3
2008	7.0
2009	9.1
2010	8.8
2011	5.4
2012	7.6
2013	7.1
2014	6.8
2015	7.3
2016	10.0
2017	10.0
2018	12.6
2019	10.2
2020	14.3
2021	14.3
2022	11.2
2023	8.5
2024	9.0
2025	8.4

Kern County homicide incidents are further separated by geographical regions of Kern County as follows:

City	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Arvin	3	2	2	3	2	1	1	1
Bakersfield	48	51	76	53	60	37	50	52
Bodfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Buttonwillow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
California City	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Delano	15	14	15	5	9	14	10	6
Edison	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Inyokern	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Lake Isabella	3	0	2	2	4	1	0	0
Lamont	7	5	3	3	4	4	6	1
Lebec	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lost Hills	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1

City	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ridgecrest	2	3	2	1	2	0	0	0
Rosamond	2	0	4	1	4	1	2	0
Shafter	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Taft	3	0	1	0	0	2	1	2
Tehachapi	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	4
Twin Oaks	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Walker Basin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wasco	6	4	7	4	4	5	3	4
Woody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

One notable finding in the 2025 report is the significant reduction in gang-related homicides. In 2025, (7) seven homicides were determined to be gang-related, compared to 15 in 2024 and 26 in 2023. This reduction reflects the impact of law enforcement’s prevention-focused efforts to combat violent crime within our communities.

While overall homicide numbers declined, several domestic-violence cases deeply impacted the community. In 2025, there were (6) six domestic-violence-related homicides, a slight increase from (4) four cases in both 2023 and 2024. Of the six cases, suspects in two incidents are deceased and charges have been filed in the remaining four. Notably, four of the six domestic-violence-related homicides occurred during a holiday week. The District Attorney’s Office reminds the community that the Kern County Family Justice Center offers free services and resources for individuals experiencing domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. More information or access to the online intake process is available at kcfjc.org.

The year concluded with a homicide solve rate of 58%, surpassing both 2024 (52%) and 2023 (37%). This increase reflects continued progress in identifying suspects and bringing cases toward a resolution.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “A 41.54% decline from the record highs experienced a few years ago is a remarkable turnaround. This figure is not only well below pandemic-era levels, but it’s also lower than homicide rates seen in nearly a decade. This progress is a testament to the proactive efforts of law enforcement on the front lines, as well as the work of prosecutors in ensuring accountability and meaningful consequences in their cases.”

A major milestone in 2025 was the unveiling of the Victims of Violent Crime Memorial, located in the Victims’ Plaza in downtown Bakersfield at 1215 Truxtun Avenue. Integrated into the memorial is a capsule containing the names of more than 4,400 identified homicide victims in Kern County. This permanent tribute will continue to honor victims as additional names are added over time. Families and community members are encouraged to visit this space for reflection and remembrance. A full list of names is available at www.kerncounty.com/da/.



District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer is joined by Bakersfield Police Chief Greg Terry and Pastor Andrew Spradlin for the Victims of Violent Crime Memorial Dedication.