



Philadelphia 2026

The State of the City

Overview

This is a year of celebration and remembrance for the United States. Commemorations for the nation's 250th anniversary are taking place throughout 2026, nationwide and in Philadelphia and the metro region. Events include art installations and performances, TED Democracy speakers, museum exhibitions, and parades. In addition, Philadelphia and the surrounding area will be hosting major sporting events, including the FIFA World Cup tournament, the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, and the PGA Championship. It is a busy and exciting year for Philadelphians.

It's a time to point to notable progress that the city has made on many of the most challenging issues facing its residents, including reductions in homicides and shootings, overdose deaths, and the poverty rate. But there are also troubling signs, including stagnating educational attainment, median income, and population. These metrics, which had been bright spots for the city in recent decades, have been impeded since the COVID-19 pandemic and pose a long-term risk to the city's success.

Public safety concerns—such as those relating to increased gun violence during the pandemic—have stabilized, and the 2020 through 2023 surge is looking more like an exception rather than the new normal. In 2025, Philadelphia recorded 222 homicides—the lowest total since 1966 and a 17.5% decline from the previous year—and total shootings dropped below 1,000 for the first time in more than 20 years. These decreases were part of a national trend, with most large U.S. cities recording meaningful declines in homicides and shootings. But the progress may also reflect the investment in and attention to public safety from Mayor Chelle Parker and Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel.

The city's poverty rate continued its incremental, steady decline, moving below 20% as of 2024. This reduction was marked by Philadelphia no longer having the highest percentage of residents living in poverty among the largest U.S. cities. However, poverty rates remain high for Philadelphia, with more than 300,000 residents who have incomes of \$33,000 or less for a family of four.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate rose to 5.1% in 2025—the city's highest since 2021. Still, that percentage is lower than those in the years following the Great Recession of 2007-09. Last year, the unemployment rate in the metro area and nationwide also rose, to 4.3%.

Remarkably, the city's unintentional overdose deaths continued to decline, falling to an estimated 1,000. The city made multiple investments to reduce overdose deaths, including the January 2025 opening of Riverview Wellness Village, a facility providing housing and treatment for individuals transitioning out of substance use rehabilitation and detox. These efforts were paired with ramped-up drug enforcement patrols and arrests, particularly focused in the Kensington neighborhood, the city's epicenter of the opioid epidemic. The Pew Charitable Trusts' 2025 polling found that 1 in 3 Philadelphians personally know someone who has died from an overdose. The epidemic, even as it seems to be exiting its most acute period, continues to devastate Philadelphians and their families.

Despite some genuinely positive changes, there are some worrying signs for Philadelphia. The population has decreased since the 2020 census and remains low at the midpoint of the decade. Last year, there were 1,574,281 Philadelphians, an increase of around 1,500 from the year before. The growth that had marked a period of revival for the city in the 2000s and 2010s has stalled.

Increases in education attainment have lapsed since the pandemic. After multiple years of steady growth, the number of Philadelphians with a bachelor's degree or higher plateaued at around 36% from 2021 to 2024.

Meanwhile, other U.S. cities continue to build on their residents' educational gains, particularly from individuals under 40 years old. And many jobs increasingly require applicants to have a college degree.

Furthermore, increases to median household income have slowed. In the latest data, Philadelphia's median household income was \$60,521. While the median household income for non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic Philadelphians rose slightly from 2023 to 2024, it declined for non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Asian residents. These shifts—the increase to the unemployment rate and the flattening of educational attainment and household income—threaten residents' financial stability.

Housing in Philadelphia continued to include some positive changes amid ongoing affordability concerns. The 17,338 home sales last year were on par with the years prior to the pandemic, and new building permits issued remained steady at 3,366, following a steep decline in 2022 after the city ended its 10-year property tax abatement program. In 2025, the Parker administration focused on receiving approval for its investment in new, preserved, and rehabilitated housing, with the passage of the Housing Opportunities Made Easy Initiative. In January 2026, the City Council passed a bill authorizing the city to borrow \$800 million to partially fund the program.

In this year of milestones and celebrations, Philadelphia has plenty to applaud. Many of the city's most persistent challenges are trending in the right direction. At the same time, some of the city's recent strengths are showing strain.

Cover photo: Rob Cardillo

The Pew Charitable Trusts

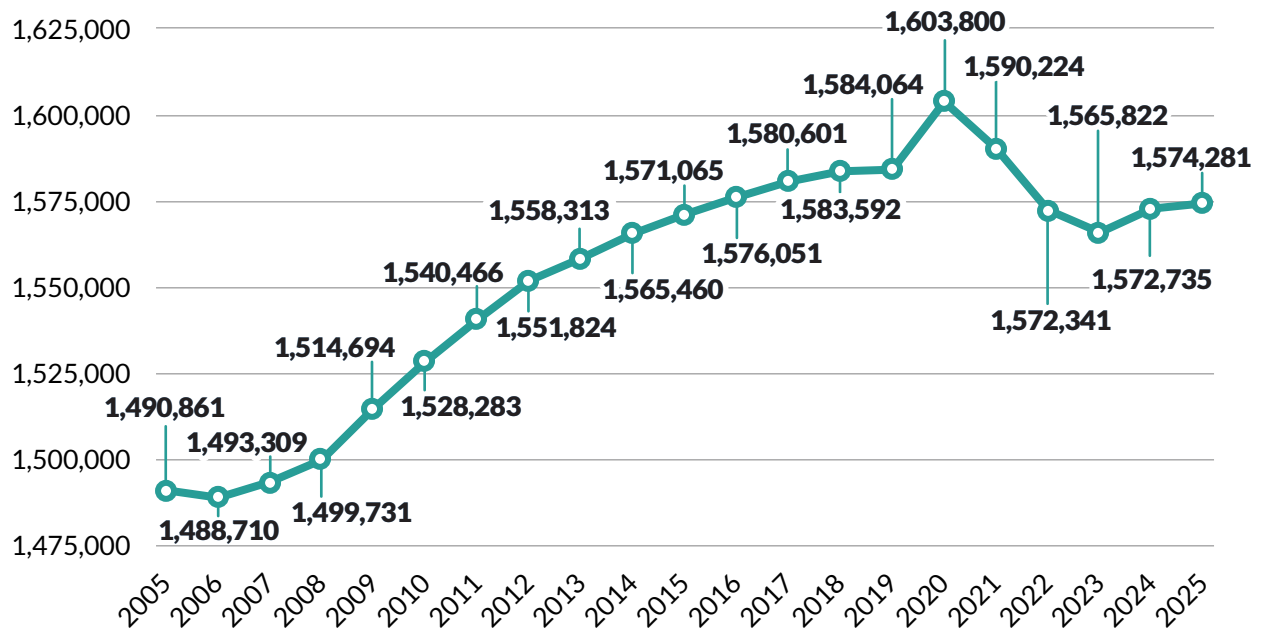
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Founded in 1948, **The Pew Charitable Trusts** uses data to make a difference. Pew addresses the challenges of a changing world by illuminating issues, creating common ground, and advancing ambitious projects that lead to tangible progress.

Figure 1
Population of Philadelphia, 2005-25



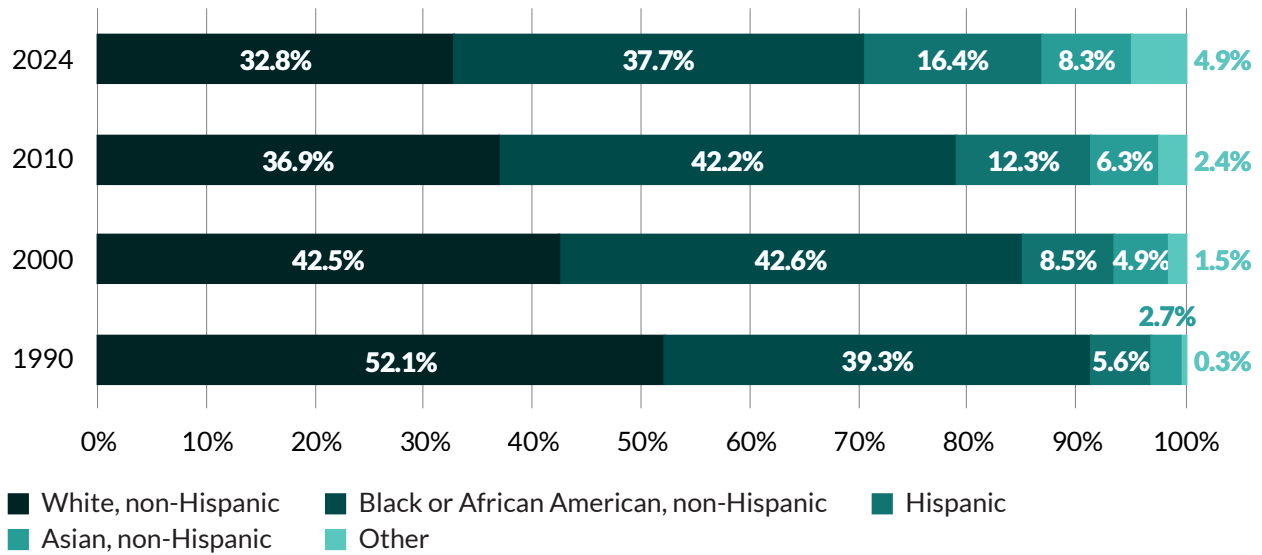
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Philadelphia’s population increased steadily from 2006—when the city had its lowest population figure (1,488,710) since the early 20th century—until 2020. Then, Philadelphia’s population decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic, as was the case in many U.S. cities. Most recently, the population increased, reaching 1,574,281 in 2025—a change of about 1,500 from the year before.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, “City and Town Intercensal Datasets,” 2000-10. U.S. Census Bureau, “City and Town Population Totals,” 2010-19 and 2020-25

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Figure 2

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Philadelphia's Population, 1990-2024



Since 1990, Philadelphia's racial and ethnic composition has changed steadily. Hispanic Philadelphians' share of the population has risen from 5.6% to 16.4%, the largest increase of any racial or ethnic group in the city. The share of non-Hispanic Asian Philadelphians has also steadily increased, going from just under 3% in 1990 to more than 8% in 2024. Together, Asian and Hispanic Philadelphians made up 8.3% of the city's population in 1990; in 2024, that combined figure was just under 25%. The "other" category of racial and ethnic groups made up almost 5% of the population in 2024, up from under half a percentage point in 1990. The share of non-Hispanic Black Philadelphians has remained consistent since 1990, at around 40%, and is the largest of any racial or ethnic group in the city.

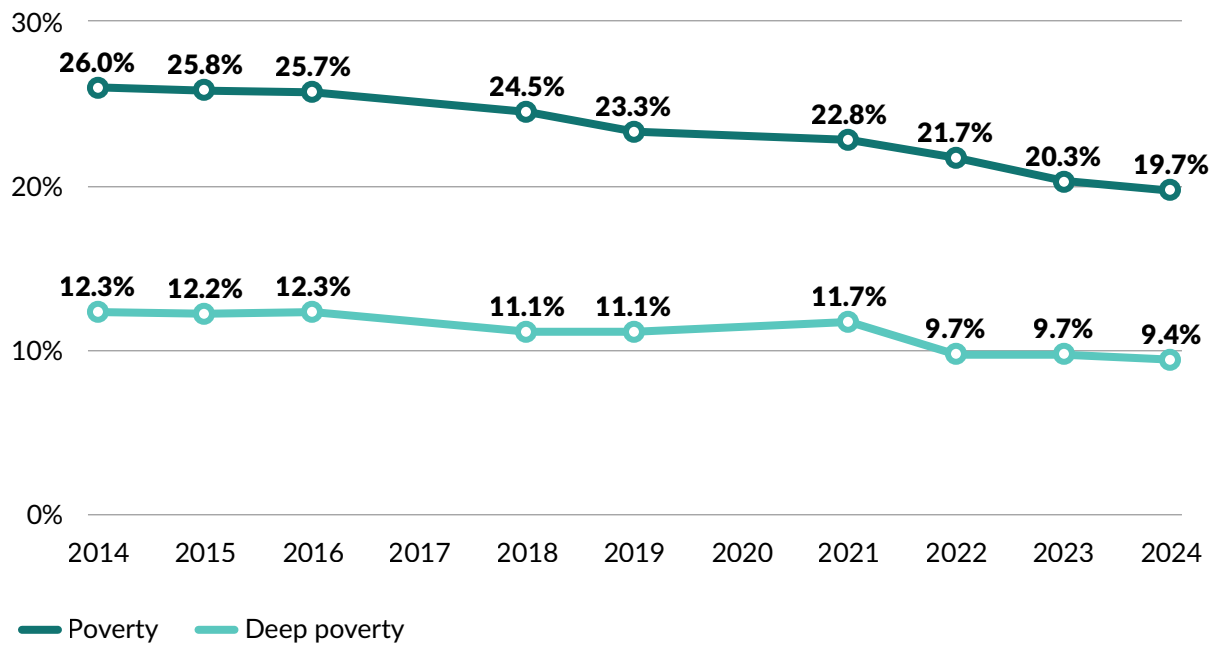
Notes: The percentages in the figure are rounded and thus may not add up to 100%. The category "other" includes people who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native alone, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone, and those who identify with two or more races.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Decennial Census, "Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race"; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table B03002: Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race," 2024

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Figure 3

Poverty and Deep Poverty in Philadelphia, 2014-24



During the past decade, the city's poverty rate declined, reaching its lowest level since 2000 and falling below 20% for the first time since 1979. Houston has now replaced Philadelphia as the city with the highest poverty rate among the largest U.S. cities. Philadelphia's deep poverty rate also decreased, though at a slower rate—by around 3 percentage points over the past decade. As of 2026, a family of four earning \$33,000 was considered living below the poverty level. If that same family earned \$16,500, half of the poverty threshold, it would be in deep poverty, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

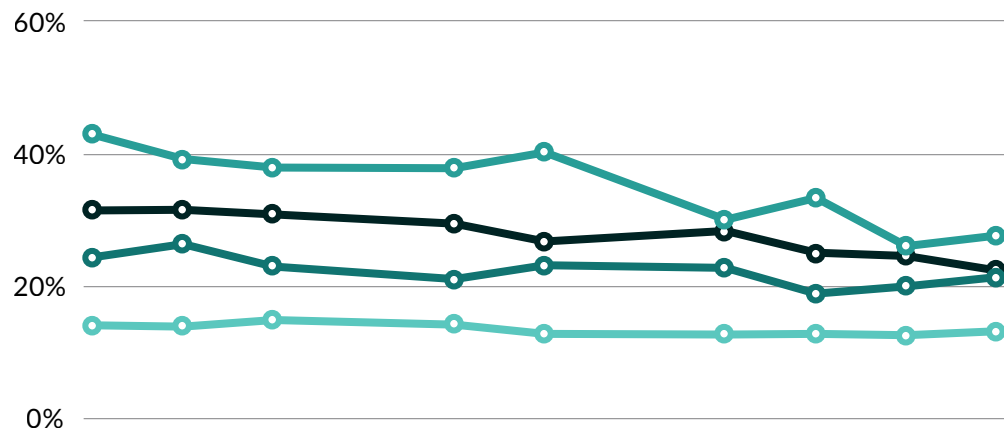
Notes: Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the U.S. Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic's impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months," 2014-24

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Figure 4

Poverty in Philadelphia by Race and Ethnicity, 2014-24



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hispanic	42.9%	39.2%	37.9%		37.8%	40.2%		30.0%	33.3%	26.0%	27.6%
Black or African American, non-Hispanic	31.4%	31.5%	30.8%		29.4%	26.7%		28.3%	25.0%	24.5%	22.3%
Asian, non-Hispanic	24.3%	26.3%	22.9%		21.0%	23.1%		22.7%	18.8%	19.9%	21.3%
White, non-Hispanic	14.0%	13.8%	14.9%		14.1%	12.7%		12.6%	12.7%	12.5%	13.1%

The poverty rate for all race and ethnicity groups in Philadelphia declined from 2014 to 2024. The greatest drop occurred among Hispanic residents—decreasing by 15 percentage points, from 42.9% to 27.6%—followed by Black or African American residents, whose poverty rate fell by 9 percentage points, from 31.4% to 22.3%.

Notes: Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the U.S. Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic’s impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

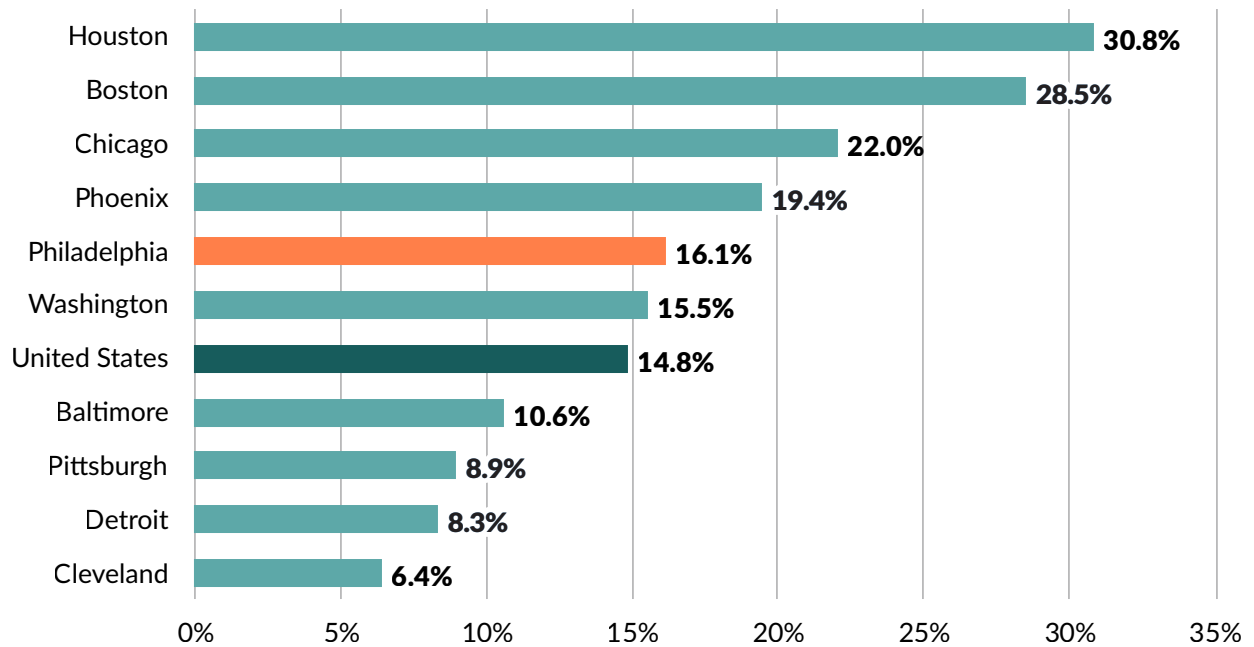
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, “Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months,” 2014-24

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Figure 5

Percentage of Residents Born Outside the U.S., 2024

Philadelphia and comparison cities



There are approximately 250,000 residents in Philadelphia, or 16% of the city's population, who were born outside the United States or its territories. Although Philadelphia has a higher percentage of foreign-born residents than the nation as a whole, some cities—like Boston and Houston—have nearly 1 in 3 residents who were born outside the U.S.

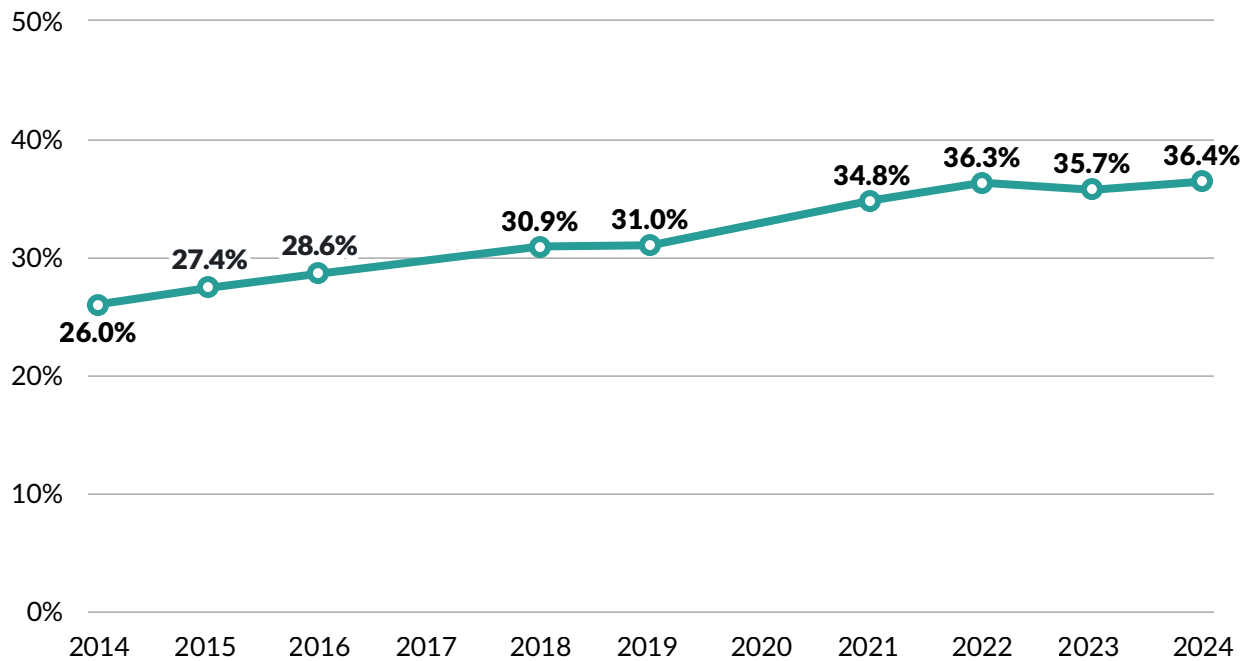
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table B05002: Place of Birth by Nativity and Citizenship Status," 2024

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Figure 6

Percentage of Philadelphia Residents With a College Degree, 2014-24

Adults age 25 and older



More than 36% of adults in Philadelphia had a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2024. Among the city’s residents, 54% of Philadelphians between the ages of 25 and 34 have a college degree, compared with only 24% of those who are 65 or older. Over the past three years, increases to educational attainment have slowed in comparison to the previous decade.

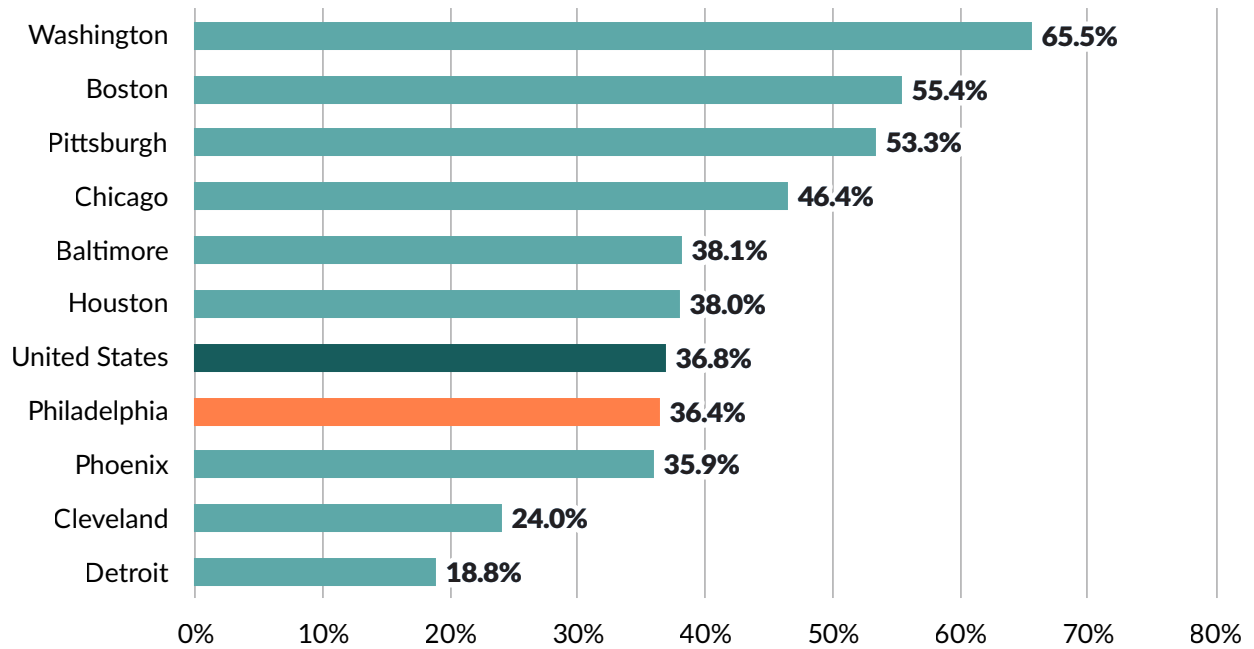
Notes: Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the U.S. Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic’s impact on data quality. Because the bureau does not plan to update the data for either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, “Table S1501: Educational Attainment,” 2014-24

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Figure 7

Percentage of Adult Residents With at Least a College Degree, 2024 Philadelphia and comparison cities, adults age 25 and older



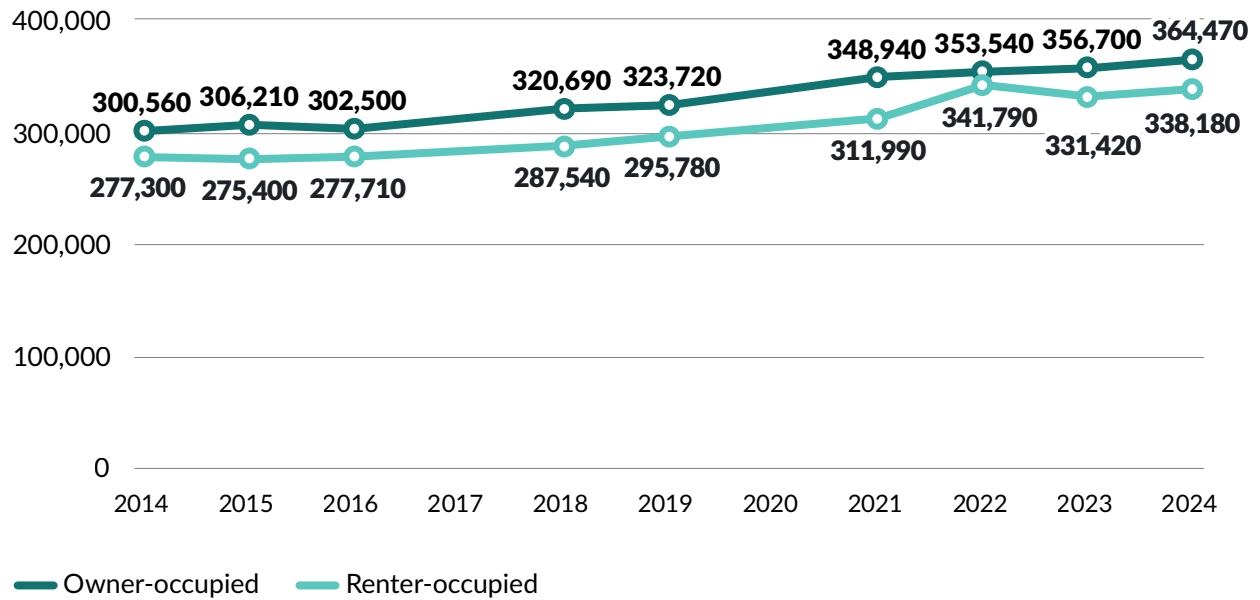
In 2024, Philadelphia continues to match the national average for college degree completion among adults, at 36.4%. However, Philadelphia lags many comparison cities that have higher rates of completion. In Washington, D.C., nearly two-thirds of residents have a college degree, and among 25- to 34-year-olds, three-quarters of the city's residents do. Conversely, Cleveland and Detroit had much lower college attainment rates than the other cities, at 24% and 18.8%, respectively.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table S1501: Educational Attainment," 2014-24

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Figure 8

Homeownership in Philadelphia, 2014-24



In 2024, there were more than 702,000 occupied households in Philadelphia. Since 2014, there has been a consistent increase in both the number of homeowners and of renters in the city. In 2022, the number of renter-occupied units came close to exceeding the number of owner-occupied units. Since then, they have continued to grow parallel to each other.

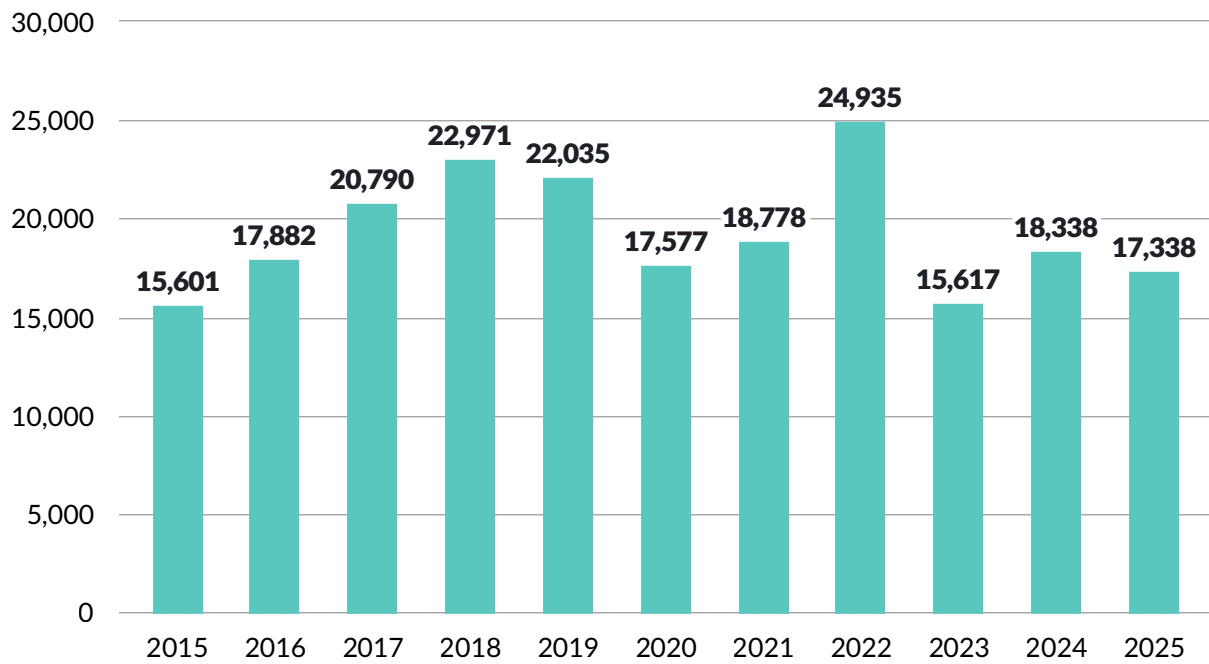
Notes: Each annual total is rounded to the nearest tenth. Data for 2017 and 2020 is not included. Several years ago, the Census Bureau identified an error in some of its 2017 data for Philadelphia and recommended discontinuing its use. And the bureau did not release one-year American Community Survey data for 2020, citing the pandemic's impact on data quality. Because the Census Bureau does not plan to update the data from either of these years, Pew is not using that data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table B25003: Tenure," 2024

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Figure 9

Home Sales in Philadelphia, 2015-25



Home sales throughout the nation have slowed since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, most likely because of rising prices and the higher cost of borrowing. In Philadelphia, home sales fell to 17,338 in 2025, about a 6% decrease from 2024. From 2023 to 2025, sales were largely in keeping with figures from the midst of the 2007-09 Great Recession, when sales were approximately 16,000 per year.

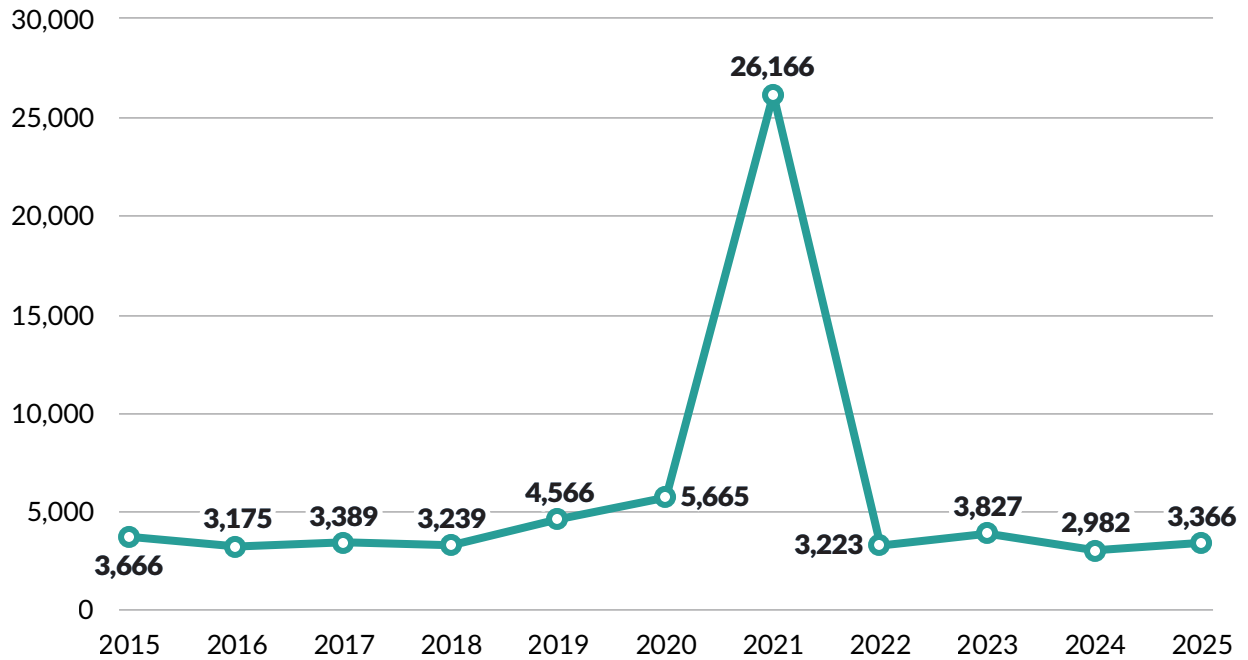
Source: Data from Kevin C. Gillen, senior research fellow at Drexel University's Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation

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Figure 10

Residential Building Permits Issued in Philadelphia, 2015-25

By number of units authorized



In 2025, the Department of Licenses and Inspections issued 3,366 building unit permits in Philadelphia, consistent with most other years in the past decade. There was a spike in 2021 (26,166 permits) prior to the expiration of a full 10-year tax abatement on new construction. Since then, permit totals have returned to roughly 3,000 authorized units per year.

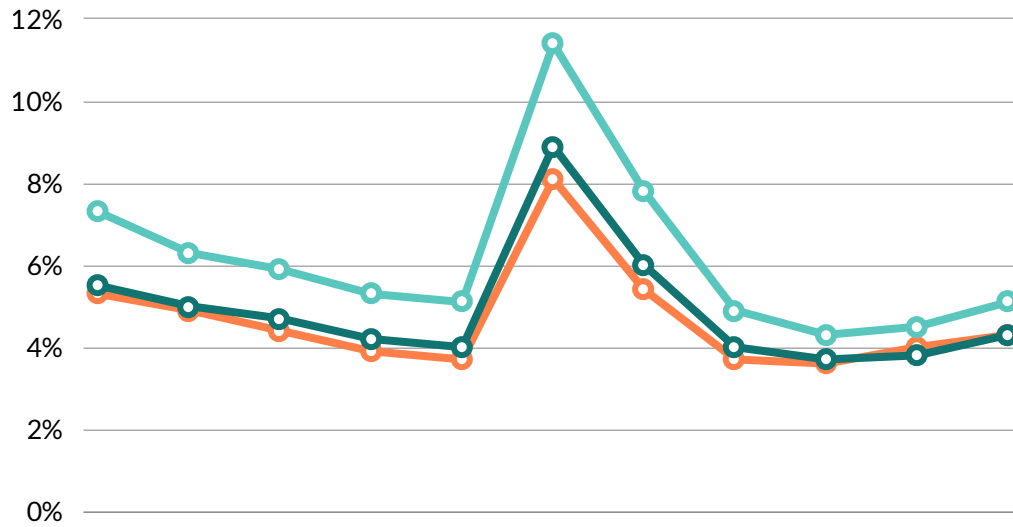
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Building Permit Survey," 2015-25

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Figure 11

Unemployment Rate, 2015-25

In Philadelphia, the surrounding region, and nationwide



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
City of Philadelphia	7.3%	6.3%	5.9%	5.3%	5.1%	11.4%	7.8%	4.9%	4.3%	4.5%	5.1%
Metro Philadelphia	5.5%	5.0%	4.7%	4.2%	4.0%	8.9%	6.0%	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%	4.3%
United States	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	8.1%	5.4%	3.7%	3.6%	4.0%	4.3%

In 2025, Philadelphia’s 5.1% unemployment rate was higher than the rates for the surrounding metropolitan area and the nation overall (both at 4.3%). From 2021 to 2024, the gap among these three areas was narrowing, but last year, the unemployment rate increased across the board, and the gap widened again slightly. Still, the 2025 unemployment rates for all three are down significantly from the 2020 figures, and the rates are among the lowest in the past decade.

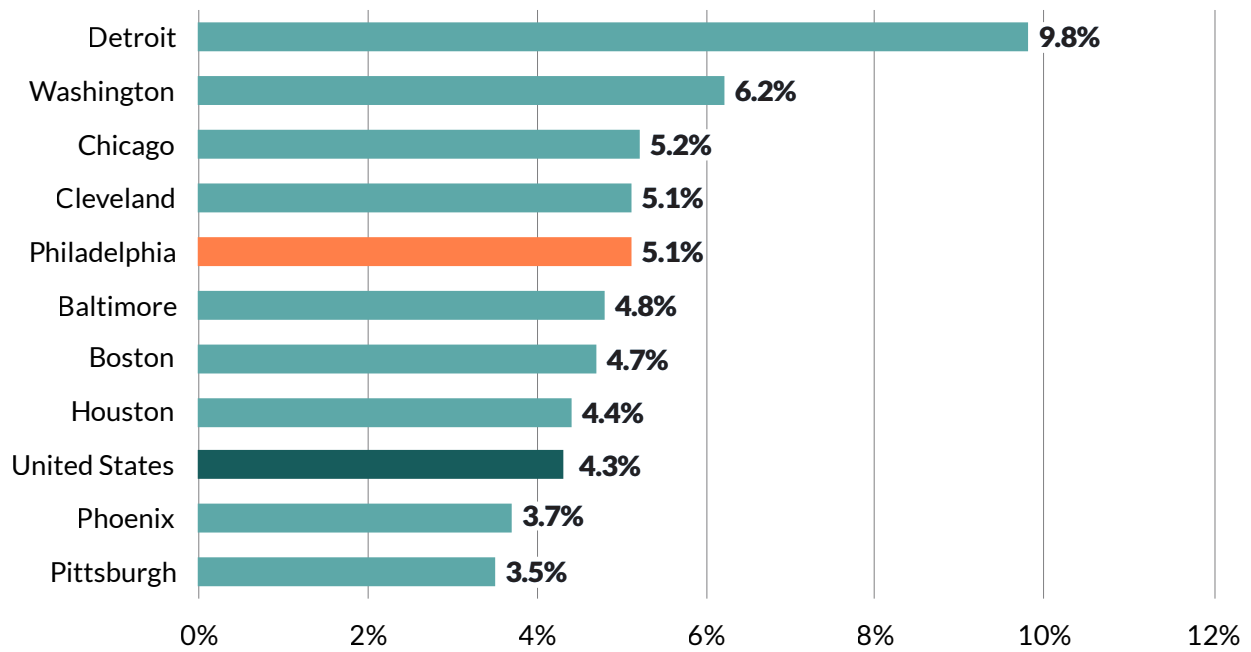
Note: The 2025 annual unemployment rate does not include October 2025, which was not measured by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics because of the federal government shutdown.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Local Area Unemployment Statistics,” 2015-25

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Figure 12

Unemployment Rate in Philadelphia and Comparable Cities, 2025



Among comparison cities, Detroit had the highest unemployment rate in 2025 by a large margin (9.8%), followed by Washington (6.2%), which experienced significant cuts to federal employment last year. Philadelphia’s 5.1% unemployment rate landed it near the middle of the group, while Phoenix (3.7%) and Pittsburgh (3.5%) had the lowest unemployment rates.

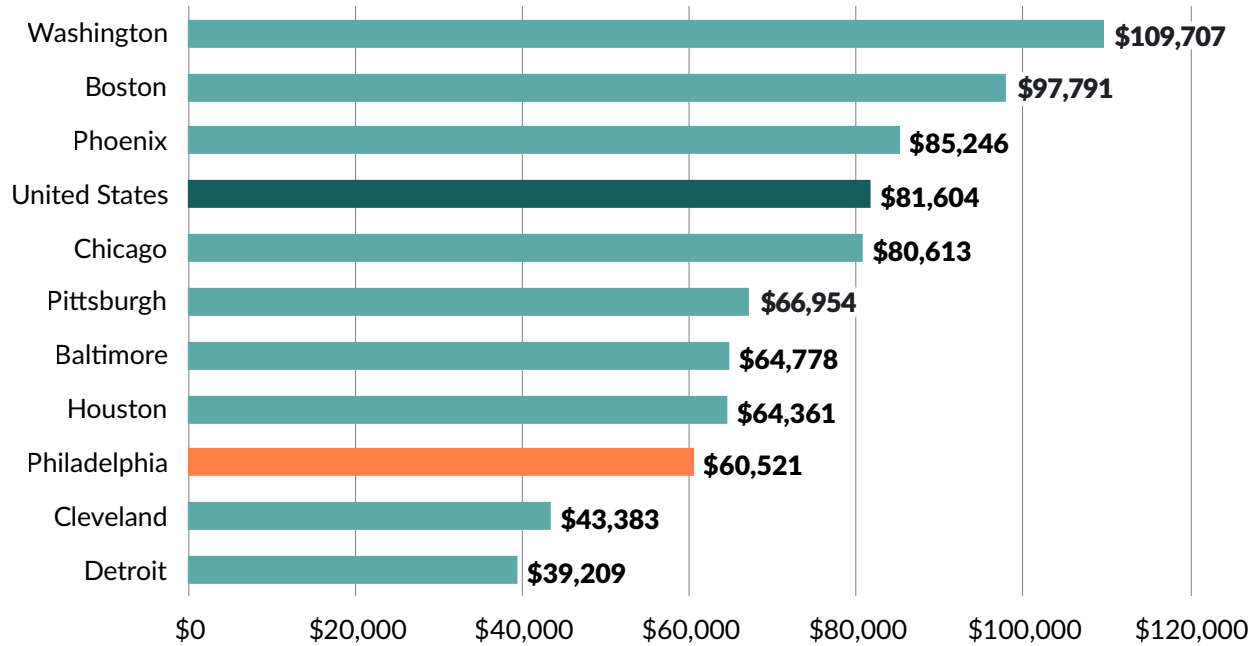
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Local Area Unemployment Statistics,” 2025

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Figure 13

Median Household Income, 2024

Philadelphia and comparison cities



Philadelphia's median household income in 2024 was \$60,521. The national median for 2024 was \$81,604, which only a few of the comparison cities topped, including Washington, at \$109,707, and Boston, at \$97,791. The comparison cities with median incomes closest to Philadelphia's were Baltimore (\$64,778) and Houston (\$64,361).

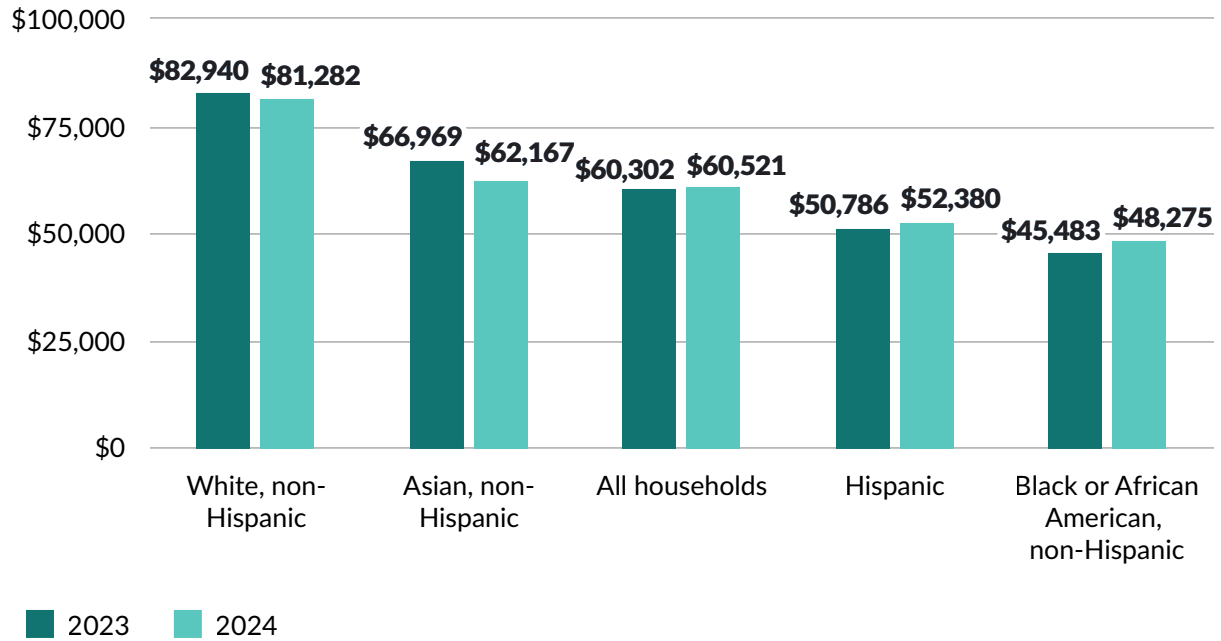
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table S1903: Median Income in the Past 12 Months," 2024 (in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars)

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Figure 14

Median Household Income in Philadelphia, 2023 and 2024

By race and ethnicity



Philadelphia's overall median household income in 2024 was flat compared with 2023. Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black or African American households were the two racial and ethnic groups that saw increases to their incomes during this period. Hispanic households' median income grew from \$50,786 to \$52,380, and Black households' median income rose from \$45,483 to \$48,275. While non-Hispanic White Philadelphians remained the highest earners by a wide margin, their income decreased to a median of \$81,282 in 2024. Non-Hispanic Asian households also experienced a decrease to their median income, which fell to \$62,167.

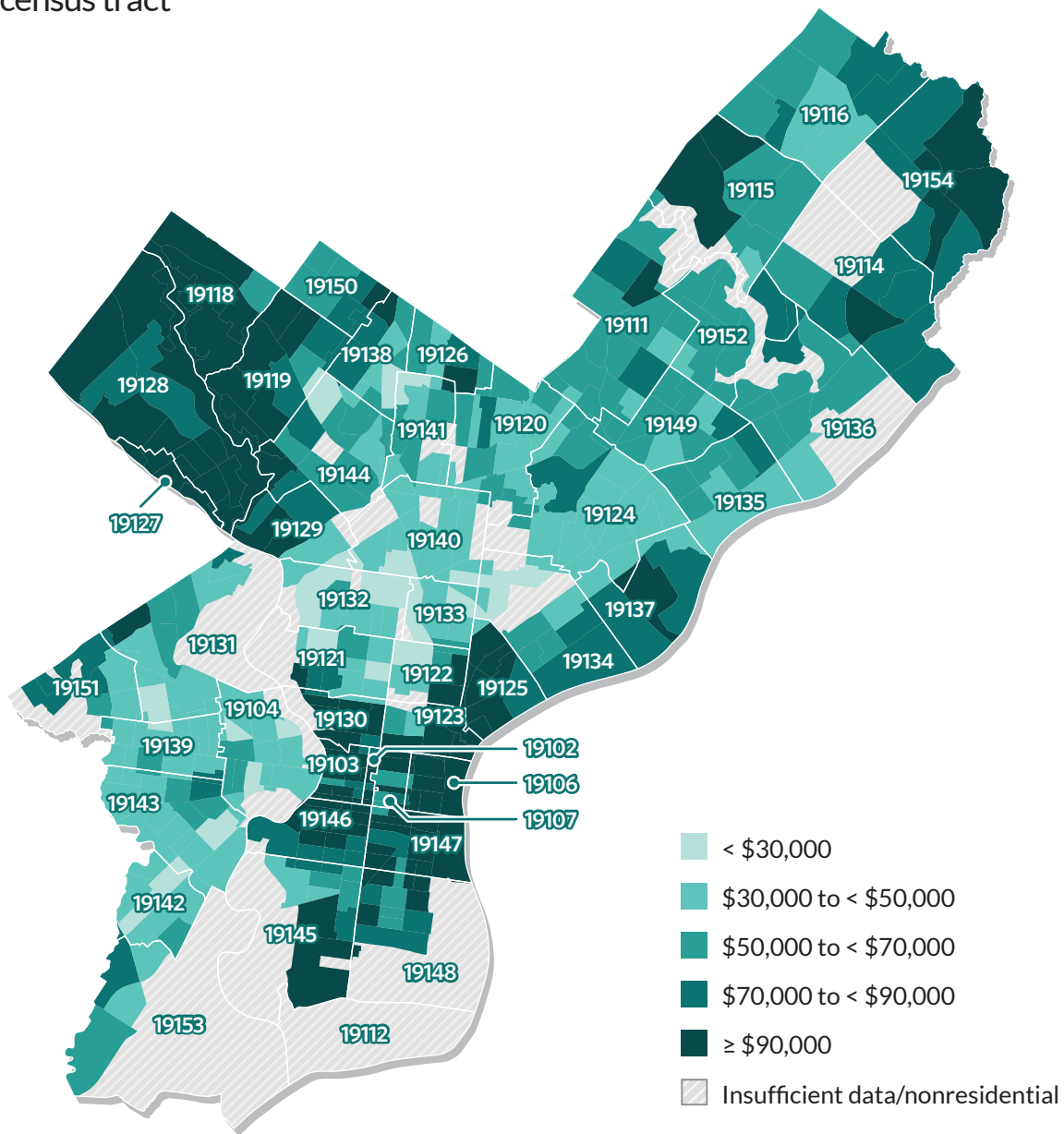
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table S1903: Median Income in the Past 12 Months," 2024 (in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars)

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Figure 15

Median Household Income in Philadelphia, 2020-24

By census tract



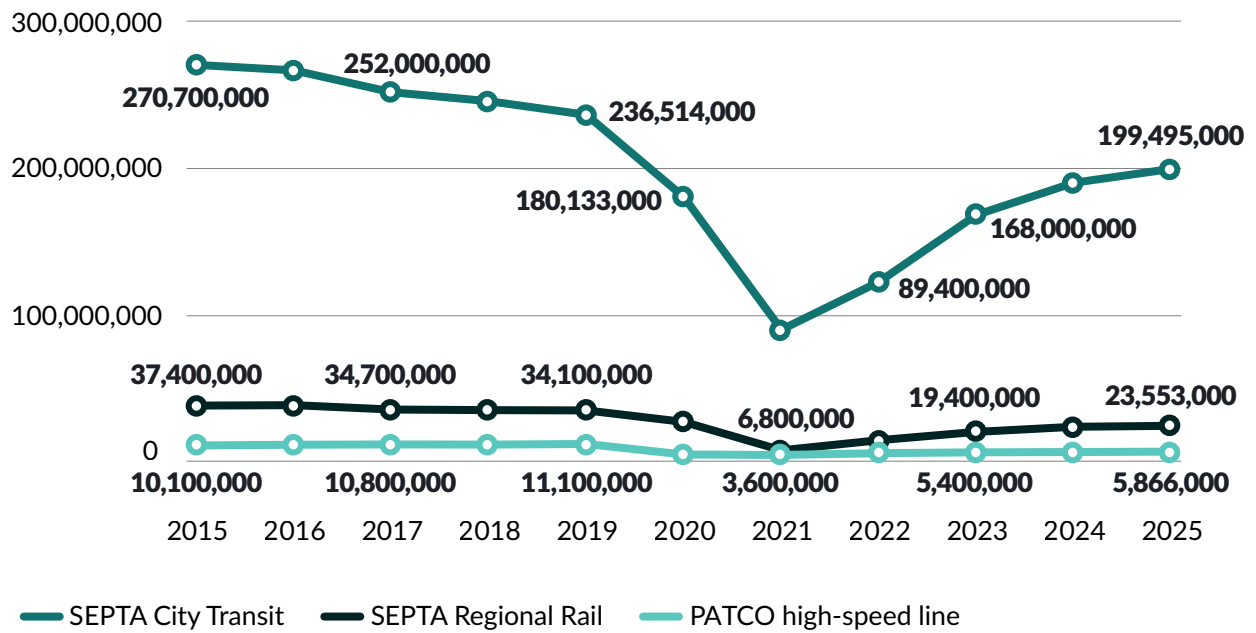
In 2024, Philadelphia's median household income was around \$62,000 annually. The highest median household incomes were in the northwest and south sections of the city, and in Center City. In the Center City-Society Hill area (located in the 19106 ZIP code), the median household income (\$121,047) was nearly twice the citywide median, while in North Philadelphia-West (ZIP code 19132), it was \$32,823.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, "DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics," 2015-19 and 2020-24

ZIP code	Neighborhood	Median household income (2020-24)	Percentage change from 2015-19 to 2020-24
19106	Center City-Society Hill	\$121,047	13%
19130	Fairmount South	\$112,037	33%
19118	Chestnut Hill	\$109,649	23%
19125	Kensington/Fishtown	\$109,554	50%
19147	South Philadelphia-Bella Vista	\$105,755	30%
19146	South Philadelphia-Schuylkill	\$103,059	49%
19123	Northern Liberties/Spring Garden	\$102,106	30%
19127	Manayunk	\$102,106	35%
19102	Center City West	\$102,093	5%
19103	Center City West	\$99,644	31%
19154	Northeast-Torresdale North	\$95,027	41%
19128	Roxborough	\$93,173	25%
19119	Mount Airy	\$92,651	44%
19148	South Philadelphia-East	\$82,605	59%
19129	East Falls	\$80,606	2%
19114	Northeast-Torresdale South	\$77,708	27%
19137	Northeast-Bridesburg	\$76,739	44%
19145	South Philadelphia-West	\$71,965	55%
19115	Northeast-Bustleton South	\$70,054	26%
19107	Center City-Washington Square	\$69,105	20%
19116	Northeast-Bustleton North/Somerton	\$67,535	18%
19150	Northeast-Wadsworth	\$66,936	40%
19122	North Philadelphia-Yorktown	\$63,676	71%
19111	Northeast-Fox Chase	\$61,138	20%
19152	Northeast-Rhawnhurst	\$59,408	14%
19149	Northeast-Mayfair/Oxford Circle	\$58,496	29%
19138	Germantown East	\$57,744	40%
19136	Northeast-Holmesburg	\$56,687	11%
19153	Eastwick	\$55,213	15%
19151	Overbrook	\$54,634	10%
19120	Olney	\$54,000	45%
19126	Oak Lane	\$53,176	21%
19144	Germantown	\$53,161	56%
19135	Northeast-Tacony	\$53,138	17%
19131	Wynnefield/West Park	\$48,393	30%
19124	Northeast-Frankford	\$45,314	35%
19134	Port Richmond	\$44,066	40%
19141	Logan	\$43,998	36%
19143	Southwest Philadelphia-Kingsessing	\$43,244	25%
19139	West Philadelphia-West Market	\$40,947	34%
19104	West Philadelphia-University City	\$38,814	44%
19121	Fairmount North/Brewerytown	\$38,516	82%
19142	Southwest Philadelphia-Paschall/Elmwood	\$38,376	15%
19140	Nicetown	\$36,226	59%
19132	North Philadelphia-West	\$32,823	52%
19133	North Philadelphia-East	\$31,034	52%

Figure 16

Mass Transit Ridership in Philadelphia, 2015-25



In 2025, mass transit ridership continued a trend of gradually increasing but did not return to prepandemic levels. Compared with 2019, there were about 37 million fewer transit trips, 10.5 million fewer regional rail trips, and 5 million fewer PATCO trips in 2025.

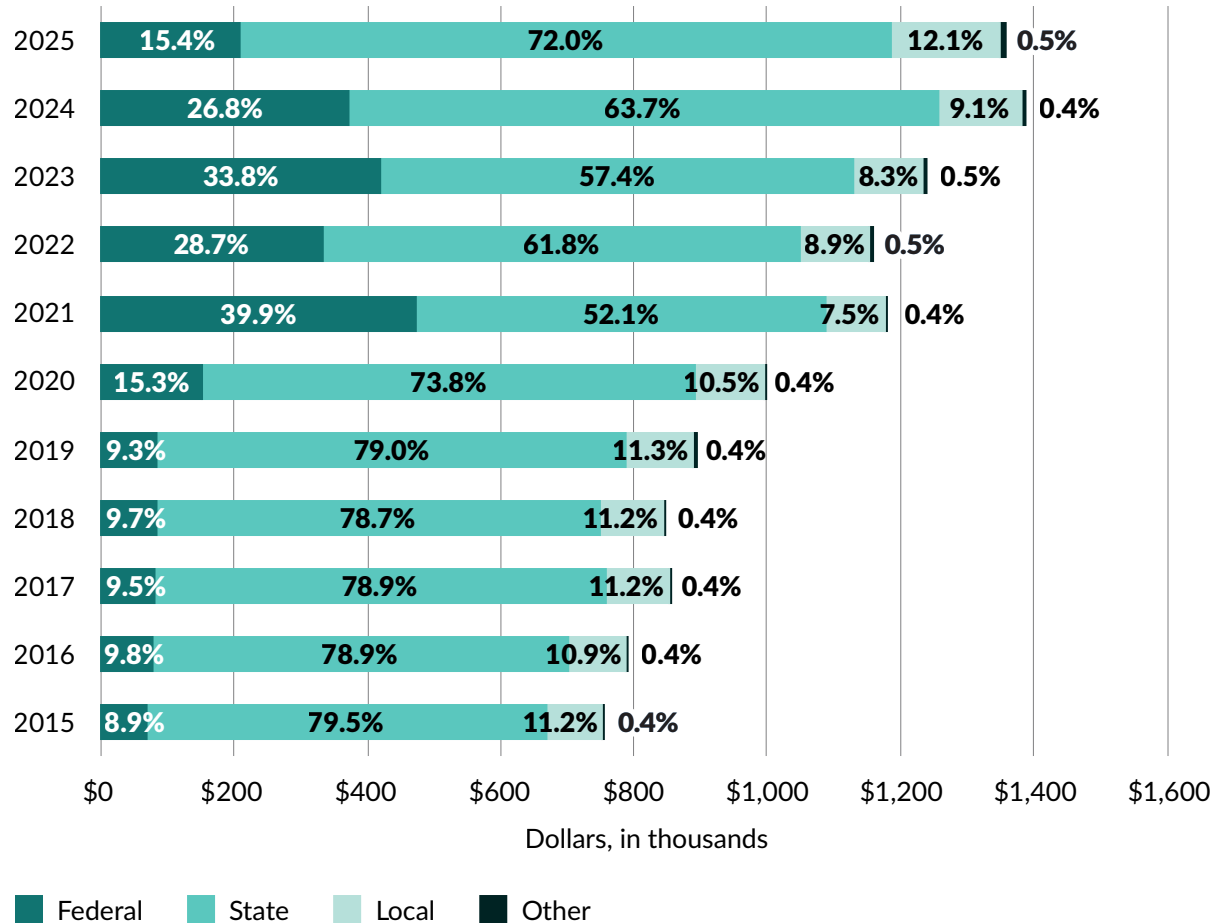
Sources: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, "SEPTA Unlinked Trips by Line and Month"; Delaware River Port Authority, "PATCO Unlinked Trips"

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Figure 17

SEPTA's Operating Budget Subsidies, FY 2015-25

Amounts in thousands of dollars



In 2025, Pennsylvania reallocated SEPTA's capital funds to cover the loss of federal dollars. State subsidies increased by about 10% (approximately \$92 million), from \$885.5 million to \$977.4 million, accounting for 72% of the operating subsidies in fiscal year 2025. Federal subsidies during that period decreased by about 44% (\$162 million), from \$371.9 million to \$209.6 million, accounting for 15% of the operating budget subsidies. All told, subsidies for SEPTA decreased from \$1.39 million to \$1.36 million.

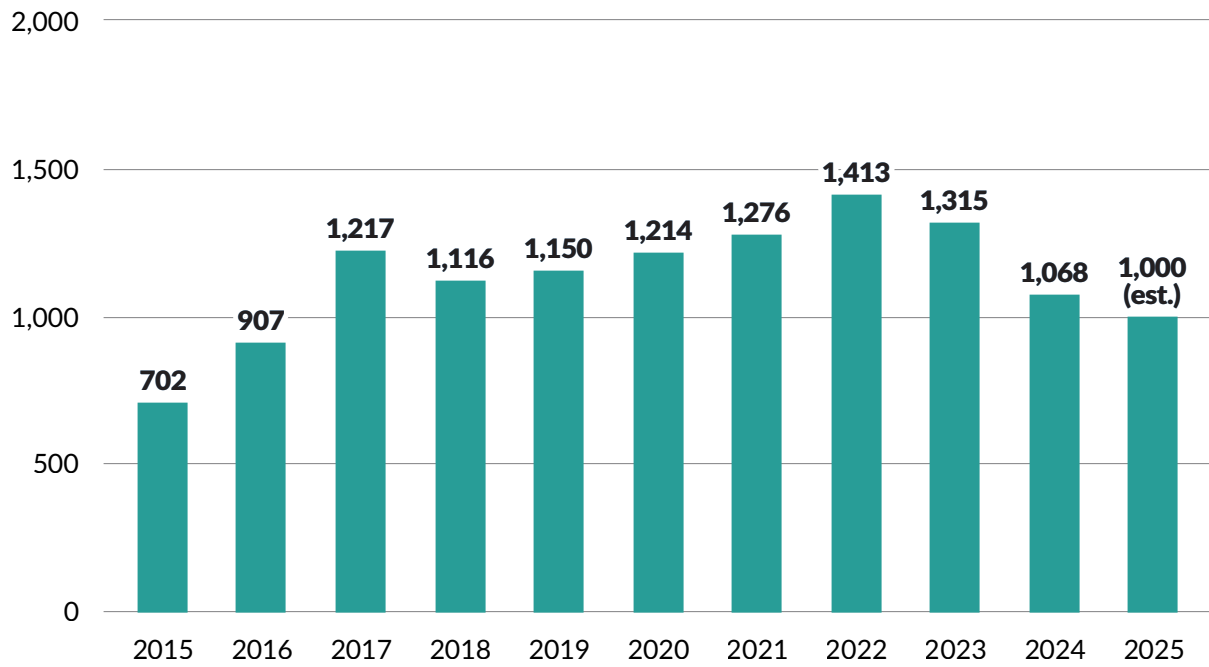
Note: The "other" category includes Route Guarantee Subsidies, which are payments made from different local entities to SEPTA to fund route extensions. These types of service extensions include the "LUCY" (Loop through University City) circulator.

Sources: SEPTA, "Operating Budget Report," FY 2014-24; SEPTA, "Full Budget Book (Amended)," FY 2025-26

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Figure 18

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in Philadelphia, 2015-25



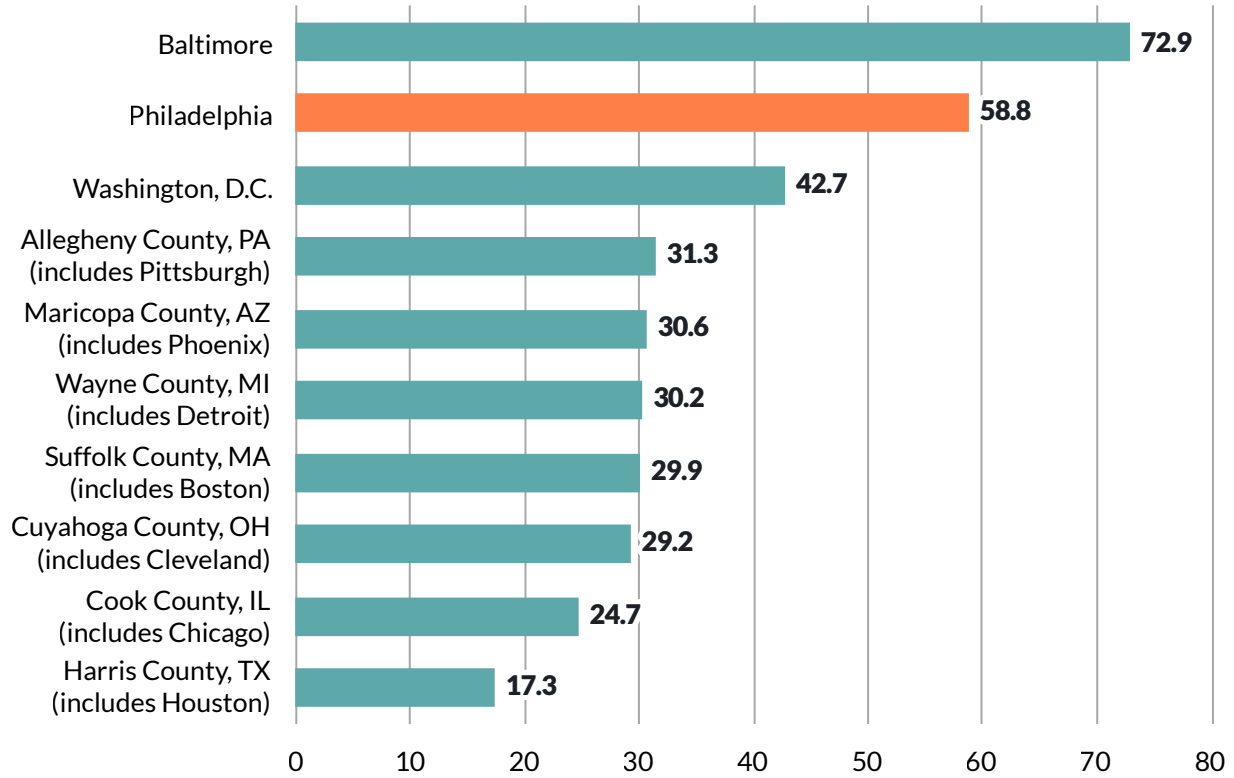
City officials estimate that in Philadelphia in 2025, there were 1,000 deaths due to unintentional drug overdoses—potentially the lowest total unintentional overdose deaths since 2016. Overdose deaths reached their highest annual total in 2022 (1,413), followed by a nearly 30% decline over the next three years. The 2025 estimate will be finalized this fall.

Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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Figure 19

Drug Overdose Deaths Per 100,000 Residents, 2024 In Philadelphia and comparable cities and counties



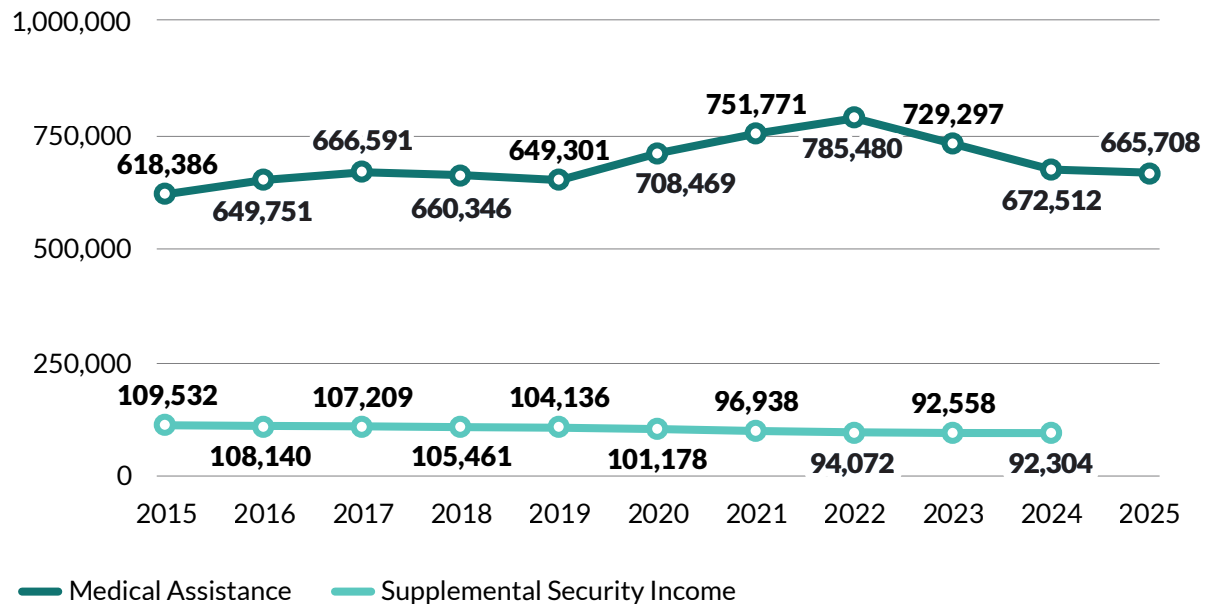
In 2024, local jurisdictions continued to see a post-pandemic decline in drug overdose deaths. Philadelphia, with 58.8 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, had the second-highest fatality rate among comparison cities and counties, trailing only Baltimore (72.9). Harris County, Texas, which includes Houston, had the lowest rate of the 10 areas examined (17.3). Most of the comparison jurisdictions had around 30 deaths per 100,000.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, "Multiple Cause of Death," 2024

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Figure 20

Public Benefit Enrollment Trends in Philadelphia, 2015-25



The number of Philadelphians enrolled in Medicaid, also known as Medical Assistance, continued to decrease after pandemic-related automatic reenrollment ended in April 2023. In 2025, approximately 41% of Philadelphians (665,708) received their health insurance via Medicaid. Many also relied on Supplemental Security Income, which provides monthly payments to low-income adults and people with disabilities. In 2024, 92,304 Philadelphians were enrolled in the program, a figure that has been slowly declining year over year.

Note: Supplemental Security Income enrollment data was unavailable for 2025.

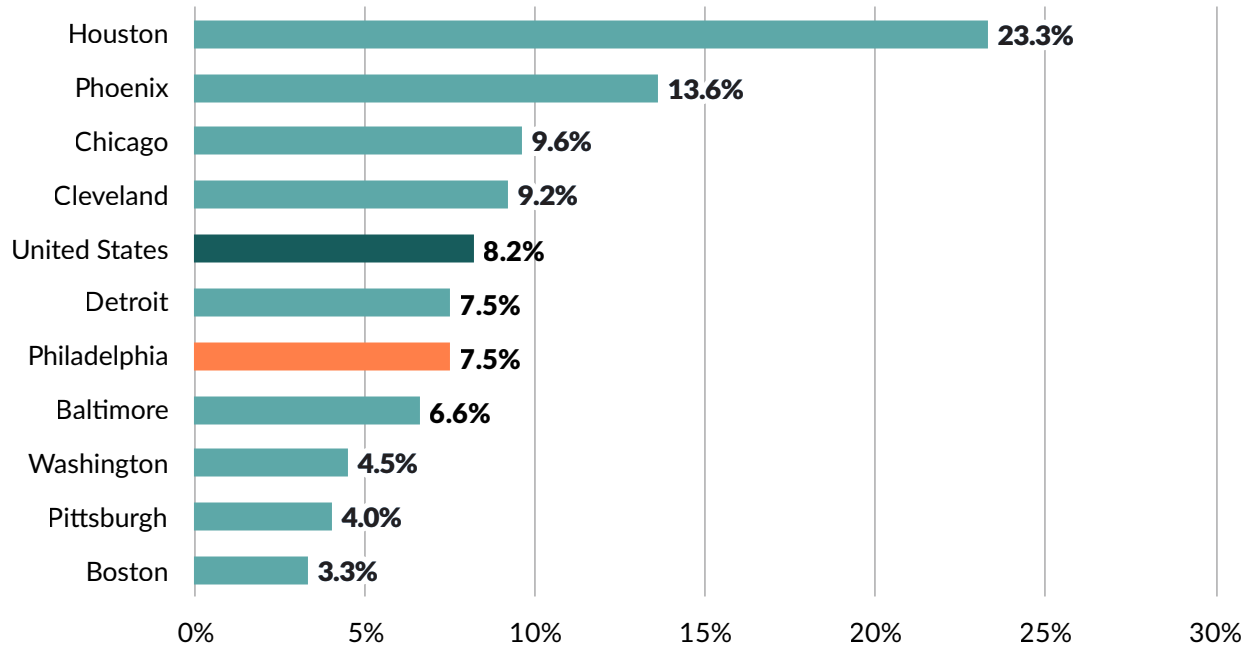
Sources: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, "Medical Assistance, Food Stamps, and Cash Assistance Statistics Reports," 2015-25 (Medical Assistance data); Social Security Administration, "SSI Recipient by State and County," 2015-24 (Supplemental Security Income data)

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Figure 21

Residents Without Health Insurance, 2024

Philadelphia and comparison cities



In 2024, 7.5% of Philadelphians lacked health insurance, a percentage slightly below the national share of 8.2%. Among the cities with the highest share of uninsured residents were Houston (23.3%), Phoenix (13.6%), and Chicago (9.6%). Boston (3.3%), Pittsburgh (4%), and Washington (4.5%) had comparatively low shares of uninsured residents.

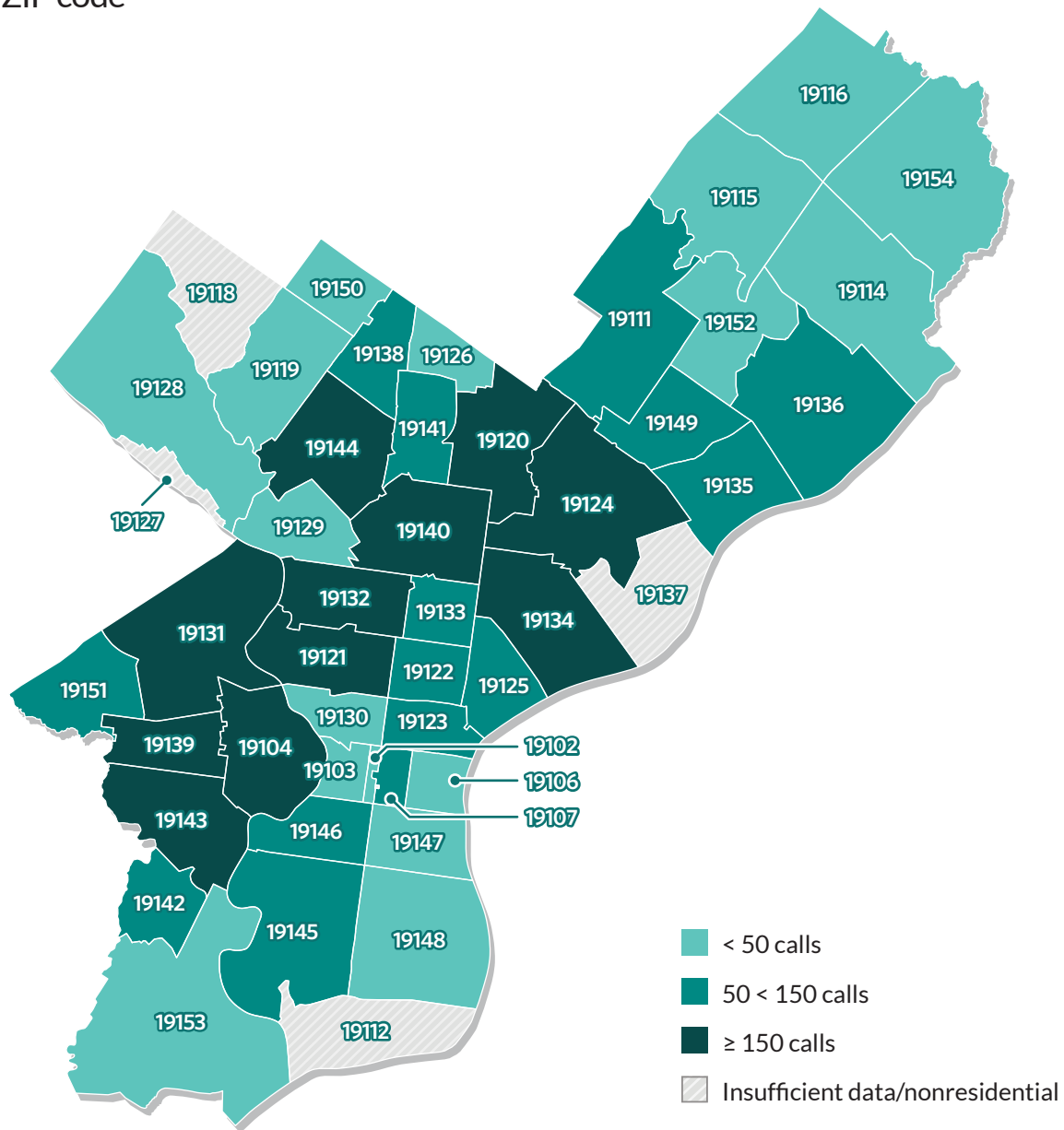
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, "Table S2701: Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States," 2024

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Figure 22

Domestic Violence Calls in Philadelphia, 2025

By ZIP code



Domestic violence is defined as the mistreatment of one family member or intimate partner by another. Philadelphia's Domestic Violence Hotline handled a total of 4,037 calls from inside the city last year. The ZIP codes with the greatest number of calls were primarily in the north and west areas of Philadelphia. The parts of the city with the fewest calls were in the far northeast and northwest.

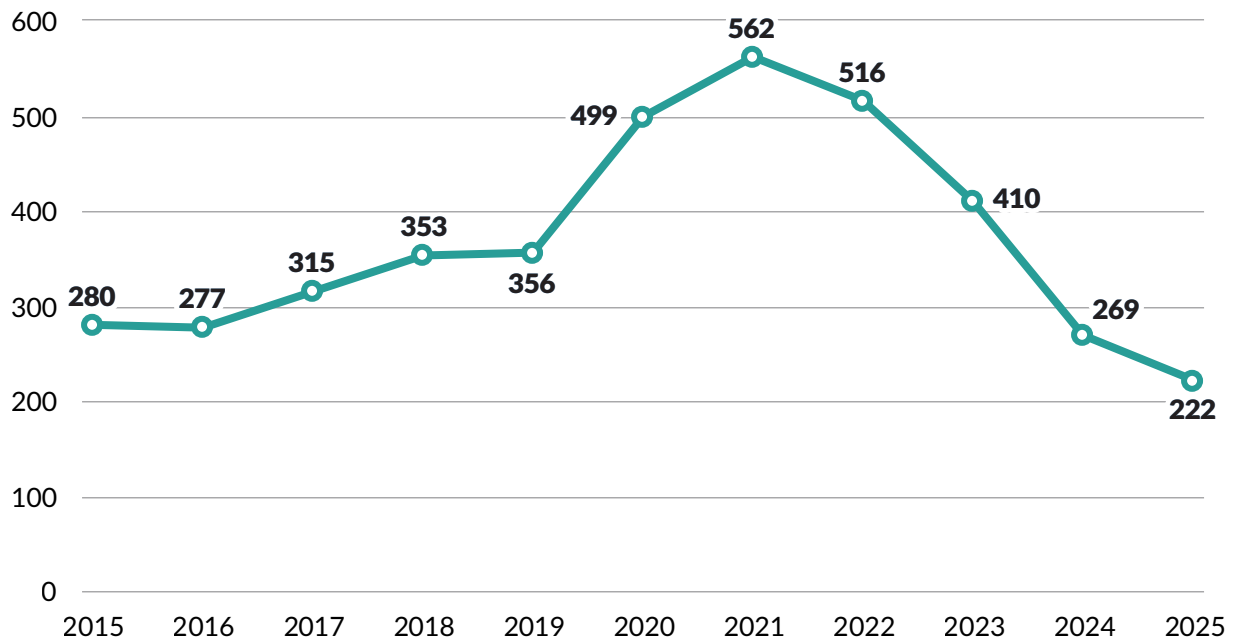
Note: The data includes only calls to the hotline with an identified Philadelphia ZIP code. This made up fewer than half of total calls received in 2025.

Source: "Citywide Domestic Violence Hotline Calls 2025," data provided by Women Against Abuse

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Figure 23

Homicides in Philadelphia, 2015-25



Philadelphia reported 222 homicides in 2025, a 17.5% reduction from the previous year. It also marked an approximately 60% decline since 2021, when the city had the highest number of homicides (562) in more than 60 years. Last year, homicides in Philadelphia were at the lowest recorded total since 1966.

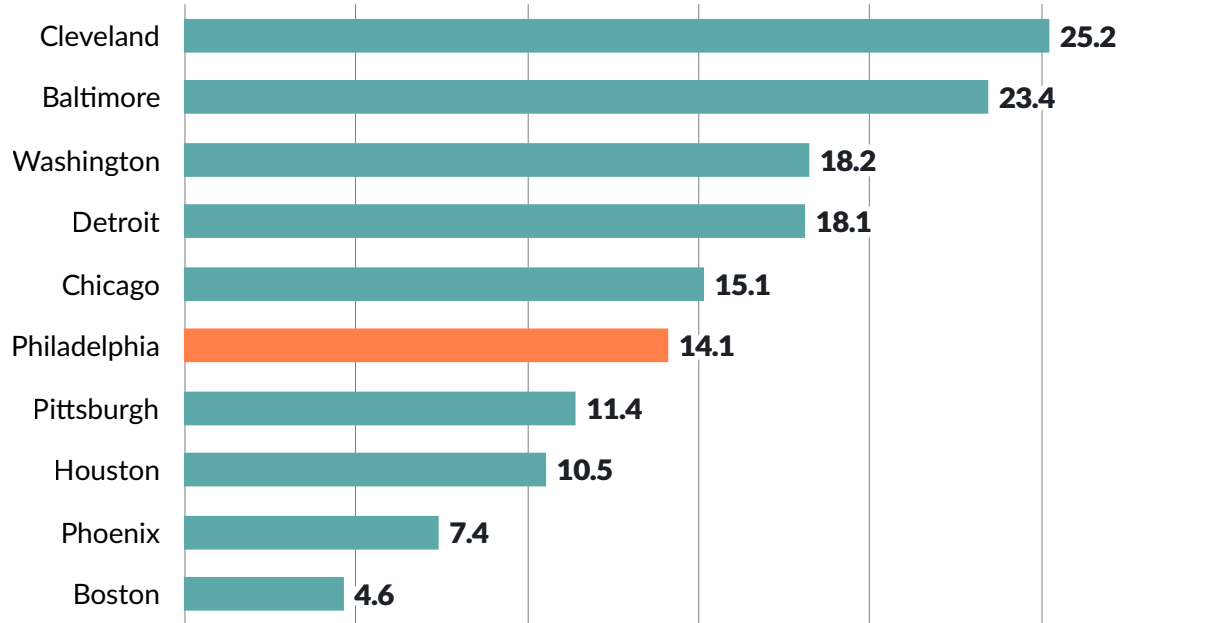
Source: Philadelphia Police Department, "Crime Maps and Stats," 2015-25

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Figure 24

Homicide Rate for Philadelphia and Comparison Cities, 2025

Per 100,000 residents



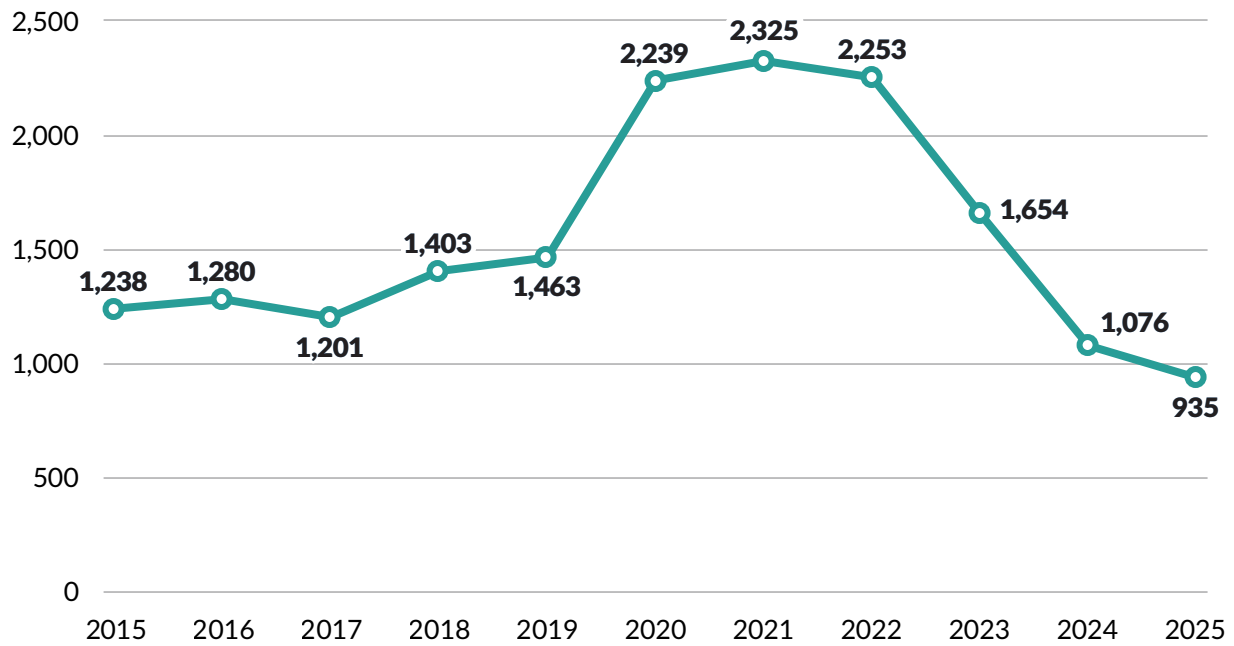
Among comparison cities, Philadelphia had the sixth-highest homicide rate (14.1 per 100,000 residents) in 2025. Cleveland had the highest rate, with 25.2 homicides per 100,000 residents, and Boston had the lowest, at 4.6. The homicide rate for each city has significantly decreased since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when cities throughout the U.S. saw a steep increase in homicides and violent crimes.

Sources: Police departments in 10 cities or states; population numbers are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places," 2024

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Figure 25

Shooting Victims in Philadelphia, 2015-25



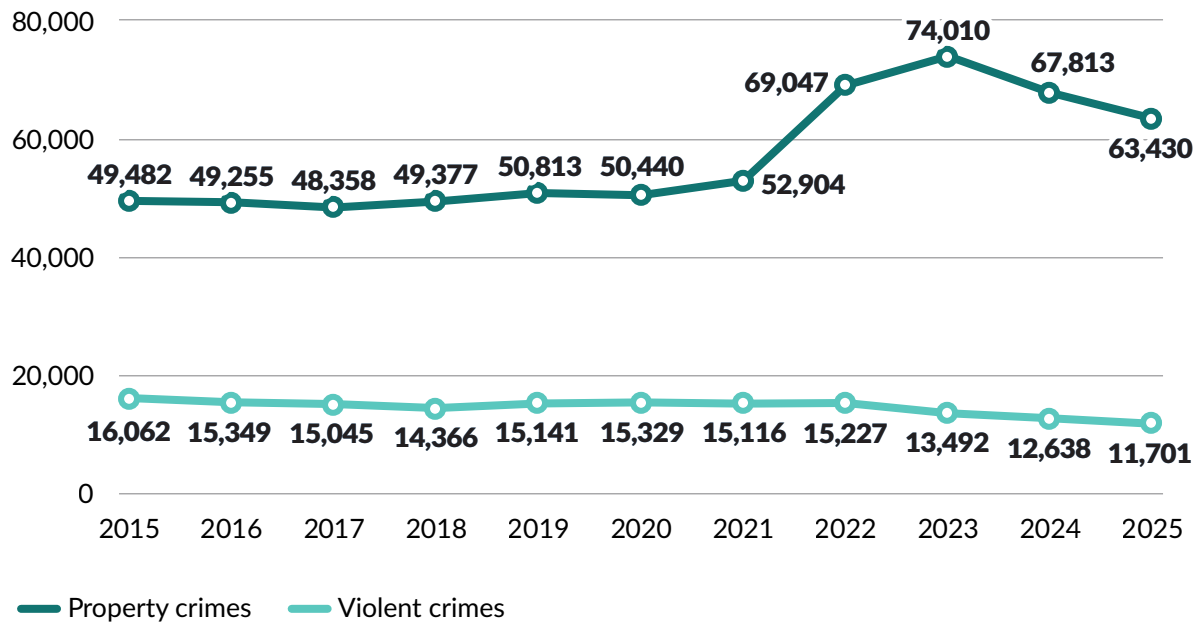
There were 935 reported shooting victims in Philadelphia in 2025, the first time in more than 10 years that the figure dropped below 1,000. The total was relatively stable earlier in the decade but rose steeply during the pandemic to more than 2,200 in 2020-22. The total has decreased by nearly 60% since 2021.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department, Crime Maps and Stats, 2015-25

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Figure 26

Major Crime in Philadelphia, 2015-25



In 2025, 75,131 major crimes were reported in Philadelphia. Major crimes consist of violent crimes as well as property crimes, and in the past year, property crimes made up more than 80% of major crimes in the city. Since their peak in 2023, property crimes have decreased by 14%, driven by declines in auto theft (32%) and commercial burglaries (26%). Violent crimes—which include homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, and rape—were at their lowest level in more than 20 years. The largest declines in major crimes since 2024 were predominantly seen in violent crimes such as robberies with a gun, homicides, and aggravated assault with a gun.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department, "Violent and Property Crime Data Table," 2015-25

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