



Watch News 24/7

BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Shootings in Boston reach historic low in 2023: 'It takes a lot of work'

2023 saw the lowest number of shooting victims in Boston since the start of BRIC in 2005, according to Commissioner Cox

By **Matt Fortin** • Published January 10, 2024 • Updated on January 11, 2024 at 9:49 am

One-on-one with Police Commissioner Michael Cox, as he hopes to build on last year's progress moving ahead.



Watch News 24/7

ENCOURAGING TREND THAT BOSTON POLICE COMMISSIONER MICHAEL COX THANKS THE PUBLIC FOR ITS ROLE IN.

There were 144 total shooting victims in Boston in 2023, down from 180 in 2022 and 274 in 2020.

According to Commissioner Cox, 2023 had the lowest number of people shot since the Boston Regional Intelligence Center began collecting data in 2005.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Watch NBC10 Boston news for free, 24/7, wherever you are.

Get Boston local news, weather forecasts, lifestyle and entertainment stories to your inbox. [Sign up for NBC Boston's newsletters](#).

The trend in Boston mirrors that of many other major cities in the United States, including Detroit, Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

"I know it takes a lot of work, a lot of hard work to do that and a lot of partners to do that," Cox said.

"We've been asking the public to help participate and understand that it's not just a public safety issue, it's a community issue. And they've been getting more involved and they've been very helpful."

329 medal events. 32 sports. Endless drama. Catch all the action at the Paris Olympics. [Sign up for our free Olympics Headlines newsletter.](#)



Mayor Michelle Wu and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox apologized for the wrongful arrests of two Black men in the 1989 murder of a woman actually killed by her white husband.

Homicides have decreased too, from 40 in 2022 to 35 in 2023.

"We went through a period certainly with COVID and just the period associated with it where maybe there [was] a break between us, the public, in a lot of ways," Cox said. "But we're really trying to mend those ties. And I think we're, you know, receiving the benefit of actually establishing, you know, a true partnership with the public like we had before in the past."

While Cox was happy with the direction things were headed, he said there is still a lot of work ahead to continue to reduce gun violence.

"This is the theory of law of diminishing returns," he said. "The lower the number it gets, the more difficult it is to decrease it. But it just means we have to work even harder...And we're trying you know, we are trying to be as inventive as possible."



The new Boston police contract opens up staffing details to people beyond law enforcement.

According to national crime analysts, preliminary data from around 200 cities shows a historic decline in murder rates. The public's perception of crime in America, analysts say, isn't consistent with the actual data.

"I think it makes people constantly scared that everything is getting worse, and it makes it so that policymakers and researchers and just average people that are involved in things happening in the streets, in their communities, are unable to learn the lessons of success, which are arguably more important than the lessons of failure," Jeff Asher with AH DataLytics said.

Back in Boston, Cox said the solve rate of non-fatal shootings lags behind the solve rate for homicides, something he says needs addressing.

"That's something that we probably need to work on and we will work on, hopefully with creating a task force of some type to deal with our nonfatal shootings," Cox said.

Other goals that the commissioner has for the new year include building more trust in the public and filling officer vacancies.

More Boston news



JAN 10

Boston settles police gender discrimination case for \$2.4 million



JAN 10

Boston principal sentenced for using school funds for Barbados trips

This article tagged under:

BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT • BOSTON • GUN VIOLENCE



Watch News 24/7

Medal Count

#	Total			
1. United States	6	13	12	31
2. France	8	11	8	27
3. China	11	7	4	22
4. Great Britain	6	7	7	20

[COMPLETE OLYMPIC COVERAGE](#)

Weather Forecast

BOSTON, MA

91°

Partly Cloudy
0.02% Precip

TONIGHT

73°

TOMORROW

88°

Subscribe to our Newsletters

Sign up to receive breaking news alerts in your inbox.

[Sign up](#)[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[Watch News 24/7](#)**NBC SPORTS BOSTON****OUR NEWS STANDARDS****SUBMIT A TIP FOR****INVESTIGATIONS****CONNECT WITH US****NEWSLETTERS****XFINITY: INTERNET, TV,****STREAMING, MORE**[WBTS Employment Information](#)[FCC Applications](#)[NBC Non-Profit News Partnership Reports](#)[Send Feedback](#)[Terms of Service](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Your Privacy Choices](#)[CA Notice](#)[Ad Choices](#)[Advertise with us](#)

Copyright © 2024 NBCUniversal Media, LLC. All rights reserved