**TO:** [Ames Grawert, Brennan Center for Justice]

**FROM:** [Robyn Rubin-Valverde, Undergraduate Justice Intern]

**DATE:** [12/17/2024]

**SUBJECT:** [Summary accompanying regional and large city crime rate tables]

**Change in crime rates by region**

Nationally, murder, violent crime, and property crime rates have demonstrated consistent downward trends between 2020 and 2023, with murder rates dropping by 16 percent during the period. The Midwest recorded the most substantial reductions in both murder and violent crime rates, falling by 22 percent and 13 percent, respectively. The Northeast maintained the lowest murder and violent crime rates in both 2020 and 2023, further improving with a 17 percent decline over the three years. In contrast, Northeastern property crimes concurrently rose by 13 percent, representing the most pronounced increase in property crime rates nationwide. Finally, the West stood out as the only region to experience an uptick in violent crime rates, which amounted to 7 percent.

**Change in murder rates by large city**

All major cities besides Memphis, Washington D.C., San Francisco, and Seattle experienced substantial declines in murder rates between 2020 and 2023. Chicago's 2020 murder rate of approximately .29 percent dropped to .19 percent by 2023, representing a reduction of 34 percent. Baltimore reported a similarly significant 28 percent reduction in murder rates. During this same period, however, Seattle recorded a 34 percent increase in murders, while Washington, D.C. reported the greatest increase, amounting to approximately 40 percent. This data clearly demonstrates that, with few exceptions, there is a nationwide trend of declining murder rates among the largest cities.

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Nationally, murder, violent crime, and property crimes have demonstrated consistent downward trends between 2020 and 2023, with murder rates dropping by a **statistically significant** 16 percent during the period. The Midwest recorded the most substantial reductions in both murder and violent crime rates, falling by 22 percent and 13 percent, respectively. The Northeast maintained the lowest murder and violent crime rates in both 2020 and 2023, further improving with a 17 percent decline over the three years. In contrast, Northeastern property crimes concurrently rose by 13 percent, representing the most pronounced increase in property crime rates nationwide. Finally, the West stood out as the only region to experience an uptick in violent crime rates, which amounted to 7 percent.