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U.S. POLICE EFFORTS IN COMBATING CRIME: STRATEGIES, CHALLENGES, AND OUTCOMES

The fight against crime remains a cornerstone of public safety, with police forces worldwide employing a variety of strategies to prevent, detect, and respond to criminal activities. In recent years, particularly leading into 2025, law enforcement agencies have adapted to evolving threats such as cybercrime, organized violence, transnational drug trafficking, and persistent community distrust following high-profile incidents of the early 2020s. We will try to examine the methods used by police to combat crime, the challenges they face, key statistics, measurable outcomes, and promising future approaches.

Police employ a multifaceted approach combining traditional enforcement with innovative technologies and community partnerships. Key strategies in 2024–2025 include:

- Hot-spot policing and focused deterrence (continued expansion in over 80 major U.S. cities).
- Precision policing initiatives that target the small percentage of repeat violent offenders responsible for the majority of shootings.
- Community violence intervention (CVI) programs using credible messengers and hospital-based interventions.
- Widespread adoption of the Group Violence Intervention (GVI).
- Integration of AI-driven predictive analytics, gunshot detection systems (ShotSpotter), and license-plate readers
- Real-time crime centers in more than 120 U.S. jurisdictions by mid-2025/
- Enhanced federal–state–local task forces under the DOJ’s Violent Crime Reduction Strategy (Project Safe Neighborhoods 2.0)

There are common technology trends in 2025 used by police to combat crime:

- cloud-based records and case management systems,
- mobile apps for officers and public reporting,
- body-worn cameras with live-streaming and automatic activation compliance monitoring,
- drone-as-first-responder (DFR) programs.

Public opinion shows 67 % of Americans favor addressing root causes (poverty, mental health, education) over simply “more police presence,” while 81 % still support maintaining or increasing police funding if paired with accountability reforms (Pew Research Center, June 2025).

Despite progress, major obstacles and challenges persist for law enforcement agencies in the USA, namely:

- Nationwide officer shortages: approximately 70,000–90,000 vacancies across U.S. agencies in 2025.
- Recruitment and retention crisis worsened by early retirements and low morale
- Declining case clearance rates: national homicide clearance rate fell to ~50 % in 2023–2024 (lowest since the 1960s).

- Explosion of cybercrime and cryptocurrency-enabled fraud (FBI IC3 2024 report: \$12.5 billion in losses).
- Federal funding uncertainty: proposed 2026 budget cuts to COPS Hiring Program and Byrne-JAG grants threaten sustainability of many violence-reduction initiatives.
- Eroded public trust in certain communities, particularly among younger and minority populations (Gallup 2025: only 43 % of Americans express “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in police—the lowest since 1993).

According to statistics and outcomes (2021–2025):

- FBI preliminary data (Q1–Q3 2025): violent crime down ~6 % nationally compared with 2024, continuing the sharp post-2020 decline.
- Homicide rates in major cities participating in focused deterrence/CVI programs dropped 15–60 % (Oakland: –56 % since 2021; Chicago: –21 % in 2024–2025; Richmond, CA: –70 % since re-implementation of Operation Peacemaker).
- DOJ’s Violent Crime Initiative cities (2022–2025): average 18 % reduction in homicides and 12 % reduction in non-fatal shootings.
- NIBRS transition completed: 94% of U.S. population now covered by modernized crime reporting (2025).
- Community violence intervention meta-analysis (Campbell Collaboration 2025): programs reduce violent incidents by an average of 30–50 % in treated areas

Conclusion. The police’s battle against crime in 2025 is characterized by innovation, evidence-based practice, and a gradual shift from purely reactive enforcement toward prevention and community co-production of safety. The most successful jurisdictions combine precision policing against the highest-risk individuals with credible community partnerships and social services. Sustaining these gains will require stable federal and state funding, aggressive recruitment and wellness initiatives for officers, continued technology investment, and honest reckoning with legitimacy and trust deficits. A purely enforcement-heavy approach is neither politically viable nor empirically optimal; the future of public safety lies in balanced, holistic strategies that treat violence as a preventable public-health problem while preserving the ability to respond decisively when prevention fails.

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FEATURES OF POLICE ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The National Police of Ukraine is fundamentally a civilian law enforcement institution, established to maintain public order, protect citizens' rights and freedoms, and ensure the rule of law throughout the country. Although the police possess special ranks and are vested with specific powers, such as the lawful use of firearms, special means, and other coercive measures, their overall structure and mission remain civilian in nature.

However, during periods of active hostilities, the National Police have had to adapt rapidly to new realities, taking on functions traditionally associated with paramilitary or defense formations. In addition to performing routine policing tasks, officers now participate in demining operations, counter-sabotage and reconnaissance missions, and security stabilization in liberated areas. These responsibilities often require direct engagement with enemy forces, including professional Russian military units, making the role of the police both complex and high-risk.