

# **Making Oakland Safe and its Economy Strong: A Vision for Lasting Change**

Bay Area Council Economic Institute

June 30, 2025

# ROADMAP



Crime & Budget Context

Key Issues Impeding Oakland's Progress

Crime's Economic Impact

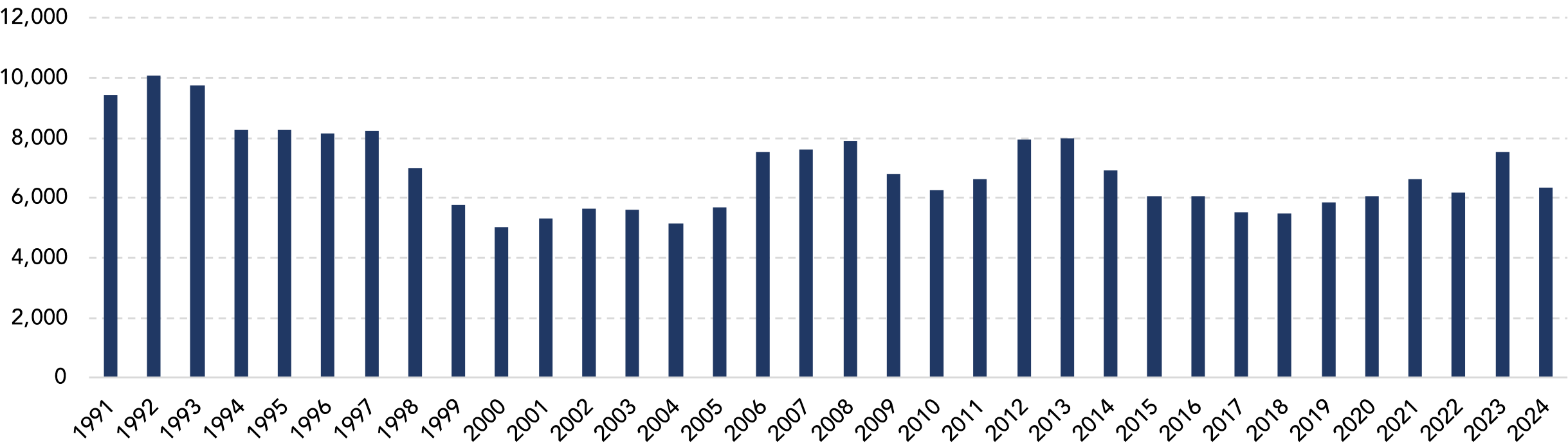
Recommendations

Next Steps

# CRIME CONTEXT: The number of violent crimes reported in Oakland are little changed from levels of the late 1990s

## Oakland Police Department - Citywide Reported Violent Crime

Annual Number of Reported Violent Crimes, 1991 to 2024



**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program; OPD Annual Crime Reports; and Real-Time Crime Index

**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# CRIME CONTEXT: Reported property crimes had come down as part of a national trend, but 2023's data returned Oakland to crime rates of the late '80s

## Oakland Police Department - Citywide Reported Property Crime

*Annual Number of Reported Property Crimes, 1986 to 2024*



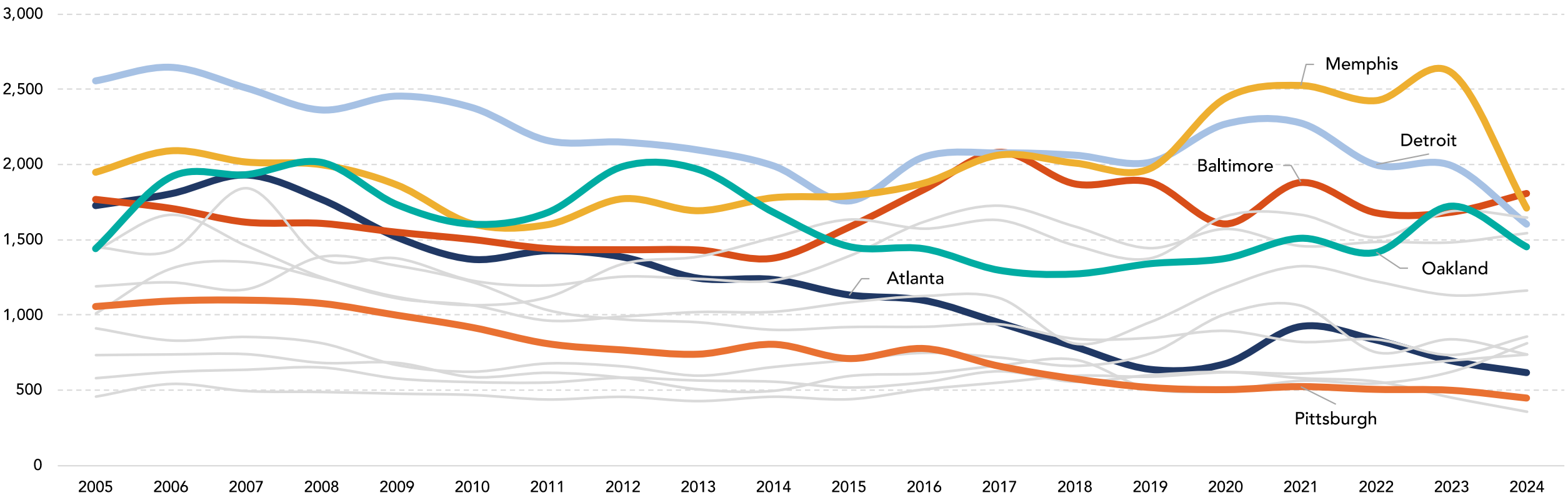
**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program; OPD Annual Crime Reports; and Real-Time Crime Index

**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# CRIME CONTEXT: Of mid-sized cities, Oakland has a higher-than-average rate of violent crime when standardized for population.

## Rates of Reported Violent Crime for Mid-Sized Cities

Annual Data for Violent Crime Per 100,000 Residents for 14 Mid-Sized U.S. Cities, Population 300,000 to 650,000, for years 2005 to 2024



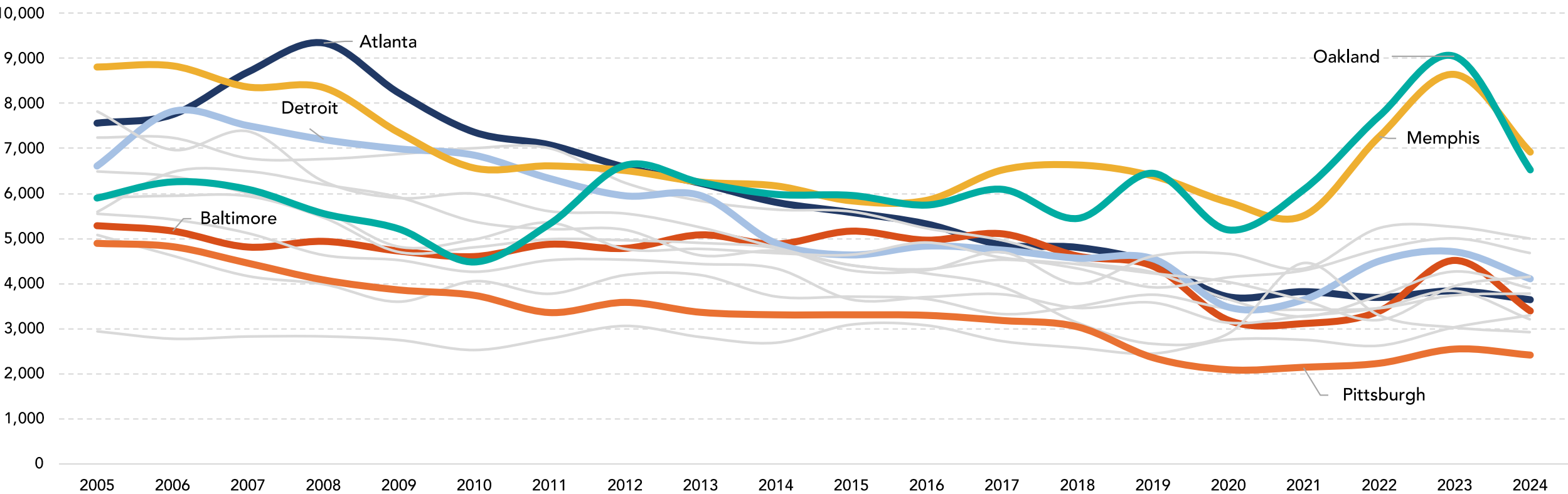
**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting; Individual City Reports; and Real-Time Crime Index

**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# CRIME CONTEXT: Property crime rates in Oakland are a clear outlier (with Memphis) when comparing to other mid-sized cities.

## Rates of Reported Property Crime for Mid-Sized Cities

Annual Data for Property Crime Per 100,000 Residents for 14 Mid-Sized U.S. Cities, Population 300,000 to 650,000, for years 2005 to 2024



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting; Individual City Reports; and Real-Time Crime Index

Analysis: Bay Area Council Economic Institute

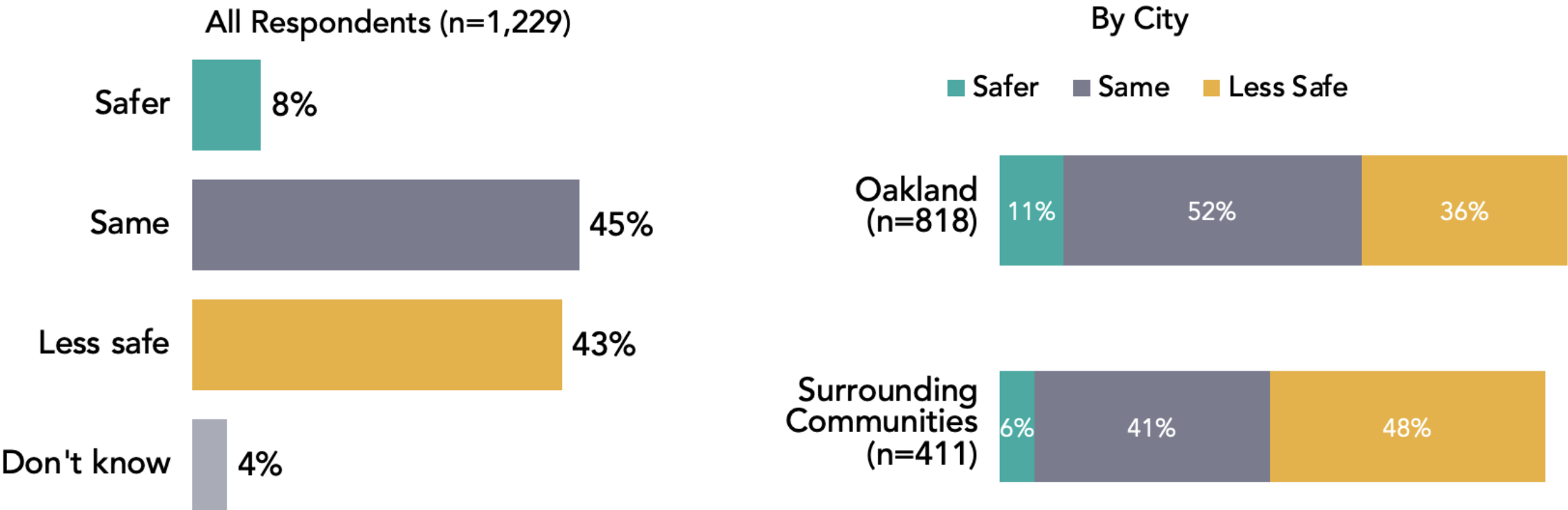


[www.bayareaeconomy.org](http://www.bayareaeconomy.org)

[@bayareaeconomy](https://twitter.com/bayareaeconomy)

**CRIME CONTEXT:** Even though reported crime is decreasing, few residents are feeling safer, and the perception is even worse outside of Oakland.

*Q: Would you say you feel safer today in Oakland than you did a year or two ago, or would you say you feel less safe?*

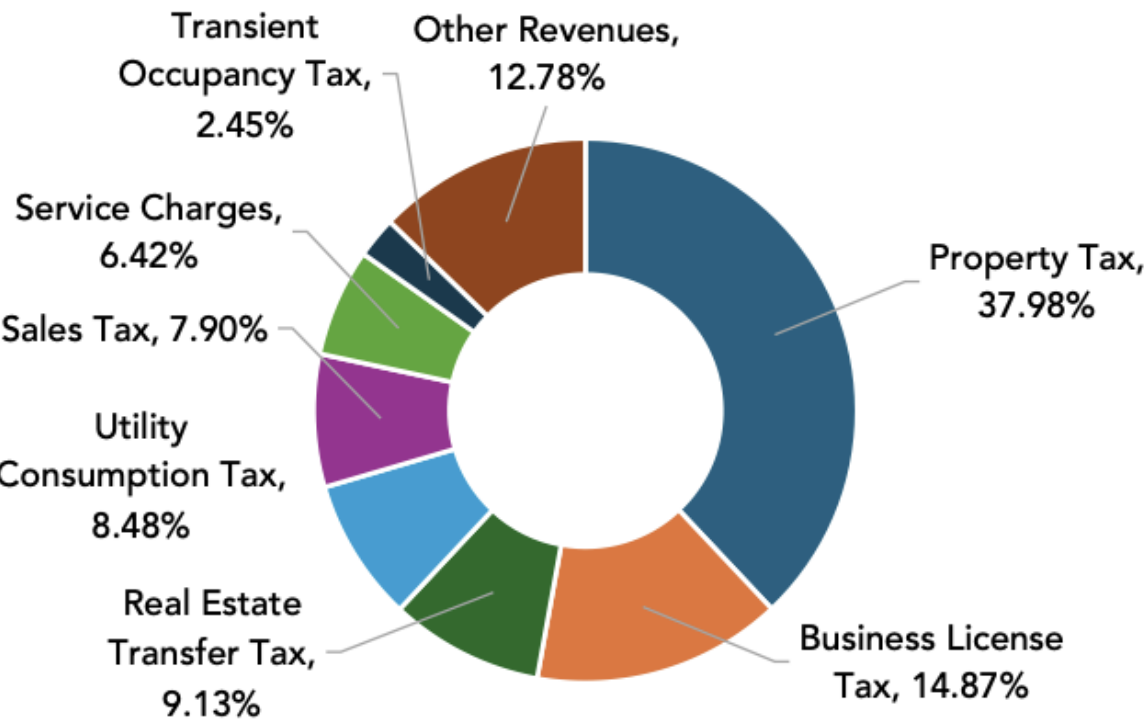


**Analysis:** FM3 Research  
**Note:** Survey conducted February 11-16, 2025

**BUDGET CONTEXT: More than 40% of Oakland’s general fund goes to police and violence prevention – making it a target of budget cuts in down cycles.**

**City of Oakland General Purpose Fund Revenues**

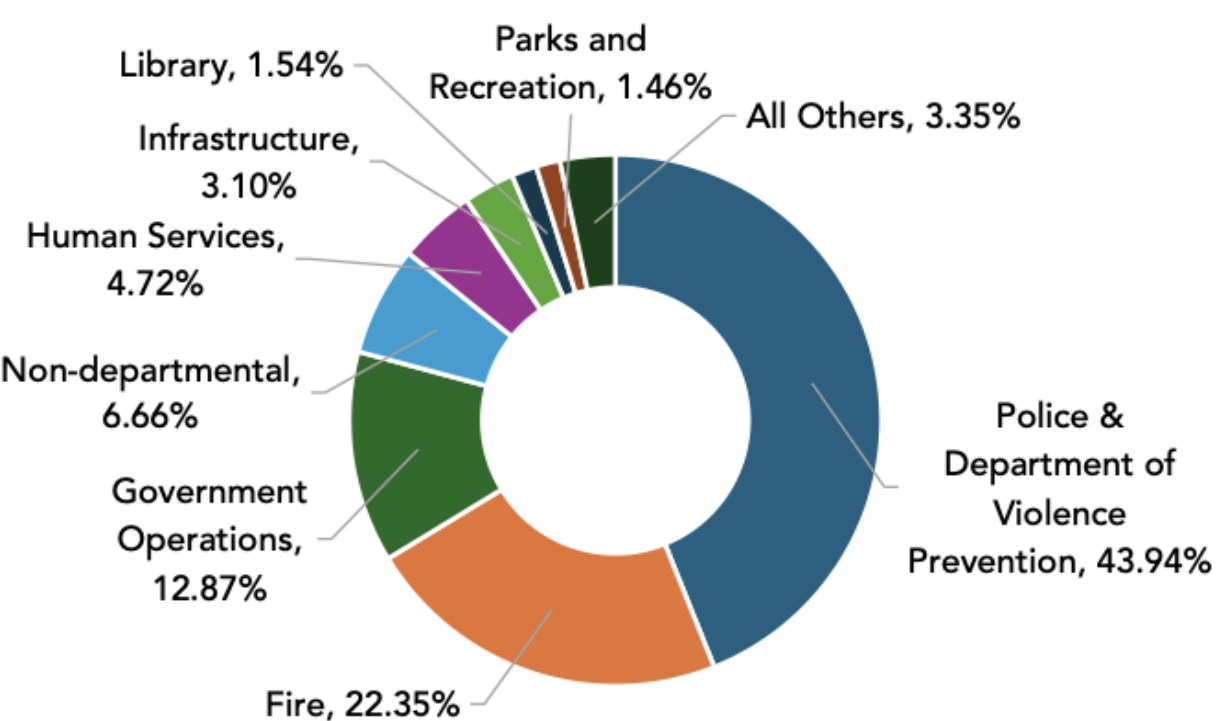
*Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Midcycle Adopted Budget*



**Source:** City of Oakland FY24-25 Adopted Policy Budget  
**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

**City of Oakland General Purpose Fund Expenditures**

*Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Midcycle Adopted Budget*

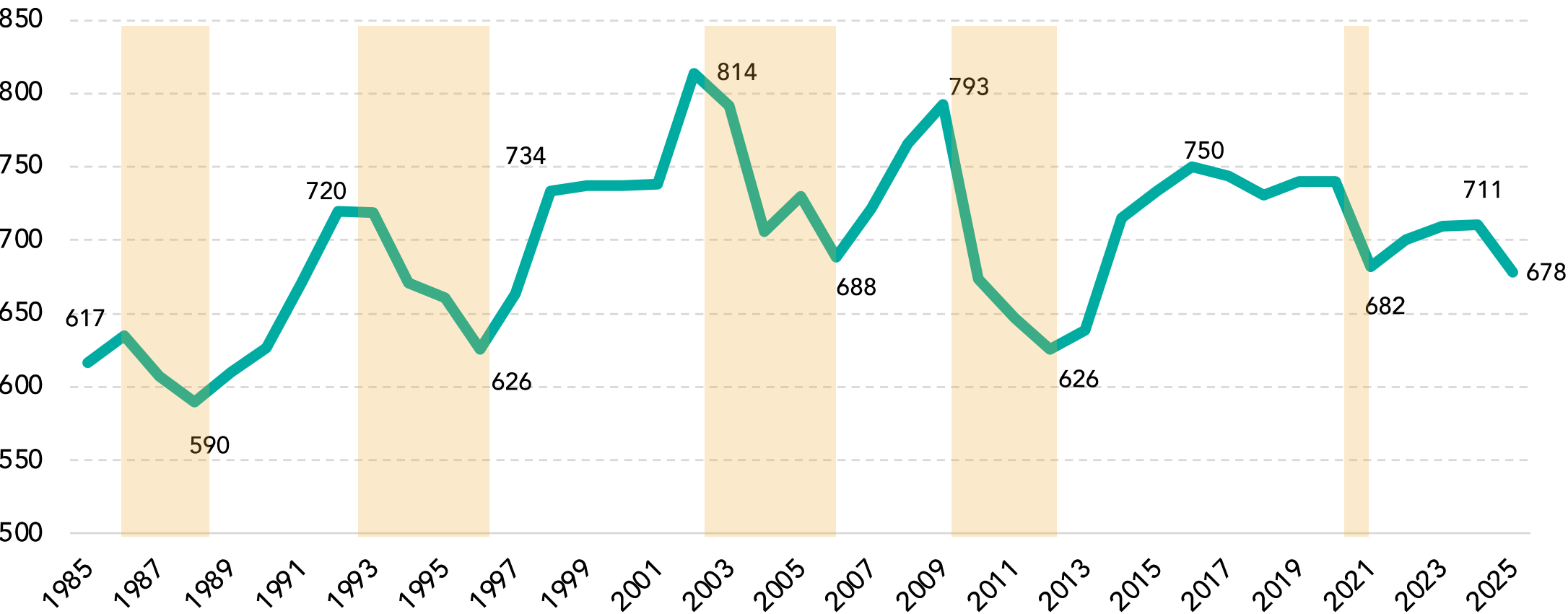


**Source:** City of Oakland FY24-25 Adopted Policy Budget  
**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute



# KEY ISSUE #1: SWORN STAFFING

## Total Sworn Officers in Oakland Police Department



**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation, Law Enforcement Employees

**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# KEY ISSUE #1: SWORN STAFFING

Police Department Staffing by Mid-Sized City

	Civilian Staff	Sworn Officers	Population	Sworn Officers / 1,000 people
Detroit	679	2,465	633,218	3.89
Baltimore	474	2,047	565,239	3.62
Newark	183	1,076	304,960	3.53
Cleveland	205	1,175	362,656	3.24
Atlanta	461	1,630	510,823	3.19
Memphis	497	1,945	618,639	3.14
Cincinnati	111	916	311,097	2.94
Milwaukee	231	1,617	561,385	2.88
Miami	353	1,304	455,924	2.86
New Orleans	297	910	364,136	2.50
Tampa	265	944	403,364	2.34
Pittsburgh	32	687	303,255	2.27
Kansas City	562	1,089	510,704	2.13
Tulsa	213	812	411,894	1.97
Louisville	289	1,067	622,981	1.71
Omaha	159	816	483,335	1.69
Wichita	178	634	396,119	1.60
Colorado Springs	355	772	488,664	1.58
Albuquerque	694	881	560,274	1.57
Fresno	369	849	545,716	1.56
Oakland	241	678	436,504	1.55
Long Beach	275	697	449,468	1.55
Raleigh	98	703	482,295	1.46
Minneapolis	189	571	425,115	1.34
Sacramento	282	678	526,384	1.29
Portland	298	804	630,498	1.28

**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation, Law Enforcement Employees

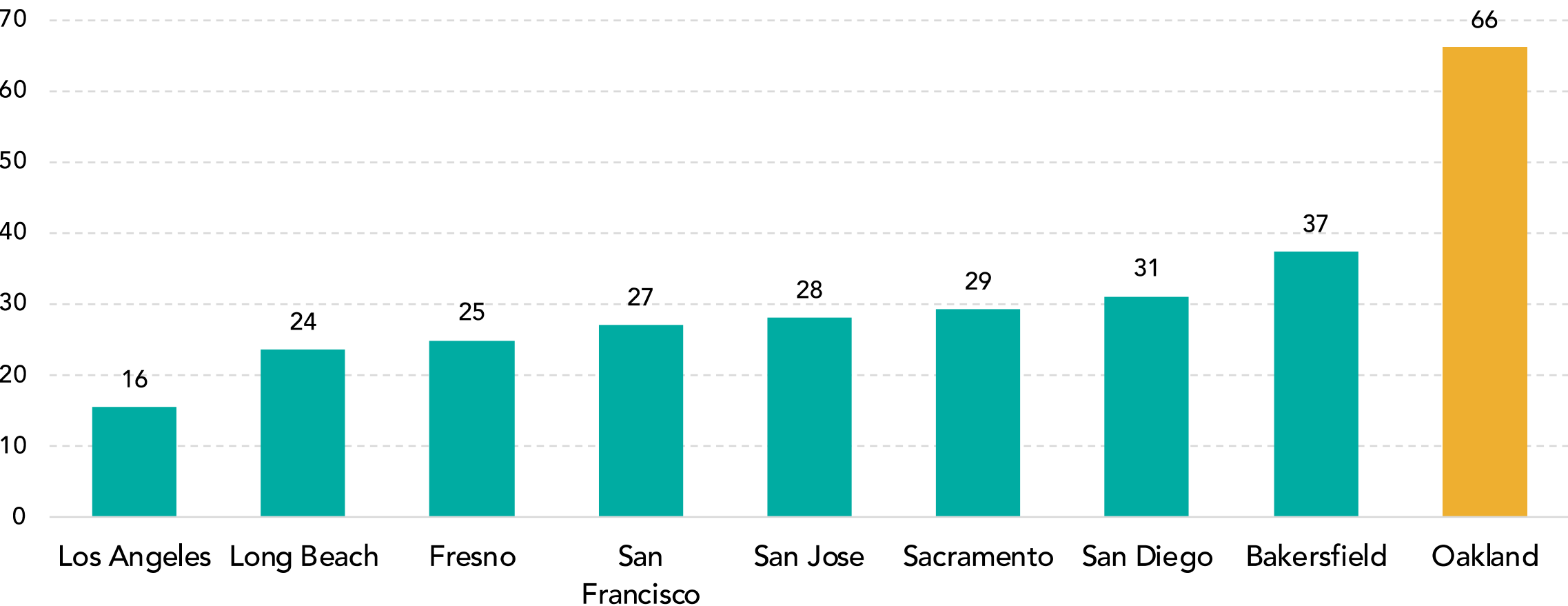
**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

**Note:** Oakland Police Department data is for April 2025. All other data is as of 2023.

# KEY ISSUE #1: SWORN STAFFING

## Annual Index Crimes per Sworn Officer, 2023

*For the nine largest cities in California; index crimes are the eight serious property and violent crimes categorized by the FBI*



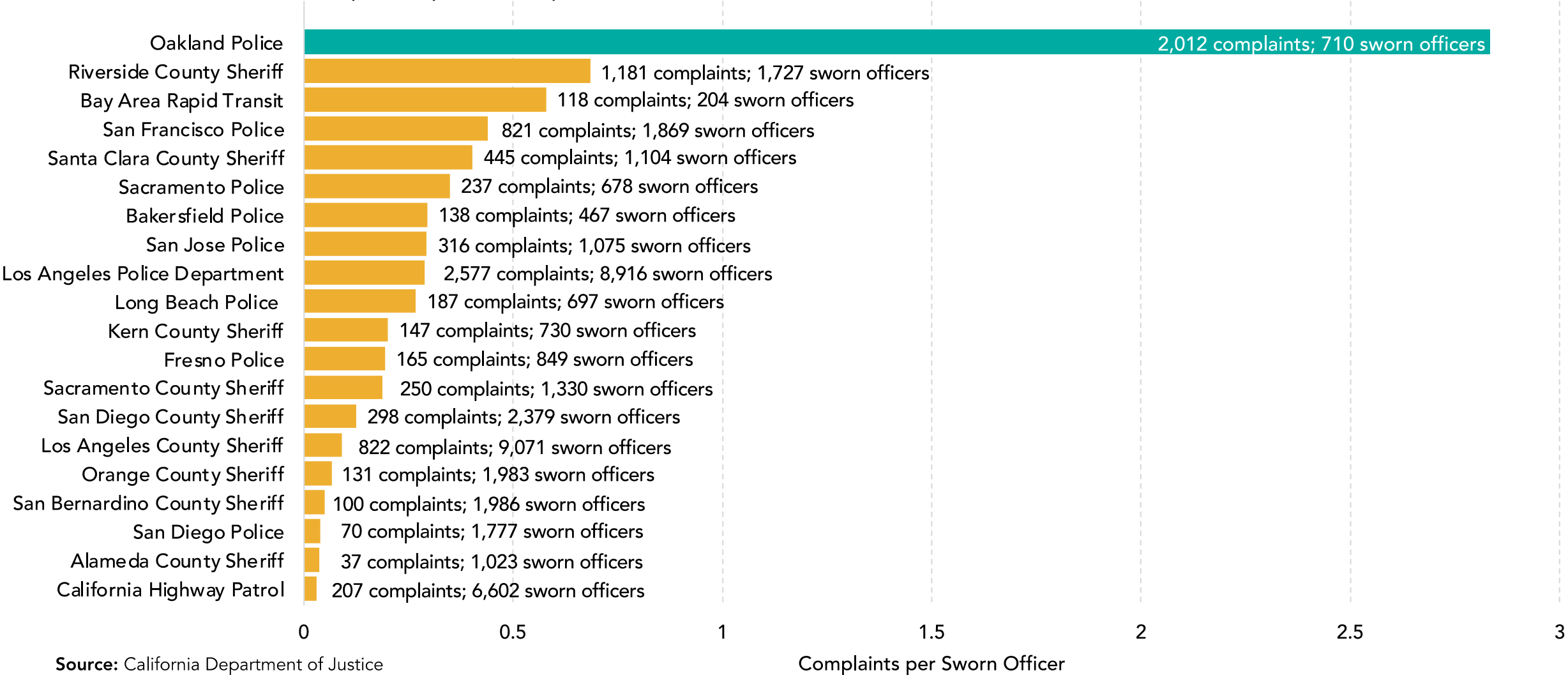
**Source:** Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting and Police Employment Data

**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# KEY ISSUE #2: FEDERAL OVERSIGHT / NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

## Annual Complaints per Sworn Officer in California's Largest Law Enforcement Agencies, 2023

Data based on unique civilian complaint reports and reported sworn officer counts



Source: California Department of Justice  
Analysis: Bay Area Council Economic Institute

## **KEY ISSUE #3: A FRAGMENTED ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE**

**From scandal to scrutiny: How intense citizen oversight reshaped Oakland police**

**Oakland hires new inspector general to oversee police operations and policies**

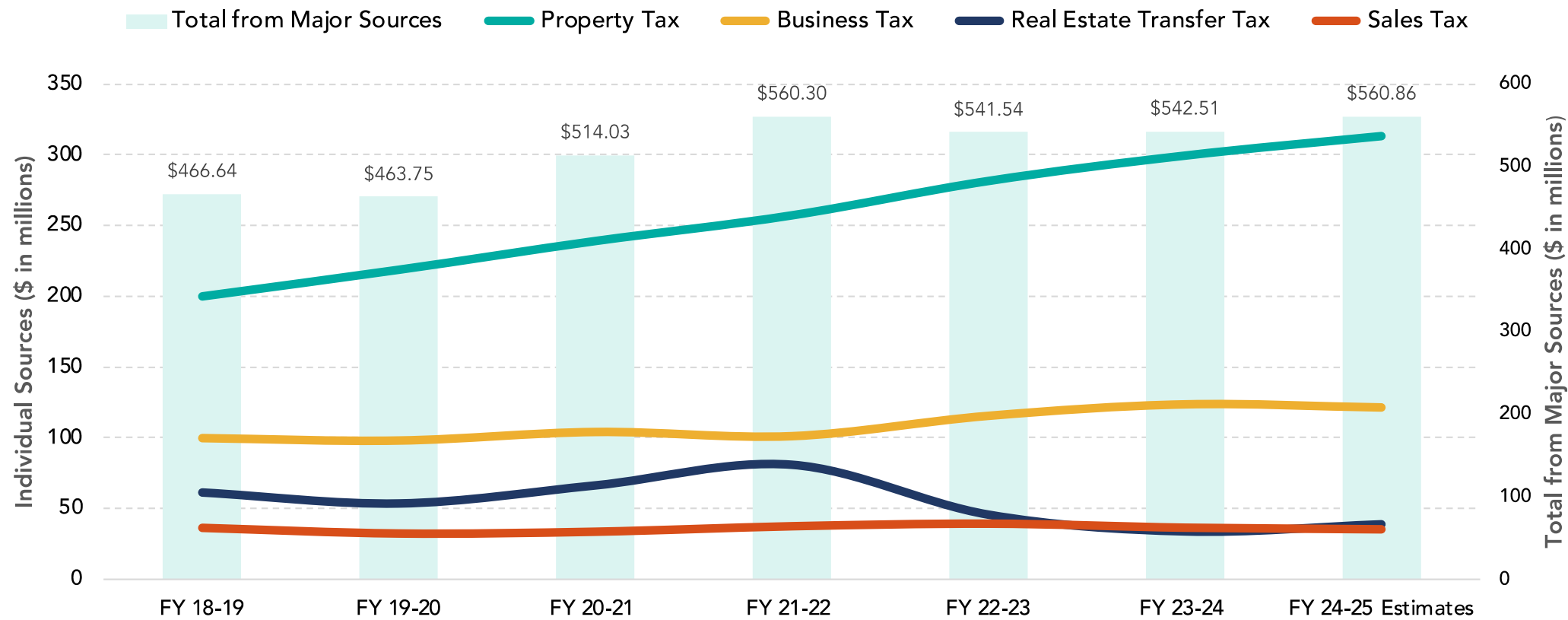
**Lauded as a national model, some question whether Oakland's privacy commission is working**

**Oakland Police Commission to hold forums on changing pursuit policy**

# CRIME’S IMPACT: Economic activity in Oakland has slowed considerably, as implied by flat receipts vs. 2021-2022 across four key categories

## City of Oakland General Purpose Fund, Trends in Major Revenue Sources

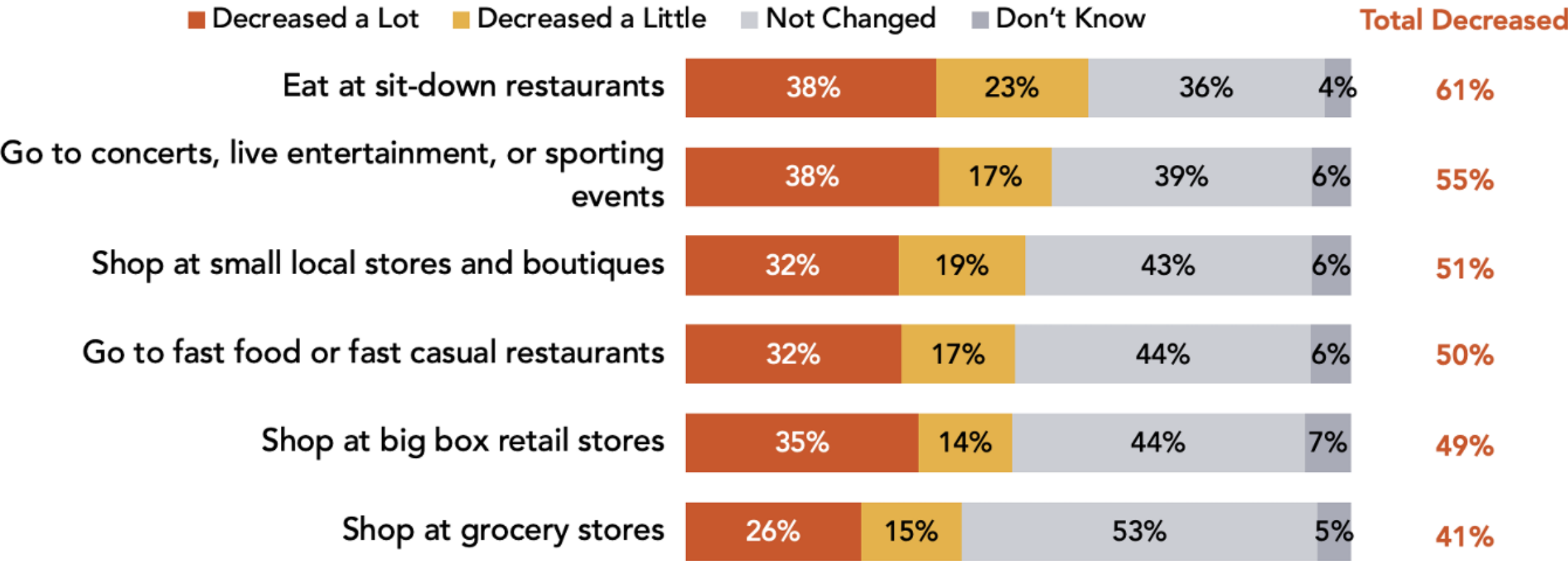
Left axis displays values for each revenue line item; Right axis displays value for the total of the four sources



**Source:** City of Oakland, General Purpose Fund Major Revenue Sources Overview Report  
**Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# CRIME’S IMPACT: Majorities say they are frequenting Oakland businesses less

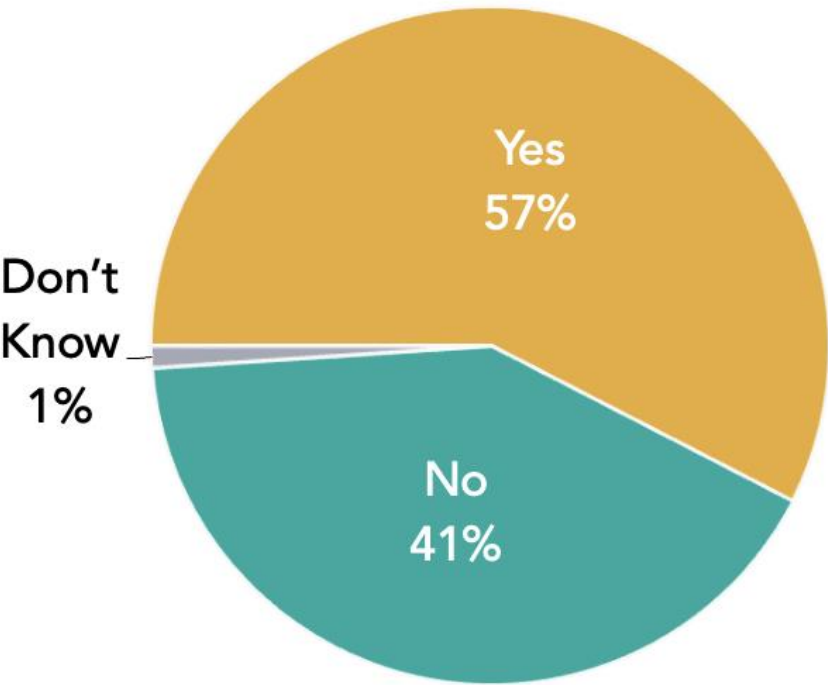
Q: Here is a list of types of activities and businesses in Oakland. Please indicate if the amount you visit these types of businesses in Oakland has decreased in the past few years:



Analysis: FM3 Research  
Note: Survey conducted February 11-16, 2025. Question has n=1,229.

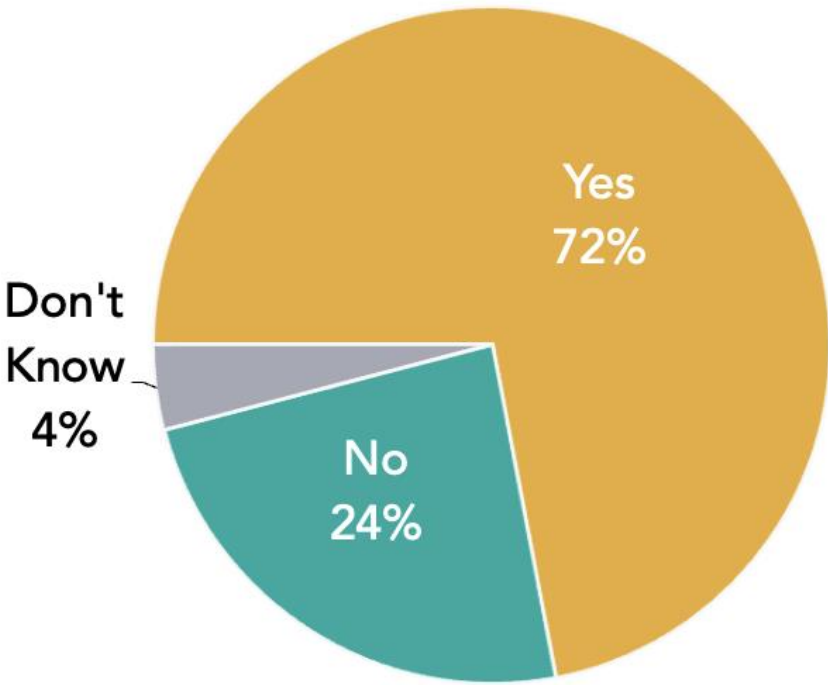
# CRIME’S IMPACT: Crime plays a key factor in suppressing sales tax receipts and puts downward pressure on property values

*Q: Do you ever leave Oakland and go to businesses, restaurants, and shops in nearby cities because you feel safer? (n=818)*



*Q: Have public safety concerns played a role in you visiting these kinds of businesses less in the past few years?*

(Asked of those who decreased visits to Oakland businesses only, n=949)



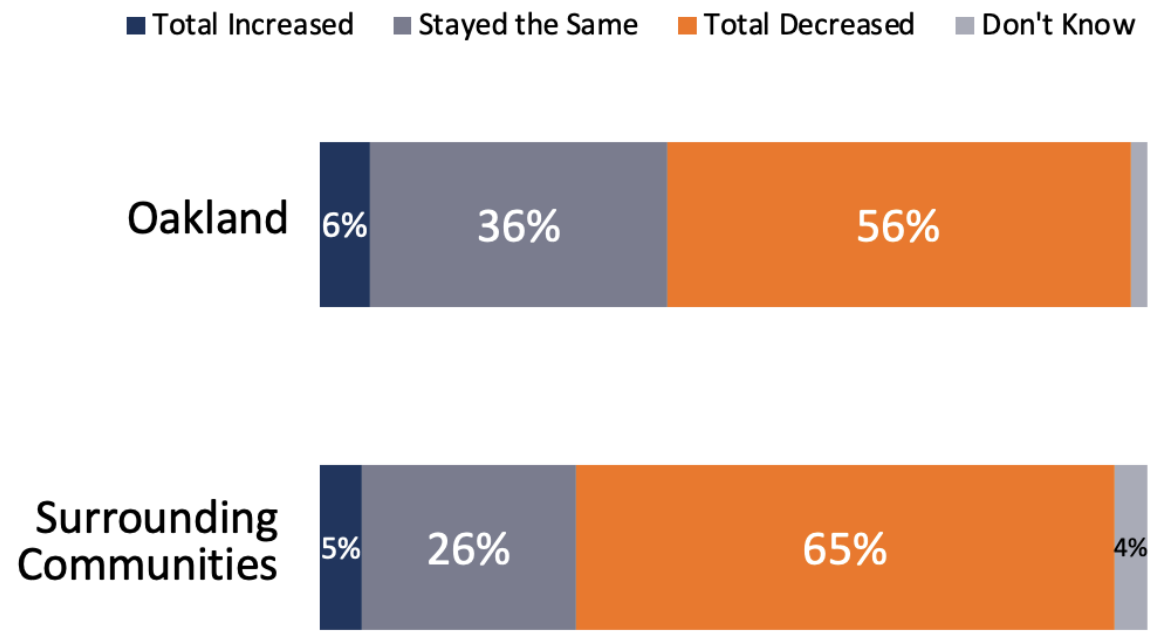
**Analysis:** FM3 Research  
**Note:** Survey conducted February 11-16, 2025.



# CRIME’S IMPACT: Downtown plays an outsized role in revenue sources, and data suggests the recovery is slowed by crime.

- Roughly ¼ of citywide sales taxes come from downtown or West Oakland (Council District 3)
- 20% of all property taxes are derived from downtown, Jack London Square, Chinatown, or West Oakland (94612 and 94607 zip codes)
- Of the 50 most valuable properties in Oakland, 41 are in the downtown area and generate 9% of the city’s total property tax receipts.
- Based on 2025 county data, the assessed value of all property in Oakland remains flat at \$89 billion compared with property valuations used in the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget.

*Has how often you visit businesses, restaurants, and shops in downtown Oakland increased, decreased or stayed the same in the past few years?*



# Oakland Crime Trends Study Recommendations

1. Expand, not just protect, funding for public safety including additional sworn officers
2. Secure future dedicated funding sources for Oakland Police Department

## FUNDING

3. Create a citywide goal to end court oversight of the Oakland Police Dept.
4. Transition to a police review agency that includes both community members and police representation
5. Clarify processes to update OPD policies and move decision-making power into a single elected body that can act in the public interest more quickly
6. Reform City Charter and police accountability structures; analyze aspects of the Negotiated Settlement Agreement that should remain and those that should end after court oversight concludes

## GOVERNANCE

# Oakland Crime Trends Study Recommendations

7. Make investments in OPD that would have positive ROI:

- Technology as a force multiplier
- Investments in a real-time operations center and technology personnel
- Ceasefire expansion and creation of a similar program for property crime
- Partnerships with other law enforcement agencies

8. Optimize police patrol deployment with a revised beat map

**OPERATIONAL**

9. Grow the Oakland Police Foundation

10. Build stronger relationships with the private and philanthropic sectors to make investments in economic opportunity and crime prevention programs

**PARTNERSHIP &  
COMMUNITY**

# Next Steps

