

Let's Make America Great Again

February 28, 2017 | Andrea Smith

Prior to President Trump's presidency, he made it known that he believes America is no longer safe. Not only does Trump think America is no longer safe but that America is currently the most dangerous it has been in some time.

In March 2016, Trump states on Good Morning America, "I don't think America is a safe place for Americans right now." He goes on to state that the reason he believes America isn't safe anymore it is because our nation continuously allows thousands of people to enter our country. He continued to say, "Nobody knows where they're from. Who they are. They're coming in by the thousands."

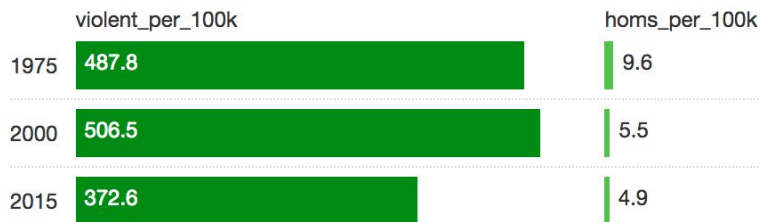
Based on Trump's several interviews, his campaign for the 2017 presidential election, and his Presidency today, it is evident that Trump strongly encourages our nation to make positive progress in our national security. He has continuously stated that he wants to make America great again and this has been reflected in the executive orders he has signed as president of the United States.

The Marshall Project is a non-profit newsroom that covers criminal justice, its database proves President Trump's statements about the safety of America to be incorrect or as some would call it, alternative facts. Collected in this database presented by The Marshall Project is FBI crime statistics for approximately 68 of the most popular cities in the United States and an outlook on where the nation has stood for the past decades.

With a selective breakdown of 15-year increments, the data shows how America has become safer over the past decades. A senior broadcast journalism student at Penn State, Nicole Perez states, "I am from the Bronx. The Bronx is definitely much safer today compared to when I was growing up. I couldn't even go out to play or go to the school in my neighborhood because it was always so dangerous. Today, myself and my family feel safe enough to go for a walk without fear of something happening to us."

Below is a nationwide view of America's crime statistics in homicides and violent crimes during the years 1975, 2000 and 2015.

National Dataset



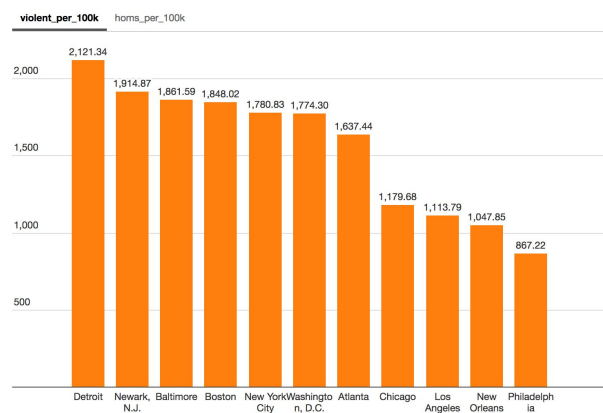
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The dataset shows that from 1975 to 2015 there has been an overall decrease in violence and homicides across the United States. Not just a decrease but also dramatic decreases proving President Trump's point to be inaccurate. According to these statistics America is not most dangerous right now.

It is known that data and statistics change constantly. After reviewing the FBI crime statistics presented in The Marshall Project it became apparent that in certain regions of the US the crime rate decreased and in others the crime rate increased. Below are data visualizations illustrating violent crimes and homicide statistics that took place in 1975 within randomly selected cities across the nation.

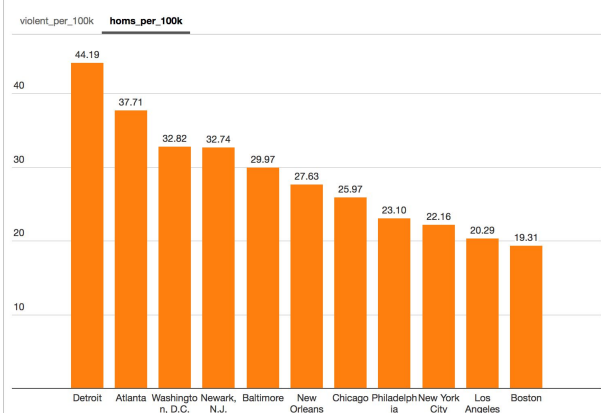
Dataset for 1975



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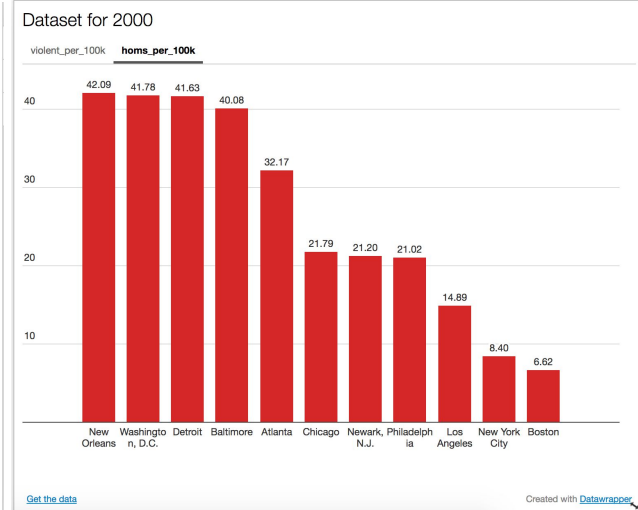
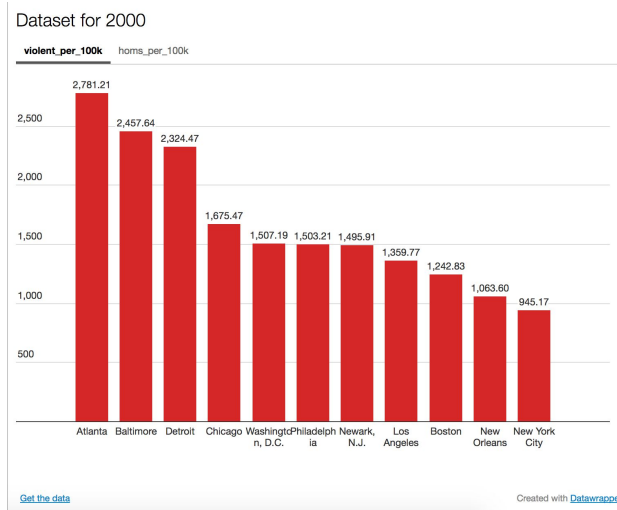
Dataset for 1975



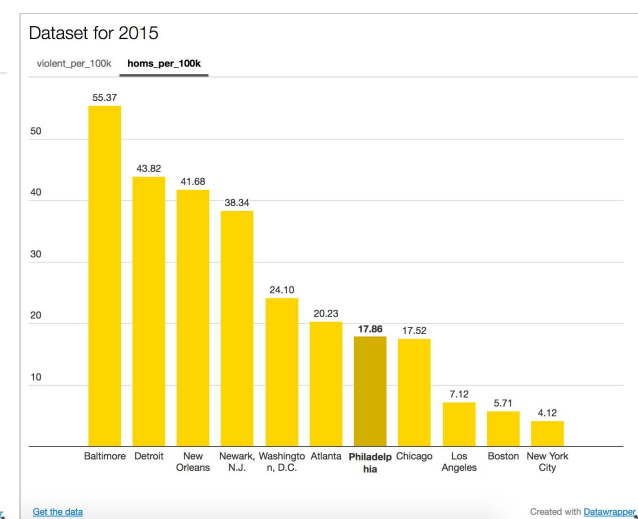
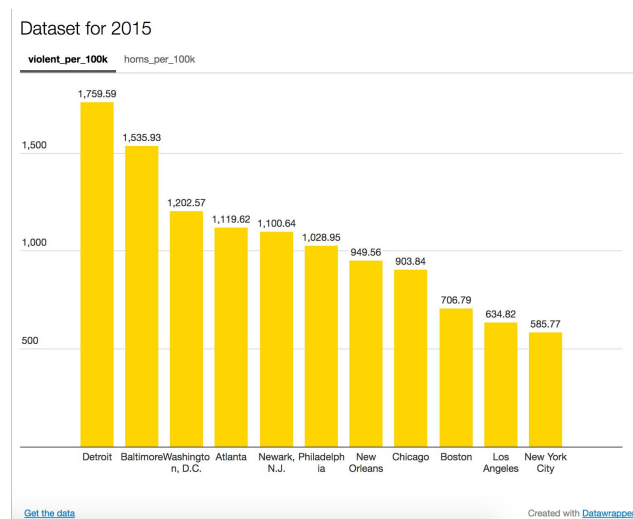
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As shown on the graphs, it is revealed that during 1975 Detroit was one of the most dangerous cities in the US whereas in 2000 this completely changed. Atlanta became one of the cities with the most violent crimes and New Orleans became one of the cities known for homicides. Although the cities changed, the numbers in the statistics became significantly lower in 2000 compared to 1975.



This became a trend which became prevalent in the FBI crime statistics dataset for 2015. As reflected in the graphs below, violent crime rates significantly decreased from 2000 to 2015 and especially from 1975 to 2015. Although in this graph Detroit's statistic increased, the other overall decrease. This is the same thing for 2015 homicides, there is an increase in homicides in Baltimore and Detroit but there is an overall decrease.



Reflecting on the statistics and the data visualizations, is it safe to say that President's comments may be inaccurate? That is up to you to decide. Some cities do need quite a bit of an improvement but all in all the nation has made a huge progress from 1975 to 2015 when it comes to the safety of all Americans and this is reflected in the data set and statistics.