

Crime Data on Retail Theft and Robberies in California

Testimony to the State Assembly
Select Committee on Retail Theft

December 19, 2023

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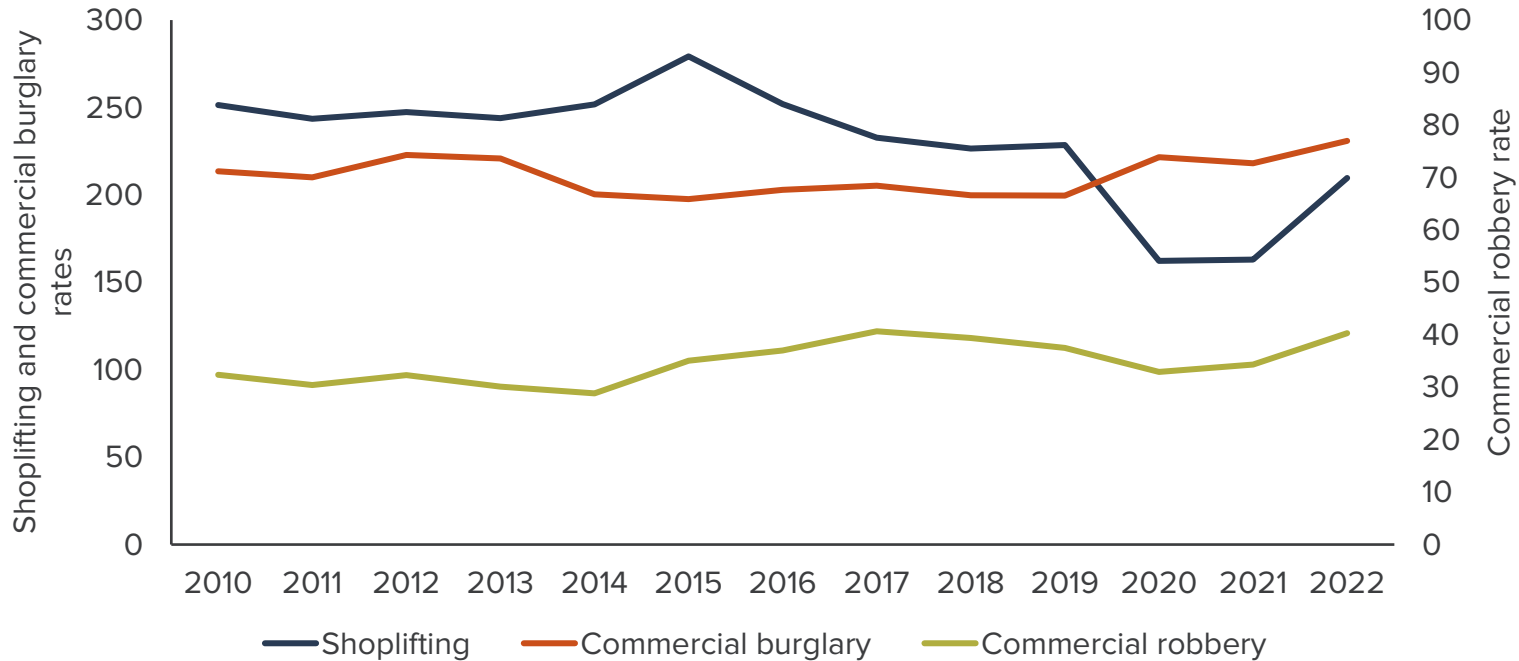
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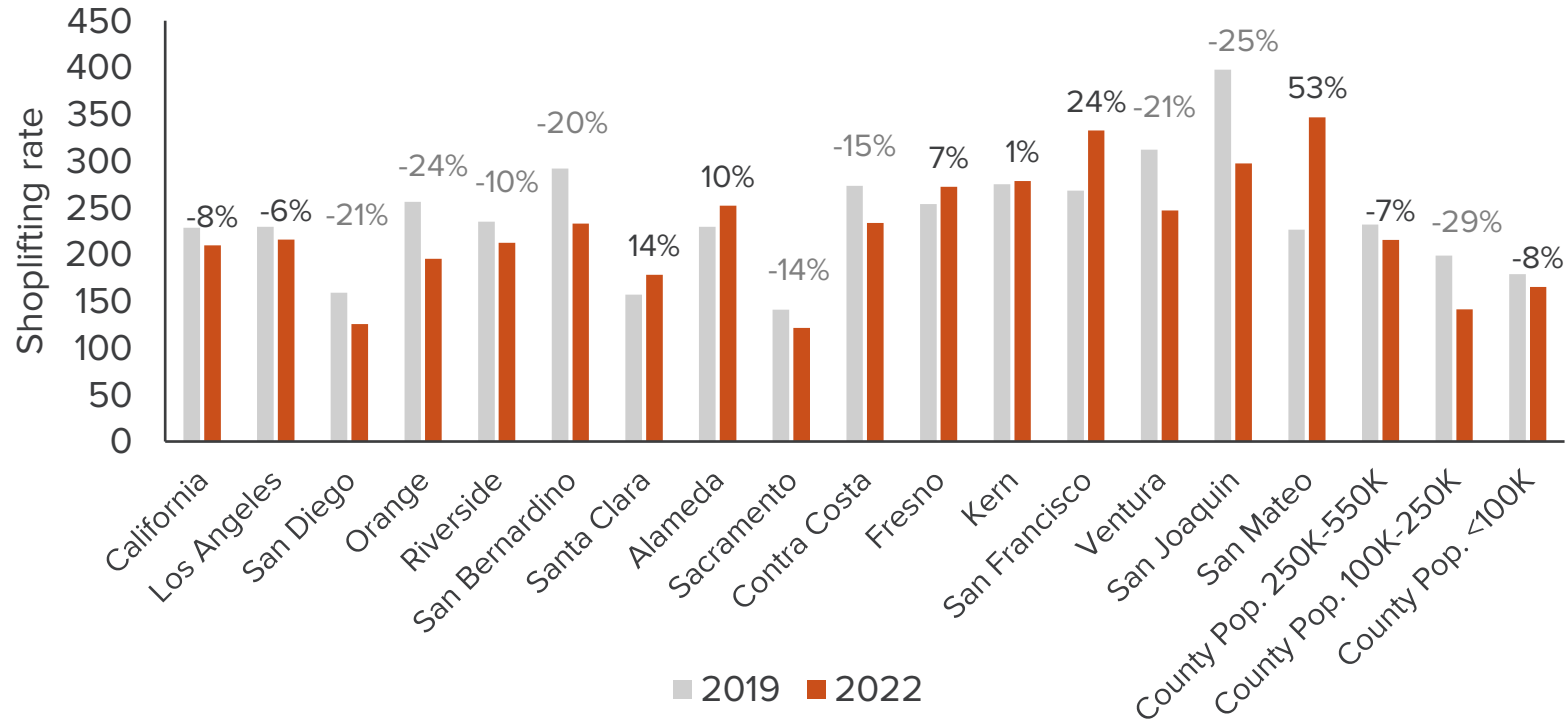
CA Department of Justice provides crime data, updated through 2022

- Retail theft
 - Shoplifting (larceny)
 - Commercial burglary (burglary)
- Retail robbery
 - Commercial robbery (robbery)
- Important caveats about crime data on retail theft
 - Underreporting
 - Incidents reported to law enforcement agency
 - Reporting may differ across agencies, and change over time

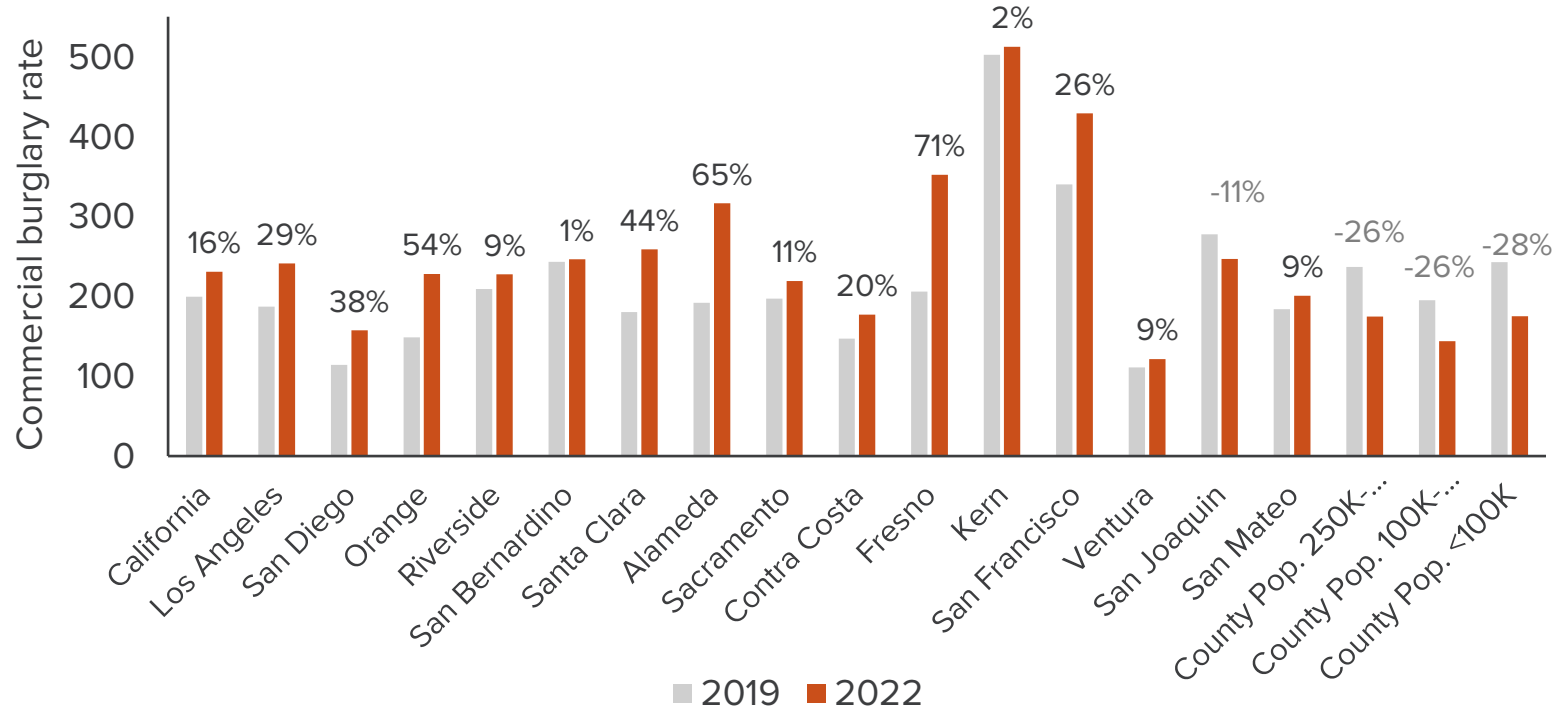
Rates of retail theft and robbery have risen in recent years



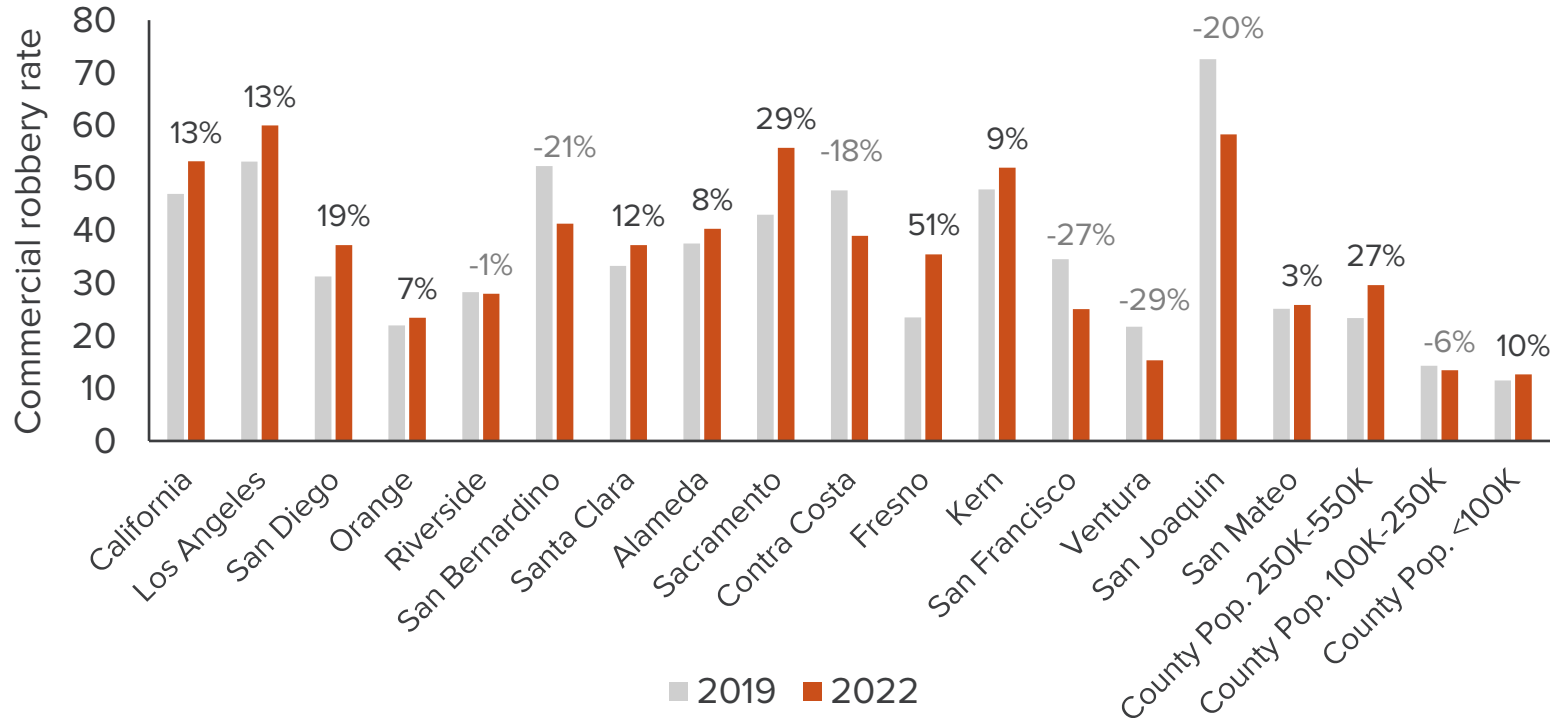
The Bay Area had the largest recent increases in shoplifting rates



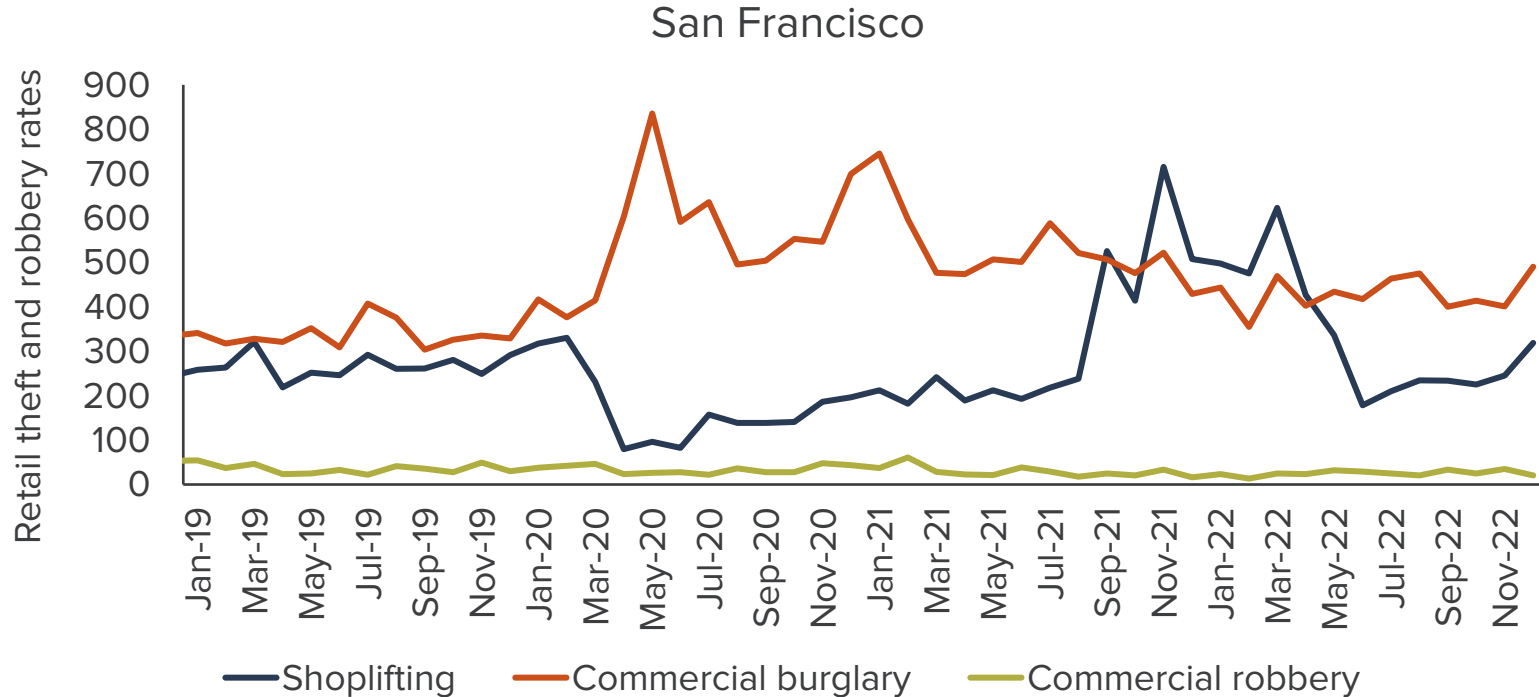
Commercial burglary was up in 14 of California's 15 largest counties, but down in smaller counties



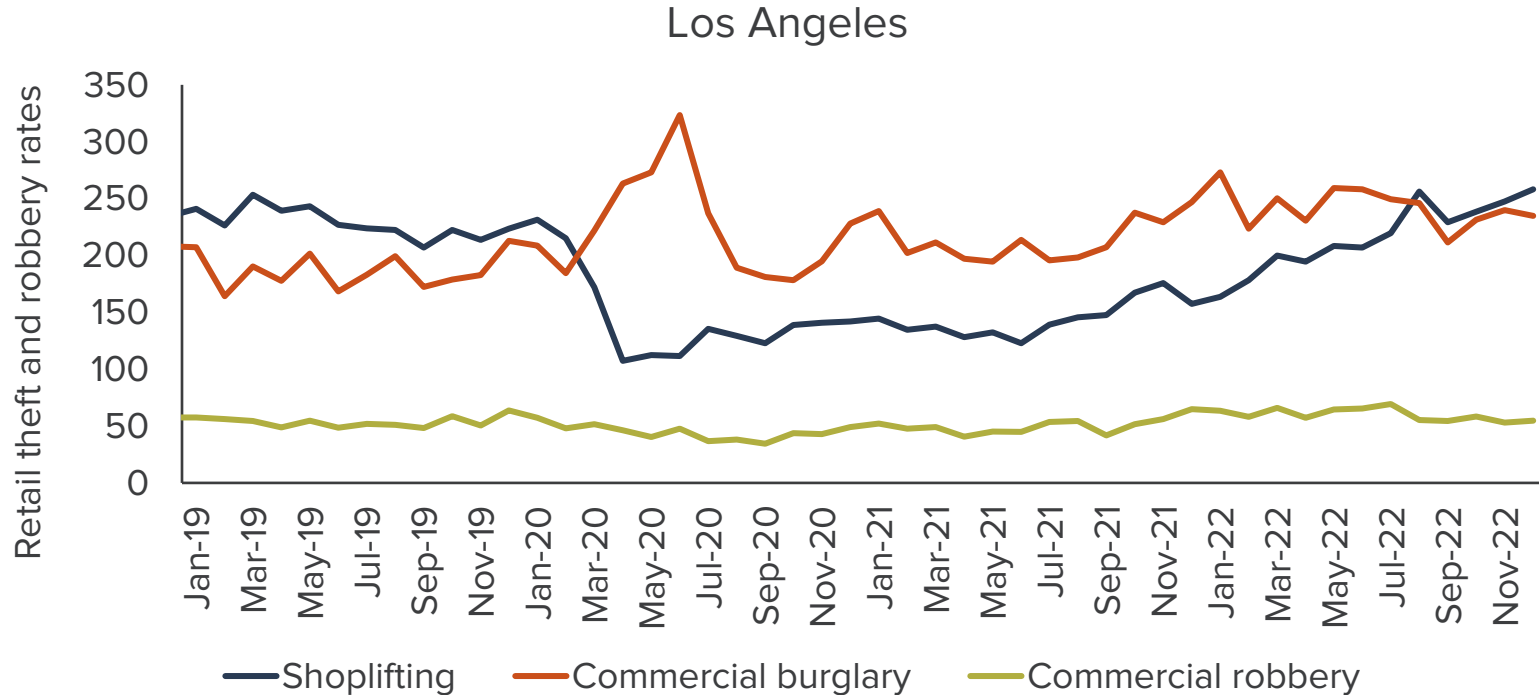
Commercial robbery rates increased in 9 of the 15 largest counties, and some rural counties



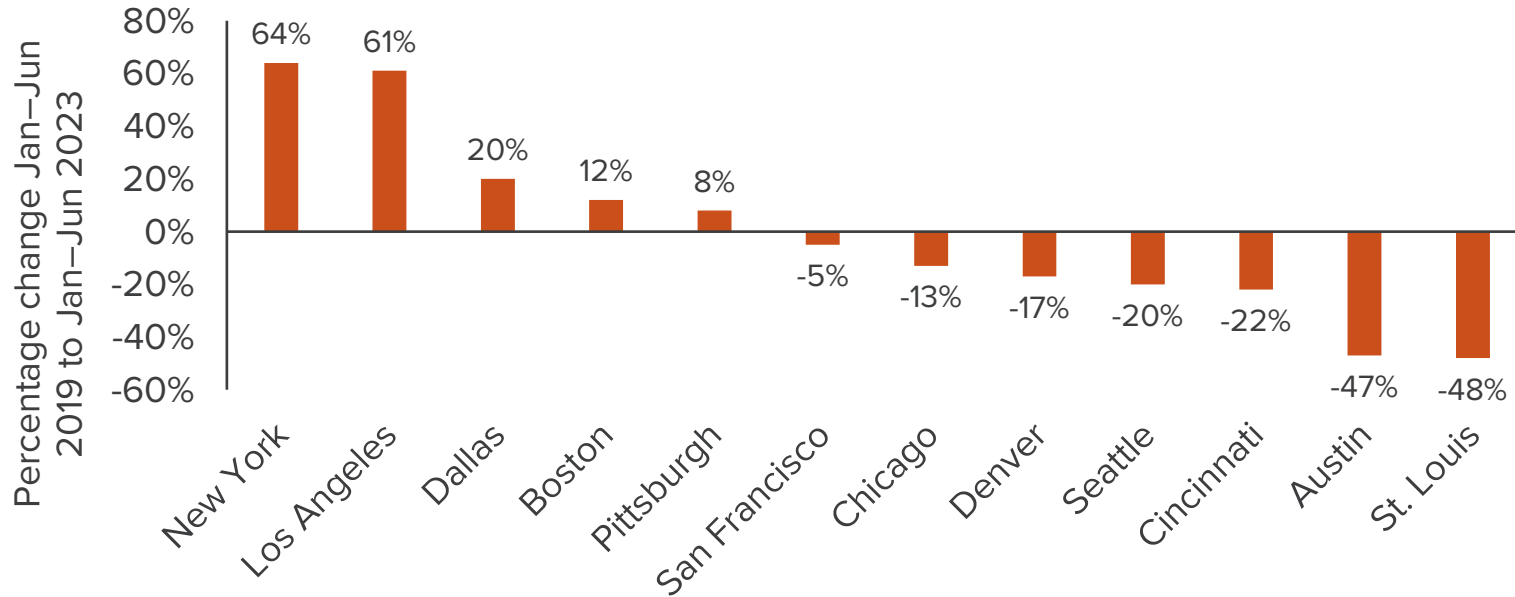
San Francisco's rise in shoplifting is driven by a jump from mid-2021 to mid-2022



Shoplifting has risen steadily in Los Angeles since summer of 2021



Changes in shoplifting also vary widely in select cities across the nation



Source: Council on Criminal Justice, “Shoplifting Trends: What You Need to Know”, November 2023

Retail theft has increased in urban areas, according to data

- Increases in shoplifting most evident in the Bay Area
- Shoplifting appears to be trending up in other areas, such as Los Angeles
- Increase in commercial burglary more widespread, up in most large urban counties
 - Up in 21 counties, housing 82% of the state's population
- Commercial robberies rose in both urban and smaller rural counties
 - Up in 25 counties, housing 71% of the population
- Monthly 2022 data do not point towards further increases in commercial burglaries or robberies

Notes on the use of these handouts

These handouts were created to accompany a testimony. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.