

Trump's DC crime crackdown overwhelmingly benefits Black Americans as homicides hit zero

Opinion by Emma Colton 9/8/2025

President [Donald Trump](#)'s federalization of the D.C. police department and crackdown on Washington crime overwhelmingly benefited Black Americans, who are common victims of violent crimes, crime data found.

"You go 13 days without a homicide occurring. Those homicides would have invariably been very heavily Black," Crime Prevention Research Center Founder and President John Lott told Fox News Digital in a Wednesday phone interview. "And so those lives, you have Blacks who didn't die, who otherwise would have died."

The streak of no homicides overwhelmingly benefits Black Americans, the data found. Between 2019 and 2021, Black victims accounted for 96% of all homicides in the District, the report found.

"You have others that are there that are going out and claiming that Trump's policies are racist. Who are the victims of these crimes?" Lott asked, referring to Democrat politicians who have rejected Trump's plans to roll out similar crime crackdowns in other cities notorious for crime woes.



Federal agents in Washington, D.C., Sept. 3, 2025. President Trump federalized DC's police department Aug. 11, 2025. Getty Images© Getty Images

Five missing children have been rescued because of the federal operation. Additionally, 50 homeless encampments have been cleared from the city, and the MPD is working with city officials to locate and clear additional encampments.

In a Truth Social post on Sunday, Trump declared that "DC IS NOW A CRIME FREE ZONE, IN JUST 12 DAYS!!!"



Members of the Drug Enforcement Administration and police patrol near Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., Aug. 14, 2025. Reuters© Jose Luis Gonzalez/Reuters

There have been 1,914 total arrests in D.C. as of Sept. 5 since the crackdown began in August, including illegal immigrants, those with outstanding warrants, individuals carrying illegal firearms or drugs and other crimes.

Lott said the operation will also have indirect benefits to D.C. residents, especially its poorest locals who have suffered with stores closing in recent years due to crime and costs of operating in a city rocked by crime.

"Anybody who goes to a CVS or Walgreens knows everything's behind plexiglass there," he said. "You want to go and buy something, you have to wait for a clerk to come over, unlock the things for you and then stand next to you while you read the packages and try to figure out what you want to buy. Those are really huge costs that those businesses have to have. That means the products that you have are more expensive. So if you're a poor person who lives in D.C., there, one of the stores that you may have frequented are going to be closed, so you may have to go farther to shop."

"The jobs that people had for working in those stores are lost," he explained. "And the ones that stay in business, their prices go up. And so that means the poor people have to spend more of their money in order to go and buy anything there. So all those are bad things that are happening."

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, for example, recently argued that incarceration of criminals is "racist" and "immoral."

"We cannot incarcerate our way out of violence; we've already tried that, and we've ended up with the largest prison population in the world without solving the problems of crime and violence," Johnson said during an August press conference, the New York Post reported.

"The addiction on jails and incarceration in this country, we've moved past that," he said. "It is racist, it is immoral, it is unholy, and it is not the way to drive violence down."

Police officers set up a roadside checkpoint on 14th street Northwest on August 13, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Getty Images© Getty Images

The zero homicide count during the 13-day August period follows the city experiencing a 16-day run of zero homicides between Feb. 24 to March 13. Lott noted, however, crimes typically increase in the summer months — when residents spend more time outdoors and the days are longer — compared to the winter months.

[crime down](#) across the U.S. following the nation's bloody trends that began in 2020 amid the defund the police protests and riots that summer. He federalized D.C. Aug. 11 under section 740 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, which allows the president to assume emergency control of the capital's police force for 30 days.