

Angela Alsobrooks removed police officers from Prince George's County Public Schools, defunded twenty million dollars for police training and equipment, and implemented a program to keep drug dealers out of jail. Since then, murders have doubled, carjackings have increased over 500%, and violent crime has skyrocketed. Prince George's County has seen a sharp increase in drug overdose deaths that is far worse than the rest of the state and massive brawls have erupted in schools with students bringing loaded guns to class. At one high school, ten fistfights broke out in a single day. She even wants to abolish cash bail, which could release defendants accused of violent crimes back on the streets.

Angela Alsobrooks removed police officers from Prince George's County Public Schools, defunded twenty million dollars for police training and equipment, and implemented a program to keep drug dealers out of jail.

- In the aftermath of the George Floyd Protests, Alsobrooks created a Police Reform Group and implemented many of their radical proposals, including taking police officers out of schools. "Officials in Prince George's County are pledging to implement dozens of recommendations from a police reform task force. Those recommendations include updating the department's use-of-force policy to say officers have a duty to intervene if they see another officer using illegal force and creating a new office of integrity led by an independent inspector general. County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced the county's plan to implement the reforms during a news conference Friday afternoon, saying the action 'puts Prince George's County at the very front of a national movement for accountability.' Overall, the county is implementing 46 of the 50 recommendations proposed by the task force, which Alsobrooks formed in July amid the nationwide push for police reform after the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor... Also on the agenda is the aim to 'dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline' by reducing the number of school security personnel and removing their arrest powers, and reinvesting \$17 million in prevention and intervention program. School security personnel are separate from school resource officers. The security personnel essentially amounts to Prince George's County Public Schools' own police force and has grown to 260 members, 90 of whom have arrest powers. The task force didn't recommend expelling school resource officers, but trimming their ranks, Washington said. 'We believe there's a place for our officers to help build relations with our young people,' he said. The focus is on making sure 'that we don't over-

police our students, but we provide protection and safety of our students,' Washington said." ("Prince George's County pledges 'unprecedented' police reforms," [Maryland Matters](#), 2/5/21; Police Reform Work Group Recommendation Adoption Report, [Office of the Prince George's County Executive](#), Accessed 6/7/24)

- **In June 2020, Alsobrooks announced that \$20 million in the county budget set aside for a new police training facility would instead be used for a new public health facility.** "Prince George's County officials plan to forgo expanding a police training facility and will instead fund a \$20 million public health facility, County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks said Tuesday. Alsobrooks said the new facility will treat mental health and addiction. The health facility would be built using money originally in the county police department's budget for a new public safety training facility." (Bennet Leckrone, "Alsobrooks Seeks New Health Center Instead of Expanded Police Training Facility," [Maryland Matters](#), 06/16/20)
  - **Alsobrooks argued that because one third of those who enter Prince George's County jails have a mental illness, it was "unjust" to treat them in a jail.** "A former Prince George's County state's attorney, Alsobrooks estimated that a third of those who enter Prince George's County jails have a mental illness like addiction, and said it was 'unjust' to treat them in a jail." (Bennet Leckrone, "Alsobrooks Seeks New Health Center Instead of Expanded Police Training Facility," [Maryland Matters](#), 06/16/20)
  - **The announcement came following nationwide anti-police protests that included calls to "defund the police."** "The announcement came in the wake of nationwide protests over systemic racism and police brutality. Many Americans are demanding that local governments across the United States defund or abolish their police departments, and the Prince George's County Board of Education is considering a proposal to remove county police officers from their schools." (Bennet Leckrone, "Alsobrooks Seeks New Health Center Instead of Expanded Police Training Facility," [Maryland Matters](#), 06/16/20)
- **Per Fox News, in 2024 it was reported that Angela Alsobrooks has diverted \$20 million in the county budget from a police training facility to instead use that money to treat mental health, despite an ongoing surge in crime.** "The Democrat running in one of this year's top Senate races previously diverted millions of dollars from law enforcement to fund a mental health facility despite an ongoing surge in crime. Prince George's County executive Angela Alsobrooks, who is running to replace retiring Democrat Sen. Ben Cardin in Maryland, announced in June 2020 that \$20 million in the county budget already set aside for a new police training facility would instead be used to treat mental health and addiction." (Brandon Gillespie, "Top Dem Senate candidate diverted millions from police during crime surge to fund mental health facility," [Fox News](#), 06/14/24)
  - **HEADLINE:** "Top Dem Senate candidate diverted millions from police during crime surge to fund mental health facility"

# Top Dem Senate candidate diverted millions from police during crime surge to fund mental health facility

Maryland's Angela Alsobrooks oversaw an increase in violent crime as a county executive

(Brandon Gillespie, "Top Dem Senate candidate diverted millions from police during crime surge to fund mental health facility," [Fox News](#), 06/14/24)

- **In 2016, State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks launched the Back on Track program in Prince George's County.** "Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks has officially launched Back on Track Prince George's County (BOT-PGC), a new Problem-Solving Court aimed at reducing the recidivism rates of first time, low-level felony drug dealers." ("State's Attorney's Office Launches Back On Track," [Prince George's County State's Attorney](#), 5/27/16)
- **The Back on Track programs "diverts nonviolent, first-time felony drug dealers into career training."** "Absolutely, and I know Kamala. When I ran for office the first time, I was going around saying, 'There's this woman, she wrote a book called Smart on Crime, I read about her in Essence magazine.' And I was talking about her Back on Track program. When I won, she called me. Someone told her I'd been talking about her. She helped me start my own Back on Track program [which diverts nonviolent, first-time felony drug dealers into career training]. When I ran for county executive, she sat down with me for two hours to help chart out the race." (Marisa M. Kashino, "The Future of Prince George's County Is Angela Alsobrooks," [Washingtonian](#), 6/14/19)
- **Through Back on Track, convicted drug dealers avoid jail time and are provided with college courses.** "Two men arrested in Prince George's County for dealing drugs are being given a second chance. In a new program called "Back On Track" the convicted drug dealers can avoid jail time through volunteering, attending college courses, and taking random drug tests. If they successfully complete the program the Court will expunge their felony drug dealing charge. If they fail, a judge will sentence them to prison." (Kevin Lewis, "Back On Track' program gives convicted drug dealers in PG a second chance," [ABC7 News](#), 5/31/16)
  - **The program would require participants to plead guilty.** "Back on Track diverts defendants into a rigorous 12-18-month program that requires participants to plead guilty and participate in the program as a condition of probation." (The Mission, Back On Track, [Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland](#), Accessed 06/24/24)
  - **In exchange for the guilty plea, participants in the Back on Track program can attend community college or a participate in a paid vocational school, among other incentives.**

*Services Offered*

- Evaluation and Treatment
- Services Individual and Family Counseling
- Educational and Vocational Assessment
- High School Diploma and GED
- Paid educational and vocational programming
- Community College
- On-line classes Anger Management and other group sessions

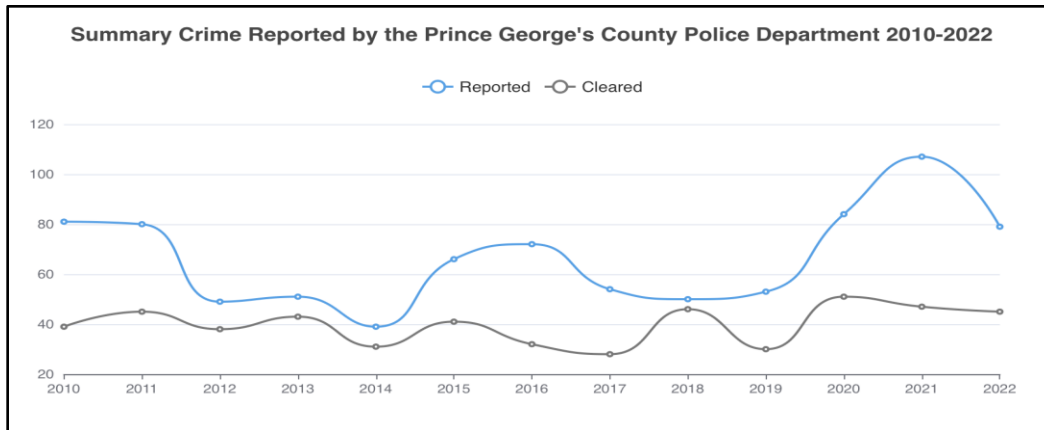
(The Mission, Back On Track, [Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland](#), Accessed 06/24/24)

**Since then, murders have doubled, carjackings have increased over 500%, and violent crime has skyrocketed.**

- Under Alsobrooks’s tenure as Prince George’s County Executive, the number of reported incidents of homicide increased by 113.99% from 2018 to 2021.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Reported Incidents</u>	<u>Number of Cleared Incidents</u>
2018	50	46
2019	53	30
2020	84	51
2021	107	47
2022	79	45

(2010-2022, Homicide, “Summary Crime Reported by the Prince George's County Police Department 2010-2022,” [Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer](#), Accessed 05/21/24)



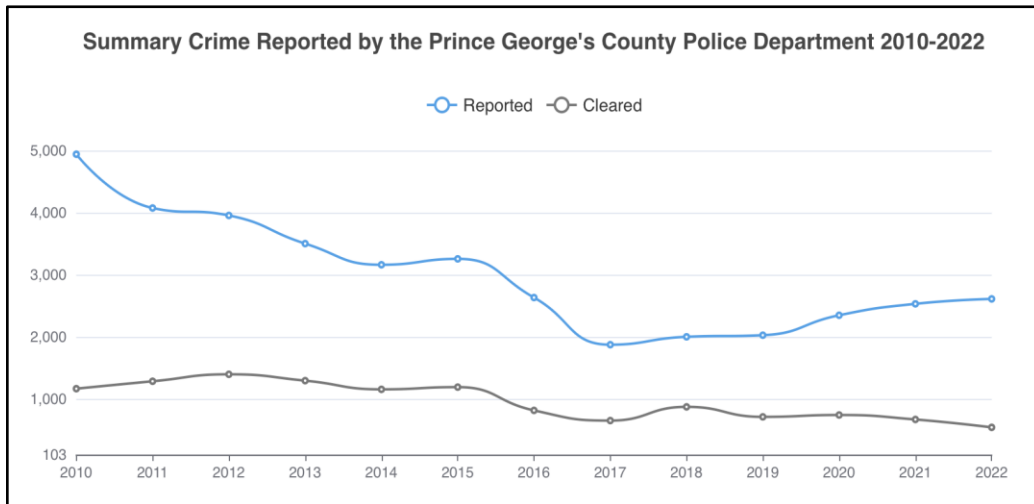
(2010-2022, Homicide, "Summary Crime Reported by the Prince George's County Police Department 2010-2022," [Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer](#), Accessed 05/21/24)

- **In 2018, 60 homicides were committed in Prince George's County.** "While murders in Prince George's County are up over a couple years ago, they are trending down this year. 'There were 60 homicides here in 2018. Last year 135 homicides plagued our city county,' said Police Chief Malik Aziz said. 'But the good news for 2022, so far this year, we've had 28 homicides. By this time last year, we had 41.' There is a spike in other violent crimes as well." (Michelle Murillo, "Prince George's Co. sees violent crime spike," [WTOP](#), 4/15/22)
- **In 2023, 118 homicides were committed in Prince George's County.** "Eight of this year's homicides have been domestic-related – four involving people in past or current relationships and four involving family members such as the murder-suicide of a stepfather and girl. Family-related homicides are a growing concern for county officials. Last year, there were 26 domestic-related homicides, 17 of which were family-related, according to county police data reporting 118 homicides in 2023." (Jasmine Hilton, "Pr. George's sees deadly start to March with eight homicides," [Washington Post](#), 3/14/24)
- **The number of carjackings in Prince George's County rose from 82 in 2018 to 430 in 2022.** "Statistics show that five years ago in 2018, there were a total of 82 carjackings in Prince George's County. Fast forward to 2022, there were a total of 430. It's no secret that carjackings are skyrocketing." (Sierra Fox, "Prince George's County Police Chief Malik Aziz discusses carjacking crisis with FOX 5," [Fox DC](#), 6/6/23)
- **In 2023, nearly 600 carjackings were committed in Prince George's County.** "Nationwide, crime is trending generally down, and that's the case in Prince George's County, Maryland, too – but not when it comes to violent crime, which county police said is up so far this year... In terms of carjackings, there have been nearly 100 in the county so far this year, with juveniles accounting for 50 of the 65 people arrested for the crime. In 2023, the county approached 600 carjackings." (John Domen, "With overall US crime down double digits, what's boosting violent crime rates in Prince George's Co.?" [WTOP](#), 4/24/24)

- During Alsobrooks’s tenure as Prince George’s County Executive, the number of reported incidents of violent crime increased by 30.48% from 2018 to 2022.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Reported Incidents</u>	<u>Number of Cleared Incidents</u>
2018	2,001	873
2019	2,027	712
2020	2,348	742
2021	2,532	670
2022	2,611	543

(2010-2022, All Violent Crimes, “Summary Crime Reported by the Prince George’s County Police Department 2010-2022,” [Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer](#), Accessed 05/21/24)



(2010-2022, All Violent Crimes, “Summary Crime Reported by the Prince George’s County Police Department 2010-2022,” [Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer](#), Accessed 05/21/24)

**Editor’s Note:** In the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, law enforcement agencies can clear, or “close,” offenses in one of two ways: by arrest or by exceptional means. Although an agency may administratively close a case, that does not necessarily mean that the agency can clear the offense for UCR purposes.

- In 2019, 21 carjackings were committed by juveniles in Prince George’s County. “One thing that may be making matters worse is the backlog in the court system. Due to court shutdowns during the pandemic, many criminal cases from over a year ago still have not been to trial. That can mean some criminals are still on the streets, awaiting their court date, and free to commit more crimes. There is a big concern related to those responsible for committing the crimes too. ‘Juveniles went

up every year,' Aziz said. 'It was only 21 juveniles in 2019. In 2021 we had 86 juveniles arrested for carjacking, 86! Our youngest was 12 years old.'" (Michelle Murillo, "Prince George's Co. sees violent crime spike," [WTOP](#), 4/15/22)

- **In 2023, 147 carjackings were committed by juveniles in Prince George's County.** "On Tuesday, leaders from across Prince George's County met for the first of several sessions aimed at reducing juvenile crime in the county. According to the Prince George's County Police Department, of the 508 carjackings in 2023, 147 of them involved juveniles. Of the 98 homicides, 8 of those arrested, were juveniles." (Leslie Moreno, "Leaders in Maryland meet to figure out how to reduce juvenile crimes," [WUSA9](#), 1/30/24)

**Prince George's County has seen a sharp increase in drug overdose deaths that is far worse than the rest of the state and massive brawls have erupted in schools with students bringing loaded guns to class; at one high school, ten fistfights broke out in a single day.**

- **Overdose deaths in Prince George's County rose by 74% from 2016 to 2021, compared to a 34% increase statewide over the same time period.** (Maryland Vital Statistics, "Unintentional Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland, 2021," [Maryland Department of Health](#), 08/2023)

TABLE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNINTENTIONAL DRUG- AND ALCOHOL-RELATED INTOXICATION DEATHS BY PLACE OF OCCURRENCE, MARYLAND, 2012-2021.<sup>1,2</sup>

REGION AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION	TOTAL INTOXICATION DEATHS										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
MARYLAND .....	799	858	1,041	1,259	2,089	2,282	2,406	2,379	2,799	2,800	18,712
NORTHWEST AREA .....	67	86	96	131	214	183	211	189	234	207	1,618
GARRETT .....	0	6	2	5	1	8	3	9	8	6	48
ALLEGANY .....	14	15	12	22	59	38	39	28	52	45	324
WASHINGTON .....	27	28	40	64	86	59	91	88	110	103	676
FREDERICK .....	26	37	42	40	88	78	78	64	64	53	570
BALTIMORE METRO AREA .....	519	557	678	841	1,402	1,549	1,731	1,852	1,860	1,892	12,881
BALTIMORE CITY .....	225	246	305	393	694	761	888	914	1,028	1,079	6,533
BALTIMORE COUNTY .....	119	144	170	220	336	367	388	350	394	390	2,878
ANNE ARUNDEL .....	83	78	101	112	195	214	241	208	251	230	1,713
CARROLL .....	29	24	38	40	47	55	72	56	46	59	466
HOWARD .....	24	29	21	26	46	51	41	37	57	38	370
HARFORD .....	39	36	43	50	84	101	101	87	84	96	721
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA .....	104	111	128	140	231	283	216	251	342	367	2,173
MONTGOMERY .....	48	52	65	70	102	116	89	105	139	142	928
PRINCE GEORGE'S .....	56	59	63	70	129	167	127	146	203	225	1,245
SOUTHERN AREA .....	37	25	47	59	88	103	86	95	111	101	752
CALVERT .....	12	6	17	20	28	32	28	31	25	25	224
CHARLES .....	13	9	21	22	45	37	27	31	53	35	293
ST MARY'S .....	12	10	9	17	15	34	31	33	33	41	235
EASTERN SHORE AREA .....	72	79	92	88	154	164	162	192	252	233	1,488
CECIL .....	25	26	29	32	30	59	62	92	87	87	501
KENT .....	0	4	6	3	6	5	2	10	6	10	52
QUEEN ANNE'S .....	2	8	10	4	8	8	17	13	14	15	99
CAROLINE .....	4	2	7	3	10	11	7	12	17	10	83
TALBOT .....	5	7	4	5	10	11	10	14	17	13	96
DORCHESTER .....	5	5	0	1	6	12	7	11	17	22	86
WICOMICO .....	21	17	20	18	48	35	36	41	47	47	330
SOMERSET .....	3	4	3	6	8	4	8	10	16	10	72
WORCESTER .....	7	6	13	16	28	19	16	19	26	19	169

(Unintentional Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland, [Maryland Department of Health](#), 8/1/21)

- **Overdose deaths in Prince George's County rose sharply when the Back on Track program was implemented in PG County.**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Unintentional Intoxication Deaths</u>
2012	56
2013	59
2014	63

<u>Year</u>	<u>Unintentional Intoxication Deaths</u>
2015	70
2016	129
2017	167
2018	127
2019	146
2020	203
2021	225

(Maryland Vital Statistics, “Unintentional Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland, 2021,” [Maryland Department of Health](#), 08/2023)

*Editor’s Note:* Angela Alsobrooks [launched](#) the Back On Track program in Prince George’s County in May of 2016.

- **In the first nine months of 2017, opioid-related deaths “spiked” in Prince George’s County.** “In the first nine months of 2017, opioid-related overdose deaths spiked in Prince George’s County and reached a new high statewide, according to a Maryland health department report released Friday.” (DBK Admin, “Amid county lawsuit, report shows 18 percent hike in Prince George’s County opioid deaths,” [DBK News](#), 12/31)
  - **There were 79 opioid related deaths in the first nine months of 2016 and 93 in the first 9 months of 2017.** “In Prince George’s County, there were 93 opioid-related deaths in this nine-month period for 2017 and 79 in 2016, according to the report.” (DBK Admin, “Amid county lawsuit, report shows 18 percent hike in Prince George’s County opioid deaths,” [DBK News](#), 12/31)
  - **HEADLINE: “Amid county lawsuit, report shows 18 percent hike in Prince George’s County opioid deaths”**

**Amid county lawsuit, report shows 18 percent hike in Prince George’s County opioid deaths**

(DBK Admin, “Amid county lawsuit, report shows 18 percent hike in Prince George’s County opioid deaths,” [DBK News](#), 12/31)

- **In the first quarter of 2020, Maryland “saw a slight rise in opioid-related deaths.”** “Maryland saw a slight rise in opioid-related deaths over the first quarter of 2020, preliminary data from the state’s health department show, together with increases in unintentional overdoses across nearly all other major drug categories.” (Alejandro Alvarez, Colleen Kelleher, “Md. opioid-related overdose deaths rise slightly, but Prince George’s sees deaths more than double,” [WTOP News](#), 06/10/20)



- In the first quarter of 2020, deaths in Prince George’s County “more than doubled” compared to the year before ‘Deaths in Prince George’s County more than doubled, while deaths in Montgomery County increased by nearly 40%, when compared with the same period a year earlier.’ (Alejandro Alvarez, Colleen Kelleher, “Md. opioid-related overdose deaths rise slightly, but Prince George’s sees deaths more than double,” [WTOP News](#), 06/10/20)
  - In Prince George’s County, 37 people died in the first quarter, compared with 14 deaths over the same time span in 2019. “In Prince George’s County, 37 people died in the first quarter, compared with 14 deaths over the same time span in 2019.” (Alejandro Alvarez, Colleen Kelleher, “Md. opioid-related overdose deaths rise slightly, but Prince George’s sees deaths more than double,” [WTOP News](#), 06/10/20)
  - Per the Maryland Department of Health, these deaths are all in reference to “opioid-related deaths.”

County	2019	2020	Difference	County	2019	2020	Difference
Allegany	7	13	6	Harford	19	19	0
Anne Arundel	49	52	3	Howard	8	12	4
Baltimore City	239	205	(34)	Kent	3	1	(2)
Baltimore	76	80	4	Montgomery	19	26	7
Calvert	8	4	(4)	Prince George's	14	37	23
Caroline	5	4	(1)	Queen Anne's	4	1	(3)
Carroll	14	8	(6)	Somerset	1	3	2
Cecil	11	20	9	St. Mary's	4	4	0
Charles	3	6	3	Talbot	3	3	0
Dorchester	1	6	5	Washington	24	30	6
Frederick	20	13	(7)	Wicomico	8	7	(1)
Garrett	0	2	2	Worcester	7	5	(2)
<b>Statewide Total</b>					<b>547</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>14</b>

Here's a look at opioid-related deaths by county. (Courtesy Maryland Department of Health)

- HEADLINE: “Md. opioid-related overdose deaths rise slightly, but Prince George’s sees deaths more than double”

## Md. opioid-related overdose deaths rise slightly, but Prince George’s sees deaths more than double

(Alejandro Alvarez, Colleen Kelleher, “Md. opioid-related overdose deaths rise slightly, but Prince George’s sees deaths more than double,” [WTOP News](#), 06/10/20)

- In 2022, an Instagram page was discovered sharing over a dozen videos of fights taking place at a Prince George’s County high school. “Someone is sharing videos of fights at a Prince George's County high school on social media. A Prince George's County Public Schools spokesperson says the school district is aware of an Instagram page that has been set up that shows fist fights that have allegedly occurred at Potomac High School in Oxon Hill. The page, which has been set to private, has more than a dozen posts. However, PGCPS said it cannot access the page due to its privacy.” (John Henry, “Prince George's mother concerned about fights at local high school,” [WUSA9](#), 2/8/22)

- **In December 2023, ten fistfights broke out in a single day at a Prince George’s County high school, including a “large brawl.”** “School officials continue to investigate after over 10 fights broke out at Charles Herbert Flowers high school in Prince George's County. According to officials, 10 fights broke out between students on Tuesday, December 19 during the day and ended with another school coming to the school property to fight. In a viral video posted on social media, it appears a large brawl broke out in the hallway of the high school, causing a chaotic scene.” (Sylvia Mphofe, “Over 10 fights broke out at Prince George's County high school, school officials confirm,” [Fox5 DC](#), 12/20/23)
  - **Shortly after, over the course of two days, two different students brought loaded guns to the school.** “Another student has been found with a loaded gun at a Prince George's high school. It was the second reported incident in two days. A 17-year-old boy attending Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro was found with a loaded gun by Prince George’s County Public Schools security personnel around 9:30 a.m. Friday, according to Prince George’s County Police. The student will be charged with handgun on person, dangerous weapon on school property, loaded handgun on person and additional charges, the police department noted. The day prior, Patch reported that an 18-year-old student at Charles Herbert Flowers High School took a loaded gun to school. This incident followed 10 fights that broke out Tuesday at the school.” (Kristin Danley-Greiner, “2nd Loaded Gun Brought To School After Fights: Prince George's Police,” [Patch](#), 12/28/23)
  
- **In 2024, Prince George’s County elementary school students were discovered recording fights between children.** “Video from inside a classroom at Cora Rice Elementary School shows students counting down before a fight between a boy and girl. Classmates cheered and recorded the fight on their phones. A parent of one of the children involved told News4 nothing was done to stop the fight. A teacher seen briefly in the video has resigned, according to Prince George’s County Public Schools, but the school system did not say if that was related to the fight video. In a statement, the school system said administrators have been made aware that some fifth-grade students have been taking part in what they call ‘the fight game.’ The school’s principal sent a letter to parents referring to ‘horseplaying and play fighting.’ ‘Some of the students are engaging in ‘The Fight Game,’ the letter reads. ‘The students set the rules (no hitting my face, pulling of hair, etc.) and countdown while two students fight. While we understand that children may engage in playful activities, it's crucial to emphasize the importance of maintaining safe and respectful behavior at all times. Such behaviors can lead to real fights, accidents, and injuries, which we aim to prevent to ensure the well-being of all students.’” (Darcy Spencer, “‘Fight game’ in elementary school classroom caught on video,” [NBC4 News](#), 3/8/24)

**Alsobrooks even wants to abolish cash bail, which could release defendants accused of violent crimes back on the streets.**

- **In 2016, Alsobrooks broke with her fellow state prosecutors and testified in favor of limiting cash bail in Maryland, claiming she was “ashamed” of and “devastated about” the state’s criminal justice system.** “Judges in Maryland would not be able to set bail that is too high for a poor defendant to pay unless the defendant is considered a flight risk or a danger to society, under a rule change that a key judiciary committee voted Friday to recommend to the state’s highest court. The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Maryland Court of Appeals voted 18 to 5 to recommend an overhaul of the state’s money-based bail system, which critics say is unfair to poor and minority defendants. The public will have 30 days to review the rule change – which is opposed by bail bondsmen, most state prosecutors and some state lawmakers – before it is considered by the Court of Appeals....Among those testifying in favor of a change was Attorney General Brian E. Frosh (D), who asked the rules committee to consider a change after his office issued an opinion that the state’s system probably was unconstitutional, and Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Angela Alsobrooks (D), who broke from most of her colleagues. ‘I’m almost ashamed to admit that we have a two-tiered system,’ Alsobrooks said. ‘I have become devastated about the way we have operated our criminal justice system.’” (Ovetta Wiggins, “Bail reform in Maryland clears major hurdle,” [Washington Post](#), 11/18/16)
- **Alsobrooks in March 2017: “We want to take the money out of the bail system.”** “About 100 people rallied on Tuesday, with the support of Maryland legislators, against a Senate bill that, they said, would walk back a ruling by the Maryland Court of Appeals regarding bail reform. The bill, which passed in the Senate and is under consideration in the House of Delegates, establishes new requirements and standards for the release of defendants before their trial. The bill would increase the use of bail, according a state analysis. ‘We will not stand for this,’ Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Angela Alsobrooks said. ‘We want to take the money out of the bail system. We want to take the profit motive out. We stand with the Court of Appeals.’” (Carrie Snurr, “Bill that would revive cash bail draws ire,” [Capital News Service](#), 3/30/17)
- **After Maryland passed its bail reform, more released suspects failed to appear at their trial date because, according to the Baltimore County State’s Attorney, they “don’t have any incentive to come to court other than it’s their duty to come to court. They don’t have skin in the game.”** “Immediately following the new bail reform policy in Maryland, more people who were arrested were released before trial on their own recognizance or an unsecured personal bond. In just eight months inside the new bail reform program, the percentage of defendants held without bond more than doubled. Consequentially, in January 2017, nearly 1,600 of 11,028 defendants had failure to appears (the highest rate of any month in the data released since January 2016). The Baltimore County State’s Attorney stated, ‘Defendants who don’t post bail ‘don’t have any incentive to come to court other than it’s their duty to come to court. They don’t have skin in the game’.’” (“The Truth About Bail Reform In Maryland,” [Bail Bonds Now](#), Accessed 6/7/24)

- **Fully ending cash bail in Illinois resulted in suspects accused of violent felonies being released on to the street as they await trial.** “Suspects accused of violent felonies, some with extensive criminal records, are now roaming the streets of Illinois as they await trial thanks to a liberal law that ended cash bail in the state, a Washington Free Beacon review found. After that law went into effect mid-September, an array of violent arrestees who may have otherwise remained behind bars were released from custody without bail. One Illinois man, whose rap sheet includes 15 arrests, was released after he allegedly bit a police officer and squeezed the officer's testicles. Another man, who was already on parole for armed robbery, avoided pretrial detention after allegedly breaking into a high-end boutique. A third woman was released from custody after she appeared to attack four Chicago police officers—the woman's release came on the first day the state's bail reform law went into effect.” (Jessica Costescu, “Meet the Violent Criminals Roaming the Illinois Streets Thanks to State's Cash Bail Ban,” [Washington Free Beacon](#), 10/2/23)
- **According to the Constitutional Accountability Center, ending cash bail “could let criminals roam free.”**

## **CON: IT COULD LET CRIMINALS ROAM FREE**

Ending cash bail and allowing defendants to leave jail without paying any money “will have serious ramifications for law-abiding citizens and give drug cartels free rein on Illinois’ streets,” former Illinois state Rep. Jim Durkin wrote for the [Chicago Tribune](#). Because defendants will only be detained pre-trial if they face non-probational felonies, the change is a “slap in the face to victims and neighborhoods desperately seeking safety.”

(Constitutional Accountability Center, “[The pros and cons of ending cash bail](#),” 3/30/23)