

Crime is down everywhere in S.F. — except in these two neighborhoods

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Property crime in San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood rose 29% in the first four months of 2025 compared with the same period last year, driven by car break-ins and retail theft. (Thomas Sawano/S.F. Chronicle)

After [a year of historically low](#) crime numbers, San Francisco has continued to see an [impressive decline in crime](#) so far this year. But a Chronicle analysis revealed that reports in one area aren't seeing such a decrease: SoMa and Mission Bay.

The two neighborhoods, which are both in San Francisco Police Department's Southern District, have both seen apparent increases in property crime in the first four months of 2025 compared with the same period last year, driven by upticks in larceny theft, which includes crimes like shoplifting and car break-ins.

The numbers in both places are still lower than in most other years — the trend is far from a crime spike. But while the rest of the city, including areas with high property crime rates like the

Mission, the Tenderloin and the Financial District, seems to be continuing to experience San Francisco's precipitous crime decline, reported property crime was up 29% in SoMa and 52% in Mission Bay. (The per capita property crime rate is much lower in Mission Bay than in SoMa, which has the highest reported rates in the city.)

Supervisor Matt Dorsey, whose district includes the neighborhoods, said that picking out the underlying reasons behind changes in crime data is "inherently speculative," and that, particularly with property crime, it is impossible to know what goes unreported. In other words, it's possible that what's up is not just the larcenies themselves, but residents' motivation to call the police.

But he also said that, as the police department cracks down on [areas like the Tenderloin](#), where certain corner stores are [required to close](#) from midnight until 5 a.m., some of "the street-level bad activity" has moved into SoMa. Residents throughout the city [have expressed frustration](#) that targeted enforcement in hot spots has dispersed drug activity into smaller streets and other parts of the city.

"We know anecdotally that there has been some displacement," Dorsey said. Police did not answer a question about whether SoMa might be impacted by crime displacement from other neighborhoods. Public information officer Paulina Hendersen instead said in a statement that SFPD is "constantly evaluating where crimes occur" and that "we surge" where needed.

"SOMA is currently an area where SFPD is devoting resources to combat larceny and other crimes targeting our businesses," the statement said. "The SFPD will continue to make this neighborhood a priority, focusing on the safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors." Henderson also urged people "to report any crimes that have occurred to better deploy further resources and assistance."

Henry Karnilowicz, the president of the South of Market Business Association, said that SoMa definitely grapples with property crime: He pointed to a December [public safety town hall](#), where, with police present, someone walked into the building and stole a woman's phone off a table. But he said that he hadn't noticed much of an increase in such crimes so far this year, especially compared to years past.

In fact, he said, police efforts and clean ups by San Francisco Public Works and neighborhood groups around [troubled corridors like Sixth Street](#) have been improving the situation overall.

"It's certainly not as bad as it used to be," he said. "I'm not seeing broken glass everywhere."

On Thursday afternoon, there was still street-level disorder and public drug use in the stretch of Sixth Street between Market and Howard, much of it pushed into alleys and side streets like Minna Street rather than on Sixth itself. Still, it was an improvement over the conditions that merchants and residents sounded the alarm about at the public safety meeting late last year. Dorsey said that many of his constituents acknowledge that crime and street disorder overall are better than they were in the past, but that there is "some frustration that we are not in a better place."

A former SFPD employee, Dorsey added that, in neighborhood public safety meetings, he has been constantly reminding residents to report every small property crime, even if it's unlikely that the culprit will be caught.

"I have been a broken record about this. ... We can only respond to and deploy to what we know," he said. "I would like to see some of this be good news, that people are reporting more." Some of that does appear to be at play: Reports of shoplifting at the intersection of Fourth and Mission, where the Target is, jumped from 18 by the end of April last year to 83 this year, according to police data. The same Target had [a similar spike](#) in shoplifting reports in late 2021 and 2022. While the reports make up a relatively small portion of the 659 total reported property crimes in SoMa so far this year, such changes still can have an impact on neighborhood level data.

Other neighborhoods with historically high rates of property crime, including tourist-heavy areas like North Beach and the Financial District, have seen continued drops in property crime so far this year, largely due to [steep drop offs in car break-ins](#).

Violent crime remains down citywide by almost 15% so far this year. At the neighborhood level, the numbers are too low in many neighborhoods to be showing major trends this early in the year. In neighborhoods with higher rates of violent crime, including SoMa, the number of incidents is down about the same as the citywide average. San Francisco historically has had [lower violent crime rates](#) than other major cities its size.