

# Crime Offenses

Old Town

Portland, Oregon

January to September 28, 2020

Source



**Monthly Neighborhood Offense Statistics**

Strategic Services Division, Portland Police Bureau

*Last Updated: 10/28/2020*

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# Old Town

## Crime Stats

There has been a substantial drop in crime in the Old Town neighborhood for the period January through September 2020\* as compared to January-September 2019.

In 2012 when “stark metal barricades barricades” were set up in Old Town as street closures in Portland’s “entertainment district “ there was a significant drop in crime - offenses and criminal cases.

At that time, so-called “neighbors” were reported to believe the district was “achieving public safety at the expense of businesses and residents.”

The barricades remained.

However, crime grew. In 2017 it peaked in Old Town with 6% of assaults, 12% homicides, and 23% drug offenses.

That was up until COVID-19 and the closure of nightclubs and sex oriented businesses resulted in a considerable decline in crime.

Comparing 2019 to 2020 for the period January through September, the percentage of person and society crimes in Old Town dropped from 54% to 46%. That is a drop in assaults from 414 to 281. Property crimes accounted for 54% of all offenses in 2020.\*\* As noted above in 2017 six percent of all assaults occurred in Old Town. So far in 2020 it’s at 4%.

There has been a drop in drug/narcotic offenses from 228 to 94. One less murder as in zero murders.

Drug and narcotic offenses dropped from 17% of all such offenses to 11% in 2020. In 2017 this category was 25% when it dropped to 21%, in 2018 - nearly twice what it today.

This is an opportunity to change - to build back for prosperity of residents and businesses - a better mix of businesses that addresses prosperity, people and planet.

What would work is to build a culture of caring as the goal in moving forward.

### Steps

(1) Re-envision the neighborhood not as an entertainment district but a hospitality and health one, Portland's Caring Community.

(2) Document the incompatibility of nightclubs and sexually oriented businesses with established health care and housing employers, most of whom also pay much better wages.

(3) Develop businesses at the intersection of profit and purpose. Produce insights and best practices around social responsibility that go well beyond good neighbor agreements

(4) Attract more social entrepreneurs to fill the need for neighborhood serving businesses applying alternative profit models that include, for example, employee owned businesses and

cooperatives. Innovate. Affordable and healthy food plays an important role in establishing a culture of caring and honoring a history of ethnic diversity from among the many immigrants who called Old Town home.

(5) Form a Portland Entertainment Commission to regulate, promote and enhance entertainment and nightlife throughout the City. What is going on in Old Town needn't just stay in Old Town.

Ruth Ann Barrett, [PDXdowntowner.com](http://PDXdowntowner.com), [Sustainability Advocate](#).

Ms. Barrett lived in Old Town for six years, through 2019 and produced videos, plans and websites promoting the positioning of Old Town as Portland's Caring Community. A much more realistic description of the district based on Central City Concern's large residential footprint, a concentration of health services, and a history of substance abuse and recovery programs.

This in a State with the fourth-highest addiction rate in the country, and one of the worst records nationwide when it comes to treating people suffering from drug or alcohol addiction. ([article](#))

She issued crime stats based on the Portland Police Bureau Crime Stats from 2017 when a neighbor in her building was brutally murdered and the sidewalks began to fill with camp sites.

Visit [earthsayers.org](http://earthsayers.org) and find sustainability leaders from all over the world.

Notes:

\* Last update was September 28, 2020 and a note was made that with COVID-19, PPB will be publishing preliminary statistics and data on this page that will be revised at a later date. We would welcome any other data analysis of crime offenses that may be even more accurate.

\*\* In a neighborhood like the Pearl, next door to Old Town, 83% of the crimes offenses fell into property.