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Alfred Blumstein and Joel Wallman
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The Crime Drop in America, Revised Edition

Violent crime in America shot up sharply in the mid-1980s and continued to climb until 1991, after which something unprecedented occurred. The crime level declined to a level not seen since the 1960s. This revised edition of *The Crime Drop in America* focuses on the dramatic drop in crime rates in America in the 1990s, and then, in a new epilogue, on the patterns since 2000. The separate chapters written by distinguished experts cover the many factors affecting crime rates: policing, incarceration, drug markets, gun control, economics, and demographics. Detailed analyses emphasize the mutual effects of change in crack markets, a major locus of youth violence, and the drop in rates of violence following a decline in demand for crack. The contrasts between the crime-drop period of the 1990s and the period since 2000 are explored in the new epilogue, which also reviews major new developments in thinking about the causes and control of crime.

Alfred Blumstein is a University Professor and the J. Erik Jonsson Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research and former Dean (from 1986 to 1993) at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management of Carnegie Mellon University. He is also director of the National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR).

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Praise for the First Edition

“*The Crime Drop in America* is a must-read for anybody concerned about crime in the United States, as it thoroughly and dispassionately assesses the possible causes of the striking reduction in crime during the 1990s. This volume stands alone in the literature. It addresses many of the topics found in criminology texts but is much more narrowly focused.”

A. Didrick Castberg, *Perspectives on Political Science*

“As the first major book aimed at explaining the 1990s crime bust, this book is a must-read for all those interested in the characteristics and policy implications of crime.”

Gary LaFree, *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*

“*The Crime Drop in America* is an important collection of papers that systematically addresses various explanations for changing rates in violent crime in urban areas. This book is a ‘must read’ for criminologists. The questions examined are important, the research is carefully done, and the findings will not only help us sort out competing explanations for the current crime drop, but will also expand our general knowledge about crime causation and its control.”

John H. Laub, *American Journal of Sociology*

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Cambridge Studies in Criminology

Edited by

Alfred Blumstein, *H. John Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University*, and David Farrington, *Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge*

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The Crime Drop in America

Revised Edition

Alfred Blumstein
Carnegie Mellon University

Joel Wallman
The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation



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