Over the course of the past 20-some years, Los Angeles has become a strikingly safer place to live and work. Violent crime in all categories has declined dramatically over that period, the result of a combination of social and economic forces and, experts now acknowledge, adoption of new policing strategies.

Murder is only one measure of crime and in some ways not the best. Even at the height of this city’s violent crime, few people would ever meet their end at the hands of another. Still, it’s a useful gauge, in part because murders almost never go unreported — unlike, say, rape, which is difficult to track because so many victims do not bring their case to the police. Here, then, is a look at murder in Los Angeles over a generation and today.

**Gang Related Murders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Suspects</th>
<th>Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'12</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'13</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'14</td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where Things Changed**

- **Murders were UP**
  - South Central LA, Crenshaw: 77th
  - Southeast
  - South LA, Watts: 47

- **Murders were DOWN**
  - Pacific
  - Venice, Playa Del Rey: 6
  - Olympic
  - Mid-City, Koreatown, Miracle Mile: 10
  - Harbor
  - San Pedro, Wilmington: 5

**Quick Notes**

- April was the most homicidal month: 31 murders
- January and February tied for least: 13 murders