

Under the leadership of Johnny Garcia and the radical liberal Sheriff Salazar, violent crime soared in Bexar County while the jail they managed routinely failed inspections and had heinous incidents where a female inmate died and a deputy was charged with murder.

Increases In Violent Crime

According To The Texas Department Of Public Safety Uniform Crime Reporting System, Crime Rose Sharply During The Pandemic And Salazar Has Not Brought Levels Back Down. (Uniform Crime Reporting System, [Texas Department Of Public Safety](#), Accessed 3/25/26)



(Uniform Crime Reporting System, [Texas Department Of Public Safety](#), Accessed 3/25/26)

In 2024, Salazar Stated That He Wants His Department To Have An In-House Crime Stats Analyst After The Homicide Rate In The County Increased. “Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar implored county commissioners on Tuesday to restore a crime stats analyst position within his department after a jump in violent crime this year. Salazar explained that attempts to fill the position were frozen, and then a person within the county's internet technology department took up the role for a while before being deployed by the military. Salazar told commissioners he wants the position back within his department to better determine when and where there may be high levels of repeated criminal activity. ‘We really need our own in-house ... crime analysis person to be able to tell us what parts of the county are red, heat wise, depending on what day of the week it is and what other factors there are,’ the sheriff said. ... Salazar said year-end crime reports, like one provided by the FBI, may be “instantaneous” enough for what is needed to battle real-time crime trends. The homicide rate in the county this year has already surpassed all of 2023 with two more months to go in this year. Around half the homicides in the county this year, or nine deaths, were related to domestic violence.” (Brian Kirkpatrick, “Bexar County Sheriff Wants Department To Have An In-House Crime Stats Analyst Again,” [Texas Public Radio](#), 10/30/24)

In 2021, Salazar Stated That They Were Seeing An Increase In Violent Crimes And That The Sheriff's Office Was Specifically Targeting Human Trafficking, Illegal Narcotics, And Organized Crime. “Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar joined Leading SA on Sunday to discuss crime trends and the impact of new constitutional carry laws. ‘We are seeing an increase in violent crimes. And, you know, that was why I fought so hard with commissioners court through the budget process to hang on to every position.... Twelve of my positions were on the chopping block and we just fought it. And thankfully, we won that battle,’ Sheriff Salazar said. On top of violent crimes, Salazar said the sheriff's office is targeting specific offenses. ‘Human trafficking is still on the foreground, along with illegal narcotics, organized crime. You know, we’ve got a very big, organized crime, anti-organized crime effort going. We’ve got to get our gang unit that’s out, up and running. And we’ve got a covert operations group that’s out targeting these organizations that profit off of all these things,’ Sheriff Salazar said.” (Max Massey, “Bexar County Seeing An Increase In Violent Crimes, Sheriff Salazar Says,” [KSAT](#), 9/19/21)

Salazar Also Stated That BCSO Is Trying To Address Unmanned Border Checkpoints And That Dope Dealers And Smugglers Know They Are Unmanned. “Right now, a big issue BCSO is trying to address is the unmanned border checkpoints, Salazar said. ‘Border

Patrol checkpoints that don't have anybody at them. My understanding is that they've sent all available Border Patrol agents down to the border to process folks, and it's leaving those checkpoints unmanned. The problem there is that the dope dealers know it too, the smugglers know it too. And so they're just running unchecked up into the United States. And so we're working everybody as hard as we can. And we let our organized crime people know we've got drug interdiction deputies that are out on the highways as we speak. We're trying to stop this flow of illegal substances making it into our country,' Sheriff Salazar said." (Max Massey, "Bexar County Seeing An Increase In Violent Crimes, Sheriff Salazar Says," [KSAT](#), 9/19/21)

Jail Mismanagement

In February 2019 And May 2019, The Bexar County Adult Detention Center Failed Two Inspections, Failing Nine Errors

Including The Failure Of Jailers To Check In On Inmates Frequently Enough. "The Bexar County Adult Detention Center received news Tuesday that it was officially back in compliance with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, Sheriff Javier Salazar said at a news conference. The jail had failed two inspections, one in February and another in May. The state commission gives out-of-compliance jails one year to fix problems it finds through its inspections. In February, the commission found nine errors. One of the most egregious was the failure of jailers to check in on inmates frequently enough. In May, the commission found another failure to do the same thing." (Jackie Wang, "Bexar County Jail Back in Compliance With State Standards, Sheriff Says," [San Antonio Report](#), 11/12/19)

Salazar Stated That His Office Visited The Jail Standards Commission To Update Committee Members On Steps They Took To Get The Jail Back In Compliance. "Salazar told reporters on Tuesday that his office visited the jail standards commission last week to update committee members on steps that they took to get the jail back in compliance. 'Friday morning, our surprise re-inspection came up, and it went really well,' Salazar said. 'Today it was made it official, that we have passed our state jail inspection and are now back in compliance.' The jail standards commission has not released its final report yet, but Salazar said he was told the Adult Detention Center was back in compliance on Tuesday morning. The word came on the heels of two inmate deaths Monday. Rondell Lee Peterson, a 35-year-old charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child, was taken off life support after a suicide attempt on Nov. 2, while David Alan Watts, a 72-year-old who was convicted last month of indecency with a child, died after suffering from an 'apparent medical episode,' according to the sheriff's office." (Jackie Wang, "Bexar County Jail Back in Compliance With State Standards, Sheriff Says," [San Antonio Report](#), 11/12/19)

Salazar Also Stated That His New Jail Staff Is A "Dream Team" And That They Look For Ways To Divert People Charged With Nonviolent

Misdemeanors From Jail. "As part of the sheriff's office's efforts to stay in compliance, Salazar hired a deputy chief in detention administration at the end of October. Jaime Rios is one of three jail administrators on staff, and Salazar plans to announce Rios' new role as chief of compliance and support soon, which means Rios will focus on keeping the jail in compliance. Joel Janssen will continue as chief of operations at the jail, while Avery Walker will oversee the two of them as jail superintendent. 'That's a really good mix we have there – of people, of skill sets, and of personalities and everything,' Salazar said. 'Without overdramatizing it, I have what I consider to be a dream team.' As the jail continues to manage roughly 4,100 inmates, Salazar said that his office will look for ways to divert people, such as those charged with nonviolent misdemeanors, from jail if possible. 'I'm a big fan of using our jail space for what it's intended for,' Salazar said. 'It's intended to keep society safe. It's not intended to lock [people] up and throw away the key indefinitely. That not what we're here for.'" (Jackie Wang, "Bexar County Jail Back in Compliance With State Standards, Sheriff Says," [San Antonio Report](#), 11/12/19)

On November 19, 2024, Bexar County Sheriff's Office Received Notice That Their Jail Was Not Meeting State Laws And Minimum Jail Standards. "The Bexar County Sheriff's

Office announced on Wednesday that the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) has placed the Bexar County jail out of compliance. BCSO said it received the notice on Nov. 19, which means the jail is not meeting state laws and minimum jail standards. The notice has prompted the Bexar County jail to create and submit TCJS a plan, to show how it's working to regain compliance. BCSO said it plans to install advanced technology in inmate cells that will be able to monitor movement, breathing, and heart rates. A spokesperson from BCSO told KSAT that the technology has been fully installed and operates in the men's and women's infirmary living units and single-man booking cells in the medical facility. BCSO said it will continue installing the technology in high-risk areas but not all inmate cells. The system aims to alert jail staff if an inmate is experiencing a health emergency." (Andrea Moreno, "BCSO Addresses Noncompliance Notice For Jail, Unveils Plan To Tackle Safety & Standards," [KSAT](#), 11/27/24)

Salazar Said That Regaining Compliance With TCJS Was Their Top Priority And They Are Achieving Compliance Promptly. "Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar sent the following statement: 'Regaining compliance with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) is our top priority. In response to the recent noncompliance notice, we swiftly submitted a comprehensive plan to TCJS that not only meets but maintains their standards. Our plan aims to improve inmate health and streamline the housing process at the Bexar County Jail. We also have support from the University Health System, which is committed to assisting us with their strategic plan. Together, we are focused on achieving compliance promptly.'" (Andrea Moreno, "BCSO Addresses Noncompliance Notice For Jail, Unveils Plan To Tackle Safety & Standards," [KSAT](#), 11/27/24)

In June 2025, KSAT Reported That Five Deputies Assigned To The Bexar County Jail Were Removed And Arrested In A Month. "In just one month, five Bexar County deputies assigned to the jail have been removed from their positions — two of them arrested and facing serious criminal charges, including murder." (Erica Hernandez and Misael Gomez, "5 Deputies Removed, Arrested In A Month: What's Going On At The Bexar County Jail?," [KSAT](#), 6/4/25)

On Of The Cases Involved Clemente Lopez Who Was Arrested And Charged With Murder After He Allegedly Opened A Jail Cell Door Then Allowed Inmates To Beat Another Inmate To Death. "One of the most serious cases involves former deputy Clemente Lopez, who was arrested and charged with murder. Investigators allege he opened a jail cell door then allowed inmates to beat another inmate to death. Salazar said Lopez's arrest came as a surprise. 'There were no red flags with that young man,' Salazar said. 'He seemed like an up-and-coming deputy — intelligent, polite, well-spoken. There really weren't any indicators.' As his department continues its investigations, Salazar said he hopes each case will serve as a warning for others. 'We use every one of those as a teachable moment,' he said. 'For anybody coming in who may be thinking of repeating that same mistake or emulating that sort of activity.' The cases remain under investigation, and additional disciplinary action has not been ruled out." (Erica Hernandez and Misael Gomez, "5 Deputies Removed, Arrested In A Month: What's Going On At The Bexar County Jail?," [KSAT](#), 6/4/25)

Salazar Stated That This Misconduct Wasn't Unique To Bexar County But That His Departments Handling Of The Situation Was Unique. "Sheriff Javier Salazar said while misconduct in jails isn't unique to Bexar County, his department's approach to handling it is. ... 'What's going on in the jail is no different than what's going on in every other jail in the country,' Salazar said in an interview with KSAT. 'It's an ongoing thing. But you've got to take it seriously, and you've got to take a forward-leaning approach, which is exactly what we're doing at this point.' Salazar emphasized his commitment to transparency, saying the department doesn't quietly dismiss problematic employees. 'We are actively looking into those things,' he said. 'I'm not content to just quietly fire people and then hope that nobody finds out. We do it in the open. We rip the covers off and let people know exactly what we're doing.'" (Erica Hernandez and Misael Gomez, "5 Deputies Removed, Arrested In A Month: What's Going On At The Bexar County Jail?," [KSAT](#), 6/4/25)

On July 15, 2025, Bexar County Jail Again Failed To Meet State Laws And Minimum Jail Standards During An Inspection From The TCJS. "One week after an inmate died by suicide on July 15, records show the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) performed a surprise

inspection at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. In a Tuesday, July 29, statement sent to KSAT Investigates, the Bexar County Sheriff's Office said it learned the jail is not currently meeting state laws and minimum jail standards." (Daniela Ibarra and Dillon Collier, "Bexar County Jail Found Noncompliant By State For Second Time In Less Than A Year," [KSAT](#), 7/29/25)

On February 7, 2026, A Female Inmate At The Bexar County Jail Was Murdered In An Assault By Her Cellmate. "A female inmate at the Bexar County jail who was hospitalized after an assault by her cellmate earlier in February has died, according to the sheriff's office. On Feb. 7, Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar said a 38-year-old woman attacked her 59-year-old cellmate. Both inmates were jailed on low-level misdemeanors and were classified as mentally stable inmates, the sheriff said. The sheriff said the two had an altercation and that one appeared to be experiencing a mental-health episode before attacking the other inmate. ... According to a KSAT Investigates analysis, this marks the first person to die at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center in 2026." (Andrea Moreno, Madalynn Lambert, and Everett Allen, "Female Inmate At Bexar County Jail Dies After Cellmate Assault, Sheriff Says," [KSAT](#), 2/28/26)