



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 20, 2018

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact: Linda Russell

901.385.4230

lrussell8@memphis.edu

## **VIOLENT CRIME RATE CONTINUES TO DROP**

Based on preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), major violent crime in Memphis and Shelby County continued to drop during the first half of this year compared to last year, according to the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission. The mid-year figure builds on a decline during the first quarter of the year.

In the city of Memphis, the mid-year major violent crime rate dropped 8.1% compared to 2017, building on a 5.1% first quarter drop. Countywide, the decline for the first half of the year was 6.4%, building on a 4.9% decline during the first quarter. Major violent crimes include murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults. Reported crimes were down in all four categories.

Driven by an increase in motor vehicle thefts, major property crime was up 4.3% in the city of Memphis and 5.5% countywide compared to the first half of last year. Motor vehicle thefts increased 18.4% in Memphis and 21.1% countywide. At the same time, another major property crime category - burglary - dropped 11.2% in Memphis and 8.6% throughout the county.

Group A offenses include 54 different categories of crime measured by the TBI and reflect an overall crime rate. In Memphis, this overall crime rate was down 3.1% and down 1.7% countywide.

"We will continue to work diligently in an effort to decrease our crime rate even more. Our No. 1 goal is to further our crime fighting initiatives to make Memphis a safety place. Statistically, the number of violent crimes is down, but as long as there is one citizen that falls victim to a crime, there is more work to be done," said Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings.

"We are fortunate to be among the few major communities in the country with a true community-wide plan to reduce crime - Operation: Safe Community. We have a long way to go to get where we need to be, but the drop in the violent crime rate and in the burglary rate is especially encouraging," said Bill Gibbons, executive director of the Public Safety Institute and president of the Crime Commission.

Crime reached a high level in 2006, prompting the community to come together behind the first five-year Operation: Safe Community plan. During the next five years, both major violent crime and major property crime declined by over 20 percent, with violent crime hitting a low point in 2011 and property crime continuing to drop through 2016. Both the major violent crime rate and major property crime rate remain well below the 2006 level.

###

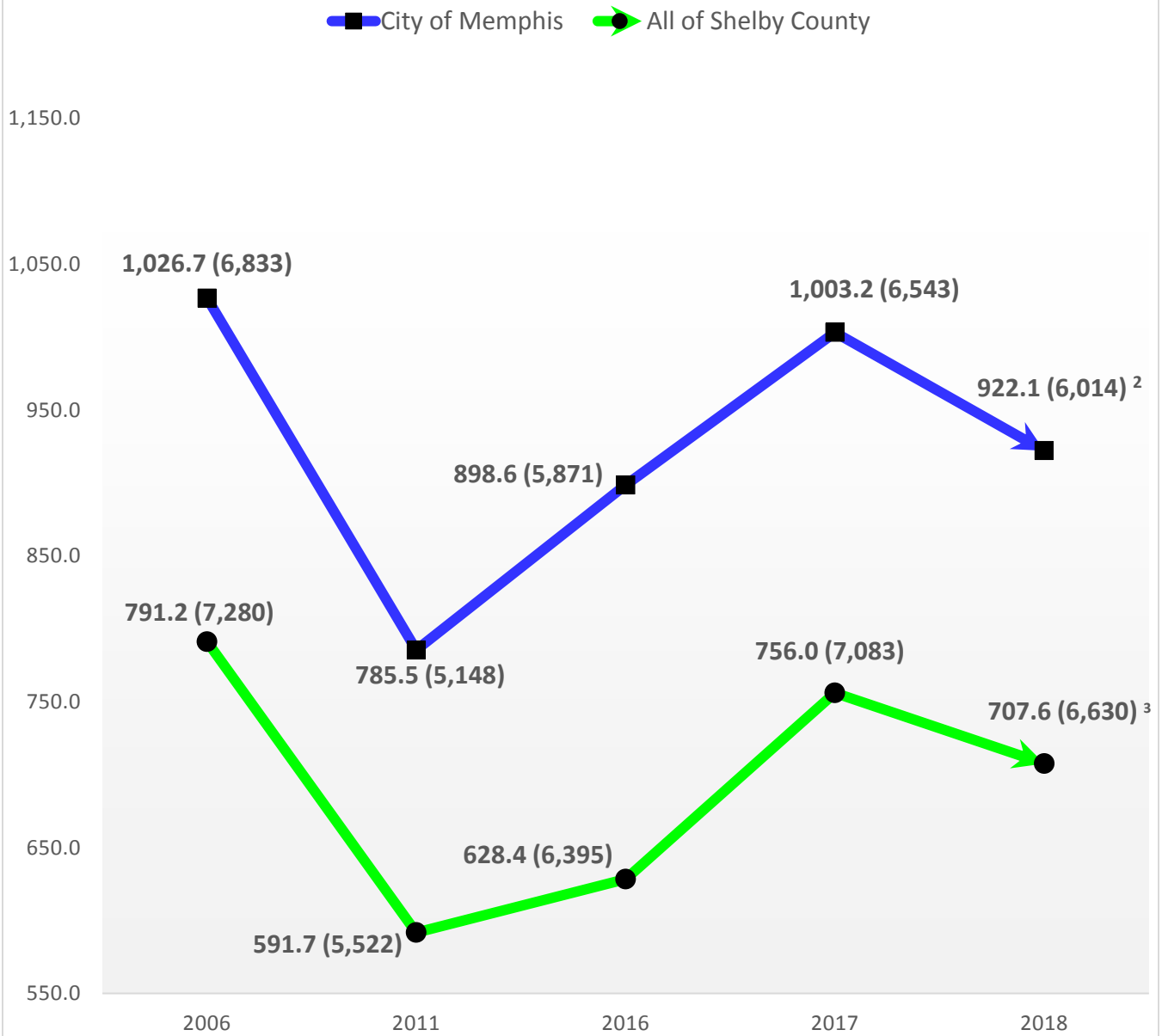
**About the Crime Statistics:** In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. An incident is defined in TIBRS as “one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place.” Reported major violent crime and domestic violence offenses, however, uniquely refer to a victim count versus an incident count. All rates are calculated based on per 100,000 population.

**About the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission ([www.memphiscrime.org](http://www.memphiscrime.org)):** The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that “quarterbacks” the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, CEO of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

**About Operation: Safe Community ([www.operationsafecommunity.org](http://www.operationsafecommunity.org)):** Launched in 2007, Operation: Safe Community (OSC), spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Operation: Safe Community is chaired by Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich.

**About the Public Safety Institute ([www.memphis.edu/psi/](http://www.memphis.edu/psi/)):** The Public Safety Institute of the University of Memphis is an interdisciplinary part of the University community committed to identifying and advancing best practices in the field of public safety. It is housed in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Bill Gibbons serves as executive director.

## MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME JANUARY - JUNE (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

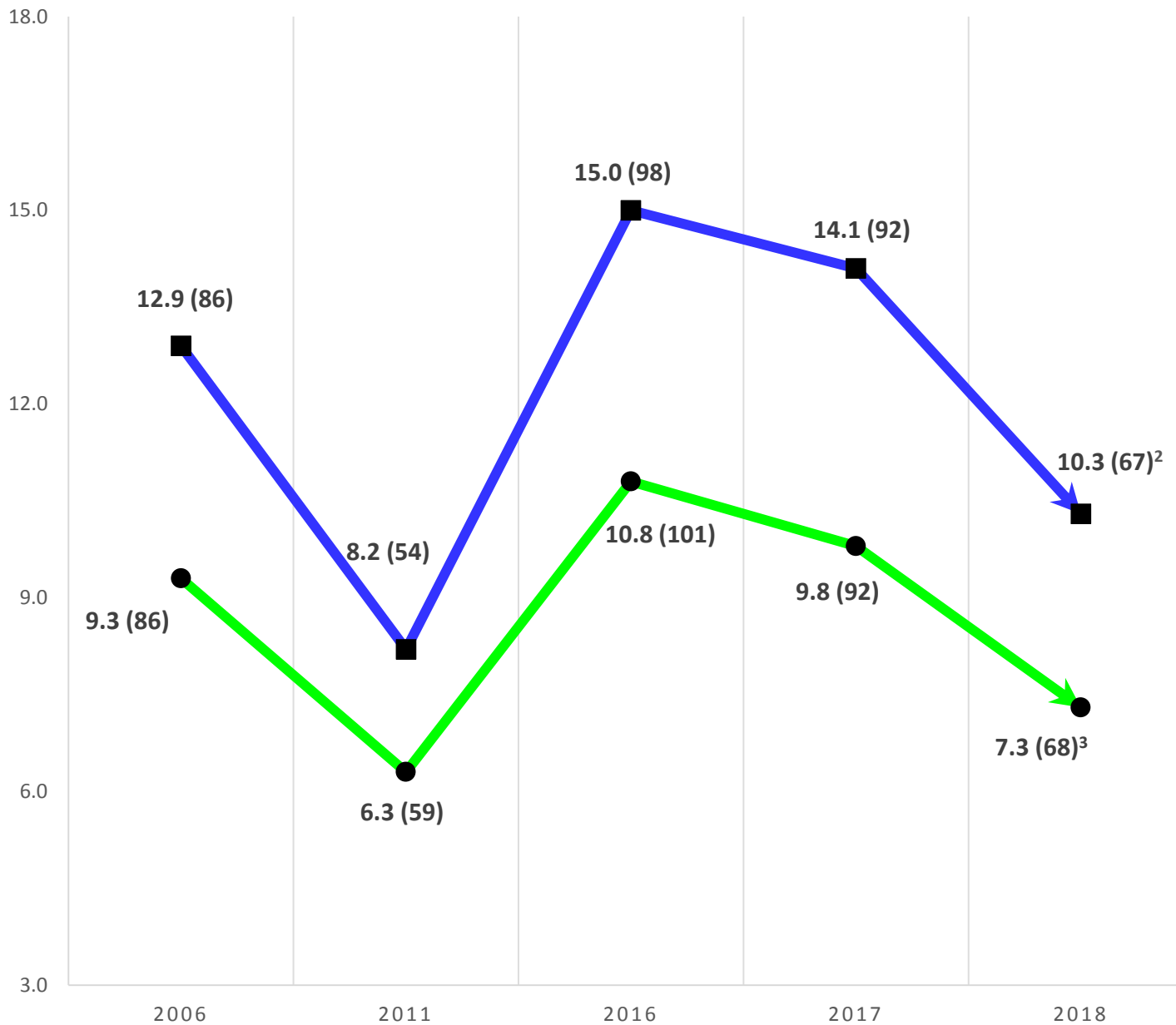
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2018 figure is a decrease of 10.2 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 8.1 percent from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is a decrease of 10.6 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 6.4 percent from 2017 in all of Shelby County.

**REPORTED MURDERS  
JANUARY - JUNE  
(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)<sup>1</sup>**

▶ City of Memphis     ▶ All of Shelby County



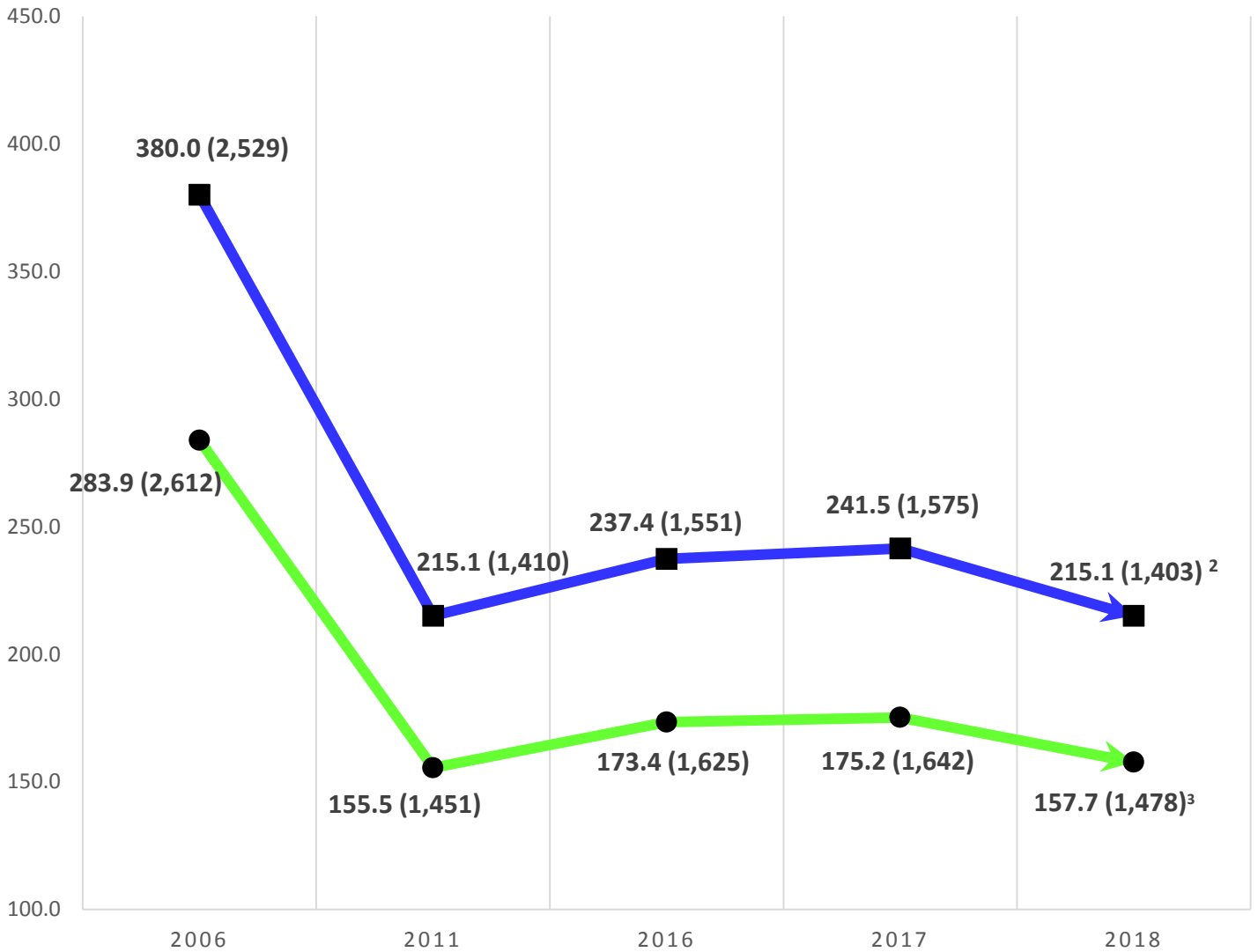
<sup>1</sup> Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2018 figure is a decrease of 20.5 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 27.2 percent from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is a decrease of 22.4 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 26.1 percent from 2017 in all of Shelby County.

**REPORTED ROBBERIES**  
**JANUARY - JUNE**  
**(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)<sup>1</sup>**

▶ City of Memphis     
 ▶ All of Shelby County

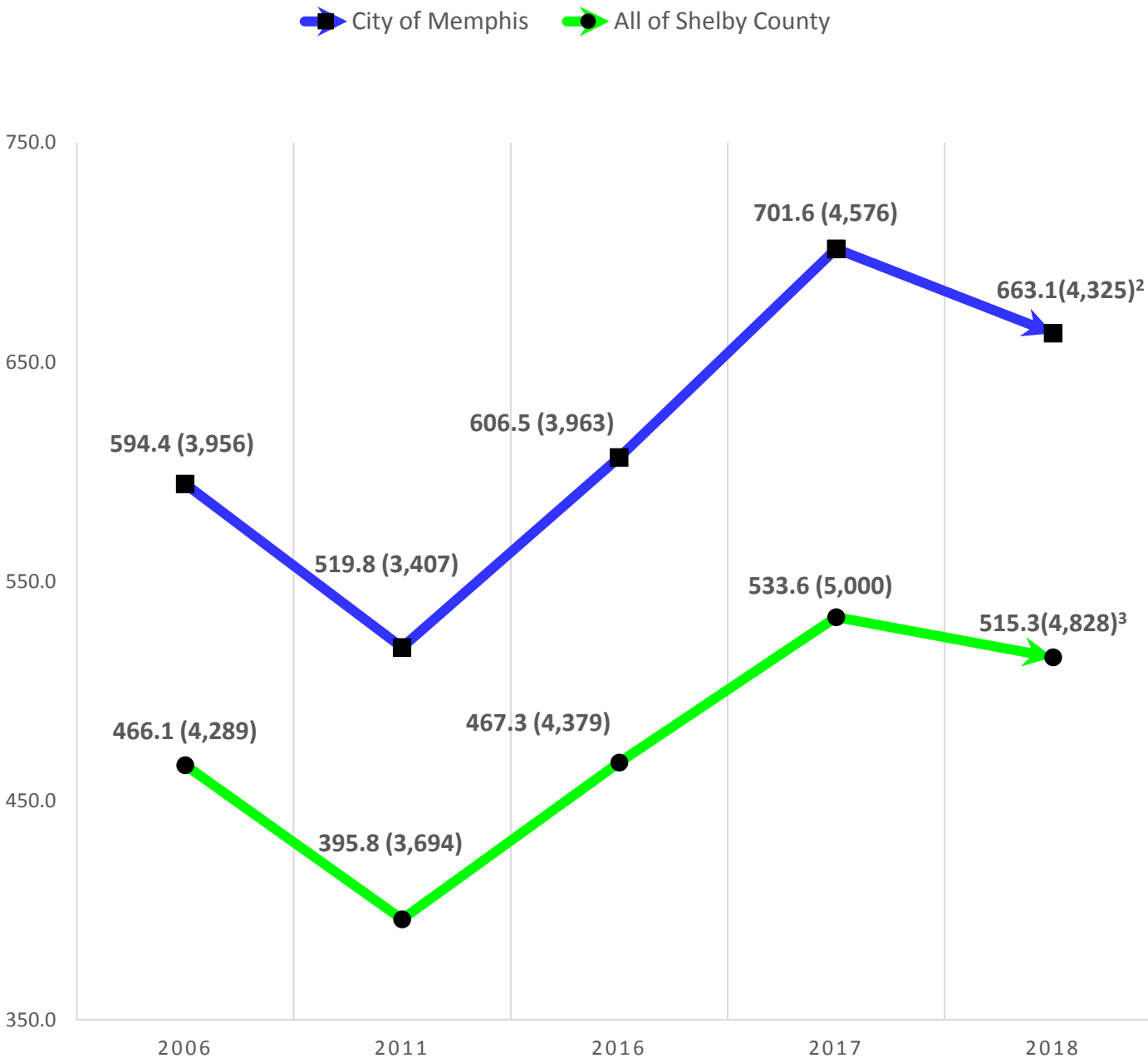


<sup>1</sup> Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2018 figure is a decrease of 43.4 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 10.9 percent from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is a decrease of 44.4 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 10.0 percent from 2017 in all of Shelby County.

## REPORTED AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS JANUARY - JUNE (RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)<sup>1</sup>



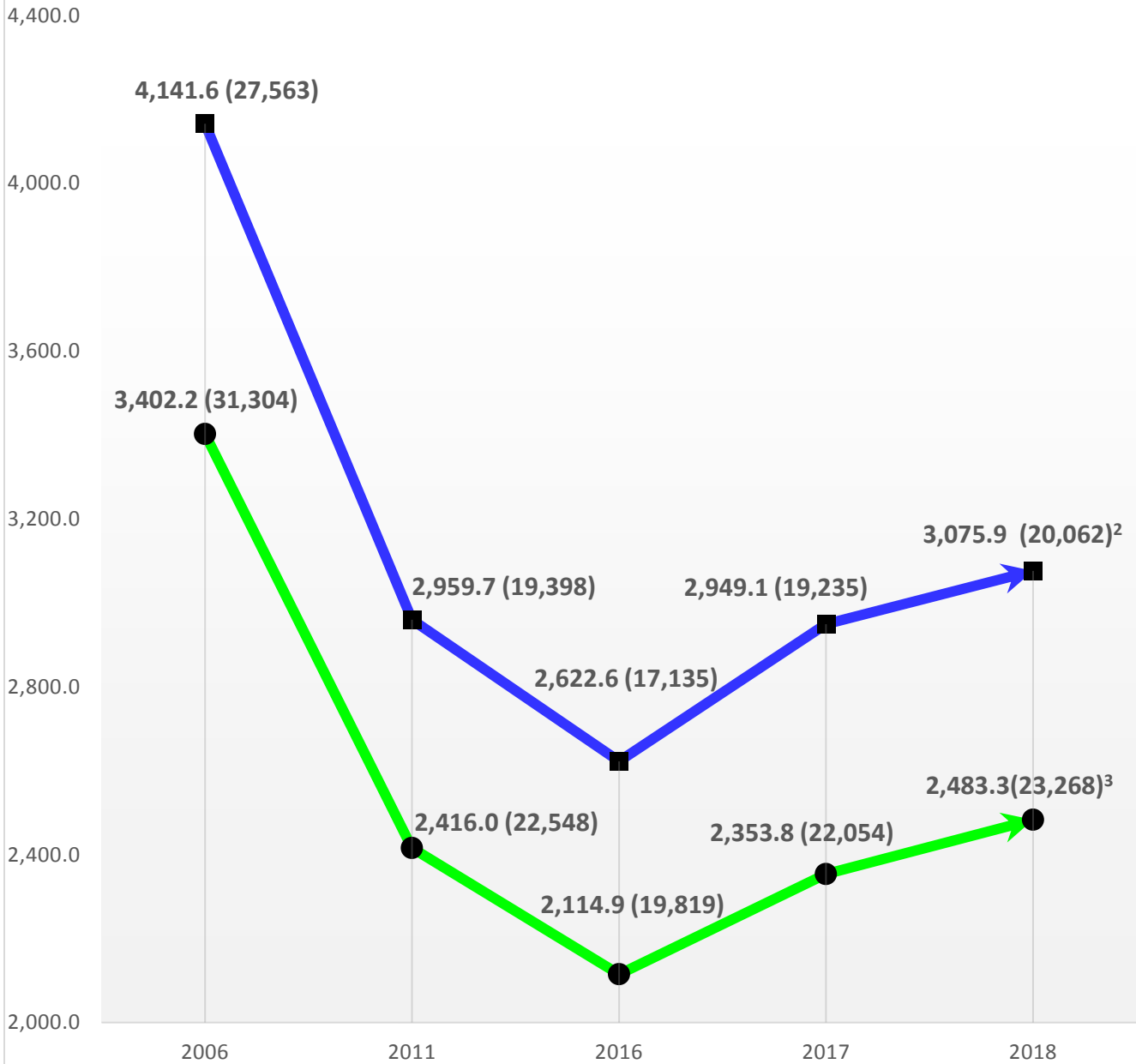
<sup>1</sup> Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2018 figure is an increase of 11.6 percent from 2006 and an decrease of 5.5 percent from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is an increase of 10.5 percent from 2006 and an decrease of 3.4 percent from 2017 in all of Shelby County. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

**MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME**  
**JANUARY - JUNE**  
**(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>**

▶ City of Memphis   
 ▶ All of Shelby County



<sup>1</sup> Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts.

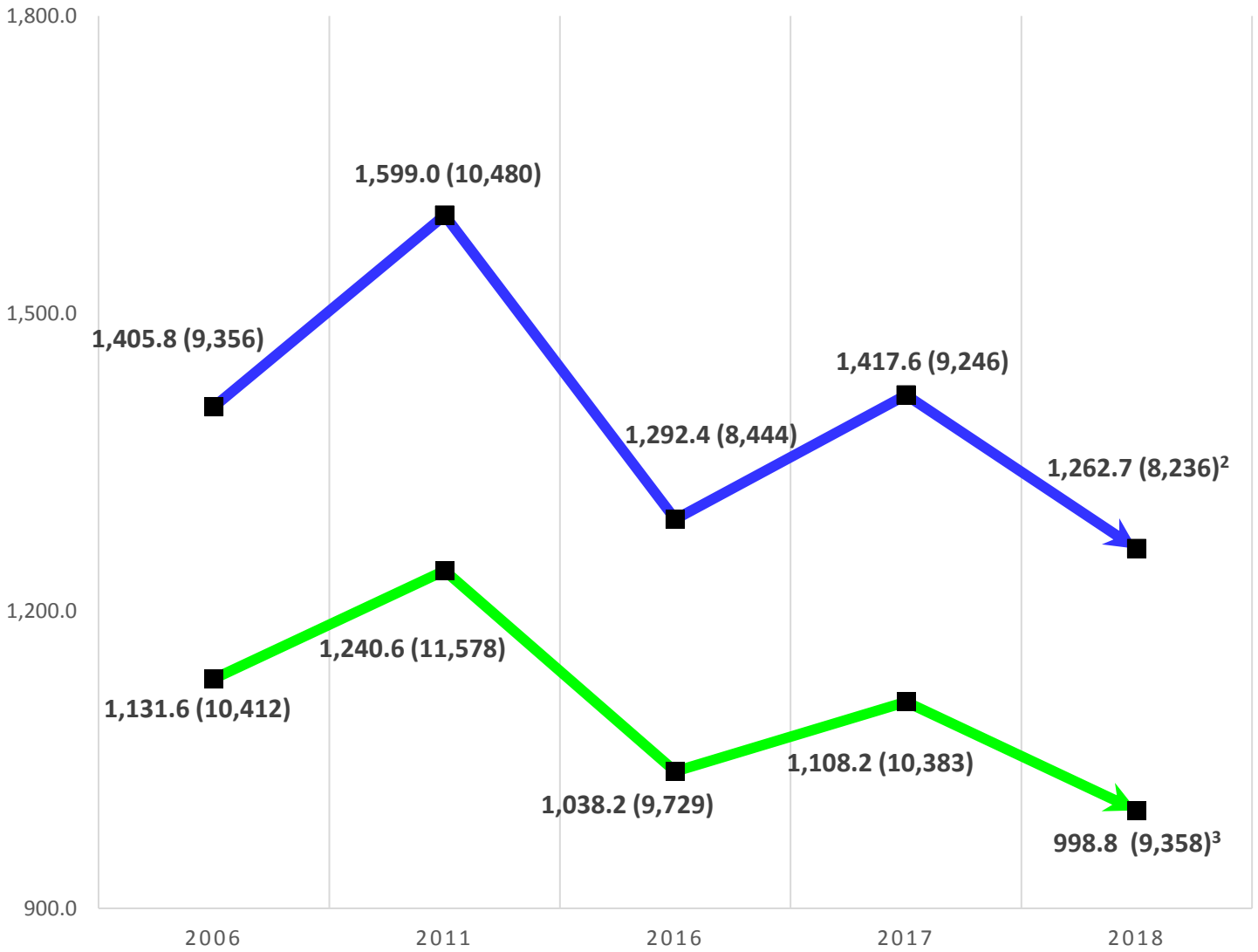
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2018 figure is a 25.7 percent decrease from 2006 and a 4.3 percent increase from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is a 27.0 percent decrease from 2006 and a 5.5 percent increase from 2017 in all of Shelby County.

**REPORTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES  
JANUARY - JUNE  
(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)<sup>1</sup>**

▶ City of Memphis     
 ▶ All of Shelby County



<sup>1</sup> Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

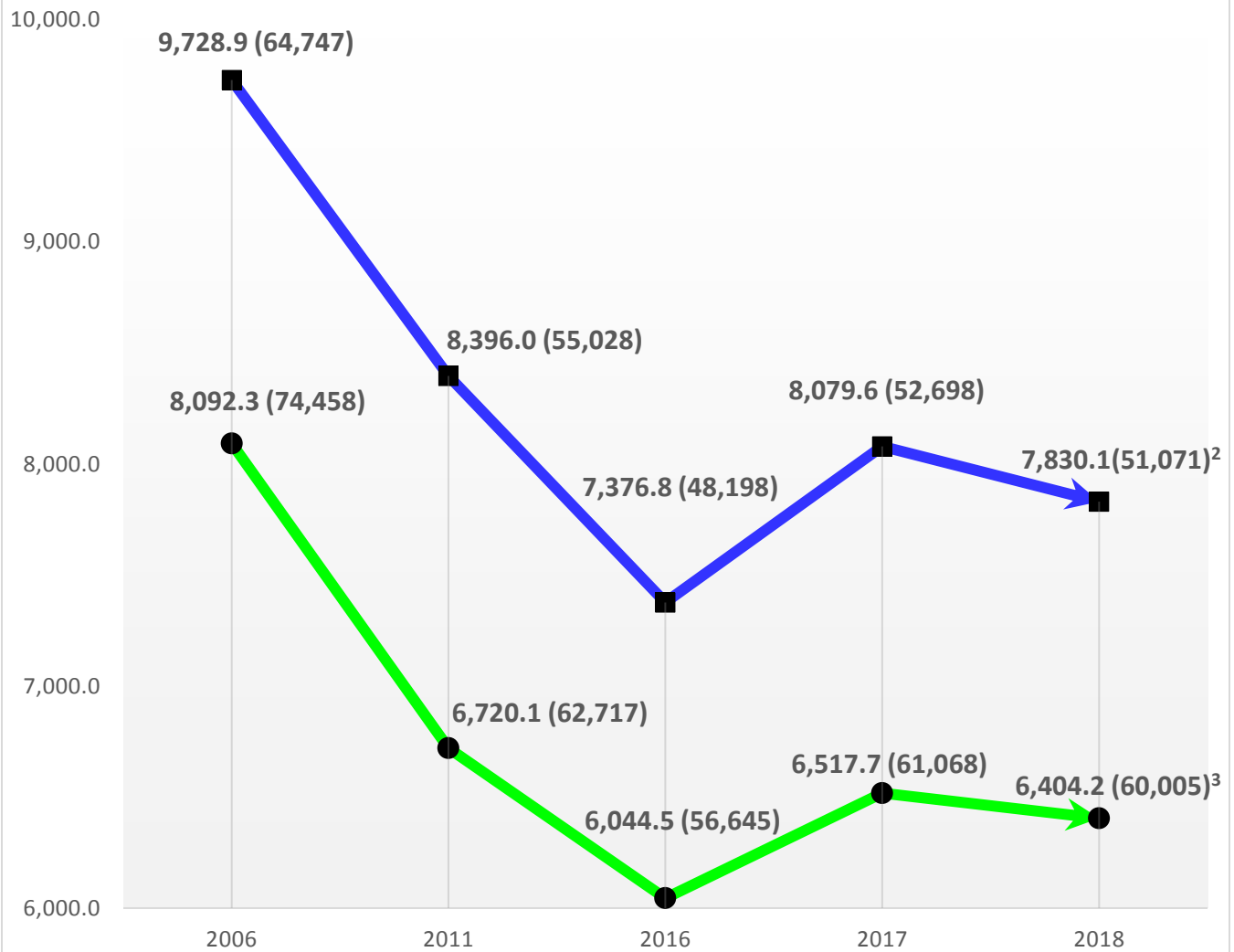
<sup>2</sup> The 2018 figure is an decrease of 10.2 percent from 2006 and an decrease of 10.9 percent from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is an decrease of 11.7 percent from 2006 and an decrease of 9.9 percent from 2017 in all of Shelby County.  
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.



## OVERALL CRIME JANUARY - JUNE (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>

▶ City of Memphis     ▶ All of Shelby County



<sup>1</sup> The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate categories of “Group A crimes” tracked by the T.B.I. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2018 figure is a 19.5 percent decrease from 2006 and a 3.1 percent decrease from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is a 20.9 percent decrease from 2006 and a 1.7 percent decrease from 2017 for all of Shelby County.

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Memphis, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES									
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population <sup>*</sup> )									
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	12.9	8.2	15.0	14.1	10.3	-20.5%	24.7%	-31.5%	-27.2%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	39.4	42.3	39.6	46.0	33.6	-14.7%	-20.6%	-15.3%	-27.0%
Aggravated Assault <sup>2</sup>	594.4	519.8	606.5	701.6	663.1	11.6%	27.6%	9.3%	-5.5%
Robbery	380.0	215.1	237.4	241.5	215.1	-43.4%	0.0%	-9.4%	-10.9%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1026.7</b>	<b>785.5</b>	<b>898.6</b>	<b>1003.2</b>	<b>922.1</b>	<b>-10.2%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>
Burglary	1168.3	893.6	670.1	692.4	615.0	-47.4%	-31.2%	-8.2%	-11.2%
Theft Offenses	2492.4	1832.1	1742.4	1964.8	2115.2	-15.1%	15.4%	21.4%	7.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	481.0	233.9	210.1	291.9	345.7	-28.1%	47.8%	64.5%	18.4%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>4141.6</b>	<b>2959.7</b>	<b>2622.6</b>	<b>2949.1</b>	<b>3075.9</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	1660.2	1811.5	1351.8	1407.3	1312.4	-20.9%	-27.6%	-2.9%	-6.7%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	379.0	416.4	301.1	264.2	270.6	-28.6%	-35.0%	-10.1%	2.4%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	115.7	104.1	90.9	97.1	102.7	-11.2%	-1.3%	13.0%	5.8%
Domestic Violence	1405.8	1599.0	1292.4	1417.6	1262.7	-10.2%	-21.0%	-2.3%	-10.9%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>9728.9</b>	<b>8396.0</b>	<b>7376.8</b>	<b>8079.6</b>	<b>7830.1</b>	<b>-19.5%</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>

\* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2017 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2017 and 2018.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018
	665,512	655,407	653,369	652,236	652,236

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Memphis, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES									
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)									
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	12.9	8.2	15.0	14.1	10.3	-20.5%	24.7%	-31.5%	-27.2%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	39.4	42.3	39.6	46.0	33.6	-14.7%	-20.6%	-15.3%	-27.0%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	594.4	519.8	606.5	701.6	663.1	11.6%	27.6%	9.3%	-5.5%
Robbery	380.0	215.1	237.4	241.5	215.1	-43.4%	0.0%	-9.4%	-10.9%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1026.7</b>	<b>785.5</b>	<b>898.6</b>	<b>1003.2</b>	<b>922.1</b>	<b>-10.2%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>
Burglary	1168.3	893.6	670.1	692.4	615.0	-47.4%	-31.2%	-8.2%	-11.2%
Theft Offenses	2492.4	1832.1	1742.4	1964.8	2115.2	-15.1%	15.4%	21.4%	7.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	481.0	233.9	210.1	291.9	345.7	-28.1%	47.8%	64.5%	18.4%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>4141.6</b>	<b>2959.7</b>	<b>2622.6</b>	<b>2949.1</b>	<b>3075.9</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	1660.2	1811.5	1351.8	1407.3	1312.4	-20.9%	-27.6%	-2.9%	-6.7%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	379.0	416.4	301.1	264.2	270.6	-28.6%	-35.0%	-10.1%	2.4%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	115.7	104.1	90.9	97.1	102.7	-11.2%	-1.3%	13.0%	5.8%
Domestic Violence	1405.8	1599.0	1292.4	1417.6	1262.7	-10.2%	-21.0%	-2.3%	-10.9%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>9728.9</b>	<b>8396.0</b>	<b>7376.8</b>	<b>8079.6</b>	<b>7830.1</b>	<b>-19.5%</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>

\* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2017 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2017 and 2018.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018
	665,512	655,407	653,369	652,236	652,236

Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES									
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population <sup>*</sup> )									
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	9.3	6.3	10.8	9.8	7.3	-22.4%	14.8%	-32.7%	-26.1%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	31.8	34.1	30.9	37.2	27.3	-14.2%	-19.8%	-11.7%	-26.6%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	466.1	395.8	467.3	533.6	515.3	10.5%	30.2%	10.3%	-3.4%
Robbery	283.9	155.5	173.4	175.2	157.7	-44.4%	1.5%	-9.0%	-10.0%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>791.2</b>	<b>591.7</b>	<b>682.4</b>	<b>756.0</b>	<b>707.6</b>	<b>-10.6%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>
Burglary	944.1	705.3	520.5	531.5	485.7	-48.6%	-31.1%	-6.7%	-8.6%
Theft Offenses	2077.4	1528.1	1430.5	1599.4	1727.5	-16.8%	13.1%	20.8%	8.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	380.7	182.7	163.8	222.8	270.1	-29.0%	47.9%	64.9%	21.2%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>3402.2</b>	<b>2416.0</b>	<b>2114.9</b>	<b>2353.8</b>	<b>2483.3</b>	<b>-27.0%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	1361.3	1418.0	1117.6	1140.2	1081.5	-20.6%	-23.7%	-3.2%	-5.1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	380.8	358.1	293.3	260.1	282.9	-25.7%	-21.0%	-3.5%	8.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	96.6	83.6	79.5	87.5	91.6	-5.2%	9.6%	15.2%	4.6%
Domestic Violence	1131.6	1240.6	1038.2	1108.2	998.8	-11.7%	-19.5%	-3.8%	-9.9%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>8092.3</b>	<b>6720.1</b>	<b>6044.5</b>	<b>6517.7</b>	<b>6404.2</b>	<b>-20.9%</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

\* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2017 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2017 and 2018.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018
	920,106	933,268	937,130	936,961	936,961

Table 1.1 Shelby County, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES									
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	86	59	101	92	68	-20.9%	15.3%	-32.7%	-26.1%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	293	318	290	349	256	-12.6%	-19.5%	-11.7%	-26.6%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	4,289	3,694	4,379	5,000	4,828	12.6%	30.7%	10.3%	-3.4%
Robbery	2,612	1,451	1,625	1,642	1,478	-43.4%	1.9%	-9.0%	-10.0%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>7,280</b>	<b>5,522</b>	<b>6,395</b>	<b>7,083</b>	<b>6,630</b>	<b>-8.9%</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>
Burglary	8,687	6,582	4,878	4,980	4,551	-47.6%	-30.9%	-6.7%	-8.6%
Theft Offenses	19,114	14,261	13,406	14,986	16,186	-15.3%	13.5%	20.7%	8.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,503	1,705	1,535	2,088	2,531	-27.7%	48.4%	64.9%	21.2%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>31,304</b>	<b>22,548</b>	<b>19,819</b>	<b>22,054</b>	<b>23,268</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	12,525	13,234	10,473	10,683	10,133	-19.1%	-23.4%	-3.2%	-5.1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	3,504	3,342	2,749	2,437	2,651	-24.3%	-20.7%	-3.6%	8.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	889	780	745	820	858	-3.5%	10.0%	15.2%	4.6%
Domestic Violence	10,412	11,578	9,729	10,383	9,358	-10.1%	-19.2%	-3.8%	-9.9%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>74,458</b>	<b>62,717</b>	<b>56,645</b>	<b>61,068</b>	<b>60,005</b>	<b>-19.4%</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>