



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 28, 2021

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

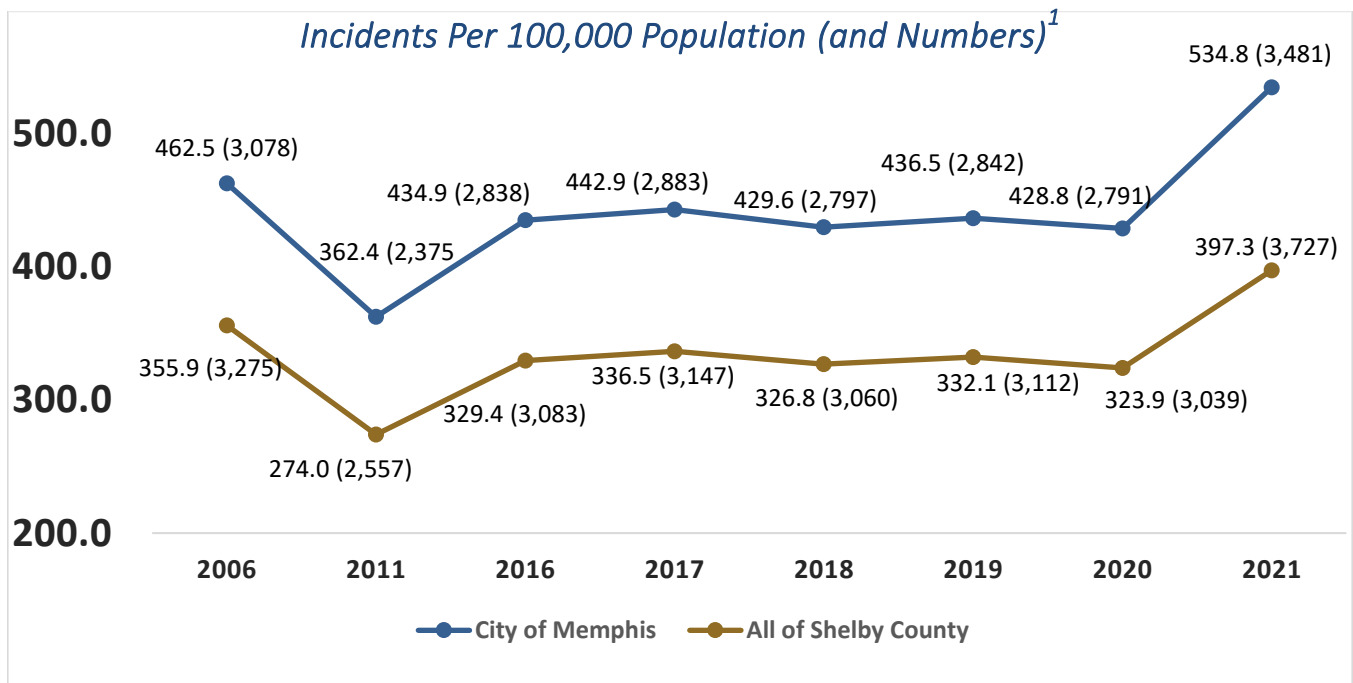
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## Violent Crime Up, Property Crime Down

The University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission have released crime figures for the first quarter of 2021 (January – March) compared to previous years, based on preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI).

The major violent crime rate increased significantly during the first quarter of 2021 compared to last year. (Major violent crime includes murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults.) In Memphis, the rate increased 24.7% compared to 2020, and the increase was 22.6% countywide.

### MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME JANUARY - MARCH



▲ 15.6% In 2021 Compared to 2006  
▲ 24.7% In 2021 Compared to 2020

▲ 13.8% In 2021 Compared to 2006  
▲ 22.6% In 2021 Compared to 2020

<sup>1</sup> Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2021 TBI figures are preliminary.

The robbery rate actually dropped significantly (down 24.0% in Memphis and 23.8% countywide), as did reported rapes (down 37.6% in Memphis and 40.3% throughout the county). However, the murder and aggravated assault rates increased. Murders increased 30.4% in Memphis compared to the first quarter of last year (and 38.3% countywide). The overall increase in the violent crime rate was the result of alarming increases in reported aggravated assaults. – up 41.1% in Memphis and 38.0% throughout Shelby County.

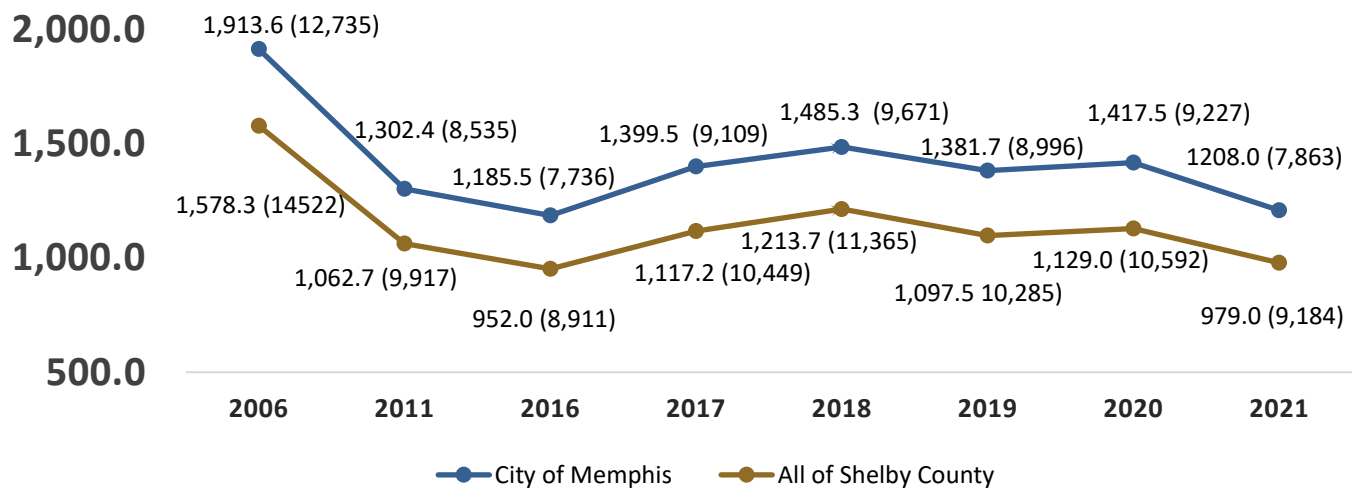
The violent crime rate is determined by adding together the number of murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults. Whether the rate goes up or down is driven largely by aggravated assaults because of the sheer number. For example, during the first quarter of 2021, there were 3,481 reported major violent crimes in Memphis, of which 2,926 were reported aggravated assaults.

Most aggravated assaults involve use of guns. During the first quarter of this year, the number of reported violent incidents in Memphis involving guns increased 30.1% compared to the first quarter of 2020. Equally disturbing is that almost 70% of all reported violent incidents in Memphis involved guns compared to less than 60% during the first quarter of last year.

While violent crime continues to be the major challenge, major property crime continues a downward trend. (Major property crime includes reported burglaries, motor vehicle thefts and other felony thefts.) In Memphis, the major property crime rate dropped 14.8% compared to the first quarter of last year and declined 13.3% countywide.

**MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME**  
**JANUARY - MARCH**

*Incidents Per 100,000 Population (and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>*



▼ 36.9% In 2021 Compared to 2006  
▼ 14.8% In 2021 Compared to 2020

▼ 36.8% In 2021 Compared to 2016  
▼ 13.3% In 2021 Compared to 2020

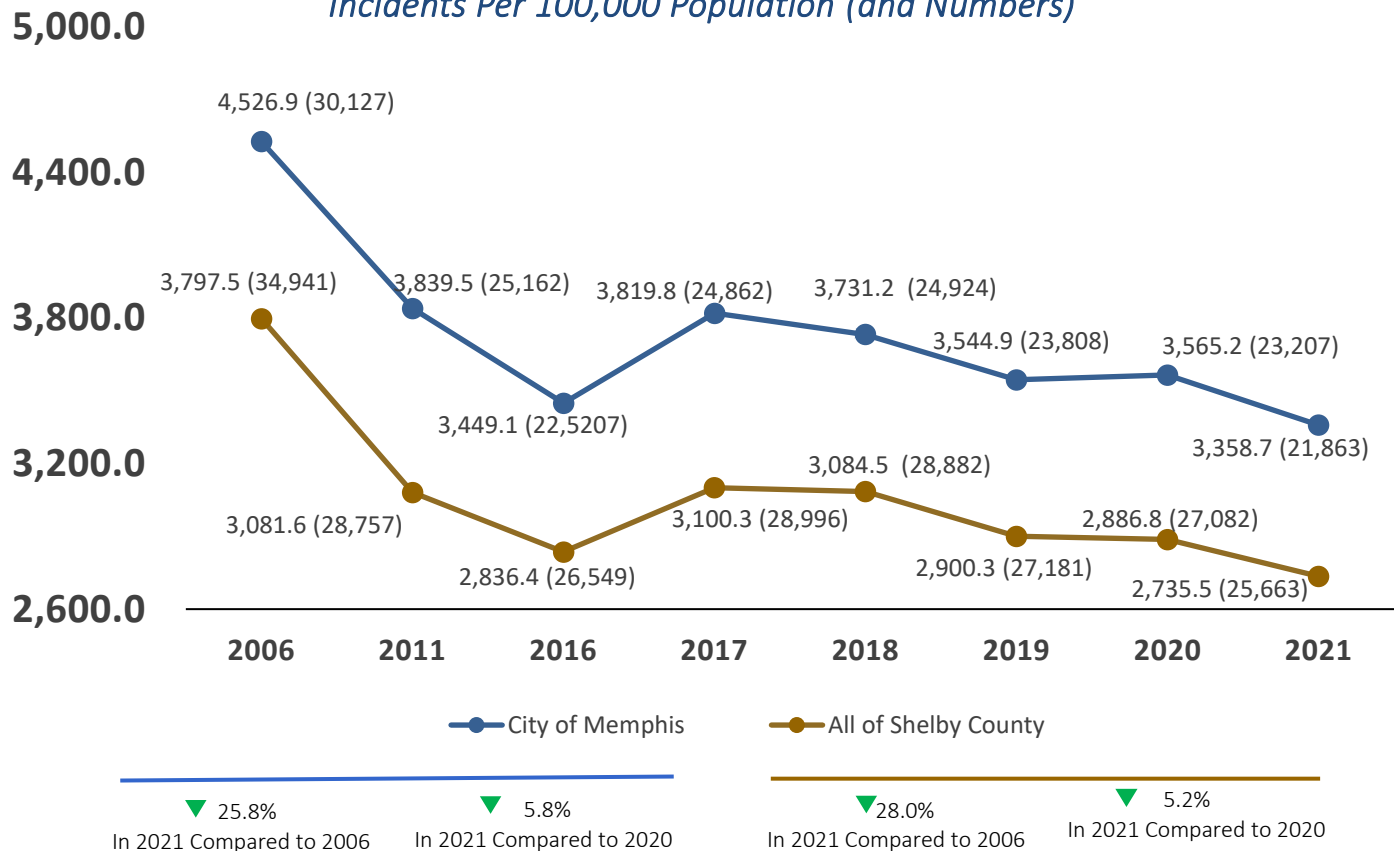
<sup>1</sup> Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2021 TBI figures are preliminary.

This decrease continues to be driven by the drop in reported burglaries, down 29.1% in Memphis and 22.3% countywide. (Reported motor vehicle thefts were actually up, while other felony thefts were down.)

The TBI measures overall crime as well based on 54 separate categories of crime. For the first quarter of the year, the overall crime rate dropped 5.8% in Memphis and 5.2% countywide.

OVERALL CRIME  
JANUARY - MARCH

*Incidents Per 100,000 Population (and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>*



<sup>1</sup> The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate types of "Group A crimes" tracked by the T.B.I. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2021 TBI figures are preliminary.

"Aggravated assaults are driving our violent crime rate and, more specifically, driving the increase in gun crime. Many aggravated assaults involve victims actually being hit by gunfire, and, of course, an aggravated assault with a gun can easily turn into a murder," said Bill Gibbons, executive director of the Public Safety Institute and president of the Crime Commission.

Mayor Strickland's selection to head up the Memphis Police Department (Chief C.J. Davis of Durham, North Carolina) has noted the importance of focusing on reducing the number of aggravated assaults in Memphis.

###

**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.” Certain types of violent crimes 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 Safe Community Plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, chairman emeritus of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

**About the Safe Community Plan ([www.memphiscrime.org](http://www.memphiscrime.org)):** Launched in 2007, the Safe Community Plan, an action plan spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Implementation of the Safe Community Plan 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.

**Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016-2021**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report													
Memphis, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES													
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)													
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016 - 2021													
Selected Offenses of Interest													
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2006-21	% Change 2011-21	% Change 2016-21	% Change 2020-21	
Murder	4.8	3.8	7.7	6.9	4.9	5.8	7.1	9.2	91.7%	141.6%	20.3%	30.4%	
Rape <sup>2</sup>	17.0	22.6	20.2	25.8	16.1	19.7	18.0	11.2	-34.0%	-50.3%	-44.6%	-37.6%	
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	256.0	234.2	289.2	297.0	305.9	329.9	318.5	449.5	75.6%	91.9%	55.4%	41.1%	
Robbery	184.7	101.8	117.8	113.2	102.6	81.1	85.3	64.8	-64.9%	-36.3%	-45.0%	-24.0%	
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>462.5</b>	<b>362.4</b>	<b>434.9</b>	<b>442.9</b>	<b>429.6</b>	<b>436.5</b>	<b>428.8</b>	<b>534.8</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	
Burglary	531.8	402.5	303.7	313.6	288.7	273.9	216.8	153.6	-71.1%	-61.8%	-49.4%	-29.1%	
Theft Offenses	1154.6	798.5	785.2	933.8	993.4	970.6	1024.8	861.7	-25.4%	7.9%	9.7%	-15.9%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	227.2	101.3	96.5	152.1	203.2	137.3	175.9	192.6	-15.2%	90.1%	99.5%	9.5%	
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>1913.6</b>	<b>1302.4</b>	<b>1185.5</b>	<b>1399.5</b>	<b>1485.3</b>	<b>1381.7</b>	<b>1417.5</b>	<b>1208.0</b>	<b>-36.9%</b>	<b>-7.3%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>-14.8%</b>	
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	782.3	840.8	631.2	678.2	599.8	560.6	539.2	439.8	-43.8%	-47.7%	-30.3%	-18.4%	
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	205.4	226.1	156.3	142.7	138.4	123.3	112.3	134.0	-34.8%	-40.8%	-14.3%	19.3%	
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	64.0	47.8	47.2	48.4	48.4	49.5	78.0	117.4	83.4%	145.7%	148.7%	50.4%	
Domestic Violence	609.4	736.3	609.2	679.1	597.8	547.3	537.7	513.1	-23.3%	-30.3%	-15.8%	-4.6%	
<b>Total Group A Offenses<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>4526.9</b>	<b>3839.5</b>	<b>3449.1</b>	<b>3819.8</b>	<b>3731.2</b>	<b>3544.9</b>	<b>3565.2</b>	<b>3358.7</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>	<b>-12.5%</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>	<b>-5.8%</b>	
<b>Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm<sup>6,8</sup></b>			<b>337.8</b>	<b>327.1</b>	<b>328.2</b>	<b>340.8</b>	<b>358.9</b>	<b>544.8</b>			<b>61.3%</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	

\* Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.

\* Rates and population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2019 Estimates, are used to calculate the 2020 population estimates based on the UCR methodology which are then used for calculating the rates for 2020 and 2021.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	665,512	655,341	652,548	650,878	651,104	651,073	650,937	650,937

**Table 2.1 Memphis, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016-2021**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report													
Memphis, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES													
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016 - 2021													
Selected Offenses of Interest													
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2006-21	% Change 2011-21	% Change 2016-21	% Change 2020-21	
Murder	32	25	50	45	32	38	46	60	87.5%	140.0%	20.0%	30.4%	
Rape <sup>2</sup>	113	148	132	168	105	128	117	73	-35.4%	-50.7%	-44.7%	-37.6%	
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	1,704	1,535	1,887	1,933	1,992	2,148	2,073	2,926	71.7%	90.6%	55.1%	41.1%	
Robbery	1,229	667	769	737	668	528	555	422	-65.7%	-36.7%	-45.1%	-24.0%	
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3,078</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>2,797</b>	<b>2,842</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>3,481</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>46.6%</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	
Burglary	3,539	2,638	1,982	2,041	1,880	1,783	1,411	1,000	-71.7%	-62.1%	-49.5%	-29.1%	
Theft Offenses	7,684	5,233	5,124	6,078	6,468	6,319	6,671	5,609	-27.0%	7.2%	9.5%	-15.9%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,512	664	630	990	1,323	894	1,145	1,254	-17.1%	88.9%	99.0%	9.5%	
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>12,735</b>	<b>8,535</b>	<b>7,736</b>	<b>9,109</b>	<b>9,671</b>	<b>8,996</b>	<b>9,227</b>	<b>7,863</b>	<b>-38.3%</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>-14.8%</b>	
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	5,206	5,510	4,119	4,414	3,905	3,650	3,510	2,863	-45.0%	-48.0%	-30.5%	-18.4%	
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	1,367	1,482	1,020	929	901	803	731	872	-36.2%	-41.2%	-14.5%	19.3%	
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	426	313	308	315	315	322	508	764	79.3%	144.1%	148.1%	50.4%	
Domestic Violence	4,455	4,825	3,975	4,420	3,892	3,563	3,500	3,340	-25.0%	-30.8%	-16.0%	-4.6%	
<b>Total Group A Offenses<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>30,127</b>	<b>25,162</b>	<b>22,507</b>	<b>24,862</b>	<b>24,294</b>	<b>23,080</b>	<b>23,207</b>	<b>21,863</b>	<b>-27.4%</b>	<b>-13.1%</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>	<b>-5.8%</b>	
<b>Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm<sup>6</sup></b>			<b>2,204</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>2,336</b>	<b>3,546</b>			<b>60.9%</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.

**Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016-2021**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report													
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES													
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)													
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016 - 2021													
Selected Offenses of Interest													
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2006-21	% Change 2011-21	% Change 2016-21	% Change 2020-21	
Murder	3.5	2.8	5.3	4.8	3.5	4.1	5.0	6.9	99.2%	148.7%	29.7%	38.3%	
Rape <sup>2</sup>	13.3	17.6	16.0	20.5	12.9	16.1	14.8	8.8	-33.3%	-49.7%	-44.8%	-40.3%	
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	201.4	179.4	221.7	229.1	233.9	251.2	242.4	334.5	66.1%	86.5%	50.9%	38.0%	
Robbery	137.8	74.3	86.3	82.0	76.5	60.7	61.7	47.0	-65.9%	-36.7%	-45.5%	-23.8%	
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>355.9</b>	<b>274.0</b>	<b>329.4</b>	<b>336.5</b>	<b>326.8</b>	<b>332.1</b>	<b>323.9</b>	<b>397.3</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	
Burglary	431.8	319.6	236.9	240.5	228.5	211.0	189.0	131.2	-69.6%	-58.9%	-44.6%	-22.3%	
Theft Offenses	987.3	663.5	641.4	759.4	828.0	780.0	823.3	700.3	-27.6%	5.5%	9.2%	-14.9%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	179.2	79.6	73.7	117.4	157.2	106.5	136.8	147.4	-17.7%	85.2%	100.0%	7.8%	
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>1578.3</b>	<b>1062.7</b>	<b>952.0</b>	<b>1117.2</b>	<b>1213.7</b>	<b>1097.5</b>	<b>1129.0</b>	<b>979.0</b>	<b>-38.0%</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>-13.3%</b>	
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	644.3	660.4	530.8	554.5	502.0	475.4	450.5	361.8	-43.8%	-45.2%	-31.8%	-19.7%	
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	211.8	193.7	155.0	142.7	147.9	132.5	119.6	136.4	-35.6%	-29.6%	-12.0%	14.1%	
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	54.0	38.4	43.4	44.4	44.7	41.8	62.3	98.8	82.9%	157.6%	127.8%	58.7%	
Domestic Violence	538.9	570.8	487.7	528.6	472.0	439.4	431.6	419.8	-22.1%	-26.5%	-13.9%	-2.7%	
<b>Total Group A Offenses<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3797.5</b>	<b>3081.6</b>	<b>2836.4</b>	<b>3100.3</b>	<b>3084.5</b>	<b>2900.3</b>	<b>2886.8</b>	<b>2735.5</b>	<b>-28.0%</b>	<b>-11.2%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>	
<b>Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm<sup>6,8</sup></b>			<b>252.8</b>	<b>248.5</b>	<b>251.0</b>	<b>256.0</b>	<b>288.7</b>	<b>404.2</b>			<b>59.9%</b>	<b>50.4%</b>	

\* Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.

\* Rates and population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2019 Estimates, are used to calculate the 2020 population estimates based on the UCR methodology which are then used for calculating the rates for 2020 and 2021.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	920,106	933,186	936,021	935,251	936,365	937,166	938,143	938,143

**Table 1.1 Shelby County, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016-2021**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report													
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES													
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016 - 2021													
Selected Offenses of Interest													
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2006-21	% Change 2011-21	% Change 2016-21	% Change 2020-21	
Murder	32	26	50	45	33	38	47	65	103.1%	150.0%	30.0%	38.3%	
Rape <sup>2</sup>	122	164	150	192	121	151	139	83	-32.0%	-49.4%	-44.7%	-40.3%	
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	1,853	1,674	2,075	2,143	2,190	2,354	2,274	3,138	69.3%	87.5%	51.2%	38.0%	
Robbery	1,268	693	808	767	716	569	579	441	-65.2%	-36.4%	-45.4%	-23.8%	
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3,275</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>3,083</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>3,727</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	
Burglary	3,973	2,982	2,217	2,249	2,140	1,977	1,585	1,231	-69.0%	-58.7%	-44.5%	-22.3%	
Theft Offenses	8,900	6,192	6,004	7,102	7,753	7,310	7,724	6,570	-26.2%	6.1%	9.4%	-14.9%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,649	743	690	1,098	1,472	998	1,283	1,383	-16.1%	86.1%	100.4%	7.8%	
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>14,522</b>	<b>9,917</b>	<b>8,911</b>	<b>10,449</b>	<b>11,365</b>	<b>10,285</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>9,184</b>	<b>-36.8%</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>-13.3%</b>	
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	5,928	6,163	4,968	5,186	4,701	4,455	4,226	3,394	-42.7%	-44.9%	-31.7%	-19.7%	
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	1,949	1,808	1,451	1,335	1,385	1,242	1,122	1,280	-34.3%	-29.2%	-11.8%	14.1%	
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	497	358	406	415	419	392	584	927	86.5%	158.9%	128.3%	58.7%	
Domestic Violence	4,958	5,327	4,565	4,944	4,420	4,118	4,049	3,938	-20.6%	-26.1%	-13.7%	-2.7%	
<b>Total Group A Offenses<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>34,941</b>	<b>28,757</b>	<b>26,549</b>	<b>28,996</b>	<b>28,882</b>	<b>27,181</b>	<b>27,082</b>	<b>25,663</b>	<b>-26.6%</b>	<b>-10.8%</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>	
<b>Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearms<sup>6</sup></b>			<b>2,366</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>3,792</b>			<b>60.3%</b>	<b>50.4%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.

**OPERATION: SAFE COMMUNITY Monthly Crime Trends Report**