



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Linda Russell  
901.385.4230  
lrussell8@memphis.edu

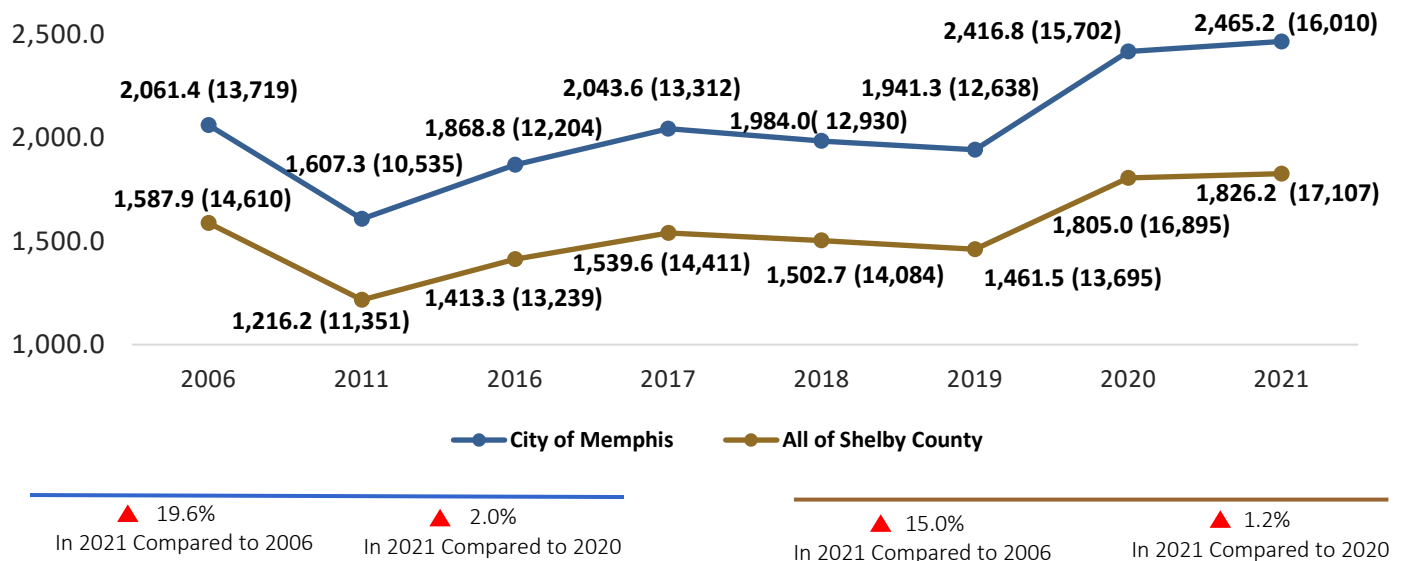
# Violent Crime Begins to Decline

Preliminary figures indicate a decline in reported major violent crime during the second half of 2021, reversing increases that occurred in both 2020 and the first half of 2021.

Major violent crime includes murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults. In 2020, like most urban areas of the nation, Memphis and Shelby County witnessed a sharp increase in major violent crime, with an alarming 24.3 percent increase in Memphis and a 23.1 percent increase countywide compared to 2019, according to preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The increase was the result of significant increases in murders and aggravated assaults (with aggravated assaults accounting for more than 80 percent of all reported major violent crime). Reported rapes and robberies actually went down.

## MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME JANUARY - DECEMBER

(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 2021 TBI figures are preliminary.

The upward trend in major violent crime continued in the first half of 2021, with a 13.1 percent increase in Memphis and a 12.1 percent increase countywide. Murders and aggravated assaults continued to be the categories with increases.

However, the TBI preliminary figures showed just a 2.0 percent increase in major violent crime in Memphis for the entire year and just 1.2 percent countywide, indicating an actual decline during the last half of 2021.

TBI figures for just the last half of 2021 are not available. However, preliminary figures from the Memphis Police Department (MPD) reflect significant declines in major violent crime incidents in Memphis during the months of August, September and November compared to the same months in 2020. Specifically, the preliminary figures show the following declines compared to the same months in 2020.

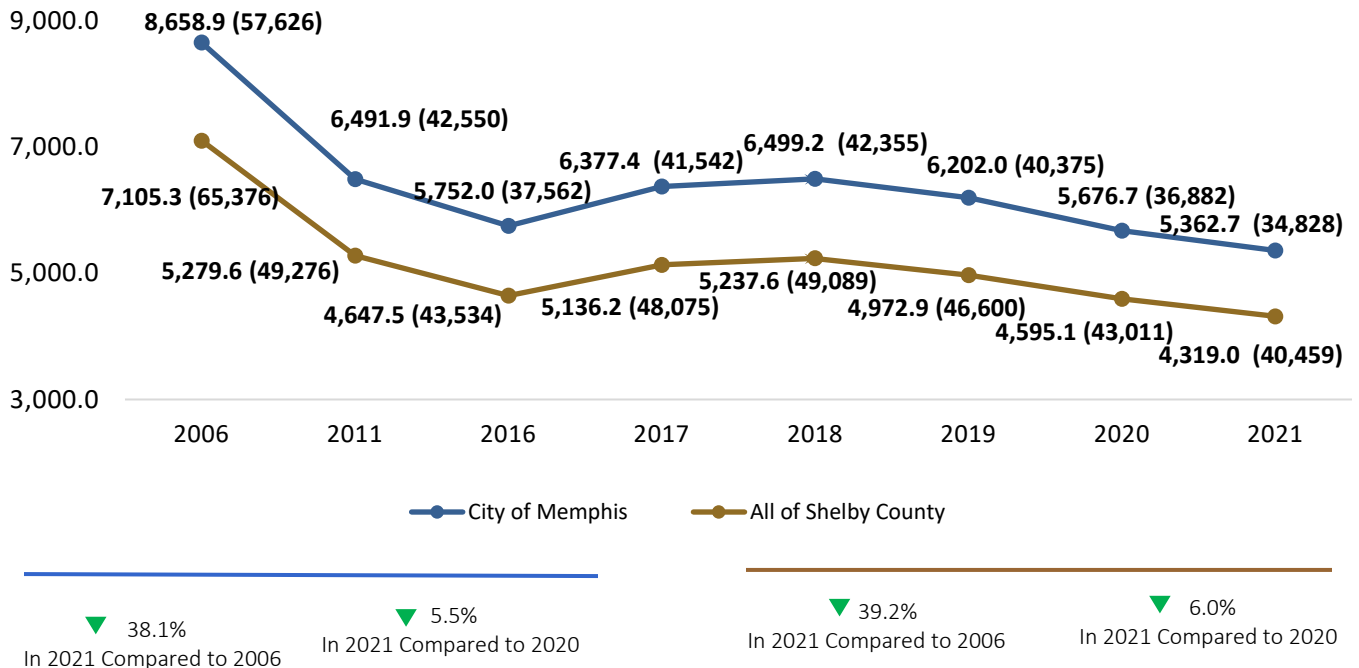
- August – -9 percent
- September – -7 percent
- November – -7 percent

While MPD figures show increases in July, October and December, they are not as significant:

- July - +1 percent
- October - +7 percent
- December - +2 percent

“Whether or not this is the beginning of a longer downward trend is something time will tell, but it is encouraging. Still, our major violent crime rate remains above what it was in 2019 before the pandemic and substantially above what it was in 2011, the lowest point in our violent crime rate in many years. This is not the time to slack up on efforts to reduce violent crime but rather just the opposite,” said Bill Gibbons, president of the Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute at the University of Memphis.

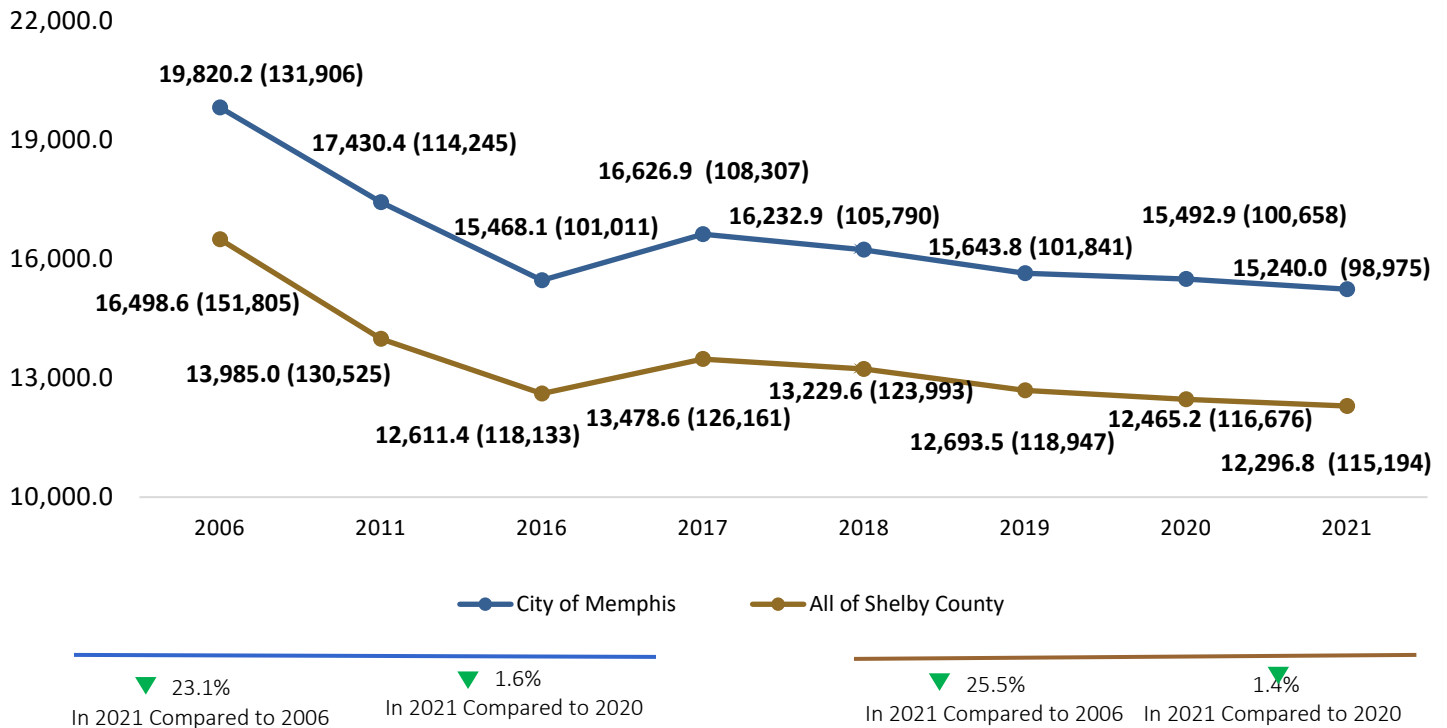
**MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME**  
**JANUARY- DECEMBER**  
 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>



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

In other encouraging news, major property crime (burglaries, motor vehicle thefts and other felony thefts) continued a three-year decline in 2021, with a reduction in Memphis of 5.5 percent compared to 2020 and a drop of 6.0 percent countywide according to the preliminary TBI figures.

**OVERALL CRIME**  
**JANUARY- DECEMBER**  
 (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.

The overall crime rate is calculated using 54 different categories of crime tracked by the TBI. Preliminary figures show slight declines in the overall crime rate as well in 2021 compared to 2020 - minus 1.6 percent in Memphis and 1.4 percent in all of Shelby County.

The Crime Commission is expected to soon release a new 5-year Safe Community Action Plan with a major focus on reducing violent crime, in particular gun violence. A public opinion survey and community meetings involving some 800 people have assisted in the development of the plan, along with consultations with key stakeholders.

###

**About the Crime Statistics:** In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use primarily preliminary 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 - December 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	22.5	18.0	31.2	28.7	28.8	29.8	44.8	47.9	112.5%	166.0%	53.3%	6.9%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	80.8	81.8	90.5	97.0	82.7	78.0	70.3	62.1	-23.2%	-24.1%	-31.4%	-11.8%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	1155.5	1034.0	1254.5	1381.8	1399.0	1454.4	1968.3	2038.7	76.4%	97.2%	62.5%	3.6%
Robbery	802.5	473.6	492.6	536.1	473.5	379.1	333.4	316.6	-60.6%	-33.2%	-35.7%	-5.0%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>3</sup>	2061.4	1607.3	1868.8	2043.6	1984.0	1941.3	2416.8	2465.2	19.6%	53.4%	31.9%	2.0%
Burglary	2487.3	1978.2	1404.1	1432.2	1279.7	1145.2	851.3	779.4	-68.7%	-60.6%	-44.5%	-8.4%
Theft Offenses	5152.4	3984.1	3839.7	4318.1	4522.6	4412.3	4109.7	3806.8	-26.1%	-4.4%	-0.9%	-7.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1019.2	529.6	508.2	627.1	696.8	644.5	715.7	776.5	-23.8%	46.6%	52.8%	8.5%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	8658.9	6491.9	5752.0	6377.4	6499.2	6202.0	5676.7	5362.7	-38.1%	-17.4%	-6.8%	-5.5%
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	3271.0	3581.6	2736.0	2778.8	2596.4	2416.6	2079.6	2010.5	-38.5%	-43.9%	-26.5%	-3.3%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	756.6	791.5	537.8	511.5	510.2	467.6	501.9	566.3	-25.1%	-28.5%	5.3%	12.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	226.6	211.3	164.2	197.1	198.9	187.4	438.7	508.3	124.3%	140.5%	209.6%	15.9%
Domestic Violence	2787.2	3156.4	2635.9	2762.4	2493.9	2398.5	2321.5	2305.2	-17.3%	-27.0%	-12.5%	-0.7%
Total Group A Offenses <sup>6</sup>	19820.2	17430.4	15468.1	16626.9	16232.9	15643.8	15492.9	15240.0	-23.1%	-12.6%	-1.5%	-1.6%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm <sup>6</sup>			1343.1	1536.5	1491.5	1463.0	2202.5	2452.3			82.6%	11.3%

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

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	665,512	655,434	653,026	651,398	651,700	650,998	649,705	649,444

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

**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 - December 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	150	118	204	187	188	194	291	311	107.3%	163.6%	52.5%	6.9%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	538	536	591	632	539	508	457	403	-25.1%	-24.8%	-31.8%	-11.8%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	7,690	6,777	8,192	9,001	9,117	9,468	12,788	13,240	72.2%	95.4%	61.6%	3.5%
Robbery	5,341	3,104	3,217	3,492	3,086	2,468	2,166	2,056	-61.5%	-33.8%	-36.1%	-5.1%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>3</sup>	13,719	10,535	12,204	13,312	12,930	12,638	15,702	16,010	16.7%	52.0%	31.2%	2.0%
Burglary	16,553	12,966	9,169	9,329	8,340	7,455	5,531	5,062	-69.4%	-61.0%	-44.8%	-8.5%
Theft Offenses	34,290	26,113	25,074	28,128	29,474	28,724	26,701	24,723	-27.9%	-5.3%	-1.4%	-7.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,783	3,471	3,319	4,085	4,541	4,196	4,650	5,043	-25.7%	45.3%	51.9%	8.5%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	57,626	42,550	37,562	41,542	42,355	40,375	36,882	34,828	-39.6%	-18.1%	-7.3%	-5.6%
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	21,769	23,475	17,867	18,101	16,921	15,732	13,511	13,057	-40.0%	-44.4%	-26.9%	-3.4%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	5,035	5,188	3,512	3,332	3,325	3,044	3,261	3,678	-27.0%	-29.1%	4.7%	12.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	1,508	1,385	1,072	1,284	1,296	1,220	2,850	3,301	118.9%	138.3%	207.9%	15.8%
Domestic Violence	18,549	20,688	17,213	17,994	16,253	15,614	15,083	14,971	-19.3%	-27.6%	-13.0%	-0.7%
Total Group A Offenses <sup>6</sup>	131,906	114,245	101,011	108,307	105,790	101,841	100,658	98,975	-25.0%	-13.4%	-2.0%	-1.7%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm <sup>6</sup>			8,771	10,009	9,720	9,524	14,310	15,926			81.6%	11.3%

<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 - December 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	16.6	13.3	23.7	20.7	20.8	21.8	32.3	34.6	108.0%	160.3%	45.9%	7.2%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	65.6	66.1	71.0	77.2	65.7	62.6	55.0	50.2	-23.6%	-24.1%	-29.3%	-8.8%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	906.6	794.2	958.6	1054.3	1071.8	1098.4	1476.7	1512.0	66.8%	90.4%	57.7%	2.4%
Robbery	599.0	342.6	360.1	387.4	344.4	278.6	241.0	229.4	-61.7%	-33.0%	-36.3%	-4.8%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>3</sup>	1587.9	1216.2	1413.3	1539.6	1502.7	1461.5	1805.0	1826.2	15.0%	50.2%	29.2%	1.2%
Burglary	2012.1	1564.0	1094.2	1101.2	1001.0	886.7	667.5	621.5	-69.1%	-60.3%	-43.2%	-6.9%
Theft Offenses	4291.7	3306.0	3149.6	3550.4	3685.7	3560.6	3360.8	3092.0	-28.0%	-6.5%	-1.8%	-8.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	801.5	409.6	403.6	484.6	550.9	525.7	566.8	605.5	-24.5%	47.8%	50.0%	6.8%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	7105.3	5279.6	4647.5	5136.2	5237.6	4972.9	4595.1	4319.0	-39.2%	-18.2%	-7.1%	-6.0%
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	2699.3	2810.5	2243.6	2264.7	2146.9	2005.2	1699.0	1689.8	-37.4%	-39.9%	-24.7%	-0.5%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	760.6	692.6	530.3	508.5	539.5	498.0	498.3	557.2	-26.7%	-19.5%	5.1%	11.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	194.8	173.0	150.1	177.6	176.8	170.1	346.4	420.5	115.9%	143.0%	180.1%	21.4%
Domestic Violence	2258.4	2462.4	2096.6	2165.5	1985.6	1918.4	1872.9	1862.3	-17.5%	-24.4%	-11.2%	-0.6%
Total Group A Offenses <sup>6</sup>	16498.6	13985.0	12611.4	13478.6	13229.6	12693.5	12465.2	12296.8	-25.5%	-12.1%	-2.5%	-1.4%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm <sup>6</sup>			1007.2	1153.1	1124.3	1101.3	1642.3	1817.6			80.5%	10.7%

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

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	920,106	933,321	936,716	936,012	937,239	937,070	936,017	936,778

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



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

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report												
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES												
January 1 - December 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	153	124	222	194	195	204	302	324	111.8%	161.3%	45.9%	7.3%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	604	617	665	723	616	587	515	470	-22.2%	-23.8%	-29.3%	-8.7%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	8,342	7,412	8,979	9,868	10,045	10,293	13,822	14,164	69.8%	91.1%	57.7%	2.5%
Robbery	5,511	3,198	3,373	3,626	3,228	2,611	2,256	2,149	-61.0%	-32.8%	-36.3%	-4.7%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME <sup>3</sup>	14,610	11,351	13,239	14,411	14,084	13,695	16,895	17,107	17.1%	50.7%	29.2%	1.3%
Burglary	18,513	14,597	10,250	10,307	9,382	8,309	6,248	5,822	-68.6%	-60.1%	-43.2%	-6.8%
Theft Offenses	39,488	30,856	29,503	33,232	34,544	33,365	31,458	28,965	-26.6%	-6.1%	-1.8%	-7.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	7,375	3,823	3,781	4,536	5,163	4,926	5,305	5,672	-23.1%	48.4%	50.0%	6.9%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	65,376	49,276	43,534	48,075	49,089	46,600	43,011	40,459	-38.1%	-17.9%	-7.1%	-5.9%
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	24,836	26,231	21,016	21,198	20,122	18,790	15,903	15,830	-36.3%	-39.7%	-24.7%	-0.5%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	6,998	6,464	4,967	4,760	5,056	4,667	4,664	5,220	-25.4%	-19.2%	5.1%	11.9%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	1,792	1,615	1,406	1,662	1,657	1,594	3,242	3,939	119.8%	143.9%	180.2%	21.5%
Domestic Violence	20,780	22,982	19,639	20,269	18,610	17,977	17,531	17,446	-16.0%	-24.1%	-11.2%	-0.5%
Total Group A Offenses <sup>6</sup>	151,805	130,525	118,133	126,161	123,993	118,947	116,676	115,194	-24.1%	-11.7%	-2.5%	-1.3%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm <sup>6</sup>			9,435	10,793	10,537	10,320	15,372	17,027			80.5%	10.8%

<sup>6</sup> Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.