



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## Overall Crime Down, Gun Crime Increase Alarming

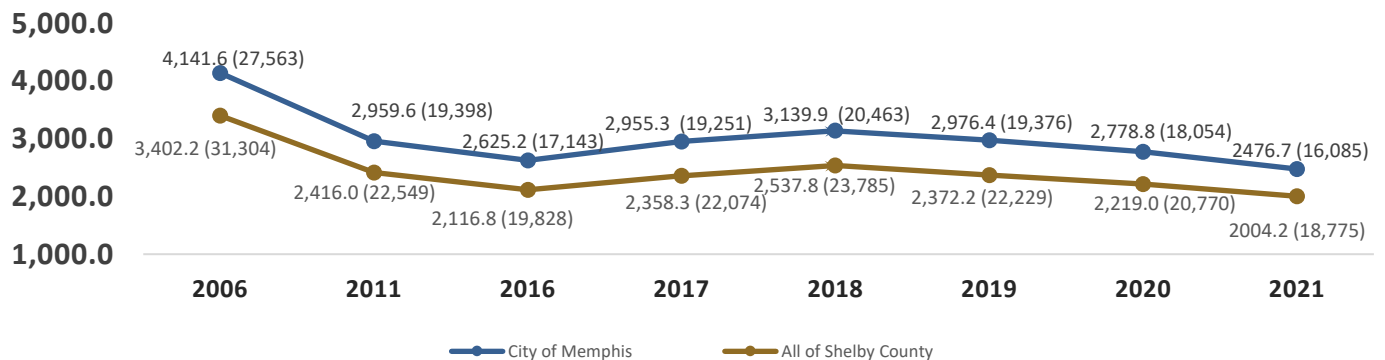
Based on preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and the Memphis Police Department (MPD), the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission have released crime figures for the first half of this year.

For the first six months of 2021, overall crime was down in Memphis and all of Shelby County compared to last year. However, gun-related crime continued to increase at an alarming rate.

The major property crime rate continued to drop significantly – down 10.9% in Memphis compared to last year and a whopping 40.2% compared to 2006. The decrease was driven by a 20.9% decline in reported burglaries compared to last year. The one major property crime category that was up was motor vehicle thefts – up 8.0%.

### MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME JANUARY - JUNE

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



▼ 40.2% In 2021 Compared to 2006  
▼ 10.9% In 2021 Compared to 2020

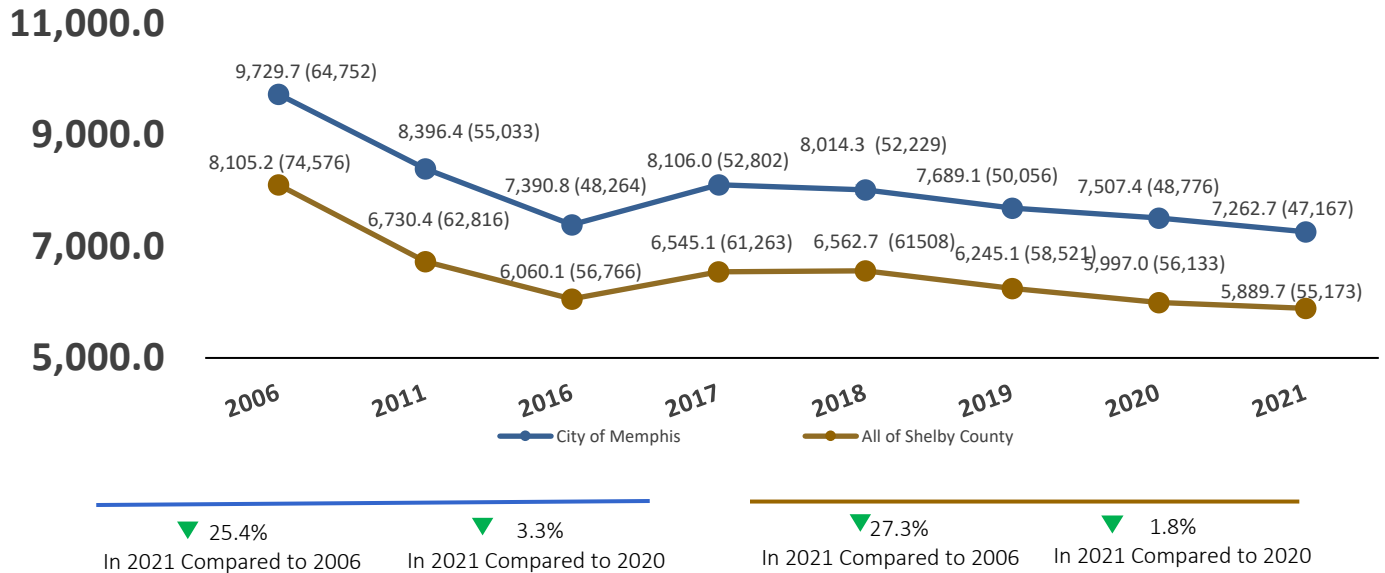
▼ 41.1% In 2021 Compared to 2016  
▼ 9.7% In 2021 Compared to 2020

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

The overall crime rate (54 different categories of crime tracked by the TBI) also continued to drop – down 3.3% in Memphis compared to 2020 and down 25.4% compared to 2006.

**OVERALL CRIME  
JANUARY - JUNE**

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

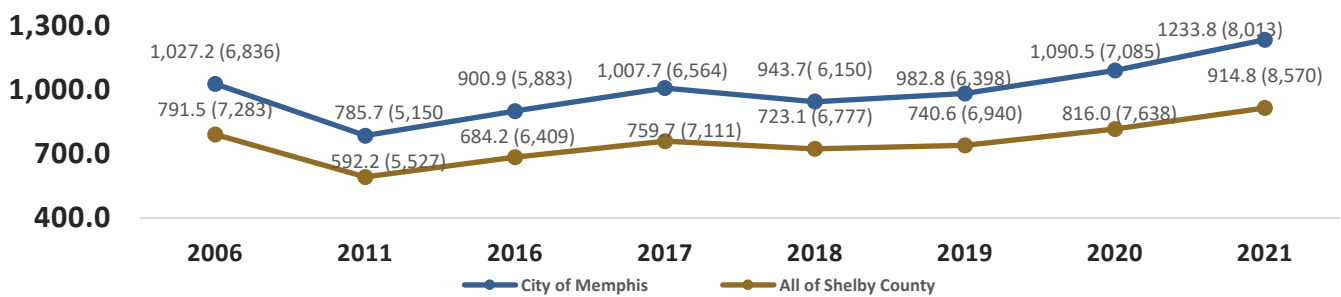


1 The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate types of “Group A crimes” tracked by the T.B.I. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) The 2021 TBI figures are preliminary.

The major violent crime rate continued to go up – increasing 13.1% in Memphis compared to 2020 and 20.1% compared to 2006. The increase continued to be driven by reported aggravated assaults, most of which involve guns. (Murders make up a small part of the aggregate major violent crime number but are, of course, of the most concern. They were up 14.6% compared to last year.) Reported robberies and rapes were actually down significantly.

**MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME  
JANUARY - JUNE**

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

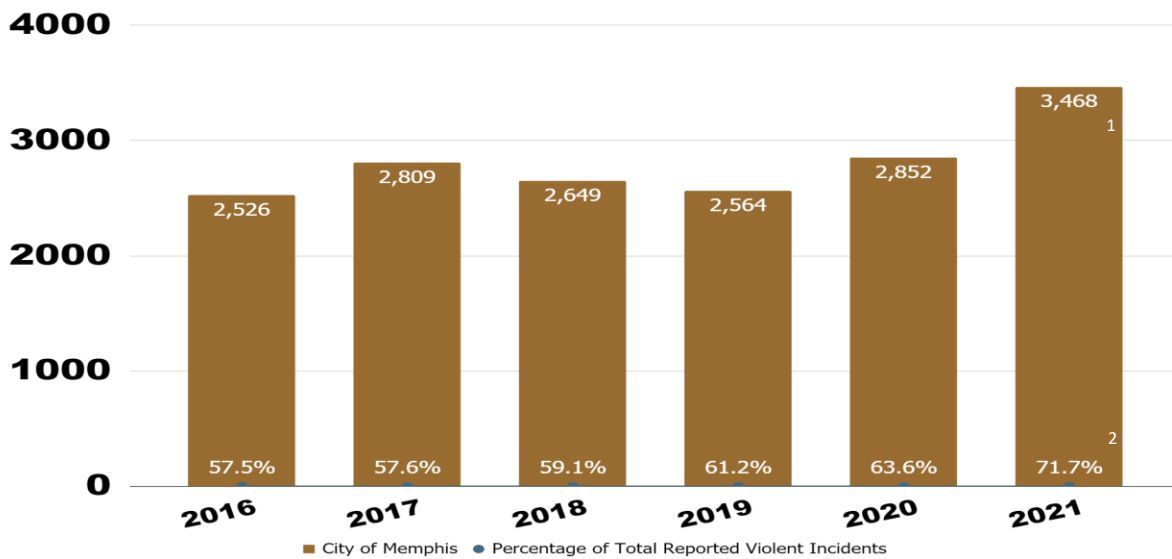


▲ 20.1% In 2021 Compared to 2006  
 ▲ 13.1% In 2021 Compared to 2020

▲ 15.6% In 2021 Compared to 2006  
 ▲ 12.1% In 2021 Compared to 2020

1 Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2021 TBI Reported violent incidents involving guns in Memphis increased at an alarming rate – up 21.6% compared to last year and 37.3% compared to just five years ago. The percentage of all reported violent incidents that involve guns has also increased. Among all reported violent incidents the first half of this year, 71.7% involved guns compared to 63.6% last year and 57.5% in 2016.

NUMBER OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING GUNS IN MEMPHIS AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REPORTED VIOLENT INCIDENTS<sup>1</sup>  
JANUARY - JUNE



1

▲ 37.3% In 2021 Compared to 2016  
 ▲ 21.6% In 2021 Compared to 2020

2

▲ 24.7% In 2021 Compared to 2016  
 ▲ 12.5% In 2021 Compared to 2020

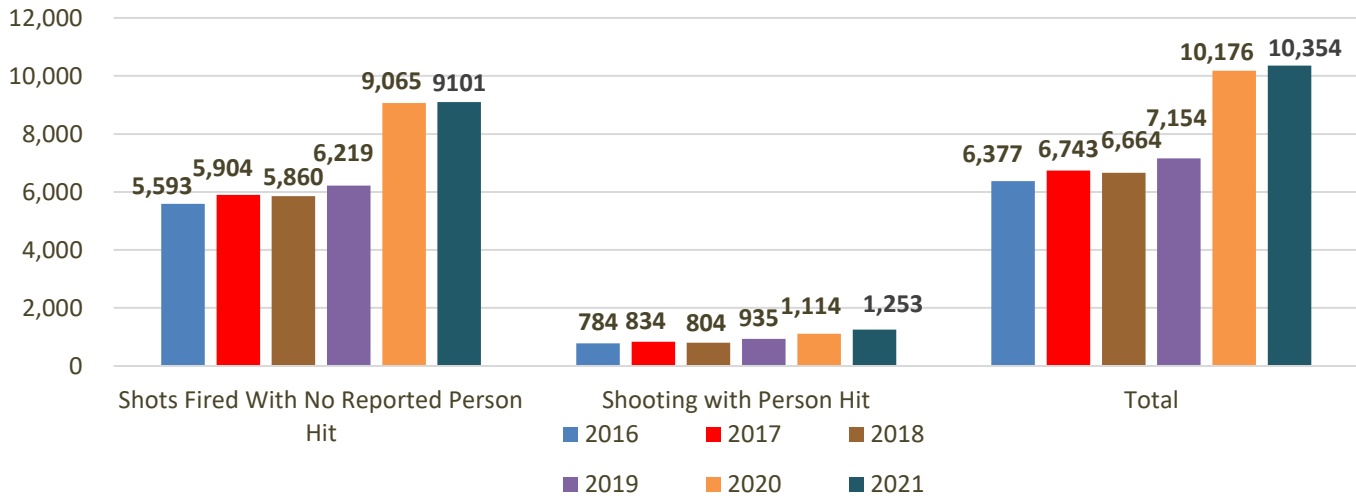
<sup>1</sup> “Violent incidents” are (1) murder, (2) manslaughter, (3) justifiable homicide, (4) forcible rape, (5) aggravated assault, (6) aggravated domestic violence assault, (7) aggravated child abuse, (8) robbery of individual, (9) robbery of businesses, and (10) carjacking. Sources: Memphis Police Department and Dr. Angela Madden, UofM Public Safety Institute

While MPD measures incidents, the TBI tracks offenses. (One incident can involve multiple offenses. For example, three victims in an incident would count as three offenses.) Reported offenses involving guns were up 28.9% compared to 2020 and a staggering 81.9% compared to 2016.

Reports of guns stolen from vehicles continue to go up. Through June, 812 guns were reported stolen from vehicles in Memphis. If that rate continues, a record of more than 1,600 guns will be reported stolen from vehicles this year.

Finally, through June, there were 10,354 calls for service for shots fired compared to 10,176 in 2020 and 6,377 in 2016. Of those calls, 1,253 were for persons hit compared to 1,114 last year and 784 back in 2016.

**Calls for Service for Shots Fired and Shootings with Person Hit in City of Memphis January - June**



Source: Memphis Police Department and Dr. Angela Madden, University of Memphis Public Safety Institute. The number of calls for service for shots fired could contain duplicate calls for the same incident. However, that error is likely the same across time in the absence of any local effort to increase reports. The number of calls for shootings with a person hit are likely not to be duplicated unless several people witness a person getting shot & more than one witness calls 911.

In some encouraging news, Part 1 offenses (major violent and major property crimes) went down in June according to MPD, and this may be partially attributable to reductions in violent crime. So, we may be slowly returning to a more normal pre-pandemic situation, with proactive policing going up again.

“While overall crime is going down, gun violence continues to be of urgent concern,” said Bill Gibbons, president of the Crime Commission and executive director of the UofM’s Public Safety Institute. “That’s why it is so important to support and scale up such efforts as District Attorney Amy Weirich’s special focus on serious repeat offenders and Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland’s efforts to increase the number of credible individuals who can interrupt and head off retaliatory gun violence. It’s going to take all of us, though, working together, including parents, teachers, faith community leaders, neighborhood

watch leaders and responsible adults willing to mentor our youth.”

###

**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 <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES												
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)												
January 1 - June 30, 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	12.9	8.2	15.0	14.3	11.7	13.7	18.0	20.6	59.7%	150.4%	37.5%	14.6%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	39.8	42.4	41.5	48.7	40.0	37.8	33.7	27.7	-30.4%	-34.7%	-33.2%	-17.8%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	594.4	519.8	606.9	702.9	674.4	751.2	874.4	1046.6	76.1%	101.3%	72.5%	19.7%
Robbery	380.0	215.3	237.5	241.8	217.6	180.2	164.4	138.9	-63.5%	-35.5%	-41.5%	-15.5%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1027.2</b>	<b>785.7</b>	<b>900.9</b>	<b>1007.7</b>	<b>943.7</b>	<b>982.8</b>	<b>1090.5</b>	<b>1233.8</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>37.0%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
Burglary	1168.3	893.6	670.4	693.7	629.9	551.8	430.8	340.8	-70.8%	-61.9%	-49.2%	-20.9%
Theft Offenses	2492.4	1832.1	1744.5	1968.8	2157.7	2128.0	2010.6	1771.7	-28.9%	-3.3%	1.6%	-11.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	481.0	233.9	210.3	292.8	352.3	296.6	337.4	364.3	-24.3%	55.8%	73.3%	8.0%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>4141.6</b>	<b>2959.6</b>	<b>2625.2</b>	<b>2955.3</b>	<b>3139.9</b>	<b>2976.4</b>	<b>2778.8</b>	<b>2476.7</b>	<b>-40.2%</b>	<b>-16.3%</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>	<b>-10.9%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	1660.2	1811.5	1352.5	1409.1	1320.2	1229.7	1077.3	993.6	-40.2%	-45.1%	-26.5%	-7.8%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	379.0	416.4	301.2	264.5	273.1	226.7	248.7	275.5	-27.3%	-33.8%	-8.5%	10.7%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	115.7	104.1	91.0	97.2	104.6	95.4	187.2	250.4	116.4%	140.6%	175.2%	33.8%
Domestic Violence	1406.0	1599.2	1295.5	1422.8	1282.0	1211.1	1127.7	1158.5	-17.6%	-27.6%	-10.6%	2.7%
<b>Total Group A Offenses<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>9729.7</b>	<b>8396.4</b>	<b>7390.8</b>	<b>8106.0</b>	<b>8014.3</b>	<b>7689.1</b>	<b>7507.4</b>	<b>7262.7</b>	<b>-25.4%</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
<b>Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearms<sup>6</sup></b>			<b>667.8</b>	<b>741.3</b>	<b>708.0</b>	<b>745.2</b>	<b>947.4</b>	<b>1221.7</b>			<b>82.9%</b>	<b>29.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 - June 30, 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	88	54	98	93	76	89	117	134	55.8%	148.1%	36.7%	14.5%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	265	278	271	317	261	246	219	180	-32.1%	-35.3%	-33.6%	-17.8%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	3,956	3,407	3,963	4,579	4,395	4,890	5,681	6,797	71.8%	99.5%	71.5%	19.6%
Robbery	2,529	1,411	1,551	1,575	1,418	1,173	1,068	902	-64.3%	-36.1%	-41.8%	-15.5%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>6,836</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>5,883</b>	<b>6,564</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>6,398</b>	<b>7,085</b>	<b>8,013</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>55.6%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
Burglary	7,775	5,857	4,378	4,519	4,105	3,592	2,799	2,213	-71.5%	-62.2%	-49.5%	-20.9%
Theft Offenses	16,587	12,008	11,392	12,825	14,062	13,853	13,063	11,506	-30.6%	-4.2%	1.0%	-11.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,201	1,533	1,373	1,907	2,296	1,931	2,192	2,366	-26.1%	54.3%	72.3%	7.9%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>27,563</b>	<b>19,398</b>	<b>17,143</b>	<b>19,251</b>	<b>20,463</b>	<b>19,376</b>	<b>18,054</b>	<b>16,085</b>	<b>-41.6%</b>	<b>-17.1%</b>	<b>-6.2%</b>	<b>-10.9%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	11,049	11,873	8,832	9,179	8,604	8,005	6,999	6,453	-41.6%	-45.6%	-26.9%	-7.8%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	2,522	2,729	1,967	1,723	1,780	1,476	1,616	1,789	-29.1%	-34.4%	-9.0%	10.7%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	770	682	594	633	682	621	1,216	1,626	111.2%	138.4%	173.7%	33.7%
Domestic Violence	9,357	10,482	8,460	9,268	8,355	7,884	7,327	7,524	-19.6%	-28.2%	-11.1%	2.7%
<b>Total Group A Offenses<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>64,752</b>	<b>55,033</b>	<b>48,264</b>	<b>52,802</b>	<b>52,229</b>	<b>50,056</b>	<b>48,776</b>	<b>47,167</b>	<b>-27.2%</b>	<b>-14.3%</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
<b>Total Group A Offenses Involving</b>			<b>4,361</b>	<b>4,829</b>	<b>4,614</b>	<b>4,851</b>	<b>6,155</b>	<b>7,934</b>			<b>81.9%</b>	<b>28.8%</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

**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 - June 30, 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	9.3	6.3	10.8	9.9	8.2	9.9	12.8	15.3	63.3%	141.5%	41.6%	19.1%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	32.2	34.5	32.5	39.6	32.0	30.1	27.2	21.9	-32.0%	-36.8%	-32.6%	-19.7%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	466.1	395.8	467.5	534.7	523.2	567.4	655.8	777.2	66.7%	96.4%	66.3%	18.5%
Robbery	283.9	155.6	173.5	175.4	159.6	133.2	120.2	100.5	-64.6%	-35.4%	-42.1%	-16.4%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>791.5</b>	<b>592.2</b>	<b>684.2</b>	<b>759.7</b>	<b>723.1</b>	<b>740.6</b>	<b>816.0</b>	<b>914.8</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
Burglary	944.1	705.2	520.8	532.4	497.0	425.3	336.0	279.4	-70.4%	-60.4%	-46.4%	-16.9%
Theft Offenses	2077.4	1528.1	1432.1	1602.4	1765.2	1709.6	1616.7	1442.0	-30.6%	-5.6%	0.7%	-10.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	380.7	182.7	163.9	223.5	275.6	237.3	266.2	282.9	-25.7%	54.9%	72.6%	6.3%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>3402.2</b>	<b>2416.0</b>	<b>2116.8</b>	<b>2358.3</b>	<b>2537.8</b>	<b>2372.2</b>	<b>2219.0</b>	<b>2004.2</b>	<b>-41.1%</b>	<b>-17.0%</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>	<b>-9.7%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	1361.3	1417.9	1118.1	1141.4	1088.4	1023.9	878.4	814.6	-40.2%	-42.6%	-27.1%	-7.3%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	389.6	364.4	296.2	264.4	290.7	245.0	240.3	285.6	-26.7%	-21.6%	-3.6%	18.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	97.2	84.0	80.2	88.9	94.2	83.9	144.7	210.8	117.0%	151.0%	163.0%	45.7%
Domestic Violence	1131.6	1240.9	1040.4	1112.4	1013.5	970.5	904.8	942.7	-16.7%	-24.0%	-9.4%	4.2%
Total Group A Offenses <sup>6</sup>	8105.2	6730.4	6060.1	6545.1	6562.7	6245.1	5997.0	5889.7	-27.3%	-12.5%	-2.8%	-1.8%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearms <sup>6</sup>			501.1	559.2	540.4	559.8	703.4	907.8			81.2%	29.1%

\* 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 - June 30, 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	86	59	101	93	77	93	120	143	66.3%	142.4%	41.6%	19.2%	
Rape <sup>2</sup>	296	322	304	371	300	282	255	205	-30.7%	-36.3%	-32.6%	-19.6%	
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	4,289	3,694	4,379	5,005	4,904	5,317	6,138	7,281	69.8%	97.1%	66.3%	18.6%	
Robbery	2,612	1,452	1,625	1,642	1,496	1,248	1,125	941	-64.0%	-35.2%	-42.1%	-16.4%	
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>7,283</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>6,409</b>	<b>7,111</b>	<b>6,777</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>7,638</b>	<b>8,570</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	
Burglary	8,687	6,582	4,878	4,983	4,658	3,985	3,145	2,617	-69.9%	-60.2%	-46.4%	-16.8%	
Theft Offenses	19,114	14,262	13,415	14,999	16,544	16,020	15,133	13,508	-29.3%	-5.3%	0.7%	-10.7%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,503	1,705	1,535	2,092	2,583	2,224	2,492	2,650	-24.4%	55.4%	72.6%	6.3%	
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>31,304</b>	<b>22,549</b>	<b>19,828</b>	<b>22,074</b>	<b>23,785</b>	<b>22,229</b>	<b>20,770</b>	<b>18,775</b>	<b>-40.0%</b>	<b>-16.7%</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>	<b>-9.6%</b>	
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	12,525	13,234	10,473	10,684	10,201	9,595	8,222	7,631	-39.1%	-42.3%	-27.1%	-7.2%	
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	3,585	3,401	2,775	2,475	2,725	2,296	2,249	2,675	-25.4%	-21.3%	-3.6%	18.9%	
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	894	784	751	832	883	786	1,354	1,975	120.9%	151.9%	163.0%	45.9%	
Domestic Violence	10,412	11,582	9,746	10,412	9,499	9,094	8,469	8,831	-15.2%	-23.8%	-9.4%	4.3%	
<b>Total Group A Offenses<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>74,576</b>	<b>62,816</b>	<b>56,766</b>	<b>61,263</b>	<b>61,508</b>	<b>58,521</b>	<b>56,133</b>	<b>55,173</b>	<b>-26.0%</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	
<b>Total Group A Offenses Involving</b>			<b>4,694</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>5,246</b>	<b>6,584</b>	<b>8,504</b>			<b>81.2%</b>	<b>29.2%</b>	

\* 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**

MEMPHIS SHELBY CRIME COMMISSION &  
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