

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



CRIME
COMMISSION

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS. SAFE COMMUNITY.

A Message To The Community

After a rough 2023, our community had some good news in 2024, with reported crimes going down in most major categories.

Reported victims of major violent crime (composed of murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults), major property crime (composed of reported burglaries, vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts), and overall reported crime (made up of 54 categories) all declined in 2024 compared to 2023.

Especially encouraging were the double digit declines in murders (down 28.6 percent), robberies (down 22.3 percent) and vehicle thefts (a drop of 35.6 percent).

The number of reported violent crimes in Memphis involving guns declined from 8,162 in 2023 to 7,221 in 2024 (a drop of 11.5 percent), and the number of guns reported stolen from vehicles in Memphis declined from 2,128 in 2023 to 1,615 in 2024 (a 24.1 percent decline).

Yet, while the overall trends are encouraging, crime has not declined to pre-pandemic levels in most categories, and we are certainly not where we need to be. Two significant categories that remained stagnant are victims of aggravated assaults and domestic violence.

As Memphis Mayor Paul Young notes, for a number of reasons, it is critical that we make headway in reducing the number of aggravated assaults. First, in 2024, we had over 13,000 reported victims of aggravated assault in Memphis/Shelby County. That includes everything from street-level acts of violence to domestic violence. Second, at least 70 percent of aggravated assaults last year involved guns. An aggravated assault involving discharge of a firearm can easily become a murder. All it takes is a good aim. Third, the sheer number of aggravated assaults drives our violent crime rate. In 2024, aggravated assaults made up 81 percent of reported violent crime in our community. We will never significantly reduce our violent crime rate without reducing aggravated assaults.

The Safe Community Action Plan contains a number of evidence-informed steps that are to one degree or another underway but must be implemented with fidelity, brought to scale, and sustained. These include (1) focused deterrence targeted to those responsible for much of our crime, (2) intervention efforts to head off retaliatory acts of violence, and (3) hotspot data-driven policing. Some other important steps include (1) vigorous prosecution of gun crimes coupled with stronger state laws to address gun violence, (2) addressing the shortage of law enforcement officers which, in turn, can increase hotspot policing and beef up investigative units, (3) engaging the community more by scaling up efforts such as neighborhood watch and involving the community more in police recruitment, (4) better support and coordination of services to domestic violence victims, and (5) more intensive efforts to place qualified ex-offenders into jobs. We are committed to advocating and advancing these and other parts of the Safe Community Action Plan.

Thank all of you for your support of our efforts to make our community safer. To learn more about the Crime Commission, the Safe Community Action Plan, and crime trends, go to <https://memphiscrime.org>.

Respectfully,



Ben Adams
Board Chair



Bill Gibbons
President

The Safe Community Action Plan

Completed



On Track



Behind Schedule



Significantly Behind Schedule



Gun Violence

 **Action Step 1:** Maintain and scale up the current focused deterrence initiative which uses a “carrot and stick” approach with high-risk offenders. (In 2024, 51 high-risk individuals participated in group call-ins, and 200 participated in one-on-one interventions, for a total of 251. Some components of the focused model are still missing, and the effort needs to be scaled up.)

 **Action Step 2:** Scale up the Group Violence Intervention effort by expanding the number of credible violence interveners who seek to prevent acts of retaliatory violence. (The 901 BLOC Squad, Memphis Allies, Heal 901, and other groups are engaged in street outreach. Funding is a challenge, and more coordination among groups is needed.)

 **Action Step 3:** Continue vigorous federal prosecution of gun crime. (In 2024, 28 defendants were charged for possession of firearms with switches, which convert legal guns into illegal machine guns.)

 **Action Step 4:** Communicate the consequences of engaging in gun crime. (While some funding was provided toward the end of 2024, the funding is not at the level for a sustained message.)

 **Action Step 5:** Develop and implement an effort to reduce thefts of vehicles and guns from vehicles. (Over 25,000 steering wheel locks were distributed by MPD in

2024. Reported stolen vehicles declined by 37 percent in Memphis compared to 2023, and guns reported stolen from vehicles dropped 24 percent.)



Action Step 6: Establish a special Memphis Police Department unit to investigate aggravated assault incidents involving discharge of guns. (Non-fatal shootings have been assigned to a special investigative unit. A challenge is ensuring the unit has the resources it needs.)

Juveniles



Action Step 7: Expand efforts to meet the needs of our community's vulnerable youth before they encounter law enforcement or the juvenile justice system. (Boys and Girls Clubs of Memphis has expanded its activities significantly.)



Action Step 8: Help break the cycle of repeat delinquent offenders by implementing a youth assessment center that (1) is based on a best practice model with a proven track record of working and (2) provides needs assessments and appropriate interventions for non-violent offenders. (Precinct-level MPD officers have been trained on the referral process; 531 youth were served in 2024.)



Action Step 9: Develop a system of intensive supervision, rehabilitation, and treatment for serious juvenile offenders. (Memphis Allies' SWITCH-Youth program is underway. Blended sentencing was enacted by the TN General Assembly.)

Law Enforcement Staffing/Development



Action Step 10: Resolve shortages in local law enforcement staffing and effectively use personnel and technology for data-driven, proactive policing. (The MPD and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office remain understaffed. However, law

enforcement is making smart use of its existing resources, as reflected by MPD's Operation Code Zero. State troopers continue to be added.)

✓ **Action Step 11:** Loosen the residency requirement for local law enforcement officers. (Local law enforcement officers no longer have to reside in Shelby County.)

🚩 **Action Step 12:** Involve the community in the recruitment of local law enforcement officers. (The Crime Commission and the City of Memphis have agreed on an incentive to encourage community involvement in recruitment. It is just now getting off the ground.)

✗ **Action Step 13:** Establish a public safety optional program for high school students who are interested in law enforcement and other public safety careers. (No real movement has occurred on this step. Stable school leadership would help.)

Community Involvement

🚩 **Action Step 14:** Expand the number of neighborhood watch groups. (MPD cleaned its neighborhood watch list to eliminate inactive groups. Now the challenge is to grow the number.)

🚩 **Action Step 15:** Expand SafeWays' intensive crime prevention program for apartment communities. (There were 30 SafeWays certified apartment communities at the end of 2024. Getting the Memphis Health, Education and Housing Facility Board involved would help.)

🚩 **Action Step 16:** Establish a Neighborhood Safety Initiative that focuses on specific crime and blight

hotspots. (Only 14 such properties were resolved in 2024, and the initiative has not expanded beyond two MPD precincts. A "reset" of NSI is underway.)

🚩 **Action Step 17:** Increase the percentage of probationers and parolees mandated by the Tennessee Department of Correction to report to the Shelby County Office of Re-Entry who do so and increase the percentage who become employed. (In 2024 about 57 percent of those required to report to SCOR did so, and about 26 percent of those who reported were employed at the end of the year.)

🚩 **Action Step 18:** Address the fragmented behavioral health resources available for those within the criminal justice system. (A process map with intervention points has been completed and distributed. A key is to periodically update it.)

Domestic Violence

🚩 **Action Step 19:** Establish an effective Domestic Violence Task Force made up of key stakeholders to oversee (1) development of a strategic plan and (2) implementation of the plan. (The Task Force is in place, the plan has been developed, and a plan process evaluation has been completed. A key part of the plan - an electronic lethality assessment protocol - was not completed in 2024.)

Justice System Reform

✓ **Action Step 20:** Enact truth-in-sentencing state legislation to insure accountability for criminal conduct and confidence in our state's sentencing structure. (State legislation was enacted in 2023. The impact should be seen on the back end as longer sentences kick in.)

2024 DATA*

11.0% ▼
**Overall Crime Rate
 In Shelby County**
In 2024 compared to 2023

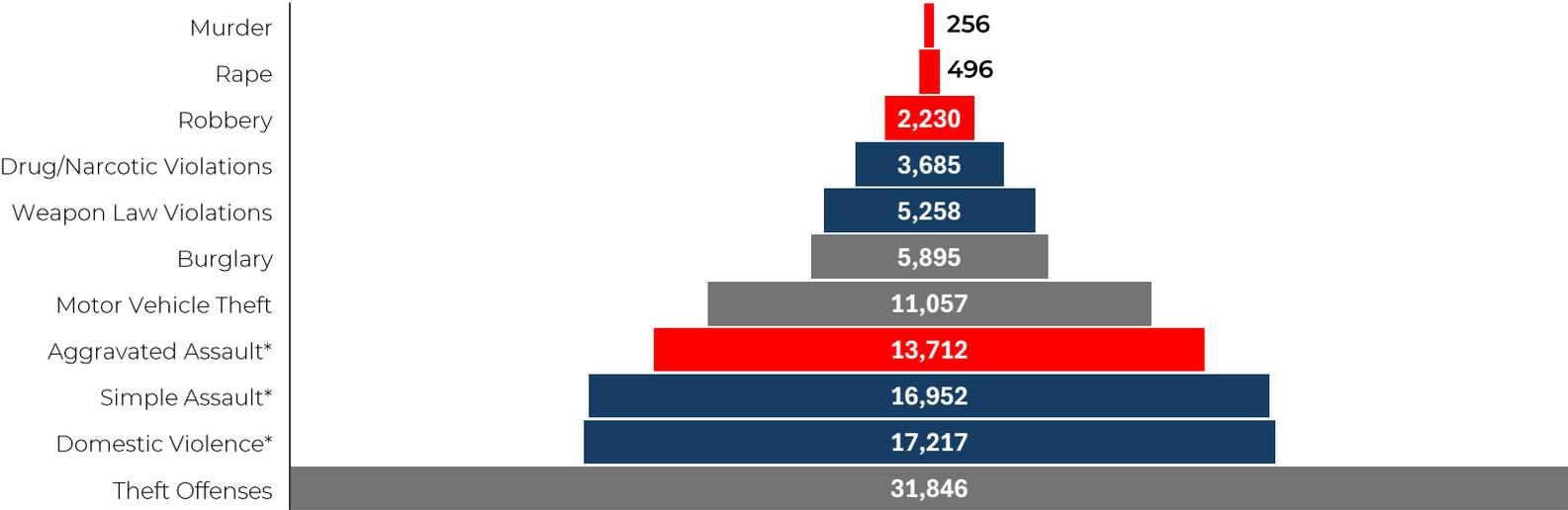
3.9% ▼
**Major Violent Crime Rate
 In Shelby County**
In 2024 compared to 2023

19.5% ▼
**Major Property Crime Rate
 In Shelby County**
In 2024 compared to 2023

* Source: Preliminary data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

TIBERS Group A Offenses for Shelby County 2024

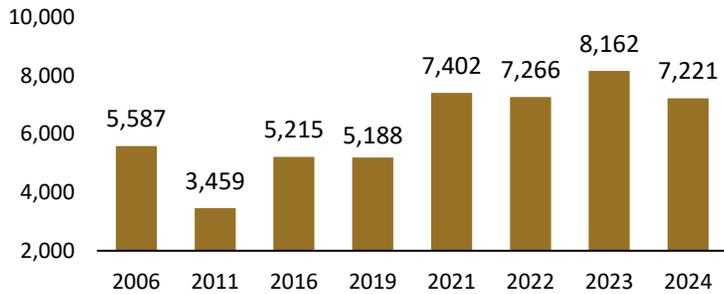
■ Major Violent Crime
 ■ Major Property Crime
 ■ Additional Group A Offenses



* The aggravated assault and simple assault numbers are all of those offenses reported to law enforcement agencies. The domestic violence number includes all of the reported aggravated assaults and simple assaults flagged as domestic violence by law enforcement. So, there is some overlap in the numbers.

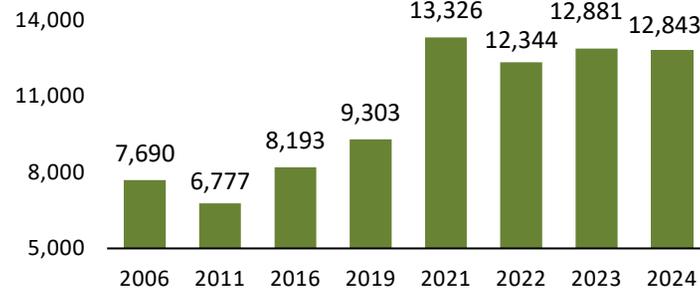
Source: Preliminary data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Number of Reported Violent Incidents Involving Guns in Memphis in 2024



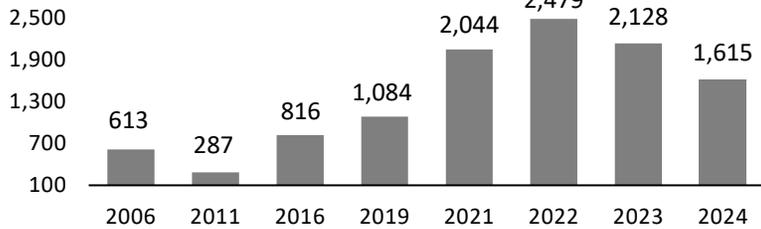
Source: Memphis Police Department

Reported Aggravated Assaults in Memphis in 2024



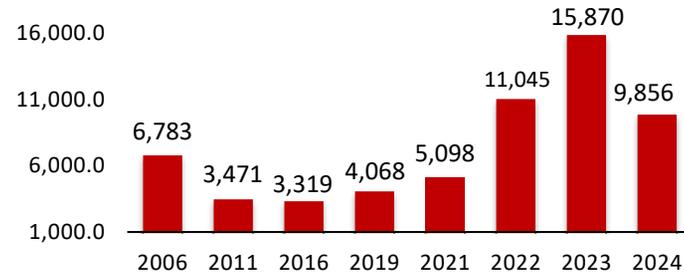
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2024 TBI figure is preliminary.

Guns Reported Stolen from Motor Vehicles In Memphis in 2024



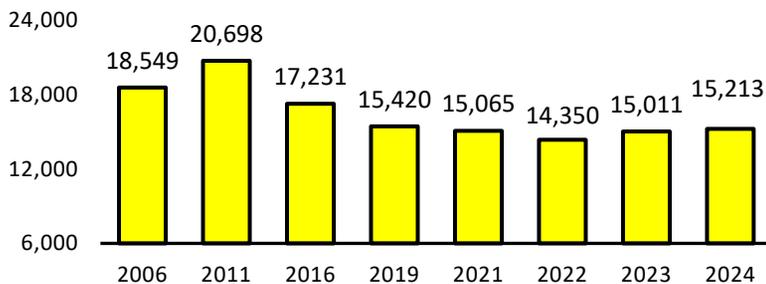
Source: Memphis Police Department

Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts in Memphis in 2024



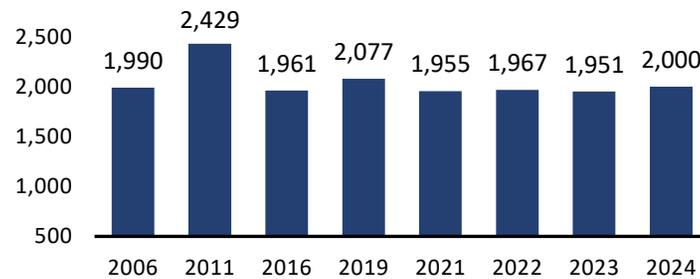
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2024 TBI figure is preliminary.

Reported Domestic Violence in Memphis in 2024



Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2024 TBI figure is preliminary.

End of Year Memphis Police Department Staffing



Sources: Memphis Police Department; Memphis Police Association

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation governed by a diverse 50-member board of directors made up of key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. Its primary mission is to improve public safety in the Memphis and Shelby County community by identifying and promoting evidence-based and evidence-informed best practices. It is the leading community-based entity focused on public safety. It has created unprecedented partnerships with businesses, schools, neighborhood organizations, faith-based entities, public safety agencies, and local violence prevention organizations.

The Crime Commission was created in 1996 at a time when the Memphis community was experiencing a disturbing increase in violent crime in particular. Looking at approaches taken in a number of other cities, key public and private stakeholders came together to create the Crime Commission as an independent entity to identify and promote best practices to improve public safety.

For more information go to <https://memphiscrime.org/>



Research Partnership With the University of Memphis

Monitoring progress and independently assessing the impact of the Safe Community Action Plan is aided by a partnership between the Crime Commission and the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute (PSI). The Institute is housed in the University's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and draws on researchers from multiple disciplines and departments across the University, including the Department of Criminology.

Nineteen evaluations or assessments have been completed by the PSI on various parts of the Safe Community Action Plan, including five in 2024: the Neighborhood Safety Initiative, the Memphis Police Department's special unit to investigate aggravated assaults involving non-fatal shootings, the city of Memphis Violence Intervention Program, the Shelby County Office of Re-Entry, and implementation of the local plan to improve domestic violence services.

Currently, evaluations/assessments by the PSI are underway on the following parts of the plan: the programmatic reach of Boys and Girls Clubs of Memphis, Memphis Allies' SWITCH-Youth program, an outcome evaluation of the domestic violence plan, and the MPD's neighborhood watch program.

Most evaluations/assessments are available on the PSI website at <https://www.memphis.edu/psi/research/> and the Crime Commission website at <https://memphiscrime.org/>.



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OUR MISSION

The Crime Commission seeks to improve public safety in the Memphis and Shelby County community by identifying and promoting evidenced-based and evidence-informed best practices.