



**SAFE
NEIGHBORHOODS.**



**SAFE
COMMUNITY.**



**SAFE
MEMPHIS.**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A Message To The Community

Fellow Memphians/Shelby Countians:

The Crime Commission is committed to improving public safety by identifying and promoting evidence-based and evidence-informed best practices. It is governed by a 50-member board of directors. It is the leading community-based entity focused on public safety.

Best practices identified and promoted by the Crime Commission have included creation of a multi-agency gang unit, creation of a domestic violence court and a drug treatment court, support for a data-driven Memphis police force composed of 2500 officers, implementation of a focused deterrence initiative targeted to those responsible for much of our crime, vigorous prosecution of gun crimes coupled with stronger state sentencing laws to address gun violence, coordination of services to victims of domestic violence, more intensive efforts to place those returning to the community from incarceration into jobs, creation of a special MPD unit to investigate aggravated assaults involving non-fatal shootings, elimination of a residency requirement for law enforcement officers, and elimination of the arbitrary 19th birthday for supervision of those convicted in juvenile court for serious crimes.

The Crime Commission places proposed best practices under the umbrella of a Safe Community Action Plan. The current plan encompasses Mayor Paul Young's Gun Violence

Reduction Initiative which focuses on individuals at the highest risk of gun violence and targets criminal activity in the highest risk locations through Operation Code Zero. The plan supports increased local law enforcement resources and data driven deployment of those resources. We now have approximately 70 state troopers assigned permanently to Shelby County and another 30 assigned temporarily on a rotating basis, for a total of about 100 troopers.

Beginning in 2024 and continuing in 2025, our community has made substantial progress in crime reduction. Certain aspects of the Memphis Safe Task Force surge have helped accelerate that progress.

Major violent crime includes reported murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults. In Memphis, based on preliminary data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), the major violent crime rate dropped 27.6 percent in 2025 compared to 2024 and, significantly, was lower than all eight previous years (2017 - 2024). Countywide, the major violent crime rate dropped 27.1 percent compared to 2024, again lower than any of the previous eight years.

Major property crime includes reported burglaries, vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts. In Memphis, the major property crime rate declined 28.0 percent compared to 2024 and was lower than the previous nine years (2016-2024). Countywide, the major property crime rate declined 27.3 percent compared to 2024. Like Memphis, the countywide rate was lower than the previous nine years. (Annual TBI major property crime figures were not maintained by the Crime Commission prior to 2016.)

Hopefully, 2025 represents a breakthrough year, but we are not yet where we need to be. In 2026, the Crime Commission will be spearheading development of a new five-year Safe Community Action Plan. For more information on the Crime Commission and the Safe Community Action Plan, go to <https://www.memphiscrime.org>.

Respectfully,



Bill Gibbons, President



Ben Adams, Board Chair

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. The city mayor’s Violence Intervention Program has shifted from targeted group intervention to focus on the highest risk individuals.

 **Action Step 2:** Scale up the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative effort by expanding the number of credible violence interveners who seek to prevent acts of retaliatory violence. 901 Peace is the City of Memphis’ partnership with trusted community organizations and local leaders to engage individuals at risk of gun violence and connect them to sources of support.


 **Action Step 3:** Continue vigorous federal prosecution of gun crime. In FY 24-25, 35 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. In 2025, 1,000 additional steering wheel locks were distributed by MPD: Reported stolen vehicles declined by 41.5 percent in Memphis compared to 2024, and guns reported stolen from vehicles dropped 86.8 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, with 21 officers being assigned as of the end of 2025.


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. More funding is needed to support proven programs such as Boys and Girls Clubs.

 **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 were trained on the referral process, but deputy sheriffs were not trained. 532 youth were served in 2025.

 **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, and an assessment by the UofM Public Safety Institute showed positive outcomes for those in SWITCH-Youth.

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, with 2,018 commissioned MPD officers at the end of 2025 and 625 commissioned deputy sheriffs. 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, with 70 assigned permanently to Shelby County and an additional 30 temporarily at the end of 2025.

✓ **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. However, it has not gotten off the ground. Efforts to increase PST recruitment had at least begun in 2025.

✗ **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 up its neighborhood watch list to eliminate inactive groups, with 233 active groups as of the end of 2025. Now the challenge is to grow the number. An assessment of MPD's neighborhood watch program by the UofM Public Safety Institute was underway at the end of 2025.

🚩 **Action Step 15:** Expand SafeWays' intensive crime prevention program for apartment communities. There were 30 SafeWays certified apartment communities at the end of 2025. Getting the Memphis Health, Education and Housing Facility Board committed would help.

🚩 **Action Step 16.** Establish a Neighborhood Safety Initiative that focuses on specific crime and blight hotspots. The initiative has not expanded beyond two MPD precincts.

A "reset" of NSI is underway that will hopefully involve more coordination with MPD's Operation Code Zero.

🚩 **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 actually do so and increase the percentage who become employed. In 2025, about 49 percent of those required to report to SCOR did so, and about 14 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, distributed, and updated.

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. An electronic lethality assessment protocol was not completed in 2025. The UofM Public Safety Institute has been designated to lead the domestic violence coordinated community response, part of which is to design a new domestic violence strategic plan.

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. In 2025 legislation was enacted prohibiting probation upon conviction for aggravated assault for discharging a firearm from a vehicle. Such convictions will be covered by truth-in-sentencing.

2025 DATA*

18.9% ▼

**Overall Crime Rate
In Shelby County**

In 2025 compared to 2024

27.1% ▼

**Major Violent Crime Rate
In Shelby County**

In 2025 compared to 2024

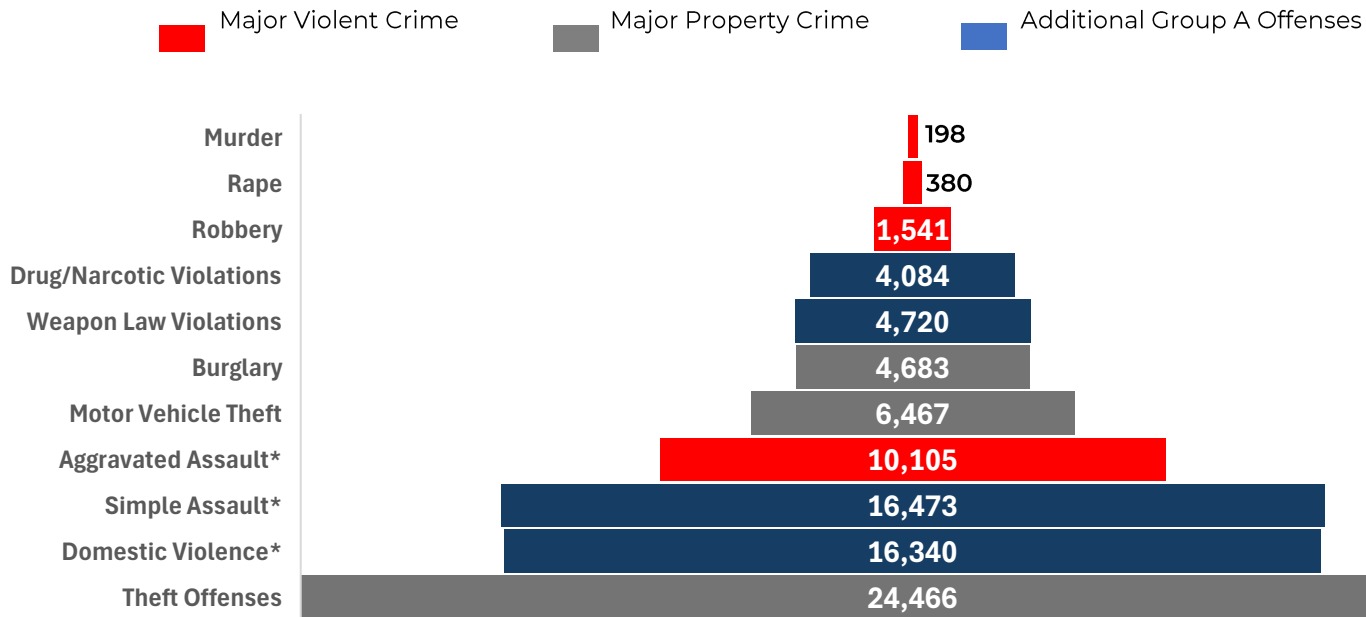
27.3% ▼

**Major Property Crime Rate
In Shelby County**

In 2025 compared to 2024

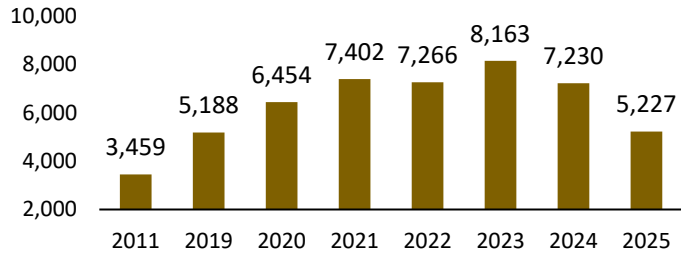
* Source: Preliminary data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

TIBERS' Group A Offenses for All of Shelby County 2025



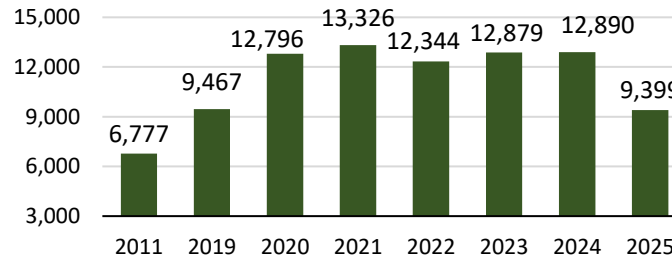
* The aggravated assault and simple assault numbers are all of those offenses reported to law enforcement agencies. The domestic violence number includes all of the reported aggravated assaults and simple assaults flagged as domestic violence by law enforcement. So, there is some overlap in the numbers.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

Number of Reported Violent Incidents Involving Guns in Memphis



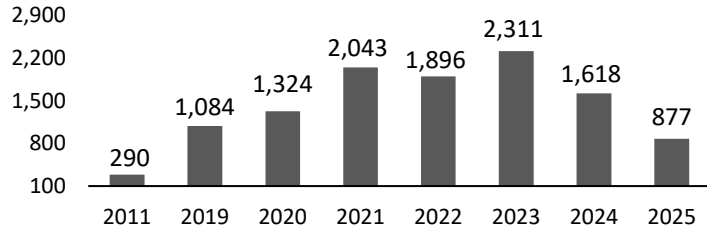
Source: Memphis Police Department

Reported Aggravated Assaults in Memphis



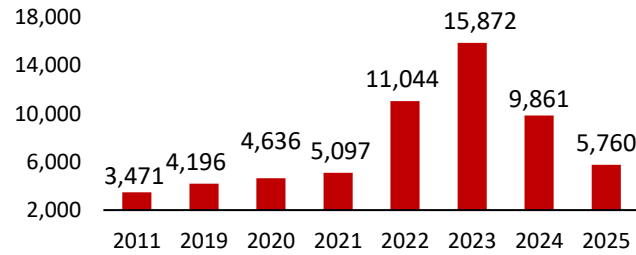
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2025 TBI figure is preliminary.

Guns Reported Stolen from Motor Vehicles In Memphis



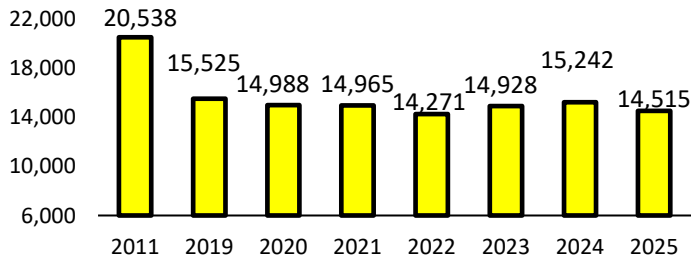
Source: Memphis Police Department

Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts in Memphis



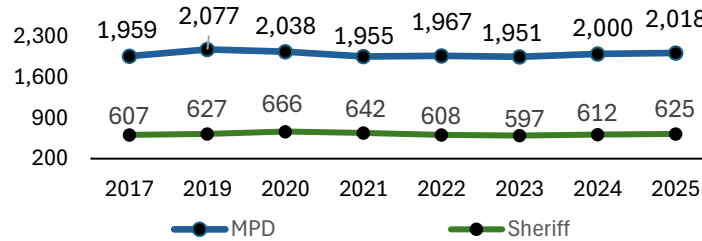
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2025 TBI figure is preliminary.

Reported Domestic Violence in Memphis



Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2025 TBI figure is preliminary.

End of Year Memphis Police Department and Shelby County Sheriff's Office Staffing



Sources: Memphis Police Department; Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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 the following in 2025: the programmatic reach of Boys and Girls Clubs of Memphis, Memphis Allies' SWITCH-Youth program, and an outcome evaluation of the domestic violence plan.

Currently, evaluations/assessments by the PSI are underway on the following parts of the plan: the MPD's neighborhood watch program and the SafeWays crime prevention program for apartment communities.

Most 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.