



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**MURDERS DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY; AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS
AND AUTO THEFTS SHOW INCREASES**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Through the third quarter of 2017 (January – September), the murder rate in Memphis/Shelby County is down significantly compared to the same time period last year, according to preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) released today by the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission.

The preliminary figures show a 17.6 percent drop in the murder rate countywide and a 9.7 percent drop within the city of Memphis.

Among all major violent crimes (murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults), the biggest jump was in the aggravated assault category, with an 11.2 percent increase countywide and 11.9 percent in Memphis. Because of the sheer volume of reported aggravated assault incidents, this resulted in an increase in the overall major violent crime rate of 8.5 percent countywide and 9.4 percent in Memphis.

Among all major property crimes (burglaries, auto thefts and other felony thefts), the largest increase was in the auto theft category, with a 21.0 percent increase in all of Shelby County and a 24.8 percent increase in Memphis compared to last year. (Reported burglaries remained fairly steady, with an increase of less than 1.0 percent.)

The rate of reported domestic violence incidents went up compared to last year – 6.3 percent in the entire county and 8.1 in Memphis.

The overall crime rate measures 54 different categories of crime tracked by the TBI. Countywide, during the first three quarters of this year, the overall crime rate was up 6.6 percent countywide and 7.7 percent in Memphis.

In all key categories (major violent crime, major property crime, domestic violence and overall crime), rates for both Shelby County and Memphis were below the 2006 rates, which is the baseline year used by the Crime Commission because the first Operation: Safe Community plan was launched in 2007.

“After a tough 2016, we’ve seen a significant drop in deadly violence, which is encouraging,” said Bill Gibbons, president of the Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute. “Obviously, the increase in aggravated assaults is of concern. An aggravated assault can often easily turn into a death or serious injury.”

“We have a good Operation: Safe Community plan to reduce crime,” said District Attorney Amy Weirich. “We’ve implemented a number of key parts, such as community prosecution and a renewed focus on gun crime prosecution. We need to stay the course and focus on implementation of other key parts of the plan, including an increase in law enforcement officers to deploy in a data-driven manner, more resources to tackle gang activity and the Group Violence Intervention initiative, which is a focused deterrence effort patterned after successful efforts in other cities such as Boston,”

Weirich chairs the Operation: Safe Community crime plan, the implementation of which is spearheaded by the Crime Commission.

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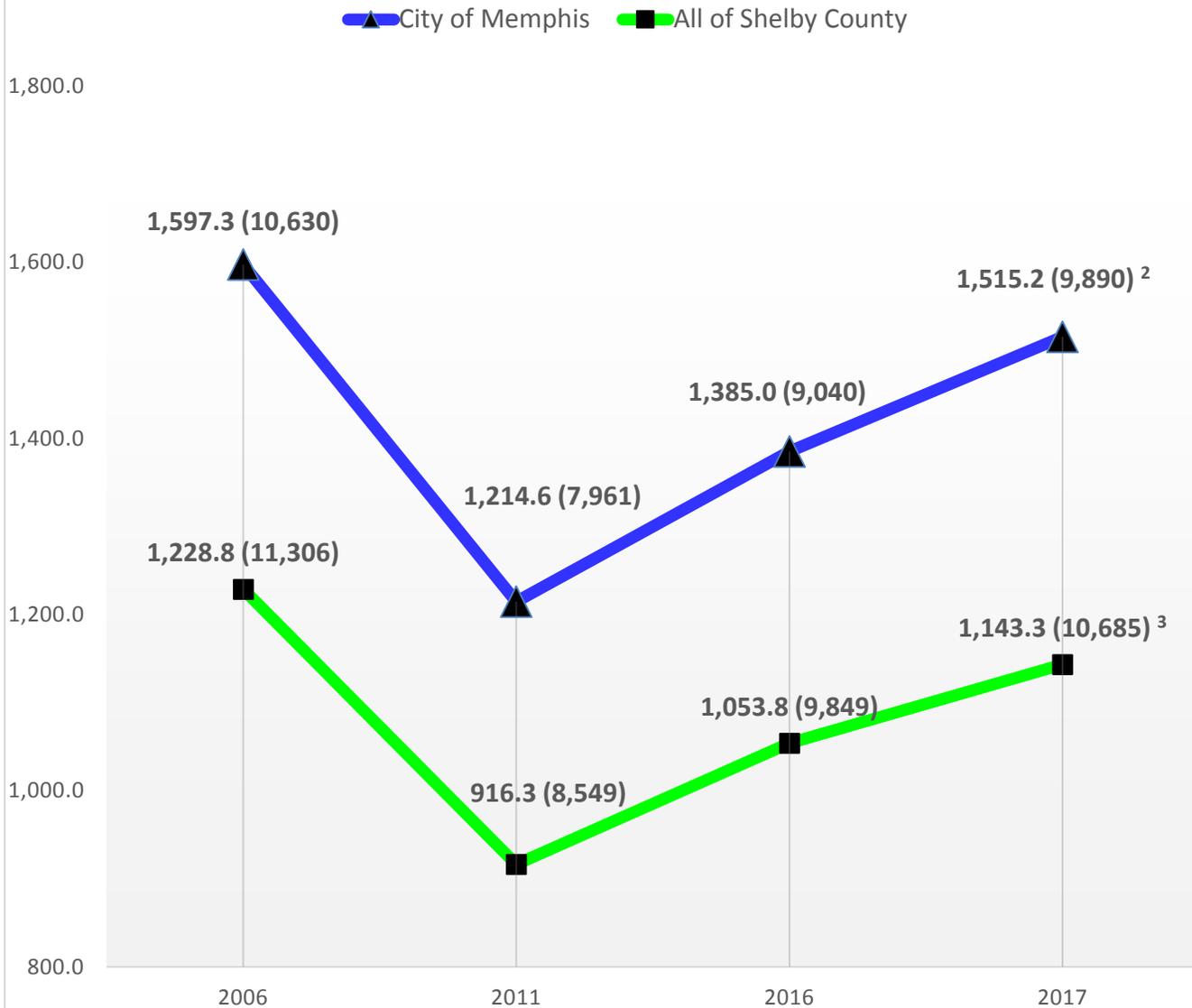
About the Crime Statistics: In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee 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.” Reported major violent crime 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): Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that “quarterbacks” the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, CEO of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

About Operation: Safe Community (www.operationsafecommunity.org): Launched in 2007, Operation: Safe Community (OSC), spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Operation: Safe Community is chaired by Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich.

About the Public Safety Institute (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.

MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME JANUARY 1 –SEPTEMBER 30 FOR 2006, 2011,2016 and 2017 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹



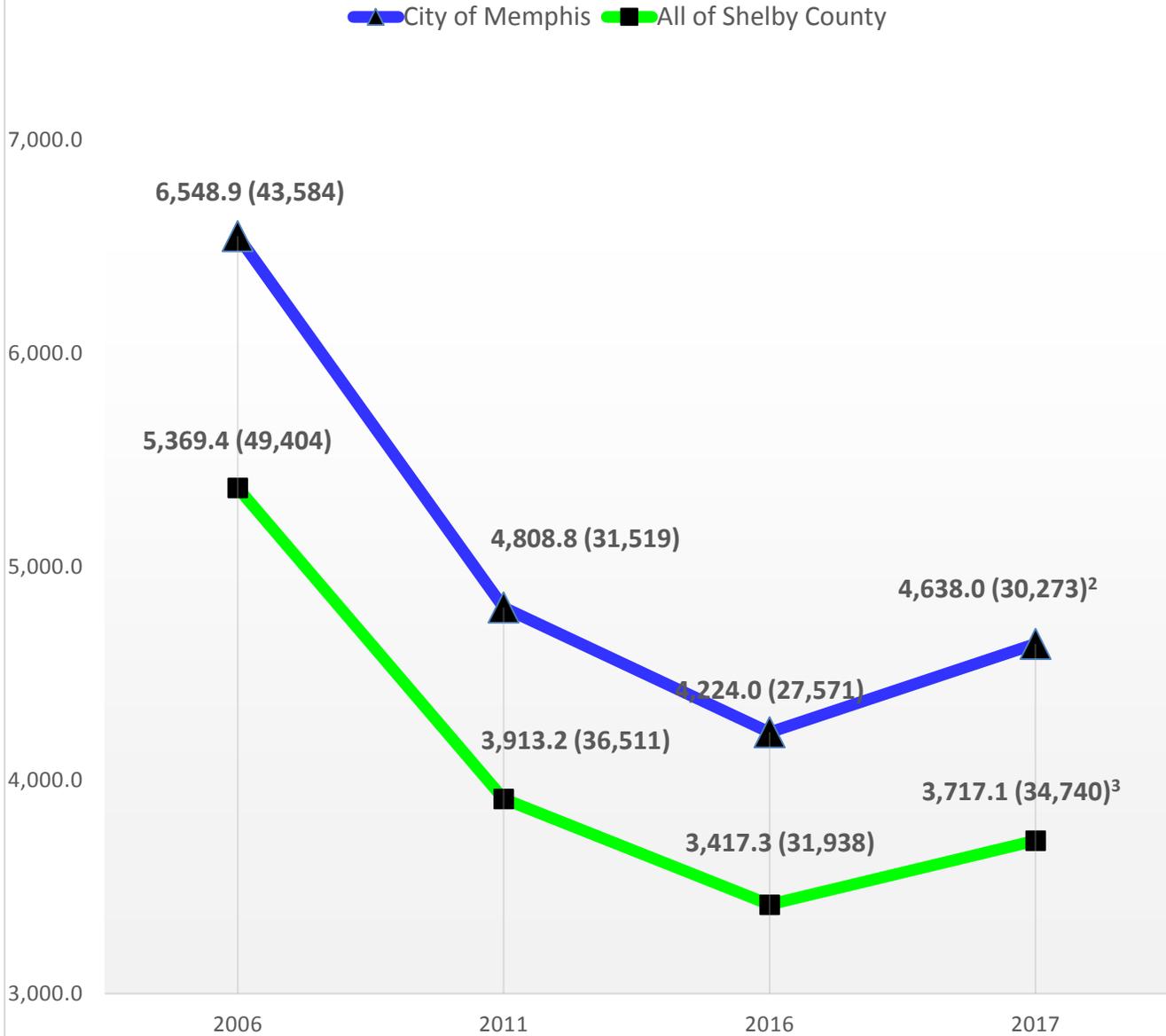
¹ Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2017 figure is a decrease of 5.1 percent from 2006 and an increase of 9.4 percent from 2016 in the City of Memphis.

³ The 2017 figure is a decrease of 7.0 percent from 2006 and an increase of 8.5 percent from 2016 in all of Shelby County.

MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 FOR 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2017 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹



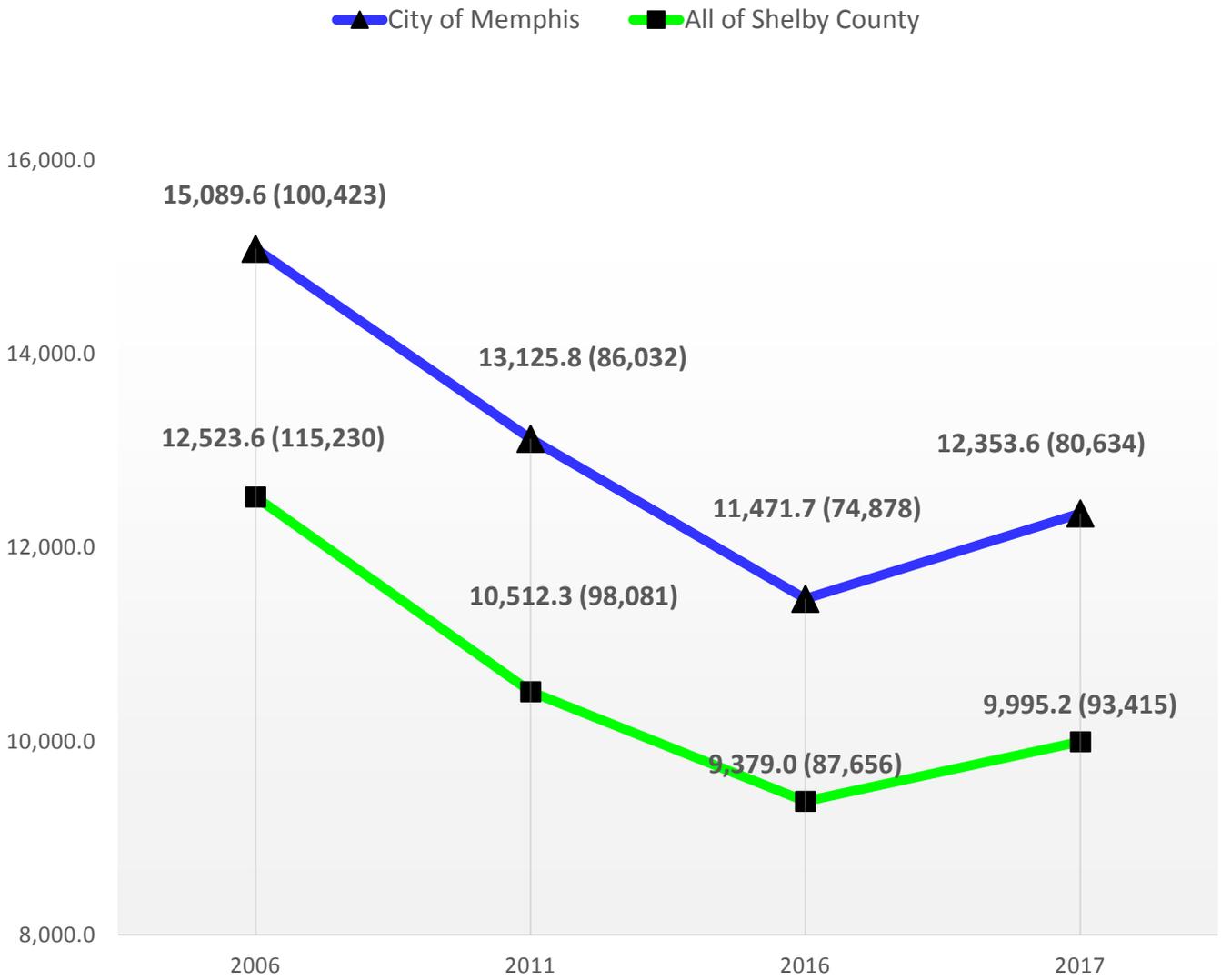
¹ Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2017 figure is a 29.2 percent decrease from 2006 and a 9.8 percent increase from 2016, in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2017 figure is a 30.8 percent decrease from 2006 and a 8.8 percent increase from 2016 in all of Shelby County.

OVERALL CRIME
JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30 FOR 2006, 2011, 2016
and 2017 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population
and Numbers)¹



¹ The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate categories of “Group A crimes” tracked by the T.B.I.
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2017 figure is a 18.1 percent decrease from 2006 and a 7.7 percent increase from 2016 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2017 figure is a 20.2 percent decrease from 2006 and a 6.6 percent increase from 2016 for all of Shelby County.

Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS ¹ GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)							
January 1 - September 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder	13.3	10.1	17.0	14.0	5.7%	39.1%	-17.6%
Rape ²	48.8	49.2	50.0	50.5	3.5%	2.7%	1.1%
Aggravated Assault ³	711.2	610.1	715.4	795.2	11.8%	30.3%	11.2%
Robbery	455.5	246.9	271.5	283.5	-37.8%	14.8%	4.5%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME³	1228.8	916.3	1053.8	1143.3	-7.0%	24.8%	8.5%
Burglary	1518.2	1129.5	816.3	811.4	-46.6%	-28.2%	-0.6%
Theft Offenses	3254.2	2480.4	2316.3	2561.2	-21.3%	3.3%	10.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	597.0	303.4	284.7	344.5	-42.3%	13.5%	21.0%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	5369.4	3913.2	3417.3	3717.1	-30.8%	-5.0%	8.8%
Simple Assault ⁴	2070.7	2155.6	1695.9	1727.5	-16.6%	-19.9%	1.9%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	555.0	524.1	407.8	387.2	-30.2%	-26.1%	-5.0%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	143.4	129.2	114.1	128.7	-10.2%	-0.3%	12.9%
Domestic Violence	1733.7	1882.7	1572.4	1671.2	-3.6%	-11.2%	6.3%
Total Group A Offenses	12523.6	10512.3	9379.0	9995.2	-20.2%	-4.9%	6.6%

* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2016 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
	920,106	933,011	934,603	934,603

Table 1.1 Shelby County, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS ¹ GROUP A OFFENSES							
January 1 - September 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder	122	94	159	131	7.4%	39.4%	-17.6%
Rape ²	449	459	467	472	5.1%	2.8%	1.1%
Aggravated Assault ³	6,544	5,692	6,686	7,432	13.6%	30.6%	11.2%
Robbery	4,191	2,304	2,537	2,650	-36.8%	15.0%	4.5%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME ³	11,306	8,549	9,849	10,685	-5.5%	25.0%	8.5%
Burglary	13,969	10,538	7,629	7,583	-45.7%	-28.0%	-0.6%
Theft Offenses	29,942	23,142	21,648	23,937	-20.1%	3.4%	10.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,493	2,831	2,661	3,220	-41.4%	13.7%	21.0%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	49,404	36,511	31,938	34,740	-29.7%	-4.9%	8.8%
Simple Assault ⁴	19,053	20,112	15,850	16,145	-15.3%	-19.7%	1.9%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	5,107	4,890	3,811	3,619	-29.1%	-26.0%	-5.0%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	1,319	1,205	1,066	1,203	-8.8%	-0.2%	12.9%
Domestic Violence	15,952	17,566	14,696	15,619	-2.1%	-11.1%	6.3%
Total Group A Offenses	115,230	98,081	87,656	93,415	-18.9%	-4.8%	6.6%

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Memphis, TN - TIBRS ¹ GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)							
January 1 - September 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder ²	18.2	13.4	22.1	19.9	9.5%	48.3%	-9.7%
Rape ^{2,3}	60.1	61.5	62.8	64.3	7.1%	4.7%	2.4%
Aggravated Assault ^{2,4}	909.4	798.4	928.6	1039.2	14.3%	30.2%	11.9%
Robbery	609.6	341.3	371.5	391.7	-35.7%	14.8%	5.4%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME ⁴	1597.3	1214.6	1385.0	1515.2	-5.1%	24.7%	9.4%
Burglary	1874.9	1432.5	1046.1	1052.1	-43.9%	-26.6%	0.6%
Theft Offenses	3914.1	2984.9	2819.4	3138.4	-19.8%	5.1%	11.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	759.9	391.5	358.5	447.5	-41.1%	14.3%	24.8%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	6548.9	4808.8	4224.0	4638.0	-29.2%	-3.6%	9.8%
Simple Assault ⁵	2514.2	2753.7	2071.0	2131.6	-15.2%	-22.6%	2.9%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁶	563.9	603.9	417.0	395.4	-29.9%	-34.5%	-5.2%
Weapon Law Violations ⁶	167.8	159.9	125.8	146.0	-13.0%	-8.7%	16.1%
Domestic Violence	2145.6	2417.6	1970.8	2130.6	-0.7%	-11.9%	8.1%
Total Group A Offenses	15089.6	13125.8	11471.7	12353.6	-18.1%	-5.9%	7.7%

* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2016 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
	665,512	655,440	652,717	652,717

Table 2.1 Memphis, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Memphis, TN - TIBRS ¹ GROUP A OFFENSES							
January 1 - September 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder ²	121	88	144	130	7.4%	47.7%	-9.7%
Rape ^{2, 3}	400	403	410	420	5.0%	4.2%	2.4%
Aggravated Assault ^{2, 4}	6,052	5,233	6,061	6,783	12.1%	29.6%	11.9%
Robbery	4,057	2,237	2,425	2,557	-37.0%	14.3%	5.4%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME ⁴	10,630	7,961	9,040	9,890	-7.0%	24.2%	9.4%
Burglary	12,478	9,389	6,828	6,867	-45.0%	-26.9%	0.6%
Theft Offenses	26,049	19,564	18,403	20,485	-21.4%	4.7%	11.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,057	2,566	2,340	2,921	-42.2%	13.8%	24.8%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	43,584	31,519	27,571	30,273	-30.5%	-4.0%	9.8%
Simple Assault ⁵	16,732	18,049	13,518	13,913	-16.8%	-22.9%	2.9%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁶	3,753	3,958	2,722	2,581	-31.2%	-34.8%	-5.2%
Weapon Law Violations ⁶	1,117	1,048	821	953	-14.7%	-9.1%	16.1%
Domestic Violence	14,279	15,846	12,864	13,907	-2.6%	-12.2%	8.1%
Total Group A Offenses	100,423	86,032	74,878	80,634	-19.7%	-6.3%	7.7%