



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Linda Russell

901.385.4230

lrussell8@memphis.edu

MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY VIOLENT CRIME RATE DROPS IN 2018; REPORTED GUN CRIMES DECLINE; JUVENILE OFFENSES UP

According to figures released by the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, both Memphis and all of Shelby County made progress in reducing the violent crime rate in 2018 compared to 2017, with the most progress occurring within Memphis. The figures are based upon preliminary data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). In addition, reported gun crimes in Memphis and unincorporated Shelby County declined significantly in 2018.

Inside the city of Memphis, the violent crime rate dropped 4.2 percent compared to 2017. In Shelby County as a whole, the decline was 3.6 percent. The rate is calculated based on the total number of reported murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults per 100,000 residents. A significant reduction in reported robberies drove the overall decline, with reported robberies dropping 12.1 percent in Memphis and 11.5 percent in all of Shelby County. (In raw numbers, the decline was from 3,492 reported robberies to 3,069 in the city of Memphis and from 3,626 to 3,210 countywide.)

The Project Safe Neighborhoods G.U.N. (Government United for Non-Violence) Unit maintains data on reported gun crimes in Memphis and the unincorporated parts of Shelby County. According to its data, reported gun crimes declined in 2018 by 15.8 percent compared to 2017. The figures include reported crimes committed with guns and charges for illegal possession of guns.

Contrary to the overall decline in violent crime was the number of charges brought against juveniles for violent delinquent acts. According to data from Juvenile Court, the total number of such charges came to 661 in 2018, an 8.5 percent increase over 2017. In addition, all delinquent charges for both violent and non-violent offenses increased 16.5 percent compared to 2017.

“The 2018 crime statistics give us reason to be both encouraged and concerned,” said Shelby County Dist. Atty. Gen. Amy Weirich. “It is encouraging because major violent crime is down overall,

especially crimes of rape, domestic violence and robbery. What is concerning, however, is the significant increase - 16.5 percent - in delinquent offenses charged against juveniles, including 661 major violent charges. That is a trend we all must work to reverse for the safety of the community.”

“We can take some encouragement from the 2018 figures but also know we have a long way to go in our community-wide efforts to reduce violent crime,” said Bill Gibbons, president of the Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute. He noted that violent crime was at its lowest point in recent years in 2011, which was the year the Memphis Police Department (MPD) had its highest complement of police officers.

The major property crime rate (based on reported burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts) showed a slight increase of 1.0 percent both in Memphis and countywide in 2018. The increase was driven by the continuing challenge of motor vehicle thefts (up 10.1 percent in the city and 12.6 percent countywide). Reported burglaries actually dropped significantly, down 11.6 percent in the city and 10.0 percent in the entire county.

Reported domestic violence incidents showed a significant decline - down 10.4 percent in Memphis and 9.0 percent countywide.

The TBI tracks "Group A" crime offenses composed of a total of 54 specific crime categories, including but not limited to the major violent and major property crimes. Arguably, the Group A crime rate gives a more total picture of overall crime trends. In Memphis, the overall Group A crime rate was down 3.6 percent in 2018, and countywide it declined 3.1 percent.

The Crime Commission spearheaded development of the current community-wide plan to reduce crime called Operation: Safe Community and is "quarterbacking" its implementation. It is a balanced plan that includes prevention, intervention, and enforcement objectives.

Gibbons noted a number of objectives in the plan being implemented that focus on reducing violent crime, more specifically, gun crime. Those objectives include:

- Enactment of tougher state gun laws and stepped up efforts at both the federal and state levels to hold individuals accountable for committing gun crimes;
- A Focused Deterrence Initiative launched by the D.A.'s office to focus on serious offenders and reduce the likelihood that they continue criminal behavior;
- The Safeways crime prevention program in major apartment communities;
- Increased staffing for the Multi-Agency Gang Unit; and
- A renewed commitment to data-driven policing coupled with an increase in MPD officers. (A recent assessment by the U of M's Public Safety Institute showed immediate reductions in major crime categories on a consistent basis in certain geographic areas identified as "hot spots" warranting additional resources through data-driven policing.)

###

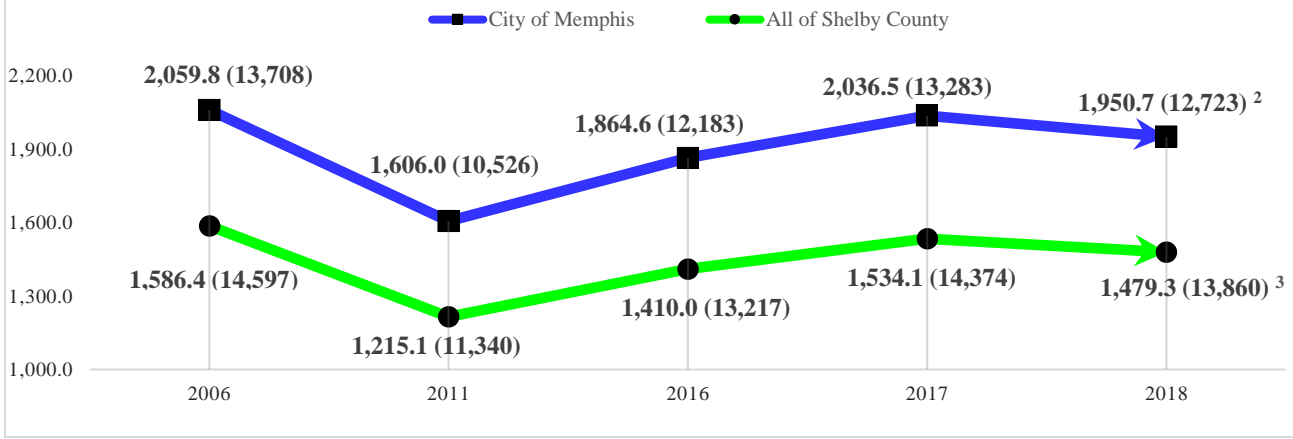
About the Crime Statistics: In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee 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): The 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 - DECEMBER
(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹**



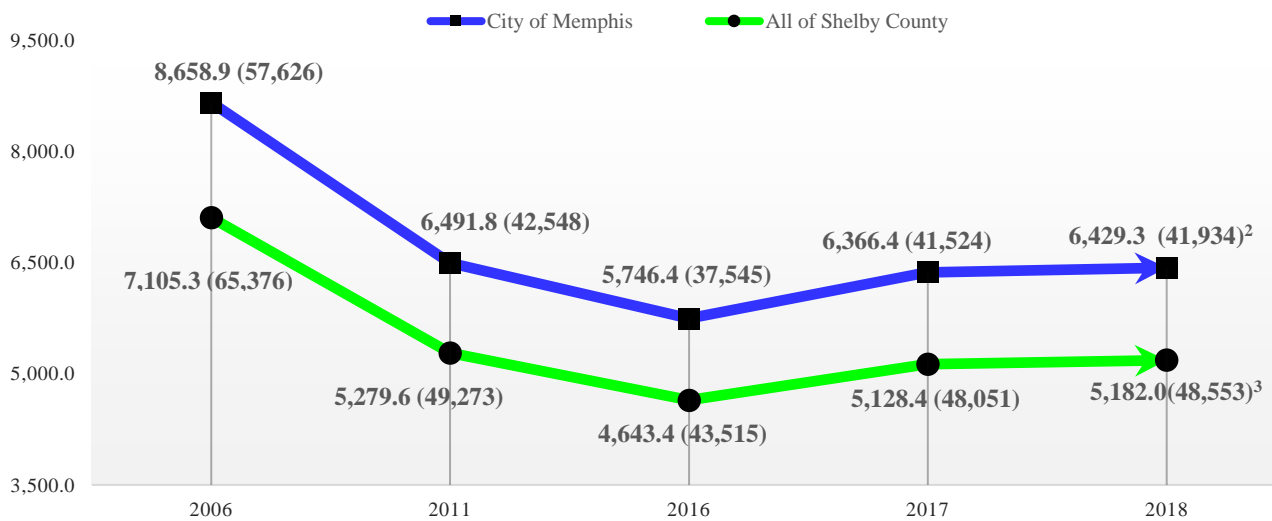
¹ Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2018 figure is a decrease of 5.3 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 4.2 percent from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2018 figure is a decrease of 6.8 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 3.6 percent from 2017 in all of Shelby County.

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



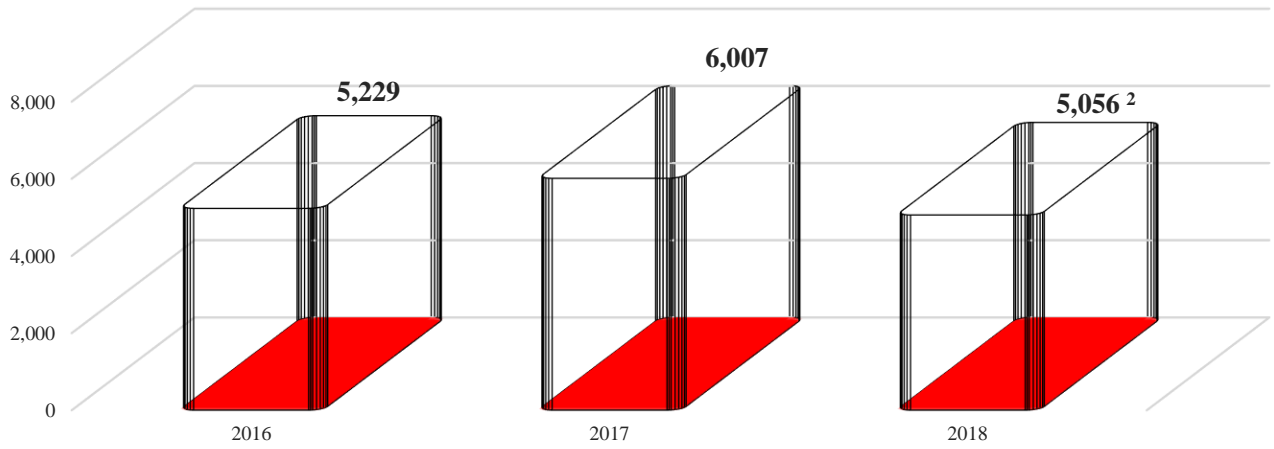
¹ Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2018 figure is a 25.7 percent decrease from 2006 and a 1.0 percent increase from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2018 figure is a 27.1 percent decrease from 2006 and a 1.0 percent increase from 2017 in all of Shelby County.

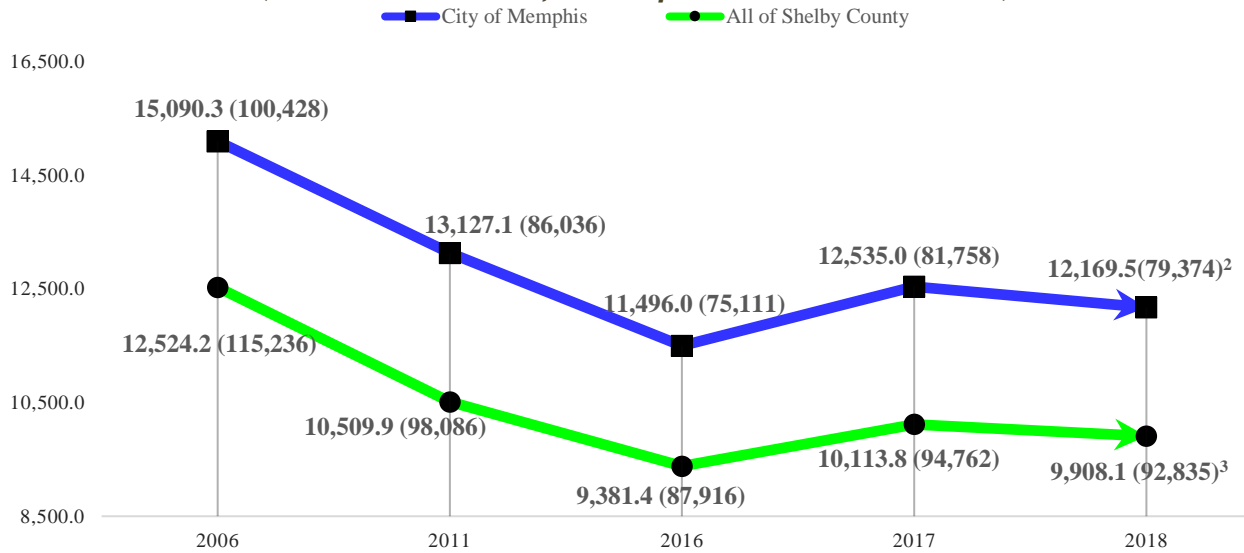
**NUMBER OF REPORTED GUN CRIMES IN MEMPHIS AND UNINCORPORATED SHELBY COUNTY¹
JANUARY - DECEMBER**



¹ Source: Project Safe Neighborhoods G.U.N. Unit

² A 15.8 percent decrease compared to 2017 and a 3.3 percent decrease compared to 2016.

**OVERALL CRIME
JANUARY - SEPTEMBER
(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹**

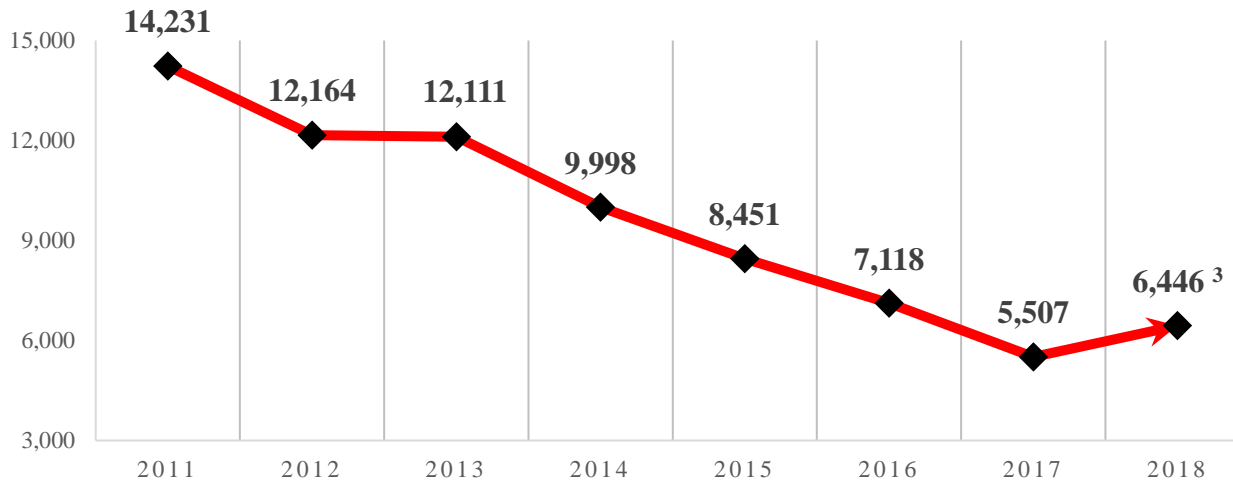


¹ The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate types of "Group A crimes" tracked by the T.B.I. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2018 figure is a 19.3 percent decrease from 2006 and a 3.6 percent decrease from 2017 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2018 figure is a 21.0 percent decrease from 2006 and a 3.1 percent decrease from 2017 for all of Shelby County.

**DELINQUENT CHARGES¹ AGAINST JUVENILES IN
MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY²
JANUARY - DECEMBER**

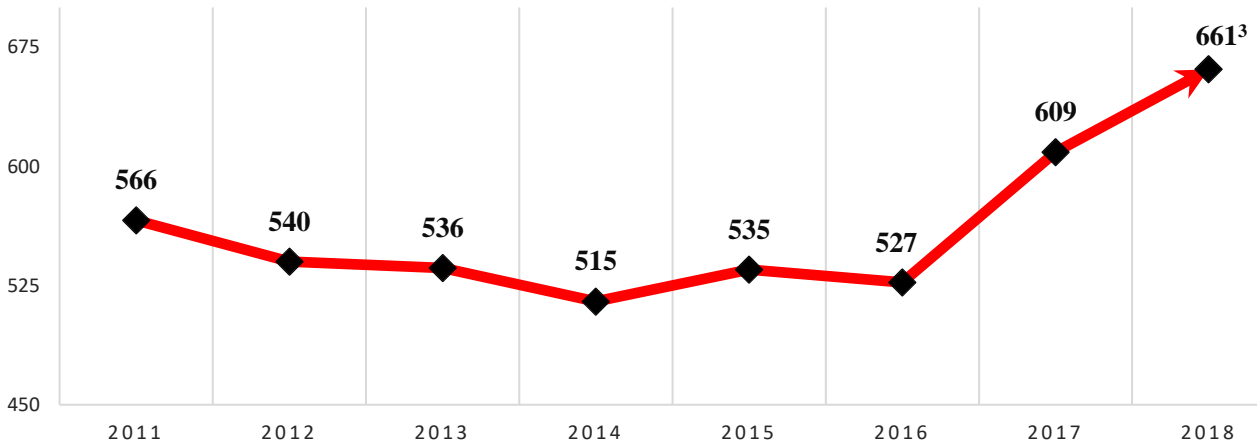


¹ “Delinquent” charges are the same as “criminal” charges against an adult (18 years or older). They include both felonies and misdemeanors

² Source: Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County

³ A 54.7 percent decrease compared to 2011 and a 16.5 percent increase compared to 2017

**MAJOR VIOLENT DELINQUENT CHARGES¹ AGAINST
JUVENILES IN MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY²
JANUARY - DECEMBER**



¹ Major violent delinquent charges include premeditated first degree murder, first degree murder in perpetration of a felony, second degree murder, especially aggravated robbery, aggravated robbery, robbery, aggravated rape, aggravated rape of a child, rape, rape of a child and aggravated assault. These are essentially the same categories that make up the F.B.I.'s Major Violent Crime totals that are used by the Public Safety Institute and the Crime Commission when releasing overall Major Violent Crime figures for Memphis and Shelby County.

² Source: Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County

³ A 16.8 percent increase compared to 2011 and a 8.5 percent increase compared to 2017

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Memphis, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES									
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)									
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	22.5	18.0	30.9	28.1	28.2	25.2%	56.7%	-8.8%	0.5%
Rape ²	79.2	80.6	87.4	93.2	73.4	-7.3%	-8.8%	-16.0%	-21.2%
Aggravated Assault ³	1155.5	1034.0	1254.0	1379.9	1378.5	19.3%	33.3%	9.9%	-0.1%
Robbery	802.5	473.4	492.4	535.4	470.5	-41.4%	-0.6%	-4.4%	-12.1%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME ²	2059.8	1606.0	1864.6	2036.5	1950.7	-5.3%	21.5%	4.6%	-4.2%
Burglary	2487.3	1978.3	1403.2	1430.2	1264.6	-49.2%	-36.1%	-9.9%	-11.6%
Theft Offenses	5152.4	3983.9	3835.4	4310.6	4475.5	-13.1%	12.3%	16.7%	3.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1019.2	529.6	507.8	625.7	689.2	-32.4%	30.1%	35.7%	10.1%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	8658.9	6491.8	5746.4	6366.4	6429.3	-25.7%	-1.0%	11.9%	1.0%
Simple Assault ⁴	3271.0	3581.7	2734.6	2774.9	2576.7	-21.2%	-28.1%	-5.8%	-7.1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	756.6	791.6	537.5	510.9	508.6	-32.8%	-35.8%	-5.4%	-0.5%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	226.6	211.3	164.1	196.9	194.6	-14.1%	-7.9%	18.6%	-1.2%
Domestic Violence	2786.6	3155.4	2630.5	2754.7	2468.1	-11.4%	-21.8%	-6.2%	-10.4%
Total Group A Offenses	19817.8	17428.6	15443.5	16583.3	15993.4	-19.3%	-8.2%	3.6%	-3.6%

* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2017 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2017 and 2018.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018
	665,512	655,407	653,369	652,236	652,236

Table 2.1 Memphis, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Memphis, TN - TIBRS ¹ GROUP A OFFENSES									
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	150	118	202	183	184	22.7%	55.9%	-8.9%	0.5%
Rape ²	527	528	571	608	479	-9.1%	-9.3%	-16.1%	-21.2%
Aggravated Assault ²	7,690	6,777	8,193	9,000	8,991	16.9%	32.7%	9.7%	-0.1%
Robbery	5,341	3,103	3,217	3,492	3,069	-42.5%	-1.1%	-4.6%	-12.1%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME³	13,708	10,526	12,183	13,283	12,723	-7.2%	20.9%	4.4%	-4.2%
Burglary	16,553	12,966	9,168	9,328	8,248	-50.2%	-36.4%	-10.0%	-11.6%
Theft Offenses	34,290	26,111	25,059	28,115	29,191	-14.9%	11.8%	16.5%	3.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,783	3,471	3,318	4,081	4,495	-33.7%	29.5%	35.5%	10.1%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	57,626	42,548	37,545	41,524	41,934	-27.2%	-1.4%	11.7%	1.0%
Simple Assault ⁴	21,769	23,475	17,867	18,099	16,806	-22.8%	-28.4%	-5.9%	-7.1%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	5,035	5,188	3,512	3,332	3,317	-34.1%	-36.1%	-5.6%	-0.5%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	1,508	1,385	1,072	1,284	1,269	-15.8%	-8.4%	18.4%	-1.2%
Domestic Violence	18,545	20,681	17,187	17,967	16,098	-13.2%	-22.2%	-6.3%	-10.4%
Total Group A Offenses	131,890	114,228	100,903	108,162	104,315	-20.9%	-8.7%	3.4%	-3.6%

Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES									
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)									
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	16.6	13.3	23.5	20.3	20.4	22.6%	53.4%	-13.2%	0.5%
Rape ²	64.4	65.0	68.5	73.9	58.6	-9.1%	-9.9%	-14.5%	-20.7%
Aggravated Assault ³	906.4	794.2	958.5	1053.0	1057.7	16.7%	33.2%	10.4%	0.4%
Robbery	599.0	342.6	359.9	387.0	342.6	-42.8%	0.0%	-4.8%	-11.5%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME³	1586.4	1215.1	1410.4	1534.1	1479.3	-6.8%	21.7%	4.9%	-3.6%
Burglary	2012.1	1564.1	1093.7	1099.9	989.6	-50.8%	-36.7%	-9.5%	-10.0%
Theft Offenses	4291.7	3305.9	3146.4	3545.1	3648.1	-15.0%	10.3%	15.9%	2.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	801.5	409.6	403.4	483.4	544.3	-32.1%	32.9%	34.9%	12.6%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	7105.3	5279.6	4643.4	5128.4	5182.0	-27.1%	-1.8%	11.6%	1.0%
Simple Assault ⁴	2699.3	2810.7	2242.4	2262.2	2132.0	-21.0%	-24.1%	-4.9%	-5.8%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	742.2	681.8	524.0	501.7	525.3	-29.2%	-23.0%	0.2%	4.7%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	193.7	172.4	148.2	175.7	170.8	-11.8%	-1.0%	15.2%	-2.8%
Domestic Violence	2258.2	2461.7	2092.3	2159.5	1965.8	-12.9%	-20.1%	-6.0%	-9.0%
Total Group A Offenses	16470.5	13965.8	12582.2	13435.2	13014.8	-21.0%	-6.8%	3.4%	-3.1%

* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2017 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2017 and 2018.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018
	920,106	933,268	937,130	936,961	936,961

Table 1.1 Shelby County, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report									
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES									
January 1 - December 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, & 2018									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2006-18	% Change 2011-18	% Change 2016-18	% Change 2017-18
Murder	153	124	220	190	191	24.8%	54.0%	-13.2%	0.5%
Rape ²	593	607	642	692	549	-7.4%	-9.6%	-14.5%	-20.7%
Aggravated Assault ²	8,340	7,412	8,982	9,866	9,910	18.8%	33.7%	10.3%	0.4%
Robbery	5,511	3,197	3,373	3,626	3,210	-41.8%	0.4%	-4.8%	-11.5%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME²	14,597	11,340	13,217	14,374	13,860	-5.0%	22.2%	4.9%	-3.6%
Burglary	18,513	14,597	10,249	10,306	9,272	-49.9%	-36.5%	-9.5%	-10.0%
Theft Offenses	39,488	30,853	29,486	33,216	34,181	-13.4%	10.8%	15.9%	2.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	7,375	3,823	3,780	4,529	5,100	-30.8%	33.4%	34.9%	12.6%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	65,376	49,273	43,515	48,051	48,553	-25.7%	-1.5%	11.6%	1.0%
Simple Assault ⁴	24,836	26,231	21,014	21,196	19,976	-19.6%	-23.8%	-4.9%	-5.8%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁶	6,829	6,363	4,911	4,701	4,922	-27.9%	-22.6%	0.2%	4.7%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	1,782	1,609	1,389	1,646	1,600	-10.2%	-0.6%	15.2%	-2.8%
Domestic Violence	20,778	22,974	19,608	20,234	18,419	-11.4%	-19.8%	-6.1%	-9.0%
Total Group A Offenses	151,546	130,338	117,912	125,883	121,944	-19.5%	-6.4%	3.4%	-3.1%