



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FIRST QUARTER CRIME FIGURES SHOW DECLINES IN MOST CATEGORIES**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission released preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for the first quarter of 2019 (January – March) which show a significant drop in reported major property crimes in Memphis and Shelby County, as well as a decline in overall crime as measured by 54 different categories.

Reported major violent crime dropped slightly, driven by a very significant decline in reported robberies and a decline in reported rapes but offset somewhat by increases in reported aggravated assaults and murders.

Major property crimes include burglaries, motor vehicle thefts and other felony-level thefts. During the first quarter of the year, the major property crime rate dropped 9.4 percent in Memphis and 12.6 percent countywide compared to last year. Declines occurred in all three categories, with the most significant decline being a dramatic drop in reported motor vehicle thefts compared to the first quarter of 2018 - down 34.5 percent in Memphis and 35.4 percent countywide.

Major violent crimes include murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults. The rate of reported robberies declined significantly compared to the first quarter of last year - down 20.7 percent in Memphis and 20.4 percent countywide. Reported rapes dropped as well, by 4.8 percent in Memphis and 7.5 percent in all of Shelby County.

These declines were offset somewhat by increases in reported aggravated assaults (up 6.6 percent in Memphis and 6.1 percent countywide), along with an increase in murders (up 12.5 percent in Memphis and 9.1 percent countywide).

In total, the major violent crime rate dropped 0.3 percent in Memphis and 0.6 percent throughout Shelby County.

The overall crime rate is determined by using reported crimes in 54 different categories (called Group A crimes by the TBI). The overall crime rate dropped significantly in the first quarter of the year compared to last year – a decline of 7.7 percent in Memphis and 9.4 percent countywide.

“The dramatic reduction in auto thefts is especially encouraging,” said Bill Gibbons, executive director of the UofM Public Safety Institute and president of the Crime Commission. “Citizens are being more cautious about leaving their keys in their vehicles or leaving their vehicles unattended with the motors running. The message seems to be getting out that we shouldn’t make it easy for potential vehicle thieves.

“Obviously, the number of murder victims in our community remains unacceptable. Most murders involve individuals who know each other. It is difficult for law enforcement to impact personal disputes. It takes friends and family members as well. The significant reduction in reported robberies is especially encouraging. It is probably the random violent crime that concerns people the most on a day-to-day basis.”

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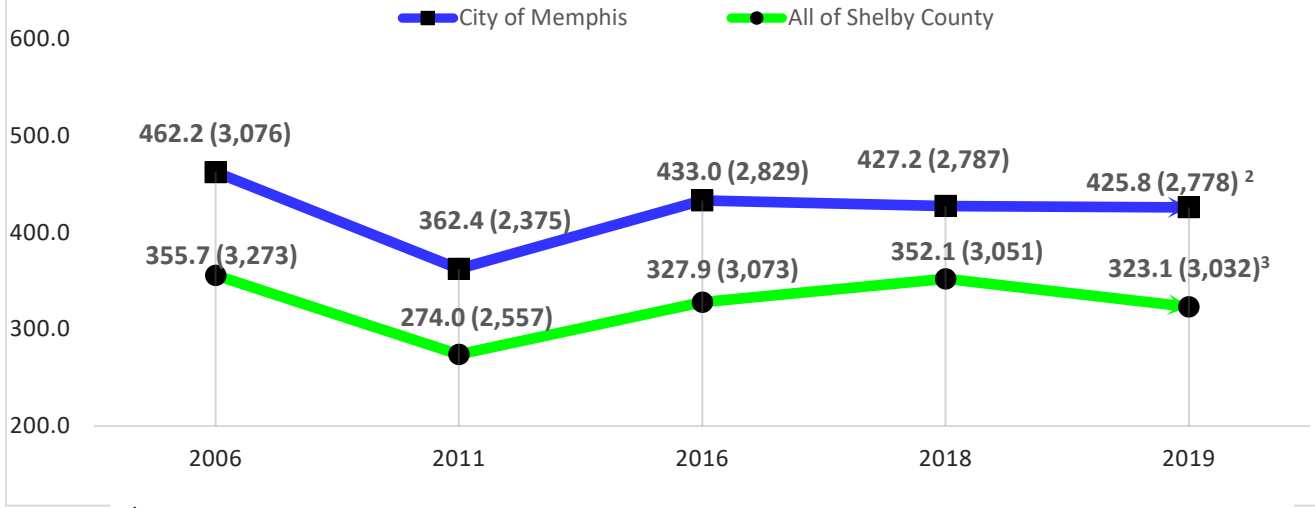
**About the Crime Statistics:** In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee 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](http://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](http://www.operationsafecommunity.org)):** Launched in 2007, the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) action plan, spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Implementation of the Operation: Safe Community action 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.

**MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME  
JANUARY - MARCH 2019**  
(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>



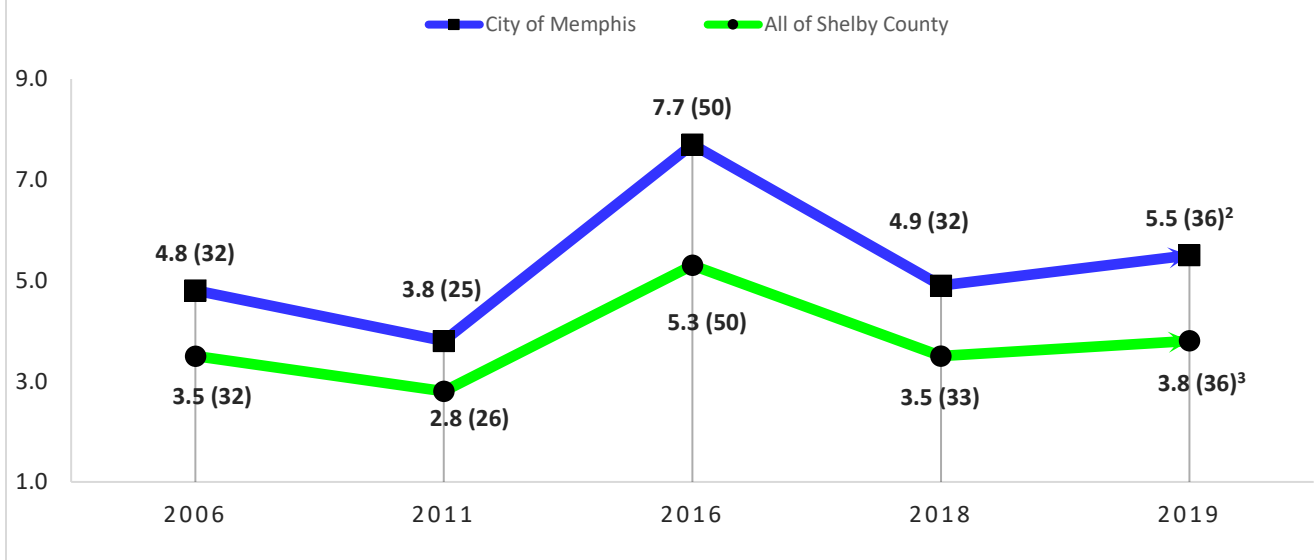
<sup>1</sup> Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

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

<sup>2</sup> The 2019 figure is a decrease of 7.9 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 0.3 percent from 2018 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2019 figure is a decrease of 9.2 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 0.6 percent from 2018 in all of Shelby County.

**REPORTED MURDERS  
JANUARY - MARCH 2019**  
(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)<sup>1</sup>

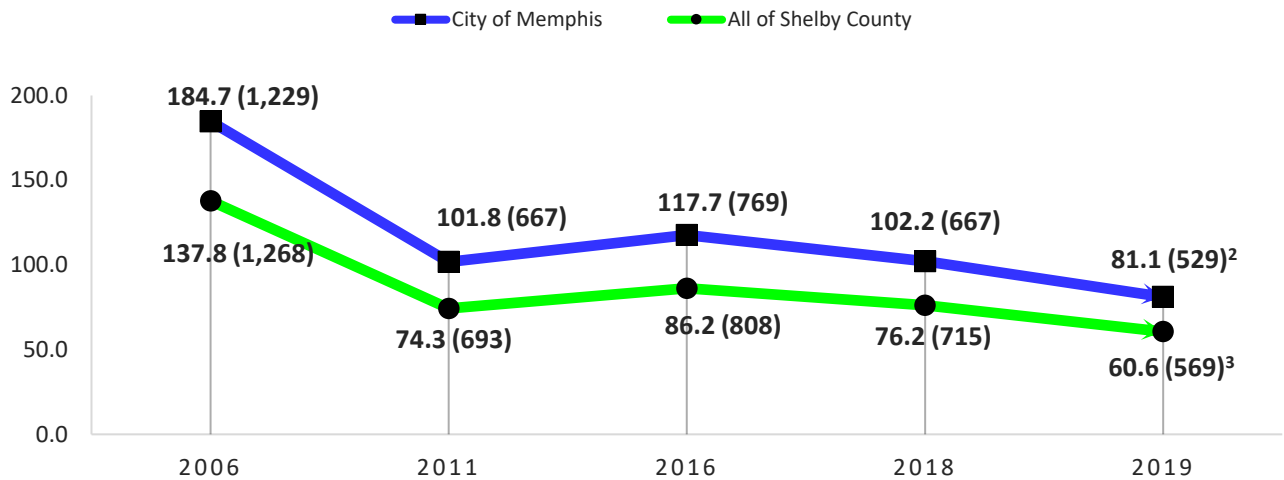


<sup>1</sup> Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2019 figure is an increase of 14.8 percent from 2006 and an increase of 12.5 percent from 2018 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2019 figure is an increase of 10.3 percent from 2006 and an increase of 9.1 percent from 2018 in all of Shelby County.

**REPORTED ROBBERIES  
JANUARY - MARCH 2019  
(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)<sup>1</sup>**

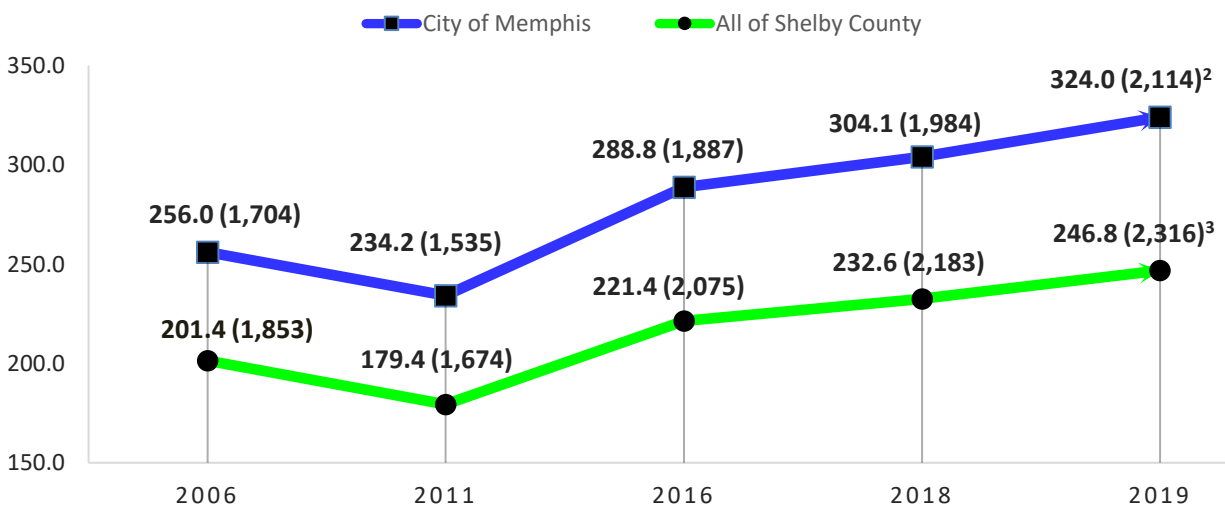


<sup>1</sup> Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2019 figure is a decrease of 56.1 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 20.7 percent from 2018 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2019 figure is a decrease of 56.0 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 20.4 percent from 2018 in all of Shelby County.

**REPORTED AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS  
JANUARY - MARCH 2019  
(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)<sup>1</sup>**

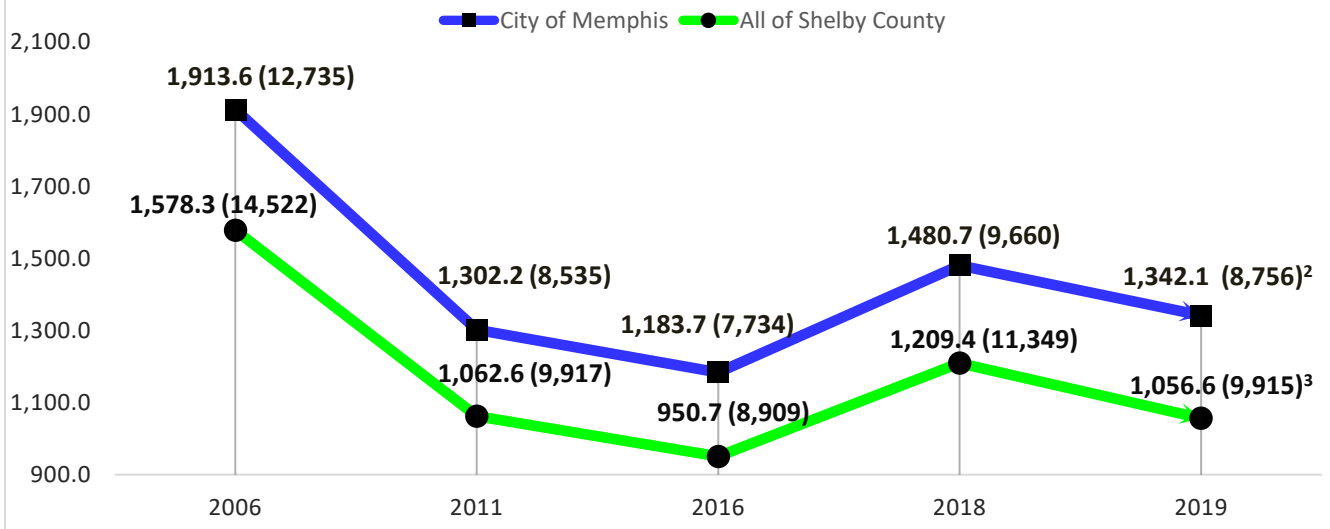


<sup>1</sup> Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2018 TBI figures are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> The 2019 figure is an increase of 26.6 percent from 2006 and an increase of 6.6 percent from 2018 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2019 figure is an increase of 22.5 percent from 2006 and an increase of 6.1 percent from 2018 in all of Shelby County.

**MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME  
JANUARY - MARCH 2019**  
(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>



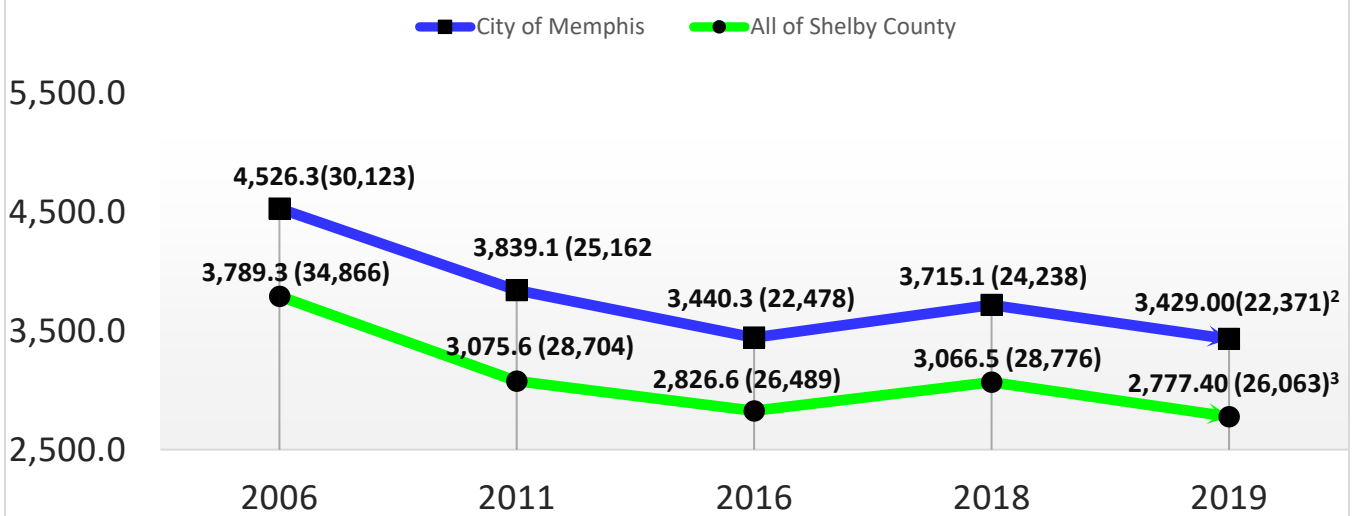
<sup>1</sup> Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts.

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

<sup>2</sup> The 2019 figure is a decrease of 29.9 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 9.4 percent from 2018 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2019 figure is a decrease of 33.1 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 12.6 percent from 2018 in all of Shelby County.

**OVERALL CRIME  
JANUARY - MARCH 2019**  
(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The 2019 figure is a 24.2 percent decrease from 2006 and a 7.7 percent decrease from 2018 in the city of Memphis.

<sup>3</sup> The 2018 figure is a 26.7 percent decrease from 2006 and a 9.4 percent decrease from 2018 for all of Shelby County.

**Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report									
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES									
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)									
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	% Change 2006-19	% Change 2011-19	% Change 2016-19	% Change 2018-19
Murder	3.5	2.8	5.3	3.5	3.8	10.3%	37.7%	-28.1%	9.1%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	13.0	17.6	14.9	12.8	11.8	-9.3%	-32.7%	-20.8%	-7.5%
Aggravated Assault <sup>2</sup>	201.4	179.4	221.4	232.6	246.8	22.5%	37.6%	11.5%	6.1%
Robbery	137.8	74.3	86.2	76.2	60.6	-56.0%	-18.3%	-29.7%	-20.4%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>355.7</b>	<b>274.0</b>	<b>327.9</b>	<b>325.1</b>	<b>323.1</b>	<b>-9.2%</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Burglary	431.8	319.5	236.6	227.6	204.7	-52.6%	-35.9%	-13.5%	-10.1%
Theft Offenses	967.3	663.5	640.5	825.1	750.6	-22.4%	13.1%	17.2%	-9.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	179.2	79.6	73.6	156.6	101.2	-43.5%	27.2%	37.5%	-35.4%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>1578.3</b>	<b>1062.6</b>	<b>950.7</b>	<b>1209.4</b>	<b>1056.6</b>	<b>-33.1%</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>-12.6%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	644.3	660.4	530.1	501.1	466.9	-27.5%	-29.3%	-11.9%	-6.8%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	206.3	190.0	153.3	145.5	126.8	-38.5%	-33.2%	-17.3%	-12.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	53.7	38.1	42.8	44.3	41.0	-23.6%	7.6%	-4.1%	-7.5%
Domestic Violence	538.9	570.8	485.8	470.2	427.7	-20.6%	-25.1%	-12.0%	-9.0%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>3789.3</b>	<b>3075.6</b>	<b>2826.6</b>	<b>3066.5</b>	<b>2777.4</b>	<b>-26.7%</b>	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>

\* Rates and population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2017 Estimates, are used to calculate the 2018 population estimates based on the UCR methodology which are then used for calculating the rates for 2018 and 2019.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019
	920,106	933,268	937,130	938,403	938,403

**Table 1.1 Shelby County, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report									
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS <sup>1</sup> GROUP A OFFENSES									
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	% Change 2006-19	% Change 2011-19	% Change 2016-19	% Change 2018-19
Murder	32	26	50	33	36	12.5%	38.5%	-28.0%	9.1%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	120	164	140	120	111	-7.5%	-32.3%	-20.7%	-7.5%
Aggravated Assault <sup>3</sup>	1,853	1,674	2,075	2,183	2,316	25.0%	38.4%	11.6%	6.1%
Robbery	1,268	693	808	715	569	-55.1%	-17.9%	-29.6%	-20.4%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3,273</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Burglary	3,973	2,982	2,217	2,136	1,921	-51.6%	-35.6%	-13.4%	-10.1%
Theft Offenses	8,900	6,192	6,002	7,743	7,044	-20.9%	13.8%	17.4%	-9.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,649	743	690	1,470	950	-42.4%	27.9%	37.7%	-35.4%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>14,522</b>	<b>9,917</b>	<b>8,909</b>	<b>11,349</b>	<b>9,915</b>	<b>-31.7%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>-12.6%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	5,928	6,163	4,968	4,702	4,381	-26.1%	-28.9%	-11.8%	-6.8%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	1,898	1,773	1,437	1,365	1,190	-37.3%	-32.9%	-17.2%	-12.8%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	494	356	401	416	385	-22.1%	8.1%	-4.0%	-7.5%
Domestic Violence	4,958	5,327	4,553	4,412	4,014	-19.0%	-24.6%	-11.8%	-9.0%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>34,866</b>	<b>28,704</b>	<b>26,489</b>	<b>28,776</b>	<b>26,063</b>	<b>-25.2%</b>	<b>-9.2%</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>

**Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report									
Memphis, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES									
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)									
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	% Change 2006-19	% Change 2011-19	% Change 2016-19	% Change 2018-19
Murder	4.8	3.8	7.7	4.9	5.5	14.8%	44.7%	-27.9%	12.5%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	16.7	22.6	18.8	15.9	15.2	-9.0%	-32.8%	-19.4%	-4.8%
Aggravated Assault <sup>8</sup>	256.0	234.2	288.8	304.1	324.0	26.6%	38.4%	12.2%	6.6%
Robbery	184.7	101.8	117.7	102.2	81.1	-56.1%	-20.3%	-31.1%	-20.7%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>462.2</b>	<b>362.4</b>	<b>433.0</b>	<b>427.2</b>	<b>425.8</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Burglary	531.8	402.5	303.4	287.5	266.2	-49.9%	-33.9%	-12.2%	-7.4%
Theft Offenses	1154.6	798.4	783.9	990.3	943.1	-18.3%	18.1%	20.3%	-4.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	227.2	101.3	96.4	202.8	132.7	-41.6%	31.0%	37.7%	-34.5%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>1913.6</b>	<b>1302.2</b>	<b>1183.7</b>	<b>1480.7</b>	<b>1342.1</b>	<b>-29.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	782.3	840.7	630.4	598.7	554.7	-29.1%	-34.0%	-12.0%	-7.3%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	205.4	226.1	156.1	137.9	122.2	-40.5%	-46.0%	-21.7%	-11.4%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	64.0	47.8	47.1	48.3	49.2	-23.1%	3.0%	4.4%	1.9%
Domestic Violence	669.4	736.2	606.5	595.5	536.0	-19.9%	-27.2%	-11.6%	-10.0%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>4526.3</b>	<b>3839.1</b>	<b>3440.3</b>	<b>3715.1</b>	<b>3429.0</b>	<b>-24.2%</b>	<b>-10.7%</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>-7.7%</b>

\* Rates and population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2017 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2017 Estimates, are used to calculate the 2018 population estimates based on the UCR methodology which are then used for calculating the rates for 2018 and 2019.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019
	665,512	655,407	653,369	652,413	652,413



**Table 2.1 Memphis, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019**

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report									
Memphis, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES									
January 1 - March 31, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2018, & 2019									
Selected Offenses of Interest									
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	% Change 2006-19	% Change 2011-19	% Change 2016-19	% Change 2018-19
Murder	32	25	50	32	36	12.5%	44.0%	-28.0%	12.5%
Rape <sup>2</sup>	111	148	123	104	99	-10.8%	-33.1%	-19.5%	-4.8%
Aggravated Assault <sup>4</sup>	1,704	1,535	1,887	1,984	2,114	24.1%	37.7%	12.0%	6.6%
Robbery	1,229	667	769	667	529	-57.0%	-20.7%	-31.2%	-20.7%
<b>MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3,076</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>2,787</b>	<b>2,778</b>	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Burglary	3,539	2,638	1,982	1,876	1,737	-50.9%	-34.2%	-12.4%	-7.4%
Theft Offenses	7,684	5,233	5,122	6,461	6,153	-19.9%	17.6%	20.1%	-4.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,512	664	630	1,323	866	-42.7%	30.4%	37.5%	-34.5%
<b>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>12,735</b>	<b>8,535</b>	<b>7,734</b>	<b>9,660</b>	<b>8,756</b>	<b>-31.2%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>
Simple Assault <sup>4</sup>	5,206	5,510	4,119	3,906	3,619	-30.5%	-34.3%	-12.1%	-7.3%
Drug/Narcotic Violations <sup>5</sup>	1,367	1,482	1,020	900	797	-41.7%	-46.2%	-21.9%	-11.4%
Weapon Law Violations <sup>5</sup>	426	313	308	315	321	-24.6%	2.6%	4.2%	1.9%
Domestic Violence	4,455	4,825	3,963	3,885	3,497	-21.5%	-27.5%	-11.8%	-10.0%
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>30,123</b>	<b>25,162</b>	<b>22,478</b>	<b>24,238</b>	<b>22,371</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>	<b>-11.1%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>-7.7%</b>