



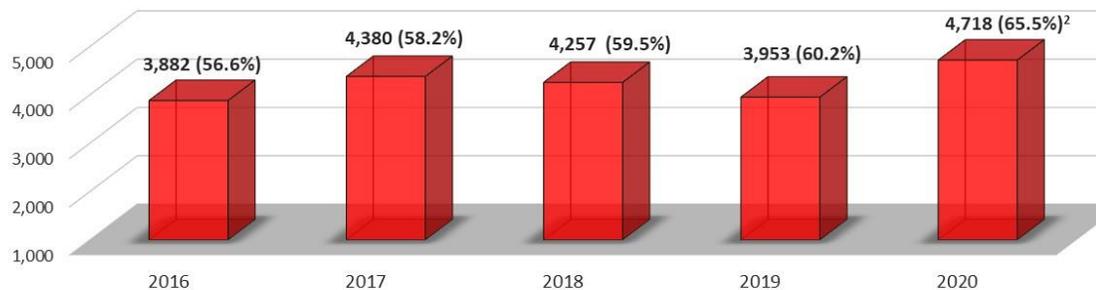
MEMPHIS GUN CRIMES CONTINUE TO CLIMB DURING PANDEMIC

Reported gun crimes are up in Memphis through the third quarter of the year (January-September) compared to the same time period last year. During the first quarter of this year (January-March), reported gun crimes were fairly steady compared to 2019, but sharp increases during the COVID-19 pandemic months of April-September have significantly changed that.

The Memphis Police Department (MPD) maintains data on the number of reported violent incidents involving firearms. Through September, there were 4,718 reported violent incidents involving guns compared to 3,953 last year and 3,882 in 2016. That's an increase of 19.3% compared to last year and a 21.5% increase compared to 2016.

In addition, according to MPD data, 65.5% of all reported violent crime incidents involved guns compared to 60.2% last year and 56.6% in 2016. So, gun crimes are making up a significantly larger percentage of all reported violent crime incidents.

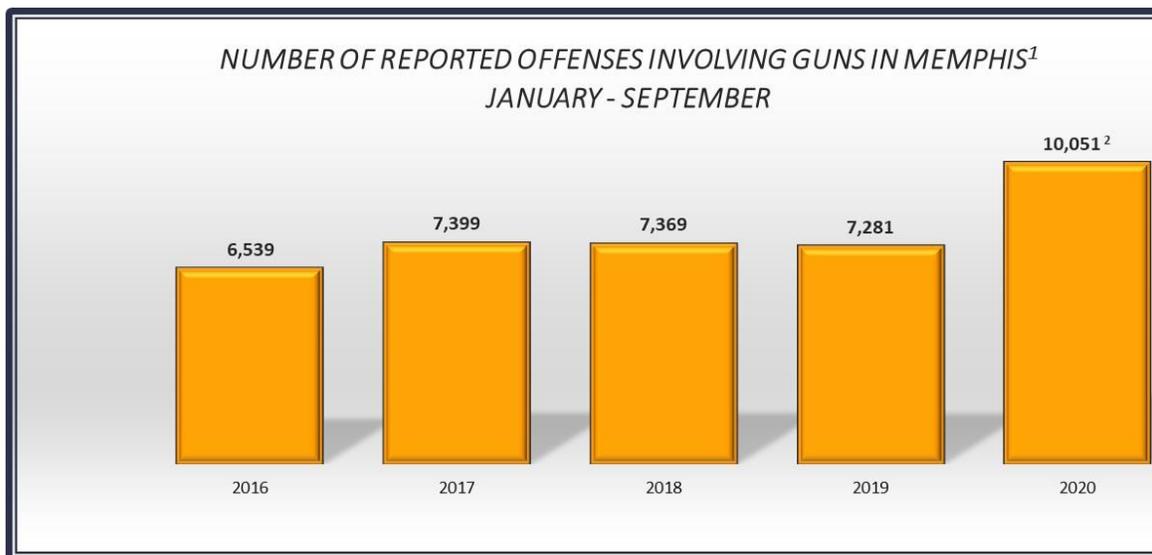
**NUMBER OF REPORTED VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING GUNS IN MEMPHIS
AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REPORTED VIOLENT INCIDENTS¹
JANUARY - SEPTEMBER**



¹ "Violent incidents" are (1) murder, (2) manslaughter, (3) justifiable homicide, (4) forcible rape, (5) aggravated assault, (6) aggravated domestic violence as aggravated child abuse, (8) robbery of individual, (9) robbery of businesses, and (10) carjacking. (There can be more than one offense in an incident. For example, three victims in an incident would count as three offenses.) Sources: Memphis Police Department and Dr. Angela Madden, U of M Public Safety Institute.

² A 21.5 percent increase compared to 2016 and a 19.3 percent increase compared to 2019.

While the MPD reports incidents, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) reports offenses. There can be more than one offense in a particular incident. For example, three victims in an incident would count as three separate offenses. Through September of this year, preliminary TBI figures show an increase in reported offenses involving guns, with a total of 10,051 compared to 7,281 during the same period in 2019 and 6,539 in 2016. The 2020 figure is a 38% increase over 2019 and a 53.7% increase over 2016. (Unlike the MPD figures, the TBI offense figures include non-violent felony offenses such as unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.)



¹ "Offenses involving guns" include murder, manslaughter, justifiable homicide, rape, kidnapping/abduction, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, fondling, robbery, aggravated assault, extortion/blackmail, weapon law violations, human trafficking, commercial sex acts, and involuntary servitude. (One incident can include multiple offenses. For example, three victims in one incident would count as three offenses.)

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). 2020 figure is preliminary.

² A 38 percent increase compared to 2019 and a 53.7 percent increase compared to 2016.

Calls for service due to someone being hit by gunfire increased as well. Through September, there were 1,508 calls for service for persons hit by gunfire compared to 1,440 in 2019, a 4.7% increase – and 1,143 in 2016, a 31.9% increase.

Reported thefts of firearms from motor vehicles continues to be of major concern to local law enforcement. Through September, 848 firearms had been reported stolen from vehicles in Memphis. If that pace continues, Memphis can expect around 1,100 reports of guns stolen from vehicles this year, which is approximately the same amount as last year (1,084).

DATA-DRIVEN POLICING SHOWS IMMEDIATE POSITIVE IMPACT IN CRIME HOTSPOTS

Data-driven policing is an approach used by the Memphis Police Department (MPD) that involves a weekly analysis by precinct to determine high crime geographic areas (called hotspots) and deployment of law enforcement resources to those areas.

Last year, the Public Safety Institute (PSI) conducted an assessment to determine whether, in calendar year 2017, this data-driven approach was having an impact on crime patterns. The

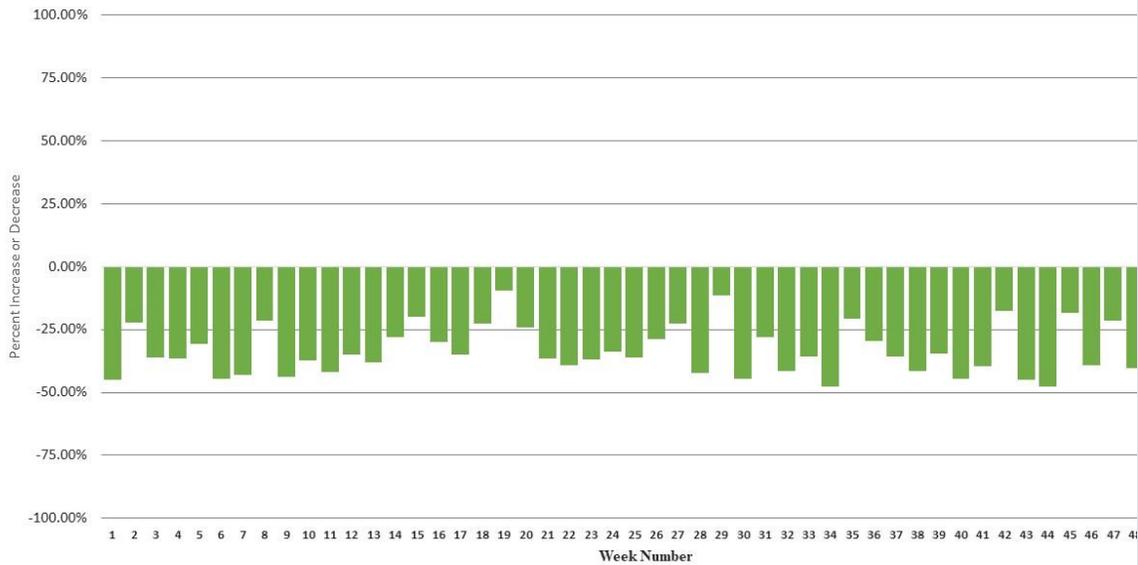
assessment indicated a considerable short-term positive impact on the level of crime in the designated hotspots.

The PSI decided to conduct a similar assessment for calendar year 2018 to determine if there was consistency in results from year to year.

The 2018 assessment shows results consistent with the 2017 assessment, including the following:

1. An immediate, short-term impact on the level of crime within identified precinct hotspots and
2. With the exception of one precinct, a consistent decrease in crime in key categories the week immediately after designating an area as a hotspot, with crime decreases citywide within MPD hotspots every single week over 50 weeks analyzed.

MPD – Citywide Percent Change in Prior Week Hotspot Crime by Week - 2018



The assessment notes that allocation of law enforcement resources based on identification of hotspots is, by definition, a reactive model based on the crime numbers. It suggests incorporating a predictive model in an attempt to determine where crime may happen next. While a significant undertaking, the assessment notes a predictive analytics model could have an even more significant positive impact on crime.

A limitation of the assessment was determining the long-term effectiveness of the hotspot approach. A precinct may see a decrease in crime in a hotspot area, causing the precinct to move resources to another hotspot location, only to see crime increase in the original hotspot location. Also, the decline in crime in hotspots does not account for factors such as crime displacement (crime declining in hotspots but moving to other areas).

PSI Lead Research Assistant James “Max” Helms conducted the assessment.

To review both the 2017 and 2018 assessments of data-driven deployment by the MPD, go to the Research tab of the PSI website – memphis.edu/psi.



Public Safety Institute

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