



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Linda Russell
901.385.4230
lrussell8@memphis.edu

FIRST HALF OF YEAR CRIME STATS COVID -19 Pandemic Affects Crime Trends

MEMPHIS - The Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission have released preliminary crime figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for the first half of 2020 (January-June) compared to certain previous years. In some cases, the figures reflect significant changes during the COVID-19 pandemic period of April-June compared to figures released earlier for just the first quarter of the year (January-March).

The most significant change is in the major violent crime rate (based on reported murders, robberies, rapes and aggravated assaults). At the end of the first quarter, the major violent crime rate had actually dropped 4.3% in the city of Memphis and 5.2% countywide compared to the first quarter of 2019. The decline was driven by significant declines in reported robberies and aggravated assaults. Taking the -19 months of April-June into account, though, the major violent crime rate is up 9.7% in Memphis and 9.1% countywide for the first half of the year compared to 2019.

The increase in the major violent crime rate is attributable to significant increases in murders (up 29.9% in Memphis and 26.2% countywide) and aggravated assaults (up 15.3% in Memphis and 14.7% throughout the county, reversing the declines during the first quarter of the year). Both murders and aggravated assaults usually involve perpetrators and victims who know each other.

Also troubling was the increase in all reported offenses involving guns – up 23% in Memphis and 22% countywide.

On the other hand, reported robberies – where the victims are usually random and unknown to the perpetrators – declined. Through June, reported robberies were down 9.5% in Memphis and 10.3% countywide compared to the first half of 2019. (There had actually been a slight increase in reported robberies in Memphis during the first quarter of the year.) So, during the COVID-19 months of April-June, there was a decline in reported random acts of major violent crime, but they were more than offset by violent crimes involving individuals who knew each other.

There were some interesting twists in the reported major property crime rate as well (which includes reported burglaries, motor vehicle thefts and other felony thefts). Overall, the major property crime was down 8.4% in Memphis and 8.1% throughout the county, driven by a very significant decrease in the burglary rate – minus 23.6% in Memphis and minus 22.2% countywide compared to the first half of last year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more people have been at home, especially during the day, likely serving as a deterrent to would-be burglars.

On the other hand, reported motor vehicle thefts increased by 11.4% in Memphis and 9% countywide. Motor vehicle thefts by juveniles tend to increase when schools are closed, which has been the case for most schools since March.

As was the case during the first quarter of the year, reported domestic violence cases were down for the first half of the year compared to the first half of last year – declining 7.8% in Memphis and 7.9% throughout Shelby County. However, because of the COVID-19 crisis, many domestic violence victims may feel it is unsafe to call 911 with perpetrators remaining close by in the home and with no alternative places to go for safety. So, the figures could be somewhat skewed.

Amy Weirich, Shelby County District Attorney and chair of the Safe Community Plan, stated, “Any citizen seeing these increases in murder and aggravated assault should be disturbed. In some of these cases, the victim is the intended target. In others, the victim is an innocent bystander. Either way, too many families are grieving the tragic, senseless, deaths of their loved ones. The police will investigate. Our office will prosecute. But until there are fewer members of our community embracing violent behavior, little will change.”

More information on local crime trends are available on the Crime Commission’s website at www.memphiscrime.org

###

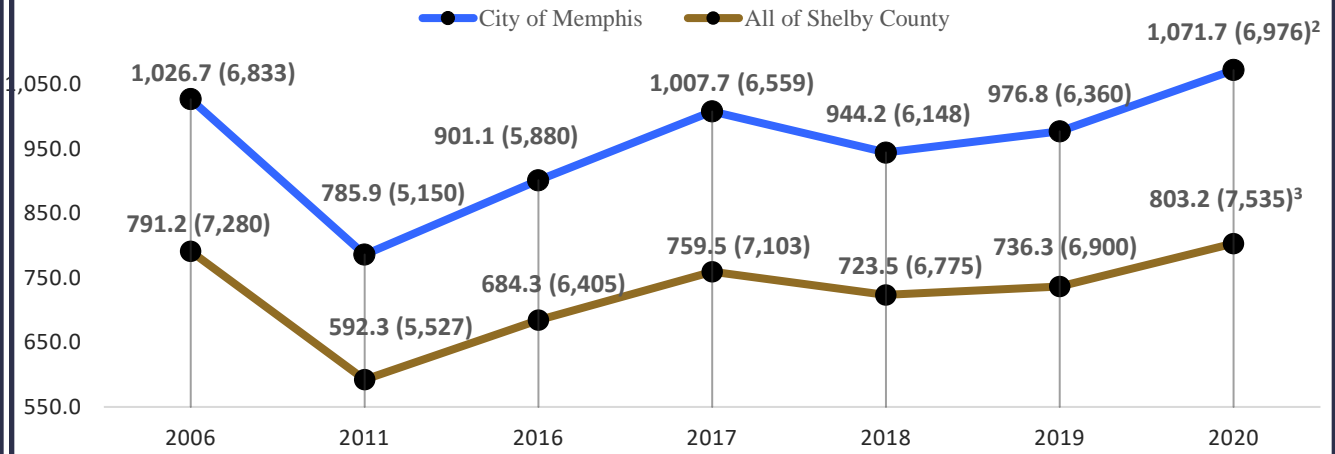
About the Crime Statistics: In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee 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.” Certain types of violent crimes 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 Safe Community Plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, chairman emeritus of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

About the Safe Community Plan (www.memphiscrime.org): Launched in 2007, the Safe Community Plan, an action plan spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Implementation of the Safe Community Plan 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 - JUNE
(Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹



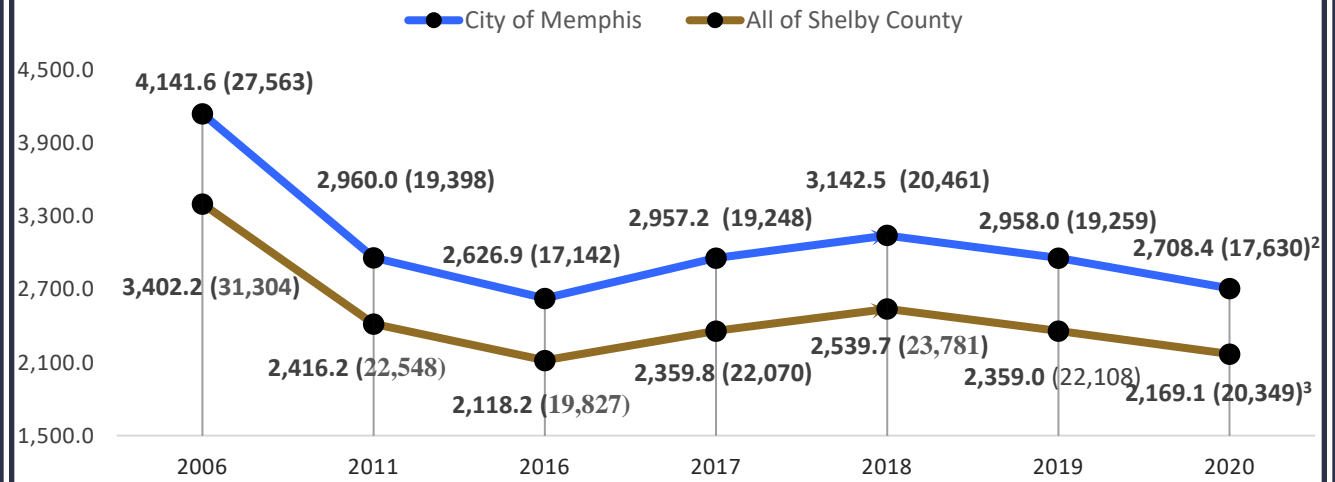
¹ Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2020 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2020 figure is a increase of 4.4% percent from 2006 and an increase of 9.7 percent from 2019 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2020 figure is a increase of 1.5 percent from 2006 and a increase of 9.1 percent from 2019 in all of Shelby County.

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

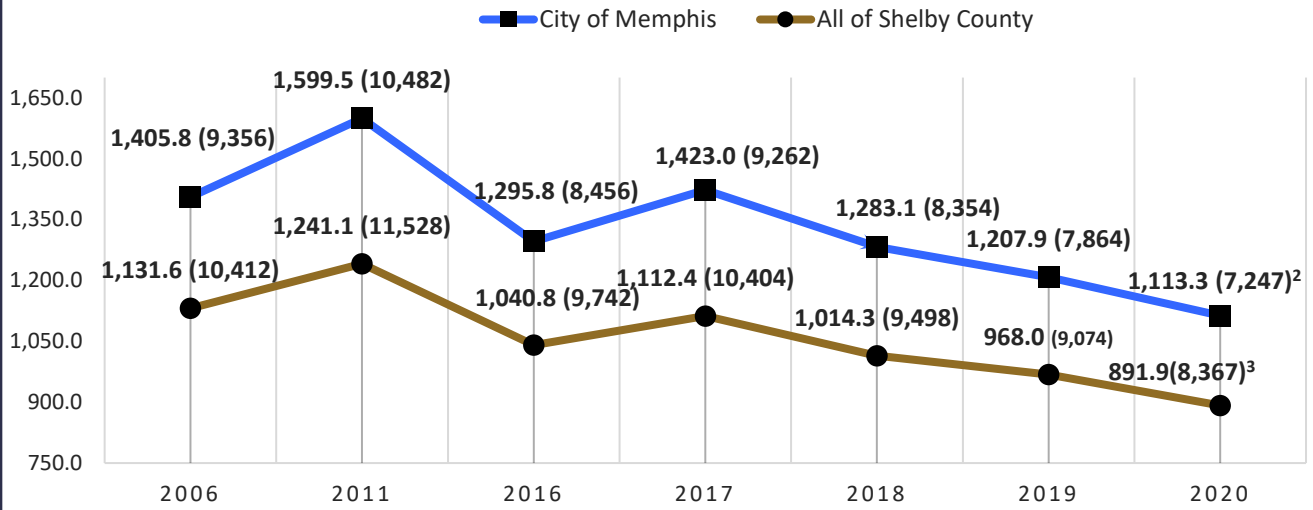


¹ Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2020 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2020 figure is a decrease of 34.6 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 8.4 percent from 2019 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2020 figure is a decrease of 36.2 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 8.1 percent from 2019 in all of Shelby County.

REPORTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
JANUARY - JUNE
(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION AND NUMBERS)¹

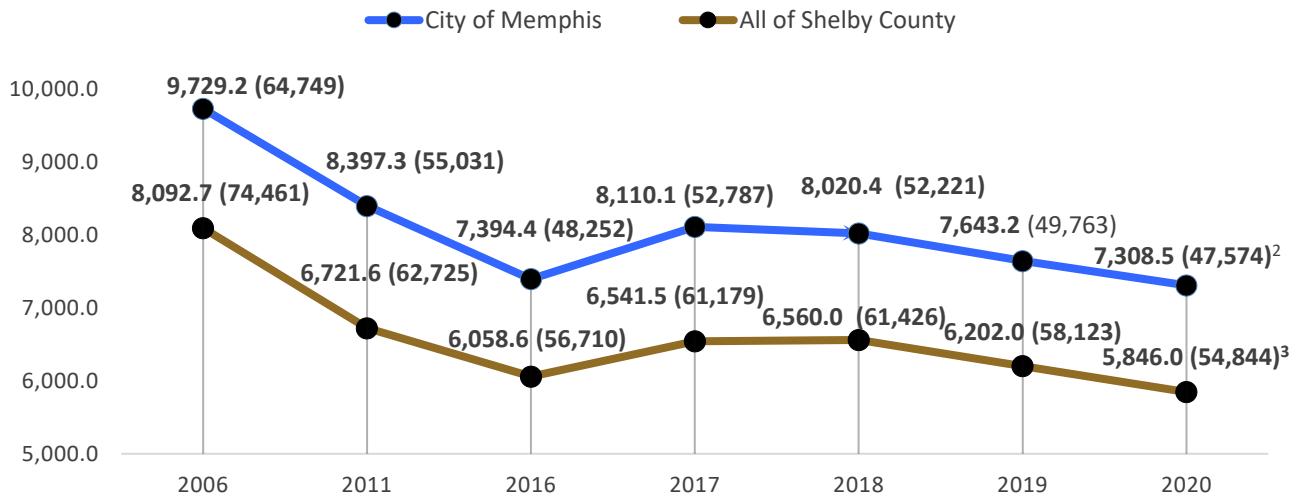


¹ Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2020 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2020 figure is a decrease of 20.8 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 7.8 percent from 2019 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2020 figure is a decrease of 21.2 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 7.9 percent from 2019 in all of Shelby County.

OVERALL CRIME
JANUARY - JUNE
(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 2020 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2020 figure is a 24.9 percent decrease from 2006 and a 4.4 percent decrease from 2019 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2020 figure is a 27.8 percent decrease from 2006 and a 5.7 percent decrease from 2019 for all of Shelby County.

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report											
Memphis, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES											
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)											
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020											
Selected Offenses of Interest											
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2006-20	% Change 2011-20	% Change 2016-20	% Change 2019-20
Murder ²	12.9	8.2	15.0	14.3	11.7	13.4	17.4	34.3%	110.7%	15.6%	29.9%
Rape ^{2,3}	39.4	42.4	41.1	47.9	39.8	36.9	30.4	-22.7%	-28.3%	-25.9%	-17.5%
Aggravated Assault ^{2,4}	594.4	519.9	607.3	703.5	675.0	747.7	862.0	45.0%	65.8%	41.9%	15.3%
Robbery	380.0	215.3	237.7	242.0	217.8	178.9	161.9	-57.4%	-24.8%	-31.9%	-9.5%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME ^{2,4}	1026.7	785.9	901.1	1007.7	944.2	976.8	1071.7	4.4%	36.4%	18.9%	9.7%
Burglary	1168.3	893.7	670.9	694.3	630.5	551.1	421.2	-63.9%	-52.9%	-37.2%	-23.6%
Theft Offenses	2492.4	1832.3	1745.6	1970.1	2159.4	2115.3	1962.1	-21.3%	7.1%	12.4%	-7.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	481.0	233.9	210.4	292.8	352.6	291.7	325.1	-32.4%	39.0%	54.5%	11.5%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	4141.6	2960.0	2626.9	2957.2	3142.5	2958.0	2708.4	-34.6%	-8.5%	3.1%	-8.4%
Simple Assault ⁵	1660.2	1811.7	1353.5	1410.2	1321.4	1224.7	1063.2	-36.0%	-41.3%	-21.4%	-13.2%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁶	379.0	416.4	301.4	264.7	273.4	224.1	240.0	-36.7%	-42.4%	-20.4%	7.1%
Weapon Law Violations ⁶	115.7	104.1	91.0	97.3	104.7	94.5	164.8	42.5%	58.4%	81.1%	74.5%
Domestic Violence	1405.8	1599.5	1295.8	1423.0	1283.1	1207.9	1113.3	-20.8%	-30.4%	-14.1%	-7.8%
Total Group A Offenses ⁷	9729.2	8397.3	7394.4	8110.1	8020.4	7643.2	7308.5	-24.9%	-13.0%	-1.2%	-4.4%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm ⁸			668.3	741.9	708.6	741.9	912.7			36.6%	23.0%

* Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.

* Rates and population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2019 Estimates, are used to calculate the 2020 population estimates based on the UCR methodology which are then used for calculating the rates for 2020.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	665,512	655,341	652,548	650,878	651,104	651,073	650,937

Table 2.1 Memphis, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report											
Memphis, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES											
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020											
Selected Offenses of Interest											
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2006-20	% Change 2011-20	% Change 2016-20	% Change 2019-20
Murder ²	86	54	98	93	76	87	113	31.4%	109.3%	15.3%	29.9%
Rape ^{2,3}	262	278	268	312	259	240	198	-24.4%	-28.8%	-26.1%	-17.5%
Aggravated Assault ^{2,4}	3,956	3,407	3,963	4,579	4,395	4,868	5,611	41.8%	64.7%	41.6%	15.3%
Robbery	2,529	1,411	1,551	1,575	1,418	1,165	1,054	-58.3%	-25.3%	-32.0%	-9.5%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME ^{2,4}	6,833	5,150	5,880	6,559	6,148	6,360	6,976	2.1%	35.5%	18.6%	9.7%
Burglary	7,775	5,857	4,378	4,519	4,105	3,588	2,742	-64.7%	-53.2%	-37.4%	-23.6%
Theft Offenses	16,587	12,008	11,391	12,823	14,060	13,772	12,772	-23.0%	6.4%	12.1%	-7.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,201	1,533	1,373	1,906	2,296	1,899	2,116	-33.9%	38.0%	54.1%	11.4%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	27,563	19,398	17,142	19,248	20,461	19,259	17,630	-36.0%	-9.1%	2.8%	-8.5%
Simple Assault ⁶	11,049	11,873	8,832	9,179	8,604	7,974	6,921	-37.4%	-41.7%	-21.6%	-13.2%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁸	2,522	2,729	1,967	1,723	1,780	1,459	1,562	-38.1%	-42.8%	-20.6%	7.1%
Weapon Law Violations ⁶	770	682	594	633	682	615	1,073	39.4%	57.3%	80.6%	74.5%
Domestic Violence	9,356	10,482	8,456	9,262	8,354	7,864	7,247	-22.5%	-30.9%	-14.3%	-7.8%
Total Group A Offenses ⁷	64,749	55,031	48,252	52,787	52,221	49,763	47,574	-26.5%	-13.6%	-1.4%	-4.4%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm ⁷			4,361	4,829	4,614	4,830	5,941			36.2%	23.0%

* Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.

Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report											
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES											
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)											
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020											
Selected Offenses of Interest											
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2006-20	% Change 2011-20	% Change 2016-20	% Change 2019-20
Murder	9.3	6.3	10.8	9.9	8.2	9.7	12.3	31.1%	93.9%	13.6%	26.2%
Rape ²	31.8	34.5	32.1	38.8	31.8	29.5	24.6	-22.7%	-28.6%	-23.2%	-16.4%
Aggravated Assault ³	466.1	395.8	467.8	535.2	523.7	564.8	647.6	38.9%	63.6%	38.4%	14.7%
Robbery	283.9	155.6	173.6	175.6	159.8	132.3	118.7	-58.2%	-23.7%	-31.6%	-10.3%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME³	791.2	592.3	684.3	759.5	723.5	736.3	803.2	1.5%	35.6%	17.4%	9.1%
Burglary	944.1	705.3	521.1	532.8	497.5	424.8	330.4	-65.0%	-53.2%	-36.6%	-22.2%
Theft Offenses	2077.4	1528.2	1433.1	1603.4	1766.4	1700.3	1583.7	-23.8%	3.6%	10.5%	-6.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	380.7	182.7	164.0	223.6	275.9	233.9	255.0	-33.0%	39.6%	55.5%	9.0%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	3402.2	2416.2	2118.2	2359.8	2539.7	2359.0	2169.1	-36.2%	-10.2%	2.4%	-8.1%
Simple Assault ⁴	1361.3	1418.2	1118.9	1142.4	1089.2	1020.5	868.7	-36.2%	-38.7%	-22.4%	-14.9%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	380.8	358.1	293.9	260.9	286.6	238.1	228.2	-40.1%	-36.3%	-22.3%	-4.1%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	96.6	83.6	79.6	87.7	93.7	81.8	128.3	32.8%	53.5%	61.2%	56.8%
Domestic Violence	1131.6	1241.1	1040.8	1112.4	1014.3	968.2	891.9	-21.2%	-28.1%	-14.3%	-7.9%
Total Group A Offenses ⁶	8092.7	6721.6	6058.6	6541.5	6560.0	6202.0	5846.0	-27.8%	-13.0%	-3.5%	-5.7%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm ⁶			500.8	558.6	540.3	556.4	678.9			35.6%	22.0%

* Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.

* Rates and population figures are based on 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2019 Estimates, are used to calculate the 2020 population estimates based on the UCR methodology which are then used for calculating the rates for 2020.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	920,106	933,186	936,021	935,251	936,365	937,166	938,143

Table 1.1 Shelby County, TN: Number of Offenses: 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report											
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS' GROUP A OFFENSES											
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020											
Selected Offenses of Interest											
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2006-20	% Change 2011-20	% Change 2016-20	% Change 2019-20
Murder	86	59	101	93	77	91	115	33.7%	94.9%	13.9%	26.4%
Rape ²	293	322	300	363	298	276	231	-21.2%	-28.3%	-23.0%	-16.3%
Aggravated Assault ³	4,289	3,694	4,379	5,005	4,904	5,293	6,075	41.6%	64.5%	38.7%	14.8%
Robbery	2,612	1,452	1,625	1,642	1,496	1,240	1,114	-57.4%	-23.3%	-31.4%	-10.2%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME²	7,280	5,527	6,405	7,103	6,775	6,900	7,535	3.5%	36.3%	17.6%	9.2%
Burglary	8,687	6,582	4,878	4,983	4,658	3,981	3,100	-64.3%	-52.9%	-36.4%	-22.1%
Theft Offenses	19,114	14,261	13,414	14,996	16,540	15,935	14,857	-22.3%	4.2%	10.8%	-6.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,503	1,705	1,535	2,091	2,583	2,192	2,392	-31.7%	40.3%	55.8%	9.1%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	31,304	22,548	19,827	22,070	23,781	22,108	20,349	-35.0%	-9.8%	2.6%	-8.0%
Simple Assault ⁴	12,525	13,234	10,473	10,684	10,199	9,564	8,150	-34.9%	-38.4%	-22.2%	-14.8%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	3,504	3,342	2,751	2,440	2,684	2,231	2,141	-38.9%	-35.9%	-22.2%	-4.0%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	889	780	745	820	877	767	1,204	35.4%	54.4%	61.6%	57.0%
Domestic Violence	10,412	11,582	9,742	10,404	9,498	9,074	8,367	-19.6%	-27.8%	-14.1%	-7.8%
Total Group A Offenses⁶	74,461	62,725	56,710	61,179	61,426	58,123	54,844	-26.3%	-12.6%	-3.3%	-5.6%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm⁶			4,688	5,224	5,059	5,214	6,369			35.9%	22.2%

¹ Due to changes in reporting offenses involving firearms, TIBRS figures are not comparable to data prior to 2016.