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Memphis Crime Rate Continues to Drop

(The following data includes Memphis figures only.
Shelby County figures will be updated upon receipt.)

Based on preliminary data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for the first three quarters of 2026 (January-September) and released by the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute (PSI) and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission (Crime Commission), reported crime in Memphis continued a significant drop in all major categories.

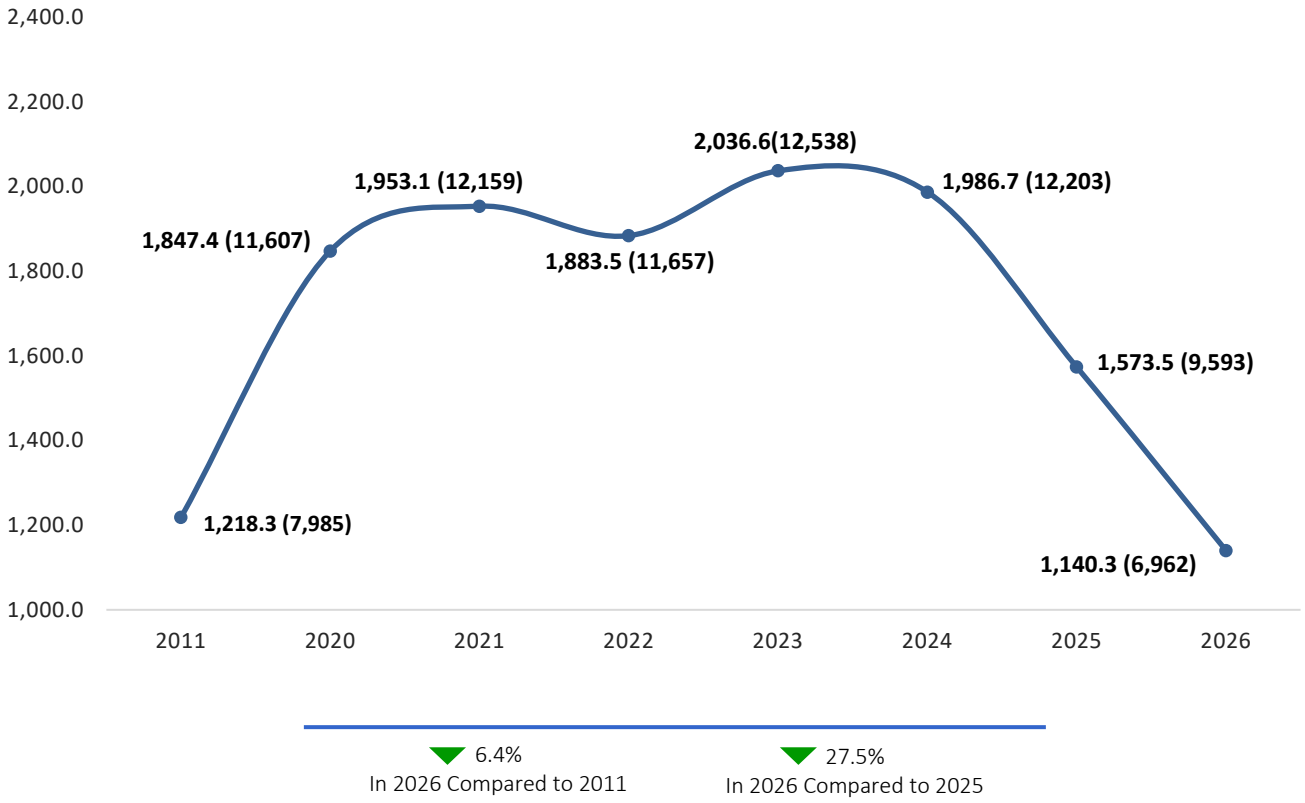
The PSI and the Crime Commission report TBI crime data based on both raw numbers of reported crimes and the rate per 100,000 population, which is a more accurate way of tracking trends because it takes into account changes in population.

Countywide figures are not yet available due to some delays in reporting. However, once those figures are available, they will be posted on the Crime Commission website at https://memphiscrime.org.

Major violent includes the categories of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The major violent crime rate declined in Memphis by 27.5 percent compared to the first three quarters of 2025. In the past fifteen years, 2011 had been the low point in Memphis' violent crime rate. Through the third quarter, the 2026 violent crime rate was 6.4 percent lower than in 2011.

All four categories of major violent crime declined, led by a 41.5 percent decline in the robbery rate compared to 2025. (The robbery rate reflected a 64.5 percent decline compared to 2011!) Compared to 2025, the murder, rape, and aggravated assault rates dropped 34.1 percent, 24.5 percent, and 25.3 percent respectively.

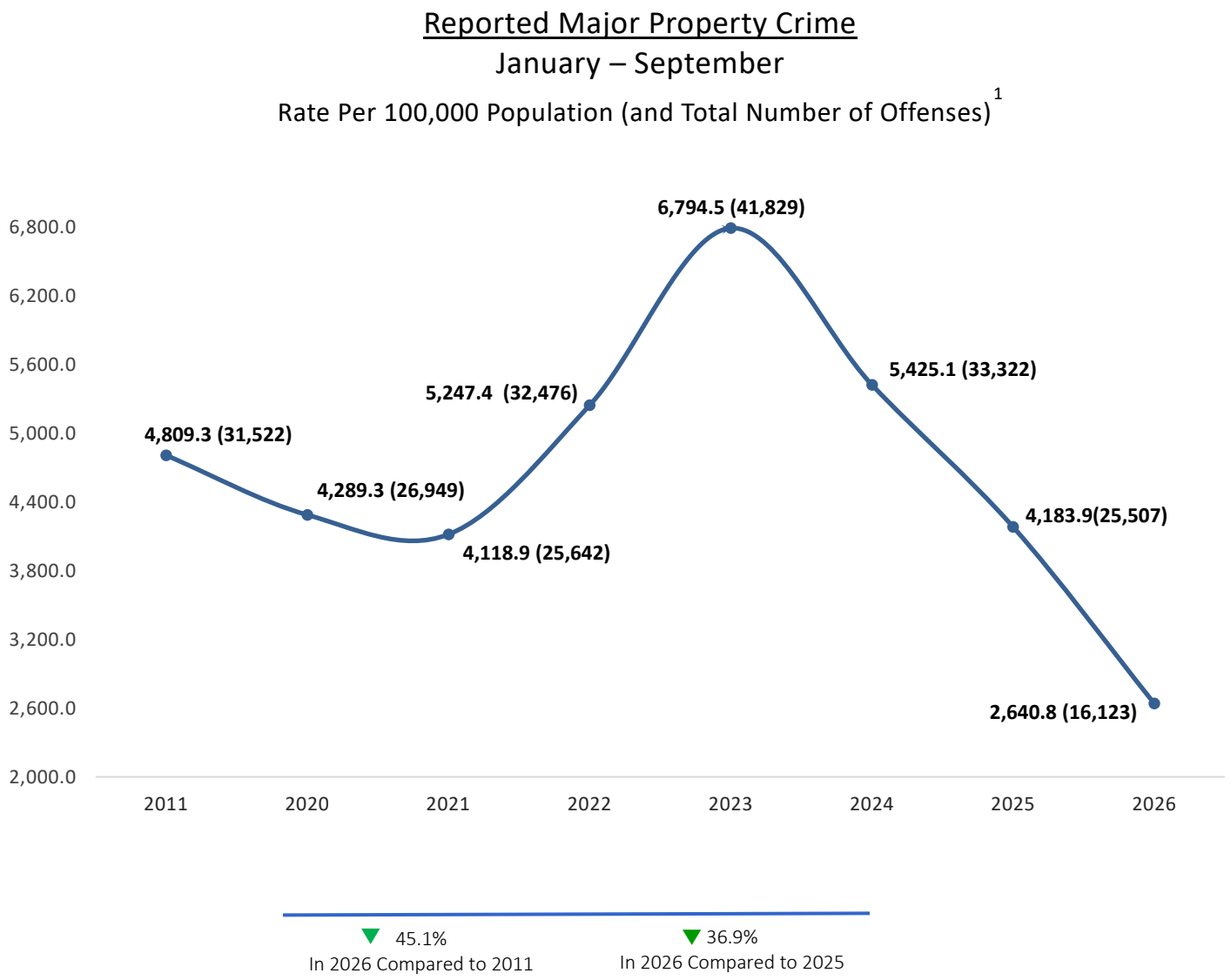
Reported Major Violent Crime
January - September
Rate Per 100,000 Population (and Total Number of Offenses)[1]



[1]Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2026 figures are preliminary.

Major property crime includes reported burglaries, vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts. The Memphis major property crime rate fell 36.9 percent compared to 2025. led by a 55.9 percent decline in the vehicle theft rate. The burglary rate and theft offenses rate declined 28.2 percent and 33.1 percent respectively.

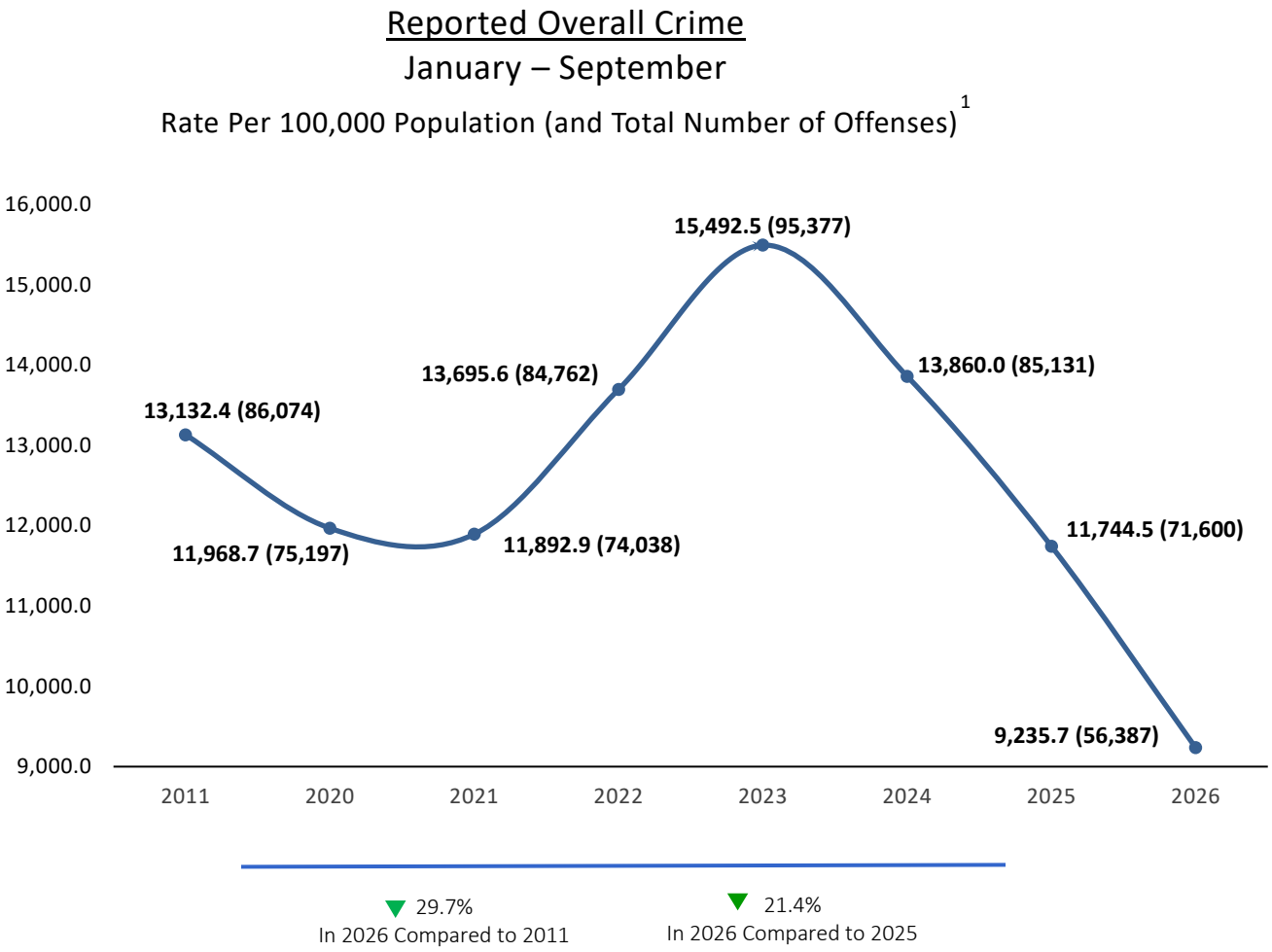
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[1] Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2026 TBI figures are preliminary.

Reported domestic violence offenses declined slightly, with a 4.8 percent drop in the rate compared to 2025. Domestic violence continues to be a difficult category to reduce significantly. Both the PSI and the Crime Commission are focused on identifying and advocating implementation of best practices to reduce the level of domestic violence.

The TBI measures an overall Group A crime rate composed of 54 different categories of crime (including the major violent and property crime categories set forth above). The overall Group A crime rate dropped 21.4 percent compared to the first three quarters of 2025.



[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 2026 TBI figures are preliminary.

One category that increased compared to 2025 was drug/narcotic violations. Most law enforcement officials attribute the 16.6 percent increase over 2025 to more proactive policing through traffic stops, helped in large part by the surge in the number of state troopers assigned to the community.

"The presence of increased state and federal law enforcement resources has had an impact on crime reduction. While it doesn't get as much attention, violence intervention efforts such as those by Memphis Allies, Heal 901, and BLOC Squad are also helping head off crimes that are retaliatory in nature, such as many murders and aggravated assaults," said Bill Gibbons, PSI executive director and Crime Commission president.

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About the Crime Statistics: In measuring crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use primarily preliminary 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): The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that "quarterbacks" the work of the Safe Community Action Plan. 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 Action Plan (www.memphiscrime.org): Launched initially in 2007, the Safe Community Action Plan, development of which is spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction and prevention initiative. The current Safe Community Action Plan (2022-2026) is in its fifth year and a new five-year plan is being developed.

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 through applied research. It is housed in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Bill Gibbons serves as executive director, Dr. Amaia Iratzoqui serves as research director, and Dr. James McCutcheon serves as the senior research developer.

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2011, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report

Memphis, TN - TIBRS[1] GROUP A OFFENSES

CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)

January 1 - September 30, 2011, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026

Selected Offenses of Interest

Offense Type	2011	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2011-26	% Change 2020-26	% Change 2021-26	% Change 2022-26	% Change 2023-26	% Change 2024-26	% Change 2025-26
Murder[2]	13.4	33.4	33.1	30.2	40.9	32.7	26.1	17.2	28.1%	-48.5%	-48.0%	-43.1%	-58.0%	-47.4%	-34.1%
Rape[2,3]	65.0	56.0	52.5	57.2	62.5	58.6	46.4	35.1	-46.1%	-37.4%	-33.3%	-38.7%	-44.0%	-40.2%	-24.5%
Aggravated Assault[2,4]	798.4	1502.0	1631.7	1517.4	1592.8	1633.0	1293.9	966.9	21.1%	-35.6%	-40.7%	-36.3%	-39.3%	-40.8%	-25.3%
Robbery	341.5	255.9	235.8	278.7	340.3	262.4	207.2	121.2	-64.5%	-52.6%	-48.6%	-56.5%	-64.4%	-53.8%	-41.5%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME[3]	1218.3	1847.4	1953.1	1883.5	2036.6	1986.7	1573.5	1140.3	-6.4%	-38.3%	-41.6%	-39.5%	-44.0%	-42.6%	-27.5%
Burglary	1432.5	654.5	583.9	697.8	833.1	673.9	545.6	391.8	-72.6%	-40.1%	-32.9%	-43.9%	-53.0%	-41.9%	-28.2%
Theft Offenses	2985.4	3109.6	2938.4	3439.2	3954.3	3457.4	2822.5	1889.2	-36.7%	-39.2%	-35.7%	-45.1%	-52.2%	-45.4%	-33.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	391.5	525.2	596.6	1110.4	2007.0	1293.8	815.9	359.8	-8.1%	-31.5%	-39.7%	-67.6%	-82.1%	-72.2%	-55.9%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	4809.3	4289.3	4118.9	5247.4	6794.5	5425.1	4183.9	2640.8	-45.1%	-38.4%	-35.9%	-49.7%	-61.1%	-51.3%	-36.9%
Simple Assault[5]	2753.7	1650.9	1584.8	1633.2	1723.8	1751.0	1749.7	1794.2	-34.8%	8.7%	13.2%	9.9%	4.1%	2.5%	2.5%
Drug/Narcotic Violations[6]	603.9	403.2	454.7	476.8	284.9	322.8	333.8	389.3	-35.5%	-3.4%	-14.4%	-18.3%	36.7%	20.6%	16.6%
Weapon Law Violations[6]	159.9	330.1	401.6	472.3	377.8	582.4	567.5	388.5	143.0%	17.7%	-3.3%	-17.7%	2.8%	-33.3%	-31.5%
Domestic Violence	2401.8	1797.6	1830.2	1769.3	1827.5	1871.6	1842.4	1754.5	-26.9%	-2.4%	-4.1%	-0.8%	-4.0%	-6.3%	-4.8%
Total Group A Offenses[7]	13132.4	11968.7	11892.9	13695.6	15492.5	13860.0	11744.5	9235.7	-29.7%	-22.8%	-22.3%	-32.6%	-40.4%	-33.4%	-21.4%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm[v7]		1649.4	1940.0	1946.8	1985.9	2122.7	1756.9	1200.6		-27.2%	-38.1%	-38.3%	-39.5%	-43.4%	-31.7%

* 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 2011, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2025 Estimates, are used to calculate the 2026 population estimates based on the UCR methodology which is then used for calculating the rates for 2026.

POPULATION	2011	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	655,434	628,388	622,541	618,468	614,587	610,919	610,271	610,271

Table 2.1 Memphis, TN: Number of Offenses: 2011, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026

Operation Safe Community - Crime Trend Report

Memphis, TN - TIBRS[1] GROUP A OFFENSES

January 1 - September 30, 2011, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026

Selected Offenses of Interest

	2011	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2011-26	% Change 2020-26	% Change 2021-26	% Change 2022-26	% Change 2023-26	% Change 2024-26	% Change 2025-26
Murder[2]	88	210	206	187	252	201	159	105	19.3%	-50.0%	-49.0%	-43.9%	-58.3%	-47.8%	-34.0%
Rape[2,3]	426	352	327	354	385	380	283	214	-49.8%	-39.2%	-34.6%	-39.5%	-44.4%	-40.6%	-24.4%
Aggravated Assault[2,4]	5,233	9,437	10,158	9,391	9,806	10,030	7,888	5,903	12.8%	-37.4%	-41.9%	-37.1%	-39.8%	-41.1%	-25.2%
Robbery	2,238	1,608	1,468	1,725	2,095	1,612	1,263	740	-66.9%	-54.0%	-49.6%	-57.1%	-64.7%	-54.1%	-41.4%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME[3]	7,985	11,607	12,159	11,657	12,538	12,203	9,593	6,962	-12.8%	-40.0%	-42.7%	-40.3%	-44.5%	-42.9%	-27.4%
Burglary	9,389	4,112	3,635	4,319	5,129	4,139	3,326	2,392	-74.5%	-41.8%	-34.2%	-44.6%	-53.4%	-42.2%	-28.1%
Theft Offenses	19,567	19,537	18,293	21,285	24,344	21,236	17,207	11,534	-41.1%	-41.0%	-36.9%	-45.8%	-52.6%	-45.7%	-33.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,566	3,300	3,714	6,872	12,356	7,947	4,974	2,197	-14.4%	-33.4%	-40.8%	-68.0%	-82.2%	-72.4%	-55.8%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	31,522	26,949	25,642	32,476	41,829	33,322	25,507	16,123	-48.9%	-40.2%	-37.1%	-50.4%	-61.5%	-51.6%	-36.8%
Simple Assault[5]	18,049	10,372	9,866	10,108	10,612	10,755	10,667	10,954	-39.3%	5.6%	11.0%	8.4%	3.2%	1.9%	2.7%
Drug/Narcotic Violations[6]	3,958	2,533	2,831	2,951	1,754	1,983	2,035	2,377	-39.9%	-6.2%	-16.0%	-19.5%	35.5%	19.9%	16.8%
Weapon Law Violations[6]	1,048	2,074	2,500	2,923	2,326	3,577	3,460	2,372	126.3%	14.4%	-5.1%	-18.9%	2.0%	-33.7%	-31.4%
Domestic Violence	15,742	11,294	11,394	10,950	11,251	11,496	11,232	10,712	-32.0%	-5.2%	-6.0%	-2.2%	-4.8%	-6.8%	-4.6%
Total Group A Offenses[7]	86,074	75,197	74,038	84,762	95,377	85,131	71,600	56,387	-34.5%	-25.0%	-23.8%	-33.5%	-40.9%	-33.8%	-21.2%
Total Group A Offenses Involving Firearm*[7]		10,363	12,077	12,049	12,226	13,038	10,711	7,330		-29.3%	-39.3%	-39.2%	-40.0%	-43.8%	-31.6%

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