



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## **Reported Crime in Memphis Remains Below Last Year, Still Higher Than Prior Years**

According to preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) released by the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, the rate of reported crime in Memphis for the first half of the year remained below the first half of 2023 in almost all major categories.

The major violent crime rate is determined by the number of reported murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults per 100,000 population. The violent crime rate declined 5.1 percent compared to 2023, with all four categories showing reductions. The largest reduction was in reported robberies (a decline of 25.3 percent). However, the violent crime rate remained slightly higher than in the pandemic years of 2021 and 2022 and significantly higher than the initial pandemic year of 2020 as well as a number of other years used for comparison.

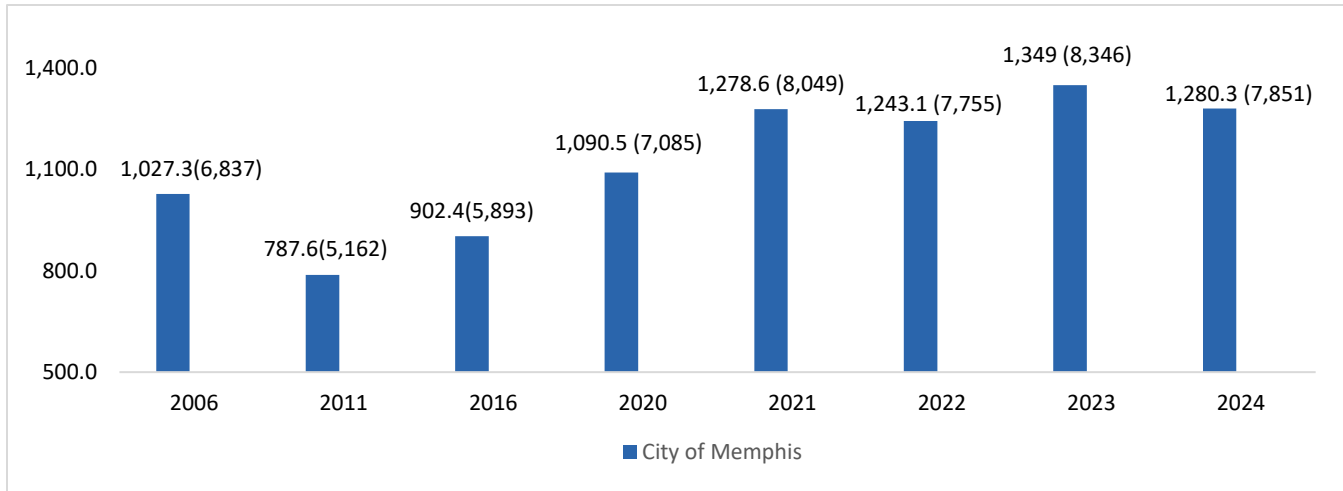
“In recent years, violent crime was at its lowest point in 2011. The major violent crime rate for the first half of 2024 was 62.6 percent higher than the first half of 2011. In 2011, though, Memphis had almost 2500 commissioned police officers along with a commitment to data-driven deployment. We still have a strong commitment to data-driven deployment within the Memphis Police Department but simply have fewer officers to deploy with about 2,000 officers, a net reduction in officers of about 20 percent compared to the peak level of 2011,” noted Bill Gibbons, executive director of the Public Safety Institute and president of the Crime Commission.

“With fewer officers, it’s more important than ever that MPD be committed to smart strategies that help make sure officers are in the right places at the right times to have the maximum positive impact. The Operation Code Zero initiative is a prime example of that commitment,” he added.

## Reported Major Violent Crime

January- June

Rate Per 100,000 Population (and Total Number of Offenses)<sup>1</sup>



▲ 24.6% In 2024 Compared to 2006  
▼ 5.1% In 2024 Compared to 2023

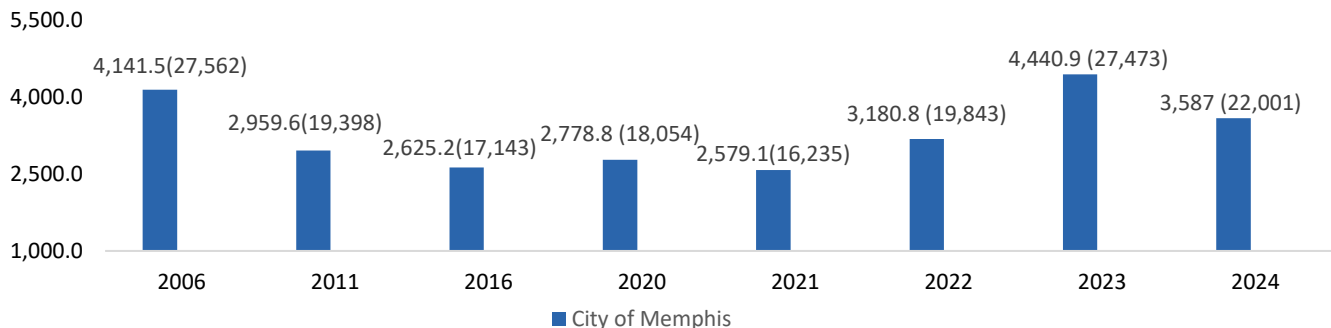
<sup>1</sup> Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2024 TBI figures are preliminary.

The major property crime rate is determined by the number of reported burglaries, vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts per 100,000 population. Compared to the first half of 2023, the 2024 major property crime rate declined 19.2 percent. All three categories showed significant declines, led by a 30.6 percent decline in the rate of reported vehicle thefts. However, the major property crime rate remained above the rate during the pandemic years of 2020 - 2022.

## Reported Major Property Crime

January- June

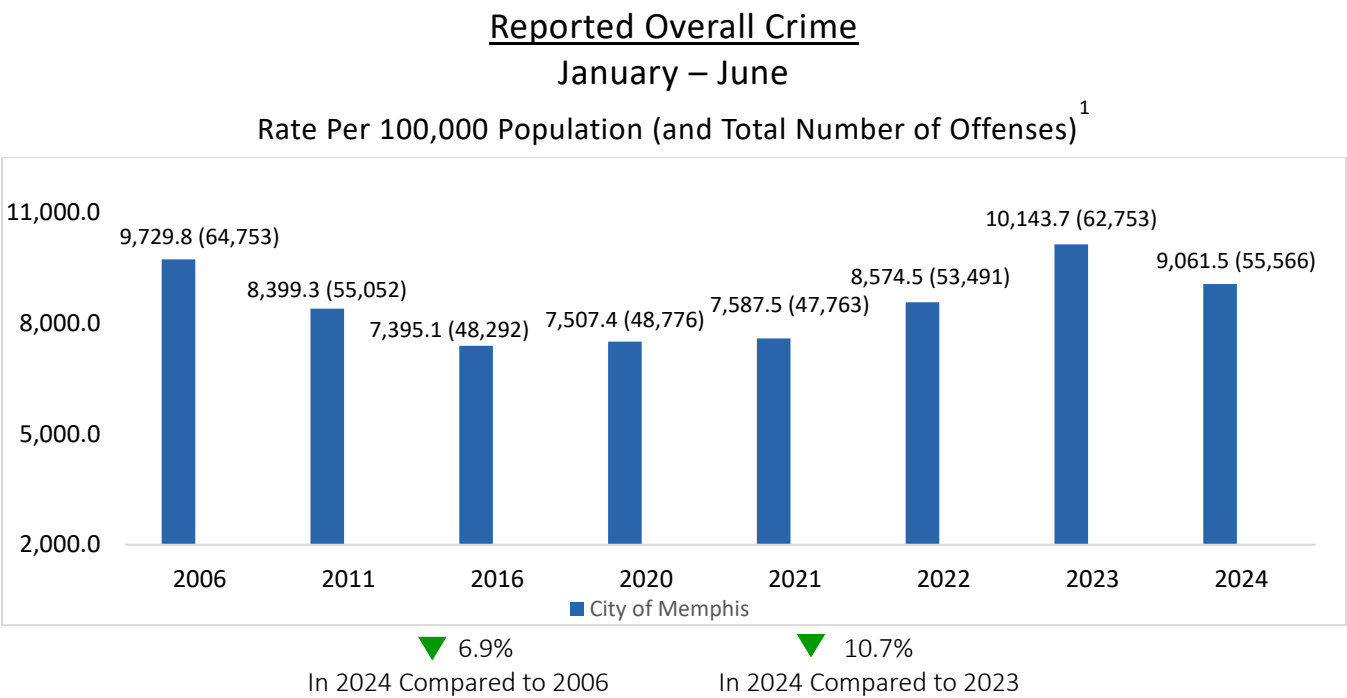
Rate Per 100,000 Population (and Total Number of Offenses)<sup>1</sup>



▼ 13.4% In 2024 Compared to 2006  
▼ 19.2% In 2024 Compared to 2023

<sup>1</sup> Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2024 TBI figures are preliminary.

The same pattern is seen in the overall crime rate, determined by reported crimes in 54 different categories measured by the TBI (including the major violent crimes and property crimes mentioned previously). The overall crime rate in Memphis dropped 10.7 percent during the first half of 2024 compared to 2023 but remained above 2020 - 2022 levels.



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 2024 TBI figures are preliminary.

The rate of reported domestic violence offenses did increase slightly by 2.1 percent during the first half of 2024 compared to 2023.

Weapon law violations include the manufacture, sale, or possession of prohibited weapons, the possession of firearms by convicted felons, and the furnishing of firearms to minors. The rate of weapon law violations increased 49.2 percent compared to the first half of 2023.

“Many weapon law violations are the result of proactive police-initiated actions and not the result of individuals reporting criminal activity. The increase is possibly attributable to increased proactive activity, such as Operation Code Zero,” noted Gibbons.

The countywide crime data usually released by the Public Safety Institute and the Crime Commission at the same time as Memphis data is not yet available due to some problems with data from Collierville for the month of June. As soon as the countywide figures are fully available, they will be posted on the Crime Commission website at <https://memphiscrime.org>.

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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](http://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](http://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 third year. Implementation of the Safe Community Action Plan is chaired by Shelby County Sheriff Floyd Bonner.

**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 through applied research. It is housed in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Bill Gibbons serves as executive director, and Dr. Amaia Iratzotqui serves as research director.