



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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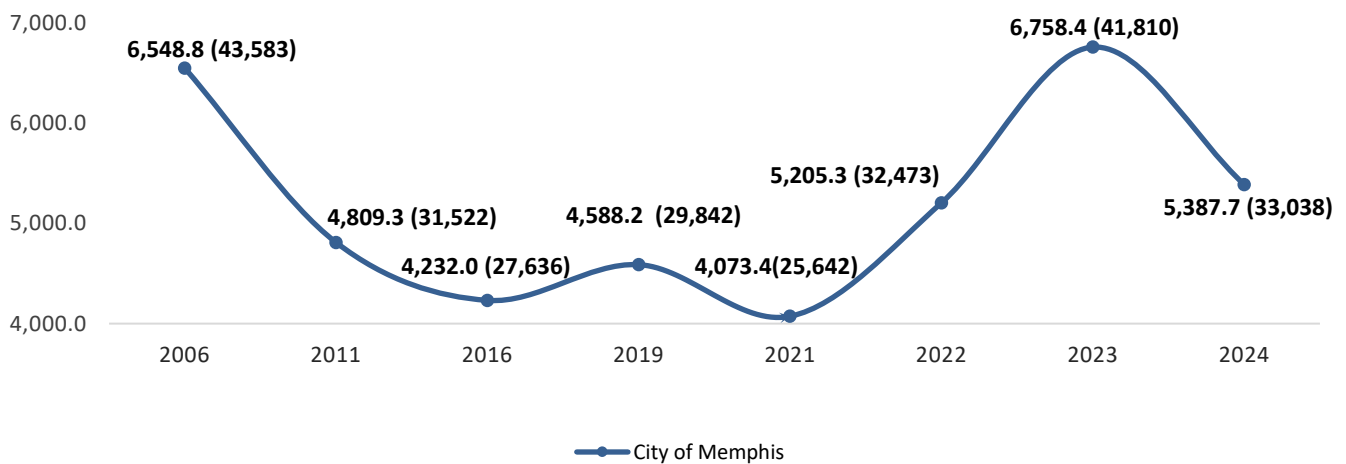
Crime Rates Continue Downward Trend

The University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission have released preliminary crime data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) showing a very significant drop in the major property crime rate in Memphis through the third quarter of this year (January-September) compared to the same time period last year. The major violent crime rate and the overall crime rate also dropped but not by as much.

Reported Major Property Crime

January - September

Rate Per 100,000 Population (and Total Number of Offenses)¹



▼ 17.7%
In 2024 Compared to 2006

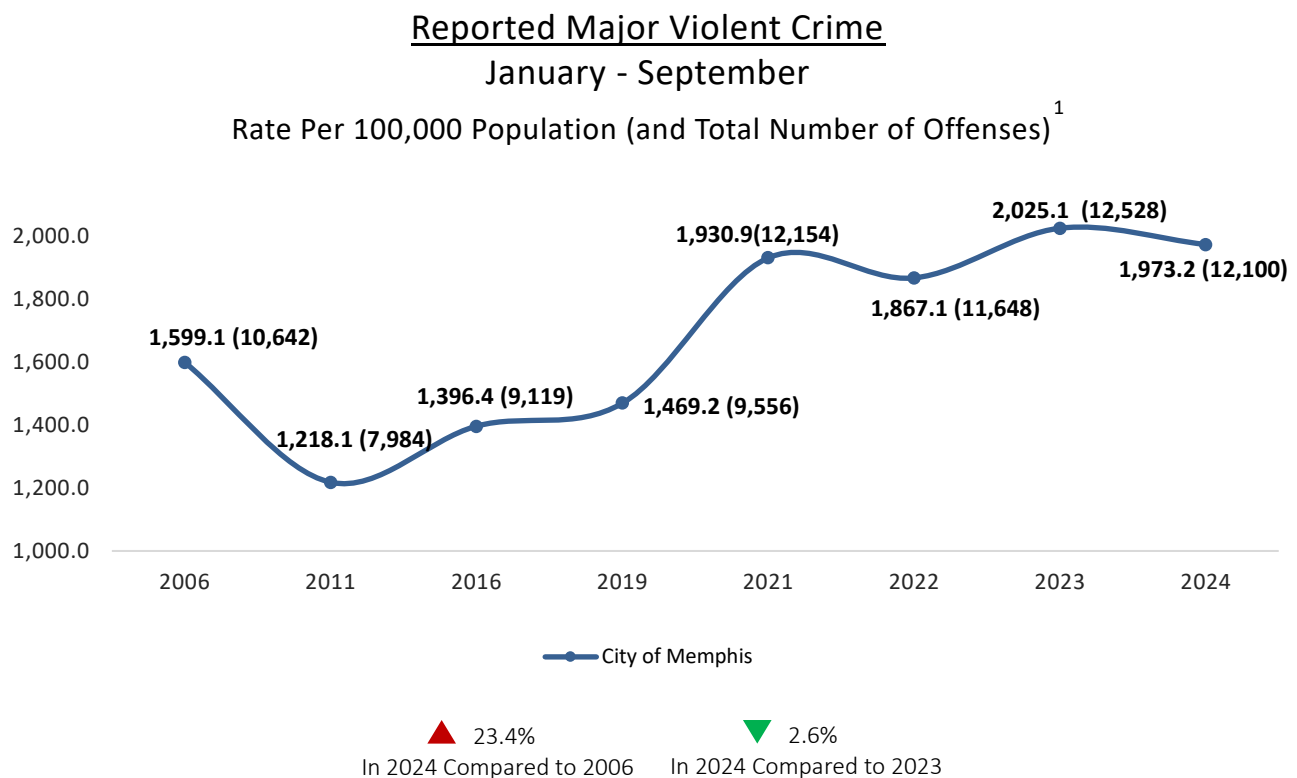
▼ 20.3%
In 2024 Compared to 2023

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

The major property crime rate declined 20.3% compared to last year according to the TBI data. Major property crime is composed of reported burglaries, vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts (such as thefts from vehicles). The crime rates in all three categories dropped below last year's levels. Most significant was a drop in the vehicle theft rate of 35.2 percent. The burglary rate declined a significant 19.8 percent, and felony thefts other than vehicle thefts dropped 12.8 percent.

Bill Gibbons, executive director of the Public Safety Institute and president of the Crime Commission, noted that the reductions are somewhat similar to post-pandemic reductions in most other major cities but also attributed the reductions to proactive steps by residents, businesses, and law enforcement.

"Residents are being more diligent in taking preventive steps, businesses are providing more security, and law enforcement has beefed up investigations of vehicle thefts and is using data-driven policing to allocate resources. All of these are contributing factors," Gibbons said.

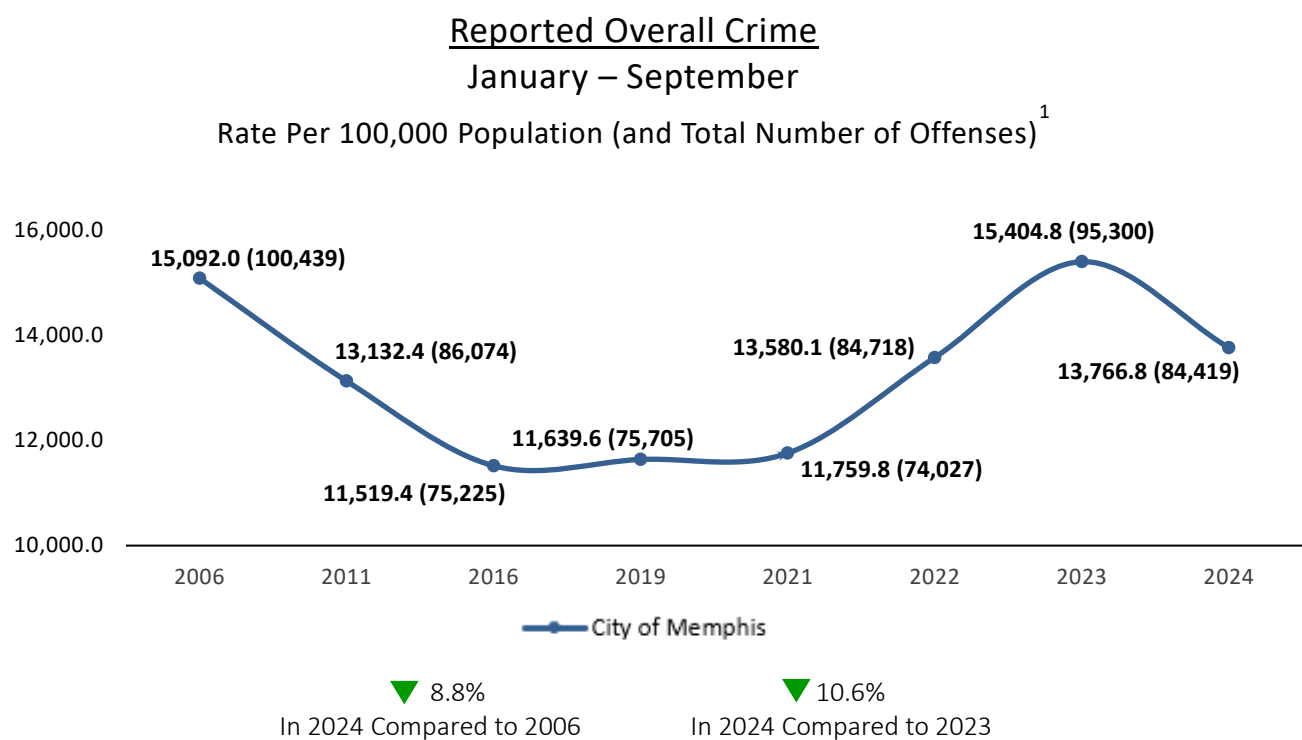


¹ Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2024 figures are preliminary.

The major violent crime rate also declined slightly according to the TBI data. Reported murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults make up the major violent crime rate. The robbery rate dropped a significant 22.5 percent, while the murder rate declined 11.5

percent and the rape rate dropped 8.8 percent. However, the aggravated assault rate increased 2.2 percent.

“Aggravated assaults make up over 80 percent of reported violent crimes, with almost 10,000 reported victims of aggravated assault through September of this year. The violent crime rate per 100,000 people is calculated on the aggregate number of all reported violent crimes. Until we reduce significantly the number of aggravated assaults, we will not be able to have a significant reduction in the overall violent crime rate. And, of course, an aggravated assault can become a murder in a split second. All it takes is the offender being a good aim,” noted Gibbons.



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 2024 TBI figures are preliminary.

The TBI also measures the overall crime rate by tracking 54 categories of “Group A” crimes (which include the major violent and property crimes). The overall crime rate dropped 10.6 percent compared to the first three quarters of 2023.

TBI crime figures for all of Shelby County are not yet available but should be soon. Countywide figures will appear on the Crime Commission website at <https://memphiscrime.org> once they are available.

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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 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/): 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.