

## Analyzing Baltimore's Crime Puzzle: A Call to Action

As our team dove into the interesting dynamics of crime in Baltimore with crime data and data from 911 calls, many patterns emerged that tell a story of a city with a complex relationship between demographics and criminal behavior. This Op-Ed will describe our findings and present a call to action so the reader can see the challenges that face Baltimore. Along with the initial and basic analysis of the 911 data, we extended the research by exploring a broader context with crime statistics, demographic features, and comparing it to other nearby cities. While our surface level analysis of just the 911 calls only really shows an indicator of emergencies, when aligned with official crime data, it provides a more meaningful understanding of the criminal landscape. This type of analysis will allow us to come up with methods for targeted interventions and the strategic allocation of resources to address specific crime trends.

To find the true cause of the crime, we decided to extend our analysis to include demographic factors such as age distribution, unemployment rate, and income levels. Because of the connections between these variables and crime, there must be a strategy that includes both law enforcement and community focused measures to address these issues. A comparison between Baltimore's crime landscape and national trends will show common as well as the unique challenges. Looking at the national trends provides a broader context and can be used to find solutions that target Baltimore's specific socio-economic makeup. Skeptics may question the relevance of comparing Baltimore's crime data to that of national data because they believe that each city is inherently unique. Though this is true to a degree, we acknowledge the distinct characteristics of Baltimore and comparing these two things simply serves as a benchmark tool. When identifying the similarities and differences of Baltimore to the country, we allow the city to use unique strategies from similar cities to ensure that the final solution is beneficial in local terms but also have benefits from a more broad and large insight. Not only is it important to look at national trends, but it is also very important to analyze cities that have common demographics, size, and location as Baltimore such as Philadelphia or Washington D.C. This can be used to gain extra insight on a community's willingness to even report crime (the 911 data) as well as the specifics and amount of crime that the cities have or do not have in common.

With this extended analysis, it becomes clear that it is not enough to only rely on law enforcement responses, we must build a larger community engagement and fight the root cause of crime. There are many steps that could take place to assist Baltimore such as the development and implementation of targeted initiatives that address a community's specific demographic challenges. This could be things like youth engagement programs, job creation, and economic support to struggling communities. These initiatives can be developed through information from national trends, local trends, and even cross city collaboration. Baltimore must build a stronger platform for the sharing of useful and successful strategies to deal with these challenges with cities that face similar circumstances. Learning from the successes and failures

of similar cities can help build and enhance the effectiveness of how Baltimore can reduce crime.

In conclusion, our analysis into Baltimore's crime landscape has led us to believe that a community-driven solution is key. By looking into 911 calls, crime statistics, demographic data, and comparative strategies, we describe a collaborative and informed approach to the reduction of crime. For Baltimore, change will only come when the residents of the communities can come together with leaders to work together toward a safer future.