

Crime Incidence in Shaw, 2014-2016

Data via St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
10 Jan 2017

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SOC 4650/5650: Intro to GIS



Shaw is a historic neighborhood located just south of Interstate 44 in the City of St. Louis.

The neighborhood is bounded on the west by the Missouri Botanical Gardens, on the south by Tower Grove Park, and on the east by South Grand Boulevard.

Settled early in the 19th century, most development occurred during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The neighborhood is mixed racially, but has been gentrifying with many African American residents displaced in the last fifteen years.

See ↘ for direction of photo



The intersection of Shaw Boulevard and Klemm Street (●), where the Shaw Market is located, has become the focus of residents' concerns about crime, violence, and safety.



VonDerrit Myers Jr.



On October 8th, 2014, 18 year-old VonDerrit Myers Jr. was shot and killed at Shaw Boulevard and Klemm Street by an off-duty SLMPD officer working for a private security company, GCI Security. GCI is contracted to patrol Flora Place, a street in Shaw located three blocks south of Shaw Boulevard.

On October 8th, 2016, family and friends of VonDerrit Myers Jr. were attending a vigil when a dispute began a half block south of Shaw Boulevard on Klemm Street. Approximately sixty rounds were fired. Three men, ages 20, 21 and 28, were each shot in the leg and wounded. No arrests have been announced, though police reported at the time that they were seeking two other men of similar ages in connection with the gunfight.

On November 17th, 2016, two men were sitting in a vehicle on Shaw Boulevard and Klemm Street when a second vehicle drove up and fired into their car. A 21 year-old man, Michael Murphy, was shot and killed. His companion, who was 22, was also shot and wounded.



Frustrated by Gunfire, Shaw Residents Look to New Solutions

Doyle Murphy | December 5th, 2016

"In a lot of ways, the Shaw neighborhood is one of St. Louis' gems. Tower Grove Park borders it to the south, and the Missouri Botanical Garden is just across Tower Grove Avenue to the west. Young families fill handsome, two- and three-story brick homes and push strollers along long, leafy blocks.

The problem is the gunfire.

The sound of blasts in the night has long fueled fireworks-or-gunshots debates among residents, but what the neighborhood has endured in the past two months is a string of unambiguously frightening gun battles. One person has been killed and at least four others wounded. Through the first ten months of the year, police had recorded eighteen shootings compared to one for the same time period in 2015.

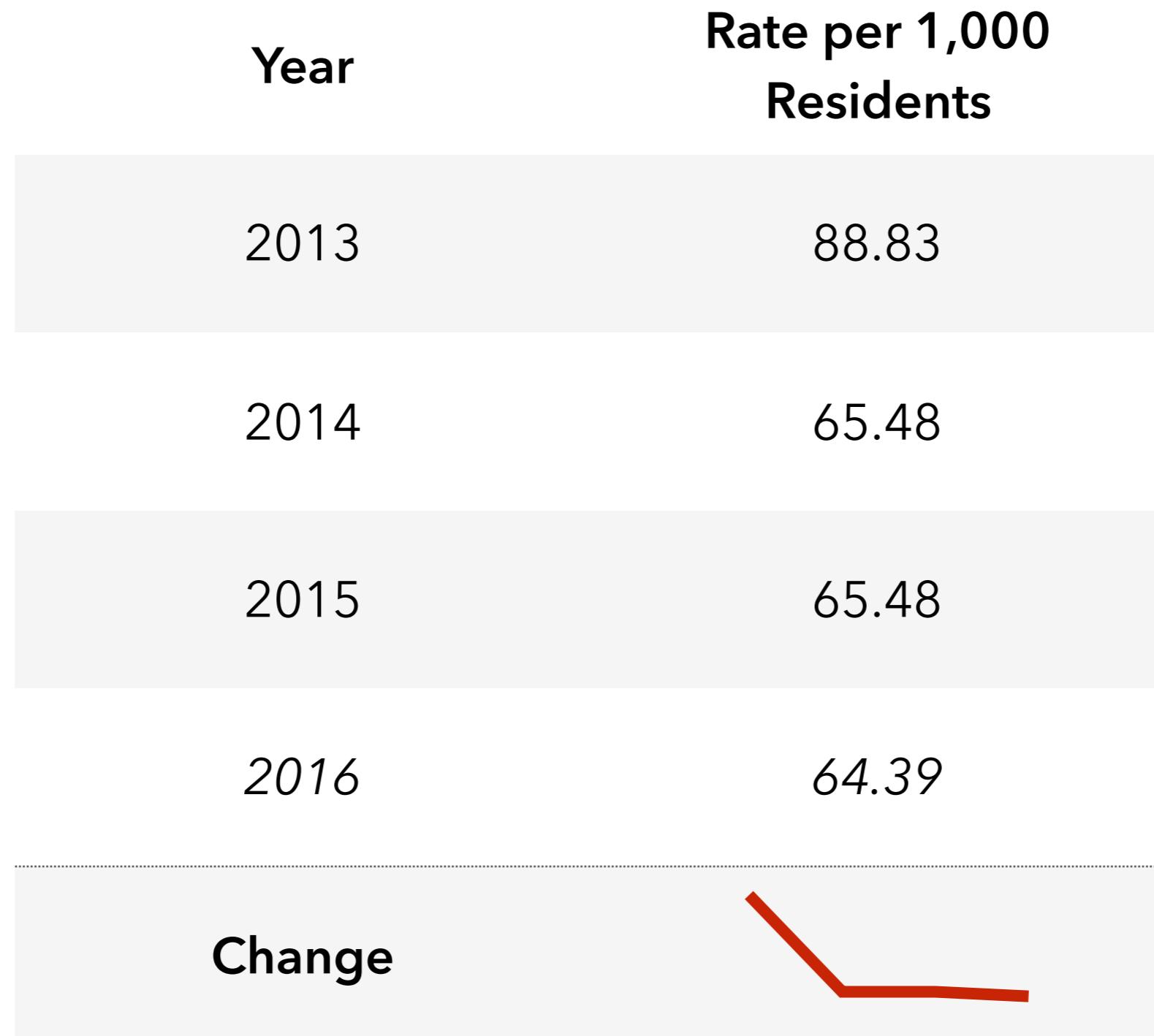
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The meeting, emceed by Alderman Stephen Conway, was attended by between 75 and 100 people and focused primarily on options for installing surveillance cameras at the corner of Shaw Boulevard and Klemm Street. Residents, not without reason, see the intersection as the epicenter of the chaos.

...

The violence persists even as housing prices climb and the neighborhood continues to gentrify. Once a pocket of drug violence, Shaw is now one of the most sought-after places in the city, with a number of commercial projects in development within walking distance of Shaw and Klemm. The most prominent – a new burger bar by restaurateur Dave Bailey – is set to open next spring on the northeast corner."

All Crimes

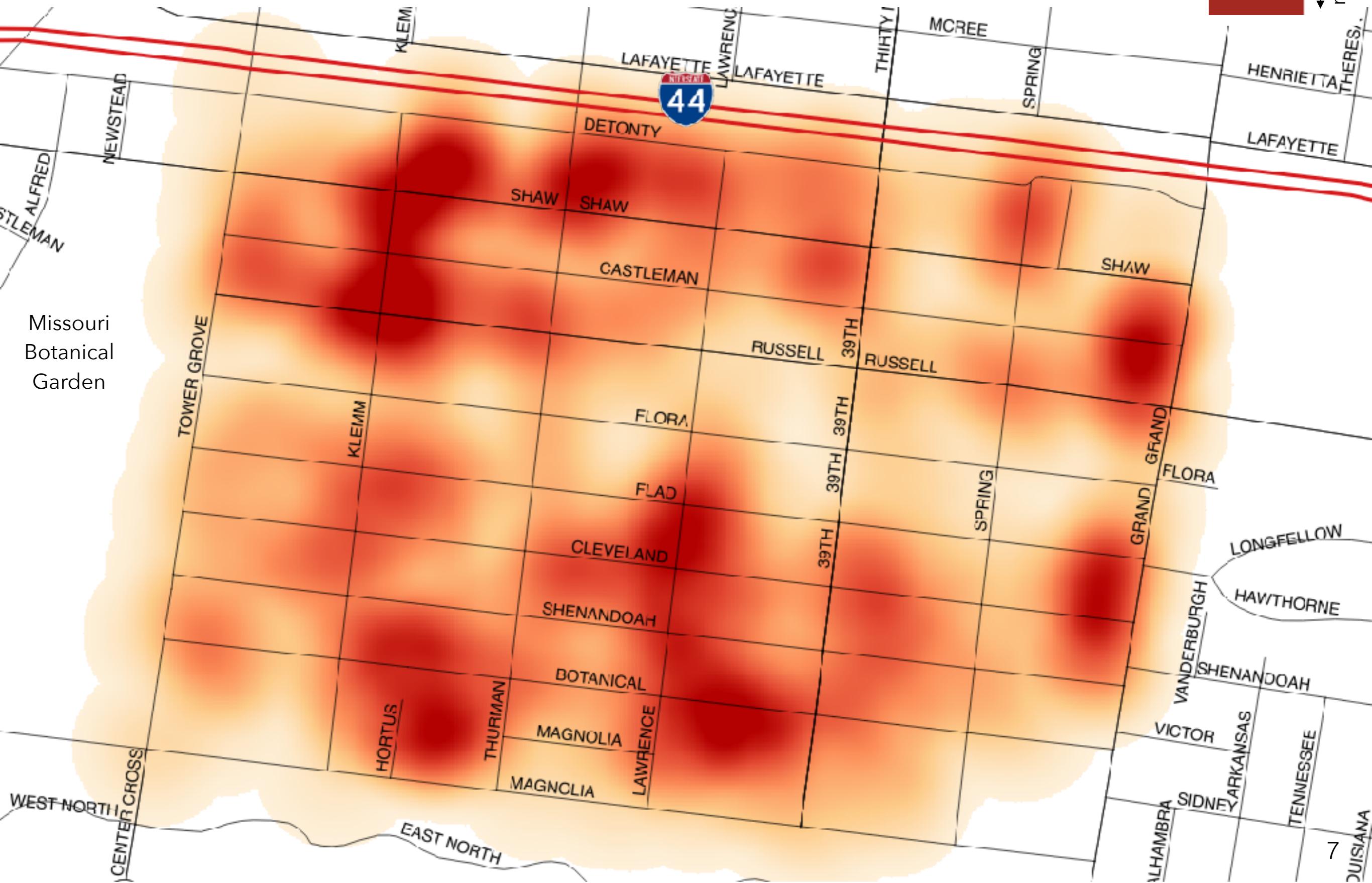
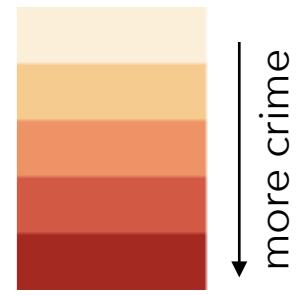


Data for 2016 are estimates as December's data are not yet publicly available.

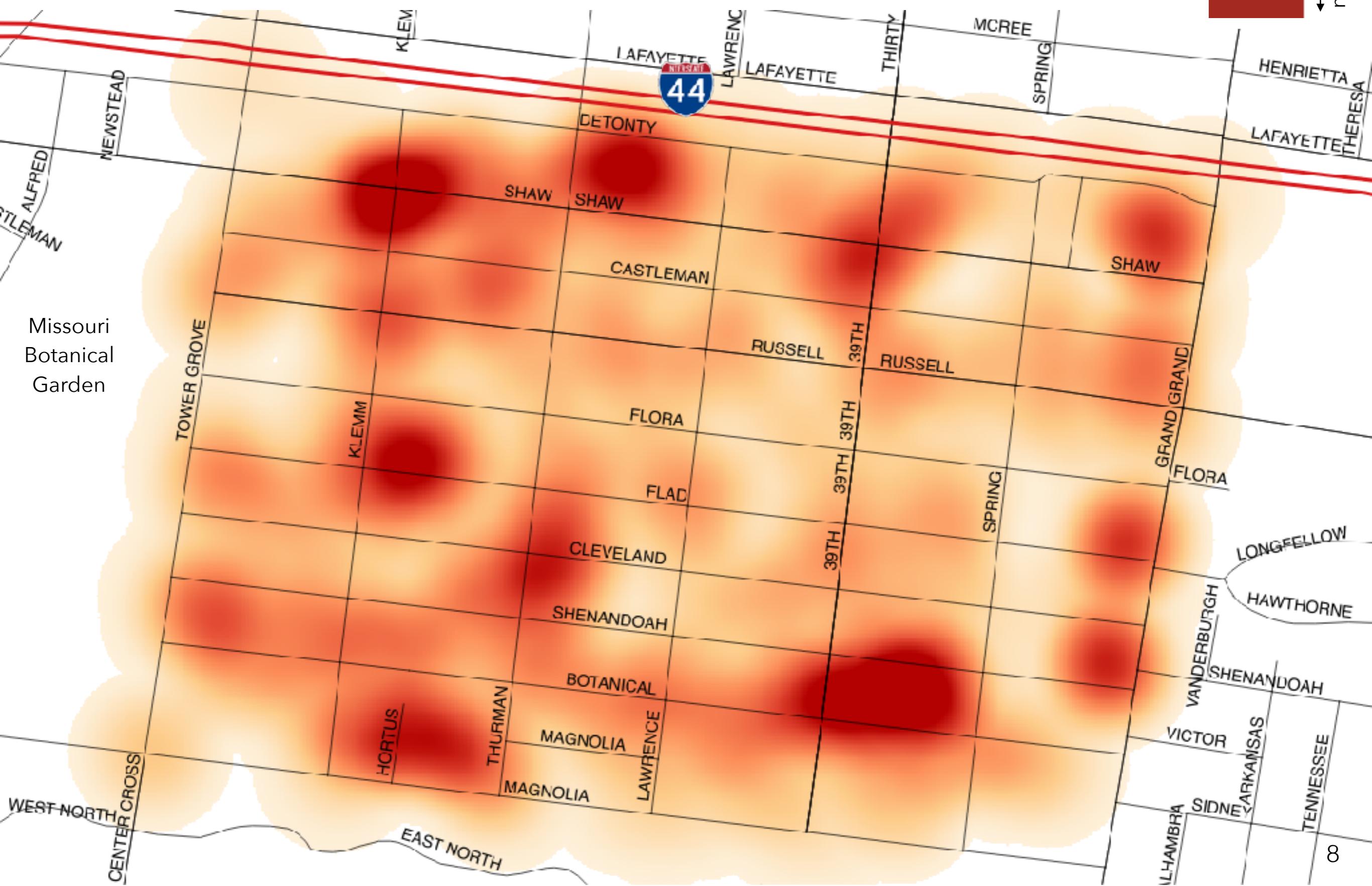
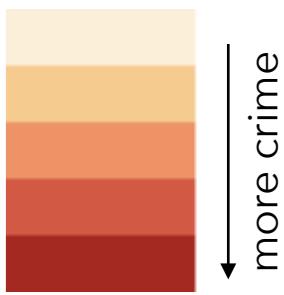
Rate calculated using 2010 Census Bureau estimate, which is now an underestimate of Shaw's population.

The 2010 population was 6,811. Crime rates are therefore likely lower than what are presented here.

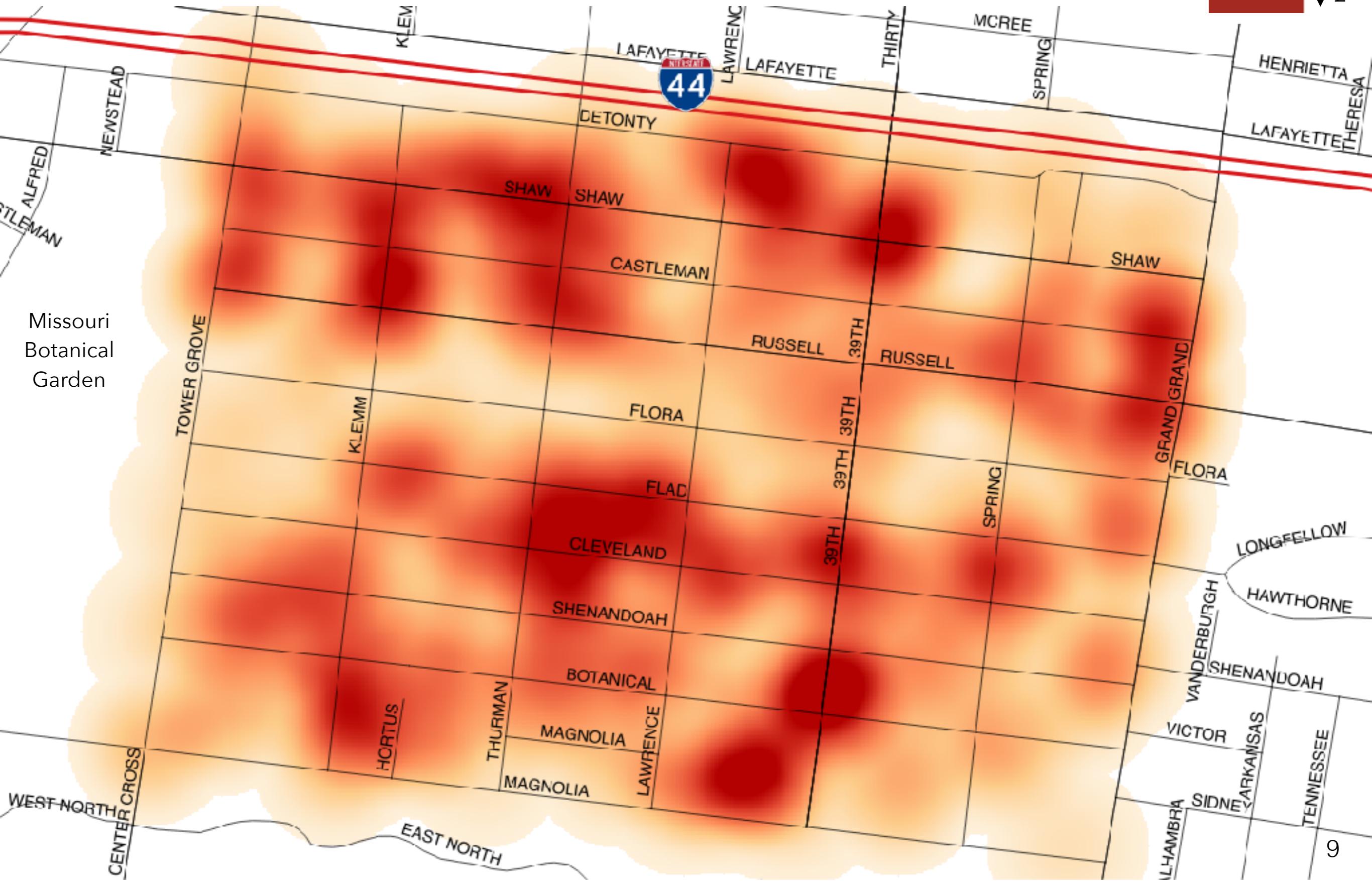
All Crimes, 2013



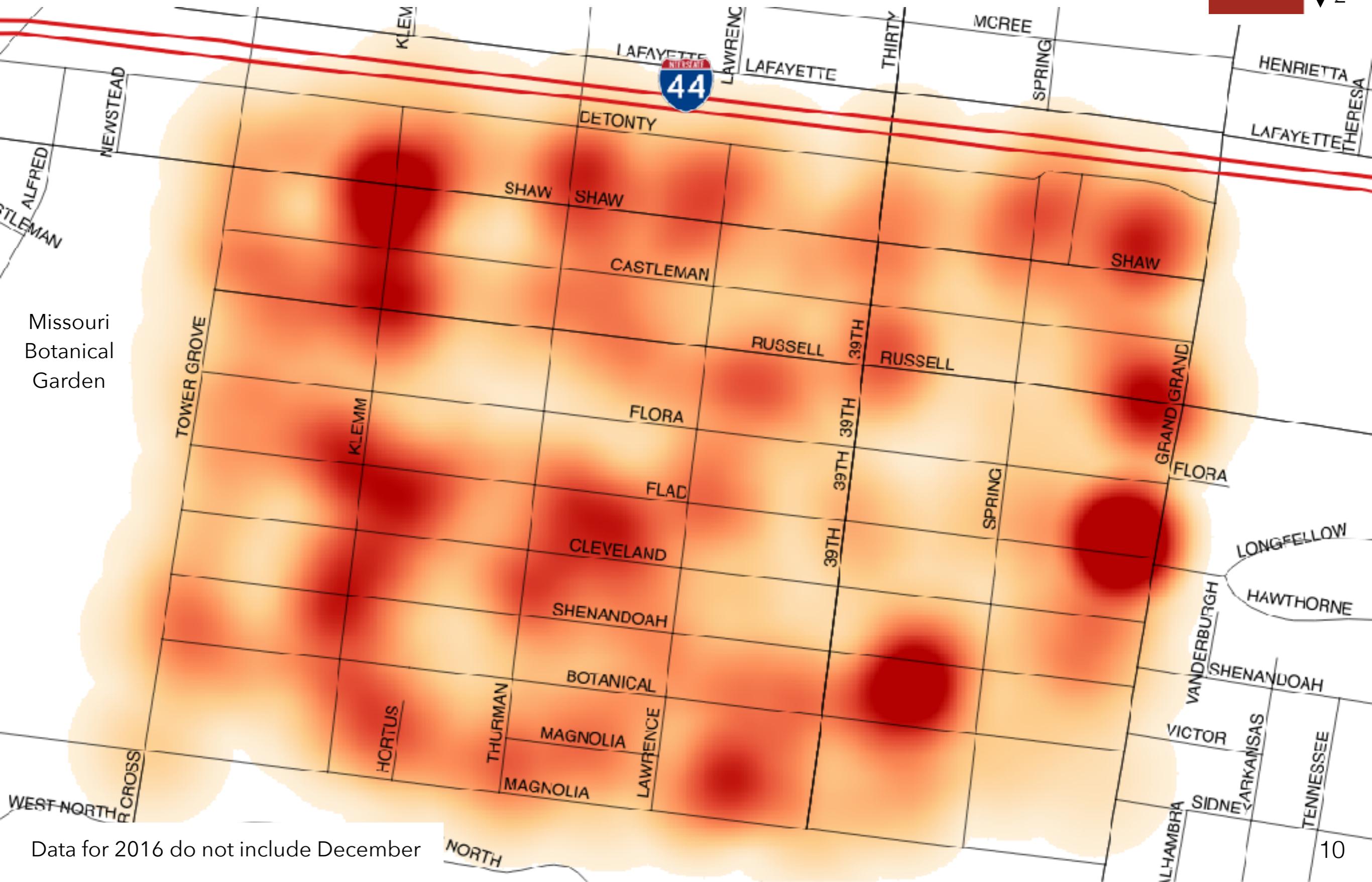
All Crimes, 2014



All Crimes, 2015

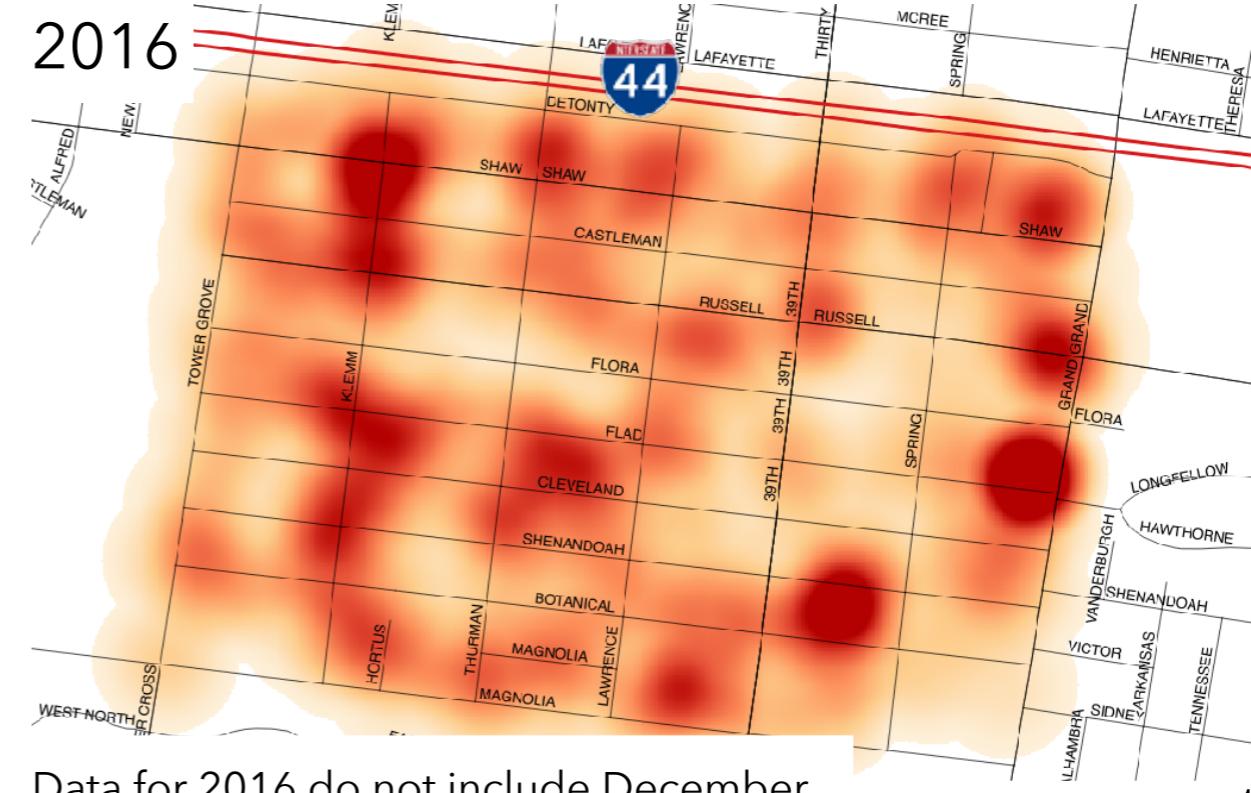
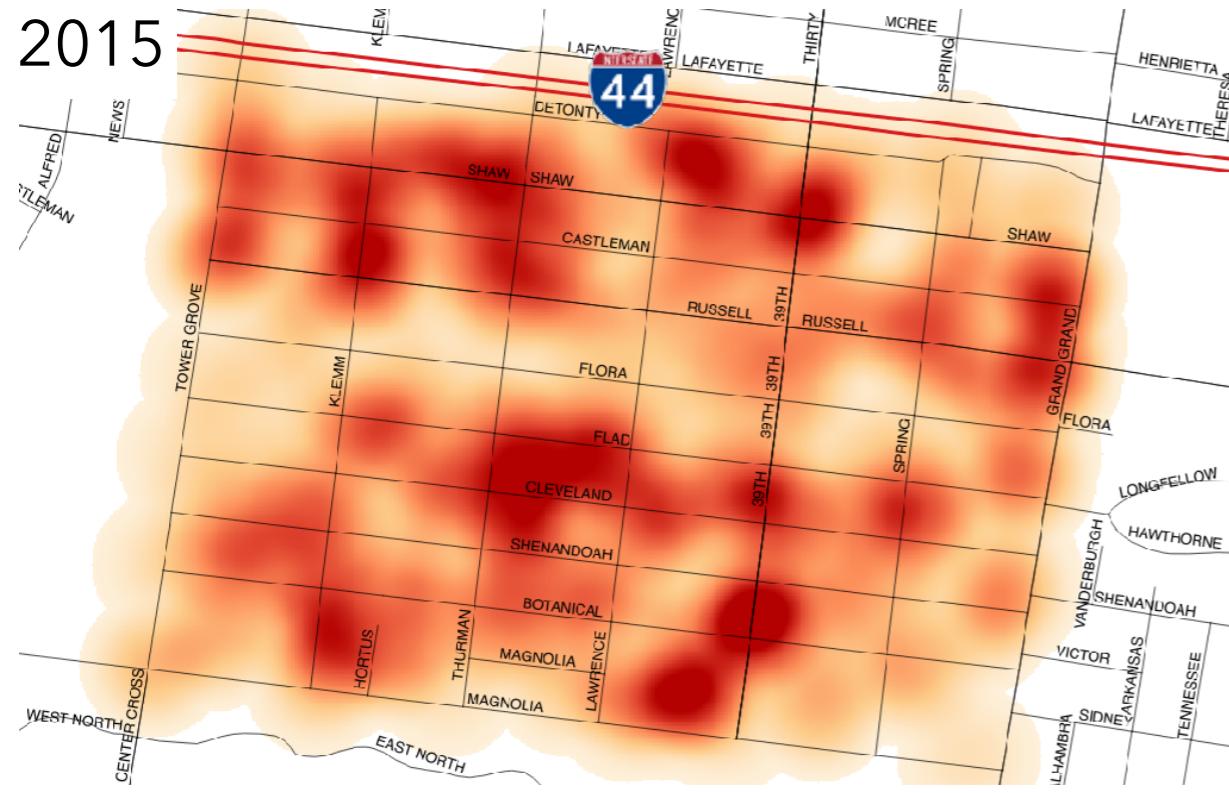
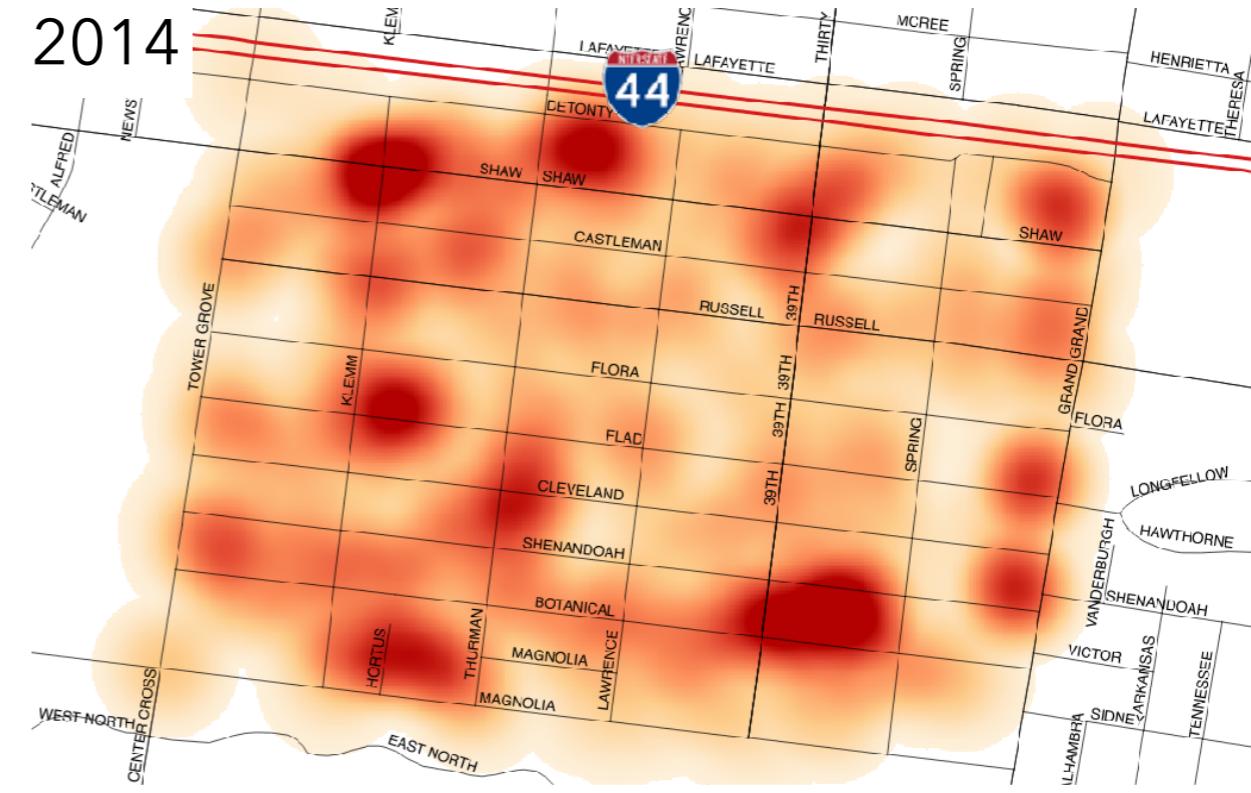
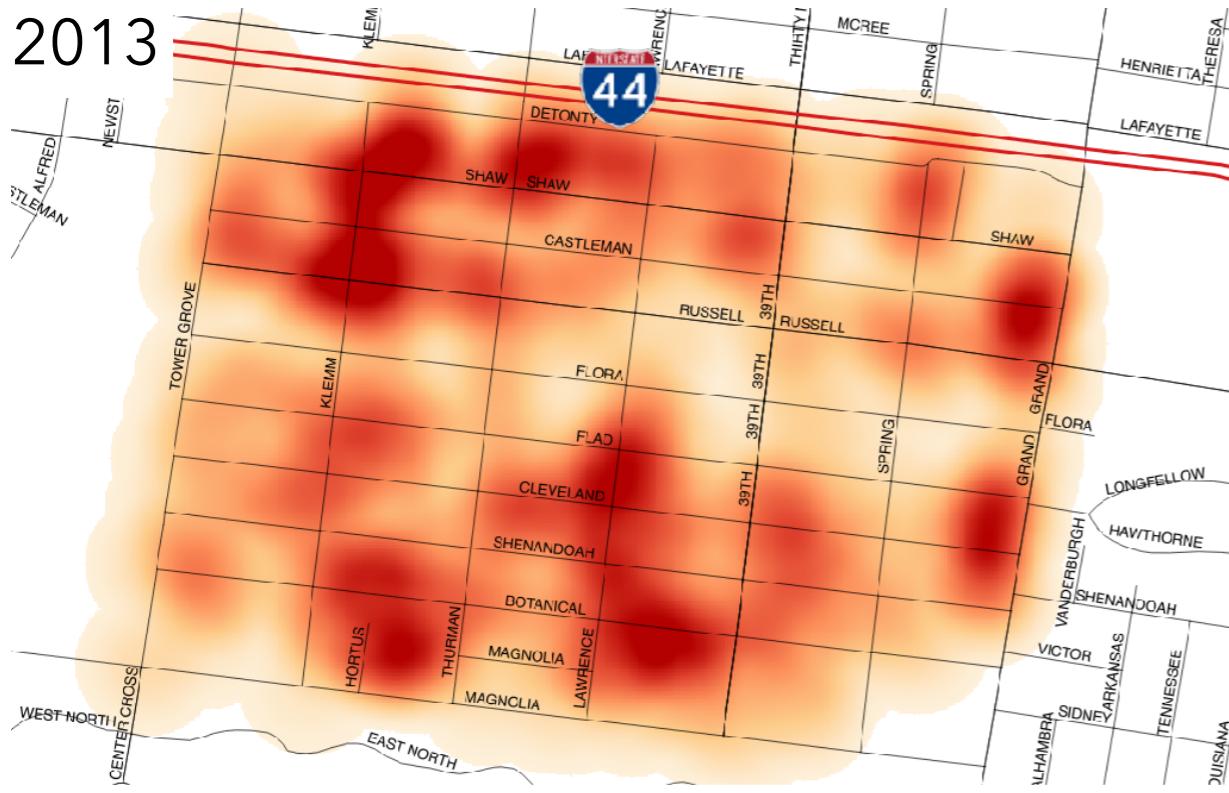
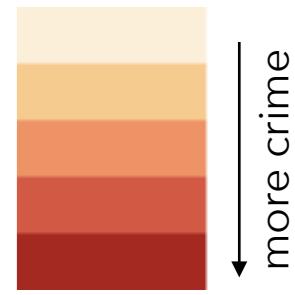


All Crimes, 2016



Data for 2016 do not include December

All Crimes Compared



Data for 2016 do not include December

Part 1 Crimes

| UCR Code | Category |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Homicide |
| 2 | Rape |
| 3 | Robbery |
| 4 | Aggravated Assault |
| 5 | Burglary |
| 6 | Larceny |
| 7 | Motor Vehicle Theft |
| 8 | Arson |

UCR stands for Uniform Crime Reporting, the FBI's guidelines for nationwide crime data collection.
The first four categories constitute the FBI's definition of violent crimes.

Part 1 Crimes, Rates per 1,000 Residents

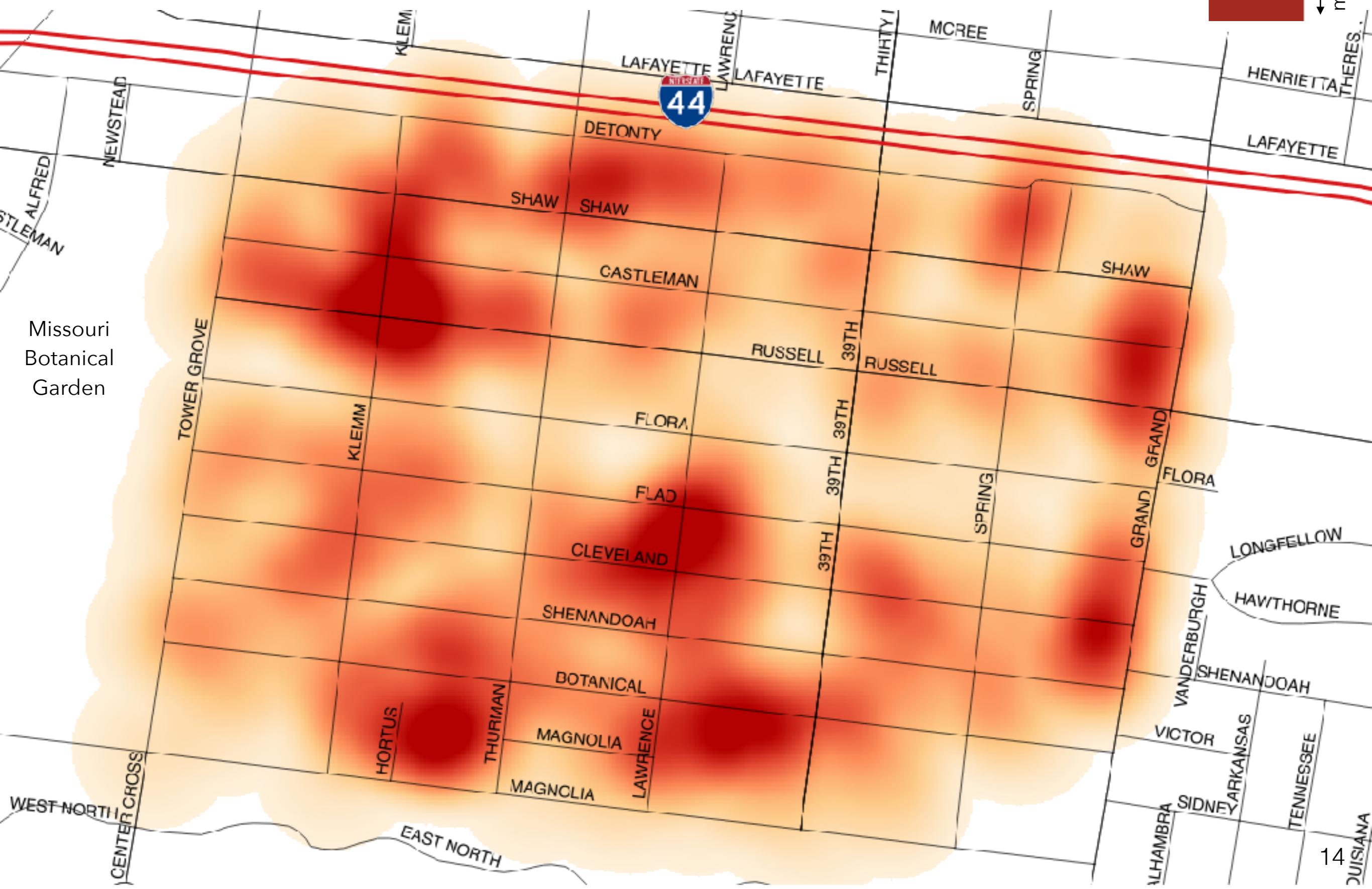
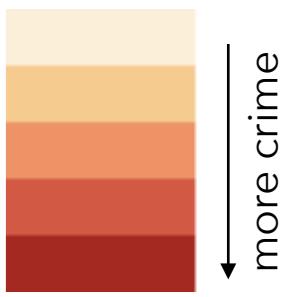
| Category | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Change |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| Violent Crimes | 6.75 | 4.26 | 2.94 | 6.25 |  |
| All Part 1 Crimes | 61.81 | 45.22 | 43.17 | 46.13 |  |

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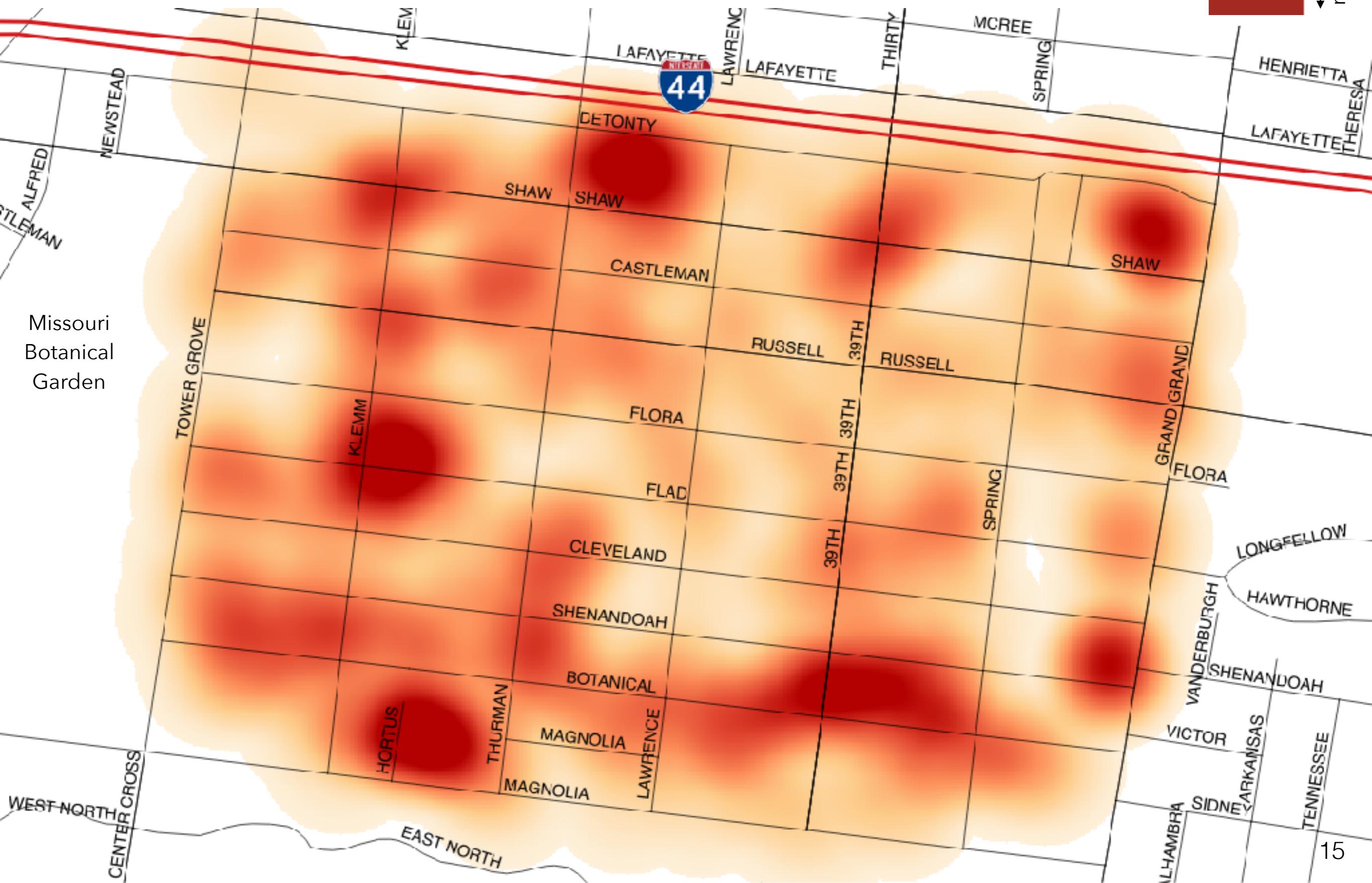
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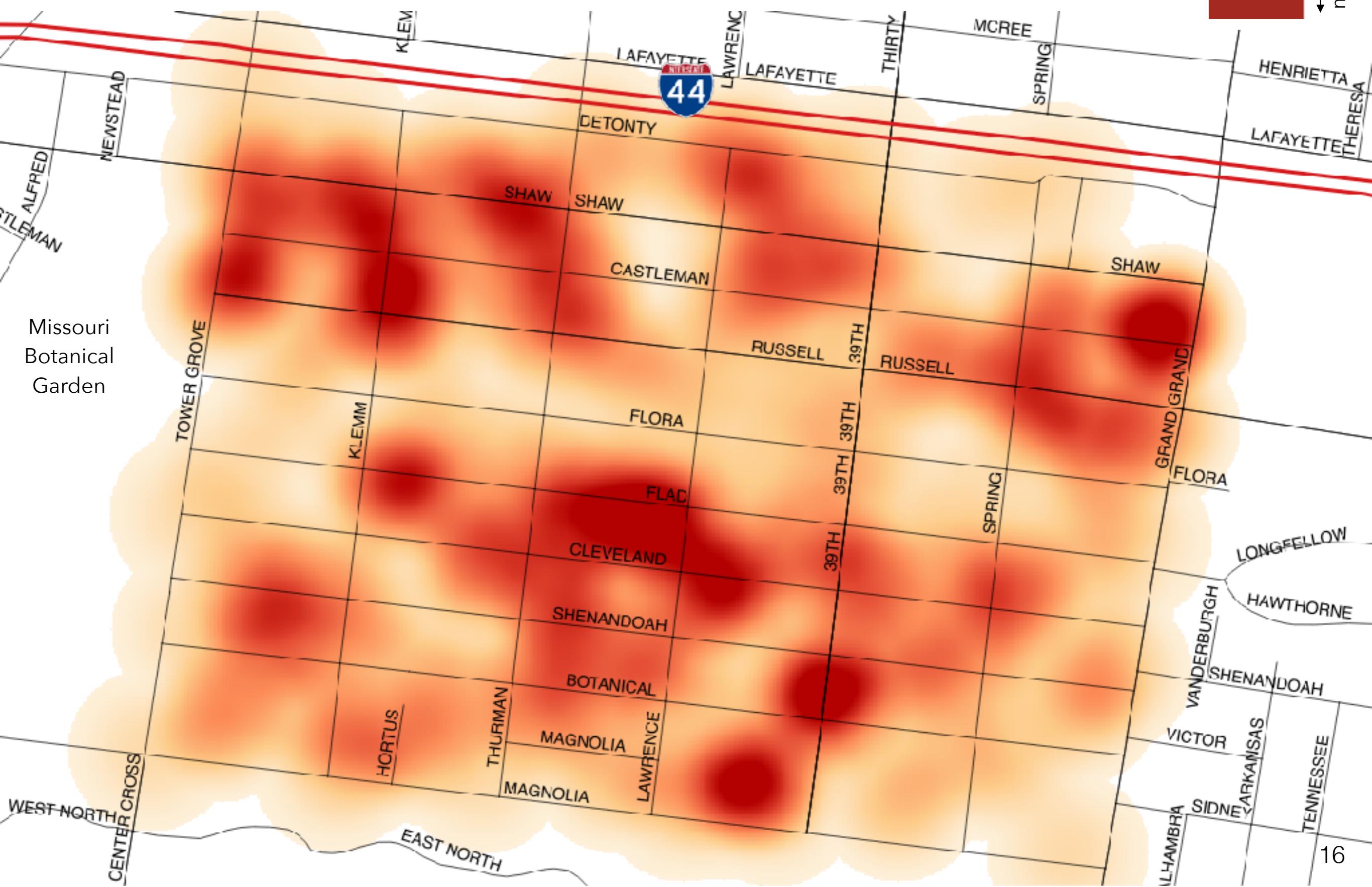
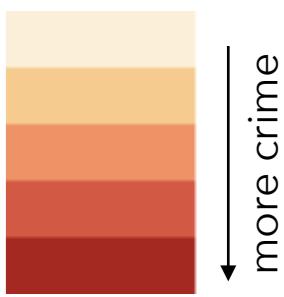
Part 1 Crimes, 2013



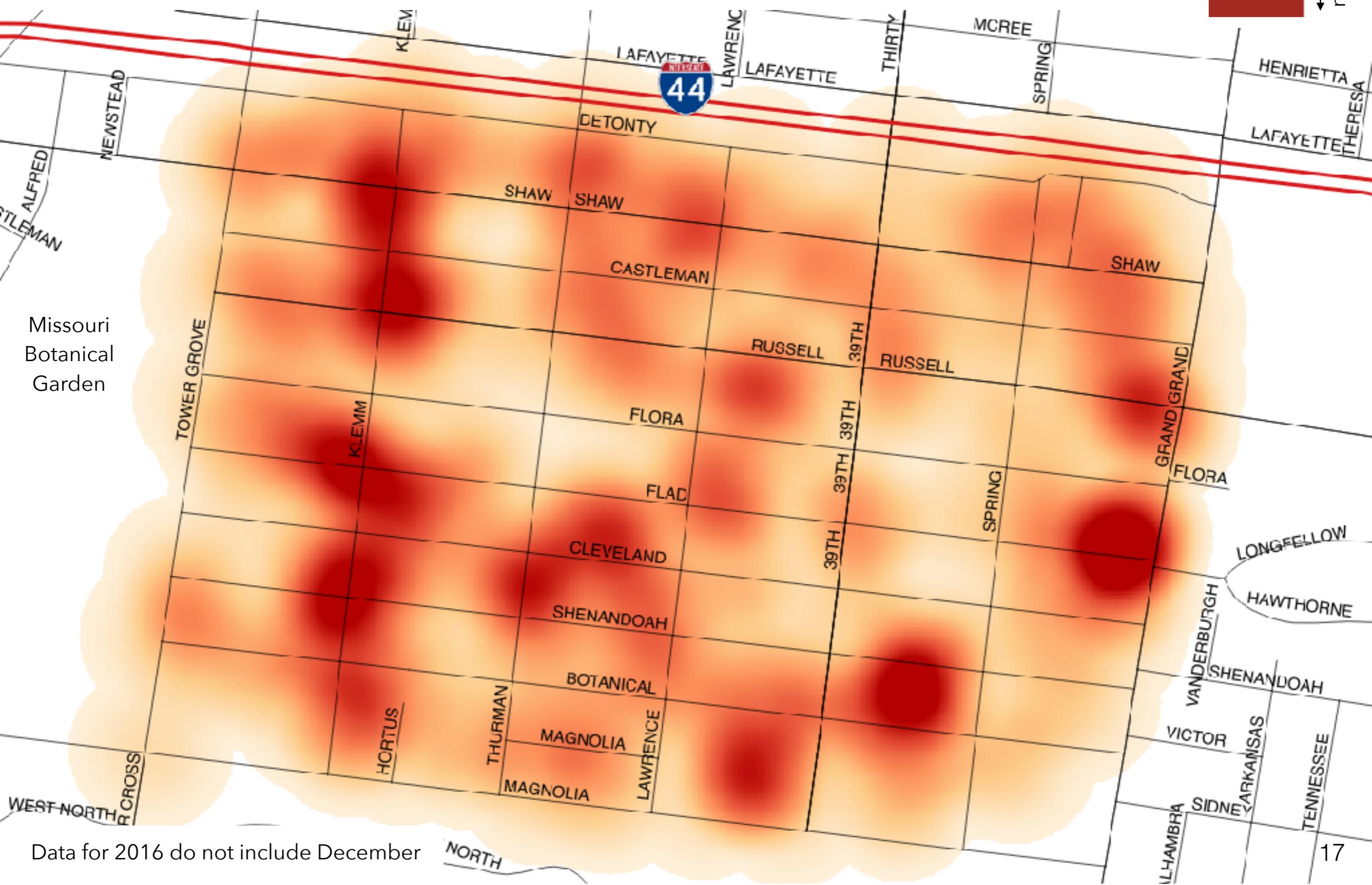
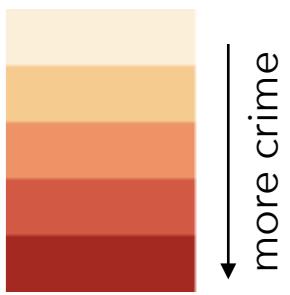
Part 1 Crimes, 2014



Part 1 Crimes, 2015

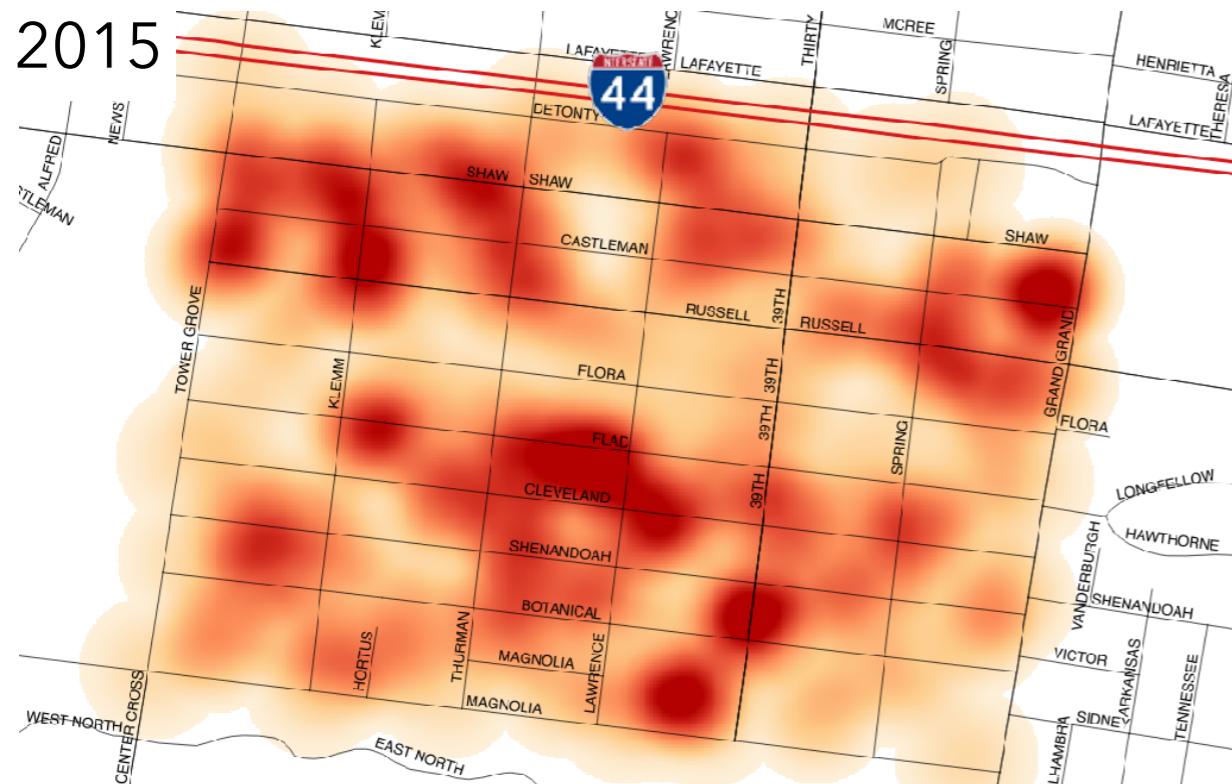
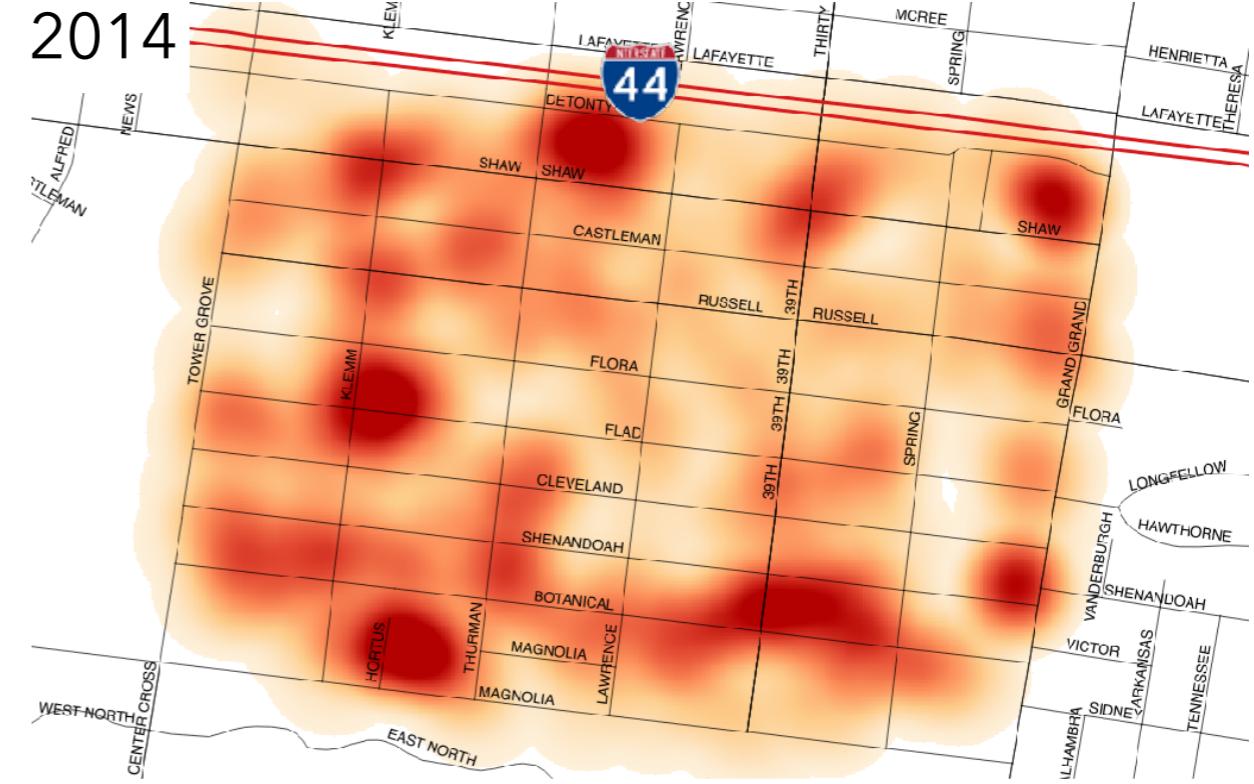
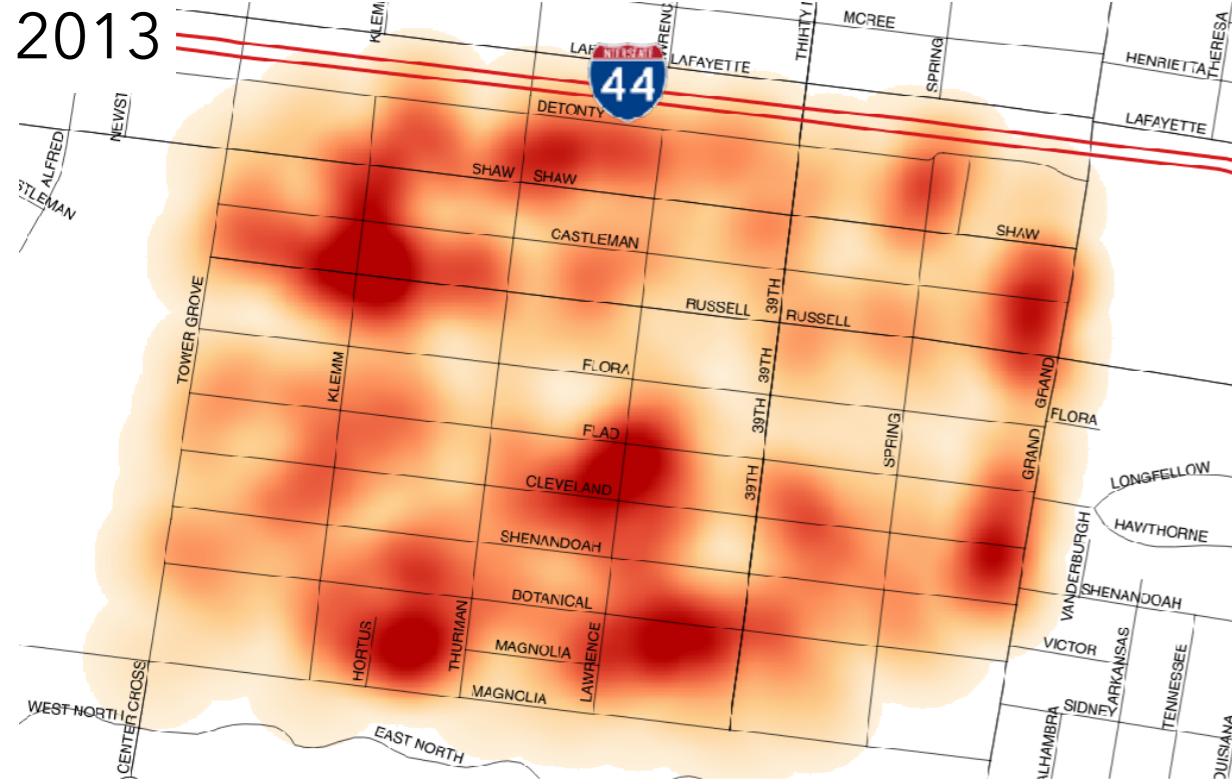
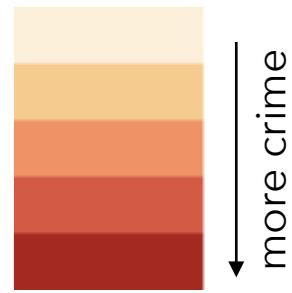


Part 1 Crimes, 2016



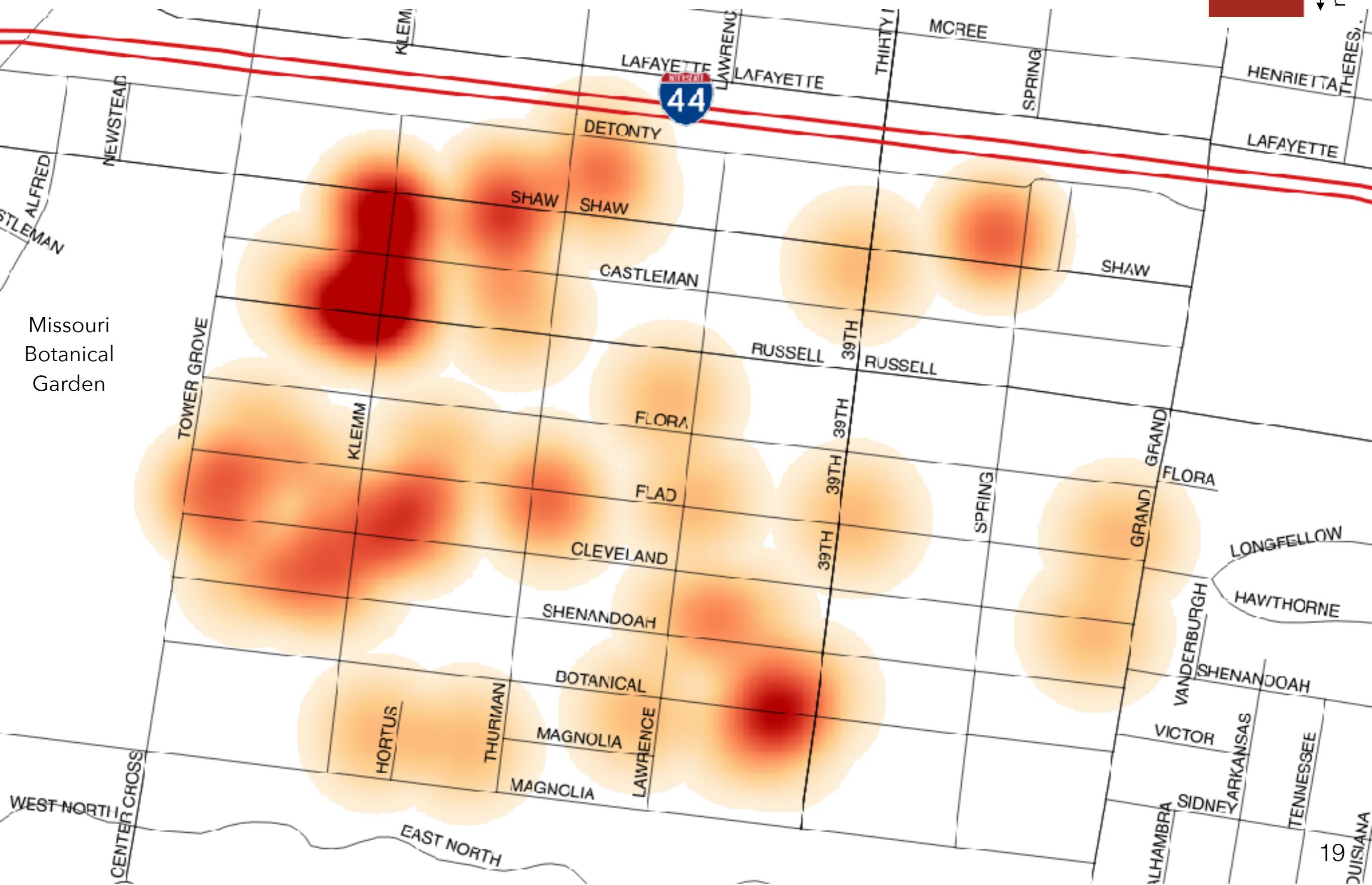
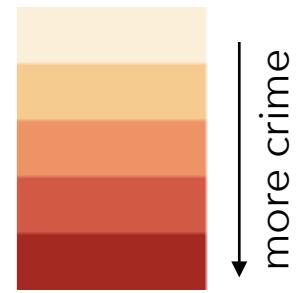
Data for 2016 do not include December

Part 1 Crimes Compared

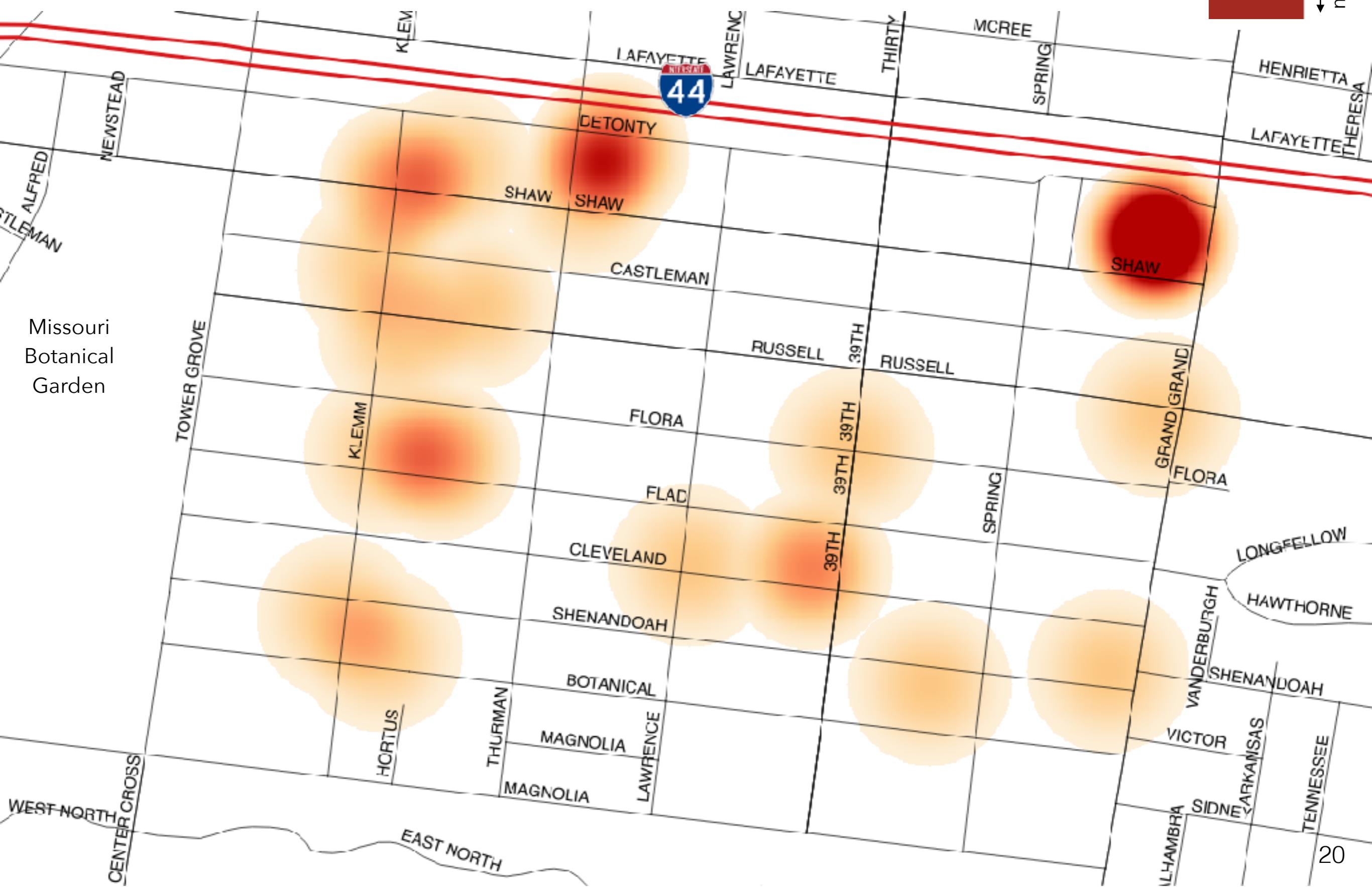
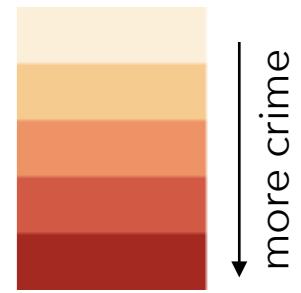


Data for 2016 do not include December

Violent Crimes, 2013

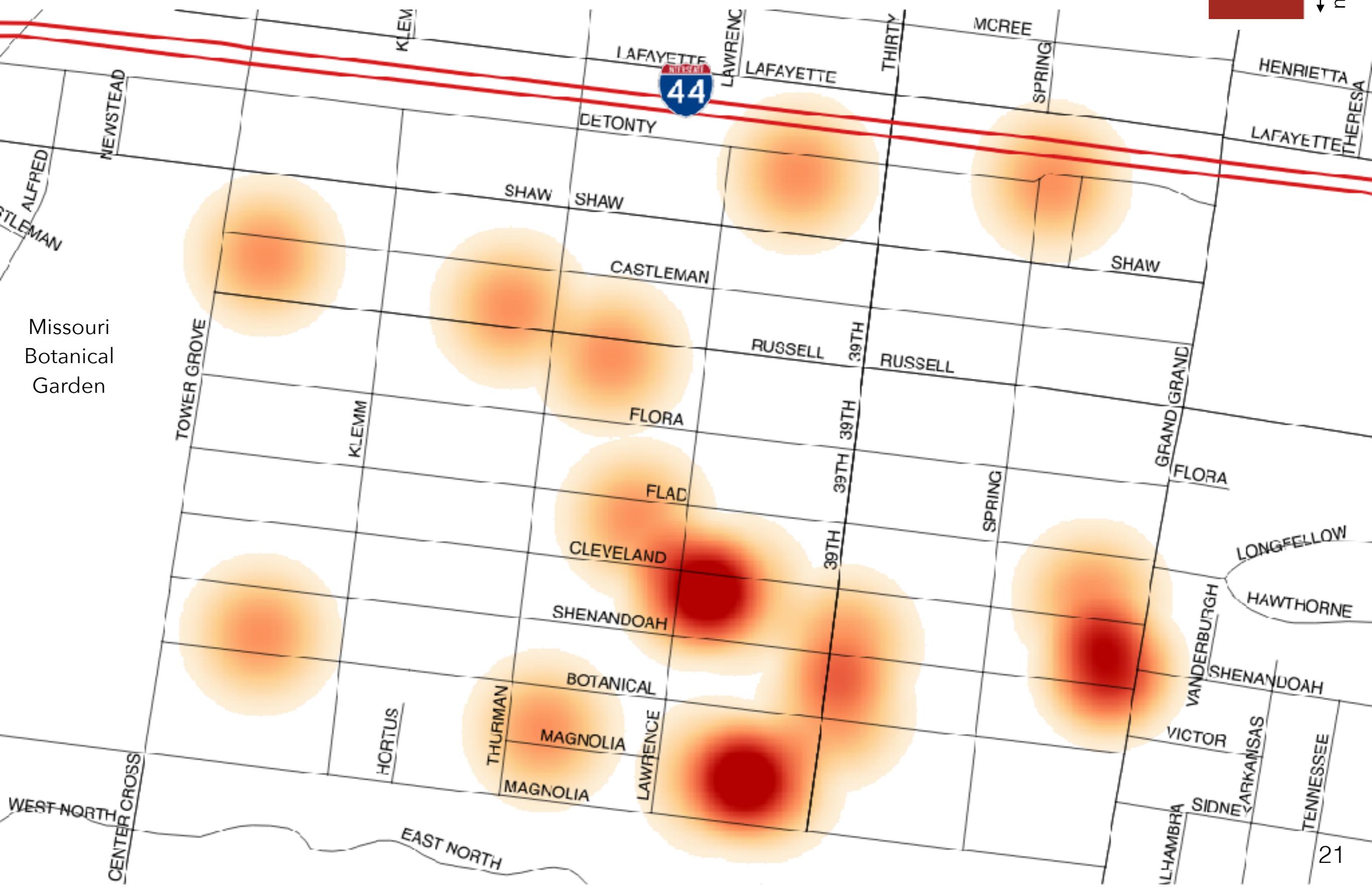


Violent Crimes, 2014



Missouri
Botanical
Garden

Violent Crimes, 2015

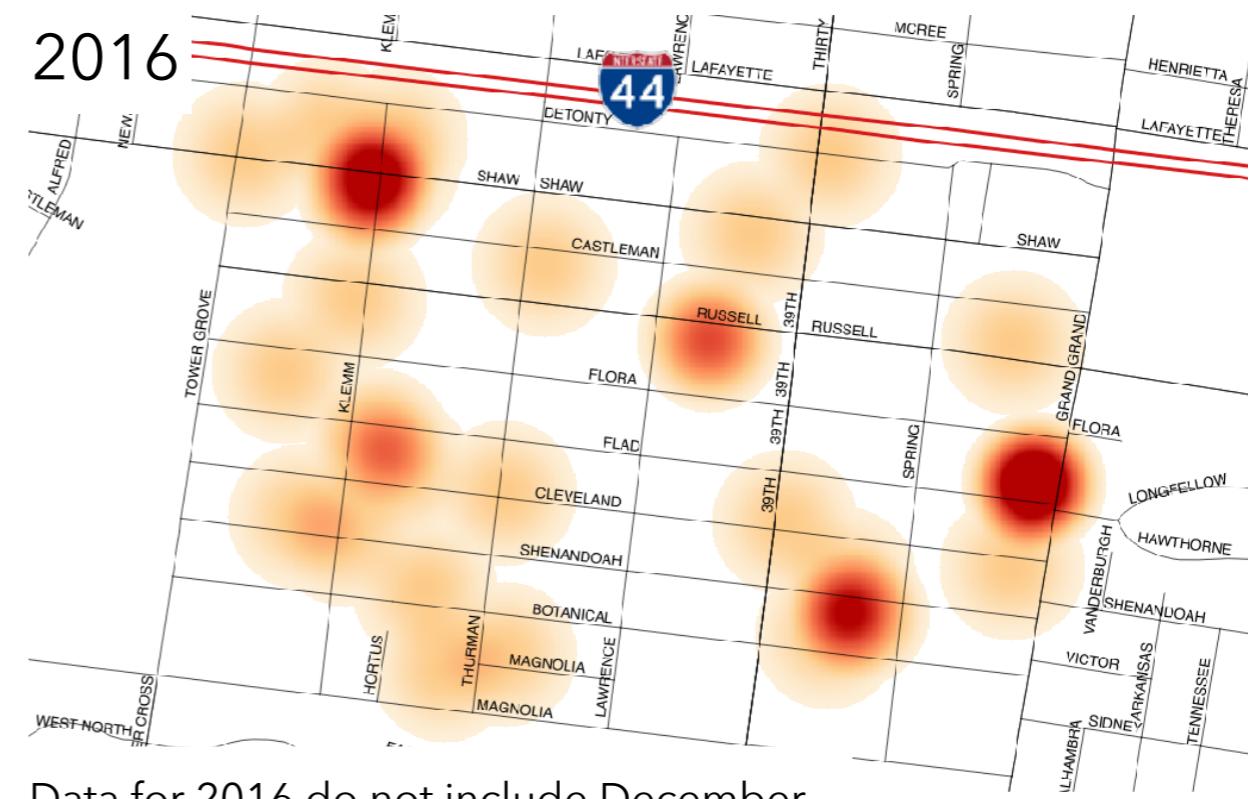
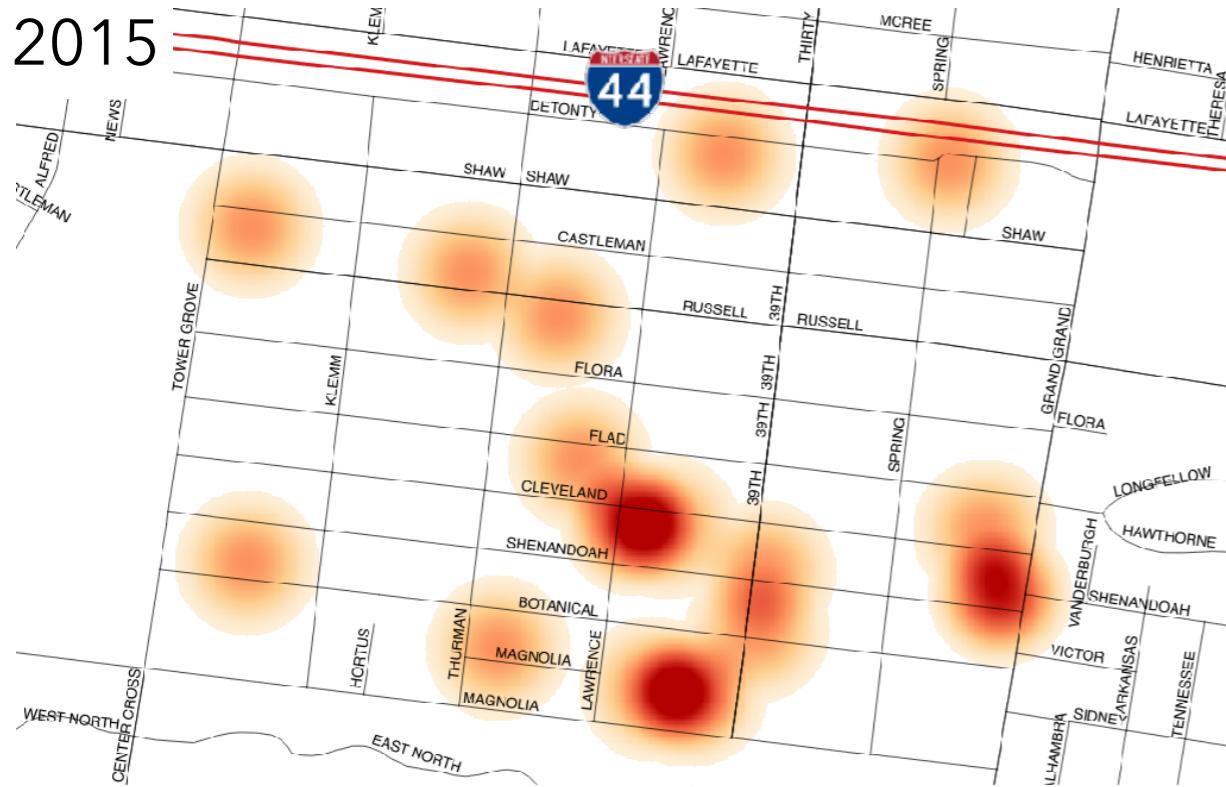
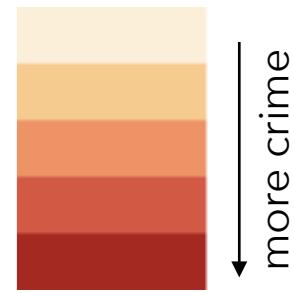


Violent Crimes, 2016



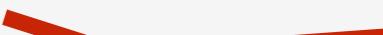
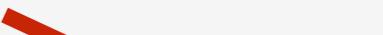
Data for 2016 do not include December

Violent Crimes Compared



Data for 2016 do not include December

Part 1 Crimes, Rates per 1,000 Residents

| Category | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Change |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| Homicide | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.00 | 0.15 |  |
| Rape | 0.44 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |  |
| Robbery | 4.11 | 1.17 | 2.06 | 2.72 |  |
| Aggravated Assault | 2.20 | 2.94 | 0.88 | 3.36 |  |
| Burglary | 10.57 | 6.90 | 6.90 | 6.41 |  |
| Larceny | 33.48 | 24.96 | 24.52 | 28.67 |  |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 11.01 | 8.81 | 8.81 | 4.64 |  |
| Arson | 0.00 | 0.29 | 0.00 | 0.15 |  |

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Rate calculated using 2010 Census Bureau estimate, which is now an underestimate of Shaw's population.

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Discussion Questions

1. What is something that you found surprising or interesting about the data presented here?
2. Do the maps support the idea that the intersection of Shaw Boulevard and Klemm Street is the key hotspot of violent crime in Shaw? Why or why not?
3. How might these data inform policy decisions that aim to reduce crime in Shaw?
4. Based on the data presented here, where would you place police cameras in the Shaw neighborhood?
5. What type of data do you think was needed to produce these maps?
6. What do you like and dislike about the design of this report and the included maps?
7. What is one question you have about the report or these data?

Notes

Spatial and crime data via the [Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis](#) and the [University of Missouri](#)

Page 3 - Image via the [Riverfront Times](#)

Page 4 - Image via [The Daily Mail](#), see the [Riverfront Times](#), the [St. Louis American](#), and the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) for details.

Page 5 - Article text and Image via the [Riverfront Times](#)

Data and License

Shaw Crime data files are available on [GitHub](#).

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