Crime Overview

City of Memphis and Shelby County

In 2006, an initiative called Memphis Fast Forward undertook an ambitious plan to reduce both violent and property crime through its public safety arm, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission. This initiative launched the first five-year Safe Community Plan from 2007-2011. During the five-year period of Safe Community Plan-1, the major violent crime rate dropped 20.2% in Memphis and 23.5% countywide. The major property crime rate declined 23.2% in Memphis and 25.7% across Shelby County.

Successful, data-driven approaches to public safety have continued to generate positive outcomes for the Memphis community. In fact in 2020, the Memphis Crime Commission and the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute released preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for 2020 (January-December) which show continued declines in Memphis and Shelby County in major property crime and overall crime from 2018.

Current Crime Statistics % Change *(2019 to 2020)*
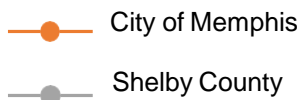
2.7% ▽
Overall Crime Rate in Memphis
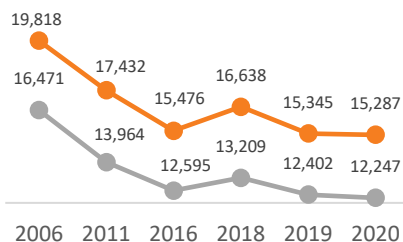
23.1% ▲
Major Violent Crime Rate in Memphis

8.4% ▽
Major Property Crime Rate in Memphis
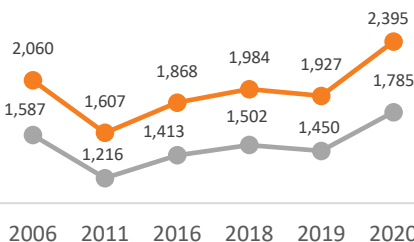
Historical Crime Statistics *(2006 to 2020)*

— ● City of Memphis

— ● Shelby County

Overall Crime
Incidents per 100,000 population

19,818	17,432	15,476	16,638	15,345	15,287
16,471	13,964	12,595	13,209	12,402	12,247
2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020

Major Violent Crime
Incidents per 100,000 population

2,060	1,607	1,868	1,984	1,927	2,395
1,587	1,216	1,413	1,502	1,450	1,785
2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020

Major Property Crime
Incidents per 100,000 population

8,658	6,492	5,756	6,504	6,150	5,606
7,105	5,280	4,650	5,241	4,936	4,522
2006	2011	2016	2018	2019	2020
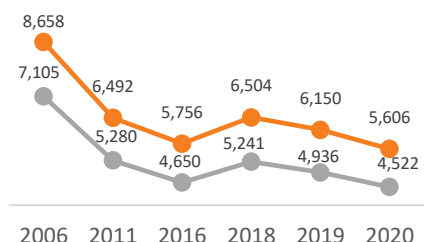
The Memphis Police Department (MPD) uses a variety of best-practice policing tools to fight crime, including a proactive, predictive policing initiative called Operation Blue CRUSH. With Blue CRUSH, the MPD uses data about past crimes to identify potential and emerging "hot spots" so that it can deploy officers more effectively in the field. Operation Blue Crush is operated by the Real Time Crime Center, which collects incident information as it's happening and monitors more than 500 cameras around the city. By improving the flow of information and getting it quickly into officers' hands, the Real Time Crime Center enables the MPD to deter more crime and respond faster when crimes happen.