

Violent Crime Data

Requester:	Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Johnson, Newton, Watlington, Winston
Staff Resource:	Angela Charles
Statement of Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relationship between access to guns and violence ○ Violent crime statistics for violence perpetrated against members of the trans community ○ Relationship between property owner/landlord residency and types of violent crime ○ Percent of violent crime perpetrators who were victims of crime ○ Percent of violent crime victims and perpetrators that come from the “crescent” ○ Relationship between rental houses and violent crime ○ Impact of community investment on violent crime rates and the relationship between neighborhood change and violent crime rates ○ Impact of cameras and lighting on incidents of violent crime • Benchmarking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand the impact on violent crime in other cities where recreational marijuana was legalized ○ Impact and uses of artificial intelligence to support crime reduction and prevention • Rezoning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand how the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) is included in zoning reviews
Deliverable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide data, where available, to address requests • Outline processes and results in other cities related to violent crime • Share how CMPD is involved in zoning submittals
Responses:	<p>Data Requests</p> <p><i>Relationship between access to guns and violence:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a March 2018 report prepared by the RAND Corporation, “The Relationship Between Firearm Prevalence and Violent Crime,” concluded that in the past 12 years, several new studies found that increases in the prevalence of gun ownership are associated with increases in violent crime. However, due to data limitations it is difficult to directly measure the presence of guns in a community. The report indicates there is no demonstrated, credible and casual relationship between ownership of firearms and the causes of criminal violence. <p><i>Violent crime statistics for violence perpetrated against members of the trans community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMPD has investigated 173 reported hate crimes between 2013-2019 with five of those being listed as “Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender.” Of those five one was a simple assault and another was an aggravated assault-gun. The remaining three were property crimes. An additional 30 were listed as “Anti-Homosexual” and another three were listed as “Anti-Bisexual.” <p><i>Relationship between property owner/landlord residency and types of violent crime</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research shows¹ that neighborhoods with an increased share in tenant-occupied housing is not necessarily correlated to an increase in violent crime. A more important factor is the

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property owner's management approach; a remoteness from properties is positively associated with criminal activity. It is suggested that this association is in part casual because remote owners often exhibit weaker management and have less stake in maintaining harmony of the surrounding neighborhood. To assist in connecting landlords, both local and remote, with proper oversight, CMPD maintains a rental property registration database. Property owners have access to quarterly educational meetings (topics such as renting to a Section 8 Voucher recipient, understanding city housing code etc.) and receive notification of criminal activity on their property. A majority of the non-local landlords registered with CMPD have a presence through a local management company.

¹https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23949141_Rental_Housing_and_Crime_The_Role_of_Property_Ownership_and_Management

Percent of violent crime perpetrators who were victims of crime

- In 2019, there were 3,000 named suspects of violent crimes. Of this amount, over 800 suspects, or 26 percent, have been listed as a victim of a violent crime since January 1, 2014. Similarly, 200 suspects have been reported as a victim of multiple crimes since January 1, 2014.

Percent of violent crime victims and perpetrators that come from the "crescent"

- There is no geographically defined area for the crescent, but for the purposes of answering this question, we used Quality of Life reporting areas that incorporate an approximation for the area.
- In 2019, there were over 8,100 victims associated with violent crime reports, based on the highest crime classification. Of these, about 3,600 listed home addresses, or 45 percent, within the crescent.
- In 2019, there were over 2,500 violent crime arrestees based on the highest crime classification. Of these, about 1,100, or 46 percent, listed home addresses within the crescent.
- The data for suspect home address is based on information provided by the arrestees.

Relationship between rental houses and violent crime

- An analysis conducted by the Office of Data Analytics in January 2018 analyzed the correlation between single family rental homes registered in the CMPD rental database and several neighborhood characteristics including violent crime. Violent crime for the analysis was defined as: The number of violent offenses in the year, divided by the population, multiplied by 1,000. Offenses include aggravated assault, armed robbery and strong-arm robbery, homicide, negligent manslaughter, and rape and attempted rape. The results showed a moderate correlation (0.598) between a neighborhood's concentration of single family rental housing and the violent crime rate.

Impact of community investment on violent crime rates and the relationship between neighborhood change and violent crime rates

- A [2019 paper](#) by the Furman Center, analyzed confidential census microdata in a number of large cities across America. The paper finds a relationship between falling crime rates in center cities and the increase of higher income households moving back into center city, but cautions that this relationship is not causal. Charlotte does not currently have specific data to show how city investments impact the likelihood of a household moving. The city

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does have several initiatives, including Aging in Place, to connect communities to resources that enable them to remain in their neighborhoods.

Impact of cameras and lighting on incidents of violent crime

- As technology continues to improve, the use of public surveillance cameras has emerged as a viable public safety tool. Cameras may prevent crime and improve the ability of law enforcement to appropriately apprehend perpetrators of crime. It is difficult to create a direct link between the presence of surveillance cameras and prevention or reduction of crime. CMPD actively uses cameras as one of many tools to prevent crime and identify perpetrators of crime.

Benchmarking:

Understand the impact on violent crime in other cities where recreational marijuana was legalized

- Based on the findings from a [2019 study](#) conducted by researchers from Washington State University, Stockton University, and the University of Utah, legalization of marijuana had minimal to no effect on major crimes (violent, property, aggravated assault, auto theft, burglary, larceny and robbery) in Colorado or Washington. Researchers compared crimes from 1999 to 2016 in Colorado and Washington to 21 states that have not legalized marijuana and found only minimal increases in property crime in both Colorado and Washington, but these impacts were not sustained. Overall the relationship between marijuana legalization and a change in crime is minimal.

Impact and uses of artificial intelligence to support crime reduction and prevention

- Artificial intelligence (AI) has shown to support police operations in the areas of breaking and entering, criminal profiling, and tracking of repeat offenders. Many current applications of AI for law enforcement can be seen in Asia; China uses facial recognition technology. However, community concerns of targeting and profiling of residents should be considered; both San Francisco and Oakland have banned the use of facial recognition by law enforcement. CMPD will continue to monitor advancements in AI to prevent and reduce crime.

Rezoning:

Understand how the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) is included in zoning submittals

- CMPD currently receives rezoning applications and notices of the most recent petitions after each submittal deadline. Additionally, CMPD is included on the rezoning email distribution list.