



Dermot Shea
Police Commissioner
(646) 610-6700
dcpi@nypd.org
@nypdnews

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Overall Crime in New York City Reaches Record Low in 2020

Significant Surge in Shootings and Murders Amid the Ongoing COVID-19 Outbreak

New York, New York – New York City and its Police Department were buffeted by conflicting forces in 2020, as a historic low in overall index crime was accompanied by significant upticks in homicides, shootings, burglaries and car thefts. In calendar 2020, overall crime was lower than in 2019, dropping to a new benchmark of 95,552 reported incidents – representing 681 fewer victims than last year and 11,668 fewer victims than in 2014, the first year of Mayor Bill de Blasio’s administration.

At the same time, the NYPD in 2020 confronted a + 97% (1,531 v. 777) increase in shooting incidents and + 44% increase in the number of murders (462 v. 319) amid the challenges of an ongoing international health pandemic that has strained city residents and the police officers sworn to ensure public safety for everyone. Burglaries increased by 42% (15,463 v. 10,909) and car thefts increased by 67% (9,038 v. 5,422). Through it all, the NYPD has worked to mitigate violence as reflected in a 29% increase (4,253 v. 3,299) in annual gun arrests for 2020 compared with 2019 – including 2,057 gun arrests in the last four months of the year.

Unprecedented events of 2020 presented significant challenges for New York City and its police. From a diminished headcount beginning at the onset of COVID-19 to large-scale protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd in May, the NYPD’s resources were stretched further than at any time in recent memory. Yet the NYPD’s work continued. Investigators focused on concentrated areas of violence and used intelligence-based precision to attain justice for victims. The NYPD made an arrest in 32% of shooting incidents and established probable cause to arrest a suspect in an additional 6% of shooting incidents. On murders, NYPD detectives cleared 54% of homicides that occurred within calendar 2020. The clearance rate for this violent crime reflects the NYPD’s deep commitment to public service and will only continue to improve over time as investigations progress.

More broadly, the NYPD in 2020 continued to engage the people who live, work and serve throughout the city in its ongoing effort to ensure public safety that is fair, responsive and considerate to all New Yorkers. Buoyed by the resiliency of New Yorkers and officers throughout 2020, the NYPD’s undertaking to transform New York City policing to be safer and fairer for all concerned will continue in 2021, building on the fundamental changes and the strengthening of bonds between the police and the community that have developed over the last seven years.

“What New York City and our nation experienced in 2020 will resonate for a long, long time,” said **Police Commissioner Dermot Shea**. “The NYPD recognizes this as a time for asking and answering difficult questions, for reflection and action and for encouraging and serving New Yorkers. This will determine the way forward for all of us. Together, we will ensure the preservation of our collective public safety while also cultivating a culture that upholds the values and dignity of every New Yorker, in every neighborhood.”

Statistics on Index Crimes

	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	+/-	%
Murder	462	319	+143	+44.8%
Rape	1428	1766	-338	-19.1%
Robbery	13101	13439	-338	-2.5%
Fel. Assault	20561	20873	-312	-1.5%
Burglary	15463	10909	+4554	+41.7%
Grand Larceny	35499	43505	-8006	-18.4%
G.L.A.	9038	5422	3616	+66.7%
TOTAL	95552	96233	-681	-0.7%

Additional Statistics

	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	+/-	%
Transit	1748	2524	-776	-30.7%
Housing	5104	4996	+108	+2.2%
Citywide Shooting Incidents	1531	777	+754	+97.0%

December Rape Breakdown

Compstat Year	Count	Occurred Same Year	Occurred Previous Year	Occurred 2 Years Prior	Occurred 3 Years Prior	Occurred 4 Years Prior	Occurred 5+ Years Prior
2020	100	89	1	0	0	3	7
2019	105	88	2	3	1	1	10
2018	137	120	4	5	2	1	5
2017	136	117	4	4	0	1	10
2016	109	95	4	4	1	2	3
2015	140	131	1	3	2	0	3

Hate Crimes Statistics Summary from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Motivation	2020	2019	Diff	% Change	% of Total
ASIAN	4	3	1	33%	1%
BLACK	36	36	0	0%	13%
DISABILITY	0	1	-1	-100%	0%
ETHNIC	0	5	-5	-100%	0%
GENDER	6	13	-7	-54%	2%
HISPANIC	1	8	-7	-88%	0%
MUSLIM	5	13	-8	-62%	2%
OTHER	21	16	5	31%	8%
OTHER CORONA	25	0	25	***.*	9%
RELIGION	12	15	-3	-20%	4%
SEMITIC	119	233	-114	-49%	44%
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	30	53	-23	-43%	11%
WHITE	10	29	-19	-66%	4%
Grand Total	269	425	-156	-37%	100%

Note: Recent Coronavirus-related incidents fall under the anti-other category as there are primarily two motivating factors behind those crimes: The victim's race (Anti-Asian) and the perception that they have Coronavirus. Also, all crime statistics are preliminary and subject to further analysis, revisions, or change.

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