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# 2021 YEAR-END CRIME REPORT

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## Crime, Computer-Aided Dispatched (CAD) Events and Community Feedback

### Seattle Police Department

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## DATA-DRIVEN POLICING

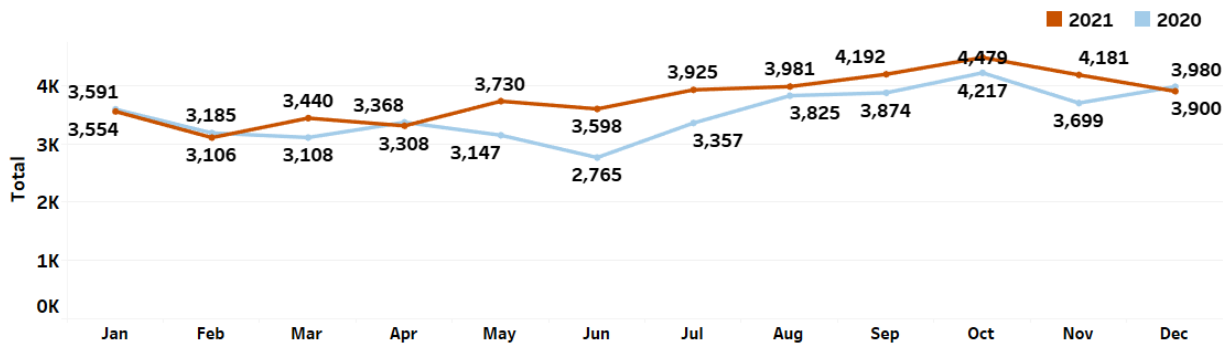
# Crime<sup>1</sup>

Overall citywide crime increased by 10% (+4,209) when compared to 2020 totals. Robbery, Aggravated Assaults, and Motor Vehicle Thefts were significantly high this year when compared to a five-year weighted average.

- Violent Crime increased by 20% (+874). Increases came from Aggravated Assaults (up 24%) and Robbery (up 18%).
  - Aggravated Assault totals are the highest reported in the last 10 years. Several shootings and shots fired events live within this category.
- Property Crime increased by 9% (+3,335) when compared to 2020 totals. Increases in Larceny-theft (up 15%), Motor Vehicle Theft (up 8%), and Arson (up 31%).
  - Biggest increase in Larceny-theft was theft from motor vehicle parts or accessories (up 79%).

***“Overall Crime increased by 10%. Violent Crime increased by 20% and Property Crime increased by 9%, compared to 2020.”***

Offense Category	Offense	2021	2020	AMT CHANGE	% CHANGE
Violent	HOMICIDE	40	53	-13	-25%
	RAPE	253	270	-17	-6%
	ROBBERY	1,752	1,487	265	18%
	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3,295	2,656	639	24%
<b>Violent Total</b>		<b>5,340</b>	<b>4,466</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>20%</b>
Property	ARSON	224	171	53	31%
	BURGLARY	9,787	10,443	-656	-6%
	LARCENY-THEFT	26,733	23,188	3,545	15%
	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	5,305	4,912	393	8%
<b>Property Total</b>		<b>42,049</b>	<b>38,714</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>47,389</b>	<b>43,180</b>	<b>4,209</b>	<b>10%</b>



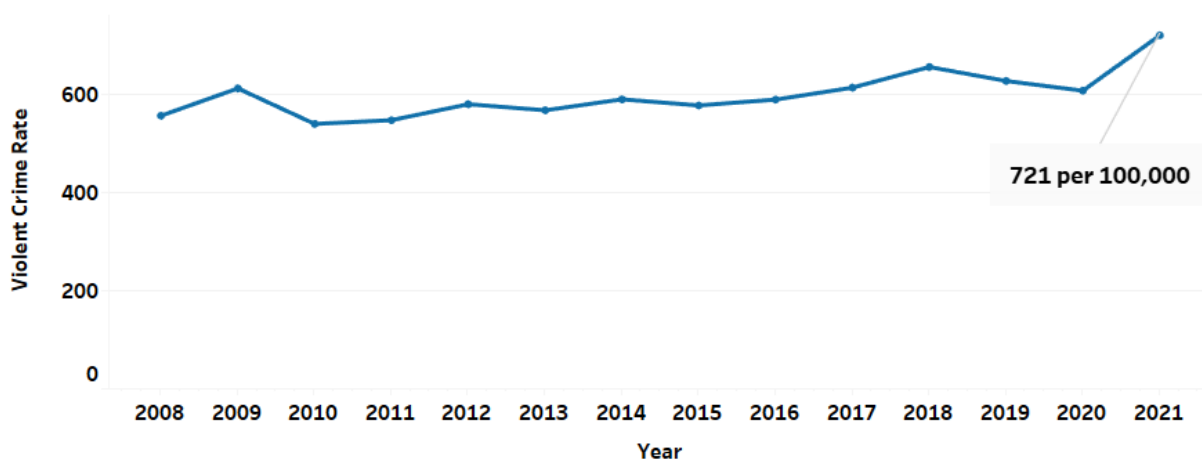
<sup>1</sup> The SPD uses National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) terminology which is the standard for law enforcement agencies. The terminology is defined by the FBI. To find out what the definitions of these terms are please see the [NIBRS manual](#). Offense totals are based on distinct count of Reporting Event Number by NIBRS offense and do not represent the number of victims. All offense sort orders, and approval statuses are included. Counts exclude Out of Jurisdiction and unfounded offenses. Offense data is dynamic and will change based on reporting and/or investigative updates.

## Citywide Crime Rates<sup>2</sup>

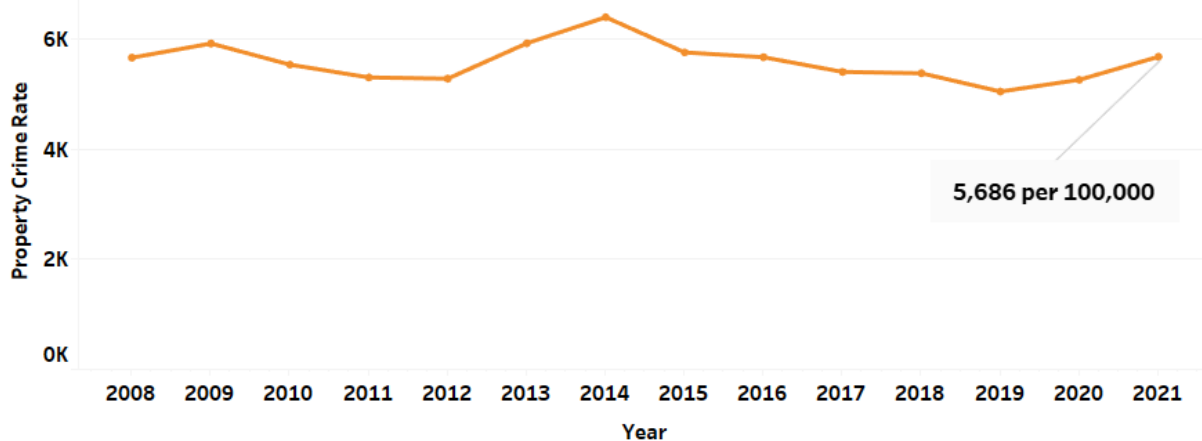
Crime rates are calculated based upon the Washington OFM's population totals for the City of Seattle. Rates confer an advantage over totals because they represent the number of crime incidents relative to population size. While crime rates are not a proxy for understanding how likely any given person is to be a *victim* of a crime, they allow statements to be made about how much crime takes place within the city's population.

The line charts below show the violent and property rates for the city of Seattle since 2008. The violent crime rate for the city of Seattle rose to 721 per 100,000 from 608 in 2020. Property crime rates slightly increased from 5,267 to 5,686 per 100,000 for 2021.

*“The Violent Crime Rate reached a 14-year high in 2021.”*



### Property Crime Rate



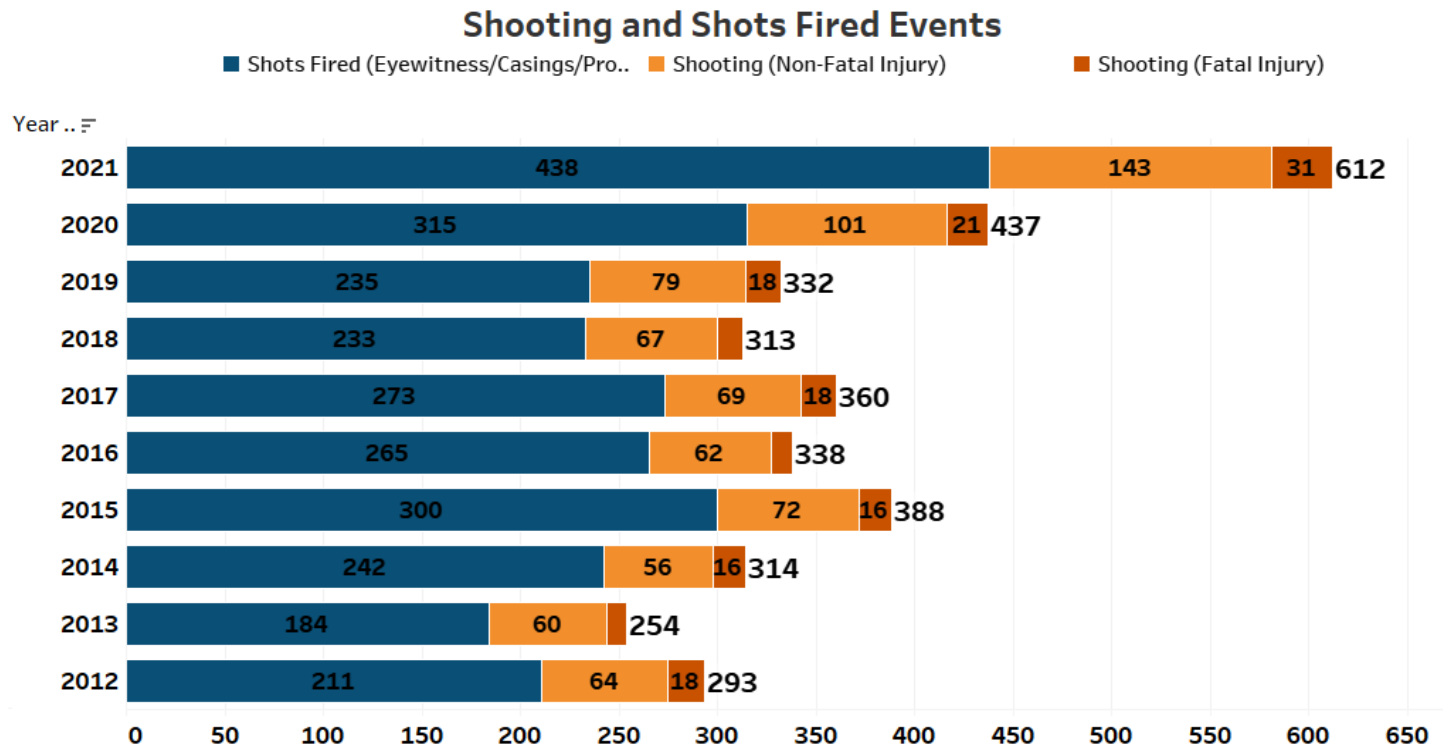
<sup>2</sup> Crime rates are calculated based on the Washington Office of Financial Management's population totals for the city of Seattle. <https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/april-1-official-population-estimates/april-1-population-estimates-program-information>

# Shootings and Shots Fired<sup>3</sup>

2021 represented a ten-year high for shootings and shots fired in the City of Seattle. Since the report inception (2012), there has been over a 100% increase in shots fired. 2020 was the previous all-time high on record, followed by 2015.

In 2021, there were 612 verified criminal shootings and shots fired citywide. This represents a 40% (+175) increase compared to 2020, and an 86% (+283) increase compared to 2019.

*“Shootings and Shots Fired increased by 40%.”*



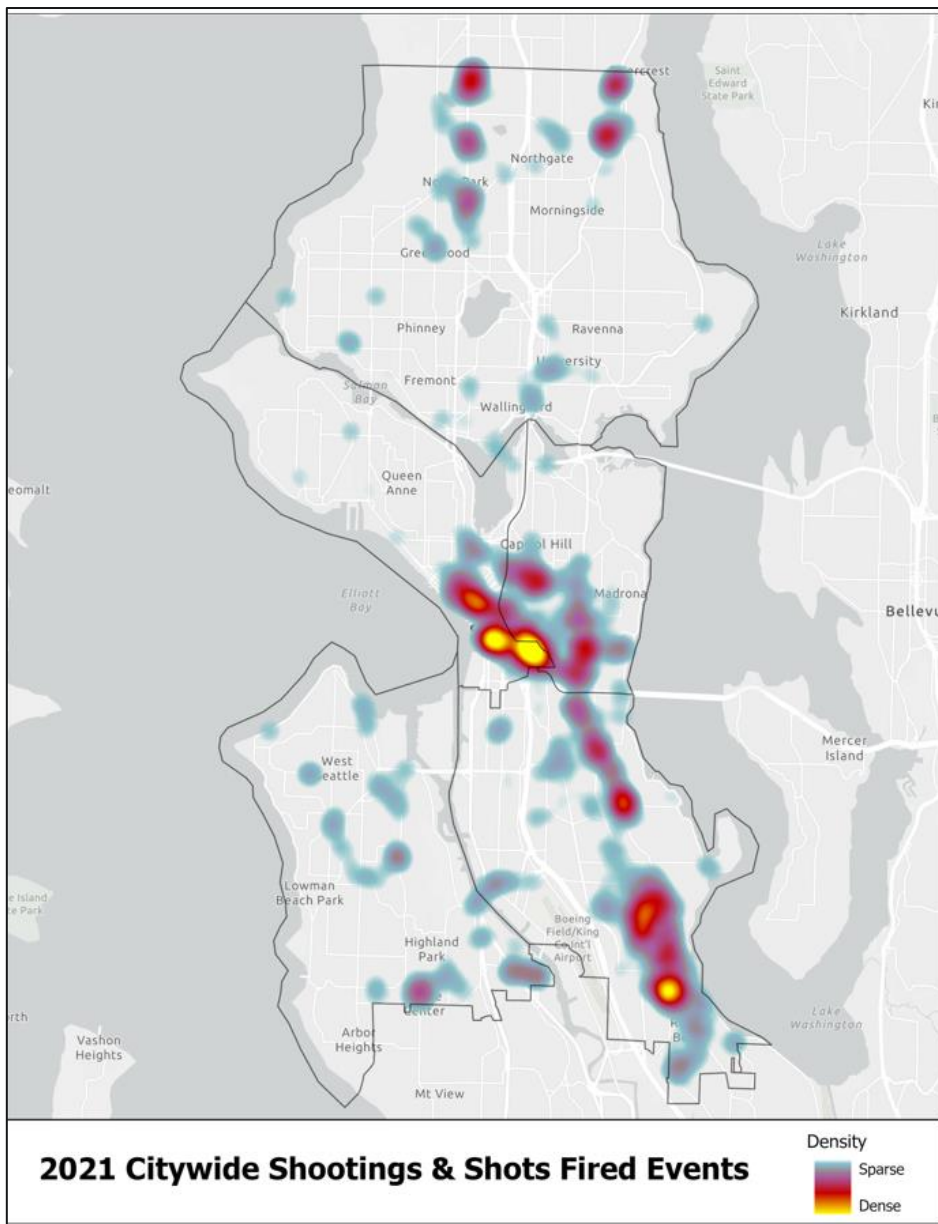
<sup>3</sup> Shootings and Shots fired events include non-injury firearm-related incidents (Shots Fired) and Shootings which are firearm-related incidents that resulted in injury or death at the time of the incident. *Self-inflicted and Officer-involved shootings are not included. Counts are based on distinct count of Report and do not represent the number of victims.*

In 2021, there were 31 fatal shootings and 143 non-fatal shootings. This represents a 43% (+52) increase in overall shootings (fatal and non-fatal) compared to 2020, and an 81% (+78) increase compared to 2019.

There was a 39% (+123) increase in evidentiary shots fired (without injury) compared to 2020, and an 88% (+205) increase compared to 2019 – based on ballistic evidence and eyewitness testimony.

### Shootings & Shots Fired Hot Spots

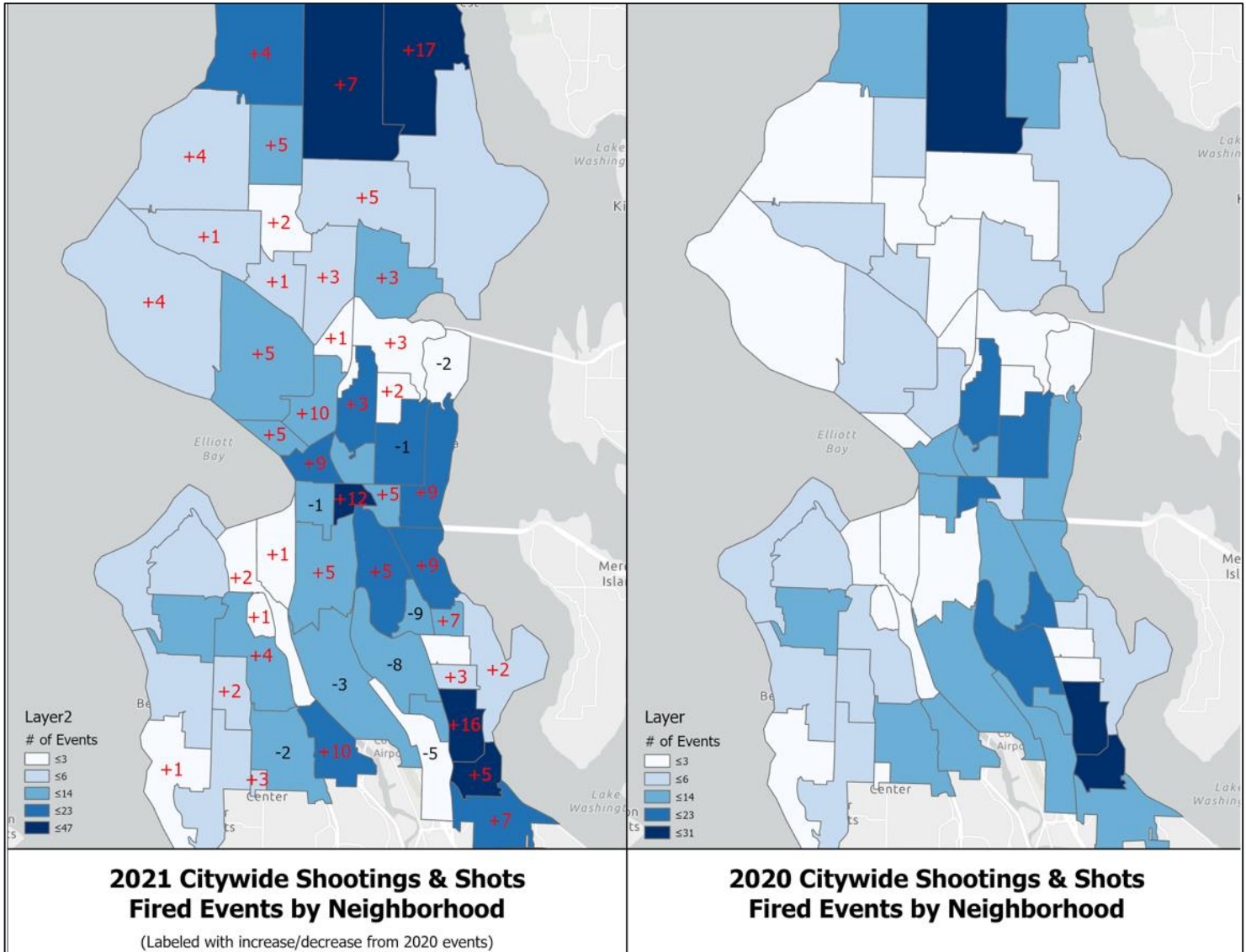
*“Shootings & Shots Fired Hot Spots Downtown, South and North.”*



## Shootings & Shots Fired by Neighborhood

In ascending order, the three neighborhoods with the overall largest shootings and shots fired increases compared to the previous year, are Lake City (North), Brighton/Dunlap (South), and Chinatown/International District (West).

*“Lake City, Brighton/Dunlap, & Chinatown/International District experienced the largest increase in Shootings & Shots Fired.”*



## Shootings & Shots Fired Victim Demographics

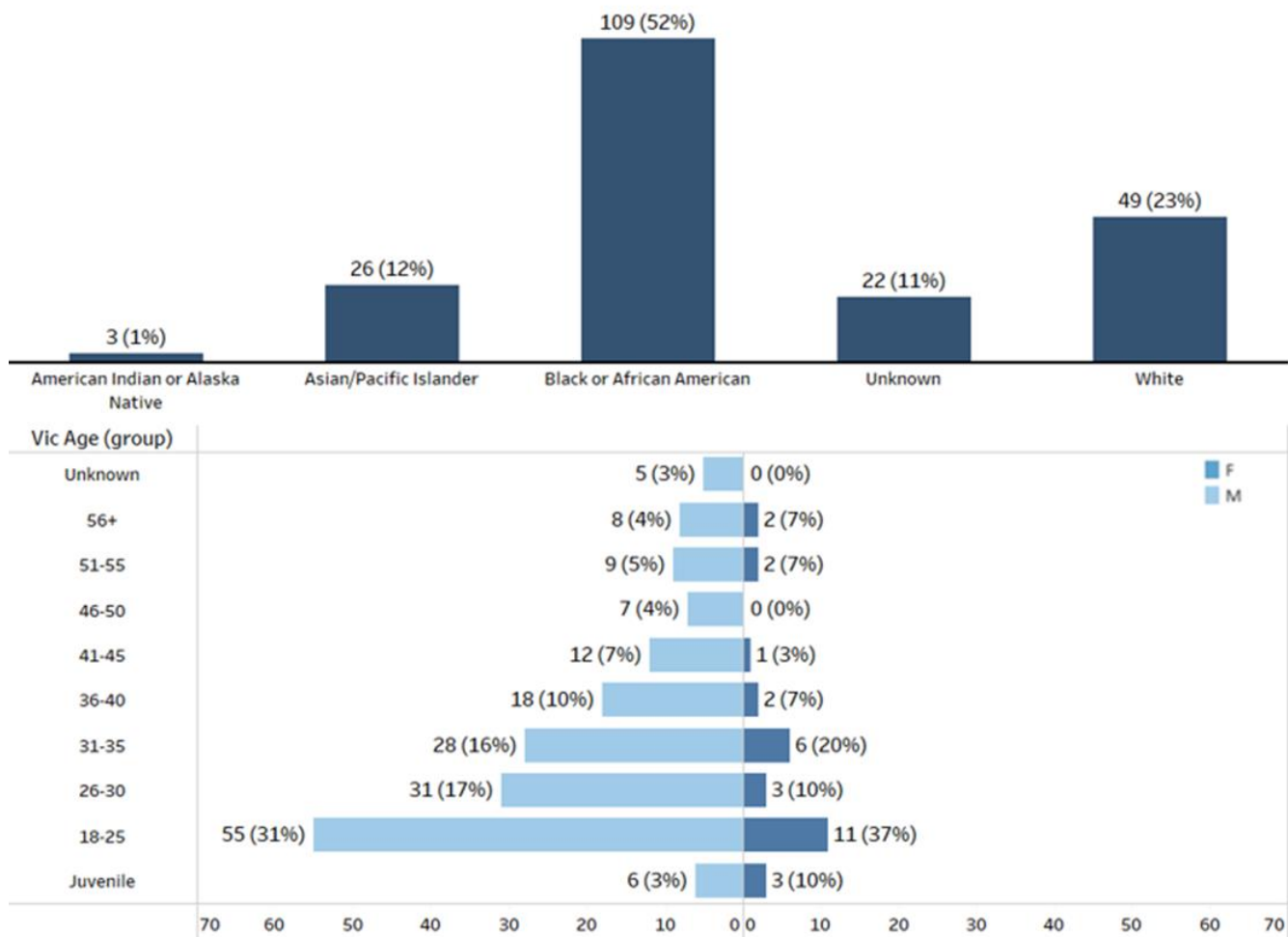
In 2021, we had 174 shootings with 209 victims identified at the time of the event. This is a 47% (+67) increase in victims from 2020 and a 92% (+100) increase from 2019 victim totals.

The bar graph below shows the total victims by race. In 2021, 52% (109) of shooting victims were Black or African American, 23% (49) were White, 12% (23) were Asian/Pacific Islander, 11% (22) had no race listed, and 1% (3) were American Indian or Alaska Native.

The population pyramid below the bar graph shows the distribution of shooting victims by age group and sex. Female victims represented 17% (30) of the total victims while males were 86% (179) of the total victims identified at the time of the event. The highest totals were found in the 18-25 age group for both male (31%) and female (37%) victims.

***“18-25 Black or African American Males represented the largest victim demographic for Shootings & Shots Fired.”***

**2021 Shooting Victim Demographics**



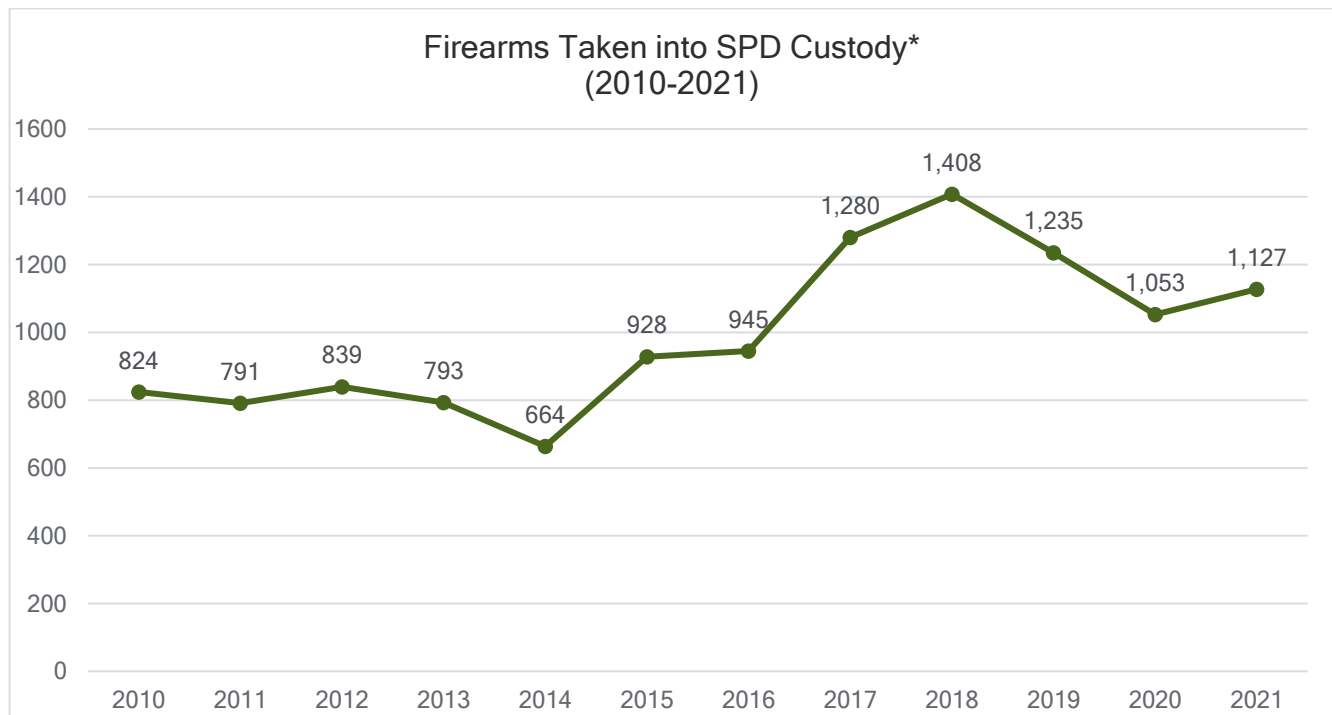
## Shootings & Shots Fired Additional Findings:

- Overall, SPD collected more than 2,850 shell casings at crime scenes during 2021 (compared to just over 2,500 in 2020).
  - Note: officers were unable to locate any shell casings in more than 200 confirmed Shots Fired events (compared with just over 100 events in 2020).
- Nearly one third of all Shots Fired events had no clear leads\* after officers responded to the scene.
  - \*For example, complainants reported hearing shots fired, officers responded and located shell casings or property damage, but were unable to locate any witness or other evidence.
- Nearly one in five Shots Fired events involved a victim or other subject who was contacted by officers but refused to divulge information to police or was otherwise uncooperative.
  - Note: this is an improvement from the record-high level of non-cooperation in 2020, when officers encountered uncooperative individuals in nearly a quarter of all shots fired events.
- The proportion of Shots Fired events with a nexus to homelessness increased by 122% (+62) in 2021 compared to 2020.

***“Homeless-related events for Shootings & Shots Fired increased by 122%.”***

## Firearms Taken into Custody

A total of 1,127 firearms were taken into custody by SPD in 2021. Firearms taken into custody are not all related to criminal activity and may also include surrenders, forfeitures, and found property.



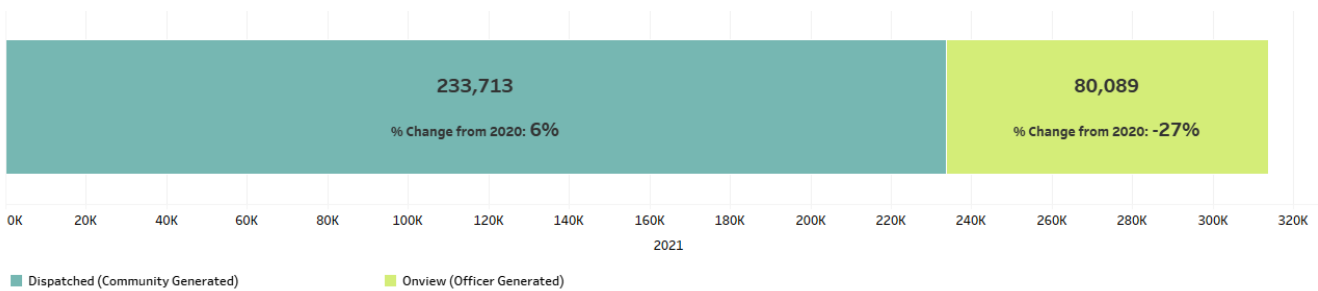


# Computer-Aided Dispatched (CAD) Events

## Officer-generated vs. Community-generated Activity

In 2021, a total of 313,802 dispatched events were handled by SPD, a slight decrease of 5% from 2020. 74% of dispatched events were community-generated; 26% were officer-generated.

*“Proactive Policing decreased by 27% in 2021.”*



## 9-1-1 Response Time

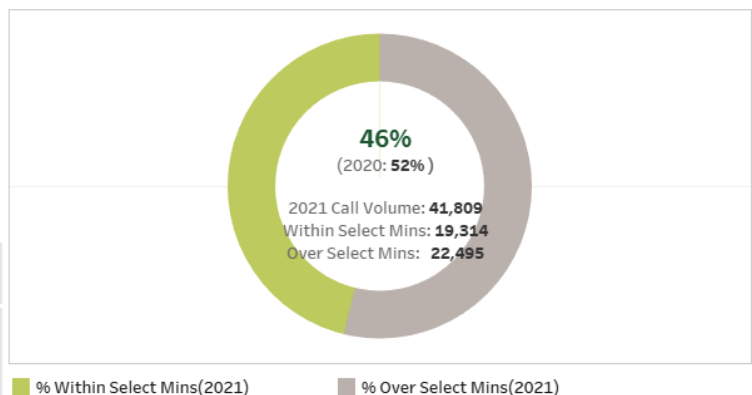
Response time is calculated on dispatched, fielded CAD events. It is the time taken from the creation of a CAD event until the first unit arrives on the scene. It includes dispatch delay and travel time. In 2021, citywide response time was challenged by the Pandemic and SPD staffing crisis. Priority 1 median response time increased to 7.5 minutes, and the average response time increased to 10.5 minutes. Both stats are approaching a historic 10-year high.

*“Overall response times reached historic highs in 2021.”*

### 2021 Response Time

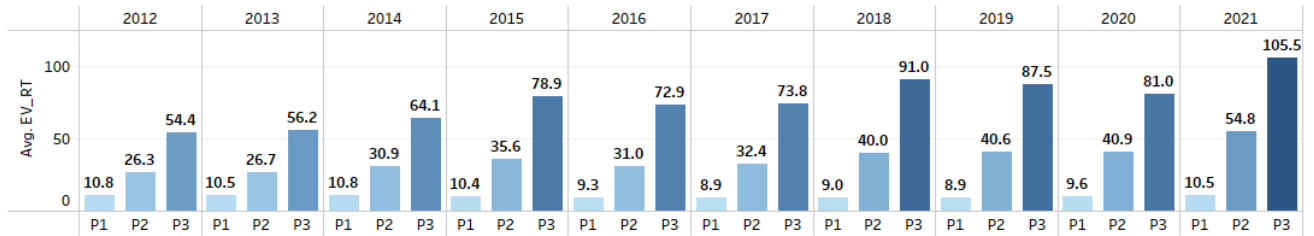


### P1 Calls Responded in 7 Minutes

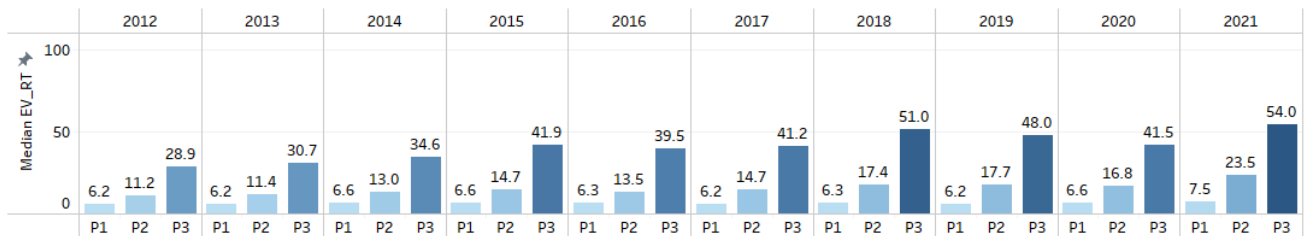


## Priority<sup>4</sup> Response Time by Year

Average Response Time



Median Response Time



## Top Community-Generated Dispatched Locations

Address	Place Name	2021 Call Volume
3820 RAINIER AV S	Rainier Valley Square	779
1401 2 AV	Target Seattle Downtown	659
325 9 AV <sup>5</sup>	Harborview Medical Center	508
2600 SW BARTON ST	Westwood Village	473
1911 22 AV S	DESC Hobson Place	381
308 4 AV S	Addison Apartments	376

<sup>4</sup> Priority 1 calls are immediate calls; Priority 2 calls are urgent calls; Priority 3 calls are prompt calls.

<sup>5</sup> SPD officers responded and provided service to Harborview Medical Center, but not all incidents happened at this location.

# Community Feedback

## Neighborhood Concerns

A longitudinal community survey ("[Policing Trust & Safety](#)") conducted through digital ads, collected comments from residents' response to the question: "What is the No.1 issue or problem on your block or neighborhood that you would like the police to deal with?" Seattle residents' top concerns in 2021 were Theft, Burglary and Break-ins (21%), Homelessness (21%), and Policing Issues (20%).

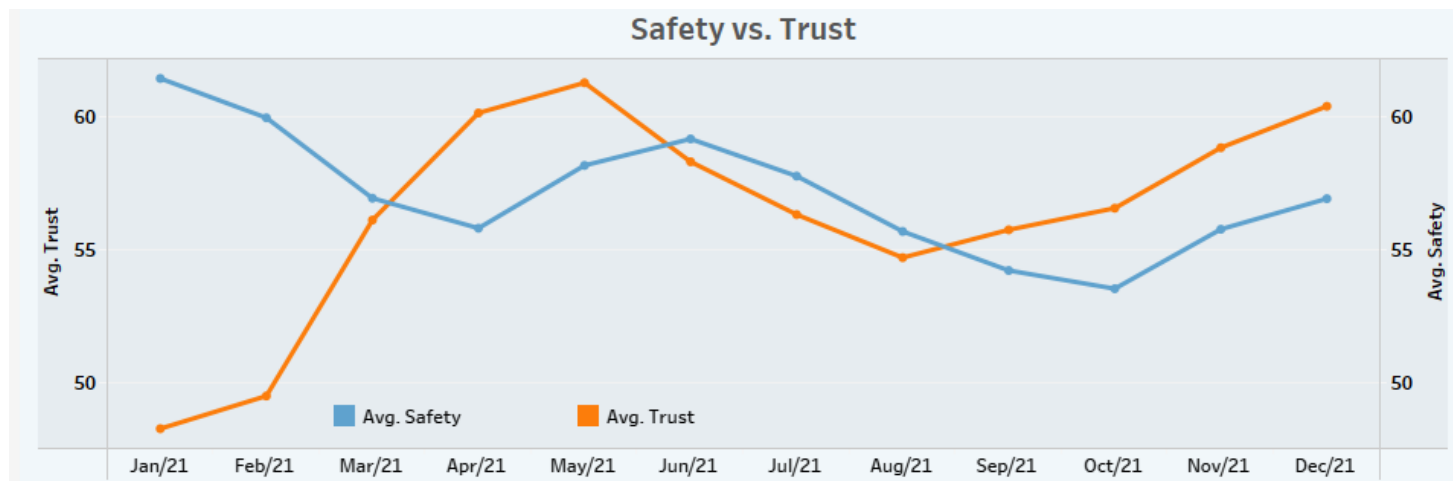
*"Seattle residents identified Theft, Burglary and Break-ins, Homelessness, and Policing Issues as their top neighborhood concerns."*



## Trust & Safety

The same community survey is also designed to measure (["Blockwise by Zencity"](#)) how safe city residents feel and how much they trust local police in the city of Seattle on a scale of 1 to 10<sup>6</sup>. Since October, both the safety scores and trust scores are trending up at the same time.

*“Community perceptions of Public Safety & Trust of Police in Seattle trended upward during Q4 2021.”*



<sup>6</sup> Survey respondents select their answers on a rating scale of 0 to 10. The raw rating is processed to a weighted average and then multiplied by 10. For example, a trust score of 65 means that the weighted average response to the question is 6.5 out of 10 and then multiplied by 10. The final score, ranging from 0-100, allows users to compare scores across neighborhoods over time and to compare scores to national benchmarks.