2019
Crime Statistics
And
Trend Analysis

for the
<u>Ferguson Police Department</u>

Supplementary Report

Submitted By

Ferguson Civilian Review Board

December, 2020

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Key Takeaways

In this supplementary report, 1985 - 2019 crime statistics and trends for the Ferguson Police Department (FPD) are reported. This data comes from the annual report published by the FBI in October of each year.

Charts illustrating the statistics and trends are detailed in the following pages. There are several key takeaways that the charts show:

- Property crime in Ferguson has been decreasing over the last decade after having risen through the 1990s and early 2000s.

- Violent crime in Ferguson has been increasing. This trend has been consistent over the last 30-40 years and has spiked in the last decade.

- While violent crime has been increasing, the number of violent crimes "cleared" (at least one person arrested, charged, and turned over to the court for prosecution) has been decreasing.

The Ferguson Police Department has recently implemented several interactive dashboards on the City of Ferguson website. One of those dashboards includes past crime data reported to the FBI and also current year crime data. The crime data dashboard can be found at https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7aed307d6ad94f22a6cfb04664 4f2597 under the tab for "Calls for Service and Crime".

* Please note: As of the publication of this report, there are discrepancies between the FBI crime data and the data shown on the FPD dashboard. FPD is working to find the cause of these discrepancies.

Crime Statistics

More than 18,000 law enforcement agencies around the U.S. voluntarily submit crime data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The FPD is one of those agencies. Information on the UCR program, the data it gathers, and how to interpret that data, can be found on the FBI website at https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr.

Under the UCR program, data is compiled and made available in many forms, including graphical form.

The # of crime incidents reported and the # of incidents cleared are both shown on the graphs. Incidents are cleared when at least one person is arrested, charged, and turned over to the court for prosecution; or when exceptional circumstances prevent the arrest and charging of the offender (i.e., victim's refusal to cooperate with prosecution, the offender is in jail in another jurisdiction and can't be extradited, etc.).
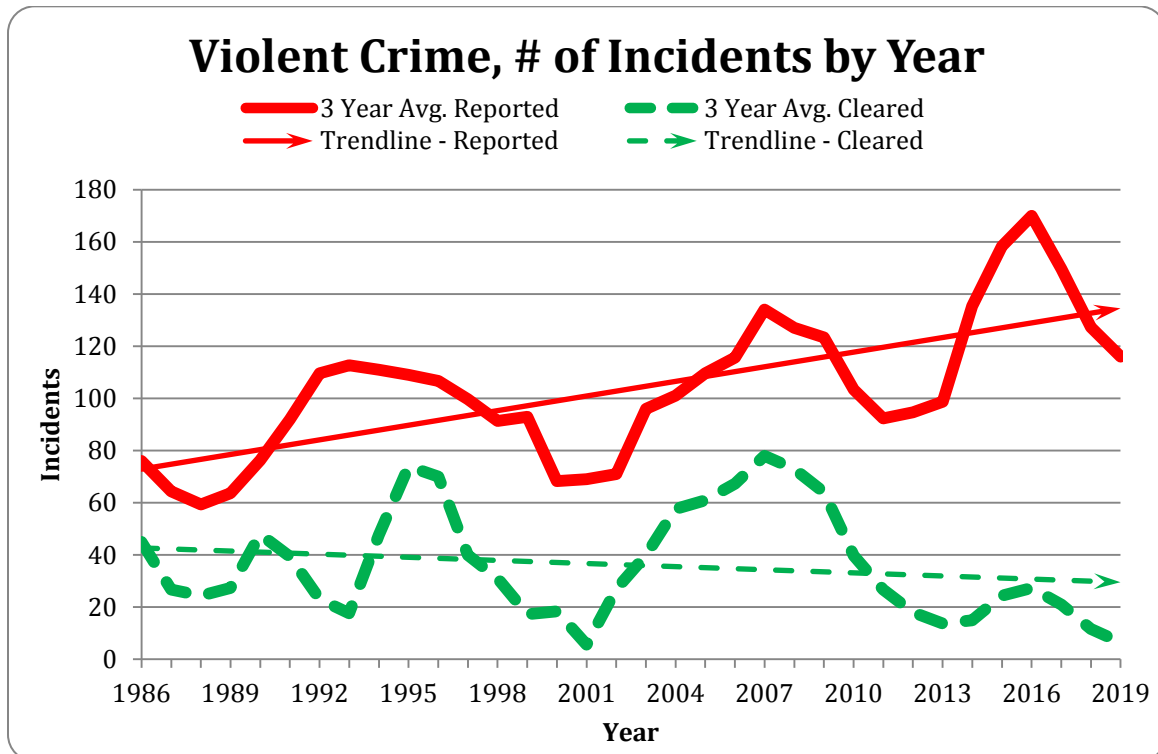
The following two graphs show FPD data reported to the UCR program from 1985 to 2019. Data for 2019 became available in October, 2020, and is shown on the graphs.

The data shown is for Part I crimes, broken into Property crimes and Violent crimes. Part I crimes are serious crimes that are likely to be reported. Part II crimes are less serious (drug abuse, vandalism, disorderly conduct, etc.) and are not included in this data. The FBI definitions and categorizations for all crimes can be found at https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions

In order to smooth the data, three year rolling averages are plotted. Linear trends in the data are also plotted.
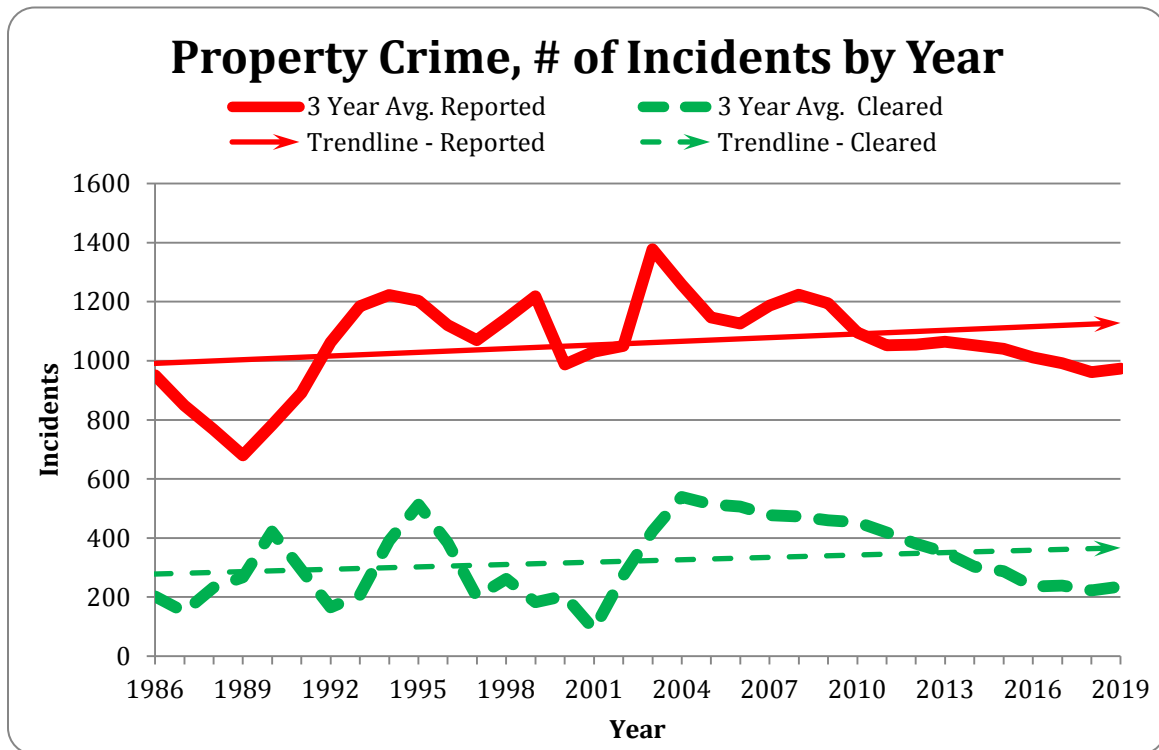
Violent Crime

According to the UCR program, violent crime is composed of four offenses: homicide (murder and non-negligent manslaughter), rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes involve force or threat of force.

This chart shows an upward trend in violent crime reported in Ferguson. It also shows a growing gap through the 2010s between the number of violent crimes that are reported and the number cleared.
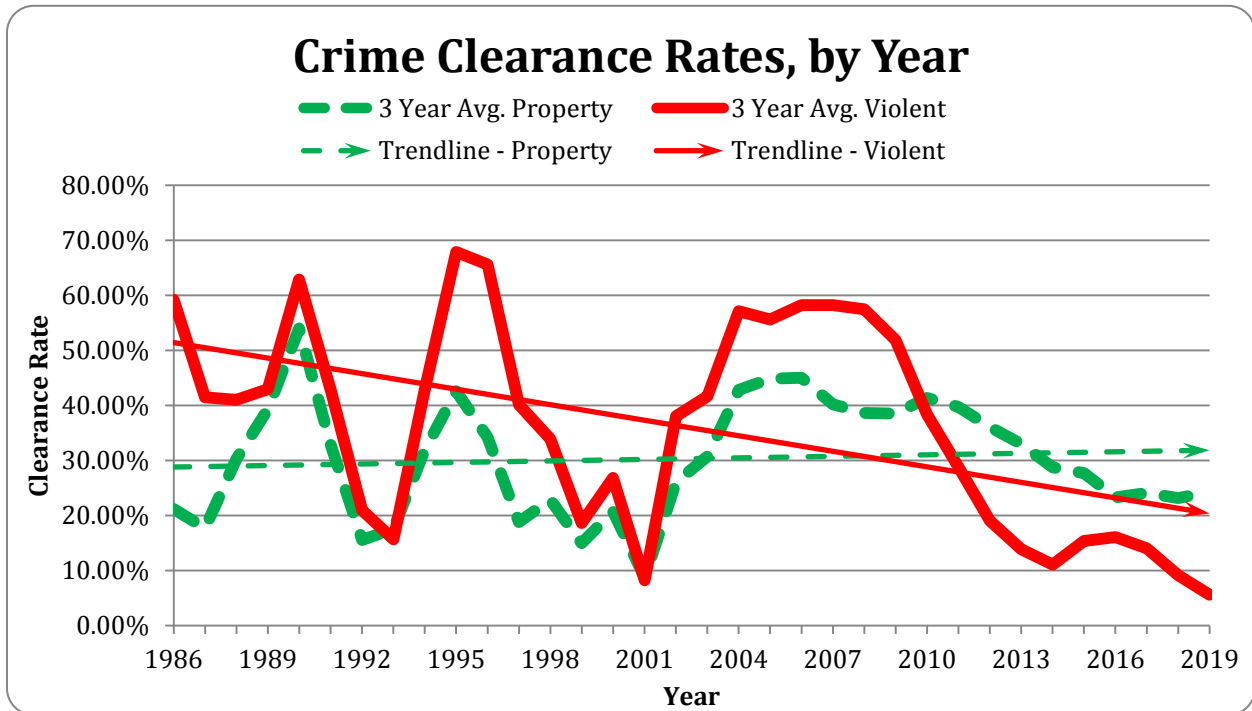
Property Crime

According to the UCR program, property crime is composed of four offenses: arson, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Property Crime, # of Incidents by Year

- 3 Year Avg. Reported
- 3 Year Avg. Cleared
- Trendline - Reported
- Trendline - Cleared

This chart shows a slightly upward trend in property crime reported in Ferguson. Property crime rose through the 1990s, peaked in the early 2000s, and has been slowly decreasing since then.

Crime Clearance Rates

This third graph shows the clearance rate for each crime category. The clearance rate was calculated by dividing the # of incidents cleared by the # of incidents reported during each rolling three year average of the data. The FBI's UCR site cautions that "...crimes are not necessarily cleared in the year they occur."

Crime Clearance Rates, by Year

Legend: – – 3 Year Avg. Property — 3 Year Avg. Violent – → Trendline - Property → Trendline - Violent
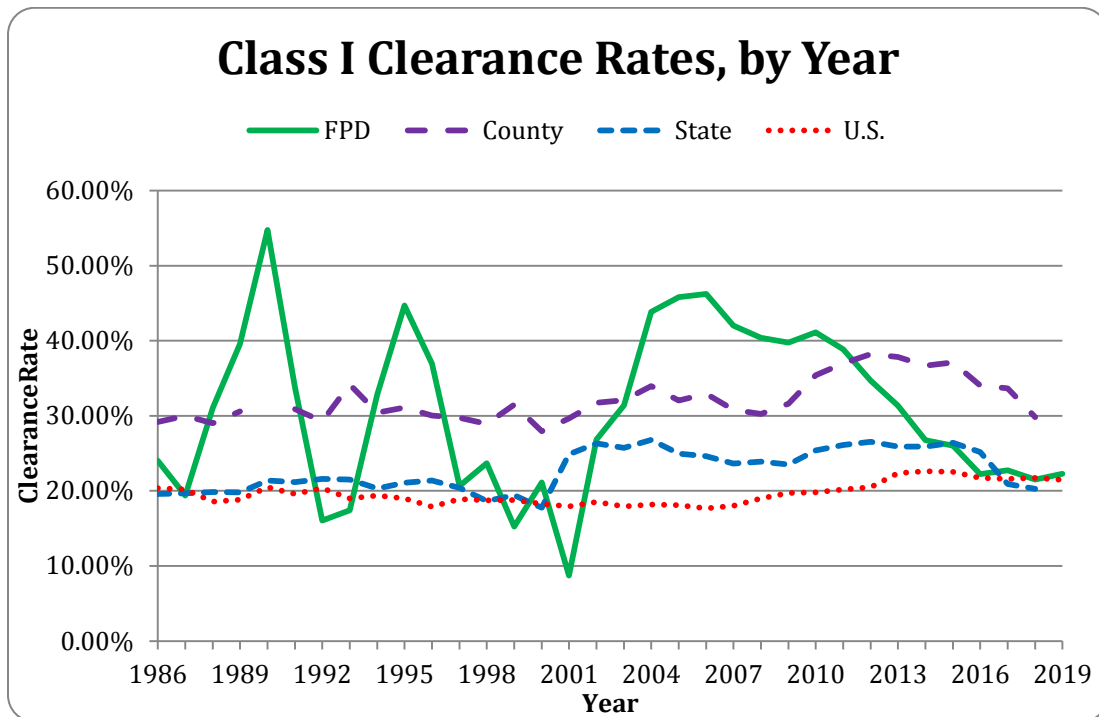
While FPD crime clearance rates varied widely from the 1980s through the early 2000s, the rates settled into a more consistent downward pattern beginning in the mid-to-late 2000s. The clearance rate for violent crime has historically been higher than the clearance rate for property crime but beginning about 2010 those rates flipped.

"A primary responsibility of the police is to solve crimes that have occurred in the past. Solving crimes requires a high degree of police-community collaboration—through reporting crimes and tips, witness participation in investigations, and the like. Law enforcement agencies across the country consider crimes solved when they are cleared by arrests. For this reason, clearance rates (for example, the ratio of crimes cleared to offenses known by the police) can serve as an indicator of not only police effectiveness, but also of police-community collaboration."
- Vera Arrest Trends (https://arresttrends.vera.org/clearance-rates)

Crime Clearance Rates: FPD, County, Missouri, U.S.

Data on clearance rates is also available at the county, state, and national levels. The following chart shows FPD clearance rates for Class 1 crimes in comparison to county, state, and national clearance rates.

Class I Clearance Rates, by Year

Contact Information

General Meetings: First Monday of the month, 6:30 pm (if a holiday, then second Monday)
Ferguson City Hall (Council chambers)
110 Church St., Ferguson, MO 63135

Informational Recording: (314) 521-7721 extension 7053

Email: crb@fergusoncity.com

Website: www.fergusoncity.com/544/Citizen-Review-Board

Facebook: Ferguson Civilian Review Board

Who May File a Complaint?

Anyone who believes they have experienced, witnessed, or represents a minor who has experienced misconduct by a member of the Ferguson Police Department (FPD).

How Do You File a Complaint?

Complaints can be filed by completing an official complaint form. Forms may be found on the City of Ferguson website, at Ferguson City Hall (110 Church St.), the Ferguson Police Department (222 S. Florissant Rd.), the Ferguson Public Library (35 N. Florissant Rd.), or at the Ferguson Civilian Review Board meetings.

You may submit this form:
- In person at FPD
- By mail to FPD (222 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135)
- In a secure drop box at FPD, City Hall, or the Ferguson Public Library
- By email to FPD (fpdcomplaints@fergusoncity.com) or the FCRB (crb@fergusoncity.com)
- By fax to FPD at (314) 524-0429