

MEMORANDUM

October 10, 2019

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst *SJF*

SUBJECT: **Update: Crime Statistics**

PURPOSE: To receive a briefing.

Today the Committee will receive a comparative look at crime statistics for the County and similar jurisdictions. Acting Assistant Chief Dinesh Patil and other police staff are expected to brief the Committee.

OVERVIEW

Over the past several years, the FBI has been transitioning its Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) from its Summary Reporting System (SRS) to its new National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Under the SRS methodology, data is divided into Part I and Part II crimes. Only the most serious charge during each offense is reported. NIBRS allows for a much more comprehensive collection of crime data. While NIBRS reports are similarly divided into Group A and Group B crimes, each category captures many more data elements, such as incident, offenses, victims, known offenders, and arrestees. Consequently, it is more difficult to provide comparative data between SRS and NIBRS reporting.

The Committee has requested comparative data with neighboring jurisdictions. MCPD advises that while it began reporting under NIBRS in 2017, other jurisdictions are at different points of transition to the new methodology. Fairfax County began reporting data in NIBRS in 2010. Prince George's County began reporting data in 2018. Baltimore County continues to report crime statistics under the older UCR SRS system. Further, not all counties report crime data from all their municipalities. For these reasons, these comparisons should be viewed with caution, as they are not always uniform in nature.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DATA

An overview of Montgomery County crime is provided on ©2. Total crime is down 7.3% over the past three years, although certain crimes have seen increases during the same time period. Homicides have increased over the past three years. While the data presented show a

three-year snapshot, it is important to note that the County hit a high of 30 homicides in 2015. While this chart shows a 25% increase in homicides from 2016 to 2018, it is still a significant decrease from 2015, and is more reflective of the County’s 10-year average.

Rape offenses have increased by 64% over the past three years. This reflects an increase from 211 in 2016 to 346 in 2018. MCPD’s annual report on crime states that the number of rapes reported in 2018 increased 27.8% from 2017 and has been steadily increasing over the last four years. The number of rapes reported in 2015 rose sharply and was primarily attributed to the FBI’s rape definition change, which the state of Maryland implemented in 2015.¹

Aggravated Assault offenses have also increased by 5.1% over the past three years, from 741 in 2016 to 779 in 2018. Other crimes, such as robbery, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft have dropped significantly. Most significant is the decrease in Burglary offenses, which fell by more than 25% over the past three years, from 1,949 in 2016 to 1,450 in 2018.

COMPARISONS TO OTHER COUNTIES

On ©4, MCPD provides comparative data among Montgomery, Baltimore, Prince George’s, and Fairfax Counties. These counties were chosen because they are relatively similar in size to Montgomery County. For the most recent year provided, 2018, the following charge reflects crime data for each county.

Crime 2018	Montgomery	Baltimore	Prince George’s	Fairfax
Homicide	20	27	53	13
Rape	346	346	194	311
Robbery	589	1,332	825	352
Aggravated Assault	779	3,118	911	260
Burglary	1,450	2,605	1,748	762
Larceny	12,083	16,776	8,618	11,832
Motor Vehicle Theft	833	1,842	2,331	806
Total:	16,100	26,046	14,680	14,336

MCPD also provides per capita crime rates on ©5. The overall crime rates for the four jurisdictions are:

Crime Rate (per 100k)	Montgomery	Baltimore	Prince George’s	Fairfax
Violent Crime	165	582	218	81
Property Crime	1,365	2,562	1,396	1,164
Total Crime	1,530	3,144	1,614	1,246

¹ 2018 Annual Report on Crime and Safety
https://montgomerycountymd.gov/POL/Resources/Files/PDF/PDRResources/MCPD_Annual%20Report%20Crime%20Safety_2018.pdf

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Homicides have increased by 25% in the past three years, although the total for 2018 was 20, which is significantly lower than the County's high of 30 in 2015. In prior years, a significant proportion of the homicides were gang-related. What is the composition of the underlying causes of the homicides (e.g. domestic, drug-related, gang-related)? How has that changed over time?
2. How does 2019 year-to-date crime data compare to 2018? Particularly for homicide and rape offenses?
3. MCPD advises that recent data provided to Council for sex offense statistics were reported differently than what is reflected in this update. Please explain the difference?
4. Historically, most rape cases have been committed by someone the victim knows, rather than a stranger. Has this trend held true into 2018?
5. Council has received several inquiries about crime statistics broken down by immigration status. Why are those statistics not available?
6. What can the drop in burglary incidents be attributed to?
7. Theft from vehicles has been an ongoing problem in the County. According to the 2018 Annual Crime Report, these types of larcenies decreased from 4,985 in 2017 to 3,912 in 2018, a reduction of 22%. Does this reflect better public information campaigns to get people to lock their doors?

This packet contains the following:

MCPD Overview of Comparative Crime Statistics

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



**2016-18 CRIME COMPARISON:
MONTGOMERY, BALTIMORE, PRINCE GEORGE'S, &
FAIRFAX COUNTIES**

OCTOBER 2019

CRIME STATISTICS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY				
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	3yr. % diff.
HOMICIDE	16	23	20	25.0%
RAPE	211	278	346	64.0%
ROBBERY	685	733	589	-14.0%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	741	773	779	5.1%
RGLARY	1,949	1,666	1,450	-25.6%
LARCENY	12,870	13,426	12,083	-6.1%
M/V THEFT	905	917	833	-8.0%
TOTAL	17,377	17,816	16,100	-7.3%

The MCPD began reporting under the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2017. This data, which was pulled from our internal dashboard on September 25, 2019, contains all the offenses that occurred in Montgomery County, including Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park. Please note that the dashboard updates and maintains these statistics in "real time", whereas data that have been published previously by the MCPD and/or submitted to the Maryland State Police (under the UCR program rules) is only a "snapshot" of the offense data at a particular point in time.

BALTIMORE COUNTY				
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	3yr. % diff.
HOMICIDE	35	35	27	-22.9%
RAPE	318	326	346	8.8%
ROBBERY	1,497	1,536	1,332	-11.0%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	2,547	3,166	3,118	22.4%
RGLARY	3,681	3,128	2,605	-29.2%
LARCENY	17,599	18,178	16,776	-4.7%
M/V THEFT	2,064	2,029	1,842	-10.8%
TOTAL	27,741	28,398	26,046	-6.1%

The Baltimore County Police Department continues to report crime statistics under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) System.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY				
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	3yr. % diff.
HOMICIDE	98	59	53	-45.9%
RAPE	110	163	194	76.4%
ROBBERY	1,237	855	825	-33.3%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1,420	1,026	911	-35.8%
BURGLARY	2,041	1,951	1,748	-14.4%
LARCENY	9,828	9,276	8,618	-12.3%
M/V THEFT	2,822	2,575	2,331	-17.4%
TOTAL	17,556	15,905	14,680	-16.4%

The Prince George's County Police began reporting under NIBRS in 2018. **The PGCPD crime statistics do not include any offenses within the municipalities of the County.**

FAIRFAX COUNTY				
YEAR	2016	2017	2018	3yr. % diff.
HOMICIDE	18	21	13	-27.8%
RAPE	270	288	311	15.2%
ROBBERY	458	430	352	-23.1%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	401	417	260	-35.2%
BURGLARY	830	763	762	-8.2%
LARCENY	13,014	12,662	11,832	-9.1%
M/V THEFT	848	707	806	-5.0%
TOTAL	15,839	15,288	14,336	-9.5%

The Fairfax County Police Department has reported under the NIBRS program since 2010.

COUNTY COMPARISON BY YEAR

2016				
	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	BALTIMORE COUNTY	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	FAIRFAX COUNTY
HOMICIDE	16	35	98	18
RAPE	211	318	110	270
ROBBERY	685	1,497	1,237	458
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	741	2,547	1,420	401
BURGLARY	1,949	3,681	2,041	830
LARCENY	12,870	17,599	9,828	13,014
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	905	2,064	2,822	848
TOTAL	17,377	27,741	17,556	15,839

2017				
	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	BALTIMORE COUNTY	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	FAIRFAX COUNTY
HOMICIDE	23	35	59	21
RAPE	278	326	163	288
ROBBERY	733	1,536	855	430
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	773	3,166	1,026	417
BURGLARY	1,666	3,128	1,951	763
LARCENY	13,426	18,178	9,276	12,662
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	917	2,029	2,575	707
TOTAL	17,816	28,398	15,905	15,288

2018				
	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	BALTIMORE COUNTY	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	FAIRFAX COUNTY
HOMICIDE	20	27	53	13
RAPE	346	346	194	311
ROBBERY	589	1,332	825	352
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	779	3,118	911	260
BURGLARY	1,450	2,605	1,748	762
LARCENY	12,083	16,776	8,618	11,832
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	833	1,842	2,331	806
TOTAL	16,100	26,046	14,680	14,336

CRIME RATE PER CAPITA

ALL TOPICS ▼	Fairfax County, Virginia	Prince George's County, Maryland	Baltimore County, Maryland	Montgomery County, Maryland
Population estimates, July 1, 2018, (V2018)	1,150,795	909,308	828,431	1,052,567
PEOPLE				
Population				
Population estimates, July 1, 2018, (V2018)	1,150,795	909,308	828,431	1,052,567
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2018)	1,081,667	863,349	805,229	971,964
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2018, (V2018)	6.4%	5.3%	2.9%	8.3%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	1,081,726	863,420	805,029	971,777

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the population in Montgomery County has grown at a slightly faster rate than the other three counties, although Fairfax County still has approximately 100,000 more people than Montgomery County. When this is put into perspective, crime rate per capita statistics for 2018 indicate that Fairfax County would be considered the safest county, followed by Montgomery County then Prince George's County, which have similar crime rates per capita (note: this can be attributed to the absence of municipality offense data in the statistics for Prince George's County).

	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	BALTIMORE COUNTY	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	FAIRFAX COUNTY
TOTAL OFFENSES	16,100	26,046	14,680	14,336
POPULATION	1,052,567	828,431	909,308	1,150,795
VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100K	165	582	218	81
PROPERTY CRIME RATE PER 100K	1,365	2,562	1,396	1,164
OVERALL CRIME RATE PER 100K	1,530	3,144	1,614	1,246

NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

In 2016 MCPD began to participate in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). While still providing Uniform Crime Report Summary data to the State of Maryland, MCPD also provides NIBRS data to the FBI.

NIBRS crime reporting captures each reportable crime vs the UCR Summary that captured the highest crime (hierarchy rule).

Historically MCPD has provided numbers related to the offense of rape, based on the date the incident was reported. NIBRS rape reporting is based on the date the incident occurred. Rape statistics previously reported by the MCPD will appear higher than the numbers in this package. As an example, if a victim came forward in 2019 to report a rape that occurred in 2016, that event would be allocated to 2016, not 2019. MCPD's reporting practice in recent years would have attributed that event to 2019.

To be consistent with NIBRS and regional and national law enforcement agencies, the numbers provided in this document are consistent with NIBRS incident date. This will show as lower compared to the number of events that reflect the date the incident was reported. MCPD will maintain both dates but will move forward with being consistent with NIBRS reporting.

For more information on NIBRS visit:
<https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs>

<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/NIBRS%20Transition%20Case%20Study%20MCPD.PDF>

DATA SOURCES

The population data was obtained from

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/fairfaxcountyvirginia.princegeorgescountymaryland.baltimorecountymaryland.montgomerycountymaryland/PST045218>

All of the Montgomery County data was obtained from the MCPD Dashboard on 9/25/19.

All of the Baltimore County data was obtained from their website:

<http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Police/2019pdfs/crimestatsexecutiveable.pdf>

Prince George's County data was obtained from two sources: 2016 and 2017 data was obtained from the COG Annual Report on Crime & Safety,

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2018/09/07/report-on-crime-and-crime-control-crime-featured-publications-public-safety--/>

2018 data was obtained directly from the Prince George's County Police, as their 2018 stats have not yet been published. *Note: It was also discovered that the rape statistics attributed to Prince George's County Police in the 2017 COG report was inaccurate, and that number was adjusted accordingly.*

Fairfax County data¹ was also obtained from multiple sources:

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2018/09/07/report-on-crime-and-crime-control-crime-featured-publications-public-safety--/>

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/images/helpfulinfo/crime%20in%20our%20county/crime%20statistics/2017_group_a_offenses.pdf

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/images/helpfulinfo/crime%20in%20our%20county/crime%20statistics/2018_group_a_offenses.pdf

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/images/helpfulinfo/crime%20in%20our%20county/crime%20statistics/2017_group_a_offenses.pdf

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/chief/crimeandsafety/crimeinourcounty/annualreports>

¹ The FCPD statistic for rape is the *Sex Offenses, Forcible* statistic provided in the FCPD Group A Offenses document on the FCPD website.