Crime

2008 STATE OF CHATTANOOGA REGION REPORT

David Eichenthal
Dr. Gale Iles
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the Ochs Center
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Dear Reader:

I am happy to introduce the fourth in the series of State of Chattanooga Region reports, this one on crime and public safety.

In this report – and upcoming reports on Housing, Health and the Economy – Ochs Center staff rely on a combination of administrative data (usually collected by government agencies) and survey data (from an April 2008 telephone survey of one thousand Hamilton County residents) to describe current conditions in the Chattanooga region. As we did two years ago, we will provide information at the subregion level and also provide comparisons between our region and other midsize regions across the county.

For those of you who have read or used the State of Chattanooga Region Report, I wanted to again highlight a series of changes this year – which were the result of feedback on the 2006 report.

By releasing a series of reports instead of a single, 360 page volume, we hope to better highlight key findings in each of the different topic areas that we cover. Because – in most cases – we have data from prior years, we will be able to provide trend analysis: in other words, we will be able to speak to changes in conditions, as well as current conditions. We will do a better job discussing the region, not just Hamilton County and Chattanooga. Each of the reports will begin with a description of conditions in the six county metropolitan statistical area (Hamilton, Marion and Sequatchie counties in Tennessee and Catoosa, Dade and Walker counties in Georgia). Finally, we will make access to information about specific subregions much more accessible.

While we have made some changes, the goal of the State of Chattanooga Region Report remains the same – to provide information to the community that helps elected officials, policymakers, civic leaders and the public make better decisions about our community's future.

Please let us know what you think. If you have comments or questions, feel free to email me at deichenthal@ochscenter.org.

Sincerely,

David Eichenthal
President and CEO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In both 2006 (87%) and 2008 (90%), more Hamilton County residents identified safety from crime as very important to quality of life than any other factor.

Within the region, crime is concentrated in the City of Chattanooga. In 2007, Chattanooga accounted for one-third of the population of the metropolitan area, but 56% of property crime and 60% of violent crime.

Still, the share of crime in the region committed outside of Chattanooga is growing. Between 2003 and 2007, violent crime increased 1.8% in Chattanooga and 41.8% in the rest of the MSA, while property crime declined 4.6% in Chattanooga and increased 5.4% in the rest of the MSA.

Between 2005 and 2007, the crime rate for TBI Group A offenses declined in East Ridge and Lookout Mountain, but increased in Chattanooga, Soddy Daisy and Red Bank.

In Hamilton County, 75% of residents never or rarely worry about their personal safety. Victimization and population data suggest that African Americans and 18 to 44 year olds are overrepresented among crime victims. Survey data suggest that African Americans (43%), 18 to 29 year olds (35%) and persons living in households with incomes under $50,000 (32%) are also more likely to sometimes or often worry about their safety than the population as a whole (22%).

African American women and young people were disproportionately more likely than white women and young people to be crime victims. While women accounted for 51% of all crime victims, they accounted for 58.3% of all African American victims. While African Americans represented 29.8% of all crime victims, 43.9% of victims under 18 were African Americans.

Since 2001, arrests in Hamilton County increased by 26% to 20,923 in 2007: ten offenses (drug violations, simple assaults, DUI, shoplifting, drunkenness, aggravated assault, robbery, disorderly conduct, liquor law violations, bad checks) account for more than half of all arrests in the County.

While the Chattanooga Police Department was responsible for 64.8% of Group A offense arrests, nearly two-thirds of Group B offense arrests occurred in other parts of Hamilton County.

Arrestees were disproportionately African American, men and between the ages of 18 and 44.

87% of Hamilton County residents rated their local police as very or somewhat fair and very or somewhat responsive

Not every crime leads to an arrest, not every arrest leads to a prosecution and not every prosecution leads to incarceration. In 2007, there were 20,923 arrests in Hamilton County. In September 2008, there were 1,282 individuals in Silverdale or Hamilton County Jail. In 2006 and 2007, 867 individuals went to state prison from Hamilton County – just over half on new charges. Most individuals going to prison were men (88.5%), African American (54%) and between 25 and 44 years old (63.7%)

At the MSA level, among 14 benchmarks, Chattanooga had the highest violent crime rate and the second highest property crime rate. For the city alone, Chattanooga had the highest property crime rate and the second highest violent crime rate.

There are significant differences in crime by subregion within Hamilton County. Five subregions (Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills, Bushtown/Highland Park, South Chattanooga, Downtown and Amnicola/East Chattanooga) accounted for 14.2% of the County population, but 48.1% of robbery complaints, 45.1% of drug/narcotic violations, 37.9% of aggravated assaults, 28.8% of vandalism and more than one-quarter of burglaries and simple assaults in the county in 2007

Offenders returning from prison are concentrated in many of these same areas. Data from prior State of Chattanooga Region reports indicate that each of these five areas are among the top five in poverty, public school children eligible for free or reduced lunch and births to mothers without a high school degree and are the lowest in public school students meeting attendance requirements. In each of the five subregions, more than one in five births are to teenage mothers and more than two-thirds of births are to single mothers.

After a thirteen year, 39% decline, violent crime rates nationally increased in both 2005 and 2006. While declining again in 2007, many cities and suburbs across the United States continue to grapple with record levels of violent crime.[1]

Crime remains an important issue for American voters. In a January 2008 Pew Research Center survey, 54% of respondents identified "reducing crime" as a top domestic priority for the President and Congress – the same percentage ranked "providing health insurance to the uninsured" as a top priority. Crime reduction was a higher priority than "dealing with illegal immigration" (51%).

Here, in Hamilton County, residents believe that freedom from crime – public safety – is an important factor in determining their quality of life. In both 2006 and 2008, safety from crime was ranked higher than any other factor in determining quality of life in Hamilton County: in 2008, 90.1% of respondents to a countywide survey of 1000 residents indicated that safety from crime was very important to their quality of life.[2]

Percentage Rating "Very Important" In Determining Their Quality of Life

IMPORTANCE TO QUALITY OF LIFE	VERY IMPORTANT 2008	VERY IMPORTANT 2006
Safety from crime	90.1	87.3
Quality health care and hospitals	88.5	85.9
Quality schools	82.9	78.7
Clean air	82.7	77.5
Availability of jobs that pay a living wage	80.5	76.9
Clean streets and neighborhoods	79.5	76.4
Affordability of housing	74.1	71.5
A place where people of all backgrounds are welcome	71.6	66.3
A strong sense of community	64.4	63.2
A strong religious community	62.6	57.6
Parks and other recreational opportunities	61	56.4
Short commuting time	51.8	46.5
Arts and cultural opportunities	45.9	37.9

Source: Ochs Center survey of 1,000 Hamilton County Residents – 2006 and 2008

[1] Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report data, accessible on line at www.fbi.gov.

[2] In examining levels of crime in our region, this report utilizes a series of different sources of data:

- For the purposes of examining crime across multiple jurisdictions, we rely on data from the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which is compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The UCR was first published in 1930 and today is commonly referred to as the "official statistics." A major strength of this source of data is that with over 17,000 participating law enforcement agencies, it represents approximately 93 percent of the national population. A major weakness, however, is that it fails to reveal the "dark figures" of crimes (e.g. crimes not reported to the police): nationally, less than half of all crimes may actually be reported to the police. UCR data is also limited to a select number of serious violent and property offenses: for example, the UCR does not include data on white collar offenses or less serious offenses.

- The report also utilizes data collected and published by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for crimes committed in non-incorporated areas and cities other than Chattanooga in Hamilton County. All local law enforcement agencies in the state of Tennessee are required by law to report complaints to the TBI. TBI data includes more offenses than those in the UCR, but still does not address the issue of crimes that may occur but are never reported to law enforcement.

For data at the subregion level, the report relies extensively on incident, offense and offender level data provided by the Chattanooga Police Department, the Hamilton County Sheriff and the Tennessee Department of Correction. As a result, we are able to report offense data, jail admission, prison admission and prison release data for thirty six subregions across Hamilton County.

Finally, to supplement official and other administrative data, this report also relies on the results of a survey of 1000 residents of Hamilton County. A series of questions related to public safety, fear, police responsiveness and police fairness were asked as part of the survey.

Crime in the Chattanooga Region

Nationally, crime is transcending jurisdictional borders. An Ochs Center analysis performed for the Brookings Institution found that in the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas, nearly half of all violent crime and just over sixty percent of property crime took place outside of the metropolitan areas' most populous cities. Crime – especially violent crime – remains concentrated in larger cities, but murders, robberies, burglaries and auto thefts are now happening in satellite cities and suburbs as well.[3]

A similar pattern is also emerging in the Chattanooga region. The Chattanooga Metropolitan Statistical Area consists of Hamilton, Marion and Sequatchie Counties in Tennessee and Catoosa, Dade and Walker Counties in Georgia. In 2007, the City of Chattanooga accounted for one-third of the total population, sixty percent of violent crime and approximately fifty six percent of property crime in the region. Still, a significant percentage of the region's crime is occurring outside of the region's center city: for example, nearly half of the region's 4,694 burglaries in 2007 occurred outside of Chattanooga.

[3] The unpublished analysis was based on UCR data for 2006.

Reported Offenses, UCR, 2007

	VIOLENT CRIME	MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	FORCIBLE RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	PROPERTY CRIME	BURGLARY	LARCENY-THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
Chattanooga	2,009	11	102	524	1,372	12,484	2,384	9,072	1,028
Hamilton Co.	344	2	24	17	301	1,942	516	1,309	117
East Ridge	192	1	8	35	148	1,289	333	875	81
Catoosa Co.	80	2	9	9	60	1,128	225	749	154
Soddy-Daisy	74	0	4	6	64	493	96	363	34
Red Bank	70	1	8	12	49	518	144	344	30
Sequatchie Co.	32	0	2	1	29	94	37	48	9
Fort Oglethorpe	30	0	3	8	19	675	100	552	23
South Pittsburg	26	0	1	2	23	133	28	93	12
Collegedale	19	0	2	3	14	242	20	218	4
Dade Co.	19	0	2	1	16	191	54	113	24
Ringgold	19	0	0	2	17	215	35	167	13
Rossville	16	0	1	4	11	239	46	179	14
Dunlap	14	0	1	1	12	140	18	109	13
Chickamauga	12	0	0	0	12	91	13	75	3
Signal Mountain	9	0	1	0	8	84	19	64	1
Whitwell	5	0	0	1	4	61	10	45	6
Jasper	4	0	0	0	4	94	31	57	6
Kimball	4	0	0	2	2	73	2	62	9
Trenton	3	0	0	0	3	36	7	23	6
New Hope	1	0	0	0	1	9	4	5	0
Lookout Mountain	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0
Lookout Mountain	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	14	0
Subtotal	973	6	66	104	797	7,768	1,740	5,469	559
Other	360	1	10	22	327	2,147	570	1,431	146
Non-Chattanooga Total	1,333	7	76	126	1,124	9,915	2,310	6,900	705

Moreover, the "non-city" share of regional crime is growing and crime within the region overall is growing at a much faster rate outside of the city than in Chattanooga. For every one of the seven crime categories measured by the UCR, the percentage of offenses in the region that took place in Chattanooga declined between 2003 and 2007.[4] During this period, Chattanooga's population and the MSA's population have increased at the same rate. The change in the distribution of crime in the MSA appears to be the result of dramatic increases in the number of crimes being reported in the "non-city" portion of the MSA as crime remained relatively constant in Chattanooga.

From 2003 to 2007, violent crime increased 1.8% in Chattanooga and 41.8% in the rest of the MSA. While property crime declined by 4.6% in Chattanooga, it rose by 5.4% in the rest of the region.

Change in Number of Reported Offenses 2003 – 2007

	Change in Crime City of Chattanooga	Change in Crimes Non-City Parts of Chattanooga MSA
Violent Crime	1.8%	41.8
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	-42.1%	-41.7%
Forcible Rape	14.6%	33.3
Robbery	12.9%	14.5%
Aggravated Assault	-2.1%	46.7%
Property Crime	-4.6%	5.4%
Burglary	1.1%	14.5%
Larceny – Theft	-2.5%	4.2%
Motor Vehicle Theft	-27.8%	-8.1%

A more detailed review of UCR data finds significant variation in crime trends in different parts of the region. While property crime and violent crime remained largely unchanged in the unincorporated parts of Hamilton County patrolled by the Sheriff, other incorporated parts of Hamilton County and other parts of the MSA experienced significant increases between 2003 and 2007:[5]

- In Catoosa County the number of violent crimes doubled, from 40 to 80 reports, while property crime increased by 7.3%
- In other small jurisdictions in Georgia, there were other significant increases: for example, Chickamauga went from 1 reported violent crime to 12 and the number of property crimes doubled
- In Soddy Daisy, the number of violent crimes increased by 45.1%, from 51 to 74 while property crime increased by 53.6%
- In East Ridge, the number of violent crimes increased 60% and property crime increased by 4.5%
- Property crime in Red Bank increased by 7.2%
- And in Marion County, between 2003 and 2007, the number of violent crimes in South Pittsburg increased from 8 to 26 and property crime nearly doubled from 70 to 133

[4] 2003 was the first year that Sequatchie County was included in the Chattanooga MSA.

[5] Detailed information on UCR data is not available for all cities or counties within the MSA

Changes in UCR Crime Outside of Chattanooga

2007
2003

	VIOLENT CRIME	MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	FORCIBLE RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	PROPERTY CRIME	BURGLARY	LARCENY-THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
Catoosa Co.	80	2	9	9	60	1,128	225	749	154
	40	2	2	11	25	1,051	236	700	115
Fort Oglethorpe	30	0	3	8	19	675	100	552	23
	56	1	1	11	43	729	75	627	27
Rossville	16	0	1	4	11	239	46	179	14
	16	0	0	11	5	268	55	196	17
Sequatchie Co.	32	0	2	1	29	94	37	48	9
	38	0	4	0	34	159	45	85	29
Dunlap	14	0	1	1	12	140	18	109	13
	6	0	1	0	5	150	21	110	19
Hamilton Co.	344	2	24	17	301	1,942	516	1,309	117
	352	5	16	21	310	1,934	504	1,278	149
Collegedale	19	0	2	3	14	242	20	218	4
	11	1	3	0	7	264	39	217	8
East Ridge	192	1	8	35	148	1,289	333	875	81
	120	1	7	22	90	1,233	230	912	91
Lookout Mountain	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0
	1	0	0	0	1	18	8	9	1
Red Bank	70	1	8	12	49	518	144	344	30
	66	0	6	10	50	483	135	316	32
Signal Mountain	9	0	1	0	8	84	19	64	1
	2	0	2	0	0	43	5	38	0
Soddy-Daisy	74	0	4	6	64	493	96	363	34
	51	0	4	3	44	321	67	236	18
South Pittsburg	26	0	1	2	23	133	28	93	12
	8	0	3	0	5	70	5	58	7
Whitwell	5	0	0	1	4	61	10	45	6
	14	0	0	0	14	81	33	35	13
Jasper	4	0	0	0	4	94	31	57	6
	19	0	0	1	18	122	21	66	35
Kimball	4	0	0	2	2	73	2	62	9
	4	0	0	2	2	81	11	59	11
New Hope	1	0	0	0	1	9	4	5	0
	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1
Dade Co.	19	0	2	1	16	191	54	113	24
	11	0	2	2	7	152	49	88	15
Trenton	3	0	0	0	3	36	7	23	6
	0	0	0	0	0	41	5	32	4
Ringgold	19	0	0	2	17	215	35	167	13
	5	0	0	4	1	177	28	143	6
Chickamauga	12	0	0	0	12	91	13	75	3
	1	0	0	0	1	45	9	34	2
Lookout Mountain	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	14	0
	0	0	0	0	0	17	9	7	1

Not all crime leads to an arrest, not all arrests lead to a prosecution and not all prosecutions lead to incarceration of more than a year in a prison. In 2007, there were a total of 11,248 crime complaints captured by the UCR in the Chattanooga MSA. During the most recent one year period where data is available, there were 745 individuals convicted in one of the six counties in the MSA who were sentenced to a state prison system.

The number of offenders admitted to prison roughly tracked the population of the individual counties in the region. In the case of two North Georgia counties, however, the regional share of prison admissions exceeded overall population share. Walker County accounted for 12.5% of the MSA population and 16.2% of all prison admissions. Dade County accounted for just 3.1% of the MSA population, but 7.7% of all prison admissions.

Prison Admissions in Chattanooga Region

	FY 2007 PRISON ADMISSIONS	% OF MSA ADMISSIONS	% OF MSA POPULATION
Hamilton	437	58.7	64.2
Walker	121	16.2	12.5
Catoosa	85	11.4	12.1
Dade	57	7.7	3.1
Marion	25	3.4	5.5
Sequatchie	20	2.7	2.6
	745	100.0	100.0

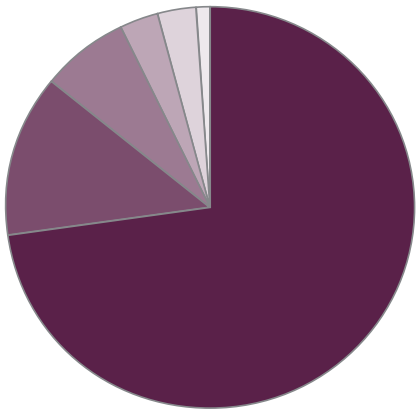
Population - 2007 U.S. Census Bureau Estimate

Prison Admission - County of Conviction
http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/pdf/FY07adm.pdf
http://www.tennessee.gov/correction/pdf/0607anlrpt.pdf

Crime in Hamilton County

In 2007, Chattanooga accounted for 73% of all violent offenses in Hamilton County, followed by the unincorporated part of the County (13%) and East Ridge (7%). Chattanooga accounted for 74% of property crimes in the County, followed by the unincorporated part of the County (11%) and East Ridge (8%).

Violent Crime in Hamilton County, 2007



- 73% Chattanooga
- 13% Hamilton County
- 7% East Ridge
- 3% Soddy-Daisy
- 3% Red Bank
- 1% Collegedale
- 0% Signal Mountain
- 0% Lookout Mountain

As part of the 2006 State of Chattanooga Region Report, TBI Group A offense data was examined for select offenses in seven of the largest jurisdictions in Hamilton County.[6] In 2005, these jurisdictions accounted for a total of 29,773 incidents. By 2007, these jurisdictions accounted for an additional 1,262 incidents -- a 4.2% increase over a three year period: 83% of the net increase occurred in Chattanooga, 9.6% in Soddy Daisy and 5.4% in Red Bank.

In Chattanooga, declines in murder and destruction/damage/vandalism offenses were offset by significant increases in other reported offenses, including drugs (59.7%), shoplifting (23.2%), robbery (18.3%) and aggravated assault (15.9%). In Soddy Daisy, the overall increase was driven by shoplifting, burglary and motor vehicle theft and in Red Bank, the increase was driven largely by vandalism, drugs and burglary.

TBI Group A Offenders in 3 Jurisdictions, 2005 and 2007

Chattanooga

	2005	2007	% Change
Destruction	3971	3502	-11.8
Simple Assault	2776	3129	12.7
Burglary	2199	2360	7.3
Shoplifting	1328	1636	23.2
Aggravated Assault	1186	1375	15.9
Motor Vehicle Theft	1044	1034	-1.0
Drugs	938	1498	59.7
Robbery	443	524	18.3
Murder	24	11	-54.2

Soddy Daisy

	2005	2007	% Change
Destruction	106	106	0.0
Simple Assault	120	118	-1.7
Burglary	76	96	26.3
Shoplifting	29	59	103.4
Aggravated Assault	55	64	16.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	23	33	43.5
Drugs	76	68	-10.5
Robbery	5	6	20.0
Murder	0	0	0.0

Red Bank

	2005	2007	% Change
Destruction	85	160	88.2
Simple Assault	229	260	13.5
Burglary	114	144	26.3
Shoplifting	35	32	-8.6
Aggravated Assault	55	50	-9.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	38	27	-28.9
Drugs	66	110	66.7
Robbery	11	12	9.1
Murder	0	1	NA

[6] Reliable 2005 offense data was not available at that time for offenses reported to the Hamilton County Sheriff for offenses that occurred in the unincorporated parts of the County. Group A offenses include 47 individual crimes in 22 crime categories: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Counterfeiting, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism, Drug/Narcotic, Embezzlement, Extortion, Fraud, Gambling, Homicide, Kidnapping, Larceny/Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, Pornography, Prostitution, Robbery, Sex Offenses, Stolen Property and Weapon Offenses.

In most of Hamilton County, the majority of reported crimes are property offenses.[7] Signal Mountain experienced the lowest percentage of property offenses and recorded the highest percentage of drug offenses. In fact, the percent of drug crimes in Signal Mountain jumped from 20 percent in 2005 to 33.3 percent in 2007. Since 2005, Soddy Daisy has consistently been the jurisdiction with the highest percentage of crime attributed to violent offenses.

Crime rates are determined by creating a ratio based on number of offenses and population. For the last three consecutive years, Chattanooga has recorded the highest rate of Group A offenses in Hamilton County. In 2007, for example, for every 100,000 persons in living in Chattanooga, there were 16,184.7 offenses, compared to 425.3 for Lookout Mountain, which had the lowest crime rate in the County. The fastest growth in overall crime rate since 2005 took place in Soddy Daisy and Red Bank.

[7] TBI categories include a wider variety of offenses than the UCR. For example, TBI includes robbery and white collar crimes such as fraud, blackmail and bribery in its classification of property crime: UCR counts robbery as a violent offense and does not include white collar crimes in Part I offenses.

Crime Rate and Reported Offenders per 100,000 Residents

	2005	2006	2007	Change from 2005-2007
Chattanooga	15,476.0	16,213.9	16,184.7	709.7
Collegedale	7,228.6	6,805.3	7,292.1	63.5
East Ridge	14,377.8	13,884.3	13,924.9	-452.9
Lookout Mountain	991.6	843	425.3	-566.3
Red Bank	10,257.1	9,849.9	11,047.1	790
Signal Mountain	3,219.1	4,562.0	3,925.7	706.6
Soddy Daisy	7,853.0	8,018.4	8,819.6	965.6

Perceptions of Public Safety

While complaint and offense data are important measures of crime, survey data often provides an important insight into perceptions of public safety. When asked how frequently they worried about their safety, 51 percent of respondents to the survey of Hamilton County residents reported they never worried, 24 percent rarely worried, 15 percent sometimes worried and 7 percent said they often worried: concern regarding personal safety remained largely unchanged from 2006.

Women were more likely to indicate that they often or sometimes worried about their public safety: in 2008, 18 percent of males and 24 percent of females reported that they sometimes or often worried compared to 17 percent of males and 29 percent of females in 2006.

Respondents 18-29 years of age remained the age group most likely to indicate concern, with 35 percent indicating that they sometimes or often worried about their physical safety, up just 2 percentage points from 2006.

African American respondents were more than twice as likely as white respondents to report that they sometimes or often worry about their physical safety. Between 2006 and 2008, the percentage of African Americans who indicated that they sometimes or often worried increased from 35% to 43%. Among white respondents, the percentage remained largely unchanged.

Respondents with household income under $50,000 were nearly three times (32.1%) more likely to often or sometimes worry about their physical safety as those living in households with $50,000 or more in income (11.1%)

Survey respondents were also asked how often they worried about being robbed or burglarized. Overall, 65% of respondents never or rarely worry about robbery or burglary: 32% of the respondents sometimes or often worried about being a victim of robbery or burglary. The greatest difference in worry about victimization is between white and African American respondents: nearly half of African Americans (49%), sometimes or often worried about robbery and burglary compared to 28% of white respondents. And 42 percent of renters compared to 29 percent of home owners stated that they sometimes or often worried about being a robbery or burglary victim.

The high percentage of worry among renters persisted regardless of the location of the rented home. For instance, among renters, 44 percent of those who live in Chattanooga and 41% of those who live in the rest of Hamilton County reported that they sometimes or often worried about robbery and burglary.

To explore the issue of domestic violence, respondents were asked how frequently they worry about "being hit, pushed or slapped by someone you know." Among all respondents surveyed, 80% responded that they never worried, 14% rarely worried, 4% sometimes worried and 2% often worried: these results are virtually unchanged from the 2006 survey.

Victimization/Complainants in Hamilton County

In 2007, there were 25,882 crime victims in Hamilton County: most Hamilton County crime victims (66.7%) reported crimes to the Chattanooga Police Department.

According to data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, a majority of Hamilton County crime victims were women, white and between the ages of 18 and 44. Victimization data for Hamilton County – when compared to population data – suggests that African Americans and those between the ages of 18 and 44 are significantly overrepresented among crime victims.

Demographic Characteristics of Crime Victims: Hamilton County, 2007

Race/Ethnicity	2007 Crime Victims	2007 Population
White	68.00%	76.30%
African American	29.80%	20.40%
Latino	2.80%	2.90%

Age	2007 Crime Victims	2007 Population
Under 18	9.40%	22.30%
18-24	19.80%	10.00%
25-34	22.20%	11.80%
35-44	18.60%	14.00%
45-54	15.20%	15.30%
55-64	8.50%	12.70%
65 and older	6.20%	14.20%

Gender	2007 Crime Victims	2007 Population
Male	48.90%	48.10%
Female	51.00%	51.90%

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation;
2007 American Community Survey

Data from the Chattanooga Police Department suggest a similar pattern, though the overrepresentation of African Americans among victims appears to be greater in countywide data than in data just from Chattanooga.

Demographic Characteristics of Crime Victims: Chattanooga, 2005-2007

Race/Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2007 Population
White	58.4	54.7	55.8	59.9%
African American	40.2	41.2	39.9	37.2%
Latino	0.7	3.5	3.4	3.9%
Other	0.7	0.6	0.9	--

Age	2005	2006	2007	2007 Population
Under 18	8.5	7.8	9.3	21.4%
18-24	20.8	20.6	21	10.5%
25-34	23.9	23.6	23.5	12.9%
35-44	18.8	18.6	18	12.1%
45-54	14.8	15.4	14.9	15.3%
55-64	7.6	8.2	7.6	13.3%
65 and older	5.5	5.8	5.7	14.5%

Gender	2005	2006	2007	2007 Population
Male	46.6	48.5	46.7	47.4%
Female	53.4	51.5	53.3	52.6%

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation;
2007 American Community Survey

These patterns may vary significantly among different subgroups. For example, countywide, women account for 51% of victims: but among African Americans, women account for 58.3% of victims compared to 48.1% of white crime victims.

A higher percentage of African American crime victims are younger, when compared to white crime victims. Among African Americans, 58.7% of crime victims were thirty four years old or younger compared to 48.1% of white crime victims. The greatest difference was in victimization of children – victims under the age of 18 accounted for 13.6% of all African American crime victims compared to just 7.6% of all white crime victims.

Another way to assess victimization among African American children is to note that while African Americans represented 29.8% of all crime victims countywide, they represented 43.9% of all crime victims under the age of 18 in 2007.

Law Enforcement Response to Crime in the Chattanooga Region

The law enforcement response to crime in the Chattanooga region is a function of the efforts of multiple agencies at multiple levels of government.

In the vast majority of cases, local police agencies are responsible for the investigation of crimes. Seven municipalities in Hamilton County have their own local police department. The Hamilton County Sheriff is responsible for the investigation of state crimes that occur outside of the jurisdiction of these municipal agencies.

When there is an arrest, most crimes result in prosecution through the State criminal justice system. Those cases are tried by the District Attorney General, who has jurisdiction for the entire county. In some cases, those involving violation of the federal criminal law, the United States Attorney will have prosecutorial jurisdiction.

Men awaiting trial in either a State or federal court will be housed in the Hamilton County Jail. Women will be housed in the Silverdale Correctional Facility, which is under the supervision of the Hamilton County Department of Correction and operated by contract by a private firm. Convicted misdemeanants – both men and women – are held in Silverdale.

Offenders who are prosecuted by the State and convicted will either be incarcerated locally in Silverdale or by the Tennessee Department of Correction. They may also be placed on probation through the State Bureau of Probation and Parole or through programs run by the County Department of Corrections. Offenders who are prosecuted federally and convicted will either be incarcerated through the federal Bureau of Prisons or placed on probation, with supervision by the federal Probation Service.

Arrests in Hamilton County

Since 2001, arrests in Hamilton County are up by 26.4% with a total of 20,923 in 2007 according to data from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation: the 2007 total was slightly below the peak arrest year, 2006, when there were a total of 21,460 arrests in the County.

A majority of arrests in Hamilton County are for less serious offenses – those designated as Group B offenses – which include DUI, drunkenness and disorderly conduct. In fact, 6,014 arrests in Hamilton County in 2007 were for offenses simply categorized as "other" Group B offenses. Group B offense arrests are up 30.8% since 2001.

There were 10,243 arrests for Group A offenses in Hamilton County in 2007 – up from 8,390 in 2001. Among Group A offenses, drug/narcotic violations account for 10.6% of all arrests and arrests are up by 61.5% since 2001; simple assault arrests account for 10% of all arrests in the County and are up by 19.6% since 2001. Notably, robbery arrests in Hamilton County – 3.6% of all arrests – are up by 512.3% since 2001.

Together, the ten most frequent arrest offenses account for 51.6% of all arrests in the County. When combined with the "other" Group B offense category, these categories accounted for more than 80% of all arrests in the county in 2007.

Top Ten Offenses - Arrests In Hamilton County, 2007

	2001	2007	% TOTAL	Change Since 2001 %
Drug/Narcotic Violations	1,371	2,214	10.6	61.5
Simple Assault	1,750	2,093	10.0	19.6
DUI	1,790	1,123	5.4	-37.3
Theft - Shoplifting	1,403	1,085	5.2	-22.7
Drunkenness	476	923	4.4	93.9
Aggravated Assault	842	877	4.2	4.2
Robbery	122	747	3.6	512.3
Disorderly Conduct	341	697	3.3	104.4
Liquor Law Violations	195	558	2.7	186.2
Bad Checks	700	487	2.3	-30.4
Subtotal	8,990	10,804	51.6	20.2
Other Group B Arrests	4,242	6014	28.7	41.8
TOTAL ARRESTS	16,555	20,923		26.4

More than 80% of all arrests in Hamilton County are executed by either the Chattanooga Police Department or the Hamilton County Sheriff. In 2007, the Chattanooga Police Department was responsible for 64.8% of all arrests for Group A offenses in the county; the Hamilton County Sheriff was responsible for another 17.3% of Group A offense arrests. In 2007, Chattanooga Police Department Group A arrests were up 18.2% from 2001 and Hamilton County Sheriff Group A arrests were up 17%.

The Hamilton County Sheriff accounted for 42% of Group B arrests countywide; the Chattanooga Police Department accounted for 35.4%; and the East Ridge Police Department accounted for 9.8%: by comparison, East Ridge accounted for just 5.7% of Group B arrests. While the number of Group B offense arrests by the Sheriff remained relatively stable (down 8.4% since 2001), the number of Group B arrests by both the Chattanooga Police Department (up 82.9% since 2001) and East Ridge Police Department (up 172.3%) increased significantly.

Hamilton County Arrests, 2007 by Race, Age and Gender

Race/Ethnicity	Group A Arrestees 2007	Group B Arrestees	2007 Population
White	52.0%	58.4%	76.3%
African American	47.3%	40.7%	20.4%
Latino	1.8%	3.4%	2.9%

Age	Group A Arrestees 2007	Group B Arrestees	2007 Population
Under 18	11.5%	5.6%	22.3%
18-24	30.9%	29.1%	10.0%
25-34	26.4%	29.0%	11.8%
35-44	17.4%	19.9%	14.0%
45-54	10.5%	12.9%	15.3%
55-64	2.6%	3.1%	12.7%
65 and older	0.7%	0.5%	14.2%

Gender	Group A Arrestees 2007	Group B Arrestees	2007 Population
Male	72.4%	75.9%	48.1%
Female	27.6%	24.1%	51.9%

A majority of individuals arrested in Hamilton County – both for Group A and Group B offenses – are white. African Americans, who make up just 20.4% of the County population, however, account for more than 40% of all arrests in the County. Since 2001, the percentage of Group A offense arrestees who are African American has increased from 43.3% to 47.3% and the percentage of Group B offense arrestees has increased from 33.4% to 40.7%. Since 2001, the increase in the number of African American arrestees accounts for just over 65% of the overall increase in arrests for Group A offenses and for just over 64% of the net increase in arrests for Group B offenses in Hamilton County.

The overwhelming majority of arrestees in Hamilton County are men – 72.4% of individuals arrested for Group A offenses and 75.9% of those arrested for Group B offenses. Still, the total number of women arrested in Hamilton County in 2007 – 5,394 – was 21.7% higher than the number of women arrested in 2001.

Most people arrested in Hamilton County are between the ages of 18 and 34 years old: this age range accounts for 57.3% of all arrests for Group A offenses and 58.1% of arrests for Group B offenses, but just 21.8% of the overall population.

Since 2001, Group A offense arrests are down for those under the age of 18, but up in every age category. The greatest increase in Group A arrests was actually among those in the 45 to 54 year old category (arrests are up 66.9%) and the 55 to 64 year old category (arrests are up 56.5%). Group B arrests are also up for these age groups – 62.2% for 45 to 64 year olds and more than 100% for 55 to 64 year olds.

Police Responsiveness and Fairness

Responsiveness and fairness are important aspects of effective policing. When asked "how responsive are the police in your neighborhood to your concerns?," 87% or respondents reported that the police were very or somewhat responsive compared to 11% who reported that the police were not responsive. Whites and men were somewhat more likely than African Americans or women to rate police as "very responsive."

Percentage of Police Responsiveness (Gender)

	2006			2008		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Very Responsive	50	47	54	51	46	56
Somewhat Responsive	38	40	36	36	41	33
Total Responsive	**88**	**87**	**90**	**87**	**87**	**89**
Not to Responsive	9	10	8	8	9	8
Not at All Responsive	3	3	3	3	4	3
Total Nonresponsive	**12**	**13**	**11**	**11**	**13**	**11**

Percentage of Police Responsiveness (Race)

	2006			2008		
	Total	African Americans	Whites	Total	African Americans	Whites
Very Responsive	50	43	52	51	47	54
Somewhat Responsive	38	38	38	36	40	35
Total Responsive	**88**	**81**	**90**	**87**	**87**	**89**
Not to Responsive	9	14	7	8	8	8
Not at All Responsive	3	5	3	3	5	3
Total Nonresponsive	**12**	**19**	**10**	**10**	**13**	**11**

Percentage of Police Responsiveness (Age)

2006

	Total	18-29	30-44	45-59	>60
Very Responsive	50	39	51	45	61
Somewhat Responsive	38	38	41	43	30
Total Responsive	**88**	**77**	**92**	**88**	**91**
Not to Responsive	9	16	5	10	9
Not at All Responsive	3	7	3	3	0.9
Total Nonresponsive	**12**	**23**	**8**	**13**	**9.9**

2008

	Total	18-29	30-44	45-59	>60
Very Responsive	51	34	49	51	51
Somewhat Responsive	36	45	37	40	37
Total Responsive	**87**	**79**	**86**	**91**	**88**
Not to Responsive	8	14	10	7	8
Not at All Responsive	3	7	5	1	3
Total Nonresponsive	**10**	**21**	**15**	**8**	**11**

Source: Ochs Center Survey of 1,000 Hamilton County Residents. 2006 and 2008

When asked about the fairness of police, 87% of respondents indicated that the police were very or somewhat fair. African Americans (37%) and 18-29 year olds (33%) were less likely than other survey respondents to rate the police as "very fair": in the case of African Americans though, the percentage rating the police as very fair increased from 25% in 2006.

Percentage of Police Fairness (Gender)

	2006			2008		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Very Fair	50	48	51	51	50	52
Somewhat Fair	40	42	37	35	36	36
Total Fairness	90	90	88	87	86	88
Not to Fair	8	7	9	9	9	9
Not at All Fair	3	3	3	3	5	2
Total Unfairness	11	10	12	12	14	11

Percentage of Police Fairness (Race)

	2006			2008		
	Total	African Americans	Whites	Total	African Americans	Whites
Very Fair	50	25	57	51	37	56
Somewhat Fair	40	54	36	36	47	34
Total Fairness	90	79	93	87	77	90
Not to Fair	8	17	5	9	12	8
Not at All Fair	3	4	3	3	4	2
Total Unfairness	11	21	8	12	16	10

Percentage of Police Fairness (Age)

	2006				
	Total	18-29	30-44	45-59	>60
Very Fair	50	35	52	46	59
Somewhat Fair	40	47	39	40	36
Total Fairness	90	82	91	86	95
Not to Fair	8	14	7	10	4
Not at All Fair	3	4	3	5	1
Total Unfairness	11	18	10	15	5

	2008				
	Total	18-29	30-44	45-59	>60
Very Fair	51	33	52	46	60
Somewhat Fair	36	44	35	44	29
Total Fairness	87	77	87	90	89
Not to Fair	9	20	9	7	7
Not at All Fair	3	0	5	3	3
Total Unfairness	12	20	14	10	10

Source: Ochs Center Survey of 1,000 Hamilton County Residents. 2006 and 2008

Incarceration and Incapacitation

When individuals are arrested for State offenses in Hamilton County, their arrest is processed through the Hamilton County jail. While the majority of offenders are processed, arraigned and then released – either to await trial or after their case has been disposed, many remain in custody pending trial or disposition of their case.

According to data from the Tennessee Department of Correction, as of September 30, 2008, there were 1,382 individuals in Silverdale and the Hamilton County Jail: 51% of inmates were awaiting trial and 29.3% were convicted misdemeanants. Among those individuals awaiting trial, 395 – or 28.6% of the total population – were awaiting trial on misdemeanor charges.

Data from the Hamilton County Sheriff's office indicate that there were a total of 22,658 jail admissions in 2007 – down from a peak of 23,359 in 2006, but up by 14% since 2004. Not every jail stay is the same – some offenders are processed more quickly, able to obtain bond or are released on their own recognizance. In 2007, 72.4% of individuals admitted to Hamilton County Jail were there for two days.

While a minority of inmates – 25.4% in 2007 -- stay in jail for more than two weeks, these long term stays account for a large percentage of the total jail capacity. Since 2004, while African Americans have accounted for less than half of all arrests resulting in a jail admission, they have accounted for a majority of jail stays of two weeks or greater, reaching a peak of 55.8% in 2006 and 2007.[8]

[8] Absent data on length of stay by offense or by inmate income, it is difficult to explain the disparity in length of jail stay. A number of factors other than race, however, may be the cause of the disparity.

Long Term Jail Stay by Race

	2004 N=19,883		2005 N=20,422		2006 N=22,308		2007 N=22,585	
	All Arrests %	Jail > 2 Weeks	All Arrests %	Jail > 2 Weeks	All Arrests %	Jail > 2 Weeks	All Arrests %	Jail > 2 Weeks
White	53.4	44.8	52.4	43	50.6	39.2	49.8	38.9
African American	43.3	50.9	43.6	52.2	45.3	55.8	45.6	55.8
Latino	2.9	4.1	3.5	4.4	3.8	4.9	4.4	5.2
Other	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2

In 2006 and 2007, a total of 867 offenders from Hamilton County were admitted to the State prison system. Just over half of those offenders – 50.7% -- were new commitments: 38.7% of prison admissions from Hamilton County were the result of parole or probation violations.

In 2006 and 2007, the overwhelming majority of offenders going to prison were men – 88.5%. A majority of prison admissions from Hamilton County were African American -- 54% -- and 63.7% were between the ages of 25 and 44: significantly, the percentage of offenders between the ages of 18 and 24 jumped from 16.7% to 21.6% in a single year.

Prison admissions, Hamilton County

Race/Ethnicity	2006 N=460	2007 N=407	2006-2007
White	46.7%	42.3%	44.6
African American	52.2%	56.0%	54.0
Latino	1.1%	1.7%	1.4

Age	2006 N=460	2007 N=407	2006-2007
Under 18	0.0%	0.5%	0.2
18-24	16.7%	21.6%	19.0
25-34	36.3%	33.7%	35.1
35-44	29.3%	27.8%	28.6
45-54	14.6%	13.0%	13.8
55-64	2.8%	2.9%	2.9
65 and older	0.2%	0.5%	0.3

Gender	2006 N=460	2007 N=407	2006-2007
Male	89.8%	87.0%	88.5
Female	10.2%	13.0%	11.5

In 2006 and 2007, nearly one in five individuals going from Hamilton County to prison – either on new commitments or violations – were convicted of drug offenses; 17.6% were convicted of offenses related to fraud or theft; together, 44.5% of offenders were convicted of assault, burglary or robbery related offenses.

Hamilton County, 2006-2007 Prison Admissions by Offense

2006-7 Prison Admissions by Offense

Drug Related Offenses	166	19.1%
Offenses related to Fraud or Theft	153	17.6 %
Burglary related offenses	135	15.6 %
Assault and weapon related offenses	127	14.6 %
Robbery related offenses	124	14.3 %
Other	52	6.0 %
Offenses related to Homicide or Manslaughter	41	4.7 %
Habitual Traffic	28	3.2 %
Sex Offenses	24	2.8 %
DUI	17	2.0 %

Very few offenders who are sentenced to prison spend the remainder of their lives there: most eventually come back to the community.

In 2006 and 2007, 1,036 individuals initially convicted in Hamilton County were released from the State prison system – in other words, nearly two hundred more offenders were returning to Hamilton County than being sent to prison over the two year period.

In both 2006 and 2007, most individuals returning from prison were coming with some form of continued supervision: in both years, however, more than one third of offenders released from prison were without supervision and had been released at the expiration of their sentence.

Offenders Released to Hamilton County

	2006 N=525	2007 N=511
Expiration	33.9%	35.6%
Parole	29.9%	29.7%
Probation	22.9%	20.0%
Community Corrections	8.6%	11.7%
Other Jurisdictions	4.8%	2.9%

Just as most offenders going to prison from Hamilton County are African American and men, most offenders who were released in 2006 and 2007 were African American and more than 90% were men. In both years, however, a majority of released offenders were over the age of 35 (51.8% in 2006 and 51.1% in 2007).

Does the Chattanooga Region Have a Lot of Crime?

In the area of crime, cross jurisdictional comparisons are made easier by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Still, there are obstacles to accurate comparison. Not all participating law enforcements provide complete data to UCR.

Crime Rates for Benchmark MSAs and Cities

	MSA Violent Crime	MSA Property Crime	MSA Murder
Chattanooga	663.8	4448.9	3.6
Fayetteville	618.0	5878.6	8.7
Reno	517.0	3717.6	5.4
Huntsville	493.2	4182.6	8.1
Lansing	447.8	2599.7	4.6
Ann Arbor	335.5	2657.3	1.7
Eugene	307.8	4075.4	0.3
Salem	297.2	3701.4	1.0
Boise	267.9	2485.0	3.6
Allentown	259.0	2441.6	4.6
Fort Wayne	214.9	3064.7	6.3
Columbia	NA	NA	NA
Rockford	NA	NA	NA
Winston Salem	NA	NA	NA
AVERAGE	402.0	3568.4	4.4

	City Violent Crime	City Property Crime	City Murder
Chattanooga	1295.8	8052.0	7.1
Fayetteville	789.7	7546.2	12.6
Reno	706.4	4396.9	7.9
Huntsville	814.1	6335.0	12.4
Lansing	1094.7	3628.9	14.1
Ann Arbor	263.7	2457.3	0.0
Eugene	288.9	5292.4	0.7
Salem	377.4	4813.4	1.9
Boise	325.5	3101.4	5.0
Allentown	809.1	4963.8	18.6
Fort Wayne	306.7	4058.8	9.7
Columbia	1279.1	5776.1	13.3
Rockford	1354.4	5987.9	13.5
Winston Salem	NA	NA	NA
AVERAGE	746.6	4203.5	9.0

Nevertheless, UCR data remains the best means of comparing Chattanooga's crime conditions with those in other, comparable midsize cities and regions. For 2007, in a comparison of fourteen cities and metropolitan areas based on UCR data:[9]

- At the MSA level, Chattanooga had the highest violent crime rate – more than fifty percent higher than the average of the benchmark MSAs and more than three times the rate of the lowest benchmark MSA, Fort Wayne. The Chattanooga MSA had the second highest property crime rate – nearly 25% higher than the average.
- At the City level, Chattanooga had the second highest violent crime rate – 73.5% higher than the average for all benchmarks. Among the benchmark cities, Chattanooga had the highest property crime rate – nearly double the benchmark city average and three times the rate of the lowest benchmark city, Ann Arbor.[10]
- At both the City level and the MSA level, Chattanooga's murder rate is lower than the average for the benchmark jurisdictions.

Crime and Public Safety – Subregion Analysis

Within Hamilton County, there is wide disparity in crime rates. Some parts of Hamilton County are probably among the safest places in the United States: crime is a rare, even exceptional, event. In other parts of the county, however, crime – serious crime – is a regular occurrence. For example, in Harrison Bay, there were a total of 17 burglaries in all of 2007: in Brainerd, the same number of burglaries occurred in less than one month.

[9] For the 2006 State of Chattanooga Region Report, thirteen benchmark cities were identified based on population and their role as the center cities of midsize counties. These same benchmark cities will be used in all of the 2008 State of Chattanooga Region Report reports as well.

[10] Crime rates are determined based on population estimates used for the UCR. The population for Chattanooga in the UCR does not fully reflect the recent changes in Census Bureau population estimates.

Assault, burglary, drug, robbery and vandalism complaints per 100,000 residents by subregion (2006)

	Robbery Rate	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault Rate	Burglary Rate	Vandalism	Drug Rate
Amnicola/East Chattanooga	357.3	702.2	960.9	1823.3	2439.3	2673.4
Apison	0.0	32.1	181.9	214.0	406.5	32.1
Bakewell	0.0	323.3	582.0	727.4	614.3	436.5
Birchwood	29.5	191.7	707.7	663.4	810.9	427.5
Bonny Oaks/Highway 58	528.1	330.0	940.6	1056.1	1072.6	742.6
Brainerd	770.3	564.9	860.2	2028.5	1874.4	641.9
Bushtown/Highland Park	797.3	1003.1	1427.5	2494.9	2752.1	1594.7
Collegedale	92.2	350.5	1226.6	996.0	968.4	1586.3
Dallas Bay/Lakesite	9.7	251.5	599.7	473.9	715.7	570.7
Downtown	732.8	1206.9	2428.2	1824.7	4497.1	3850.6
Dupont/Murray Hills	276.4	132.2	360.6	1045.7	1262.0	492.8
East Brainerd	75.1	175.3	275.4	388.1	425.7	112.7
East Ridge	159.9	528.1	1860.5	1225.8	1327.5	1555.2
Falling Water/Browntown	0.0	138.0	276.0	565.8	565.8	248.4
Glenwood/Eastdale	548.4	981.4	1053.5	1529.8	2467.9	1371.0
Harrison	12.8	384.8	769.5	500.2	833.7	615.6
Harrison Bay	0.0	227.1	716.3	366.9	698.8	541.6
Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place	644.2	211.5	721.1	961.4	1586.4	288.4
Hixson	89.3	463.0	706.6	527.9	536.1	519.8
Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn	27.7	166.5	541.0	721.3	984.9	568.7
Lupton City/Norcross	117.0	167.1	451.2	869.0	902.4	250.7
Middle Valley	11.4	193.8	706.9	535.9	957.7	912.1
Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend	65.6	131.3	328.2	564.5	708.9	223.2
North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC	213.1	365.4	1141.7	1065.6	1598.4	822.0
Northgate/Big Ridge	218.1	127.2	436.2	472.6	1036.0	236.3
Ooltewah/Summit	48.0	143.9	594.8	633.2	853.8	479.7
Red Bank	167.1	629.2	2133.3	1130.6	747.1	1061.7
Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills	1450.1	1510.1	1749.8	3032.1	3187.9	2948.2
Riverview/Stuart Heights	124.4	124.4	373.1	886.2	637.4	124.4
Signal Mtn (Town Area)	0.0	93.2	512.7	403.9	559.3	1677.8
Soddy Daisy	37.3	820.1	1615.3	1304.7	1689.9	1503.5
South Chattanooga	749.6	662.8	1159.9	1933.1	2248.7	1656.9
Tyner/Greenwood	253.0	230.0	621.0	2242.7	1794.1	333.5
Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn	12.5	87.8	225.7	351.1	451.4	225.7
Westview/Mountain Shadows	24.7	147.9	542.5	357.5	530.1	591.8
Woodmore/Dalewood	659.4	457.2	1099.0	1617.7	1855.1	474.8

Note: Highlighted neighborhoods are those locations where there are local police departments. Data from each local department was not available, but the information was gathered from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and added to the geo-coded data for the relevant neighborhood region.

Assault, burglary, drug, robbery and vandalism complaints per 100,000 residents by subregion (2007)

	Robbery Rate	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault Rate	Burglary Rate	Vandalism	Drug Rate
Amnicola/East Chattanooga	677.6	1010.2	1737.1	1848.0	2821.2	4866.3
Apison	0.0	107.0	353.1	224.7	481.4	149.8
Bakewell	16.2	323.3	646.6	582.0	743.6	485.0
Birchwood	0.0	309.6	810.9	442.3	457.0	737.1
Bonny Oaks/Highway 58	561.1	429.0	957.1	1666.7	2211.2	561.1
Brainerd	629.1	487.9	1219.7	2721.8	2824.5	950.1
Bushtown/Highland Park	1080.2	1659.0	2173.4	2173.4	3305.0	2340.5
Collegedale	221.3	479.6	940.7	839.3	913.0	1696.9
Dallas Bay/Lakesite	9.7	222.5	628.7	532.0	512.6	377.2
Downtown	876.4	1810.3	2658.0	2126.4	4109.2	5186.8
Dupont/Murray Hills	336.5	228.4	829.3	1430.3	1947.1	889.4
East Brainerd	25.0	162.8	413.2	1101.8	713.7	112.7
East Ridge	169.6	731.6	1894.4	1468.0	1274.2	862.4
Falling Water/Browntown	41.4	193.2	400.2	441.6	786.5	303.6
Glenwood/Eastdale	389.7	952.5	1703.0	2092.7	3016.3	1544.2
Harrison	38.5	346.3	1090.2	731.1	910.6	641.3
Harrison Bay	17.5	209.6	628.9	297.0	436.8	401.8
Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place	413.4	480.7	1153.7	1355.6	2451.7	903.8
Hixson	89.3	186.8	617.3	633.5	909.7	479.2
Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn	249.7	277.4	568.7	554.9	1525.9	596.5
Lupton City/Norcross	183.8	133.7	384.4	802.1	1420.5	300.8
Middle Valley	34.2	136.8	672.7	456.0	820.9	467.4
Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend	131.3	367.6	669.6	761.5	1286.6	446.4
North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC	365.4	624.1	1705.0	1750.6	2618.4	1126.5
Northgate/Big Ridge	36.4	236.3	563.4	908.8	1726.6	654.3
Ooltewah/Summit	28.8	172.7	844.2	489.3	786.6	364.5
Red Bank	118.0	491.5	2575.7	1435.3	1592.6	1612.3
Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills	1629.9	1546.0	1977.5	2708.5	4050.8	4134.7
Riverview/Stuart Heights	46.6	155.5	544.2	901.7	1181.6	124.4
Signal Mountain	0.0	124.3	295.2	326.2	310.7	1538.0
Soddy Daisy	74.6	832.5	1578.0	1292.2	1466.2	1404.1
South Chattanooga	631.2	907.4	1593.8	2154.0	2501.2	2666.9
Tyner/Greenwood	356.5	230.0	793.6	2564.7	2334.7	368.0
Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn	0.0	200.6	338.5	263.3	326.0	175.5
Westview/Mountain Shadows	24.7	172.6	394.5	591.8	715.1	616.4
Woodmore/Dalewood	536.3	527.5	1195.7	1872.7	2743.1	896.8

Note: Highlighted neighborhoods are those locations where there are local police departments. Data from each local department was not available, but the information was gathered from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and added to the geo-coded data for the relevant neighborhood region.

For the purposes of this report, crime rates were calculated for thirty six subregions in the county for robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, burglary, vandalism and drug offenses in 2006 and 2007. Five subregions were ranked among the top five in each of these crime categories three or more times in either 2006 or 2007 or both: Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills; Bushtown/Highland Park; South Chattanooga; Downtown; Amnicola/East Chattanooga.

2006

	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Burglary	Vandalism	Drugs
Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills	1450.1	1510.1	1749.8	3032.1	3187.9	2948.2
Downtown	732.8	1206.9	2428.2		4497.1	3850.6
Bushtown/Highland Park	797.3	1003.1		2494.9	2752.1	
South Chattanooga	749.6			1933.1		1656.9

2007

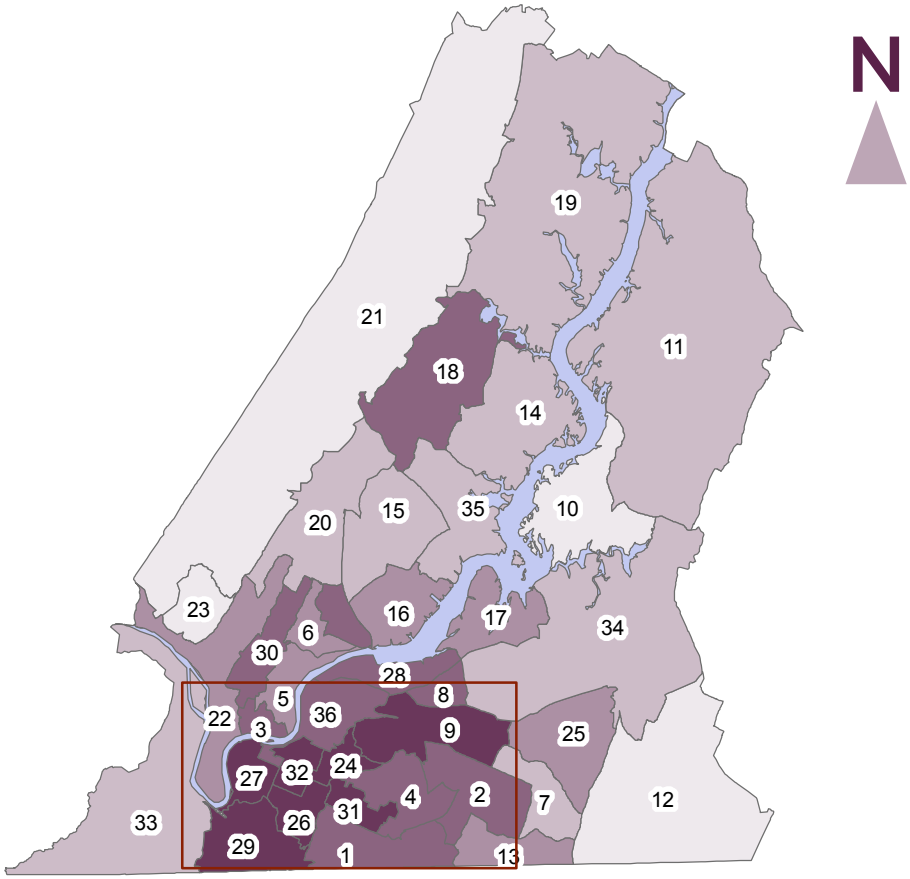
	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Burglary	Vandalism	Drugs
Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills	1629.9	1546.0	1977.5	2708.5	4050.8	4134.7
Bushtown/Highland Park	1080.2	1659.0	2173.4	2173.4	3305.0	2340.5
Downtown	876.4	1810.3	2658.0		4109.2	5186.8
South Chattanooga	631.2			2154.0		2666.9
Amnicola/East Chattanooga	677.6	1010.2				4866.3

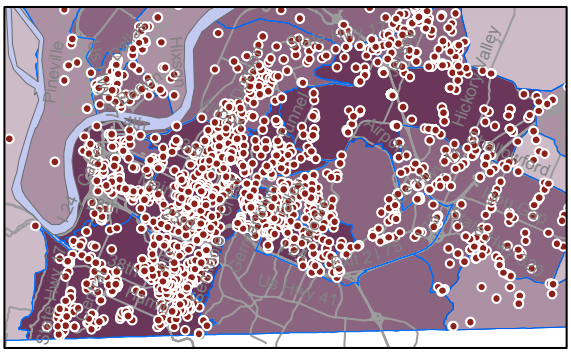
Based on 2000 Census data, these subregions accounted for 14.2% of the County population, but in 2007 accounted for:

- 48.1% of robbery complaints
- 45.1% of drug and narcotic violations
- 37.9% of aggravated assaults
- 28.8% of vandalism
- 25.9% of burglaries
- 25.5% of simple assaults

Neighborhood Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents by Neighborhood (2007) - Burglary

	SUBREGION
1	East Ridge
2	Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
3	North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
4	Woodmore/Dalewood
5	Riverview/Stuart Heights
6	Lupton City/Norcross
7	Westview/Mountain Shadows
8	Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
9	Tyner/Greenwood
10	Harrison Bay
11	Birchwood
12	Apison
13	East Brainerd
14	Dallas Bay/Lakesite
15	Hixson
16	Northgate/Big Ridge
17	Harrison
18	Soddy Daisy
19	Bakewell
20	Falling Water/Browntown
21	Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
22	Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
23	Signal Mtn (Town Area)
24	Glenwood/Eastdale
25	Collegedale
26	Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
27	Downtown
28	Dupont/Murray Hills
29	South Chattanooga
30	Red Bank
31	Brainerd
32	Bushtown/Highland Park
33	Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
34	Ooltewah/Summit
35	Middle Valley
36	Amnicola/East Chattanooga





Burglary rate per 100,000

- 1872.8 - 2721.8
- 1101.9 - 1872.7
- 633.6 - 1101.8
- 326.3 - 633.5
- 224.7 - 326.2
- Tennessee River

Data from each local police department was not available. Chattanooga Police and Sheriff Department data files were geocoded by address location of the crime and aggregated to the neighborhood level. Approximately 95% of addresses were coded. In some cases, specific address locations were not included in the files or street address locations were not available. For Collegedale, East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Signal Mountain and Soddy Daisy, complaint data from the 2007 TBI Report was used to supplement data at the neighborhood level. For these police departments, address level data was not available.

Neighborhood Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents by Neighborhood (2007) - Aggravated Assault

SUBREGION

1 East Ridge
2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
4 Woodmore/Dalewood
5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
6 Lupton City/Norcross
7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
9 Tyner/Greenwood
10 Harrison Bay
11 Birchwood
12 Apison
13 East Brainerd
14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
15 Hixson
16 Northgate/Big Ridge
17 Harrison
18 Soddy Daisy
19 Bakewell
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21 Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
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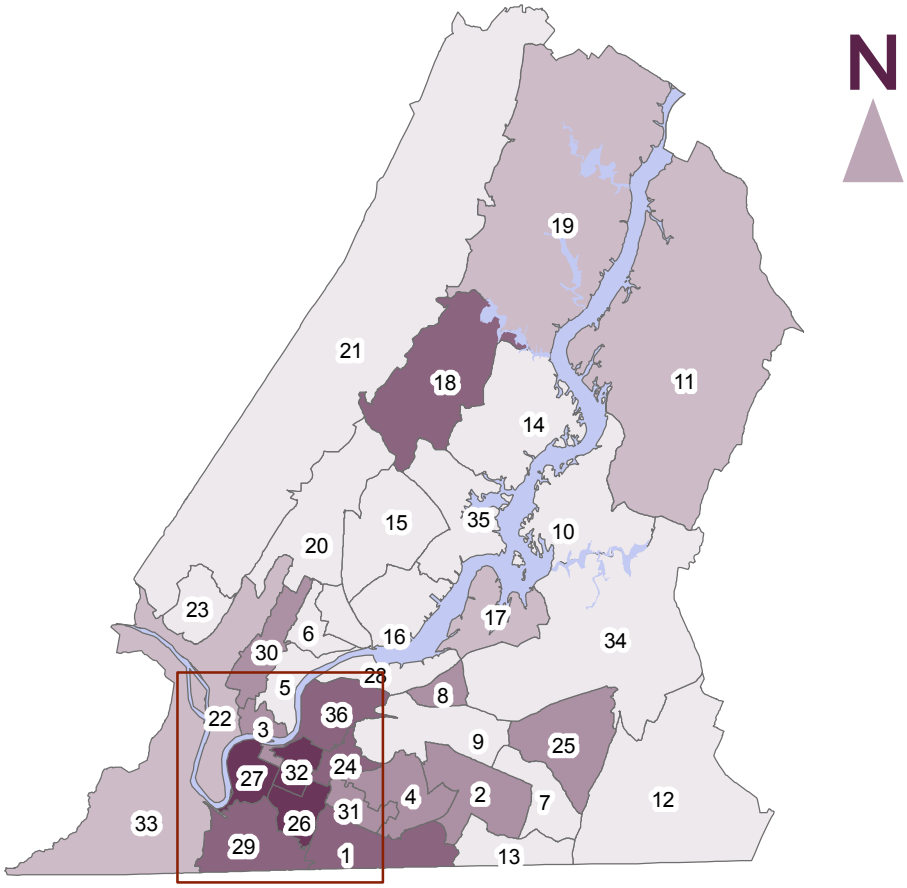
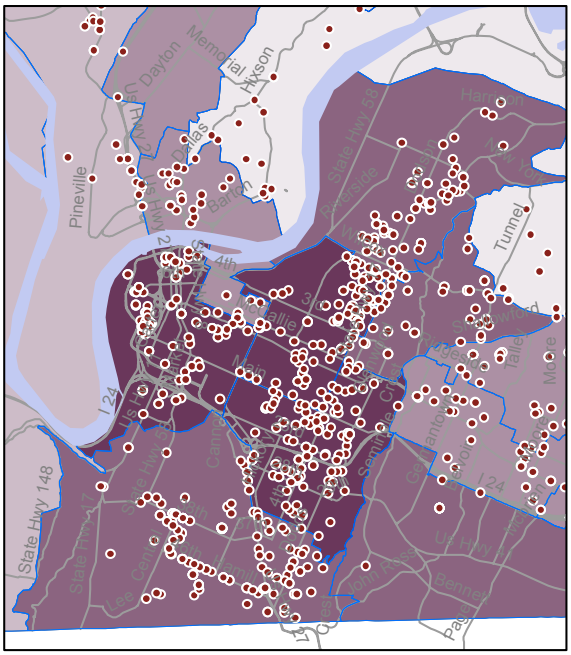
23 Signal Mtn (Town Area)
24 Glenwood/Eastdale
25 Collegedale
26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
27 Downtown
28 Dupont/Murray Hills
29 South Chattanooga
30 Red Bank
31 Brainerd
32 Bushtown/Highland Park
33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
34 Ooltewah/Summit
35 Middle Valley
36 Amnicola/East Chattanooga





Aggravated assault rate per 100,000

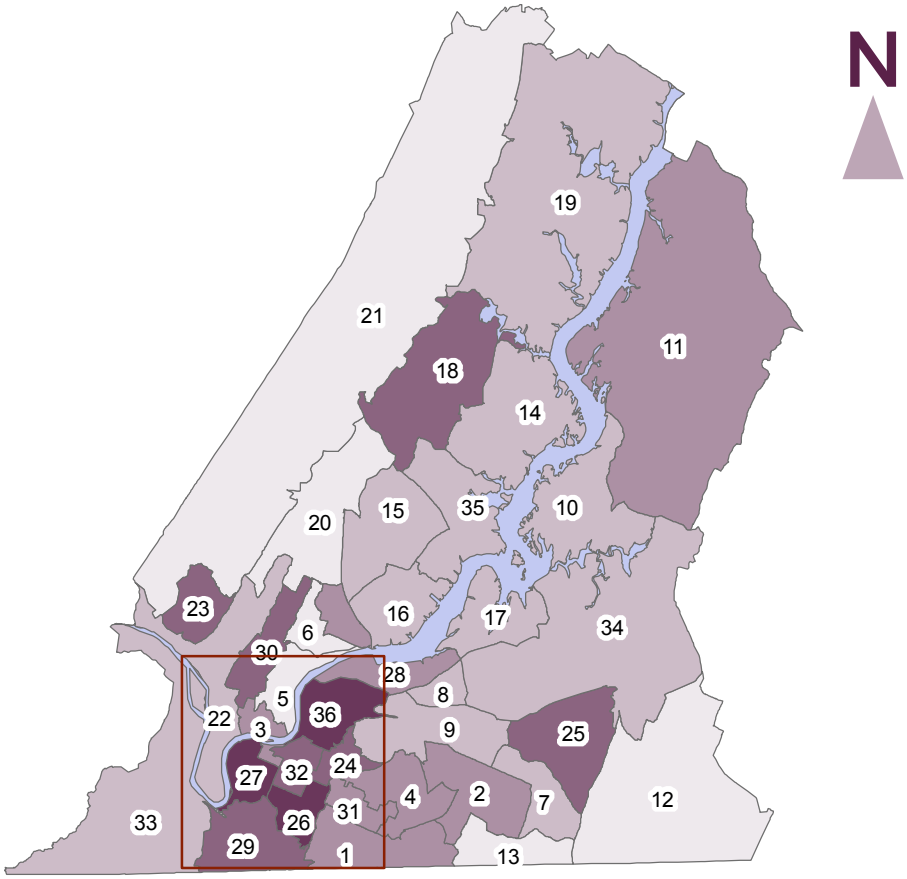
- 1010.3 - 1810.3
- 624.2 - 1010.2
- 367.7 - 624.1
- 236.4 - 367.6
- 107.0 - 236.3
- **Tennessee River**

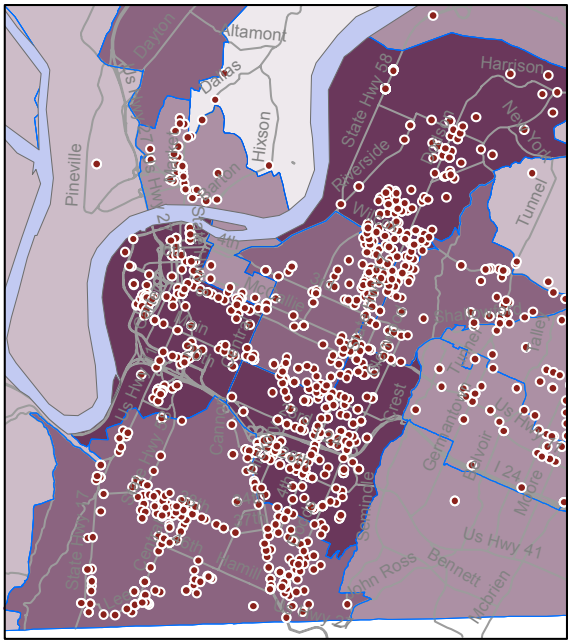
Data from each local police department was not available. Chattanooga Police and Sheriff Department data files were geocoded by address location of the crime and aggregated to the neighborhood level. Approximately 95% of addresses were coded. In some cases, specific address locations were not included in the files or street address locations were not available. For Collegedale, East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Signal Mountain and Soddy Daisy, complaint data from the 2007 TBI Report was used to supplement data at the neighborhood level. For these police departments, address level data was not available.

Neighborhood Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents by Neighborhood (2007) - Drug/Narcotics Violations

SUBREGION

1 East Ridge
2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
4 Woodmore/Dalewood
5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
6 Lupton City/Norcross
7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
9 Tyner/Greenwood
10 Harrison Bay
11 Birchwood
12 Apison
13 East Brainerd
14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
15 Hixson
16 Northgate/Big Ridge
17 Harrison
18 Soddy Daisy
19 Bakewell
20 Falling Water/Browntown
21 Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
22 Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
23 Signal Mtn (Town Area)
24 Glenwood/Eastdale
25 Collegedale
26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
27 Downtown
28 Dupont/Murray Hills
29 South Chattanooga
30 Red Bank
31 Brainerd
32 Bushtown/Highland Park
33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
34 Ooltewah/Summit
35 Middle Valley
36 Amnicola/East Chattanooga





Drug/Narcotics rate per 100,000

- 2667.0 - 5186.8
- 1126.6 - 2666.9
- 654.4 - 1126.5
- 303.7 - 654.3
- 112.7 - 303.6
- **Tennessee River**

Data from each local police department was not available. Chattanooga Police and Sheriff Department data files were geocoded by address location of the crime and aggregated to the neighborhood level. Approximately 95% of addresses were coded. In some cases, specific address locations were not included in the files or street address locations were not available. For Collegedale, East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Signal Mountain and Soddy Daisy, complaint data from the 2007 TBI Report was used to supplement data at the neighborhood level. For these police departments, address level data was not available.

Neighborhood Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents by Neighborhood (2007) - Simple Assault

SUBREGION

1 East Ridge
2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
4 Woodmore/Dalewood
5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
6 Lupton City/Norcross
7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
9 Tyner/Greenwood
10 Harrison Bay
11 Birchwood
12 Apison
13 East Brainerd
14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
15 Hixson
16 Northgate/Big Ridge
17 Harrison
18 Soddy Daisy
19 Bakewell
20 Falling Water/Browntown
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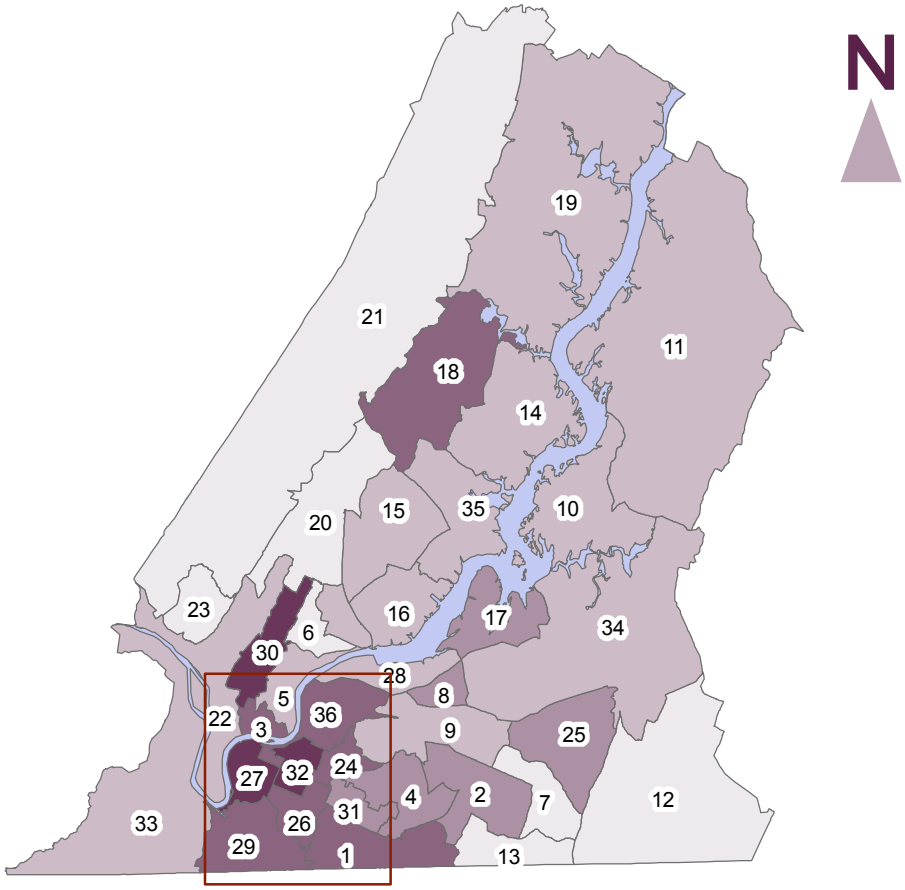
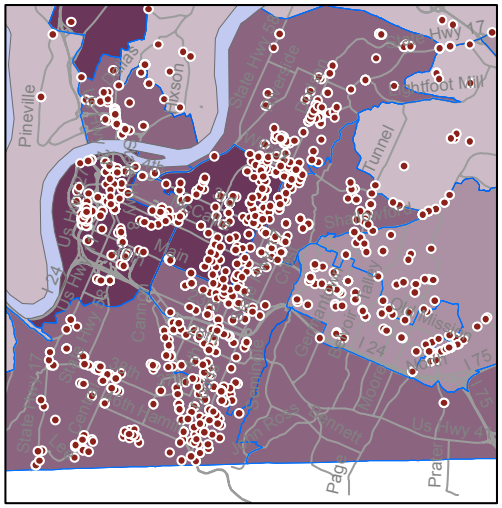
22 Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
23 Signal Mtn (Town Area)
24 Glenwood/Eastdale
25 Collegedale
26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
27 Downtown
28 Dupont/Murray Hills
29 South Chattanooga
30 Red Bank
31 Brainerd
32 Bushtown/Highland Park
33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
34 Ooltewah/Summit
35 Middle Valley
36 Amnicola/East Chattanooga





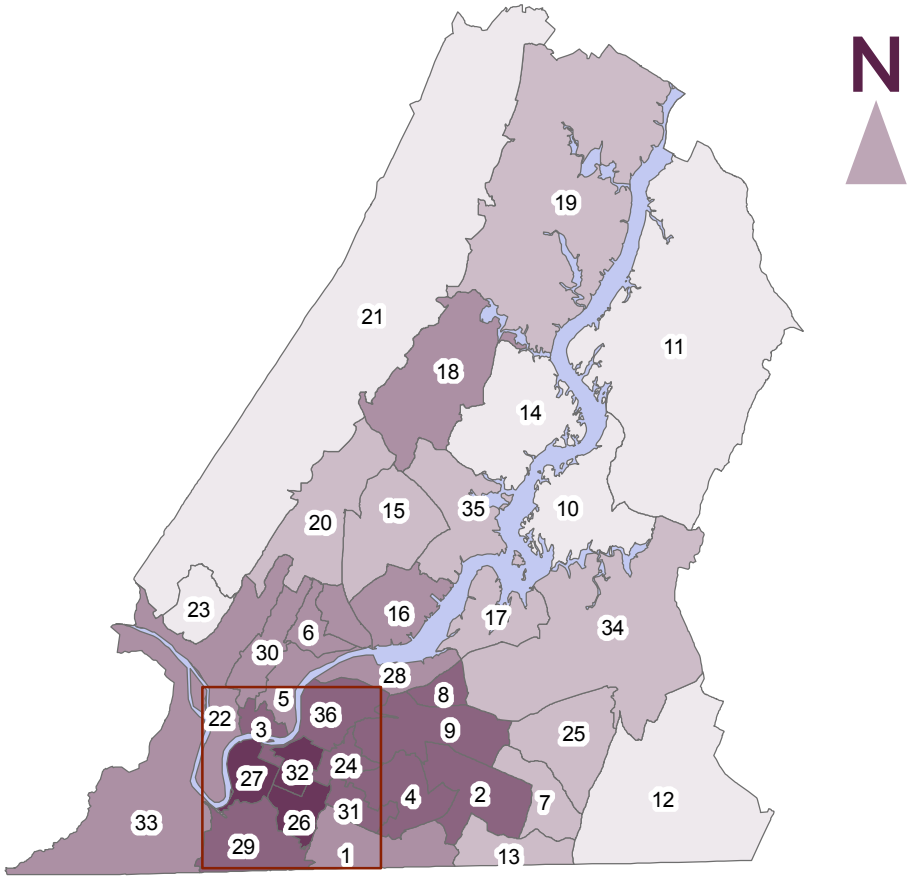
Simple Assault rates per 100,000

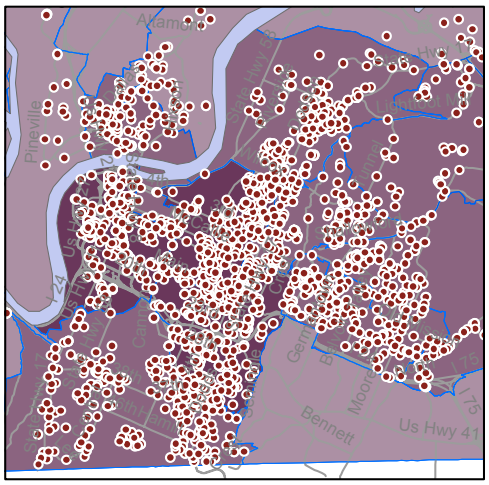
- 1977.6 - 2658.1
- 1219.8 - 1977.5
- 844.3 - 1219.7
- 413.3 - 844.2
- 295.2 - 413.2
- **Tennessee River**

Data from each local police department was not available. Chattanooga Police and Sheriff Department data files were geocoded by address location of the crime and aggregated to the neighborhood level. Approximately 95% of addresses were coded. In some cases, specific address locations were not included in the files or street address locations were not available. For Collegedale, East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Signal Mountain and Soddy Daisy, complaint data from the 2007 TBI Report was used to supplement data at the neighborhood level. For these police departments, address level data was not available.

Neighborhood Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents by Neighborhood (2007) - Vandalism

	SUBREGION
1	East Ridge
2	Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
3	North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
4	Woodmore/Dalewood
5	Riverview/Stuart Heights
6	Lupton City/Norcross
7	Westview/Mountain Shadows
8	Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
9	Tyner/Greenwood
10	Harrison Bay
11	Birchwood
12	Apison
13	East Brainerd
14	Dallas Bay/Lakesite
15	Hixson
16	Northgate/Big Ridge
17	Harrison
18	Soddy Daisy
19	Bakewell
20	Falling Water/Browntown
21	Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
22	Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
23	Signal Mtn (Town Area)
24	Glenwood/Eastdale
25	Collegedale
26	Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
27	Downtown
28	Dupont/Murray Hills
29	South Chattanooga
30	Red Bank
31	Brainerd
32	Bushtown/Highland Park
33	Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
34	Ooltewah/Summit
35	Middle Valley
36	Amnicola/East Chattanooga





Vandalism rate per 100,000

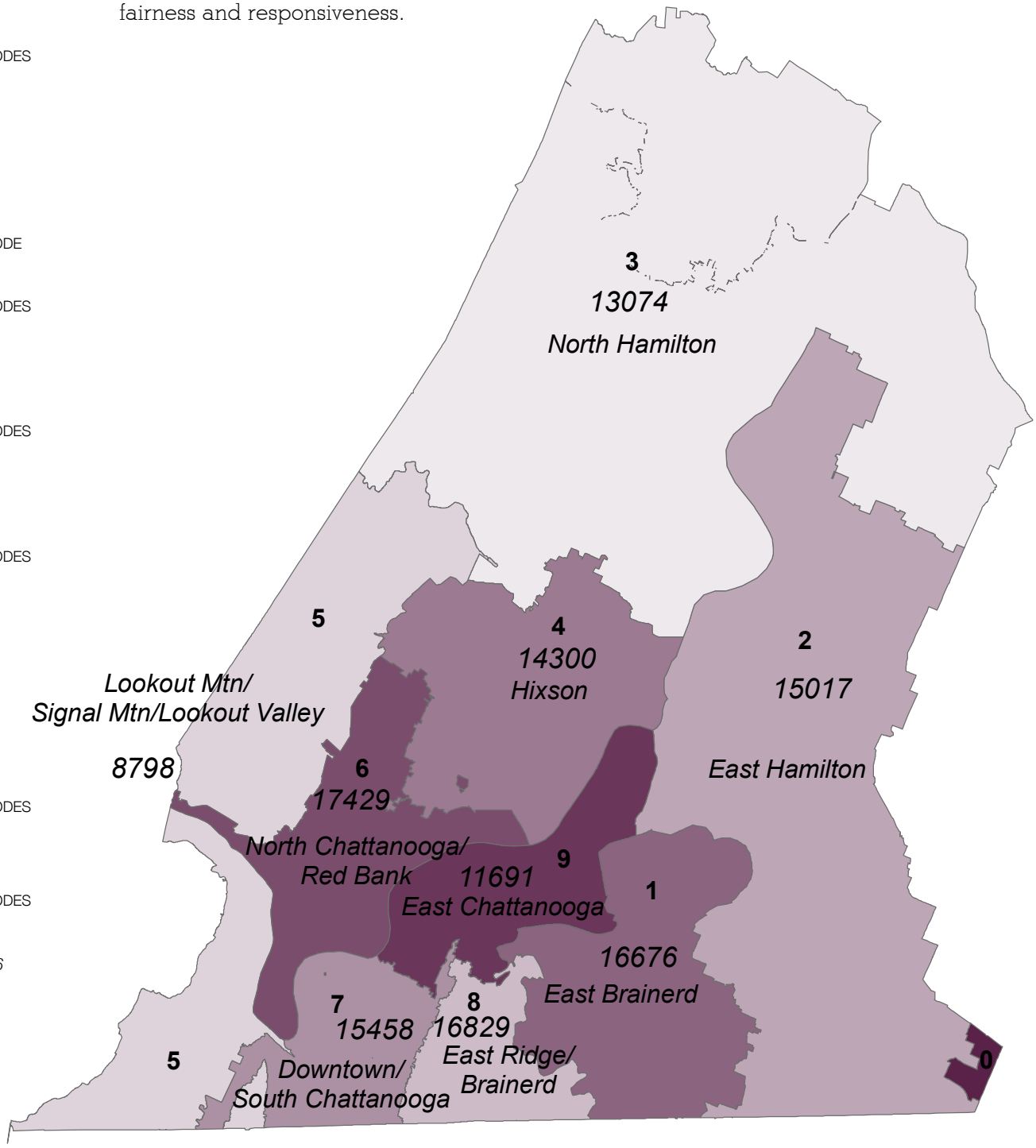
- 3016.4 - 4109.2
- 1947.2 - 3016.3
- 913.1 - 1947.1
- 512.7 - 913.0
- 310.7 - 512.6
- **Tennessee River**

Data from each local police department was not available. Chattanooga Police and Sheriff Department data files were geocoded by address location of the crime and aggregated to the neighborhood level. Approximately 95% of addresses were coded. In some cases, specific address locations were not included in the files or street address locations were not available. For Collegedale, East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Signal Mountain and Soddy Daisy, complaint data from the 2007 TBI Report was used to supplement data at the neighborhood level. For these police departments, address level data was not available.

Hamilton County Survey Regions: State of the Chattanooga Region Report

1 ZIP CODE
37421
2 ZIP CODES
37363
37341
37302
37353
3 ZIP CODES
37373
37379
37308
37338
37336
4 ZIP CODE
37343
5 ZIP CODES
37377
37419
37350
6 ZIP CODES
37415
37351
37405
7 ZIP CODES
37402
37403
37404
37407
37408
37409
37410
8 ZIP CODES
37411
37412
9 ZIP CODES
37416
37406

Differences in reported crime across Hamilton County are reflected in geographic differences in perceptions of both public safety and police fairness and responsiveness.



Numbers in bold type are the general survey area ID numbers. Each area lists the combined zip code areas. Numbers in italics are the total number of households in each general area.

Residents from the East Chattanooga/Highway 58, Downtown/South Chattanooga and East Ridge/Brainerd areas were more likely to indicate that they often or sometimes worried about their physical safety: residents in the East Chattanooga/Highway 58 area worry about their physical safety at five times the rate of residents of North Hamilton County. And, in East Chattanooga/Highway 58, the percentage of residents who stated that they often or sometimes worry about their physical safety increase by almost one-third in just two years. In the East Brainerd area, the percentage who often or sometimes worry about their physical safety jumped from 18% in 2006 to 29% in 2008. In three areas, the percentage of residents who worry about physical safety actually declined since 2006 – North Hamilton, East Hamilton and Downtown/South Chattanooga.

There were also regional differences in public perceptions about both police responsiveness and fairness. The percentage of residents rating police as very responsive ranged from 35% in the Downtown/South Chattanooga area to 69% in the Lookout Mountain/Lookout Valley/Signal Mountain area. Similarly, the percentage of residents rating police as very fair ranged from 35% in the Downtown/South Chattanooga area to 59% in the East Brainerd area. It is noteworthy, however, that in every area the percentage of residents rating police as very fair and very responsive has increased since 2006.

Often or Sometimes Worry About Physical Safety

	2008	2006
East Chattanooga/Highway 58	44%	31%
Downtown/South Chattanooga	41%	42%
East Ridge/Brainerd	33%	31%
East Brainerd	29%	18%
Hixson	20%	16%
North Chattanooga/Red Bank	18%	17%
East Hamilton	14%	19%
Lookout Mtn/Lookout Valley/Signal Mtn	11%	NA
North Hamilton	8%	17%

Police Very Responsive

	2008	2006
Lookout Mtn/Lookout Valley/Signal Mtn	69%	NA
North Hamilton	60%	50%
East Ridge/Brainerd	55%	43%
North Chattanooga/Red Bank	53%	31%
East Hamilton	53%	47%
Hixson	52%	48%
East Brainerd	49%	42%
East Chattanooga/Highway 58	44%	33%
Downtown/South Chattanooga	35%	29%

Police Very Fair

	2008	2006
East Brainerd	59%	44%
North Hamilton	58%	43%
North Chattanooga/Red Bank	57%	NA
Hixson	55%	43%
Lookout Mtn/Lookout Valley/Signal Mtn	52%	39%
East Hamilton	51%	44%
East Ridge/Brainerd	49%	40%
East Chattanooga/Highway 58	41%	29%
Downtown/South Chattanooga	35%	18%

A study of offenders released from the Tennessee Department of Correction found that 45% of all offenders who return from prison to their community will be back in jail or prison within three years. Given the geographic concentrations of crime, it is not surprising that inmates returning from prison are also concentrated in certain subregions in the County.

In four Hamilton County subregions, one out of every fifty males has just returned to the community from prison within the last two years. These subregions – Amnicola/East Chattanooga, Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills, Glenwood/Eastdale and Bushtown/Highland Park – account for 32% of all inmates released from prison back to communities in Hamilton County in 2006 and 2007.

Subcounty Region Release Rate: Percent of Total Population 18 and Over (2006 and 2007 Total Release Data)

SUBREGION

1 East Ridge
2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
4 Woodmore/Dalewood
5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
6 Lupton City/Norcross
7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
9 Tyner/Greenwood
10 Harrison Bay
11 Birchwood
12 Apison
13 East Brainerd
14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
15 Hixson
16 Northgate/Big Ridge
17 Harrison
18 Soddy Daisy
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26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
27 Downtown
28 Dupont/Murray Hills
29 South Chattanooga
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34 Ooltewah/Summit
35 Middle Valley
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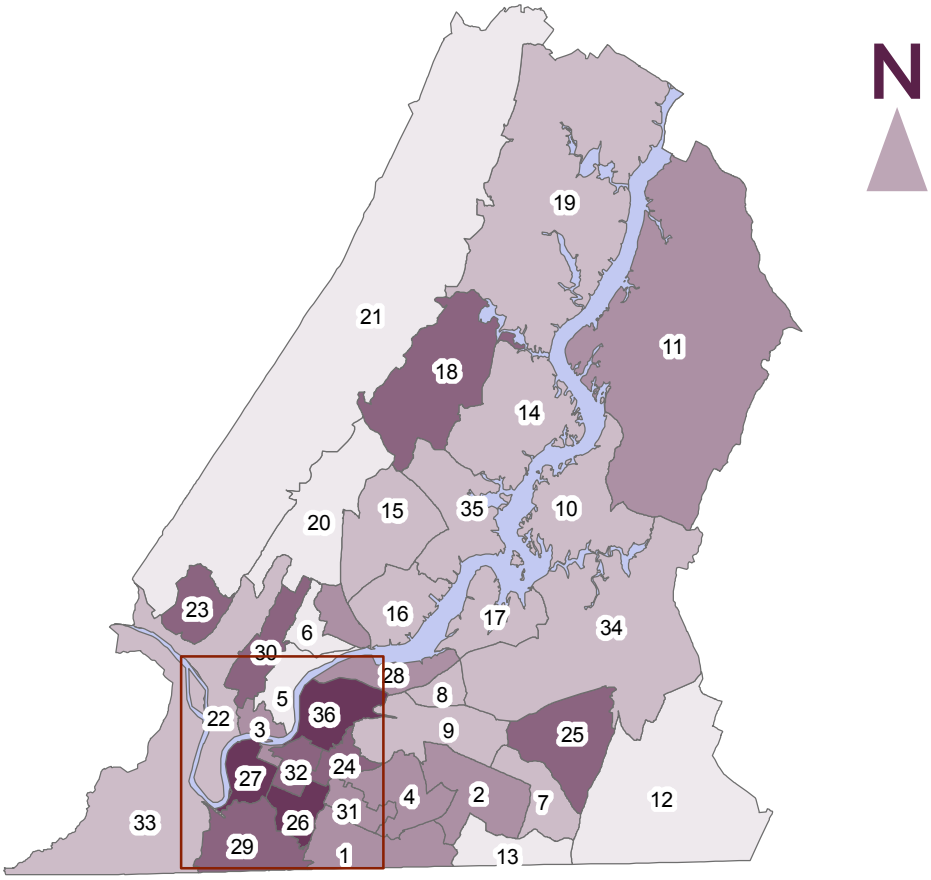

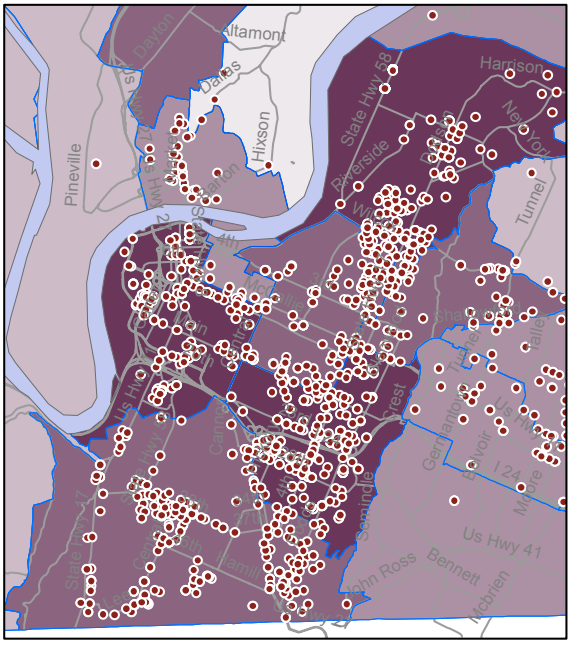

% Release/Total population 18 years and over

- 0.9% - 1.2%
- 0.4% - 0.8%
- 0.3%
- 0.2%
- 0% - 0.1%
- Tennessee River

Data from each local police department was not available. Chattanooga Police and Sheriff Department data files were geocoded by address location of the crime and aggregated to the neighborhood level. Approximately 95% of addresses were coded. In some cases, specific address locations were not included in the files or street address locations were not available. For Collegedale, East Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Signal Mountain and Soddy Daisy, complaint data from the 2007 TBI Report was used to supplement data at the neighborhood level. For these police departments, address level data was not available.

The Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies
P.O. BOX 4029
CHATTANOOGA TN 37405
www.ochscenter.org

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