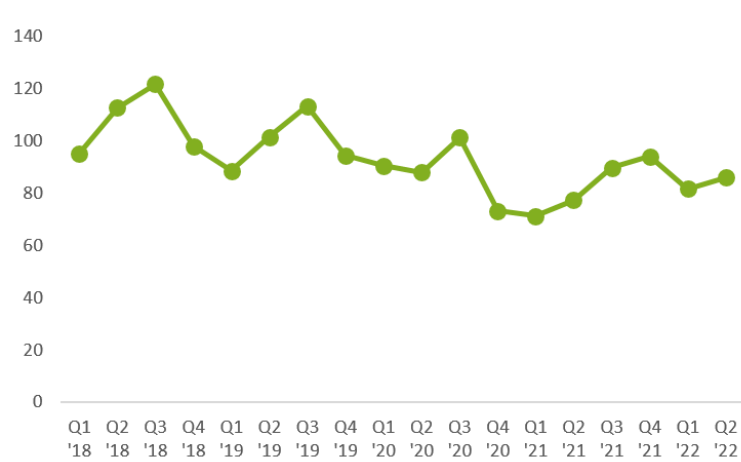# Violent Crime Trends in Madison

January 2018—June 2022, Madison Police Department Data

In this report, we show trends of various kinds of violent crime from the Madison Police Department. These numbers represent real people who have experienced trauma and harm. Regardless of trends, each incident is important and deserves recognition. No level of violence is acceptable in our communities.
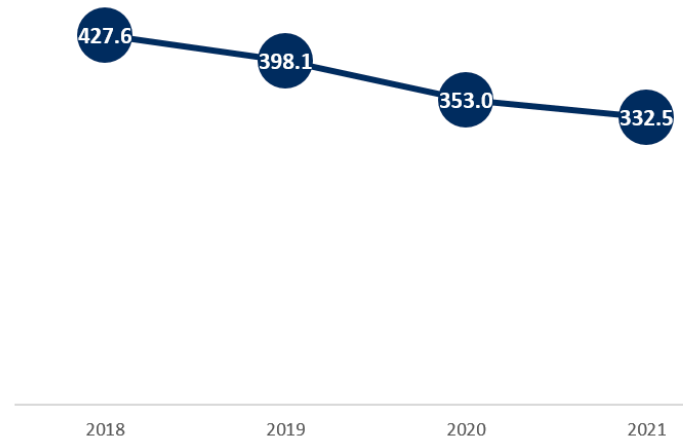
There are a wide array of incidents that are classified as violent crimes by police departments. Violent crimes include homicides (murder), sexual assaults (rape), robberies, and aggravated assaults.

Violent crime as a whole has trended downwards in Madison over the past four years.

The violent crime offense rate decreased by 22% from 2018 to 2021, and was significantly lower in 2021 than in 2018 and 2019.
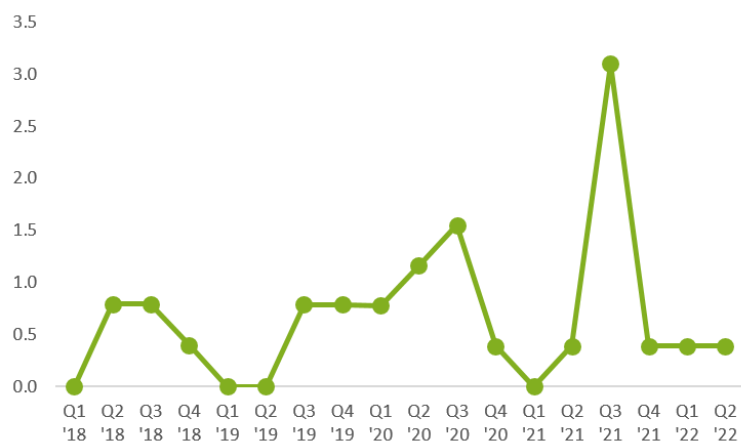

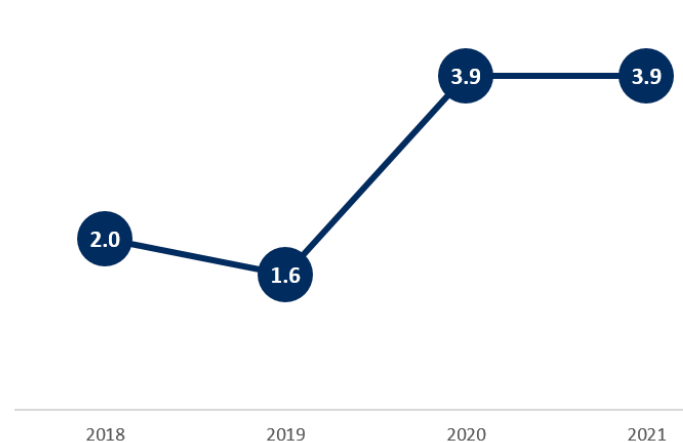*Quarterly violent crime rate per 100k, January 2018-June 2022*

Annual violent crime rate per 100k, 2018-2021

There were more homicides in 2020 and 2021 compared to 2018 and 2019, but the rate has not changed in a statistically significant way.

This means there that there may not be an actual trend upward, and the increase might be random chance. There were 5 homicides in Madison in 2018, 4 in 2019, 10 in 2020, and 10 in 2021. Quarter 3 (July-September) of 2021 had an unusually high number of homicides (eight), which accounted for 80% of all homicides in 2021.

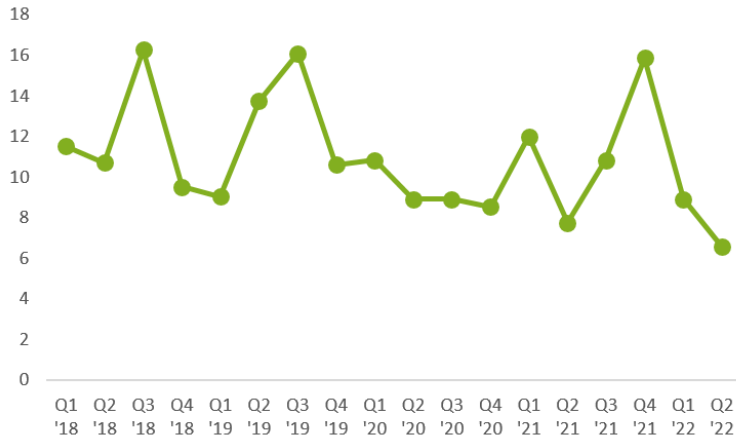*Quarterly homicide rate per 100k, January 2018-June 2022*

Annual homicide rate per 100k, 2018-2021

Public Health
MADISON & DANE COUNTY
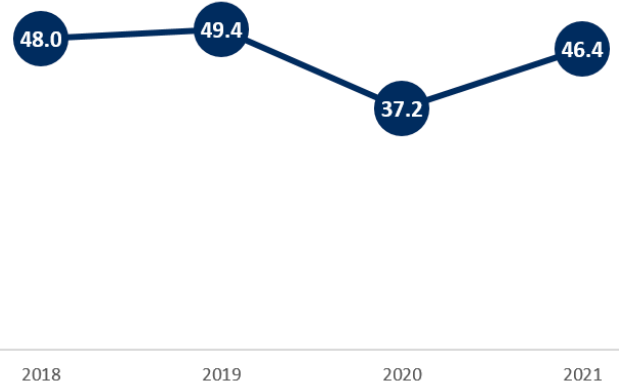*Healthy people. Healthy places.*

The number of rapes has been stable for the past four years.

The definition of "rape" by law enforcement includes [many categories of sexual assault](#), but still leaves out some people affected by sexual assault.

Note that these are *reported* rapes, and due to stay-at-home orders and other pandemic precautions in place in 2020, it's possible that a higher number of sex offenses went unreported, especially if they occurred in the home. It's also possible there was a true drop in sex offenses, due to fewer interactions with others and bars and restaurants being closed or at significantly reduced capacity.

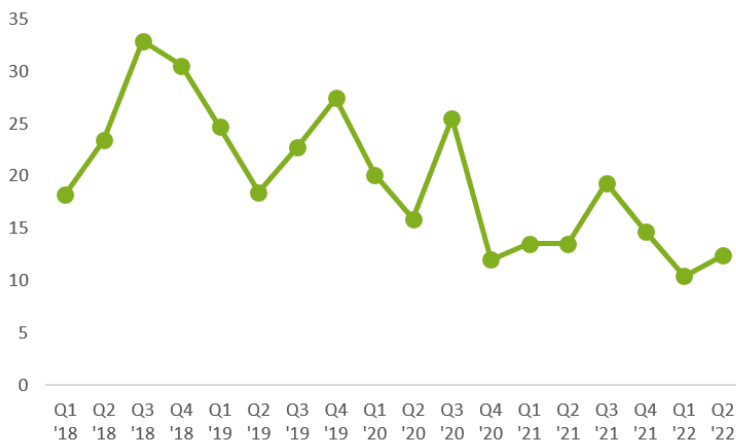*Quarterly forcible sex offenses rate per 100k, January 2018-June 2022*

Annual forcible sex offenses rate per 100k, 2018-2021

Robberies decreased the most over the past four years out of all violent crime types.
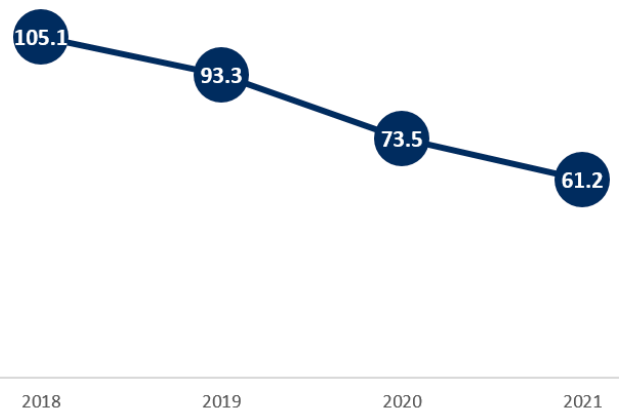
Robbery involves taking or attempting to take anything of value from someone by force or threat of force or violence, and does not include crimes like automobile theft or burglarizing an empty building or business. **Robberies decreased by 40% from 2018 to 2021.**

Some of this decrease could certainly be explained by fewer opportunities due to business closures and people staying home more often, but many activities were back to normal in 2021 and robberies continued to decrease. Of note, the increase in government aid during the pandemic is [estimated](#) to have cut poverty nearly in half from pre-pandemic levels, which could also have had an effect, as economic conditions and inequality have been found to have a [significant impact](#) on robbery rates.
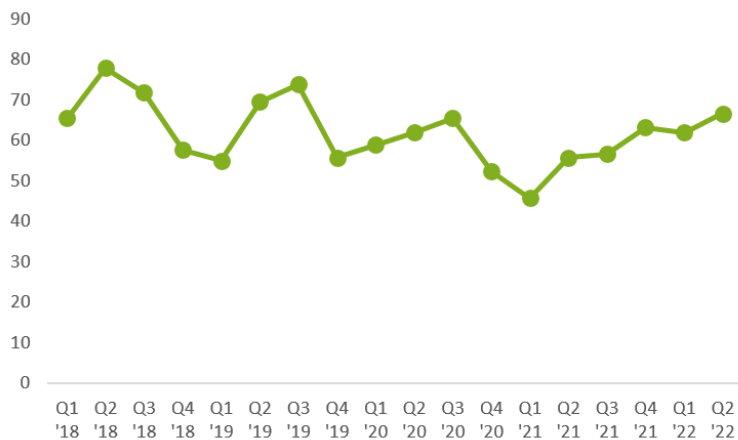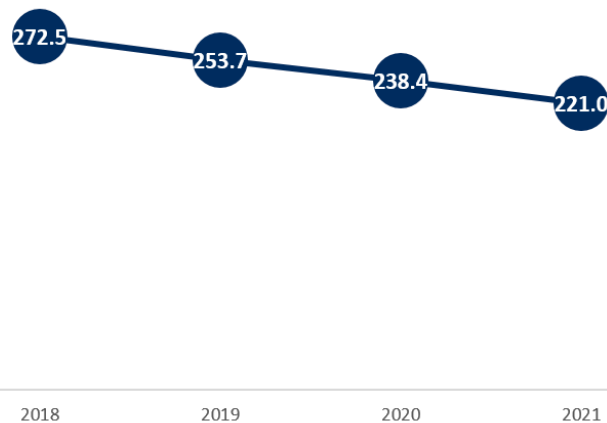

Quarterly robbery rate per 100k, January 2018-June 2022

Annual robbery rate per 100k, 2018-2021

The number of aggravated assaults decreased by 17% from 2018 to 2021.

Aggravated assaults often involve the use of a weapon or other means likely to produce severe harm or injury. This includes attempted homicide. Although aggravated assaults have trended downwards from 2018 to 2021, the number of aggravated assaults from January-June of 2022 is 27% higher than the number from January-June of 2021.

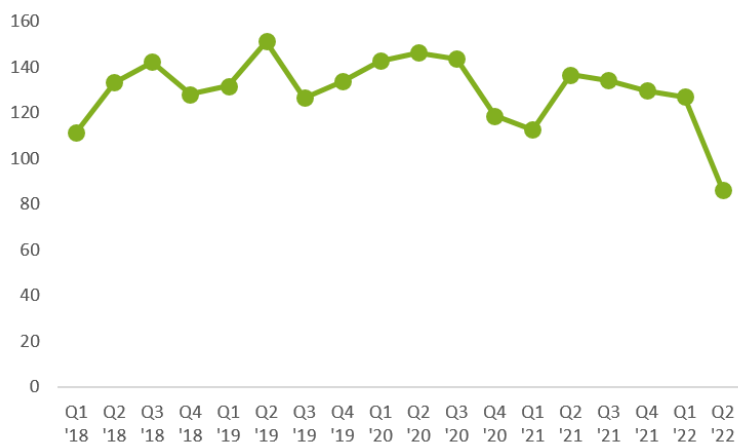*Quarterly aggravated assault rate per 100k, January 2018-June 2022*

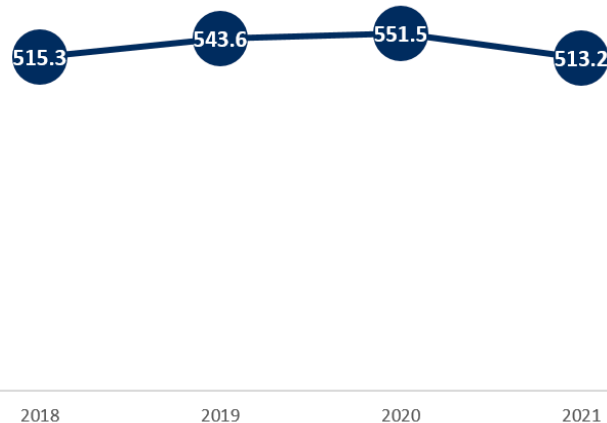*Annual aggravated assault rate per 100k, 2018-2021*

The number of domestic-related incidents has been stable for the past four years.

Domestic-related incidents include any offense (not exclusive to violent crimes) with a domestic enhancer or contact after a domestic abuse arrest. Note that these data only include reported domestic-related incidents.

There has been an average of 3.7 domestic-related incidents each day in Madison over the past four years. About 20% of people involved in domestic-related incidents were involved in more than one domestic-related incident.

Quarterly domestic-related incident rate per 100k, January 2018-June 2022

Annual domestic-related incident rate per 100k, 2018-2021