Preliminary Analysis of Crime Trends

ITHACA, NEW YORK





Methodology

- We received crime data for 2016 up to December 2021, showing total reported crime occurrences by category for each year.
- For 2020, we received more detailed data that includes the date and time of each reported crime occurrence.
- Given that 2021 was a partial year, the 2020 data was used to estimate crime occurrences in the remainder of 2021 based on seasonality.





Violent Crime Trends

- Violent crimes occurred at a 54% higher rate in 2021 compared to the average over the previous five years (2016 – 2020).
 - → Aggravated assaults are up by 125% over the same period.
 - → Murder, rape, and robbery slightly down (-7% vs 5YR avg.).

						Adjusted	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Violent Crime	39	49	80	42	98	95	\sim
Murder	1	1	0	1	1	1	N/A
Rape	8	12	12	5	12	13	\sim
Robbery	17	24	30	9	33	17	\sim
Agg. Assault	13	12	38	27	52	64	~





Property Crime Trends

- Property crimes have risen moderately compared to violent crimes, up 22% in 2021 over the 5YR avg. Additionally:
 - → Motor vehicle thefts are up 150%.
 - → Burglaries occurred at the avg.
 - → Thefts are up 22%.

	Adjusted						
-	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Property Crime	893	920	828	825	1,175	1,137	~
Burglary	80	74	64	50	143	82	\sim
Larceny-Theft	793	826	747	758	1,019	1,014	\sim
M. Vehicle Theft	20	19	15	15	13	41	
Arson	0	1	2	2	0	0	N/A





Arrest Trends

- Over the same time period, far fewer arrests have been made.
 Compared to the average for 2016 2020:
 - → Felony arrests down 26%.
 - → Misdemeanor arrests down 41%.
 - → Violation arrests down 77%.

						Adjusted		
-	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
Felony Arrests	151	183	188	114	109	110	~	
Misdemeanor Arrests	891	1,002	914	606	409	450	~	
Violation Arrests	1,137	1,078	769	426	205	169	\sim	
Warrant Arrests	252	372	386	297	231	281	\sim	
DWI Arrests	76	60	52	42	12	25	~	



Officer-Initiated Incident Trends

 Over the same time period, call for service remained relatively stable, while officer-initiated activity declined markedly similarly to arrest trends:





Takeaways

- In 2021, crime did not increase universally across all categories.
- Specific types of crime, such as aggravated assaults, increased significantly in 2020 and 2021.
- At the same time, arrests and officer-initiated activity have decreased markedly.
- However, this does not imply causality between the two trends.

