

**ORLEANS PARISH**  
***2019-2020 CALLS FOR SERVICE, ARRESTS, AND  
INMATE POPULATION TRENDS***

**Metropolitan Crime Commission**  
**September 1, 2020**



# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS



- ◉ Since January 1, 2020, the NOPD has received an average of over 30,000 calls for service each month. Homicides and non-fatal shootings are surging compared with the same time period in 2019. The large number of calls received in 2020 indicates that citizen demand for police services has remained high, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and recent police protests.
- ◉ There have been significant reductions in felony arrests in 2020, including violent and weapons-related felony arrests. Declining arrest rates despite the spike in homicides and shootings suggests a need for the NOPD to strategically target violent gangs. Every violent gang-related shooting or homicide that does not result in arrest increases the likelihood of retaliatory street violence, which fuels higher crime rates.
- ◉ The Orleans jail population snapshot confirms that a large majority of inmates are held in custody for felony pretrial offenses, primarily violent or weapons-related charges. Nearly all inmates held on misdemeanors are being held for violent offenses, primarily domestic violence-related charges. This finding shows that, when police do make an arrest for a crime of violence, those offenders often remain in custody pending trial.

**Based on the findings presented in this report, the MCC recommends the NOPD resume the use of centralized task forces, which will allow police to identify and target violent felony offenders who continue to pose a high risk to public safety.**

# Calls for Services Trends 2019-2020

\*All YTD as of August 31<sup>st</sup>

**Exhibit 1: Total Calls for Service by Month\***

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	36,926	34,825	-6%
February	33,045	33,382	1%
March	37,696	33,278	-12%
April	37,432	32,688	-13%
May	40,402	34,722	-14%
June	37,427	33,952	-9%
July	39,353	33,815	-14%
August	39,724	33,716	-15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>302,005</b>	<b>270,377</b>	<b>-10%</b>

- The NOPD receives an average of more than 30,000 calls for service each month
- Overall, there have been **10% fewer calls for service in 2020** compared with reported totals for the same time frame in 2019

**Exhibit 2. Monthly Homicide Incident Calls<sup>+</sup>**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	10	15	50%
February	14	10	-29%
March	7	10	43%
April	8	18	125%
May	12	9	-25%
June	10	14	40%
July	11	22	100%
August	11	12	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>45%</b>

+ Includes incidents with multiple victims

- Homicides have increased **45% over the past year**
  - There were 83 homicide calls for service between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
  - As of August 31, 2020, there have been 120 homicides since January 1.

**Exhibit 3: Monthly Shooting Incident Calls**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	19	29	53%
February	10	31	210%
March	37	32	-14%
April	29	23	-21%
May	37	26	-30%
June	21	55	162%
July	20	58	190%
August	23	63	174%
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>65%</b>

- Aggravated battery by shooting calls have increased **65% over the past year**
  - There were 196 aggravated battery by shooting calls between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
  - There have been 324 aggravated battery by shooting calls between January 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020



# Arrest Trends 2019-2020

\*All YTD as of August 31<sup>st</sup>

**Exhibit 4. YTD Total Arrests by Type**

Charge	Year	N	% change
State	2019	6,693	<b>-39%</b>
	2020	4,111	
Warrant	2019	2,023	<b>-80%</b>
	2020	400	
Municipal	2019	1,291	<b>-50%</b>
	2020	644	
Traffic	2019	590	<b>-62%</b>
	2020	225	
P/P Viol	2019	112	<b>-49%</b>
	2020	57	
Total	2019	10,709	<b>-49%</b>
	2020	5,437	

- 2020 has 49% fewer arrests compared to the same time frame in 2019
  - Warrant arrests show the steepest decline, down 80% from 2019
  - State arrests, which comprise more serious offenses (e.g., felonies), showed the smallest (39%) change

**Exhibit 6. Violent Felony Arrests**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	195	164	-16%
February	148	132	-11%
March	187	152	-19%
April	158	136	-14%
May	199	157	-21%
June	241	135	-44%
July	182	150	-18%
August	221	159	-28%
Total	1,531	1,185	<b>-23%</b>

- Violent felony arrests dropped 23% over the past year
  - 1,531 arrests for violent felony offenses were made between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
  - Since January 1, 2020, there have been 1,185 violent felony arrests

**Exhibit 5. Total Felony Arrests**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	596	456	-23%
February	509	456	-10%
March	582	428	-26%
April	522	289	-45%
May	561	352	-37%
June	591	242	-59%
July	482	273	-43%
August	595	294	-51%
Total	4,438	2,790	<b>-37%</b>

- Felony arrests dropped 37% over the past year
  - 4,438 felony arrests were made between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
  - 2,790 felony arrests have been made since January 1, 2020

**Exhibit 7. Weapons Felony Arrests**

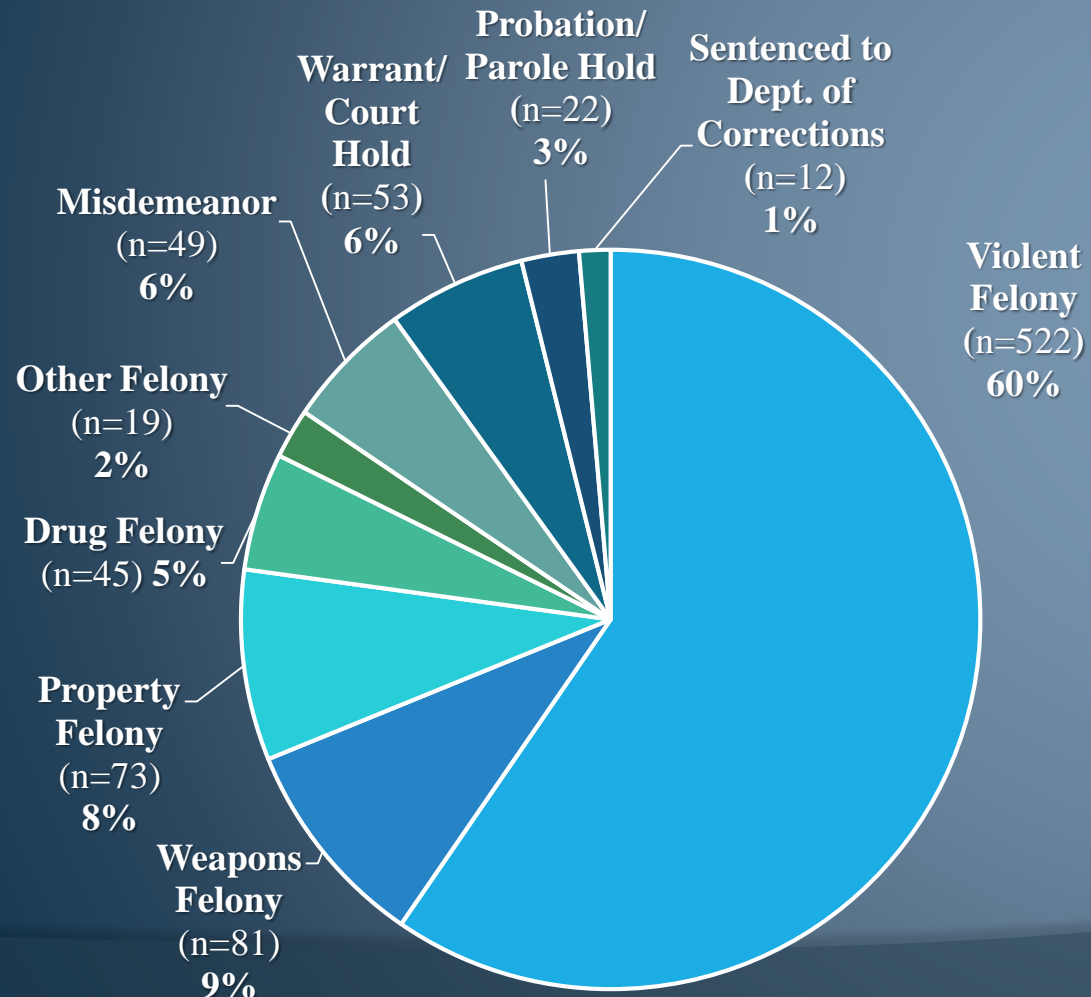
Month	2019	2020	% change
January	77	17	-78%
February	66	13	-80%
March	69	13	-81%
April	63	7	-89%
May	60	5	-92%
June	63	6	-90%
July	46	18	-61%
August	66	18	-73%
Total	510	97	<b>-81%</b>

- There was an 81% drop in weapons felony arrests over the past year
  - At this time last year, 510 arrests had been made for felony weapons offenses
  - As of August 31, 2020, there were only 97 felony weapons arrests

# Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office Inmate Population September 1, 2020

**Exhibit 8. Most Serious Inmate Charges**

N = 876



**Exhibit 9. Pretrial Charges**

Charge Type		Inmates
Violent Felony	Homicide	144
	Sex Offense	62
	Robbery	127
	Battery Assault	121
	Attempted Murder	58
	Other	10
Property Felony	Burglary	37
	Theft	22
	Criminal Damage	3
	Other	11
Drug Felony	Drug Distribution	30
	Drug Possession	15
Other Felony	Sex Offense	5
	Other	15
Misdemeanor	Violent	39
	Theft	4
	Property - Other	1
	Drug Possession	2
	Weapons	1
	Criminal Damage	1
	Other	1

- An 84% majority of inmates are felony pretrial defendants
- Seventy percent (70%) of inmates currently in custody are being held on violent or weapons-related felony charges
- Sixty percent (60%) of inmates are currently being held on violent felony charges
  - Thirty-eight percent (38%) of inmates are being held for homicide, attempted homicide, or robbery charges
- Violent charges account for a 80% majority of inmates held on misdemeanor charges (39 of 49), most commonly related to domestic violence

*Supplemental Exhibits*

# **Drug and Property Crime Trends**



# Drug Crime Trends 2019-2020

\*All YTD as of August 31<sup>st</sup>

**Exhibit 10. Monthly Drug Violation Calls**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	371	230	-38%
February	312	276	-12%
March	346	294	-15%
April	304	207	-32%
May	311	280	-10%
June	284	112	-61%
July	278	110	-60%
August	290	145	-50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>-34%</b>

- Drug violation calls have decreased 34% over the past year

- There were 2,496 calls for service related to drug violations between January 1, 2019 and August 16, 2019
- As of August 31, 2020, there have been 1,654 drug violation calls for service since January 1, 2020

**Exhibit 11. Monthly Felony Drug Arrests**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	130	108	-17%
February	114	91	-20%
March	132	97	-27%
April	113	76	-33%
May	130	95	-27%
June	120	65	-46%
July	104	68	-35%
August	132	73	-45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>-31%</b>

- Drug arrests have dropped 31% over the past year

- 975 arrests for drug offenses were made between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
- Since January 1, 2020, there have been 673 felony drug offense arrests

**Exhibit 12: Monthly Drug Arrests by Type**

	Possession			Distribution		
	2019	2020	% change	2019	2020	% change
January	85	56	-34%	52	43	-17%
February	80	68	-15%	37	60	62%
March	96	65	-32%	48	45	-6%
April	67	16	-76%	53	15	-72%
May	81	25	-69%	59	18	-69%
June	75	9	-88%	51	4	-92%
July	71	11	-85%	38	6	-84%
August	78	12	-85%	57	12	-79%
<b>Total</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>-59%</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>-48%</b>

- Drug possession arrests have dropped 59% over the past year

- 633 arrests for drug possession were made between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
- Since January 1, 2020, there have been 262 drug possession arrests

- Drug distribution arrests have dropped 48% over the past year

- 395 arrests for drug distribution were made between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
- Since January 1, 2020, there have been 204 drug distribution arrests

# Property Crime Trends 2019-2020

\*All YTD as of August 31<sup>st</sup>



METROPOLITAN  
CRIME  
COMMISSION

**Exhibit 13: Monthly Property Incident Calls**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	2,896	3,755	30%
February	2,659	3,355	26%
March	2,874	2,710	-6%
April	3,098	2,382	-23%
May	3,550	2,255	-36%
June	2,865	2,456	-14%
July	2,899	2,540	-12%
August	2,917	2,736	-10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,758</b>	<b>22,189</b>	<b>-7%</b>

- Property-related incident calls fell 7% in the past year.

- There were 23,758 property-related calls for service between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
- There have been 22,189 property incident calls between January 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020

**Exhibit 14: Monthly Felony Property Arrests**

Month	2019	2020	% change
January	170	74	-56%
February	144	95	-34%
March	167	60	-64%
April	156	42	-73%
May	147	53	-64%
June	146	22	-85%
July	133	22	-83%
August	146	21	-86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>-68%</b>

- Property arrests have dropped 68% in the past year

- 1,209 arrests for property offenses were made between January 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019
- Since January 1, 2020, there have been 389 property offense arrests

**Exhibit 15: Monthly Property Arrests by Type**

	Burglary			Theft			Criminal Damage		
	2019	2020	% change	2019	2020	% change	2019	2020	% change
January	24	24	0%	129	84	-35%	33	23	-30%
February	13	27	108%	99	73	-26%	37	20	-46%
March	11	40	264%	115	64	-44%	47	24	-49%
April	15	41	173%	112	36	-68%	34	22	-35%
May	21	27	29%	97	66	-32%	34	20	-41%
June	20	21	5%	111	37	-67%	39	19	-51%
July	11	23	109%	111	37	-67%	32	24	-25%
August	10	20	100%	123	45	-63%	40	23	-43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>-64%</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>-41%</b>

- Burglary arrests have increased 78% over the past year, while theft and criminal damage arrests have dropped 64% and 41%, respectively
- Given the relatively small change in the number of property-related calls for service, the substantial rise in burglary arrests may indicate a recent shift in police prioritization, such that greater focus is placed on making arrests for more serious property offenses