

# Crime in Santa Clara County - 2022



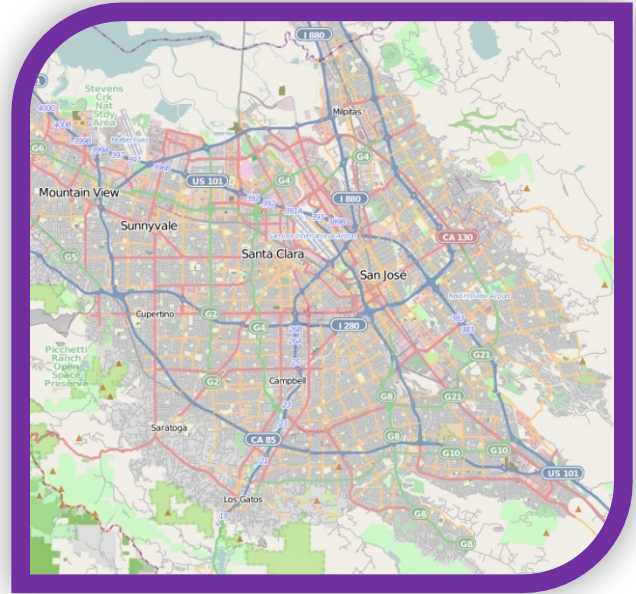
Prepared by:  
The Crime Strategies Unit  
Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office



## OUR COUNTY

Santa Clara County is the largest county in Northern California, spanning from Palo Alto in the north to Gilroy in the South. The county seat is in San Jose and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in California. According to the US Census Bureau, the County's estimated population is 1,936,259 residents<sup>1</sup>. It is the sixth largest county in California.

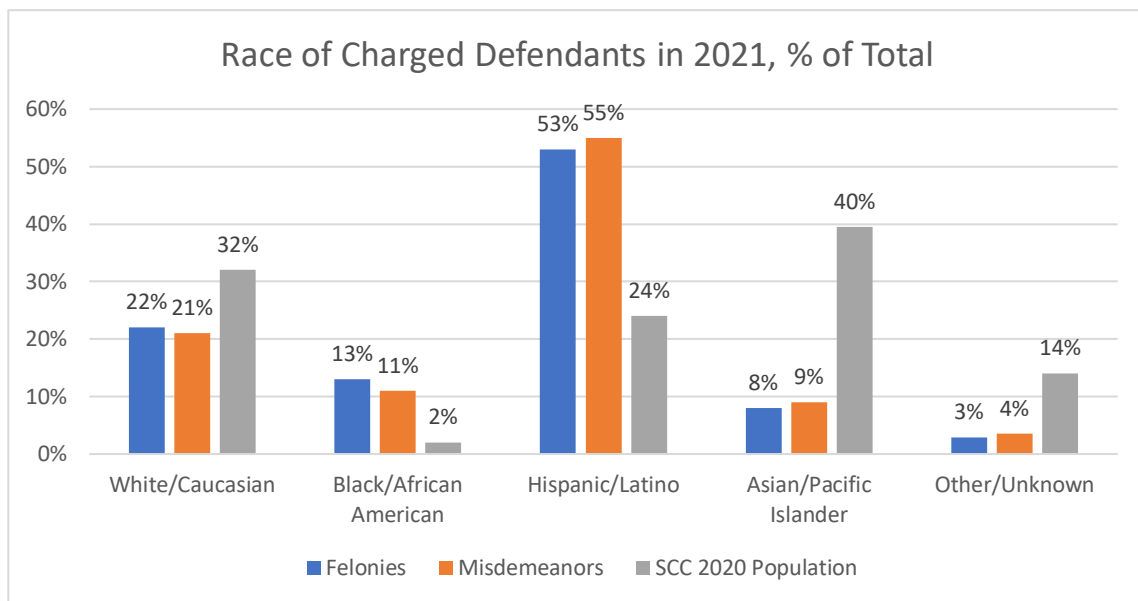
There are 15 cities in the county: Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale. The County is very diverse, with its city populations ranging in ethnic composition. The County residents are, on average, highly educated and have the highest median income among all counties in the state. These factors are analyzed in this report and compared to crime trends to see if there are any correlations between demographics and crime.



## Race of Charged Defendants

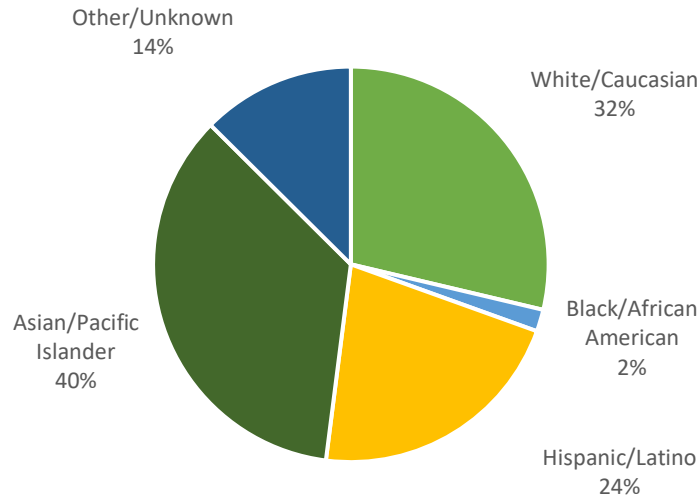
To understand our prosecution practices, we examined percentages of our total prosecutions for adult felonies and misdemeanors broken down by racial or ethnic group. As discussed here, race and ethnicity are based on the defendant's self-identification at booking or arrest. "Unknown" does not mean that a person does not know their racial or ethnic identification, but rather that the information was not known to our office at the time of filing charges.

When compared to the racial composition of our County, we prosecute a higher percentage of Hispanic/Latino and White/Caucasian defendants compared to their representation in our community. We prosecute a lower percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander defendants compared to their representation in the community.

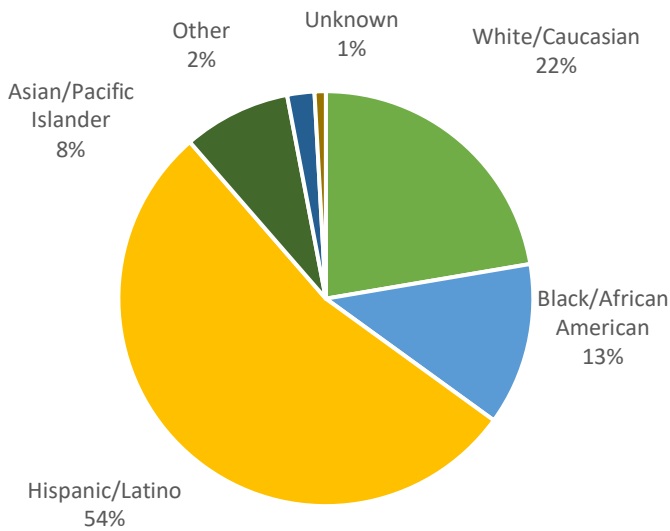


Racial disparity continues to exist in both felony and misdemeanor cases. For felonies, 55 percent involved Hispanic/Latino whereas 21% of felonies involved White/Caucasians.

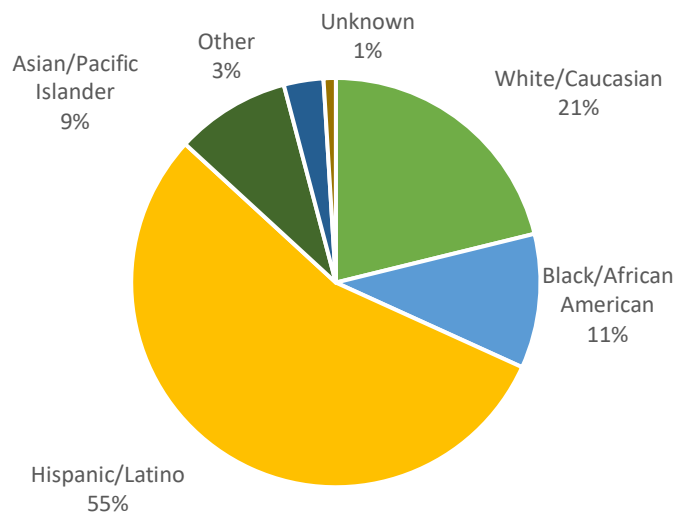
Santa Clara County Population by Race: 2021



Issued Felony Cases 2021: Defendant Race/Ethnicity



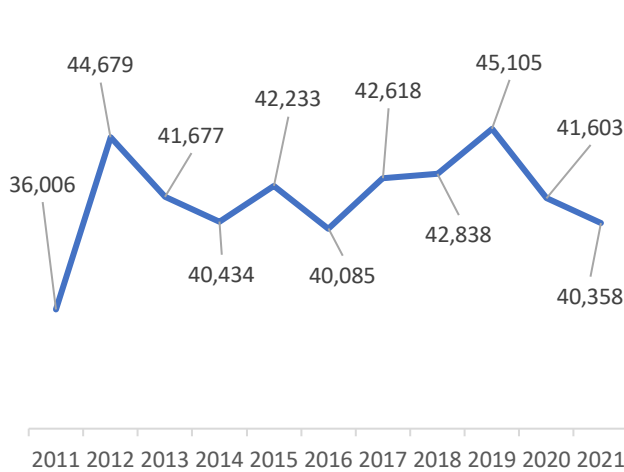
Issued Misdemeanor Cases 2021: Defendant Race/Ethnicity



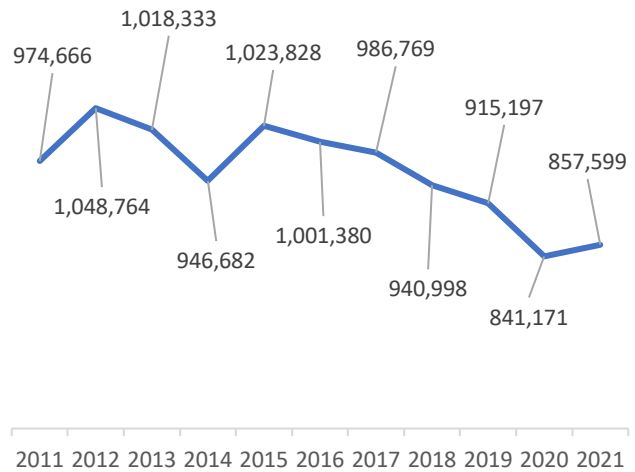
## Overall Crime Trends: 10 Year Analysis

The major story of the last ten years is a sustained increase in violent crimes reported in Santa Clara County and California. During this period reported violent crimes went up by 58% in this County, with 2021 accounting for a single year 18% increase in reported violent crimes. Over the last 10 years in both Santa Clara County and California the number of reported property crimes has fluctuated. In 2021 Santa Clara County saw a 3% decrease in property crimes. California in 2021 saw a 2% increase in property crimes and a 5.5% increase in violent crimes.<sup>ii</sup>

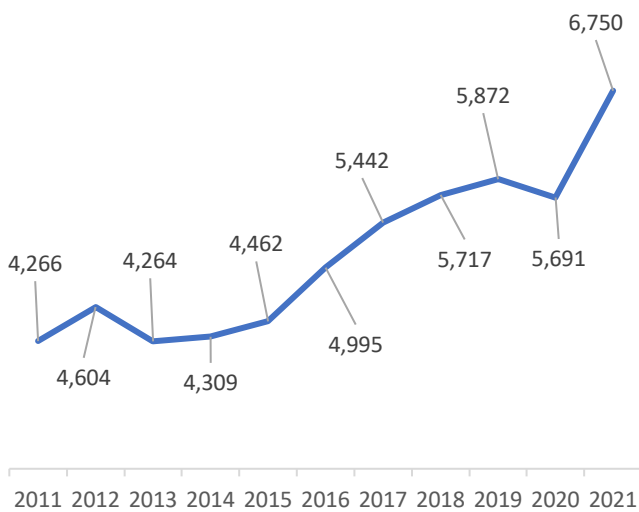
### Santa Clara County - Total Property Crimes



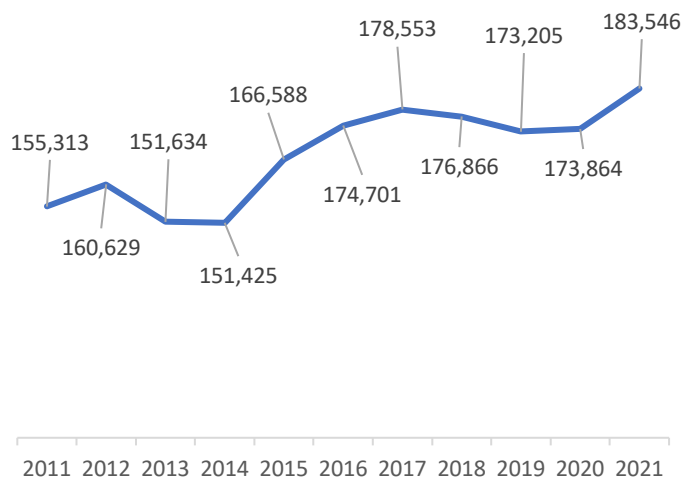
### California - Total Property Crimes



### Santa Clara County - Total Violent Crimes

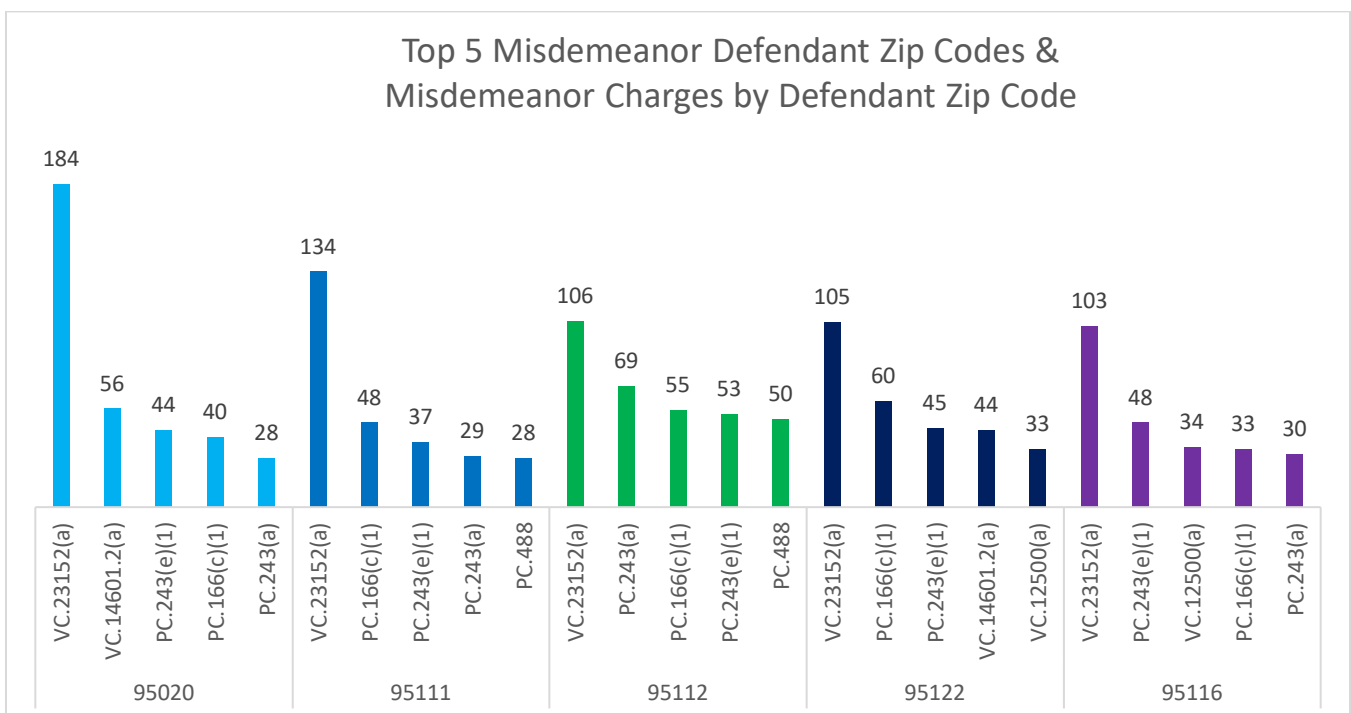
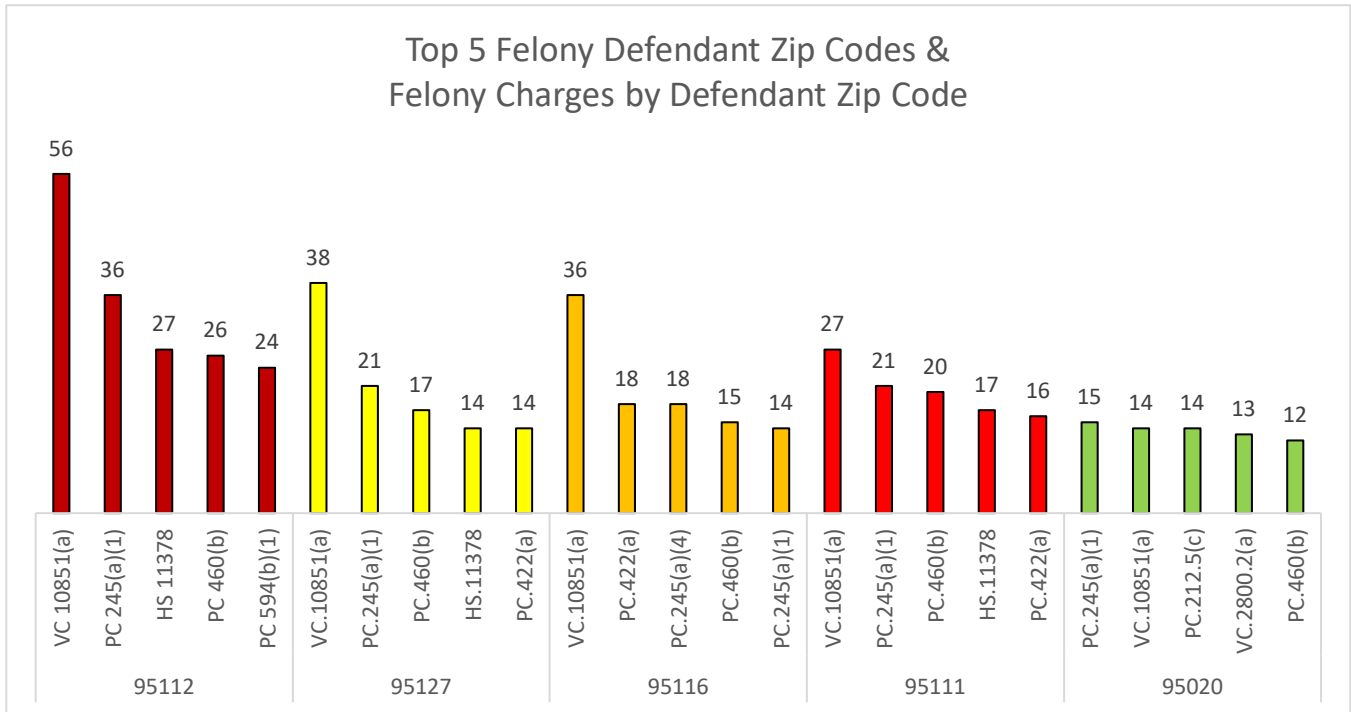


### California - Total Violent Crimes



## Zip Code Analysis: Adult Criminal Defendants

The Crime Strategies Unit conducted a Zip Code Analysis for **adult** defendants that were charged by the District Attorney's Office with a felony or misdemeanor crime. The charts below identify the top 5 zip codes of residence for charged criminal defendants but may not represent the actual location where the crimes were committed. Zip code 95112 accounts for the highest number of charged criminal felony defendants. If we look at misdemeanor defendants, 95020 had the most charged misdemeanor cases. The Penal/Vehicle/Health Codes included in the Zip Code Analysis for felonies<sup>iii</sup> as well as misdemeanors<sup>iv</sup> are defined in the index section.



## North, Central and South County

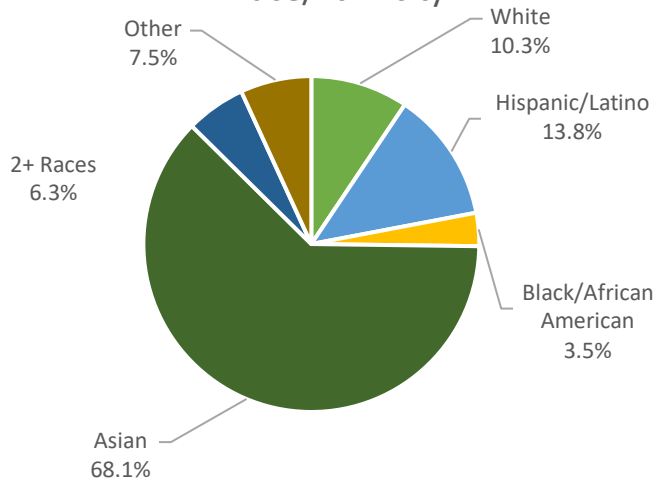
The United States Census Bureau collects data involving housing, population, income, education, and employment<sup>v</sup>. The data shown in the next data tables/charts are retrieved from the United States Census Bureau. In this report, data will be shown for North, Central and South County areas and what crime trends have been identified. A consistent trend in the last year was a countywide increase in aggravated assaults and rapes. Overall, based on the Crime Data Tables shown below, Santa Clara County experienced an 18% increase in reported rapes and 12% increase in reported aggravated assaults.

San Jose and Palo Alto have the highest median household income in the County for 2021. Milpitas has the highest unemployment rate in 2021. Santa Clara has the highest reported rate of families below the poverty line. Both San Jose and Milpitas have the highest reported 'Overcrowded Households' for 2021. The U.S. Census defined an overcrowded unit as "one occupied by 1.01 persons or more per room (excluding bathrooms and kitchens), units with more than 1.5 persons per room are considered severely overcrowded"<sup>vi</sup>.

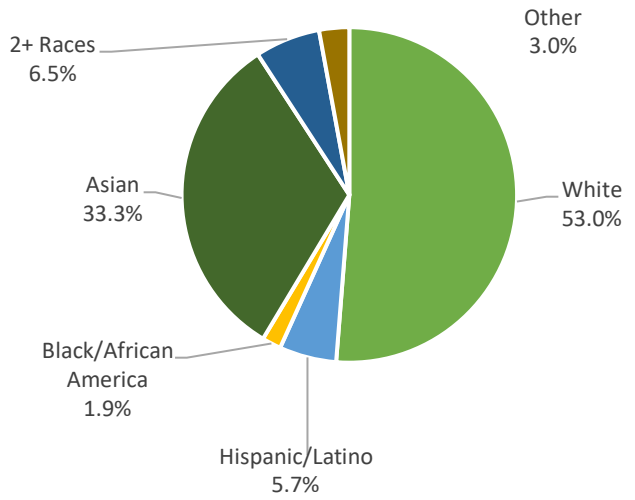
<b>North County</b>	<b>Milpitas</b>	<b>Palo Alto</b>	<b>Mountain View</b>	<b>Sunnyvale</b>
Population Size	75,182	66,680	81,516	152,258
Median Household Income (Year 2020)	<b><i>\$137,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$174,003</i></b>	<b><i>\$144,116</i></b>	<b><i>\$150,464</i></b>
Families Below Poverty Line	6.70%	5.50%	6.50%	5.40%
Persons per Household	3.29	2.58	2.42	2.72
Overcrowded Households	8.2%	4.88%	7.7%	6.8%
Educational Attainment (Ages > 25 Years): Less Than High School (9 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	7.2%	3.9%	2.8%	4.1%
Educational Attainment (Ages > 25 Years): College Graduate & Up	53.2%	82.7%	71%	65.9%
Unemployed	4.7%	2.8%	2.3%	4.4%

\*Note: Data in ***bold/italic*** are retrieved from the 2020 Census Data.

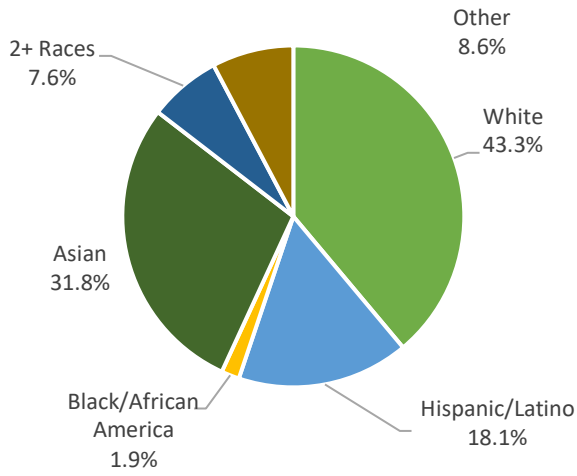
Milpitas Population:  
Race/Ethnicity



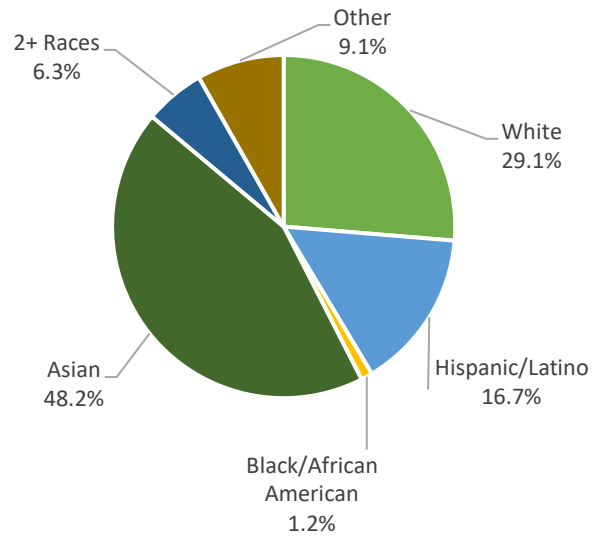
Palo Alto Population:  
Race/Ethnicity



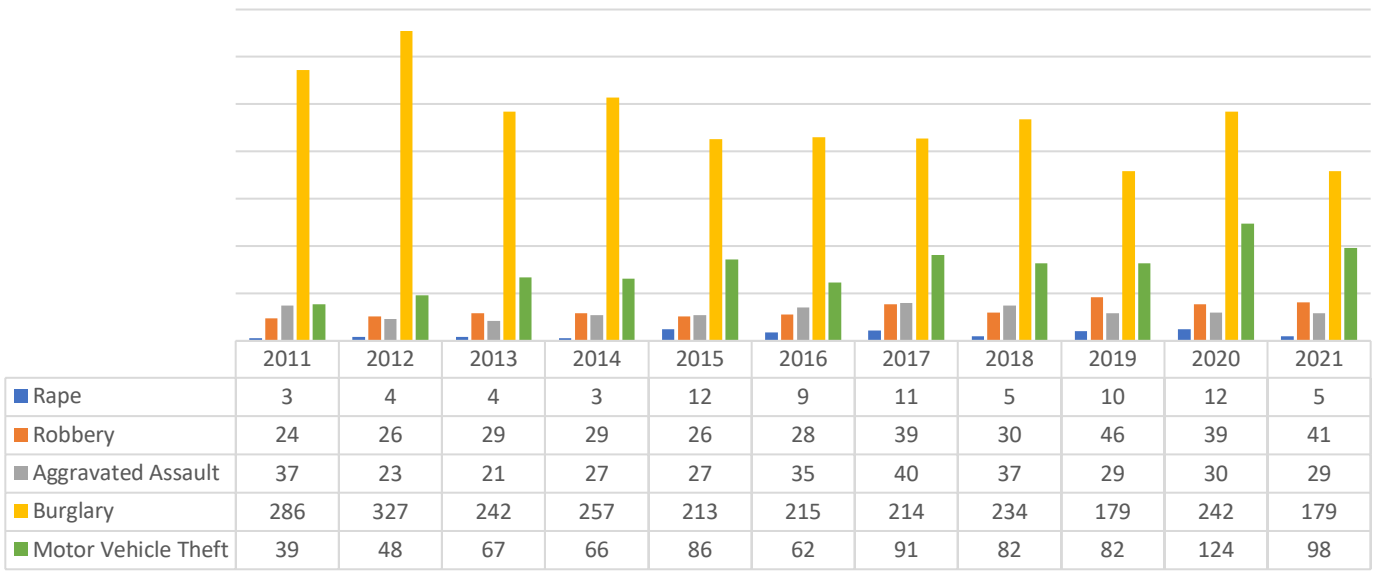
Mountain View Population:  
Race/Ethnicity



Sunnyvale Population:  
Race/Ethnicity

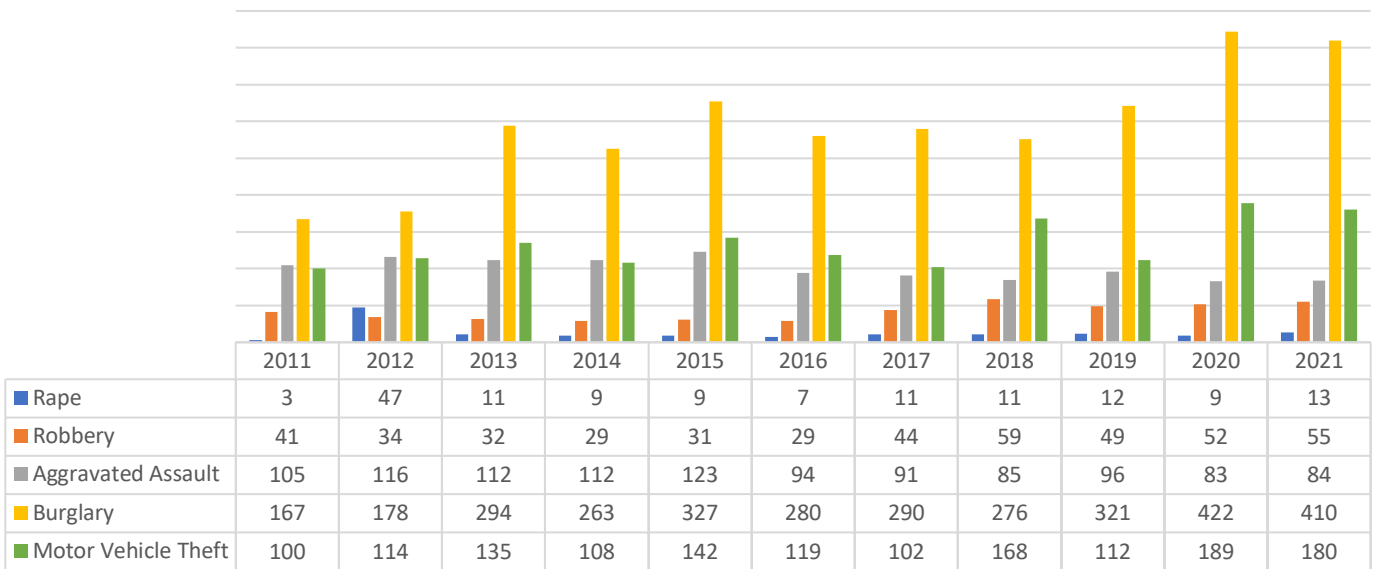


### Palo Alto Crime Data (2011-2021)



Palo Alto experienced a 29% decrease in reported burglary incidents. Overall, Palo Alto did not show significant crime increases in 2021, in fact, crime shown in the table above remained uniform to the previous year, 2020.

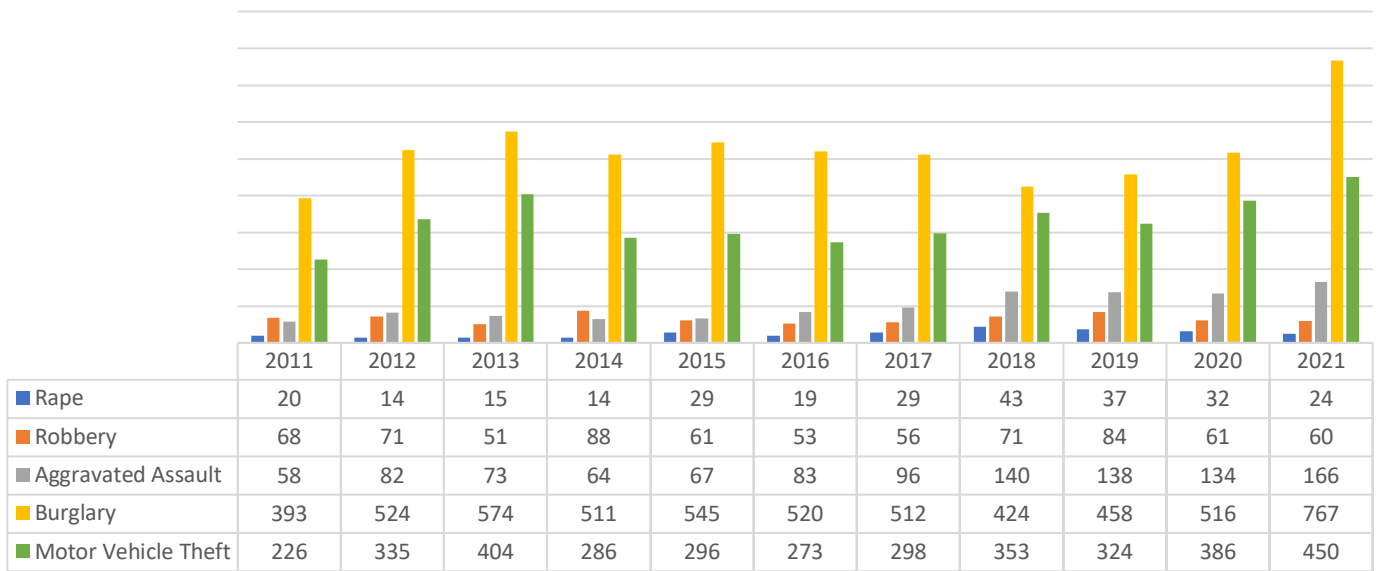
### Mountain View Crime Data (2011-2021)



Mountain View reported relatively similar number of reported crime in 2021 compared to 2020.

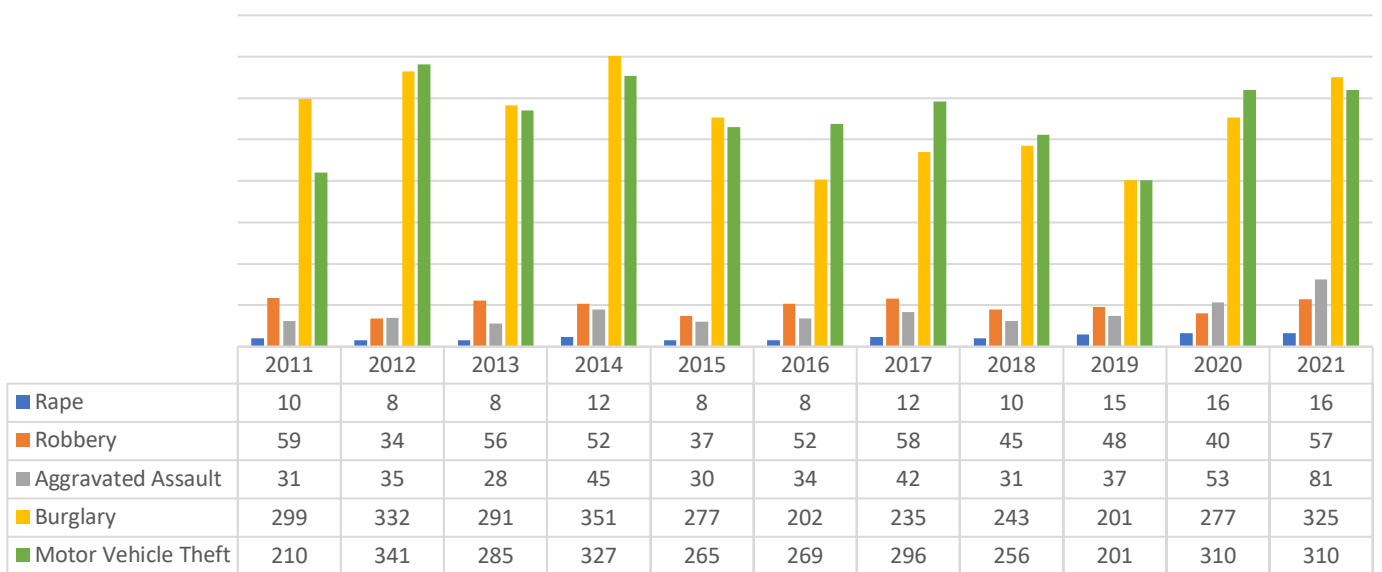


### Sunnyvale Crime Data (2011-2021)



Sunnyvale Crime Data from 2021 shows that there was a 39% increase in burglary incidents. Crime data identified a 21% increase in aggravated assaults and a 15% increase in motor vehicle thefts.

### Milpitas Crime Data (2011-2021)



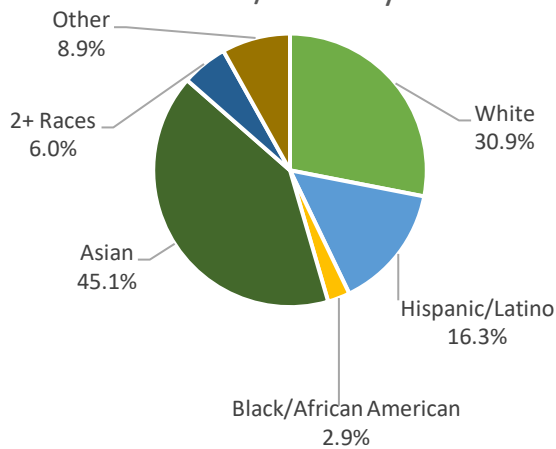
In 2021 Milpitas experienced a 15% increase in burglaries and a 41% increase in aggravated assaults compared to 2020.

# Central County

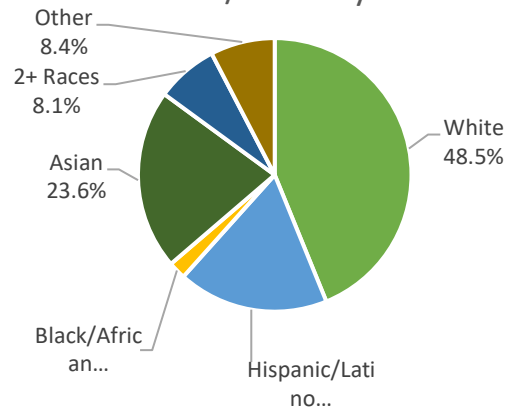
	Santa Clara	Campbell	San Jose
Population Size	127,151	42,754	983,489
Median Household Income (Year 2020)	<b><i>\$136,870</i></b>	<b><i>\$122,644</i></b>	<b><i>\$177,324</i></b>
Families Below Poverty Line	7.1%	6.9%	8.3%
Persons Per Household	2.75	2.64	3.13
Overcrowded Households	4.8%	<b><i>5.8%</i></b>	9.2%
Educational Attainment (Ages > 25 Years): Less Than High School (9 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	2.5%	<b><i>4%</i></b>	8.4%
Educational Attainment (Ages > 25 Years): College Graduate & Up	62.1%	53.5%	44.8%
Unemployed	4%	<b><i>1.7%</i></b>	4.5%

\*Note: Data in ***bold/italic*** are retrieved from the 2020 Census Data.

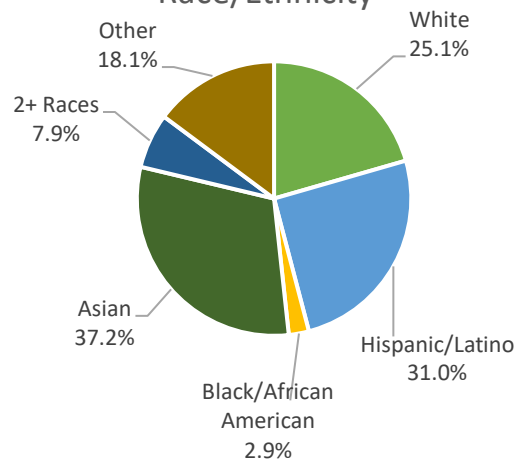
Santa Clara Population:  
Race/Ethnicity



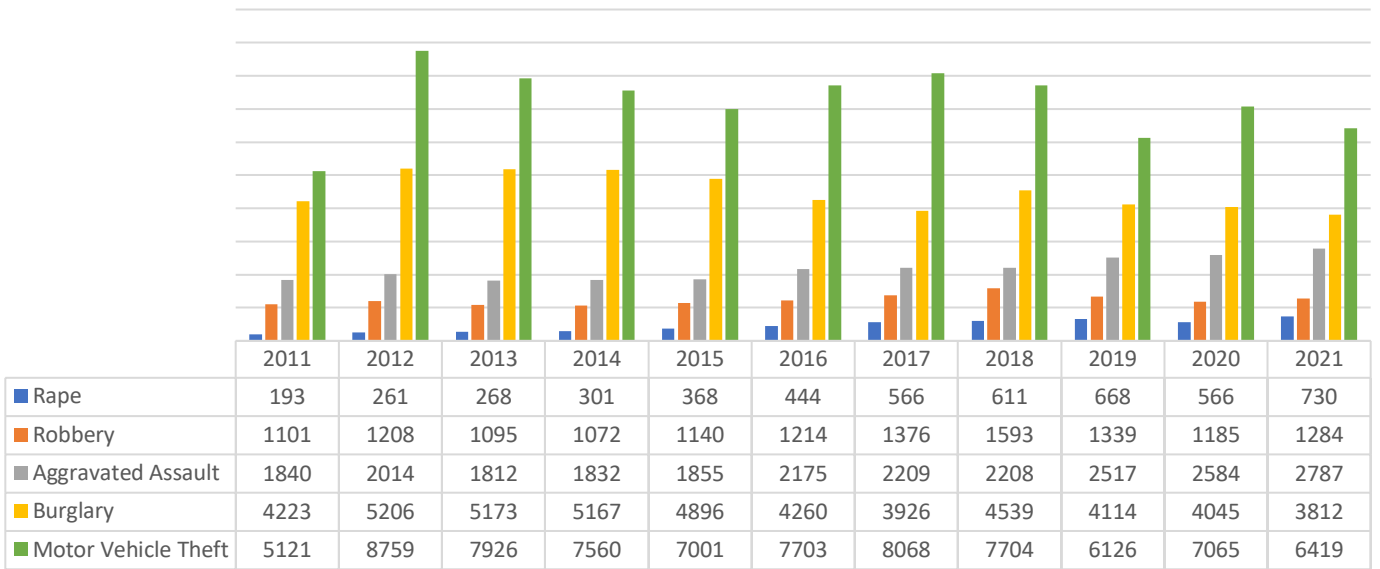
Campbell Population:  
Race/Ethnicity



San Jose Population:  
Race/Ethnicity

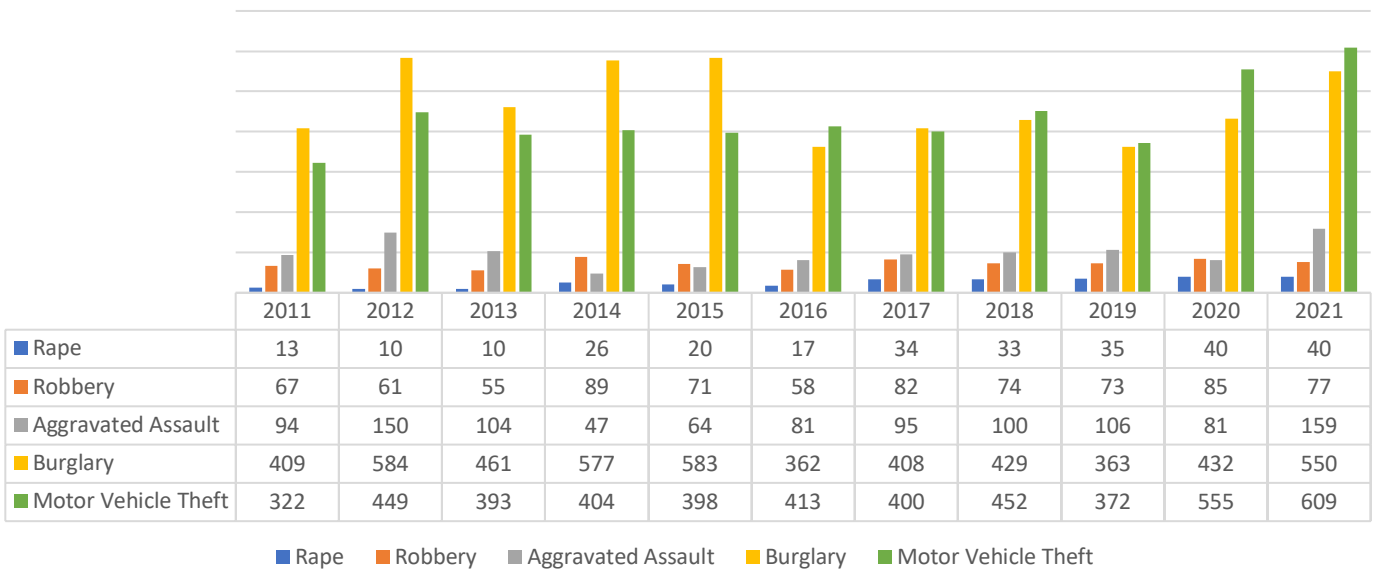


### San Jose Crime Data (2011-2021)



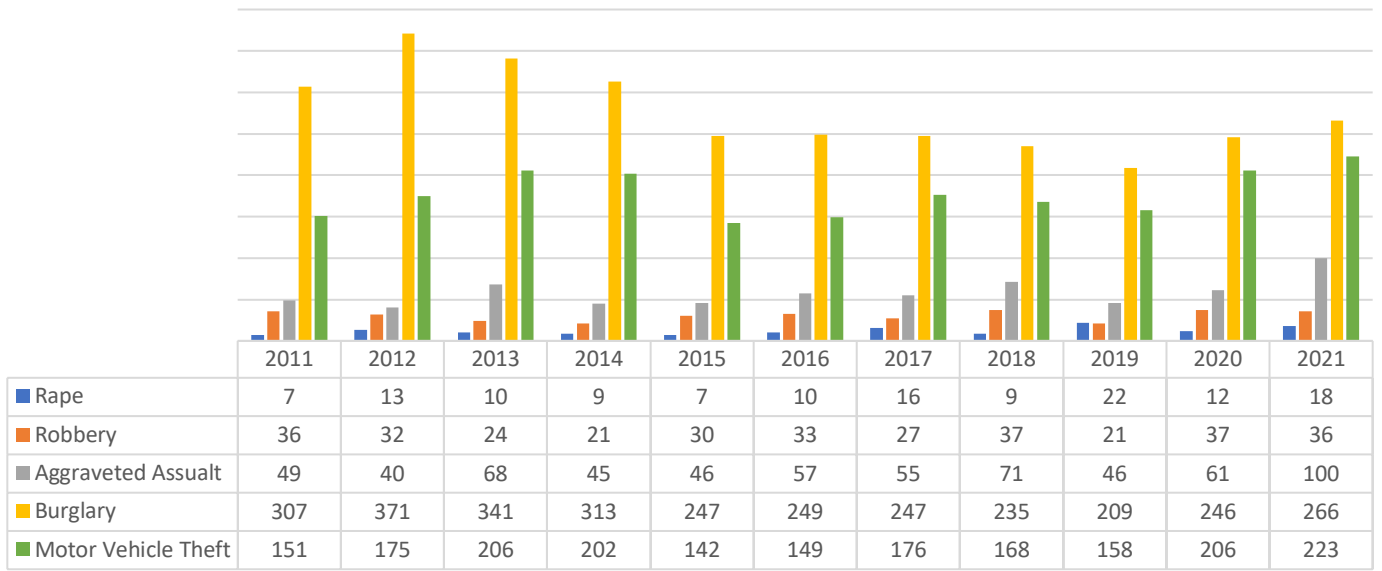
San Jose experienced a 9% decrease in motor vehicle theft and a 25% increase in rapes between 2020 and 2021. Aggravated assaults continued a consistent upward climb. Between 2011 and 2021 aggravated assaults have increased by 51.5%.

### Santa Clara Crime Data (2011-2021)



In Santa Clara, there was a 65% increase in aggravated assaults in 2021. Santa Clara also saw a 24% increase in burglaries.

### Campbell Crime Data (2011-2021)

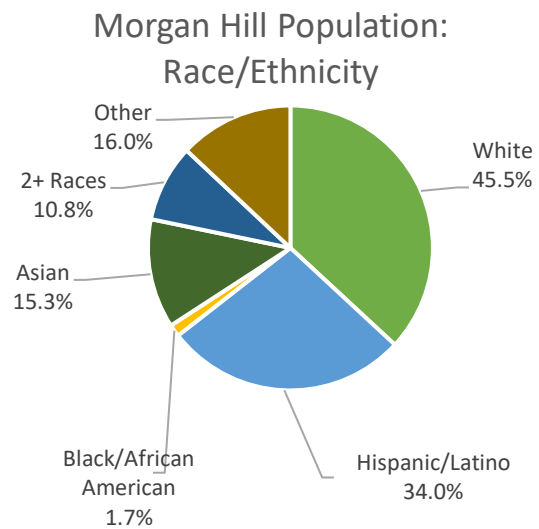
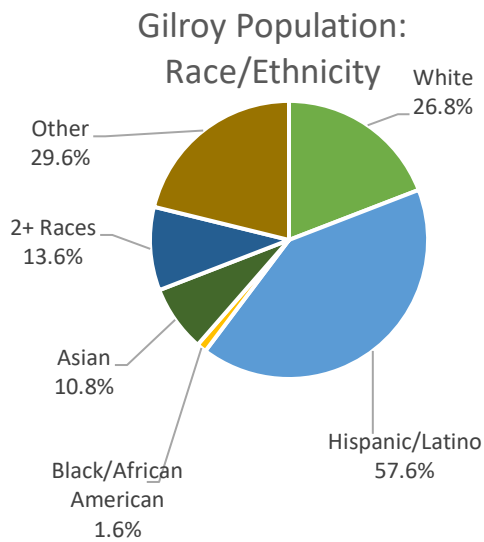


In Campbell, there was an 8% increase in larceny and a 48% increase in aggravated assaults. All other crimes remained closely, consistent compared to 2020.

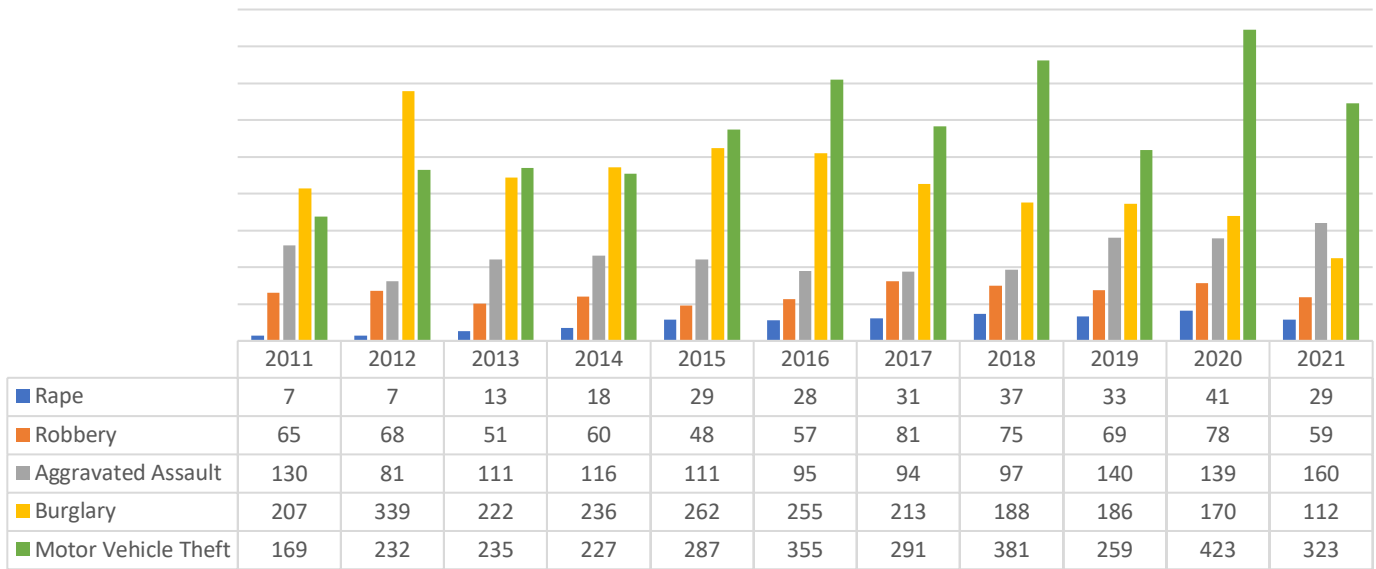
# South County

	Morgan Hill	Gilroy
Population Size	45,342	58,101
Median Household Income (Year 2020)	<b><i>\$128,373</i></b>	<b><i>\$107,729</i></b>
Families Below Poverty Line	4.2%	6.9%
Persons Per Household	3.10	3.50
Overcrowded Households	<b><i>6%</i></b>	7.5%
Educational Attainment (Ages > 25 Years): Less Than High School (9 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	<b><i>4.4%</i></b>	<b><i>11.6%</i></b>
Educational Attainment (Ages > 25 Years): College Graduate & Up	42.7%	28.6%
Unemployed	<b><i>2.9%</i></b>	<b><i>4%</i></b>

\*Note: Data in ***bold/italic*** are from 2020 Census Data.

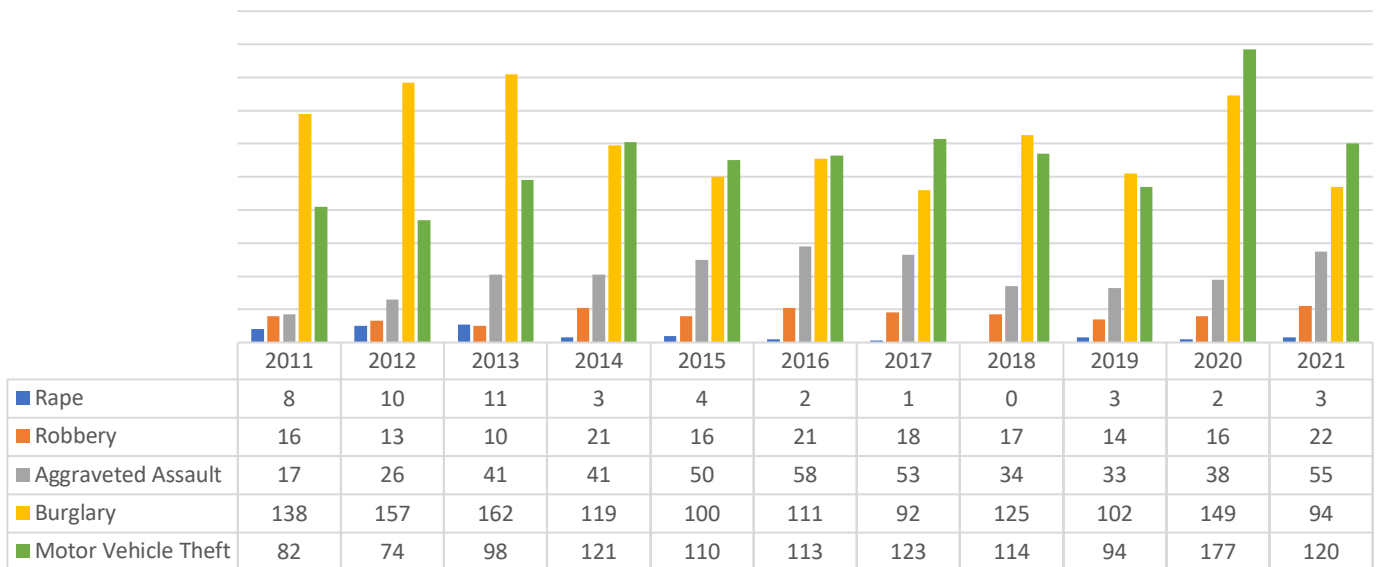


### Gilroy Crime Data (2011-2021)



Gilroy experience a 26% decrease in motor vehicle thefts and a 27% decrease in robberies. Burglaries went down 41%, hitting the lowest number of reported burglaries compared to previous years. The year 2012 holds the highest number of reported burglaries. However, aggravated assaults hit a ten year high, increasing by 15% in 2021.

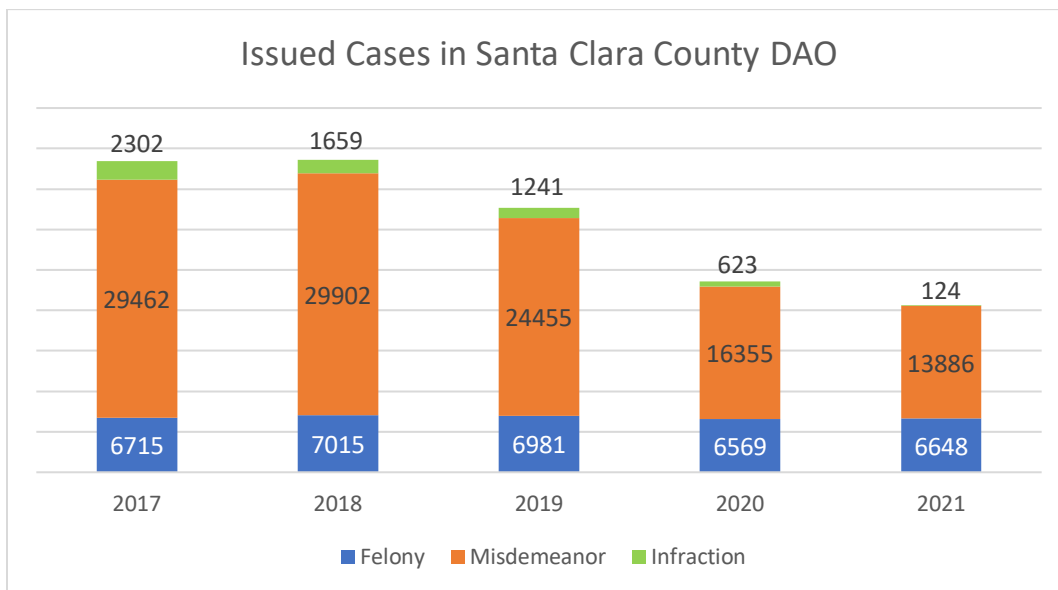
### Morgan Hill Crime Data (2011-2021)



Morgan Hill experienced a 45% decrease in reported burglaries. There has also been an increase of 36% for aggravated assaults. Motor vehicle thefts also decreased by 38%.

## Prosecution Data

In the year 2021, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office handled a total of 38,226 filed cases. These cases are submitted by an agency after an arrest and prosecutors decide if there is sufficient evidence to charge someone with a crime. After deciding a case has sufficient evidence to prosecute, a case is 'issued' against the offender. Since the announcement of Bend the Arc Reform in 2020 by District Attorney Jeff Rosen, one of the many policy changes that were made is how the District Attorney's Office decides whether to charge a case. Before, the Office would view cases by answering the following preliminary questions: Was a crime committed? Can we prove it beyond a reasonable doubt to a unanimous jury at trial? After 2020, issuing prosecutors now ask: What can we prove? What should we charge? Below, the Santa Clara County Crime Strategies Unit examined the number of issued cases in Santa Clara County and saw a dramatic reduction in filed misdemeanor cases in the last two years.



Throughout the years 2019 to 2021, the number of issued misdemeanor cases continued to decline. Since the announcement of the Bend the Arc Reform<sup>vii</sup>, the Office initiated 26 social justice reforms<sup>viii</sup> in four main sections: Community Initiatives, Internal Policies and Practices, Robust and Independent Review of Criminal Police Misconduct and Systemic Changes.

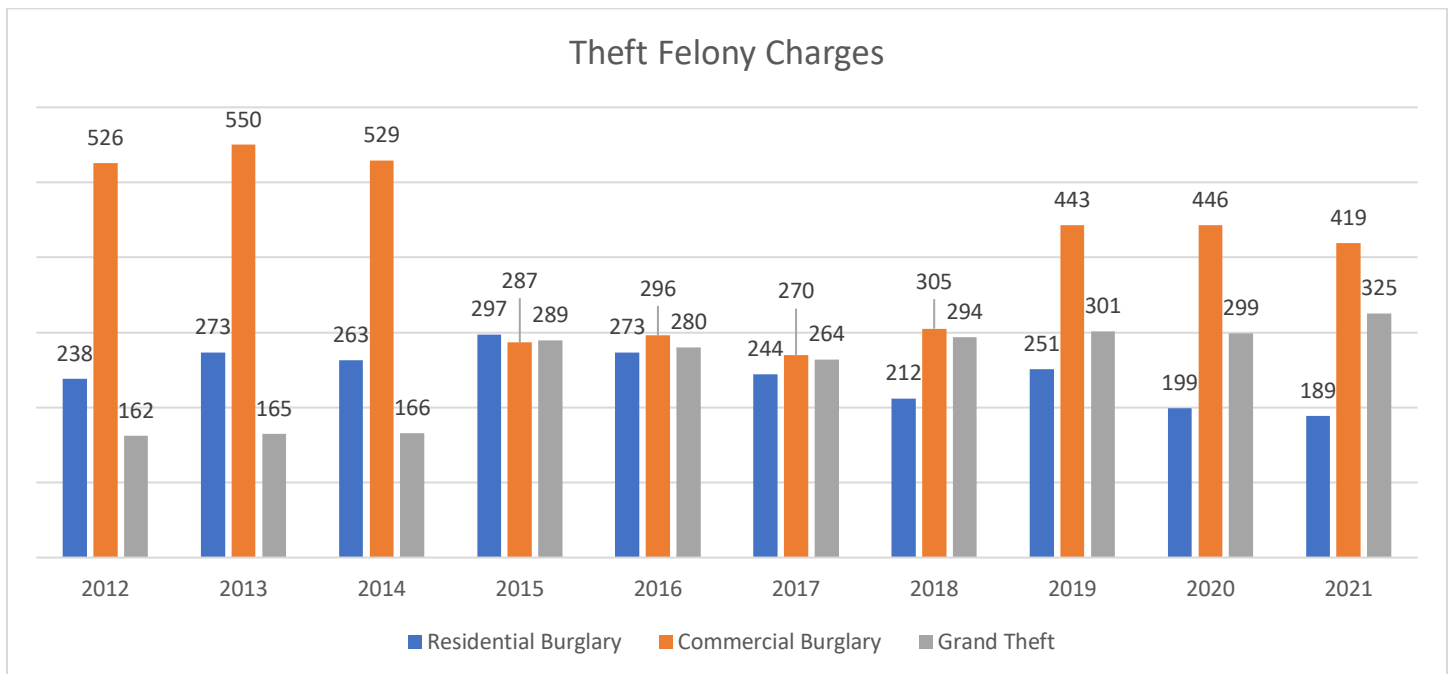
Among the 26 social justice reforms, there are three policy changes that affected the overall number of filed misdemeanor cases. Those changes include the following:

- The DAO stopped filing VC 14601.1 (Driving on a Suspended License for Failure to Pay Fines and Fees) charges as misdemeanors in Criminal Court and instead filed those cases in Traffic Court as infractions.
  - This reduces the overall number of cases within the criminal court and moved them over to traffic court.
- The DAO does not charge gang enhancements for misdemeanor crimes, absent extraordinary public safety concerns.
  - “By not charging gang enhancements for misdemeanor crimes, we will reduce the long-term felony impact of this misdemeanor conduct on predominately Latino individuals in our community, while still holding them appropriately responsible for the crimes they have committed.”
- The DAO will review all body worn camera footage before issuing any PC 148 (Resisting Arrest) or similar charges. The DAO will also codify practices on reviewing PC 148 cases, including discouraging the issuing of standalone PC 148 (unless extraordinary circumstances).

Another separate social justice reform is the way the DAO prosecutes drug possession crimes. District Attorney Jeff Rosen announced that the DAO will only be filing stand-alone drug possessions or drug under the influence crimes if the offender committed 3 or more in a year. Since the change of policy there have been approximately 7,000 fewer drug possession/under the influence of drug charges. Offenders involved in these cases are referred and encouraged to visit drug treatment facilities. DA Jeff Rosen wants and continues to encourage drug treatment facilities and public health departments to provide drug treatment opportunities for drug offenders. As stated by DA Jeff Rosen, “Its more effective to refer drug offenders to drug treatment facilities rather than sending them through the Criminal Justice System unless it becomes a public safety issue where the offender is committing other crimes in addition to drug possession/under the influence of drugs”.

### Issuing Practices by Case Type

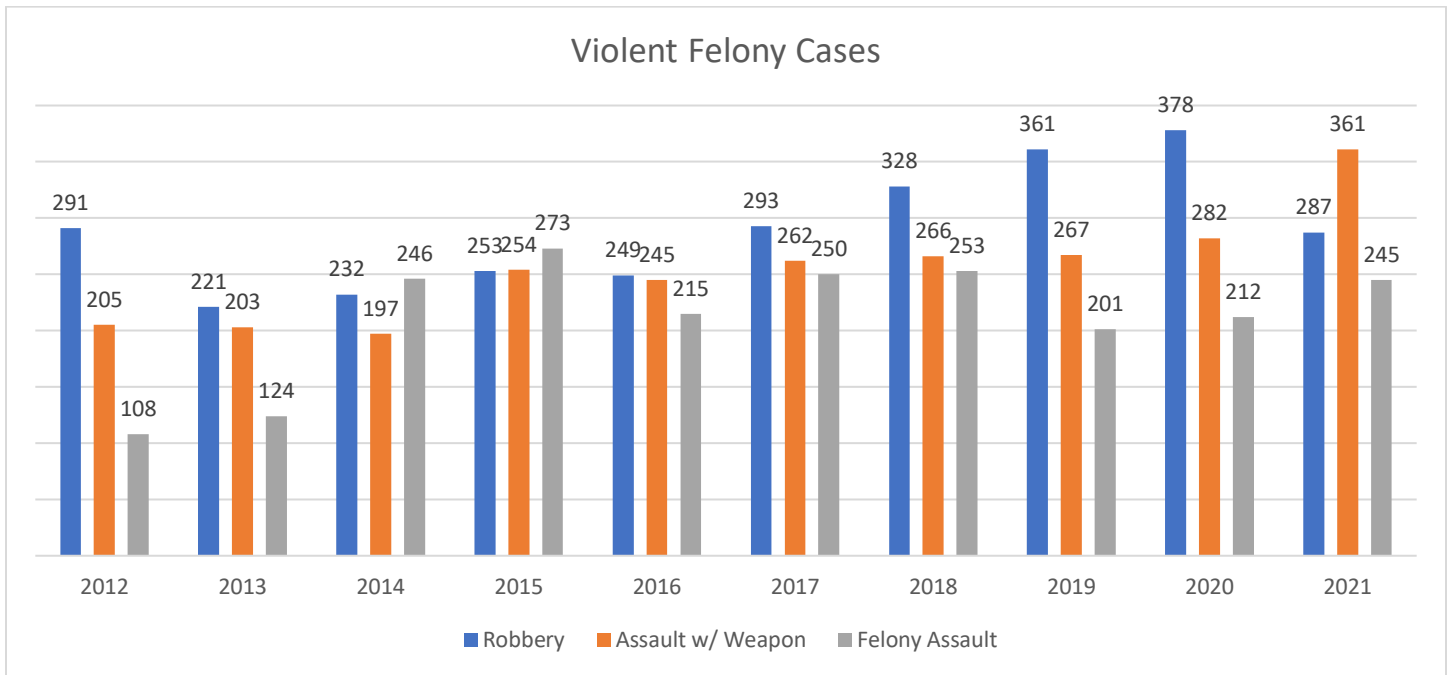
The charts below show the number of charges filed (by Type of Case) by the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office. In each chart, the number of cases is calculated by looking at the most serious charge on the complaint.



Penal Codes: 460(a), 460(b), 487(a)

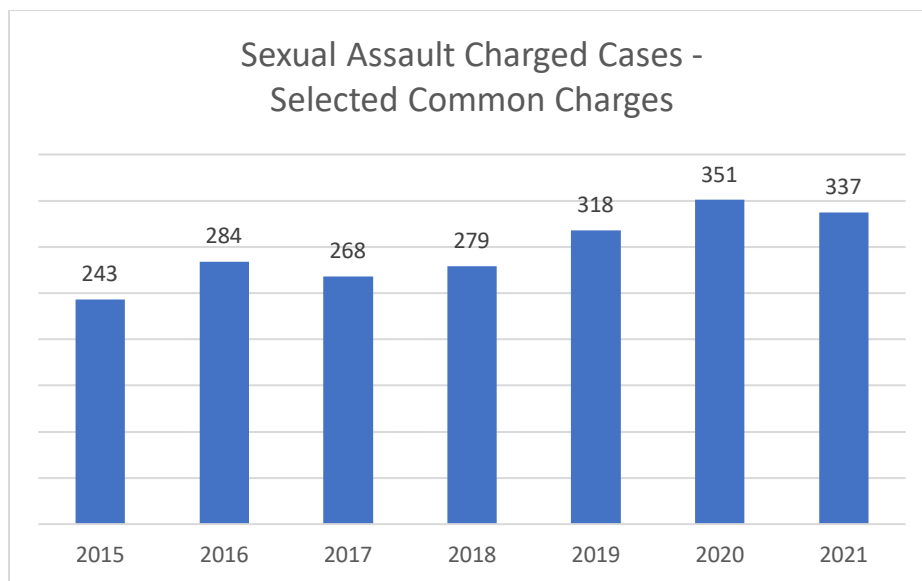
In 2021, Santa Clara County set the highest recorded number for issued charges for grand thefts and the lowest recorded number for residential burglaries. Issued commercial burglary charges remained uniform between 2019 to 2021.





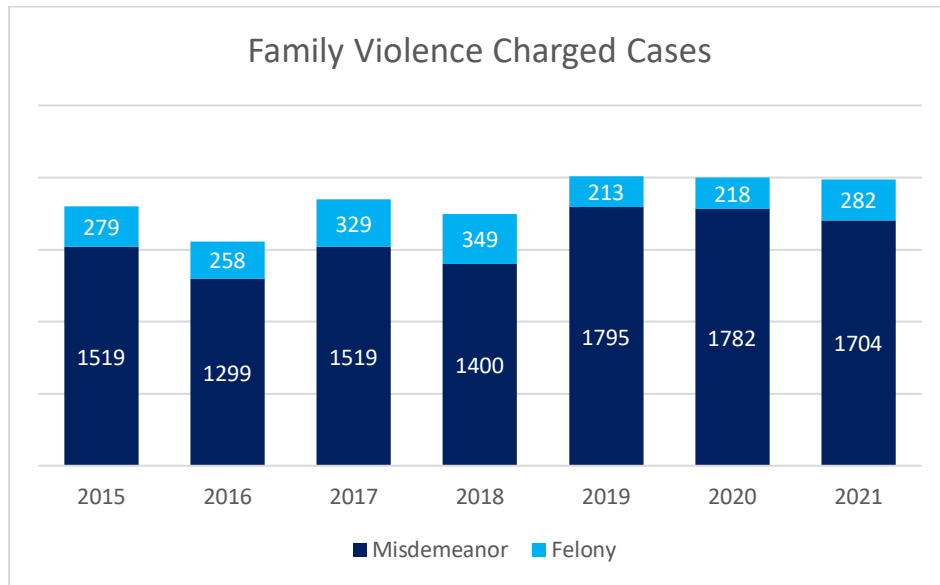
*Penal Codes: 211-212.5(a, c), 245(a)(1), 245(a)(4)*

For violent felony cases, the number of issued charges for robberies show a large decrease of 27.3% whereas felony assault increased by 14%. Issued charges for assault involving a weapon increased by 24.5%.



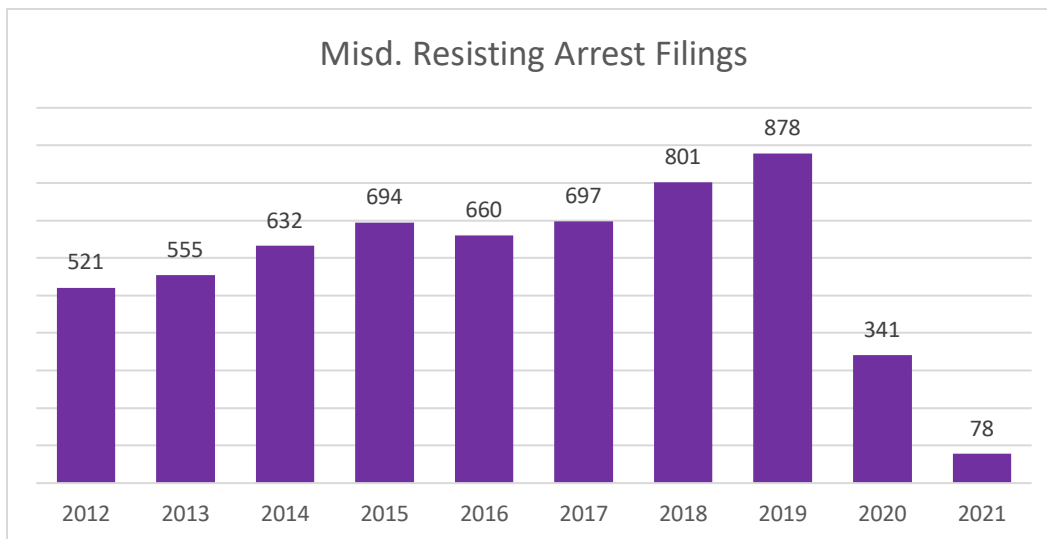
*Penal Codes: 220, 261, 261.5, 266(h), 266(i), 269, 288, 288.5, 288.7, 288(a), 289, 311.11*

As shown in the chart above, the number of filed charges remain relatively constant for 2021. Filed cases decrease by 4% for 2021.



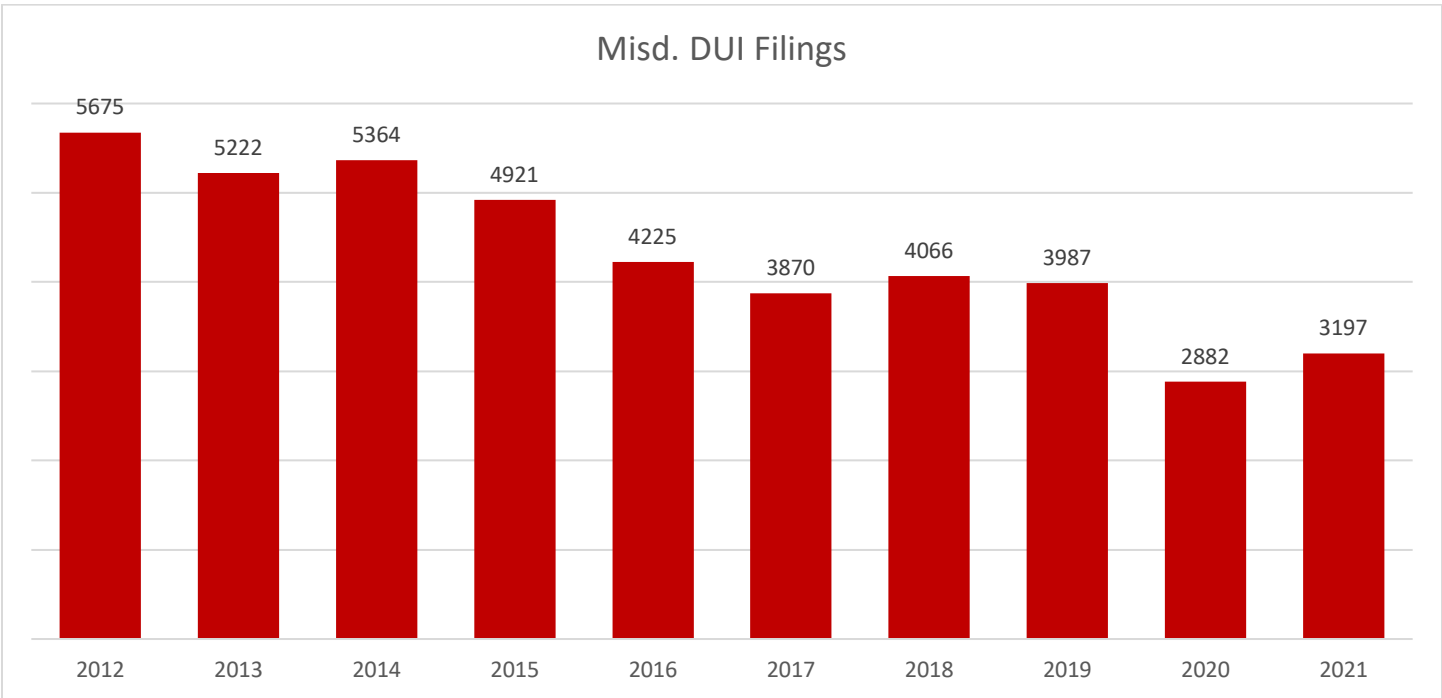
*Penal Codes: 243(e), PC 243.4(e)(1), PC 273.5(a), PC 273.6*

The number of cases involving family violence remained relatively uniform for the last three years. There is a small decrease of 4% in filed misdemeanor cases and an increase of 25% for filed felonies.



*Penal Code: 148(a)(1) – chart reflects cases where the primary “count 1” charge is PC 148(a)(1)*

As mentioned before earlier in the report, since DA Jeff Rosen announced the reform plan in 2020, resisting arrest cases continue to decline. It was announced that the DAO would move away from charging/filing standalone resisting arrest charges. The chart above reflects cases where the primary or “Count One” charge is resisting arrest. There may be additional charges in the complaint.



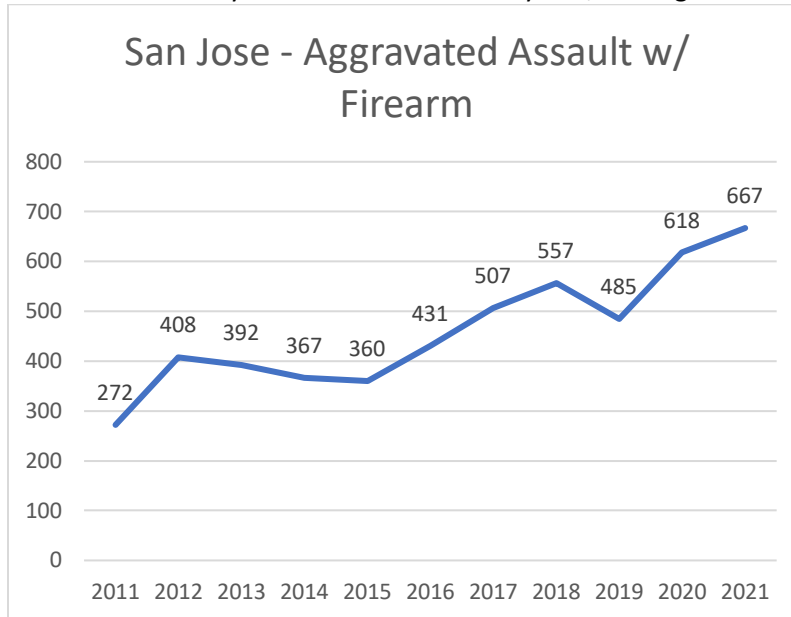
Vehicle Codes: 23152(a), (b), (c), (f), and (g)

In 2021, the Santa Clara County filed and charged 3,197 offenders with a DUI (misdemeanor). Since 2020, the County experienced a 10% increase in DUI's being filed/charged. The year 2020 was the lowest recorded number of charged DUI's.

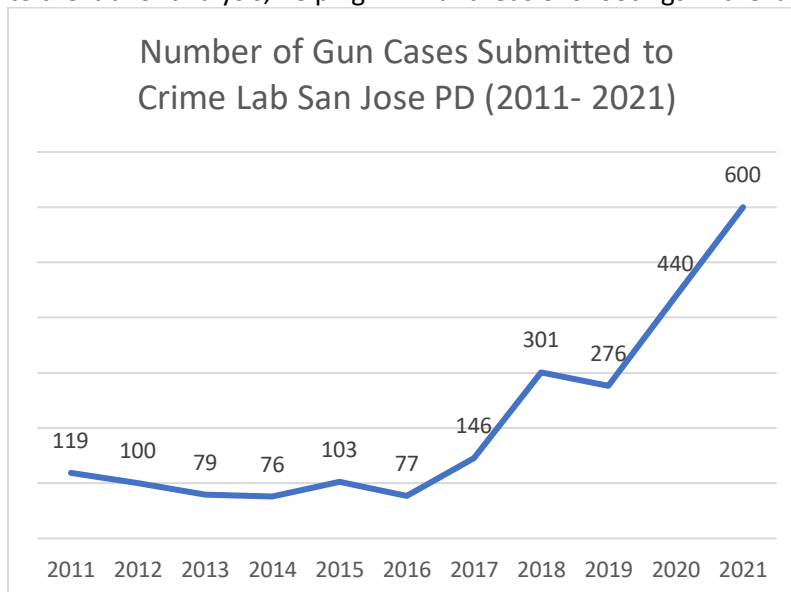
## Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) – Gun Related Intelligence Program (GRIP)

The Santa Clara County Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) continues to study crime trends and prosecution practices to ensure that police and prosecutors are well-informed and focused on the major crime issues facing the community. CSU continues to write numerous reports for the public and routinely provides data presentations to community groups, police officers, prosecutors, County stakeholders and the media. CSU continued to be involved in several large crime-reduction initiatives, including the Gun Related Intelligence Program (GRIP), which links shootings through ballistic evidence and more.

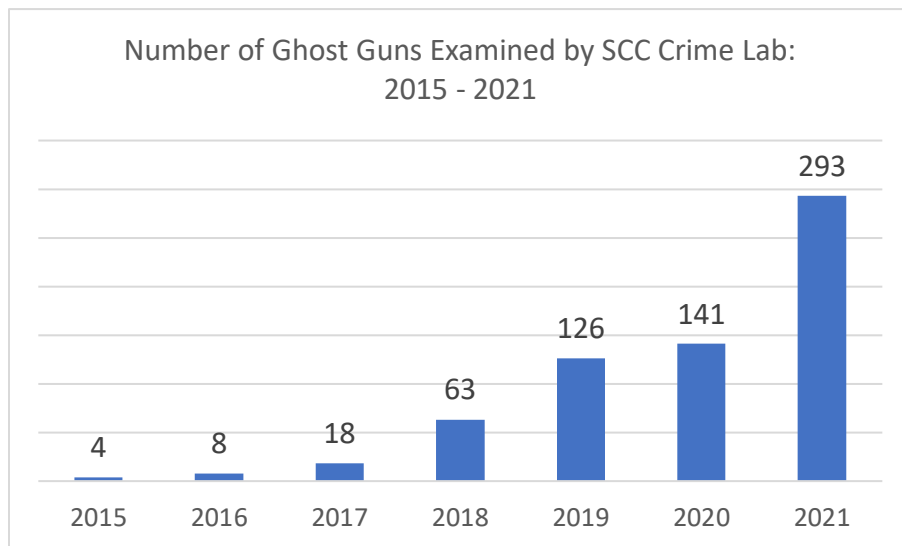
We know that firearm violence is rapidly increasing in Santa Clara County and around the nation. In San Jose, rates of aggravated assaults with a firearm have nearly doubled in the last ten years, leading to increased focus on solutions.



To help combat the increase in the number of shootings occurring in San Jose, the Crime Strategies Unit has worked very closely with the County Police Chiefs to streamline the submission of all firearms evidence to ensure timely and complete analysis of firearms evidence. As a result, immediately following CSU's work on this issue, guns were sent in hugely increased numbers to the lab for analysis, helping link hundreds of shootings in the last several years.



Overall, the number of firearm cases submitted to the Crime Lab by San Jose Police Department continues to significantly increase. For 2021, there was a 30% increase in the number of gun cases submitted to the crime lab. The year 2021 is currently the highest recorded number of gun/firearm cases submitted to the Crime Lab. One troubling trend is the increase in the number of unserialized “ghost guns” recovered by law enforcement. As defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, a ‘ghost gun’ is a privately made firearm (PMF) that is not marked with a unique serial number which is difficult for law enforcement to track down if it is used to commit a crime<sup>ix</sup>. There has been an exponential rise in the number of these illegal firearms submitted to our lab, as recovered by the police. For 2021, the number of examined ghost guns increased by 70%.



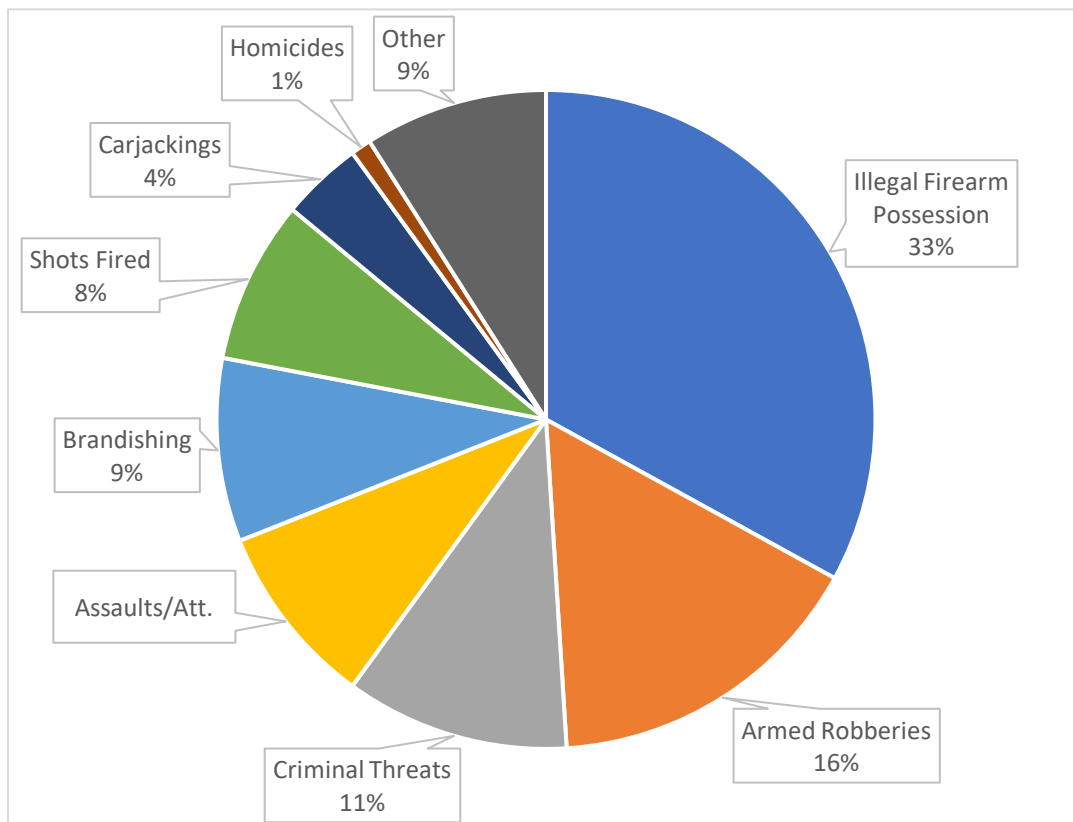
In positive news, increased firearm submissions mean increased success in linking shootings! The Crime Lab Firearms Unit examines hundreds of expended shell casings from crime scenes and test-fired crime guns, looking for unique markings using the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). When two or more shell casings appear to have been fired from the same gun, the crime lab notifies a crime analyst at GRIP and the GRIP team gets to work building a case for prosecution. Through tireless analysis and collaboration, the GRIP analysts work with investigators and prosecutors to identify, apprehend and prosecute shooters and gun crime-drivers.

<b>NIBIN</b>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>GRIP Cases</b>	36	78	92	71	118	118
<b>Total Linked Agency Cases</b>	115	251	239	193	305	279
<b>Homicides w/ NIBIN lead</b>	6	9	14	10	10	17

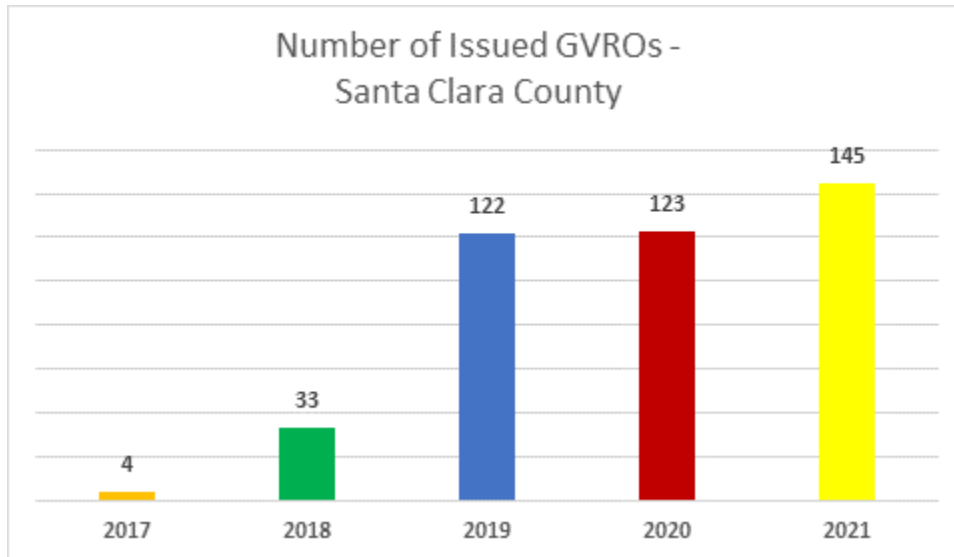
## GRIP Collection – Firearms Related Incidents Analyzed by CSU:

During the first half of 2022, the Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) reviewed more than 1,300 firearm related incidents in Santa Clara County. The number of incidents also includes Computer Aided Dispatch Entries submitted by Santa Clara 911 Dispatch Communications. CSU documented 100 agency reports which involved the seizures of privately made firearms (PMF). CSU has documented 269 recovered firearms. The table below, Top Crime Types, shows the categories that account for over 90% of the crime types in the Agency Reports.

Top Crime Types for Police Reports (Firearm Related)
• About 33% are firearms possession or concealable firearm charges
• About 16% are related to robberies
• About 11% were related to criminal threats
• About 9% were assaults or attempted homicide
• About 9% are brandishing of a firearm
• About 8% are shootings
• About 4% were related to carjackings
• About 1% were related to homicides



Law Enforcement Agencies in Santa Clara County are beginning to issue Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO) more frequently and these tools are now becoming a norm to increase public safety and the safety of the victims. GVROs is a court order which removes firearms from an individual they perceive as potentially dangerous. In other words, it temporarily removes firearms from the possession of an individual who is considered a threat to others. In Santa Clara County, data shows that there was a 16% increase of GVROs that were issued to offenders.



CSU has conducted GVRO training sessions for hundreds of officers to educate and inform them what a GVRO is, how to issue a GVRO, and the benefits of requesting/issuing a GVROs. GVROs are frequently being issued to offenders in cases that involve domestic violence, mental illness, suicide and criminal threats.

## Conclusion

This report shows that Santa Clara County continues to experience increasing violent crime, consistent with statewide trends. With the announcement of the 'Bend the Arc' Policy Reforms the number of misdemeanor cases being filed have decreased, allowing defendants a second chance to turn their life around, build a life, and positively contribute to their community. It is important to note that although the DAO handled a total of 38,226 cases, the DAO saw a drop in filed/issued cases.

The Crime Strategies Unit will continue to conduct crime trend monitoring and will continue working closely with County Law Enforcement in combating crime. The Unit will continue working with the Santa Clara County Crime Lab to expedite gun evidence processing and solve gun crimes. The goal for the Crime Strategies Unit is to bring shooters to justice and keep them from further victimizing vulnerable neighborhoods.

## INDEX

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<sup>i</sup> United States Census Bureau – Decennial Census, available at [P1: Census Bureau Table](#).

<sup>ii</sup> California Department of Justice – 2021 Crime in California, available [Attorney General Bonta Releases California Criminal Justice Statistical Reports for 2021 | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#), [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov).

<sup>iii</sup> Zip Code Analysis Felony Chart – Penal Code Definitions, available [Codes: Code Search \(ca.gov\)](#).

- VC 10851(a) - Driving or Taking a Vehicle without Consent.
- PC 245(a)(1) - Assault with a deadly weapon.
- HS 11378 - Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale.
- PC.460(b) - First Degree Residential Burglary.
- PC.594(b)(1) - Vandalism.
- PC.422(a) - Criminal Threats.
- PC.245(a)(4) - Commit an assault, and to do so by using force that is likely to produce “great bodily injury.”
- PC.212.5(c) - First-Degree Robbery.

<sup>iv</sup> Zip Code Analysis Misdemeanor Chart – Penal Code Definitions, available [Codes: Code Search \(ca.gov\)](#).

- VC.23152(a) - DUI of Alcohol.
- PC.243(a) - Crime of Battery.
- PC.166(c)(1) - Violation of Criminal Protective Order (Restraining Order).
- PC.243(e)(1) - Domestic Battery.
- PC.488 – Theft.
- VC.14601.2(a) - Suspended License from DUI.
- VC.12500(a) - Driving Without a License.

<sup>v</sup> United States Census Bureau, available at [Census Bureau Data](#), [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov).

<sup>vi</sup> UC Riverside - Inland Center for Sustainable Development, available at [Microsoft Word - Report COVID-19, overcrowding final.docx \(ucr.edu\)](#).

<sup>vii</sup> Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office (YouTube), available at [Bend the Arc Press Event Announcing Social Justice Reforms - YouTube](#).

<sup>viii</sup> County of Santa Clara – Office of the District Attorney, available at [Bend the Arc Reforms Handout \(sccgov.org\)](#).

<sup>ix</sup> U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Public Affairs, available at [Justice Department Announces New Rule to Modernize Firearm Definitions: Fact Sheet](#).