

# 2013 Public Safety Achievements and Trends for the Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments

January 10, 2014

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Philadelphians are safer thanks to the outstanding efforts of our public safety agencies and employees. This report highlights some notable achievements and trends for 2013 by Philadelphia's Police and Fire Departments.

## Philadelphia Police Department

Under the leadership of Mayor Michael A. Nutter and Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, Philadelphia's homicides and Part 1 Offenses (which combine violent crime and property crime) have declined strikingly. Homicides have reduced to levels not seen in over four decades. Meanwhile, shooting victim levels are at their lowest point since the Police Department first began collecting that data in 2001. The Police Department is encouraged by this progress but not satisfied. Philadelphia Police will continue to work diligently to serve and protect the safety of city residents.

The City's success in fighting crime in 2013 is the product of several years of building a data driven, mission focused and collaborative organization that works in coordination with other public safety agencies and community partners. In 2008, the Police Department released a crime-fighting plan whose guiding principles included: intelligent policing, collaboration, prevention and continuous improvement in operations and administration. Commissioner Ramsey has guided the Police Department's work around this plan and, as a result of this work, Philadelphia has experienced significant reductions in high crime "hotspots" as well as reductions in high crime times of day and dates. A significant portion of this year's crime reduction is attributed to the Police Department's historical and predictive data analysis that guided its allocation and reallocation of police officers to high crime locations and high crime times of days and dates.

In addition, specific programs that focused on high risk offenders, like GunStat, Focused Deterrence, Youth Violence Reduction Partnership, and Cure the Violence, also contributed to 2013's crime reductions. These programs created partnerships that concentrated services on high risk offenders in high risk areas. Finally, community members and organizations worked alongside police officers, PhillyRising and other city workers to help prevent and reduce violence using a number of varied approaches. The continued collective action of public, private and nonprofit organizations is required to ensure the progress made in 2013 is sustained in 2014 and beyond.

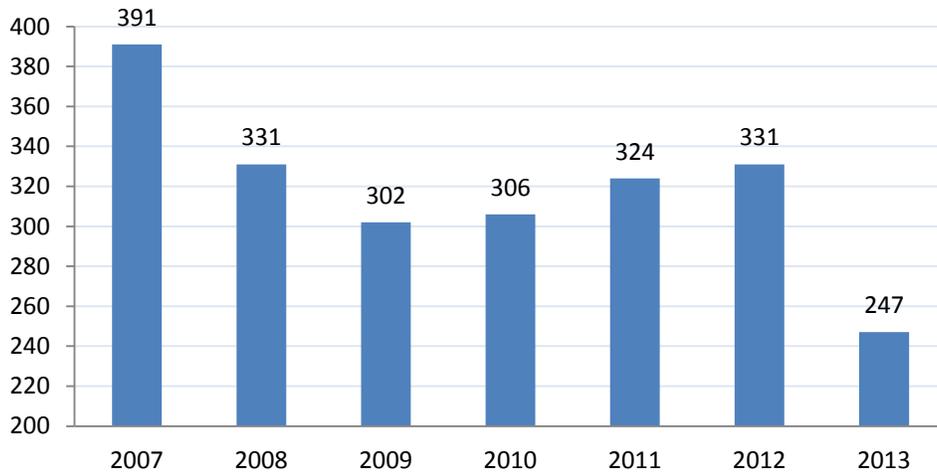
## Examples of Collaborative Initiatives in Philadelphia to Prevent and Reduce Violence

<b>GunStat</b>	The collaborative initiative of the Philadelphia Police Department, District Attorney’s Office, and the First Judicial District targets high-risk, repeat gun offenders through targeted, “hot spot” neighborhood based patrols coordinating law enforcement efforts from arrest through probation.
<b>Focused Deterrence</b>	Through a combination of enticements and disincentives, Focused Deterrence identifies associated individuals and groups most likely to be the perpetrator or victim of violent crime. Through the effort, law enforcement provides workforce training and support services as well as increased, targeted enforcement following gun violence in the community.
<b>Youth Violence Reduction Program</b>	YVRP offers early intervention for high-risk youth ages 14 to 24. Intensive mentoring and counseling are provided to participants as well as additional supports to encourage educational attainment, job training or drug treatment. In addition to police and probation officers, mentors—who previously grew up in the same police district as their mentees—offer resources and outreach to youth.
<b>Cure the Violence</b>	This program evaluates gun violence as a public health hazard and identifies strategies to stymie its transmission. By interrupting conflict to prevent imminent violence, identifying high-risk individuals and making lasting changes to community norms, Cure the Violence seeks to eradicate violence in neighborhoods and cities.
<b>Youth Violence Prevention Collaborative</b>	Selected by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Philadelphia developed and is implementing a strategic plan to prevent youth violence across multiple disciplines, through the collaborative work of over 30 leaders from government, academia and other stakeholder groups.

## Homicides

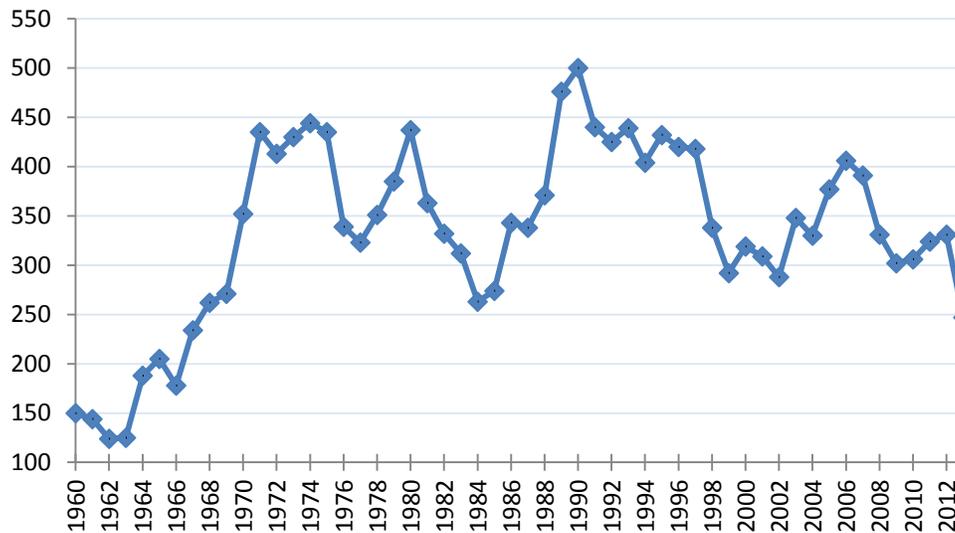
Philadelphia experienced 247 homicides in 2013, a 36.8% decline as compared with 2007 and a 50.6% decline compared with the city's peak of 500 homicides in 1990. This represents the fewest number of homicides in Philadelphia since 1967.

### Total Homicides in Philadelphia: 2007 - 2013



Source: Philadelphia Police Department, January 2014

### Total Homicides in Philadelphia: 1960 - 2013



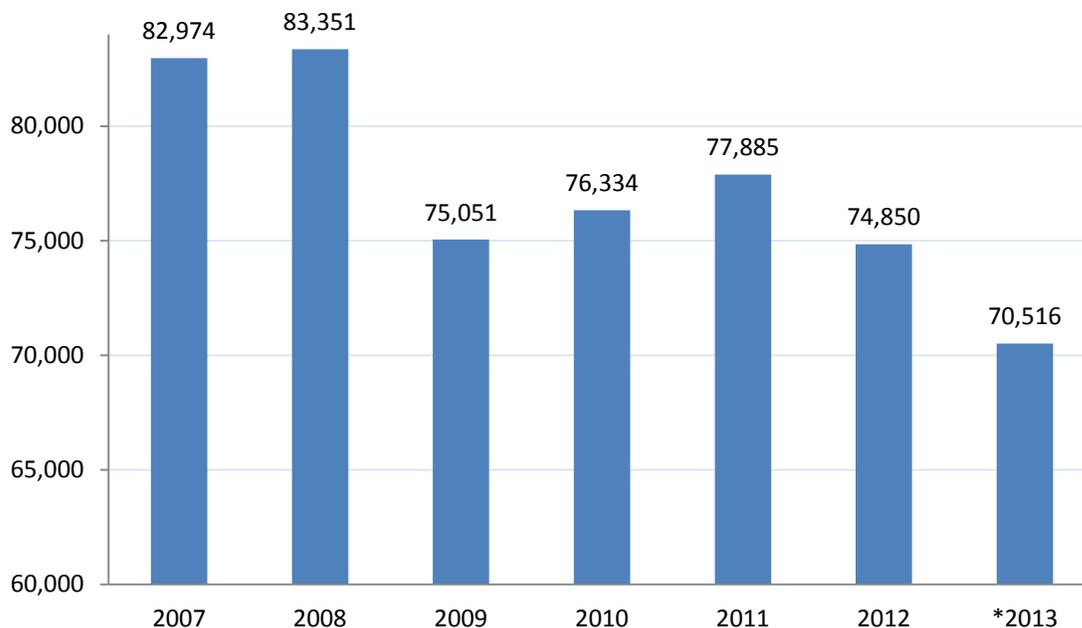
Source: Philadelphia Police Department, January 2014

## Part 1 Offenses

Part 1 Offenses have declined to 70,516 in 2013, a 15.0% drop from 2007 and a 39.0% decline as compared with the height of Part 1 Offenses in 1989. Part 1 Offenses comprise violent crimes including homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, as well as property crimes including burglary, theft and vehicle theft. Philadelphia's total Part 1 Offenses is at its lowest level since 1971. Similarly, total violent crimes have reached the lowest level since 1979 and total property crimes are fewer than at any time since 1971.

### Total Part 1 Offenses in Philadelphia: 2007 - 2013

Incl. Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft and Vehicle Theft



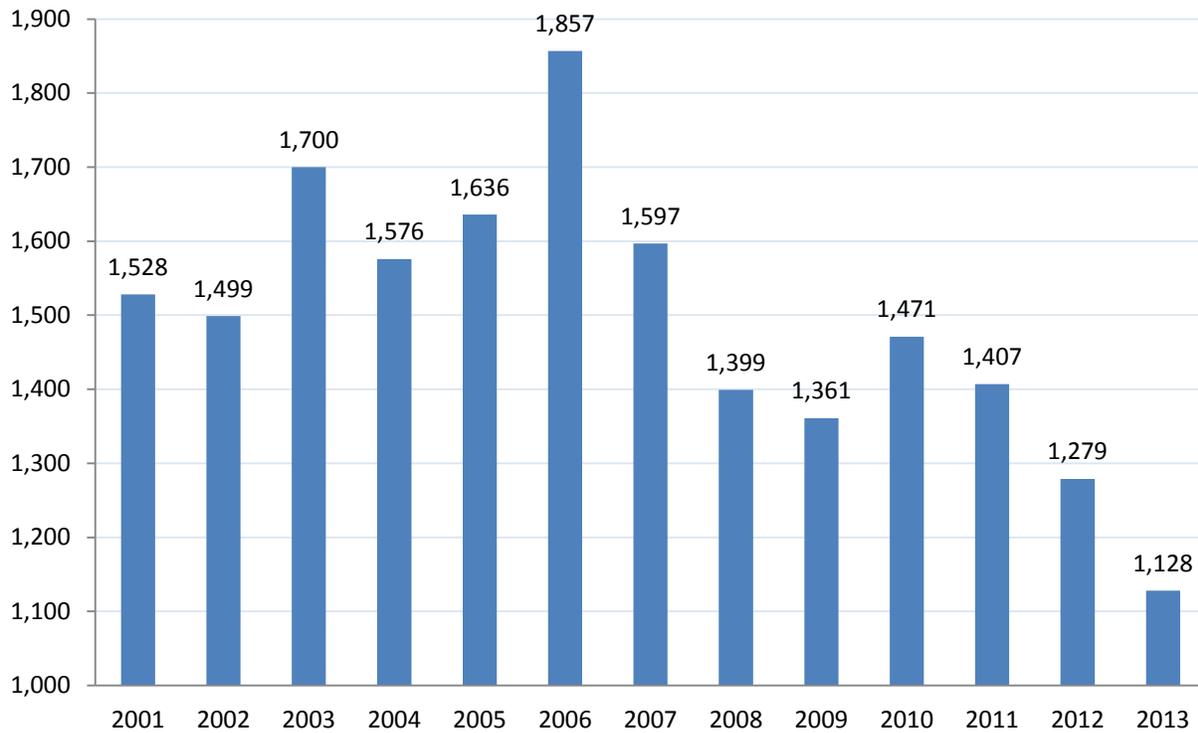
Source: Philadelphia Police Department, January 2014

\*2013 data for November and December are preliminary

## Shooting Victims

Shooting victim levels are at their lowest point since the Police Department began collecting that data in 2001. In 2013, Philadelphia had 1,128 shooting victims, which represents a 29.4% decline from 2007 and a 39.3% decline from 2006 – the year Philadelphia recorded its highest number of shooting victims.

### Shooting Victims in Philadelphia: 2001-2013



Source: Philadelphia Police Department, January 2014

## Philadelphia Fire Department

Fire safety has increased under the guidance of Mayor Michael A. Nutter and Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers. Philadelphia experienced the lowest recorded fire fatality rate in 2013 with 24 fire fatalities, and also the tragic loss of one of our own firefighters, Battalion Chief Michael Goodwin.

The Fire Department's Freedom From Fire programs, which began in 2008, strive to achieve zero fire fatalities. The campaign was implemented to increase the quality of life of citizens and to make Philadelphia the most fire safe city in the country. These programs identify needy residents who lack smoke alarms and provide them cost-free, with the assistance of private and non-profit donations. As of the end of 2013, the Fire Department has installed 93,680 smoke alarms in the homes of 45,580 residences.

Along with installing smoke alarms on a daily basis, the Department's Freedom From Fire programs have included numerous public safety campaigns which target the leading causes of fire fatalities such as Smoking – "Take it Outside" and Electrical – "It's Electric."

It is these focused efforts by the men and women of the Philadelphia Fire Department that have contributed to an historic low in fire fatalities in the City of Philadelphia.

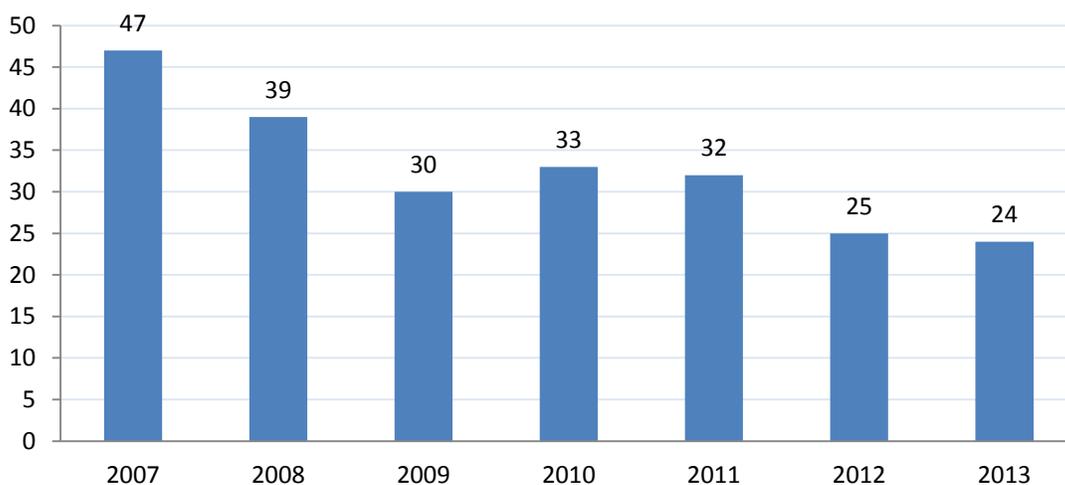
Under the leadership of Commissioner Ayers, in 2013 the Fire Department secured a \$16 million FEMA SAFER Grant which is funding the employment of 128 new firefighter positions and a \$2.5 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant that is funding advanced training and professional fire service certifications for fire officers.

The Fire Department also initiated its new Priority Dispatch system, which provides an internationally tested EMS protocol system to organize, stack and better manage calls according to patient needs. In 2014, the Department will hire a new Deputy Commissioner of EMS – the first of its kind for Philadelphia – designed to enhance the Department's response to the increased demand for EMS services.

## Fire Fatalities

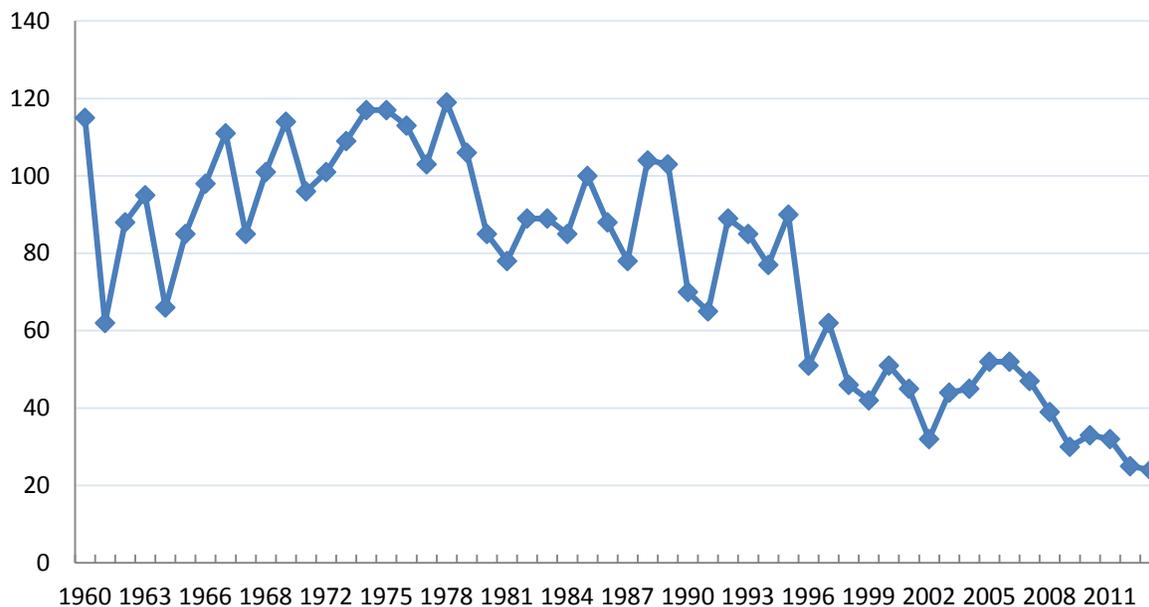
Philadelphia experienced the lowest recorded fire fatality rate in 2013 with 24 fire fatalities, and also the tragic loss of one of our own firefighters, Battalion Chief Michael Goodwin. The total fire deaths in 2013 represent a 48.9% decline as compared with 2007. Of these 24 deaths, 75% occurred among individuals ages 50 years and older.

### Fire Deaths in Philadelphia: 2007-2013



Source: Philadelphia Fire Department, January 2014

### Total Fire Deaths in Philadelphia: 1960 - 2013

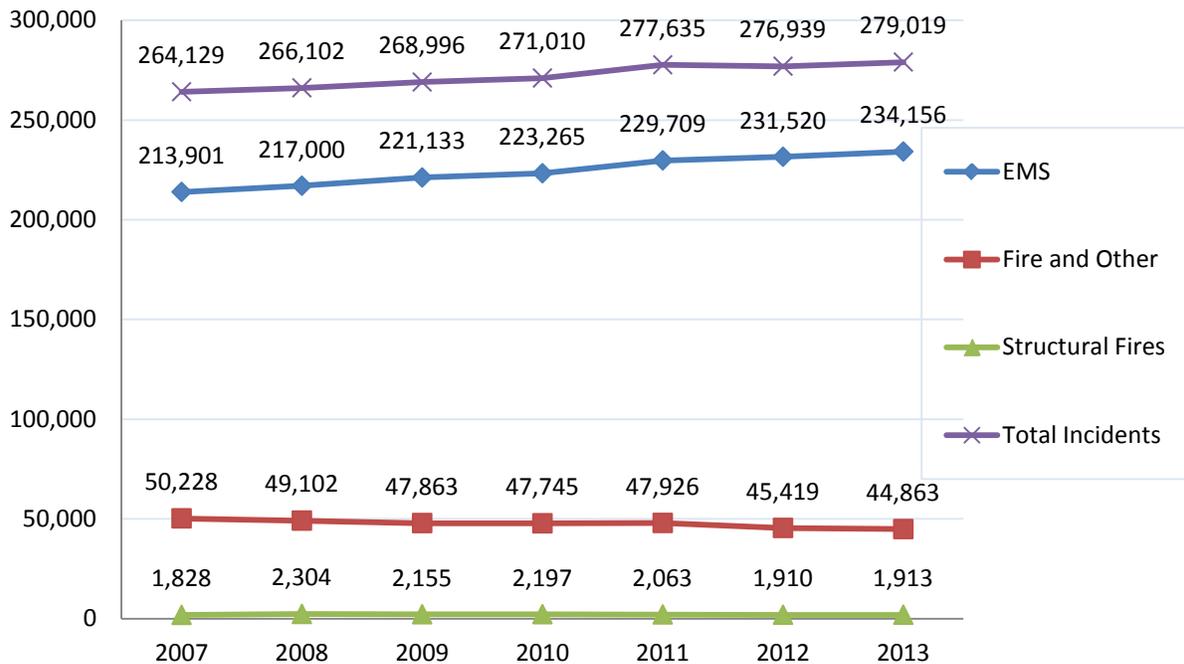


Source: Philadelphia Fire Department, January 2014

## Fire Department Emergency Incidents

In 2013, the Fire Department responded to 279,019 emergency incidents. Of these incidents, 234,156 (83.9%) were emergency medical incidents (EMS) and 44,863 (16.1%) were fire or other 911 emergency public safety service requests<sup>1</sup>. Among all emergency incidents, only 1,913 (0.7%) represented structural fires of buildings or homes. While the total number of Fire Department emergency incidents has increased since 2007 and the proportion of EMS incidents has risen, the proportion of fire or other 911 emergency public safety service requests, including structural fires, has declined.

### Philadelphia Fire Department Emergency Incidents: 2007 - 2013



Source: Philadelphia Fire Department, January 2014

<sup>1</sup> Other 911 emergency public safety requests include incidents such as, fire alarm systems, auto accidents, stuck elevators and fumes.