



SAFE COMMUNITY INSTITUTE
THE GLENDA GORDY RESEARCH CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the CEO	1
Overview of the Research Center	2
Pillars	3
Understanding Data	5
Our Process	6
Data Landscape & Challenges	7
Year at a Glance	9
Key Metrics	10
Milestones	11
Homicide	13
Sexual Assault	15
Aggravated Assault	17
Robbery & Theft	19
Weapon Violations	21
Human Trafficking	23
Future Goals	25
2021-2023 Donors	27
Budget	29
Our Staff	30



LETTER FROM THE CEO

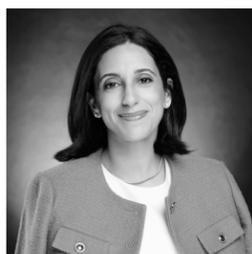
Dear Community,

I'm thrilled to present the 2023 Glenda Gordy Research Center Annual Report, showcasing our commitment to crime data accessibility, community empowerment, and impactful solutions in crime statistics. Our journey began with a vision to address the need for accessible crime data in the Greater Houston Area. With the launch of The Glenda Gordy Research Center Website in September 2022, we introduced interactive dashboards covering six felony-level crime categories that provide data starting in 2015 and progressing through current day. Today, we provide much more than that!

At our core lies a deep commitment to community empowerment. We believe that access to reliable and understandable crime data is paramount in fostering safer neighborhoods and stronger communities. Through collaborative solutions, we endeavor to bridge the gap between law enforcement agencies, local governments, and community members. By sharing valuable insights derived from our data analysis, we strive to co-create effective strategies for crime prevention, thereby enhancing public safety.

Our data processing methodology underscores our commitment to accuracy and reliability. From data extraction and transformation to presentation and analysis, each step is meticulously executed to ensure the integrity of our findings. Despite the inherent challenges posed by ongoing inconsistencies in the way crime data is reported and technical complexities, our dedicated team remains steadfast in our pursuit of excellence.

The 2023 report highlights achievements, including providing crucial Houston Area crime data to partners and hosting successful events. We processed an astounding 48 million data points in the year 2023 alone, a testament to our dedication and capacity for impactful data analysis. I extend gratitude to our donors, partners, and team for their vital role in our success. Your support motivates us to continue our journey towards a safer community.



Warmly,

Rania Mankarious
CEO, Crime Stoppers of Houston



OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH CENTER

Vision

For many years, Houstonians have expressed a need for an easily accessible, and user-friendly place for crime statistical data in the Greater Houston Area. In our quest to be a solution focused organization, we launched The Glenda Gordy Research Center in 2022 with the purpose of cohesively reporting on crime statistics so that the public has a clear view of the criminal justice system in Harris County, and ultimately across the State of Texas.

Community Empowerment

Empowering communities through accessible crime data is our top priority. We enable individuals and organizations to make informed decisions by providing comprehensive information which contributes to safer neighborhoods and stronger communities.



Collaborative Solutions

We are dedicated to fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies, local governments, and community members. By sharing valuable insights derived from our data analysis, we strive to co-create effective strategies for crime prevention.



Accountability

We are committed to upholding the highest standards of data integrity and accountability. We openly share our methodologies and findings to promote trust.



Inclusive Accessibility

Our mission is to make crime data accessible to all members of the community, regardless of background or technical expertise. Through user-friendly dashboards and educational resources, we ensure everyone has the tools they need to understand and engage with crime data effectively.



Impact Driven Innovations

Every decision we make is guided by our commitment to creating a meaningful impact in the communities we serve. Whether it's identifying emerging trends or investigating potential threats to public safety through data, we continuously strive to drive positive change and improve the safety of our communities.



PILLARS

UNDERSTANDING DATA



IN THE DIGITAL AGE, CRIME DATA SERVES AS THE BLUEPRINT FOR SMARTER, PROACTIVE PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES, GUIDING US WITH PRECISION TO SAFEGUARD OUR COMMUNITIES. DATA-DRIVEN INSIGHTS FROM CRIME ANALYTICS STAND AS THE CORNERSTONE OF MODERN PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS, EMBODYING OUR COMMITMENT TO PROACTIVE, DATA-INFORMED SAFETY EDUCATION.

Sydney Zuiker

Director, Safe Community Institute

OUR PROCESS

- 1 Extract**
- 2 Transform**
- 3 Load**
 - a. Processing
 - b. Evaluate
- 4 Presentation**
 - a. Data Compilation
 - b. Upload



<p>EXTRACT</p> <p>We collect publicly available data from Harris County District Clerk’s Office (HCDC) and Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) reports from the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) reports. These two sources contain criminal cases filed and offense occurrences respectively.</p>	<p>TRANSFORM</p> <p>We load the data into a script which formats it to fit neatly into our database structure while maintaining the data’s integrity.</p>	<p>PROCESSING</p> <p>After it is polished, the bulk data is inserted into our Structured Query Language (SQL) database which is hosted on Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud based service while ensuring that minimal storage is used.</p>
<p>EVALUATE</p> <p>When new data has been successfully processed, an analysis of the database is done to ensure that it has been entered correctly.</p>	<p>DATA COMPILATION</p> <p>When the data has been compiled and reports/graphics have been created, the results can be uploaded to our Dashboards, Crime Index, or to whomever made the request.</p>	<p>UPLOAD</p> <p>When creating routine reports or receiving requests, we will use either custom pre-built queries or build new queries to suit the needs of the report.</p>

DATA LANDSCAPE & CHALLENGES



Efficiency

To efficiently store data that is easily searchable and optimized for size, a well-designed database structure should aim to minimize redundancy while preserving the integrity of the original data. If the structure of the data being gathered is novel, challenges can arise in trying to fit the incoming data into the existing database architecture.



Resources

We provide crime statistics from mainly two data sources. First, we retrieve offense occurrences from the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS). These offense occurrences are reported by Harris County Law Enforcement Agencies including Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), Houston Police Department (HPD), Pasadena Police Department (PPD), and Baytown Police Department (BPD). Next, we pull criminal cases filed in Harris County from Harris County District Clerk's Office (HCDC).



Time

On average, the process of generating a report or fulfilling a data request typically spans a timeframe of two to four weeks, encompassing data extraction, processing, and delivery. The duration may vary based on specific project requirements and complexity levels. This timeline ensures thoroughness and accuracy in data preparation and analysis to meet project objectives effectively.



Technical

Data is inherently dynamic, necessitating consideration of how future imports may impact existing database entries. When designing a database, it's crucial to decide whether to track changes in data or only retain the most recent updates, ensuring the database architecture aligns with these operational requirements. This approach optimizes data management and supports seamless data evolution within the database structure.



Bulk Data

Bulk data often arrives with inconsistencies in formatting, requiring a data cleaning/sanitizing process to ensure consistency before insertion into the database. This involves resolving issues like typos, illegal characters, and ensuring data integrity without altering the original content. Addressing these challenges is crucial to maintaining database quality and reliability.



Methodology

Data formatting challenges extend beyond data inconsistencies and include issues with originating data structure that can lead to reading errors. To address this, robust processes are implemented to detect and correct these errors before data insertion into our database. For instance, handling scenarios where columns are occasionally missing ensures uninterrupted insertion of relevant data.



Analyzing

In data analysis, it is essential to validate all assumptions made about the data to prevent misrepresentation during analysis. Maintaining ongoing cross functional partnerships ensures our data is accurate and offers reliable insights.



Deliverable

Our deliverables encompass a range of outputs, from updating our Online Dashboard to generating monthly Crime Indexes. Other deliverables could include fulfilling requests from stakeholders as well as handling daily requests from internal teams, demonstrating our responsiveness and data-driven support.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

94%



Improvement in efficiency,

resulting in substantial cost savings through the adoption of AWS cloud services. This strategic transition not only optimized our operations but also enhanced our overall resource utilization, reflecting our commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology for greater impact and efficiency.

75%



Reduction in lead time,

significantly improving our response time to requests. Our average turnaround time for delivery has been streamlined to just two weeks, marking a substantial enhancement in efficiency and responsiveness.

KEY METRICS



6,000

Developed and maintained a codebase of 6,000 lines ensuring readability and scalability in our software projects.

5GB

Stored 5 gigabytes (GB) of documentation on our digital drive, providing comprehensive resources for our projects and initiatives.

48M

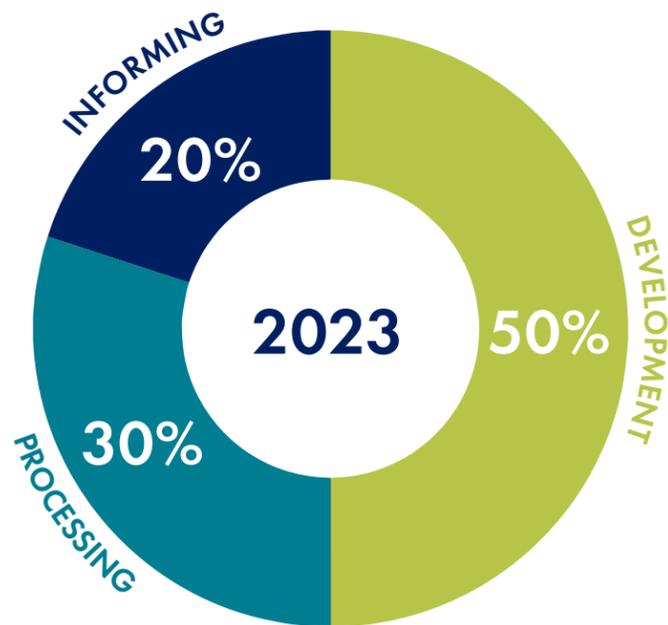
Processed a staggering 48 million data points in 2023 sourced from HCDC and TXDPS, supporting robust data-driven insights and analytics.



MILESTONES

Achievements

As we reflect on the achievements of The Glenda Gordy Research Center over the past year, it is with great pride that we unveil the milestones attained through our commitment to data-driven insights and community empowerment. From advancing technological capabilities to expanding our database of crime statistics, each milestone represents a significant step forward in our mission to provide accessible, and data-informed resources to the Greater Houston Area.




Media

We supplied statistical data for various press conferences, media interviews and news segments, contributing valuable insights to public education and awareness about crime and public safety.




Partnerships

We facilitated the transfer of over 100,000 valuable data points to our cross-functional partners that include various entities like other non-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies and community leaders, encompassing diverse crime statistics specific to Harris County. These collaborations underscore our commitment to data-driven insights and strategic partnerships.



Events

Throughout the year, we co-hosted and actively participated in diverse events, including the Human Trafficking Demand Reduction Strategy Summit held at the Crime Stoppers of Houston headquarters, which attracted attendees from across the city. Our involvement underscores our dedication to community engagement and collaborative endeavors, leveraging data-driven insights to drive impactful initiatives.



Geo Coded Maps

We developed dynamic geocoded maps for Houston City Council districts, providing detailed information on human trafficking trends and patterns. These maps offer valuable visual insights to aid in understanding and addressing human trafficking within our communities. These interactive maps provide a framework for any future crime topic of interest.



Cloud Migration

The migration to a cloud-based service platform such as AWS revolutionized our operational landscape, significantly enhancing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of our work. This transition also provided us the means to better streamline our data management and analysis operations long term while optimizing resource management and costs.

HOMICIDE



418

Homicides Involving Firearms

2,070

Cases Filed Over the Last 5 Years

↓ 20%

Capital Murder vs. 2022



54

Highest Number of Homicides in One Month

104

Capital Murders



5

Murder of a Minor Cases Filed

1,983

Offense Occurrences Over the Last 5 Years

Monthly Capital Murder Average in 2023

8.6

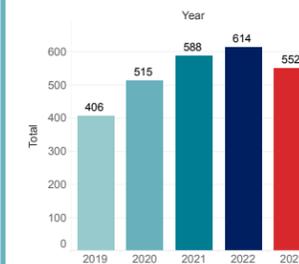
Did You Know?

The Average Age of a Homicide Defendant is 33 Years Old

33

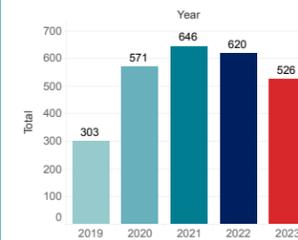


Cases Filed for DUI Related Deaths



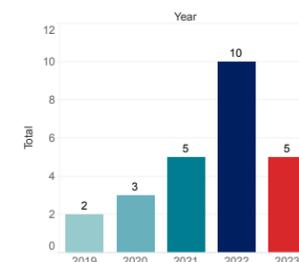
552

Homicide Cases Filed



526

Homicides



5

Murder of a Minor Cases Filed



29

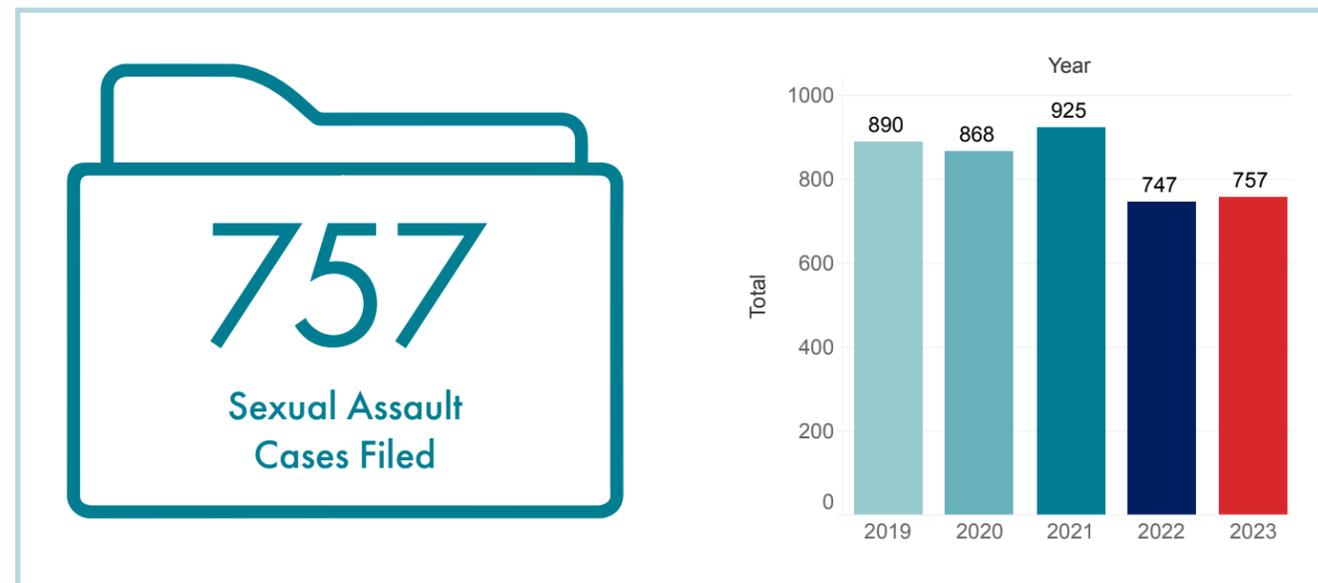
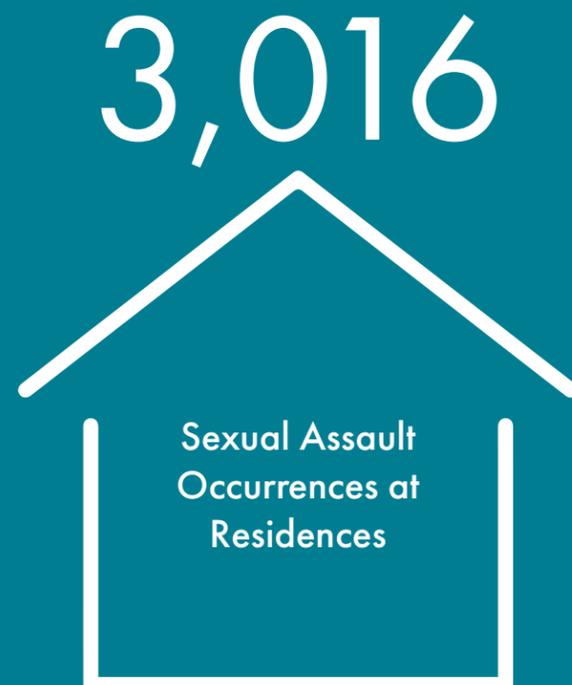
Manslaughter Cases Filed

54%

Offenders Knew Their Victims

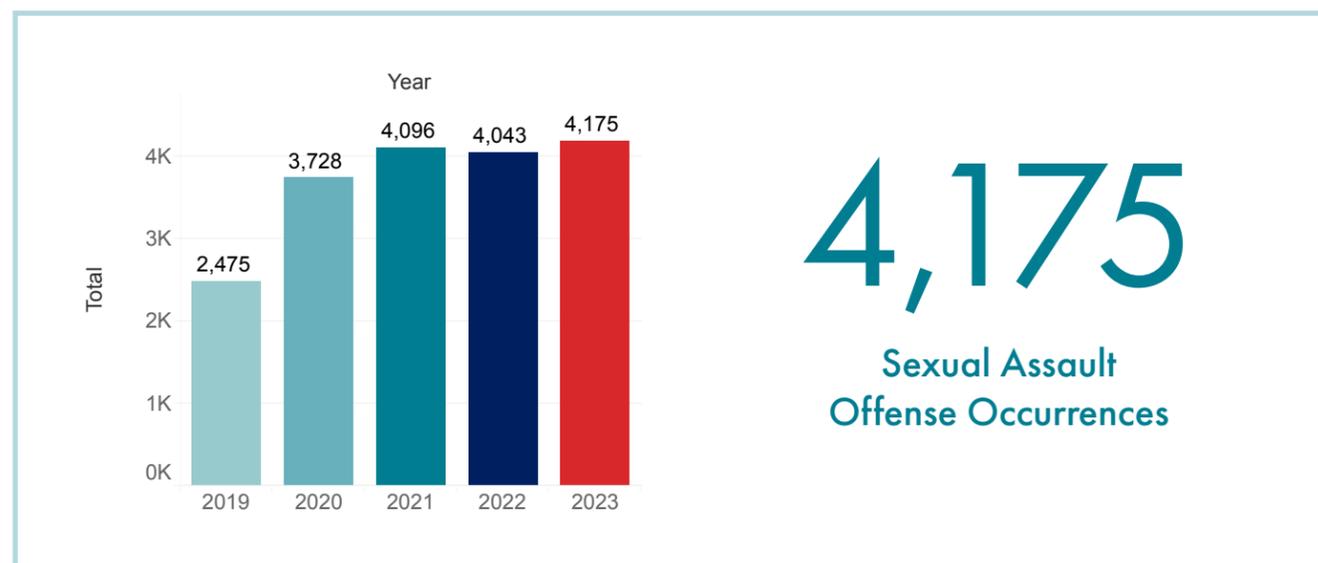
*The data provided above is collected by two resources, Office Occurrences are retrieved from Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) and Criminal Cases Filed in Harris County from Harris County District Clerk's Office (HCDC).

SEXUAL ASSAULT



Did You Know?

The Average Age of a Sexual Assault Defendant is 36 Years Old



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AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

↑12%
Cases Filed vs. 2022

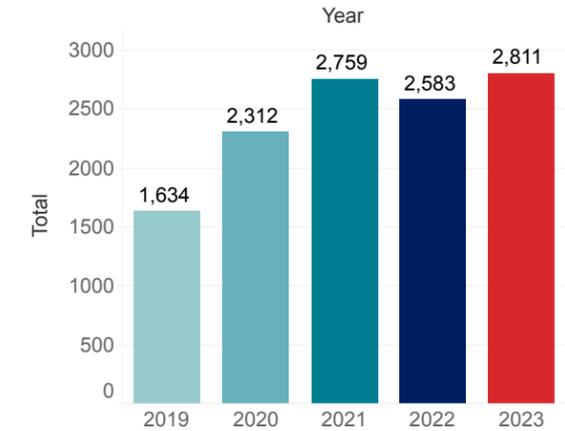
13,538

Aggravated Assault Occurrences at Residence

170
Assault on a Public Servant Cases Filed

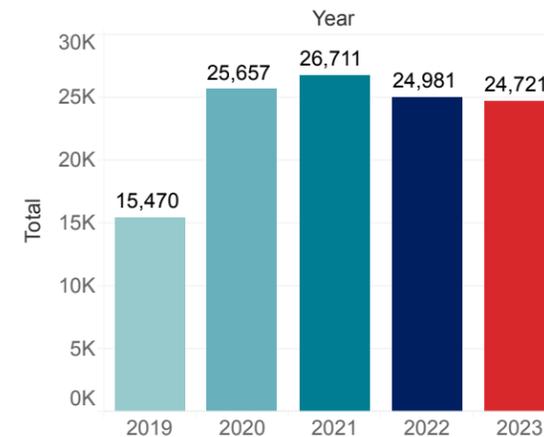
↓1%
Offense Occurrences vs. 2022

2,811
Aggravated Assault Cases Filed



2,522
Assaults with a Weapon

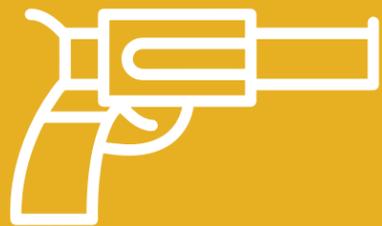
Victim Age is
34
On Average



24,175
Aggravated Assault Offense Occurrences

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ROBBERY & THEFT



1,088

Credit/Debit Card Theft

222

Robberies Involving Firearms



1,895

Purses and Wallets Stolen



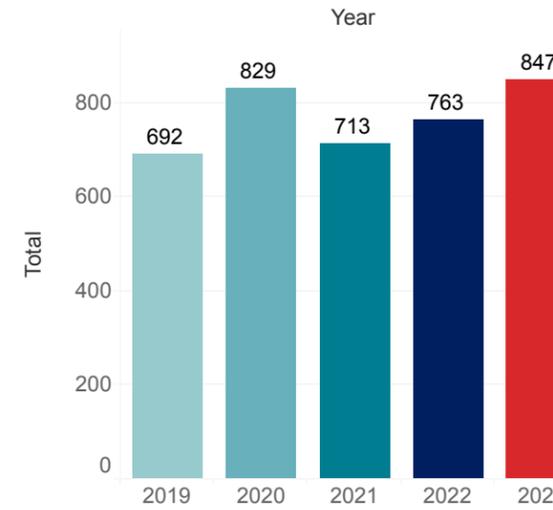
43,607

Thefts of Motor Vehicles



5,565

Identity Thefts



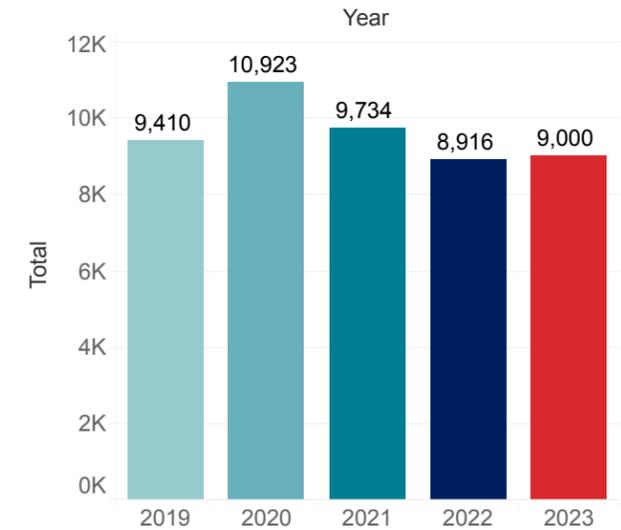
847

Robbery Cases Filed

Did You Know?

↓ 11%

Robbery Cases Filed vs. 2022



9,000

Robbery Offense Occurrences

*The data provided above is collected by two resources, Office Occurrences are retrieved from Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) and Criminal Cases Filed in Harris County from Harris County District Clerk's Office (HCDC).

WEAPON VIOLATIONS



4,078
Unlawful Carry

1,502
Felons in Possession of a
Weapon



306
Defendants with
Multiple Cases



Did You Know?

9

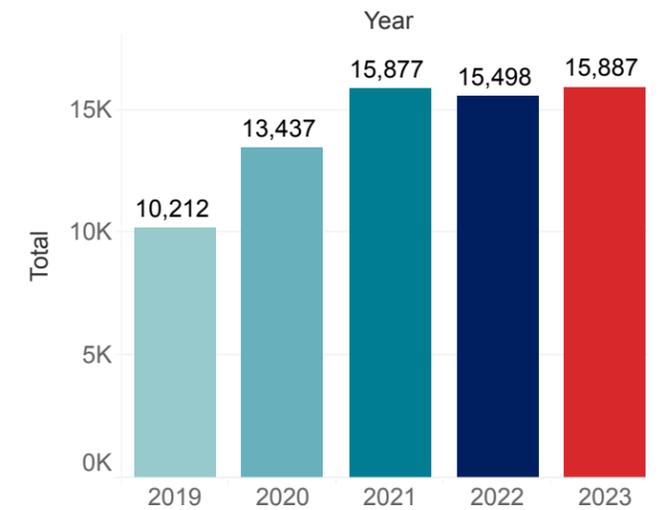
Cases Filed for Firearms
Accessible to a Child

6,043

Cases Filed

↓ 10%

Cases Filed vs. 2022

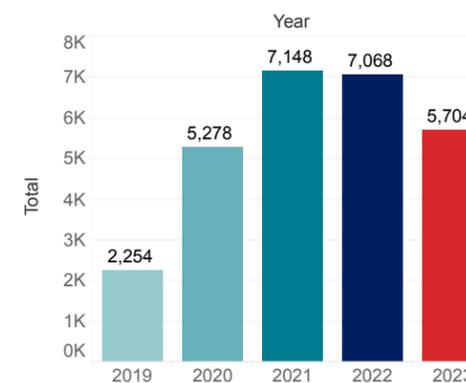


67%

Firearm Offense Occurrences
are with a Handgun

5,607

Offense Occurrences
Involving Firearm



5,704

Total Weapon Violations
Offense Occurrences

*The data provided above is collected by two resources, Office Occurrences are retrieved from Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) and Criminal Cases Filed in Harris County from Harris County District Clerk's Office (HCDC).

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

35

Online Solicitation of a Minor



↑ 75%

Online Solicitation of a Minor vs. 2022

66

Aiding Prostitution



696

Solicitation of Prostitution

816

Prostitution Offense Occurrences

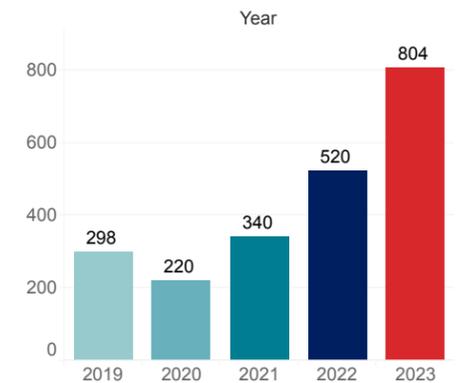
40

Promotion of Prostitution



804

Human Trafficking Cases Filed



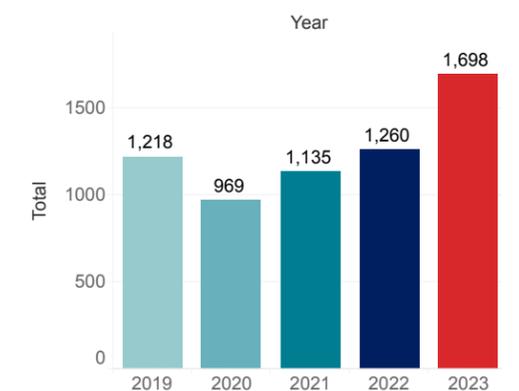
675

Purchasing Prostitution Offense Occurrences



Human Trafficking Offense Occurrences

1,698



Human Trafficking Cases Involving a Minor

85

5

Compelling Prostitution by Force/Threat/Fraud

*The data provided above is collected by two resources, Office Occurrences are retrieved from Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) and Criminal Cases Filed in Harris County from Harris County District Clerk's Office (HCDC).

FUTURE GOALS



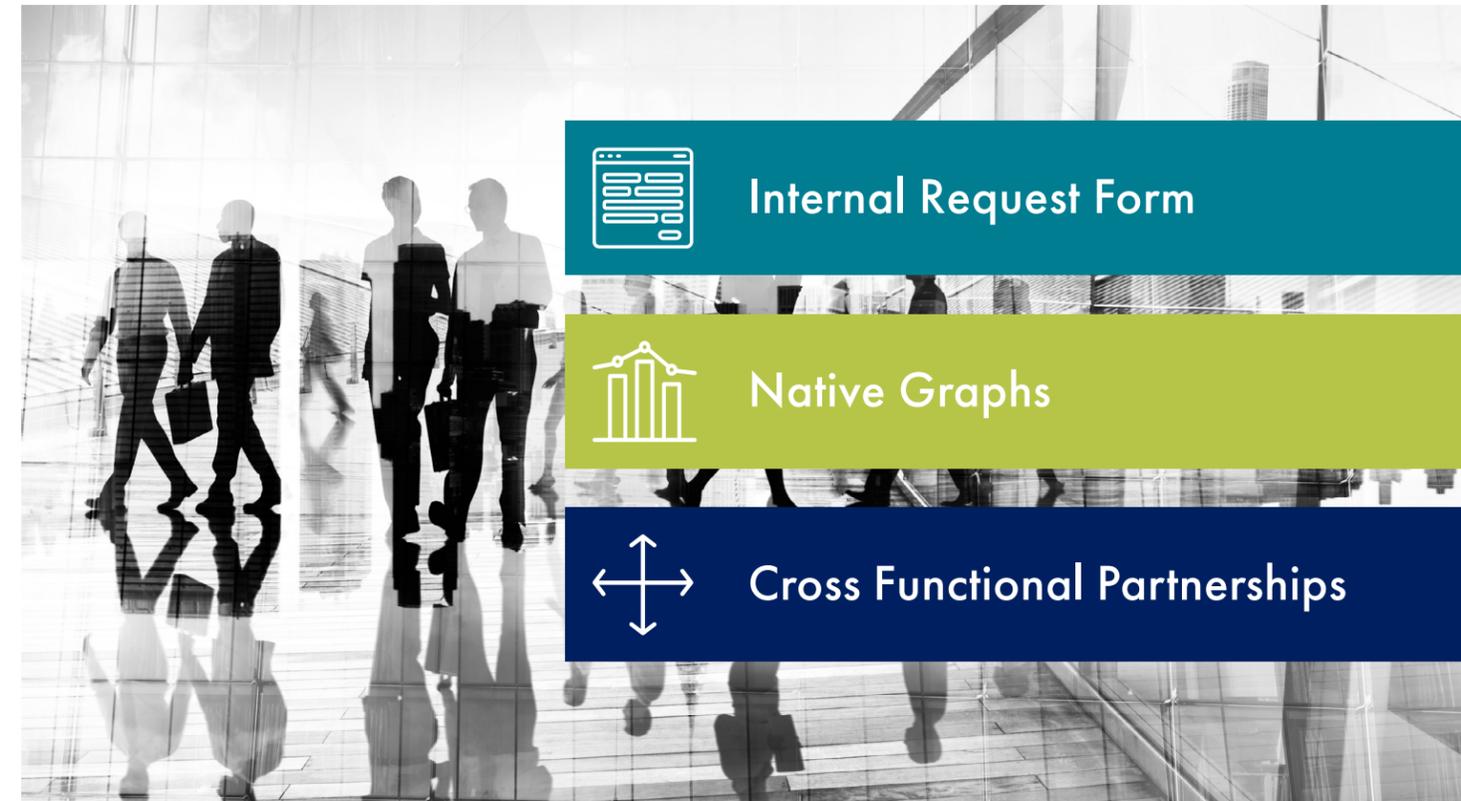
In our commitment to innovation and community engagement, The Glenda Gordy Research Center at Crime Stoppers of Houston seeks to integrate advanced technology into the Research Center. Through new technologies we will be able to offer more interactive tools that enable community members to explore crime data with more ease. As we expand our offerings, our goal remains steadfast: to establish the Research Center as a pioneering resource that not only informs but also educates, ensuring accessibility of crime data and data-driven solutions to public safety challenges.

150,000 Community Members

In 2024, we expect to extend our reach to approximately 150,000 individuals, amplifying our impact and engagement.

6 Million

Our monthly goal is to process 6 million lines of data, by integrating new data points into our architecture and providing more community members with requested data throughout the year.



Internal Request Form:

In 2024, we will introduce a specialized intake form to optimize internal data request processes. This form streamlines workflow, providing user-friendly interfaces for seamless request submission by other departments and enhancing efficiency for The Glenda Gordy Research Center.

Native Graphs:

In pursuit of improvement, we will upgrade our dashboard to meet evolving stakeholder needs. Static graphs will be replaced with dynamic graphs, enhancing interactivity and insight. Leveraging advanced visualization technologies allows users to analyze unfolding crime trends for timely decision-making.

Cross Functional Partnerships:

Our focus is on fostering relationships with community members, nonprofits, law enforcement, and stakeholders to leverage crime data effectively. Through these cross sector partnerships, we enhance accessibility to critical insights and empower stakeholders to make data driven decisions. Our goal is to establish the Research Center as a trusted resource hub, driving data-driven initiatives to address community needs effectively.

2021-2023 DONORS

Thank you to our Glenda Gordy Research Center donors. Their support helps us accurately report on crime trends so that the public has a transparent view of the criminal justice system in Harris County.

RESEARCH CHAMPION

\$50,000 +

Phillips 66

RESEARCH TRAILBLAZER

\$25,000 – \$50,000

Jill & Charlie Talisman

RESEARCH ACTIVIST

\$5,000 – \$10,000

Lindsay & Scott Aronstein

RESEARCH ALLY

Up to \$5,000 +

Marian Braun

Brian Laviage

Josh Crescenzi

RESEARCH ALLY

(CONTINUED)

Up to \$5,000 +

Karen Selzer

Russell Molina

Robert and Paige Luke Family Charitable Account

Briarcroft Shopping Center

Pablo Franco

John Filla

IN KIND DONORS

Donations of time and talents free of charge to Crime Stoppers of Houston

ASTOUNDZ

Dr. Marian Zaki

Houston Christian University



SAFE COMMUNITY INSTITUTE

THE GLENDA GORDY RESEARCH CENTER

BUDGET

2023 Glenda Gordy Research Center Budget (as part of the Safe Community Institute)

Community Outreach Events: \$1,500



Dues & Subscriptions: \$4,200



Multimedia / AV: \$3,000



Printed Materials / Graphics: \$5,000



Program Development: \$20,600



Supplies: \$1,500



Program Specialist Salaries / Benefits: \$130,084



Direct Program Expenses: \$165,884



Indirect Program Expenses: \$24,341



Total Program Expenses: \$190,225

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