



BLUE RIBBONS Expanded resources · Community collaboration · Enhanced technology



RED FLAGS Rising crime · Opioid proliferation · Staffing shortages

## Reducing gun crime tops SPD priorities

**P**ublic safety agencies continue to work together to expand resources to combat crime and make Springfield and Greene County safer.

**Resources continue to expand** to serve the Springfield community. The new Greene County Jail opened in 2022 and houses more than 900 inmates per day with a capacity of 1,242, eliminating the issue of overcrowding.

The Greene County Family Justice Center remains a resource for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, averaging 150 individuals served per month. In 2021, the center added two victim advocates with a Victim of Crimes Act grant to help meet the increased need, and in 2022, it received a federal grant to make needed building repairs and upgrades. To improve after-hours access to emergency orders of protection, the center worked with the Greene County Circuit Clerk to make petitions available online.

Continuing the trend of **community collaboration**, Burrell Behavioral Health and the Springfield Police Department implemented a mental-health co-responder program in September 2022. Trained professionals respond alongside law enforcement to calls identified as a behavioral health need. As of May 31, 2023, co-responders have handled 154 calls for service. Additionally, Burrell Behavioral Health's Behavioral Crisis Center – Rapid Access Unit has become the “front door” for accessing mental-health services, and now includes detox and residential facilities in addition to an acute stabilization unit.

The Springfield Fire Department continued its preventive programs, including Project Red Zone, to install smoke alarms, and its fire-safety training for more than 13,000 students in the city.

Led by Springfield-Greene County Emergency Management, HometownREADY's public-facing podcast launched in 2022 to educate citizens on a variety of emergency preparedness topics. Beginning in 2023, the business resilience, school and faith-based program is working with diverse groups to ensure equity and inclusion are addressed as part of a “whole community” approach.

Springfield-Greene County 911 is using the **enhanced technology** of the Greene County Trunked Radio System, a \$7.7 million project completed in 2022.



### RECENT SUCCESS STORY

**T**he theft of catalytic converters plagued the community in 2020 and 2021 and was identified as contributing to the **rising crime** Red Flag. The impact to the community was staggering, with an estimated monetary loss of over \$100,000 a month.

Springfield Police Department detectives partnered with federal agencies to focus on stopping this crime. These investigative efforts revealed a complex criminal operation that extended beyond southwest Missouri.

In October 2021, officers and federal agents served a search warrant in Rogersville and made multiple arrests, effectively shuttering the operation. In the end, seven people were indicted in federal court, 36 people were charged in state court and two in municipal court.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

The number of **gun-related crimes** continues to increase. While the number of homicides in 2022 dropped and overall crimes against persons decreased 5% from 2021, gun violence remains the top priority for the Springfield Police Department. In 2022, Springfield surpassed 2021 in the number of shots-fired calls, the number of individuals injured, and the number of illegal guns seized by the department.

Both the police department and the Greene County Sheriff's Office report an overall decrease in property crimes. A targeted

community crime reduction campaign by police in 2022 resulted in a 20% reduction in stolen vehicles and a 22% reduction in thefts from vehicles.

The Springfield Fire Department saw a significant increase in vacant structure fires, responding to 72 in 2022, a 41 percent increase over 2021.

The **proliferation of opioid misuse** continues to plague the community. In 2022, the police department seized 7,711 grams of heroin and fentanyl, a 75 percent increase over 2021. However, with the police department's officers carrying Narcan, which was administered 152 times in 2022, and the fire department's Narcan leave behind/education program, reduced the number of overdose deaths by 44 percent in 2022.

**Staffing shortages** continue to affect public safety departments. SPD reached an all-time high of 60 vacancies in 2022. After receiving a low of 203 applications in 2020, SPD implemented new and innovative recruitment strategies, resulting in 387 and 419 applications in 2021 and 2022. E-911 staff experienced a shortage of 20 percent in 2022. In 2021, the Greene County Sheriff's Office opened the new jail still needing to hire 100 detention officers.

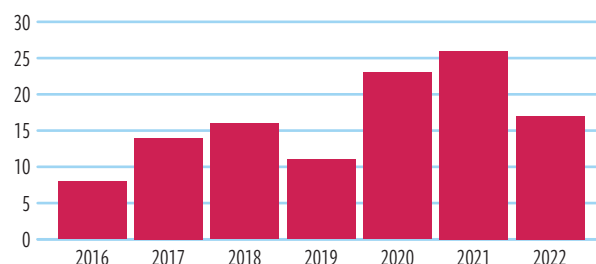
*The Public Order & Safety 2023 Update was produced by Cris Swaters of the Springfield Police Department with input from Paul Williams, Paige Rippee, David Pennington, Dan Patterson, Larry Woods, Kris Inman, Jamie Willis and Matt Lemmon.*

### ABOUT THE 2023 UPDATE

This interim update reviews current data for the Blue Ribbons and Red Flags from the 2021 report. The 20th anniversary report, to be released in 2024, will develop an updated list of Blue Ribbons and Red Flags.

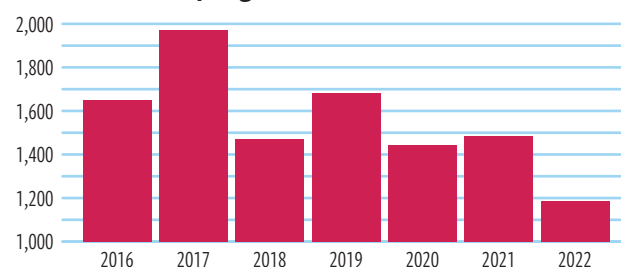
## KEY METRICS

### Homicides in Springfield

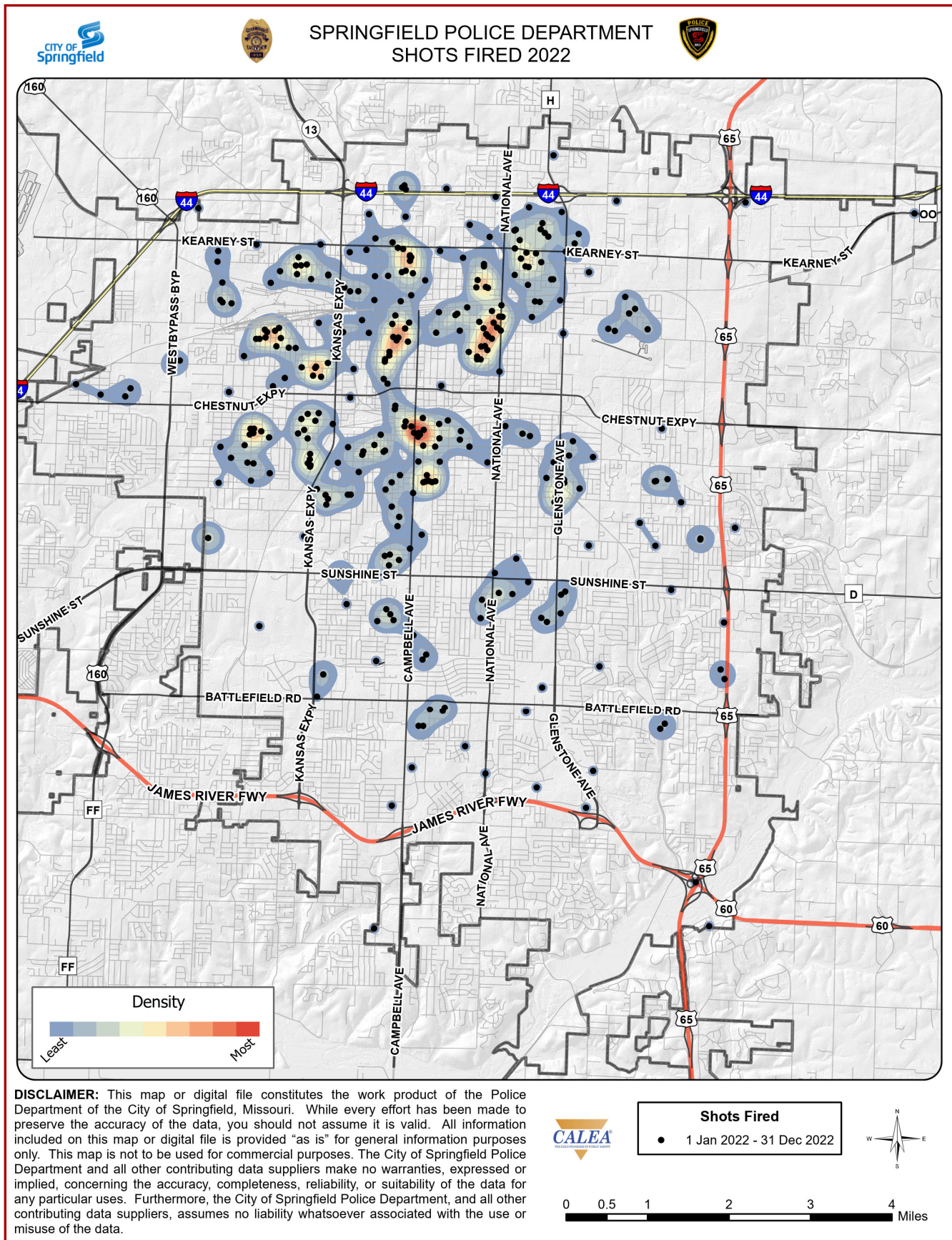


SOURCE: SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

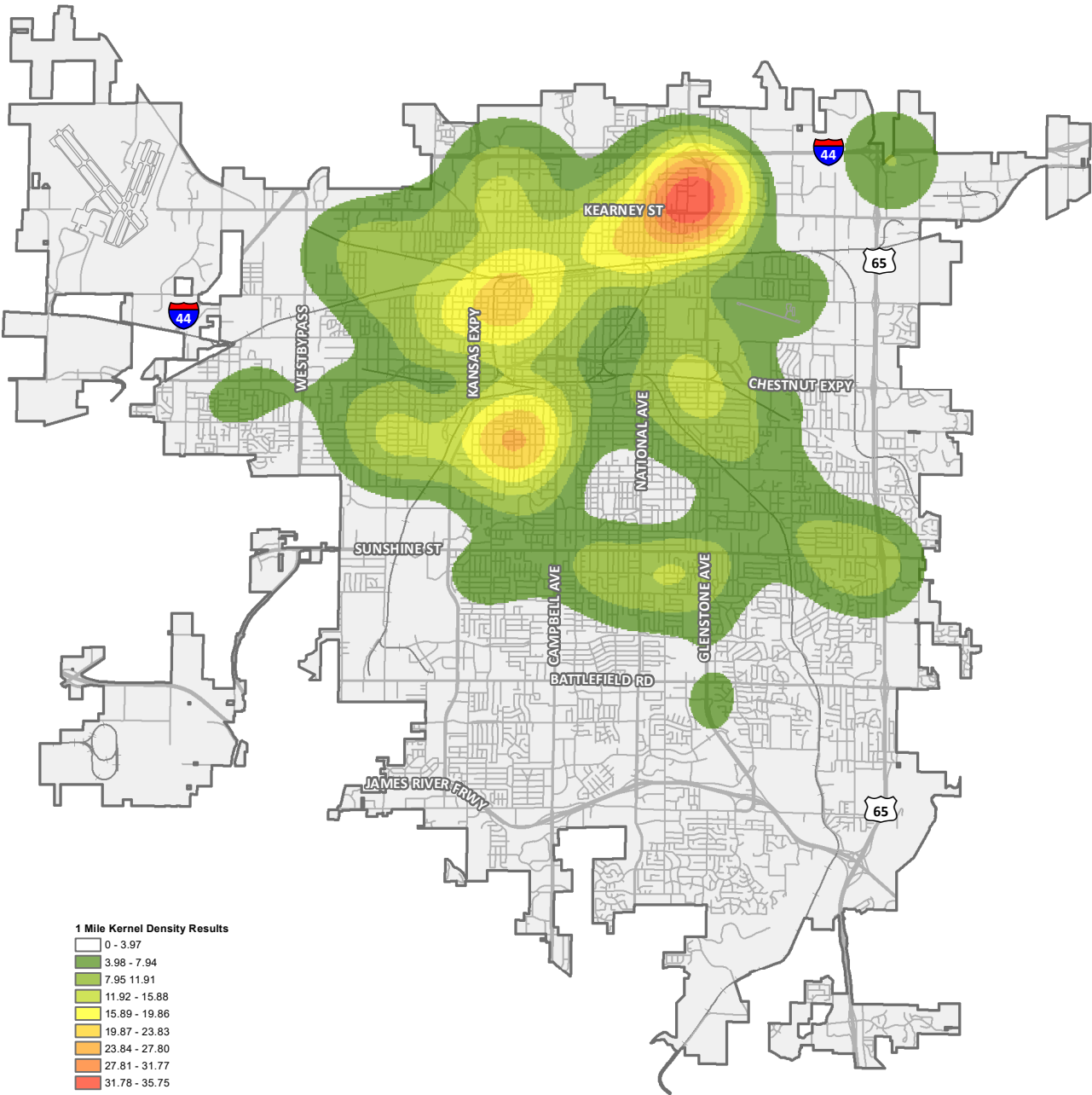
### Vehicle Theft in Springfield



SOURCE: SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



2022 TOTAL OPIOID INCIDENTS  
LOCATION DENSITY



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