

CRIME WATCH

*A Newsletter by Crime Stoppers of Houston
December 2020*



*We remain committed to our mission
to solve and prevent serious crime in
the Greater Houston Area.*

WELCOME

Crime Stoppers believes public safety should be a non-partisan issue. This was the core factor of why I undertook the issue of researching the real-life effects of the ramifications of criminal justice and felony bond reform.

I focused solely on victims who were either killed or murdered by defendants released on Multiple Felony Bonds, Personal Recognizance (PR Bonds), Bond Forfeiture et al. To date I have uncovered over 70 people who have paid the ultimate price under the guise of bond reform: THEIR LIFE

Inside this newsletter, you will find my detailed research on what I call the “Harris County Bond Pandemic” as well as current crime statistics and trends.

Public safety is at a higher risk when career habitual offenders are continuously released back into the community. Crime Stoppers will be closely monitoring this issue and is hopeful bond reform will get a close look this upcoming legislative session.

Best regards,

Andy Kahan
Director of Victim Services & Advocacy

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TIP LINE PROGRAM

329
CASES SOLVED

1106
SUSPECTS
ARRESTED

218
TIPSTERS PAID

\$296,800
PAID IN
REWARDS

\$298,692
SEIZED/
RECOVERED
PROPERTY &
DRUGS

Through October 2020

The **Tip Line Program** continues to be a national crime solving system and aims to equip and motivate all citizens to report crime. Through collaboration with more than 70 local and federal law enforcement agencies, the Tip Line has proven its success in solving and preventing crime in the Greater Houston Area.

Did you know? Tipsters remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.

Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)

Use our **Mobile App**
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston

Go to crime-stoppers.org

Report crime and suspicious activity by calling, using our mobile app or going

	THROUGH OCTOBER 2020	SINCE 1980
Cases Solved	329	35,722
Suspects Arrested	1,106	27,915
Tipsters Paid	218	23,314
Paid in Rewards	\$296,800	\$12,956,620
Seized/Recovered Property & Drugs	\$298,692	\$196,979,138

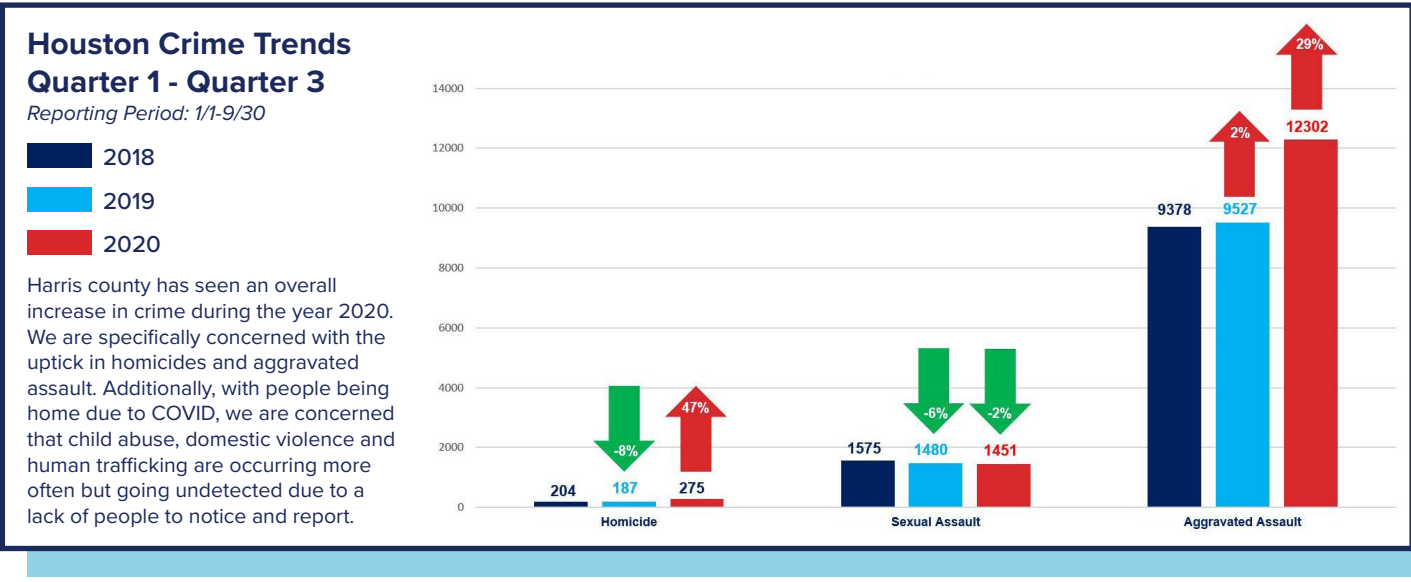
TYPE OF CRIME	THROUGH OCTOBER 2020	SINCE 1980
Capital Murder	5	465
Muder/Manslaughter/Attempted Murder	8	670
Assaultive Offenses	49	1,141
Auto Theft/UUMV	4	1,598
Burglary-Business & Habitation	19	2,452
Robbery	67	4,573
Theft	25	1,686
Narcotics	23	4,649
Sex Crimes-Children	7	238*
Sex Crimes-Adult	3	53*

*Started looking at sex crimes by the age of the victim in 2009. This number reflects the total from 2009-Current. Actual since inception for all sex crimes is 532.

** Began tracking in 2007.

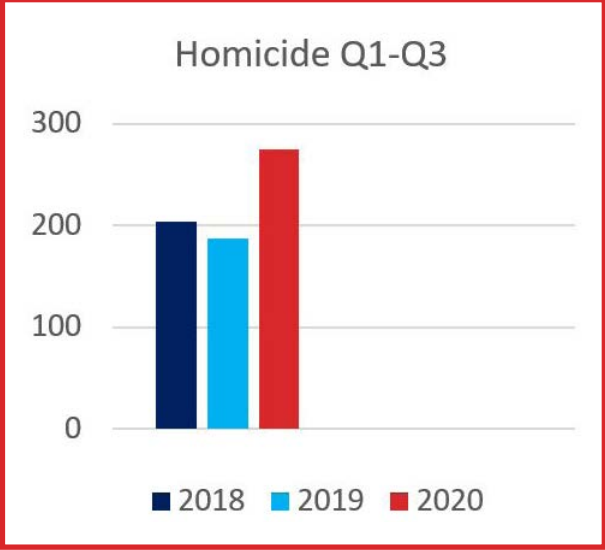
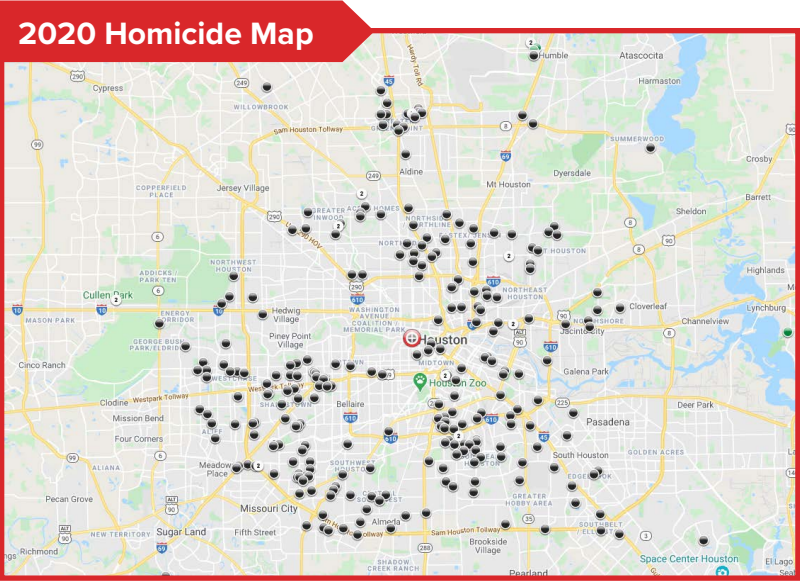
HARRIS COUNTY CRIME STATISTICS & TRENDS

The following statistics are based on the reporting of Houston Police Department and research done by Crime Stoppers staff.



CLICK TO READ:

Homicides are up
47%
in Harris County alone



For more than 40 years now, Crime Stoppers of Houston has worked tirelessly to solve crime in our community and advocate for the many victims who have been impacted by crime in our area. In late 2019, Crime Stoppers' Director of Victim Services, Andy Kahan, noticed a concerning pattern with defendants charged with murder: many of them had been released on multiple felony bonds, bond forfeiture and/or a personal bond. He began studying the issue and in mid-March of this year began tracking the issue based on data from court records.

70 Since 2018, over 70 people have been killed in Harris County by defendants on Felony bonds, multiple bonds or PR bonds.

In each case Andy tracks, the victims were killed by a Harris County suspect who:

- was a defendant who had been released on multiple felony bonds; or
- had a bond forfeiture reinstated; or
- had a motion to revoke bond denied; and/or was released on a PR Bond

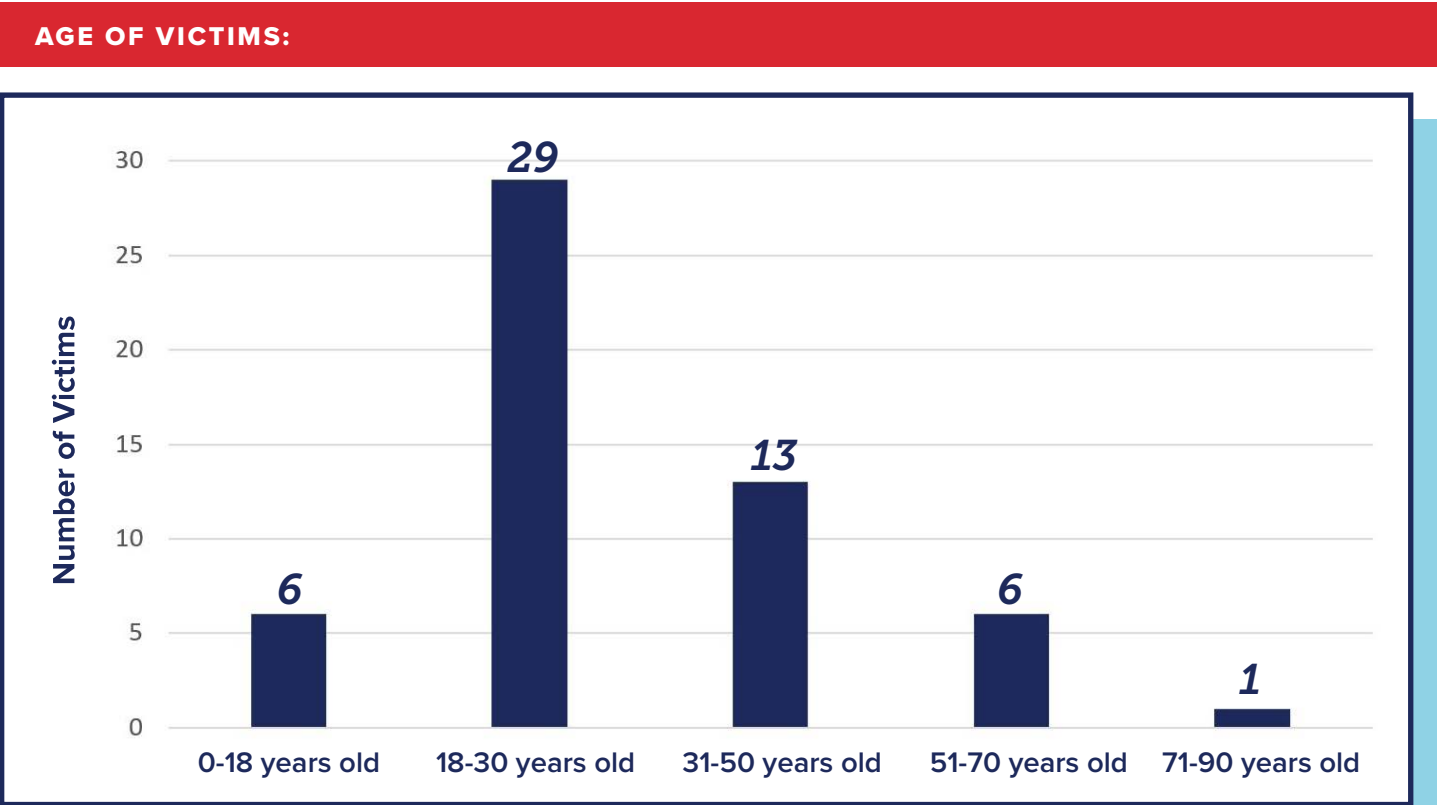
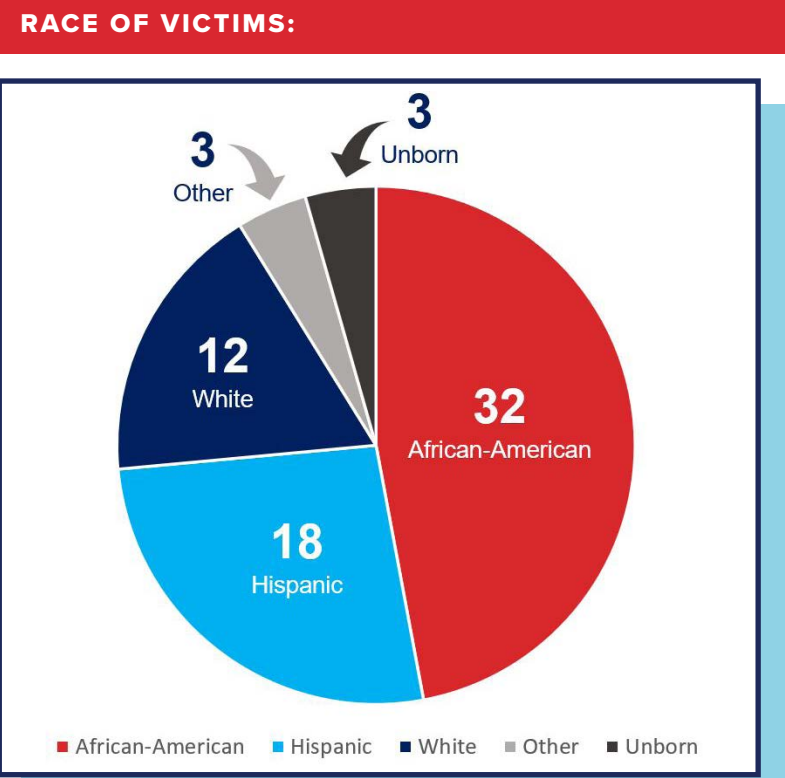
How is this happening? From our perspective, this is the crux of the problem: Misdemeanor court judges are bound by a Federal Court ruling that removes cash bail for most defendants charged with misdemeanor offenses. District court judges who handle felony cases are not. This means, when a defendant is released on a felony bond and then arrested on a new charge, the district judge has the discretion whether or not to revoke the original bond or grant a new bond giving the defendant the opportunity to be returned to the community. Time and time again we are seeing the same defendants being arrested for violent crimes including murder and yet are still being granted and released on a new bond.

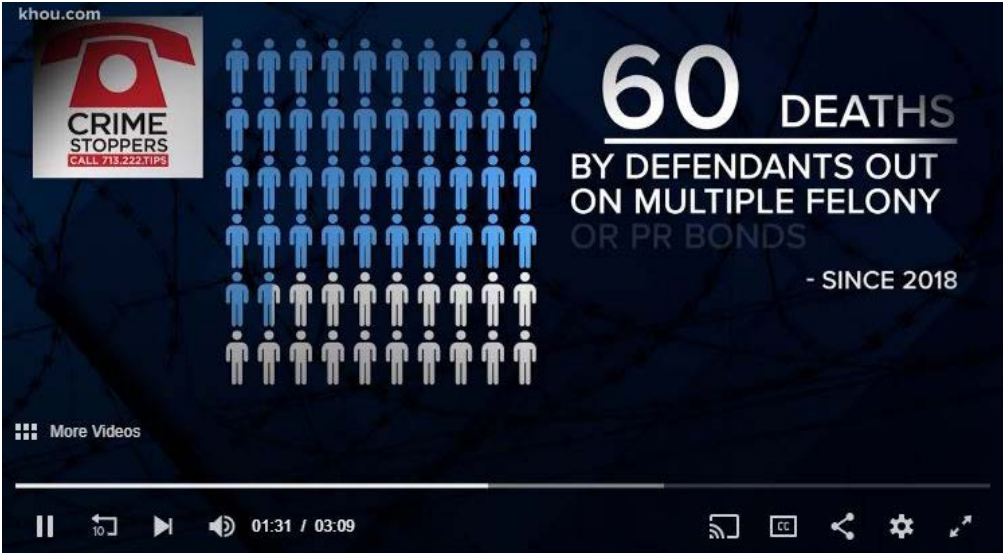
Crime Stoppers of Houston wants to be perfectly clear: We support **Misdemeanor Bond Reform**. We recognize and support the need for Criminal Justice Reform. What we don't support is when public safety is placed at a higher risk when career habitual offenders are continuously released back to the community despite being charged with multiple violent crimes. The problem is we have no way of knowing how many offenders fit into this category because Harris County does not keep such vital statistical information.

Crime Stoppers will continue to aggressively work with partners and citizens, law enforcement and victim families, media and colleagues, to ensure the utter most safety of everyone who calls Harris County home. We encourage the community to get involved and follow the work of Andy @andyvictimadvocate and Crime Stoppers @crimestoppersofhouston.

Crime Stoppers has compiled a report of men, women and children that have been killed by suspects that were out on felony bond(s) from Harris County. On this page you will find a brief overview of demographics of the 60+ victims. To access the detailed report that includes victim names and photographs, as well as the known locations of where they were murdered by precinct, [click here](#).
Report as of November 10, 2020.

BREAKDOWN BY PRECINCT:	
23	Harris County Precinct 1
13	Harris County Precinct 2
12	Harris County Precinct 3
10	Harris County Precinct 4
5	Unkown location
2	Out of state





**CLICK TO WATCH:
KHOU 11 News with
Grace White**

“Law enforcement and victims’ advocates are angry. They believe some judges are allowing accused criminals out on bond and giving them the opportunity to commit more crimes. One of the cases they point to is the murder earlier this year of Reginald Larry, 29.”

**CLICK TO WATCH:
FOX News 26 with
Randy Wallace**

“Nearly 70 people in Harris Co. have been killed by someone free on felony bonds.

A 61-year-old man is now the 69th person in Harris County to be killed by someone free from jail on multiple felony bonds.”



**CLICK TO WATCH:
Noticias 45 Houston
with Dey Rios**

CEO Rania Mankarious (@theraniareport) discusses the difference between misdemeanor bail and felony bail and the reforms needed with Deysi Rios.

The FOX News Series titled ‘Breaking Bond’ was spurred on by Reporter Randy Wallace’s continuous reporting with Crime Stoppers Victim Services Director Andy Kahan regarding the ramifications of felony bond reform putting the focus on the revolving door at the Harris County Courthouse as an impetus for the rising crime rates in Houston.

To date FOX News has aired 4 segments of Breaking Bond all involving the murder of a person by a defendant released on multiple felony bonds.

CLICK TO WATCH:

Judges Fail to revoke bond for man accused of killing while out on bond.

Violent gang member who allegedly committed murder while out on multiple felony bonds back behind bars

23-year-old Houston man allegedly murdered by two men freed from jail on multiple felony, PR bonds

Breaking Bond: Man accused of killing 43-year-old woman given 5 bonds in a year

Breaking Bond: Murder suspect free on multiple felony bonds, charged with another violent crime



Pictured above: FOX News 26 reporter Randy Wallace and Director of Victim Services Andy Kahan at Crime Stoppers of Houston headquarters



Pictured above: Director of Victim Services Andy Kahan recording first segment of FOX News 26 series ‘Breaking Bond’.

“What do I tell the family of an 11-year-old boy who was shot by a defendant already out on multiple felony bonds for murder, evading arrest and unlawfully carrying a weapon?”

How do I try to put into context what is happening to our criminal justice system to families who are grieving and searching for answers as to why their loved one was murdered?

As a victim advocate, it is difficult to explain to families why their loved one was killed. It simply defies logic.”

- ANDY KAHAN

Quote from Andy’s recent blog post on the ‘Ramifications of Criminal Justice and Bond Reform’. [Click here](#) to read the full post.

CONTACT OUR TEAM



Rania Mankarious
Chief Executive Officer

Crime Stoppers of Houston is committed to offering the most up-to-date public safety messaging. You and your family's safety remains our top priority. For media, speaking engagements, interviews, or blogs, please contact Rania.

✉ rmankarious@crime-stoppers.org



Nichole Christoph
Deputy Director

Our Tip Line Program runs efficiently and effectively thanks to meticulous attention of our Law Enforcement Officers and our Deputy Director. If you have questions on how to utilize our anonymous Tip Line, please contact Nichole.

✉ nchristoph@crime-stoppers.org



Andy Kahan
Director, Victim Services & Victim Advocacy

Our Victims Services & Victim Advocacy department works year round to fight for the rights of victims of violent crimes. If you are a surviving victim or family member of a victim seeking further assistance, please contact Andy.

✉ akahan@crime-stoppers.org

**KEEP OUR
HOUSTON
SAFE.**



FOLLOW.

For the latest crime news, educational opportunities, and community events, follow us on our socials!

[@crimestoppersofhouston](#)
[@theraniareport](#)

SHARE.

We are passionate about the work we do and hope you are to! **Spread the word** by sharing on social media and in conversations. Thank you!

GIVE.

We are Houston's top non-profit that keeps you safe everyday. Visit crime-stoppers.org to give to our mission.



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