

# Crime Analysis Report: Albany, NY (2021-2024)

**Prepared by:** J. Gregory Walsh  
**Date:** March 21, 2025  
**Prepared for:** Albany Aegis Initiative, City of Albany, NY

## Abstract

This report analyzes crime trends in Albany, New York, from 2021 to 2024, using data obtained through a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request from the Albany Police Department. The analysis focuses on total crimes, violent crime categories, neighborhood distribution, case resolution rates, and police response times. Findings reveal a peak in total crimes in 2023, a significant increase in rape cases in 2024, concentrated crime in specific neighborhoods, a high rate of unresolved cases, and variable police response times. These insights support the Albany Aegis Initiative’s goals of reducing crime, improving governance, and fostering economic opportunities through data-driven strategies.

## Introduction

Albany, the capital of New York State, has faced persistent challenges with crime, political corruption, and economic stagnation, as detailed in the historical background essay *Albany’s Historical Trajectory and the Imperative for the Albany Aegis Initiative*. The Albany Aegis Initiative aims to address these issues through four pillars: Behavioral Analysis, Cutting-Edge Technology, Economic Diversification, and Civic Accountability & Transparency. This report provides a quantitative foundation for the initiative by analyzing crime data from 2021 to 2024, identifying trends, and offering recommendations to inform policy and community interventions.

## Methodology

### Data Source

The data was obtained through a FOIL request (Product **#25-01193A**, dated February 7, 2025) from the Capital Region Crime Analysis Center, sourced from the Albany Police Department’s Records Management System (RMS) and Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The dataset covers January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2024, and includes:

- Total crimes and arrests.
- Part I Violent Crimes (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault).
- Crime distribution across Albany neighborhoods.
- Case status (open vs. closed) for 2024.
- Average police response times for Part I crimes.

## Analysis

Data was analyzed to identify trends in crime rates, geographic distribution, case resolution, and response efficiency. Visualizations were created to present findings clearly, adhering to professional standards for academic publication:

- **Figure 1:** Total crimes and arrests over time.
- **Figure 2:** Part I Violent Crimes by year.
- **Figure 3:** Crime distribution by neighborhood.
- **Figure 4:** Case status distribution in 2024.
- **Figure 5:** Average police response times for Part I crimes.

## Limitations

- The dataset lacks granular demographic data, limiting analysis of crime by population subgroups.
- Some neighborhood data is classified as “Unknown/Not in NEU Zone” (11,786 crimes), reducing geographic specificity.
- Changes in crime definitions (e.g., broader rape definition in 2024) may affect year-to-year comparisons.

# Results

## Total Crimes and Arrests (2021-2024)

The total number of crimes in Albany fluctuated over the study period, peaking in 2023 at 9,582 before declining to 8,420 in 2024. Arrests increased steadily from 1,859 in 2021 to 2,150 in 2024, indicating improved law enforcement activity but a persistent gap between crimes and arrests.

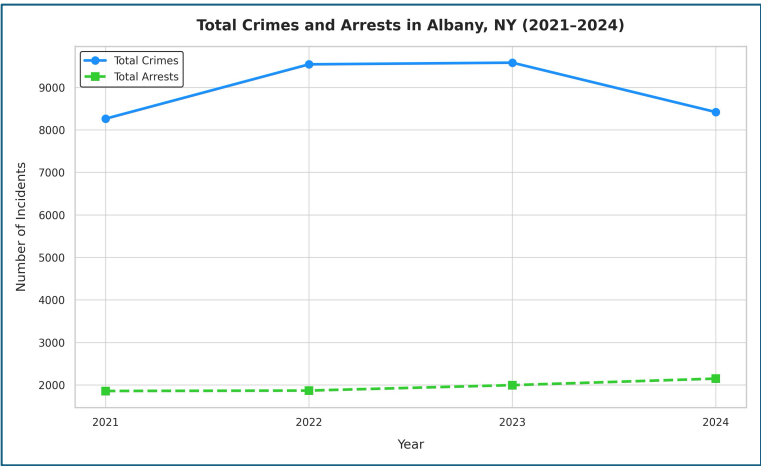


Figure 1: Total crimes peaked in 2023 at 9,582, dropping to 8,420 in 2024, while arrests rose steadily to 2,150, highlighting the need for smarter policing strategies.

## Part I Violent Crimes by Year

Part I Violent Crimes (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault) showed varied trends. Total violent crimes peaked in 2022 at 966, with a notable increase in rape cases in 2024 (91 cases, up from 62 in 2023), driven partly by a broader definition of rape. Aggravated Assault remained the dominant category, averaging over 600 cases annually.

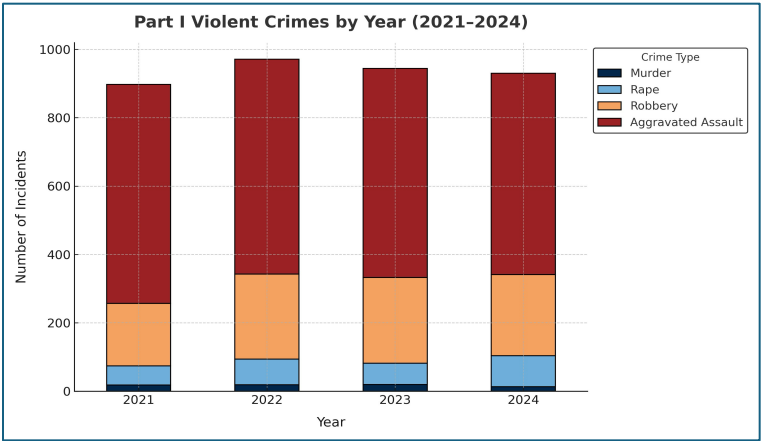


Figure 2: Violent crime trends show a significant spike in rape cases in 2024 (91), with Aggravated Assault consistently high, necessitating targeted interventions

## Crime Distribution by Neighborhood

Crime distribution across Albany neighborhoods reveals significant disparities. West Hill (4,173 crimes) and Pine Hills (3,967 crimes) reported the highest crime counts, while Normanskill Area (92 crimes) had the lowest. A substantial portion (11,786 crimes) is classified as “Unknown/Not in NEU Zone,” indicating data gaps.

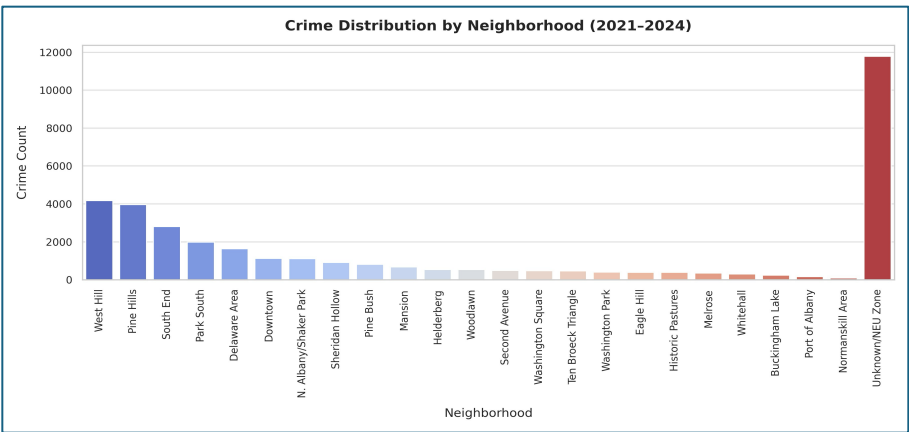


Figure 3: West Hill and Pine Hills are key areas for economic and safety interventions, with 4,173 and 3,967 crimes, respectively.

## Case Status Distribution (2024)

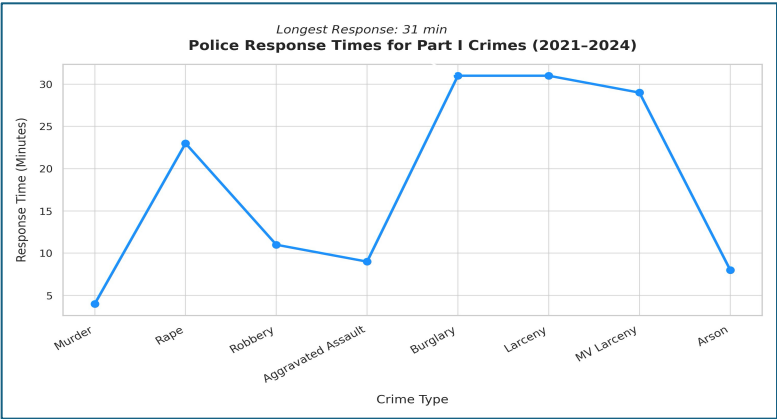
In 2024, 45% of crime cases (3,743) remained open, while 55% (4,677) were closed, out of a total of 8,420 cases. The high rate of unresolved cases underscores the need for improved transparency and oversight.

**Figure 4: Case Status Distribution in Albany, NY (2024)**

*Caption:* With 45% of cases (over 3,700) remaining open in 2024, transparency and accountability in case resolution are critical.

## Police Response Times for Part I Crimes

Average police response times for Part I crimes varied significantly. Murder had the fastest response at 4 minutes, while Burglary and Larceny both averaged 31 minutes, indicating inefficiencies in addressing property crimes.



*Figure 4: Slow response times for property crimes like Burglary (31 minutes) highlight the need for advanced technology to enhance law enforcement efficiency.*

## Discussion

The analysis reveals several key trends and challenges in Albany’s crime landscape:

- **Crime Trends:** The peak in total crimes in 2023 (9,582) and the subsequent decline in 2024 (8,420) suggest a potential response to increased arrests (2,150 in 2024). However, the persistent gap between crimes and arrests indicates a need for more effective prevention strategies.
- **Violent Crimes:** The spike in rape cases in 2024 (91) reflects both a broader definition and possibly an increase in reporting or incidents, necessitating targeted interventions. Aggravated Assault’s high prevalence (over 580 cases annually) underscores the need for behavioral analysis to address root causes.
- **Geographic Disparities:** High crime in West Hill and Pine Hills (over 3,900 crimes each) correlates with economic disadvantage, supporting the Albany Aegis Initiative’s focus on economic diversification in these areas.
- **Case Resolution:** The 45% open case rate (3,743 cases) in 2024 highlights inefficiencies in case resolution, aligning with the initiative’s emphasis on civic accountability and transparency.
- **Response Times:** Slow response times for property crimes (e.g., 31 minutes for Burglary) indicate a need for technological improvements, such as predictive policing and real-time crime mapping.

These findings align with the Albany Aegis Initiative’s pillars, providing a data-driven foundation for policy development.

## Recommendations

Based on the analysis, the following recommendations are proposed for the Albany Aegis Initiative:

1. **Behavioral Analysis:**
  - Implement predictive policing models to identify and prevent crime spikes, particularly for rape and aggravated assault, using the trends observed in 2024.
  - Develop intervention programs targeting at-risk individuals in high-crime neighborhoods like West Hill and Pine Hills.
2. **Cutting-Edge Technology:**
  - Deploy real-time crime mapping and gunshot detection systems to reduce response times for property crimes, addressing the 31-minute average for Burglary and Larceny.
  - Use AI-driven analytics to optimize police resource allocation, focusing on closing the gap between crimes and arrests.

3. **Economic Diversification:**

- Prioritize economic development in West Hill and Pine Hills through job training programs, support for local businesses, and investment in new industries (e.g., technology, clean energy), addressing the correlation between economic disadvantage and high crime rates.

4. **Civic Accountability & Transparency:**

- Establish an independent oversight commission to monitor case resolution, addressing the 45% open case rate in 2024.
- Launch an open data portal to provide real-time access to crime statistics, case statuses, and police response times, enhancing public trust and accountability.

---

# Conclusion

---

This crime analysis report provides a comprehensive overview of Albany’s crime landscape from 2021 to 2024, identifying key trends and challenges that align with the Albany Aegis Initiative’s goals. The data underscores the need for a multi-faceted approach to crime prevention, combining behavioral analysis, technological advancements, economic development, and transparency. By implementing the recommended strategies, Albany can reduce crime, improve governance, and create a safer, more prosperous community.

---

# References

---

- Capital Region Crime Analysis Center. (2025). *FOIL Request - City of Albany, Product #25-01193A*. Albany Police Department RMS/CAD System.
  - [J. Gregory Walsh, [j11wals@alum.siena.edu](mailto:j11wals@alum.siena.edu)]. (2025). *Albany’s Historical Trajectory and the Imperative for the Albany Aegis Initiative*. Albany Aegis Initiative.
-