



ISSUES FACING NEW YORK CITY'S AGENCIES: NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Overview

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) is the largest municipal police force in the nation, with a FY 2022 budget of \$5.6 billion and approximately 35,000 uniformed and 14,000 civilian full-time employees. The Department operates 77 precincts, 12 Transit Bureau districts, and nine Housing Bureau police service areas and enforces traffic safety on streets and highways and school safety in the public school system.

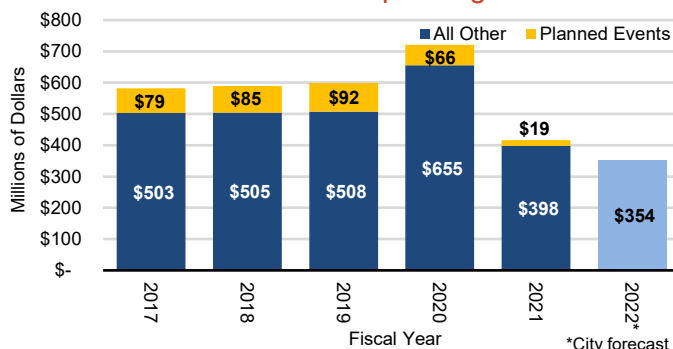
Pandemic Impact on Agency Operations

Consistent with the citywide trend from February 2020 to October 2021, the NYPD experienced a decline in uniformed staffing levels (of 6 percent, more than 2,000 employees) from February 2020 to September 2021, due to relatively higher rates of officers retiring or otherwise leaving the force. The Department mitigated service impacts through deployment shifts and overtime, assisted by the suspension of planned events requiring police presence (i.e., parades, street fairs, etc.) to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, the pandemic also seemed to have caused an effect on crime nationwide, and the City experienced a surge in certain crimes, most alarmingly in shooting incidents. The sudden rise in gun violence prompted the NYPD to deploy additional resources to address the issue, including improved targeting of past violent offenders and collaboration with other law enforcement entities and community partners.

ISSUES FACING THE AGENCY

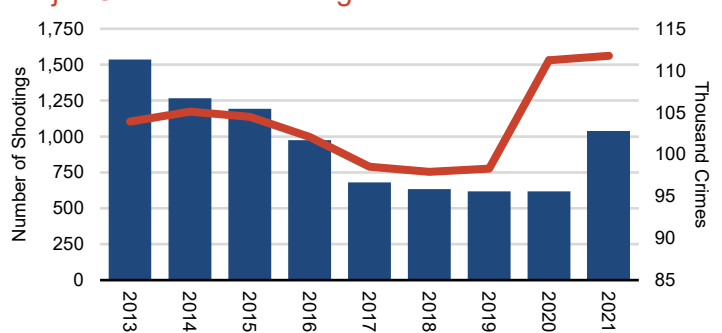
- Uniformed Overtime:** Uniformed overtime spending at the NYPD was significantly lower in FY 2021 (\$417 million), down from about \$600 million annually in recent years, in part because of event cancellations. With COVID-19 vaccines now widely available and large events returning, overtime is likely to return to pre-pandemic levels. However, the Department's FY 2022 uniformed overtime budget is only \$354 million in FY 2022 (see Figure 1).
- Crime:** Major crime in the City declined in consecutive years from 2013 to 2020, but the trend slowed in recent years and reversed in 2021 as major crimes reached the highest level since 2015 (see Figure 2). Additionally, shooting incidents surged nearly 100 percent from 2019 to 2020 and continued to grow in 2021, marking the highest level since 2006 (1,562 shootings).
- Police Reform and Gun Violence Action Plan:** In March 2021, the NYPD announced its commitment to implement 132 reforms published in the [Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative](#). In January 2022, the new Mayor also released [The Blueprint to End Gun Violence](#), a comprehensive plan to combat elevated shootings in the City. The overall budgetary implications of these initiatives are unclear and should be considered as part of revisions to NYPD spending assumptions in the preliminary budget to be released later this year.

FIGURE 1
NYPD Uniformed Overtime Spending



Source(s): Financial Management System, New York City Police Department

FIGURE 2
Major Crime and Shootings



Source: New York City Police Department