

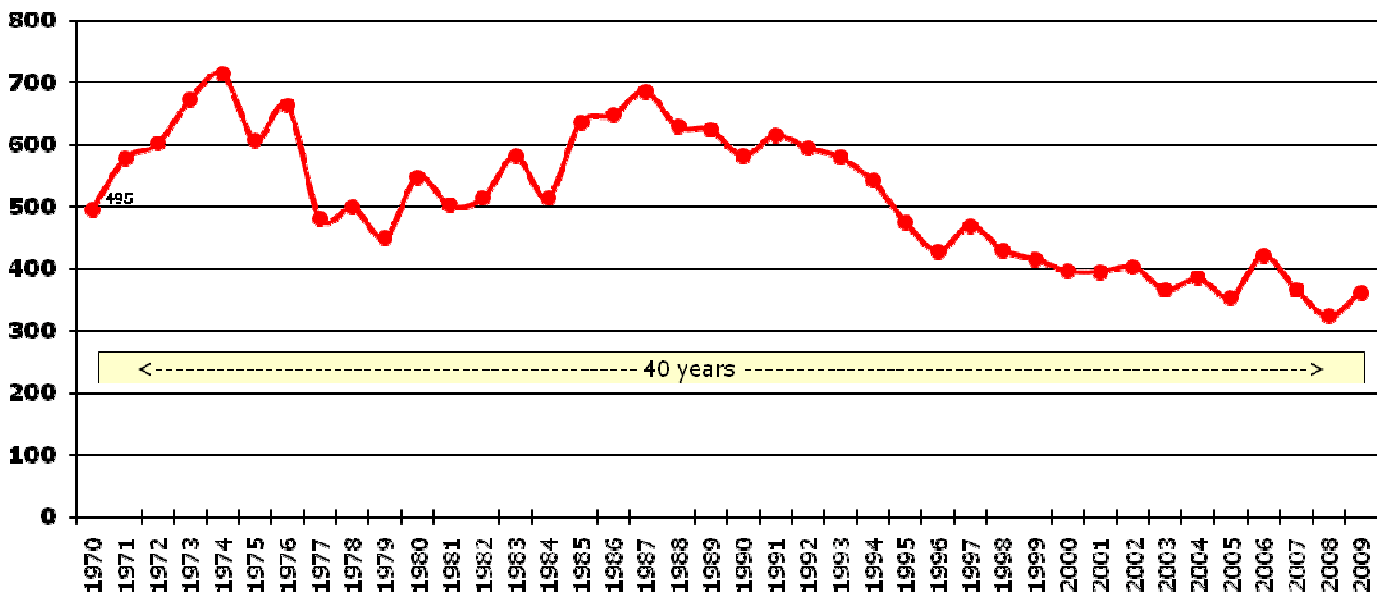
# Detroit Crime Barometer

## September 2010 Edition

### Homicide Trends

Since 1987, the number of homicides annually in Detroit has trended downward. For the most recent full year, 2009, the 361 homicides in the city represent an increase over the previous year (323 in 2008). Given the population decline occurring in the city of Detroit -- from 951,270 in 2000 to an estimated 772,419 for 2010 -- this also represented an increase in the homicide rate to 46 murders per 100,000 residents. Detroit's homicide rate is 7 to 8 times higher than the State of Michigan and U.S. averages.

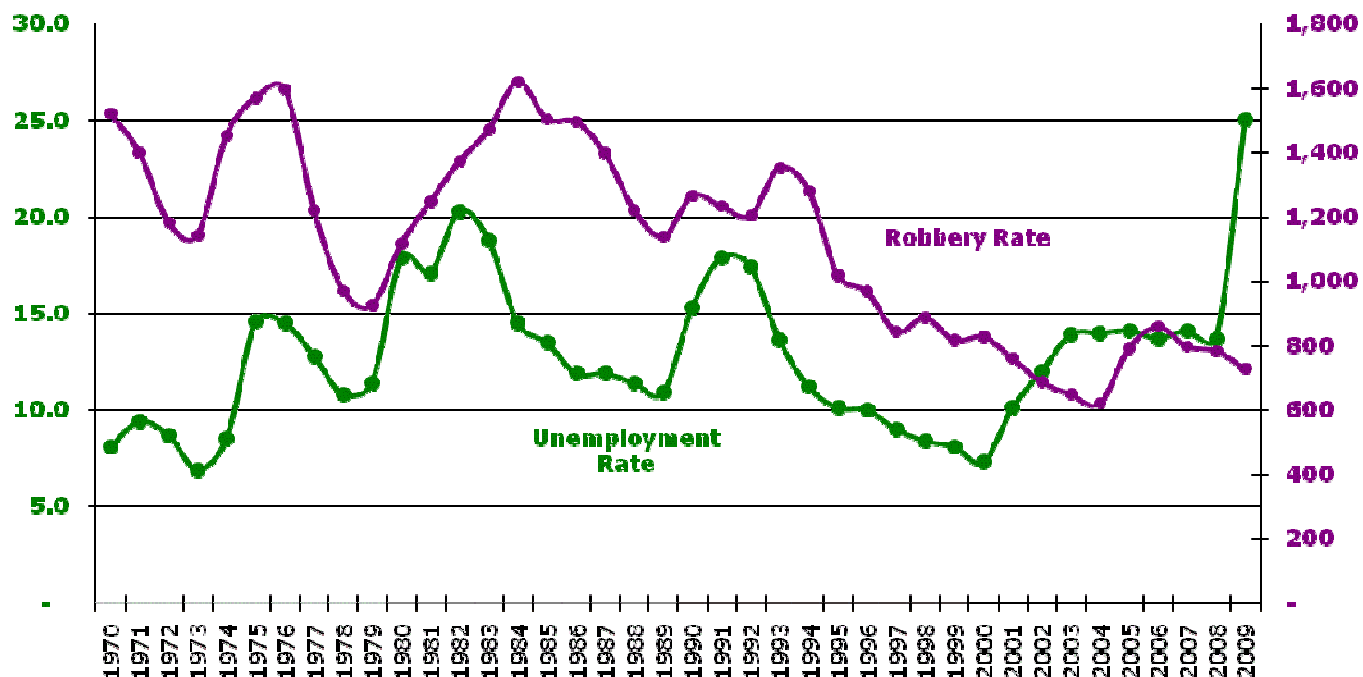
**Number of Homicides, 1970 to 2009**



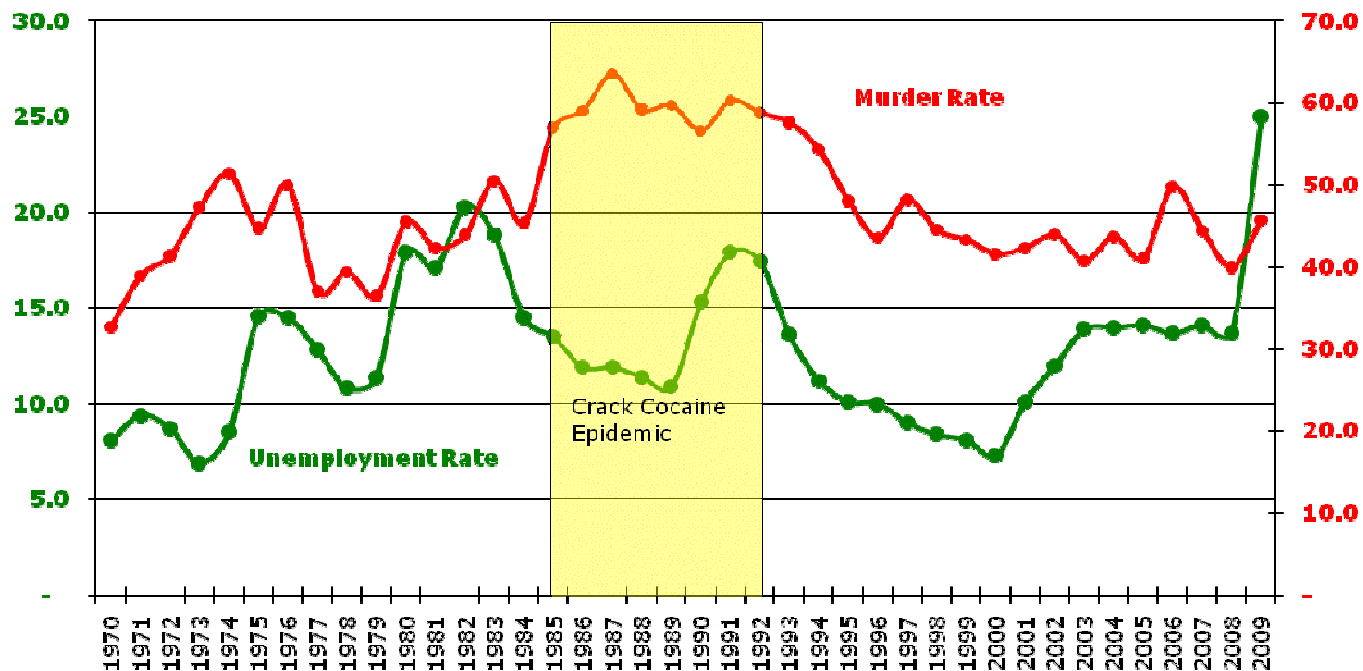
### Crime and the Economy

In Detroit, violent crime rates track closely with the city's unemployment rate. This can be seen when analyzing robbery and homicide rates over time. An exception to this trend was the homicide rate during the crack cocaine epidemic years, 1984-1990. The robbery rate has shown a strong correspondence to the local unemployment rate. The robbery rate usually increases the year following an increase in unemployment. Detroit's unemployment rate rose to 25% during 2009. Homicides increased, but the number of robberies fell by 9 percent in 2009.

### Robbery Rate and Unemployment



### Murder Rate and Unemployment



## Crime, Neighborhood Conditions and Community Organizations

Crime is not evenly distributed in Detroit. High crime neighborhoods are geographically concentrated and are often economically and social disadvantaged areas, in terms of income levels, family structure, and residential stability. Crime problems, however, often spillover and affect surrounding areas.

Ongoing population decline occurring in many Detroit neighborhoods makes it difficult to stabilize or revitalize these areas. Some people consider the level of address vacancy as a good indicator of a neighborhood's health. Tracking vacancy rates can also illustrate how close a neighborhood may be to its "tipping point," that is, the point when conditions become so bad that most people look to move elsewhere.

The map below illustrates the percentage of vacant addresses by neighborhood in June 2010. Purple-shaded areas on the map are neighborhoods where at least 20 percent of all homes and businesses are vacant. A large number of Detroit neighborhoods have vacancy rates exceeding 30 percent. A few even exceed 40 percent.

Continued city population decline and the growing number of vacant homes and businesses in Detroit neighborhoods are enormous challenges facing those in charge of managing neighborhoods -- addressing crime and blight problems before they force residents to move out.

These challenges point to larger roles for community-organizations as neighborhood problem-solvers, advocates, and service providers and the need for residents -- those who intend to stay -- to take action and become involved.

