




Inter-Departmental Communication

Office of the City Auditor

Date: September 12, 2016 – **REVISED October 20, 2016**
To: Councilman Scott Wagner
From: Douglas Jones, City Auditor 
Subject: Police Department Comparative Information

I recently discovered an error in the original memo responding to your request for comparative information on police department demographics and metrics. The line representing Kansas City's "Officers per 100,000 Population" in the graph on page 4 was higher than it should have been as it was inadvertently based on total department staffing rather than officers only. I regret the error and the graph has been corrected.

Summary

We compiled information on police department staffing and the number of violent and property crimes, city land area, and police department expenditures from the FBI, the U.S. Census Bureau, and adopted budgets from benchmark cities. We did not verify the reliability or validity of the data collected and reported by these sources nor did we analyze or draw any conclusions from the information. We present the information in a series of graphs. (See the attachments for the graphs.) This memo does not constitute an audit under Government Auditing Standards.

Methodology

We obtained 2012, 2013, and 2014¹ figures for city population, the number of police officers and civilian employees², and the number of violent and property crimes³ from the FBI's crime statistics website (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/>) for the 50 cities with the largest U.S. population and St. Louis. We obtained city land area data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 Gazetteer Files. We obtained police department expenditures from the adopted budgets of our ten benchmark cities (Denver, Fort Worth⁴, Indianapolis, Memphis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Omaha, St. Louis, and Tulsa).

From the data, we calculated a number of measures for the benchmark cities and the 50 largest U.S. cities plus St. Louis. We used the results to develop graphs showing the trends for Kansas City, the benchmark cities median, and the 50 large U.S. cities median from 2012 through 2014.

¹ This is the most current FBI data for the tables we used for this review.

² Table 78 - FBI Crime Statistics - Full-time Law Enforcement Employees by State by City.

³ Table 8 - FBI Crime Statistics - Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by City.

⁴ We excluded Fort Worth from our calculations and graphs because the city did not report staffing or criminal offense statistics for all three years in this review.

Although cities may have many similarities, direct comparisons between Kansas City and specific cities in the attached graphs may be difficult due to different socioeconomic, geographic, and demographic factors affecting the nature of crime in each city as well as how each city staffs and allocates resources to its police department. Because city-to-city comparisons are difficult due to the previously noted factors, we include the median value for each measure in the attached graphs as a way to mitigate these differences and provide some additional context when reviewing the graphs.

Attachments

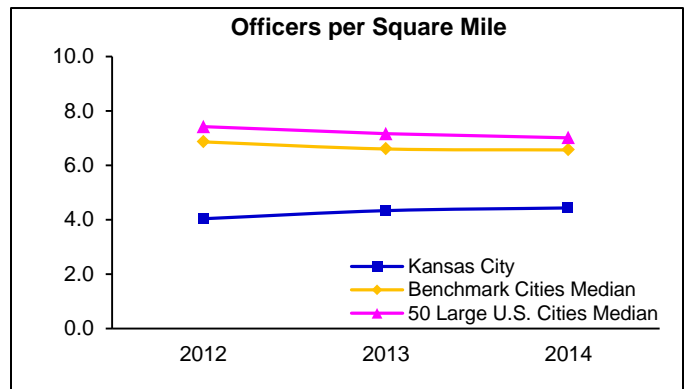
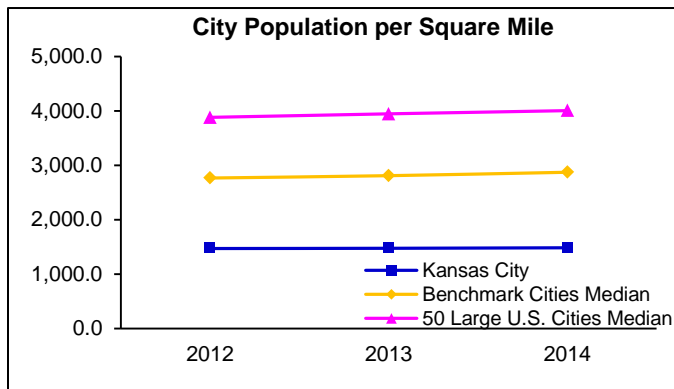
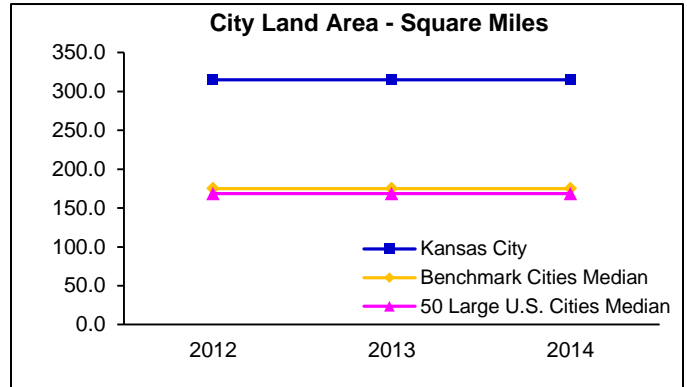
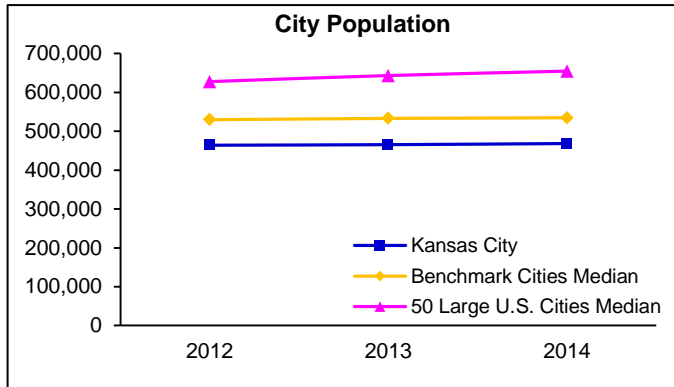
cc: Mayor Sylvester “Sly” James Jr.
Members of the City Council
Troy M. Schulte, City Manager
Board of Police Commissioners
Darryl Forté, Police Chief

Attachment A

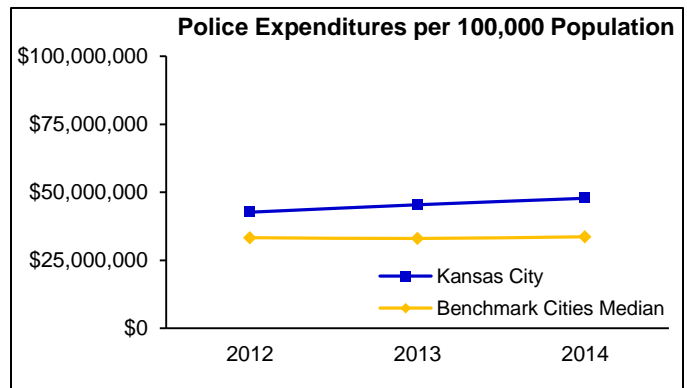
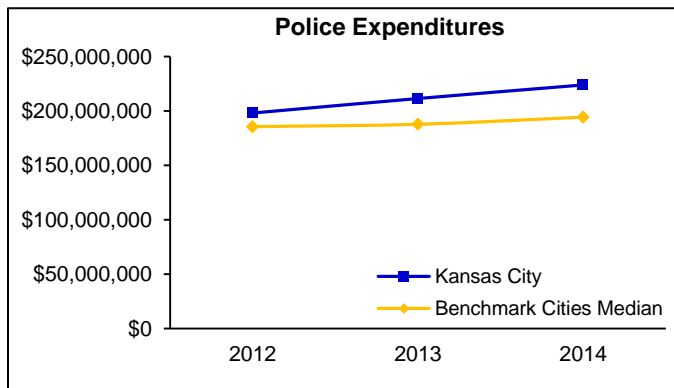
2012–2014 Police Department Trends: Kansas City, Benchmark Cities⁵, and 50 Large U.S. Cities⁵

The following graphs show the trends in population, law enforcement staffing and expenditures, and criminal offenses between 2012 and 2014. Because city-to-city comparisons are difficult due to different socioeconomic, geographic, and demographic factors affecting each city, we include the median value for each measure as a way to mitigate these differences and provide some additional context when reviewing the graphs.

City Population and Land Area

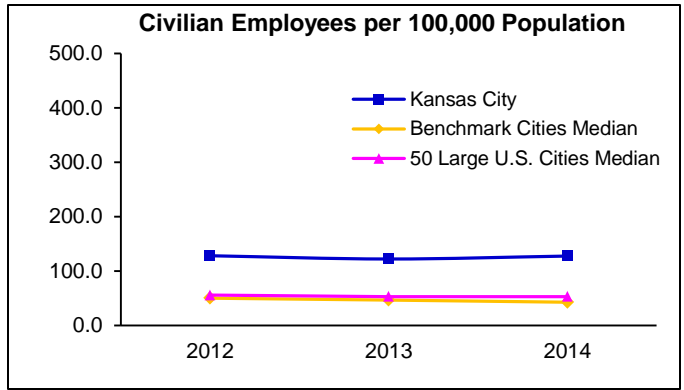
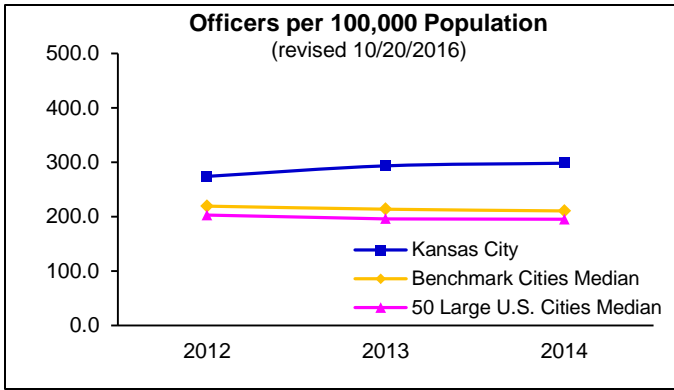
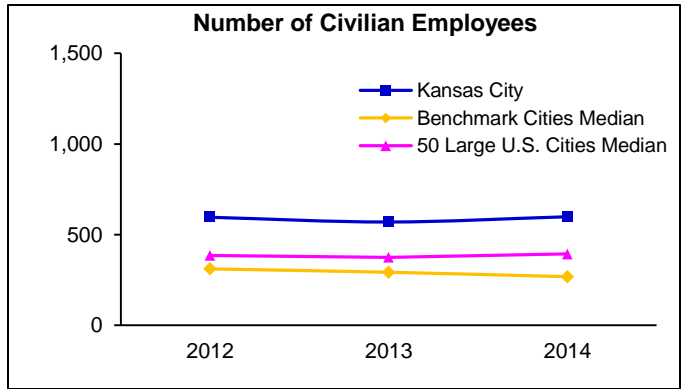
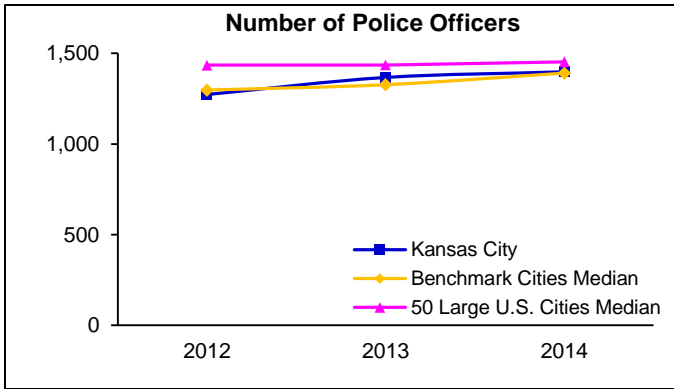


Police Expenditures (Benchmark cities only)

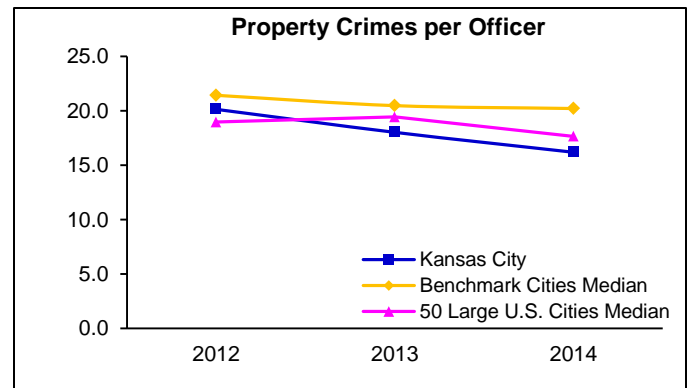
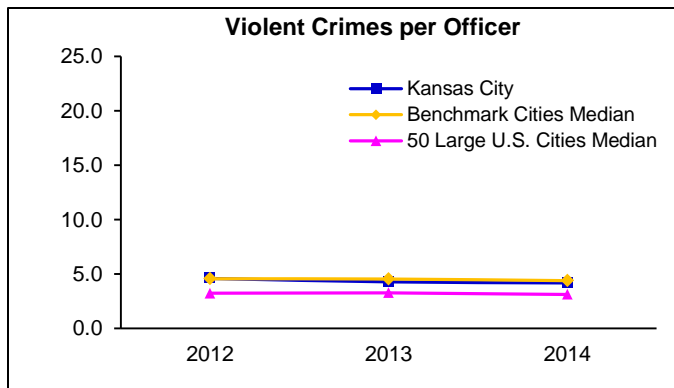
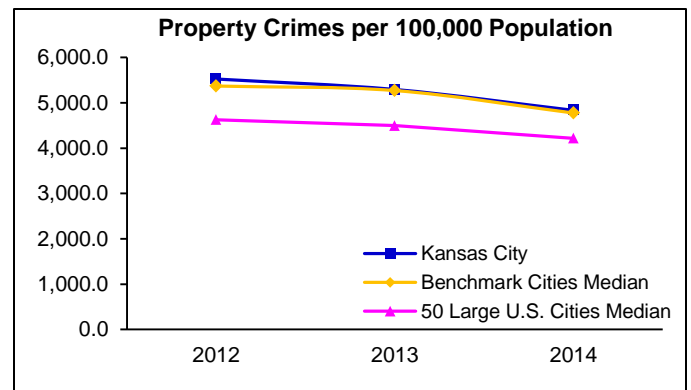
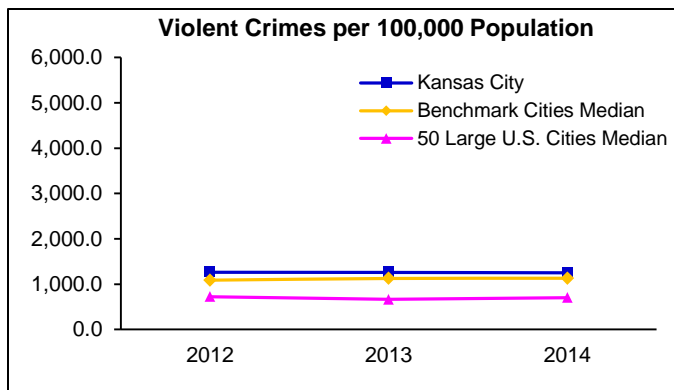
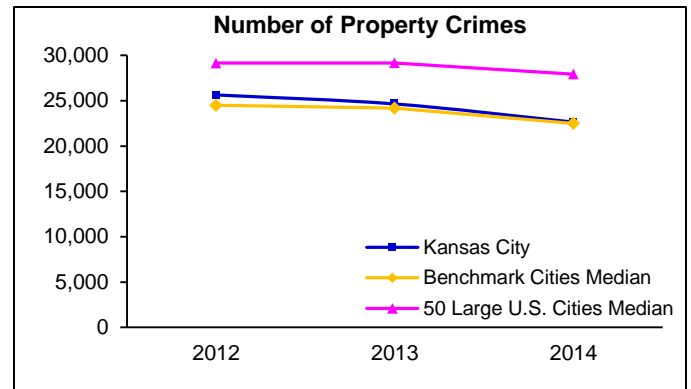
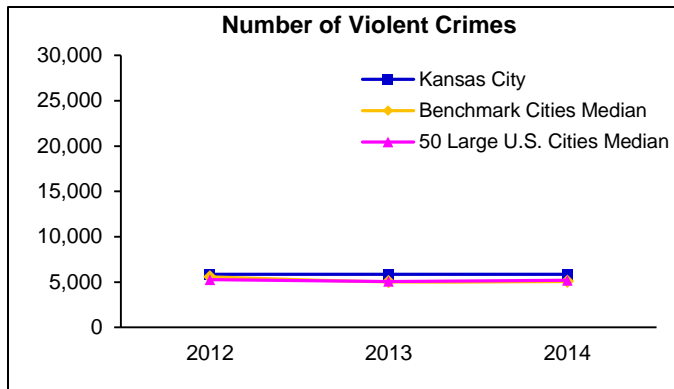


⁵ We excluded Fort Worth from our calculations and graphs because the city did not report staffing or criminal offense statistics for all three years in this review.

Police Department Staffing



Criminal Offenses



FBI Definitions:

Violent Crime is composed of four offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes are defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as those offenses which involve force or threat of force.

Property Crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims.

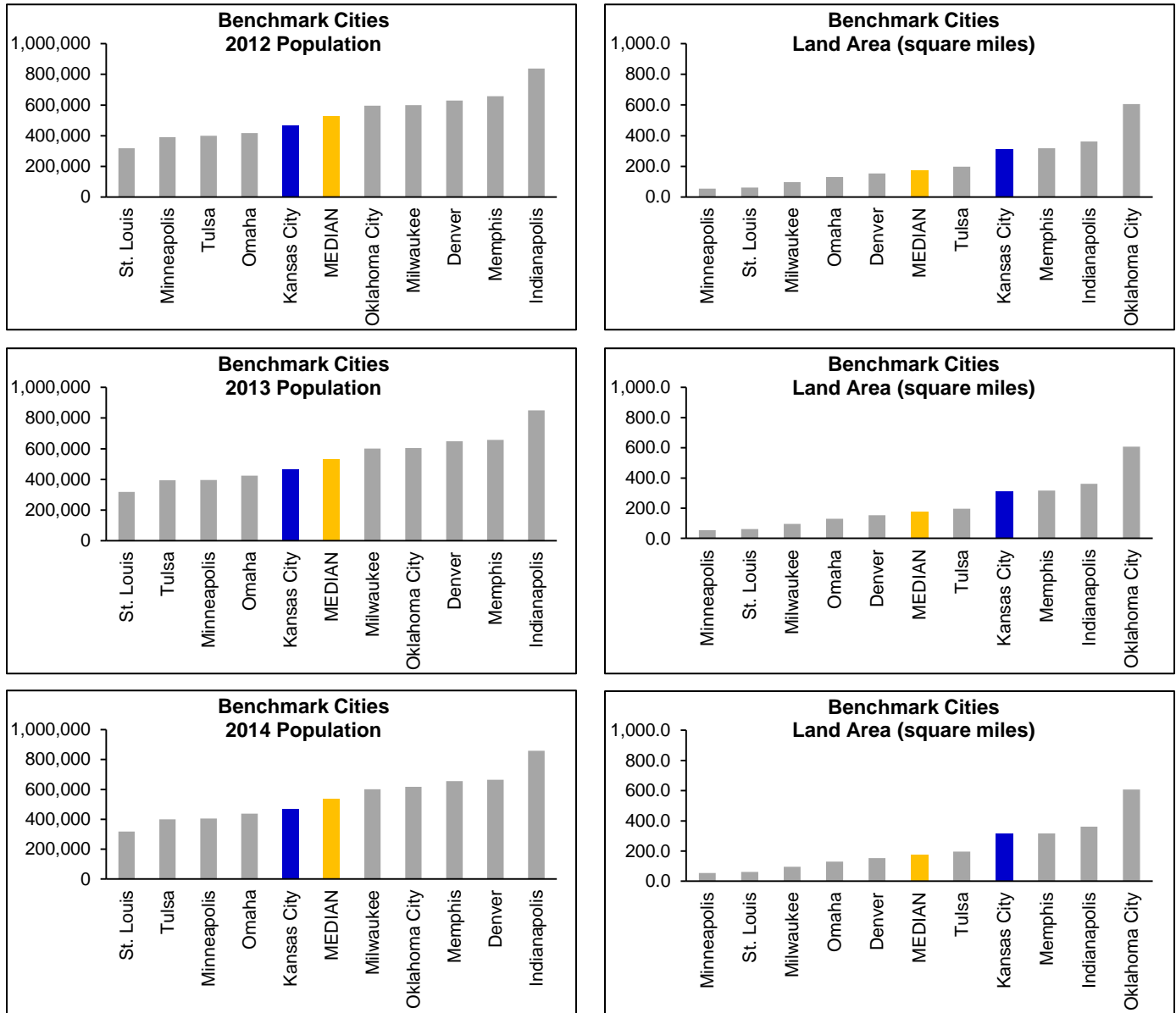
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Attachment B

2012–2014 Police Department Data: Kansas City and Benchmark Cities

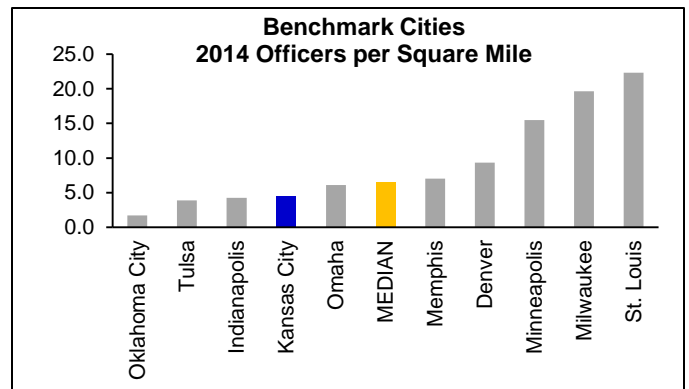
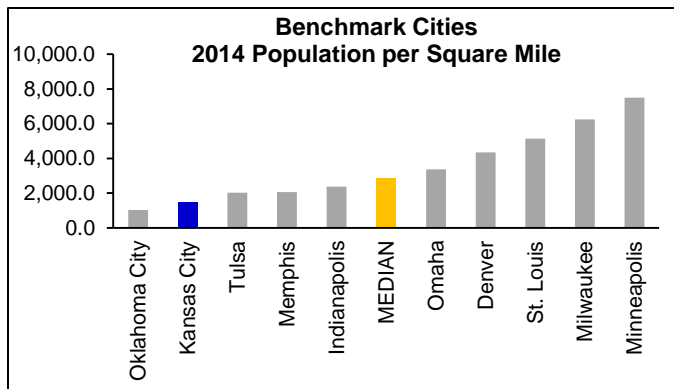
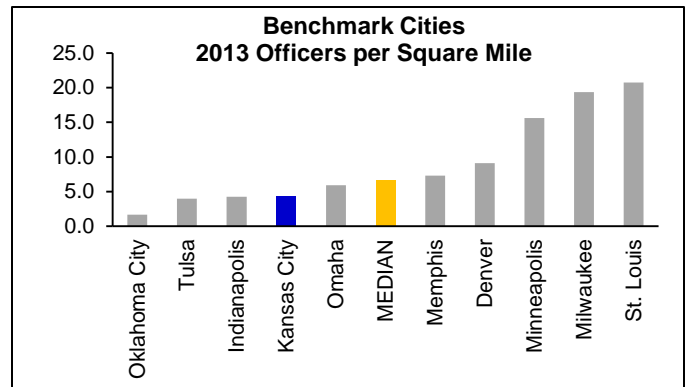
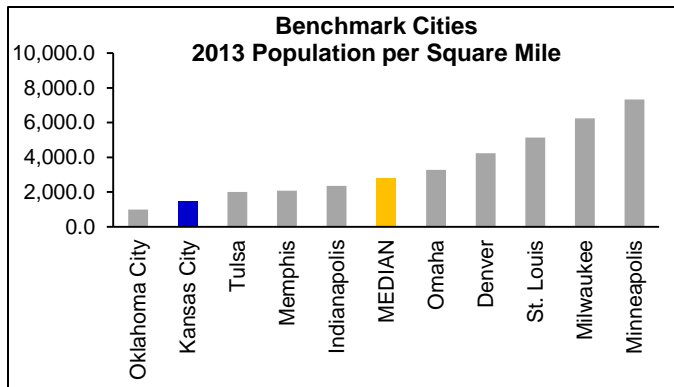
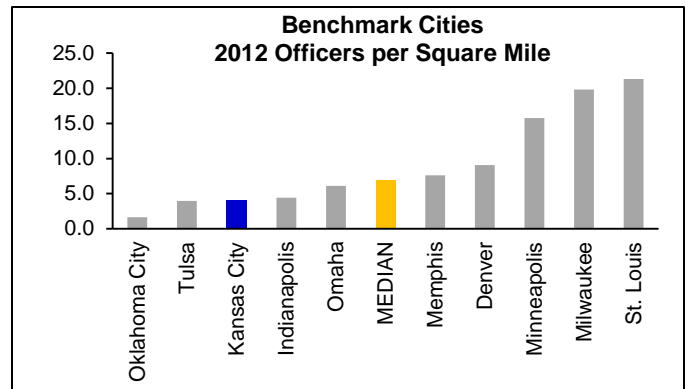
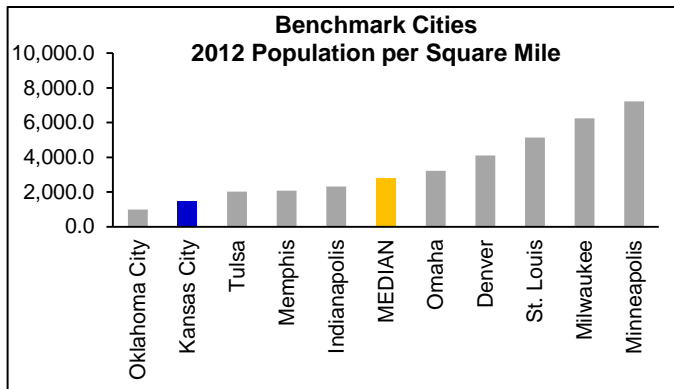
The following graphs show how Kansas City compares to the benchmark cities⁶, for population, law enforcement staffing and expenditures, and criminal offenses between 2012 and 2014. Because city-to-city comparisons are difficult due to different socioeconomic, geographic, and demographic factors affecting each city, we include the median value for each measure as a way to mitigate these differences and provide some additional context when reviewing the graphs.

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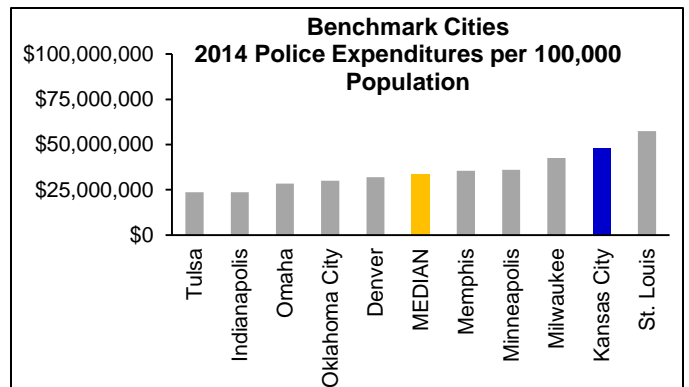
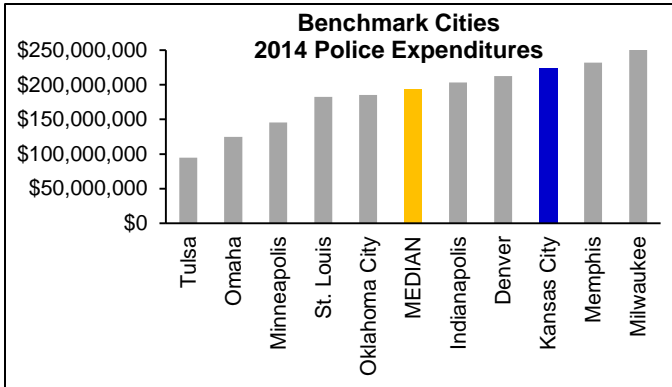
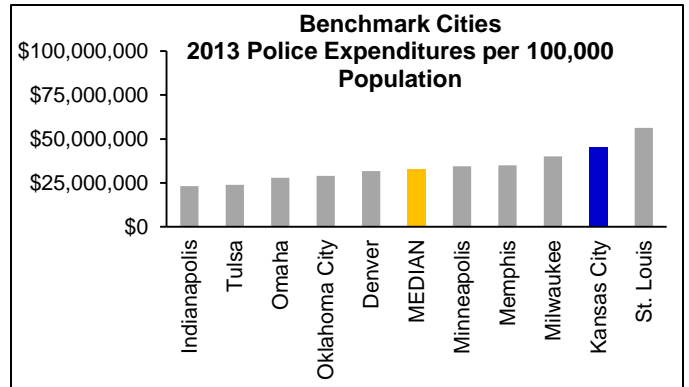
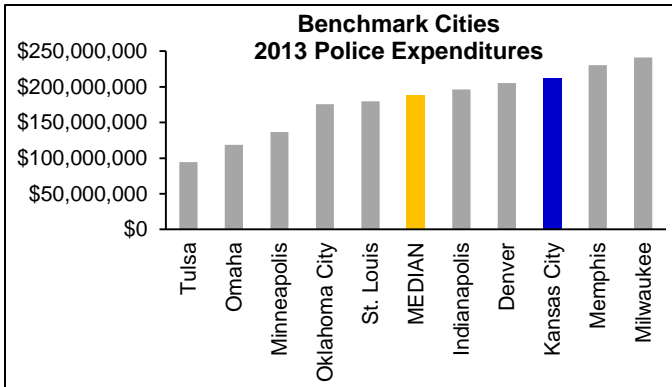
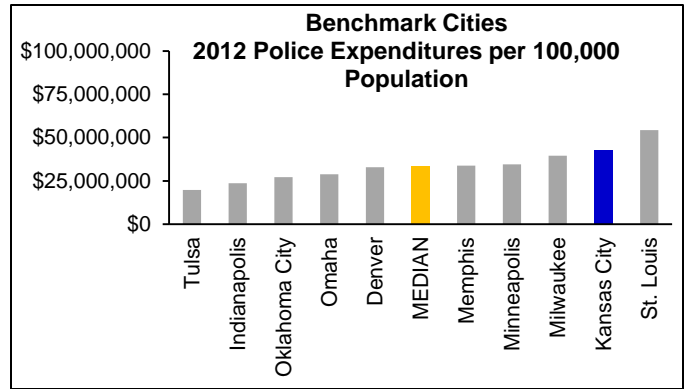
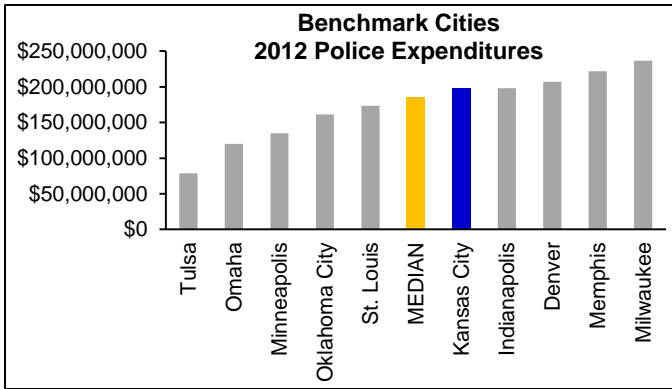


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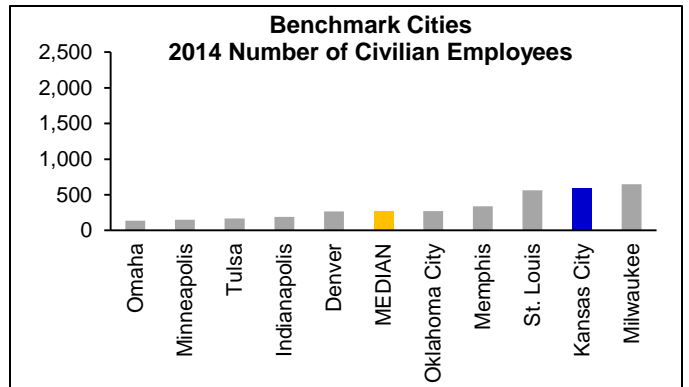
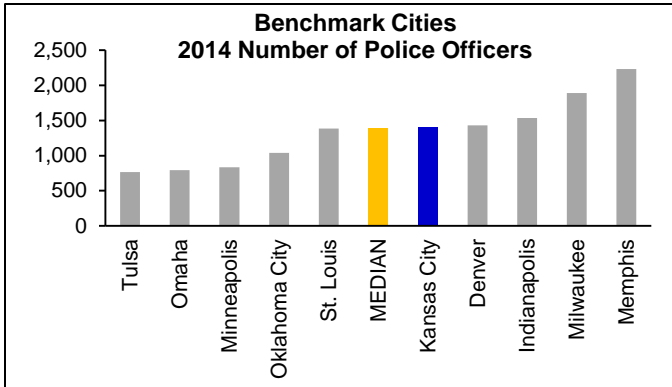
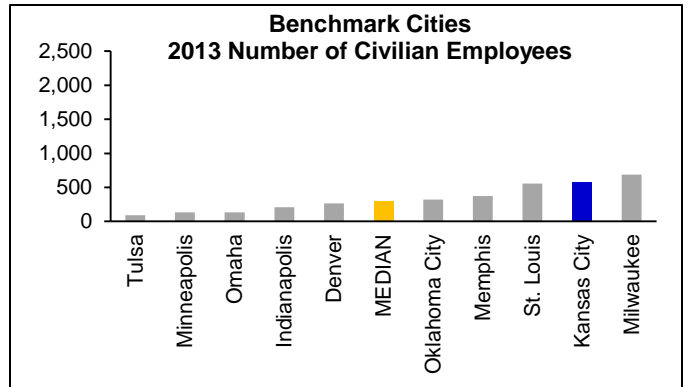
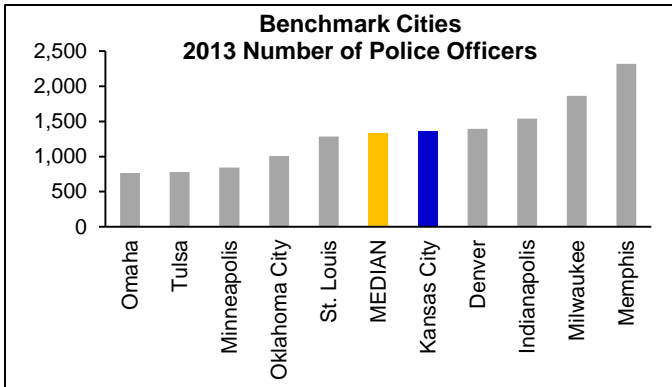
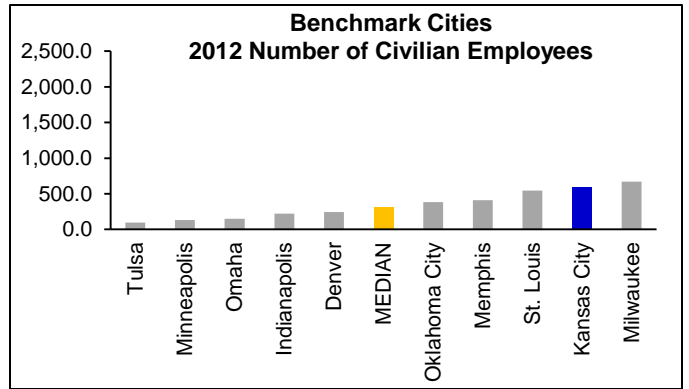
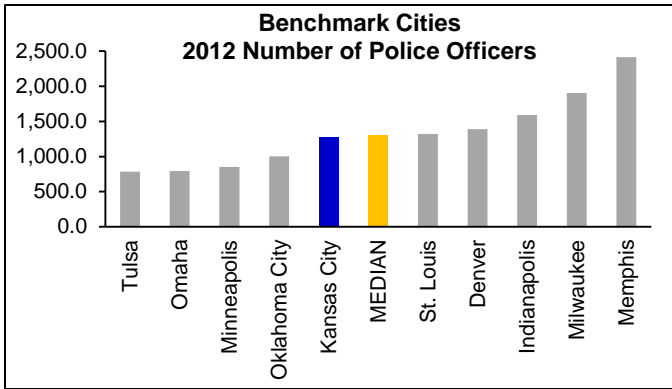
City Population and Land Area (continued)



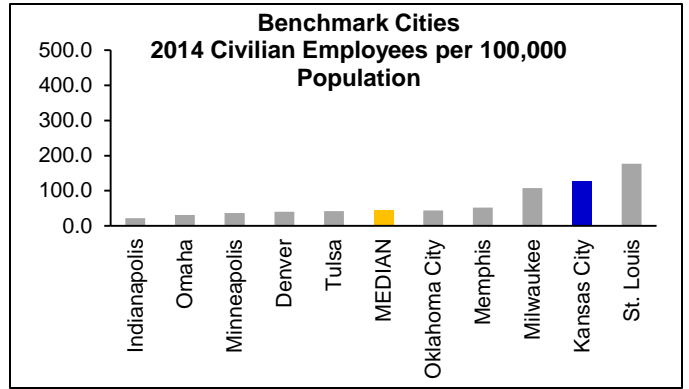
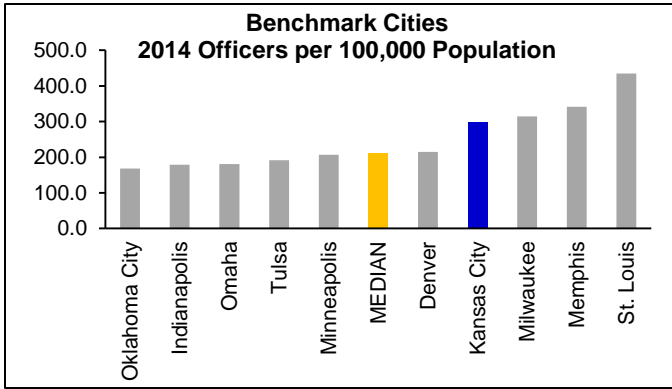
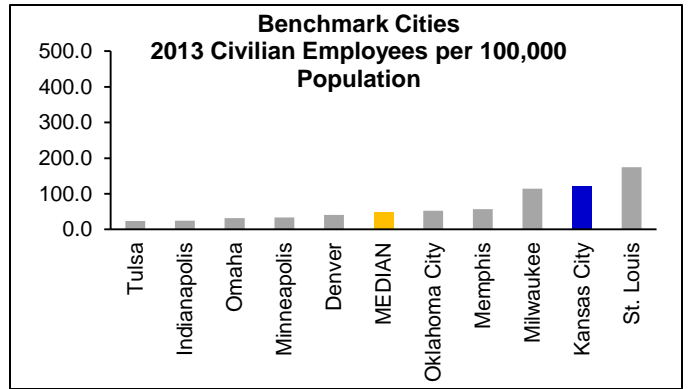
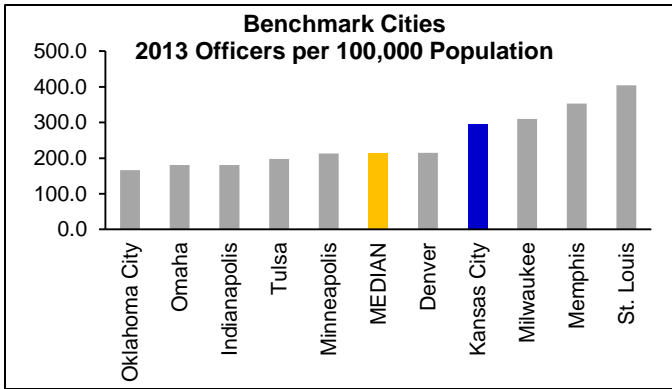
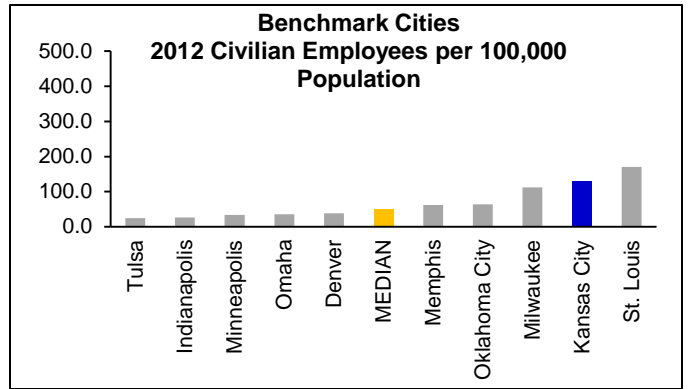
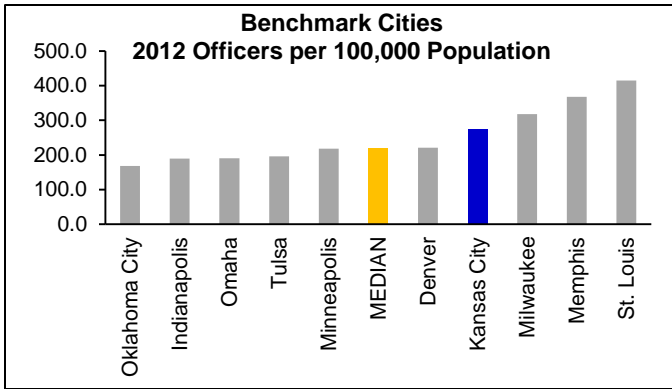
Police Expenditures



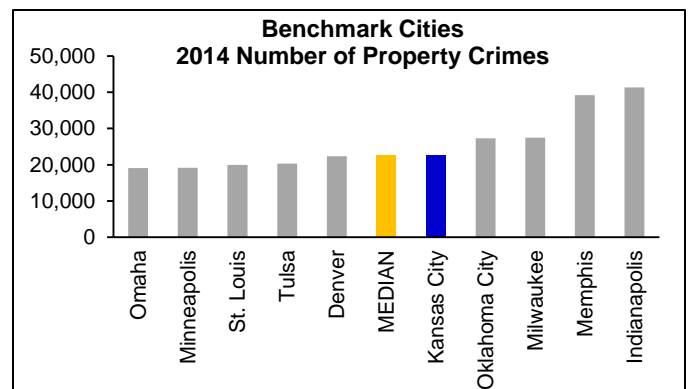
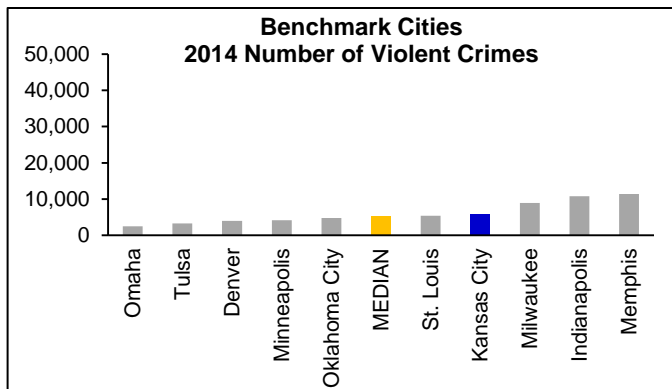
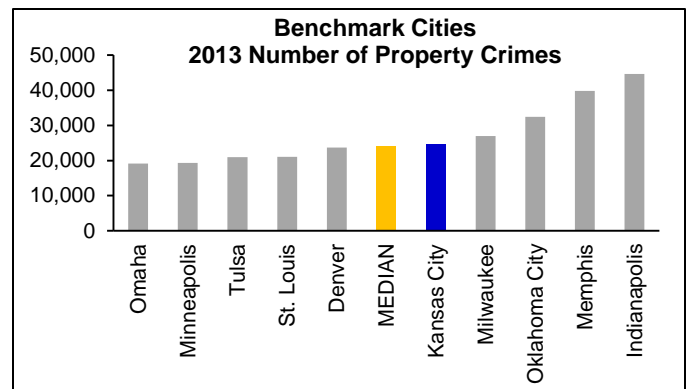
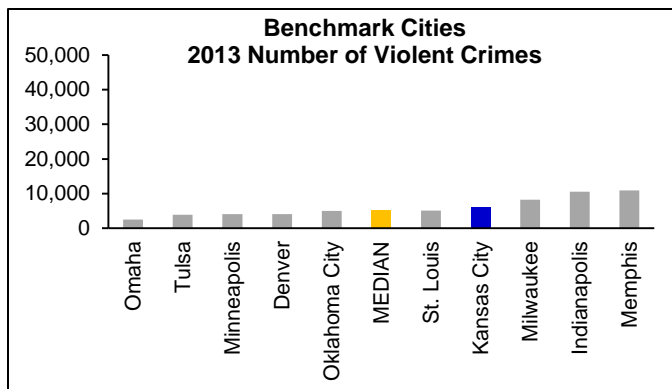
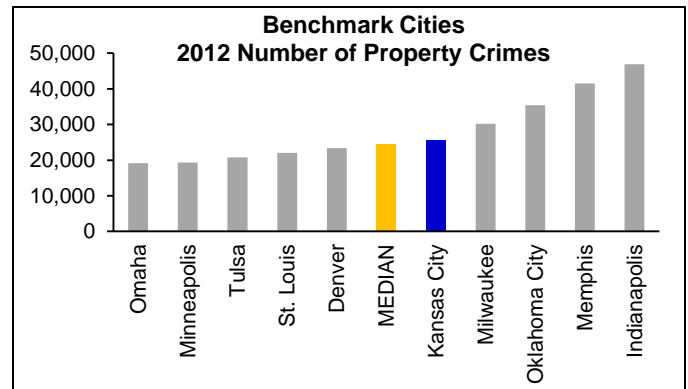
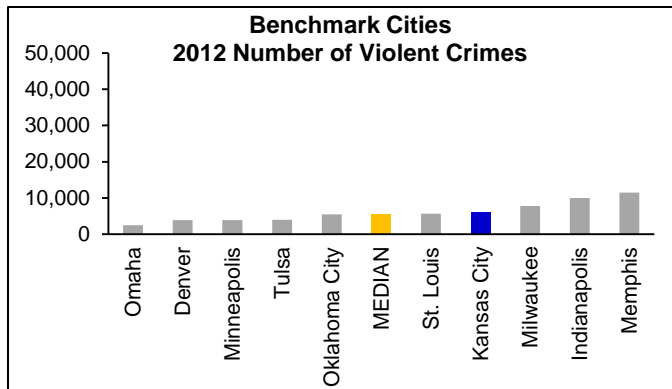
Police Department Staffing



Police Department Staffing (continued)



Criminal Offenses

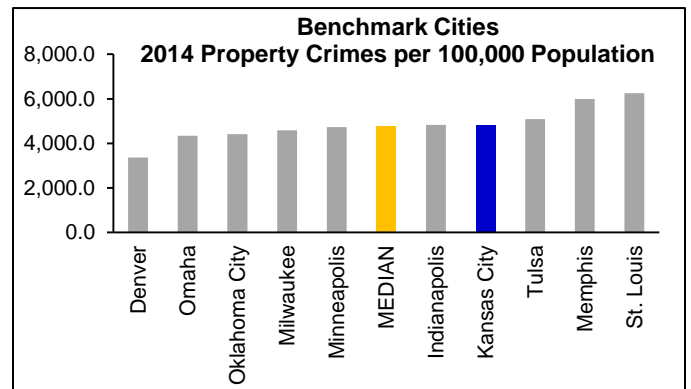
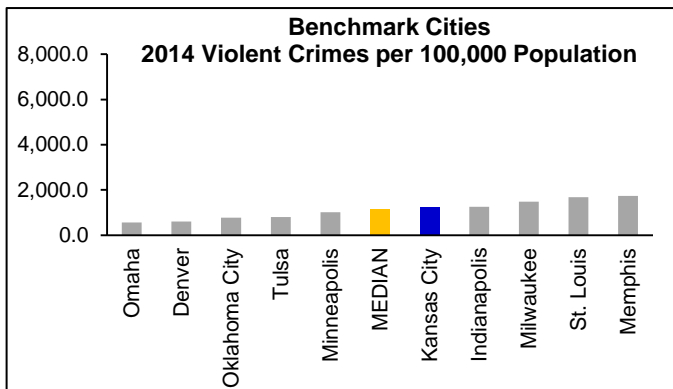
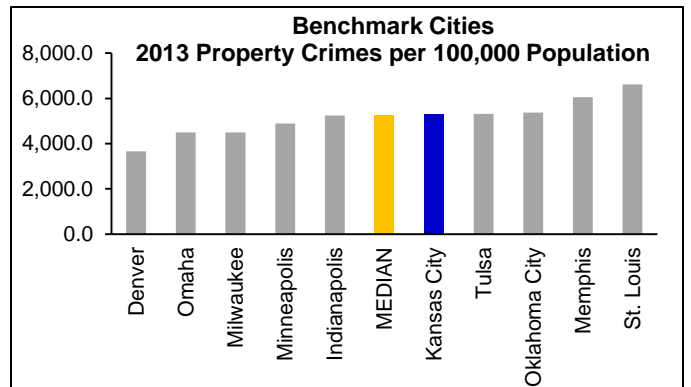
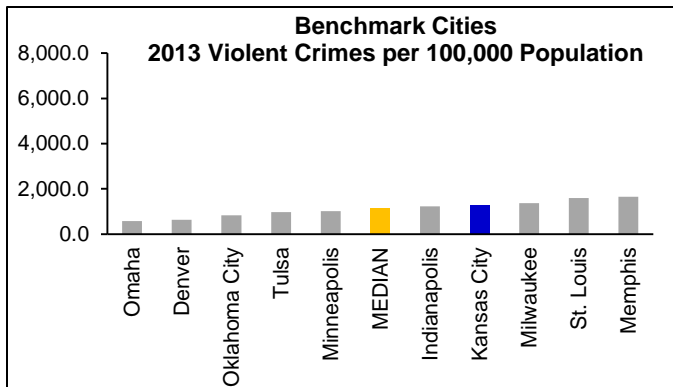
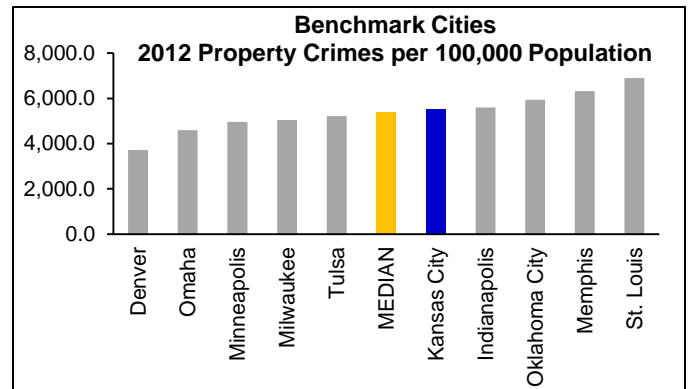
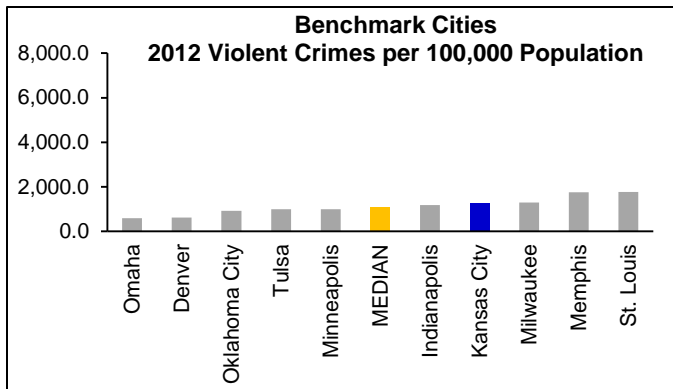


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Criminal Offenses (continued)



Criminal Offenses (continued)

