

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Jay and City Council

FROM: Daniel Brennan, Chief of Police

DATE: September 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Staff Report: Crime in Wheat Ridge

The purpose of this staff report is to provide City Council with a snapshot of crime in Wheat Ridge. Concerns about crime, traffic and quality of life are the most frequently expressed questions the department receives from citizens. The department reviews crime, traffic and quality of life data on a weekly, monthly and annual basis. The attached PowerPoint presentation was completed to provide elected officials and community members with an overview on crime, traffic and calls for service in Wheat Ridge in 2015.

The attached presentation will present data on crime, calls for service, and traffic collisions. Additionally, I am providing information to City Council on four areas of community concern.

CRIME DATA

It is helpful to understand how crime is reported statewide and nationally. There are two national crime reporting systems; the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and the National Incident-Based Reporting Status (NIBRS). The FBI has administered the national UCR Program since 1930, to generate reliable information for use by law enforcement. UCR data is the most familiar source for crime information for most people. While UCR data can be a very useful way of looking at crime; it is not a complete picture of crime because it does not provide an accurate representation of all crime. For instance, if a person is the victim of a burglary, motor vehicle theft and is seriously assaulted, UCR records the most serious crime committed (serious assault) and does not capture the lesser included crimes. UCR's definition of some crimes, such as sexual assault, are narrowly defined and do not reflect current law definitions and descriptions for this crime.

UCR is broken out into two categories, Part I and Part II Crimes. Part I crimes are the most serious and include Homicide, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny (theft and theft from a vehicle), Auto Theft, and Arson.

Part II crimes include lesser offenses such as simple assault, curfew offenses and loitering, embezzlement, forgery and counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drug offenses, fraud, gambling, liquor offenses, offenses against the family, prostitution, public drunkenness, runaways, sex offenses, stolen property, vandalism, vagrancy, and weapons offenses.

NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system for reporting data on crime and is viewed as providing a more accurate picture of crime. Unlike UCR, NIBRS records all crime committed

per incident. Using the aforementioned example, NIBRS would capture all the crimes committed versus the most serious crime. The FBI administers NIBRS as well and has been working on moving all law enforcement agencies to report crime using this methodology. The Wheat Ridge Police Department utilizes NIBRS to report crime to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. CBI converts the data to UCR and sends this data to the FBI.

CRIME IN WHEAT RIDGE

This presentation reports the actual number of incidents of crime versus the most serious crime reported. The presentation reports crime using the Part I and Part II categories.

Calls for Service (CFS) have steadily increased since 2010. This includes all incidents of crime, traffic and quality of life incidents reported to the department. Calls for Service that generate a report have increased as well. This data is consistent with the presentation City Council received from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Citizen-initiated calls for service were 9.6% higher than in 2014. The top five citizen-initiated calls for service included accidents, suspicious incidents, welfare checks, and suspicious persons. The biggest increases were seen in the number of calls for service regarding suspicious vehicles, suspicious persons, welfare checks, accidents, thefts, and 1st degree criminal trespasses.

Incidents of crime rose in 2015, when compared to 2009 through 2014. The most significant increases in crime in Wheat Ridge involved property crimes such as motor vehicle theft, robberies and thefts. Simple assaults increased citywide as well. Similar increases occurred in the Denver Metropolitan Area and statewide as well.

Part II crimes decreased slightly when comparing 2014 data to 2015 data, although trespasses to vehicles (1st Degree Criminal Trespass) increased significantly. The department made more than 3,000 arrests in 2015, up 2.9% from 2014 and significantly higher when compared to the 2009-2014 average of 2,685 arrests.

The total number of reported accidents increased in 2015. This was a significant increase compared with the average number of accidents from 2009 through 2014. The total number of injury and fatal accidents remain in the normal range. The department analyzed several factors (weather, construction, DDACTS) in an effort to explain this increase. It does not appear as though any one thing was responsible for the increase in the number of property damage accidents in 2015, but rather that it was a combination of factors – some known, some unknown – that led to the increase. The population increase in the metro area coupled with narrow transportation corridors may have also played a role in the drastic increase in traffic accidents in 2015. There were two fatal accidents in 2015 and 142 injury accidents throughout the year. Fatal accidents decreased in 2015 (from four in 2014), while injury accidents increased by 22%. This 22% increase was due in large part to the fact that 2014 was an extremely low year for injury accidents in the city. DUI/DUID arrests were down 10% from 2014 and the previous six-year average.

The number of traffic citations issued has been decreasing since 2011. The department averaged 4,997 traffic citations issued per year (since 2009); however, only 3,884 were issued in 2015. The decrease in citations issued is most likely correlated to the increase in calls for service. As noted in the IACP Staffing Report, patrol officers do not have the time to conduct proactive police work due to the increase in calls for service. Redirecting the Crime and Traffic Team

(CATT) to a traffic focus philosophy in 2016 (as recommended in the IACP Staffing Report) has resulted in a sustained traffic education and enforcement approach and an increase in citations issued to date in 2016.

The most common traffic violations include speeding, license plate violations, no proof of insurance, driving under restraint and vehicle equipment violations.

OTHER ISSUES

I have included some areas of awareness for city council in this presentation related to crime and quality of life issues. These areas include information on heroin and methamphetamine calls for service and arrests in our community, as well as information on transients and mental health calls for service.

As noted in this presentation, crime in Wheat Ridge tends to be clustered along the major transportation corridors. The hotels and motels along the I-70 and Kipling corridor account for a significant number of calls for service, recovered stolen motor vehicles, drugs and arrests.

SUMMARY

Despite staffing challenges, the Wheat Ridge Police Department continues to provide police-led community programs such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Neighborhood Watch, the Lockbox Program, and the Crime Free Housing program.

Homelessness and mental health calls for service are broader social issues that must be addressed at a local, state and national level. The police department is participating in homelessness programs and initiatives in Jefferson County and metro-wide. The department has a strong collaborative relationship with the Jefferson Center for Mental Health. The department is committed to providing extensive Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to all line-level officers and supervisors by the end of 2017.

The department continues to explore ways to address crime issues. In late 2015, the department implemented a DDACTS (Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety) approach for the first time in 2015, in the I-70 and Kipling area. The department provided an increased presence in this area, conducting nearly twice as many traffic stops and increasing total arrests by 99% when compared to the norms for this area. A significant number of these arrests were for warrants as a result of pedestrian contacts or vehicle stops. Unfortunately, accidents increased in this area during this time period.

Attachments: 2015 Crime in Wheat Ridge PowerPoint
Comparative Crime Statistics - 2015

ANNUAL CRIME STATISTICS

2015

PREPARED BY CRIME ANALYST B DANIEL

AUGUST, 2016



Topics for Discussion



- The Differences in Reporting Crime
- Wheat Ridge Actual Part I Crime Statistics
- Wheat Ridge Actual Part II Crime Statistics
- Calls for Service
- Traffic Accidents
- Traffic Citations
- 2015 Overview
- Heroin Calls for Service
- Methamphetamine Calls for Service
- Transient/Homeless Calls for Service
- Mental Health Holds

The Differences in Reporting Crime

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

- Developed by the FBI in 1929
- Hierarchical system (only the highest ranking offense counts)
- Strict, outdated offense definitions

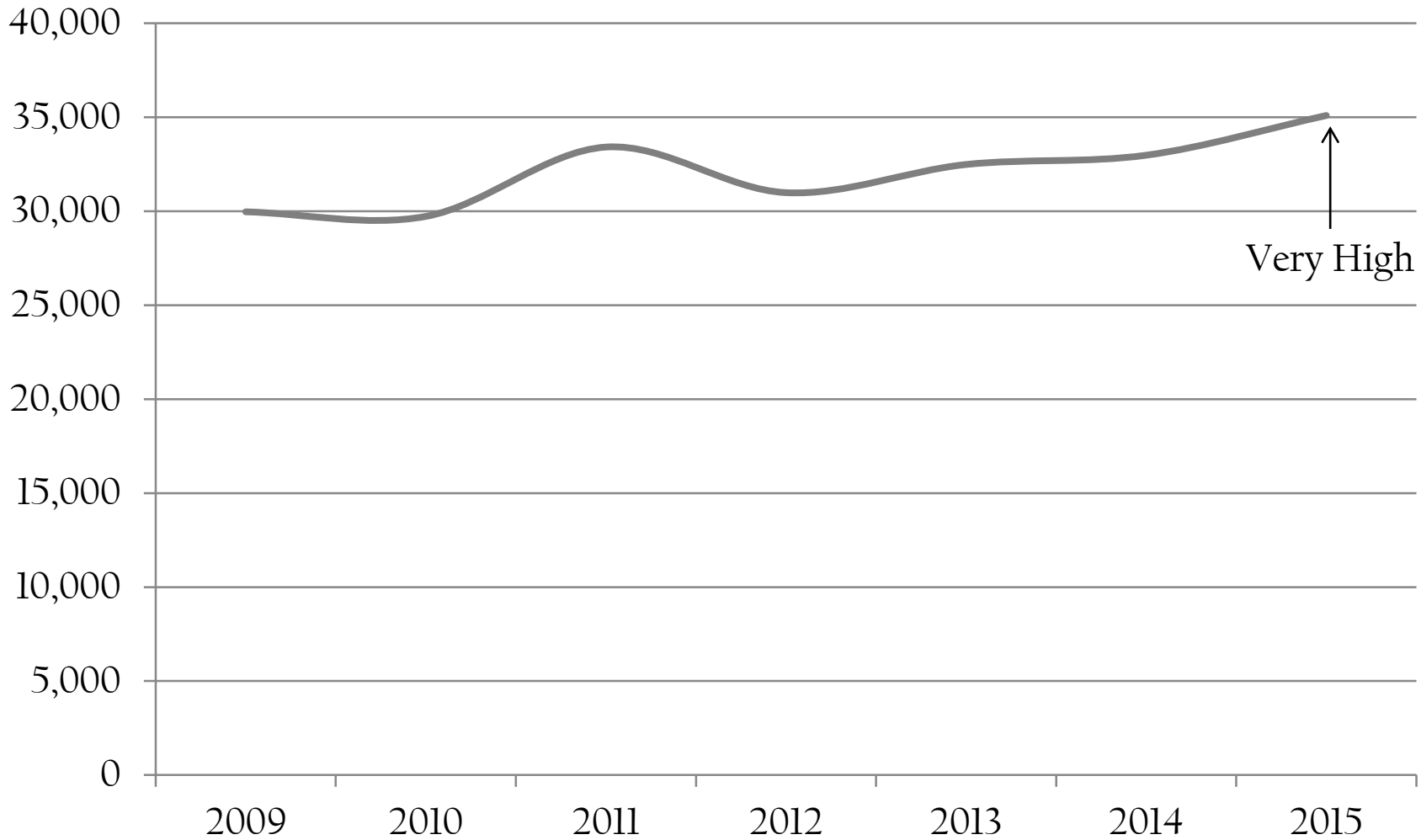
National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

- Still being implemented nationwide
- Counts every offense
- Still includes some strict offense definitions

Wheat Ridge Actual Statistics

- The most accurate view of offenses in Wheat Ridge among the three reporting types
- Counts every offense
- Includes attempted offenses in all categories

Calls for Service - Total



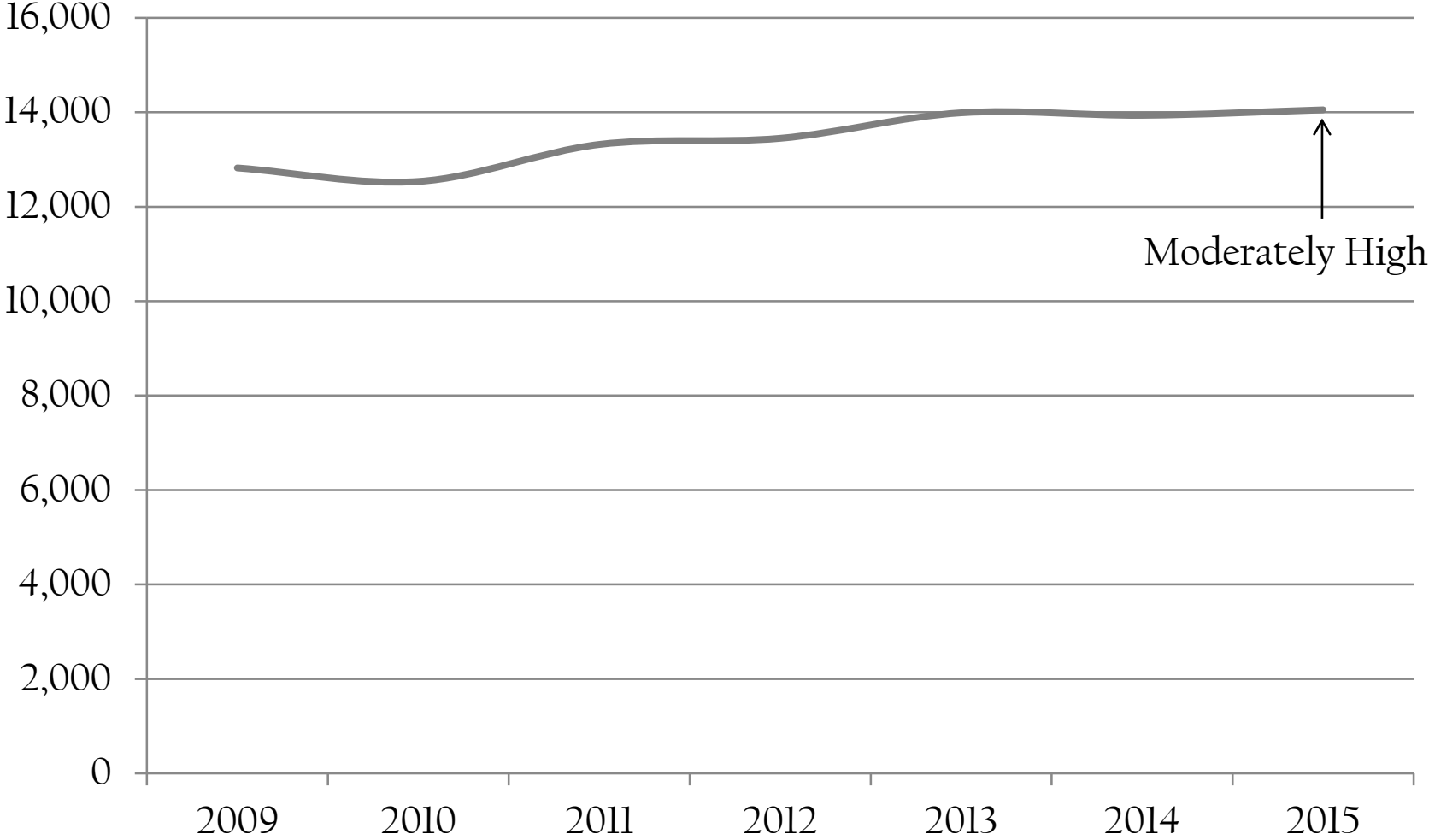
35,089 in 2015



Average: 31,590

* Collected from the monthly Case and CAD report; Average = 2009-2014

Calls for Service – Case Reports Total



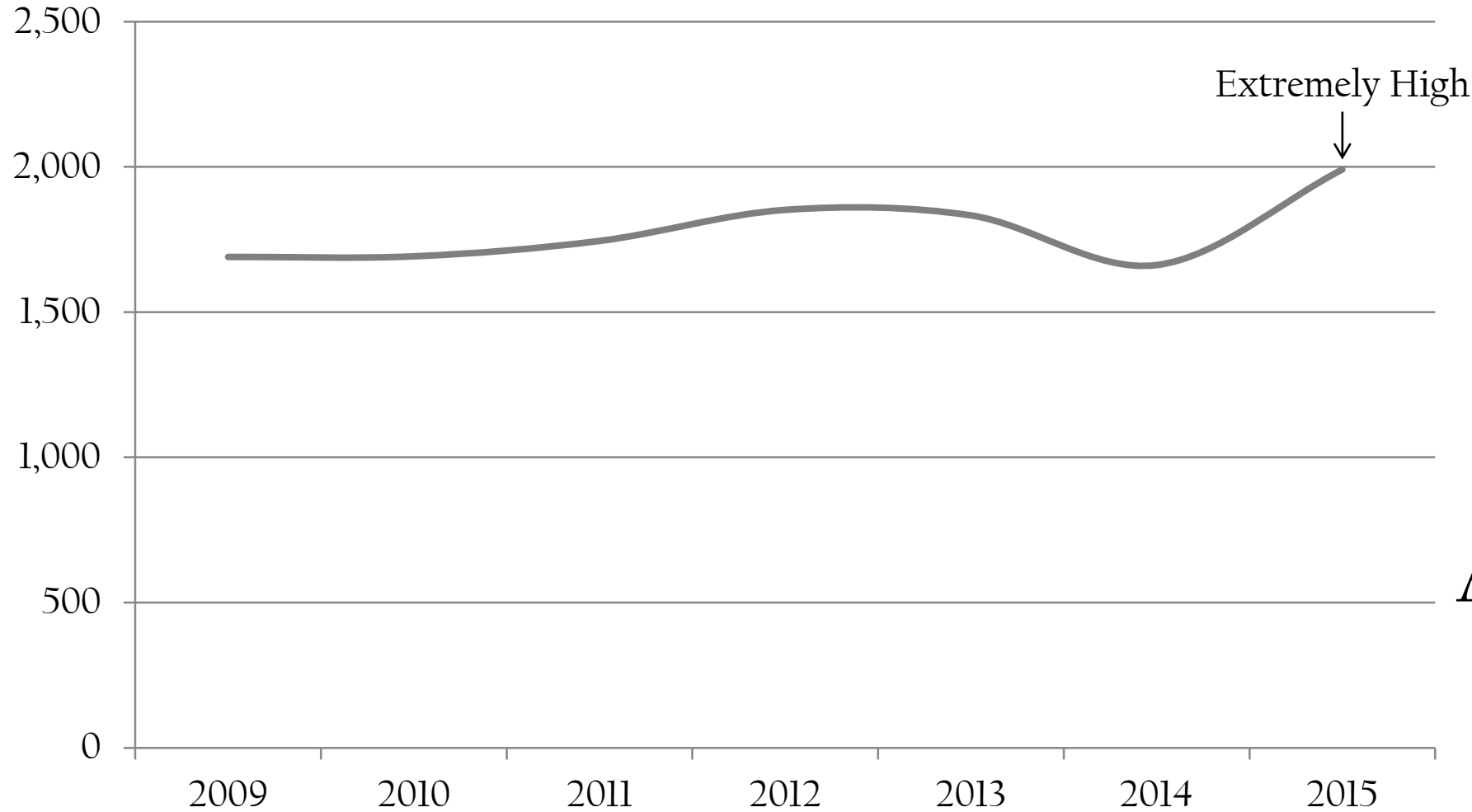
14,051 in 2015



Average: 13,341

* Collected from the monthly Case and CAD report; Average = 2009-2014

Wheat Ridge Actual Part I Crimes



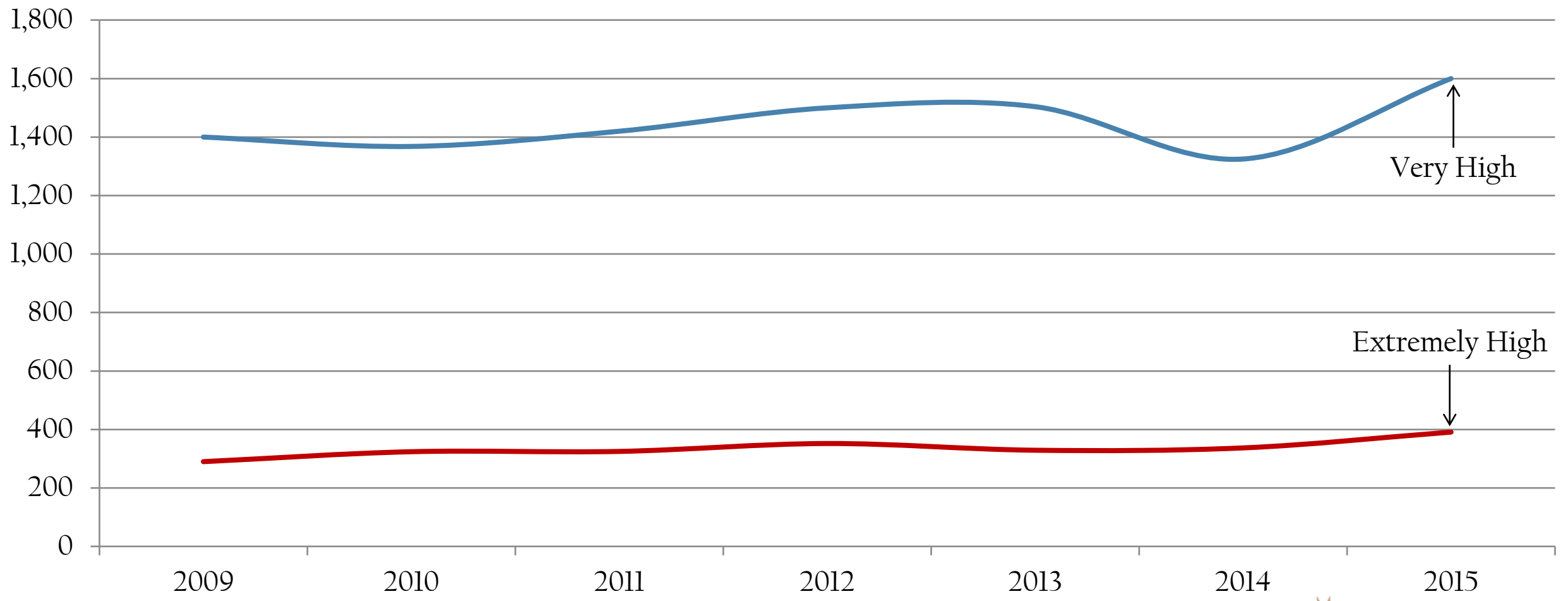
1,991 in 2015



Average: 1,746

Wheat Ridge Actual Part I Crimes – Violent vs. Property

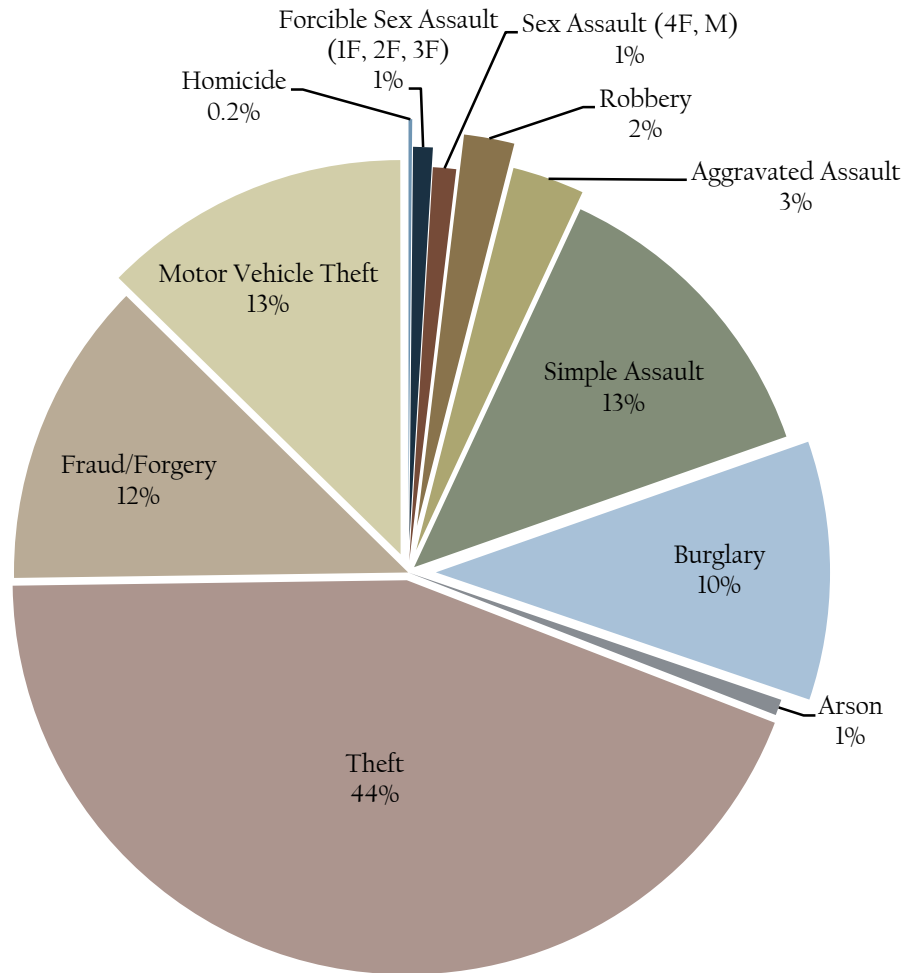
Violent Property



* Collected from the monthly Crime Statistics report; Average = 2009-2014



Wheat Ridge Actual Part I Crimes - Overall



Motor Vehicle Thefts (252) increased by 81.3% from the previous year (67% higher than the previous 6-year average).

Robberies (41) increased by 57.7% from 2014 and was 43% higher than the previous 6-year average.

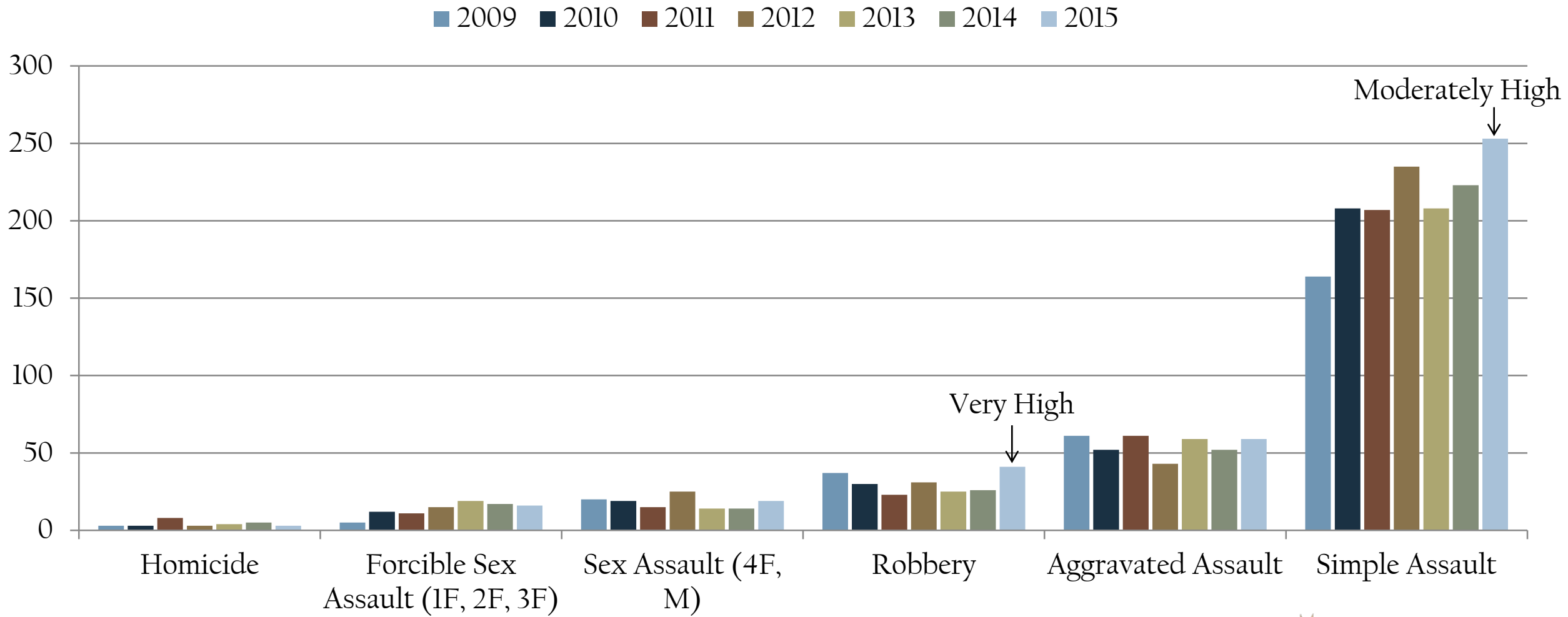
Simple Assaults (253) increased by 13.5% from 2014 and was 21.9% higher than the 6-year average.

Thefts (874) increased by 11.5% from 2014 and from the previous 6-year average.

All other Part I crimes were within the normal range in comparison with the average from 2009 through 2014.

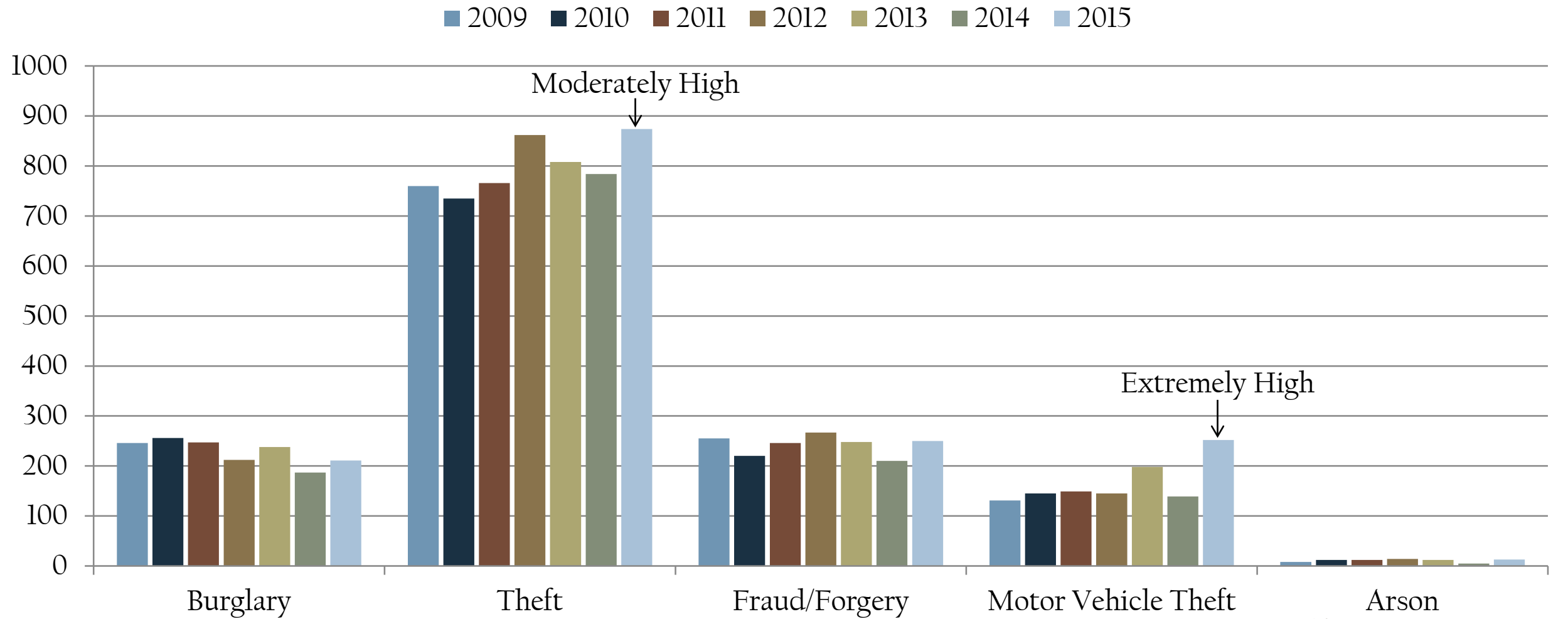
* Collected from the monthly Crime Statistics report

Wheat Ridge Actual Part I Violent Crimes



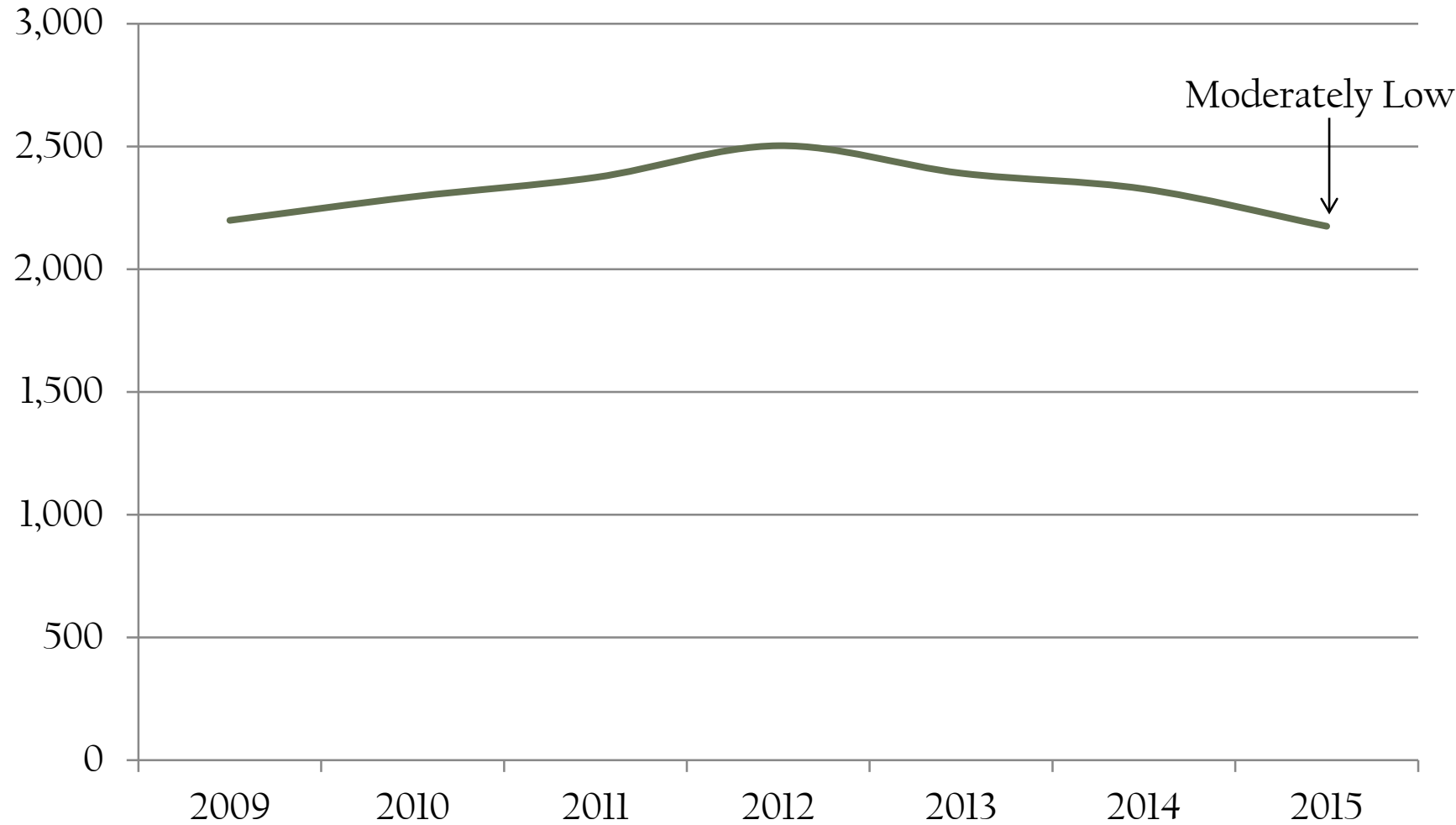
* Collected from the monthly Crime Statistics report; Activity Level based on 2009-2014 average

Wheat Ridge Actual Part I Property Crimes

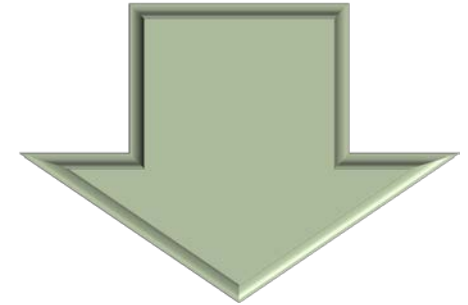


* Collected from the monthly Crime Statistics report; Activity Level based on 2009-2014 average

Wheat Ridge Actual Part II Crimes



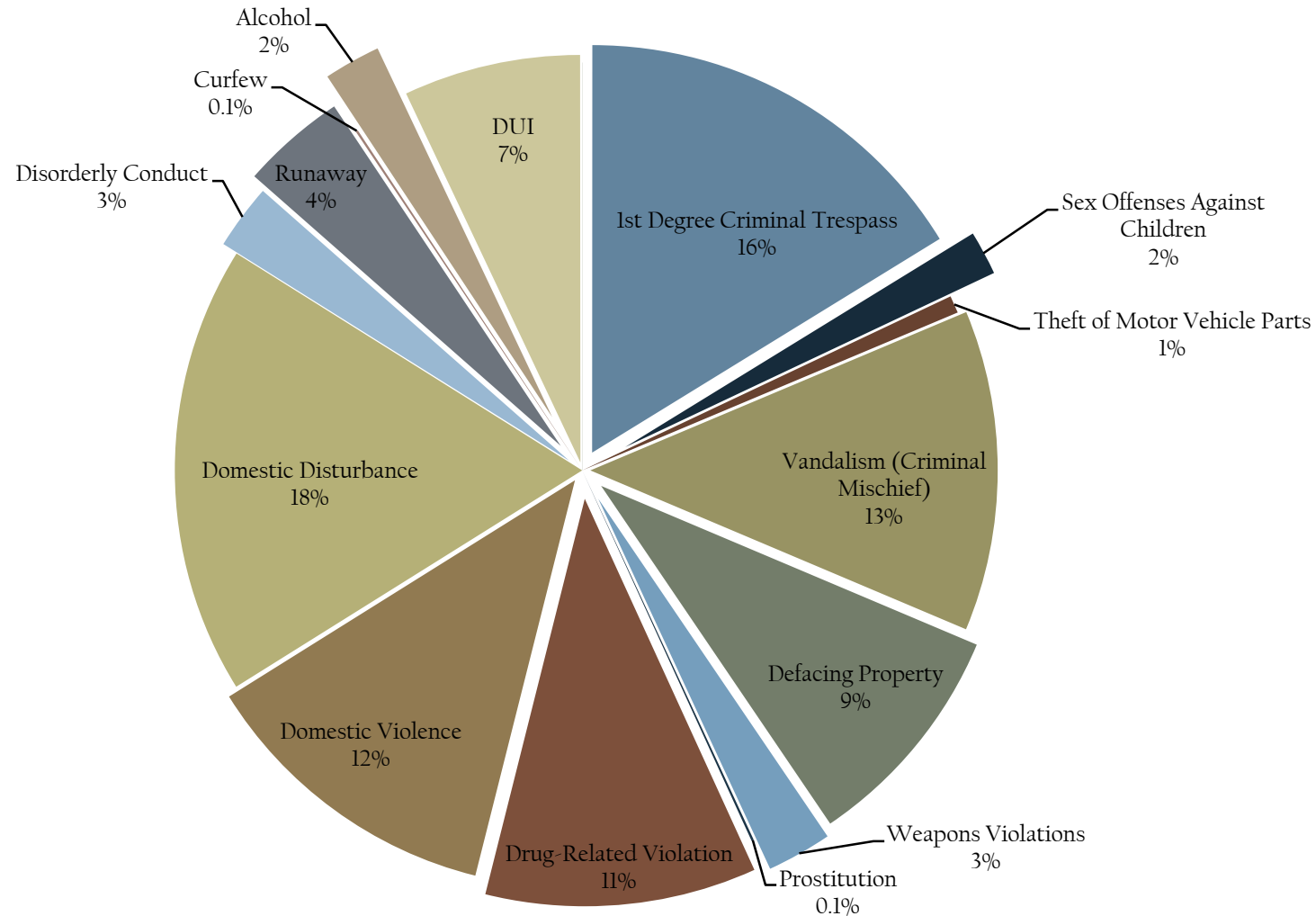
Average: 2,348



2,175 in 2015

* Collected from the monthly Crime Statistics report; Average = 2009-2014

Wheat Ridge Actual Part II Crimes - Overall



* Collected from the monthly Crime Statistics report

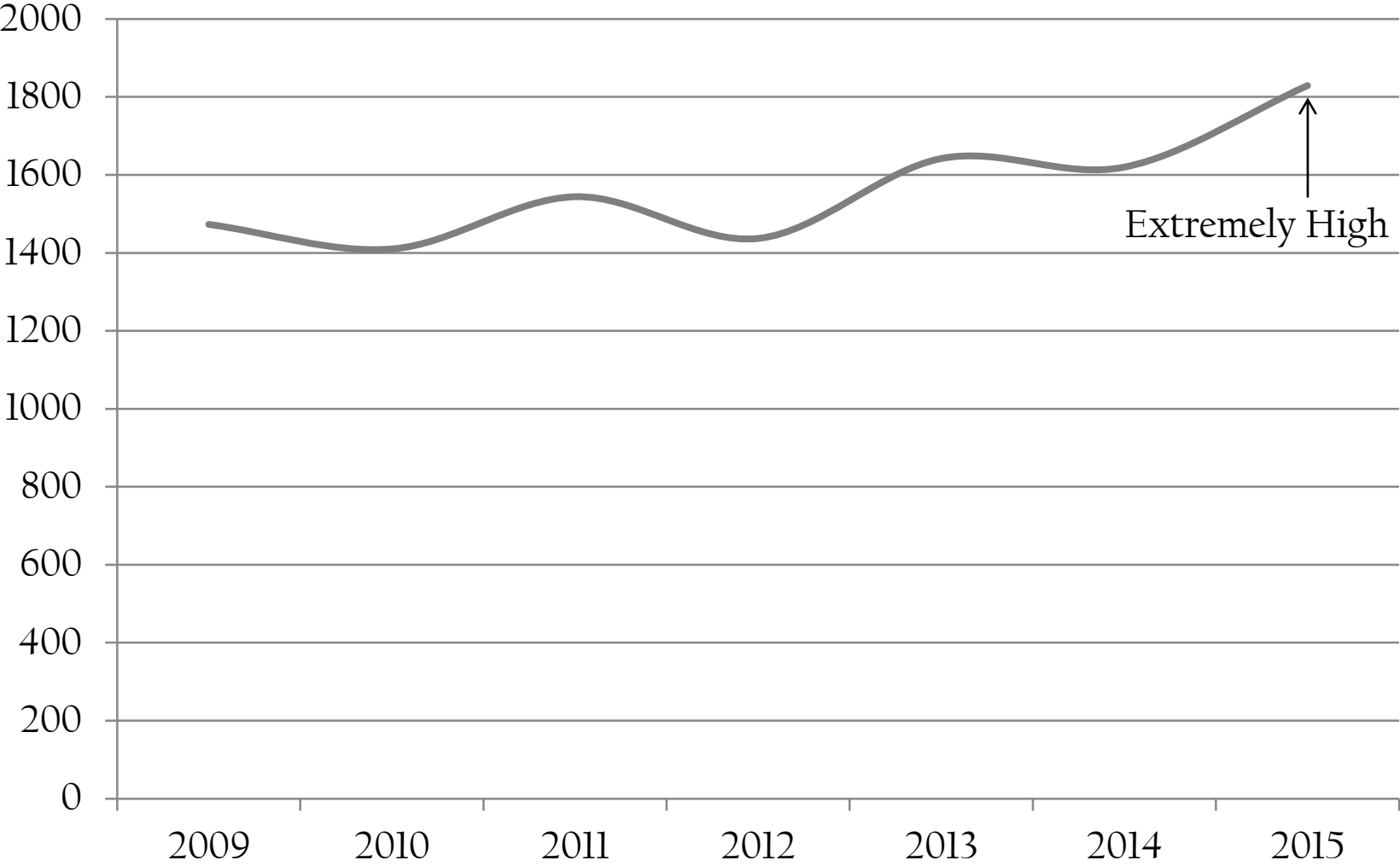
Wheat Ridge Actual Part II Crimes

Part II crimes with statistically significant changes in 2015.

Offense	2009-2014 Average	2015	Statistically Significant Difference*
Defacing Property	421.8	199	Extremely Low ▼
Alcohol-Related Offenses	77.3	49	Very Low ▼
Disorderly Conduct	82.2	56	Very Low ▼
Curfew	5.8	2	Moderately Low ▼
Prostitution	5.2	2	Moderately Low ▼
Runaway	119.2	90	Moderately Low ▼
Domestic Disturbance	357.3	387	Moderately High ▲
Vandalism (Criminal Mischief)	255.7	276	Moderately High ▲
Weapons Violation	38.8	56	Very High ▲
1 st Degree Criminal Trespass	264.3	353	Extremely High ▲

* When compared with each offense's 2009-2014 average; Collected from the monthly Crime Statistics report

Traffic Accidents



1,829 in 2015

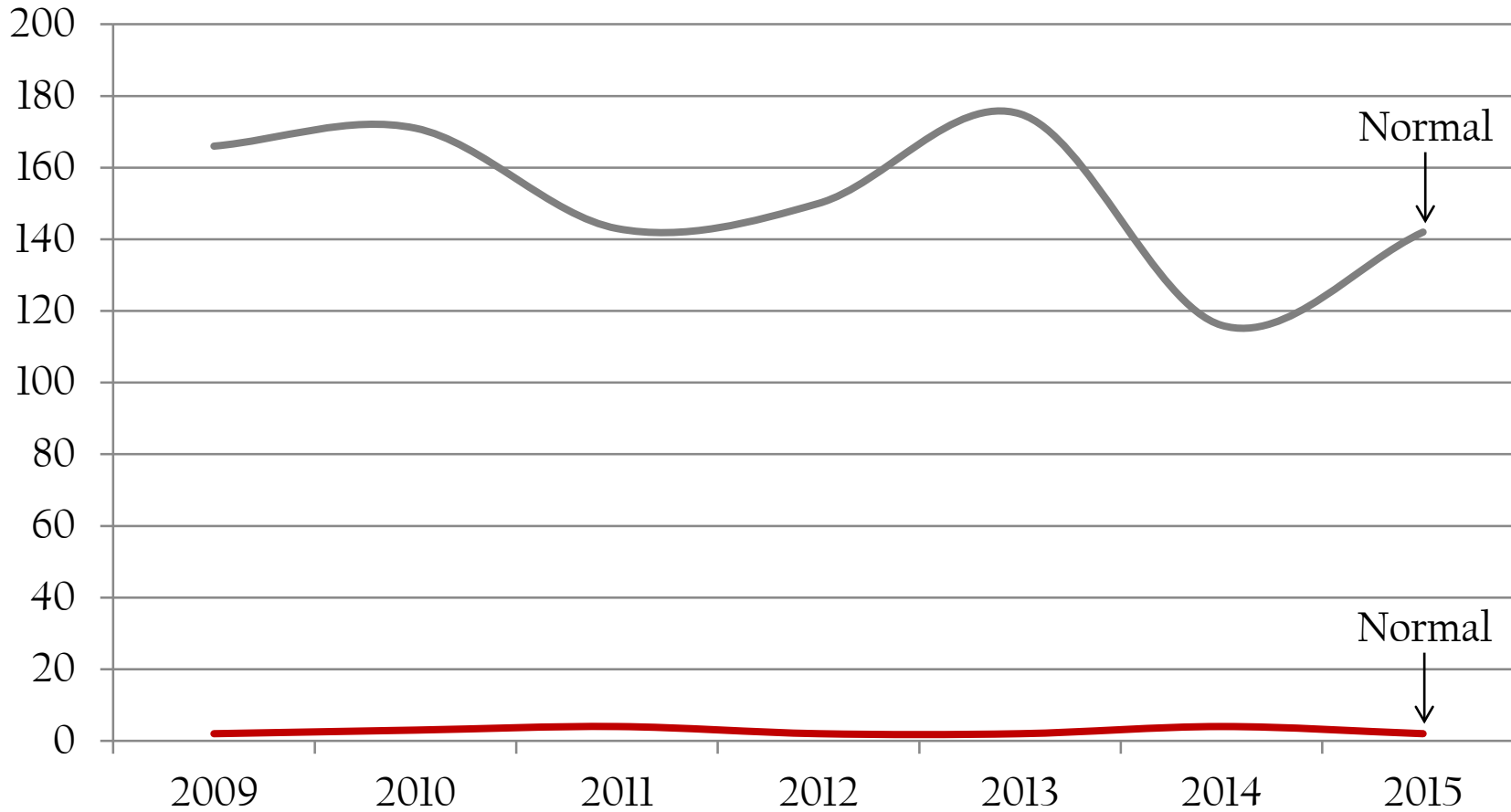


Average: 1,521

* Average = 2009-2014

Traffic Injury & Fatal Accidents

— Injury Accidents — Fatal Accidents



Injury Average: 153.5



142 in 2015

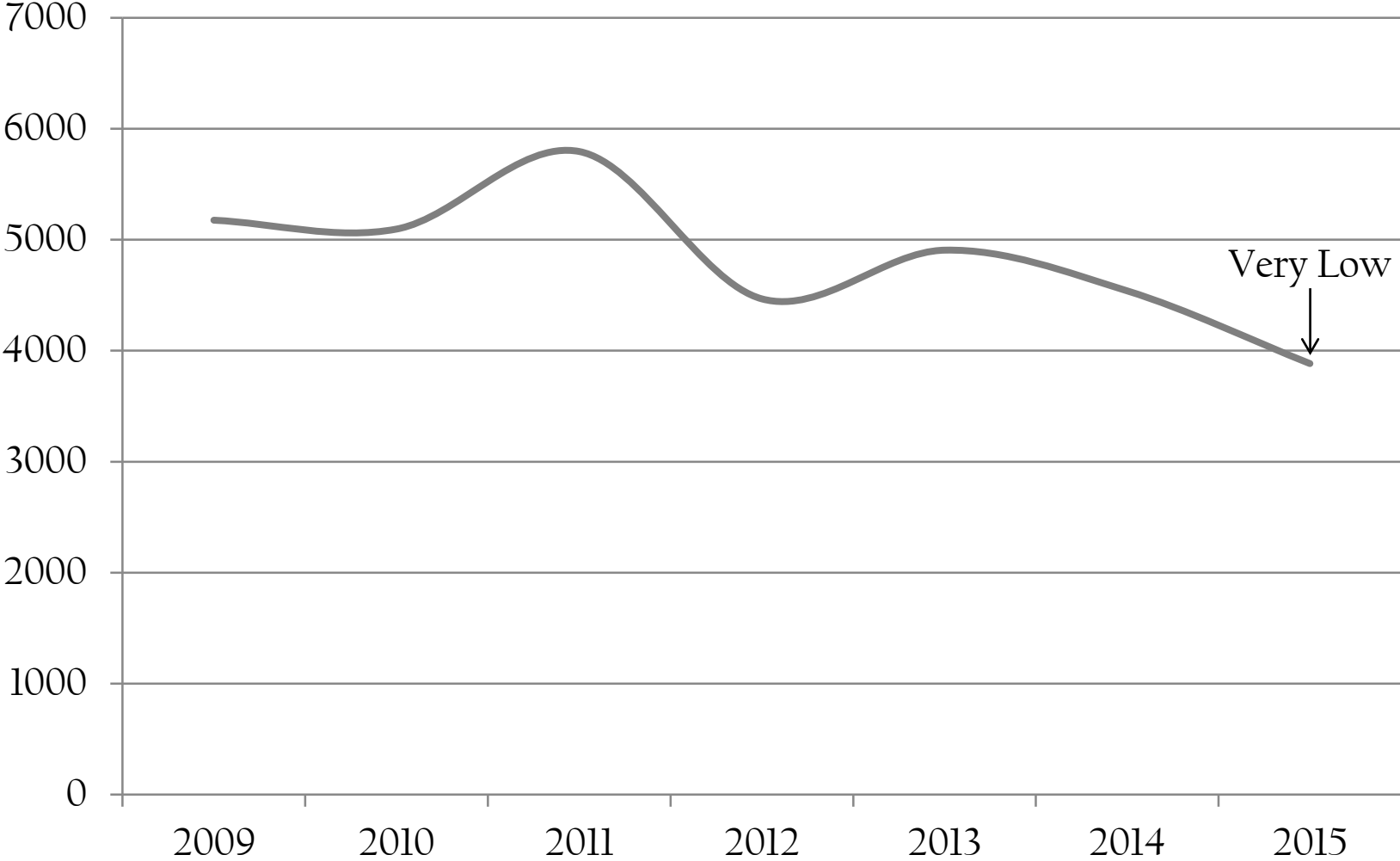
Fatal Average: 2.8



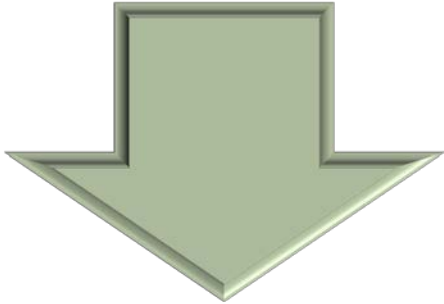
2 in 2015

* Average = 2009-2014

Traffic Citations



Average: 4,997



3,884 in 2015

* Average = 2009-2014

2014 Overview



Part I Crimes

Injury
Accidents

Calls for Service

Case Reports

Traffic
Accidents

Fatal Accidents

Part II Crimes

Traffic Citations

2015 Overview



Part II Crimes

Injury & Fatal
Accidents

Traffic
Citations*

Part I Crimes*

Calls for
Service*

Case Reports*

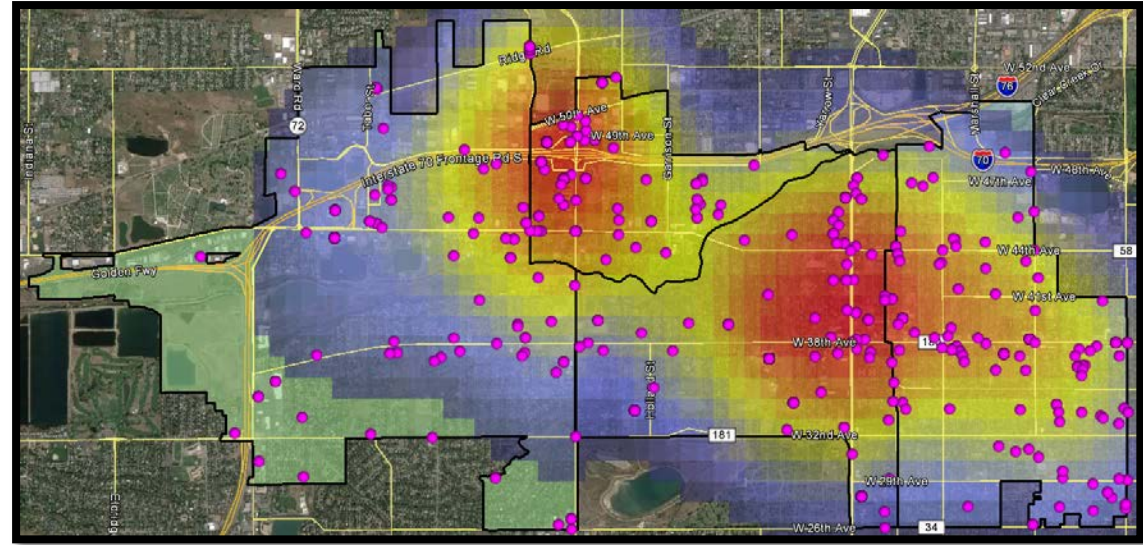
PD Accidents*

** Statistically significant difference from the previous 6-year average*

Wheat Ridge Actual Part I Crimes - 2015

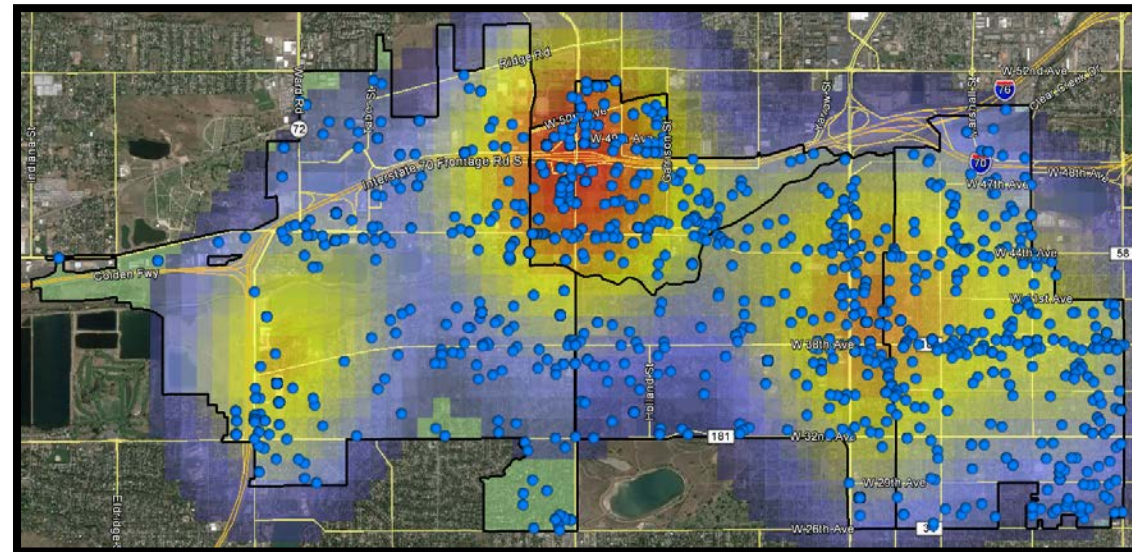
Violent Crimes ●

- Homicide (includes Vehicular Homicide)
- Forcible Sex Assault (1F, 2F, 3F)
- Sex Assault (4F, M)
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault (Felony)
- Simple Assault

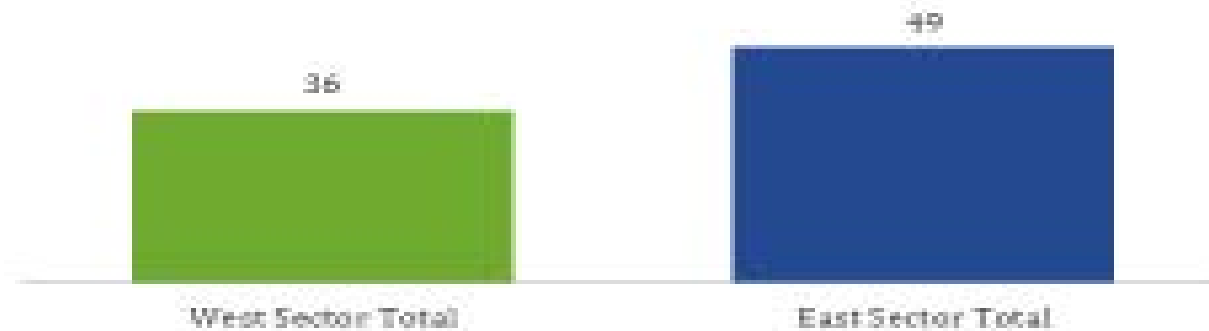
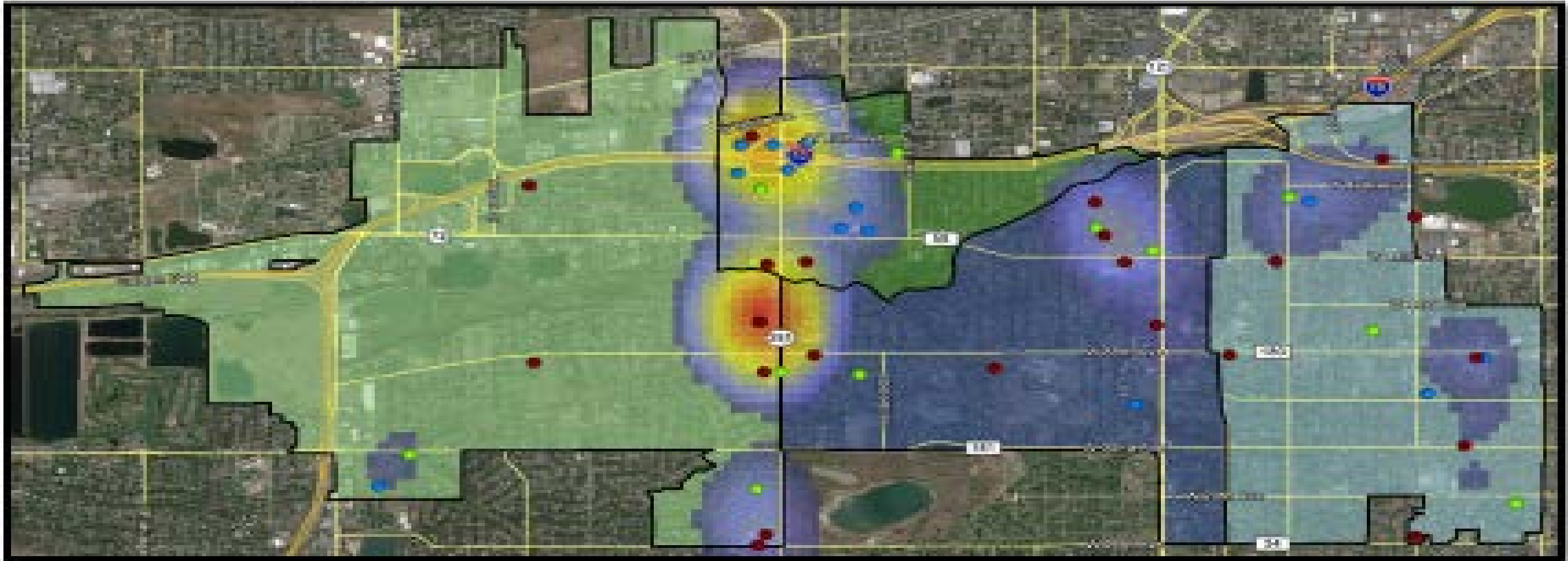


Property Crimes ●

- Burglary
- Larceny/Theft
- Fraud/Forgery
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Arson



August Overall Stats

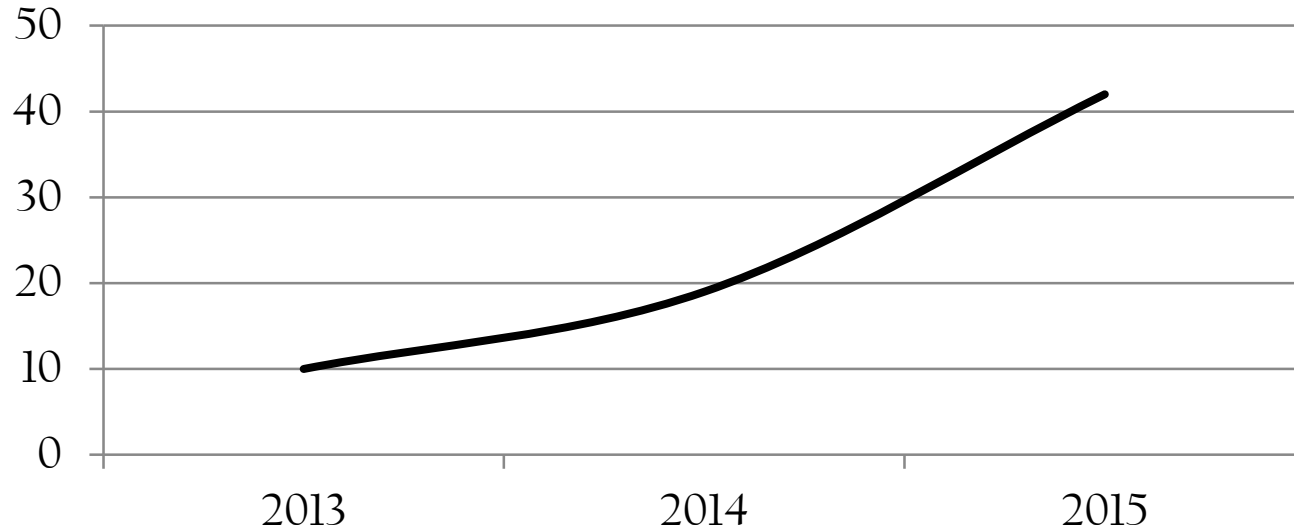


Heroin in our Community

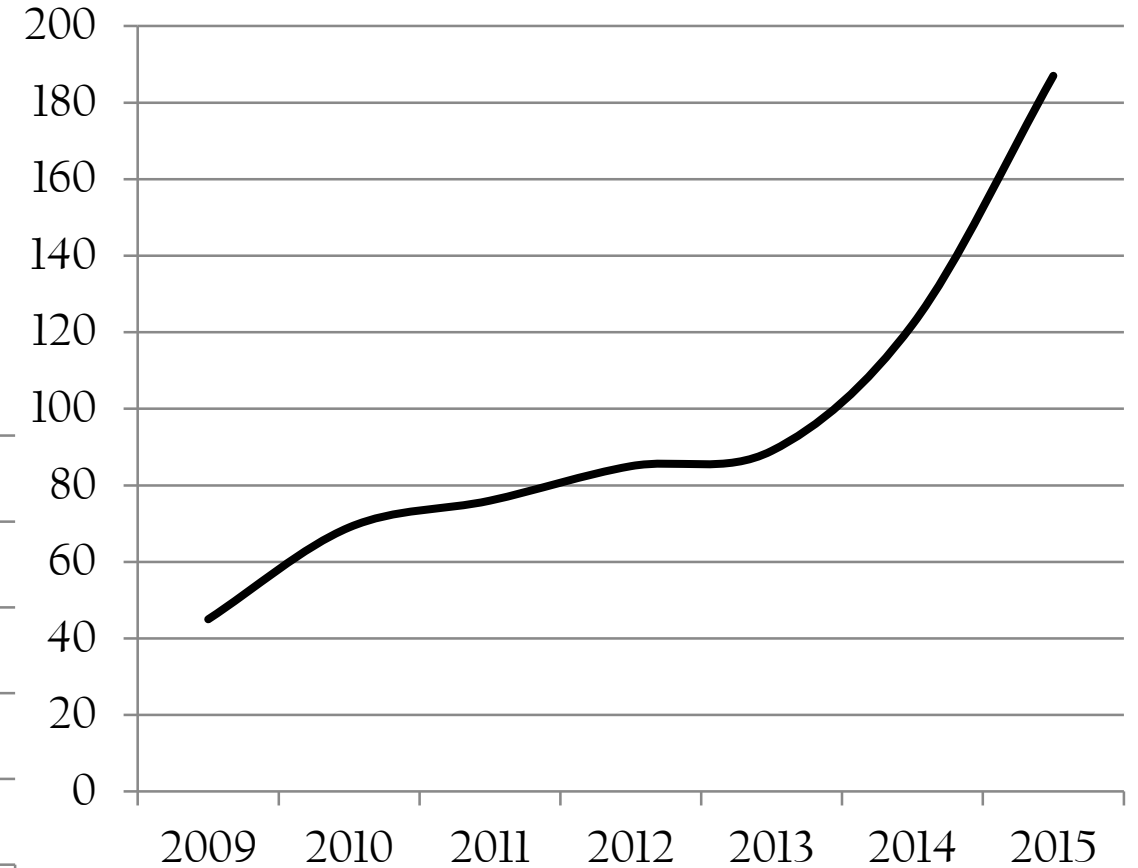
In 2015, there were...

- 42 heroin-related arrests
- 187 calls for service that referenced heroin
- 8 known heroin overdoses
- 1 death due to a heroin overdose

Heroin Arrests



Heroin-Referenced CFS

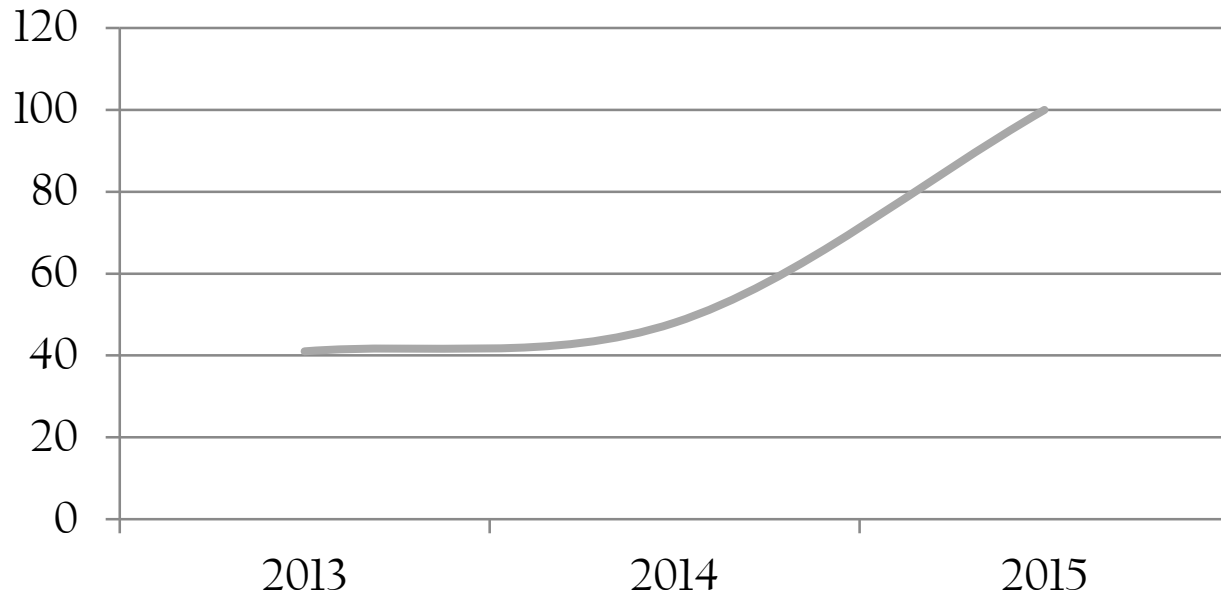


Methamphetamine in our Community

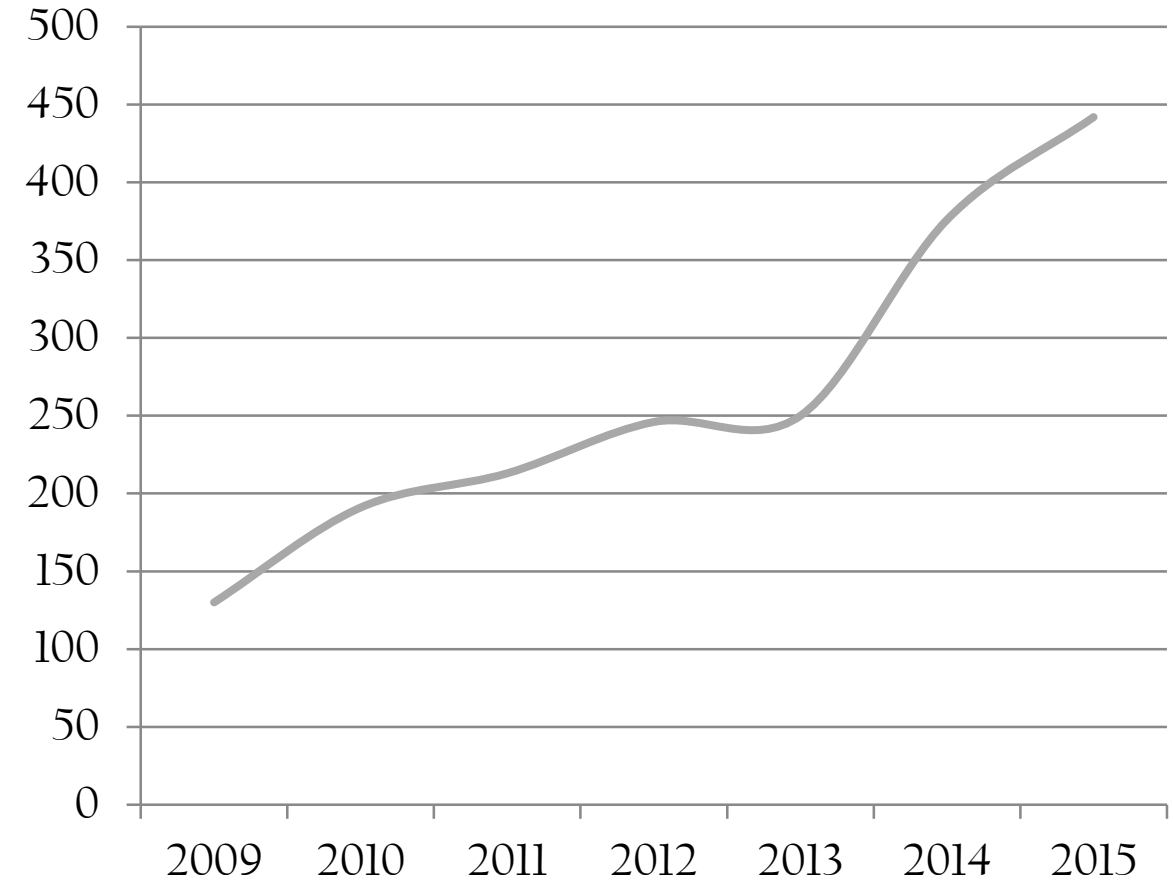
In 2015, there were...

- 100 methamphetamine-related arrests
- 442 calls for service that referenced meth
- 0 known methamphetamine overdoses

Methamphetamine Arrests



Meth-Related CFS



Transients in our Community

In August 2016, there were...

- 16 calls for service regarding panhandlers
- 21 calls for service regarding transients
- 23 calls for service regarding the homeless
- 38% were regarding camps
- 13% were regarding welfare checks
- Followed by...
 - Unwanted party (10%)
 - Aggressive panhandling (8%)
 - Disturbance (8%)
- No arrests made regarding these CFS
- 3 Notice of Violations for Parks: Camping
- 1 Trespass notice



The Denver Channel

Mental Health Holds

In 2015...

- There were **282** mental health holds – a 10% decrease from 2014
- **34%** of which were handled by C.I.T. trained officers – an increase of 48% from 2014
- The most common CFS resulting in mental health holds were...
 - **Suicidal Party (29%), Welfare Check 1 (26%), and Disturbance (12%)**
- The median time it took to handle a mental health call for service was **50 minutes**
 - This equates to a total of **\$17,187.90** spent in 2015 for the time of two officers on mental health hold CFS (based on an average hourly rate of \$36.57, not including other costs associated with personnel or the calls)

To date in 2016...

- **210** mental health holds
- **46%** have been handled by C.I.T. trained officers

QUESTIONS?
