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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 21, 2020

PART ONE CRIME DECREASES

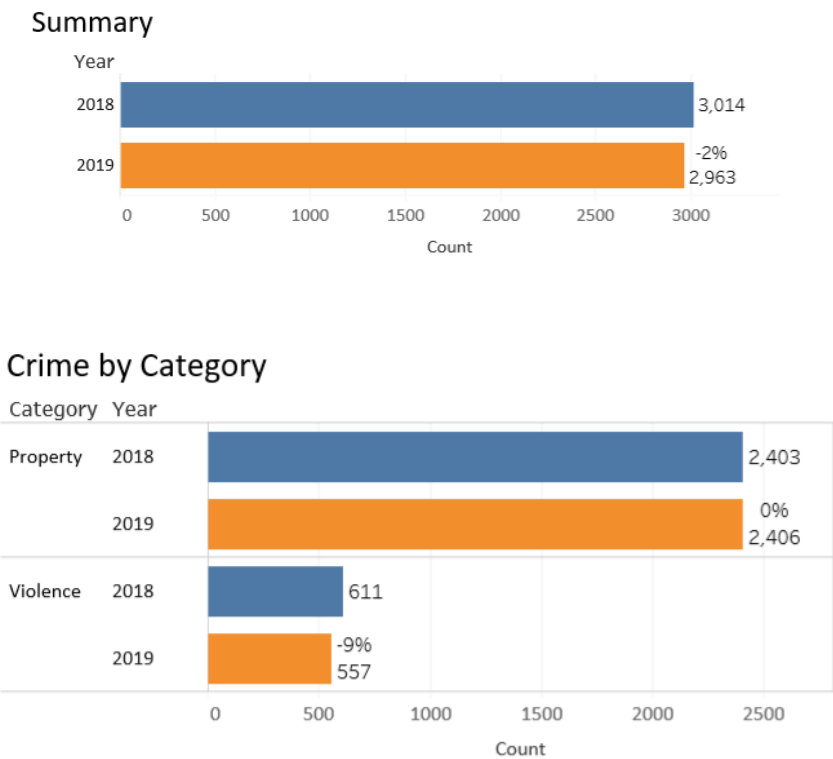
Chico, CA –

In our on-going efforts to be transparent and to communicate with our community regarding crime and crime related issues, I am releasing the following statistical comparisons regarding Part One Crime for the City of Chico.

The dates included for the comparison involve 2018 and 2019. Please see the attached PDFs regarding Violent Crime and Property Crime, both by month and year, as well as comparisons from 2015 to 2019. Additionally, a PDF is attached that includes the definition of “What is a Part One Crime?” We will include these documents on our Chico Police Department Portal as well.

You will see an overall Part 1 Crime decrease of 2%, and a Violent Crime decrease of 9%, in 2019. That is a very positive outcome, especially when considering Chico’s 21% population growth. I also want to emphasize that while this statistical decrease is positive, these numbers still represent people who have been victimized by crime, which is never acceptable to me as Chief. There is also a context to the numbers, which I will speak to in the coming weeks.

Chief Michael O'Brien



Summary

Year

2018

3,014

2019

-2%

2,963

0

500

1000

1500

2000

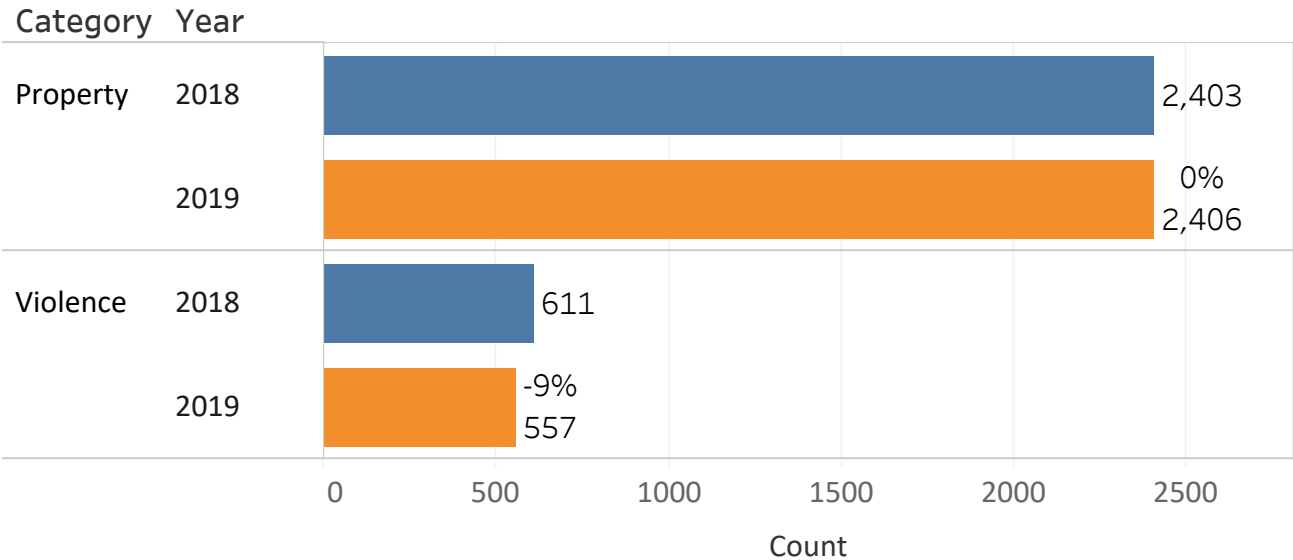
2500

3000

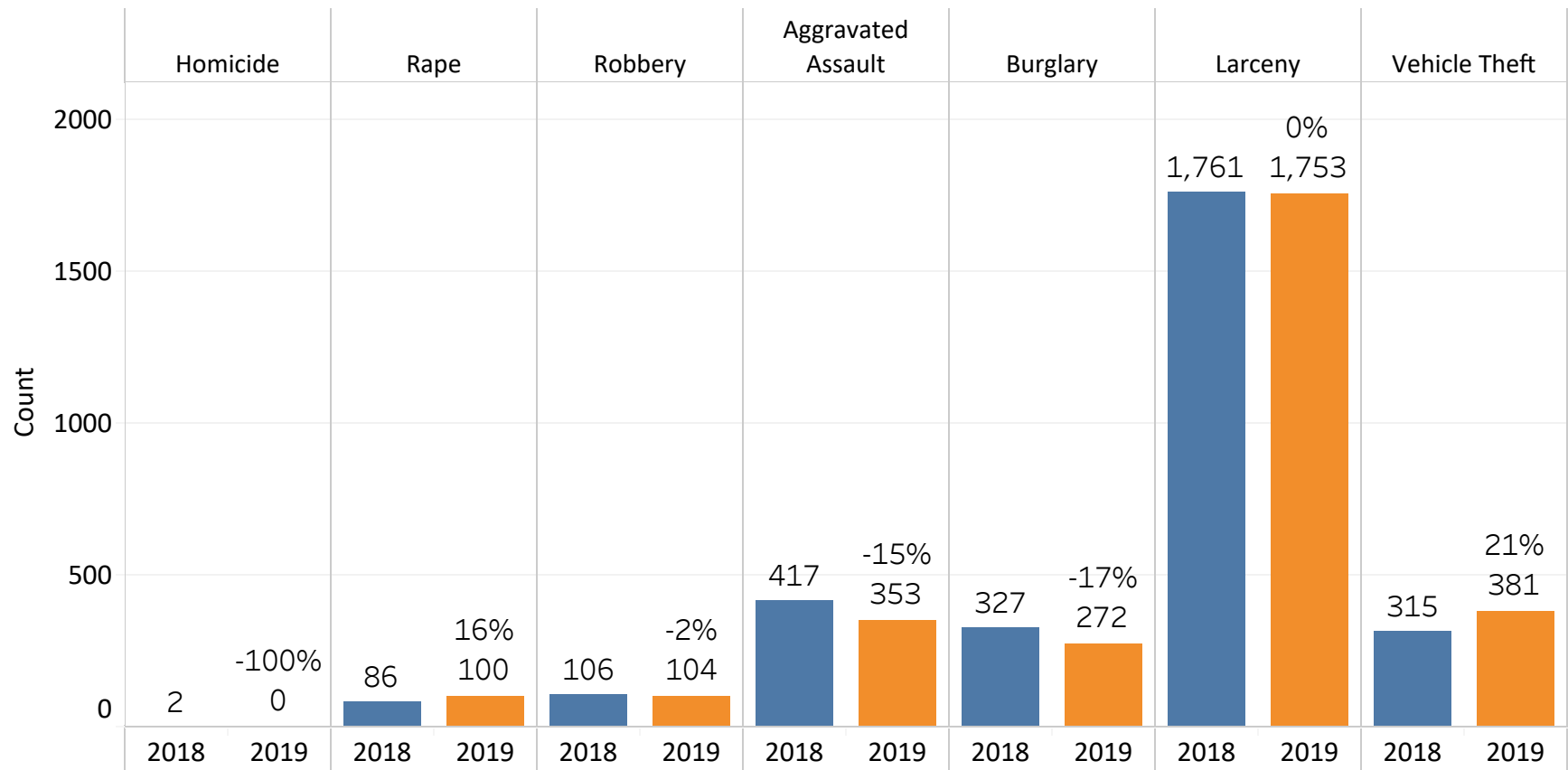
Count



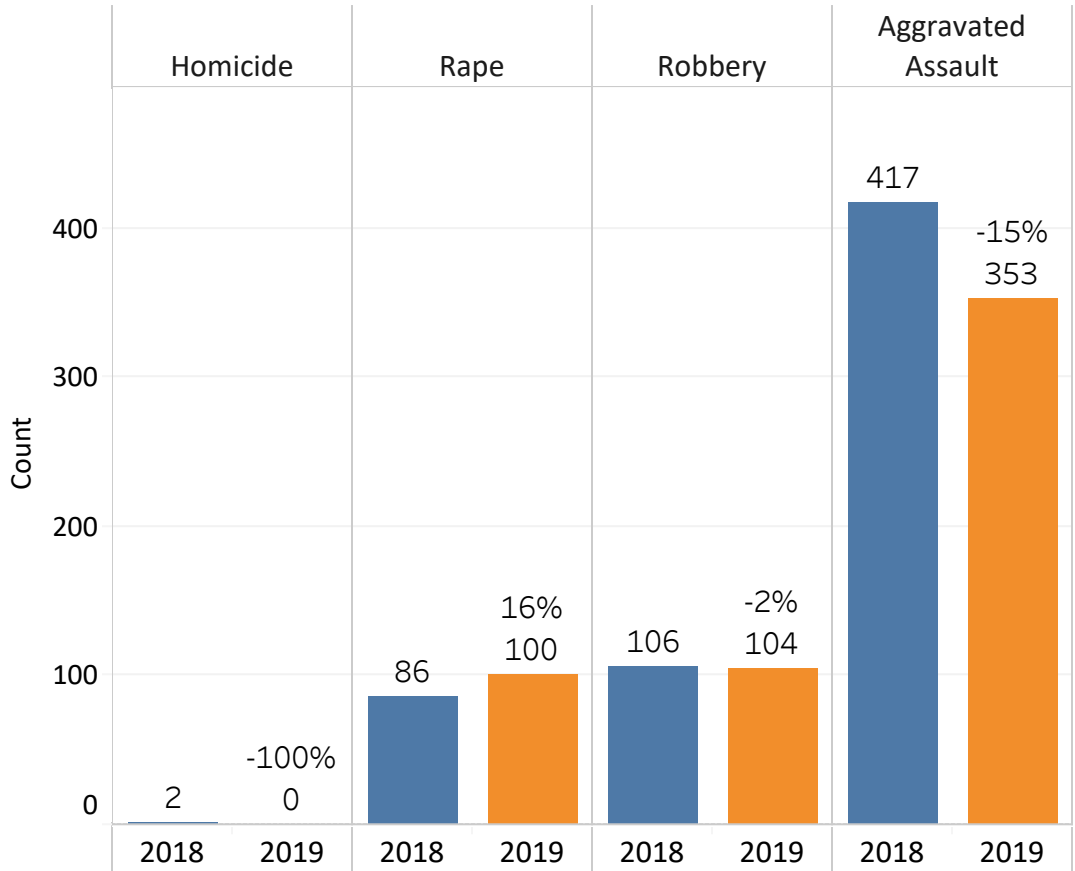
Crime by Category



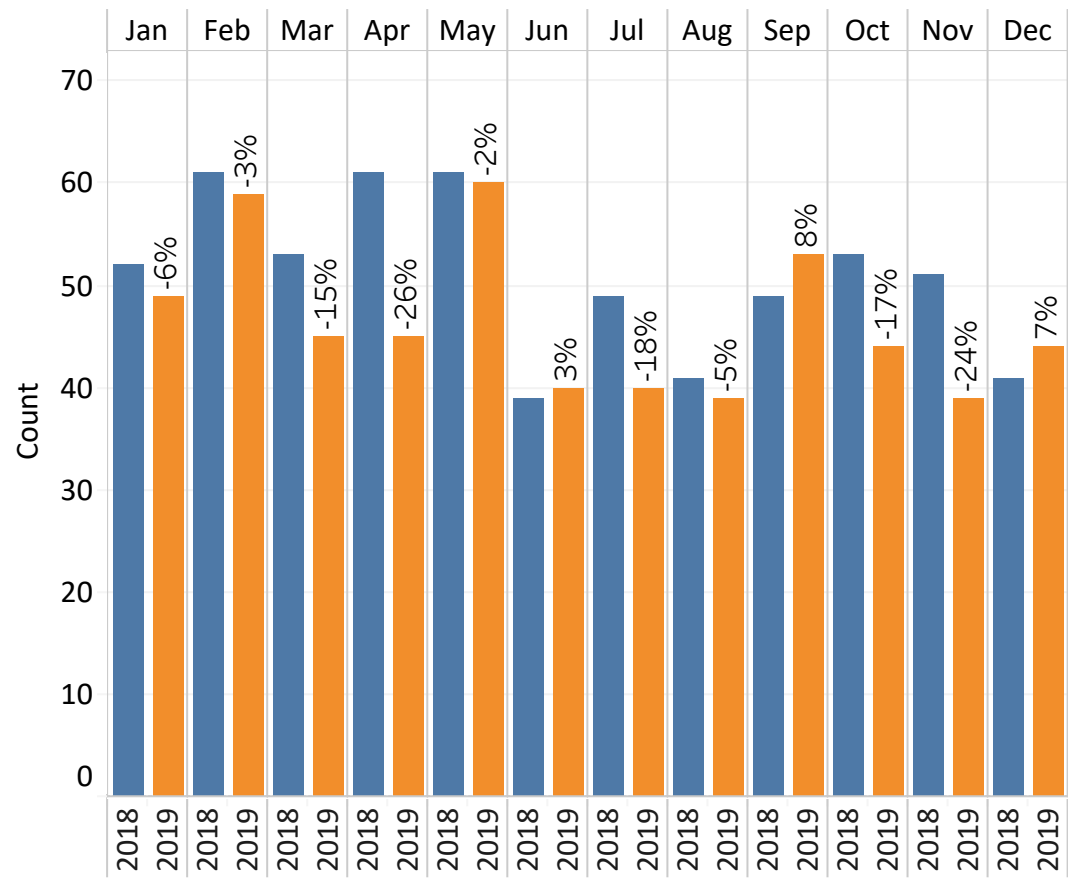
All by Year (Bar)



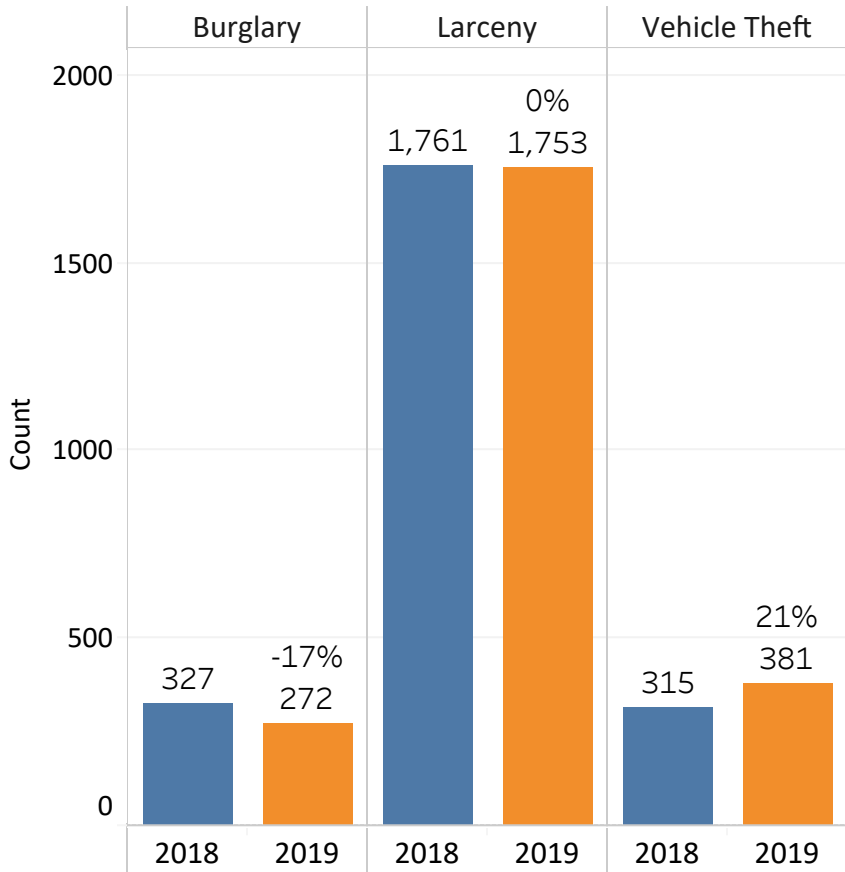
Violent Crime by Year (Bar)



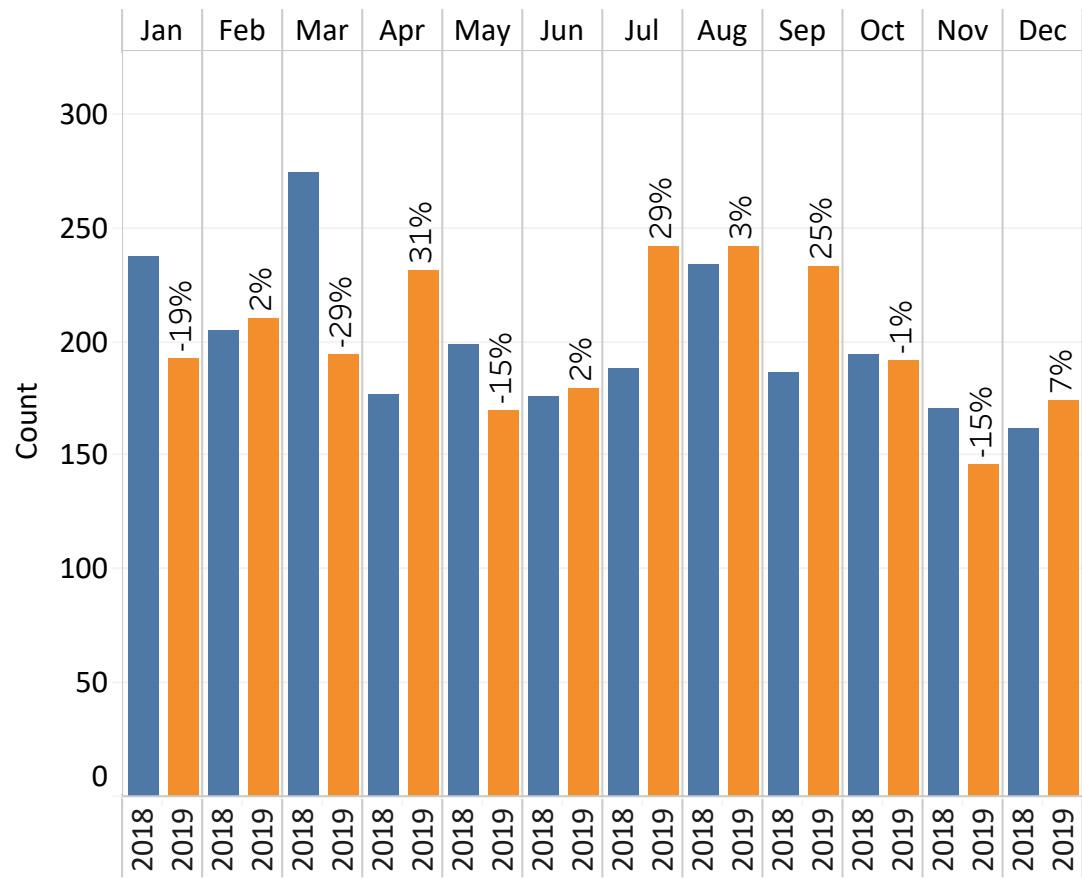
Violent Crime by Month



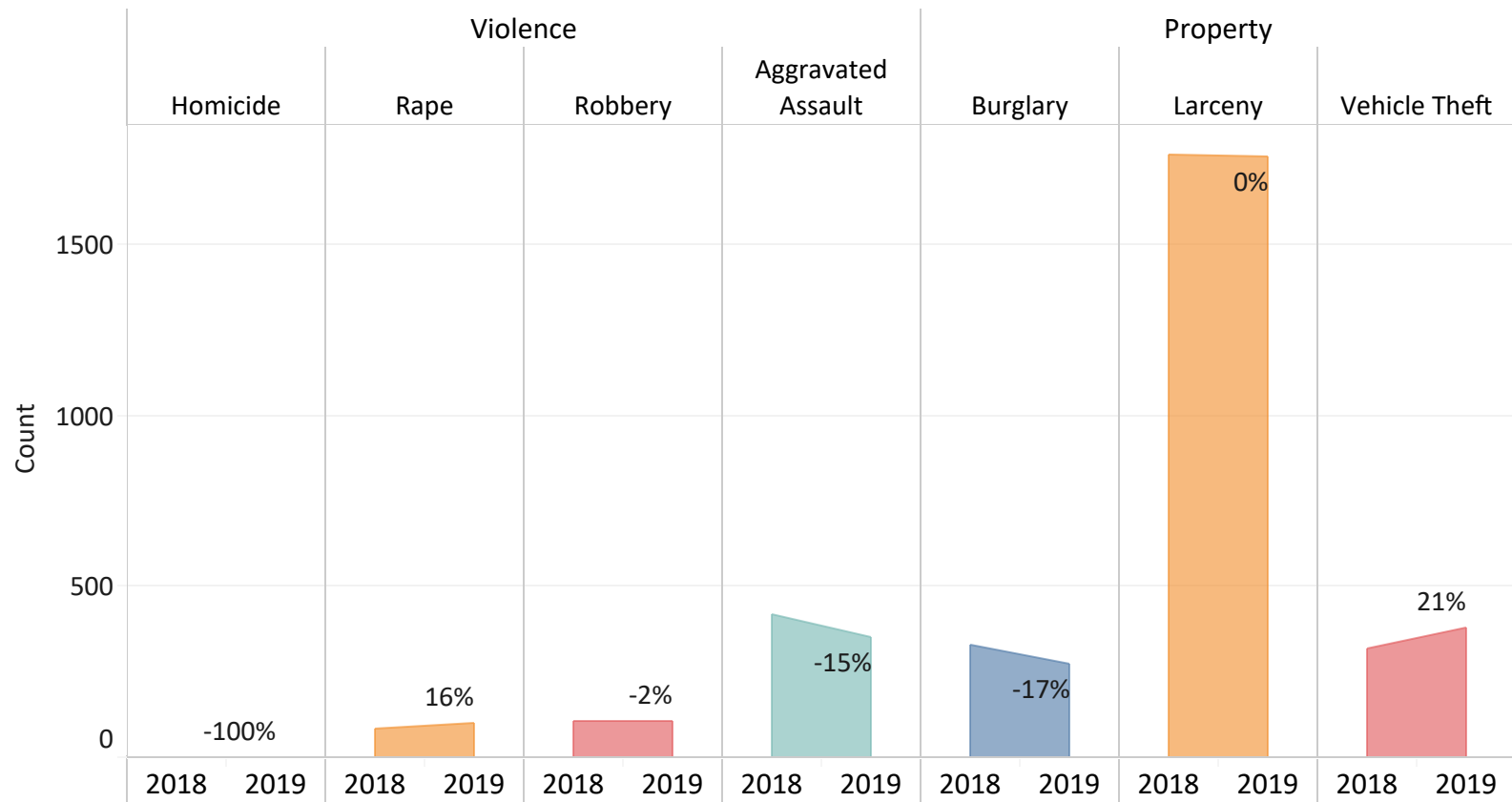
Property Crime by Year (Bar)



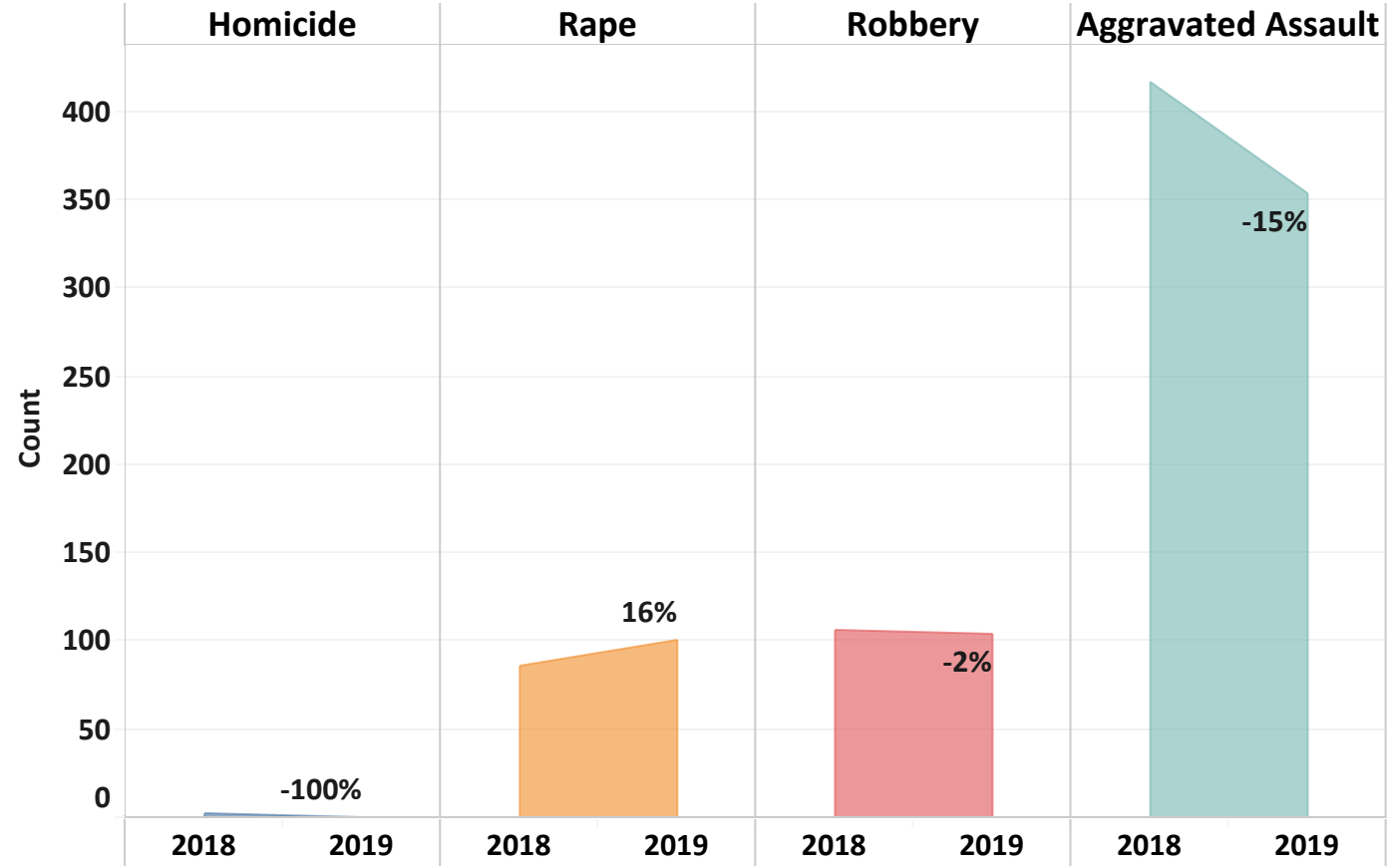
Property Crime by Month



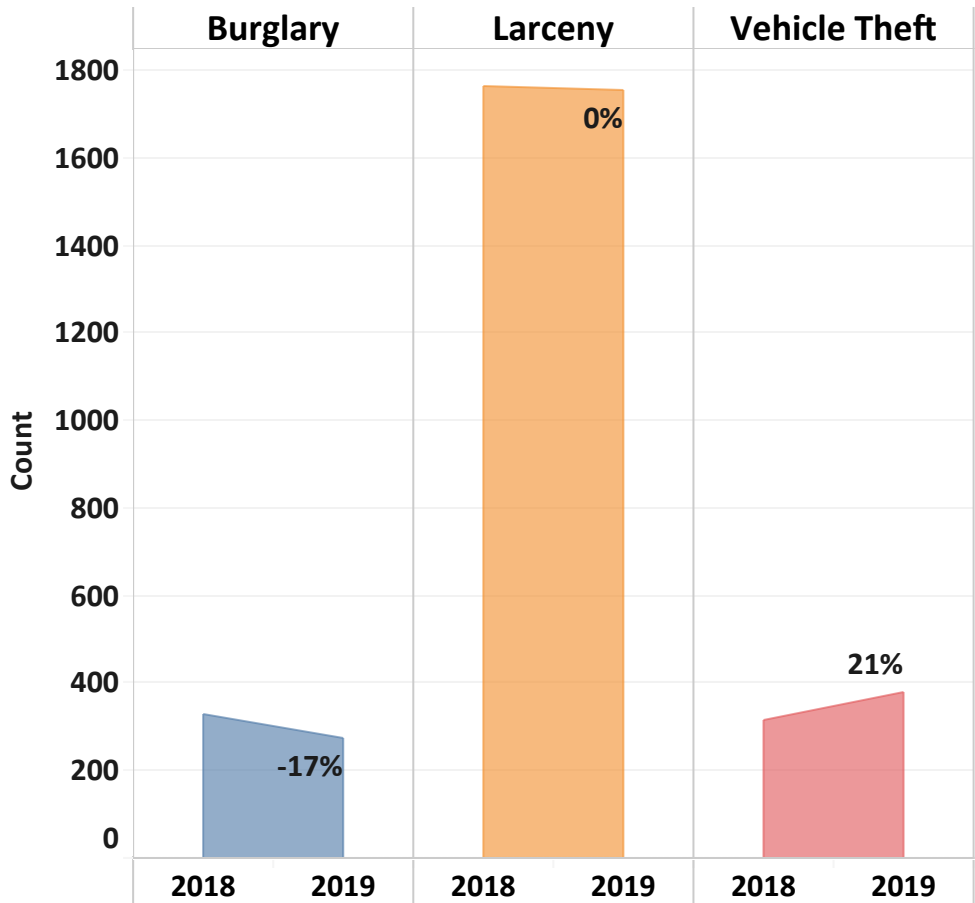
All by Year



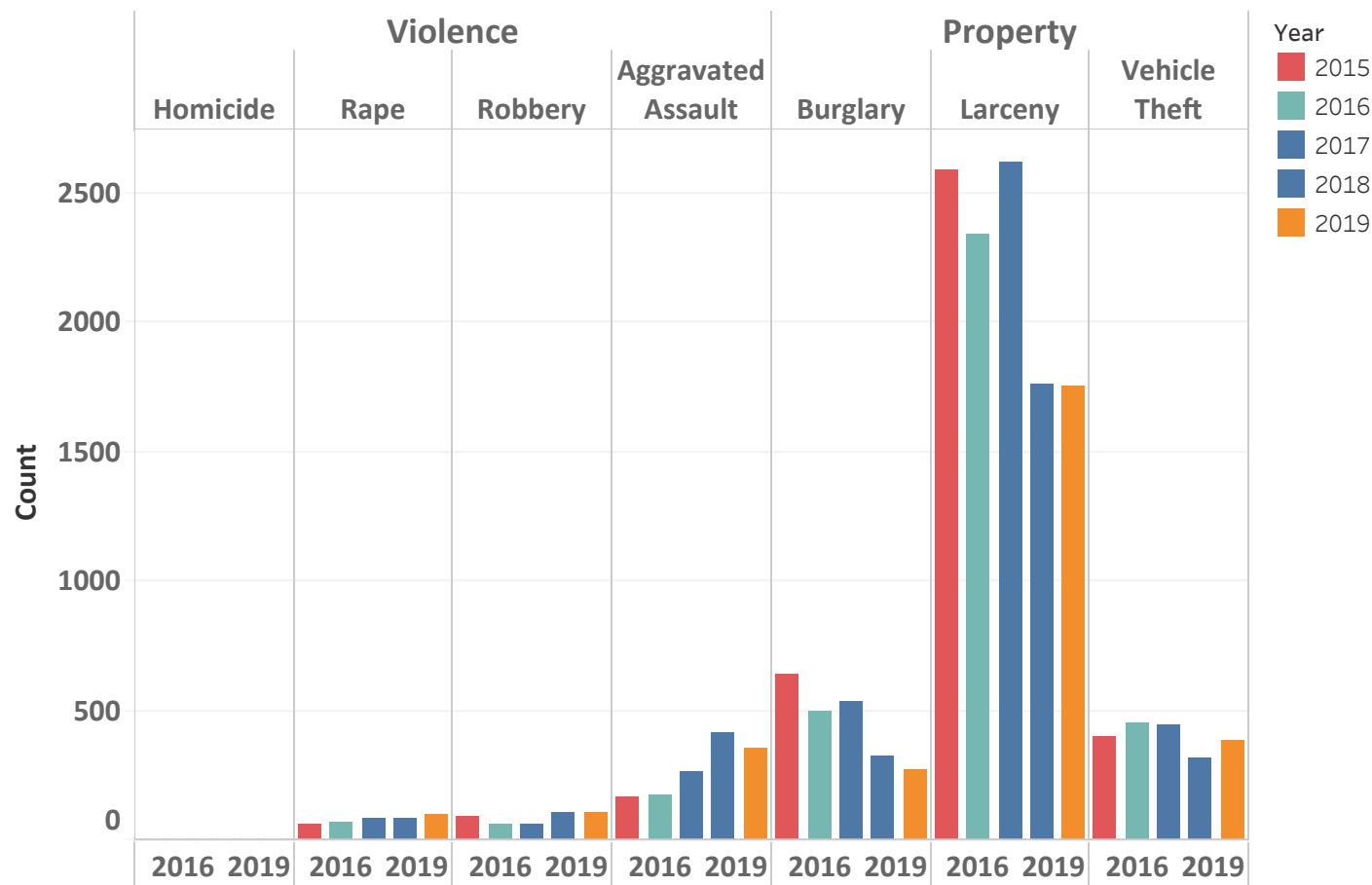
Violent Crime by Year



Property Crime by Year



2015 thru 2019



Crime Statistics – the Rest of the Story

Started in the 1930's and administered by the FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) is the voluntary submission of crime and arrests data by agencies across the United States. While voluntary at the federal level, it is mandatory for agencies in California (California Penal Code § 13020(b)).

The City of Chico Police Departments submits UCR data monthly to the State of California Department of Justice who then, in turn, submits the data to the FBI.

The value of standardized data submissions is the ability to easily compare trends across times and locations. The standards have changed over the decades but are generally consistent.

There are a number of components to the monthly UCR submissions but two key areas are Crimes and Arrests. For Crimes, only a subset is reported, called "Part I Crimes". For Arrests, offenses for both Part I and Part II crimes are reported.

For completeness, the other components of UCR are:

- Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Program
- Hate Crimes
- Cargo Theft (California not participating until 2021)
- Human Trafficking (California not participating until 2021)

What exactly is a "Part I Crime?"

The UCR program founders distinguished between crimes that occurred frequently and were likely to be reported to the police (Part I Crimes) and "Vice" or other crimes (Part II Crimes).

There are 8 major classifications for Part I Crimes that are further divided. The classifications are:

- Violent Crimes
 - Murder and non-negligent homicide
 - Forcible Rape
 - Robbery
 - Aggravated Assault (note there is a "Simple Assault" that is not included in this category)
- Property Crimes
 - Burglary
 - Larceny (e.g., shoplifting, bicycle theft, etc.)
 - Motor Vehicle Theft
 - Arson

Because these submissions are specifically related to **reported** Crime (versus Part II **Arrest** Offenses) and are commonly referenced by the media, it is this data and classification that the Chico Police Department shares with the public in various forums.

What about Part II Crimes?

The FBI defines Part II Crimes (or Offenses) as:

- “Simple” Assault (no weapon used and no serious or aggravated injury)
- Fraud
- Buying, receiving, possessing stolen property
- Vandalism
- Carrying and Possession of Weapons
- Prostitution, commercialized vice, and sex offenses other than rape
- Drug abuse violations
- Gambling
- Offenses (non-violent) against family and children
- Drunkenness
- Disorderly Contact
- Curfew and Loitering
- Forgery and Counterfeiting
- All other violations of state and local laws not specifically categorized as Part 1 or 2 with the *exception of* traffic violations

Per the FBI UCR Standard, only Arrest data for Part II Crimes are submitted.

Trivia

There are pockets of properties within the City where crime is reported via different agencies and therefore not included in Chico Police Department statistics. The obvious example are areas that are in the County and of course that data is reported via the Butte County Sheriff's Office. Crimes that occur on the Chico State Campus and properties are reported by the University Police department and crimes on State property (Fairgrounds, DMV, etc.) are reported via CHP. Crimes along the Railroad tracks would be reported via the Union Pacific Railroad Police. Though, Union Pacific reported only five property crimes in all of Butte County in 2018.

Arson reports are gathered by the Chico Fire Department and routed through Chico Police to the State Department of Justice. The interpretations of Arson have changed over the years (is a “couch fire” arson?) with corresponding fluctuations in the counts which make year-to-year comparisons challenging. As this fluctuation can distort the overall picture, some Chico Police summary reports to the media and public may omit the Arson component.

There is a special “Hierarchy Rule” designed to count only a single Part I crime when multiple events occur at the same place and time. There are some nuances to the rule but in general, the Part I listing above reflects the hierarchy. An example of the Hierarchy rule is if there is both a Rape and Larceny at the same place and time, only the Rape is counted. In practice, in Chico at least, this doesn't materially impact the statistics.

Crime statistics are reported in summary form based on the date the crime was reported, not when it occurred. This has two implications, the first is that there will always be some crimes that occurred in one month but were reported in a subsequent month (or year). The second is because it is a point-in-time snapshot, any subsequent updates to the particular crime (i.e., due to ongoing investigations) may cause the actual UCR category to change, either between Part I and Part II or within Part I and II. The practical implication is that if you want to research particular Part I crimes for a past month, often the actual offense counts will differ slightly from that reported to the DOJ.

In 2014, the UCR definition of Forcible Rape was amended from its original 1927 incarnation to be gender neutral and to cover additional circumstances. To accommodate reporting agencies using the older definition, the FBI would accept counts under both the old and new definitions. Chico reported to the DOJ under the new definition starting in 2017 after implementing a new computer system. This only impacts how crimes were reported not how (or what) incidents were charged.

Calls for Service (CFS) are primarily requests from the citizenry to 911 or the non-emergency line. These are the calls you may hear on a scanner or reported on Social Media by people who listen to the scanner. In 2018, roughly 1 in 8 calls to Chico Police resulted in the actual reporting of a crime or an arrest.

Sometimes you see Part I crimes labeled as Part 1 Crimes (Arabic 'one' vs Roman numeral 'one'). This is because in absence of a reference to Part II crimes, the Roman numeral 'I' looks like the letter 'I' and can be confusing.

National or internet media sources may refer to Crime in "Chico", but they really mean the Chico MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) which is all of Butte County.

Future

The FBI is rolling out a new data collection classification system called NIBRS with a target date of Jan 1, 2021. The major change with this new system is that reporting occurs at the incident rather than the summary level. While many states have already converted, California has not. Once California implements the NIBRS system, Chico Police Department will reconfigure its internal systems to submit NIBRS data.

References

FBI UCR Info: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr>

State of California Crime and Arrest Data: <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/>

Chico MSA: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butte_County,_California#Metropolitan_Statistical_Area

Updated rape definition: <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/blog/updated-definition-rape>