

# **Boulder Police Department Crime & Strategy Update**

**Maris Herold**, Chief of Police

**Beth Christenson**, Strategic Data and Policy Advisor

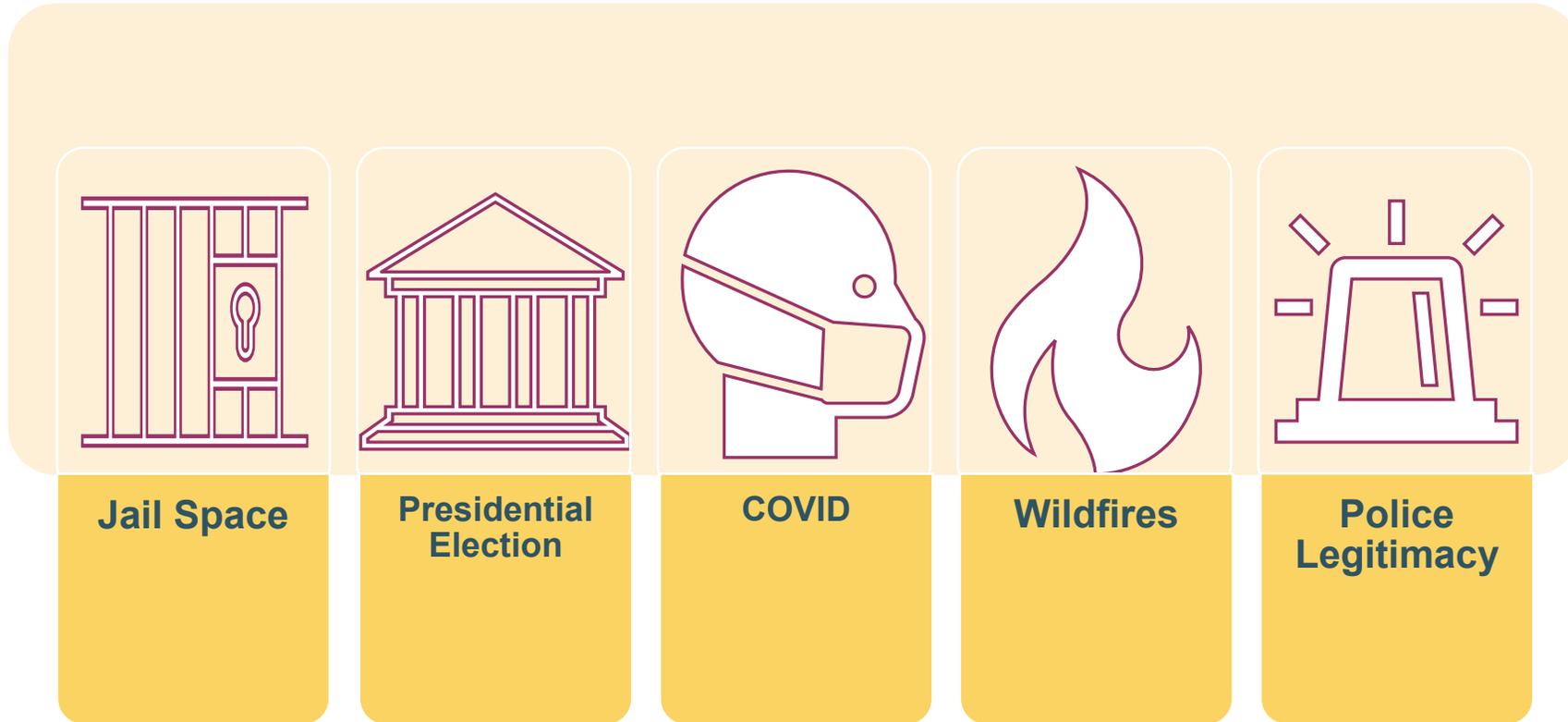
*December 1, 2020*

# AGENDA

- 2020 Disruptions in Policing
- National & Regional Trends
- Citywide Crime Review
- Problem-Solving Strategies
- What's Next?



# 2020 Disruptions in Policing



# Roadmap to Police Reform/Strategic Plan Update:

## Q3 Accomplishments and Projections

| Category                 | Q2 '20                                     | Q3 '20   | Q4 '20   | Q1 '21  |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Accountability</b>    | <i>Chief Herold Started April 20, 2020</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Developed Inspections Policy and Process Plan</li> <li>✓ Developed Disciplinary Matrix</li> <li>✓ Signed CALEA Accreditation Contract</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Numerous Inspections Held Completed: Weapons, Use of Force Reviews, Emergency Preparedness Policy and Inspection</li> </ul>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued Inspections and Audits</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Data</b>              |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hired Strategic Data and Policy Advisor</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Crime Reduction Meetings with Detectives</li> <li>✓ Crime Pattern Bulletins</li> <li>✓ Relaunch Open Data of Crime Locations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workload Analysis</li> <li>▪ Kick-Off Records Management System</li> <li>▪ Kick-Off CopDat, Data Integration Tool</li> </ul> |
| <b>Training</b>          |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Created Full-Time Training Section</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Training section conducted ICAT training for all officers</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>Recruiting/Hiring</b> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Graduated New Police Academy Class</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hiring Process On-Going</li> <li>✓ Hired Public Safety Information Officer on November 16</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anticipate Hiring New Officers</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Use of Force</b>      |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Initiated ICAT Use of Force Training</li> <li>✓ Updated Use of Force Policy (ICAT)</li> <li>✓ Established Robust Investigative Process</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Selected Professional Standards Sergeant to Investigate Citizen Complaints/Use of Force</li> </ul>                                      |   |
| <b>Crime Strategy</b>    |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identified Evidence-Based Crime Reduction Project</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Engaging in Community Meetings</li> <li>✓ Beginning Police Town Hall Meetings</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike Theft and DV updates</li> </ul>   |





# Local and National Trends

# National Trends

## Violent Crime<sup>+</sup>

+28.2%  
Homicides

+9.3%  
Agg Assaults

-16%  
Rapes

-11%  
Robberies

## Property Crime<sup>\*</sup>

-7.8%  
Overall

+6.2%  
Motor Vehicle Thefts

-7.8%  
Burglaries



*<sup>+</sup>Data from the Police Executive Research Forum, January 1-Sept 30, 2020. Our Department responded to this data survey.*

*<sup>\*</sup>Data from a preliminary FBI Report comparing Jan 1 – June 30, 2019 to 2020*



# Local Trends - Boulder County Area



Assaults up compared to other violent crimes



Motor Vehicle Thefts and Theft from Auto up



Burglaries up in Boulder. Mixed results elsewhere.



Domestic Violence calls up for all police agencies and Victim Services calls up



Child Abuse reporting, DUIs, and Drug offenses down across all cities



Sexual Assault reports down. Calls to Crisis Centers up.

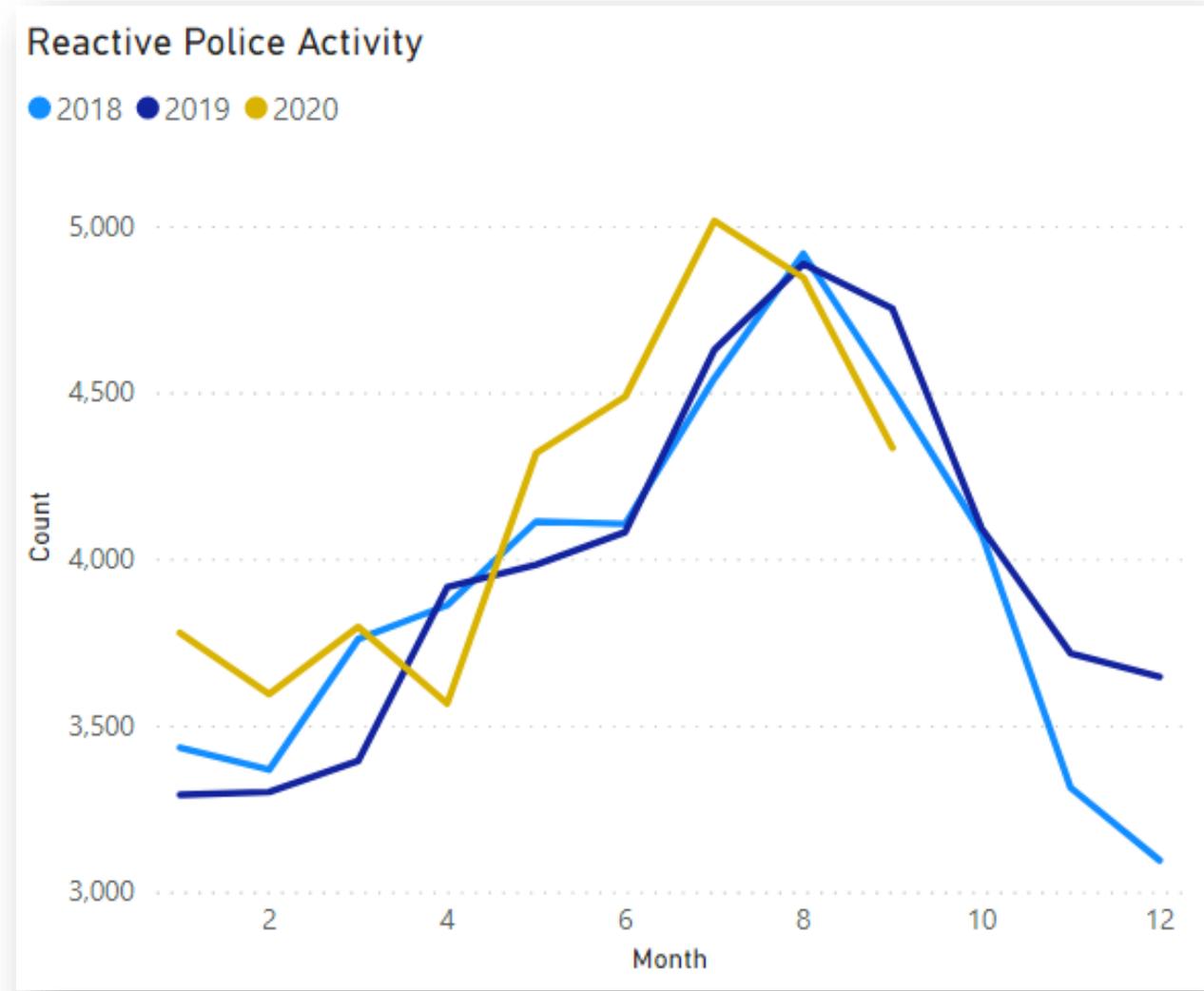


# Citywide Crime Review



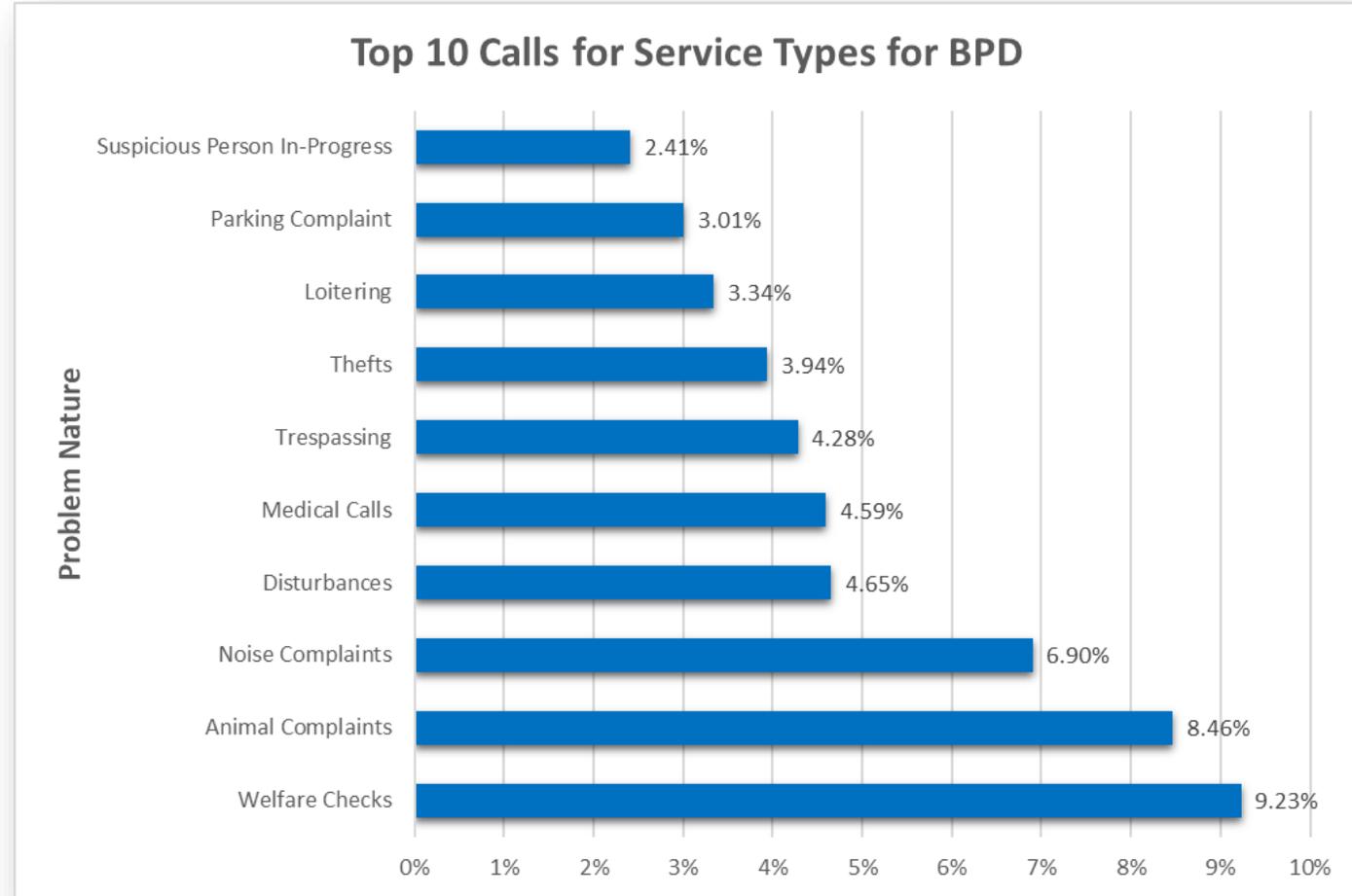
# Calls for Service Breakdown

- 80,000 Yearly Calls for Service
- Summer Month Spike in Calls for Service



# Calls for Service Breakdown

- **75% Reactive**
  - Little discretionary time for proactive policing work
- 14% are Medical and Welfare Check Calls



# Serious Crimes

## Violent Crime

Homicide

Forcible Sex  
Offenses

Robbery

Aggravated  
Assaults

## Property Crime

Burglaries

Theft from  
Auto

Motor  
Vehicle Theft

Theft/Other  
Larceny

## Locally Focused

Stolen  
Bicycles

Domestic  
Violence



*This is a uniformed crime reporting (UCR) approach that looks at serious crimes that are Part 1 Crimes as categorized by the FBI.*



# Crime Statistics:

## Year Over Year Comparison

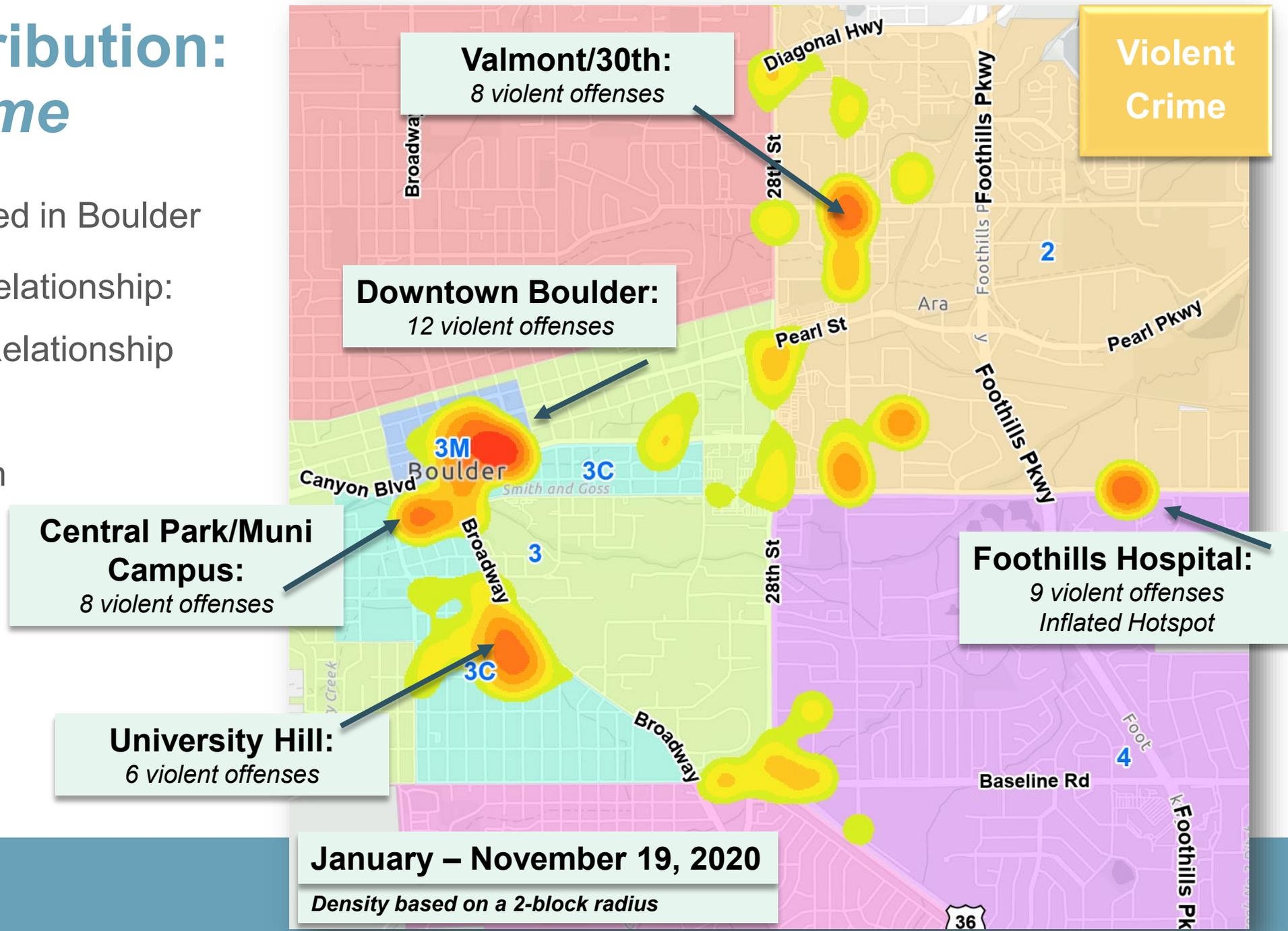
Jan 1 – Nov 19 2015-2020 YTD

|                | Offenses              | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 5-yr Avg | 2020 v 5-yr Avg |
|----------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|-----------------|
| Violent Crime  | Homicide              | 3    | 0    | 3    | 0    | 2    | 2    | 1        | ↑1              |
|                | Forcible Sex Offenses | 81   | 90   | 85   | 92   | 92   | 60   | 88       | -47%            |
|                | Robbery               | 27   | 32   | 39   | 39   | 38   | 66   | 35       | 47%             |
|                | Aggravated Assaults   | 141  | 154  | 197  | 190  | 181  | 175  | 172      | 2%              |
| Property Crime | Burglary              | 432  | 436  | 397  | 399  | 416  | 569  | 416      | 27%             |
|                | Theft from Auto       | 408  | 404  | 474  | 518  | 457  | 713  | 452      | 37%             |
|                | Motor Vehicle Theft   | 136  | 192  | 223  | 279  | 285  | 346  | 223      | 36%             |
|                | Theft/Other Larceny   | 1887 | 2181 | 2284 | 2601 | 2268 | 2031 | 2244     | -10%            |



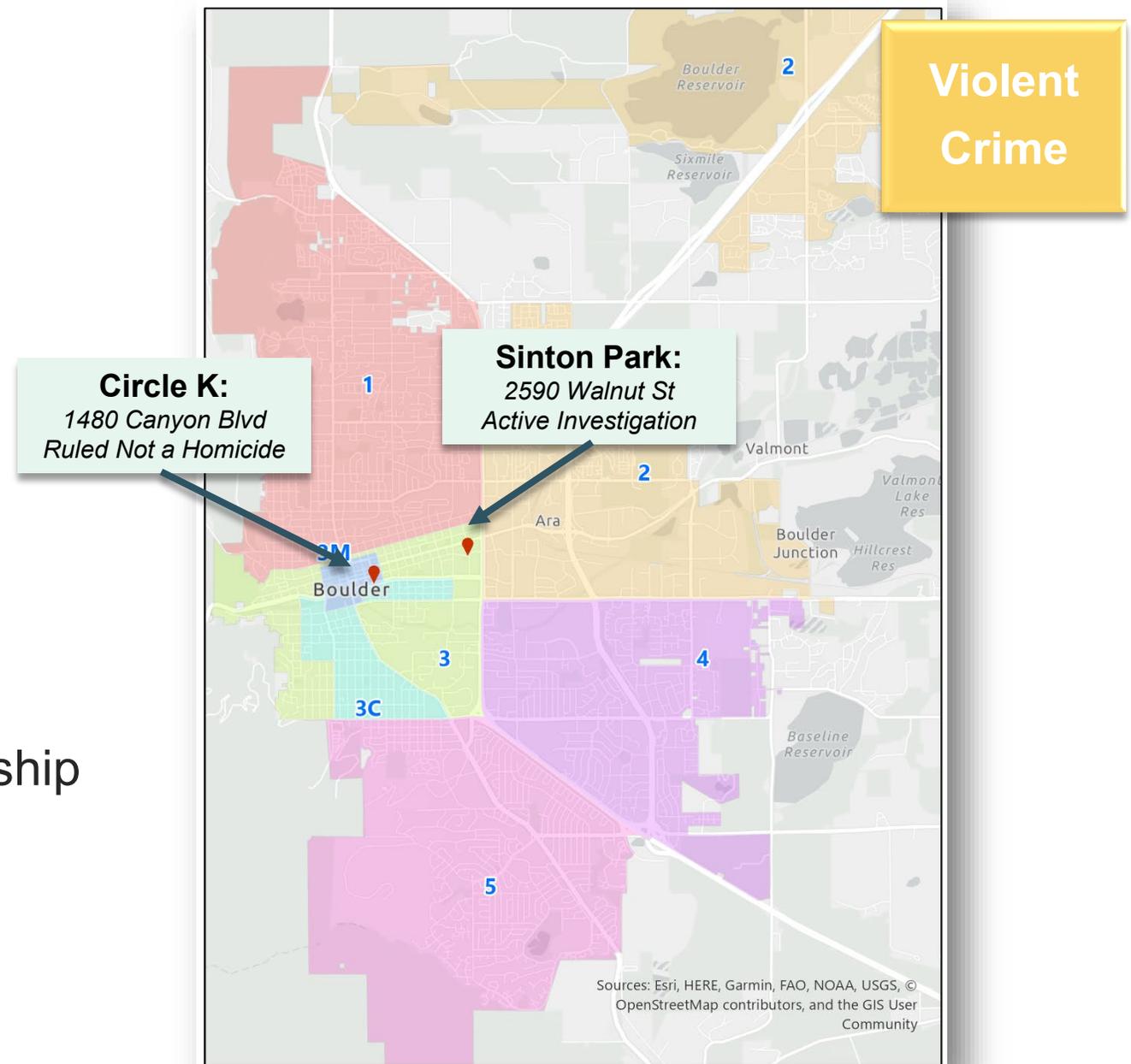
# Crime Distribution: *Violent Crime*

- Highly-concentrated in Boulder
- Victim/Offender Relationship:
  - 38% Known Relationship
  - 39% Stranger
  - 23% Unknown



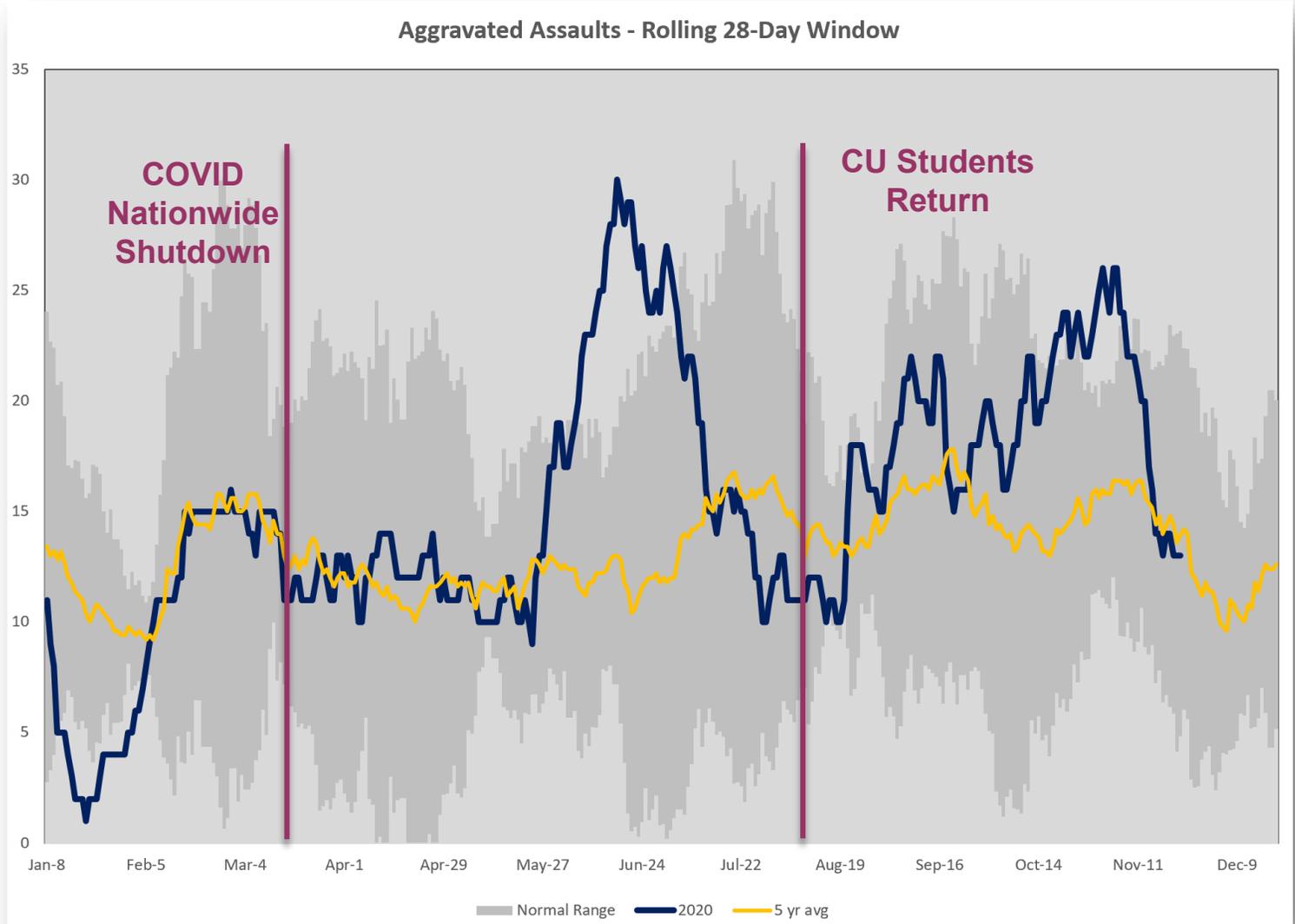
# Homicides

- 2 Homicides This Year
- Circle K – 1480 Canyon Blvd
  - Victim had pre-existing conditions
- Sinton Park – 2590 Walnut St
  - Active Investigation
  - Victim/Offender Unknown Relationship
  - Arrest
  - Both experiencing homelessness



# Aggravated Assaults

Violent  
Crime

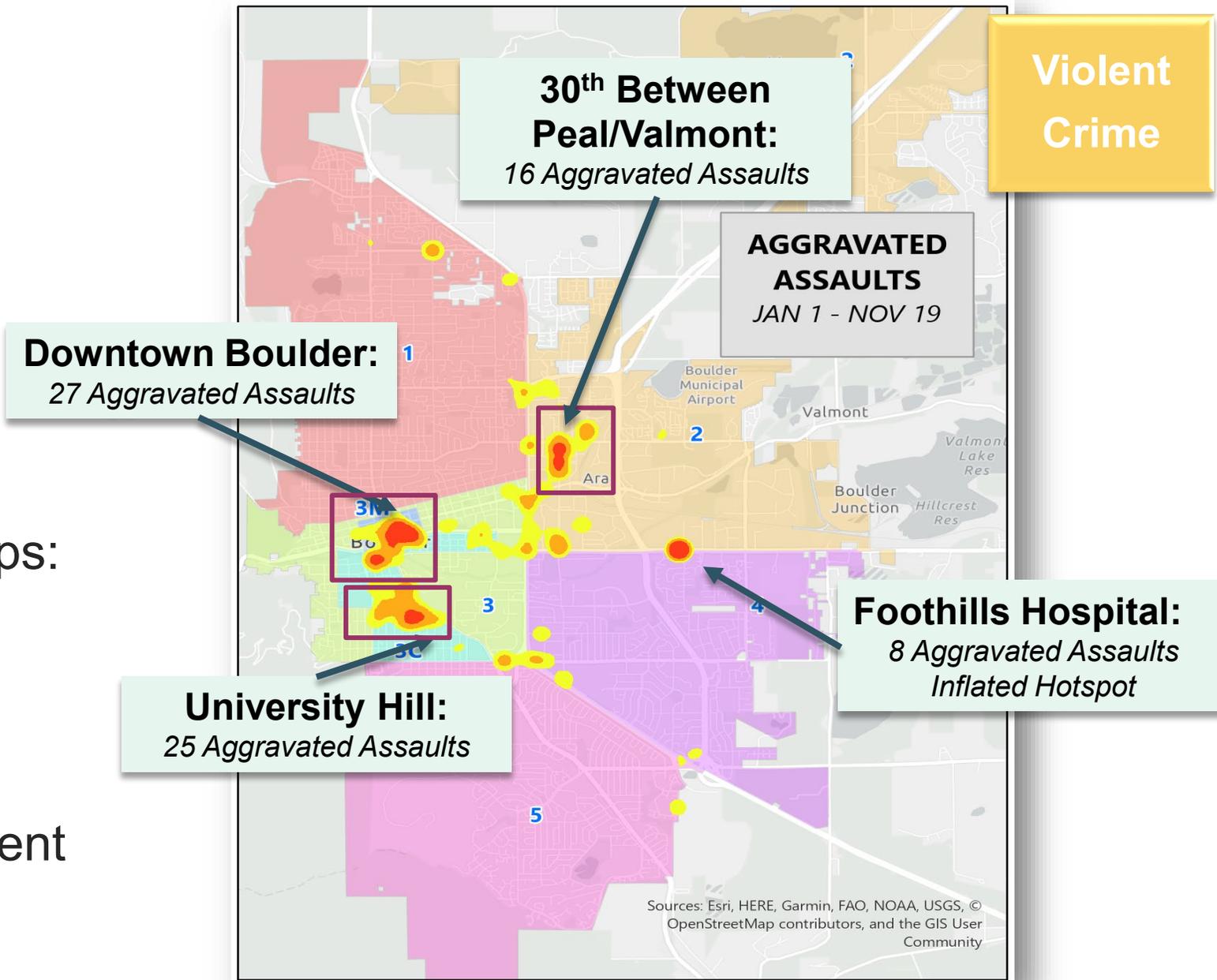


**+2%**  
*Compared to 5-  
year average*



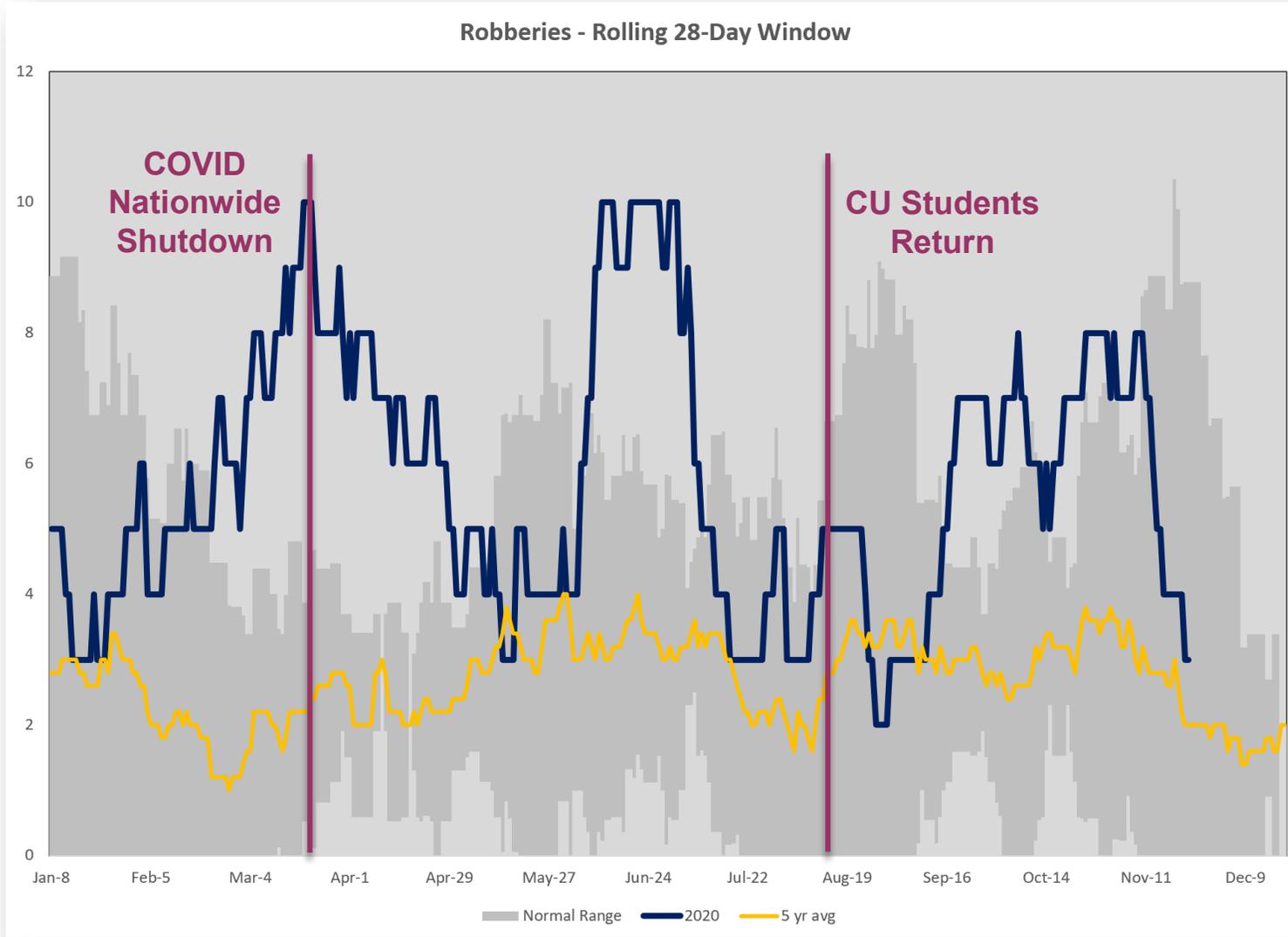
# Aggravated Assaults

- Involved Weapons:
  - Personal Weapons: 61
  - Knife/Cutting Device: 49
  - Various Firearm: 19
- Victim/Offender Relationships:
  - Stranger – 46%
  - Unknown – 18%
  - Known – 36%
- 22% Involve Law Enforcement Officers as a Victim



# Robberies

Violent  
Crime

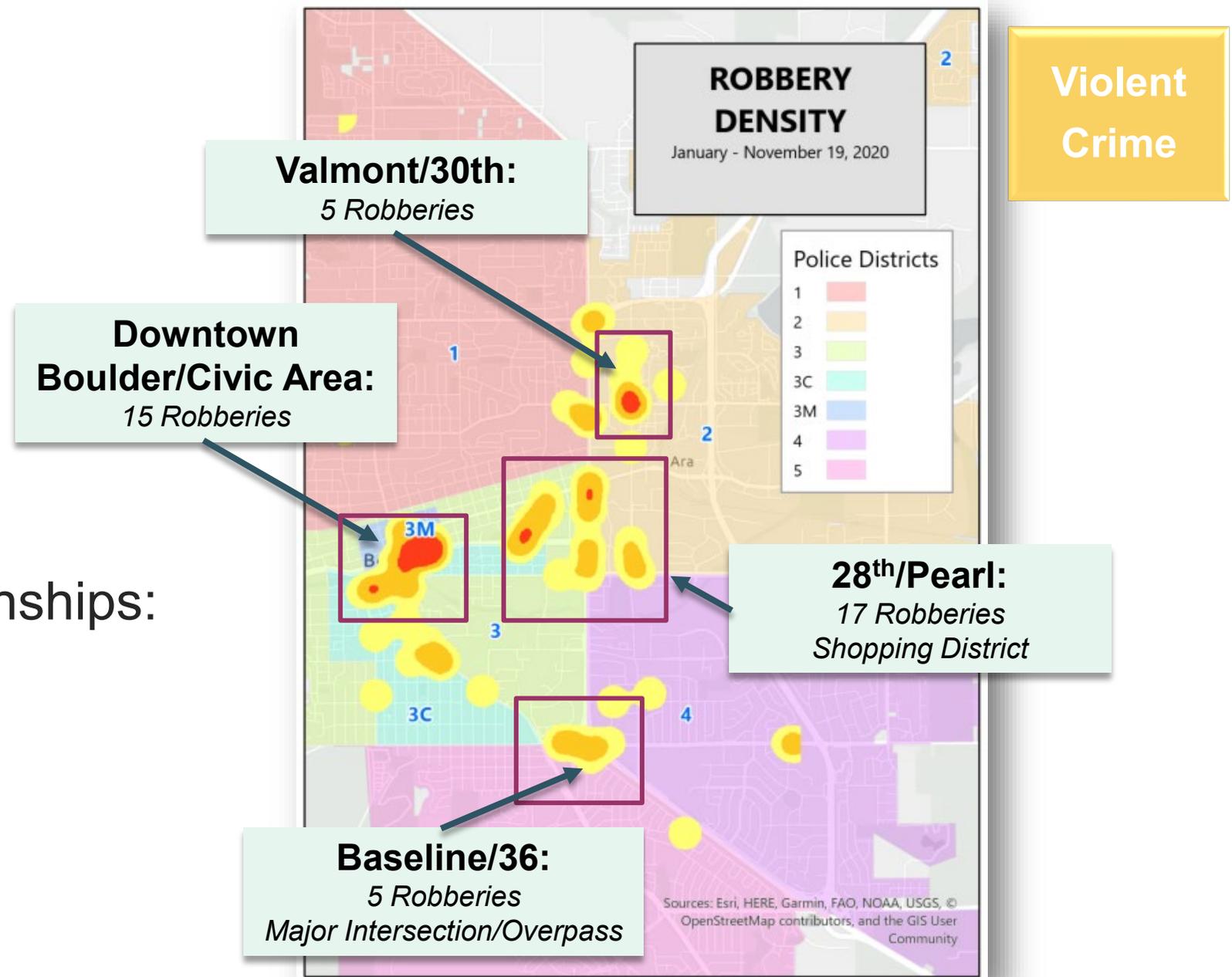


**+47%**  
*Compared to 5-  
year average*



# Robberies

- Involved Weapons:
  - Personal Weapon: 31
  - Knife/Cutting Device: 8
  - Various Firearm: 11
- Victim/Offender Relationships:
  - Stranger – 36%
  - Unknown – 39%
  - Known – 25%

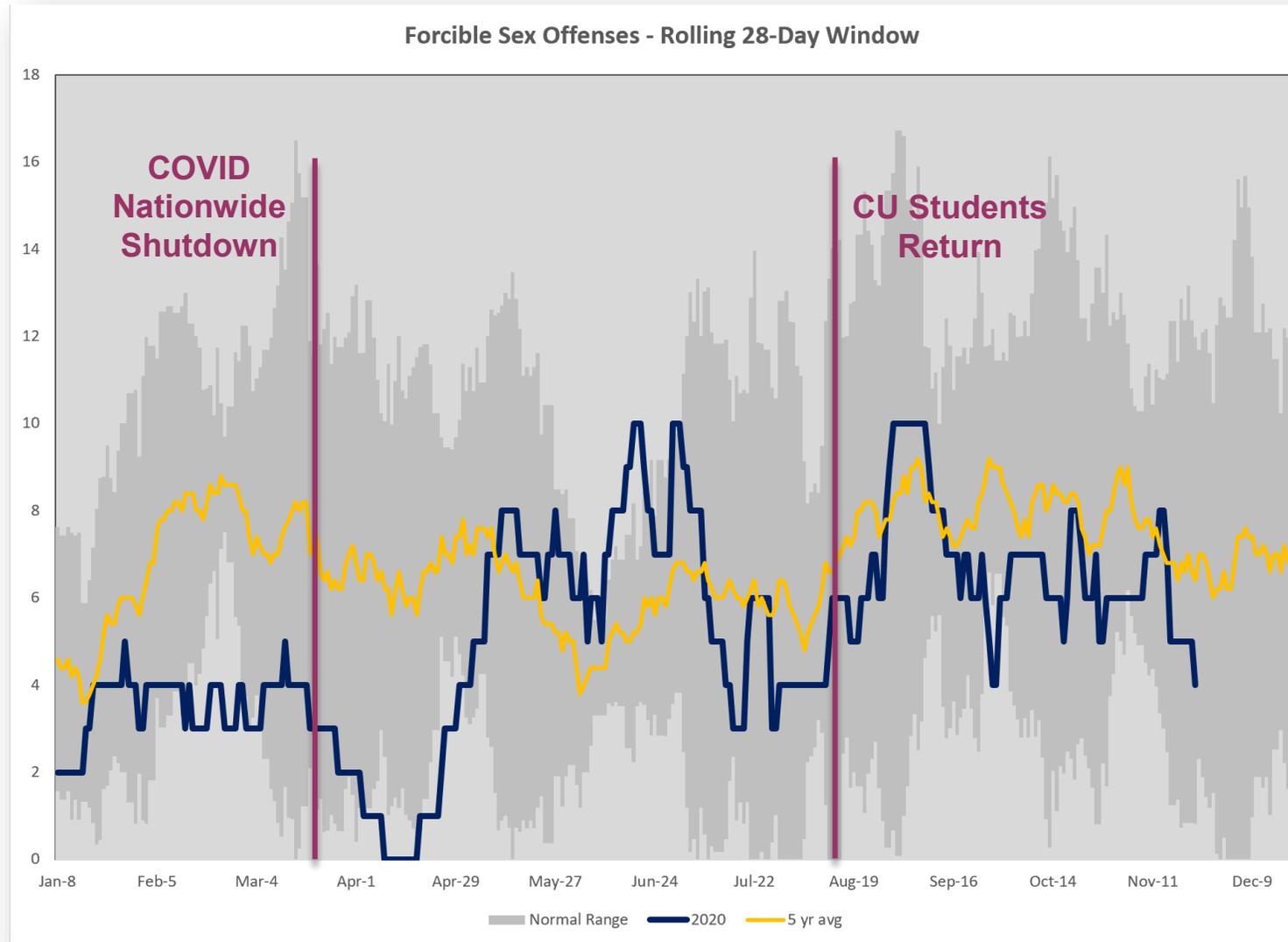


Violent Crime



# Forcible Sex Offenses

Violent  
Crime



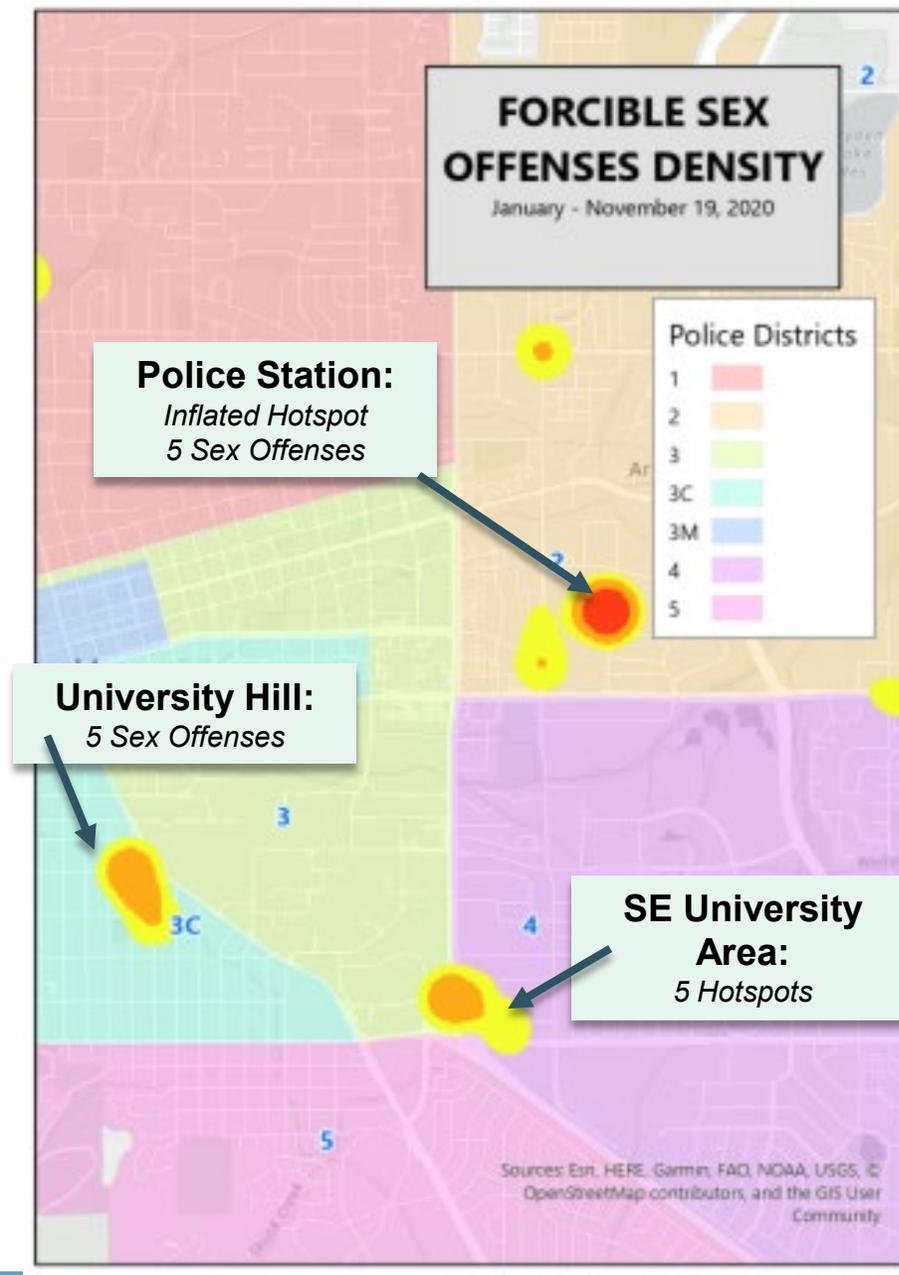
**-47%**  
*Compared to 5-  
year average*



# Forcible Sex Offenses

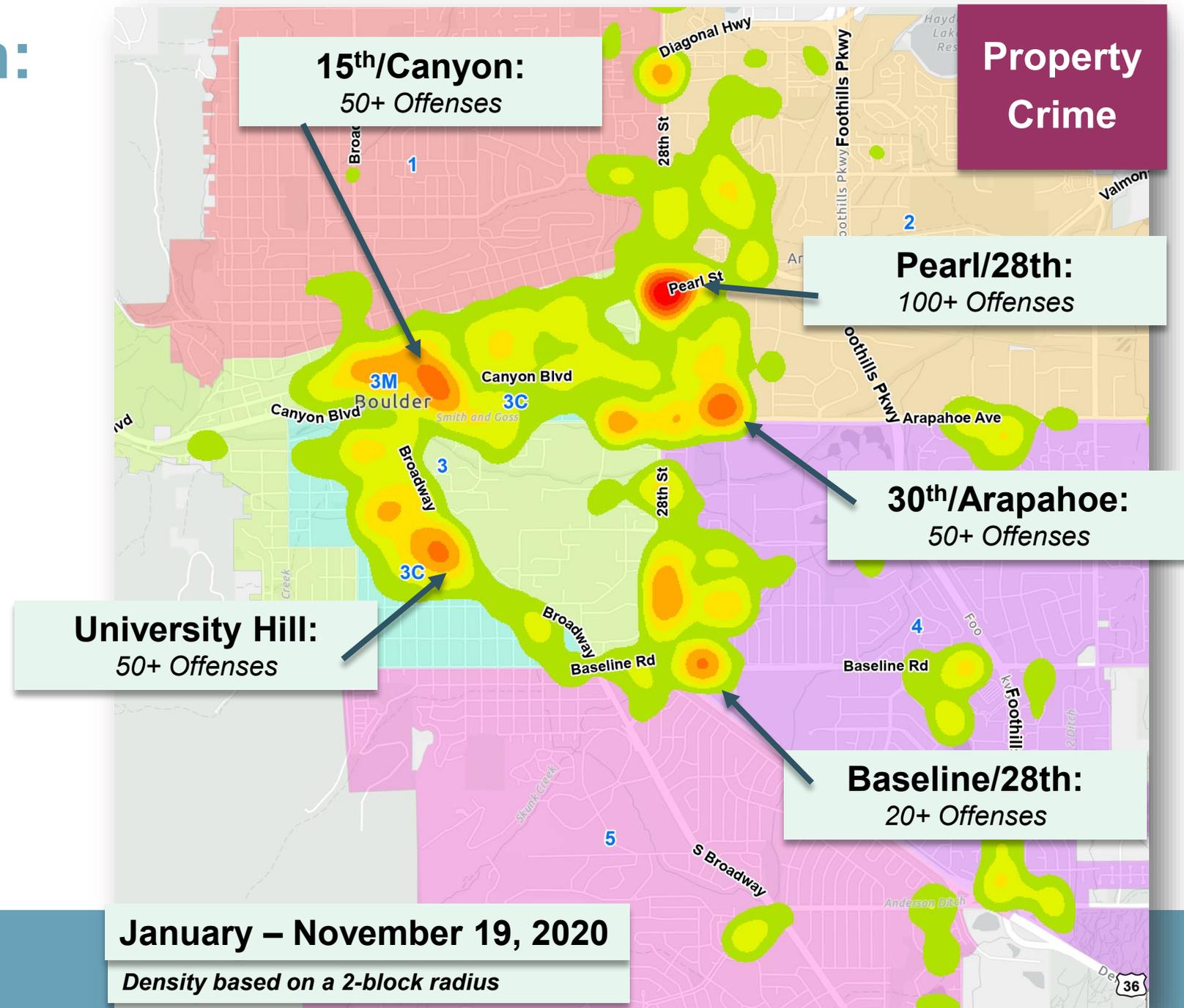
- Victim/Offender Relationships:
  - Stranger – 17%
  - Unknown – 20%
  - Known – 64%
- 3 cold reports

Violent Crime



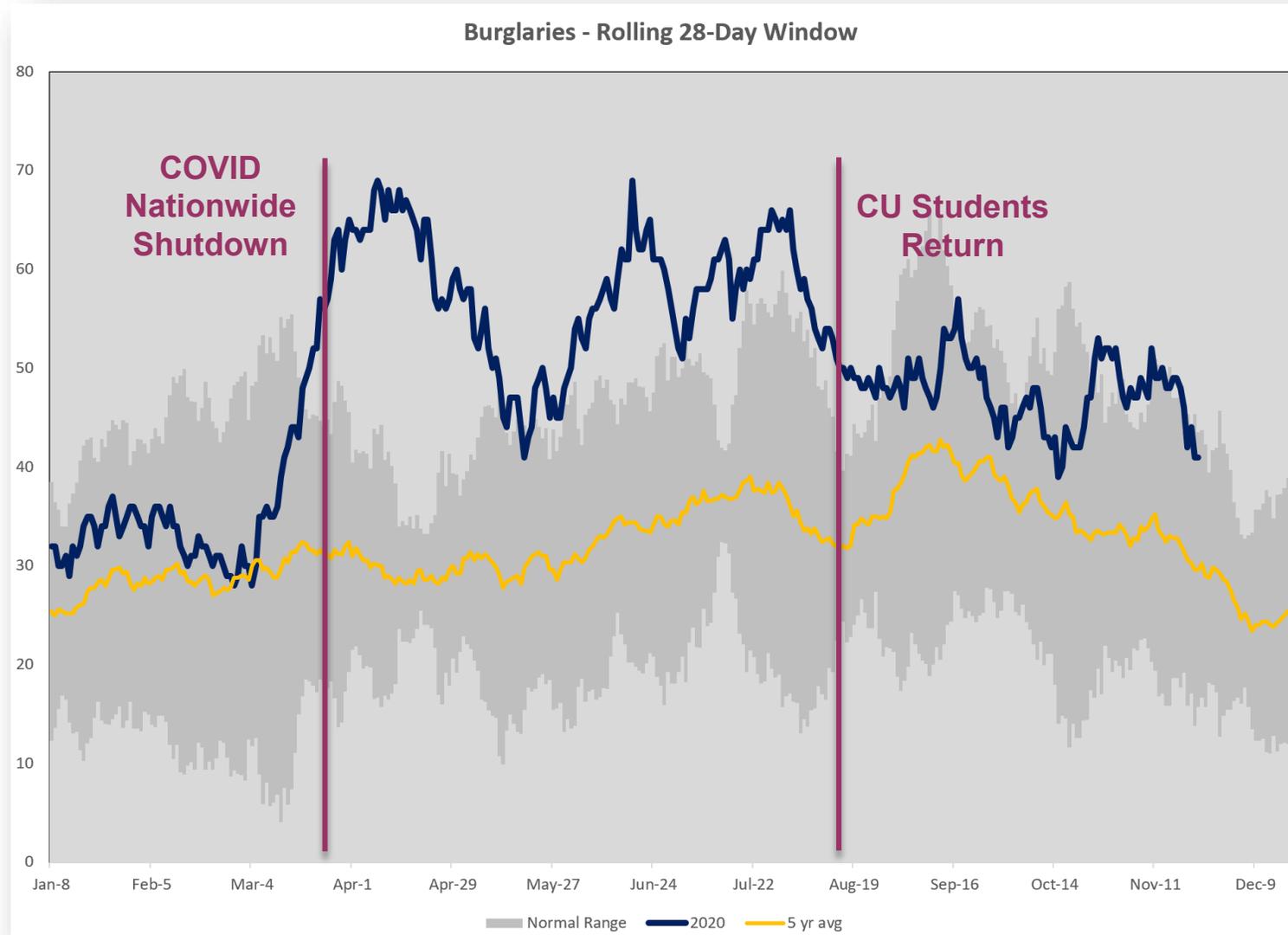
# Crime Distribution: *Property Crime*

- Majority of this is preventable



# Burglaries

Property  
Crime

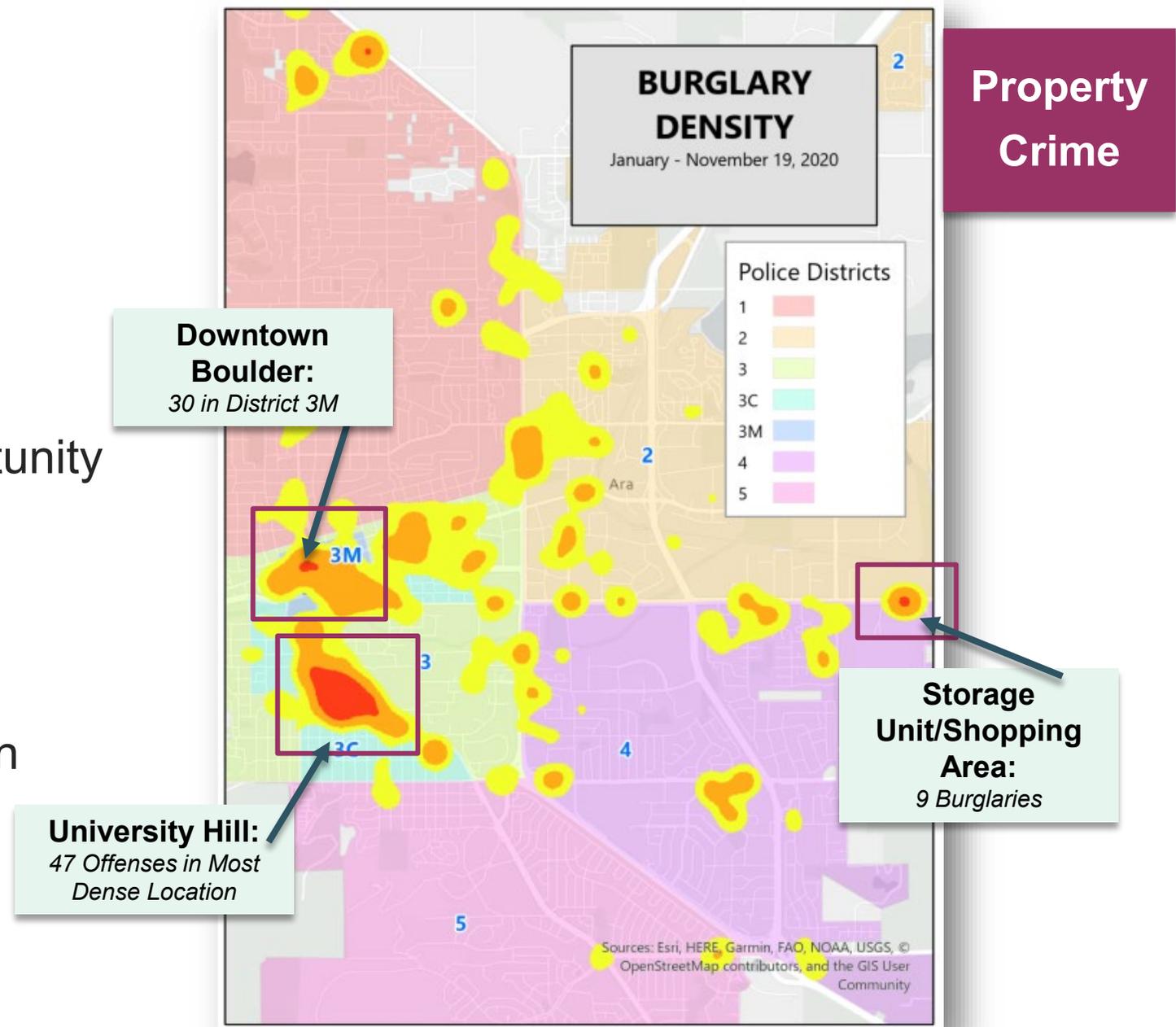


**+27%**  
*Compared to 5-  
year average*



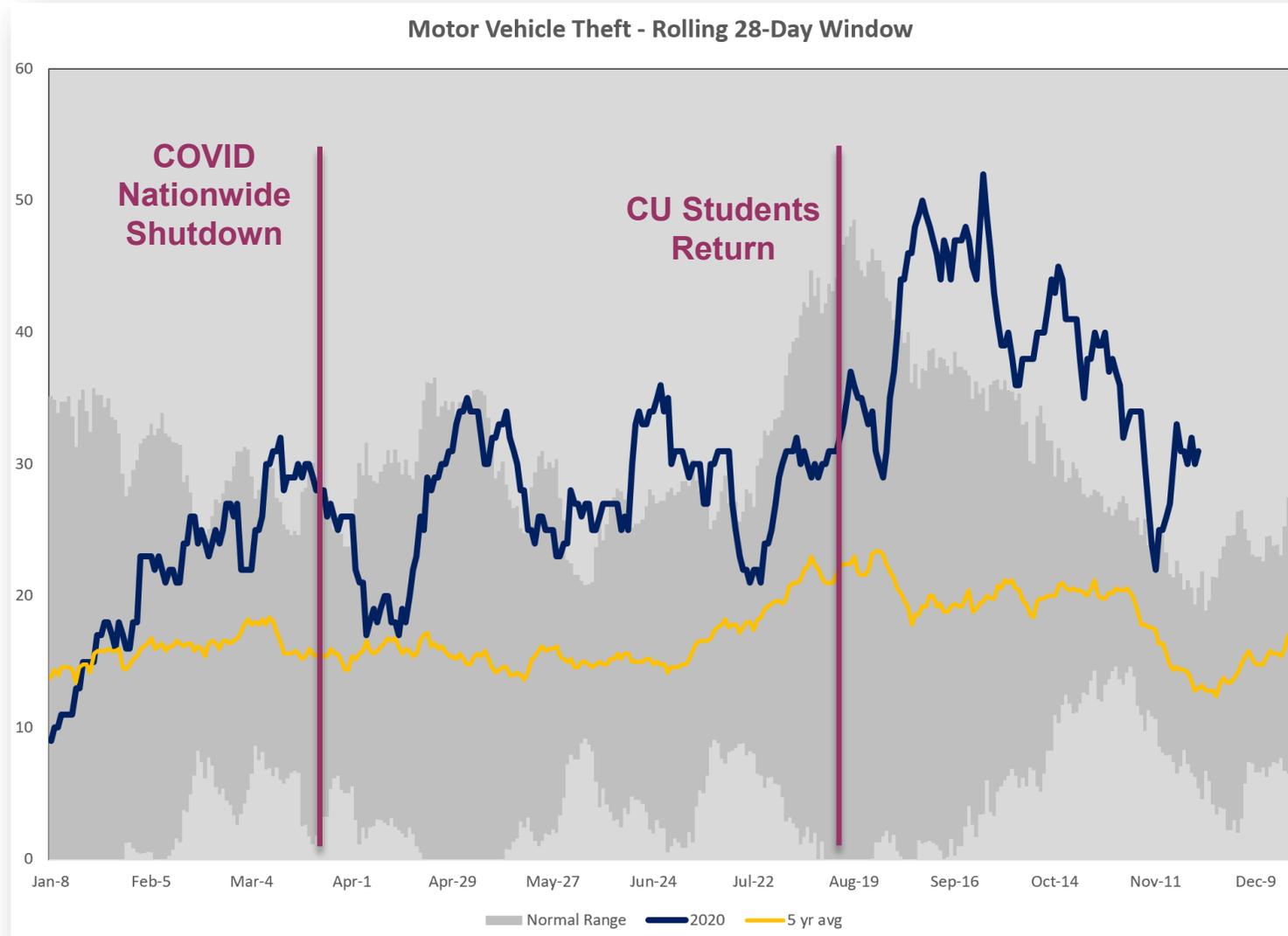
# Burglaries

- Victims Profile:
  - 29% are businesses
  - Businesses closed and opportunity for burglary increases
- Crimes of Opportunity
  - **27%** this year are unlocked, unattended or garage left open



# Motor Vehicle Theft

Property  
Crime

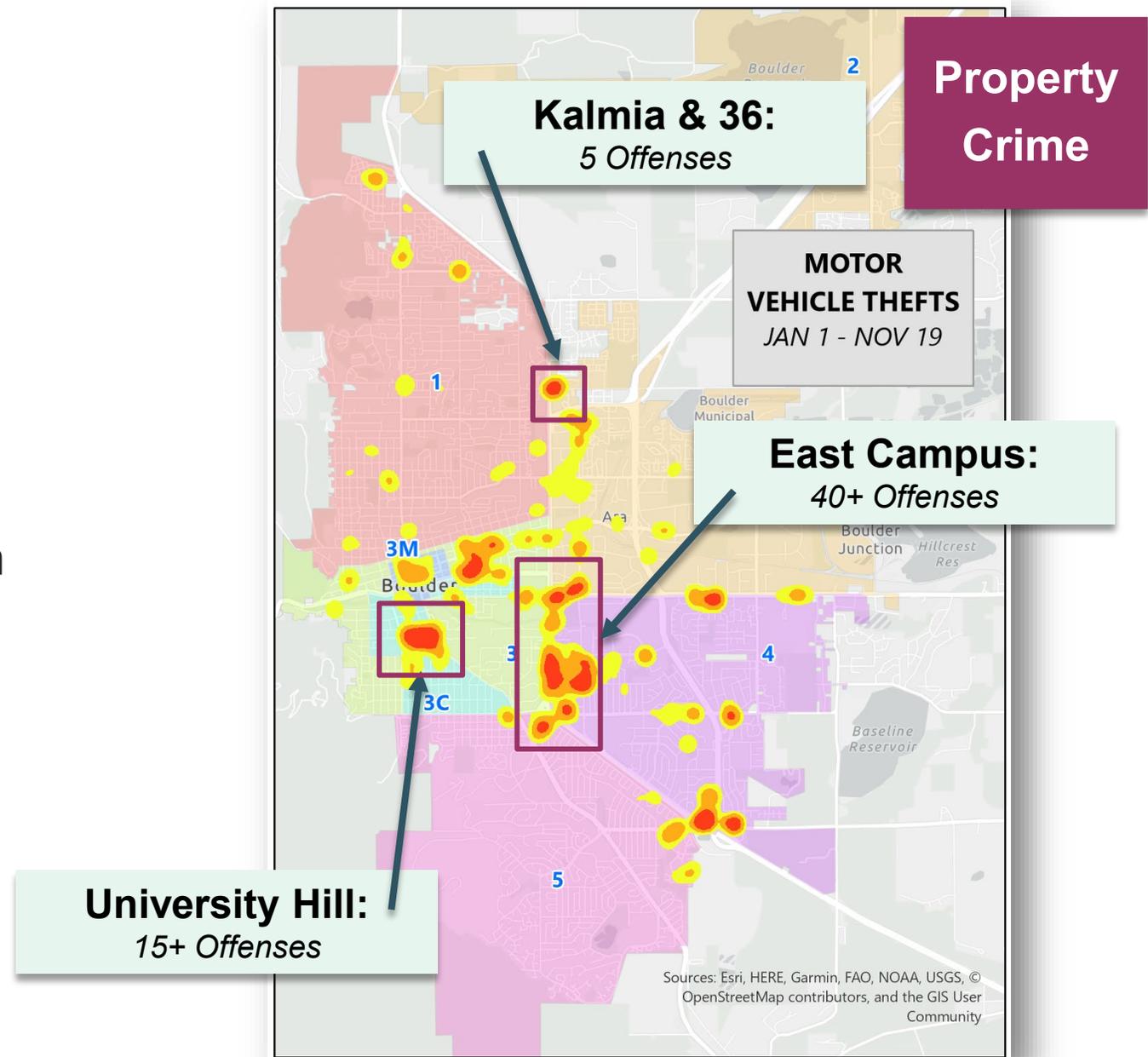


**+36%**  
*Compared to 5-  
year average*



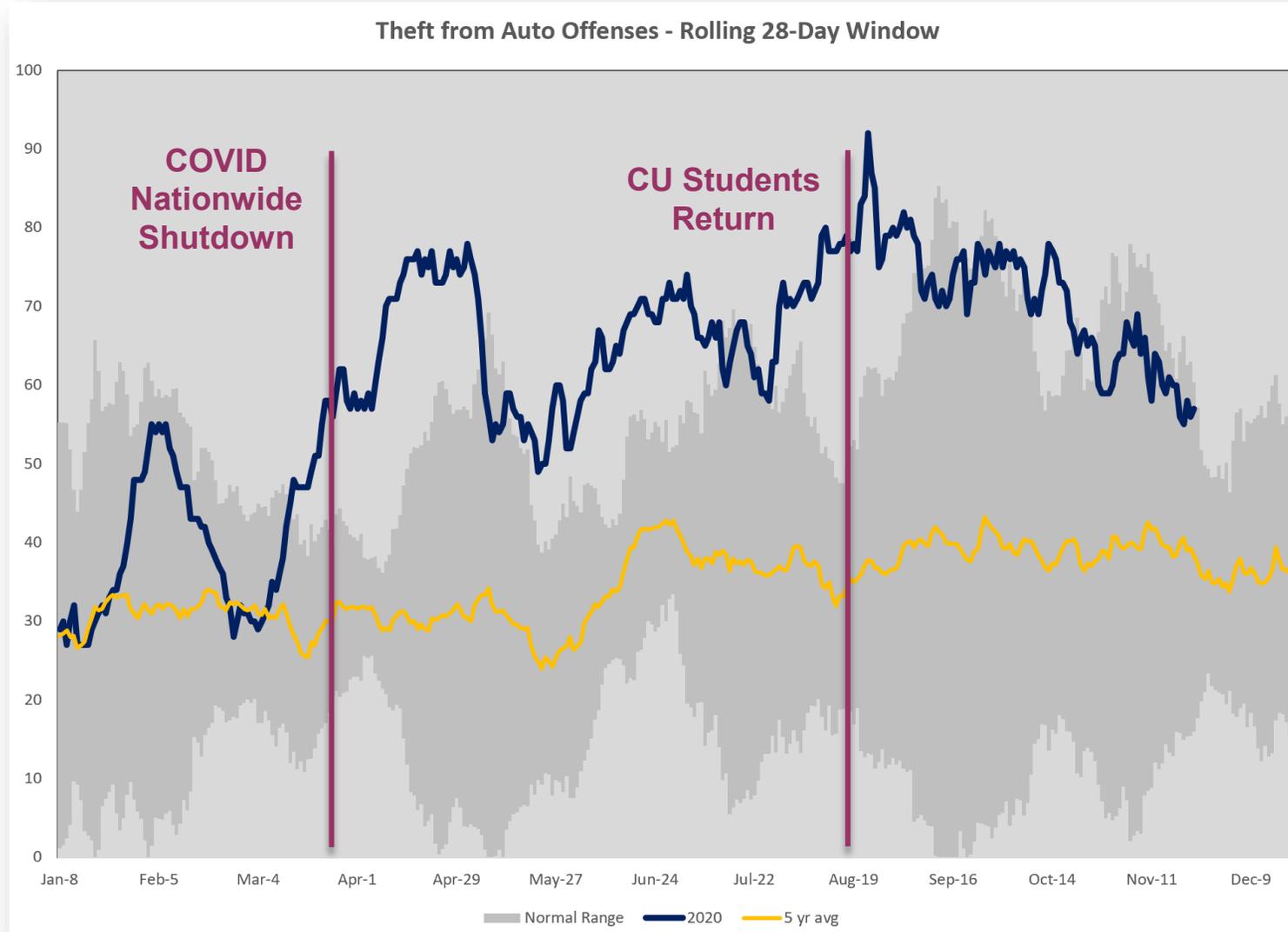
# Motor Vehicle Thefts

- First year Felony Summonses written for offenders
- **Only 50% in 2020 taken to jail**
  - Previous years all offenders taken to jail



# Theft from Auto

Property  
Crime

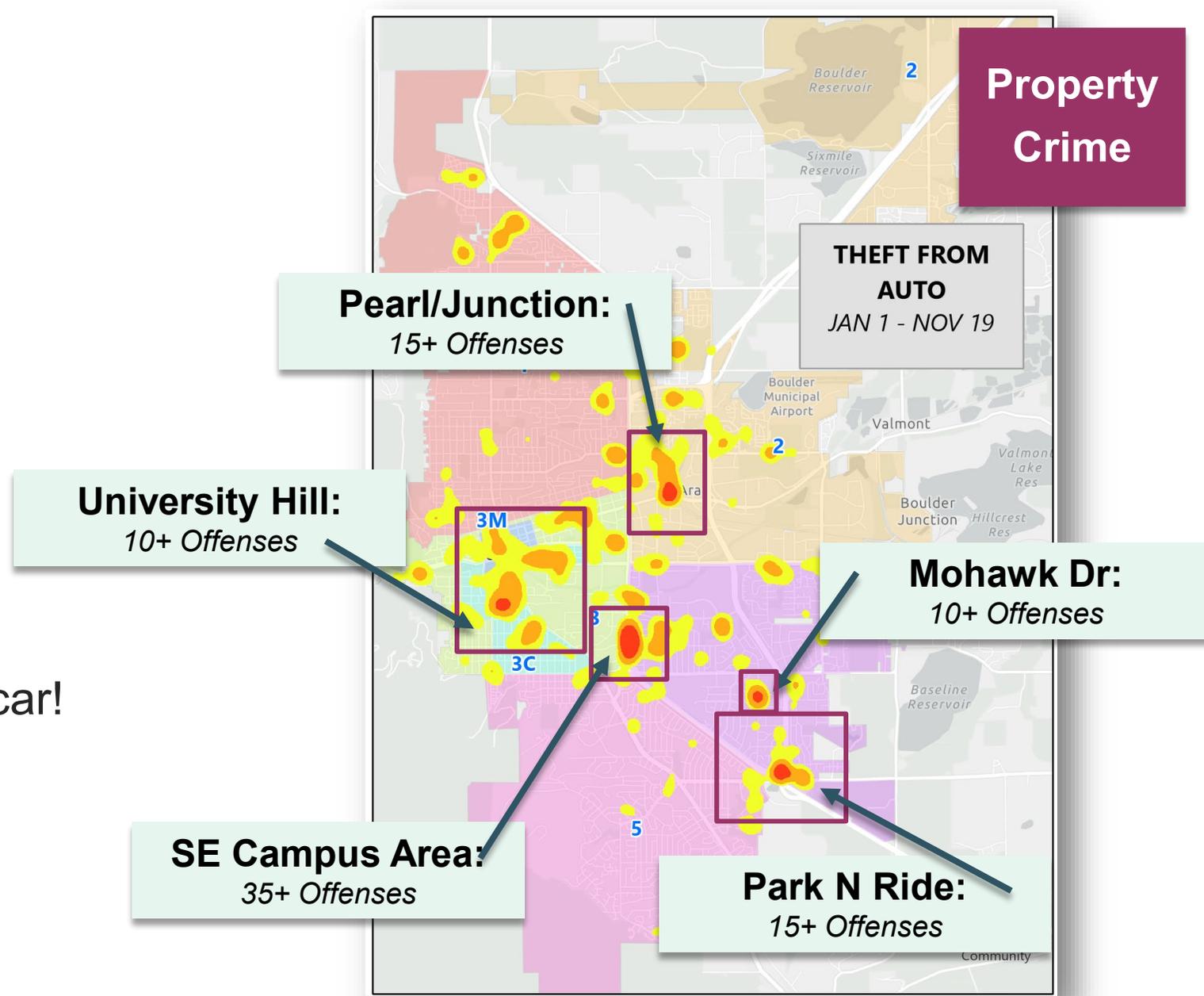


**+37%**  
*Compared to 5-  
year average*



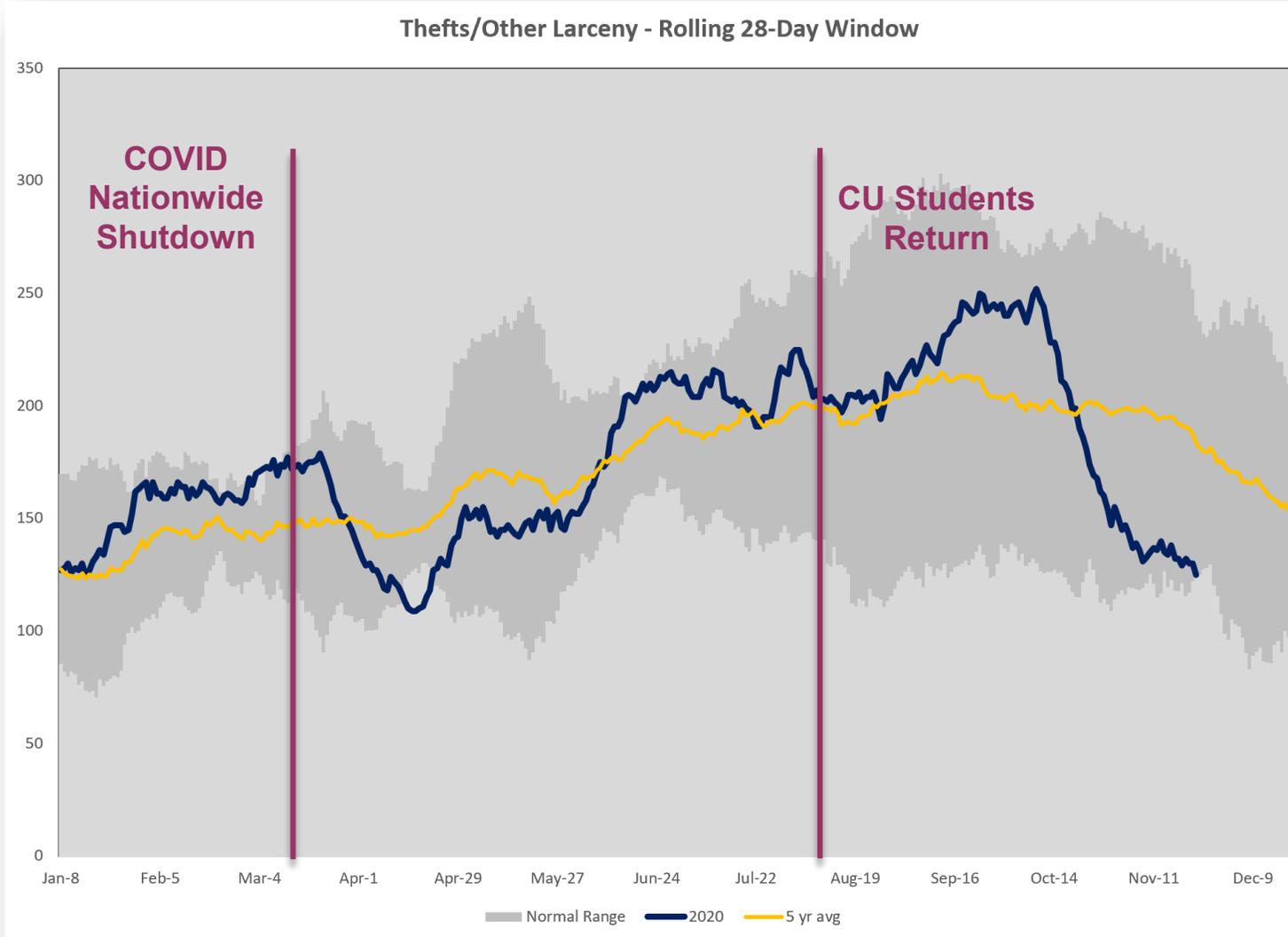
# Theft from Auto

- Crimes of Opportunity
  - **47%** victims reported doors unlocked
- Crime Prevention:
  - Keep valuables out of your car!



# Thefts/Other Larceny

Property  
Crime

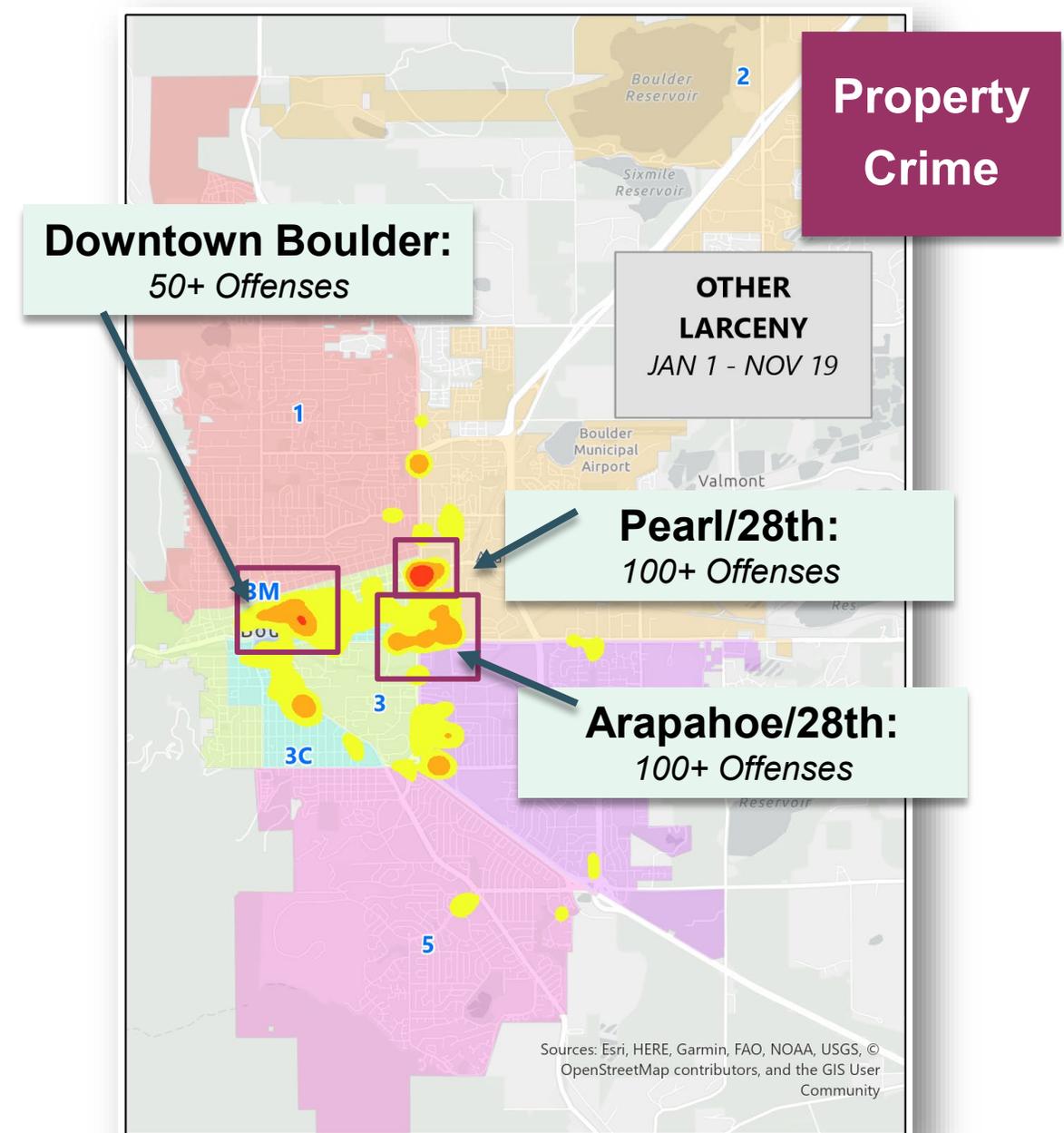


**-10%**  
Compared to 5-  
year average



# Thefts/Other Larceny

- Downtown Boulder – cluster surrounding Boulder Bus Station

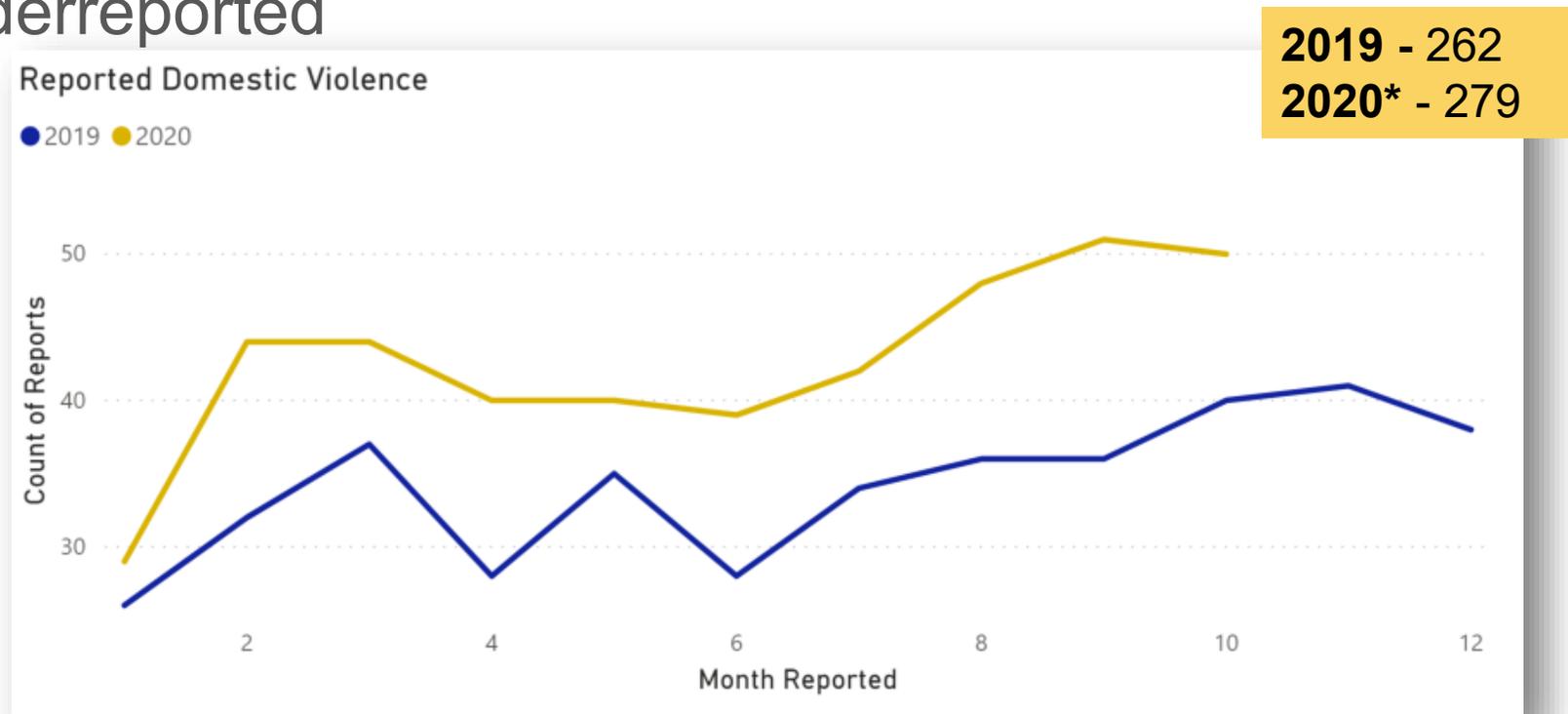


# Focused Projects



# Problem-Solving: *Increase in Domestic Violence*

- Evidence-based crime reduction projects
- Often underreported



*\*Data as of 11/1/20 where a statue/enhancer is listed as Domestic Violence*



# Domestic Violence: What are We Doing?

- Lethality Assessment
  - Process of identifying DV victims who are in serious physical danger
- Connect victims with SPAN (Safehouse Progressive Alliance of Nonviolence) OR BPD Victim Advocates to provide services and resources.
- Co-Response on serious cases of domestic violence
- Officers currently being trained on lethality assessment

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY ASSESSMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee #: \_\_\_\_\_ Case Report #: \_\_\_\_\_

Victim: \_\_\_\_\_ Offender: \_\_\_\_\_ Charge Level:  Felony  Misdemeanor  No Charges

**A "Yes" response to any Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.**

- Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Do you think he/she might try to kill you?  Yes  No  Not Answ.

**Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of the questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.**

- Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Has he/she ever tried to choke you?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Is he/she employed?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?  Yes  No  Not Answ.
- Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?  Yes  No  Not Answ.

**An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.**

Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

- Victim screened in according to the protocol
- Victim screened in based on the belief of officer
- Victim did not screen in

We work closely with *Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)*, which is an organization that provides free and confidential advocacy and therapy services in our community. Because I am so concerned with your safety, I would like to share your contact information with SPAN to follow up with you.  Yes  No

Victim Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

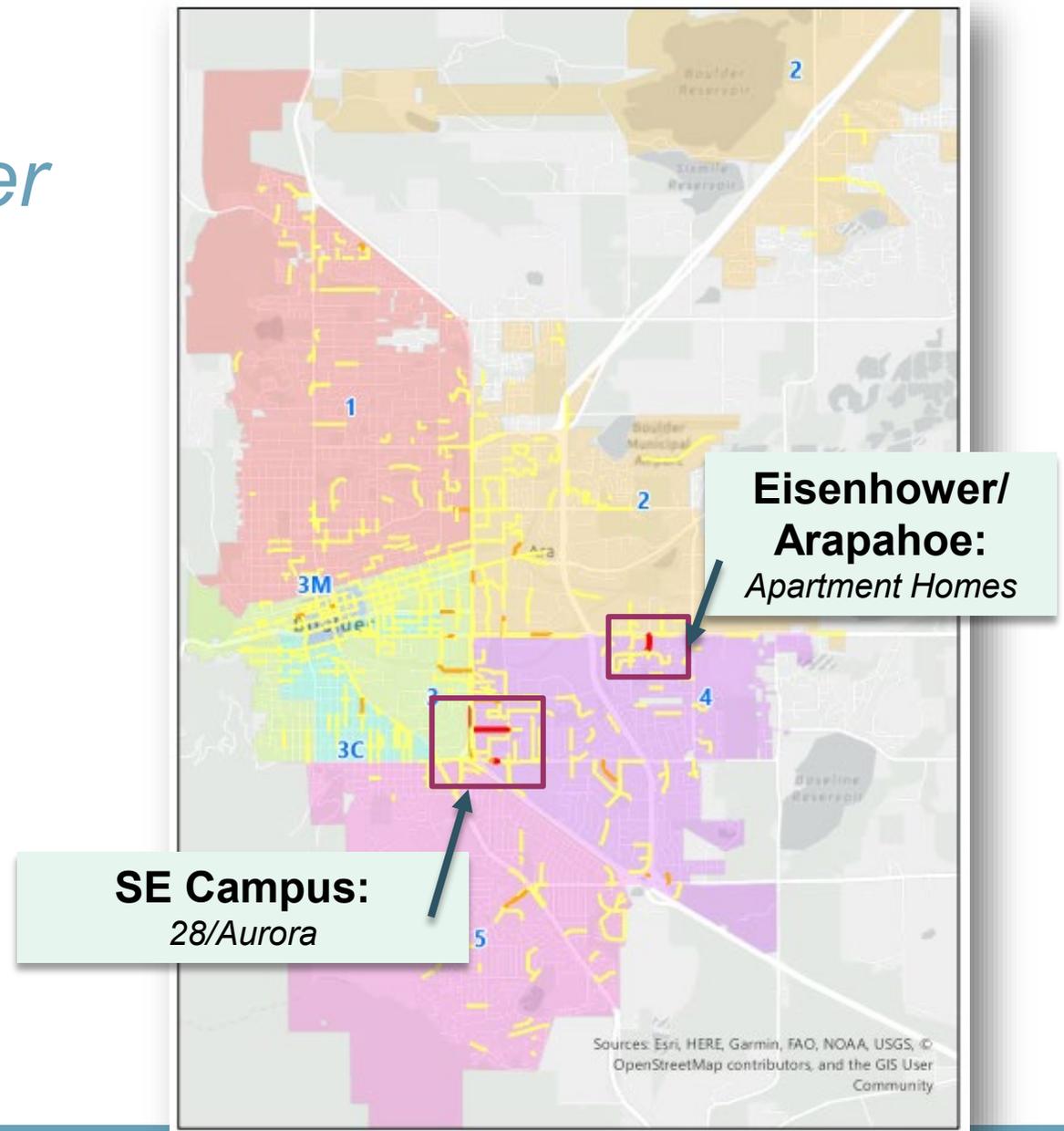
Note: The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk a person faces are based on the best available research on factors associated with lethal violence by a current or former intimate partner. However, each situation may present unique factors that influence risk for lethal violence that are not captured by this screen. Although most victims who screen "positive" or "high danger" would not be expected to be killed, these victims face much higher risk than that or other victims of intimate partner violence.

Boulder Police Department | 1805 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Boulder, CO 80301 | (303) 441-3300 | Form Update: 11/2020



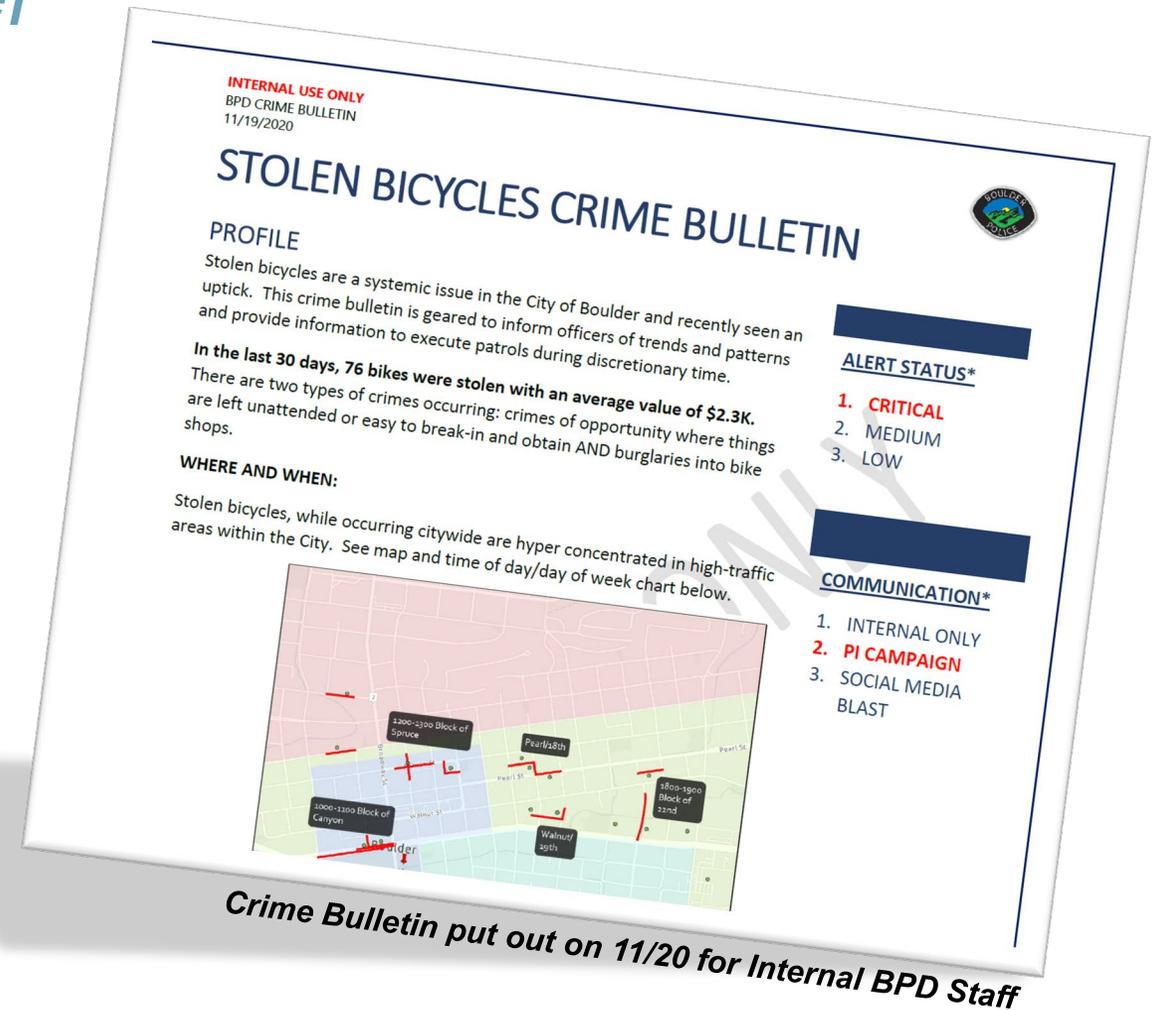
# Problem-Solving: *Stolen Bicycles Across Boulder*

- **995** Stolen Bicycles This Year!
- Total Value in 2020 Stolen - **\$1.83M**
- Average Value of Bicycle - **\$1.8K**



# Problem-Solving: *Stolen Bicycles Across Boulder*

- Identified Hot Spot Locations
  - Looking at a street segment level
- Crime Bulletins
- Bicycle Registration Stickers
- Environmental Assessments



# Problem-Solving: *Stolen Bicycles Across Boulder*

The screenshot shows the Bike Index website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Bike Index logo (a shield with 'BIKE INDEX' and 'the non-profit bike registry'), the text 'BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT', and links for 'SEARCH BIKES', 'BLOG', 'DONATE', 'ABOUT', and 'HELP'. Below the navigation bar is a search section titled 'SEARCH FOR NEARBY STOLEN BIKES'. It features two input fields: 'Search bike descriptions' and 'Search for serial number'. To the right of these fields is a blue search button with a magnifying glass icon. Below the input fields, there is a filter for distance: 'within 100 miles of Erie, CO, US'. A horizontal menu below the filter shows four categories: 'Stolen within 100 miles of Erie, CO, US (2k+)', 'Stolen anywhere (10k+)', 'Not marked stolen (10k+)', and 'All'. The first category is highlighted in black. Below the menu is a list of search results. The first result is for a '2019 Specialized Sirrus Expert Carbon' bicycle. It includes the serial number 'WSBC922003391N', primary colors 'Green and Blue', and details: 'Stolen Nov 23rd, 2pm' and 'Location Denver, CO - US'. A white bicycle icon is shown to the left of the text.



# Problem-Solving: *Stolen Bicycles Across Boulder*

- New Legal Advisor to provide guidance on how to stop when suspected stolen bicycle

**BOULDER POLICE** **LEGAL BULLETIN** **20-1**

24 NOV 2020

### CONCEPTS & DEFINITIONS

- BURDENS OF PROOF
- CONSENSUAL CONTACT
- REASONABLE SUSPICION
- INVESTIGATORY DETENTION

### CASE LAW

- Commonwealth v. Harris, 93 Mass. App. Ct. 56 (2018)
- U.S. v. Lewis, No. 18-4487 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. Decided Dec. 26, 2019 Unpublished)

Note: Court holdings vary between jurisdictions. Seek advice from your Legal Advisor or prosecutor regarding questions on specific cases.

### BURDENS OF PROOF

| BURDENS OF PROOF STANDARDS    |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Beyond a Reasonable Doubt     | Requires eliminating all reasonable doubt, "Moral certainty" |
| Clear and Convincing Evidence | High probability   |
| Preponderance of the Evidence | More likely than not (~50%)                                  |
| Probable Cause                | Specific articulable facts                                   |
| Reasonable Suspicion          | Reasonable basis to believe                                  |

### CONSENSUAL CONTACT

An officer does not need a level of suspicion to engage in a **consensual contact** with a citizen. A citizen may walk away at any point during a consensual contact. However, to stop the citizen from walking away, the officer must have reasonable suspicion that the citizen has committed or is committing a crime.

### REASONABLE SUSPICION

**Reasonable suspicion** requires the officer articulate specific facts "and rational inferences drawn from those facts" to support that a person has committed or is committing a crime. Reasonable suspicion is more than a hunch, but less than probable cause. If an officer has reasonable suspicion, Colorado law requires the citizen to give their name, address, an ID if they have it, and an explanation of their actions.

### INVESTIGATORY DETENTION

The Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution permits officers to "stop and briefly detain a person for investigative purposes if the officer has a reasonable suspicion supported by articulable facts that criminal activity may be afoot[.]"

<sup>1</sup> U.S. v. Latorre, 893 F.3d 744, 750 (10th Cir. 2018)(quoting U.S. v. McHugh, 639 F.3d 1250, 1255 (10th Cir. 2011)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. v. Serna, 806 F.App'x 654(10th Cir. 2020)(quoting U.S. v. Neff, 681 F.3d 1134, 1137-38(10th Cir. 2012)

20-1



# Forthcoming Stolen Bicycles Story Map/Dashboard

## Stolen Bicycles in Boulder

The City of Boulder has a systemic problem with stolen bicycles and seeks community engagement to help prevent this crime!

Boulder Police Department | Draft



# FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES



# Forthcoming

Q4

- Relaunch Data Connection to City's Open Data Portal
- Chief's Town Hall – Starting December 10, 4-5pm

Q1

- Workload Analysis
- Kick-Off of Records Management System Implementation
- Kick-Off of CopDat, Data Aggregation Platform for BPD
- BPD Data Transparency Site Launched

