



# VIOLENT CRIME IN THE U.S.

A CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS ANALYSIS

(Updated Sept. 29, 2020)

By Kenny Lo, Eugenio Weigend, Sarah Figgatt, and Ed Chung

# Introduction

President Trump is reprising his strategy to scare the American public by making hyperbolic claims about violent crime in the United States – while he is president – claiming that cities are “plagued by violent crime.”

A Center for American Progress analysis, however, shows that the violent crime rate is decreasing in many large U.S. cities across the country.

# Key Findings

- The violent crime rate has decreased in more than half of the 25 largest U.S. cities from 2019 to 2020 (Slide 5).
- The violent crime rate remains low in the vast majority of the analyzed cities compared to the rate over the past 25 years. And increases are similar to previous year-over-year fluctuations (Slides 6-33).
- In the three cities that Attorney General Bill Barr Labeled as “jurisdictions permitting violence and destruction of property,” all three cities are experiencing a decrease in the violent crime rate compared to 2019 (Slide 34).
- In the five largest U.S. cities\* that reported an increase in homicides from 2019 to 2020, the increase began prior to the protests against police violence that started in June (Slides 35-38). Relevant data were not available for Los Angeles.

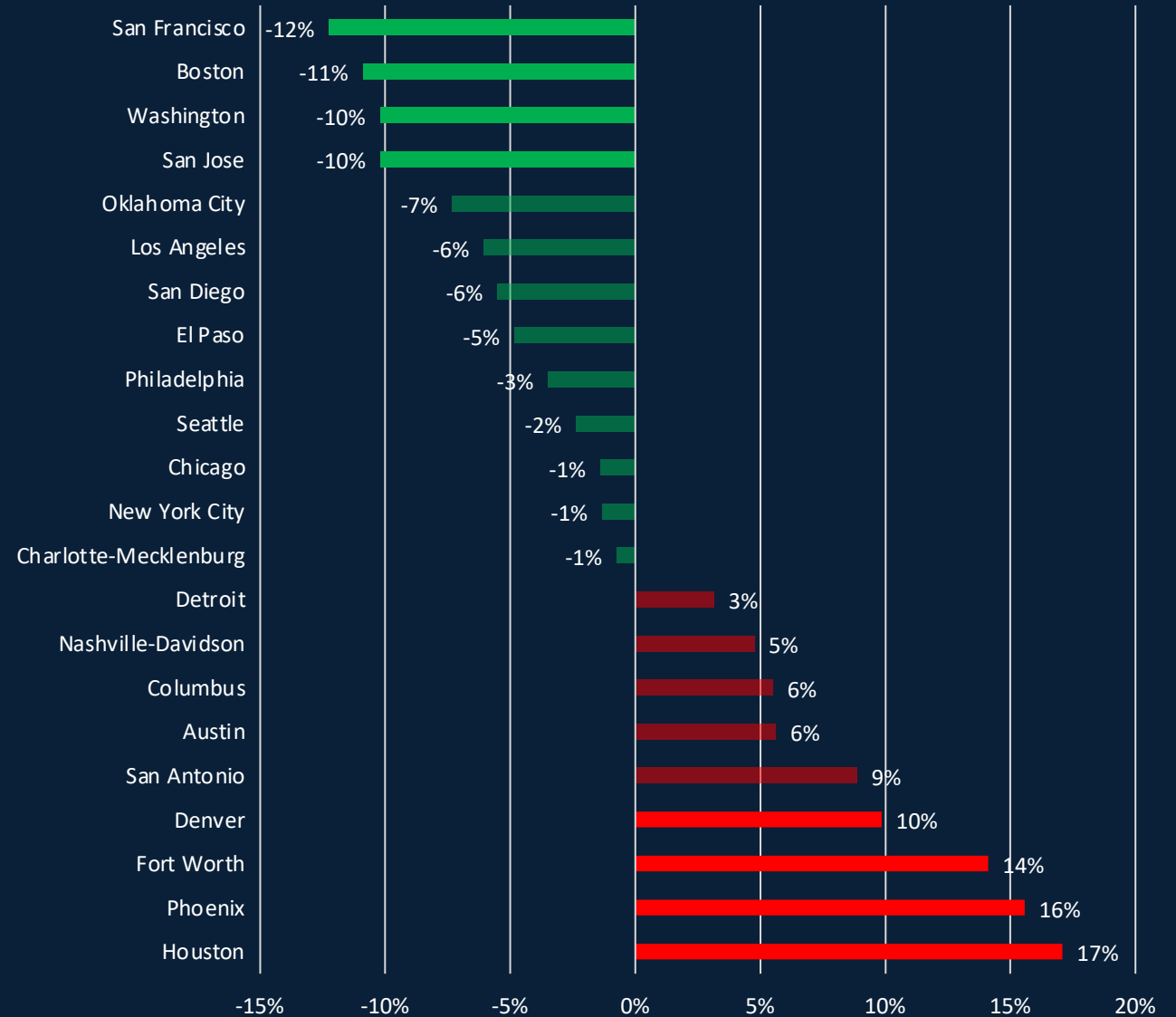
# Methodology

- The largest 25 U.S. cities were selected based on City and Town Population Totals: 2010-2019 from the U.S. Census. Some cities were omitted in certain analyses due to incomplete data.
- Data on violent crime were obtained primarily from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's *Crime in the United States* reports. They were supplemented by official city or police department sources where FBI data were unavailable.
- The violent crime rate in each city is expressed in the number of incidents per 100,000 residents. The population of each city is based on U.S. Census estimates.
- Data are subject to revision as they are often audited and updated.

# Percent Change in the Violent Crime Rate 2019 – 2020 (Jan – Jun)

We obtained semiannual violent crime rate data for 2019 and 2020 for 22 of the 25 largest U.S. cities. More than half reported a decrease in the violent crime rate during that period, even as homicides increased. “Violent crime,” as defined by the FBI, includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

% Change Violent Crime Rate, 2019-2020 (Jan-Jun)



## Largest 25 U.S. Cities, 1995 – 2020

We analyzed the violent crime rate over the past 25 years in each of the 25 largest US cities (and four other cities of interest) which showed that the ***violent crime rate remains low*** in the vast majority of the analyzed cities compared to the rate over the past 25 years. And increases are similar to previous year-over-year fluctuations.

1. Austin
2. Boston
3. Charlotte-Mecklenburg
4. Chicago
5. Columbus
6. Dallas
7. Denver
8. Detroit
9. El Paso
10. Fort Worth
11. Houston
12. Indianapolis<sup>^</sup>
13. Jacksonville<sup>^</sup>
14. Los Angeles
15. Nashville-Davidson
16. New York City
17. Oklahoma City
18. Philadelphia
19. Phoenix
20. San Antonio
21. San Diego
22. San Francisco
23. San Jose
24. Seattle
25. Washington
- \* *Baltimore*
- \* *Louisville-Jefferson*
- \* *Milwaukee*
- \* *Portland*

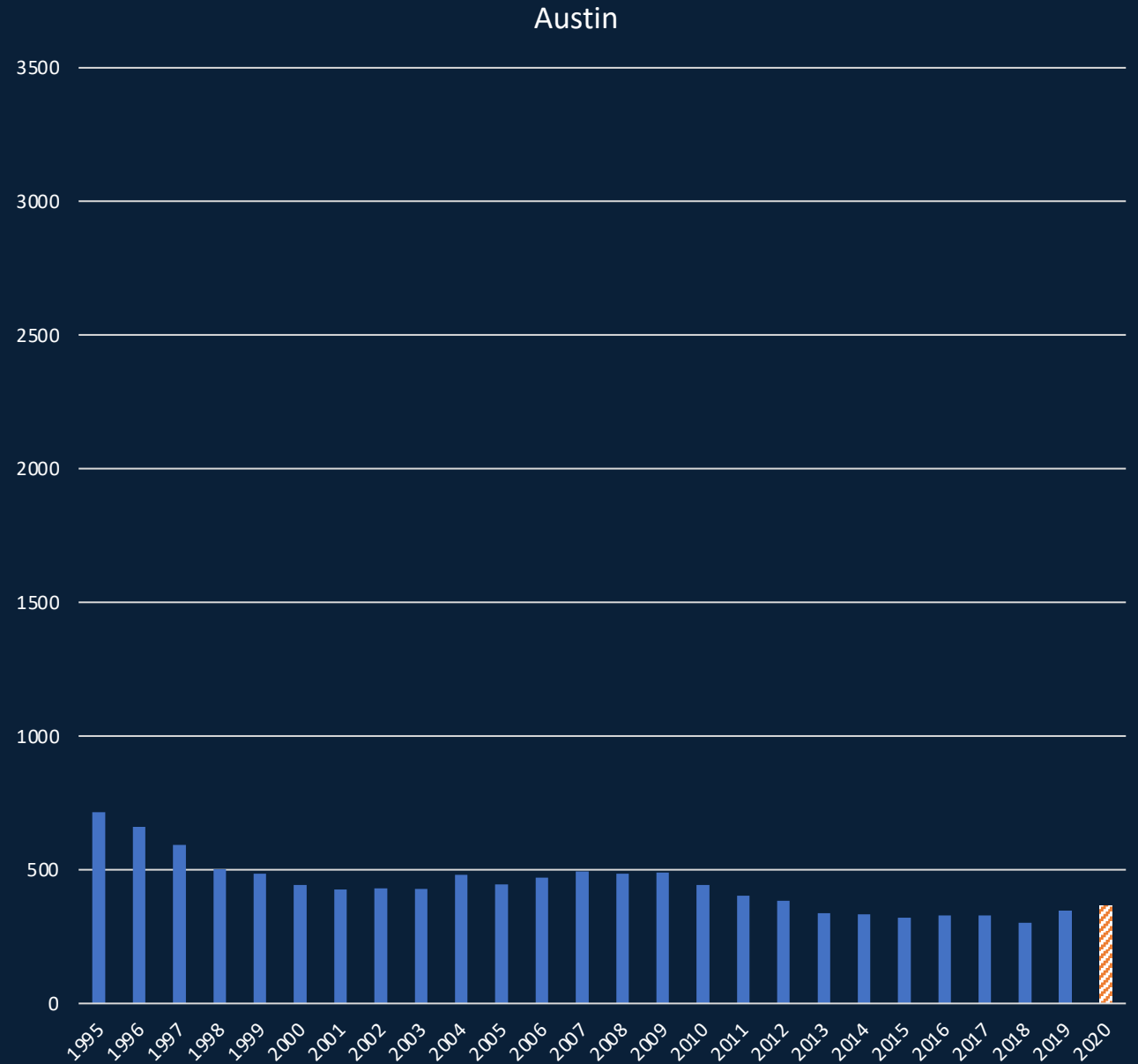
Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were obtained from official city or police department sources. Year-to-date data for 2020 were obtained from official city or police department sources or the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected violent crime rates for the remainder of the year. <sup>^</sup> Data for Indianapolis and Jacksonville were unavailable for this analysis.



# Austin (TX) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Austin Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 21, 2020 were obtained from the Austin Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year. Data on rape were not available in certain years and were excluded from all sources to ensure consistency across years.

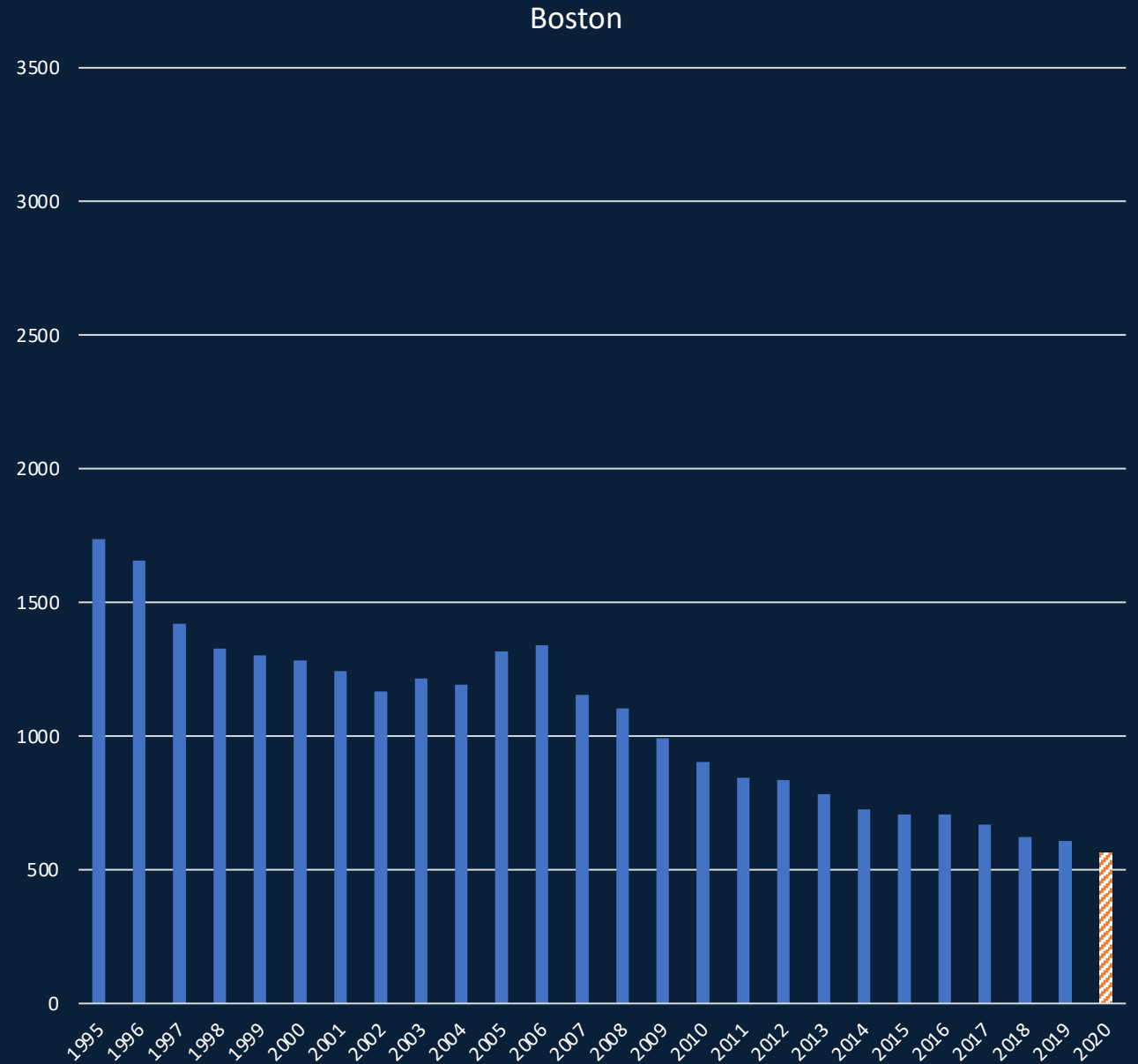




# Boston (MA) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Boston Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 20, 2020 were obtained from the Boston Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.





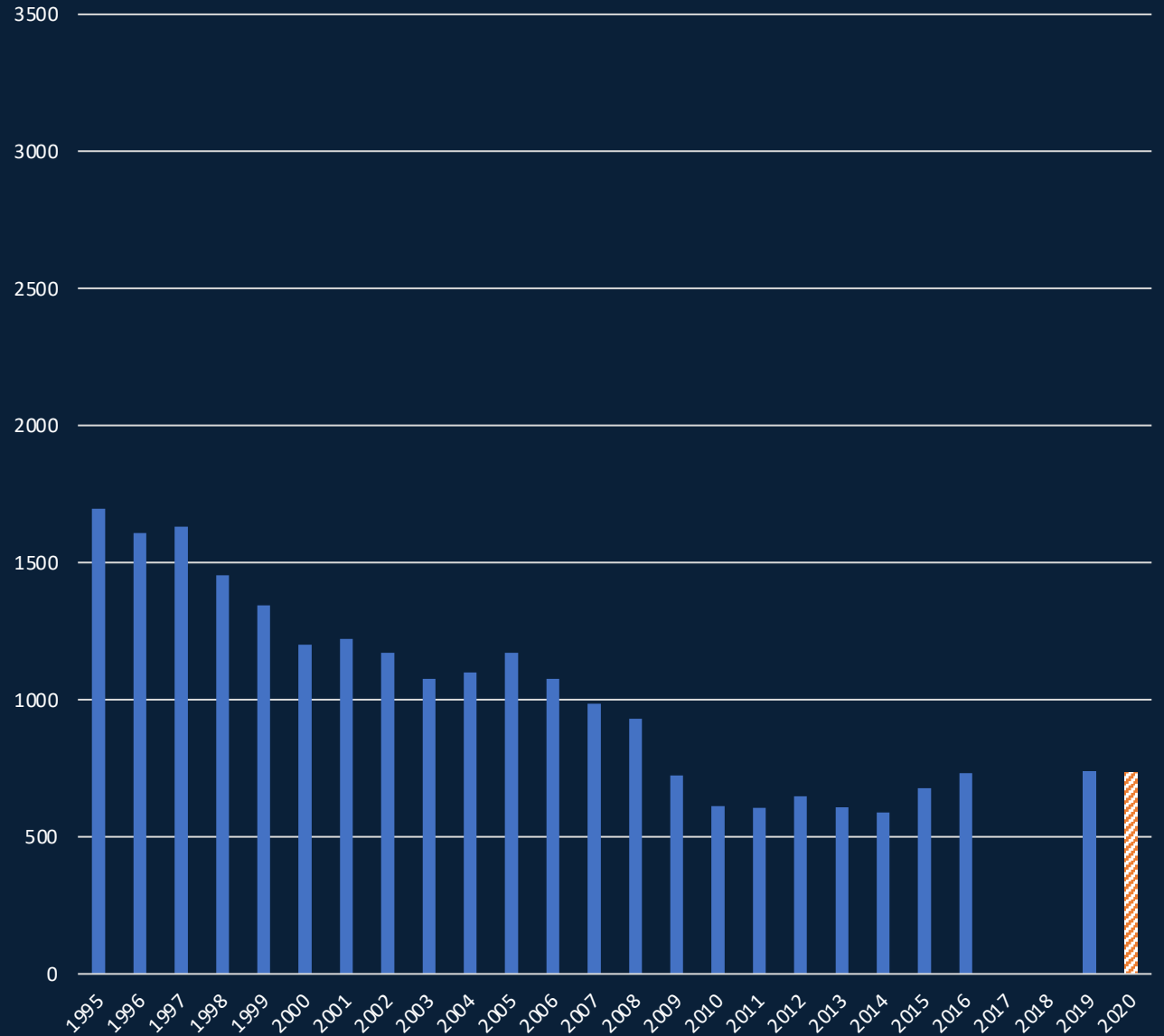


# Charlotte (NC) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 1997 and 1998 did not include rape and were excluded to ensure consistency across years). Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 were obtained from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

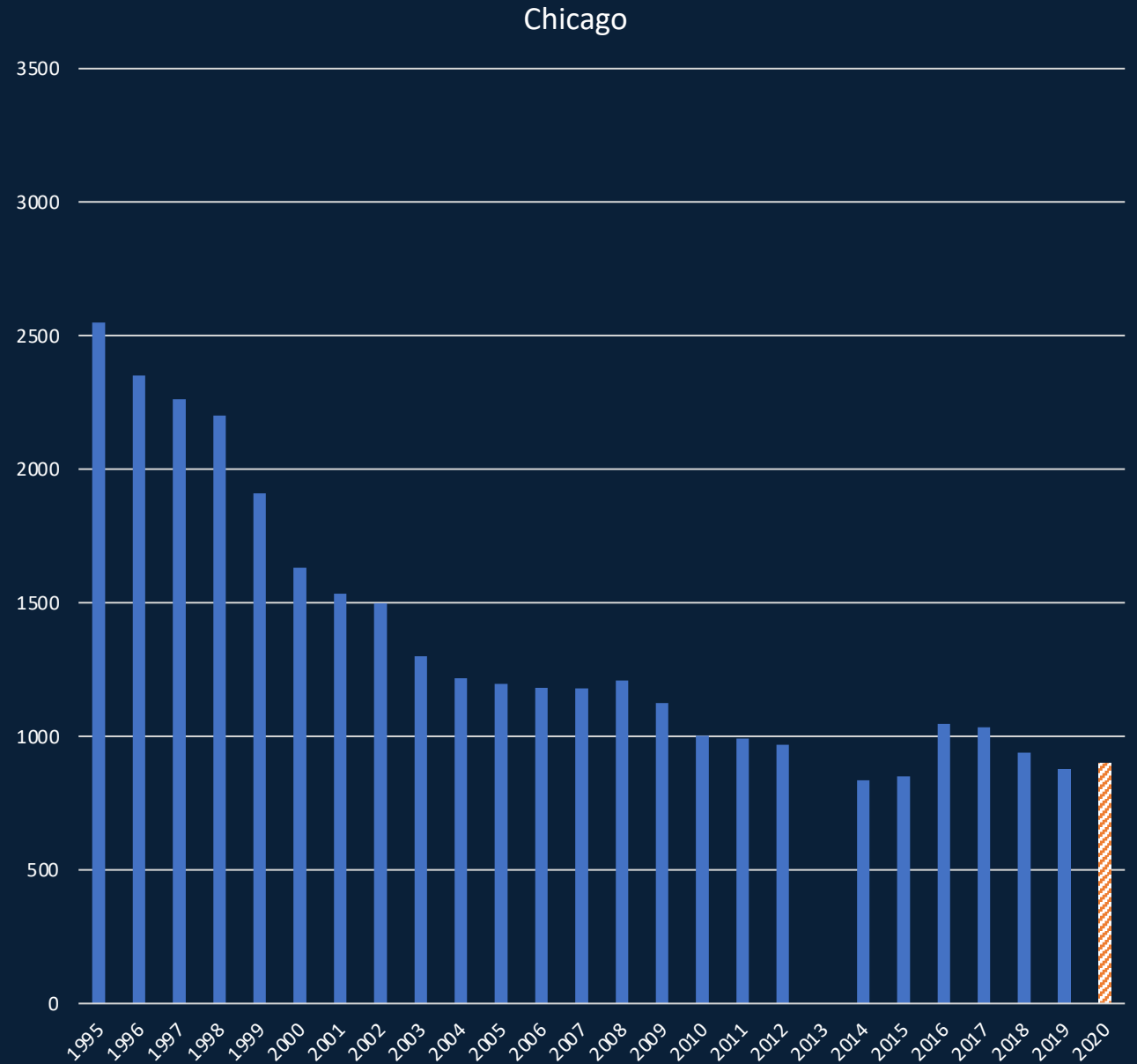




# Chicago (IL) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 2013 did not include aggravated assault and were excluded to ensure consistency across years). Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Chicago Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 9, 2020 were obtained from the Chicago Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year. Data on rape were not available in certain years and were excluded from all sources to ensure consistency across years.



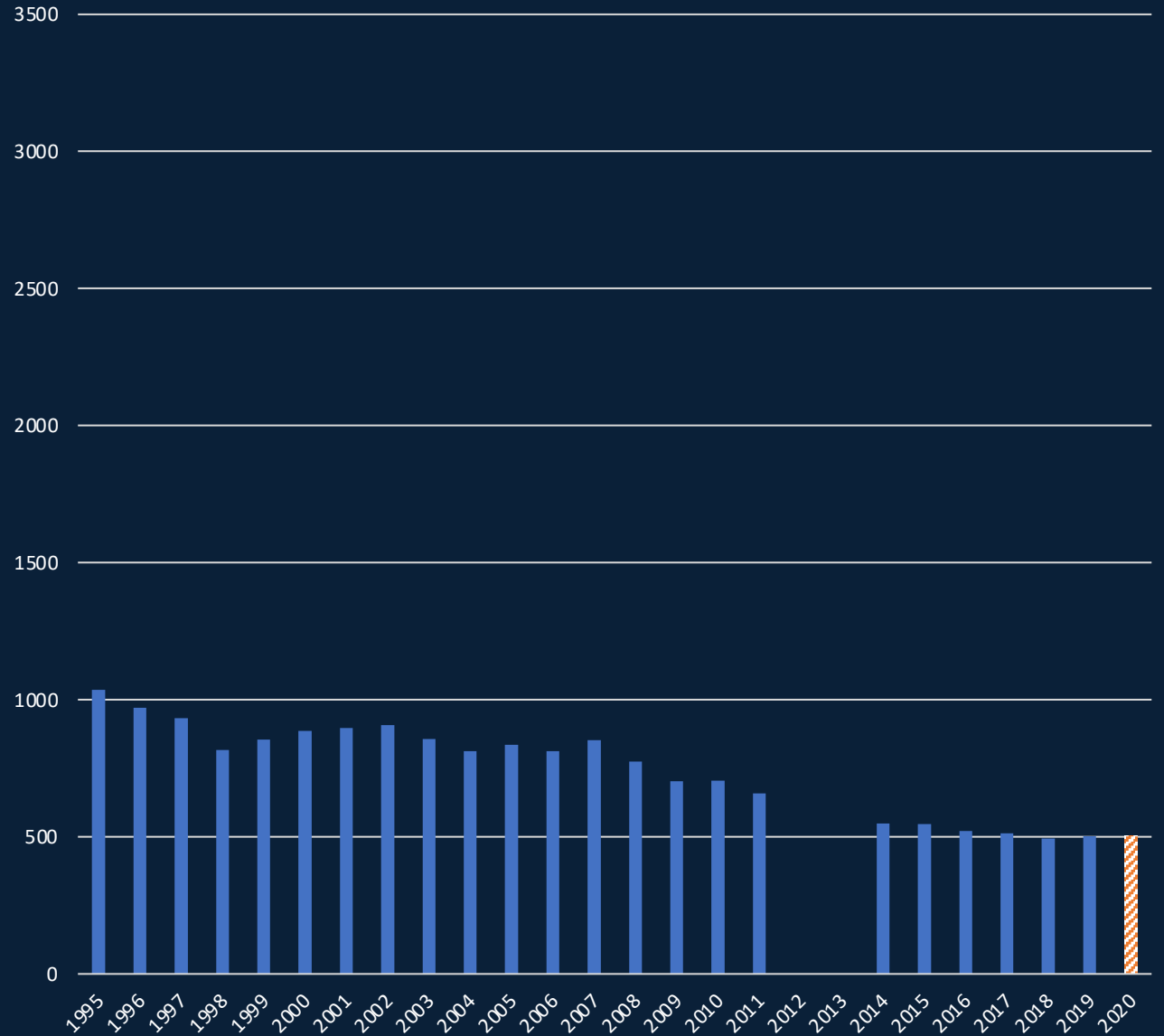


# Columbus (OH) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 2012 and 2013 were unavailable).

Year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 were obtained from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

Columbus

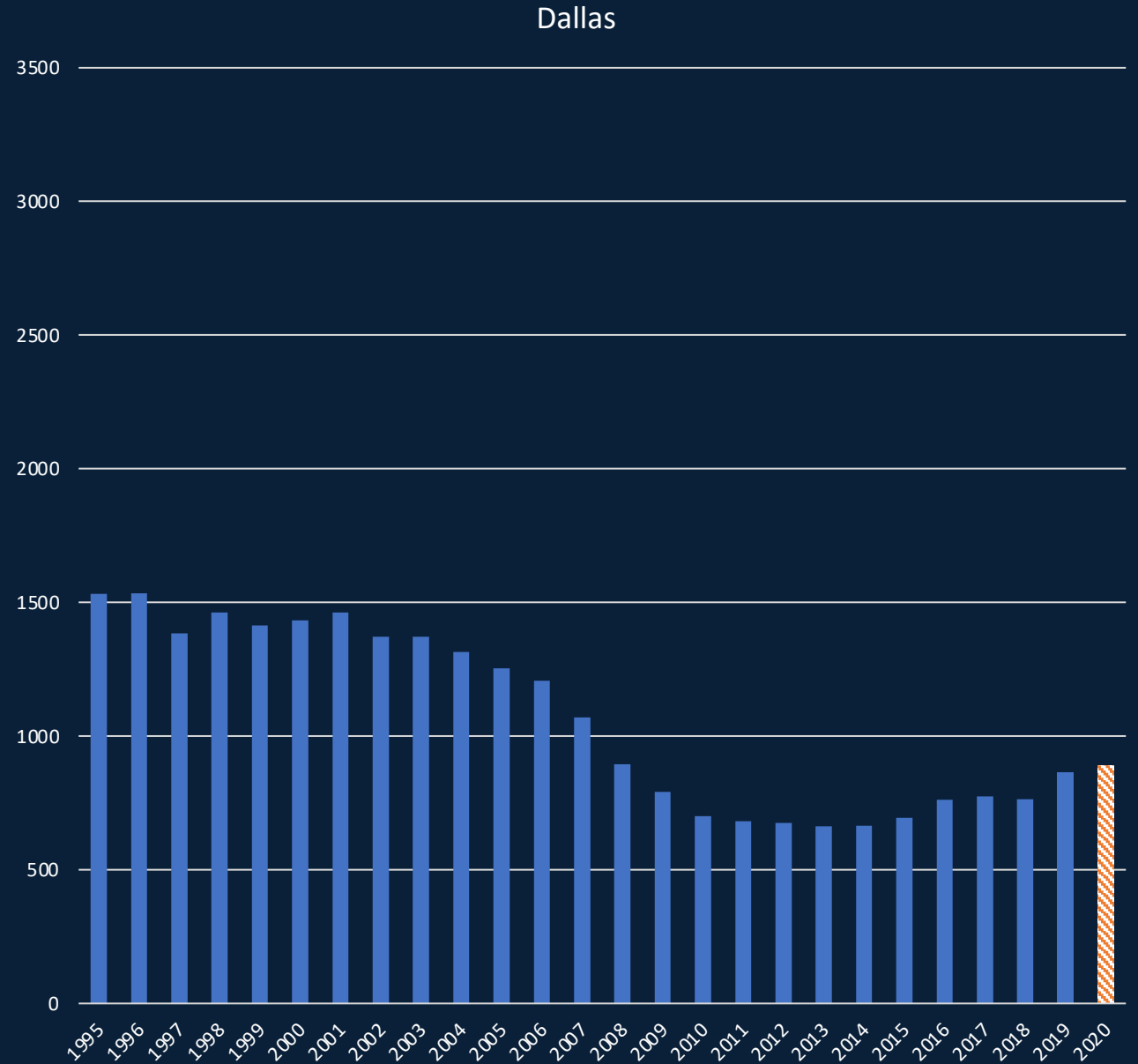




# Dallas (TX) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Dallas Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 16, 2020 were obtained from the Dallas Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

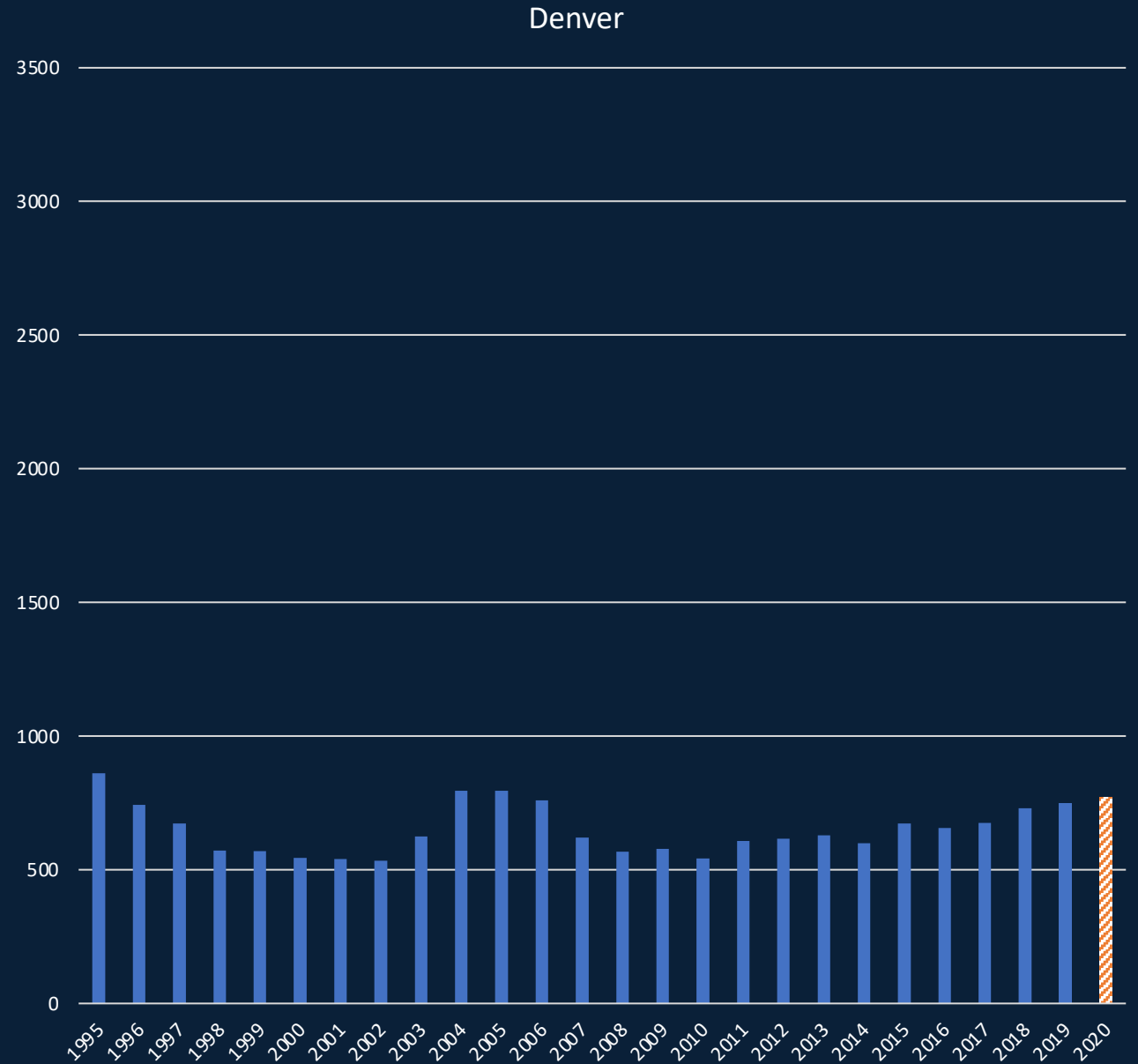




# Denver (CO) Violent Crime Rates 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the City of Denver and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through July 31, 2020 were obtained from the City of Denver. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

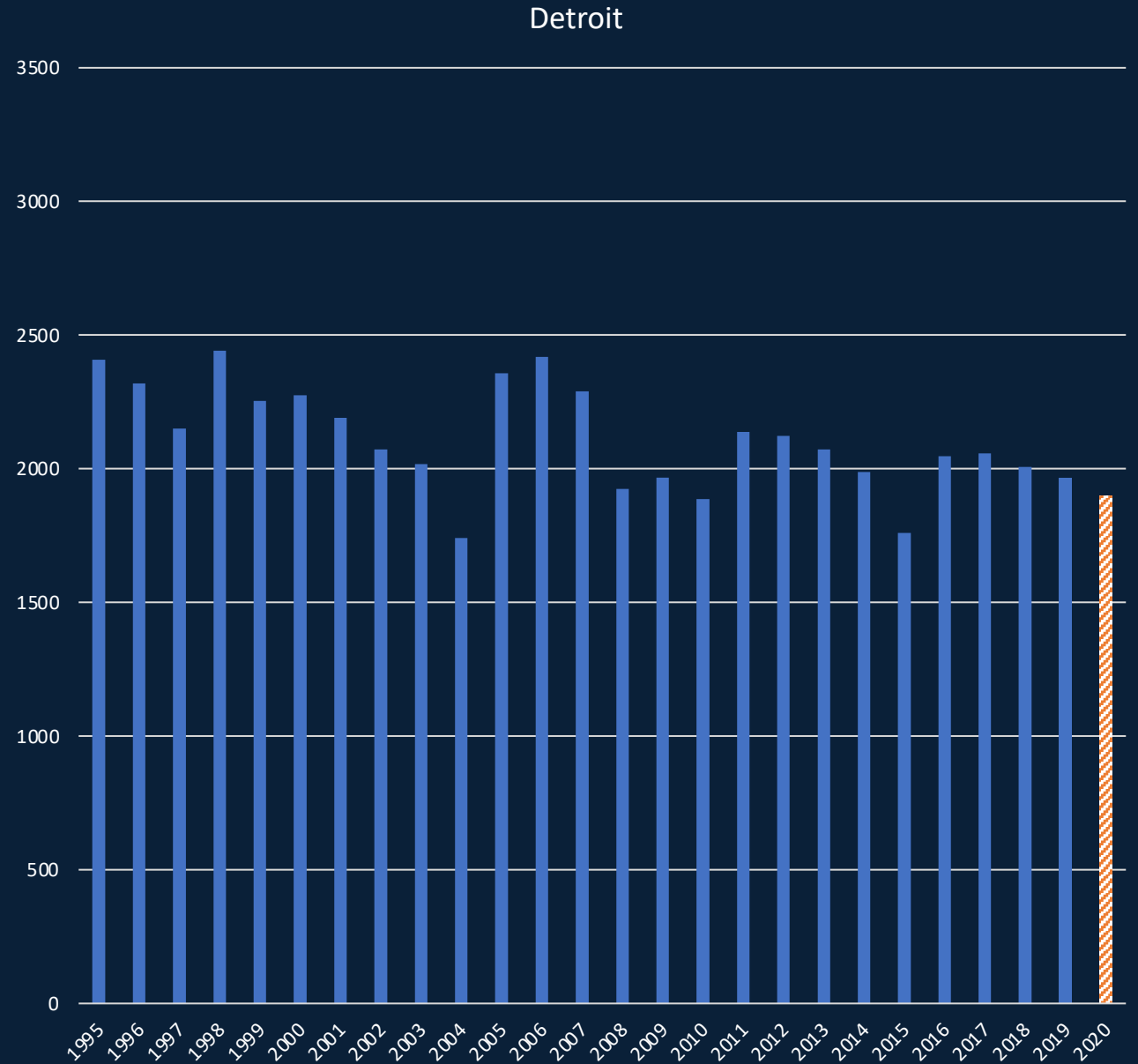




# Detroit (MI) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting Unit and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020. Estimates obtained from the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting Unit were lower mainly because it reported a lower number of aggravated/felonious assaults than the FBI.

For this reason, year-to-date data through September 16, 2020 obtained from the City of Detroit were replaced with year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

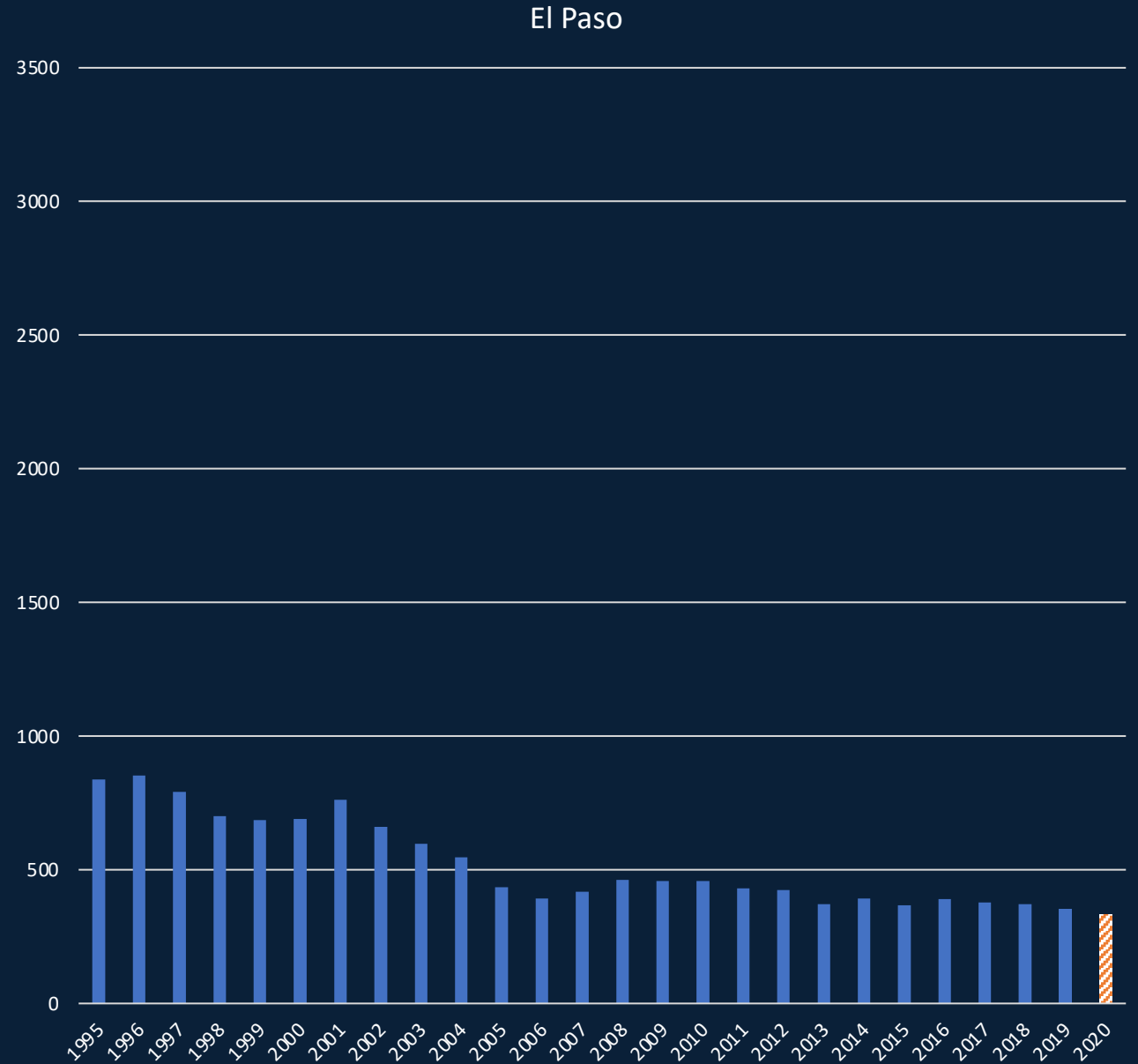




# El Paso (TX) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the El Paso Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 were obtained from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

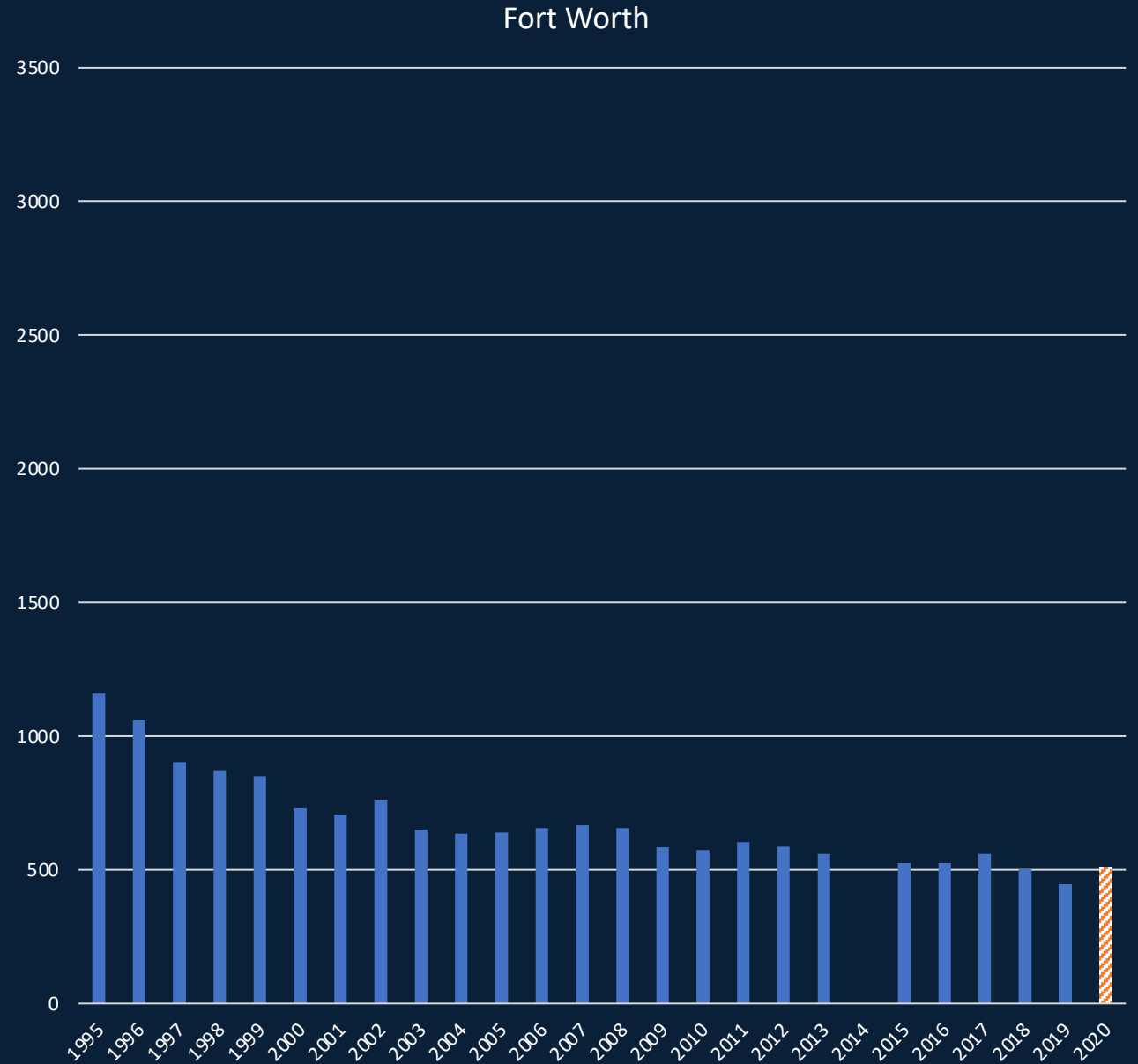




# Fort Worth (TX) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Fort Worth Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020. Estimates obtained from the Fort Worth Police Department were lower mainly because it reported a lower number of aggravated assaults than the FBI.

Year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 were obtained from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.



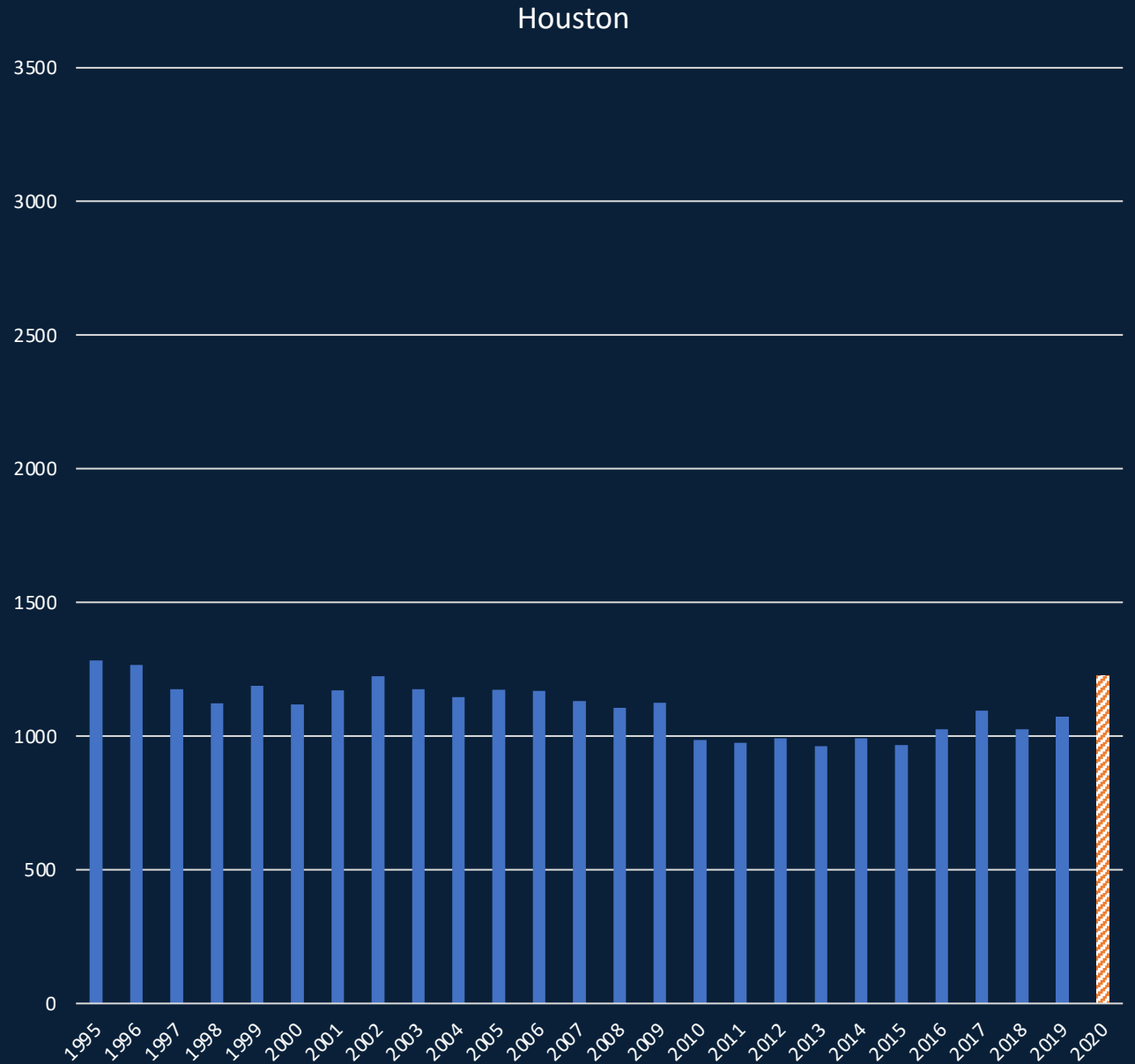




# Houston (TX) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Houston Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through August 31, 2020 were obtained from the Houston Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

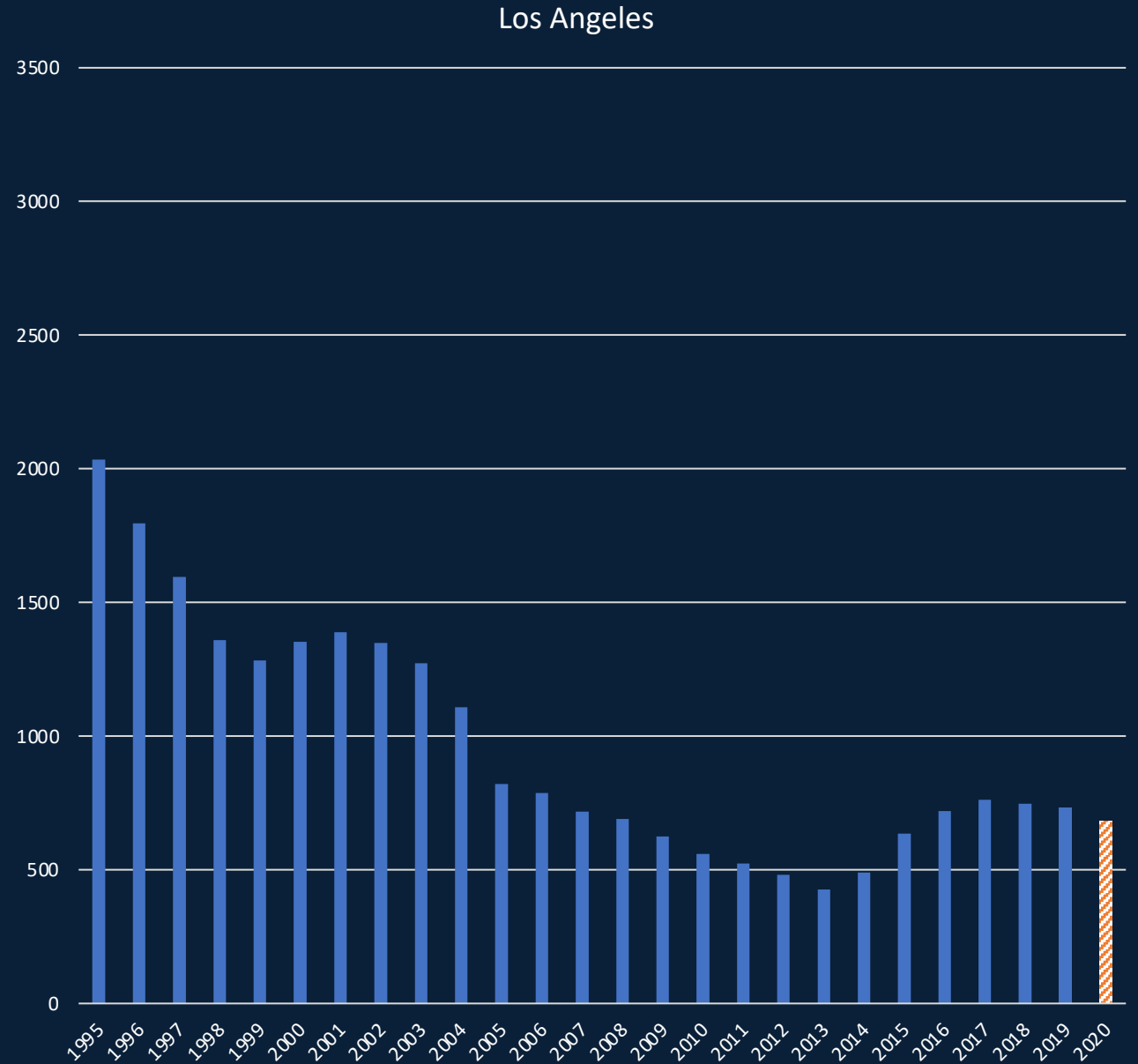




# Los Angeles (CA) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Los Angeles Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 12, 2020 were obtained from the Los Angeles Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.



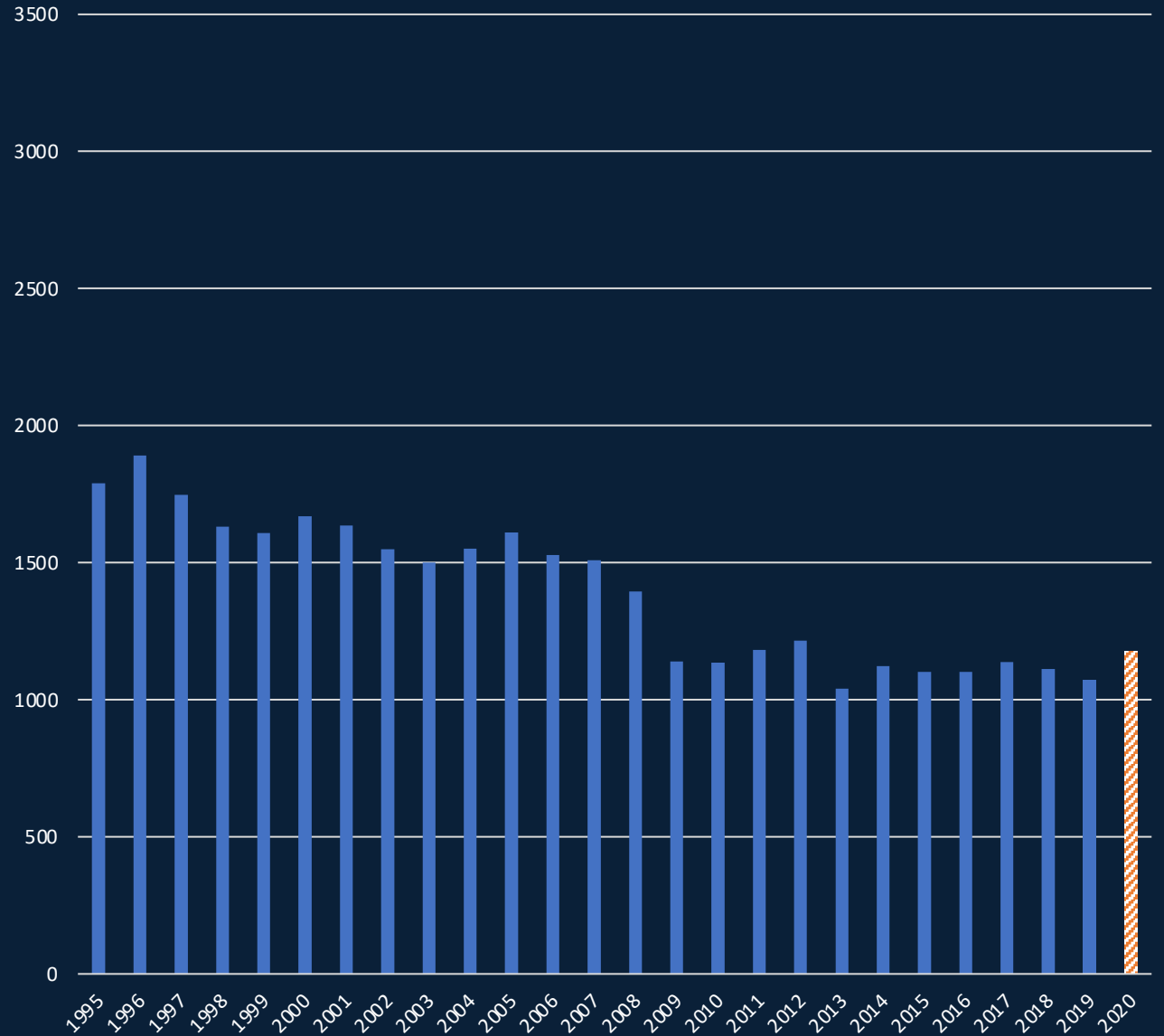


# Nashville (TN) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 19, 2020 were obtained from the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

Nashville-Davidson

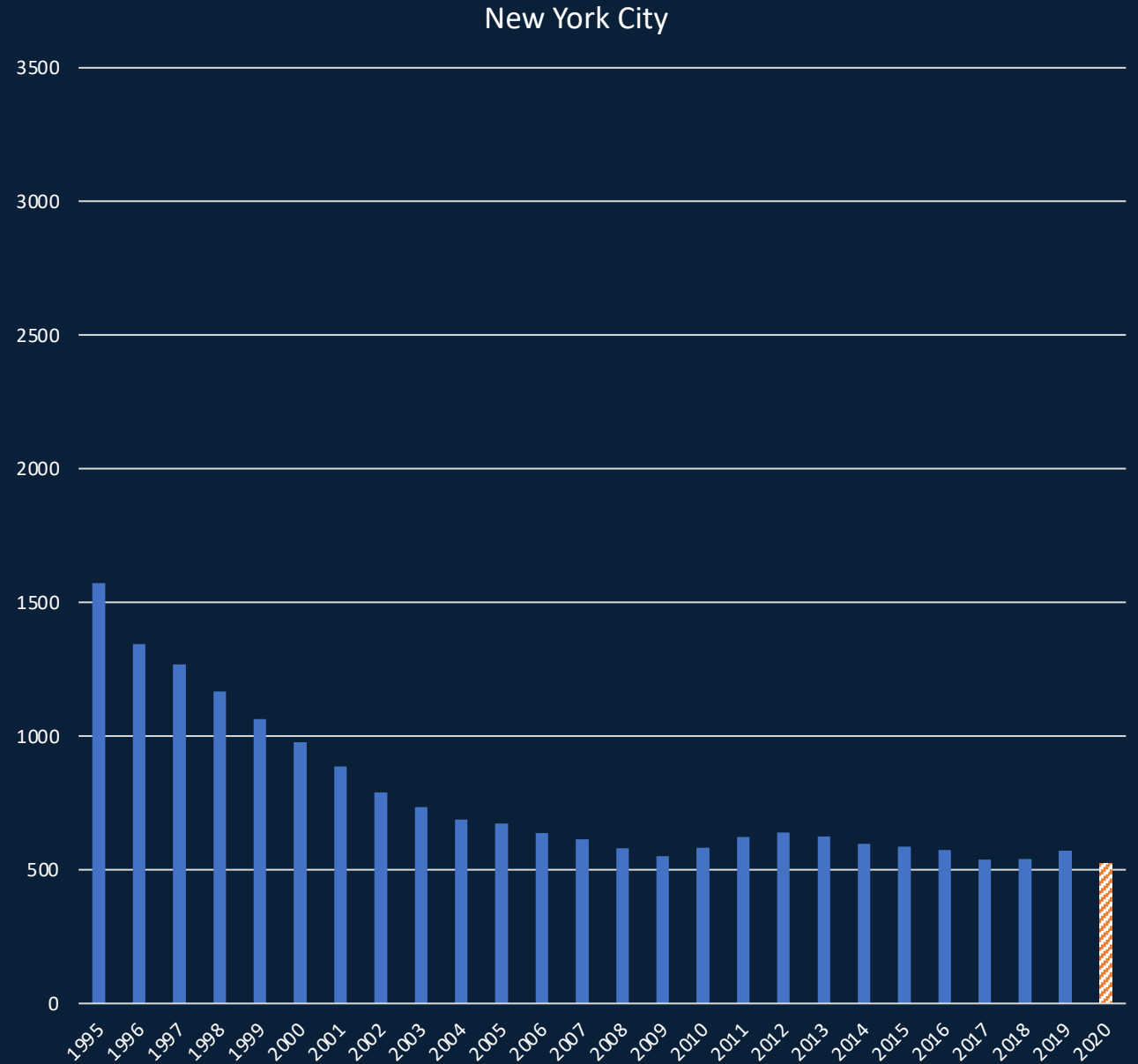




# New York City (NY) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the New York Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020. Estimates obtained from the New York Police Department were lower mainly because it reported a lower number of rapes and aggravated assaults than the FBI.

For this reason, year-to-date data through September 13, 2020 obtained from the New York Police Department were replaced with year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

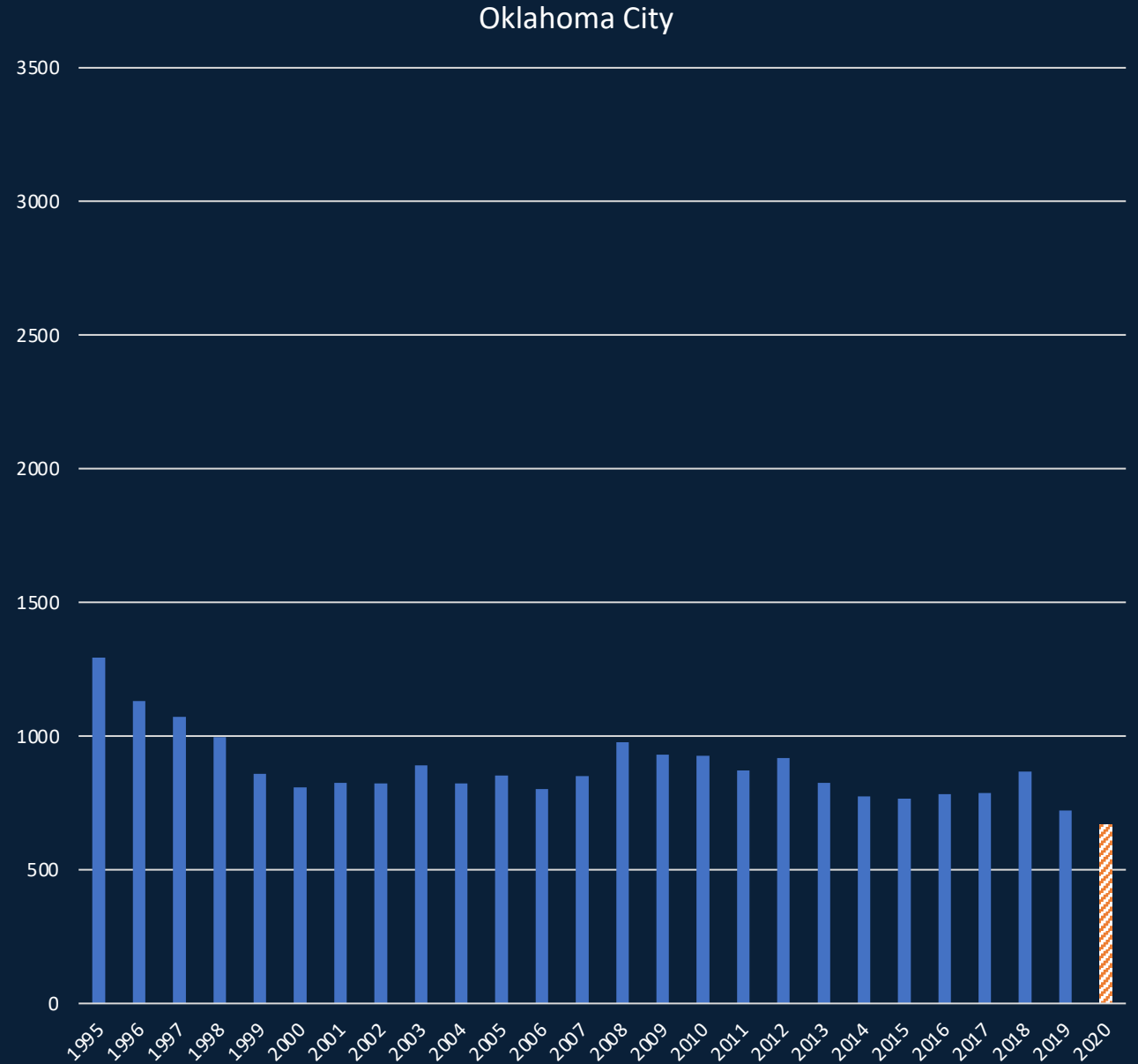




# Oklahoma City (OK) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year.

Year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 were obtained from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

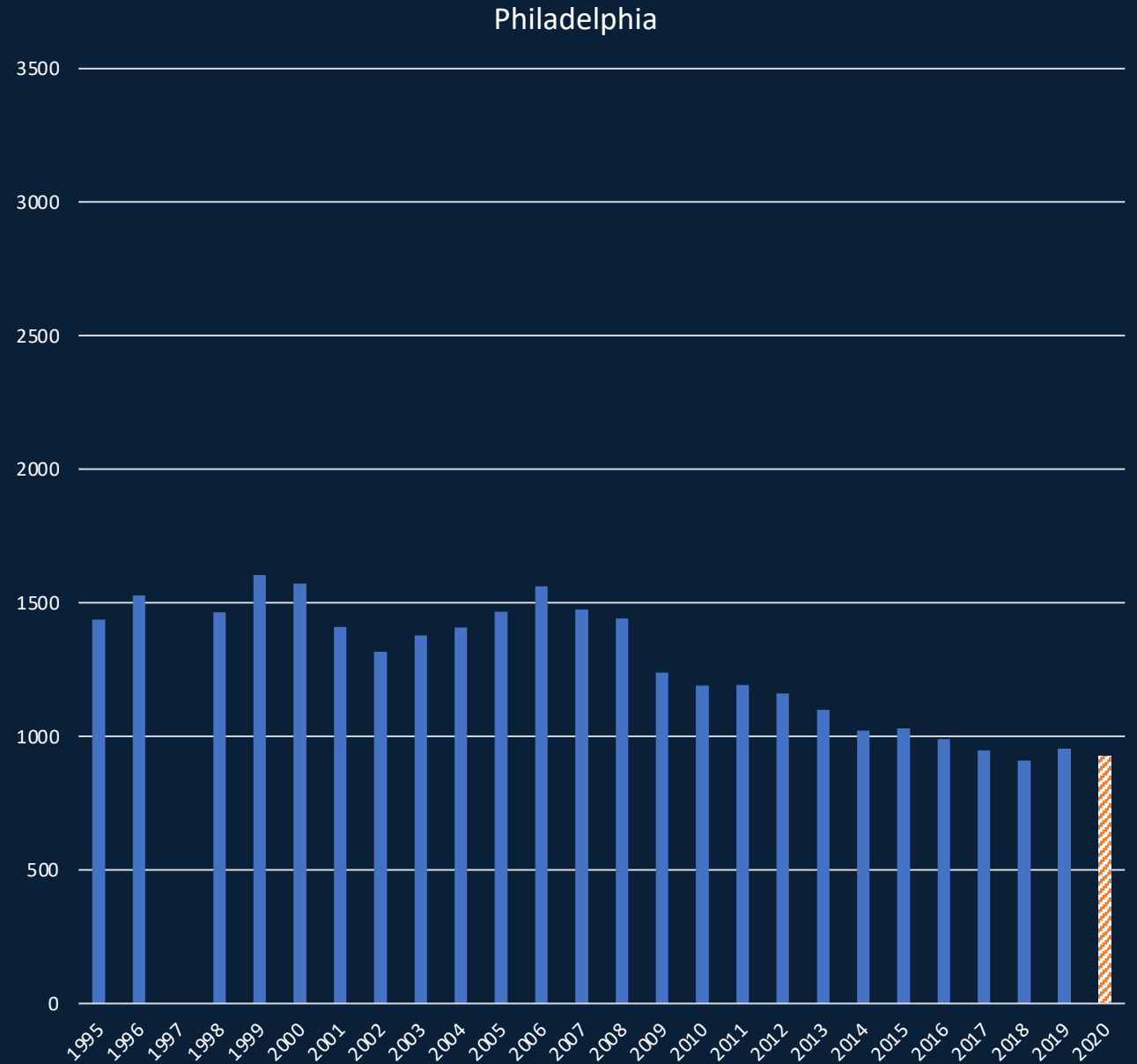




# Philadelphia (PA) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2018 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 1997 were unavailable). Data for 2019 were obtained from the Philadelphia Police Department because Philadelphia was not included in the FBI's latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 20, 2020 were obtained from the Philadelphia Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

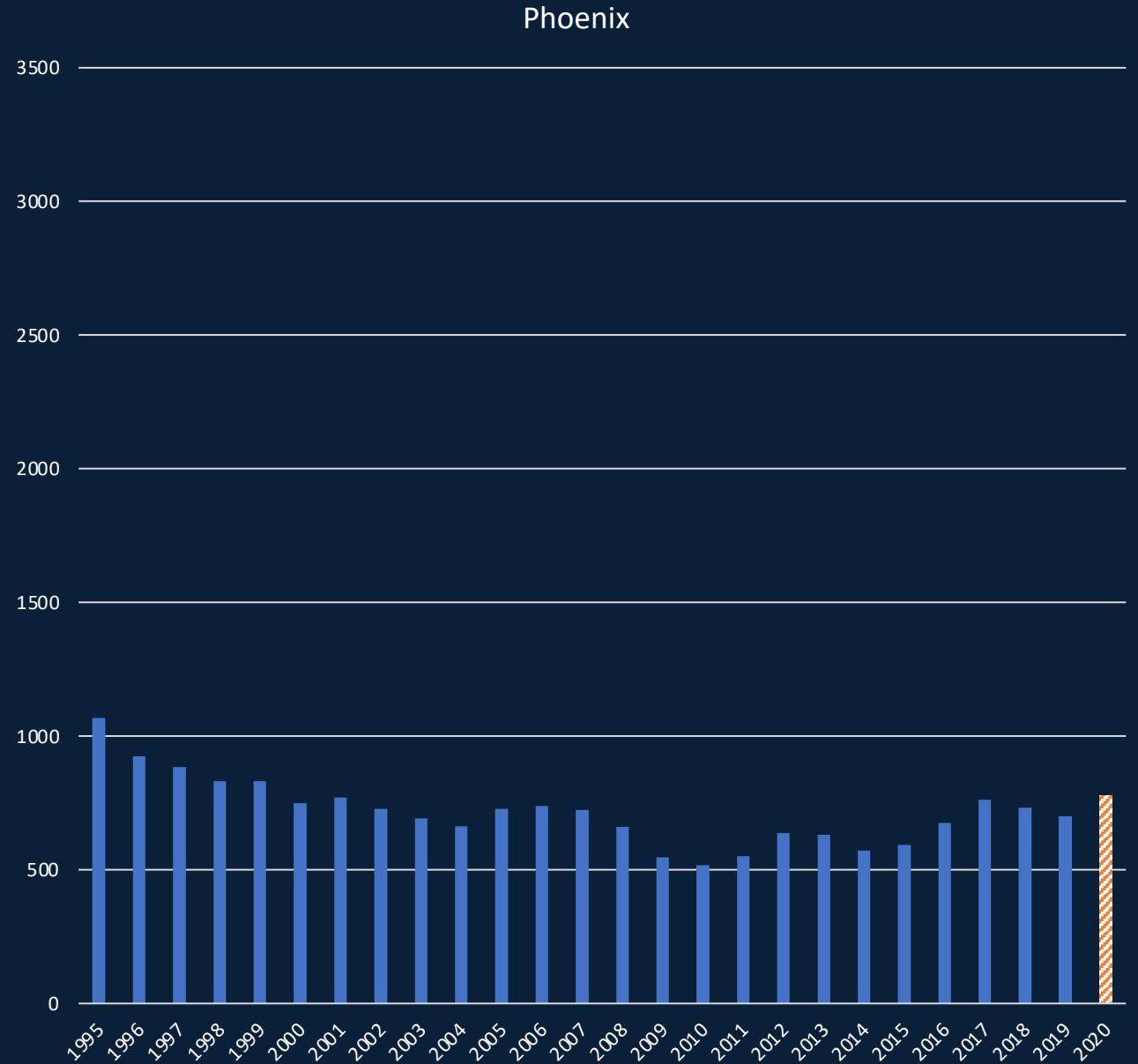




# Phoenix (AZ) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Phoenix Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 were obtained from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

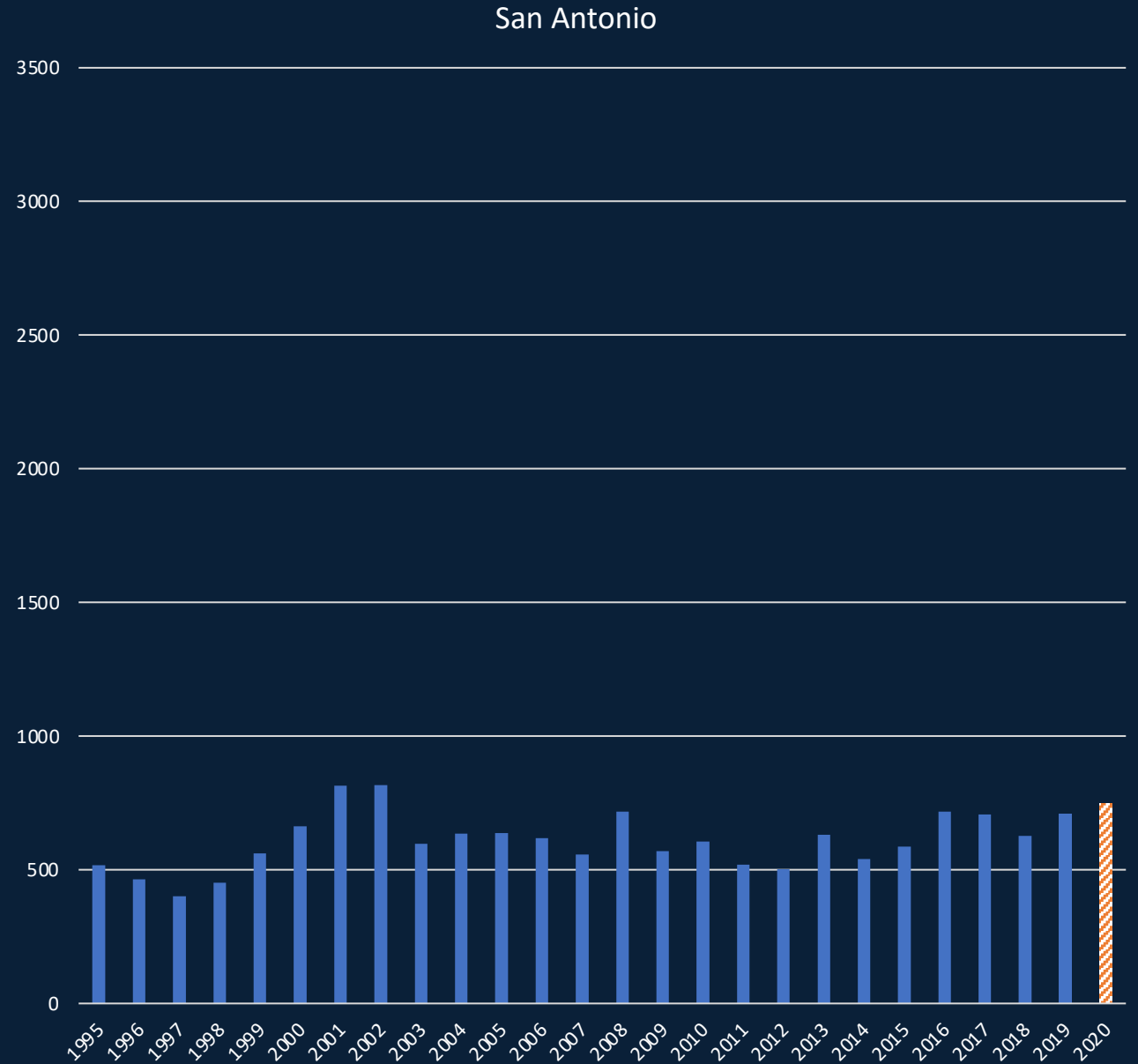




# San Antonio (TX) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the San Antonio Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through July 31, 2020 were obtained from the San Antonio Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.



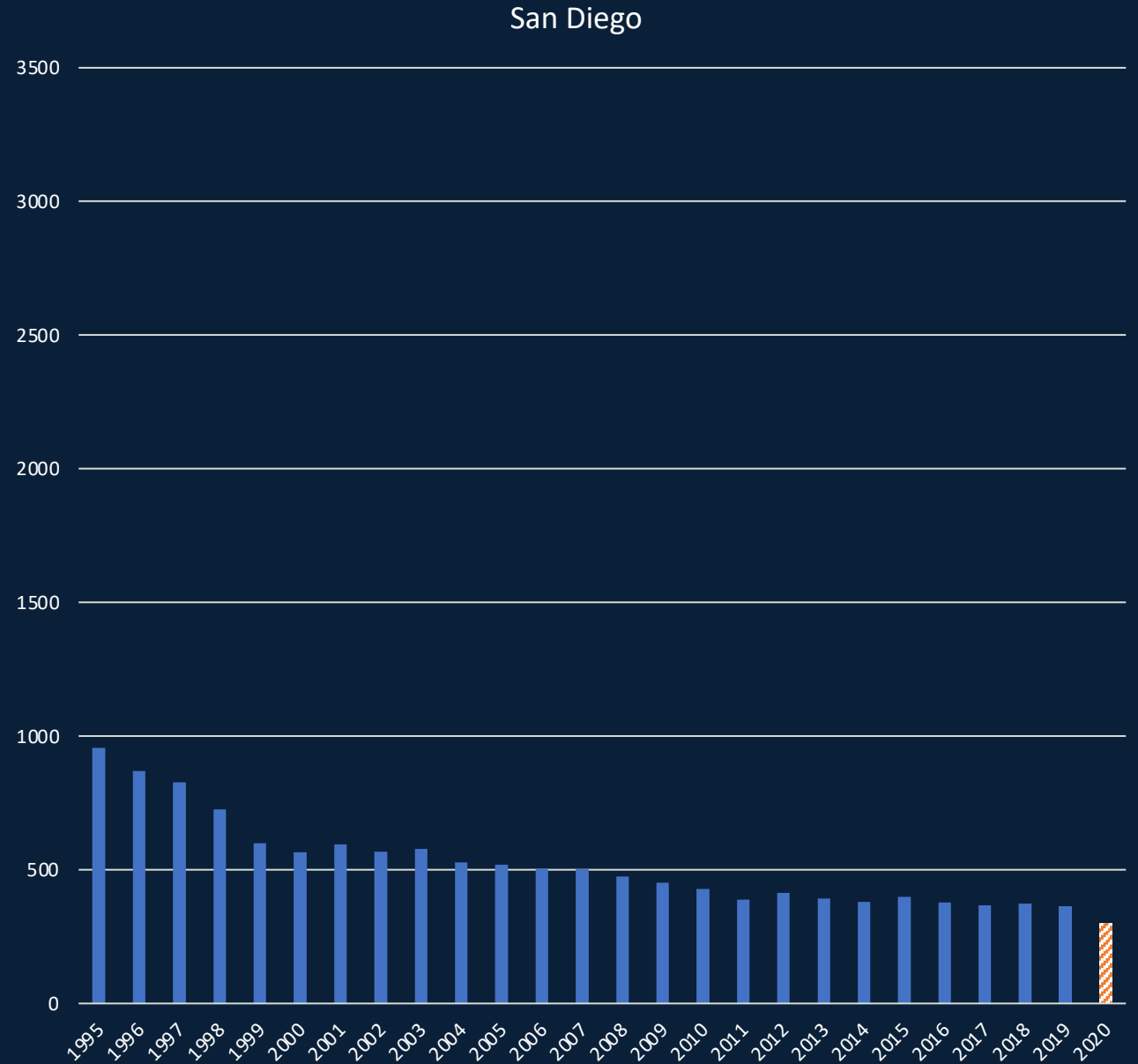




# San Diego (CA) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the San Diego Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through July 31, 2020 were obtained from the San Diego Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

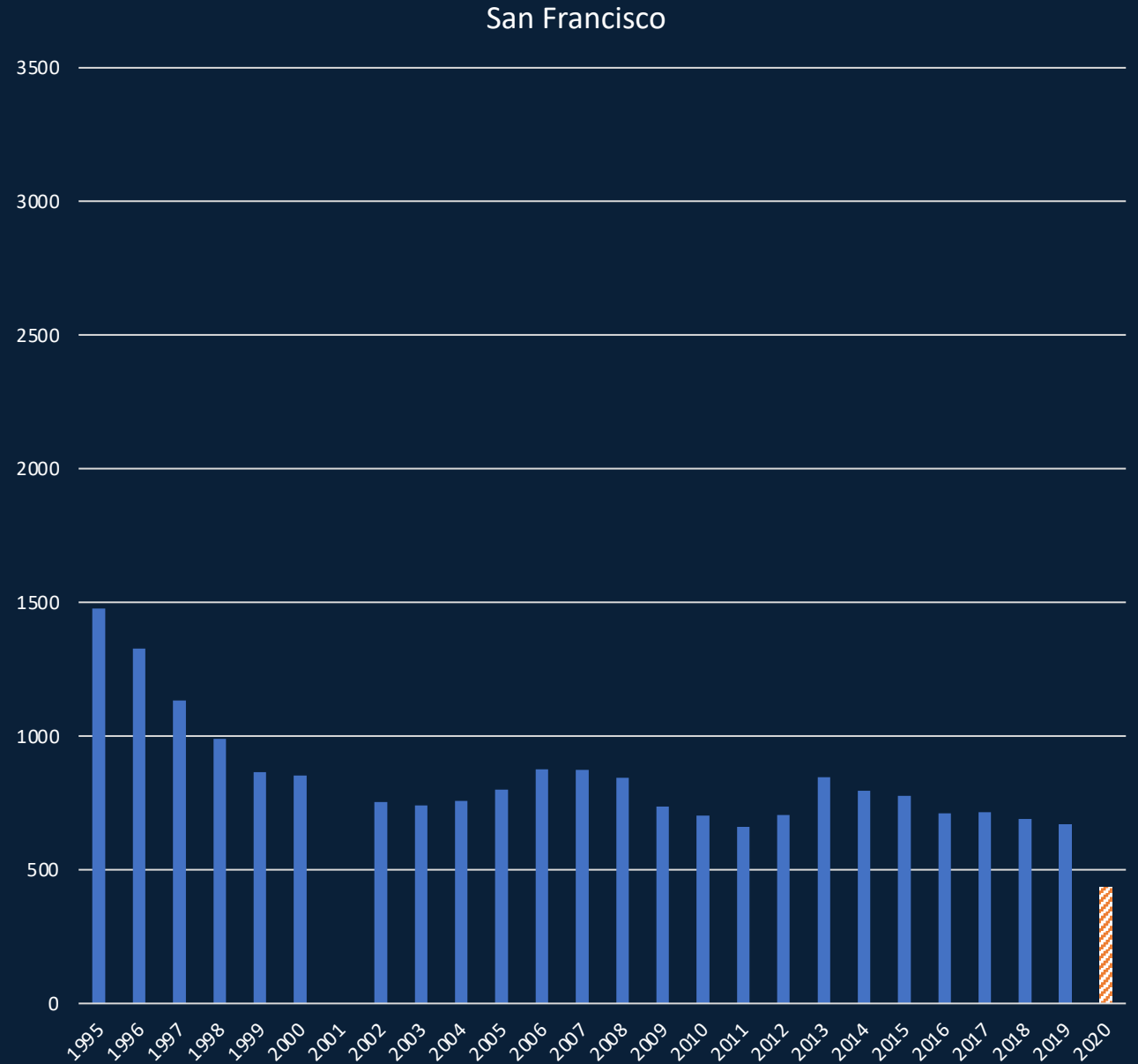




# San Francisco (CA) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 2001 were unavailable). Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the San Francisco Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through July 31, 2020 were obtained from the San Francisco Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

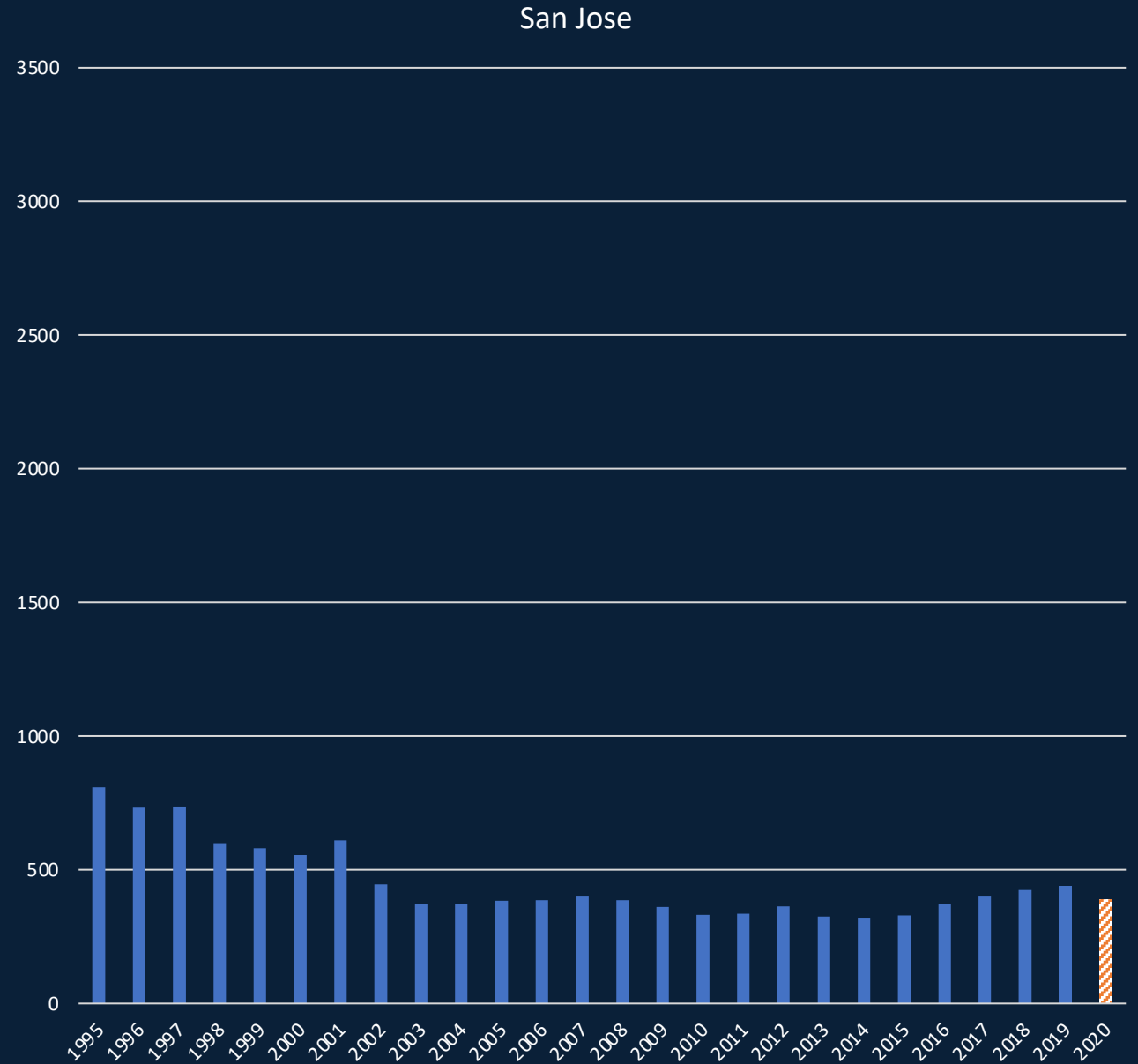




# San Jose (CA) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the San Jose Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through June 30, 2020 were obtained from the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

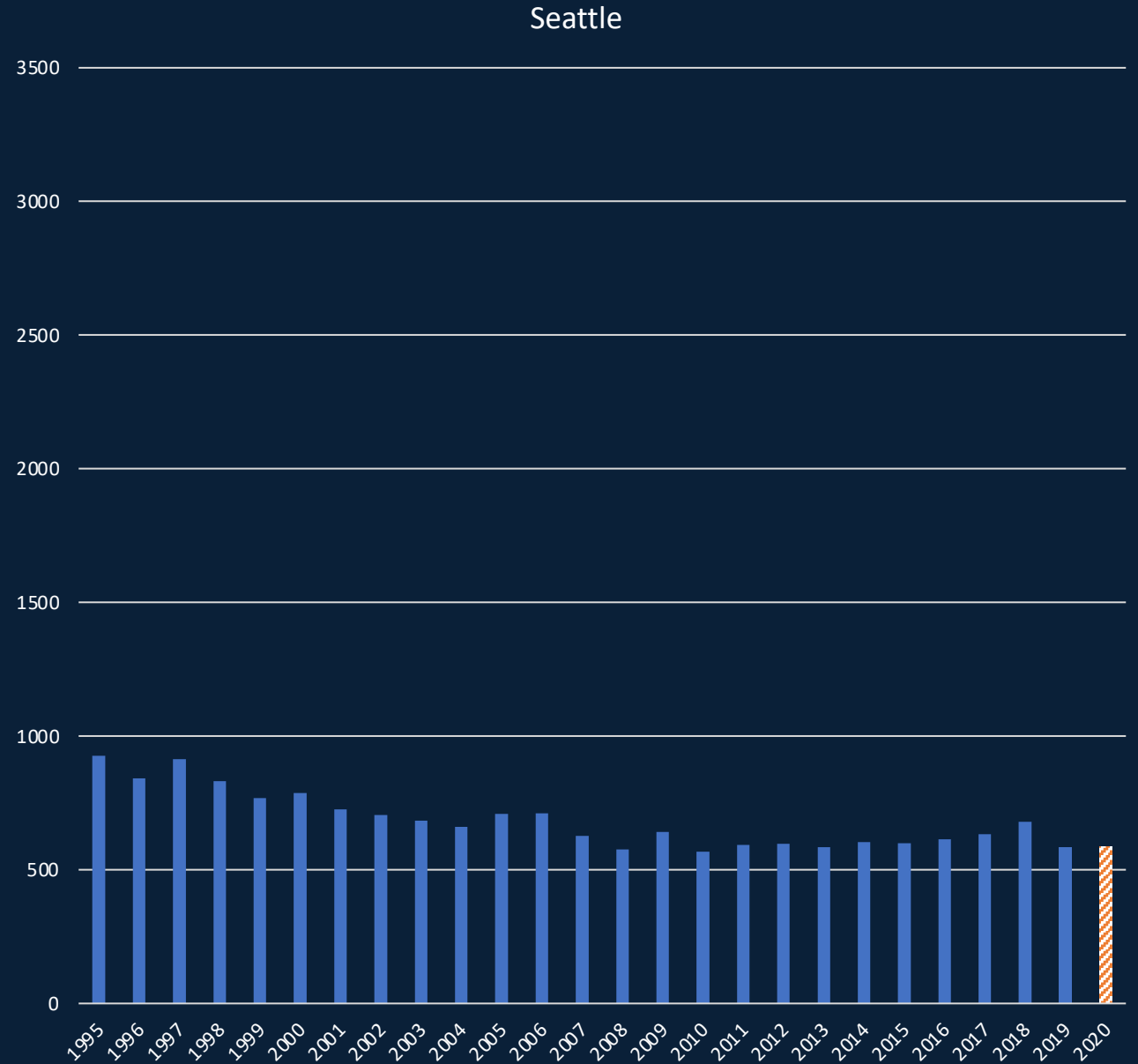




# Seattle (WA) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Seattle Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through August 31, 2020 were obtained from the Seattle Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

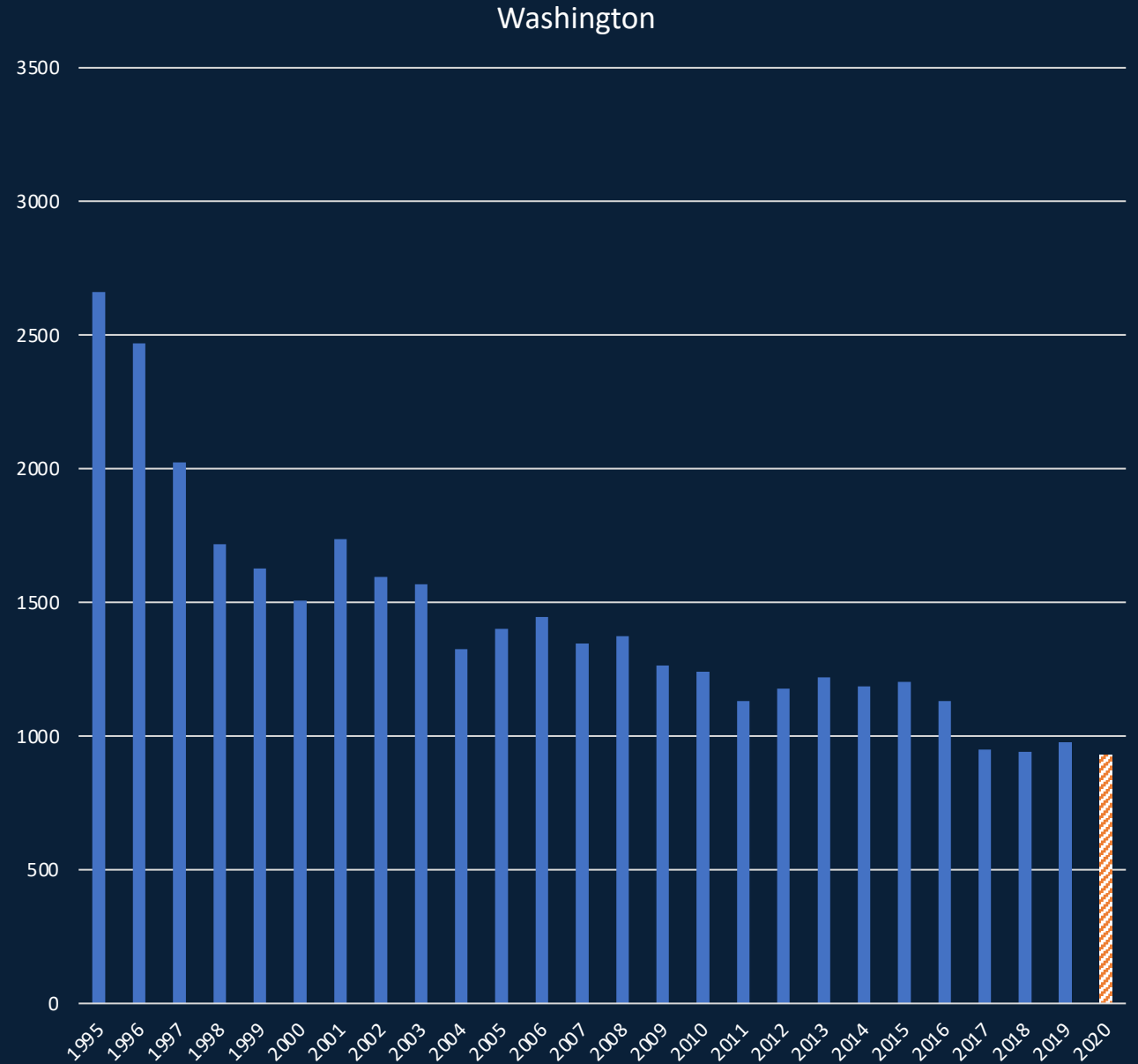




# Washington (DC) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Metropolitan Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020. Estimates obtained from the Metropolitan Police Department were lower mainly because they limited aggravated assaults to those with a dangerous weapon.

For this reason, the ratio in each category of violent crime between the two estimates was derived and applied to year-to-date data through September 22, 2020 obtained from the Metropolitan Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.



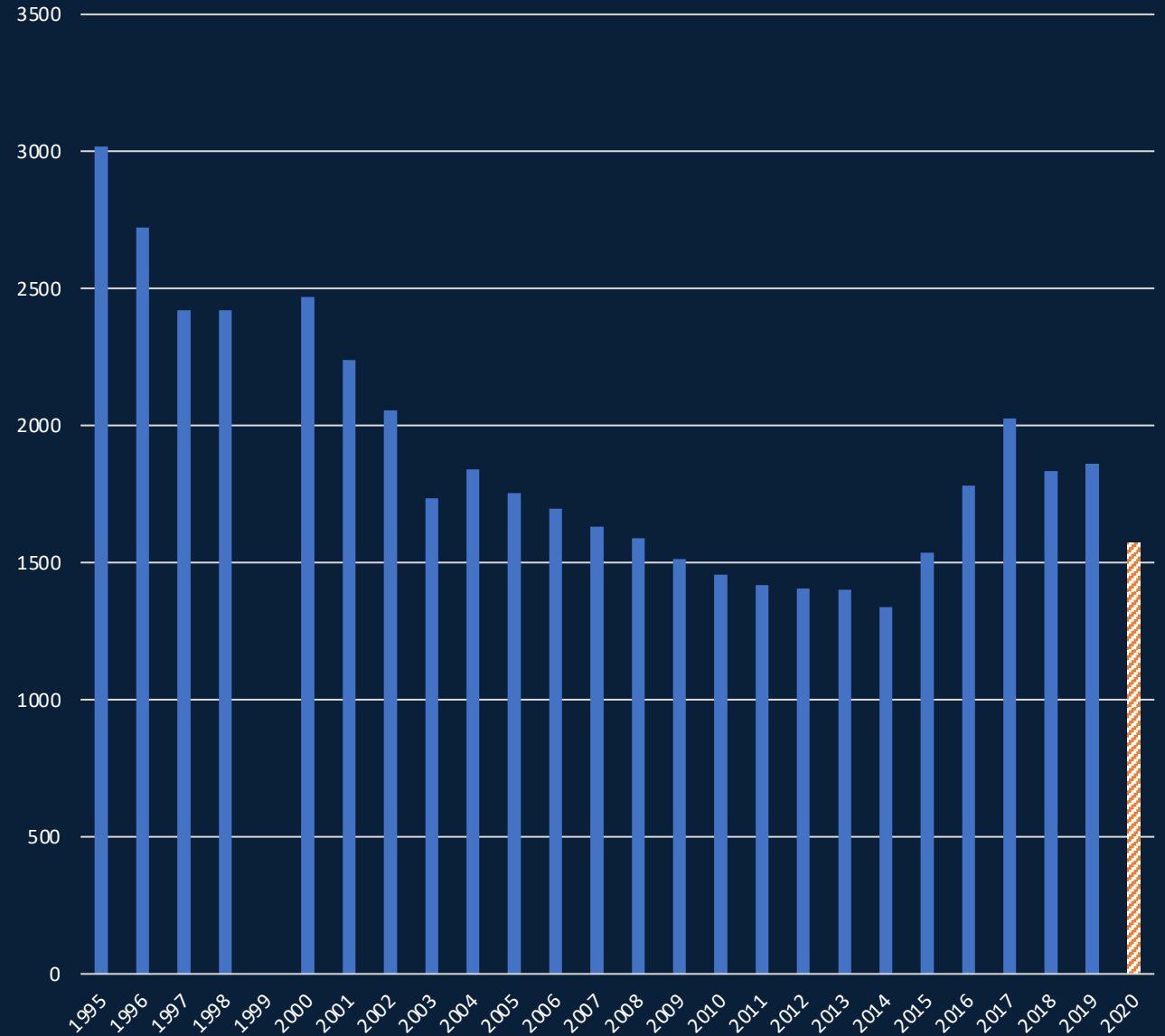


Baltimore

# Baltimore (MD) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 1999 were unavailable). Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Baltimore Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through September 22, 2020 were obtained from the Baltimore Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.



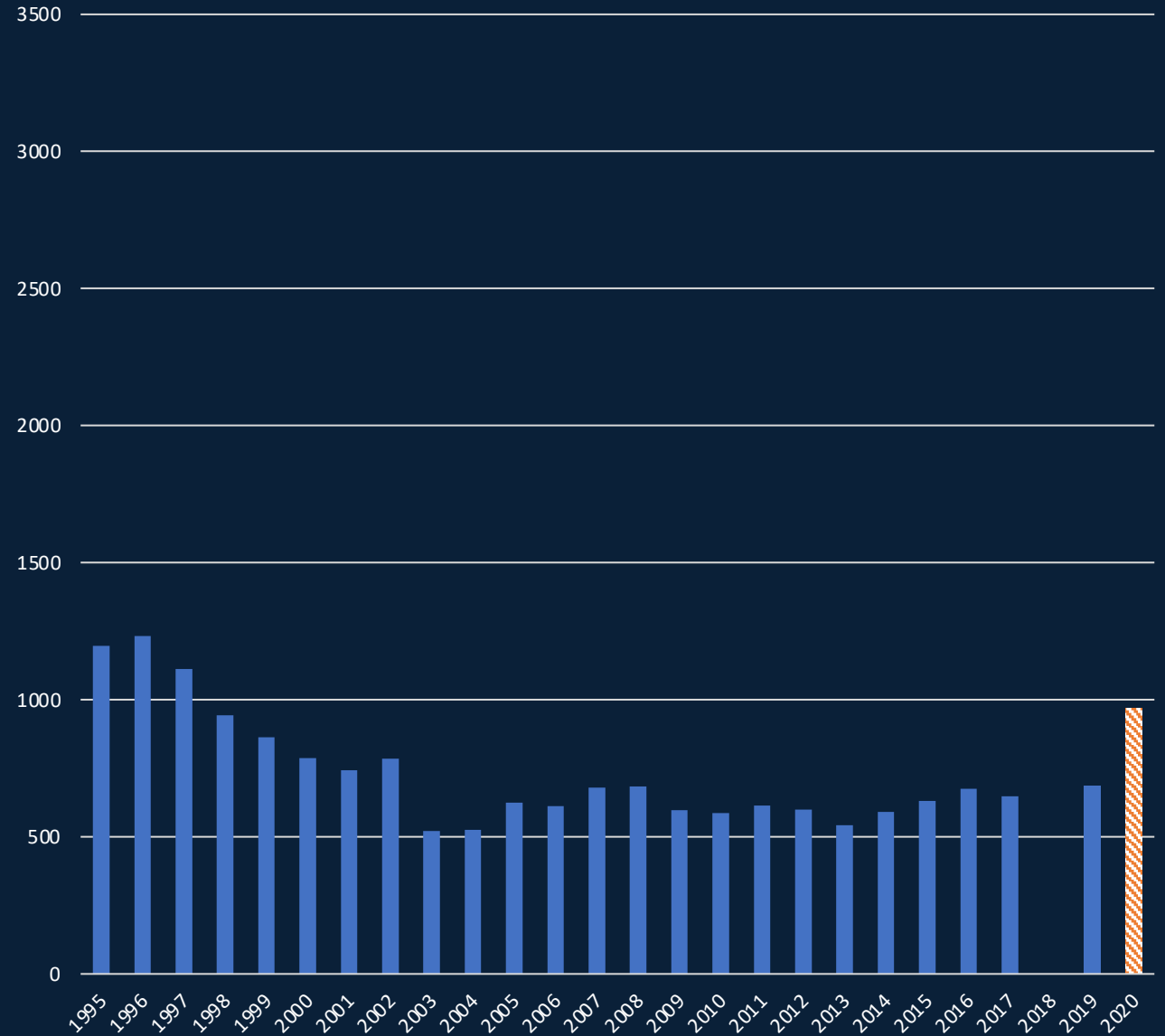


# Louisville (KY) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 2018 were unavailable). Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Louisville Metro Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through August 31, 2020 were obtained from the Louisville Metro Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.

Louisville-Jefferson

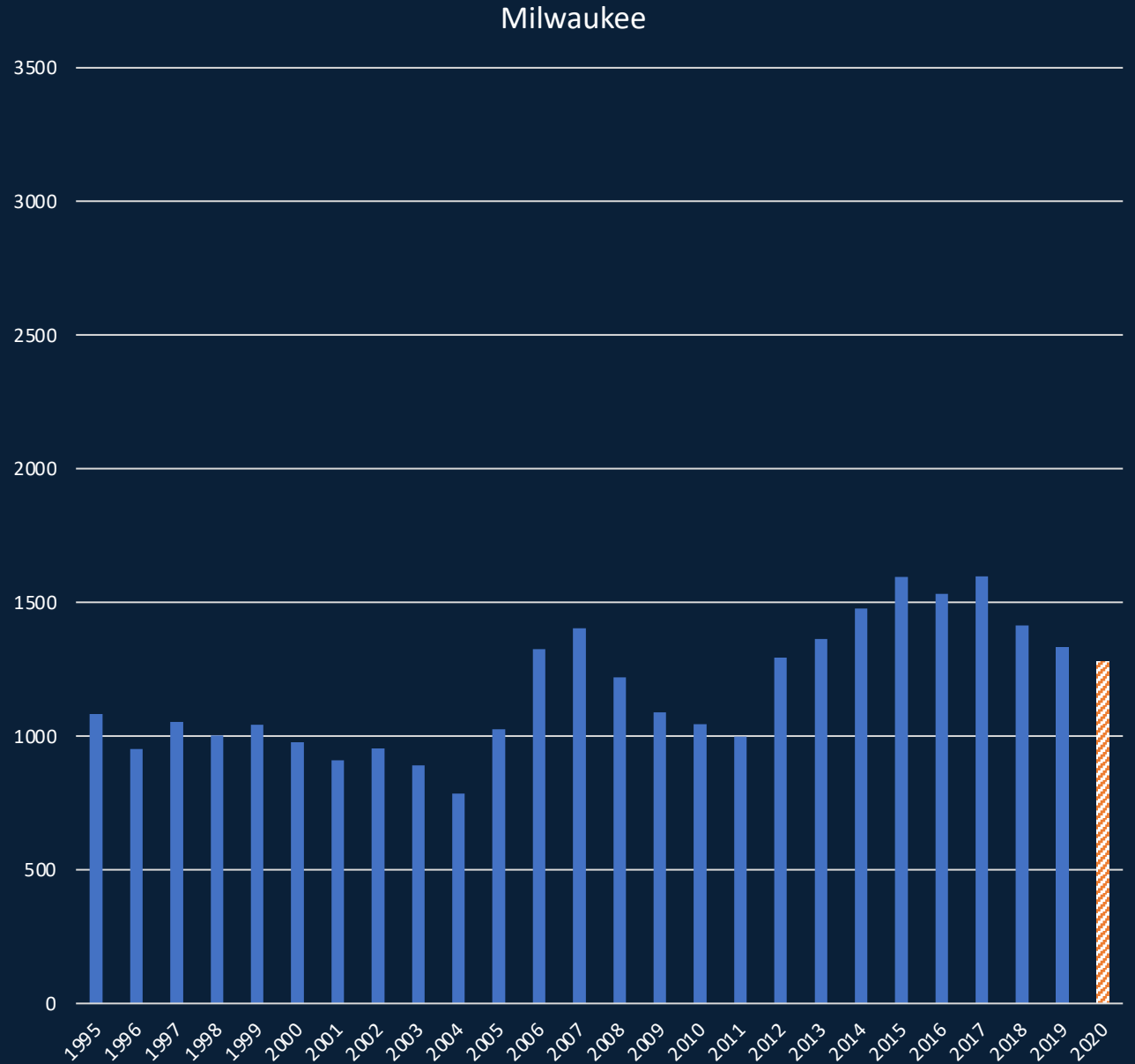




# Milwaukee (WI) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year. Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Milwaukee Police Department and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through June 3, 2020 were obtained from the Milwaukee Police Department. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.



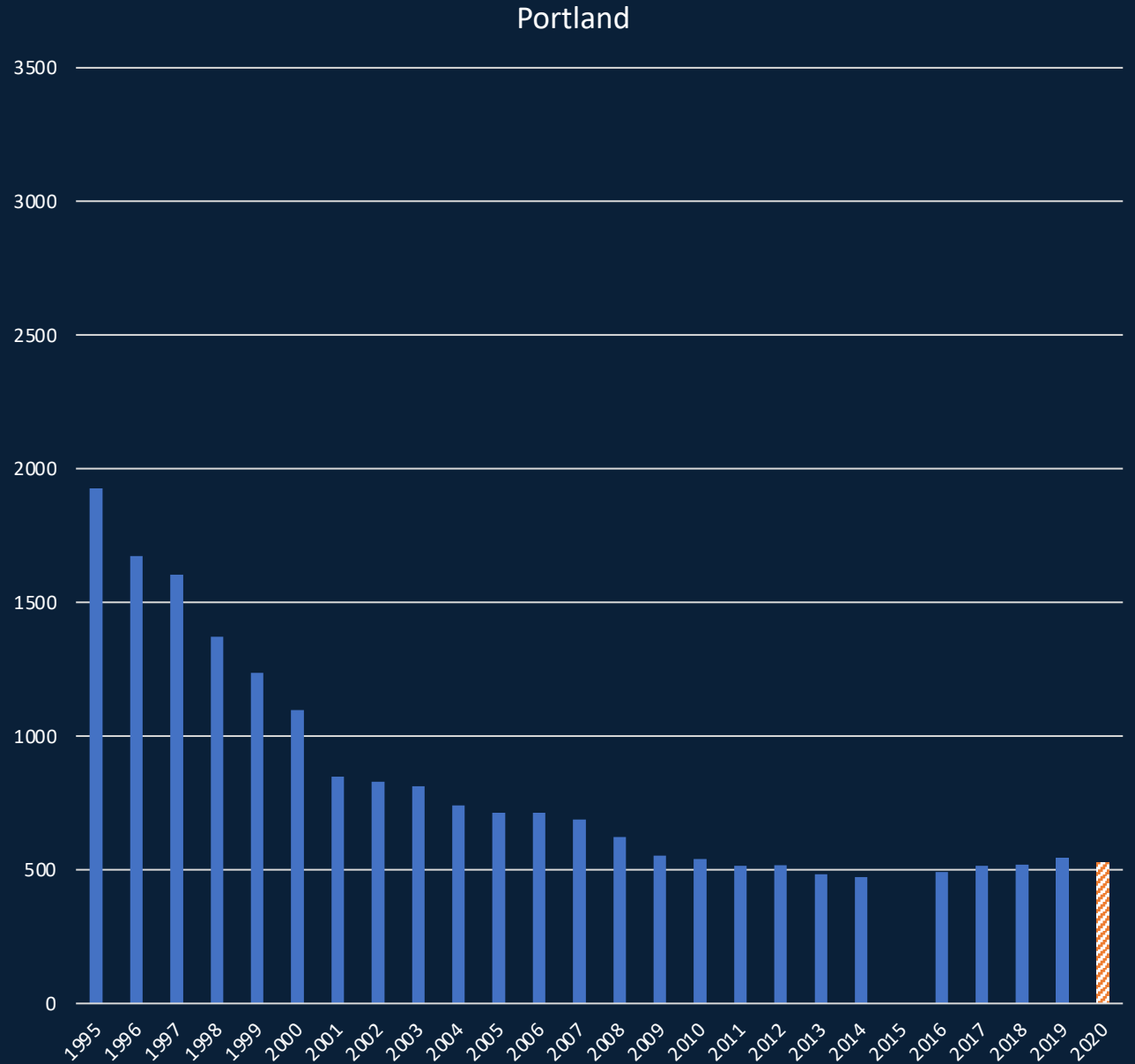




# Portland (OR) Violent Crime Rate 1995 – 2020

Data for 1995-2019 were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States publication for the relevant year (data for 2015 were unavailable). Data for 2019 were originally obtained from the Portland Police Bureau and subsequently updated when the FBI released its latest publication on September 28, 2020.

Year-to-date data through July 31, 2020 were obtained from the Portland Police Bureau. CAP projected the violent crime rate for the remainder of the year.



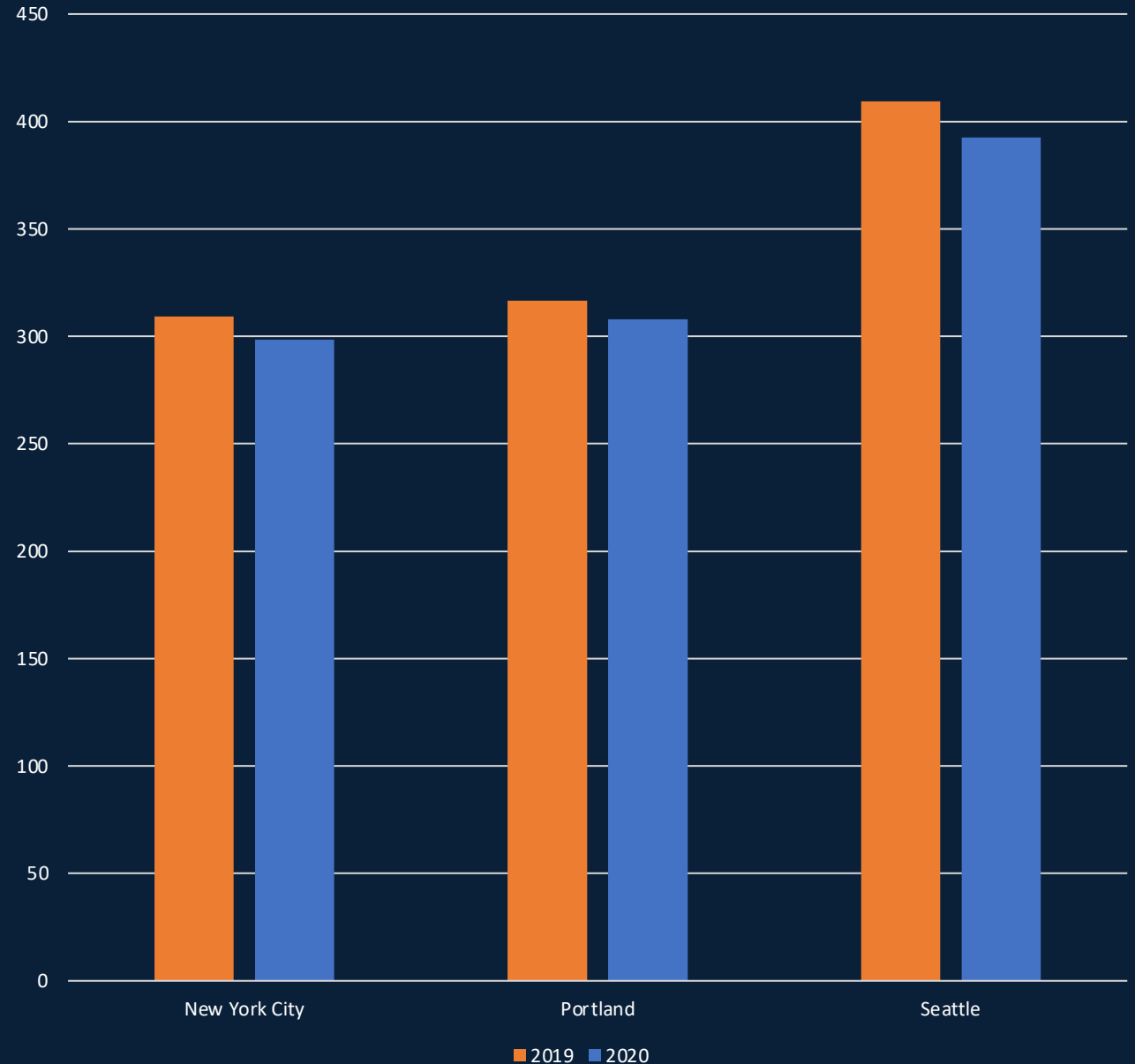


# Violent Crime Rate, Cities Targeted by USDOJ, 2019-2020

Attorney General Bill Barr labeled New York City, Portland, and Seattle as “jurisdictions permitting violence and destruction of property.” Yet, all three cities are experiencing a decrease in the violent crime rate compared to 2019.

Year-to-date data for each city were obtained from their respective police department rather than the FBI's Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report because the latter only reported data through June 30, 2020.

DATE RANGE – New York City: Jan. 1 – Sept. 13 | Portland: Jan. 1 – July 31 | Seattle: Jan. 1 – Aug. 31

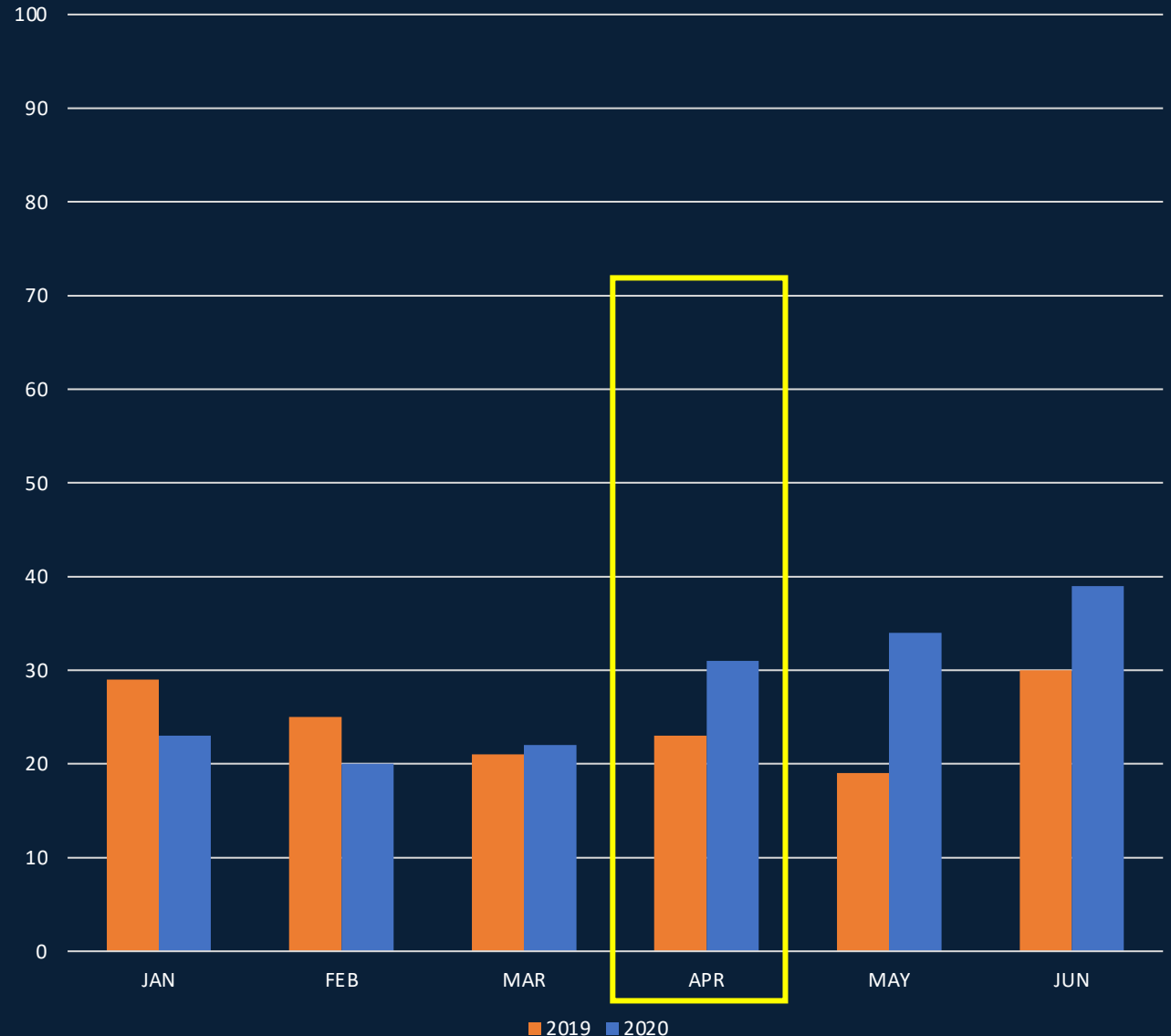


# New York City (NY) Homicides Per Month 2020 (Jan – Jun)

In the five largest U.S. cities that reported an increase in homicides from 2019 to 2020 and where data were available\*, the increase in homicides began prior to the protests against police violence that started in June.

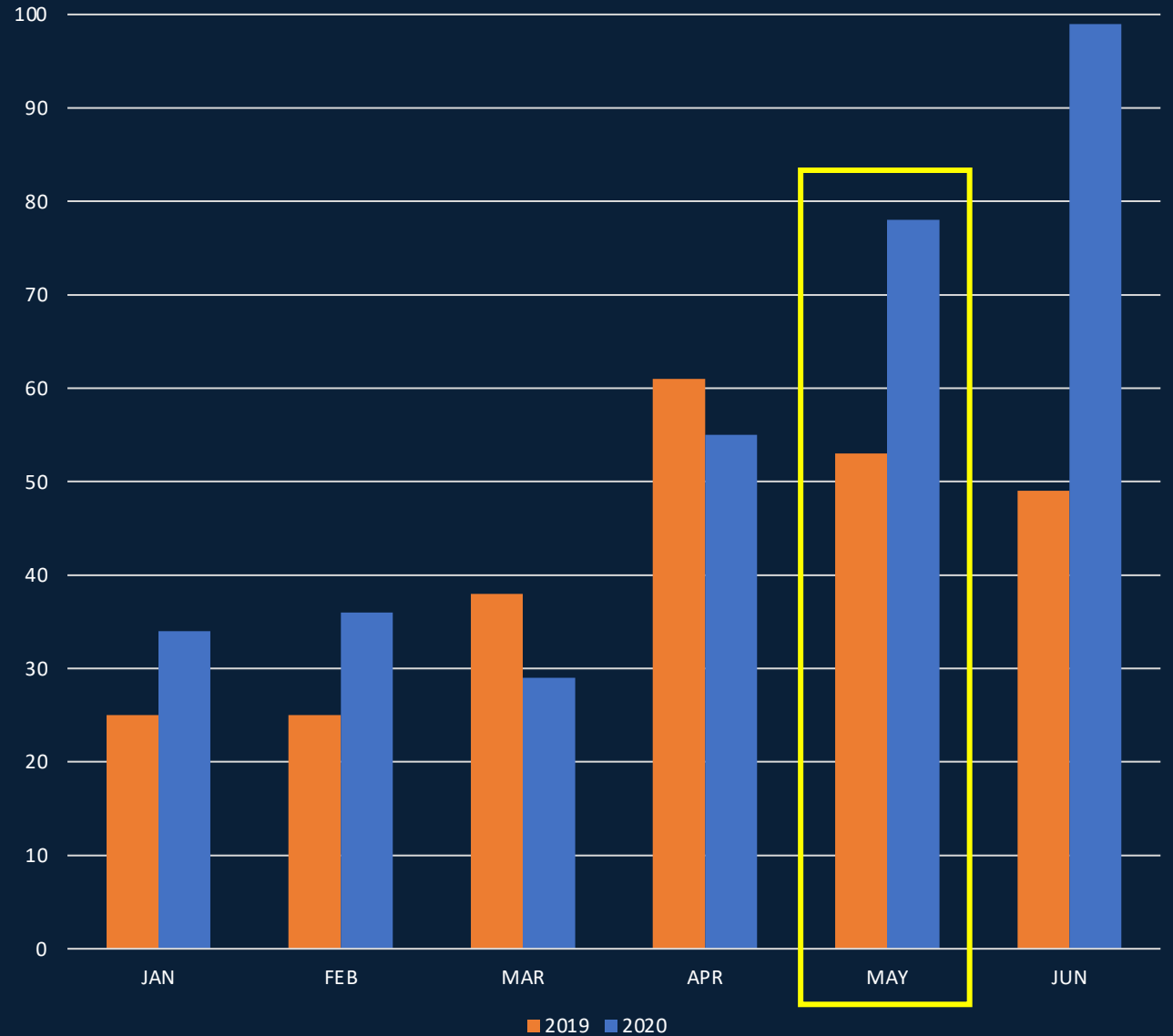
\* Monthly homicide data for Los Angeles were not publicly available

Homicides by Month, New York City



# Chicago (IL) Homicides Per Month 2020 (Jan – Jun)

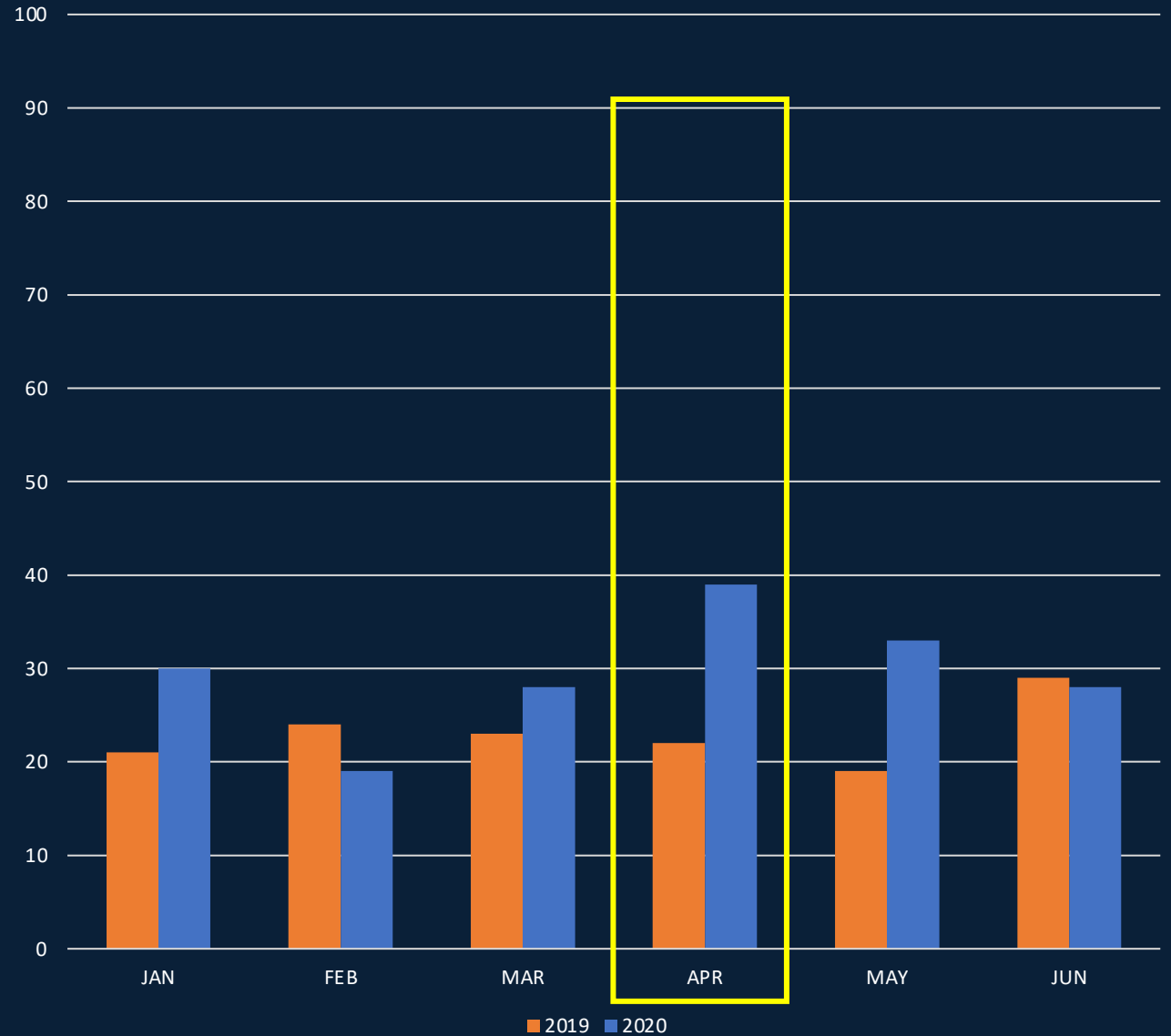
Homicides by Month, Chicago





# Houston (TX) Homicides Per Month 2020 (Jan – Jun)

Homicides by Month, Houston





# Phoenix (AZ) Homicides Per Month 2020 (Jan – Jun)

Homicides by Month, Phoenix

