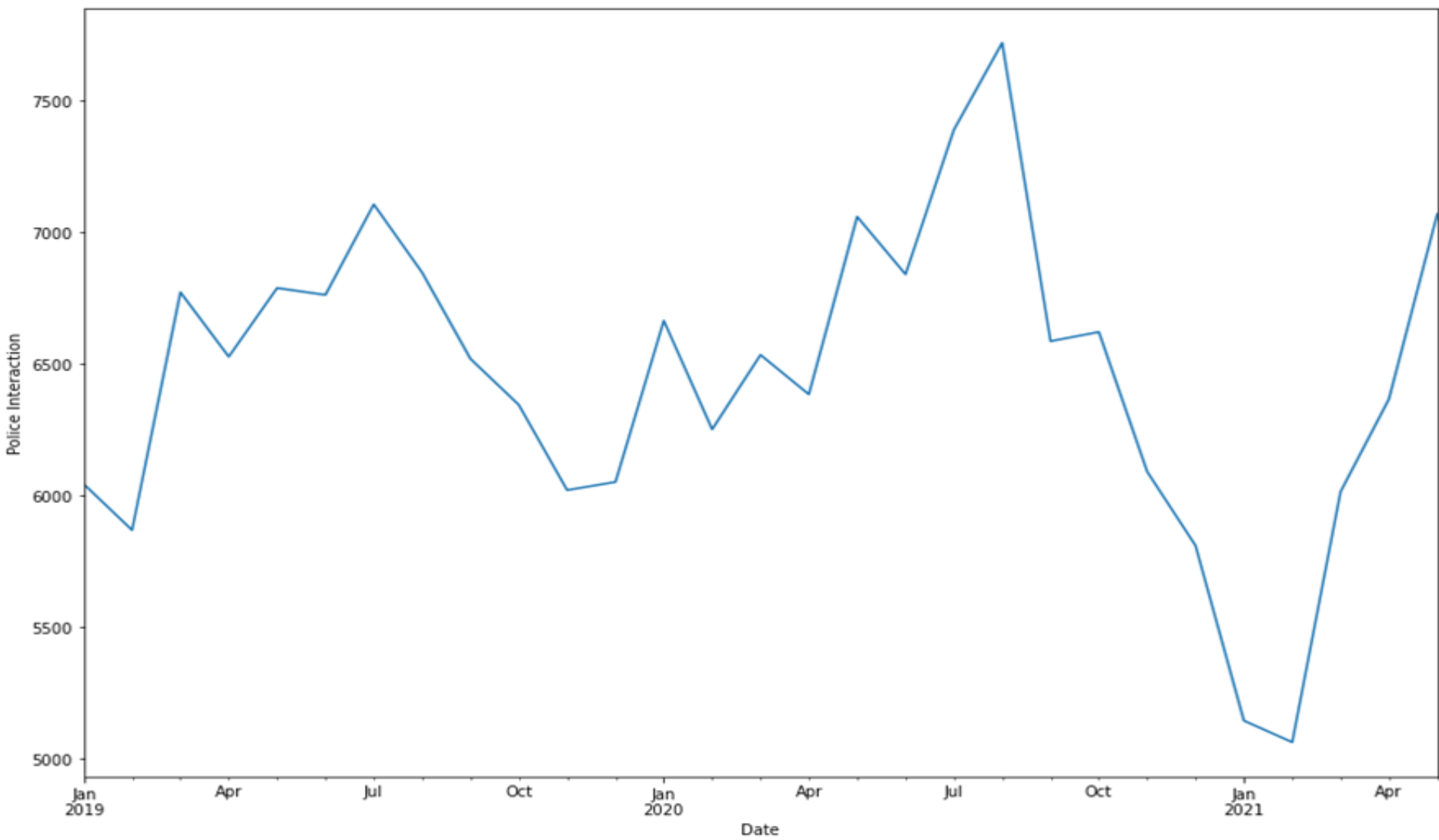


How have National Lockdowns affected crime in Norfolk?

The data set from the police shows the number of crimes committed from January of 2019 to May of 2021. This is to ensure we just more than a year worth of data before the first national lockdown, this is so we can compare it to the data during and after the first lockdown which took place in March of 2020. Throughout this document I will be referring to (<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/timeline-lockdown-web.pdf>) in order to accurately show how each decision decided by the government in relations to lockdown could have affected the crime rates and better draw comparisons.

This poster exists in order to compare crime rates before and after national lockdowns, how these lockdowns have affected crime and the different types of crime that are being committed in Norfolk before and during Lockdown.

My assumption before doing the research for this poster was that crime would have gone down due to less people being outside, meaning less chances for burglary, vehicle related crimes and anti social behaviour. However if you look at the graph (Fig. 1) you will see that this may not actually be the case.



(fig.1)

As you can see this graph goes from January of 2019 to May of 2021. The first national lockdown happened in late March of 2020. If you where to simply look at this graph you could come to the conclusion that the first lockdown did have an affect on crime rates, and lowered them by 2.29533% entering the first national lockdown onward to April. However if you look at the direct comparison between years graph (fig.2) you will see that this was not the case at all and is in fact a trend from the previous year.

And although this trend exists, the crime didn’t decrease as much as the previous year.

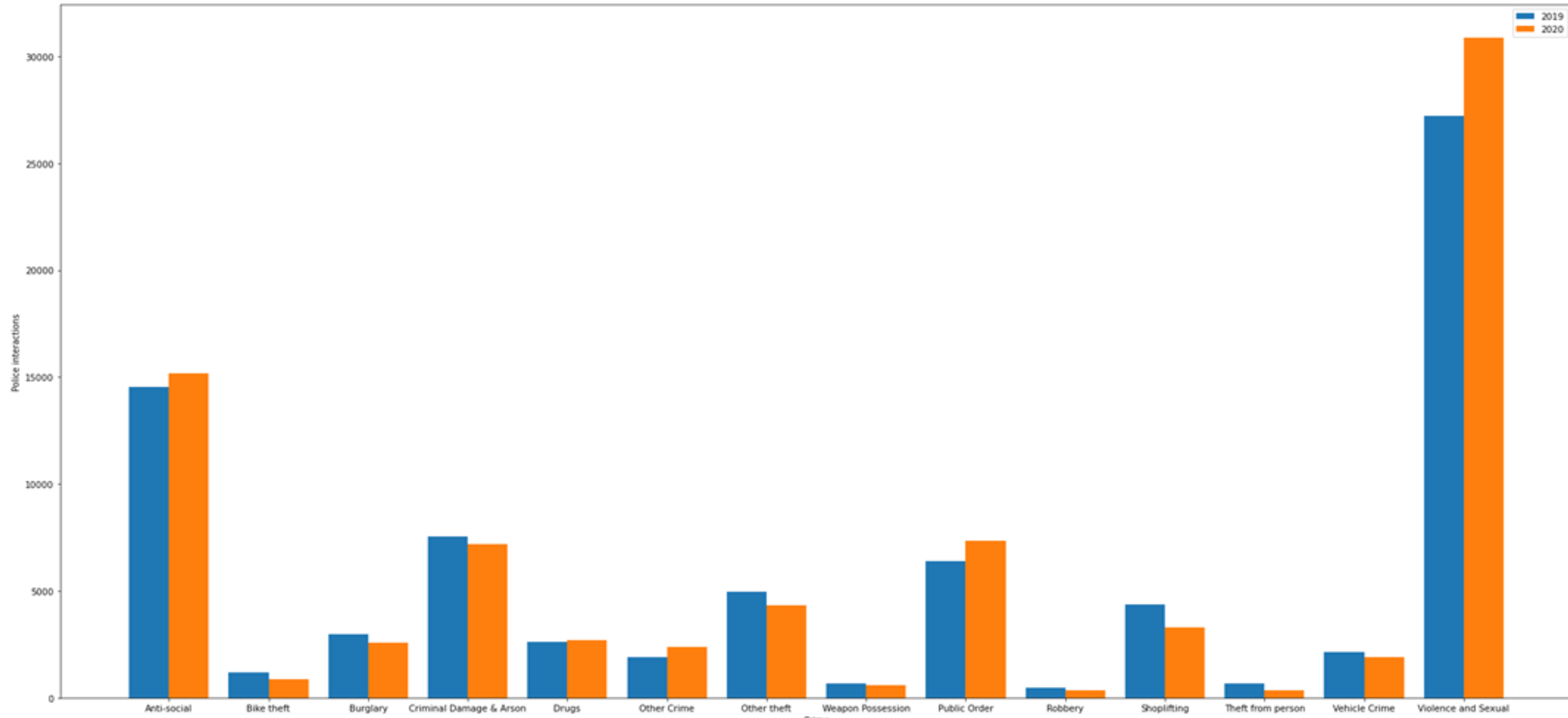
Interestingly August of 2020 introduced the “eat out to help out” scheme where people were offered 50% discount on meals, and reopening of many indoor leisure activities. We can see with (fig.2) that despite the crime not differing that much from the previous year, this could have lead to the huge jump we see in August. However this seems to have stabilised and returned to normal for September.

Using the data we have available to us we could conclude that this was due to the “rule of six” being implemented as well as a 10pm curfew being implemented. In December the second lockdown ended in order to make way for Christmas interactions between people. It is normal for December to have relatively low crime rates as seen by the previous year. However, on the 3rd of January the third lockdown began and marked an astounding low for crime rates with a drop of 22.8057% in crime rates. This lockdown was taken very seriously throughout the country and as you can see through Figure 1 it lasted through to February before returning to normal.



(fig.2)

The third lockdown had a huge impact on crime rates throughout Norfolk and the social pressure to stay in doors and social distance were at their peak. On the 22nd of February the Prime minister published a roadmap for lifting the National lockdown and on the 8th of March students were to return to schools, marking the end of the social pressure to isolate, returning the crime rates to their usual trends.



(fig.3)

As we can see from Figure 3 the differences in the types of crime between 2019 (pre lockdown) and 2020 (during lockdown) are quite similar with a few distinct outliers due to the circumstances. Due to how the police data is organised I can’t report on the crime in detail. But we see a large rise in Violence and Sexual related crimes in 2020 in comparison to 2019. This could be largely due to domestic violence increasing due to partners being “locked” in a room together, not being allowed to have time apart. Along with the mental stress that lockdown caused a lot of people this could have lead to more crime related to those close to us. We see a decrease in shoplifting and burglary, this is due to shops not being open as much and people also being in their houses a lot more, meaning that burglars don’t have a safe way to go in and out of a house without being caught.

Strangely anti social behaviour has risen a lot from 2019 to 2020, this could be due to people being panicked about people getting in their personal space, or altercations between people who are and aren’t wearing masks.

Conclusion:

Crime rates in Norfolk actually rose, contrary to my assumptions, throughout 2020 and the first and second lockdowns didn’t really have any affect on them. However, the third lockdown caused a massive interrupt in the amount of crime committed. We can also infer from the information gathered that domestic violence became a larger problem during national lockdowns.

Data in this poster has been cleaned and organised as necessary in order to ensure that there are no errors when creating related graphics. All rows with entirely missing values have been removed. All this data can be found online at (<https://data.police.uk/data/>). The data has been combined into a single document as each date was contained in a separate folder, this was done using Excel. Using python I have also replaced all spaces with underscores in the column names to remove any errors that the python library “pandas” may have when processing it. Unfortunately the dates for the police data are filtered by month and do not contain more detailed information about the exact day and time that each crime happened. This shouldn’t affect the accuracy of this poster.

Using data acquired from (<https://data.police.uk/data/>) I have organised and sorted the data to better show how crime rates have been affected by national lockdowns in Norfolk. I have decided to simply use data that shows crimes that have been committed, and not include stop and search, as stop and searches during national lockdowns will be inaccurate due to social distancing rules.