

Protest Related Crimes in Denver, Colorado 2019–2021

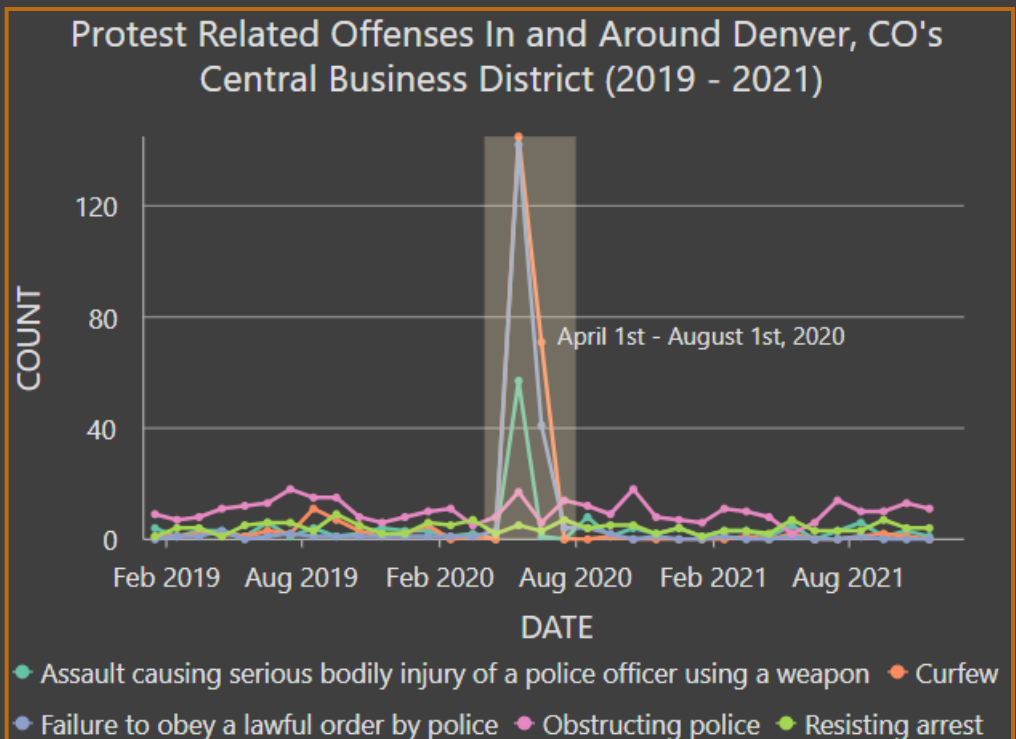
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In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic was unfolding worldwide, the US experienced a prolonged wave of protests sparked by the May 25th murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. In the months following, police clashed with protestors and demonstrators in major cities across the United States. In Denver, Colorado, the bulk of these protests occurred between the end of May and the beginning of September. While 2020 and 2021 saw unprecedented increases in crime nearly across the board, this fact sheet is an attempt to encapsulate those types of offenses that protestors are commonly charged with. These specific offense types were chosen based on information provided from local Denver news reports.

The chart below shows reports of these protest related offenses between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2021. These offenses have been further subset to those within the Central Business District and surrounding neighborhoods. Offenses include: Assault causing serious bodily injury of a police officer using a weapon; Failure to obey a lawful order by police; Obstructing police; Resisting arrest; and Curfew - 1,150 reports in total.

As can be clearly seen, reports for most of these crimes increased dramatically in the months following the murder of George Floyd. There are 526 reports within the highlighted 4 month period—accounting for 45.7% of all reports for these offenses from 2019 through 2021.

The breakdown is as follows: Assault causing serious injury of a police officer using a weapon (58 reports—39% of total); Failure to obey a lawful order by police (190 reports—88% of total); Obstructing police (31 reports—8.3% of total); Resisting arrest (10 reports—6.7% of total); and Curfew (220 reports—82.7% of total).

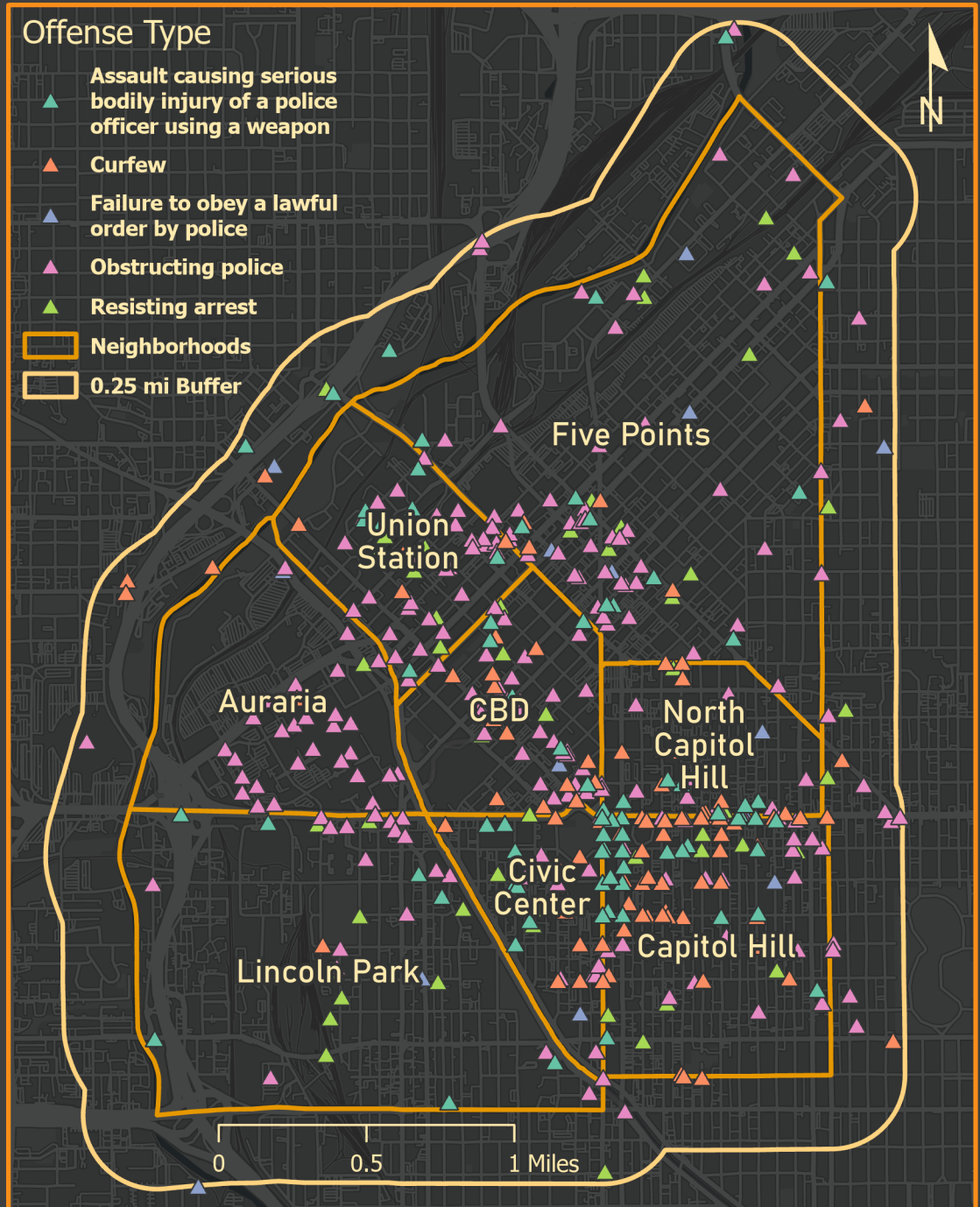


Assault causing serious bodily injury of a police officer using a weapon: 149
Failure to obey a lawful order by police: 216
Obstructing police: 370
Resisting arrest: 149
Curfew: 266
Total: 1,150

Protest Related Offenses In and Around Denver, CO's Central Business District (2019-2021)

The map on the right shows the location of these reported offenses, including those offenses that fell within a 0.25 mile buffer around the main study area. Including these reports is an attempt to mitigate the effect of constraining a study area to a discrete boundary.

The vast majority of the reports between April 1st and August 1st of 2020 make up the mass of reports in and around the convergence of the Central Business District, North Capitol Hill, Civic Center, and Capitol Hill neighborhoods.



Cartographer: Spencer Keller

Data: Denver Open Data Catalog (updated 4/28/2022)

Projection: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Colorado Central FIPS 0502 (US Feet)