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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Elgin 2015 Statistics Reflect a 16% Overall Decrease in Crime

Last year, Elgin experienced a 16% decrease in Part I crimes from 2014, exceeding a 40 year low. The Part I crime rate encompasses a standardized federal measurement of serious crimes that are committed against people and property. To illustrate a comparison, in 1972 Elgin's population was approximately 55,000 people. During that year the city experienced 2,659 Part I crimes. In 2015, 43 years later with a population double that of 1972, the city experienced 1,854 Part I crimes, a 30% decrease in comparison.

	1972	1989	2015
<i>Part I Crimes Reported</i>	2,659	4,905	1,854

Homicides:

Four homicides occurred in Elgin last year, an increase of two from 2014*.

- Daniel Figueroa, Jr. was shot on April 13, 2015 in the 100 block of S. Grove Avenue and the case is currently open/unsolved.
- William Ingram was arrested and charged with the murder of DeVonte Turner, who was shot on April 30, 2015 in the 1200 block of Fleetwood Drive.
- Ruben Duncan was shot on June 14, 2015 in the 1100 block of Sherwood Avenue and the case is currently open/unsolved.
- Lynn Stephens was shot on November 30, 2015 in the 100 block of Brookside Drive during a murder/suicide incident.

**In 2015, prosecutors dropped the murder charges relating to the 2014 death of Anthony Nunez. Due to the court's ruling that this death was a result of self-defense, Elgin's homicide count was reduced to two from the original count of three for 2014.*

Statistical Highlights:

When comparing year ending 2015 to 2014,

- Homicides increased from two to four.
- Violent crime increased 10%. In the past 20 years, only two years reflected a lower violent crime count than 2015.
- Shots-fired incidents increased 32%.
- Vehicle burglaries experienced a 24% decrease from the prior year.
- Elgin's residential and commercial burglaries are at a twenty-year low with a reduction of 15%.
- Motor vehicle thefts decreased 16%.

Chief Jeffrey Swoboda credits many community involvement initiatives with strides that have been made in property crime reduction. Aside from the *"If you like it, lock it"* campaign, the department began new programs designed to encourage community involvement and neighborhood awareness, such as several community conversations, the Spanish Citizens Police Academy, Coffee with a Cop, women's self-defense classes, Eye Drive Elgin, Chief for a Day, and a citizens crime scene investigation class. These programs further complimented existing opportunities, such as the chief's monthly community meetings, the Citizens Police Academy and Senior Citizens Police Academy, Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, Community Emergency Response Team training, the Explorers Post, Security Through Surveillance training, and Walk-and-Talks. Social media has also proven to be a strong venue for two way communication with the community and the department's following increased immensely during 2015.

Chief Swoboda stated, "While the fact is that overall crime is down 16%, we have a troubling increase in violent crime that we are working towards resolving and understanding. It is important to keep perspective; over the past 20 years, only two years reflected a lower violent crime total than 2015. Our non-violent crimes are sitting at record lows are great indications that we are on the right path. The hard work of the police department's staff, coupled with an engaged community, are the ingredients for sustained decreases in crime."

Part I Crimes

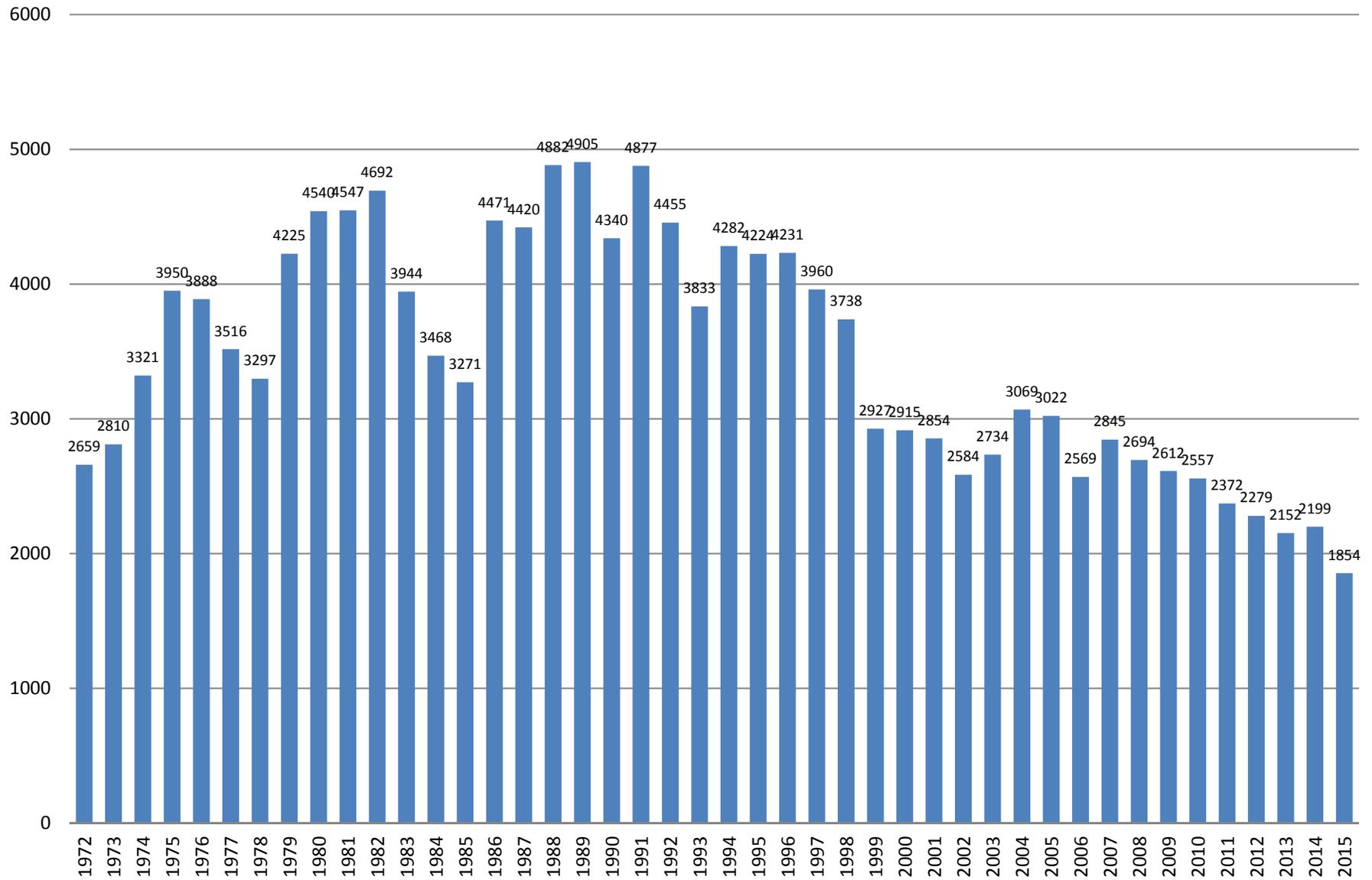
2014 - 2015 Comparison

Part I Crimes	Jan-Dec 2014 Crimes	Jan-Dec 2015 Crimes	% of Change
Homicide	2	4	100
Forcible Rape/Criminal Sexual Assault	45	39	-13
Robbery	64	64	0
*Battery	77	82	6
*Assault	29	49	69
Burglary	299	253	-15
Burglary to Motor Vehicle	357	271	-24
Theft	1233	1011	-18
Motor Vehicle Theft	80	67	-16
*Arson	13	14	8
Total Part I Crimes	2199	1854	-16

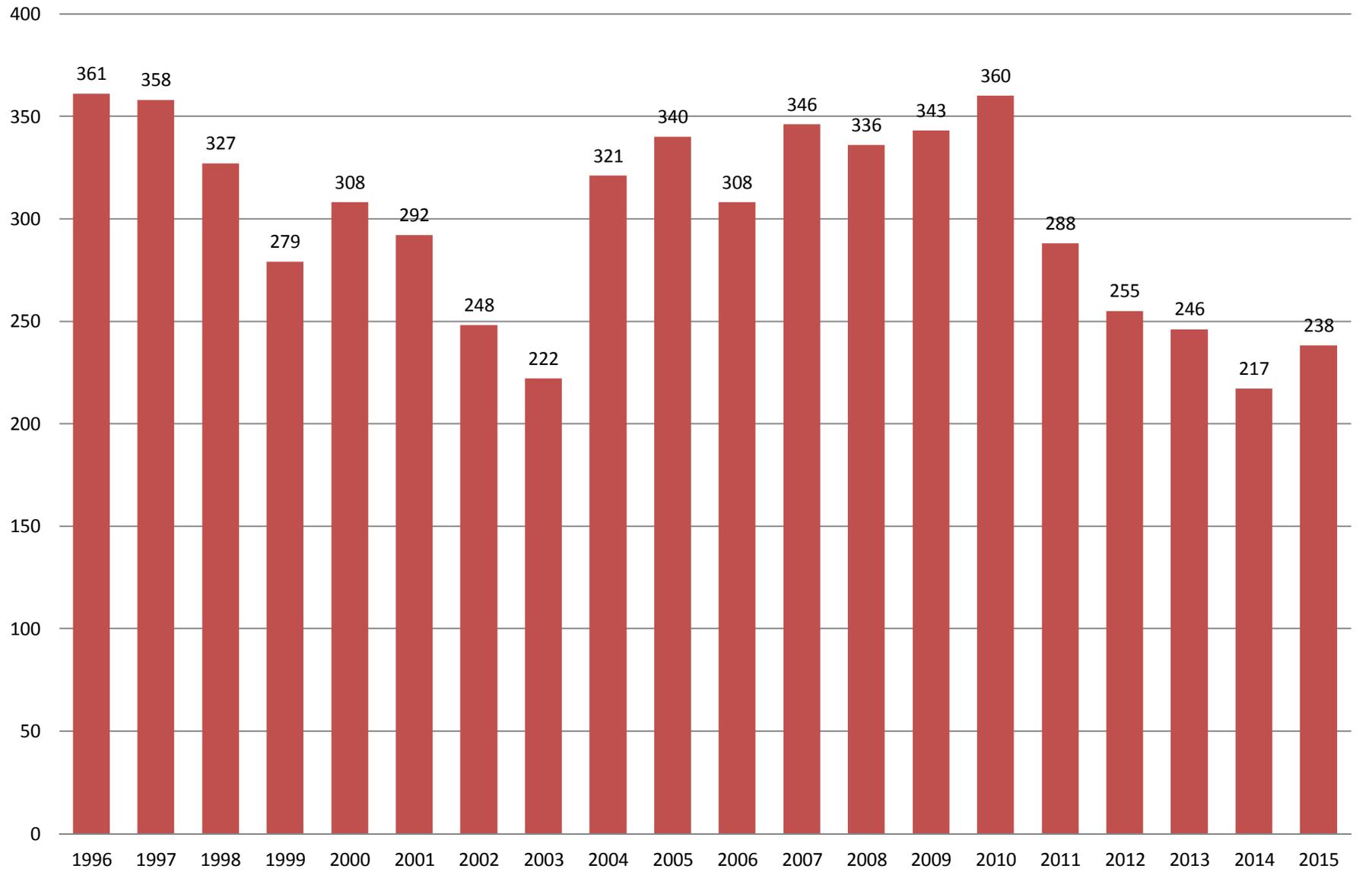
*Incidents are categorized as Part I & Part II depending on the severity of the crime

NC - Not Calculable / Att. - Attempt

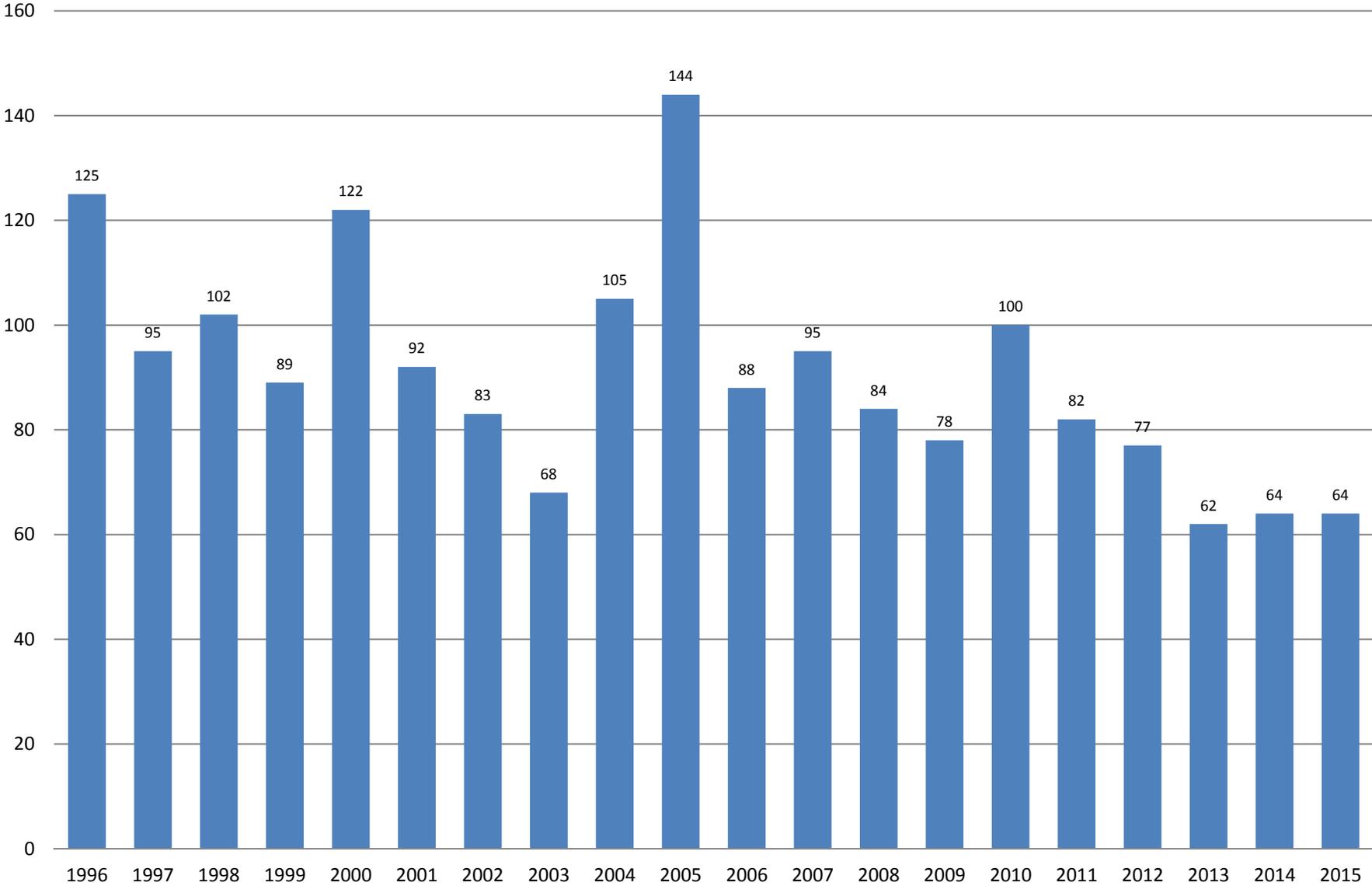
Elgin 40 + Year Low - Part I Crime 1972 - 2015



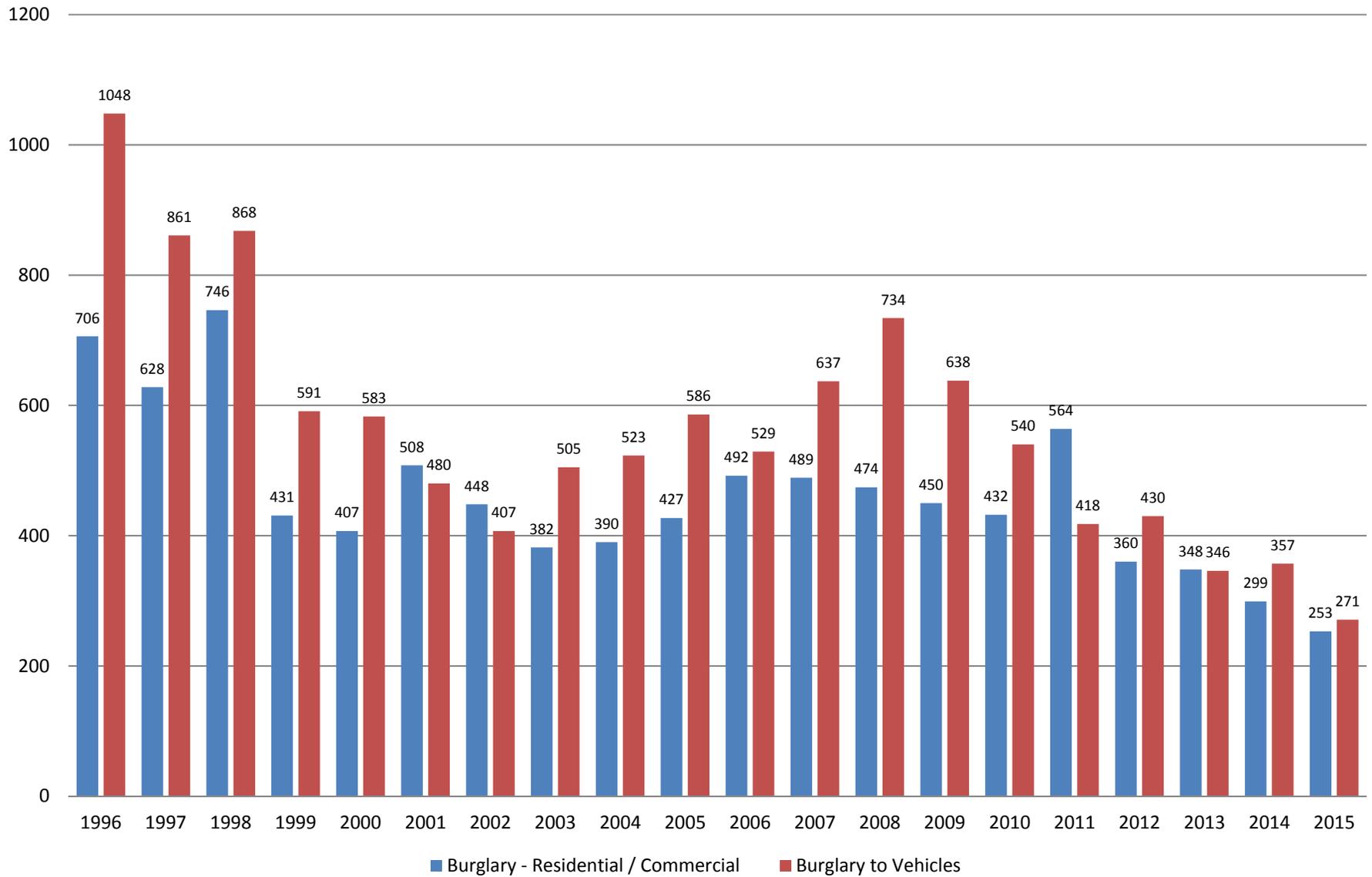
Elgin Violent Crime 1996 - 2015



Elgin Robbery 1996 - 2015



Elgin Burglary and Burglary to Vehicle 1996 - 2015



Elgin's Shooting / Shots-Fired Events

