



OVERVIEW OF 2008 POLICE ACTIVITY CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

This report is a summary of police related activities in the City of Chico for the calendar year 2008. Included are statistics related to calls for service, Part I Crimes, arrests, citations, reports taken, population, and police staffing. This summary is presented as a series of highlights and important statistics reflecting the current abilities of police personnel in Chico. Charts showing more detail and historical comparisons are also included.

CALLS FOR SERVICE –

- Total calls for service (119,469) received by our Dispatch center, as well as filtered Police calls (85,553), have reached an all time high in 2008 (Chart 1). Except for a slight decline in 2004 & 2005, the trend is continuing to rise and is expected to continue rising as Chico grows.
- Stack Time (the time between the moment a call is received in Dispatch and the time an officer is available to be dispatched) has reached a record high in 2008 (Chart 2).
- Response Time (the time between when an officer is dispatched and when they arrive at the location) has been maintained at approximately 5 minutes for higher priority calls for service.

PART I CRIMES –

- Total Part I crimes increased slightly in 2008 as compared to 2007 (Charts 3 & 4).
- Violent crimes decreased by 23% in 2008 as compared to 2007 (Chart 5). This is primarily due to a significant drop in aggravated assaults.
- Property crimes increased by 11% in 2008 relative to 2007 (Chart 6). As the proportion of property crimes is always greater than violent crimes, this increase is the reason for the increase in total Part I Crimes. Burglaries and larcenies make up the largest portion of this category, and the number of burglaries in 2008 represents a record high for Chico.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS, & REPORTS TAKEN –

- In 2008, the total number of arrests (6,233) and reports taken (11,094) set new highs for this measure of police activity (Chart 7). Citations dropped (-20%), due primarily to the decrease in proactive time available for officers to perform traffic stops and the reduction in the number of dedicated traffic officers.

OTHER CRIMES –

- Gang related incidents reached a record high (891) since tracking of these incidents began.

STAFFING & POPULATION –

- Chart 8 compares the growth in population, reduction in sworn staff relative to population, and increases in calls for service and Part I Crimes. It is apparent from this graph that our levels of sworn staffing are trending opposite to all other measures of activity shown. Our current sworn staff ratio is at a record low of 1.11 per 1000 population; far from the target ratio of 1.3.
- The number of officers needed to bring that ratio up to our target of 1.3 is now 17. As a reminder, 1.3 is the average ratio for western U.S. cities in our population range (50,000 – 99,999).

Chart 1. Calls For Service By Year

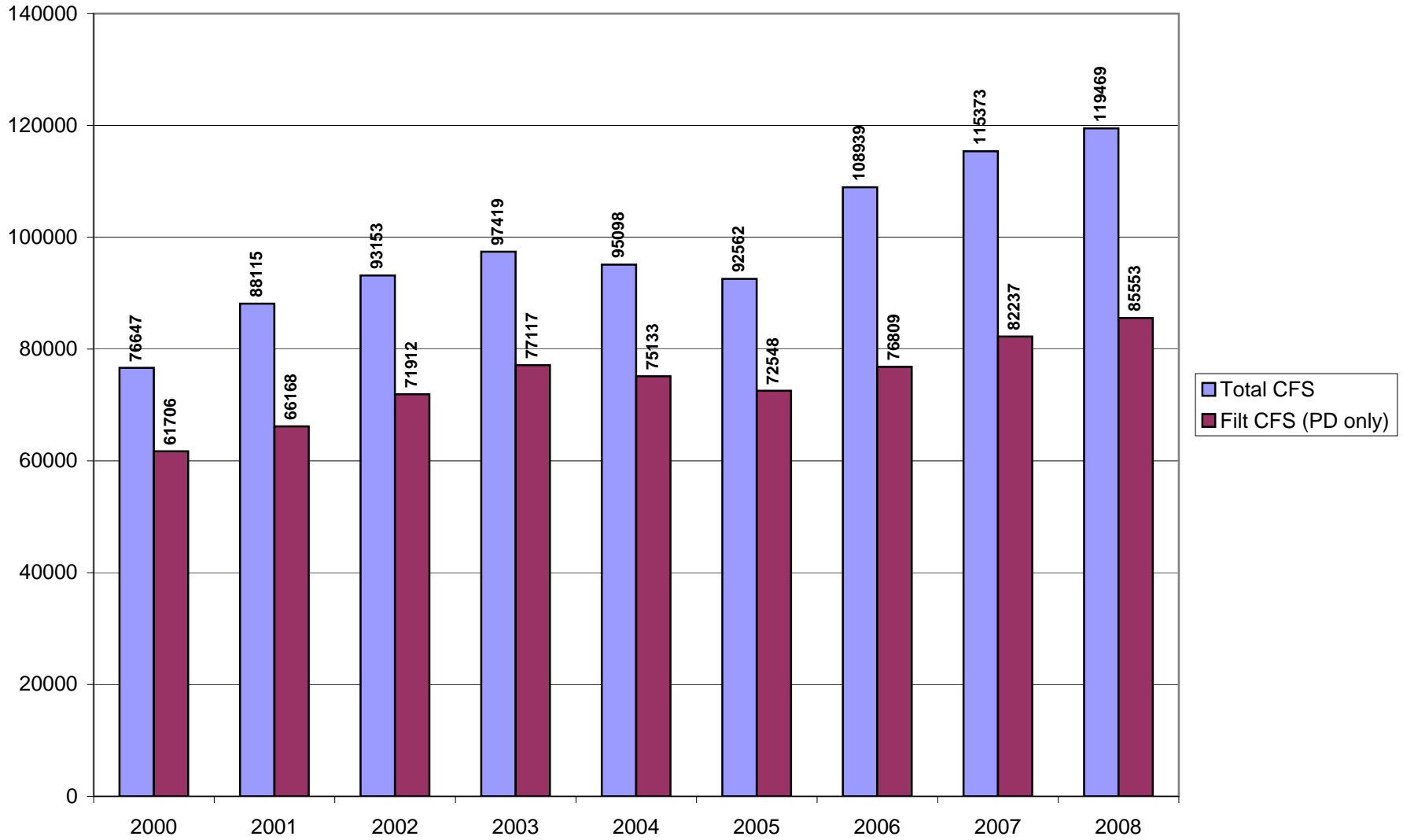


Chart 2. Stack Times By Year and Priority

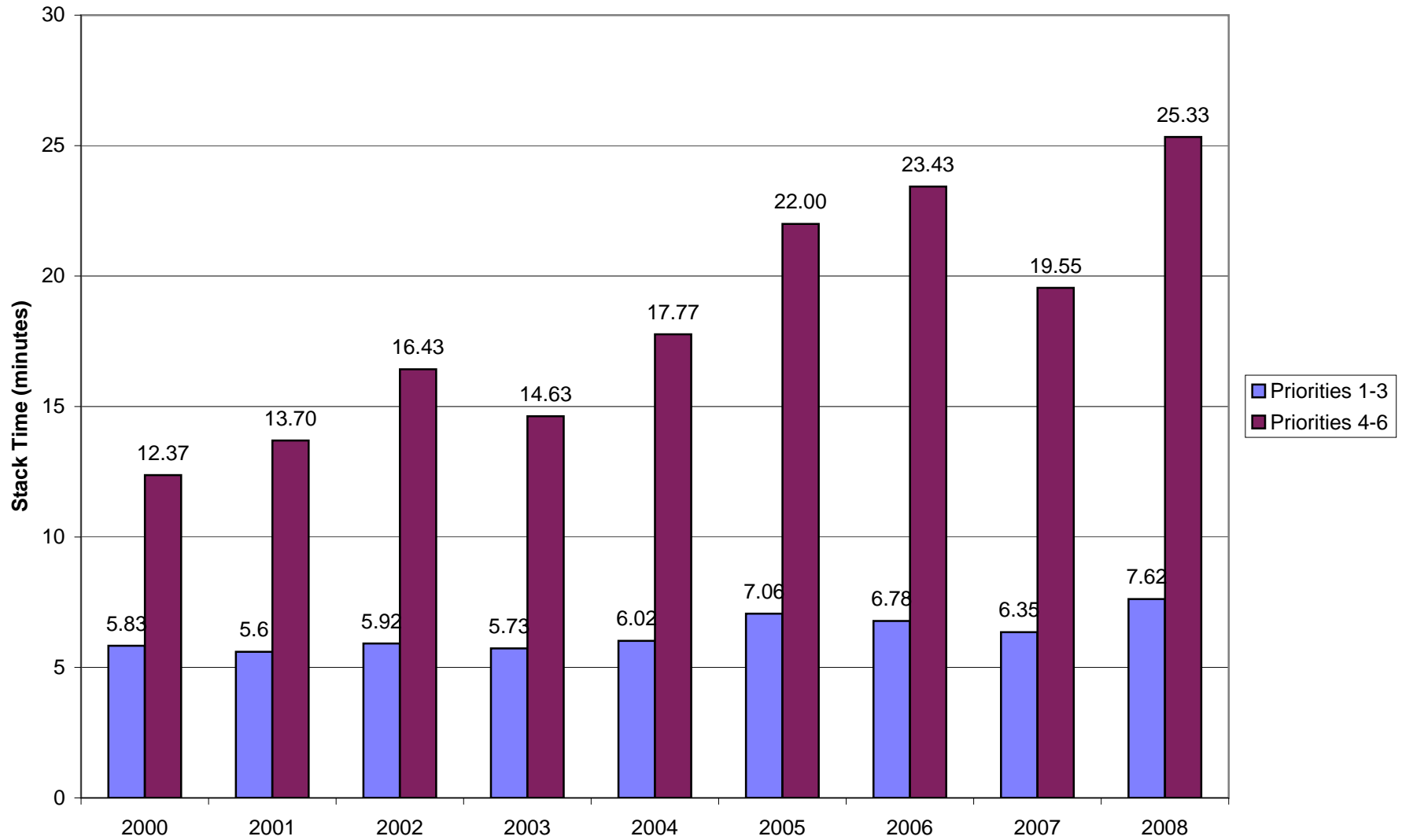


Chart 3 - Total Part I Crimes By Year

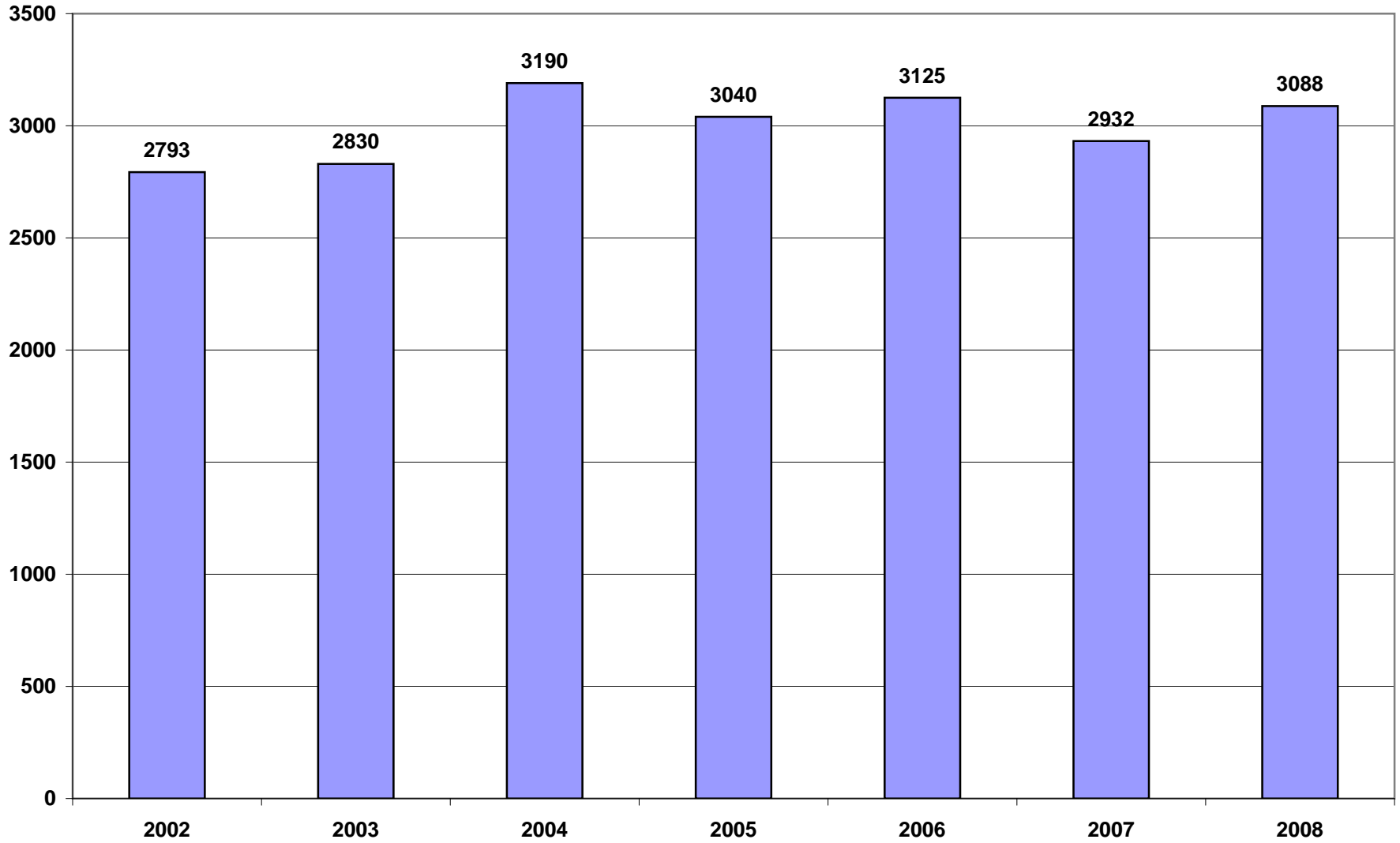


Chart 4 - Part I Crimes By Year & Type

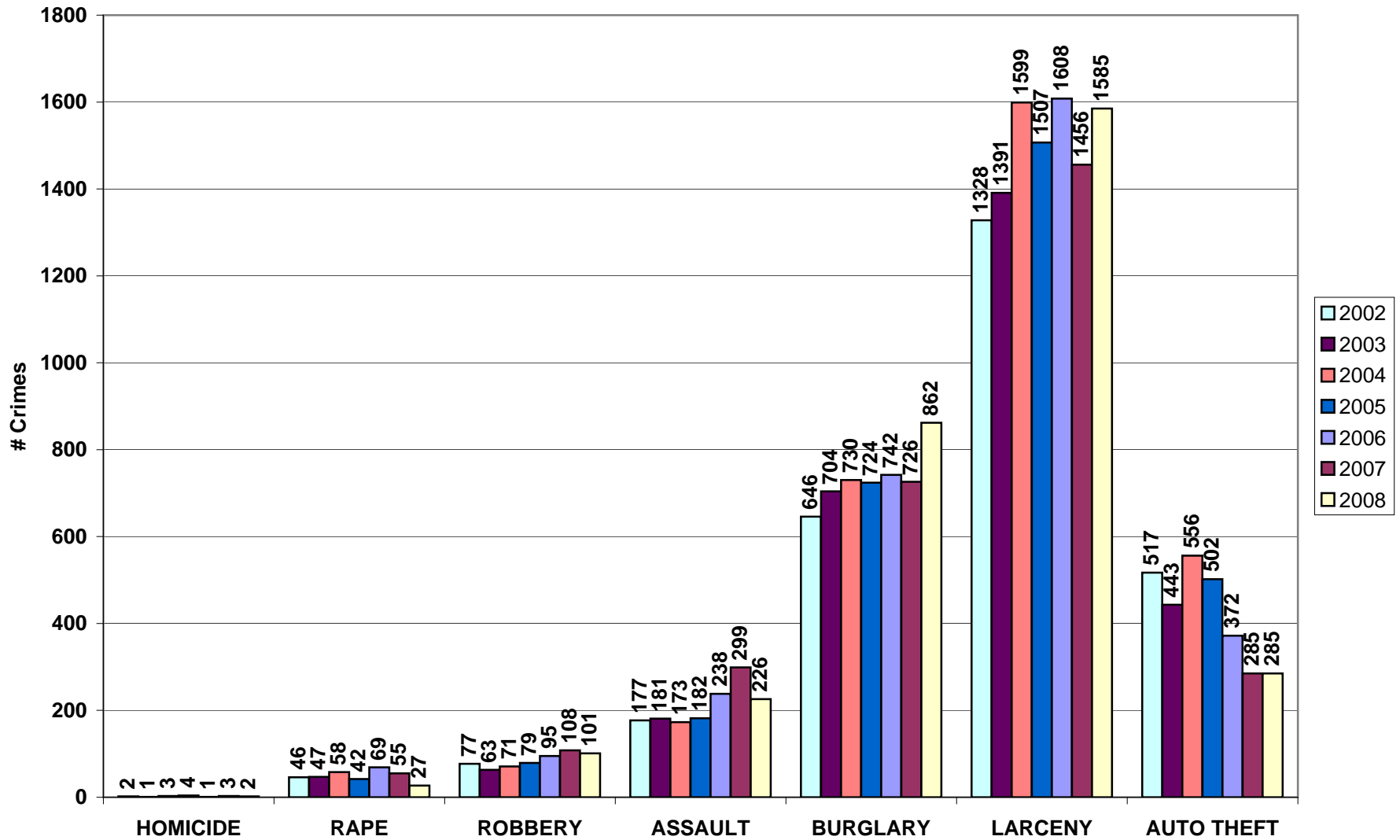


Chart 5 - Part I Crimes Against Persons By Year

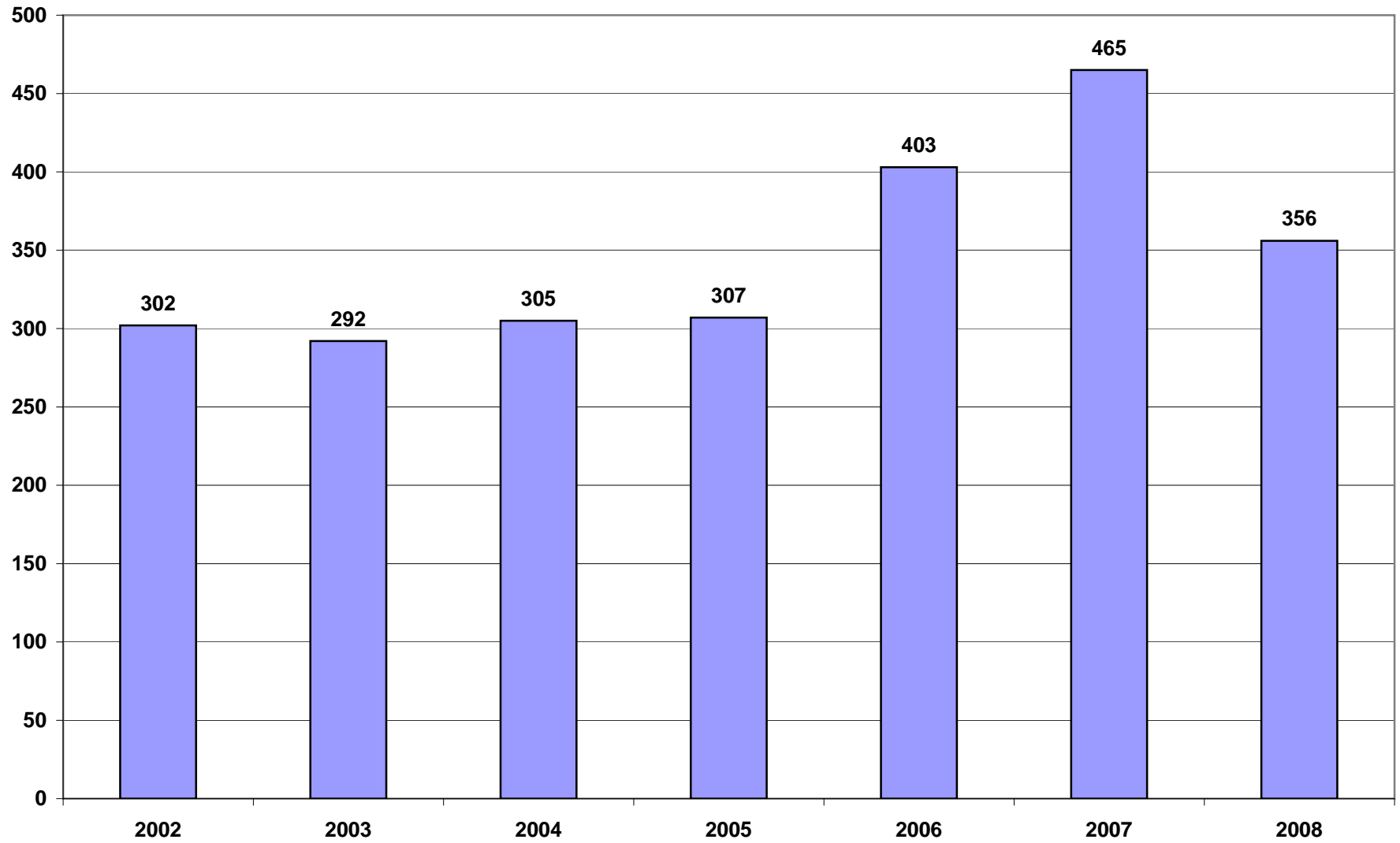


Chart 6 - Part I Crimes Against Property By Year

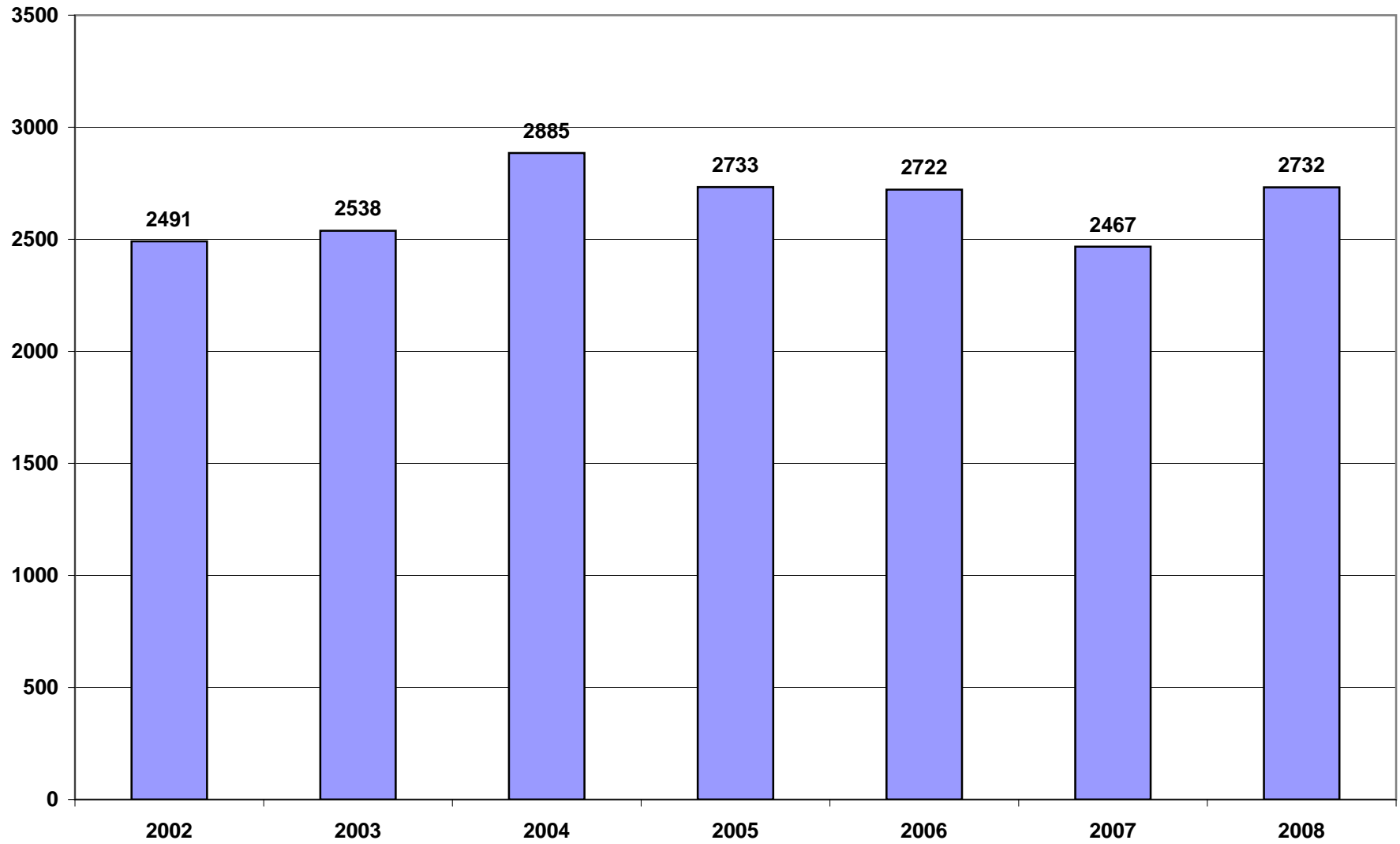


Chart 7 - Arrests, Citations, & Reports Taken By Year

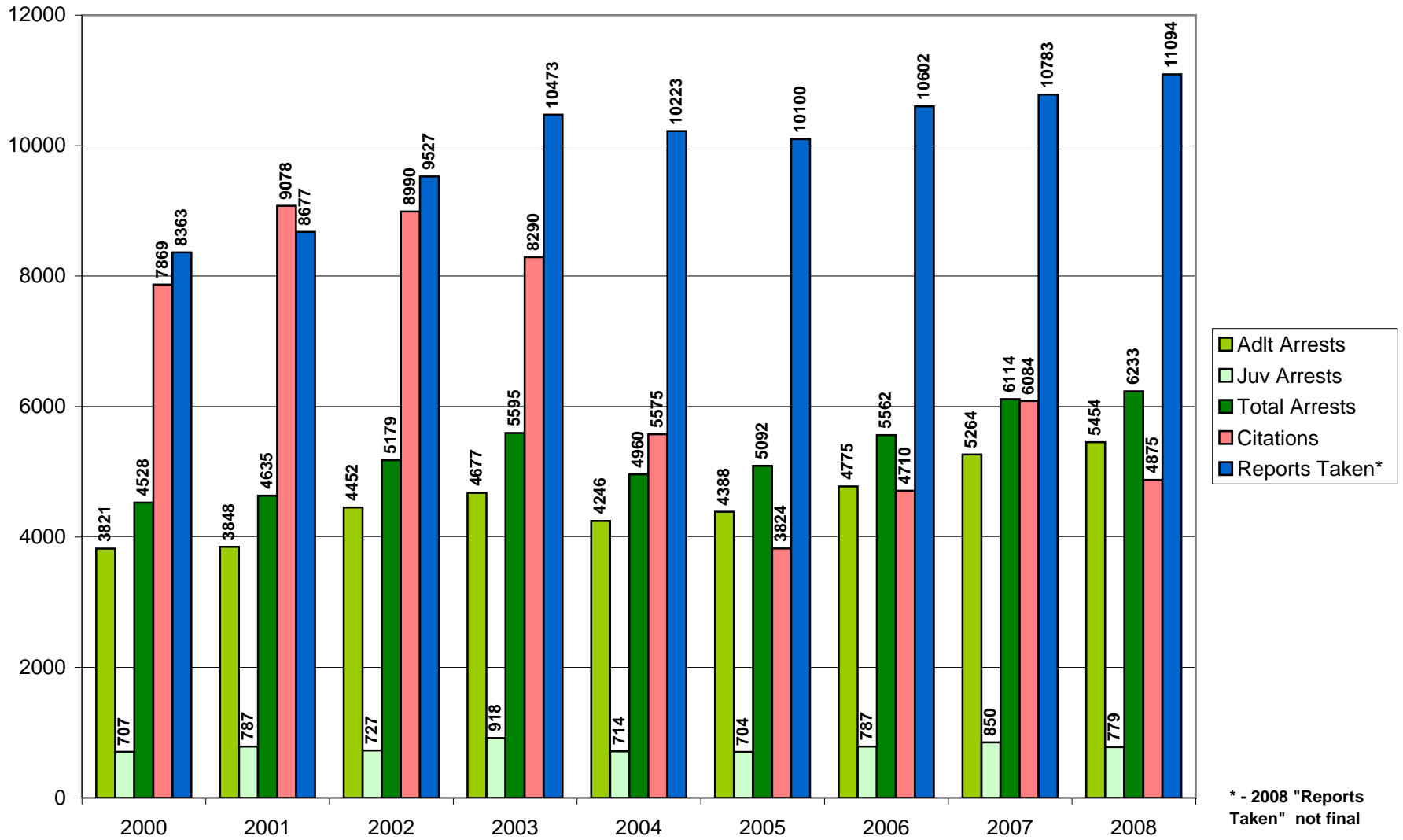


Chart 8. - History of Chico Population, Calls For Service, Part I Crimes, & Sworn Officers

