

**Top Offenses in Rochester:
Citywide, by Police Section, and in the Project CLEAN Target Area**

**Part I, Part II, and Drug Arrest Data
2013 – 2017**

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Analyzed by the Center for Public Safety Initiatives

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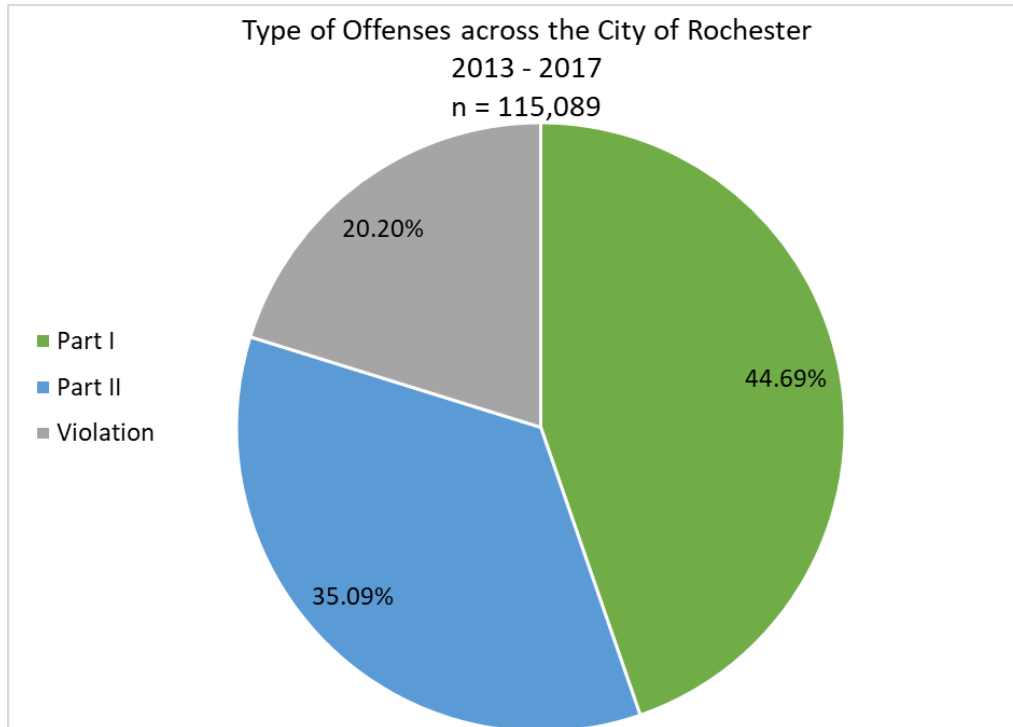
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Breakdown of Top Offenses in Rochester, NY

Across the City of Rochester, between 2013 and 2017, there were 115,089 total offenses. This includes Part I Offenses and Part II arrests, which includes drug arrests. The data have been coded based on New York State Penal Law, and given general description names (e.g., Burglary, versus Burglary 3rd: Illegal Entry, Burglary 2nd: Illegal Entry, Burglary 2nd, Burglary Illegal Entry, etc.).

Offense Category Breakdown



Almost half of all offenses in the City of Rochester are Part I Offenses¹. Part II Offenses² make up just over one-third of all offenses in the City. Finally, Violations³ comprise about 20% of the total offenses over this time period. There were 13 offenses from 2013 – 2017 that did not fall into these types, and were categorized as “other”, and are not shown in this pie chart. Within these offenses, the majority are property crimes⁴ (59%), followed by non-violent ‘Other Part II’ crimes (23%).

¹ Part I offenses include: criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary. Larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson (FBI)

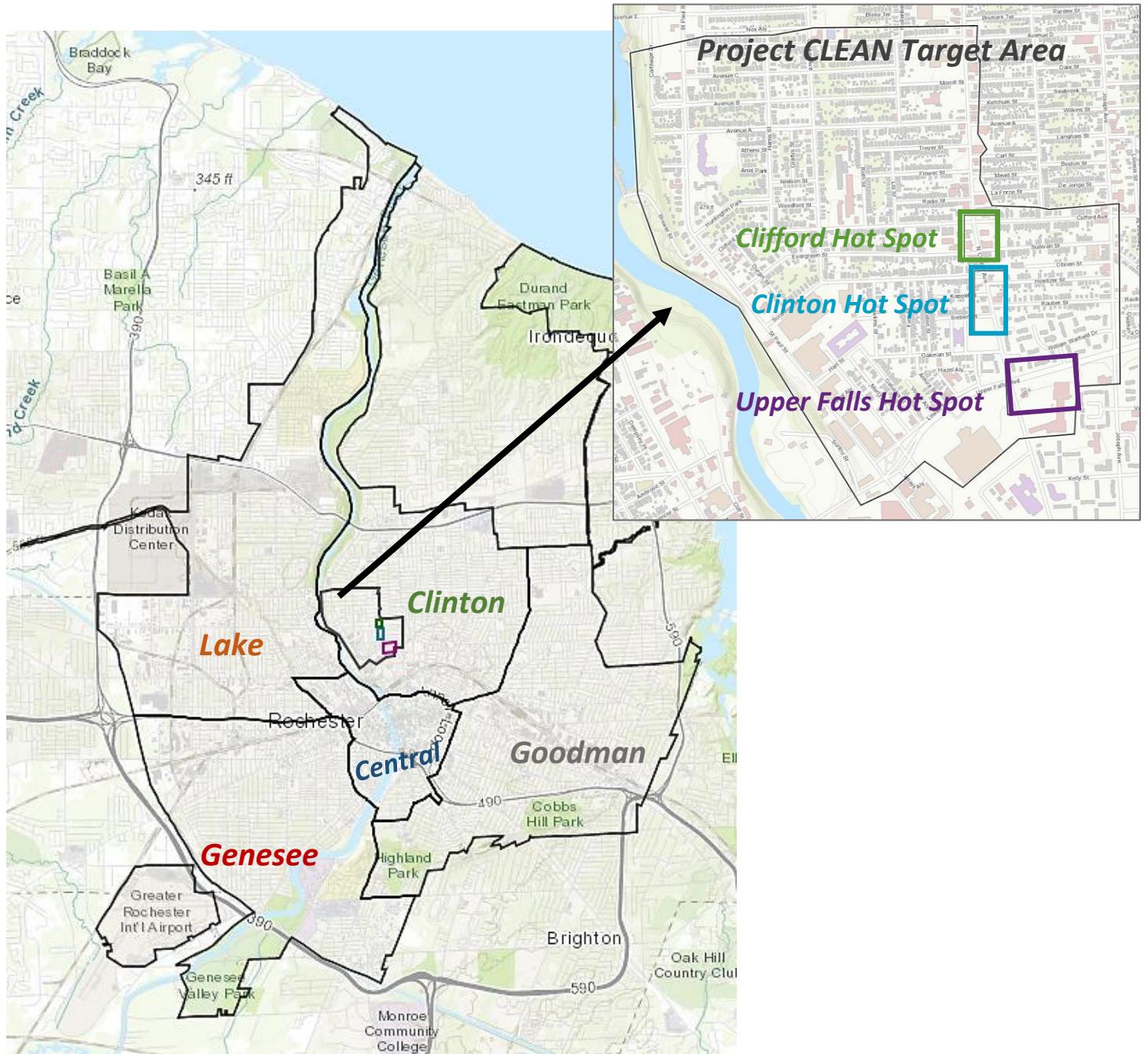
² Part II offenses include simple assault, forgery/fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, gambling, disorderly conduct, etc. (FBI)

³ "Violation" means an offense, other than a "traffic infraction", for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment in excess of fifteen days cannot be imposed (YPD Crime)

⁴ “Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims. The property crime category includes arson because the offense involves the destruction of property” (DOJ, 2010, para. 1)

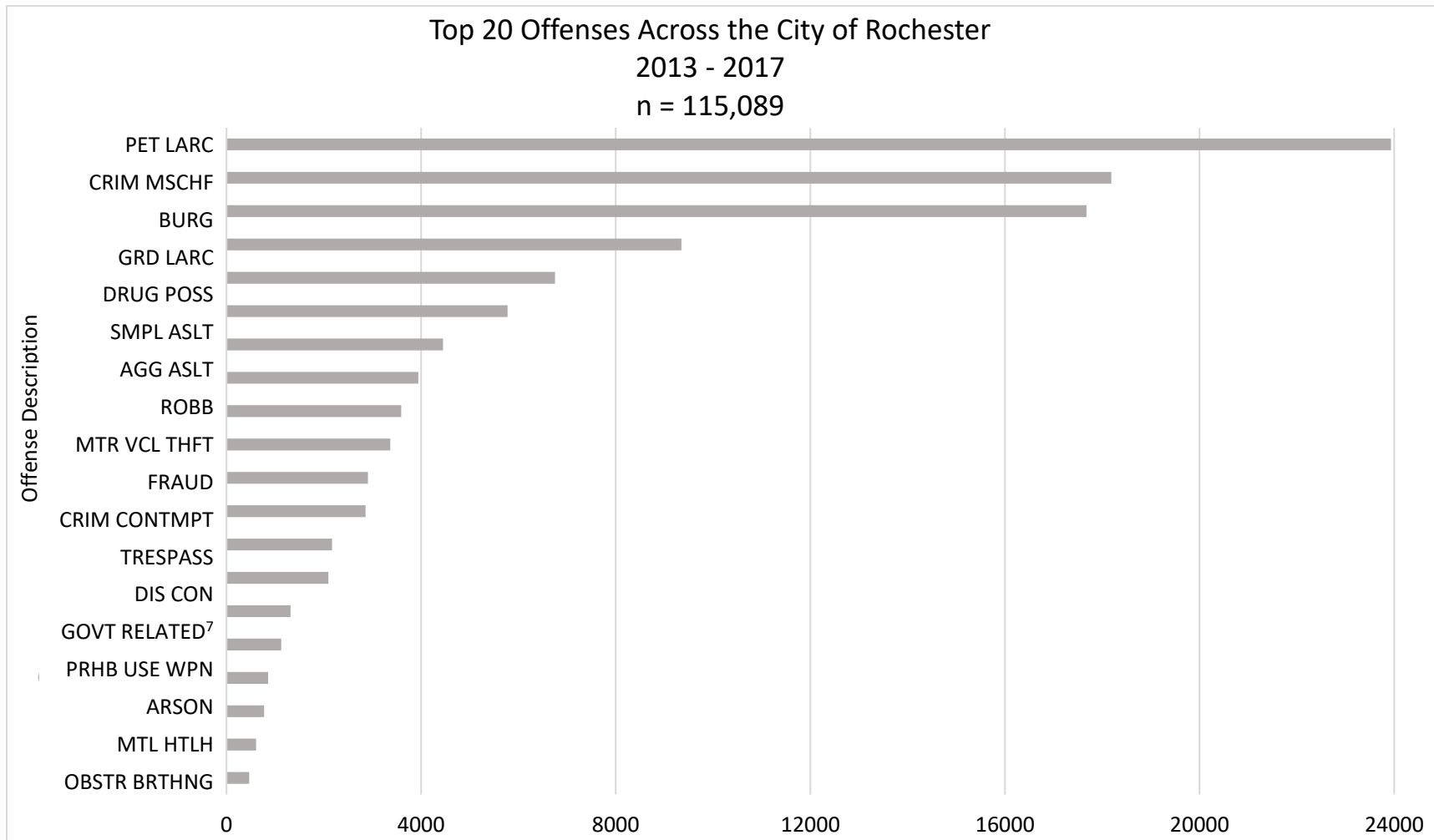
Violent crimes⁵ made up 9% of all offenses, drug offenses (based on PL 220 and 221; NYS Law, n.d.) made up 5%, and disorder crimes⁶ made up 3%.

The map below shows the five Rochester Police Patrol Sections, as well as the Project CLEAN Target Area, and three hot spot areas within this area. This map will help visually as we break down the top offenses across the city, within each section, and within the Target Area.



⁵ “Violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes are defined in the UCR Program as those offenses which involve force or threat of force” (DOJ, 2010, para. 1)

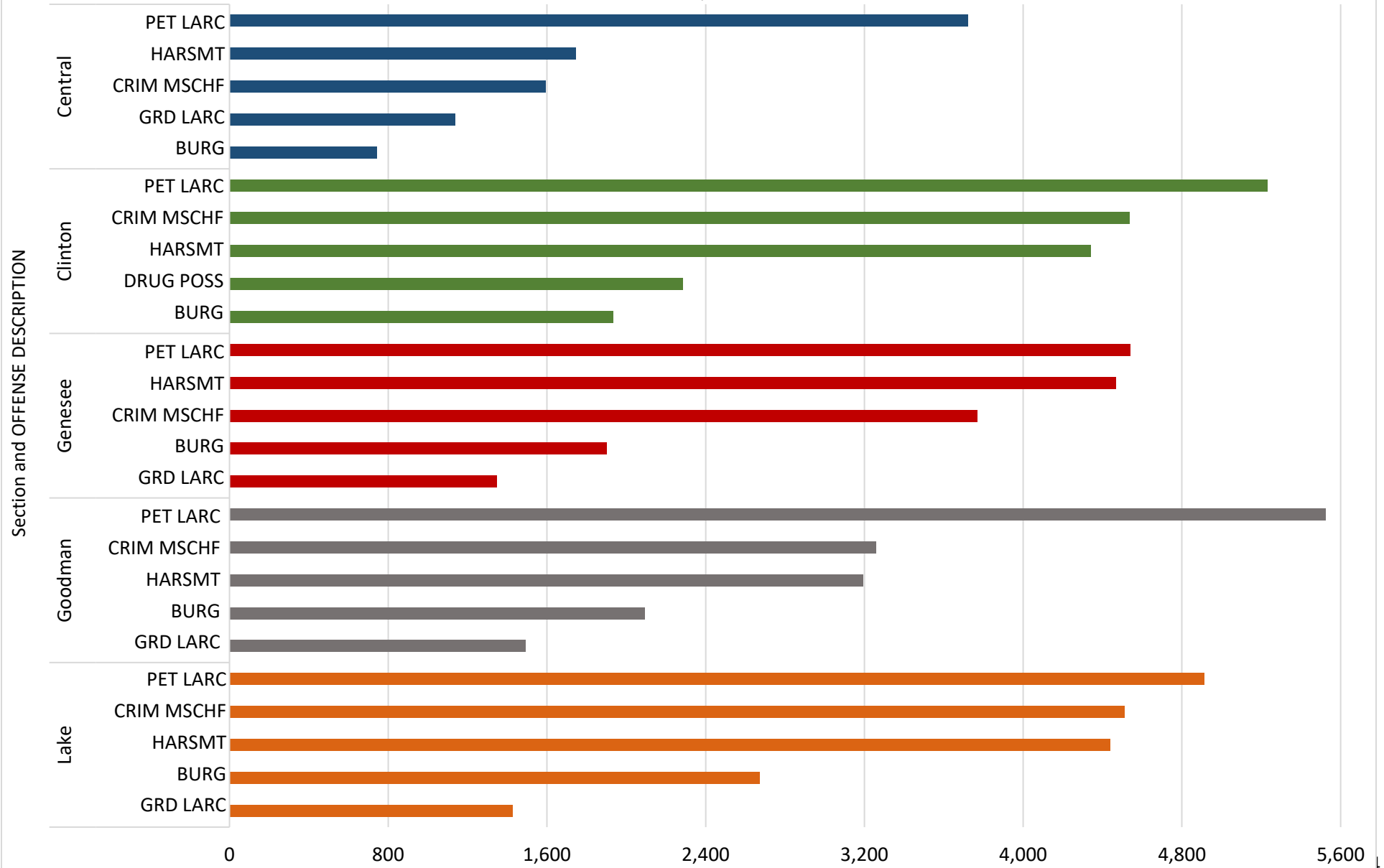
⁶ “Disorderly conditions, such as graffiti or loitering” (NIJ, n.d., para. 1).



Across the City of Rochester there were 115,089 offenses between 2013 and 2017. Of these, Petit Larceny (theft of something valued at \$1,000 or less) was the most common, accounting for 21% of all offenses, followed by Harassment-related offenses (16%), and Criminal Mischief (15%). After these top offenses, the offenses drop off quite a bit. The first drug-related offense, drug possession, is ranked 6th across the city, (about 5% of all offenses between 2013 and 2017).

⁷ GOVT RELATED include offenses such as official misconduct, obstruction of justice, resisting arrest, fleeing police, etc.

Top 5 Offenses in each Rochester Police Section 2013 - 2017 n = 115,089

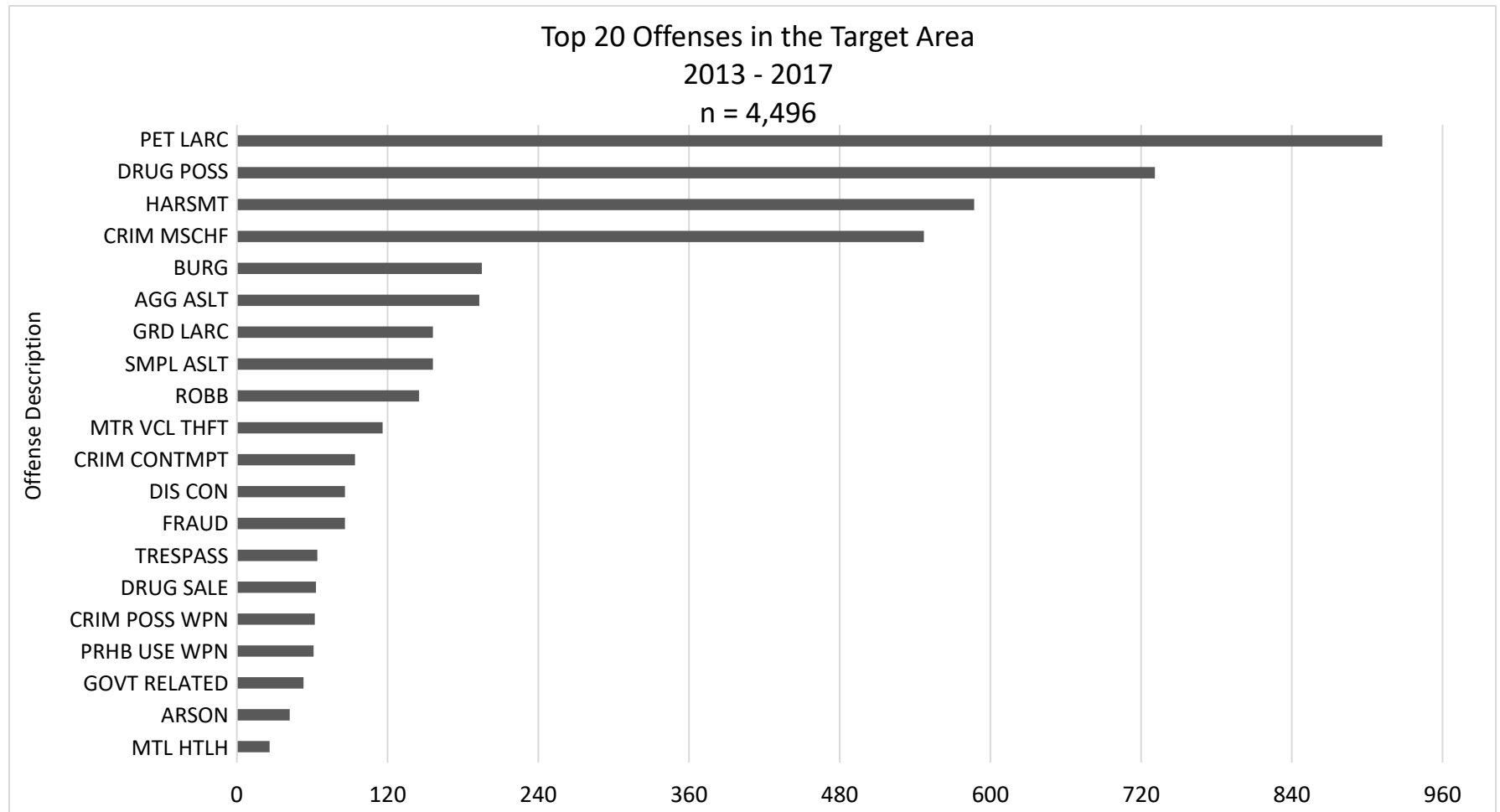


Across the five Police Sections, the highest offense types are similar to the citywide top offenses. Petit Larceny is, again, the most common offense across each Section, accounting for 28% of all offenses in Central Section, 18% in Clinton Section, 19% in Genesee Section, 25% in Goodman Section, and 18% in Lake Section.

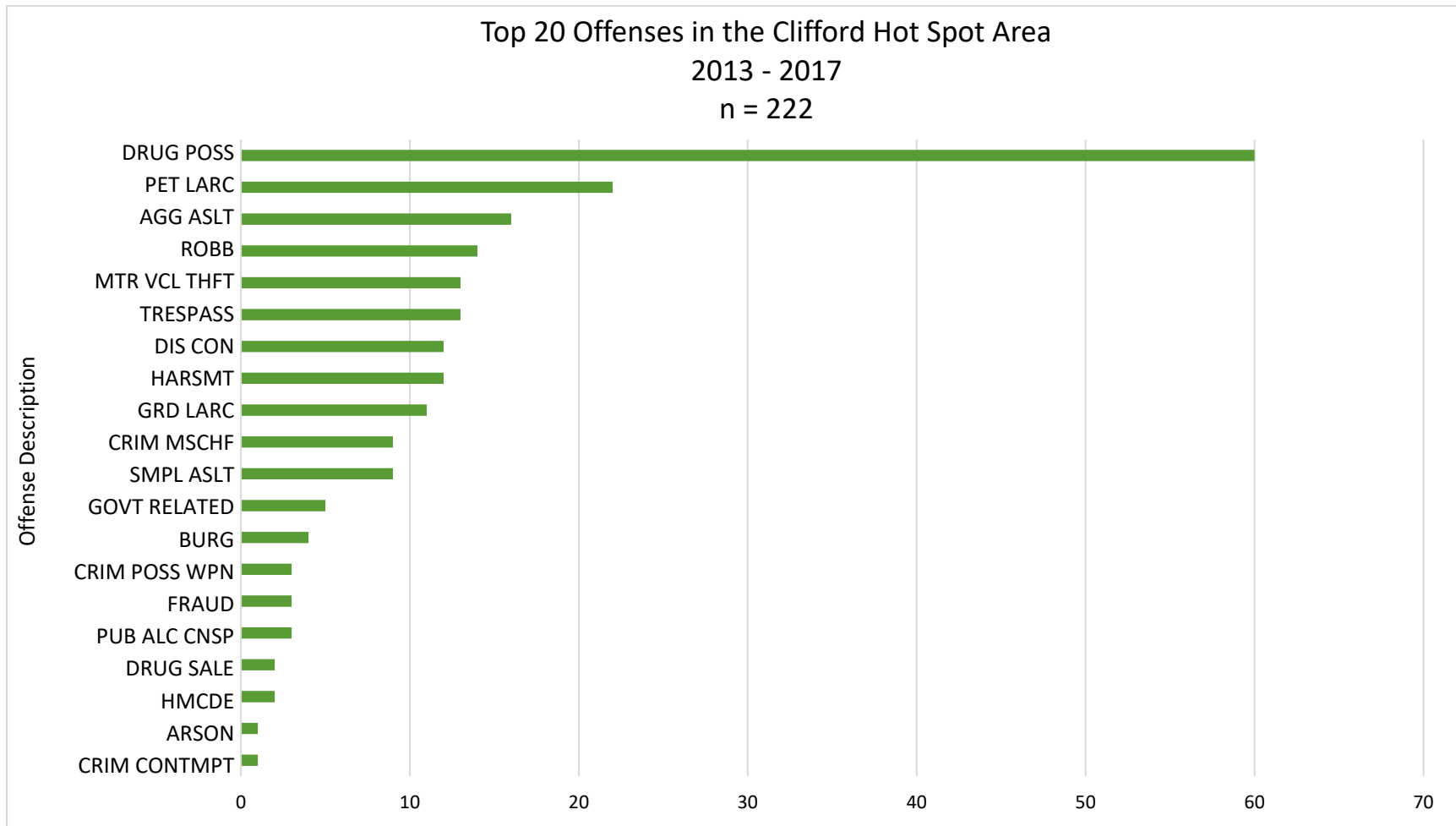
Criminal Mischief and Harassment change slightly between 2nd and 3rd most common across the sections, but are in the top 3 across the city as well.

The Clinton Section is the only RPD Section that has a drug-related offense in the top 5 most frequent offenses between 2013 and 2017. Drug possession offenses account for 8% of all offenses in the Clinton Section. The Clinton Section has a higher percentage of drug possession offenses compared to the city as a whole (8% versus 5%). Drug possession offenses accounted for 4% of Central Section's offenses, 5% of Genesee Section's total offenses, 2% in Goodman Section and 4% in Lake Section; these are all lower than the citywide amount (with the exception of Genesee Section, the percentage is the same).

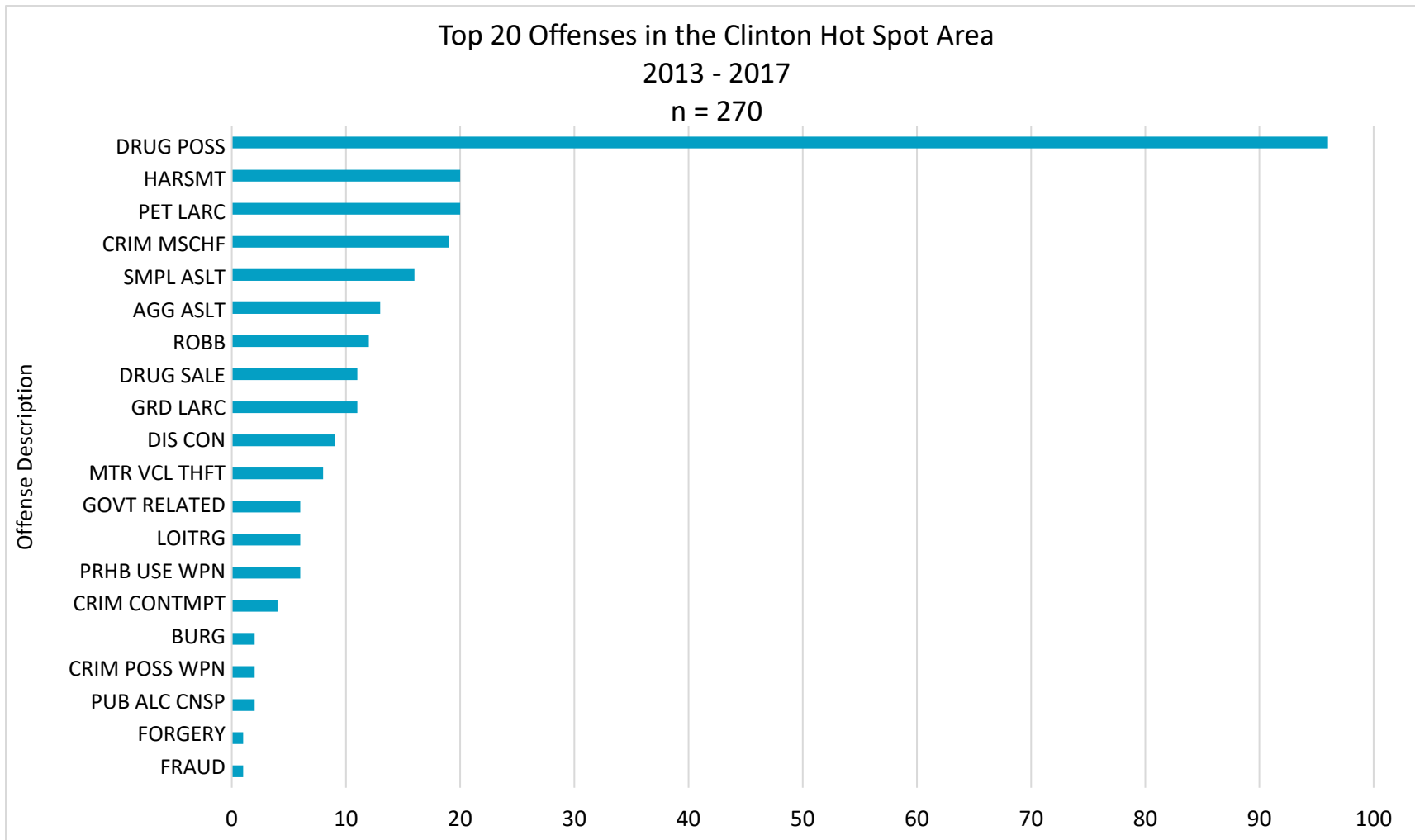
Drug sale offenses are the 23rd highest offense type across the City, making up 0.32% of all offenses over five years. Within each Police Section, drug sale-related arrests make up less than 0.6% of all offenses (Clinton Section is the highest). Interviews with law enforcement revealed the challenges behind making more drug arrests. These challenges include manpower issues (e.g., RPD operates with 1 officer per car, but Vice A calls require 2 officers to respond, further straining the Department's resources) and drug sellers and users dispersing immediately when officers respond to the call.



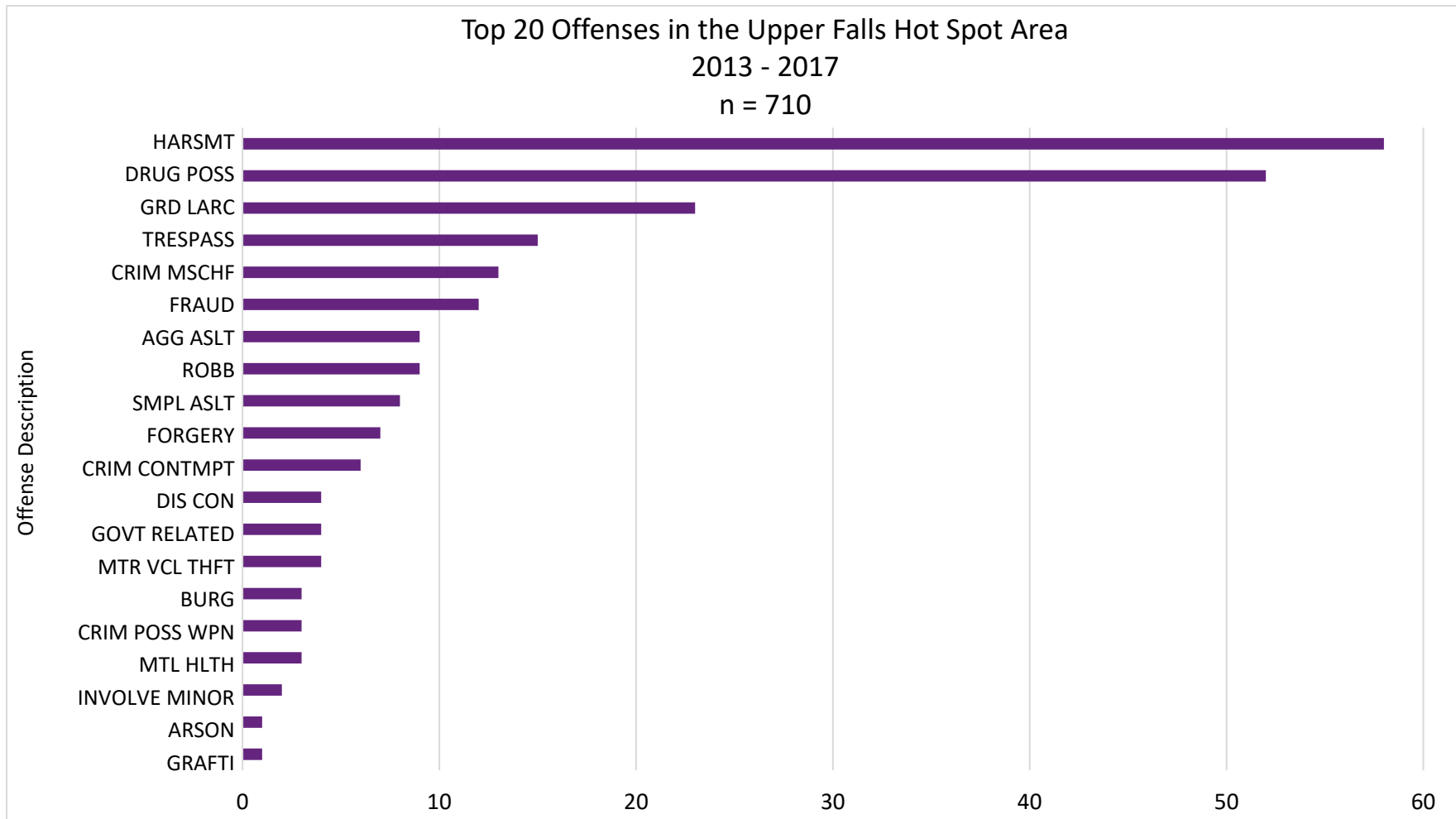
Similar to the rest of the City, Petit Larceny was the most frequent offense committed between 2013 and 2017 in the Project CLEAN Target area; Petit Larceny accounted for 20% of total offenses in the Target Area (n = 912). Drug possession offenses were a close second, at 16% of all offenses over five years. Drug sales accounted for just under 1.5% of all offenses (n = 63). Five of the top 20 offenses were directly related to theft, which may also be related to drug use and sales. The remaining 17 offense types not in this chart accounted for less than 0.5% each, but involved offenses such as forgery, loitering, public alcohol consumption/intoxication, gambling and panhandling.



Drug possession offenses in the Clifford hot spot accounted for over one quarter of all offenses from 2013 – 2017 (27%), followed by Petit Larceny at 10%, and aggravated assault at 7%. Drug sales accounted for 0.9% of offenses in the Clifford hot spot. Many of these top offenses could be related to drug activity (e.g., robbery, trespassing, burglary). The remaining seven offense types not pictured in the above chart include forgery, offenses related to judicial proceedings (e.g., intimidating a witness) and panhandling; however, each occurred once in the five year period.



Like the Clifford hot spot, drug possession offenses were the top offense type in the Clinton hot spot area (n = 96, 35% of all offenses). Harassment and Petit Larceny are the next most frequent offenses, each with 20 occurrences between 2013 and 2017 (7% of all offenses). Drug sales offenses account for 4% of all offenses in the Clinton hot spot, which is greater than the Target Area and the Clifford hot spot area.



The top offense in the Upper Falls Hot Spot is Petit Larceny, at 66% (n = 469), but is not shown in this chart to allow the variation in other offenses to be recognized (see chart with petit larceny included at end of this paper). The second most frequent offense is Harassment, at 8%, followed by drug possession at 7%. The large amount of theft in this hot spot is consistent with the makeup of the area it covers; there are larger retail stores in this plaza that fall victim to theft. This is consistent with interview findings from residents and law enforcement. The lack of drug sale arrests in the Upper Falls hot spot are also consistent with interviews with residents and individuals in recovery; the sales are more likely to occur down the N. Clinton corridor, that this plaza is the place to use after buying.

Discussion

Overall, the top offense types are generally consistent across the City of Rochester, its five Police Sections, and the Project CLEAN Target Area (Petit Larceny, Harassment and Criminal Mischief). One exception is that the top five crimes in the Clinton hot spot include a drug crime, unlike any of the other four Police Sections. Looking at micro hot spots, the top offenses do shift based on the nature of the area (the El Camino neighborhood has been identified as the place to buy drugs for the last several decades by residents, law enforcement and individuals in recovery). This shift includes a higher amount of drug possession and drug sale arrests.

Over five years, there were 2,287 drug possession arrests made in the Clinton Police Section, the highest of any police section in the city. There is both a heroin and marijuana market in this neighborhood. Previous analyses conducted by CPSI revealed that the non-marijuana arrests are concentrated along the North Clinton corridor in the project area, while marijuana arrests are concentrated along Roth St. and Avenue A.

Violent crime is not a top crime within any of the five police sections across the city, although it is prioritized. This is also consistent in the Project CLEAN Target Area and hot spot areas, which is confirmed in interviews; heroin use and sales are not associated with large amounts of serious violence. However, aggravated assaults were the third highest offense in the Clifford hot spot, which may be a result of drug deals gone wrong. It will be important to track all crime, and specifically drug crime and violent crime, as strategies are implemented to disrupt the open-air heroin market. Understanding how crime is impacted by the strategies will help to modify or adapt the strategies.

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As mentioned on page 9, the chart below includes Petit Larceny, and shows the top 20 offenses in the Upper Falls hot spot area. Petit Larceny makes up 66% of the crime in this hot spot, and is more frequent than any other offenses from 2013 to 2017.

