

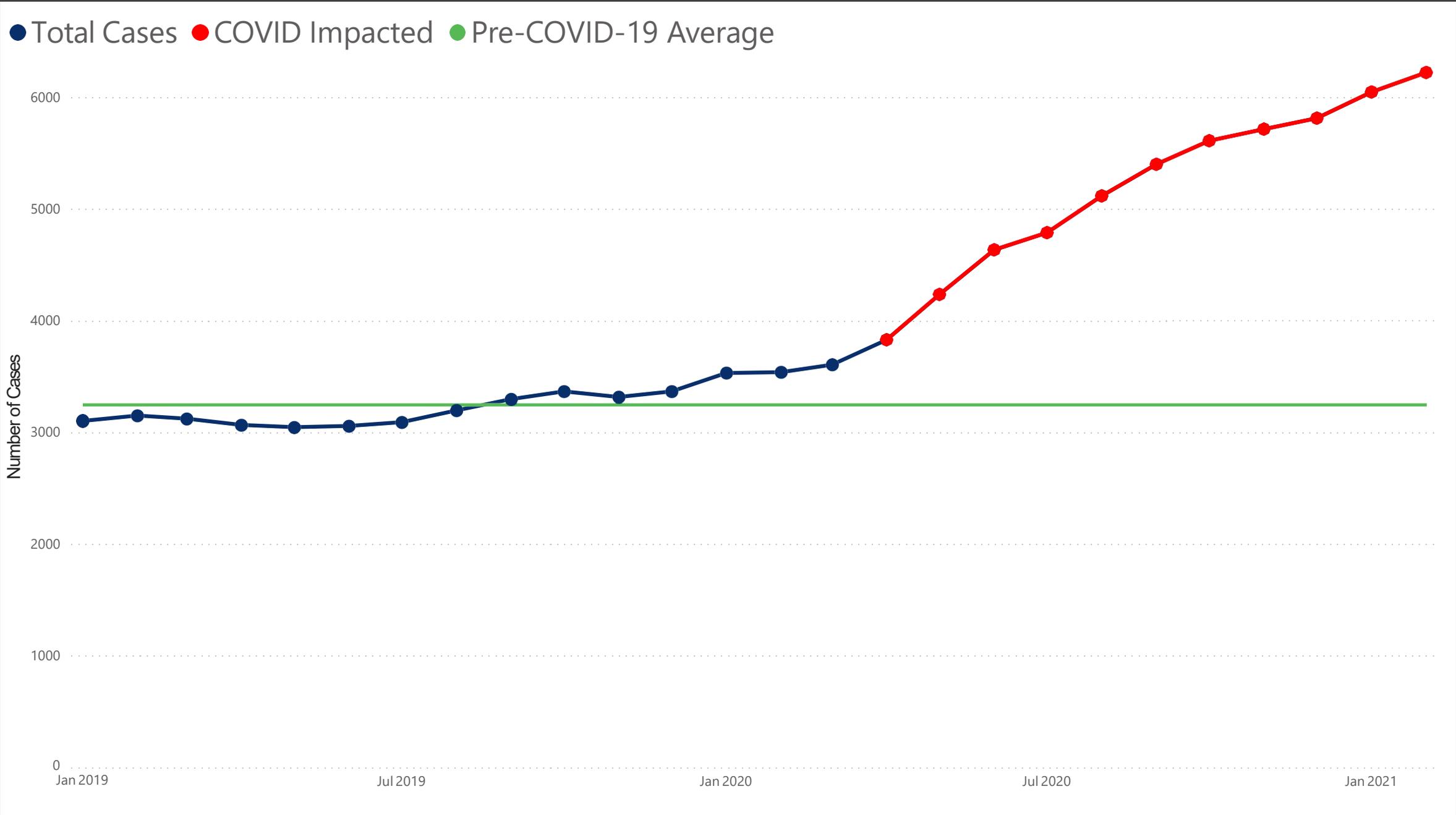
Impact of COVID-19: King County Superior Court

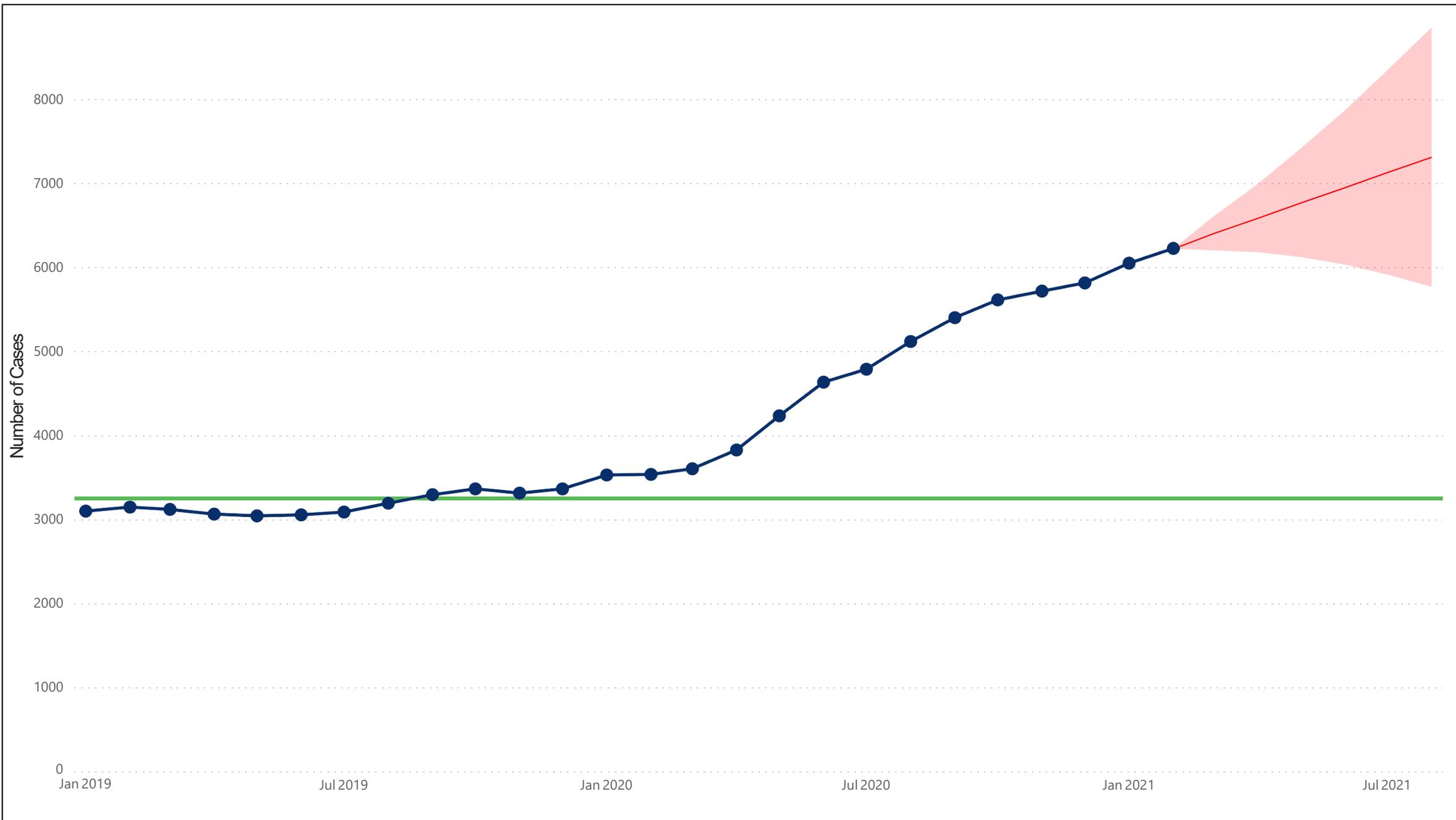
An examination by the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

February 2021

Current Pending Felony Caseload

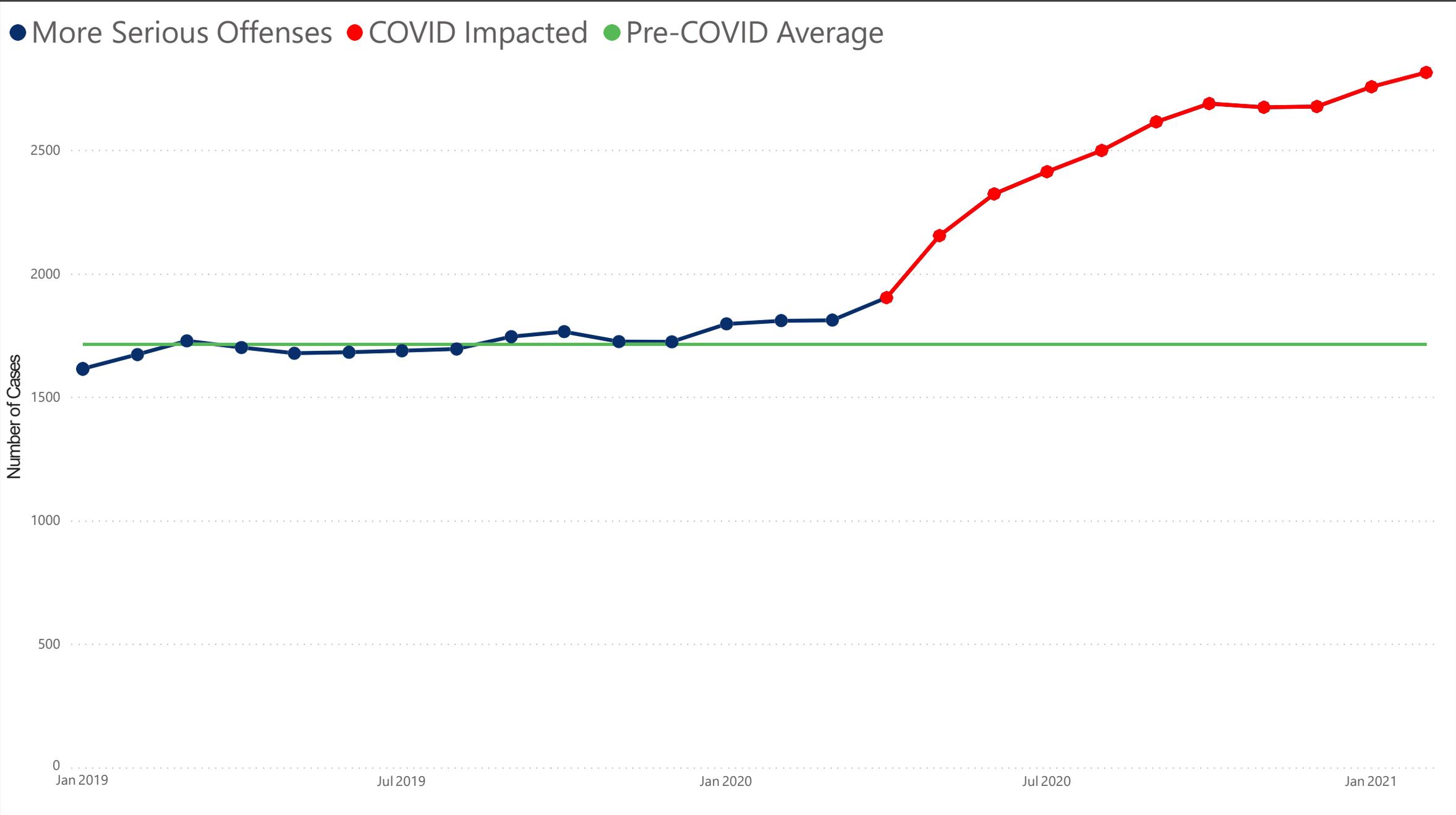
- Historically we have an average of **3250** pending felonies.
- Post-COVID we now have over **6450** pending felonies.
- By Summer 2021, that number is projected to rise to between **7000** to **9000** pending felony cases.



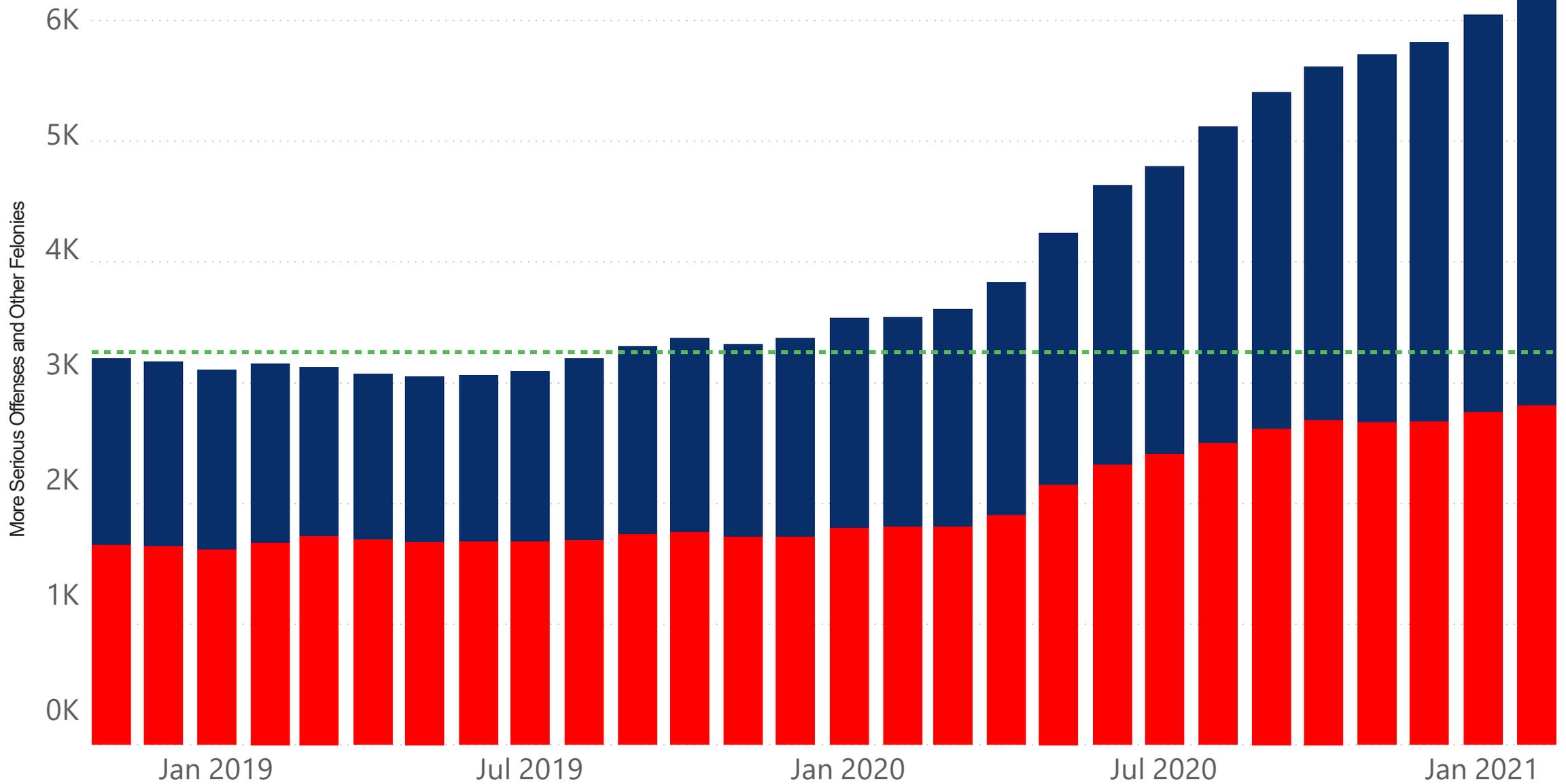


More Serious Offenses

- Pre-COVID we had approximately 1700 “more serious” offenses in the system.
- “More serious” cases include homicide, rape, domestic violence, robbery, shootings.
- Now, we have approximately 2800 “more serious” pending cases.
- Recall that prior to COVID, our entire pending caseload was approximately 3250 cases.
- “More serious” cases take exponentially more resources to prepare, longer to try, and significant work with victims and families.

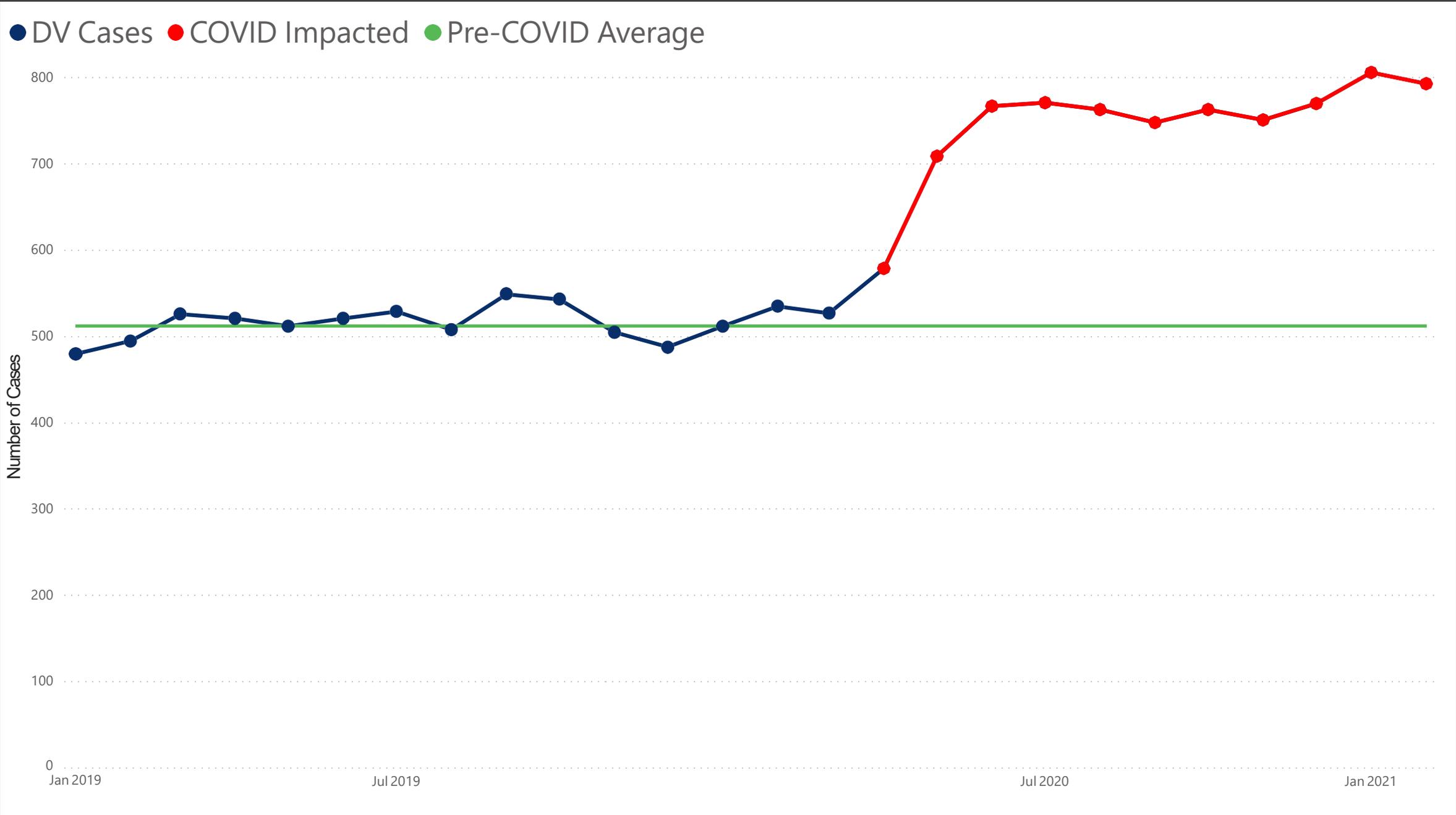


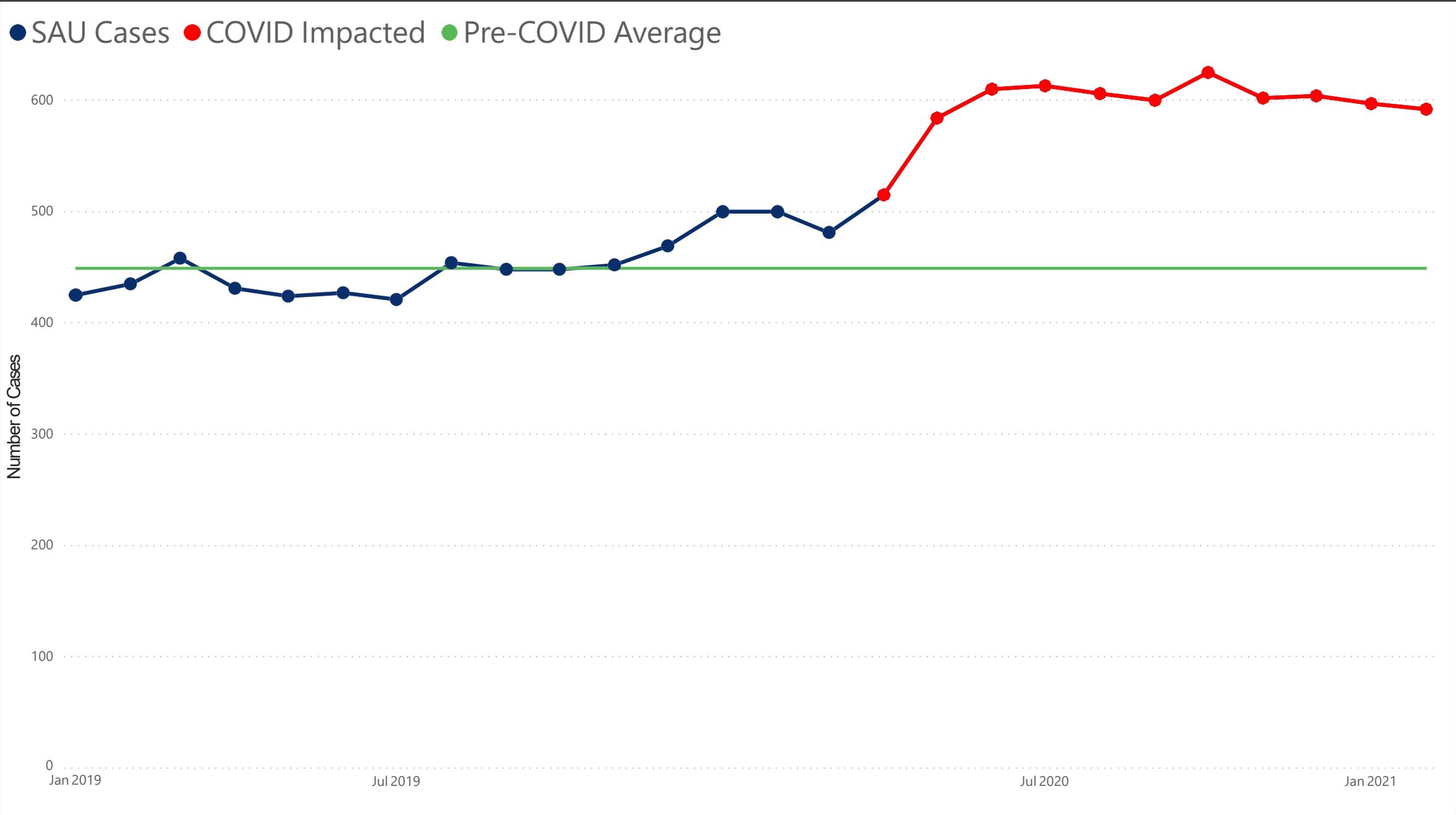
● More Serious Offenses ● Other Felonies



Domestic Violence and SAU Cases

- For DV cases, we have seen a 50% increase in pending cases.
- For SAU cases, we have seen a 33% increase in pending cases.





COVID-19 has prevented cases from resolving

Three primary ways a case leaves the system:

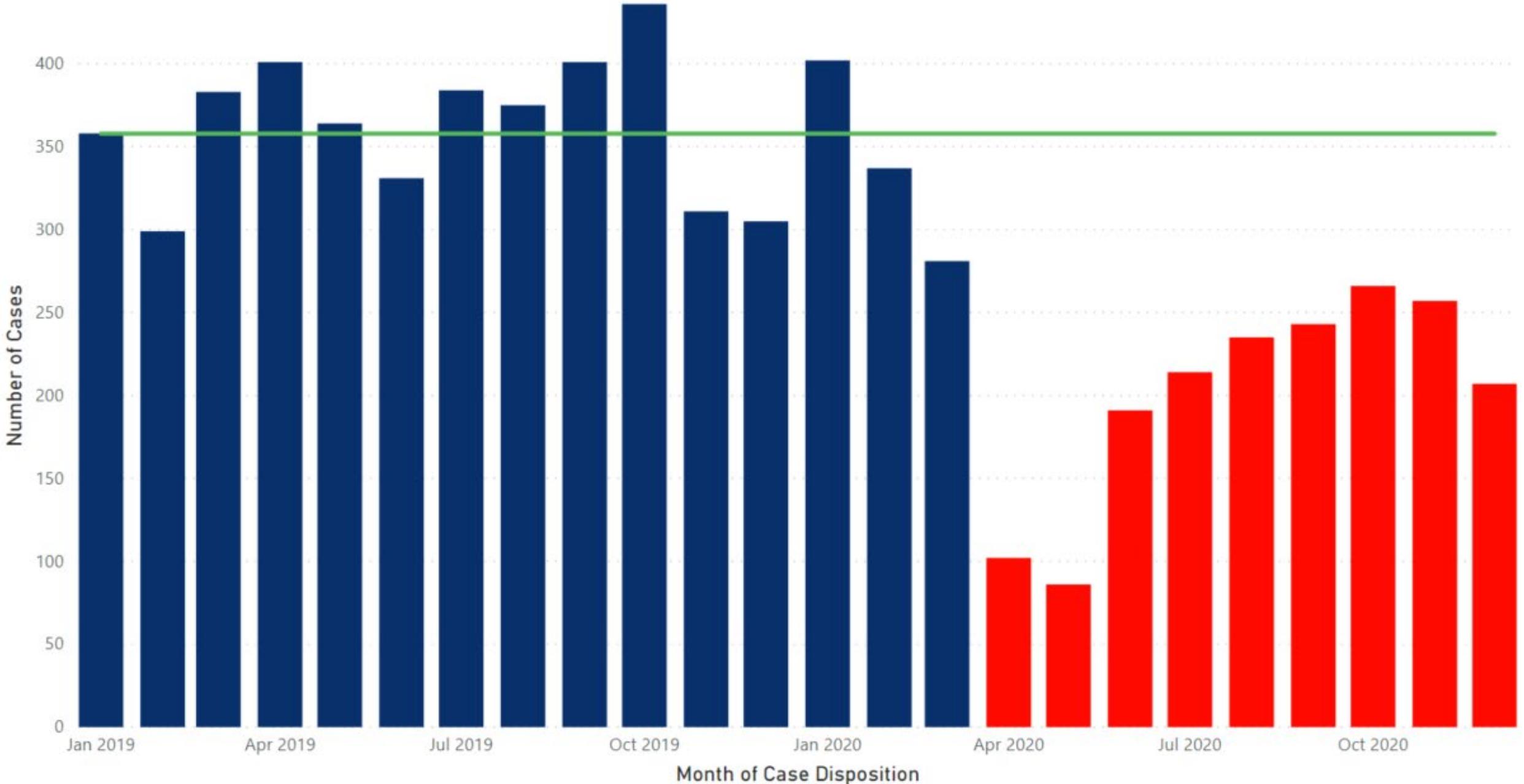
- (1) Guilty Pleas
- (2) Bench Warrants
- (3) Trials

All three exits have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, resulting in unprecedented growth.

At the same time, crime rates continue at pre-COVID rates or higher.

Plea Agreements - Cases Disposed in King County Superior Court by Plea

● Case Dispositions ● COVID Impacted Dispositions ● Pre-COVID-19 Average Dispositions



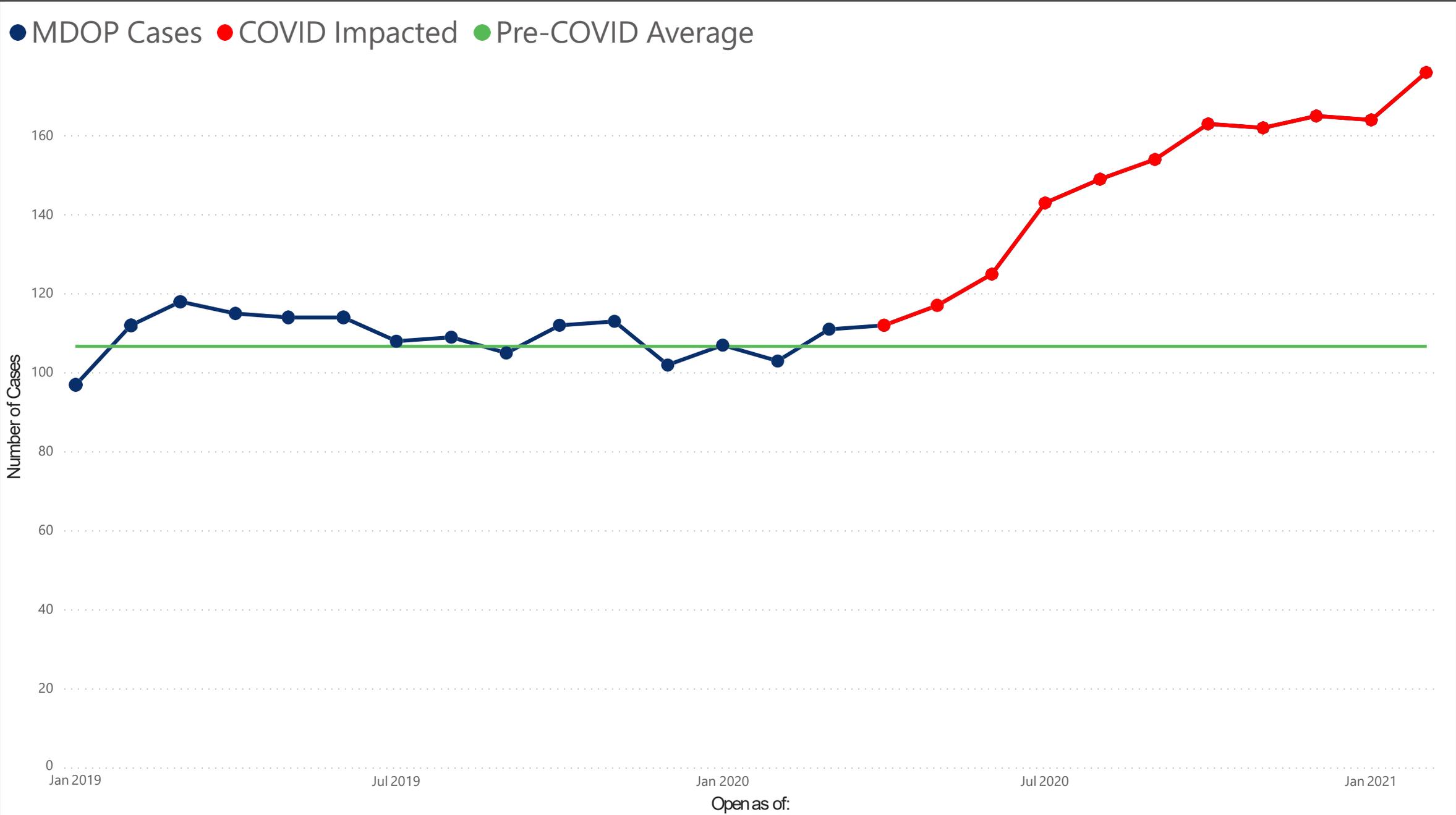
Pending Homicide Cases & “Call Outs”

MDOP = Most Dangerous Offender Project (Homicides)

- Average Pre-COVID was **115** pending cases
- Post-COVID, **175** pending cases

Our office responds to homicide scenes to assist police.

- Average call outs per year: **86**
- 2020 call outs: **146**
- 2021 call outs: **12**



More Shots Fired in 2020

- 3-year average of shots fired annually: **870**
- 2020 shots fired: **1034**
- INCREASE in shooting victims: **36%** (337 compared with 248)
- INCREASE in fatal shootings: **27%**
- Consistent with national trends.

The future is not encouraging

- There are over **3000** unfiled felony cases for us to review.
- We are filing “most serious” and “priority” cases now. We are being thoughtful in our filings understanding the safety issues involved.
- There are **1100** cases set for trial (typically handle 200 trials a year).
- We have been given **no** additional resources to address these issues.