BUSINESS SECURITY COLLABORATIVE
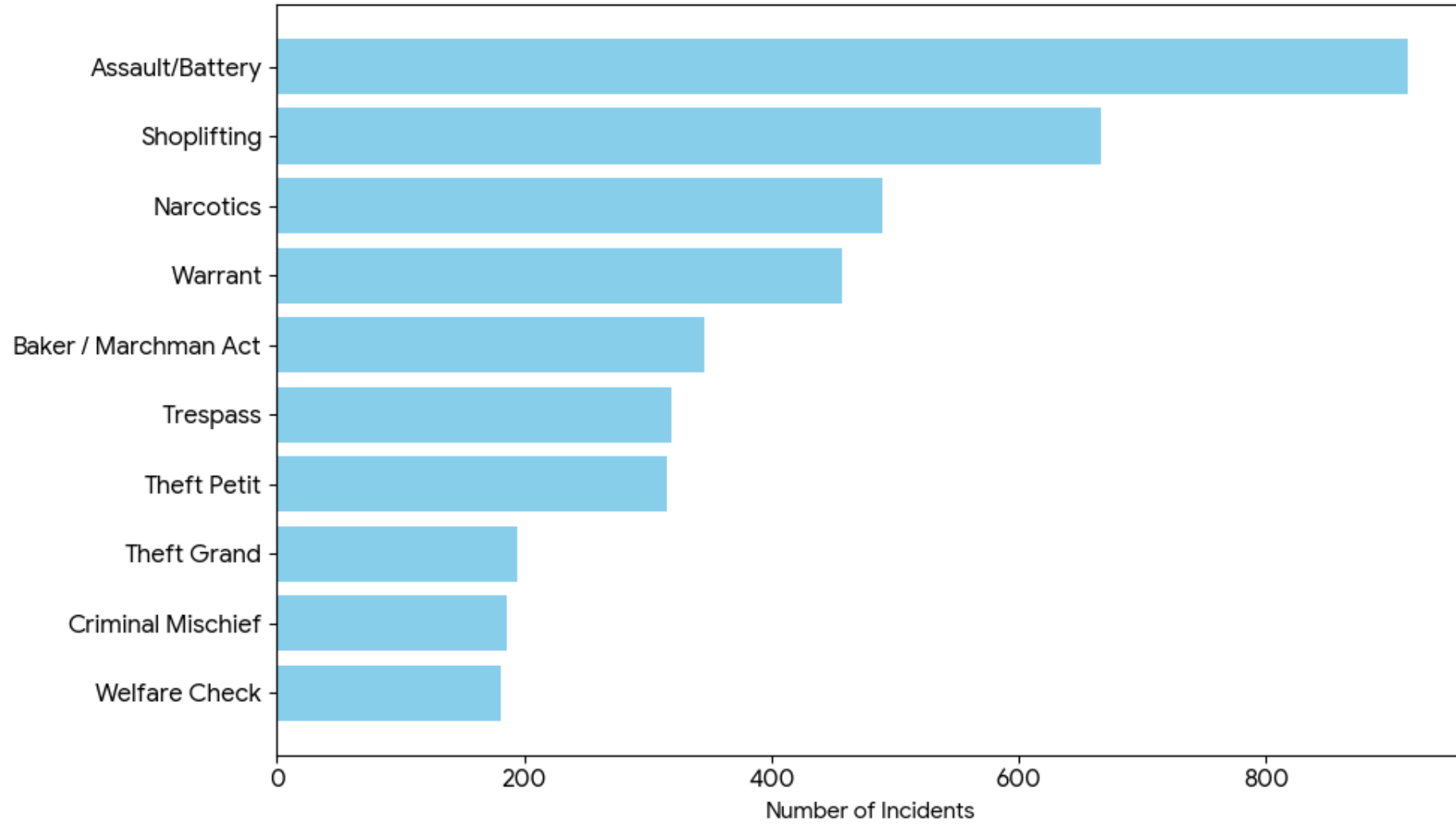
Pasco Sheriff's Office – Pasco EDC

THREAT VECTORS

- Cybercrime targeting local business networks
- Fraud & financial crimes impacting operations
- Organized retail & property crime
- Human trafficking linked to business corridors
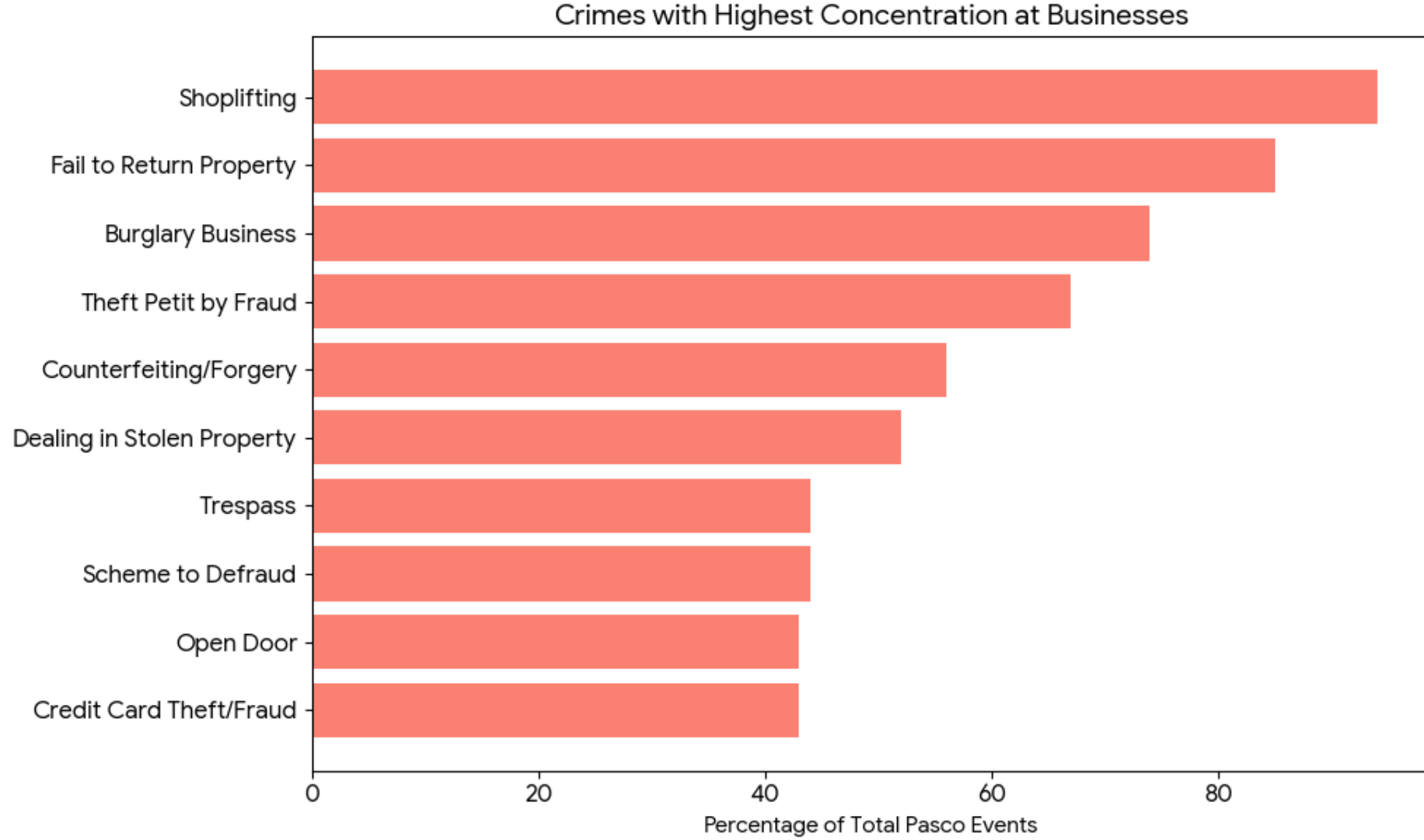- Environmental/business continuity threats

PASCO BUSINESS CRIME ANALYSIS

Top Risks by Volume:

- Assault/Battery is the most frequent business-related incident, accounting for 17.5% of all recorded events.

- Shoplifting and Narcotics continue as primary operational concerns, with shoplifting notably making up 26% of incidents at major retail stores.

- Warrants and Trespassing frequency remains significant, particularly in the Banking (13% Trespass) and Pharmacy (10% Warrant).

- **Retail-Exclusive Threats:** Events such as Shoplifting and Commercial Burglary are highly concentrated at business sites; Shoplifting accounts for 42% of activity at regional shopping centers.

- **Financial Crime Concentration:** Businesses, particularly Banks and Credit Unions, are disproportionately targeted for financial crimes, with Counterfeiting/Forgery representing 18% of their total reported incidents.

- **Sector-Specific Vulnerabilities:** Pawn Shops see a massive concentration of Dealing in Stolen Property (76%), while Night Clubs/Bars experience a high density of physical risks, with Assault/Battery making up 60% of their events.

Top 10 Crimes/Disturbances at Pasco Businesses (Volume)

Crimes with Highest Concentration at Businesses

Rank	2025 Risk	2026 Risk	Primary Driver
1	Cyber Incidents	**Cyber Incidents**	AI-driven malware & ransomware
2	Business Interruption	**Artificial Intelligence**	Rapid adoption vs. lack of governance
3	Macroeconomic Developments	**Business Interruption**	Geopolitical instability
4	Natural Catastrophes	**Changes in Regulation**	Protectionism & trade tariffs

CYBER

Primary Vectors

Ransomware & Data-Exfiltration

Phishing & BEC

Vendor Compromise

Credential Theft & Weak Authentication

Florida DOH Cyberattack (June 26, 2024):

- RansomHub attack
- 100GB+ sensitive data stolen
- FDLE notified; breach confirmed Aug 2024
- Data included SSNs, passports, medical info

Orlando Nonprofit:
- $3.6M stolen via account takeover
- Charges: laundering, wire fraud, identity theft

CYBERSECURITY: THE "AI-ARMS RACE"

The threat landscape has shifted from human-driven to automated, AI-augmented campaigns.

- **AI-Enhanced Phishing:** Attackers use generative AI to create flawless, context-aware phishing emails and "vishing" (voice phishing) calls that bypass traditional training filters.

- **Ransomware 3.0 (Triple Extortion):** Cyber gangs have evolved beyond simple encryption. The new standard is "triple extortion":
  - Encrypting data.
  - Threatening to leak sensitive customer data.
  - Directly contacting the victim's clients or vendors to force payment.

- **Supply Chain Vulnerability:** Attackers are increasingly targeting smaller third-party vendors (HVAC, payroll, legal services) to gain backdoor access to larger enterprise networks.

FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME

Vectors:

- Embezzlement

- Escrow manipulation

- Contractor fraud

- Loan/investment scams

Case Examples:

Sunista Realty Fraud (Jan 24, 2025)

- Michael Bundy arrested

- Charges: Scheme to defraud $100K; Grand theft

- 40 victims; $400K confirmed stolen

Pasco Contractor Fraud

- Insurance fraud & grand theft >$35K

- Roofing funds taken; work not completed

Tampa Bay Sneaker Crew (2025)

- Rooftop mall entries

- $1M in sneakers/electronics stolen

GLOBAL FRAUD

Fraud has evolved from opportunistic scams to a highly organized, AI-powered Fraud

- **Pig Butchering Goes Corporate:** Originally a consumer crypto scam, these long-con confidence schemes now target business executives. Fraudsters spend months building trust with CFOs or procurement officers via LinkedIn or industry forums before pitching sophisticated—but fake—investment or partnership opportunities.

- **Synthetic Identity Fraud:** This is currently the fastest-growing financial crime. Criminal rings use AI to combine real stolen data **(like a Pasco resident's SSN)** with fake information to create Frankenstein identities. These synthetic "people" build real credit scores over years before busting out—maxing out lines of credit and vanishing.

- **Deepfake Executive Impersonation:** The CEO Fraud of the past (emailing a request for a wire transfer) has been replaced by live video and audio deepfakes. We are seeing cases where finance employees are tricked into transferring funds by a real-time AI video clone of their boss on a Zoom call.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- In 2026, **Human Trafficking (HT)** is a significant operational risk that exploits legitimate business corridors—defined as transportation routes connecting major cities—to move victims for labor and sexual exploitation.

- This criminal industry generates approximately **$236 billion** in annual profits, with nearly two-thirds of global forced labor cases now embedded within international supply chains. Businesses in sectors such as hospitality, transportation, and agriculture face heightened legal and reputational threats, as traffickers often utilize the anonymity of hotels or digital platforms for recruitment and control.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

HURRICANES, FLOODING, OUTAGES

RECENT STORMS CAUSED $5B REGIONAL DAMAGE

BUSINESS CONTINUITY ESSENTIAL

SUPPLY CHAIN: CLIMATE AS A STRUCTURAL DISRUPTER

Extreme weather is no longer an Act of God event but a predictable structural cost of doing business.

- **Logistics Volatility:** In late 2025, we are seeing simultaneous disruptions—flooding in Southeast Asia and storms in the Atlantic—creating bottlenecks in global shipping.

- **Inventory Buffers:** Just-in-Time delivery is officially dead. Successful firms are shifting to Just-in-Case models, holding higher inventory levels to buffer against 30+ day delays.
  - *Pasco Impact:* Construction and manufacturing sectors should anticipate longer lead times for raw materials and potentially higher warehousing costs.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING

Reporting Process

When and How to Report:
- **Immediate threats = Call 9-1-1 without delay.**
- Use hotlines or local reporting channels for non-imminent concerns.

What Information to Provide: The Five W's:
- *Who*: Describe individuals' behaviors and distinguishing features.
- *What*: Detail observed actions, objects, or situations.
- *Where*: Specify the exact location or area.
- *When*: Include a timeline of events or duration.
- *Why*: Explain what struck you as unusual.

Overcoming Fear of Reporting:
- Reassure participants about anonymous reporting options.
- Encourage non-intrusive observation and stress "report, don't investigate."

Maintaining Safety While Reporting:
- Never engage or confront individuals. Prioritize personal safety.
- Collect key details (e.g., license plates) discreetly if safe.

REPORT NON-EMERGENCY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE FOLLOWING:

BusinessWatch@pascosheriff.org