



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Crime Analysis – January 1 to December 31, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2024-10-02

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (Service) is in compliance with Board By-Law 439-2024 – Crime Analysis.
- The Chief of Police is required to make a written annual report to the Board with respect to Crime Analysis.
- This report provides information to the Board for review and consideration relating to the Service's operation of Crime Analysis.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 439-2024 – Crime Analysis, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of crime, call and public disorder analysis. This report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning crime, call, and public disorder analysis;
- b) Confirmation of Service compliance with the said procedures;
- c) An indication of the resources used, and costs associated with crime analysis;
- d) The criteria and process to be used for sharing relevant crime, call, and public disorder analysis with municipal councils and officials, school boards, community organizations and groups, businesses, and members of the public; and
- e) A summary of crime, calls for service, and public disorder patterns, trends, and forecasts based on crime, call, and public disorder analysis.

The following is a detailed response to each of the above-noted requirements:

- a) *“... a summary of the written procedures concerning crime, call, and public disorder analysis...”*

Written procedures pertaining to crime analysis are detailed in General Order (GO) – 147.08 - Crime Analysis. This GO was last updated January 14, 2022. Under the provisions of the GO, it is the responsibility of the various crime analysts within the Service to collect, analyze, and disseminate information pertaining to the following:

- (a) calls for service data, including repeat calls at the same location;
- (b) patterns of crime by type;
- (c) patterns of crime by location;
- (d) linked offences;
- (e) linked offenders;
- (f) locations and times of increased criminal activity;
- (g) locations and times of public disorder, particularly aggressive begging, graffiti, loitering, public alcohol and drug activity, street prostitution, unruly crowds, and vandalism;
- (h) methods of offending;
- (i) prolific offenders / organization;
- (j) types of individuals, groups, and organizations that may be at higher risk;
- (k) repeat victimization;
- (l) identified actual and potential hazards within this Service’s jurisdictions;
- (m) early recognition of serial crimes includes threshold and non-threshold sexual assaults and attempts, and criminal harassment as defined in the Major Case Management (MCM) Manual; and
- (n) any other activity that may affect the quality of life of the residents of, and visitors to, the Niagara Region.

Crime Analysts must ensure that all crime analysis material published clearly identifies:

- (a) the source of all base data;
- (b) the estimated reliability of all base data; and
- (c) the confidentiality rating of the published crime analysis material.

- b) *“...confirmation of Service compliance with the said procedures...”*

Adequacy and Effective Policing LE-003 requires the establishment of systems and procedures for the collection, collation, and dissemination of crime, call, and public disorder data. Each of the requisite procedures is addressed in GO – 147.08 - Crime Analysis. Confirmation of compliance is overseen by the Policy and Risk Management Unit.

- c) *“...an indication of the resources used, and costs associated with crime analysis...”*

There are Seven civilian Crime Analyst positions, three of which are District Crime Analyst positions, embedded in the District Detective offices in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, and Welland. The District Crime Analysts are responsible for street level criminal activity within each of their respective regions. There are also Violent Crime Analyst positions, responsible for maintaining quality control of the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS) submissions, as well as providing analytical support to investigators of defined major cases, as well as ensuring compliance in entering designated offences into the MCM software as mandated by the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General. One analyst position resides within the Special Investigative Services Unit. This position is responsible for information analysis and dissemination of information for organized crime groups. They also play a vital role in major projects and street level enforcement.

The Service remains committed to maximizing public safety through enforcement and intelligence-led policing. To achieve this goal, crime analysts work to identify crime trends, establish linkages between offences, offenders, and methods of offending, and to present and communicate those findings to assist in the creation and implementation of intelligence-based policing strategies.

- d) *“...the criteria and process to be used for sharing relevant crime, call, and public disorder analysis with municipal councils and officials, school boards, community organizations and groups, businesses, and members of the public...”*

The primary source of base crime data are records and reports generated from within this Service, which include, but are not limited to:

- (a) all event types within the Versadex Reporting System;
- (b) reports of actual and potential hazards affecting police and public safety;
- (c) ViCLAS; and
- (d) MCM Database.

Secondary sources of data include information obtained from:

- (a) arrested persons through interviews;
- (b) confidential informants;
- (c) other law enforcement agencies;
- (d) other agencies within the criminal justice system;
- (e) other government agencies;
- (f) news media organizations;
- (g) research institutions, including Canadian Center for Justice Statistics;
- (h) educational institutions; and

- (i) any other appropriate private or public organizations.

Crime Analysts have built relationships and networks throughout policing and public agencies in Canada and the United States, affording the ability to share and receive crucial information in a timely fashion. GO – 147.08 - Crime Analysis directs that crime analysis materials, in the form of weekly crime bulletins, may be provided on a routine basis to outside law enforcement agencies and/or organizations with an investigative interest. All decisions on the release of information must be consistent with the release provisions of existing legislation from the Criminal Code of Canada, the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and mandated policies, including the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) policy manual.

Pursuant to GO - 003.14 - Release and Dissemination of Information, information may be shared with other police services and/or law enforcement agencies for a law enforcement purpose. Also, all other requests (non-law enforcement) should be made in writing on letterhead from the requesting agency. The release of information to community agencies is accommodated through the Freedom of Information Unit, which follows GO - 006.09 - Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Additionally, some crime and public disorder analysis is released through the Service’s Annual Report.

- e) *“...a summary of crime, calls for service and public disorder patterns, trends, and forecasts based on crime, call, and public disorder analysis...”*

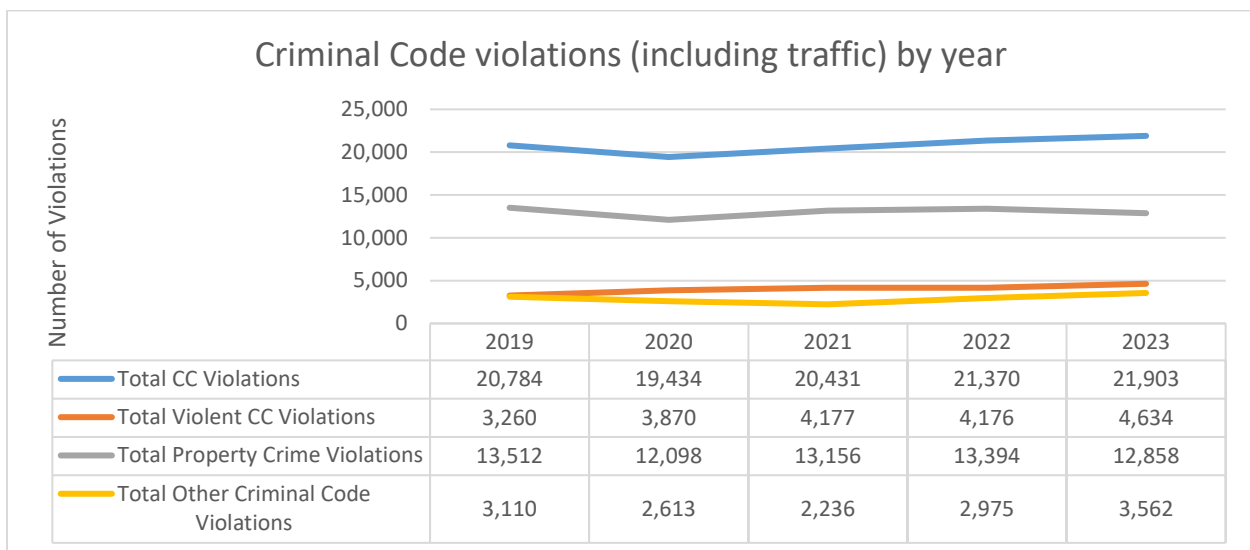


Chart 1: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3510017701-eng>

In 2023, despite the increase in actual total reported Criminal Code violations in the aforementioned chart, the total reported Criminal Code violations per 100,000

population decreased by 0.74% from 2022 as listed in Table 1 (Appendix 1), this due to a growing population in Niagara. Violent crime in 2023 increased by 7.46% from 2022. The total violent crimes in 2023 was the highest level over the last 5 years. In 2023, property crimes decreased by 7.03% in Niagara from 2022.

These numbers can be compared to the provincial and national average to see historically how we have compared to these benchmarks. As a common denominator it is useful to compare the “rate per 100,000 in population”.

Niagara continues to rank below national rates for Criminal Code offences, violent crime, and property crimes; but is statistically comparable at a provincial level. Since 2019, Niagara rates are relatively consistent with the Ontario rate for overall criminal offences. Niagara continues to rank well below national rates in violent crimes. In 2023, there was an increase in violent crime; but Niagara remains consistent with the provincial statistical average. In 2023, Niagara ranked below the provincial rate for property crimes. This was the first time reporting below the provincial rate for property crimes in the last 5 years.

Overall Crime Rate per 100,000 Population

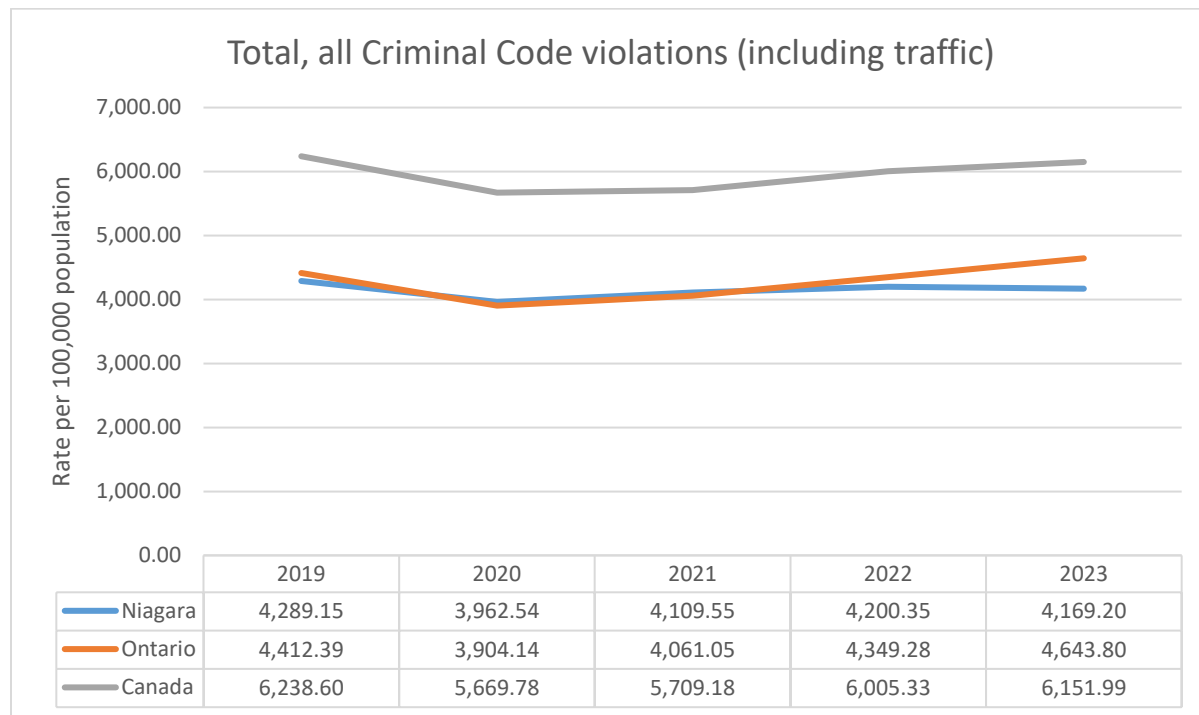


Chart 2: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3510017701-eng>

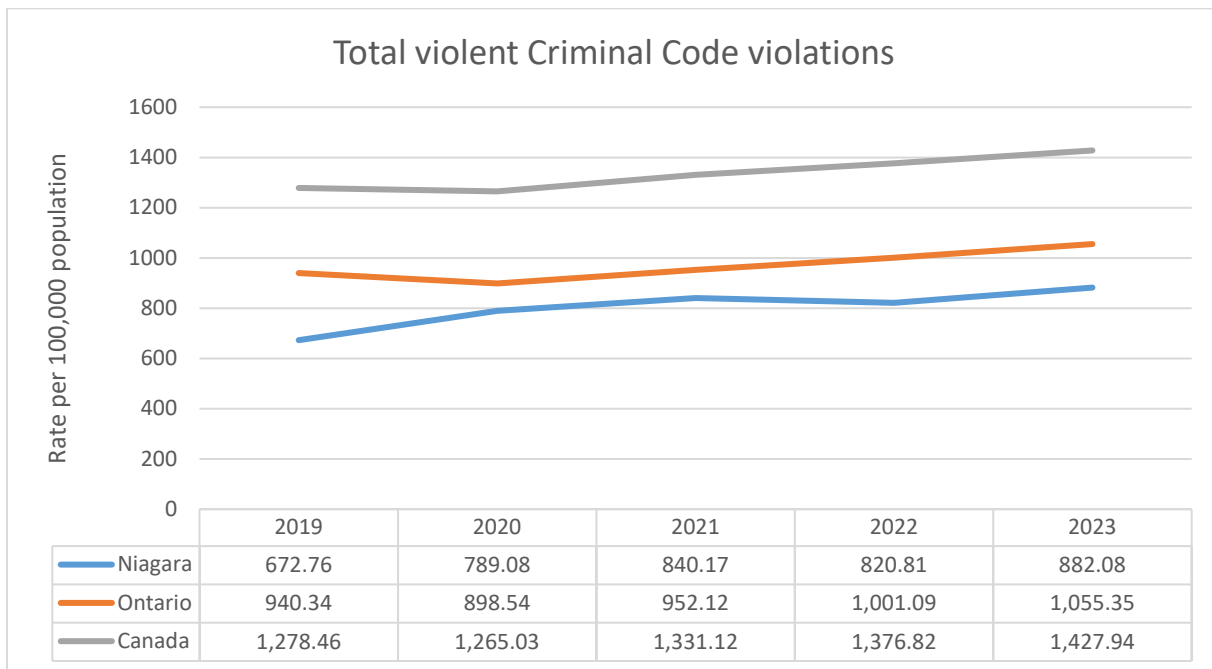


Chart 3: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3510017701-eng>



Chart 4: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3510017701-eng>

Analysis of 2023 Overall Crime Trends

All Criminal Code Offences:

In 2023, Niagara saw a slight decrease in overall total Criminal Code violations per 100,000 population inconsistent with the provincial and national rate. Niagara's rate in this category is still well below the national average.

Total Crimes of Violence:

In 2023, Niagara's violent crime rate increased over the 2022 rate, making 2023 the highest level in 5 years. Despite this, it remains well below the national rate and slightly below the provincial rate.

Total Property Crimes:

Niagara's property crime totals have consistently been above the provincial rate but below the national rate in the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. In 2023, Niagara's property crime rate decreased slightly over the 2022 rate. The 2023 rate remains below the provincial and national rates.

Crime Severity Index (CSI):

The CSI, a Statistics Canada measure of all police-reported crime, takes into consideration both the volume and seriousness of offences and provides a comparison across all police agencies and the 12 largest police services in Ontario, often referred to as "the Big 12".

The CSI was developed to address the limitation of the police-reported crime rate being driven by high volume, relatively less serious offences. The CSI not only considers the volume of crime; but also, the seriousness of crime. To calculate the police-reported CSI, each violation is assigned a weight. CSI weights are based on the violation's incarceration rate, as well as the average length of prison sentence handed down by criminal courts. The more serious the average sentence, the higher the weight assigned to the offence, meaning that the more serious offences have a greater impact on the index. Unlike the traditional crime rate, all offences, including Criminal Code traffic violations and other federal statute violations such as drug offences, are included in the CSI.

To calculate the CSI, the weighted offences are summed and then divided by the population. Similar to the Consumer Price Index, for ease of comparison, the CSI is then standardized to a base year of "100" (for the CSI the base year is 2006).

Below we provide Niagara's crime severity indices and our ranking in comparison with the other police agencies in the Big 12.

3-Year Crime Severity Index and Rank among the Big 12:

Niagara	Total CSI	Rank	Violent CSI	Rank	Non-Violent CSI	Rank
2023	54.47	4	66.87	4	49.97	5
2022	55.77	6	65.88	4	52.2	7
2021	61.03	7	62.83	6	60.83	8

A rank of "1" is the safest community, while a rank of "12" is the least safe community across the Big 12. Violent CSI includes homicide, murder assault, manslaughter, criminal negligence cause death, all assaults – 1, 2 and 3) all sexual assaults – 1, 2 and 3, negligence cause death, sexual violations against children, internet luring of child, pornography, endangerment, robberies, utter threats, kidnapping (abduction), extortion, harassment, assault peace officer, etc. non-Violent CSI includes fraud, theft over \$5,000.00, theft under \$5,000.00, shoplifting over and under \$5,000.00, breaking and enter, weapons violations, possess stolen property, mischief, disturbing the peace, etc.

The overall crime severity in Niagara has remained consistent in the past year. In 2023, we saw an 2.33% decrease in our total CSI over 2022 and were ranked as the fourth safest community. Niagara ranked the fifth safest community with regards to non-violent crime. The crime severity for violent crime increased 1.5% from 2022; and Niagara ranked the fourth safest community. Increases seen in homicides (+3 from 2022), sexual violations against children, fraud, and assaults, while seeing a decline in attempted murders, sexual assaults, robberies, and arson.

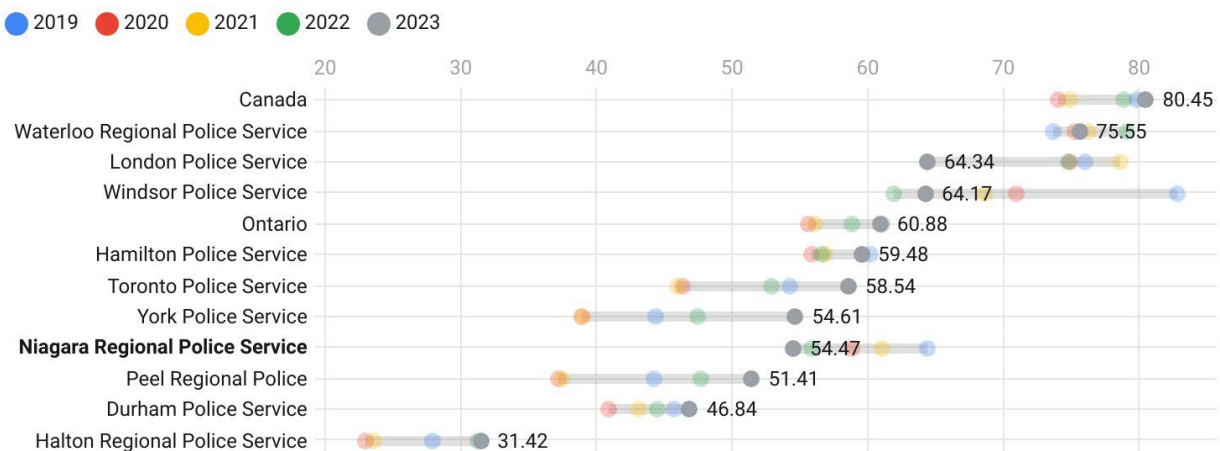


Figure shows values for 2023.

Chart 5: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01. Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3510002601-eng>

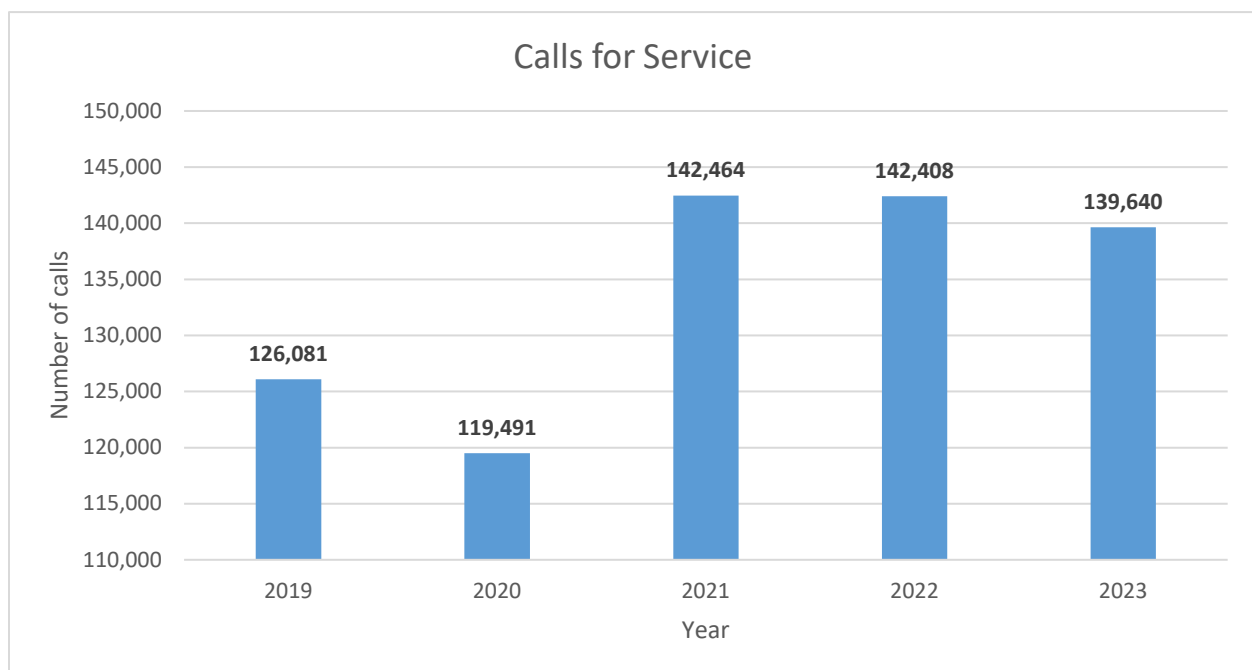
Crime Rates for Selected Offences:

It is instructive to review selected categories of crime to determine if overall trends persist within various sub-classifications. The offences listed in Table 1 (Appendix 1) do not comprise an all-inclusive list; but are the major contributors to determining overall, violent and property crime rates.

The table displays crime rates per 100,000 in population, and percent change in rate for selected offences. The highlighted values indicate a comparison to provincial and national levels.

Calls for Service Analysis:

In 2023, the Service generated 139,640 calls for police service. In 2023, there was a 2% decrease when compared to 2022.



Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with Adequacy and Effective Policing.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 439-2024 – Crime Analysis

GO - 147.08 – Crime Analysis

GO - 003.14 Release and Dissemination of Information

GO - 006.09 Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Adequacy and Effective Policing LE 003 – Crime Analysis

Other Pertinent Reports

8.5 - 2023.10.19 – Annual Report – Crime Analysis - January 1 to December 31, 2022

This report was prepared by Mike Tripp, Staff Sergeant, Special Investigative Services; in consultation with Steve Magistrale, Inspector, Investigative Support Services, Chantal Constant, Crime Analysis Manager, Hector Perez, Corporate Analyst, and Rany Audeh, Corporate Strategy and Innovation Manager. Reviewed by Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Emergency and Investigative Services. Recommended by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

Luigi Greco, #9366
Acting Chief of Police

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Table 1: Crime Incidents and Rates for Selected Offences 2019 - 2023

Appendix 1

Table 1: Crime Incidents and Rates for Selected Offences 2019-2023

Violations	Statistics	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total, all Criminal Code violations (including traffic)	Actual incidents	20,784	19,434	20,431	21,370	21,903
	Rate per 100,000 population	4289.15*	3962.54**	4109.55**	4200.35*	4169.2*
	Percentage change in rate	3.4	-7.61	3.71	2.21	-0.74
Total violent Criminal Code violations	Actual incidents	3,260	3,870	4,177	4,176	4,634
	Rate per 100,000 population	672.76*	789.08*	840.17*	820.81*	882.08*
	Percentage change in rate	0.58	17.29	6.47	-2.3	7.46
Homicide	Actual incidents	6	5	6	9	12
	Rate per 100,000 population	1.24*	1.02*	1.21*	1.77*	2.28***
	Percentage change in rate	..	-17.66	18.38	46.58	29.12
Attempted murder	Actual incidents	2	5	5	8	3
	Rate per 100,000 population	0.41*	1.02*	1.01*	1.57*	0.57*
	Percentage change in rate	-1.35	56.35	..
Sexual assault, level 1	Actual incidents	356	305	379	379	350
	Rate per 100,000 population	73.47*	62.19*	76.23**	74.49*	66.62*
	Percentage change in rate	-6.62	-15.35	22.58	-2.28	-10.57
Total sexual violations against children	Actual incidents	95	65	96	111	121
	Rate per 100,000 population	19.6**	13.25*	19.31**	21.82**	23.03**
	Percentage change in rate	4.99	-32.4	45.7	12.99	5.57
Assault, level 1	Actual incidents	1,065	1,037	1,071	1,070	1,166
	Rate per 100,000 population	219.78*	211.44*	215.42*	210.31*	221.95*
	Percentage change in rate	-1.82	-3.79	1.88	-2.37	5.53
Total robbery	Actual incidents	177	193	177	196	178
	Rate per 100,000 population	36.53*	39.35*	35.6*	38.52*	33.88*
	Percentage change in rate	-2.74	7.73	-9.53	8.21	-12.05
Total property crime violations	Actual incidents	13,512	12,098	13,156	13,394	12,858
	Rate per 100,000 population	2788.45**	2466.75**	2646.24**	2632.64**	2447.5*
	Percentage change in rate	2.21	-11.54	7.28	-0.51	-7.03
Total breaking and entering	Actual incidents	2,004	1,697	1,846	1,391	1,255
	Rate per 100,000 population	413.56**	346.01**	371.31***	273.41**	238.89**
	Percentage change in rate	-6.76	-16.33	7.31	-26.37	-12.63

Appendix 1

Violations	Statistics	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	Actual incidents	165	161	190	228	215
	Rate per 100,000 population	34.05*	32.83*	38.22*	44.81*	40.92*
	Percentage change in rate	-9.84	-3.59	16.42	17.26	-8.68
Total theft under \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	Actual incidents	6,123	5,082	5,415	5,686	5,699
	Rate per 100,000 population	1263.59*	1036.21**	1089.19**	1117.6*	1084.8*
	Percentage change in rate	0.91	-18	5.11	2.61	-2.94
Fraud	Actual incidents	1,910	1,470	1,892	2,166	2,373
	Rate per 100,000 population	394.16***	299.73*	380.56***	425.74***	451.7***
	Percentage change in rate	16.76	-23.96	26.97	11.87	6.1
Total mischief	Actual incidents	1,884	1,970	1,952	2,212	1,882
	Rate per 100,000 population	388.8**	401.68**	392.63**	434.78**	358.24*
	Percentage change in rate	2.89	3.31	-2.25	10.73	-17.6
Arson	Actual incidents	54	57	47	54	37
	Rate per 100,000 population	11.14**	11.62**	9.45*	10.61**	7.04**
	Percentage change in rate	-18.29	4.29	-18.66	12.27	-33.64
Total other Criminal Code violations	Actual incidents	3,110	2,613	2,236	2,975	3,562
	Rate per 100,000 population	641.8**	532.78**	449.76*	584.75**	678.02**
	Percentage change in rate	13.55	-16.99	-15.58	30.01	15.95
Total impaired driving	Actual incidents	501	488	519	531	546
	Rate per 100,000 population	103.39*	99.5*	104.39*	104.37*	103.93**
	Percentage change in rate	12	-3.76	4.92	-0.02	-0.42

Table 1: Crime Incidents and Rates for Selected Offences 2019-2023.

source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0180-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in Ontario
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3510018001-eng>

*Denotes rate lower than both Provincial and National rates.

Denotes rate higher than Provincial rate but lower than National rate. *Denotes rate higher than both Provincial and National rates.