



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Crime Analysis – January 1 to December 31, 2019
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board
Report Date: 2020-11-10

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Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Service is in compliance with By-law 195-2000 – 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 for review and consideration relating to the Service's operation of Crime Analysis.

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 195-2000, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board each year in respect of Crime Analysis. This report shall contain:

- 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) Summary of the written procedures concerning crime, call and public disorder analysis.

Written procedures pertaining to crime analysis are detailed in General Order – 147.07 entitled Crime Analysis. This General Order was last updated April 13, 2017 and is currently under review. Under the provisions of the General Order 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 / organizations;
- (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 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.

This adequacy standard 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 General Order – 147.07 entitled Crime Analysis. Confirmation of compliance is overseen by the Policy and Risk Management Unit.

c) Indication of the resources used and costs associated with crime analysis.

There are seven civilian Crime Analyst positions within the Niagara Regional Police Service. Three of those positions are held by District Crime analysts who are embedded in District Detective offices in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland. They are responsible for street level criminal activity within each of their respective regions. There are three positions held by violent crime analysts who are responsible for maintaining quality control of ViCLAS submissions for the Niagara Regional Police Service as well as providing support to investigators of defined major cases by assisting case managers in the use of the major case management software as mandated by the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General. Within the Special Investigative Services Unit there is an analyst for the Intelligence Unit. This analyst is responsible for information analysis and dissemination of information for Organized crime groups including Traditional Organized Crime, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and the many other groups listed by the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario. They also play a vital role in major projects and street level enforcement. The Niagara Regional Police Service has in past years identified the goal of maximizing public safety through enforcement and intelligence-led policing. One of the objectives to attain this goal is to implement databases to examine and forecast crime trends to reduce crime and ensure the efficient deployment of resources. This places an increased obligation on crime analysts to identify crime trends, establish linkages between offences, offenders, and methods of offending, and to be able to present and communicate those findings efficiently and effectively in order to assist in the creation and implementation of intelligence-based policing strategies.

- d) 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) General Occurrence Reports;
- (b) Motor Vehicle Collision Reports;
- (c) Reports of actual and potential hazards affecting police and public safety;
- (d) Forensic Identification Reports;
- (e) Data from Regulated Interactions formerly known as Street Checks;
- (f) ViCLAS; and
- (g) Major Case Management Database.

Secondary sources of data include information obtained from:

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

- (i) educational institutions; and
- (j) any other appropriate private or public organizations.

One of the advantages of having a crime analysis capability is being able to have contacts with other police and public agencies in Canada and the United States and hence have an avenue to send and receive crucial information in a timely fashion. General Order – 147.07 Crime Analysis states 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 C.P.I.C. policy manual.

Pursuant to General Order 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 General Order 006.08 Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Additionally, some crime and public disorder analysis is released through the NRPS Annual Report.

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

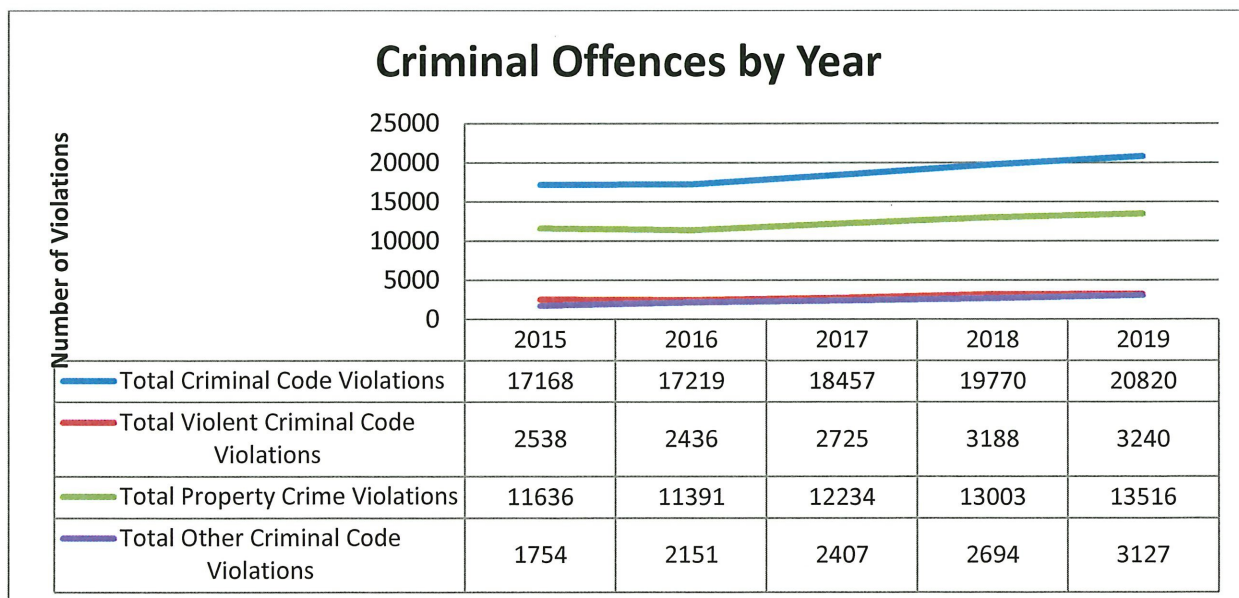


Chart 1: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3510017701-eng>

In 2019, the total reported Criminal Code violations increased by 5.3% from 2018 revealing four consecutive years of increasing reported Criminal Code violations. Violent Crime in 2019 increased 1.6% from 2018, continuing to rise to the highest level over the last five years. In 2019, Property Crimes increased 3.9% in Niagara from 2018 to the highest level over the last five years. 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 far below the National rates for Criminal Code offences, Violent Crime and Property Crimes. Since 2018, Niagara rates are slightly above the Ontario rate for overall criminal offences. Niagara continues to rate well below the national and provincial rates in Violent Crimes, but above the provincial rate for Property Crimes, as has been the trend for at least five years.

Overall Crime Rate per 100,000 Population

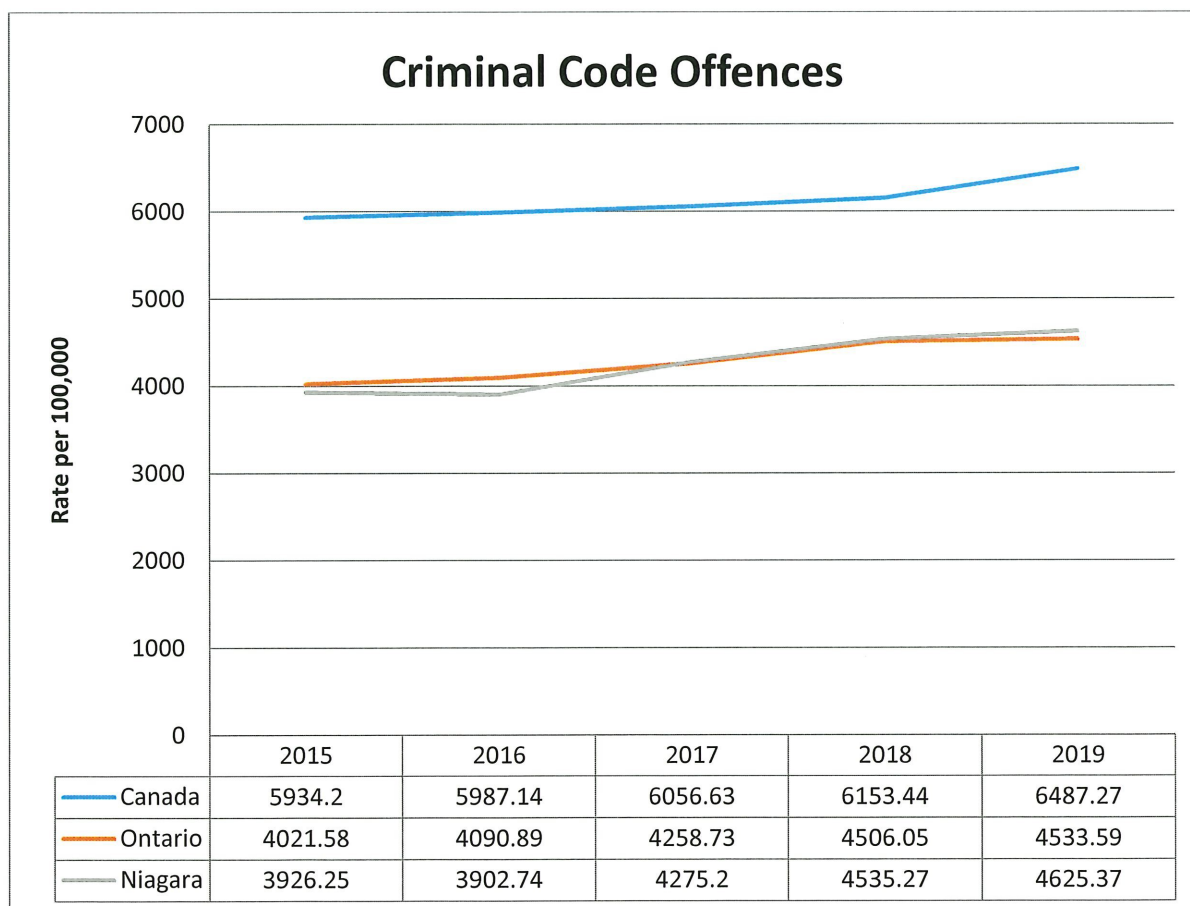


Chart 2: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas
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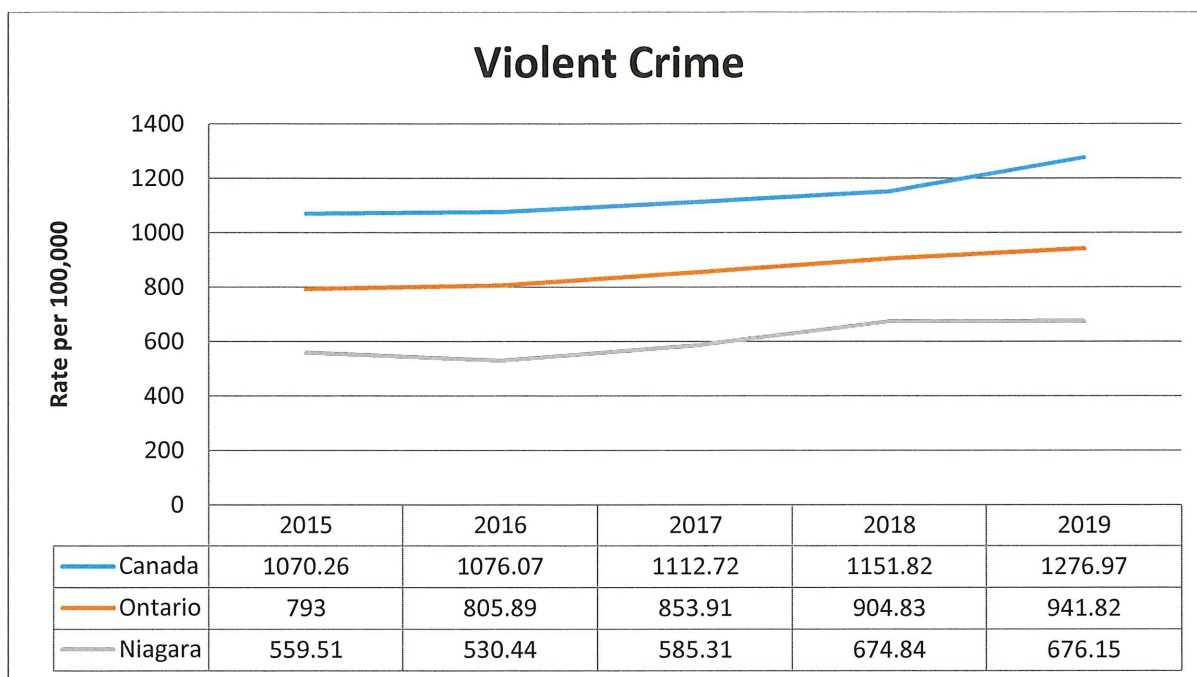


Chart 3: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas
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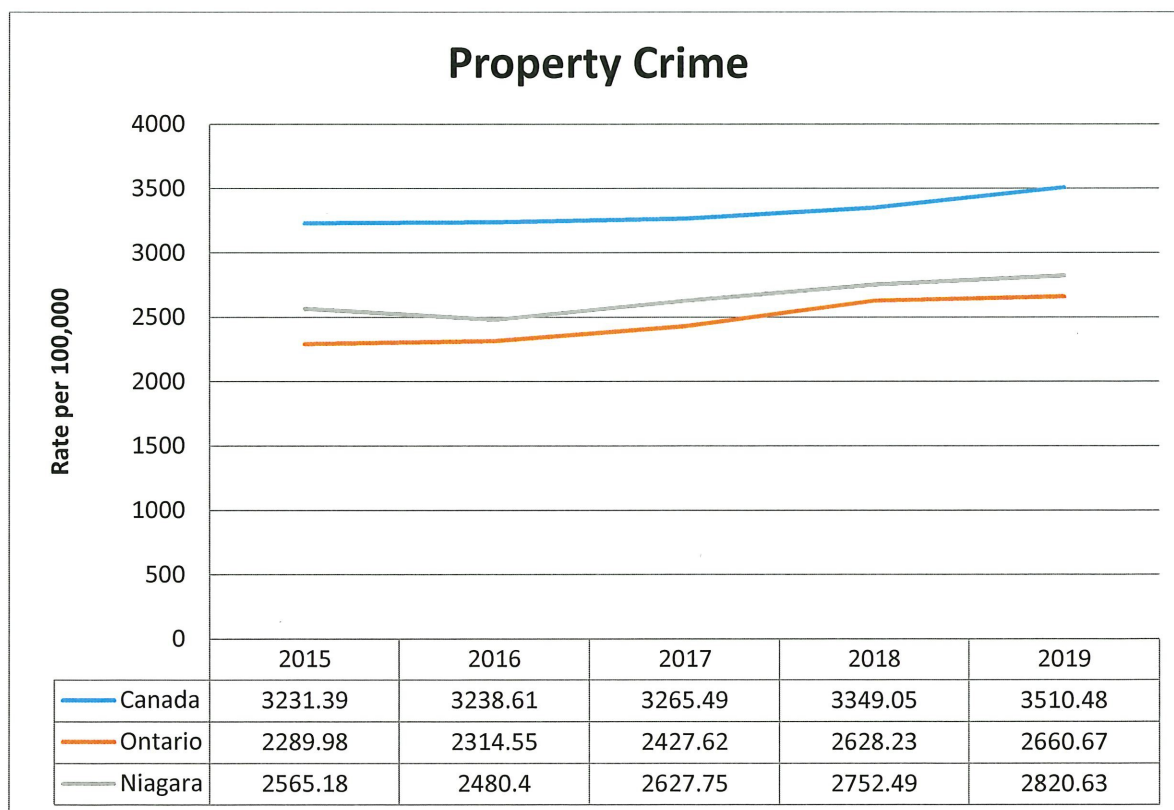


Chart 4: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas
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Analysis of 2019 Overall Crime Trends

All Criminal Code Offences:

In 2019, Niagara saw an increase in overall total Criminal Code violations which placed us slightly above the Provincial rate per 100,000 in population. Niagara's rate in this category is still well below the national rate per 100,000 in population.

Total Crimes of Violence:

In 2019, Niagara's Violent Crime rate per 100,000 in population increased slightly over the 2018 rate to the highest level in five years. Despite this, it remains well below the national and provincial rate.

Niagara's Property Crime totals have consistently been above the provincial rate but below the national over the last five years. Again in 2019 Niagara's property crime rate rose but remained well below the national rate.

Crime Severity Index:

The Crime Severity Index (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 Big 12.

The Crime Severity Index (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 takes into account the volume of crime, but also the seriousness of crime. In order 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 and Rank		Violent CSI and Rank		Non-Violent CSI and Rank	
2019	64.33	7 th	56.75	9 th	66.9	5 th
2018	68.8	7 th	53.1	3 rd	74.3	8 th
2017	56	4 th	46.2	2 nd	59.34	6 th

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, theft under \$5,000, shoplifting over and under \$5,000, breaking and enter, weapons violations, possess stolen property, mischief, disturbing the peace, etc.

The overall crime severity in Niagara has lowered in the past year. In 2019, we have seen a -6.9% change in our Total Crime Severity Index over 2018 yet remain ranked as 7th safest community. Niagara improved from 8th to 5th safest community with regard to non-violent crime with a -10% change in our Non-Violent CSI. The crime severity for violent crime rose +6.8% in Niagara dropping us to the 9th safest community with increases seen in homicides, sexual violations against children and other violent violations.

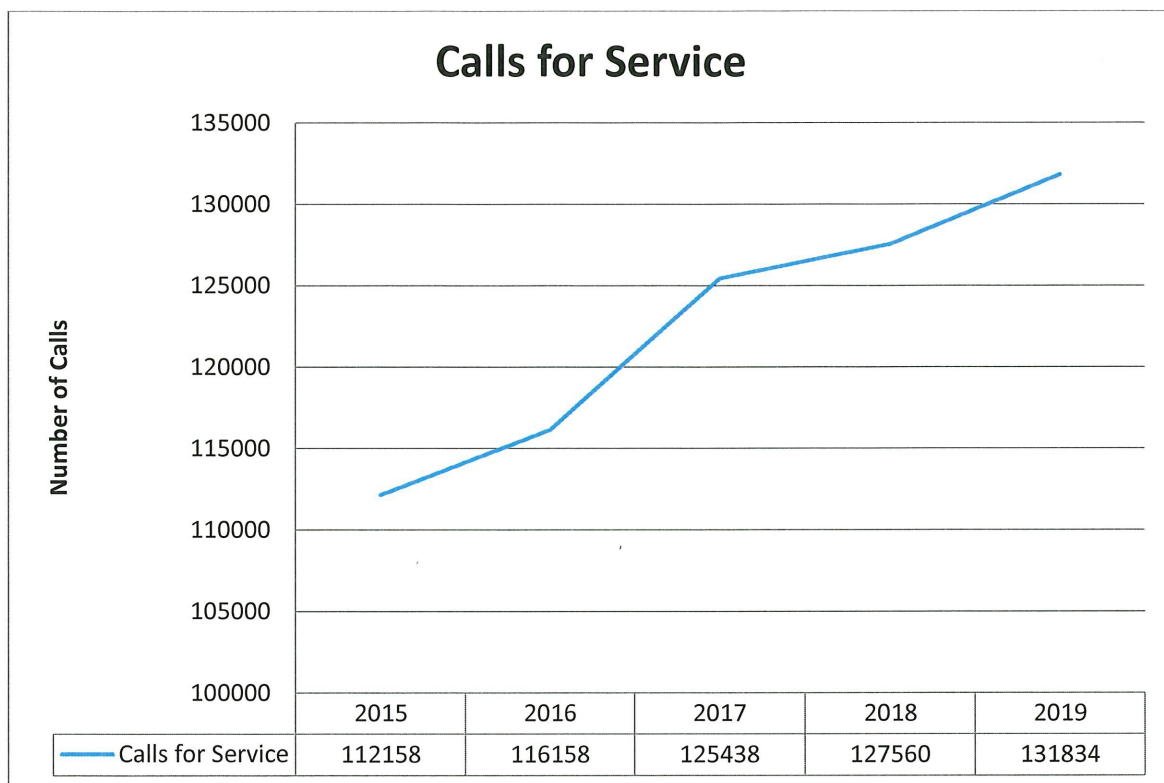
Crime Rates for Selected Offences:

It is instructive to review selected categories of crime to see if the overall trends persist within the different sub-classifications. The offences listed in Table 1 (see "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 2019, The Niagara Regional Police generated 131,834 calls for police service. This represents a 3.35% increase of 4,274 calls over 2018. In analyzing Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property and Other Criminal Code Violations, one will see increases in all three categories. Crimes Against Persons rose by 9.3%; Crimes Against Property rose by 11.1%; and Other Criminal Code Violations rose by 19.6%. These rises partially explain the increase in call volume in 2019. Calls for service for the Niagara Regional Police service over the past five years are depicted below.



Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of Police Services Board By-laws and to maintain compliance with the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Police Services Board By-law 195-2000 – Crime Analysis

General Order 147.07 – Crime Analysis

General Order 003.14 Release and Dissemination of Information

General Order 006.08 Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation, Law Enforcement 003 – Crime Analysis

Other Pertinent Reports

192.2019 Annual Report – Crime Analysis - January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

This report was prepared by Dave Gomez, Staff Sergeant, Special Investigative Services in consultation with James Leigh, Inspector, Investigative Support and reviewed by Brian Ash, Superintendent, Emergency and Investigative Services and recommended by Brett Flynn, Deputy Chief of Police, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Table 1 - Crime Incidents and Rates for Selected Offences 2015-2019

Appendix 1

Table 1: Crime Incidents and Rates for Selected Offences 2015-2019

* 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.

Violations	Statistic	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total, All Criminal Code Violations (including traffic)	Actual incidents	17,168	17,219	18,457	19,770	20,820
	Rate per 100,000 population	3,785	3,749	3,965	4184.94	4344.9*
	Percentage change in rate	-1.15	-0.93	5.75	5.86	3.82
Total Violent Criminal Code Violations	Actual incidents	2,538	2,436	2,725	3,188	3,240
	Rate per 100,000 population	559.51	530.44	585.31	674.84	676.15*
	Percentage change in rate	-7.27	-5.2	10.34	15.3	0.19
Homicide	Actual incidents	7	1	3	2	6
	Rate per 100,000 population	1.54	0.22	0.64	0.42	1.25*
	Percentage change in rate	73.54	-85.89
Attempted murder	Actual incidents	1	3	3	13	2
	Rate per 100,000 population	0.22	0.65	0.64	2.75	0.42*
	Percentage change in rate	-66.95	196.32
Sexual Assault, level 1	Actual incidents	249	232	267	375	355
	Rate per 100,000 population	54.89	50.52	57.36	79.38	74.08*
	Percentage change in rate	76.37	-7.97	13.52	38.42	-6.67
Total Sexual violations against children	Actual incidents	37	61	63	89	95
	Rate per 100,000 population	8.16	13.28	13.53	18.84	19.83**
	Percentage change in rate	74.72	62.84	1.87	39.22	5.23
Assault, level 1	Actual incidents	955	966	974	1,067	1,066
	Rate per 100,000 population	210.53	210.35	209.21	225.86	222.46*
	Percentage change in rate	-14.06	-0.09	-0.54	7.96	-1.51
Total Robbery	Actual incidents	157	141	161	179	177
	Rate per 100,000 population	34.61	30.7	34.58	37.89	36.94*
	Percentage change in rate	-16.3	-11.29	12.63	9.57	-2.52
Total Property Crime Violations	Actual incidents	11,636	11,391	12,234	13,003	13,516
	Rate per 100,000 population	2,565	2,480	2,628	2,752	2821**
	Percentage change in rate	2.74	-3.31	5.96	4.75	2.48
Total Breaking and Entering	Actual incidents	1,894	1,692	1,859	2,114	2,005
	Rate per 100,000 population	417.54	368.43	399.3	447.49	418.42**
	Percentage change in rate	2.58	-11.76	8.38	12.07	-6.5
Total Theft of Motor Vehicle	Actual incidents	687	727	773	842	856
	Rate per 100,000 population	151.45	158.3	166.03	178.24	178.64**
	Percentage change in rate	11.14	4.53	4.88	7.35	0.23

Appendix 1

Total Theft Over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	Actual incidents	138	141	140	180	167
	Rate per 100,000 population	30.42	30.7	30.07	38.1	34.85*
	Percentage change in rate	34.16	0.92	-2.06	26.71	-8.53
Total Theft Under \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	Actual incidents	5,477	5,256	5,650	5,968	6,121
	Rate per 100,000 population	1,207.42	1,144.50	1,213.57	1,263.31	1277.38*
	Percentage change in rate	-0.18	-5.21	6.04	4.1	1.11
Fraud	Actual incidents	1,159	1,306	1,505	1,609	1,912
	Rate per 100,000 population	255.5	284.38	323.26	340.6	399.01***
	Percentage change in rate	4.1	11.3	13.67	5.36	17.15
Total mischief	Actual incidents	1,854	1,762	1,811	1,801	1,884
	Rate per 100,000 population	408.72	383.68	388.99	381.24	393.17**
	Percentage change in rate	5.78	-6.13	1.38	-1.99	3.13
Arson	Actual incidents	78	83	82	65	54
	Rate per 100,000 population	17.2	18.07	17.61	13.76	11.27**
	Percentage change in rate	-15	5.11	-2.55	-21.88	-18.1
Impaired Driving	Actual incidents	564	613	606	440	502
	Rate per 100,000 population	124.34	133.48	130.16	93.14	104.76**
	Percentage change in rate	-2.9	7.36	-2.49	-28.44	12.48

Table 1: Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas
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