

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

# 2007 Annual Criminal Statistics Analysis Canada, Ontario, Mississauga & Eight Major Canadian Cities

# Prepared for Safe City Mississauga



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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE**

Proforma Consulting Limited has been awarded the contract to provide Safe City Mississauga with a statistical report on crime trends in Canada for 2007.

The requirements and objectives of the contract are to create three tables based on 2007 reported crime statistics and this executive summary.

The purpose of this customized report & analysis is to determine where the city of Mississauga ranks as compared to other major Canadian cities, and how the city compares to national and provincial reported crime rates. The resulting data, and information from the executive summary, will be used by Safe City Mississauga to update their website and other related documents.

This report has been produced in two parts: the first part being the Executive Summary which provides the reader with a high level overview and the second part being Additional Findings which provides the reader with a more detailed analysis of reported crime trends.

An outline of the Analyst's activities follows:

#### **SCOPE**

In order to accomplish the desired objectives and provide Safe City Mississauga with expected deliverables a variety of activities were conducted. A brief outline of these activities follows:

- The previous years reported crime rate tables were reviewed.
- The Juristat, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Crime Statistics in Canada annual reports for 2006 and 2007 were reviewed. These annual reports provide the provincial and national reported crime rates.
- Safe City Mississauga contacted Sergeant Brad Rutz, of the Peel Regional Police Service.
  He was able to provide the required statistics for the City of Mississauga. They produced
  offence-based statistics. Generally speaking, these statistics are usually over-stated because all
  offences are counted.
- We retrieved reported crime statistics for the other eight municipal police services for the years 2006 and 2007 from Statistics Canada.
- Three tables, in Excel format, were produced. They are described as follows:
  - o Table 1 crime rates for the 3 major categories of crime
  - o Table 2 crime rates for all analyzed crime categories, in detail
  - o Table 3 crime rates for all analyzed crime categories, in detail, with expanded information regarding the city of Mississauga
- These 3 tables were thoroughly analyzed; trends and ratings were identified.
- This executive summary was prepared.



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, collects police-reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR). The UCR survey, which became operational in 1962, collects criminal and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. As it is mandatory to respond to the survey, over 1,200 separate police detachments responded to the survey. UCR survey data reflects reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR Survey. They are the Aggregate Survey (UCR1) and the Incident-based Survey (UCR2). The UCR1 format is used in this report, except for the City of Mississauga. Unfortunately Peel Regional Police could not supply statistics in UCR1 format for the city of Mississauga. This means that the statistics for this city are over-stated as compared to all other regions. All police services in Canada submit their statistics to Juristat in this format, however many police services use incident-based statistics in their annual statistical reports as we determined to be the case for some of the eight other cities reviewed. Using the standard UCR1 format provides for valid comparisons between cities, the province of Ontario, and the nation.

It is important to note that many factors may influence police-reported crime statistics: reporting by the public to the police; reporting to CCJS by the police; the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and, demographic, social and economic changes.

When comparing criminal incident data at the municipality, provincial, and national levels, a base comparator per 100,000 population is used. This allows for population ratio comparisons. We have compiled both actual incident numbers and rates per 100,000 population. *Source: Juristat, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS)* 



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **MAJOR FINDINGS**

For the ninth consecutive year, the city of Mississauga ranked as the safest large Canadian metropolitan city to work and reside in. This is exceptional considering the fact that the statistical numbers are over-stated. In fact, Mississauga ranked first with the lowest rate of crime per 100,000 population in all three major categories of crime (Violent Crime, Property Crime, and Other Criminal Code Offences). Furthermore, Mississauga ranked lower than both the province of Ontario and the nation in the aforementioned major categories of crime.

The following table compares the major reported crime rates for the city of Mississauga, Ontario, and the nation. The reader will note that a percent difference column has been included to depict the significant gulf that exists between crime rates per 100,000 population for these 3 geographical locations.

	Mississauga Rate / 100,000	On Rate/100,000	ntario % Difference to Mississauga	Can: Rate/100,000	ada % Difference to Mississauga
Overall Crime Rate	3,453	5,228	51%	6,984	102%
Violent Crime	436	734	68%	930	113%
Property Crime	2,009	2,635	31%	3,320	65%
Other Criminal Code Offences	1,008	1,858	84%	2,734	171%

The city of Mississauga generally ranked favorably in all specific crime categories examined as compared to the eight other cities that were analyzed. Mississauga ranked first (most favourable) in all categories pertaining to Violent Crimes, first in all Property Crimes except for theft over \$5000 (Mississauga ranked third), and ranked first in Other Criminal Code Offences, although the city ranked second last in offensive weapons, second last in drugs, and last in mischief over \$5000. These areas of concern are described in more detail below.

Firstly, it must be noted that Mississauga saw an increase in the rate per 100,000 population in only the Property Crimes category as compared to 2006. Overall property crime rose by 1% (1,998 per 100,000 population in 2006 as compared to 2,009 in 2007), overall violent crime dropped by 6% (463 per 100,000 population in 2006 as compared to 436 in 2007), and other Criminal Code offences dropped by 7% (1,083 per 100,000 population in 2006 as compared to 1,008 in 2007).

As Mississauga's reporting framework is somewhat different than the rest of the cities analyzed, they do not include drugs as a subcategory of other Criminal Code offences. Therefore it must also be mentioned that the rate per 100,000 population for drug offences in Mississauga was 331 in 2006 and 311 in 2007, a 6% drop. This rate holds eighth place, ahead of last place Vancouver, which had more than double the amount of drug offences compared to Mississauga with a rate of 630 occurrences per 100,000 population.



#### MAJOR FINDINGS CONT'D

Although Mississauga ranked first in all of the categories under violent crimes, the homicide rate saw an astonishing 133% increase from the year prior. In 2006 there were 4 reported homicides per 100,000 population as compared to 10 in 2007. In addition, the sexual assault rate saw an increase of 23%. In 2006 there were 24 reported assaults per 100,000 population as compared to 30 in 2007.

Mississauga holds eighth place, next to last place Vancouver, in the offensive weapons crime category for 2007. Mississauga recorded a rate of approximately 72 occurrences per a population rate of 100,000, whereas and Vancouver reported an astonishing 113 occurrences. Mississauga's relatively high number may be attributed to the fact that Peel Regional Police only supplies offence-based statistics where all charges per incident are counted whereas all other regions only count the most serious offence. These rates are also higher than the provincial and national rates, whose rates were 44 and 57 respectively.

Lastly, the categories of mischief over \$5000 and mischief under \$5000 have proven to be an interesting anomaly. Typically, there are far less mischief over \$5000 offences and significantly more mischief under \$5000 offences, as evidenced in other municipalities, but this is not the case in regards to Mississauga. Please refer to the enclosed *Tables #2 and #3* for additional information. In 2007, the rates of mischief over \$5000 and mischief under \$5000 were 357 and 95 per 100,000 population respectively. This basically depicts that approximately 3 out of 4 offences surrounding mischief involved mischief over \$5000. One plausible explanation could be that Mississauga is an affluent city and the value of damage to items and property is higher because the goods are more expensive to begin with.



### ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

#### NATIONAL CRIME TREND ANALYSIS

#### **Introduction**

We analyzed the reported crime rates per 100,000 population on a national level for the years 2006 and 2007.

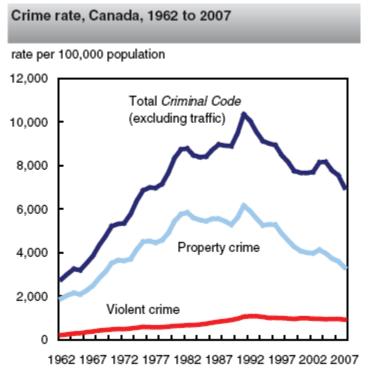
In more general terms, we analyzed reported crime trends for the last ten years.

The findings are reported below in both narrative and graphical formats.

The narrative format is presented in a hierarchical manner, thus providing the reader with the largest and broadest view of reported crime in Canada, before peeling back the layers towards more detailed levels of findings.

#### **Findings**

The national crime rate reached its lowest point in 30 years in 2007. The crime rate dropped by 7% last year, following a decrease of 3% in 2006. After steadily increasing throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, the national crime rate has decreased by about 30% since peaking in 1991.



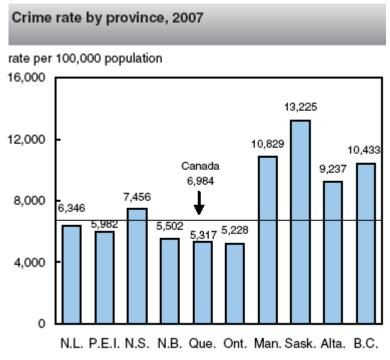
Of all Criminal Code incidents in 2007 47.5% were property related, 13.3% were violent and 39.1% were other offences.



The decline in the overall national crime rate for 2007 was driven by decreases in high volume non-violent offences. Counterfeiting incidents accounted for much of this drop, with 64,000 fewer incidents. In addition, there were about 38,600 fewer thefts under \$5,000 and 20,500 fewer break and enters.

The overall violent crime rate continued to decline in 2007 by 3%, driven by decreases in common assault, robbery and sexual assault. Almost all categories of violent crime saw a decrease in occurrences, except for other assaults which rose by 5.4%.

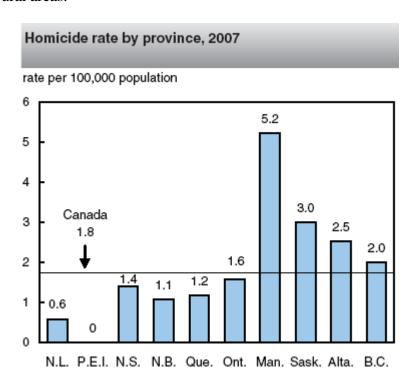
The decline in crime was seen right across the country. Among the provinces, the largest drop was again reported in Prince Edward Island (-12%), followed by declines of approximately 10% in Quebec, 8% in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Ontario. Despite a 4% drop in overall crime, Saskatchewan reported the highest crime rate among the provinces for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row, followed by Manitoba and British Columbia. The lowest rates were found in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.





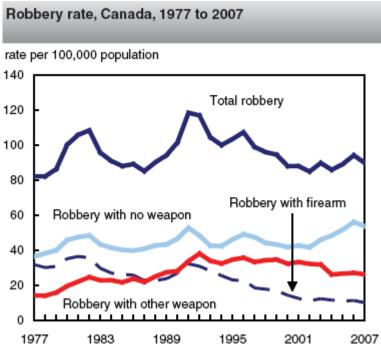
There were 594 homicides reported by the police in 2007, 12 fewer than the year prior, resulting in a rate of 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population. The decrease in 2007 follows a decrease in 2006 which was the first after two consecutive years of increases. The national homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid- 1970s, when it was approximately 3 homicides per 100,000 population. Declines in the homicide rate in 2007 were reported in all provinces except New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. The most notable drops occurred in British Columbia and Quebec reaching their lowest points in 40 years.

However; Manitoba saw a substantial increase in homicides to 62 incidents, 23 more than 2006. Manitoba had the highest rate in Canada primarily due to an increase in homicides committed in small urban and rural areas.





There were approximately 30,000 robberies in 2007, which is a 5% decrease in the rate from 2006. In general the robbery rate has generally been declining since the early 1990s and has remained stable since 2000. Approximately 11% of all robberies involved a firearm. This is down by 2% from 2006.

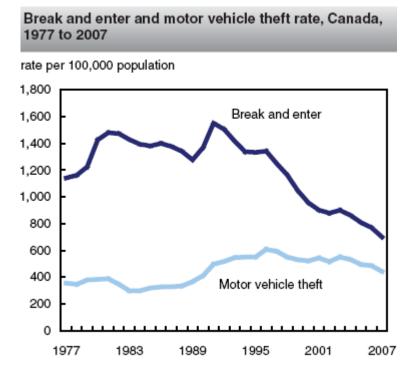


Property offences dropped 8% from 2006 reaching the lowest rate since 1969. All of the most common property offences declined in 2007; break and enter and theft of motor vehicle both dropped 9%, theft under \$5,000 dropped 7% and fraud dropped 6%.

The nation saw the lowest rate of break-ins in over 40 years. A decline in break-ins was seen for both residential and commercial properties. The rate has fallen 55%, including a 9% drop in 2007, since peaking in 1991. Of the 231,000 break-ins reported to police in 2007, approximately 60% were to residences.

Unlike many crimes which peaked in the early 1990s, motor vehicle thefts continued to climb in Canada until 1996. Since 1996, motor vehicle theft rates have continued to drop. In 2007, there were approximately 9% fewer auto thefts were reported to police. All provinces saw a decline in motor vehicle thefts except for Prince Edward Island.





Total drug offences increased by 4% in 2007. Possession of cannabis accounted for approximately 75% of all cannabis offences. The rate of cannabis possession rose 6% in 2007. Although cannabis offences have declined slightly in recent years, they still account for about 60% of all drug offences. Cocaine offences remained stable and other drug offences, which include heroin and crystal meth, rose 6%.

The number of youth accused of a criminal offence decreased by 2% in 2007. The Youth crime rate has remained fairly stable over the last 10 years. Youth violent crime remained stable in 2007. Youths accused of homicide was the highest it has ever been in 2006 but saw a 13% drop in 2007.

Source: Juristat, CCJS.



### ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

#### PROVINCIAL CRIME TREND ANALYSIS

#### Introduction

For this section we analyzed the reported crime rates per 100,000 population and compared them between national and provincial levels for the years 2006 and 2007.

In more general terms, we analyzed reported crime trends for the last ten years.

The narrative format is presented in a hierarchical manner, thus providing the reader with the largest and broadest view of reported crime at the provincial level, before peeling back the layers towards more detailed levels of findings.

#### **Findings**

The reported crime rate in Ontario was the lowest in the nation for a fifth year in a row- 5,228 per 100,000 population. The national crime rate was 6,984 per 100,000 population.

In 2007, almost all provinces and territories reported decreases in crime rates. The largest provincial decreases were reported in Prince Edward Island (-12.1%), followed by declines of approximately 10% in Quebec, and 8% in British Columbia, Ontario and New Brunswick.

Increases in the crime rates for 2007 were seen in the Northwest Territories (6.2%), Yukon (3.4%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (3.2%).

However; Newfoundland and Labrador reported the most notable decline in homicide for 2007 (a decrease of 56.8%)

The provinces with the greatest declines in sexual assault incidents were Quebec (-14.3%) and Nova Scotia (-12.7%). The provinces with the greatest increases were Prince Edward Island (21.1%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (20.0%).

The robbery rate per 100,000 for Ontario, 81, was quite close to the nation's rate of 90. Ontario saw a 6.4% drop in robberies in 2007.

Ontario reported the lowest break-in rate per 100,000 population with 486. The most significant province was Saskatchewan at 1,147, despite dropping 7% from the year prior.

Motor vehicle theft within Ontario had an approximate decrease of 10% from the year prior. Motor vehicle theft in Manitoba continued to be well above the rest of the nation. Manitoba reported 1,236 occurrences per 100,000 population; almost doubling the rate of the Alberta (669), the next highest province.

Theft over \$5,000 and theft under \$5,000 within Ontario showed decreases of 5% and 4% respectively.



#### PROVINCIAL CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

Mischief over \$5000 and mischief under \$5000 in Ontario had decreases from 2006 to 2007 of 9% and 7% respectively.

Taking all crime categories into account, Ontario had fewer incidents in every category compared to the nation as whole.

The only provinces that reported an increase in their youth crime rate were New Brunswick (8%), Saskatchewan (2%), Quebec (2%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (0.4%). The largest drop was seen in Prince Edward Island (-24.3%).



### ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

## MISSISSAUGA & OTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES CRIME TREND ANALYSIS

#### Introduction

For this section we analyzed the reported crime rates per 100,000 population and compared them to the city of Mississauga and between each of the eight cities for the years 2006 and 2007.

The findings are reported below in both narrative and graphical formats.

The narrative format is presented in a hierarchical manner, thus providing the reader with the largest and broadest view of reported crime at the municipal level, before peeling back the layers towards more detailed levels of findings amongst the cities. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

#### **Findings**

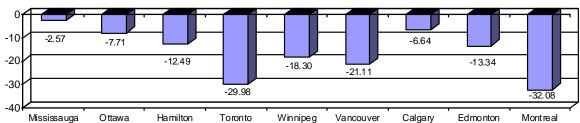
Within Ontario, four major Canadian cites were analyzed. All of those four cites showed a decrease in the overall crime rate per 100,000 population from 2006 to 2007. Mississauga and Ottawa had relatively small decreases whereas Toronto and Hamilton had substantial decreases. The results are as follows:

i. Mississauga (-2.57%)
 ii. Ottawa (-7.71%)
 iii. Hamilton (-12.49%)
 iv. Toronto (-29.98%).

Of the remaining five cities, all showed decreases in the overall crime rate per 100, 000 population from 2006 to 2007. The results are as follows:

i. Winnipeg (-18.30%)
 ii. Vancouver (-21.11%)
 iii. Calgary (-6.64%)
 iv. Edmonton (-13.34%)
 v. Montreal (-32.08%).

Calgary showed a minimal decrease in their crime rate, while Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver showed the highest decreases. Mississauga showed the lowest decrease in the rate of crime per 100,000 from the year prior.





### **Total Crimes of Violence**

In 2007, Mississauga recorded a 2.6% decrease in the total rate of reported crimes of violence as compared to 2006. The number of property crimes remained constant while violent crimes and other criminal code offences saw decreases.

The largest decrease in the total rate of reported crimes in 2007 was in Montreal (-32.1%). Montreal's decline was due to a 41.9% drop in other criminal code offences, a 27.1% drop in property crimes, and a 22.8% drop in violent crimes.

#### Homicide

For many of the cities analyzed, the homicide rate remained statistically constant from 2006 to 2007. Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, and Toronto all had an incidence change of  $\pm 1$  crime per 100,000 population.

#### Sexual Assault

Two of the 9 cities analyzed reported increases in sexual assault in 2007, Edmonton (18%) and Ottawa (17%). The following cities recorded significant decreases in sexual assault rate: Montreal (-30%), Hamilton (-26%), Toronto (-20%), Vancouver (-20%), Winnipeg (-19%) and Calgary (-7%).

Mississauga reported the largest increase in sexual assault, reporting an increase of 23% per 100,000 population.

#### <u>Assault</u>

Four of the 9 cities analyzed reported increases in assault in 2007, Edmonton (41%), Ottawa (26%), Calgary (8%) and Hamilton (4%). The following cities recorded significant decreases in sexual assault rate: Toronto (-17%), Vancouver (-12%), Mississauga (-9%), Winnipeg (-7%) and Montreal (-5%).

#### Robbery

All 9 cities saw a decrease the robbery rate in 2007. The largest decreases were seen in Vancouver (-43%), Montreal (-39%) and Toronto (-36%). Mississauga saw the lowest decrease (-4%); however, this is still substantial as in 2006 Mississauga had the highest increase in robbery rates of all 9 cities analyzed.



#### **Total Property Crimes**

In 2007 Mississauga's Property Crimes remained stable. A 5% drop in Fraud and Theft Over \$5,000 were offset by increases in Break and Enter (3%) and Theft of Motor Vehicle (4%).

All other cities recorded decreases in the total rate of reported property crimes: Vancouver (-28%), Montreal (-27%), Toronto (-23%), Edmonton (-21%), Winnipeg (-20%), Hamilton (-14%), Ottawa (-9%) and Calgary (-9%). While Vancouver's large decrease was driven by large drops in Break and Enter and Theft Under \$5,000, Montreal large decrease was driven by significant drops in all areas of property crimes. Toronto and Edmonton had decreases in all property crime categories except for Theft over \$5,000 where both saw an increase.

#### Break and Enter

Mississauga recorded the only increase (3%) in the rate of break and enters in 2007 as compared to 2006.

All other cities (except for Winnipeg) recorded double digit decreases in break and enter rates: Montreal (31%), Vancouver (30%), Hamilton (23%), Toronto (21%), Ottawa (20%), Edmonton (15%) and Calgary (15%). Winnipeg saw the smallest decrease with a decrease in the break and enter rate of 7%.

#### Theft of Motor Vehicle

Mississauga recorded the only increase (4%) in the rate of motor vehicle theft in 2007 as compared to 2006.

The rate of motor vehicle theft in Calgary and Vancouver remained stable.

All other cities recorded double digit decreases in motor vehicle theft rates: Edmonton (38%), Toronto (27%), Ottawa (21%), Hamilton (21%), Winnipeg (19%) and Montreal (17%).



#### Theft Over \$5,000

Edmonton and Ottawa saw double digit increases in theft over \$5,000 at 27% and 12% respectively. Toronto and Calgary saw small increases in theft over \$5,000 at 2% and 1% respectively.

All other cities saw a decrease in theft over \$5,000. The largest decreases were seen Montreal (-27%) and Hamilton (-14%). Single digit decreases were seen in Vancouver (-7%), Mississauga (-6%) and Winnipeg (-2%).

#### Theft Under \$5,000

The rate of theft under \$5000 in Mississauga remained stable between 2007 and 2006.

All other cities saw decreases in the rate of theft under \$5,000. Double digit decreases were recorded in Vancouver (-32%), Montreal (29%), Winnipeg (-25%), Toronto (24%) and Edmonton (21%).

#### Frauds

Ottawa was the only city that saw an increase (3%) in the rate of frauds from 2006 to 2007.

Toronto (-32%), Montreal (-28%), Winnipeg (-28%) and Calgary (-16%) saw the largest decreases.

#### **Total Other Criminal Code Offences**

All cities recorded a decrease in the rate of other criminal code offences.

For the second year in a row, Montreal and Toronto recorded the greatest decreases in the rate of other Criminal Code offences in 2007.

Montreal recorded a prominent 42 % decrease in the rate of other Criminal Code offences in 2007. A considerable portion of the decrease can be attributed to a 35% decrease in mischief over \$5000 and a 27% decrease in offensive weapons. This is the second year in a row that Montreal has seen substantial decreases in these two categories.

Toronto recorded a decrease of 38% in the rate of other Criminal Code offences. This was driven by a 32% drop in the rate of offensive weapons and a 24% drop in mischief under \$5,000. However, Toronto saw a 365% increase in the rate of mischief over \$5,000 that went from 17 incidents per 100,000 population in 2006 to 79 in 2007.



#### Offensive Weapons

Edmonton and Hamilton saw substantial increases in the rate of offensive weapons at 26% and 22% respectively.

Mississauga also saw a small increase in the rate of offensive weapons at 6%.

While Calgary saw a single digit drop in offensive weapons (-5%), the remaining cities saw substantial double digit drops: Vancouver (-47%), Toronto, (-32%), Winnipeg (-31%), Montreal (-27%) and Ottawa (-12%).

### Mischief Over \$5000 (Property Damage)

Only four cities saw decreases in the rate of mischief over \$5,000: Montreal (-35%), Winnipeg (-27%), Hamilton (-4%) and Mississauga (-2%).

All other cities saw substantial increases in mischief over \$5,000. Toronto saw the largest increase at 365%, followed by Vancouver at 100%. Other cities with double digit increases were Ottawa (69%), Calgary (48%) and Edmonton (27%).

#### Mischief Under \$5000 (Property Damage)

While the rate of mischief under \$5,000 remained stable in Calgary, increases were seen in Mississauga (6%), Ottawa (4%) and Edmonton (3%).

The largest increase in mischief under \$5,000 was seen in Vancouver where they had a 28% increase.

Small decreases were seen in Hamilton (-5%) and Montreal (-4%), with the largest decreases in Toronto (-24%) and Winnipeg (-14%).

#### Drugs

Only three cities saw a decrease in the rate of drugs from 2006 to 2007. Calgary had the largest drop with a decrease of 15%. Vancouver and Mississauga both had decreases of 6% in the rate of drugs.

The largest increase in the rate of drugs was seen in Edmonton at 47%. Increases were also seen in Toronto (15%), Winnipeg (12%), Montreal (11%), Ottawa (7%) and Hamilton (5%).



# **ATTACHMENTS**

TABLE 1 – MAJOR CRIME CATEGORIES – CRIME OCCURRENCES PER 100,000 POPULATION

TABLE 2 – CRIME OCCURRENCES PER 100,000 POPULATION - DETAILED

TABLE 3 – CRIME OCCURRENCES PER 100,000 POPULATION – ADDITIONAL DETAIL FOR THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA