

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

2008 Annual Criminal Statistics Analysis Canada, Ontario, Mississauga & Eight Major Canadian Cities

**Prepared for
Safe City Mississauga**



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page Number

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Executive Summary | 3 - 6 |
| Introduction and Purpose | 3 |
| Scope | 3 |
| Methodology | 4 |
| Major Findings | 5 - 6 |
| 2. Additional Findings | 7 - 18 |
| National Crime Trend Analysis | 7 - 11 |
| Provincial Crime Trend Analysis | 12 - 13 |
| Mississauga & Other Major Canadian Cities Crime Trend Analysis | 14 - 18 |
| 3. Attachments | 19 |
| Table 1 – Major Crime Categories – Crime Occurrences per 100,000 Population | N/A |
| Table 2 – Crime Occurrences Per 100,000 Population – Detailed..... | N/A |
| Table 3 – Crime Occurrences Per 100,000 Population – Additional Detail for the City of Mississauga | N/A |

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 2008.

The requirements and objectives of the contract are to create three tables based on 2008 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 2007 and 2008 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 2007 and 2008 from Statistics Canada.
- Three tables, in Excel format, were produced. They are described as follows:
 - Table 1 – crime rates for the 3 major categories of crime
 - Table 2 – crime rates for all analyzed crime categories, in detail
 - 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 tenth 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. Mississauga ranked lower than both the province of Ontario and the nation in all the major categories of crime (Violent Crime, Property Crime, and Other Criminal Code Offences).

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 | Ontario | | Canada | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Rate /100,000 | % Difference to Mississauga | Rate /100,000 | % Difference to Mississauga |
| Overall Crime Rate | 3,268 | 4,879 | 49% | 6,589 | 102% |
| Violent Crime | 590 | 732 | 24% | 932 | 58% |
| Property Crime * | 2,319 | 2,530 | 9% | 3,079 | 33% |
| Other Criminal Code Offences * | 359 | 1,616 | 350% | 2,578 | 618% |

** Mississauga data uses new Statistics Canada category definitions while Ontario and Canada do not. Therefore, Mississauga Property Crime is over-stated, and Mississauga Other Criminal Code Offences is under-stated. This difference would not have changed Mississauga's ranking.*

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 almost all categories pertaining to Violent Crimes (Crimes Against Persons). Mississauga was tied with two other cities for the second lowest rate of Homicides. Mississauga also had the lowest rate of Robbery, Assault, Sexual Assault, Theft Under \$5,000, Fraud, and Mischief Under \$5,000. While the city ranked well overall, Mississauga ranked second last in offensive weapons and drugs for the second year in a row. These areas of concern are described in more detail below.

Overall, Mississauga saw an increase in the rate per 100,000 population in only the Crimes Against Persons category as compared to 2007. Overall Crimes Against Persons rose by 8% (4,064 per 100,000 population in 2007 as compared to 4,199 in 2008), overall Crimes Against Property dropped by 7% (2,490 per 100,000 population in 2007 as compared to 2,319 in 2008), and other Criminal Code offences dropped by 5% (376 per 100,000 population in 2007 as compared to 359 in 2008).

MAJOR FINDINGS CONT'D

The homicide rate in Mississauga has continued to grow for the second year in a row. It saw a 71% increase from the year prior. In 2006 there were 4 reported homicides, 10 in 2007, and 17 in 2008. Homicide is the largest growing crime category for Mississauga.

The sexual assault saw a turn-around in 2008. It saw an increase of 23% in 2007, only to see a decrease of 16% in 2008.

Mississauga holds eighth place, next to last place Vancouver, in the offensive weapons crime category for 2008. Mississauga recorded a rate of approximately 65 occurrences per a population rate of 100,000, whereas and Vancouver reported an astonishing 106 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 41 and 54 respectively.

Due to a gap in the Statistics Canada crime data provided. There was no data available for 2008 for Mischief over \$5,000 for the other cities, provinces, or nationally. In 2008, the rates of mischief over \$5000 and mischief under \$5000 for Mississauga were 292 and 92 per 100,000 population respectively. These numbers are lower than in 2007; however, this depicts that approximately 3 out of 4 offences surrounding mischief involved mischief over \$5000. This is opposite the usual national trend. 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 2007 and 2008.

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.

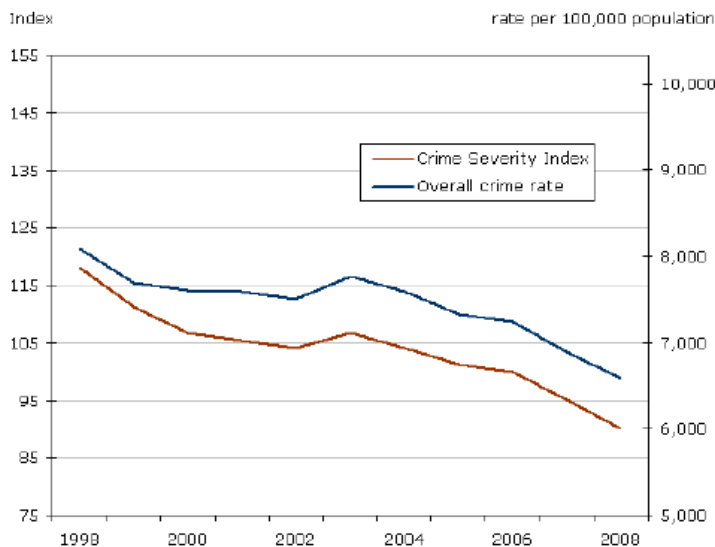
The narrative format is presented in a hierarchical manner, thus providing the reader with the largest and broadest view of reported crime in Canada, before peeling back the layers towards more detailed levels of findings.

Findings

The national crime rate reached its lowest point in 31 years in 2008. The crime rate dropped by 5% last year, following a decrease of 7% in 2006. After steadily increasing throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, the national crime rate has decreased by about 30% since peaking in 1991.

Not only was there less police-reported crime in Canada in 2008 than the previous year, it was also less serious in nature. This is measured by the new police-reported Crime Severity Index.

Police-reported crime rate and Crime Severity Index, Canada, 1998 to 2008



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

NATIONAL CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

Of all Criminal Code incidents in 2008 the highest categories were theft under \$5,000 (25%), mischief (17%), and break and enter(10%).

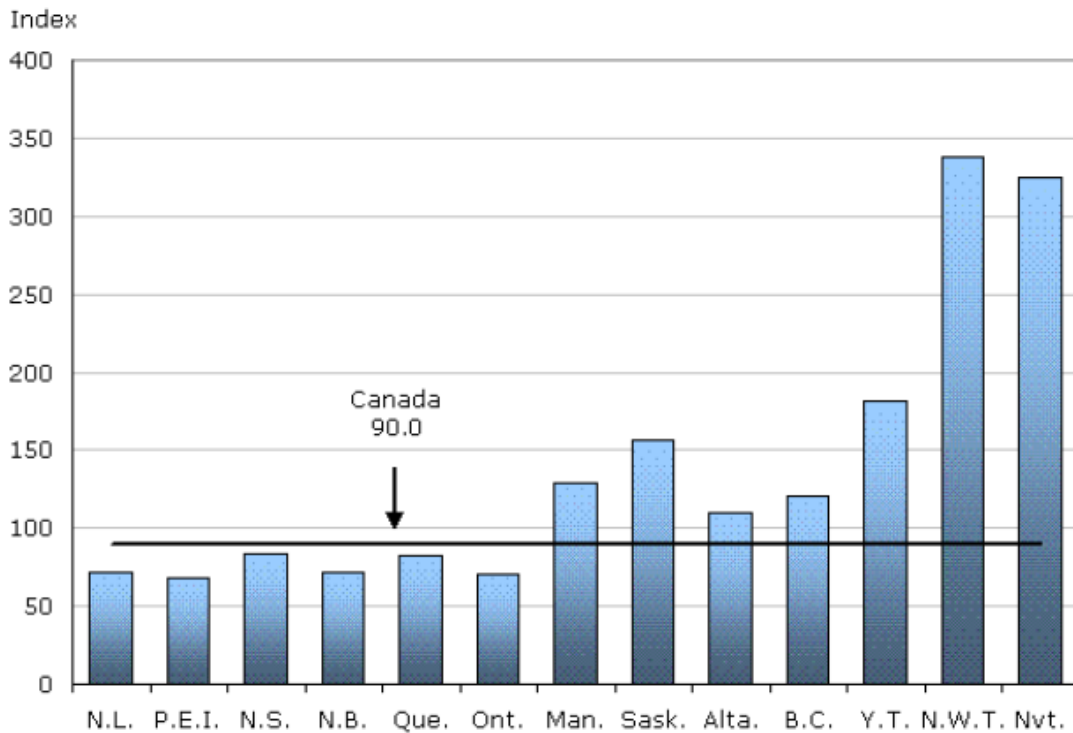
The decline in the overall national crime rate for 2008 was driven by decreases in high volume non-violent offences. Thefts under \$5,000 accounted for much of this drop, with 22,000 fewer incidents. In addition, there were about 20,000 fewer motor vehicle thefts.

The overall violent crime (crimes against persons) rate stayed relatively stable in 2008 compared to 2007. Almost all categories of violent crime (crimes against persons) saw a decrease in occurrences, except for robbery which rose by 7.8%.

The decline in crime was seen right across the country. Among the cities studies, the largest drop was reported in Winnipeg (-15.5%), followed by Ottawa (-12.6%) and Toronto (-10.4%).

The decline in crime severity was also seen across the country, with the exception of Prince Edward Island (+7%), Nunavut (+2%), New Brunswick (+1%) and Northwest Territories (+1%). The largest declines in crime severity were seen in Manitoba (-14%) and Nova Scotia (-9%). More specifically, the most substantial decrease was in Winnipeg (-19%).

Police-reported Crime Severity Index by province and territory, 2008



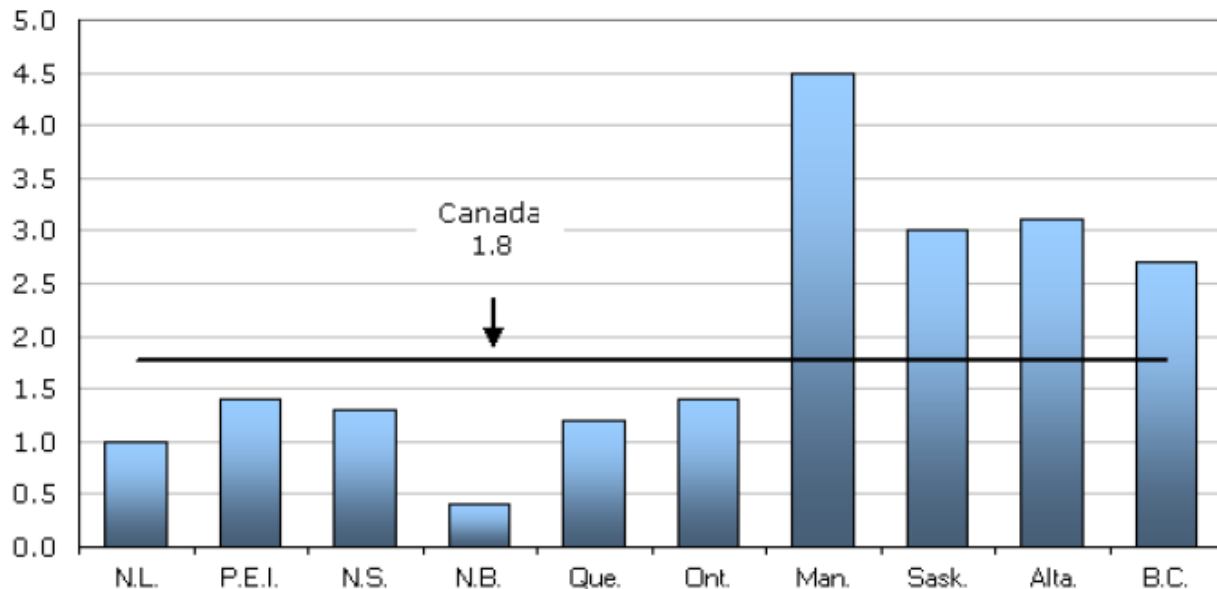
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

NATIONAL CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

There were 611 homicides reported by the police in 2008, 17 more than the year prior, resulting in a rate of 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population. The increase in 2008 follows a decrease in 2007. This is the first increase in two years. The national homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid- 1970s, when it was approximately 3 homicides per 100,000 population. Increases in British Columbia and Alberta contributed to the rise in 2008.

However; Manitoba saw a decrease in homicides this year to down to 54 incidents, 7 less than 2007. However, Manitoba still had the highest rate in Canada.

Homicide, police-reported rate by province, 2008
rate per 100,000 population

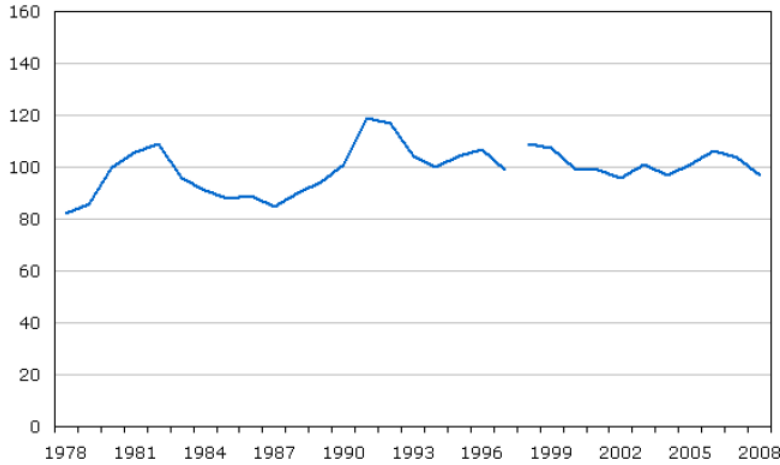


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

NATIONAL CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

There were approximately 32,000 robberies in 2008, which is a 7% decrease in the rate from 2007. In general the robbery rate has generally been declining since the early 1990s and has remained stable since 2000. While 57% of robberies did not involve a weapon, approximately 15% of all robberies involved a firearm.

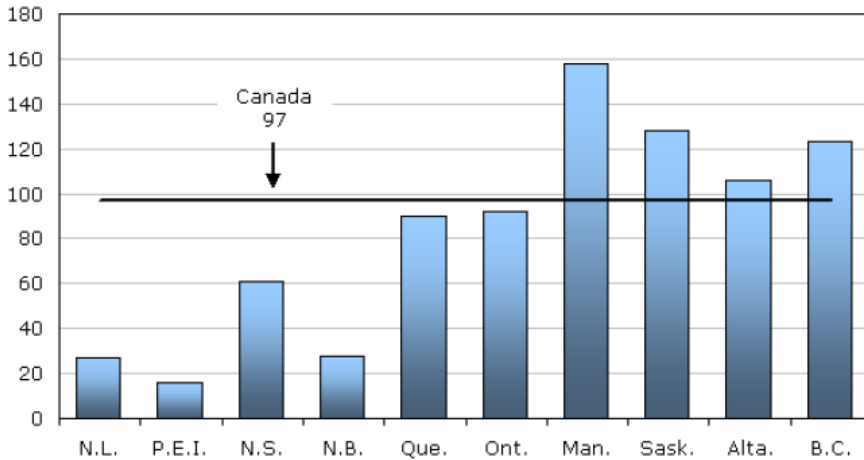
Robbery, police-reported rate, Canada, 1978 to 2008
 rate per 100,000 population



Note: Revisions have been applied to robbery data back to 1998. As a result, there is a break in the data series between 1997 and 1998.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The only province that reported an increase in robbery was Prince Edward Island (+42%), even though that province still has the lowest rate in the country. Robbery rates in Western Canada are higher than the other provinces. The largest decrease in robbery was in Manitoba (-22%), even though that province has the highest rate in the country.

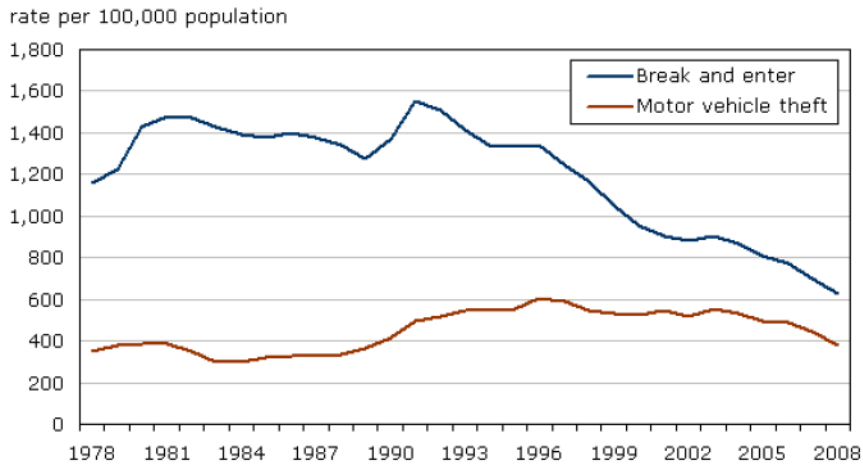
Robbery, police-reported rate by province, 2008
 rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

NATIONAL CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

Break and enter and motor vehicle theft, police-reported rates, Canada, 1978 to 2008



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The 2008 rates of break and enter and motor vehicle theft continued the downward trend that began in the early 1990's. The break and enter rate was 10% lower than in 2007, and the motor vehicle theft rate was 15% lower than in 2007.

Total drug offences remained stable in 2008 at about 102,000 drug offenses. Possession of cannabis accounted for approximately half of all reported drug offences. Cocaine offences dropped by 8%, while other drug offences, which include heroin and crystal meth, were down 2%.

The number of youth accused of a criminal offence decreased for the second consecutive year by 5% in 2008. The Youth crime rate has declined for the 4th time in 5 years. Youth violent crime remained stable in 2008. Youths accused of homicide was the highest it has ever been in 2006 but saw a 13% drop in 2007 and a continued drop of 3% in 2008.

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 2007 and 2008. We also looked at the Crime Severity Index values for 2007 and 2008.

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 sixth year in a row; 4,877 per 100,000 population. The national crime rate was 6,588 per 100,000 population.

In 2008, almost all provinces and territories reported decreases in crime rates. The largest provincial decreases were reported in Manitoba (-9%), followed by British Columbia (-8%) and Nova Scotia (-7%).

Increases in the crime rates for 2008 were seen in the Nunavut (+15%), Yukon (+5%) and Prince Edward Island (+2%).

While Newfoundland and Labrador reported the most notable decline in homicide for 2007 (a decrease of 56.8%), they saw the highest increase in 2008 (+66%). The most notable decline in homicide for 2008 was in New Brunswick (-63%).

The provinces with the greatest declines in sexual assault incidents were Yukon (-17%), Northwest Territories (-17%) and British Columbia (-12%). The province with the greatest increase was New Brunswick (+13%).

The robbery rate per 100,000 for Ontario, 92, was the closest to the nation's rate of 97. Ontario saw a 5% drop in robberies in 2008.

Ontario reported the lowest break-in rate per 100,000 population with 446. The most significant province was Saskatchewan at 973, despite dropping 15% from the year prior.

Motor vehicle theft within Ontario had an approximate decrease of 12% from the year prior. Motor vehicle theft in Manitoba continued to be well above the rest of the nation. Manitoba reported 746 occurrences per 100,000 population, even though this is a 39% drop in the rate from 2007.

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 2007 and 2008.

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.

Findings

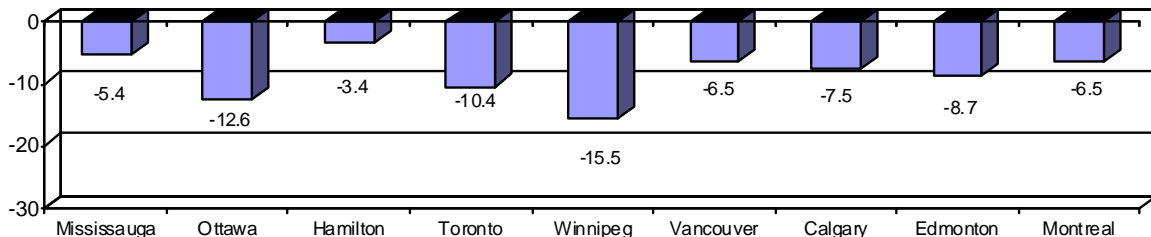
Within Ontario, four major Canadian cities were analyzed. All of those four cities showed a decrease in the overall crime rate per 100,000 population from 2007 to 2008. Mississauga and Hamilton had relatively small decreases whereas Ottawa and Toronto had substantial decreases. The results are as follows:

- i. Hamilton (-3.4%)
- ii. Mississauga (-5.4%)
- iii. Toronto (-10.4%)
- iv. Ottawa (-12.6%)

Of the remaining five cities, all showed decreases in the overall crime rate per 100,000 population from 2007 to 2008. The results are as follows:

- i. Vancouver (- 6.5 %)
- ii. Montreal (- 6.5%).
- iii. Calgary (- 7.5%)
- iv. Edmonton (- 8.7%)
- v. Winnipeg (-15.5%)

Hamilton showed a minimal decrease in their crime rate, while Toronto, Ottawa and Winnipeg showed the highest decreases.



MISSISSAUGA & OTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

Total Crimes of Violence

In 2008, Mississauga recorded an 8.2% increase in the total rate of reported (Crimes Against Persons (crimes of violence) as compared to 2007. The number of Crimes Against Property (property crimes) decreased 6.9% while other criminal code offences decreased 4.6%.

The largest decrease in the total rate of reported crimes in 2008 was in Winnipeg (-15.5%). Winnipeg's decline was due to drops in both Property Crimes and Other Criminal Code Offences, as Winnipeg saw a 4.1% increase in Crimes Against Persons.

Homicide

For many of the cities analyzed, the homicide rate remained statistically constant from 2007 to 2008.

Sexual Assault

Four cities recorded decreases in the sexual assault rate: Mississauga (-16%), Hamilton (-16%), Vancouver (-12%) and Hamilton (-8%).

Winnipeg reported the largest increase in sexual assault, reporting an increase of 7% per 100,000 population.

Assault

Four of the 9 cities analyzed reported increases in assault in 2008, Winnipeg (9%), Montreal (5%), Hamilton (4%) and Mississauga (2%). Ottawa recorded the most significant decrease in the sexual assault rate of -12%.

Robbery

Winnipeg was the only city to record a decrease in the robbery rate in 2008. Winnipeg saw a decrease of 13% in the robbery rate in 2008. The largest increases were seen in Ottawa (+19%) and Toronto (+18%).

MISSISSAUGA & OTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

Total Property Crimes

Note: Mississauga data for 2007 and 2008 use the new definitions for Crimes Against Property (Property Crime) and Other Criminal Code Offences. Mischief over and under are included in Crimes Against Property for Mississauga, but are included in Other Criminal Code offences for all other cities.

In 2008 Mississauga's Property Crimes decreased by 7%. This was driven by an 18% drop in Mischief over \$5,000 and a 9% drop in Theft under \$5,000.

All other cities also recorded decreases in the total rate of reported property crimes: Winnipeg (-24%), Ottawa (-13%), Edmonton (-12%), Vancouver (-11%), Calgary (-8%), Toronto (-5%), Hamilton (-3%) and Montreal (-2%). While Calgary and Hamilton saw their largest decreases come from drops in Break and Enter, all other cities saw their largest decreases come from drops in Theft of Motor Vehicle. Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa had decreases in all property crime categories.

Break and Enter

For the second year in a row, Mississauga recorded the only increase (2%) in the rate of break and enters in 2008 as compared to 2007.

All other cities recorded decreases in break and enter rates: Winnipeg (-23%), Hamilton (-19%), Ottawa (-12%), Calgary (-12%), Edmonton (-12%), Montreal (10%), Vancouver (10%) and Toronto (7%).

Theft of Motor Vehicle

Mississauga recorded the no change in the rate of motor vehicle theft in 2008 as compared to 2007.

All other cities recorded decreases in motor vehicle theft rates: Calgary (-9%), Winnipeg (-44%), Ottawa (-24%), Vancouver (-20%), Montreal (-19%), Edmonton (-16%), Toronto (-13%) and Hamilton (-10%).

MISSISSAUGA & OTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

Theft Over \$5,000

Mississauga recorded the only increase (9%) in the rate of theft over \$5,000 in 2008 as compared to 2007.

The rate of theft over \$5,000 in Edmonton remained stable from 2007 to 2008.

All other cities recorded decreases in theft over \$5,000 rates: Vancouver (-16%), Winnipeg (-13%), Ottawa (-10%), Toronto (-8%), Montreal (-6%), Hamilton (-4%) and Calgary (-4%).

Theft Under \$5,000

The rate of theft under \$5,000 in Mississauga decreased by 9% in 2008 as compared to 2007.

Vancouver saw a substantial increase in theft under \$5,000 of 24%. Only two other cities saw increases; Montreal (+6%) and Hamilton (+4%).

All other cities saw decreases in the rate of theft under \$5,000; Edmonton (-12%), Winnipeg (-12%), Ottawa (-11%), Calgary (-7%) and Toronto (-4%).

Frauds

About half of the cities saw a decrease in the rate of frauds for 2008; Ottawa (-13%), Calgary (-10%), Vancouver (-8%), Edmonton (-4%) and Mississauga (-2%).

The cities that saw increases in the rate of frauds were, Winnipeg (+15%), Hamilton (+14%), Toronto (+8%) and Montreal (+5%).

Total Other Criminal Code Offences

Note: Mississauga data for 2007 and 2008 use the new definitions for Crimes Against Property (Property Crime) and Other Criminal Code Offences. Mischief over and under are included in Crimes Against Property for Mississauga, but are included in Other Criminal Code offences for all other cities.

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

For the third year in a row, Montreal and Toronto recorded the greatest decreases in the rate of other Criminal Code offences in 2008.

Toronto recorded a prominent 25 % decrease in the rate of other Criminal Code offences in 2008. Montreal recorded a decrease of 19% in the rate of other Criminal Code offences.

MISSISSAUGA & OTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES CRIME TREND ANALYSIS CONT'D

Offensive Weapons

Montreal saw a substantial increase in the rate of offensive weapons at 15%. Other increases were seen by Edmonton (+8%) and Winnipeg (+1%).

Calgary saw the most significant drop in offensive weapons (-20%), followed by Hamilton (-14%), Vancouver, (-6%), Toronto (-5%), Mississauga (-3%) and Ottawa (-1%).

Mischief Over \$5000 (Property Damage)

Due to a gap in the Statistics Canada crime data provided. There was no data available for 2008 for Mischief over \$5,000 for the other cities, provinces, or nationally.

In 2008, the rates of mischief over \$5000 and mischief under \$5000 for Mississauga were 292 and 92 per 100,000 population respectively. These numbers are lower than in 2007; however, this depicts that approximately 3 out of 4 offences surrounding mischief involved mischief over \$5000. This is opposite the usual national trend. 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.

Mischief Under \$5000 (Property Damage)

While the rate of mischief under \$5,000 remained stable in Hamilton, increases were seen in Toronto (17%), Vancouver (14%) and Montreal (9%).

Decreases were seen in Winnipeg (-13%), Ottawa (-9%), Calgary (-5%), Edmonton (-3%) and Mississauga (-2%).

Drugs

Only three cities saw a decrease in the rate of drugs from 2007 to 2008. Calgary had the largest drop for a second year in a row with a decrease of 19%. Mississauga had a decrease of 14% and Toronto had a decrease of 1%.

The rate of drugs in Vancouver remained stable from 2007 to 2008.

The largest increase in the rate of drugs was seen in Hamilton at 20%. Increases were also seen in Winnipeg (+13%), Ottawa (+2%), Montreal (+2%) and Edmonton (+1%).

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**