

Safe City Report 2011

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Introduction

Safe City Mississauga is a non-profit organization established in xxxx to offer crime prevention services, programs and information to the public, and in so doing, to contribute to the reduction of crime in Mississauga (Safe City Mississauga, 2012). The mandate of the organization is to help the Mississauga community gain factual information on crime, take action to prevent crime, and be strategic in directing resources to local problems. In order to provide information on crime and to aid in the resource planning process, Safe City Mississauga produces a brief annual report summarizing crime in Mississauga over the past calendar year.

Similar to previous reports, the 2011 Safe City Report will summarize the volume and types of crime that occurred in Mississauga and draw comparisons with national and Census Metropolitan Area level trends where possible. To take advantage of the availability of several years of data, this report will direct attention to crime trends in the city of Mississauga over the past four years.

What is a Crime Rate?

The **Crime Rate** measures the volume of crime reported to, and substantiated by the police. It is calculated by counting the number of criminal incidents, and dividing this number by the population, and multiplying by 100,000. Crime rates can be calculated for a single offence, or for groups of offences (such as violent crime or property crime). The number of criminal code incidents used to calculate the crime rates for this report were provided by Peel Regional Police.³

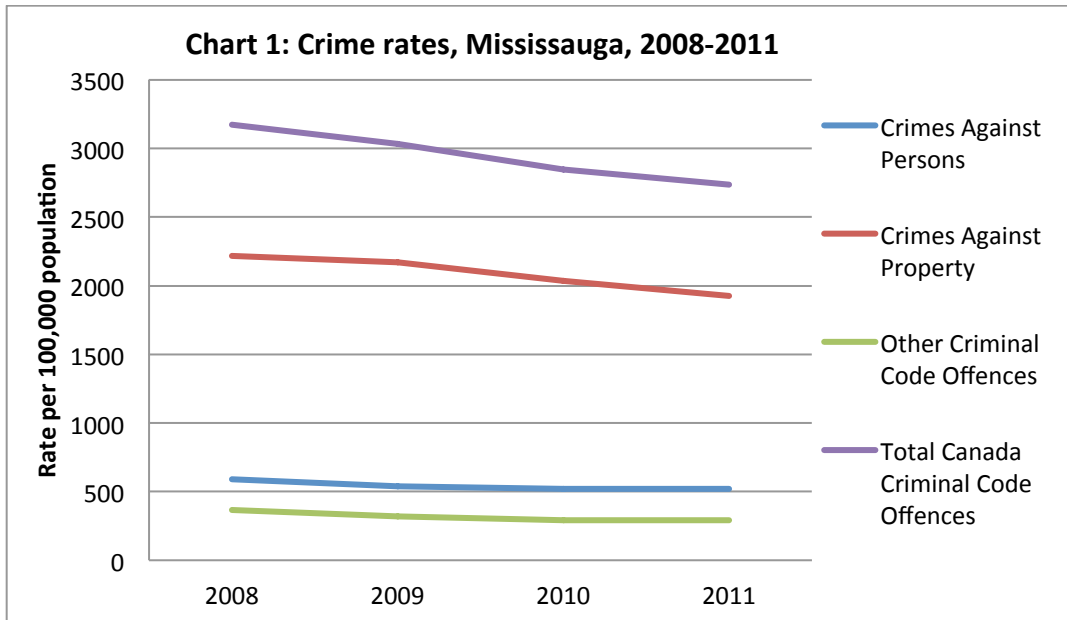
The crime rate is not an accurate measure of police workload. The crime rates presented in this report only include incidents that were substantiated by police. As such it is lower than the number of calls for service in a given year, as not all of these incidents are “founded” and recorded as a crime for official reporting purposes. Furthermore, crime rates do not account for important work undertaken by police services in crime prevention, public education, community outreach and public safety.

The results of 2009 victimization survey data show that in the ten provinces approximately two-thirds of offences are not reported to police (Brennan and Perreault, 2011). This unknown or “dark figure of crime” should be kept in mind when interpreting the extent of crime in a community for resource planning purposes.

Crime trends in Mississauga

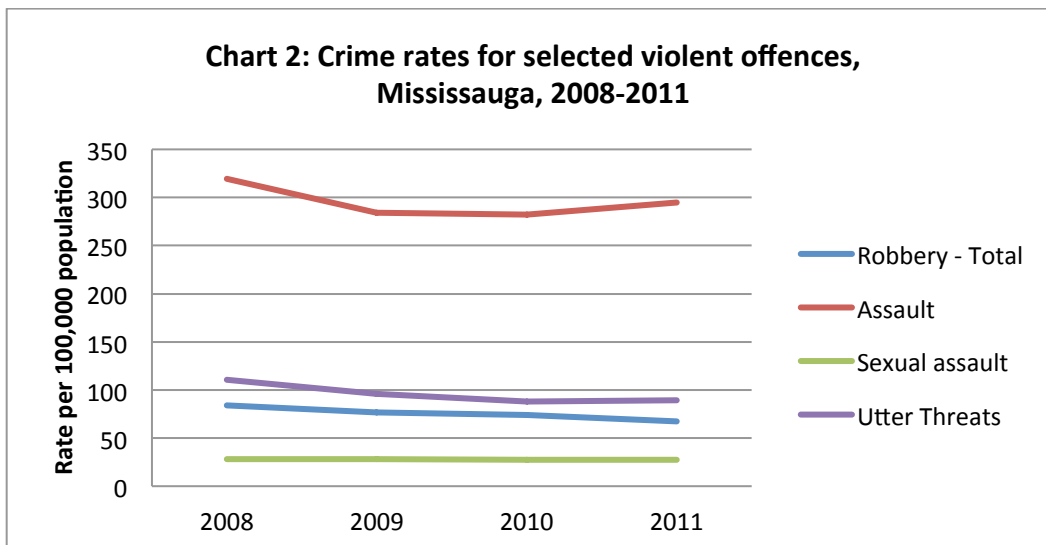
The 2011 crime rate for the city of Mississauga was 2,736 incidents per 100,000 population. This represents a decrease of 4% from 2010 (at 2,846) and a 14% decline from 2008 (at 3,172). Property crime accounted for the vast majority (70%) of the crime incidents reported to police, followed by violent crime (19%) and other Criminal Code offences (11%).

³ Population estimates were taken from the Region of Peel Data Centre website on November 12, 2012 (<http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/pdc/data/forecasts/population-2006-2031.htm>)



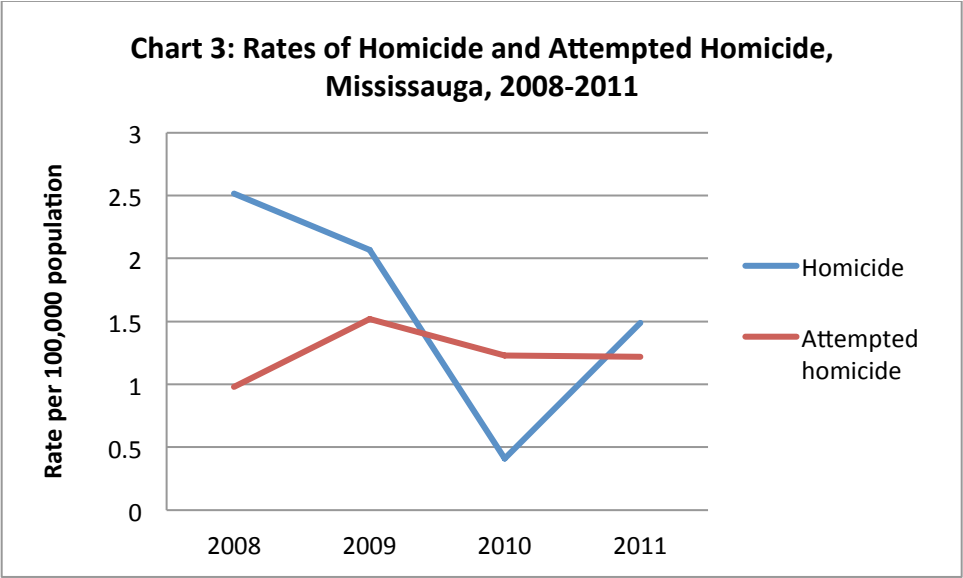
Trends in Violent Crime

The violent crime rate for Mississauga was 521 per 100,000 population, up only slightly from 2010 (520 per 100,000). Physical assaults accounted for most incidents (57%), followed by uttering threat (17%) and robbery (13%). Annual increases were recorded for the crimes of homicide (+263%), physical assault (+4%), uttering threats (+2%) and other sexual offences (+1%).



While the increase for homicide may appear alarming (increasing from 3 homicides in 2010 to 11 homicides in 2011) this is still lower than the number recorded in the 2 preceding years (18 and 15 in 2008 and 2009 respectively). The homicide rate of 1.5 per 100,000 population is also below the national

average (2.0 per 100,000 population). The violent offence that has seen a steady decrease in the previous four years is robbery, which has declined by about 20% from 2008 to 2011.



Trends in Property Crime

As touched upon above, property crime accounts for the vast majority of criminal code offences reported to police, and theft under \$5000, break and enter, and mischief accounted for 80% of these crimes (50%, 15% and 15% respectively). Property crime reported to and substantiated by police has decreased for the fourth consecutive year (from 2,217 in 2008 to 1,925 per 100,000 in 2011). The largest decrease can be seen for breaking and entering of a business, which decreased 15% from 2010 and has dropped 47% since 2008.

For a further breakdown of crime rates for specific offences, including non *Criminal Code* violations, please refer to Appendix A.

Comparing Crime Rates across Jurisdictions

One of the traditional goals of this report is to compare crime rates for the City Mississauga with the national average as well as the crime rates from other large cities in Canada. Readers should be cautioned that there are a number of challenges in drawing comparisons. First, the methodology used by Peel Police to produce their local crime rates differs in certain ways from those employed by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey (please refer to the Data Sources section at the end of this report for more information). According to the offence hierarchy rules used by the UCR, criminal incidents involving multiple offences are counted only once. For example, if there is an incident of assault with a weapon and uttering threats, only the more serious offence of assault with a weapon would be counted. In comparison, Peel Regional Police uses offence based statistics treating incidents involving multiple offences separately for counting purposes. Consequently, offence based statistics will over count incidents relative to the UCR.

In addition, in this report crime rates for the city of Mississauga are compared with Census Metropolitan Areas. However, readers should be cautioned that police services may have different internal policies and practices around the recording of minor crimes. For example, the degree to which some police

services have adopted on-line and telephone reporting mechanisms (intended to increase the ease by which residents can bring criminal incidents to the attention of police) may result in an increase in minor offences being reported in some jurisdictions over others (Hotton Mahony and Turner 2012). In addition, CMA's represent a much broader geographic area than the city level as is reported for Mississauga.^{4,5}

Lastly, for the purpose of this report Peel Police supplied summary tables already aggregated into broad offence categories. Many of the specific offences were included in the broad totals (such as "Other Criminal Code" offences) but not detailed in the table itself (see Appendix A). Without knowing all of the offences included in the total category it is not possible to confirm that the measures are directly compatible. This is a limitation of the current study as it relies entirely on secondary data. However, Analytical staff at Peel Police reported being confident that all of the offence categories reported to the UCR are being captured in the rates produced for the city of Mississauga.

Crime rates in Mississauga relative to Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) across Canada

The CMA with the lowest crime rate in Canada in 2011 is Toronto at 3,382 per 100,000 population. The crime rate for the city of Mississauga, which is included in the counts for Toronto CMA, is lower still at 2,736 per 100,000 population.

Victoria CMA has the greatest percentage decrease in their crime rate, 16%, from 2010 to 2011. Among CMA's, the only increase reported was for Moncton, which reported a three percent increase in their crime rate. Crime rates in Mississauga were estimated to have dropped 3.9% from 2010 to 2011.

Homicide

In 2011, there were 11 homicides in Mississauga (or 1.5 homicides per 100,000 population). This rate is the same as the overall homicide rate for the greater Toronto CMA. Homicide rates range considerably across CMAs, from a low of 0 in Moncton, Sudbury and Kingston, to a high of 5.1 in Winnipeg. Several

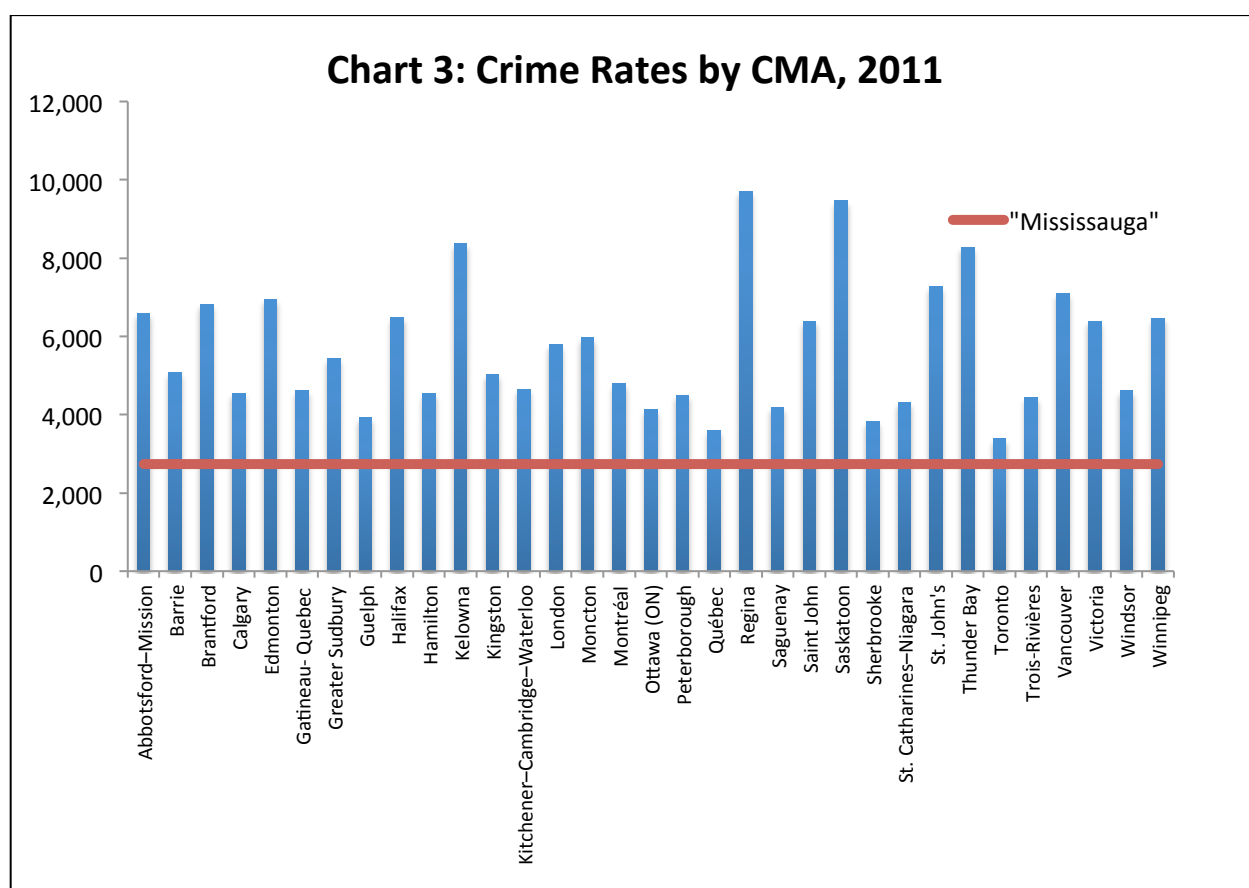
⁴ According to Statistics Canada, a "census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service." (Brennan, 2012)

⁵ In order to obtain comparable crime rate information at the police service level a custom tabulation request would have to be submitted to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This information was not publically available in 2011, which is why the authors used information for CMA's for comparison purposes. While it would be preferable to have information at the police jurisdiction level this does not eliminate the respondent error and non-response error that make direct comparisons between jurisdictions difficult. For example, there are still problems making direct comparisons across jurisdictions due to differences in reporting practices for minor offences (Hotton Mahony and Turner, 2012) as well as the methodological differences in counting incidents used by Peel Police to retrieve Mississauga counts from that of the UCR survey. For this reason, the authors suggest that all comparisons are interpreted with caution.

large CMAs⁶ reported homicide rates that were lower than the city of Mississauga, including Québec, Hamilton, Ottawa, Kitchener and Montréal.

Robbery

In 2011, the CMA with the lowest reported robbery rate was Saguenay (at 19 per 100,000 population). Toronto (which includes Mississauga) reported a rate of 127. The rate of robbery for the city of Mississauga was 67, which is below the national average, but higher than some smaller CMA's in Canada. Mississauga's robbery rate has decreased each year over the past four years. The CMA's that reported increases in their rates of robbery include Barrie, Greater-Sudbury, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Montreal, Quebec, Saint-John, Trois-Rivieres and Winnipeg.



Break and Enter

Toronto (which includes Mississauga) recorded the lowest rate of break and enters (276 per 100,000 population). The estimated rate of B&E for the city of Mississauga was slightly higher at 292 per 100,000 population, but has declined 9% from 2010 (322) and 20% from 2008 (363). Among the CMAs, Saint John has the greatest percentage drop from 2010 to 2011, at 31%. Break and enter rates did increase

⁶ For the purpose of this report, “large” refers to CMAs with a population of 500,000 or greater.

from 2010 to 2011 in some CMA's; including London, Regina, Saguenay, Thunder Bay, Trois-Rivieres, and Windsor (Brennan, 2012).

Motor Vehicle Theft

The rate of motor vehicle theft reported for the Toronto CMA was 150 in 2011. The estimated rate for the city of Mississauga was slightly higher at 183 per 100,000 population. The CMA with the lowest rate of motor vehicle theft was Kingston (79), followed by Peterborough (78), St. John (103), Guelph (106) and Barrie (107). Motor Vehicle theft rates decreased or stayed the same in most CMA's, with the exception of Barrie, Brantford, Guelph, Halifax, Moncton and Saskatoon, which all saw increases from 2010 to 2011.

Crime Severity Index

In addition to the traditional crime rate, the CCJS also produces the crime severity index (CSI). The CSI was created to address the concerns that overall crime rates do not necessarily reflect the severity of crime, as high-volume less serious offences such as minor thefts, mischief and common assaults often drive overall crime rates. The CSI also takes the seriousness of crime into account by assigning each offence a weight⁷ so that more serious offences will have a greater impact on the overall crime rates (Brennan 2012).

According to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), the CSI dropped 6% in 2011 following a downward trend seen since 2004. The violent CSI also declined by 4% in 2011, marking its fifth consecutive decrease (Brennan 2012). As in past years, both the volume and severity of crime were highest in the territories and western Canada provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia. Ontario reported the lowest CSI in Canada, followed by New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (Brennan, 2012).

Decreases in CSI rates were reported in all CMAs in Canada. The greater Toronto CMA (which includes Mississauga) was among the CMA's reporting the lowest CSI values, along with Guelph, Québec and Ottawa (Brennan, 2012). It was not possible to calculate a CSI specific to the city of Mississauga for this report because the offence categories provided by Peel Police (see Appendix A) were too broad to assign weights according to the sentences handed down by the courts.

Summary

The overall crime rate for the city of Mississauga continued to decline in 2011, as was observed for Canada as a whole and most CMA's across the country. This decrease in Mississauga was driven by a 6% decrease in property violations. Violent crime increased slightly between 2010 and 2011 and Other *Criminal Code* violations remained stable. Comparing Mississauga to CMA's in terms of four index offences – homicide, robbery, break and enter and motor vehicle theft, Mississauga rates were comparable or lower than most large CMAs. There were some exceptions including Ottawa, which reported lower rates for three of the four index offences. However, these comparisons should be interpreted with great caution due to the methodological issues outlined in the report.

⁷ The weights are derived from sentences handed down by criminal courts.

Data Sources

Offence-based statistics for the city of Mississauga:

All of the crime data for the city of Mississauga used in this report were kindly provided by Corporate Planning, Peel Regional Police. Peel Regional Police is divided into 5 Divisions; 11 Division, 12 Division, 21 Division and 22 Division, and Airport Division. Although the city of Mississauga is policed primarily by 11 and 12 Division, 21 Division services Mississauga north of Derry Road (Peel Regional Police, 2012). This poses some challenges for retrieving crime counts for the city of Mississauga for the purposes of this report, as it is not possible to simply pool Division-based statistics. To retrieve crime counts specific to Mississauga, Corporate Planning staff selected incidents from their records management system from the incident location field.⁸ Consequently, incidents perpetrated by Mississauga residents outside of the city limits do not qualify as a crime for counting purposes.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey:

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), in cooperation with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, collect police reported crime statistics through the UCR Survey. The UCR is a mandatory survey that reflects reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Coverage of the UCR Survey for 2011 was at close to 100% of the caseload of all police services in Canada (Brennan, 2012).

There are currently two levels of detail collected by the UCR Survey, the aggregate level survey (UCR 1) and the incident-based survey (UCR2). The UCR 1 format is used in this report. In order to ensure comparability, the UCR1 is based on the most serious offence in accordance with a standard classification rule used by all police services (Brennan, 2012). While this methodology is used for reporting purposes to the CCJS, Peel Regional Police could not supply statistics in UCR1 format for the city of Mississauga. ***Consequently, counts for the city of Mississauga will be over-stated, although to what degree is unknown to the authors of this report.***

⁸ According Peel Regional Police Corporate Planning, the proportion of incidents with an unspecified location was small; however an exact figure was not available for the purposes of this report. Readers should be cautioned that crimes may be undercounted to some degree as a result of missing information in the location field.

References

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Appendix A: Crime rates for the city of Mississauga¹, 2008-2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Number of Occurrences				Rate per 100,000 population			
Crimes Against Persons	4,212	3,917	3,804	3,851	588.3	540.3	519.7	521.1
Homicide	18	15	3	11	2.5	2.1	0.4	1.5
Attempt murder	7	11	9	9	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.2
Robbery - Total	600	558	543	496	83.8	77.0	74.2	67.1
Non-sexual assault	2,287	2,061	2,066	2,177	319.4	284.3	282.2	294.6
Sexual assault	199	204	203	202	27.8	28.1	27.7	27.3
Other sexual offences	58	77	65	66	8.1	10.6	8.9	8.9
Abduction	1	3	3	3	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Utter Threats	790	697	644	662	110.3	96.1	88.0	89.6
Criminal harassment (stalking)	125	133	133	115	17.5	18.3	18.2	15.6
Other crimes against persons	127	158	135	110	17.7	21.8	18.4	14.9
Crimes Against Property	15,877	15,750	14,909	14,231	2217.5	2172.4	2036.7	1925.7
Break and enter-total	2,598	2,242	2,356	2,158	362.8	309.2	321.9	292.0
Residence	1,311	1,333	1,462	1,362	183.1	183.9	199.7	184.3
Business	1,245	828	798	684	173.9	114.2	109.0	92.6
Other	42	81	96	112	5.9	11.2	13.1	15.2
Theft motor vehicle	1,672	1,496	1,253	1,354	233.5	206.3	171.2	183.2
Theft Over \$5,000 - total	359	340	293	305	50.1	46.9	40.0	41.3
Theft Under \$5,000 - total	6,898	7,681	7,500	7,058	963.4	1059.4	1024.6	955.1
Possession stolen goods	379	358	350	304	52.9	49.4	47.8	41.1
Frauds	1,122	1,023	841	859	156.7	141.1	114.9	116.2
Mischief Total	2,784	2,549	2,260	2,144	388.8	351.6	308.7	290.1
Arson	65	61	56	49	9.1	8.4	7.7	6.6
Other Criminal Code Offences	2,619	2,326	2,120	2,140	365.8	320.8	289.6	289.6
Offensive weapons	467	384	382	347	65.2	53.0	52.2	47.0
Counterfeiting	43	6	21	3	6.0	0.8	2.9	0.4
Indecent acts	75	83	64	62	10.5	11.4	8.7	8.4
Total Criminal Code Offences²	22,708	21,993	20,833	20,222	3171.5	3033.5	2846.0	2736.4
Drugs	1,920	2,113	2,230	2,068	268.2	291.4	304.6	279.8
Heroin	15	13	15	23	2.1	1.8	2.0	3.1
Cocaine	317	310	288	228	44.3	42.8	39.3	30.9
Cannabis	1,433	1,586	1,755	1,637	200.1	218.8	239.8	221.5
Other Drugs	155	204	172	180	21.6	28.1	23.5	24.4
Traffic Offences	2,827	2,689	2,684	2,893	394.8	370.9	366.7	391.5
Impaired driving	693	669	725	789	96.8	92.3	99.0	106.8
Fail/refuse breath/blood sample	84	90	80	79	11.7	12.4	10.9	10.7
Fail to stop/remain	2,050	1,930	1,733	1,835	286.3	266.2	236.7	248.3

1. Excludes Airport Division

2. Includes: Crimes Against Persons, Property, Other CC offences. Excludes: Drug and Traffic offences

Notes: Occurrences for the city of Mississauga were provided by Corporate Planning and Research, Peel Regional Police. The 2008 /2009 data were run on August 13, 2010, and 2010/2011 data were prepared August 2, 2012. Population estimates were taken from the Region of Peel Data Centre November 2012.

Appendix B: Crime rates by Census Metropolitan Area, 2011

	Homicide (Rate)	Robbery (Rate)	Break and Enter (Rate)	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Crime Severity Index	Total crime (crime rate) ¹
Abbotsford–Mission	0.6	78	644	431	88	6,579
Barrie	0.5	43	346	107	58	5,073
Brantford	1.4	61	617	523	92	6,812
Calgary	1.1	93	438	319	66	4,536
Edmonton	4.2	103	441	367	89	6,943
Gatineau- Quebec	1.6	44	568	131	64	4,617
Greater Sudbury	0.0	101	756	149	79	5,431
Guelph	0.8	26	300	106	47	3,921
Halifax	4.4	95	469	157	87	6,494
Hamilton	0.9	84	383	334	65	4,549
Kelowna	1.1	76	634	437	97	8,371
Kingston	0.0	20	467	79	60	5,023
Kitchener ²	1.3	72	371	131	63	4,654
London	1.8	78	656	208	79	5,788
Moncton	0.0	30	447	164	69	5,960
Montréal	1.4	146	619	335	81	4,785
Ottawa (ON)	1.2	88	291	122	58	4,123
Peterborough	2.4	51	517	84	62	4,495
Québec	0.4	38	496	140	52	3,587
Regina	3.2	149	763	489	125	9,706
Saguenay	0.7	19	638	192	71	4,194
Saint John	2.9	44	328	103	79	6,386
Saskatoon	2.2	169	669	579	119	9,464
Sherbrooke	0.5	27	475	124	61	3,830
St. Catharines ³	0.4	49	502	185	61	4,302
St. John's	2.1	41	781	160	93	7,281
Thunder Bay	3.3	143	777	177	107	8,284
Toronto	1.5	127	276	150	55	3,382
Trois-Rivières	0.7	33	747	221	68	4,448
Vancouver	1.8	134	689	294	95	7,105
Victoria	1.7	62	401	115	71	6,390
Windsor	0.3	69	487	142	63	4,607
Winnipeg	5.1	266	663	318	107	6,454
Mississauga	1.5	67	292	183	2,736

This information for this table was taken from the annual *Juristat* publication "Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada" (Brennan, 2012).

1. The crime rate includes all CC offences (excluding CC traffic violations)
2. Includes Cambridge and Waterloo
3. Includes Niagara