

Halton Region

Number of police officers: 659

Population served: 520,000

Number of officers/100,000 residents: 130

Average officers/100,000 in Canada: 200

Nearby ratios:

York Region: 120

Peel Region: 150

Toronto: 200

Vancouver: 225

Halifax: 230

Halton Region

Number of crimes in 2013: 10,804

Number of violent crimes: 1,977

Number of assaults: 1,315

Number of property crimes: 7,772

Number of thefts under \$5000: 4,222

Number of mischief: 1,296

Halton Region

Number of crimes in 2013: 10,804

Number arrested in 2013: 7689

Number arrested per officer in 2013: 11
(divide 7689 by 659 = 11)
or less than one per month

For Toronto: 9 per year

Violent crimes/officer in 2013: 3
Violent crimes other than assaults: 662, or 1
per officer per year.

Crime Severity Index, prepared by Statistics
Canada for 2011

Canada average: 77.6

Halton: 33.6

Halton ranking, of 239 police jurisdictions : 224

York Region: 39.4, ranking 216

Peel Region: 50.3, ranking 189

Toronto: 70.9, ranking 117, the lowest ratio of
any large city in Canada.

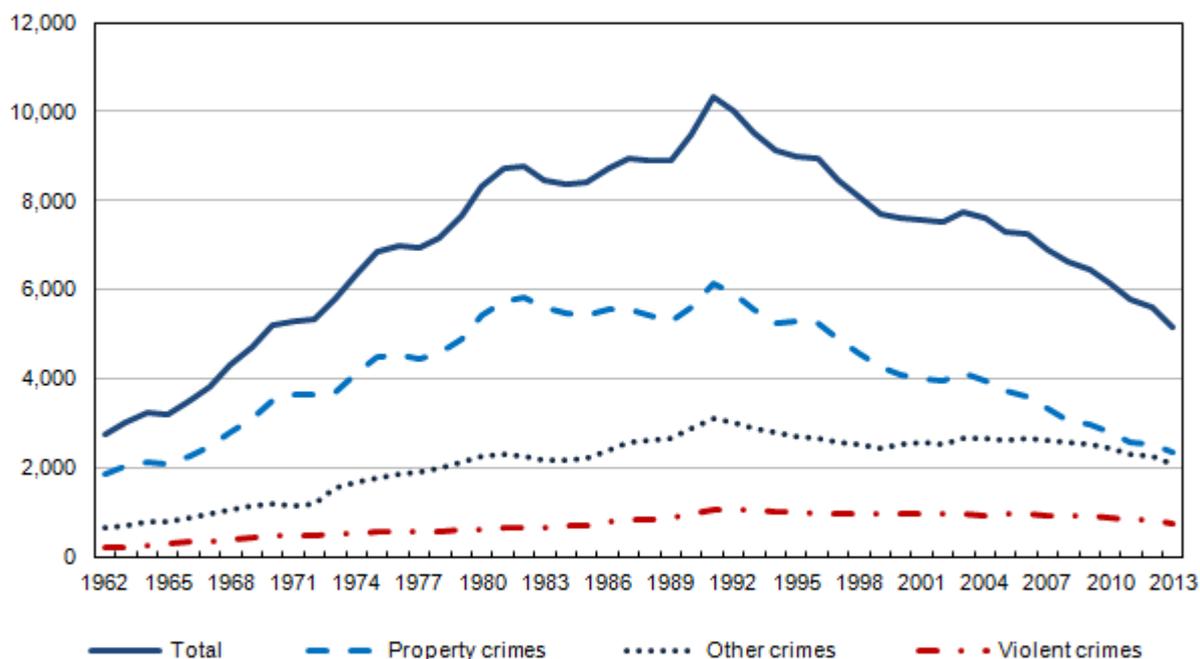
Highest ranking: communities in

Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba

Toronto has

Chart 1
Police-reported crime rate, Canada, 1962 to 2013

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Information presented in this chart represents data from the aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, and permits historical comparisons back to 1962. New definitions of crime categories were introduced in 2009 and are only available in the new format back to 1998. As a result, numbers in this chart will not match data released in the new format.

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

Crime in perspective:

Crimes per 100,000 in Halton in 2013: 2,000

In Halton in 2000: 4,000

In Halton in 1974: 5,500

Why is crime decreasing – half what it was 40 years ago?

Factors: aging population; changing police strategies; technology; shifts in unemployment; changes in alcohol consumption; neighbourhood characteristics; changes to illegal behaviour.

No one knows.

Other police work in Halton Region

Total calls for service, 2013 : 144, 575

Calls officers responded to: about 72,000

Calls per officer = 105 per year

Assuming each officer works 220 shifts per year:

calls per officer per shift: 1 call every 2 shifts

Traffic collisions in 2013: 8600,

Property collisions: 7500

Personal injury/death collisions: 1080

Assume half property collisions are reported to collision reporting centre and police respond to the rest:

Then total collisions attended by police in 2013: 4730, or 8 per officer per year

Other police work, continued

Patrol

- Kansas City Study

Broken Windows

- Stop and Frisk; carding

Those in mental crisis

- COAST

Cost of policing

Expenditures: \$440 million in 2014 on police, equals one third of the total regional budget of \$1,230 million.

In 2006, nine years ago, total police expenditure was \$88 million.

Halton Police Services Board has seven members:
four appointed by regional council, three appointed by province.

Chair Rob Burton (Oakville mayor)' Councillor Rick Craven (Burlington); Jeff Knoll (Oakville); and Gary Burkett, citizen appointee, a senior manager at FedEx.

Three provincial appointees: Jason Wadden, lawyer with lawyer from a large Toronto firm; Marion Yee, a nurse; Barb Ferrone, of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Meets once a month. In 2013, according to the minutes of the public portion of the meeting, they did not discuss a single item relating to the manner that police do their work or how policing might be done differently.

Other oversight

a) By management of the Halton police service.

There were 17 internal complaints in 2014; half substantiated, half not. For those substantiated, it is usually being docked pay or a reprimand.

B) Special Investigation Unit – SIU, a provincial body

Investigates all incidences where police action causes death or serious injury. The SIU is looking at whether or not the officer should be charged with a criminal offense – the SIU is not looking at whether what the police did was 'reasonable'.

In 2014, there were 6 cases that the SIU was called into to investigate; in 5 cases it said there was no crime by police, the other case is still being investigated.

Use of Force

a) Police guns

All 659 officers have a gun.

Drawn 16 times, pointed 47 times, discharged
14 times at seven different incidents.

Also, injured animal killed 26 times by gun
shot.

Do all officers really need guns??

b) Taser: used 24 times; about half just being shown, the other half being fired. What was the person doing that resulted in use of a taser? Not known. Probably refusing to obey a police order of some kind.

It is very rare for an officer feeling danger to use the taser – the officer will use the gun.

Tasers are there for compliance, to get the person to comply with a police order.

Expanding taser use

Last year the province said it would no longer restrict tasers to tactical teams or senior officers: it would allow every officer to have a taser if that is what the local police Board wanted.

In Halton, Chief Tanner has decided every officer should have a taser when on duty – that's what he recommended on January 13 – and the Board agreed on January 22 to buy 200 more tasers at a cost of \$400,000. His report makes no case as to why these tasers are needed.

Police culture

Two elements of police work create the culture:

a) responding to danger – creates suspicion ,
lack of trust in others

and

b) exercising authority – take control when
others can't, or to stop someone doing
something wrong. Disliked for doing that. We
hate those who enforce rules.

Police rely on each other and not on outsiders.
They form their own pack. Others don't
understand. Insular. They don't like people
telling them what to do. Resent civilian control.
Thick blue line.

British Columbia judge, Josiah Wood, doing an investigation into complaints against police, concluded:

“The factor which caused me the greatest concern was the lack of complete acceptance by the police of full civilian oversight.”

Other issues:

Selection of recruits

Training

Management

Costs

Civilianization

Chases

Strip searches