

# THE ENVIRONMENT FOR POLICING IN WINNIPEG

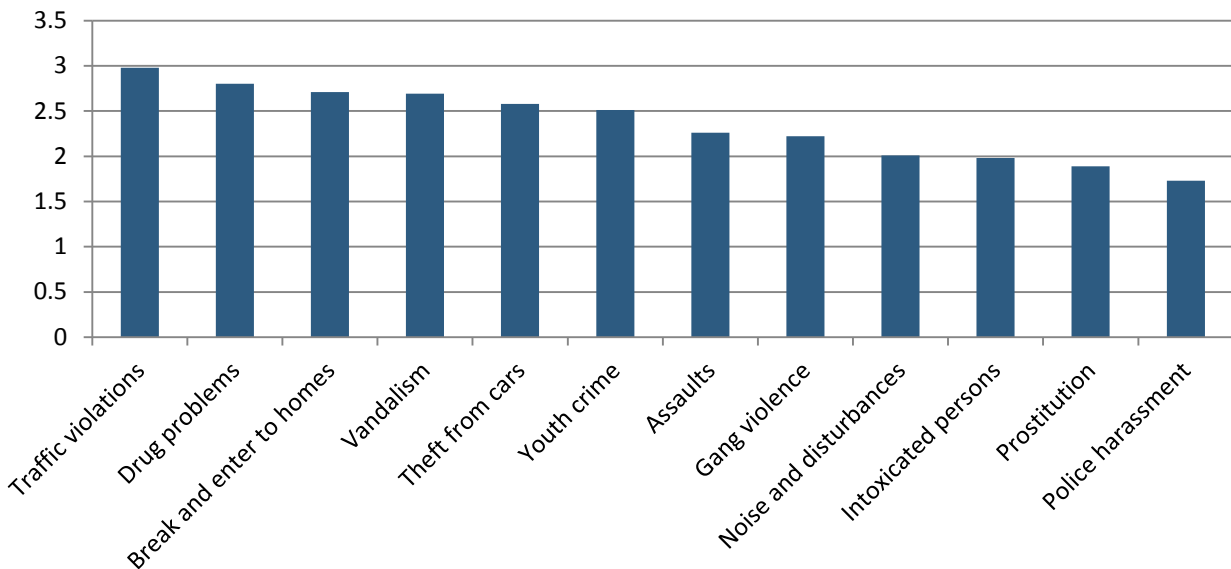
## A summary of the Winnipeg Police Board's 2015 report

With an estimated population of 699,346 in 2013, Winnipeg is the largest city in Manitoba. The city covers 464 square kilometres and is composed of diverse communities and neighbourhoods. Over 17% of Winnipeg's population was born outside of Canada, and over 11% of its residents are Indigenous.

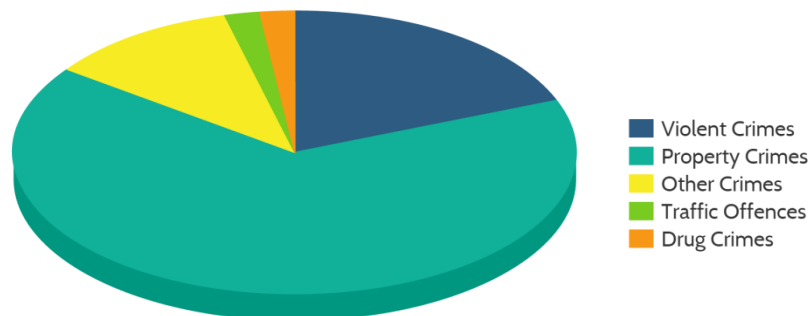
Winnipeg is seeing economic growth but has the lowest median total income of any major Prairie city, which is significant because poverty is a risk factor for crime and victimization. Poverty in Winnipeg is concentrated in certain neighbourhoods and communities; so is crime.

### Public Safety and Crime in Winnipeg

A 2013 survey by the Winnipeg Police Service provided citizens with a list of public safety issues and asked them to rate the seriousness of each issue on a scale of 1 (not very serious) to 5 (extremely serious).



The Winnipeg Police Service's statistics for reported crime in 2014 show that property crimes are the most common type of reported crime in Winnipeg. Property crime (which includes offences such as theft, mischief and break & enter) and traffic offences (which include impaired driving and other criminal driving offences) increased in 2014. Most types of crime were down in 2014, and property crime and traffic offences are still down compared to the five-year average.

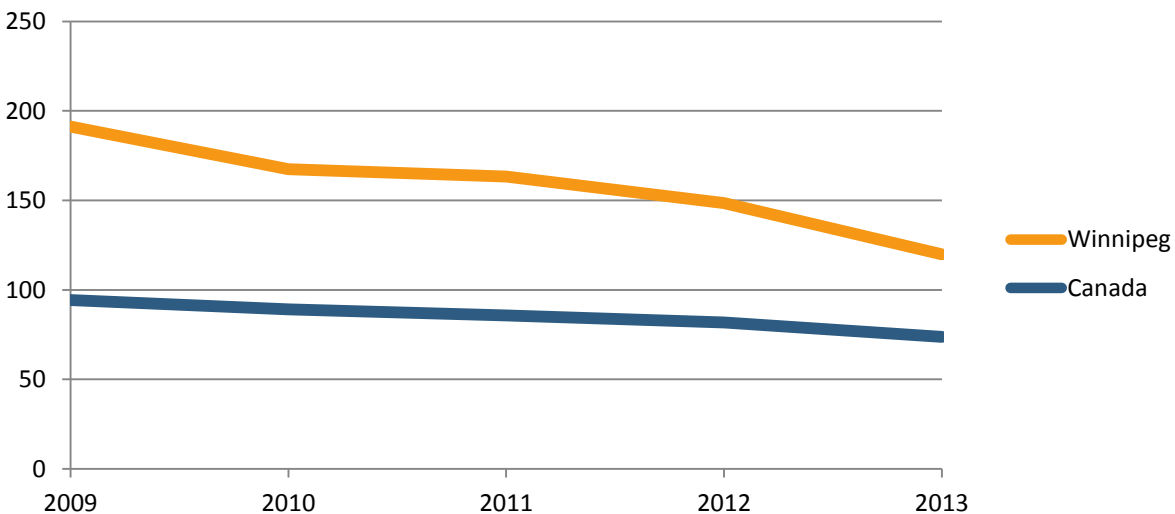


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Offence Type	2014 Total	% Change since 2013	% Change from 5-year average
Violent Crimes	7,328	-2.5%	-24.0%
Property Crimes	26,108	+3.7%	-27.2%
Other Crimes	4,527	-8.1%	-6.5%
Traffic Offences	644	+5.9%	-5.7%
Drug Crimes	807	-0.1%	-11.9%

Statistics Canada also reports that crime in Winnipeg is down. Each year it reports on crime rates, which measure the number of criminal offences recorded per 100,000 residents of cities, provinces, territories and the country as a whole. In 2013, Winnipeg's crime rate was 5695.44, lower than the Canadian average of 5968.15. Winnipeg does, however, still have more violent crime. The violent crime severity index measures the number of crimes being reported and then weighs different crimes by their severity, so that a concentration of more serious crimes (which get harsher sentences in court) gives a city a higher rating on the crime severity index. In 2013, Winnipeg's violent crime severity index score was 119.85. While that is an improvement over previous years, it is still above the Canadian average.

### Winnipeg's Violent Crime Severity Index compared to Canada's, 2004-2013



The Winnipeg Police Service works to improve public safety in Winnipeg by responding to citizens' calls for service and proactively looking for situations where they can assist. Officers responded to a total of 203,103 calls for service in 2014. The five most common types of calls were:

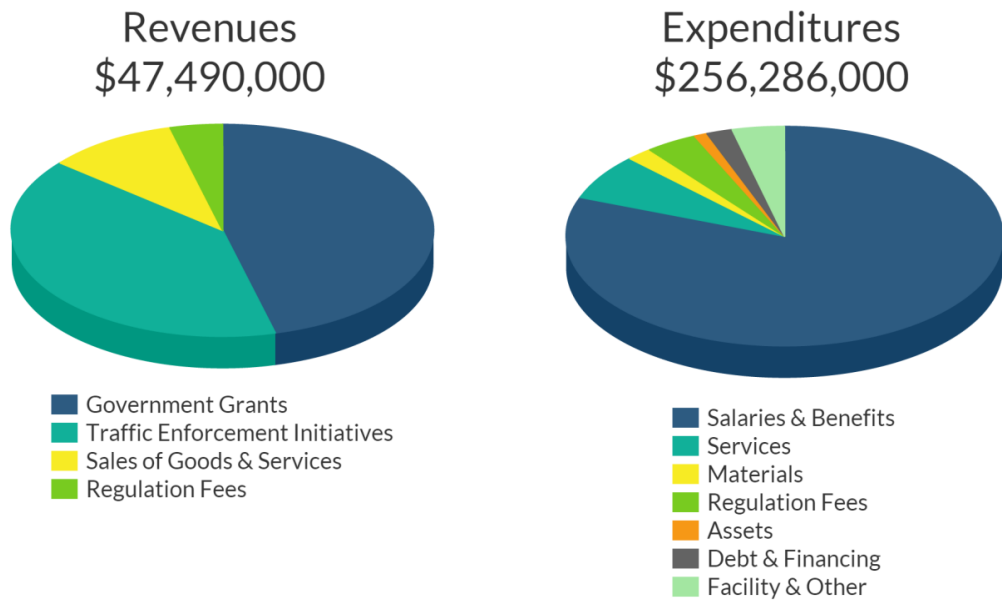
- Domestic disturbance
- Request to check on a person's well-being
- Disturbance
- Traffic complaint
- Suspicious person

### Policing in Winnipeg

In 2014, the Winnipeg Police Service had a complement of 1907 members: 1430 sworn officers and 477 civilian staff. The Winnipeg Police Service's 2014 fourth quarter financial report shows that in 2014 the Service spent a total of \$256,286,000. Its single largest expense was paying the salaries and providing benefits for its members. The Service reduced its total cost to the City of Winnipeg by collecting

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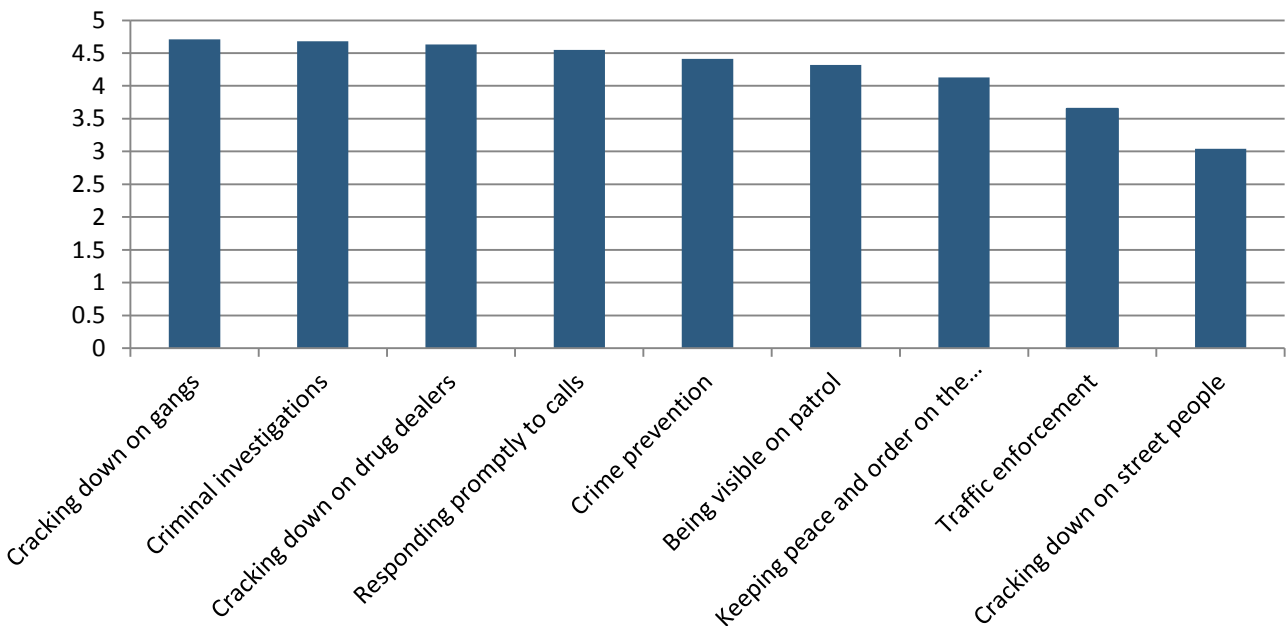
\$47,490,000 in revenues. The pie charts below provide a summary of the primary sources of revenue and a breakdown of key expenditures.



The Winnipeg Police Board and the Winnipeg Police Service collect citizens' feedback on their expectations for the Service. Three of the most consistently expressed expectations are:

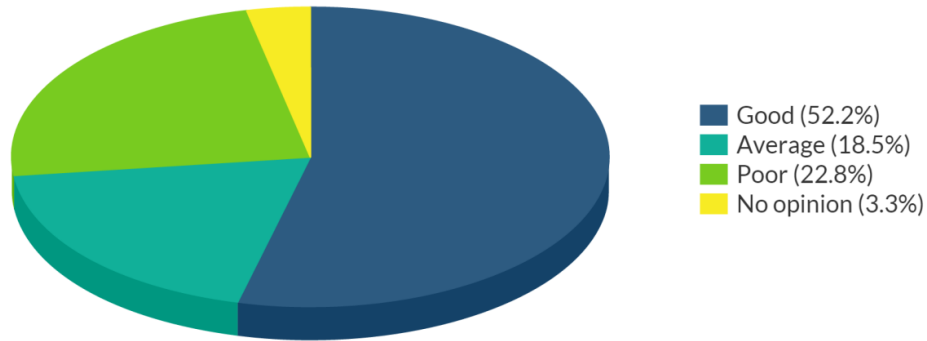
- Police officers should be well-trained professionals
- Police officers should be effective
- Police services should keep the public informed

A 2013 survey reveals the activities the Winnipeg Police Service is expected to prioritize. Citizens were asked to rate a series of activities on a scale of 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important).



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That same survey also asked citizens to give their opinion on the overall quality of police services in Winnipeg, with the following results:



## Policing in the Twenty-First Century

The policing landscape has significantly changed over the past thirty-five years, calling for different approaches, models and resourcing. These are some of the trends that are impacting the delivery of police services in Canada:

1. Changing laws and procedures are making it more complex and time consuming to conduct proper police investigations
2. Rapidly advancing technology is changing the way crimes are committed and how crimes are investigated
3. There has been a significant increase in incidents involving individuals with mental health and addiction issues, missing persons and runaways
4. There is a growing awareness that diverse communities have distinct safety needs
5. Cross-border crime and police involvement in responding to threats to national security have increased
6. There is a growing need to maintain order at large gatherings, events and protests
7. Police services are one part of a much larger, more complex justice system
8. The cost of policing is growing steadily

The first seven trends combine to make police work more complex, demanding and work-intensive. This, in turn, plays a role in driving up policing costs. These trends affect policing in Winnipeg, in 2015 and beyond.

## Conclusion

The safety and security of its citizens is a critical priority for Winnipeg. Crime and concerns about crime can have a dramatic impact on residents' quality of life and the city's economic competitiveness and long-term sustainability. Although Winnipeg is experiencing many of the same challenges as other cities across the world, some of its unique characteristics require innovative approaches.

The Winnipeg Police Board believes in giving the public a voice in identifying Winnipeg's public safety priorities. The Board welcomes your feedback at any time. You can contact the Board:

**Email:** [wpb@winnipeg.ca](mailto:wpb@winnipeg.ca)

**By phone:** 204-986-8690

**By mail:** 902-457 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 1B5

You can find out more information about the Board and find our full report on *The Environment For Policing in Winnipeg* on our website: <http://winnipeg.ca/clerks/boards/WpgPoliceBoard.stm>