



THE ENVIRONMENT FOR POLICING IN WINNIPEG

Executive Summary of the 2016 Report

What are the crime trends, socioeconomic issues and demographic trends that define community safety in Winnipeg? Every year, the Winnipeg Police Board publishes its report, *The Environment for Policing in Winnipeg*, to capture its understanding of what residents of Winnipeg need and expect from the police. A summary of the report is presented here, you can find the full report on the Board's website, www.winnipegpoliceboard.ca.

What is the Winnipeg Police Board?

The purpose of the Winnipeg Police Board is to provide independent civilian governance of the Winnipeg Police Service and the general direction required to ensure its services are adequate and effective. A fundamental goal for the Board in carrying out its work is to maintain public confidence and trust in the Winnipeg Police Service, and the Board promotes transparency and accountability in order to help achieve this goal.

When citizens understand how police operate and how public safety priorities are set, they have greater trust that the police are acting in the community's interest. When police have proper policies and reporting structures to guide them and hold them accountable, police work is done in a manner that is consistent with the community's needs, values and expectations. The Winnipeg Police Board strengthens the partnership between the public and the police.

What makes Winnipeg distinct?

Many of the crime and community safety issues that impact Winnipeg affect communities across Canada. At the same time, Winnipeg's history and population trends make the city unique and mean that the greatest priorities and challenges for community safety in Winnipeg can differ from other cities. The Winnipeg Police Board has a mandate to set strategic priorities for the Winnipeg Police Service. To set those priorities, the Board considers crime trends and the presence of social and economic issues in the community that present risks for higher levels of crime and victimization.

What are community safety priorities in Winnipeg?

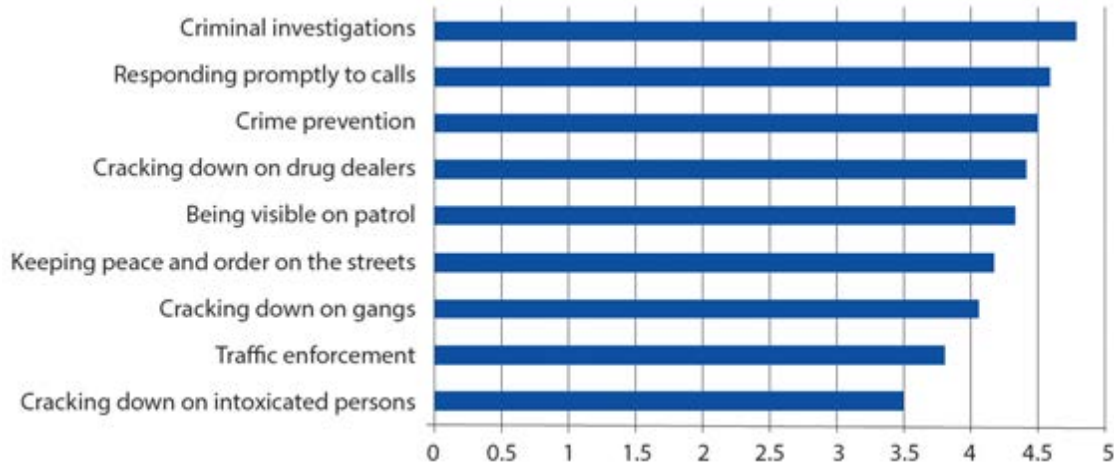
One way to measure the community safety issues that most affect Winnipeg is to consider the most common reasons for citizens to call the police. Consistently, the top reasons are to:

- Report a domestic dispute
- To request that police check on a person's well-being
- To report a disturbance
- To request assistance (these calls come from members of the Winnipeg Police Service's general patrol asking for assistance from the Community Support Unit, or from another police agency)
- To report an intoxicated person who needs to be assisted or detained until they are sober

In 2015, the Winnipeg Police Service surveyed 606 residents of Winnipeg and asked them how they rated a variety of policing activities and community safety issues in order to gauge their priorities.

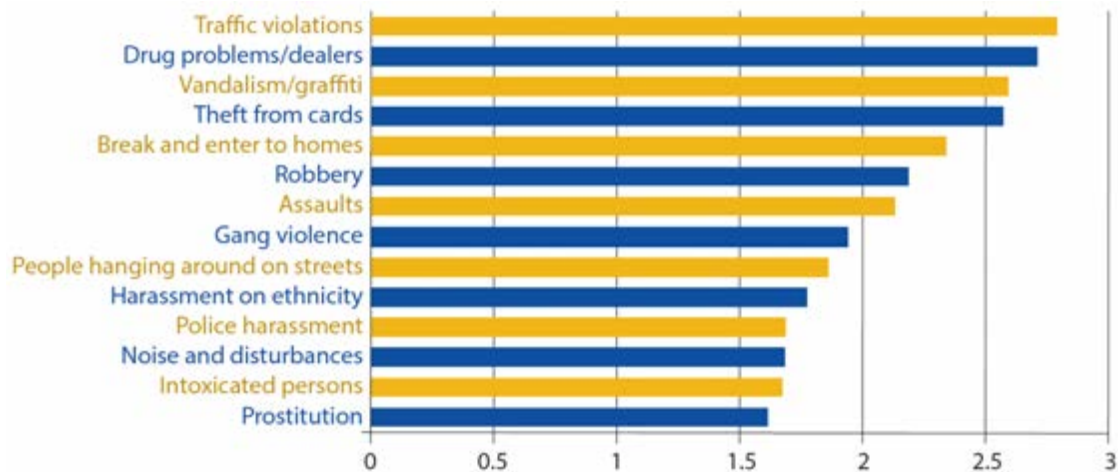
Importance of policing activities

Average responses from a 2015 survey where 606 Winnipeg residents were asked to rate different police activities on a scale of 1 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important)



Seriousness of public safety issues

Average responses from a 2015 survey where 606 Winnipeg residents were asked to rate problems in their neighbourhood on a scale of 1 (not very serious) to 5 (extremely serious)



How has policing evolved?

Over the past thirty-five years, evolving laws, technologies and community expectations have impacted how police services are delivered in Canada. Key changes include:

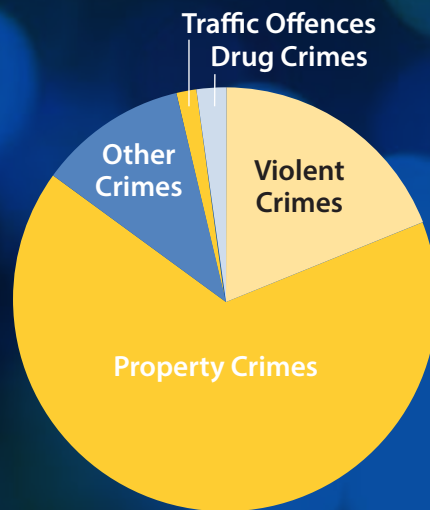
- Changing laws and procedures are making it more complex and time-consuming to conduct proper police investigations
- Rapidly advancing technology is changing the way crimes are committed and how crimes are investigated
- Cross-border crime and police involvement in responding to national security threats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

CRIME IN WINNIPEG

A SNAPSHOT

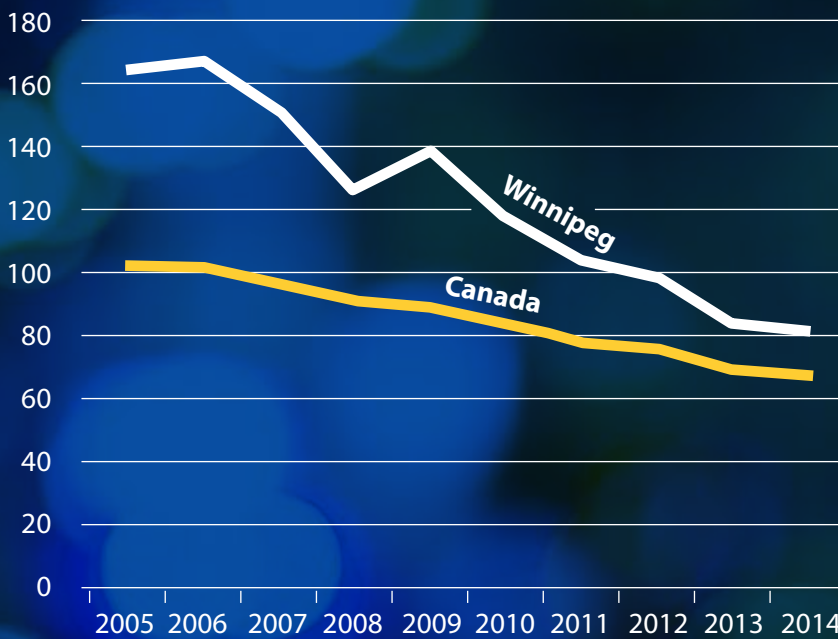
| Crime in Winnipeg, 2014 | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Offence Type | 2014 Total | % Change since 2013 | % Change from 5-year average |
| Violent Crimes | 7,897 | -3% | -8% |
| Property Crimes | 27,225 | 4% | -9% |
| Other Crimes | 4,678 | -7% | -4% |
| Traffic Offences | 675 | 7% | 3% |
| Drug Crimes | 832 | -1% | 1% |

Source: Winnipeg Police Service Annual Report, published July 2015



- Winnipeg's crime rate (number of crimes per 100,000 population) is down 50.2% since 2005
- Winnipeg's crime rate (5,704.08) was lower than the Canadian average (5,774.25) in 2014
- Winnipeg's crime severity index (amount of severe crime as measured by severity of court sentences) is down 50.8% since 2005 but is still higher than the Canadian average
- Winnipeg had the third-highest violent crime severity index in Canada in 2014, an improvement from having the highest ranking in 2013
- Highest rates of robbery and sexual assault in Canada in 2014
- Second-highest homicide rate in Canada in 2014
- When surveyed by Statistics Canada in 2014, Winnipeg residents reported the highest rate of violent victimization of the nine largest census metropolitan areas in Canada

Winnipeg's Crime Severity Index compared to Canada's, 2005-2014



CRIME IN MANITOBA

A SNAPSHOT

For certain crime metrics, Statistics Canada only releases information for an entire province, instead of providing statistics for each city within the province.

- Manitoba has the highest youth violent crime severity index of any province
- Manitoba has the highest rate of homicides involving Indigenous victims
- Manitoba has the largest overrepresentation of Indigenous people as homicide victims - nine times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous people

POLICING COSTS IN WINNIPEG

A SNAPSHOT

Policing Costs in Winnipeg: A Snapshot

The Winnipeg Police Service has an annual operating budget that covers costs for:

- Salaries and benefits
- Vehicles, maintenance and fuel
- Building leases
- Equipment
- Staff training
- Other costs

Any revenues the Police Service collects are factored into the operating budget, including:

- Provincial and federal grants
- Fines, including traffic tickets
- Criminal background checks
- Alarm permits
- Police contracts and paid duty for officers to patrol events such as professional sports games


The Police Service has an annual capital budget that covers costs for:

- New or updated facilities, such as district stations
- Major equipment purchases
- Major software purchases or upgrades
- Other purchases that cost over \$100,000 and last over 10 years, in accordance with City of Winnipeg standards

The Winnipeg Police Service received \$219,107,690 in net mill rate support from the City of Winnipeg in 2015 for its operating budget. The Police Service's 2015 capital budget totaled \$7,186,000.

For 2016, the Winnipeg Police Service has an operating budget of \$280,669,573 and a capital budget of \$13,197,000.

| | 2016 operating budget | 2015 operating budget (actuals) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Estimated operating expenditures | \$280,669,573 | \$261,085,000 |
| Estimated revenues | \$48,048,728 | \$48,147,000 |
| Net mill rate support | \$232,620,845 | \$212,938,000 |



The Winnipeg Police Board allocates these budgets after the total amount of each budget is set by City Council. In consultation with the Police Service, the Board ensures the budgets are allocated in accordance with the Board's priorities and to ensure police services are adequate and effective. However, many costs are determined by factors outside of the Board's control. For example:

- Salaries and benefits are negotiated through collective bargaining agreements and approved by City Council
 - The costs of police vehicles and fuel are set by the market and by City's Fleet Management Agency, which charges administrative fees for its services
 - Rent for police facilities is set by the City's Property Planning and Development department, or by third parties if the buildings are not owned by the City of Winnipeg
 - The Winnipeg Police Service has agreements with the provincial government and other agencies to help cover the salaries of 245 of its members – these agreements provide important sources of revenue in return for assigning these members to certain community priorities. These agreements limit the potential to make any significant changes to how the Police Service is structured or its members are deployed from one year to the next.
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