



# Halton Regional Police Service Public Agenda Recommendation Report

**To:** Chair and Police Board Members

**From:** Chief Stephen J. Tanner

**Subject:** MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

**Report #:** P24-09-R-02

**Date:** September 26, 2024

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## RECOMMENDATION:

*“That the Halton Police Board receives Report P24-09-R-02 for information and discussion.”*

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**Stephen J. Tanner**  
Chief of Police

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

This report presents an overview of the Service’s January-to-June 2024 performance in a number of key statistical measures compared to previous years, along with a discussion about noted trends. It also provides an overview of the Service’s 2023 full-year performance in comparison to other large police agencies in Ontario, based on data released by Statistics Canada in July.

## **DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS:**

### 2024 Mid-Year Statistical Summary

This section of the report provides a statistical summary for the January–June 2023 and 2024 timeframes, in addition to presenting a summary of five-year trends. Data was obtained from the in-house Niche Records Management System (RMS) and was prepared and analysed by the Police Analytics Unit. The crime categories are slightly different to those reported by Statistics Canada at each year’s end due to the reporting requirements and data processes utilized by Statistics Canada. The Niche RMS statistics are valid for internal comparison purposes.

Analysis indicates that 572 more criminal offences were reported in the first six months of 2024 (8,188) than were recorded in the same period in 2023 (7,616). This is a raw number increase of 7.5%, but represents an increase in the crime rate<sup>i</sup> of 3.1% when Regional population growth is considered.

Violent crime<sup>ii</sup> offences decreased by 0.9% from 1,277 in 2023, to 1,266 in 2024. This represents a violent crime rate decrease of 4.9% due to population increase. These crimes accounted for 15.5% of all criminal offences, down from 16.8% in 2023.

Property crime<sup>iii</sup> increased by 18.1% from 5,380 in 2023 to 6,354 in 2024. This represents a property crime rate increase of 13.3%.

The “Other Crimes”<sup>iv</sup> category of offences was down by 40.8% in 2024 (from 959 to 568 offences). This represents a crime rate decrease of 43.2% in this category of crimes. The 2024 clearance rate<sup>v</sup> (34.5%) was lower than the 2023 value (41.3%).

### Other Trends:

Motor vehicle collision totals were 3.6% higher during 2024 (up from 4,799 to 4,974). Property Damage collisions<sup>vii</sup> were up from 4,345 to 4,519 (+4.0%). Injury collision<sup>viii</sup> totals were up from 445 to 453 (+1.8%). Fatal collisions decreased from 9 to 2.

Impaired driving apprehensions were down 20.5% in 2024 (from 234 to 186).

Warning Notices (Warns) provide officers with an opportunity to document an offence and educate the public, but proceed by way of a warning option instead of a charge. Total enforcement (Provincial Offence Notices issued, plus Warns) was up by 2,568, or 13.4%, to 21,764 (from 19,196 in 2023).

Total CAD Events<sup>vi</sup> decreased by 2,182, or 3.1%, to 67,218 (from 69,400 in 2023).

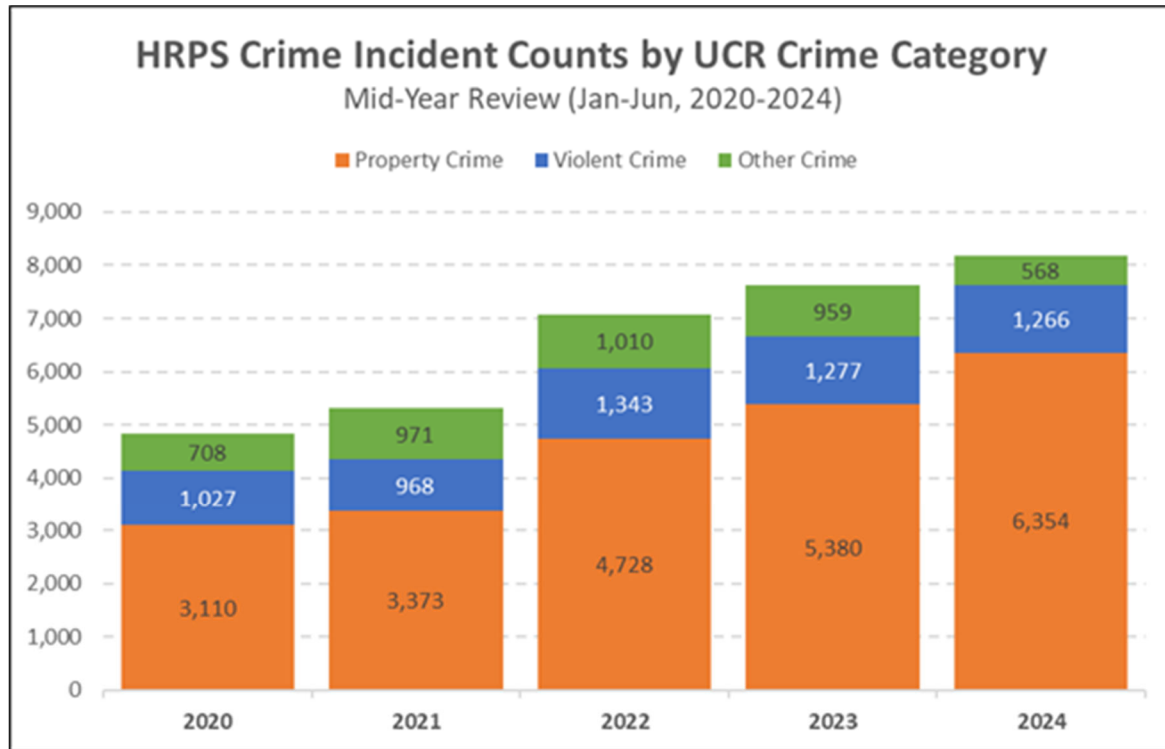
## Statistical Trend Discussion

Drilling down into the data for the first six months of the year, the following key trends have been identified:

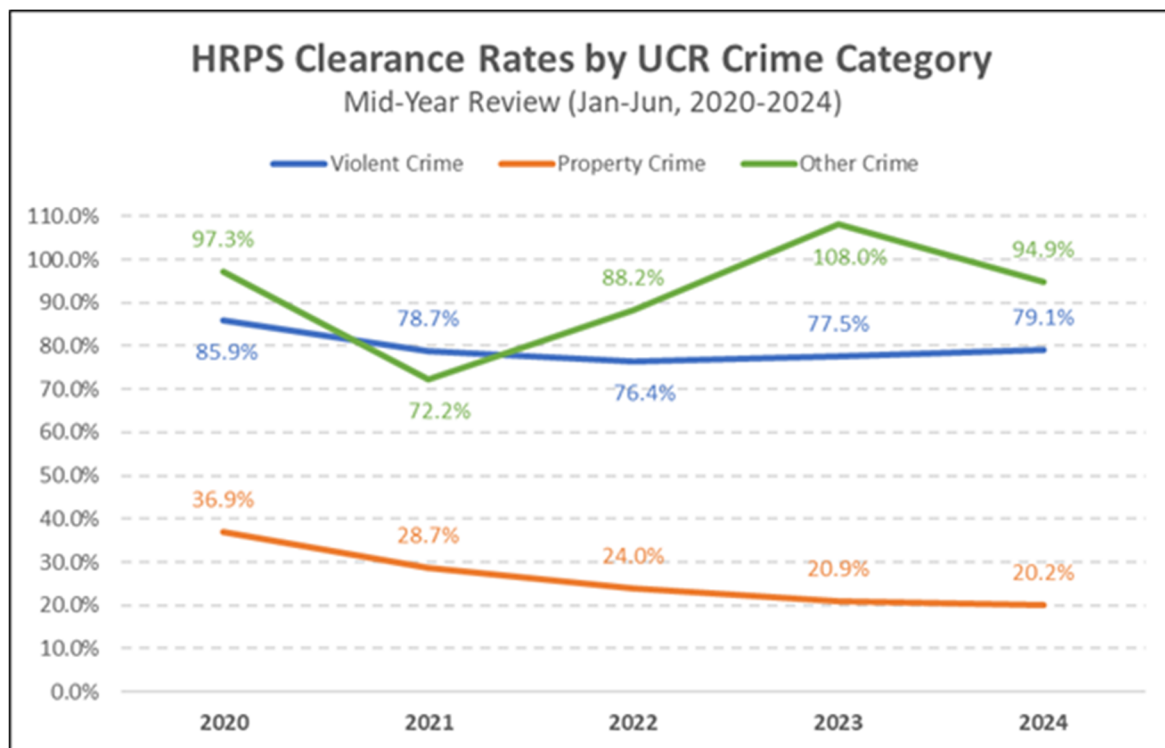
- Violent crime is down about 1% (11 occurrences) and this represents a drop in the violent crime rate of approximately 5%. This small decline was driven largely by the drops in all categories, other than the following that increased moderately:
  - Assault (up 43, +6%)
  - Robbery (up 20, +42%)
- Property crime is up for the fifth year running – increasing by 18% (974 occurrences) and this represents an increase in the property crime rate of about 13%. This increase is due to increases in almost every category:
  - Theft – up 149 (+5%)
  - Break & Enter - up 119 (+28%)
  - Fraud – up 626 (+97%)
  - Mischief – up 60 (+13%)
  - Arson – up 11 (+85%)
  - Of note: the massive growth of Theft of Motor Vehicle offences over the past five years slowed significantly in the first six months of 2024 (up 25, +3%) – and taking population growth into account this actually represents a 1% decline in the Theft of Auto crime rate
- The overall clearance rate is down from 41.3% to 34.5%. The two major factors that caused this decline is an increase in property crime (coupled with relatively unchanged cleared incidents) and a statistical anomaly drop in “Other Crime” (Administration of Justice Offences) that was due to an internal process change.

### Property Crime Affecting Clearance Rate:

Year-over-year Property crime increases, coupled with the fact that those types of crime are very difficult to clear, is the main factor to the slow decline in overall Clearance rate. The Property crime category represents 77.6% of all criminal incidents in Halton Region, and that category has risen 104.3% in the past five years (3,110 in first six months of 2020, 6,354 in first six months of 2024).



To highlight the weight of this year's increase alone in Property crime (974 incidents), the 2024 year-over-year increase represents 11.89% of Halton's total criminal incidents so far in 2024.



The chart above helps visualize the three criminal categories and their mid-year respective clearance rates. The clearance rate of the Property crime category has fallen from 36.9% in 2020 to 20.2% in 2024. Using both charts above the correlation is quite vivid, showing the combination of increased property crime incidents and a declining clearance rate is the direct cause for our overall clearance rate's decline.

Violation Group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1yr Change	5yr Change
Auto Theft	224	299	531	771	796	3%	255%
Theft over \$5,000	44	52	70	77	125	62%	184%
Fraud	464	549	679	647	1,273	97%	174%
Theft Under \$5,000	1,491	1,641	2,470	2,907	3,008	3%	102%
Break and Enter	394	298	337	418	537	28%	36%
Mischief	413	473	552	474	534	13%	29%

While Auto Thefts are still a large issue when it comes to clearances and increasing number of incidents year-over-year, so far in 2024 the biggest contributor to the decline of our clearance rate is Frauds. With a total of 1,273 incidents it leads the way at 15.5% of HRPS's total crime incidents. In addition, when comparing the first six months from last year to this year Frauds have almost doubled with a 97% increase. To put that into perspective, if Frauds were to stay at last year's incident count, the clearance rate for this year would stand at 37.4% instead of the 34.5%.

If Property crime growth continues along the same trajectory for the rest of 2024, it will be possible that 2024 will have the new highest count of Property crime incidents for Halton Region. The current highest was 12,072 back in 2003.

Additional perspective can be shown in the two tables below. Even with the year-over-year increase in Property crime, Halton Region still has the lowest Property crime rate per 100,000 population of the other big Services in Ontario.

Service	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Halton	1,369	1,066	1,214	1,615	1,767
Durham	1,998	1,735	1,720	1,827	2,126
Peel	1,742	1,494	1,421	1,764	2,186
York	1,844	1,555	1,640	1,933	2,350
Niagara	2,821	2,522	2,710	2,698	2,448
Sudbury	3,689	3,448	3,172	2,843	2,631
Ottawa	2,836	2,144	2,222	2,749	3,033
Hamilton	3,089	2,632	2,821	3,001	3,341
Waterloo	3,249	3,228	3,376	3,345	3,392
Toronto	2,943	2,413	2,436	2,991	3,606
London	4,664	4,388	4,346	4,266	3,731
Windsor	4,541	4,430	4,103	4,176	4,286

Furthermore, even though we are declining in Property crime clearance rate. When comparing our Property crime clearance rate against the other big Services in Ontario we had the best rate four out of the past five years.

<b>Service</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Sudbury	17.2%	13.9%	13.2%	16.3%	20.8%
Halton	34.2%	33.9%	24.9%	21.7%	20.3%
Durham	26.0%	21.8%	23.0%	19.2%	18.8%
York	25.8%	23.5%	18.6%	16.3%	15.8%
Waterloo	18.9%	15.4%	12.3%	14.8%	15.4%
Niagara	18.4%	15.1%	15.2%	16.7%	15.1%
London	19.1%	14.7%	13.5%	13.7%	14.9%
Ottawa	20.2%	19.2%	14.6%	12.9%	13.5%
Peel	25.0%	21.6%	16.7%	14.5%	13.0%
Windsor	15.7%	13.4%	11.3%	10.6%	11.0%
Toronto	17.7%	14.5%	11.5%	10.7%	10.7%
Hamilton	15.0%	13.7%	12.4%	11.3%	10.6%

Five Year Statistical Trends

The following four tables provide a summary of crime and workload trends over the past five years for a selection of key crime types and measures. The statistics presented below, excluding the clearance rate, are ***expressed as a rate*** (per 100,000 population) to remove the impact of population growth:

**Halton Region:**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Average
Robbery	9	7	13	7	10	9
Assault	102	85	115	101	104	101
Sexual Assault	13	15	22	16	13	16
Violent Crime	172	159	213	194	184	184
Break and Enter	66	49	53	64	78	62
Auto Theft	37	49	84	117	116	81
Theft	257	278	403	453	457	370
Fraud	78	90	108	98	186	112
Property Crime	520	553	750	817	926	713
Other Criminal Code	118	159	160	146	83	133
<b>Total Crime</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>1,031</b>
Impaired Driving	33	38	32	36	27	33
Property Damage Collisions	735	447	332	660	659	567
Personal Injury Collisions	49	45	65	68	66	59
PONs and Warns Issued	3,761	3,960	3,357	2,917	3,171	2,343
CAD Events	11,811	11,342	10,674	10,545	9,795	10,833
Crime Clearance Rate	56.1%	45.7%	43.1%	41.3%	34.5%	44.2%

**District 1:**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Average
Robbery	8	9	10	11	8	9
Assault	125	107	120	96	100	110
Sexual Assault	18	6	21	12	10	13
<i>Violent Crime</i>	192	164	203	188	178	185
Break and Enter	53	53	39	42	48	47
Auto Theft	31	34	96	104	90	71
Theft	308	230	311	338	367	311
Fraud	90	58	80	71	124	85
<i>Property Crime</i>	580	448	618	634	708	598
<i>Other Criminal Code</i>	213	169	247	276	97	200
<b>Total Crime</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>983</b>
Impaired Driving	47	42	37	32	24	36
Property Damage Collisions	455	329	607	N/A	N/A	-
Personal Injury Collisions	62	51	84	N/A	N/A	-
PONs and Warns Issued	4,115	3,102	2,916	2,936	2,926	2,365
CAD Events	12,727	10,016	9,641	10,029	8,890	10,261
Crime Clearance Rate	55.1%	67.1%	48.4%	55.9%	39.4%	53.2%



**District 2:**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	<b>2024</b>	<b>5-Year Average</b>
Robbery	9	6	17	6	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
Assault	94	76	103	99	<b>102</b>	<b>95</b>
Sexual Assault	13	16	24	16	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Violent Crime</i>	178	150	210	178	<b>183</b>	<b>180</b>
Break and Enter	66	45	62	66	<b>92</b>	<b>66</b>
Auto Theft	38	46	87	152	<b>142</b>	<b>93</b>
Theft	240	269	382	472	<b>451</b>	<b>363</b>
Fraud	98	93	114	101	<b>218</b>	<b>125</b>
<i>Property Crime</i>	529	550	738	859	<b>990</b>	<b>733</b>
<i>Other Criminal Code</i>	97	86	79	67	<b>64</b>	<b>79</b>
Total Crime	804	786	1,027	1,104	<b>1,237</b>	<b>991</b>
Impaired Driving	30	28	21	28	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>
Property Damage Collisions	410	339	525	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	-
Personal Injury Collisions	39	40	49	N/A	<b>N/A</b>	-
PONs and Warns Issued	3,348	4,455	3,440	3,115	<b>3,169</b>	<b>2,190</b>
CAD Events	10,497	10,927	10,002	10,072	<b>9,713</b>	<b>10,242</b>
Crime Clearance Rate	52.3%	40.2%	37.2%	31.3%	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>

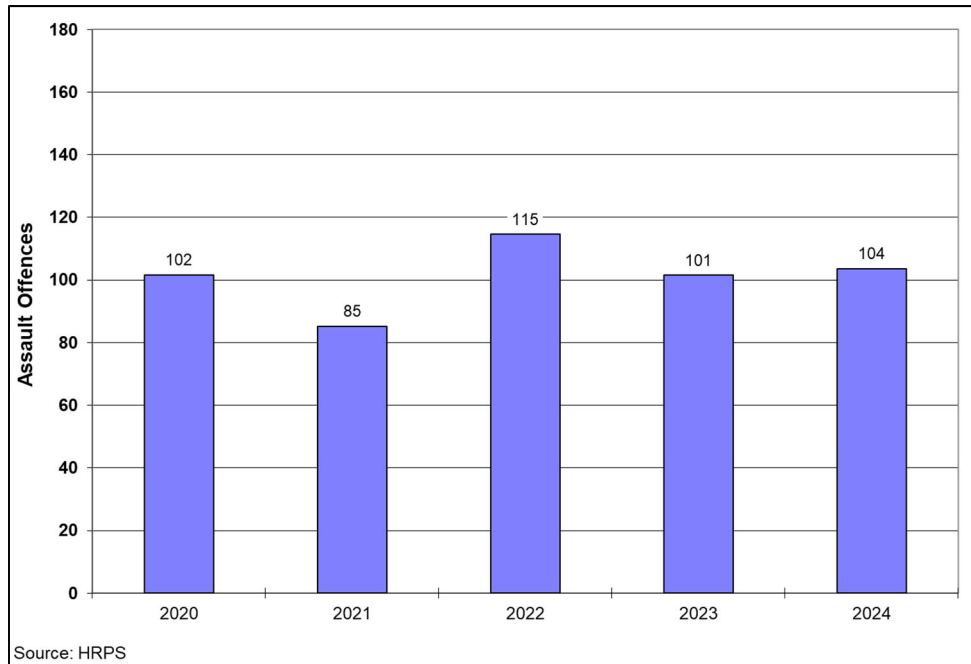
**District 3:**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Average
Robbery	8	8	11	4	11	8
Assault	100	88	120	110	108	105
Sexual Assault	21	13	21	19	19	18
<i>Violent Crime</i>	168	150	224	218	190	190
Break and Enter	77	77	60	83	96	79
Auto Theft	40	51	67	91	116	73
Theft	293	309	485	552	552	438
Fraud	73	97	127	125	210	126
<i>Property Crime</i>	567	642	856	958	1073	819
<i>Other Criminal Code</i>	86	80	158	89	85	100
<b>Total Crime</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,109</b>
Impaired Driving	27	50	39	41	32	38
Property Damage Collisions	457	360	598	N/A	N/A	-
Personal Injury Collisions	46	45	63	N/A	N/A	-
PONs and Warns Issued	3,244	3,926	3,304	2,100	2,840	2,093
CAD Events	11,220	12,264	11,328	10,117	9,983	10,982
Crime Clearance Rate	49.6%	47.6%	45.1%	37.5%	34.8%	42.9%

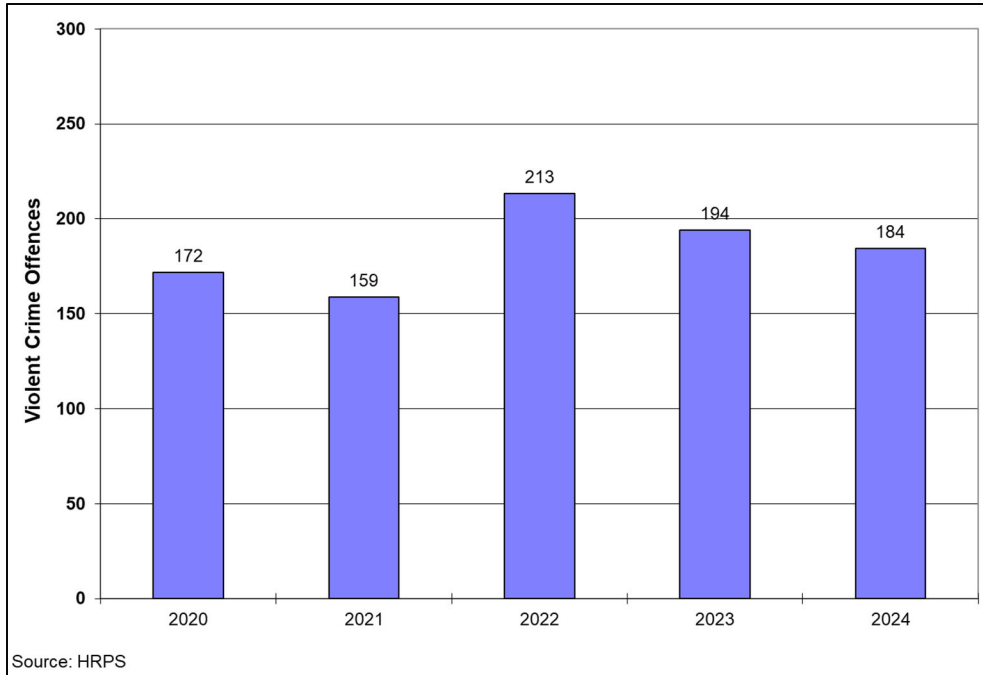
## Key Trends

The following graphs give a quick visual update of the five-year trends in key measures tracked by the Service. The statistics presented below, excluding the clearance rate, are ***expressed as a rate*** (per 100,000 population) to remove the impact of population growth. A number of categories were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in 2020 and 2021. The following data is for the Halton Region as a whole (January – June):

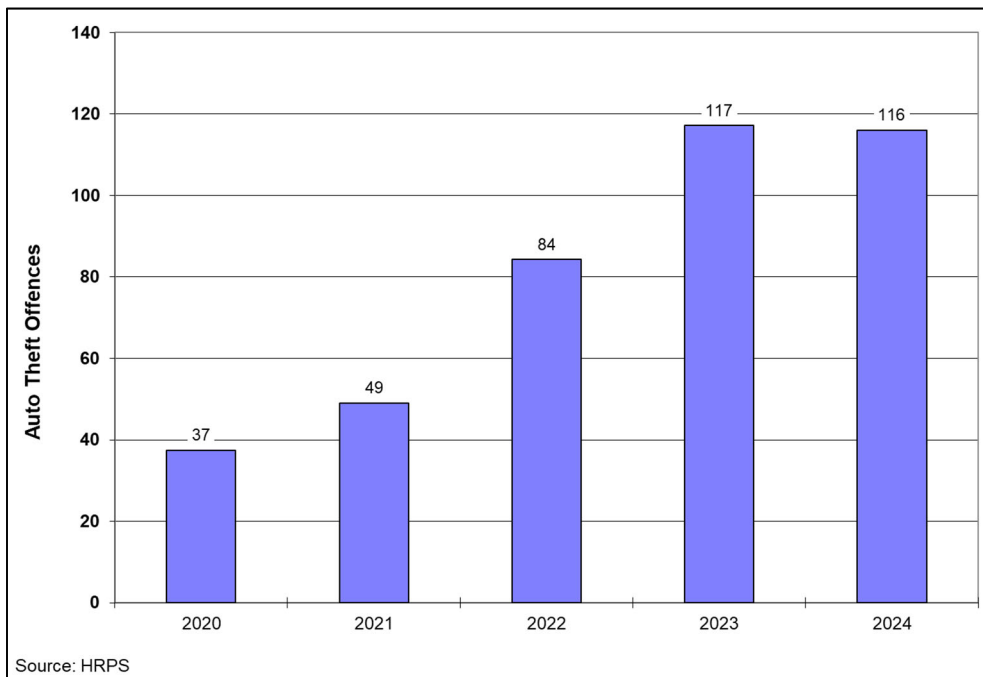
### Assault Rate



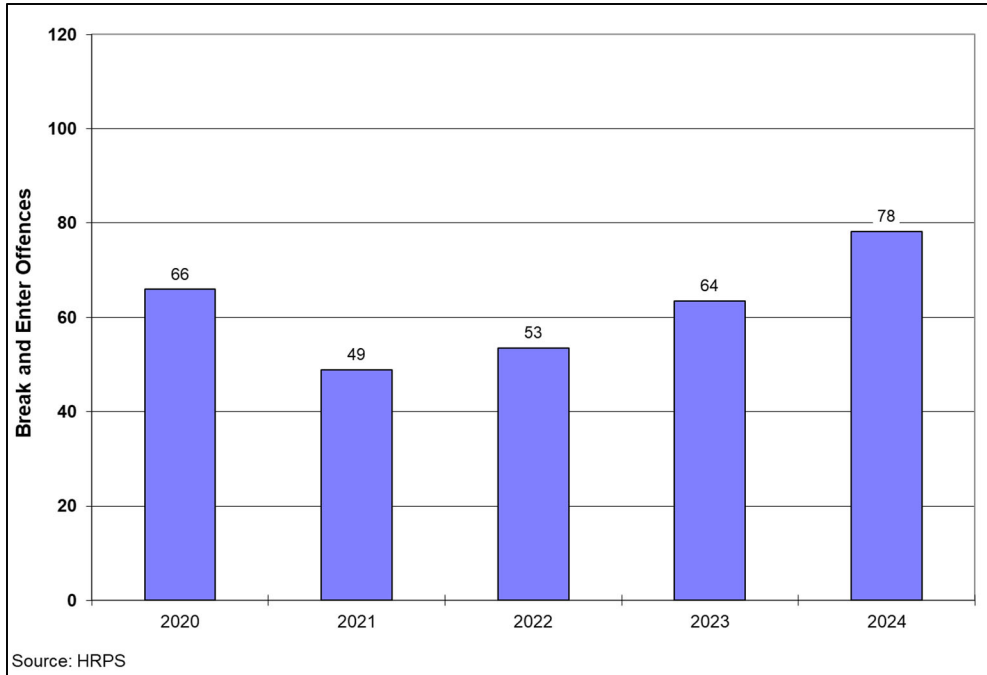
### Violent Crime Rate



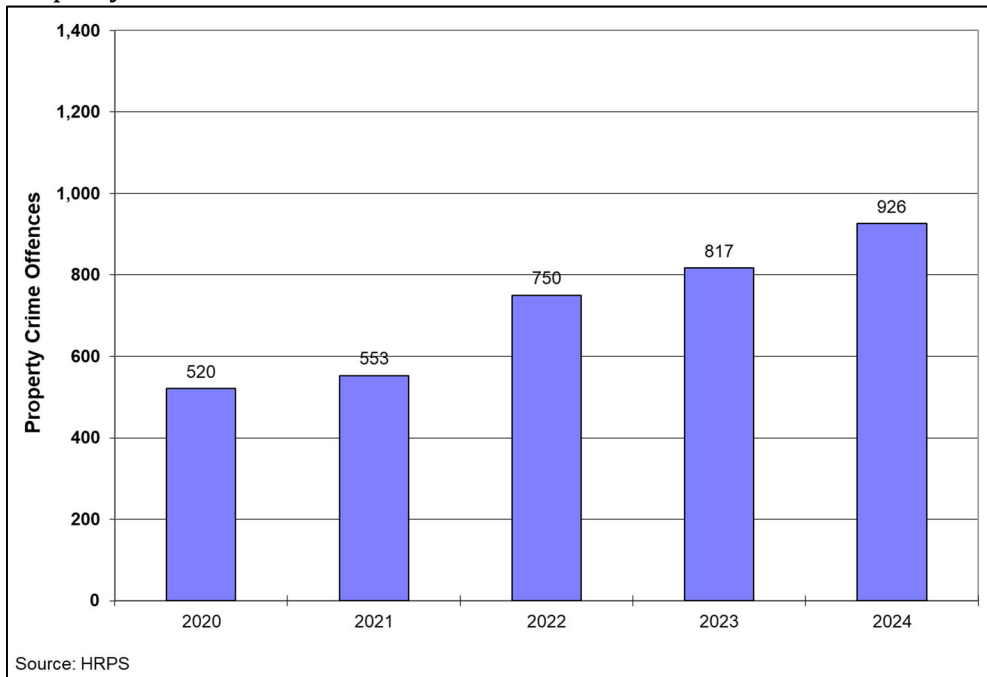
### Auto Theft Rate



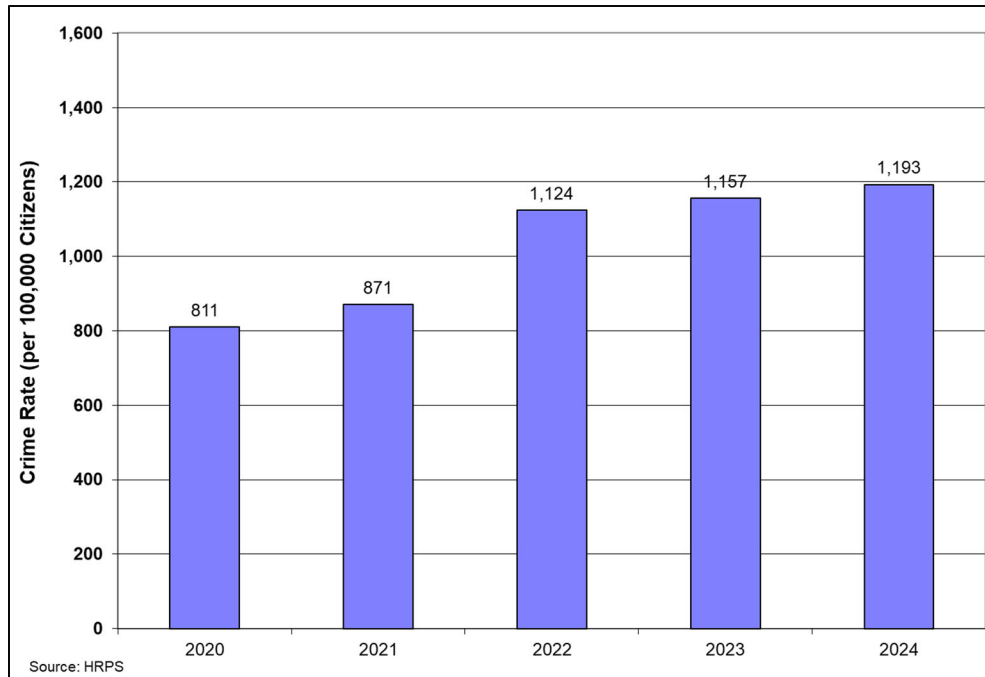
### Break and Enter Rate



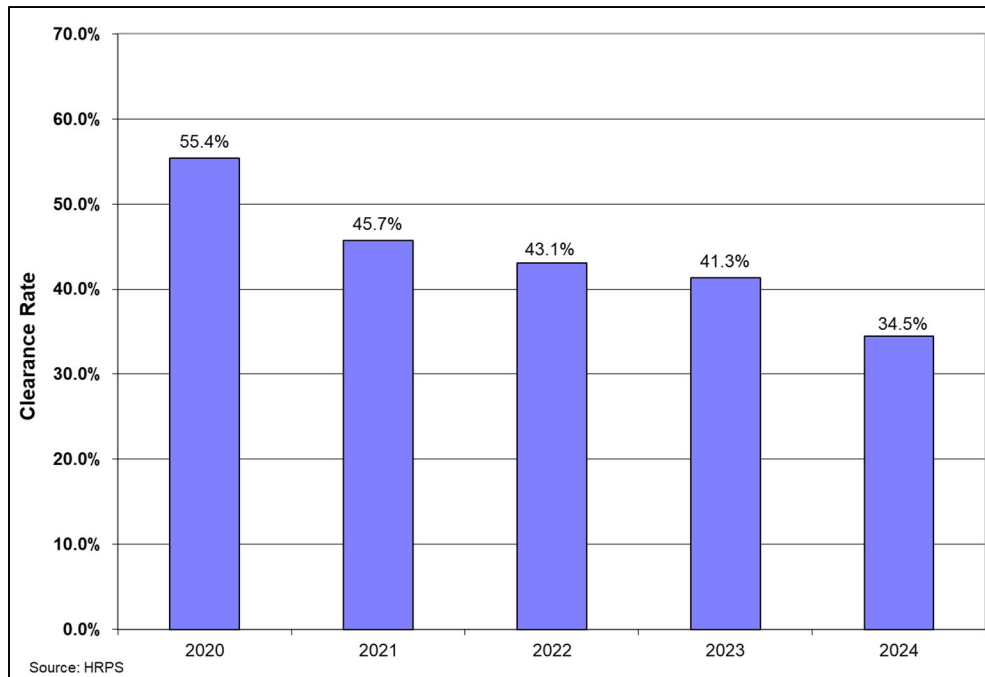
### Property Crime Rate



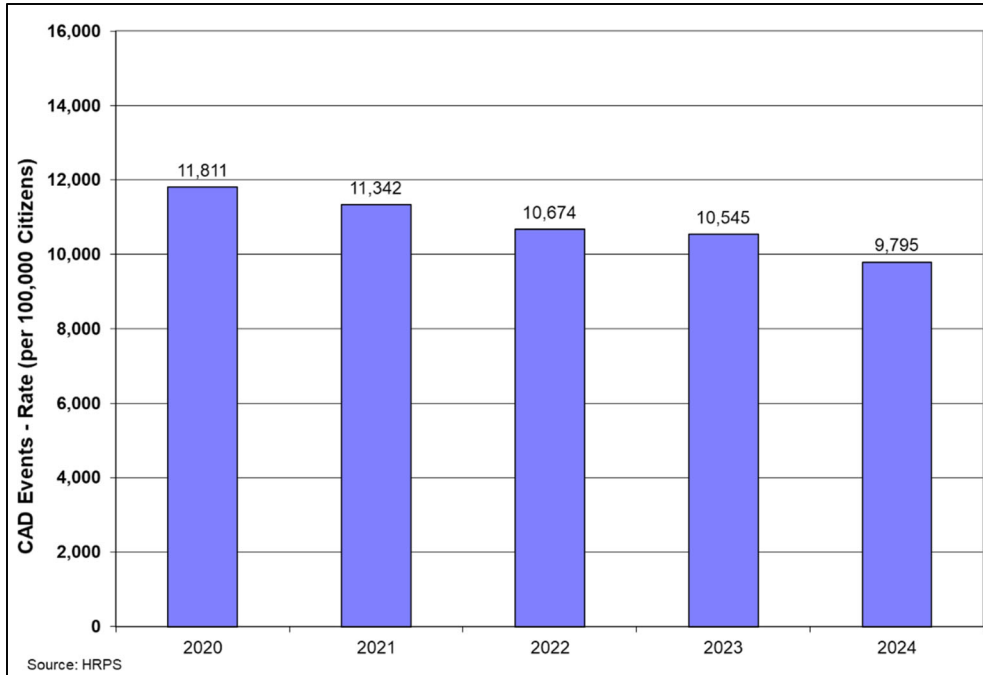
### Overall Crime Rate



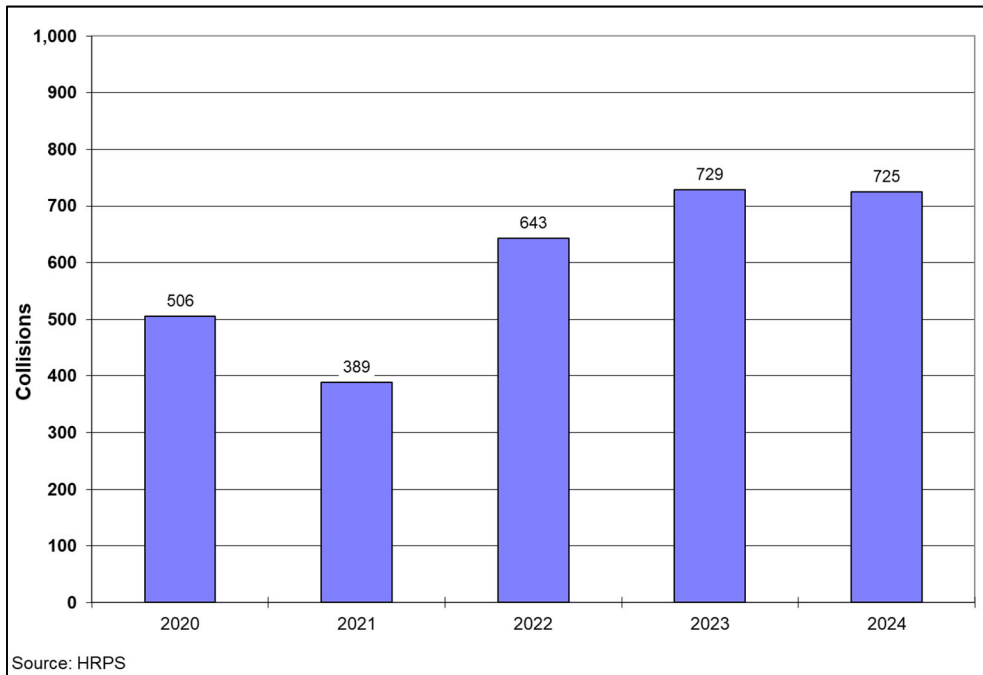
### Crime Clearance Rate



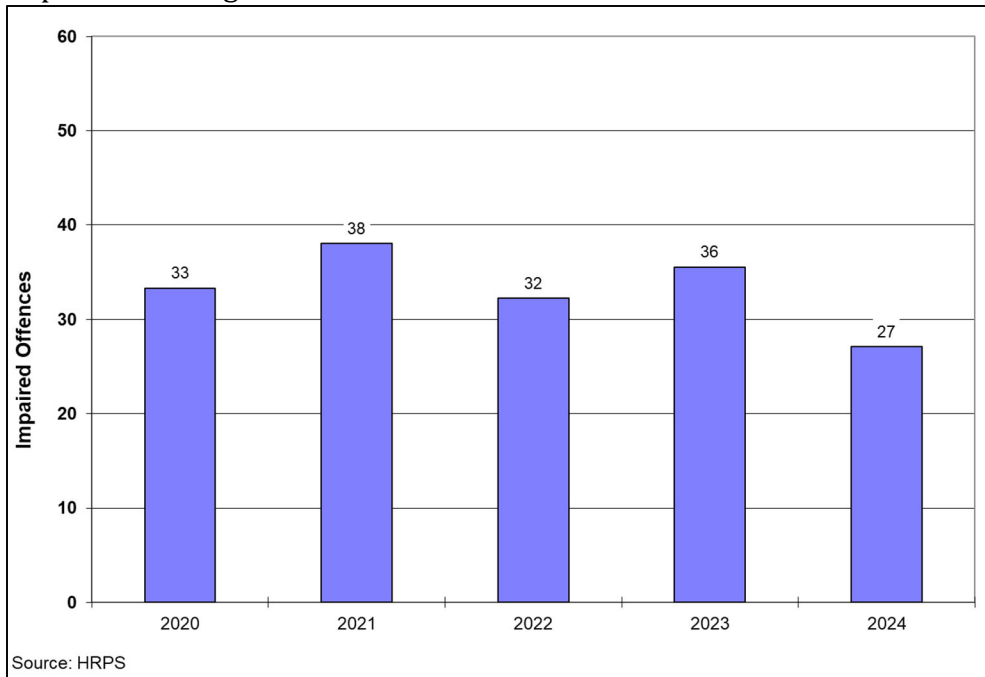
### CAD Events



### Total Collision Rate



## Impaired Driving



### Halton Data in Context and 2023 Statistics Canada Data

This section provides additional data to provide some context for the mid-year data presented above. Staff recently obtained year-end 2023 data for the largest police services in Ontario (from Statistics Canada) and graphs showing this data are provided below.

The current and future population of Halton is currently the subject of research and development by the municipalities. The numbers used in this report are from in-house projections based on draft Joint Best Planning Estimates, provided by the Region of Halton in late 2023. Even though these numbers may be modified in the coming year, it is clear that Halton is rapidly growing and the relative sizes of the four communities will continue to adjust. Figure 1 below highlights the overall change within Halton.



Figure 1 – Population Change (Source: Region of Halton)

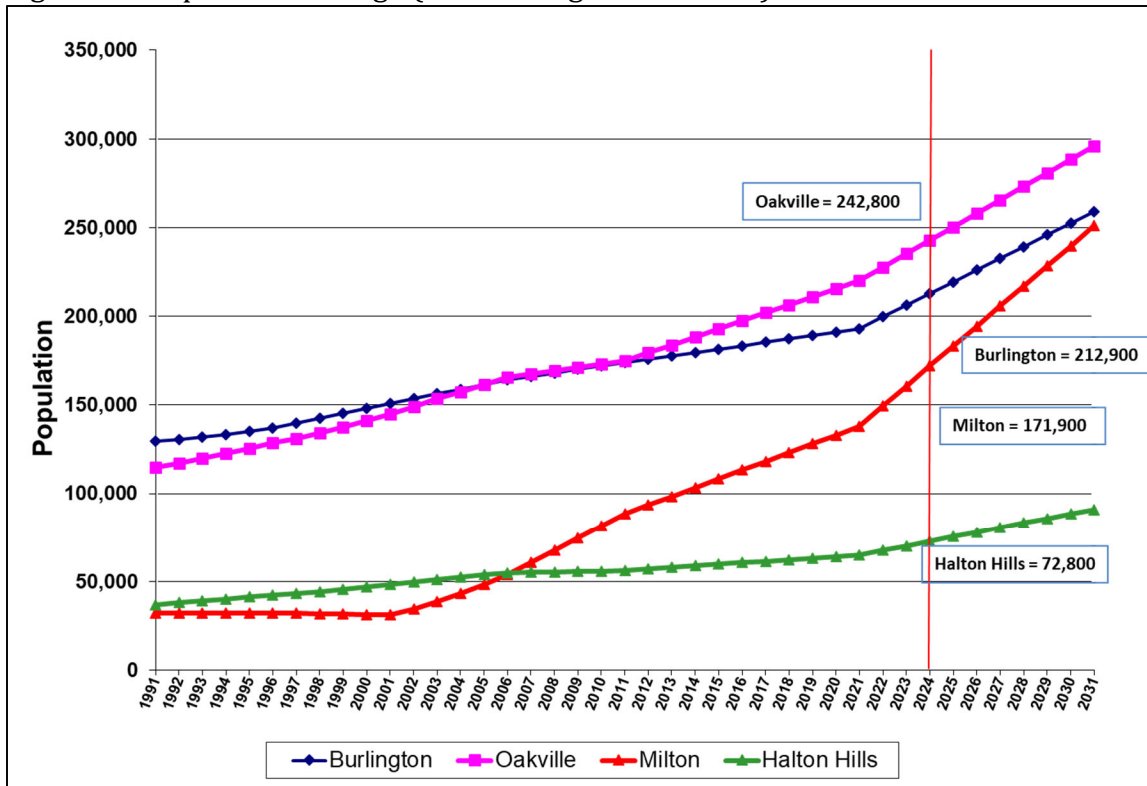
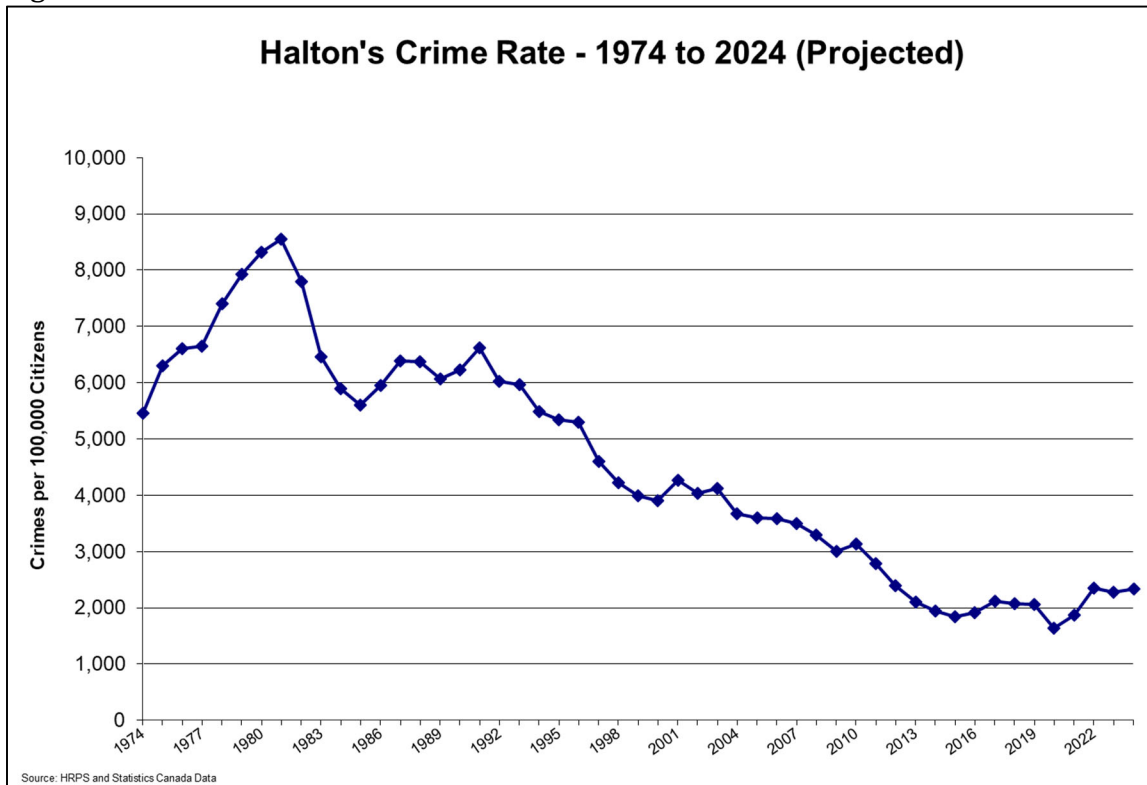


Figure 2 shows how the overall crime rate in Halton has changed over the years since regionalization in 1974. Matching the pattern seen across much of the western world, crime rates have declined since the early 1990s and remain close to the lowest levels experienced in Halton’s history, although there has been a post-pandemic uptick that has taken levels back to those seen last in the 2011-12 period.

Figure 2 – Halton’s Crime Rate



Recently released data (July 2024) from Statistics Canada indicates that Halton’s 2023 crime rate was lower than every major police service in Ontario. Figures 3, 4 and 5 below show the rankings for various crime rate and clearance categories:

Figure 3 - Overall Crime Rate (2023 – crimes per 100,000 population)

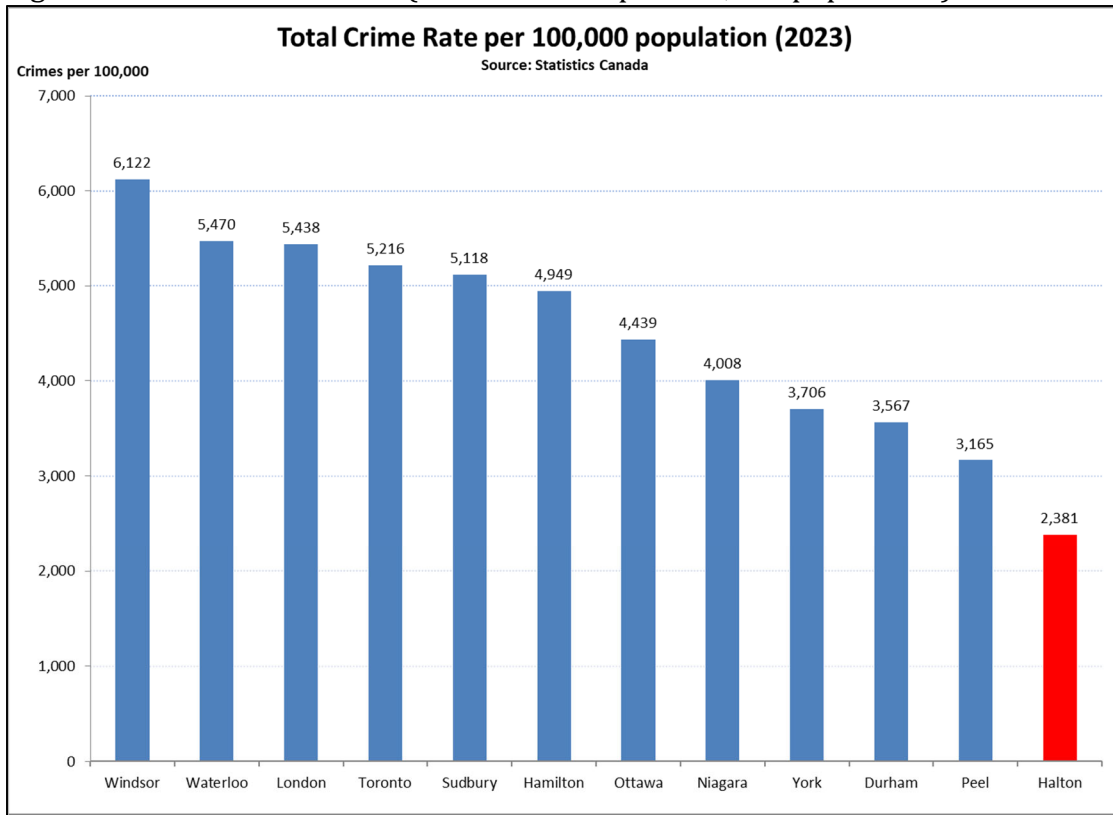


Figure 4 - Violent Crime Rate (2023 – crimes per 100,000 population)

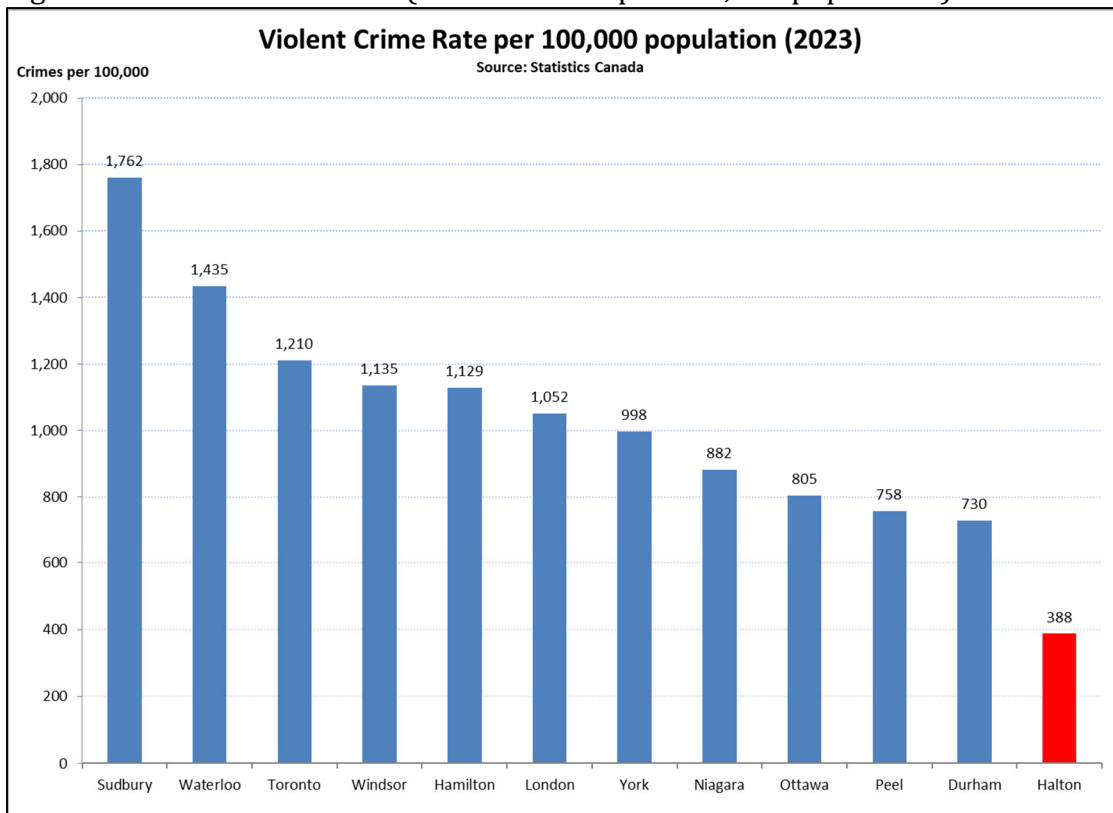
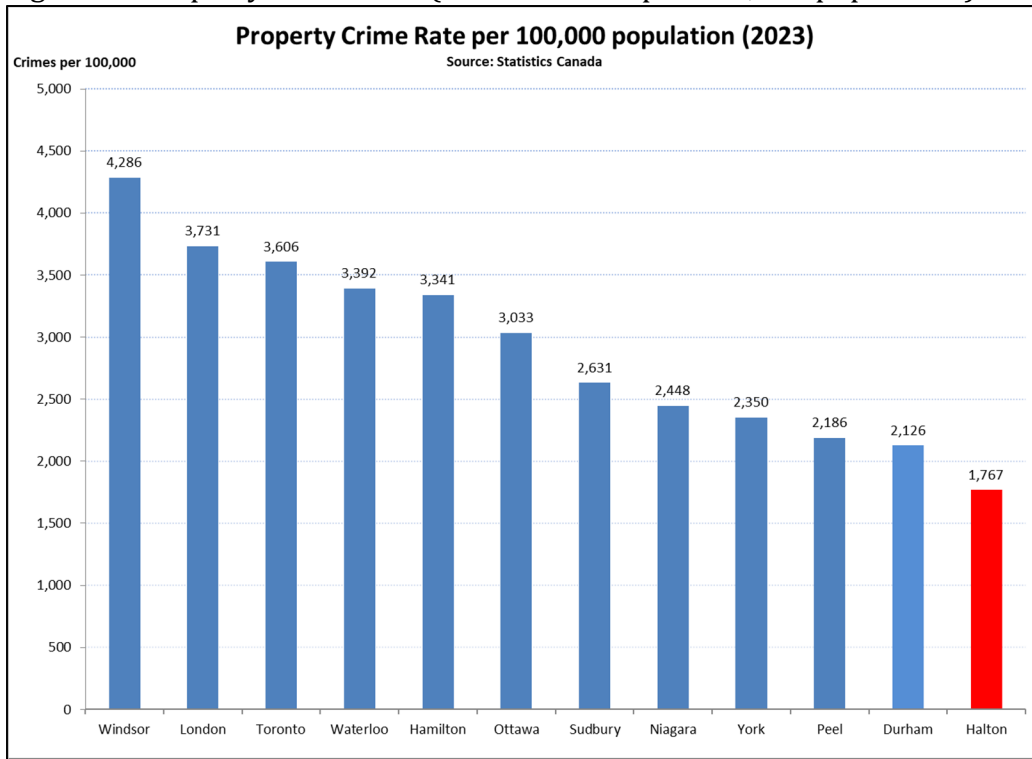


Figure 5 - Property Crime Rate (2023 – crimes per 100,000 population)



Figures 6 and 7 show the clearance rates for overall crime and violent crime respectively. Halton’s crime clearance rates exceed the majority of the Big 12 in both categories.

Figure 6 - Overall Crime Clearance Rate (2023)

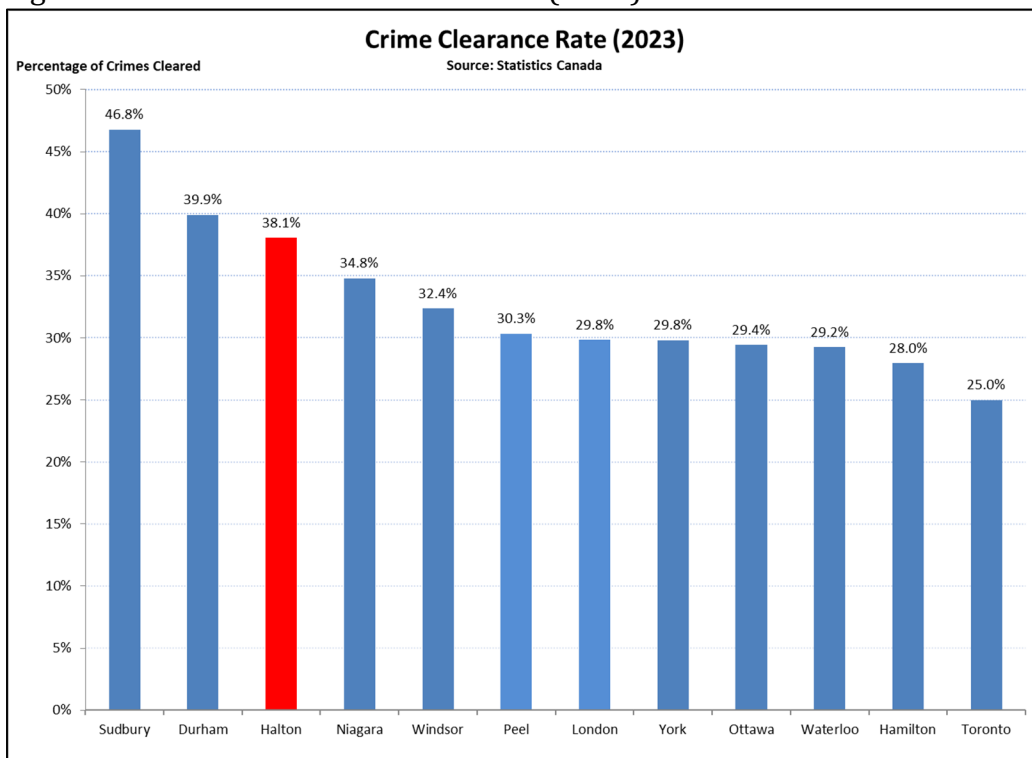
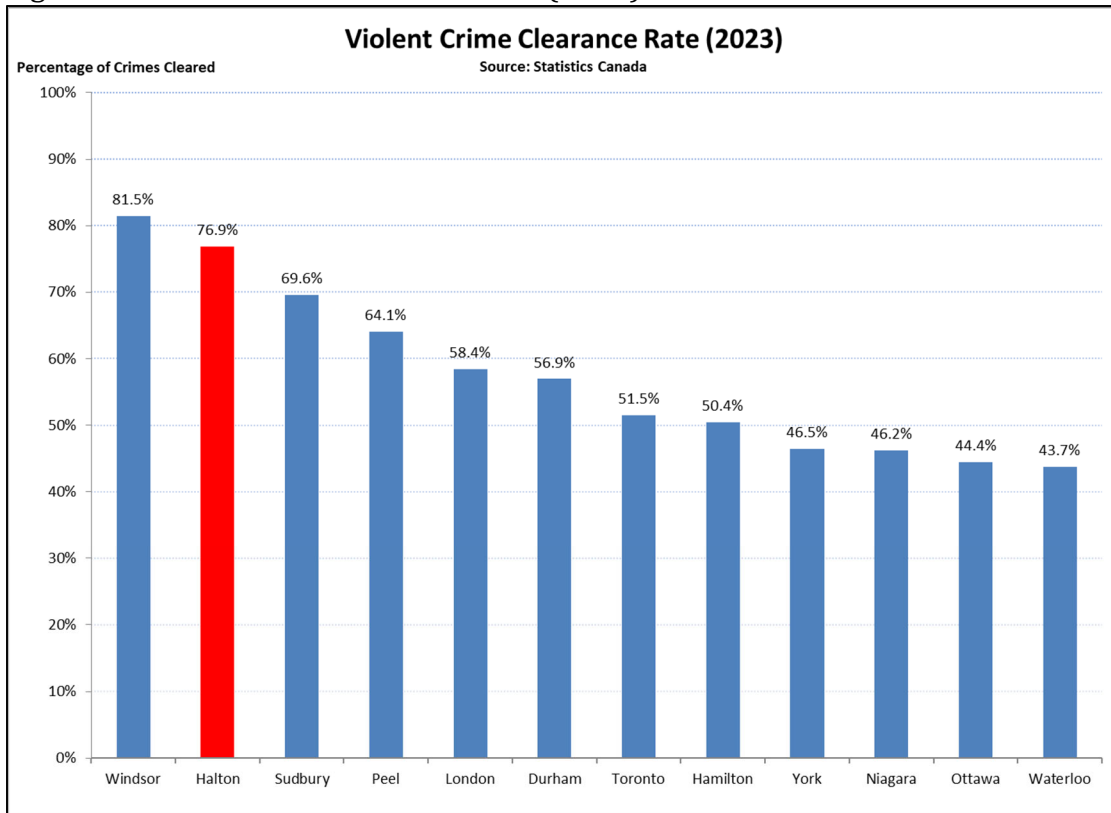


Figure 7 - Violent Crime Clearance Rate (2023)



Data released by Statistics Canada in July indicates that Halton had the best ranking (compared to Ontario’s other large police services) in all the measures of the national Crime Severity Index in 2023 (Overall, Violent and Non-Violent) and the second highest Weighted Clearance Rate, as shown in Figures 8 – 11.

Figure 8 - Overall Crime Severity Index (2023)

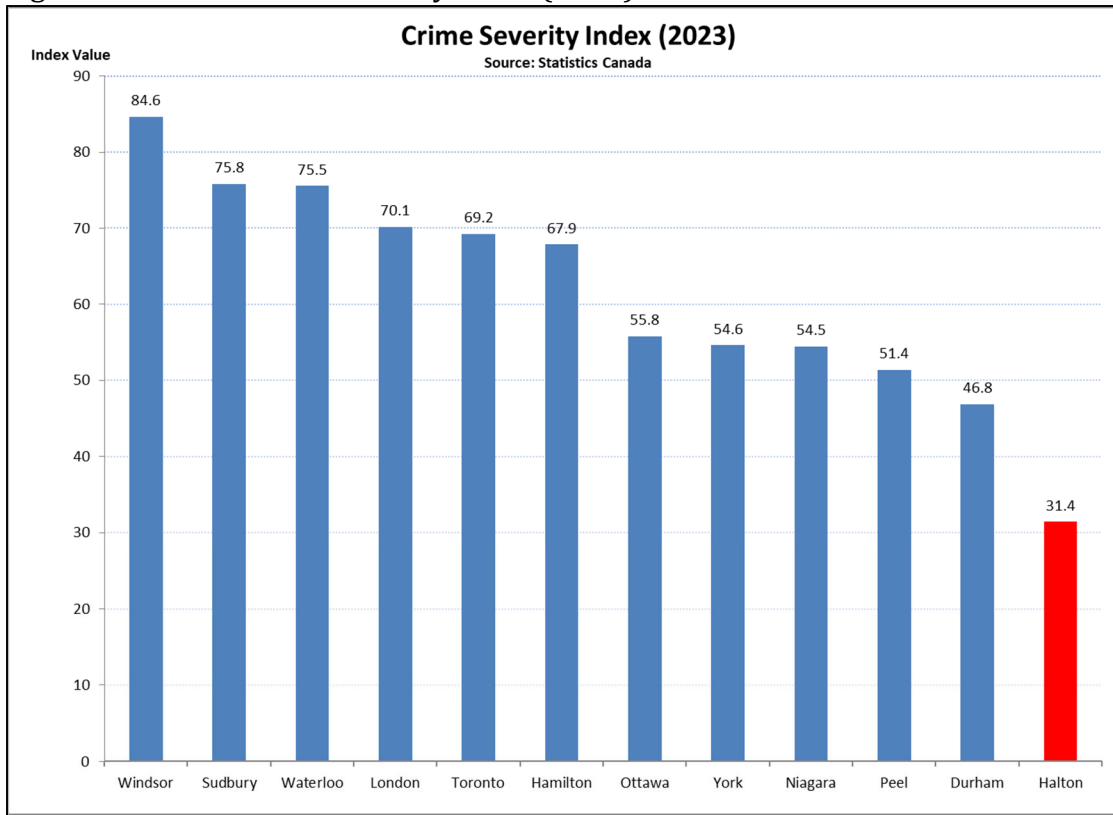


Figure 9 – Violent Crime Severity Index (2023)

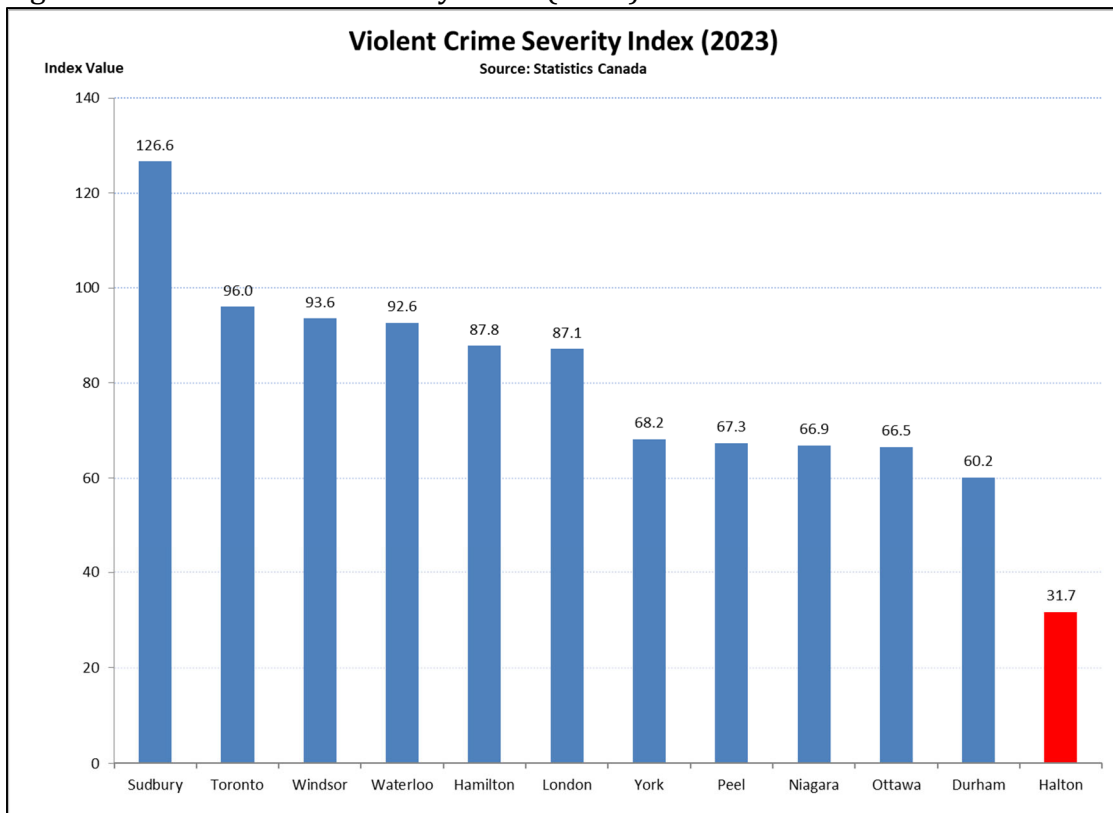


Figure 10 – Non-Violent Crime Severity Index (2023)

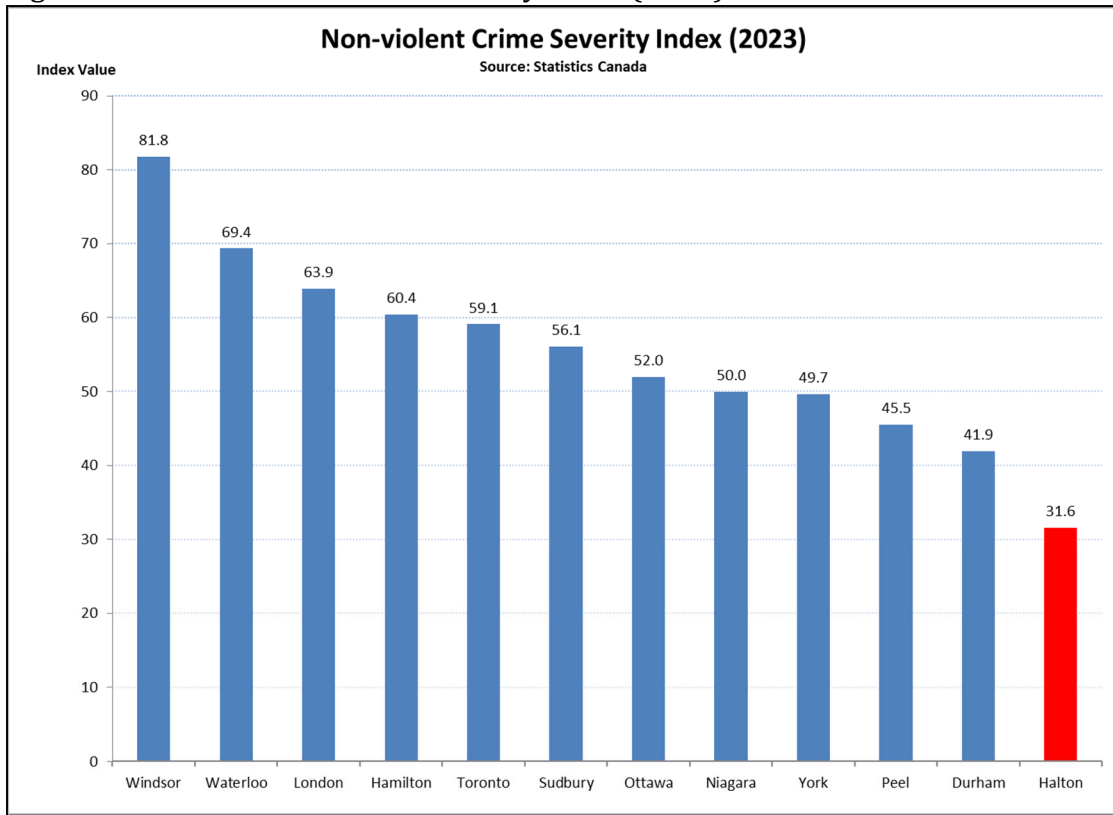
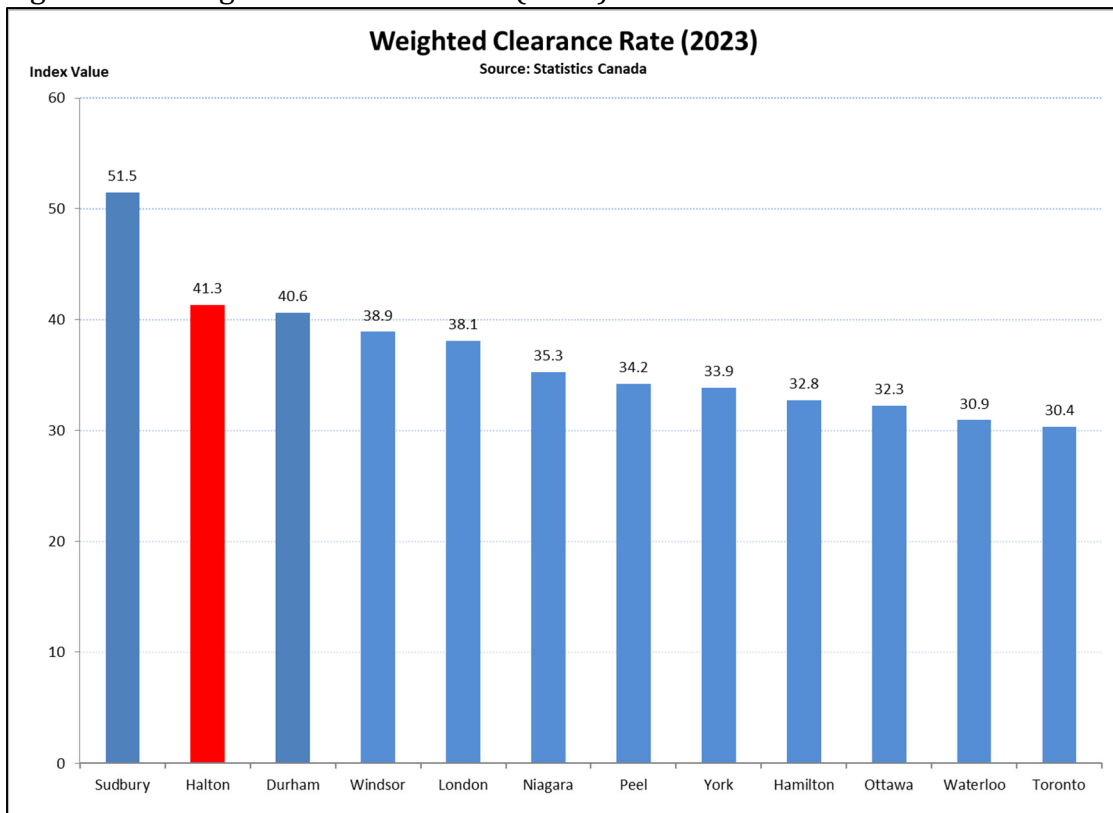


Figure 11 – Weighted Clearance Rate (2023)



Statistics Canada 2022 data showed that Halton continued to provide policing with fewer staff per capita than all of the comparator agencies in Ontario. Data to be released by Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (formally known as OMBI) in the Fall of 2024, will also show that in 2023 Halton continued to provide policing with the lowest staff per capita values and at relatively low cost (likely to be the lowest of the “Big 12” in Ontario).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

N/A

**CONSULTATION:**

Senior Management  
Strategic Management Office

**FINANCIAL / HUMAN RESOURCE / LEGAL ISSUES:**

N/A

**STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES:**

HRPS 2024-2027 Strategic Plan – Strategic Objectives 1,2,4 & 5



## **Definitions**

<sup>i</sup> The **crime rate** is the number of crimes that occurred for a set number of residents. The Service and Statistics Canada report the number of crimes per 100,000 people. Using a rate of crime measurement allows us to compare crime statistics between communities with different populations, and within communities over different time periods.

<sup>ii</sup> **Violent crime** incidents involve offences that deal with the application, or threat of application, of force to a person. These include homicide, attempted murder, and various forms of assault, robbery and abduction/confinement.

<sup>iii</sup> **Property crime** incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence against an individual. Theft, breaking and entering, mischief, fraud and possession of stolen goods are examples of property crimes.

<sup>iv</sup> **Other Crimes** incidents involve the remaining Criminal Code offences that are not classified as violent or property incidents (excluding traffic). Examples include bail violations, counterfeit currency, disturbing the peace, prostitution and offensive weapons.

<sup>v</sup> The **clearance rate** is the percentage of the total number of crimes that occur which are solved (cleared). Criminal incidents can either be cleared "by charge" or "cleared otherwise". When a police investigation leads to the identification of a suspect, an "information" is laid against that person (i.e., the person is formally charged). From a statistical point of view, the laying of an information means that at least one actual incident can be "cleared by charge".

Incidents can also be "cleared otherwise." In some cases, police cannot lay an information even if they have identified a suspect and have enough evidence to support the laying of an information. Examples include cases of diplomatic immunity, instances where the complainant declines to proceed with charges against the accused, or cases where the alleged offender dies before he or she can be formally charged. Such incidents are considered to be "cleared otherwise," that is, other than by the laying of a charge.

<sup>vi</sup> **CAD Events** is a measure of service delivery and represents a self-contained unit of police activity as captured in the Computer Aided Dispatch system. The number quantifies work for both uniformed police officer and civilian members. Please note that to best capture response and service delivered to the public as opposed to internal administrative work, certain CAD event types are excluded in the calculation such as OUTS, BUSY, abandoned 911 calls and non-police calls received through communications.

<sup>vii</sup> **A Property Damage Collision** is a motor vehicle collision where property damage has occurred but in which no parties are injured.

<sup>viii</sup> **An Injury Collision** is a motor vehicle collision where one or more parties involved are injured.