



A Snapshot in Time:

The Root Causes of Crime
in Waterloo Region

A Snapshot in Time: The Root Causes of Crime in Waterloo Region

Anthony Piscitelli Supervisor Planning & Research,
Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council

With Support from:

Kayla Follett Master of Social Work Student, Wilfrid Laurier University

Jessica Hutchison Coordinator, Community Development and Research,
Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council

Wade McAdam Graphic Design Consultant

Keely Phillips Master of Social Work Student, Wilfrid Laurier University

AGORE Committee The Advisory Group on Research & Evaluation of WRCP

Published by the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council.
November 2012

All rights reserved. The content of this publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council be fully acknowledged.

Accessible formats available upon request.

Region of Waterloo Document Number 988298

Region of Waterloo Graphs Document Number 989347

For more information please contact Anthony Piscitelli at apiscitelli@regionofwaterloo.ca

Introduction

Report Purpose

This report aims to track the root causes of crime in the community of Waterloo Region. By monitoring the root causes of crime the community will collectively be better positioned to implement proactive solutions to reduce crime, victimization, and fear of crime.

The report follows a simple format. Each variable being monitored begins with a brief explanation of why it was chosen. It is then followed by a graphical representation of the statistics being tracked and an explanation of the story behind the numbers. These stories are the most significant part of the report because they present a deeper understanding of what is taking place in our community and where opportunities for change exist.

Theory of Crime^{i,ii}

There are a number of theories which try to explain what causes crime. Any attempts to identify and measure the root causes of crime require an explicit theoretical framework. This will either be made clear by definition or will be implicit in the choices of variables which are measured.

The theory of crime that most accurately reflects the approach taking by the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council are those theories that fall under the category of **Modern Developmental Theories**. Theories falling under this approach argue positive and negative life events are expected to have an impact, over time, on the likelihood that an individual will commit a crime. For example, one version of this theory, *Life Course-Persistent Offending Theory*, explains higher rates of youth offending as being a result of the desire to be seen as an adult. In other words, younger adolescents learn deviant behaviour from older youth and commit crimes in an effort to demonstrate their maturity. Once they are accepted as adults most youth grow out of this type of behaviour. The most commonly accepted **Modern Development Theory**, *Life Course Theory* notes that participation in deviant behaviour as a youth is a predictor of committing crimes as an adult. Other developmental factors such as work, education and family are also important contributors. Therefore, an individual who commits crimes as a youth is much less likely to commit crimes later in life if they are able to find stable employment.

Modern Development Theory is not able to explain all crimes and like any theory it has critics. Recognizing these limitations this theoretical framework was chosen as it fits within the belief that crime can be prevented by addressing risk and resiliency factors. The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council advocates for approaches that seek to understand the root causes of crime, which are open to social and community interventions.



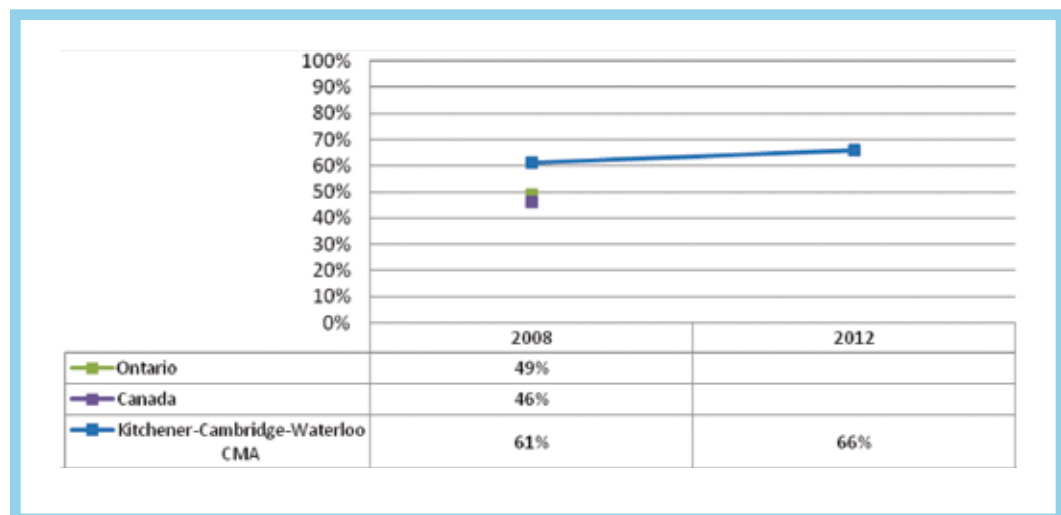


Social Capital Measure

The Relationship to Crime

Social capital refers to the human connections and capacities that contribute to the wealth and well being of a community. Social capital is developed in many ways such as participating in community groups, helping someone solve a problem or by saying hello to a neighbour. High levels of social capital have been linked to reduced violence in neighbourhoodsⁱⁱⁱ. A community characterized by strong interpersonal connections helps to reduce crime by making it more likely that people in the community will watch over the neighbourhood^{iv}. A simple and widely accepted measure of social capital asks the question, 'Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?'

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

Social trust is slightly higher in Ontario than it is in Canada and it is significantly higher in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Similar results were found on a second question in the 2008 General Social Survey, asking how much respondents trust people in their neighbourhood. The results bode well for Waterloo Region and present an important protective factor for the community. The increase in social capital between 2008 and 2012 is within the margin of error; indicating that social capital in the region is stable. Social capital does not form by itself. It tends to be the outcome of strategic and focused efforts on behalf of local institutions including the grass roots and local government to ensure an informed and engaged citizenry.

Source(s) of Data: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey Time Use Cycle (Released Every Five Years). University of Waterloo Survey Research Centre, Local Area Survey (Released Annually)

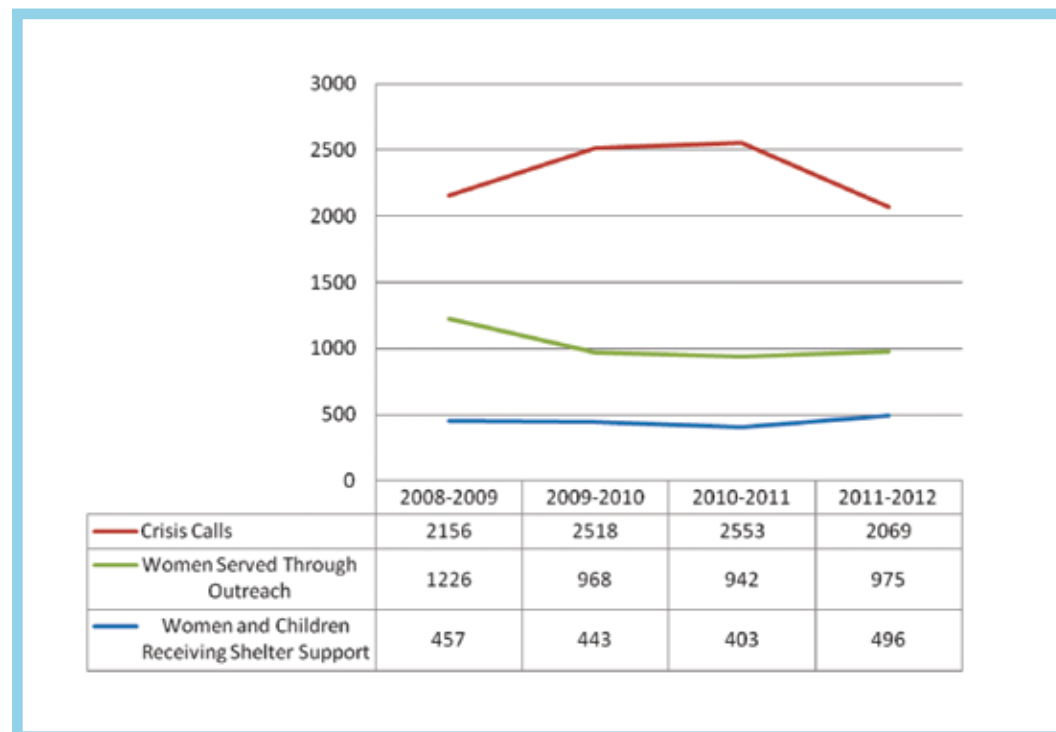
Women's Crisis Services

The Relationship to Crime

Less than one quarter of victims of domestic violence report the incident to police^{vi}. Collecting information from the Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region provides an additional method of tracking domestic violence rates independent of police data. The chart measures the number of women and children who received support in a Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region shelter, the number of crisis calls received, and the number of women served through outreach by Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region.



The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

The crisis calls for support recently dropped. The number of women served through outreach appears to be relatively stable over the past three years. In the past year the number of women and children living in shelters increased dramatically. This increase is believed to be associated with the opening of the new site for the shelter. The opening generated publicity and improved living conditions for women in the shelter which is believed to have made women more comfortable seeking service.

Source(s) of Data: Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region, Annual Report

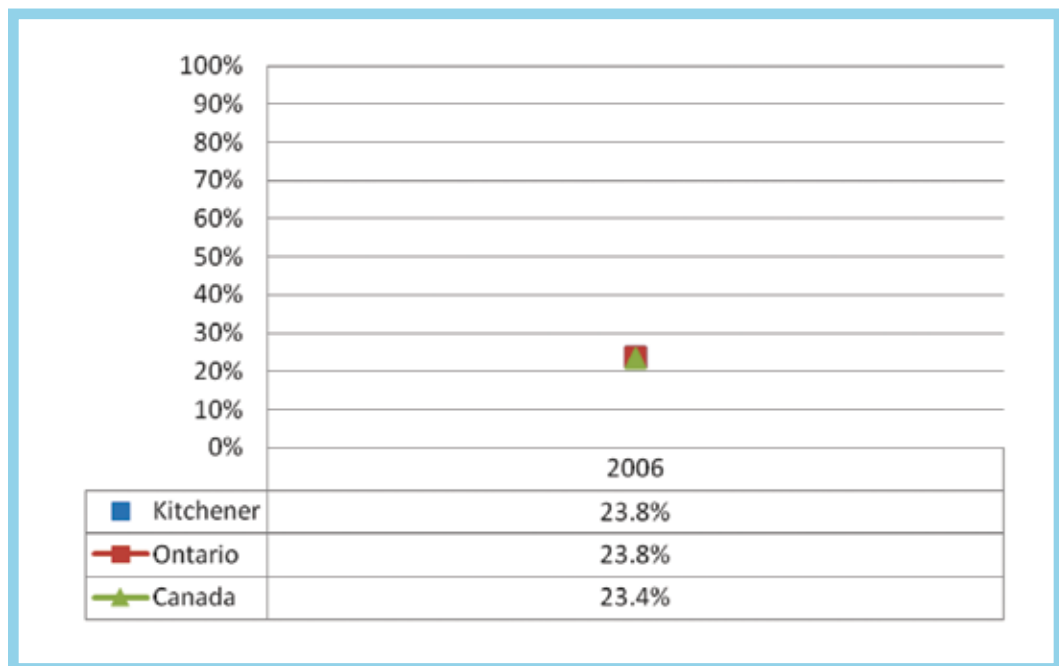


Residents without a High School Education

The Relationship to Crime

The length of involvement in schooling significantly impacts participation in criminal activity and the probability of incarceration^{vii}. The table below tracks the percentage of residents in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area that do not have a high school diploma.

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

In 2006, 23.8% of residents in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA did not have a high school diploma. This is the exact same as the Ontario provincial average and slightly above the Canada average of 23.4%. However, when the results are examined for individuals under the age of 35, the Waterloo Region has more residents without a high school diploma than the Provincial average. This is significant because individuals under the age of 35 are at the highest risk of participating in criminal activity.

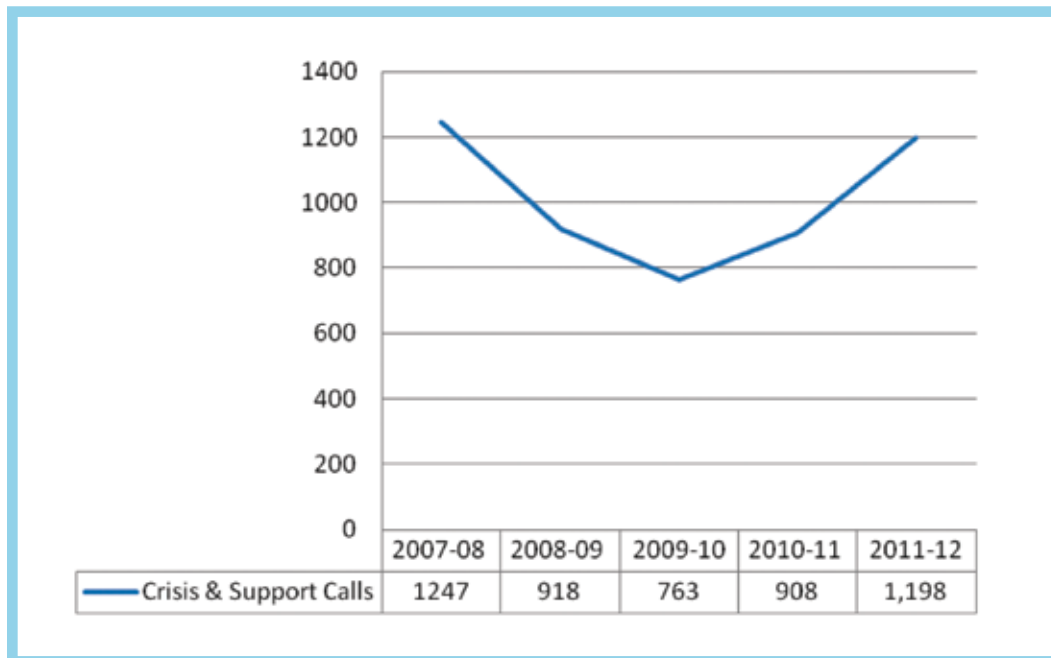
Source(s) of Data: Statistics Canada, Census (Released Every Five Years)

Sexual Assault Crisis Line Calls

The Relationship to Crime

Only one in eight sexual assaults in Canada is reported to police^{viii}. The Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region calls for service provides an additional data point to examine sexual assault rates in Waterloo Region. However, this number should be viewed with caution as it fluctuates based on promotion of the crisis line and provides only total number of calls.

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

The Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region calls for service have varied considerably since 2007. In the past year there has not been a noticeable increase in the number of calls to the crisis line. In 2012 there was no wait list for men but the wait list for counselling services for women reached an all time high of 40 despite an additional part time counsellor and reducing the number of sessions for some clients. This decrease in counselling availability is creating hardships for victims and may be one reason behind the increase in calls to the crisis line rather than indicative of an increase in sexual assaults.

Source(s) of Data: Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region, Annual Report



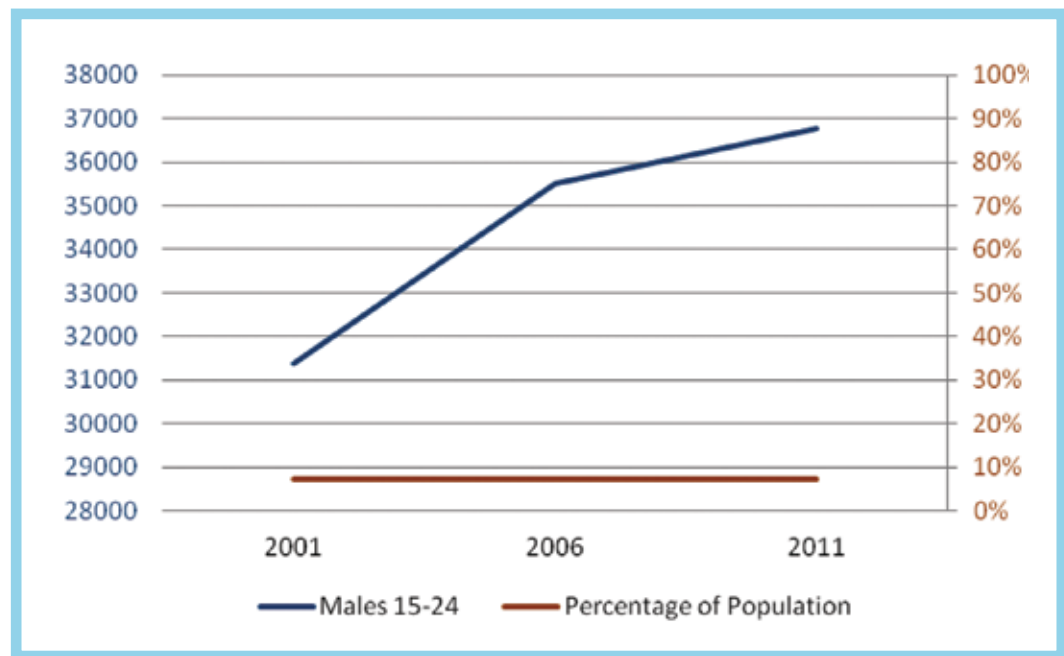


Males 15-24

Report Purpose

Young males commit most violent crimes in Canada^x and they are at a higher risk of being a victim of crime^x. Young males are more likely than other age and gender cohorts to be involved in petty crime such as vandalism and graffiti. As such, the number of males aged 15 to 24 in a community is likely to have an impact on the crime rate. The chart below measures the absolute number of males 15 to 24 living in the Waterloo Region and the percentage of the overall population made up of males 15 to 24.

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

The number of males in Waterloo Region, aged 15 to 24, is slowly increasing. However, this increase is currently similar to the increase in the overall population in Waterloo Region. Therefore the percentage of the male population 15 to 24 is remaining steady at between 7.2% and 7.4%.

Source of Data: Statistics Canada, Census (Released Every Five Years)

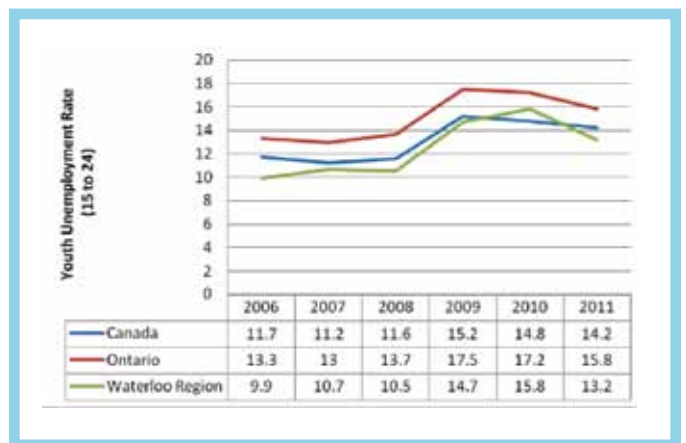
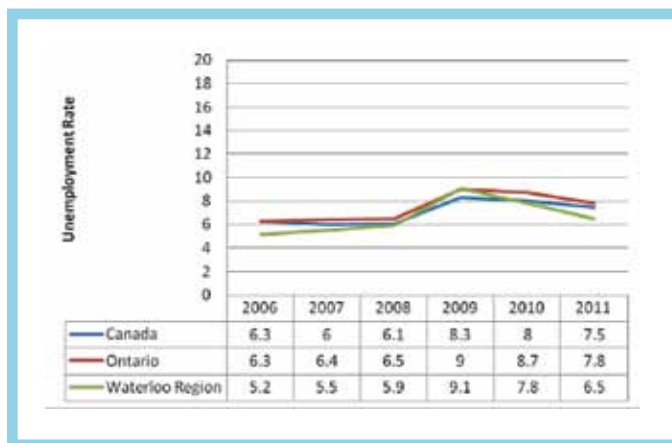
Unemployment Rate

The Relationship to Crime

The relationship between unemployment and property crime is well established in academic literature. Generally a 1% drop in unemployment rates leads to approximately a 1% drop in property crime^{xi}. The impact on property crime rates is believed to be more pronounced when unemployment is high for male youth^{xii}. Violent crime and unemployment on their own tend to be unrelated. However, when high levels of unemployment are combined with high levels of alcohol consumption it is believed to cause an increase in the homicide rate^{xiii}.



The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

The 2011 decrease in unemployment in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA echoes a trend that was seen in the rest of Canada. The decrease in unemployment is directly related to a slowly rebounding economy. Youth unemployment improved in 2011 but not to the same degree as unemployment generally. High youth unemployment combined with a growing male population raises some concerns for the local crime rate.

Source(s) of Data: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey: CANSIM Table 1095304 (Released Annually)

CRIME IN WATERLOO REGION: CAUSES & CONSEQUENCES

Understanding how the root causes of crime are impacting Waterloo Region creates opportunities for interventions. Following is a mix of positive and challenging trends.

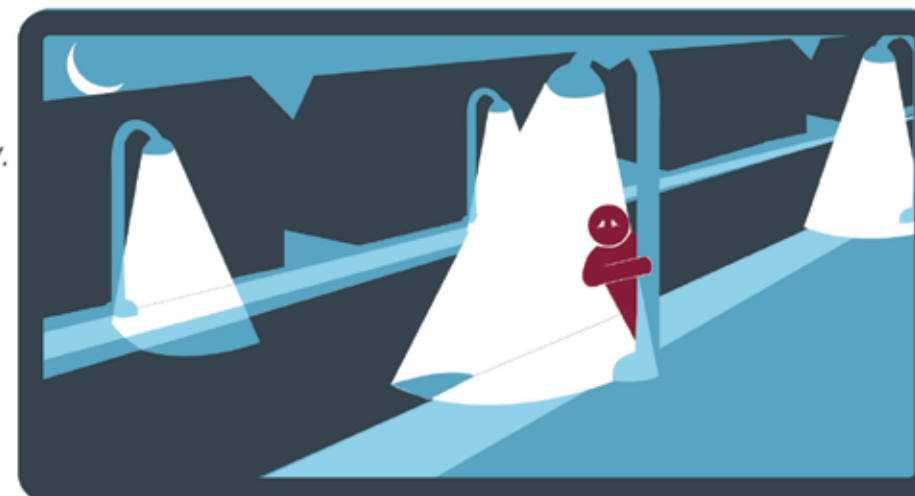


COMMUNITY TRUST

A neighbourhood filled with people who trust one another is a resilient, connected community.



66% of residents trust their neighbours.



FEAR OF CRIME

negatively impacts quality of life.

12%

of residents would say they feel **unsafe** walking alone in their area after dark



Individuals who are

HOMELESS

are more likely to become victims of crime and/or engage in property crime.

Individuals accessing emergency beds in **2010**



Individuals accessing emergency beds in **2011**



approx. **400** people

CHILDREN IN CARE

of the Child Welfare System have experienced trauma

2010/11

Days of paid care



Kids in residential care



5%

increase

approx. **10,000** days

2011/12



19%

increase

approx. **40** kids

Children with

LOW SOCIAL COMPETENCY

skills are at heightened risk for criminal involvement later in life

9.3%

of Ontario children have low social competency...

vs.

10.5%

of Waterloo Region children

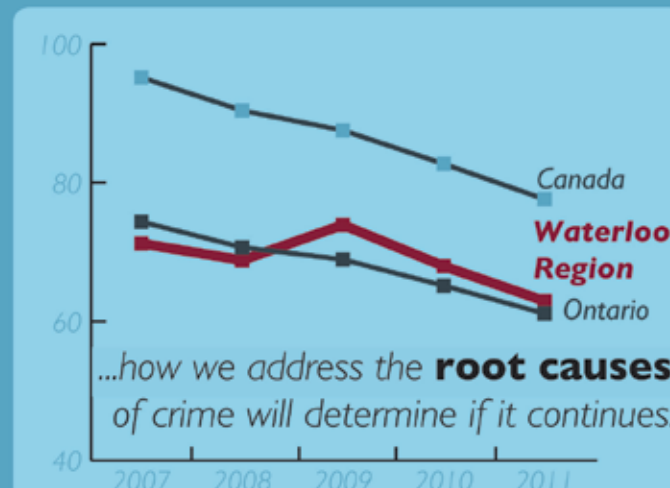


While Waterloo Region is improving year to year, it is still consistently **behind** Ontario.

Decreasing

CRIME SEVERITY

levels are a positive trend...



...how we address the **root causes** of crime will determine if it continues.

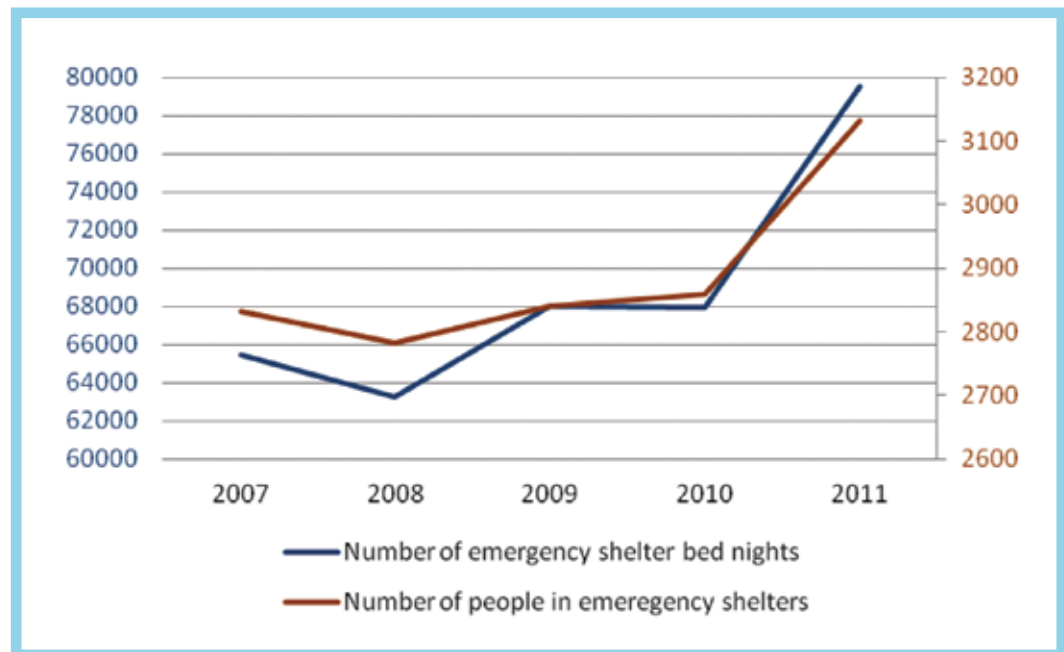


Homelessness

Report Purpose

Individuals facing homelessness are more likely to become victims of crime and/or engage in criminal activity than individuals with stable housing. If charged with a criminal offence homeless individuals are typically charged with minor property crimes and drug offences^{xiv}. It is fair to say that their vulnerability for victimization is of most concern in this context.

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

The number of individuals accessing emergency shelters rose 10% and the number of emergency shelter nights rose by 17% in 2011. These are significant increases after two years of relative stability. These dramatic increases are cause for concern and warrant on-going attention. Homelessness can also be seen as an extreme manifestation of poverty and form of community exclusion. These factors impact quality of life and are affecting greater numbers of people in Waterloo Region.

Source of Data: Homelessness & Housing Umbrella Group, HHUG Report Card (Released Annually)

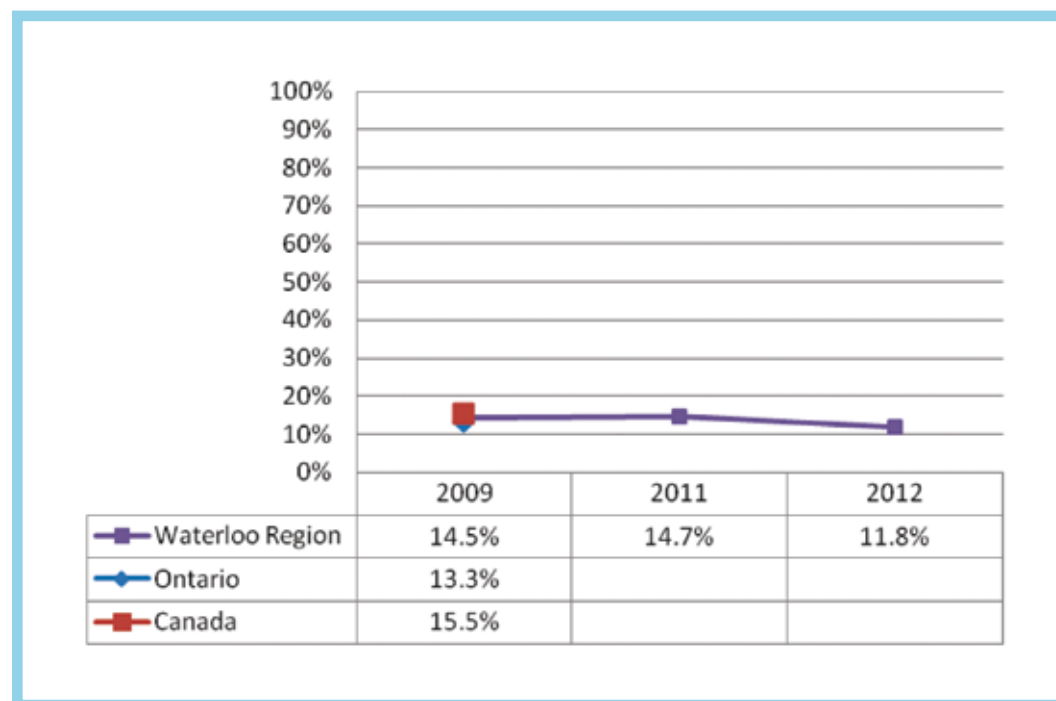
Fear of Crime

The Relationship to Crime

Fear of crime may cause an increase in crime within a community^{xv}. Although there is not a consensus in the literature around this point, it is clear that fear of crime is unwelcome and tends to negatively impact quality of life^{xvi}. Fear of crime is measured in this survey as the percentage of respondents indicating they feel very unsafe, or somewhat unsafe, walking alone in their area after dark



The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

Levels of fear of crime in a community are expected to be relatively stable in the short term. Locally, levels of fear of crime are stable with changes within the margin of error. Comparing Waterloo Region to Ontario and Canada, the numbers are relatively similar with Waterloo Region appearing to have a slightly lower fear of crime than Canada.

Source of Data: Statistics Canada General Social Survey Victimization Cycle (Released Every Five Years)
University of Waterloo Survey Research Centre Local Area Survey (Released Annually)

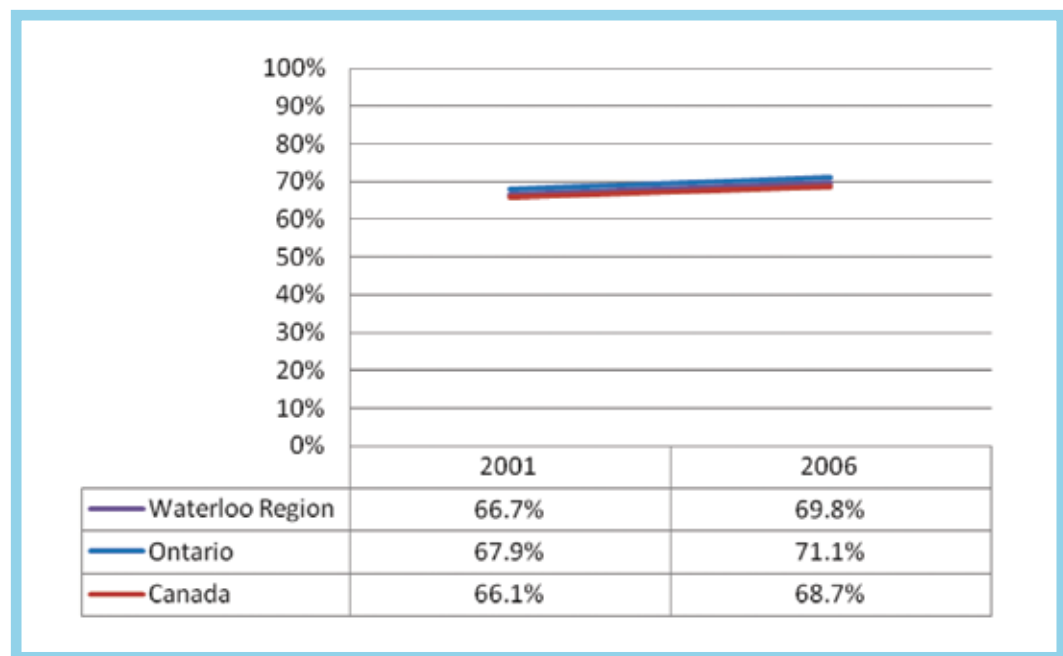


Owner Occupied Homes

The Relationship to Crime

Individuals living in owner occupied homes are less transitory than renters. Homeowners' financial interests also encourage them to support positive neighbourhood interactions^{xvii}. Homeownership also represents a Canadian value because it is seen to alleviate real and/or perceived disadvantages for individuals^{xviii}. For these reasons higher levels of homeownership is a protective factor against crime in a community.

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

Homeownership in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA increased from 2001 to 2006. This increase in homeownership echoes the national trend which saw a similar increase over this time period. This is a positive trend for Waterloo Region as it indicates increased stability within the population.

Source of Data: Statistics Canada, Census (Released Every Five Years)

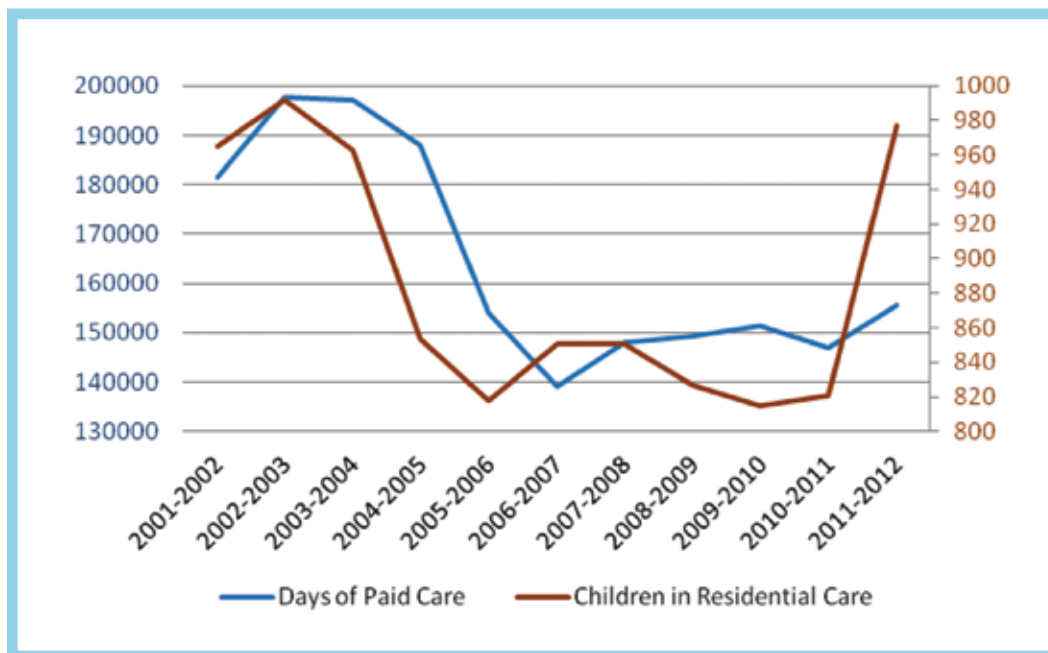
Children in Care

The Relationship to Crime

Children in the child welfare system tend to share histories of significant trauma. Children in the child welfare system are also at higher risk of involvement with the criminal justice system^{xix}. The number of children in care within Waterloo Region therefore is a measure of the number of children with significant risk factors as well as a measure of risk for future criminal justice system involvement.



The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

The number of children in Waterloo Region in the residential care of Family and Children's Service's of the Waterloo Region increased by 19% from 2011 to 2012, while days of paid care increased by only 5%. This demonstrates a significant increase in children placed in care but only a small increase in days in care. This means most of the increase in children in care were short term stays in care. This one year increase warrants an on-going examination to see if a trend emerges or if it is a temporary impact of economic or other challenges facing the region.

Source of Data: Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region Annual Report

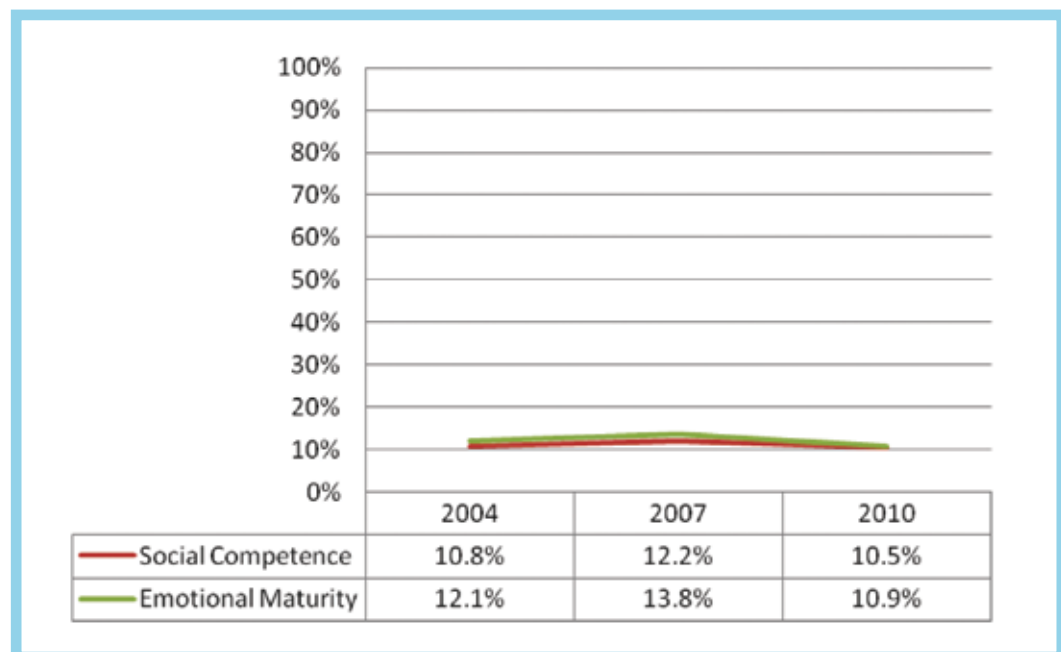


Early Childhood Development Indicators

Report Purpose

Every three years Senior Kindergarten teachers evaluate their students using the Early Development Instrument. This tool provides scores on a number of factors, two of which directly relate to crime prevention. *Social competence* measures a child's interactions with others, ability to control their own behaviour, and cooperation with others. *Emotional maturity* measures a child's ability for impulsivity control, ability to deal with feelings, and empathy for others. The percentage of children scoring low on these indices is noteworthy because antisocial behaviour among children is associated with an increased risk of persistent delinquency and criminal involvement later in life^{xx}.

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

The percentage of children scoring low on the social competence and emotional maturity index declined from 2007 to 2010. However, despite the improvement Waterloo Region did not score as well as Ontario in 2011 which had 9.3% of children score low in social competence. Waterloo Region was also lower than Ontario, at 10.3%, on emotional maturity but this difference was not statistically significant. These numbers suggest that prevention opportunities exist through a focus on improving children's emotional and social readiness for school.

Source of Data: Ontario Early Years Centre, A Community Fit for Children Report (Released Every Three Years)

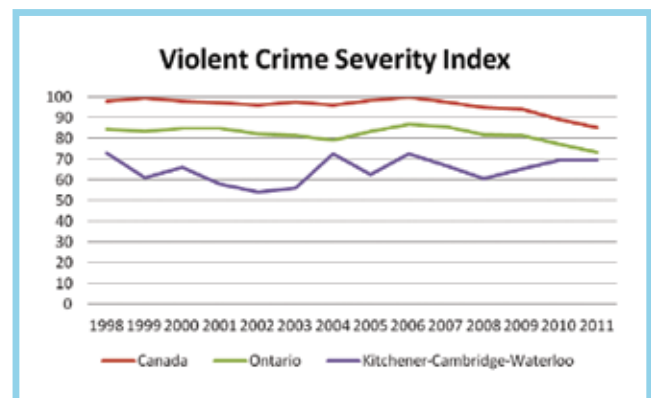
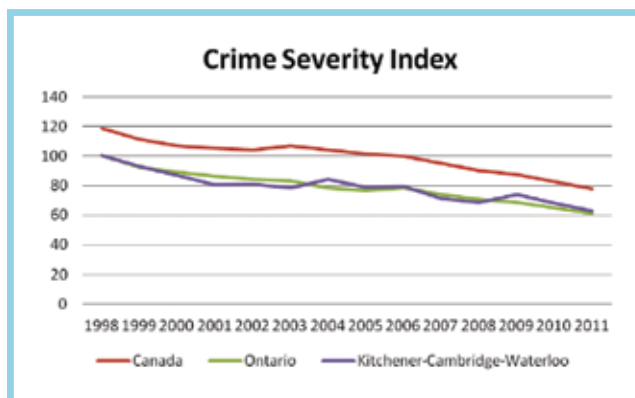
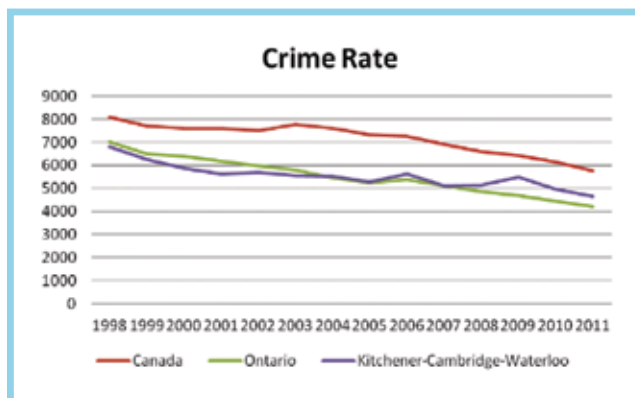
Police Reported Crime

The Relationship to Crime

The crime rate records the amount of police reported crime per 100,000 people. In this number, all crimes are counted equally. This represents approximately one third of the crime that occurs in Canada; this varies by jurisdiction and type of crime^{xxi}. The Crime Severity Index and the Violent Crime Severity Index weight crimes according to their severity based upon average sentencing outcomes. Crime and violence severity indices address the crime rate being driven by high-volume offences that are of a less serious nature^{xxii}.



The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

Crime rates and the crime severity index in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA have been trending downward for the past twelve years. However, the violence severity index appears to be trending upward. The increase in violence in the past two years is being caused mainly by increases in the number of youth and adult robberies^{xxiii}.

Source(s) of Data: Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey: CANSIM Table 2520051
Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey: CANSIM Table 2520052 (Released Annually)

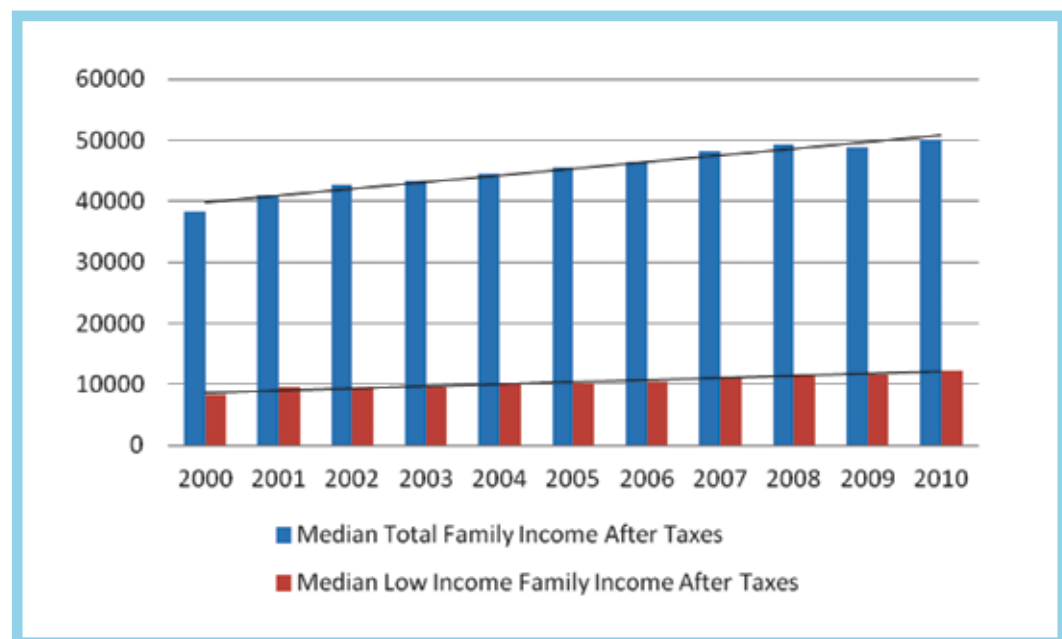


Income of Low Income Families

Report Purpose

Neighbourhoods that are at an economic disadvantage when compared to other areas report higher crime rates^{xxiv}. In addition, societies where wealth is concentrated amongst a small group of individuals report higher crime rates^{xxv}. The graph below shows the average income of individuals in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA and compares it to the average income of low income individuals in this area. This chart tracks the gap between low income individuals and those with significantly better economic means

The Statistics



The Statistics

The gap between low income families and the middle income families is growing in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA. This gap is largely the by-product of stagnant incomes for low income individuals. This growth disparity in the distribution of income suggests low income families in Waterloo Region are not benefiting equally from economic growth.

Source of Data: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 111-0015 (Released Annually)

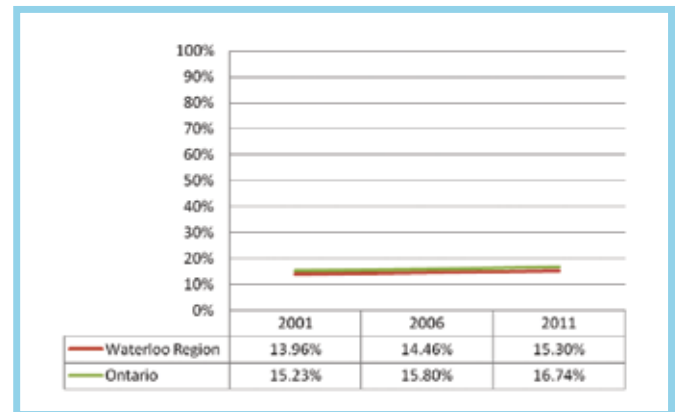
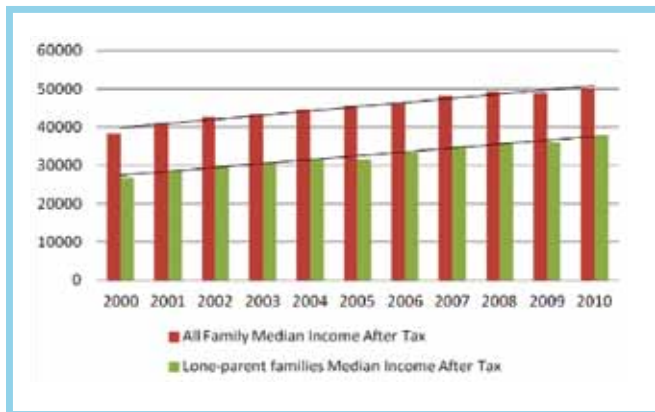
Single Parent Headed Households



The Relationship to Crime

Communities with a higher proportion of lone-parent headed households are associated with higher crime rates^{xxvi}. Children from lone parent headed households face low incomes and other significant risk factors for becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime. The chart below tracks percentage of lone parent families in Waterloo Region and Ontario. The second chart tracks two parent family median incomes and single family median incomes. The gap between the two assesses whether single-parent headed households are falling behind when compared to two parent households.

The Statistics



Story Behind the Numbers

Waterloo Region has less single parent headed households than Ontario. However, single parent families have increased in Ontario and Waterloo Region over the past ten years. Interestingly in Waterloo Region the income of single parent headed households is growing slightly faster than two parent families in the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA. So while single parent headed households are growing in the region their income is keeping pace with average incomes, unfortunately they are not making any significant gains to close the gap.

Source(s) of Data: Statistics Canada, Census (Released Every Five Years)

Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 111-0015 (Released Annually)



Conclusion

The Overall Picture

Individual categories, taken in isolation, show in some cases bleak or in other cases an upbeat outlook for crime and victimization in Waterloo Region. When multiple pieces of data are combined the outlook for crime and crime prevention in Waterloo Region becomes more difficult to interpret.

A number of statistics look positive for Waterloo Region. Crime and crime severity is down and has been trending down for the past twelve years. Social capital is higher in Waterloo Region than Ontario or Canada. Unemployment is declining and the number of owner occupied homes is increasing.

Some variables are best described at this stage as neutral. Fear of crime is relatively stable and slightly lower than the overall Canada rate. The percentage of people in the region without a high school education is comparable to the provincial and federal averages. The percentage of single parent families is up but this number remains below the provincial average. Fortunately, single parent family income is catching up with family income.

Some pieces of data are missing. Alcohol consumption and recreational substance use are two notable examples that in an ideal report would be included. However, no consistent year over year sources of data exist tracking these variables so they were left out of the report. This report therefore represents a starting point at tracking the root causes of crime in Waterloo Region. Future efforts may add more information as data becomes available.

Other variables do not look as positive. The violence severity index is increasing. Early childhood development indicators are falling behind those of the Province. Youth employment is not rebounding as quickly as employment overall, and the income of low income individuals is stagnant. Crisis calls to the sexual assault crisis line are up as is the agency waiting list, and use of domestic violence shelters by women has increased. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness increased as did the number of children in the care of Family and Children Services of the Waterloo Region.

With so many variables pulling in so many different directions it is impossible to predict where crime rates will go in the future. However, the results do indicate areas where some impact can be made. Low early childhood development indicators should be a major focus because they have long term sustainable potential. Addressing youth robberies should go hand in hand with efforts to improve youth employment outcomes. Crime rates in Waterloo Region have been steadily falling. A continued diligent effort to monitor and intervene in the root causes of crime is a powerful tool for ensuring that this trend can continue into the future. This attention should be provided through a combination of a comprehensive analysis of social, economic and community risks and an integrated multi system effort to address them.

References



- i Williams, F. & McShane, M. (2004). *Criminology Theory*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- ii McMurtry, R. & Curling, A. (2008) *The Review of the Roots of Youth Violence*. Toronto: Queens Printer for Ontario.
- iii Sampson, R. Raudenbush, S. & Earls, F. (1997) Neighborhoods and violent crime: a multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science*, 277, pp. 918-924.
- iv Jacobs, J. (1961). *The death and life of great American cities*. New York: Random House.
- v Halpern, D. (2005). *Social Capital*. Malden, MA: Polity Press. (p. 33).
- vi Statistics Canada. (2011). Family violence in Canada a statistical profile.
- vii Lochner, L. & Moretti, E. (2004). The effect of education on crime: Evidence from prison inmates, arrests, and self-reports. *The American Economic Review*. 94(1), pp. 155-189.
- viii Perreault, S. & Brennan, S. (2010). Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- ix Dauvergne, M. & Turner, J. (2010). Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2009. *Juristat Article*. 30(2).
- x Perreault, S. & Brennan, S. (2010). Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009. *Juristat Article*. 30 (2).
- xi Levitt, S. (2004). Understanding why crime fell in the 1990s: Four factors that explain the decline and six that do not. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. pp. 163-190.
- xii Bunge, V., Johnson, H. & Balde, T. (2005). Exploring crime patterns in Canada. *Crime and Justice Research Paper Series*. Issue 005.
- xiii Bunge, V., Johnson, H. & Balde, T. (2005). Exploring crime patterns in Canada. *Crime and Justice Research Paper Series*. Issue 005.
- xiv Institute for the Prevention of Crime. (2008). *Homelessness, victimization and crime: Knowledge and actionable recommendations*. Accessed October 4, 2012 from <http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/ipc/pdf/IPC-Homelessness%20report.pdf>
- xv Wilson, J. & Kelling, G. (1982). Broken windows: The police and neighborhood safety. *Atlantic Magazine*. Accessed November 25, 2010 from www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/_atlantic_monthly-broken_windows.pdf
- xvi Gau, J. & Pratt, T. (2008). Broken windows or window dressing? citizens' (in)ability to tell the difference between disorder and crime. *Criminology and Public Policy*, 7(2), pp. 163-194.
- xvii Sampson, R. Raudenbush, S. & Earls, F. (1997) Neighborhoods and violent crime: a multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science*, 277, pp. 918-924.
- xviii Ellis, D. (2008) A methodology to identify communities in Ontario where high or increasing relative disadvantage may lead to youth violence. In R. McMurtry, & A. Curling (Eds), *The review of the roots of youth violence: Volume 4*. pp. 359-411. Toronto: Queens Printer for Ontario.
- xix Ward, A. & Day, D. (2010). *Criminal predictors and protective factors in a sample of young offenders: Relationship to offending trajectories*. Toronto: Ministry of Children and Youth Services.
- xx Moffit, T. (1993). Adolescence-limited and life-course persistent anti social behavior: A development taxonomy. *Psychological Review*. 100(4), pp. 674-701.
- xxi Perreault, S. & Brennan, S. (2010). Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- xxii Wallace M., Turner, J. Babyak, C. & Matarazzo, A. (2009). Measuring crime in Canada: Introducing the crime severity index and improvements to the uniform crime reporting survey. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- xxiii (2009) 2009 Annual Report. Waterloo Region: Waterloo Region Police Service.
- xxiv Savoie, J. Analysis of the spatial distribution of crime in Canada: Summary of major trends 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006. *Crime and Justice Research Paper Series*. Issue 015.
- xxv Wilkinson, R. & Pickett, K. (2009). *The spirit level: Why greater equality makes societies stronger*. London: Bloomsbury Press.
- xxvi Savoie, J. Analysis of the spatial distribution of crime in Canada: Summary of major trends 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006. *Crime and Justice Research Paper Series*. Issue 015.

IN WATERLOO REGION: CAUSES & CONSEQUENCES

Understanding how the root causes of crime in the Waterloo Region creates opportunities for improvement. Following is a mix of positive and challenging information.

COMMUNITY TRUST

A neighbourhood filled with people who trust one another is a resilient, connected community.



66% of residents trust their neighbours.



FEAR OF CRIME

negatively impacts quality of life

12%

of residents would say they feel **unsafe** walking alone in their area after dark

HOMELESS

are more likely to become victims of crime and/or engage in property crime.

Individuals accessing emergency beds in **2010**



Individuals accessing emergency beds in **2011**

CHILDREN IN CARE

of the Child Welfare System have experienced trauma

2010/11

Days of paid care



Kids in residential care



2011/12



19% increase

40 kids

Children with

LOW SOCIAL COMPETENCY

skills are at heightened risk for criminal involvement later in life

9.3%

of Ontario children have low social competency...

VS.

10.5%

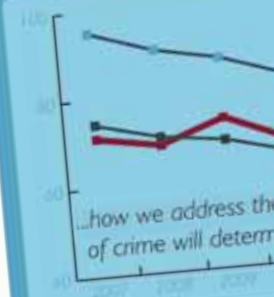
of Waterloo Region children



While Waterloo Region is improving year to year, it is still consistently **behind** Ontario.

CRIME SEVERITY

levels are a positive indicator



...how we address the root causes of crime will determine the future of crime in the Waterloo Region.

