



13. Police Services

WHAT IS THE SERVICE?

Under the *Ontario Police Services Act*, municipalities are responsible for the provision of adequate and effective Police Services to ensure the safety and security of citizens, businesses and visitors. To fulfill this mandate, each municipality and police agency creates and implements strategies, policies and business models that meet the specific needs and priorities of their local communities.

The key activities provided by police services include:

- ▶ Crime prevention
- ▶ Law enforcement
- ▶ Victims' assistance
- ▶ Maintenance of public order
- ▶ Emergency response services

Effective policing is enhanced by strong partnerships between the police and the communities and neighbourhoods they serve.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES?

Major issues currently affecting Police Service delivery include:

- ▶ Human resources - challenges in recruiting and retaining personnel
- ▶ Emerging trends - new crime trends, e.g., guns and gangs, cybercrime
- ▶ Adequacy of funding - mandated services such as court security

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

The majority of OMBI municipalities have a municipal police service. Several jurisdictions, however, contract police services from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). One region (Peel) uses the services of both the OPP (serves the Town of Caledon, indicated as "CAL" on graphs) and a municipal police agency (Peel Regional Police, "PEEL," which serves all of Peel except Caledon). To help readers understand the information in the graphs, results have been grouped by police service type – Municipal or OPP.

How many police officers and civilian staff are there?

FIG. 13.1 Number of Total Police Staff (Officers and Civilians) per 100,000 Population

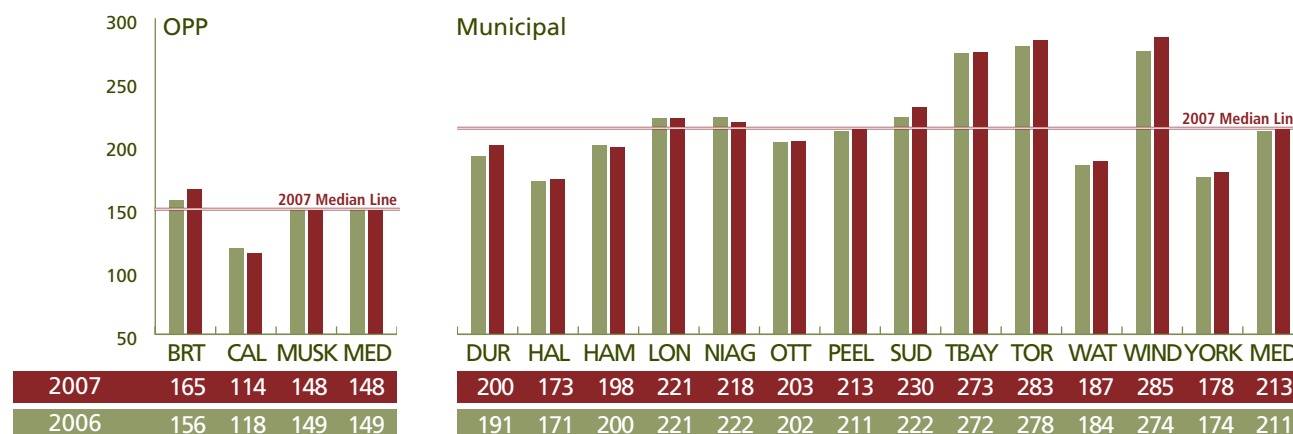
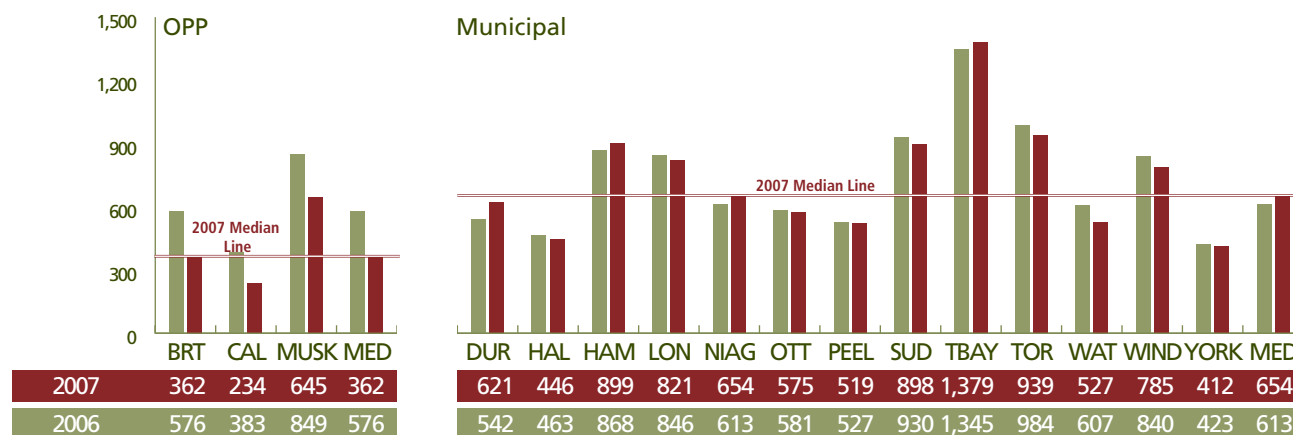


Figure 13.1 provides an indication of police service levels (number of police staff per 100,000 population) and is based on the staffing levels established in the annual budget. As noted earlier, each municipality and police agency determines the service levels (resources and staffing) required to protect their local communities.

What is the violent crime rate?

FIG. 13.2 Reported Number of Violent Criminal Code Incidents per 100,000 Population



Note: Violent crime rates may differ from those in Statistics Canada's publications due to the use of more current population estimates provided by OMBI Municipalities.

Figure 13.2 shows the number of violent crimes in each municipality per 100,000 population and the extent to which violent criminal activity is brought to the attention of police services (reported). This measure does not include unreported crime.

Crime rates can provide an indication of community safety, however, a community’s perception of the incidence of crime or their feeling of safety can differ from what raw crime statistics show. Crime rates should be examined over a 5 to 10 year period to determine if there are any trends, as changes to the law, standards or law enforcement practices in municipalities can all have an impact on changes in crime rates in any given year.

What percentage of violent crime is solved?

FIG. 13.3 Clearance Rate - Violent Crime

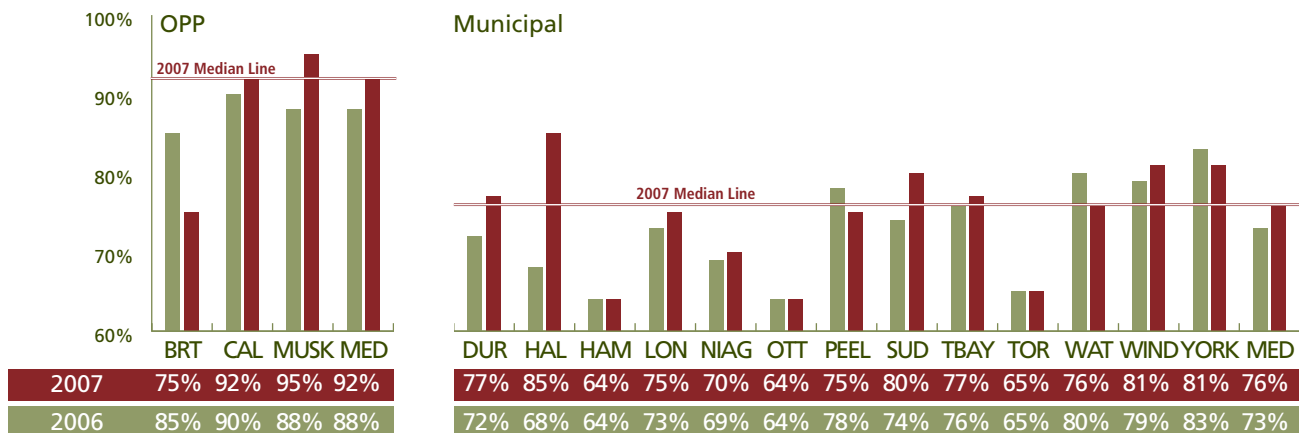


Figure 13.3 shows the results for the number of violent crimes cleared in a specific calendar year, regardless of when the crimes occurred. When a crime has occurred, residents expect that the crime will be solved and the accused brought before the justice system. A violent criminal incident is considered cleared when a charge is laid, recommended or cleared by other methods. The public’s assistance in reporting information can greatly assist in the solving of violent crime.

WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER WHEN REVIEWING THESE RESULTS?

Each municipality’s results are influenced to varying degrees by a number of factors, including:

- ▶ Non-residents - daily inflow and outflow of commuters and tourists; attendees at cultural, entertainment and sporting events; or seasonal residents (e.g., post-secondary students) who require police services and are not captured in population-based measures
- ▶ Specialized facilities - presence of specialized facilities in municipalities such as airports or casinos that can require additional police staffing to provide service
- ▶ Public support - public’s willingness to report crimes and to provide information that assists police services in the solving of crimes
- ▶ Demographic trends - social and economic changes in the population

For more information about the results, contact the Municipality’s representative listed in Appendix F, page 94.