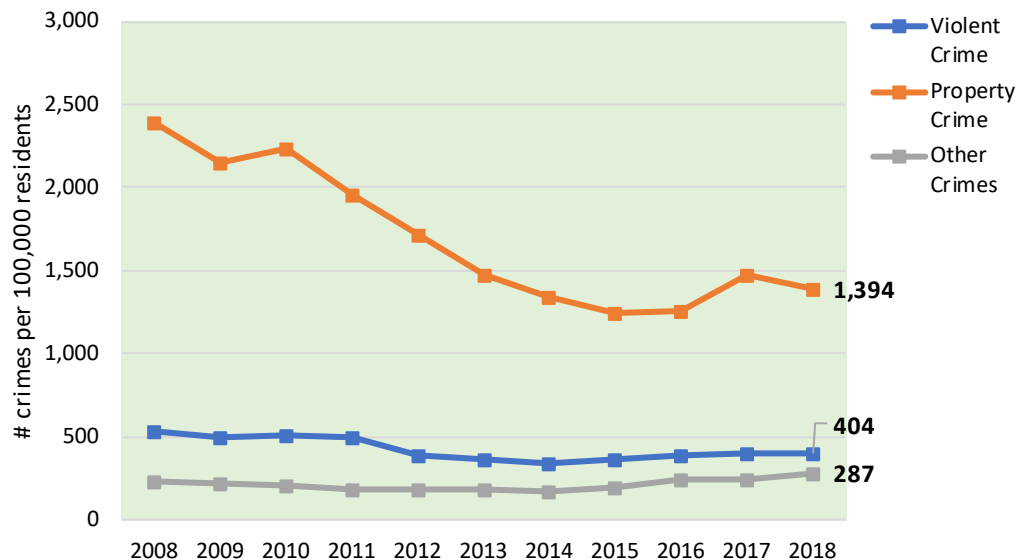


Crime Rates in Halton

Since 1962, Statistics Canada, in co-operation with police forces, has been collecting police-reported crime data annually through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.¹ The data are useful for many purposes including evaluation of crime prevention measures, community safety, government decision making in policy and program development, and resource allocation.

The number of crimes and crime rates (per 100,000 residents) in Halton are declining. Within a decade (2008 to 2018), the number of crimes has decreased by 20% and the corresponding crime rate by 34%.

Crime Rates by Major Categories Halton Region, 2008-2018



Source: Community Development Halton/Statistics Canada, Table 35-10-0180-01

Specifically, the volume of violent crime which includes homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, and robbery decreased by 9% and the crime rate by 24.6%. In 2018, assaults represent over 63% of all violent crime. The volume of property crime which includes break and enter, auto theft, fraud, thefts, and mischief dropped by 29.4% and the crime rate by 41.6%. Over half (52%) of the property crime are thefts under \$5,000.

However, the volume of crimes and the crime rate do not provide information on the seriousness of the offence. For example, one homicide counts the same as a theft under \$5,000. Also, crime rates have been susceptible to fluctuations in the number of high-volume, but low-severity, offences.

¹ The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), in co-operation with the policing community, collects police-reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR). The UCR Survey was designed to measure the incidence of crime in Canadian society and its characteristics.

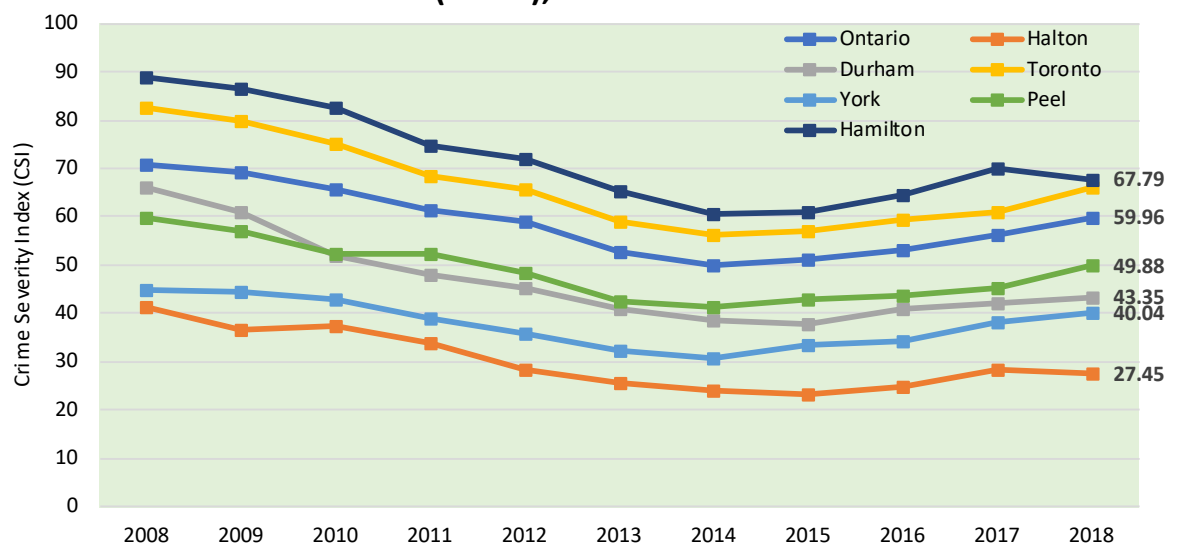
The Crime Severity Index (CSI)² which was introduced in 2009 addresses the seriousness of the crime. Each type of offence is assigned a seriousness “weight” derived from actual sentences handed down by courts in all provinces and territories. Sentences are assessed in terms of both the incarceration rate and the average length of imprisonment for each individual offence type. The more serious the crime, the higher the weight the offence was assigned on the index scale.³ The index is standardized to a base year (2006) of “100”.

Between 2008 and 2014, the CSIs for Ontario and the six regional municipalities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA)⁴ exhibited a downward trend. The indices rose after 2015 except for Hamilton and Halton showing a decrease between 2017 and 2018.

Overall, Halton’s CSI is consistently lower than the provincial averages between 2008 and 2018 and the lowest amongst the GTHA municipalities.

Between 2017 and 2018, Halton’s crime rate decreased by 2% but its CSI fell by 3.4%. This is driven by a 12% decrease in the violent CSI and no change for the property CSI.

Crime Severity Index (CSI), Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), 2008-2018



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, Table 35-10-0188-01

2 Statistics Canada, Measuring Crime in Canada: Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2009, Cat. No. 85-004-X

3 Statistics Canada, An Introduction to the Crime Severity Index-National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, <https://www.victimsworld.ca/res/r59.html>

4 Includes Toronto, Durham, York, Peel, Halton and Hamilton.



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