

PUBLIC

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

2020 Semi-Annual Statistics

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board receive this report pursuant to Police Services Board Crime, Call and Public Disorder Analysis Policy No. 02/00-5.

SYNOPSIS

Pursuant to the long-standing practice of York Regional Police, crime statistics are presented to the Board every six months. For the benefit of the Board, a summary of selected crime statistics providing an overview of incidents that were reported between January 1 and June 30, 2020, has been compiled. Crime rates are estimated per 100,000 population using York Region population estimates received from The Regional Municipality of York Long Range Planning Department.

During the first half of 2020 as compared to the first half of 2019, the overall Crime Rate (Criminal and Federal Violations excluding Traffic) decreased 8.6 percent. The rate of Crimes Against Persons decreased 6.2 percent, the rate of Crimes Against Property decreased 13.1 percent, the rate of Other Criminal Code violations decreased 0.6 percent, the rate of Other Federal Violations decreased 60.0 percent and the rate of Criminal Code Traffic Violations decreased 23.1 percent. However, increases in crime rates were noticed in the categories of Theft Over \$5,000 (9.4 percent), Fraud (4.1 percent), Drug Violations (47.3 percent), Weapons Violations (0.1 percent) and Dangerous Operation (17.5 percent).

In April 2020, changes were made to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) relating to *Federal Quarantine Act*. The change includes introduction of a new offence code 6600 'Quarantine Act' by Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS). Two offences related to the *Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) were implemented. Crime statistics presented in this report are impacted by COVID-19 pandemic lockdown but not for these changes.

The crime statistics shown in this report represent only a preliminary year-to-year comparison of six-month data from January to June. A more detailed analysis including both a one-year and five-year trend analysis will be undertaken in early 2021 and will be incorporated in the statistical report for the entire year of 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

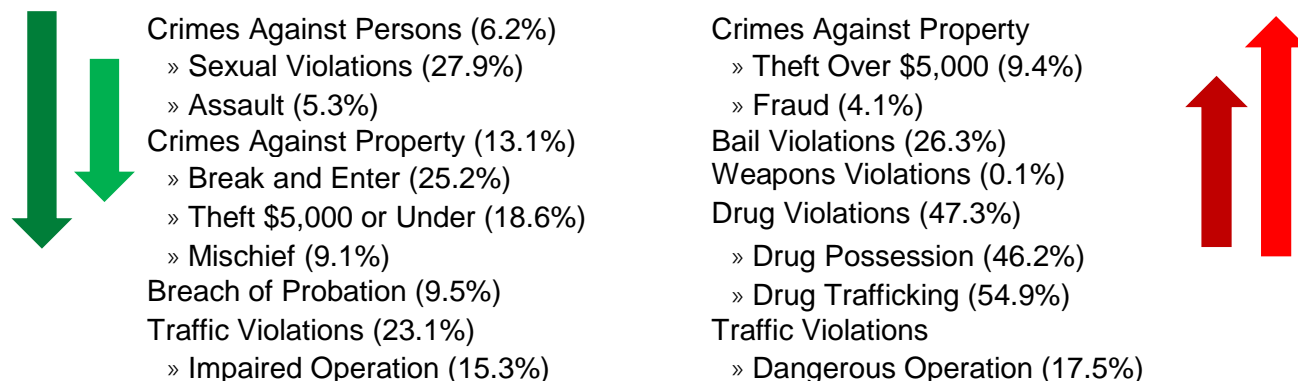
BACKGROUND

The following chart summarizes *Criminal Code* violation statistics reported during January to June 2020 as compared to the same time period in the preceding year 2019:

2019-20 Criminal Code Violation Statistics Summary

Indicator	2020		2019		Variance (%)	
	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate	Actual	Rate
Total Crime (excl. Traffic)	18,096	1,495.84	19,609	1,637.28	- 7.7	- 8.6
Crimes Against Persons	4,148	342.88	4,376	365.38	- 5.2	- 6.2
Crimes Against Property	10,534	870.76	12,001	1,002.04	-12.2	-13.1
Other Criminal Code	2,376	196.40	2,366	197.55	0.4	- 0.6
Weapons Violations	263	21.74	260	21.71	1.2	0.1
Drug Violations	729	60.26	490	40.91	48.8	47.3
Other Federal Violations	44	3.64	109	9.10	- 59.6	- 60.0
Criminal Code Traffic	1,974	163.17	2,541	212.16	- 22.3	- 23.1
Total Clearance	N.A.	51.8	N.A.	53.0	N.A.	- 5.9

More details on crime and clearance rates, changes from last year, fatal motor vehicle collisions and youth crimes can be found in Appendices A-F. The categories of crime rates increased or decreased during January to June 2020 compared to same period in 2019 is shown below.



Over the past five years, January to June crime rates in York Region have been increasing gradually, but in 2020, a 7.7 percent decrease was noticed compared to last year 2019.

PRE-COVID-19 AND COVID-19 TIME PERIOD

To understand the crime pattern during the COVID-19 pandemic period, the January to June incidents were separated for the pre-COVID-19 (January 01 to March 16) and COVID-19 (March 17 to June 30) period for both the years 2020 and 2019. It was observed that the total number of Criminal and Federal Violations (excluding traffic) increased 11.0 percent in 2020 from last year during the pre-COVID-19 period and decreased 19.8 percent from last year during the COVID-19 period. Details of crime statistics during the pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 periods are presented in Appendix F.

It was also observed that some specific crimes changed from last year during the COVID-19 period. The crimes that increased from last year during COVID-19 are Assault with Weapon Causing Bodily Harm (8.8 percent), Theft Over \$5,000 (8.6 percent), Fraud (1.6 percent), Bail Violations (20.5 percent), Drug Possession (17.4 percent) and Drug Trafficking (22.9 percent). The crimes that decreased during COVID-19 period are Crimes Against Persons (12.8 percent), Crimes Against Property (24.6 percent), Other Criminal Code violations (15.1 percent), Weapons Violations (11.0 percent), Other Federal Violations (62.5 percent) and Traffic Violations (37.5 percent).

SUMMARY

This statistical report reflects a comparison of the first six months of 2020 to the first six months of 2019 and provides a preliminary snapshot of crime trends over the six-month period. The crime rate decrease of 8.6 percent is not alarming, as the volume is catching up in the months of July and August. York Regional Police will continue to monitor crime rates, trends, patterns and issues in our operating environment and realign strategies accordingly to find efficiencies. We will work with our community partners to respond accordingly and make adjustments to our strategies and programs to ensure safety and security of our communities.

We appreciate the continued support of our Police Services Board, Regional and Local Councils, community leaders, community partners and the citizens of York Region. We strongly believe that, together we can keep York Region as one of the safest communities in Ontario and Canada to live, to visit and to conduct business.

Jim MacSween, B.A.A.
Chief of Police

JMS: sd

Attachments: Changes Crime Statistics (Appendix A), Crime Statistics (Appendix B)
Clearance Rate (Appendix C), Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (Appendix D)
Youth Crime (Appendix E), Crimes during Pre-COVID and COVID (Appendix F)

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request