

# CRIME STATS DOWN DURING FIRST HALF OF 2020

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Halton police say COVID-19 helped take a significant bite out of crime during the first half of 2020.

Police Chief Stephen Tanner recently presented the Halton Police Board with a report summarizing the police service's performance between January and June.

The report showed a decrease in criminal activity in a number of categories within the region.

In total the analysis showed there were 602 fewer crimes reported in Halton during the first six months of 2020 with 4,850 incidents reported compared to 5,452 incidents reported during the same period in 2019.

Tanner noted this is a decrease of 11 per cent but

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- Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner

represents a drop in the crime rate of 13 per cent when regional population growth is taken into consideration.

"This statistic, and most others provided in this report, was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic between March and June," wrote Tanner in the report.

The report said violent crime offences (e.g. homicides, attempted homicides, various forms of assault) decreased by 4.1 per cent from 1,074 in 2019 to

1,030 in 2020.

Tanner said this represents a violent crime rate decrease of 6.3 per cent due to population growth.

These crimes did account for 21.2 per cent of all crimes in Halton, which is up from 19.7 per cent in 2019.

The report found property crime (e.g. theft, breaking and entering, mischief) also took a hit, dropping by 11.8 per cent from 3,531 in 2019 to 3,116 in 2020.

This represents a prop-



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Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner.

erty crime rate decrease of 13.7 per cent.

The total number of crimes solved also rose slightly in 2020 to 55.4 per cent from 55.3 per cent in

2019.

The largest change could be seen in incidents involving vehicles.

Police reported motor vehicle collisions were

down 39.1 per cent in 2020 with 2,959 incidents compared to 4,857 in 2019.

Property damage collisions dropped 39.4 per cent from 4,391 in 2019 to 2,662 in 2020.

Collisions involving injuries fell 36.2 per cent from 459 to 293 while fatal collisions dropped from seven in 2019 to four in 2020.

Impaired driving also dropped by 8.3 per cent during the first half of 2020 from 217 incidents in 2019 to 199 in 2020.

The drop in crime statistics was well received by the members of the Halton Police Board.

"I would like to offer a sincere thank you and kudos to the men and women, both in uniform and civilian, in the police service," said Board Member Curt Allen.

"It is very comforting, I think, for the community to see this performance through this difficult period...I think it has been a tremendous effort."

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