HALTON REMAINS ONE OF CANADA'S SAFEST COMMUNITIES

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Halton continues to be one of the safest communities to live in, according to a report by Statistics Can-

Statistics Canada recently released its annual findings on police-reported crime, which showed that in 2021, Halton had the lowest Crime Severity Index (CSI) of all Canadian municipalities with a population of 100,000 or more.

The CSI measures changes in the level of severity of crime in Canada from year to year.

In the index, all crimes are assigned weight based on their seriousness.

Canada itself received a CSI of 73.7 per cent in 2021 while Halton got a CSI of 23.95 per cent.

In a more local comparison to the communities of Toronto, Hamilton, Lon-

don, York, Niagara, Peel, Durham, Greater Sudbury, Windsor, Waterloo and Ottawa, Halton had:

- the lowest CSI at 23.95 per cent (Peel had the second lowest at 35.2 per cent);
- the lowest Violent Crime Severity Index at 24.41 per cent (Peel had the second lowest at 49.55 per cent); and
- · the lowest Non-Violent Crime Severity Index at 23.73 per cent (Peel had the second lowest at 29.96 per cent).

This is the 24th year in a row that Halton has had the lowest CSI among these communities.

"As chief of police, I am so proud of the tremendous work that our 1,000plus members do each and every day to protect and serve the Halton community," said Halton police Chief Stephen Tanner.

Canada's national crime data affirms the positive impact of this work. Halton Region continues to rank as the safest large municipality in all of Canada. I would also like to thank our residents who work hand-in-hand with our police service, assisting in the solving of crimes and placing community safety as a top priority. These combined efforts continue to make Halton Region an enviable place to work, live and play."

At the other end of the spectrum, Windsor had the highest CSI of the previously mentioned Ontario communities in 2021 with 94.88 per cent.

Greater Sudbury had the highest Violent Crime Severity Index at 127.15 per cent while Windsor had the highest Non-Violent Crime Severity Index at 95.14 per cent.



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Halton had the lowest Crime Severity Index among the "Big 12" Ontario police services.

ly went up in 2021, with Statistics Canada noting there were 12,593 incidents reported compared to 10,927 in 2020.

Violent crime in Halton, however, dropped from a Violent Crime Severity Index of 27.03 per cent in 2020 to 24.41 per cent in 2021.

Statistics Canada's report noted that when these crimes did occur, there was a decent chance Halton police would catch

those responsible.

When compared to the police services in the 11 previously mentioned Ontario communities, Halton police had:

- the highest weighted clearance rate in 2021 at 48.7 per cent (Greater Sudbury had the second highest at 44.66 per cent);
- the highest violent crime weighted clearance rate in 2021 at 79.01 per cent (Windsor had the second highest at 76.45 per cent);

The weighted clearance rate is the proportion of reported crimes solved by police, factoring in the seriousness of individual offences.

"These results clearly illustrate the alignment is and global effectiveness and efficiency of our dedicated officers and civilian staff," said Halton Police Board chair Jeff Knoll.

Canada itself saw a one per cent increase in policereported crime in 2021 with around two million Criminal Code incidents taking place, 25,500 more than in 2020.

Across the country, there were 788 homicides in 2021, 29 more than the previous year.

https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjectsstart/crime_and_justice.

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