

Safety

Why is this important?

The city can prosper only if its residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods, engage with one another, and trust the representatives of their institutions. The majority of Torontonians do feel safe (almost 80% feel at least somewhat comfortable walking in their community at night).⁸³ Tracking indicators like perceptions of safety, as well as violent and non-violent crime allows us to both to test the basis of that confidence, and also to discover the places and situations where vulnerable residents don't experience safety.

What are the trends?

Most indicators of safety confirm a continuing long-term downward trend. Other indicators, like the reported number of hate/bias crimes show little change over time. And even the number of homicides in the city, which rose in 2012 and 2013 after a four-year decline, was 30% lower at the beginning of September 2014, than at the same time a year ago.⁸⁴

What's new?

Toronto continues to be among the safest metropolitan areas in the country. Only Québec, Guelph and Barrie scored lower in 2013, on the Crime Severity Index (a measure of the severity of crime). For some vulnerable populations however, the city is anything but safe. Victims of gun violence are becoming younger (seven teens 16 years old and under were killed in 2013). In response, the City has developed a youth violence strategy.

85

Some Key Safety Trends	2010	2011	2012
<i>Data refer to the city of Toronto unless otherwise noted.</i>			
1. Total number of criminal offenses, excluding traffic offenses (rate per 100,000 population)	167,399 (5,918)	162,298 (5,685)	150,808 (5,271)
2. Rate of violent crime (per 100,000 population)	1,159	1,097	1,021
3. Number of homicides	51 (2011)	56 (2012)	57 (2013)
4. Number of reported hate/bias crimes	123	142	131
5. Crime Severity Index (Toronto Region)	54.9 (2011)	52.1 (2012)	47.1 (2013)

A holistic approach to community safety includes the understanding that safety is not simply the absence of crime or violence. Safe communities are spaces where all members can thrive and be empowered to realize their individual and collective potential. Implementing a holistic approach to the development of safe communities in Toronto includes supporting creative initiatives that encourage participation from all members.

—Jolene Stowell

Social Worker and Liaison

PROS (Providing Resources, Offering Support) program
All Saints Church-Community Centre

Continuing a long downward trend, the crime rate in Canada in 2013 dropped to its lowest level since 1969:

- The **Crime Severity Index** (a measure that assigns a weighting to crime based on sentencing) has also been dropping steadily in most provinces (Yukon and Newfoundland and Labrador were the exceptions in 2013) and was lowest in Ontario.⁸⁶

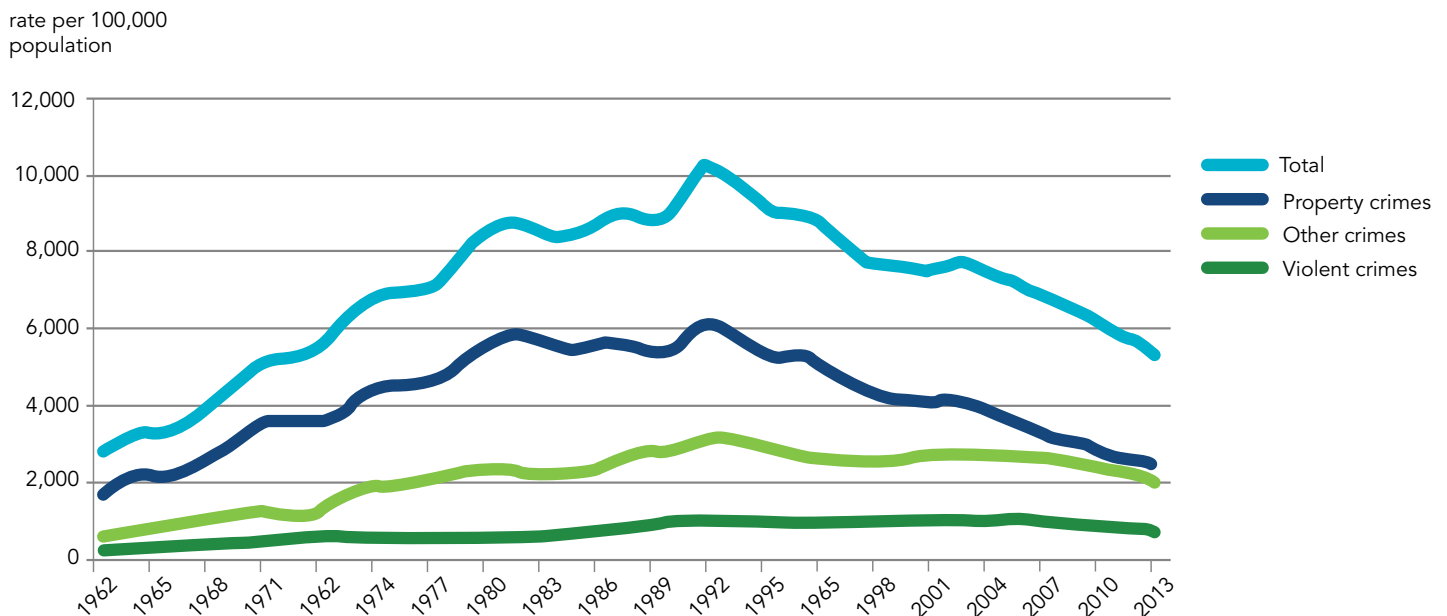
In 2013, the homicide rate in Canada fell to its lowest rate since 1966:

- Between 2012 and 2013 the national homicide rate declined 8% to 1.44 (per 100,000 population). This

is still above the 2013 rate for the Toronto Region of 1.34 homicides per 100,000 people.

- In 2013, non-violent crimes accounted for about eight in ten (79%) Criminal Code offences reported by police, and the Crime Severity Index for these types of crimes fell again for the tenth year in a row.
- Among the crimes that rose nationally between 2012 and 2013 are extortion (+32%), counterfeiting (+30%), aggravated sexual assault (level 3) (+9%), and identity fraud (+6%), and troublingly, offences against children—sexual violations against children increased by 6%, and child pornography offenses by 21%.⁸⁷

Police-reported crime rates, Canada, 1962 to 2013⁸⁸



Just how safe is Toronto?

For the seventh straight year, the Toronto Region had the lowest rate of police-reported crime among the 33 Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas:

- The crime rate in the Toronto Region (the Census Metropolitan Area) dropped by 7% in 2013 from 2012, to 2,941 per 100,000 population, the lowest rate of any of the country's 33 metropolitan areas. The Toronto Region rate declined by 42% between 2003 and 2013.
 - o On the Crime Severity Index, the Toronto Region decreased by 10% between 2012 and 2013, and remains among the lowest of the large Canadian metros. Only Québec, Guelph and Barrie placed lower on the Index.⁸⁹

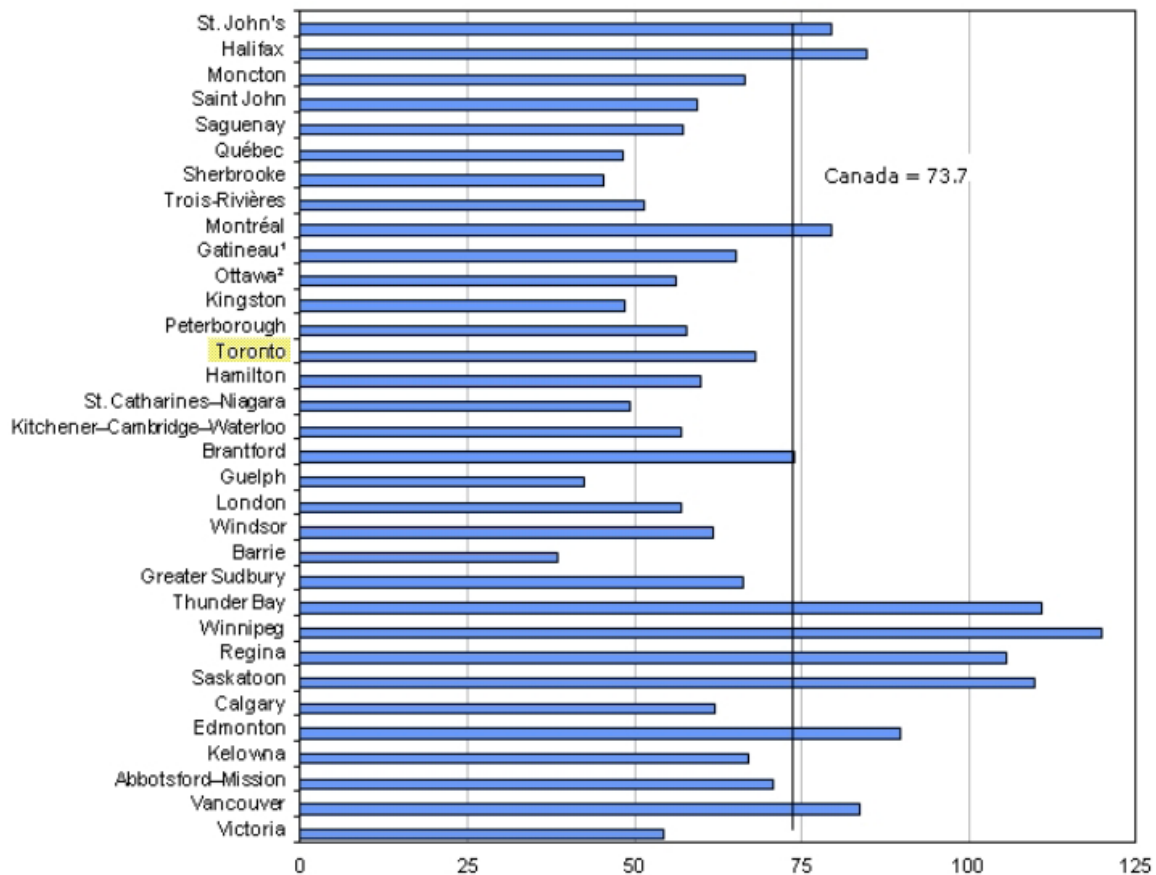
Across the Toronto Region, the rate of violent crime declined by 8% in 2013:

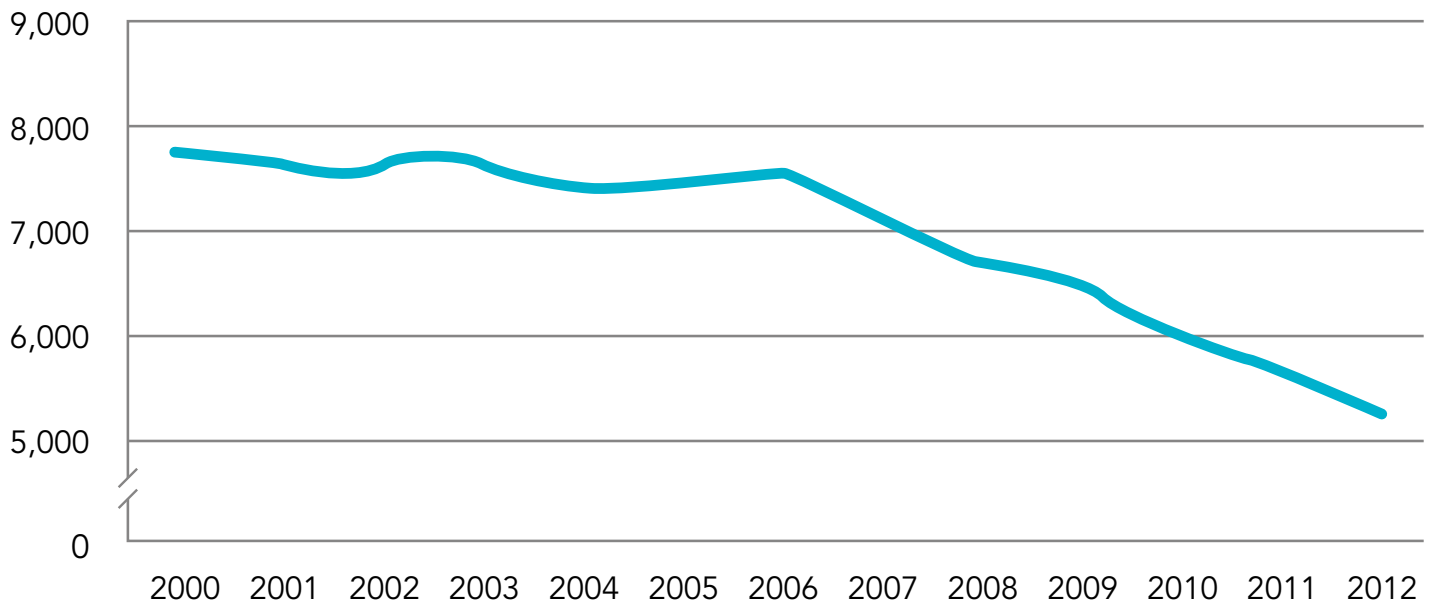
- Among the 33 metropolitan regions in Canada, there were only 6 with a [lower violent crime rate](#) in

2013 than the Toronto Region's rate of 749 violent crimes per 100,000 population (Sherbrooke, 705; Ottawa, 672; St. Catherine's-Niagara, 729; Guelph, 740; Barrie, 706; Calgary, 710). The Region's rate is lower than the national rate (1,092).

- On the Violent Crime Severity Index (measuring the seriousness of crimes by the sentences handed down by the courts), the Toronto Region is not among the lowest scoring metropolitan areas, at 68.2 in 2013 (a 14% decrease since 2012) but falls below the Canadian average of 73.7.⁹⁰
- 2012 saw 1,021 violent crimes per 100,000 population in Toronto.⁹¹
 - o Reported sexual assaults decreased by 3.2% (100 offenses), from 2,996 in 2011 to 2,896 in 2012.
 - o 1,813 youth between the ages of 12 and 17 were charged with violent crimes in 2012, representing 11.9% of total reported crimes.⁹²

Police-reported Violent Crime Severity Index, by Census Metropolitan Area, 2013⁹³





Overall Crime Rate (per 100,000 people), Toronto, 1998-2012⁹⁴

In the city of Toronto, crime is going down, even though the number of police officers per 100,000 residents decreased by 3.5% to 195 in 2013, down from 202 the previous year⁹⁵:

- The number of criminal offenses (excluding traffic offences) in Toronto declined by 7% from 162,298 in 2011 to 150,808 in 2012 (or 5,271 per 100,000 population).⁹⁶
- Property crime was also down 6% from 2011 (decreasing from 92,089 reported offences to 86,609 in 2012).⁹⁷

The number of homicides in Toronto increased in 2013 (to 57, up from 56 in 2012), but remained 9.5% below the 63 people murdered in 2010:⁹⁸

- The number of firearm homicides decreased by 33.3% to 22 in 2013. In 2012 there were 33.⁹⁹

Safety and law enforcement go hand-in-hand, but the number of police officers does not necessarily correspond with less violence:

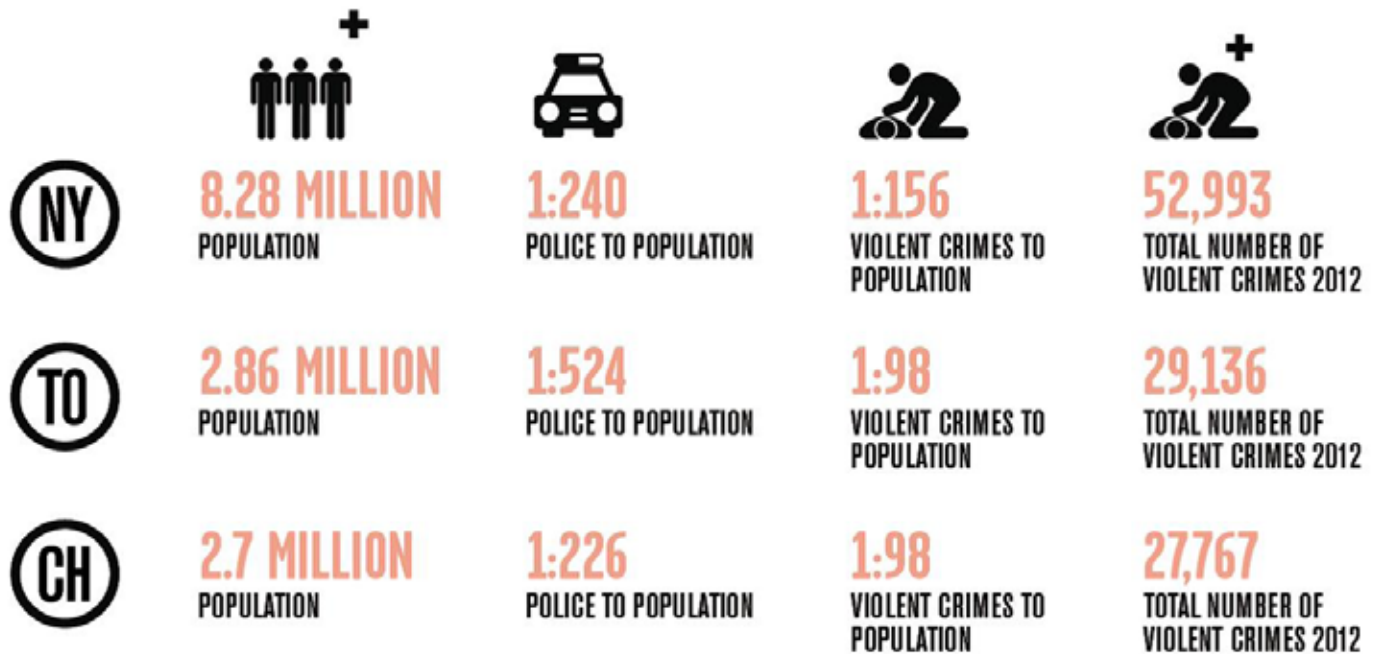
- George Brown College’s Institute without Boundaries is developing a “Gateway Cities Atlas.” This comprehensive regional framework evaluates quality of life indicators and data in the New York-

Chicago-Toronto gateway to better understand how the regions are faring and how they impact each other.

- Looking at rate of violent crime, number of police officers, and other factors, the study showed that while Toronto and Chicago are comparable in size in terms of population, in 2012 Chicago employed more than twice the number of police officers, but had the same violent crime to population ratio, and almost 10 times as many homicides.
- In 2012, while New York had a ratio of police officers to population more than double that of Toronto, New York experienced close double (1.8 times) the number of violent crimes compared to Toronto.¹⁰⁰

Almost half of all Torontonians say they feel “very comfortable” and almost 8 in 10 (79%) feel at least somewhat comfortable walking in their neighbourhood at night:

- A 2012 [poll](#) on the walking habits of Toronto residents showed that few (7%) felt very uncomfortable walking in their community at night. Among those who did feel uncomfortable, the major reasons given were: “limited lighting/dark” (by 19% of respondents) and “too much crime/the high crime rate” (11%) or “intimidating individuals” (11%).¹⁰¹



Police and Violent Crime in New York, Toronto and Chicago, 2012¹⁰²

The Church-Yonge Corridor and the Bay Street Corridor tied for the highest number of robberies of all Toronto neighbourhoods in 2011 at 124 each (see [Wellbeing Toronto](#) for more detail).

How is the city responding to youth violence and the increase of young victims of gun crime?

More than five years after the release of the [Roots of Youth Violence](#) report, and several years since the City's youth advocate position was eliminated, the City has developed a comprehensive youth violence strategy:

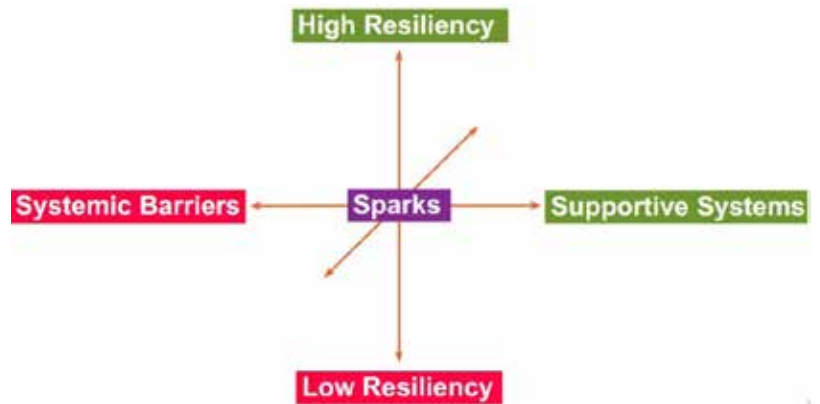


- Like the Province's Ontario Youth Strategy, Toronto is focused on breaking down the siloed nature of youth service

delivery and identifying service enhancements for young people (aged 13-29) who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence or crime.

- o The [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#) (TYES), developed with community partners, identifies [28 key issues](#) and 110 actions that City divisions, agencies, and corporations can take to build youth resiliency and create supportive systems. The recommendations (many of which involve consulting with youth to develop better policies and programs) and monitoring framework contained in the Strategy are meant to deliver coordinated, consistent, and concrete actions to adequately address the root causes of violence.
- o Beginning in the 2015-19 term, one Toronto City Councillor will be appointed "youth equity champion". This Councillor will work to pull together existing City resources and promote the Strategy in Council, at other levels of government, and with Toronto residents.
- o Both school boards will appoint a staff person as a youth champion to connect with the community, funders, youth, and other governments.

The Spectrum is a tool to help service providers understand that multiple and intersecting factors impact individual vulnerable youth and to identify how programs and systems can become supportive and build resiliency. "Sparks" (life events, both positive and negative) increase or decrease level of resiliency and, depending on systemic barriers faced, affect impact.



"Vulnerable Youth Spectrum"¹⁰³

- o Many recommendations, such as making employment services more accessible, increasing free or affordable access to city space for groups offering educational services for vulnerable youth, and maintaining transitional or alternative learning programs for suspended students, can be implemented with existing funds.
- o Others, which involve the expansion of existing programs, will require an extra \$430,000 in funding. They include expanding the **FOCUS** (Furthering Communities and Uniting Services) crime prevention program model from Rexdale to Scarborough. A partnership between the City, United Way Toronto and the Toronto Police, FOCUS intervenes in high-risk cases before an individual commits a crime or is the victim of one.
- The report features creative contributions from Toronto youth intended to help readers understand the experiences of vulnerable youth, such as the frustration and disillusionment that can lead to involvement in violence and crime.¹⁰⁴
- Seven teens aged 16 and under were killed by gun violence in 2013, the highest number of youth killed by guns in a single year in Toronto in more than two decades, some in broad daylight, some in front of dozens of witnesses.
- By year's end, the homicide squad had made arrests in 74% of the year's murders, up from 72% in 2012, but the youth cases had proved challenging, with an arrest in only one. Fear may keep witnesses from stepping forward.¹⁰⁵

What can we learn about gang prevention strategies?

- Youth gangs and gang violence have been an issue within Toronto's socially disadvantaged communities for several decades. Toronto's gang-related deaths peaked in 2003 at 35, and have since ranged between 14 and 30 a year.
- The Toronto Police Service tracks approximately 2,100 gang-involved or gang-associated people annually, of which approximately 500-600 individuals are judged to be of particular concern.
- A 2013 [report](#) from Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPCC), which supports community-based gang intervention projects through its Youth Gang Prevention Fund, assessed projects across Canada between 2007 and 2012 to learn what works in order to make the best use of limited resources.

Targeted anti-gang initiatives may have had an unintended consequence, as older gang members have been arrested and younger ones have stepped into their place:

- Toronto's shooting victims, all males in 2013, got younger. The average age of victims in 2013 was 22, down from 26 in 2012. It is the lowest average age since 1990 and a dramatic shift from 1998, when the average age was 34.

- o An essential element in crime prevention is reducing risk factors for gang involvement such as association with peers who negatively influence. Participants in the [Durham Youth Gang Strategy](#) project in Oshawa showed a significant reduction in associations with gangs; pre- and post-test results indicated that youth stopped associating with negative peers during the program.
- o Hamilton's 26-week [Gang Prevention Strategy](#) changed attitudes and behaviour: treatment groups of Grade 4 students showed a decline in anti-social attitudes and beliefs. There was also a significant reduction (22%) in youth committing physical assaults by the program's end. 29% of participants were gang-involved prior to the program; 58% of them were no longer gang-involved after completion.¹⁰⁶

Toronto Public Library is set to offer an innovative literacy program on an ongoing basis for incarcerated parents that focuses on families and rehabilitation that has seen successes in other places around the world¹⁰⁷:



- As part of the 2014 Budget, Toronto City Council approved regular [Youth Equity Strategy](#) funding for the Toronto Public Library to run the Storybook Parents Program in prisons and jails. Successfully piloted by the

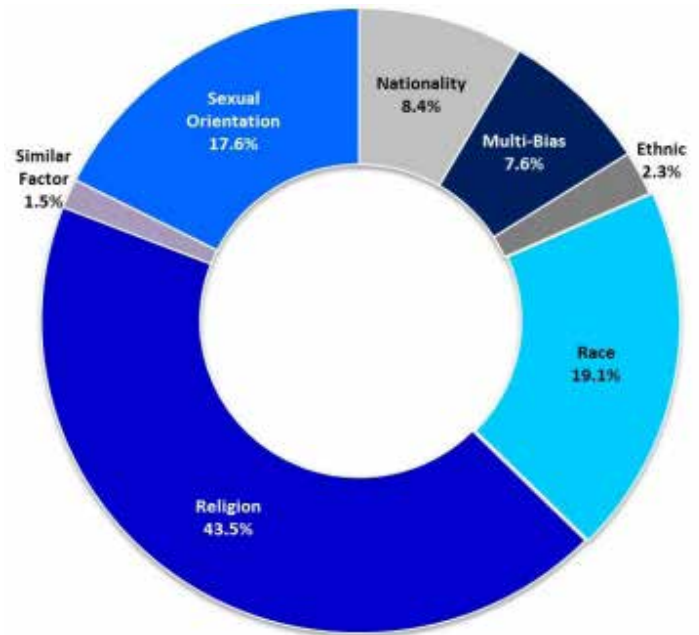
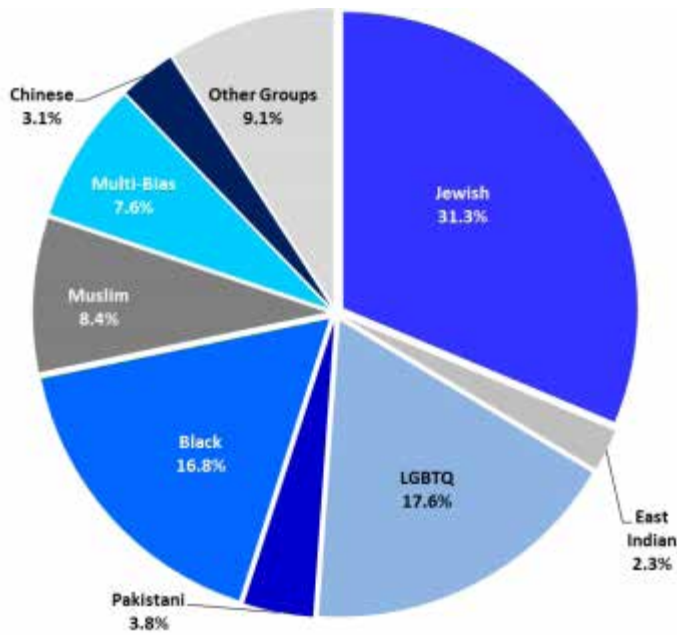
Toronto Public Library as Storybook Dads starting in 2011, the program helps to reduce the trauma children face with parental imprisonment and maintain their vital family bond by enabling parents to make bedtime story CDs, DVDs and other educational gifts for their children. The program helps imprisoned parents to maintain family contact, develop their literacy, and engage in training and volunteering opportunities to improve their chances of rehabilitation while reducing rates of recidivism.¹⁰⁸

How safe are women and members of minority populations in the Toronto Region?

Toronto is a “hub” for human trafficking.

- 551 cases (for the period between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2013) that involved Ontario as a source, transit or destination point were reported to the researchers of a [study](#) on the incidence of human trafficking in Ontario. The researchers' analysis found that the GTA is the most common destination of human trafficking in Ontario, and that the city of Toronto is a hub for larger inter-provincial and international trafficking routes.
 - o Victims trafficked to, through or from Ontario were mostly young (63% between the ages of 15 and 24; the most common age was 17), female (90%), and Canadian citizens (62.9%).
 - o Victims were trafficked predominantly for sexual exploitation (68.5%). Forced labour accounted for 24.5%, while forced marriage and petty crime accounted for 7.7% and 6.3% respectively.
 - o 96.5% of victims experienced some or multiple forms of violence.
 - o The four biggest challenges for organizations who work with victims of trafficking included organizational funding (46.9%), lack of housing (46.2%), difficulty providing financial support (42.7%) and finding counselling (37.1%).
- The report authors have called for urgent investment including a province-wide plan to combat trafficking, a long-term task force to carry it out, funding of shelters, and changes to Ontario's child welfare laws, specifically to increase the child welfare mandate to 18 years of age, and allow child welfare workers to intervene when third-party offenders are abusing children (other provinces have made both changes).¹⁰⁹

Reported hate/bias crimes in the city decreased by 7.7% from 2012 to 2013, a positive improvement over the 15% increase in 2012 over 2011:



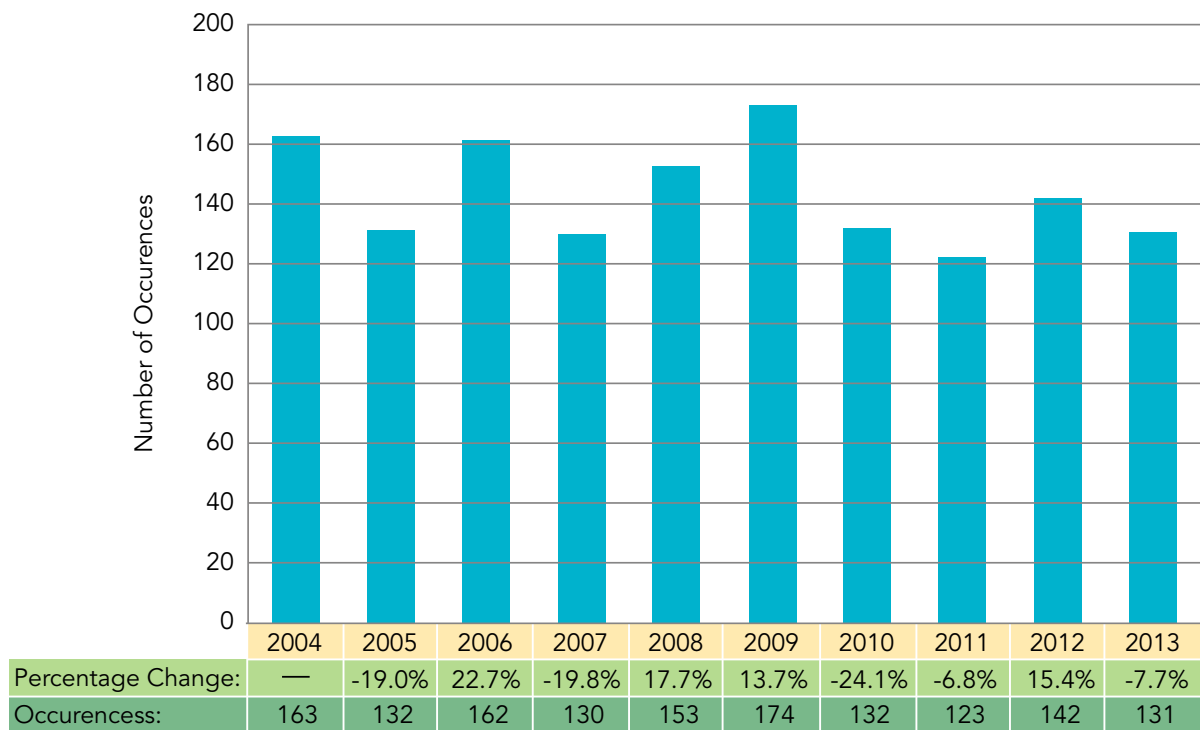
Proportion of Reported Hate/Bias Crimes by Community & Motive, Toronto, 2013¹¹⁰

- There were 131 reported incidents of hate/bias in 2013 (down from 142 in 2012 and well under the average of 144 over the 10 years between 2004 and 2013).
 - Members of the Jewish community, the LGBTQ* (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and the entire spectrum of gender and sexuality outside of heterosexual) community and the Black community remain the three most frequently targeted. Jewish and Black Torontonians were the most victimized group for reported hate-based property crimes; LGBTQ* individuals were the most victimized for reported hate-motivated assault or criminal harassment.
 - There were 26 reported assaults motivated by hate or bias in 2013 (compared to 22 in 2012); reported criminal harassment occurrences decreased however, from 16 in 2012 to 13 in 2013 (but still not as low as the 9 in 2011).
- In 2013, there were no reported hate crimes motivated by age, language, disability or gender. Stigma may cause under-reporting, however.
- The number of hate/bias motivated arrests and charges was higher in 2013 compared to 2012.

There were 17 arrests (compared to 15 in 2012 and 2011), and a positive trend of charges resulting continued, with 42 charges laid (compared to 35 in 2012 and 17 in 2011).¹¹¹

Toronto is exploring options for an LGBTQ* youth focused shelter or transitional housing:

- A 2014 City staff report recommends that Council explore community interest in operating a standalone emergency shelter or transitional housing for homeless LGBTQ* youth, who are over-represented in the shelter system.
 - LGBTQ* youth experience higher rates of harassment and violence than other youth. A 2012 needs assessment conducted for Egale (a national charity promoting human rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity) with LGBTQ* youth in Toronto found that challenges at home and at school were the most common root causes of homelessness.
 - Data on the percentage of LGBTQ* youth among Canada's homeless is sparse, but in a 2000 study 25-40% identified as queer or trans.



Number of Reported Hate/Bias Crimes, City of Toronto 2004–2013¹¹²

- o The 2014 City report builds on the results of the 2013 street needs assessment, which found that one in five respondents in youth shelters identified as LGBTQ*. However, the number may be higher, because stigma may encourage under-reporting.
- o Change is also needed to make the shelter system more accessible and safe for LGBTQ* youth and adults. Barriers include homophobic and transphobic staff and peers, washroom and shower facilities that do not respect the dignity and gender identity of LGBTQ* users, and incapacity to support youth facing complex issues related to gender and sexuality.



- o Best practices in other jurisdictions, such as New York, where separate transitional housing for LGBTQ* youth has proven successful, will be studied and incorporated into the development of new emergency shelter standards to be implemented in 2015.¹¹³

Research continues to show that schools are safer for both LGBTQ* and straight students when they have Gay-Straight Alliances:

- LGBTQ* students are far more likely than their non-LGBTQ* peers to experience verbal and physical harassment and abuse, sexual harassment and homophobic/transphobic comments. They are at much greater risk of suicide and mental health problems. A University of British Columbia study has shown that Gay-Straight alliances (GSAs) cut suicide risk for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight students. In schools with GSAs implemented three or more years ago; the study found that:
 - o The odds of homophobic discrimination and suicidal thoughts were reduced by more than half among lesbian, gay, and bisexual boys and girls.
 - o Odds of sexual orientation discrimination were also significantly lower for heterosexual boys and girls who are often labelled as homosexual.
 - o Heterosexual boys were half as likely to attempt suicide.¹¹⁴
- The researchers previously found that GSAs reduced alcohol abuse for all students.¹¹⁵

The following groups are addressing issues relating to safety through their innovative community-based programs.

Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the [Community Knowledge Centre](#) to learn more about how.

[Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic](#) - Services for women who have experienced violence

[CANES Community Care](#) – Assisting seniors to take part in the life of their community

[Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association](#) - Ensuring that Chinese seniors live a quality & enriched life

[Cycle Toronto](#) - Advocating for a healthy, safe, cycling-friendly city for all

[The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation & Support Site](#) – Building courage and hope in those touched by child abuse

[Interval House](#) - Safe shelter and responsive services for women and children who have experienced abuse

[Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre](#) - A gathering place focused on social justice and collaboration

[Leave Out Violence \(LOVE\)](#) - Reduces violence in the lives of Toronto youth

[The Massey Centre for Women](#) - Striving to achieve healthy outcomes for all young mothers and families

[Mentoring Junior Kids Organization \(MJKO\)](#) - Promoting healthy and active lifestyles for youth

[METRAC](#) - Focuses on education and prevention to build safety, justice and equity

[Nellie's Women's Shelter](#) - Operating services for women and children who have experienced and are experiencing violence, poverty and homelessness.

[North York Women's Centre \(NYWC\)](#) – Supporting and empowering women and effect positive change

[Ontario Justice Education Network](#) - Promoting public understanding to support a responsive and inclusive justice system

[The PACT Urban Peace Program](#) - Empowering underserved youth and youth already in conflict with the law

[Peacebuilders International](#) – Using restorative justice peacebuilding circles to help youth manage conflict

[San Romanoway Revitalization](#) – Fostering a sense of belonging in residents of all ages and backgrounds

[Seeds of Hope Foundation](#) – Building sustainable communities with resource centres that encourage learning, recovery, and enterprise

[Springboard](#) – Helping people develop the skills they need to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential

[SPRINT Senior Care](#) - Caring for seniors and enabling seniors to care for themselves

[St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre](#) - Providing programs and services for seniors and older adults

[St. Stephen's Community House](#) – Multi-service programming for newcomer and low-income residents

[Street Health Community Nursing Foundation](#) - Improving the wellbeing of homeless and under housed individuals

[Teen Legal Helpline](#) - Free and confidential online legal advice for youth

[UrbanArts](#) - Engaging youth in community development through the arts

[White Ribbon](#) - Men and boys working to end violence against women and girls

Endnotes

83. Ipsos Reid. (2013) Walking Habits and Attitudes Report: City of Toronto. p. 45-46. Last accessed on June 23, 2013 from <http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/walking/pdf/2013-04-24-cot-walking-habits-and-attitudes.pdf>.
84. Toronto Police Service. (2014). Crime statistics. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/statistics/ytd_stats.php.
85. Index: (1) Toronto Police Service. (2013). 2012 Annual Statistical Report. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2012statsreport.pdf>; (2) Toronto Police Service. (2013). Annual Statistical Reports. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/>; (3) Toronto Police Service. (2014). Crime statistics. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/statistics/ytd_stats.php; (4) Toronto Police Service. (2014). 2013 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2013hatecrimereport.pdf>; (5) Statistics Canada. Police-reported Crimes Statistics in Canada, 2013. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040-eng.pdf>;
86. Statistics Canada. Police Reported Crimes Statistics 2013. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040-eng.pdf>.
87. Statistics Canada. Police Reported Crimes Statistics 2013. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040-eng.pdf>.
88. Statistics Canada. Police Reported Crimes Statistics 2013. Pg. 5. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040-eng.pdf>.
89. Statistics Canada. Police Reported Crimes Statistics 2013. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040-eng.pdf>.
90. Statistics Canada. Police Reported Crimes Statistics 2013. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040-eng.pdf>.
91. Toronto Police Service. (2013). Annual Statistical Reports. Last accessed on September 1, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/>.
92. Toronto Police Service. (2012). Annual Statistical Report. Last accessed September 18, 2014 from: <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2012statsreport.pdf>.
93. Statistics Canada. Police Reported Crimes Statistics 2013. Pg. 13. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040-eng.pdf>.
94. Toronto Police Service. (2013). 2012 Annual Statistical Report. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2012statsreport.pdf>.
95. NVS. (2014). Table II-4: Police officers per 100,000 population in Vital Signs Communities, 2000-2013.
96. Toronto Police Service. (2013). 2012 Annual Statistical Report. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2012statsreport.pdf>.
97. Toronto Police Service. (2013). 2012 Annual Statistical Reports. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/>.
98. Toronto Police Service. (2014). Crime statistics. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/statistics/ytd_stats.php.
99. Toronto Police Service. (2014). Crime statistics. Last accessed on July 24, 2014 from http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/statistics/ytd_stats.php.
100. Institute without Boundaries. (forthcoming 2014). The Atlas of One Delta. Toronto: Institute without Boundaries/ School of Design, George Brown College. See: Gateway Cities Project at <http://institutewithoutboundaries.ca/>.
101. Ipsos Reid. (2013) Walking Habits and Attitudes Report: City of Toronto. p. 45-46. Last accessed on June 23, 2013 from <http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/walking/pdf/2013-04-24-cot-walking-habits-and-attitudes.pdf>.
102. Institute without Boundaries. (forthcoming 2014). The Atlas of One Delta. Toronto: Institute without Boundaries/ School of Design, George Brown College. See: Gateway Cities Project at <http://institutewithoutboundaries.ca/>.
103. City of Toronto. (2014). Toronto Youth Equity Strategy. Pg. 15. Last accessed on June 23, 2014 from <http://www1.toronto.ca/CityOfToronto/SocialDevelopment,Finance&Administration/Attachment1-TYESCreativeReport.pdf>.
104. City of Toronto. (2014). Toronto Youth Equity Strategy. Last

- accessed on June 23, 2014 from [http://www1.toronto.ca/CityOfToronto/Social Development, Finance & Administration/ Attachment 1 - TYES Creative Report.pdf](http://www1.toronto.ca/CityOfToronto/SocialDevelopment,Finance&Administration/Attachment1-TYESCreativeReport.pdf); City of Toronto Staff Report. (2014). Toronto Youth Equity Strategy. Last accessed on June 23, 2014 from [http://www1.toronto.ca/CityOfToronto/Social Development, Finance & Administration/ Attachment 1 - TYES Creative Report.pdf](http://www1.toronto.ca/CityOfToronto/SocialDevelopment,Finance&Administration/Attachment1-TYESCreativeReport.pdf); The Toronto Star. (2014). Toronto releases strategy to help city's most vulnerable youth. Last accessed on June 23, 2014 from http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/01/14/toronto_releases_strategy_to_help_citys_most_vulnerable_youth.html.
105. The Toronto Star. (2013). Toronto's shooting victims got younger and younger in 2013. Last accessed on June 24, 2014 from http://www.thestar.com/news/crime/2013/12/30/torontos_shooting_victims_got_younger_and_younger_in_2013.html.
106. Ploughshares. (2013) Breaking the cycle of gang violence: A Toronto program aimed at intervening with youth involved in gang activity is showing results. Last accessed on September 1, 2014 from http://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/breaking-the-cycle-of-gang-violence-a%E2%80%88toronto-program-aimed-at-intervening-with-youth-involved-in-gang-activity-is-showing-results/; National Crime Prevention Centre. (2013). Youth Gang Prevention Fund Projects: What did we learn about what works in preventing gang involvement? Last accessed on June 23, 2014 from <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/yth-gng-prvntn-fnd/yth-gng-prvntn-fnd-eng.pdf>.
107. See for example: Storybook Dads UK. (2014). Last accessed on July 23, 2014 from <http://www.storybookdads.org.uk/>.
108. Josh Matlow. Motion re: Youth Equity Strategy Funding in 2014 Budget. Last accessed on July 21, 2014 from <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-64567.pdf>. Also see: City of Toronto. Social Development, Finance and Administration. Last accessed on July 21, 2014 from <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=229a09b0aac52410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>; Storybook Dads UK. (2014). Last accessed on July 23, 2014 from <http://www.storybookdads.org.uk/>.
109. Alliance Against Modern Slavery. (2014). The Incidence of Human Trafficking in Ontario. Last accessed on June 23, 2014 from <http://www.allianceagainstmodernslavery.org/sites/default/files/AAMS-ResearchData.pdf>; The Toronto Star. (2014). Toronto a 'hub' for human trafficking, report says. Last accessed on June 23, 2014 from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-a-hub-for-human-trafficking-report-says-1.2675941>
110. Toronto Police Service. (2014). 2013 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report. Last accessed on June 24, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2013hate-crimereport.pdf>.
111. Toronto Police Service. (2014). 2013 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report. Last accessed on June 24, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2013hate-crimereport.pdf>; Toronto Police Service. (2013) 2012 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report. Last accessed on September 25, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2012hatecrimereport.pdf>.
112. Toronto Police Service. (2014). 2013 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report. Pg. 11. Last accessed on August 28, 2014 from <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2013hatecrimereport.pdf>.
113. Staff Report. (2014). Update on Options for an LGBTQ2S Youth Focused Shelter or Transitional Housing. Last accessed on June 27, 2014 from <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-70514.pdf>; Now Magazine. (2014). LGBTQ youth homeless shelter on the horizon. Last accessed on June 27, 2014 from <http://www.nowtoronto.com/news/story.cfm?content=198665>.
114. The Accepting Schools Act, passed in 2012, protects students' use of the term "gay-straight alliance".
115. Saewyc, E. M.; Konishi, C.; Rose, H. A.; and Homma, Y. (2014). School based strategies to reduce suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and discrimination among sexual minority and heterosexual adolescents in Western Canada. *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies* (2014) 5(1): 89–112. Last accessed on June 27, 2014 from <http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/ijcyfs/article/download/12856/3986>; The Toronto Star. (2014). Gay-straight alliances cut suicide risk for both gay and straight students, new research shows. Last accessed on June 27, 2014 from http://www.thestar.com/life/parent/2014/02/17/gaystraight_alliance_cut_suicide_risk_for_both_gay_and_straight_students_new_research_shows.html.