

Crime investigation. Being often the first on the scene of an incident, patrol officers are usually involved in the preliminary investigation: they secure the scene, take the initial report, conduct record checks, interview victims and witnesses, and canvass the area for potential witnesses. Their first actions are essential for a successful case outcome. Most agencies provide at least some training on investigation to their patrol officers.

Traffic Enforcement. Patrol officers are also expected to direct traffic, examine the scene of offence, interview witnesses, provide first aid for any injured people, and take written statements from drivers. Other important tasks include clearing any obstructions or wreckage and directing or rerouting traffic.

Prisoner Transport. Patrol officers' duties are not limited to the neighborhood where they serve. When prisoners must testify in legal proceedings or need hospital treatment, officers must escort them and make sure that they are properly guarded.

The primary goal of police is to protect and serve. The use of specially trained patrol officers on different types of patrols for specific sections of a city will provide more effective coverage where patrols are needed the most.

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UDC 351.74:796.85

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POLICE AND CRIME RATES IN CANADA

There is rising policy concern in Canada over growing policing costs given that crime rates have fallen dramatically in recent years. Between 2001 and 2018, police officers per 100,000 of population in Canada rose 8.7 % while the crime rate declined by 26.3 %. This was accompanied by growing expenditures and a decline in workload as measured by criminal code incidents per officer. Real per capita police expenditures in Canada between 1986 and 2018 rose 45.5 % while criminal code incidents per officer declined by 36.8 %. Public debate on rising police costs must be considered in the context of increasing overall public spending in Canada and a more complex society. Policing has evolved beyond just dealing with crime and includes a wider range of problem social behaviors, which are factors in police resource and expenditure growth. As well, there are changes in the technology of both crime and policing as well as other factors affecting staffing such as operational load due to service demand and response time,

socio-economic factors such as demographics and crime trends, and strategic directions of police forces in terms of governance and policing methods. There is substantial variation in the number of police officers per 100,000 of population across the provinces and territories as well as Canadian census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The highest number of police officers per 100,000 of population and the highest real per capita police expenditures are generally found in the sparsely populated territories. Across the provinces, in 2013 the number of police officers per 100,000 of population was the highest in Manitoba at 213 and the lowest in Prince Edward Island at 160.

Real per capita police expenditures in 2012 were the highest in Ontario at \$ 272.50 (2002 dollars) and lowest in Prince Edward Island at \$ 148.20. A regression equation was estimated for the determinants of police officers per 100,000 of population across Canadian CMAs for the census years 2001, 2006, and 2011 that controlled for crime rates and other socioeconomic differences. The actual and predicted numbers of police officers were compared and a min-max methodology was employed to rank the differences between predicted and actual to obtain an efficiency ranking. Using this methodology, Kelowna, British Columbia, Moncton, New Brunswick, and Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario-Quebec were found to have the most efficient staffing levels with their actual numbers of police officers per 100,000 of population substantially below what the regression model predicted they could have.

Closely following them and also in the top 10 most efficient services are Saguenay, Quebec, Quebec City, Quebec, Kitchener Waterloo-Cambridge, Ontario, Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Kingston, Ontario, Greater Sudbury, Ontario, and Sherbrook, Quebec. Saint John, New Brunswick, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Windsor, Ontario have the least efficient staffing levels with their actual numbers well above what the regression model predicted. Also in the bottom 10 are St. Catherine–Niagara, Ontario, Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia, Thunder Bay, Ontario, St. John's, Newfoundland, Peterborough, Ontario, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Victoria, British Columbia. After controlling for crime rates and other explicit socio-economic confounding factors, substantial differences in staffing remain that can be attributed to local circumstances and conditions that are not easily identified. Some of these differences may reflect inefficient use of police resources while others may reflect other more difficult to quantify local socio-economic differences that raise unique challenges to policing. There is substantial scope for police forces across Canada's CMAs to discover what best practices are when it comes to more efficient operation of policing given the range and examples of staffing.

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