

## Crime Rates

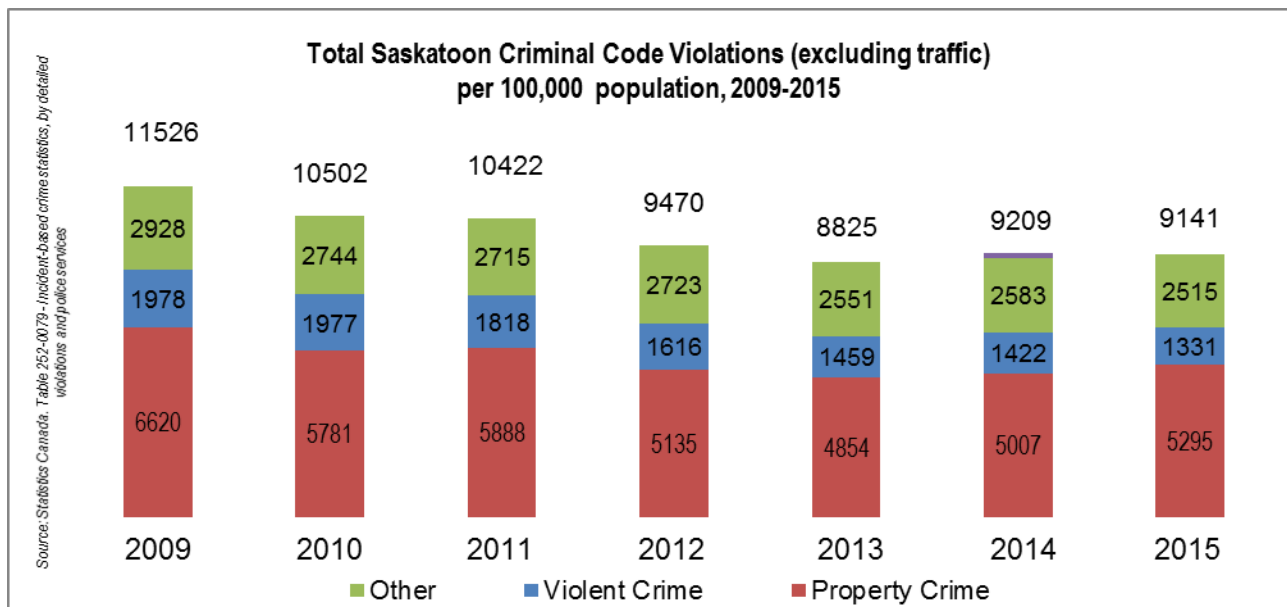
**5-Year Target:** Decrease overall crime rates by 5.0% annually over the previous five-year average

**Description:** Decreasing crime rates indicate success in increasing public safety in our homes, on our streets, and in our overall community. People have a higher quality of life when they feel safe. Crime rates decrease when people are working and have recreation and leisure opportunities.

Crime rates will include criminal code violations (violent crime and other crime) and will exclude traffic violations. For comparative purposes, crime rates will be based on numbers published by Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

### How are we doing?

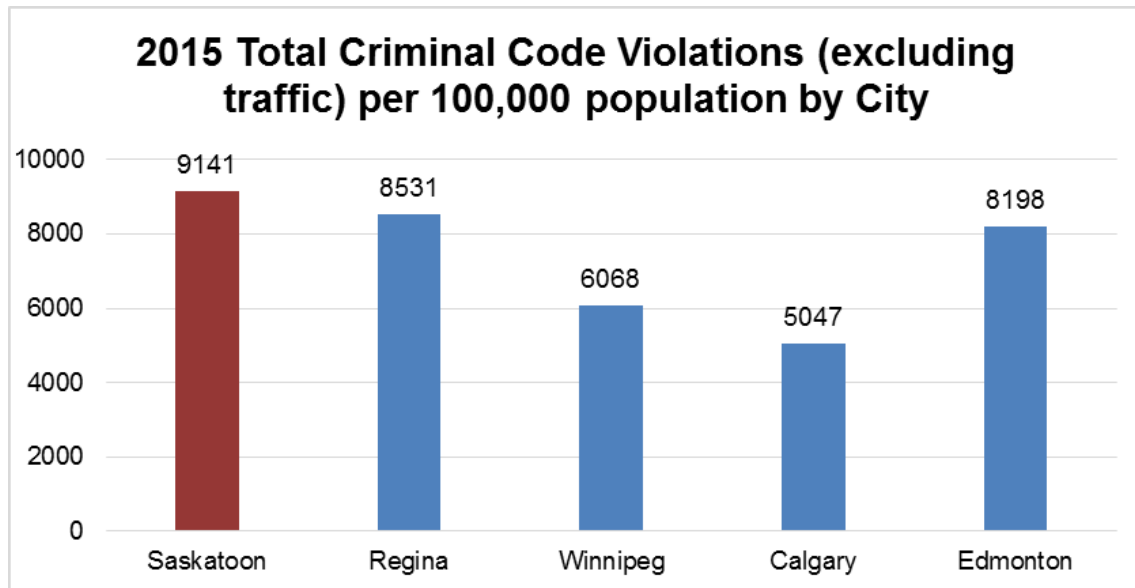
Saskatoon's crime rates have been trending downward since 2009. In 2015, there were 9,141 total Saskatoon criminal code violations (excluding traffic violations) per 100,000 population. Saskatoon's total criminal code violations (excluding traffic violations) per 100,000 population has decreased 5.6% in 2015 compared to the last five-year average (2010-2014).



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

## How are other cities doing?

Even though Saskatoon's crime rates have decreased, our crime rates are higher than in other western cities.



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

## What do we need to do to achieve this target?

- The Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) is decreasing crime as one of four priority areas in their *2015–2019 Business Plan* to create a safe and secure community. Reducing robberies, thefts, and mischief will be emphasized to reduce overall crime.

## What are the benefits of achieving the target?

Less crime means fewer victims and an increase in the sense of public safety. Less crime reduces costs associated with the following:

- Stolen and damaged property
- Medical system usage due to drug use and violent crime
- Criminal justice costs for courts, prosecution, prisons, etc.
- Productivity losses including lost wages
- Intangible costs including pain and suffering



### **What are the risks?**

- Saskatoon has a large marginalized population facing poverty, poor housing, and non-inclusion which contribute to street and gang activity such as robbery, assault, theft, and vandalism. Underlying issues must also be addressed to reduce crime.
- Rapid population growth contributes to more crime and social disorder. Physical and population growth is straining the City's funding capacity while increasing pressure on human resources.