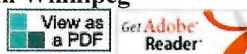


February 01, 2001 (FC004)

**High Police Resourcing Relative to Crime Clearance Rate in Winnipeg**

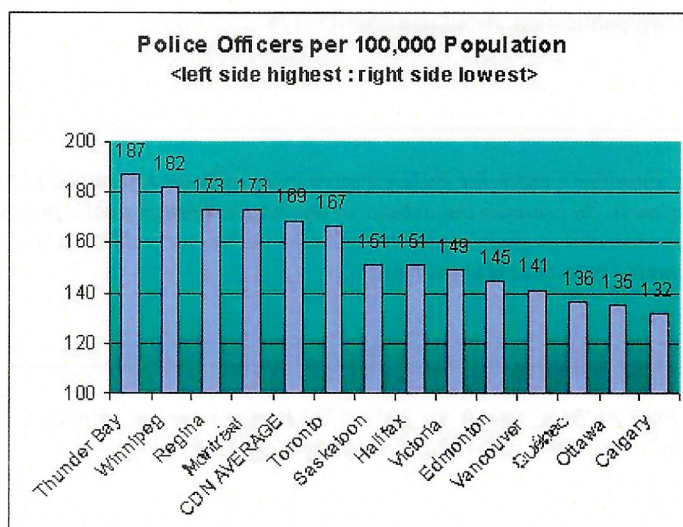


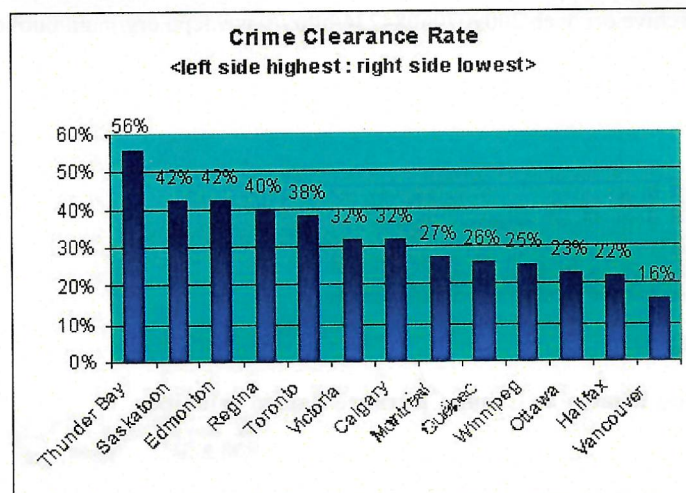
**In Brief:**

*Despite relatively high levels of police strength and resources, the Winnipeg Police Service achieves lower rates of crime clearance than other cities. The Winnipeg Police Service carries a high administrative burden, which depletes the resources available for front-line crime-fighting.*

City	Police Officers Per 100,000 population	Crime Rate* Per 100,000 population	Clearance Rate**	Police Cost Per capita
Thunder Bay	187	9,109	56%	\$159
<b>Winnipeg</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>9,763</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>\$174</b>
Regina	173	15,191	40%	\$180
Montréal	173	7,171	27%	\$209
CDN AVG	169	na	na	\$170
Toronto	167	5,385	38%	\$219
Saskatoon	151	11,640	42%	\$155
Halifax	151	9,551	22%	\$170
Victoria	149	11,865	32%	\$268
Edmonton	145	8,533	42%	\$190
Vancouver	141	11,562	16%	\$222
Québec	136	4,790	26%	\$163
Ottawa	135	6,445	23%	\$163
Calgary	132	7,554	32%	\$168

\*Total number of criminal code violations excluding traffic  
 \*\* Percent of violations that result in a charge and/or conviction





In 1999, Winnipeg had the second highest level of police strength of Canadian cities, at 182 officers per 100,000 population. Only Thunder Bay had more police, 187 per 100,000 population.

Winnipeg's crime rate was sixth among the 25 major metropolitan areas, but the City's police department ranked twenty-first in the percentage of crimes that were actually solved, 25%. Thunder Bay's success rate, 56%, was more than double Winnipeg's. Even though Regina and Saskatoon, cities that are demographically almost identical to Winnipeg, had much higher crime rates, their police forces solved a lot more crimes, 40% and 42% respectively.

Per capita police costs in Winnipeg are only slightly higher than the Canadian average even though staffing is among the highest in Canada. These facts suggest two conclusions. First, the Winnipeg Police Service is carrying a heavy administrative burden. Second, the force has problems with the effective allocation of resources, including Canada's most rigid two-officer police car policy. Fewer resources are therefore available for front-line crime-fighting, with clearance rates for property crimes of only 16% and violent crimes of 61%, for a weighted average of 25%. Jurisdictions vary widely, but most others in Canada have higher success rates with resources that are equal to, or fewer than those in Winnipeg.

**SOURCE:** All the above data is contained in *Police Resources in Canada, 2000*, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-225-XIE.

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