



Beaumont Municipal Detachment

Quarterly Report

Town Council

September to December

2013

"Submitted as Council Correspondence"

Issued by: Sgt. Kevin Kunetzki
Beaumont Det. Commander
February 25, 2014 - 2

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The RCMP endeavors to communicate regularly with its Federal, Provincial, and Municipal partners. The purpose of this report is to provide the Town of Beaumont with a quarterly update on any Detachment issues or trends, to provide an update on the progress of our annual policing priorities, and to provide information relative to our crime statistics.

ORGANIZATION OF REPORT

- ✓ Detachment Commentaries..... P.(2)
- ✓ Annual Police Priorities Updates..... P.(5)
- ✓ Detachment Crime Statistics P.(11)

REPORT INTENT AND CONTENT

This report has been designed with input from the Town of Beaumont. This report is not intended to provide a comprehensive account of all policing activities in Beaumont. Rather, it is meant to provide Council with an update on the more salient policing issues and priorities. Requests for additional information or amendments to this report may be submitted through the Manager of Community and Protective Services.

***Note:** Due to a full Council agenda on February 25, 2013, this report is being submitted at this time as a public Council correspondence item. The RCMP will still speak to this report in person; however, this will be done at the next council meeting on March 11, 2014.*

DETACHMENT COMMENTARIES

The following report should be viewed as a quarterly update from the Beaumont RCMP. However, to accommodate the Town's calendar year reporting, this report in some cases also provides a few calendar year-end observations and summaries of RCMP activities.

OUR STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

In 2013, the Beaumont RCMP continued to place a great deal of focus on crime prevention and crime reduction initiatives. Embracing the strategic policing philosophy, the idea has been to reduce crime and the fear of crime by being more proactive, more focused, and less reactive. While it can be difficult to attribute crime reduction to any one source or initiative, the collective efforts of all community and police endeavors in Beaumont, i.e. FCSS, the youth centre, the asset building program, our schools, community policing officer, etc., appear to be having the desired effect.

Despite that our overall volume of files and workload increased by about 7% in 2013 to 3,967 (which can be attributed simply to the community growth), a number of our crime statistics have continued a downward trend. At least two areas saw a significant decrease (on a per/1000 basis). In the past year, for example, assaults were observed to have gone down by 24%, and the criminal offence of break and enter went down by 50%. These statistics in particular are encouraging, as they are the statistics that are most often reported by the public when they occur. To some degree, they can be a very good indicator of the overall health and wellness of a community.

Two areas that saw an increase in 2013 include drug offences and impaired driving. Different, however, from assaults and break and enters, these offences are most often identified through proactive enforcement initiatives. As such, an increase or decrease in their numbers is not necessarily indicative of an actual trend. It is believed in this case that the increases are reflective of an increase in enforcement (having added the full-time drug member and the use of traffic blitzes) rather than an increase necessarily in actual offences. The topic of drugs and alcohol abuse are discussed in greater detail at a subsequent paragraph within this report.

CRIME SEVERITY INDEX (CSI)

The seriousness of crime in a community is measured by what is known as the CSI. By design, the CSI measures the seriousness of criminal activity in a given community. If a jurisdiction has a high proportion of less serious, and hence lower-weighted, offences, it will have a lower index value. Conversely, a jurisdiction with a high proportion of more serious crimes will have a higher index

value. The Crime Severity Index data was recently released for 2012 (this analysis works a year to a year and a half behind).

Beaumont was identified as having a Violent CSI of 46.51 and a Non-Violent CSI of 57.41. It was also identified as having a total CSI value of 54.59. This compares to the average Violent CSI in Alberta as being 88 and the average Non-Violent CSI in Alberta being 84.5. It also compares to the average Provincial total CSI value being 85.6 and the average National total value being 75. Beaumont, in particular, was reported as having one of the greatest decreases in Non-Violent CSI values in the Province (-18.99%) over the previous year.

It is clear from the data, and from a review of our five year trends, that **Beaumont continues to be one of the safest communities in Canada**. The Town of Beaumont, and all of its contributors to these results, is to be proud of this accomplishment.

OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

The most significant challenge of the RCMP in Beaumont today is keeping pace with the growth of the community. As previously stated, the RCMP experienced a 7% increase in its case files from 2012 to 2013. Despite that our Crime Severity Index is highly favourable, when compared to the Provincial and National averages, it is important for the public to also remember that having these statistics and a minimum level of police and public safety requires the appropriate level of resources to keep pace with this growth. The RCMP does not just investigate crimes. They are also required to provide a number of other activities necessary for the community. These other activities, for example, would include attending alarms, serving documents, conducting traffic enforcement, providing front counter services, attending motor vehicle collisions, investigating suspicious persons, participating in community events, dealing with noise complaints and neighbor disputes, providing advice, assisting other detachments, providing counselling, taking fingerprints for criminal record checks, dealing with mental health issues, and even investigating sudden deaths. The number of these incidents will naturally rise with an increase in population. The RCMP is pleased to report at this time that the previously reported 5 Year Collaborative Law Enforcement Plan has now been completed for the Town's consideration. This document is intended to assist the Town with making the most informed, strategic, and cost-efficient decisions relative to our resource needs going forward. The RCMP would like to now publicly thank the Town's Administration, as well as the Municipal Enforcement Supervisor and the Detachment's Support Staff Supervisor for their proactive leadership and support in completing this initiative.

OFFICER CHANGES 2013/2014

Our officers are often transferred within the organization to gain different experiences and to meet the changing needs of our communities and/or our organization. Typically, an officer today will remain at his or her post for a 4-5 year duration. In the fall of 2013, two members left Beaumont Detachment; one to fill a need in the North (Cst. Jason MCCORMICK), and another left the RCMP to pursue an earlier career as a pastor (Cst. CALLAHAN). In early 2014, two more members have received a transfer notice. Cst. O'QUINN will be joining Cst. MCCORMICK in the North at High Level, and our Operations NCO, Cpl MCGUNIGAL, was promoted and will be moving to Coronation as their Detachment Commander. Congratulations Sgt. MCGUNIGAL! Our new officers will be introduced to the community in the not too distant future.

ANNUAL POLICE PRIORITIES UPDATE



All annual policing priorities for Beaumont are attached to our Prolific/Proactive Offender program (soon to be renamed for consistency in “K” Division). Where repeat offenders are identified, or where the risk of a repeat offence can be reasonably mitigated, our officers are proactively assigned tasks to check on the offenders’ court ordered release conditions, i.e. curfew, no alcohol, etc. To use the recent words of the Commanding Officer “K” Division, “the days where the police would simply catch and release are over”. Crime reduction and crime prevention is the way forward. There were 166 proactive checks conducted at Beaumont in 2013, many of which were linked directly to the Town’s policing priorities. In 2014, Beaumont’s crime reduction program will be expanded to include generating proactive files for problem hotspot areas, such as the skate park, the ball diamonds, behind the schools (after hours), and other identified areas of repeat occurrences. This strategy supports the “Crime Triangle” approach to problem solving crime, where the underlying causes of crime can be attributed to repeat offenders, problem locations, or reoccurring victims.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is an issue in our community, but for that matter in many other jurisdictions in Alberta. It is also one of the most dangerous incidents to investigate for the police. In 2013, one male in the community was charged by the RCMP for attempting to disarm a police officer and another male was charged in Beaumont for assaulting two of our officers as they went to affect and arrest. With this stated, we are pleased to report our officers were not seriously injured in either incident, and that this priority area has seen some improvement in 2013.

In 2012, there were 165 incidents of domestic violence investigated by the Beaumont RCMP with 15 of these incidents later determined to be unfounded. This means in 2012 there were 150 actual domestic incidents. In 2013, there were 133 incidents of domestic violence investigated by the Beaumont RCMP; however, 25 were later determined to be unfounded. This means in 2013 there were 108 actual domestic incidents in 2013. This is a significant decrease in actual occurrences, but two challenges remain. The fact there were still 133 reported domestic incidents reported to police is still a high number. Before the call can be identified as unfounded, the initial response will still always require a two member response to ensure police and public safety. The other challenge with incidents of domestic violence and the statistics associated to these occurrences is that they may not always be reported (unlike Break and Enters which are almost always reported). As a result, any reliance on statistics in this area must be carefully measured over time.

A number of initiatives were implemented for 2014 to help address the issue of domestic violence. In addition to the proactive checks and the numerous provisions regulated by the RCMP generally, i.e. mandatory charges or comprehensive risk assessments, the Beaumont RCMP also worked with its agency partners (i.e. Victim Services, FCSS, and the La Nouvelle Beaumont News) to create more awareness of the issue. Each quarter the RCMP has reported information on the domestic violence statistics and the importance of getting help before problems in the home escalate. The Beaumont RCMP has also made Victims Services referrals mandatory for victims of domestic violence, whereas in the past the RCMP has left this decision to the victims. For those who are not truly aware of the support that can be provided by Victim Services, it ensures that victims will have the opportunity to get the help needed to break the cycle of domestic violence.

The Beaumont RCMP recognizes that family violence requires collaboration and a community response. Within this forum, the Beaumont RCMP would like to publicly congratulate and thank the Regional Family Violence Prevention Team for their “Superheros” campaign. The work they are doing in this area is exceptionally positive and highly innovative when compared to the traditional (negative) messages about family violence prevention. Through POSITIVE picture messages, they are educating families on how they should act/interact, thereby not making the incorrect assumption that people already know how to act/interact and that they only need to be dealt with by the police and the Courts to be corrected. Very creative and well done to the Regional Family Violence Prevention Team!



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

With about 25% of the population attributable to the youth in Beaumont, this priority was a strong focus for the detachment in 2013.

In this last quarter, the Beaumont RCMP and Municipal Enforcement saw the year end wrap up party for the program at JE La Pointe School, where youth from the community who were given tickets throughout the season were given the opportunity to win even more great prizes from businesses and sponsors in the community! In 2013, there 600 positive tickets given out to youth in the community for a variety of good behaviours observed. New this season was the establishment of the President’s Award, where the president of the Beaumont Youth Positive

Ticketing Committee, Ruby Krathmer, issued a certificate and a greater prize to the youth who demonstrated a behavior that stood out beyond others. Part of the award was to submit a photo and an article to the La Nouvelle Beaumont News to further increase the exposure of the program and to demonstrate to others that in Beaumont it's the good behavior that pays! The committee, which is comprised of two members from the Detachment and three citizens at large, is excited for 2014, as plans are in place to build even greater public awareness of the program through a number of new 'marketing' strategies.

Speaking to other positive youth interactions, not including DARE, Cst. Lindsay Powers (our Community Policing Officer) delivered 27 youth presentations this past quarter. The presentations were delivered to youth in preschool through to grade 11. For Preschool, these included Detachment tours, Introduction to Police Officers' Role in Your Community, Halloween Safety as well as Conflict Resolution. Presentations on Character building, Conflict resolution, Policing as a Career, Criminal Code/Controlled Drug and Substances Act and Court process were delivered to older youth audiences. In addition to delivering presentations this past quarter, RCMP Beaumont members were building positive relationships in the community at events with heavy youth focus, such as 6 Remembrance Day Ceremonies (including school assemblies).

This year also saw both Cst. Powers and Cst. Rogawski receive specialized youth training. Cst. Powers attended the Tenth National Conference Celebrating Positive Youth Development in Canada (held this year in Red Deer), and Cst. Rogawski attended and the Alberta Restorative Justice Conference and Pre-conference training held in Edmonton. These courses provide and discuss strategies for dealing with youth in a positive manner and about dealing with youth crimes in a manner that seeks to prevent future incidents of criminal behavior.



Positive Ticketing

SUBSTANCE ABUSE – DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Alcohol Abuse

During this past quarter, Beaumont Detachment members continued with targeted enforcement initiatives for impaired driving. Led by Cst. TEJA and Cst. O'QUINN, a total of 8 traffic blitzes and check stops were held in Beaumont during this past quarter, which contributed to a total of 14 arrests for impaired driving. Overall, a total of 29 reports of impaired driving were recorded this quarter with 14 arrests being made. Our YTD clearance rate is 42% (fiscal year), exceeding our year end goal of 35%.

When examining our statistics over the past calendar year it could be said that the overall number of reported incidents of impaired driving from 2012 to 2013 was similar. However, when charges are considered in this same period the picture is much different. In 2012 the Beaumont RCMP caught 42 impaired drivers (21 impaired, 17 - 24hr suspensions, and 4 – 72hr suspensions). In 2013 there were 79 impaired drivers (33 impaired, 23 – 24hrs suspensions, and 23 – 72hr suspensions). Addressing the issue of impaired driving with the technique of traffic blitzes (otherwise known as high volume vehicle stops), has proven to be a highly effective technique for catching impaired drivers (and drugs). With this stated, we recognize that this is not always received well by some who might be concerned about being stopped for minor vehicle infractions or for a quick check. In 2013, it is likely that the Beaumont RCMP checked thousands of vehicles over the course of the year while conducting more than 17 traffic blitzes. Despite the high number of vehicles checked, some might be interested to know there were actually fewer traffic tickets issued by the RCMP in 2013 (643) versus 2012 (1154). Greater emphasis and targeted enforcement was placed on the policing priorities of the community.

In terms of our proactive activities for liquor offences, the Beaumont Detachment was engaged with a number of initiatives. These initiatives included such examples as problem solving the consumption of alcohol at the ball diamonds (dealing directly with the Association), ensuring the volunteers for the Beaumont Blues Festival were trained and that there was adequate security, and assigning weekly tasks for our members to have a greater officer presence at our liquor establishments (bar checks). Upon a review of the annual statistics, it was encouraging to see that our statistics in this category saw a 48% decrease in liquor and cause disturbance offences. With this said, it is important to point out that these numbers can, to a degree, be controlled through enforcement activities.

Drug Abuse

This past quarter there were 16 drug-related complaints. Of these calls, 10 have resulted in charges, raising our YTD clearance rate to 59% from 54% last quarter. Again, the drug that we are seeing at the Detachment most frequently is marijuana (possession under 30 grams and trafficking). Looking at the calendar year, Beaumont's drug offences have seen a significant increase in drug offences and arrests. This, however, can be attributed to the increased enforcement by Cst. BRAND in the drug position (advancing this to a full time position), but also by the drugs seized by our general duty members a result of the increased use of our traffic blitzes.

From an education perspective, our Community Policing Officer, Cst. Lindsay Powers, has continued to deliver the DARE program in Beaumont. The DARE program commenced at JE Lapointe school in the 3rd week of September. There are currently 5 grade 5 classes (which will soon become 6 as there are approximately 140 students) receiving the program. Discussions have occurred with Coloniale, although they will not be receiving the program until the winter semester.

The issue of drug abuse was recently reported on in the La Nouvelle. At the end of January, Beaumont RCMP brought together a number of key stakeholders to discuss this issue in greater depth. The participants included the Detachment Commander, the high school's administration, the youth centre supervisor, two high school youth, a representative from the Youth Justice Committee, our drug officer, and our community policing officer. There were at least three key points of discussion that came from this meeting:

- 1. The issue of drug abuse, marijuana in particular, is not specifically a Beaumont issue. Nor is it an issue that relates only to our youth. Illicit drug has become a societal issue without boundaries. The reported observations of our community are not unlike what other communities are experiencing in other jurisdictions.*
- 2. What might be interesting to some is that the youth representatives, generally speaking, reported that marijuana use is common and that it is not viewed by their demographic as harmful or a problem. The message they are receiving from society is that marijuana use is permissive. They do, however, have a negative view of the harder drugs, i.e. cocaine, and offences such as impaired driving.*

- 3. In terms of adding some further context, it was important to also examine the perspectives of the High School and the Detachment. The High School's administration reported still dealing from time to time with drug issues at the school. However, when looking at this issue over a longer period, i.e. 10 years, they would note a decline. The Detachment has recently been dealing with a higher number of marijuana cases. However, this can be attributed to a strategic increase in enforcement. The Detachment has not experienced an increase in the more severe drug abuse indicators, such as overdoses (very rare for Beaumont) or other obvious signs.*

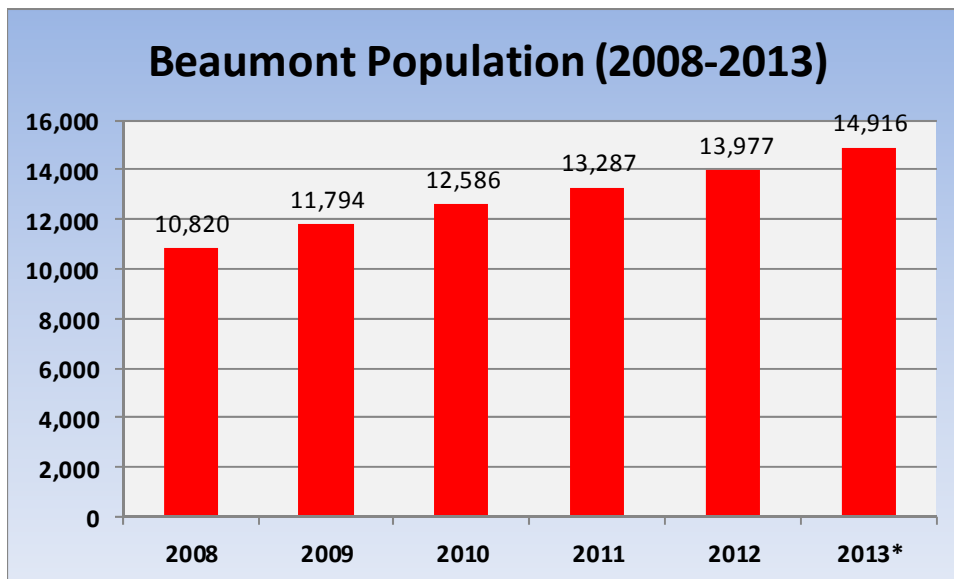
Drug abuse is one of Beaumont RCMP's policing priorities. Having considered the information discussed in this latest meeting, **the next steps will be to review our current practices and to examine how we can have an even greater impact.** The situation appears to need at least a collaborative three-pronged approach: society, education, and law enforcement. To this end, the Beaumont RCMP, the Schools, and FCSS will be meeting in the near future for this purpose. Our progress with this policing priority will be reported accordingly.

DETACHMENT CRIME STATISTICS

General

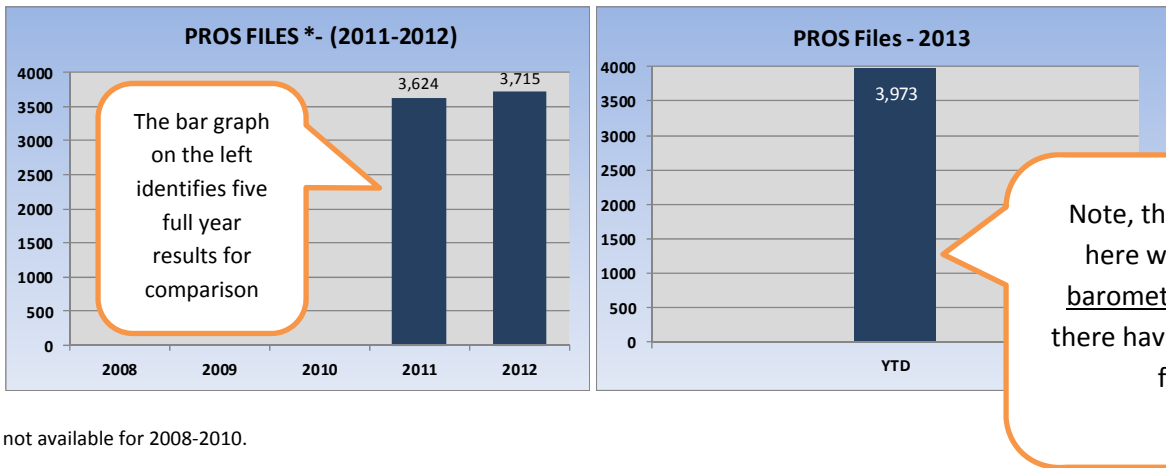
Note – Not all Detachment statistics are included in this report. Only those more significant statistics have been included. In accordance with previous discussions with council, the idea of presenting the information in the format that follows is to provide more meaningful information and to enable greater comprehension and brevity. **If there are any specific statistics that the Town of Beaumont would like to have reported, they may be added in future reports.** The attached charts and graphs are prepared by C/M Geri-Ann Harding with the RCMP's Operations Strategies Branch.

Population

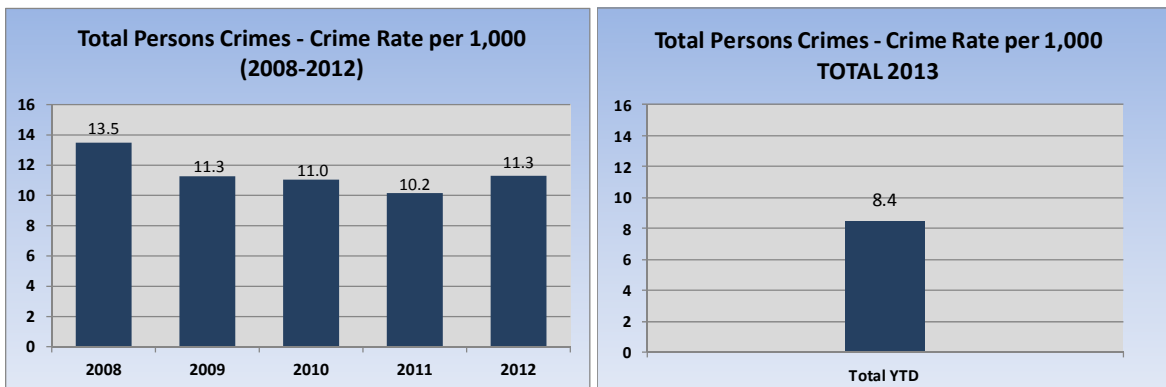


*Municipal Affairs used as source for populations for 2008-2012, 2013 has been provided by the Town of Beaumont.

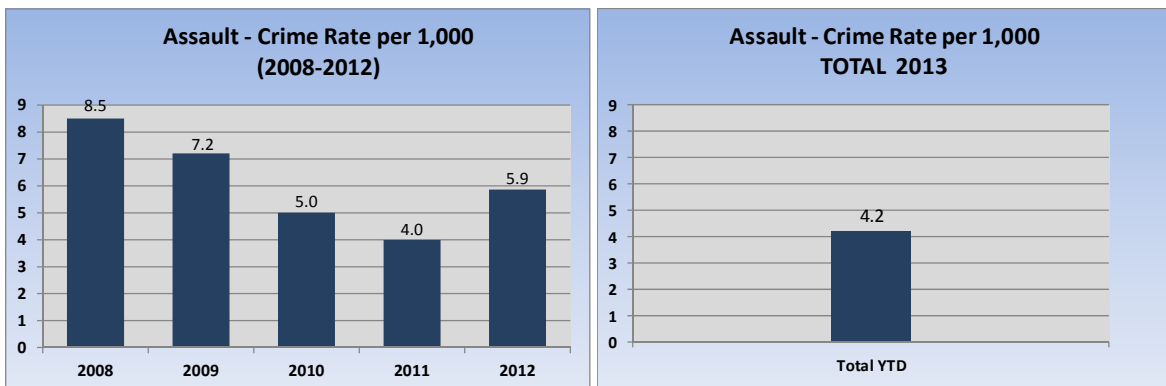
PROS (Occurrence Files)



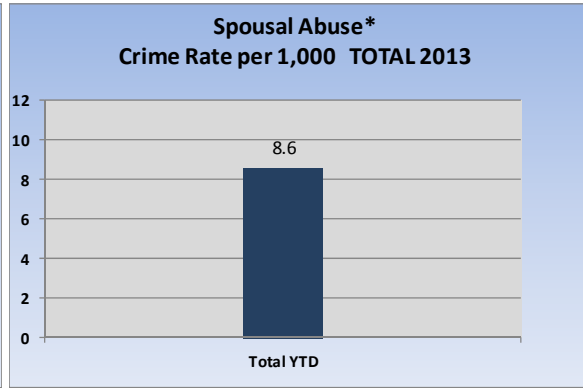
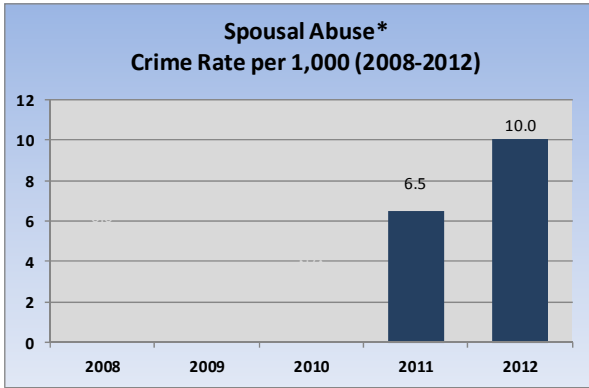
Total Persons Crime



Assault

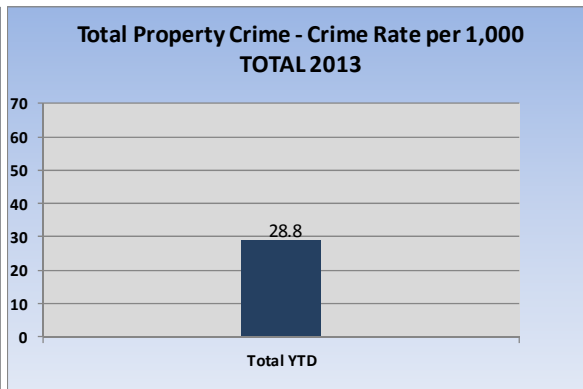
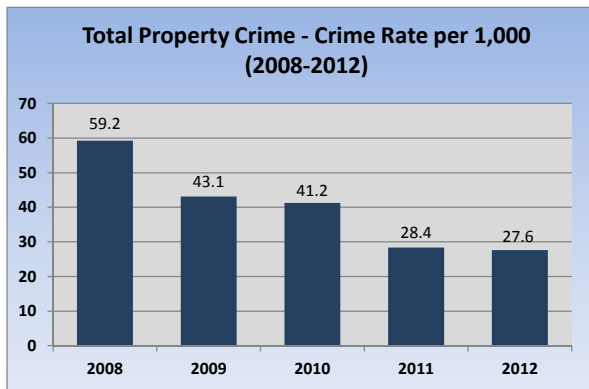


Spousal Abuse

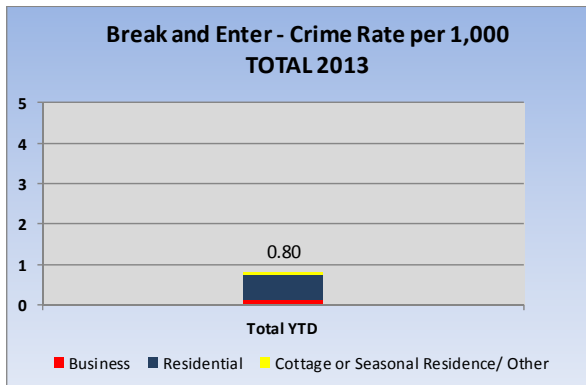
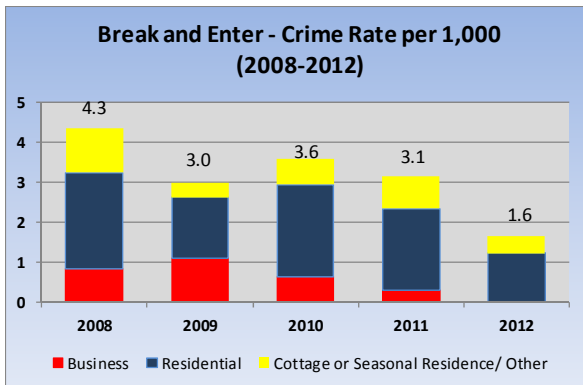


* As defined by The Family Violence Report.
 **Data not available for 2008-2010.

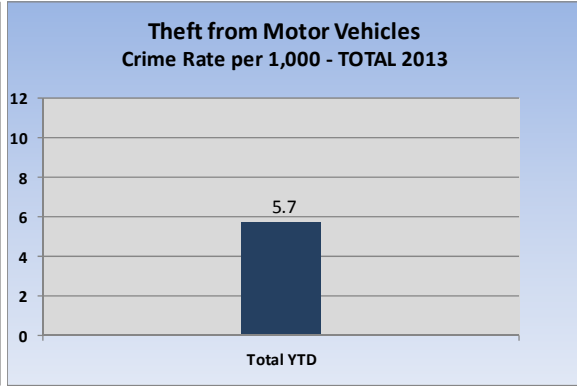
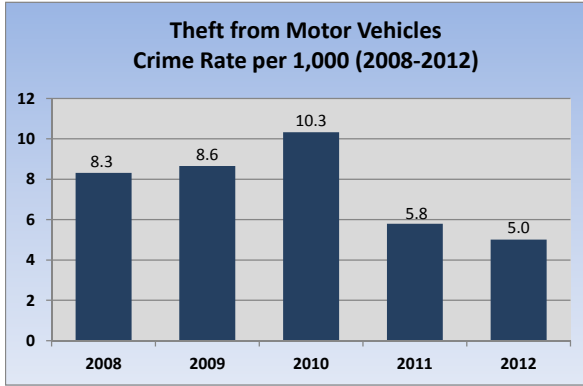
Total Property Crime



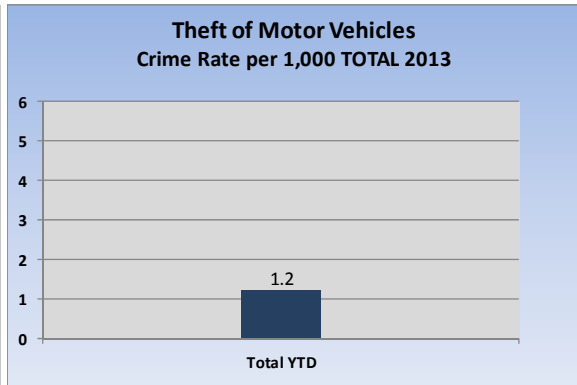
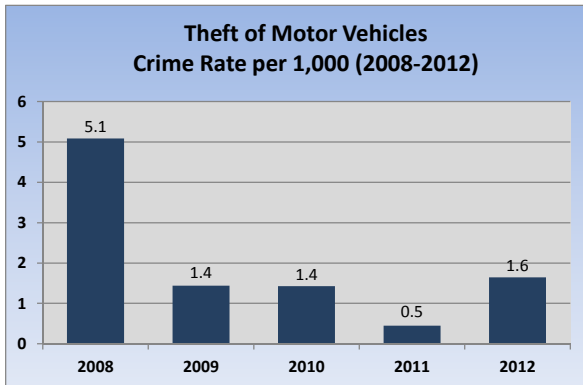
Break and Enter



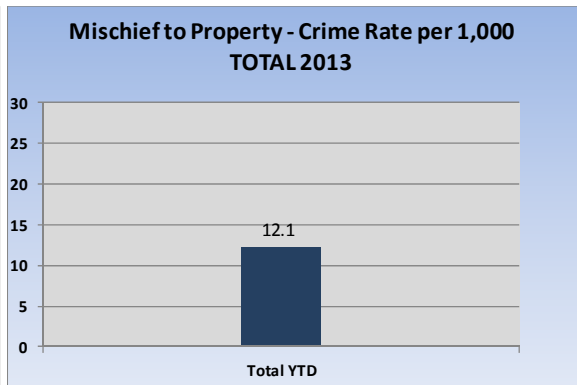
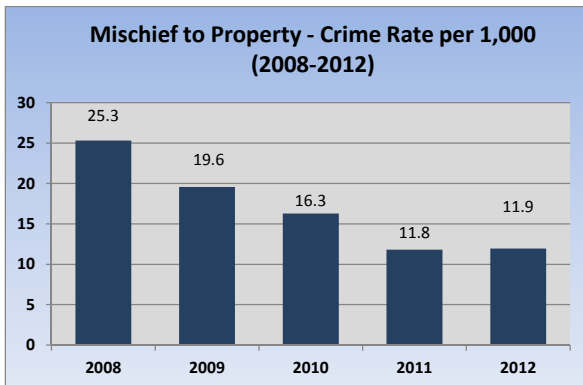
Theft from Motor Vehicles



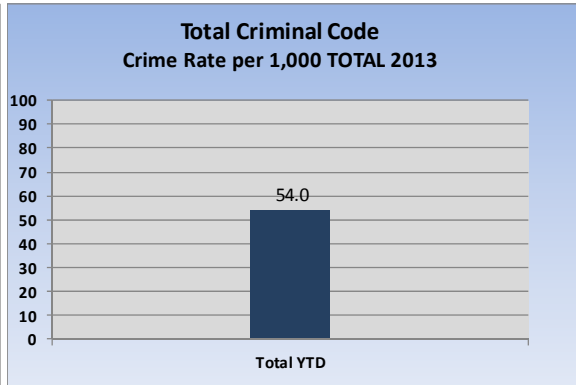
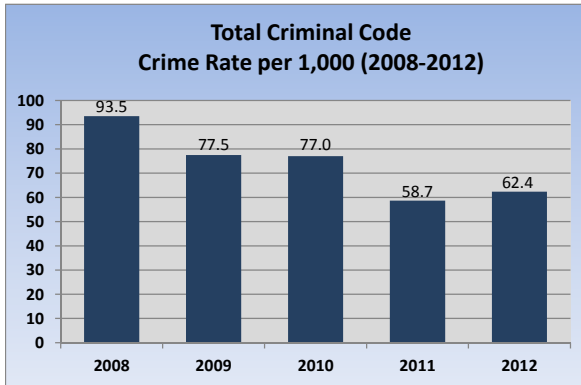
Theft of Motor Vehicles



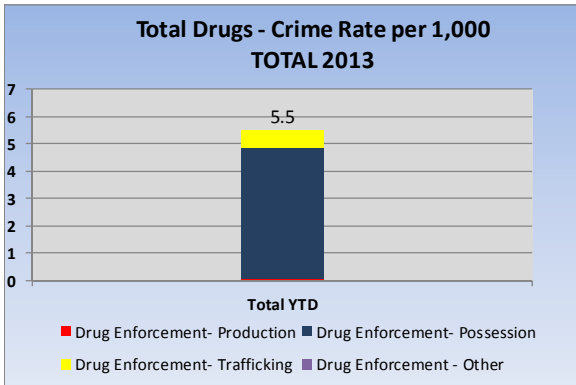
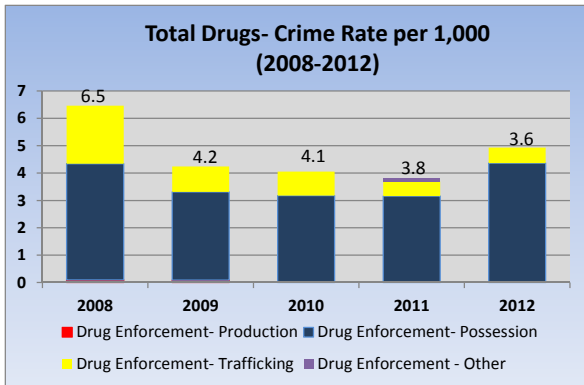
Mischief to Property



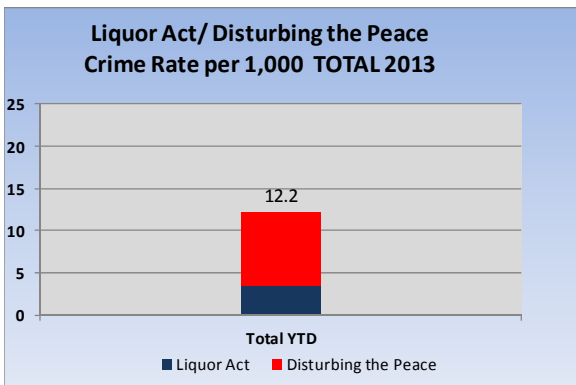
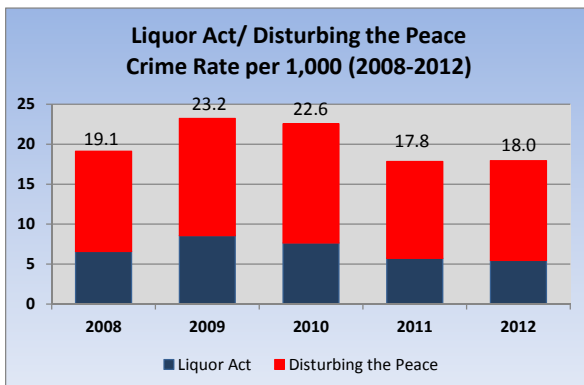
Total Criminal Code



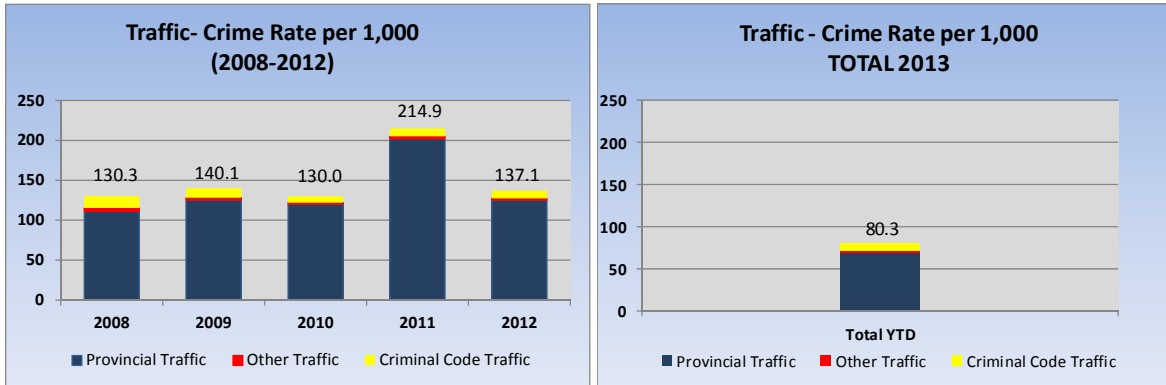
Total Drugs



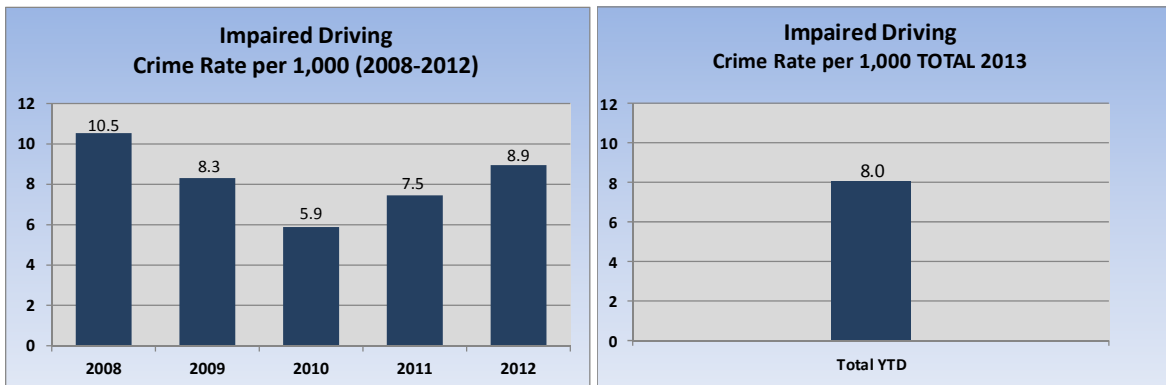
Liquor Act/ Disturbing the Peace



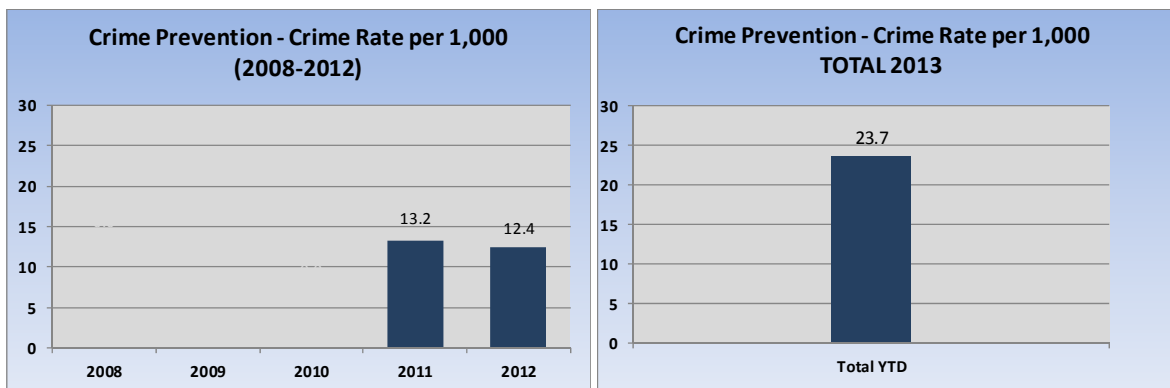
Traffic



Impaired Driving



Crime Prevention



*Data not available for 2008-2010.

* Due to a program update; 2012-2013 data for crime prevention was pulled using location code and PROS code in DQOR data.