

Crime & Disorder: A Holistic Response

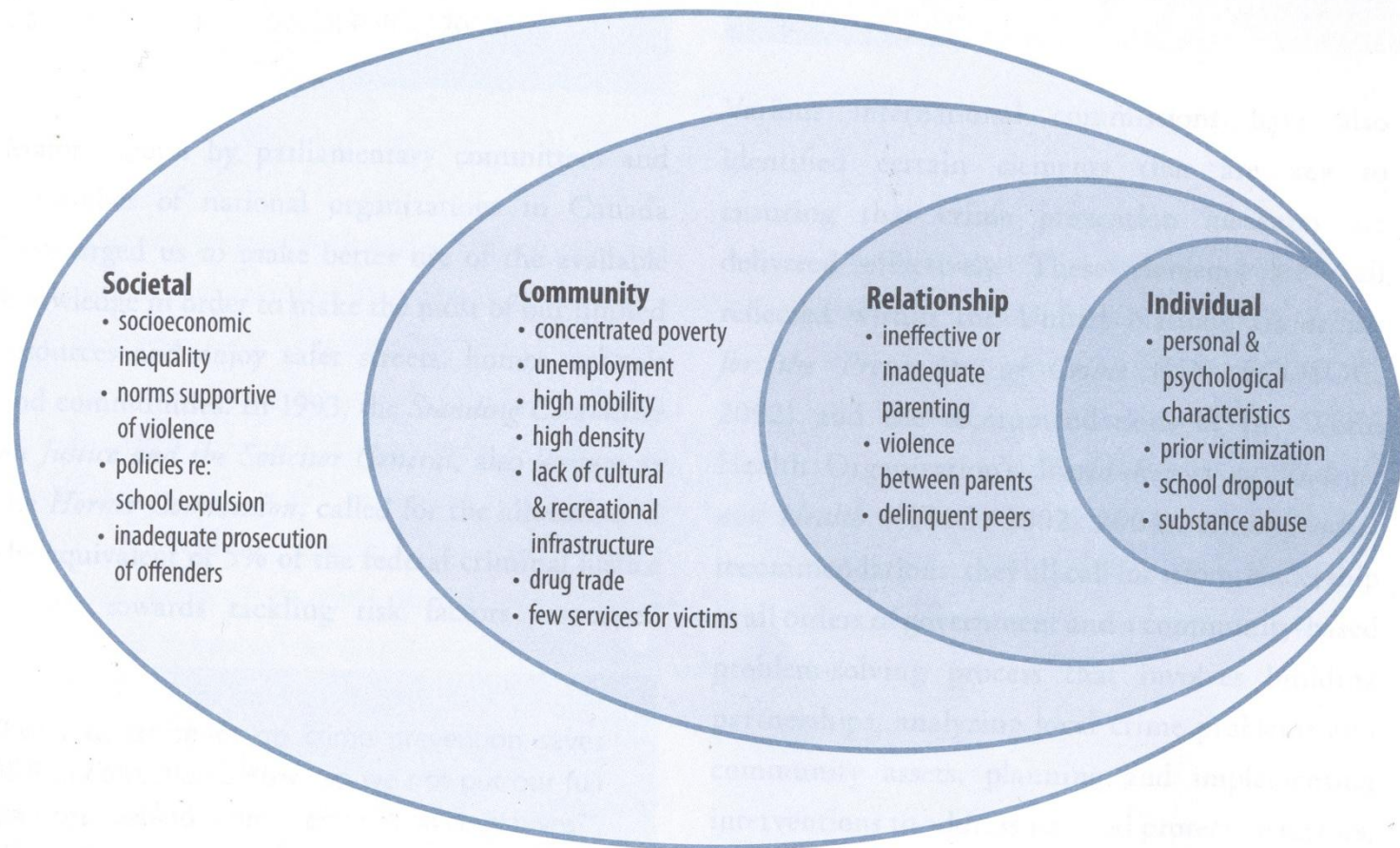


Chief Frank A. Beazley,
Halifax Regional Police

February 13, 2012

Risk Factors for Crime & Delinquency

Adapted from World Health Organization (2002)



Causation of Crime

- High concentration of young people under age 24
- Single people and single parent families
- Rent versus own
- Risky lifestyle choices – frequent liquor establishments on a regular basis
- High mobility
- Lack of affordable housing
- High concentration of businesses

Deep-Rooted & Long-Standing Social Issues in our Community

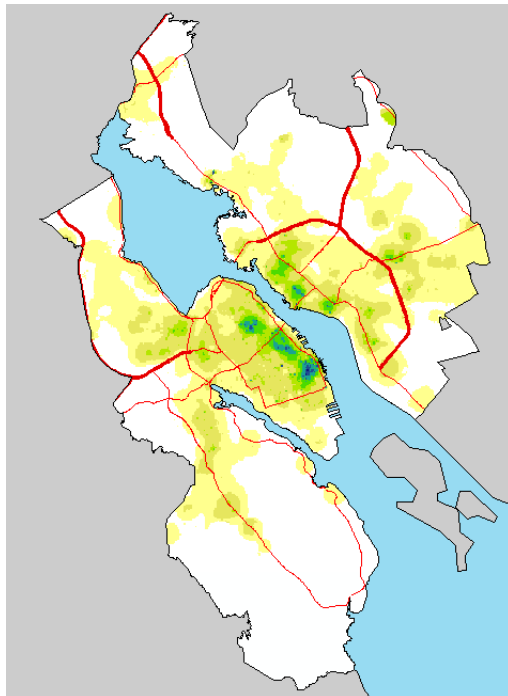
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Low Levels of Literacy & Education
- Racism
- Alcohol and Drug Addiction
- Poor Health/Mental Health

Public Housing Demographics: An Example

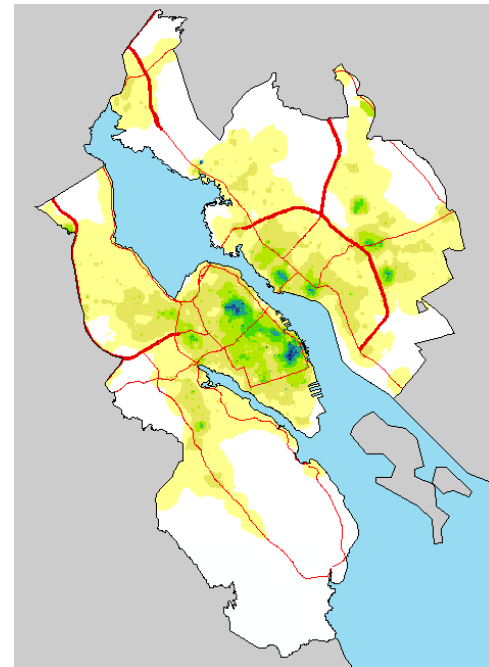
- 63% of residents under 25 years, 33% between 25-60 years old, 4% over 60 years old
- 62% Female, 38% Male
- 45% on Income Assistance, 42% Employed, 13% on Pension
- 80 families living there 3 years or less, 46 families living there between 4-10 years, 35 living there for more than 10 years
- 84% of households led by women, 16% by men

Kernel Density Distribution of Crime Incidents and Population at Risk, Halifax, 2001

Violent incidents



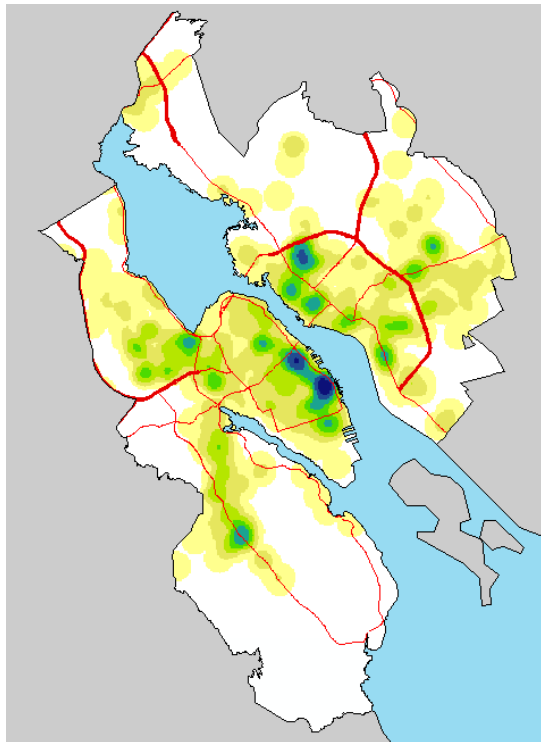
Property incidents



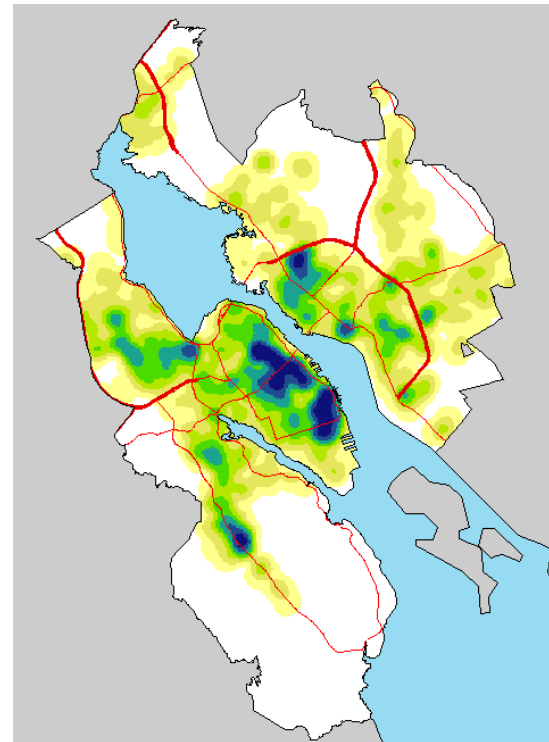
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime reporting Survey, geocoded database, 2001

Where Crimes Occur in Halifax

Kernel Density distribution,
Common Assault, 2001

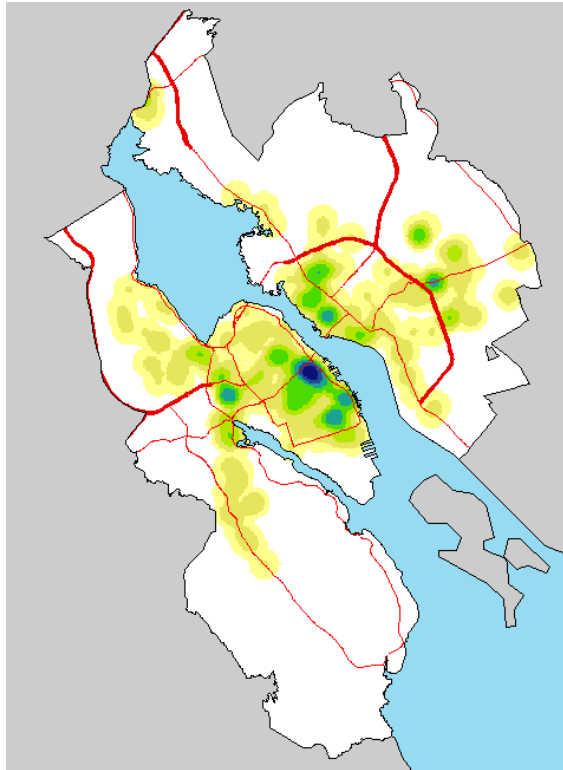


Kernel Density distribution,
Break-ins, 2001

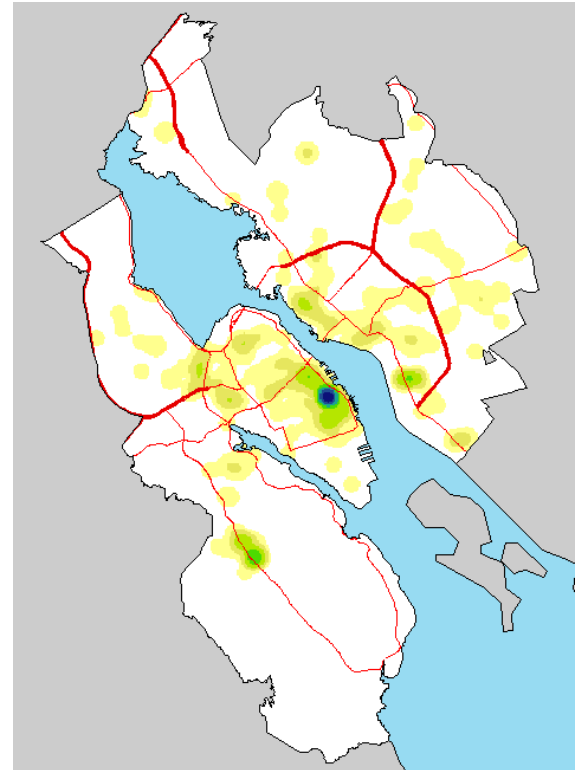


Where Crimes Occur in Halifax

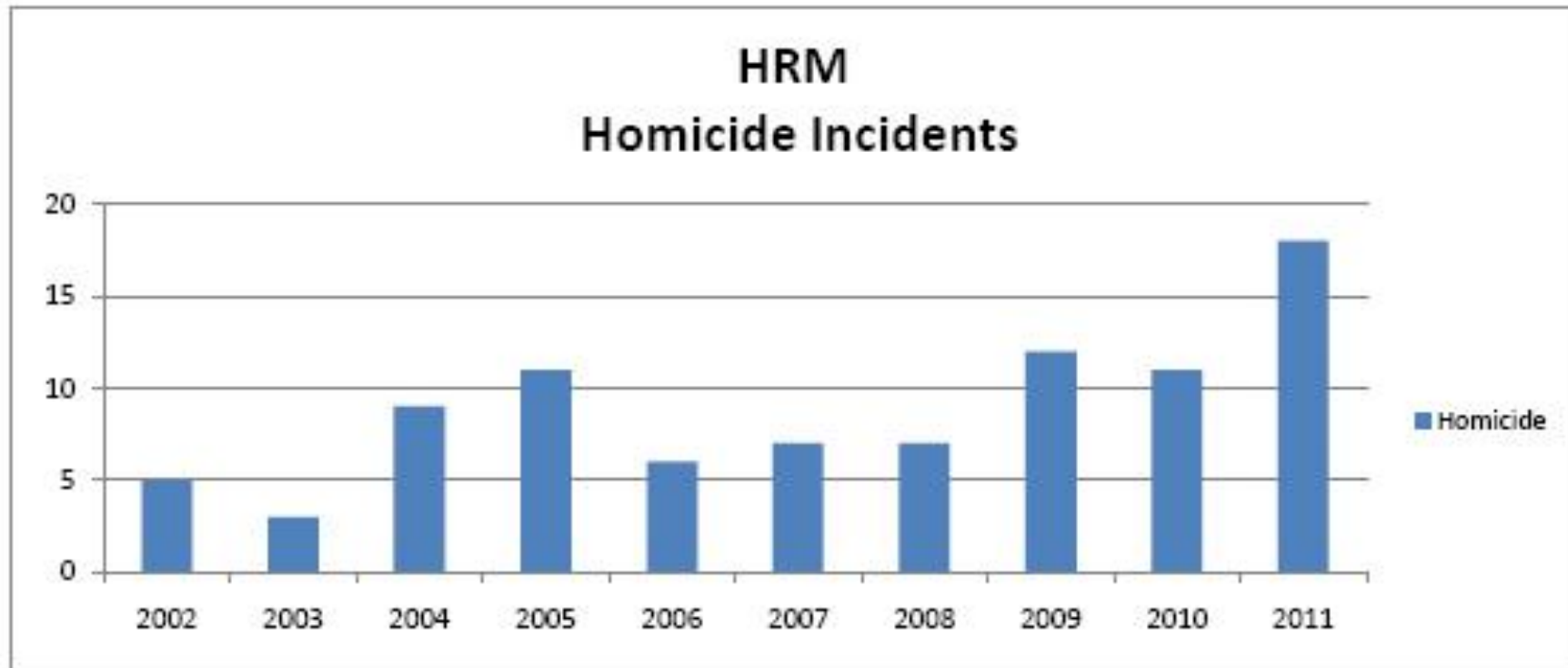
Kernel Density distribution,
Robbery, 2001



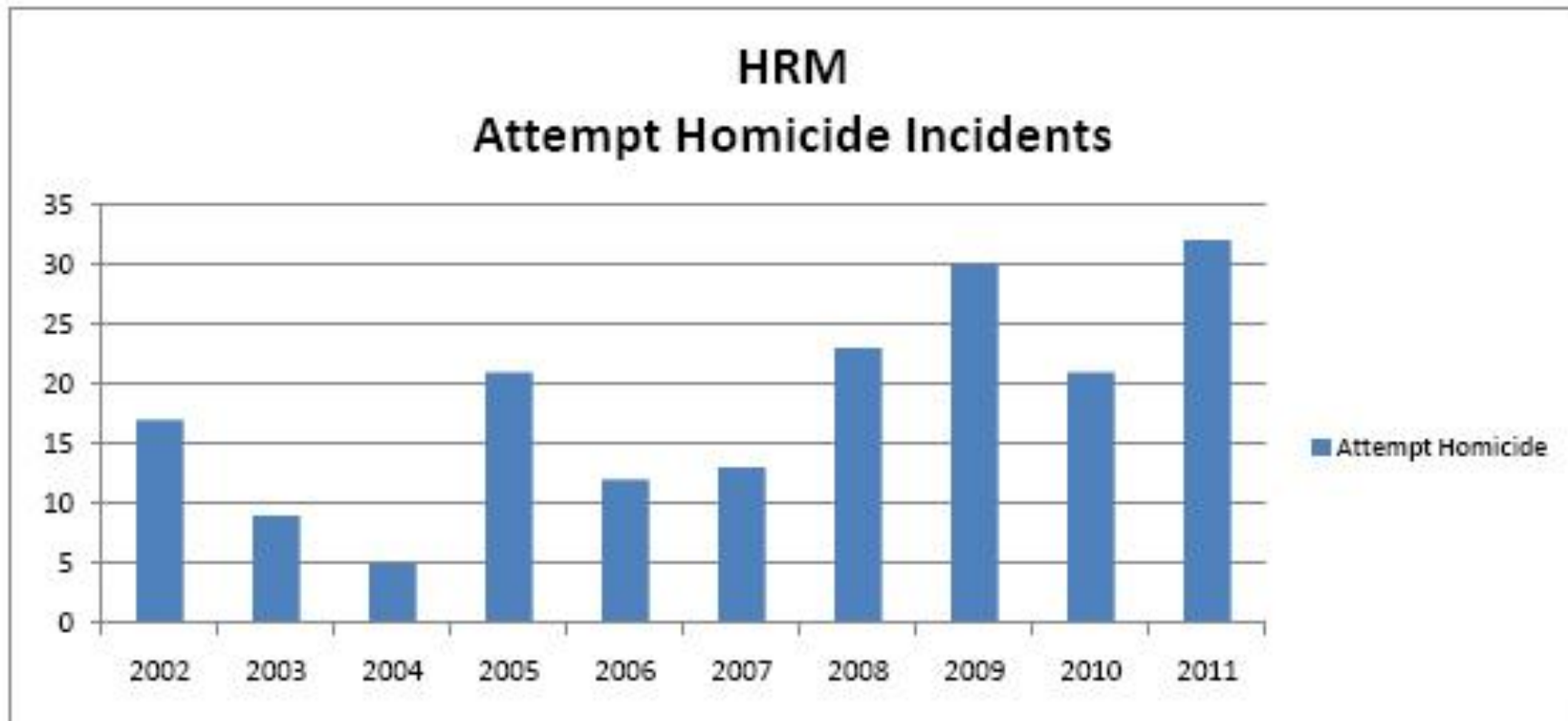
Kernel Density distribution,
Drug offences, 2001



Record Homicide Rate in 2011



Record Attempt Homicide Rate in 2011



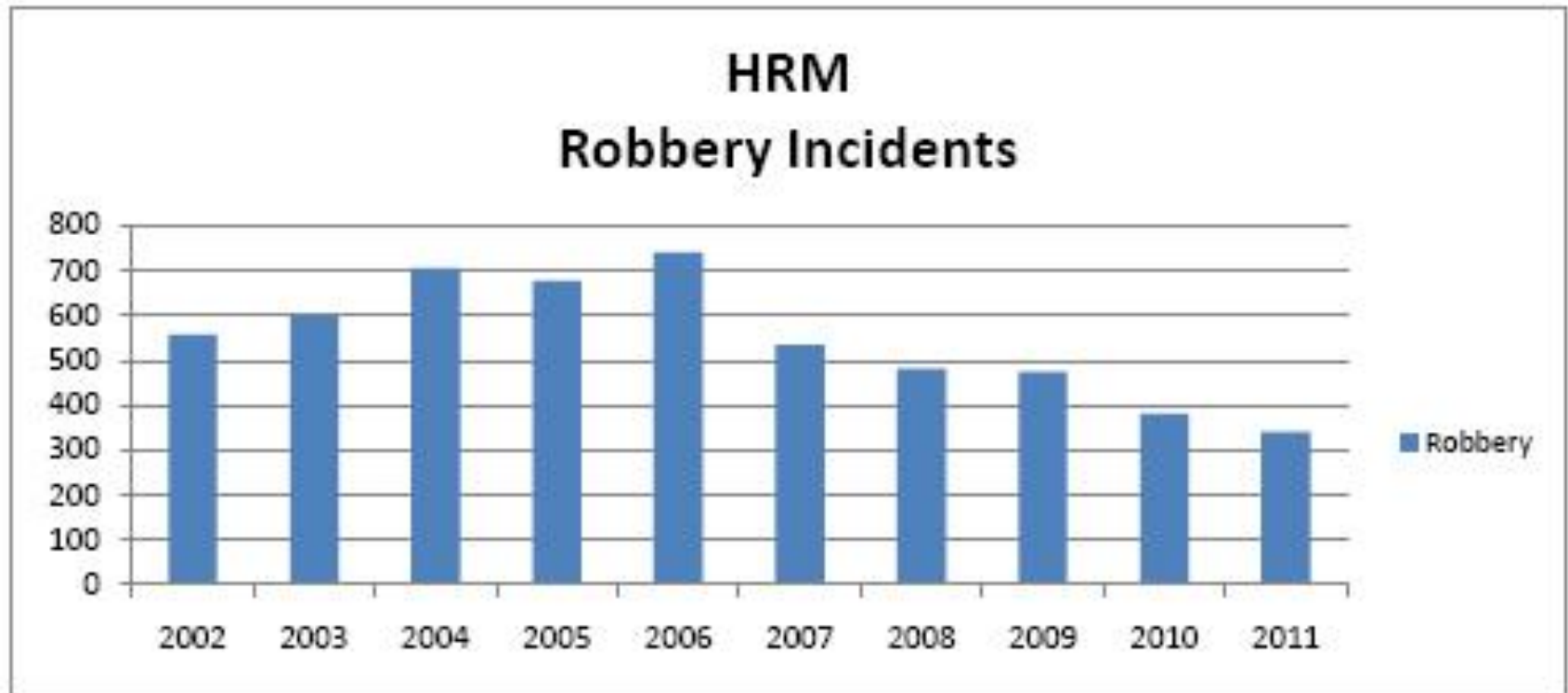
Shooting Offences 2011



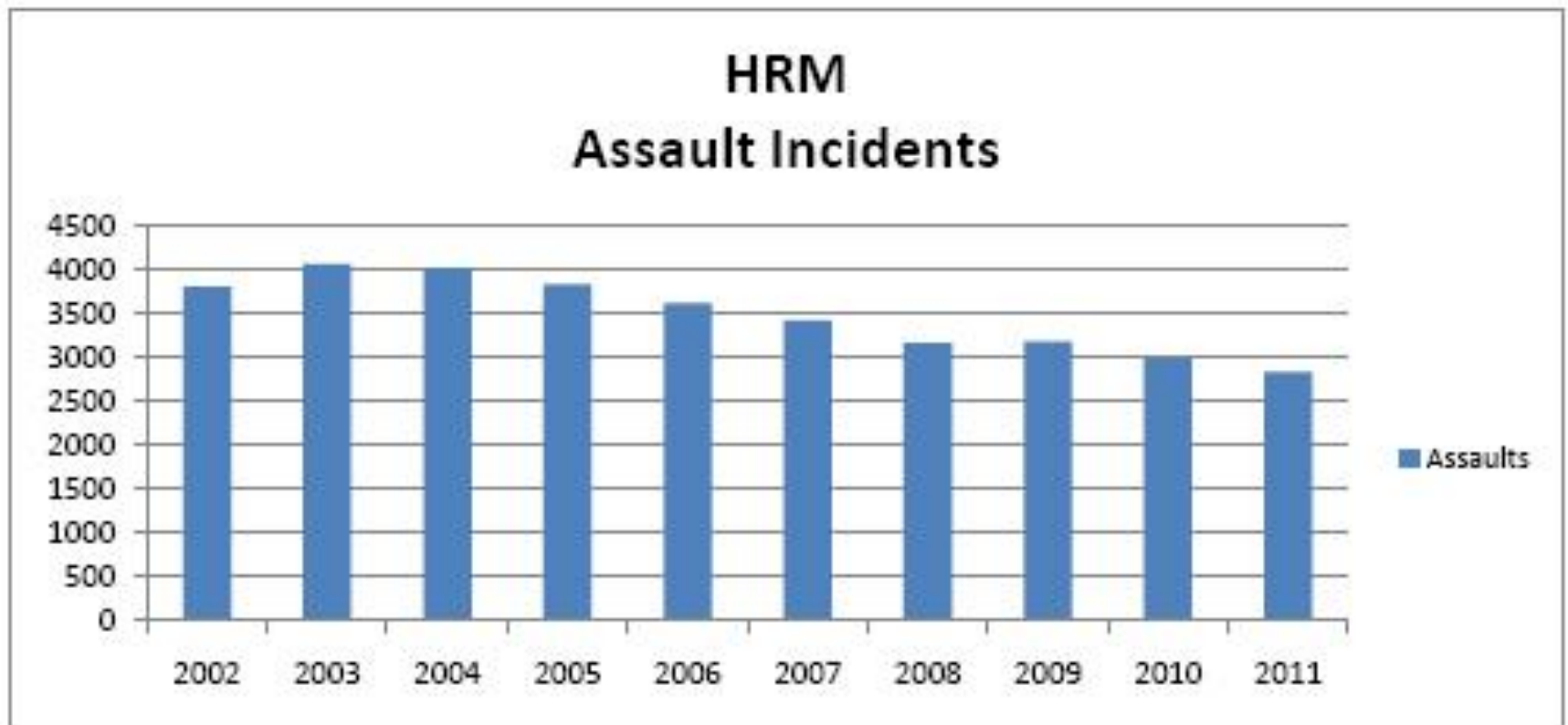
Shooting Offences 2011



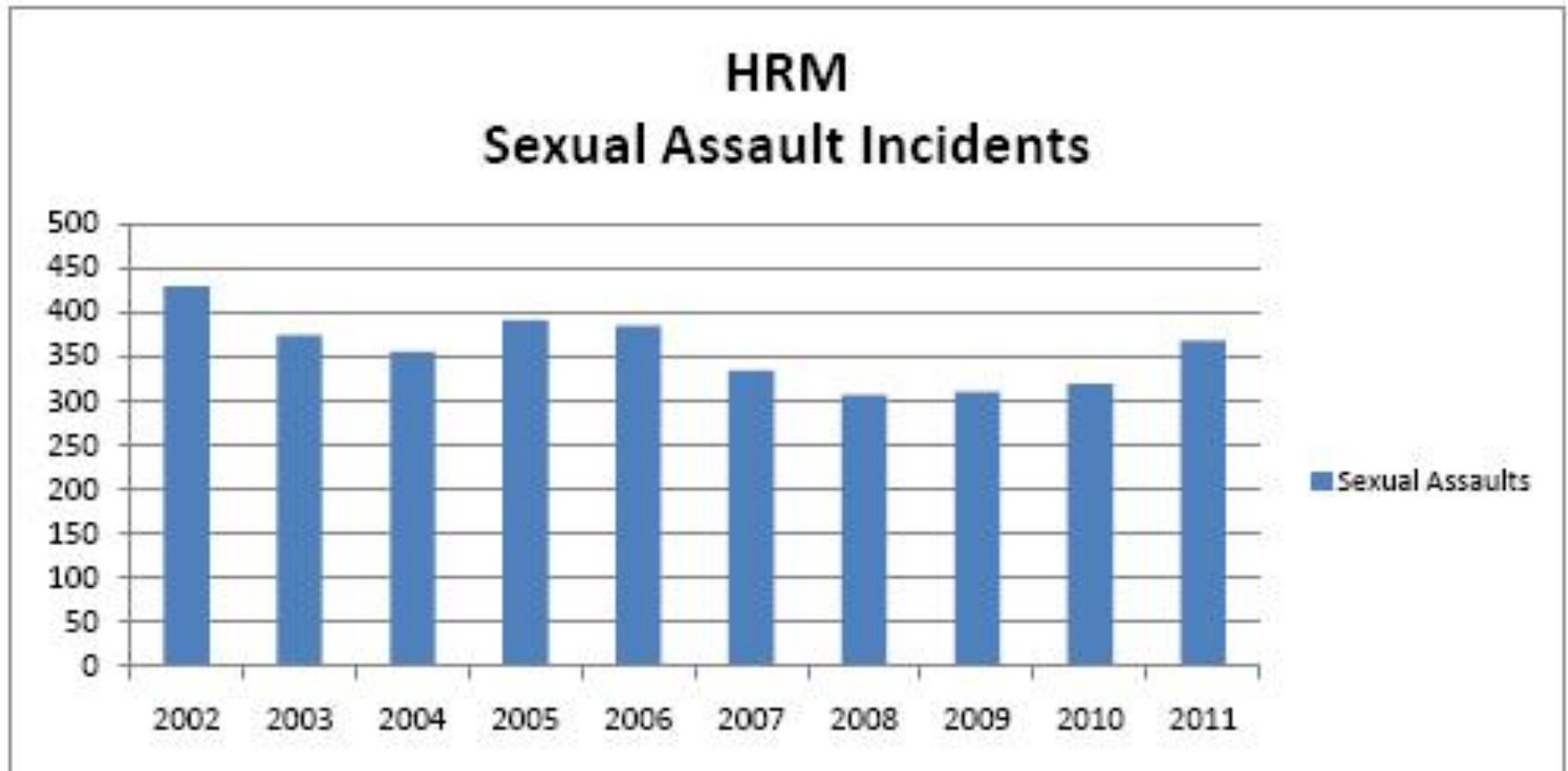
Robberies are Trending Downward



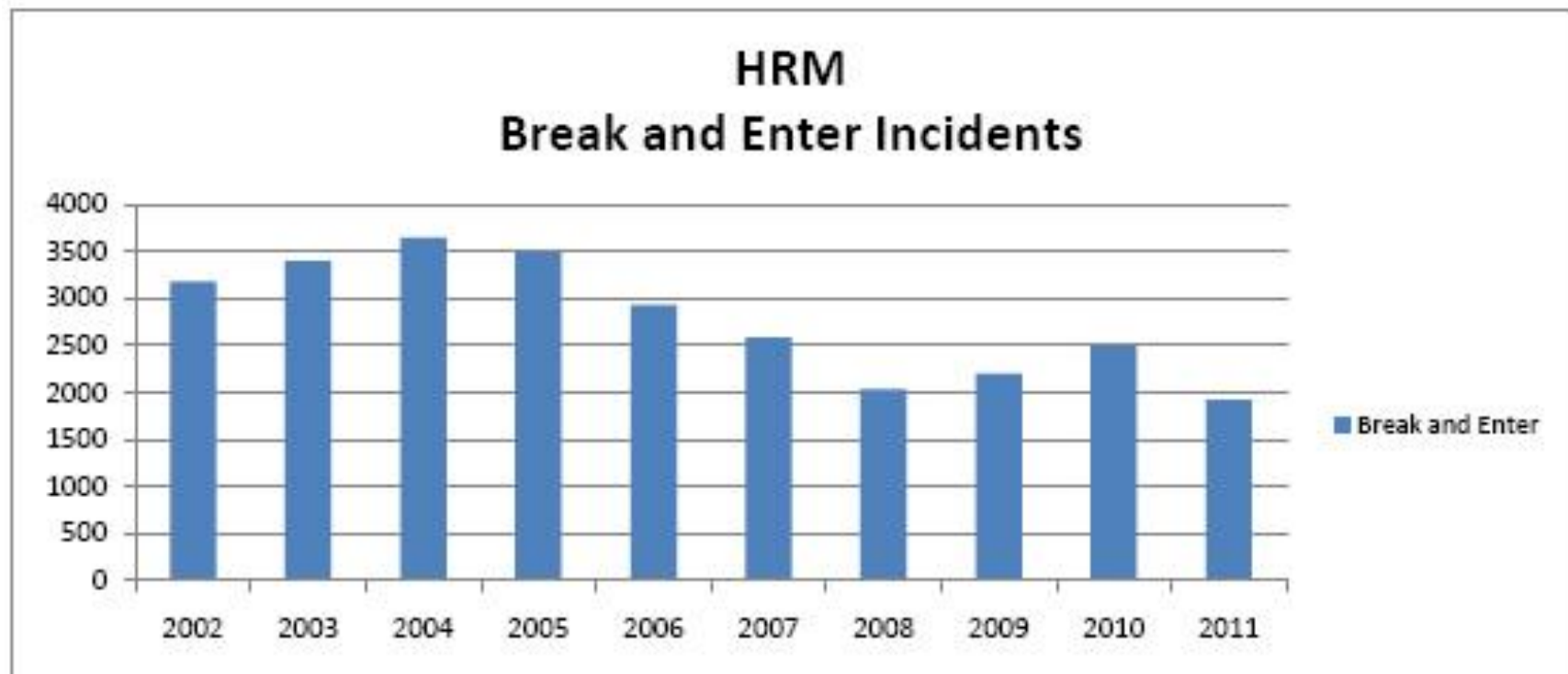
Assaults are Down



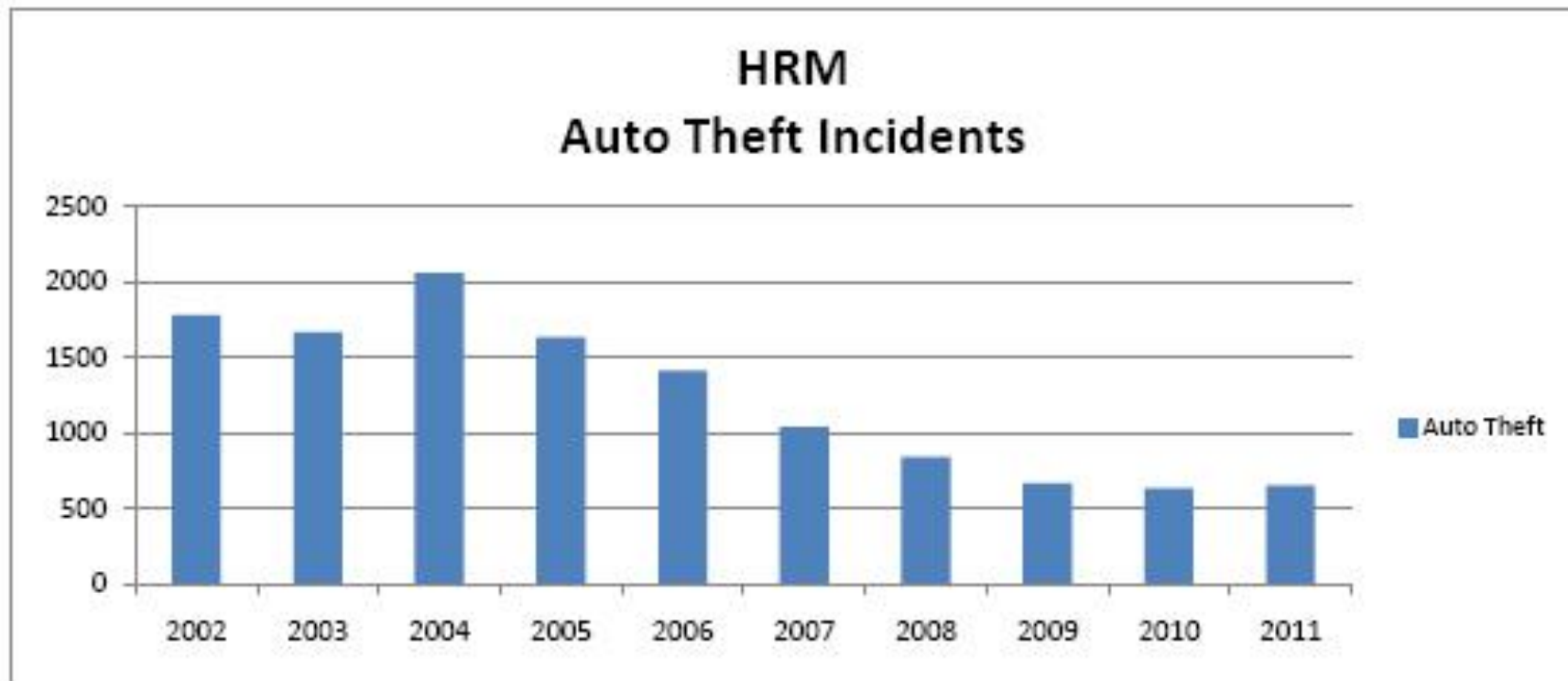
Sexual Assaults Fluctuate



Break and Enters Fluctuate but are Down in 2011



Auto Theft Up & Down Over the Years but Up Slightly in 2011



Crime Reduction Strategy

Goals	Objectives	Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reduce Violence● Increase Safety in the Community● Improve the Quality-of-Life for Members of our Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reduce the number of offenders engaged in violent crime● Reduce the opportunity to commit crime within neighbourhoods identified as at-risk● Reduce victimization by violent crime● Increase the capacity of the community to work independently of the police to reduce crime and improve community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Number of violent crimes● Community perception of safety● Community perception of quality-of-life

Crime Reduction in Action

- Introduced Sector Policing
- Created Community Response Officers
- Implemented Operation Breach & Warrant Detail
- Created Individual Quick Response Units for each Division
- Reinstigated 24/7 Beat Programs
- Opened New Community Offices, particularly in public housing
- Augmented Overall Police Resources
- Increased Police Visibility and Accessibility

HRM Public Safety Strategy

- Develop action plans which address the root causes of crime and victimization, not just its symptoms
- Connect and coordinate the various levels of government and social agencies that are addressing the root causes of crime
- Support the creation and implementation of innovative public safety initiatives

Public Safety Successes

- Created Public Safety Officer & Office
- Named the HRM Board of Police Commissioners as the Public Safety Advisory Board
- Created and implemented a public safety strategy
- Launched an HRP on-line reporting system

Public Safety Successes

- Created and implemented a corresponding communication plan
 - Both HRP and RCMP use Facebook and Twitter
 - Launched Public Safety Officer's blog which has been viewed over 5,000 times since mid-November
 - Launched Public Safety Officer's Twitter feed
 - Launched crime prevention coffee sleeve initiative with Dalhousie University & Coburg Coffee
 - Regularly issue HEAT's Outstanding Warrant Wanted List

Public Safety Successes

- Launched a gun amnesty in partnership with Henry's Camera which netted 1,074 guns and over 10,000 rounds of ammunition.
- Held three Halifax Connects events, providing health and dental checks, foot care, hair cuts and a host of other services to homeless and marginalized people. This corporate-private-government partnership is now held twice annually.

Public Safety Successes

- Launched a number of one-day sports camps for youth from economically stressed areas
- Worked with Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia and Alcohol & Gaming Division to create a safe bars association known as the Patron Accountability, Safety & Service (PASS) Program

Public Safety Successes

- An ad hoc committee on race relations presented recommendations to the Mayor to:
 - Issue an apology to the residents and descendants of Africville (completed)
 - Support the creation of the Africville Church (completed)
 - Create an Office of African Nova Scotia Affairs (pending)
- Created an HRM Partners in Policing Cultural Diversity Consultative Committee

Public Safety Successes

- Created a police/black pastors partnership, known as Safer Communities, to discuss and implement public safety initiatives
- Born out of an ad hoc committee on affordable housing, a partnership between government, social agencies and corporations was formed to create additional affordable housing units. This has resulted in over 400 additional affordable housing units being available.

Public Safety Strategy = Enhanced Partnerships

- Provincial Government
 - Department of Community Services (Metropolitan Housing Authority)
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Education
 - Department of African Nova Scotia Affairs
- Public Prosecution Service
- Justice Partners
- Corrections
- Mayor and Regional Council
- HRM Board of Police Commissioners
- Department of National Defence
- Halifax Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Halifax Partnership
- Rotary Clubs
- Media
- Mayor's Roundtable
- Public/Town Hall Meetings & Crime Prevention Series
- Business Associations
- Tenants' Associations
- Faith-Based Associations
- Safer Communities
- United Way – Action for Neighbourhood Change
- Safer, Stronger Communities
- Dalhousie University
- PASS Program – Safe Bars Association

HRM Public Safety Status Update

- 20% of the 64 recommendations in the Response to the Mayor's Roundtable have been completed (one-time only initiatives)
- 78% have been completed but require on-going work in order to continue to progress.
- 2% (1 recommendation) on-hold, awaiting Supreme Court decision

The Results Are In

- Crime rates:
 - Decreased in 2005(-8.64%),
 - Decreased in 2006 (-11.68%),
 - Decreased in 2007 (-10.6%)
 - Decreased in 2008 (-7.9%)
 - Held steady in 2009 (+0.10%)
 - Increased in 2010 (+ 4%)
 - Decreased in 2011 (- 10.34%)

Citizen Satisfaction Results 2011

- 83% of citizens surveyed are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of policing provided
- 81% are satisfied or very satisfied with police visibility/presence
- 90% are confident in emergency response
- 87% are satisfied or very satisfied with peace and order in their local neighbourhood
- 87% feel safe in the community where they live
- 90% feel safe in the areas they go for shopping, recreation and work

Discussion ...

