



Crime Analysis

Taber Police Service

2018

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and

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INTRODUCTION

As a means of providing the context for this crime analyses, a brief overview of the Town of Taber and the Taber Police is provided below. As Taber is growing slowly, the context and makeup of the community does not frequently change and, as a result, provides an excellent base from which to conduct crime analysis.

The Taber Police Service has served the Town of Taber as its police service since 1904. The Town of Taber is situated geographically 52 kilometers east of Lethbridge, Alberta and 100 kilometers north of the Montana Alberta border. Taber acts as a regional hub for the residents within the M.D. of Taber, however, Taber itself has a population of approximately 8400 people according to the 2016 Statistics Canada census.

The Taber Police Service is an organization which is governed by the Taber Municipal Police Commission. The Police Act (2000) states that a police commission shall,

“Oversee the police service and for that purpose shall do the following:

- A) allocate funds that are provided by the council;
- B) establish policies providing for the efficient and effective policing;
- C) issue instructions, as necessary, to the chief of police in respect to the policies referred to in clause (b);
- D) ensure that sufficient persons are employed for the police service for the purpose of carrying out the functions of the police service.” (p.22)

The Taber Police has three core functions, the provision of policing services, regional E911 communications that receives calls for service from the citizenry and dispatches police and fire, and forwards ambulance calls to the Alberta Health Services Southern Communication Centre based out of Calgary. Taber Police Service Communications Operators responsibilities do not end with the dispatch function. Their responsibilities also include administrative support of Taber Police members through the preparation of court disclosure packages, file creation and release document preparation to name a few. The function of bylaw enforcement within the Taber Police Service falls within the mandate of the Community Standards Unit (CSU). The CSU is made up of one full-time Police Constable and two full-time summer students who are dedicated to enforce the various Town of Taber Bylaws, as well as offences under the Traffic Safety Act. As of 2018, the authorized strength of the Taber Police Service is 15 police officers. The Province of Alberta funds one of these police officer positions. There are currently 4 Auxiliary Police officers, 4 full-time and 3 part-time Communication Operators, 1 Public Security Communication Manager, 1 administrative support position, 4 part-time casual prisoner guards and a large volunteer complement.

“Analysis is necessary to understand the scope of a problem and to be certain the problem is actually a problem. Sometimes crime and public disorder issues are public perception or a misinterpretation or under-analysis of statistics and do not exist in reality. Some problems, which are not so noticeable, are actually severe and have a strong negative impact on the community.” (Osborne, D. 2001. p. 23). This quote speaks to the importance of conducting regular statistical analysis of crime in order to confirm or refute whether issues exist concerning crime in a particular area. The Alberta police standards

require that each police service conduct a yearly crime analysis. 2018 marks the twelfth year that the Taber Police Service is conducting a yearly crime analysis. Although our budget does not allow for much movement in relation to specialty investigations or the strategic deployment of personnel, this exercise will allow us to advise our stakeholders of current crime trends observed within the Town of Taber and allow us to intelligently deploy our resources. It should also be noted that the Taber Police Service executive closely watches for trends of criminal activity that may be occurring within our community. These trends are examined in our police reports to the Commission. Our small size allows us to be fluid and adaptable to community concerns and, as such, the utilization of crime analyses, from a purely statistical and academic point of view, has less efficacy than crime analyses within a larger police service that have more resources available to be deployed to address any identified issues.

RESEARCH METHODS

In order to gather the data used in this analysis an anecdotal review of the crime stats reported to Statistics Canada through the Police Reporting and Occurrence System (PROS) was conducted. In each case, the reports of crime were tallied and have been displayed both numerically and by chart. We utilized a 5-year window and gathered the data through manual searches of the databases. The date range for the data commenced January 1 of the given year and was terminated December 31 of that same year. The total reports of crime were tabulated and were compared against the previous years' numbers. As with all data, there is much speculation as to whether or not reports of crime are a determinant of actual crime within a given community. Although not infallible, we

believe that given the time period specified and the scrutiny that is involved with inputting the data into our records management systems that, although we can't ensure accuracy, we believe the results are an actual reflection of the occurrences of reported crime within our community and, as such, can be used as a means of making educated guesses to help improve upon policing practices within our community.

RESULTS

The reports of crime can be broken down into five categories; offences against the person, property offences, other criminal code offences, drug offences and provincial acts. All information gathered from this report can be found in the data obtained from the following table:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>% Of Difference 2017 to 2018</u>
OFFENCES AGAINST PERSONS						
HOMICIDE						
Attempted Murder	0	0	1	0	0	0%
Murder	1	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL HOMICIDE	1	0	1	0	0	0%
ROBBERY	0	2	0	0	3	300%
ASSAULTS						
Sexual Assault	17	9	19	13	10	-23%
Assault (Level 1)	75	73	77	71	70	-1%
Assault Weap/Bodyhrm	6	4	13	9	20	122%
Aggravated Assault	2	2	3	5	3	-40%
Assault on Police	2	3	5	7	8	14%
TOTAL ASSAULTS	102	91	117	105	107	2%
KIDNAPPING / HOSTAGE / ABDUCTIONS	4	1	4	4	3	-25%
TOTAL OFFENCES AGAINST PERSONS	106	94	122	109	113	4%
PROPERTY OFFENCES						
BREAK AND ENTER	31	22	46	49	32	-35%
THEFTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES	21	22	22	23	24	4%
THEFTS OVER \$5000	9	3	5	8	9	13%
THEFTS UNDER \$5000	175	141	178	222	185	-17%
POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY	15	14	20	33	22	-33%
FRAUDS	59	56	49	49	37	-24%
TOTAL PROPERTY OFFENCES	310	258	320	384	309	-20%

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>% Of Difference 2017 to 2018</u>
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE						
PROPERTY DAMAGE	168	161	145	129	133	3%
DISTURB THE PEACE	128	109	96	123	167	36%
CRIMINAL HARASSMENT	26	17	16	10	25	150%
UTTERING THREATS	67	58	73	69	65	-6%
BREACH OF PROBATION/BAIL VIOLATION	113	131	132	138	165	20%
IMPAIRED OPERATION	66	47	59	48	51	6%
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	568	523	521	517	606	17%

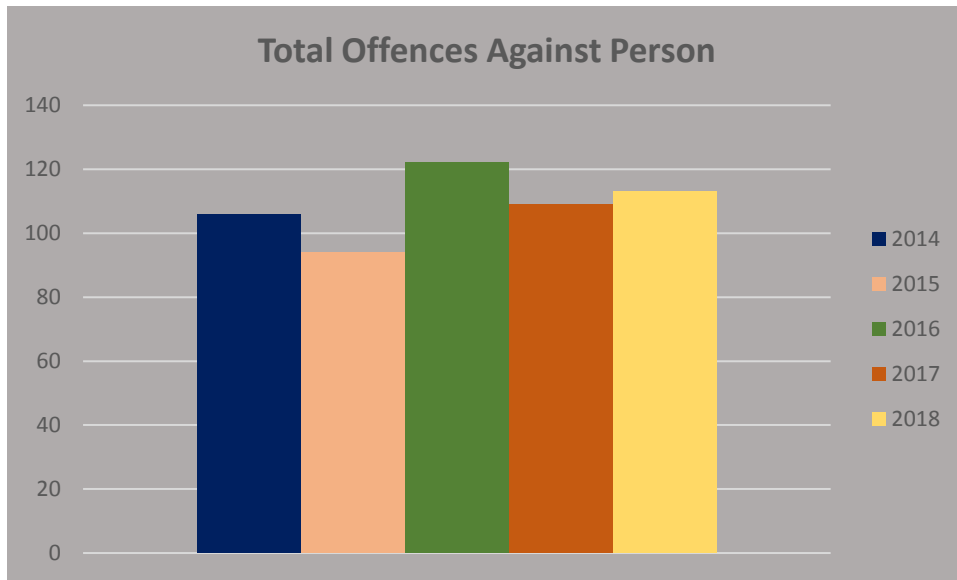
DRUG OFFENCES

COCAINE POSSESSION	4	6	6	1	10	900%
COCAINE TRAFFICKING	9	14	16	3	5	67%
METHAMPHETAMINE POSSESSION	0	0	0	1	11	1000%
METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING	0	0	0	0	1	100%
OPIOD POSSESSION	0	0	0	0	1	100%
PRODUCTION OF MARIHUANA	1	0	6	0	0	0%
MARIHUANA POSSESSION OVER 30g	1	1	3	0	2	100%
MARIHUANA POSSESSION UNDER 30g	33	41	28	14	24	71%
MARIHUANA TRAFFICKING UNDER 3 kg	6	9	6	1	3	200%
OTHER	6	4	11	5	8	60%
TOTAL DRUG OFFENCES	59	75	75	25	65	160%

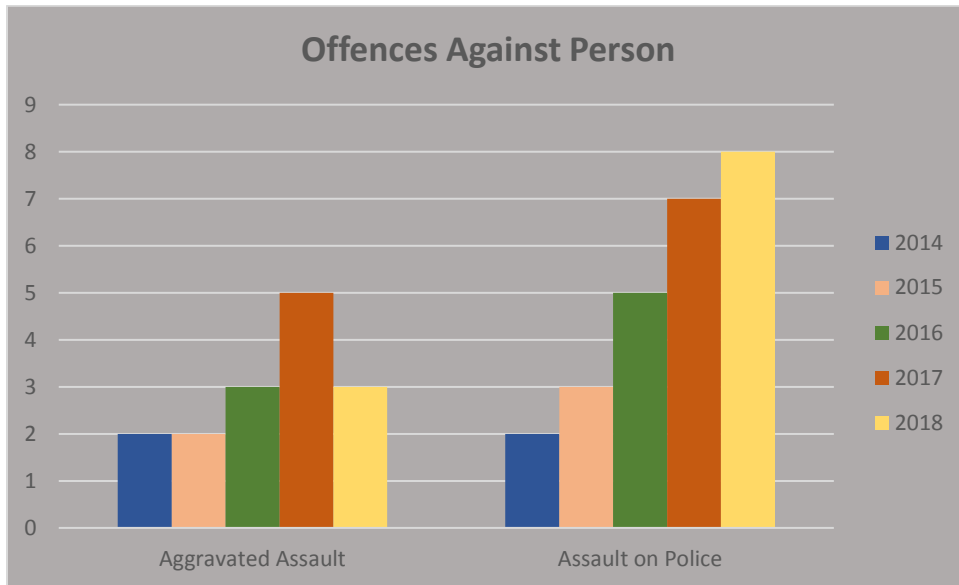
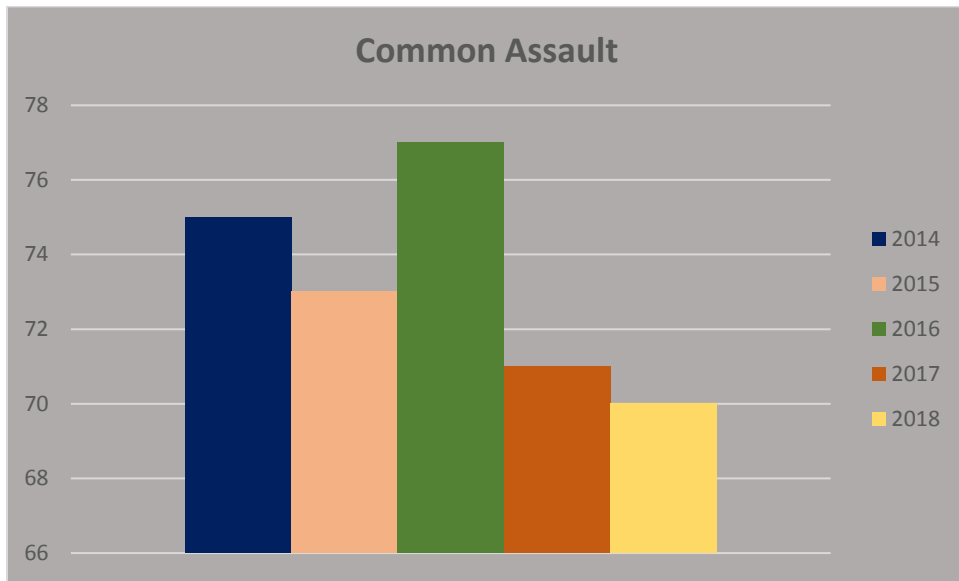
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>% Of Difference 2017 to 2018</u>
<i>PROVINCIAL ACTS</i>						
CHILD WELFARE	20	10	10	14	15	7%
LIQUOR ACT	140	152	138	122	134	10%
MENTAL HEALTH ACT	75	64	82	73	111	52%
OTHER PROVINCIAL STATS	2247	2214	1855	2155	2007	-7%
COLLISIONS	150	134	126	143	148	3%
MUNICIPAL BYLAWS	444	449	367	532	501	-6%
<i>TOTAL PROVINCIAL ACTS</i>	3076	3023	2578	3039	2916	-4%

OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON

The Offences against Persons category of crime relates to all reported incidents of crime that directly involve a person as a victim of the crime. Some examples are, but not limited to, assaults on police, assaults, sexual assault, abductions, etc.



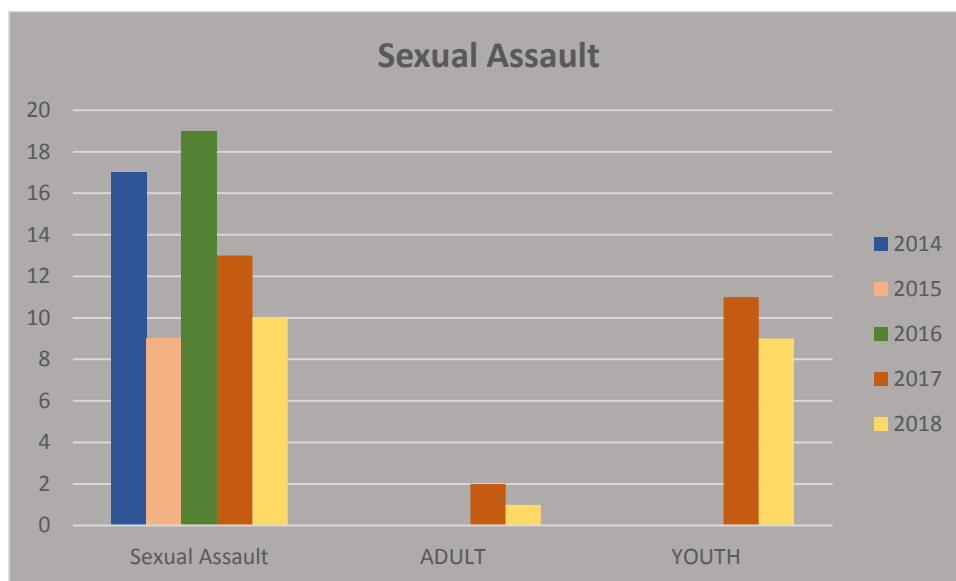
Overall, the 2018 crime analysis determined there was a 4% increase in the total combined Offences Against Persons crime rate, which elevated from 109 reports in 2017 to 113 in 2018. This means that if you lived in Taber in 2018, there was a 1.3 % chance of you being the victim of an offence against person. Percentage wise there is a miniscule change from what was reported in 2017, with the number increasing by .04%. These numbers are based off of the 2015 census where it was reported that the Town of Taber had a population of 8380. It is likely that the population numbers have increased since that time. This indicates that the percentage would be actually lower and would be even more reflective of the safety of Taber as a community.



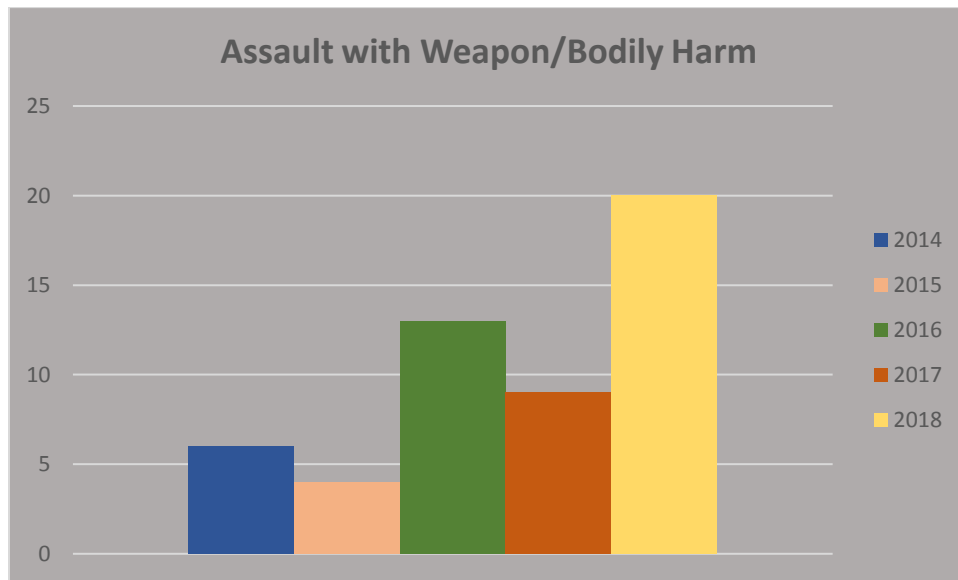
By comparing the categories it is clear that they are close in numbers. There is a slight increase in the Assault on Police area with 8 occurrences reported in 2018 as compared to 7 in 2017. The categories of Common Assault and Assault on Police only

varied by one in each of the categories with assaults down by 1 unit and Assault on Police up 1 unit. A trend is noted with the Assault on Police category with the numbers rising for a 5th consecutive year. Comparatively in 2014, 2 Assault on Police incidences were reported where in 2018, 8 were reported. In a five year period there has been an increase of 75%. The 2018 numbers display the highest number of reported assaults on police since the inception of the collection of these statistics.

The overall number of reported offences that are included in the Offences against Person category decreased in 4 of the 9 offence types. As a whole, all the Offences Against Persons categories were up 4% from last year. The 3 offences with increases were assaults on police, robbery, and assault with a weapon/bodily harm. The remaining 2 of 9 offence types that saw no change were in the homicide category with 0 attempted murders or murders reported. The category of note was the robbery category which showed a 300% increase. This was from 3 reported occurrences compared to 0 in 2017. Of those reports 1 was unfounded, two were actual, and one was unsolved.



Of note, in 2018 the number of reports that the Taber Police Service received regarding sexual offences decreased significantly. In 2016 the Taber Police Service saw its highest level, since the inception of the yearly crime analysis, of reported sexual offences at 19 reports. In 2018 the Taber Police Service saw a 23% decrease in reported sexual offences, which was a decrease from 13 reports to 10 reports. In 2018, of the 10 reports, 5 resulted in formal charges being laid, 4 were determined to be unfounded, and 1 report remains under investigation. There were several occurrences, not listed in the 10 reports where the Taber Police acted as an assisting agency and where the occurrence did not occur in the Town of Taber. An examination was conducted into the unfounded reports of sexual offences. The examination determined that all four reports resulted in police not being able to identify any evidence of a sexual offence occurring.

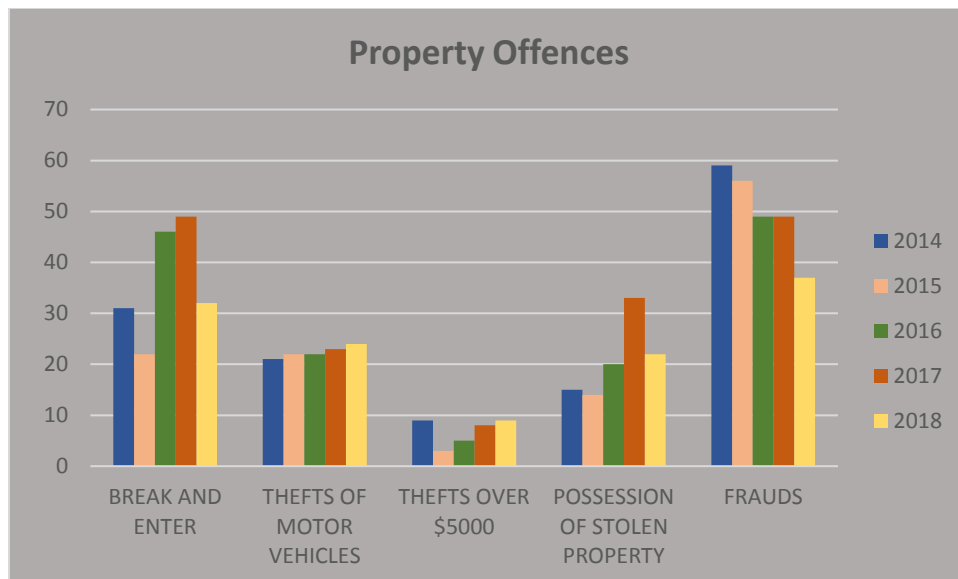


2018 saw a 122% increase (20 reports in 2018 to 9 reports in 2017) in the number of reported assaults with a weapon/causing bodily harm compared to the previous year's numbers. These 2018 numbers are the highest in this category since 2013. Of the 20 reports, 3 were unfounded and 8 were cleared by charge. The remainder of the occurrences were cleared as there was not enough evidence to proceed, or in 3 of the instances they were School Resource Officer investigations where other remedies were utilized. Although the numbers were elevated for 2018 in terms of occurrences, offences where an individual was charged were only up 3 from 2017.

After two consecutive years that observed increases the reports of aggravated assaults in 2018 revealed a 40% decrease. This is in sharp contrast to the period between 2015 and 2017 where there was a 250% increase in the number of reported aggravated assaults. These high increases or decreases are mainly due to the low numbers of actual occurrences. A small swing either way will cause a higher percentage number. Charges of aggravated assault were laid against the accused in all 3 of the 3 reports that were investigated by the Taber Police Service. In 1 of the 3 occurrences where charges were laid, the accused, the domestic partner of the victim, was the perpetrator of the assault.

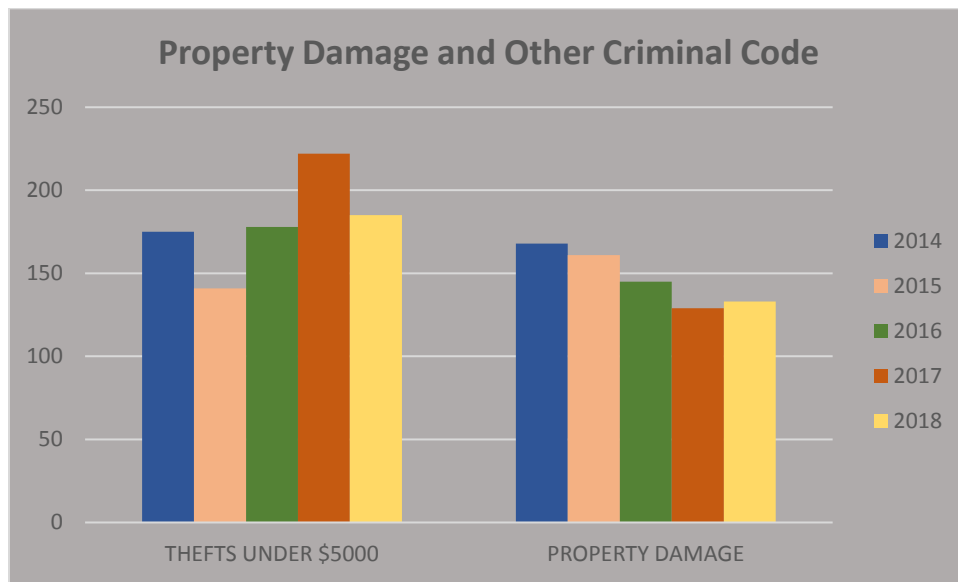
PROPERTY OFFENCES

Property Offences can be described as crimes where an item of value belonging to someone else is the subject of an offence. Examples of property offences include theft, possession of stolen property, break and enter, frauds, etc.



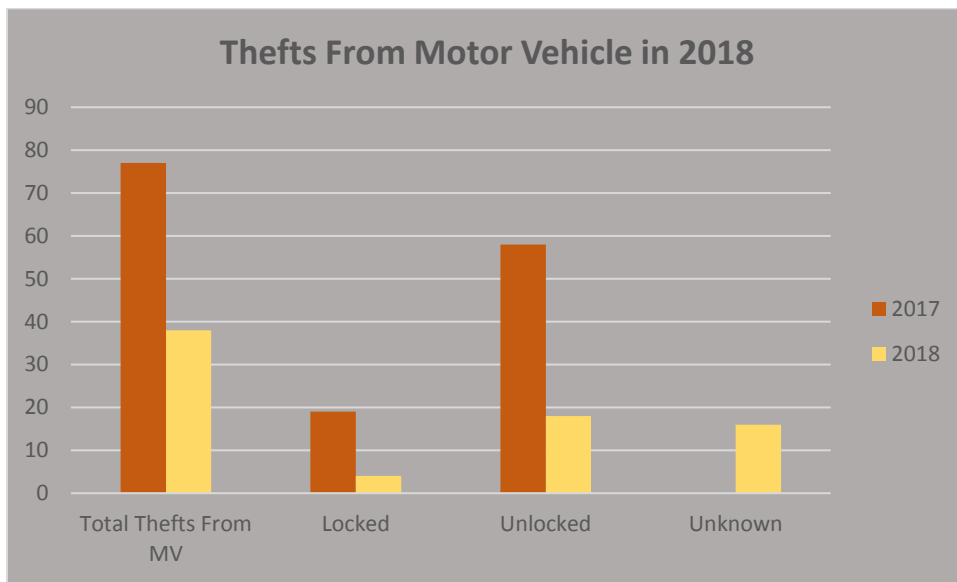
There was an overall 20% decrease in Property Offences in 2018, which followed a 20% increase in 2017. The previous two year period represented a 49% increase in Property Offences. This year marks the first year in a three year period where this offence category has observed a decline in numbers. There were 320 property related offences reported in 2016, 384 reports in 2017 and 309 reports in 2018. Increasing reports of Property Offences are a common trend being observed throughout Canada over the last several years. Since 2014, Stats Canada reported national yearly increases in property crime related offences. Referring to the national crime statistics for 2017

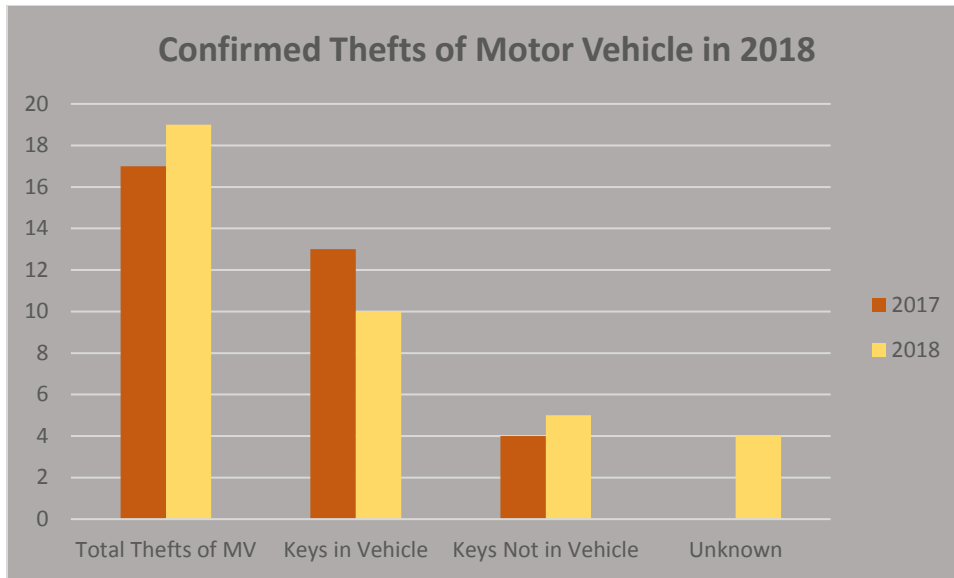
property crime in general was at a 3% increase in Alberta. It is likely that the 2018 numbers are an anomaly and this could mean a potential rise in this area throughout the 2019 year. An example of this rise can be seen in the theft of motor vehicle category which saw a 4% increase, and in the theft over \$5000 category which reported a 13% increase. Further to this, by taking a snapshot of the Possession of Property less than \$5000 category, many of the investigations recovered property that has not been reunited with the owner. This leads to a speculation that there is many unreported theft complaints possibly from our jurisdiction.



The Taber Police Service only observed increases in 2 of 6 of the Property Offence categories. The largest increase in the Property Offence category related to the theft over \$5000 category which saw an increase from 8 reports to 9 (13%). The next highest increase was observed with thefts of motor vehicles, which rose from 23 reports in 2017 to 24 (4%) in 2018. Thefts under \$5,000 decreased from 222 reports in 2017 to 185 reports in 2018 (17%). A similar decrease was seen in the Break and Enter category

where a 35% decrease was seen with 32 occurrences reported in 2018 compared to 49 in 2017. Of the total 32 reported break and enters, 10 were to businesses, 14 were to residences, 7 occurred to other structures such as unattached garages construction sites or sheds, and the last 1 report was regarding individuals being unlawfully in a dwelling house. Statistics Canada crime statistics for 2017 show a national average increase of 6% in theft of motor vehicle offences which is similar to the reported 4% increase shown in 2018 in Taber. A national decline was also noted in break and enter offences (2%), however, that is substantially less than the 35% decrease reported in Taber.





A review was conducted of all reported Property Offences involving vehicles and several observations were made that may indicate that the implementation of preventative measures could drastically decrease the reported number of thefts from ever occurring. This review confirmed that 15 of the 19 reported theft of vehicles involved the confirmation of an actual theft of vehicle occurring. Of these 15 confirmed vehicle thefts, 66% (10 of 15 reports) involved thefts where the keys were left in the vehicle prior to the theft occurring. Thefts from motor vehicles accounted for 21% (39 of 185) of all reports of thefts under \$5,000. Of the 38 reports of thefts from motor vehicles, 22 involved items being stolen from the interior of unattended vehicles. Of that 22, 18 were determined to have been unlocked. In 16 other instances it was unsure if the vehicle was locked and/or items were stolen from the exterior of the vehicle which would make it N/A. These statistics confirm that removing keys from vehicles and ensuring that doors are locked when vehicles are left unattended would likely decrease the number of reportable thefts within these categories.

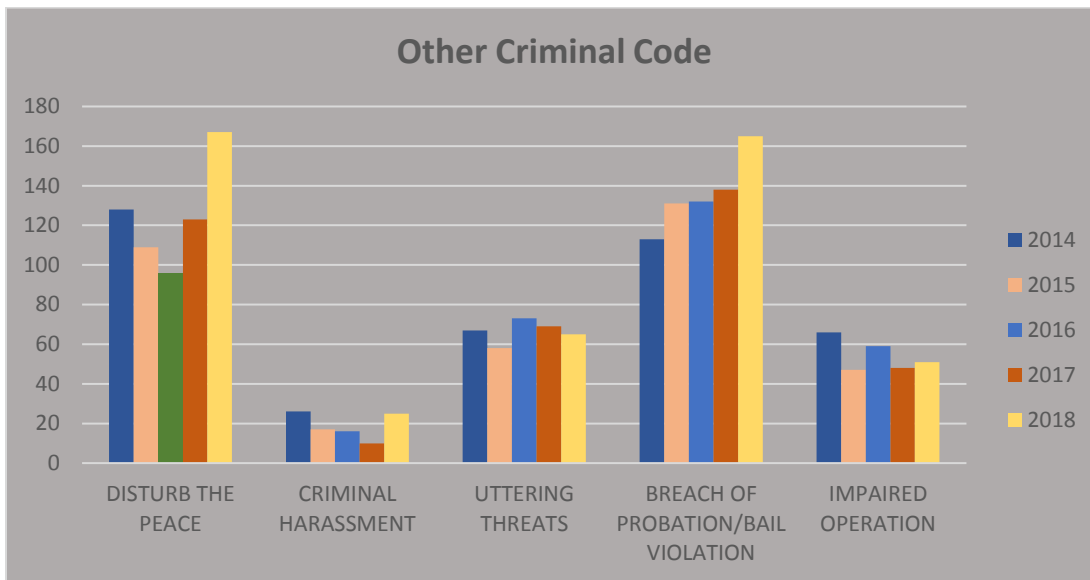
The number of property crimes occurring in the Town of Taber may actually be higher than reported as Statistics Canada in the 2014 national survey titled, Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014, conducted research that indicates only 34% of Albertans reported being victimized to police.

Another factor to consider when attempting to determine the cause of increased property offences is to evaluate the other social issues that may contributing to the increase. In other communities in the area there has been a direct correlation made between an increase of property type offences and higher drug offence numbers. The numbers shown in the Town of Taber seem to be somewhat of an anomaly and it is more than likely that this will not be the case next year. This being said, the lower numbers could be a result of the continued efforts of the police members and the proactivity shown in patrol and community involvement. Community-involved, 24/7 policing will be key for the future to ensure proactive measures for expected increased crime numbers.

It should be mentioned that in the first two and a half months of 2019 the Taber Police Service has received methamphetamine occurrences on 5 separate occasions. Of these 5 occurrences, 2 involved drug charges being laid. In 4 out of the 5 occurrences the subjects of complaint are against individuals who were involved in transient criminality. The 2 individuals charged were initially arrested for property related offences or they had outstanding warrants and then they were subsequently found in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Based on these numbers it appears that the rise in methamphetamine use will likely continue and that there is a correlation between transient criminality, property offences and drug use.

OTHER CRIMINAL CODE

Although not all encompassing, the offence description of other criminal code refers to offences that do not fall into the categories of offences against person, drug or property offences. Examples of these types of offences are disturbing the peace, criminal harassment, uttering threats, breach of probation, impaired driving, etc.



2018 saw an increase percentage-wise in this crime category (+17%). There was an overall increase in reports of Other Criminal Code offences from 517 reports in 2017 to 606 reports in 2018. Occurrences relating to breaches of probation and bail violations saw an increase from 138 reports in 2017 to 165 reports in 2018 (20%). The only offence type included in this category to see a decrease was the uttering threats category which saw a 6% decrease from 69 in 2017 to 65 reports in 2018.

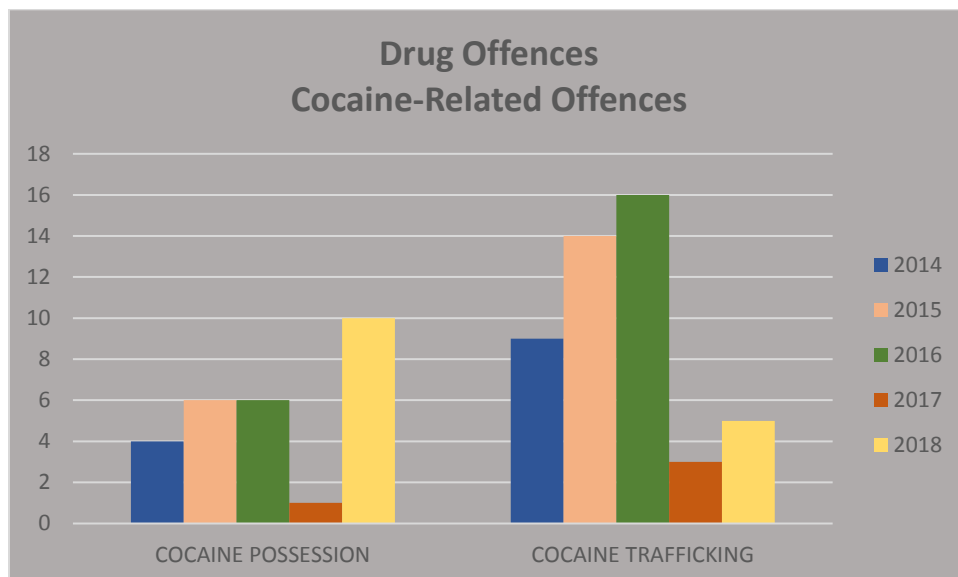
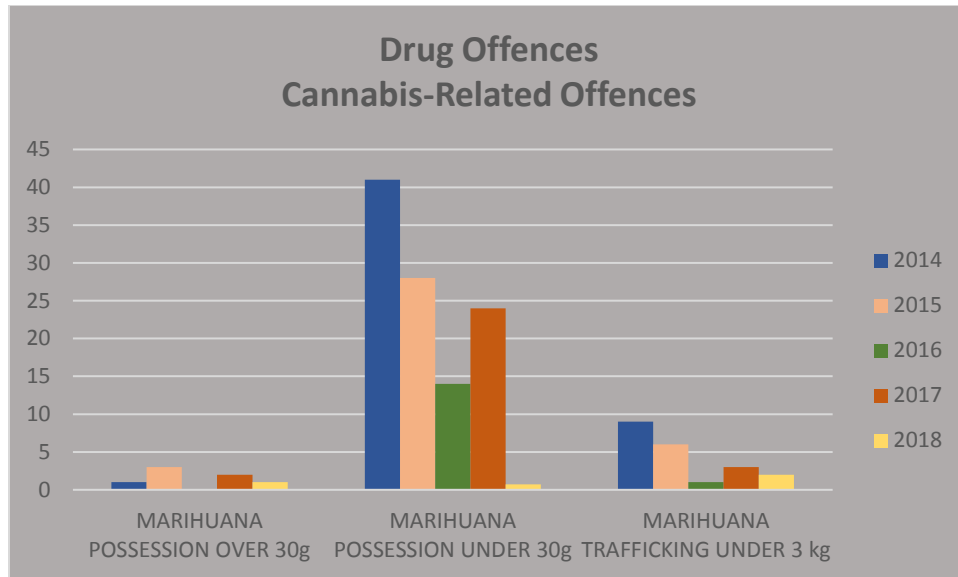
The remaining 4 offence types within the Other Criminal Code category all saw between 3% and 150% increases in reports. The largest increase of the 4 was observed with reports of criminal harassment which saw a 150% decrease from 25 reports in 2017 to 25 reports in 2018. Disturbing the Peace saw the next highest increase at 36%, which translates to an increase from 123 reports in 2017 to 167 in 2018. The 48 reports in 2017 were similar to 45 reports that were recorded in 2013. Of the 167 reports, 10 were determined to be unfounded or unsubstantiated and 157 were actual.

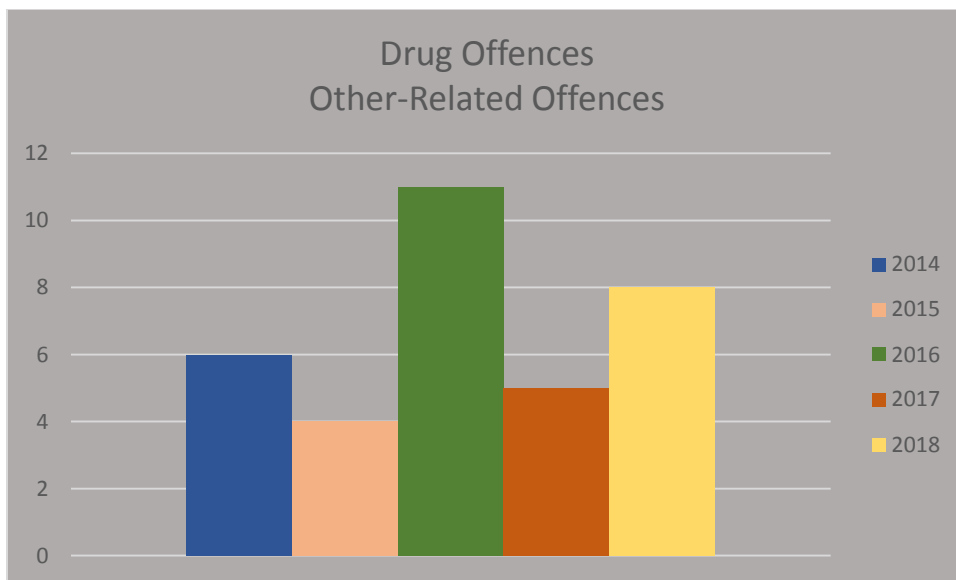
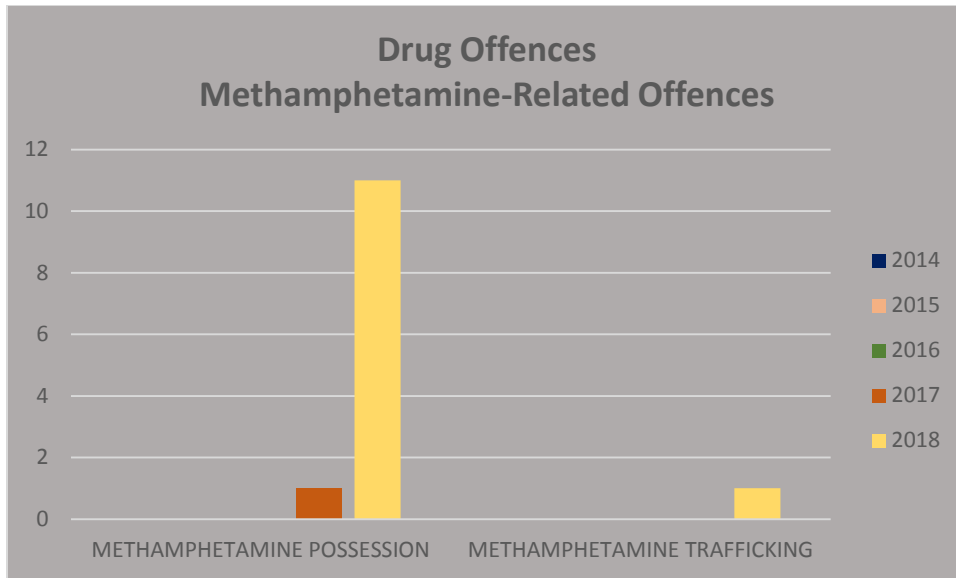
Impaired driving statistics presented a slight increase with 51 occurrences reported in 2018 compared to 48 in 2017. Out of the 51, 42 were actual with 9 being unfounded. A total of 22 charges and 12 roadside alcohol related suspensions were issued.

Reports of property damage in 2018 saw an increase of 3%. A total of 133 occurrences were reported in 2018 compared to 129 in 2017. Although this is a slight increase this is the second lowest number in the past five years. This can likely be attributed to low rates of youth crime in our community. An example of this can be seen in the charges laid by our service on youth in 2018. Out of 143 youth charges laid only 7 of them are criminal code charges, 2 CDSA charges, and the rest are provincial act violations.

DRUG OFFENCES

Drug offences are those crimes reported that involve contraventions of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Examples of crimes that are included within this category are possession and trafficking of all illegal drugs and production of illegal drugs.





Total drug offences reported to, or investigated by, the Taber Police Service saw an overall increase of 160% in 2018 as compared to 2017. This increase was reflected in 45 more reports received in 2018 compared to 2017. Every offence type within this category saw increases, with the exception of the production of marihuana. Possession of

methamphetamine saw one report in 2017. This offence type was added in 2017 following the Taber Police Service noting an increase in reports of methamphetamine possession that had never previously been observed within the Town of Taber. In 2018 the alarming statistic is in this category. A 1000% increase has been noted with 11 occurrences reported that involve Methamphetamines. As forecasted in 2017, the trend in southern Alberta has come to the town of Taber. Factors such as the implementation of the supervised consumption site in Lethbridge in February of 2018, and the trend of travelling criminality has been felt in our community. As shown by recent intelligence, many of the transient drug users that are now living or frequenting our community, or have ties to our community, have connections to Lethbridge and Calgary. The very transient nature of the individuals involved in the use of illegal drugs causes concern from a policing perspective. Statistics Canada has shown a steady increase in drug occurrences involving heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy and other CDSA since 2014. This is in line with our massive increase in 2017 in these categories. According to the Stats Canada 2017 crime stats report, cannabis and cocaine related offences has declined for the fifth straight year. In the report Allen advises, “in contrast, the combined rate of possession, trafficking, production and importation or exportation of drugs other than cannabis and cocaine has been increasing since 2010. Between 2016-2017 the most notable increases were reported for possession (+13%) and trafficking, production or importation/exportation (+11%) of methamphetamines or ecstasy.” (p.26).

This year’s total reports of Drug Offences is the highest reported number since 2016. There was increases shown in every category, except for the Production of Marihuana category which was at 0 occurrences. As discussed earlier, the largest increase was noted in the Methamphetamines possession. A close second was the category of

cocaine possession which showed a 900% increase. Although the numbers of the two occurrences combined only total 21 in 2018, it is up drastically from the 2 total occurrences in 2017. This is an alarming rate of increase. Increases were also noted in the “trafficking” categories. Cocaine trafficking had 5 occurrences in 2018 as compared to 3 in 2017. The category of methamphetamine trafficking had one occurrence which is the first since the statistics were compiled for this category. One of the interesting fields in the drug categories is that of Marihuana offences. In the possession under 30g there was a 71% increase from 2017 with 24 occurrences in 2018 as compared to 14 in 2017. There were also 2 occurrences of possession over 30g in 2018 compared to 0 in 2017. Some of these categories will be altered for 2019 with the legalization of Marihuana on October 17, 2018. The last offence type in the Drug Offences category is classified as “other controlled substances”. This offence type includes opiates, prescription medications, ecstasy and other illicit substances including, but not limited to, Cannabis derivatives not including Marihuana and Resin, for example Psilocybin. This category saw 8 reports in 2018, which is up from the 5 reports in the previous year. Of these 8 reports, 3 involved prescription medications of various types and 2 involved possession of Ecstasy. The other 3 were unsubstantiated trafficking reports. The 2018 number recorded for this offence type is the second highest number reported within the last 5 years.

As mentioned in the Property Offences section of this document, methamphetamine (meth) usage has surfaced amongst Taber’s illicit drug users. Until late 2017, meth usage in Taber had been relatively non-existent. This increasing meth use in Taber can be explained as this same trend has been observed across the province. Meth has recently become the drug of choice among illicit drug users within those

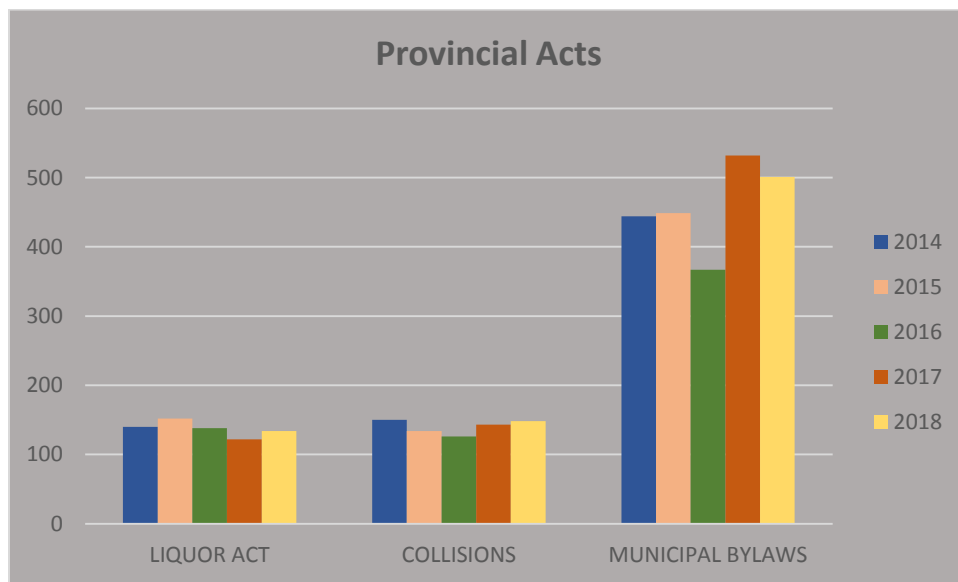
communities. As reported in the ALERT 2017-2018 annual report, methamphetamines accounted for the majority of drugs seized in Alberta with just under 4 million dollars' worth of the drug seized out of a total drug seizures worth 9.95 million dollars.

From a forecasting perspective, a major concern is the use amongst youth in Alberta. Todd reported, "the number of young people seeking treatment for meth additions in Alberta has nearly doubled since 2012 according to statistics from Alberta Health Services. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, 690 Albertans under 18 said they had used the drug in the past five years, compared to 373 in 2012-2013. (pg.1). A continued focus on drug education community partnerships, particularly the work of the school resource officer, will be an important tool to assist in this issue. This is in line with using intelligence based policing principles to deal with this alarming issue. Carter writes, "new dimensions of ILP (Intelligence Led Policing) depend on strong community relationships. Crime will continue to be a critical responsibility for the police as will the need for community support. ." (p.319). As drug use escalates, the need for social supports will increase. From addictions, mental health and victim services all will see increases in service requests. From a policing perspective, it is imperative to continue enforcement and investigations regarding these individuals. The continuation of intelligence gathering, source cultivation and aggressive police work will be an important part of the entire body of work that will be required to help combat this issue.

PROVINCIAL ACTS

Provincial Acts can be described as the numerous laws enforced by police that are enacted through an Act of the Provincial Legislature of Alberta. Although there are

hundreds of these Acts, this report will deal with reports of crime under The Child Youth Enhancement Act, The Gaming and Liquor Act, The Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and The Mental Health Act. Other Provincial Statutes, Traffic Collisions and Municipal Bylaws are also measured in this section. Although not criminal complaints, a large proportion of police resources are dedicated to the enforcement and investigation of Provincial Acts.



This crime category saw a decrease in occurrences as to what it observed in 2017. The 2018 numbers indicated that there was an overall decrease of 4% in the number of reports to the Taber Police Service concerning Provincial Acts. Percentage increases/decreases within this category range between -7% and 52%. The largest increase was with reports of Mental Health Act incidences, which rose from 73 reports in 2017 to 111 reports in 2018. This is a concerning area throughout the policing world. An example from the Calgary Police Service fourth quarter report 2018 revealed a 4.8%

increase in mental health concerns from 2017-2018. This will be an ongoing area of concern and it has taken a community approach to react properly to these types of incidences. A positive working relationship has been developed with the local hospital to best suit the needs of the person(s) in need. The increase in mental illness occurrences could be attributed to an increased awareness of the people who harbor the mental illness. In a progress report created by the Bell Let's Talk group, it presented that in 2015 81% of those surveyed were more aware of mental health issues as compared to five years ago. This could lead to people attempting to seek help or call the police to check on someone due to the awareness of these issues.

The next highest increase was seen in the liquor act area with a 10% increase. This was from 134 occurrences in 2018 up from 122 in 2017. The most likely explanation for the increase is the proactivity of the Taber Police members.

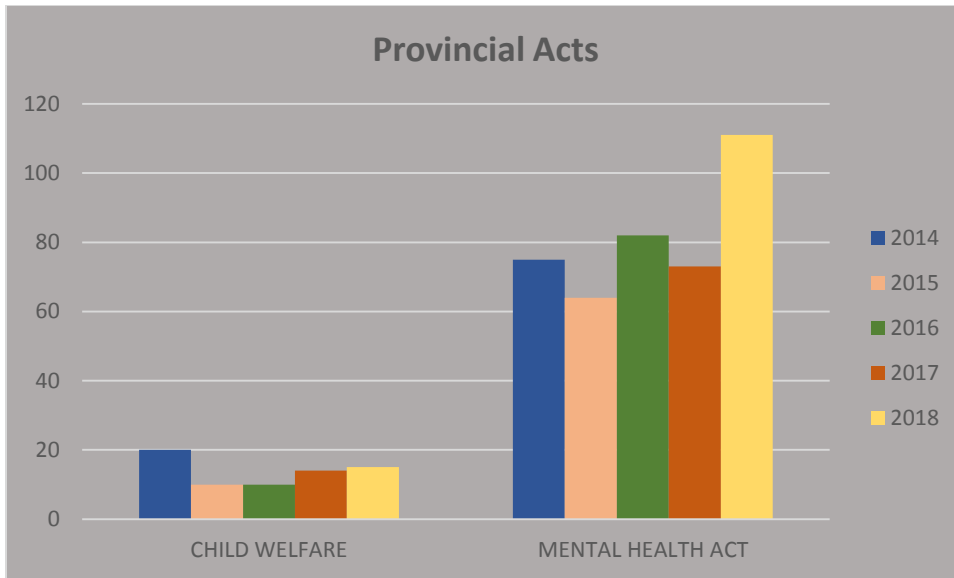
The numbers for the municipal bylaw occurrences dropped slightly in 2018 to 501 occurrences as compared to 532 in 2017. The major increase in this field was seen between 2016 and 2017 as a result of the March 2017 appointment of the Taber Police Service full-time Community Standards Officer (CSO). The CSO's mandate includes the responsibility of investigating community standards and provincial traffic offences that occur within the Town of Taber. The decrease observed within this offence category more than likely is a result of the proactive enforcement and public education conducted by the CSO and the Community Standards Unit, which they manage.

Another area of increase was with reports of child welfare occurrences which saw a 7% increase. This was from the 14 reports in 2017 to the 15 reports in 2018. After evaluating each child welfare report it was determined that there were 11 occurrences where a citizen and/or child and family services (CFS) made reports to the police. 2

reports came in anonymously about living conditions for a child which was passed onto CFS by the police. Each report made to the Taber Police Service of a child welfare nature is shared with the Taber CFS office. This practice ensures that CFS is apprised of all police involvement with child welfare matters involving children who reside within the Town of Taber. This allows CFS to take an informed approach regarding and required follow-up to any police investigation that may be required on their end to fulfill their mandates and responsibilities. This goes to show that South Country Child and Family Services continues to be an important stakeholder/partner of the Taber Police Service in ensuring the safety of the children within our community.

The other offence type within the Provincial Acts category with a decrease in 2018 were other provincial stats (-7%). The offence type within this category titled Other Provincial Stats is made up of 13 offences listed under the Traffic Safety Act. Some of these offences are moving traffic violations, fail to stop or remain at an accident scene, and motor vehicle insurance coverage violations, to name a few. Of the 2007 reports of offences that are included in the Other Provincial Stats section, 1776 resulted in charges being laid; and this is a decrease over the 1899 charges that were laid in 2017. Collisions saw a rise between 2017 and 2018 as they rose from 143 reports to 148 (3%). This 3% increase a 16% increase from 2016-2017.

Out of the 6 categories in this area 4 indicated increases. Although two only had minor decreases, these low percentage decreases accounted for the overall provincial acts showing a decrease of 4%. This is due to the sheer volume of occurrences in these two subtypes. Other Provincial and Municipal Bylaws had 2508 combined occurrences while the other 4 subtypes had 408 combined.



CONCLUSION

In an ever changing climate the Taber Police Service can use these crime analysis statistics to assist in an educated response to various criminal issues within our community. A snapshot of the issues of concern are reviewed so we can direct a focused response.

The offences versus persons category revealed little change with the exception of assault causing bodily harm instances. These numbers, however, can be interpreted to show little change in the rate of actual criminality vs reported occurrences. This means that in many of the instances the accounts were unfounded or of a manner that they were able to be cleared by other means rather than by charge. This speaks to the severity of the instances which can lead to an inference that Taber is still a safe community when it comes to this category.

In the property offences area some careful analysis was needed to see the actual climate versus the statistics presented. Although the crime rates have decreased in this area, this is likely an anomaly and we can reasonably expect an increase in this area

through a region forecast. The nexus between recent trends of transient activity, methamphetamine occurrence increases and property crime is clear and concerning for the future. As part of that interconnection, the drug statistics are the most concerning, specifically with the increase in methamphetamine occurrences. Troubling trends have been identified in the current methods of criminal activity that lend some explanation for this increase. Factors such as transient criminal behavior and the ties that they have to the larger centers such as Lethbridge and Calgary play a significant role in this increase.

Mental Health Act occurrences have increased and, as such, the ability of the Taber Police Service to foster and grow our community partnerships is imperative to ensure effective response to this societal issue.

The Police Executive Research Forum advised, “At the most fundamental level, police have expanded their mission, taking on the goal of preventing crime and reducing crime rates, rather than merely responding after crimes are committed. Today’s best police departments are always looking for ways to be proactive rather than reactive.” (p.42). This has been a way of doing business for the Taber Police Service and it is imperative that it continues to ensure effective community response. Response methods such as intelligence led policing and the continued utilization of community partnerships are imperative to assist in this process and to ensure a safe community. This crime analysis can be utilized as research to further promote and ensure the mission statement of the Taber Police Service is fulfilled.

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