
SAFETY IN NUMBERS UPDATE 2005

INDICATOR TREND SUMMARY

Background

On April 3, 2003, the World Health Organisation designated Calgary as a member of the international network of safe communities. Shortly before this date, in March 2003, Safer Calgary produced “Safety in Numbers – Calgary’s Safety Measurement Indicators Report for 2000”. The report was a response to one of the six criteria that a community must meet in order to be recognised as “safe”, namely the need for “evaluation measures to assess programs, processes and the effects of change”. It was the baseline report to provide a snapshot of what Calgary looked like with respect to safety in the year 2000.

This Indicator Trend Summary is the first update of “Safety in Numbers”. Its purpose is to document changes in the overall level of safety that occurred between the years 2000 and 2003. The Indicator Trend Summary offers insights into where safety improvements were made between 2000 and 2003 as well as information on areas that may warrant additional attention to improve overall levels of safety.

What do the trend indicators suggest?

The table below shows safety trend information for each indicator chosen. There are three trend indicators:

Trend is moving toward improved safety. Safety levels remained stable. Trend is moving away from better safety.

The trend information indicates the direction of change that occurred between the years 2000 and 2003. Interpretation of and change in any given indicator should be approached with caution*. Despite overall improvements, Safer Calgary continues to work towards an environment that is as safe and supportive as possible for every citizen.

Safety Indicators and Trend Information

Category	Indicator	Trend 2000 to 2003	
Injury prevention	Injury related emergency room visit rates	Improving	
	Injury related hospitalisation rates	Improving	
	Injury related mortality rates	Stable	
	Potential years of life lost (PYLL) due to injury	Stable	
	Workplace injury: Number of lost-time claims	Improving	
Crime and violence	Person crime	Improving	
	Property crime	Improving	
	Youth and adults involved in crime	Youth accused	Improving
		Adult accused	Improving
	Domestic related offences reported by victims	Improving*	
	Offences motivated by hate/bias	Stable	
	Child interventions	Not available	
Motor vehicle collisions and those involving alcohol	overall	Improving	
	involving alcohol	Stable	
Natural and built environment	Air quality	Stable	
	Water quality	Surface water	Improving
		Drinking water	Remaining excellent
	Pesticide use	Improving	
Public attitude, beliefs and behaviours	Perceptions of safety	Baseline established in 2004	

Results

Calgary appears to have made progress in overall levels of safety since the year 2000. Safety trends appear to have improved for 12 out of the 19 indicators reported on; safety levels remained stable for another five indicators; and no area saw a deterioration of safety compared to the earlier year. Furthermore, Safer Calgary was able to establish a baseline in the category public attitude, beliefs and behaviours.

* For example, the decrease in domestic related offences reported by victims may indicate less reporting by victims rather than improved safety.