
Feedback on Region of Waterloo 2024 Budget

OVERFUNDING WRPS VS. OTHER PRIORITIES

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

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REGION OF WATERLOO, ON

\$9.3M

Cumulative overfunding of Waterloo Regional Police Services over 2019-2021

OVERFUNDING HAS CONTINUED

	Actual Q1-Q3 2023	Budget Q1-Q3 2023	Amount of overfunding
Expenditures	\$172.8M	\$177.4M	\$5.6M
Non-tax revenue	\$19M	\$16.5M	\$2.5M
Net levy	\$152.8M	\$160.8M	\$8.1M

Source: Waterloo Regional Police Services Board Agenda, November 15, 2023. Page 169

OVERFUNDING WILL CONTINUE

	2023	2024				
	Approved	Base	Expansion	Proposed	\$	%
	Budget	Budget Adj	Requests	Budget	Change	Change
EXPENDITURES						
Salaries & Wages	146,691,910	4,050,328	3,006,120	153,748,358	7,056,448	4.81%
Benefits	46,511,886	4,533,101	951,623	51,996,610	5,484,724	11.79%
Total Staffing Costs	193,203,796	8,583,429	3,957,743	205,744,968	12,541,172	6.49%



2024 budget is based on 2023 budget,
not actual expenditures

Source: Waterloo Regional Police Services Board Agenda, November 15, 2023. Page 180

WHY ARE WRPS STAFFING NEEDS OVERESTIMATED?

- Increase in occurrences cited as evidence to support WRPS budget
- What are the "Other" Occurrences?

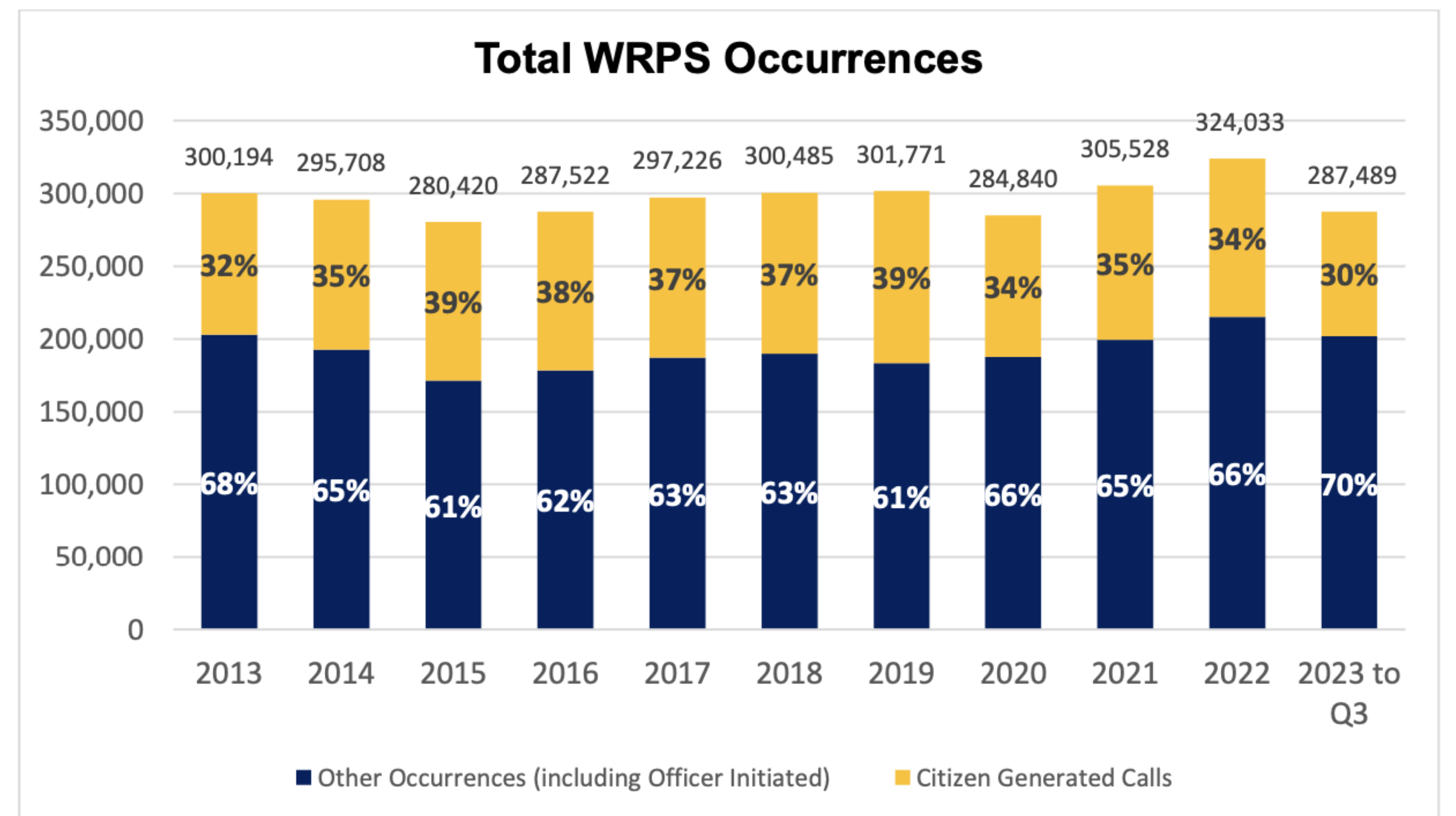


Figure 2: Total WRPS Occurrences (Including Officer Initiated) and Citizen Generated Calls between 2013 and 2023 Q3. Source: WRPS

Source: Strategic Planning and Budget Committee Agenda, November 22, 2023. Page 34.

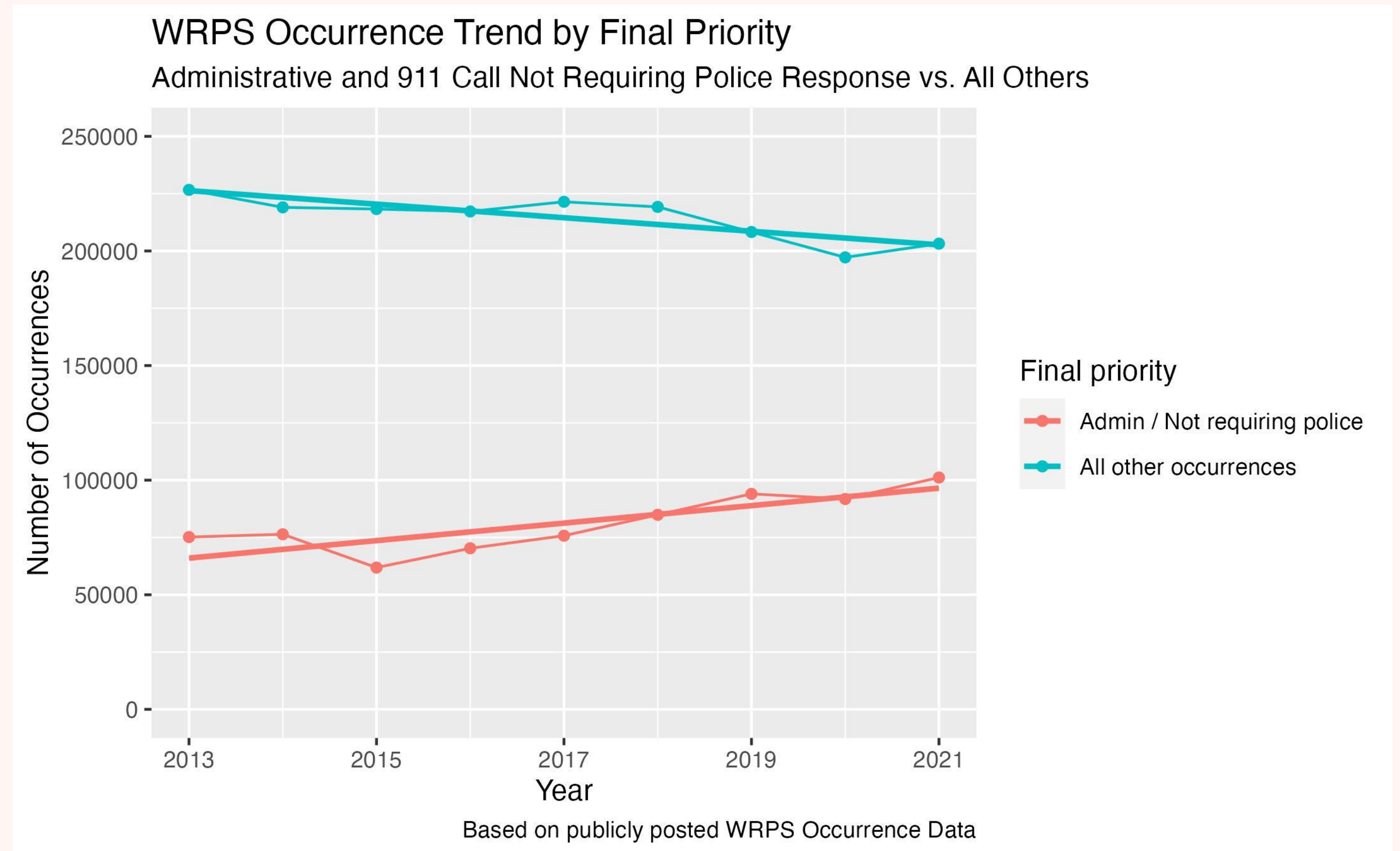
WHAT'S DRIVING INCREASES IN OCCURRENCES?

-1.4%

Average annual change, all others

+4.8%

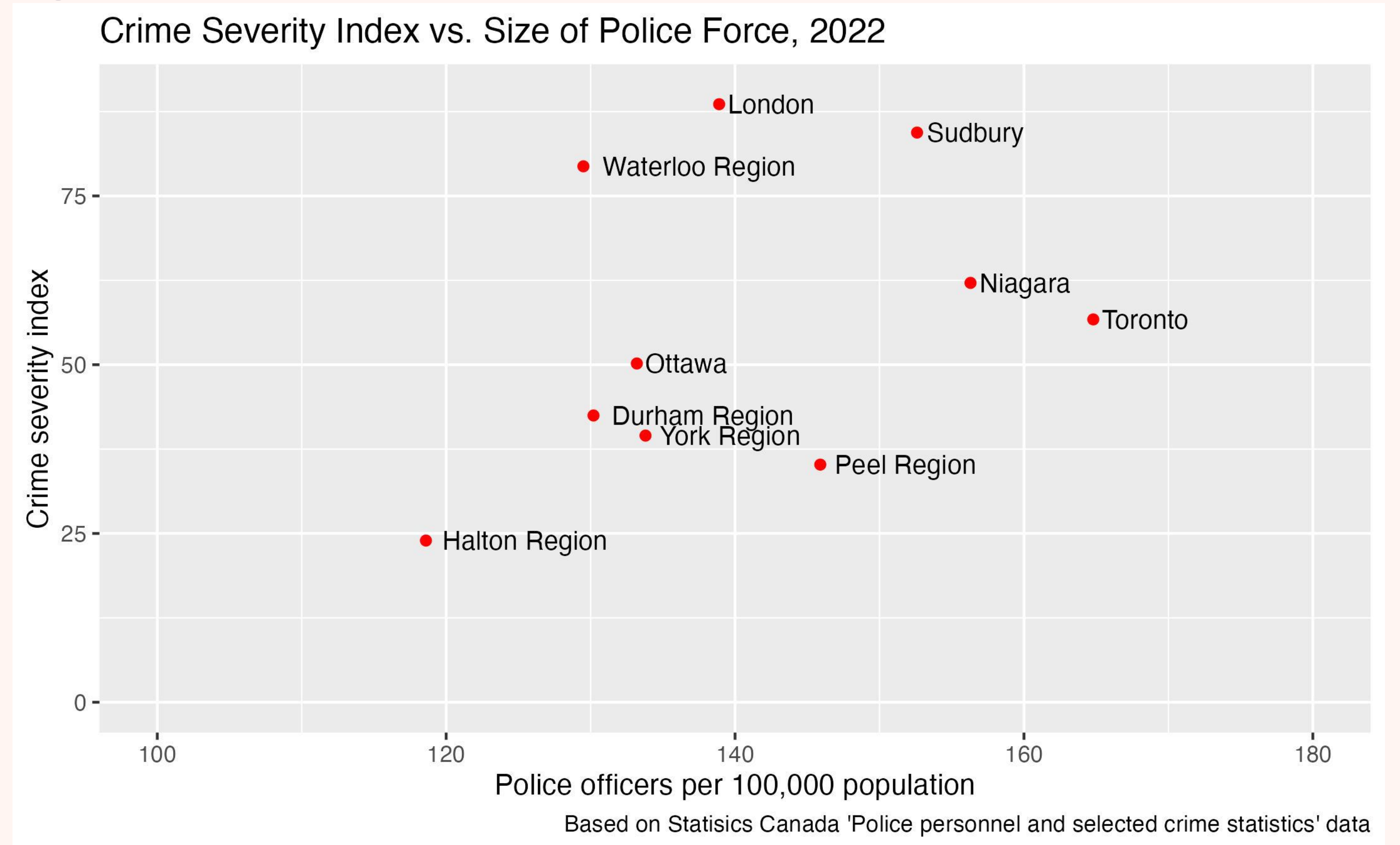
Average annual change, "Administrative
(Communications Alert); 9-1-1 call not
requiring police response"



Data obtained from <https://www.wrps.on.ca/en/about-us/reports-publications-and-surveys.aspx>

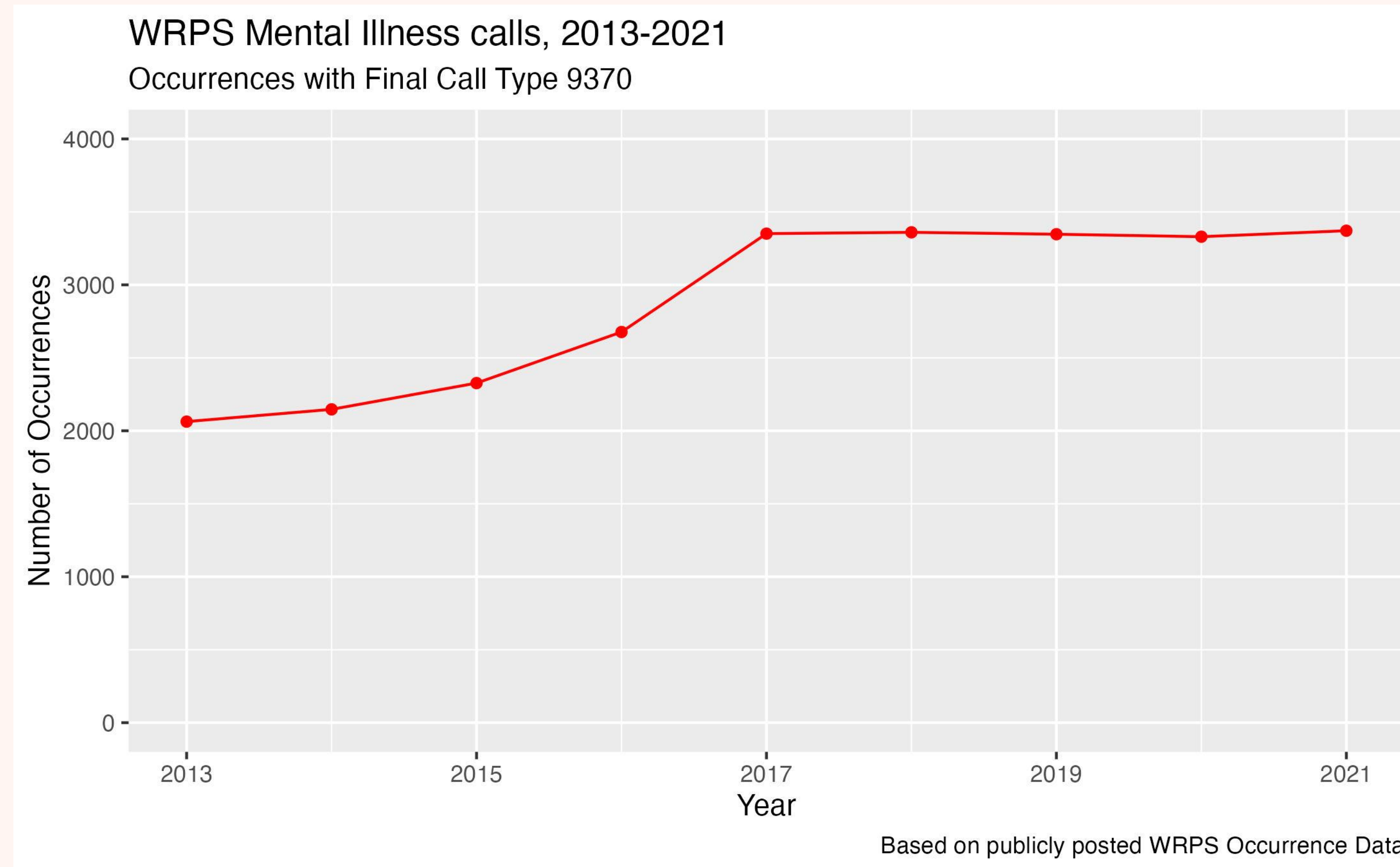
DO INCREASED POLICE BUDGETS REDUCE CRIME?

- **CSI = measure of frequency and severity of reported crime**
- **No evidence that cities with larger police forces have lower CSI**



Data obtained from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510007701>

INVEST IN PREVENTION, NOT POLICING



Data obtained from <https://www.wrps.on.ca/en/about-us/reports-publications-and-surveys.aspx>

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Council should request detailed information on the "Other" occurrences used to justify the WRPS budget request
 - Council should reject the WRPS budget request until it has been revised to avoid overfunding the police
 - Council should use the savings to invest in crime prevention and prevent service reductions at other Regional services
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