

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING THUNDER BAY

2021 Population Level Indicator Report

June 2021



Introduction

Effective January 1, 2019, new legislation mandated all Ontario municipalities to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) plan (the Plan). The Plan is meant to proactively address locally identified priority risks to community safety and well-being. In March 2019, Thunder Bay City Council appointed the Crime Prevention Council (CPC) as the Advisory Committee to oversee the development and implementation of the Plan for Thunder Bay. The City of Thunder Bay is following the province's *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario*.

The ultimate goal of this type of community safety and well-being planning is to: *"achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every individual 1."* To achieve this, it is necessary to gather information and evidence to paint a clear picture of what is happening in Thunder Bay.

A comprehensive review of local data was undertaken with community partners to support the identification of *local priority risks* to community safety and well-being, which will form the basis of the Plan. This review identified a wide range of data to provide insight on how Thunder Bay is performing on a number of indicators of safety and well-being. The City worked together with community partners to track indicators across several domains, using population-level data. These indicators highlight areas where Thunder Bay is doing well, and areas where there is room for improvement. Where data was available, we have made comparisons to province-wide data and showed historical trends over time.

The domains and indicators included in this report were selected by the CSWB Data Working Group based on a number of criteria. These criteria prioritized indicators that were:

- Existing and well-established*
- Regularly collected
- Available for Thunder Bay
- Meaningful to CSWB
- Easy to communicate

*See Appendix 2: Indicator Selection Criteria for more details.

This initial Population Level Indicators Report will serve as a baseline for continuing work. **This report will be a living document** and will be updated as more data becomes available, and other indicators and priorities are identified. The indicators in this report can be further subdivided to provide an in-depth look at some of Thunder Bay's risk and protective factors, as well as priority populations. Moving forward, and where possible, we will aim to include race and gender-based data for these indicators. We will also encourage partners, where possible, to collect this information so that we can identify and address systemic and structural inequities as a community. This framework will remain adaptable as new issues and knowledge emerge.

This report uses the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention's Framework: Indicators for Crime Prevention and Community Safety & Well-Being Plans² and includes 30 indicators that will track progress and evaluate the impacts of the Plan as it is implemented.

Upstream prevention approaches to community safety and well-being are about more than just the absence of crime; they are about creating a community where everyone has a range of opportunities to grow, learn, work, play, connect, love and be loved³. In order to create a more positive experience for all, we need to address the foundational systems and relationships in our community that play a critical role in shaping our environment and experience of well-being.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2015, world leaders from all 193 UN member states (including Canada) adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to guide global action on the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our planet⁴. The SDGs set an ambitious target to build a more sustainable, safe, and prosperous world for all of humanity by 2030. The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.

The SDGs also provide an important framework for making communities safer and healthier. In order for Canada to meet its targets, all orders of government, including municipalities, must do their part to track local indicators and meet their targets. Where applicable, SDGs are identified within each domain, and their inclusion is intended to start a conversation about the SDGs and our community's role in helping to achieve them.

See Appendix 3 - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



THUNDER BAY'S CSWB INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

The Framework is organized into seven domains: Community Vitality, Healthy Populations, Community Safety, Living Standards, Education, Environment and Democratic Engagement. These domains all interact with one another and play a role in contributing to the overall safety and well-being of Thunder Bay residents. While some of the domains may appear very general without an obvious connection to community safety and

well-being, they represent an important part of upstream prevention which seeks to promote safety and well-being in a way that prevents challenges from occurring in the first place^{5,6}.

Thirty indicators have been identified to tell the story about safety and well-being in Thunder Bay.



Domain	Indicator	Sustainable Development Goals
Community Vitality	Sense of Belonging	  
	Quality of Life	
	Perception of Racism and Discrimination	
	Population Experiencing Racism	
	Perception of Safety	
Healthy Populations	Self-reported Overall Health	
	Self-reported Mental Health	
	Adult Smoking Rate	
	Hospitalizations for Chronic Disease	
	Alcohol Consumption	
	Opioid Poisonings	
	Premature Mortality	
Community Safety	Crime Severity Index	 
	Overall Crime Rate	
	Violent Crime Rate	
	Thunder Bay Police Service Calls for Service	
	Domestic Violence Calls to TBPS	
	Hate Crime	
Living Standards	Prevalence of Low Income	  
	Lone Parent Households	
	Homelessness	
	Housing Affordability	
	Unemployment Rate	
	Participation in Labour Force	
	Food Security	
Education	High School Graduation	
Environment	Proximity and Use of Greenspace	
	Greenhouse Gas emissions	
Democratic Engagement	Voter Turnout-Municipal Election	
	Opportunities to participate	

Community Vitality

Community
Vitality

Community Vitality examines quality of life where people live. This includes what is happening in neighbourhoods, how safe people feel, whether or not people are engaged in community activities, and if they feel a sense of belonging in their community.

INDICATORS:

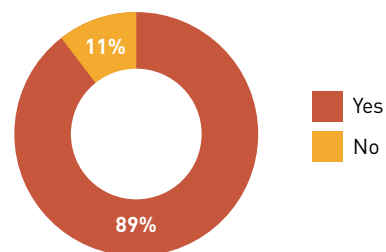
1. Sense of Belonging
2. Quality of life
3. Perceptions of Racism and Discrimination
4. Population Experiencing Racism
5. Perception of Safety

1. Sense of Belonging

Indicator: Percentage of population that reports very or somewhat strong sense of belonging to community.

Infographic:

89% of residents somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement “I have a strong sense of belonging to Thunder Bay”⁷



Data source: Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 2019

Story Behind the Numbers

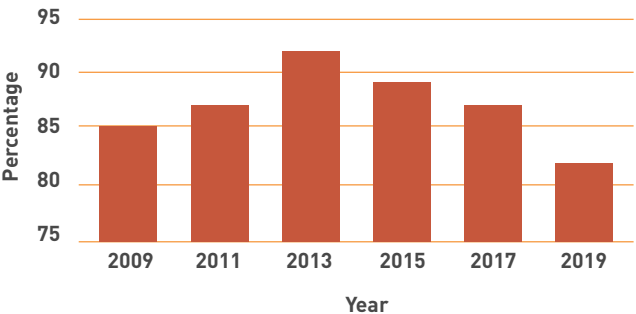
Sense of belonging is the sense that you're part of something and feel attached to and accepted by others. Research demonstrates that a strong sense of belonging is positively associated with well-being and mental health, and influences an individual's identity and the extent to which they feel accepted, valued and able to take on a role in society⁸.

2. Quality of Life

Indicator: Self-reported Overall Quality of Life in Thunder Bay

Infographic:

82% of respondents rated their overall quality of life as good or very good, down from 92% in 2013⁹



Data source: Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 2019

Story Behind the Numbers

Quality of life reflects an individual's or group's overall well-being and happiness, which is an important measure for the Plan. Standard indicators of quality of life include wealth, employment, the environment, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure time, social belonging, religious beliefs, safety, security and freedom¹⁰. The top three reasons respondents indicated quality of life in Thunder Bay is good include: (i) more access to the outdoors/wildlife; (ii) great people/community/good neighbours; (iii) beautiful/nice place to live.

3. Perception of Racism and Discrimination

Indicator: Perception of Racism and Discrimination

Infographic:

80% of residents agreed that racism and discrimination is a serious issue in Thunder Bay¹¹

80% agree that **racism and discrimination** is a serious issue in Thunder Bay

Data source: Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 2019



4. Population Experiencing Racism

Indicator: Percentage of population experiencing discrimination in the past year based on race or colour.

Infographic:

13% of Thunder Bay residents reported experiencing racial discrimination in the past year¹¹

13% residents reported experiencing racial discrimination in the past year

Data source: Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 2019

Story Behind the Numbers

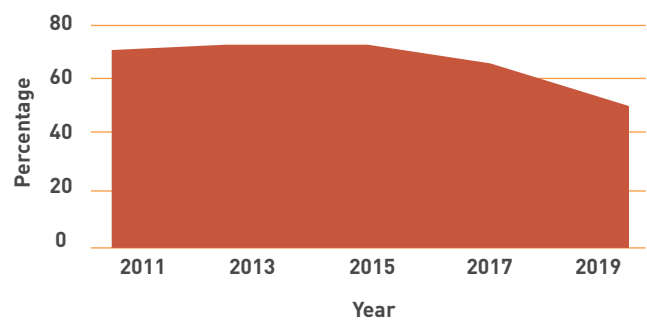
On average, individuals experienced 22 incidents in that time. The top three locations for experiencing racial discrimination included: (i) city street (36%); (ii) in a store (25%); and (iii) at work (22%)¹². There is growing evidence that racism is a determinant of health and has negative impacts on both mental and physical health¹³. Racism and discrimination can also have pervasive negative effects on youth development, as well as on their health and well-being, and impact families and communities who have been racially marginalized¹⁴. The experience of discrimination (including racism) is a traumatic experience that can cause similar symptoms to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as depression and anxiety, and also affect one's sense of safety¹⁵.

5. Perception of Safety

Indicator: Agreement with "I feel that Thunder Bay is a relatively safe city."

Infographic:

54% of Thunder Bay residents indicated they felt that Thunder Bay is a relatively safe city; this is down from 70% in 2013 and 2015 (2019)¹⁶



Data source: Citizen Satisfaction Survey, 2019

Story Behind the Numbers

Feelings of personal safety are linked to overall feelings of well-being¹⁷. How safe a person feels can have many impacts on physical and mental health, restrict personal activities, and reduce overall quality of life. A perceived lack of safety can have additional negative outcomes such as reduced social connectedness and increased spending on crime protection¹⁸.

Healthy Populations

Healthy Populations refers to the health of the population with respect to whether different aspects of health are improving or deteriorating. Specifically, it focuses on health status, lifestyle and behaviour, and health care system factors.

Healthy
Populations

INDICATORS:

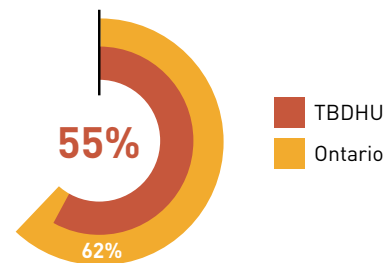
1. Self-rated Health
2. Self-rated Mental Health
3. Adult Smoke Rate
4. Hospitalizations for Chronic Diseases
5. Alcohol Consumption
6. Opioid Poisonings
7. Premature Mortality

1. Self-rated Health

Indicator: Self-reported Overall Health

Infographic:

55% of residents in the Thunder Bay District rated their own health status as very good or excellent, compared to 62% for Ontario¹⁹



Data source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (2015/16)

Story Behind the Numbers

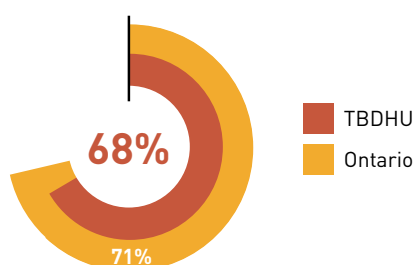
Self-reported overall health (also called self-rated overall health) is largely influenced by the social determinants of health. Research at the University of Waterloo shows that self-reported health is a reliable indicator of overall health status and that a person's risk of illness or mortality is closely linked to their sense of well-being²⁰.

2. Self-rated Mental Health

Indicator: Self-reported Mental Health

Infographic:

68% of residents in the Thunder Bay District rated their own mental health as very good or excellent, compared to 71% for Ontario²¹



Data source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (2015/16)

Story Behind the Numbers

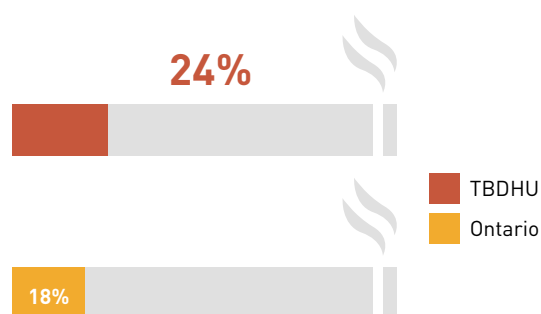
Mental health is a state of well-being in which the individual realizes their own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to their community²². Mental health is influenced by many factors including life experiences, workplace or other environments, and the social and economic conditions that shape our lives²³. Poor mental health is a risk factor for chronic physical conditions²⁴, and people with a mental illness are twice as likely to have a substance use problem compared to the general population²⁵.

3. Adult Smoking rate

Indicator: Self-reported adult daily smoking

Infographic:

24% of Thunder Bay District residents aged 20 and older report currently smoking daily compared to 18% for Ontario²⁶



Data source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (2015/16)

The Story Behind the Numbers

Smoking rates are important indicators of a healthy population because tobacco use continues to be the number one cause of preventable disease and death in Canada²⁷.

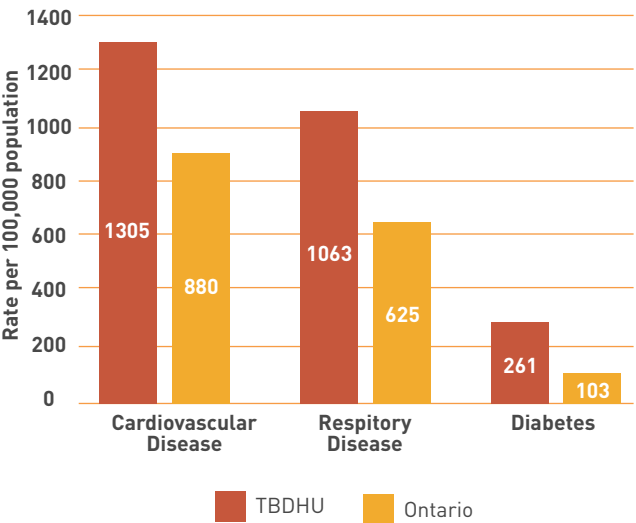


4. Hospitalizations for Chronic Diseases

Indicator: Rate of Hospitalizations for Chronic Diseases

Infographic:

The rate of hospitalizations in Thunder Bay District for three chronic diseases is greater than the average rates for Ontario²⁸.



Data source: The Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), 2019.

Story Behind the Numbers

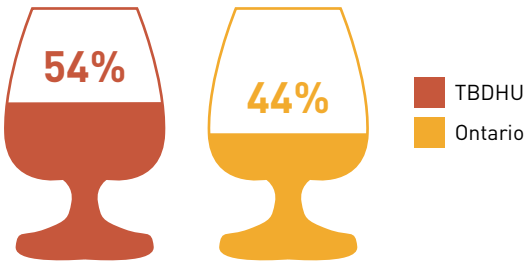
The prevalence of risk factors for chronic disease is high in Ontario, especially for populations that face health inequities, such as those with low socioeconomic status and poor mental health²⁹. Thunder Bay's rates are even higher. Smoking, physical inactivity and alcohol consumption are major risk factors for chronic disease³⁰.

5. Alcohol Consumption

Indicator: Percentage of Thunder Bay District Residents aged 19 and older who exceed at least one of Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines

Infographic:

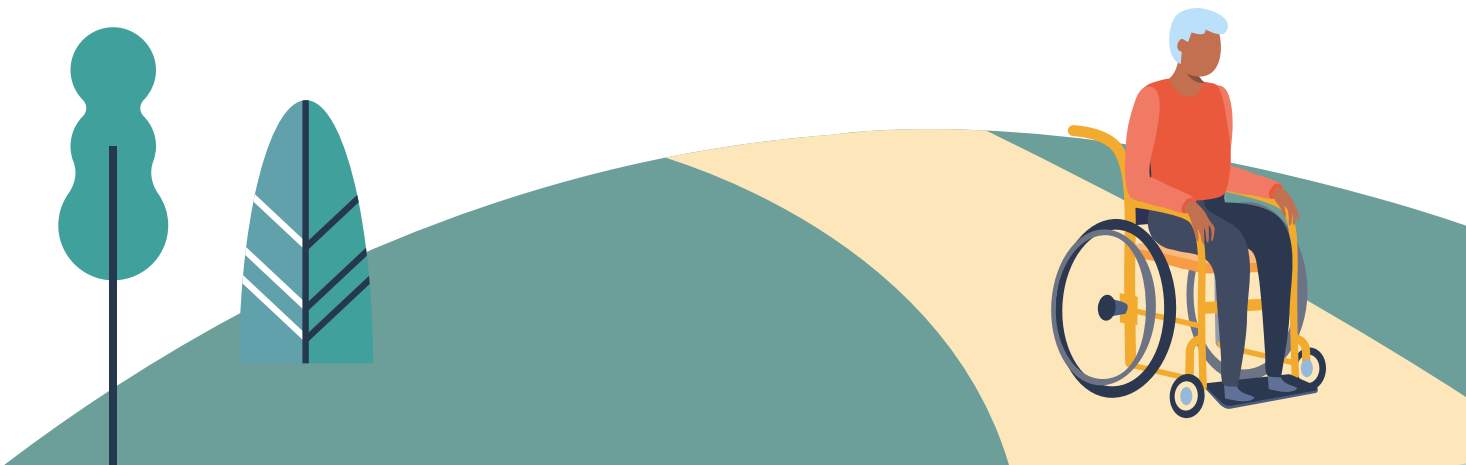
54% of residents aged 19 and older exceed at least one of Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines, compared to the 44% average for Ontario³³.



Data source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. 2015/16.

Story Behind the Numbers

Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines are recommendations intended to reduce the risks associated with drinking alcohol. Alcohol is associated with a wide range of harms, such as injuries and violence, and the development of many chronic diseases and cancers³⁴. There is a causal relationship between harmful use of alcohol and a range of mental and behavioural disorders, other non-communicable conditions as well as injuries, and alcohol also results in a significant social and economic burden on society at large³⁵.



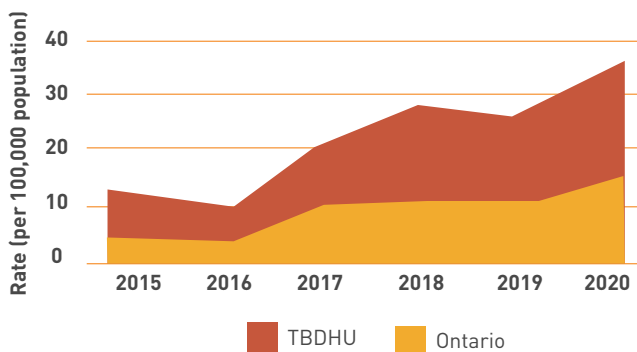
6. Opioid Poisonings

Indicator: Rate of opioid deaths per 100,000 population

Infographic.

36 per 100,000 population-the rate of opioid deaths in Thunder Bay District (2020)³⁶

14 per 100,000 population in Ontario's (2020)³⁶



*Data source for 2015-2019: Public Health Ontario. Interactive Opioid Tool. 2021.

*Data source for 2020: Changing Circumstances Surrounding Opioid-Related Deaths in Ontario during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Story Behind the Numbers

Data over the last several years shows Thunder Bay District rates of death from opioid poisonings are far greater than Ontario average rates. In 2018, Thunder Bay District had the highest per-capita accidental opioid death rate in the province³⁷. The rising rate of opioid-related deaths across Canada has been an ongoing and significant national public health crisis for over a decade. Rates continue to rise during COVID-19, driven by a combination of factors, including an increasingly toxic unregulated ('street') drug supply, barriers to access harm reduction services and treatment, and physical distancing requirements leading to more people using drugs alone³⁸.

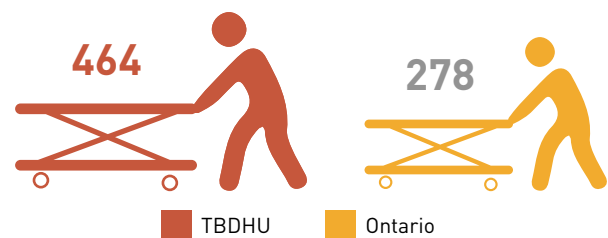
7. Premature Mortality

Indicator: Rate of premature mortality (0-74 yrs.)

Infographic:

464 per 100,000 population – the rate of premature mortality in Thunder Bay District

287 per 100,000 population – the rate of premature mortality in Ontario³⁹



Data source: Statistics Canada (2015-2017)

Story Behind the Numbers

Premature mortality (PMR) is an important indicator of the general health of a population, with high PMR indicating poor health status⁴⁰. Tracking PMR is important as it reflects the Plan's focus on prevention and social development, and the social determinants of health.



Community Safety

Community Safety examines the perceptions of personal safety in the community, as well as local crime and victimization data.

**Community
Safety**

INDICATORS:

1. Crime Severity Index
2. Crime Rate
3. Violent Crime Rate
4. Calls for Service
5. Domestic Violence
6. Hate Crime

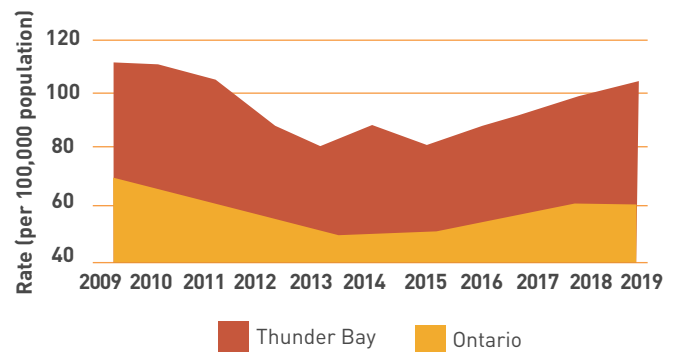
1. Crime Severity Index

Indicator: Crime Severity Index

Infographic:

100.6 - the Crime Severity Index in Thunder Bay (2019)⁴¹

60.7 - the Crime Severity Index in Ontario (2019)⁴¹



Data source: Statistics Canada Table 35-10-0026-01

Story Behind the Numbers

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a measure of police-reported crime that reflects the volume and seriousness of offences. In order to calculate the CSI, each violation is assigned a weight that is based on the violation's average sentence handed down by criminal courts. The more serious the average sentence, the higher the weight assigned to the offence, meaning that the more serious offences have a greater impact on the Index⁴². The CSI can demonstrate how the volume and seriousness of crime changes over time.

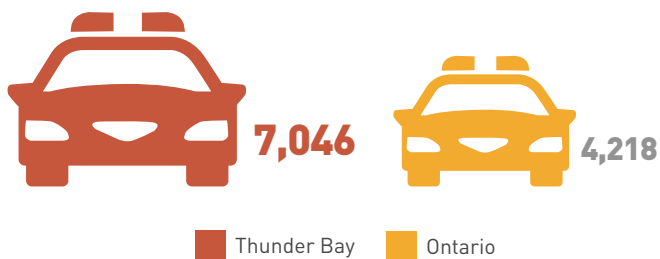
2. Crime Rate

Indicator: Overall Crime Rate

Infographic:

7046 incidents per 100,000 population - the crime rate in Thunder Bay (2019)⁴³

4218 incidents per 100,000 population - the crime rate in Ontario (2019)⁴³



Data source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01.

Story Behind the Numbers

The Crime Rate indicator shows the number of police-reported incidents that have occurred per 100,000 population. In the 2019 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, crime was identified as the most important issue in Thunder Bay, which is also reflected in the decrease in perception of safety⁴⁴.

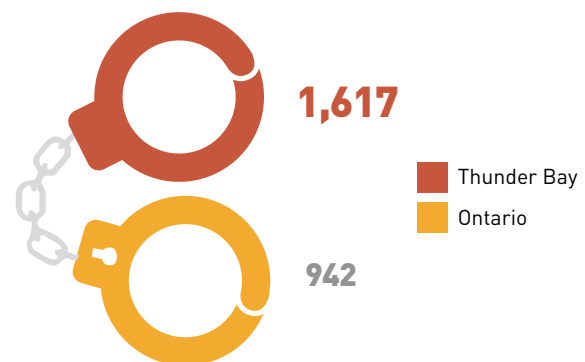
3. Violent Crime Rate

Indicator: Violent Crime Rate

Infographic:

1617 - incidents of violent crime per 100,000 population in Thunder Bay (2019)⁴⁵

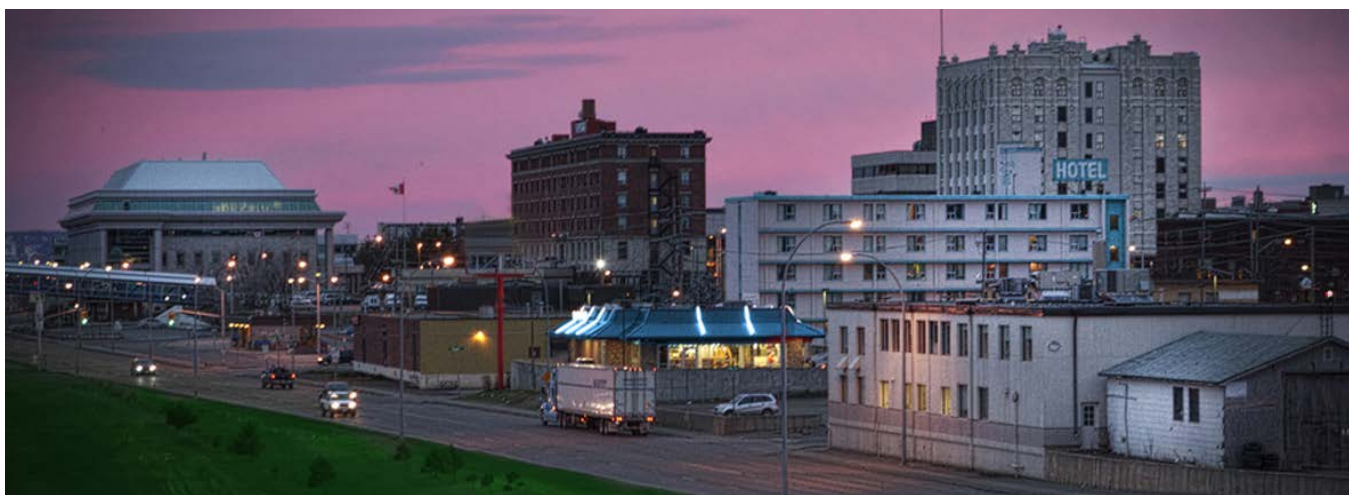
942 - incidents of violent crime per 100,000 population in Ontario (2019)⁴⁵



Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01.

Story Behind the Numbers

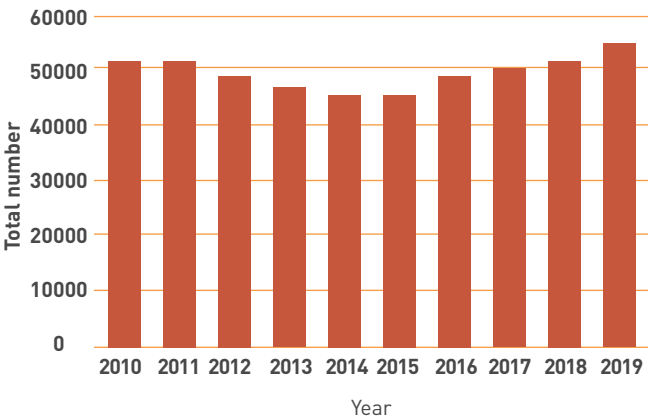
The World Health Organization describes violence as a global health problem⁴⁶. The violent crime rate in Thunder Bay has continued to increase in recent years, and concern is growing about increased violence related to gang activity.



4. Calls for Service

Indicator: Call for Service to Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS)

Infographic:
54,464 Calls for Service to Thunder Bay Police Service in 2019⁴⁷



Source: TBPS Annual Report 2019

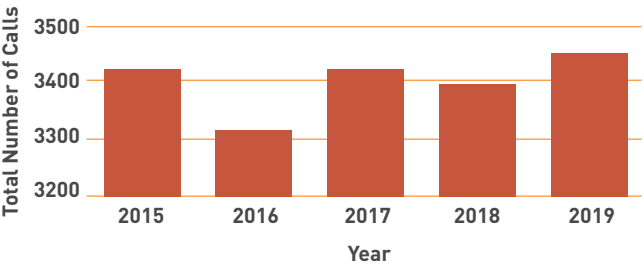
Story Behind the Numbers

The TBPS continued to respond to a high number of calls for service involving persons in crisis. In 2018, TBPS partnered with the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre to form a Joint Mobile Crisis Response Team (JMRCT) to respond to mental health and substance use related crisis calls. Of the 1929 calls for service that were of a mental health nature in 2019, JMRCT was used 1082 times⁴⁸.

5. Domestic Violence

Indicator: Domestic Violence Incidents Reported to TBPS

Infographic: 3469 – the number of domestic violence incidents reported to TBPS in 2019⁴⁹



Data source: TBPS Annual Report 2019

Story Behind the Numbers

Rates of domestic violence in Thunder Bay have more than doubled since 2004. Domestic violence incidents are known to be vastly underreported⁵⁰, which points to the need for initiatives to identify barriers to reporting, encourage and support increased reporting, support survivors and hold perpetrators to account. While 2020 data for Thunder Bay is not yet available, we know that reports of domestic violence worldwide continue to rise significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic⁵¹.

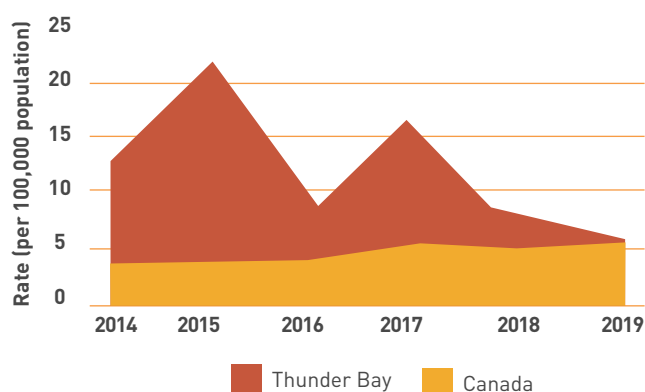
6. Hate Crime

Indicator: Rate of Hate Crime in Thunder Bay

Infographic:

5.6 – the rate of hate crime per 100,000 population in Thunder Bay (2019)⁵²

5.2 – the rate of hate crime per 100,000 population in Canada (2019)⁵²



Data source: Statistics Canada Table 35-10-0191-01

Story Behind the Numbers

Hate crimes refer to criminal incidents found to have been motivated by hatred toward an identifiable group. Any criminal act has the potential to be a hate crime if hate motivation can be proven. In 2015 and 2017, Thunder Bay had the highest rate of hate crime in Canada. In those years, hate crime incidents targeting the Indigenous community accounted for the majority of these incidents, at 60 percent and 62 percent, respectively.



Living Standards

Living Standards examines the level and distribution of Canadians' income and wealth by monitoring poverty rates, income fluctuations, labour market security, and job quality. It also considers basic necessities such as food security and affordable housing.

Living Standards

INDICATORS:

1. Prevalence of Low Income
2. Lone Parent Households
3. Homelessness
4. Housing Affordability
5. Unemployment Rate
6. Participation in Labour Force
7. Food Insecurity

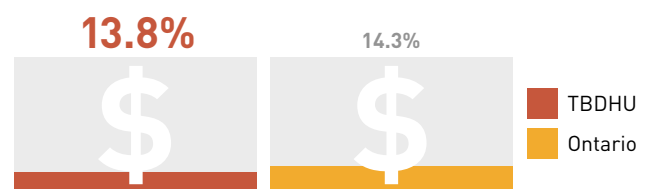
1. Prevalence of Low Income

Indicator: Percentage of population living below the Low Income Measure-After Tax cut-off.

Infographic:

13.8% of residents in Thunder Bay living below the Low-Income Measure-After Tax (LIM-AT) (2018)⁵³

14.4% of residents in Ontario living below the Low-Income Measure-After Tax (LIM-AT) (2018)⁵³



Data source: Statistics Canada

Story Behind the Numbers

The connection between health and poverty is so clear that the World Health Organization has declared poverty to be the single largest determinant of health⁵⁴. The Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy measures low income by using the Low-Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT) calculation. Poverty in childhood is associated with a number of health conditions in adulthood. Children who grow up in poverty are, as adults, more likely to experience

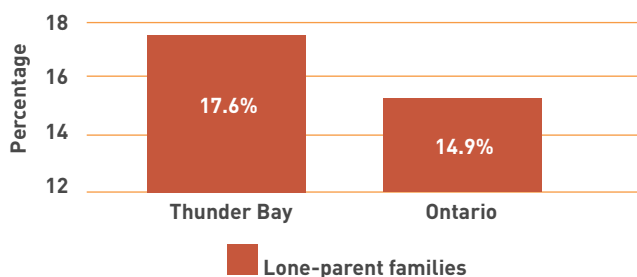
addictions, mental health difficulties, physical disabilities and premature death⁵⁵.

2. Lone Parent Households

Indicator: Percentage of lone parent families in Thunder Bay

Infographic:

17.6%-lone parent families in Thunder Bay (2018)⁵⁶
14.9%-lone parent families in Ontario (2018)⁵⁶



Story Behind the Numbers

People in lone-parent families have one of the highest poverty rates in Canada⁵⁷. The poverty rate for lone-parent families in 2016 was more than double the Canadian average – almost 30 percent of people in lone-parent families were in poverty compared to an average of 11 percent for the Canadian population⁵⁷.

3. Homelessness

Indicator: Number of persons who are homeless in Thunder Bay

Infographic:

474 people experiencing homelessness in Thunder Bay (2018)⁵⁸



Data source: Point in Time Count 2018

Story Behind the Numbers

In 2018, the Thunder Bay Point in Time (PIT) Count enumerated 474 individuals experiencing homelessness. Of these, 59 percent were chronically homeless and 21 percent were episodically homeless. A total of 66 percent of those surveyed self-identified as Indigenous⁵⁹. Individuals facing homelessness are more likely to become victims of crime and/or become involved in the criminal justice system⁶⁰. Many individuals and families experiencing homelessness often face complex and concurrent challenges related to mental health, addictions, trauma and poverty⁶¹.



4. Housing Affordability

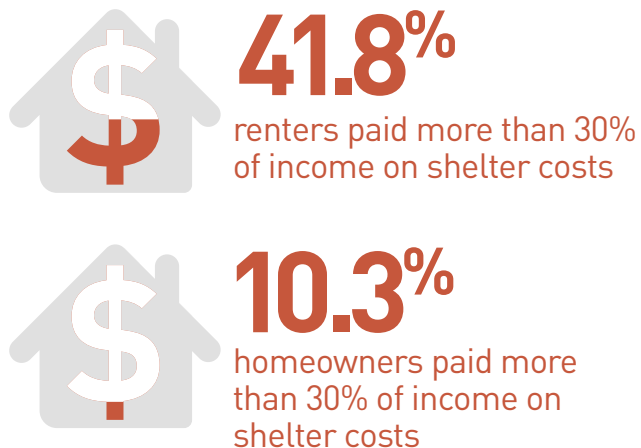
Indicator: Percentage of renters and homeowners paying more than 30 percent of their income on shelter.

In 2018, 41.8 percent of Thunder Bay renters paid more than 30 percent of their income on shelter costs, while only 10.3 percent of homeowners paid more than 30 percent⁶².

Infographic:

41.8% of renters paid more than 30% of income on shelter costs (2018)⁶²

10.3% of homeowners paid more than 30% of income on shelter costs (2018)⁶²



Data source: Statistics Canada

Story Behind the Numbers

Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered “cost burdened” and may have difficulty affording other necessities including food, transportation and medical care⁶³.

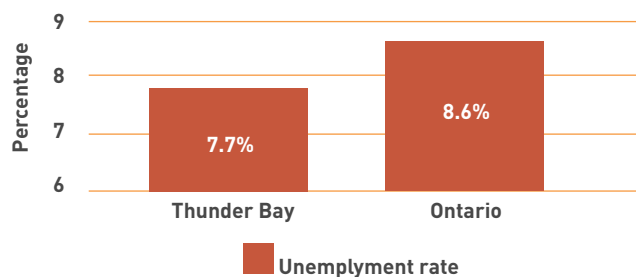
5. Unemployment Rate

Indicator: Unemployment rate

Infographic:

7.7% the unemployment rate in Thunder Bay (May 2021)⁶⁴

8.6% the unemployment rate in Ontario (May 2021)⁶⁴



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021

Story Behind the Numbers

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The relationship between unemployment and property crime is well established and, generally, a one percent drop in unemployment rates leads to approximately a one percent drop in property crime⁶⁵. Violent crime and unemployment, on their own, tend to be unrelated⁶⁶.



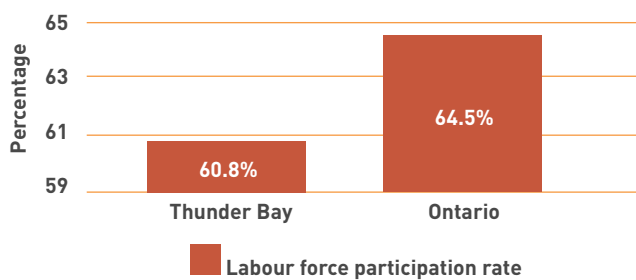
6. Participation in the Labour Force

Indicator: Participation in the Labour Force

Infographic:

60.8%-Thunder Bay's labour force participation rate (May 2021)

64.5%-Ontario's labour force participation rate (May 2021)⁶⁷



Data source: Statistics Canada, 2021

Story Behind the Numbers

The labour force participation rate indicates the percentage of all people of working age who are employed or are actively seeking work. This rate is an important labour market measure because it represents the relative amount of labour resources available for the production of goods and services.

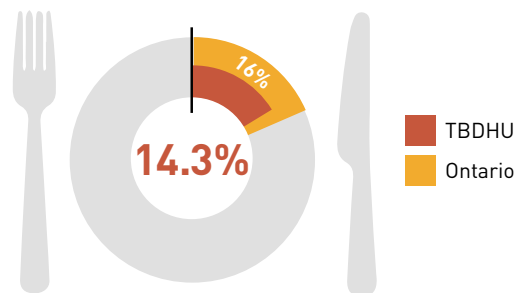
7. Food Insecurity

Indicator: Marginal, moderate or severe food insecurity

Infographic:

14.3% of households are marginally, moderately or severely food insecure in Thunder Bay (2015-16)⁶⁸

16% of households that are marginally, moderately or severely food insecure in Ontario (2015-2016)⁶⁸



Data source: Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2015-16, Statistics Canada, Ontario Share File, Distributed by Ontario MOHLTC

Story Behind the Numbers

Household food insecurity is the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. It is a serious problem in Canada that negatively impacts physical, mental, and social health, and costs our healthcare system considerably⁶⁹.



Education

Education

Education is an important predictor of health, living standards, democratic participation, and education for future generations. It focuses on formal learning (in school) as opposed to informal learning.

INDICATORS:

1. High School Graduation

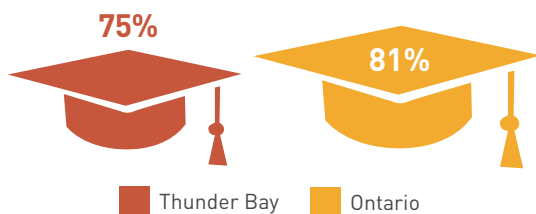
1. High School Graduation

Indicator: Percentage of residents without a high school education

Infographic:

75% - the percentage of residents aged 25-64 in Thunder Bay that have a high school diploma⁷⁰

81% - the percentage of residents aged 25-64 in Ontario that have a high school diploma⁷⁰



Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2018

Story Behind the Numbers

Education is a social determinant of health, and plays an important role in determining health status of an individual as well as employment, career and financial success. Level of educational attainment impacts participation in criminal activity and the probability of involvement in the criminal justice system⁷¹. This is a cause for concern, and speaks to the need to develop and support more initiatives that raise high school completion rates.



Environment

Environment focuses on the availability and use of Canada's natural resources. It explores natural assets available to Canadians, the flow of these resources over time, and some of the impacts of human activity on the environment including greenhouse gas emissions, fresh water, and ecological footprint.

Environment

INDICATORS:

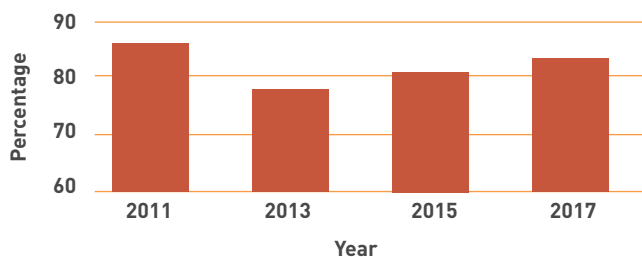
1. Green Space-Usage
2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

1. Green Space-Usage

Indicators: Percentage of population who visited green space close to home

Infographic:

84% of Thunder Bay residents visited a park or green space close to home in 2017⁷²



Statistics Canada. Table 38-10-0020-01 Parks and green spaces.

Story Behind the Numbers

This indicator is for green space “close to home” — defined as being within a ten minute journey from home. Green spaces play an important role in our lives. Multiple studies have shown that green spaces reduce stress and boost mental and physical health⁷³.

Urban green spaces such as parks, sports fields, woods, lakesides, and gardens give people the space for physical activity, relaxation, peace, and an escape from heat⁷⁴.



2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Indicator: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Infographic:

1,225,169 – total tonnes of Greenhouse Gases emitted from all sources in Thunder Bay (2016)⁷⁵

1,225,169
total tonnes of **Greenhouse Gases emitted** from all sources in Thunder Bay

Story Behind the Numbers

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are gases that absorb infrared radiation (net heat energy) emitted from Earth's surface and reradiate it back to the Earth's surface, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapour are the most important greenhouse gases⁷⁶. As a result of a climate emergency declaration in January of 2020, the City of Thunder Bay has moved towards a net-zero GHG emissions target for the community. This is a very ambitious target requiring partnerships with all community members and senior levels of government. Meeting the net-zero target is achievable and will transform our city into one that is climate-positive and a leader in Ontario and Canada⁷⁷.



Demographic Engagement

Democratic Engagement refers to taking part in the democratic process through political institutions, organizations, and activities. Examples include citizens participating in political activities and expressing their views, governments encouraging citizen participation, and everyone promoting democratic values.

Demographic Engagement

INDICATORS:

1. Voter Turnout
2. Opportunity to Engage with City

1. Voter Turnout

Indicator: Voter turnout for municipal elections

Infographic:

51% voter turnout in the 2018 Thunder Bay municipal election

38.3% average voter turnout for Ontario^{78,79}

Story Behind the Numbers

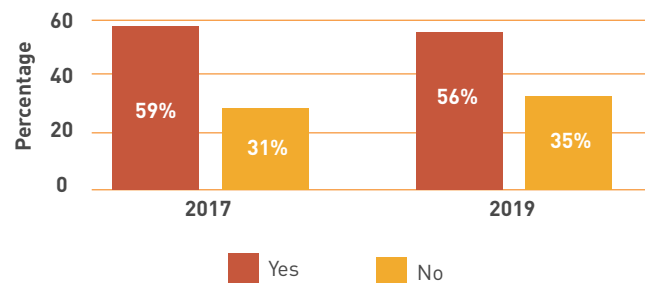
This indicator captures the voter turnout (eligible voters who cast a ballot) in Thunder Bay municipal elections. Municipal policies can have a large impact on well-being; however, Canadians tend to be less interested in municipal politics than they are in federal or provincial politics⁸⁰.

2. Opportunities to Engage with City

Indicator: Percentage of residents who feel they have had opportunities to participate and engage with the City on topics of interest to them

Infographic:

56% of residents felt they had opportunities to participate and engage with the City on topics of interest to them (2019)⁸¹



Data source: Citizen Satisfaction survey, 2019

Story Behind the Numbers

A healthy democracy needs citizens who feel their votes count, are informed, participate, debate, and advocate. It needs governments at all levels to be transparent, inclusive, consultative, and trustworthy. In essence, political leadership, citizen participation, and communication demonstrate the level of democratic engagement⁸².

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Community Safety and Well-Being: The ideal state of a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

Crime Severity Index: The Crime Severity Index tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a given jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of these crimes.

Domain: A domain is a logical grouping of data.

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity ranges from worrying about running out of food to going a whole day without eating because of the inability to afford food. The food insecurity definition includes households who are marginally, moderately and severely food insecure.

Homelessness: The situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/ household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination.

Indicator: An indicator is an observable, measurable piece of information about a particular outcome that shows the extent to which the outcome has been achieved. Indicators are used to evaluate different program/project outputs to identify the changes they create. They can be quantitative (i.e., numbers, statistics) or qualitative (i.e., judgments, perceptions). They can also measure changes at several different levels, including individual, family, neighbourhood, community, and regional.

Low Income Measure-After Tax (LIM-AT): The Low-income measure, after tax, refers to a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted after-tax income of private households.

Protective Factors: Protective factors are positive characteristics, conditions and/or influences that can improve the lives of individuals and families, and the safety of a community. These may mitigate the effect of being exposed to risk factors, and decrease the likelihood that individuals engage in, or become victims of crime.

Risk Factors: Risk factors are characteristics, conditions and/or influences present in the lives of individuals, families, communities or society. These may increase the presence of crime, victimization, or fear of crime in a community and may also increase the likelihood that individuals engage in crime and/or become victims of crime. It is important to note that these risk factors are multi-dimensional and may overlap with each other. Also, risk factors do not cause crime; however, when several risk factors are combined, there is a higher probability of someone coming into conflict with the law.

Social Determinants of Health: Social determinants of health refer to a specific group of social and economic factors within the broader determinants of health. These relate to an individual's place in society, such as income, education or employment. Experiences of discrimination, racism and historical trauma are important social determinants of health for certain groups such as Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ and Black Canadians.

Upstream prevention: Upstream prevention is about addressing the root causes of crime and victimization long before they lead to inequity or adverse experiences and conditions for an individual or community, which may lead to harm, including involvement in the justice system.

APPENDIX 2 – INDICATOR SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria* were used when prioritizing indicators:

1. Existing and well-established – Measures that are already regularly reported by organizations across Thunder Bay. They are well-known and validated measures.
2. Regular collection – Measures that are produced on an on-going basis (i.e., not a one-time collection of data). This will assist in tracking changes in the indicators over time.
3. Geography – Measures that are available for Thunder Bay. Indicators that have a provincial comparator were prioritized.
4. Meaningful to CSWB – Measures that are determined to be meaningful and relevant to community safety and well-being and appropriate for Thunder Bay's local context.
5. Easy to communicate – Measures that are easily calculated and can be disseminated with ease to a variety of different stakeholders without requiring additional context.

**Adapted with permission from Halton Region*

NOTE: Not every indicator satisfies all criteria, but where possible, indicators that met most of the above criteria were prioritized. Indicators were selected to be representative of a wide variety of data sets. This Indicator Framework was endorsed by Thunder Bay's Community Safety and Well-Being Steering Committee.

APPENDIX 3 – UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The 17 SDGs are integrated – they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Countries have committed to prioritize progress for those who are furthest behind. The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls.

The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

The following ten SDGs are identified in this report:



SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries



SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



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