

# BEST PRACTICES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

## 2018 NSFM Conference

November 7, 2018

Amy Siciliano – Halifax Regional Municipality

Felix Munger – Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention

**HALIFAX**



CANADIAN MUNICIPAL  
NETWORK ON CRIME  
PREVENTION

Together for Safer Canadian Cities

RÉSEAU MUNICIPAL  
CANADIEN EN PRÉVENTION  
DE LA CRIMINALITÉ

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# MAIN MESSAGES

1. **Investing in People:** Growing trend in Canada and elsewhere to invest in people in order to create safer communities and prevent crime
2. **Upstream Investment:** evidence-based crime prevention approaches
3. **Role of Communities:** Comprehensive approaches to increase community safety
4. **Halifax:** making strategic, coordinated shifts toward investing preventative approaches to community safety and well being.

# Felix Munger

From interventionist to “preventionist”

...

- Psychiatric nursing
- Addiction, treatment & harm reduction
- Community health & development
- Health equity, diversity & inclusion
- Crime prevention & community safety



# Amy Siciliano

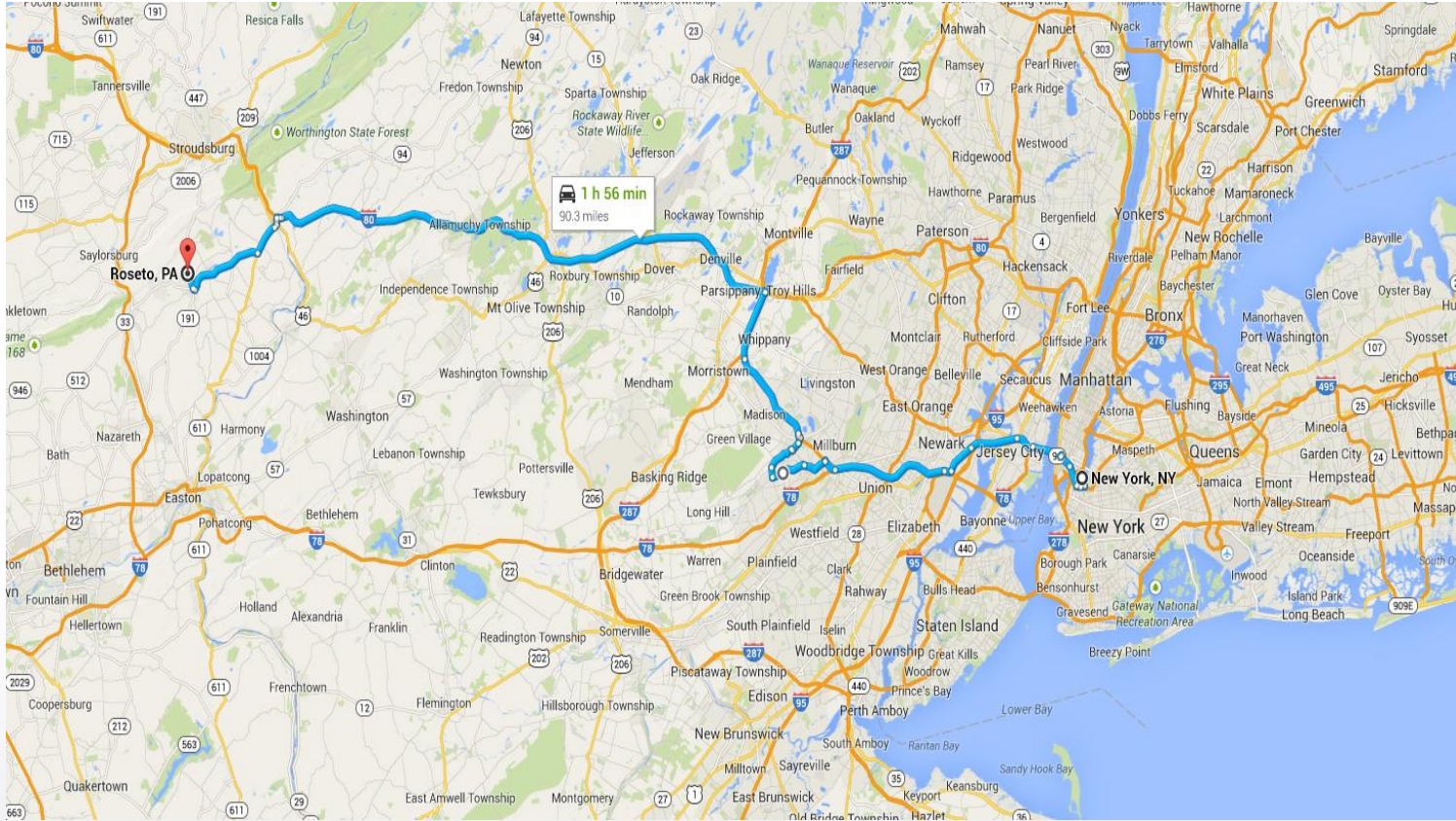


- Urban Geographer
- Neighbourhood-level social inequities
- Placed-based social policy
- Human rights lens
- Community safety & well being



# THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

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# ROSETO, PENNSYLVANIA



- What are some potential reasons for this anomaly in Roseto?





activity



# SECRET INGREDIENT

- Towns social structure
- Family structures
- Engaged community
- Respect
- Closeness
- Civic organizations
- Egalitarian ethos



com·mu·ni·ty  
/kə'myoʊnɪtē/ 

# WHY FOCUS ON COMMUNITIES?

1. Communities are well positioned to address local crime through
2. Communities are a place of strengths and can be the source of safety

“The big picture is that well functioning ... environments that have the optimized ratios of social, economic, physical and environmental indicators, are inherently resilient, sustainable, and safe ...”

- *Markus F ElKatsha, City Science Group, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

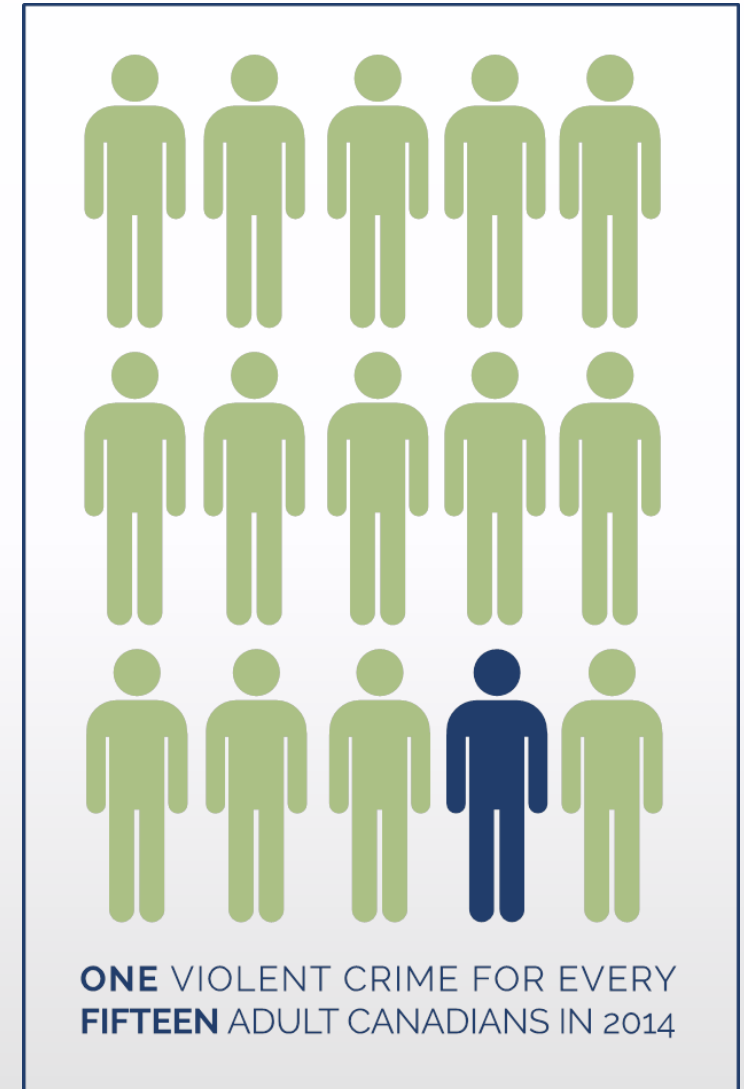
# WHY CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY?

**BECAUSE WE STILL NEED IT**

# INTERPERSONAL CRIME IMPACTS MANY CITIZENS



Cumulative loss and trauma to victims is estimated at \$55 billion a year, equivalent to \$1.5 billion for a city of 1 million.



# THE HIDDEN VIOLENCE



# RURAL CRIME

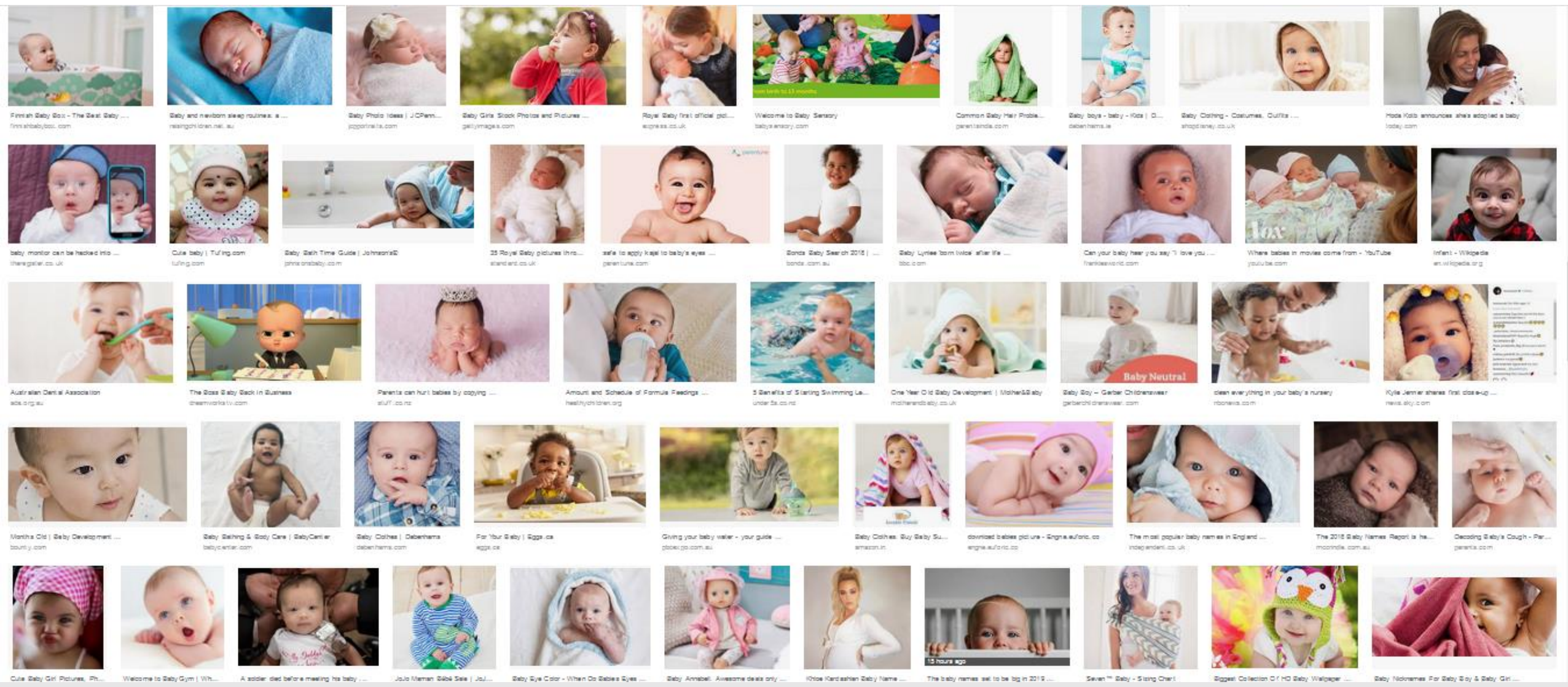
- Urban issues tend to overshadow rural crime
- Police-reported crime was 30% higher in rural areas than urban areas (2017)
- Rural challenges for youth:
  - increased high school drop-out rates,
  - higher rates of alcohol and drug abuse,
  - lack of educational and recreational resources,
  - lack of police presence,
  - geographic isolation due to the low density of the population
- Recognize that there is far less access to services for people in rural areas experiencing violence

# ECONOMICS OF POLICING REQUIRES ATTENTION

- 70-80% of calls to police are NOT related to crime
- “Unsustainable growth in policing and public safety costs for municipalities, [are] often crowding out other essential services such as early intervention and crime prevention programs” (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2016)
  - Municipalities pay 60% of the \$14 billion that Canada spends on policing – proportion of municipal taxes going to policing has grown in line with national increase of 40% over inflation;
- Evidence suggests that “smart” and “partnership” policing are key to crime reduction - not expenditures
  - Council of Canadian Academies, 2014



# HOW TO PREVENT CRIME



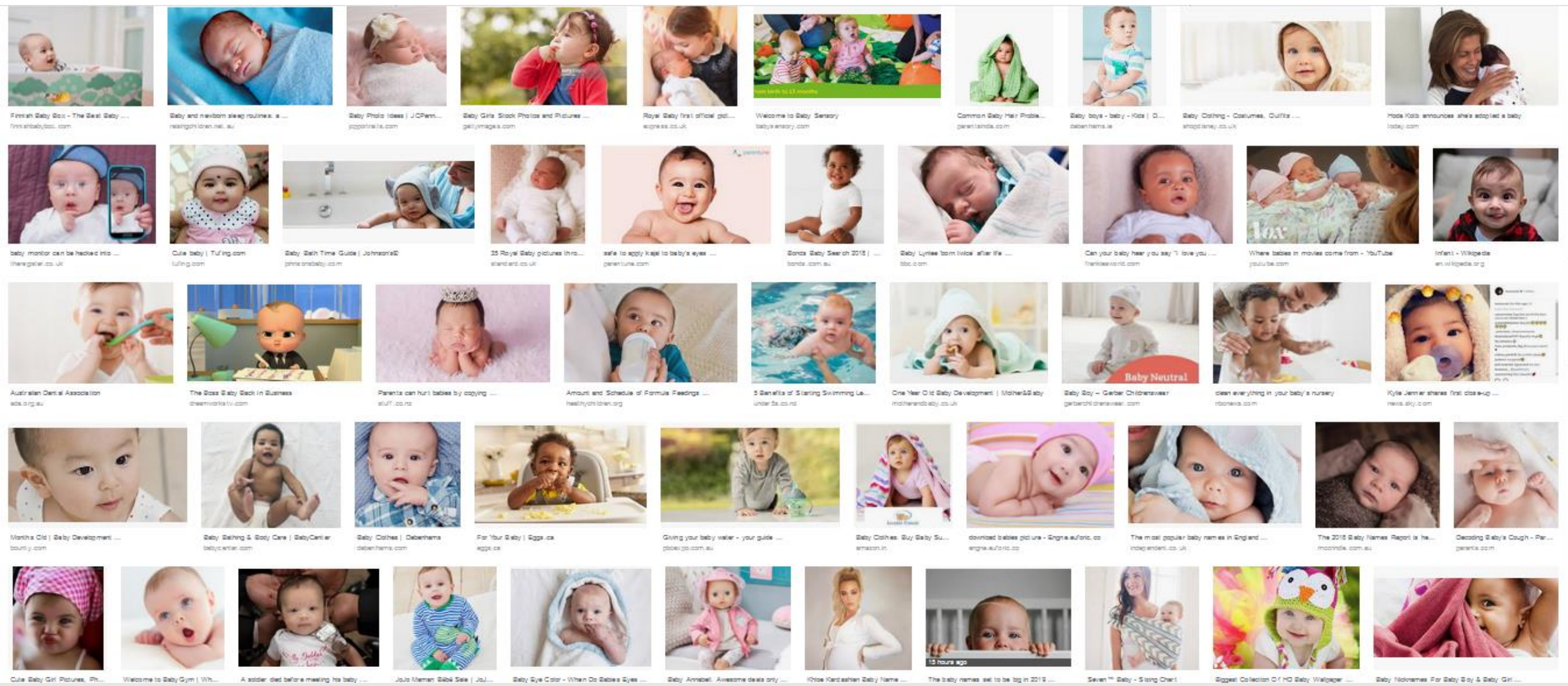
# WHAT LEADS TO CRIME?

## Root causes

- Socio-economic inequities
- Marginalization

## Risk factors

- Child abuse
- Family breakdown and violence
- Alcohol and drug abuse



# WHY CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY?

**BECAUSE IT WORKS!**

# SIGNIFICANT KNOWLEDGE THAT **UPSTREAM** PREVENTION IS COST EFFECTIVE

Accumulation of significant knowledge over the last 50 years from scientific research and evaluations that:

- Social and smart investments in upstream crime prevention are effective in reducing violent and property crime;
- Investments in effective prevention are much more cost effective than reacting to crime and so reduce harm to victims while potentially saving taxes;
- These conclusions and their specifics are endorsed by, and available from, prestigious organizations like the World Health Organization, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and the US Department of Justice.

# EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO PREVENT CRIME UPSTREAM

## **YOUTH INCLUSION**

- 63% reduction in offending and 16% in crime in the area

## **THE FOURTH R**

- 25% reduction in reported sexual violence in schools

## **LIFE SKILLS TRAINING**

- Reduction in drug abuse and violence, 32% reduction in delinquency

## **CARDIFF EMERGENCY ROOM ANALYSIS**

- 40% of city crime reduced and return of \$80 per \$1 invested

## **BREAK-IN REDUCTION INITIATIVE**

- 75% reduction of one time and repeat break-ins

## **ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT**

- Cut probability of arrest by 2/3rd

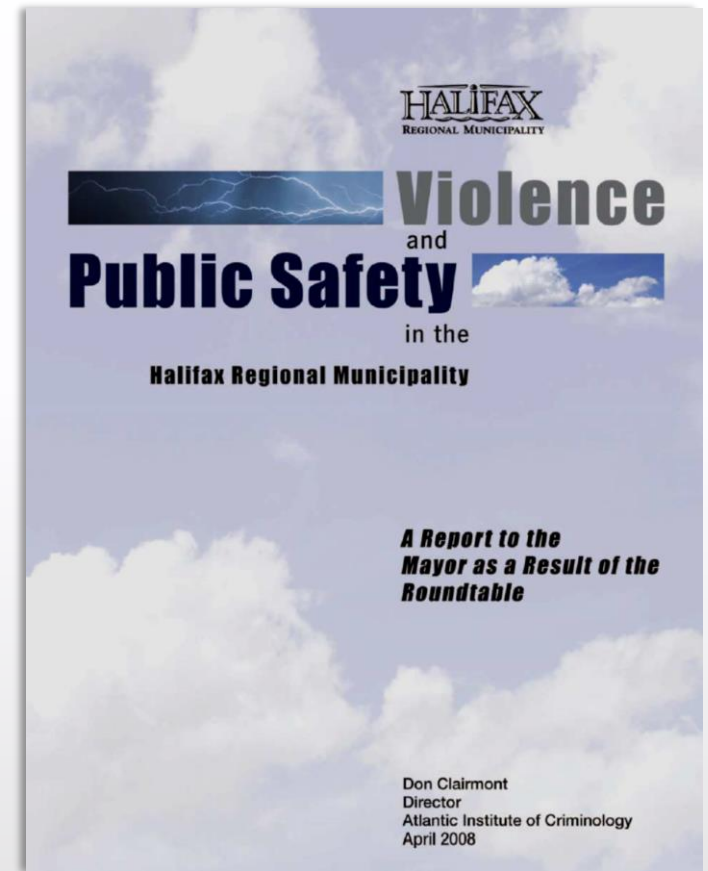
## **PROACTIVE AND PARTNERSHIP POLICING**

- In partnership, 67% reduction in homicides (e.g., Boston)

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

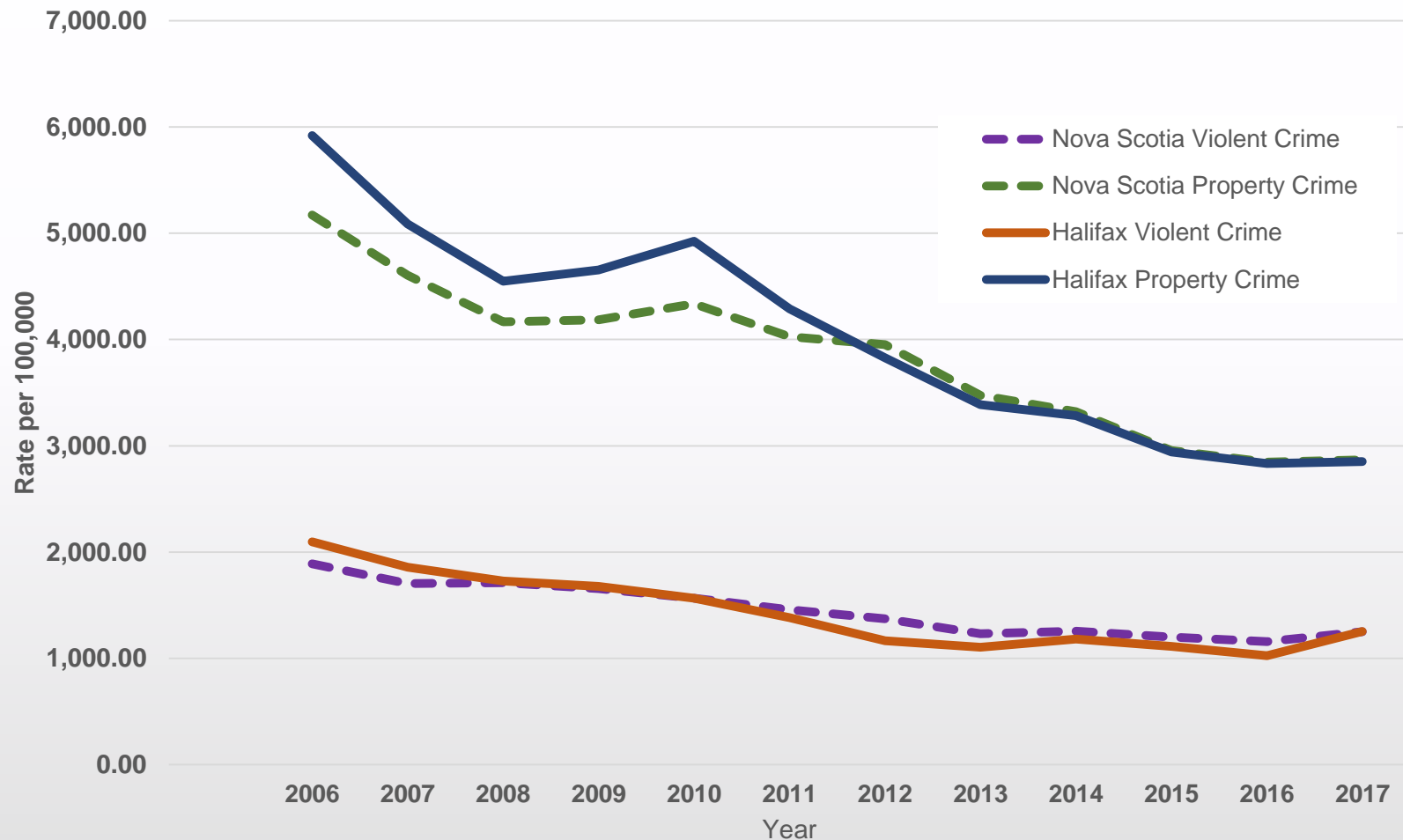
## Key Milestones

- 2006 Mayor's Roundtable on Violence
- 2008 HRM Roundtable Report on Violence
- 2009 Office of Public Safety established
- 2014 HRM Roundtable Review
- 2017 Public Safety Strategy



# Police reported crime

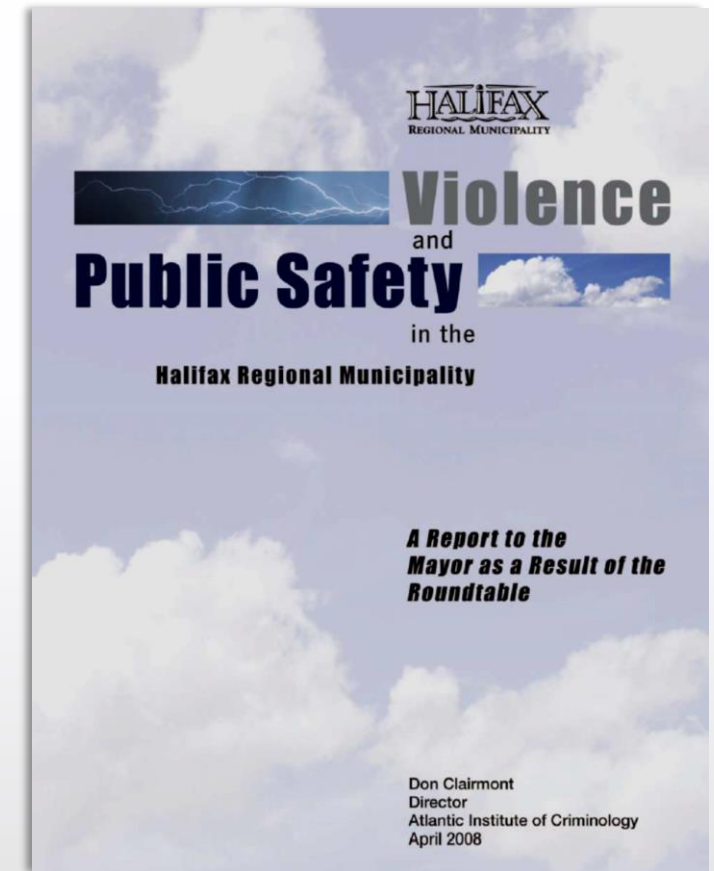
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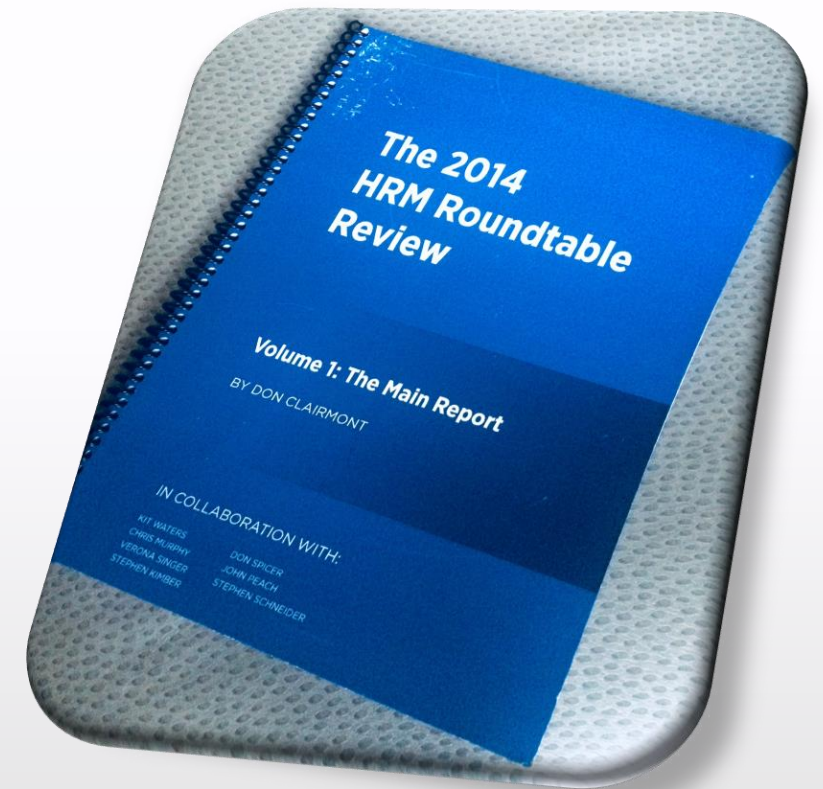
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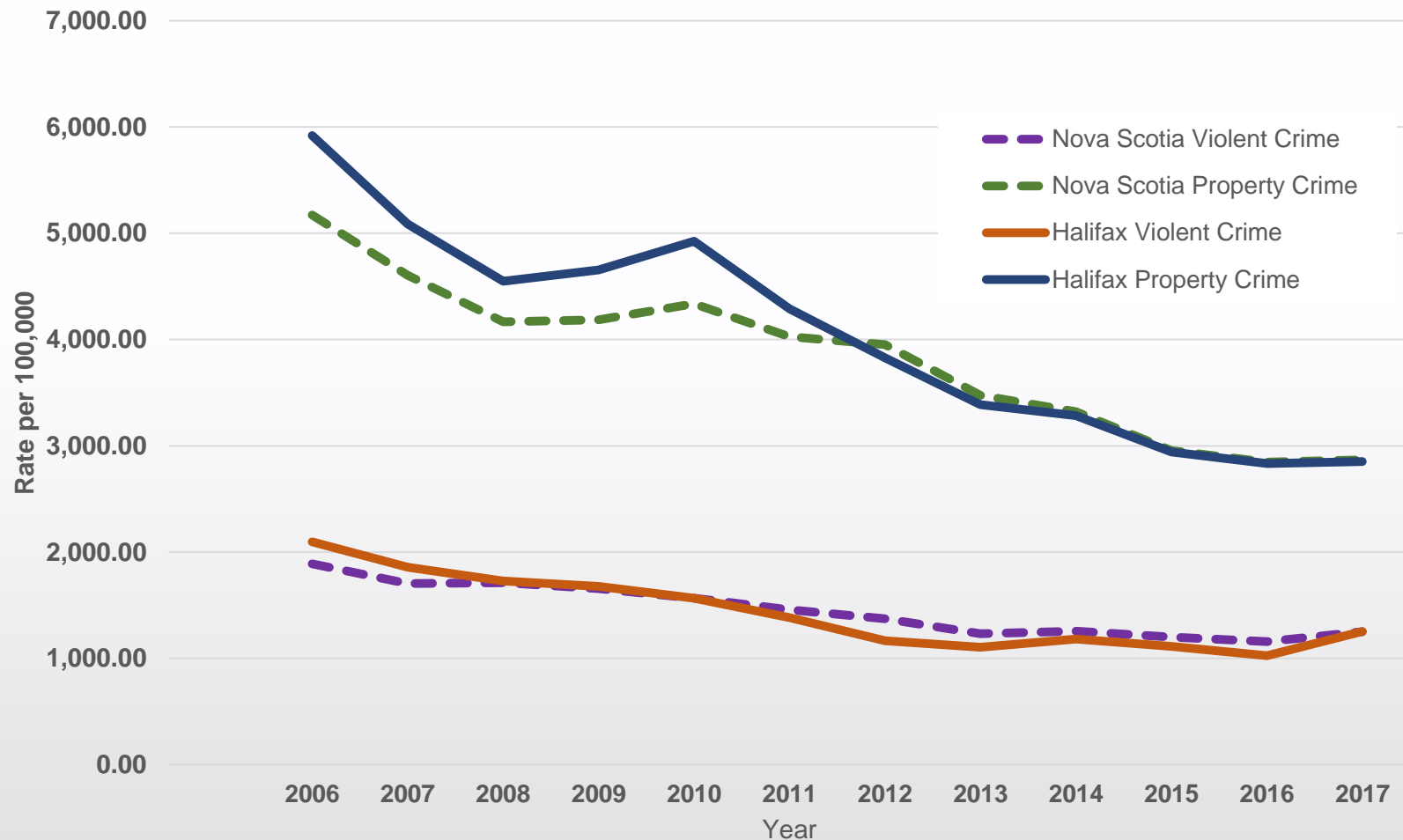
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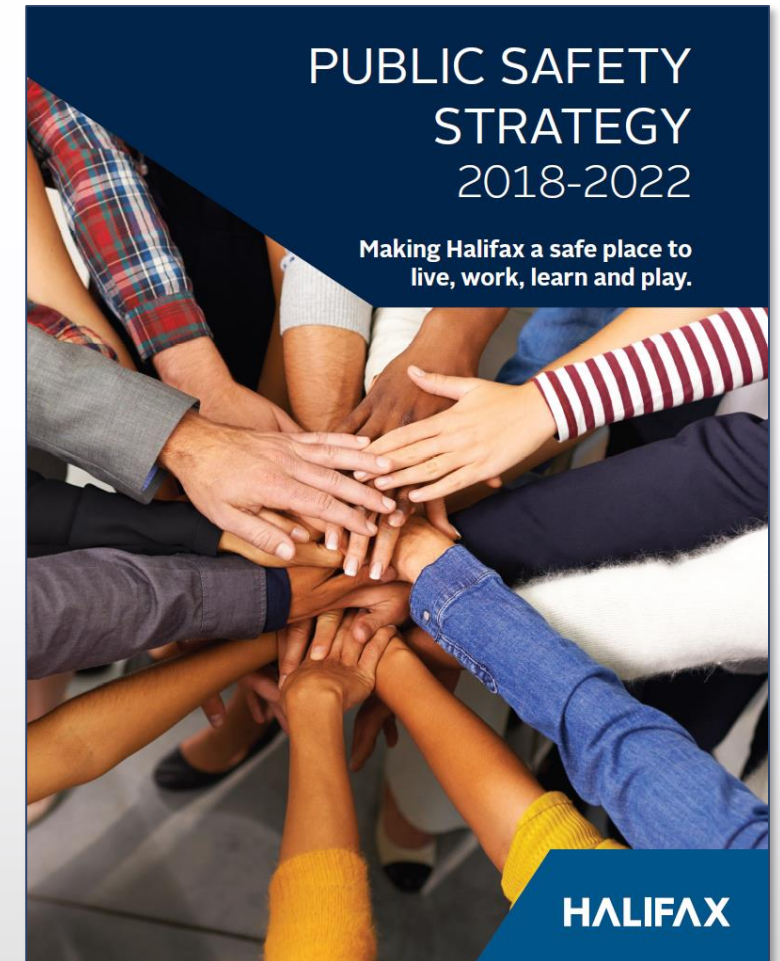
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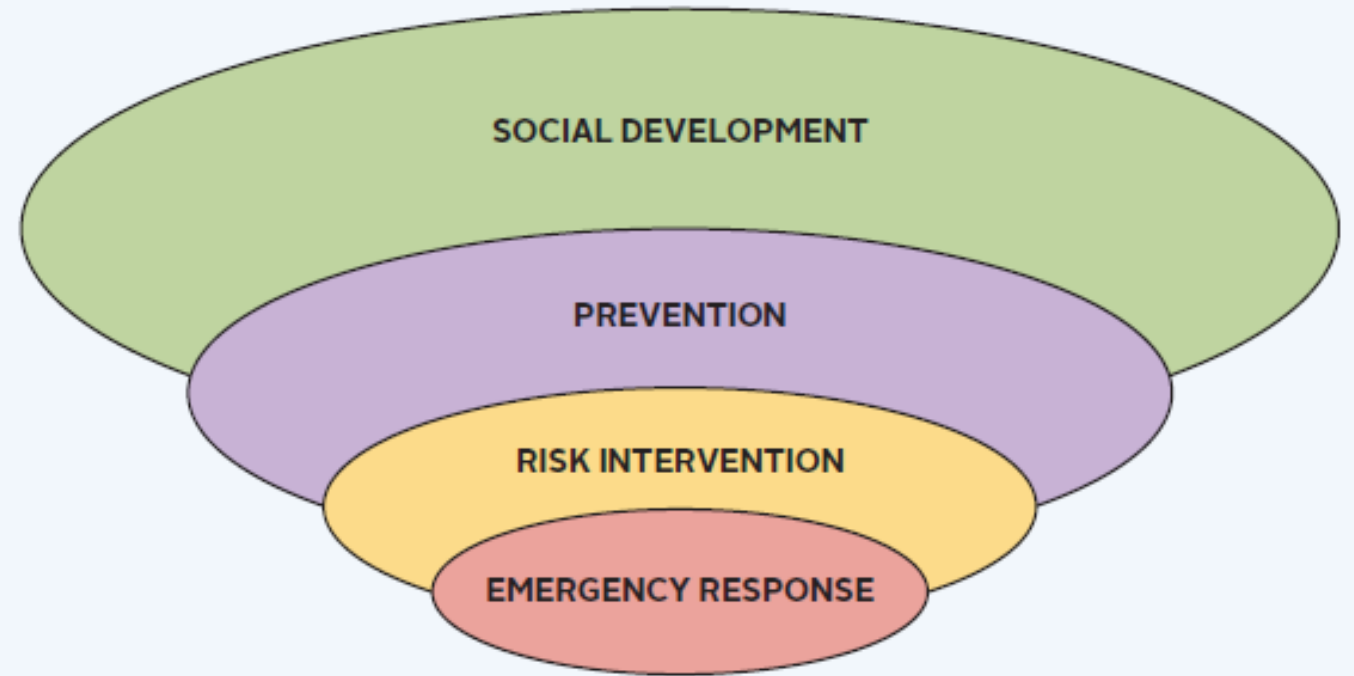


# PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGY

- Adopted by Regional Council in Fall of 2017
- Grounded in research from Roundtable Report and Review
- Promotes a better understanding of the nature and causes of crime, insecurity and community well-being
- Frames a coordinated, collaborative approach among stakeholders

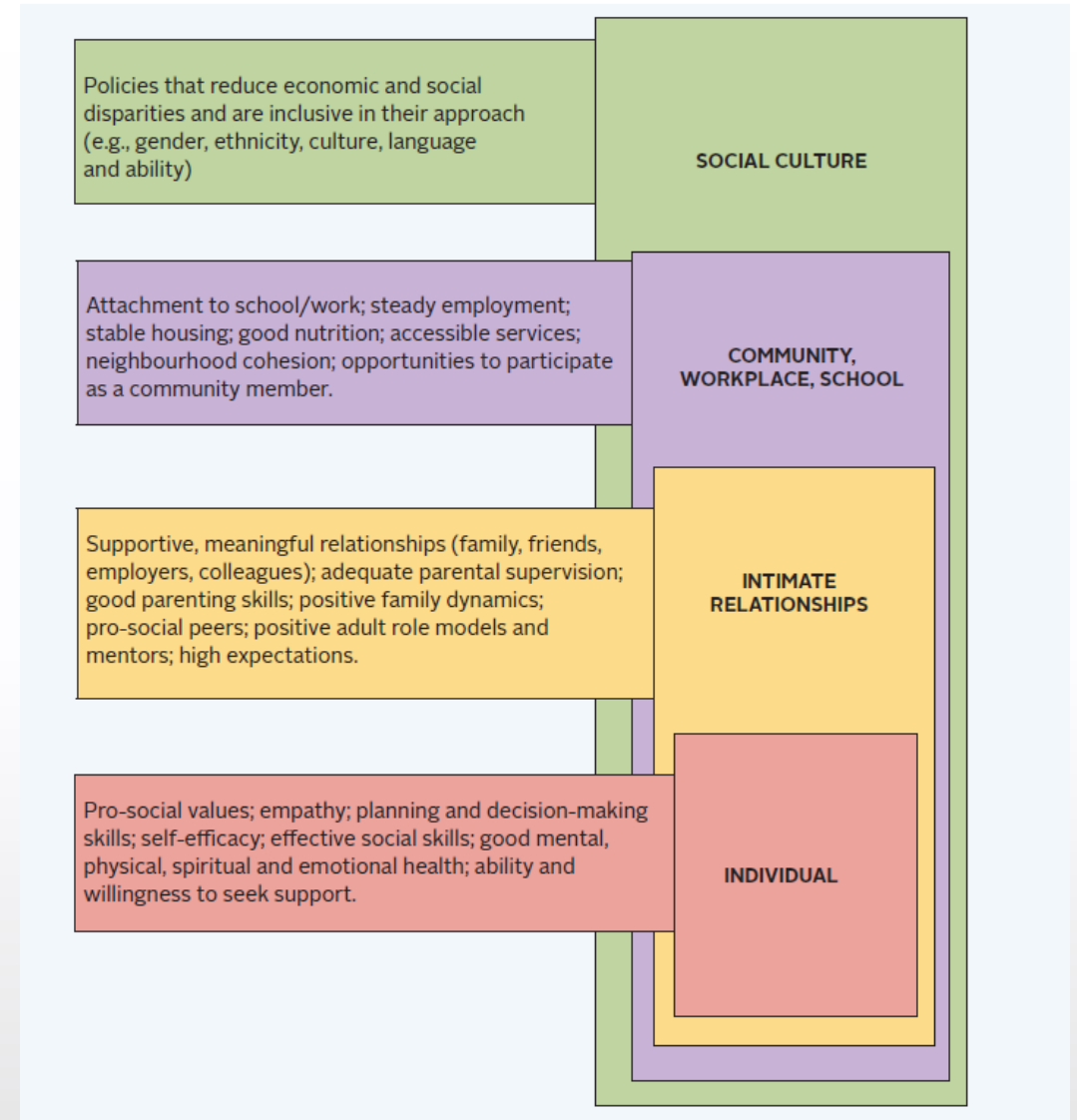


# Spectrum of Intervention



# Building on strengths

- Upstream, relational approach
- From system-change to strengthening resident resilience
- Community safety and well-being index to assess, at the neighbourhood scale, determinants of safety and well-being



# Strategic Priorities

- 4 Priorities
- 16 Objectives
- 76 Actions
- Emphasis on where municipality has the authority and capacity to act



**BUILD RESIDENT RESILIENCE:** Help people to reduce their sense of isolation, build resilience and improve their quality of life.



**ENSURE SAFE PLACES:** Reduce the opportunities for crime and social disorder at places where people live, work and play.



**STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES:** Increase local participation and social interaction, and develop ways to deal with conflict in non-violent ways.



**PREVENT AND REDUCE CRIME:** Protect citizens, organizations, and institutions against threats to their well-being and prosperity.

# ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

- What situation do we wish to change?
- What are the main aspects of this situation?
- What are its causes?
- What actions will address the causes in the short and long term?
- What resources do we need?
- How will we know when we are successful?

## COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION TEAMS

- A community-led, holistic approach to preparing and responding to violent incidents
- Inter-departmental collaboration in partnership with community
- Refining, realigning, redeploying existing resources





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# VISION

Safe, healthy and inclusive Canadian communities free from crime and violence.



## Voluntary & Membership Based Network

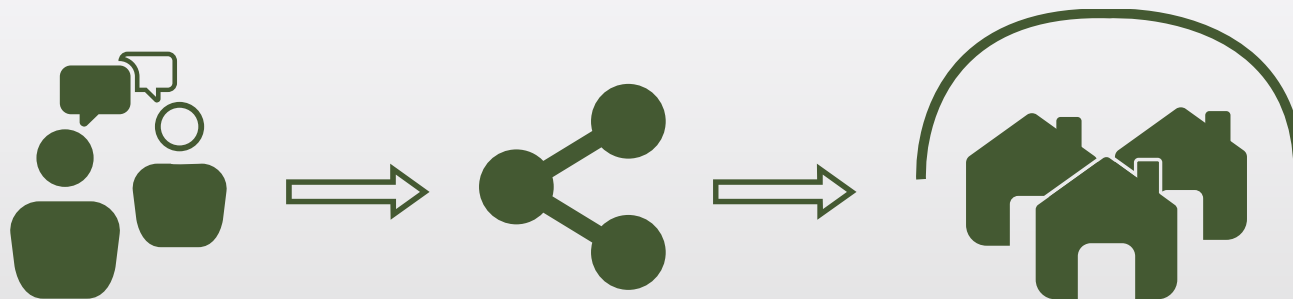
- Members represent approximately 40 communities/cities
- 40% of all Canadians (just under 15 million Canadians)

# MISSION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPAL NETWORK ON CRIME PREVENTION

CMNCP brings together Canadian municipalities from across the country to:

- share and develop knowledge, expertise and vision;
- build capacity and mobilize communities;

to prevent and reduce crime and community safety and well-being



# SELECTED ACTIVITIES

- Webinars
- Crime prevention updates (email)
- One-to-one support to municipalities
- Action Briefs
- Practice Briefs
- Inter-Municipal Exchanges
- National Meetings
- Annual Conference
- Workshops
- Training in Crime Prevention



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# THANK YOU

## CONTACT:

[www.safercities.ca](http://www.safercities.ca)

[www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca)

[felix@safercities.ca](mailto:felix@safercities.ca)

[sicilia@halifax.ca](mailto:sicilia@halifax.ca)

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2. Go to [www.safercities.ca](http://www.safercities.ca) and sign up