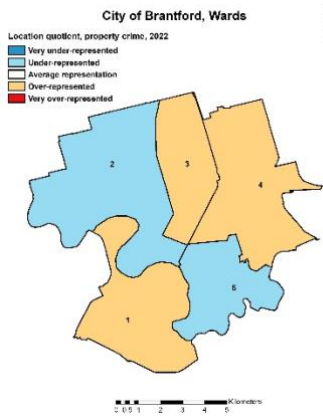
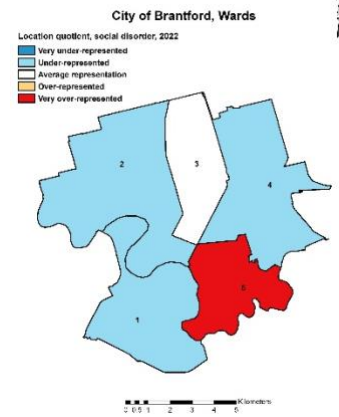




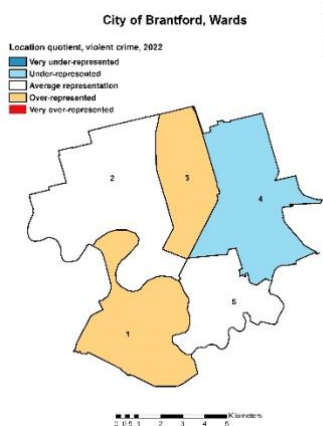
CRIME SPECIALIZATION IN BRANTFORD 2022



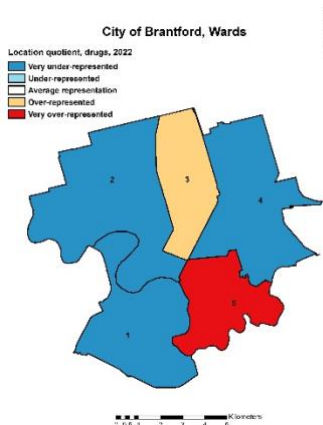
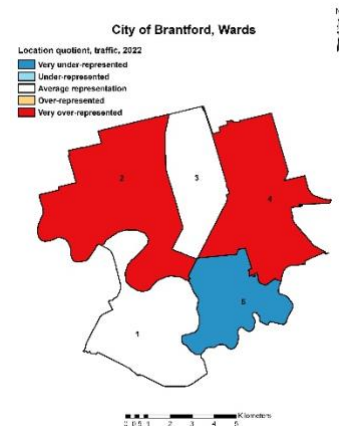
In Canada, crime rates are generally used to describe crime patterns over time. However, crime rates are calculated by taking the total amount of crime, dividing it by the population size and multiplying this number by a certain standard (ex. 100,000 people). However, crime rates are susceptible to misinterpretation. For example, small communities will often have overinflated crime rates because the amount of crime is being divided by a small population count.



Furthermore, crime rates say very little about what types of crimes are a problem in the city, and whether certain areas experience more of one crime type than others. This can make efforts to reduce and prevent crime very difficult.



The location quotient is an alternative metric that provides practitioners and policymakers with more information. The location quotient calculates an area's crime specialization, compared to surrounding areas. The location quotient is calculated by taking the percentage of a certain crime type (ex. Property crime) in one area, divided by the percentage of that same crime type in the study region as a whole. The ratio that is produced is measured against specific criteria to determine if an area specializes in a certain type of crime.¹



Here, we provide the location quotients for Brantford's five wards for the year 2022. We use the calls for service and incidents² provided to the Brantford Police Service, and divide them into six categories (violent crime, property crime, social disorder, drugs, traffic, and administrative) to produce five maps by crime type. The results show that drugs and social disorder are highly overrepresented in Ward 5, while violent and property crime are overrepresented in Wards 1 and 3. Drugs are also overrepresented in Ward 3 and property crime is also overrepresented in Ward 4. Traffic is very overrepresented in Wards 2 and 4. These findings indicate that certain types of crime specialize in certain areas of Brantford and suggest that prevention approaches specific to the crime type specialization in these areas would be appropriate.

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¹ These criteria are as follows: > 1.30 is a very over-represented area (high crime specialization), > 1.10 to 1.30 is moderately over-represented, > 0.90 to 1.10 is averagely represented, > 0.70 to 0.90 is under-represented, and 0.00 to 0.70 is a very under-represented area (low crime specialization).

² Issues related to social disorder, (ex. aggressive panhandling, public drunkenness, public mental health crises, etc.), often do not always become recorded incidents. However, these issues can elicit fear and perceptions of crime in residents and others. This demonstrates the importance of using both calls for service and incident data.