

Crime in Cape Town: Selected Crime Types - Comparison with other selected Metros from 2011/12 to 2016/17

In order to situate Cape Town's crime information in a broader national context, a comparison is made with similar South African metros. This factsheet compares Cape Town with Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and eThekweni – all of which are broadly similar in size and form.

1. Introduction

The violent crime rates in South Africa are some of the highest in the world. It affects every South African's quality of life. The national and local governments have made fighting crime a priority through implementing crime prevention programmes. These programmes are intended to reduce crime rates and effectively lessen the fear of violent crime (CSIR, 2016).

The City of Cape Town has a new Integrated Development Plan for 2017-2022 which will improve on the successful projects carried out in the previous IDP (2013-2017). The City's focus is to have a Safe City and its objective is to keep communities in Cape Town safe and to increase their sense of personal safety in public areas. With the strategies, programmes and projects outlined in the IDP, the City seeks to reverse the perception that Cape Town is a dangerous and violent place (City of Cape Town, 2017).

This factsheet includes a comparative analysis of actual incidences of crimes reported in 2016/17 crime year in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and eThekweni and South Africa for violent crime, drug-related crimes and driving with influence (DWI), commercial crime, total property crime, and other crime categories (grouped).

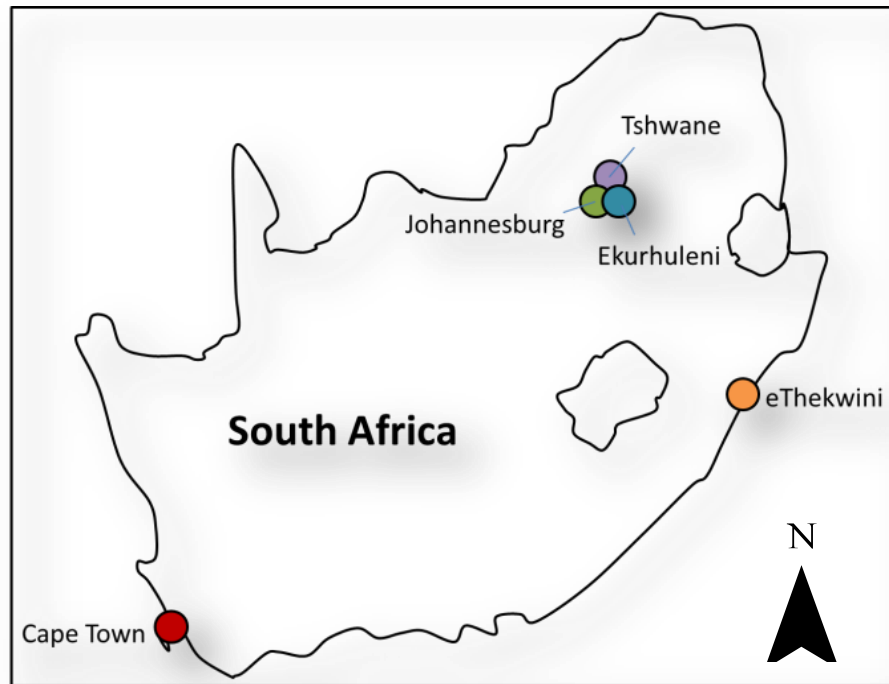
This fact sheet also presents a comparative analysis of the crime rates for Cape Town and the four Metropolitan areas and South Africa over a five year period from 2011/12 to 2016/17 for the following crime categories violent crime, property crime, commercial crime, drug-related crimes and driving with influence (DWI). This trend analysis will aid in producing a more holistic picture of the overall crime status for each of the selected metropolitan areas and South Africa.

2. Methodology

The crime data used within this factsheet was obtained from the South African Police Services (SAPS, 2017a) (www.saps.gov.za), who releases crime statistics annually. Each crime reporting year begins on the 1st April and ends on the 31st March the following year. Therefore, the period for the 2017 crime statistics is 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 and together with 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 data, is the focus of the factsheet.

Every year, the SAPS crime statistics are released per SAPS police precinct. In order to gather 2016/17 crime information by crime type for each metropolitan area, the 2016/17 list of police precincts by metropolitan area was updated with any changes to the list of police precincts within each of the selected metropolitan areas. The 2016/17 crime figures of the relevant police precincts located within the respective metropolitan jurisdiction area were added together by crime type to produce overall statistics for the metropolitan area. Refer to Annexure 1 for the updated listing of police precincts in Cape Town and the four Metropolitan areas, viz. Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and eThekweni (Refer to Figure 1). The selected metros are similar in demographic size and form.

Figure 1: Location of the selected Metros within South Africa.



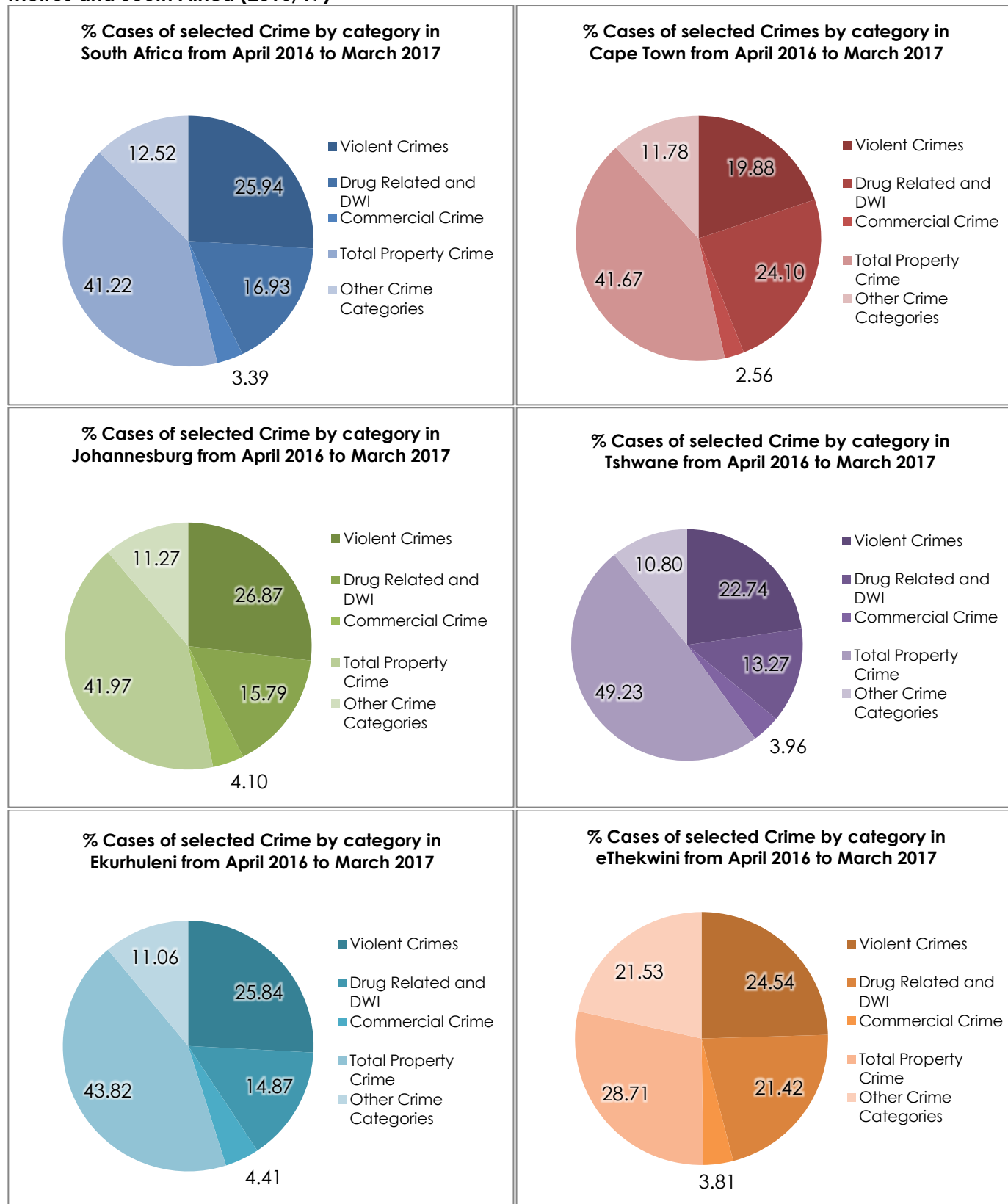
3. Comparison of selected crime types – 2016/17

In order to gain insight into Cape Town's overall crime status, analysis needs to be performed to identify which crime types contribute the most to the overall crime levels in the metros. Figure 2 shows the percentage distribution of the actual reported cases for violent crime, drug-related crimes and driving with influence (DWI), commercial crime, total property crime, and other crime categories (grouped) crime category in 2016/17 for each metro and reveals a similar pattern between the metros.

Property crime forms the highest percentage of crime cases in South Africa and in each of the metros. Tshwane had the largest proportion of overall crimes attributed to property crime (49.23%), followed by Ekurhuleni (43.82%) with eThekweni the smallest proportion (28.71%) in 2016/17.

Violent crimes were the second highest crime category contribution in the metros and South Africa, except for Cape Town. Cape Town was the only metro to have a larger drug related and DWI crime percentage (24.1%) than the violent crimes percentage (19.88%). Commercial crime formed the lowest percentage for crime cases in each metro and for South Africa.

Figure 2: Percentage distribution of the actual reported cases for each crime category for the selected metros and South Africa (2016/17)



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2016/17, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

Table 1 compares the actual number of reported cases for the selected crime types and categories between metros and with the national total, and reflect the patterns shown in figure 2. Cape Town has the highest overall reported crime incidents of the selected metros for 2016/17 (324 982) followed by Johannesburg (244 083), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Actual number of reported cases for crime types and categories for selected Metros and South Africa (2016/17).¹

	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Tshwane	Ekurhuleni	eThekweni	South Africa
Murders	2 515	1 606	686	1 152	1 706	19 016
Total Sexual Crimes	4 322	4 064	2 182	2 539	4 248	55 824
Attempted Murder	2 724	1 927	1 060	1 230	1 803	18 205
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	11 883	16 275	7 854	9 243	9 214	170 616
Common Assault	23 000	17 198	9 855	9 830	9 705	156 450
Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances	19 863	24 286	12 021	11 770	12 361	140 956
Public Violence	292	224	275	141	222	2 517
Drug Related	68 930	23 766	16 668	13 504	26 692	292 689
DWI	9 392	14 780	3 136	7 162	7 585	75 034
Commercial Crime	8 333	10 002	5 902	6 130	6 094	73 550
Property Crime	135 431	102 450	73 464	60 894	45 929	895 441
All Crimes	324 982	244 083	149 213	138 970	159 999	2 172 370

Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2016/17, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

4. Comparison of selected crime types – 2011/12 to 2016/17

However, using the crime rates adjusted for population size and growth, are a better means of showing patterns of crime than actual reported incidences. The crime rates for violent crime, property crime, commercial crime, drug-related crimes and driving with influence (DWI) categories per 100 000 population for all metropolitan areas and South Africa were calculated using the mid-year population estimates² for each of the metros and South Africa for 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively, published by Statistics South Africa in 2017, (Statistics South Africa, 2018). Refer to Table 2 below.

Table 2: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 mid-year population estimates and number of police precincts for Cape Town and four selected Metropolitan areas in South Africa

	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Tshwane	Ekurhuleni	eThekweni
2011 Population	3 720 639	4 514 795	2 866 832	3 151 195	3 575 561
2012 Population	3 797 020	4 652 597	2 955 463	3 217 535	3 599 512
2013 Population	3 873 170	4 794 112	3 046 892	3 285 202	3 625 198
2014 Population	3 948 697	4 938 346	3 140 863	3 354 161	3 652 777
2015 Population	4 023 510	5 086 500	3 238 020	3 424 891	3 682 475
2016 Population	4 097 987	5 240 089	3 339 018	3 497 711	3 714 659
Size (km ²)	2 500	1 644	2 174	1 924	2 297
Number of police precincts	61	42	35	40	44

Source: (Statistics South Africa, 2018)

4.1 Violent Crime

The category of violent crime includes the following crime types: murder, attempted murder, total sexual crimes, violent assault crimes (assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm), common assault, robbery with aggravating circumstances and public violence.

Violent crimes are usually generated by the abuse of alcohol and drug-use. These intoxicants can often be the lead cause of arguments and violent behaviour between victims and the offenders. These crimes frequently occur when offenders and victims are drinking together and

¹ The numbers will not add up to the total for All Crimes as not all crime categories are displayed

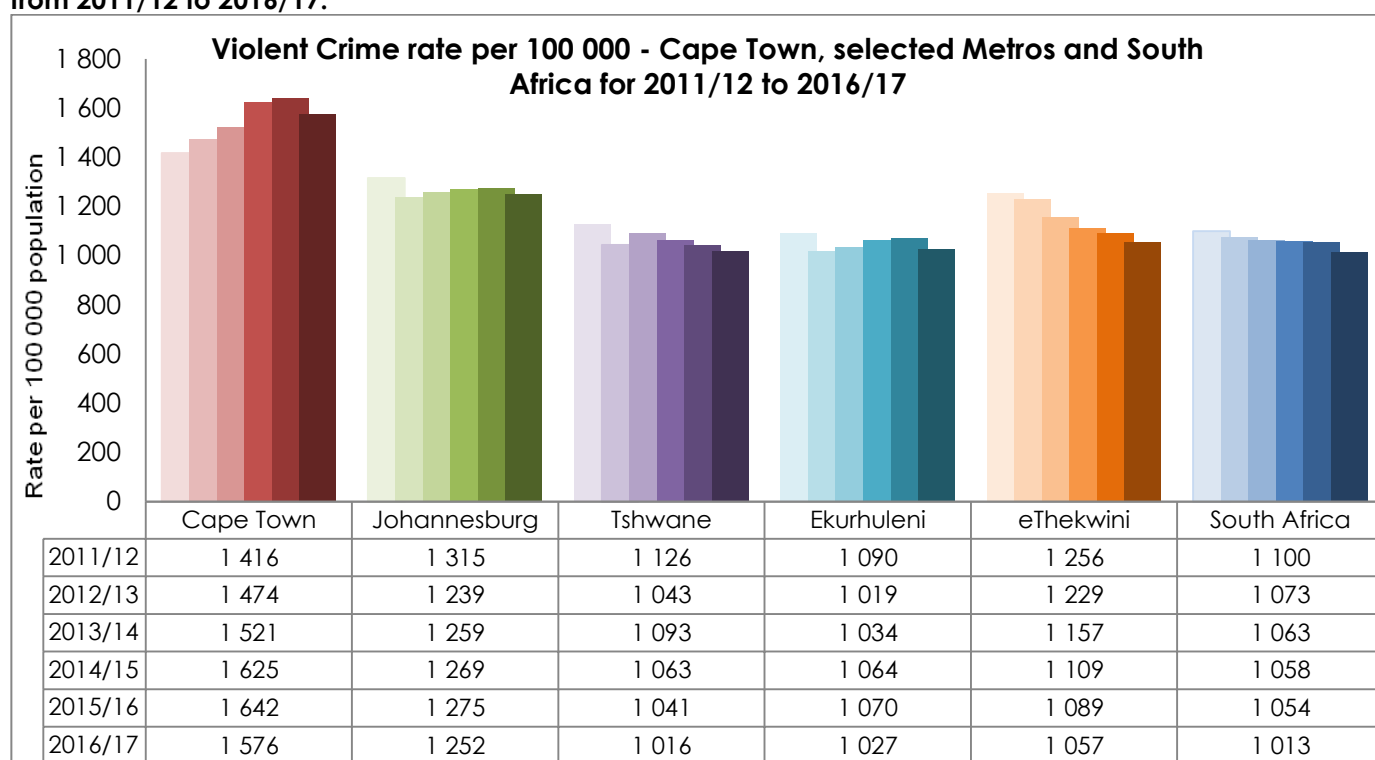
² The 2017 mid-year estimates used have revised population estimates to those previously published. Crime rates in this document will thus not necessarily be the same as those in earlier publications

arguments break out. These arguments generally range from issues over alcohol, food, relationships, money and other subjects (SAPS, 2017b).

According to Figure 3, of all the metros, Cape Town has the highest violent crime rate for the five year period. The last reporting year shows that all of the metros experienced a decrease in the violent crime rates. Cape Town experienced the biggest decrease in the last year from 1 642 per 100 000 population (2015/16) to 1 576 per 100 000 (2016/17), a decrease of 4% in crime rates and 2.2% in actual violent crimes, viz. 64 599 reported in 2016/17 as against 66 074 in 2015/16. The metro with the 2nd highest decrease in violent crimes in the last reporting year was Ekurhuleni with a decrease of 4% in crime rates and 2% in actual incidences, viz. 35 905 and 36 647 violent crimes reported in 2016/17 and 2015/16 respectively.

The rate of violent crimes in South Africa as a whole has gradually decreased over the last five years from a rate of 1 100 (2011/12) to 1 013 (2016/17) per 100 000 population. Cape Town still has the highest violent crime numbers at 1575 per 100 000 (2016/17).

Figure 3: Comparison of Violent Crime rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.

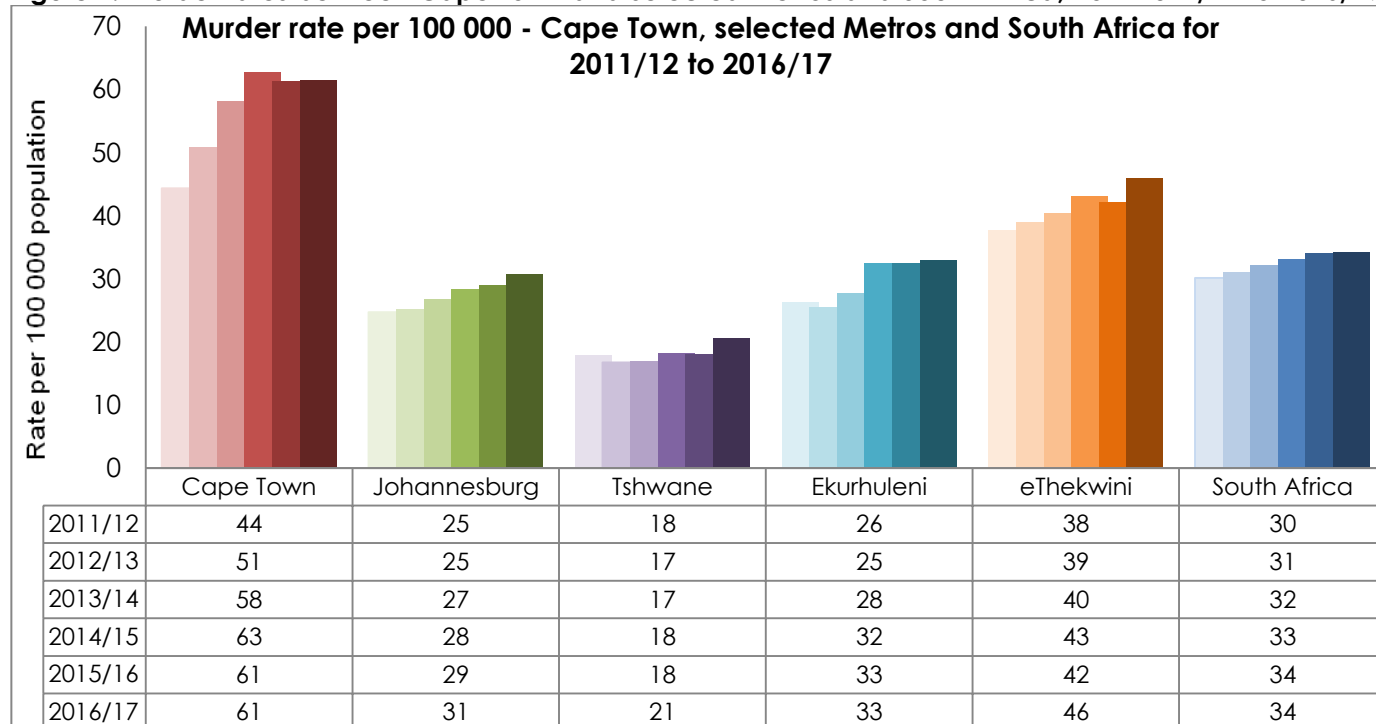


Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2018) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

Of all the other violent crimes mentioned in the following analysis below, Cape Town is showing a decrease in the last reporting year, viz. 2016/17, with the exception of car hijacking (sub-category of robbery with aggravating circumstances), which is showing an increase of 48 carjackings to 52 per 100 000 population (Figure 12).

Cape Town is showing the murder rate has stayed at 61 crimes per 100 000 population (2016/17) since the 2015/16 reporting year (Figure 4); however, it was still the highest rate in 2016/17 compared to the other metros and in South Africa. Three of the selected metros had an increase in the murder rate for 2016/17; eThekweni had the highest increase (from 42 to 46 per 100 000), followed by Tshwane (18 to 21 per 100 000) and Johannesburg (29 to 31 per 100 000). Both Ekurhuleni metro and South Africa had rates that remained the same since 2015/16 reporting year to 2016/17, viz. 33 and 34 crimes per 100 000 population respectively.

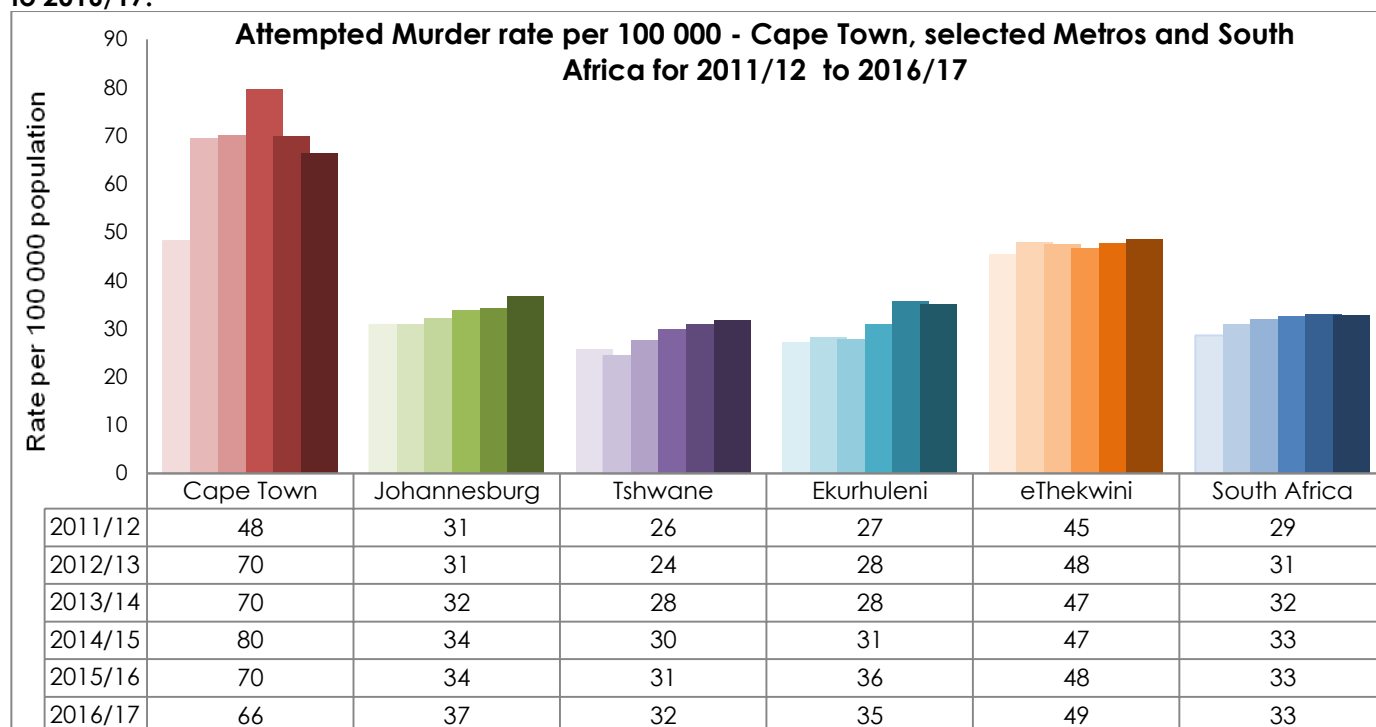
Figure 4: Murder rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2018) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

Attempted murder refers to the commission of an unlawful act with the intention of killing another human being, but which does not result in the death of that human being (SAPS, 2016). According to the (Institute for Security Studies (ISS) (2015), murders, attempted murders and rape are difficult to reduce and control as approximately 60% to 70% of cases occur between people who know each other. These crimes often occur as a result of a mix of particular social and economic factors. These crimes are often referred to by the police as 'inter-personal' violent crimes. Only between 15% and 20% of murders and attempted murders is the result of aggravated robbery while inter-group conflicts and vigilantism make up the rest.

Figure 5: Attempted Murder rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.

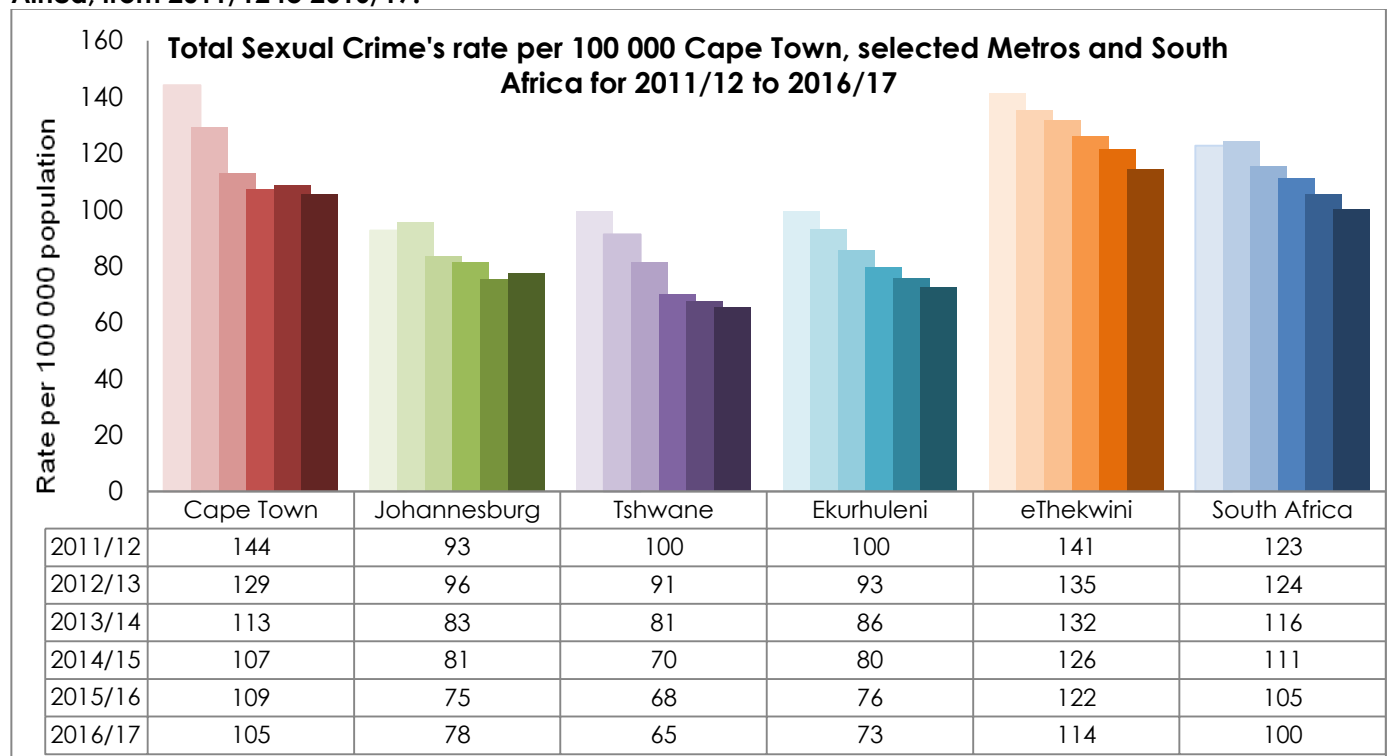


Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2018) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

The attempted murder rates are similar, but a bit higher than the murder rates viz. Cape Town (66 per 100 000) and eThekweni (49 per 100 000) have the first and second highest rates right from 2011/12 to 2016/17. Cape Town and Ekurhuleni's attempted murder rates have dropped in the last reporting year. Cape Town's decreased from 70 to 66 per 100 000 in 2015/16 to 2016/17 and Ekurhuleni decreased from 36 to 35 per 100 000 in 2015/16 to 2016/17. Cape Town still has the highest attempted murder rates but while the metro is experiencing a decrease in the attempted murder rate numbers, other metros have seen an increase. Johannesburg increased from 34 to 37 per 100 000, Tshwane went from 31 to 32 per 100 000 and eThekweni increased from 48 to 49 per 100 000 from 2015/16 to 2016/17 and South Africa remains the same at 33 attempted murders per 100 000 population.

Figure 6 compares the total sexual crime rates between metros for 2011/12 to 2016/17, in which eThekweni is shown to have the highest rate for total sexual crimes for 2016/17 (114 per 100 000). The total sexual crime's rate has decreased in every metro except Johannesburg which increased from 75 to 78 per 100 000 in 2015/16 to 2016/17. Cape Town has the second highest total sexual crime rates with 105 per 100 000 in 2016/17. Total sexual crime rates have shown a decline since 2011/12 and continues to except for in 2015/16 where Cape Town experienced a slight increase from 107 to 109 per 100 000 but dropped again to 105 in the last reporting year 2016/17.

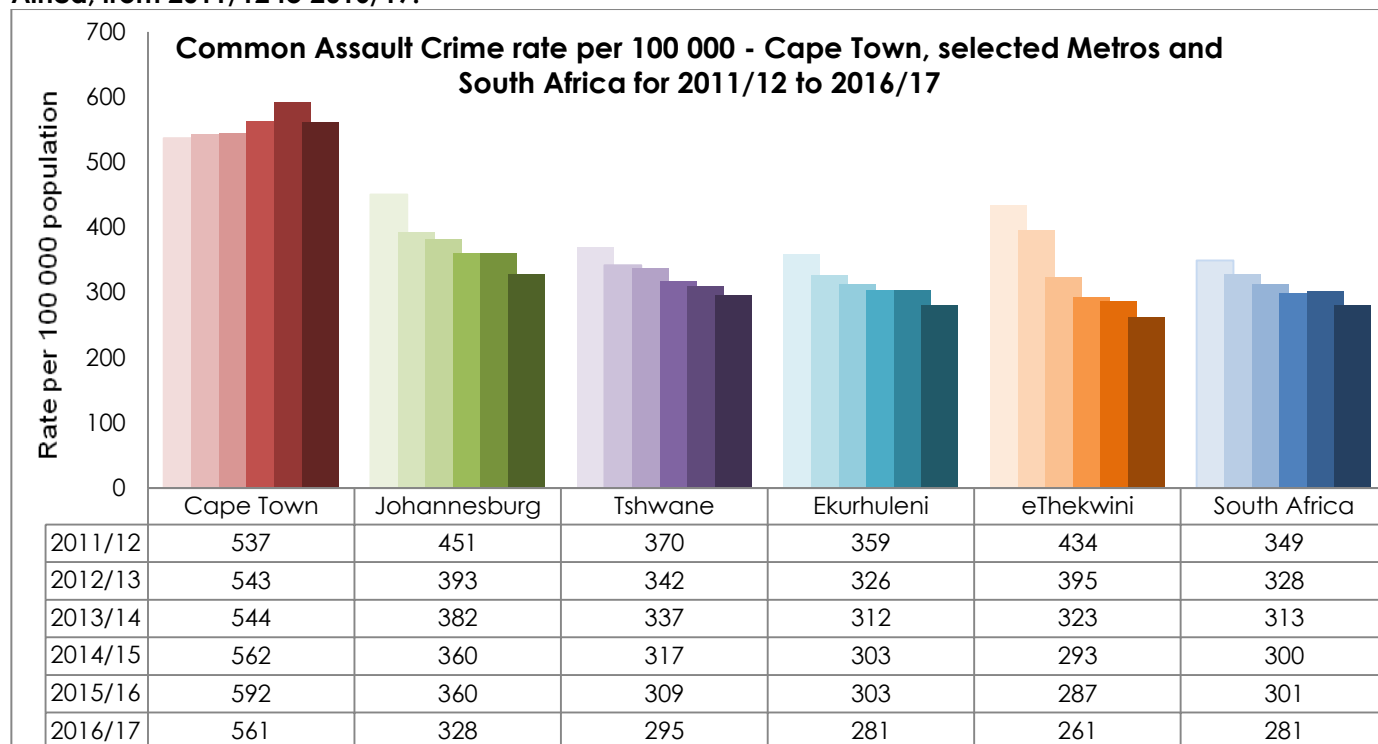
Figure 6: Comparison of Total Sexual Crime rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 TO 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2018) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

Common assault rates have decreased in all metros and in South Africa as a whole in the last reporting year, as shown in Figure 7. For the period of 2011/12 to 2015/16, Cape Town was the only metro that experienced an increase in the rates per 100 000. Cape Town went from 537 per 100 000 (2011/12) to 592 per 100 000 (2015/16) before decreasing significantly to 561 per 100 000 in 2016/17. All the other metros and South Africa showed a decrease in the last reporting year. Johannesburg went from 360 to 328 per 100 000, Tshwane from 309 to 295, Ekurhuleni from 303 to 281, eThekweni 287 to 261 and South Africa from 301 to 281 per 100 000 population from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

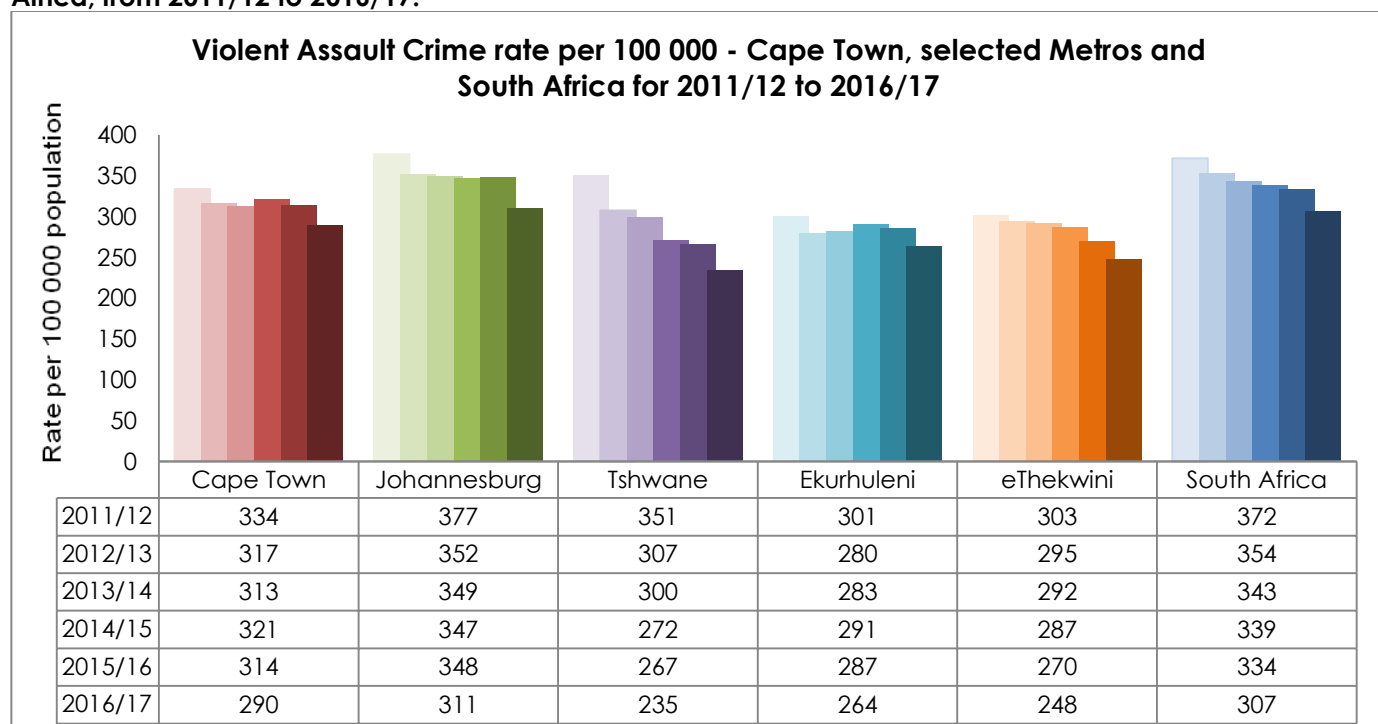
Figure 7: Comparison of Common Assault Crime rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2018) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

As illustrated in Figure 8, the violent assault crime rate has decreased in South Africa as well as in all the metros in the last reporting year. Significant decreases were experienced in all of the metros. Johannesburg experienced the highest decrease from 348 to 311 per 100 000, followed by Tshwane 267 to 235 per 100 000 and Cape Town 314 to 290 per 100 000 in the years 2015/16 to 2016/17. Compared to the other metros, Cape Town has the second highest violent assault crime rate at 290 per 100 000 after Johannesburg (311 per 100 000), but is still lower than the national rate which is at 307 per 100 000 in 2016/17

Figure 8: Comparison of Violent Assault Crime rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2018) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

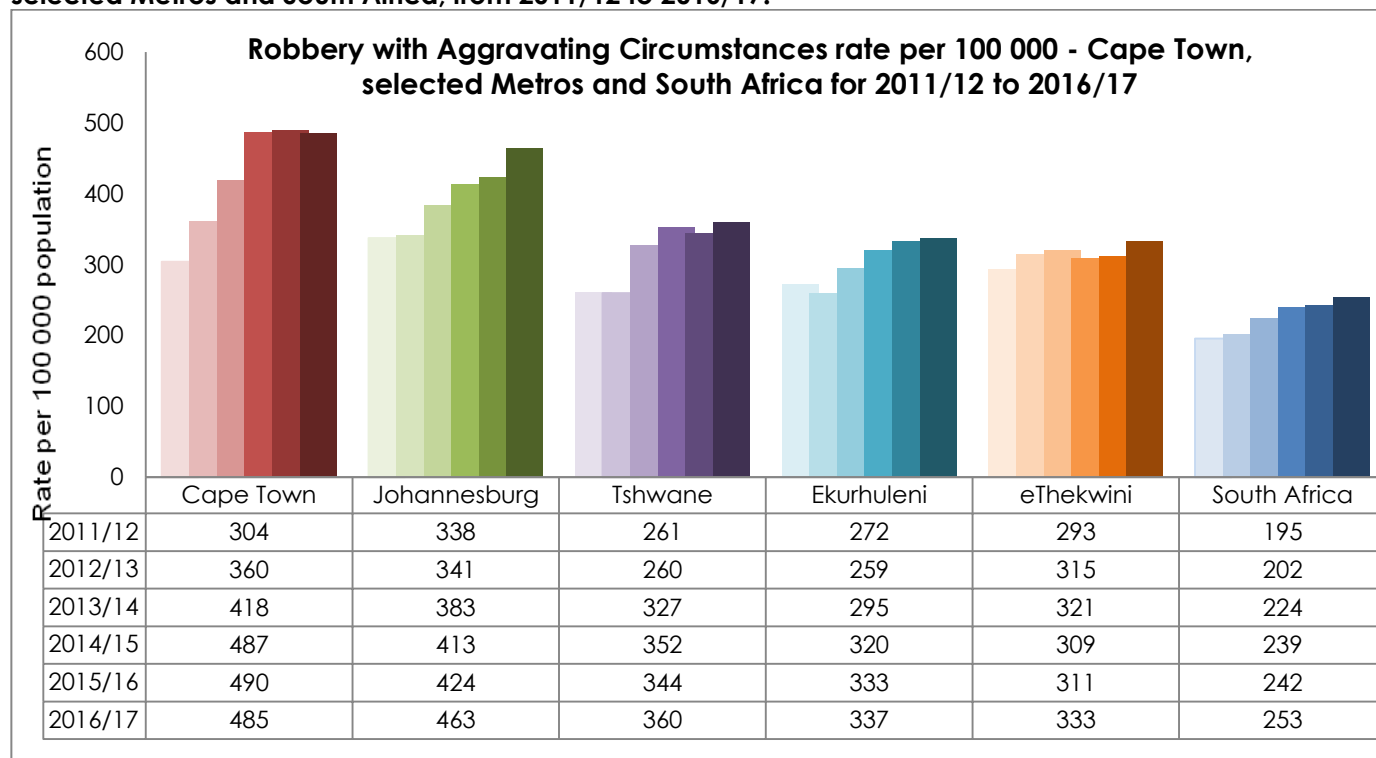
According to SAPS (2017b), in the broader communities in South Africa, there are low levels of tolerance and as a result many of the people resort to violence to solve differences. This violence is further worsened by the consumption and abuse of alcohol. However, in the last ten years, assault crime rates have been declining in South Africa. This can be attributed to the increased effectiveness and police presence in South Africa.

Robbery with aggravating circumstances includes the following crime types: street robbery, carjacking, truck jacking, robbery at residential premises, robbery at business premises, bank robbery and robbery of cash-in-transit.

Figure 9 shows that the rate of robbery with aggravating circumstances has increased over the last year for every metro except Cape Town. Cape Town shows a decrease from 490 per 100 000 in 2015/16 to 485 per 100 000 in 2016/17, a decrease of 1%. While Cape Town still has the highest rate of robbery with aggravating circumstances at 485 per 100 000 and 19 863 actual incidences, Johannesburg shows the biggest increase in the last year from 424 to 463 per 100 000 in 2016/17, an increase of over 9% in the rate and actual incidences from 21558 to 24286 robbery with aggravating circumstances crimes. These two metros have the highest rates of the crime in South Africa.

According to SAPS (2017b), offenders use weapons such as firearms, knives, or blunt objects to force victims to give up their property that the offenders wish to take. The weapon itself does not need to be used because the threat of physical harm is enough to make the victim part with his/her property. The threat of physical harm itself amounts to robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Figure 9: Comparison of Robbery with Aggravating Circumstances Crime rate between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.



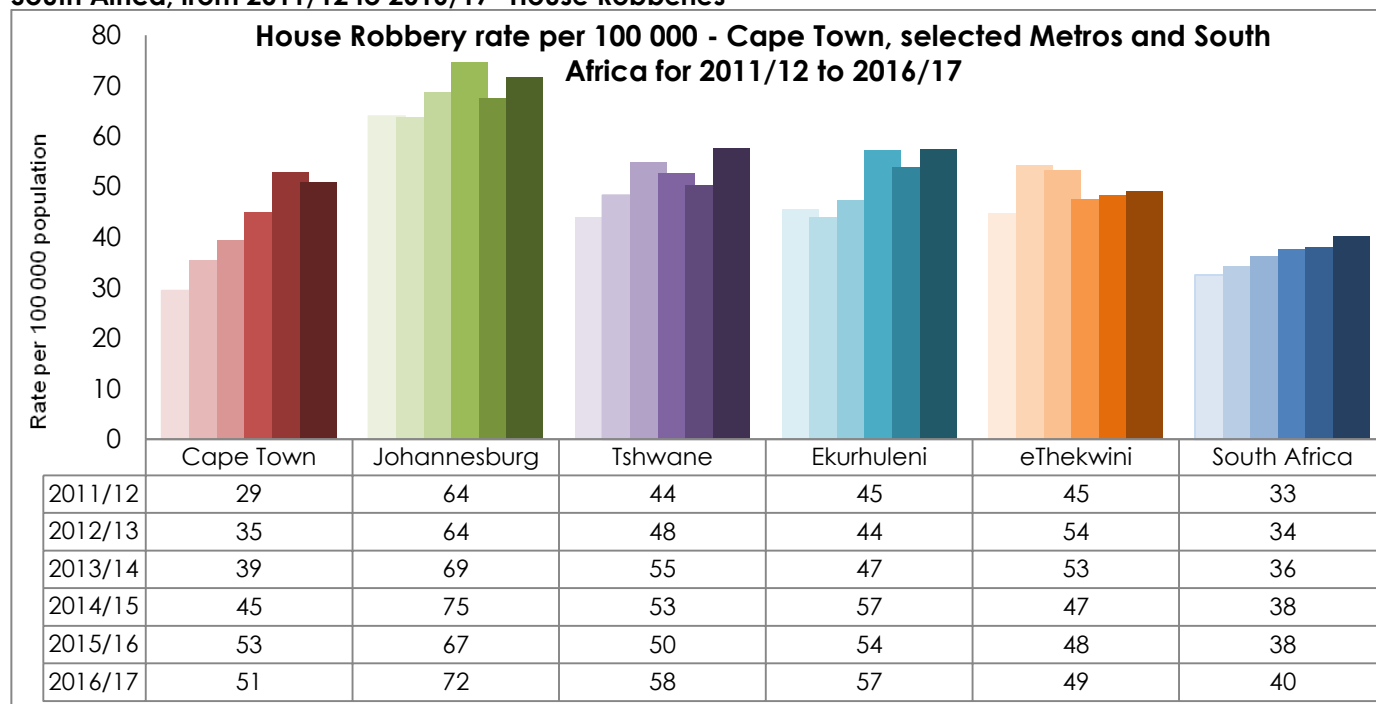
Source: South African Police Services (2017a), Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2016) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

House robbery, business robbery and carjacking form a sub-category under robbery with aggravating circumstances called the TRIO crimes (Figure 10, 11 and 12).

House robbery is a crime that impacts on the emotions of the victim. According to the SAPS (2017b) house robberies are one of the most feared and traumatic experiences as victims are at risk of getting injured, raped and murdered. Robberies at businesses occur because owners often have to be easily accessible to clients and security measures are therefore negatively impacted.

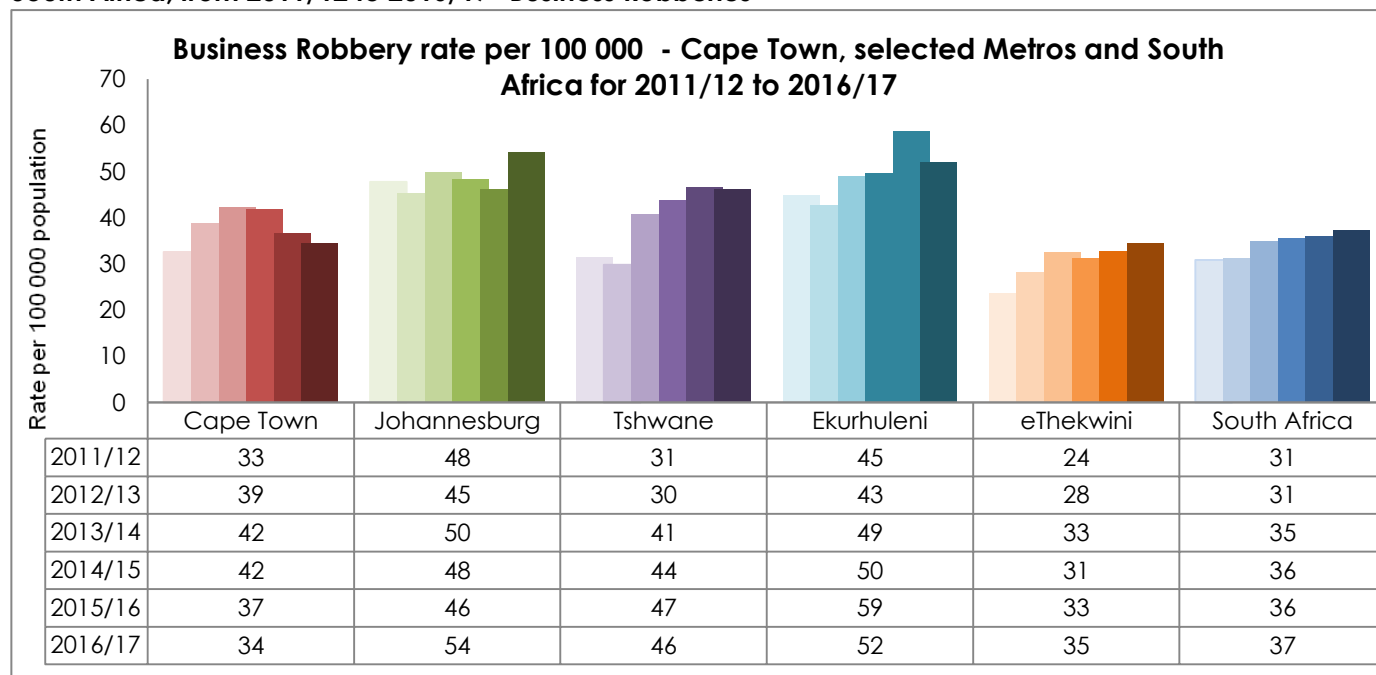
As shown in Figure 10, Johannesburg had the highest house robbery rate in 2016/17 (72 per 100 000 population). Tshwane showed an increase from 50 to 58 per 100 000 population, followed by Ekurhuleni from 54 to 57 per 100 000 in 2016/17. As can be seen in Figure 10, Cape Town is the only metro that experienced a decrease in the last year as it went from 53 per 100 000 (2015/16) to 51 per 100 000 in 2016/17.

Figure 10: Comparison of crime rates of TRIO Crime types between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17- House Robberies



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2016) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

Figure 11: Comparison of crime rates of TRIO Crime types between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17- Business Robberies



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2016) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

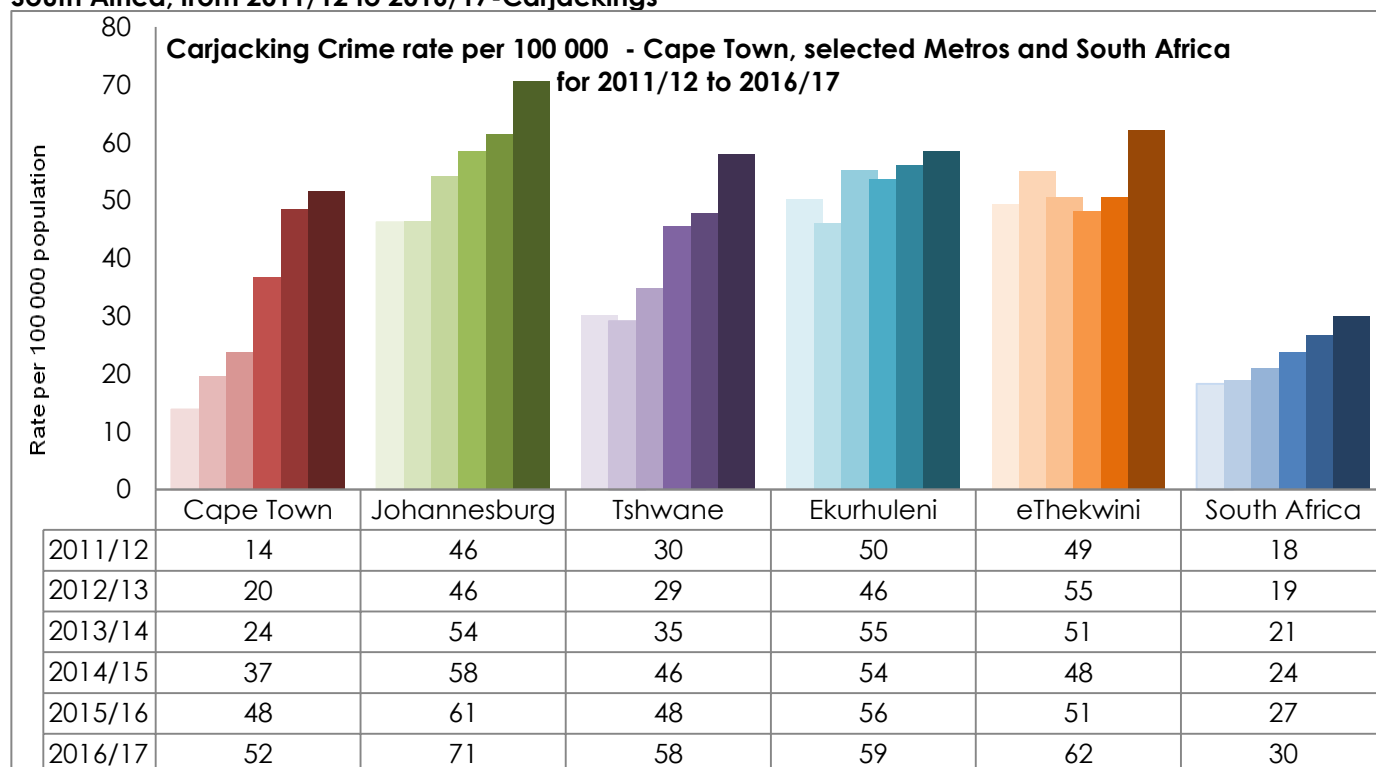
For business robbery, Cape Town had the lowest rate in 2016/17 with 34 business robberies per 100 000 population. Johannesburg had the highest rate with 54 per 100 000, followed by Ekurhuleni with 52 per 100 000; Tshwane with 46 per 100 000 and eThekweni with 35 business

robberies per 100 000 population. As seen in figure 11 for business robbery, Cape Town's rate has decreased in the last year from 37 to 34 per 100 000 (2016/17) and is now below the national average as well which increased from 36 to 37 in the last reporting year. On the other hand, Johannesburg had the biggest increase as the metro went from 46 to 54 business robberies per 100 000 population in the year 2016/17.

For 2016/17, Johannesburg experienced the highest rates for carjacking (71 per 100 000), followed by eThekwin (62 per 100 000); Ekurhuleni (59 per 100 000); Tshwane (58 per 100 000) and Cape Town (52 per 100 000). South Africa only had a carjacking rate of 30 per 100 000 in 2016/17.

A trend can be seen emerging from the year 2014/15 is that the carjacking rate is steadily increasing in every metro. The national rate, although increasing, is well below that of all of the selected metros at 30 per 100 000 in 2016/17.

Figure 12: Comparison of crime rates of TRIO Crime types between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17-Carjackings



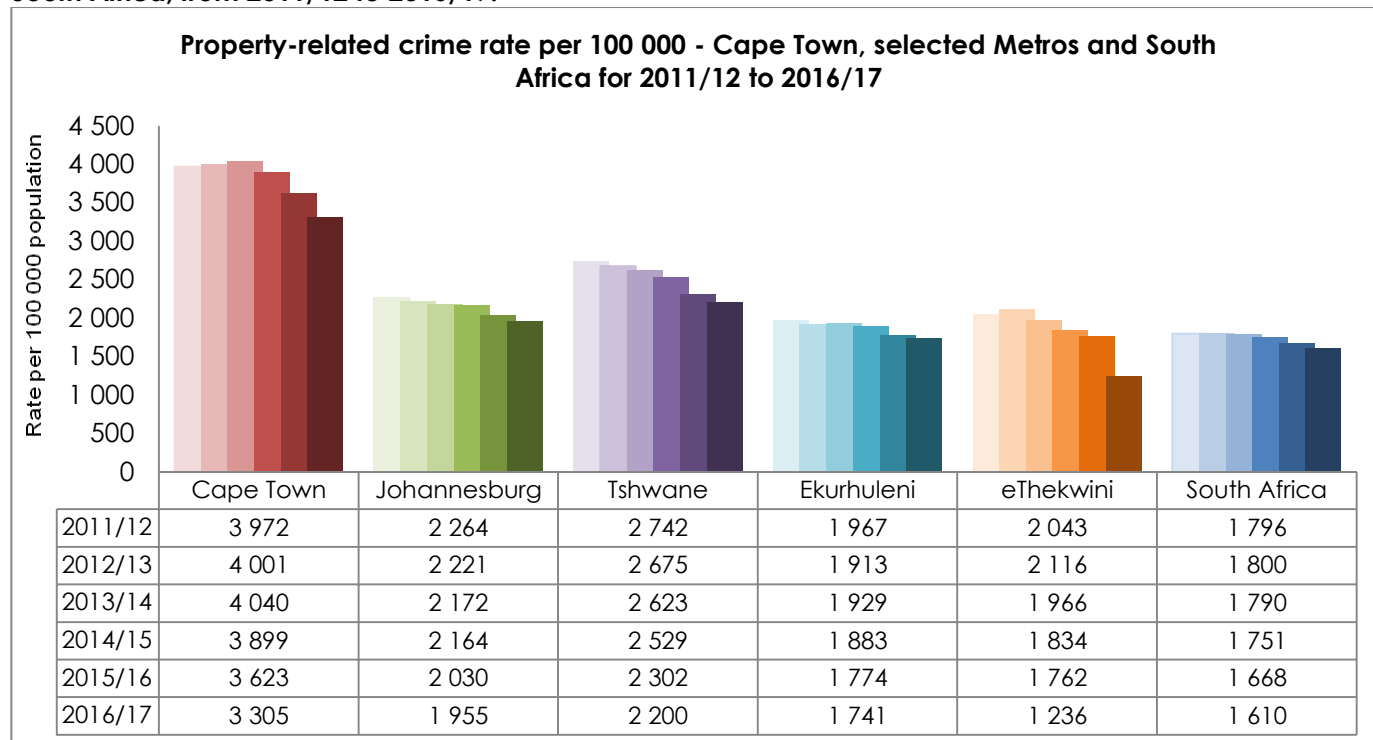
Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2016) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

4.2 Property Crime

The term 'Property Crime', according to Institute for Security Studies, refers to "crimes in which property is stolen without the use of violence or force (i.e. no direct confrontation between perpetrators and victims)" (ISS, 2015). These crimes (except in some cases of theft out of or from vehicles) mainly occur in the absence of the victims and therefore involve no violence other than damage to property in some cases.

Every metro has experienced a drop in the property-related crime category for the financial year of 2016/17 (Refer to Figure 13). Over the last five years, Cape Town has consistently had the highest property-related crime rates of the metros (3 305 per 100 000) in 2016/17 followed by Tshwane (2 200 per 100 000); Johannesburg (1 955 per 100 000); Ekurhuleni (1 741 per 100 000) and eThekwin (1 236 per 100 000). Property crime has showed a decrease in all metros and in South Africa in 2016/17. eThekwin experienced a dramatic decrease in the last financial year from a rate of 1 762 to 1 236 per 100 000, followed by Cape Town from 3 623 to 3 305 per 100 000 population in 2016/17.

Figure 13: Comparison of Property-Related Crimes rate between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.

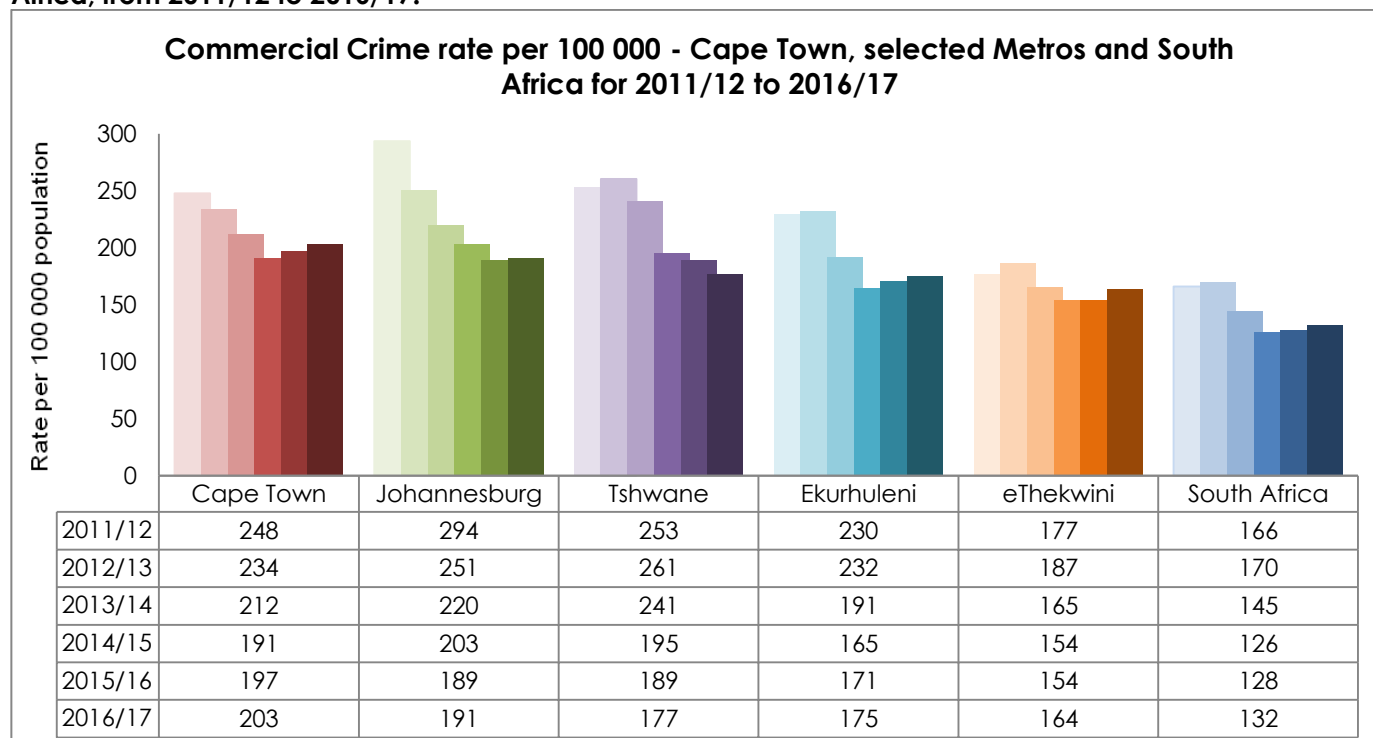


Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2016) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

4.3 Commercial Crime

Commercial crimes or 'white collar' crime includes all types of fraud, forgery and embezzlement. As shown in Figure 14, all of the metros except Tshwane experienced an increase in the crime rate per 100 000. eThekweni experienced the biggest increase in the last year from 154 per 100 000 in 2015/16 to 164 per 100 000 in 2016/17 (an increase of 6.5%).

Figure 14: Comparison of Commercial Crime rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.



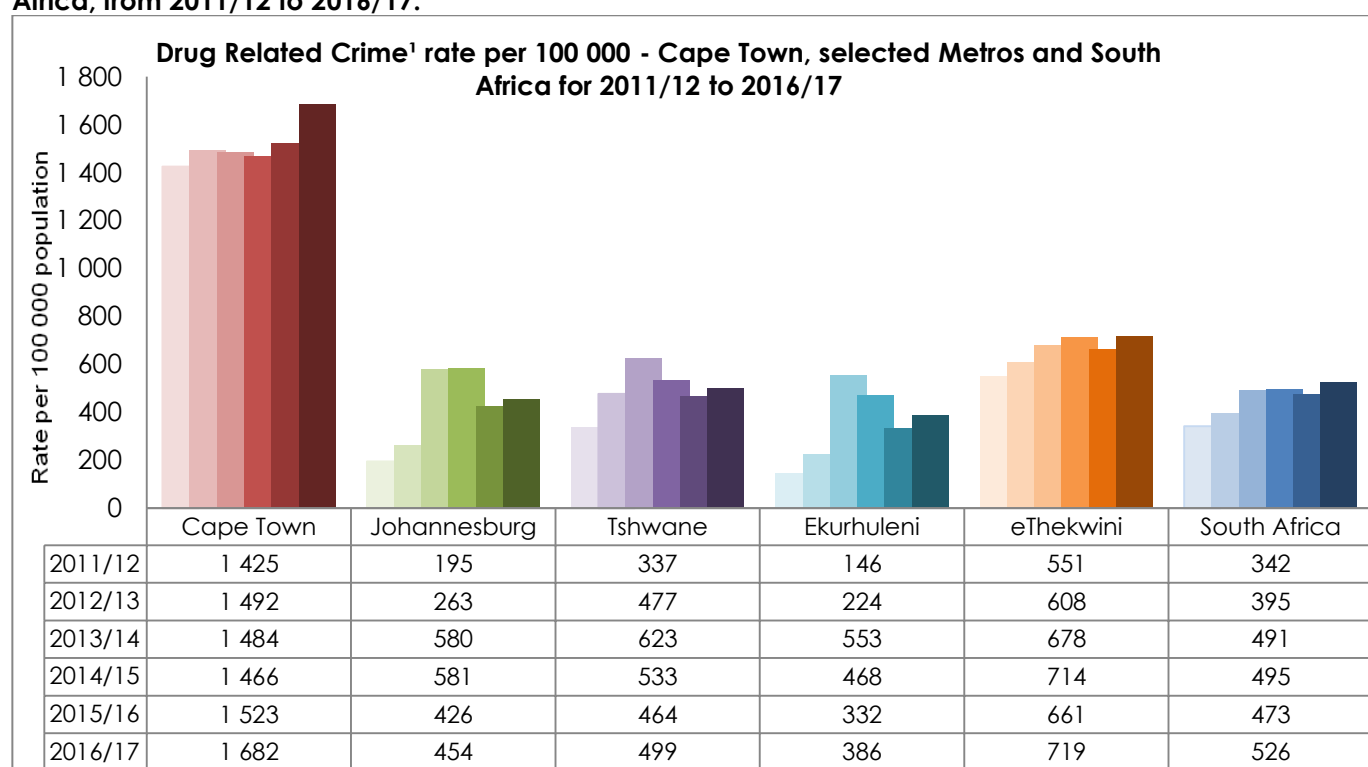
Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2016) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

4.4 Drug-Related Crimes and Driving with Influence (DWI)

Drug-related and DWI crimes are detected by the police and are not usually reported by the public. The detection of these crimes are dependent of deployment of police officials from SAPS, Metro police, municipal and provincial traffic officers and the Department of Transport. The increases and decreases in the crime rates reflect the number of arrests by authorities and the application of strategy (SAPS, 2017b).

Cape Town has a significantly higher drug-related crime rate than other metros and South Africa (see Figure 15), explaining the 24.1% contribution to the overall crime cases shown in Figure 2, even though there has been an increase in all the selected metros. Cape Town showed the biggest increase from 1 523 per 100 000 (2015/16) to 1 682 per 100 000 (2016/17) (10%) compared to Johannesburg which had the lowest increase (6.6%); 426 per 100 000 (2015/16) to 454 per 100 000 (2016/2017). The drug-related crime rate has increased in every metro as displayed in Figure 15, a turnaround from the previous crime year of 2015/16 in which it decreased for every metro excluding Cape Town.

Figure 15: Comparison of Drug-Related Crime rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.

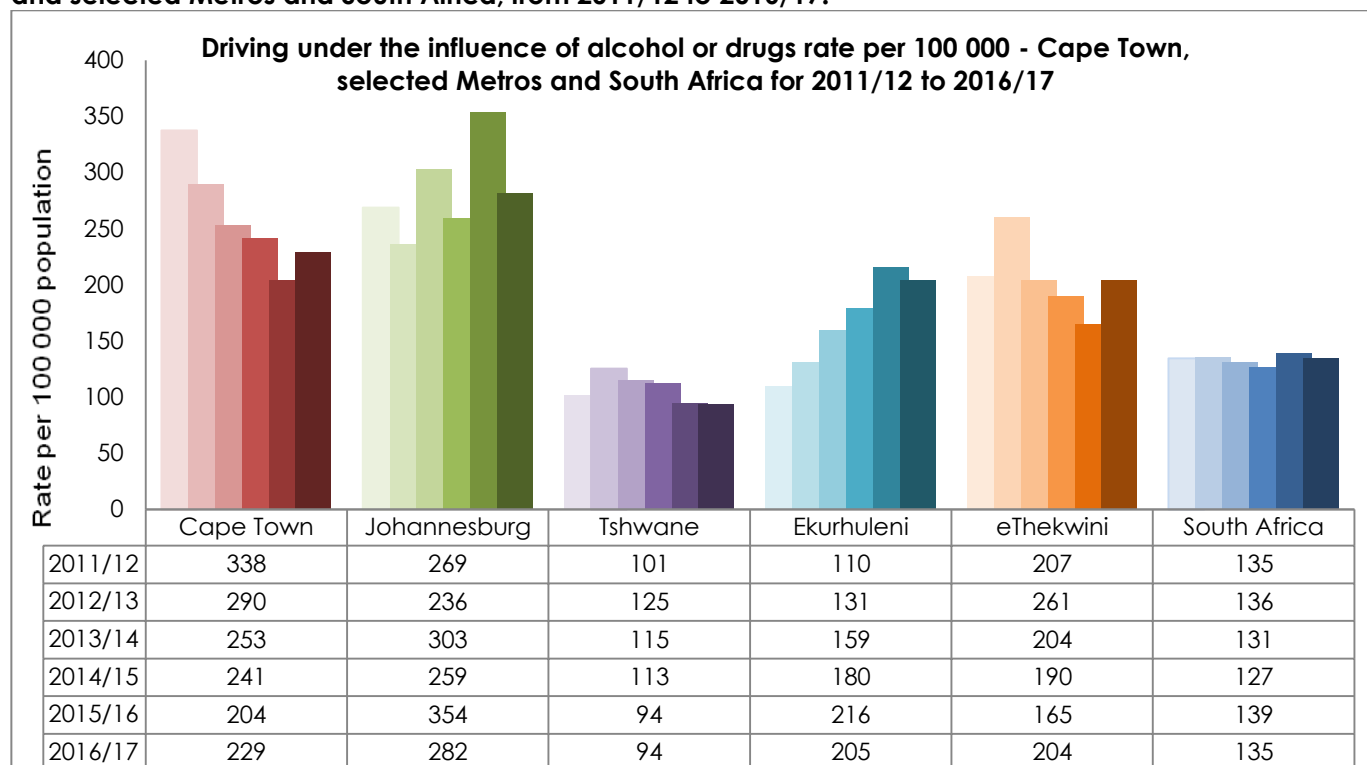


Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2016) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

Whilst Johannesburg still has the highest rate of DWI crimes, Cape Town and eThekweni have experienced an increase in the last year, from 204 to 229 (12.2%) and 165 to 204 (23.6%) DWI crimes per 100 000 population respectively. Although, Johannesburg experienced a substantial decrease in the last year from 354 to 282 per 100 000 from 2015/16 to 2016/17 (20%), Johannesburg still experienced the highest rate of DWI crimes (282 per 100 000) with Cape Town the second highest (229) and Ekurhuleni the third highest (205 per 100 000) for 2016/17. Tshwane has stayed the same at 94 per 100 000 and Ekurhuleni has experienced a decrease from 216 to 205 per 100 000 in the last reporting year. South Africa showed a decrease in DWI from 139 to 135 per 100 000 from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

There is a continued need for a concerted and collaborative effort to be made by both the police and communities to reduce drug-related and DWI crimes in South Africa.

Figure 16: Comparison of Driving under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs crime rates between Cape Town and selected Metros and South Africa, from 2011/12 to 2016/17.



Source: South African Police Services (2017a). Crime Statistics 2011/12 to 2016/17, Selected Metros and South African Population estimates (2011 to 2016) using Statistics South Africa (2018) mid-year population estimates, compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department, City of Cape Town

5. Review and Implications

Cape Town's 2016/17 crime status has been described through comparative analysis with selected South African metros and from selected crime types and categories for 2011/12 to 2016/17 reporting years.

In summary, South Africa saw a decrease in some crime rates from 2015/16 to 2016/17 viz. overall violent crimes, including total sexual crimes and violent and common assault crimes, as well as property-related crimes and DWI. Where South Africa saw an increase in robbery with aggravating circumstances including house and business robberies and carjackings, commercial crime and drug-related crime, the murder and attempted murder rates have stayed the same. It is important to note that Cape Town has not experienced an increase in the murder rate per 100 000. However, of the other violent crimes, Cape Town saw a decrease in attempted murder rate, sexual crimes, common and violent assault crimes per 100 000 of the population. Cape Town has shown an increase in carjackings and commercial crimes as well as drug-related crimes and DWI rates per 100 000 has increased drastically over the last reporting year.

Cape Town has the highest overall crime rate in 2016/17 which may be attributed to its significantly high drug-related crime rates. This seems to also have an impact on the very high murder and attempted murder rates, as well as high property crime rates, relative to the other selected South African metros. Regarding violent crimes, Cape Town still has the highest murder and attempted murder rates, even though the rate per 100 000 of the population has not increased in the last reporting year. The metro furthermore experiences the highest common assault crime rate and robbery with aggravated circumstances, even though the data shows that both of these rates have decreased in the 2016/17 year. Cape Town still has noticeably lower rates for the TRIO crimes compared to the other selected metros in South Africa.

Commercial crime is more likely to be found in large metros in South Africa. This can be seen in all five metros, Cape Town (203 per 100 000), Johannesburg (191 per 100 000), Tshwane (177 per 100 000), Ekurhuleni (175 per 100 000) and eThekweni (164 per 100 000), bigger than that of the commercial crime rate of the whole of South Africa (132 per 100 000).

In general, all five metros have a higher rate than that of the whole of South Africa, except for violent assault. The data analysed indicates that most major crimes are being committed with in the metro areas rather than the more rural areas.

6. Conclusion

Crime is influenced by economic and social factors. The high levels of crime in South Africa cannot be prevented through law enforcement and the criminal justice system alone. Crime could be managed through environmental approaches such as urban planning initiatives and situational crime prevention. Crime needs to be managed effectively by the government of South Africa. Local level governments are an important role player to combat crime as it is important that crime be fought at the local level through implementing crime prevention programmes. In order to fight crime in communities, economic and social challenges in crime hotspot communities need to be addressed through social crime prevention approaches (CSIR, 2016).

This analytical comparison of crime rates at the metro level shows that crime is still a huge problem in the metropolitan areas of South Africa. Cape Town, as well as the other metros analysed, remain a great challenge to national and local governments in terms of high levels of crime. There is a serious need to effectively implement the crime prevention strategies at the local level to combat crime and effectively reduce violent crime rates. The City of Cape Town has outlined in its IDP (2017-2022) that it aims to make communities safer by implementing crime prevention programmes by using technology to improve policing and reducing the crime in hotspots (City of Cape Town, 2017).

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For further information visit DIRC (Development Information Resource Centre):
Statistics and indicators: Statistics by Theme: Safety and Security
http://cityweb.capetown.gov.za/en/cdirc/Pages/StatisticsByTheme_AH.aspx

Annexure 1: Listing of Police Precincts in Cape Town and four Metropolitan areas in South Africa (2017)

Tshwane		Ekurhuleni		Johannesburg		eThekweni		City of Cape Town	
Police Stations		Police Stations		Police Stations		SAPS Police Stations		SAPS Police Stations	
1	Akasia	1	Actonville	1	Alexandra	1	Amanzimtoti	1	Athlone
2	Atteridgeville	2	Alberton	2	Booyssens	2	Bayview	2	Atlantis
3	Boschkop	3	Bedfordview	3	Bramley	3	Bellair	3	Belhar
4	Bronkhorstspuit	4	Benoni	4	Brixton	4	Berea	4	Bellville
5	Brooklyn	5	Boksburg	5	Cleveland	5	Bhekithemba	5	Bellville South
6	Cullinan	6	BoksburgNorth	6	Diepkloof	6	Brightonbeach	6	Bishop Lavis
7	Dube	7	Brackendowns	7	Diepsloot	7	Cato Manor	7	Bothasig
8	Eersterust	8	Brakpan	8	Dopsonville	8	Chatsworth	8	Brackenfel
9	Erasmia	9	CrystalPark	9	Douglasdale	9	DBN Central	9	Camps Bay
10	Ekgangala	10	Daveyton	10	Eldoradopark	10	Durban North	10	Cape Town Central
11	Garankuwa	11	Dawnpark	11	Ennerdale	11	Folweni	11	Claremont
12	Garsfontein	12	Duduza	12	Fairland	12	Greenwoodpark	12	Delft
13	Hammanskraal	13	Dunnottar	13	Florida	13	Hammersdale	13	Dieprivier
14	Hercules	14	Edenpark	14	Hillbrow	14	Hillcrest	14	Durbanville
15	Kameeldrift	15	Edenvale	15	Honeydew	15	Inanda	15	Elsies River
16	Laudiam	16	Elsburg	16	Ivorypark	16	Inchanga	16	Fishoek
17	Loate	17	Etwatwa	17	Jabulani	17	Isipingo	17	Goodwood
18	Lyttelton	18	Gemistion	18	Jeppie	18	King Shaka International Airport (KZN)	18	Gordon's Bay
19	Mabopane	19	Katlehong	19	JHB Central	19	Kwadabeka	19	Grassy Park
20	Mamelodi	20	Katlehong North	20	Kliptown	20	Kwamakhuta	20	Guguletu
21	Mamelodi East	21	Kempton Park	21	Langlaagte	21	Kwamashu E	21	Harare
22	Olievenhoutbosch	22	Klipriver	22	Lenasia	22	Kwandengezi	22	Houtbay
23	PTA Cenral	23	Kwathema	23	Lenasia South	23	Lamontville	23	Kensington
24	PTA Moot	24	Nigel	24	Lindin	24	Malvern	24	Khayelitsha
25	PTA North	25	Norkempark	25	Meadowlands	25	Marianhill	25	Kirstenhof
26	PTA West	26	Olifantsfontein	26	Midrand	26	Maydonwharf	26	Kleinville
27	Rietgat	27	ORT International	27	Moffat View	27	Mayville	27	Kraaifontein
28	Siverton	28	Primrose	28	Mondeor	28	Montclair	28	Kuilsriver
29	Sinoville	29	Putfontein	29	Moroka	29	Mpumalanga	29	Langa
30	Shoshanguve	30	Rabie Ridge	30	Naledi	30	Newlandseast	30	Lansdowne
31	Sunnyside	31	Reigerpark	31	Norwood	31	Ntu Zuma	31	Lentegeur
32	Temba	32	Sebenza	32	Orangefams	32	Phoenix	32	Linglethu West
33	Villieria	33	Springs	33	Orlando	33	Pinetown	33	Lwandle
34	Wierdabrug	34	Tembisa	34	Parkview	34	Point	34	Macassar
35	Wonderboompoort	35	Tembisa South	35	Proteaglen	35	Sydenham	35	Maitland
		36	Tokoza	36	Randburg	36	Tongaat	36	Maneberg
		37	Tsakane	37	Roodepoort	37	Umbilo	37	Melkbostrand
		38	Vosloorus	38	Rosebank	38	Umbumbulu	38	Mfuleni
		39	Welbekend	39	Sandringham	39	Umkomaas	39	Milnerton
		40	Zonkizizwe	40	Sandton	40	Umlazi	40	Mitchell Plain
				41	Sophiatown	41	Umsundizi	41	Mowbray
				42	Yeoville	42	Verulam	42	Muizenberg
						43	Wentworth	43	Nyanga
						44	Westville	44	Ocean View
								45	Parow
								46	Philadelphia
								47	Philippi
								48	Philippi East
								49	Pinelands
								50	Ravensmead
								51	Rondebosch
								52	Sea Point
								53	Simon's Town
								54	Somerset West
								55	Steenberg
								56	Strand
								57	Strandfontein
								58	Table Bay Harbour
								59	Table View
								60	Woodstock
								61	Wynberg