

## Violent crime in Cape Town 2005/6 – 2016/17 and violent crime rates by Police Precinct in Cape Town 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17

*This factsheet presents information and trend analysis for violent crime in Cape Town from 2005/6 to 2016/17. Violent crime rates for 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 and the distribution of violent crimes for 2016/17 by police precinct in Cape Town are included.*

### 1. Introduction

Households in the Western Cape are more likely to be victims of crime than in any other province. This came from the victims of crime survey released by statistician-general Pali Lehohla (VOCS, 2018). Throughout the four-year period, 2012/13 to 2016/17, the Western Cape maintained the top position, having the highest proportion of households victimised by crime (Tswanya, 2017).

Coincidentally, Western Cape households showed the largest decline in satisfaction with the police over the same period. In previous reports, the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) has shown how residents of the Western Cape, and Cape Town in particular, enjoyed relatively higher standards of living and superior access to basic services. These advantages do not seem to extend to residents' personal safety as reflected in the South African Police Services (SAPS) data on violent crimes (Walker, 2017).

There is a need to monitor crime statistics and patterns. These crime trends and patterns can assist governments' response to deal more effectively with the crime situation. Trends are more useful than data at just one point in time. This factsheet presents violent crime trends in Cape Town and South Africa from 2005/6 to 2016/17. The 2011/12 and 2014/15 to 2016/17 violent crime rates for Cape Town are compared to South Africa as whole and selected metros in South Africa.

This factsheet also presents the violent crime rates for 60<sup>1</sup> police precincts in Cape Town for 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. By examining the patterns, useful information can be obtained to inform some measure of the effectiveness of implementation of policy or other interventions.

The spatial distribution of actual numbers of reported violent crimes and selected violent crime types in the police precincts (61) in Cape Town in 2016/17 have been analysed using spatial analysis (GIS) indicating patterns and the "hotspot" police precincts.

### 2. Methodology

This fact sheet uses crime statistics obtained from the SAPS records ([www.saps.gov.za](http://www.saps.gov.za)). Violent<sup>2</sup>, confrontational crimes include the following types of SAPS crime categories: murder, attempted murder, total sexual crimes (including rape and indecent assault), assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm (violent assault), common assault, robbery with aggravating circumstances (violent robbery) and public violence. These crimes are committed against the person and

<sup>1</sup> For crime rate comparative purposes, crime data for Lenteguur and Mitchells Plain Police Precincts are combined, as Lenteguur was established from Mitchells Plain Police Precinct in May 2013.

<sup>2</sup> This is the definition used for an indicator of Well-Governed Cities by South African Cities Network (SACN). This definition has been extended to include common assault and public violence which is more consistent with the definition used in the Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) (SSA, 2012).

involve physical contact between the victim and perpetrator. The contact is usually of a violent nature and most of the contact crimes cause physical, psychological and material damage to their victims (SAPS, 2016). This official source of crime statistics provides a basis on which to measure and monitor changes and trend patterns in crime and by police precinct. The latest SAPS crime statistics were released in October 2017. The crime reporting year is from 1 April to end March every year. The current year, i.e. 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 is referred to as the 2017 crime statistics.

The incidences of reported violent crime are grouped into the 61 SAPS police precincts within Cape Town. [Data sets for each individual police precinct by crime type from 2005/6 to 2016/17](#) are available from the Organisational Policy and Planning (OP&P) Department and the Development Information Resource Centre (DIRC) website via the above link. All categories of violent crime type data for Cape Town are included.

Crime rates, which show crime trends adjusted for population growth, are a better means of measuring progress than actual reported incidences. The violent crime rates per 100 000 population showing crime trends from 2005/6 to 2016/17 for Cape Town, the selected metros and South Africa were calculated using midyear population estimates<sup>3</sup> from 2005 to 2016, published by Statistics South Africa (SSA, 2018).

In order to calculate the crime rate per 100 000 population by police precinct in Cape Town, the 2011 Census population data by small area<sup>4</sup> from SSA (SSA, 2013) was grouped into the police precincts in Cape Town for 2011/12. 2014, 2015 and 2016 population estimates were used to develop the 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 crime rates by police precinct using the 2011 Census police precinct population as the base-data and then adding the estimated growth to the end of 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Refer to Crime fact sheet [All reported Crime Trends in Cape Town 2005/6 – 2016/17 and Crime Rates by Police Precincts in Cape Town 2011/12, 2014/15 to 2016/17](#) for further explanation on methodology.

### **3. Violent crime trends 2005/6 to 2016/17**

The 2016/17 crime statistics released by Police Minister Fikile Mbalula confirm the South African Federation of Trade Union's view that violent crime is escalating out of control. Every day on average 386 South Africans are robbed, 61 burgled, 46 hijacked and a shocking 52 murdered – five times the world average (SAFTU, 2017).

In 2016/17 the proportion of households who were of the view that violent crime in their area had increased in the last three years, decreased between 2015/16 and 2016/17 following a period of upward trend from 2011 to 2014/15. This is a sign of an emerging positive public perception of the violent crime situation. The number of those who feel that the level of violent crime has not changed was also on the rise (SSA, 2017). This correlates with the violent crime rates both nationally and for Cape Town (Refer Figure 1 below).

South Africa's violent crime rates have gradually decreased over the eleven year period from a rate of 1 423 to 1 013 violent crimes per 100 000 population. This is downward trend of 28.8% over the analysis period or an average of 2.6% per annum (see Figure 1).

The violent crime rate in Cape Town was higher than the national crime rate for the reporting period 2005/6 to 2016/17. In Cape Town the violent crime rate in 2016/17 is lower than in the 2005/6 reporting year, viz. 1 837 and 1 576 per 100 000 population respectively, a decrease of

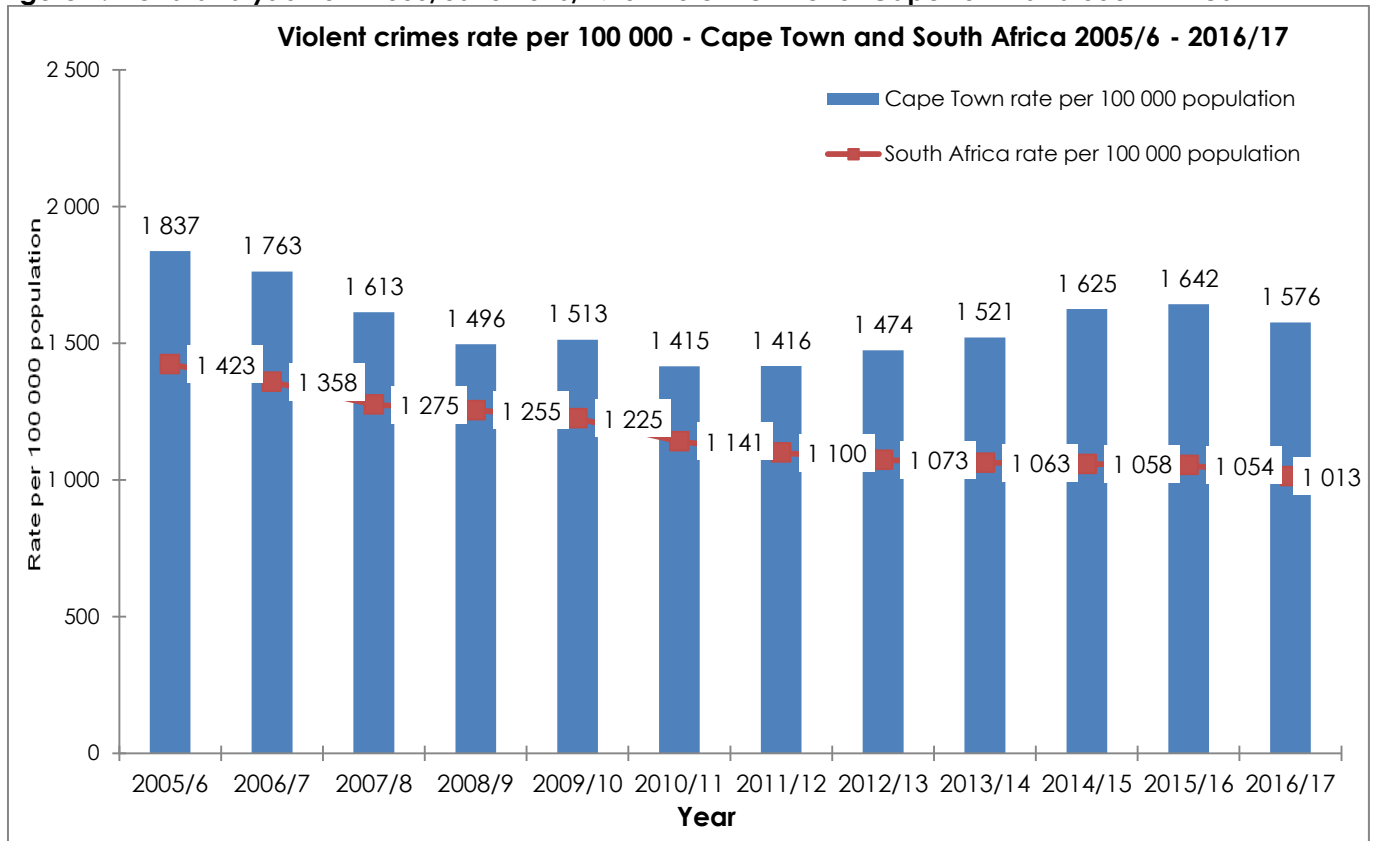
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<sup>3</sup> The SSA 2017 mid-year estimates used have revised population estimates to those previously published. Crime rates in this document will thus not necessarily be the same as those in earlier publications

<sup>4</sup> A census small area is the smallest geographical boundary at which the 2011 Census data was made available. There are 5 339 census small areas in Cape Town.

14.2% over the eleven year period since 2005/6 or an average of 1.3% per annum. However, since 2010/11, violent crime in Cape Town has shown an increase from a rate of 1 415 to 1 642 (16.0%) over four years, an average of 4.0% per annum and decreased to 1 576 in 2016/17.

**Figure 1: Trend analysis from 2005/06 to 2016/17 of violent crime for Cape Town and South Africa**



Source: South African Police Services (2017). Crime Statistics 2005/6 – 2016/17 , Cape Town and South Africa population, using Statistics South Africa 2016 mid-year population estimates (SSA, 2018), compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town

### Comparison of violent crime rates with selected Metros in South Africa (2016/17)

South Africa's metros are similar in form such as being densely populated, key economic hubs and social and political institutions in their respective provinces. This attracts unwanted attention resulting in the metros having highest number of reported cases of violent crime in South Africa, thus the importance and need to measure violent crime. For comparative purposes, the 2011 to 2016 mid-year population estimates<sup>5</sup> were used to calculate the violent crime rates for the selected metropolitan areas (SSA, 2018).

Compared to rural areas, urban and metropolitan regions such as Cape Town carry a disproportionate burden of crime and violence – the nine cities considered in a report by the South African Cities Network are home to about 40% of the country's residents but record about half of all murders, two-thirds of aggravated robberies and three-quarters of vehicle thefts and carjacking (South African Cities Network, 2017).

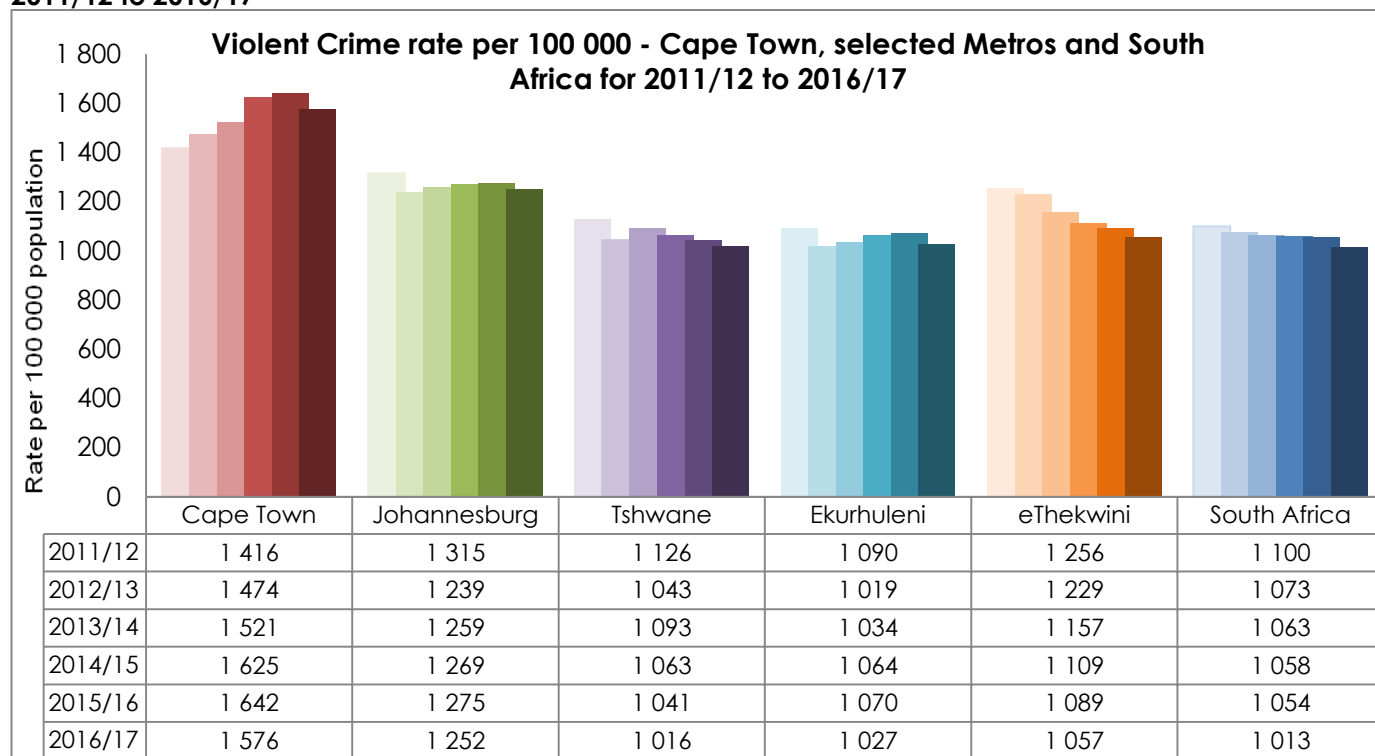
According to Figure 2, of all the metros, Cape Town has the highest violent crime rate for the five year period, viz. 2011/12 (1 416 per 100 000 population); 2012/13 (1 474 per 100 000 population); 2013/14 (1 521 per 100 000 population), 2014/15 (1 625 per 100 000 population), 2015/16 (1 642 per 100 000 population) and 2016/17 (1 576 per 100 000 population). Cape Town, Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni all experienced an increase in violent crime rates from 2012/13 to 2015/16. eThekweni is the only metro which showed a decrease in the violent crime rates from

<sup>5</sup> The SSA 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.

2011/12 to 2016/2017 (1 256 to 1 057). However, all the metros and South Africa (as a whole) have experienced a decrease in the 2016/2017 reporting year.

The increase of the violent crimes in three of the metros is noted as a key trend, viz. Cape Town, Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni, in comparison to the decreasing violent crime rates in Tshwane and eThekweni. eThekweni had a bigger (15.8%) decrease in the violent crime rate than South Africa as a whole, where it gradually decreased over the last five years (8%).

**Figure 2: Comparison of Violent crime rate per 100 000 - Cape Town, selected Metros and South Africa for 2011/12 to 2016/17**



Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics: 2011/12 - 2016/17, Selected Metros and South Africa Population estimates, using Statistics South Africa Mid-Year Estimates 2017, compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town.

For further information refer to [Crime in Cape Town: Selected Crime Types – Comparison with other selected Metros from 2011/12 to 2016/17](#).

#### 4. Type of violent crimes within Cape Town 2005/6 - 2016/17

Gang violence in Cape Town brings extremely high levels of crime and homicide and, although such crime is mainly confined to certain areas, the overall figures have led to Cape Town being ranked the 13th most violent city in the world – slightly improved from 2015 when it was ranked ninth (Business Tech, October, 2018).

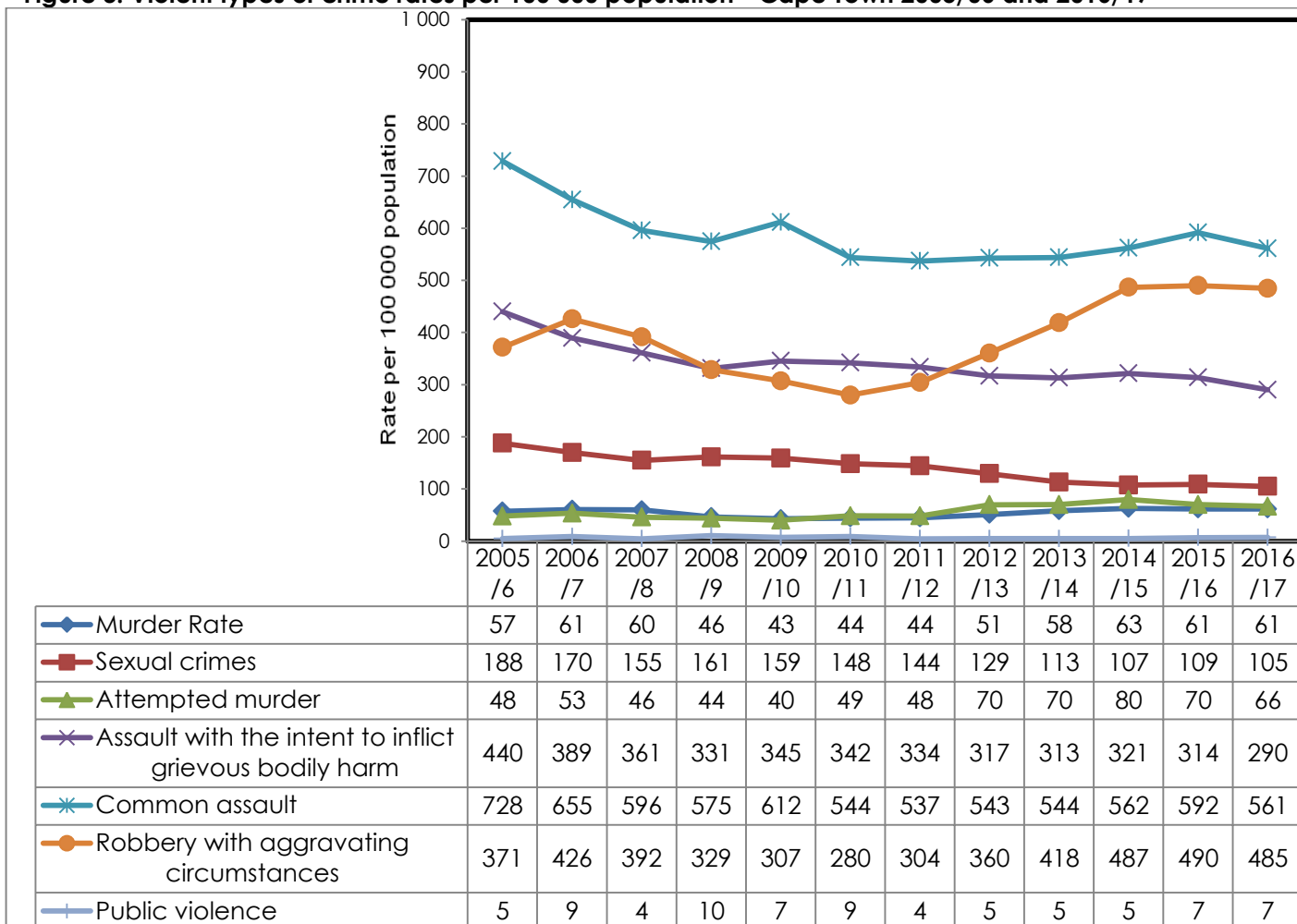
To combat this, the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Police Department has a dedicated Gang Unit which focuses on combating drug dealing and gangsterism, but many of the resources and powers remain with the national South African Police Service (SAPS).

The SAPS receives the largest part of expenditure on the criminal justice system<sup>6</sup> and over the past 10 years the SAPS budget has increased by 139.1%, the additional funding for the SAPS has largely been spent on employing more staff, which was most likely a response to increased public anxiety about crime (ISS, 2017).

<sup>6</sup> The criminal justice system is made up of a number of departments and institutions including SAPS, the Department of Correctional Services, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Office of the Chief Justice and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID). In 2016/17 the combined expenditure on the criminal justice system (CJS) amounted to R126.71bn (9.68% of total government expenditure) (ISS, 2017).

Figure 3 shows the trends of the different types of violent crime rates per 100 000 population in Cape Town from 2005/6 to 2016/17 reporting years.

**Figure 3: Violent types of crime rates per 100 000 population - Cape Town 2005/06 and 2016/17**



Source: South African Police Services (2017). Crime Statistics 2005/6–2016/17 Cape Town population estimates using Statistics South Africa 2017 mid-year estimates (SSA, 2018) compiled by Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town

If one compares the average change per annum of the violent crime rates, over the eleven year period, the total sexual crime rate (red line, "squares"), assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm (purple line, "crosses") and common assault (turquoise line, "stars") have all shown a decrease. Refer to Figure 3 and Table 1.

Attempted murder (green line, "triangles) and robbery with aggravating circumstances (violent robbery) (orange line, "circle") have both shown an increase over the 11 year period. Robbery with aggravating circumstances was of particular concern for the years 2010/11 to 2015/16 (75%) as it was showing a sharp increase in the violent robbery rate from 280 robberies (2010/11) to 490 (2015/16) robberies per 100 000 population in 2015/16 reporting year. The increase in the number of violent robberies rate marginally decreased from 2015/16 to 2016/17. However, the actual number of violent robberies continued to increase from 19 721 to 19 863. Refer to Figure 3, Table 1 and Table 2. Murder (blue line, "diamond") and public violence (pale blue line, "vertical line") rates have remained unchanged from the previous reporting year.

Table 1 shows that total sexual crimes (4.0%), assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm (3.1%) and common assault (2.1%) are the types of crimes to have shown a decrease in terms of the average percentage change of crime rate per annum in the past eleven years. Public violence (3.6%), attempted murder (3.4%) and robbery with aggravating circumstances (2.8%) have shown the most increase in terms of the average percentage change of crime rate per annum in the past eleven years. Murder has shown an average annual increase of 0.6% over the last eleven years.

**Table 1: Average percentage change per annum of Violent Crime rate in Cape Town 2005/6 to 2016/17.**

Type of Violent Crime	Average % change of crime rate per annum 2005/6 to 2016/17
Murder	0.6
Total Sexual Crimes	-4.0
Attempted murder	3.4
Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	-3.1
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	2.8
Common assault	-2.1
Public violence	3.6
<b>TOTAL Violent Crime</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2005/6 – 2016/17

However, an analysis of the trends for the categories of violent crimes between 2015/16 and 2016/17 reporting year, of *actual incidents* of violent crime in Cape Town, total sexual crimes, attempted murder, assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm and common assault are the types of violent crime showing a decrease. Murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and public violence are showing an increase in actual reported incidences of types of violent crime. Refer to Table 2.

**Table 2: Percentage change of number of reported Violent Crimes within Cape Town 2015/16 to 2016/17.**

Type of Violent Crime	2015/16	2016/17	Case Difference	% change 2015/16 to 2016/17
Murder	2 469	2 515	46	1.9
Total sexual crimes	4 378	4 322	-56	-1.3
Attempted murder	2 814	2 724	-90	-3.2
Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm	12 622	11 883	-739	-5.9
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	19 721	19 863	142	0.7
Common assault	23 802	23 000	-802	-3.4
Public violence	268	292	24	9.0
<b>TOTAL Violent Crime</b>	<b>66 074</b>	<b>64 599</b>	<b>-1 475</b>	<b>-2.2</b>

Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2005/6 – 2016/17

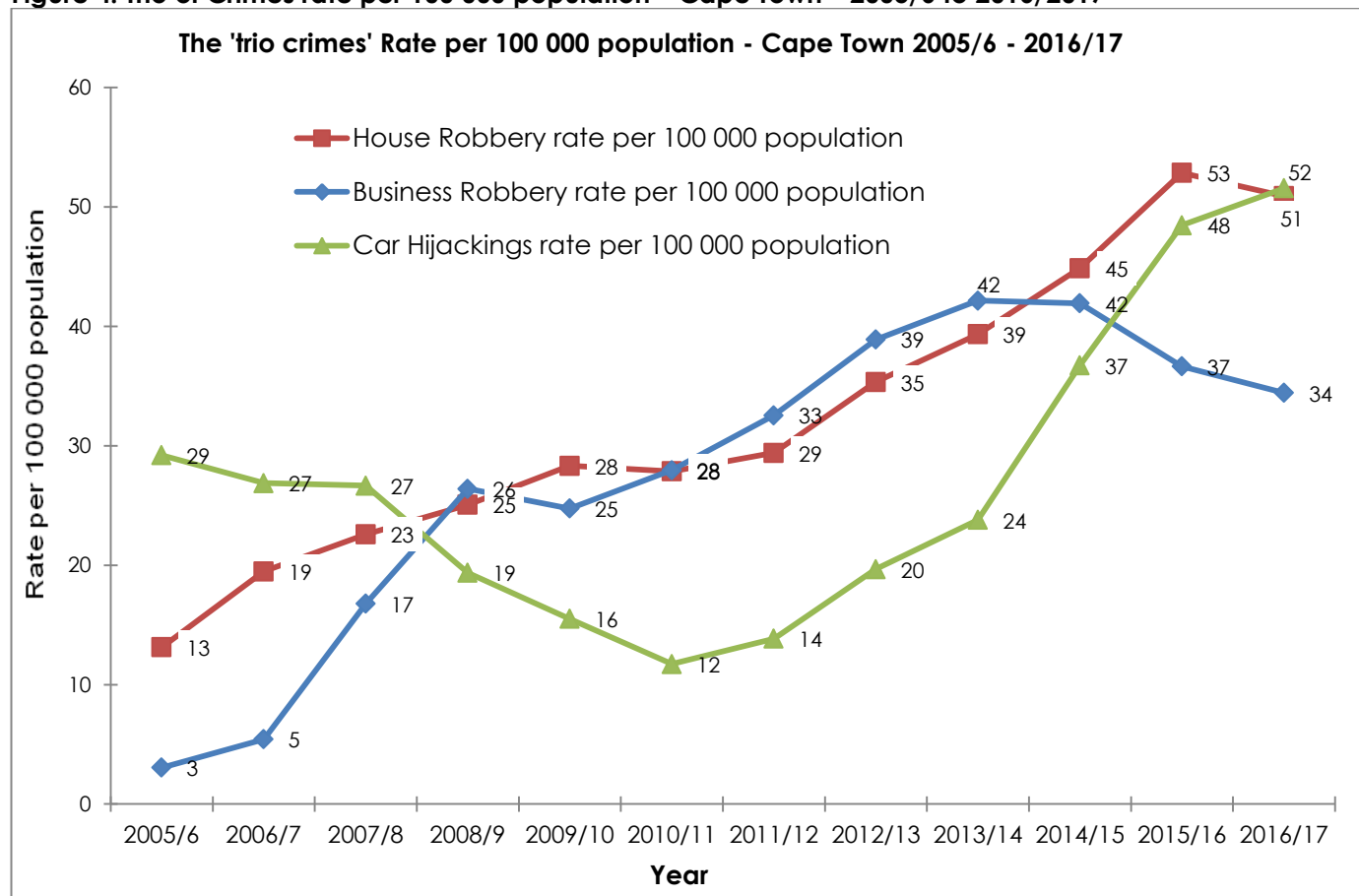
Trends for the types of reported number of violent crime between 2015/16 and 2016/17 reporting year are:

- Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm showed the most decrease of all the violent types of crime by 5.9% (a decrease of 739 cases) to a total of 11 883 incidents in 2016/17. This means that each day on average 33 incidences of violent assaults occurred in Cape Town in 2016/17.
- Common assault and attempted murders decreased by 3.4% (a decrease of 802 cases) to a total of 23 000 incidents and 3.2% (a decrease of 90 cases) to a total of 2 724 incidents respectively in 2016/17. This means that each day on average 68 incidences of common assaults and 8 attempted murders occurred in Cape Town in 2016/17.
- Total sexual crimes decreased by 1.3% (a decrease of 56 cases) to a total of 4 322 incidents. This means that each day on average 12 incidences of sexual crimes occurred in Cape Town in 2016/17.
- Public violence showed a significant increase of 9.0% (an increase of 24 cases reported in 2016/17) to a total 292 incidents in 2016/17. This means that each day on average almost one public violent incidence occurred in Cape Town in 2016/17.
- Murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances increased by 1.9% (an increase of 46

cases) to a total of 2 515 incidence and 0.7% (an increase of 142 cases) to a total of 19 863 incidence respectively in 2016/17. This means that each day on average seven incidences of murder and 54 violent robberies occurred in Cape Town in 2016/17.

The decrease in the actual number of assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm in the 2016/17 reporting year is encouraging showing a decrease of 5.9% whilst a concern is the sharp increase in the actual number of incidence of public violence showing an increase of 9.0% (Refer to Table 2).

**Figure 4: Trio of Crimes rate per 100 000 population – Cape Town – 2005/6 to 2016/2017**



Source: South African Police Services (2017). Crime Statistics 2005/6 – 2015/16, Cape Town population estimates using Statistics South Africa 2017 mid-year estimates, (SSA, 2018), compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town

Robbery at residential premises, robbery at non-residential (business) premises, and car hijacking; the so-called 'trio-crimes', which are a sub-category of robbery with aggravating circumstances, these crime rates, with the exception of car hijacking, have marginally decreased in the last reporting year (see Figure 4). According to South African Cities Network, 78% of the car hijackings in the official statistics were recorded for 2015/16 in South Africa's metros (SACN, 2016).

The house robbery rate per 100 000 population decreased to a rate of 51 in 2016/17 from 53 in 2015/16 per 100 000 population. This crime type has consistently increased in the past ten years and it is the first time it has decreased in the 2016/17 reporting year by 3.8%.

The business robbery rate per 100 000 population decreased from a rate of 37 in 2015/16 to 34 in 2016/17 per 100 000 population. It is encouraging to note that this is the third year since 2013/14 that there has been a decrease in this type of crime.

Car hijackings increased from a rate of 48 in 2015/16 to 52 in 2016/17 per 100 000 population (8.3%).

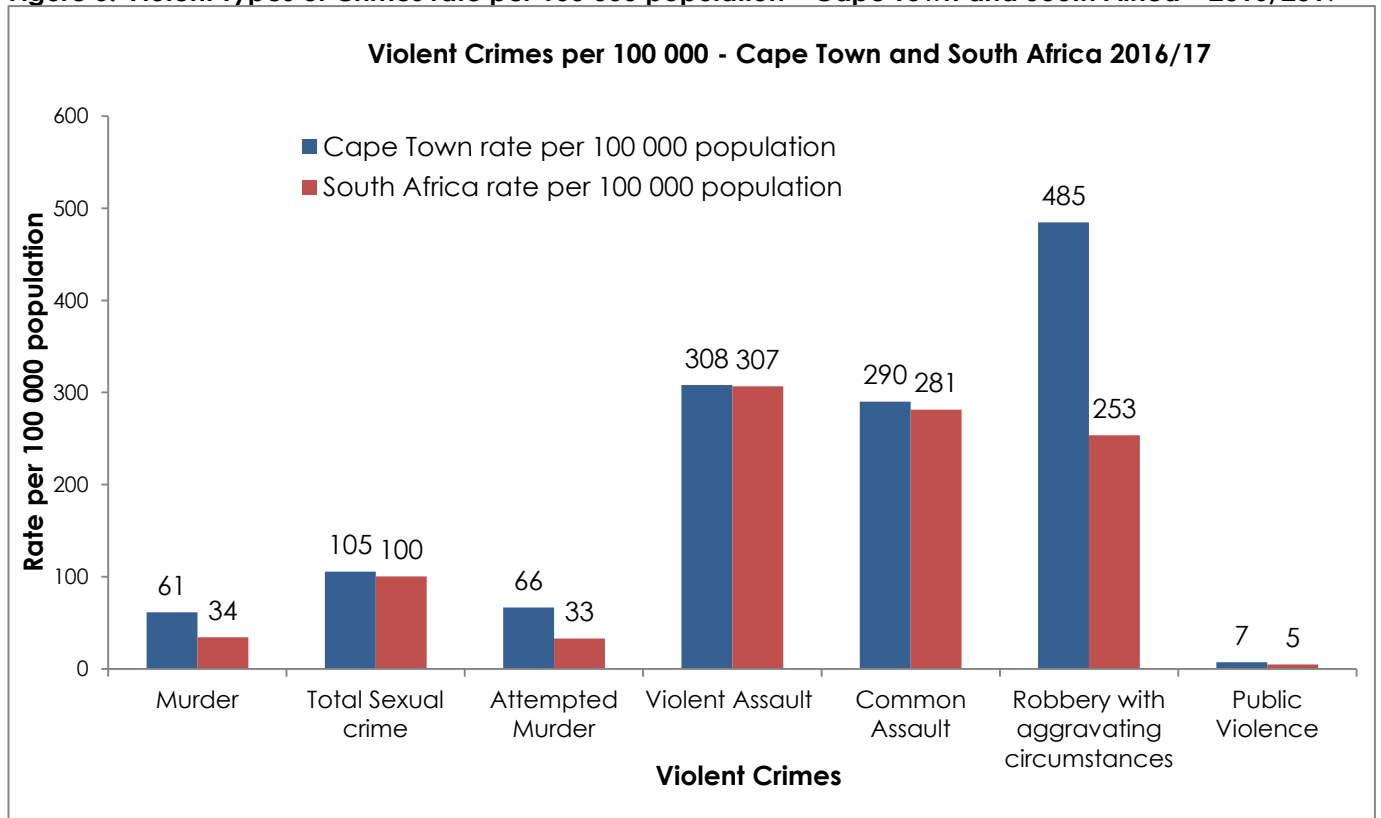
## 5. Comparison of violent crime type rates in Cape Town with South Africa - 2016/17

It is important to consider Cape Town in the context of South Africa as a whole, using the same definitions of crime and SAPS data. According to Stats SA Victims of Crime, crime in South Africa that are considered to be of violent nature (hijacking of motor vehicle, robbery, sexual offence and assault) accounted for about 40% of individual crime experienced in 2016/17 (SSA, 2017).

The current rates for the 2016/17 reporting year in Cape Town and South Africa of the different types of violent crimes are presented in Figure 5 below. Cape Town has a higher rate relative to the whole of South Africa for all violent crimes. This is the first time in the 11 year reporting period that Cape Town has a higher violent assault crime rate than South Africa.

The national murder rate shows there were 34 murders recorded per 100 000 people in the country (Africa Check, 2017). The murder rate for Cape Town in the 2016/17 reporting year is 61 per 100 000 population, previously 63 per 100 000 population in 2015/16, almost double that for South Africa. The robbery with aggravating circumstances rate also shows nearly double for Cape Town compared to the rest of South Africa, viz. a rate of 485 and 253 respectively in the 2016/17 reporting year.

**Figure 5: Violent Types of Crimes rate per 100 000 population – Cape Town and South Africa – 2016/2017**



Source: South African Police Services (2017). Crime Statistics: 2016/17, Cape Town and South Africa Population estimates using Statistics South Africa 2017 mid-year estimates (SSA, 2018), compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town

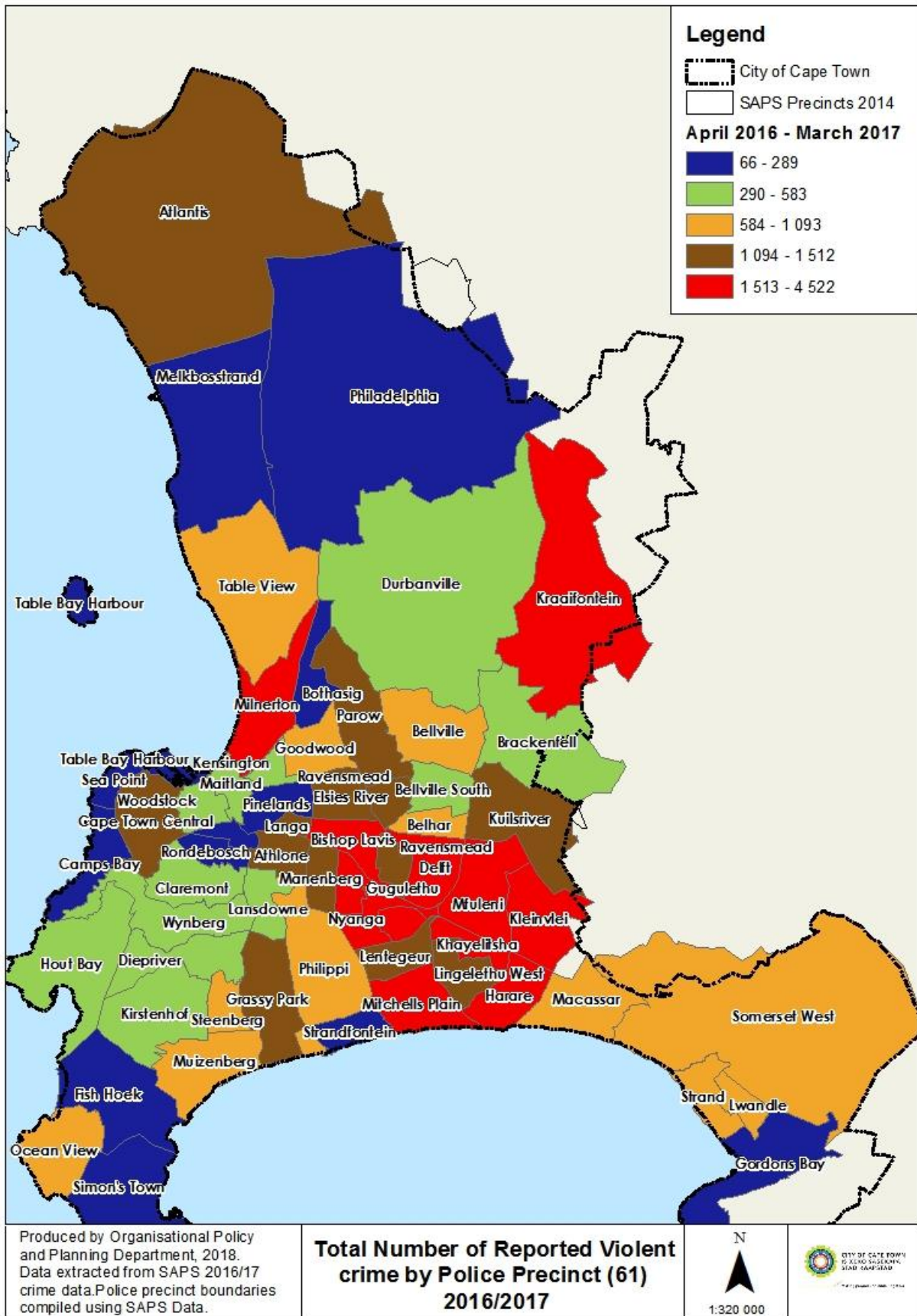
## 6. Spatial distribution of actual numbers of reported violent crimes in the police precincts (61) in Cape Town in 2016/17

Based on 2017's SAPS crime statistics it found that the violent crimes are largely confined to the sprawling informal settlements on the Cape Flats and absent from the tourist areas such as the Atlantic seaboard (Business Tech, October, 2018). Out of the 61 police precincts, the top five police precincts that had the highest number of reported crime cases for violent crimes in Cape Town in 2016/17 were Nyanga (4 522), Mitchells Plain (4 026), Khayelitsha (3 587), Harare (2 725) and Kraaifontein (2 613). Khayelitsha as an area comprises three police precincts, Khayelitsha, Harare and Lingeletu West, and when added together, the Khayelitsha area had the highest



number of reported violent crimes (7 595). Refer to Figure 6. This can be attributed in part to a gang culture in the townships, but disparities in security provision are also evident (Business Tech, October, 2018).

**Figure 6: Spatial distribution of actual number of all violent crime by police precinct in Cape Town in 2016/17 (61 Police Precincts included)**



Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2016/17

In 2014, the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry into allegations of police inefficiency and a breakdown in relations between SAPS and the community in Khayelitsha found that some areas of Cape Town had the highest crime rates in the country, and the lowest SAPS police-to-population ratios, highlighting the importance of local and national policing collaboration. Such disparities are increased by the widespread use of private security firms in the areas that are able to pay for them (Business Tech, October, 2018).

The Mitchells Plains area, also including Lentegeur and Strandfontein police precincts, had the second highest number of violent crimes (5 703). Violent crime tends to be concentrated in the poorer parts of the city with a small number of police precincts accounting for large proportion of reported crime. Refer to Figure 6.

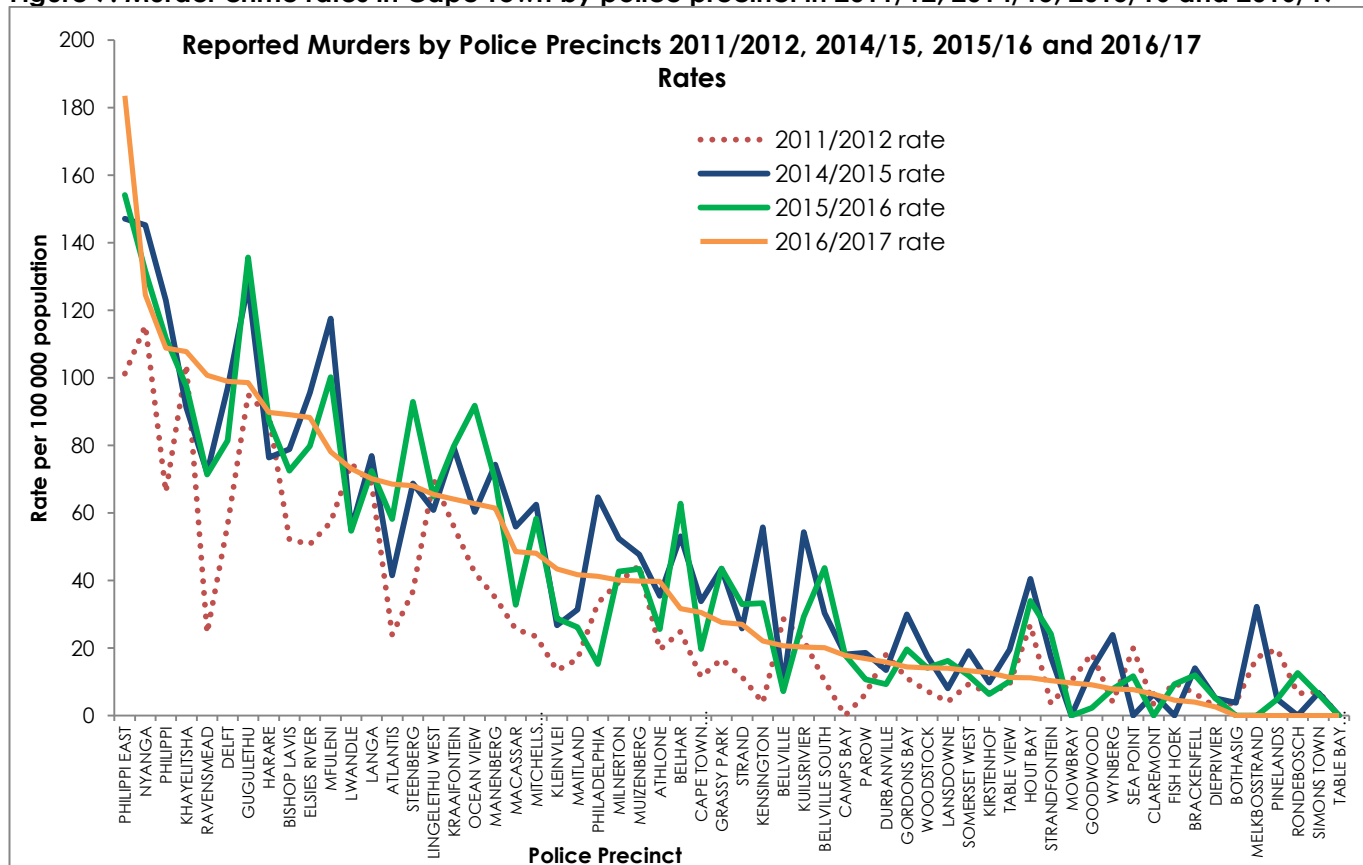
## 7. Selected violent crimes by Police Precincts in Cape Town 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17

As detailed 2014, 2015 and 2016 population estimates and 2011 Census population by police precinct for Cape Town have been developed by the OP&P Department, crime rates by police precinct and type of crime can now be analysed using the 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 crime statistics. This enhances the analysis and allows for more detailed trends and information at an additional, finer level spatial scale, i.e. police precinct. Selected crime types, including murder, total sexual crimes, robbery at residential premises and robbery at non-residential premises are shown in Figure 7, 9, 11 and 12 respectively.

### 7.1 Murder

Murder crime rates for the Cape Town police precinct have been analysed for 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. Refer to Figure 7 for graph showing 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 murder rates by police precinct for Cape Town.

**Figure 7: Murder crime rates in Cape Town by police precinct in 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17**



Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, using 2011 Census (SSA, 2013), 2014, 2015 and 2016 population estimates compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town, May 2018.

The murder crime rates (rate per 100 000 population) for the 60<sup>7</sup> police precincts were ranked from highest to lowest for 2016/17. The top five police precincts for 2016/17 were Philippi East (184), Nyanga (125), Philippi (109), Khayelitsha (108) and Ravensmead (101).

Most of the reported murders are situated in the south east of the city. These areas include known gang areas and correspond with high levels of other violent crime. This is evident as for all four reporting years, viz. 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, Philippi East and Nyanga police precincts were in the top five for highest murder rates and Philippi East being the highest for three of these years, viz. 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 reporting years. Nyanga police precinct had the highest murder rate in the 2011/12 reporting year.

Police Precincts such as Philippi East, Nyanga, Philippi, Khayelitsha and Ravensmead have murder rates over 101 per 100 000 of the population in the 2016/17 reporting year, which is almost double the provincial rate (51 per 100 000 of the population). This rate could be attributed to the fact that these police precincts are characterised by high levels of socio-economic inequality and increasing unemployment and factors including the proliferation of weapons (firearms), gang violence, drugs, alcohol and interpersonal violence (The Western Cape Government (WCG), 2017).

The long term trend analysis reveals that, these areas have experienced high murder rates for more than a decade, highlighting the challenge of breaking the cycles of violence (Lancaster, 2015).

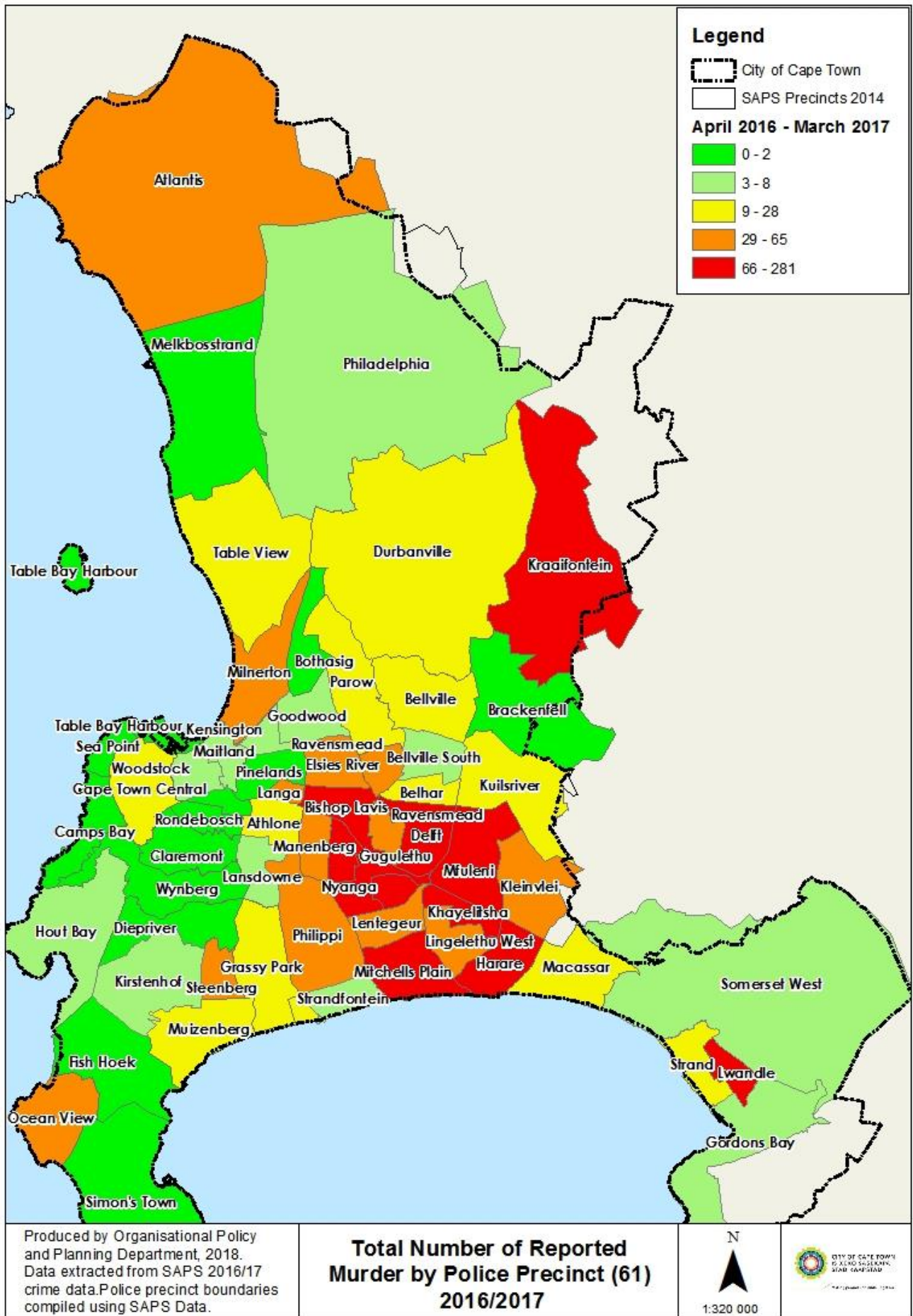
The actual number of reported murders from SAPS for all 61 police precincts in Cape Town has been grouped into the 61 police precinct spatial boundaries. Figure 8 shows the spatial distribution of reported murders for 2016/17. The analysis of the 2016/17 reported murders indicates that crime continues to be largely concentrated in the poorer areas of the city, with a small number of police precincts accounting for a disproportionate number of reported crime, with almost two-thirds of the Cape Town murders reported in just ten of the 61 police precincts in the city.

Figure 8 shows police precincts which had the highest concentration of actual number of reported murders (between 66 and 281). These tend to cluster in the south east of the city, and Lwandle and Kraaifontein (red areas), followed by those in police precincts showing between 29 and 65 murders in the Cape Flats and outlying areas of Atlantis, Milnerton, Kleinvlei, Steenberg and Ocean View.

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<sup>7</sup> For crime rate comparative purposes, crime data for Lentegeur and Mitchells Plain Police Precincts are combined, as Lentegeur was established from Mitchells Plain Police Precinct in May 2013.

**Figure 8: Spatial distribution of actual number of all reported murders by police precinct in Cape Town in 2016/17 (61 Police Precincts included)**

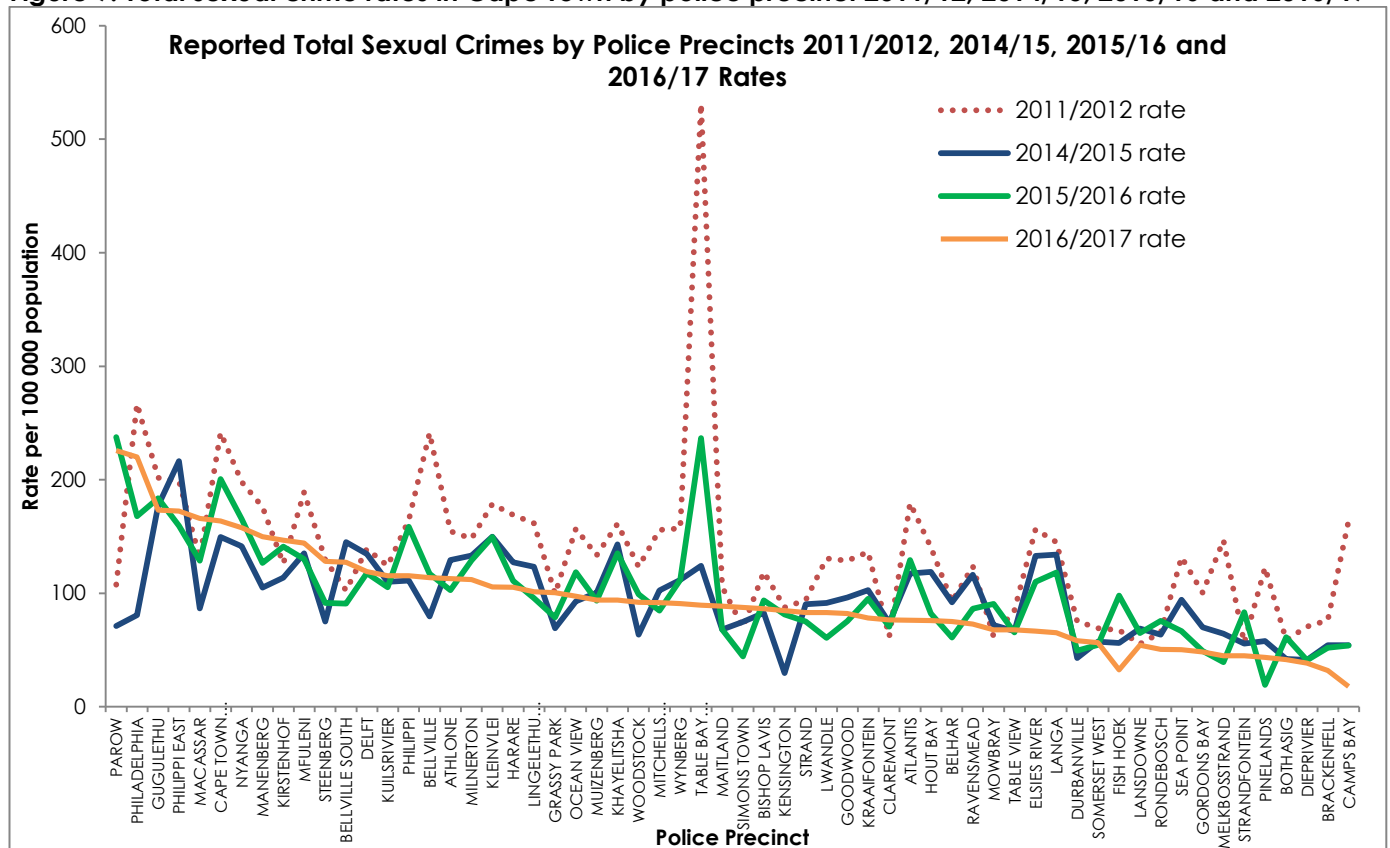


Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2016/17

## 7.2 Total Sexual Crimes

An analysis of total sexual crime<sup>8</sup> rates (rate per 100 000 population), ranked from highest to lowest for 2016/17, by 60<sup>9</sup> police precinct for 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 are presented in Figure 9.

**Figure 9: Total sexual crime rates in Cape Town by police precinct 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17**



Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, using 2011 Census (SSA, 2013), 2014, 2015 and 2016 population estimates compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town, May 2018.

In 2016/17, the five police precincts with the highest sexual crime rates (rate per 100 000 population), were Parow (226), Philadelphia (220), Gugulethu (173), Philippi East (172) and Macassar (166).

For all four years, viz. 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, Gugulethu police precinct was in top five for highest total sexual crimes with Cape Town Central police precinct in the top five for three of these years, viz. 2014/15 and 2015/16 reporting years. Several crimes are reported in the Cape Town Central police precinct as it is a central police station and crimes possibly did not occur in the area. Table Bay Harbour was in the top five in two of the reporting years, viz. 2011/12 and 2015/16, and the highest for 2011/12 reporting year. Table Bay Harbour has a small population residing in the police precinct, which could account for the high total sexual crime rates.

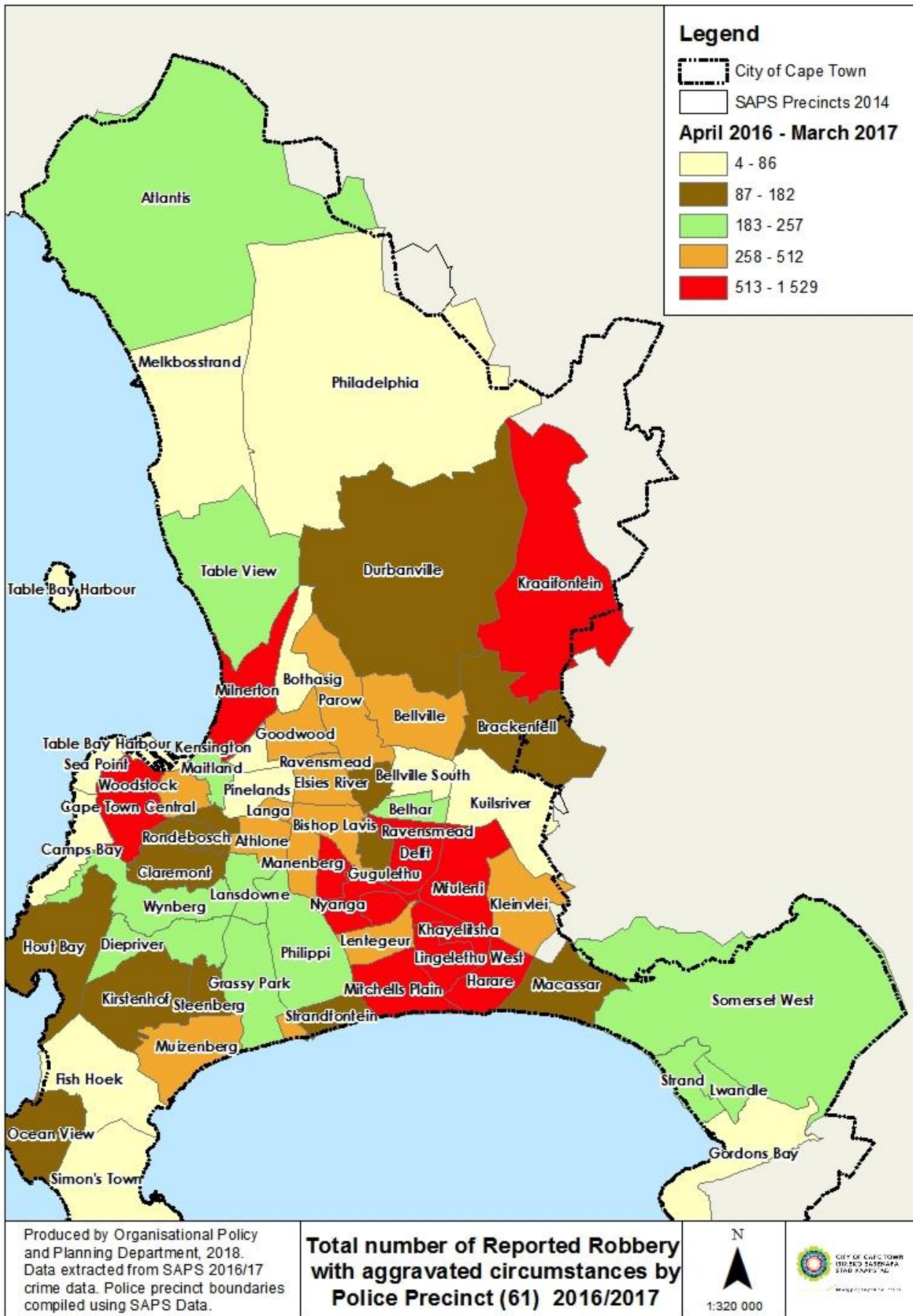
## 7.3 Robbery with aggravating circumstances

Robbery with aggravating circumstances comprises seven sub-categories, street robbery, robbery at residential premises (house robbery), robbery at non-residential premises (business robbery), carjacking, truck-hijacking, cash-in-transit (CIT) robbery and bank robbery. The spatial distribution of the actual number of reported cases of robbery with aggravating circumstances by police precinct (61) in Cape Town (2016/17) is shown in Figure 10 below.

<sup>8</sup> This rate includes the crime type sexual offences as result of police action.

<sup>9</sup> For crime rate comparative purposes, crime data for Lentegeur and Mitchells Plain Police Precincts are combined, as Lentegeur was established from Mitchells Plain Police Precinct in May 2013.

**Figure 10: Spatial distribution of actual number of Reported Robbery with aggravated circumstances crimes by police precinct in Cape Town in 2016/17 (61 Police Precincts included)**



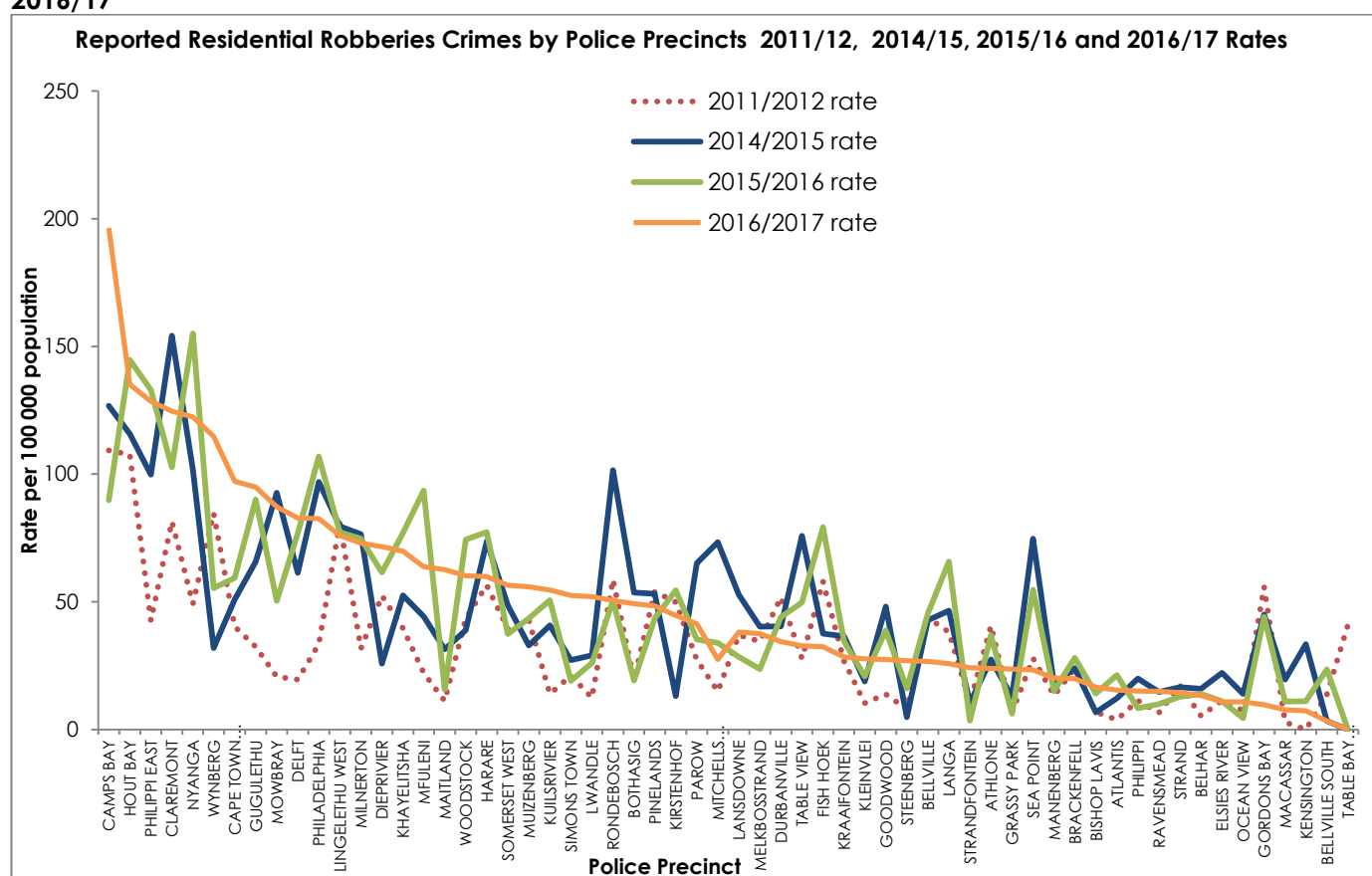
Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2016/17

The highest concentration of actual number of reported robberies with aggravating circumstances by police precincts were between 513 and 1 529. These were clustered around the south east of the city and Kraaifontein, Milnerton and Cape Town Central (red areas), followed by those in police precincts showing between 258 and 512 robberies in the Cape Flats and outlying areas of Muizenberg, Bellville, Parow, Goodwood and Woodstock (orange areas). The lowest concentration (4 – 86) of actual number of reported robberies by police precincts were in the outlying areas of the city in Melkbosstrand, Philadelphia, Kuilsriver, Gordon's Bay, Fish Hoek, Simon's Town, Camps Bay and Sea Point (pale yellow areas).

## 7.4 Robbery at residential premises

Robbery at residential premises is a sub category of robbery with aggravated circumstances. An analysis of robbery at residential premises rates (rate per 100 000 population), ranked from highest to lowest for 2016/17 by 60<sup>10</sup> police precincts for 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 are presented in Figure 11.

**Figure 11: Residential robbery crime rates in Cape Town by police precinct 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17**



Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, using 2011 Census (SSA, 2013), 2014, 2015 and 2016 population estimates compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town, May 2018.

In 2016/17, the five police precincts with the highest robbery at residential premises crime rates (rate per 100 000 population), were Camps Bay (196), Hout Bay (135), Philippi East (128), Claremont (125) and Nyanga (122).

For all four years, viz. 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, Hout Bay and Claremont police precincts were in top five for highest robbery at residential premises. Camps Bay police precinct was in the top five for 2016/17, 2014/15 and 2011/12 reporting years. Low-income areas

<sup>10</sup> For crime rate comparative purposes, crime data for Lentegeur and Mitchells Plain Police Precincts are combined, as Lentegeur was established from Mitchells Plain Police Precinct in May 2013.

frequently remain vulnerable to robbery, with the police precinct of Nyanga in the top five for three consecutive reporting years viz. 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15.

Contrary to possible perceptions, this analysis also highlights that this crime type is not restricted to the more affluent areas. People living in the poorer areas are also targeted, viz. Nyanga, Lingeletu West was reported in the top five in the 2011/12 reporting years and Philippi East in the top five in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 reporting years. The crime pattern seems to be more evenly spread across the city and includes the more affluent precincts, viz. Camps Bay, Hout Bay, Claremont and Rondebosch.

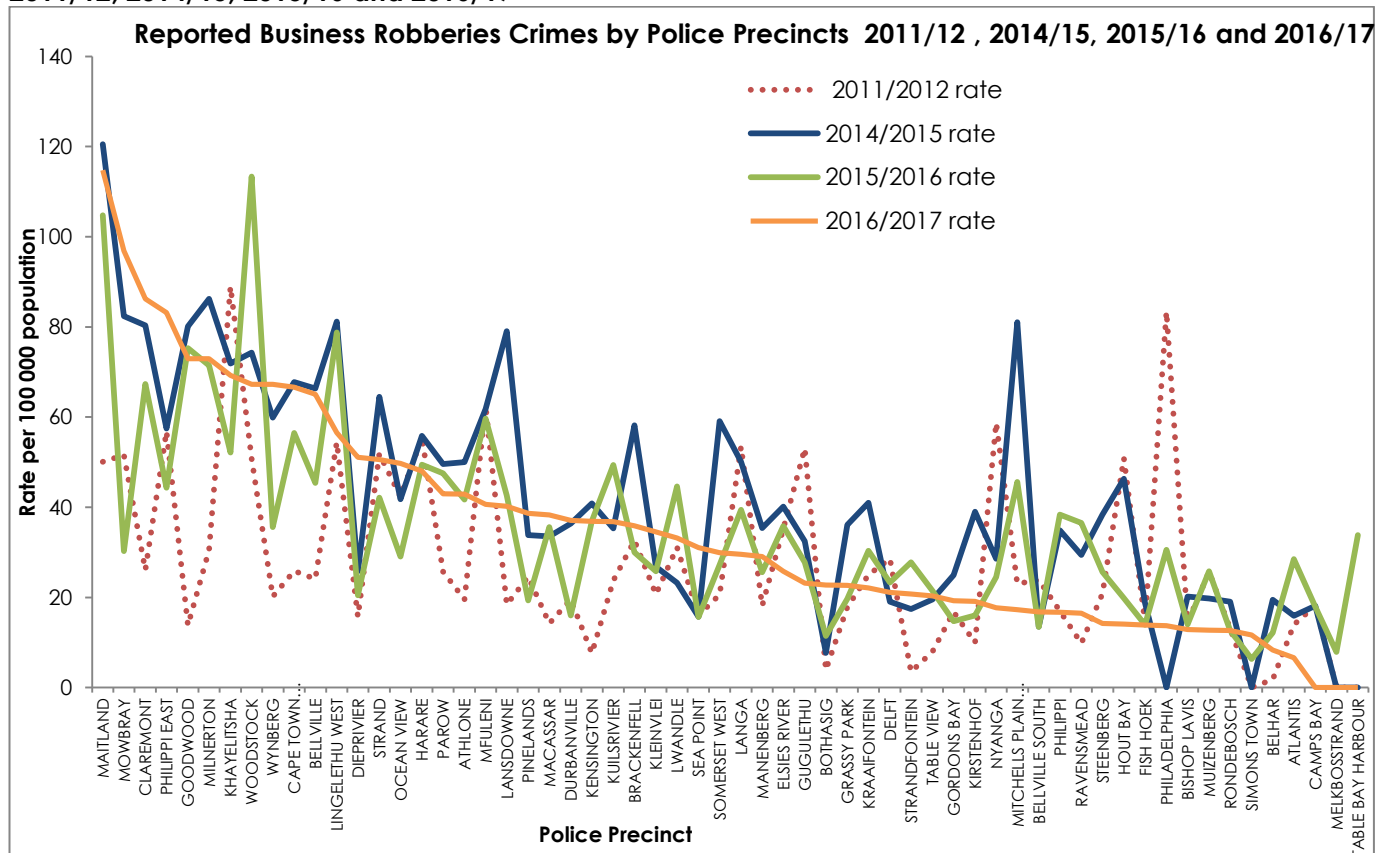
According to Africa Check, in their factsheet of 2017, a national analysis showed in 2016/17 there were 22 343 incidents of house robbery recorded. On average, 61.2 households were robbed each day. The house robbery rate increased from 38 per 100 000 people in 2015/16 to 40 in 2016/17. Statistics South Africa's 2016/17 victims of crime survey revealed that only 56.7% of victims reported the crime to the police.

### 7.5 Robbery at non-residential (business) premises

Robbery at non-residential premises is a sub category of robbery with aggravated circumstances. An analysis of robberies at non-residential premises rates (rate per 100 000 population), ranked from highest to lowest for 2016/17 by 60<sup>11</sup> police precinct for 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 are presented in Figure 12.

In 2016/17, the five police precincts with the highest robberies at non-residential premises rates were Maitland (115), Mowbray (97), Claremont (86), Philippi East (83) and Goodwood (73).

**Figure 12: Distribution of Non-Residential (Business) Robberies crime rates in Cape Town by police precinct 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17**



Source: SAPS, 2017. Crime Statistics 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17, using 2011 Census (SSA, 2013), 2014, 2015 and 2016 population estimates compiled by the Organisational Policy and Planning Department, City of Cape Town, May 2018.

<sup>11</sup> For crime rate comparative purposes, crime data for Lentegeur and Mitchells Plain Police Precincts are combined, as Lentegeur was established from Mitchells Plain Police Precinct in May 2013.



For the three most recent reporting years, viz. 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15, Maitland police precincts was in the top five for highest robbery at non-residential premises. Philippi East, Lingeletu West, Goodwood and Mowbray police precincts were in the top five for at least of two of the reporting years.

According to Business Tech, in an article published in 2017, robbery at non-residential premises at a national level, increased from 19 698 in 2016 to 20 680 in 2017, an increase of 4.99%. But decreased for the Western Cape from 1 973 in 2015/16 to 1 889 in 2016/17, a decrease of 4.3% (SAPS, 2017b).

## 8. Review and Summary

The violent crime rate in Cape Town was higher than the national crime rate for the reporting period 2005/6 to 2016/17 and showing a decrease of 14.2% over the eleven year period. However, since 2010/11, violent crime in Cape Town has shown an increase from a rate of 1 415 to 1 642 (16.0%) over four years, and decreased to 1 576 in 2016/17.

Of all the metros, Cape Town has the highest violent crime rate for the five year period between 2011/12 and 2016/17. Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni also experienced an increase in violent crime rates since 2012/13 to 2015/16, with a decrease in the 2016/17 reporting year.

In Cape Town from 2005/6 to 2016/17, of the violent crimes, the total sexual crime rate, assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm and common assault have all shown a decrease in percentage change while murder, attempted murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and public violence have all shown an increase in percentage change. Public violence (4.5%), attempted murder (3.5%) and robbery with aggravating circumstances (2.8%) have shown the most increase in terms of the average percentage change of crime rate per annum in the past eleven years. Murder has shown an average annual increase of 0.7% over the last eleven years. The murder rate for Cape Town in the 2016/17 reporting year is 61 per 100 000 population, almost double that for South Africa.

The Institute for Security Studies have evidence from South Africa to show that preventing violent crime (especially interpersonal violence) and breaking entrenched cycles of violence is essential to growing the economy and improving the nation's health, behavioural and social outcomes. In the long term prevention is more cost-effective than responding to violence after it has occurred (ISS, 2015).

Violence affects all in some way. The trauma of witnessing or experiencing violence has lasting physical and emotional consequences and a significant impact on economic growth (Lancaster, 2015). High levels of violence undermine investor confidence, drive up costs in the health sector and have a negative impact on all sectors of society. Evidence-based programmes and multi-sector approaches need to be implemented in order to address these challenges and assist to combat violent crimes (Falanga, 2014).

According to the Security Service Consultants, in 2017 the Nyanga was the only police precinct in Cape Town to appear in the top 5 worst police precincts in South Africa for the crimes murder, sexual offences, attempted murder, assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily and violent robbery.

Out of the 61 police precincts in Cape Town in 2016/17, the top police precincts that had the highest number of reported crime cases for violent crimes was Nyanga (4 522). Nyanga police precinct also had the highest number of reported murders (281) in 2016/17, the Khayelitsha police precinct had the highest actual number (1 529) of reported robberies with aggravating circumstances.

Philippi East was the police precinct that had the top murder crime rate (184) in 2016/17, the police precinct with the highest sexual crime rate (rate per 100 000 population), was Parow 226.

In the 2016/17, the police precinct with the highest robbery at residential premises crime rate per 100 000 population was Camps Bay (196) and Maitland (115) had the highest robberies at non-residential premises rate.

According to a new report released by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), which focuses on Cape Town, an African City of Opportunity, noted that the city's new 'EPIC' technology solution is improving response times (PwC, 2018).

Launched in 2016, 'EPIC' aims to 'draw a balance between safe cities and smart cities' by integrating six emergency and policing services onto one common technology platform with a joint command centre. However, the system does not include SAPS, meaning that the full benefits available cannot be realized. Safety interventions can have outsized returns: If people do not feel safe, they are less likely to be economically productive, or socially integrated. This is particularly harmful in early life – children who miss school because of safety concerns are less likely to get good grades, meaning their chances of affording safe housing in later life is diminished further (PwC, 2018).

According to the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, the main contributing factors to crime in SA are that violence has been normalised and that our criminal justice system is viewed as corrupt, ineffective and inefficient, it is up to every citizen to protect themselves and their community through active intelligence gathering and dissemination (Steynberg, 2016). Increases in spending on the criminal justice system over the past 10 years have failed to deliver a decrease in violent crime. This is not surprising since the criminal justice system is largely reactive, and comes into effect only after a crime has been committed (ISS, 2017).

The Western Cape Government (WCG) in their report titled Policing Needs and Priorities Report 2016/17 outline some ways that have been looked at to challenge the violent crime problem; is to namely to expand the Watching Briefs Programme; to monitor police conduct and efficiency in courts, particularly in respect of drug-related and violent crimes. Further, the revised National Drug Master Plan 2013–2017 was developed to address the harmful use of alcohol and drugs such as deaths due to people driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and as victims of violent crime (WCG, 2017).

In conclusion, the National Development Plan has a goal that in 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, at school and at work and they enjoy a community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the streets and children play safely outside. The police service is well-resourced and professional, staffed by highly skilled officers who value their work, serve the community, safeguard lives and people's property without discrimination, protect the peaceful against violence and respect the rights to equality and justice (NPC, 2017).

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Statistics and indicators: Statistics by Theme: Safety and Security

[http://cityweb.capetown.gov.za/en/cdirc/Pages/StatisticsByTheme\\_AH.aspx](http://cityweb.capetown.gov.za/en/cdirc/Pages/StatisticsByTheme_AH.aspx)