

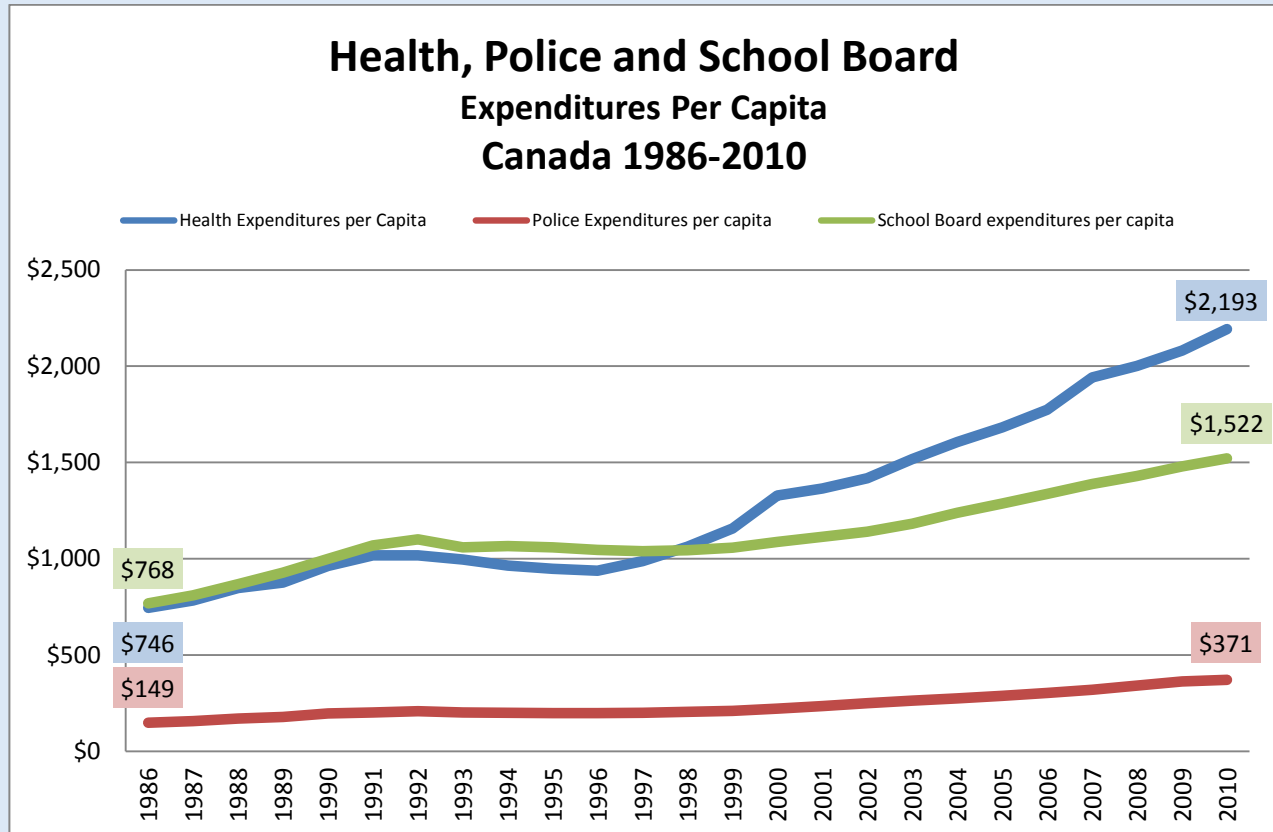
Economics of Policing: Complexity and Costs in Canada, 2014

Synopsis

In 2005, together with the University of the Fraser Valley, ICURS released a report, “30 Year Police Costing Study”, designed to identify the cost drivers in policing over the preceding 30 year period. The study clearly identified those drivers and explained the rising costs for policing over that period which included increased complexity of investigations, additional resource demands resulting from case law, and new costs associated to inquiries resulting in policy changes among others.

The current study was initially planned as an update to the 2005 work but for a variety of reasons was expanded to include interviews and focus groups with a broader range of policing personnel and to explore a wide-spread assumption that policing costs were increasing out of control, especially in light of a substantial and sustained decline in police-recorded criminal code offences.

Our work concluded that the increases in policing costs were consistent with the rise of costs in other sectors such as health and education and that in British Columbia the proportion of municipal expenditures committed to police services has remained relatively stable for the past 30 years. The study found that criminal events as recorded in the Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reports represent only about 30% of calls for service by the public and cannot, by themselves, be used as an indicator of police workload. The study also noted that police have been increasingly required to expend resources in dealing with matters that overlap the responsibilities of other agencies and ministries involved in public safety and public health.



Source: ICURS *Economics of Policing Summary Report 2014*. Chart data from the *Cansim* database.

Full text of the Summary Report can be downloaded from: <http://summit.sfu.ca/item/14602>