Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Policing and Security Branch

Overview of Crime Data Collection in British Columbia, 2021

Table of Contents

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Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Data

The Incident-Based UCR Survey

The Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, a division of Statistics Canada, cooperates with the policing community to collect police-reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. The UCR Survey is designed to measure the incidence of crime in Canadian society and its characteristics.

The UCR Survey uses an "incident-based" reporting system, meaning that a separate statistical record is created for each criminal incident. For each incident, detailed information is collected on the incident, victims, and accused persons, such as report date, age and sex of victims and accused persons, charge status, clearance status, location, and other information.

A criminal incident may involve several offences, and the UCR Survey allows for entry of up to four offences per incident, organized by order of severity with the most serious offence (MSO) first. Police-reported crime data from Statistics Canada, including the data in these publications, usually are counted by number of separate criminal incidents. For violent criminal events, a separate incident is counted for each victim of violence. Offences are categorized by the MSO in an incident. Because not all offences in an incident may be counted, less serious crimes tend to be underrepresented in these data.

As the UCR Survey data collected are provided by police services, the data only reflect incidents that come to the attention of the police and do not reflect a count of all incidents that occurred in Canada. Some crimes are never detected and, of those that are, some are never brought to the attention of the police.

Important Changes to UCR Data

Adjustments to the UCR Survey, such as the addition of new offences or changes in the severity of those that exist, are made in response to federal legislation changes. Adjustments may also be made in response to suggestions and commentary from police services and data users, which are intended to improve the quality and usability of data collected through the UCR Survey. UCR Survey changes should be considered when examining trends in police-reported crime statistics and in certain offences, as this can affect data comparisons over time. Below is a summary of key adjustments over the past 10 years.

The UCR Survey introduced the following violations in 2011: altering, destroying, or removing a vehicle identification number; trafficking and possession of property obtained from crime; and possession, sale, etc., for use in production of or trafficking in substance (crystal meth or ecstasy). As well, a new violation code for motor vehicle theft replaced former codes for motor vehicle theft over $5,000 and motor vehicle theft $5,000 and under.

The UCR Survey adjusted two violations under sexual violations against children in 2012, adding the new violation of making sexually explicit material available to children and expanding the existing violation of luring a child via computer.

The UCR Survey introduced the following violations to offences in relation to sexual services in 2014: obtaining sexual services for consideration; receiving material benefit from sexual services; procuring; and advertising sexual services.

The UCR Survey expanded the violation of possession, sale, etc., for use in production of or trafficking in substance (crystal meth or ecstasy) in 2017 to include all substances listed in Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

The UCR Survey began counting violations involving opioids (other than heroin) under their own unique violation codes in 2017. Prior to this, violations involving non-heroin opioids (including fentanyl) were counted within the category of other drugs.

The UCR Survey introduced new violations under the *Cannabis Act* and made changes to violations related to impaired driving and other traffic offences in 2018.

The UCR Survey introduced the following violation in 2019: sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983. On this date in 1983, legislation introduced a three-tiered structure for sexual assault offences and abolished the offences of rape, attempted rape, and indecent assault.

UCR Scoring Rules

The police occurrence report forms the basis of data collection for the UCR Survey. There are standard rules for counting offences, persons charged, and clearance data under the UCR Survey. The most basic UCR Survey rules, and the ramifications of each, are discussed below.

Crimes reported to the police or crimes otherwise detected by police are subject to a preliminary investigation by the police to determine the validity of the report. On occasion, a reported offence may not have actually occurred. For example, a vehicle that is reported stolen may turn out to have been borrowed by a family member. Incidents are considered "unfounded" where after police investigation, police have found credible evidence to prove that the crime did not occur nor was it attempted. "Unfounded" incidents are subtracted from the total number of reported offences to produce the number of actual offences. All of the data presented in these publications exclude "unfounded" incidents.

Impact of Uniform Crime Reporting Scoring Rule Changes

In January 2018, Statistics Canada updated the definition of "founded" incidents to improve the tracking of offences with complex characteristics, such as sexual assault, and to address broader inconsistencies in how crime statistics were reported in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey.
Police agencies across BC implemented these scoring rule changes in January 2019 which may have affected BC's crime data for 2019. It is anticipated that police services will become increasingly accustomed to the new standards and, as they do so, data should become more comparable.

More information about the UCR Survey and these scoring rule changes can be found at:

https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54973-eng.htm

https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00010-eng.htm

Number of Offences

Under the UCR Survey rules, the total number of offences is not a census of all crimes that are reported to, or detected by, the police. This occurs for two reasons.

First, **number of offences** is equal to the number of distinct or separate incidents. For example, in an incident where several vehicles parked in one block are spray-painted with paint from the same spray can, only one incident of vandalism is counted. For violent criminal events, a separate incident is counted for each victim of violence. As such, the number of **violent offences** is also equal to the number of victims. For example, when one person murders three people, three offences are counted.

Second, the UCR Survey counts offences according to the most serious offence (MSO) rule, which stipulates that where a single criminal incident contains a number of violations of the law, then only the most serious offence is recorded for UCR purposes. There are standard rules for determining the most serious offence

where crimes in the same incident are of a similar severity. The application of the MSO rule tends to underestimate the true incidence of relatively less serious crimes that come to the attention of the police because these crimes are counted only when they do not occur in conjunction with a more serious crime in the same incident.

In short, under the UCR Survey, the total number of non-traffic *Criminal Code* offences represents the number of victims of **violent crimes** plus the number of separate incidents of other categories of offences, such as **property crimes** and **other crimes**. The UCR Survey also includes counts of traffic *Criminal Code* offences, as well as other federal statute violations, including the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and the *Cannabis Act*.

Clearance

Crimes are **cleared** when police have sufficient evidence to identify the offender(s) and prove the offender(s) committed the crime. Offences can be cleared in one of two ways: **cleared by charge** or **cleared otherwise**.

Cleared by charge: When the police have identified at least one offender and have sufficient evidence to prove the offender committed the crime, the police prepare a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) to recommend charges. Once an RCC is forwarded to the local Crown Counsel office, the police consider the incident to be **cleared by charge**, and this status is recorded in the UCR Survey.

Cleared otherwise: In some instances, police identify the offender(s) and have enough evidence to support a charge, yet they do not recommend charges. Such offences are reported in the UCR Survey as **cleared otherwise**; that is, the offence is cleared by a method other than by recommending charges to Crown counsel. Offences are **cleared otherwise** for a variety of reasons including: the offender is under the age of 12; the offender has diplomatic immunity; the offender is deceased; the offender has been sentenced for other similar crimes; or police wish to divert the offender from the formal system.

Persons Charged

When an offence is **cleared by charge**, the number of persons recommended for charge by the police is recorded in the UCR Survey. These persons are categorized according to gender and age (adult or youth). The UCR Survey rules dictate that an offender who is simultaneously recommended for charge on more than one offence is counted only once against the most serious offence (MSO) occurring in the police-reported incident. In addition, an offender is counted as a person charged each time the police recommends charges against them for separate incidents. In incidents with multiple accused involving multiple violations, each accused in the incident will be coded with the MSO even if this was not the violation that the person was accused of committing.

Consequently, the **persons charged** data represent a count of the number of persons for whom charges were recommended for each incident rather than the total number of recommended charges. As well, the **persons charged** data may not always reflect the actual offence for which an individual was accused or charged. As a result, the correlation of **persons charged** data with court data is difficult.

Time Lapse

Incidents are recorded in the UCR Survey against the month in which they came to the attention of police, regardless of when the incidents actually occurred. Similarly, clearance data are recorded against the month in which the police cleared the offence. It may take months or years for an offence to be solved, therefore, an offence may be counted in one year and the clearance status may be counted in a subsequent year. Consequently, a one-to-one relationship does not exist between the number of offences and the number of cleared offences in any given time frame. This may result in the number of cleared offences in any given year being greater than the total number of offences, which would result in a **clearance rate** exceeding 100%.

Factors Impacting Police-Reported Crime Rates

A multitude of factors are believed to affect the prevalence of crime and the reporting of crime. Examples of these factors include:

- **Significant events -** Many shifts in crime trends in 2021 may be attributable to the global COVID-19 pandemic, as was also the case for 2020. The decreases in property crime first observed in 2020 continued throughout 2021 with people tending to stay home more often, reducing contact with others, and using the Internet more often than prior to the pandemic.

  In contrast to the downward trend in property crime, there was an increase in violent crime incidents in 2021. While the violent crime rate did not change substantially from 2020, the Violent Crime Severity Index did increase considerably, indicating an increase in the number of serious violent crimes relative to other types. In particular, the number of incidents of sexual assault level 1 increased. This increase may have been partially attributable to more opportunities for strangers to commit sexual assaults, as pandemic restrictions on gatherings were relaxed. The loosening of pandemic restrictions may also have made it easier for victims to come forward and for third parties to be able to identify signs of abuse.

  More analyses of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors influencing the 2021 police reported crime statistics can be found at:

  https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00013-eng.htm

- **Changes to scoring rules -** As described in detail in the UCR Scoring Rules section on page 2, in 2018, Statistics Canada updated the definitions of "founded" and "unfounded" crimes in its reporting methodology for police services across Canada, which were implemented by police services at different times. These changes likely contributed to an increase in the number of police-reported crimes and a decrease in clearance rates for BC in 2019.

- **"Core city" effect -** The "core city" effect can be seen in municipalities that serve as core centres for visitors from surrounding areas, who travel into and out of the municipal boundaries for work, entertainment, shopping, or other reasons. These regular visitors are not included in the population figures used to calculate crime rates. As a result, municipalities that are "core cities" often have higher crime rates compared to surrounding areas and may also have higher crime rates compared to municipalities that are not "core cities".

- **Demographics** - Demographic shifts have an impact on **crime rates**. For example, changes in the age and gender structure of a particular **population**, specifically males aged 16 to 24 years (the age group most likely to commit crimes), can influence **crime rates**.

- **Technological change** - With continual advances in technology, opportunities for new, more complex crimes have developed, which can create new challenges for law enforcement.

- **Influences on police enforcement practice** - Policy decisions (such as the introduction of measures to deal with violence against women and children) or legislative changes (such as the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*) can impact police responses to some types of crimes.

- **Victim response to crime** - Some experts argue that victim responses to crime cause cyclical patterns in the **crime rate**. When **crime rates** are rising, potential victims take self-protective measures, causing **crime rates** to moderate. Conversely, when crime rates are stable or decreasing, self-protective measures also decline, creating opportunities for criminal behaviour to increase again.

- **Societal response to crime** - The public's decrease in tolerance for criminal acts can lead to a rise in reporting rates to police. Experts also argue that community-based policing initiatives (i.e., police-community partnerships to solve local crime problems) encourage citizens to come forward and report more incidents to police, thus impacting **crime rates**.

- **Other factors** - Factors such as inflation or economic hardship, and alcohol/drug consumption may also affect crime rates. Additionally, population density, changes in public attitudes, and the level of income and education of either victim or offender may also affect the reporting of certain types of crimes.

It is unlikely that a single factor accounts for changes in **crime rates**. More likely, a combination of factors accounts for changes in **crime rate** trends. Generally, year-over-year comparisons of crime data should be made with caution as many non-criminally related factors can affect data from one year to another.

Police-Reported Crime Data versus Victimization Data

The UCR Survey records police-reported crime data. As such, UCR data contain only information on those crimes that come to the attention of the police. Some crimes are never detected and some that are detected are never brought to the attention of the police.

Victimization surveys provide data that are complementary to police-reported data. Victimization surveys contain information on a greater number of criminal incidents because respondents are asked to describe both incidents they reported to the police and incidents they did not report. Victimization data indicate that less serious types of crime and minor offences are often underreported to the police.

An example of a victimization survey is the General Social Survey (GSS), which is conducted every five years by Statistics Canada. Victimization surveys contain methodological features that preclude the collection of information about crimes such as homicide and kidnapping, as well as "victimless" crimes (e.g., drug offences), crimes committed against commercial or public property, and crimes committed against persons under 15 years of age.

Police-reported and victimization data are complementary and when combined, provide a more comprehensive picture of crime.

Crime Severity Index

Historically, **crime rates** have been used to facilitate comparisons among geographic areas as well as over time. **Crime rates** measure volumes and count all crimes equally, regardless of the seriousness of the offence. As a result, they are dominated by substantial volumes of less serious crimes. In addition, total non-traffic **crime rate** calculations are based solely on non-traffic *Criminal Code* offence volumes and do not factor in other federal statute offences such as **drug crimes**.

In 2009, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS) launched four **Crime Severity Indexes (CSIs).** Complementary to traditional **crime rates**, these tools are designed to track severity or seriousness of crime in addition to volume changes.

The **CSIs** are based on the total volume of federal statute reporting, including all *Criminal Code*, drug, and miscellaneous federal statute offences. They are designed to measure changes, not only in year-to-year crime volumes, but also changes in those volumes based on specific seriousness weights assigned to each offence. The seriousness of crimes is based on sentencing data from Canadian criminal courts. Weights assign higher values to more serious crimes, while less serious high volume crimes are assigned lower values. For example, the most serious crime of murder is weighted at a value several hundred times higher than the substantially less serious offence of disturbing the peace. As a result, serious crimes have a greater impact on CSIs as compared to those high volume offences that are less serious offences.

There are four CSIs:

- The **Overall CSI** is based on the total volume of police-reported federal statute offences and measures the relative severity of overall crime.

- The **Violent CSI** is based on the total volume of police-reported violent federal statute offences and measures the relative severity of violent crime.

- The **Non-violent CSI** is based on the total volume of police-reported federal statute offences not considered violent in nature and measures the relative severity of non-violent crime.

- The **Youth CSI** is based on the same principles as the Overall CSI, which reflects the relative seriousness of different offences, but uses the number of youths accused instead of an incident count to measure the relative severity of crimes committed by youth.

Each index has been standardized at 100 for the base year of 2006.

A jurisdiction with a higher proportion of more serious crimes will have a higher CSI value while a jurisdiction with a higher proportion of less serious crimes will have a lower CSI value. The CSI is not available for policing jurisdictions with populations less than 1,000. Data for policing jurisdictions with populations less than 5,000 should be used with caution.

CSI values are available as far back as 1998. CSI weights are adjusted periodically in order to account for changes in sentencing patterns, as well as changes to the *Criminal Code* and other federal statutes. The CSI weights were most recently adjusted in 2018 and applied retroactively to UCR Survey data back to 2016 and are applicable to all subsequent data releases moving forward until the next update to the weights.

Definitions and Data Qualifiers

- **Population figures** are estimates prepared annually by BC Stats, based on the results of the Canada Census, which is conducted every five years. These estimates reflect only the permanent residential population of a jurisdiction. Where a jurisdiction serves as a resort, business, or entertainment centre, it may have substantial "part-time" or transient/seasonal populations in addition to its permanent resident population, such as tourists, cabin owners, commuters, students, and seasonal staff. These temporary population groups are counted in population figures within the jurisdiction of their place of residence and not the jurisdiction in which they may be temporarily visiting or working. **Note:** The 2020 population estimates provided by BC Stats were based on the Statistics Canada 2016 Census boundary geographies adjusted in accordance with current police jurisdiction boundaries.

- The crime data contained in these reports have been recorded by the police using the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey scoring rules and guidelines. **Offences** are counted by number of separate criminal incidents. For violent criminal events, a separate incident is counted for each victim of violence. Offences are categorized by the most serious offence in an incident. **Criminal incidents** represent crimes reported to, or discovered by, the police; this includes third party reports. However, criminal incident counts do not include incidents where after police investigation, police have found credible evidence to prove that the crime did not occur nor was it attempted. As well, crime data in these reports do not represent nor imply a count of the number of charges laid, prosecutions conducted, information sworn, or convictions obtained.

- **Total *Criminal Code* offences** (excluding traffic) include property, violent, and other crimes.

- **Violent crimes** include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, sexual offences against children, abduction, forcible confinement or kidnapping, firearms, robbery, criminal harassment, extortion, uttering threats, indecent or harassing communications, and other violent offences.

- **Homicide data** are extracted from the Homicide Survey database. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

- **Sexual offences** include sexual assault level 3 (aggravated), sexual assault level 2 (weapon or causing bodily harm), sexual assault level 1 (common sexual assault), and sexual violations against children.

- In 2019, the UCR added a new violation code to collect information on **sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983**, and as such, this category only includes data from 2018 onwards. While most violations are not typically reported years after their occurrence, sexual violations may be reported by a victim long after the incident took place due to a variety of reasons. On January 4, 1983, Canadian legislation surrounding sexual offences changed considerably. In order to reflect these changes, the UCR added the new violation code rather than collect historical offences under an existing violation code that did not reflect the state of Canadian legislation at the time of the offence. All offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983 which had previously been classified as sexual offences under the current legislation have been reclassified in the UCR.

- **Sexual violations against children** include *Criminal Code* violations that specifically concern offences involving child and youth victims. This category excludes incidents of child pornography and also excludes incidents of sexual assault levels 1, 2, and 3 against children and youth, which are counted within those three violation categories. In August of 2012, Bill C-10, the *Safe Streets Act*, came into effect making it an offence to make sexually explicit material available to a child, while the already existing crime of luring a child via computer was simultaneously expanded. In July of 2015, Bill C-26, the *Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act*, was enacted, which affected determinations made by police regarding the most serious offence in an incident and thus which crime gets reported by the CCJCSS; as such, comparisons of this category's incident counts to previous years should be made with caution.

- **Non-sexual assault offences** include assault level 3 (aggravated), assault level 2 (weapon or causing bodily harm), assault level 1 (common assault), assaulting a peace officer, and other assaults.

- **Assault against a peace officer** includes level 1 (common assault), level 2 (assault with a weapon), and level 3 (aggravated assault).

- **Other violent offences** include conspiracy to commit murder, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting morals of a child, bestiality, voyeurism, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, trap likely to or cause bodily harm, hostage taking, trafficking in persons, intimidation of a (non)justice system participant or a journalist, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson (disregard for human life), and other violent violations.

- **Property crimes** include the offences of breaking and entering, theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, trafficking in stolen property, fraud, mischief, identity theft or fraud, arson, and altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.

- **Thefts** include theft over $5,000 (non-motor vehicle) and theft under $5,000 (non-motor vehicle).

- **Fraud** offences include fraud, identity theft, and identity fraud.

- In 2011, the *Criminal Code* was amended creating a new offence for **trafficking property obtained by crime**. The UCR introduced a new violation code for this offence.

- In 2011, the *Criminal Code* was amended to make it illegal for anyone to **alter, destroy, or remove a vehicle identification number**. The UCR introduced a new violation code to collect this information.

- **Other crimes** include *Criminal Code* offences not classified as either violent or property crimes, such as offences related to counterfeiting, offensive weapons, child pornography, disturbing the peace, the administration of justice, and other "other" offences.

- The British Columbia Integrated Child Exploitation Unit (BC ICE) takes a proactive approach to tracking Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in possession of, and possibly sharing, child pornography. This results in an increase in reported **child pornography** violations in different parts of the province in different years (e.g., Surrey starting in 2014, Victoria in 2015, and Vancouver in 2016). Notably, due to the online nature of the offences, the incidents and/or offenders are not necessarily limited to the geographic area targeted.

- On December 20, 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada found laws surrounding sexual services to be unconstitutional and gave Parliament 12 months to review and rewrite the legislation. As a result of this, a large number of incidents related to sexual services were no longer being reported, leading to a large decrease in the number of these incidents in 2014. New legislation came into force December 6, 2014; as a result, comparisons between offences related to sexual services before and after December 2014 should be made with caution and take these changes into account.

- **Offences in relation to sexual services** is a new offence category created in December 2014 by the passage of Bill C-36, the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*. It is classified as a violent offence and includes: obtaining sexual services for consideration; material benefit from sexual services; procuring; and advertising sexual services. Other offences related to sexual services continue to be considered non-violent offences and are categorized in these publications under **other offences in relation to sexual services**, rather than prostitution, to reflect the component offences more accurately. These offences include: public communication to sell sexual services; and offences related to impeding traffic to buy or sell sexual services. As a result of these changes, comparisons between offences related to sexual services before and after December 2014 should be made with caution and take these changes into account.

- **Administration of justice** includes the following offences: fail to comply with order, escape or helps to escape from lawful custody, prisoner unlawfully at large, fail to appear, breach of probation, and other violations against the administration of law and justice.

- **Other "other" offences** include gaming and betting related offences, indecent acts, corrupting morals, obstructing a peace officer, trespassing at night, uttering threats to property/animals, public incitement of hatred, advocating genocide, unauthorized recording of a movie, offences against public order, offences relating to terrorist activity, invasion of privacy, offences against person or reputation, offences against right of property, freezing of property/disclosure/audit, fraudulent transactions relating to contracts and trade, offences relating to currency, proceeds of crime, attempts/conspiracies/accessories, public morals/disorderly conduct, firearms and other offensive weapons, offences related to criminal organizations, and other offences.

- **Drug offences** are crimes committed under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and the *Cannabis Act*. CDSA drug offences include possession, trafficking, production, and distribution of cannabis, cocaine, heroin, non-heroin opioids (including fentanyl), and methamphetamines (crystal meth), and other drug offences. When the *Cannabis Act* came into force on October 17, 2018, all prior cannabis-related legislation under the CDSA was replaced with the *Cannabis Act*, and cannabis possession became legal, except under certain circumstances. Drug offences are not included in the Total *Criminal Code* offences.

- **Non-heroin opioids** include opioids such as fentanyl. In November 2017, the UCR Survey began counting violations involving opioids (other than heroin) under their own unique violation codes. Prior to this, violations involving non-heroin opioids (including fentanyl) were counted within the category of **other drugs**. Because non-heroin opioid offences only represent the last two months for 2017, comparisons of incident counts between 2017 and later years should be made with caution.

- **Other drugs** include methylenedioxyamphetamines (ecstasy), the illicit use of prescription drugs (except for non-heroin opioids), and other drugs. Before the UCR Survey introduced unique violation codes for non-heroin opioids in November 2017, non-heroin opioids had been included in the category of **other drugs**. Consequently, comparisons of incident counts for **other drugs** before and after this change should be made with caution.

- In 2011, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* was amended to make it illegal for anyone to possess, produce, sell, or import anything knowing it will be used to produce or traffic in crystal meth or ecstasy. The UCR Survey introduced a new violation code for possession, sale, etc., for use in production of or trafficking in substance (crystal meth or ecstasy). In 2017, this violation was expanded to include all substances listed in Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. As such, comparisons of incident counts before and after this change should be made with caution.

- **Youth offences** are crimes committed by youth. There is no offence specifically known as a youth crime. An accused person is deemed to be a youth based on their age at the time an offence is committed. In BC, a youth is defined as any individual between the ages of 12 and 17.

- As of April 2011, **failure to stop** has been divided into three offence categories: failure to stop causing death, failure to stop causing bodily harm and failure to stop or remain. For the purposes of this report, these are displayed under the overarching category **failure to stop**.

- In September 2010, Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) provisions were introduced to the *Motor Vehicle Act* in British Columbia as an alternative method for officers to sanction impaired drivers. The use of IRPs for impaired driving incidents that meet the elements of the *Criminal Code* was temporarily suspended from November 30, 2011 to June 15, 2012 while government amended legislation.

- The passage of Bill C-46, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Offences Relating to Conveyances) and to Make Consequential Amendments to Other Acts*, led to changes to impaired driving and other traffic offences in the *Criminal Code*. Part 1 came into effect on June 21, 2018, and Part 2 came into effect on December 18, 2018. As a result of Bill C-46, the UCR Survey added, changed, or expired codes related to impaired driving and other traffic offences.

  o As a result of Part 1 of Bill C-46 coming into effect on June 21, 2018, the UCR Survey added new codes for impaired operations where the cause of impairment is unspecified, where the cause of impairment is a combination of both alcohol and drugs, and where the cause of impairment is low blood drug concentration.

  o As a result of Part 2 of Bill C-46 coming into effect on December 18, 2018:

    ▪ The UCR Survey added new codes for failure to comply with demand where the cause of impairment is unspecified and where the cause of impairment is a combination of both alcohol and drugs. As well, the UCR Survey codes for **failure to provide blood sample** were expired. Offences previously associated with these codes now fall under **failure or refusal to comply**.

    ▪ UCR Survey codes for **evading police causing bodily harm or death** were expired. **Evading police** now only has one UCR Survey code.

    ▪ All UCR Survey codes for **street racing** offences were expired.

- **Crime rate** is the number of *Criminal Code* offences or crimes (excluding drugs and traffic) reported for every 1,000 persons. It is a better measure of trends in crime than the actual number of offences because it allows for **population** differences. Crime rates for the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and the *Cannabis Act* are calculated per 1,000 population basis. Since the number of homicides and attempted murders reported is small, rates are calculated on a per 100,000 population basis. Crime rates for *Criminal Code* traffic offences are also calculated per 100,000 population basis.

  A high crime rate may indicate that a municipality is a "core city", i.e., a business and/or entertainment centre for many people who reside outside, as well as inside, the municipality. As a result, "core cities" may have large part-time or temporary populations which are excluded from both their population bases and their crime rate calculations.

- **Offences cleared** represent the number of offences where the police have identified at least one offender in relation to an offence and have sufficient evidence to solve the offence.

- **Offences cleared by charge** are reported when police have filed a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) recommending charges be laid. Once an RCC is forwarded, the police consider the incident to be cleared by charge and this status is reported in the UCR Survey.

- **Offences cleared by other means** or "cleared otherwise" are recorded in situations where sufficient evidence exists to proceed with charges, but police, given a certain set of circumstances, do not recommend charges and decide upon another course of action, e.g., diversion.

- **Clearance rate** is the number of crimes cleared by police during the year as a percentage of the number of crimes reported by police during that year. The process of solving crimes is often time-consuming and a crime may be solved months or years after it was reported to the police. This may result in the number of offences cleared in a year to be greater than the total number of offences reported to the police that year, which results in a clearance rate exceeding 100%.

- **Persons charged** data represent a count of the number of persons for whom charges were recommended for each incident rather than the total number of recommended charges. When an offence is **cleared by charge**, the number of persons recommended for charge by the police is recorded in the UCR Survey. An offender who is simultaneously recommended for charge on more than one offence is counted only once against the most serious offence (MSO) occurring in the police-reported incident. In addition, an offender is counted as a person charged each time the police recommends charges against them for separate incidents. In incidents with multiple accused involving multiple violations, each individual in the incident will be coded with the MSO even if this was not the violation that the person was accused of committing. As a result, the correlation of **persons charged** data with court data is difficult.

- Comparisons of crime statistics between jurisdictions, provinces, and years should be made with caution, as many factors influence police-reported crime statistics other than actual changes in crime, such as: global events, demographic changes, social and economic trends, police reporting practices, public reporting practices to police, technological advancements, legislative amendments, local police service priorities, and social perceptions and attitudes towards certain crimes.

- Due to the differences in the organizational structure of each type of force, comparisons between independent municipal police departments and RCMP forces should be made with caution.

- Crime data from the previous years may be revised by Statistics Canada to reflect any updates or changes that have been received from the police services. Due to this and other factors, the data contained in this report may vary when compared with previous reports produced by Policing and Security Branch. Where variances occur, the report produced at the latest date will reflect the most current data available.

- The policing jurisdictions reported in these publications reflect operational policing in BC and may vary from those provided by Statistics Canada.

- The population estimates reported in these publications and used to calculate crime rates are provided by BC Stats and may vary from those provided by Statistics Canada.

Sources

<u>Crime Data</u>

Statistics Canada. 2022. *Table 35-10-0184-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in British Columbia*. Statistics Canada database. August 2, 2022. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510018401 (accessed August 2, 2022).

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<u>Population Data</u>

BC Stats, Ministry of Citizens' Services, Province of British Columbia. Last updated July 2022.