



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Policing and Security Branch

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2020

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Summary

- In 2020, BC's police-reported **crime rate** (excluding traffic) decreased by 11.9%, from 86.4 to 76.1 offences per 1,000 population.
- Trends in BC's crime statistics may be attributable in part to the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, described in detail on Page 2.
- BC's overall **Crime Severity Index (CSI)** for 2020 was 95.7, 8.3% lower than BC's 2019 CSI of 104.4, but 30.3% higher than the national CSI of 73.4 (-7.9%). BC's decrease in overall CSI was driven by decreases in theft (-35,571), breaking and entering (-4,087), fraud (-1,379), and motor vehicle theft (-2,997), partially offset by an increase in child pornography (+1,465).
- **Violent offences** in BC decreased by 1.8% in 2020, resulting in a 2.8% decrease in the **violent crime rate**, from 15.7 to 15.2 violent offences per 1,000.
- There were 1,408 fewer **violent offences** reported by police in BC in 2020, with the largest decreases being total physical assaults (-1,194), total sexual assaults (-416), and robbery (-192). Among violent offences, the largest increases were indecent or harassing communications (+409) and extortion (+215).
- BC's **violent CSI** for 2020 was 89.5, 2.6% lower than BC's 2019 violent CSI of 91.8, which was BC's highest violent CSI since 2011. BC's violent CSI for 2020 was 2.8% higher than the national violent CSI (87.0, -3.6%). BC's decrease in violent CSI was driven primarily by decreases in robbery (-192), level 1 sexual assault (-317), and level 1 assault (-2,023), partially offset by increases in level 2 assault (+891) and homicide (+8).
- In 2020, 98 **homicides** were reported in BC, more than the 90 reported in 2019 and resulting in a 7.7% increase in the homicide rate. There were 102 **attempted murders**, almost the same as the 101 in 2019 and resulting in almost the same attempted murder rate (-0.1%).
- **Property offences** in BC decreased by 16.6% in 2020, resulting in a 17.5% decrease in the **property crime rate**, from 53.0 to 43.7 property offences per 1,000. **Other offences** in BC decreased by 1.9% in 2020, resulting in a 2.9% decrease in the **other crime rate**, from 17.7 to 17.2 other offences per 1,000.
- BC's **non-violent CSI** for 2020 was 97.7, 10.0% lower than BC's 2019 non-violent CSI of 108.6 but 42.9% higher than the national non-violent CSI of 68.4 (-9.8%). The drivers for the decrease in BC's non-violent CSI were the same as those for BC's overall CSI listed above.
- Total **drug offences** in BC increased by 3.3% in 2020, driven by a 42% increase in *Cannabis Act* offences, particularly in importation and exportation (+69.1%), which made up 82.9% of *Cannabis Act* violations in BC in 2020. Many of these importation and exportation offences in BC reflected seizure cases that were forwarded to the RCMP in 2020 and may not always correspond with the year that the offences occurred. Of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* offences (-5.3%), the only drug category with an increase in BC in 2020 was non-heroin opioids (+41.9%).
- BC's **youth CSI** decreased by 27.3% in 2020 to 28.2 from 38.8 in 2019, 33.3% lower than the national youth CSI of 42.3 (-23.2%).
- Police in BC reported having cleared 25.1% of all *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) in 2020; 43.0% of all violent offences were cleared, as were 12.4% of all **property offences** and 41.3% of all **other offences**. These clearance rates were lower than the 2019 rates and are still below the national averages.

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Key Impacts on Crime Statistics

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.

Impact of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic

Many shifts in crime trends in 2020 may be attributable to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which brought widespread and unprecedented changes to daily life. Overall, the volume of police-reported crime in the early months of the pandemic was far lower compared to the previous year. This was largely driven by decreases in property crime, as the shift to remote work arrangements and restrictions on businesses and travel increased guardianship and reduced opportunities for certain property crimes.

Pandemic-related restrictions may have also impacted and presented new barriers to the reporting and detection of other crime types, including family violence and sexual assaults.

As well, the pandemic may have also exacerbated the incidence of hate crimes, which in 2020, increased to the largest number for Canada since at least 2009. Crimes targeting race or ethnicity increased notably, particularly towards the Black, East or Southeast Asian, Indigenous, and South Asian populations.

More analyses of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on police-reported crime statistics can be found at:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00013-eng.htm>

Impact of Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Scoring Rule Changes

In January 2018, Statistics Canada updated its crime reporting methodology for police services across Canada to represent a “victim-centred approach” to recording crimes, which means it is to be believed that the crime occurred unless there is credible evidence to prove it did not. These changes were expected to increase the incidence and decrease the clearance rate for certain crimes, such as sexual assault.

Police agencies across BC implemented these scoring rule changes in January 2019, which contributed in part to notable increases in crime rates and decreases in clearance rates for BC in 2019.

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>

It was anticipated that BC’s crime rates would increase again in 2020, based on the continued impact of these scoring rule changes; however, 2020 crime trends were also significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, resulting in an overall decrease in BC’s crime rates in 2020.

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Table 1: Police-Reported *Criminal Code* Offences in BC

Crime Category	Number of Offences			Rate per Population*			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg
CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES												
Homicide ^{1,2}	90	98	8.9%	1.8	1.9	7.7%	48	37	-22.9%	43	33	-23.3%
Attempted murder ¹	101	102	1.0%	2.0	2.0	-0.1%	64	53	-17.2%	51	48	-5.9%
Sexual offences ³	5,625	5,209	-7.4%	1.1	1.0	-8.4%	2,406	2,412	0.2%	1,817	1,919	5.6%
Sexual offences before January 4, 1983 ⁴	66	50	-24.2%	0.0	0.0	-25.1%	23	26	13.0%	18	15	-16.7%
Offences in relation to sexual services ⁵	152	118	-22.4%	0.0	0.0	-23.2%	45	20	-55.6%	30	5	-83.3%
Assault offences ⁶	40,554	39,360	-2.9%	8.0	7.6	-4.0%	23,285	22,058	-5.3%	14,172	13,618	-3.9%
Firearms	369	385	4.3%	0.1	0.1	3.2%	161	178	10.6%	120	143	19.2%
Robbery	2,866	2,674	-6.7%	0.6	0.5	-7.7%	1,116	973	-12.8%	1,072	887	-17.3%
Forcible confinement/kidnapping	392	428	9.2%	0.1	0.1	8.0%	301	340	13.0%	281	335	19.2%
Abduction	65	47	-27.7%	0.0	0.0	-28.5%	22	17	-22.7%	16	15	-6.3%
Extortion	1,052	1,267	20.4%	0.2	0.2	19.1%	145	131	-9.7%	86	71	-17.4%
Criminal harassment	2,272	2,107	-7.3%	0.4	0.4	-8.3%	919	879	-4.4%	478	498	4.2%
Uttering threats	16,391	16,362	-0.2%	3.2	3.2	-1.3%	5,524	5,216	-5.6%	2,292	2,155	-6.0%
Indecent or harassing communications	9,022	9,431	4.5%	1.8	1.8	3.4%	1,177	1,029	-12.6%	122	129	5.7%
Other violent offences ⁷	796	767	-3.6%	0.2	0.1	-4.7%	328	320	-2.4%	196	207	5.6%
Total violent offences	79,813	78,405	-1.8%	15.7	15.2	-2.8%	35,564	33,689	-5.3%	20,794	20,078	-3.4%
Breaking and entering	28,791	24,704	-14.2%	5.7	4.8	-15.1%	3,172	3,080	-2.9%	2,636	2,434	-7.7%
Possession of stolen property	5,275	4,257	-19.3%	1.0	0.8	-20.2%	2,107	1,688	-19.9%	1,568	1,226	-21.8%
Trafficking in stolen property ⁸	43	34	-20.9%	0.0	0.0	-21.8%	12	7	-41.7%	15	5	-66.7%
Theft of motor vehicle ⁹	13,356	10,359	-22.4%	2.6	2.0	-23.3%	1,003	893	-11.0%	442	419	-5.2%
Theft ¹⁰	138,622	103,051	-25.7%	27.2	20.0	-26.5%	15,416	10,338	-32.9%	7,278	4,577	-37.1%
Fraud ¹¹	27,183	25,804	-5.1%	5.3	5.0	-6.1%	3,241	2,120	-34.6%	2,144	1,432	-33.2%
Mischief	54,843	54,995	0.3%	10.8	10.7	-0.8%	10,416	9,703	-6.8%	1,762	1,660	-5.8%
Arson	1,555	1,745	12.2%	0.3	0.3	11.0%	154	164	6.5%	78	105	34.6%
Altering, removing or destroying VIN ¹²	1	3	200.0%	0.0	0.0	196.7%	1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%
Total property offences	269,669	224,952	-16.6%	53.0	43.7	-17.5%	35,522	27,993	-21.2%	15,924	11,858	-25.5%
Counterfeiting	158	117	-25.9%	0.0	0.0	-26.8%	158	117	-25.9%	127	85	-33.1%
Weapons	4,366	4,637	6.2%	0.9	0.9	5.0%	2,612	2,921	11.8%	1,278	1,399	9.5%
Child pornography ¹³	3,219	4,684	45.5%	0.6	0.9	43.9%	191	183	-4.2%	120	92	-23.3%
Other offences in relation to sexual services ^{5,14}	41	14	-65.9%	0.0	0.0	-66.2%	5	3	-40.0%	4	0	-100%
Disturb the peace	50,338	48,299	-4.1%	9.9	9.4	-5.1%	14,223	11,417	-19.7%	818	493	-39.7%
Administration of justice ¹⁵	23,606	23,132	-2.0%	4.6	4.5	-3.1%	19,494	18,856	-3.3%	14,210	12,349	-13.1%
Other violations ¹⁶	8,553	7,714	-9.8%	1.7	1.5	-10.8%	3,564	3,089	-13.3%	1,861	1,526	-18.0%
Total other Criminal Code offences	90,281	88,597	-1.9%	17.7	17.2	-2.9%	40,247	36,586	-9.1%	18,418	15,944	-13.4%
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES (excluding traffic)	439,763	391,954	-10.9%	86.4	76.1	-11.9%	111,333	98,268	-11.7%	55,136	47,880	-13.2%

*Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 population, with the exception of homicides and attempted murders, which are calculated per 100,000 population. Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

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Table 2: Police-Reported Drug Offences in BC

<i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i>	Number of Offences			Rate per Population*			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg
Cannabis ¹⁷	352	98	-	0.1	0.0	-	59	8	-	22	3	-
Cocaine	3,498	2,966	-15.2%	0.7	0.6	-16.1%	1,501	1,369	-8.8%	802	746	-7.0%
Heroin	1,711	1,240	-27.5%	0.3	0.2	-28.3%	813	691	-15.0%	306	166	-45.8%
Non-heroin opioids ¹⁸	1,953	2,772	41.9%	0.4	0.5	40.4%	1,437	1,995	38.8%	860	996	15.8%
Methamphetamines	3,267	3,103	-5.0%	0.6	0.6	-6.1%	2,157	2,080	-3.6%	944	843	-10.7%
Other ¹⁹	5,414	5,156	-4.8%	1.1	1.0	-5.8%	1,325	1,460	10.2%	513	609	18.7%
Total CDSA offences	16,195	15,335	-5.3%	3.2	3.0	-6.4%	7,292	7,603	4.3%	3,447	3,363	-2.4%
Total Cannabis Act offences²⁰	3,615	5,135	42.0%	0.7	1.0	40.5%	628	539	-14.2%	180	153	-15.0%
TOTAL DRUG OFFENCES²¹	19,810	20,470	3.3%	3.9	4.0	2.2%	7,920	8,142	2.8%	3,627	3,516	-3.1%

*Crime rates for the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and the *Cannabis Act* are calculated per 1,000 population. Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

Table 3: Crime Rate (BC and Canada)

Crime Rate*	BC			Canada		
	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg
Violent crime rate	15.7	15.2	-2.8%	12.8	12.5	-2.0%
Property crime rate	53.0	43.7	-17.5%	35.1	30.7	-12.6%
Other crime rate	17.7	17.2	-2.9%	10.9	9.8	-10.2%
Overall Criminal Code crime rate	86.4	76.1	-11.9%	58.8	53.0	-9.8%

*Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 population. Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

Table 4: Clearance Rate (BC and Canada)

Clearance Rate	BC			Canada		
	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg
Violent crime clearance rate	44.6%	43.0%	-3.6%	61.0%	60.1%	-1.5%
Property crime clearance rate	13.2%	12.4%	-5.5%	19.6%	18.8%	-4.1%
Other crime clearance rate	44.6%	41.3%	-7.4%	72.1%	67.2%	-6.8%
Overall Criminal Code clearance rate	25.3%	25.1%	-1.0%	38.3%	37.5%	-2.1%

Table 5: Crime Severity Index (BC and Canada)

Crime Severity Index	BC			Canada		
	2019	2020	% Chg	2019	2020	% Chg
Violent crime severity index	91.8	89.5	-2.6%	90.3	87.0	-3.6%
Non-violent crime severity index	108.6	97.7	-10.0%	75.8	68.4	-9.8%
Youth crime severity index	38.8	28.2	-27.3%	55.1	42.3	-23.2%
Overall crime severity index	104.4	95.7	-8.3%	79.8	73.4	-7.9%

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Endnotes

1. The **crime rates** for homicides and attempted murders are calculated on a per 100,000 **population** basis due to the small number of homicide and attempted murder offences. All other **crime rates** in this document are calculated on a per 1,000 population basis.
2. In general, the UCR Survey counts an adult or youth **charged** for the year in which the charge was recommended. The homicide totals, which come from the Homicide Survey, count an adult or youth **charged** with a homicide that occurred in the year the crime was reported to the police, regardless of the year in which the charge was recommended.
3. **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.
4. 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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. 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.
9. In 2011, a new UCR violation code for **motor vehicle theft** was created, replacing the previous UCR violations of motor vehicle theft over \$5,000 and motor vehicle theft \$5,000 and under.
10. **Thefts** include theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle) and theft under \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle).
11. **Fraud** offences include fraud, identity theft, and identity fraud.
12. 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.
13. 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.

14. 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.
15. **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.
16. **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 rights 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.
17. **Cannabis** includes all cannabis-related offences that were under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)*. 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. After 2018, there were still cannabis offences recorded under the CDSA. However, as these offences should have been expired at the end of 2018, percentage changes for these CDSA offences have not been included after 2018, and comparisons of incident counts after 2018 should be made with caution.
18. **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.
19. **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.
20. The *Cannabis Act* came into force on October 17, 2018.
21. **Total drug offences** include *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)* and *Cannabis Act* offences.

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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 accounts 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.

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- **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.
- **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.
- **Crime Severity Index (CSI)** is a tool developed by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS) in 2009 for measuring police-reported crime in Canada. CSIs account for the change in the level of severity of crime in from year to year in comparison to other crimes. CSIs use weights which assign higher values to more serious crimes and lower values to less serious high-volume crimes based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. The CSI includes all *Criminal Code* violations including traffic, as well as drug violations and other federal statutes. 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. The CSI weights are periodically updated, and CSI values have been calculated back to 1998.

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.
- 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 population estimates reported in this document and used to calculate crime rates are provided by BC Stats and may vary from those provided by Statistics Canada.
 - Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2020



Sources

Crime Data

Statistics Canada. 2021. *Table 35-10-0184-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in British Columbia*. Statistics Canada database. Released July 27, 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510018401> (accessed July 27, 2021).

Statistics Canada. 2021. *Table 35-10-0063-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in British Columbia*. Statistics Canada database. Released July 27, 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510006301> (accessed July 27, 2021).

Population Data

BC Stats, Ministry of Citizens' Services, Province of British Columbia. Last updated June 2021.