



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Policing and Security Branch

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021

Table of Contents

Summary	1
Key Impacts on Crime Statistics	2
Table 1: Police-Reported <i>Criminal Code</i> Offences in BC	3
Table 2: Police-Reported Drug Offences in BC	4
Table 3: Crime Rate (BC and Canada).....	5
Table 4: Clearance Rate (BC and Canada).....	5
Table 5: Crime Severity Index (BC and Canada)	5
Endnotes	6
Definitions and Data Qualifiers	8
Sources	10

Date Prepared: November 2022

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021

Summary

- In 2021, BC's police-reported **crime rate** (excluding traffic) decreased by 3.9%, from 77.9 to 74.9 offences per 1,000 population.
- BC's overall **Crime Severity Index (CSI)** for 2021 was 92.9, 4.6% lower than BC's 2020 CSI of 97.4, but 2.9% higher than the national CSI of 73.7 (-0.3%). BC's decrease in overall CSI was driven by decreases in breaking and entering (-3,482), as well as theft of \$5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle) (-6,764); partially offset by an increase in homicide (+25).
- **Violent offences** in BC increased by 0.8% in 2021, resulting in a 0.3% decrease in the **violent crime rate**, from 15.6 to 15.5 violent offences per 1,000.
- There were 626 more **violent offences** reported by police in BC in 2021, with the largest increases being homicide (25), extortion (208) and sexual offences (+748). Among violent offences, the largest decreases were offences in relation to sexual services (-44), forcible confinement/kidnapping (-44), and attempted murder (-27).
- BC's **violent CSI** for 2021 was 95.2, 4.3% higher than BC's 2020 violent CSI of 92.9. BC's violent CSI for 2021 was 2.9% higher than the national violent CSI (73.7, -0.3%). BC's increase in violent CSI was driven primarily by increases in homicide (+25) and sexual assault (level 1) (+637); partially offset by a decrease in attempted murder (-29).
- In 2021, 125 **homicides** were reported in BC, 25 more than the 100 reported in 2020 and resulting in a 23.7% increase in the **homicide rate**. There were 70 **attempted murders**, down from the 99 in 2020 and resulting in a lower **attempted murder rate** (1.3 per 100,000; -31.6%).
- **Property offences** in BC decreased by 4.6% in 2021, resulting in a 5.7% decrease in the **property crime rate**, from 44.7 to 42.2 property offences per 1,000. **Other offences** in BC decreased by 1.3% in 2021, resulting in a 2.4% decrease in the **other crime rate**, from 17.6 to 17.2 other offences per 1,000.
- BC's **non-violent CSI** for 2021 was 91.8, 7.6% lower than BC's 2020 non-violent CSI of 99.3 but 37.6% higher than the national non-violent CSI of 66.7 (-2.8%). 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 decreased by 9.0% in 2021, driven by a 46.4% decrease in heroin offences. There was a 8.6% increase in *Cannabis Act* offences. Of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* offences (-9.0%), the only drug category with an increase in BC in 2021 was non-heroin opioids (+3.4%).
- BC's **youth CSI** decreased by 8.4% in 2021 to 26.9 from 29.4 in 2020, 37.4% lower than the national youth CSI of 41.0 (-4.7%).
- Police in BC reported having cleared 36.2% of all *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) in 2021; 41.9% of all violent offences were cleared, as were 17.0% of all **property offences** and 66.2% of all **other offences**. With the exception of the violent crime clearance rate, these clearance rates were higher than the 2020 provincial rates. BC's clearance rate for violent crimes was considerably lower (-27.0%) than Canada's (57.4%) but BC's property and other clearance rates were higher than the national ones (12.1% and 38.7% respectively).

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021



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 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>

Impact of Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) 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>

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021

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

Crime Category	Number of Offences			Rate per Population*			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg
CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES												
Homicide ^{1,2}	100	125	25.0%	1.9	2.4	23.7%	46	43	-6.5%	40	36	-10.0%
Attempted murder ¹	99	70	-29.3%	1.9	1.3	-30.1%	52	43	-17.3%	49	38	-22.4%
Sexual offences ³	5,317	6,065	14.1%	1.0	1.2	12.8%	2,520	2,654	5.3%	2,004	2,024	1.0%
Sexual offences before January 4, 1983 ⁴	57	50	-12.3%	0.0	0.0	-13.2%	33	28	-15.2%	19	17	-10.5%
Offences in relation to sexual services ⁵	121	77	-36.4%	0.0	0.0	-37.0%	21	21	0.0%	5	11	120.0%
Assault offences ⁶	40,329	40,497	0.4%	7.8	7.8	-0.7%	22,565	22,114	-2.0%	13,798	13,543	-1.8%
Firearms	392	369	-5.9%	0.1	0.1	-6.9%	182	168	-7.7%	142	147	3.5%
Robbery	2,707	2,740	1.2%	0.5	0.5	0.1%	985	941	-4.5%	891	844	-5.3%
Forcible confinement/kidnapping	442	398	-10.0%	0.1	0.1	-10.9%	348	295	-15.2%	334	274	-18.0%
Abduction	44	44	0.0%	0.0	0.0	-1.1%	14	15	7.1%	14	10	-28.6%
Extortion	1,320	1,528	15.8%	0.3	0.3	14.5%	136	96	-29.4%	73	66	-9.6%
Criminal harassment	2,184	2,209	1.1%	0.4	0.4	0.1%	913	1,012	10.8%	509	537	5.5%
Uttering threats	16,806	16,686	-0.7%	3.3	3.2	-1.8%	5,352	5,105	-4.6%	2,171	2,072	-4.6%
Indecent or harassing communications	9,583	9,306	-2.9%	1.9	1.8	-3.9%	1,062	1,024	-3.6%	118	133	12.7%
Other violent offences ⁷	797	778	-2.4%	0.2	0.1	-3.4%	335	326	-2.7%	212	265	25.0%
Total violent offences	80,298	80,942	0.8%	15.6	15.5	-0.3%	34,564	33,885	-2.0%	20,379	20,017	-1.8%
Breaking and entering	25,239	21,757	-13.8%	4.9	4.2	-14.7%	3,186	2,644	-17.0%	2,487	1,989	-20.0%
Possession of stolen property	4,318	3,766	-12.8%	0.8	0.7	-13.7%	1,729	1,427	-17.5%	1,237	1,076	-13.0%
Trafficking in stolen property ⁸	34	24	-29.4%	0.0	0.0	-30.2%	9	9	0.0%	6	11	83.3%
Theft of motor vehicle ⁹	10,586	10,684	0.9%	2.1	2.0	-0.2%	936	846	-9.6%	435	385	-11.5%
Theft ¹⁰	105,420	98,656	-6.4%	20.4	18.9	-7.4%	10,632	9,552	-10.2%	4,575	3,674	-19.7%
Fraud ¹¹	26,265	24,700	-6.0%	5.1	4.7	-7.0%	2,223	1,607	-27.7%	1,460	1,003	-31.3%
Mischief	56,881	58,076	2.1%	11.0	11.1	1.0%	10,240	10,280	0.4%	1,662	1,796	8.1%
Arson	1,795	2,198	22.5%	0.3	0.4	21.1%	173	239	38.2%	110	142	29.1%
Altering, removing or destroying VIN ¹²	3	9	200.0%	0.0	0.0	196.8%	0	1	-	0	0	-
Total property offences	230,541	219,870	-4.6%	44.7	42.2	-5.7%	29,128	26,605	-8.7%	11,972	10,076	-15.8%
Counterfeiting	125	74	-40.8%	0.0	0.0	-41.4%	125	74	-40.8%	85	42	-50.6%
Weapons	4,651	4,629	-0.5%	0.9	0.9	-1.5%	2,992	2,779	-7.1%	1,407	1,236	-12.2%
Child pornography ¹³	4,692	4,743	1.1%	0.9	0.9	0.0%	203	217	6.9%	102	111	8.8%
Other offences in relation to sexual services ^{5,14}	16	3	-81.3%	0.0	0.0	-81.5%	3	0	100.0%	0	0	-
Disturb the peace	49,847	50,734	1.8%	9.7	9.7	0.7%	11,960	11,040	-7.7%	506	428	-15.4%
Administration of justice ¹⁵	23,718	22,114	-6.8%	4.6	4.2	-7.8%	19,377	17,701	-8.6%	12,542	9,360	-25.4%
Other violations ¹⁶	7,698	7,251	-5.8%	1.5	1.4	-6.8%	3,179	2,838	-10.7%	1,538	1,400	-9.0%
Total other Criminal Code offences	90,747	89,548	-1.3%	17.6	17.2	-2.4%	37,839	34,649	-8.4%	16,180	12,577	-22.3%
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES (excluding traffic)	401,586	390,360	-2.8%	77.8	74.9	-3.8%	101,531	95,139	-6.3%	48,531	42,670	-12.1%

*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.

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021



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		
	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg
Cannabis ¹⁷	103	8	-	0.0	0.0	-	9	2	-	7	2	-
Cocaine	2,990	2,195	-26.6%	0.6	0.4	-27.4%	1,449	1,093	-24.6%	756	571	-24.5%
Heroin	1,287	690	-46.4%	0.2	0.1	-47.0%	720	366	-49.2%	171	65	-62.0%
Non-heroin opioids ¹⁸	2,872	2,970	3.4%	0.6	0.6	2.3%	2,099	1,850	-11.9%	1,020	701	-31.3%
Methamphetamines	3,209	2,383	-25.7%	0.6	0.5	-26.5%	2,162	1,502	-30.5%	868	471	-45.7%
Other ¹⁹	5,016	4,033	-19.6%	1.0	0.8	-20.5%	1,464	1,253	-14.4%	579	454	-21.6%
Total CDSA offences	15,477	12,279	-20.7%	3.0	2.4	-21.5%	7,903	6,066	-23.2%	3,401	2,264	-33.4%
Total Cannabis Act offences²⁰	10,277	11,156	8.6%	2.0	2.1	7.4%	1,091	506	-53.6%	304	270	-11.2%
TOTAL DRUG OFFENCES²¹	25,754	23,435	-9.0%	5.0	4.5	-10.0%	8,994	6,572	-26.9%	3,705	2,534	-31.6%

*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		
	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg
Violent crime rate	15.6	15.5	-0.6%	12.6	13.2	4.8%
Property crime rate	47.7	42.1	-11.7%	30.8	30.4	-1.3%
Other crime rate	17.6	17.2	-2.3%	9.9	10.1	2.0%
Overall Criminal Code crime rate	77.9	74.9	-3.9%	53.4	53.5	0.2%

*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		
	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg
Violent crime clearance rate	43.0%	41.9%	-2.7%	60.0%	57.4%	-4.4%
Property crime clearance rate	18.8%	17.0%	-9.7%	12.6%	12.1%	-4.2%
Other crime clearance rate	67.1%	66.2%	-1.3%	41.7%	38.7%	-7.2%
Overall Criminal Code clearance rate	37.5%	36.2%	-3.6%	25.3%	24.4%	-3.6%

Table 5: Crime Severity Index (BC and Canada)

Crime Severity Index	BC			Canada		
	2020	2021	% Chg	2020	2021	% Chg
Violent crime severity index	91.2	95.2	4.3%	88.0	92.5	5.1%
Non-violent crime severity index	99.3	91.8	-7.6%	68.7	66.7	-2.8%
Youth crime severity index	29.4	26.9	-8.4%	43.0	41.0	-4.7%
Overall crime severity index	97.4	92.9	-4.6%	73.9	73.7	-0.3%

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021



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.

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021



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 2021 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.

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2021

- **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, 2021



Sources

Crime Data

Statistics Canada. 2022. *Table 35-10-0184-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in British Columbia*. Statistics Canada database. Released August 2, 2022.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510018401> (accessed August 2, 2022).

Statistics Canada. 2022. *Table 35-10-0063-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in British Columbia*. Statistics Canada database. Released August 2, 2022.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510006301> (accessed August 2, 2022).

Population Data

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