



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Policing and Security Branch

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2023

Table of Contents

Summary	2
Key Impacts on Crime Statistics	3
Table 1: Police-Reported <i>Criminal Code</i> Offences in BC	4
Table 2a & 2b: Police-Reported Drug Offences in BC	5
Table 3: Crime Rate (BC and Canada).....	6
Table 4: Clearance Rate (BC and Canada).....	6
Table 5: Crime Severity Index (BC and Canada)	6
Endnotes	7
Definitions and Data Qualifiers	9
Sources	11

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Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2023

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2023



Summary

- Crime rates measure the **volume** of crime reported to police per a set population. Crime Severity Index (CSI) focuses more on crime **severity**, all crimes are assigned a weight based on sentences handed down by Canadian courts. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, as a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.
- In 2023, BC's police-reported overall crime rate, per 1,000 population, slightly decreased (-0.02%), from 74.06 to 74.04.
- BC's overall CSI for 2023 was 104.1, a 3.7% increase from 2022 (100.4). This was larger than the national 2.1% increase to 80.5.
- Offences are generally classified into 3 groups:
 - Violent offences: crimes against persons (see Definitions on page 9 for list of violent offences)
 - Property offences: crimes against property (see Definitions on page 9 for list of property offences)
 - Other offences: crimes that don't fall neatly into the violent or property categories (see Definitions on page 9 for list of other offences)
- The total number of **violent offences** in BC increased in 2023, as a rate this represented a 0.8% increase in the **violent crime rate**, from 15.5 to 15.6 violent offences per 1,000 population. The largest increases were in Assaults and Extortion offences.
- Among violent offences, there were decreases to the following violations: Homicide, Attempted murder, Other violations causing death, Sexual assault offences, Robbery and Abduction.
- In 2023, 123 **homicides** were reported in BC, a 20.6% decrease from 2022 (155).
- There were 67 **attempted murders** reported, down from the 128 reported in 2022, representing a 47.7% decrease in the number of **attempted murder** offences.
- BC's **violent CSI** for 2023 was 96.9, 4.4% lower than 2022 (101.3). That decrease is encouraging when compared to the national violent CSI which increased by 0.4% to 99.5. BC's violent CSI was lower than the national average, the last occurrence of this was in 2018. BC's decrease in violent CSI was driven primarily by the lower number of homicides, attempted murders and sexual offences.
- Although total number of **property offences** in BC increased in 2023, due to population growths this represented a slight decrease in the **property crime rate**, from 41.9 to 40.9 per 1,000 population.
- The total number of **other offences** in BC increased in 2023, resulting in a 5.4% increase in the **other crime rate**, from 16.5 to 17.5 per 1,000 population. This increase was due to large increases in the number of reported offences for child pornography and violations related to animal cruelty.
- BC's **non-violent CSI** for 2023 was 107.9, this is a 7% increase from 2022 of 100.8. The national's non-violent CSI increased 3.1% to 73.5.
- Total **drug offences** in BC decreased by 46.5% in 2023. These marked decreases are primarily due to changes in police charging practices in response to Health Canada's exemption for the province of British Columbia for the personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs, that came into effect on January 31, 2023.
- BC's overall **youth CSI** increased by 9.5% in 2023, higher than the national increase of 6.6%.
- Police in BC reported a weighted clearance rate of 20.5% overall in 2023 (down from 23.7%), with a 37.5% **violent** weighted clearance rate (down from 42.8%), and 14.4% **for non-violent offences** (down from 16%). BC's weighted clearance rates remain lower than national rates for both violent and non-violent offences and fell by a larger proportion (-13.5% versus -3.9%).



Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2023

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.

Factors Influencing Crime

For broader national context on crime trends, please refer to the Statistics Canada publication accompanying this year's data release:

- Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2023 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240725/dq240725b-eng.htm>

Other reporting and analysis is available on the Statistics Canada Crime and Justice Statistics page: https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects-start/crime_and_justice

Past articles can also be accessed through the Juristat publication archive: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/85-002-X#wb-auto-2>

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, 2023



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

Crime Category	Number of Offences			Rate per Population*			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg
CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES												
Homicide ^{1,2}	155	123	-20.6%	2.9	2.2	-24.1%	74	42	-43.2%	65	32	-50.8%
Attempted murder ¹	128	67	-47.7%	2.4	1.2	-50.0%	91	39	-57.1%	63	30	-52.4%
Other violations causing death ³	12	8	-33.3%	0	0	-	12	7	-41.7%	9	8	-11.1%
Sexual offences ⁴	6,230	6,100	-2.1%	1.2	1.1	-8.3%	2,682	2,391	-10.9%	2,073	1,874	-9.6%
Offences - sexual services ⁵	70	90	28.6%	0	0	-	16	18	12.5%	3	3	0.0%
Assault offences ⁶	41,744	43,390	3.9%	7.8	7.9	1.3%	22,313	21,984	-1.5%	13,616	13,644	0.2%
Firearms	408	446	9.3%	0.1	0.1	0.0%	182	201	10.4%	128	154	20.3%
Robbery	2,982	2,880	-3.4%	0.6	0.5	-16.7%	1,083	1,052	-2.9%	948	969	2.2%
Forcible confinement/kidnapping	396	409	3.3%	0.1	0.1	0.0%	288	287	-0.3%	275	288	4.7%
Abduction	51	42	-17.6%	0	0	-	21	28	33.3%	15	19	26.7%
Extortion	2,427	3,228	33.0%	0.5	0.6	20.0%	107	115	7.5%	68	73	7.4%
Criminal harassment	2,140	2,206	3.1%	0.4	0.4	0.0%	913	888	-2.7%	541	494	-8.7%
Uttering threats	15,937	16,925	6.2%	3	3.1	3.3%	4,687	4,549	-2.9%	1,897	1,927	1.6%
Indecent/harassing communication	9,010	9,426	4.6%	1.7	1.7	0.0%	897	853	-4.9%	118	141	19.5%
Other violent offences ⁷	765	865	13.1%	0.1	0.2	100.0%	315	292	-7.3%	230	174	-24.3%
Total violent offences	82,455	86,205	4.5%	15.5	15.6	0.6%	33,683	32,836	-2.5%	20,049	19,830	-1.1%
Breaking and entering	20,772	19,521	-6.0%	3.9	3.5	-10.3%	2,670	2,599	-2.7%	2,096	1,947	-7.1%
Possession of stolen property	3,691	3,662	-0.8%	0.7	0.7	0.0%	1,418	1,314	-7.3%	1,096	913	-16.7%
Trafficking in stolen property	21	41	95.2%	0	0	-	12	24	100.0%	17	22	29.4%
Theft of motor vehicle	10,762	9,738	-9.5%	2	1.8	-10.0%	805	773	-4.0%	405	398	-1.7%
Theft ⁸	103,516	102,752	-0.7%	19.5	18.6	-4.6%	10,874	12,195	12.1%	4,318	4,642	7.5%
Fraud ⁹	25,442	28,769	13.1%	4.8	5.2	8.3%	1,523	1,618	6.2%	957	1,010	5.5%
Total mischief	56,670	58,959	4.0%	10.7	10.7	0.0%	9,903	10,242	3.4%	1,725	1,762	2.1%
Arson	2,202	2,285	3.8%	0.4	0.4	0.0%	225	263	16.9%	143	163	14.0%
Alter, remove or destroy VIN	2	4	100.0%	0	0	-	0	1	-	0	1	-
Total property offences	223,078	225,731	1.2%	41.9	40.9	-2.4%	27,430	29,029	5.8%	10,757	10,858	0.9%
Counterfeiting	62	37	-40.3%	0	0	-	62	37	-40.3%	30	28	-6.7%
Weapons violations	4,368	4,731	8.3%	0.8	0.9	12.5%	2,328	2,452	5.3%	1,071	1,114	4.0%
Child pornography	6,891	13,193	91.5%	1.3	2.4	84.6%	157	187	19.1%	87	90	3.4%
Other offences - sexual services	9	1	-88.9%	0	0	-	1	0	-100.0%	0	0	-
Disturb the peace	48,797	50,451	3.4%	9.2	9.1	-1.1%	10,051	9,869	-1.8%	487	466	-4.3%
Administration of justice ¹⁰	21,555	21,428	-0.6%	4.1	3.9	-4.9%	17,289	16,778	-3.0%	8,646	8,685	0.5%
Violations related to animal cruelty ¹¹	183	356	94.5%	0	0.1	-	25	44	76.0%	6	21	250.0%
Other violations ¹²	6,530	6,503	-0.4%	1.2	1.2	0.0%	2,634	2,514	-4.6%	1,222	1,143	-6.5%
Total other offences	88,395	96,700	9.4%	16.6	17.5	5.4%	32,547	31,881	-2.0%	11,549	11,547	0.0%
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES (excluding traffic)	393,928	408,636	3.7%	74.1	74.0	0.0%	95,860	92,349	-3.7%	42,790	42,151	-1.5%

*Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 population, except for 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, 2023

Table 2a: Police-Reported Drug Offences in BC by Substance

<i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i>	Number of Offences			Rate per Population			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg
Cannabis ¹³	2	0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	-	3	0	-100.0%	4	0	-100.0%
Cocaine	2,047	1,342	-34.4%	0.4	0.2	-50.0%	957	636	-33.5%	405	330	-18.5%
Heroin	332	104	-68.7%	0.1	0.0	-100.0%	155	32	-79.4%	33	14	-57.6%
Opioids ¹⁴	2,382	1,486	-37.6%	0.4	0.3	-25.0%	1,475	844	-42.8%	506	475	-6.1%
Methamphetamines	2,010	860	-57.2%	0.4	0.2	-50.0%	1,150	433	-62.3%	306	162	-47.1%
Methylenedioxyamphetamine	114	61	-46.5%	0.0	0.0	-	25	20	-20.0%	9	8	-11.1%
Other ¹⁵	5,913	2,850	-51.8%	1.1	0.5	-54.5%	1,045	570	-45.5%	375	220	-41.3%

Table 2b: Police-Reported Drug Offences in BC by Offence

<i>CDSA by Offence</i>	Number of Offences			Rate per Population			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg	2022	2023	% Chg
Possession	6,269	2,460	-60.8%	1.2	0.4	-66.7%	3,552	1,256	-64.6%	726	346	-52.3%
Production	36	28	-22.2%	0.0	0.0	-	10	4	-60.0%	17	9	-47.1%
Trafficking	2,497	2,647	6.0%	0.5	0.5	0.0%	1,190	1,211	1.8%	882	842	-4.5%
Importation and exportation	3,973	1,561	-60.7%	0.7	0.3	-57.1%	54	64	18.5%	11	12	9.1%
Possession, sale, etc. ¹⁶	25	7	-72.0%	0.0	0.0	-	4	0	-100.0%	2	0	-100.0%
Total CDSA Offences	12,800	6,703	-47.6%	2.4	1.2	-50.0%	4,810	2,535	-47.3%	1,638	1,209	-26.2%
Total Cannabis Act offences ¹⁷	4,907	2,765	-43.7%	0.9	0.5	-44.4%	228	152	-33.3%	90	66	-26.7%
Total Drug Offences ¹⁸	17,707	9,468	-46.5%	3.3	1.7	-48.5%	5,038	2,687	-46.7%	1,728	1,275	-26.2%

*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.

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2023



Table 3: Crime Rate (BC and Canada)

Crime Rate ¹⁹	BC			Canada		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Violent crime rate	15.5	15.6	0.6%	14.5	15.5	6.8%
Property crime rate	41.9	40.9	-2.5%	35.0	36.8	5.0%
Other crime rate	16.6	17.5	5.4%	10.5	11.1	5.7%
Overall <i>Criminal Code</i> crime rate (excluding traffic)	74.1	74.0	0.0%	60.0	63.3	5.6%

Table 4: Clearance Rate (BC and Canada)

Weighted Clearance Rate	BC			Canada		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Violent crime clearance rate	42.8%	37.5%	-12.4%	55.8%	53.8%	-3.5%
Non-violent crime clearance rate	16.0%	14.4%	-10.2%	25.0%	24.2%	-3.2%
Overall weighted clearance rate²⁰	23.7%	20.5%	-13.5%	36.0%	34.6%	-3.9%

Table 5: Crime Severity Index (BC and Canada)

Crime Severity Index	BC			Canada		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Violent crime severity index	101.3	96.9	-4.4%	99.1	99.5	0.4%
Non-violent crime severity index	100.8	107.9	7.0%	71.3	73.5	3.1%
Youth crime severity index	31.0	34.0	9.5%	50.4	53.7	6.6%
Youth Violent crime severity index	49.4	44.8	10.4%	83.2	86.2	3.6%
Youth Non-violent crime severity index	23.2	21.4	8.2%	27.5	31.1	13.0%
Overall crime severity index	100.4	104.1	3.7%	78.8	80.5	2.1%

¹⁹Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 population. Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

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 **The Other Violations causing death** category includes the following: Criminal negligence causing death and Other related violations causing death.
- 4 **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 and sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983.
- 5 **Offences in relation to sexual services** is an 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, other sexual violations, incest, corrupting morals of a child, bestiality, voyeurism, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, trap likely to or causing bodily harm, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, intimidation (justice participant or a journalist, non-justice participant), explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson (disregard for human life), failure to comply with mandatory safeguards in relation to medical assistance in dying, forging or destroying documents related to assistance requests with criminal intent, and other violent violations.
- 8 **Thefts** include theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle) and theft under \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle).
- 9 **Fraud** offences include fraud, identity theft, and identity fraud.
- 10 **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.
- 11 **Total violations related to animal cruelty** is reported separately by Statistics Canada as of 2022.
- 12 **Total “other” violations** 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, 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.
- 13 **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. The Province of British Columbia received a three-year exemption under the CDSA from Health Canada for the decriminalization of personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs in British Columbia. The exemption came into effect on January 31, 2023, and will be in place until January 31, 2026. In

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2023



May 2024, the Province applied for an update to the exemption to specify certain locations (e.g., private homes, shelters, and outpatient addiction, overdose prevention and drug-checking service locations) where the exemption applies.

- 14 **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.
- 15 **Other** includes Possession, sale, etc., for use in production of or trafficking in substance, 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.
- 16 Possession, sale, etc., for use in production of or trafficking in substance and possess, produce, sell, distribute or import anything for use in production or distribution of illicit cannabis are standalone violations. As such they are included in a separate row.
- 17 The *Cannabis Act* came into force on October 17, 2018. **Total Cannabis Act offences** include contraventions of the Act related to the possession, distribution, sale, importation / exportation, or production of cannabis, and other related offences (including the use of young person in the commission of a cannabis offence).
**Cannabis Act offences were erroneously inflated in the 2021 Crime Statistics in BC publication. This has been corrected, so listed 2021 totals may differ from past publications.*
- 18 **Total drug offences** include *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and *Cannabis Act* offences.
- 19 Rates in Table 3 are calculated using population data from BC Stats, so they may differ from those reported by Statistics Canada. They may also vary from past documents as both crime and population figures shift. However, the rate for Canada's Crime Rate was calculated with the 2021 Census of Population available on Statistics Canada.
- 20 The weighted clearance rate is based on the same principles as the Police Reported Crime Severity Index (CSI), whereby more serious offences are assigned a higher "weight" than less serious offences. For example, the clearing of homicides, robberies or break and enters would represent a greater contribution to the overall weighted clearance rate value than the clearing of minor theft, mischief or disturbing the peace. (Statistics Canada, Table: 35-10-0026-01)

Definitions and Data Qualifiers

- 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. Many shifts in crime trends in 2020 (and the years that followed) may be attributable to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which brought widespread and unprecedented changes to daily life. As well, crime trends in 2018 and 2019 may be attributable in part to Statistics Canada's changes in its reporting methodology for police services across Canada to represent a "victim-centred approach" to recording crimes. Many police agencies across Canada implemented these changes at varying points throughout 2018, and BC's roll-out of these changes occurred in 2019.

- **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: Earlier 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. The Province of British Columbia received a three-year exemption under the CDSA from Health Canada for the decriminalization of personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs in British Columbia. The exemption came into effect on January 31, 2023, and will be in place until January 31, 2026. In May 2024, the Province applied for an update to the exemption to specify certain locations (e.g., private homes, shelters, and outpatient addiction, overdose prevention and drug-checking service locations) where the exemption applies.

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2023



- **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.”

- **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 six 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.
 - The **Youth Violent CSI** is based on the same principles as the Violent 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 Statistics in British Columbia, 2023

- The **Youth Non-violent CSI** is based on the same principles as the Non-Violent 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.

Sources

Crime Data

Statistics Canada. 2023. Table 35-10-0184-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in British Columbia. Statistics Canada database. Released July 25, 2024. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510018401> (accessed July 25, 2024).

Statistics Canada. 2023. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas. Released July 25, 2024. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510002601> (accessed July 25, 2024).

Population Data

BC Stats, Ministry of Citizens' Services, Province of British Columbia. Last updated July 2024.