



Policing and Security Branch Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Open Data Sources Definitions and Data Qualifiers

Table of Contents

Open Data	2
Population Data	3
Survey of British Columbians' Perception of Police	4
Security Licences Data	5
Policing Jurisdictions	7
Structure of Policing	7
Policing Jurisdiction Notes	8
Crime Data	13

Open Data

As a part of the broader Ministry of Justice Reform Initiative and the BC Government's Open Information and Open Data Initiative, the Justice System Open Data Initiative seeks to increase transparency and public accountability through the creation and publication of datasets onto the [DataBC Catalogue](#).

Policing and Security Branch has published law enforcement-related datasets on the [DataBC Catalogue](#) for public use. A description of the data sources and their related definitions and data qualifiers are provided in this document. For further information on Open Data and the DataBC Catalogue, refer to: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/about-data-management/databc>.

Population Data

Population figures are estimates prepared annually by BC Stats in the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, Province of British Columbia, that are based on the results of the Canada Census, which is conducted every five years. Note: In the 2011 Census, Statistics Canada adjusted the census boundary geographies and, as a result, the population estimates provided by BC Stats have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the updated census boundaries according to current police jurisdiction boundaries. These ten year population estimates may significantly differ from estimates included in previous data extracts.

Population figures reflect only the permanent or resident population of a jurisdiction. Where a jurisdiction serves as a business and/or entertainment centre, it may have substantial “part-time” and “resident non-resident” populations relative to its resident or “late night” population, i.e., tourists, cabin owners, commuters, students, and seasonal staff. These temporary populations, whose permanent residence is within another jurisdiction, are excluded from a jurisdiction’s population figures.

Source: BC Stats, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, Province of British Columbia. Last updated March 2017.

For further information, refer to: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>.

Survey of British Columbians' Perception of Police

A telephone survey of public perceptions of the police was conducted in June/July, 2012. The survey was designed by Policing and Security Branch based on existing standardized survey instruments used in Canada and internationally. Sentis Market Research was retained to conduct the survey.

A total of 2,400 surveys were completed. For this total sample the results have a maximum margin of error of +/-2% at the 95% level of confidence.

The methodology consisted of random digit dialing with preferential selection for those aged 15-34, as they are the most difficult age cohort to survey. Quotas were set by region, age and gender to reflect the population in BC. Some categories were somewhat under and over-represented in the survey population relative to the actual population. To correct for this, a weight variable was applied to the data. This weight variable ensures that the distributions for region, age and gender in the sample match exactly the distributions for region, age and gender in the actual BC population.

The survey contained questions on the following topics:

- public confidence in local police departments and police in general in BC;
- perceptions of how well police are doing on a variety aspects of policing including enforcement, public safety, and public relations;
- the type of contact the public has with police and measures of satisfaction with the way in which they were dealt with;
- perception of public safety in one's own neighbourhood and the perceived change in the level of safety compared to a year ago and to other neighbourhoods;
- the degree to which the public is concerned about being victimized;
- the incidence of crime experienced by the public and the degree to which crime is not reported and the associated reasons for not doing so; and
- the awareness of services and programs offered for victims of crime.

A report on the results of the survey was published on Policing and Security Branch's website in February 2013 as a part of the BC Policing Plan consultation document. For further information, refer to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/community/csp-5.pdf>.

Security Licences Data

In BC, businesses and individuals (workers) offering security services must hold a valid security licence as per the terms of the *Security Services Act (2007)*. The Registrar, Security Services issues each approved applicant a licence that outlines the conditions of the licence, the types of security services the business or individual may provide and special authorizations such as the use of dogs and restraints while performing security duties.

For the total number of security worker and security business licences issued, the totals may be less than the sum of the column due to licences holding multiple categories.

Below is a list of Security Service 'licence types' that require a licence.

Security guard: Provides or supervises a guard patrol or watch of property, provides or supervises a guard of an individual, performs services to prevent the loss of property, and/or provides door security at an establishment licensed under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*. Security guards can also respond and monitor alarms installed on the property of another person. Security Guard Under Supervision does the work of a security guard only under the direct supervision of a fully licensed security guard.

Security Alarm Installer: A person who sells, supplies, provides advice on, or offers to install a security alarm and maintains or repairs security alarms. A Security Alarm Installer can also code or recode an electronic locking device, make, sell or otherwise provide a lock operating device for an electronic locking device. This type of licensee can also sell, supply, provide advice on, service or install any closed circuit television equipment device or system. Security Alarm Installer Under Supervision must work under the direct supervision of a fully licensed Security Alarm Installer.

Security Alarm Monitor: Monitors security alarms installed on the property of another person.

Security Alarm Responder: Responds to and monitors security alarms installed on the property of another person.

Security Alarm Sellers: Sells or gives advice on security alarms. Note: a person who sells security alarms but does not attend the premises where the security alarm has been or will be installed does not require a licence under the *Security Services Act*.

Security Consultant: A person who advises on methods of protecting property from vandalism, intrusion, trespass or theft; or provides the service of detecting electromagnetic, acoustical or other devices by which private communications or records may be intercepted, transmitted or examined.

Armoured Car Guard: Armoured car services transport property, valuables and money in approved armoured vehicles. Armoured car guards may possess firearms in connection with their employment upon providing proof to the Registrar that they have a current, valid Authorization to Carry a restricted firearm certificate (ATC).

Locksmith: A locksmith is a person who makes, services, repairs, codes, records, rekeys or repins any locking device (except a person who codes or recodes a device that person owns), cuts, makes, sells or otherwise provides restricted keys, cuts, makes, sells or otherwise provides keys from a numerical or alphabetical code or a combination of numerical and alphabetical codes, sells, services or repairs safes, vaults or other similar secure storage methods or sells, supplies and installs an electronic locking device. Locksmith Under Supervision performs the work of a locksmith only while under the direct supervision of a fully licensed locksmith.

Private Investigator: A private investigator is a person, who for consideration, seeks or obtains information about crimes, offences, contraventions or misconduct, or allegations of crimes, offences contraventions or misconduct, the activities, character or repute of a person or organization, the whereabouts of a person, the location, disposition or recovery of lost, stolen or missing property, and/or the cause of or the responsibility for any fire, accident or incident in which damage to property or injury to any person has occurred. Private Investigator Under Supervision performs the work of a private investigator only under the supervision of a fully licensed private investigator.

Closed Circuit Television Installer: Provides a service of selling, supplying, providing advice on, servicing or installing any closed circuit television equipment, device or system.

Electronic Locking Device (Access Control) Installer: Provides the following services: selling, supplying, providing advice on, servicing or installing an electronic locking device, coding or recoding an electronic locking device, and/or making, selling or providing a lock-operating device for an electronic locking device.

Body Armour Sales/Vendor: The selling of body armour may only be done by licensed security businesses (with licence type body armour vendor listed on their licence) and by licensed security workers (who have licence type body armour sales listed on their licence). Licensed security businesses and licensed security workers do not have to apply for a permit to possess body armour for the purposes of sales.

For further information, refer to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/security-services/security-industry-licensing/statistics>.

Policing Jurisdictions

Structure of Policing

Under the BC *Police Act* a municipality must assume responsibility for its police services when, as a result of a Canada Census, its population reaches 5,000 persons. These municipalities may form their own independent municipal police department, contract with an existing independent police department, or contract with the provincial government for RCMP municipal police services.

- **Independent Municipal Police Departments (Mun):** Twelve municipalities in BC are policed by eleven independent municipal police departments. The independent municipal police departments are: Vancouver, Victoria (which polices the municipalities of Victoria and Esquimalt), Saanich, Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Delta, Abbotsford, New Westminster, West Vancouver, Nelson and Port Moody. These police departments are referred to as “independent” as they are governed by the municipality's police board. The role of the police board is to provide general direction to the department, in accordance with relevant legislation and in response to community needs.
- **RCMP Municipal Police Force (Mun):** The *Municipal Policing Agreement* (MPA) enables the Province to sub-contract the RCMP provincial force to municipalities. The MPA describes the terms and conditions for the provision of RCMP municipal police services. To contract RCMP municipal services, each municipality must sign a *Municipal Police Unit Agreement* (MPUA) with the Province.
- **RCMP Provincial Police Force (Prov):** Under the *Provincial Police Service Agreement* (PPSA) rural and unincorporated areas of BC are policed by the RCMP provincial force. Provincial detachment policing provides local police services to municipalities under 5,000 population and unincorporated areas.
- **First Nations Aboriginal Police Service (FNAPS):** There is one First Nations Administered Police Service in BC: Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police. This police service is modelled on the structure of an independent municipal police department, with governance provided by a police board whose members are selected from the communities served. Police officers recruited by the police board are either experienced officers or graduates of the Justice Institute of British Columbia's Police Academy. All officers are appointed under the *Police Act*.

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

Policing Jurisdiction Notes

Abbotsford Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Agassiz Prov: Under the *Police Act* and the RCMP police agreements, a municipality becomes responsible for providing police services when it exceeds 5,000 population. Based on 2006 Census data published by BC Statistics, the District of Kent exceeded 5,000 population. As a result, the municipality signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement effective April 1, 2009; prior to that date, the District of Kent was policed as part of Agassiz Prov. As only a partial year of data is available for 2009, some of the year's data may be included in Agassiz Prov.

Armstrong Prov: According to the 2011 Canada Census results released February 8, 2012, the Township of Spallumcheen went over 5,000 population. As a result, the Township became responsible for providing policing within its municipal boundaries effective April 1, 2012. Spallumcheen signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement with the provincial government for the provision of RCMP municipal services. Prior to 2012, Spallumcheen Mun was policed by Armstrong Prov.

Bella Bella Prov: In 2009, crime data for Bella Bella Prov during the months of January to May are estimates.

Boundary/Grand Forks Prov, Boundary/Midway Prov, Castlegar Prov, Kaslo Prov, Nakusp Prov, Nelson Prov, Salmo Prov, Slocan Prov and Trail and Greater District Prov are policed as a regional integrated detachment.

Chilliwack Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Coquitlam Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Creston Mun and Creston Prov: According to the 2011 Canada Census results released February 8, 2012, the Town of Creston went over 5,000 population. As a result, the Town became responsible for providing policing within its municipal boundaries effective April 1, 2012. Creston signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement with the provincial government for the provision of RCMP municipal services. Previous to 2012, the Town of Creston was included in the area policed by Creston Prov.

Delta Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Elk Valley Detachment: Elk Valley is an integrated detachment which includes three provincial policing jurisdictions: Elkford Prov, Fernie Prov and Sparwood Prov.

Houston Prov and Granisle Prov: In 2014, these two jurisdictions were formally amalgamated. Prior to this amalgamation, Houston/Granisle operated in an informally amalgamated manner from two Detachment offices; the main office in the District of Houston and the second in the Village of Granisle. The Granisle office remains and functions as a Community Policing Office.

Kelowna Prov: The District of West Kelowna incorporated in 2007 with a population exceeding 15,000. The District of West Kelowna signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) effective April 1, 2009; prior to that date, the District was policed as part of Kelowna Prov. Although the MPUA was effective April 1, 2009, reporting for 2009 for each of these policing jurisdictions covers the entire year. According to the 2011 Canada Census results released February 8, 2012, the District of Peachland went over 5,000 population. As a result, the District became responsible for providing policing within its municipal boundaries effective April 1, 2012. Peachland signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement with the provincial government for the provision of RCMP municipal services. This change in policing will be reflected in the 2012 publications next year. Previous to 2012, Peachland was included in the area policed by Kelowna Prov.

Kent Mun: Under the *Police Act* and the RCMP police agreements, a municipality becomes responsible for providing police services when it exceeds 5,000 population. Based on 2006 Census data published by BC Statistics, the District of Kent exceeded 5,000 population. As a result, the municipality signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement effective April 1, 2009; prior to that date, the District of Kent was policed as part of Agassiz Prov. As only a partial year of data is available for 2009, some of the year's data may be included in Agassiz Prov.

Langley Township: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Mackenzie Prov: In 2007, the District of Mackenzie went under 5,000 population. Mackenzie opted to continue municipal policing until April 1, 2008 at which time Mackenzie reverted to a provincial force jurisdiction.

Maple Ridge Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations. The integrated Ridge Meadows RCMP Detachment is comprised of the following: the City of Maple Ridge; the City of Pitt Meadows Municipal; and the Ridge Meadows Provincial policing jurisdiction. In 2013/14 the RCMP revised the map boundaries that reside in PRIME-BC for each of the jurisdictions within the Ridge Meadows Detachment. This realignment of jurisdictional boundaries likely resulted in changes in reporting; as a result, reported crime volumes and crime rates prior to 2014 for these individual jurisdictions should be used with caution.

Nanaimo Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District and North Vancouver Prov: Within the municipal boundaries of North Vancouver City and North Vancouver District there are a total of three First Nations reserve lands. The designated land title names for these reserve lands are: Mission 1 (North Vancouver City); Seymour Creek 2; and Burrard Inlet 3 (North Vancouver District). Due to inconsistencies in scoring crime data to the appropriate jurisdictions, in 2006 the populations for these reserve lands were assigned, along with the crime data, to North Vancouver Prov. Prior to 2006, populations for these areas were assigned to North Vancouver District. The crime rate should be used with caution because it may not be a meaningful

indicator for this policing jurisdiction (due to the small residential population in the parks, and the relatively large amount of crimes occurring).

Northern Rockies Prov & Mun: Since the incorporation of Northern Rockies Mun in 2009, until they signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement effective April 1, 2010, Northern Rockies Mun continued to be policed by the provincial force. From April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012 the municipality was policed by Northern Rockies Mun with the remaining area policed by Northern Rockies Prov. More recently, according to the 2011 Canada Census results released February 8, 2012, Northern Rockies Mun went under 5,000 population and, as a result, returned to being a provincial responsibility as of April 1, 2012 (the municipality was no longer responsible for providing police services within its municipal boundaries). A subsequent investigation by Statistics Canada showed that the jurisdiction was over 5,000 and, as a result, responsible for their own policing; Northern Rockies Mun signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement with the provincial government for the provision of RCMP Municipal services effective of April 1, 2013.

Other specialized units: The BC total includes additional reporting from the following specialized units: Canadian National Railway Police, Canadian Pacific Railway Police, RCMP Offshore/West Coast Marine Police, and South Coast BC Transit Authority Police. These specialized units provide supplemental policing in BC; that is, they are mandated to provide policing in geographic areas already served by provincial or municipal police forces but for a specific purpose. For example, in the Lower Mainland area of the province, the South Coast British Columbia Transit Authority Police Service (SCBCTAPS) provides policing on and around the transit system which is supplemental to the jurisdictional police. Similarly, the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway police forces provide specialized law enforcement within the province. These specialized units do not have a specific jurisdiction population for which they are responsible.

Peachland Mun: According to the 2011 Canada Census results released February 8, 2012, the District of Peachland went over 5,000 population and, as a result, the District became responsible for providing policing within its municipal boundaries effective April 1, 2012. Peachland signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement with the provincial government for the provision of RCMP municipal services. Previous to 2012, Peachland was included in the area policed by Kelowna Prov.

Pitt Meadows Mun: The integrated Ridge Meadows RCMP Detachment is comprised of the following: the City of Maple Ridge; the City of Pitt Meadows Municipal; and Ridge Meadows Provincial policing jurisdiction. In 2013/14 the RCMP revised the map boundaries that reside in PRIME-BC for each of the jurisdictions within the Ridge Meadows Detachment. This realignment of jurisdictional boundaries likely resulted in changes in reporting; as a result, CCC volumes and crime rates prior to 2014 for these individual jurisdictions should be used with caution.

Port Coquitlam Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Prince Rupert Prov: As of October 2010, Prince Rupert Provincial Unit took over policing of the Kitasoo/Klemtu area.

Ridge Meadows Prov: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations. Provincial parks are located within the policing jurisdiction of Ridge Meadows Prov. The integrated Ridge Meadows RCMP Detachment is comprised of the following: the City of Maple Ridge; the City of Pitt Meadows Municipal; and, Ridge Meadows Provincial policing jurisdiction. In 2013/14 the RCMP revised the map boundaries that reside in PRIME-BC for each of the jurisdictions within the Ridge Meadows Detachment. This realignment of jurisdictional boundaries likely resulted in changes in reporting; as a result, CCC volumes and crime rates prior to 2014 for these individual jurisdictions should be used with caution.

South Okanagan/Oliver Prov and South Okanagan/Osoyoos Prov are policed as an integrated detachment.

Spallumcheen Mun: According to the 2011 Canada Census results released February 8, 2012, the Township of Spallumcheen went over 5,000 population and, as a result, the Township became responsible for providing policing within its municipal boundaries effective April 1, 2012. Spallumcheen signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement with the provincial government for the provision of RCMP municipal services.

Squamish Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Stl'atl'imx FNAPS: Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service is an autonomous and independent police service.

Sunshine Coast Prov: Sunshine Coast Prov includes the area policed as Gibsons Landing Prov.

Surrey Mun: Statistics for Surrey Prov are included in Surrey Mun. Also, between April 1 and September 30, 2014, the British Columbia Integrated Child Exploitation Unit (BC ICE) undertook a proactive project to record Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in possession of, and possibly sharing child pornography. This resulted in an increase in reported child pornography violations that year and all incidents detected by the BC ICE unit were recorded in the records management system used by Surrey Police Service. Therefore, while the incidents were reported through Surrey and appear in crime statistics for Surrey (and the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area [CMA] as Surrey is within this CMA's boundaries), neither the incidents themselves nor the offenders are limited to Surrey. This will affect the figures seen for Total *Criminal Code* Offences, Crime Rate Total *Criminal Code* Offences, and Total Other *Criminal Code* Offences.

Trail and Greater District: Trail and Greater District is an integrated detachment which includes two provincial policing jurisdictions: Fruitvale Prov and Rossland Prov.

Vancouver Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

Victoria Mun: The Victoria Police Department polices the City of Victoria and the Town of Esquimalt.

West Kelowna Mun: The District of West Kelowna incorporated in 2007 with a population exceeding 15,000. The District of West Kelowna signed a Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) effective April 1, 2009; prior to that date, the District was policed as part of Kelowna Prov. Although the MPUA was effective April 1, 2009, reporting for 2009 for each of these policing jurisdictions covers the entire year.

West Vancouver Mun: Population figures also include First Nations Reserve populations.

British Columbia total: The BC total includes additional reporting from the following specialized units: Canadian National Railway Police, Canadian Pacific Railway Police, RCMP Offshore/West Coast Marine Police, and South Coast BC Transit Authority Police.

For further information, refer to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc>.

Crime Data

Source: *Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime reporting 2 (UCR2) Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Canada, 2017. Reproduced and distributed on an "as is" basis with the permission of Statistics Canada.*

Statistics Canada. 2017. Table 252-0081 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violation and police services, British Columbia, annual, 1998 to 2016. CANSIM database. Last updated July 24, 2017. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=2520081> (accessed December 29, 2017).

Statistics Canada. 2017. Table 252-0089 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, by police service, British Columbia, annual, 1998 to 2016. CANSIM database. Last updated July 24, 2017. <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=2520089> (accessed July 24, 2017).

For definitions, data qualifiers and sources related to datasets on crime types, clearance rate by violation, number of offences cleared by charge, number of offences cleared otherwise, and total number of offences cleared, please see "Overview of Data Collection" here:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/publications-statistics-legislation/crime-police-resource-statistics>.