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Juristat

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 23, no. 5

CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 2002

by Marnie Wallace

Highlights

- Canada's crime rate was relatively stable (-0.6%) in 2002. The crime rate has been generally declining since the early 1990s, and now stands at about the same level as in 1979.
- While most crimes dropped in 2002, increases were seen in homicides, drug offences, prostitution and fraud/counterfeiting.
- Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta and New Brunswick reported the largest increases in crime rates. Quebec and Ontario reported the largest declines. As a result, crime rates in the Atlantic Provinces are now generally higher than in Quebec and Ontario. Saskatchewan's crime rate continues to be the highest among the provinces.
- Violent crimes accounted for 13% of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic, reported by police in 2002. A further 52% were property crimes, and 35% were "other" *Criminal Code* incidents (such as mischief and disturbing the peace).
- The rate of violent crime dropped 2% in 2002. The violent crime rate has been generally declining over the past decade. The decrease was driven by a 3% decline in the rate of robberies and a 2% decline in assaults.
- The homicide rate increased 4% in 2002. There were 582 homicides in 2002, 29 more than the previous year. The increase in the number of homicides at the national level was driven by a large increase in British Columbia, up from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 in 2002. Part of this increase is a result of homicide investigations undertaken by the *Missing Women's Task Force* in Port Coquitlam, B.C. which resulted in 15 homicides which occurred in previous years being reported by police in 2002.
- The property crime rate remained relatively stable in 2002 (-0.8%). The rate of property crimes has been decreasing over the past decade. The rate of break-ins dropped 3% and vehicle thefts were down 5%, while frauds increased by 4%.
- Following the first increase in impaired driving offences in nearly 20 years in 2001, police reported a 3% decrease in impaired driving in 2002.
- The rate of drug offences increased for the ninth consecutive year, up 3%. Since 1992, drug offences have increased by 42%. The rate of cannabis offences was up 2% in 2002, cocaine offences were stable (+1%), and "other" drug offences, including synthetic drugs such as ecstasy and methamphetamine, were up 11%.
- Cannabis offences account for 3 out of every 4 drug offences reported by police in Canada. Of these offences, nearly three-quarters (72%) are for possession of less than 30 grams.
- The rate of youths charged by police dropped 5% in 2002, continuing the downward trend seen over the past decade. Youth violent crime was down 2%, following two years of increases, while youth property crime dropped 5% to its lowest level in over 25 years.



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Introduction

To measure the magnitude, nature and impact of criminal behaviour, there are two main sources of information in Canada: police-reported crime data and victimization surveys. While police-reported data measure crimes known to the police, victimization surveys collect information directly from the general population, regardless of whether the crime was reported to police.

This report is an examination of 2002 police-reported crime in Canada. Data are presented within the context of both short and long-term trends. The analysis focuses on trends in violent crime, property crime, impaired driving offences, drug offences and youth crime. Crime rates are examined at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. The trend in Canada's crime rate is put into perspective by comparing it with the United States and England and Wales. Detailed information on incidents and accused persons is also presented where appropriate. An electronic report with detailed crime tables will be released at a later date.

Since 1962, Canada's police agencies have reported criminal incidents that come to their attention, or that are detected through police investigation, to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey (see methodology section for a description of the survey). The CCJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible.

Interpreting police-reported crime data

Incidents that come to the attention of the police are captured and forwarded to the CCJS according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. The reader should note, however, that many factors may influence police-reported crime statistics. These include: reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the CCJS; the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and, social, economic and demographic changes.

Reporting to police

There are many reasons why victims may not report criminal incidents to police. According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS), these reasons include: the level of perceived seriousness of the incident; not wanting to involve the police; and, fear of reprisals from the aggressor or other negative consequences of criminal justice system intervention. However, other factors such as the desire to see the offender punished, social obligation to report criminal behaviour, as well as the need to obtain a police report for insurance purposes, may encourage people to report certain types of criminal offences to police.¹

Victimization surveys provide estimates of all crimes, including those not reported to police. The failure to report crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of crime in official police statistics. Further, the tolerance of Canadians for certain types of crimes may affect crime rates. For example, greater awareness by the public, police and prosecutors in the areas of family violence, sexual assault and youth crime may lower society's tolerance for these behaviours, which in turn, may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police and encourage police to lay charges.

The most recent Victimization survey was undertaken in 1999 and collected information on eight crime categories. It found that the rates for sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, theft of motor vehicle/parts, and vandalism did not change significantly between 1993 and 1999. However, increased rates were observed for the theft of personal property and household property.

¹ Besserer, S and Trainor, C., "Criminal Victimization in Canada", *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 20, No. 10, p. 11 & 12, 2000.*

Police-reported data from the UCR survey for the same period indicated a declining rate for each of these crime categories. According to the GSS, the percentage of Canadians reporting criminal incidents to police declined between 1993 and 1999. For the eight GSS crime types, 37% of incidents were reported to police in 1999, down slightly from 42% in 1993.² The main reason cited by victims for not reporting was because the incident was deemed “not important enough”.

Reporting by police to the UCR Survey

Crimes reported to the UCR Survey by police agencies are subject to numerous quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada and police agencies work together on an ongoing basis to detect and resolve any difficulties in the reporting of data. Once the data have been processed and edited at Statistics Canada, police services are required to “sign-off” on the final data before it is published.

Changes in legislation, policies and practices

Changes in legislation, policies and police enforcement practices may also have an impact on police-reported statistics. For instance, where an amendment to the *Criminal Code* creates a new offence or broadens the definition of an existing offence, the number of incidents reported to and by police will likely increase.

For certain crimes, the number of offences reported is largely driven by police enforcement. Crimes such as prostitution, drug offences and impaired driving are most often identified through police-enforcement activities, or “proactive” policing, and are rarely reported by the public. Therefore, police enforcement efforts, such as special operations to target these types of crimes, will affect official crime statistics.

Changing demographics

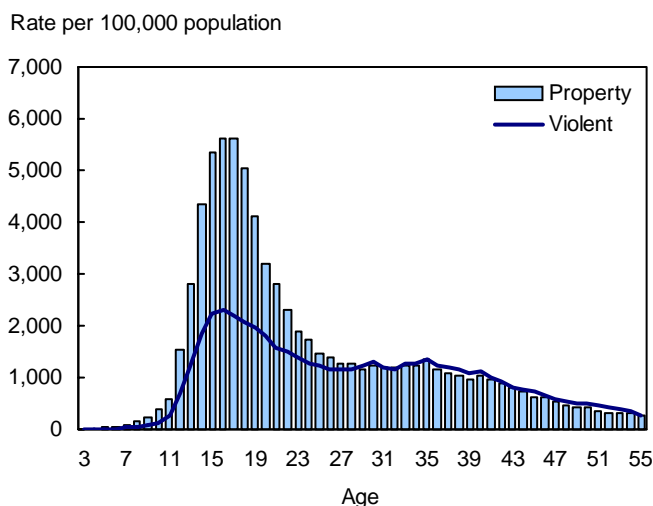
Young persons, those aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 34, have higher rates of offending and victimization than other age groups (Figure 1). In 2002, those aged 15 to 24 represented 13% of the total population while accounting for 46% of those charged with property crimes and 31% of persons charged with violent crimes. In particular, those between 15 and 18 years of age are in the highest risk group for committing both violent and property crimes. Those 25 to 34 years of age accounted for 14% of the population, 18% of property offenders and 24% of violent offenders.

As a result of the higher rates of offending among persons aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 34, and in the absence of changes in any other factors associated with offending behaviours, crime rates can be expected to drop as their share of the population declines. Figure 2 shows that the general decline in crime rates since the early 1990s coincided with a decrease in the proportion of persons aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 in the population throughout this time period. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, as baby-boomers were reaching crime prone ages, there was a corresponding increase in the overall crime rate.

Fluctuations in other social or economic conditions may interact with demographic shifts to affect crime rates. For instance, the Easterlin thesis puts forth the idea that the abilities and

Figure 1

Age specific rates of persons accused of violent and property crime, 2002



Source: Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

resources of our institutions of social control (such as family or schools) are strained in the face of relatively large birth cohorts, and as a result, the members of these large birth cohorts are likely to experience less social control in childhood and adolescence.³ This lack of social control may result in higher numbers of youth and young adults becoming involved in crime. Furthermore, Ouimet⁴ contends that a very large cohort of young people born in Canada during the 1960s had higher levels of criminal involvement than any other, due to more serious difficulties integrating into the job market during the recession in the early 1980s.

2002 Crime Trends

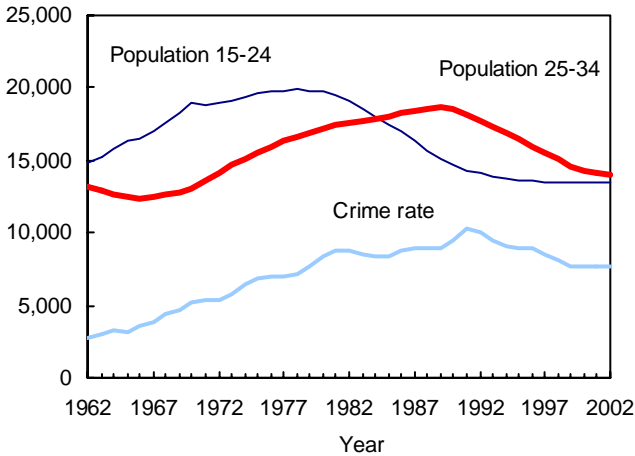
Of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic offences and other federal statutes such as drug offences) reported to police in 2002, 13% were violent crimes, 52% were property crimes, and 35% were “other” *Criminal Code* crimes such as mischief, bail violations, and disturbing the peace (Table 1). Twenty-five years ago property crimes made up 64% of all *Criminal Code* incidents, but that proportion has declined steadily since then. In contrast, the proportion of incidents that are classified as “other” *Criminal Code* offences has been increasing since 1977 when it was only 28%. Violent offences have increased slightly from 8% to 13% of all *Criminal Code* incidents in the past twenty-five years.

² Ibid, Besserer, S and Trainor, C., (2000), p. 11.
³ South, S.J. et al, “Crime and demography: multiple linkages, reciprocal relations”, Annual Review of Sociology. Vol. 26 (2000). P. 83-106.
⁴ Ouimet, M. (2002) “Explaining the American and Canadian crime drop in the 1990s”, Canadian Journal of Criminology 44 (1) :33-50.

Figure 2

Crime Rate and Selected Demographics, Canada, 1962-2002¹

Rate per 100,000 total population



¹ Note that the population 15 - 24 and population 25-34 lines refer to populations in these age groups and not crime rates.
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS and Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 Report catalogue no. 91-213-XIB.

Additionally, there were approximately 118,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (7 out of 10 were impaired driving offences), 93,000 drug incidents and 40,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. Immigration Act, Canada Shipping Act) reported. In total, police reported 2.6 million criminal incidents in 2002.

Crime rate stable

Canada's crime rate was relatively stable in 2002 (-0.6%). The crime rate has generally been declining since the early 1990s. The police-reported crime rate in 2002 (7,590 incidents per 100,000 population) was at about the same level as in 1979 (Table 2). While the crime rate has declined an average of 3% per year (Table 2) since 1991, the 2002 crime rate remains 9% higher than the rate 25 years ago.

The rate of both property crime (-0.8%) and "Other" Criminal Code offences (+0.1%) (such as mischief and disturbing the peace) remained fairly stable this year. The rate of violent crime, however, decreased by 2%.

Reporting Changes to Ontario Data

The crime statistics collected directly from police forces across the country are subject to editing and revision each year. During the revision of the 2001 data for the province of Ontario, a discrepancy in methodology applied by the forces in the province using the Ontario Municipal & Provincial Police Automated Co-operative (OMPPAC) system was detected. These forces report approximately one-third of the total criminal incidents for the province and include the OPP and most of the 41 small and mid-sized municipal forces.

This discrepancy resulted in an over-count of less serious criminal incidents in cases where more than one offence type was associated within the same incident (please see the Methodology section for a description of the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey scoring rules). The net effect was an over-count of the total number of criminal incidents in Ontario for 2001 by about 4%. At the national level, this produced an over-count of criminal incidents of approximately 1%.

The data revision disproportionately affects incident counts for less serious offences that most frequently occur in combination with other offence types. For example, counts for the "possession of stolen property", which often occur during the same incident as the more serious offence of "break & enter", have been revised downward by 13% for Ontario for 2001, while counts for "break & enters" have been revised downward by 3% (see the methodology section for a listing of the impact for other offences).

Comparisons of the revised Ontario data for 2001 and the 2002 data to earlier years should be made with caution as further analysis of the impact on the Ontario time series prior to 2001 has not yet been completed. This analysis may result in a revision to the historical time series to improve the comparability of the historical information.

Key terminology and definitions

Offence or crime

These two terms refer to the number of *Criminal Code* "actual" incidents reported by police to CCJS. The number of actual *Criminal Code* offences does not include traffic offences and other federal statutes such as drug offences, unless noted otherwise. "Actual" incidents are those which have been substantiated through police investigation.

Criminal Incident

One incident can include more than one offence. For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted. Unless otherwise stated, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate

Crime rates are based on the number of incidents reported to police per 100,000 population. Rates are used to make comparisons among geographic areas with different populations and over time.

Accused persons

This includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime as a result of an investigation, regardless of whether or not they have been formally charged.

Persons charged

This term refers to persons who have been formally charged or recommended to be charged by police.

For more information on the UCR Survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report, and *Canadian Crime Statistics*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-205.

International trends

Preliminary data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that the U.S. Crime Index remained relatively stable (-0.2%) in 2002.⁵ Violent crime in the U.S. dropped by 1% in 2002, including a 2% decline in aggravated assault and a 1% decline in robbery. Property crime remained virtually unchanged, compared to last year. Larceny-theft was relatively stable (-0.7%) and arson recorded a 4% decrease, while burglary and motor vehicle theft both increased by 1%.

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Press Release— Preliminary Uniform Crime Report, 2002. <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel03/12month2002.htm>

Reported crime in England and Wales increased an estimated 2% in 2002.⁶ In 2002, violent crime accounted for 16% of all recorded crime, and increased an estimated 2% from the previous year. Among property crimes, domestic burglary increased 5% and other burglary increased 6%.

Crime rate up in Atlantic Provinces

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada (Table 3). Historically, crime rates have increased from east to west in Canada. However, crime rates in the Atlantic Provinces now surpass rates in Quebec and Ontario. As well, Alberta's rate is considerably lower than those of the other Western provinces.

Provincial crime rates ranged from a low of 5,697 per 100,000 population in Quebec, to a high of 13,368 in Saskatchewan in 2002. All three territories reported crime rates that were nearly, or more than, double that of any of the provinces.

Among the provinces reporting increases in crime rates between 2001 and 2002, Prince Edward Island recorded the largest, at 12%. Due to Prince Edward Island's small population base, its crime rate is subject to fairly large year-to-year changes. In this province both violent crime (+15%) and property crime (+8%) increased in 2002. Newfoundland and Labrador (+3%), Alberta and New Brunswick (both up 2%) reported increases as well, as did all three territories. Québec and Ontario reported the largest declines (-2%) between 2001 and 2002.

Saskatchewan is the only province to have shown an increase in crime over the past decade. Its crime rate has increased 16%, from 11,529 per 100,000 population in 1992 to 13,368 in 2002. Manitoba's crime rate has remained virtually unchanged over this time. The remaining provinces have all seen declines in their crime rates.

Crime in census metropolitan areas

In 2002 the crime rate increased in only two of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁷ (Table 4). These nine CMAs represent 46% of all offences reported by police services in Canada, and almost half (49%) of the population of Canada. The increases were reported by Edmonton and Ottawa,⁸ up 5% and 3% respectively. The increases were driven by increased property crime rates and, in the case of Ottawa, "other" crime rates. Of those CMAs reporting decreases, the largest occurred in Hamilton (-8%).

Among the sixteen smaller CMAs with populations between 100,000 and 500,000, the largest declines were reported in Regina (-12%) and Saguenay (-8%). Police in Regina attribute this drop to three main factors: increased personnel and related deployment strategies; intervention and prevention initiatives with youth; and the formation of working partnerships with government and community organisations.⁹ The largest increases in crime rates were seen in Saint John (18%) and St. John's (7%).

Among all 25 CMAs¹⁰ the lowest crime rate was reported by Saguenay (4,233 incidents per 100,000 population) followed by Trois-Rivières (4,716), Québec (4,905) and Toronto (5,281). The highest rates were reported by Regina (14,159) and

Saskatoon (13,234). Regina has had the highest crime rate of all the CMAs every year since 1995.

A number of factors are likely to affect a city's crime rate, among them the age of the people living there. Persons aged 15 to 24 tend to exhibit the highest rates of offending, leading to the expectation that those CMAs with higher than average proportions of people in that age group may also exhibit higher than average crime rates. In Canada, 12.5% of the population falls between the ages of 15 and 24. The CMAs with the highest crime rates, Regina and Saskatoon, both have higher than average proportions of young people, with 15.0% of the population being between the ages of 15 and 24 in Regina, and 14.4% in Saskatoon. As well, three of the four CMAs with the lowest crime rates have lower than average proportions of young people. Factors other than age influence a city's crime rate as well, such as unemployment rates and high concentrations of low income.

In many instances, a single CMA will comprise a number of individual police services. Examining specific police services can give us a clearer picture of how and where crime rates are changing (Table 6). For example, the crime rate in the Toronto CMA fell slightly (-1%) in 2002. When looking at crime rates by police service, however, it becomes clear that this drop was driven by a 9% decrease in the crime rate in Durham, and a 3% decline in Halton. The Toronto Police Service was also down (-1%). One police service within the Toronto CMA, however, reported an increase in its crime rate: York Region was up 3% over the previous year.

Violent Crime

Violent crime down slightly

There were approximately 300,000 violent crimes reported by police in Canada in 2002. Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 3). Assault level 1 represents nearly two-thirds (63%) of this category. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s the rate of violent crime in Canada increased steadily. Since 1993, violent crime has been generally declining, including a 2% decrease in 2002. By 2002, the rate of violent crime in Canada was 11% lower

⁶ See Povey, D., et al, *Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update, 12 months to September 2002*, Home Office, England, January 2003. The percentage change figures from this report are based on the actual numbers of incidents and not rates.

⁷ A census metropolitan area refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been modified slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing law within the boundaries of a single census metropolitan area.

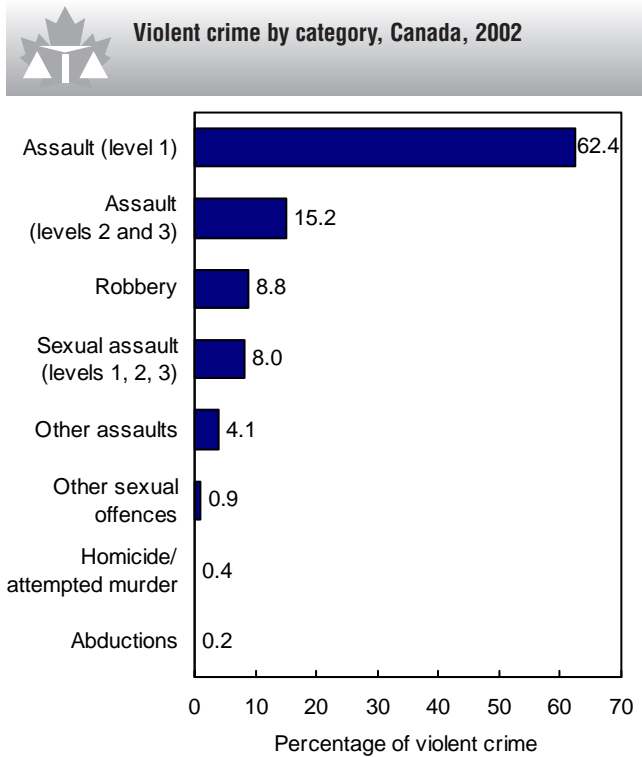
⁸ "Ottawa" in this report refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁹ Regina Police Source, May 30, 2003.

¹⁰ The Oshawa census metropolitan area is excluded from this analysis due to incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

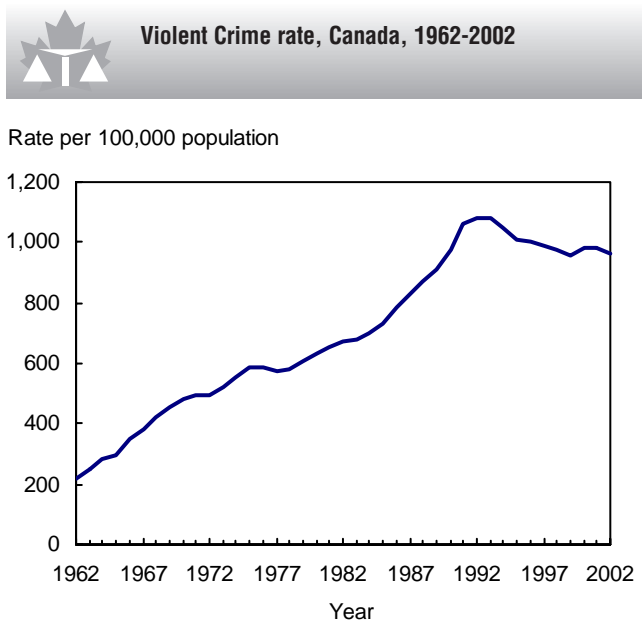
than in 1992, but still two-thirds higher than 25 years ago (Figure 4).

Figure 3



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

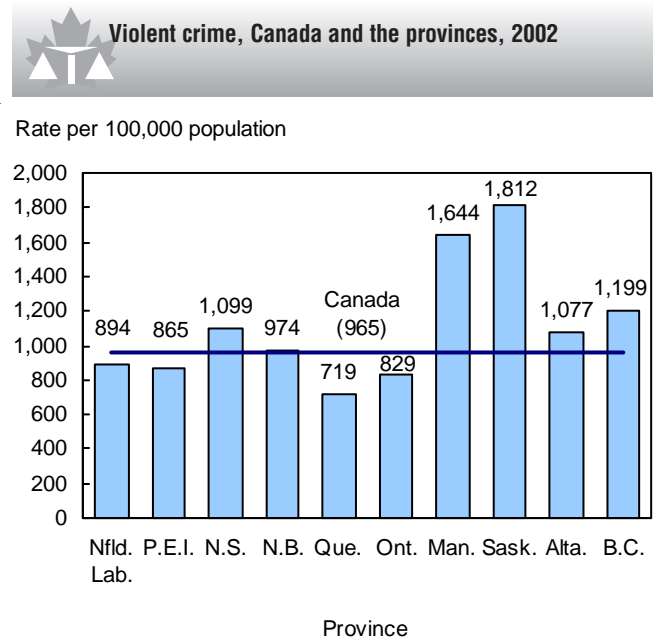
Figure 4



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

For the fourth consecutive year, Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate of violent crime of all the provinces, at 1,812 incidents per 100,000 population (Table 3). Manitoba reported the next highest violent crime rate, at 1,644. The rates in these provinces were considerably higher than in the rest of the provinces (Figure 5), though lower than all three territories. Quebec continued an 8-year trend by reporting the lowest rate of violent crime in the country, at 719 incidents per 100,000 population. The second lowest rate was recorded in Ontario, at 829.

Figure 5



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Ontario (-5%) recorded the largest decrease in violent crime rates among the provinces. New Brunswick and Alberta experienced declines of about 2% each, while the rate in British Columbia was down slightly (-1%). Among the provinces reporting increases, the largest were in Prince Edward Island (+15%), and Nova Scotia (+6%).

All of the nine largest CMAs reported decreases in violent crime rates. The most significant drops occurred in Toronto and Calgary, both down 7%, and in Hamilton, down 6%.

Among the remaining 16 CMAs, nine reported declines in violent crime rates. Most notable were a 10% decline in Kitchener and a 9% decline in Windsor. Of the CMAs reporting increases in violent crime rates in 2002, Trois-Rivières recorded the largest jump (+27%), followed by Saguenay (+13%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (+6%).

Among all 25 CMAs, Saskatoon (1,625), Regina (1,503) and Thunder Bay (1,327) reported the highest violent crime rates, as has been the case for the past four years. The violent crime rate in Regina, however, was the lowest it has been since 1996. The lowest rates were seen in Sherbrooke (483), Saguenay (491) and Québec (513).

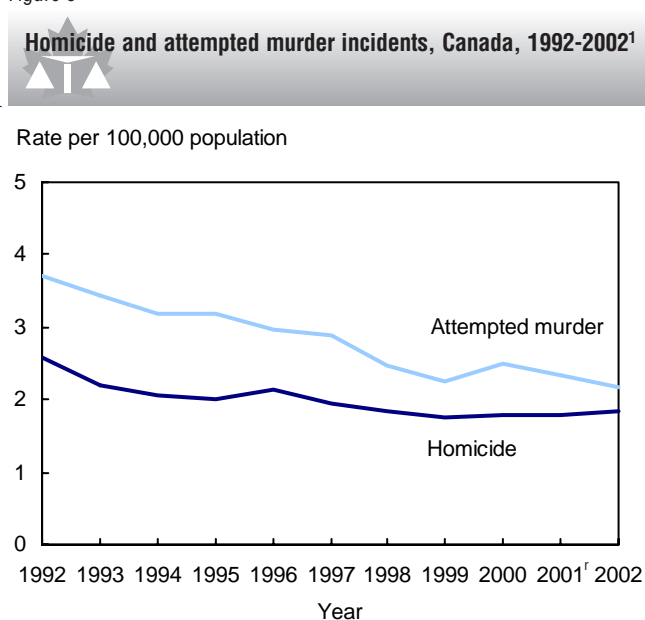
Homicide rate increases

Homicide includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 2002 there were 582 homicides and 682 attempted murders. Together these crimes account for a very small proportion of violent crimes, less than half of one percent.

After two years of stability, the homicide rate increased by 4% in 2002. This is the first increase in the homicide rate since 1996.

The rate of attempted murders experienced its second straight decline in 2002, down 7% from the previous year. Figure 6 illustrates the general decline in both homicide and attempted murder rates over the past decade.

Figure 6



^r revised

¹ Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The increase in the number of homicides at the national level (+29) was driven by a large increase in British Columbia, up from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 in 2002. Part of this increase is a result of homicide investigations undertaken by the *Missing Women's Task Force* in Port Coquitlam, B.C. which resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Four provinces experienced fewer homicides in 2002 than 2001, with the largest decline in Quebec (from 140 homicides in 2001 to 118 in 2002). The rate of homicides in Quebec in 2002 (1.6 per 100,000 population) was the lowest it has been in over 25 years.

Manitoba reported the highest homicide rate among the provinces, at 3.1 incidents per 100,000 population. British Columbia and Saskatchewan followed closely with rates of 3.0 and 2.7 respectively. The lowest rates among the provinces occurred on the east coast, with Newfoundland and Labrador

and Prince Edward Island reporting rates of less than 1 per 100,000 population.

Nine of the 25 CMAs reported a decrease in homicides in 2002. The highest rates of homicide were reported by Saskatoon (3.4), Winnipeg (3.4), and Vancouver (3.3).

Of all persons charged with homicide in 2002, 9% were youths aged 12-17. Although the number of youths charged with homicide increased from 30 in 2001 to 42 in 2002, it should be noted that the 2001 figure was the lowest it has been in over 30 years. The rate of youths charged with homicide has been generally decreasing since 1995. Among the provinces, Manitoba reported the highest rate of youths charged with homicide, at 6.9 incidents per 100,000 youths, followed by British Columbia at 3.4. There were no homicides committed by youth in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia or Saskatchewan in 2002.

Sexual assaults remain stable

Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 (sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and level 3 (sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim). Sexual assaults accounted for 8% of all violent crimes in 2002. Of the over 24,000 sexual assault incidents reported by police, 98% were classified as level 1.

The rate of sexual assaults in Canada has remained virtually unchanged over the past four years. After increasing steadily throughout the 1980s, the sexual assault rate peaked in the early 1990s before experiencing six years of generally large declines. The rate in 2002 (78 incidents per 100,000 population) was at about the same level as it was in 1986. All three levels of sexual assault have decreased over the past decade. The rate of level 1 assaults is down 35%, the rate of level 2 assaults is down 64%, and the rate of level 3 assaults is down 65% from 1992.

Five provinces reported a decrease in sexual assault rates in 2002. New Brunswick's 12% drop was the largest, followed by a 9% decline in sexual assaults in Newfoundland and Labrador and an 8% drop in British Columbia. Prince Edward Island (+32%) and Quebec (+16%) reported the largest increases, although Quebec continues to have the lowest rate. The province reporting the highest rate of sexual assaults was Saskatchewan, with a rate of 147 incidents per 100,000 population.

Nine of the 25 CMAs reported decreases in sexual assaults in 2002. The largest were reported by Saint John (-32%), St. John's (-21%) and Windsor (-21%). The largest increases occurred in Saguenay (+93%), Trois-Rivières (+44%) and Sherbrooke (+26%).

For the third time in four years Saskatoon reported the highest rate of sexual assaults among all 25 CMAs, at 144 incidents per 100,000 population. Sudbury reported the next highest rate (115), followed by Winnipeg (104). The lowest rates were seen in Ottawa (38), Windsor (49) and Trois-Rivières (50).

First decline in assaults in three years

In 2002, police reported almost 240,000 incidents of assault, down 2% from the previous year. This is the first decline in assaults in three years. The 2002 rate is about the same as it was in 1991.

Assaults account for over three-quarters of all violent crime. They are classified into four categories: common assault, known as level 1 assault; assault with a weapon, or causing bodily harm (level 2 assault); aggravated assault (level 3 assault); and "other" assaults, including assault on a peace officer, unlawfully causing bodily harm, and all other assaults.

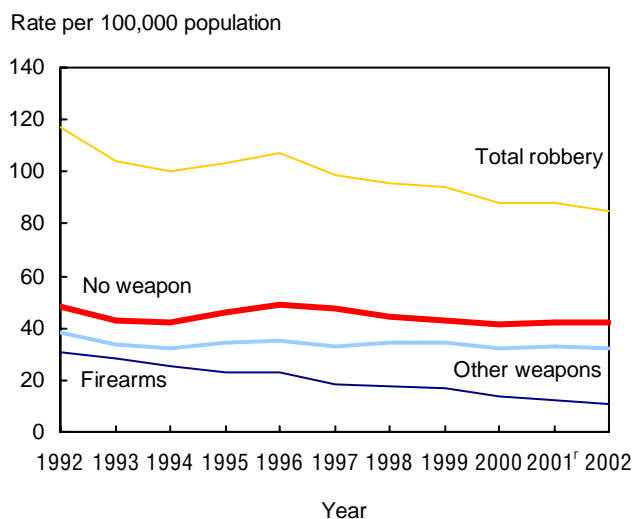
Common assaults account for 4 out of every 5 assaults and 3 out of every 5 violent crimes. Behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face threats are included in this category, and occurred at a rate of 602 incidents per 100,000 population in 2002. This is a 2% decrease from 2001. Of the remaining three levels of assault, the rate of aggravated assault showed a 2% decline while assault with a weapon and "other" assaults remained virtually unchanged in 2002.

Robbery rate resumes downward trend

The rate of robbery in Canada resumed its downward trend, with a 3% decline in 2002. The almost 27,000 robberies reported by police in 2002 accounted for 9% of all violent crimes. Nearly half of these robberies were committed without a weapon present. A further 13% were committed with a firearm, and the remaining 38% with a weapon other than a firearm. All three categories of robbery experienced declines in 2002. Rates of firearm robbery were down 10% from the previous year and 64% from a decade ago (Figure 7).

Figure 7

 **Robbery incidents by type, Canada, 1992-2002**



^r revised
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Eight provinces reported declines in the rate of robberies in 2002. The largest, a 21% drop, occurred in Prince Edward Island, followed by an 11% decline in Nova Scotia. Only New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador reported increases in 2002, up 34% and 24% respectively.

Among the CMAs, robbery rates ranged from 223 incidents per 100,000 population in Winnipeg to 19 in Saguenay. Previous years have shown similarly wide ranging rates among CMAs. Robbery rates declined in 18 CMAs in 2002. Among them were Sherbrooke (-35%), Saguenay (-21%), Halifax (-17%).

Robbery is the only violent crime for which youth make up a substantial proportion (32%) of all persons charged (Table 7). Over the past ten years the rate of youths charged with robbery has increased by 4%, compared to a 25% decrease in the rate of adults charged.

Criminal harassment up

The *Criminal Code* defines criminal harassment as repeatedly following or communicating with someone, watching that person's residence or place of business, or engaging in threatening conduct directed at that person or a member of their family. Data on criminal harassment are available only from those police services providing data to the Incident Based (UCR2) Survey. In order to permit trend analysis, a separate UCR2 Trend Database has been created for a subset of all respondents who have been reporting data to this survey since 1997.¹¹

The rate of criminal harassment incidents has been generally increasing over the past five years, including a 6% increase in 2002. At 43 incidents per 100,000 population, the 2002 rate of criminal harassment was 44% higher than the rate in 1997.

Property Crime

Property crime lowest since 1973

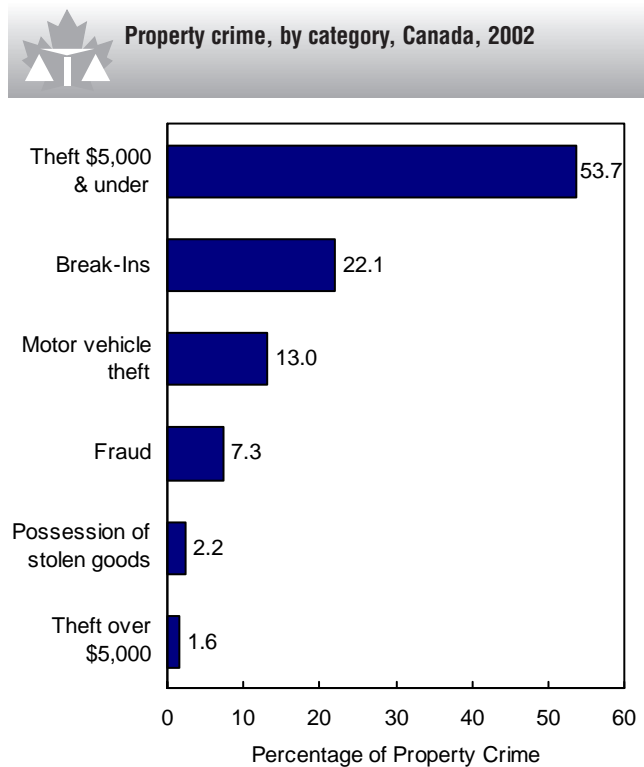
Property crimes involve unlawful acts with the intent of acquiring property but without the use or threat of violence. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are among the most frequently reported property crimes (Figure 8). In 2002, there were more than 1.2 million incidents of property crime reported by police. The rate of property crimes has been decreasing over the past decade, and remained relatively stable (-0.8%) in 2002. The property crime rate in 2002 was the lowest it has been since 1973.

Provincially, property crime rates tend to increase from east to west, ranging from 2,422 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland and Labrador to 6,488 in British Columbia (Figure 9). British Columbia has recorded the highest rate for over 25 years, while Newfoundland has reported the lowest since 1988.

¹¹ In 2002, this database represented 46% of the national volume of crime and was comprised of 183 police services, including Toronto, Montréal, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

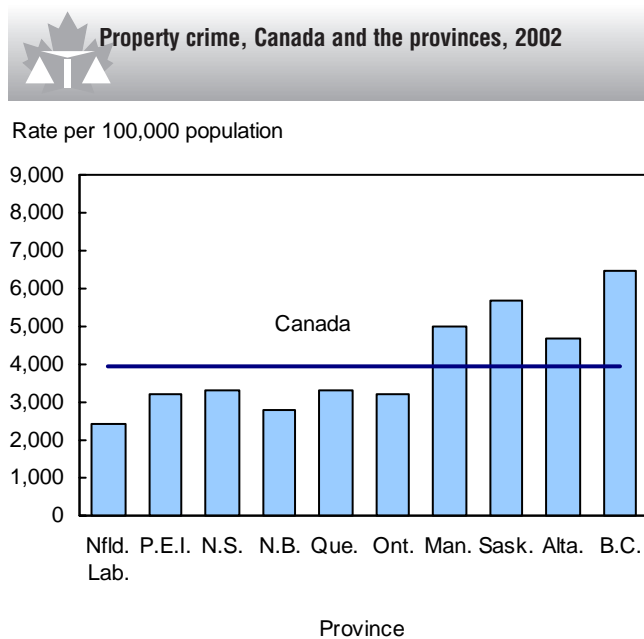
¹² These figures represent all offences of criminal harassment, regardless of whether or not it was the most serious offence committed in an incident with multiple offences.

Figure 8



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 9



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The largest drop in property crime rates in 2002 was recorded in Quebec, down 5% from the previous year. The largest increases were reported in Prince Edward Island (+8%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+6%) and Alberta (+6%).

All of the territories experienced increased rates of property crime in 2002. Only Yukon reported a rate higher than British Columbia, at 7,436 incidents per 100,000 population.

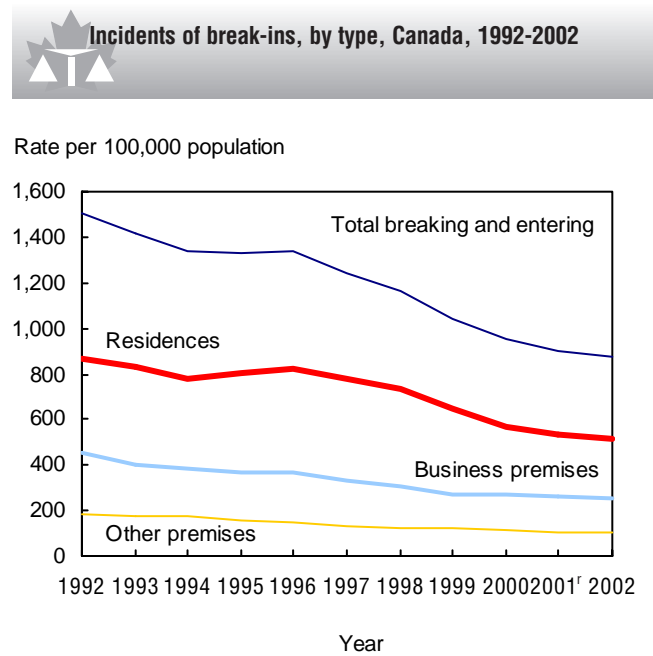
Six of the nine largest CMAs reported decreased property crime rates in 2002. The largest drops occurred in Winnipeg (-7%) and Montreal (-5%). Only Edmonton (+12%) and Ottawa (+5%) experienced increases in their property crime rates, while Toronto's rate remained stable.

Among all 25 CMAs, property crime rates ranged from 2,459 incidents per 100,000 population in Saguenay to 8,185 in Regina. Despite a 14% drop in 2002, Regina has recorded the highest property crime rate of all the CMAs for six consecutive years.

Break-ins continue to decline

Police reported about 275,000 break-ins in 2002, a 3% decline in the rate. The rate of break-ins has been generally declining since 1992 (Figure 10). Break-ins represent the third-largest offence category, accounting for 1 in 10 Criminal Code incidents.

Figure 10



^r revised
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Four provinces reported a decline in the rate of break-ins in 2002, with the largest drop occurring in Manitoba, down 5% from the previous year. The largest increases were reported in Prince Edward Island (+29%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+8%), and Alberta (+5%). New Brunswick recorded the lowest

rate of break-ins (635 incidents per 100,000 population). Saskatchewan again recorded the highest rate of break-ins (1,488) of all the provinces.

The majority of break-ins took place in private residences (59%), followed by businesses (29%) and other locations, including storage facilities and sheds (12%). All three categories experienced declines in 2002. Residential break-ins dropped by 3%, while break-ins at businesses and "other" locations were both down 2%.

More than 1 out of every 3 (37%) persons charged with break-ins are youths aged 12-17. The proportion of persons charged with break-ins who are youths has remained fairly constant since the mid-1980s. In 2002, the rate of youths charged with break-ins was down 6% from the previous year, and 57% from ten years ago.

According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, whose member companies provide about 90% of all private property and casualty insurance sold in Canada, 22% of all homeowner's claims in 2001 were a result of theft.¹³ The remaining claims resulted from hail and wind damage (40%), water damage (27%), and fire damage (11%).

Vehicle Thefts Down

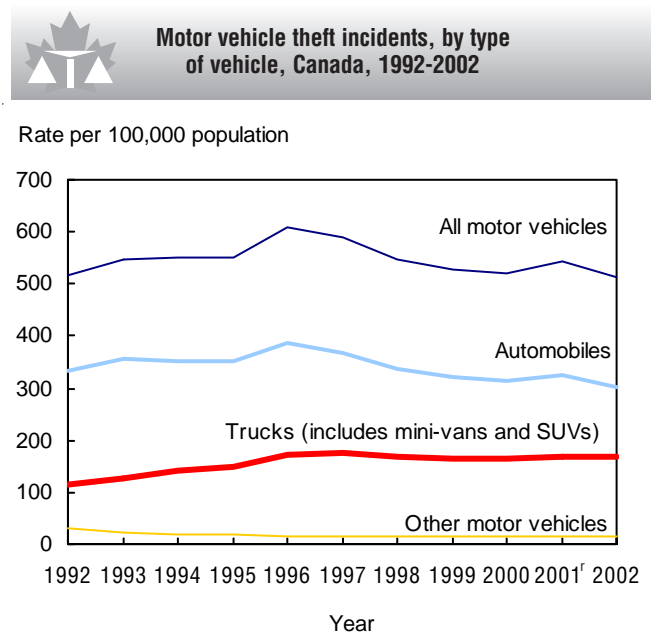
The motor vehicle theft rate dropped for the fifth time in six years in 2002, down 5%. This decline was led by a 13% drop in Saskatchewan, and 11% drops in Quebec and Prince Edward Island. British Columbia was the only province to report a large increase (+7%) in its vehicle theft rate.

Cars were the most commonly stolen type of vehicle in 2002, accounting for 59% of all vehicle thefts (Figure 11). Trucks, including mini vans and sport utility vehicles, currently account for 32% of vehicles stolen. The rate of trucks being stolen has increased 47% over the past decade, compared to a 1% decrease in the rate of cars being stolen over the same time period. This illustrates the growing popularity of sports utility vehicles and trucks on the road and as targets for theft.

Although Regina's vehicle theft rate dropped by 27% in 2002, it was still the highest rate of all CMAs, slightly more than Winnipeg. The Regina Police Service attributes this decline to the implementation of a multi-agency *Auto Theft Strategy*.¹⁴ This is a collaborative effort between Provincial Departments of Corrections and Public Safety, Justice, Community Resources and Employment, and the Regina Police. An even larger decrease in vehicle theft was reported by Thunder Bay, down 53% from 2001. Police in Thunder Bay attribute this decline to increased efforts to identify, arrest and charge the key persons responsible for vehicle theft in Thunder Bay.¹⁵ Only 4 CMAs reported substantial increases in motor vehicle theft rates in 2002: Québec (+5%), Edmonton (+5%), Saint John (+4%) and Vancouver (+3%).

On average, in 2001, there was one motor vehicle theft claim for every 100 cars in Canada, according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada.¹⁶ The average theft claim frequency was much higher in British Columbia than elsewhere in the country. The total value of all vehicle theft claims in 2001 was \$40 per each insured vehicle in Canada. Provincially, this average cost ranged from \$10 in the Atlantic Provinces to over \$80 in Quebec.

Figure 11



r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Vehicle theft is a crime associated with young offenders. In 2002, 40% of persons charged with this crime were between the ages of 12 and 17. The only other offences with similarly high proportions of youth charged were arson (40%) and break-ins (37%).

Thefts account for more than half of all property crimes

There were just under 690,000 incidents of theft (excluding motor vehicle thefts and theft of property during a break-in) in 2002. As in the previous year, thefts accounted for 55% of all property crimes, and 29% of all *Criminal Code* offences. The theft rate in 2002 was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Thefts from motor vehicles accounted for 39% of all thefts reported to police in 2002. A further 12% of thefts were incidents of shoplifting, 8% were bicycle thefts, and the final 41% were "other" types of thefts. Decreases in thefts from motor vehicles and bicycle thefts were offset by increased rates of shoplifting and "other" types of thefts in 2002.

First increase in fraud incidents in 11 years

The over 91,000 incidents of fraud reported to police in 2002 represented 7% of all property crimes. The 2002 fraud rate was 4% higher than the previous year. This is the first increase following ten years of decline. The increase in 2002 was led by a 19% increase in credit/debit card frauds.

¹³ For further information, see Insurance Bureau of Canada, *Facts of the General Insurance Industry, 2002*.

¹⁴ Regina Police Source, June 2, 2003.

¹⁵ Thunder Bay Police Source, May 28, 2003.

¹⁶ For further information see Insurance Bureau of Canada "How Cars Measure Up, 2001".

Over the past decade the proportion of frauds that are credit/debit card frauds has more than doubled from 13% to 30%. Over the same time period cheque fraud has decreased considerably, from slightly over one-half of all fraud incidents to less than one-quarter in 2002. This change is indicative of the general shift of consumers away from the use of cheques and towards payment by credit and debit cards.

Counting Fraud

The data collected by the UCR Survey counts the number of criminal fraud incidents in Canada. The UCR Survey does not take into account the number of times a single stolen credit or debit card may be used, or the number of cheques a person could pass at a time. If a single credit card is fraudulently used a number of times by the same person, it will be counted as only one incident of fraud. Information regarding multiple occurrences of fraud within one incident is collected only from those respondents reporting to the Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey. Data from the UCR2 survey indicate that, on average, the same person will pass 1.9 fraudulent cheques in a single store in the course of one day, or during a single incident. A single credit/debit card will be fraudulently used an average of 2.3 times before being discarded or confiscated by the police. "Other frauds" are perpetrated an average of 1.6 times by the same person over a period of time. When these multiple occurrences are taken into account, the just over 91,000 fraud incidents represent more than 175,000 actual fraudulent uses of debit/credit cards and cheques reported to police. It should be noted that many frauds are not reported to the police.

Other Criminal Code Incidents

Criminal Code incidents that are classified as neither property crimes nor violent crimes fall into the category of "Other *Criminal Code*" offences. In 2002 there were nearly 840,000 such incidents, representing 35% of all *Criminal Code* incidents. Together these crimes remained stable in 2002. The largest-volume offence in this category is mischief, which declined by 1% in 2002 (Figure 12). The next largest-volume offence, bail violations, recorded a 3% increase.

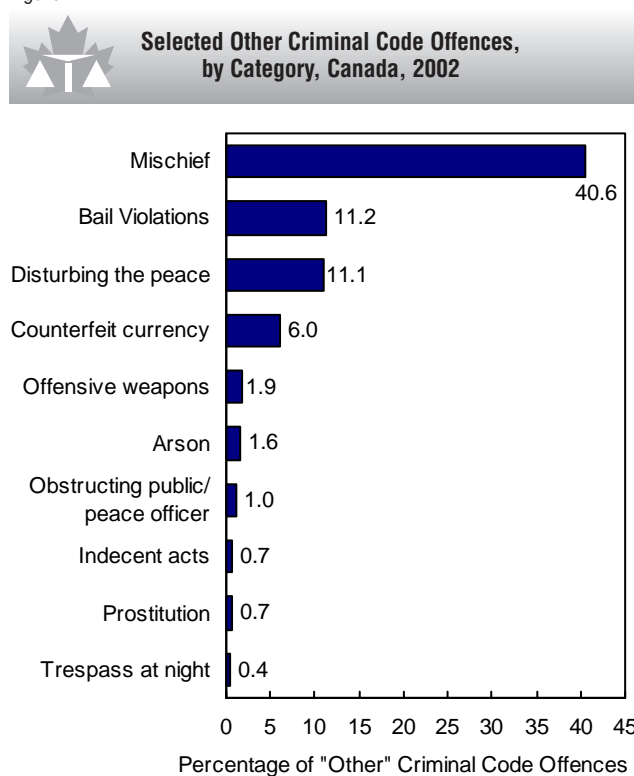
Other *Criminal Code* incidents tend to have high rates of youth offending, particularly for the offences of mischief and arson. In 2002, one-third of all persons charged with mischief and 40% of those charged with arson, were youths aged 12 to 17.

Decrease in offensive weapons crimes

Since 1998, when the new *Firearms Act* began its gradual introduction, four new categories of criminal offences related to offensive weapons were created in the UCR survey: illegal use of a firearm or replica; illegal possession of a weapon; weapon importation, exportation and trafficking; and, a category for all "other" weapons-related offences (including offences involving non-secure storage, documentation and administration of firearms). In 2002 police reported 15,800 offensive weapons offences, a rate of 50 incidents per 100,000 population. This is a decrease of 1% from the previous year and follows a 7% increase in the rate of offensive weapons offences in 2001.

Illegal possession of a weapon accounted for 57% of all weapons-related offences in 2002. A further 13% of offences fell into the illegal firearms usage category, and 29% into the "other" weapons offences category.

Figure 12



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Prostitution incidents up across the country

The rate of prostitution incidents reported by police increased 12% in 2002. As the number of reported incidents is affected by police enforcement policies, this increase is not necessarily a reflection of a rise in the number of prostitution incidents in 2002. After peaking in 1988, there were a number of large declines in prostitution offences reported by police. The 2002 rate of 18 incidents per 100,000 population was 49% lower than the rate 10 years ago, but 53% higher than the rate 25 years ago.

The majority (90%) of prostitution incidents are for communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution, both by prostitutes and clients. The remaining incidents are related to bawdy houses and procuring.

Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

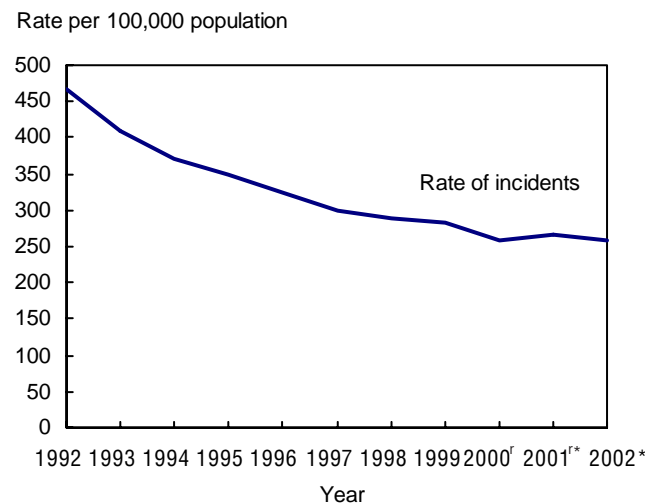
Criminal Code traffic incidents reported by police in 2002 numbered just under 118,000, a small decrease from 2001. Impaired driving offences represented 69% of all *Criminal Code* traffic incidents. Of the remaining offences, 19% were failures to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident, and the final 12% were incidents of dangerous driving and driving while prohibited.

Impaired driving rate down slightly

Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood; and, failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. Following the first increase in impaired driving offences in nearly 20 years in 2001, police reported a 3% decrease in the rate of this crime in 2002. There were almost 81,000 incidents of impaired driving in 2002.

Figure 13

Impaired driving, Canada, 1992-2002¹



^r revised

^{*} In 2001 the RCMP began reporting incidents of impaired driving in which a roadside suspension was issued, rather than a charge laid, to the CCJS. In 2002, all other police services began reporting this way as well.

¹ Revisions have been made to the number of "actual" impaired driving incidents for the RCMP in 2000 and 2001 and estimates have been provided for these two years. These revisions resulted in a 6% reduction in actual incidents at the Canada level for 2000 and 9% for 2001. These changes did not affect the national impaired driving trend. The number of persons "charged" with impaired driving offences did not require revision.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

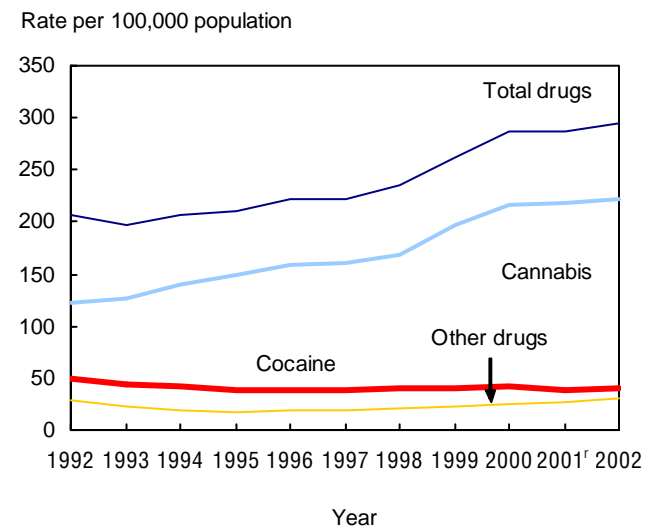
Ninth consecutive increase in drug crimes

Police reported almost 93,000 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) in 2002, an increase of 3% over the previous year. Drug offences have been increasing for nearly a decade, and the rate is the highest it has been in twenty years (Figure 14).

A study released in 2001 based on The Ontario Student Drug Use Survey indicated that there has been an increase in drug use among Ontario youths (grades 7 to 13) since 1991.¹⁷ The percentage of students using cannabis in the last twelve months increased from 11.7% in 1991 to 28.6% in 2001. Student cocaine use was up from 1.6% in 1991 to 3.8% in 2001.

Figure 14

Drug incidents, by type of drug, Canada, 1992-2002



^r revised

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Police-reported data show that the proportion of youths charged with drug offences declines with the severity of the type of drug. For instance, 22% of persons charged with possession of cannabis in 2002 were youths aged 12 to 17, compared to only 3% of all persons charged with cocaine possession, and 1% of all persons charged with possession of heroin.

Among the provinces the rate of drug offences reported by police varies widely, ranging from 169 in Newfoundland and Labrador, to 544 in British Columbia. British Columbia has reported the highest rate of drug offences every year since 1982. In 2002, British Columbia reported the largest decrease (-4%) in its drug rate of all the provinces. Three provinces recorded substantial increases in drug crime rates; Saskatchewan (+27%), Nova Scotia (+26%) and Prince Edward Island (+22%). These increases are associated with increases in the rates of cannabis possession.

Nearly all of the major drug categories increased in 2002. Cannabis offences, accounting for three-quarters of all drug offences, were up 2%, and the rate of cocaine offences was up 1%. The rate of "other" types of drug incidents, which include LSD, ecstasy, barbiturates, etc. increased 11% over the previous year. The only drug category that did not contribute to the overall increase in drug offences was heroin. The rate of heroin offences dropped 18% from 2001. This drop did not have a significant effect on the overall drug offence rate as heroin offences represent only 1% of all drug offences.

¹⁷ For further information on the OSDUS survey, see Adlaf, Edward M. and Paglis, Angela (2001) "Drug Use Among Ontario Students 1977-2002, Findings from the OSDUS", Centre for Addiction in Mental Health Research Document Series, no. 10.

The majority (72%) of all cannabis charges are for possession, with 15% related to trafficking, 12% for production, and a further 1% for importation. Trafficking accounts for a much higher proportion of all heroin (40%) and cocaine (49%) incidents.

The recent proposal to de-criminalize the possession of small amounts of cannabis (15 g. or less) has raised public interest in the extent of cannabis crime in Canada, and in particular, variations in rates among the provinces. British Columbia has reported the highest rate of possession (279 incidents per 100,000 population) every year since 1982, and of production (77) in each of the last 25 years. Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest possession rate (107) for the first time in 2002, but has reported the lowest production rate (5) since 1979.

Youth Crime

Measuring Youth Crime

Youths aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with the law can be formally charged or dealt with by other means. The decision to proceed by charge depends on a number of factors including the seriousness of the offence, the prior record of the youth and the admissibility of a youth to, and availability of, alternative measures programs (which may include community service, personal service or financial compensation to a victim, apologies, or educational sessions). When dealing with first-time offenders involved in minor incidents, police may choose to deal with a youth informally by giving a warning or discussing the incident with the youth's parents.

The UCR Survey collects information both on youths formally charged by police as well as those dealt with informally. As not all police forces keep track of the number of youths dealt with informally, youth crime is generally measured by the number of youths charged by police. However, it is possible to examine trends in the number of youths dealt with informally for police services who collect this information consistently over time. The number of youths accused but not charged will become even more important in measuring youth crime in the future, as the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* encourages police to divert youth away from the formal criminal justice system for minor offences.

As such, this analysis will present both the trend for youths charged as well as for those dealt with informally.

Youth crime down

About 99,000 youths were charged with a *Criminal Code* offence in 2002, for a rate of about 4,000 youths charged per 100,000 youths aged 12 to 17 (Table 8 and Figure 15). This is a decrease of 5% from the previous year. The overall decline was consistent for violent crime, property crime and other *Criminal Code* offences. Over the past decade, the rate of youths charged has dropped by 33%.

In 2002, there were just over 75,000 youths accused of committing an offence, but who were not charged by police (figure based on police services that report youths not charged data). In the past ten years, the trend in the rate of youths accused but not charged with *Criminal Code* offences has

Youth Criminal Justice Act

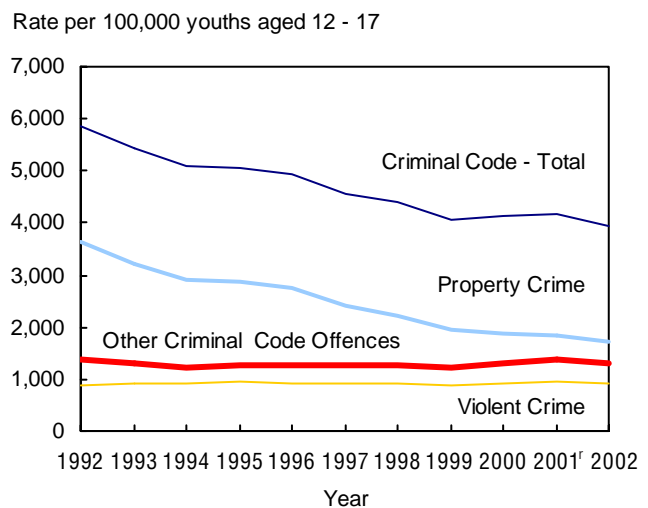
The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) came into force on April 1, 2003 and replaced the *Young Offenders Act*. The Act encourages the use of extrajudicial (non-court) measures for less serious offences. These measures include taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs. These measures are to be used in all cases in which they would be adequate to hold the young person accountable. It is presumed that extrajudicial measures are adequate to hold accountable non-violent offenders who have not previously been found guilty in court.

The Act establishes new sentencing principles. These principles include: sentences must be proportionate to the seriousness of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the young person; within the limit of proportionality, the sentence must be the least restrictive alternative and the sentence that is most likely to promote rehabilitation; and the sentence must not be more severe than what an adult would receive for the same offence. In addition, the Act sets out specific restrictions on the use of custody that reserve custody primarily for violent offenders and serious repeat offenders for whom there is no alternative to custody. The Act also creates several new non-custodial sentencing options and provides that custodial sentences include a period of supervision in the community.

remained fairly constant, not experiencing the same decline as the rate of youths charged. This suggests that youth crime is decreasing, but not to the extent indicated by the drop in youths formally charged by police. In addition, there are an unknown number of diversions that are not recorded by police in any year.

Figure 15

Youths charged, by type of offence, Canada, 1992-2002



^r revised
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Considering only the rate of youths charged with criminal offences, youth crime varies widely across the provinces (Table 9). The lowest rate in 2002 was recorded in Quebec (1,884 youths charged per 100,000 youth population), followed

by Prince Edward Island (2,357) and British Columbia (3,066). Saskatchewan and Manitoba reported the highest rates of youths charged, at 10,579 and 7,492 respectively. Nova Scotia reported the only large increase in youth crime in 2002 (+6%).

Decrease in the rate of youths charged with violent offences

Violent crime has been increasing over the years as a proportion of total youth crime. Ten years ago violent offences accounted for 15% of all youth crime, compared to 24% in 2002. This trend may be somewhat related to the increasing tendency of police not to formally charge youth with less serious property crimes.

The rate of youths charged with violent offences was down 2% in 2002. After increasing steadily throughout the 1980s, the rate of youths charged with violent crimes continued to increase through the 1990s, but at a slower rate. By 2002 the youth violent crime rate was 7% higher than ten years earlier. Six provinces reported declines in youth violent crime rates in 2002, including a 19% drop in Prince Edward Island and a 6% decline in Saskatchewan.

The overall decline in the rate of youths charged with violent offences in 2002 was driven by a drop in the rate of youths charged with level 1 assaults (including pushing, slapping and punching) and level 2 assaults (assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm), down 1% and 2% respectively. Combined, these offences account for 7 out of every 10 youths charged with a violent offence.

The rate of youths accused but not charged with violent offences was also down (-2%) from the previous year. Over the past ten years the rate of youths accused but not charged with violent offences has mirrored the rate of youths charged, increasing generally throughout the decade. This suggests that while police have continued to lay charges for many violent offences, they have also dealt with violent crime through the use of less formal measures.

Youth property crime continues to drop

The rate of youths charged with property crimes dropped for the 11th straight year in 2002, down 5%. This is the lowest it has been in over 25 years.

The rate of youths accused but not charged with property crimes also decreased (-4%) in 2002. There has been a general decline in the rate of youths accused but not charged over the past ten years similar to that exhibited by the rate of youths charged, though not as steep. Therefore, while youth involvement in property crime has been falling, the drop is not as great if the use of informal processes, such as warnings and alternative measures, is taken into account.

The rate of youths charged with property crimes decreased for every property crime category, including an 11% drop in motor vehicle theft and a 6% drop in break-ins. This decrease in youth involvement in motor vehicle theft follows two years of increases.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

In this report, the "crime rate" excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time as a result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident). Other federal statutes such as drug offences are also excluded from the calculated crime rate in this report.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded or each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an overcounting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the most serious offence) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police forces switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

In 2002, detailed data were collected from 123 police services in 9 provinces through the UCR2 survey. These data represent 59% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 2002 database were distributed as follows: 41% from Ontario, 29% from Québec, 11% from Alberta, 5% from British Columbia, 5% from Manitoba, 5% from Saskatchewan, 2% from Nova Scotia, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland & Labrador. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This database currently includes 183 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1997. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2002. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least 5 years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database.

Impact of Data Revisions

Impact of Reporting Changes to Ontario Data for Selected Offences

Offence	% Adjustment in Incident Counts	
	Ontario	Canada
	%	%
Homicide	0	0
Assault -Total	-2	-1
Sexual Assault -Total	-4	-1
Robbery	0	0
Total Violent Crime	-3	-1
Break & Enter	-4	-1
Motor Vehicle Theft	-2	0
Total Property Crime	-4	-1
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic)	-4	-1

Table 1

Federal Statute Incidents Reported to Police, by Most Serious Offence, Canada, 1998-2002¹

	1998		1999		2000		2001 ²		2002		% change in rate [*] 2001-2002	% change in rate [*] 1992-2002
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
Population	30,248,412		30,509,323		30,790,834		31,110,565		31,413,990			
Homicide ³	558	2	538	2	546	2	553	2	582	2	4.2	-28.2
Attempted murder	745	2	687	2	767	2	725	2	682	2	-6.8	-41.6
Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	223,926	740	221,348	726	233,719	759	236,957	762	235,270	749	-1.7	-2.0
Level 1	183,999	608	181,330	594	190,467	619	191,147	614	189,158	602	-2.0	-2.8
Level 2-Weapon	37,302	123	37,501	123	40,686	132	43,094	139	43,427	138	-0.2	4.7
Level 3-Aggravated	2,625	9	2,517	8	2,566	8	2,716	9	2,685	9	-2.1	-31.7
Other assaults	12,147	40	12,126	40	12,164	40	12,260	39	12,357	39	-0.2	-30.9
Sexual assaults - Total	25,553	84	23,859	78	24,001	78	24,044	77	24,350	78	0.3	-36.0
Level 1	24,805	82	23,185	76	23,428	76	23,563	76	23,813	76	0.1	-34.9
Level 2-Weapon	529	2	461	2	391	1	320	1	381	1	17.9	-63.2
Level 3-Aggravated	219	1	213	1	182	1	161	1	156	0	-4.0	-64.6
Other sexual offences	3,445	11	3,300	11	3,114	10	2,689	9	2,744	9	1.1	-38.6
Abduction	829	3	729	2	750	2	674	2	609	2	-10.5	-54.9
Robbery - Total	28,963	96	28,740	94	27,037	88	27,284	88	26,700	85	-3.1	-27.4
Firearms	5,324	18	5,122	17	4,323	14	3,818	12	3,472	11	-9.9	-64.1
Other Weapons	10,326	34	10,500	34	9,901	32	10,280	33	10,095	32	-2.7	-15.5
No Weapons	13,313	44	13,118	43	12,813	42	13,186	42	13,133	42	-1.4	-13.2
Violent crime - Total	296,166	979	291,327	955	302,098	981	305,186	981	303,294	965	-1.6	-10.9
Break & enter - Total	350,774	1,160	318,054	1,042	293,357	953	279,461	898	274,894	875	-2.6	-41.9
Business	92,590	306	83,971	275	82,074	267	80,264	258	79,724	254	-1.6	-44.0
Residential	221,366	732	197,022	646	175,804	571	166,500	535	162,851	518	-3.1	-40.1
Other	36,818	122	37,061	121	35,479	115	32,697	105	32,319	103	-2.1	-45.1
Motor vehicle theft	165,920	549	161,388	529	160,315	521	168,595	542	161,506	514	-5.1	-0.6
Theft over \$5,000 ⁴	23,600	78	22,493	74	21,354	69	20,845	67	19,885	63	-5.5	-85.0
Theft \$5,000 and under ⁴	713,632	2,359	678,367	2,223	663,040	2,153	659,589	2,120	668,589	2,128	0.4	-26.7
Possession of stolen goods	29,156	96	29,308	96	28,530	93	26,960	87	27,836	89	2.3	-20.3
Fraud	94,819	313	90,371	296	85,791	279	86,486	278	91,235	290	4.5	-34.5
Property crime - Total	1,377,901	4,555	1,299,981	4,261	1,252,387	4,067	1,241,936	3,992	1,243,945	3,960	-0.8	-32.9
Mischief	326,918	1,081	312,266	1,024	326,374	1,060	333,136	1,071	332,723	1,059	-1.1	-33.7
Counterfeiting currency	39,830	132	36,265	119	35,937	117	38,674	124	50,498	161	29.3	500.2
Bail violations	73,034	241	72,192	237	78,105	254	90,545	291	93,873	299	2.7	29.5
Disturbing the peace	65,513	217	69,570	228	80,085	260	89,971	289	92,592	295	1.9	48.5
Offensive weapons	16,766	55	16,007	52	15,324	50	15,876	51	15,834	50	-1.2	-19.2
Prostitution	5,969	20	5,255	17	5,051	16	5,087	16	5,773	18	12.4	-48.6
Arson	12,947	43	12,756	42	13,733	45	14,484	47	13,192	42	-9.8	-9.4
Other	246,112	814	241,212	791	243,674	791	239,916	771	232,523	740	-4.0	-13.1
Other Criminal Code - Total	787,089	2,602	765,523	2,509	798,283	2,593	827,689	2,660	837,008	2,664	0.1	-12.7
CRIMINAL CODE WITHOUT TRAFFIC - TOTAL	2,461,156	8,136	2,356,831	7,725	2,352,768	7,641	2,374,811	7,633	2,384,247	7,590	-0.6	-24.4
Impaired driving ^{5,6}	87,660	290	85,997	282	79,225	257	82,718	266	80,789	257	-3.3	-44.9
Fail to stop/remain ⁷	39,087	129	17,972	59	19,522	63	22,538	72	21,974	70	-3.4	-70.4
Other - Criminal Code Traffic	14,406	48	13,681	45	13,698	44	14,978	48	14,870	47	-1.7	-33.6
Criminal Code Traffic - Total	141,153	467	117,650	386	112,445	365	120,234	386	117,633	374	-3.1	-51.6
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL	2,602,309	8,603	2,474,481	8,111	2,465,213	8,006	2,495,045	8,020	2,501,880	7,964	-0.7	-26.3
DRUGS	70,922	234	80,142	263	88,091	286	89,395	287	92,590	295	2.6	42.0
Cannabis	50,917	168	60,011	197	66,274	215	67,921	218	69,989	223	2.0	80.7
Cocaine	12,183	40	11,963	39	12,829	42	12,145	39	12,431	40	1.4	-20.6
Heroin	1,323	4	1,323	4	1,226	4	951	3	787	3	-18.0	-50.9
Other drugs	6,499	21	6,845	22	7,762	25	8,378	27	9,383	30	10.9	2.1
OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES	35,816	118	38,942	128	34,587	112	38,013	122	40,081	128	4.4	-19.0
TOTAL FEDERAL STATUTES	2,709,047	8,956	2,593,565	8,501	2,587,891	8,405	2,622,453	8,429	2,634,551	8,387	-0.5	-25.0

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ revised

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 1998 and 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Data for 2001 have been revised for Ontario and Canada due to reporting changes for the OPP and most of the 41 police services reporting to the Ontario OMPPAC system. For further information on the impact of this change, refer to the text box entitled 'Reporting Changes to Ontario Data'.

³ Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

⁴ Prior to 1995, theft offences were categorized as Theft \$1,000 and Under and Theft Over \$1,000. In 1995 the dollar value was increased.


⁵ Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

⁶ Revisions have been made to the number of "actual" impaired driving incidents for the RCMP in 2000 and 2001 and estimates have been provided for these two years. These revisions resulted in a 6% reduction in actual incidents at the Canada level for 2000 and 9% for 2001. These changes did not affect the national impaired driving trend. The number of persons "charged" with impaired driving offences did not require revision.

⁷ Beginning in 1999, "fail to stop or remain" incidents for Toronto are now included under "provincial statutes" instead of the Criminal Code.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2



Rates of Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1962 - 2002¹

	Total Criminal Code ²		Violent crime		Property crime		Other Criminal Code	
	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*
		%		%		%		%
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1974	6,387	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.1
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1987	8,956	2.6	829	5.6	5,552	0.0	2,575	7.6
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.6	5,438	-2.1	2,612	1.5
1989	8,891	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.8	2,691	3.0
1990	9,484	6.7	973	6.8	5,611	6.1	2,900	7.8
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1992	10,036	-3.0	1,084	2.3	5,902	-4.2	3,051	-2.3
1993	9,531	-5.0	1,081	-0.3	5,571	-5.6	2,879	-5.6
1994	9,114	-4.4	1,046	-3.2	5,250	-5.8	2,817	-2.2
1995	8,993	-1.3	1,007	-3.7	5,283	0.6	2,702	-4.1
1996	8,914	-0.9	1,000	-0.7	5,264	-0.4	2,650	-1.9
1997	8,453	-5.2	990	-1.0	4,867	-7.5	2,596	-2.1
1998	8,137	-3.7	979	-1.1	4,555	-6.4	2,602	0.2
1999	7,725	-5.1	955	-2.5	4,261	-6.5	2,509	-3.6
2000	7,641	-1.1	981	2.7	4,067	-4.5	2,593	3.3
2001 ³	7,633	-0.1	981	-0.0	3,992	-1.9	2,660	2.6
2002	7,590	-0.6	965	-1.6	3,960	-0.8	2,664	0.1

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates for 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1971 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 to 1999, updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and 2001, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Excluding traffic offences.

³ Data for 2001 have been revised for Ontario and Canada due to reporting changes for the OPP and most of the 41 police services reporting to the Ontario OMPPAC system. For further information on the impact of this change, refer to the text box entitled 'Reporting Changes to Ontario Data'.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3


Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2002¹

	Nfld.Lab.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada ²
Population, 2002	531,595	139,913	944,765	756,652	7,455,208	12,068,301	1,150,848	1,011,808	3,113,586	4,141,272	29,924	41,403	28,715	31,413,990
Homicide														
number	2	1	9	9	118	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582
rate	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.5	3.1	2.7	2.2	3.0	0.0	9.7	7.0	1.9
% change in rate*	100.8	-50.4	-0.2	12.4	-16.1	3.2	5.7	0.5	-1.7	48.6	-100.0	-0.4	-34.7	4.2
Sexual Assault (1,2,3)														
number	552	147	892	744	4,190	8,282	1,488	1,491	2,591	3,421	97	179	276	24,350
rate	104	105	94	98	56	69	129	147	83	83	324	432	961	78
% change in rate*	-9.1	31.5	5.9	-12.2	16.4	-3.6	7.7	5.0	-4.2	-7.9	37.8	23.8	18.5	0.3
Assault (1,2,3)														
number	3,966	987	8,527	5,914	37,879	77,187	14,979	14,832	26,388	39,910	963	2,070	1,668	235,270
rate	746	705	903	782	508	640	1,302	1,466	848	964	3,218	5,000	5,809	749
% change in rate*	1.5	13.2	8.2	0.3	1.4	-6.1	1.4	0.4	-2.1	-1.0	0.8	19.5	5.6	-1.7
Robbery														
number	83	19	557	231	6,887	8,908	1,635	1,068	2,637	4,616	29	21	9	26,700
rate	16	14	59	31	92	74	142	106	85	111	97	51	31	85
% change in rate*	24.4	-21.4	-11.3	34.2	-3.5	-2.3	-10.1	-1.2	-4.9	-1.2	8.3	23.0	-26.6	-3.1
Violent crime - Total														
number	4,751	1,210	10,380	7,373	53,625	99,990	18,925	18,331	33,539	49,641	1,137	2,355	2,037	303,294
rate	894	865	1,099	974	719	829	1,644	1,812	1,077	1,199	3,800	5,688	7,094	965
% change in rate*	-0.1	14.6	5.9	-1.7	1.5	-5.3	1.5	0.5	-2.1	-1.4	2.3	17.2	6.3	-1.6
Breaking & Entering														
number	3,460	966	6,581	4,805	70,370	81,181	12,616	15,055	27,214	50,376	534	907	829	274,894
rate	651	690	697	635	944	673	1,096	1,488	874	1,216	1,785	2,191	2,887	875
% change in rate*	8.4	29.2	0.7	0.4	-5.3	-2.8	-5.5	0.0	4.6	-3.9	-12.0	27.6	16.0	-2.6
Motor Vehicle Theft														
number	599	244	2,639	1,576	36,904	45,835	12,121	6,904	17,948	35,980	220	336	200	161,506
rate	113	174	279	208	495	380	1,053	682	576	869	735	812	697	514
% change in rate*	-5.4	-11.3	-3.6	-9.1	-10.9	-8.4	-8.3	-13.1	1.0	7.2	-7.2	16.6	-19.4	-5.1
Other Theft														
number	7,567	2,791	19,497	12,100	119,983	219,131	29,079	29,428	82,710	163,231	1,269	1,074	614	688,474
rate	1,423	1,995	2,064	1,599	1,609	1,816	2,527	2,908	2,656	3,942	4,241	2,594	2,138	2,192
% change in rate*	10.8	4.3	-0.9	2.7	-3.4	-0.4	0.9	-2.0	7.0	0.1	14.9	13.2	18.6	0.2
Property crime - Total														
number	12,875	4,483	31,385	21,280	248,896	389,947	57,277	57,447	145,175	268,699	2,225	2,503	1,753	1,243,945
rate	2,422	3,204	3,322	2,812	3,339	3,231	4,977	5,678	4,663	6,488	7,436	6,045	6,105	3,960
% change in rate*	5.7	8.2	-2.7	-0.1	-4.5	-1.1	-3.2	-3.2	5.7	0.6	3.8	16.7	10.1	-0.8
Offensive weapons														
number	214	38	623	397	1,204	4,925	1,112	899	2,113	4,121	60	85	43	15,834
rate	40	27	66	52	16	41	97	89	68	100	201	205	150	50
% change in rate*	13.7	-19.7	0.1	3.0	-0.7	-11.7	-2.9	14.8	9.7	4.8	8.1	-1.6	-38.1	-1.2
Mischief														
number	5,880	1,827	11,824	7,510	50,070	96,243	26,335	21,061	44,019	60,621	1,688	3,802	1,843	332,723
rate	1,106	1,306	1,252	993	672	797	2,288	2,082	1,414	1,464	5,641	9,183	6,418	1,059
% change in rate*	8.0	12.3	4.0	3.4	-4.0	-3.9	1.6	2.5	-1.1	-0.3	22.4	16.0	5.8	-1.1
Other Criminal Code - Total														
number	13,377	4,980	30,125	21,348	122,211	242,993	53,733	59,484	111,159	160,007	4,633	8,482	4,476	837,008
rate	2,516	3,559	3,189	2,821	1,639	2,013	4,669	5,879	3,570	3,864	15,483	20,486	15,588	2,664
% change in rate*	1.8	13.9	1.8	6.6	0.5	-2.9	1.1	0.8	-0.1	2.2	12.6	1.1	18.3	0.1
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - without traffic offences														
number	31,003	10,673	71,890	50,001	424,732	732,930	129,935	135,262	289,873	478,347	7,995	13,340	8,266	2,384,247
rate	5,832	7,628	7,609	6,608	5,697	6,073	11,290	13,368	9,310	11,551	26,718	32,220	28,786	7,590
% change in rate*	3.1	11.5	0.3	2.4	-2.4	-2.3	-0.8	-1.0	2.5	0.9	8.5	6.4	13.3	-0.6

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C. resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

	Toronto	Montréal	Vancouver ⁴	Calgary	Edmonton	Ottawa ⁵	Québec	Winnipeg	Hamilton
Population³	4,987,556	3,524,313	2,118,504	988,873	968,950	862,835	679,889	674,188	659,539
Homicide									
number	90	66	69	15	27	8	3	23	13
rate	1.8	1.9	3.3	1.5	2.8	0.9	0.4	3.4	2.0
% change in rate *	12.5	-16.2	57.7	-2.2	6.6	161.9	-39.6	20.9	-0.8
Sexual assault (1,2,3)									
number	2,839	1,823	1,275	552	740	329	366	701	517
rate	57	52	60	56	76	38	54	104	78
% change in rate *	-1.5	13.1	-3.7	-14.2	-6.4	18.4	25.3	12.0	5.3
Assault (1,2,3)									
number	30,574	20,625	16,333	6,004	6,304	4,537	2,513	6,390	5,163
rate	613	585	771	607	651	526	370	948	783
% change in rate *	-8.3	-3.0	-2.6	-7.6	-4.6	-9.0	-2.0	-1.0	-9.6
Robbery									
number	5,248	5,478	3,470	981	1,306	786	417	1,506	663
rate	105	155	164	99	135	91	61	223	101
% change in rate *	-5.6	-2.3	-2.8	-8.9	-7.9	-12.6	-15.6	-10.4	18.7
Violent crime - Total									
number	40,886	30,030	21,837	8,078	8,935	6,191	3,489	8,935	6,551
rate	820	852	1,031	817	922	718	513	1,325	993
% change in rate *	-6.8	-2.2	-2.1	-6.8	-5.0	-5.4	-2.3	-0.6	-5.9
Break & enter									
number	27,426	34,590	27,510	7,792	9,362	5,344	5,876	7,120	5,655
rate	550	981	1,299	788	966	619	864	1,056	857
% change in rate *	-1.0	-6.1	-7.2	-4.3	10.5	0.6	6.1	-9.9	-7.5
Motor vehicle theft									
number	17,363	24,088	24,932	5,334	7,648	4,103	1,313	9,471	4,919
rate	348	683	1,177	539	789	476	193	1,405	746
% change in rate *	-6.2	-12.2	2.6	-6.9	4.5	-3.1	4.7	-12.6	-12.1
Other theft									
number	82,894	67,921	88,224	24,976	28,518	17,700	11,408	19,830	12,799
rate	1,662	1,927	4,164	2,526	2,943	2,051	1,678	2,941	1,941
% change in rate *	-0.5	-2.7	-5.3	-0.2	15.0	5.3	-10.7	-1.5	-1.2
Property crime - Total									
number	147,088	139,490	149,725	43,196	52,338	30,593	20,254	38,247	25,240
rate	2,949	3,958	7,067	4,368	5,402	3,546	2,979	5,673	3,827
% change in rate *	0.4	-4.6	-3.8	-0.9	11.9	5.2	-4.0	-6.6	-3.8
Offensive weapons									
number	1,801	455	2,105	403	462	326	57	423	219
rate	36	13	99	41	48	38	8	63	33
% change in rate *	-11.0	-5.5	2.0	17.6	-4.2	-2.1	19.5	-5.5	-13.8
Mischief -									
number	27,206	23,677	24,168	9,490	12,336	7,169	5,362	15,635	5,630
rate	545	672	1,141	960	1,273	831	789	2,319	854
% change in rate *	-5.7	-5.4	-3.7	-3.5	-1.0	2.0	-4.1	3.2	-11.7
Other Criminal Code - Total									
number	75,423	63,321	61,317	19,445	30,542	15,814	9,608	26,161	13,135
rate	1,512	1,797	2,894	1,966	3,152	1,833	1,413	3,880	1,992
% change in rate *	-1.8	-0.9	-1.3	3.4	-2.8	3.2	2.0	3.8	-15.6
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - excluding Traffic									
number	263,397	232,841	232,879	70,719	91,815	52,598	33,351	73,343	44,926
rate	5,281	6,607	10,993	7,151	9,476	6,096	4,905	10,879	6,812
% change in rate *	-1.4	-3.3	-3.0	-0.5	4.8	3.2	-2.2	-2.4	-7.8

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st are preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force.

³ Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

⁴ Homicide investigations undertaken by the Missing Women's Task Force in Port Coquitlam, B.C resulted in 15 homicides being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

⁵ Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

	Population ³	Total CC Offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other crimes	
		Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*
CMA with population of 500,000 and over									
Vancouver	2,118,504	10,993	-3.0	1,031	-2.1	7,067	-3.8	2,894	-1.3
Winnipeg	674,188	10,879	-2.4	1,325	-0.6	5,673	-6.6	3,880	3.8
Edmonton	968,950	9,476	4.8	922	-5.0	5,402	11.9	3,152	-2.8
Calgary	988,873	7,151	-0.5	817	-6.8	4,368	-0.9	1,966	3.4
Hamilton	659,539	6,812	-7.8	993	-5.9	3,827	-3.8	1,992	-15.6
Montréal	3,524,313	6,607	-3.3	852	-2.2	3,958	-4.6	1,797	-0.9
Ottawa ⁴	862,835	6,096	3.2	718	-5.4	3,546	5.2	1,833	3.2
Toronto	4,987,556	5,281	-1.4	820	-6.8	2,949	0.4	1,512	-1.8
Québec	679,889	4,905	-2.2	513	-2.3	2,979	-4.0	1,413	2.0
CMA with population between 100,000 and 499,999									
Regina	200,417	14,159	-12.2	1,503	-5.6	8,185	-13.9	4,470	-11.1
Saskatoon	234,267	13,234	0.3	1,625	-1.0	6,474	-0.8	5,134	2.1
Victoria	321,064	10,146	1.5	1,100	-2.9	5,444	1.4	3,602	3.1
Halifax	374,624	8,787	-2.8	1,282	4.2	4,569	-6.7	2,936	0.9
London	381,508	7,962	-3.0	767	-2.3	4,756	-4.9	2,438	0.7
Thunder Bay	126,239	7,887	-6.4	1,327	-3.1	3,325	-13.7	3,235	1.0
Saint John	146,140	7,451	18.2	1,148	0.9	3,404	13.6	2,899	33.6
Windsor	324,519	7,340	3.9	697	-9.0	3,934	4.1	2,709	7.7
St. John's	176,619	6,869	6.8	865	-2.7	3,786	10.0	2,218	5.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	426,450	6,847	-0.5	708	6.0	3,795	-2.2	2,343	0.6
Sherbrooke	146,501	6,826	4.4	483	5.4	4,042	-5.6	2,301	28.2
Gatineau ⁵	271,197	6,086	2.8	893	4.9	3,370	5.3	1,823	-2.5
Sudbury	159,316	5,939	-6.0	915	-8.7	3,223	-0.9	1,800	-12.7
Kitchener	463,222	5,928	3.4	573	-10.3	3,700	4.4	1,654	7.0
Trois-Rivières	145,447	4,716	1.7	518	26.6	2,865	3.8	1,332	-9.3
Saguenay ⁶	150,447	4,233	-7.6	491	13.1	2,459	-10.6	1,284	-8.3

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on un-rounded rates.

¹ Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Also, note that the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

² Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

³ Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to better reflect police service boundaries.

⁴ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁵ Gatineau was formerly known as Hull and refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁶ Saguenay was formerly known as Chicoutimi-Jonquière.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

Table 6



Crime Rates for the 30 Largest Police Services, by Type of Incident, Canada, 2002

	Population ¹	Total CC Offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other crimes	
		Rate ²	% change in rate*	Rate ²	% change in rate*	Rate ²	% change in rate*	Rate ²	% change in rate*
Toronto Police	2,614,956	6,297	-1.1	1,079	-6.7	3,406	1.0	1,813	-1.5
Peel Regional Police	1,044,337	3,981	-0.4	530	-5.1	2,371	1.3	1,079	-1.7
York Regional Police	818,013	4,179	3.4	511	-4.8	2,620	4.0	1,048	6.1
Durham Regional Police	530,341	5,250	-9.4	688	-10.7	2,639	-10.7	1,924	-6.9
Halton Regional Police	394,238	4,091	-3.3	486	-4.0	2,236	-3.5	1,368	-2.7
Montreal Police	1,853,489	8,022	-4.0	1,108	-5.7	4,731	-4.5	2,182	-1.9
Longueuil Police ³	382,401	6,556	5.2	830	14.9	3,857	2.1	1,870	7.9
Laval Police ³	359,627	4,819	-7.3	604	3.5	3,143	-8.6	1,073	-9.0
Calgary Police	915,453	7,307	-0.4	842	-7.1	4,549	-0.5	1,916	3.4
Ottawa Police	817,375	6,248	3.6	731	-4.7	3,656	5.6	1,861	3.2
Edmonton Police	666,739	11,131	6.1	1,050	-6.2	6,686	13.2	3,395	-2.1
Winnipeg Police	631,620	11,291	-2.4	1,385	-0.3	5,900	-6.7	4,007	3.9
Vancouver Police	580,094	12,334	-5.5	1,194	11.4	8,545	-10.7	2,594	7.4
Surrey (RCMP) Police	349,044	13,564	-3.7	1,310	-16.4	8,751	-1.8	3,504	-3.0
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	195,383	11,758	-4.4	1,041	0.1	7,930	-5.1	2,787	-4.2
Richmond (RCMP) Police	168,254	8,033	-3.4	631	7.8	4,855	-5.3	2,548	-2.1
Québec Police ³	516,740	5,474	-0.3	572	-3.3	3,335	-2.4	1,567	5.6
Hamilton Regional Police	505,941	7,587	-8.5	1,143	-6.0	4,287	-3.9	2,157	-17.6
Waterloo Regional Police	463,222	5,912	3.6	571	-10.4	3,693	4.5	1,647	7.3
Niagara Regional Police	426,450	6,733	-1.4	701	5.3	3,752	-3.0	2,280	-0.5
London Police	346,372	7,987	-2.1	764	-2.8	4,841	-4.0	2,382	2.2
Gatineau-Métro Police	219,717	6,679	5.4	1,010	8.8	3,661	9.4	2,008	-2.7
Windsor Police	214,348	9,114	6.0	884	-6.0	4,970	7.7	3,260	7.0
Saskatoon Police	206,922	14,044	-0.4	1,735	-1.5	6,915	-1.4	5,394	1.3
Halifax Regional Police	200,928	11,927	-0.6	1,897	8.2	6,627	-5.1	3,403	4.5
Regina Police	184,661	14,722	-12.4	1,559	-6.0	8,554	-14.2	4,610	-11.0
St. John's (RNC) Police	176,619	6,869	6.8	865	-2.7	3,786	10.0	2,218	5.6
Greater Sudbury Police	159,316	5,939	-6.0	915	-8.7	3,223	-0.9	1,800	-12.7
Saguenay Police ³	150,447	4,233	-7.6	491	13.1	2,459	-10.6	1,284	-8.3
Sherbrooke Regional Police	146,501	6,826	4.4	483	5.4	4,042	-5.6	2,301	28.2

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on non-rounded rates.

¹ Police Service population estimates were derived from 2002 preliminary postcensal population estimates (1996 Census boundaries), Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

² Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

³ Due to police service amalgamations in 2002, the 2001 data and populations used in the calculation of the percent change in rate from the previous year for these services are a result of combining data from the services existing in 2001 prior to the amalgamation.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 7


Persons Charged by Age Group and Sex, Selected Incidents, 2002

	Age Group by Sex				Total by Age Group	
	Adults (18 and over)		Youth (12 to 17)		Adult	Youth
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
	%		%		%	
Homicide ¹	89	11	79	21	91	9
Attempted murder	87	13	92	8	89	11
Assaults	83	17	69	31	85	15
Sexual assaults	98	2	94	6	82	18
Other sexual offences	95	5	94	6	81	19
Abduction	54	46	60	40	96	4
Robbery	91	9	85	15	68	32
Violent crime - Total	84	16	73	27	84	16
Break and enter	93	7	89	11	63	37
Motor vehicle theft	91	9	84	16	60	40
Fraud	70	30	66	34	92	8
Theft over \$5,000	76	24	81	19	87	13
Theft \$5,000 and under	70	30	63	37	74	26
Property crime - Total	77	23	75	25	74	26
Mischief	87	13	86	14	67	33
Arson	85	15	89	11	60	40
Prostitution	47	53	17	83	99	1
Offensive weapons	93	7	92	8	80	20
Criminal Code - Total (excluding traffic)	82	18	75	25	80	20
Impaired driving ^{2,3}	88	12	85	15	99	1
Cannabis Offences	88	12	88	12	82	18
Cocaine Offences	82	18	77	23	95	5
Other Drug Offences	83	17	84	16	89	11

¹ These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

² Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

³ Age of persons charged with impaired driving comes from the Incident-based survey (UCR2).

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 8



Youths Charged with Selected *Criminal Code* Incidents, Canada¹

	2001 ^r		2002		% change in rate* 2001-2002	% change in rate* 1992-2002
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
Population (aged 12-17)	2,471,230		2,502,828			
Homicide	30	1	42	2	38.2	-27.0
Attempted Murder	70	3	65	3	-8.3	-22.3
Assault Level 1 to 3	17,001	688	17,020	680	-1.2	15.4
Level 1	11,811	478	11,810	472	-1.3	13.1
Level 2-Weapon	4,921	199	4,865	194	-2.4	23.0
Level 3-Aggravated	269	11	345	14	26.6	-2.5
Other Assaults	1,104	45	1,126	45	0.7	-0.1
Sexual Assault	1,625	66	1,610	64	-2.2	-28.5
Sexual Assault	1,600	65	1,568	63	-3.2	-27.4
Sexual Assault with Weapon	16	1	30	1	85.1	-49.8
Aggravated Sexual Assault	9	0	12	0	31.7	-61.9
Other Sexual Offences	160	6	155	6	-4.3	-37.1
Abduction	2	0	5	0	146.8	-48.8
Robbery	3,625	147	3,341	133	-9.0	3.7
Firearms	351	14	214	9	-39.8	-64.9
Other offensive weapons	1,332	54	1,185	47	-12.2	8.4
Other Robbery	1,942	79	1,942	78	-1.3	28.0
Total Crimes of Violence	23,617	956	23,364	934	-2.3	7.4
Breaking And Entering	12,072	489	11,475	458	-6.1	-57.3
Business premises	3,653	148	3,426	137	-7.4	-63.1
Residence	7,100	287	6,909	276	-3.9	-49.8
Other Break and Enter	1,319	53	1,140	46	-14.7	-70.1
Theft - Motor Vehicle	6,150	249	5,527	221	-11.3	-37.3
Theft Over \$5,000 ²	297	12	289	12	-3.9	-86.2
Theft \$5,000 and Under ²	19,155	775	18,975	758	-2.2	-53.7
Possession of Stolen Goods	5,547	224	5,349	214	-4.8	-34.1
Frauds	1,954	79	1,734	69	-12.4	-55.8
Total Property Crimes	45,175	1,828	43,349	1,732	-5.3	-52.2
Mischief	6,984	283	7,014	280	-0.8	-28.7
Counterfeiting currency	135	5	178	7	30.2	290.3
Bail violations	11,490	465	11,329	453	-2.6	42.5
Disturb the peace	795	32	750	30	-6.9	-31.1
Offensive Weapons	1,702	69	1,576	63	-8.6	-23.8
Prostitution	31	1	41	2	30.6	-89.4
Arson	701	28	547	22	-23.0	-23.7
Other	12,060	488	10,852	434	-11.2	-11.8
Total - Other Criminal Code Offences	33,898	1,372	32,287	1,290	-6.0	-6.1
TOTAL - CRIMINAL CODE (Excluding Traffic)	102,690	4,155	99,000	3,956	-4.8	-32.6

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2002 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2001; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

² Prior to 1995, theft offences were categorized into Theft \$1,000 and Under and Theft Over \$1,000. In 1995 the dollar value was increased.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 9

Youth Charged With Selected *Criminal Code* Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2002¹

	Nfld.Lab.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Population (aged 12-17)	43,992	12,432	76,269	59,425	546,205	965,088	100,963	94,784	271,110	321,932	2,808	4,175	3,645	2,502,828
Homicide														
number	1	0	0	1	1	14	7	0	5	11	0	1	1	42
rate	2.3	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.2	1.5	6.9	0.0	1.8	3.4	0.0	24.0	27.4	1.7
% change in rate*	...	0.0	-50.6	24.6	130.5	-100.0	-29.4	447.5	0.0	38.2
Sexual Assault (1,2,3)														
number	35	8	63	51	216	630	87	123	162	206	4	11	14	1,610
rate	80	64	83	86	40	65	86	130	60	64	142	263	384	64
% change in rate*	-34.9	98.1	65.4	4.9	29.5	-6.7	-4.5	20.8	-12.5	-16.3	-48.4	20.1	-16.9	-2.2
Assault (1,2,3)														
number	323	39	485	408	2,211	7,263	1,075	1,061	2,040	1,989	18	67	41	17,020
rate	734	314	636	687	405	753	1,065	1,119	752	618	641	1,605	1,125	680
% change in rate*	8.3	-25.7	7.3	2.5	4.0	-2.6	-7.7	-5.8	0.3	1.3	-60.5	-8.6	14.5	-1.2
Robbery														
number	15	5	74	20	484	1,460	297	226	425	326	5	4	0	3,341
rate	34	40	97	34	89	151	294	238	157	101	178	96	0	133
% change in rate*	-19.3	65.1	-13.2	-50.8	-8.1	-12.6	-1.6	-13.3	4.2	-7.0	29.1	96.5	-100.0	-9.0
Violent crime - Total														
number	396	54	673	529	3,156	9,884	1,573	1,508	2,770	2,633	33	91	64	23,364
rate	900	434	882	890	578	1,024	1,558	1,591	1,022	818	1,175	2,180	1,756	934
% change in rate*	2.0	-18.9	7.9	-2.4	4.0	-4.4	-3.4	-6.2	-0.3	-2.3	-44.1	-2.8	-7.9	-2.3
Breaking & Entering														
number	353	58	410	208	1,424	3,495	855	1,483	1,729	1,058	59	173	170	11,475
rate	802	467	538	350	261	362	847	1,565	638	329	2,101	4,144	4,664	458
% change in rate*	-22.5	-17.9	-0.2	-20.3	-0.6	-3.0	-11.3	-11.7	10.2	-25.7	96.5	6.9	25.1	-6.1
Motor Vehicle Theft														
number	110	18	154	136	558	1,519	847	694	855	560	21	38	17	5,527
rate	250	145	202	229	102	157	839	732	315	174	748	910	466	221
% change in rate*	-13.5	-47.5	-16.1	14.2	-8.6	-21.9	7.1	-15.3	-12.8	5.0	27.5	16.6	-32.7	-11.3
Other Theft														
number	344	63	579	663	2,076	7,031	1,408	1,538	2,899	2,555	24	54	30	19,264
rate	782	507	759	1,116	380	729	1,395	1,623	1,069	794	855	1,293	823	770
% change in rate*	-19.1	-25.7	2.0	11.9	2.7	-8.7	3.7	6.4	10.7	-6.9	-34.8	-19.6	35.6	-2.2
Property crime - Total														
number	855	145	1,207	1,119	4,526	15,787	3,457	4,297	6,654	4,685	111	286	220	43,349
rate	1,944	1,166	1,583	1,883	829	1,636	3,424	4,533	2,454	1,455	3,953	6,850	6,036	1,732
% change in rate*	-20.7	-31.6	-2.0	0.9	-1.2	-7.9	-3.6	-7.7	6.1	-11.5	11.3	4.8	18.7	-5.3
Offensive weapons														
number	10	0	35	15	54	706	157	117	270	206	2	2	2	1,576
rate	23	0	46	25	10	73	156	123	100	64	71	48	55	63
% change in rate*	-31.8	0.0	16.4	-51.2	-32.4	-8.6	-6.0	7.5	-7.4	-5.5	-48.4	-50.9	-52.5	-8.6
Mischief														
number	160	30	226	237	685	2,408	497	782	1,127	733	43	48	38	7,014
rate	364	241	296	399	125	250	492	825	416	228	1,531	1,150	1,043	280
% change in rate*	-15.7	2.5	-2.0	-15.0	-1.5	-0.1	18.6	-1.1	8.4	-14.7	101.8	-38.0	112.2	-0.8
Other Criminal Code - Total														
number	765	94	1,086	921	2,606	12,403	2,534	4,222	4,658	2,554	142	189	113	32,287
rate	1,739	756	1,424	1,550	477	1,285	2,510	4,454	1,718	793	5,057	4,527	3,100	1,290
% change in rate*	-0.1	-2.0	15.6	-3.2	-2.2	-10.2	4.9	-8.0	-4.2	-7.1	41.0	-33.2	47.0	-6.0
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - (Excluding Traffic)														
number	2,016	293	2,966	2,569	10,288	38,074	7,564	10,027	14,082	9,872	286	566	397	99,000
rate	4,583	2,357	3,889	4,323	1,884	3,945	7,492	10,579	5,194	3,066	10,185	13,557	10,892	3,956
% change in rate*	-9.7	-21.8	6.2	-1.3	0.1	-7.8	-0.9	-7.6	1.2	-8.1	10.2	-12.9	19.7	-4.8

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... not applicable

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2002.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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2003

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- Vol. 23, no. 3 Youth Court Statistics, 2001/02
- Vol. 23, no. 4 Canada's Shelters for Abused Women, 2001/02