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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



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A comparison of large urban, small urban and rural crime rates, 2005

by Joycelyn Francisco and Christian Chénier

Highlights

- Crime is not necessarily a large urban phenomenon. Looking at 2005 police-reported data, small urban areas were found to have higher overall crime rates than large urban areas. The lowest overall crime rates were found in rural areas.
- These findings applied to all the provinces and territories except for Quebec and Alberta. In Quebec, the overall crime rate was highest in the large urban areas; in Alberta, the overall crime rate was lowest in large urban areas.
- In addition to having the highest overall crime rate, small urban areas reported the highest rates for total violent crime, total property crime and breaking and entering. However, these areas reported the lowest homicide rates.
- Large urban areas reported the highest rates for both robbery and motor vehicle theft. In particular, robbery rates were more than double those of small urban areas and almost 10 times higher than rural areas. Overall violent crime rates, however, were lowest in large urban areas.
- Rural areas had the highest homicide rate in 2005 as has been the case over the past decade. However, rural areas reported the lowest rates for overall crime, total property crime, robbery and motor vehicle theft.
- The proportion of homicides committed with a firearm was actually slightly higher in rural areas (39%) than in large urban (35%) and small urban areas (23%). The type of firearm used to commit homicide differed widely between urban and rural areas. While a handgun was the weapon of choice in the large urban areas, a rifle/shotgun was most commonly used in rural areas.
- The presence of weapons in violent crime in large urban areas was much higher than in small urban and rural areas (data for Quebec and Ontario only). In fact, the presence of a firearm was about two to three times greater in a large urban area than in a small urban or rural area of these provinces.
- Despite differences in crime rates, residents of the large urban, small urban and rural areas were equally likely, at over 90%, to report feeling satisfied about their safety from crime. However, residents of small urban and rural areas were more likely than the residents of large urban areas to say that the police were doing a good job.



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Introduction

Canada's population continues to become more urban. The share of urban population in Canada increased from 76% in 1986 to 80% in 2006.¹ The census metropolitan areas (CMAs), the largest urban areas, comprised 61% of the total Canadian population in 1986 and 68% in 2006.²

Some researchers claim that urbanization brings significant socio-economic changes which in turn may lead to greater societal problems such as increased crime.³ Thus, there may be a general perception that crime rates are higher in large urbanized areas than in smaller areas and that the use of firearms in the commission of crimes is also higher in large urban areas.

For the first time, police detachments in Canada have been classified into large urban, small urban or rural according to their boundaries and resident population (see Text box 1 for definitions of these three groupings). Using these groupings, this report looks at overall police-reported crime rates in 2005 and four offence-specific rates: homicide, robbery, breaking and entering (B&E), and motor vehicle theft.

Victimization data from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) are also examined where appropriate. In particular, the study looks at perceptions of safety from crime among the urban and rural population and precautionary measures taken by residents.

Text box 1

Definition of large urban, small urban and rural areas

Large urban areas: are defined as census metropolitan areas (CMAs). A CMA represents one or more adjacent municipalities centered on an urban core of at least 100,000 population.¹ To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. As of 2005, there were 27 CMAs in Canada. All small urban and rural areas within CMA boundaries are included in the category of "large urban areas" for the purposes of this study.

Small urban areas: are defined as any urban area not part of a CMA that has a minimum population of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre. This category also includes any rural areas that are part of a census agglomeration (CA) which has a similar definition and concept as a CMA, except that the urban core population can be as low as 10,000.

Rural areas: are defined as all areas of the country not falling into either large urban or small urban.

Note: Following the above definitions, most reserves are classified as rural, although some do fall in either small urban or large urban categories. A previous study² found that on-reserve crime rates were about three times higher than off-reserve crime rates. Rates of violent crime were seven times higher on reserves, while rates of property crime were about 40% higher.

1. This definition is based on the 2001 Census. For the 2006 Census, the minimum population of the urban core required for a CMA has been lowered to 50,000.
2. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. 2006. *Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 26, no. 3. Ottawa.

1. Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 1901 to 2006.
2. Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Analysis Series.
3. Feld, Barry C. (1991). "Justice by Geography: Urban, Suburban and Rural Variations in Juvenile Justice Administration." *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. Vol. 82, no. 1.

Crime in large urban, small urban and rural communities

Overall crime

Overall police-reported crime rate highest in small urban areas

According to the 2005 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey data, about 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic violations and other federal statutes such as drug offences) were reported by police forces across the country (Table 1). Of these, approximately 1.5 million incidents were reported in large urban areas, 590,000 in small urban areas and 360,000 in rural areas. While large urban areas account for the highest proportion of reported annual incidents (62%), they also account for the highest share of Canada's population (66%).⁴

Crime is not necessarily a large urban phenomenon. After controlling for population, we see that overall crime rates in Canada in 2005 were highest in small urban areas and lowest in rural areas (Figure 1). The overall crime rate in the small urban areas was about 43% higher than in large urban areas and about 58% higher than in the rural areas. Small urban areas also reported the highest rates for total violent crime and total property crime.

These findings for police-reported incidents applied to all the provinces and territories except for Quebec and Alberta. In Quebec, the overall crime rate was highest in the large urban areas; in Alberta, the overall crime rate was lowest in large urban areas.

Small urban areas in Saskatchewan showed the highest overall crime rate among the provinces, followed closely by the small urban areas of Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta. The overall crime rate was lowest in rural Quebec, followed by the rural areas in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick. These findings are consistent with overall provincial crime trends which show the highest rates of crime in the western provinces and the lowest rates in central Canada.

The GSS collects reporting rates to police for each of the eight offences included in the survey. For seven of these eight offences, there were no significant differences in reporting rates between small urban residents and large urban residents. The only offence with significantly different reporting rates was "theft of personal property", where small urban residents reported incidents to police much more frequently (40%) than did residents of large urban areas (28%). Therefore, reporting rates to police do not appear to explain the differences in police-reported crime rates between these areas.

Violent crime

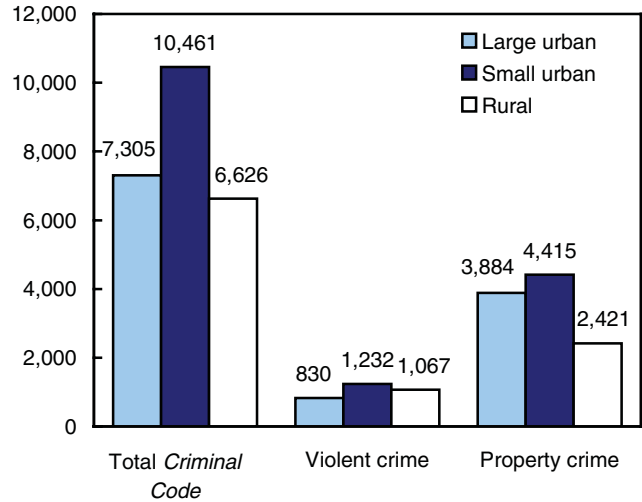
Violent crime rates lowest in large urban areas

Violent crimes are *Criminal Code* violations involving violence, the threat of violence or violations resulting in the deprivation of freedom. Examples of violent crimes include murder, assault, sexual assault and robbery. Similar to overall crime,

Figure 1

Highest overall crime rate found in small urban areas, 2005

number of incidents per 100,000 population



Note: "Other" *Criminal Code* offences are not shown in this graph.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Text box 2

Data sources

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The UCR survey collects detailed information on all criminal incidents reported to, or detected by, police services in Canada.

General Social Survey on Victimization (GSS)

The GSS provides self-reported victimization rates for only eight crimes: sexual assault, robbery, assault, theft of personal property, breaking and entering, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property and vandalism.

As the UCR survey includes over 100 different offences, overall victimization rates cannot be compared with overall police-reported crime rates. However, three offences that are analyzed in this report are comparable between the GSS and the UCR. For two of these three (robbery and motor vehicle theft), GSS results were similar to the findings for the UCR data in that the highest rates were reported in large urban areas and lowest in rural areas.

However, for breaking and entering, the results from the two surveys were different. The 2004 GSS on victimization showed that B&E rates (residential only) were highest in large urban areas and lowest in rural areas (Table 5). This contrasts with the findings from police-reported data which showed that small urban areas had the highest rates of B&Es, even after adjusting to count only residential B&Es. Reporting rates to police for this offence do not explain why the GSS findings differ from the police-reported data.

4. This is based on the 2005 preliminary postcensal estimate for 2005.

violent crime rates were again highest in small urban areas. However, rural areas reported higher violent crime rates than large urban areas.

Although these same national level findings were seen in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, there was variation elsewhere. In New Brunswick and Quebec, total violent crime rates were highest in the large urban areas. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, rural areas reported the highest violent crime rates.

The highest violent crime rates among the provinces were found in rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba, while the lowest were found in rural Prince Edward Island.

Homicide rate highest in rural areas

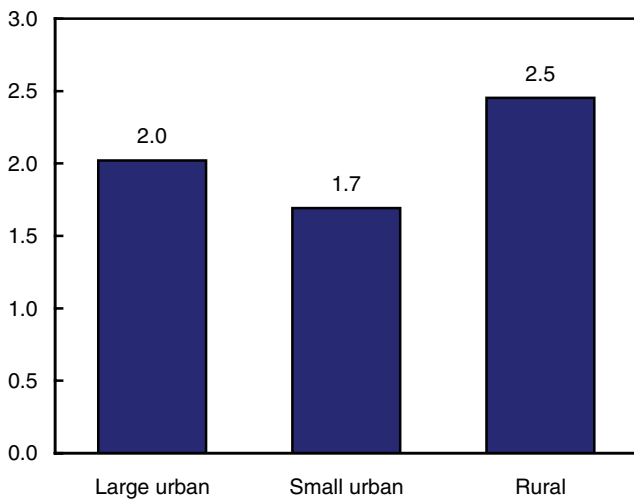
Homicide, the most serious of all criminal acts, includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide. There were 658 reported homicides in Canada in 2005, of which 427 were committed in large urban areas, 95 in small urban areas and 135 in rural areas (1 incident could not be classified as urban or rural).

Of the four specific offences under study, homicide was the only one where the highest rate was in rural Canada in 2005 (Figure 2, Table 2).⁵ In fact, the highest homicide rates in the country were found in the rural areas of the prairie provinces. However, homicide rates were not highest in the rural areas of all provinces. In Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, for example, homicide rates were highest in the large urban areas.

Figure 2

Homicide rates highest in rural areas, 2005

number of victims per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

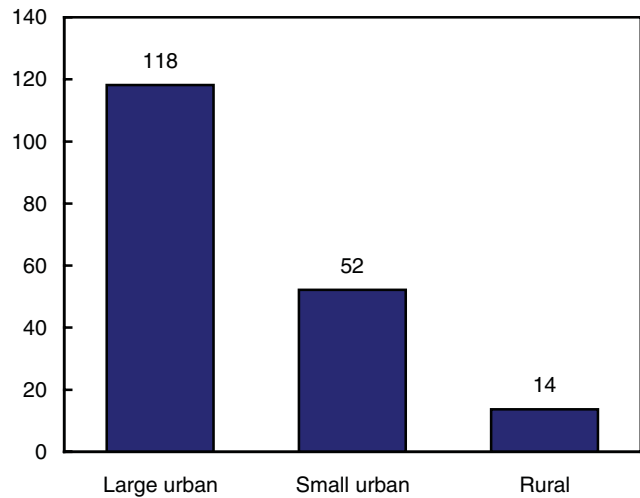
Robbery mostly a large urban criminal offence

Robbery, according to the 2005 crime statistics, was by far a large urban crime (Table 2). In fact, the robbery rate for large urban Canada is more than twice that for small urban areas and almost 10 times that for rural areas (Figure 3). This finding was consistent in most provinces.

Figure 3

Robbery rates much higher in large urban areas, 2005

number of incidents per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Characteristics of violent incidents

Data on the characteristics of homicides, including weapon use and victim-offender relationships, are available for the entire country. Such data describing other violent crimes are not available for rural areas outside Quebec and Ontario. As such, the analysis of weapons and victim-offender relationships in overall violent crime is done for Quebec and Ontario only.⁶

Type of firearm differs between urban and rural homicides

The proportion of homicides committed with a firearm in 2005 was slightly higher in rural areas (39%) than in large urban areas (35%) and much higher than in small urban areas (23%).

5. Based on a preliminary of homicide rates for the past ten years, it appears that homicide rates have consistently been highest in the rural areas of the country.
 6. UCR2 survey coverage in Quebec for 2005 is 99% of the provincial caseload and 88% in Ontario.

The type of firearm used to commit homicide differed widely between urban and rural areas. While a handgun was the weapon of choice in the large urban areas (76% of all firearm homicides), a rifle/shotgun was the most commonly used firearm in rural areas (65%). Conversely, rifles/shotguns accounted for only 7% of large urban area firearm homicides, while handguns comprised about 15% of all rural area firearm homicides.

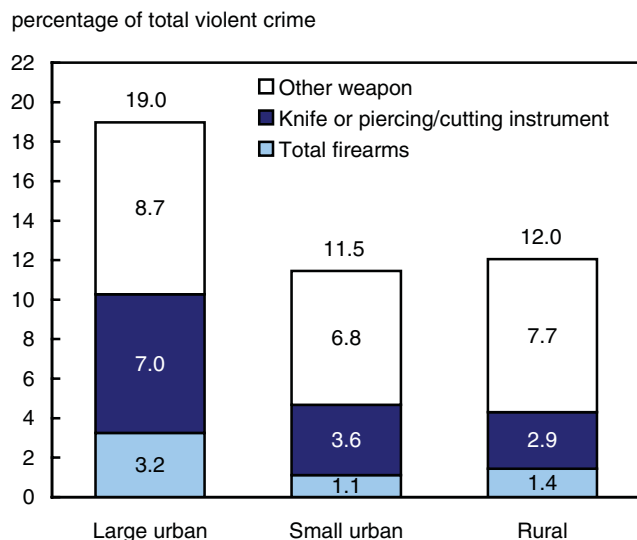
Weapons most commonly present in large urban crimes

The presence of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime is relatively infrequent. About 17% of all violent incidents in Quebec and Ontario in 2005 involved a weapon of some sort, most commonly a knife.

The presence of weapons in violent crimes in large urban areas was more frequent than in small urban or rural areas (Table 3). About 1 in 5 reported violent crimes in large urban areas of Quebec and Ontario involved a weapon, compared to about 1 in 8 violent crimes in small urban and rural areas (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Firearms 2 to 3 times more likely to be present in large urban areas than in small urban and rural areas of Quebec and Ontario, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Further, the proportion of violent crimes involving a firearm was about two to three times higher in large urban areas (3.2% of all violent crimes) than in small urban (1.1%) or rural areas (1.4%). When a firearm was present, handguns were more prevalent in large urban areas than in other areas.

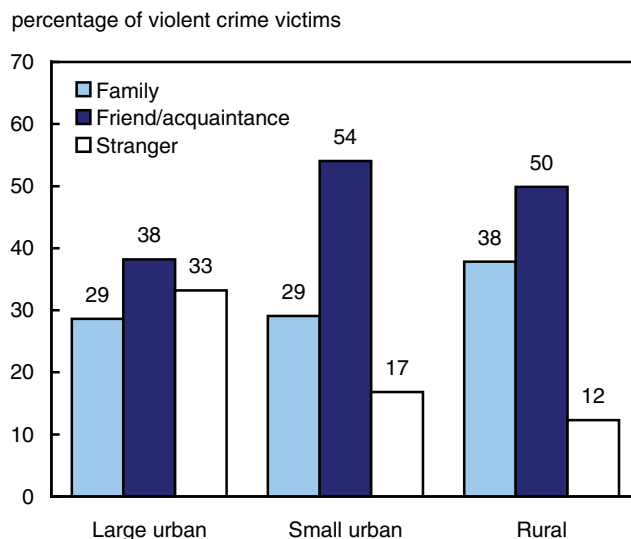
The presence of a knife or piercing/cutting instrument was also most common in large urban areas (7.0% of all violent crime incidents) and least common in small urban (3.6%) and rural areas (2.9%).

Likelihood that victim knew the accused highest in rural areas

Not surprisingly, the proportion of total violent crimes committed by strangers was highest in the large urban areas (33%) and lowest in the rural areas (12%) of Ontario and Quebec (Table 4, Figure 5). This finding held true for all violent offences.

Figure 5

One-third of all violent crimes in the large urban areas of Quebec and Ontario committed by strangers, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

The proportion of violent crimes committed by family members was highest in the rural areas (38%) and lower (29%) in the large urban and small urban areas of Quebec and Ontario. This finding also held true for homicide incidents at the national level.

Property crime

Property crime rates highest in small urban areas

Property crimes are crimes committed with no force or threat of force against the victims. In 2005, there were about 1.2 million reported property crimes, of which approximately 800,000 were in large urban areas, 250,000 in small urban areas and 130,000 in rural areas.

Nationally, the overall property crime rate was highest in the small urban areas and lowest in the rural areas. The property crime rate in small urban Canada is about 82% higher than

that of rural Canada and about 14% higher than that of large urban Canada.

In all provinces, the property crime rate was highest in either the large urban or small urban areas. The overall property crime rate was highest in small urban British Columbia, followed closely by large urban Saskatchewan. It was lowest in the rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Motor vehicle theft mainly a large urban crime

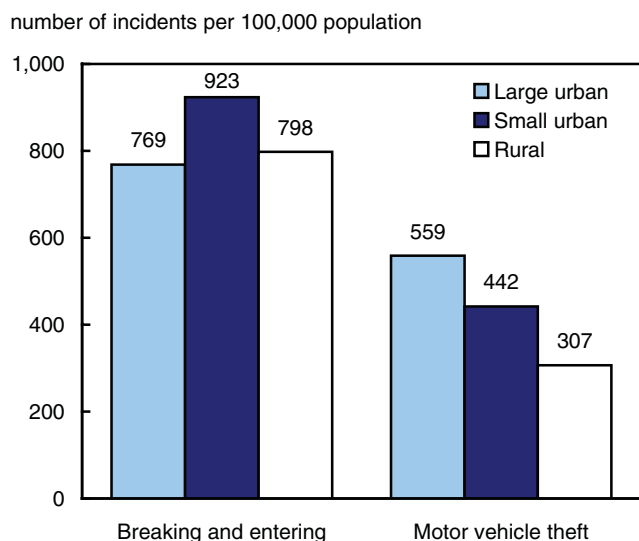
In 2005, there were about 160,000 incidents of motor vehicle theft reported to the police. Similar to robbery, motor vehicle theft in 2005 was mainly a large urban offence. In virtually all provinces, the motor vehicle theft rate was higher in the large urban areas than in the small urban or rural areas.

The rate of motor vehicle theft in large urban Canada was about 25% higher than in small urban areas and about 80% higher than in rural areas (Figure 6).

The highest police-reported rates in the country were found in the large urban areas of Manitoba, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Motor vehicle theft rates were lowest in rural and small urban Newfoundland and Labrador.

Figure 6

Motor vehicle theft a big city crime, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Urban and rural areas have fairly similar rates of breaking and entering

There were over 250,000 B&E incidents, including both residential and business, reported in 2005 (Table 2). Differences in the rates for the large urban, small urban and rural areas for B&E were smallest compared with the other offences considered in this study. The rate in small urban areas was 20% higher than in large urban areas and 16% higher than in rural areas (Figure 6).

While a number of provinces followed the national pattern of having the highest B&E rates in their small urban areas, B&E rates were highest in large urban areas of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

The highest B&E rates were found in urban and rural areas of Saskatchewan and in small urban British Columbia. The lowest rates were seen in the large urban areas of Ontario and New Brunswick and in rural Prince Edward Island.

**Text box 3
Urban/rural crime in the United States**

In the United States, data from their UCR police-reported survey are broken down into similar, although not exactly comparable, urban/rural categories¹: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), cities outside metropolitan areas and rural counties outside MSAs.

Similar to a CMA, an MSA includes a central city and other contiguous counties having strong economic and social ties with the central city. However, the central city of an MSA must have a population of at least 50,000. MSAs made up approximately 83% of the total U.S. population in 2005. Cities outside the MSAs are ordinarily incorporated areas, either as a city or town, and comprised about 7% of the American population. In contrast, rural counties outside MSAs are composed of mostly unincorporated areas and made up about 10% of the population.

While overall crime rates cannot be compared between the two countries, as the United States count only nine offences in their "Crime Index", and Canada's "crime rate" includes over 100 different offences, it is possible to get a general sense of urban and rural crime rates for the four specific offences included in this study. In general, the U.S. data are similar for three of the four offences. For robbery and motor vehicle theft, both countries have their highest rates in large urban areas and their lowest in rural areas. Similarly, for breaking and entering, both countries reported rates that were slightly higher in small urban areas.

The major difference between the two countries was for homicide. By far the highest rates in the U.S. were found in the large urban areas, while in Canada they were in the rural areas. This may be related to the prevalence of firearm homicides in large American cities. A recent study has shown that urban areas in the U.S. have experienced almost twice the firearm homicide rate of most rural counties.²

1. Crime in the United States, 2005. United States Department of Justice.
2. University of Pennsylvania Health System. September 27, 2004. *Press Releases*. "Big Cities and Small Towns Bear Similar Risks of Gun Death, says Penn Public Health Study," 1 p.

Perception of safety, attitudes towards police and precautionary measures taken

Residents of large urban, small urban and rural areas satisfied with their safety from crime

According to the 2004 GSS, more than 90% of all Canadians were satisfied with their overall safety from crime. Although rural areas generally have lower crime and victimization rates than urban areas, the residents in large urban, small urban and rural areas were almost equally likely to express their feeling of satisfaction about their safety from crime (Table 6). However, compared with the residents of large urban areas, a somewhat larger percentage of rural and small urban residents said they were “very satisfied” as opposed to just “somewhat satisfied”. The highest rates of feeling “very satisfied” about safety from crime were found in rural and small urban Newfoundland and Labrador, while the most “dissatisfied” were found in the large urban areas of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

When it comes to their perception of the job being done by the police (based on five measures: being approachable, treating people fairly, ensuring neighborhood safety, enforcing the law, and promptly responding to calls), the majority of the residents of the large urban, small urban and rural areas all responded that the police were doing a good job. However, small urban and rural area residents were slightly more likely than the residents of large urban areas to say that the police were doing a good job in all five areas.

Large urban area residents took precautionary measures most often

The 2004 GSS asked respondents about their use of routine precautionary measures, namely: 1) lock car doors for safety when alone, 2) check back seat for intruders when returning to car alone, 3) plan route with safety in mind, 4) carry something to defend self or alert others, and 5) stay home at night because afraid to go out alone. Rural residents were least likely to have reported taking these measures, while the residents of the large urban areas were the most likely.

Respondents were also asked about lifetime protective measures such as changing routine, installing new locks or security bars, installing burglar alarms, taking self-defense courses, changing phone numbers, moving to a new residence, obtaining a gun or getting a dog. Large urban residents were more likely than either small urban or rural residents to change routine, install new locks and install burglar alarms, while rural residents were more likely to obtain a dog or get a gun.

Methodology

Data sources

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The UCR survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect crimes that have been substantiated

through police investigation. The overall “crime rate” includes all *Criminal Code* offences except traffic violations. It does not include other federal statutes such as drug offences.

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

Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey 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 or incident characteristics. Coverage of the UCR Survey in 2005 was at 99.9% of the caseload of all police services in Canada. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

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 services switch over from the aggregate to the incident based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

Only UCR2 data from Quebec and Ontario are used for this study on crime in urban and rural areas as data from other provinces are primarily from only urban police services. The incidents contained in the 2005 database represent data from 39 police services in Quebec and 56 in Ontario. These police services represent 99% of the caseload in Quebec and 88% in Ontario.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. It provides more detailed information than the UCR2.

The General Social Survey (GSS)

Statistics Canada conducted the fourth victimization cycle of the General Social Survey in 2004. The objective of the survey is to collect information on the nature and extent of criminal victimization in Canada. Eight criminal offences are covered:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Violent crimes | 1. sexual assault |
| | 2. robbery |
| | 3. assault |
| Personal crime
(non-violent) | 4. theft of personal property |
| Household crimes | 5. break and enter |
| | 6. motor vehicle/parts theft |
| | 7. theft of household property |
| | 8. vandalism |

The 2004 GSS had a sample of 31,895 households of which 23,766 households responded for a response rate of about 75%. The data were collected by phone from January to December 2004 using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI).

While the methodology of this survey has been designed to control errors and to reduce the potential effects of these, the results remain subject to both sampling and non-sampling error. This *Juristat* uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of sampling error. Estimates with CVs of over 33.3%, denoted by 'F', are considered very unreliable and, hence, are not published. Those with CVs between 16.6 and 33.3, denoted by 'E', are published but should be used with caution.

Classification of police detachments into large urban, small urban and rural

As police service boundaries do not always correspond precisely to census boundaries, police detachments are classified into rural, small urban or large urban based on the proportion of their population policed falling into each of these areas. For example, a police detachment whose area of jurisdiction has at least a 50% rural population is classified as rural.

As a result, the overall distribution of police detachments into large urban, small urban and rural areas will not match precisely with census figures. The following table, based on the preliminary postcensal population estimates for 2005 (population as of July 1st), shows the comparison between the 2005 population distribution resulting from the census standard definitions and that from the UCR.

Text table 1

	Census (percentage of total population)	UCR (percentage of total population)
Large urban (CMAs)	64.3	65.5
Small urban	15.7	17.4
Rural	20.0	17.1

For this report, a number of police services could not be classified as large urban, small urban or rural and have been excluded in the data set. These include centralized units of the RCMP, OPP and Sûreté du Québec, as well as Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Police.

Under the UCR survey, a criminal incident is considered as being large urban, small urban or rural depending on how the police force to which it had been reported is classified.

The GSS classifies criminal victimization incidents as large urban, small urban or rural, according to the residence of the victim. Hence, a rural criminal victimization incident is classified as such because the victim is a resident in a rural area. Note that this incident may or may not have occurred in the rural area where the victim resides – the victim could have traveled to an urban area where the incident occurred.

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Table 1

Police reported crime incidents for broad categories of offences,¹ Canada, by province, 2005

Geography	Population	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> ²		Total violent crimes		Total property crimes	
		number	rate ³	number	rate ³	number	rate ³
Canada							
Large urban	21,134,653	1,543,869	7,304.9	175,495	830.4	820,848	3,883.9
Small urban	5,622,200	588,136	10,461.0	69,266	1,232.0	248,225	4,415.1
Rural	5,503,914	364,713	6,626.4	58,742	1,067.3	133,257	2,421.1
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Large urban	181,527	11,785	6,492.1	1,513	833.5	6,988	3,849.6
Small urban	118,509	9,123	7,698.1	1,305	1,101.2	2,779	2,345.0
Rural	215,926	10,502	4,863.7	1,663	770.2	3,310	1,532.9
Prince Edward Island							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	57,776	6,657	11,522.1	571	988.3	3,183	5,509.2
Rural	80,337	4,206	5,235.4	469	583.8	1,527	1,900.7
Nova Scotia							
Large urban	380,844	35,741	9,384.7	4,972	1,305.5	18,595	4,882.6
Small urban	199,097	21,592	10,845.0	2,974	1,493.7	8,022	4,029.2
Rural	357,948	20,918	5,843.9	2,729	762.4	7,373	2,059.8
New Brunswick							
Large urban	145,363	9,758	6,712.8	1,543	1,061.5	3,892	2,677.4
Small urban	257,597	23,615	9,167.4	2,444	948.8	10,343	4,015.2
Rural	349,047	17,363	4,974.4	2,283	654.1	6,207	1,778.3
Quebec							
Large urban	5,121,768	337,928	6,597.9	39,211	765.6	176,532	3,446.7
Small urban	1,154,621	62,320	5,397.4	8,244	714.0	31,515	2,729.5
Rural	1,313,605	57,422	4,371.3	8,710	663.1	29,484	2,244.5
Ontario							
Large urban	9,418,183	533,545	5,665.1	66,752	708.8	264,908	2,812.7
Small urban	1,674,791	120,422	7,190.3	16,155	964.6	55,900	3,337.7
Rural	1,460,949	67,813	4,641.7	10,697	732.2	29,640	2,028.8
Manitoba							
Large urban	698,791	77,934	11,152.7	8,826	1,263.0	41,299	5,910.1
Small urban	172,110	27,232	15,822.4	3,178	1,846.5	8,455	4,912.6
Rural	307,099	32,156	10,470.9	6,634	2,160.2	8,769	2,855.4
Saskatchewan							
Large urban	446,261	58,984	13,217.4	7,001	1,568.8	29,726	6,661.1
Small urban	235,744	40,064	16,994.7	4,397	1,865.2	13,973	5,927.2
Rural	327,467	43,234	13,202.6	8,317	2,539.8	10,770	3,288.9
Alberta							
Large urban	2,086,470	181,730	8,709.9	18,033	864.3	108,158	5,183.8
Small urban	615,576	92,031	14,950.4	9,551	1,551.6	34,348	5,579.8
Rural	524,877	51,543	9,820.0	7,959	1,516.4	15,828	3,015.6
British Columbia							
Large urban	2,655,446	296,464	11,164.4	27,644	1,041.0	170,750	6,430.2
Small urban	1,074,767	164,864	15,339.5	17,714	1,648.2	75,847	7,057.1
Rural	524,309	45,328	8,645.3	6,108	1,165.0	17,900	3,414.0
Yukon							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	24,373	4,660	19,119.5	547	2,244.3	1,431	5,871.3
Rural	6,615	2,231	33,726.4	405	6,122.4	426	6,439.9
Northwest Territories							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	27,185	10,700	39,359.9	1,432	5,267.6	1,699	6,249.8
Rural	15,797	7,021	44,445.1	1,410	8,925.7	1,087	6,881.1
Nunavut							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	10,054	4,856	48,299.2	754	7,499.5	730	7,260.8
Rural	19,938	4,976	24,957.4	1,358	6,811.1	936	4,694.6

... not applicable

1. "Other" *Criminal Code* offences are not shown in this table although they are included under "Total *Criminal Code*".

2. Figures do not include traffic incidents and other federal statutes such as drug offences.

3. Rates are per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.**Note:** Data from respondent police forces which could not be classified as large urban, small urban or rural were excluded (ex. OPP headquarters, RCMP headquarters, police forces which do only traffic, etc.)**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2005.

Table 2

Police reported crime incidents for selected offences, Canada, by province, 2005

Geography	Homicide ¹		Robbery		Breaking and entering		Motor vehicle theft	
	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	number	rate ²
Canada								
Large urban	427	2.0	24,967	118.1	162,457	768.7	118,160	559.1
Small urban	95	1.7	2,932	52.2	51,907	923.3	24,849	442.0
Rural	135	2.5	756	13.7	43,917	797.9	16,873	306.6
Newfoundland and Labrador								
Large urban	2	1.1	112	61.7	1,973	1,086.9	484	266.6
Small urban	3	2.5	24	20.3	971	819.3	115	97.0
Rural	4	1.9	13	6.0	1,254	580.8	176	81.5
Prince Edward Island								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	0	0.0	14	24.2	401	694.1	116	200.8
Rural	0	0.0	3	3.7	430	535.2	111	138.2
Nova Scotia								
Large urban	10	2.6	591	155.2	3,488	915.9	1,631	428.3
Small urban	5	2.5	86	43.2	1,603	805.1	495	248.6
Rural	5	1.4	30	8.4	2,199	614.3	505	141.1
New Brunswick								
Large urban	0	0.0	64	44.0	759	522.1	199	136.9
Small urban	4	1.6	153	59.4	2,175	844.3	587	227.9
Rural	5	1.4	29	8.3	1,922	550.6	653	187.1
Quebec								
Large urban	57	1.1	6,215	121.3	44,009	859.3	28,179	550.2
Small urban	17	1.5	345	29.9	9,558	827.8	5,308	459.7
Rural	26	2.0	194	14.8	11,341	863.3	5,054	384.7
Ontario								
Large urban	177	1.9	8,994	95.5	48,500	515.0	32,013	339.9
Small urban	19	1.1	762	45.5	10,765	642.8	4,572	273.0
Rural	22	1.5	159	10.9	8,599	588.6	2,775	189.9
Manitoba								
Large urban	26	3.7	1,841	263.5	7,475	1,069.7	11,960	1,711.5
Small urban	6	3.5	97	56.4	2,015	1,170.8	781	453.8
Rural	17	5.5	68	22.1	3,604	1,173.6	1,444	470.2
Saskatchewan								
Large urban	17	3.8	1,003	224.8	7,161	1,604.7	3,517	788.1
Small urban	7	3.0	160	67.9	3,181	1,349.3	1,127	478.1
Rural	19	5.8	80	24.4	4,244	1,296.0	1,530	467.2
Alberta								
Large urban	70	3.4	2,550	122.2	18,691	895.8	15,478	741.8
Small urban	15	2.4	335	54.4	5,807	943.3	3,331	541.1
Rural	23	4.4	85	16.2	4,439	845.7	2,391	455.5
British Columbia								
Large urban	68	2.6	3,597	135.5	30,401	1,144.9	24,699	930.1
Small urban	18	1.7	924	86.0	14,305	1,331.0	8,026	746.8
Rural	12	2.3	90	17.2	4,681	892.8	2,039	388.9
Yukon								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	1	4.1	15	61.5	316	1,296.5	115	471.8
Rural	0	0.0	1	15.1	180	2,721.1	32	483.7
Northwest Territories								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	0	0.0	11	40.5	486	1,787.8	167	614.3
Rural	0	0.0	4	25.3	495	3,133.5	108	683.7
Nunavut								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	0	0.0	6	59.7	324	3,222.6	109	1,084.1
Rural	2	10.0	0	0.0	529	2,653.2	55	275.9

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. There were actually 658 homicides in Canada in 2005. However, one homicide could not be classified as urban or rural.

 2. Rates are per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Note: Data from respondent police forces which were not classified as large urban, small urban or rural were excluded (ex. OPP headquarters, RCMP headquarters, police forces which do only traffic, etc.).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2005.

Table 3

Police-reported data on most serious weapons present in crimes against the person, 2005

	Large urban		Small urban		Rural	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total crimes against the person (Quebec and Ontario) ^{1,2}	101,976	100.0	27,486	100.0	19,778	100.0
Total weapons	19,345	19.0	3,148	11.5	2,383	12.0
Total firearms	3,312	3.2	305	1.1	286	1.4
Handgun	2,513	2.5	136	0.5	98	0.5
Rifle/shotgun	220	0.2	48	0.2	91	0.5
Sawed-off rifle/shotgun	143	0.1	19	0.1	12	0.1
Fully automatic firearm	102	0.1	11	0.0	12	0.1
Other firearm	334	0.3	91	0.3	73	0.4
Knife or piercing/cutting instrument	7,170	7.0	978	3.6	566	2.9
Other weapon	8,863	8.7	1,865	6.8	1,531	7.7
Physical force	63,723	62.5	17,385	63.3	13,299	67.2
No weapon	18,908	18.5	6,953	25.3	4,096	20.7
Homicide (Canada)	427	100.0	95	100.0	135	100.0
Total weapons	342	80.1	67	70.5	102	75.6
Total firearms	148	34.7	22	23.2	52	38.5
Handgun	113	26.5	7	7.4	8	5.9
Rifle/shotgun	10	2.3	11	11.6	34	25.2
Sawed-off rifle/shotgun	7	1.6	2	2.1	2	1.5
Fully automatic firearm	6	1.4	1	1.1	0	0.0
Other firearm	12	2.8	1	1.1	8	5.9
Knife or piercing/cutting instrument	138	32.3	24	25.3	35	25.9
Other weapon	56	13.1	21	22.1	15	11.1
Physical force	69	16.2	19	20.0	24	17.8
Exposure to elements	1	0.2	1	1.1	1	0.7
Unknown	15	3.5	8	8.4	8	5.9

1. Rural data for the UCR2 survey were only available for Quebec and Ontario. Coverage in these two provinces in 2005 was 99% of the provincial caseload in Quebec and 88% in Ontario.

2. Incidents where weapon type is unknown have been excluded from this table.

Note: Percentages may not add to total shown because of rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, 2005 and Homicide Survey, 2005.

Table 4

Police-reported data on solved violent crimes and homicides by victim-accused relationship, 2005

Relationship type	Large urban		Small urban		Rural	
	Victims		Victims		Victims	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total violent crime (Quebec and Ontario) ^{1,2}	110,108	100.0	25,591	100.0	18,047	100.0
Family	31,531	28.6	7,447	29.1	6,833	37.9
Spousal	19,992	18.2	4,150	16.2	3,604	20.0
Non-spousal	11,539	10.5	3,297	12.9	3,229	17.9
Friend/acquaintance	42,031	38.2	13,833	54.1	8,997	49.9
Stranger	36,546	33.2	4,311	16.8	2,217	12.3
Homicides (Canada)	290	100.0	73	100.0	114	100.0
Family	85	29.3	24	32.9	46	40.4
Spousal	40	13.8	13	17.8	21	18.4
Non-spousal	45	15.5	11	15.1	25	21.9
Friend/acquaintance	138	47.6	38	52.1	57	50.0
Stranger	67	23.1	9	12.3	10	8.8
Unknown relationship	0	0.0	2	2.7	1	0.9

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Rural data for the UCR2 survey were only available for Quebec and Ontario. Coverage in these two provinces in 2005 was 99% of the provincial caseload in Quebec and 88% in Ontario.

2. Incidents where relationship type is unknown have been excluded from this table.

Note: Percentages may not add to total shown because of rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, 2005 and Homicide Survey, 2005.

Table 5

Self-reported victimization rates by offence, 2004

Offences	Total Canada		Large urban		Small urban		Rural	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Violent crimes ^{1,2}	2,751,348	106	1,847,604	117	459,092	94	444,653	84
Sexual assault ²	546,453	21	393,861	25	74,909	15	77,683	15
Robbery ²	273,748	11	205,297	13	36,809 ^E	8 ^E	31,642 ^E	6 ^E
Assault ³	1,931,147	75	1,248,446	79	347,373	71	335,328	64
Theft of personal property ^{1,4}	2,408,418	93	1,627,401	103	439,644	90	341,372	65
Household crimes ⁵	3,205,696	248	2,169,257	278	616,399	241	420,040	164
Break and enter ⁴	505,360	39	340,086	44	93,580	37	71,695	28
Motor vehicle/parts theft ²	571,292	44	412,751	53	84,361	33	74,180	29
Theft of household property ⁴	1,135,954	88	745,983	96	247,657	97	142,314	56
Vandalism ⁴	993,090	77	670,438	86	190,800	75	131,852	51

^E use with caution

1. Rates for violent crimes and theft of personal property are per thousand population.

2. The difference between small urban and rural is not significant.

3. The differences between large urban and small urban and between small urban and rural are not significant.

4. The difference between large urban and small urban is not significant.

5. Rates for household crimes are per thousand households.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 6

Self-reported victimization data on the feeling of general satisfaction about safety from crime, 2004

Geography	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Dissatisfied
	percentage of population 15 and over		
Canada			
Large urban	40	53	6
Small urban	49	45	4
Rural	52	44	3
Newfoundland and Labrador			
Large urban	64	34	F
Small urban	75	23	F
Rural	72	27	F
Prince Edward Island			
Large urban	...	...	...
Small urban	66	33	F
Rural	69	28	F
Nova Scotia			
Large urban	45	47	8
Small urban	65	32	F
Rural	61	35	3
New Brunswick			
Large urban	56	38	5
Small urban	61	38	F
Rural	64	33	3
Quebec			
Large urban	27	66	6
Small urban	27	66	6
Rural	28	67	5
Ontario			
Large urban	45	48	6
Small urban	56	41	2
Rural	58	38	3
Manitoba			
Large urban	39	52	7
Small urban	52	42	6
Rural	58	39	3
Saskatchewan			
Large urban	41	52	7
Small urban	49	46	F
Rural	62	34	4
Alberta			
Large urban	45	49	5
Small urban	50	45	4
Rural	57	38	3
British Columbia			
Large urban	39	52	8
Small urban	54	40	6
Rural	58	38	4

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

Note: Category of "no opinion" not shown.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For further information, please contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at 613-951-9023 or call toll-free 1-800-387-2231.

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