



Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics
Policing Services Program

Uniform Crime Reporting

2005 Canada/Province/CMA Notes



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Canada

2005 Canada/Province/CMA Notes

- 1/ During the production of each year's crime statistics, **data from the previous year are revised** to reflect any updates or changes that have been received from the police services.
- 2/ Crime data from February to April 2005 for **Abbotsford** Police are estimates due to the implementation of a new records management system. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.
- 3/ Crime data from January to February 2005 for **West Vancouver** Police are estimates. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.
- 4/ Crime counts for breaking and entering, weapon offences, and bail violations for **Toronto** Police in 2005 are estimates due to new methods in data processes arising from the implementation of a new records management system. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.
- 5/ In 2005, **York** Regional Police implemented a new records management system. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.
- 6/ Due to an improved data collection methodology, RCMP was able for the first time in 2005 to report **counterfeit** bills deposited to banks. As a result, estimates were made for certain police services for 2004. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.
- 7/ Certain offences were estimated for **Halifax County** for 2005. These will be re-examined over the next year and could result in revised estimates for 2005 data being released in 2007. Comparisons should therefore be made with caution.
- 8/ Certain offences were estimated for some RCMP detachments in **Northwest Territories** for 2005. These will be re-examined over the next year and could result in revised estimates for 2005 data being released in 2007.
- 9/ Certain offences were estimated for some RCMP detachments in **Nunavut** for 2005. These will be re-examined over the next year and could result in revised estimates for 2005 data being released in 2007.
- 10/ **Rates are based on population estimates** of police jurisdictions derived from estimates provided by the Demography Division of Statistics Canada. The estimates are adjusted for net census undercount.
- 11/ In Canada, there are two primary **sources of statistical information on crime**: police-reported surveys and victimizations surveys. Unlike police-reported data (the UCR survey), which are limited to incidents that come to their attention, victimization data are based on a telephone-administered survey conducted every five years that asks Canadians aged 15 years and older about their personal experiences of victimization and whether or not the incident was reported to police.

The **General Social Survey** (GSS) collects information on eight crime types. Among these crime types, only four are directly comparable to the **Uniform Crime Survey** (UCR): physical assault, sexual assault, break and enter, and motor vehicle theft. Overall, findings from the GSS show that reporting rates to police decreased slightly between the two most recent survey periods, from 37% in 1999 to 34% in 2004. The results also suggest that the level of reporting to police varies by offence type and region. In 2004, 34% of violent victimization incidents were reported to the police. This includes a 39% reporting rate for physical assaults, 8% for sexual assaults, and 46% for personal robberies.

It is noteworthy that over half of the unreported violent incidents did not come to the attention of police because the victim felt the incident was not important enough. This suggests that the crime may have been too minor to warrant police involvement. The public rates of reporting to police were highest for the most serious types of property offences, with a reporting rate of 54% for break and enters, and 49% for motor vehicle thefts.

Historical Notes

Notes specific to Offences

- 1/ **Homicide** data are extracted from the Homicide Survey database.
- 2/ As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 **homicides** reported in the Vancouver CMA total for 2004, 7 reported in the total for 2003 and 15 in the total for 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
- 3/ In 1983, changes to the Criminal Code affected the classification of **assaults, sexual assaults and abduction**. New offence codes were introduced in 1983 to replace the old codes due to changes in the definition of the offences. Hence, data for these offences are not available prior to 1983.
- 4/ From 1977 to 1984, the dollar value attached to "**Theft Over**" and "**Theft Under**" was \$200. From 1985 to 1994, the dollar value was increased to \$1,000 and from 1995 onwards, the dollar value is \$5,000. Due to the changing dollar values defining this offence, comparisons over time should not be made.
- 5/ In 2003, the increase in **Other Criminal Code offences** in Montreal was driven by an increase in counterfeiting currency incidents. While a large increase in the number of incidents was reported for the city of Montreal, it was likely the subject of over-reporting on behalf of increases in other areas within the province, due to the location of a number of bank data centres centralized within the city's core. It should be noted, however, that the increase in counterfeit currency within Montreal was comparable to the national increase.
- 6/ Any increase in "**disturbing the peace**" may be, in part, attributable to a national data quality initiative undertaken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to properly account for the types of offences that are aggregated under this offence.
- 7/ Between 1992 and 1999, all Ontario **mischief** infractions were reported in the category mischief \$1,000 and under. Since 1999, all Ontario mischief infractions are reported in the category mischief \$5,000 and under.
- 8/ There is a break in the time series in the **offensive weapons category** due to different offences being assigned to the weapons offence codes in 1999.
- 9/ Prior to 1999, a number of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachments in Saskatchewan were double counting the number of actual offences of **impaired driving**. This over-counting was corrected in 1999, therefore, comparisons with previous years should be made with caution. It is recommended that the analysis of impaired driving be based on persons charged data rather than actual offences.
- 10/ Between 1977 and 1984, violation code 101 was assigned to **Juvenile Delinquents Act**. The code (101) was not used from 1985 to 1998. In 1999, the **Firearms Act** has been re-assigned the UCR1 violation code 101. Comparisons over time for this violation code should not be made.

11/ In 2004, due to data quality issues in the scoring of the type of theft for both **theft under** and **theft over** (theft of bicycles, theft from motor vehicles, shoplifting and other thefts), comparisons of sub-categories of theft over and theft under with previous years should be made with caution.

Notes specific by Jurisdiction

1/ A historical restructuring within the government of **Quebec** in 1999 affected the total number of **SQ respondents**, as well as the territories and boundaries of each respondent. A second restructuring was caused by the municipal amalgamations of 2001-12-31. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

2/ During the production of each year's crime statistics, data from the previous year are revised to reflect any updates or changes that have been received from the police services. 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 and 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 Ontario Provincial Police and about 60 small and mid-sized municipal forces. This discrepancy resulted in an over-count of less serious criminal incidents. A similar problem with data from Toronto Police was detected in 1992. During 2003 and 2004, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) consulted with affected police services and analyzed both historical aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) data and more recent Incident based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) microdata to determine the impact of this over-reporting. The effect at the Canada level was, on average, 1% per year from 1977 to 2000. This over-counting peaked in 1991, where it was estimated that the total crime rate for the country was over-estimated by approximately 1.8%. However, the overall historical trend changed very little. The impact in Ontario is more noticeable, but the overall trend is still very similar. On average, the effect was 2 to 3% per year, with the biggest change occurring in 1991, where the Ontario crime rate is 5% lower as a result of the adjustment. For further information, readers should refer to the report: Summary of Historical Adjustments to Crime Data for Ontario 1977-2000, available on Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca, under the Definitions, data sources and methods, Surveys and Statistical Programs, Justice Crime and Offences, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

3/ As of 1992, data on Municipal By-Law incidents are not available. When comparing previous years to 1992 or later, Municipal By-Law data must be excluded. As of 1995, data on Provincial Statutes are not available. When comparing previous years to 1995, Provincial Statutes data must be excluded. As of 1997, counts for all respondents include **Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)** cases occurring within the respondent's jurisdiction. Prior to 1997, **Woodstock, Vancouver and ten other municipal police forces in British Columbia** were the only respondents reporting data that included RCMP counts.

4/ In 1999, **Nunavut**, which comprises the eastern part of the old **Northwest Territories**, officially became a Canadian territory. This table displays information only for the Northwest Territories (excluding Nunavut) after 1999. For data prior to 1999, please refer to Northwest Territories including Nunavut.

5/ This table displays data for **Northwest Territories** including **Nunavut** until 1998. In 1999, Nunavut, which comprises the eastern part of the old Northwest Territories, officially became a Canadian territory. For data after 1999, please refer to the separate tables for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

6/ In 1999, **Nunavut**, which comprises the eastern part of the old **Northwest Territories**, officially became a Canadian territory. This table displays information only for Nunavut after 1999. For data prior to 1999, please refer to Northwest Territories including Nunavut.

7/ The Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP) statistics represent **Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP) Police** data prior to 1992. Beginning with the 1992 data, CN and CP data are available by province and territory.

Notes specific to CMA's

1/ In 1992, Metropolitan **Toronto** Police converted to the revised Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. The Metropolitan Toronto Police has historically reported their crime data to UCR Survey according to a multiple offence scoring rule. Therefore, caution should be used when comparing current data to 1991 or earlier years for Toronto, Ontario and Canada. Adolescents and children who are not charged are not counted in the person counts entitled informal or not charged in Toronto data. For further information, readers should refer to the report *Summary of Historical Adjustments to Crime Data for Ontario 1977-2000*, available on Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca, under the Definitions, Data Sources and Methods, Surveys and Statistical Programs, Justice Crime and Offences, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

2/ Prior to 1993, the **Calgary** Police Service did not apply the most serious offence rule when reporting traffic counts. Consequently, traffic data are duplicate counts in earlier years. Prior to 1997, the Calgary Police Service coded any persons directed to alternative measures programs as persons charged or recommended for charges. Therefore, analysis of trends in persons charged and not charged should be done with caution.

3/ Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for **Vancouver** Police and 2 months for **Port Moody** Police, covering the phase-in period required for a new records management system. In addition, from September 2000 to September 2001, as a result of labour action, there were decreases in the number of crimes reported to the Vancouver Police Department for certain offences. As a result, the number of Criminal Code offences reported by Vancouver were affected during this period.

4/ The census metropolitan area (CMA) of **Saguenay** was formerly known as Chicoutimi-Jonquière

5/ The census metropolitan area (CMA) of **Ottawa-Gatineau** was formerly known as Ottawa-Hull

6/ **Abbotsford**, British Columbia and **Kingston**, Ontario became new census metropolitan areas (CMAs) as of the 2001 Census.

7/ In 2003, the increase in Other Criminal Code offences in **Trois-Rivières** was driven by an increase in counterfeiting currency incidents

8/ Crime data from April to December 2004 for **Winnipeg** are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system. Data for 2005 are unaffected. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

9/ In 2004, **Vancouver** Police Service changed their scoring procedures for reporting impaired driving incidents to include all incidents of impaired driving, not just those resulting in a charge being laid, meaning that incidents cleared by other means, (for example roadside suspension) are now included. This resulted in almost 1,900 additional incidents being reported in 2004 compared to 2003. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

Notes specific to Legislation

1/ In December 1985, Bill C18 made major legislative changes with respect to certain **traffic offences (all 700 series offences)**. As a result, data previous to 1985 for traffic offences are not comparable and have not been presented.

2/ The **Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)** repealed and replaced the **Narcotic Control Act (NCA)** and parts of the **Food and Drugs Act (FDA)** in 1996. With this change in legislation, offences related to the possession, trafficking and importation of certain controlled or restricted drugs not identified in the earlier statutes are now (since 1997) included in other drugs category. Hence, comparisons with years prior to 1997 should be made with caution.

Notes specific to Populations

1/ In 2003, all **respondent populations** were revised back to 1996 based on Annual Demographic Estimates and the 2001 Census Boundaries. Due to changes in boundaries, there may be considerable differences between these population figures and the previous population figures (2002). Starting in 2003, the 2001 census population base has been used for estimates of 2001 to 2003 and the 1996 population base has been used for the 1996 to 2000 estimates. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

2/ The methodology for calculating **Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) populations** was modified in 2003. Starting in 1996, the populations for CMAs have been adjusted to reflect the actual policing boundaries within the CMA and do not reflect the official Statistics Canada population for these CMAs.

3/ **Percentage change in rate** represents the year over year (current year over last year) percentage change in the rate of actual incidents.