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## CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 2001

by Josée Savoie

### Highlights

- After having decreased for the previous nine years, Canada's crime rate increased slightly (+1%) in 2001. About 55,000 more *Criminal Code* incidents were reported by police in 2001 as compared to 2000. The crime rate was about the same level as in 1979.
- Of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic), 13% were violent crimes, 52% were property crimes, and the remaining 35% were other offences such as mischief, disturbing the peace, prostitution and arson.
- The violent crime rate increased slightly (+1%) for the second consecutive year following seven straight years of decline. Both assaults and sexual assaults increased by 1% in 2001, while robberies remained unchanged. The homicide rate remained stable for the third consecutive year, while attempted murders dropped 7%.
- The property crime rate dipped slightly (-1%), continuing the downward trend in these offences seen since the early 1990s. A 5% decline in break-ins contributed to this drop. However, the rate of motor vehicle thefts increased for the first time in five years (+5%). The 2001 property crime rate was the lowest in nearly 30 years.
- The rate of "other" *Criminal Code* offences increased by 4% in 2001, primarily due to large increases in bail violations (+16%), offensive weapons (+13%) and disturbing the peace (+10%), as well as a 3% jump in mischief, the highest-volume offence in this category.
- Impaired driving increased for the first time in nearly 20 years. The rate of impaired driving incidents increased by 7%, while the rate of persons charged with these offences was up by 1%.
- Drug offences increased by 3% in 2001, continuing the upward trend evident since 1994. Cannabis offences drove this increase, up 6%.
- Six of the ten provinces showed an increase in their crime rate, the largest being in the Prairie provinces: Manitoba (+6%), Saskatchewan (+5%) and Alberta (+4%). Québec registered the largest decline (-3%). The only provinces that had higher crime rates in 2001 as compared to 1991 were Saskatchewan (+18%) and Manitoba (+3%).
- Among the provinces, for the third straight year, Newfoundland & Labrador continued to show the lowest crime rate, followed by Québec. For the fourth consecutive year, Saskatchewan had the highest crime rate, followed by British Columbia and Manitoba.
- The crime rate increased in six of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 2001, with the largest increases reported in Hamilton (+8%), Edmonton (+8%) and Winnipeg (+6%). The Montréal CMA reported the largest decrease (-6%).
- Among all 25 CMAs, the highest rates were reported in the province of Saskatchewan: Regina and Saskatoon, while the lowest were found in the province of Québec: Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Québec, and Trois-Rivières.
- The youth crime rate, as measured by the rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences, increased slightly (+1%) for the second consecutive year, after having decreased between 1991 and 1999. The rate of youths charged with violent offences also increased for the second straight year (+2%), while the rate for "other" *Criminal Code* offences increased 6%. The youth property crime rate continued to drop in 2001, down 3%. The rate of youths charged with drug offences continued to climb, with an increase of 6%.



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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 or not the crime was reported to police.

This report is an examination of 2001 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 and provincial/territorial level, as well as at the major metropolitan area level. The trend in Canada's crime rate is put into perspective by comparing it with crime trends in the United States and England & Wales. Detailed information on incidents and accused persons is also presented where appropriate.

Every year 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) by means of 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 could influence official 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 seriousness related to the incident (i.e., "the incident was not important enough"); the victim did not want the police involved; the victim believed that the police "could not do anything"; and, the fear of reprisals from the aggressor or other negative consequences of criminal justice system intervention. However, other factors such as the willingness to see the offender punished, a feeling of social obligation to report criminal behaviour, as well as the need to obtain a police report in order to receive insurance compensation, may encourage people to report certain criminal offences to police.<sup>1</sup>

Victimization surveys provide estimates of the amount of crime not reported to police. Although the failure to report crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of official police crime statistics, the opposite can also be true: as the tolerance of Canadians for certain types of crimes lowers, reporting to police will increase, thus driving crime statistics upward. For example, more 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 more charges.

The 1999 GSS 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 both personal property and household property.

<sup>1</sup> 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 crime 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 the police in 1999, down slightly from 42% in 1993.<sup>2</sup> The main reason cited by victims for not reporting was because the incident was deemed “not important enough”.

Reporting by police to the CCJS

Crimes reported to the CCJS by police agencies are subject to numerous quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at the CCJS. The CCJS and police agencies work together on an ongoing basis to detect and resolve any difficulties in the reporting or transmission of data.

Concerns have been raised that tighter budgets during the 1990’s have diminished the ability of some police agencies to respond to, and document, all incidents reported to them. This situation might have resulted in less complete reporting of offences to the UCR survey and, consequently, may have contributed to the decreases in crime during the 1990’s. However, the fact that both the more serious crimes (those crimes which are more likely to be recorded by police) as well as the less serious crimes declined over this period, suggests that any change that may have occurred in police reporting practices was not significant.

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 as in the case of criminal harassment, failure to stop during a police pursuit, and offences related to organized crime, the number of incidents reported to 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.

Other theories that have been advanced to explain the declines in the crime rate during the 1990s include: the advent of community policing; increased enforcement and new strategies to reduce the incidence of certain crimes; improvements in case management and new approaches to solving crimes; and, crime prevention. Although each of these factors can certainly have an effect on crime, the magnitude of their impact is difficult to determine.

Changing demographics

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 during this time period. Since young adults have higher rates of offending and victimization than other age groups, crime rates can be expected to decline as their share of the population declines. In 2001, those aged 15 to 24 represented 14% of the total population while accounting

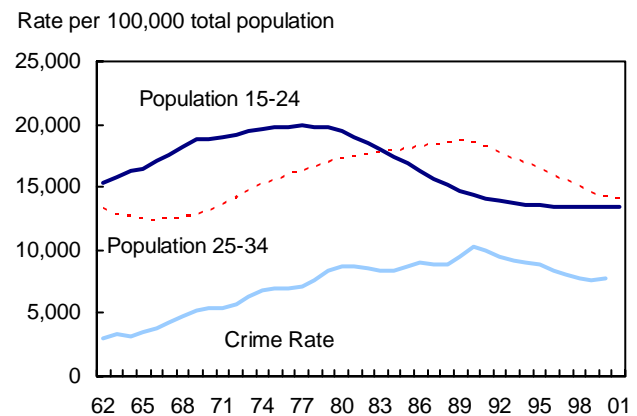
for 46% of those charged with property crimes and 31% of persons charged with violent crimes.<sup>3</sup> Those 25 to 34 years of age accounted for 14% of the population, 18% of property offenders and 24% of violent offenders.

Baby-boomers, those born between 1947 and 1966, reached 15 years of age in the 1960s and 1970s, a time when violent and property crime rates were rising. Figure 1 shows the trend in overall crime and in the number of 15 to 24 year-olds and 25 to 34 year-olds as rates per 100,000 population. The rate of 15 to 24 year-olds began dropping in the early 1980s and the 25 to 34 age group declined in the early 1990s.

Fluctuations in other social or economic conditions may interact with demographic shifts to affect crime rates. For example, Ouimet<sup>4</sup> 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. Changing social values related to family violence, sexual assault and impaired driving have coincided with an aging population and the combined effect may be more important than demographic shifts alone.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 1

**Crime Rate and Selected Demographics, Canada, 1962-2001<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Note that the population 15-24 and population 25-34 refer to changes in the population for these age groups and not changes in crime rates.  
**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS and Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 Report.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Besserer, S. and Trainor, C., (2000), p. 11.  
<sup>3</sup> According to the UCR2 data, the peak age of offending among all youths and adults for both violent and property crimes is 16 years of age.  
<sup>4</sup> Ouimet, M. (2002) Explaining the American and Canadian crime «drop» in the 1990s, *Canadian Journal of Criminology* 44 (1) :33-50.  
<sup>5</sup> Johnson, H. Stratyckuk, L. (forthcoming) Why are Crime rates Down? An exploration of crime patterns in Canada. *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.*

**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**

This is a technique that helps standardize the data for comparisons among geographic areas with different populations and across time, when populations can also vary. Crime rates are based on 100,000 population.

**Accused Persons**

This includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime as a result of an investigation, 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 2000*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-205, 2001.

**2001 Crime Trends**

Of the 2.4 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic offences) reported in 2001 (Table 1), 13% were violent crimes, 52% were property crimes, and 35% were "other" *Criminal Code* crimes such as mischief, prostitution, arson, bail violations and disturbing the peace. This distribution of police-reported crime is dynamic. Thirty years ago, property crimes represented 69% of all crimes, while violent crimes accounted for only 9%.

In addition, there were approximately 126,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (7 in 10 of these were impaired driving offences), 92,000 drug incidents and 38,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Excise Act*, *Immigration Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*) reported. In total, police reported 2.7 million federal statute criminal incidents in 2001.

**First increase in crime in 10 years**

After peaking in the early 1990s, Canada's crime rate had been falling steadily. In 2001, this downward trend did not continue, as the police-reported crime rate (7,747 incidents per 100,000 population) increased slightly (+1%). Over the previous nine years, the crime rate had decreased by an average of 3% per year, resulting in the 2000 rate being the lowest since 1978 (Table 2). However, the 2001 crime rate is 46% higher than the rate 30 years ago.

The slight increase in the overall crime rate in 2001 was driven by a 4% increase in the rate of "other" *Criminal Code* offences and a 1% increase in the violent crime rate. The property crime rate continued to drop, showing a 1% decline in 2001.

**Crime in the United States and England and Wales**

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Crime Index increased by 2% in 2001<sup>6</sup>, driven by a 2% increase in property crime. Violent crime remained relatively stable (+0.3%). Among the four violent offences (excluding offences surrounding the events of September 11), there were increases reported for robbery (+4%), homicide (+3%) and forcible rape (+0.2%), while a decrease was reported for aggravated assault (-1%). Including the events surrounding September 11, homicides actually increased by 26%. All four property crimes increased: motor vehicle theft (+6%), burglary (+3%), arson (+2%) and larceny-theft (+1%).

A comparative analysis of 2000 crime rates in Canada and the United States revealed that the United States has higher rates of violent crime, while Canada generally has higher property crime rates.<sup>7</sup>

Reported crime in England and Wales has fallen annually since 1992, including a decrease of 3% in total criminal incidents between April 2000 and March 2001.<sup>8</sup> Total violent criminal incidents, however, rose by 3%, while the number of property crime incidents declined 8%.

**Crime rate up in 6 of 10 provinces**

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada (Table 3). As in past years, an increase in crime rates from east to west was evident in 2001. Nova Scotia and Alberta are the exceptions to this general trend, with Nova Scotia's crime rate being higher than its neighbouring provinces, while Alberta's is lower.

In 2001, provincial crime rates ranged from 5,635 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland and Labrador to 13,458 in Saskatchewan. All three territories reported crime rates higher than any of the provinces.

A majority of provinces reported an increase in their crime rate in 2001, the largest being in the Prairie provinces: Manitoba (+6%), Saskatchewan (+5%) and Alberta (+4%). All three territories registered large increases in crime as well: Nunavut (+19%), Northwest Territories (+7%), and Yukon (+5%). Québec reported the largest decrease in crime, down 3%.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba are the only two provinces to have shown an increase in crime since 1991. Saskatchewan's crime rate has increased 18% over these 10 years, while Manitoba's has increased 3%. The largest declines seen over the past decade have occurred in Ontario (-33%), Québec (-29%) and Alberta (-29%).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Press Release – 2001 Preliminary CIUS. <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel01/01bprelimcius.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Gannon, M (2001), "Comparison of crime rates between Canada and the United States, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 21, no. 11.

<sup>8</sup> See Povey, D., et al, Recorded Crime Statistics, England and Wales, Home Office, England, July 2001. This annual report is based on the 12 months ending March 2001; the percentage change figures are based on the actual numbers of incidents and not rates.

### Crime in census metropolitan areas

In 2001, the crime rate increased in six of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)<sup>9</sup> (Table 4). These nine CMAs represent nearly half (46%) of all offences reported by police services in Canada. The largest increases were reported in Hamilton (+8%), Edmonton (+8%), Winnipeg (+6%) and Ottawa<sup>10</sup> (+5%). The largest declines were seen in Montréal (-6%) and Québec (-2%).

Many metropolitan areas with populations between 100,000 and 500,000 also reported increases, with the largest being in Sherbrooke (+13%), Sudbury (+12%) and Regina (+10%) (Table 5). The largest declines were reported in London (-9%), Victoria (-6%) and St. John's (-5%).

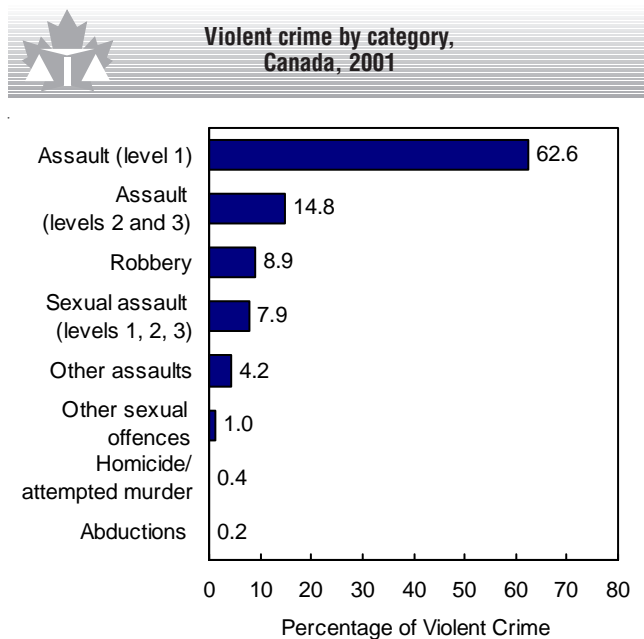
Among all 25<sup>11</sup> CMAs, the lowest crime rates were reported by three Québec CMAs: Chicoutimi-Jonquière (4,986 incidents per 100,000 population), Québec (4,986) and Trois-Rivières (5,094). At the opposite end, Regina showed the highest crime rate (16,387) for the fifth consecutive year, followed by Saskatoon (13,236).

## Violent Crime

### Violent crime increases for second straight year

Violent crime incidents (numbering approximately 309,000 in 2001) include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 2). In 2001, the violent crime rate increased (+1%) for the second straight year, after having declined in each of the previous seven years. Prior to these declines, the violent crime rate had increased for 15 straight years, from 1978 to 1992 (Figure 3).

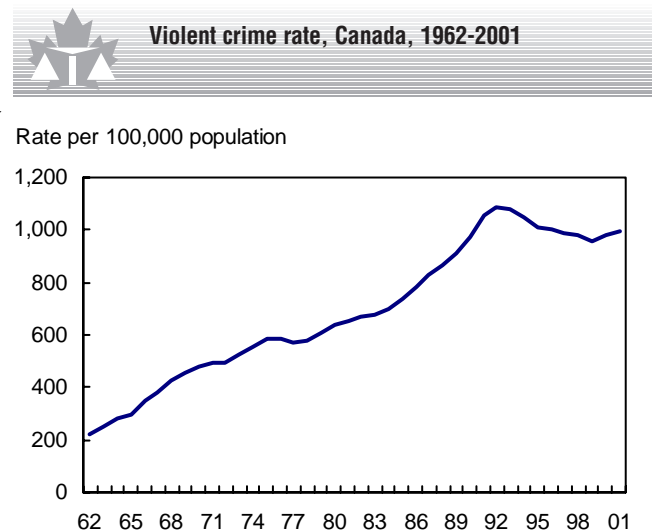
Figure 2



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The 2001 violent crime rate is 6% less than a decade ago, but 52% higher than 20 years ago. However, if common assaults (the least serious form of assault, which account for more than 6 in 10 violent crimes) were excluded, the violent crime rate would actually be 28% lower than 10 years ago.

Figure 3



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Six provinces reported an increase in violent crime, with the largest being in Saskatchewan (+8%), Nova Scotia (+6%), New Brunswick (+5%), and Alberta (+4%). The largest declines were seen in British Columbia (-3%) and Manitoba (-2%).

Violent crime rates in the west were much higher than in the rest of the country (Figure 4). Saskatchewan (1,802 violent incidents per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (1,620) reported the highest rates. All three territories had violent crime rates in 2001 that were more than double that of the highest province. Québec and Prince Edward Island (with rates of 719 and 746, respectively) continued to report the lowest violent crime rates, a pattern consistent with previous years.

A majority of CMAs (16 out of 25) reported increases in their violent crime rate in 2001, with the largest being in Sudbury (+20%), Hull<sup>12</sup> (+18%), Halifax (+12%) and Saskatoon (+11%). The CMAs of London (-9%), Kitchener (-8%) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (-8%) reported the largest declines.

<sup>9</sup> A CMA 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. 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 the law within the boundaries of a CMA.

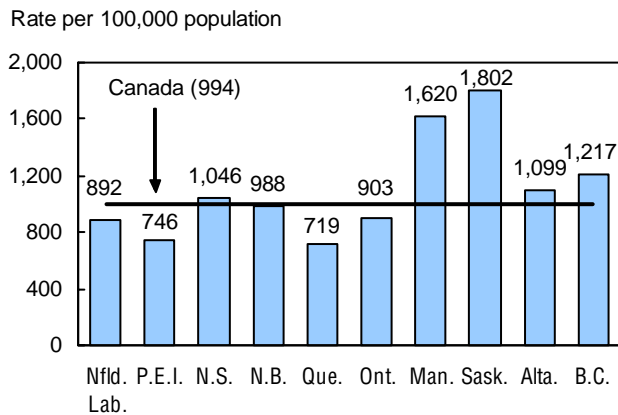
<sup>10</sup> "Ottawa" in this report refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

<sup>11</sup> The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this analysis due to incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and CMA boundaries.

<sup>12</sup> "Hull" represents the Québec portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Figure 4

**Violent crime, Canada and the provinces, 2001**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

For the fourth consecutive year, Saskatoon (1,663 violent incidents per 100,000 population), Regina (1,614) and Thunder Bay (1,390) reported the highest rates among the 25 CMAs. The lowest rates were seen in Sherbrooke (461) and Trois-Rivières (492).

Among the nine largest CMAs, Winnipeg (1,309) and Vancouver (1,053) reported the highest violent crime rates in 2001, while Québec (532) and Ottawa (754) reported the lowest (Table 5).

**Homicide rate continues to be stable**

Homicide includes first and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 2001, there were 554 homicides and 721 attempted murders. Together these crimes account for less than half of one percent of reported violent incidents.

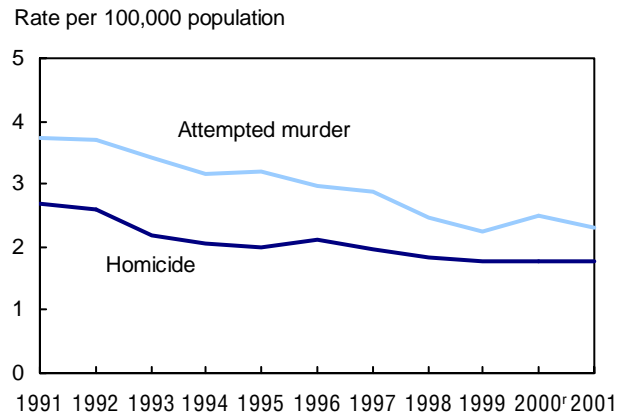
The homicide rate remained stable in 2001 for the third consecutive year. The rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. The 2001 rate (1.8 homicide per 100,000 population) is about the same as during the late 1960s.

The rate for attempted murder decreased by 7% in 2001, following an 11% increase in 2000. Figure 5 clearly illustrates the parallel trend over the past 10 years between homicides and attempted murders.

Despite the relative stability at the national level, there were some provincial variations in homicide rates. All four Atlantic provinces and Québec showed a drop in homicides in 2001, while all three Prairie provinces and Ontario reported increases. British Columbia's rate was unchanged from the previous year. The largest drops were found in Newfoundland & Labrador (from 6 homicides in 2000 to 1 in 2001) and Nova Scotia (from 15 homicides in 2000 to 9 in 2001). Alberta reported the largest increase, going from 59 homicides in 2000 to 70 in 2001.

Figure 5

**Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1991-2001**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.  
 † Revised data

Among the provinces, Manitoba had the highest homicide rate (3.0 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (2.7) and Alberta (2.3). The lowest rates were found in Newfoundland & Labrador (0.2), Nova Scotia (1.0) and New Brunswick (1.1). Nunavut (with 3 homicides, resulting in a rate of 10.7) and the Northwest Territories (with 4 homicides, resulting in a rate of 9.8) reported rates more than three times any of the provinces.

Homicides dropped in 15 of the 25 CMAs in 2001. The highest rates were found in Regina (3.5), Sudbury (3.1) and Winnipeg (2.8). The lowest rates were reported in Sherbrooke (no homicides), Ottawa (0.4) and Saskatoon (0.4).<sup>13</sup>

**Sexual assault rate increases slightly**

Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 sexual assault (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 aggravated sexual assault (wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim). Sexual assaults accounted for 8% of all violent crimes in 2001.<sup>14</sup> The vast majority (98%) of the 24,000 reported incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as level 1.

The rate for all sexual assaults increased slightly (+1%) in 2001. Despite this increase, the rate of sexual assaults is still 35% lower than in 1993. The 2001 increase was a result of a 1% increase of level 1 sexual assaults. Both sexual assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated sexual assault (level 3) dropped in 2001, by 17% and 9% respectively.

<sup>13</sup> For further information, see "Homicide in Canada", *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002.

<sup>14</sup> Results from the 1999 GSS showed that sexual assault offences were the least likely offence category to be reported to police. In fact, over three-quarters (78%) of sexual assaults were not reported to police.

Rates of sexual assault increased in 13 of the 25 CMAAs. The highest rates were reported in St. John's (129 incidents per 100,000 population) and Saskatoon (124). The lowest rates were in Ottawa (30) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (39).

**Assaults also increased in 2001**

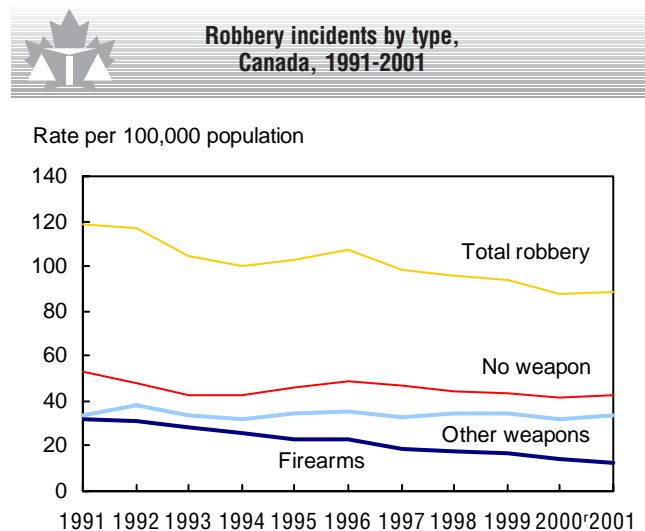
The most common violent crime is assault. The *Criminal Code* defines several categories of assault: common assault (level 1), assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), aggravated assault (level 3), and other assaults (i.e., assault on a peace officer, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge of firearm with intent and all other assaults).

For the second consecutive year, the rate of assault increased slightly (+1%). The most serious assaults (assaults with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assaults (level 3)) both increased by 5%, while common assaults (level 1) increased by 1%. Common assaults account for just over 8 in 10 assaults, and 6 in 10 reported violent incidents. This offence includes behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching, and face-to-face threats by an act or gesture.

**Robberies committed with a firearm have declined by over 50% since 1991**

The 27,414 robberies in 2001 accounted for 9% of all violent crimes. The rate for total robberies was relatively stable in 2001 (+0.4%) (Figure 6). The rate of robberies involving the use of a firearm has been consistently dropping over the past decade, including a further 12% decline in 2001. Robberies committed with other weapons (such as knives) increased by 4% in 2001, and robberies with no weapons were up 2%. However, these latter two categories have generally also been declining since 1991.

Figure 6



<sup>r</sup> Revised data  
**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Similar to previous years, there were large differences among the CMAAs in rates of robbery, with the highest being reported in Winnipeg (245), Saskatoon (229) and Regina (192), and the lowest in St. John's (31), Chicoutimi-Jonquière (32) and Trois-Rivières (35).

The largest increases in robbery were reported in St. John's (+42%) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (+41%). The largest decreases were seen in Trois-Rivières (-37%), Hull (-15%) and Kitchener (-15%).

Compared to other violent crimes, robbery is more likely to involve youths. In 2001, 34% of persons charged with robbery were youths, compared with only 16% of persons charged with all other violent crimes.

**Criminal harassment**

The *Criminal Code* defines criminal harassment as repeatedly following or communicating with someone, watching that person's residence or business place, or engaging in threatening conduct directed at that person or member of their family. Data on criminal harassment are only available from those police services providing data to the 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 1995.<sup>15</sup>

Data from 2001 show a 5% drop in the rate of criminal harassment incidents.<sup>16</sup> However, from 1996 to 2000, criminal harassment increased by 45%, from 33 incidents per 100,000 population in 1996 to 48 in 2000. It is difficult to determine if the increase in this time period represented a real increase in stalking behaviour or was, in part, reflective of the increased awareness of this relatively new offence and its potential seriousness by both victims and the police.

**Property Crime**

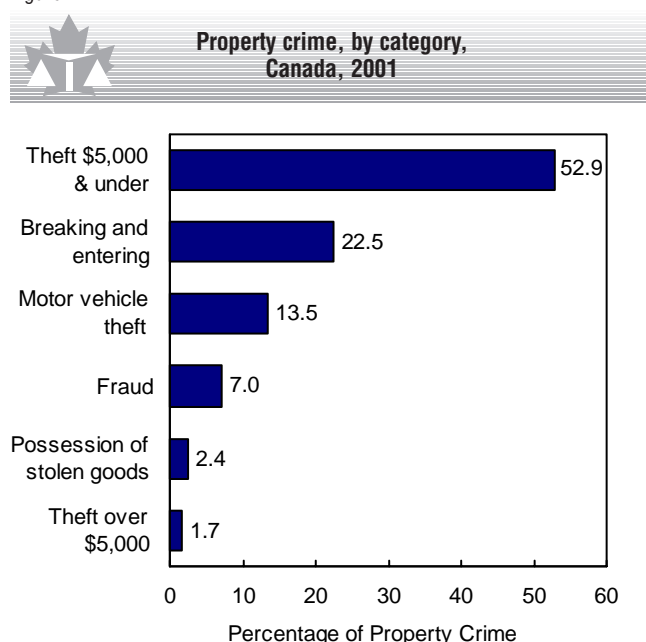
**Property crime rate continues to drop**

Property crime incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve 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 7). In 2001, there were approximately 1.2 million property crime incidents reported by police. The rate for these crimes has generally been decreasing since 1991, including a further 1% drop in 2001. This drop was mainly driven by a 5% drop in the rate of break-ins. The 2001 property crime rate was the lowest recorded by police services in almost 30 years.

<sup>15</sup> In 2001, this database represented 42% of the national volume of crime and is comprised of 95 police services including Toronto, Montréal, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

<sup>16</sup> 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 7



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Seven provinces reported a decline in their property crime rate in 2001, particularly in Newfoundland & Labrador (-6%), Québec (-4%) and Nova Scotia (-4%). The only increases were seen in Manitoba (+3%), British Columbia (+1%) and Ontario (+1%). Large declines in property crime were reported in both the Yukon and Northwest Territories (-12%), while Nunavut experienced a 12% increase.

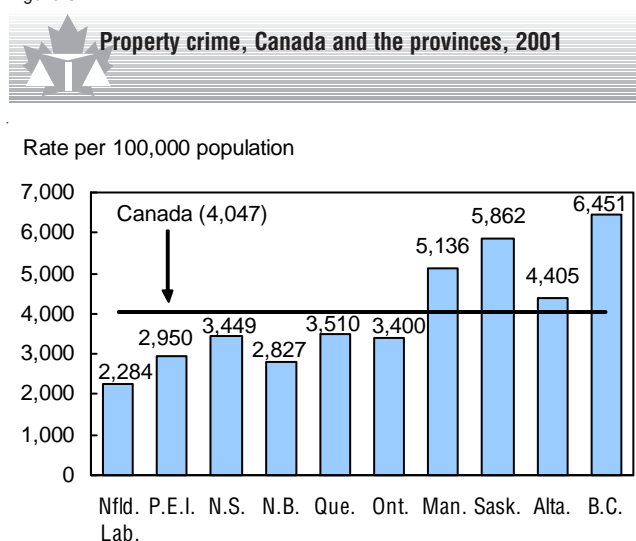
British Columbia continues to show the highest property crime rate (6,451 incidents per 100,000 population) among the provinces (Figure 8). Newfoundland & Labrador reported the lowest rate (2,284), followed by New Brunswick (2,827).

Despite the fact that most provinces reported declines in property crime in 2001, only three of the nine largest CMAs reported a similar drop: Montréal (-6%), Calgary (-4%) and Québec (-1%). However, the majority of smaller CMAs (populations under 500,000) did show declines, with the largest being in Hull (-10%) and St. John's (-10%). The largest increases in property crime rates among all 25 CMAs were found in Regina (+14%), Sherbrooke (+10%) and Hamilton (+7%).

### Another large drop in break-ins

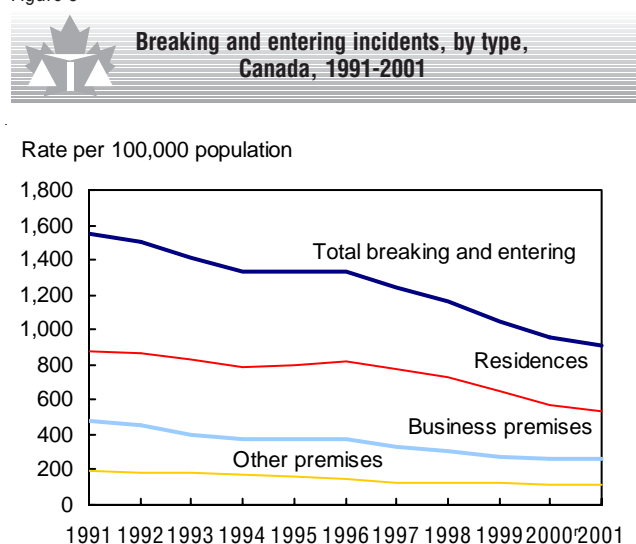
In total, there were about 280,000 reported incidents of break-ins in 2001, representing slightly more than 1 in 5 property offences. Break-in rates have generally been falling since 1991, including a 5% decrease in 2001 (Figure 9). Given the number of break-ins, a decrease of this magnitude has an impact on the total property crime rate as well as on the overall crime rate. Almost four in ten persons charged with this offence were youths.<sup>17</sup>

Figure 8



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 9



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS. Revised data

The majority (59%) of break-ins in 2001 occurred at private residences. Businesses accounted for a further 29%, with the remaining 12% including other places such as sheds and storage facilities. Decreases in all three categories contributed to the general decline in break-in rates: residential break-ins dropped 6%, while both commercial and "other" break-ins decreased by 3%.

<sup>17</sup> For further information, see Kowalski, M., (2000), "Break and Enter, 1999", Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 20, No. 13.



The 2001 break-in rate decreased in the majority of CMAs, with the largest drops seen in Thunder Bay (-21%), St. John's (-17%) and Kitchener (-17%). The largest increases in break-ins were reported in Sherbrooke (+24%), St. Catharines-Niagara (+13%) and Hamilton (+9%).

The highest rates of break-ins were reported by Regina (2,002) and Saskatoon (1,803), while the lowest rates were in Toronto (553) and Ottawa (616).

According to the Insurance Information Centre of Canada<sup>18</sup>, the average claim by homeowners and tenants for losses through break-ins amounted to \$2,600 in 2000. The average claim for commercial businesses was \$6,978. In total, property losses associated with break-ins cost the insurance industry about \$290 million in 2000.

**First increase in motor vehicle theft in 5 years**

In 2001, there were about 170,000 thefts of motor vehicles, accounting for nearly 1 in 8 property crimes. The motor vehicle theft rate increased by 5% in 2001, ending four straight years of decline (Figure 10). Theft of cars increased by 5% while thefts of trucks were up 4%. The overall motor vehicle theft rate is now 10% higher than in 1991. However, the rate of "trucks" stolen, a category which includes mini-vans and sport-utility vehicles, has increased 59% over the past decade. Trucks represent about 3 in 10 stolen motor vehicles.

The most recent data available from the insurance industry show a drop in reported auto thefts during the latter part of the 1990s, followed by an increase in 2000.<sup>19</sup> The theft of motor vehicles and their parts cost consumers more than \$600 million in insurance premiums<sup>20</sup> in 2000 (most recent data available).

Among all 25 CMAs, the largest increases in motor vehicle theft occurred in Victoria (+55%), Edmonton (+39%), Québec

(+26%) and Regina (+25%). The biggest declines were seen in Saskatoon (-15%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (-12%).

As was the case in 2000, the highest rates of vehicle theft in 2001 were reported in Regina (1,996 incidents per 100,000 population), Winnipeg (1,581) and Vancouver (1,148). The lowest theft rates were found in St. John's (183), Saint John (199) and Québec (290).

As with incidents of break-ins, motor vehicle theft is a crime associated with young offenders. In 2001, 42% of persons charged with motor vehicle theft were youths aged 12 to 17 years, compared to only 20% of persons charged with all other *Criminal Code* offences.

**More than one-quarter of all *Criminal Code* offences are thefts**

In 2001, the 687,107 incidents of theft (excluding motor vehicle thefts and property stolen in the course of break-ins) accounted for 29% of all *Criminal Code* incidents and over one-half (55%) of property crimes. As a result, any large variation in thefts will have a marked influence on the property crime rate as well as the overall crime rate. The 2001 theft rate was 1% lower than the previous year and has generally been declining since 1991.

Of all thefts reported to police in 2001, 40% were thefts from motor vehicles, 12% were shoplifting, 8% were bicycle thefts, and 40% were in the category of "other" types of theft. Minor decreases were reported for thefts from vehicles and thefts of bicycles.

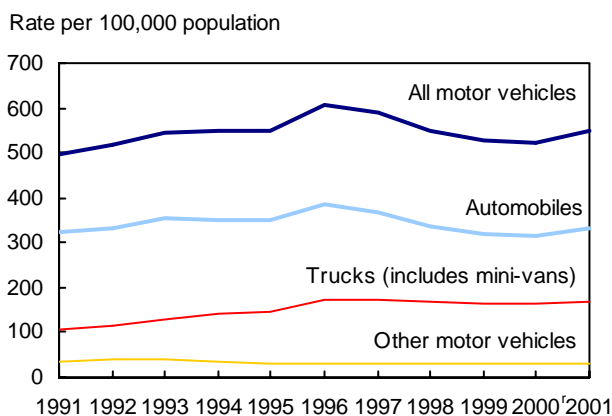
**Fraud incidents increase**

Frauds represent 7% of all property crimes. After nine years of decline, the rate of fraud incidents increased by 2% in 2001. This increase was driven by a 14% increase in credit/debit card fraud and a 5% increase in "other frauds"<sup>21</sup>; conversely, cheque frauds dropped by 13%.

During the past 20 years, the proportion of frauds resulting from cheques has continued to decline. In 1981, cheque frauds accounted for just over two-thirds of all frauds – now they represent just one-quarter. Over the same period, credit/debit card frauds have gone from 7% of all frauds to 26%. Also the category of all "other" frauds has doubled, from 23% to 48%. These changes parallel the changes in technology towards increases use of debit and credit cards, and away from the traditional use of cheques.

Figure 10

**Motor vehicle theft incidents, by type of vehicle, Canada, 1991-2001**



<sup>r</sup> Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

<sup>18</sup> Insurance Information Centre of Canada, special data request. Members represent about 80% of the total insurance industry. Data on household losses comes from a sub-set of these companies representing 55% coverage; data on business losses comes from a sub-set representing 57% coverage.

<sup>19</sup> Idem.

<sup>20</sup> For further information see the Insurance Council of Canada. Damage insurance in Canada, 2001.

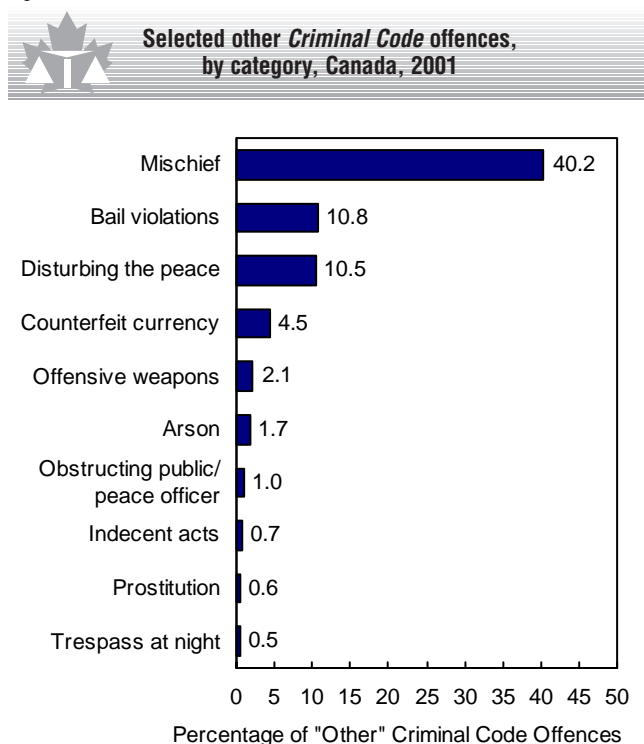
<sup>21</sup> Other types of fraud include telemarketing fraud, fraudulent insurance and government claims, computer fraud, and fraudulent impersonation.

## Other Criminal Code Incidents

The 841,191 *Criminal Code* crimes that are not in the violent or property crime categories are reported under the category "Other *Criminal Code*" (Figure 11). As a whole, these offences increased by 4% in 2001. The largest-volume offences in this category all showed increases in 2001: mischief (+3%), disturbing the peace (+10%), and bail violations (+16%). Another offence showing a large jump in 2001 was offensive weapons offences, up 13%. The rate of prostitution offences remained stable in 2001.

The 338,425 incidents of mischief (including acts of vandalism) reported by police in 2001 represented 14% of all *Criminal Code* incidents and 40% of all "other" *Criminal Code* incidents. For the second straight year, the rate of mischief incidents increased (+3%). These increases follow a general decline in these offences from 1991 to 1999. As in previous years, youths 12 to 17 years of age represented about one-third of all persons accused of this offence in 2001.

Figure 11



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

### Offensive weapons crimes increase

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" offences related to weapons (including offences

related to non-secure storage, documentation and administration of firearms). In 2001, there were 17,456 incidents of offensive weapons offences reported by police, an increase of 12% in the rate over 2000, and 2% higher than the 1998 rate. The rate for these offences had declined in both 1999 and 2000.

The categories of "illegal possession" of weapons accounted for about half of all these offences in 2001. Just over one-third (37%) were "other" weapons offences, and 13% were for illegal firearms usage.

### Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

In 2001, the rate of *Criminal Code* traffic crimes increased by 7%. Police reported 126,298 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents, of which impaired driving accounted for 72%, failure to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident accounted for 16%, and dangerous driving and driving while prohibited comprised the remaining 12%.

### First increase in impaired driving offences in nearly 20 years

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. In 2001, the rate of impaired driving incidents (+7%) and the rate of persons charged with these offences (+1%) both increased for the first time in nearly 20 years. There were more than 90,000 incidents of impaired driving reported, with about 71,000 persons charged in 2001 (Figure 12).

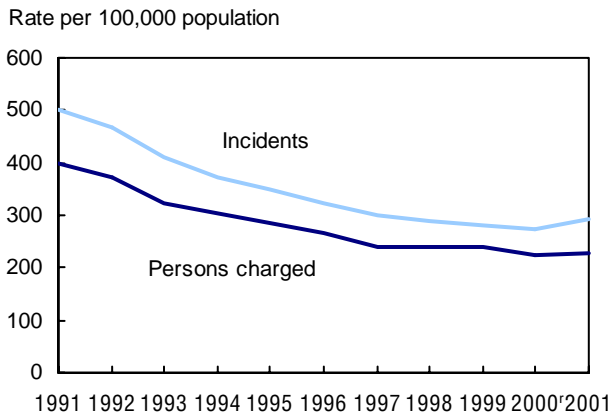
Part of the decline in impaired driving numbers during the 1990s could be attributed to a growing tendency by police to issue a road-side suspension (rather than laying a charge) to drivers found to have a blood-alcohol reading slightly above the legal limit.<sup>22</sup> These offences were generally not sent to the UCR survey unless the driver was formally charged by police, meaning that the actual number of impaired driving incidents may have been under-estimated in the crime statistics.

Beginning in 2001, the RCMP began sending these incidents of impaired driving (where the driver was not formally charged) to the UCR survey as "actual" incidents of impaired driving. RCMP data show a 10% increase in the number of impaired driving incidents in 2001, as well as a 4% increase in persons charged with this offence. It is difficult to say how much of this increase was due to this reporting change and how much was a real increase. However, the fact that the remainder of police forces across the country reported a 5% increase in the rate of impaired driving incidents, points to a real increase in 2001. The RCMP data accounted for about half of the national increase in the number of impaired driving incidents in 2001. Beginning in 2002, all police forces will be reporting impaired driving incidents in the same manner as the RCMP.

<sup>22</sup> For further information, see Sauvé, J., (1999), "Impaired Driving in Canada, 1998", *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 11*.

Figure 12

 **Impaired driving, Canada, 1991-2001**



† Revised data

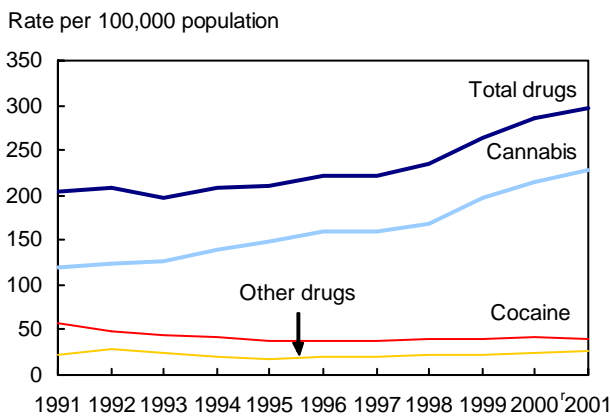
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

**Increase in drug offences**

In 2001, a total of 91,920 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) were reported by Canadian police services, an increase of 3% over 2000. This latest increase represents a continuation of the upward trend in drug offences that began in 1994 (Figure 13). It should be noted that police-reported drug statistics tend to reflect the level of police enforcement more so than the actual demand on the street for illegal drugs.

Figure 13

 **Drug incidents, by type of drug, Canada, 1991-2001**



† Revised data

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Cannabis offences were primarily responsible for the overall increase in drug offences. Cannabis accounts for about three-quarters of all drug-related incidents, and the rate for these offences increased by 6% in 2001. Of all cannabis incidents, 70% were for possession, 16% for trafficking, 13% for cultivation, and 1% for importation.

The illegal cultivation of cannabis, particularly in cases where it is being grown without landowners' consent, has recently become an important issue. This type of offence has also seen an increase over the past decade: from a rate of 7 incidents per 100,000 population in 1990 to 29 in 2001.<sup>23</sup>

The rate of "other" types of drug incidents, which include LSD, ecstasy, barbiturates, anabolic steroids, etc., also increased in 2001 (+3%). Both heroin (-22%) and cocaine (-6%) incidents dropped in 2001. Heroin is the least common of all the drug categories.

**The 1990s showed a resurgence of drug use by youth**

Since 1993, the rate of youths aged 12 to 17 years charged with cannabis offences has been on the rise as has, to a lesser extent, the rate for cocaine and other types of drugs. *The Ontario Student Drug Survey (OSDUS)*, a self-reported survey, found that there has been an increase in drug use among Ontario youth (grade 7 to 13) since 1993. The survey also addressed perceptions of risk and social disapproval regarding drug use. The results indicate that the percentage of youths who believe that there is an elevated risk associated with regular cannabis use dropped from 73% in 1991 to 48% in 2001, and the percentage who strongly disapprove of regular cannabis use dropped from 61% in 1991 to 42% in 2001. The same decrease was shown for the percentage of those who perceived harm in using cannabis once or twice.

Despite this resurgence in drug use, the proportion of youths charged with drug offences declines with the severity of the type of drug. For example, of all persons charged with possession of cannabis in 2001, 21% were youths, compared with 4% of all persons charged with cocaine possession.

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

**Youth Crime**

**Measuring youth crime**

The *Young Offenders Act (YOA)* states that youths aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with the law can be charged or dealt with by other means. The decision to proceed by charge depends on a number of factors including the admissibility of a youth to an alternative measures (AM) program. The objective of AM is to avoid formal court proceedings as long as certain conditions are met by the accused. Depending on the province, AM can be used at the pre- or post-charge stage. Generally, AM is reserved for first-time offenders. Further, 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.

<sup>23</sup> For further information, see Tremblay, S., (1999), "Illicit Drugs and Crime", *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 1.*

Consequently, the number of youths charged by police is influenced by the approach used by each police service and each province.<sup>24</sup> It is clear that the rate of youths charged is not a perfect indicator of youth crime, particularly with respect to measuring relatively minor offences committed by first-time offenders.

**Youth Criminal Justice Act**

Bill C-7, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*, received Royal Assent in February 2002. It is expected to replace the current *Young Offenders Act* in April 2003.

This new legislation was created with the aim of distinguishing between violent young offenders and recidivists, and the majority of young offenders who commit non-violent crimes and to target the responses of the youth justice system to the seriousness of the offence. The new law encourages community-based sentences, where appropriate, such as compensation for victims, community service, and supervision in the community; it allows courts to impose adult sentences upon conviction when certain criteria are met, such as for those youths 14 years of age and older who commit serious offences; and, it creates a new intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision sentence for the most violent, high-risk youth so that they get treatment.

Further, the YCJA will allow publication of names when a youth receives an adult sentence, receives a youth sentence for serious crimes, has a pattern of convictions for serious violent offences, or, under court order when a youth is at large and a danger to others and publication is necessary to protect society.

**Youth crime increases slightly for second consecutive year**

The rate of youths aged 12 to 17 charged with criminal offences increased slightly (+1%) for the second straight year in 2001. These increases follow eight years of decline in the youth crime rate between 1991 and 1999. The increase in youth crime in 2001 was driven by a 2% increase in the rate of violent crime and a 6% increase in the rate of "other" *Criminal Code* offences (Table 7 and Figure 14). The youth rate for property offences dropped by 3%.

Property crimes accounted for nearly one-half (44%) of youth crime, compared to only 31% of adult crime. A further 23% of youths were charged with violent crimes, compared to 31% of adults. The remaining 33% of youths were charged with other *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief and offences against the administration of justice (e.g. bail violations or escapes from custody).

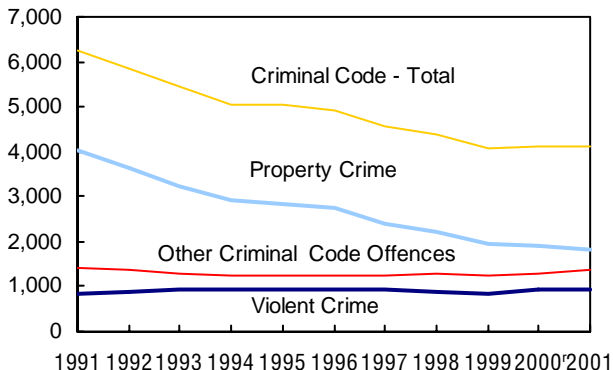
This distribution has changed from 1991 when only 13% of youths were charged with violent crimes and 64% were charged with property crimes. Increases in youths charged with common assault (level 1) and decreases in charges for theft and breaking & entering account for much of this shift.

The rate of youths charged varies considerably across the country (table 8). Québec (with 1,920 youths charged per 100,000 youths aged 12 to 17), Prince Edward Island (2,905) and British Columbia (3,248) reported the lowest rates of youths charged, while Saskatchewan (11,198) and Manitoba (7,512) reported the highest. As has been discussed earlier, some of the differences in these charge rates among provinces can be attributed to variations in the utilization of alternative measures

Figure 14



Rate per 100,000 youths aged 12 - 17



<sup>r</sup> Revised data  
 Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

and informal dealings with youth, both at the local and provincial level.

**Rate of youths charged with violent crime increases**

The rate of youths charged with violent crime (940 youths charged per 100,000 youths) increased 2% in 2001, following a 7% increase the previous year. These recent increases followed four straight years of decline, the largest of which was a 5% decline in 1999. The 2001 youth violent crime rate is 13% higher than 10 years ago.

The increase in youth violent crime in 2001 was driven by a 10% increase in the rate of youths charged with robbery, particularly robberies with a firearm (+35%). As well, assaults with a weapon and aggravated assaults (both up 6%) also contributed to the increase.

The 30 youths charged with homicide in 2001 were 13 fewer than in 2000, and 18 fewer than the average over the past decade. In fact, the total of 30 youths charged with homicide is the lowest in over 30 years.<sup>25</sup>

**Youth property crime rate continues to drop**

The rate of youths charged with property crimes dropped for the 10th straight year in 2001 (-3%). The rate of youths charged declined for two of the three major property crime categories: break-ins (-6%) and other theft (-5%), but increased for motor vehicle theft (+7%).

<sup>24</sup> For further information, refer to Stevenson, K. et al. (Besserer, S., editor), (1998), "A Profile of Youth Justice in Canada," Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-544.

<sup>25</sup> For further information, see "Homicide in Canada", Juristat, Catalogue 85-002.

## 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.

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 for 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 over-counting 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 2001, detailed data were collected from 154 police services in 9 provinces through the UCR2 survey. These data represent 59% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 2001 database were distributed as follows: 40% from Ontario, 31% from Québec, 10% 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 Québec, 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 95 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1995. These respondents accounted for 42% of the national volume of crime in 2001. 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.



Table 2



	Total Criminal Code <sup>2</sup>		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	7,728	-5.0	955	-2.4	4,262	-6.4	2,510	-3.5
2000 <sup>r</sup>	7,646	-1.0	982	2.8	4,070	-4.5	2,594	3.4
2001	7,747	1.3	994	1.3	4,047	-0.6	2,706	4.3

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

... Figures not applicable.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>1</sup> 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: 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 and 1997, updated postcensal estimates for 1998 to 2000, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding traffic offences.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.





Table 4

	Toronto	Montréal	Vancouver <sup>3</sup>	Calgary	Edmonton	Ottawa <sup>4</sup>	Québec	Winnipeg	Hamilton
<b>Population 2001</b>	<b>4,881,392</b>	<b>3,511,845</b>	<b>2,078,824</b>	<b>971,532</b>	<b>956,805</b>	<b>844,969</b>	<b>693,064</b>	<b>684,778</b>	<b>680,561</b>
Homicides									
number	78	78	44	15	25	3	5	19	13
rate	1.6	2.2	2.1	1.5	2.6	0.4	0.7	2.8	1.9
% change in rate*	-6.0	2.9	3.7	-8.6	29.5	-63.2	-58.5	11.3	28.4
Sexual assaults (1,2,3)									
number	2,802	1,646	1,269	630	777	253	317	624	487
rate	57	47	61	65	81	30	46	91	72
% change in rate*	-2.9	-0.1	-2.0	5.7	4.3	-33.7	17.4	4.3	-8.4
Assaults (1,2,3)									
number	32,502	21,324	16,472	6,344	6,509	4,854	2,639	6,438	5,667
rate	666	607	792	653	680	574	381	940	833
% change in rate*	0.9	-5.1	-3.6	-3.6	2.2	10.5	1.6	-4.4	2.6
Robbery									
number	5,427	5,611	3,512	1,052	1,402	876	505	1,679	555
rate	111	160	169	108	147	104	73	245	82
% change in rate*	4.2	-7.6	-9.3	2.9	8.7	9.0	4.6	-2.0	-5.0
<b>Violent crime - Total</b>									
<b>number</b>	<b>42,749</b>	<b>30,826</b>	<b>21,881</b>	<b>8,462</b>	<b>9,268</b>	<b>6,368</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>6,905</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,015</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-4.8</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Break & enter									
number	26,995	36,561	29,123	7,951	8,360	5,202	5,615	7,891	6,058
rate	553	1,041	1,401	818	874	616	810	1,152	890
% change in rate*	0.3	-13.0	-1.5	-0.1	-11.6	-10.1	-12.3	-6.0	9.3
Motor vehicle theft									
number	18,078	27,250	23,882	5,623	7,208	4,125	2,008	10,828	5,553
rate	370	776	1,149	579	753	488	290	1,581	816
% change in rate*	1.6	-3.2	9.1	-0.8	39.3	-11.9	26.4	11.1	17.0
Other theft									
number	81,374	69,482	91,545	24,462	24,440	16,577	12,153	20,107	12,851
rate	1,667	1,979	4,404	2,518	2,554	1,962	1,754	2,936	1,888
% change in rate*	-1.2	-4.5	-0.0	-4.3	0.7	7.6	-0.8	5.8	3.2
<b>Property crime - Total</b>									
<b>number</b>	<b>143,116</b>	<b>145,473</b>	<b>152,722</b>	<b>42,549</b>	<b>46,034</b>	<b>28,595</b>	<b>21,371</b>	<b>40,863</b>	<b>26,016</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>7,347</b>	<b>4,380</b>	<b>4,811</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>5,967</b>	<b>3,823</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>-0.0</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Offensive weapons									
number	1,989	481	1,995	337	470	345	51	450	255
rate	41	14	96	35	49	41	7	66	37
% change in rate*	-1.7	-3.1	22.5	9.2	6.1	33.7	23.9	10.7	-11.0
Mischief -									
number	28,141	24,852	24,657	9,608	12,268	6,987	5,679	15,129	6,332
rate	576	708	1,186	989	1,282	827	819	2,209	930
% change in rate*	3.9	-9.7	5.3	4.7	4.3	-1.0	-1.8	16.1	15.5
<b>Other Criminal Code - Total</b>									
<b>number</b>	<b>74,940</b>	<b>63,561</b>	<b>60,602</b>	<b>18,331</b>	<b>31,113</b>	<b>15,275</b>	<b>9,499</b>	<b>25,132</b>	<b>15,410</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>1,808</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>2,264</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>-6.5</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>
<b>CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - excluding Traffic</b>									
<b>number</b>	<b>260,805</b>	<b>239,860</b>	<b>235,205</b>	<b>69,342</b>	<b>86,415</b>	<b>50,238</b>	<b>34,555</b>	<b>74,962</b>	<b>48,331</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>5,343</b>	<b>6,830</b>	<b>11,314</b>	<b>7,137</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>5,946</b>	<b>4,986</b>	<b>10,947</b>	<b>7,102</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>8.3</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for Vancouver 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.

<sup>4</sup> Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

	Population	Total CC Offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other crimes	
		2001 rate	% change in rate*	2001 rate	% change in rate	2001 rate	% change in rate	2001 rate	% change in rate
<b>CMA with population of 500,000 and over</b>									
Vancouver <sup>3</sup>	2,078,824	11,314	1.2	1,053	-4.5	7,347	1.4	2,896	2.3
Winnipeg	684,778	10,947	5.6	1,309	-3.3	5,967	4.7	3,670	10.9
Edmonton	956,805	9,032	7.9	969	2.8	4,811	3.2	3,252	17.7
Calgary	971,532	7,137	-0.3	871	-1.5	4,380	-3.5	1,887	8.6
Hamilton	680,561	7,102	8.3	1,015	0.8	3,823	7.3	2,264	13.7
Montréal	3,511,845	6,830	-5.7	878	-4.8	4,142	-6.0	1,810	-5.6
Ottawa <sup>4</sup>	844,969	5,946	5.4	754	10.0	3,384	2.4	1,808	9.5
Toronto	4,881,392	5,343	1.3	876	1.1	2,932	0.0	1,535	3.8
Québec	693,064	4,986	-2.3	532	3.6	3,084	-1.3	1,371	-6.5
<b>CMA with population between 100,000 and 500,000</b>									
Regina	198,125	16,387	10.1	1,614	0.0	9,661	14.0	5,112	6.7
Saskatoon	230,517	13,360	2.9	1,663	11.2	6,616	-4.0	5,080	10.5
Victoria	318,796	9,996	-5.7	1,132	1.1	5,382	-3.0	3,481	-11.6
Halifax	359,186	9,354	6.1	1,266	12.4	5,091	-2.1	2,998	20.2
Thunder Bay	124,581	8,602	-3.7	1,390	0.0	3,916	-8.8	3,296	1.3
London <sup>5</sup>	383,708	7,894	-9.3	761	-9.0	4,796	-9.5	2,337	-9.0
Sudbury	156,714	7,535	11.8	1,163	20.1	3,935	6.2	2,438	17.8
Windsor	313,838	7,374	4.9	783	4.5	3,936	3.6	2,655	7.0
St. Catharines-Niagara <sup>5</sup>	427,023	6,826	4.5	664	6.9	3,861	4.5	2,300	4.0
Saint John <sup>5</sup>	147,086	6,612	3.8	1,146	8.0	3,107	1.7	2,359	4.7
Sherbrooke <sup>5</sup>	144,970	6,541	12.7	461	6.0	4,293	9.8	1,787	22.6
St. John's	176,163	6,406	-4.8	885	4.5	3,433	-10.0	2,088	1.0
Hull <sup>6</sup>	261,981	6,185	-3.8	910	17.7	3,320	-10.1	1,955	-0.3
Kitchener <sup>5</sup>	456,523	5,709	-3.7	633	-8.3	3,535	-2.3	1,542	-4.9
Trois-Rivières	141,535	5,094	-2.3	492	7.8	2,982	-9.2	1,620	10.1
Chicoutimi-Jonquière <sup>5</sup>	143,445	4,986	-2.1	517	-8.0	2,941	-6.1	1,527	9.2

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

<sup>1</sup> Please note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force. Also, note that the Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

<sup>2</sup> Rates are calculated per 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: updated postcensal estimates for 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 2001 include estimates for 3 months for Vancouver 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.


<sup>4</sup> Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

<sup>5</sup> Populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

<sup>6</sup> Hull refers to the Québec part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 6



	Age Group by Sex				Total by Age Group	
	Adults (18 and over)		Youth (12 to 17)		Adult	Youth
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
	%		%		%	
Homicide <sup>1</sup>	86	14	83	17	93	7
Attempted murder	88	12	94	6	89	11
Assaults	83	17	70	30	85	15
Sexual assaults	98	2	96	4	83	17
Other sexual offences	98	2	96	4	80	20
Abduction	45	55	33	67	98	2
Robbery	91	9	85	15	66	34
<b>Violent crime - Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>16</b>
Break and enter	93	7	90	10	63	37
Motor vehicle theft	92	8	83	17	58	42
Fraud	70	30	65	35	92	8
Theft over \$5,000	75	25	84	16	88	12
Theft \$5,000 and under	71	29	65	35	74	26
<b>Property crime - Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>27</b>
Mischief	87	13	87	13	67	33
Arson	83	17	87	13	53	47
Prostitution	50	50	21	79	99	1
Offensive weapons	93	7	92	8	78	22
<b>Criminal Code - Total (excluding traffic)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>20</b>
Impaired driving <sup>2</sup>	88	12	88	12	99	1
Cannabis Offences	88	12	88	12	82	18
Cocaine Offences	83	17	80	20	95	5
Other Drug Offences	83	17	78	22	88	12

<sup>1</sup> These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

<sup>2</sup> Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample. Age of persons charged with impaired driving comes from the Incident-based survey (UCR2).

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 7

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 <sup>r</sup>	2001
<b>Population (aged 12-17)</b>	<b>2,273,918</b>	<b>2,305,122</b>	<b>2,330,853</b>	<b>2,359,067</b>	<b>2,386,301</b>	<b>2,417,604</b>	<b>2,439,553</b>	<b>2,449,643</b>	<b>2,449,620</b>	<b>2,452,048</b>	<b>2,470,985</b>
Homicide											
number	49	53	36	52	63	49	53	56	45	43	30
rate	2.2	2.3	1.5	2.2	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.2
% change in rate*	3.4	6.7	-32.8	42.7	19.8	-23.2	7.2	5.2	-19.6	-4.5	-30.8
Assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	12,815	13,584	14,981	15,363	15,898	15,945	15,612	15,862	15,354	16,410	16,653
rate	564	589	643	651	666	660	640	648	627	669	674
% change in rate*	17.8	4.6	9.1	1.3	2.3	-1.0	-3.0	1.2	-3.2	6.8	0.7
Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	1,906	2,074	2,132	1,896	1,586	1,581	1,494	1,440	1,422	1,693	1,604
rate	84	90	91	80	66	65	61	59	58	69	65
% change in rate*	17.5	7.3	1.7	-12.1	-17.3	-1.6	-6.4	-4.0	-1.2	18.9	-6.0
Robbery											
number	2,746	2,966	2,996	3,006	3,535	3,741	3,792	3,576	3,175	3,264	3,602
rate	121	129	129	127	148	155	155	146	130	133	146
% change in rate*	32.6	6.5	-0.1	-0.9	16.3	4.5	0.5	-6.1	-11.2	2.7	9.5
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>											
<b>number</b>	<b>18,919</b>	<b>20,028</b>	<b>21,477</b>	<b>21,629</b>	<b>22,441</b>	<b>22,521</b>	<b>22,172</b>	<b>22,195</b>	<b>21,102</b>	<b>22,655</b>	<b>23,236</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>940</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Break and enter											
number	26,901	24,747	21,947	19,992	18,654	18,532	17,092	16,007	13,266	12,531	11,841
rate	1,183	1,074	942	847	782	767	701	653	542	511	479
% change in rate*	10.9	-9.3	-12.3	-10.0	-7.8	-1.9	-8.6	-6.7	-17.1	-5.6	-6.2
Motor vehicle theft											
number	8,768	8,122	8,211	7,476	6,875	7,011	6,468	6,228	5,508	5,706	6,162
rate	386	352	352	317	288	290	265	254	225	233	249
% change in rate*	9.5	-8.6	0.0	-10.0	-9.1	0.7	-8.6	-4.1	-11.6	3.5	7.2
Other Theft											
number	45,221	39,648	35,301	32,228	33,762	32,473	27,060	24,744	21,879	20,395	19,585
rate	1,989	1,720	1,515	1,366	1,415	1,343	1,109	1,010	893	832	793
% change in rate*	5.5	-13.5	-11.9	-9.8	3.6	-5.1	-17.4	-8.9	-11.6	-6.9	-4.7
<b>Total Property crime</b>											
<b>number</b>	<b>91,656</b>	<b>83,603</b>	<b>74,981</b>	<b>68,907</b>	<b>68,105</b>	<b>66,702</b>	<b>58,340</b>	<b>54,104</b>	<b>48,009</b>	<b>46,261</b>	<b>45,071</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>4,031</b>	<b>3,627</b>	<b>3,217</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>2,854</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>1,824</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>-10.0</b>	<b>-11.3</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>-13.3</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-11.3</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
Offensive weapons											
number	2,020	1,906	1,932	1,963	1,693	1,551	1,478	1,457	1,438	1,528	1,676
rate	89	83	83	83	71	64	61	59	59	62	68
% change in rate*	10.8	-6.9	0.2	0.4	-14.7	-9.6	-5.6	-1.8	-1.3	6.2	8.8
Mischief											
number	9,725	9,066	8,214	7,687	7,745	7,695	7,005	6,926	6,623	6,996	7,186
rate	428	393	352	326	325	318	287	283	270	285	291
% change in rate*	11.6	-8.0	-10.4	-7.5	-0.4	-1.9	-9.8	-1.5	-4.4	5.5	1.9
<b>Total Other Criminal Code</b>											
<b>number</b>	<b>31,741</b>	<b>31,651</b>	<b>30,429</b>	<b>29,089</b>	<b>30,117</b>	<b>30,187</b>	<b>30,329</b>	<b>31,153</b>	<b>30,211</b>	<b>31,944</b>	<b>34,006</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,376</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Drugs											
number	2633	2657	3426	4800	5067	5431	5049	5561	6571	7837	8363
rate	116	115	147	203	212	225	207	227	268	320	338
% change in rate*	-15.8	-0.5	27.5	38.4	4.4	5.8	-7.9	9.7	18.2	19.1	5.9
<b>Total Criminal Code (Excluding Traffic)</b>											
<b>number</b>	<b>142,316</b>	<b>135,282</b>	<b>126,887</b>	<b>119,625</b>	<b>120,663</b>	<b>119,410</b>	<b>110,841</b>	<b>107,452</b>	<b>99,322</b>	<b>100,860</b>	<b>102,313</b>
<b>rate</b>	<b>6,259</b>	<b>5,869</b>	<b>5,444</b>	<b>5,071</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>4,939</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>4,386</b>	<b>4,055</b>	<b>4,113</b>	<b>4,141</b>
<b>% change in rate*</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>-7.2</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-8.0</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>

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

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures

<sup>1</sup> Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youths. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2001 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996 and 1997, updated postcensal estimates from 1998 to 2000 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2001.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.



## Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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