

Catalogue no. 85-002-x
ISSN 1209-6393
ISBN 978-0-660-97972-4

Juristat

Crimes related to the sex trade in Canada, 2020 to 2024

by Ashley Maxwell and Shana Conroy

Release date: February 10, 2026



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website, www.statcan.gc.ca.

You can also contact us by

Email at infostats@statcan.gc.ca

Telephone, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

- Statistical Information Service 1-800-263-1136
- National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired 1-800-363-7629
- Fax line 1-514-283-9350

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, the Agency has developed standards of service which its employees observe in serving its clients. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.gc.ca under "Contact us" > "[Standards of service to the public](#)."

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Industry, 2026

Use of this publication is governed by the Statistics Canada [Open Licence Agreement](#).

An [HTML version](#) is also available.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.

Crimes related to the sex trade in Canada, 2020 to 2024: Highlights

- Offences related to the sex trade, such as purchasing sexual services and profiting from others' sexual services, are outlined in the *Criminal Code*. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 4,275 incidents of sex trade-related crime reported by police in Canada, representing an average annual rate of 2.2 incidents per 100,000 population.
- Overall, the number of police-reported sex trade-related incidents between 2020 and 2024 was 22% lower than the number of incidents between 2015 and 2019, the period immediately following the enactment of the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA). This was largely driven by a decrease in the number of violations related to stopping or communicating offences.
- Despite the long-term decline in police-reported crime related to the sex trade, the number of sex trade-related incidents increased in 2023 and 2024. There were 908 incidents of sex trade-related crime reported by police in 2023 and 990 in 2024, up from 765 in 2022.
- Among the provinces, Manitoba had the highest average annual rate of police-reported crime related to the sex trade between 2020 and 2024 (5.6 incidents per 100,000 population). This rate was more than two times higher than the national average annual rate (2.2).
- Average rates of crime related to the sex trade were also higher overall in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) than in non-CMAs (2.3 versus 1.9 incidents per 100,000 population) between 2020 and 2024.
- Consistent with changes observed immediately following the enactment of the PCEPA (2015 to 2019), the number of women accused of police-reported crime related to the sex trade continued to decline between 2020 and 2024, representing 7% of accused. Prior to the PCEPA's enactment (2010 to 2014), women accounted for 40% of accused of sex trade-related crime.
- Between 2020 and 2024, women were less commonly charged than men in sex trade-related incidents (65% versus 77%).
- Since the PCEPA came into force, the vast majority of victims in violent incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation were women and girls. The rate of violent crime involving at least one sex trade-related violation was highest among youth (aged 12 to 17). Between 2020 and 2024, there were 8.1 youth victims of such crime per 100,000 population.
- There were 37 victims of homicide between 2020 and 2024 who were identified by police as sex trade workers, representing 0.9% of all victims of homicide over this period. Virtually all (36) of the victims of homicide over this period who were identified by police as sex trade workers were women. One-quarter (24%) of these homicides remained uncleared.
- The number of sex trade-related court cases that were completed in adult criminal courts between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 continued the declining trend observed in the years that immediately followed the PCEPA's enactment (2014/2015 to 2018/2019). This was primarily due to a decrease in the number of cases involving stopping or communicating offences. One-third (34%) of sex trade cases completed over this period resulted in a guilty decision.

Crimes related to the sex trade in Canada, 2020 to 2024

by Ashley Maxwell and Shana Conroy

In response to the Supreme Court of Canada's *Bedford* decision, the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA) came into force in December 2014.¹ The Act changed the way that the Canadian criminal justice system treats those involved in the sex trade—which generally refers to acts associated with the selling or exchanging of sexual services for money or other forms of consideration. Among the changes under the PCEPA legislation was a shift away from criminalizing the sellers of sexual services toward criminalizing the buyers and third parties who profit from others' sexual services or procure others to provide sexual services. This legislative approach, which is often referred to as the "Nordic Model," aims to reduce the demand for sexual services and to protect the providers of these services—predominantly women and girls—by focusing on providing support and assistance, rather than placing blame or imposing punishment (Department of Justice Canada, 2014).

This *Juristat* article uses data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) to examine the most recent trends in crimes related to the sex trade in Canada after the PCEPA legislative changes came into force in December 2014 (see Text box 1). Building on previous analysis (Allen & Rotenberg, 2021), particular focus will be made on the offences that target the purchasers of sexual services, as well as third-party (profiting) offences, to examine the ongoing impacts of the legal changes introduced by the PCEPA. Findings are primarily presented using two five-year periods of data to highlight any trend similarities or differences from the early post-PCEPA period (2015 to 2019) and the most recent post-PCEPA period (2020 to 2024).

This article was produced with funding support from the Department of Justice.

Text box 1

Data sources and definitions

This text box outlines the specific *Criminal Code* sex trade-related offences examined in this article.

The *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA) enacted new offences related to the sex trade and included other changes to existing sex trade offences in the *Criminal Code*. These changes included repealing most pre-existing sex trade offences in the *Criminal Code* (sections 212(1), 212(2), 212(2.1), 212(4) and 213(1)(c)), and amendments that ensured sections 210 and 211 no longer applied to bawdy houses kept for the purpose of prostitution (s. 210 and s. 211 were subsequently repealed in 2019 by former Bill C-75).² All of the offences struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada in its 2013 *Bedford* decision³ have been repealed: s. 210 (bawdy house), s. 212(1)(j) (living on the avails of prostitution) and s. 213(1)(c) (communicating in public places for the purposes of purchasing or selling sexual services). The PCEPA replaced these offences with offences that prohibit purchasing sexual services (s. 286.1), receiving a material benefit from others' sexual services (s. 286.2), procuring others to provide sexual services (s. 286.3), advertising others' sexual services (s. 286.4) and communicating for the purpose of selling sexual services near school grounds, playgrounds or daycare centres (subsection 213(1.1)). Offences related to impeding traffic for the purposes of either purchasing or selling sexual services were originally enacted in 1985 and remain in force (paragraphs 213(1) (a) and (b)).

Previously, most sex trade-related offences were classified in the *Criminal Code* under Part VII (disorderly houses, gaming and betting (s. 210 to s. 213)). The new treatment of many of these violations under Part VIII (offences against the person and reputation (s. 286.1 to s. 286.4) now classifies them as violent offences in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. This means that information about the victims of these offences can now be submitted to the UCR Survey by police. Offences included in Part VII (s. 213) are still considered non-violent offences in the UCR Survey. Victim information is not submitted to the UCR Survey for non-violent offences. For more detailed information on how sex trade-related offences have changed since the enactment of the PCEPA, see Allen & Rotenberg, 2021.

Violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services:

Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4), s. 286.1(2))

Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))

Violations associated with profiting from others' sexual services or procuring others to provide sexual services:

Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))

Receiving material benefit from others' sexual services (s. 286.2(2), s. 286.2(1))

Procuring others to provide sexual services (s. 170, s. 171, s. 212(1), s. 286.3(2), s. 286.3(1))

Advertising others' sexual services (s. 286.4)

Violations associated with stopping or communicating:

Stopping or impeding traffic or communicating for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services (s. 213, s. 213(1))

Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration near playgrounds, school yards and daycare centres (s. 213(1.1))

Previous sex trade-related offences not included in this analysis (repealed under the PCEPA):

Bawdy house offences (s. 210, s. 211)

In this article, police-reported data come from the UCR Survey. Most analysis is based on incidents where the most serious violation was related to the sex trade. There is also a discussion of co-occurring offences where there was a sex trade violation, regardless of whether it was the most serious violation in the incident. Victim analysis is based on the most serious violation against the victim, which may be different from the most serious violation in the incident.

Information from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is reported by *Criminal Code* section and is based on cases where the most serious offence in the case was a sex trade-related offence.⁴ Detailed information required to distinguish specific types of offences can be defined in subsections or paragraphs of the *Criminal Code* and is not always provided by ICCS respondents.^{5,6}

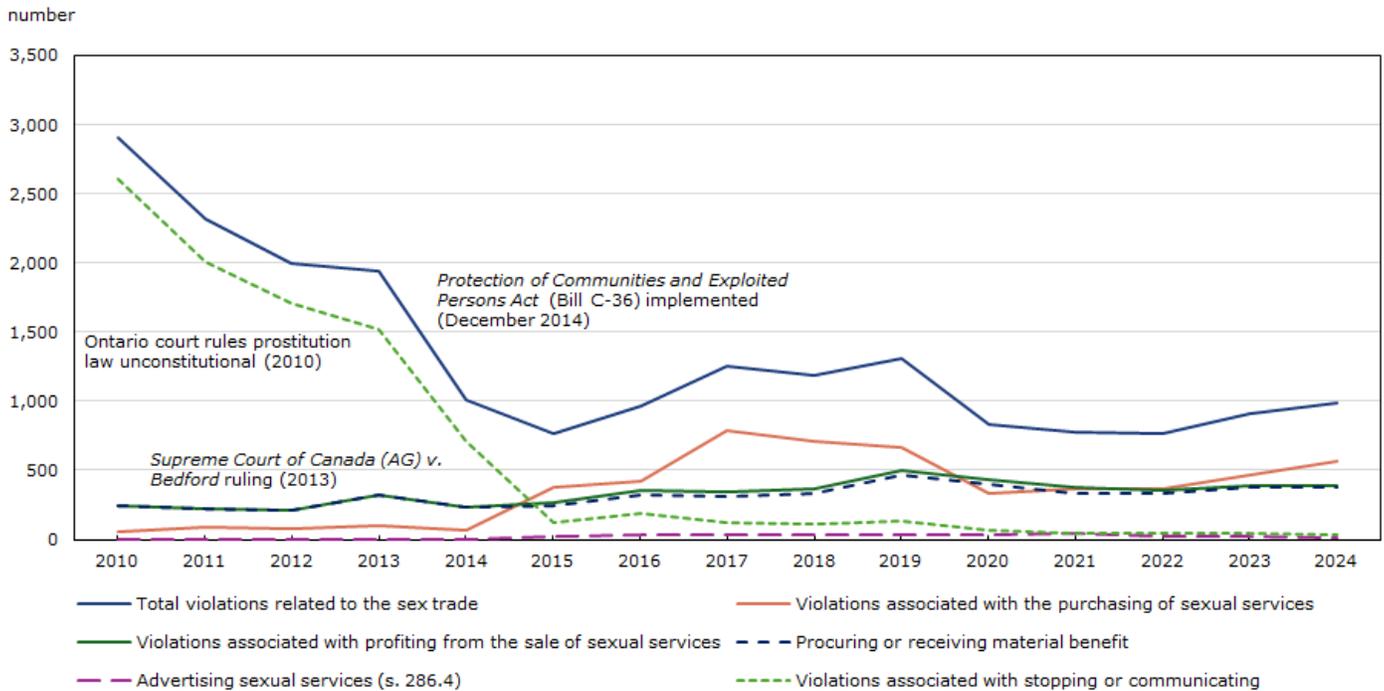
Police-reported crime related to the sex trade

Despite long-term decline, police-reported crimes related to the sex trade increased in 2023 and 2024

Between 2020 and 2024, there were 4,275 police-reported incidents of crime related to the sex trade (Table 1; see Text box 1).^{7,8} This represented an average rate of 2.2 incidents per 100,000 population over the five-year period.

There were 10,173 police-reported incidents related to the sex trade between 2010 and 2014, the period prior to the introduction of the PCEPA. In comparison, after the enactment of the PCEPA, the number of police-reported incidents was 46% lower between 2015 and 2019 (5,466) and 58% lower between 2020 and 2024 (4,275). Most of this decline was due to a decrease in the number of incidents associated with stopping or communicating violations (Chart 1), because of the shift away from criminalizing the sellers of sexual services. This was also due to the repeal of s. 213(1)(c) of the *Criminal Code*, which previously criminalized stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute, and made up a large proportion of sex trade incidents prior to the PCEPA's enactment.^{9,10} Overall, the number of incidents associated with stopping or communicating violations decreased from 8,554 between 2010 and 2014, to 675 between 2015 and 2019 (-92%), to 224 between 2020 and 2024 (-97%).

Chart 1
Incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by type of violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024



Note: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. See Text box 1 for information on the specific offences examined in this article.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (aggregate data file).

Between 2010 and 2014, the average annual rate of crime related to the sex trade was 5.9 incidents per 100,000 population, dropping to 3.0 between 2015 and 2019. The average rate (2.2) between 2020 and 2024 marked further decline.

Despite the overall decline, the most recent years of data have shown an increase in both the crime rate and the number of incidents involving sex trade-related violations. After declining to a rate of 2.0 incidents per 100,000 population in 2022, the rate of sex trade-related crime has increased recently, reaching 2.4 in 2024. Similarly, between 2020 and 2024, the number of incidents increased 18% (from 836 in 2020 to 990 incidents in 2024).¹¹ This recent increase was driven by more violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services (+228 incidents).¹² Over this period, police reported fewer violations associated with profiting from others’ sexual services (-45 incidents) and fewer violations associated with stopping or communicating (-29). These findings align with the goals of the PCEPA legislation—to criminalize the buyers of sexual services as opposed to the sellers.

Recent national increase in sex trade violations largely driven by increases in Quebec

Differences in crime levels across geographic regions may be impacted by differences in police resources, practices and enforcement—especially as police services adapt to changes in legislation.

Among the provinces, average annual rates of police-reported crime related to the sex trade between 2020 and 2024 were highest in Manitoba (5.6 incidents per 100,000 population), Saskatchewan (3.8) and Quebec (3.7), and lowest in Prince Edward Island (0.6), Newfoundland and Labrador (1.0) and Ontario (1.0) (Table 2).¹³ All provinces had a lower average rate in 2020 to 2024 than in 2010 to 2014, with the exception of Quebec (3.7 versus 3.4).¹⁴

Not only was Quebec the only province to have a higher rate of sex trade violations relative to the pre-PCEPA period, but the national increase in the number of incidents related to the sex trade between 2023 and 2024 was largely attributable to increases in Quebec.¹⁵ There were 98 more sex trade-related incidents in 2024 than in 2023 in Quebec. While some other provinces saw modest year-over-year increases, there were 15 fewer incidents in the rest of the country combined.

Census metropolitan areas (CMAs)—Canada’s largest urban centres—had a higher overall average annual rate of crime related to the sex trade between 2020 to 2024 compared to non-CMAs (2.3 versus 1.9 incidents per 100,000 population) (Table 3).¹⁶ While the average rate has continued to decline since the 2010 to 2014 period in CMAs, it was higher in non-CMAs in 2020 to 2024 than it was in 2015 to 2019 (1.9 versus 1.6).¹⁷ More recently, the overall rate of sex trade-related crime increased for CMAs between 2023 and 2024 (from 2.4 to 2.6), while it decreased in non-CMAs (from 2.0 to 1.8).

Regina (10.0 incidents per 100,000 population), Moncton (8.6) and Sherbrooke (7.8) had the highest average annual rates of crime related to the sex trade between 2020 and 2024. The lowest rates were reported in Hamilton (0.1), Greater Sudbury (0.1), Saint John (0.2) and Thunder Bay (0.2). Some CMAs—particularly those in Quebec—had a higher average rate in the 2020 to 2024 period than in the 2010 to 2014 period. Similarly, rates rose in many CMAs between 2023 and 2024, with the largest increases in Gatineau (from 0.8 to 5.0), Sherbrooke (from 2.3 to 9.3) and Moncton (from 1.1 to 3.6). Montréal also recorded a higher average annual rate over this period (from 4.3 to 5.3), with 54 more incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade.

Text box 2

Founded and unfounded crime

Before 2018, an incident was classified as “founded” in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey if, after police investigation, it was determined that a crime had occurred, regardless of whether an accused person had been identified (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2018). As such, the police had to establish that an incident had taken place (i.e., finding credible evidence) before proceeding with the case.

In 2018, several changes were implemented to the UCR Survey. Most notably, the definition of “founded” crime was updated as such: **“An incident is founded if, after police investigation, it has been determined that the reported offence did occur or was attempted (even if the charged/suspect chargeable [accused person] is unknown) or there is no credible evidence to confirm that the reported incident did not take place. This includes third-party reports that fit these criteria.”** With the updated definition, a lack of corroborating evidence following an investigation does not mean that an incident did not occur—and, as a result, more incidents are captured by police data.

In 2017—the year prior to UCR Survey revisions—6.4% of crime related to the sex trade was deemed unfounded (85 incidents), and the proportion of incidents deemed unfounded dropped to 4.3% by 2024 (44 incidents). Since 2017, a smaller proportion of founded sex trade incidents were cleared by police (71% in 2017 versus 52% in 2024) and, of those that were cleared, a smaller proportion resulted in the laying or recommendation of charges (87% in 2017 versus 71% in 2024).¹⁸

Around one-quarter of sex trade-related incidents reported by police involved a more serious violation

In the UCR Survey, police can report up to four violations in a criminal incident. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 5,429 criminal incidents reported by police involving at least one violation related to the sex trade.^{19 20} This was a 17% decrease from the number reported during the five-year period immediately following the PCEPA’s enactment (6,512 incidents between 2015 and 2019). During both time periods, a sex trade-related offence was the most serious violation in the majority of incidents. However, between 2020 and 2024, a sex trade-related offence was the most serious violation in a smaller proportion of incidents than was reported between 2015 and 2019 (77% versus 83%).

Between 2020 and 2024, in incidents where a sex trade-related offence was a secondary violation (1,257 incidents), the most serious violation was almost always another violent offence. Most commonly, the most serious violation was a sexual offence²¹ (45% of incidents) or a human trafficking offence (35% of incidents).²²

Most sex trade-related crime in recent years occurred at residential locations

Continuing the shift observed after the PCEPA was first enacted, there were fewer sex trade-related incidents which occurred on the street or in open areas over the last five years and, consequently, more which occurred at residential locations (e.g., a home) or in a commercial dwelling unit (e.g., a hotel). Between 2020 and 2024, three in five (60%) police-reported sex trade incidents occurred at a residential location²³ (2,383 incidents), while one in five (21%) occurred in an open area (822 incidents).²⁴ In comparison, between 2010 and 2014 and between 2015 and 2019, most sex trade-related incidents

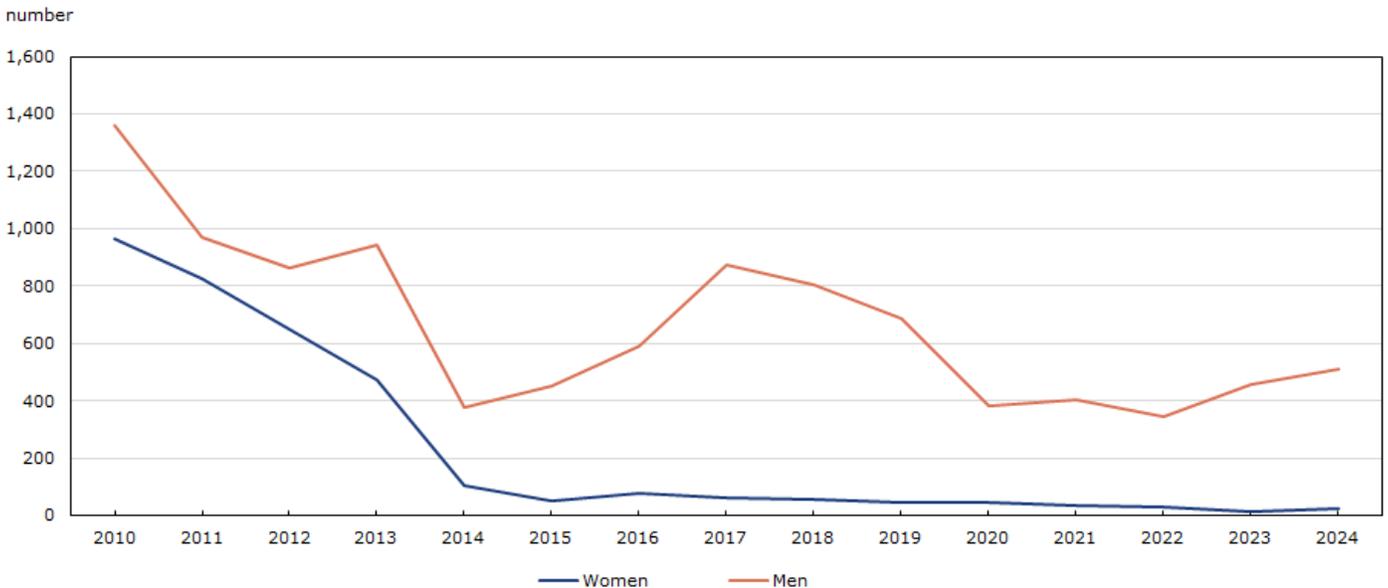
occurred in open areas (78% and 48%, respectively).²⁵ However, the shift toward more incidents occurring at residential locations and fewer in open areas was still evident between 2015 and 2019, but not to the same extent as was observed over the last five years.

The decrease in police-reported incidents of crime related to the sex trade occurring in streets or open areas was largely attributed to the decline in incidents involving stopping or communicating violations, while the increase in incidents occurring at residential locations was due to an increase in incidents of purchasing offences and, to a lesser extent, an increase in incidents involving profiting offences. These findings were also observed in the years immediately following the PCEPA's enactment and continued between 2020 and 2024.

Since 2014, the vast majority of accused persons in police-reported crime related to the sex trade are men

The number of women accused in police-reported incidents of crime related to the sex trade declined dramatically between 2010 and 2014, the period prior to the PCEPA's enactment (Chart 2; Table 4).²⁶ This was attributed to a decline in violations associated with stopping or communicating, for which there were 888 women accused in 2010 and 65 women accused in 2014. Overall, this declining trend has continued, with 24 women accused in 2024. Women accounted for 40% of all persons accused of sex trade-related crime between 2010 and 2014, 8% between 2015 and 2019 and 7% between 2020 and 2024.

Chart 2
Persons accused in police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by gender, Canada, 2010 to 2024



Note: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Includes accused persons aged 12 years and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible. For the purposes of readability, accused are referred to as women and men. A small proportion of accused were aged 12 to 17. Excludes accused persons whose gender or age was coded as unknown. Accused persons older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Given that small counts of accused persons identified as "non-binary" may exist, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. See Text box 1 for information on the specific offences examined in this article.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

There were 153 women accused in incidents of crime related to the sex trade between 2020 and 2024. More than three-quarters (77%) of these women were accused of violations associated with profiting from others' sexual services—most often, procuring or receiving material benefit offences—while the remaining women were accused of stopping or communicating violations (12%) or purchasing violations (10%).^{27 28}

While men accounted for a larger proportion (93%) of persons accused in incidents of crime related to the sex trade between 2020 and 2024 compared to earlier periods, the number of men accused has also had a notable long-term decline overall (Chart 2; Table 5). There were 4,510 men accused of sex trade violations between 2010 and 2014, 3,404 between 2015 and 2019 and 2,095 between 2020 and 2024. This decline can also be attributed to a decrease in the number of men accused

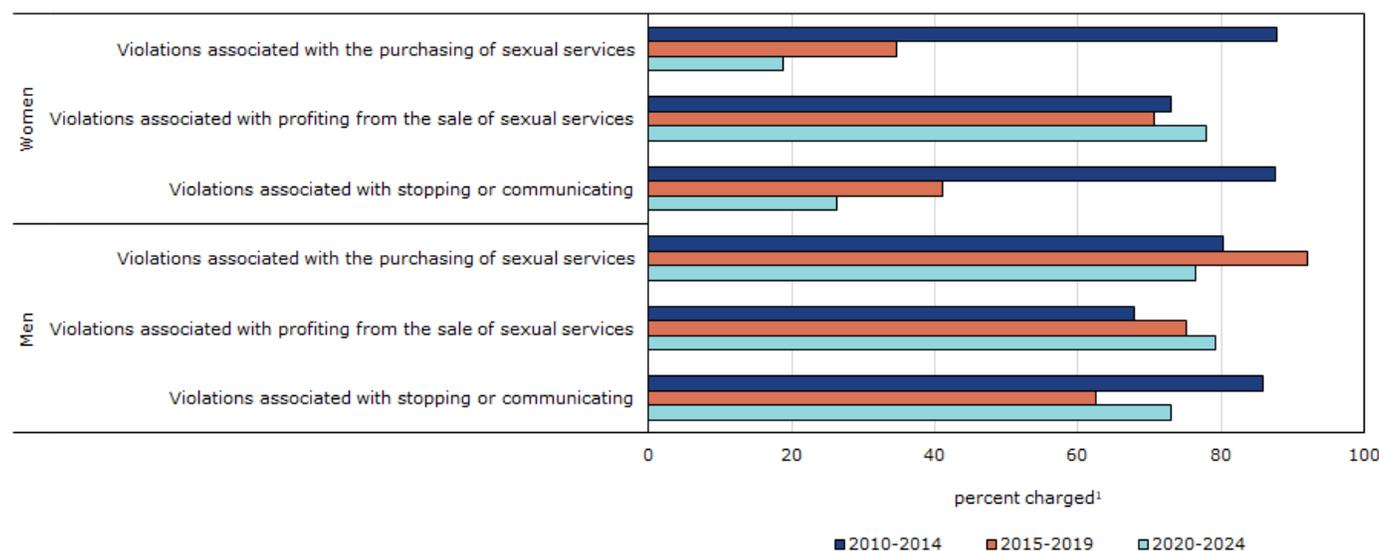
of violations associated with stopping or communicating. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 48 men accused of these violations, representing 2% of all men accused of police-reported crime related to the sex trade. In comparison, the number of men accused of violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services and violations associated with profiting from others' sexual services increased compared with the period before the legislative changes. Between 2020 and 2024, there were 1,404 men accused of purchasing violations, accounting for the largest proportion of men accused (67%), while 643 men (31%) were accused of profiting violations. Prior to the PCEPA's enactment, the large majority (87%) of men accused of sex trade-related violations were accused of stopping or communicating offences.

Of note, men that were accused of sex trade-related violations were predominantly the only person accused in the incident, in the years preceding the PCEPA's enactment (91% between 2010 and 2014) and in the years that followed the legislative changes (89% between 2015 and 2019 and 88% between 2020 and 2024). Meanwhile, there was a notable shift in co-accused findings for women accused. In the years prior to the PCEPA's enactment, the large majority (89%) of women accused in incidents related to the sex trade were the sole accused. Since the PCEPA came into force, this proportion has decreased substantially to about half of women accused (53% between 2020 and 2024 and 51% between 2015 and 2019). For 90% of women who were co-accused in a sex trade-related incident between 2020 and 2024, at least one of their co-accused was a man. These women were most often co-accused in incidents involving profiting violations.

Women less commonly charged in sex trade-related incidents

Overall, a large proportion of individuals accused in sex trade-related incidents were charged in the period that immediately followed the PCEPA's enactment as well as in the most recent years.²⁹ However, results varied when these findings were broken down by gender and by type of violation. Between 2020 and 2024, women overall were less commonly charged than men in sex trade-related incidents (65% versus 77%) (Table 4; Table 5).³⁰ More specifically, much smaller proportions of women accused of stopping or communicating violations (26%) or purchasing violations (19%) were charged than men (73% and 76%, respectively) (Chart 3). In contrast, charge rates for profiting violations were similar for both men (79%) and women (78%).

Chart 3
Persons accused and charged in police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by gender and type of violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024



1. Charged means that the incident was cleared by police and charges were laid or recommended against an accused.
Note: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Includes accused persons aged 12 years and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible. For the purposes of readability, accused are referred to as women and men. A small proportion of accused were aged 12 to 17. Excludes accused persons whose gender or age was coded as unknown. Accused persons older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Given that small counts of accused persons identified as "non-binary" may exist, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. See Text box 1 for information on the specific offences examined in this article.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

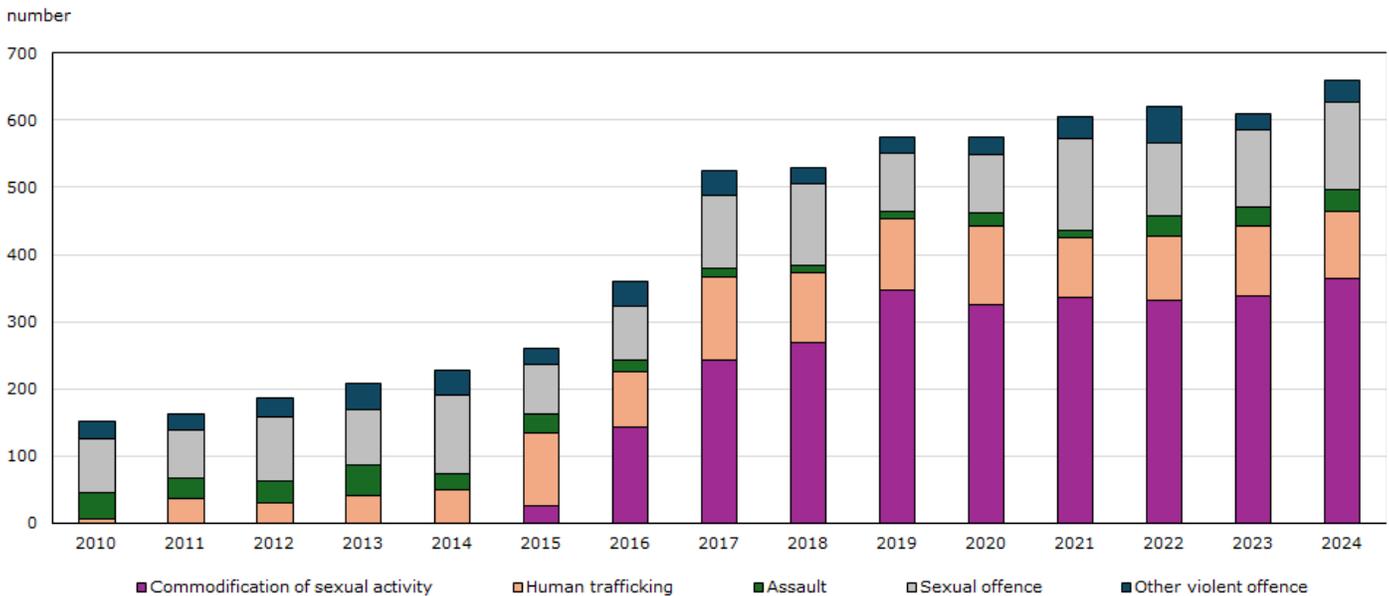
Compared with the period right after the PCEPA legislation came into force, between 2020 and 2024, the proportion of women charged in incidents of purchasing violations and stopping or communicating violations declined, while the proportion of women charged in incidents of profiting violations increased (Table 4). In comparison, there were higher charging rates over the last five years for men accused in incidents of profiting from the sale of others' sexual services and stopping or communicating offences, but lower charging rates for incidents of purchasing offences (Table 5). These changes in charging rates were also generally more pronounced for women than men.

Most victims in violent incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation are women and girls

The enactment of the PCEPA brought about changes to the classification of certain offences related to the sex trade as violent crimes under the *Criminal Code* (see Text box 1).^{31 32} Police now have the option to report information on the characteristics of victims identified in these incidents to the UCR Survey. However, victim information is not collected for non-violent incidents. Consequently, information on victims of sex trade-related crime before and after the PCEPA's enactment should be interpreted with caution.

Between 2020 and 2024, there were 3,070 victims in violent incidents involving at least one sex trade-related offence, up 37% from the number of victims (2,248) reported between 2015 and 2019, the period that immediately followed the PCEPA's enactment (Chart 4). More than half (55%) of these victims were victims of one of the sex trade-related offences which were newly enacted under the PCEPA. A further 19% of victims were victims of a sexual violation, while 17% were victims of human trafficking.

Chart 4
Victims of police-reported violent crime related to the sex trade, by most serious violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024



Note: Number of victims where there was a sex trade-related offence reported as any violation in the incident, classified by the most serious violation against the victim. In the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, victim information may be reported by police for violent incidents. However, for certain incidents related to the commodification of sexual activity, victim records can be submitted but are not required. These offences include purchasing sexual services, procuring or receiving material benefits, or advertising sexual services. Sexual offences include sexual assaults, sexual violations against children (such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching) and other sexual offences (such as voyeurism). See Text box 1 for information on the specific offences examined in this article.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Over the last five years and in the years that immediately followed the PCEPA's enactment, the vast majority (93% and 94%, respectively) of victims in violent incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation were women and girls.³³ This represented an average annual rate of 2.9 victims per 100,000 population between 2020 and 2024. Since the PCEPA came into force, the rate of women and girls who were victims in incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation has increased. In comparison, there were 0.2 men and boys who were victims per 100,000 population between 2020 and 2024. The rate of women and girl victims of violent incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation has consistently been much higher than the rate among men and boy victims.

Most victims in violent incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation were adults,³⁴ both in the period immediately following the legislative changes (55%) and in the most recent years (64%).³⁵ However, rates of violent crime involving at least one sex trade violation were highest among youth (aged 12 to 17). Between 2020 and 2024, there were 8.1 youth victims per 100,000 population.³⁶ After youth, those between the ages of 18 and 24 had the next highest rate of violent crime involving at least one sex trade-related violation (5.6 victims per 100,000 between 2020 and 2024). In almost all age categories, the rate of victimization was higher during the period between 2020 and 2024 than it was during the period between 2015 and 2019.

Since the PCEPA legislation came into force, equal proportions of victims in incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation were physically injured as a result of the violent incident. Between 2020 and 2024, and between 2015 and 2019, around one in six (16% for both periods) victims were physically injured in such incidents. The large majority of the reported injuries were minor.³⁷

Homicides of sex trade workers remain less common than prior to legislative changes

Previous analysis (Allen & Rotenberg, 2021) found that there was a notable decline in the number of victims of homicide identified by police as sex trade workers when comparing the five years prior to the PCEPA's enactment (2010 to 2014) to the early post-PCEPA time period (2015 to 2019).³⁸ Since then, however, the trend has been more stable.

Between 2020 and 2024, 37 victims of homicide were identified by police as sex trade workers, virtually equal to the previous five-year period (36) and down from the five years prior to the legislative changes (55). That said, this relative stability is in contrast to the overall increase in homicides in Canada from 2015 to 2019 and 2020 to 2024 (up 24%, from 3,257 victims in 2015 to 2019 to 4,035 in 2020 to 2024). Sex trade workers accounted for 0.9% of all victims of homicide between 2020 and 2024, down from 1.1% between 2015 and 2019, and 2.0% between 2010 and 2014. Regardless of the time period and the state of the legislation surrounding the sex trade, virtually all sex trade workers who were victims of homicide were women.³⁹

Between 2020 and 2024, 62% of homicides of sex trade workers resulted in the laying or recommendation of charges against an accused person, which was comparable to the charge rate of homicides overall in this period (65%), and an increase from 2015 to 2019 (58%). The remaining homicides were cleared otherwise⁴⁰ (14%) or remained uncleared (24%).

Sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts

Fewer sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts since the PCEPA's enactment

Between 2019/2020 to 2023/2024, there were 1,290 cases completed in adult criminal courts in Canada where a sex trade-related offence was the most serious offence in the case (Table 6).^{41 42 43} This was a decrease (-39%) from the number of cases completed during the years prior (2,099 cases completed from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019), and was a continuation of the declining trend which was observed in the years that immediately followed the PCEPA's enactment in 2014.⁴⁴

Similar to what was observed in the early post-PCEPA period, and consistent with trends observed in police-reported data, the declining number of adult criminal court sex trade cases was driven largely by a decrease in cases where the most serious offence was a stopping or communicating offence (see Text box 1). These cases decreased by 81% between the five-year period immediately following the enactment of the PCEPA and the latest five-year period (from 263 completed cases between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019 to 50 cases between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024). Most of this decline in stopping or communicating cases was due to fewer cases of stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213), due to the repeal of s. 213(1)(c).⁴⁵ While the number of purchasing cases and profiting cases also both decreased over the last five years, the declines were not as large due to the enactment of new offences under the PCEPA (s. 286.1 to s. 286.4) which replaced the offences that were struck down and repealed under the legislation. For instance, completed profiting cases were down 20% compared with the initial post-PCEPA period (from 508 cases to 404, -20%). The decline in profiting cases was almost entirely due to fewer procuring cases (from 224 cases to 79, -65%).⁴⁶

Most sex trade cases in courts are still related to purchasing sexual services

Similar to what was observed in the early post-PCEPA period (63%), most (65%) adult criminal court cases involving sex trade-related offences completed between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 had a purchasing offence identified as the most serious offence in the case. Despite these proportions being similar, the volume was considerably lower. There were 836 purchasing cases completed between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, down (-37%) from 1,328 cases completed between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019 (Table 6). Fewer completed cases of obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1)) accounted for a large proportion of this decline (-349 cases).

Cases where the most serious offence was related to profiting from the sale of others' sexual services accounted for about three in ten (31%) sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts over the last five years. This was an increase from what was observed in the initial post-PCEPA period, when these types of cases represented almost one-quarter (24%) of sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts.

There were 50 stopping or communicating cases completed in adult criminal courts between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, representing 4% of completed sex trade cases over this period.⁴⁷ As the PCEPA has prioritized criminalizing offences related to purchasing sexual services and profiting from others' sexual services, the number of stopping or communicating cases has continuously declined since its coming into force, particularly for s. 213 cases (stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute). Prior to the enactment of the PCEPA (between 2009/2010 and 2013/2014), stopping or communicating cases represented 89% of all sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts.

Sex trade cases involving women accused continue to decline in courts, but cases involving men declining to a greater extent

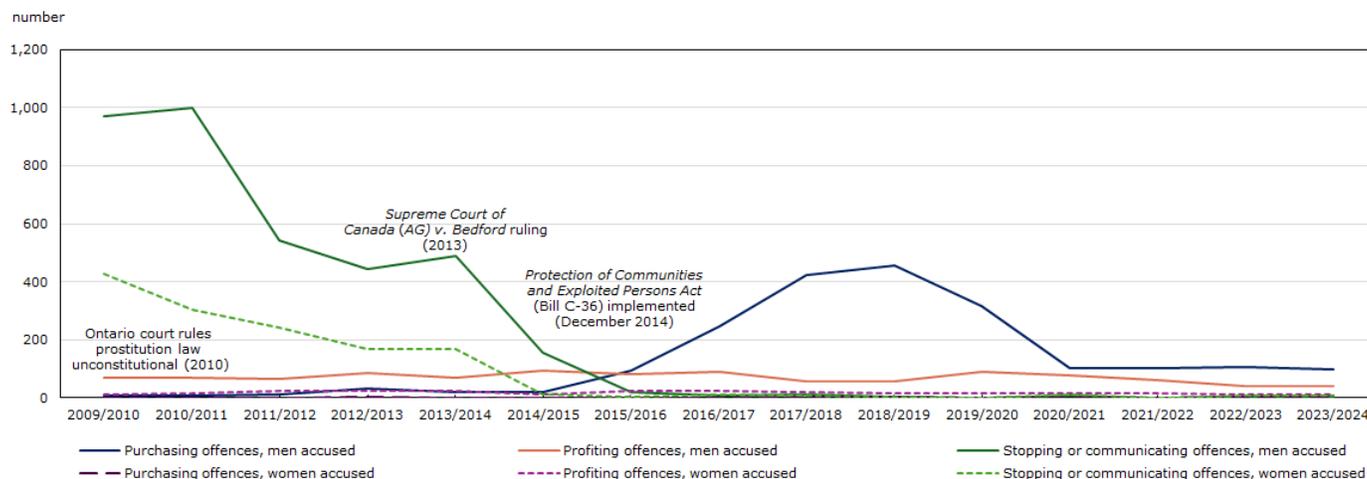
Like previous years, men continued to account for the vast majority (91%) of persons accused of sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024.^{48 49} Since the enactment of the PCEPA, the proportion of cases involving men accused has generally increased, while the proportion of cases involving women accused has generally decreased.⁵⁰ Prior to this (2009/2010 to 2013/2014), women represented over one-quarter (27%) of accused in sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts.⁵¹

Continuing the trend of the early post-PCEPA period, the number of sex trade cases involving women accused declined over the last five years. Between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, there were 104 sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts involving women accused, down (-28%) from 145 cases completed between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019. Over these same periods, the number of completed sex trade cases involving men accused also declined (from 1,820 cases to 1,060), and to a greater extent (-42%) than was observed among cases involving women.

Women continue to mostly be in court for profiting offences, men for purchasing offences

Most men (69%, 730 cases) accused in sex trade-related cases completed in adult criminal courts between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 were accused of a purchasing offence as the most serious offence, while most (69%, 72 cases) cases where a woman was accused had a profiting offence as the most serious offence (Chart 5).⁵² These findings were also observed in the initial post-PCEPA period when there were 1,237 men and 96 women accused of these offences. This was a shift from the trend that occurred prior to the legislative changes, when stopping or communicating offences were the most common offence in sex trade-related cases in court for both men and women accused.⁵³

Chart 5
Sex trade cases completed in adult criminal court, by gender of accused and type of offence, Canada, 2009/2010 to 2023/2024



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. Includes court cases where a sex trade-related offence was the most serious offence in the case. Data exclude cases where the gender of the accused was unknown or where the accused was a company. Information on the gender of the accused is not available from Manitoba. For Quebec, gender is determined on the basis of the accused's name, producing a relatively higher rate of unknown gender. Data exclude information from superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Superior court information for Prince Edward Island was also unavailable until 2018/2019. Data for Quebec were not available for 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. See Text box 1 for information on the specific offences examined in this article.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Just over one-third of sex trade cases result in a guilty decision

In recent years, a higher proportion of sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts resulted in a guilty decision than in the immediate post-PCEPA period.⁵⁴ These findings were consistent for both men and women.⁵⁵ Overall, 34% of sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 resulted in a guilty decision, up from 27% in the previous five-year period. Prior to the PCEPA's enactment (2009/2010 to 2013/2014), 28% of sex trade-related cases resulted in a guilty decision.

However, as found in previous analysis (Allen & Rotenberg, 2021), the proportion of guilty cases varied substantially when broken down by type of offence. Cases completed between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 where a profiting offence was the most serious offence had much higher proportions of guilty findings than those where the most serious offence was a purchasing offence, or a stopping or communicating offence. Close to six in ten (57%) profiting cases completed during this period resulted in a guilty decision, compared to one-quarter (25%) of purchasing cases and a small proportion (4%) of stopping or communicating cases.

Custody continues to be the most common sentence ordered for men found guilty of sex trade-related offences, while probation and custody are the most common for women

Of the 33 sex trade cases where a woman accused was found guilty between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 (and there was a known sentence), 12 (36%) resulted in a sentence of custody, down from 15 cases (42%) in the period that immediately followed the enactment of the PCEPA.^{56 57 58} In contrast, the proportion of guilty men who were sentenced to custody remained almost the same during both periods, from 217 cases (49%) resulting in a guilty finding completed between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019 to 173 (50%) between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024. Since the PCEPA came into force, custody has consistently been the most common sentence handed down to men found guilty in a sex trade-related case completed in adult criminal courts, while in these cases where women were found guilty, probation and custody were tied for the most common type of sentence for cases completed between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 (both 36%).

Text box 3

Sex trade cases in youth courts in Canada

Between 2009/2010 and 2023/2024, there were 160 sex trade cases completed in youth courts (persons aged 12 to 17) in Canada, representing 2% of all sex trade cases completed throughout this period. Contrary to sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts, the number of sex trade cases completed in youth courts increased (+88%) in the initial five-year period following the introduction of the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA), from 40 completed cases between 2009/2010 and 2013/2014 to 75 between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019. Since then, the number of sex trade cases involving youth has declined (-40%) to 45 completed cases between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024.

Since the PCEPA came into force, the large majority of sex trade cases completed in youth courts had a profiting offence as the most serious offence in the case, in both the initial post-PCEPA period (79%, 59 cases) as well as in the most recent five years (87%, 39 cases).⁵⁹ Prior to the enactment of this legislation, more than half (53%) of the sex trade cases completed in youth courts had a stopping or communicating offence as the most serious offence in the case, while over four in ten (43%) cases had a profiting offence.

The proportion of sex trade cases completed in youth courts that resulted in a guilty decision has increased slightly since the implementation of the PCEPA. In the immediate post-PCEPA period (2014/2015 to 2018/2019), 57% of youth accused of a sex trade-related offence were found guilty, while 60% of youth received a guilty decision in cases completed between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024. Prior to the enactment of the PCEPA, just over one-third (35%) of youth court sex trade cases resulted in a guilty decision.

In sex trade cases where there was a finding of guilt, youth most often received probation as their most serious sentence. Between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, more than four in ten (44%) guilty sex trade cases completed in youth courts received probation, while just under three in ten (28%) received custody and supervision.⁶⁰

Summary

This article examined the most recent trends in sex trade-related incidents reported by police, as well as sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts, following the enactment of the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA) in 2014. The PCEPA aimed to reduce the demand for sexual services by targeting those who purchase sexual services and profit from others' sexual services or procure others to provide sexual services, rather than those who sell sexual services.

Between 2020 and 2024, there were 4,275 police-reported incidents related to the sex trade in Canada, representing an average annual rate of 2.2 incidents per 100,000 population. Among the provinces, the highest average annual rate of sex trade incidents was reported by police in Manitoba (5.6 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (3.8) and Quebec (3.7).

Trends observed in the initial period that followed the PCEPA's enactment (2015 to 2019) continued during the period between 2020 and 2024, with some year-over-year exceptions. Overall, the number of police-reported incidents of sex trade-related crime has continued to decline, primarily due to a decrease in the number of incidents related to stopping or communicating violations. This aligned with the goals of the PCEPA legislation.

There was a decrease in the number of women accused of crimes related to the sex trade between 2020 and 2024, mirroring what occurred in the years leading up to and immediately following the PCEPA's enactment. Most women accused of sex trade-related crimes were accused of profiting violations. Overall, women were less commonly charged than men in sex trade-related incidents.

Between 2020 and 2024, the vast majority of victims of violent incidents involving at least one sex trade-related violation were women and girls, which was similar to what was observed when the PCEPA was first enacted. Over this period, there were 37 victims of homicide who were identified by police as sex trade workers.

Over the last five years, adult criminal courts also saw a continuing shift in both the profile of those accused of sex trade-related offences, as well as a change in the types of sex trade cases that were before the courts. Overall, the number of sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts declined (-39%) between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, compared to the number completed between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019. Like police-reported incidents, this was also primarily due to a decrease in the number of completed court cases involving stopping or communicating offences. Similarly, men continued to account for the majority of accused in sex trade cases. Compared with the immediate post-PCEPA period, a larger proportion of sex trade cases completed over the last five years resulted in a guilty decision (27% versus 34%).

Survey description

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was established in 1962 with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The UCR Survey is a compilation of police-reported crimes that have been reported to federal, provincial or territorial, and municipal police services in Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. To ensure comparability, data presented in this article are based on the most serious violation in the incident, unless otherwise stated. Police determine the most serious violation according to standardized classification rules in the UCR Survey that consider, for instance, whether the offence is violent as well as the maximum penalty imposed by the *Criminal Code*.

The option for police to code victims and accused persons as “non-binary” in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. In the context of the UCR Survey, the term “non-binary” refers to a person who publicly expresses themselves as neither exclusively male nor exclusively female. Given that small counts of non-binary victims and accused persons may exist, the UCR Survey data available to the public have been recoded with these victims and accused persons distributed in the “men and boys” or “women and girls” categories based on the regional distribution of victims’ and accused persons’ gender. This recoding ensures the protection of the confidentiality and privacy of victims and accused persons.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, Trend Database, is a microdata survey that captures detailed information on crimes reported to police, including the characteristics of incidents, victims and accused persons. UCR2 coverage between 2009 and 2024 is estimated at 99% of the population of Canada. UCR2 includes only the police services that have consistently responded to allow for comparisons over time.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all murders in 1961, however a variable for occupation that identified victims as sex trade workers was not introduced until 1991. Further, a question that identified whether the homicide was a result of the victim’s occupation was added in 1997.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police service completes the survey questionnaires, which are then sent to Statistics Canada. There are cases where homicides become known to police months or years after they occurred. These incidents are counted in the year in which they become known to police. Information on persons accused of homicide is only available for cleared incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are cleared and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey.

Information collected through the incident and victim questionnaires is also updated as a result of a case being cleared.

The Homicide Survey recently underwent a redesign to improve data quality and enhance relevance. Changes were made to existing questions and additional questions were added for the 2019 reporting period.

Integrated Criminal Court Survey

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) collects statistical information on adult criminal and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences. Data presented in this article are largely based on the adult criminal court portion of the survey.

As of 2005/2006, all provincial and territorial (adult criminal) courts in ten provinces and three territories report to the survey. However, information from superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec are not available for extraction from their electronic reporting systems and are therefore not reported to the survey. Superior court information for Prince Edward Island was also unavailable until 2018/2019. All youth courts in Canada have reported data to the youth component of the survey since the 1991/1992 fiscal year.

References

Allen, M. & Rotenberg, C. (2021). Crimes related to the sex trade: Before and after legislative changes in Canada. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Canada (Attorney General) v. Bedford. (2013). SCC 72, [2013] 3 SCR 1101.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. (2018). Revising the classification of founded and unfounded criminal incidents in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Department of Justice Canada. (2014). Technical Paper: Bill C-36, an Act to amend the *Criminal Code* in response to the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Attorney General of Canada v. Bedford* and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.

Government of Quebec. (2021). Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle : Plan d'action gouvernemental 2021-2026 en réponse aux recommandations de la Commission spéciale sur l'exploitation sexuelle des mineurs. Quebec: Government of Quebec.

Sutton-Preddie, D. (2025). Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2024. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Notes

1. The *Bedford* decision found that three now-repealed *Criminal Code* “prostitution” offences violated life, liberty and security of the person rights under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* on the basis that they prevented those who work in the sex trade from taking steps to protect themselves when they were engaged in risky, but legal, activity (*Canada (Attorney General) v. Bedford 2013*).

2. Data on *Criminal Code* sections 210, 211 and 212(2.1) are not included in this article.

3. See note 1.

4. See note 42 and note 43.

5. For example, detailed subsection information may not always be provided by Integrated Criminal Court Survey respondents for cases related to obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 286.1). As a result, it may not be possible to distinguish whether the offence was related to a minor (s. 286.1(2)) or an adult (286.1(1)).

6. Information on detailed subsection (or paragraph) is not available for all cases. When there is sufficient information to identify that a case is related to the sex trade, but it is not possible to determine the specific offence (subsection), these cases are included in the totals but not in the more specific breakdown of offences. For that reason, the sum of the individual offences does not always equal the total.

7. Unless otherwise stated, the police-reported data presented in this article are based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey’s aggregate data file. Counts are based on the most serious violation against the victim for violent offences and the most serious violation in the incident for other types of crime.

8. Some recent trends in crime related to the sex trade may be influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a major impact on crime overall in Canada.

9. Unlike other sex trade-related offences which were repealed under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* and reenacted as new offences in the *Criminal Code*, s. 213(1)(c) was repealed and was not replaced with a new offence under the legislation. As such, it no longer exists as a criminal offence. However, s. 213(1)(a) and (b) were retained and modified to apply to both purchasers and sellers of sexual services, by criminalizing the act of stopping vehicles or impeding traffic in a public place for the purpose of offering, providing, or obtaining sexual services for consideration.

10. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, the violation code associated with offences under sections 213(1)(a), (b) and (c) changed with the enactment of the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA). Previously, these offences were captured under violation 3130 “stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute.” However, with the enactment of the PCEPA and subsequent repeal of s. 213(1)(c) and modification of s. 213(1)(a) and (b), this violation code was terminated, and offences under s. 213(1)(a) and (b) are now captured under violation 3141 “stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration.”

11. In 2021, the number of police-reported incidents related to the sex trade declined (from 836 incidents in 2020 to 776 in 2021, -7%). The number of incidents also declined again in 2022 (to 765, -1%).

12. More specifically, this increase was almost entirely due to more incidents of obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s.286.1(1)) (+206 incidents).

13. Higher average annual rates were noted in the Yukon (8.8 incidents per 100,000 population) and the Northwest Territories (6.7), although caution should be used due to the small populations and counts. In all, there were 19 incidents of sex trade-related crime in the Yukon and 15 incidents in the Northwest Territories between 2020 and 2024.

14. The number of incidents in Quebec increased from 1,364 between 2010 and 2014 to 1,635 between 2020 and 2024. Counts are shown in Table 2.

15. It should be noted that, in 2021, the province of Quebec established a government action plan to combat various criminal offences related to the sexual exploitation of minors, including certain crimes related to the sex trade, with \$150 million over five years dedicated to detecting and prosecuting offenders (Government of Quebec, 2021). These resources help contextualize the higher number of incidents of crime related to the sex trade in Quebec relative to other provinces and territories.
16. As of the 2021 Census of Population, Fredericton, Drummondville, Red Deer, Kamloops, Chilliwack and Nanaimo became census metropolitan areas.
17. The number of incidents in non-census metropolitan areas increased from 853 between 2015 and 2019 to 992 between 2020 and 2024. Counts are shown in Table 3. As of the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville–Quinte West (formerly known as Belleville) and Lethbridge became census metropolitan areas.
18. In comparison, the proportion of overall crime that was deemed unfounded decreased between 2017 and 2024 (from 6.8% to 4.5%) and a smaller proportion was cleared (43% versus 35%); however, of the incidents of crime that were cleared, a larger proportion were cleared by charge (65% versus 69%).
19. Data in this section are from Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey's Trend Database. For that reason, counts may differ slightly from the sections above which use the UCR Survey aggregate data file.
20. This includes 4,172 incidents where a violation related to the sex trade was the only or most serious violation, as well as 1,257 incidents where there was a sex trade violation as well as another violation classified as more serious.
21. Sexual offences include sexual assaults, sexual offences against children (such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching), as well as other sexual offences (such as voyeurism).
22. For more information on human trafficking in Canada, see Sutton-Preddie, 2025.
23. Residential locations include residential housing units and commercial dwelling units. They also include nursing homes, retirement homes and community group homes.
24. In this analysis, open areas include streets, roads and highways.
25. There were 7,748 incidents of sex trade-related crime which occurred in open areas between 2010 and 2014, and 2,536 between 2015 and 2019.
26. For analysis of police-reported crime from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, accused persons include those aged 12 and older. Accused under the age of 12 cannot be held criminally responsible. For the purposes of readability, the categories of "women" and "men" are used for discussion. A small proportion of accused were aged 12 to 17.
27. All of the women accused of purchasing violations were specifically accused of obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1)), while the large majority (84%) of the women accused of stopping or communicating violations were accused of communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1)).
28. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
29. The number of accused charged includes charges laid or recommended by police. In some jurisdictions, police do not lay charges but instead recommend to the Crown that charges be laid. In New Brunswick, Quebec, and British Columbia, all charges are recommended to the Crown for approval. Crown charge approval may also be required in other jurisdictions depending on the type of offence.
30. The remaining incidents that were not cleared by charge were cleared otherwise, a term which captures all incidents when an accused person is identified by police, but charges are not or cannot be laid or recommended against the accused person. Examples of reasons for which incidents are cleared otherwise include the death of the accused person, departmental discretion, the victim requesting that no further action is taken, or reasons beyond the control of the department.
31. Offences under *Criminal Code* sections 286.1 to 286.4 are now classified as violent crimes in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Victim records may be provided by police for incidents related to these violations.
32. The offences under section 213(1) and the new offence under section 213(1.1) are considered non-violent.

33. Excludes victims whose gender was coded as unknown.
34. Adult victims include those aged 18 years and older.
35. Excludes victims whose age was coded as unknown.
36. The rate of violent crime involving at least one sex trade-related violation was highest among youth (aged 12 to 17) between 2015 and 2019 (8.2 youth victims per 100,000 population).
37. Minor injuries include those that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
38. The Homicide Survey collects information on the occupation of victims. It is possible that this figure underestimates the number of victims who were sex trade workers. This information is recorded by police if sex trade work was known to be the victim's primary occupation or if the homicide was related to their occupation as a sex trade worker, even if it was a secondary source of employment.
39. Between 2010 and 2014, prior to the legislative changes, 98% of victims of homicide who were sex trade workers were women. Following the legislative changes, between 2015 and 2019, 94% were women, and between 2020 and 2024, 97% were women.
40. A homicide may be cleared otherwise when an accused person is known to police, but charges are not laid or recommended for a particular reason (e.g., through the death or suicide of the accused, committal of the accused to a mental health facility, reasons beyond control of the department).
41. Integrated Criminal Court Survey data are reported by fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
42. A case is defined as one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. A case combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, or date of sentencing) into a single case.
43. A case that has more than one charge is represented by the charge with the "most serious offence" (MSO). The most serious offence is selected using the following rules. First, court decisions are considered and the charge with the "most serious decision" (MSD) is selected. Court decisions for each charge in a case are ranked from most to least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged, 6) not criminally responsible, 7) other, and 8) transfer of court jurisdiction. Second, in cases where two or more charges result in the same MSD (e.g., guilty), *Criminal Code* sentences are considered. The charge with the MSO type is selected according to an offence seriousness scale, based on actual sentences handed down by courts in Canada. Each offence type is ranked by looking at (a) the proportion of guilty charges where custody was imposed and (b) the average (mean) length of custody for the specific type of offence. These values are multiplied together to arrive at the final seriousness ranking for each type of offence. If, after looking at the offence seriousness scale, two or more charges remain tied then information about the sentence type and duration of the sentence are considered (e.g., custody and length of custody, then probation and length of probation, etc.).
44. There were 5,521 sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts between 2009/2010 and 2013/2014.
45. See note 9.
46. While procuring cases involving section 170, 171 and 212(1) offences decreased between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 compared to the number completed between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019, the number of cases involving procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2)) and procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1)) both increased. Procuring of an adult cases more than doubled (from 75 cases to 157, +109%), while procuring of a minor cases increased by 33% (from 24 cases to 32).
47. All stopping or communicating offence cases (with known subsection information) that were completed in adult criminal courts between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 were related to the offence of stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1)).
48. The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) collects information on the sex of the accused (male, female) rather than gender (men/boys, women/girls). For readability, accused persons in court that are identified in the ICCS as male will be referred to in this article as men/boys, and those that are identified as female will be referred to as women/girls.

49. Gender-based analysis excludes court cases where the gender of the accused was reported as unknown or a company (10% of adult criminal court sex trade cases completed between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024; 6% of cases completed between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019; 4% of cases completed between 2009/2010 and 2013/2014). Information on the gender of the accused is not available from Manitoba. For Quebec, gender is determined on the basis of the accused's name, producing a relatively higher rate of unknown gender.

50. The proportion of men accused of sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts was slightly higher between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019 than it was between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024 (93% versus 91%), while the proportion of women accused was slightly lower (7% versus 9%).

51. Prior to the enactment of the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*, there were 3,895 men and 1,413 women accused in sex trade cases completed in adult criminal courts.

52. Most (60%) men were accused of s. 286.1(1) (obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult). Women were most often (20%) accused of procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1)).

53. Prior to the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* enactment, there were 3,448 men (89%) and 1,308 women (93%) accused of stopping or communicating offences in adult criminal courts.

54. Guilty findings include guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.

55. Between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, one in three men (34%) and women (33%) were found guilty of a sex trade-related offence in adult criminal courts. In comparison, in the period that immediately followed the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* enactment, one-quarter of men and women (25%, respectively) were found guilty.

56. Information on sentencing reflects the most serious sentence handed down by the courts. There can be multiple sentences related to the same guilty charge in a case (e.g., a sentence of custody followed by a period of probation). Sentence types are ranked from most to least serious as follows: custody; conditional sentence; probation; fine; and other (restitution, absolute or conditional discharge, suspended sentence, other). While this ranking does not impact information on sentences of custody, which is always the most serious sentence, it means that percentages for other types of sentences considered to be less serious may be underestimated.

57. Percent calculations related to sentences exclude cases where there was a guilty decision but sentencing details were unknown (4% of guilty adult criminal court sex trade cases completed between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024; 4% of cases completed between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019; 2% of cases completed between 2009/2010 and 2013/2014).

58. Percent changes should be interpreted with caution when the base number of incidents/cases is small, as even small differences can result in large percentage changes.

59. Between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024, there were 4 (9%) youth court cases involving purchasing offences as the most serious offence in the case and 2 (4%) youth court cases involving stopping or communicating offences as the most serious offence. Between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019, there were 14 (19%) purchasing cases and 2 (3%) stopping or communicating cases.

60. Percent calculations related to sentences exclude cases where there was a guilty decision but sentencing details were unknown.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024

Violation ^{1,2,3}	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
	number		
Total violations related to the sex trade	10,173	5,466	4,275
Violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services	403	2,965	2,102
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4))	399	4	1
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 286.1(2))	0	280	305
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))	4	2,681	1,796
Violations associated with profiting from the sale of sexual services	1,216	1,826	1,949
Procuring or receiving material benefit	1,215	1,688	1,811
Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))	216	4	1
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by a minor (s. 286.2(2))	2	64	39
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by an adult (s. 286.2(1))	1	98	101
Procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1))	991	69	70
Procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2))	0	510	409
Procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1))	5	943	1,191
Advertising sexual services (s. 286.4)	1	138	138
Violations associated with stopping or communicating	8,554	675	224
Stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213)	8,549	1	0
Stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1))	3	386	95
Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1))	2	288	129
	average annual rate		
Total violations related to the sex trade	5.9	3.0	2.2
Violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services	0.2	1.6	1.1
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4))	0.2	0.0	0.0
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 286.1(2))	0.0	0.2	0.2
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))	0.0	1.5	0.9
Violations associated with profiting from the sale of sexual services	0.7	1.0	1.0
Procuring or receiving material benefit	0.7	0.9	0.9
Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))	0.1	0.0	0.0
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by a minor (s. 286.2(2))	0.0	0.0	0.0
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by an adult (s. 286.2(1))	0.0	0.1	0.1
Procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1))	0.6	0.0	0.0
Procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2))	0.0	0.3	0.2
Procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1))	0.0	0.5	0.6
Advertising sexual services (s. 286.4)	0.0	0.1	0.1

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024

Violation ^{1,2,3}	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
Violations associated with stopping or communicating	5.0	0.4	0.1
Stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213)	5.0	0.0	0.0
Stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1))	0.0	0.2	0.0
Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1))	0.0	0.2	0.1

0 true zero or a value rounded to 0

1. Sections 212(1), 212(2), 212(4) and 213(1)(c) of the *Criminal Code* were repealed under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

2. Sections 286.1, 286.2, 286.3, 286.4 and 213(1.1) of the *Criminal Code* were enacted under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) in section 213(1) of the *Criminal Code* were amended under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

Note: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (aggregate data file).

Table 2
Incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by province or territory, 2010 to 2024

Province or territory	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
	number		
Newfoundland and Labrador	87	32	26
Prince Edward Island	9	5	5
Nova Scotia	253	185	87
New Brunswick	258	325	103
Quebec	1,364	968	1,635
Ontario	2,650	972	782
Manitoba	559	587	404
Saskatchewan	996	525	226
Alberta	1,851	1,204	500
British Columbia	2,116	634	460
Yukon	5	11	19
Northwest Territories	19	12	15
Nunavut	6	6	4
Canada	10,173	5,466	4,275
	average annual rate		
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.3	1.2	1.0
Prince Edward Island	1.2	0.7	0.6
Nova Scotia	5.4	3.9	1.7
New Brunswick	6.8	8.4	2.6
Quebec	3.4	2.3	3.7
Ontario	4.0	1.4	1.0
Manitoba	9.0	8.8	5.6
Saskatchewan	18.5	9.2	3.8
Alberta	9.6	5.7	2.2
British Columbia	9.3	2.6	1.7
Yukon	2.7	5.5	8.8
Northwest Territories	8.7	5.4	6.7
Nunavut	3.4	3.1	2.0
Canada	5.9	3.0	2.2

Note: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. See Text box 1 for information on the specific offences examined in this article. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (aggregate data file).

Table 3
Incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by census metropolitan area, 2010 to 2024

Census metropolitan area ¹	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
	number		
St. John's	73	13	9
Halifax	223	141	51
Moncton	205	301	74
Saint John	21	0	1
Fredericton ²	...	...	4
Saguenay	2	4	14
Québec	165	136	277
Sherbrooke	7	22	84
Trois-Rivières	21	10	42
Drummondville ²	...	...	16
Montréal	1,095	666	871
Gatineau ³	35	42	89
Ottawa ⁴	180	94	27
Kingston	18	3	2
Belleville–Quinte West ⁵	...	5	7
Peterborough	3	12	3
Toronto ⁶	509	216	276
Hamilton ⁷	267	64	3
St. Catharines–Niagara	39	28	6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	141	39	135
Brantford	30	12	5
Guelph	19	11	9
London	336	221	69
Windsor	226	15	13
Barrie	73	99	19
Greater Sudbury	149	8	1
Thunder Bay	7	0	1
Winnipeg	534	538	325
Regina	318	131	134
Saskatoon	569	350	44
Lethbridge ⁵	...	6	26
Calgary	539	193	61
Red Deer ²	...	...	15
Edmonton	962	784	200
Kelowna	57	42	24
Kamloops ²	...	...	20
Chilliwack ²	...	...	22
Abbotsford–Mission	87	13	27
Vancouver	1,337	321	150

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by census metropolitan area, 2010 to 2024

Census metropolitan area ¹	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
Victoria	22	6	16
Nanaimo ²	...	...	11
Census metropolitan areas	8,754	4,613	3,283
Non-census metropolitan areas	1,419	853	992
Canada	10,173	5,466	4,275
	average annual rate		
St. John's	7.3	1.2	0.8
Halifax	11.1	6.7	2.1
Moncton	28.7	37.3	8.6
Saint John	2.9	0.0	0.2
Fredericton ²	...	...	0.6
Saguenay	0.3	0.5	1.6
Québec	4.3	3.4	6.5
Sherbrooke	0.7	2.2	7.8
Trois-Rivières	2.7	1.3	5.1
Drummondville ²	...	...	2.9
Montréal	5.6	3.2	3.9
Gatineau ³	2.2	2.5	5.1
Ottawa ⁴	3.7	1.8	0.4
Kingston	2.2	0.4	0.2
Belleville–Quinte West ⁵	...	1.0	1.2
Peterborough	0.5	1.9	0.4
Toronto ⁶	2.0	0.8	0.9
Hamilton ⁷	9.9	2.3	0.1
St. Catharines–Niagara	1.8	1.2	0.2
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	5.4	1.4	4.0
Brantford	4.3	1.6	0.6
Guelph	2.9	1.6	1.2
London	13.6	8.3	2.3
Windsor	13.7	0.8	0.6
Barrie	7.1	8.8	1.4
Greater Sudbury	18.1	1.0	0.1
Thunder Bay	1.2	0.0	0.2
Winnipeg	13.7	13.3	7.4
Regina	28.2	10.5	10.0
Saskatoon	39.9	22.0	2.5
Lethbridge ⁵	...	1.0	3.9
Calgary	8.3	2.6	0.7
Red Deer ²	...	...	2.8
Edmonton	15.6	11.2	2.6

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Incidents of police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by census metropolitan area, 2010 to 2024

Census metropolitan area ¹	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
Kelowna	6.1	4.1	2.0
Kamloops ²	...	...	3.3
Chilliwack ²	...	...	3.6
Abbotsford–Mission	9.9	1.4	2.6
Vancouver	11.1	2.4	1.0
Victoria	1.2	0.3	0.8
Nanaimo ²	...	...	1.8
Census metropolitan areas	7.3	3.5	2.3
Non-census metropolitan areas	2.7	1.6	1.9
Canada	5.9	3.0	2.2

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The Oshawa census metropolitan area (CMA) is not presented in this table due to the incongruity between police service jurisdictional boundaries and CMA boundaries.

2. As of the 2021 Census of Population, Fredericton, Drummondville, Red Deer, Kamloops, Chilliwack and Nanaimo became census metropolitan areas.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

5. As of the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville–Quinte West (formerly known as Belleville) and Lethbridge became census metropolitan areas.

6. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service are included in the CMA total.

7. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service is included in the CMA total.

Note: A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. It is important to note that while official police-reported data on crime from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey use Statistics Canada's standard CMA names, the boundaries for the policing-based CMAs do not always fully align with the standard CMA geographic units used for disseminating information about the Census of Population. One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. See Text box 1 for information on the specific offences examined in this article. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (aggregate data file).

Table 4
Women accused in police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024

Violation ^{1,2,3}	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
	number		
Total violations related to the sex trade	3,012	293	153
Violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services	74	26	16
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4))	74	0	0
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 286.1(2))	0	4	0
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))	0	22	16
Violations associated with profiting from the sale of sexual services	237	184	118
Procuring or receiving material benefit	237	170	110
Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))	57	1	0
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by a minor (s. 286.2(2))	1	14	4
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by an adult (s. 286.2(1))	0	11	2
Procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1))	177	18	13
Procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2))	0	48	24
Procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1))	2	78	67
Advertising sexual services (s. 286.4)	0	14	8
Violations associated with stopping or communicating	2,701	83	19
Stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213)	2,701	0	0
Stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1))	0	40	3
Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1))	0	43	16
		percent charged ⁴	
Total violations related to the sex trade	86	59	65
Violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services	88	35	19
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4))	88	...	...
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 286.1(2))	...	75	...
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))	...	27	19
Violations associated with profiting from the sale of sexual services	73	71	78
Procuring or receiving material benefit	73	74	82
Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))	88	0	...
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by a minor (s. 286.2(2))	100	100	50
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by an adult (s. 286.2(1))	...	64	100
Procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1))	68	67	92
Procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2))	...	75	79
Procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1))	100	72	82
Advertising sexual services (s. 286.4)	...	36	25

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4
Women accused in police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024

Violation ^{1,2,3}	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
Violations associated with stopping or communicating	88	41	26
Stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213)	88	...	...
Stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1))	...	45	67
Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1))	...	37	19

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Sections 212(1), 212(2), 212(4) and 213(1)(c) of the *Criminal Code* were repealed under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

2. Sections 286.1, 286.2, 286.3, 286.4 and 213(1.1) of the *Criminal Code* were enacted under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) in section 213(1) of the *Criminal Code* were amended under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

4. Charged means that the incident was cleared by police and charges were laid or recommended against an accused.

Note: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Includes accused persons aged 12 years and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible. For the purposes of readability, accused are referred to as women and men. A small proportion of accused were aged 12 to 17. Excludes accused persons whose gender or age was coded as unknown. Accused persons older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Given that small counts of accused persons identified as “non-binary” may exist, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either “women and girls” or “men and boys” in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 5
Men accused in police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024

Violation ^{1,2,3}	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
	number		
Total violations related to the sex trade	4,510	3,404	2,095
Violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services	132	2,492	1,404
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4))	131	1	0
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 286.1(2))	0	186	145
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))	1	2,305	1,259
Violations associated with profiting from the sale of sexual services	469	701	643
Procuring or receiving material benefit	469	685	624
Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))	76	1	1
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by a minor (s. 286.2(2))	0	49	10
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by an adult (s. 286.2(1))	0	38	24
Procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1))	391	34	22
Procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2))	0	170	106
Procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1))	2	393	461
Advertising sexual services (s. 286.4)	0	16	19
Violations associated with stopping or communicating	3,909	211	48
Stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213)	3,908	0	0
Stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1))	1	75	8
Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1))	0	136	40
	percent charged ⁴		
Total violations related to the sex trade	84	87	77
Violations associated with the purchasing of sexual services	80	92	76
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4))	80	0	...
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 286.1(2))	...	87	92
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))	100	92	75
Violations associated with profiting from the sale of sexual services	68	75	79
Procuring or receiving material benefit	68	75	79
Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))	92	100	100
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by a minor (s. 286.2(2))	...	96	100
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by an adult (s. 286.2(1))	...	87	92
Procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1))	63	85	95
Procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2))	...	83	81
Procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1))	0	67	76
Advertising sexual services (s. 286.4)	...	69	95

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Men accused in police-reported crime related to the sex trade, by violation, Canada, 2010 to 2024

Violation ^{1,2,3}	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024
Violations associated with stopping or communicating	86	63	73
Stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213)	86	...	...
Stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1))	0	32	38
Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1))	...	79	80

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Sections 212(1), 212(2), 212(4) and 213(1)(c) of the *Criminal Code* were repealed under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

2. Sections 286.1, 286.2, 286.3, 286.4 and 213(1.1) of the *Criminal Code* were enacted under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) in section 213(1) of the *Criminal Code* were amended under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

4. Charged means that the incident was cleared by police and charges were laid or recommended against an accused.

Note: One incident may involve multiple violations. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Includes accused persons aged 12 years and older as those younger than 12 years cannot be held criminally responsible. For the purposes of readability, accused are referred to as women and men. A small proportion of accused were aged 12 to 17. Excludes accused persons whose gender or age was coded as unknown. Accused persons older than 110 years were coded as unknown due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Given that small counts of accused persons identified as “non-binary” may exist, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either “women and girls” or “men and boys” in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Table 6
Sex trade cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence, Canada, 2009/2010 to 2023/2024

Offence	2009/2010-2013/2014	2014/2015-2018/2019	2019/2020-2023/2024
	number		
Total cases involving offences related to the sex trade^{1,2,3}	5,521	2,099	1,290
Offences associated with the purchasing of sexual services	94	1,328	836
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 212(4))	94	67	5
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from a minor (s. 286.1(2))	...	54	91
Obtaining sexual services for consideration from an adult (s. 286.1(1))	...	1,085	736
Offences associated with profiting from the sale of sexual services	486	508	404
Offences related to procuring or receiving material benefit changed with the <i>Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act</i>	482	473	371
Living on the avails of prostitution of a minor (s. 212(2))	66	51	0
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by a minor (s. 286.2(2))	...	35	23
Receiving material benefit from sexual services provided by an adult (s. 286.2(1))	...	64	80
Procuring (s. 170, 171, 212(1))	416	224	79
Procuring of a minor (s. 286.3(2))	...	24	32
Procuring of an adult (s. 286.3(1))	...	75	157
Advertising sexual services (s. 286.4)	...	30	32
Offences associated with stopping or communicating	4,941	263	50
Stopping or impeding traffic, or communicating for the purposes of engaging in prostitution or obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute (s. 213)	4,920	166	0
Stopping or impeding traffic for the purposes of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1))	3	22	3
Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration (s. 213(1.1))	...	4	0

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Sections 212(1), 212(2), 212(4) and 213(1)(c) of the *Criminal Code* were repealed under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

2. Sections 286.1, 286.2, 286.3, 286.4 and 213(1.1) of the *Criminal Code* were enacted under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) in section 213(1) of the *Criminal Code* were amended under the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. Includes cases where a sex trade-related offence was the most serious offence in the case. Cases where detailed subsection information was not recorded are excluded from offence counts rows, but are included in the total line of offence counts, therefore the sum of the offences may not equal the total. Data exclude information from superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Superior court information for Prince Edward Island was also unavailable until 2018/2019. Data for Quebec were not available for 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.