

# Get all the Facts

## Police-reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2017

- At the national level, the rate of crime is higher among rural populations. The rate of violent crime was 63% higher in rural communities than in urban areas in 2017 (1,620 versus 995).
- A recent Juristat article on the characteristics of police-reported sexual assaults examined incidents reported by police between 2009 and 2014. It found that the large majority (87%) of sexual assault victims were females, and 60% of sexual assault victims were females under age 25.
- Self-reported data from the General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) showed that only 5%<sup>1</sup> of sexual assaults experienced by Canadians aged 15 years and older in 2014 were brought to the attention of police.
- As in previous years, the majority (98%) of police-reported sexual assaults were classified as level 1 sexual assault<sup>2</sup>, which increased 13% in 2017.
- Between 2016 and 2017, the rate of police-reported sexual assaults (all levels combined) increased in all provinces and territories, with the exception of Yukon (-17%), Nunavut (-6%), Saskatchewan (-5%), and Manitoba (no change).
- In 2017, there were 8,046 incidents of sexual violations against children reported by police: the majority of these (69% or 5,550 incidents) were sexual interference, followed by luring a child via telecommunications (16% or 1,310 incidents).
- Physical assault continued to be the most prevalent form of police-reported violent crime in Canada in 2017, accounting for close to 6 in 10 (57%) violent offences reported by police.
- In 2017, the rate for the relatively new violation of non-consensual distribution of intimate images, enacted in March 2015 with Bill C-13, continued to increase. In 2017, police reported 1,469 such incidents, compared to 833 in 2016, marking a 74% increase in rate.
- In 2017, there were 1,106 police-reported incidents of violations related to the commodification of sexual activity, which is categorized as a violent crime or crime against the person<sup>3</sup>.
- The number of police-reported commodification of sexual activity offences increased from 759 incidents in 2016 to 1,106 incidents in 2017, marking a 44% increase in the rate.
- In contrast, the rate of other prostitution-related offences (categorized as non-violent crime)<sup>4</sup> decreased 32% between 2016 and 2017.
- In all, 134 incidents of prostitution were reported in 2017.
- In 2017, there were a total of 375 incidents of human trafficking reported by police: this included 271 incidents of trafficking in persons under the **Criminal Code** and another 104 incidents falling under the **Immigration and Refugee Protection Act**. Compared to 2016, this represented an 8% increase in the rate of Criminal Code trafficking in persons and a 1% increase in human trafficking under the **Immigration and Refugee Protection Act**.

<sup>1</sup> Use with caution.

<sup>2</sup> See definition of Sexual Assault.

<sup>3</sup> See definition of Commodification of Sexual Activity.

<sup>4</sup> See definition of Commodification of Sexual Activity.

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## Select Definitions from Statistics Canada:

### **Commodification of Sexual Activity:**

In December 2013, new legislation came into effect governing prostitution-related activities. The new legislation is listed under “crimes against the person” in the Criminal Code and targets “the exploitation that is inherent in sex work and the risks of violence posed to those who engage in it” (Criminal Code, Chapter 25, preamble). New violations classified as “violent crime” under “commodification of sexual activity” include: the purchasing of sexual services or communicating for that purpose, receiving a material benefit deriving from the purchase of sexual services, procuring of persons for the purpose of prostitution, and advertising sexual services offered for sale. In addition, a number of other offences related to prostitution continue to be considered non-violent offences and are classified under “other Criminal Code offences.” These include communicating to provide sexual services for consideration, and stopping or impeding traffic for the purpose of offering, providing or obtaining sexual services for consideration.

**Sexual assault:** Is classified into one of three levels: level 1, assault of a sexual nature that violates the sexual integrity of the victim; level 2, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3, sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54974-eng.htm>

### **Contact info**

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