

Get all the Facts

Police-reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2018

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- Police-reported crime in Canada, as measured by the Crime Severity Index (CSI), increased 2% from 73.6 in 2017 to 75.0 in 2018.
- The change in the CSI was the result of increases in numerous offences including:
 - Fraud (+13%)
 - Sexual assault (level 1) (+15%)
 - Shoplifting of \$5,000 or under (+14%)
 - Theft over \$5,000 (+15%)
- In 2018, the Violent Crime Severity Index (VCSI) increased 1% to 82.4.
- In 2018, police-reported violent crime accounted for about one-fifth (21%) of all police-reported Criminal Code offences (excluding traffic) with over 423,700 police-reported violent incidents a 3% increase in the rate of police-reported violent incidents from the previous year (1,143 per 100,000 population versus 1,113 in 2017). Increases included:
 - Extortion (+44%)
 - Level 1 sexual assault (+15%)
 - Other violations causing death (e.g., criminal negligence causing death) (+13%)
 - Level 2 sexual assault (+7%)
- The largest decreases were:
 - Trafficking in persons (-16%)
 - Forcible confinement or kidnapping (-10%)
 - Commodification of sexual activity (-9%)
- In 2018, there were more than 28,700 police-reported sexual assaults, or 78 incidents per 100,000 population. This marked an increase of 15% in 2018. These incidents represented 7% of violent crimes in 2018.
- The Non-violent CSI (NVCSI)—increased 2% in 2018, but was 19% lower than in 2008. The primary offences contributing to the increase were fraud, shoplifting of \$5,000 or under, and theft over \$5,000. These were partially offset by a decline in breaking and entering.
- The rate of fraud (including identity theft and identity fraud) increased 12% between 2017 and 2018, a 46% increase over the rate reported a decade earlier in 2008.
- In 2018, police reported 651 homicides, 15 fewer than the previous year. This represents a 4% decrease in the homicide rate from 1.82 homicides per 100,000 population in 2017 to 1.76 homicides per 100,000 population in 2018.
- Both firearm-related (-8%) and gang-related (-5%) homicides decreased in 2018.
- Police-reported rates of all cannabis-related drug offences declined for the seventh consecutive year in 2018.
- The rate of police-reported impaired driving (alcohol- or drug-impaired) remained stable in 2018 at 190 incidents per 100,000 population. This overall stability, however, was the result of an increase in drug-impaired driving (+25%) and a decrease in alcohol-impaired driving (-1%).
- There were 4,423 incidents of police-reported drug-impaired driving in 2018, 929 more than the previous year. The rate of drug-impaired driving (12 per 100,000 population) remained low compared to the rate of alcohol-impaired driving (177 per 100,000 population). In 2018, rates of police-reported drug-impaired driving increased in all provinces and territories except Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador.

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- The attempted murder rate decreased 3% between 2017 and 2018 to 2.18 per 100,000 population.
- There were 807 attempted murders reported in Canada in 2018, 14 fewer than 2017.
- Physical assault continued to be the most prevalent form of police-reported violent crime in Canada in 2018, accounting for close to 6 in 10 (57%) violent offences.
- Police reported just under 240,500 assaults in 2018, over 8,500 more incidents than in 2017, marking a 2% increase in the rate of physical assault, most (70%) were classified as common assault (level 1). Part of this increase could have been due to changes in the definition of "founded" when classifying incidents.
- The national rate of major assault (level 2 and 3) increased in 2018 for the fourth consecutive year due to higher rates of assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2) (+2%).
- The rate of robbery (61 per 100,000 population) decreased -3% in 2018. Police reported approximately 22,400 robberies in 2018, about 380 fewer than 2017.
- In 2018, most crime was non-violent in nature, with property offences and other Criminal Code offences accounting for nearly four out of five (79%) police-reported Criminal Code incidents (excluding traffic).
- Almost 160,000 incidents of breaking and entering were reported to police in 2018, accounting for 13% of property crime.
- Even with 1,017 more motor vehicle thefts in 2018 than 2017, the rate remained stable due to a population increase. Motor vehicle theft was 38% lower in 2018 than a decade earlier.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00013-eng.htm#n23-refa>

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