

# Police service clearance rates, 2010 (correction)

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Police are solving more crimes than in the past. The weighted clearance rate rose for the seventh consecutive year to 39.4% in 2010, up from 33.5% in 2003. This measure represents the proportion of reported crimes solved by police, factoring in the seriousness of individual offences.

In 2010, three-quarters of homicides were solved by police. Clearance rates for homicide have gradually declined from around 95% in the early 1960s when data were first collected.

In general, violent crimes are solved much more frequently than property crimes. In 2010, almost three-quarters of violent crimes were solved by police compared with about one-quarter of property crimes.

Police solved just over 8 in 10 aggravated assault and aggravated sexual assault incidents in 2010, among the highest clearance rates for violent offences. About 4 in 10 robberies were solved by police, the lowest of any violent offence.

Clearance rates for property crimes were somewhat lower. For example, police cleared about 1 in 6 break-ins and 1 in 7 motor vehicle thefts in 2010.

## Note to readers

*The clearance rate represents the proportion of reported criminal incidents that are solved by the police. For an incident to be considered solved or cleared, an accused person must be identified and there must be sufficient evidence for the police to lay or recommend a charge. Many factors can affect the decision as to whether the evidence is considered to be sufficient to proceed with a charge, and these factors may vary by police service.*

*The weighted clearance rate is calculated using the same principle used in the Crime Severity Index, where more serious offences are assigned a higher weight than less serious offences. In the calculation of the weighted clearance rate, the clearing of more serious offences such as homicide and robbery count for more than the clearing of less serious offences such as minor thefts and mischief.*



**Table 1**  
**Police-reported clearance rates for selected offences, Canada, 2010**

	Incidents	Cleared by charge	Cleared by other means	Total cleared
	number	%		
<b>Violent crime</b>				
Homicide	554	69.0	6.3	<b>75.3</b>
Other violations causing death	91	82.4	9.9	<b>92.3</b>
Attempted murder	693	71.4	4.2	<b>75.6</b>
Sexual assault – level 3 – aggravated	188	72.9	9.6	<b>82.4</b>
Sexual assault – level 2 – weapon or bodily harm	388	63.1	5.9	<b>69.1</b>
Sexual assault – level 1	21,604	43.2	20.9	<b>64.1</b>
Sexual violations against children	3,648	40.3	21.8	<b>62.1</b>
Assault – level 3 – aggravated	3,410	76.3	4.2	<b>80.5</b>
Assault – level 2 – weapon or bodily harm	51,340	59.5	16.4	<b>75.9</b>
Assault – level 1	173,843	48.4	31.2	<b>79.5</b>
Assault – police officer	17,377	78.5	16.5	<b>94.9</b>
Other assaults	3,257	73.4	9.2	<b>82.6</b>
Firearms – use of, discharge or pointing	1,952	45.6	13.5	<b>59.1</b>
Robbery	30,405	35.4	4.6	<b>40.0</b>
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	4,308	80.9	6.2	<b>87.1</b>
Abduction	446	30.9	30.7	<b>61.7</b>
Extortion	1,548	43.3	15.3	<b>58.7</b>
Criminal harassment	21,108	36.8	36.6	<b>73.4</b>
Uttering threats	75,927	35.5	35.2	<b>70.7</b>
Theatening or harassing phone calls	21,436	5.7	36.6	<b>42.3</b>
Other violent Criminal Code violations	3,793	40.9	28.4	<b>69.3</b>
<b>Property crime</b>				
Breaking and entering	196,881	10.5	6.2	<b>16.7</b>
Possess stolen property	29,823	67.6	19.4	<b>87.0</b>
Theft of motor vehicle	92,683	7.4	6.1	<b>13.5</b>
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	15,790	9.3	5.1	<b>14.5</b>
Theft \$5,000 and under (non-motor vehicle)	536,151	11.4	10.0	<b>21.3</b>
Fraud	81,554	24.0	11.2	<b>35.1</b>
Identity theft or fraud	6,937	19.1	6.3	<b>25.5</b>
Mischief	339,831	6.7	19.1	<b>25.7</b>
Arson	12,241	9.5	6.6	<b>16.0</b>
<b>Other Criminal Code offences</b>				
Weapons violations	14,861	48.9	26.7	<b>75.6</b>
Child pornography <sup>1</sup> (correction)	..	..	..	<b>..</b>
Prostitution	3,043	68.7	10.3	<b>79.0</b>
Disturb the peace	117,903	4.6	47.9	<b>52.5</b>
Administration of justice violations	176,560	85.7	9.9	<b>95.6</b>
Other violations	32,157	40.0	21.5	<b>61.4</b>

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Due to incorrect reporting by a police service of incidents of child pornography from 2008 to 2011, the data originally contained in this report have been suppressed and revised data were made available on July 25, 2013 with the release of 2012 crime statistics.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3302, 3315 and 4504.**

The *Juristat* article "[Police-reported clearance rates in Canada, 2010](#)" (85-002-X, free) is now available. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice*, and *Juristat*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).