

## **Unfounded criminal incidents in Canada, 2017**

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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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# Unfounded criminal incidents in Canada, 2017

by Jacob Greenland and Adam Cotter

Among all crimes reported to the police, a certain number are deemed as unfounded. For a criminal incident to be considered unfounded, it must be "determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted" (Statistics Canada 2016). When the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was launched in 1962 to measure police-reported crime in Canada, counts of unfounded criminal incidents were collected in order to produce statistics on these type of incidents. Over time, however, inconsistent reporting of unfounded incidents led to poor data quality. It was suggested that varying rates of unfounded incidents may have been attributed to inconsistent classification of calls for service that were deemed non-criminal. Statistics on unfounded incidents were last published by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS)—a division at Statistics Canada—as part of the annual crime statistics publication in 1994. The last time rates of unfounded sexual assault were published was in July 2003 (Kong et al. 2003).

Following national media attention in 2017 regarding the use of 'unfounded' by police to classify sexual assaults, several police agencies across Canada announced that they would review sexual assault cases that were labeled as 'unfounded' over recent years (Doolittle 2017). As part of this process, representatives of the policing community—most notably, the Police Information and Statistics (POLIS) Committee of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP)—have worked with Statistics Canada to make recommendations to address data quality issues, to ensure standardized reporting and to reinstate the collection of information on unfounded criminal incidents through the UCR Survey.

Specific details relating to amendments made to the UCR Survey were released on July 12, 2018, in the *Juristat* article, "Revising the classification of founded and unfounded criminal incidents in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey" (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2018). Given the policing community's agreement to implement these revisions, Statistics Canada announced in April 2017 that CCJS will once again disseminate data on unfounded criminal incidents and publish 2017 data in July 2018.

As such, this *Juristat* article provides an overview of rates of unfounded criminal incidents for 2017, with a particular focus on sexual assaults given that several police services conducted reviews of their sexual assault cases in 2017 to determine if they had been properly investigated and classified.<sup>1</sup> While CCJS has not published any data on unfounded incidents since 2003, some police services continued to report these incidents through the UCR Survey. As such, rates of unfounded criminal incidents—at the national, provincial and territorial levels—from 2016 will be used as a benchmark for 2017. It should be noted, however, that even though work was done by police services to review their unfounded records, 2017 data may still be subject to inconsistent reporting and may therefore be incomparable across police services. Further, the UCR data does not lend itself to be able to determine the impact reviews may have had on the data reported through the survey.

## Text box 1 Canada's definition of sexual assault

Sexual assaults, like physical assaults, are classified by the *Criminal Code* into three separate categories depending on the nature and severity of the incident. More specifically, level 1 sexual assault criminalizes assault of a sexual nature that violates the sexual integrity of a person. Level 2 sexual assault criminalizes sexual assault that involves a weapon, bodily harm or threats to cause bodily harm to a person. Lastly, level 3 sexual assault (aggravated sexual assault) criminalizes sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of another person.

## What is an unfounded criminal incident?

When it comes to standards for police-reported crime statistics, all police-reported violations require a clearance status, meaning an indicator of whether the incident reported is determined to have taken place, or that it has not. If police determine the violation took place, then the incident is coded as "founded"; if it is determined that the violation reported did not take place, then it is coded as "unfounded".

For those that are founded, police also report the solve status of that incident. An incident that is founded can have a status of either being "not cleared" (meaning not solved), "cleared by charge" (meaning solved and police have charged or recommended a charge against an identified individual) or "cleared otherwise" (meaning police had enough information to lay a charge or recommend a charge against an identified individual, but they did not for a specific reason).<sup>2</sup>

According to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey definition in effect in 2017, an incident was deemed 'unfounded' "if it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted and therefore no violations of the *Criminal Code* or other federal statute took place at that time or location"<sup>3</sup> (Statistics Canada 2016).

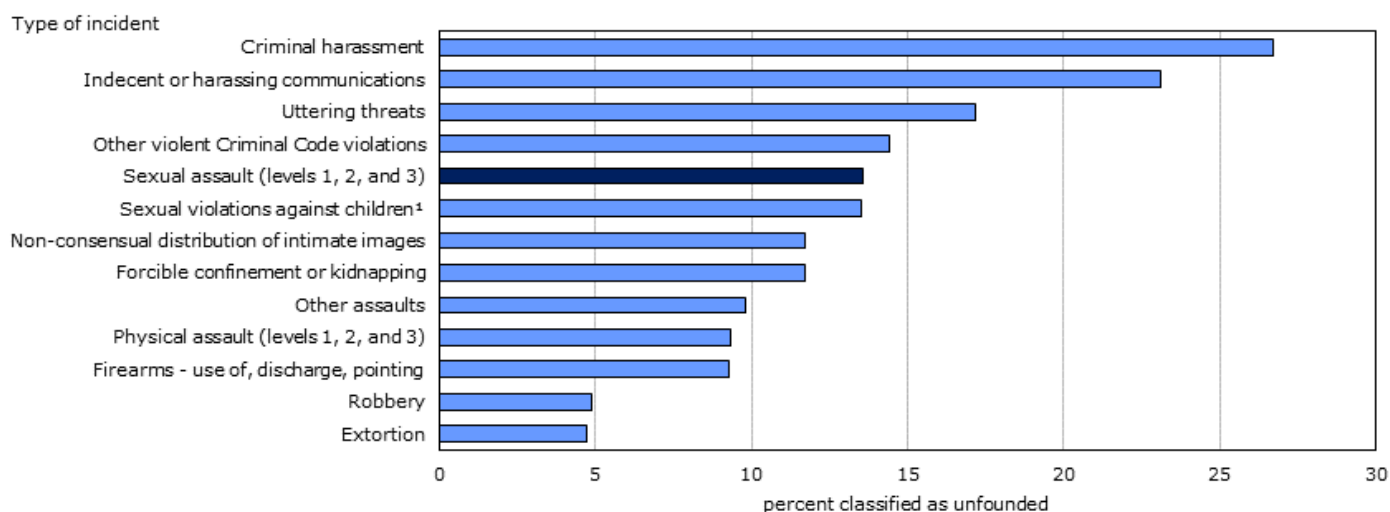
It should be noted that the 2017 data do not reflect the new UCR Survey standards for classifying incidents as founded or unfounded which are based on a victim-centred approach. This approach puts forth that, unless there is concrete evidence to prove the crime did not happen, it is to be believed that the crime occurred, even if an accused has not been identified<sup>4</sup> (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2018). In 2018, this approach was integrated in the UCR Survey and is reflected in revisions to classification categories for the incident clearance status. It is anticipated that all police services in Canada will have these implemented by the end of calendar year 2018. As a result, it is expected that 2019 will be the first year of complete data that follows the new reporting standards. The 2019 data will be released in July 2020.

### A first look at 2017 unfounded data

Nationally, in 2017, 7% of all reported *Criminal Code* violations (excluding traffic offences) were classified as unfounded, meaning that after investigation, police determined that no violation of the *Criminal Code* or any other federal statute occurred. Over one in ten incidents of violent crime (12%) were classified as unfounded, while 6% of property crimes and 7% of other *Criminal Code* violations reported were deemed to be unfounded (Table 1).

In 2017, 14% of sexual assaults (levels 1, 2 and 3) reported to police were classified as unfounded. Overall, certain violent offences were more likely to be classified as unfounded by police, such as criminal harassment (27%), indecent or harassing communications (23%), and uttering threats (17%). In contrast, a lower proportion of incidents of robbery (5%) and extortion (5%) were deemed unfounded (Chart 1; Table 1).

**Chart 1**  
**Proportion of police-reported incidents classified as unfounded, selected violent offences, Canada, 2017**



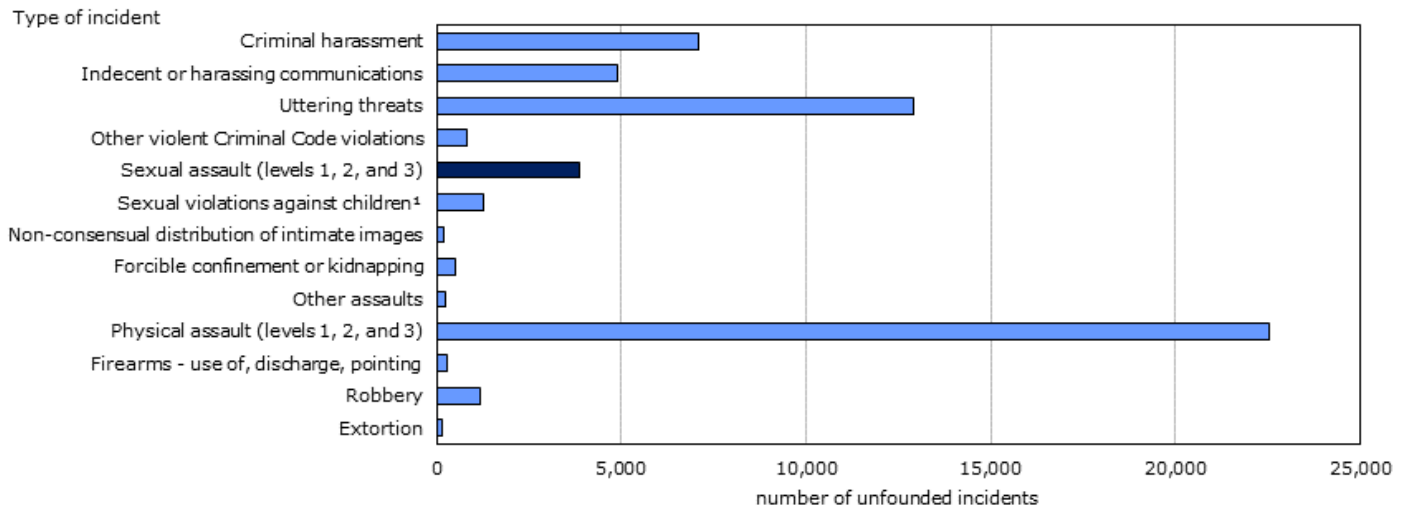
1. Excludes sexual assaults against children and youth, which are reported as level 1, 2 or 3 sexual assault.

**Note:** This chart presents selected violent violations where there were at least 100 incidents classified as unfounded by police in 2017. Refer to Table 1 for a list of unfounded rates for all violations. Data for unfounded incidents are available for 2017 even though inconsistencies in reporting may still exist.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

There were just under 3,900 incidents of sexual assault reported to police in 2017 that were deemed to be unfounded, representing 7% of all unfounded violent criminal incidents (Chart 2; Table 1). At the same time, sexual assault represented 6% of all founded incidents of violent crime. Unfounded criminal incidents generally followed the same trend as overall crime, with the highest-volume offences representing the largest number of unfounded incidents. For example, physical assault, the most common type of violent crime, also accounted for the highest volume of unfounded criminal incidents in 2017 among violent crimes.

**Chart 2**  
**Number of police-reported incidents classified as unfounded, selected violent offences, Canada, 2017**



1. Excludes sexual assaults against children and youth, which are reported as level 1, 2 or 3 sexual assault.  
**Note:** This chart presents selected violent violations where there were at least 100 incidents classified as unfounded by police in 2017. Refer to Table 1 for a list of unfounded rates for all violations. Data for unfounded incidents are available for 2017 even though inconsistencies in reporting may still exist.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

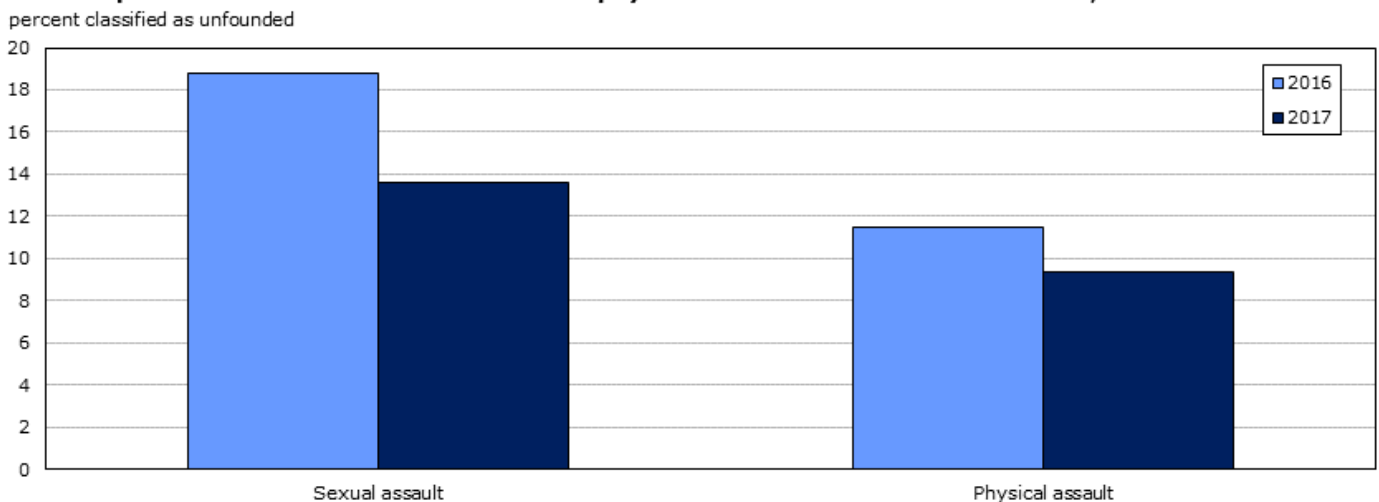
Police classified 14% of incidents of level 1 sexual assault as unfounded in 2017. In comparison, the more serious levels of sexual and physical assault were less likely to be classified as unfounded with 9% of level 3 sexual assaults deemed unfounded, 7% of level 2 sexual assaults, 3% of level 2 physical assaults and 1% of level 3 physical assaults.

These latter violations typically are more likely to involve bodily harm or some element of physical evidence. The violations more commonly classified as unfounded, including criminal harassment, indecent or harassing communications, and uttering threats are more likely to rely predominantly on evidence or statements presented by a victim or witnesses.

**Nationally, the proportion of sexual assaults deemed unfounded decreased in 2017**

In 2017, 14% of sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, and 3) reported to police were classified as unfounded, down from 19% in 2016 (Table 2; Chart 3) (see Text box 1).<sup>5</sup> A heightened awareness about sexual assaults and how they are classified may have had an impact on how other types of incidents were classified in 2017. For example, the proportion of physical assaults (levels 1, 2, and 3) classified as unfounded also decreased, though to a lesser extent (from 11% in 2016 to 9% in 2017) (Table 3; Chart 3).

**Chart 3**  
**Police-reported incidents of sexual assault and physical assault classified as unfounded, 2016 and 2017**



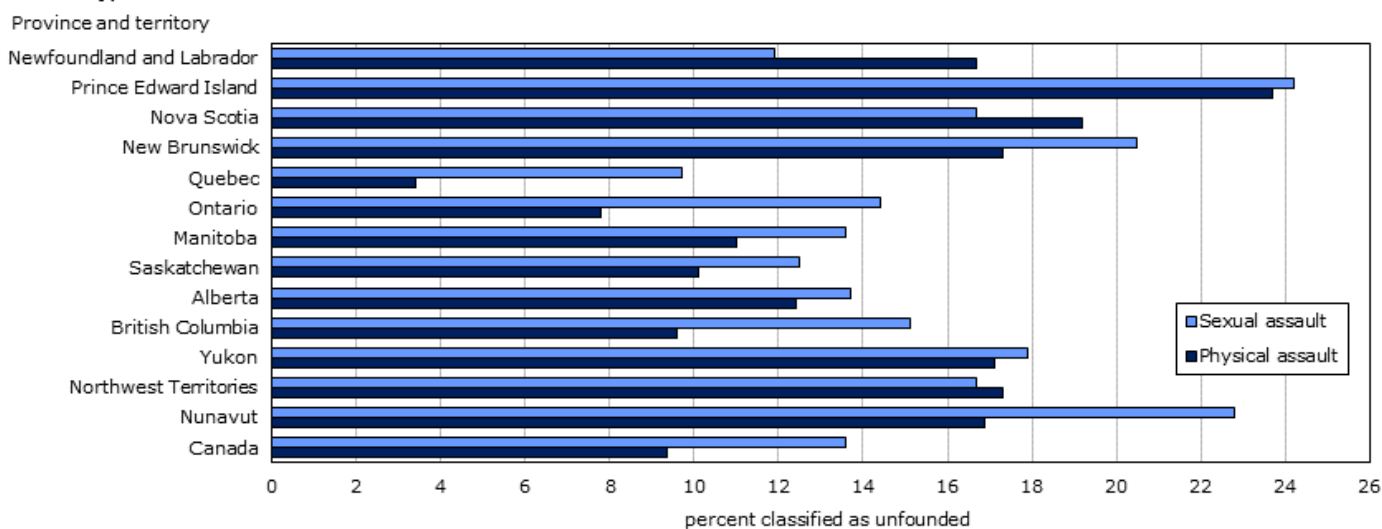
**Note:** Includes levels 1, 2, and 3 sexual assault and levels 1, 2, and 3 physical assault. Data for unfounded incidents are available for 2017 even though inconsistencies in reporting may still exist.  
**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Between 2016 and 2017, almost all jurisdictions reported a decrease in the proportion of unfounded sexual assaults. Among the provinces, Ontario (-8 percentage points), Prince Edward Island (-6 percentage points) and Quebec and Nova Scotia (-5 percentage points each) reported the largest changes in proportion of unfounded sexual assaults. The proportion of unfounded sexual assaults was unchanged in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Northwest Territories reported smaller proportions of unfounded sexual assaults in 2017 compared to 2016, while Yukon and Nunavut saw an increase.

In terms of physical assaults, all provinces and territories noted a decrease in the proportion between 2016 and 2017. Prince Edward Island (-11 percentage points), Nova Scotia (-7 percentage points), and Manitoba (-4 percentage points) were the provinces with the greatest decreases (Table 3).

Compared to physical assault, a larger proportion of sexual assaults were classified as unfounded (14% of sexual assaults in 2017, versus 9% of physical assaults) (Chart 4). In Ontario (+7 percentage points), Quebec, British Columbia, and Nunavut (+6 percentage points), higher proportions of sexual assaults were classified as unfounded compared to physical assaults. In Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and the Northwest Territories, the proportion of sexual assaults classified as unfounded ranged from 1 to 5 percentage points lower than the proportion of physical assaults. These were the only 3 provinces and territories to note a higher rate of unfounded physical assaults.

**Chart 4**  
**Police-reported incidents of sexual assault and physical assault classified as unfounded, by province and territory, 2017**



**Note:** Includes levels 1, 2, and 3 sexual assault and levels 1, 2, and 3 physical assault. Data for unfounded incidents are available for 2017 even though inconsistencies in reporting may still exist.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

### Police-reported incidents of sexual assault increase as proportion of unfounded decreases

It is anticipated that the classification revisions to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey that are being adopted by police in 2018 will reduce the proportion of unfounded incidents moving forward, while increasing the number of founded incidents (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2018). The new categories and direction provided to police on categorization should not, on their own, have an effect on the number of incidents reported to police by victims. As such, the clearance (or solve) rates are also expected to decrease with the new survey standards, even though the new classification categories are not yet fully implemented by all police services.

While the number and proportion of unfounded sexual assault incidents decreased between 2016 and 2017, overall reporting of sexual assaults increased. In 2017, there were 28,551 incidents of sexual assault (including founded and unfounded) reported to the police, 8% more than in 2016. The number of founded incidents rose by 13% from 2016. At the same time, the clearance rate lowered by 3 percentage points (Table 2).

The increase in the number of incidents of sexual assault reported to police in 2017 may be partially explained by an increased societal awareness about various forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault. During 2017, there was significant attention in news reports and social media such as #metoo and Time’s Up that raised awareness of the prevalence of sexual assault and sexual harassment and demanded accountability. This public attention may have resulted in more victims deciding to report their victimization to police. In addition, media reports on the differences in how police classify sexual assaults as founded or unfounded resulted in reviews by police and renewed commitment to victims (Doolittle 2017; Doolittle et al. 2017; Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police 2017). These events may have contributed to increases

in reported sexual assaults across many parts of Canada for 2017. In this context, a detailed examination of the increase in police-reported sexual assault is planned for release in Fall 2018.

## Summary

The year 2017 was a turning point for Canadian crime statistics. The attention to varying rates of unfounded sexual assaults led many police services to review their investigation and classification of these incidents. At the same time, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada worked in collaboration with the Police Information and Statistics Committee of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), the CACP Board of Directors, police services across Canada and experts on the issue of sexual assault and victim-centred justice to recommend revisions on how to classify unfounded and founded incidents reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey (see Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2018 for details). As a result, Statistics Canada has reinstated data collection and dissemination of all unfounded criminal incidents. While Statistics Canada has delivered in-person training and developed an online training course on the new UCR Survey classification standards, many police services have also reviewed and revised their policies, procedures and operations with respect to investigations related to sexual assault victims (Doolittle et al. 2017).

It is anticipated that with the implementation of the new UCR Survey standards by all police services by the end of 2018, the rate of unfounded incidents for all types of crime will continue to decrease while the rate of founded incidents will increase and the clearance rate for incidents will decline, directions that are already seen in the 2017 data on sexual assaults and physical assaults.

### Text box 2

#### Accessing data on unfounded criminal incidents

In addition to this *Juristat* article, Statistics Canada has added 2017 counts of unfounded criminal incidents to its suite of crime statistics tables. These data are available on the Statistics Canada website. See the following data tables for information at the designated level of geography:

- Canada, provinces, territories and census metropolitan areas – Table 35100177
- Data for police services in the Atlantic provinces – Table 35100178
- Data for police services in Quebec – Table 35100179
- Data for police services in Ontario – Table 35100180
- Data for police services in Manitoba – Table 35100181
- Data for police services in Saskatchewan – Table 35100182
- Data for police services in Alberta – Table 35100183
- Data for police services in British Columbia – Table 35100184
- Data for police services in the territories – Table 35100185

## Survey description

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 was designed to measure criminal incidents that have been reported to federal, provincial and municipal police services in Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. In order to ensure comparability, counts presented in this article are based upon the most serious offence in the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. Counts based upon all violations are available upon request.

Each year, the UCR Survey database is "frozen" at the end of May for the production of crime statistics for the preceding calendar year. However, police services continue to send updated data to Statistics Canada after this date for incidents that occurred in previous years. Generally, these revisions constitute new accused records, as incidents are solved and accused persons are identified by police. However, some new incidents may be added and previously reported incidents may be deleted as new information becomes known.

Revisions are accepted for a one-year period after the data are initially released. For example, when the 2017 crime statistics are released, the 2016 data are updated with any revisions that have been made between May 2017 and May 2018. The data are revised only once and are then permanently frozen.

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## Notes

1. For a summary, see Doolittle et al. 2017.
2. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, there are 15 reasons for which an incident can be cleared otherwise. Examples include death or suicide of the accused, diplomatic immunity and the accused is already serving a sentence.
3. One of the revisions to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey was to amend the definition of 'unfounded.' For more details, see *Juristat* article "Revising the classification of founded and unfounded criminal incidents in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey" (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 2018).
4. A 'victim-centred' approach to responding to victims includes having training and standards in place that ensure a systematic focus on the needs and concerns of the victim, and ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of service or approach to investigation in a manner that is free of judgement or bias (Alvarez and Cañas-Moreira 2015; Human Rights Watch 2013; State of New Jersey 1998). Globally, this approach is most relevant in instances of certain types of crime such as sexual assault, hate crime and human trafficking.
5. Due to data quality issues, counts of unfounded incidents for 2016 are not being released at the police service level but are being used in this article as context for the unfounded rates reported in 2017, the year which marks a turning point in police services' review and attention to scoring of founded and unfounded incidents. 2017 rates of unfounded incidents for every police service, and by province and territory, are available for every type of offence on Statistics Canada's website. See Text box 2 for more detail.



## Detailed data tables

**Table 1**  
**Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada, 2017**

Type of offence	Reported		Unfounded		Founded		Cleared <sup>1</sup>	
	number	number	percent	number	rate	number	percent	
<b>Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic) – "Crime rate"</b>	<b>2,110,658</b>	<b>152,635</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>1,958,023</b>	<b>5,334.0</b>	<b>811,498</b>	<b>41.4</b>	
<b>Total violent crime</b>	<b>459,223</b>	<b>56,022</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>403,201</b>	<b>1,098.4</b>	<b>281,989</b>	<b>69.9</b>	
Homicide	660	0	0.0	660	1.8	443	67.1	
Other violations causing death <sup>2</sup>	96	18	18.8	78	0.2	79	101.3	
Attempted murder	836	9	1.1	827	2.3	631	76.3	
Sexual assault - level 3 - aggravated	176	15	8.5	161	0.4	118	73.3	
Sexual assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	446	29	6.5	417	1.1	267	64.0	
Sexual assault - level 1	27,929	3,835	13.7	24,094	65.6	12,740	52.9	
Sexual violations against children <sup>3, 4</sup>	9,302	1,256	13.5	8,046	21.9	5,919	73.6	
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	3,585	44	1.2	3,541	9.6	2,937	82.9	
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	53,498	1,645	3.1	51,853	141.3	39,092	75.4	
Assault - level 1	183,864	20,830	11.3	163,034	444.1	123,859	76.0	
Assault of police officer	10,903	56	0.5	10,847	29.5	10,473	96.6	
Other assaults	2,164	212	9.8	1,952	5.3	1,538	78.8	
Firearms - use of, discharge, pointing	3,015	281	9.3	2,734	7.4	1,417	51.8	
Robbery	23,918	1,179	4.9	22,739	61.9	10,406	45.8	
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	4,280	502	11.7	3,778	10.3	3,391	89.8	
Trafficking in persons	317	46	14.5	271	0.7	181	66.8	
Extortion	3,287	154	4.7	3,133	8.5	1,136	36.3	
Criminal harassment	26,502	7,064	26.7	19,438	53.0	14,137	72.7	
Uttering threats	74,992	12,918	17.2	62,074	169.1	43,040	69.3	
Indecent or harassing communications <sup>5</sup>	21,073	4,874	23.1	16,199	44.1	5,186	32.0	
Non-consensual distribution of intimate images	1,664	195	11.7	1,469	4.0	872	59.4	
Commodification of sexual activity <sup>6</sup>	1,168	62	5.3	1,106	3.0	824	74.5	
Other violent <i>Criminal Code</i> violations	5,548	798	14.4	4,750	12.9	3,303	69.5	
<b>Total property crime</b>	<b>1,261,594</b>	<b>70,505</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1,191,089</b>	<b>3,244.8</b>	<b>249,402</b>	<b>20.9</b>	
Breaking and entering	170,727	11,391	6.7	159,336	434.1	25,415	16.0	
Possess stolen property <sup>7</sup>	25,305	1,436	5.7	23,869	65.0	14,973	62.7	
Theft of motor vehicle	94,317	9,297	9.9	85,020	231.6	10,881	12.8	
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	18,682	1,427	7.6	17,255	47.0	1,948	11.3	
Theft under \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	527,895	23,338	4.4	504,557	1,374.5	95,487	18.9	
Fraud (excluding identity theft and fraud)	119,739	6,876	5.7	112,863	307.5	26,588	23.6	
Identity theft	3,411	144	4.2	3,267	8.9	762	23.3	
Identity fraud	14,740	465	3.2	14,275	38.9	2,788	19.5	
Mischief <sup>8</sup>	276,895	14,779	5.3	262,116	714.1	69,238	26.4	
Arson	9,883	1,352	13.7	8,531	23.2	1,322	15.5	
<b>Total other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences</b>	<b>389,841</b>	<b>26,108</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>363,733</b>	<b>990.9</b>	<b>280,107</b>	<b>77.0</b>	
Weapons violations	18,137	2,352	13.0	15,785	43.0	12,326	78.1	
Child pornography <sup>9, 10</sup>	7,629	1,108	14.5	6,521	17.8	1,542	23.6	
Prostitution <sup>6</sup>	151	17	11.3	134	0.4	61	45.5	
Disturb the peace	103,006	6,625	6.4	96,381	262.6	43,731	45.4	
Administration of justice violations	228,755	11,919	5.2	216,836	590.7	205,905	95.0	
Other violations	32,163	4,087	12.7	28,076	76.5	16,542	58.9	
<b>Total <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic violations</b>	<b>129,285</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>125,378</b>	<b>341.6</b>	<b>74,372</b>	<b>59.3</b>	
Alcohol impaired driving <sup>11</sup>	68,910	3,352	4.9	65,558	178.6	53,122	81.0	
Drug impaired driving <sup>12</sup>	3,828	339	8.9	3,489	9.5	2,463	70.6	
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic violations	56,547	216	0.4	56,331	153.5	18,787	33.4	
<b>Total drug offences</b>	<b>94,077</b>	<b>3,452</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>90,625</b>	<b>246.9</b>	<b>68,606</b>	<b>75.7</b>	
Possession - cannabis	39,848	1,350	3.4	38,498	104.9	32,464	84.3	
Possession - cocaine	7,387	279	3.8	7,108	19.4	5,722	80.5	
Possession - methamphetamines and ecstasy (MDA) <sup>13</sup>	9,382	113	1.2	9,269	25.3	7,966	85.9	
Possession - heroin	2,279	60	2.6	2,219	6.0	1,794	80.8	
Possession - other drugs <sup>13, 14</sup>	8,434	444	5.3	7,990	21.8	6,161	77.1	
Trafficking, production or distribution - cannabis	10,172	678	6.7	9,494	25.9	4,581	48.3	
Trafficking, production or distribution - cocaine	6,972	169	2.4	6,803	18.5	4,551	66.9	
Trafficking, production or distribution - methamphetamines and ecstasy (MDA) <sup>13</sup>	2,749	83	3.0	2,666	7.3	1,810	67.9	
Trafficking, production or distribution - heroin	1,024	9	0.9	1,015	2.8	857	84.4	
Trafficking, production or distribution - other drugs <sup>13, 14</sup>	5,830	267	4.6	5,563	15.2	2,700	48.5	

See notes at the end of the table.

**Table 1 — end**  
**Police-reported crime for selected offences, Canada, 2017**

Type of offence	Reported		Unfounded		Founded		Cleared <sup>1</sup>	
	number	number	percent	number	rate	number	percent	
<b>Total other federal statute violations</b>	<b>32,333</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>30,786</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>22,598</b>	<b>73.4</b>	
Human trafficking under the <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i>	124	20	16.1	104	0.3	17	16.3	
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	5,522	70	1.3	5,452	14.9	4,741	87.0	
Other federal statutes	26,687	1,457	5.5	25,230	68.7	17,840	70.7	
<b>Total - all violations</b>	<b>2,366,353</b>	<b>161,541</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>2,204,812</b>	<b>6,006.3</b>	<b>977,074</b>	<b>44.3</b>	

1. The clearance rate reflects the total number of incidents cleared (by charge, or otherwise) during the year divided by the total number of incidents during the year. Since the process of solving crime is often time-consuming, a criminal incident may be solved months or even years after it was reported to police and recorded by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Therefore, it is possible for the number of incidents cleared in a year to be greater than the total number of "actual" incidents that year, and thus for the clearance rate to exceed 100%.

2. Includes, for example, criminal negligence causing death.

3. Excludes sexual assaults against children and youth, which are reported as level 1, 2 or 3 sexual assault.

4. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, luring a child via a computer/agreement or arrangement, and making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children/youth, and, as of December 2014, the offences of parent or guardian procuring sexual activity (*Criminal Code*, s. 170), and householder permitting prohibited sexual activity (*Criminal Code*, s. 171) are also included. Incidents of child pornography are not included in the category of sexual violations against children.

5. This offence was amended in the *Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*: Bill C-13 (2015) to include all means of telecommunication, not only phone calls.

6. In December 2014, new legislation came into effect governing prostitution-related activities. The new legislation targets "the exploitation that is inherent in prostitution and the risks of violence posed to those who engage in it" (*Criminal Code*, Chapter 25, preamble). New violations classified as "commodification of sexual activity" under "violent crime" 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.

7. Includes trafficking and the intent to traffic stolen goods.

8. Includes altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.

9. Due to the complexity of these cyber incidents, the data likely reflect the number of active or closed investigations for the year rather than the total number of incidents reported to police. Data are based on police-reported incidents that are recorded in police services' records management systems.

10. The offence of "child pornography" includes offences under section 163.1 of the *Criminal Code* which makes it illegal to access, possess, make, print, or distribute child pornography. When the actual victim is not identified, this offence is reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey with the most serious offence being "child pornography" which falls under the larger crime category of "other *Criminal Code*." In cases where an actual victim is identified, police will report the most serious offence as sexual assault, sexual exploitation or other sexual violations against children, which falls under the category of "violent violations," and child pornography may be reported as a secondary violation.

11. Includes alcohol impaired operation of a vehicle, alcohol impaired operation of a vehicle causing death or bodily harm, failure or refusal to comply with testing for the presence of alcohol and failure or refusal to provide a breath or blood sample. In some jurisdictions, including British Columbia, impaired driving incidents that meet the elements of the *Criminal Code* may be handled using a provincial statute. Collection of these incidents is within the scope of the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

12. Includes drug impaired operation of a vehicle, drug impaired operation of a vehicle causing death or bodily harm, failure or refusal to comply with testing for the presence of drugs and failure or refusal to provide a breath or blood sample. In some jurisdictions, including British Columbia, impaired driving incidents that meet the elements of the *Criminal Code* may be handled using a provincial statute. Collection of these incidents is within the scope of the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

13. Includes substances such as crystal meth, speed, etc. as well as methylenedioxymphetamine, referred to as MDA for short, and commonly known as ecstasy.

14. Includes all other drugs listed under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CSDA)*, such as prescription drugs, opioids such as fentanyl, barbiturates, LSD, and "date rape" drugs. Trafficking and production of other drugs includes the possession, production, selling or importing of anything (such as precursors) with the knowledge that it will be used in the production or trafficking of a controlled substance (as defined in section 2(1) of the *CSDA*).

**Note:** Data for unfounded incidents are available for 2017 even though inconsistencies in reporting may still exist. Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 2**  
**Police-reported incidents of sexual assault, by clearance status and province or territory, 2016 and 2017**

Province or territory	Reported	Unfounded	Founded	Cleared <sup>1</sup>			
	number	number	percent	number	rate <sup>2</sup>	number	percent
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>							
2016	347	42	12.1	305	57.5	108	35.4
2017	387	46	11.9	341	64.5	115	33.7
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>							
2016	103	31	30.1	72	48.2	35	48.6
2017	99	24	24.2	75	49.3	36	48.0
<b>Nova Scotia</b>							
2016	809	175	21.6	634	66.8	314	49.5
2017	903	151	16.7	752	78.8	295	39.2
<b>New Brunswick</b>							
2016	559	123	22.0	436	57.6	286	65.6
2017	655	134	20.5	521	68.6	302	58.0
<b>Quebec</b>							
2016	5,201	757	14.6	4,444	53.4	2,923	65.8
2017	5,978	580	9.7	5,398	64.3	3,027	56.1
<b>Ontario</b>							
2016	9,813	2,200	22.4	7,613	54.5	4,298	56.5
2017	10,392	1,498	14.4	8,894	62.7	4,947	55.6
<b>Manitoba</b>							
2016	1,701	276	16.2	1,425	108.1	801	56.2
2017	1,675	228	13.6	1,447	108.1	823	56.9
<b>Saskatchewan</b>							
2016	1,367	179	13.1	1,188	103.4	551	46.4
2017	1,313	164	12.5	1,149	98.7	618	53.8
<b>Alberta</b>							
2016	3,355	589	17.6	2,766	65.3	1,262	45.6
2017	3,470	477	13.7	2,993	69.8	1,299	43.4
<b>British Columbia</b>							
2016	2,837	525	18.5	2,312	48.6	1,263	54.6
2017	3,190	482	15.1	2,708	56.2	1,381	51.0
<b>Yukon</b>							
2016	97	15	15.5	82	215.3	48	58.5
2017	84	15	17.9	69	179.4	41	59.4
<b>Northwest Territories</b>							
2016	174	35	20.1	139	311.5	94	67.6
2017	203	34	16.7	169	379.6	111	65.7
<b>Nunavut</b>							
2016	194	31	16.0	163	438.4	126	77.3
2017	202	46	22.8	156	410.6	130	83.3
<b>Canada</b>							
<b>2016</b>	<b>26,557</b>	<b>4,978</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>21,579</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>12,109</b>	<b>56.1</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>28,551</b>	<b>3,879</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>24,672</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>13,125</b>	<b>53.2</b>

1. The clearance rate reflects the total number of incidents cleared (by charge, or otherwise) during the year divided by the total number of incidents during the year. Since the process of solving crime is often time-consuming, a criminal incident may be solved months or even years after it was reported to police and recorded by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Therefore, it is possible for the number of incidents cleared in a year to be greater than the total number of "actual" incidents that year, and thus for the clearance rate to exceed 100%.

2. Rate per 100,000 population.

**Note:** Data for unfounded incidents are available for 2017 even though inconsistencies in reporting may still exist. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 3**  
**Police-reported incidents of physical assault, by clearance status and province or territory, 2016 and 2017**

Province or territory	Reported	Unfounded		Founded		Cleared <sup>1</sup>	
	number	number	percent	number	rate <sup>2</sup>	number	percent
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>							
2016	4,486	816	18.2	3,670	692.1	2,355	64.2
2017	4,376	730	16.7	3,646	689.5	2,401	65.9
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>							
2016	919	323	35.1	596	398.7	458	76.8
2017	916	217	23.7	699	459.8	527	75.4
<b>Nova Scotia</b>							
2016	7,211	1,868	25.9	5,343	563.2	4,504	84.3
2017	7,088	1,359	19.2	5,729	600.6	4,543	79.3
<b>New Brunswick</b>							
2016	5,974	1,201	20.1	4,773	630.2	3,229	67.7
2017	5,969	1,032	17.3	4,937	649.9	3,132	63.4
<b>Quebec</b>							
2016	44,980	1,757	3.9	43,223	519.4	35,066	81.1
2017	45,808	1,544	3.4	44,264	527.3	35,773	80.8
<b>Ontario</b>							
2016	65,925	6,011	9.1	59,914	428.7	46,699	77.9
2017	67,830	5,313	7.8	62,517	440.5	47,708	76.3
<b>Manitoba</b>							
2016	18,697	2,710	14.5	15,987	1,212.9	13,266	83.0
2017	18,535	2,037	11.0	16,498	1,232.9	13,644	82.7
<b>Saskatchewan</b>							
2016	17,104	2,225	13.0	14,879	1,295.4	11,308	76.0
2017	16,692	1,694	10.1	14,998	1,288.6	11,413	76.1
<b>Alberta</b>							
2016	36,958	5,749	15.6	31,209	736.7	23,986	76.9
2017	36,390	4,511	12.4	31,879	743.8	22,954	72.0
<b>British Columbia</b>							
2016	31,420	3,343	10.6	28,077	590.1	19,663	70.0
2017	30,617	2,929	9.6	27,688	574.8	19,086	68.9
<b>Yukon</b>							
2016	1,218	237	19.5	981	2,575.7	776	79.1
2017	1,085	186	17.1	899	2,337.6	732	81.4
<b>Northwest Territories</b>							
2016	3,228	864	26.8	2,364	5,298.4	1,921	81.3
2017	3,159	547	17.3	2,612	5,867.0	2,140	81.9
<b>Nunavut</b>							
2016	2,477	490	19.8	1,987	5,344.7	1,837	92.5
2017	2,482	420	16.9	2,062	5,426.9	1,835	89.0
<b>Canada</b>							
<b>2016</b>	<b>240,597</b>	<b>27,594</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>213,003</b>	<b>587.4</b>	<b>165,068</b>	<b>77.5</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>240,947</b>	<b>22,519</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>218,428</b>	<b>595.0</b>	<b>165,888</b>	<b>75.9</b>

1. The clearance rate reflects the total number of incidents cleared (by charge, or otherwise) during the year divided by the total number of incidents during the year. Since the process of solving crime is often time-consuming, a criminal incident may be solved months or even years after it was reported to police and recorded by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Therefore, it is possible for the number of incidents cleared in a year to be greater than the total number of "actual" incidents that year, and thus for the clearance rate to exceed 100%.

2. Rate per 100,000 population.

**Note:** Data for unfounded incidents are available for 2017 even though inconsistencies in reporting may still exist. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.