

Police-reported crime in rural and urban areas in the Canadian provinces, 2021

by Samuel Perreault

Release date: February 20, 2023



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, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. 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, 2023

All rights reserved. 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.

Police-reported crime in rural and urban areas in the Canadian provinces, 2021: Highlights

- In 2021, police services serving a mostly rural population served 15% of the population in the provinces, but reported 24% of violent crimes, 18% of property crimes, 30% of *Criminal Code* traffic offences and 23% of other *Criminal Code* violations.
- The Crime Severity Index (CSI), which measures the volume and the seriousness of crimes, was 33% higher in rural areas (91.9) than in urban areas (69.3). The gap was even greater for the Violent CSI. In 2021, the Violent CSI was 124.1 in rural areas and 85.2 in urban areas.
- The gap between rural and urban Violent CSIs has widened over the past decade. In 2011, the rural Violent CSI (84.8) and the urban Violent CSI (84.9) were virtually the same. The gap has especially widened during the COVID-19 pandemic as the Violent CSI increased in rural areas but not in urban areas.
- Shoplifting and robbery, crimes that are generally more frequent in urban areas than in rural areas, have declined significantly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Conversely, crimes in private residences—which are typically more common in rural areas—have increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, intimate partner violence has increased more in rural areas than in urban areas.
- In 2021, the CSI was higher in rural areas than in urban areas in all provinces. The only exceptions were Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, where the rural CSI was slightly lower than that recorded in urban areas.
- The highest rural CSIs in 2021, as well as the largest differences from urban areas, were recorded in Saskatchewan (187.0 in rural areas versus 127.8 in urban areas), Alberta (144.5 versus 92.4) and Manitoba (152.8 versus 116.2).
- The higher crime rate in rural areas (7,033 incidents per 100,000 population) than in urban areas (4,919) was because a small number of police services recorded very high crime rates. Conversely, more than one-third (34%) of the rural population lived in a community where the crime rate was below 3,000 incidents per 100,000 population in 2021, compared with one-quarter (25%) of the urban population.
- Higher crime rates in rural areas were mainly observed in the northern parts of the provinces. In the south, the rural crime rate was lower than or similar to the urban rate in most provinces. Only rural areas in southern Alberta and, to a lesser extent, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia had significantly higher crime rates than their urban counterparts.
- The higher crime rate in rural areas was mainly because of the high number of assaults, mischief and incidents related to disturbing the peace. These common offences were reported approximately two to three times more often by police services serving a predominantly rural population.
- From 2011 to 2021, rural police services reported a total of 1,400 homicides, which translates to an average annual rate of 2.22 homicides per 100,000 population. By comparison, urban police departments reported 5,471 homicides during this period, which represents a rate of 1.64 homicides per 100,000 population. However, during the same period, the rate of attempted murder was lower in rural areas (1.7 per 100,000 population) than in urban areas (2.1).
- Violent firearm-related offences sexual offences against children, uttering threats, criminal harassment, and indecent or harassing communications, were among the other violent crimes especially overrepresented in rural areas in 2021. In contrast, higher rates of attempted murder, robbery, extortion, and offences related to human trafficking or commodification of sexual activity have been recorded in urban areas.

Police-reported crime in rural and urban areas in the Canadian provinces, 2021

by Samuel Perreault

For many, including those in the media and in academic research, the general perception of crime is that it is an urban issue. Conversely, rural areas are seen as an escape from the city, places that are quiet and free from social problems (Allen Bouffard & Muftic, 2006; Donnermeyer et al., 2013; Weisheit et al., 1994). Many Canadians share this perception that crime is lower in rural areas than in urban areas: compared with their counterparts in urban areas, residents of rural areas are, overall, more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety and to believe that crime in their neighbourhood is lower than elsewhere in Canada (Perreault, 2017).

Yet recent studies and police-reported statistics challenge the perception that crime is concentrated in large cities (Allen & Perreault, 2015; Donnermeyer et al., 2013; Perreault, 2019), and rural crime is becoming a focus for public safety policies. For example, Saskatchewan has improved methods of addressing rural crime, such as expanding the Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network to include central and northern Saskatchewan (Government of Saskatchewan, 2019). Additionally, Manitoba has funded the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Crime Reduction Enforcement Support Teams to expand this program across the province (Government of Manitoba, 2020).

This *Juristat* article analyzes these issues using police-reported data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, in addition to self-reported data from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety (Victimization). While crime is also an important issue in the territories, this article focuses on crime in rural areas in the provinces. Overall, crime rates in the territories are well above the national average (Moreau, 2022), and most territorial communities are rural. Therefore, including territories in the following analyses would disproportionately impact overall rural crime rates. As such, separate analyses would result in a more accurate depiction of crime for both areas.

Text box 1

Data sources and definitions

Census metropolitan area (CMA) and census agglomeration (CA): A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA can be served by more than one police service.

Rural and urban: Rural police services serve a territory where most of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. While small towns that do not qualify as CAs are included in this category, the term "rural area" will be used for brevity. Urban police services serve an area where most of the population lives within a CMA or CA. Police services are classified as rural or urban based on the majority of the population they serve, rather than on the place of residence of each Canadian. Consequently, urban residents can be served by a police service classified as rural, and vice versa. In the interest of conciseness, the terms "rural" (or "rural area") and "urban" (or "urban area") are used to designate areas or populations based on the classification of the police services that serve them. The definitions of rural and urban in this report may differ from those used in other Statistics Canada reports.

Provincial North: The Provincial North comprises the northern regions of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador, according to the definition agreed on by the Northern Development Ministers Forum and used by the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North. These northern boundaries generally reflect provincial administrative regions. For more information, see Statistics Canada (2022a) and Allen & Perreault (2015).

Criminal incident: Criminal incidents include all *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences reported by police services. Incidents are categorized by the most serious violation in the incident.

Crime rate: The crime rate is the sum of all *Criminal Code* incidents reported by the police divided by the population. The crime rate excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations and other federal statute violations, such as drug offences.

Crime Severity Index (CSI): The CSI takes into account the volume and the relative severity of crime. To calculate the police-reported CSI, each violation is assigned a weight. CSI weights are based on the violation's incarceration rate and the average length of the prison sentence handed down by criminal courts. The more serious the average sentence, the higher the weight assigned to the offence, meaning that the more serious offences have a greater impact on the index. Unlike the traditional crime rate, all offences, including *Criminal Code* traffic violations and other federal statute violations, such as drug offences, are included in the CSI. To calculate the CSI, the weighted offences are summed then divided by the population. Like other indexes (e.g., Consumer Price Index), to allow for ease of comparison, the CSI is then standardized to a base year of "100" (for the CSI, the base year is 2006). All CSI values are relative to the Canada-level CSI for 2006. CSI values are available back to 1998.¹

The crime rate and Crime Severity Index are higher in rural areas

The Canadian population is largely urban. In 2021, more than four in five (85%) provincial residents were served by a police service covering a predominantly urban area² (see Text box 1). Urban police services also reported the majority of criminal offences. In 2021, they reported over 1.7 million *Criminal Code* and other federal statute violations, such as drug-related offences and offences under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the *Customs Act*. By comparison, rural police services reported just over 465,000 offences (Table 1).

However, when considering population size, people living in rural areas are more likely to be impacted by crime. In 2021, rural police services served about 15% of the population in Canada's 10 provinces, but they reported 21% of all *Act* and other federal statute offences. Specifically, they reported 24% of violent crimes, 18% of property crimes, 30% of *Criminal Code* traffic offences, 23% of other *Criminal Code* offences, 18% of drug offences and 34% of other federal statute offences.

In Canada, two official measures of crime are typically used: the crime rate and the Crime Severity Index (CSI). The crime rate measures the volume of crime (all *Criminal Code* violations, except traffic and other federal statute violations) relative to the population size, whereas the CSI measures the volume and severity of crime and includes all *Criminal Code* and other federal statute violations.

In 2021, rural police services reported 412,931 *Criminal Code* violations (excluding traffic and other federal statute violations), representing a rate of 7,033 incidents³ per 100,000 population. This rate was 43% higher than what was reported by urban police services (4,919 incidents per 100,000 population) (Table 1). The gap was even wider when all federal statute violations, including traffic offences, were considered. The resulting rural crime rate was 48% higher than the urban rate (7,927 incidents per 100,000 population compared with 5,363 incidents per 100,000 population).

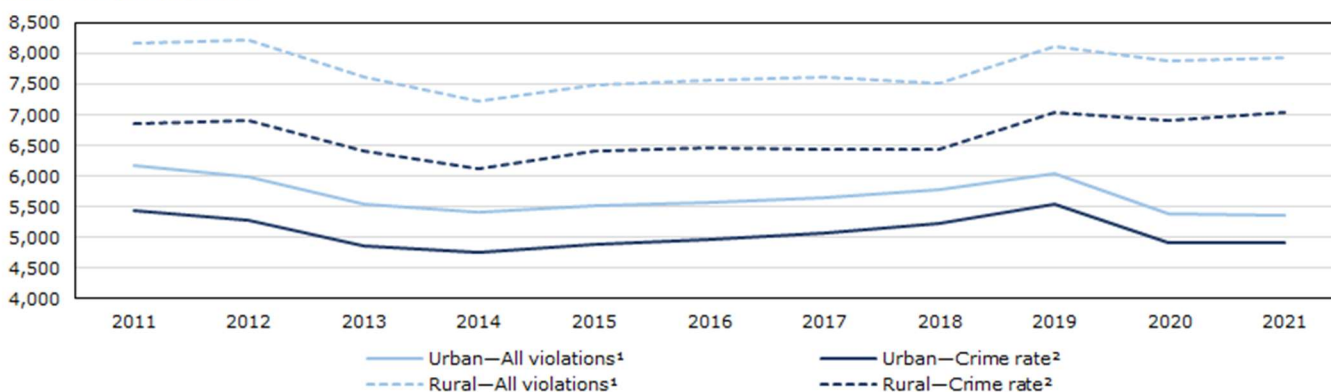
However, the difference between rural and urban areas was slightly smaller when comparing CSIs—that is, when crime severity was also considered. In 2021, the urban CSI was 69.3. In rural areas, it was 91.9, or 33% higher than in urban areas. The fact that a smaller gap existed between urban and rural CSIs than between their traditional crime rates may suggest that less serious crimes contribute more to the crime rate in rural areas than in urban areas.

In 10 years, crime rates increased in rural areas and decreased in urban areas

The gap between rural and urban crime rates has widened over the past decade. In 2011, rural police services reported 6,855 incidents per 100,000 population, 26% higher than in urban areas (5,440). In 2021, the rural crime rate was 43% higher than the urban rate (7,033 incidents per 100,000 population versus 4,919) (Table 2, Chart 1).

Chart 1
Rates of police-reported *Criminal Code* and other federal statute violations, urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2011 to 2021

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes all *Criminal Code* offences (including traffic offences), as well as other federal statute violations, such as drug offences (see Table 1).

2. Includes *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic violations (see Table 1).

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Overall, rural and urban crime rates followed a relatively similar pattern from 2011 to 2019. In rural and urban areas, the crime rate started on a downward trend at the beginning of the decade and reached a low in 2014. It then rose until 2019.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on crime in Canada (Moreau, 2021). However, these impacts were quite different in rural and urban areas. While the crime rate dropped by 11% in urban areas, the decrease was only 2% in rural areas. In 2021, the gap widened further: while the urban crime rate remained relatively stable, the rural crime rate rebounded, rising back to its pre-pandemic level.

Because of lockdowns, business closures and telework becoming the norm for many Canadians, property crime offences declined sharply in Canada with the onset of COVID-19. For example, the decrease in the number of shoplifting incidents and thefts of \$5,000 or under contributed significantly to the drop in the crime rate and the CSI in 2020 (Moreau, 2021). However, those crimes are much more common in urban areas than in rural areas.⁴

Overall, violent crimes declined much more modestly from 2019 to 2020. Still, robberies showed a sharp decline during this period (-19% in urban areas and -9% in rural areas). However, robbery is also more common in urban areas than in rural areas.⁵ Hence, the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have mainly impacted crimes that contribute more to the urban crime rate than to the rural crime rate.

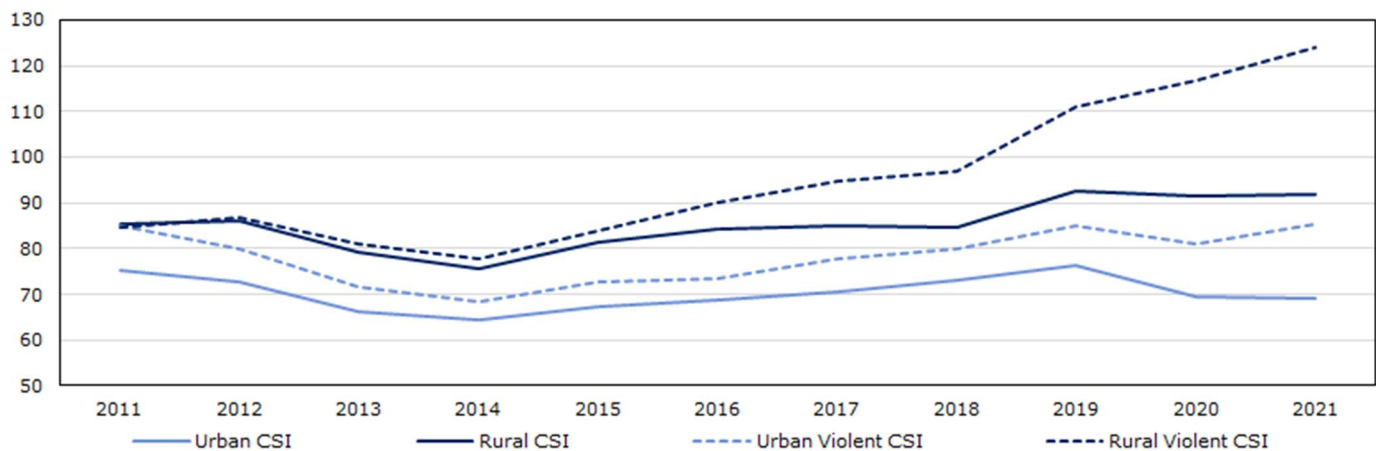
Other factors that can partly explain why the pandemic could have had different impacts in rural and urban areas include the fact that crimes committed in a private residence have risen since the start of the pandemic, while they have dropped in other locations, such as stores, restaurants and bars, and even on public transit. However, compared with urban areas, a larger proportion of rural crimes occur in a private residence.

Compared with 2011, the Crime Severity Index increased in rural areas, but decreased in urban areas

The gap between the rural CSI and urban CSI has also widened over the past decade. As with the crime rate, the CSI in rural areas was higher in 2021 than in 2011, while the opposite was seen in urban areas. Specifically, the rural CSI rose from 85.5 in 2011 to 91.9 in 2021, a 7% increase. In urban areas, the CSI fell 8% during that period, from 75.2 to 69.3 (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Police-reported Crime Severity Index, urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2011 to 2021

Crime Severity Index (CSI)



Note: The Crime Severity Indexes (CSI) are based on *Criminal Code* incidents, including traffic offences, as well as other federal statute violations. The base index was set at 100 for 2006 for Canada. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada’s Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Overall, the CSI followed a path similar to that of the crime rate, with a dip in 2014 followed by an increase until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the gap between the rural and the urban CSI widened further.

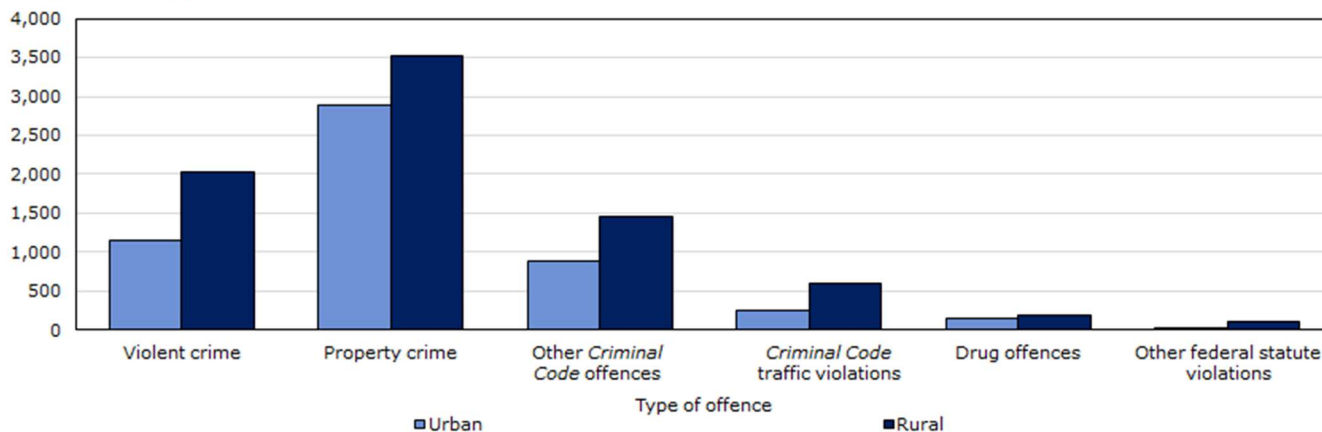
The biggest urban–rural differences are observed in violent crimes, traffic violations and other federal statutes

Urban and rural areas differ in many respects, including the nature of the crimes that occur there. Not only is crime in rural areas higher overall, but there are also differences in the types of crimes committed. For example, in 2021, the violent crime rate in rural areas was 76% higher than that in urban areas (Table 3, Chart 3), although the difference in the Violent CSI was smaller (85.2 in urban areas and 124.1 in rural areas, a difference of 46%).

Chart 3

Rates of police-reported *Criminal Code* and federal statute offences, by type of offence, urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2021

rate per 100,000 population



Note: See Table 1 for a detailed list of the offences in each category. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The rate for other *Criminal Code* offences—which include offences against the administration of justice, disturbing the peace and non-violent weapons offences—was 67% higher in rural areas (1,468 incidents per 100,000 population) than in urban areas (879) (Table 3, Chart 3).

However, the biggest differences were with respect to *Criminal Code* traffic offences and federal statute offences. The rate of traffic offences in rural areas (597 incidents per 100,000 population) was more than double the rate in urban areas (252), while the rate of federal statute offences⁶ was nearly three times higher than the one in urban areas (105 incidents versus 37 incidents per 100,000 population).

In rural and urban areas, property offences represented the main category of crime, encompassing 54% of offences in urban areas and 44% in rural areas. This crime category also had the smallest difference between rates in urban and rural areas. The rate for all property offences in rural areas (3,524 incidents per 100,000 population) was 22% higher than the rate recorded by urban police services (2,882 incidents per 100,000 population).

This difference also grew with the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a notable decrease in property crimes in urban areas. In 2019, before the pandemic, the property crime rate in rural areas was only 5% higher than the urban rate.

Among the crime categories, violent crime had the largest increase in 10 years

From 2011 to 2021, the rate for all *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences decreased by 13% in urban areas and by 3% in rural areas. Decreases were also observed in most of the crime and offence categories during that period.

In rural and urban areas, sharp declines were recorded in the drug offence category—a trend that began even before the legislative changes regarding cannabis—and in other federal statute offences (Table 3).

Criminal Code traffic offences also declined considerably in urban areas (-31%), while they fell 13% in rural areas. During that time, the property crime rate decreased 17% in urban areas and 5% in rural areas.

However, two crime categories showed an upward trend from 2011 to 2021. The category “other *Criminal Code* offences,” which includes offences against the administration of justice, disturbing the peace and child pornography, rose 2% in rural areas and remained stable in urban areas. That said, the violent crime category saw the biggest increase, especially in rural areas. From 2011 to 2021, the violent crime rate in rural areas was up 19%. The increase in the Violent CSI in rural areas was even more pronounced during this period, up 46% (Chart 2). This indicates that not only did the volume of crime increase, so did the average severity of violent crime.

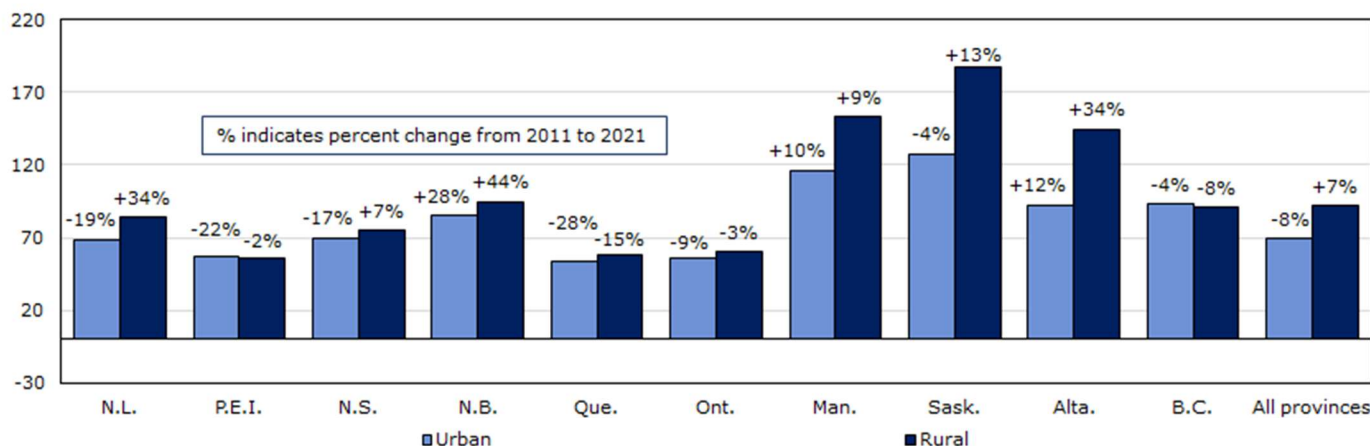
In urban areas, violent crime also increased from 2011 to 2021, with the rate up 4%. In contrast, the Violent CSI in 2021 was comparable with the 2011 index.

The Prairie provinces record the highest rural Crime Severity Indexes

In a previous study on rural crime (Perreault, 2019), it had been noted that the higher crime rates and CSIs in rural areas were essentially observed in the Prairie provinces (i.e., Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta), while in all other provinces, the rural CSI was either lower or very similar to the urban CSI.

Chart 4
Police-reported Crime Severity Index, urban and rural police services, by province, 2021

Crime Severity Index (CSI)



Note: The Crime Severity Indexes are based on *Criminal Code* incidents, including traffic offences, as well as other federal statute violations. The base index was set at 100 for 2006 for Canada. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada’s Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In 2021, the situation was quite different, with the CSI being higher in rural areas than in urban areas in all provinces, except Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. Saskatchewan (187.0) had the highest rural CSI among the provinces in 2021, followed by Manitoba (152.8) and Alberta (144.5). In contrast, Prince Edward Island (55.7), Quebec (58.8) and Ontario (60.4) had the lowest rural CSIs (Table 4, Chart 4).

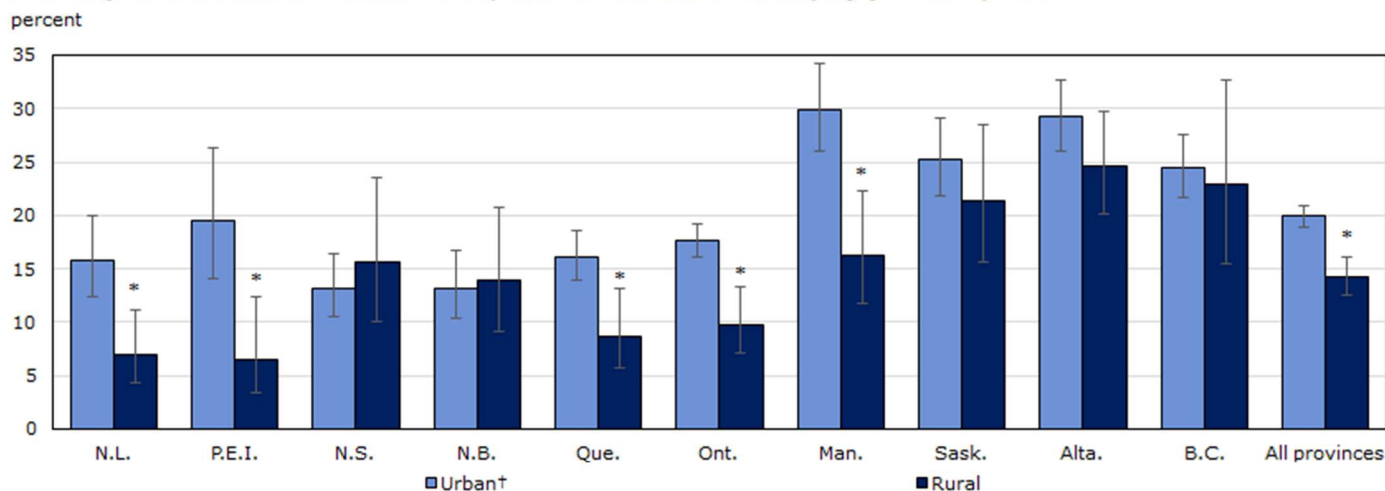
Text box 2

Self-reported victimization rates are lower in rural areas than in urban areas

In Canada, official crime statistics are mainly gathered through two separate but complementary surveys. On the one hand, there are police-reported data collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, an annual census of all *Criminal Code* offences and other federal statute violations that come to the attention of the police. On the other hand, every five years, Statistics Canada conducts the General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization) to collect information on the victimization experiences of a sample of Canadians aged 15 years and older. The data from the self-reported victimization surveys include crimes reported to the police and those not reported. However, they are gathered for a limited set of offences.⁷

Although conducted before the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019 GSS provides the most recent victimization data, which show that, overall, provincial residents living in rural areas were less likely than their urban counterparts to have been victims of a crime in the 12 months preceding the survey. In 2019, nearly one in seven rural residents in the provinces (14%) reported having been a victim of at least one crime measured by the GSS in the 12 months preceding the survey. Among urban residents of the provinces, this proportion was one in five (20%). This difference was also statistically significant in half of the provinces, namely Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba. In the other provinces, the victimization rate in rural areas was relatively similar to the rate recorded in urban areas (Chart 5).

Chart 5
Self-reported criminal victimization, urban and rural areas, by province, 2019



* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Victims include those who reported they, or their household, were the victims of one of the following crimes in the 12 months preceding the survey: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, motor vehicle theft (including parts), theft of personal property, theft of household property, vandalism. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). Rural areas are all areas outside CMAs and CAs. A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization).

Overall, the characteristics associated with higher victimization rates were the same in rural areas as in urban areas. For example, in rural and urban areas, single people, young adults and people experiencing economic hardship were more likely to have been victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey. However, while in urban areas women (5.3%) were more likely than men (3.4%) to have been victims of at least one violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, men and women in rural areas reported having been victims in the same proportion (4.0%) (Table 5).

It should be noted that certain crimes are not included in the self-reported victimization data. These include criminal harassment or indecent communications; non-consensual distribution of intimate images; and crimes without a direct victim, such as disturbing the peace, offences against the administration of justice or non-violent weapons offences. Likewise, crimes targeting a business, a public asset or a victim younger than 15 years are not measured by the GSS. As such, differences in the scope and methodology of the surveys may partly explain why the trends derived from the data on self-reported victimization do not completely reflect the police-reported data.

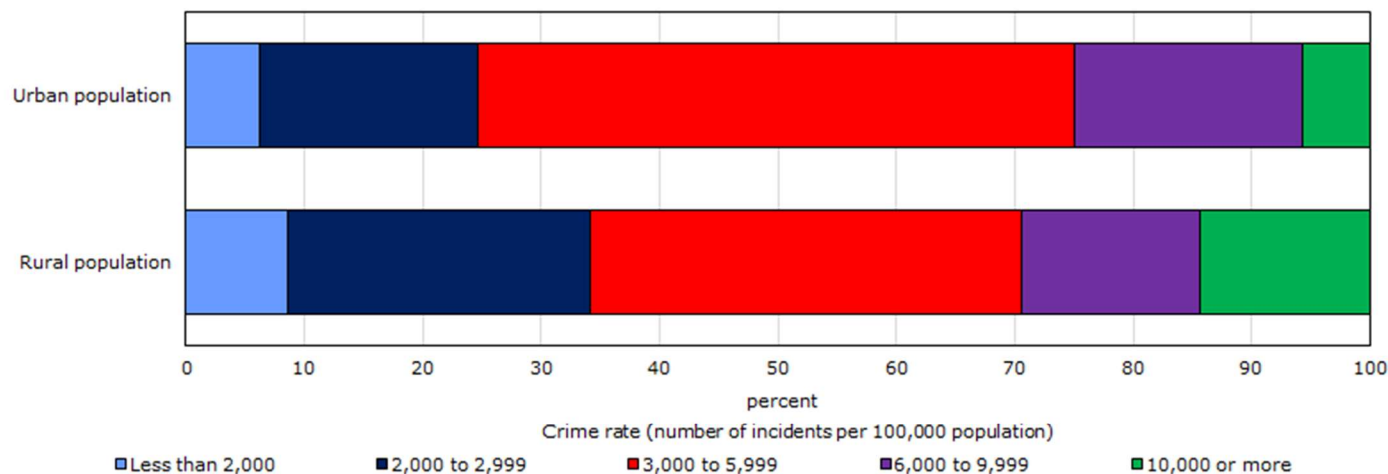
Rural areas are more heterogeneous in terms of crime than urban areas

There are a multitude of rural realities in Canada. Some communities have a primarily agriculture-oriented economy, while others have an economy centred on natural resources or tourism. Some communities are experiencing an economic or population decline, while others are faced with the effects of a rapid economic or population boom. Some communities are particularly remote, while others are relatively close to large population centres and have access to a broader range of services. Lastly, some Indigenous communities—which are generally in rural rather than in urban areas—are also faced with socioeconomic issues arising from historical and ongoing repercussions of colonialism that implemented exploitation, land expropriation and forced assimilation.

This rural heterogeneity is also seen in the crime rates. Compared with the urban population, a larger proportion of the rural population lives in a community where the crime rate is either among the lowest or the highest.

While the crime rates overall are higher in rural areas than in urban areas, not all rural residents live in an area where the crime rate is high. In fact, rural residents are more likely than urban residents to live in a community⁸ with a relatively low crime rate. More precisely, 9% of the rural population⁹ lives in an area where the 2021 crime rate was less than 2,000 incidents per 100,000 population, compared with 6% of the urban population. Similarly, 26% of the rural population lives in an area with a crime rate between 2,000 and 2,999 incidents per 100,000 population, compared with 18% of the urban population (Chart 6).

Chart 6
Proportion of the urban and rural population, by the crime rate reported by their local police service, all provinces, 2021



Note: Includes *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic violations. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada’s Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Nevertheless, it is also observed that a larger share of the rural population than the urban population lives in a community where the crime rate is very high. For example, 14% of the rural population lives in a community with a crime rate of 10,000 or more incidents per 100,000 population. Therefore, it is mainly because of these rural communities where the crime rate is very high that the crime rate for all rural areas is higher than the urban crime rate.

Crime rates are higher in the Provincial North

Previous studies have highlighted the generally higher crime rates in the northern regions of the provinces (Allen & Perreault, 2015; Perreault, 2019).

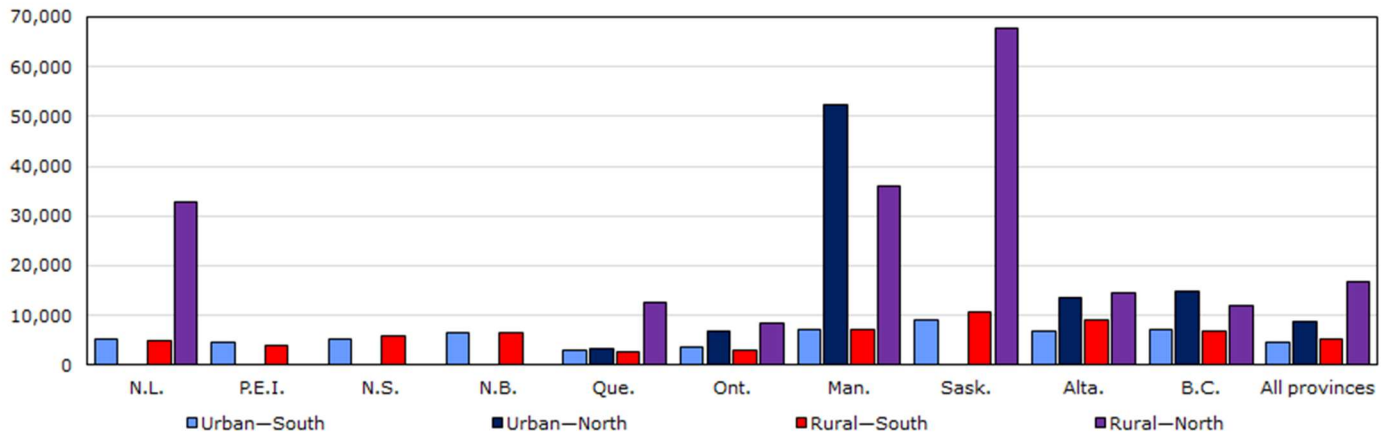
Overall, the crime rate in the Provincial North was about two and a half times the rate observed in the south. However, 16% of the rural population in Canada’s provinces live in the northern regions of the provinces, compared with 4% of the urban population (see definitions in Text box 1).

The difference between the rural and urban crime rates largely stems from the differences between the southern and more northern regions of the provinces. In the southern part of the provinces, the gap between the rural crime rate (5,205 incidents per 100,000 population) and the urban crime rate (4,762 incidents per 100,000 population) is relatively small (Chart 7).

Chart 7

Police-reported crime, urban and rural police services, by north and south region, and by province, 2021

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Includes *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic violations. The Provincial North comprises the northern regions of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In the Provincial North, crime rates are generally much higher in rural and urban areas. For example, the urban crime rate in northern Canada was almost twice as high as in the south (8,872 incidents versus 4,762 incidents per 100,000 population, respectively). The difference was even more pronounced in rural areas, where the crime rate reached 16,929 incidents per 100,000 population in 2021, roughly three times the rate of southern rural areas and about double that of urban areas in the north.

Moreover, the gap between the north and the south has widened over the last decade. From 2011 to 2021, the crime rate increased by 18% in rural areas and by 1% in urban areas of the Provincial North. During the same period, the rate fell 4% in rural areas and 10% in urban areas in the south.

Rural crime rates are particularly high in northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Newfoundland and Labrador

In 2021, rural crime rates in northern regions¹⁰ were especially high in Saskatchewan (67,886 incidents per 100,000 population), Manitoba (36,062), and Newfoundland and Labrador (32,840). Although they were lower than in the provinces above, the rates in the northern rural areas of Alberta (14,699), Quebec (12,737) and British Columbia (11,856) were higher than 10,000 incidents per 100,000 population.

Among the provinces with rural and urban areas in their northern regions, the rural crime rate was higher than the urban rate in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta, while the opposite was observed in Manitoba and British Columbia.

From 2011 to 2021, the crime rate in southern urban areas decreased in several provinces, except New Brunswick (+17%), Alberta (+8%) and Manitoba (+5%). In southern rural areas, declines were observed in Prince Edward Island (-11%), Quebec (-27%), Ontario (-17%), Manitoba (-8%) and British Columbia (-11%). In contrast, rural areas in southern Newfoundland and Labrador (+12%), New Brunswick (+34%), Saskatchewan (+12%), and Alberta (+5%) saw the crime rate increase, while the rate remained stable in rural Nova Scotia.

In the Provincial North, the crime rate from 2011 to 2021 increased in all areas and regions, except in urban areas in northern Quebec (-24%) and Alberta (-9%) and rural areas in northern British Columbia (-8%). The largest rate increases during this period were seen in rural areas of northern Newfoundland and Labrador (+60%) and northern Manitoba (+31%).¹¹

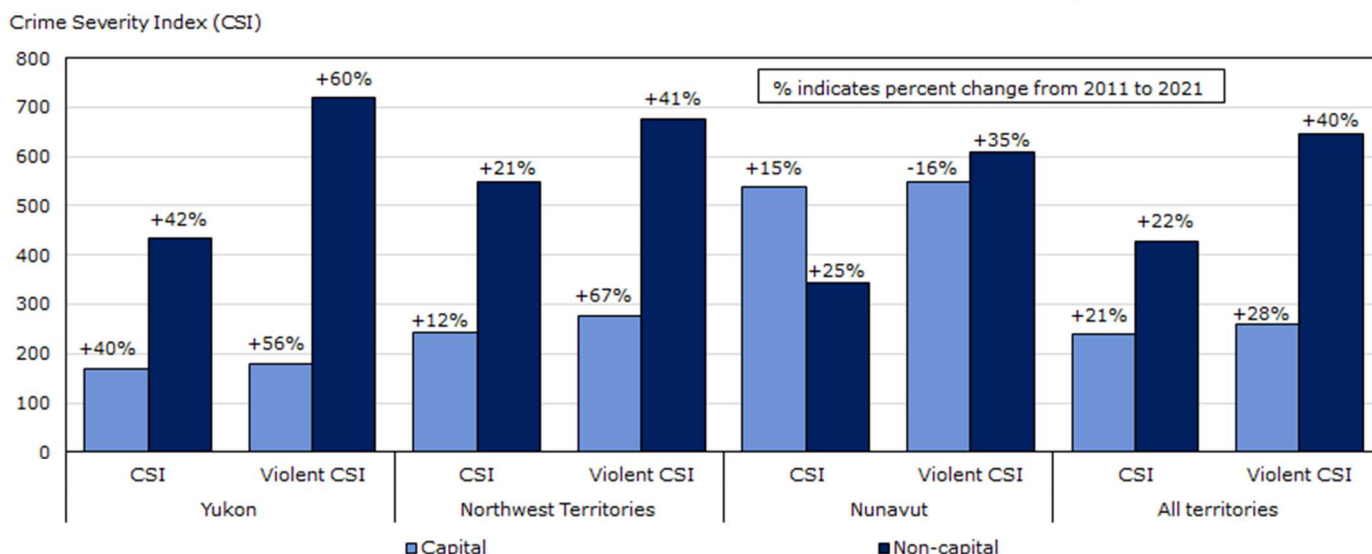
Text box 3 Rural crime in the territories

Overall, crime in the territories is relatively high compared to what is recorded in the provinces (Moreau, 2022). The territories' population represents about 0.3% of the Canadian population, but 2.7% of police-reported *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic offences) were recorded there in 2021.

There are two census agglomerations (CAs or urban areas as defined in this report) in the territories that meet the definition of urban area used in this article. These are Whitehorse and Yellowknife, the capitals of Yukon and the Northwest Territories, respectively. Although the population of Iqaluit (just over 8,000) does not meet the threshold required to be a CA (10,000 or more), the capital of Nunavut remains the largest population centre and the main service centre in the territory. As such, for this analysis, the three capitals will be compared with other communities in the territories.

Like what has been observed in urban and rural areas in the provinces, overall, crime is lower in the territorial capitals than in the other communities in the territories. The Crime Severity Index (CSI) for the three capitals was 239.6 in 2021, compared to a CSI of 428.9 for all other communities combined (Chart 8).

Chart 8
Police-reported Crime Severity Index, capital and non-capital communities, by territory, 2021



Note: The Crime Severity Indexes are based on *Criminal Code* incidents, including traffic offences, as well as other federal statute violations. The base index was set at 100 for 2006 for Canada. Capitals include the census agglomerations (CA) of Whitehorse and Yellowknife, and the Iqaluit census subdivision. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CA may have more than one police service. Population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

As with higher crime in rural areas in the provinces, higher crime in communities outside the territorial capitals was primarily because of high rates of violent crime. The Violent CSI was more than double outside the capitals (646.8) than within them (258.2). The Violent CSI has also increased by 40% since 2011 in communities outside the capitals, compared with a 28% increase in the capitals. From 2011 to 2021, police reported 71 homicides (an average annual rate of 10.98 homicides per 100,000 population) and 58 attempted murders (8.97) outside the capitals, compared with 41 homicides (6.05) and 26 attempted murders (3.84) within them.

Mischief was the crime most frequently reported by police services in the territories in 2021, both inside and outside the capitals. Like in the provinces, where the rate of mischief was almost three times higher in rural than in urban areas, the rate of mischief was much higher outside the capitals (23,912 incidents per 100,000 population) than in them (13,469). On the other hand, several property crimes showed lower rates outside capital cities in 2021. This was the case for most theft offences (theft under \$5,000, theft of \$5,000 and over, shoplifting, possession of stolen goods) and fraud. Disturbing the peace offences were also slightly less often reported by police outside the capitals (7,814) than in them (8,755).

Violent crime

Overall, the rate of police-reported violent crimes was higher in rural areas than in urban areas. However, hidden behind this picture were considerable differences: certain violent crimes were much more likely to occur in rural areas, while others were far more frequent in urban areas.

The homicide rate is higher in rural areas, but there are more attempted murders in urban areas

Homicide is a relatively rare crime in Canada. However, it is the most serious crime and one that carries the most severe sanctions, making it the crime with the highest weight in calculating the CSI. Compared with most other crimes, homicides are more likely to be brought to the attention of the police. Therefore, homicide data are unlikely to vary based on the rate of reporting these incidents to the police or policing practices, and, as a result, reliable comparisons between the various regions of Canada are possible, despite providing only a partial picture of overall violent crime.

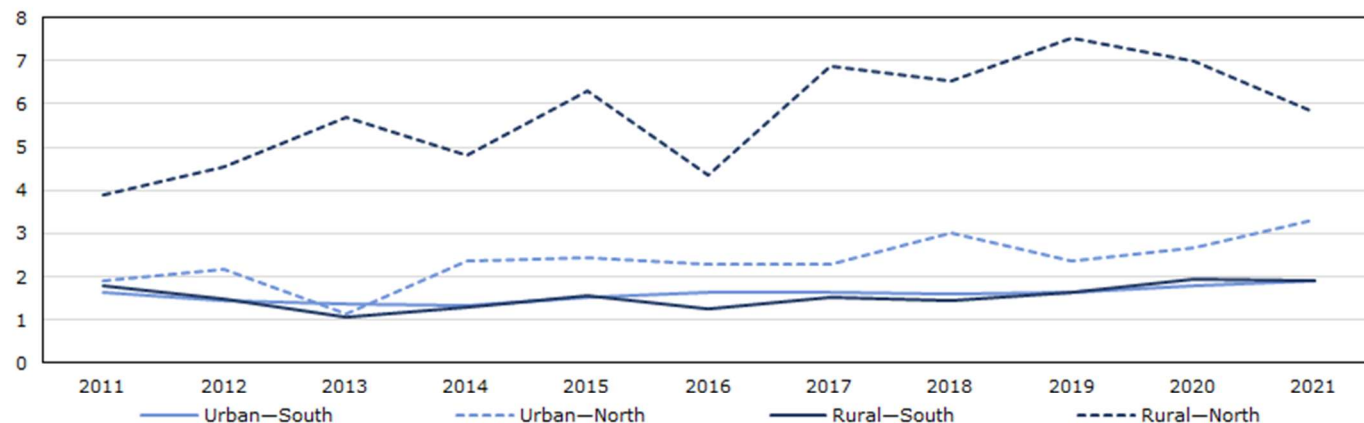
From 2011 to 2021, rural police services reported 1,400 homicides, for an average annual rate of 2.22 homicides per 100,000 population. During the same period, approximately four times more homicides were committed in urban areas (5,471). When the population size is accounted for, this represents a rate of 1.64 homicides per 100,000 population, or 26% lower than the rate in rural areas.¹²

The rural homicide rate was particularly high in the Provincial North, where the average rate from 2011 to 2021 was 5.75 homicides per 100,000 population, more than twice the average rate recorded in urban areas in the Provincial North (2.37). In the south, the opposite was observed: the average homicide rate from 2011 to 2021 was slightly lower in rural areas (1.54) than in urban areas (1.61).

In urban and rural areas, and in the south and the north, the homicide rate posted an overall upward trend from 2011 to 2021. However, the increase was slightly bigger in the Provincial North. Compared with the 2011 rates, the homicide rate in the Provincial North was 73% higher in urban areas and 49% higher in rural areas (Chart 9).

Chart 9
Homicide rates reported by urban and rural police services, by north and south region, all provinces, 2011 to 2021

rate per 100,000 population



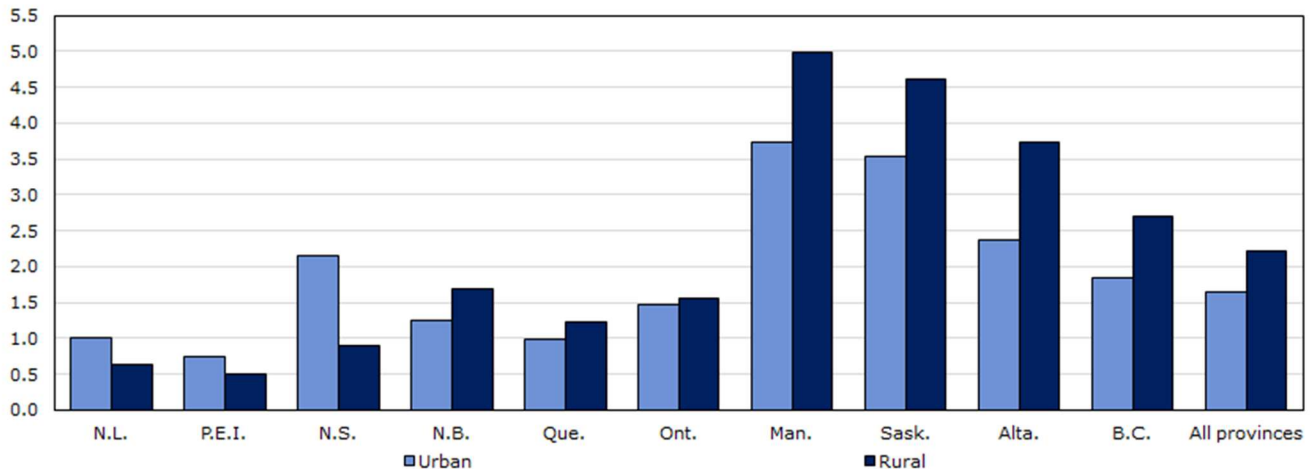
Note: There may be a small number of homicides in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada. The Provincial North comprises the northern regions of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Among the provinces, homicide rates—urban and rural—tended to be higher in Western Canada than in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario. In Atlantic Canada, the average homicide rate from 2011 to 2021 was lower than the urban rates in all provinces except New Brunswick. The highest average annual homicide rate recorded in rural areas was in Manitoba (4.99 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (4.62) (Chart 10).

Chart 10
Homicide rates reported by urban and rural police services, by province, 2011 to 2021

average annual rate per 100,000 population



Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Although a proportionally higher number of homicides were committed in rural areas than in urban areas, the number of attempted murders was lower. From 2011 to 2021, a rate of 1.7 attempted murders per 100,000 population was recorded in rural areas, compared with 2.1 in urban areas.

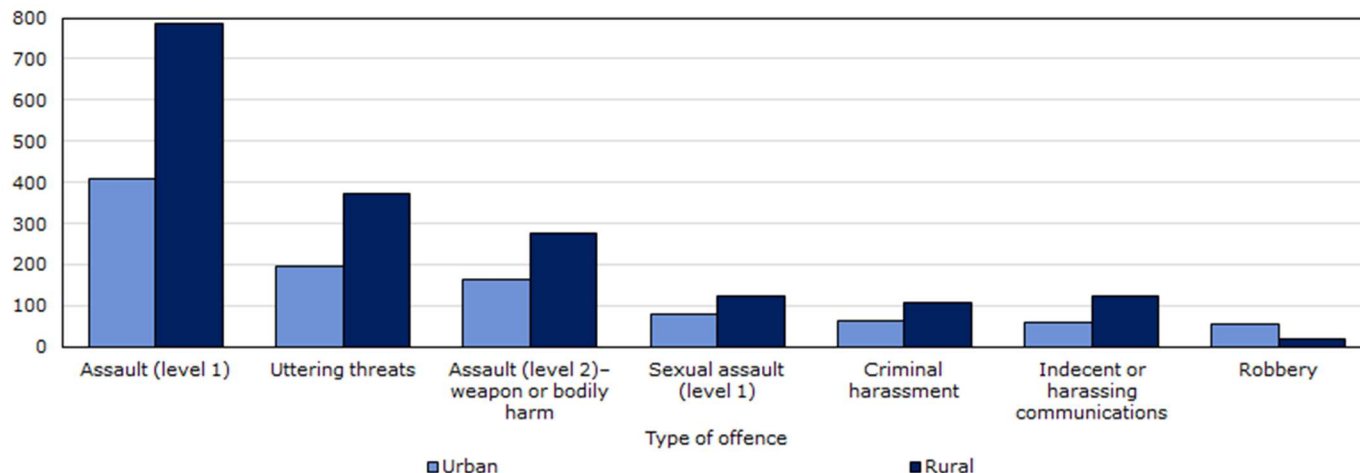
When both homicides and attempted murders are considered, the rates in urban and rural areas are similar (e.g., 3.95 homicides or attempted murders per 100,000 population in urban areas in 2021, compared with 4.12 in rural areas).

Physical assaults are roughly twice as common in rural areas than in urban areas

In both urban and rural areas, physical assaults—more specifically, common assaults (level 1)—were the violent crimes most often reported by police (Chart 11). However, the rates of physical assault in 2021 were roughly twice as high in rural areas than in urban areas. This applied to level 1, 2 and 3 assaults and assault against a peace officer (Table 1).

Chart 11**Violent crimes most often reported by urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2021**

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Moreover, from 2011 to 2021, decreases in the rates were recorded for most categories of physical assault in urban areas. Conversely, increases were recorded in all categories of physical assault in rural areas. Since 2011, the rate of common assaults (level 1)—the most frequent type of physical assaults—has decreased 6% in urban areas (from 437 incidents per 100,000 population in 2011 to 409 in 2021) but increased 2% in rural areas (from 768 incidents per 100,000 population in 2011 to 786 in 2021). The pattern was similar, but even more pronounced, for aggravated assault (level 3). The rate for aggravated assault dropped by 4% in urban areas (from 8.7 incidents per 100,000 population in 2011 to 8.4 in 2021), while it increased 14% in rural areas (from 17 incidents per 100,000 population in 2011 to 19 in 2021) (Table 1).

Among the provinces, the highest physical assault rates were recorded in rural areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while the lowest rates were observed in the Atlantic provinces (especially in Prince Edward Island) and in Ontario (Table 6).

Uttering threats was the violent crime second most frequently reported by police after physical assault, both in urban and rural areas. As with physical assault, rates of uttering threats were notably higher in rural areas than in urban areas. In 2021, police reported 373 incidents of uttering threats per 100,000 population in rural areas, compared with 197 in urban areas. Since 2011, the rate of incidents of uttering threats has increased in urban (+8%) and rural (+15%) areas.

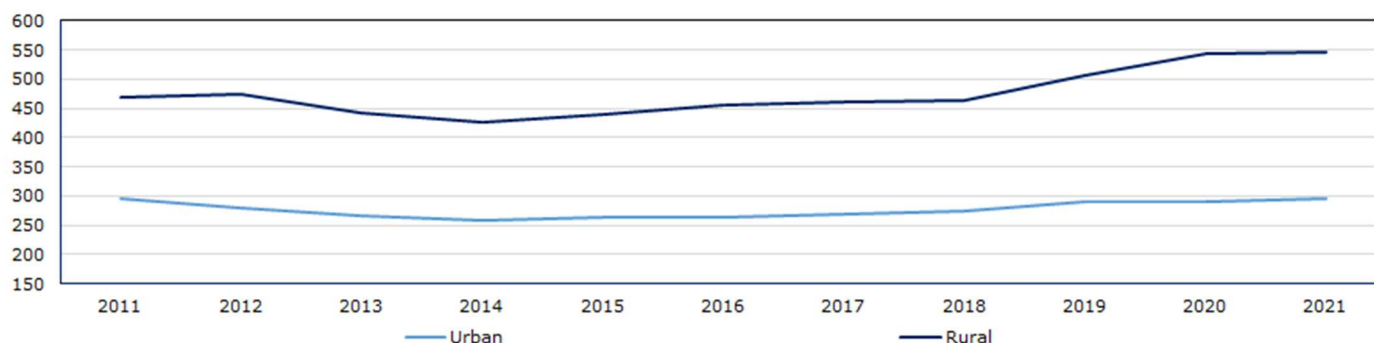
Text box 4**Intimate partner violence in rural and urban areas**

Victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in rural areas face difficult challenges. Examples include lower access to victim services and shelters, fear of exclusion from a tight-knit community, and challenges around anonymity and confidentiality (Moffit et al., 2020). Additionally, of the few resources that exist in rural areas, very few specifically cater to the needs of victims of IPV (Zorn et al., 2017).

According to police-reported data in 2021, slightly more than one-quarter (29%) of people aged 12 and older who were victims of a violent crime had been assaulted by an intimate partner.¹³ This proportion was slightly higher in rural areas (32%) than in urban areas (28%). The difference in the rates is more pronounced. In 2021, the rate of police-reported violent crimes perpetrated by an intimate partner in rural areas was nearly twice the rate in urban areas (Chart 12).

Chart 12
Intimate partner violent incidents reported by urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2011 to 2021

rate per 100,000 population aged 12 and older



Note: Includes victims aged 15 years and older who were victimized by current and former legally married spouses and common-law partners. Also includes victims aged 12 years and older of all current and former boyfriends and girlfriends and other intimate relationships (i.e., persons with whom the victim had a sexual relationship but to which none of the other relationship categories apply). Victims include those aged 12 to 110 years. Victims aged older than 110 years are excluded from analyses because of possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes victims where the age was unknown or where the accused-victim relationship was unknown. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose ages were unknown but were miscoded as 0. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which, as of 2009, includes data for 99% of the population in Canada. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada’s Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns have been raised by various sources about a potential resurgence of IPV. Some of the many factors that can contribute to an increase in IPV are greater isolation, increased stress or psychological distress, substance use, more limited access to assistance or support from social networks, and financial difficulties (Laforest & Poitras, 2021; Moffitt et al., 2020; Nelson et al., 2022; Sanchez et al., 2020; Statistics Canada, 2022b).

According to police-reported data, IPV rose a bit more in rural areas, where the rate increased 8% from 2019 to 2021, than in urban areas, where the rate rose by 2% during the same period. However, the upward trend in rural areas started before the pandemic, making it difficult to determine how much of the increase observed from 2019 to 2021 is attributable to it (Chart 12).

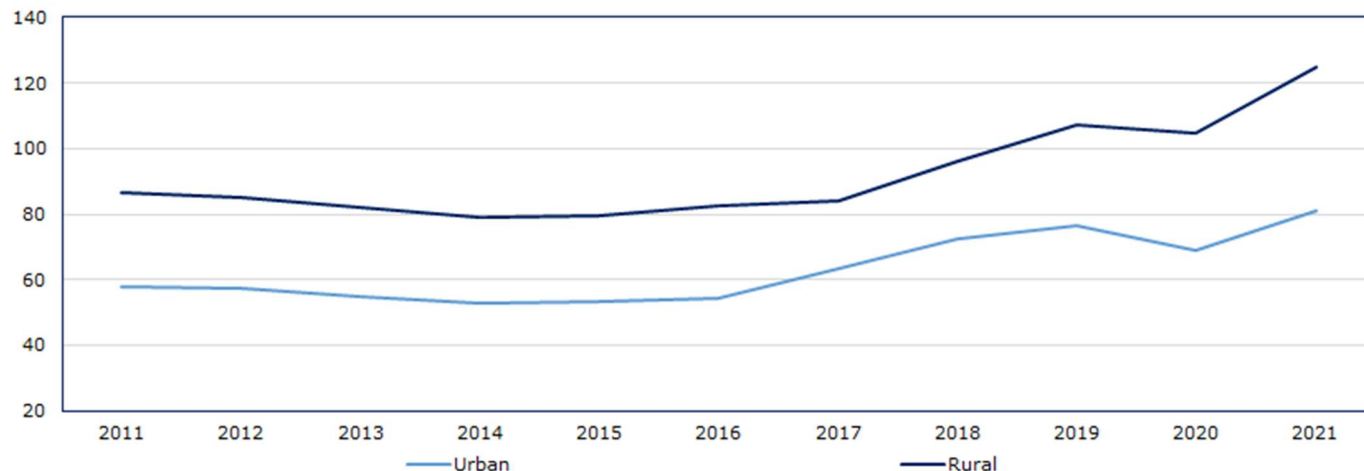
Sexual assault rates increase in urban and rural areas

Over the past several years, there has been a great deal of discussion about sexual assault. For example, starting in 2017, campaigns such as #MeToo and #EtMaintenant have had high visibility on social and traditional media and have increased awareness among the population about the prevalence of sexual assault. Also, on January 1, 2018, Statistics Canada, in partnership with police services, changed the definition of “founded” criminal incidents to include incidents for which there is no credible evidence to confirm that the incident did not take place and those founded on third-party reports. Given this new definition, police may have started to classify more incidents as founded, which would then be included in the statistics presented in this article (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2018; Greenland & Cotter, 2018; Moreau, 2020).

These events likely contributed to the increase in the rate of sexual assaults reported by police in urban and rural areas in recent years (Chart 13). From 2011 to 2017, sexual assault rates were relatively stable, if not on a slow decline. Since then, in urban and rural areas, the rate of police-reported sexual assault has almost doubled, despite a temporary dip at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chart 13**Sexual assault incidents reported by urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2011 to 2021**

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Among the provinces, in 2021, police-reported rates of sexual assault in rural areas were highest in Manitoba (170 incidents per 100,000 population) and Saskatchewan (156). Police services in New Brunswick (98) and Nova Scotia (99) recorded the lowest rural sexual assault rates (Table 6). In urban areas, the highest rates of sexual assault were also noted in Manitoba (106) and Saskatchewan (104), but the lowest rates were recorded in Ontario (71) and Prince Edward Island (78) (Table 7).

Criminal harassment and indecent or harassing communications are on the rise in both rural and urban areas

Criminal harassment and indecent or harassing communications are two offences that share some similarities. For example, most victims of these crimes, about three-quarters, are women. Like sexual assault—another crime where most of the victims are women—criminal harassment and indecent or harassing communications have increased to a larger extent than violent crime overall.

The rates of police-reported criminal harassment and indecent or harassing communications in rural areas were 41% and 30% higher, respectively, than the 2011 rates. In urban areas, the increase was smaller (5% for criminal harassment and 21% for indecent or harassing communications), but still higher than the average increase for all violent crimes (4%).

As with most other violent crimes, in 2021, the rate of police-reported criminal harassment in rural areas (109 incidents per 100,000 population) was notably higher than the urban rate (63). The same was true for indecent or harassing communications, with a rural rate of 122 incidents per 100,000 population, compared with 61 in urban areas.

Among the provinces, New Brunswick (192 incidents per 100,000 population) and Nova Scotia (146) had the highest rates of criminal harassment in rural areas. As for indecent or harassing communications, Prince Edward Island (277) and British Columbia (251) saw the highest rates in rural areas in 2021.

Robbery, an urban crime

Among the most common violent crimes, robbery has the highest severity—determined based on the sentences handed down by the courts. For example, the weight of robbery in the CSI calculation is almost 18 times higher than the weight assigned to common assaults. More serious violent crimes—including homicide, kidnapping, level 3 assault or assault against a peace officer, level 3 sexual assault, discharging a firearm, or certain sexual offences against children—are all less frequent than robbery.

Robberies are relatively rare in rural areas compared with the incidence in urban areas, despite a 47% decrease in these urban crimes from 2011 to 2021. The rate of urban robbery in 2021 (54 per 100,000 population) was about three times higher

than the rural rate (17), which has remained relatively stable since 2011 (+2%) (Table 1). In rural areas, many offences, including some more serious ones, such as level 3 assault or assault against a peace officer, are more common than robberies, which account for less than 1% of violent crime.

Those who perpetrate robberies usually target strangers. This was the case for about four in five robberies in which an accused person was identified in 2021. Robberies are most often perpetrated in the street or another public area or in a commercial building. However, since there are usually fewer strangers in rural areas, crimes involving a stranger are far less common than in urban areas. In addition, crimes in rural areas are most often perpetrated in a private dwelling, rather than in a public or commercial setting. These characteristics may account in part for the lower incidence of robberies in rural areas.

In addition to robberies and attempted murder (discussed earlier), commodification of sexual activity and human trafficking offences are also more prevalent in urban areas than in rural areas. These offences were reported more than twice as often by urban police services than by rural police services. Extortion is also slightly more likely to occur in urban areas, where the rate recorded in 2021 was 10%¹⁴ higher than in rural areas. Although these crimes are not the most common violent crimes, they have seen relatively large increases over the past decade (Table 1).

Firearm-related offences are overrepresented in rural areas

In addition to physical assaults, uttering threats and sexual assaults, other less frequent violent crimes had much higher rates in rural areas than in urban areas. More specifically, the rate of violent firearms offences, such as discharge of a firearm or pointing a firearm, was almost three times higher in rural areas than in urban areas in 2021 (25 incidents per 100,000 population compared with 8.9) (Table 1). Since 2011, the rate for this type of offence has more than doubled in rural and urban areas.

Among violent crimes, the violent firearm-related offences category has some of the largest differences between the provinces. For example, rates in rural areas reached at least 55 incidents per 100,000 population in every province in the Prairies. At the other end, rural Prince Edward Island recorded none of these crimes, and the rate in rural Ontario was 5.9 incidents per 100,000 population.

Although the rate of violent firearm-related offences was higher in rural areas than in urban areas overall, the contrary was noted in some provinces where rates for these offences were higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Specifically, the rate of violent offences involving firearms was higher in urban areas than rural areas in all the Atlantic provinces except New Brunswick, as well as in Ontario (Table 6, Table 7).

It is important to note that this crime category represents only a small proportion of the crimes that involved a firearm, namely incidents where it was the most serious offence. For example, many incidents classified as robbery or assault may have involved a weapon. According to a previous study, firearm-related violent crimes represented 2.8% of all police-reported crime victims in 2020 (Allen, 2022). This study also noted that the rate of firearm-related crimes was higher in rural areas than in urban areas although these crimes represented a smaller proportion of all crimes in rural areas than in urban areas.

Higher rate of police-reported sexual offences against children in rural areas than urban areas

Sexual violations against children—for example, sexual exploitation, sexual touching, invitation to sexual touching or luring a child—comprise another group of crimes for which the rate recorded in rural areas in 2021 was much higher than in urban areas. In 2021, the combined rate for these offences in rural areas was more than twice the urban rate (62 incidents per 100,000 population versus 26). In rural (+220%) and urban (+184%) areas, the rate for these offences had roughly tripled since 2011 (Table 1).

Moreover, although some variation between provinces was seen in the rate of sexual violations against children in rural areas, the rate for all rural areas in each province remained higher than in all urban areas (26 incidents per 100,000 population). The lowest rate in rural areas in 2021 was observed in Ontario (40 incidents per 100,000 population), and the highest was recorded in Manitoba (96) (Table 6).

Property crime

Both in rural areas and urban areas, property crimes were the main type of offence reported by police. This crime category has also been at the centre of many discussions on rural crime and is an important element of authorities' strategy against rural crime (Seiden, 2017). However, the difference between rural and urban property crime rates was smaller than in other crime categories, despite a larger decrease observed recently in urban areas after public health restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic were implemented.

Overall, in 2021, the rate of police-reported property crimes in rural areas (3,524 incidents per 100,000 population) was 22% higher than the rate in urban areas (2,882). However, like violent crimes, there were notable differences between urban and rural areas in terms of the nature of the property crimes that occurred there.

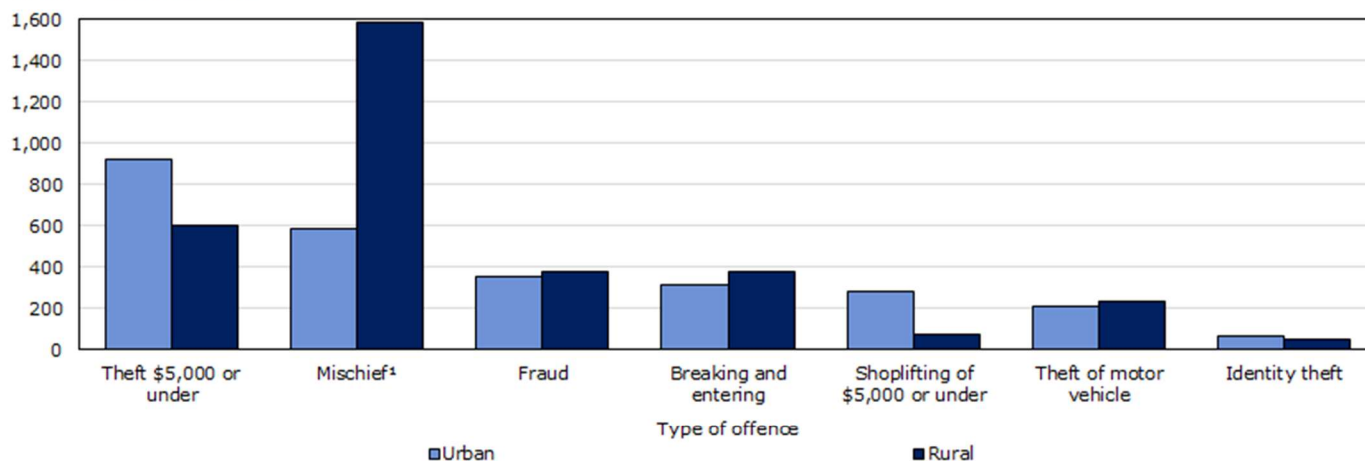
The most common crime in rural areas is mischief

Mischief is, by far, the crime most often reported by police in rural areas. In 2021, nearly 93,000 incidents of mischief were reported by rural police services, representing 45% of all rural police-reported property crime that year. By comparison, just under 36,000 thefts of \$5,000 or under—the second most common property crime in rural areas—were reported by police in rural areas in 2021.

Mischief is also a relatively common crime in urban areas. In 2021, nearly 189,000 police-reported incidents of mischief made it the second most common offence. However, relatively speaking, mischief was nearly three times more common in rural areas than in urban areas, with rates of 1,581 incidents per 100,000 population in rural areas, compared with 586 incidents per 100,000 population in urban areas (Chart 14).

Chart 14
Property crimes most often reported by urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2021

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes altering, removing or destroying a vehicle identification number.

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Although incidents of mischief can be serious offences, some can also reflect less serious acts that can sometimes be handled through municipal by-laws instead of under the *Criminal Code*, especially in urban areas where such by-laws are in effect and where teams of municipal by-law officers can enforce them. For this reason, it is conceivable that the scope of mischief may be slightly underestimated in urban areas.

Furthermore, there is considerable variation in the rates of mischief between different rural areas in the country. For example, the highest rate, recorded in Saskatchewan, was 13 times higher than the rate observed in Quebec (5,035 incidents of mischief per 100,000 population versus 375) (Table 6). In addition to Saskatchewan, rural areas in Manitoba (3,750), Newfoundland and Labrador (3,029), and Alberta (2,839) also posted relatively high rates of mischief. In Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, mischief accounted for about one-third of the crimes that make up the crime rate. However, different law enforcement practices, such as the use of municipal by-laws, may account for part of these differences.

Break and enter and motor vehicle theft are highest in rural Alberta

Break and enters and thefts, especially motor vehicle thefts, have become a major cause of concern in rural areas (Seiden, 2017). As such, these offences have been at the centre of discussions about rural crime. Overall, the rates of break and enter were 21% higher in rural areas than in urban areas in 2021 (382 incidents per 100,000 population versus 317 incidents per 100,000 population). Similarly, the rates of motor vehicle theft were 8% higher in rural areas, with 232 incidents per 100,000

population, compared with 215 incidents per 100,000 population in urban areas. However, break and enters are one of the crimes that posted the largest decrease from 2011, with the rate dropping by 41% in rural areas (Table 1).

As with most property crimes, the rates of break and enter and motor vehicle theft were higher in the Prairie provinces, especially Alberta. In 2021, police reported 769 break and enter incidents per 100,000 population in rural Alberta. This was nearly five times higher than in rural Prince Edward Island, the province with the lowest break and enter rate in rural areas. Similarly, police reported 558 incidents of motor vehicle theft per 100,000 population in rural Alberta, a rate seven times higher than that recorded in rural Prince Edward Island (Table 6).

Theft of \$5,000 or under more common in urban areas, while theft over \$5,000 more common in rural areas

Unlike in rural areas, where the most common crime is mischief, the most common crime in urban areas is theft of \$5,000 or under. In 2021, urban police services reported nearly 300,000 thefts of this nature, in addition to 90,000 shoplifting incidents. This represents a rate of 924 thefts of \$5,000 or under per 100,000 population and a rate of 279 shoplifting incidents per 100,000 population. By comparison, the rates in rural areas were much lower, with 605 thefts of \$5,000 or under per 100,000 population and 77 incidents of shoplifting of \$5,000 or under per 100,000 population. In contrast, the rate of thefts over \$5,000 (including shoplifting over \$5,000) was slightly higher in rural areas (60 incidents versus 53 incidents per 100,000 population) (Table 1).

Although thefts were more common overall in urban areas, the rate of possession of stolen property was almost twice as high in rural than in urban areas (88 incidents per 100,000 population versus 47). This difference may be caused by the higher rates of theft over \$5,000 and break and enters in rural areas.

Although break and enter rates are just slightly higher in rural areas than urban areas, and overall, the rates of theft are lower, these crimes are the cause of concern in some rural areas. On one hand, the different characteristics of the incidents may explain why these crimes are more of a concern in rural areas. For example, break and enter and thefts (all categories combined) are much more likely to have targeted a private residence than a business in rural areas than in urban areas. Therefore, victims may feel greater direct impacts in these circumstances. On the other hand, the overall picture does not apply to all provinces. For example, the rate of break and enter in rural Alberta is 53% higher than in urban Alberta. The rates of theft over \$5,000, motor vehicle theft and possession of stolen property are also notably higher in rural areas of the province than urban areas (Table 6, Table 7).

Other Criminal Code offences

The “other *Criminal Code* offences” category includes all *Criminal Code* offences that are neither violent crimes nor property crimes. These crimes include many serious offences,¹⁵ such as terrorism offences,¹⁶ weapons trafficking and child pornography, and less serious offences, such as disturbing the peace and failure to appear in court. Although traffic violations (e.g., impaired driving) are not included in the calculation of the traditional crime rate or in the standard “other *Criminal Code* offences” category, they are still *Criminal Code* offences and will be analyzed in more detail in this section. Like those observed for violent crimes, the rates for these crimes are notably greater in rural areas. However, important differences and variations are observed, based on the crime and the province.

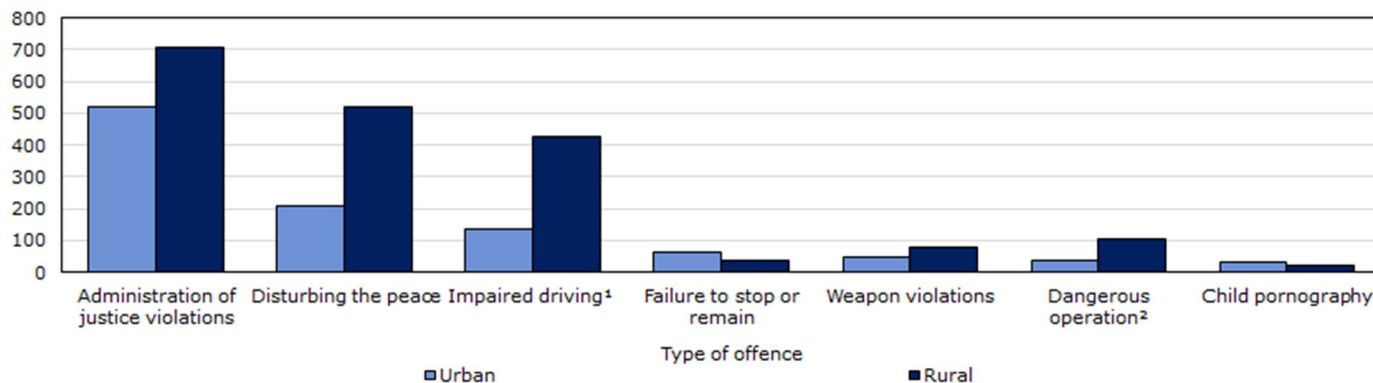
More offences against the administration of justice in rural areas

The category of offences against the administration of justice encompasses a group of criminal offences related to compliance with procedures and conditions imposed on an accused person by the justice system. Among other things, it includes offences such as failure to appear in court, escape, being unlawfully at large, failure to comply with a court order or breach of probation. Overall, in 2021, the rate of these offences was 36% higher in rural areas than in urban areas (706 incidents compared with 520 incidents per 100,000 population) (Chart 15).

Chart 15

Other *Criminal Code* offences or *Criminal Code* traffic violations most often reported by urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2021

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes violations related to alcohol-impaired, drug-impaired or alcohol and drug-impaired driving, and impaired driving by an unknown substance.

2. Includes dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and flight from peace officer violations.

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population, and population counts are based on the July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp).

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

Several studies have shown that people living in rural areas—especially those living in isolated regions far from large centres—experience additional challenges in terms of some of these offences, in particular, because of more difficult or limited access to various elements of the justice system (Aylin & Moore, 2015; Nuffield, 2003; Senate of Canada, 2016). More specifically, the distances and more limited access to various means of transportation can make it more difficult for an accused living in a remote region to appear in court, thereby increasing the likelihood of being accused of failure to appear. However, this reality is not clearly reflected in police-reported data. In 2021, while the rate of failure to appear was slightly higher in urban areas (96 incidents per 100,000 population) than in rural areas (73 incidents per 100,000 population), the location of the offence may often be based on the location of the court, and not where the accused lives. Since judicial institutions are often found in urban areas, this is also where these offences are often recorded.

Failure to comply with a court order and breach of probation account for the higher rate of offences against the administration of justice in rural areas than in urban areas. These offences represent more than three-quarters of offences against the administration of justice, and the rates for these two offences are higher in rural areas. The difference was especially large for failure to comply with a court order, for which the rate in 2021 was 494 incidents per 100,000 population in rural areas, compared with 321 incidents per 100,000 population in urban areas. As is the case for failure to appear, it can sometimes be more difficult to comply with certain conditions in rural areas, especially in small, isolated communities—for example, when prohibited from travelling outside a certain radius or perimeter (Senate of Canada, 2016) or issued a restraining, protection or no-contact order.

The rate of offences related to disturbing the peace is twice as high in rural areas than urban areas

Disturbing the peace is one of the most common offences in the “other *Criminal Code* offences” category. In 2021, police reported nearly 30,500 incidents of disturbing the peace in rural areas, representing a rate of 519 incidents per 100,000 population. This rate was more than double that in urban areas that year (208 incidents per 100,000 population). In rural and urban areas, this rate decreased from 2011, falling 15% in rural areas and 18% in urban areas (Table 1).

Disturbing the peace is an offence that is most often relatively minor.¹⁷ Thus, like mischief, it may sometimes be handled through municipal by-laws, particularly in urban areas—and therefore not included in the police-reported statistics presented here. Moreover, disturbing the peace is one of the crimes for which the largest variation between provinces was observed. Specifically, the 2021 rate recorded for rural Manitoba (1,881 incidents per 100,000 population) was 61 times higher than that observed in rural Quebec (31 incidents per 100,000 population).

Moreover, most of these incidents do not lead to charges. In 2021, just over 1% of these incidents had been cleared by charge, in both rural and urban areas.

Rate of non-violent weapons offences is higher in rural areas than urban areas

The non-violent weapons offences category brings together a group of offences, such as unsafe storage, weapons possession contrary to an order, unauthorized importing or exporting of weapons, and weapons trafficking. Like violent firearm-related offences, the rate of these violations was higher in rural areas (76 incidents per 100,000 population) than in urban areas (47 incidents per 100,000 population). Since 2011, these offences have seen a relatively large increase, in rural (+42%) and urban (+25%) areas (Table 1).

Among the provinces, the rural areas of Saskatchewan (208 incidents per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (196) had the highest rates of non-violent weapons offences. In contrast, the lowest rate among rural areas was observed in Prince Edward Island (24) (Table 6).

Impaired driving causing death is five times higher in rural areas than in urban areas

Urban and rural areas are very different environments with respect to travel. In rural areas, cars are often the only option for trips, the distances to cover can be longer, the speed limits can be higher and there may be less lighting (Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, 2017; Paré & Larochelle, 2004; Perreault, 2021; Robertson et al., 2016).

These differences are reflected in impaired driving rates, which are three times higher overall in rural areas. This difference was slightly smaller for drug-impaired driving, namely 30 incidents per 100,000 population in rural areas, compared with 18 incidents per 100,000 population in urban areas. In contrast, the rate of both alcohol- and drug-impaired driving was approximately five times higher in rural areas than in urban areas (43 incidents per 100,000 population versus 8.9).

The difference between impaired driving rates in rural versus urban areas is accentuated when factoring in the most serious offences, that is, those causing bodily harm or death. In 2021, the rate of impaired driving causing bodily harm was four times higher in rural areas than in urban areas; the rate of impaired driving causing death was five times higher.

Among the provinces, Saskatchewan had the highest impaired driving rate in rural areas (1,090 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Manitoba (867) and British Columbia (552). In comparison, the lowest rate was recorded in Quebec (203), followed by Ontario (224).

Perceptions of police in rural areas

Rural residents in the provinces report a higher level of confidence in their local police than urban residents

Policing a wide territory with a low population density can present some challenges for rural police services, especially in terms of responding quickly to calls (Weisheit et al., 1994).

Despite these difficulties, and despite generally higher crime rates, self-reported data from the 2019 GSS on Victimization show that people residing in rural areas or small towns had slightly higher levels of confidence in their local police than people residing in urban areas. Overall, 45% of residents in the provinces' rural areas said they had a great deal of confidence in their local police service. In comparison, this proportion was 40% in urban areas (Table 8).

However, New Brunswick was the exception. In the province's rural areas, 39% of residents said they had a great deal of confidence in their local police, less than the 48% who said the same in urban areas. Conversely, rural Newfoundland and Labrador recorded the highest level of confidence: 58% of residents said they had a great deal of confidence in their local police, compared with 42% of urban residents.

When asked about specific tasks, rural residents rated their local police more favourably than their urban counterparts for all tasks mentioned in the survey. For example, rural residents were much more likely than their urban counterparts to report that their local police were doing a good job in terms of treating people fairly (53% versus 39%) or being approachable (59% versus 47%). Even in terms of responding quickly to calls, rural residents were more likely than urban residents to say that the police were doing a good job (43% versus 39%).

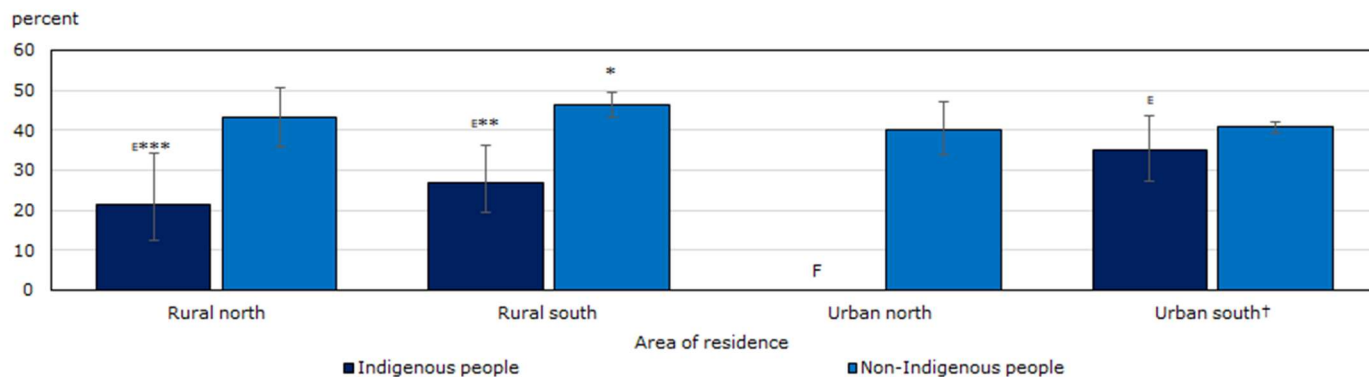
First Nations people, Métis and Inuit living in rural areas have less confidence in their local police

Previous studies have noted that confidence in the police was generally lower among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit than it was among non-Indigenous people (Cotter, 2022; Council of Canadian Academies, 2019; David, 2018; Jaccoud, 2020; Perreault, 2022). These low levels of trust may stem from the historical and ongoing legacy of colonization, including systemic racism and discriminatory policies and practices, generations of Indigenous¹⁸ people have been subjected to, which

have contributed to an overall sense of mistrust in the police, criminal justice system and many other institutions (Jaccoud, 2020; National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019; Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada and Comack, 2020).

Overall, 30% of Indigenous people (27% of First Nations people, 32% of Métis, data not available for Inuit¹⁹) reported having a great deal of confidence in their local police service or detachment in 2019. In comparison, this proportion was 42% among non-Indigenous people.

Chart 16
Proportion of the population who reported a great deal of confidence in their local police (or detachment), by Indigenous identity, urban and rural areas, and by north and south region, all provinces, 2019



^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

** significantly different from non-Indigenous people ($p < 0.05$)

*** significantly different from both reference category ($p < 0.05$) and from non-Indigenous people ($p < 0.05$)

† reference category

Note: Indigenous people include those who reported being First Nations persons, Métis or Inuit. The Provincial North comprises the northern regions of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador. An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). Rural areas are all areas outside CMAs and CAs. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization).

While non-Indigenous people's confidence in the police was higher in rural areas than in urban areas, the opposite was true among Indigenous people. In rural areas, 25%^E of Indigenous people reported a great deal of confidence in the police, compared with 46% of non-Indigenous people. In urban areas, these proportions were 33%^{E,20} and 41%, respectively. The difference is more pronounced when disaggregating the Provincial North from the south. Just over one in five Indigenous people living in rural areas in the Provincial North (21%^E) reported a great deal of confidence in the police, compared with 43% of non-Indigenous people in these same areas, and compared with 35%^E of Indigenous people living in urban areas in the south (Chart 16).

Summary

Overall, police services serving a predominantly rural population in 2021 recorded a crime rate 43% higher than police services serving a predominantly urban population. This difference was somewhat larger for violent crimes and other *Criminal Code* offences, such as disturbing the peace or offences against the administration of justice. Although not included in the calculation of the crime rate, rates of *Criminal Code* traffic offences and other federal statute offences were also higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Some violations were especially overrepresented in rural areas in 2021. This was the case for assaults, sexual offences against children, mischief and disturbing the peace. In contrast, robberies and thefts under \$5,000 were much more common in urban areas. The average annual homicide rate for the 2011-to-2021 period was also higher in rural areas (2.22 homicides per 100,000 population) than in urban areas (1.64), although the rate of attempted murder was higher in urban areas.

Rural crime is not the same everywhere. More specifically, the highest crime rates and CSIs were mainly noted in the Prairie provinces and, to a lesser extent, in Newfoundland and Labrador. In the other provinces, the rural crime rate and CSI were closer to those recorded in urban areas, although still slightly higher in most cases. The highest crime rates were also recorded in the Provincial North. In the provinces' southern areas, the rural crime rate was lower than or relatively similar to that of urban areas, except in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

The higher crime rate in rural areas was attributable to a small number of police services that recorded very high crime rates. In 2021, 14% of the rural population lived in a community with a crime rate of at least 10,000 incidents per 100,000 population, compared with 6% of the urban population. However, rural residents were also more likely to live in a community with a relatively low crime rate. For example, more than one-third (34%) of the rural population lived in a community where the crime rate was below 3,000 incidents per 100,000 population, compared with one-quarter (25%) of the urban population.

This analysis has provided the latest data about crime in rural areas, and it shows that rural Canada is very heterogeneous in terms of crime, as in several other ways, such as sociodemographic, economic and geographic realities. For example, some regions have an aging population, while in others, the population is very young. Some rural regions are experiencing a decline in economic vitality, while others are experiencing very rapid growth, sometimes related to resource extraction. Some rural regions are relatively close to urban centres and have better access to services and labour markets, whereas others are remote, isolated, and in some cases inaccessible by road. Some rural regions have an economy essentially centred on tourism, whereas others have more of an agricultural economy.

It is possible that one or more of these factors are in some way associated with rural crime. Analysis of the causes of rural crime was outside the scope of this article, but future work could address them to shed more light on crime in rural areas.

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 measures criminal incidents that have been reported to federal, provincial or territorial, and municipal police services in Canada.

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

Data from the UCR are used to calculate both the traditional crime rate and the Crime Severity Index (CSI). The traditional crime rate and the CSI are based on the aggregate count of criminal incidents. A criminal incident involves one or more related offences that are committed during a single criminal event and have been reported to police. Where there are multiple victims within a single criminal event, a separate aggregate incident is counted for each victim. For example, a single incident involving an assault on three victims at the same time and location is counted in the aggregate statistics as three incidents of assault. For an incident to be counted in the crime statistics, it must be recorded as “founded” as opposed to “unfounded.” An incident is “founded” if, after police investigation, it has been determined that the reported offence did occur or was attempted 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.

General Social Survey on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization)

The 2019 General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians’ Safety target population was people aged 15 and older living in the provinces and territories, except for those living full time in an institution. Data collection took place between April 2019 and March 2020. Responses were obtained by computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI), in-person interviews (in the territories only) and, for the first time, self-administered internet collection (for respondents in the provinces and the territorial capitals). Respondents could respond in the official language of their choice.

An individual aged 15 or older was randomly selected within each household to respond to the survey. An oversample of Indigenous people was added to the 2019 GSS on Victimization to allow for a more detailed analysis of individuals belonging to this population group. In 2019, the final sample size was 22,412 respondents. In 2019, the overall response rate was 37.6%. Non-respondents included people who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represented the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 and older.

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. For the quality of estimates, the lower and upper bounds of the confidence intervals are presented in the tables and charts. Confidence intervals should be interpreted as follows: if the survey were repeated many times, then 95% of the time (or 19 times out of 20), the confidence interval would cover the true population value. In addition to the confidence intervals, estimates are categorized into quality categories based on unweighted sample size. Estimates falling below a certain threshold are marked with the letter F, and estimates marked with the letter E have been deemed to be of marginal quality and should be used with caution.

References

- Allen, M. (2022). Trends in firearm-related violent crime in Canada, 2009 to 2020. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Allen, M. & Perreault, S. (2015). Police-reported crime in Canada's Provincial North and Territories, 2013. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Allen Bouffard, L. & Muftic, L.R. (2006). The rural mystique: Social disorganization and violence beyond urban communities. *Western Criminology Review*, 7(3), 55-66.
- Aylin, N. & Moore, L. (2015). *Rural and remote access to justice. A literature review*. (Rural and remote access to justice Boldness project). Canadian Forum on Civil Justice.
- Babiyak, C., Alavi, A., Collins, K., Halladay, A. & Tapper, D. (2009). *The Methodology of the Police-Reported Crime Severity Index*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. HSMD-2009-006E/F.
- Babiyak, C., Campbell, A., Evra, R. & Franklin, S. (2013). *Updating the Police-reported Crime Severity Index Weights: Refinements to the Methodology*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. HSMD-2013-005E/F.
- Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. (2018). Revising the collection of founded and unfounded criminal incidents in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. (2017). *Key messages about drug-impaired driving in rural and remote areas*. (Drug-impaired Driving in Canada: Educator Toolkit).
- Council of Canadian Academies. (2019). *Toward Peace, Harmony, and Well-Being: Policing in Indigenous Communities*. The Expert Panel on Policing in Indigenous Communities.
- Cotter, A. (2022). Perceptions of and experiences with police and the justice system among the Black and Indigenous populations in Canada. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- David, J.-D. (2019). Exploration des facteurs associés à la confiance des Autochtones envers la police au Canada : la pertinence du modèle expressif. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 61(4), 120-138.
- Donnermeyer, J., Scott, J. & Barclay, E. (2013). How rural criminology informs critical thinking in criminology. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 2(3), 69-91.
- Government of Manitoba. (2020). Crime reduction support teams having an impact on rural crime. Press release. July 27th, 2020.
- Government of Saskatchewan. (2019). Saskatchewan Crime watch advisory network expanded province-wide. Press release. April 18th, 2019.
- Greenland, J. & Cotter, A. (2018). Unfounded criminal incidents in Canada, 2017. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Jaccoud, M. (2020). Entre méfiance et défiance : les Autochtones et la justice pénale au Canada. *Les Cahiers de droit*, 61(1).
- Laforest, J. & Poitras, D. (2021). *Violence conjugale en contexte de pandémie de COVID-19 : Synthèse rapide des connaissances*. Institut national de santé publique du Québec.
- Moffitt, P., Aujla, W., Giesbrecht, C.J., Grant, I. & Straatman, A.-L. (2020). Intimate partner violence and COVID-19 in rural, remote and northern Canada: Relationship, vulnerability and risk. *Journal of Family Violence*, 37.
- Moreau, G. (2022). "Police-reported crime statistics, 2021." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Moreau, G. (2021). "Police-reported crime statistics, 2020." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Moreau, G. (2020). "Police-reported crime statistics, 2019." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.
- Nelson, T., Kent-Wilkinson, A., & Li, H. (2022). Intimate partner violence in COVID-19: A literature review. *Canadian Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 45(1).
- Nuffield, J. (2003). The challenges of youth justice in rural and isolated areas in Canada. *Youth Justice Research*. Department of Justice Canada.
- Paré, L. & Larochelle, M. (2004). *Alternatives de transport à la conduite avec facultés affaiblies en région rurale: bilan et perspectives*. Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et de services sociaux de Chaudière-Appalaches.
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada & Comack, E. (2020). *Addressing gendered violence against Inuit women: A review of police policies and practices in Inuit Nunangat*. (Report in Brief and Recommendations).

- Perreault, S. (2022). Victimization of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Perreault, S. (2021). Impaired driving in Canada, 2019. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Perreault, S. (2019). Police-reported crime in rural and urban areas in the Canadian provinces, 2017. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Perreault, S. (2017). Canadian's perceptions of personal safety and crime, 2014. *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Robertson, R. D., Wicklund, C., Holmes, E. & Biderman, P. (2016). *Impaired Driving in Rural Jurisdictions: Problems and Solutions*. Traffic Injury Research Foundation.
- Sanchez, O. R., Vale, D.B., Rodrigues, L. & Surita, F.G. (2020). Violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic: An integrative review. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 151(2).
- Seiden, D. (2017). Know your neighbour. RCMP works with communities to tackle theft, vandalism. *Gazette Magazine*, 79 (4). Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- Senate of Canada. (2016). *Delaying justice is denying justice. An urgent need to address lengthy court delays in Canada. Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs*.
- Statistics Canada. (2016). *Measuring Crime in Canada: A Detailed Look at the Crime Severity Index*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 11-629-X.
- Statistics Canada. (2022a). *Definitions, Data Sources and Methods — Statistical Classifications: North and South — Variant of Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2021*. (<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/subjects/standard/sgc/2021/index>)
- Statistics Canada. (2022b). Victims of police-reported family and intimate partner violence in Canada. *The Daily*, October 19th, 2022.
- Wallace, M., Turner, J., Babyak, C. & Matarazzo, A. (2009). *Measuring Crime in Canada: Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-004-X.
- Weisheit, R., Falcone, D. & Wells, E. (1994). Rural crime and rural policing. *Research in Action*. (September). National Institute of Justice.
- Zorn, K.G., Wuerch, M.A., Faller, N. & Rucklos Hampton, M. (2017). Perspectives on regional differences and intimate partner violence in Canada: A qualitative examination. *Journal of Family Violence*, 32, 633-644.

Notes

^E Use with caution

- For more information on the CSI, see *Measuring Crime in Canada: Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey* (Wallace et al., 2009), *The Methodology of the Police-reported Crime Severity Index* (Babyak et al., 2009), *Updating the Police-reported Crime Severity Index Weights: Refinements to the Methodology* (Babyak et al., 2013), and the video “Measuring crime in Canada: A detailed look at the Crime Severity Index” (Statistics Canada, 2016).
- This proportion was 91% in Ontario; 89% in British Columbia; 83% in Alberta and Quebec; 71% in Manitoba; 66% in Nova Scotia; 65% in Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick; and 57% in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The data in this report are based on the most serious offence in an incident. An incident can involve more than one offence. The most serious offence is determined by criteria in the following order of priority: violations against a person take precedence over other violations; the most serious offence is the one with the greatest maximum penalty prescribed by law; violations causing death take precedence over other violations with the same maximum penalty; or, if the above rules do not break a tie, the police service uses its discretion to determine which is the most serious violation in the incident.
- For example, those crimes accounted for 24% of the urban crime rate in 2021, compared with 10% in rural areas.
- For example, robberies accounted for 5% of violent crimes in urban areas in 2021, compared to 1% in rural areas.
- These include violations to federal statutes other than the *Criminal Code*, such as drug offences, *Youth Criminal Justice Act* violations, *Quarantine Act* violations, Human trafficking violations under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, violations to the *Customs Act* and violations to the *Canada Shipping Act*.
- The crimes measured by the GSS include sexual assault, robbery, physical assault (including uttering threats), break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism.
- Crime data are reported by police services, which can serve one or more communities. For simplicity, the term “community” here refers to the area served by the local police service.

9. Population figures are based on July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada's Centre for Demography.
10. The term "Northern regions" refers to the Provincial North. For simplicity, these two terms are used interchangeably.
11. Because of incomplete data for the Nunavik region in 2011, the analysis of 2011-to-2021 trends excludes the rural areas of northern Quebec.
12. The location where a homicide is recorded is usually based on the location of where it was discovered. Therefore, there may be a small number of homicides that were committed in urban areas but reported in rural areas because the victim's body was allegedly abandoned in a rural area, and vice versa.
13. Includes victims aged 15 years and older who were victimized by current and former legally married spouses and common-law partners. Also includes victims aged 12 years and older of all current and former boyfriends and girlfriends and other intimate relationships (i.e., people with whom the victim had a sexual relationship but for whom none of the other relationship categories apply).
14. Calculation based on unrounded rates.
15. Seriousness is established as per CSI weights, which are determined by the severity of the sentences handed down by the courts for these offences (see CSI definition in Text box 1).
16. Includes offences such as facilitating a terrorist activity, harbouring or concealing a terrorist, participating in an activity of a terrorist group, and carrying out or instructing someone to carry out a terrorist activity.
17. This is one of the *Criminal Code* offences with the lowest weight in calculating the CSI. Only a few offences related to gaming and betting or prostitution carry a lower weight than disturbing the peace. By way of comparison, the weight for disturbing the peace is approximately 3 times lower than the weight for mischief and approximately 40 times lower than that for robbery.
18. The Indigenous population was identified using the following question: "Are you an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)?" In this section, the term "Indigenous" is used to refer to all First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.
19. The sample size for Inuit in the provinces was not large enough to allow for a reliable estimate. When people living in the territories were included, the proportion of Inuit reporting a great deal of confidence in the police was 26% in 2019.
20. The difference between the estimate for Indigenous people in rural areas (25%) and Indigenous people in urban areas (33%) is not statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Selected police-reported crimes, urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2021

Type of offence	Urban			Rural		
	number	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	number	rate	% change 2011 to 2021
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic) – "Crime rate"	1,585,892	4,919	-10	412,931	7,033	3
Total violent crime	373,485	1,159	4	119,802	2,040	19
Homicide	633	2.0	19	148	2.5	22
Other violations causing death ¹	66	0.2	6	33	0.6	55
Attempted murder	642	2.0	1	94	1.6	-9
Sexual assault - level 3 - aggravated	83	0.3	-33	38	0.6	10
Sexual assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	471	1.5	25	118	2.0	91
Sexual assault - level 1	25,622	79	41	7,175	122	44
Sexual offence occurring prior to January 4, 1983 ²	306	0.9	...	144	2.5	...
Sexual violations against children ^{3 4}	8,388	26	184	3,647	62	220
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	2,709	8.4	-4	1,100	19	14
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	53,050	165	23	16,197	276	40
Assault - level 1	131,952	409	-6	46,146	786	2
Assault against a peace officer	9,124	28	-4	2,967	51	4
Other assaults	1,410	4.4	-53	495	8.4	50
Firearms - use of, discharge, pointing	2,877	8.9	109	1,443	25	106
Robbery	17,458	54	-47	1,008	17	2
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	2,710	8.4	-21	788	13	12
Trafficking in persons ^{5 6}	330	1.0	393	21	0.4	...
Extortion	5,748	18	286	955	16	347
Criminal harassment	20,366	63	5	6,371	109	41
Uttering threats	63,648	197	8	21,891	373	15
Indecent or harassing communications ⁷	19,533	61	21	7,181	122	30
Non-consensual distribution of intimate images ⁸	1,814	5.6	...	592	10	...
Offences in relation to sexual services ⁹	634	2.0	...	57	1.0	...
Other violent <i>Criminal Code</i> violations	3,911	12	8	1,193	20	-33

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Selected police-reported crimes, urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2021

Type of offence	Urban			Rural		
	number	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	number	rate	% change 2011 to 2021
Total property crime	928,975	2,882	-17	206,913	3,524	-5
Breaking and entering	102,100	317	-37	22,449	382	-41
Possess stolen property ¹⁰	15,070	47	-26	5,138	88	37
Theft of motor vehicle	69,224	215	-10	13,630	232	-3
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	17,064	53	24	3,548	60	22
Shoplifting of \$5,000 or under	90,099	279	-5	4,515	77	-14
Theft of \$5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	298,042	924	-27	35,531	605	-32
Fraud	114,561	355	50	22,405	382	121
Identity theft	5,681	18	306	1,487	25	748
Identity fraud	20,808	65	153	2,858	49	284
Mischief ¹¹	188,814	586	-23	92,830	1,581	7
Arson	7,512	23	-12	2,522	43	-10
Total other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	283,432	879	0	86,216	1,468	2
Weapons violations	15,288	47	25	4,468	76	42
Child pornography ^{12 13}	10,471	32	442	1,135	19	350
Prostitution ⁹	33	0.1	-99	12	0.2	-77
Terrorism ¹⁴	54	0.2	-12	2	0.0	-61
Disturb the peace	67,057	208	-18	30,492	519	-15
Administration of justice violations	167,539	520	7	41,439	706	10
Other violations	22,990	71	-15	8,668	148	13
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic violations	81,124	252	-31	35,060	597	-13
Alcohol-impaired driving ¹⁵	33,348	103	-51	20,144	343	-26
Drug-impaired driving ¹⁶	5,824	18	311	1,781	30	189
Alcohol- and drug-impaired driving ¹⁷	2,857	8.9	...	2,509	43	...
Impaired driving (not specified) ¹⁷	1,965	6.1	...	440	7.5	...
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic violations	37,130	115	-24	10,186	173	-19
Total drug offences	49,894	155	-49	11,237	191	-57
Total other federal statute violations	12,052	37	-50	6,180	105	-43
Human trafficking under the <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i> ¹⁸	182	0.6	1134	18	0.3	492
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	819	2.5	-92	186	3.2	-93
<i>Quarantine Act</i> ¹⁹	1,827	5.7	...	378	6.4	...
Other federal statutes	9,224	29	-35	5,598	95	-29

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Selected police-reported crimes, urban and rural police services, all provinces, 2021

Type of offence	Urban			Rural		
	number	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	number	rate	% change 2011 to 2021
Total - all violations	1,728,962	5,363	-13	465,408	7,927	-3

... not applicable

1. Includes, for example, criminal negligence causing death.
2. In 2019, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey added a new violation code to collect information on “sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983.” While most violations are not typically reported years after their occurrence, sexual violations may be reported by a victim long after the incident took place due to a variety of reasons. On January 4, 1983, Canadian legislation surrounding sexual offences changed considerably. To reflect these changes, the survey added the new violation code rather than collect historical offences under an existing violation code that did not reflect the state of Canadian legislation at the time of the offence. Therefore, the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 is not shown.
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 telecommunications or an agreement or arrangement, making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children or youth, and the offences of parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting prohibited sexual activity, agreement or arrangement of a sexual offence against a child, and bestiality in the presence of or inciting a child (s. 160(3)). Incidents of child pornography are not included in the category of sexual violations against children.
5. Changes to the *Criminal Code*, including the introduction of new offences related to trafficking in persons were made in 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2014. Therefore, the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 is not shown.
6. “Trafficking in persons” includes four specific indictable offences to address human trafficking, namely sections 279.01 (Trafficking in persons), 279.011 (Trafficking of a person under the age of eighteen years), 279.02 (Material benefit), and 279.03 (Withholding or destroying documents).
7. This offence was amended in 2015 in the former Bill C-13 “*Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*” to include all means of telecommunication, not only phone calls.
8. Non-consensual distribution of intimate images is an offence created in 2015 by the former Bill C-13 *Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*, therefore the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 is not shown.
9. 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 “offences in relation to sexual services” 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. Therefore, the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 is not shown.
10. Includes trafficking and the intent to traffic stolen goods. In 2011, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey updated the offences included in this violation; therefore, the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 should be interpreted with caution since there could be delays in reporting new violations.
11. Includes altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.
12. Because of the complexity of cyber incidents, these 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.
13. 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* offences”. 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 fall under the category of “violent crimes,” and child pornography may be reported as a secondary violation.
14. Includes seven terrorism violations which were introduced mid-year in 2013, as a result of the enactment of former Bill S-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Canada Evidence Act and the Security of Information Act*. An additional terrorism violation code was introduced in late 2015, as a result of the enactment of former Bill C-51 *Anti-terrorism Act*.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Reflects new impaired driving offences as per former Bill C-46 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances) and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, which came into effect part way through 2018. Therefore, the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 is not shown.
18. Includes human trafficking violations under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. Data specific to these offences are not available prior to 2011; therefore, the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 should be interpreted with caution as there could be delays in reporting new violations.
19. The *Quarantine Act* is applicable to persons arriving in or departing from Canada. It provides measures for the screening, health assessment and medical examination of travellers to determine whether they have a communicable disease and to prevent the introduction and spread of such disease. The *Quarantine Act* requires any persons entering Canada—whether by air, sea or land—to quarantine (self-isolate) themselves for 14 days if they are asymptomatic to limit the introduction and spread of COVID-19. The 14-day period begins on the day the person enters Canada. With the Government of Canada’s March 2020 announcement of restrictions on persons arriving in or departing from Canada, pursuant to its powers under the *Quarantine Act*, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was adjusted to add a specific *Quarantine Act* violation code. Therefore, the percentage change from 2011 to 2021 is not shown.

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp). 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 bylaws 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. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2
Police-reported crime rates by offence group and province, urban and rural police services, 2021

Province	Violent crimes		Property crimes		Other Criminal Code offences		Criminal Code traffic violations		Drug offences		Other federal statutes	
	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021
Newfoundland and Labrador												
Urban	1,658	10	2,678	-40	932	1	355	-37	84	-80	16	-73
Rural	2,032	37	4,250	28	2,053	103	639	90	285	8	86	-41
Prince Edward Island												
Urban	1,200	-4	2,813	-47	743	-24	623	2	65	-76	16	-83
Rural	1,308	29	2,025	-32	663	36	730	17	98	-46	26	-68
Nova Scotia												
Urban	1,344	-6	3,080	-29	816	-23	289	-15	78	-76	41	-51
Rural	1,805	20	3,133	-10	1,024	7	603	14	133	-65	60	-16
New Brunswick												
Urban	1,559	7	3,659	13	1,235	48	367	-2	154	-40	78	-22
Rural	2,069	34	3,527	32	896	39	610	37	165	-48	36	-56
Quebec												
Urban	1,134	11	1,655	-44	356	-34	311	-34	167	-39	25	-63
Rural	1,673	52	1,398	-40	442	-18	380	-45	169	-52	189	289
Ontario												
Urban	919	-1	2,375	-14	535	9	174	-28	93	-62	22	-57
Rural	1,237	3	2,113	-21	822	17	320	0	142	-61	49	-75
Manitoba												
Urban	1,615	7	5,098	8	1,125	-15	157	-28	101	-46	31	-60
Rural	3,832	9	5,977	7	3,345	-9	1,008	13	295	-39	64	-57
Saskatchewan												
Urban	1,662	-11	5,031	-20	2,580	-12	500	-32	158	-62	72	-69
Rural	3,843	18	8,105	5	4,292	23	1,470	4	303	-54	94	-87
Alberta												
Urban	1,301	9	4,185	2	1,658	17	224	-50	134	-49	35	-43
Rural	2,460	8	6,399	19	2,103	-18	763	-32	208	-58	82	-18
British Columbia												
Urban	1,492	5	4,264	-11	1,691	-1	351	-24	358	-36	97	-30
Rural	2,058	3	3,819	-15	1,935	-15	671	-17	214	-77	172	-59

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2
Police-reported crime rates by offence group and province, urban and rural police services, 2021

Province	Violent crimes		Property crimes		Other Criminal Code offences		Criminal Code traffic violations		Drug offences		Other federal statutes	
	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021	rate	% change 2011 to 2021
	All provinces											
Urban	1,159	4	2,882	-17	879	0	252	-31	155	-49	37	-50
Rural	2,040	19	3,524	-5	1,468	2	597	-13	191	-57	105	-43

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp). 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 bylaws 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. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3
Police-reported crime rates by province, *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic), violent crime and property crime, urban and rural police services, 2011 to 2021

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	rate per 100,000 population										
Newfoundland and Labrador											
Crime rate											
Urban	6,897	6,689	6,531	5,656	5,738	5,539	5,244	5,380	5,495	5,106	5,268
Rural	5,818	5,595	5,536	5,538	5,875	6,448	5,786	5,738	6,567	7,222	8,335
Violent crime											
Urban	1,505	1,598	1,520	1,233	1,407	1,302	1,372	1,365	1,426	1,529	1,658
Rural	1,483	1,435	1,295	1,287	1,326	1,358	1,251	1,339	1,723	1,867	2,032
Property crime											
Urban	4,469	4,166	4,180	3,578	3,431	3,215	2,822	2,950	2,960	2,674	2,678
Rural	3,326	3,152	3,100	2,973	3,330	3,587	3,102	2,993	3,412	3,761	4,250
Prince Edward Island											
Crime rate											
Urban	7,479	7,893	7,026	5,514	4,744	4,842	4,467	5,018	5,938	4,941	4,756
Rural	4,486	4,423	4,051	3,529	3,255	3,549	3,572	4,128	4,350	4,038	3,996
Violent crime											
Urban	1,244	1,307	1,043	874	779	858	937	984	1,303	1,223	1,200
Rural	1,013	973	814	822	698	697	886	1,069	1,220	1,322	1,308
Property crime											
Urban	5,263	5,645	5,198	3,994	3,384	3,286	2,845	3,276	3,591	2,836	2,813
Rural	2,985	2,943	2,794	2,246	2,066	2,349	2,152	2,416	2,404	2,059	2,025
Nova Scotia											
Crime rate											
Urban	6,833	6,366	5,643	5,627	5,128	4,970	5,291	5,276	5,063	4,977	5,239
Rural	5,935	6,371	5,687	5,279	4,890	4,829	4,648	4,743	5,679	5,841	5,961
Violent crime											
Urban	1,431	1,248	1,142	1,217	1,163	1,096	1,302	1,317	1,343	1,396	1,344
Rural	1,508	1,603	1,408	1,345	1,285	1,291	1,185	1,199	1,573	1,740	1,805
Property crime											
Urban	4,337	4,081	3,584	3,507	3,092	2,976	3,000	2,961	2,781	2,706	3,080
Rural	3,469	3,731	3,301	3,012	2,745	2,653	2,646	2,691	2,987	2,913	3,133

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Police-reported crime rates by province, *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic), violent crime and property crime, urban and rural police services, 2011 to 2021

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	rate per 100,000 population										
New Brunswick											
Crime rate											
Urban	5,531	5,868	5,207	4,778	5,266	5,002	5,555	5,926	6,447	6,116	6,453
Rural	4,862	4,832	4,141	3,898	4,243	4,091	4,369	4,592	5,369	5,774	6,492
Violent crime											
Urban	1,454	1,464	1,223	1,204	1,197	1,211	1,296	1,372	1,572	1,557	1,559
Rural	1,543	1,472	1,264	1,104	1,136	1,146	1,209	1,304	1,658	1,775	2,069
Property crime											
Urban	3,244	3,496	3,130	2,781	3,234	2,922	3,216	3,434	3,576	3,353	3,659
Rural	2,676	2,726	2,328	2,216	2,448	2,219	2,412	2,503	2,797	3,112	3,527
Quebec											
Crime rate											
Urban	4,534	4,411	3,967	3,614	3,492	3,374	3,386	3,265	3,256	3,003	3,145
Rural ¹	3,972	4,084	3,487	3,060	3,080	3,470	3,475	3,474	3,477	3,315	3,513
Violent crime											
Urban	1,027	1,014	958	931	939	952	988	986	1,040	1,024	1,134
Rural	1,104	1,229	1,113	1,029	1,099	1,316	1,435	1,514	1,563	1,579	1,673
Property crime											
Urban	2,970	2,815	2,456	2,213	2,109	1,957	1,928	1,831	1,780	1,601	1,655
Rural	2,329	2,282	1,869	1,654	1,619	1,610	1,558	1,481	1,406	1,325	1,398
Ontario											
Crime rate											
Urban	4,191	4,014	3,636	3,518	3,544	3,647	3,844	4,134	4,220	3,685	3,829
Rural	4,570	4,459	4,104	3,832	3,835	3,795	3,894	4,117	4,318	4,153	4,172
Violent crime											
Urban	929	879	807	763	768	785	833	883	914	869	919
Rural	1,205	1,190	1,092	1,036	1,033	1,007	1,057	1,129	1,215	1,198	1,237
Property crime											
Urban	2,773	2,657	2,375	2,297	2,305	2,337	2,458	2,673	2,707	2,334	2,375
Rural	2,660	2,579	2,281	2,139	2,156	2,118	2,154	2,231	2,293	2,176	2,113
Manitoba											
Crime rate											
Urban	7,540	7,168	6,150	6,137	6,683	7,452	7,851	8,603	9,437	8,329	7,839
Rural	12,799	13,863	13,018	11,854	12,464	12,154	12,021	11,328	12,257	12,293	13,154
Violent crime											
Urban	1,504	1,415	1,229	1,190	1,301	1,437	1,500	1,531	1,645	1,532	1,615
Rural	3,521	3,845	3,544	3,061	3,170	3,148	3,141	3,113	3,528	3,509	3,832
Property crime											
Urban	4,711	4,571	3,821	3,935	4,340	4,818	5,057	5,757	6,435	5,539	5,098
Rural	5,600	6,024	5,628	5,315	5,919	5,805	5,682	5,199	5,637	5,506	5,977

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Police-reported crime rates by province, *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic), violent crime and property crime, urban and rural police services, 2011 to 2021

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	rate per 100,000 population										
Saskatchewan											
Crime rate											
Urban	11,056	10,091	9,422	9,386	9,913	10,633	10,246	10,362	10,222	8,808	9,272
Rural	14,461	14,143	13,349	13,089	14,211	14,570	14,317	14,001	15,164	15,739	16,240
Violent crime											
Urban	1,860	1,677	1,507	1,502	1,525	1,505	1,481	1,470	1,590	1,577	1,662
Rural	3,258	3,139	2,892	2,879	3,035	3,109	3,257	3,021	3,616	3,964	3,843
Property crime											
Urban	6,269	5,561	5,215	5,216	5,607	6,066	5,783	6,101	6,043	4,763	5,031
Rural	7,703	7,357	6,751	6,688	7,677	7,868	7,398	7,383	7,569	7,668	8,105
Alberta											
Crime rate											
Urban	6,723	6,525	6,428	6,469	7,379	7,609	7,982	8,150	8,688	7,481	7,143
Rural	10,232	10,492	10,187	10,321	11,340	11,223	11,444	11,144	12,337	11,470	10,962
Violent crime											
Urban	1,191	1,155	1,084	1,079	1,130	1,088	1,168	1,209	1,292	1,247	1,301
Rural	2,275	2,378	2,200	2,107	2,166	2,178	1,980	1,942	2,270	2,436	2,460
Property crime											
Urban	4,114	3,995	4,016	4,046	4,887	5,032	5,183	5,167	5,544	4,676	4,185
Rural	5,390	5,587	5,594	5,827	6,844	6,676	7,121	6,847	7,474	6,850	6,399
British Columbia											
Crime rate											
Urban	7,929	7,780	7,294	7,528	7,718	7,685	7,355	7,508	8,685	7,773	7,446
Rural	8,795	8,524	7,758	7,002	7,306	6,632	6,468	6,665	8,185	7,876	7,812
Violent crime											
Urban	1,422	1,331	1,174	1,090	1,155	1,080	1,049	1,141	1,507	1,491	1,492
Rural	1,994	1,944	1,731	1,454	1,490	1,414	1,389	1,493	2,056	2,104	2,058
Property crime											
Urban	4,806	4,834	4,587	4,949	4,994	5,072	4,883	4,922	5,436	4,558	4,264
Rural	4,518	4,234	3,923	3,652	3,867	3,420	3,305	3,485	4,106	3,724	3,819

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Police-reported crime rates by province, *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic), violent crime and property crime, urban and rural police services, 2011 to 2021

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	rate per 100,000 population										
All provinces											
Crime rate											
Urban	5,440	5,265	4,854	4,750	4,895	4,969	5,065	5,233	5,531	4,902	4,919
Rural	6,855	6,906	6,408	6,107	6,408	6,468	6,448	6,430	7,029	6,897	7,033
Violent crime											
Urban	1,113	1,063	974	935	958	955	995	1,035	1,134	1,102	1,159
Rural	1,716	1,757	1,604	1,504	1,549	1,606	1,622	1,656	1,906	1,975	2,040
Property crime											
Urban	3,451	3,339	3,061	3,020	3,124	3,149	3,185	3,290	3,431	2,943	2,882
Rural	3,700	3,676	3,373	3,256	3,528	3,467	3,451	3,401	3,617	3,470	3,524

1. Because of incomplete data for the Nunavik region before 2016, comparisons to previous years should be made with caution.

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp). 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 bylaws 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. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4
Crime Severity Index by province, urban and rural police services, 2021

Province	Crime Severity Index	% change 2011 to 2021	Violent Crime Severity Index	% change 2011 to 2021	Non-violent Crime Severity Index	% change 2011 to 2021
	index	percent	index	percent	index	percent
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Urban	68.7	-19	95.8	39	58.8	-35
Rural	84.3	34	99.2	81	78.7	20
Prince Edward Island						
Urban	57.6	-22	56.6	26	57.8	-31
Rural	55.7	-2	66.4	49	51.8	-15
Nova Scotia						
Urban	69.8	-17	96.6	-3	60.0	-24
Rural	75.2	7	90.8	41	69.4	-4
New Brunswick						
Urban	85.0	28	81.9	27	86.0	28
Rural	94.7	44	105.8	48	90.4	43
Quebec						
Urban	53.4	-28	79.3	-3	44.0	-38
Rural ¹	58.8	-15	100.9	65	43.4	-40
Ontario						
Urban	55.8	-9	71.3	-4	50.0	-11
Rural	60.4	-3	80.4	30	53.0	-15
Manitoba						
Urban	116.2	10	157.6	-1	101.0	17
Rural	152.8	9	242.3	40	120.3	-6
Saskatchewan						
Urban	127.8	-4	155.4	14	117.5	-10
Rural	187.0	13	249.4	58	164.2	-2
Alberta						
Urban	92.4	12	101.6	12	88.8	12
Rural	144.5	34	164.5	47	136.9	29
British Columbia						
Urban	93.1	-4	93.5	-2	92.8	-4
Rural	90.6	-8	109.4	11	83.6	-14
All provinces						
Urban	69.3	-8	85.2	0	63.4	-11
Rural	91.9	7	124.1	46	80.1	-6

1. Because of incomplete data for the Nunavik region before 2016, comparisons to previous years should be made with caution.

Note: The Crime Severity Indexes are based on *Criminal Code* incidents, including traffic offences, as well as other federal statute violations. The base index was set at 100 for 2006 for Canada. Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp). 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 bylaws 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. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5
Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected characteristics, rural and urban areas, all provinces, 2019

Selected characteristics	Rural						Urban					
	Proportion in the rural population			Proportion who were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey			Proportion in the urban population			Proportion who were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Gender												
Man†	50	47	52	4.0	2.5	6.3	49	49	50	3.4	2.8	4.1
Woman	50	48	53	4.0	2.7	5.8	51	50	51	5.3*	4.5	6.2
LGBTQ+												
Yes†	3**	2	5	9.6 ^E	3.2	25.3	4	4	5	14.7	10.2	20.8
No	93	91	95	3.5	2.5	4.8	93	92	93	3.9*	3.4	4.4
Age group (years)												
15 to 24†	12**	10	14	9.2	5.3	15.7	15	14	15	7.3	5.3	10.1
25 to 34	16	14	18	8.7	4.7	15.6	17	17	17	6.8	5.4	8.5
35 to 54	28**	26	30	3.4*	2.1	5.4	32	32	33	4.3*	3.5	5.2
55 and over	44**	42	46	1.2***	0.8	2.0	36	36	36	2.0*	1.6	2.6
Marital status												
Married†	50	47	52	1.6**	1.0	2.4	49	48	50	2.9	2.3	3.5
Common law	15**	13	17	3.9	1.9	7.9	10	9	11	4.8*	3.5	6.5
Widow	5	4	6	F	F	F	5	5	5	1.1*	0.6	2.0
Separated or divorced	7	6	8	4.6*	2.7	7.9	7	7	8	5.6*	4.2	7.2
Single	23**	21	26	9.6*	6.1	14.9	29	28	30	7.0*	5.7	8.6
Indigenous identity												
Indigenous people	6**	5	8	5.4	2.8	10.1	2	2	3	9.7 ^{E*}	6.0	15.3
First Nations	3**	3	4	2.8 ^E	1.1	7.3	1	1	1	F	F	F
Métis	3**	2	4	8.2	3.6	17.9	1	1	1	13.8 ^{E*}	7.5	24.0
Inuit	0	0	0	F	F	F	0	0	0	F	F	F
Non-Indigenous people†	93**	92	94	3.9	2.9	5.3	97	97	98	4.2	3.7	4.8
Education (highest diploma)												
Less than high school†	17**	15	19	2.3	0.9	5.4	11	10	11	3.8	2.3	6.0
High school	28**	26	31	3.5	2.1	5.8	23	22	24	5.3	4.0	7.1
College or trade school	35**	32	37	4.6	2.7	7.7	27	26	28	4.5	3.7	5.5
University	19**	17	21	5.1	2.7	9.7	38	36	39	4.0	3.3	4.8
Ability to make ends meet†												
Very easily†	23	21	26	2.2	1.2	4.0	25	24	26	2.7	2.1	3.5
Easily	54	51	56	4.9*	3.3	7.3	52	51	53	4.4*	3.7	5.3
With difficulty	21	19	23	3.9**	2.4	6.2	21	20	22	6.3*	5.1	7.8

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected characteristics, rural and urban areas, all provinces, 2019

Selected characteristics	Rural						Urban					
	Proportion in the rural population			Proportion who were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey			Proportion in the urban population			Proportion who were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey		
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Location of dwelling (North or South)												
Northern areas [†]	12**	11	14	8.0	4.3	14.3	4	3	4	5.7	3.3	9.8
Southern areas	88**	86	89	3.4	2.4	4.8	96	96	97	4.3	3.8	4.9
Living arrangement												
Living alone	14	13	16	3.1**	1.9	5.1	14	13	15	5.6*	4.5	6.9
Couple, no children [†]	34**	32	36	1.6**	0.9	2.8	22	21	23	3.0	2.3	3.8
Couple, with children	35**	33	38	4.3*	2.6	7.0	41	40	42	4.0	3.2	5.0
Lone-parent with children	7**	6	9	7.4*	4.0	13.5	12	11	13	6.8*	4.8	9.4
Non-related or other arrangements	9**	7	11	10.2*	4.3	22.3	12	11	12	4.1	2.6	6.5
Has lived in the neighbourhood for...												
Less than 5 years [†]	27**	24	29	7.2	4.4	11.5	30	29	31	5.5	4.5	6.7
5 years to less than 10 years	15**	14	17	5.1	2.3	10.8	19	18	21	5.7	4.3	7.5
10 years or more	58**	55	60	2.2*	1.5	3.3	50	49	51	3.1*	2.6	3.8
Sense of belonging to local community												
Very strong [†]	33**	31	36	3.6	1.9	6.8	19	18	20	2.9	2.1	4.0
Somewhat strong	40	37	42	3.3	2.1	5.0	40	38	41	4.3*	3.5	5.3
Weak or somewhat weak	17**	15	19	5.4	2.8	10.2	26	25	27	5.6*	4.5	6.9
No opinion	10**	8	12	5.8	2.9	11.4	15	14	16	4.2	2.9	5.9
Social disorder in the neighbourhood²												
Yes [†]	50**	47	53	6.2	4.3	8.7	57	56	59	5.7	4.9	6.6
No	50**	47	52	1.8*	1.1	3.0	42	41	44	2.6*	2.1	3.3
Physical or mental disability												
Yes [†]	38**	35	41	5.2	3.6	7.6	33	32	35	6.7	5.6	7.9
No	62**	59	65	3.2	2.0	5.1	67	65	68	3.2*	2.7	3.8
Self-rated mental health												
Excellent [†]	30**	27	32	3.2	1.5	6.8	26	25	27	2.3	1.7	3.1
Good	60	57	62	2.8	1.8	4.3	61	59	62	4.0*	3.4	4.7
Poor	10	8	12	13.9*	9.1	20.7	12	11	13	11.2*	8.9	14.1
History of childhood maltreatment												
No [†]	73	71	75	3.3	2.2	4.9	73	71	74	2.9	2.4	3.5
Yes	25	23	26	6.5*	4.2	9.9	25	24	26	8.1*	6.8	9.5

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5
Self-reported violent victimization in the 12 months preceding the survey, by selected characteristics, rural and urban areas, all provinces, 2019

Selected characteristics	Rural						Urban					
	Proportion in the rural population			Proportion who were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey			Proportion in the urban population			Proportion who were victims of a violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey		
	%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval		%	95% confidence interval	
		from	to		from	to		from	to		from	to
Ever homeless³												
Never [†]	86**	84	88	2.7**	1.8	4.0	89	89	90	3.9	3.4	4.5
Ever had to temporarily live with family, friends or elsewhere because had nowhere else to go	12**	11	14	13.4*	8.4	20.8	8	7	9	8.4*	6.6	10.6
Ever had to live in a homeless shelter, on the street or in an abandoned building	2	1	2	F	F	F	2	1	2	14.0*	7.6	24.4
Binge drinking (5 or more drinks on one occasion) in past month												
Never drinks [†]	25	23	28	2.2	1.1	4.0	27	26	28	3.4	2.6	4.6
Not in the past month	46	44	49	4.1	2.7	6.1	48	47	49	4.3	3.5	5.1
Yes	27**	24	29	5.7	3.2	9.9	22	21	24	5.9*	4.7	7.2
Non-prescribed drug use (including marijuana) in past 12 months												
No [†]	83	81	85	2.9	2.0	4.1	82	81	83	3.3	2.8	3.8
Yes	16	14	18	9.8*	5.6	16.5	16	15	17	10.0*	8.1	12.4
Number of evening activities per month												
0-9 [†]	55	52	57	2.3	1.3	4.1	52	51	53	3.4	2.8	4.1
10-19	21**	20	23	6.2*	4.0	9.5	25	24	26	4.0	3.2	5.1
20+	23	21	26	5.8*	3.4	9.9	22	21	23	7.0*	5.5	8.9
Total	100	100	100	4.0	3.0	5.3	100	100	100	4.4	3.8	4.9

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

** significantly different from urban (p < 0,05)

*** significantly different from reference category and urban (p < 0,05)

† reference category

1. Based on answers to the following question: "Thinking of your/your household's finances, are you/is your household usually able to make ends meet?".

Those who answered "With difficulty", "With great difficulty" or "No, cannot make ends meet" were grouped in the "With difficulty" category.

2. Social disorder includes noisy neighbours or loud parties, people hanging around on the streets, garbage or litter lying around, vandalism or graffiti, people attacked because of their skin colour or religion, people using or dealing drugs, people being drunk or rowdy in public places. All those who said at least one of these was a problem in their neighbourhood are included in "Yes".

3. Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Note: An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). Rural areas are all areas outside CMAs and CAs.

A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Responses of "Don't know" and "Refusal" are included in the calculation of percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Table 6
Selected police-reported crimes, rural police services, by province, 2021

Type of offence	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	rate per 100,000 population									
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic) – "Crime rate"	8,335.3	3,996.3	5,961.1	6,491.9	3,513.2	4,172.2	13,153.8	16,240.3	10,961.9	7,812.3
Total violent crime	2,032.2	1,307.7	1,804.6	2,069.4	1,672.9	1,237.2	3,831.6	3,843.3	2,459.7	2,058.0
Homicide	1.3	0.0	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.5	4.7	6.4	4.2	3.4
Other violations causing death ¹	0.9	1.7	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.7
Attempted murder	0.4	0.0	1.8	2.5	1.4	1.4	0.5	3.7	3.0	0.4
Sexual assault - level 3 - aggravated	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.1	0.4	1.5	1.0	0.4	0.0
Sexual assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.7	0.9	3.6	4.2	2.0	1.5	2.2
Sexual assault - level 1	101.8	111.4	97.0	97.7	117.5	120.0	164.6	153.0	123.8	121.4
Sexual offence occurring prior to January 4, 1983 ²	2.2	1.7	2.4	3.2	2.9	2.9	1.5	3.7	0.9	1.8
Sexual violations against children ^{3,4}	61.1	41.8	45.0	48.5	81.8	39.6	95.7	76.9	63.2	49.7
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	14.6	7.0	8.1	7.2	6.2	10.6	70.9	63.3	25.6	7.9
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	210.7	85.3	160.4	187.4	197.2	148.5	821.0	671.2	341.7	190.3
Assault - level 1	873.6	344.8	582.9	695.8	611.8	478.4	1,645.4	1,610.9	928.6	778.3
Assault against a peace officer	31.9	12.2	36.3	48.5	49.1	39.7	91.8	80.9	58.4	40.2
Other assaults	4.4	3.5	4.8	4.7	16.5	3.1	14.5	7.4	5.2	7.4
Firearms - use of, discharge, pointing	8.9	0.0	8.4	20.5	10.8	5.9	67.7	87.8	54.8	11.1
Robbery	10.2	3.5	7.5	4.3	6.1	13.7	43.3	36.0	34.2	16.1
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	9.7	3.5	8.4	7.9	12.9	10.6	21.4	20.6	21.0	9.0
Trafficking in persons ^{5,6}	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2
Extortion	9.7	19.2	18.6	7.2	26.1	5.7	12.8	17.9	16.0	23.9
Criminal harassment	59.3	87.1	146.0	192.4	117.2	109.4	35.2	112.4	123.2	72.3
Uttering threats	416.4	282.1	436.4	503.7	329.9	189.7	580.4	609.0	418.4	450.3
Indecent or harassing communications ⁷	188.1	276.9	201.8	199.3	36.3	36.6	110.2	236.9	205.0	250.9
Non-consensual distribution of intimate images ⁸	14.2	20.9	18.3	18.0	7.0	5.8	16.0	20.1	9.1	7.0
Offences in relation to sexual services ⁹	1.3	0.0	1.8	0.4	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.2	1.1
Other violent <i>Criminal Code</i> violations	10.2	5.2	12.9	16.9	36.8	9.3	26.3	21.1	19.2	12.7

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6
Selected police-reported crimes, rural police services, by province, 2021

Type of offence	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	rate per 100,000 population									
Total property crime	4,250.2	2,025.1	3,133.0	3,526.7	1,398.5	2,113.1	5,977.5	8,104.9	6,398.8	3,819.2
Breaking and entering	270.8	168.9	288.3	445.2	209.2	262.6	531.2	685.1	769.2	387.3
Possess stolen property ¹⁰	16.8	29.6	29.4	88.0	17.1	30.0	65.7	175.4	354.8	82.3
Theft of motor vehicle	78.3	76.6	123.4	251.0	102.2	130.8	337.1	530.8	558.2	235.1
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	12.4	31.3	33.0	45.6	30.8	54.7	53.1	69.5	133.6	100.4
Shoplifting of \$5,000 or under	94.7	31.3	156.8	85.8	27.8	81.3	127.0	53.1	95.9	95.8
Theft of \$5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	449.6	357.0	542.7	536.0	239.0	575.4	714.5	883.3	1,039.4	945.2
Fraud	215.5	381.3	501.8	610.3	280.5	396.2	294.5	500.6	455.2	371.9
Identity theft	21.7	36.6	16.5	67.1	54.3	2.8	4.2	13.9	30.7	6.8
Identity fraud	27.0	104.5	103.6	105.9	32.8	42.4	28.3	61.8	51.0	50.2
Mischief ¹¹	3,028.8	781.8	1,284.2	1,212.1	374.7	525.8	3,750.4	5,034.7	2,838.9	1,505.3
Arson	34.5	26.1	53.2	79.7	30.2	11.1	71.6	96.7	72.0	38.7
Total other Criminal Code offences	2,053.0	663.4	1,023.5	895.8	441.8	821.8	3,344.7	4,292.1	2,103.3	1,935.1
Weapons violations	38.1	24.4	36.3	36.6	37.0	54.7	196.3	207.9	116.8	59.9
Child pornography ^{12 13}	22.6	19.2	33.6	19.4	17.0	6.8	21.9	10.4	10.0	64.0
Prostitution ⁹	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Terrorism ¹⁴	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disturb the peace	1,136.9	287.3	371.5	294.8	30.9	148.2	1,880.9	1,172.1	696.5	1,009.4
Administration of justice violations	618.7	254.2	434.0	372.7	293.5	524.6	1,049.8	2,569.3	1,038.6	614.6
Other violations	236.8	78.4	148.1	172.0	63.0	87.0	195.8	332.4	241.4	187.2
Total Criminal Code traffic violations	639.0	729.6	602.7	609.6	380.1	320.2	1,007.7	1,470.2	762.9	671.0
Alcohol-impaired driving ¹⁵	405.4	390.1	375.4	237.7	168.5	164.4	719.6	923.3	411.0	469.5
Drug-impaired driving ¹⁶	66.8	36.6	54.4	31.6	22.1	16.7	32.7	46.6	26.8	47.2
Alcohol- and drug-impaired driving ¹⁷	72.6	67.9	64.9	31.6	11.1	17.0	114.2	119.8	69.3	24.9
Impaired driving (not specified) ¹⁷	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.2	25.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.2
Other Criminal Code traffic violations	92.5	235.1	108.1	308.4	177.2	96.3	141.2	380.5	255.8	119.3
Total drug offences	284.6	97.5	133.3	165.2	169.3	142.1	295.0	303.1	208.0	214.3

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6
Selected police-reported crimes, rural police services, by province, 2021

Type of offence	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	rate per 100,000 population									
Total other federal statute violations	85.9	26.1	60.4	36.3	189.3	48.6	64.2	94.3	82.1	171.8
Human trafficking under the <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i> ¹⁸	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.8	1.7	8.1	23.6	1.6	1.4
<i>Quarantine Act</i> ¹⁹	3.1	5.2	10.5	6.8	13.5	1.9	5.9	2.7	2.8	5.7
Other federal statutes	82.8	20.9	49.9	28.7	174.9	43.7	50.2	68.0	77.6	164.6
Total - all violations	9,344.7	4,849.6	6,757.6	7,303.0	4,251.9	4,683.1	14,520.8	18,107.9	12,014.8	8,869.4

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

2. In 2019, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey added a new violation code to collect information on "sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983." While most violations are not typically reported years after their occurrence, sexual violations may be reported by a victim long after the incident took place due to a variety of reasons. On January 4, 1983, Canadian legislation surrounding sexual offences changed considerably. To reflect these changes, the survey added the new violation code rather than collect historical offences under an existing violation code that did not reflect the state of Canadian legislation at the time of the offence.

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 telecommunications or an agreement or arrangement, making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children or youth, and the offences of parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting prohibited sexual activity, agreement or arrangement of a sexual offence against a child, and bestiality in the presence of or inciting a child (s. 160(3)). Incidents of child pornography are not included in the category of sexual violations against children.

5. Changes to the *Criminal Code*, including the introduction of new offences related to trafficking in persons were made in 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2014.

6. "Trafficking in persons" includes four specific indictable offences to address human trafficking, namely sections 279.01 (Trafficking in persons), 279.011 (Trafficking of a person under the age of eighteen years), 279.02 (Material benefit), and 279.03 (Withholding or destroying documents).

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

8. Non-consensual distribution of intimate images is an offence created in 2015 by the former Bill C-13 *Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*.

9. 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 "offences in relation to sexual services" 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.

10. Includes trafficking and the intent to traffic stolen goods. In 2011, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey updated the offences included in this violation.

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

12. Because of the complexity of cyber incidents, these 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.

13. 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* offences". 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 fall under the category of "violent crimes," and child pornography may be reported as a secondary violation.

14. Includes seven terrorism violations which were introduced mid-year in 2013, as a result of the enactment of former Bill S-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Canada Evidence Act and the Security of Information Act*. An additional terrorism violation code was introduced in late 2015, as a result of the enactment of former Bill C-51 *Anti-terrorism Act*.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Reflects new impaired driving offences as per former Bill C-46 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances) and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, which came into effect part way through 2018.

18. Includes human trafficking violations under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

19. The *Quarantine Act* is applicable to persons arriving in or departing from Canada. It provides measures for the screening, health assessment and medical examination of travellers to determine whether they have a communicable disease and to prevent the introduction and spread of such disease. The *Quarantine Act* requires any persons entering Canada—whether by air, sea or land—to quarantine (self-isolate) themselves for 14 days if they are asymptomatic to limit the introduction and spread of COVID-19. The 14-day period begins on the day the person enters Canada. With the Government of Canada's March 2020 announcement of restrictions on persons arriving in or departing from Canada, pursuant to its powers under the *Quarantine Act*, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was adjusted to add a specific *Quarantine Act* violation code.

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp). 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 bylaws 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. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 7
Selected police-reported crimes, urban police services, by province, 2021

Type of offence	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	rate per 100,000 population									
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic) – "Crime rate"	5,267.5	4,756.3	5,239.4	6,453.4	3,145.0	3,828.9	7,838.7	9,272.2	7,143.4	7,446.2
Total violent crime	1,657.6	1,200.3	1,343.7	1,558.6	1,134.5	918.7	1,615.3	1,661.7	1,301.1	1,491.5
Homicide	1.7	0.0	2.9	1.2	1.0	1.9	4.3	5.8	2.3	2.3
Other violations causing death ¹	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3
Attempted murder	0.0	0.9	5.6	1.6	2.7	2.0	0.9	3.9	0.6	1.5
Sexual assault - level 3 - aggravated	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.2
Sexual assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	1.0	0.9	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	2.5	1.6	2.3	0.9
Sexual assault - level 1	100.1	76.7	89.2	90.6	83.6	69.2	103.4	101.6	91.0	81.2
Sexual offence occurring prior to January 4, 1983 ²	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.8	1.4	0.7	0.5	1.3	0.9	0.9
Sexual violations against children ^{3 4}	31.2	28.1	30.6	26.8	35.8	16.2	34.9	45.1	33.6	27.1
Assault - level 3 - aggravated	4.7	1.9	7.4	9.2	3.5	6.7	22.2	32.4	18.1	6.8
Assault - level 2 - weapon or bodily harm	125.2	73.0	151.1	152.8	142.7	125.6	346.5	322.2	228.8	202.7
Assault - level 1	620.5	432.2	462.8	606.6	413.7	326.7	575.5	575.3	452.3	501.1
Assault against a peace officer	46.1	29.0	39.6	40.9	32.0	20.2	44.0	48.1	32.1	32.3
Other assaults	7.8	7.5	3.0	2.5	3.0	5.1	2.7	7.3	4.8	4.0
Firearms - use of, discharge, pointing	14.2	0.9	8.8	8.6	7.5	8.8	8.7	27.8	11.0	6.6
Robbery	49.9	14.0	39.9	20.5	36.6	46.5	211.7	100.9	69.6	56.9
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	7.1	6.5	10.0	8.6	11.4	6.9	7.5	11.8	8.9	7.5
Trafficking in persons ^{5 6}	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.4	0.5	1.3	0.5	2.0	0.9	0.8
Extortion	14.2	16.8	10.9	10.8	22.3	13.5	5.7	13.1	16.4	30.0
Criminal harassment	104.8	96.4	49.2	94.5	84.0	67.5	12.2	54.8	47.2	38.8
Uttering threats	445.8	213.3	282.2	335.0	207.7	146.1	194.5	200.0	175.3	304.4
Indecent or harassing communications ⁷	61.4	181.5	123.7	123.7	8.2	39.7	19.2	79.3	83.4	169.8
Non-consensual distribution of intimate images ⁸	14.6	9.4	8.0	8.0	6.0	4.8	4.6	9.4	7.1	4.7
Offences in relation to sexual services ⁹	0.0	0.0	0.8	3.5	3.9	0.8	4.8	3.4	2.4	1.5
Other violent <i>Criminal Code</i> violations	5.8	10.3	11.7	8.8	25.3	6.8	8.1	13.6	11.4	9.4

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7
Selected police-reported crimes, urban police services, by province, 2021

Type of offence	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	rate per 100,000 population									
Total property crime	2,678.4	2,813.2	3,079.9	3,659.5	1,654.9	2,375.2	5,098.1	5,030.6	4,184.7	4,263.7
Breaking and entering	302.6	213.3	238.8	462.8	186.9	247.8	661.4	741.7	504.2	420.8
Possess stolen property ¹⁰	11.9	33.7	24.4	67.9	17.2	31.7	72.1	105.2	112.2	71.5
Theft of motor vehicle	90.9	58.9	95.4	189.0	171.2	191.2	351.4	392.9	366.5	201.3
Theft over \$5,000 (non- motor vehicle)	57.7	24.3	31.9	60.9	34.6	42.0	40.1	48.5	79.9	96.9
Shoplifting of \$5,000 or under	408.5	277.9	327.0	233.8	115.2	230.4	360.6	345.0	484.4	471.5
Theft of \$5,000 or under (non-motor vehicle)	539.1	834.5	1,214.6	1,007.6	457.1	864.9	1,316.9	1,402.6	1,193.3	1,413.3
Fraud	351.5	488.4	400.4	511.5	276.1	341.9	449.3	438.6	434.7	392.4
Identity theft	2.7	11.2	13.2	42.1	40.9	8.7	9.6	14.2	16.1	10.3
Identity fraud	8.8	71.1	36.7	43.1	92.2	55.7	27.7	61.7	51.2	76.3
Mischief ¹¹	891.9	786.8	674.4	1,016.2	241.8	350.4	1,748.4	1,406.0	913.2	1,066.9
Arson	12.9	13.1	23.1	24.7	21.8	10.6	60.4	74.0	28.8	42.6
Total other <i>Criminal</i> Code offences	931.6	742.8	815.8	1,235.4	355.6	535.0	1,125.3	2,579.9	1,657.6	1,691.0
Weapons violations	40.0	10.3	39.4	37.8	17.2	32.9	109.0	169.8	64.9	92.2
Child pornography ^{12 13}	49.9	42.1	47.3	52.2	22.8	20.7	48.5	13.9	9.1	94.2
Prostitution ⁹	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Terrorism ¹⁴	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Disturb the peace	146.2	306.9	80.3	380.2	3.2	30.1	301.8	273.6	253.4	968.5
Administration of justice violations	573.3	286.3	559.7	618.0	264.2	401.4	607.4	2,003.2	1,240.0	401.2
Other violations	122.1	97.3	86.9	146.8	48.1	49.7	58.6	119.3	90.1	134.6
Total <i>Criminal</i> Code traffic violations	354.5	623.1	289.0	366.9	311.4	174.5	157.3	500.1	223.6	350.8
Alcohol-impaired driving ¹⁵	159.8	398.5	160.1	189.2	86.5	68.5	84.5	203.5	93.0	198.2
Drug-impaired driving ¹⁶	46.8	66.4	18.8	24.7	15.8	13.1	5.9	27.1	15.1	35.5
Alcohol- and drug- impaired driving ¹⁷	36.3	22.5	14.7	15.9	5.6	7.1	17.3	35.8	9.9	8.2
Impaired driving (not specified) ¹⁷	41.4	0.0	17.8	2.0	0.5	9.7	0.5	2.0	0.3	7.6
Other <i>Criminal</i> Code traffic violations	70.2	135.7	77.7	135.2	203.1	76.1	49.0	231.8	105.4	101.3
Total drug offences	84.5	64.6	77.5	153.8	167.1	93.3	100.6	158.4	133.6	358.3

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 7
Selected police-reported crimes, urban police services, by province, 2021

Type of offence	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	rate per 100,000 population									
Total other federal statute violations	15.6	15.9	41.0	78.5	24.8	21.5	31.0	71.9	34.9	96.8
Human trafficking under the <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i> ¹⁸	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.0
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	1.4	0.0	2.4	4.1	2.0	1.0	4.5	31.9	2.7	2.3
<i>Quarantine Act</i> ¹⁹	0.0	2.8	1.5	5.1	8.8	4.0	0.9	0.9	0.6	12.7
Other federal statutes	14.2	13.1	33.4	69.3	13.9	15.5	25.5	38.6	31.4	81.8
Total - all violations	5,722.1	5,459.8	5,647.0	7,052.6	3,648.3	4,118.2	8,127.6	10,002.7	7,535.5	8,252.1

1. Includes, for example, criminal negligence causing death.
2. In 2019, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey added a new violation code to collect information on “sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983.” While most violations are not typically reported years after their occurrence, sexual violations may be reported by a victim long after the incident took place due to a variety of reasons. On January 4, 1983, Canadian legislation surrounding sexual offences changed considerably. To reflect these changes, the survey added the new violation code rather than collect historical offences under an existing violation code that did not reflect the state of Canadian legislation at the time of the offence.
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 telecommunications or an agreement or arrangement, making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children or youth, and the offences of parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting prohibited sexual activity, agreement or arrangement of a sexual offence against a child, and bestiality in the presence of or inciting a child (s. 160(3)). Incidents of child pornography are not included in the category of sexual violations against children.
5. Changes to the *Criminal Code*, including the introduction of new offences related to trafficking in persons were made in 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2014.
6. “Trafficking in persons” includes four specific indictable offences to address human trafficking, namely sections 279.01 (Trafficking in persons), 279.011 (Trafficking of a person under the age of eighteen years), 279.02 (Material benefit), and 279.03 (Withholding or destroying documents).
7. This offence was amended in 2015 in the former Bill C-13 “*Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*” to include all means of telecommunication, not only phone calls.
8. Non-consensual distribution of intimate images is an offence created in 2015 by the former Bill C-13 *Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*.
9. 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 “offences in relation to sexual services” 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.
10. Includes trafficking and the intent to traffic stolen goods. In 2011, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey updated the offences included in this violation.
11. Includes altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number.
12. Because of the complexity of cyber incidents, these 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.
13. 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* offences”. 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 fall under the category of “violent crimes,” and child pornography may be reported as a secondary violation.
14. Includes seven terrorism violations which were introduced mid-year in 2013, as a result of the enactment of former Bill S-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Canada Evidence Act and the Security of Information Act*. An additional terrorism violation code was introduced in late 2015, as a result of the enactment of former Bill C-51 *Anti-terrorism Act*.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Reflects new impaired driving offences as per former Bill C-46 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances) and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, which came into effect part way through 2018.
18. Includes human trafficking violations under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.
19. The *Quarantine Act* is applicable to persons arriving in or departing from Canada. It provides measures for the screening, health assessment and medical examination of travellers to determine whether they have a communicable disease and to prevent the introduction and spread of such disease. The *Quarantine Act* requires any persons entering Canada—whether by air, sea or land—to quarantine (self-isolate) themselves for 14 days if they are asymptomatic to limit the introduction and spread of COVID-19. The 14-day period begins on the day the person enters Canada. With the Government of Canada’s March 2020 announcement of restrictions on persons arriving in or departing from Canada, pursuant to its powers under the *Quarantine Act*, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was adjusted to add a specific *Quarantine Act* violation code.

Note: Urban police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Rural police services serve an area where the majority of the population lives outside a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is comprised of one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Excludes data from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Canadian Forces Military Police Group (CF MP Gp). 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 bylaws 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. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 8
Perceptions of police performance, by area of residence, all provinces, 2019

Province	Proportion of people who believe the local police are doing a good job of															Proportion of the population who have a great deal of confidence in the police					
	Enforcing the laws			Promptly responding to calls			Being approachable and easy to talk to			Providing information on ways to prevent crime			Ensuring safety of citizens			Treating people fairly					
	95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
Newfoundland and Labrador																					
Rural	50*	44	57	38	32	44	68*	62	74	51	44	58	64*	57	70	62*	56	68	58*	51	64
Urban†	39	35	44	36	31	41	55	50	60	45	40	50	44	38	49	47	42	52	42	38	47
Prince Edward Island																					
Rural	61	53	69	53	44	61	65	57	73	49	40	58	67	59	74	63	55	70	61	52	68
Urban†	61	54	68	57	50	64	67	60	73	53	45	60	60	53	66	60	53	67	58	50	65
Nova Scotia																					
Rural	46	39	54	42	34	50	59	51	66	40	32	48	52*	44	60	51*	43	59	43	35	51
Urban†	42	37	47	47	42	51	51	46	56	35	31	40	42	37	46	35	31	40	41	36	45
New Brunswick																					
Rural	39*	33	46	37*	31	44	49*	42	55	33*	27	39	40*	34	46	49	43	56	39*	33	46
Urban†	50	46	55	47	42	51	58	54	63	40	36	45	50	46	55	50	45	54	48	44	52
Quebec																					
Rural	64	58	70	54	48	59	52	47	58	48*	42	54	58	52	64	58*	52	64	48	42	54
Urban†	59	56	61	48	45	51	46	43	49	39	37	42	53	50	56	46	43	49	42	39	45
Ontario																					
Rural	50*	44	56	44*	38	50	58*	52	64	42*	37	48	48*	42	54	47*	41	52	45	39	51
Urban†	41	39	43	37	35	39	45	43	47	33	31	35	39	37	41	35	33	37	40	38	42
Manitoba																					
Rural	45*	38	52	38*	31	45	67*	60	72	43	36	50	46*	39	53	57*	50	64	40	33	47
Urban†	35	31	39	29	25	33	44	40	48	35	31	40	33	30	37	33	30	37	32	29	36
Saskatchewan																					
Rural	50	42	58	37	30	45	69*	61	76	52*	44	60	56*	48	64	60*	52	67	44	37	51
Urban†	44	40	48	35	31	39	55	51	59	40	36	44	43	39	47	45	41	49	47	43	52
Alberta																					
Rural	48	42	54	36	31	42	64*	57	70	48	42	53	51*	45	57	55*	49	60	41	35	47
Urban†	43	39	46	34	31	38	54	50	57	41	38	45	44	41	48	44	40	47	41	38	45
British Columbia																					
Rural	44	35	53	36	28	46	64*	56	72	31	23	40	49*	40	58	49*	40	58	38	30	47
Urban†	41	38	44	38	35	41	47	44	50	33	31	36	39	36	42	39	36	42	39	36	42

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 8
Perceptions of police performance, by area of residence, all provinces, 2019

Province	Proportion of people who believe the local police are doing a good job of															Proportion of the population who have a great deal of confidence in the police					
	Enforcing the laws			Promptly responding to calls			Being approachable and easy to talk to			Providing information on ways to prevent crime			Ensuring safety of citizens			Treating people fairly			95% confidence interval		
	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to	%	from	to
All provinces																					
Rural	52*	49	55	43*	41	46	59*	56	62	44*	41	47	52*	50	55	53*	51	56	45*	42	47
Urban†	45	44	46	39	38	40	47	46	48	36	35	37	43	42	44	39	38	41	40	39	42

* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† reference category

Note: An urban area is defined as a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). Rural areas are all areas outside CMAs and CAs. A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA or CA may have more than one police service. Responses of "Don't know" and "Refusal" are included in the calculation of percentages.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.