

POLICE-REPORTED CRIME

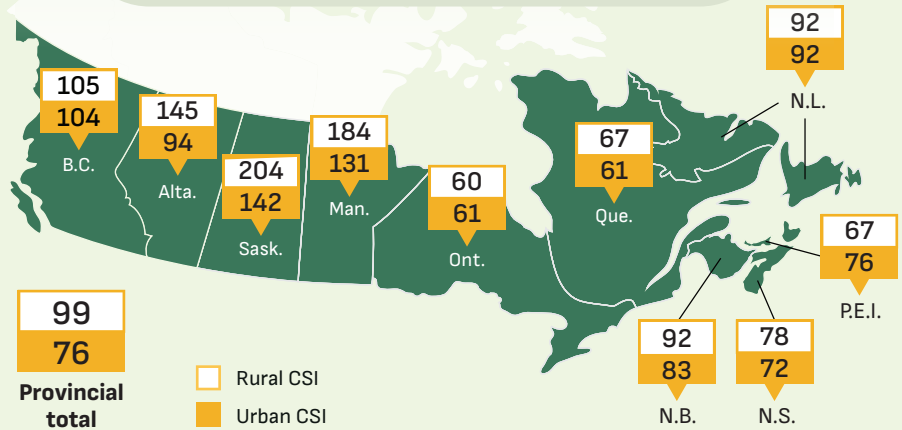
in rural areas of the Canadian provinces, 2023

In 2023, rural areas accounted for 15% of the population of the provinces and 19% of all crimes reported to police.



The police-reported crime rate was 34% higher in rural areas than in urban areas, continuing a trend that has been observed for over a decade.

The Crime Severity Index (CSI), which measures the volume and severity of police-reported crime, is generally higher in rural areas



The differences between the rural and urban crime rates were mainly because of higher rates in the northern parts of the provinces



Rural crime rate

7,317
incidents
per 100,000
population

Rural North crime rate:
17,546 per 100,000 population
Rural South crime rate:
5,379 per 100,000 population



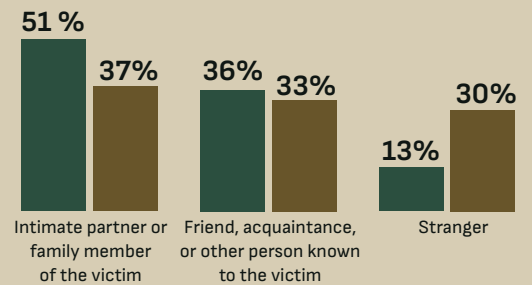
Urban crime rate

5,440
incidents
per 100,000
population



In 2023, 51% of all police-reported violent crime in rural areas was perpetrated by an intimate partner or family member of the victim

■ Rural areas ■ Urban areas



Persons accused of violent crime in rural areas were generally older than those in urban areas

Rural areas

Age group with the highest rate of persons accused:
25 to 44 years (2,616 persons accused per 100,000 population aged 25 to 44)

Peak rate: **age 27**
(3,342 persons accused for every 100,000 27-year-olds)

Urban areas

Age group with the highest rate of persons accused:
12 to 17 years (1,287 persons accused per 100,000 population aged 12 to 17)

Peak rate: **age 15**
(1,641 persons accused for every 100,000 15-year-olds)

Source: Cotter, A., 2025, "Characteristics of police-reported crime in rural areas in the Canadian provinces, 2023," *Juristat*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

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