



FACT SHEET CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 2005

- According to the annual *Juristat* released on July 20, 2006, by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Canada's police-reported crime rate fell by 5% in 2005 to 7,761 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population.¹
- The Saskatchewan crime rate also declined by 6% to 14,320 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population.
- There were 142,354 *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic) in Saskatchewan in 2005. Violent crime accounted for 14% of the incidents reported. Property crimes accounted for 38%, while “other” *Criminal Code* incidents accounted for 48%. The “other” category includes offences such as mischief, disturbing the peace and bail violations.
- Declines in crime rates were reported in all provinces and territories in 2005. The largest drops were reported in Nunavut (-11%), Manitoba (-8%), New Brunswick (-8%) and Saskatchewan (-6%). The smallest declines were reported in PEI (-3%) and the Northwest Territories (-2%).
- Among the provinces, Ontario had the lowest crime rate, followed by Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador. Saskatchewan had the highest provincial *Criminal Code* crime rate, followed by BC and Manitoba.
- Violent crime in Saskatchewan declined by 2% in 2005. Common assault accounted for almost 4 in 5 assaults, and more than 3 in 5 violent offences in Saskatchewan in 2005. Sexual assaults accounted for 7% of all violent crimes; robberies accounted for 6%. Robbery was up by 50 incidents in 2005, an increase of 4%; while there were 14 more sexual assaults, a 1% increase.
- Based on victimization data from 2003, 2 out of 3 victims of violent crime in Saskatchewan know their assailant. About 1 in 4 are victimized by family members, while 4 in 10 are victimized by friends and acquaintances. 1 in 3 is victimized by strangers. Females are far more likely to be victimized by someone they know (4 in 5).
- There were 43 homicides in Saskatchewan in 2005 compared to 39 in the previous year.
- Property crime fell 12% in Saskatchewan in 2005. All major types of property crime were down. Break and enters fell 14%, motor vehicle thefts down 17%, other theft fell 8%, and frauds were down 20%.
- The 1% decline in the “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate was mainly the result of a 59% drop in counterfeiting. Mischief (property damage) offences rose 10% and disturbing the peace offences increased by 2%.

¹ The police-reported crime rate refers to the number of *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding *Criminal Code* traffic incidents) reported to the police per 100,000 population. These data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Incidents are categorized according to the most serious offence in the incident, generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*. In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented.

*Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs):*²

- The Regina CMA crime rate fell by 15% and the Saskatoon CMA rate was down 4%. The 2005 Regina CMA crime rate was 13,194 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population and the Saskatoon rate was 13,236.
- Among the 27 CMAs in Canada, the lowest crime rates were reported in Saguenay, Quebec and Trois-Rivieres. Saskatoon had the highest CMA rate, followed by Regina and Abbotsford.
- The Saskatoon CMA reported an 18% increase in the rate of robbery, a 17% decrease in break and enters and a 7% decrease in motor vehicle thefts.
- The Regina CMA reported a 7% decrease in the rate of robbery, an 18% decrease in break and enters and a 21% decrease in motor vehicle thefts.
- The Regina CMA recorded 8 homicides in 2005, down from 10 in 2004. An average of 6.9 homicides were reported in the Regina CMA each year between 1996 and 2005.
- The Saskatoon CMA recorded 9 homicides in 2005, up from 8 in 2004. The ten-year average for the Saskatoon CMA was 6.4 homicides per year.

*Youth Crime:*³

- The 2005 national youth crime rate dropped 6% to 6,603 youth charged and youth cleared otherwise per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The rate of youths charged by police dropped 6% and the rate of youths cleared by means other than a formal charge declined 7%.
- The Saskatchewan youth crime rate decreased 2% to 18,563 youth charged and cleared otherwise per 100,000 youth. The rate of youth charged fell by 10%, while the rate of youth cleared by other means increased by 6%.
- Among the provinces, the lowest youth crime rates were in Quebec, followed by Ontario. Saskatchewan had the highest youth crime rate, followed by Manitoba and Nova Scotia.
- The Saskatchewan youth property crime decreased by 14% and the youth violent crime rate remained relatively stable (-0.6%), while the youth “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate increased by 8%.
- There were eleven homicides by youths in Saskatchewan in 2005 compared to one in the previous year. The ten-year average was 3.8 youth homicides per year.

² A CMA is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a census metropolitan area, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.

³ *The Youth Criminal Justice Act*, implemented in 2003, requires that police consider extrajudicial measures, or alternatives to charging, for youth accused of committing less serious offences. The 2005 youth crime rate refers to the combined rate of youth charged and youth cleared by other means (e.g., through extrajudicial measures that include police taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs).