

## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 2006**

- According to the annual *Juristat* released on July 18, 2007 by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Canada's police-reported crime rate fell by 3% in 2006 to 7,518 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population.<sup>1</sup>
- The Saskatchewan crime rate declined by 4% to 13,711 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population.
- There were 135,104 *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic) in Saskatchewan in 2006. Violent crime accounted for 15% of the incidents reported. Property crimes accounted for 35%, while “other” *Criminal Code* incidents accounted for 50%. The bulk of offences in the “other” category (79%) were mischief, disturbing the peace and administration of justice offences.<sup>2</sup>
- Declines in crime rates were reported in all provinces and territories in 2006. Among the provinces, the largest decreases were in Prince Edward Island (-11%), Alberta (-6), New Brunswick and British Columbia (both at -5%), and Saskatchewan (-4%).
- Among the provinces, Ontario continued to have the lowest crime rate, followed by Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador. Saskatchewan had the highest provincial rate, followed by Manitoba and British Columbia.
- Violent crime in Saskatchewan increased 2% in 2006. Common assault accounted for about 3 in 4 assaults, and 3 in 5 violent offences in Saskatchewan in 2006. Sexual assaults accounted for 6% of all violent crimes; robberies accounted for 7%. Robbery was up by 223 incidents in 2006, an increase of 18%; while there were 101 fewer sexual assaults, a 7% decrease.
- About 2 out of 3 victims of violent crime in Saskatchewan know their assailant. One in 4 is victimized by a family member, while 4 in 10 are victimized by friends and acquaintances. One in 3 is victimized by a stranger. Females are far more likely to be victimized by someone they know (4 in 5).
- There were 40 homicides in Saskatchewan in 2006 compared to 43 in the previous year.
- Property crime fell 13% in 2006 to its lowest level in more than 25 years. Break and enters fell 18%, other theft declined 14%, and frauds were down 17%. Motor vehicle thefts were up slightly, showing a 3% increase.
- The Saskatchewan “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate increased by 3%. This was mainly the result of a 5% increase in mischief (property damage) coupled with a 6% increase in administration of justice offences.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> These include offences such as bail violations, failure to appear in court, failure to comply with a condition of undertaking or recognizance, a summons or an appearance notice, and escaping custody.

*Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs):*<sup>3</sup>

- The Regina CMA crime rate fell by 8% and the Saskatoon CMA rate was down 9%. The 2006 Regina CMA crime rate was 12,415 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population and the Saskatoon rate was 12,209.
- Among the 27 CMAs in Canada, the lowest crime rates were reported in Québec, Trois Rivières and Saguenay. Regina had the highest CMA rate, closely followed by Saskatoon, Abbotsford, Winnipeg and Vancouver.
- The Saskatoon CMA reported a 7% increase in the rate of robbery alongside a 23% decrease in break and enters and a 6% increase in motor vehicle thefts.
- The Regina CMA reported a 33% increase in the rate of robbery, a 16% decrease in break and enters and a 7% decrease in motor vehicle thefts.
- The Saskatoon CMA recorded 8 homicides in 2006, down from 9 in 2005. The Regina CMA recorded 9 homicides in 2006, up from 8 the year before.

*Youth Crime:*<sup>4</sup>

- In 2006, the national youth crime rate increased 3% to 6,885 youth charged and youth cleared otherwise per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The rate of youths charged by police dropped 1% and the rate of youths cleared by means other than a formal charge rose 6%.
- The Saskatchewan youth crime rate increased 7% to 19,939 youth charged and cleared otherwise per 100,000 youth. The rate of youth charged fell by 2%, while the rate of youth cleared by other means increased by 16%.
- 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 youth property crime rate for Saskatchewan decreased 7%, while the youth violent crime rate rose 10% and the youth “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate increased by 16%.
- Three youths were charged with homicide in Saskatchewan in 2006 compared to 14 in the previous year.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> *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 2006 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).