



**Ministry of  
Justice and  
Attorney General**

**FACT SHEET  
CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 2007**

- According to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics *Juristat* that was released on July 17, 2008, Canada's police-reported crime rate declined by 7% in 2007 to 6,984 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population.<sup>1</sup>
- The Saskatchewan crime rate fell by 4% to 13,225 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Saskatchewan rate has fallen.
- There were 131,838 *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic) in Saskatchewan in 2007. Violent crime accounted for 15% of the incidents reported. Property crimes accounted for 33%, while “other” *Criminal Code* incidents accounted for 52%. The bulk of offences in the “other” category (79%) were mischief, disturbing the peace and bail violations (including failure to appear/comply with a court order).
- Crime rates fell in all provinces and territories except Newfoundland and Labrador (3%), Yukon (3%) and the Northwest Territories (6%). Among the provinces, the largest decreases were in Prince Edward Island (-12%), Quebec (-10%) and Ontario (-9%).
- Among the provinces, Ontario continued to have the lowest crime rate, followed by Quebec and New Brunswick. Saskatchewan had the highest provincial rate for the tenth consecutive year. It was followed by Manitoba and British Columbia.
- Violent crime in Saskatchewan was stable in 2007. Common assault accounted for about three quarters of all assaults, and three in five violent offences in Saskatchewan in 2007. Sexual assaults accounted for 6% of all violent crimes; robberies for 7%. The robbery rate was down 6% in 2007, while the sexual assault rate declined by 2%.
- 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 30 homicides in Saskatchewan in 2007 compared to 42 in the previous year.
- The property crime rate fell 10% to its lowest level in over 30 years. Break and enters were down 7% in 2007 and thefts declined by 11%, while motor vehicle thefts fell 12%.
- The Saskatchewan “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate was stable in 2007. This was mainly the result of a 10% decrease in bail violations (including failure to appear/comply with a court order) and a 57% decrease in counterfeiting currency incidents that were offset by increases in mischief (5%) and disturbing the peace incidents (3%).

<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. National-level crime data were first gathered in 1962, provincial-level data are available for the period from 1977 forward.

### *Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs):*<sup>2</sup>

- The Regina CMA crime rate declined by 6% and the Saskatoon CMA rate was down 5%. The 2007 Regina CMA crime rate was 11,827 *Criminal Code* incidents per 100,000 population and the Saskatoon rate was 11,560.
- Among the 27 CMAs in Canada, the lowest crime rates were reported in Saguenay, Toronto, Trois Rivières and Québec. Regina had the highest CMA rate, followed by Saskatoon, Abbotsford, Winnipeg and Edmonton.
- The Saskatoon CMA recorded 9 homicides in 2007, unchanged from 2006. The Regina CMA recorded 5 homicides in 2007, down from 11 the year before.
- The Regina CMA violent crime rate declined by 5% and property crimes were down 10%, while the “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate was stable. Although break and enters were up 8%, motor vehicle thefts fell sharply (-27%).
- The Saskatoon CMA violent crime rate was stable and the “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate was up slightly (1%), while the property crime rate fell 14%. Although the rate of motor vehicle thefts rose 6%, break and enters declined by 23%.

### *Youth Crime:*<sup>3</sup>

- In 2007, the national youth crime rate declined 2% to 6,811 youth charged and youth cleared otherwise per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The rate of youths formally charged by police rose 2%, while the rate of youths cleared by means other than a formal charge dropped 4%.
- The Saskatchewan youth crime rate increased 2% to 20,371 youth charged and cleared otherwise per 100,000 youth. The rate of youth charged increased by 8%, while the rate of youth cleared by other means was down by 2%.
- Among the provinces, the lowest youth crime rates were in Quebec, followed by BC and Ontario. Saskatchewan had the highest youth crime rate, followed by Manitoba and Nova Scotia.
- The Saskatchewan youth violent crime rate was up 7% and the youth “other” *Criminal Code* crime rate increased by 6%, while the youth property crime rate declined 6%.
- Sixteen youths were accused of homicide in Saskatchewan in 2007 compared to 4 in the previous year and 14 two years earlier.

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<sup>2</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>3</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 youth crime rate thus refers to the combined rate of youth charged and youth cleared by other means per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. Being cleared by other means includes police taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and referrals to extrajudicial sanctions programs.