



REGIONAL PROFILE 2008

COMOX VALLEY REGION

REGIONAL POLICING

- Comox Valley Region is policed by an RCMP detachment located in Courtenay. The RCMP provides municipal police services to the City of Courtenay and the Town of Comox while the RCMP Provincial Force polices the region's unincorporated or rural areas.
- In 2008, there were 59 RCMP members assigned to police the region: 40 members directly policed the City of Courtenay and the Town of Comox while 19 were responsible for policing the region's unincorporated areas.
- A case load of 91 Criminal Code offences per member was recorded for Comox Valley Region in 2008. This was 14% lower than the member workload of 106 recorded in 2007. The region's 2008 case load was higher than the provincial case load of 67.
- In 2008, the total population of the region was 63,281; the population served per member was 1,073.

REGIONAL CRIME TRENDS

- Police in BC record criminal activity using Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Criminal Code offences are used in police workload and crime rate calculations. They include violent, property, and other Criminal Code crimes.
- In 2008, 5,391 Criminal Code offences were recorded within the region. This was a 9% decrease from the 5,929 recorded in 2007.
- In 2008, Comox Valley recorded a crime rate of 85, lower than the provincial crime rate of 96, and 11% lower than the region's 2007 crime rate of 96 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 504 violent crimes were reported by police, a 1% decrease from the 509 recorded in 2007. The 2008 Comox Valley violent crime rate was 8.0 violent crimes per 1,000 population, a 4% decrease from the 2007 rate of 8.3. The region's 2008 violent crime rate was lower than the provincial violent crime rate of 11.4 violent offences per 1,000 population.
- The volume of Level 1 Assaults (common assault) is the major driver of the violent crime rate. In 2008, 373 common assaults were reported within the region, a 2% rise from the 367 reported in 2007. The 2008 Comox Valley common assault rate was 5.9 offences per 1,000 population, a 2% decrease from the 2007 rate of 6.0. The region's 2008 common assault rate was lower than the provincial common assault rate of 6.7 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 2,164 property crimes were recorded within the region, a 11% decrease from the 2,433 reported in 2007. The 2008 Comox Valley property crime rate was 34 property crimes per 1,000 population, a 13% decrease from the 2007 rate of 39. The region's 2008 property crime rate was lower than the provincial property crime rate of 45 property offences per 1,000 population.



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REGIONAL CRIME TRENDS Cont'd

- Motor vehicle theft includes the theft or attempted theft of automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and other motorized vehicles. In 2008, 186 motor vehicle thefts were reported within the region, a 13% decrease from the 215 reported in 2007. The 2008 Comox Valley motor vehicle theft rate was 2.9 offences per 1,000 population, a 17% decrease from the 2007 rate of 3.5. The region's 2008 motor vehicle theft rate was lower than the provincial motor vehicle theft rate of 5.2 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 2,723 other crimes were reported within the region, a 9% decrease from the 2,987 reported in 2007. The 2008 Comox Valley other crime rate was 43 other crimes per 1,000 population, a 10% decrease from the 2007 rate of 48. The region's 2008 other crime rate was higher than the provincial other crime rate of 39 other offences per 1,000 population.
- Not included in crime rate and case load calculations are drug crimes which include heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and other CSDA drug offences. In 2008, 386 drug crimes were reported within the region, a 13% decrease from the 443 reported in 2007. The 2008 Comox Valley drug crime rate was 6.1 offences per 1,000 population, a 15% decrease from the 2007 rate of 7.2. The region's 2008 drug crime rate was slightly lower than the provincial drug crime rate of 6.3 offences per 1,000 population.

REGIONAL POPULATION

- In 2008, Census estimates indicated that the population for the region was 63,281, a 3% increase from the 2007 population of 61,668.
- Over the past ten years, the population for the region increased 9%, from 58,068 in 1999 to 63,281 in 2008.



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COMOX VALLEY REGION DATA TABLES

REGION SUMMARY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	58,068	57,643	57,191	57,708	58,738	59,635	61,075	60,396	61,668	63,281
Police Strength	51	51	51	50	51	53	55	55	56	59
Case Load	125	127	131	149	154	137	119	99	106	91
Population Served Per Member	1,139	1,130	1,121	1,154	1,152	1,125	1,110	1,098	1,101	1,073
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	613	565	616	641	701	656	738	550	509	504
Crime Rate	10.6	9.8	10.8	11.1	11.9	11.0	12.1	9.1	8.3	8.0
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	2,880	2,979	2,820	3,098	3,188	2,994	2,964	2,411	2,433	2,164
Crime Rate	50	52	49	54	54	50	49	40	39	34
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	2,864	2,936	3,249	3,702	3,949	3,609	2,818	2,468	2,987	2,723
Crime Rate	49	51	57	64	67	61	46	41	48	43
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	6,357	6,480	6,685	7,441	7,838	7,259	6,520	5,429	5,929	5,391
CRIME RATE	109	112	117	129	133	122	107	90	96	85
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	189	203	325	275	398	465	368	552	443	386
Crime Rate	3.3	3.5	5.7	4.8	6.8	7.8	6.0	9.1	7.2	6.1
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	433	439	495	485	556	479	582	443	367	373
Crime Rate	7.5	7.6	8.7	8.4	9.5	8.0	9.5	7.3	6.0	5.9
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	123	121	117	169	205	166	201	182	215	186
Crime Rate	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.9	3.5	2.8	3.3	3.0	3.5	2.9
TOWN OF COMOX	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	11,695	11,660	11,660	11,766	11,995	12,241	12,592	12,281	12,616	13,161
Police Strength	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	11	12
Case Load	74	86	89	112	94	81	72	56	74	68
Population Served Per Member	1,299	1,296	1,296	1,307	1,333	1,224	1,259	1,228	1,147	1,135
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	47	64	70	63	68	77	69	48	50	65
Crime Rate	4.0	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.7	6.3	5.5	3.9	4.0	4.9
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	252	306	290	406	298	282	297	215	333	317
Crime Rate	22	26	25	35	25	23	24	18	26	24
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	367	408	445	536	480	451	349	300	427	412
Crime Rate	31	35	38	46	40	37	28	24	34	31
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	666	778	805	1,005	846	810	715	563	810	794
CRIME RATE	57	67	69	85	71	66	57	46	64	60
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	8	9	22	26	37	40	33	34	33	31
Crime Rate	0.7	0.8	1.9	2.2	3.1	3.3	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.4
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	33	50	56	47	51	45	55	40	43	47
Crime Rate	2.8	4.3	4.8	4.0	4.3	3.7	4.4	3.3	3.4	3.6
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	9	13	4	21	14	18	17	20	14	27
Crime Rate	0.8	1.1	0.3	1.8	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.1	2.1

COMOX VALLEY REGION DATA TABLES

AREA POLICED AS COMOX VALLEY PROV	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	27,449	26,984	26,428	26,529	25,995	26,073	26,414	25,634	25,752	26,249
Police Strength	17	17	17	17	17	18	19	19	19	19
Case Load	118	112	118	113	125	118	96	77	75	72
Population Served Per Member	1,615	1,587	1,555	1,561	1,529	1,449	1,390	1,349	1,355	1,382
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	197	170	205	167	191	185	194	160	128	124
Crime Rate	7.2	6.3	7.8	6.3	7.3	7.1	7.3	6.2	5.0	4.7
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	895	902	770	778	894	953	903	662	610	566
Crime Rate	33	33	29	29	34	37	34	26	24	22
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	918	837	1,024	978	1,036	992	718	644	694	670
Crime Rate	33	31	39	37	40	38	27	25	27	26
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	2,010	1,909	1,999	1,923	2,121	2,130	1,815	1,466	1,432	1,360
CRIME RATE	73	71	76	72	82	82	69	57	56	52
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	76	85	118	100	132	143	112	178	131	119
Crime Rate	2.8	3.2	4.5	3.8	5.1	5.5	4.2	6.9	5.1	4.5
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	139	128	165	127	146	146	157	128	97	96
Crime Rate	5.1	4.7	6.2	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.9	5.0	3.8	3.7
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	38	48	54	46	61	55	59	53	79	71
Crime Rate	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.7	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.1	3.1	2.7
CITY OF COURTENAY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	18,924	18,999	19,103	19,413	20,748	21,321	22,069	22,481	23,300	23,871
Police Strength	25	25	25	24	25	25	26	26	26	28
Case Load	147	152	155	188	195	173	153	131	142	114
Population Served Per Member	757	760	764	809	830	853	849	865	896	841
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	369	331	341	411	442	394	475	342	331	315
Crime Rate	19.5	17.4	17.9	21.2	21.3	18.5	21.5	15.2	14.2	13.2
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,733	1,771	1,760	1,914	1,996	1,759	1,764	1,534	1,490	1,281
Crime Rate	92	93	92	99	96	83	80	68	64	54
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,579	1,691	1,780	2,188	2,433	2,166	1,751	1,524	1,866	1,641
Crime Rate	83	89	93	113	117	102	79	68	80	69
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	3,681	3,793	3,881	4,513	4,871	4,319	3,990	3,400	3,687	3,237
CRIME RATE	195	200	203	232	235	203	181	151	158	136
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	105	109	185	149	229	282	223	340	279	236
Crime Rate	5.5	5.7	9.7	7.7	11.0	13.2	10.1	15.1	12.0	9.9
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	261	261	274	311	359	288	370	275	227	230
Crime Rate	13.8	13.7	14.3	16.0	17.3	13.5	16.8	12.2	9.7	9.6
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	76	60	59	102	130	93	125	109	122	88
Crime Rate	4.0	3.2	3.1	5.3	6.3	4.4	5.7	4.8	5.2	3.7



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ENDNOTES

- 1 Drug crimes include heroin, cocaine, cannabis and other CDSA drug offences. These data are not included in Total Criminal Code offences.
- 2 Motor Vehicle Theft includes four UCR crime categories: Auto Theft, Truck Theft, Motorcycle Theft, and Other Motor Vehicle Theft, e.g. snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, motorized farming and industrial vehicles. Motor Vehicle Theft is included in Property Crimes.

DATA QUALIFIERS

1. Police strengths represent an areas authorized police strength as of December 31st of each calendar year as submitted annually to Police Services Division.
2. Case burdens are defined as the number of Criminal Code offences per authorized police strength. They represent the workload per officer, and as a result, are a better indicator of the demand for police services that either an area's population base or its crime rate. The total number of Criminal Code offences and the authorized police strength as of December 31st of each calendar year are used for case burden calculations.
3. Total Criminal Code includes property, violent and other crimes. Property crimes include the offences of break and enter, theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property and fraud. Violent crimes include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, abduction and robbery. Other crimes include Criminal Code offences not classified as either violent or property crimes, e.g., prostitution, gaming & betting, weapons, bail violations, counterfeit currency, vandalism, etc.
4. The crime data contained in this report have been recorded by the police on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR). Offences are scored according to the UCR Scoring Rules. If a single criminal incident contains a number of violations of the law, then only the most serious one is recorded for UCR purposes. Number of offences represents only those crimes reported to, or discovered by police which, upon preliminary investigation, have been deemed to have occurred or been attempted; this data does not represent or imply a count of the number of charges laid, prosecutions conducted, informations sworn or convictions obtained.
5. Crime Rate is defined as the number of offences per 1,000 population. The population figures utilized for crime rate calculations are based on the results of Canada Census which is conducted every five years. The most recent Canada Census occurred in 2006. Population figures reflect the permanent residential or "late night" population of a municipality and do not include part-time populations, i.e., commuters, students, tourists and other part-time residents.
6. The data contained in this report may vary when compared with previous reports produced by Police Services Division. Where variances occur, the report produced at the latest date will reflect the most current data available.

SOURCES: Crime Data: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada;
Population Data: BCStats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Province of British Columbia
Police Data: HRMIS Report, RCMP "E" Division.

DATE: September 2009.