



# REGIONAL PROFILE 2008

## **SUNSHINE COAST REGION**

### **REGIONAL POLICING**

- Sunshine Coast Region is policed by an integrated RCMP detachment located in Sechelt. The RCMP provides municipal police services to the District of Sechelt while the RCMP Provincial Force polices the region's unincorporated or rural areas.
- In 2008, there were 32 RCMP members assigned to police the region: 10 members directly policed the District of Sechelt while 22 were responsible for policing the region's unincorporated areas.
- A case load of 77 Criminal Code offences per RCMP member was recorded for Sunshine Coast Region in 2008. This was 5% higher than the member workload of 73 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 29,195; the population served per member was 912.

### **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, 2,452 Criminal Code offences were recorded within the region. This was a 4% increase from the 2,347 recorded in 2007.
- In 2008, Sunshine Coast recorded a crime rate of 84, lower than the provincial crime rate of 96, but 2% higher than the region's 2007 crime rate of 82 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 353 violent crimes were reported by the RCMP, a 60% increase from the 221 recorded in 2007. The 2008 Sunshine Coast violent crime rate was 12.1 violent crimes per 1,000 population, a 57% increase from the 2007 rate of 7.7. The region's 2008 violent crime rate was higher 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, 266 common assaults were reported within the region, a 63% increase from the 163 reported in 2007. The 2008 Sunshine Coast common assault rate was 9.1 offences per 1,000 population, a 60% increase from the 2007 rate of 5.7. The region's 2008 common assault rate was higher than the provincial common assault rate of 6.7 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2008, 764 property crimes were recorded within the region, a less than 1% increase from the 761 reported in 2007. The 2008 Sunshine Coast property crime rate was 26 property crimes per 1,000 population, a 4% decrease from the 2007 rate of 27. 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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## SUNSHINE COAST REGION

### REGIONAL CRIME TRENDS Cont'd

- Motor vehicle theft includes the theft or attempted theft of automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and other motorized vehicles. In 2008, 62 motor vehicle thefts were reported within the region, a 19% increase from the 52 reported in 2007. The 2008 Sunshine Coast motor vehicle theft rate was 2.1 offences per 1,000 population, a 17% increase from the 2007 rate of 1.8. 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, 1,335 other crimes were reported within the region, a 2% decrease from the 1,365 reported in 2007. The 2008 Sunshine Coast other crime rate was 46 other crimes per 1,000 population, a 4% drop 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, 252 drug crimes were reported within the region, a 7% decrease from the 272 reported in 2007. The 2008 Sunshine Coast drug crime rate was 8.6 offences per 1,000 population, a 9% decrease from the 2007 rate of 9.5. The region's 2008 drug crime rate was higher 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 29,195, a 2% increase from the 2007 population of 28,577.
- Over the past ten years, the population for the region has generally increased resulting in a 9% rise overall, from 26,862 in 1999 to 29,195 in 2008.



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## SUNSHINE COAST REGION DATA TABLES

REGION SUMMARY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Population</b>	<b>26,862</b>	<b>27,079</b>	<b>26,713</b>	<b>26,963</b>	<b>27,323</b>	<b>27,585</b>	<b>28,397</b>	<b>27,959</b>	<b>28,577</b>	<b>29,195</b>
<b>Police Strength</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
Case Load	111	107	95	104	83	84	82	71	73	77
Population Served Per Member	995	1,003	989	999	1,012	985	947	902	893	912
<b>Violent Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	323	320	352	367	255	277	259	224	221	353
Crime Rate	12.0	11.8	13.2	13.6	9.3	10.0	9.1	8.0	7.7	12.1
<b>Property Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	1,487	1,285	1,026	1,044	1,028	1,005	1,011	804	761	764
Crime Rate	55	47	38	39	38	36	36	29	27	26
<b>Other Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	1,184	1,274	1,197	1,385	947	1,078	1,186	1,173	1,365	1,335
Crime Rate	44	47	45	51	35	39	42	42	48	46
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES</b>	<b>2,994</b>	<b>2,879</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>2,456</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>2,347</b>	<b>2,452</b>
<b>CRIME RATE</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Drug Crimes<sup>1</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	169	169	175	171	139	117	150	180	272	252
Crime Rate	6.3	6.2	6.6	6.3	5.1	4.2	5.3	6.4	9.5	8.6
<b>Assault: Level 1</b>										
Number of Offences	238	237	263	253	176	178	182	138	163	266
Crime Rate	8.9	8.8	9.8	9.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	4.9	5.7	9.1
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	141	119	62	76	46	45	60	33	52	62
Crime Rate	5.2	4.4	2.3	2.8	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.2	1.8	2.1
<b>DISTRICT OF SECHLT</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>8,040</b>	<b>8,044</b>	<b>8,113</b>	<b>8,164</b>	<b>8,243</b>	<b>8,283</b>	<b>8,599</b>	<b>8,501</b>	<b>8,751</b>	<b>8,993</b>
<b>Police Strength</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Case Load	140	139	112	113	85	90	85	86	87	89
Population Served Per Member	893	894	901	907	824	828	860	850	875	899
<b>Violent Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	128	135	140	152	91	91	76	72	64	129
Crime Rate	15.9	16.8	17.3	18.6	11.0	11.0	8.8	8.5	7.3	14.3
<b>Property Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	590	531	360	370	419	429	423	324	255	283
Crime Rate	73	66	44	45	51	52	49	38	29	31
<b>Other Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	539	584	512	496	342	380	352	462	550	479
Crime Rate	67	73	63	61	41	46	41	54	63	53
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>891</b>
<b>CRIME RATE</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Drug Crimes<sup>1</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	63	77	56	60	52	47	43	60	95	107
Crime Rate	7.8	9.6	6.9	7.3	6.3	5.7	5.0	7.1	10.9	11.9
<b>Assault: Level 1</b>										
Number of Offences	96	99	99	99	65	58	50	44	41	94
Crime Rate	11.9	12.3	12.2	12.1	7.9	7.0	5.8	5.2	4.7	10.5
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	43	39	14	15	12	15	29	8	16	19
Crime Rate	5.3	4.8	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.8	3.4	0.9	1.8	2.1

## SUNSHINE COAST REGION DATA TABLES

AREA POLICED AS SUNSHINE COAST PROV	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Population</b>	18,822	19,035	18,600	18,799	19,080	19,302	19,798	19,458	19,826	20,202
<b>Police Strength</b>	18	18	18	18	17	18	20	21	22	22
Case Load	97	91	87	99	81	81	80	64	67	71
Population Served Per Member	1,046	1,058	1,033	1,044	1,122	1,072	990	927	901	918
<b>Violent Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	195	185	212	215	164	186	183	152	157	224
Crime Rate	10.4	9.7	11.4	11.4	8.6	9.6	9.2	7.8	7.9	11.1
<b>Property Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	897	754	666	674	609	576	588	480	506	481
Crime Rate	48	40	36	36	32	30	30	25	26	24
<b>Other Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	645	690	685	889	605	698	834	711	815	856
Crime Rate	34	36	37	47	32	36	42	37	41	42
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>1,561</b>
<b>CRIME RATE</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Drug Crimes<sup>1</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	106	92	119	111	87	70	107	120	177	145
Crime Rate	5.6	4.8	6.4	5.9	4.6	3.6	5.4	6.2	8.9	7.2
<b>Assault: Level 1</b>										
Number of Offences	142	138	164	154	111	120	132	94	122	172
Crime Rate	7.5	7.2	8.8	8.2	5.8	6.2	6.7	4.8	6.2	8.5
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	98	80	48	61	34	30	31	25	36	43
Crime Rate	5.2	4.2	2.6	3.2	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.8	2.1

### ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Drug crimes include heroin, cocaine, cannabis and other CDSA drug offences. These data are not included in Total Criminal Code offences.
- <sup>2</sup> 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

- Police strengths represent an areas authorized police strength as of December 31st of each calendar year as submitted annually to Police Services Division.
- 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.
- 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.



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## **DATA QUALIFIERS** Cont'd

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.