

Dave Snow and Richard Audas

URBAN VIOLENT CRIME REPORT

VOLUME 2

*Comparing crime across
Canadian cities*

November 2025



Victoria
Vancouver

Edmonton

Calgary

Saskatoon

Regina

Winnipeg

St. John's

Moncton

Halifax

Quebec City

Montreal

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY • SOMMAIRE

Violent crime in Canada's cities has not only risen – it has become a growing threat affecting urban communities across the country.

While headlines often focus on year-to-year fluctuations in crime, the *Urban Violent Crime Report, Vol. 2* reveals a deeper and more troubling reality: over the past decade, violent crime has increased significantly across Canadian cities, spreading beyond Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal to smaller urban centres once considered relatively safe.

This second volume in the Macdonald-Laurier Institute's *Urban Violent Crime* series expands on our 2024 landmark study, *Urban Violent Crime Report, Volume 1: A look at Canada's major cities*, to include new comparative data from cities across nine provinces. It goes beyond last year's analysis of nine major cities to now include 20 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) covering more than 65 per cent of the Canadian population. Combined with other recent studies showing a growth in Canadian property crime and a narrowing of Canada's crime gap with the United States, our results reveal that the erosion of public safety in Canada is not a temporary urban anomaly, but part of a larger nationwide trend.

Our major findings include:

- Violent crime has increased across nearly all major urban centres over the past decade, confirming that the trend in Canada's largest cities is part of a broader, nationwide shift.
- The sexual assault rate has substantially increased over the last decade: it is up across all 20 CMAs, with some CMAs experiencing a doubling of sexual assault rates in ten years.
- No city is immune. While prairie CMAs and Atlantic centres recorded the highest violent-crime rates and severity indices, even regions with lower crime rates, such as Windsor, Quebec City, and Gatineau, have experienced substantial increases since 2015.
- There is a deep regional crisis: Prairie cities – Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, and Edmonton – often record violent crime rates that are twice as high as other large CMAs (and in the case of Winnipeg, even higher).

- The geography of violent crime has shifted. Smaller and mid-sized CMAs – Halifax, Kitchener, Moncton, and St. John's – are increasingly matching or even surpassing larger urban centres in violent-crime growth, indicating that the trend has diffused beyond the traditional hotspots.

The message is stark: Canada's decade-long rise in violent crime is broad-based, sustained, and no longer confined to its largest cities. Canadians' growing concerns about public safety are justified. The data confirm that media reports of urban violent crime are not isolated incidents, but part of a national pattern.

At a time when governments and police services face resource constraints, uneven enforcement capacity, and shifting bail and prosecution frameworks, our report offers an evidence-based picture of where and how violence is intensifying. By extending our analysis to 20 urban areas and distinguishing short-, medium-, and long-term trajectories, we provide policymakers with a reliable benchmark for understanding the scale of the problem – and for designing the next generation of public-safety and crime-reduction strategies.

Canada is not immune to rising urban violence, and the latest evidence suggests that the problem is broader and more entrenched than many realize. Policymakers can no longer rely on temporary explanations or regional anomalies. The challenge now is to restore public confidence and measurable accountability in how we protect our cities. [MLI](#)

Les crimes violents dans les villes canadiennes n'ont pas seulement augmenté, ils sont devenus une menace croissante pour les communautés urbaines à travers le pays.

Si les manchettes des médias attirent souvent l'attention sur les variations d'année en année, ce deuxième tome de la série Urban Violent Crime révèle une réalité bien plus complexe et préoccupante : au cours de la décennie écoulée, la criminalité violente a beaucoup augmenté dans les villes canadiennes et s'étend désormais au-delà de Toronto, Vancouver et Montréal vers de petits centres urbains autrefois sûrs.

Le deuxième tome de cette série de l'Institut Macdonald-Laurier élargit l'étude historique de 2024 sur la criminalité urbaine au Canada grâce à de nouvelles données comparatives provenant de neuf provinces. Il va au-delà des neuf principales villes canadiennes de l'an dernier en ajoutant 20 régions métropolitaines de recensement (RMR), soit plus de 65 % de la population canadienne. Conjointement avec d'autres études récentes montrant une hausse des infractions liées aux biens et une convergence des tendances canado-américaines en matière de criminalité, nos résultats indiquent que l'insécurité publique au Canada n'est pas seulement un problème urbain temporaire – il reflète une tendance nationale plus large.

Voici nos principales conclusions :

- L'augmentation des crimes violents dans la plupart des grands centres urbains au cours de la décennie écoulée vient confirmer un important virage à l'échelle nationale.*
- Les taux d'agressions sexuelles ont fortement augmenté ces dix dernières années dans les 20 RMR, de plus du double dans certaines.*
- Aucune ville n'est épargnée. Tandis que les RMR des Prairies et les centres de la région de l'Atlantique affichent les taux de criminalité et les indices de gravité les plus élevés, même les régions à taux de criminalité moindre comme Windsor, Québec et Gatineau ont connu de fortes hausses du nombre de crimes violents depuis 2015.*
- Une crise régionale profonde sévit : les villes des Prairies – Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon et Edmonton – enregistrent fréquemment des taux de criminalité violente deux fois plus élevés que d'autres grandes RMR (et plus encore à Winnipeg).*
- La criminalité violente a évolué géographiquement. Les petites et moyennes régions métropolitaines – Halifax, Kitchener, Moncton et St. John's – rivalisent de plus en plus avec les grands centres urbains, voire affichent une croissance supérieure. Cela montre une extension de la tendance au-delà des « points chauds » habituels.*

Le constat est clair : la hausse des crimes violents au Canada depuis dix ans est générale, soutenue et désormais étendue à tout le territoire. Les craintes croissantes concernant la sécurité publique sont justifiées. Les données confirment que les crimes violents médiatisés ne sont pas des incidents urbains isolés, mais s'inscrivent dans une tendance nationale.

À l'heure où les gouvernements et les services de police doivent composer avec des contraintes budgétaires, des capacités inégales et des cadres mouvants en matière de mise en liberté sous caution et de poursuites judiciaires, notre étude offre une vision fondée de l'intensification de la violence, tant géographiquement que dans sa forme. En analysant 20 régions métropolitaines sur le court, moyen et long terme, nous fournissons aux décideurs des repères fiables pour comprendre l'importance du problème – et concevoir de nouvelles stratégies de sécurité publique et de réduction de la criminalité.

Le Canada n'est pas à l'abri de la montée de la violence urbaine, un problème plus vaste et plus profond que beaucoup ne l'imaginent, mais bien documenté. Les politiciens ne peuvent plus s'en remettre à des explications rapides ou des anomalies régionales. Le défi est maintenant de regagner la confiance du public et de restaurer une responsabilisation prévisible pour protéger nos villes. [MLI](#)

INTRODUCTION

Canadians are becoming increasingly concerned about violent crime (Sheppard and Coletto 2025). The past year has seen countless stories of disturbing violent incidents across the country. The level of concern seemed to reach its apotheosis over the Labour Day weekend when the nation was gripped by the murder of a man in front of his children during a home invasion in Vaughan, Ontario. Yet as one journalist documented (Cosh 2025), that Labour Day weekend involved a violent crime spree across the country, including an armed robbery and shooting in Markham, the sexual assault of a child by a convicted sex offender in Welland, a downtown shooting in London, the attempted murder of an 80-year-old woman in Guelph, a suspected arson in Richmond Hill that killed two people including a child, a home shooting in Abbotsford, and two murders in Edmonton, one of which also involved a house fire (Canadian Press 2025a, 2025b; Edmonton Police Service 2025; *Guelph Today* 2025; Humphreys 2025; Juha 2025; Lourenco 2025; Warmington 2025).

Others have downplayed the narrative that violent crime is rising. They often cite Statistics Canada data showing a slight decrease in the violent crime rate and violent crime severity index between 2023 and 2024 (Statistics Canada 2025d). Organizations such as the John Howard Society have stressed that “the overall crime rate is down more than 30% from its peak in 1992,” that “most crimes are relatively minor,” and that “a lot of what is classified as ‘violent crime’ does not involve what most of us would think of as significant violence” (John Howard Society of Canada 2025). Similarly, a recent *Globe and Mail* story noted that “crime was down 4 per cent nationally in 2024 compared with the previous year and that, generally, crime rates have declined since a peak in 1992” (Bula and Woo 2025).

This report seeks to move beyond the headlines by providing an in-depth examination of violent crime data across Canada's largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Drawing from Statistics Canada's police-reported violent crime data, we look at 20 of Canada's largest CMAs, focusing on four of the most serious violent crimes – homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, and robbery – as well as the overall violent crime rate and violent crime severity index. We present a “Municipal Snapshot” for each of the 20 CMAs, which examines long-term, medium-term, and short-term trends over the last decade using three-year rolling averages.

We draw four conclusions. First, urban violent crime has unquestionably risen over the last decade. Even adjusting for year-over-year spikes by using three-year rolling averages, we find that violent crime has grown in all 20 CMAs over the last decade and 19 of 20 have experienced a growth in violent crime severity. The same is true over the last five years; there were increases in the rolling violent crime rate in all 20 CMAs and in 19 of 20 the violent crime severity index also rose. Canadians who live in fear of violent crime should no longer be persuaded by the narrative that crime has “declined from a peak in 1992.” It is not reassuring to know that life was more dangerous before roughly 40 per cent of Canadians were born (Statistics Canada 2025e). Trends from the last decade are a far more meaningful measure of how violence is affecting our communities. The data show a clear and unambiguous increase in violent crime severity in Canadian cities.

Second, these general trends should not take away from the fact that there are differences between cities, both in crime rates and overall trends. Central Canadian CMAs, particularly Windsor, Quebec City, Hamilton, and Ottawa, have some of the lowest rates and severity levels of violent crime, whereas violent crime tends to be much higher in the Prairies, namely in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Regina. Yet even in many of the comparatively low-crime CMAs, such as Windsor, Quebec City, and Gatineau, there has been considerable growth in the rate and severity of violent crime over the last decade.

Finally, this report confirms that no Canadian region is immune from violent crime. From St. John's to Vancouver, every community has been affected by the growth in the severity of serious violent crime over the last decade. The increase in violent crime is an issue that deserves policymakers' attention from coast to coast. We hope this report can contribute to that discussion.

COMPARING VIOLENT CRIME RATES

Our 2024 *Urban Violent Crime Report* analyzed Canadian municipal police-reported violent crime data contributed to the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), an organization composed of police executives from the United States and nine of the largest cities in Canada. We used these data to compare violent crime rates for four major crimes in these nine cities over the last decade using three-year rolling averages.

While the report provided an important first step in better understanding trends in urban violent crime, there were several issues with the consistency of the data provided to the MCCA, including differences in the method of crime reporting, large fluctuations between the reporting and re-reporting of data, unexplained missing data, and the incomparability of Vancouver’s sexual assault data with such data from other jurisdictions. While there remain advantages to the MCCA data – particularly the speed of reporting, the availability of quarterly data, and their immediate comparability with major American cities in the dataset – we have decided that Statistics Canada’s police-reported crime data ultimately provides a more fruitful avenue for long-term comparison between and among Canadian urban areas. The Statistics Canada data is consistently reported and captured in such a way that comparisons are more reliable and reflect true similarities (or differences) rather than anomalies in how the data was captured or reported.

As a result, this report relies on Statistics Canada’s data on violent crime rates, particularly its “incident-based crime statistics” and “crime severity index and weighted clearance rates” tables (Statistics Canada 2025a, 2025c). For consistency, our report examines the same four categories of *Criminal Code* incident used in last year’s report. For all these categories, Statistics Canada

data reflects criminal “incidents” reported by police, not criminal cases that have been through the courts and for which guilt has been determined. To these four categories of criminal incidents our report has also added a comparison of the overall violent crime rate and the violent crime severity index, the latter of which “tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a given jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of the crimes” (Statistics Canada 2025b). As our 2024 report showed, the Statistics Canada CMA trends were very similar to the MCCA-reported data for most municipalities, which provides a high degree of confidence in the comparability of data (see Snow and Audas 2024b, 47–55).

This Statistics Canada data can expand on the breadth of our first report. Whereas our last report only looked at nine Canadian cities, this report has expanded its scope to include 20 CMAs spread across nine Canadian provinces. This includes the 18 largest CMAs for which crime data are available, as well as St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Moncton, New Brunswick. Collectively, these 20 CMAs comprise over 65 per cent of the Canadian population in 2024. Table 1 shows their population estimates from 2024, the most recent year for which Statistics Canada crime data are available (Statistics Canada 2025e, 2025f).

Before presenting the data, we wish to make four additional points regarding data limitations. First, we caution against direct city-to-city comparisons between last year’s report and this year’s. Because this report covers a much larger number of municipalities, year-over-year comparison of the “rankings” from our 2024 report are not applicable. More importantly, because this report uses larger CMA boundaries, the data in this report reflect a different geographical area from our previous report, particularly for very large CMAs such as Toronto. (Indeed, we no longer analyze York and Peel independently as their crime data is included as part of the Toronto CMA.)

Second, our data on sexual assault includes only “Level 1” sexual assault, which comprises “any assault of a sexual nature that violates the sexual integrity of the victim” (see Appendix A). Statistics Canada separates data according to the categories of sexual assault in the *Criminal Code*, and our data do not include Level 2 and Level 3 sexual assaults. As nearly 98 per cent of all police-reported sexual assaults in 2024 were Level 1, we are confident our data capture changing rates across the country (see Appendix A for a more detailed discussion).

**TABLE 1: Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) included
in the *Urban Violent Crime Report***

2024 RANK (BY POPULATION)	CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA	POPULATION (2024)
1	Toronto, ON	7,106,379
2	Montreal, QC	4,615,154
3	Vancouver, BC	3,108,941
4	Calgary, AB	1,778,881
5	Edmonton, AB	1,631,614
6	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON only*	1,287,592
7	Winnipeg, MB	941,641
8	Quebec City, QC	900,343
9	Hamilton, ON	860,266
10	Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, ON	696,417
11	London, ON	626,260
12	Halifax, NS	530,167
13	St. Catharines-Niagara, ON	492,480
14	Windsor, ON	483,556
16	Victoria, BC**	441,491
17	Ottawa-Gatineau, QC only*	372,677
18	Saskatoon, SK	367,336
19	Regina, SK	282,032
23	St. John's, NL***	239,316
27	Moncton, NB***	188,036

* Ottawa-Gatineau subdivided into two CMAs, separated by province. In the remainder of this paper, they are listed as “Ottawa” (Ontario) and “Gatineau” (Quebec) for simplicity.

** The Oshawa CMA would have ranked 15th on this list with 482,356 residents in 2024. Because of the Durham Regional Police jurisdiction, a portion of the Oshawa CMA is included within Statistics Canada’s Toronto CMA crime data. As such, Statistics Canada does not provide incident-based crime data for the Oshawa CMA (Statistics Canada 2020a).

*** We included St. John’s and Moncton to enable geographic representation from Newfoundland & Labrador and New Brunswick. As Prince Edward Island’s largest agglomeration (Charlottetown) does not meet population criteria for CMA, data are not available for PEI.

Source: Statistics Canada 2025f.

Third, this report relies on police-reported criminal incidents, which may not capture subtle variations in reporting practices, different policing trends between CMAs, changing policing practices within individual CMAs, and high rates of charges relative to actual criminal convictions (see Williams 2017). In this vein, some have raised concerns that, in an era of increasing antisocial behaviour, drug use, vandalism, and low police clearance rates, “people have learned not to bother reporting low-level crime to unresponsive police” (Anglin 2025). To supplement our understanding of violent crime trends, researchers should use other forms of data collection such as victimization surveys to complement these findings (see Ariel and Bland 2019; Cotter 2021).

Finally, we wish to stress that we are not making causal claims about the reasons behind increasing or decreasing crime rates; they stem from a variety of historical, demographic, economic, and institutional factors. The purpose of this report is not to offer policy solutions, nor to lay the blame at the feet of any particular government or police service. Instead, our goal is to present the data and let it speak for itself.

SNAPSHOT SERIES 1

Violent crime rates in Canada, 2015–2024

This section describes the changing crime rates for the four major violent crimes we examine in this report: homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, and robbery. In addition, we also describe the overall violent crime rate and Statistics Canada’s “violent crime severity index,” a metric that gives more weight to serious offences such as homicide and aggravated assault. These data are contained within Statistics Canada’s Tables 35-10-0177-01 and 35-10-0026-01, which organize incident-based crime statistics and crime severity by violation by CMA (Statistics Canada 2025a, 2025c). Collectively, these six categories – four serious crimes, the overall violent crime rate, and violent crime severity – provide a comprehensive description of violent crime trends across the country.

For all six measures of violent crime, we track three-year rolling averages to prevent annual fluctuations from skewing the data. As the data begin in 2013, the first (rolling) data point in each table is from 2015. Any description below of “rate” refers to the rolling three-year average rate. For example, when we refer to the “2024 violent crime rate,” that reflects the average of the violent crime rates from 2022, 2023, and 2024.

This section includes six tables – one for each crime category – containing three-year rolling crime rates from 2015 to 2024, with each CMA ranked out of 20 according to the 2024 rolling crime rate. The lowest rates of crime get the highest rank: 1 is the best, and 20 the worst. The data are colour-coded with a “heat map” using Microsoft Excel’s conditional formatting, with lower rates in dark green and higher rates in dark red. Rates and indices are rounded up

or down to the nearest integer apart from homicide rates (two decimals) and aggravated assault rates (one decimal). As with all data in the report, all rates are per 100,000 population.

Each table also includes a description of the direction of three “trends” – short-term, medium-term, and long-term – again using three-year rolling averages. The short-term trend is the one-year change in the rolling average (comparing 2021–23 to 2022–24). The medium-term trend compares the rolling average from 2017–19 to 2022–24. This trend largely reflects the pre-pandemic vs. post-pandemic trend, insofar as these two rolling averages coincide with the period immediately preceding the COVID-19 pandemic and the period following it when, for the most part, the pandemic had ended. The long-term trend compares the average rates over a (rolling) decade, from 2013–15 to 2022–24. Each of the three trends are described in binary terms: “up” or “down” and are colour-coded accordingly (“up” is red because a rising rate is negative; “down” is green because a dropping rate is positive). Tables are organized according to the 2024 ranking.

TABLE 2: Violent crime rate per 100,000 population (three-year rolling average)

RANK	CMA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
1	OTTAWA	644	622	651	701	768	762	754	743	776	789	▲	▲	▲
2	ST. CATHARINES	629	564	557	593	641	710	767	817	852	886	▲	▲	▲
3	WINDSOR	863	805	763	736	762	788	776	782	821	898	▲	▲	▲
4	HAMILTON	749	756	777	811	845	851	887	909	944	956	▲	▲	▲
5	TORONTO	737	743	765	792	818	810	802	821	899	971	▲	▲	▲
6	LONDON	788	782	800	829	843	874	969	1030	1052	987	▼	▲	▲
7	CALGARY	754	789	845	921	1003	1018	1030	1010	1054	1054	▲	▲	▲
8	VANCOUVER	992	972	966	951	1041	1123	1178	1150	1140	1109	▼	▲	▲
9	MONTREAL	902	902	917	927	956	972	1028	1080	1160	1212	▲	▲	▲
10	QUEBEC CITY	892	898	931	959	976	974	999	1066	1171	1263	▲	▲	▲
11	REGINA	1169	1162	1170	1210	1245	1259	1283	1271	1331	1342	▲	▲	▲
12	GATINEAU	1102	1088	1119	1130	1150	1113	1110	1173	1266	1347	▲	▲	▲
13	EDMONTON	1148	1148	1182	1185	1217	1222	1233	1275	1342	1393	▲	▲	▲
14	SASKATOON	1311	1273	1234	1204	1244	1258	1320	1332	1380	1415	▲	▲	▲
15	HALIFAX	1152	1129	1157	1237	1327	1335	1305	1355	1407	1430	▲	▲	▲
16	KITCHENER	822	815	896	1019	1173	1281	1364	1413	1445	1443	▼	▲	▲
17	VICTORIA	1087	1118	1148	1165	1238	1325	1432	1474	1487	1451	▼	▲	▲
18	WINNIPEG	1128	1188	1274	1336	1370	1371	1391	1471	1615	1708	▲	▲	▲
19	ST. JOHN'S	1377	1334	1387	1396	1414	1453	1526	1614	1695	1745	▲	▲	▲
20	MONCTON	1329	1360	1385	1463	1590	1726	1794	1856	1900	1891	▼	▲	▲

The violent crime rate has risen over the short term for 15 of 20 CMAs, and in the medium and long term for all 20 CMAs. Proportionally, some CMAs have had much larger rate increases than others. For example, Kitchener's violent crime rate has risen by nearly 75 per cent over the last decade, and Winnipeg's by more than 50 per cent. By contrast, Windsor (up 4 per cent) and Saskatoon (up 8 per cent) have seen the lowest increases.

Consistent with Ontario's overall lower violent crime rate (see Snow and Audas 2024a), the six CMAs with the consistently lowest violent crime rates in the last several years – Ottawa, St. Catharines, Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto, and London – are all in Ontario. More surprising are the high violent crime rates in the Atlantic Canadian CMAs of Moncton and St. John's. They have the highest violent crime rates of any CMAs examined here, and this is not a single-year blip; these Atlantic Canadian CMAs have generally had the highest rates throughout the last decade. Overall, the story of the police-reported violent crime rate in Canadian CMAs is one of consistent, sustained growth, albeit with a slight levelling off in the last year.

TABLE 3: Violent crime severity index (three-year rolling average)

RANK	CITY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
1	OTTAWA	54	56	60	65	67	64	62	61	64	65	▲	▼	▲
2	WINDSOR	61	60	62	65	70	71	68	66	67	71	▲	▲	▲
3	ST. CATHARINES	44	40	42	46	52	56	59	62	66	71	▲	▲	▲
4	HAMILTON	58	60	67	71	73	72	75	74	74	73	▼	▲	▲
5	QUEBEC CITY	46	48	53	56	58	56	58	62	69	76	▲	▲	▲
6	TORONTO	66	67	70	75	77	75	70	70	74	79	▲	▲	▲
7	VANCOUVER	81	77	75	70	73	76	79	81	82	80	▼	▲	▼
8	LONDON	54	55	59	61	63	65	75	82	86	80	▼	▲	▲
9	CALGARY	67	68	72	74	81	82	83	82	84	81	▼	▲	▲
10	VICTORIA	59	60	62	60	63	67	74	82	83	82	▼	▲	▲
11	GATINEAU	60	60	63	69	71	72	72	77	83	89	▲	▲	▲
12	MONTREAL	77	74	75	73	74	74	77	81	87	90	▲	▲	▲
13	KITCHENER	55	56	63	71	80	84	86	89	92	94	▲	▲	▲
14	HALIFAX	81	80	85	89	90	89	89	96	100	98	▼	▲	▲
15	ST. JOHN'S	75	79	84	85	83	82	86	93	101	101	▲	▲	▲
16	MONCTON	73	76	75	80	91	94	96	97	106	105	▼	▲	▲
17	EDMONTON	97	101	106	107	109	111	112	112	115	113	▼	▲	▲
18	REGINA	107	113	116	121	124	130	138	135	139	133	▼	▲	▲
19	SASKATOON	117	117	113	112	121	124	129	129	134	140	▲	▲	▲
20	WINNIPEG	122	129	142	154	164	164	163	168	182	191	▲	▲	▲

Statistics Canada's violent crime severity index “tracks changes in the severity of police-reported [violent] crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a given jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of the crimes” (Statistics Canada 2025b; see Appendix A). Like the violent crime rate, the violent crime severity index has clearly increased in both the medium and long term in 19 of 20 CMAs. Between 2015 and 2024, the violent crime severity increased the most in four CMAs: Kitchener (up 71 per cent), Quebec City (up 63 per cent), St. Catharines (up 61 per cent), and Winnipeg (up 57 per cent). While nearly half the CMAs in the dataset saw their violent crime severity decrease between 2023 and 2024, in most cases the decrease was small. In all cases except Vancouver, violent crime severity is up over the past decade.

There is also a distinctly regional character to violent crime severity. The seven CMAs with the highest violent crime severity in 2024 were from the Prairies (Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, and Edmonton) and Atlantic Canada (Moncton, St. John's, and Halifax). Meanwhile, the four CMAs with the lowest violent crime severity were from Ontario (Ottawa, Windsor, St. Catharines, and Hamilton). This regional trend should not mask the fact that, even within Ontario, the trend over the last five and 10 years has been a clear and sustained increase in violent crime severity.

TABLE 4: Homicide rate per 100,000 population (three-year rolling average)

RANK	CMA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
1	QUEBEC CITY	0.38	0.30	0.54	0.58	0.74	0.61	0.69	0.68	0.74	0.66	▼	▼	▲
2	VICTORIA	1.07	1.16	1.22	0.68	0.76	0.82	1.05	1.28	0.94	0.69	▼	▼	▼
3	KITCHENER	1.06	0.92	1.02	1.06	0.98	1.12	0.83	0.92	0.72	0.85	▲	▼	▼
4	ST. JOHN'S	0.98	1.13	1.44	1.27	1.26	1.10	1.56	1.24	1.37	1.04	▼	▼	▲
5	WINDSOR	1.10	1.19	1.18	1.53	1.79	1.96	1.77	1.51	1.41	1.06	▼	▼	▼
6	HAMILTON	1.32	1.22	1.30	1.42	1.45	1.72	2.17	1.82	1.51	1.07	▼	▼	▼
7	GATINEAU	1.14	0.92	0.51	0.80	0.79	1.37	1.35	1.25	1.04	1.12	▲	▲	▼
8	MONTREAL	1.07	1.04	1.09	1.06	1.07	1.02	1.03	1.18	1.28	1.32	▲	▲	▲
9	LONDON	1.47	1.32	1.49	1.33	1.12	1.15	1.72	1.81	1.77	1.36	▼	▲	▼
10	MONCTON	1.29	1.50	0.85	0.83	1.64	1.82	1.80	1.16	1.66	1.44	▼	▼	▲
11	CALGARY	2.31	2.45	2.39	1.91	1.68	1.78	1.83	1.91	1.60	1.54	▼	▼	▼
12	OTTAWA	0.78	1.25	1.46	1.76	1.37	1.23	1.15	1.20	1.38	1.63	▲	▲	▲
13	VANCOUVER	1.78	1.76	1.81	1.78	1.75	1.65	1.78	2.13	2.11	1.79	▼	▲	▲
14	TORONTO	1.35	1.42	1.46	1.79	1.94	1.99	1.83	1.83	1.88	1.90	▲	▼	▲
15	HALIFAX	1.56	2.03	2.25	2.14	1.40	1.44	1.65	2.16	2.01	1.94	▼	▲	▲
16	ST. CATHARINES	1.26	0.88	0.80	0.43	0.77	0.89	1.16	1.33	1.76	2.28	▲	▲	▲
17	EDMONTON	2.66	3.10	3.26	3.21	2.80	2.74	3.00	3.06	2.97	2.55	▼	▼	▼
18	REGINA	3.37	3.16	3.65	3.45	3.27	3.61	4.63	4.62	4.31	2.97	▼	▼	▼
19	SASKATOON	2.76	3.26	2.89	2.40	2.96	3.83	3.81	3.75	3.56	4.02	▲	▲	▲
20	WINNIPEG	3.18	3.11	2.97	2.95	3.67	4.31	5.04	5.34	5.42	5.34	▼	▲	▲

Unlike overall violent crime, the three-year rolling homicide rate has decreased in many locations – in 13 of 20 CMAs between 2023 and 2024 and in 9 of 20 CMAs over the last decade. Notably, since 2014, every CMA in this dataset has experienced at least one homicide a year (in 2013, there were no homicides in Moncton or Victoria). As with violent crime severity, the Prairie CMAs (excluding Calgary) have the highest homicide rates, with Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, and Edmonton consistently having the highest rates.

The overall trends belie considerable variation among the CMAs. Four have experienced a large decrease in their homicide rates over the last decade, led by Victoria (down 35 per cent), Calgary (down 33 per cent), Kitchener (down 20 per cent), and Hamilton (down 19 per cent). Others have seen a large increase, particularly Ottawa (up 108 per cent) and St. Catharines (up 81 per cent). Readers should be cautious when comparing year-over-year homicide increases and decreases in CMAs with smaller populations due to the relatively low number of homicides. However, CMAs such as Winnipeg and Ottawa have unquestionably experienced a large growth in homicide. As with many violent crimes, Winnipeg stands out: at 5.34 homicides per 100,000 people, its rate is more than double that of every CMA in this dataset apart from Regina and Saskatoon.

TABLE 5: Aggravated assault rate per 100,000 population (three-year rolling average)

RANK	CMA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
1	MONTREAL	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.3	3.6	▲	▲	▲
2	TORONTO	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.6	▼	▼	▼
3	QUEBEC CITY	1.6	1.8	3.4	3.7	4.2	3.2	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.7	▲	▲	▲
4	VANCOUVER	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.8	5.1	5.5	5.2	▼	▲	▼
5	GATINEAU	1.9	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.5	4.3	5.2	4.7	5.4	▲	▲	▲
6	HAMILTON	5.5	5.5	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.0	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.7	▲	▼	▲
7	KITCHENER	6.2	5.7	6.0	5.8	7.2	7.1	7.9	7.2	7.1	5.8	▼	▼	▼
8	VICTORIA	7.6	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.2	4.6	5.2	5.6	6.0	▲	▲	▼
9	OTTAWA	7.4	7.8	8.2	7.6	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.4	▲	▼	▼
10	WINDSOR	7.5	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.0	7.7	6.5	5.8	5.3	6.5	▲	▲	▼
11	LONDON	5.4	5.7	5.9	6.3	7.1	6.8	7.6	7.1	7.4	6.7	▼	▼	▲
12	ST. CATHARINES	6.0	6.7	6.4	6.7	7.7	8.4	9.4	9.2	8.5	7.6	▼	▼	▲
13	CALGARY	8.4	7.3	7.0	6.1	7.0	7.3	8.4	7.9	8.1	7.7	▼	▲	▼
14	HALIFAX	7.7	8.4	9.7	8.7	8.8	7.0	6.8	6.6	7.5	7.9	▲	▼	▲
15	ST. JOHN'S	4.9	6.8	8.3	7.8	5.7	4.6	4.7	6.9	8.6	9.5	▲	▲	▲
16	MONCTON	9.1	8.5	8.9	8.0	9.1	8.9	10.5	10.1	10.8	10.7	▼	▲	▲
17	WINNIPEG	17.1	18.3	20.7	21.7	24.4	23.0	21.9	20.1	21.3	21.0	▼	▼	▲
18	REGINA	29.5	28.4	26.0	24.5	24.9	24.8	28.3	28.2	30.0	26.6	▼	▲	▼
19	EDMONTON	19.8	19.8	19.4	21.1	23.7	28.1	29.9	31.2	29.6	28.1	▼	▲	▲
20	SASKATOON	24.1	25.1	23.8	24.9	24.7	24.1	24.4	28.7	31.2	36.5	▲	▲	▲

The aggravated assault rate varies widely among CMAs, with Saskatoon's rate more than 10 times higher than Montreal's. Over the last decade, aggravated assaults have increased in 12 of the 20 CMAs. However, in the last year, the three-year rolling average has declined in 10 of the 20 CMAs. As with many other metrics measured here, the Prairie and Atlantic Canadian CMAs have the highest aggravated assault rates. In particular, the rates in Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, and Saskatoon are considerably higher than in any other CMA.

There are different trends across CMAs. Toronto and Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo are the only CMAs where aggravated assaults are down over the short, medium, and long term. By contrast, aggravated assault rates are up in all three periods in Montreal, Quebec City, and Gatineau (where rates are still comparatively low) and in St. John's and Saskatoon (where rates are comparatively high). The rate of increase also varies over the last decade. The aggravated assault rate is down 29 per cent in Toronto and 21 per cent in Victoria over the last decade; by contrast, it is up 197 per cent in Quebec City, 191 per cent in Gatineau, 95 per cent in St. John's, and 51 per cent in Saskatoon. In St. John's and Saskatoon, aggravated assault rates are comparatively high and growing.

TABLE 6: Sexual assault (level 1) rate per 100,000 population (three-year rolling average)

RANK	CMA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
1	CALGARY	49	48	52	58	66	65	64	60	63	57	▼	▼	▲
2	VANCOUVER	42	42	43	47	54	56	58	57	59	58	▼	▲	▲
3	WINDSOR	47	48	51	57	59	55	56	55	59	61	▲	▲	▲
4	TORONTO	45	45	46	51	55	53	53	55	62	65	▼	▼	▲
5	OTTAWA	51	54	57	64	69	69	66	66	66	65	▼	▲	▲
6	ST. CATHARINES	46	45	54	62	70	71	71	71	73	73	▲	▼	▲
7	HAMILTON	59	61	65	72	77	76	74	76	78	77	▼	▲	▲
8	GATINEAU	40	43	48	52	58	56	63	65	75	79	▼	▲	▲
9	KITCHENER	59	58	60	69	85	85	84	79	81	81	▲	▲	▲
10	HALIFAX	77	79	87	112	116	109	83	83	83	82	▼	▼	▲
11	MONTREAL	41	42	47	54	58	59	66	73	82	84	▲	▲	▲
12	REGINA	61	62	65	72	77	78	80	85	85	85	▼	▲	▲
13	VICTORIA	50	54	63	68	76	76	91	98	96	85	▲	▼	▲
14	QUEBEC CITY	47	45	49	51	56	58	63	68	79	88	▲	▲	▲
15	MONCTON	48	43	46	55	66	70	78	86	97	93	▼	▲	▲
16	LONDON	46	41	51	64	74	79	84	91	96	93	▲	▲	▲
17	ST. JOHN'S	58	65	69	67	70	76	83	89	95	93	▼	▲	▲
18	EDMONTON	76	75	76	78	85	88	95	97	100	94	▼	▲	▲
19	SASKATOON	73	78	85	96	105	102	98	93	97	99	▲	▲	▲
20	WINNIPEG	87	91	92	96	97	97	98	104	107	107	▼	▲	▲

This table measures “Level 1” sexual assault, which constituted 97.8 per cent of all police-reported sexual assaults in Canada in 2024 (see Appendix A for details). Over the last decade, sexual assault is up in all 20 CMAs and in 15 of 20 over the medium term. However, the three-year rolling average declined between 2023 and 2024 in 12 of 20 CMAs. It is too early to tell if this represents a temporary drop or the beginning of a levelling off in sexual assault rates.

The sexual assault rate has substantially increased over the last decade: it has more than doubled in two CMAs (London and Montreal) and nearly doubled in Moncton and Gatineau. While Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Edmonton are once again among the CMAs with the highest rates (as with homicide, aggravated assault, and violent crime severity more generally), there are other CMAs with generally lower rates in other crimes – such as Victoria, Quebec City, and London – that have some of the highest sexual assault rates among the CMAs. The two CMAs with the lowest rates, Calgary and Vancouver, are both in Western Canada.

TABLE 7: Robbery rate per 100,000 population (three-year rolling average)

RANK	CMA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
1	QUEBEC CITY	21	19	20	20	20	16	14	13	15	17	▲	▼	▼
2	GATINEAU	27	26	28	31	30	29	25	28	30	34	▲	▲	▲
3	ST. CATHARINES	40	36	33	34	36	38	37	38	36	37	▲	▲	▼
4	VICTORIA	45	41	36	33	33	37	40	41	43	40	▼	▲	▼
5	MONCTON	42	46	47	51	43	37	31	34	39	40	▲	▼	▼
6	WINDSOR	62	58	64	65	64	57	51	43	40	42	▲	▼	▼
7	OTTAWA	59	53	56	56	62	58	52	44	45	46	▲	▼	▼
8	HAMILTON	59	62	73	77	75	62	55	54	54	55	▲	▼	▼
9	KITCHENER	45	45	53	54	59	56	54	53	54	57	▲	▼	▲
10	VANCOUVER	101	91	81	67	63	63	62	60	59	57	▼	▼	▼
11	LONDON	46	51	54	53	53	53	59	62	65	61	▼	▲	▲
12	HALIFAX	56	51	54	52	49	46	41	52	57	62	▲	▲	▲
13	MONTREAL	90	80	76	68	65	58	55	54	59	63	▲	▼	▼
14	TORONTO	85	81	84	87	86	76	64	59	62	70	▲	▼	▼
15	CALGARY	74	72	76	78	86	82	79	74	76	73	▼	▼	▼
16	ST. JOHN'S	65	74	74	76	66	60	55	71	78	77	▼	▲	▲
17	EDMONTON	98	103	107	106	109	102	89	80	81	85	▲	▼	▼
18	REGINA	101	110	104	107	105	113	112	106	113	116	▲	▲	▲
19	SASKATOON	140	133	129	121	123	110	109	108	120	137	▲	▲	▼
20	WINNIPEG	176	193	225	261	277	266	247	249	285	313	▲	▲	▲

Winnipeg's robbery rate is more than double that of the next-highest CMA (Saskatoon) and 18 times higher than the CMA with the lowest rate (Quebec City) – it is so high that it slightly skews the colouring of the heat map. As with other crimes, Edmonton, Regina, and Saskatoon also have comparatively high robbery rates, albeit not nearly as high as Winnipeg's. Quebec City has a low robbery rate compared to the other CMAs – indeed, it is half as high as the second-lowest CMA (Gatineau).

The trend for robbery is the inverse of the other crimes listed above: its rolling average is up in most CMAs (15 of 20) over the last year, but down in 13 of 20 CMAs over the last decade. Over the long-term, robberies decreased the most in Vancouver (down 44 per cent), Windsor (down 33 per cent) and Montreal (down 30 per cent), while they increased the most in Winnipeg (up 70 per cent), London (up 33 per cent), Gatineau (up 28 per cent) and Kitchener (up 27 per cent). Between 2023 and 2024, five CMAs – Winnipeg, Toronto, Saskatoon, Gatineau, and Quebec City – saw their three-year rolling average increase by between 10 and 15 per cent.

SNAPSHOT SERIES 2

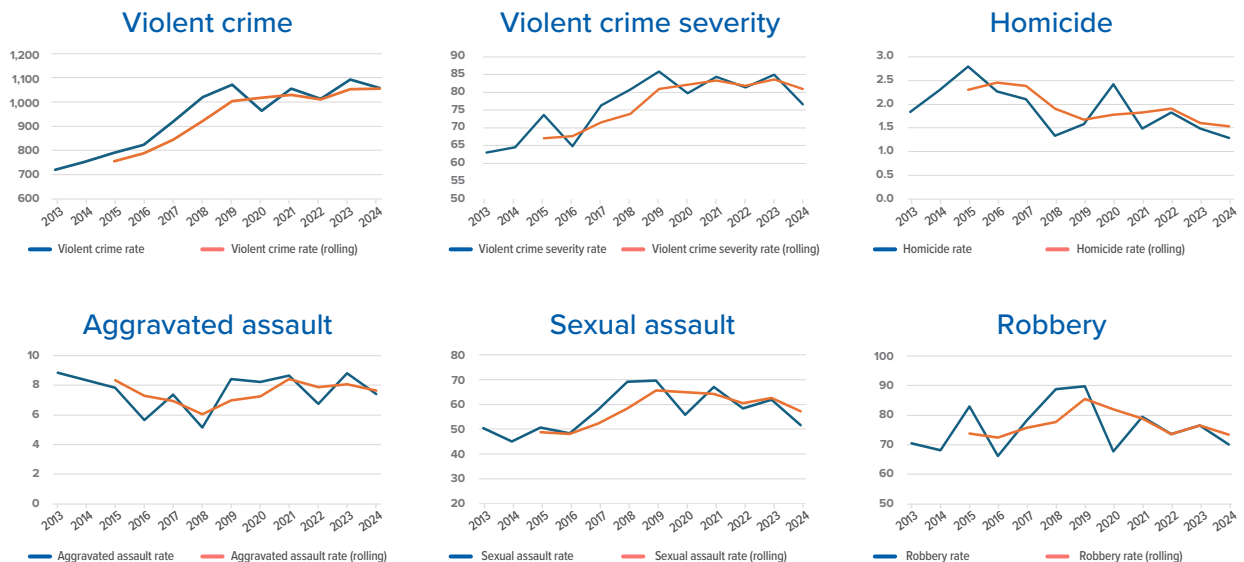
Violent crime in Canadian CMAs

Each “Municipal Snapshot” contains three items: a summary table of the six current violent crime rates and rankings using three-year rolling averages for 2022 to 2024; six charts showing the rates for each of the four violent crimes as well as the overall violent crime rate and violent crime severity index from 2013 to 2025; and a written summary of trends, both within the CMA and compared to other CMAs. Although the data analysis in the written summary discusses trends in terms of rolling averages, we understand that some readers may nevertheless be more interested in the annual (non-rolling) rates. For that reason, each chart within the snapshot includes both three-year rolling crime rates and the annual (non-rolling) rates. The table at the beginning of each snapshot and the written summary at the end of each refer to three-year rolling averages.

The short-term, medium-term, and long-term trends in the tables also use rolling averages. Short-term trends cover one-year changes in rolling averages (comparing 2021–23 to 2022–24); medium-term trends cover five-year changes in rolling averages (comparing 2017–19 to 2022–24); and long-term trends compare nine-year changes in rolling averages (comparing 2013–15 to 2022–24). A downward trend reflects a decrease in crime and is coloured green; an upward trend reflects an increase in crime and is coloured red. For rankings, the lowest rates of crime get the highest rank; 1 is the best and 20 the worst.

Calgary

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1054.48	7	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	80.96	9	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	1.54	11	▼	▼	▼
Aggravated assault	7.65	13	▼	▲	▼
Sexual assault	57.34	1	▼	▼	▲
Robbery	73.41	15	▼	▼	▼

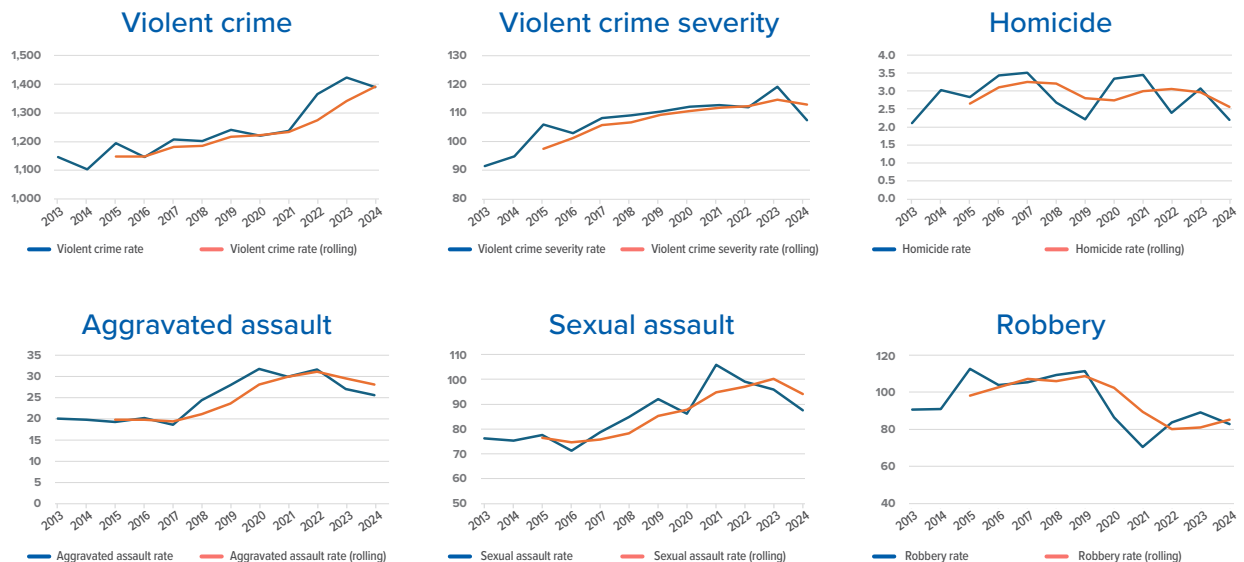


In last year's report, we described Calgary as "in the middle of the pack" compared to other large urban areas; in this year's report that remains the case. Calgary ranks between 7th and 13th for its violent crime rate, violent crime severity, homicide rate, and aggravated assault rate. Although Calgary's robbery rate is comparatively high (15th), it has the lowest sexual assault rate of any of the 20 CMAs (57 per 100,000). While up over the last decade, Calgary's sexual assault rate is down over the short and medium term.

The trend for Calgary's violent crime rate and violent crime severity are both up considerably over the last decade, growing by 40 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. Homicide, sexual assault, and robbery are all declining over the medium-term. Moreover, Calgary's short-term rates are declining in five of the six categories. Compared with the other Prairie CMAs – Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg – Calgary's violent crime rates are considerably lower.

Edmonton

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1392.59	13	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	112.84	17	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	2.55	17	▼	▼	▼
Aggravated assault	28.13	19	▼	▲	▲
Sexual assault	94.07	18	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	85.24	17	▲	▼	▼

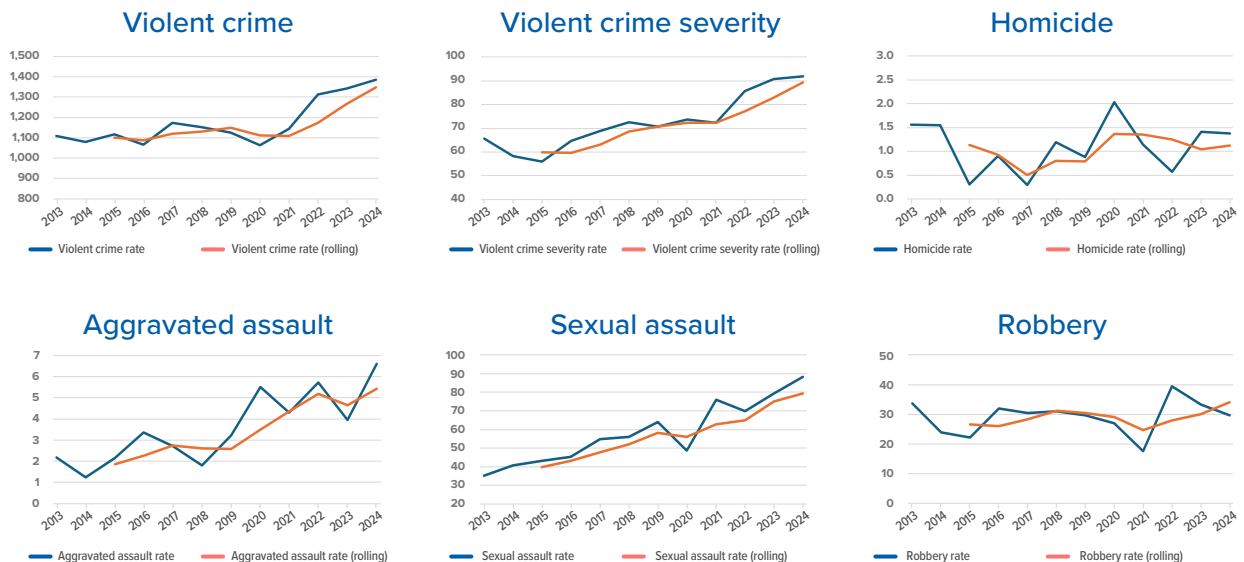


Compared to its Alberta counterpart – and indeed, most other CMAs in this dataset – violent crime rates are high in Edmonton. Edmonton consistently ranks among the CMAs with the highest violent crime rates, typically alongside Saskatoon, Regina, and Winnipeg. Edmonton’s aggravated assault rates are especially high, though its rolling average did decrease over the last year.

Edmonton’s violent crime (up 21 per cent), violent crime severity (up 16 per cent), aggravated assault (up 42 per cent), and sexual assault (up 23 per cent) have all risen considerably over last decade. By contrast, its homicide and robbery rates have gone down 4 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. Although the data show that violent crime in Edmonton is generally high and growing, the city does show two positive trends. First, robbery has declined considerably over the medium term; Edmonton’s rolling average dropped by 21 per cent between 2019 and 2024. Second, Edmonton’s short-term rolling average declined in four categories – violent crime severity, homicide, aggravated assault, and sexual assault – between 2023 and 2024.

Gatineau

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1347.17	12	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	89.43	11	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	1.12	7	▲	▲	▼
Aggravated assault	5.42	5	▲	▲	▲
Sexual assault	79.24	8	▲	▲	▲
Robbery	34.12	2	▲	▲	▲

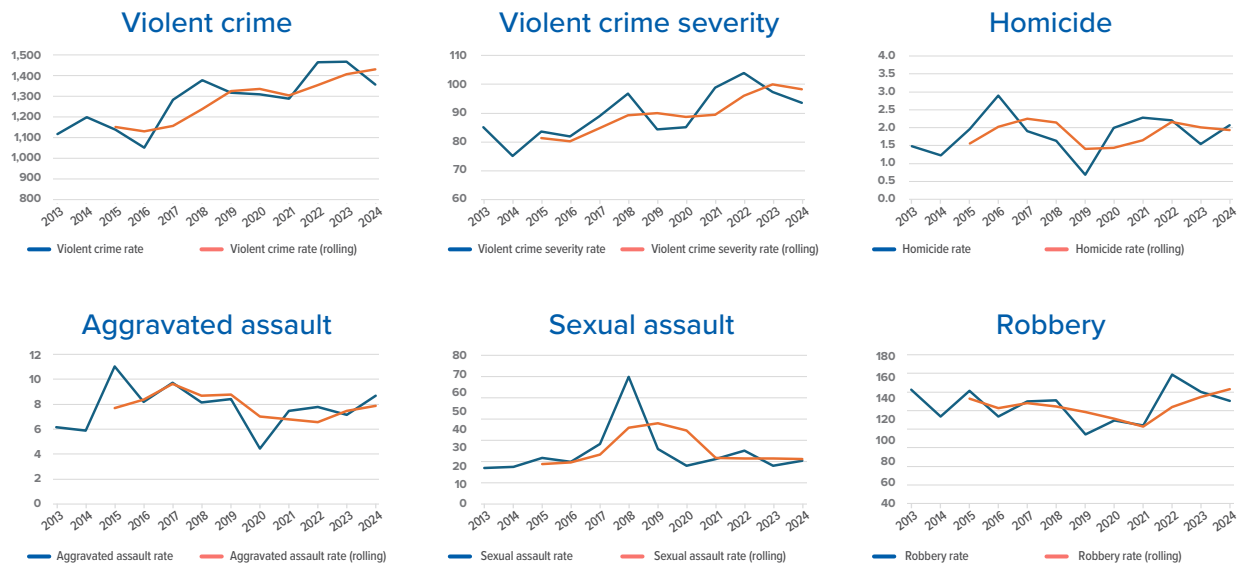


Gatineau (technically, the Quebec portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA) is a good example of the difference between comparing crime rates within and between CMAs. Compared to other CMAs, Gatineau's violent crime rate is comparatively low: it has the second-lowest robbery rate, fifth-lowest aggravated assault rate, and seventh-lowest homicide rate. However, compared with its own violent crime rates a decade ago, five years ago, and even one year ago, violent crime in Gatineau is increasing. Gatineau has seen all six violent crime categories grow in the short and medium term; over the last decade, homicide was the only category that declined for Gatineau.

The graphs demonstrate vividly that Gatineau has experienced sustained growth across four categories over the last decade: violent crime (up 22 per cent), violent crime severity (up 49 per cent), sexual assault (double), and aggravated assault (nearly triple). By contrast, homicide and robbery have remained relatively flat in Gatineau over the last decade. Overall, there is no question that violent crime is steadily growing on the Quebec side of Ottawa-Gatineau.

Halifax

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1430.29	15	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	98.26	14	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	1.94	15	▼	▲	▲
Aggravated assault	7.87	14	▲	▼	▲
Sexual assault	82.48	10	▼	▼	▲
Robbery	61.58	12	▲	▲	▲

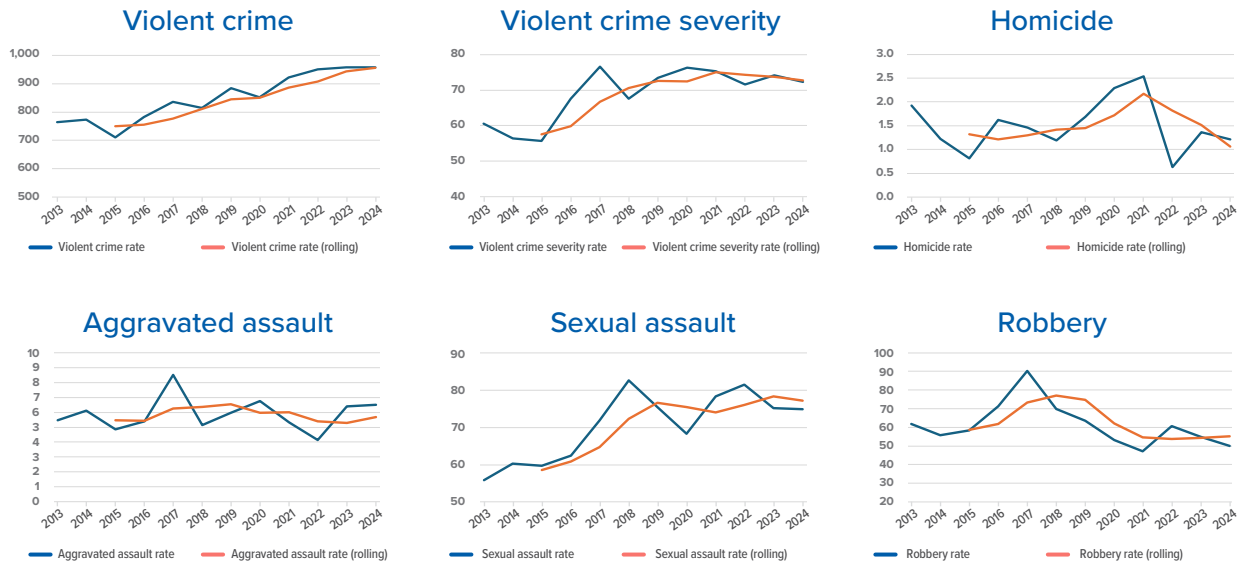


With its relatively high violent crime rate, Halifax is part of the somewhat surprising trend among Atlantic Canadian CMAs. Of the 20 CMAs, Halifax has between the 6th- and 11th-highest crime rates across the six categories. Moreover, Halifax has experienced increases in all six categories over the last decade. This growth has been most pronounced for the overall violent crime rate (up 24 per cent) and violent crime severity (up 21 per cent). The robbery rate has also increased over the medium term, with Halifax's rolling average rate increasing by 25 per cent between 2019 and 2024.

The news is slightly better over the short term, as Halifax's rolling average decreased between 2023 and 2024 in three of the six categories (violent crime severity, homicide, and sexual assault). Aggravated assault (down 10 per cent) and sexual assault (down 30 per cent) also declined between 2019 and 2024.

Hamilton

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	955.92	4	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	72.69	4	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	1.07	6	▼	▼	▼
Aggravated assault	5.69	6	▲	▼	▲
Sexual assault	77.18	7	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	55.14	8	▲	▼	▼

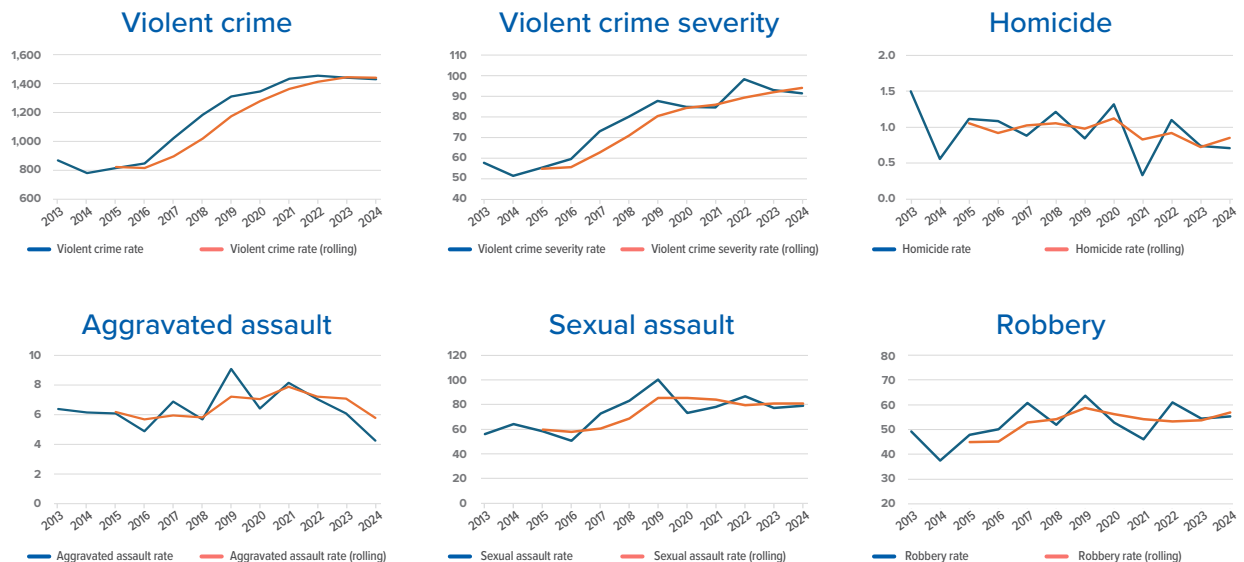


Compared to other CMAs, violent crime in Hamilton is relatively low; it has the fourth-lowest violent crime rate and violent crime severity. Yet, like the other CMAs in this report, violent crime is generally up over the last decade in Hamilton. Increases are especially notable in the violent crime rate (up 28 per cent), violent crime severity (up 26 per cent), and sexual assault (up 32 per cent). Between 2023 and 2024 Hamilton has seen decreases in its three-year rolling average for three categories: violent crime severity, homicide, and sexual assault.

Homicide is the one crime that has notably decreased over the medium and short term in Hamilton; its rolling homicide rate dropped by 26 per cent between 2019 and 2024. Likewise, the rolling robbery rate is down 26 per cent between 2019 and 2024, although it did increase slightly between 2023 and 2024. Hamilton's aggravated assault rate, meanwhile, has remained relatively flat at between 5.5 and 6.5 per 100,000 throughout the last decade.

Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1443.25	16	▼	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	94.22	13	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	0.85	3	▲	▼	▼
Aggravated assault	5.79	7	▼	▼	▼
Sexual assault	80.97	9	▲	▼	▲
Robbery	56.86	9	▲	▼	▲

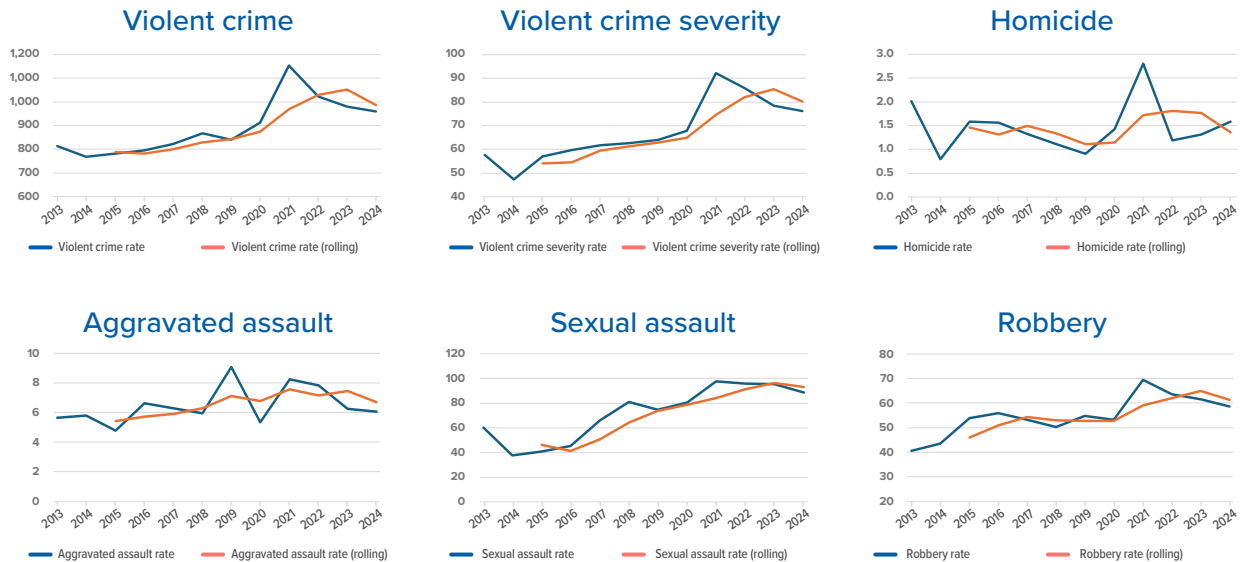


There is considerable variation in the crime statistics for Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (hereafter referred to as Kitchener). Its overall violent crime severity and (especially) violent crime rates are quite high; indeed, Kitchener had the fifth-highest violent crime rate of all 20 CMAs in 2024. Moreover, the relative growth in these two general categories in Kitchener has been considerable: over the past decade, Kitchener's violent crime rate has risen by 76 per cent and its violent crime severity has increased by 71 per cent. In both categories Kitchener's rate of increase is much higher than in any other CMA.

On the other hand, Kitchener has the third-lowest rate of homicide and seventh-lowest rate of aggravated assault in the dataset; the actual number of homicides in Kitchener has ranged between three and eight every year between 2013 and 2024. Kitchener's robbery rate and sexual assault rate, by contrast, have increased by 27 per cent and 36 per cent over the last decade. Both of those rolling rates also increased between 2023 and 2024, along with homicide and violent crime severity.

London

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	987.05	6	▼	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	80.23	8	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	1.36	9	▼	▲	▼
Aggravated assault	6.71	11	▼	▼	▲
Sexual assault	93.29	16	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	61.25	11	▼	▲	▲

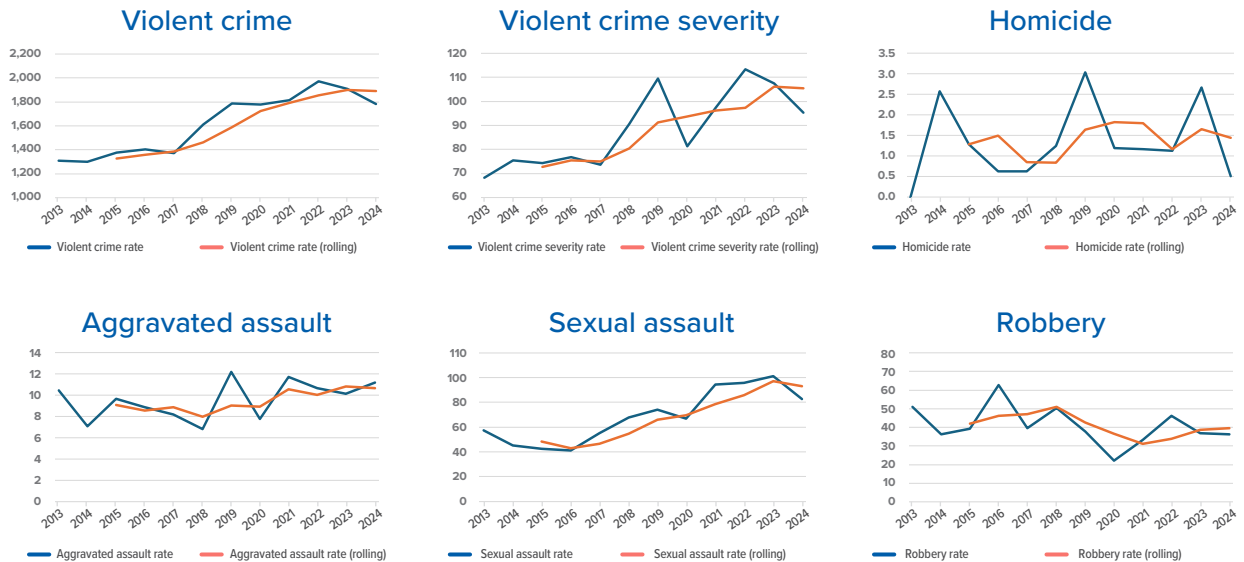


In London there is a stark contrast between the changes in its short-term rolling crime rates, which all declined between 2023 and 2024, and its medium- and long-term rates, almost all of which have gone up. As the above charts show, this can partially be explained by individual annual spikes that occurred in 2021 in violent crime, violent crime severity, homicide, and robbery. Even without these spikes, however, the trendlines are clear: violent crime has increased over the last decade in London in every category except homicide.

The rates of increase over the last decade have been especially high for violent crime more generally (up 25 per cent), violent crime severity (up 49 per cent), robbery (up 33 per cent), aggravated assault (up 24 per cent), and especially sexual assault (up 101 per cent). Sexual assault is particularly high in London compared to other CMAs; the city has the fifth-highest sexual assault rate of the 20 CMAs in this report. London is an excellent example of why individual year-by-year crime increases and decreases, while important data in their own right, must be analyzed alongside medium- and longer-term trends, which show a consistent upward rise over the last decade.

Moncton

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1890.50	20	▼	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	105.48	16	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	1.44	10	▼	▼	▲
Aggravated assault	10.68	16	▼	▲	▲
Sexual assault	93.02	15	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	39.71	5	▲	▼	▼

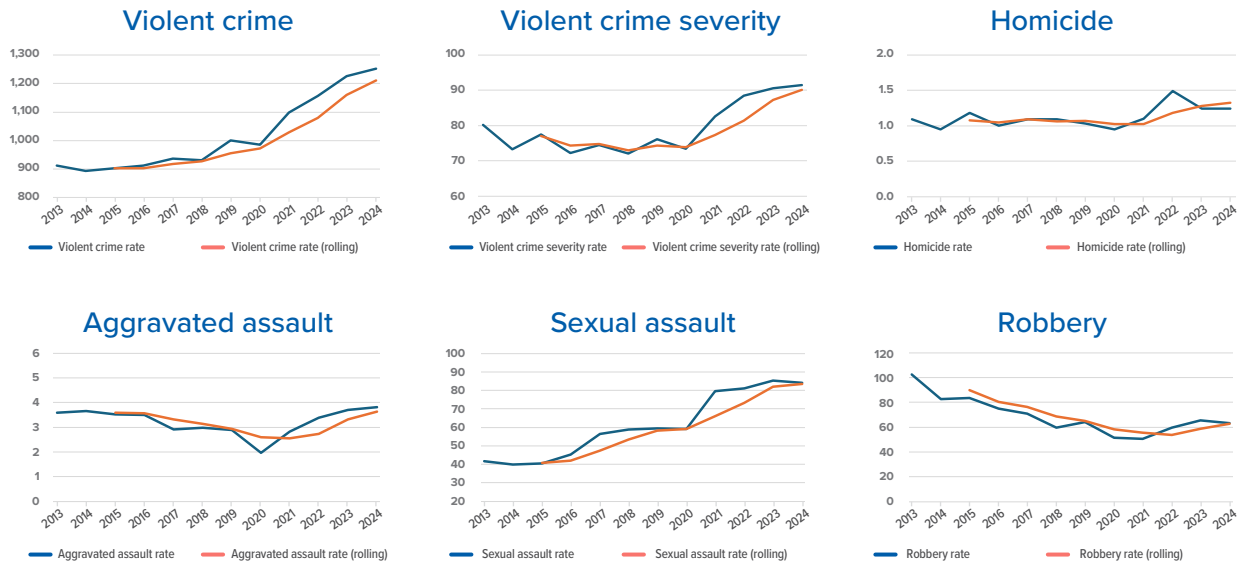


Violent crime in Moncton is comparatively high. Moncton had the highest violent crime rate of all 20 CMAs examined in this report, and the fifth-highest violent crime severity and aggravated assault rates. Moncton's trends are similar to those in London: short-term rolling crime rates declined between 2023 and 2024, but there were overall increases in medium- and long-term rates over the last decade.

In particular, Moncton's violent crime rate (up 42 per cent), violent crime severity (up 45 per cent), and sexual assault rates (up 93 per cent) show sustained growth over the last decade, with minor decreases for each of those categories between 2023 and 2024. Homicide, by contrast, has been comparatively flat, with between one and five homicides every year between 2014 and 2024. Robbery is the one category where violent crime has declined in Moncton over the last decade, dropping by 6 percent during that period.

Montreal

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1211.75	9	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	90.16	12	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	1.32	8	▲	▲	▲
Aggravated assault	3.64	1	▲	▲	▲
Sexual assault	83.55	11	▲	▲	▲
Robbery	62.69	13	▲	▼	▼

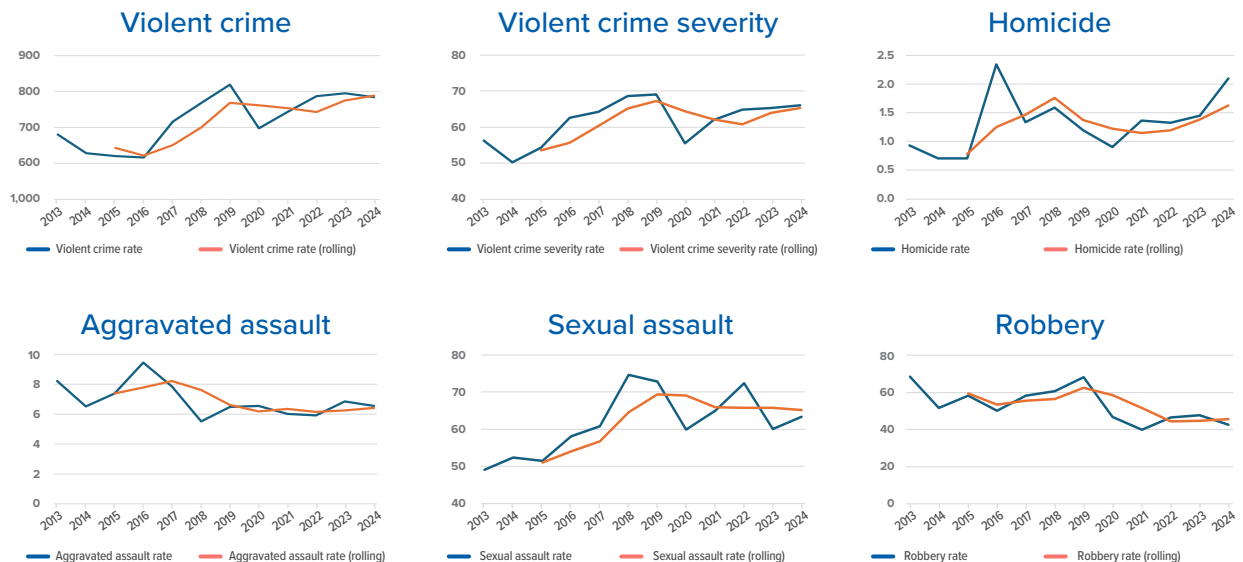


In Montreal there have been clear increases in violent crime rates in the short, medium, and long term. Other than robbery, all six categories of violent crime are up during all three periods. Increases over the last decade have been especially large for the overall violent crime rate (up 34 per cent), violent crime severity (up 17 per cent), and especially sexual assault (which has more than doubled).

Aggravated assault is the one area where Montreal's rate is comparatively low. The city has had the lowest rolling aggravated assault rate of the 20 CMAs for each of the last five years; at 3.6 per 100,000 people it is currently far lower than the second-lowest CMA (Toronto at 4.6 per 100,000 people). Montreal's robbery rate, although comparatively quite high, has also been declining, dropping by 30 per cent over the last decade.

Ottawa

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	789.40	1	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	65.33	1	▲	▼	▲
Homicide	1.63	12	▲	▲	▲
Aggravated assault	6.43	9	▲	▼	▼
Sexual assault	65.20	5	▼	▼	▲
Robbery	45.66	7	▲	▼	▼

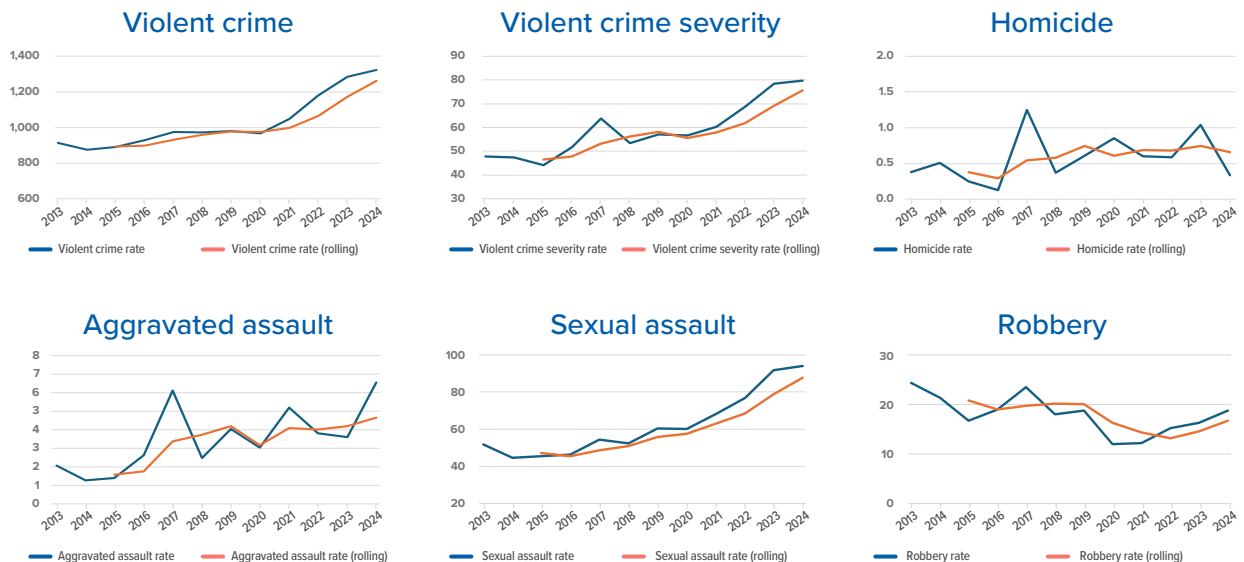


Compared to other CMAs, violent crime rates in Ottawa (technically the Ontario side of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA) tend to be low. Ottawa has the lowest violent crime rate, the lowest violent crime severity index, and the fifth-lowest sexual assault rate of the 20 CMAs we examined. Indeed, in an average of rankings across the six categories, Ottawa has the fourth-best ranking behind Windsor, Quebec City, and Hamilton. However, Ottawa's violent crime and homicide rates are both up in the short, medium, and long term over the last decade, while its violent crime severity is up 22 per cent over the last decade. Ottawa's homicide rate has seen the largest proportional increase of any of the 20 CMAs over the last decade; its rolling three-year average has more than doubled between 2015 and 2024. Ottawa's 27 homicides in 2024 were the highest number of any year between 2013 and 2024.

By contrast, aggravated assault (down 13 per cent) and robbery (down 23 per cent) both decreased in Ottawa over the last decade. The trend for these two crime rates is down over the medium term as well. In addition, Ottawa has had the lowest rolling violent crime rate and violent crime severity of the 20 CMAs for three straight years. However, of the six categories examined here, sexual assault is the only one where Ottawa did not see an increase in its three-year rolling average between 2023 and 2024; Ottawa's sexual assault rate is still 28 per cent higher today than it was a decade ago.

Quebec City

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1262.74	10	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	75.58	5	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	0.66	1	▼	▼	▲
Aggravated assault	4.66	3	▲	▲	▲
Sexual assault	87.56	14	▲	▲	▲
Robbery	16.75	1	▲	▼	▼

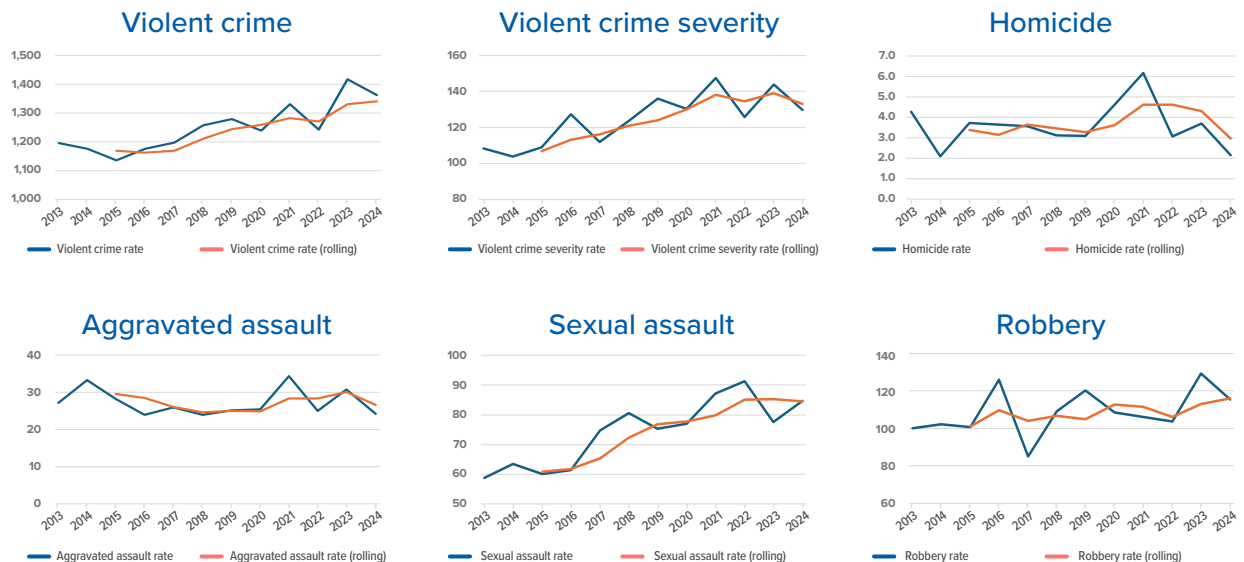


Compared to other CMAs, Quebec City's violent crime rates are generally low. It has by far the lowest robbery rate of any other CMA examined (half that of second-lowest Gatineau), the lowest homicide rate, and the third-lowest aggravated assault rate. On the other hand, it has the seventh-highest sexual assault rate, and the eleventh-highest overall violent crime rate. However, in spite of Quebec City's comparatively low numbers, its trends are nearly all increasing. Four categories – the violent crime rate, violent crime severity, aggravated assault, and sexual assault – have all increased in Quebec City in the short, medium, and long term over the last decade.

Some of the rates of increase have been considerable. Over the last decade, Quebec City's violent crime rate is up 42 per cent, its violent crime severity is up 63 per cent, its sexual assault rate is up 85 per cent, and its aggravated assault rate has nearly tripled (from 1.6 to 4.7 per 100,000). Of the six categories examined here, Quebec City's robbery rate – the lowest in the country – is the only one to have decreased over the long term, and is down 19 per cent over the last decade. Quebec City's rolling homicide rate has also declined over the last five years, although it is still 74 per cent higher than it was in 2015. Quebec City thus falls into a similar category as Gatineau: it has lower rates of violent crime than most other CMAs, but far higher rates of violent crime than it did a decade ago.

Regina

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1341.53	11	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	132.95	18	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	2.97	18	▼	▼	▼
Aggravated assault	26.60	18	▼	▲	▼
Sexual assault	84.52	12	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	116.05	18	▲	▲	▲

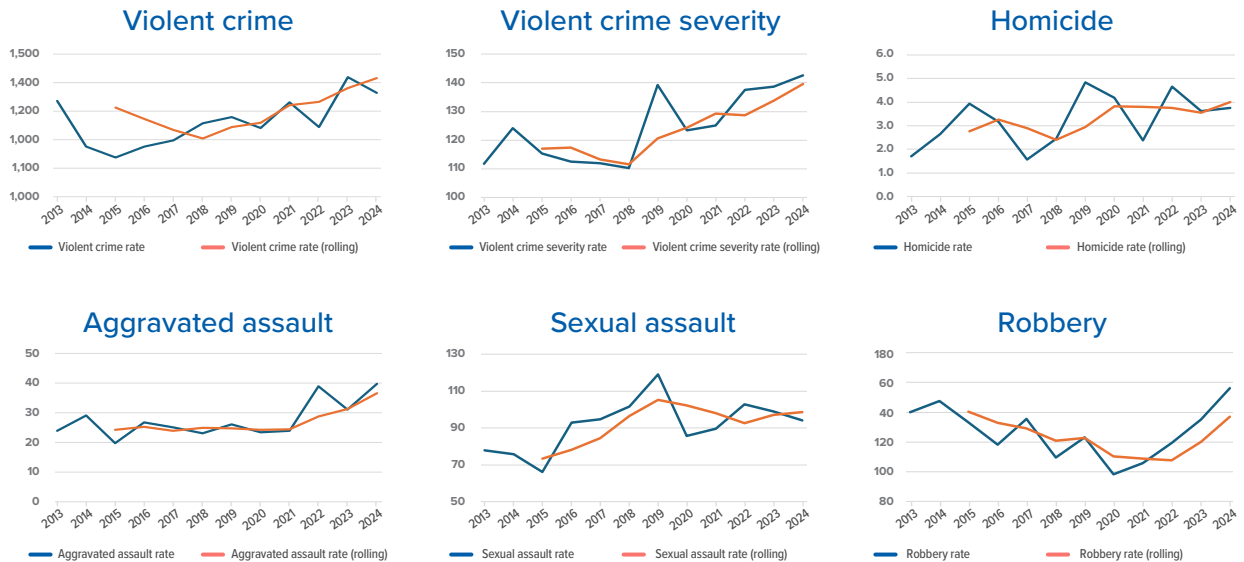


Violent crime is very high in Regina and it has generally increased over the last decade. Regina has the third-highest violent crime severity, homicide rate, aggravated assault rate, and robbery rate of the 20 CMAs examined in this report. It has also experienced long-term increases across most of the violent crime categories over the last decade, including violent crime (up 15 per cent), violent crime severity (up 24 per cent), robbery (up 15 per cent), and sexual assault (up 39 per cent). Regina has thus seen a further growth in violent crime starting from an already-high base a decade ago.

Although Regina has the third-highest homicide rate, homicide is the one category for which there has been a decline in the short, medium, and long term over the last decade. Regina's rolling homicide rate dropped by nearly a third between 2022 and 2024. The city also experienced a slight decrease in its violent crime severity, homicide rate, aggravated assault rate, and sexual assault rate between 2023 and 2024, albeit from a relatively high base. The graphs indicate that violent crime rates in Regina appear to be stabilizing over the last couple of years.

Saskatoon

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1414.66	14	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	139.62	19	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	4.02	19	▲	▲	▲
Aggravated assault	36.50	20	▲	▲	▲
Sexual assault	98.65	19	▲	▼	▲
Robbery	136.83	19	▲	▲	▼

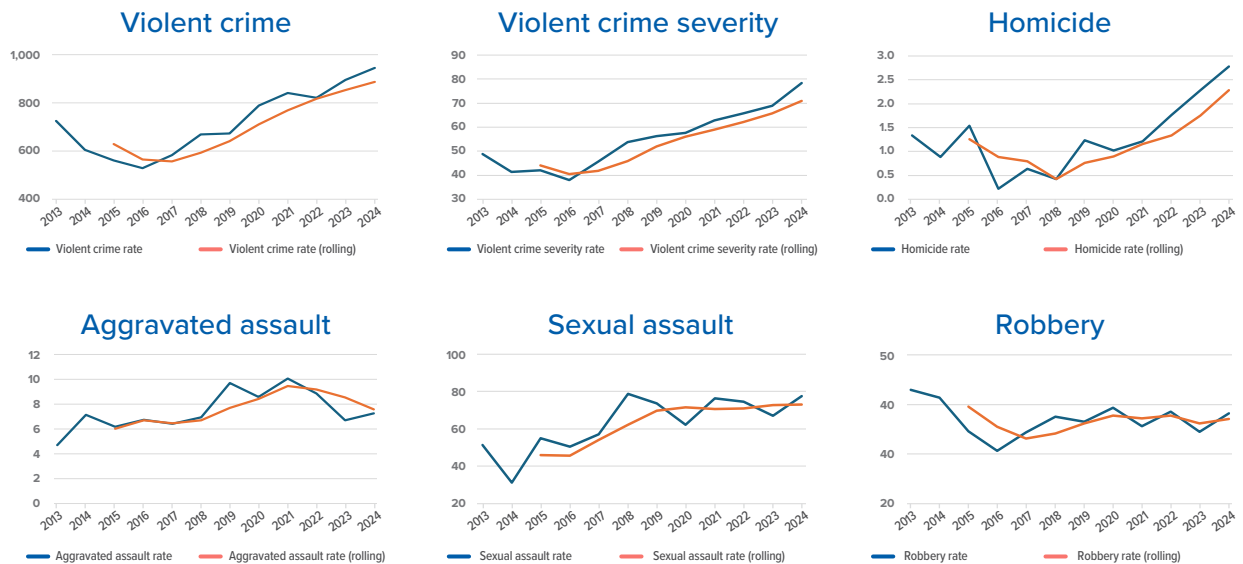


Like Regina, violent crime is very high in Saskatoon – indeed, higher than in Regina – and it has been increasing over the last decade. Unlike Regina, violent crime in Saskatoon has also increased in the short term, with increases in rolling averages between 2023 and 2024 in all six categories. Among the CMAs examined in this report, Saskatoon has either the highest or second-highest rate for five of the six categories, including the highest aggravated assault rate. Its aggravated assault rate (36.5 per 100,000 people) is an order of magnitude higher than the lowest CMA in the dataset (Montreal, at 3.6 per 100,000).

Saskatoon has seen especially large increases in its rates of sexual assault (up 35 per cent), homicide (up 45 per cent) and aggravated assault (up 51 per cent) over the last decade. Saskatoon's violent crime rate (up 8 per cent) and violent crime severity (up 19 per cent) have also increased. Saskatoon's robbery rate is down slightly over the last decade, though it has increased by 12 per cent over the last five years. Among Canada's largest CMAs, Saskatoon has the second-worst violent crime problem, behind only Winnipeg.

St. Catharines-Niagara

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	886.32	2	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	71.06	3	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	2.28	16	▲	▲	▲
Aggravated assault	7.58	12	▼	▼	▲
Sexual assault	72.93	6	▲	▲	▲
Robbery	37.08	3	▲	▲	▼

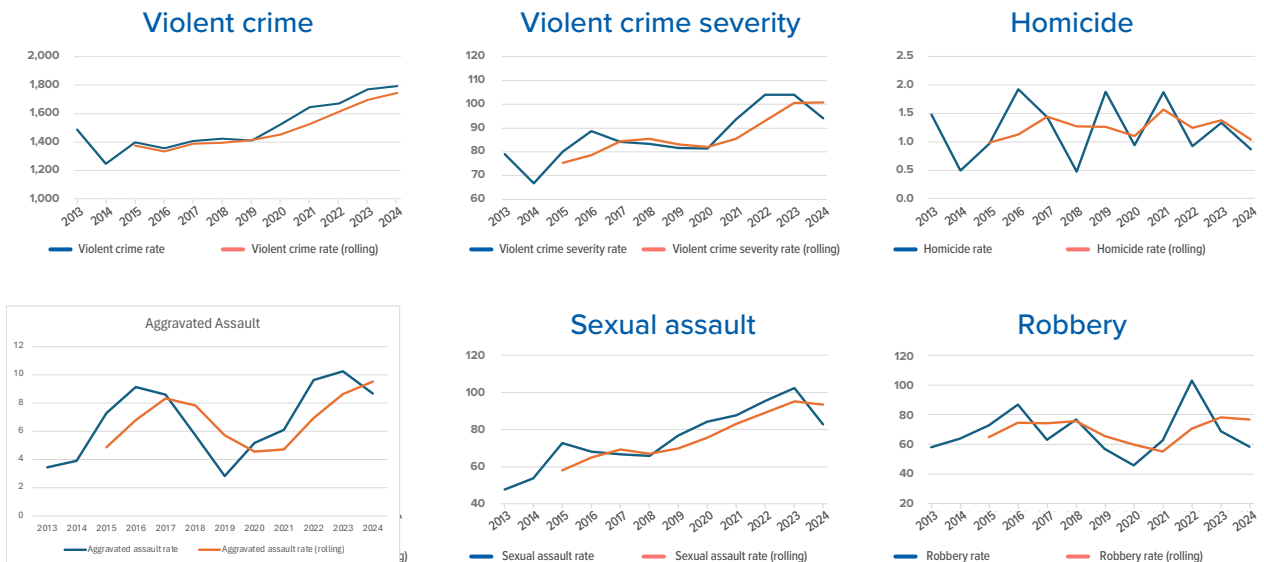


St. Catharines ranks well compared with other Canadian CMAs on violent crime. Of the 20 CMAs examined here, it has the second-lowest violent crime rate, third-lowest violent crime severity, third-lowest robbery rate, and sixth-lowest sexual assault rate. However, its homicide rate is increasing rapidly, with its three-year rolling average nearly tripling between 2019 and 2024. St. Catharines now has the fifth-highest homicide rate of the 20 CMAs, behind only the four Prairie CMAs.

While it began from a comparatively lower base, the rate of violent crime has increased considerably in St. Catharines over the last decade. The overall violent crime rate, violent crime severity, sexual assault rate, and robbery rate are all up over the short, medium, and long term. In addition to the rapid growth of its homicide rate, over the last decade St. Catharines has seen a large growth in its violent crime severity index (up 61 per cent), sexual assault rate (up 59 per cent), and overall violent crime rate (up 41 per cent). By contrast, its robbery rate has remained fairly steady – it is actually down 6 per cent over the last decade. While the aggravated assault rate in St. Catharines has dropped in recent years, it is still 27 per cent higher than it was in 2015.

St. John's

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1745.00	19	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	100.74	15	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	1.04	4	▼	▼	▲
Aggravated assault	9.50	15	▲	▲	▲
Sexual assault	93.40	17	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	76.80	16	▼	▲	▲

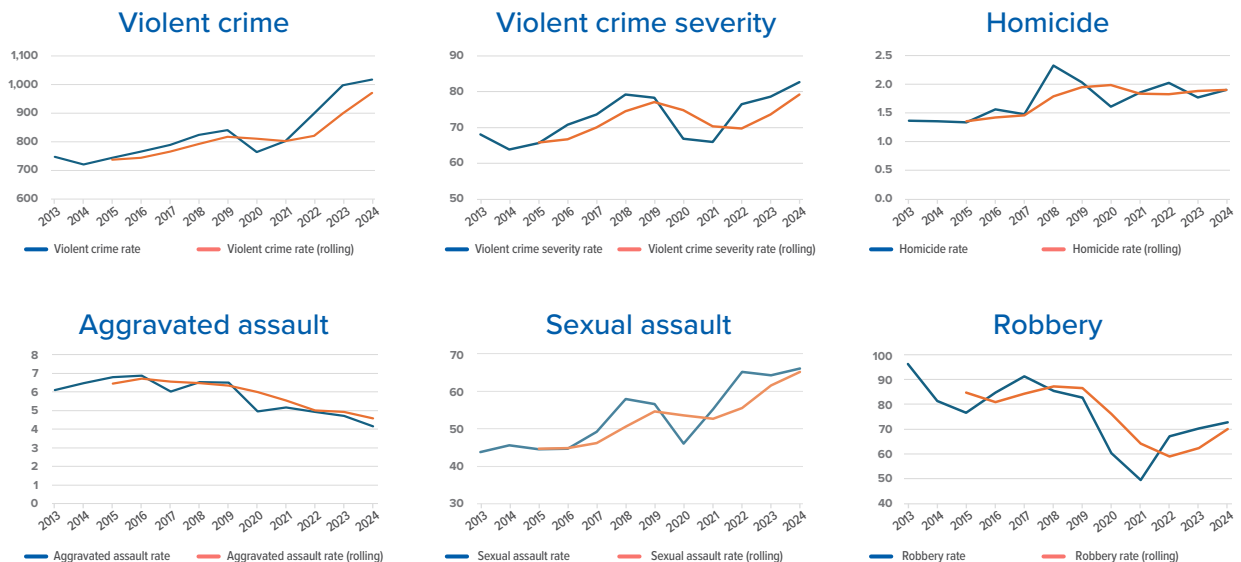


St. John's has some of the highest violent crime rates among the CMAs studied. Its overall violent crime rate is the second-highest, and its violent crime severity, aggravated assault rate, sexual assault rate, and robbery rate are among the sixth-highest of the 20 CMAs examined. The one area where St. John's crime is lower than most other CMAs is homicide; on that it has the fourth-lowest rate and the lowest of the three Atlantic Canadian CMAs. St. John's has consistently seen between one and four homicides every year between 2013 and 2024.

For all six categories, the violent crime rates and severity in St. John's have increased over the last decade, often by a considerable amount. Aggravated assault is up 95 per cent; sexual assault is up 61 per cent; and the violent crime severity index is up 34 per cent. In five of six categories, St. John's has also experienced increases over the medium term (the rolling average between 2019 and 2024), including a 67 per cent increase in aggravated assaults over the last five years. However, there has been a decrease in the rolling homicide, sexual assault, and robbery rates between 2023 and 2024.

Toronto

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	970.75	5	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	79.27	6	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	1.90	14	▲	▼	▲
Aggravated assault	4.58	2	▼	▼	▼
Sexual assault	65.10	4	▲	▲	▲
Robbery	70.04	14	▲	▼	▼

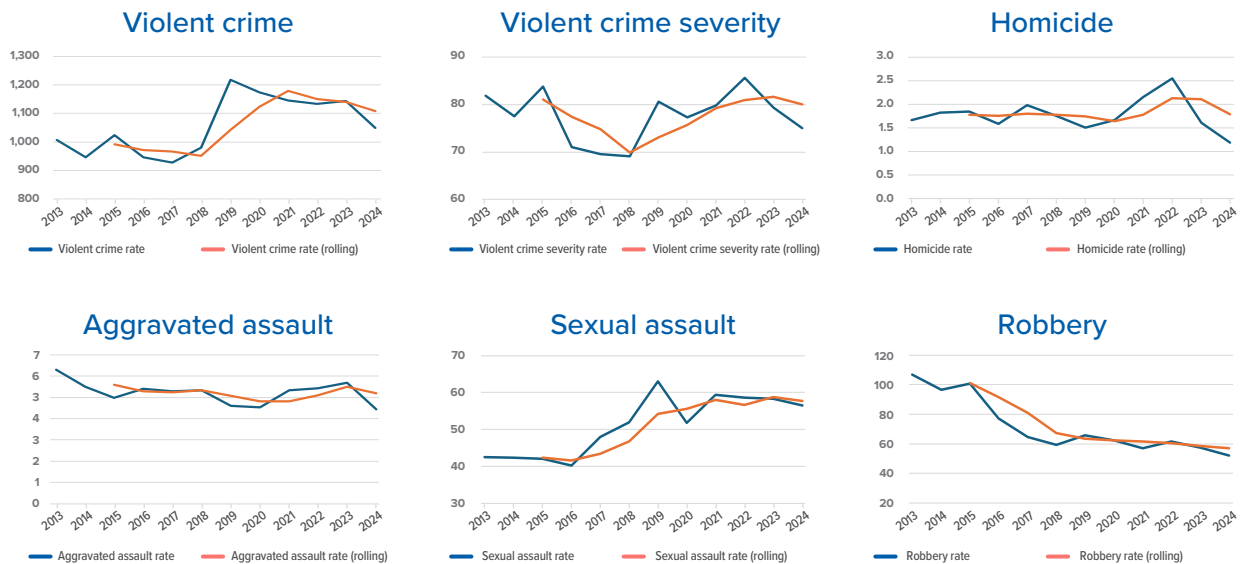


It is important to remember that the Toronto CMA is much bigger than the City of Toronto itself. With a 2024 population estimate of over 7.1 million people, it includes much of Peel, Durham, Halton, and York regions, including the relatively large cities of Mississauga, Brampton, Markham, Vaughan, and Richmond Hill (see Statistics Canada 2022b). As our 2024 study showed, within the Toronto CMA, violent crime rates tend to be much higher in the City of Toronto than in York (which includes Markham, Vaughan, and Richmond Hill) and Peel (which includes Mississauga and Brampton; see Snow and Audas 2024b).

Some important trends in the Toronto CMA are worth noting. Compared to other CMAs, Toronto has relatively low violent crime, violent crime severity, and rates of sexual assault and aggravated assault (on the latter, it has the second-lowest rate). However, its homicide and robbery rates are well above most other CMAs in the study, and its homicide rate grew by 40 per cent over the last decade. Both Toronto's overall violent crime rate (up 32 per cent) and violent crime severity (up 20 per cent) have grown considerably over the last decade, as has its sexual assault rate (up 46 per cent). However, Toronto has experienced a drop in aggravated assault (down 29 per cent) and robbery (down 17 per cent) over the last decade, although its robbery rate is on an upward trend.

Vancouver

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1108.70	8	▼	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	80.01	7	▼	▲	▼
Homicide	1.79	13	▼	▲	▲
Aggravated assault	5.19	4	▼	▲	▼
Sexual assault	57.77	2	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	57.01	10	▼	▼	▼

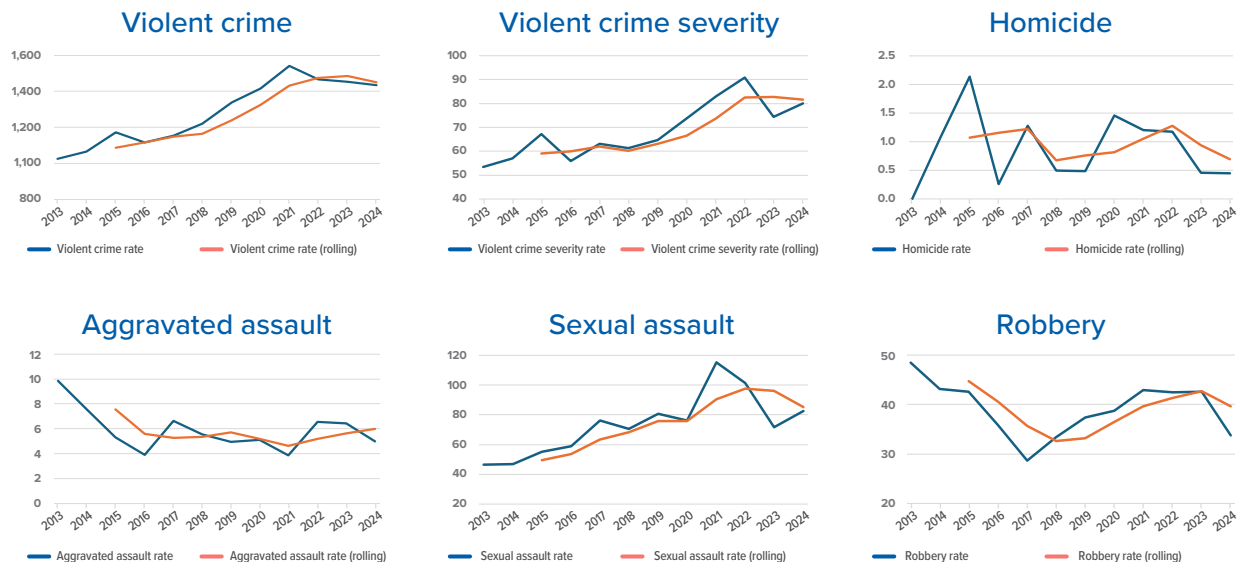


Vancouver has experienced more positive short-term crime trends than most other CMAs examined in this report. Violent crime rates and severity declined in the short term for all six categories and in three of six categories are down over the last decade. Of the 20 CMAs this report examined, Vancouver is the only one in which violent crime severity declined over the last decade (albeit by only 1 per cent). In particular, Vancouver's robbery trend line is consistently dropping; the robbery rate has decreased by 44 per cent. Moreover, Vancouver's overall rates of aggravated assault (fourth lowest) and sexual assault (second lowest) are lower than most other major CMAs.

Over the medium term, however, violent crime rates in Vancouver are increasing, albeit to a more moderate extent than in some other CMAs. The rolling average between 2019 and 2024 was up 10 per cent for violent crime severity and up 6 per cent for the overall violent crime rate and sexual assault rate. Moreover, the short-term decreases between 2023 and 2024 cannot not mask the fact that, over the last decade, sexual assault (up 37 per cent) and the overall violent crime rate (up 12 per cent) have risen considerably in Vancouver. Overall – and akin to the other British Columbia CMA, Victoria – the short- and long-term trends in Vancouver are more positive than in most other CMAs examined here.

Victoria

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1451.20	17	▼	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	81.67	10	▼	▲	▲
Homicide	0.69	2	▼	▼	▼
Aggravated assault	6.00	8	▲	▲	▼
Sexual assault	85.25	13	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	39.59	4	▼	▲	▼

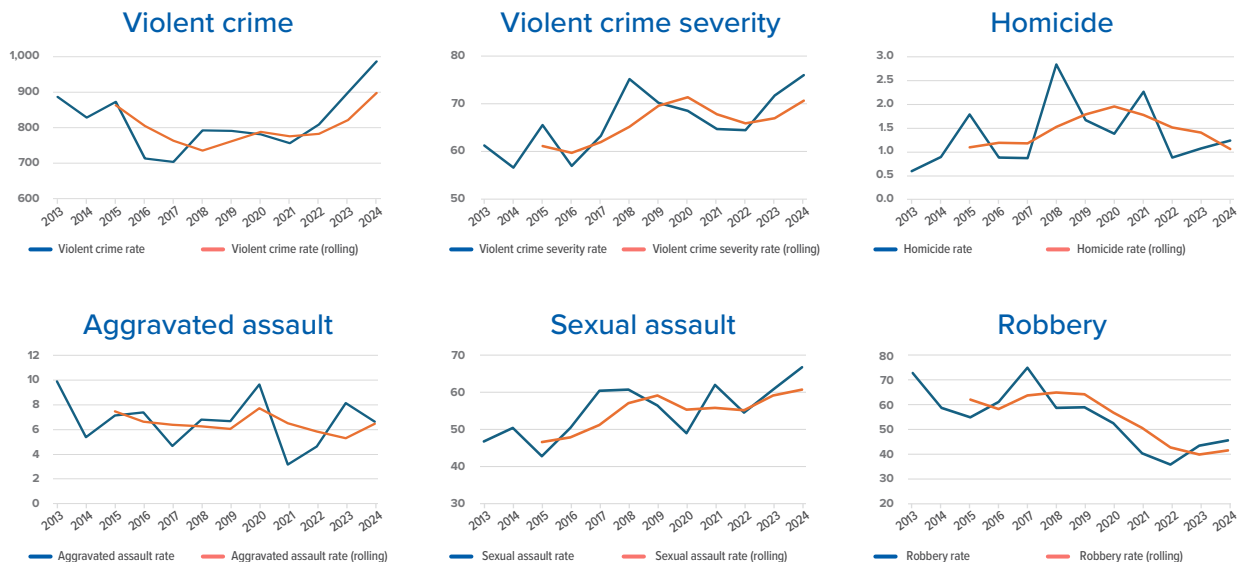


Like Vancouver, violent crime trends in Victoria are more positive than in most other CMAs examined in this report. Its short-term rolling average (2023 to 2024) is down for five of the six categories, with the exception of aggravated assault. It has the second-lowest homicide rate and fourth-lowest robbery rate of the 20 CMAs in the report, and its long-term crime rates over the last decade are declining for homicide (down 35 per cent), aggravated assault (down 21 per cent) and robbery (down 11 per cent). Homicide is down over all three periods, although Victoria's relatively low population means data for homicide can be influenced by relatively small fluctuations in absolute numbers (Victoria experienced two homicides each in 2023 and 2024).

However, Victoria is also seeing several worrying trends. The charts show that over the last decade, Victoria has seen considerable growth in its overall violent crime rate (up 33 per cent) and violent crime severity (up 38 per cent) and it has seen an especially large increase in its sexual assault rate (up 72 per cent, albeit with an 11 per cent decrease over the last year). In five of six categories, there has been an increase in the rolling average over the medium term, with a 30 per cent increase in violent crime severity and a 19 per cent increase in robbery between 2019 and 2024. It is too early to tell whether the decline in violent crime rates between 2023 and 2024 are an anomaly, or the start of a trend against the increases that occurred in the prior decade.

Windsor

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	898.28	3	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	70.67	2	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	1.06	5	▼	▼	▼
Aggravated assault	6.46	10	▲	▲	▼
Sexual assault	60.72	3	▲	▲	▲
Robbery	41.60	6	▲	▼	▼

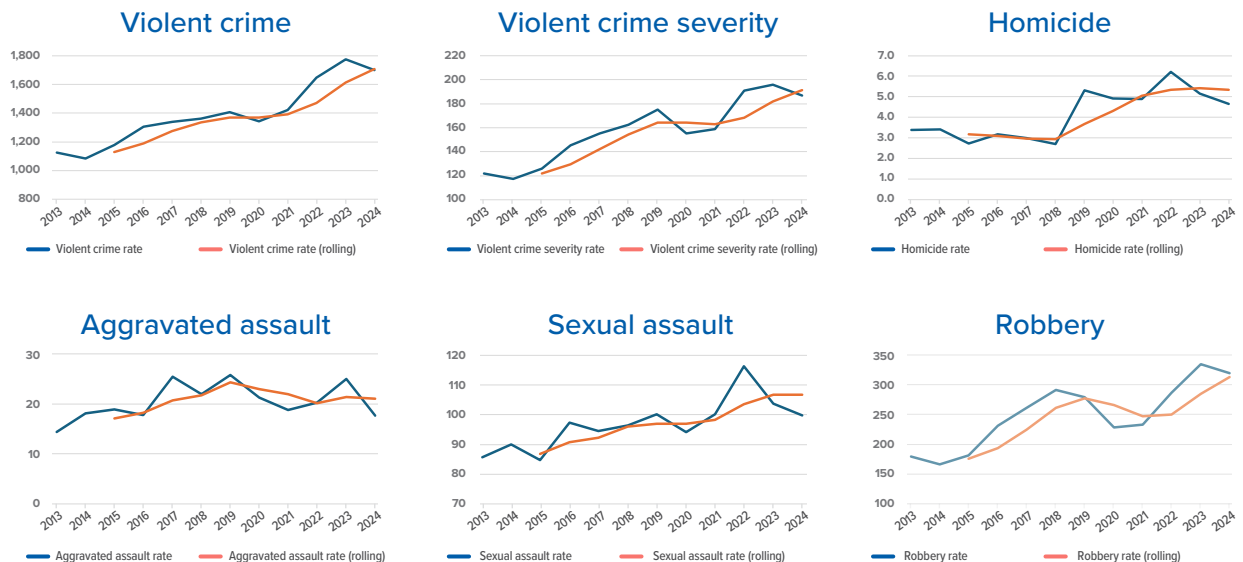


Among the 20 CMAs analyzed in this report, Windsor has the highest average “rank” (that is, the lowest crime rates). Windsor has the second-lowest violent crime severity, the third-lowest violent crime rate, and the third-lowest sexual assault rate of all the CMAs studied. Yet overall violent crime is undoubtedly increasing in Windsor; for all three of those categories for which it performs *comparatively* best – violent crime, violent crime severity, and sexual assault – Windsor has experienced short-term, medium-term, and long-term crime increases over the last decade. Windsor’s violent crime severity index has increased by 16 per cent over the last decade, while its sexual assault rate has increased by 30 per cent.

However, there have also been some decreases in violent crime. Homicide rates are down in the short, medium, and long term, while robbery (down 33 per cent) and aggravated assault (down 14 per cent) have declined over the last decade as well. However, Windsor did experience an uptick in five of six violent crime categories over the short term (2023 to 2024 rolling averages), with notable increases in aggravated assault (up 22 per cent) and the overall violent crime rate (up 9 per cent). While violent crime rates in Windsor are comparatively low, it has not been immune from the broader increases affecting Canadian urban areas.

Winnipeg

	2024 RATE	2024 RANK	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Violent crime	1707.54	18	▲	▲	▲
Violent crime severity	191.16	20	▲	▲	▲
Homicide	5.34	20	▼	▲	▲
Aggravated assault	20.98	17	▼	▼	▲
Sexual assault	106.66	20	▼	▲	▲
Robbery	313.26	20	▲	▲	▲



In last year's report, we wrote that "Violent crime in Winnipeg is high, rising, and showing no signs of slowing down" (Snow and Audas 2024b, 25). Although this is still true, some specific crime rates have started to stabilize; there have been short-term reductions in rolling rates of aggravated assault (down 2 per cent), homicide (down 1 per cent), and sexual assault (down less than 1 per cent). Yet there is no question that Winnipeg has the most violent crime of any major Canadian CMA. Over the last decade, crime in Winnipeg has grown considerably for all six categories in this report: aggravated assaults are up 22 per cent, sexual assaults are up 23 per cent, homicides are up 68 per cent, and robberies are up 78 per cent. There has been a 51 per cent increase in the overall violent crime rate and a 57 per cent increase in violent crime severity. The city's homicide statistics are bleak: between 2013 and 2018 there were between 22 and 27 homicides in Winnipeg each year; between 2019 and 2025, there were between 41 and 53 each year.

Compared with other CMAs, some of Winnipeg's crime rates are extremely high. Its violent crime severity index is 37 per cent higher than the next-highest CMA, Saskatoon; its homicide rate is more than double 17 of the 19 other CMAs in this report; its robbery rate is more than double every other CMA in this report, and more than four times higher than 16 of the other 19 CMAs; and it has the highest sexual assault rate. On nearly every violent crime measure, Winnipeg stands apart.

CONCLUSION

In our 2024 *Urban Violent Crime Report*, we sought to identify trends among major cities in Canada, focusing on the nine cities that reported to the Major Cities Chiefs Association. This report has gone further, using Statistics Canada's police-reported crime statistics to explore violent crime rates across 20 of Canada's largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs) comprising nearly two-thirds of the Canadian population.

Our report leads us to four conclusions. First, it is unquestionable that violent crime has risen in Canadian urban areas over the last decade, as has violent crime severity. Many CMAs not traditionally associated with high levels of crime, such as Quebec City and Windsor, have experienced a considerable growth in violent crime. Second, there are notable differences in crime rates between CMAs, with crime rates in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Regina often much higher – sometimes several times higher – than in CMAs such as Quebec City and Windsor. Third, although there are regional variations in the level of crime, with crime rates typically highest in Prairie CMAs and lowest in Central Canada, no Canadian region is immune from violent crime. The growth in violent crime has affected CMAs from St. John's to Victoria. The crisis has become truly national in scope.

While we urge policymakers of all stripes to focus their attention on urban violent crime, this report should not detract from two other facts: 1) property crime is also a serious problem, and 2) violent crime is especially high in rural areas. Property crime has risen noticeably in Canada over the last two decades. Many CMAs now outrank American cities for their property crime rates and the incidence of shoplifting has skyrocketed over the last decade (Di Matteo 2025; Statistics Canada 2025d; Hopper 2025). Likewise, in 2023, Statistics Canada found that the police-reported violent crime rate was 1.7 times higher

in rural than urban areas, with violent crime making up nearly a quarter of all crime in rural areas (Cotter 2025). Future studies should look more closely at both property crime and rural violent crime, in similar detail to this report's examination of urban violent crime.

This report has presented data on urban violent crime; it has not attempted to propose policy solutions or speculate on what is driving this increase. However, amidst evidence that Canada's violent crime gap is narrowing with the United States (Sinha and Cotter 2025), it is worth noting that there is a growing bipartisan and cross-provincial consensus that some form of bail reform is necessary. Both the Liberals and the Conservatives promised to strengthen bail laws in the 2025 election, and in October the Liberal government introduced legislation to a new law extended the reverse onus for bail for several offences and for repeat offenders (Ebner 2025). Considering the violent crime crisis facing Canadian urban areas, such proposals warrant further discussion.

In the end, the evidence is clear: over the last decade, violent crime in Canada's cities has grown more severe, more widespread, and more national in scope. Policymakers can no longer deny the urgency of the problem. Recognizing the reality of urban violent crime is the first step toward developing the solutions that will make Canadians safer. [MLI](#)

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APPENDIX A

Data and Limitations

Criminal Incidents and Violent Crime Severity

This report compares statistics for six categories of violent crime: homicide, aggravated assault, sexual assault, robbery, the overall violent crime rate, and the violent crime severity index. For all categories except the crime severity index (described below), this report uses data that reflect criminal “incidents” reported by police, not criminal cases that have been through the courts and for which someone has been found guilty. Statistics Canada defines a criminal “incident” as follows:

Incident refers to the occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event, regardless of the number of victims. If there are multiple victims or multiple accused persons, the offences must occur at the same location and at the same time if they are to be included within the same incident. The incident count will normally be lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims. (Statistics Canada 2023)

An “incident count” records criminal offences by incident. By contrast, a “victim count” records a separate criminal incident for each victim. For violent crimes, Statistics Canada’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) methodology uses the victim count, also known as the “victim-based” model of reporting. As an example of how a victim count works in practice, if “one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded. If three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded” (Statistics Canada Undated, 1).

The one exception to general victim-based reporting is the crime of robbery, for which Statistics Canada uses an “incident count.” According to

Statistics Canada's own UCR method of crime reporting, robbery is equal to one incident regardless of the number of victims. For example, in a bank robbery with 25 people present, a "victim count" would count 25 individual robbery incidents, which "would seriously overstate the occurrence of robbery" (Statistics Canada Undated, 1). For these reasons, Statistics Canada uses incident counts for robbery.

For sexual assault, Statistics Canada distinguishes between three "levels," which correspond to the three categories of sexual assault in the Criminal Code. Level 1 sexual assault comprises "any assault of a sexual nature that violates the sexual integrity of the victim." Level 2 is "sexual assault involving a weapon, threats to a third party or bodily harm" while Level 3 is "aggravated sexual assault that involves wounding, maiming or disfiguring, or endangering the life of the victim" (Statistics Canada 2024a). Our report only includes Level 1 sexual assault rates. While slightly incomplete, the use of Level 1 sexual assault data captures the vast majority of sexual assaults. For example, in 2024 there were 39,956 Level 1 sexual assaults in Canada (97.8 per cent of all police-reported sexual assaults), compared with 784 Level 2 sexual assaults and 124 Level 3 sexual assaults. We did not include a comparison of rates for Level 2 and Level 3 sexual assaults as many municipalities had very low numbers that could skew data comparison (e.g., St. John's reported one Level 2 and no Level 3 sexual assaults in 2024).

To measure violent crime severity, this report uses Statistics Canada's "crime severity index" across the 20 CMAs, which "tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime by accounting for both the amount of crime reported by police in a given jurisdiction and the relative seriousness of the crimes." Statistics Canada describes its overall crime severity index (which includes violent and non-violent crime) as follows:

The Crime Severity Index measures changes in the level of severity of crime in Canada from year to year. It is complementary to the crime rate which measures only the volume of crime reported to the police per 100,000 population. The Index includes all Criminal Code violations including traffic, as well as drug violations and all Federal Statutes. In the Index, all crimes are assigned a weight based on their seriousness. The level of seriousness is based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces

and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, and less serious offences lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the Index. These weights are updated using data from the Integrated Criminal Courts Survey (ICCS) every 5 years. (Statistics Canada 2025b)

The Crime Severity Index is designed to ensure that more violent crimes are weighted more highly. Crimes that are more likely to result in prison time and longer sentences are given a higher weight. For example: Using the conventional crime rate, one property theft has the same impact on the crime rate as one murder. One incident of murder is therefore equivalent in weight to one incident of property theft. However, in the Crime Severity Index, murder has a weight of over 8,200, while property theft has a weight of 29. As such, the impact of one murder on the CSI is approximately 280 times greater than one property theft (Statistics Canada 2024b).

Statistics Canada tracks three different crime indices: a crime severity index, a non-violent crime severity index, and a violent crime severity index. This report only uses the violent crime severity index, which “includes all Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) violent violations” (Statistics Canada 2025c).

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Rolling Averages

This report uses Statistics Canada’s annual data on violent crime rates, particularly its police-reported “incident-based crime statistics” table, released every July (Statistics Canada 2025a). Our previous report used data from the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), which compared data reported directly from municipal police services. By contrast, the Statistics Canada data in this report is still drawn from police services, but is organized by Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), which have larger geographical boundaries. Statistics Canada defines a CMA as “formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core)” with a total population of 100,000 or more, in which adjacent municipalities “must have a high degree of integration with the core” (Statistics Canada 2022a).

The use of CMAs permits a much wider geographic scope of coverage, which enables us to compare violent crime statistics across 20 of the largest

CMA in Canada. First, for large CMAs such as Toronto, the report reflects data from many municipalities within that CMA including York and Peel, which were analyzed separately in our 2024 report. Moreover, as Statistics Canada (2025a) notes, “while official police-reported data on crime from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey use Statistics Canada’s standard Census Metropolitan Area names, the boundaries for the policing-based CMAs do not always fully align with the standard CMA geographic units used for disseminating information about the Census of Population.” For example, although Oshawa forms its own CMA, Statistics Canada does not provide incident-based crime data for the Oshawa CMA, and large portions of its geographical scope are included within the Toronto CMA for the purposes of crime data reporting. For more information on the precise municipalities included within each CMA for the purposes of crime reporting, see Statistics Canada (2020a).

In our presentation of the data, we primarily rely on three-year rolling averages to determine crime rates and crime severity to prevent individual annual fluctuations from skewing the data. For example, Montreal’s “2024 robbery rate” is an average of its robbery rates from 2022, 2023, and 2024, while Montreal’s “2015 robbery rate” is an average of its robbery rates from 2013, 2014, and 2015. Unless otherwise stated, when a year’s “rate” or “rank” is listed, we are referring to the three-year rolling average, of which that year is the final year. The use of rolling averages is especially important for less populous CMAs such as Moncton and St. John’s, where a small increase or decrease in a low-incidence crime such as homicide can result in a large fluctuation in year-to-year rate changes. For those interested in the annual (non-rolling) rates, Appendix B contains tables with each CMA’s annual rates for each of the six crime categories from 2013 to 2015. Figures in each “CMA Snapshot” also contain rolling and non-rolling rates for each crime. All rates are per 100,000 population.

APPENDIX B

Annual (non-rolling) violent crime rates

Violent crime rate per 100,000 population

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calgary	719.40	752.07	791.22	824.26	918.27	1020.31	1071.57	962.98	1056.02	1012.48	1094.05	1056.91
Edmonton	1147.12	1103.68	1193.85	1145.78	1207.33	1202.69	1241.45	1221.58	1236.87	1365.22	1422.67	1389.89
Gatineau	1109.32	1079.76	1116.87	1066.29	1174.20	1150.86	1125.01	1062.19	1143.37	1312.19	1343.38	1385.94
Halifax	1118.01	1200.05	1137.11	1050.84	1284.33	1377.26	1318.19	1308.53	1289.77	1466.13	1466.48	1358.25
Hamilton	763.72	773.27	711.34	783.24	836.58	814.36	885.23	853.21	921.78	951.12	958.24	958.40
Kitchener	868.92	780.73	815.93	848.64	1023.68	1184.88	1309.89	1347.31	1436.18	1456.70	1440.69	1432.36
London	813.28	767.91	781.54	795.44	822.18	868.20	839.93	913.32	1154.61	1022.42	979.36	959.37
Moncton	1310.42	1300.39	1375.00	1404.40	1374.31	1609.65	1787.36	1779.82	1814.59	1974.62	1911.68	1785.21
Montreal	911.51	892.51	903.18	911.43	936.82	931.57	999.69	985.47	1098.20	1156.54	1225.92	1252.79
Ottawa	680.59	628.89	621.18	616.16	716.48	769.14	819.32	698.34	743.73	787.89	795.92	784.39
Quebec City	911.96	874.58	889.24	929.53	975.38	973.34	980.44	967.78	1048.33	1180.62	1285.51	1322.08
Regina	1196.78	1175.43	1136.02	1175.62	1197.63	1257.58	1278.53	1239.70	1331.01	1242.71	1418.50	1363.37
Saskatoon	1334.47	1339.46	1260.51	1217.79	1224.18	1169.98	1336.63	1267.11	1356.50	1371.20	1413.22	1459.56
St. Catharines	724.54	603.35	559.51	528.82	581.55	668.87	672.76	789.08	840.17	820.78	894.72	943.47
St. John's	1486.33	1245.64	1399.17	1356.36	1406.81	1425.05	1409.59	1523.82	1645.48	1671.42	1769.06	1794.51
Toronto	747.00	719.51	743.04	765.50	787.70	824.26	840.70	763.84	801.02	897.90	997.53	1016.81
Vancouver	1006.29	945.66	1023.84	945.71	927.30	979.45	1217.32	1172.94	1145.00	1133.34	1143.11	1049.65
Victoria	1026.09	1064.92	1171.34	1117.11	1154.66	1221.84	1338.35	1415.22	1542.07	1465.79	1452.44	1435.38
Windsor	886.87	828.65	872.49	712.87	702.99	792.48	791.13	781.54	756.46	808.49	899.34	987.00
Winnipeg	1126.34	1082.71	1175.82	1305.43	1340.17	1362.01	1407.88	1343.44	1422.81	1647.93	1775.54	1699.14

Violent crime severity index

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calgary	62.99	64.46	73.52	64.83	76.25	80.73	85.78	79.64	84.39	81.37	84.98	76.52
Edmonton	91.54	94.80	105.95	102.92	108.26	109.09	110.49	112.24	112.82	111.96	119.06	107.51
Gatineau	65.60	58.23	56.00	64.66	68.81	72.52	70.60	73.70	72.31	85.77	90.68	91.83
Halifax	85.06	75.13	83.59	81.87	88.87	96.82	84.36	85.07	98.87	103.94	97.26	93.58
Hamilton	60.49	56.37	55.70	67.60	76.68	67.61	73.42	76.35	75.29	71.54	74.22	72.31
Kitchener	57.84	51.56	55.46	59.68	73.09	80.03	87.81	85.01	84.69	98.23	93.03	91.40
London	57.79	47.34	56.94	59.64	61.82	62.63	64.05	67.86	92.24	85.96	78.57	76.17
Moncton	68.35	75.44	74.34	76.74	73.63	90.64	109.44	81.43	97.54	113.42	107.61	95.40
Montreal	80.13	73.28	77.44	72.25	74.48	72.05	76.17	73.39	82.55	88.37	90.62	91.48
Ottawa	56.31	50.16	54.33	62.57	64.21	68.53	69.08	55.46	61.9	64.76	65.28	65.96
Quebec City	47.77	47.36	44.24	51.77	63.78	53.34	57.13	56.58	60.35	68.67	78.35	79.71
Regina	108.23	103.63	108.87	127.26	112.05	123.69	135.99	130.40	147.56	125.68	143.66	129.52
Saskatoon	111.79	124.08	115.32	112.55	111.91	110.33	139.28	123.38	125.02	137.60	138.73	142.53
St. Catharines	48.89	41.36	42.09	37.99	45.58	53.85	56.29	57.76	62.83	65.88	68.83	78.46
St. John's	79.09	66.81	80.05	88.84	84.15	83.45	81.54	81.41	93.59	104.03	104.03	94.16
Toronto	67.99	63.80	65.70	70.74	73.60	79.20	78.35	66.88	65.91	76.48	78.66	82.66
Vancouver	81.87	77.57	83.83	71.00	69.51	69.05	80.61	77.30	79.82	85.65	79.32	75.07
Victoria	53.32	57.01	67.10	55.88	63.13	61.30	64.65	73.62	83.03	90.76	74.28	79.97
Windsor	61.28	56.55	65.53	56.94	63.21	75.19	70.18	68.53	64.67	64.41	71.65	75.94
Winnipeg	121.69	117.16	125.98	145.18	155.21	162.48	174.94	155.34	158.76	190.97	195.75	186.77

Homicide rate per 100,000 population

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calgary	1.84	2.29	2.80	2.27	2.11	1.34	1.58	2.42	1.49	1.83	1.49	1.29
Edmonton	2.11	3.03	2.83	3.43	3.51	2.68	2.21	3.34	3.45	2.39	3.07	2.20
Gatineau	1.56	1.55	0.31	0.91	0.30	1.19	0.88	2.03	1.15	0.57	1.41	1.38
Halifax	1.48	1.23	1.96	2.90	1.90	1.63	0.68	2.00	2.28	2.20	1.54	2.07
Hamilton	1.92	1.22	0.81	1.62	1.46	1.19	1.69	2.29	2.54	0.63	1.36	1.21
Kitchener	1.50	0.56	1.11	1.08	0.88	1.21	0.84	1.32	0.33	1.10	0.74	0.71
London	2.01	0.80	1.59	1.56	1.33	1.11	0.91	1.43	2.81	1.19	1.31	1.59
Moncton	0.00	2.58	1.29	0.63	0.63	1.24	3.04	1.19	1.17	1.13	2.67	0.51
Montreal	1.09	0.95	1.18	1.00	1.09	1.09	1.03	0.95	1.10	1.49	1.24	1.24
Ottawa	0.93	0.71	0.71	2.34	1.34	1.59	1.19	0.90	1.36	1.33	1.45	2.10
Quebec City	0.38	0.51	0.25	0.13	1.25	0.37	0.61	0.85	0.60	0.59	1.04	0.34
Regina	4.29	2.10	3.73	3.64	3.58	3.13	3.09	4.62	6.17	3.07	3.69	2.14
Saskatoon	1.70	2.66	3.93	3.18	1.56	2.46	4.85	4.19	2.39	4.67	3.63	3.75
St. Catharines	1.34	0.89	1.54	0.22	0.64	0.42	1.24	1.02	1.21	1.77	2.29	2.78
St. John's	1.48	0.49	0.97	1.92	1.43	0.47	1.88	0.94	1.87	0.92	1.33	0.87
Toronto	1.36	1.35	1.34	1.56	1.48	2.32	2.03	1.61	1.85	2.02	1.77	1.90
Vancouver	1.67	1.83	1.85	1.59	1.98	1.76	1.51	1.67	2.16	2.56	1.61	1.19
Victoria	0.00	1.08	2.13	0.26	1.28	0.50	0.49	1.46	1.20	1.17	0.46	0.45
Windsor	0.60	0.90	1.79	0.88	0.87	2.84	1.67	1.38	2.27	0.88	1.07	1.24
Winnipeg	3.38	3.43	2.74	3.17	2.99	2.70	5.32	4.92	4.89	6.22	5.15	4.66

Aggravated assault rate per 100,000 population

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calgary	8.84	8.36	7.85	5.65	7.36	5.17	8.43	8.23	8.68	6.74	8.81	7.41
Edmonton	20.11	19.87	19.33	20.26	18.70	24.45	27.95	31.80	30.02	31.73	27.09	25.58
Gatineau	2.18	1.24	2.16	3.35	2.71	1.79	3.22	5.50	4.31	5.71	3.94	6.60
Halifax	6.16	5.90	11.03	8.20	9.73	8.16	8.44	4.45	7.47	7.81	7.14	8.67
Hamilton	5.48	6.11	4.85	5.40	8.52	5.15	5.97	6.76	5.34	4.14	6.42	6.51
Kitchener	6.38	6.14	6.09	4.88	6.90	5.69	9.08	6.43	8.14	7.05	6.08	4.24
London	5.64	5.80	4.77	6.64	6.28	5.93	9.07	5.35	8.25	7.83	6.24	6.06
Moncton	10.46	7.10	9.65	8.88	8.17	6.83	12.17	7.76	11.71	10.69	10.14	11.20
Montreal	3.59	3.66	3.53	3.51	2.92	2.97	2.88	1.96	2.83	3.39	3.71	3.82
Ottawa	8.23	6.52	7.38	9.47	7.84	5.51	6.49	6.54	6.03	5.91	6.84	6.54
Quebec City	2.05	1.27	1.39	2.63	6.11	2.47	4.03	3.03	5.19	3.80	3.60	6.57
Regina	27.04	33.24	28.19	23.84	25.82	23.87	25.12	25.41	34.32	24.95	30.64	24.20
Saskatoon	23.80	28.94	19.63	26.73	24.98	23.05	26.04	23.34	23.89	38.85	30.96	39.68
St. Catharines	4.70	7.11	6.17	6.73	6.40	6.92	9.70	8.56	10.06	8.84	6.68	7.23
St. John's	3.44	3.90	7.27	9.12	8.58	5.69	2.83	5.15	6.07	9.62	10.22	8.66
Toronto	6.10	6.46	6.79	6.86	6.01	6.53	6.50	4.95	5.15	4.91	4.70	4.14
Vancouver	6.30	5.50	4.99	5.41	5.30	5.33	4.60	4.54	5.34	5.43	5.70	4.44
Victoria	9.86	7.55	5.31	3.90	6.65	5.53	4.94	5.12	3.85	6.56	6.45	4.98
Windsor	9.90	5.38	7.14	7.37	4.65	6.80	6.68	9.64	3.18	4.64	8.11	6.62
Winnipeg	14.40	18.06	18.93	17.76	25.39	21.93	25.75	21.26	18.72	20.29	24.97	17.67

Sexual assault rate per 100,000 population

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calgary	50.52	45.06	50.73	48.27	57.89	69.18	69.63	55.90	67.08	58.49	62.01	51.53
Edmonton	76.28	75.38	77.54	71.36	78.76	84.75	92.00	86.28	105.80	98.96	95.83	87.43
Gatineau	35.23	40.59	43.17	45.13	54.89	55.97	63.88	48.62	75.84	69.96	79.44	88.32
Halifax	74.21	74.93	83.32	79.63	96.55	159.66	92.14	75.95	82.14	90.37	76.21	80.85
Hamilton	55.86	60.29	59.72	62.41	71.87	82.70	75.49	68.32	78.33	81.45	75.20	74.89
Kitchener	55.89	64.22	58.29	50.61	72.50	83.08	100.07	72.99	78.30	86.82	77.02	79.08
London	60.39	37.62	40.92	45.47	66.26	80.83	74.77	80.36	97.75	95.78	95.29	88.79
Moncton	57.16	45.17	42.47	41.21	55.27	67.72	74.24	66.89	94.30	95.69	100.90	82.46
Montreal	41.74	39.86	40.33	45.29	56.45	58.92	59.43	59.12	79.44	81.06	85.43	84.15
Ottawa	49.00	52.40	51.43	58.00	60.80	74.66	72.73	59.90	65.02	72.30	60.04	63.26
Quebec City	51.85	44.53	45.41	46.41	54.45	52.25	60.40	60.24	68.19	76.76	91.84	94.09
Regina	58.81	63.53	60.12	61.41	74.68	80.60	75.37	77.00	87.14	91.34	77.53	84.70
Saskatoon	77.86	75.84	66.08	92.92	94.62	101.72	119.01	85.59	89.60	102.83	99.03	94.10
St. Catharines	51.43	31.12	54.89	50.36	56.98	78.68	73.47	62.19	76.23	74.49	66.95	77.34
St. John's	47.69	53.63	72.75	68.13	66.74	65.96	76.79	84.27	87.78	95.27	102.21	82.71
Toronto	43.81	45.53	44.47	44.67	49.18	57.87	56.62	46.00	55.23	65.12	64.17	66.01
Vancouver	42.43	42.38	42.11	40.26	47.97	51.87	62.95	51.79	59.41	58.55	58.25	56.50
Victoria	46.54	46.95	55.26	58.69	76.19	70.44	80.85	76.00	115.12	101.44	71.62	82.69
Windsor	46.79	50.50	42.85	50.41	60.40	60.68	56.49	49.04	62.09	54.58	60.81	66.78
Winnipeg	85.63	89.92	84.82	97.31	94.46	96.42	100.23	94.17	100.16	116.33	103.81	99.84

Robbery rate per 100,000 population

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Calgary	70.55	68.13	82.96	66.17	78.32	88.77	89.72	67.72	79.39	73.60	76.48	70.16
Edmonton	90.59	91.08	112.71	103.94	105.27	109.20	111.30	86.41	70.45	83.76	89.18	82.79
Gatineau	33.67	23.86	22.20	32.02	30.46	30.96	29.60	26.92	17.52	39.41	33.24	29.72
Halifax	61.39	46.92	60.53	46.81	54.80	55.47	37.17	44.55	42.11	69.33	60.19	55.22
Hamilton	61.75	55.81	58.23	71.33	90.37	69.76	63.68	53.15	47.30	60.65	54.83	49.93
Kitchener	49.33	37.42	47.78	50.07	60.83	51.88	63.75	52.89	46.07	60.96	54.32	55.31
London	40.46	43.43	53.84	55.81	53.12	50.24	54.81	53.10	69.32	63.62	61.61	58.51
Moncton	50.88	36.14	39.25	62.77	39.57	50.32	37.73	22.10	33.39	46.16	36.83	36.14
Montreal	102.67	82.83	83.66	74.84	70.76	59.60	64.21	51.44	50.58	59.73	65.34	63.00
Ottawa	68.35	51.69	58.30	50.19	58.22	60.55	68.16	46.65	39.86	46.56	47.80	42.61
Quebec City	24.32	21.37	16.70	18.94	23.55	18.03	18.71	12.00	12.19	15.21	16.25	18.80
Regina	100.02	102.23	100.75	126.05	85.01	109.17	120.20	108.57	106.03	103.62	129.22	115.30
Saskatoon	140.08	147.68	133.15	118.06	135.53	109.41	122.94	98.16	105.72	119.18	135.02	156.30
St. Catharines	42.94	41.35	34.61	30.61	34.36	37.56	36.53	39.35	35.60	38.52	34.52	38.21
St. John's	58.02	63.87	72.75	86.84	62.93	76.88	57.01	45.88	62.57	103.06	68.88	58.46
Toronto	96.14	81.23	76.63	84.78	91.15	85.40	82.64	60.32	49.58	67.17	70.17	72.79
Vancouver	106.69	96.59	100.57	77.27	64.76	59.49	65.86	62.25	57.17	61.46	57.54	52.03
Victoria	48.46	43.17	42.51	35.83	28.64	33.46	37.33	38.73	42.87	42.40	42.60	33.76
Windsor	72.58	58.57	54.75	61.03	74.92	58.69	58.99	52.34	40.26	35.80	43.53	45.48
Winnipeg	179.77	166.61	181.6	231.42	260.86	291.34	278.58	228.21	233.36	286.6	334.05	319.14

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