

## **COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT**

### **REGIONAL POLICING**

- Comox Valley Regional District is policed by an RCMP detachment located in Courtenay. The RCMP provides municipal police services to the City of Courtenay and the Town of Comox while the RCMP Provincial Force polices the regional district's unincorporated or rural areas.
- In 2007, there were 56 RCMP members assigned to police the region: 37 members directly policed the City of Courtenay and the Town of Comox while 19 were responsible for policing the regional district's unincorporated areas.
- A case load of 107 Criminal Code offences per member was recorded for Comox Valley Regional District in 2007. This was 8% higher than the member workload of 99 recorded in 2006. The region's 2007 case load was higher than the provincial case load of 72.
- In 2007, the total population of the regional district was 63,986; the population served per member was 1,143.

### **REGIONAL CRIME TRENDS**

- Police in BC record criminal activity using Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Criminal Code offences are used in police workload and crime rate calculations. They include violent, property, and other Criminal Code crimes.
- In 2007, 5,977 Criminal Code offences were recorded within the regional district. This was a 10% increase (+524 offences) from the 5,453 recorded in 2006.
- In 2007, Comox Valley recorded a crime rate of 93, lower than the provincial crime rate of 104, and 7% higher than the region's 2006 crime rate of 87 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2007, 511 violent crimes were reported by police, a 7% decrease (-39 offences) from the 550 recorded in 2006. The 2007 Comox Valley violent crime rate was 8.0 violent crimes per 1,000 population, a 9% decrease from the 2006 rate of 8.8. The region's 2007 violent crime rate was lower than the provincial violent crime rate of 12 violent offences per 1,000 population.
- The volume of Level 1 Assaults (common assault) is the major driver of the violent crime rate. In 2007, 366 common assaults were reported by within the regional district, a 17% drop (-77 offences) from the 443 reported in 2006. The 2007 Comox Valley common assault rate was 5.7 offences per 1,000 population, a 20% decrease from the 2006 rate of 7.1. The region's 2007 common assault rate was lower than the provincial common assault rate of 7.1 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2007, 2,435 property crimes were recorded within the regional district, a 1% increase (+24 offences) from the 2,411 reported in 2006. The 2007 Comox Valley property crime rate was 38 property crimes per 1,000 population, a 3% decrease from the 2006 rate of 39. The region's 2007 property crime rate was lower than the provincial property crime rate of 52 property offences per 1,000 population.



# REGIONAL PROFILE 2007

## **COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT**

### **REGIONAL CRIME TRENDS** Cont'd

- Motor vehicle theft includes the theft or attempted theft of automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and other motorized vehicles. In 2007, 219 motor vehicle thefts were reported within the regional district, a 20% increase (+37 offences) from the 182 reported in 2006. The 2007 Comox Valley motor vehicle theft rate was 3.4 offences per 1,000 population, a 17% increase from the 2006 rate of 2.9. The region's 2007 motor vehicle theft rate was lower than the provincial motor vehicle theft rate of 6.2 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2007, 3,031 other crimes were reported within the regional district, a 22% increase (+539 offences) from the 2,492 reported in 2006. The 2007 Comox Valley other crime rate was 47 other crimes per 1,000 population, an 18% increase from the 2006 rate of 40. The region's 2007 other crime rate was higher than the provincial other crime rate of 41 other offences per 1,000 population.
- Not included in crime rate and case load calculations are drug crimes which include heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and other CSDA drug offences. In 2007, 478 drug crimes were reported within the regional district, a 13% decrease (-74 offences) from the 552 reported in 2006. The 2007 Comox Valley drug crime rate was 7.5 offences per 1,000 population, a 15% decrease from the 2006 rate of 8.8. The region's 2007 drug crime rate was higher than the provincial drug crime rate of 6.5 offences per 1,000 population.

### **REGIONAL POPULATION**

- In 2007, Census results indicated that the population for the regional district was 63,986, a 3% increase from the 2006 population of 62,375.
- Over the past ten years, the population for the region increased 10%, from 58,278 in 1998 to 63,986 in 2007.

## COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT DATA TABLES

REGIONAL DISTRICT SUMMARY	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Population</b>	<b>58,278</b>	<b>58,068</b>	<b>57,643</b>	<b>57,191</b>	<b>57,708</b>	<b>58,738</b>	<b>59,635</b>	<b>61,075</b>	<b>62,375</b>	<b>63,986</b>
<b>Police Strength</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>
Case Load	129	124	127	130	148	154	138	119	99	107
Population Served Per Member	1,189	1,139	1,130	1,121	1,154	1,152	1,125	1,110	1,134	1,143
<b>Violent Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	609	609	565	616	640	701	656	738	550	511
Crime Rate	10.4	10.5	9.8	10.8	11.1	11.9	11.0	12.1	8.8	8.0
<b>Property Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	3,032	2,880	2,979	2,820	3,098	3,188	2,994	2,964	2,411	2,435
Crime Rate	52	50	52	49	54	54	50	49	39	38
<b>Other Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	2,696	2,821	2,917	3,217	3,681	3,978	3,687	2,820	2,492	3,031
Crime Rate	46	49	51	56	64	68	62	46	40	47
<b>Total Criminal Code Offences</b>	<b>6,337</b>	<b>6,310</b>	<b>6,461</b>	<b>6,653</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,867</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>6,522</b>	<b>5,453</b>	<b>5,977</b>
<b>Crime Rate</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Drug Crimes<sup>1</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	178	189	203	325	275	398	465	368	552	478
Crime Rate	3.1	3.3	3.5	5.7	4.8	6.8	7.8	6.0	8.8	7.5
<b>Assault: Level 1</b>										
Number of Offences	447	432	439	495	485	556	479	582	443	366
Crime Rate	7.7	7.4	7.6	8.7	8.4	9.5	8.0	9.5	7.1	5.7
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	146	123	121	117	169	205	166	201	182	219
Crime Rate	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.9	3.5	2.8	3.3	2.9	3.4
<b>TOWN OF COMOX</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>11,624</b>	<b>11,695</b>	<b>11,660</b>	<b>11,660</b>	<b>11,766</b>	<b>11,995</b>	<b>12,241</b>	<b>12,592</b>	<b>12,727</b>	<b>13,139</b>
<b>Police Strength</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Case Load	72	74	86	89	112	94	81	72	57	76
Population Served Per Member	1,292	1,299	1,296	1,296	1,307	1,333	1,224	1,259	1,273	1,194
<b>Violent Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	50	47	64	70	63	68	77	69	48	52
Crime Rate	4.3	4.0	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.7	6.3	5.5	3.8	4.0
<b>Property Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	289	252	306	290	406	298	282	297	215	328
Crime Rate	25	22	26	25	35	25	23	24	17	25
<b>Other Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	313	371	408	443	539	481	452	349	303	451
Crime Rate	27	32	35	38	46	40	37	28	24	34
<b>Total Criminal Code Offences</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>831</b>
<b>Crime Rate</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Drug Crimes<sup>1</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	15	8	9	22	26	37	40	33	34	33
Crime Rate	1.3	0.7	0.8	1.9	2.2	3.1	3.3	2.6	2.7	2.5
<b>Assault: Level 1</b>										
Number of Offences	36	33	50	56	47	51	45	55	40	43
Crime Rate	3.1	2.8	4.3	4.8	4.0	4.3	3.7	4.4	3.1	3.3
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	20	9	13	4	21	14	18	17	20	14
Crime Rate	1.7	0.8	1.1	0.3	1.8	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.1

## COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT DATA TABLES

AREA POLICED AS COMOX VALLEY PROV	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Population</b>	27,845	27,449	26,984	26,428	26,529	25,995	26,073	26,414	26,741	26,936
<b>Police Strength</b>	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	19	19	19
Case Load	123	117	112	117	112	124	118	95	77	75
Population Served Per Member	1,638	1,615	1,587	1,555	1,561	1,529	1,449	1,390	1,407	1,418
<b>Violent Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	192	196	170	205	167	191	185	194	160	126
Crime Rate	6.9	7.1	6.3	7.8	6.3	7.3	7.1	7.3	6.0	4.7
<b>Property Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	955	894	902	770	778	894	953	903	662	612
Crime Rate	34	33	33	29	29	34	37	34	25	23
<b>Other Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	946	907	828	1,008	966	1,024	990	706	634	692
Crime Rate	34	33	31	38	36	39	38	27	24	26
<b>Total Criminal Code Offences</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>1,430</b>
<b>Crime Rate</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Drug Crimes<sup>1</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	76	76	85	118	100	132	143	112	178	135
Crime Rate	2.7	2.8	3.2	4.5	3.8	5.1	5.5	4.2	6.7	5.0
<b>Assault: Level 1</b>										
Number of Offences	147	139	128	165	127	146	146	157	128	96
Crime Rate	5.3	5.1	4.7	6.2	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.9	4.8	3.6
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	48	38	48	54	46	61	55	59	53	80
Crime Rate	1.7	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.7	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.0	3.0

CITY OF COURTENAY	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Population</b>	18,809	18,924	18,999	19,103	19,413	20,748	21,321	22,069	22,907	23,911
<b>Police Strength</b>	23	25	25	25	24	25	25	26	26	26
Case Load	156	146	151	155	188	196	176	154	132	143
Population Served Per Member	818	757	760	764	809	830	853	849	881	920
<b>Violent Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	367	366	331	341	410	442	394	475	342	333
Crime Rate	19.5	19.3	17.4	17.9	21.1	21.3	18.5	21.5	14.9	13.9
<b>Property Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	1,788	1,734	1,771	1,760	1,914	1,996	1,759	1,764	1,534	1,495
Crime Rate	95	92	93	92	99	96	83	80	67	63
<b>Other Crimes</b>										
Number of Offences	1,437	1,543	1,681	1,766	2,176	2,473	2,245	1,765	1,555	1,888
Crime Rate	76	82	88	92	112	119	105	80	68	79
<b>Total Criminal Code Offences</b>	<b>3,592</b>	<b>3,643</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>3,867</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,911</b>	<b>4,398</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>3,716</b>
<b>Crime Rate</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Drug Crimes<sup>1</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	87	105	109	185	149	229	282	223	340	310
Crime Rate	4.6	5.5	5.7	9.7	7.7	11.0	13.2	10.1	14.8	13.0
<b>Assault: Level 1</b>										
Number of Offences	264	260	261	274	311	359	288	370	275	227
Crime Rate	14.0	13.7	13.7	14.3	16.0	17.3	13.5	16.8	12.0	9.5
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft<sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Offences	78	76	60	59	102	130	93	125	109	125
Crime Rate	4.1	4.0	3.2	3.1	5.3	6.3	4.4	5.7	4.8	5.2



# REGIONAL PROFILE 2007

## **ENDNOTES**

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

## **DATA QUALIFIERS**

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

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

**DATE:** September 12, 2008.