

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

REGIONAL POLICING

- Cowichan Valley Regional District is policed by RCMP detachments located in Duncan, Ladysmith, Lake Cowichan and Shawnigan Lake. The RCMP provides municipal police services to the Town of Ladysmith and the District of North Cowichan while the RCMP Provincial Force polices the regional district's unincorporated or rural areas.
- In 2007, there were 82 RCMP members assigned to police the region: 35 members directly policed the Town of Ladysmith and the District of North Cowichan while 47 were responsible for policing the regional district's unincorporated areas.
- A case load of 102 Criminal Code offences per member was recorded for Cowichan Valley Regional District in 2007. This was 6% lower than the member workload of 109 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 81,932; the population served per member was 999.

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, 8,344 Criminal Code offences were recorded within the regional district. This was a 7% decrease (-581 offences) from the 8,925 recorded in 2006.
- In 2007, Cowichan Valley recorded a crime rate of 102, lower than the provincial crime rate of 104, and 8% lower than the region's 2006 crime rate of 111 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2007, 1,046 violent crimes were reported by police, an 8% decrease (-92 offences) from the 1,138 recorded in 2006. The 2007 Cowichan Valley violent crime rate was 12.8 violent crimes per 1,000 population, a 9% decrease from the 2006 rate of 14.1. The region's 2007 violent crime rate was higher 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, 768 common assaults were reported by within the regional district, a 14% drop (-125 offences) from the 893 reported in 2006. The 2007 Cowichan Valley common assault rate was 9.4 offences per 1,000 population, a 15% decrease from the 2006 rate of 11.1. The region's 2007 common assault rate was higher than the provincial common assault rate of 7.1 offences per 1,000 population.
- In 2007, 3,875 property crimes were recorded within the regional district, a 3% decrease (-117 offences) from the 3,992 reported in 2006. The 2007 Cowichan Valley property crime rate was 47 property crimes per 1,000 population, a 4% decrease from the 2006 rate of 49. The region's 2007 property crime rate was lower than the provincial property crime rate of 52 property offences per 1,000 population.

COWICHAN 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, 413 motor vehicle thefts were reported within the regional district, a 10% increase (+38 offences) from the 375 reported in 2006. The 2007 Cowichan Valley motor vehicle theft rate was 5.0 offences per 1,000 population, a 9% increase from the 2006 rate of 4.6. 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, 3,423 other crimes were reported within the regional district, a 10% decrease (-372 offences) from the 3,795 reported in 2006. The 2007 Cowichan Valley other crime rate was 42 other crimes per 1,000 population, an 11% decrease from the 2006 rate of 47. 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, 422 drug crimes were reported within the regional district, an 18% increase (+64 offences) from the 358 reported in 2006. The 2007 Cowichan Valley drug crime rate was 5.2 offences per 1,000 population, an 18% increase from the 2006 rate of 4.4. The region's 2007 drug crime rate was lower 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 81,932, a 2% increase from the 2006 population of 80,713.
- Over the past ten years, the population for the region generally increased resulting in a 9% rise overall, from 75,061 in 1998 to 81,932 in 2007.

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT DATA TABLES

REGIONAL DISTRICT SUMMARY	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population	75,061	74,680	73,774	75,124	75,703	76,647	77,689	79,020	80,713	81,932
Police Strength	75	75	77	77	77	78	77	81	82	82
Case Load	100	97	99	100	100	104	121	107	109	102
Population Served Per Member	1,001	996	958	976	983	983	1,009	976	984	999
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,045	930	973	977	1,039	943	1,095	1,153	1,138	1,046
Crime Rate	13.9	12.5	13.2	13.0	13.7	12.3	14.1	14.6	14.1	12.8
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	3,303	3,492	3,501	3,395	3,522	3,942	4,616	3,812	3,992	3,875
Crime Rate	44	47	47	45	47	51	59	48	49	47
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	3,161	2,886	3,126	3,352	3,136	3,199	3,588	3,674	3,795	3,423
Crime Rate	42	39	42	45	41	42	46	46	47	42
Total Criminal Code Offences	7,509	7,308	7,600	7,724	7,697	8,084	9,299	8,639	8,925	8,344
Crime Rate	100	98	103	103	102	105	120	109	111	102
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	221	324	281	326	303	355	392	354	358	422
Crime Rate	2.9	4.3	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.4	5.2
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	795	692	739	728	808	748	867	903	893	768
Crime Rate	10.6	9.3	10.0	9.7	10.7	9.8	11.2	11.4	11.1	9.4
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	208	206	177	212	318	255	302	285	375	413
Crime Rate	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.8	4.2	3.3	3.9	3.6	4.6	5.0
AREA POLICED AS DUNCAN PROV	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population	13,774	13,345	13,162	13,559	13,600	13,813	13,980	14,204	14,530	14,601
Police Strength	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21
Case Load	118	115	121	115	119	127	160	145	163	144
Population Served Per Member	689	667	658	678	680	691	699	676	692	695
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	326	275	335	348	326	336	363	483	465	407
Crime Rate	23.7	20.6	25.5	25.7	24.0	24.3	26.0	34.0	32.0	27.9
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	989	1,114	1,207	1,069	1,136	1,310	1,587	1,265	1,553	1,402
Crime Rate	72	83	92	79	84	95	114	89	107	96
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,045	902	880	890	917	899	1,245	1,307	1,401	1,222
Crime Rate	76	68	67	66	67	65	89	92	96	84
Total Criminal Code Offences	2,360	2,291	2,422	2,307	2,379	2,545	3,195	3,055	3,419	3,031
Crime Rate	171	172	184	170	175	184	229	215	235	208
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	43	94	73	69	62	77	97	84	86	108
Crime Rate	3.1	7.0	5.5	5.1	4.6	5.6	6.9	5.9	5.9	7.4
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	228	190	245	242	249	263	284	382	362	290
Crime Rate	16.6	14.2	18.6	17.8	18.3	19.0	20.3	26.9	24.9	19.9
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	65	77	71	88	104	95	88	78	108	104
Crime Rate	4.7	5.8	5.4	6.5	7.6	6.9	6.3	5.5	7.4	7.1

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT DATA TABLES

TOWN OF LADYSMITH	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population	6,823	6,858	6,821	6,874	7,036	7,230	7,375	7,621	7,885	8,144
Police Strength	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Case Load	82	82	87	89	93	94	110	85	82	80
Population Served Per Member	975	980	974	982	1,005	1,033	1,054	1,089	1,126	1,163
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	72	68	51	43	72	55	58	48	57	37
Crime Rate	10.6	9.9	7.5	6.3	10.2	7.6	7.9	6.3	7.2	4.5
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	288	301	270	293	351	384	409	341	270	293
Crime Rate	42	44	40	43	50	53	55	45	34	36
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	213	205	290	285	228	221	304	203	245	228
Crime Rate	31	30	43	41	32	31	41	27	31	28
Total Criminal Code Offences	573	574	611	621	651	660	771	592	572	558
Crime Rate	84	84	90	90	93	91	105	78	73	69
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	13	14	20	24	19	31	31	20	23	38
Crime Rate	1.9	2.0	2.9	3.5	2.7	4.3	4.2	2.6	2.9	4.7
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	56	49	44	33	55	46	42	38	42	30
Crime Rate	8.2	7.1	6.5	4.8	7.8	6.4	5.7	5.0	5.3	3.7
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	16	20	12	10	23	27	39	24	33	35
Crime Rate	2.3	2.9	1.8	1.5	3.3	3.7	5.3	3.1	4.2	4.3
AREA POLICED AS LADYSMITH PROV	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population	6,474	6,353	5,738	5,506	5,545	5,631	5,712	5,821	5,914	6,001
Police Strength	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Case Load	79	58	76	90	88	90	119	78	84	93
Population Served Per Member	1,079	1,271	1,148	1,101	1,109	1,126	1,142	1,164	1,183	1,200
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	81	44	64	51	70	44	72	47	57	71
Crime Rate	12.5	6.9	11.2	9.3	12.6	7.8	12.6	8.1	9.6	11.8
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	209	157	178	238	220	258	341	216	213	186
Crime Rate	32	25	31	43	40	46	60	37	36	31
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	186	90	138	160	150	150	180	128	148	209
Crime Rate	29	14	24	29	27	27	32	22	25	35
Total Criminal Code Offences	476	291	380	449	440	452	593	391	418	466
Crime Rate	74	46	66	82	79	80	104	67	71	78
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	8	39	11	22	18	28	23	22	37	35
Crime Rate	1.2	6.1	1.9	4.0	3.2	5.0	4.0	3.8	6.3	5.8
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	62	38	46	37	55	32	52	28	47	55
Crime Rate	9.6	6.0	8.0	6.7	9.9	5.7	9.1	4.8	7.9	9.2
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	18	11	11	20	18	18	25	30	35	23
Crime Rate	2.8	1.7	1.9	3.6	3.2	3.2	4.4	5.2	5.9	3.8

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT DATA TABLES

AREA POLICED AS LAKE COWICHAN PROV	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population	6,387	6,304	6,160	5,998	6,041	6,072	6,131	6,229	6,369	6,424
Police Strength	7	7	8	8	8	9	8	9	10	10
Case Load	105	104	115	116	106	89	93	107	85	61
Population Served Per Member	912	901	770	750	755	675	766	692	637	642
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	123	120	104	111	107	107	103	102	121	90
Crime Rate	19.3	19.0	16.9	18.5	17.7	17.6	16.8	16.4	19.0	14.0
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	292	318	354	355	301	286	305	356	276	227
Crime Rate	46	50	57	59	50	47	50	57	43	35
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	323	292	464	462	441	407	339	508	451	290
Crime Rate	51	46	75	77	73	67	55	82	71	45
Total Criminal Code Offences	738	730	922	928	849	800	747	966	848	607
Crime Rate	116	116	150	155	141	132	122	155	133	94
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	66	62	65	62	66	50	68	62	73	45
Crime Rate	10.3	9.8	10.6	10.3	10.9	8.2	11.1	10.0	11.5	7.0
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	102	90	79	84	81	83	78	79	93	68
Crime Rate	16.0	14.3	12.8	14.0	13.4	13.7	12.7	12.7	14.6	10.6
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	15	15	12	5	9	5	14	17	16	28
Crime Rate	2.3	2.4	1.9	0.8	1.5	0.8	2.3	2.7	2.5	4.4

DISTRICT OF NORTH COWICHAN	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population	26,802	27,051	27,144	27,290	27,470	27,644	27,997	28,337	28,940	29,436
Police Strength	25	26	27	27	27	27	27	28	28	28
Case Load	95	96	87	90	96	103	114	100	99	94
Population Served Per Member	1,072	1,040	1,005	1,011	1,017	1,024	1,037	1,012	1,034	1,051
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	329	314	325	329	381	325	396	395	333	335
Crime Rate	12.3	11.6	12.0	12.1	13.9	11.8	14.1	13.9	11.5	11.4
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,018	1,141	1,028	962	1,128	1,295	1,545	1,234	1,214	1,188
Crime Rate	38	42	38	35	41	47	55	44	42	40
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	1,032	1,031	986	1,138	1,071	1,148	1,145	1,181	1,228	1,118
Crime Rate	39	38	36	42	39	42	41	42	42	38
Total Criminal Code Offences	2,379	2,486	2,339	2,429	2,580	2,768	3,086	2,810	2,775	2,641
Crime Rate	89	92	86	89	94	100	110	99	96	90
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	39	75	76	90	98	118	100	105	94	117
Crime Rate	1.5	2.8	2.8	3.3	3.6	4.3	3.6	3.7	3.2	4.0
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	249	232	253	261	300	261	322	312	266	248
Crime Rate	9.3	8.6	9.3	9.6	10.9	9.4	11.5	11.0	9.2	8.4
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	65	71	53	68	138	92	114	108	142	160
Crime Rate	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.5	5.0	3.3	4.1	3.8	4.9	5.4

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT DATA TABLES

AREA POLICED AS SHAWNIGAN LAKE PROV	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population	14,801	14,769	14,749	15,897	16,011	16,257	16,494	16,808	17,075	17,326
Police Strength	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	11
Case Load	98	94	93	99	80	86	91	75	81	95
Population Served Per Member	1,480	1,477	1,475	1,590	1,601	1,626	1,649	1,528	1,552	1,575
Violent Crimes										
Number of Offences	114	109	94	95	83	76	103	78	105	106
Crime Rate	7.7	7.4	6.4	6.0	5.2	4.7	6.2	4.6	6.1	6.1
Property Crimes										
Number of Offences	507	461	464	478	386	409	429	400	466	579
Crime Rate	34	31	31	30	24	25	26	24	27	33
Other Crimes										
Number of Offences	362	366	368	417	329	374	375	347	322	356
Crime Rate	24	25	25	26	21	23	23	21	19	21
Total Criminal Code Offences	983	936	926	990	798	859	907	825	893	1,041
Crime Rate	66	63	63	62	50	53	55	49	52	60
Drug Crimes¹										
Number of Offences	52	40	36	59	40	51	73	61	45	79
Crime Rate	3.5	2.7	2.4	3.7	2.5	3.1	4.4	3.6	2.6	4.6
Assault: Level 1										
Number of Offences	98	93	72	71	68	63	89	64	83	77
Crime Rate	6.6	6.3	4.9	4.5	4.2	3.9	5.4	3.8	4.9	4.4
Motor Vehicle Theft²										
Number of Offences	29	12	18	21	26	18	22	28	41	63
Crime Rate	2.0	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.4	3.6

ENDNOTES

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

DATA QUALIFIERS

- Police strengths represent an areas authorized police strength as of December 31st of each calendar year as submitted annually to Police Services Division.
- Case burdens are defined as the number of Criminal Code offences per authorized police strength. They represent the workload per officer, and as a result, are a better indicator of the demand for police services that either an area's population base or its crime rate. The total number of Criminal Code offences and the authorized police strength as of December 31st of each calendar year are used for case burden calculations.
- Total Criminal Code includes property, violent and other crimes. Property crimes include the offences of break and enter, theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property and fraud. Violent crimes include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, abduction and robbery. Other crimes include Criminal Code offences not classified as either violent or property crimes, e.g., prostitution, gaming & betting, weapons, bail violations, counterfeit currency, vandalism, etc.



REGIONAL PROFILE 2007

DATA QUALIFIERS Cont'd

4. The crime data contained in this report have been recorded by the police on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR). Offences are scored according to the UCR Scoring Rules. If a single criminal incident contains a number of violations of the law, then only the most serious one is recorded for UCR purposes. Number of offences represents only those crimes reported to, or discovered by police which, upon preliminary investigation, have been deemed to have occurred or been attempted; this data does not represent or imply a count of the number of charges laid, prosecutions conducted, informations sworn or convictions obtained.
5. Crime Rate is defined as the number of offences per 1,000 population. The population figures utilized for crime rate calculations are based on the results of Canada Census which is conducted every five years. The most recent Canada Census occurred in 2006. Population figures reflect the permanent residential or "late night" population of a municipality and do not include part-time populations, i.e., commuters, students, tourists and other part-time residents.
6. The data contained in this report may vary when compared with previous reports produced by Police Services Division. Where variances occur, the report produced at the latest date will reflect the most current data available.

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

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