

MUNICIPAL CRIME RATE REPORT

PLEASE NOTE

This report is not an indicator of the relative safety of one municipality over another. Municipal crime rates vary from 40 to 294 Criminal Code cases per 1,000 population, and the ministry believes that all municipalities in British Columbia are safe places to live and work.

More often than not, a high crime rate indicates that a municipality is a "core" city or tourist destination. Core cities are usually surrounded by urban or unincorporated areas which have significant residential populations. These cities are the business and entertainment centres for a large number of people who reside outside as well as inside the municipality. Tourist destinations often have a large "part-time" population relative to the resident population. These "part-time" residents are tourists, cottage/chalet owners, students or seasonal staff.

As the crime rate is based on the resident population and excludes commuters, students, tourists and other "part-time" residents core cities and tourist destinations often have higher than average crime rates.

If core cities expanded their boundaries to include the populated areas outside of their borders, the crime rate for the combined populated area would be considerably lower than for the municipality itself. Similarly, if tourist destinations included their part-time residents in their population base, their crime rate would also be lower.

Although it cannot be used to measure the safety of one area over another, the municipal crime rate report can be used as an indicator of the trend in crime in each municipality. If two or more municipalities are similar, it may be valid to compare their actual crime rates. These types of comparisons should be made with a great deal of caution, however, as no two municipalities are exactly the same.

To gain a better understanding of the crime trends in your area, we advise you to contact the local police.

MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCES: CRIME RATE REPORT, 1994 TO 2003.

PART 1: CRIME RATES

Municipality	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Smithers ²	181	207	185	209	207	182	214	201	258	294
Quesnel	263	273	250	243	220	183	234	232	213	260
Hope ⁷	---	---	---	190	160	178	159	198	218	257
Fort St. John	202	208	217	208	192	198	192	215	238	251
Williams Lake	320	328	277	262	218	195	210	264	257	247
Whistler ⁷	---	---	---	227	240	236	231	254	235	243
Courtenay	229	244	227	211	191	193	199	202	234	240
Squamish	162	161	160	129	132	138	126	144	172	219
Langley City	217	181	218	187	193	195	159	181	201	211
Prince George	203	178	164	186	193	170	163	169	187	205
Victoria ¹	235	212	207	218	217	229	214	205	212	202
Prince Rupert	195	190	157	158	198	186	197	203	205	198
Terrace	170	189	190	174	152	162	186	186	171	190
Campbell River	194	214	225	196	161	185	177	152	163	187
Penticton	159	146	139	142	138	146	124	143	153	186
Port Alberni	192	212	216	213	184	179	201	186	169	186
Chilliwack	151	141	168	173	138	112	120	138	161	186
Merritt	197	192	195	162	202	181	184	206	226	185
Dawson Creek	230	233	214	207	238	206	210	199	192	183
Vernon	159	147	169	179	177	155	153	150	172	181
Kamloops	152	139	137	128	138	132	139	138	155	176
Mission	159	178	207	174	164	145	135	146	173	176
Nanaimo	216	202	200	191	162	141	143	145	158	170
Nelson	134	144	132	107	118	106	124	134	165	162
New Westminster	211	227	214	172	176	164	142	156	149	154
Cranbrook	145	148	128	146	158	137	124	125	122	154
Castlegar	130	142	137	140	168	138	140	133	134	145
Powell River	113	135	126	120	115	114	125	129	139	144
Kelowna	174	176	160	134	140	133	123	122	123	141
Parksville	210	203	171	159	121	145	135	118	122	135
Surrey	140	136	142	119	127	121	122	134	125	129
Vancouver ^{1,9}	186	191	197	175	155	147	138	131	126	129
Langley Township	109	103	112	92	91	88	89	101	116	126
Maple Ridge	135	135	131	115	108	113	118	131	135	126
Burnaby	153	157	167	139	131	123	116	118	113	123
Langford ³	139	141	126	119	109	127	123	121	121	121
Abbotsford ⁶	115	109	110	106	98	90	91	111	115	120
Trail	134	138	130	111	123	121	115	125	105	118
Coquitlam	115	115	110	108	100	100	101	98	100	112
Port Coquitlam	102	109	119	108	104	100	95	99	100	111
North Vancouver City	151	148	151	147	131	122	117	109	106	108
Sooke ¹⁰	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	115	106
Salmon Arm	112	120	117	114	104	89	90	102	92	104
Sechelt	136	139	131	156	152	157	155	124	124	104
North Cowichan⁴	120	108	97	104	89	92	86	89	94	101
White Rock	104	89	85	87	97	95	83	81	96	98
Mackenzie	123	137	140	114	107	119	117	78	85	98
Kimberley	77	77	101	89	85	96	104	101	78	96
Ladysmith ⁷	---	---	---	74	84	84	90	90	94	95
Pitt Meadows	98	100	96	79	78	91	101	93	86	91
Richmond ¹	113	100	97	88	85	82	85	81	78	84
Revelstoke	145	137	112	111	103	85	97	96	106	84
Summerland	62	59	52	54	51	56	49	55	66	82
Colwood	81	101	92	72	77	85	78	69	76	82
Kitimat	93	109	114	109	96	72	83	69	65	78
View Royal	103	129	109	94	106	115	93	84	82	76
West Vancouver	83	79	75	70	69	66	59	62	77	75
Qualicum Beach	149	124	116	118	74	73	76	60	84	74
Oak Bay	70	70	58	53	54	53	51	50	50	73
Delta	97	92	94	81	74	70	72	75	65	71
Comox	111	97	79	63	56	57	67	69	86	71
Port Moody ¹	95	92	96	88	85	69	75	65	64	68
Lake Country ⁷	---	---	---	77	67	62	67	55	66	67
North Vancouver District	74	77	78	76	73	68	66	59	61	65
Saanich	83	88	82	80	72	74	65	57	56	58
Sidney	111	100	106	94	85	76	65	70	56	54
Coldstream	50	46	45	46	46	56	41	39	39	49
Central Saanich	74	70	67	62	62	58	54	49	47	46
North Saanich	63	59	50	47	51	40	39	43	45	42
Spallumcheen⁷	---	---	---	46	45	44	32	37	36	40
Esquimalt ¹²	139	141	159	123	120	128	125	119	114	---
Fernie ⁸	92	93	86	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Port Hardy ¹¹	217	212	202	208	180	126	127	153	---	---
MUNICIPAL FORCES^{1,9}	148	147	148	134	128	122	119	120	122	129

PART 2: CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

Municipality	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Abbotsford ⁶	11,783	11,593	12,038	11,990	11,204	10,502	10,791	13,437	14,337	15,271
Burnaby	27,269	28,668	31,264	26,389	25,038	23,942	23,067	23,820	23,109	25,292
Campbell River	5,590	6,329	6,732	5,979	4,910	5,562	5,256	4,512	4,810	5,536
Castlegar	928	1,013	998	1,020	1,231	1,008	1,022	973	971	1,036
Central Saanich	1,100	1,051	1,012	955	961	915	850	784	755	737
Chilliwack	9,105	8,772	10,843	11,373	9,118	7,517	8,038	9,314	10,930	12,765
Coldstream	451	416	414	434	438	531	386	371	370	476
Colwood	1,156	1,443	1,323	1,045	1,121	1,222	1,118	983	1,095	1,182
Comox	1,202	1,079	902	726	652	670	778	803	1,008	845
Coquitlam	11,323	11,771	11,644	11,707	11,153	11,387	11,643	11,532	12,096	13,766
Courtenay	3,675	4,234	4,097	3,929	3,592	3,643	3,783	3,867	4,500	4,887
Cranbrook	2,632	2,765	2,403	2,791	3,041	2,662	2,379	2,403	2,373	2,981
Dawson Creek	2,633	2,682	2,483	2,377	2,740	2,355	2,359	2,231	2,138	2,012
Delta	9,293	9,040	9,363	8,111	7,478	7,039	7,260	7,560	6,553	7,178
Esquimalt¹²	2,379	2,413	2,682	2,071	2,017	2,134	2,088	2,003	1,908	---
Fernie ⁸	468	468	435	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fort St. John	3,059	3,220	3,405	3,295	3,099	3,212	3,163	3,604	4,000	4,198
Hope ⁷	---	---	---	1,252	1,051	1,167	1,035	1,281	1,401	1,653
Kamloops	11,433	10,717	10,854	10,254	11,117	10,575	11,159	11,101	12,494	14,174
Kelowna	15,517	16,141	14,820	12,721	13,586	12,982	12,233	12,279	12,484	14,603
Kimberley	530	533	708	616	580	653	707	681	523	645
Kitimat	1,069	1,237	1,323	1,255	1,083	801	901	741	690	814
Ladysmith ⁷	---	---	---	503	573	574	611	621	651	660
Lake Country ⁷	---	---	---	733	644	600	631	531	640	657
Langford³	2,302	2,520	2,290	2,235	2,081	2,432	2,402	2,375	2,424	2,458
Langley City	4,924	4,320	5,112	4,453	4,651	4,730	3,884	4,471	4,926	5,187
Langley Township	8,402	8,187	9,339	8,121	8,179	7,927	8,075	9,225	10,565	11,569
Mackenzie	731	840	875	701	640	690	662	425	461	519
Maple Ridge	7,459	7,680	7,640	6,910	6,636	7,064	7,561	8,681	9,303	8,998
Merritt	1,350	1,375	1,546	1,280	1,576	1,379	1,384	1,524	1,666	1,355
Mission	4,838	5,555	6,544	5,570	5,306	4,673	4,361	4,773	5,663	5,794
Nanaimo	15,063	14,434	14,573	14,241	12,137	10,618	10,801	11,047	12,128	13,085
Nelson	1,296	1,412	1,309	1,059	1,137	1,020	1,189	1,300	1,581	1,561
New Westminster	10,397	11,281	11,020	9,098	9,609	9,149	8,120	8,913	8,558	9,174
North Cowichan⁴	2,994	2,796	2,541	2,766	2,379	2,486	2,339	2,429	2,580	2,761
North Saanich	652	616	533	512	553	439	423	469	485	458
North Vancouver City	6,354	6,365	6,584	6,469	5,860	5,503	5,360	5,082	5,090	5,241
North Vancouver District	6,108	6,336	6,577	6,496	6,257	5,845	5,642	5,184	5,284	5,626
Oak Bay	1,305	1,301	1,063	982	1,000	977	948	923	913	1,331
Parksville	1,835	1,879	1,674	1,607	1,231	1,503	1,429	1,273	1,320	1,480
Penticton	5,035	4,674	4,458	4,593	4,476	4,736	4,023	4,638	4,969	6,058
Pitt Meadows	1,278	1,339	1,343	1,147	1,132	1,357	1,515	1,430	1,365	1,477
Port Alberni	3,567	4,073	4,146	4,106	3,497	3,345	3,716	3,446	3,095	3,392
Port Coquitlam	4,453	5,048	5,798	5,452	5,323	5,197	4,988	5,281	5,605	6,389
Port Hardy¹¹	1,235	1,220	1,174	1,173	981	660	649	778	---	---
Port Moody ¹	1,938	1,926	2,075	2,018	1,975	1,662	1,811	1,616	1,652	1,818
Powell River	1,498	1,805	1,716	1,664	1,580	1,559	1,700	1,743	1,868	1,932
Prince George	15,318	13,713	12,866	14,594	14,928	13,058	12,563	12,769	14,016	15,472
Prince Rupert	3,357	3,305	2,740	2,713	3,248	2,956	3,074	3,103	3,078	2,924
Qualicum Beach	923	822	807	832	528	524	544	432	611	541
Quesnel	2,240	2,343	2,203	2,178	1,946	1,871	2,430	2,436	2,203	2,649
Revelstoke	1,181	1,130	935	921	838	682	768	750	832	655
Richmond ¹	16,235	14,949	15,062	14,059	13,936	13,551	14,364	13,931	13,516	14,705
Saanich	8,565	9,273	8,678	8,512	7,698	7,904	6,942	6,175	5,990	6,269
Salmon Arm	1,616	1,800	1,776	1,772	1,646	1,409	1,426	1,634	1,466	1,685
Sechelt	963	1,000	992	1,226	1,214	1,262	1,244	1,006	1,016	859
Sidney	1,220	1,110	1,169	1,044	959	858	732	794	637	617
Smithers ²	1,004	1,190	1,081	1,224	1,210	1,049	1,230	1,137	1,456	1,620
Sooke ¹⁰	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,056	985
Spallumcheen⁷	---	---	---	255	249	237	173	197	194	212
Squamish	2,272	2,347	2,370	1,953	2,005	2,091	1,886	2,171	2,577	3,313
Summerland	669	642	566	601	558	621	539	610	736	918
Surrey	40,569	41,580	45,065	39,214	42,886	41,748	43,095	48,560	47,437	50,414
Terrace	2,138	2,460	2,532	2,334	2,022	2,114	2,388	2,347	2,131	2,355
Trail	1,078	1,106	1,032	868	969	952	921	988	860	967
Vancouver ^{1,9}	95,742	100,274	105,895	95,490	85,562	81,815	78,107	74,812	71,791	73,282
Vernon	5,083	4,752	5,592	6,041	6,081	5,323	5,315	5,261	6,015	6,360
Victoria ¹	17,691	16,166	15,901	16,752	16,690	17,501	16,355	15,895	16,343	18,770
View Royal	670	861	726	645	740	830	690	636	634	600
West Vancouver	3,609	3,477	3,324	3,133	3,120	2,986	2,678	2,812	3,475	3,379
Whistler ⁷	---	---	---	1,882	2,125	2,117	2,101	2,359	2,212	2,306
White Rock	1,813	1,566	1,524	1,592	1,784	1,777	1,565	1,544	1,865	1,924
Williams Lake	3,394	3,539	3,015	2,887	2,415	2,260	2,463	3,078	2,967	2,826
MUNICIPAL FORCES^{1,9}	444,959	451,972	465,524	436,901	419,980	404,100	397,833	407,895	416,451	445,638

PART 3: POPULATIONS

Municipality	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Abbotsford ^{5,6}	102,066	106,209	109,604	113,183	114,526	116,368	118,253	120,759	124,886	127,712
Burnaby	178,635	182,871	186,712	190,250	191,423	194,337	198,584	202,421	203,665	205,261
Campbell River	28,756	29,566	29,982	30,518	30,591	30,120	29,759	29,699	29,513	29,617
Castlegar	7,148	7,150	7,287	7,283	7,308	7,285	7,299	7,306	7,262	7,168
Central Saanich	14,825	14,997	15,125	15,364	15,539	15,710	15,824	16,018	16,061	16,091
Chilliwack ⁵	60,149	62,056	64,516	65,819	66,101	66,945	67,184	67,728	68,008	68,699
Coldstream	8,980	9,115	9,288	9,428	9,451	9,450	9,478	9,504	9,567	9,685
Colwood	14,308	14,297	14,383	14,471	14,529	14,439	14,375	14,344	14,429	14,437
Comox	10,802	11,173	11,460	11,566	11,624	11,695	11,660	11,660	11,761	11,937
Coquitlam⁵	98,615	102,705	105,928	108,773	111,654	113,713	115,301	117,832	121,357	122,712
Courtenay	16,063	17,354	18,016	18,613	18,809	18,924	18,999	19,103	19,236	20,340
Cranbrook	18,184	18,666	18,831	19,167	19,267	19,460	19,196	19,280	19,474	19,327
Dawson Creek	11,446	11,525	11,579	11,503	11,499	11,432	11,222	11,224	11,115	11,024
Delta ⁵	95,979	97,855	99,245	100,595	100,801	100,972	101,393	101,182	100,906	100,576
Esquimalt¹²	17,098	17,113	16,821	16,900	16,808	16,644	16,653	16,834	16,789	---
Fernie ⁸	5,081	5,054	5,062	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fort St. John	15,127	15,468	15,683	15,859	16,154	16,208	16,486	16,734	16,827	16,730
Hope ⁷	---	---	---	6,578	6,573	6,553	6,491	6,455	6,435	6,431
Kamloops	75,113	77,377	79,385	80,333	80,352	80,177	80,431	80,655	80,749	80,416
Kelowna	89,383	91,672	92,859	94,989	97,176	97,865	99,276	100,496	101,708	103,421
Kimberley	6,877	6,955	6,983	6,918	6,816	6,768	6,767	6,766	6,736	6,710
Kitimat	11,504	11,381	11,564	11,560	11,336	11,163	10,881	10,733	10,578	10,432
Ladysmith ⁷	---	---	---	6,786	6,823	6,858	6,821	6,874	6,914	6,972
Lake Country ⁷	---	---	---	9,575	9,593	9,621	9,488	9,672	9,687	9,785
Langford³	16,586	17,913	18,206	18,839	19,026	19,175	19,450	19,661	19,980	20,292
Langley City	22,664	23,909	23,437	23,763	24,126	24,264	24,413	24,673	24,517	24,577
Langley Township ⁵	77,106	79,583	83,726	87,971	89,391	90,043	90,535	91,215	91,160	91,893
Mackenzie	5,952	6,121	6,257	6,152	5,965	5,794	5,660	5,433	5,406	5,316
Maple Ridge ⁵	55,265	57,038	58,527	60,343	61,437	62,739	64,331	66,163	69,066	71,640
Merritt	6,836	7,167	7,924	7,880	7,820	7,639	7,520	7,396	7,366	7,318
Mission	30,397	31,213	31,683	32,024	32,282	32,304	32,403	32,638	32,688	32,894
Nanaimo ⁵	69,878	71,568	72,987	74,657	75,021	75,333	75,538	76,432	76,596	76,991
Nelson	9,698	9,819	9,948	9,883	9,655	9,609	9,555	9,703	9,585	9,630
New Westminster	49,381	49,637	51,488	52,804	54,445	55,669	57,156	57,045	57,529	59,426
North Cowichan⁴	24,937	25,924	26,222	26,549	26,802	27,051	27,144	27,290	27,361	27,368
North Saanich	10,423	10,472	10,750	10,820	10,861	10,858	10,838	10,890	10,896	10,923
North Vancouver City ⁵	41,954	43,138	43,589	44,046	44,871	45,259	45,810	46,590	48,020	48,493
North Vancouver District ⁵	82,251	82,459	83,913	85,038	85,541	85,788	85,949	87,215	86,972	87,160
Oak Bay	18,579	18,515	18,456	18,579	18,569	18,559	18,488	18,572	18,428	18,207
Parksville	8,729	9,238	9,796	10,081	10,203	10,339	10,592	10,773	10,803	10,932
Penticton	31,759	32,045	32,097	32,360	32,349	32,371	32,318	32,339	32,399	32,519
Pitt Meadows	13,056	13,371	13,956	14,463	14,551	14,902	15,018	15,311	15,887	16,148
Port Alberni	18,565	19,192	19,163	19,268	19,002	18,707	18,530	18,515	18,350	18,235
Port Coquitlam ⁵	43,681	46,406	48,594	50,325	51,238	51,845	52,365	53,502	55,788	57,313
Port Hardy^{5,11}	5,697	5,753	5,808	5,644	5,437	5,249	5,100	5,093	---	---
Port Moody ¹	20,296	20,918	21,689	22,806	23,331	24,106	24,292	24,854	25,674	26,690
Powell River	13,285	13,348	13,610	13,882	13,737	13,667	13,558	13,550	13,480	13,407
Prince George	75,417	76,904	78,239	78,426	77,368	76,990	77,018	75,567	74,849	75,609
Prince Rupert	17,248	17,352	17,397	17,221	16,417	15,930	15,643	15,282	15,049	14,760
Qualicum Beach	6,195	6,645	6,934	7,047	7,183	7,138	7,203	7,224	7,250	7,294
Quesnel	8,510	8,575	8,806	8,970	8,856	10,238	10,367	10,481	10,347	10,198
Revelstoke	8,134	8,251	8,356	8,286	8,123	7,985	7,888	7,826	7,868	7,782
Richmond ¹	143,902	149,291	154,695	159,597	163,233	166,219	168,280	171,520	173,545	174,201
Saanich	103,465	104,955	105,252	106,663	107,029	107,373	107,402	108,178	107,919	107,964
Salmon Arm⁵	14,380	15,013	15,181	15,552	15,796	15,854	15,824	16,058	16,018	16,166
Sechelt	7,064	7,217	7,596	7,879	8,009	8,040	8,044	8,113	8,193	8,281
Sidney	10,991	11,108	11,062	11,108	11,318	11,350	11,332	11,404	11,355	11,372
Smithers ²	5,543	5,745	5,856	5,869	5,835	5,766	5,738	5,651	5,643	5,513
Sooke ¹⁰	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9,192	9,305
Spallumcheen⁷	---	---	---	5,533	5,502	5,438	5,383	5,357	5,356	5,339
Squamish ⁵	14,043	14,538	14,791	15,153	15,241	15,151	15,020	15,058	15,023	15,142
Summerland	10,831	10,947	10,927	11,066	11,041	11,070	11,101	11,181	11,161	11,179
Surrey	290,125	305,260	316,655	328,933	338,003	345,446	353,340	363,013	378,173	390,145
Terrace	12,590	13,019	13,298	13,417	13,266	13,060	12,849	12,639	12,453	12,373
Trail	8,061	8,004	7,963	7,817	7,878	7,851	8,040	7,905	8,152	8,167
Vancouver ^{1,9}	514,007	525,715	537,910	546,772	551,832	558,262	564,513	570,837	570,186	569,814
Vernon	32,010	32,354	32,993	33,705	34,278	34,277	34,657	34,957	34,956	35,073
Victoria ¹	75,404	76,141	76,677	76,976	76,738	76,520	76,515	77,361	76,987	93,097
View Royal	6,529	6,667	6,691	6,890	6,984	7,234	7,411	7,587	7,762	7,868
West Vancouver⁵	43,605	44,018	44,410	44,933	45,070	45,166	45,168	45,556	45,399	45,212
Whistler ⁷	---	---	---	8,294	8,843	8,965	9,094	9,284	9,432	9,480
White Rock	17,414	17,529	17,834	18,373	18,340	18,623	18,748	19,047	19,440	19,539
Williams Lake	10,590	10,803	10,895	11,028	11,098	11,612	11,725	11,639	11,558	11,422
MUNICIPAL FORCES	2,999,172	3,081,357	3,152,557	3,249,716	3,283,694	3,315,535	3,346,687	3,386,857	3,424,880	3,455,150

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Data shown for 1994 include estimates for the Cities of Vancouver and Victoria: estimates for Vancouver cover the reporting period of July to December 1994 and are based on the Vancouver Police Department's 1993 reporting under the UCR Incident-Based Survey; estimates for Victoria are based on the Victoria Police Department's 1993 reporting under the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Data shown for 1995 includes estimates for the City of Vancouver. These estimates cover the reporting months of August and October 1995 and are based on the Vancouver Police Department's "Monthly Activity Reports" for each month. Data shown for 1996 and 1997 includes estimates for the City of Vancouver. These estimates cover the complete reporting year and are based on the Vancouver Police Department's "Monthly Activity Report" dated January 16, 1998. Data shown for 2001 include estimates for the Cities of Vancouver and Port Moody. For each jurisdiction, the estimates cover the phase-in period required for PRIME-BC. For Vancouver the estimates cover the reporting period of February to April 2001 and are based on the Vancouver Police Department's 2000 reporting under the UCR Incident-Based Survey. For Port Moody, the estimates cover the reporting periods of March and April 2001 and are based on the Port Moody Police Department's 2000 reporting under the UCR Survey. Data shown for 2003 include estimates for Victoria, and Richmond. The estimates for Victoria cover the reporting period of August to December 2003, while the estimates for Richmond cover the reporting months of May and July 2003. The estimates are based on each department's 2002 reporting under the UCR Survey.
- 2 Smithers signed a municipal contract effective April 1994. Offence data reflects the entire year.
- 3 Langford signed a municipal contract effective October 1994. Offence data reflects the entire year.
- 4 From 1991 to 1999 North Cowichan included two municipal policing jurisdictions: N. Cowichan-Chemainus and N. Cowichan-Duncan.
- 5 Population figures include First Nations Reserve and municipal populations. Population figures for 2001 and 2002 are based on revised boundaries. However, the 1997 to 2000 population data may not fully reflect these new boundaries.
- 6 Abbotsford Mun RCMP was closed in December 1994 and amalgamated with Matsqui Mun (now called Abbotsford City Mun) on January 1, 1995. All data for the new City of Abbotsford combines the two formerly-separate jurisdictions.
- 7 Five municipalities that exceeded 5,000 population in the 1996 Census signed municipal contracts on April 1st, 1997. They are: Hope, Ladysmith, Lake Country, Spallumcheen and Whistler. Offence data for these jurisdictions reflects the entire year.
- 8 Fernie signed a municipal contract in April 1994, but reverted to solely provincial jurisdiction in April 1997.
- 9 From September 2000 to September 2001, as a result of E-Comm labour action, there were decreases in the number of crimes reported to the Vancouver Police Department, e.g. thefts, assaults and robberies. As a result, the number of Criminal Code offences and crime rates for Vancouver and the municipal force totals were affected.
- 10 Sooke incorporated as a municipality in 2000, and since its population exceeded 5,000 in the 2001 Census, Sooke signed a municipal contract in 2002. Offence data for Sooke reflects the entire year for 2002.
- 11 Port Hardy's population fell below 5,000 in the 2001 Canada Census, so it reverted to solely provincial jurisdiction in April 2002.
- 12 Esquimalt amalgamated with Victoria Police Department on January 1, 2003.

DATA QUALIFIERS

1. **CRIME RATES** are defined as the number of Criminal Code offences (Excluding Traffic) per 1,000 population. Population figures are based on the results of the Canada Census, which is conducted every five years. Canada Census occurred in 1991, 1996 and 2001; population figures for intervening years are estimates based on Census data. These figures reflect the "resident" population of a jurisdiction and exclude commuters, students, tourists and other part-time residents. Municipal crime rates do not necessarily reflect the relative safety of one municipality over another. More often than not, a high crime rate indicates that a municipality is a core city or tourist destination. Core cities are also the business and entertainment centres for many people who reside outside, as well as inside, the municipality. Core cities may also have a large "part-time" population relative to the resident population. Part-time residents include tourists, cottage or chalet owners, students and seasonal staff. If core cities expanded their boundaries to include residential areas outside their borders, the crime rate for the combined populated area would be considerably lower than the municipality itself. Similarly, if tourist destinations included part-time residents in their population base, their crime rates would be substantially lower.
2. **CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES** include Criminal Code: Person, Property, and Other offences. CC: Person offences include "violent" crimes such as homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery, and abduction. CC: Property offences include break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft over and under \$5,000, possession of stolen property, and fraud. CC: Other offences include prostitution, gaming and betting, possession of offensive weapons, bail violations, disturb the peace, mischief and property damage, as well as any other Criminal Code offence not covered by a specific UCR offence category, e.g. breach of probation, computer/data mischief, obscene threatening phone calls, loitering at schoolyards, etc. Criminal Code: Traffic offences are not included in Criminal Code offences. The Criminal Code offence 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. However, with the exception of robbery offences where one incident with multiple victims is only scored as one offence, police record one offence for every victim of a "violent" crime, i.e. homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, and abduction. Criminal Code offences represents only those offences 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.
3. The data contained in this report may vary when compared with previous reports produced by Police Services. Where variances occur, the report produced at the latest date will reflect the most current data available.

SOURCES: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR);
BC STATS, Population Section, Ministry of Management Services, Province of British Columbia.

PREPARED BY: Police Services, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Province of British Columbia.

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