



The State of Violent Crime in Canada

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This study was commissioned by the Centre for Civic Engagement. The CCE is a non-partisan Canadian charity dedicated to conducting original research on public policy issues related to Canadian prosperity, productivity, and national flourishing. The CCE's research informs an active program of policy seminars, events, conferences, and lectures all aimed at providing the policy making community with actionable insights that encourage informed decision making on issues that matter to Canadians.

Introduction

Violent crime has re-emerged as a defining political issue in Canada. Poll¹ after² poll³ shows that Canadians feel less safe in their communities and that crime is a growing concern. After years of rising⁴ violence,⁵ the federal government has introduced⁶ legislation⁷ designed to toughen sentencing and protect victims.

At the same time, a counter-narrative has developed. The John Howard Society⁸ has written that “Crime is down in Canada ... but you’d never know it” and that “a lot of what is classified as ‘violent crime’ does not involve what most of us would think of as significant violence.” A recent *Globe and Mail*⁹ article cited “false perceptions about crime,” and polling¹⁰ about rising public concern was accompanied by headlines that¹¹ Canadians “feel unsafe despite crime rates dropping” and¹² “feel more unsafe, despite data saying otherwise.” One criminologist quoted by *CTV News* surmised¹³ that “Most people aren’t checking out Statistics Canada to find out what’s actually happening.”

This study checks Statistics Canada to find out what’s actually happening. To do so, it explores an oft-ignored metric: the violent crime severity index,¹⁴ which accounts for both the *amount* and relative *seriousness* of crime.

The analysis shows the naysayers are wrong: Violent crime severity increased considerably in every province and nearly every major city over the last decade. In most provinces, the past few years have produced the highest levels of violent crime severity recorded at *any point* since the index began in 1998.

The public may be anxious about violent crime, but they are not mistaken.

¹ “Federal Politics, Major Projects and Public Safety,” *Leger*, September 10, 2025, <https://leger360.com/federal-politics-major-projects-and-public-safety/>.

² Crime in Canada: Four-in-five report fraud attempts; 30% say money or personal information was taken,” *Angus Reid Institute*, January 12, 2026, <https://angusreid.org/crime-fraud-in-canada-widespread/>.

³ Eddie Sheppard and David Coletto, “The Politics of Safety: Why Bail Reform Is Striking a Chord with Canadians,” *Abacus Data*, October 3, 2025, <https://abacusdata.ca/the-politics-of-safety-why-bail-reform-is-striking-a-chord-with-canadians/>.

⁴ Tristin Hopper, “Canada is seeing violent crime like never before. What’s behind the wave of killings and attacks,” *National Post*, April 14, 2023, <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadas-violent-crime-wave>.

⁵ Naomi Buck, “Hard lessons,” *The Globe and Mail*, November 28, 2025, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-violence-canadian-schools-students-teachers-solutions/>.

⁶ Government of Canada, “Canada overhauls Criminal Code to protect victims and keep kids safe from predators,” News release, December 9, 2025, <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2025/12/canada-overhauls-criminal-code-to-protect-victims-and-keep-kids-safe-from-predators.html>.

⁷ Canada, Government of Canada, *Protecting Victims Act: Proposed legislation to protect victims and keep kids safe from predators*, Proposed Legislation, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/c16/index.html>.

⁸ “Crime is down in Canada ... but you’d never know it,” *John Howard Society of Canada*, August 7, 2025, <https://johnhoward.ca/blog/crime-rate-decreasing-in-canada/>.

⁹ Colin Freeze, “Murders dropped sharply in several major Canadian cities last year, data show,” *The Globe and Mail*, January 20, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-canada-murder-rates-toronto-winnipeg-lethal-violence/>.

¹⁰ “Crime in Canada: Four-in-five report fraud attempts; 30% say money or personal information was taken.”

¹¹ Robyn Urback, “Why Canadians feel unsafe despite crime rates dropping,” *The Globe and Mail*, January 9, 2026, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-canadians-feel-unsafe-crime-rates-dropping/>.

¹² Adrian Ghobrial, “New polling suggests Canadians feel more unsafe, despite data saying otherwise,” *CTV News*, January 13, 2026, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/article/new-polling-suggests-canadians-feel-more-unsafe-despite-data-saying-otherwise/>.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Canada, Government of Canada, *Crime Severity Index*, Good governance, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/hub-carrefour/quality-life-qualite-vie/good-governance-saine-gouvernance/crime-severity-index-indice-gravite-criminalite-eng.htm>.

What is the Violent Crime Severity Index?

Crime rates tend to grab the most media attention. Individual police services keep their own detailed crime data, which are then compiled by Statistics Canada, aggregated, and published¹⁵ as annual “incident-based crime statistics.” The result—a comprehensive data source of crime rates across the country, accompanied by a short summary¹⁶—is usually published in July or August each year, accompanied by a flurry¹⁷ of¹⁸ media¹⁹ headlines²⁰ about whether crime is increasing or decreasing.

These crime rates²¹ reflect police-reported criminal “incidents” per 100,000 people, which refer²² to an “occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event.” Violent crimes are typically categorized²³ according to the “most serious violation” in a given criminal incident. Although there are drawbacks to using police-reported crime data—for example, they do not capture different local policing practices, nor the fact that residents may not bother²⁴ to report minor crimes to police—they remain the most commonly used data source for determining trends in crime.

However, looking at the overall “crime rate” or “violent crime rate” can flatten important differences; within such categories, a minor assault and a homicide are each counted as a single violent criminal incident.

To rectify this, in the late 2000s, Statistics Canada created its crime severity index. The index applies a different “weight” to each criminal offence by multiplying its average prison sentence length by the incarceration rate—in the original crime severity index,²⁵ one murder was given 306 times as much weight as a level 1 assault—and then dividing weighted offences by population.

Weights are updated based on the five most recent years of sentencing data. Although developed in 2009,²⁶ the index was calculated retroactively back to 1998. The year 2006 was set as the benchmark and assigned a value of 100, with increases or decreases in crime severity measured against that year.

¹⁵ Canada, Statistics Canada, *Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police*, Data, Table 35-10-0177-01, Ottawa, 2026, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510017701>.

¹⁶ Canada, Government of Canada, *Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2024*, The Daily, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250722/dq250722a-eng.htm>.

¹⁷ Jim Bronskill, “Crime severity index dropped four per cent last year, Statistics Canada says,” *National Post*, July 23, 2025, <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/crime-severity-index-dropped-four-per-cent-last-year-statistics-canada-says>.

¹⁸ Marie-Danielle Smith, “Sexual assault rate in 2021 highest since 1996, violent crimes up: Statistics Canada,” *The Globe and Mail*, August 2, 2022, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-sexual-assault-rate-in-2021-highest-since-1996-violent-crimes-up/>.

¹⁹ Jim Bronskill, “Crime severity index dropped four per cent last year, Statistics Canada says,” *Toronto Star*, July 22, 2025, https://www.thestar.com/news/crime/crime-severity-index-dropped-four-per-cent-last-year-statistics-canada-says/article_03195b77-20d7-52ab-8a06-d57115e079e8.html.

²⁰ Brian Lilley, “Crime stats show spike in violent crime under Trudeau,” *Toronto Sun*, July 25, 2024, <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/crime-stats-show-spike-in-violent-crime-under-trudeau>.

²¹ Canada, Government of Canada, *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR)*, Surveys and statistical programs, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3302>.

²² Canada, Government of Canada, *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR)*, Surveys and statistical programs, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=assembleDESURV&DECID=1233484&RepClass=570&Id=1531530&DFId=244073&wbdisable=true>.

²³ Canada, Government of Canada, *Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2024*.

²⁴ Howard Anglin, “Lies, damned Lies, and crime statistics,” *The Hub Canada*, September 9, 2025, <https://thehub.ca/2025/09/09/howard-anglin-lies-damned-lies-and-crime-statistics/>.

²⁵ Marnie Wallace, John Turner, Anthony Matarazzo and Colin Babyak, Statistics Canada, *Measuring Crime in Canada: Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 85-004-X, Ottawa, 2009, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-004-x/85-004-x2009001-eng.pdf>.

²⁶ Canada, Government of Canada, *Understanding and using the Crime Severity Index*, Questionnaires, Ottawa, 2024, https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/statistical-programs/document/3302_D16_V1.

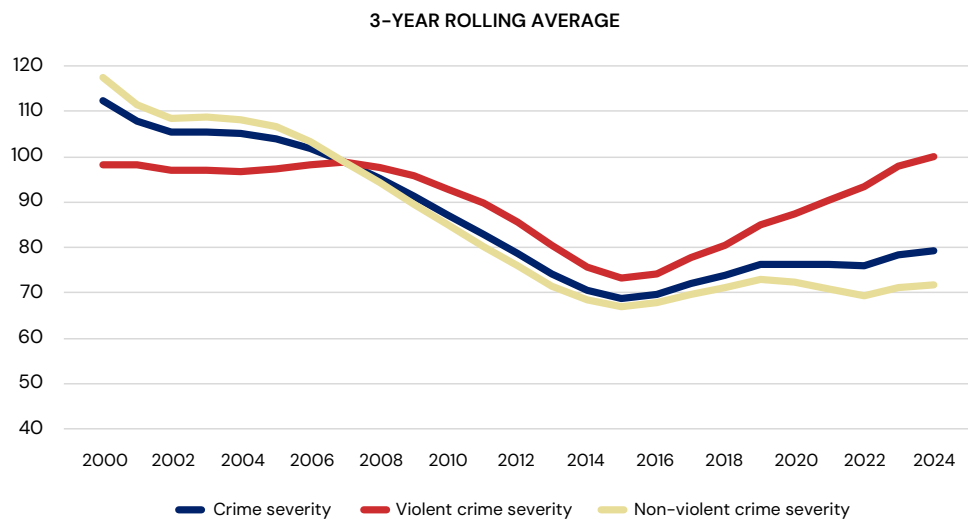
Violent Crime Severity is Increasing

Statistics Canada also created two sub-indices: violent and non-violent crime severity. The violent crime severity index only includes offences such as homicide, robbery, and sexual assault that involve²⁷ the “use or threatened use of violence against a person,” whereas with the non-violent index includes offences such as property crime, drug possession/trafficking, and fraud.

The data below focus primarily on the violent crime severity index. To prevent annual fluctuations from skewing the data, all charts use three-year rolling averages (the value for “2000” is the average of the values of 1998, 1999, and 2000; the value for “2024” is the average of the values for 2022, 2023, and 2024).

The first chart below shows changes in all three crime severity indices—total, violent, and non-violent—between 2000 and 2024. It shows that *overall* crime severity has decreased since 2000, but this has been driven by a sustained decline in non-violent crime severity. By contrast, violent crime severity in 2024 has surpassed its mid-2000s peak.

Figure 1: Crime Severity, 2000-2024

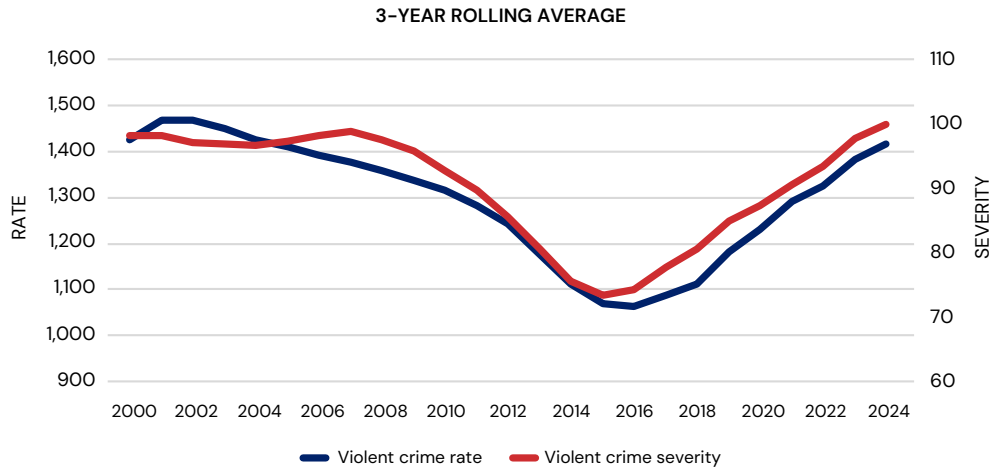


The second chart maps the violent crime severity index alongside the violent crime rate. These two measures have developed similarly over this century: relatively flat in the early 2000s; a considerable drop from the mid-2000s until the mid-2010s; and a steady increase from the mid 2010s until 2024.

²⁷ Canada, Government of Canada, *Classification of most serious offence*, Statistical classifications, Ottawa, 2019, <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=794110&CVD=794111&CPV=1&CST=01012018&CLV=1&MLV=2&>.

The early part of the chart shows us that violent crime rates and violent crime severity don't always develop in parallel—that is, severity can increase while the overall rate can decrease (or vice versa). However, the two measures have tracked nearly identically over the last 20 years, with both measures now at or near highs from the 2000s.

Figure 2: Violent Crime Rate and Severity, 2000-2024



Where is Violent Crime Severity Getting Worse? Everywhere

Even though Statistics Canada data is available by region, few if any media analyses of crime severity move beyond a discussion of the national index. The charts below explore variations by province, territory, and census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

In a 2025 study for the Macdonald-Laurier Institute,²⁸ Richard Audas and I analyzed violent crime statistics from 2013–2024 in Canada’s 18 largest CMAs for which data are available, as well as Moncton, NB and St. John’s, NL. The figure below reproduces a “heat map” from that study, which tracks changes in violent crime severity over the last decade in those 20 CMAs. The heat map measures changes in rolling averages, and the final three columns track changes over the short term (one year, 2023–2024), medium term (five years, 2019–2024) and long term (the last decade, 2015–2024). The values with the highest violent crime severity are dark red and the lowest crime severity dark green (red is bad, green is good).

Figure 3: Violent Crime Severity in 20 Canadian CMAs, 2015–2024

RANK	CITY	3-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGES										SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024			
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	▲	▲	▲

²⁸ Dave Snow and Richard Audas, “Urban Violent Crime Report, Volume 2: Comparing crime across Canadian cities,” *Macdonald-Laurier Institute*, November 12, 2025, <https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/urban-violent-crime-report-comparing-crime-across-canadian-cities-volume-2/>.

The heat map shows that the decade-long growth in urban violent crime is widespread. Only one of the 20 CMAs (Vancouver) experienced a slight reduction between 2015 and 2024, while most experienced large increases.

In terms of absolute violent crime severity, there exists a clear regional dimension: the four Prairie cities of Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, and Edmonton have the highest violent crime severity, followed by the Atlantic Canadian cities of Moncton, St. John’s, and Halifax (as a born-and-raised Atlantic Canadian, this surprised me; it did not surprise my friends and family who have lived there over the last decade).

While the lowest-severity CMAs are all located in Ontario or Quebec, those CMAs have nevertheless experienced increasing violent crime severity. Indeed, the highest increases in severity over the last decade occurred in Kitchener, Quebec City, and St. Catharines—a growth of 71, 63, and 61 percent, respectively.

The next heat map looks at violent crime severity in the Canadian provinces, again using rolling averages.

Several trends are apparent. First, violent crime severity is much worse in Manitoba and Saskatchewan than anywhere else. These provinces have seen violent crime severity reach new heights in recent years: 2024 marked the year with the highest rolling violent crime severity in Saskatchewan and Manitoba since Statistics Canada began tracking in 1998, at numbers well beyond previous peaks in the mid-2000s (for both provinces, the highest non-rolling year was 2023, as it was for Canada as a whole).

Figure 4: Violent Crime Severity, 2000-2024

	3-YEAR ROLLING AVERAGES																								
	2000			2004			2008			2012			2016			2020			2024						
NL	59	60	60	60	60	62	62	63	63	63	66	64	65	64	63	64	66	70	72	74	77	85	91	97	95
PE	58	58	62	64	64	59	52	46	45	43	44	44	44	45	46	45	42	40	42	52	57	61	61	69	75
NS	87	90	93	96	100	103	106	101	96	90	88	87	83	80	73	70	70	74	76	80	87	93	99	98	97
NB	73	75	75	76	75	73	70	67	66	69	70	69	67	64	61	59	61	65	71	78	83	87	91	95	98
QC	93	93	91	89	89	89	90	88	86	82	79	78	76	74	69	66	66	69	71	73	74	78	83	89	93
ON	84	84	84	83	81	81	83	85	85	83	81	77	74	68	63	60	61	65	70	73	73	72	74	77	80
MB	159	160	157	159	160	166	168	172	169	171	169	170	163	152	140	135	140	151	162	174	177	181	189	204	215
SK	141	146	154	168	171	175	172	173	167	160	154	150	143	133	127	128	138	145	146	154	166	182	189	198	201
AB	99	100	100	103	103	105	105	107	108	109	106	100	94	90	87	90	93	97	97	102	106	111	113	115	112
BC	129	124	120	119	120	119	120	119	118	115	111	104	97	89	82	79	77	76	74	80	86	93	96	98	98

Second, while other provinces cannot match Manitoba’s and Saskatchewan’s high severity, most provinces are currently experiencing record highs. In every province except Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia, violent crime severity in 2023 and/or 2024 was at least as high as it has ever been since Statistics Canada’s tracking began in 1998 (BC is the one jurisdiction for which violent crime severity has decreased well below its early-2000 high).

In most provinces, the last decade has not merely seen violent crime severity return to mid-2000 highs; instead, it has surpassed those previous highs, often by a wide margin.

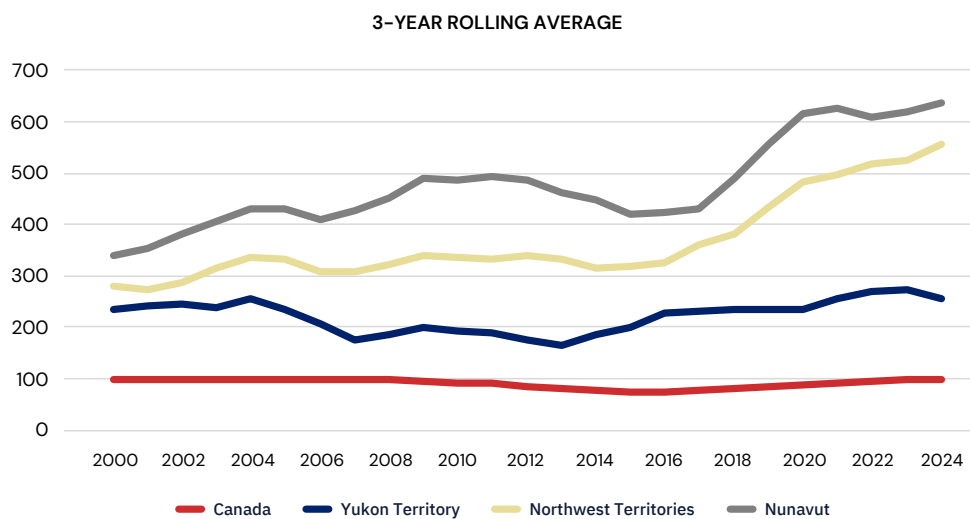
How does this square with first two charts, which showed that Canada experienced a relatively equivalent fall and rise of violent crime severity between 2006 and 2024? The answer: Ontario, and to a lesser extent Quebec.

While Ontario has experienced a significant growth in violent crime severity since 2014, it has not yet surpassed its levels from the mid-2000s; Quebec, meanwhile, has only just equaled its highs from the early 2000s.

And herein lies the problem with reporting on crime statistics that comes primarily from a national media dominated by Ontario and Quebec. When roughly 60 percent of the population lives in jurisdictions where violent crime severity has not risen as dramatically, media²⁹ discussion³⁰ of national crime statistics can understate the severity of trends in other provinces. This is precisely what has occurred in the context of Canadian violent crime severity.

Finally, the territories deserve special mention. Crime in the territories is notoriously high³¹ and growing, something the chart below (which includes the overall Canadian rate for context) confirms. In Nunavut³² and the Northwest Territories in particular, violent crime severity has skyrocketed to more than five times the national average. Violent crime remains a crisis in much of Canada’s North, and unfortunately, shows no sign of slowing down.

Figure 5: Canada & the Territories: Violent Crime Severity, 2000-2024



²⁹ Bronskill, "Crime severity index dropped four per cent last year, Statistics Canada says."

³⁰ Sean Boynton, "Police-reported crime in Canada fell in 2024 for 1st time since pandemic," *Global News*, July 22, 2025, <https://globalnews.ca/news/11298268/canada-crime-severity-index-statistics-2024/>.

³¹ Dave Snow and Richard Audas, "Canada's justice system at a crossroads," *Macdonald-Laurier Institute*, January 2024, <https://macdonaldlaurier.ca/report-card-criminal-justice-system/jsrc2023/>.

³² As the violent CSI was unavailable for Nunavut in 1998, its 2000 rolling average is an average of 1999 and 2000 data.

Public Perceptiveness, Elite Misperception

This study has provided statistical context to explain Canada's surge in violent crime over the last decade. The numbers show that, counter to certain media narratives, the last few years have seen violent crime severity return to or surpass the highest levels seen this century. No province, territory, or city has been immune from the growth in violent crime severity, which in most provinces now exceeds all previously recorded levels in Statistics Canada's crime severity time series.

Even with the benefit of hindsight, it is impossible to state with certainty why violent crime was so high in the early 2000s, dropped precipitously until 2014, and has risen more-or-less uninterrupted since. Determining the causal factors behind rising crime rates is notoriously³³ difficult.³⁴

But there can be little doubt about the social and political context in which severity has increased: it has spiked during the exact period in which the criminal justice system has come under increasing strain and our cities have been overrun with generalized disorder.

As Richard Audas and I have documented elsewhere,³⁵ Canada's criminal justice system is in a state of crisis. A growing number of cases are stayed³⁶ or withdrawn; police clearance rates have plummeted;³⁷ the proportion of people on remand in provincial corrections has skyrocketed, rising to an astonishing 86 percent³⁸ in Ontario; and there are countless stories of shocking³⁹ violence⁴⁰ committed by perpetrators out on bail.

³³ Connor Greene, "Why Crime Rates Are Falling Across the U.S.," *Time*, January 24, 2026, <https://time.com/7357500/crime-homicide-rate-violent-property-decline-trump-covid-19/>.

³⁴ Stephen Schneider, *Predicting Crime: A Review of the Research* (Department of Justice, 2002), https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/jsp-sjp/rr02_7/rr02_7.pdf.

³⁵ Snow and Audas, "Canada's justice system at a crossroads."

³⁶ David Ebner, "About 10,000 Jordan cases thrown out annually as Ottawa, provinces call on Supreme Court for change," *The Globe and Mail*, December 1, 2025, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-jordan-cases-ottawa-provinces-supreme-court-change/>.

³⁷ Canada, Statistics Canada, *Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas*, Data, Table 35-10-0026-01, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl/en/tv.action?pid=3510002601>.

³⁸ Canada, Statistics Canada, *Average counts of adults in provincial and territorial correctional programs*, Data, Table 35-10-0154-01, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl/en/tv.action?pid=3510015401&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.7&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2019+%2F+2020&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2023+%2F+2024&referencePeriods=20190101%2C20230101>.

³⁹ Ozten Shebahkeget, "Man who killed sister in Manitoba mass stabbing was ordered to stay away from her while out on bail," *CBC News*, September 5, 2025, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/tyrone-simard-bail-court-records-1.7626321>.

⁴⁰ Chris Fox, "Suspect in shooting of Toronto cop was out on bail," *CTV News*, October 4, 2024, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/toronto/article/suspect-in-shooting-of-toronto-cop-was-out-on-bail/>.

Meanwhile, the opioid crisis emerged just as drug consumption sites proliferated⁴¹ and jurisdictions experimented with drug decriminalization,⁴² non-enforcement,⁴³ and the supply of free drugs.⁴⁴ There is an increasing sense that large swathes of cities have become⁴⁵ “no-go zones” characterized by “a palpable sense of social breakdown and official impotence or indifference”—and in rural areas, things are even worse.⁴⁶

As Stephen Staley wrote⁴⁷ in these pages, “what ultimately drives politics is not statistical crime rates; it is lived disorder.” We feel unsafe because we have borne witness to our cities becoming dens of organized crime,⁴⁸ uncontrolled antisemitic protests,⁴⁹ open drug use,⁵⁰ and visible social breakdown.⁵¹

The data on violent crime severity supplements what Canadians are witnessing with their own eyes: police and governments have lost control of law and order.

The purpose of this study is not to propose policy solutions. Instead, it is to present the data on violent crime severity for all to see. In so doing, I end with two observations. First, public discourse is enriched when we better understand the nuances of criminal justice data. It is not enough to merely point to a one-year dip in crime rates or to tell Canadians that overall crime is down since 1992.⁵² A more complete understanding of the severity of violent crime requires an in-depth analysis of long-term trends across cities, provinces, and territories.

Second, the media should stop clinging to the narrative that, because certain crime statistics were⁵³ worse⁵⁴ in the 1990s, things aren't so bad. A recent *Globe* article⁵⁵ about the (refreshingly positive) 2025 homicide numbers⁵⁶ from several cities was a classic in the genre, with quotes from activists and criminologists referring to the “historic lows” of the mid-2010s, high manslaughter rates in the 1970s, and high homicide rates in the United States.

⁴¹ Dave Snow, “DeepDive: Opposition to supervised consumption sites is growing—but the mainstream media hasn't seemed to notice,” *The Hub Canada*, September 10, 2025, <https://thehub.ca/2025/09/10/deepdive-the-battle-over-supervised-consumption-sites-in-canada/>.

⁴² Jason Peters, “B.C. won't extend its drug decriminalization project, health minister announces,” *CBC News*, January 14, 2026, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-drug-decriminalization-next-steps-9.7045656>.

⁴³ Derek Finkle, “Neighbours suing supervised injection site linked to fatal shooting of Toronto mother,” *National Post*, February 15, 2024, <https://nationalpost.com/news/toronto-supervised-injection-site-class-action-lawsuit>.

⁴⁴ Adam Zivo, “Hydromorphone pills seized in London skyrockets 3,000% after safer supply expansion,” *National Post*, July 5, 2024, <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/adam-zivo-opioid-pills-seized-in-london-skyrocket-3000-after-safer-supply-expansion>.

⁴⁵ Anglin, “Lies, damned Lies, and crime statistics.”

⁴⁶ Canada, Government of Canada, *Police-reported crime in rural areas in the Canadian provinces, 2023*, The Daily, Ottawa, 2025, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/250429/dq250429a-eng.htm>.

⁴⁷ The Hub Staff, “How the West lost control of immigration, crime, and antisemitism,” *The Hub Canada*, February 3, 2026, <https://thehub.ca/2026/02/03/how-the-u-s-lost-control-of-immigration-crime-and-antisemitism/>.

⁴⁸ Tristin Hopper, “FIRST READING: Canada is losing control of a major city to gangsters,” *National Post*, February 6, 2026, <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/canada-is-losing-control-of-a-major-city-to-gangsters>.

⁴⁹ Lena Metlege Diab, Parliament, House of Commons, *Heightened Antisemitism in Canada and how to confront it – Report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights*, 1st sess., 44th Parliament, 2024, <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/441/JUST/Reports/RP13248912/justrp27/justrp27-e.pdf>.

⁵⁰ Derek Finkle, “Toronto's South Riverdale injection site was infested with drug dealers,” *National Post*, November 28, 2025, <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/derek-finkle-torontos-south-riverdale-injection-site-was-infested-with-drug-dealers>.

⁵¹ Anglin, “Lies, damned Lies, and crime statistics.”

⁵² Frances Bula and Andrea Woo, “Vancouver Mayor credits six-month police ‘surge’ in Downtown Eastside for declining crime rates,” *The Globe and Mail*, September 8, 2025, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-vancouver-mayor-credits-seven-month-police-surge-in-downtown-eastside/>.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ “Crime is down in Canada ... but you'd never know it.”

⁵⁵ Freeze, “Murders dropped sharply in several major Canadian cities last year, data show.”

⁵⁶ While preliminary 2025 homicide numbers from several cities are down considerably, the growth in violent crime severity over the last decade was not driven by homicide rates, which remained stable in most cities over that period.

If the media are going to chastise⁵⁷ Canadians for feeling unsafe while crime rates are supposedly “dropping,” journalists—and the “experts” they cite—ought to examine the data more closely before doing so.

Whether because of the low-level lawlessness or the rise in violent crime severity, the public is right to be concerned about crime. Canadians are not misreading the moment—they are living it.

⁵⁷ Ghobrial, “New polling suggests Canadians feel more unsafe, despite data saying otherwise.”

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