



Police-reported youth crime statistics in Canada, 2024

This fact sheet summarizes the latest available data on measures of police-reported youth crime from Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, which collects information on criminal incidents that have been reported to police services in Canada.

Measures of police-reported youth crime are based on the number of youth, aged 12 to 17, who came in contact with the police as a result of a reported criminal incident, and were either charged (or recommended for a charge), or were cleared by other means (including being diverted from the formal criminal justice system through the use of extrajudicial measures).¹ Two measures of police-reported youth crime were examined in this fact sheet:

- the police-reported youth crime rate (hereafter referred to as youth crime rate), which combines the per capita rate of youth charged with a criminal offence² by police (or recommended for a charge) and the rate of youth cleared by other means (i.e., not charged); and,
- the Youth Crime Severity Index (CSI), which measures both the volume and severity of crime involving youth who come in contact with the police (charged and not charged).

Youth crime rate decreases in 2024, following two consecutive yearly increases in 2022 and 2023

From 2023 to 2024, the youth crime rate decreased 4%, from 2,914 per 100,000 youth population to 2,791 per 100,000. This is the first decrease following two consecutive yearly increases in the youth crime rate from 2021 to 2022 (+19%), and from 2022 to 2023 (+13%). Prior to the increases in 2022 and 2023, the youth crime rate had been generally trending downwards for almost two decades, from a rate of 7,280 per 100,000 youth population in 2003 to 2,163 per 100,000 in 2021, representing a 70%

¹ Extrajudicial measures (EJMs) are alternate means to charging youth with a criminal offence and include: taking no further action (i.e., police officer decides no further response to an incident is required); verbal warnings; written cautions; referrals to community programs; and, referrals to an extrajudicial sanctions program (most formal type of EJM due to their potential legal consequences).

² *Criminal Code* offences excluding traffic.

decrease over this time period (see Figure 1). This longstanding decrease occurred during the same period following the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in 2003.

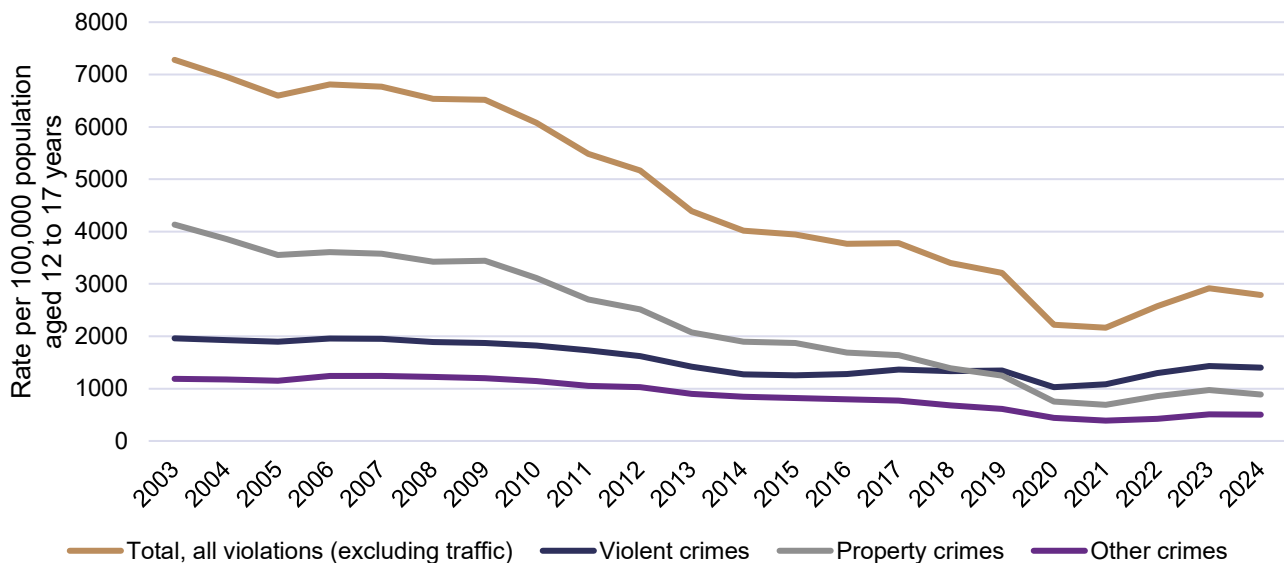
Youth violent crimes, property crimes, other *Criminal Code* offences, and federal statute violations all decreased in 2024

From 2023 to 2024, decreases in the rate of youth crime were observed for violent crimes (-2%), property crimes (-9%), and other *Criminal Code* offences (-1%). The rate of youth crime for federal statute violations³ also decreased 28%.

Youth crime rate decreased in almost all provinces and territories in 2024, with the exception of an increase in Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec

From 2023 to 2024, almost all provinces and territories saw decreases in their respective youth crime rates; Prince Edward Island (-38%), Yukon (-38%), Alberta (-13%), British Columbia (-12%) and New Brunswick (-10%) had the bigger decreases, while Northwest Territories (-9%), Manitoba (-8%), Nova Scotia (-5%), Ontario (-4%), Saskatchewan (-2%) and Nunavut (-2%) showed smaller decreases. Newfoundland and Labrador (+26%) and Quebec (+4%) were the only two jurisdictions that observed an increase.

Figure 1: Youth crime rate, Canada, 2003 to 2024



³ Other federal statute offences refer to offences against Canadian federal statutes, such as *Customs Act*, *Employment Insurance Act*, *Firearms Act*, *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA), *Income Tax Act*, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and *Narcotic Control Act* (NCA).

Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police](#)

Youth CSI decreases in 2024 after two consecutive yearly increases

In 2024, the Youth CSI decreased by 3%, from 54.21 in 2023 to 52.46 in 2024. Similar to the youth crime rate, this is the first decrease in Youth CSI after two consecutive yearly increases from 2021 to 2022 (+22%) and from 2022 to 2023 (+8%). Prior to those two increases, the Youth CSI had generally been on a downward trajectory since 2003, when it was recorded at 106.03. The only exception to this decline occurred in 2017, when the index saw a 5% increase, rising from 59.85 in 2016 to 62.86 in 2017. This was followed by a return to a gradual decrease until the 2022 and 2023 increases (see Figure 2).

Decrease in Youth CSI driven by decreases in both violent and non-violent crimes

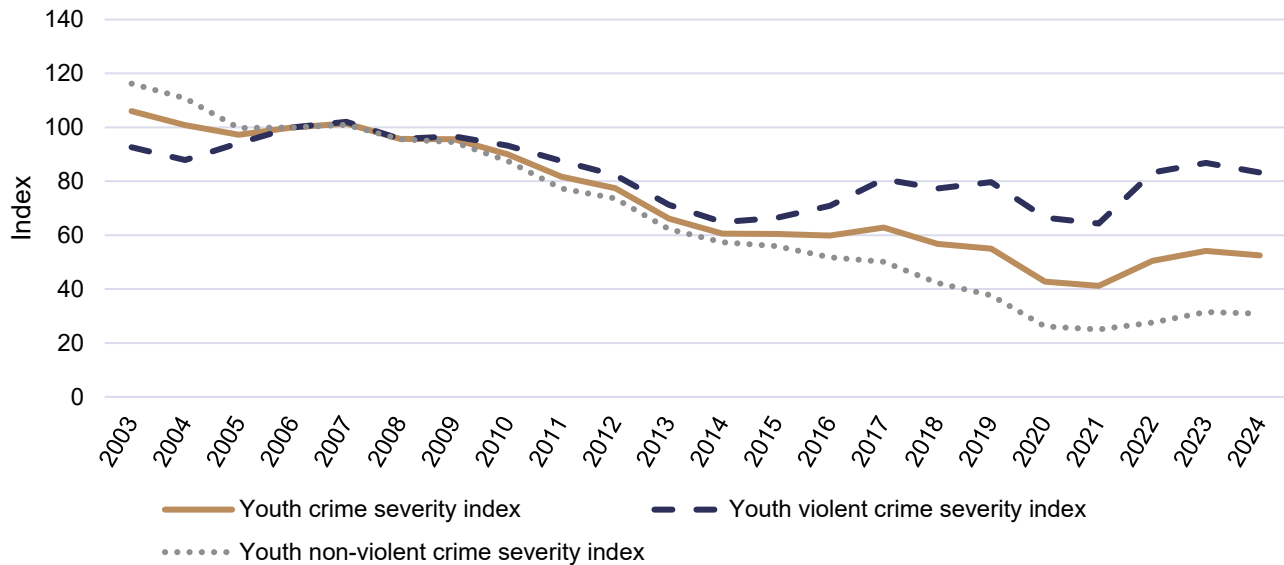
The 2024 decrease in the Youth CSI was attributed to the 4% decrease in Youth Violent CSI—from 86.82 in 2023 to 83.28 in 2024—which included decreases in, for example, attempted murder (-40%), sexual assault level 2⁴ (-17%), sexual assault level 1⁵ (-16%), sexual violation against children (-12%) and assault level 3 (aggravated; -10%). However, a few violent crimes recorded an increase among the youth population, such as increases in extortion (+10%), criminal harassment (+8%), assault against peace officer (+4%) and other violent violations (+4%). Homicide, which is the most serious offence in Canada, remained unchanged from 2023 to 2024.

To a slightly lesser extent, the Youth Non-Violent CSI decreased 2%—from 31.44 in 2023 to 30.94 in 2024. The Youth Non-Violent CSI recorded decreases in identity fraud (-32%), theft over \$5,000 (-16%), theft of motor vehicle (-14%), mischief (-13%), arson (-9%), theft under \$5,000 (-8%), possession of stolen property (-5%), trafficking in stolen property (-5%) and fraud (-4%). Meanwhile, altering, removing or destroying vehicle identification number (VIN; +125%) and identity theft (+92%) both saw increases, although these percentage changes are impacted by the small number of such reported incidents.

⁴ Sexual assault level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm.

⁵ Sexual assault level 1 does not involve the use of weapons or the results of bodily harm.

Figure 2: Youth CSI, Youth Violent CSI and Youth Non-Violent CSI, Canada, 2003 to 2024



Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas](#)

Most provinces and territories recorded decreases in their respective Youth CSI in 2024, with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Nova Scotia

From 2023 to 2024, almost all provinces and territories saw decreases in their respective Youth CSI: Yukon (-61%), Prince Edward Island (-57%), Northwest Territories (-32%), Alberta (-13%), Manitoba (-10%), New Brunswick (-6%), Saskatchewan (-4%), Nunavut (-3%) and Ontario (-2%). Meanwhile, Newfoundland and Labrador (+17%), Quebec (+6%) and Nova Scotia (+3%) all saw increases in their respective Youth CSI.

For the Youth Violent CSI, the largest decreases were observed in Yukon (-71%), Prince Edward Island (-60%), the Northwest Territories (-36%) and British Columbia (-19%). Increases were observed in Newfoundland and Labrador (+9%, which included increases in uttering threats, firearms-related offences, robbery, assault level 3 (aggravated) and other assaults for example), Nova Scotia (+9%, which included increases in homicide, extortion, firearms-related offences, criminal harassment, forcible confinement for example) and Quebec (+5%, which included increases in homicide, assault levels 1, 2 (use of weapons or caused bodily harm) and 3 (aggravated), uttering threats and robbery for example).

For the Youth Non-Violent CSI, the largest decreases were observed in Prince Edward Island (-51%), Yukon (-39%), the Northwest Territories (-28%), and Alberta (-14%). Increases were observed in Newfoundland and Labrador (+35%, which included increases in mischief, theft under \$5,000 and fraud for example), Quebec (+9%, which included increases in identity theft and altering, removing or destroying VIN for example), New Brunswick (+7%, which included increases in breaking and entering,

and arson for example), Saskatchewan (+2%, which included increases in theft in over \$5,000 and arson for example) and Nunavut (+2%, which included increases in breaking and entering for example).

Youth crime rate and Youth CSI remain lower than pre-pandemic levels (2019)

The youth crime rate and the Youth CSI remain lower than pre-pandemic levels, and this despite the increases in volume and severity of youth crime in 2022 and in 2023. In 2019, the youth crime rate was 3,213 per 100,000 youth population compared to 2,791 per 100,000 in 2024 (see Figure 1). In 2019, the Youth CSI was 55.02 compared to 52.46 in 2024 (see Figure 2).

The changes in the volume and severity of crime in 2022 and 2023 may be partly explained by various factors such as social and economic contexts, events, and movements that may have impacted the number and types of crime being committed and/or reported.