

Overall Crime Rate Down Year-to-Date 2009-07-30

Vancouver Police Chief Constable Jim Chu and Mayor Gregor Robertson released the mid-year crime statistics for the first six months of 2009 in the city of Vancouver.

Vancouver Police Department Crime Incident Statistics¹

	January to June 2009					January to June 2008					% Change 2008 to 2009				
	D1	D2	D3	D4	YTD	D1	D2	D3	D4	YTD	D1	D2	D3	D4	YTD
Violent Crime	919	1445	827	473	3665	968	1378	871	527	3744	-5.1%	4.9%	-5.1%	-10.2%	-2.1%
Culpable Homicide	3	3	6	1	13	2	3	5	0	10	50.0%	0.0%	20.0%	n/c	30.0%
Attempted Murder	3	1	7	1	12	3	5	4	2	14	0.0%	-80.0%	75.0%	-50.0%	-14.3%
Sexual Offences	61	88	63	46	258	47	84	60	59	250	29.8%	4.8%	5.0%	-22.0%	3.2%
Assaults	700	1085	595	352	2733	737	1053	617	345	2752	-5.0%	3.0%	-3.6%	2.0%	-0.7%
Robbery	152	268	156	73	649	179	233	185	121	718	-15.1%	15.0%	-15.7%	-39.7%	-9.6%
Property Crime	5824	3564	4126	5311	18835	6827	4132	4578	5345	20882	-14.7%	-13.7%	-9.9%	-0.6%	-9.8%
B&E - Total	409	558	669	1140	2777	585	684	971	1339	3579	-30.1%	-18.4%	-31.1%	-14.9%	-22.4%
Business	258	213	188	339	998	298	286	258	389	1231	-13.4%	-25.5%	-27.1%	-12.9%	-18.9%
Residence	117	263	364	666	1411	231	311	590	789	1921	-49.4%	-15.4%	-38.3%	-15.6%	-26.5%
Other	34	82	117	135	368	56	87	123	161	427	-39.3%	-5.7%	-4.9%	-16.1%	-13.8%
Theft - Motor Vehicle	205	209	395	404	1213	403	300	431	432	1566	-49.1%	-30.3%	-8.4%	-6.5%	-22.5%
Theft (over and under \$5000)	4114	1731	2058	2807	10714	4600	1958	1902	2607	11067	-10.6%	-11.6%	8.2%	7.7%	-3.2%
Have Stolen Goods	158	203	112	87	562	148	181	114	86	529	6.8%	12.2%	-1.8%	1.2%	6.2%
Fraud	402	252	259	256	1172	347	179	255	255	1036	15.9%	40.8%	1.6%	0.4%	13.1%
Arson	12	34	40	18	104	4	31	46	21	102	200.0%	9.7%	-13.0%	-14.3%	2.0%
Mischief (over and under \$5000)	524	577	593	599	2293	740	799	859	605	3003	-29.2%	-27.8%	-31.0%	-1.0%	-23.6%
Other Crime	1479	1920	1289	862	5555	1535	1884	1247	794	5461	-3.6%	1.9%	3.4%	8.6%	1.7%
Prostitution	7	26	53	0	86	2	27	65	2	96	250.0%	-3.7%	-18.5%	-100.0%	-10.4%
Gaming and Betting	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	3	-100.0%	-100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	-33.3%
Offensive Weapons	145	313	148	74	680	138	256	125	64	583	5.1%	22.3%	18.4%	15.6%	16.6%
Other Criminal Code	1327	1581	1086	788	4787	1394	1600	1056	728	4779	-4.8%	-1.2%	2.8%	8.2%	0.2%
Total Criminal Code	8222	6929	6242	6646	28055	9330	7394	6696	6666	30087	-11.9%	-6.3%	-6.8%	-0.3%	-6.8%

¹ These statistics are produced using the "all offence scoring method," which counts all of the offences that occurred within each incident of crime.

² Data run on 2009/07/08

³ City total includes offences coded as location unknown

The good news is that reported crime is decreasing and the VPD is happy with this downward trend.

"The bad news is that even one crime is one crime too many," says Chief Constable Chu. "While the trends are positive, we still have a high relative crime rate in comparison to other major Canadian cities such as Toronto or Montreal. In our 5-year strategic plan, we have a goal of making Vancouver Canada's safest major city and we know we still have a lot of work ahead to get there."

Overall, for the first 6 months of 2009, reported crime is down 7%.

Property crime is down 10%, lead by a 26% decrease in residential break-ins and a 19% decrease in commercial break-ins.

Other notable crime changes are a 2% decrease in violent crime and 22% decrease in vehicle thefts.

"Robberies are down 10%. We are shaking off the title of the bank robbery capital of Canada. Bank robberies are down 59% and we enjoy a 95% solve rate," says Mayor Robertson.

"A crime increase that we have seen is in the category of Possession of

Stolen property which is up 6%," says Chu. "That is a good trend because it reflects our efforts to identify suspects who fence or buy stolen property. So an increase in this category is a reflection of investigative successes."

Fraud cases are up by 13%. This is a result of increased numbers of cyber crimes, mortgage frauds, and credit card frauds. This is an area of concern for the VPD.

In terms of some other mid-year metrics, VPD response times to Priority One incidents is down 2% from 2008 levels and 11% from 2007 times.

“Our recent successes can be attributed to an increased numbers of police officers, our continued focus on chronic offenders, and our partnerships with our community crime prevention centres,” says Chu. “We are very appreciative of City Council increasing the VPD by 48 officers in 2008 and 48 officers in 2009. The additional police officers help us decrease response times and increase the proactive policing time where officers are not tied up on a call and can engage in visible policing.”

The Vancouver Police Department has also added civilian staff who analyze on a real-time basis crime occurrences, which enables us to better deploy and direct our police officers.

Chief Constable Chu ran through a brief case study on how this comes together:

“Eric Wiwchar was arrested on July 5th and charged with break and enter. He is what we call a professional cat burglar.

Our analysts determined that a spike in crimes was happening and special patrols were directed in the area. In one street check, patrol officers engaged in proactive policing, found him in this area riding a bike with no helmet. They stopped him and found 50 feet of rope in his backpack. In another case, patrol officers were able to respond quickly to an alarm call and found him in the area with drywall dust on his clothing.

In both cases they couldn't tie him to a particular crime, but they documented the street checks. Our analysts tied this intelligence together and put forward a proposal to one of our surveillance units.

On July 4th, our target team watched Mr. Wiwchar use a rope and rappel down a skylight into a business at 525 West Georgia. He was arrested with two accomplices after he exited the business with \$20,000 worth of stolen property.”

The maps above show before and after views of the crime patterns in

the area. The break-ins dropped substantially when Wiwchar was arrested and held in custody.

