



# VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

## REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

**REPORT DATE:** February 3, 2021  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** February 18, 2021  
**BOARD REPORT #** 2102P01

*Regular*

**TO:** Vancouver Police Board

**FROM:** Drazen Manojlovic, Director, Planning, Research & Audit Section

**SUBJECT:** Year-end 2020 Year-to-Date Key Performance Indicators Report

### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT the Vancouver Police Board (VPB) receives this report for information.**

### BACKGROUND:

The quarterly Key Performance Indicators (KPI) reports review: violent crime; property crime; apprehensions under section 28 of the *Mental Health Act* (MHA); calls for service; priority 1 (P1) response time; the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's (ICBC) reported traffic incidents with injuries; traffic fatalities; and VPD-attended motor vehicle incidents with injuries. This report provides a macro-level perspective of organizational performance and overall public safety.

Beginning in 2018, Statistics Canada has changed crime counting standards to include 'unfounded' incidents. Beginning in 2019, all KPI reports reflected this change and previous years' results were retroactively calculated to include unfounded incidents. Also, crime statistics record the date the incident was reported to the police ('reported date') and the date the incident occurred ('occurred date'). KPI reports prior to 2019 used the occurred date as this date was more reflective of active crime trends emerging in Vancouver. Statistics Canada uses the reported date to report crime statistics and KPI Reports, and from 2019 onwards, used that standard to maintain consistency. Results have been retroactively calculated to reflect the reported date.

Previous year-end KPI reports have reflected the crime rate per 1,000 population as it relates to violent and property crimes. At time of writing, the Province of British Columbia had not released the 2020 population estimates for the city of Vancouver. Therefore, this report will reflect crime incidents only and the crime rate figures are expected to be reported in the 2021 Q1 KPI report.

At their October 2020 meeting, a VPB Member commented that the information in KPI reports were not indicative of organizational performance. With this comment in mind, this report is still titled as a KPI Report in order to maintain consistency with previous reports in 2020. 2021 can be an appropriate year to change the title and data in future reports.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The following is a summary of the year-end 2020 KPI Report (all results compare 2020 to 2019 based on a full year). Of note, 2020 marks a historical anomaly due to the global pandemic and, as a result, has statistically affected metrics such as crime (i.e. volume, trends and types) and P1 response times. The pandemic has resulted in:

- Less people working and driving to work
- More people working from home
- Less businesses open and for shorter hours
- Less general activity by people

All of the above directly affect multiple crime categories for a variety of reasons including there being less access to available victims. In addition, increased access to social supports, including the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), are believed to have reduced low-level property crimes, which are frequently committed to support untreated addiction.

### **Violent Crime**

In 2020, violent crime decreased by 1.0% compared to 2019 (declining by 60 incidents – 5,761 incidents in 2020 versus 5,821 incidents in 2019). This result reverses the most recent trend in violent crime where, from 2018 (5,338) to 2019 (5,800), there was an 8.7% increase. However, when comparing the previous five-year average (2015-2019), violent crime was 6.6% higher in 2020. The following provides more context and analysis:

#### Decreases

- Notwithstanding the fact that sexual offenses are under-reported, sexual offences reported in 2020 decreased 7.2% versus 2019 (for offences that occurred in 2020 compared to those that occurred in 2019, sexual offences decreased by 13.7%). These results are believed to be attributed to fewer licenced premises open resulting in fewer sexual assaults, such as 'groping'.
- Robberies decreased by 4.2%.

#### Increases

- There were 19 incidents of culpable homicide in 2020 and eleven in 2019. It should be noted that there was a 50% increase in seized firearms.
- Total assaults have increased by 0.3%, despite the fact that many bars in the Granville Entertainment District were closed or reduced their hours.
- The most serious types of assaults (i.e., "assault with a weapon or cause bodily harm" and "aggravated assault") increased by 16.8%. Serious assaults against police officers have increased by 54.2%.
- Every VPD Patrol District experienced an increase in serious assaults, and 17 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods experienced an increase in serious assaults.
- Intimate Partner Violence is at an all-time high, 2.4% higher than last year.
- Hate crimes incidents increased 97% from 142 incidents in 2019 to 280 in 2020. Anti-Asian hate crime incidents rose by 717% from 2019 (12) to 2020 (98).

### **Property Crime**

The number of total property crimes is 34,263 in 2020, down 23.1% from 2019 (44,581), and the following provides more context and analysis:

### Decreases

- Vancouver has experienced its first decrease in property crime since 2017 when reviewing year-end statistics.
- 2020 experienced the highest amount of B&Es to businesses of any other year since 2011.
- Theft from automobile (TFA) incidents decreased by 40.1%, due to businesses being closed, less people driving during the initial months of the pandemic, and there being fewer parked vehicles to target for theft. District 1 experienced a 50.5% decrease. TFAs are the single most frequent type of property crime, making up 28.8% of all types of property crime. As such, the decrease in TFAs greatly affected overall property crime results. In terms of workload, the decline in TFAs had little impact on the demand for VPD services, as TFAs are generally reported online and through E-Comm staff.
- Theft <> \$5,000 decreased by 26.6%, due to many businesses being closed during the initial months of the pandemic. Such thefts comprise 28.1% of all property crime and, similar to TFAs, the decrease in these thefts contributed to a reduction in overall property crime results.

### Increases

- Total B&Es have increased by 2.2% and within that overall category, B&E to Business increased by 12.3%, due to businesses being partially or completely closed due to the pandemic.
- Arson incidents increased by 23.6%.
- Fraud incidents increased by 1.2%.

### **Conclusion on Crime**

As explained above, the decrease in overall crime in Vancouver is a result of a significant decrease in high frequency, low-level property crimes – namely, TFAs and other thefts. These two categories comprise a combined 56.9% of all property crime and a combined 41.9% of all crime. It should be noted that theft is the second least serious type of property crime according to the CSI.

In contrast, it is noteworthy that the three most serious types of property crime – B&E, arson, and fraud – have all increased. While 19 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have seen a decrease in property crime due to the decline in TFAs and other thefts, 13 of 24 neighbourhoods have seen an increase in violent crime, and 15 of 24 neighbourhoods saw an increase in offensive weapons incidents.

### **Section 28 MHA Apprehensions**

The number of section 28 MHA apprehensions decreased 3.1%, from 2,906 incidents in 2019 to 2,816 incidents in 2020.

### **Calls for Service**

Comparing 2019 (265,232) to 2020 (228,122), there was a 14.0% decrease in the total number of CFS; however, P1 calls, which are the most serious and labour intensive calls for service, only decreased by 0.4% from 2019 (14,887) to 2020 (14,823).

## **P1 Response Time**

Vancouver has experienced its first year-end decrease in P1 response times since 2011. Vancouver's 2020 P1 response time (10:14) was 3.1%, or 20 seconds, faster when compared to 2019 (10:34).

## **Traffic Injuries & Deaths**

The most recent data for ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents shows Vancouver experienced 39.7% fewer incidents with injuries in 2020 (6,281) compared to 2019 (10,417). VPD-attended motor vehicle incidents with injuries decreased in 2020 (621) versus 2019 (778). This represents a decrease of 20.2%. A reduction in vehicular traffic as a result of the pandemic is believed to be the primary reason for these decreases.

There were eight fatal motor vehicle fatalities in 2020 versus fourteen fatalities in 2019.

## **REPORT SCHEDULE:**

The VPD will provide the Vancouver Police Board four quarterly reports scheduled for meetings in April (Q1), July (Q2 YTD), October (Q3 YTD), and February 2022 (year-end 2021).

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Author: Correen Smitas Telephone: 604-717-2689 Date: Feb 3, 2021

Submitting Executive Member (signature):

DCC Steve Rai Date: February 9, 2021

## VIOLENT CRIME

A summary of violent crime incidents reported city-wide shows there were 5,761 incidents in 2020. The number of violent crime incidents decreased by 60 when compared to 2019 (5,821). The table below shows that violent crime incidents in District 1 decreased by 8.1%, District 2 increased by 2.5%, District 3 increased by 1.8%, and District 4 remained unchanged. Also, 13 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have seen an increase in violent crime and three neighbourhoods saw no change in violent crime when compared to 2019.

### ***Violent Crime Incidents: 2020 Compared to 2019***

	2019	2020	% Change	
<b>City-wide*</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>5,761</b>	▼	-1.0%
District 1	1,821	1,673	▼	-8.1%
District 2	2,280	2,336	▲	2.5%
District 3	852	867	▲	1.8%
District 4	758	758	--	0.0%

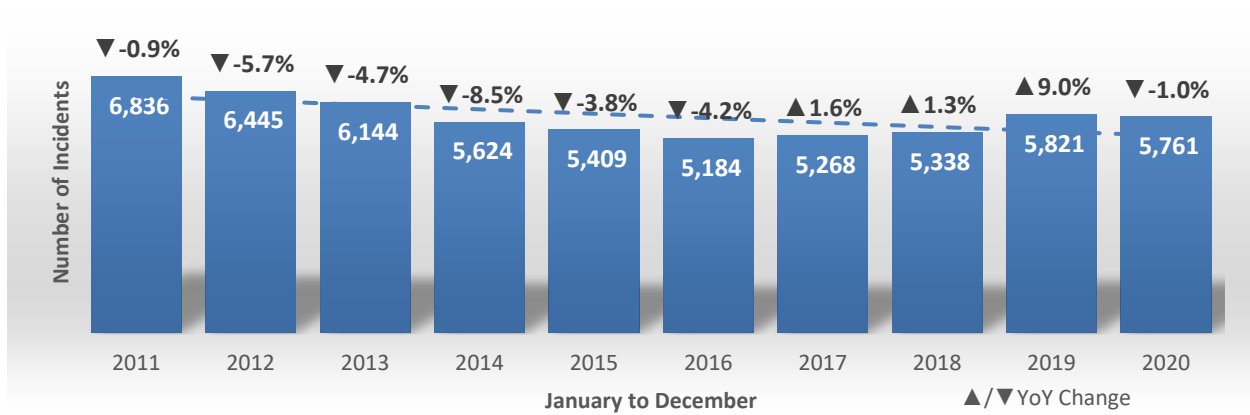
\*City-wide total includes offences coded as location unknown

Assaults were the most prevalent form of violent crime, accounting for 79.0% of all violent crimes in 2020. Comparing 2019 (4,549) to 2020 (4,536), there were 13 more assaults (or 0.3%), despite the fact that many bars in the Granville Entertainment District were closed or reduced their hours.

It should be noted that the most serious types of assaults (i.e., "assault with a weapon or cause bodily harm" and "aggravated assault") increased by 16.8%. Every VPD Patrol District experienced an increase as did 17 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods (while three neighbourhoods decreased and two remained unchanged). The Central Business District, Strathcona, and the West End account for 68.8% of all reported 2020 serious assaults in Vancouver, and these three neighbourhoods have seen a combined increase of 14.7% (the West End has seen a 50.0% increase), while Chinatown has seen a 10.3% increase. Overall, serious assaults against police officers have increased by 54.2%.

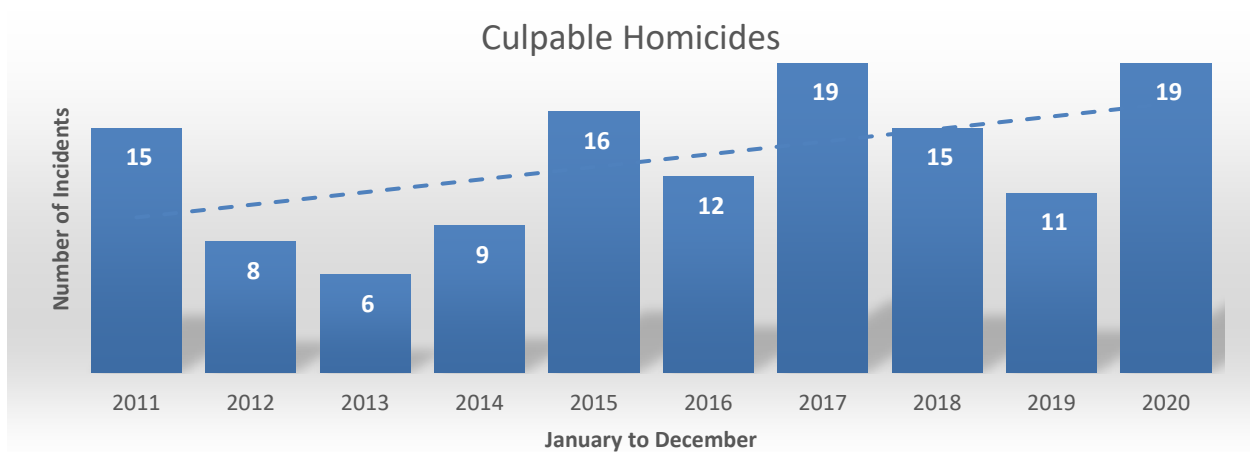
The following graph shows the total amount of violent crime incidents over the past decade. Violent crime incidents have increased by 11.1% since the low seen in 2016.

**10-Year Trend for Violent Crime Incidents**

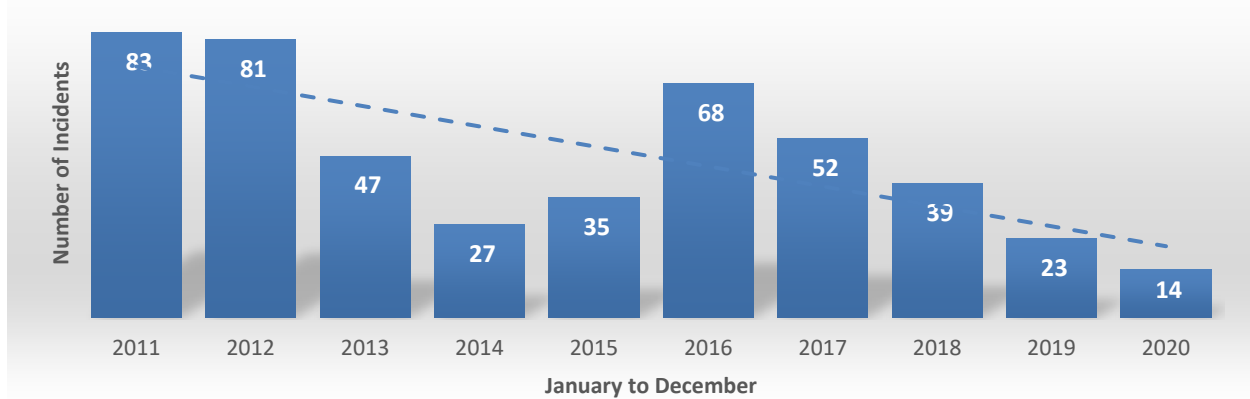


The following three graphs depict the 10-year trend for culpable homicide, bank robberies, and shots fired calls for service.

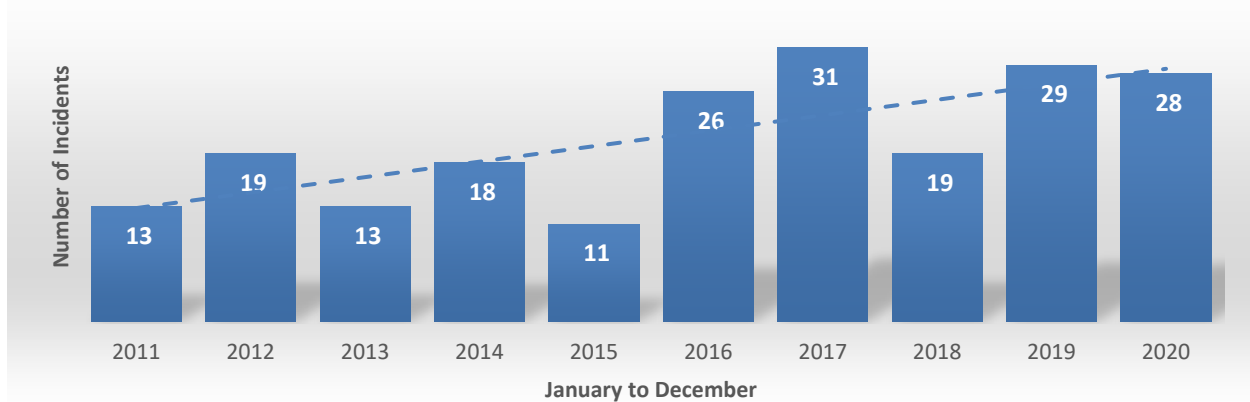
**10-Year Trend for Select Violent Crime Incidents**



## Bank Robberies

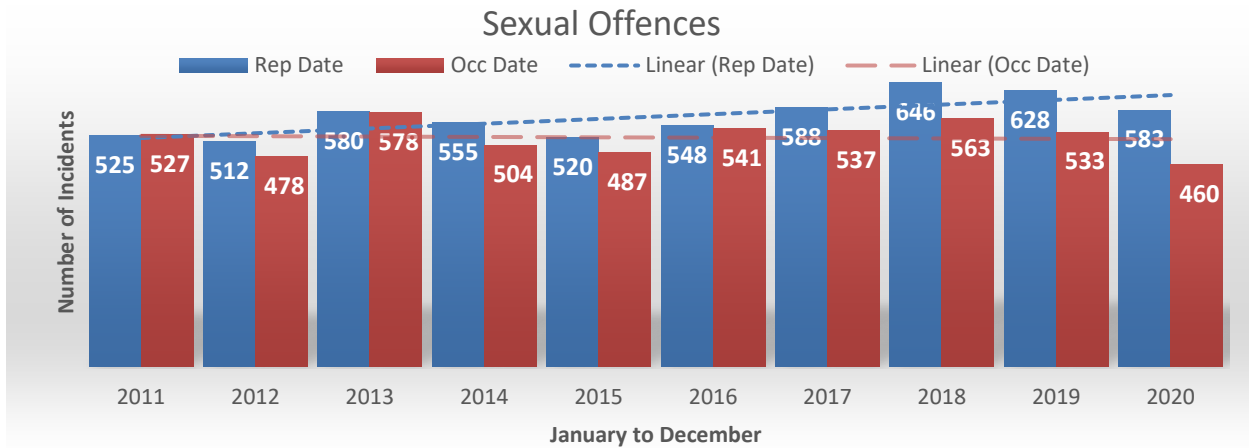


## Shots Fired



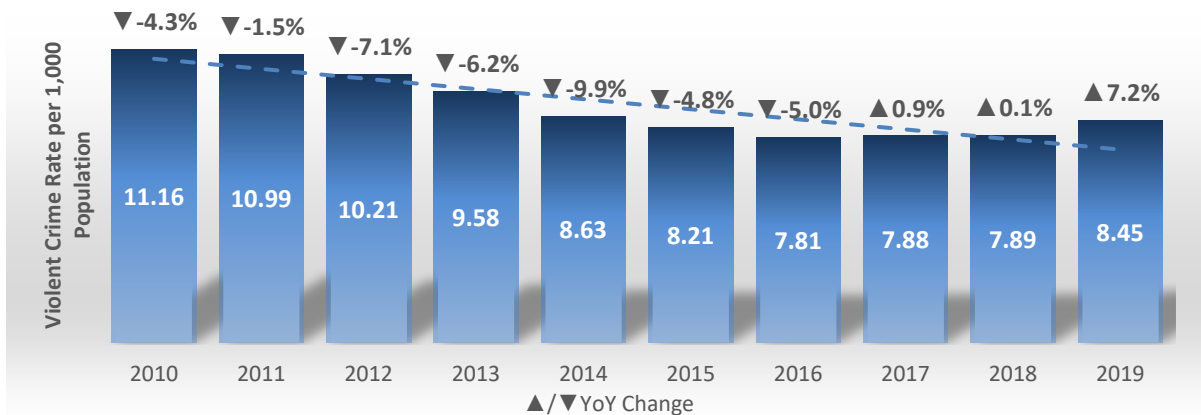
As previously mentioned, this report counts unfounded and founded incidents, and uses the reported date of the offence (as opposed to occurred date). These changes were made to ensure consistency with Statistics Canada crime reporting standards. The largest statistical effect resulting from these changes is seen in the reporting of sexual offences, where 23.3% of the sexual offences reported to the VPD in 2020 occurred in previous years. For comparison, 98.2% of all property crimes, 99.3% of assaults, and 100% of all robberies that were reported in 2020 also occurred in 2020.

Sexual offences are often reported historically, due to the traumatic and personal nature of these offences, which is reflected in the difference between the reported date and the occurred date. In order to provide an indication of non-historical reporting results, sexual offences have decreased by 13.7% (comparing 2020 to 2019 – see the following graph) when analyzed by the occurred date (the previous method used to count sexual offences).



The following shows changes to the violent crime rate (a metric that measures the complete year) between 2011 and 2020. From 2019 to 2020, the violent crime rate increased from 7.89 to 8.45 victims per 1,000 population. This is an increase of 7.2%. The 2020 violent crime rate has increased by 11.9% since the low seen in 2016.

#### 10-Year Trend for Year-end Violent Crime Rate





## PROPERTY CRIME

City-wide, there were 34,263 property crime incidents reported in 2020. This is 23.1% lower when compared with 2019 (44,581).

All districts experienced a decrease in Property Crime with District 2 experiencing the largest decrease (36.1%) when compared to the same time last year. Also, 19 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have seen a decrease in property crime.

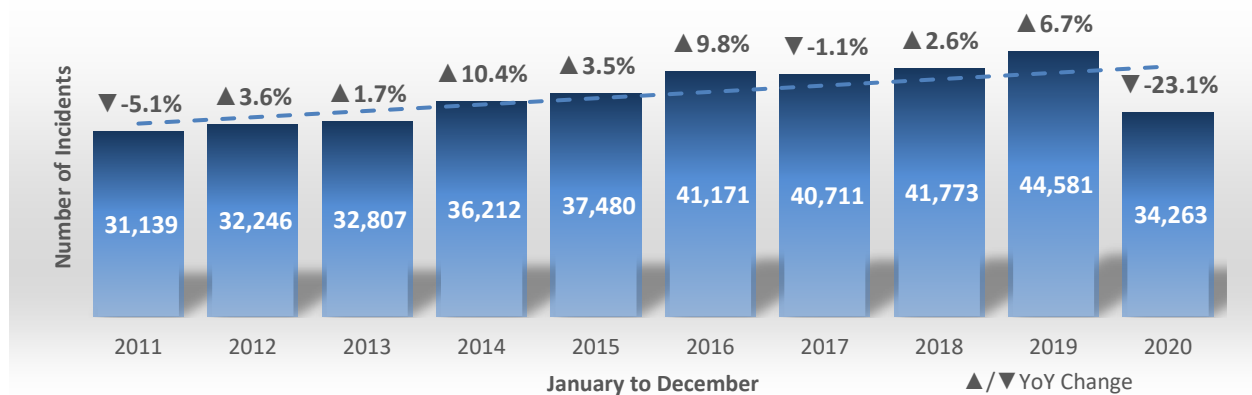
### **Property Crime Incidents: 2020 Compared to 2019**

	2019	2020		% Change
<b>City-wide*</b>	<b>44,581</b>	<b>34,263</b>	▼	<b>-23.1%</b>
District 1	14,106	9,168	▼	-35.0%
District 2	10,953	7,571	▼	-36.1%
District 3	8,149	6,963	▼	-14.6%
District 4	11,006	9,436	▼	-14.3%

\*City-wide total includes offences coded as location unknown

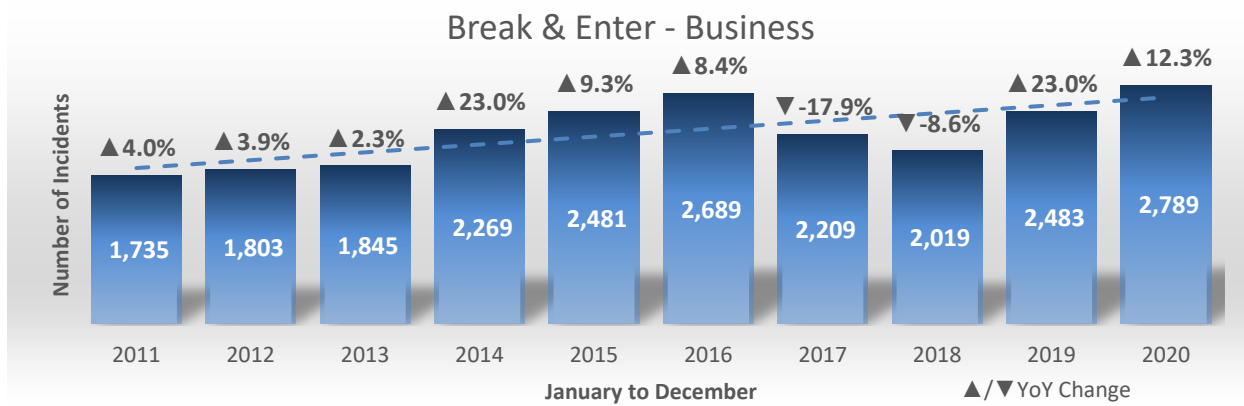
The following graph shows the total amount of year-end property crime incidents over the past decade. Vancouver has experienced its first decrease in property crime since 2017 when reviewing year-end statistics. It is important to note that TFAs are the most common type of property crime, and TFAs are down 6,616 incidents from last year, making this crime type the largest driver in 2020's property crime decrease.

### **10-Year Trend for Property Crime Incidents**

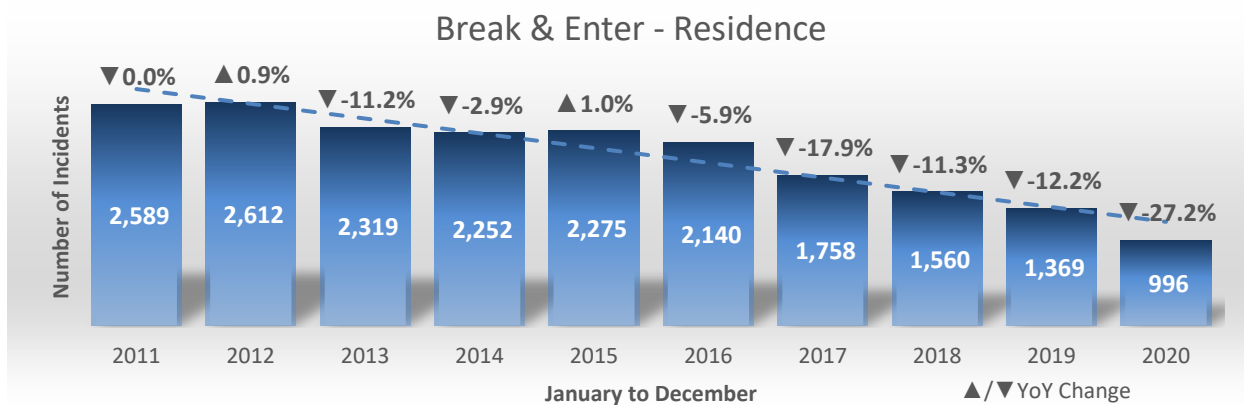


The following graphs display year-end results for break & enters (B&E) into businesses and over the past 10 years. 2020 experienced the highest amount of B&Es to businesses of any other year since 2011. The reason for this increase may be due to the fact that businesses are either partially opened, closed, or have their hours reduced due to the pandemic, making this a crime of opportunity for perpetrators.

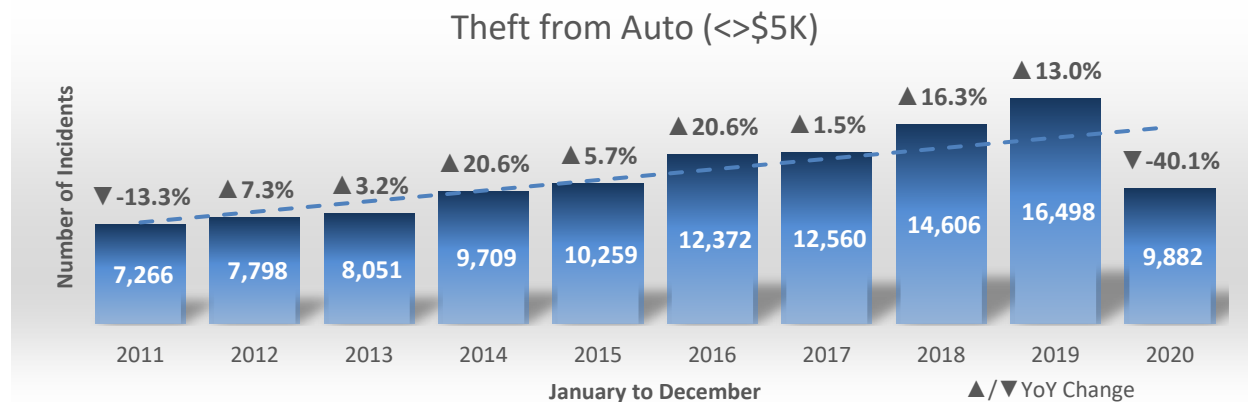
**10-Year Trend for Select Property Crime Incidents**



The following graph shows 27.2% fewer residential B&Es in 2020 compared to 2019. This graph also shows that residential B&Es are down 61.5% when compared to a decade earlier.

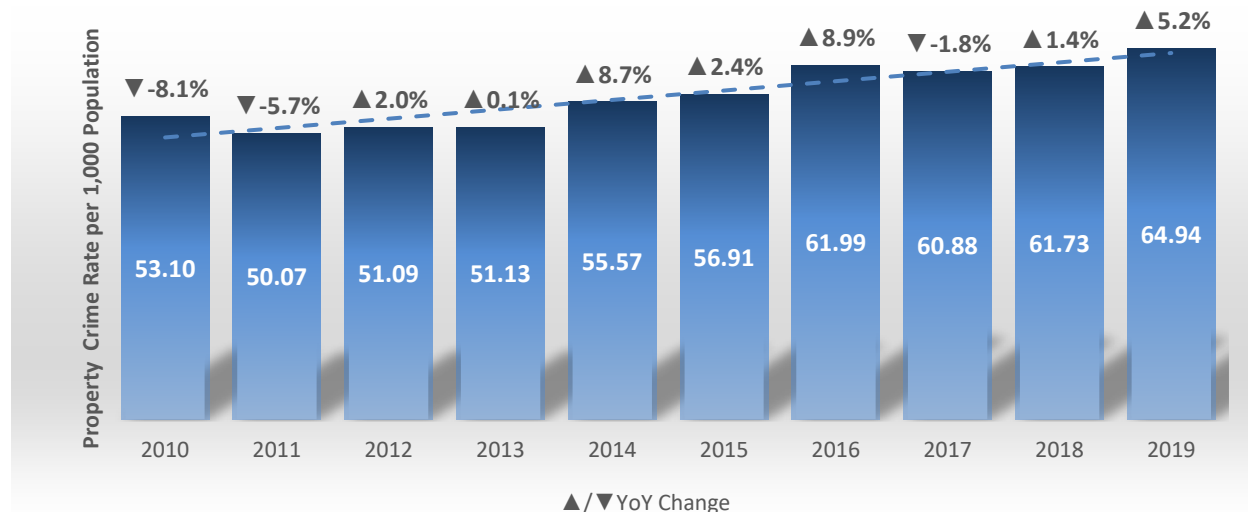


Theft from automobile (TFA) is the offence most often reported to the VPD. TFAs make up 28.8% of all 2020 property crime incidents, making this crime type the largest driver of property crime. However, TFAs have decreased by 6,616 incidents (-40.1%) from the same period last year. District 1 experienced a 50.5% decrease. This is believed to be due to less people driving during the initial months of the pandemic and there being fewer parked vehicles that could be targeted for theft.



Overall, between 2018 and 2019, the year-end property crime rate was up 5.2%, from 61.73 offences per 1,000 population in 2018 to 64.94 in 2019. The 2019 property crime rate is 22.3% higher than the 2010 property crime rate. The following graph will be updated with 2020 data once population estimates have been released from the Province of British Columbia.

#### 10-Year Trend for Year-end Property Crime Rate

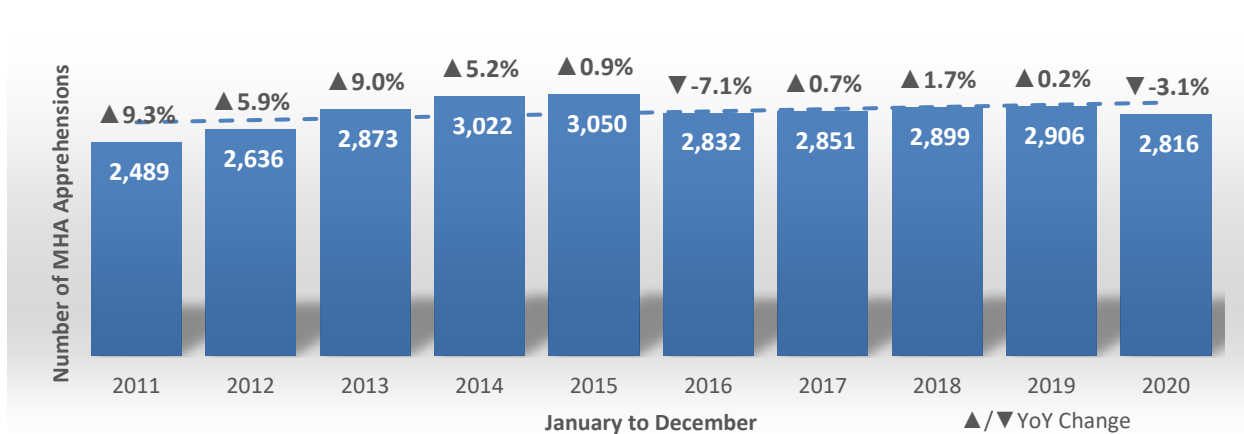


## S. 28 MENTAL HEALTH ACT APPREHENSIONS

Under section 28 of the MHA, “a police officer may apprehend and immediately take a person to a physician for examination if satisfied that the person is acting in a manner likely to endanger themselves or others and apparently has a mental health disorder.”

From 2011 to 2015, MHA apprehensions increased each year (from 2,489 to 3,050). Since then, these apprehensions decreased in 2016 (2,832), increased for three consecutive years, then decreased 3.1% in 2020 (2,816). Comparing 2020 to 2011, apprehensions are up 13.1%. Overall, the total number of section 28 MHA apprehensions have remained relatively stable over the past five years partly attributable to the efforts of the VPD’s Mental Health Unit.

### 10-Year Trend for Year-end Section 28 MHA Apprehensions

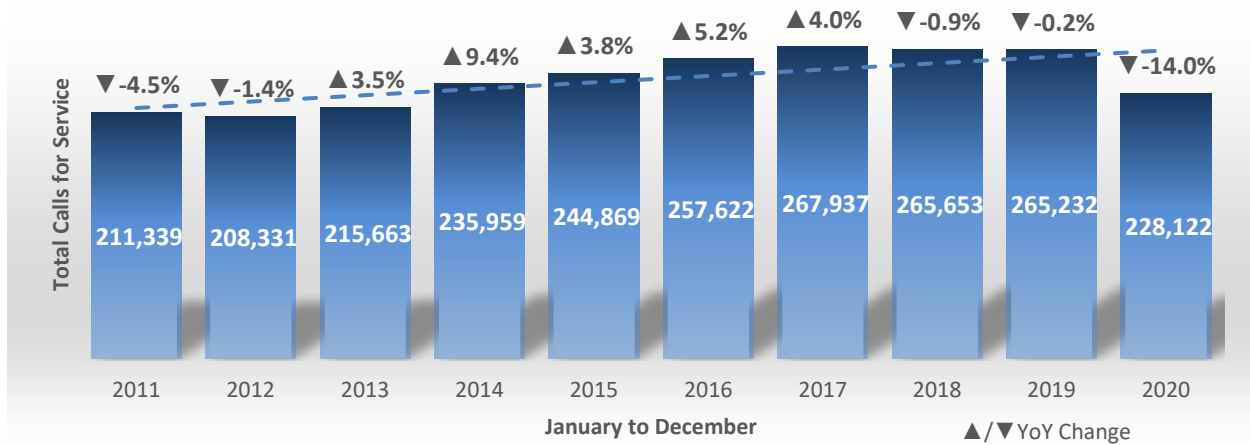


## CALLS FOR SERVICE

As shown below, comparing 2019 (265,232) to 2020 (228,122), there was a 14.0% decrease in the total number of CFS; however, P1 calls, which are the most serious and labour intensive calls for service, only decreased by 0.4% from 2019 (14,887) to 2020 (14,823).

Since 2011, CFS have increased 7.9% since 2011 (211,339) which is an increase of 16,783 CFS. Overall, changes to the amount of CFS have remained relatively stable in the past decade, increasing an average of 0.5% each year.

### 10-Year Trend for Year-end Calls for Service

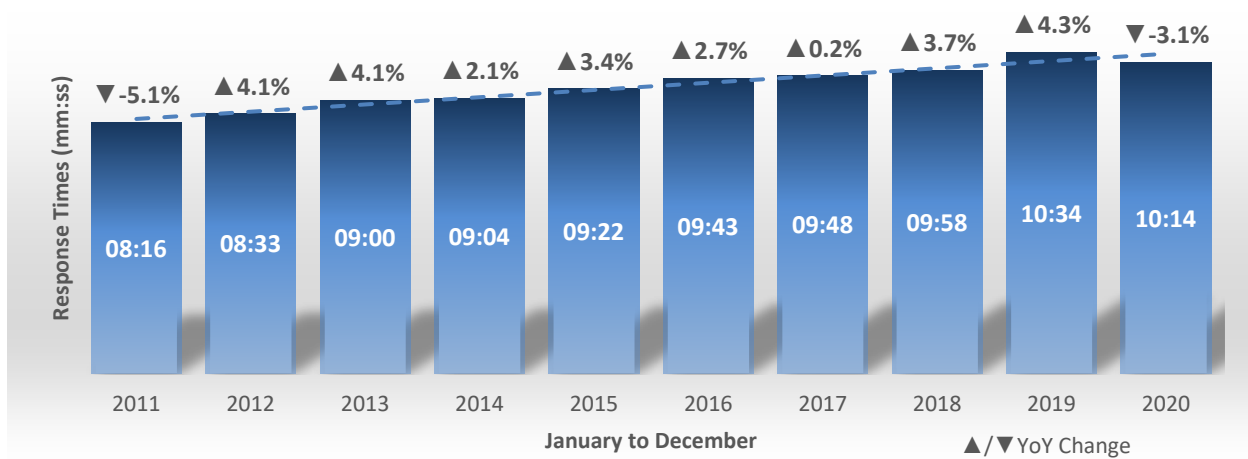


## PRIORITY 1 RESPONSE TIMES

The following graph compares P1 response times from 2011 to 2020. Vancouver's 2020 P1 response time (10:14) was 3.1%, or 20 seconds, faster when compared to 2019 (10:34). It should be noted that the number of P1 CFS decreased by 0.4% in 2020 compared to 2019. With the exception of 2020, there have been consistent annual increases in P1 response time, with 2020 having the second highest response time (10:14) recorded in the past 10 years.

A further statistical examination revealed that the decrease is very likely a combination of pandemic specific factors - less traffic congestion and an increase in patrol unit availability. The increase in patrol unit availability occurred due to courts being closed and training being cancelled, which resulted in 12% more patrol officers being available.

### 10-Year Trend for Year-end P1 Response Times

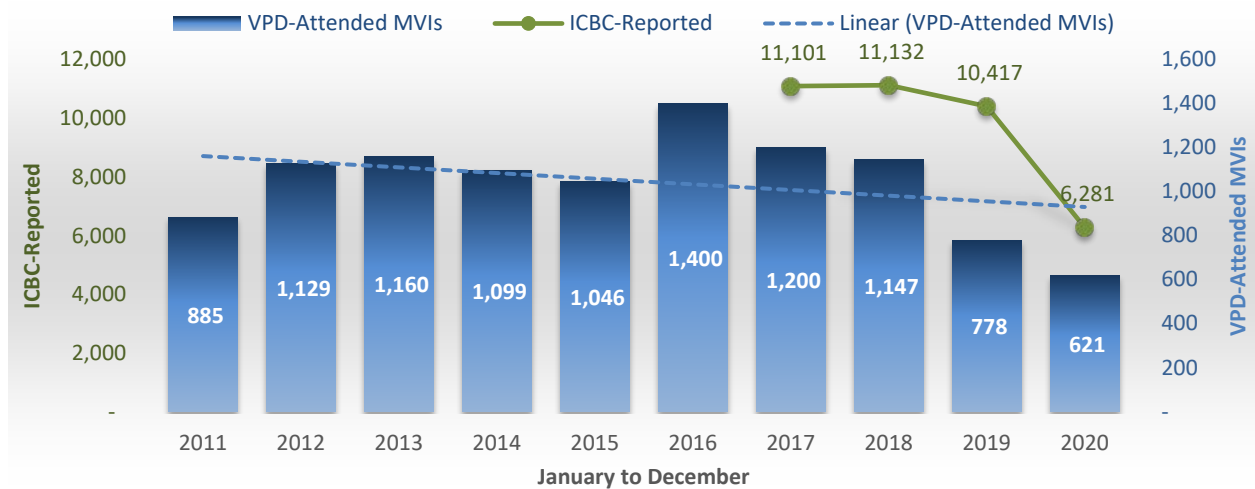


## TRAFFIC RELATED INJURIES & DEATHS

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) collects data on all reportable motor vehicle incidents in BC to help address various road safety issues with the goal of reducing the number of traffic related fatalities and injuries. ICBC updated their claims database and it is recommended that 2017 be a base year to compare motor vehicle incidents that resulted in an injury.

The following graph shows the city of Vancouver experienced 39.7% fewer ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents with injuries in 2020 (6,281) compared to 2019 (10,417). Whereas VPD-attended motor vehicle incidents with injuries have declined from 2016 (1,400) to 2020 (621), which is a 55.6% decrease. This figure also shows a decrease of 20.2% when compared to the 2019 figure (778) and a decrease of 31.3% when compared to 2011 (885). A reduction in vehicular traffic as a result of the pandemic is believed to be the primary reason for these decreases.

**Year-end ICBC Reported and VPD Attended MVIs**



For complete years, the following graph shows there were a total of 8 fatal victims of motor vehicle related incidents in the city of Vancouver in 2020 and 14 in 2019. Since 2011, the average annual number of fatal traffic incidents is 14.

**10-Year Trend for Year-end Traffic Fatalities**

