



# VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

## REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	February 14, 2023
<b>BOARD MEETING DATE:</b>	February 23, 2023
<b>BOARD REPORT #</b>	2302P01
	<b><i>Regular</i></b>

**TO:** Vancouver Police Board

**FROM:** Simon Demers, Director, Planning, Research & Audit Section

**SUBJECT:** Public Safety Indicators (PSI) Report for Year-End 2022

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### RECOMMENDATION:

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

### BACKGROUND:

The Public Safety Indicators (PSI) report of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) covers the following yearly trends: violent crime, property crime, cybercrime, apprehensions under the *Mental Health Act* (MHA), calls for service, priority 1 (P1) response times, traffic incidents with injuries reported to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), and traffic fatalities.

Starting in 2022, the PSI report also provides additional details around:

- sub-categories of violent and property crime;
- common assaults (Level 1), serious assaults (Levels 2 and 3 combined), and assaults against peace officers; and
- Form 4 and Form 21 apprehensions under the *Mental Health Act* (MHA).

### DISCUSSION:

The following is a year-end summary of the 2022 crime data. This report utilizes Statistics Canada population estimates for 2022.<sup>1</sup> Consistent with the [2021 Year-End PSI Report](https://doi.org/10.25318/1710014201-eng), this year's crime statistics are also compared against the three years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic (2017-2019 average). The global COVID-19 pandemic declared on March 11, 2020 by the World Health Organization has impacted all public safety metrics, including crime statistics and calls for service. Comparisons to pre-pandemic averages allow us to further understand current Vancouver crime patterns in the absence of Public Health Officer (PHO) orders and other impacting factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710014201-eng>

## Violent Crime

- Violent crime in Vancouver increased by 4.1%, from 5,896 incidents in 2021 to 6,137 in 2022.
- Violent crime is up by 12.1% relative to the 2017-2019 average.
- Serious assaults involving weapons or bodily harm (Level 2) and aggravated assaults involving life-threatening injuries (Level 3) are up 30.1% compared to the 2017-2019 average.

**Table 1: Violent Crime Offences**

Violent Crime Offences	2022 vs. 2021		2022 vs. 2017-2019	
<b>Violent crime</b>	▲	<b>4.1%</b>	▲	<b>12.1%</b>
Sexual offence (reported date)	▼	-0.2%	▲	3.8%
Sexual offence (occurrence date)	▲	1.8%	▼	-10.3%
Level 1 assault	▲	5.5%	▲	5.0%
Serious assault (Level 2 and 3 combined)	▲	1.0%	▲	30.1%
Assault against peace officers	▼	-15.5%	▲	19.2%
Robbery	▲	17.4%	▲	12.0%

- Increases in violent crime have a significant workload implication as these crimes are more complex, resource-intensive, and take longer to investigate than typical property crimes.
- There has been a six-fold increase in the number of hate-motivated anti-Asian incidents reported to the VPD in 2022 (56) relative to the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average (9.3). However, there was an overall decrease since the peak observed in 2020.
- While cases involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM) remained stable between 2021 (446) and 2022 (462), they have increased 152.9% compared to the 2017-2019 average. CSAM is the term used by law enforcement agencies across the globe to refer to what is widely known as child pornography.
- There were 13 culpable homicides in 2022 compared to 18 in 2021. This represents a decrease of 27.8%. However, attempted murders doubled in 2022 (20) compared to 2021 (10) combined. With regards to shots fired, there were three fewer shots fired incidents in 2022 (19) compared to 2021 (22). This is a 13.6% decrease in shots fired incidents.

## Property Crime

- With PHO orders removed, property crime in Vancouver increased by 7.6%, from 28,824 in 2021 to 31,006 in 2022. This was predictable based on academic research findings from the United States ([Riddell et al., 2022](https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287211054718))<sup>2</sup>, England and Wales ([Langton et al., 2021](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-021-00142-z))<sup>3</sup>, Northern Ireland ([Buil-Gil et al., 2022](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-021-00162-9))<sup>4</sup>, Queensland, Australia ([Andresen & Hodgkinson, 2020](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-020-00135-4))<sup>5</sup>, and China ([Borrion et al., 2020](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240077); [Dai et al., 2022](https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221074942))<sup>7</sup>.
- When compared to the 2017-2019 average, property crime is down by 26.8%, though under-reporting to police remains a serious concern.

<sup>2</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287211054718>

<sup>3</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-021-00142-z>

<sup>4</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-021-00162-9>

<sup>5</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-020-00135-4>

<sup>6</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0240077>

<sup>7</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221074942>

- Fraud has increased by 13.0% when compared to 2021 and by 2.1% when compared to the 2017-2019 average. There were two concerning series of frauds in 2022 which were targeting seniors and utilizing high pressure tactics to obtain “bail money” for a loved one (also known as grandparent scams). There were 56 of these incidents reported in 2022 with a cumulative loss exceeding \$700,000.

**Table 2: Property Crime Offences**

Property Crime Offences	2022 vs. 2021		2022 vs. 2017-2019	
<b>Property crime</b>	▲	<b>7.6%</b>	▼	<b>-26.8%</b>
B&E - Business	▼	-6.3%	▼	-13.0%
B&E - Residential	▼	-3.0%	▼	-52.2%
Theft from automobile	▼	-1.5%	▼	-51.7%
Fraud	▲	13.0%	▲	2.1%
Arson	▼	-2.0%	▲	44.9%
Mischief	▲	4.5%	▲	1.7%

### Cybercrime

- There were 2,292 cybercrime incidents reported to the VPD in 2022, which is 17.4% fewer than in 2021 (2,775), but 75.1% more than the 2017-2019 average. Recently there have been some significant arrests and disruptions of cybercrime criminals overseas. While we may see some decreases based on these successes, threat actors will undoubtedly come up with new tactics and become better at obfuscating their identity.
- Vancouver victims of cybercrime reported total losses of \$17.62M in 2022. This is 63.3% lower than the \$48.0M in losses reported in 2021, but 41.9% more than the 2017-2019 average.
- Frauds involving cryptocurrencies accounted for \$13.12M in losses. This is 64.2% lower than the losses of \$36.6M reported in 2021, but five times more than the 2017-2019 average.

### Mental Health Act (MHA)

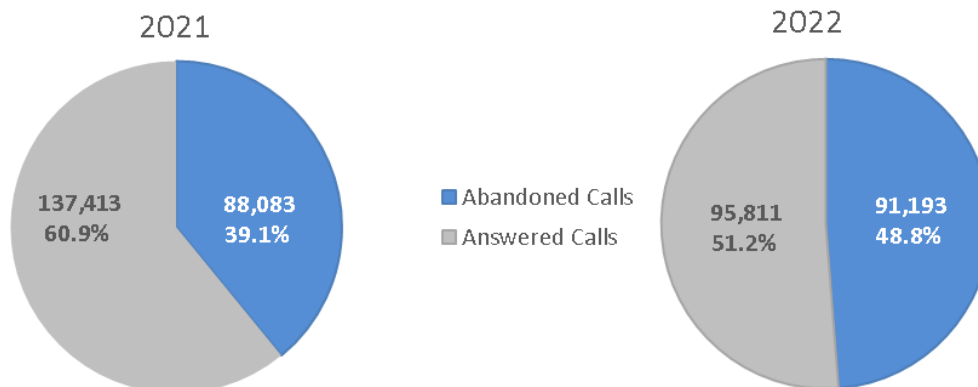
The VPD works in close partnership with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH) to provide a coordinated response to support persons in the community who may be exhibiting signs of deteriorating mental health. Through this partnership, the VPD aims to reduce reactive responses such as Section 28 MHA apprehensions while increasing proactive and preventive interventions through intensive case management, and Form 21 or Form 4 apprehensions.

- The number of Section 28 MHA apprehensions decreased by 9.0%, from 2,791 in 2021 to 2,540 in 2022.
- Form 21 apprehensions increased by 14.0%, from 1,281 in 2021 to 1,460 in 2022.
- Form 4 apprehensions increased by 2.9%, from 455 in 2021 to 468 in 2022.
- Out of the 1,896 people apprehended under Section 28 of the MHA in 2022, 30% had been previously apprehended under Section 28 in the previous four years.

### Calls for Service (CFS)

- The number of CFS recorded by VPD in 2022 (218,447) was down 3.6% compared to 2021 (226,552).
- In 2022, 91,193 (48.8%) of non-emergency calls were abandoned by E-Comm. This was up from 2021, where 88,083 (39.1%) of non-emergency calls were abandoned by E-Comm.

**Figure 1: Calls to Non-Emergency Line Managed by E-Comm**



### **Priority 1 (P1) Response Time**

- Calls designated as P1 are emergency calls that require immediate police attention.
- The average P1 response time in 2022 (10:20) was 10 seconds (1.5%) slower than the 2021 average (10:10).
- The number of P1 calls was 1.1% higher in 2022 than in 2021.

### **Traffic Injuries & Fatalities**

- Year-end ICBC data was not available at the time this report was prepared.
- Year-to-date (YTD) as of the end of Q3 2022, there had been 5,176 ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents. This was comparable to the same period in 2021 (5,196).
- There were 18 traffic fatalities in 2022, compared to 22 in 2021.

### **REPORT SCHEDULE:**

VPD's crime statistics are publicly available at <https://vpd.ca/crime-statistics/>. The latest PSI reports are also available publicly: [2021 Year-End](#) | [2022 Q1](#) | [2022 Q2](#) | [2022 Q3](#). The VPD will provide to the Vancouver Police Board four quarterly reports scheduled for meetings in April (Q1), July (Q2 YTD), October (Q3 YTD), and February 2024 (year-end 2023).

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Author: Correen Smitas

Date: February 2, 2023

Submitting Executive Member:

Deputy Chief Steve Rai

Date: February 2, 2023

## VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crime increased by 4.1% year-over-year. Compared to the 2017-2019 average, violent crime has increased by 12.1%. The following table shows the changes to all offences in the violent crime category.

**Table 3: Violent Crime**

	2021	2022	2017-19	
Criminal Offences	Jan 1 to Dec 31	Jan 1 to Dec 31	% Change	3-year Average
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>5,896</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>▲ 4.1%</b>	<b>▲ 12.1%</b>
Culpable homicide	18	13	▼ -27.8%	▼ -13.3%
Attempted murder	10	20	▲ 100.0%	▲ 11.1%
Sexual offence	645	644	▼ -0.2%	▲ 3.8%
Assault (Levels 1-2-3)	4,654	4,792	▲ 3.0%	▲ 13.6%
Robbery	569	668	▲ 17.4%	▲ 10.3%

Youth violent offences involving bear spray went up from 100 in 2021 to 115 in 2022. This remains significantly higher than the 2017-2019 average of 57.6 incidents per year. There is growing evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic had an emotional impact on young persons, and a lasting detrimental impact on their psychological and social well-being. For instance, [Reid et al. \(2021\)](#)<sup>8</sup> found significant increases in aggressive behaviours, poor frustration tolerance, school conduct problems, and drug use across at-risk youths on probation regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity.

As shown by the following table, violent crime is trending up in every patrol district relative to the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average.

**Table 4: Violent Crime by District**

	2021	2022	2017-19	
District **	Jan 1 to Dec 31	Jan 1 to Dec 31	% Change	3-year Average
District 1	1,896	1,994	▲ 5.2%	▲ 21.8%
District 2	2,173	2,303	▲ 6.0%	▲ 5.7%
District 3	920	914	▼ -0.7%	▲ 6.0%
District 4	810	779	▼ -3.8%	▲ 9.8%
<b>Total Violent Crimes *</b>	<b>5,896</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>▲ 4.1%</b>	<b>▲ 12.1%</b>

\* Includes a small number of offences for which the precise location was unknown.

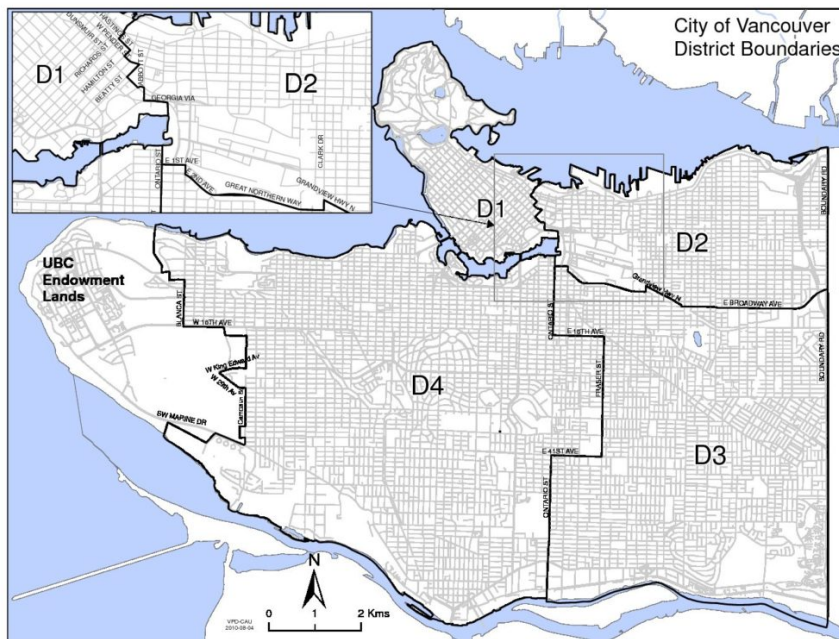
\*\* The geographic definition of each district is summarized below. See also the [VPD's website](#).

Relative to the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average, the number of violent crimes has increased by 21.8% in District 1, 5.7% in District 2, 6.0% in District 3, and 9.8% in District 4. Year-over-year, violent crime is up in 13 of the 24 Vancouver neighbourhoods. In the Central Business District for example, violent crime is up 10.8% from 2021 to 2022.

<sup>8</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221084295>

For reference the following map below shows how the city of Vancouver is divided into four patrol districts. District 1 consists of Vancouver's Downtown peninsula. District 2 is the North East portion of Vancouver and includes East Vancouver neighbourhoods. District 3 is the South East portion of Vancouver. District 4 is the largest geographical district of Vancouver and consists of the South West portion of the city. More details can be found on the [VPD's website](https://vpd.ca/about-the-vpd/organizations-divisions/).<sup>9</sup>

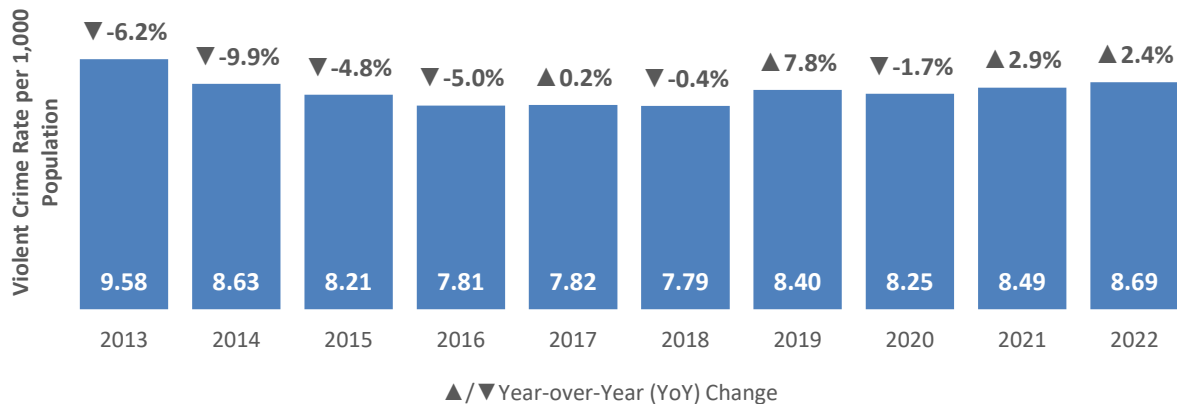
**Figure 2: Map of Vancouver Districts**



The following graph illustrates the yearly violent crime rate for the past decade in Vancouver. Even after accounting for residential population growth, violent crime is now the highest it has been since 2014. From 2021 to 2022, Vancouver's violent crime rate increased by 2.4%, from 8.49 to 8.69 per 1,000 population.

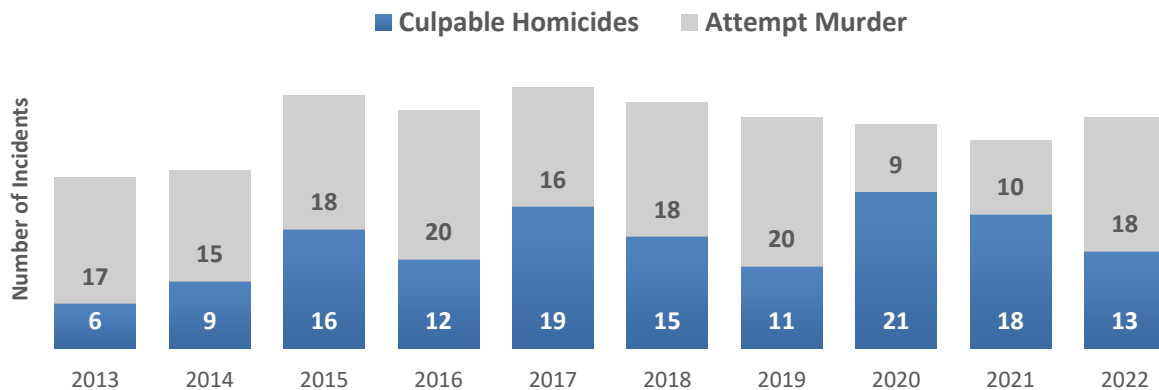
<sup>9</sup> <https://vpd.ca/about-the-vpd/organizations-divisions/>

**Figure 3: 10-Year Trend for Violent Crime Rate**



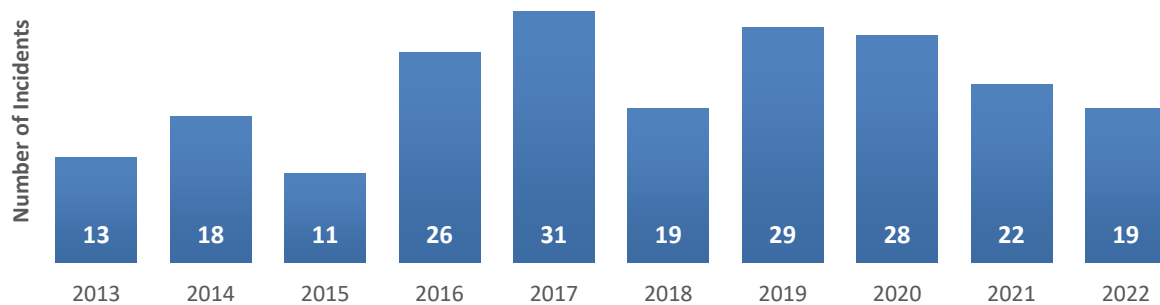
The following graphs show how the annual number of culpable homicides, attempted murders, and shots fired calls have fluctuated since 2013. Culpable homicides and attempted murders can be interpreted as closely associated and decreases in homicides are sometimes attributable simply to decreases in trauma mortality rates ([Andresen, 2007](https://doi.org/10.3138/cjccj.49.2.185))<sup>10</sup>.

**Figure 4: 10-Year Trends for Culpable Homicides and Attempt Murder**



<sup>10</sup> <https://doi.org/10.3138/cjccj.49.2.185>

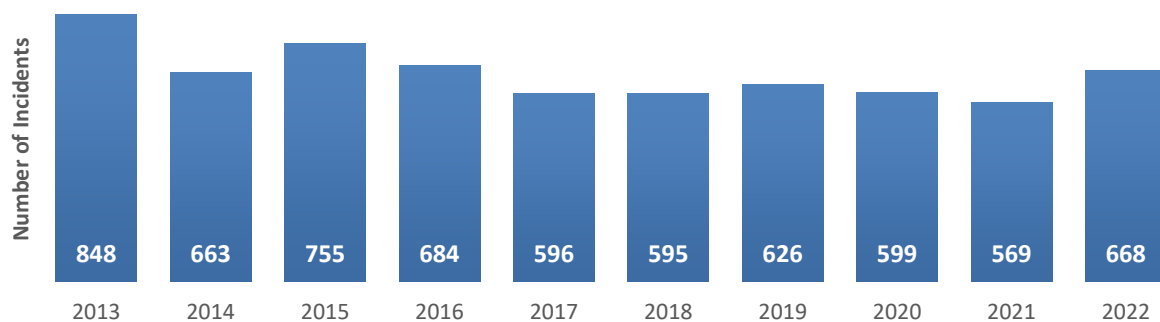
**Figure 5: 10-Year Trend for Shots Fired**



The following graph shows robbery incidents over the past decade. Regarding robberies, the *Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia* ([Butler & LePard, 2022](#))<sup>11</sup> released in September 2022 attributed the following quote to the Retail Council of Canada (RCC):

“Retail staff have been assaulted and threatened repeatedly. We are also seeing increasing use of noxious substances, bladed and blunt weapons and firearms in store robberies, and recent, but alarming incidences of arson, jeopardizing the lives and health of customers and store employees alike. [...] Members have also seen an alarming increase in the use of weapons ranging from bear spray and knives to guns.” (p. 48-49)

**Figure 6: 10-Year Trend for Robberies**



Robberies were up 17.4% as compared to 2021, and by 12% compared to the 2017-2019 average. This increase was driven by robberies involving shoplifting as a primary motivation. In 2021, 111 (19.5%) of the 569 robberies had shoplifting as a primary motivation. This went up in 2022, with 199 (29.8%) of the 668 robberies being violent shoplifting incidents.

<sup>11</sup> [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Prolific\\_Offender\\_Report\\_BCFNJC\\_submission.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Prolific_Offender_Report_BCFNJC_submission.pdf)

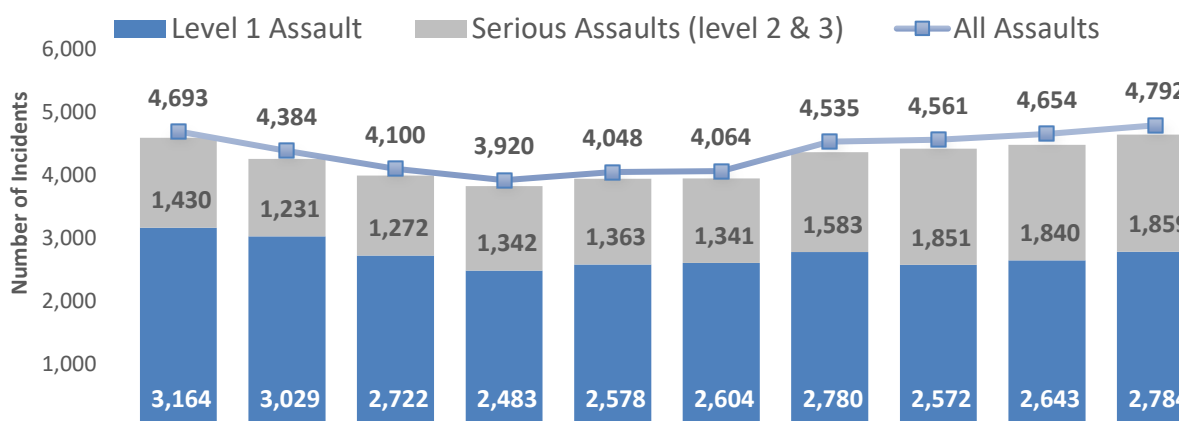


**Table 5: Location of Robberies**

Location of Robberies	2021	2022	% Chg
Other Commercial/Corporate Places	96	170	77.1%
Convenience Stores	34	55	61.8%
Bar, Restaurant	20	30	50.0%
Pharmacy	22	30	36.4%
Open Areas/Parks/Bodies of Water	21	26	23.8%
Streets, Roads, Highways	249	272	9.2%
Bank and Other Financial Institution	26	25	-3.8%
Gas Station	8	7	-12.5%
Schools During Not Supervised Activity	8	6	-25.0%
Other	16	7	-56.3%
Parking Lots	15	11	-26.7%
Single Home/Townhouse/Duplex (And Connected Property)	12	8	-33.3%
Residential Dwelling Unit (Apartment/Condo/Rooming House/Dorm)	31	17	-45.2%
Transit Bus/Bus Shelter	11	4	-63.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>17.4%</b>

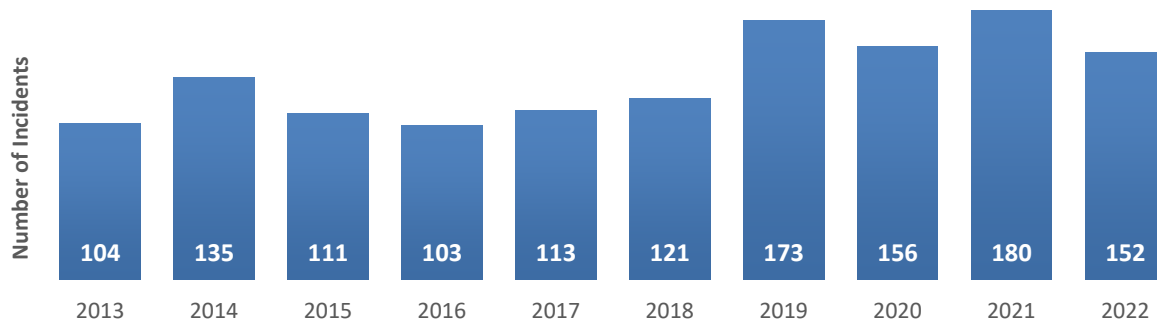
From 2021 to 2022, the assault crime rate increased by 1.3% from 6.70 to 6.79 per 1,000 population. Assaults are the most prevalent form of violent crime, consistently accounting for close to 80% of violent crimes. Reviewing the 2017-2019 average, 32% of assaults in Vancouver were serious assaults that were committed using weapons or caused bodily harm (Level 2) or aggravated assaults that caused life-threatening injuries (Level 3). Starting in 2020, the proportion of serious assaults (Level 2 & 3) has increased to an average of 40% of all assaults.

**Figure 7: 10-Year Trends for Assaults**



After reaching a historical high in 2021 (180), assaults against peace officers in Vancouver decreased by 15.6% in 2022. However, they remain significantly more prevalent than in the past and are up 12.0% relative to the 2017-2019 average.

**Figure 8: 10-Year Trend for Assaults on Peace Officers**



## Hate-Motivated Crimes

There was a six-fold increase in anti-Asian incidents in 2022 (56) relative to the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average (9.3). Anti-Asian hate crimes represented 27.7% of all reported hate crimes to the VPD in 2022. In 2022, there was also a notable increase in anti-South Asian incidents – from six incidents in 2021 to 21 in 2022.

**Table 6: Anti-Asian Hate Incidents**

Year	Anti-Asian*	Total Hate Incidents	% of all Hate Incidents
2019	12	142	8.5%
2020	98	278	35.3%
2021	63	215	29.3%
2022	56	202	27.7%
2017-2019 Average	9.3	127.6	7.3%

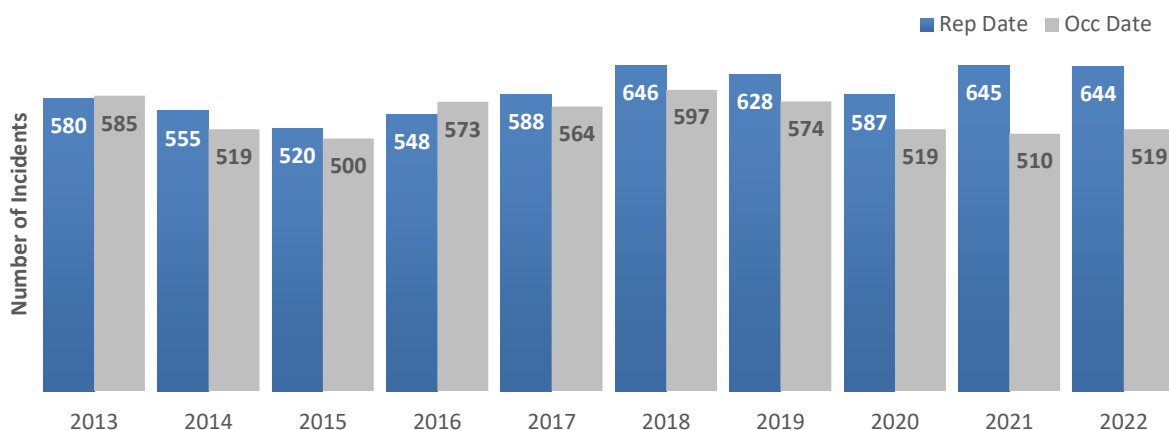
\* This includes hate-motivated incidents targeting East Asian and Southeast Asian victims.

## Sexual Offences

Within the PSI report, crimes are typically counted based on the date they were *reported*, as opposed to when they actually *occurred*. This ensures consistency with Statistics Canada's crime reporting standards. For most crime types, the difference is immaterial. However, this approach impacts sexual offence counts because these incidents are often reported to the VPD long after they have occurred, sometimes after many years. For example, 19.6% of the sexual offences reported to the VPD in 2022 were historical as these occurred in previous years. By comparison, 97.9% of all property crimes, 99.4% of assaults, and 99.4% of all robberies reported in 2022 also occurred in 2022.

Sexual offence trends that utilize reported date exclude historical cases. Based on occurred date, sexual offences in Vancouver increased by 1.8% in 2022 (519) compared to the same period in 2021 (510). This increase may be attributed to the fact that in-person events are returning and liquor establishments are reopening, as PHO orders are lifted.

**Figure 9: 10-Year Trends for Sexual Offences**



### **Child Sexual Abuse Material**

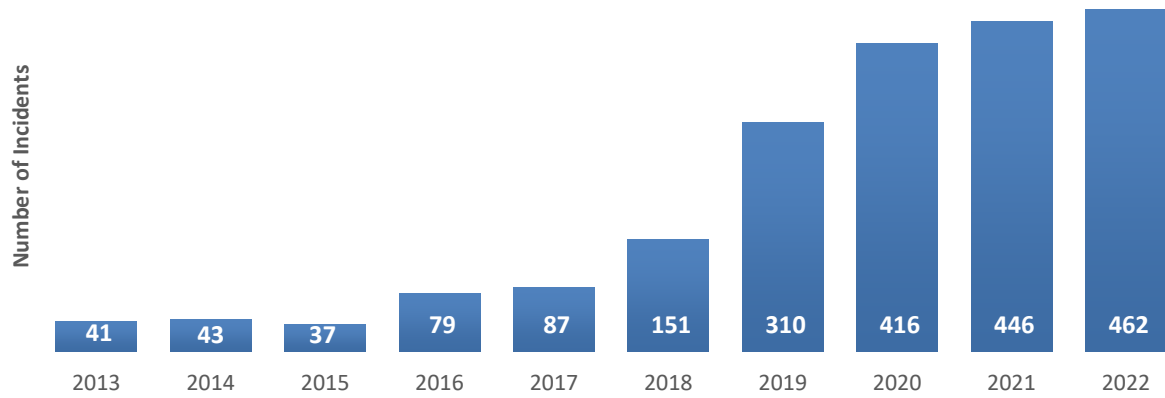
The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit investigates the global problem of child sexual abuse, and possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. CSAM is the term that many law enforcement agencies across the globe have been using instead of the more widely known child pornography term utilized in the Criminal Code. The ICE Unit's broad objectives are to identify and prosecute offenders who produce, possess or distribute CSAM, and to work with national and international partners to safeguard children who are being abused, wherever they may be in the world.

The increase in 2019 is attributable to an investigation involving a Vancouver suspect and victims from across the world and the investigation of Vancouver suspects identified in a worldwide project known as Project Heketara, which involved encrypted cloud storage of some of the most horrific CSAM ever created.

The increase in 2020 and 2021 is likely attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts working in the child protection community have observed how lockdowns and stay at home orders resulted in a significant increase in child sexual abuse as children did not leave residences and therefore had reduced contact with the wider community presenting offenders with an increased opportunity to offend. As well, the same lockdowns meant offenders working from home had greater opportunity to engage in the online distribution of CSAM.

The following graph illustrates the increase in CSAM incidents reported to police in the past decade. Relative to the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average, CSAM incidents were up 152.9% in 2022.

**Figure 10: 10-Year Trend for Child Sexual Abuse Material**



## PROPERTY CRIME

After reaching a historical low in 2021, property crime increased by 7.6% in 2022. The following table includes property crime statistics broken down into categories of offences.

**Table 7: Property Crime**

	2021	2022	2017-19	
Criminal Offences	Jan 1 to Dec 31	Jan 1 to Dec 31	% Change	3-year Average
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>28,824</b>	<b>31,006</b>	<b>▲ 7.6%</b>	<b>▼ -26.8%</b>
B&E Total	3,514	3,174	▼ -9.7%	▼ -30.7%
B&E - Business	2,078	1,947	▼ -6.3%	▼ -13.0%
B&E - Residence	769	746	▼ -3.0%	▼ -52.2%
B&E - Other	667	481	▼ -27.9%	▼ -38.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	858	959	▲ 11.8%	▼ -40.7%
Theft from Auto	7,144	7,034	▼ -1.5%	▼ -51.7%
Theft	9,097	11,062	▲ 21.6%	▼ -13.5%
Possession of Stolen Property	317	320	▲ 0.9%	▼ -48.5%
Fraud	2,721	3,076	▲ 13.0%	▲ 2.1%
Arson	347	340	▼ -2.0%	▲ 44.9%
Mischief	4,826	5,041	▲ 4.5%	▲ 1.7%

As shown in the following table, there was an increase in property crime year-over-year in three of the four patrol districts. Property crime was up in 14 out of the 24 Vancouver neighbourhoods. In the Central Business District, it was up 17.7%.

**Table 8: Property Crime by District**

	2021	2022	2017-19	
District	Jan 1 to Dec 31	Jan 1 to Dec 31	% Change	3-year Average
District 1	8,132	9,117	▲ 12.1%	▼ -32.0%
District 2	6,172	6,389	▲ 3.5%	▼ -36.8%
District 3	6,226	7,267	▲ 16.7%	▼ -7.8%
District 4	7,506	7,215	▼ -3.9%	▼ -31.9%
<b>Total Property Crimes *</b>	<b>28,824</b>	<b>31,006</b>	<b>▲ 7.6%</b>	<b>▼ -26.8%</b>

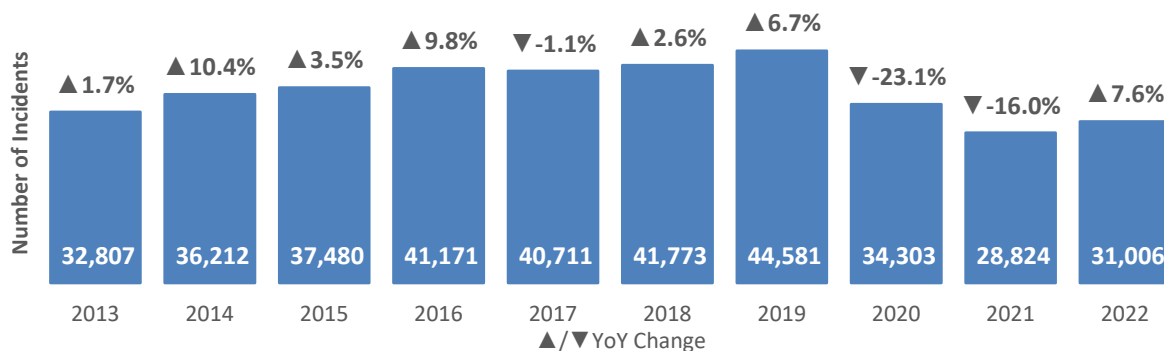
\* Includes offences for which the precise location was unknown.

Looking at the 2017-2019 average, property crime decreased by 26.8%. However, under-reporting remains a serious concern because it reduces reported property crime numbers in Vancouver which then impacts police response to actual crime issues.

E-Comm has publicly stated they are both understaffed and underfunded which is impacting response time for non-emergency calls. Property crime is particularly affected by this situation since property crimes are often reported through the non-emergency line. There are also indications that some crime victims in Vancouver no longer call the non-emergency line in the first place because they are aware of lengthy delays with E-Comm. In 2021, more than a third (39.1%) of all calls placed to the non-emergency line were abandoned by E-Comm. This ratio jumped to 48.8% in 2022.

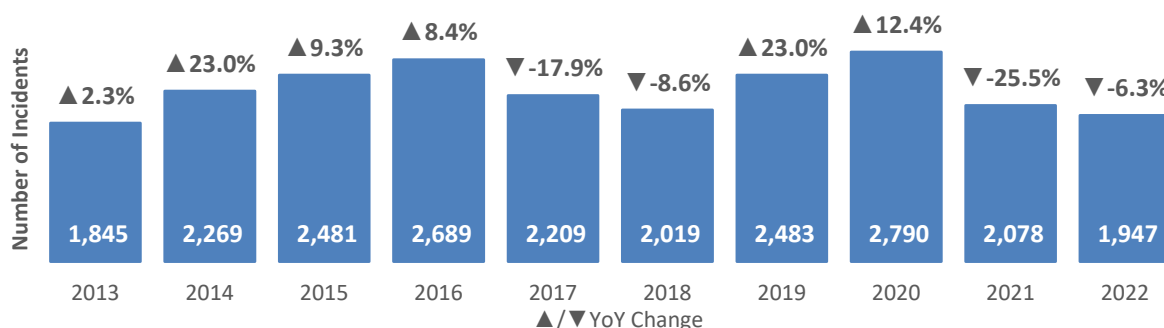
The following graph shows how property crime evolved over the past decade.

**Figure 11: 10-Year Trend for Property Crime**

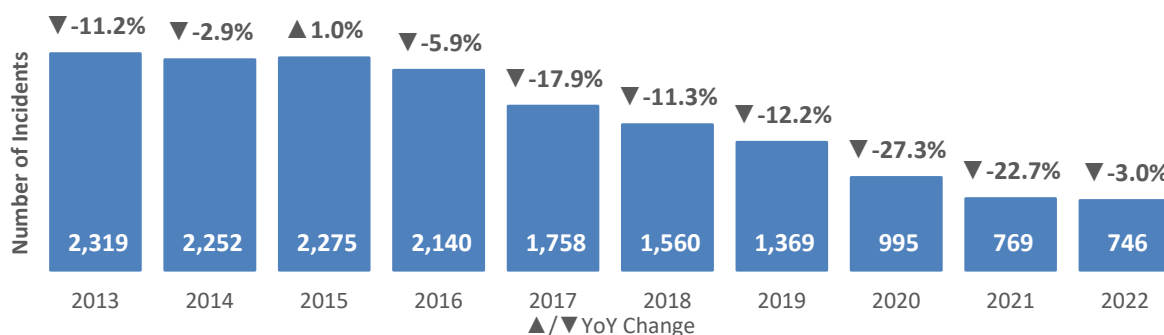


The following graphs illustrate the sudden surge in commercial break & enters (B&E) experienced in 2020, during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by two years of decreases as well as the sustained decreasing trend for residential B&Es in the past decade.

**Figure 12: 10-Year Trends for B&Es – Business**

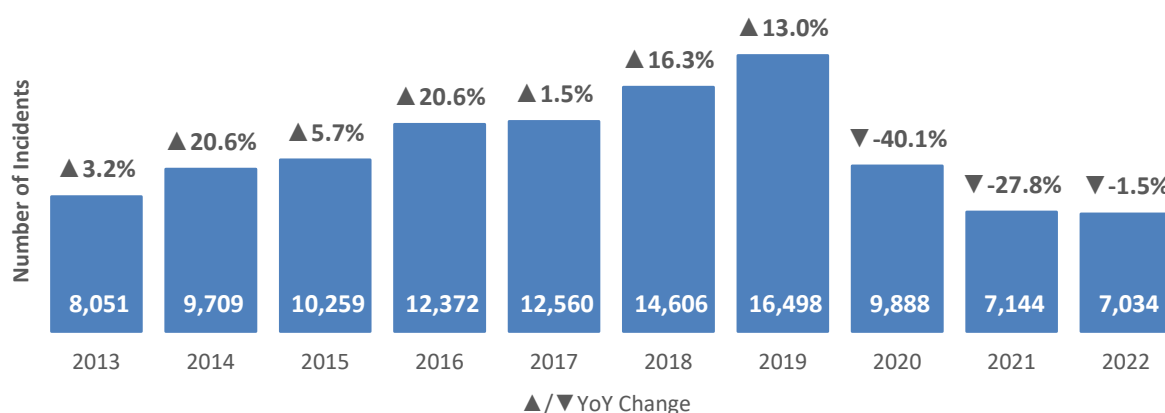


**Figure 13: 10-Year Trends for B&Es – Residence**



The following graph illustrates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on theft from auto (TFA) incidents in Vancouver. Social restrictions and work-from-home arrangements resulted in fewer people driving during the pandemic; as a result, there were fewer parked vehicles that could be targeted for theft.

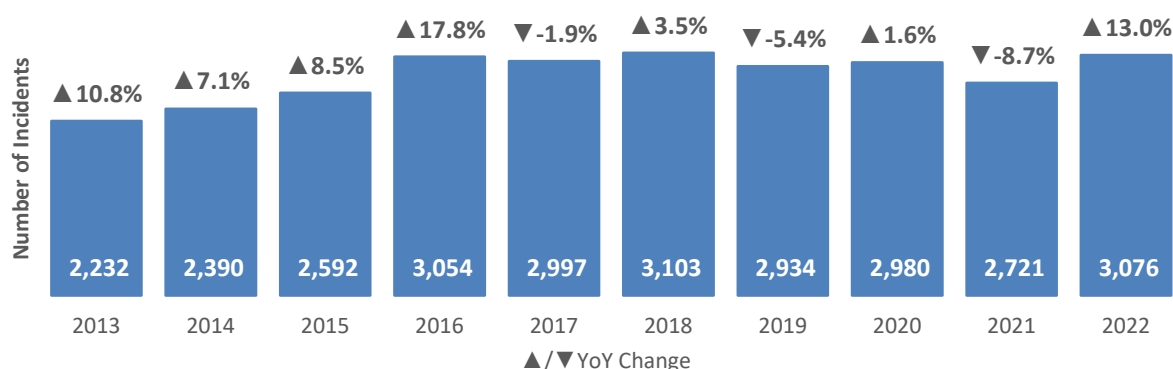
**Figure 14: 10-Year Trend for Theft from Auto (TFA) Incidents**



As illustrated by the following graph, the number of fraud incidents reported to the VPD have increased 37.8% over the past decade, from 2,232 incidents in 2013 to 3,076 in 2022. Fraud incidents increased by 13.0% from 2021 to 2022, and by 2.1% relative to the 2017-2019 average.

There were two concerning series of frauds in 2022 committed by two distinct groups which were targeting seniors and utilizing high pressure tactics to obtain “bail money” for a loved one (also known as grandparent scams). There were 56 of these incidents reported in 2022 with a cumulative loss exceeding \$700,000.

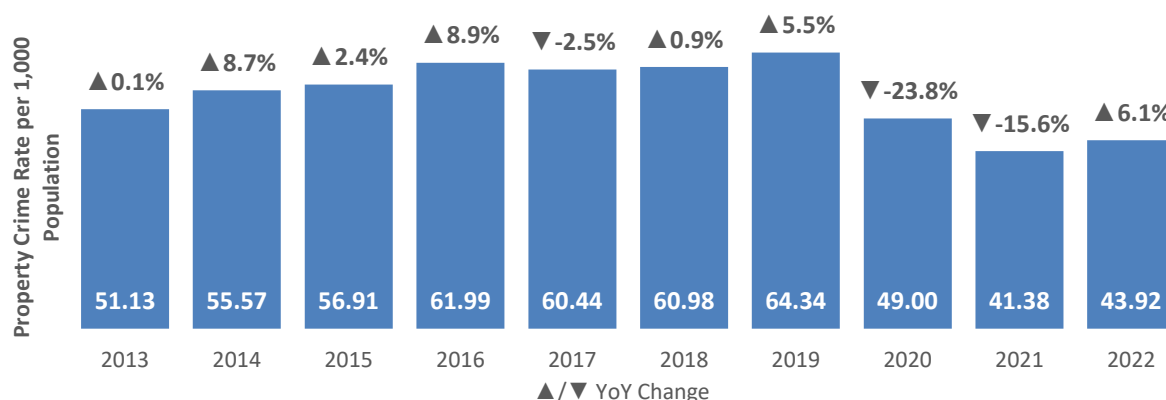
**Figure 15: 10-Year Trend for Fraud**



Driven largely by reductions in residential B&Es and TFAs, the property crime rate in Vancouver decreased during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, now that PHO orders have been removed, property crime in Vancouver is again increasing. This increase in property

crime was predictable based on previous academic research findings from the United States ([Riddell et al., 2022](#)), England and Wales ([Langton et al., 2021](#)), Northern Ireland ([Buil-Gil et al., 2022](#)), Queensland, Australia ([Andresen & Hodgkinson, 2020](#)), and China ([Borrion et al., 2020](#); [Dai et al., 2022](#)).

**Figure 16: 10-Year Trend for Year-End Property Crime Rate**



Graffiti mischief continued to rise within some communities in Vancouver. Citywide, there was a 114% increase in 2022 (945 incidents) compared to the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average (441 incidents). This trend is driven mainly by the Central Business District and Strathcona neighbourhoods, as shown by the following table which features the top five neighbourhoods impacted by the most graffiti mischief incidents.

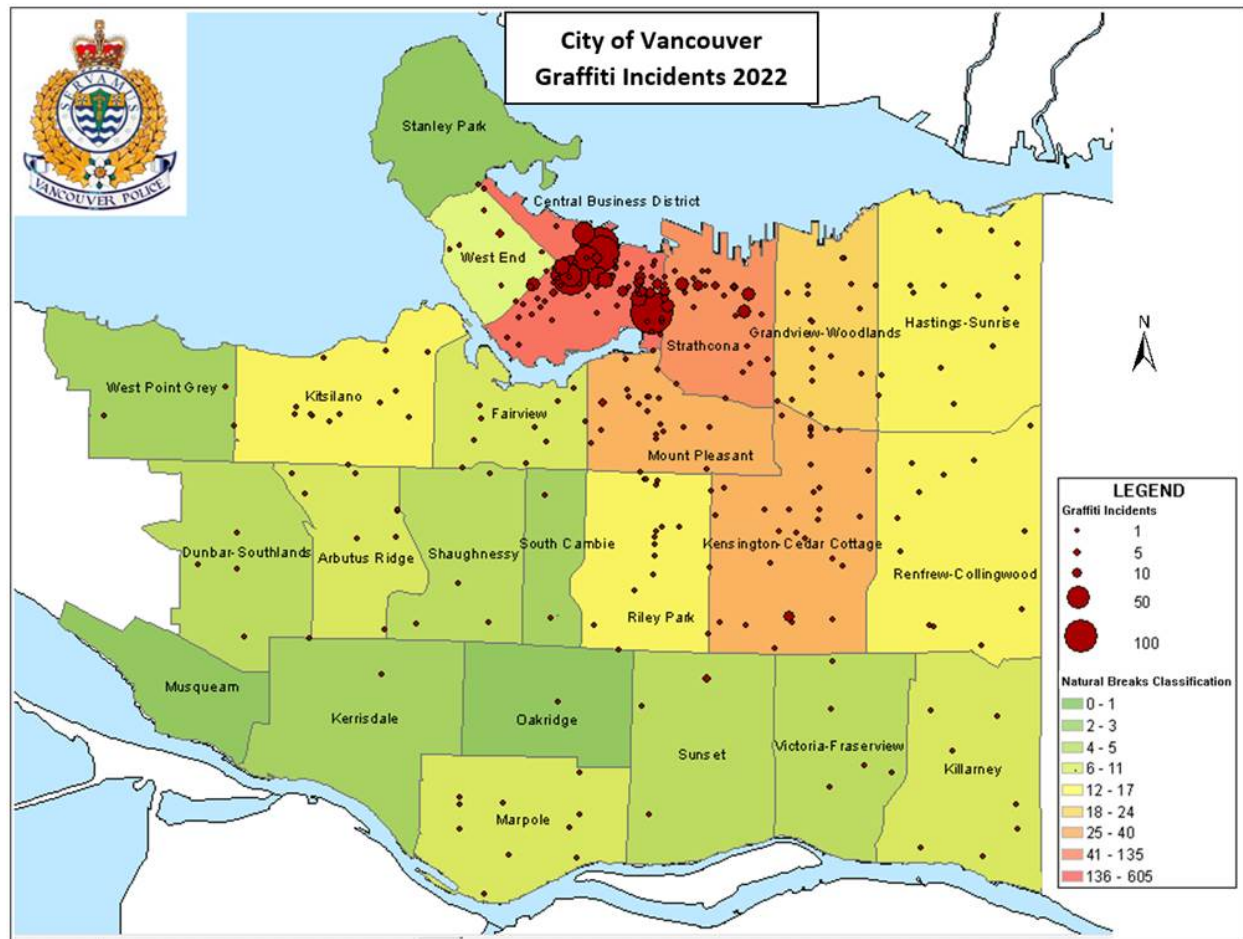
**Table 9: Graffiti Mischief Incidents**

Neighbourhood	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 vs 2017-2019
Central Business District	187	256	169	257	306	605	197%
Strathcona	47	33	36	54	38	87	125%
Kensington-Cedar Cottage	24	23	21	32	23	39	72%
Mount Pleasant	33	35	28	50	49	31	-3%
Grandview-Woodland	26	18	29	40	37	24	-1%
<b>City of Vancouver</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>114%</b>



The map below visualizes graffiti incidents throughout Vancouver. Chinatown was particularly impacted, experiencing a 310% increase (from an average of 38 incidents between 2017 and 2019 to 157 incidents in 2022).

**Figure 17: Map of Graffiti Incidents**



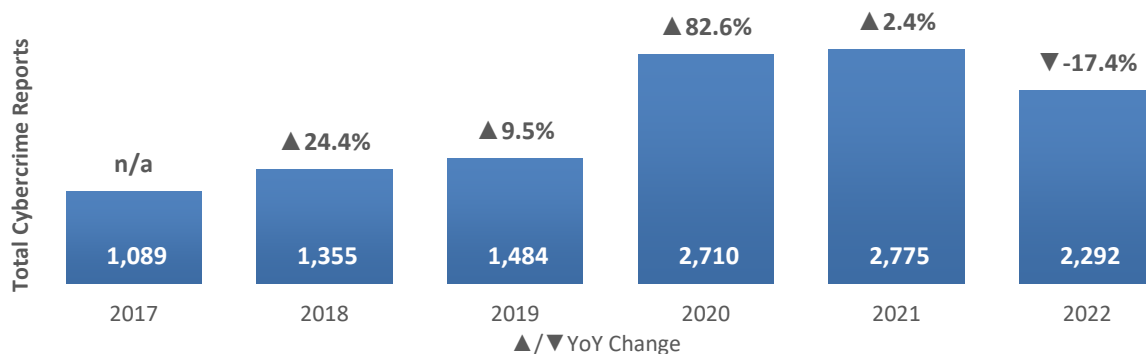
## CYBERCRIME

Cybercrimes are committed online daily and represent persisting threats to personal privacy, financial security, and organizational reputation. The VPD's Cybercrime Unit investigates advanced cybercrimes (i.e. reviewing website data, source code, ransomware, crypto or some kind of undercover online operation) and supports investigations of traditional crimes that have an online or technical component to them. Technical components may include supporting patrol with determining if a phone call was using Voice-over-IP, determining a person of interest, identifying the location for a suspect or suicidal victim.

Common examples of Internet-related crimes include: making, distributing, possessing or accessing child sexual abuse material (CSAM – images and videos meeting the definition of Child Pornography under the Criminal Code), luring a child via a computer, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, criminal harassment (also known as “cyber-stalking”), uttering threats, extortion, fraud, impersonation, identity theft, data theft (hacking), and other intellectual property crimes.

The following graph illustrates the growth in cybercrimes reported to the VPD over the past six years. There have been 2,292 cybercrime incidents reported to the VPD in 2022, which is 17.4% fewer than in 2021 (2,775) but 75.1% more than the pre-pandemic 2017-2019 average.

**Figure 18: 6-Year Trend for Cybercrime Reports**



Vancouver victims of cybercrime reported total losses of \$17.62M in 2022. This is 63.3% lower than the \$48.0M in losses reported in 2021, but 41.9% more than the 2017-2019 average. Frauds involving various types of cryptocurrencies account for an increasingly large share of these losses. There were losses of at least \$13.12M from frauds specifically involving cryptocurrencies. This is 64.2% lower than the \$36.6M in losses reported in 2021, but more than five times the 2017-2019 average.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the long-term upward trend of online crime ([Buil-Gil et al., 2022](#)) and cybercrime rose sharply alongside changes in online habits. Recently there have been some significant arrests and disruptions of cybercrime criminals overseas. While we may see some decreases based on these successes, threat actors will undoubtedly come up with new tactics and become better at obfuscating their identity.

## **MENTAL HEALTH ACT (MHA) APPREHENSIONS**

The VPD works in close partnerships with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH), Providence Health Care (PHC), Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and others to provide a coordinated response to support persons in the community who may be exhibiting signs of deteriorating mental health. Through these partnerships, the VPD aims to reduce reactive responses such as Section 28 MHA apprehensions while increasing proactive and preventive interventions through outreach, intensive case management, and Form 4/21 apprehensions.

### **Section 28 MHA Apprehension**

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.”<sup>12</sup>

### **Form 21 MHA Apprehension**

Under the MHA, a Form 21 Director’s Warrant allows a director or designate to recall a patient back to a hospital. A recall would occur when a person who is living in community under certain conditions imposed by their doctor and does not abide by these conditions (such as failing to take required medication). A Form 21 may also be issued if a patient leaves a hospital without permission.

### **Form 4 MHA Apprehension**

Also under the MHA, a medical physician may issue a Form 4 for involuntary admission. This Form is a medical certificate that allows a person with mental illness to be apprehended, transported, admitted, treated, and detained as an involuntary patient for up to 48 hours after admission. After 48 hours, the person must be discharged from the facility or admitted as a voluntary patient. A second examination by another doctor may then be completed which allows the hospital to keep the person involuntarily for up to 30 days.

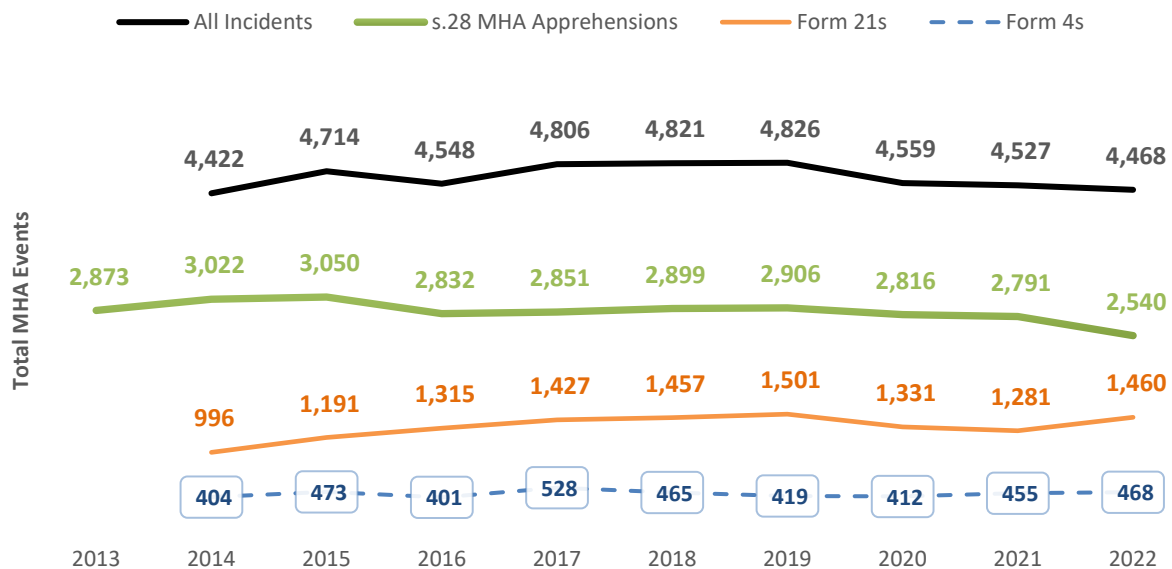
Prior to 2012, data was only collected for Section 28 apprehensions. Data collection for Form 4 and Form 21 apprehensions was implemented in the first quarter of 2012 and it was not until 2014 that the total number of Form 4 and Form 21 apprehensions began to increase.

As shown by the figure below, Section 28 and Form 4 apprehensions have remained relatively stable over the past seven years. However, there was an increase in Form 21 apprehensions over the past decade.

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<sup>12</sup> [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96288\\_01](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96288_01)

**Figure 19: 10-Year Trends for Year-End MHA Apprehensions**



### Persons Previously Apprehended under Section 28 of the MHA

There were 2,540 Section 28 apprehensions in 2022. These incidents involved 1,896 different individuals. As shown by the following table, 30% of these individuals had been previously apprehended under Section 28 within the previous four years, with an average of four apprehensions per person – including one person apprehended 79 times in four years.

**Table 10: MHA Section 28 Apprehensions**

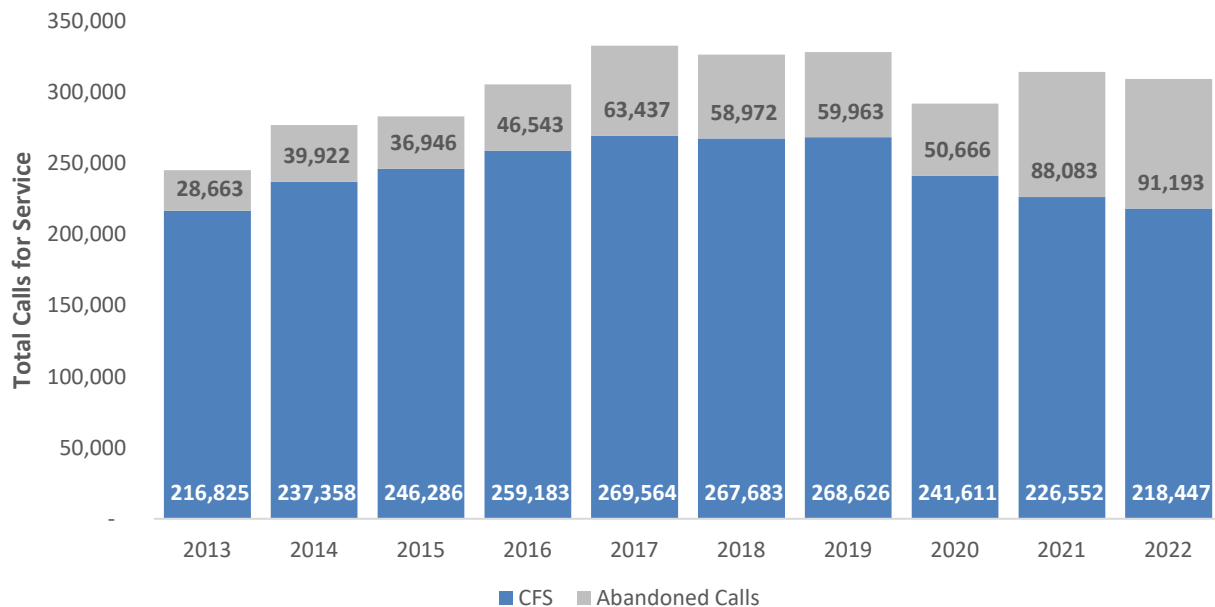
MHA Section 28 Apprehensions	2022
# of apprehensions	2,540
# of people apprehended	1,896
# of people previously apprehended in the last 4 years	578
% of people previously apprehended	30%

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for service (CFS) include calls to 9-1-1 for emergency assistance, non-emergency calls for service, and online crime reporting – CFS are displayed in blue in the figure below. E-Comm abandoned calls for service are displayed in grey. These are calls from the public to the non-emergency line managed by E-Comm that were attempted but eventually were abandoned by the caller.

The figure below illustrates how CFS decreased from 2020 to 2022 as the abandoned calls increased from 50,666 in 2020, to 88,083 in 2021, and 91,193 in 2022. If all abandoned calls on the non-emergency line did reach E-Comm call takers and would have been converted into police calls for service, the overall VPD call load would have only decreased by 1.6% between 2021 and 2022, and would have increased by 26.1% since 2013.

**Figure 20: 10-Year Trend for Year-End CFS**



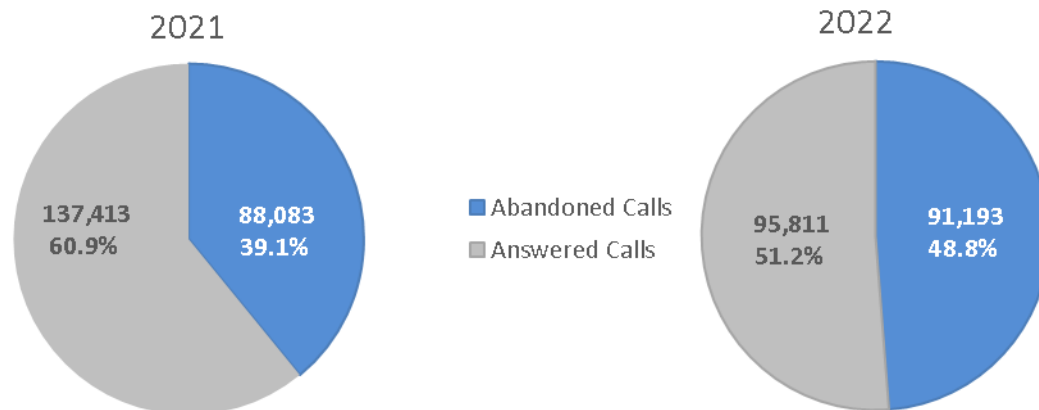
## E-Comm Abandoned Calls for Service

In 2021, more than a third (39.1%) of all calls placed to the non-emergency line were abandoned by E-Comm. This ratio jumped to 48.8% in 2022. This means there is almost one abandoned call for every call actually handled by E-Comm on the non-emergency line. The number of abandoned calls increased by 3.5% between 2021 (88,083) and 2022 (91,193).

This is a concerning issue as it negatively impacts the public and the reputation of police departments serviced by E-Comm. Callers often do not distinguish E-Comm from the police department they are trying to reach. This leads to the under-reporting of crime and an underestimation of the actual demand for policing in Vancouver, or the amount of police resources required to adequately address crime concerns.

A telephone [survey of 2,400 British Columbians commissioned in 2012](#) by the Police Services Division of the BC Ministry of Justice (2012) revealed that people who think their local police service is good or very good at promptly responding to calls are much more likely to also have “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in their local police service (86% and 92%, respectively) compared to those who think that their local police service is only average (69%), below average (38%), or poor (18%) at promptly responding to calls. These findings were also apparent as part of the 2009 General Social Survey conducted by Statistics Canada. Hence, an expedient response to calls for service is critical to maintain confidence in police.

**Figure 21: Calls to Non-Emergency Line Managed by E-Comm**

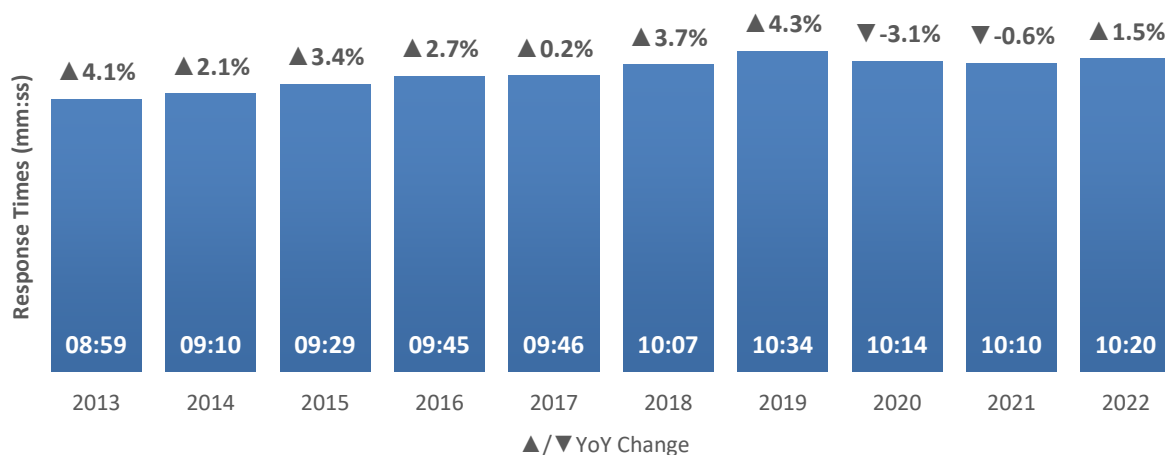


## PRIORITY 1 RESPONSE TIMES

A priority 1 (P1) classification indicates that an incident or call for service requires an immediate police response. Vancouver's 2022 P1 response time (10:20) was 1.5%, or 10 seconds slower when compared to 2021 (10:10). With the exception of 2020 and 2021, there have been consistent annual increases in P1 response time. A lower P1 response in 2020 and 2021 can be attributed to lower volumes of traffic in Vancouver as a result of PHO orders. Over the past decade, P1 response times have increased 14.9% from 2013 (08:59) to 2022 (10:20). The actual number of P1 calls received are 1.1% higher than 2021.

Response time metrics are used by many police organizations as key management indicators (Kiedrowski et al., 2013)<sup>13</sup>, reflecting the fact that they can impact operational police performance in a meaningful manner and are believed to matter to citizens (Brandl and Horvath 1991<sup>14</sup>; Hirschel, Lumb, and Johnson 1998<sup>15</sup>). Vidal and Kirchmaier (2018)<sup>16</sup>, for example, found that the likelihood of identifying a suspect increased when the police response time was shorter.

**Figure 22: 10-Year Trend for Year-End P1 Response Times**



<sup>13</sup> <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/plc-vws-prfrmnc-mtrcs/plc-vws-prfrmnc-mtrcs-eng.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> [https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352\(91\)90046-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2352(91)90046-X)

<sup>15</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1177/109861119800100401>

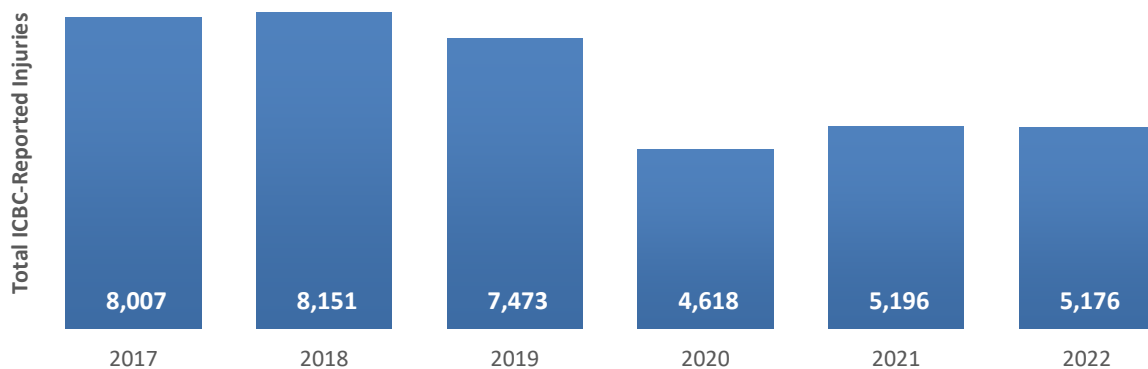
<sup>16</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1093/restud/rdx044>

## 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 in 2017 which is a reliable base-year to compare motor vehicle incidents resulting in an injury.

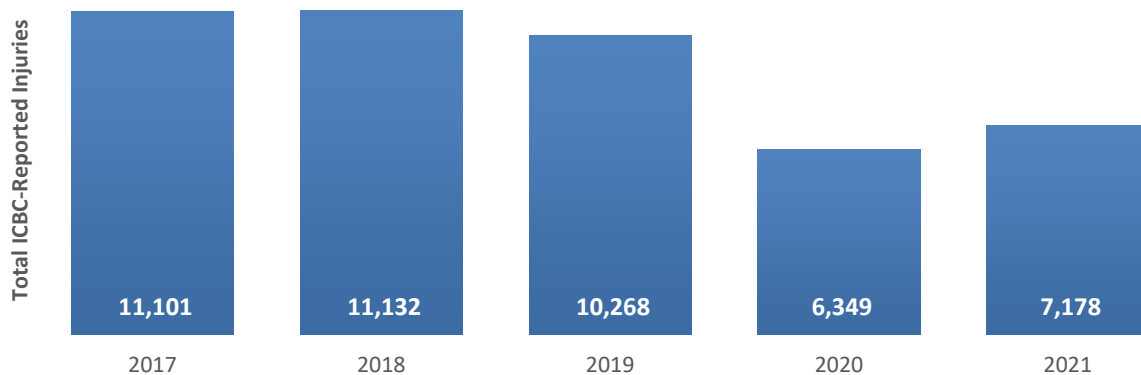
ICBC data for year-end 2022 was not available at the time of this report's submission. The most recent data shows that there were 5,176 ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents as of the end of Q3 2022. This was a 0.4% decrease relative to Q3 2021 (5,196).

**Figure 23: 6-Year Trend for ICBC-Reported Motor Vehicle Incidents with Injuries as of Q3**



As shown by the following graph, Vancouver experienced 13.1% more ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents with injuries in 2021 (7,178) compared to 2020 (6,349).

**Figure 24: Year-End ICBC-Reported Motor Vehicle Incidents with Injuries**





Since 2013, the average annual number of fatal traffic incidents in Vancouver is 15. As shown by the following graph, there was a low of eight fatal motor vehicle incidents in Vancouver in 2020 and a high of 22 in 2021. There were 18 traffic fatalities in 2022, representing the second highest number of traffic fatalities in the past decade.

**Figure 25: 10-Year Trend for Year-End Traffic Fatalities**

