



VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday February 29, 2024

Time: 1:00- 2:00 pm

1	Welcome: Land Acknowledgement Introduction of Members & Staff Declarations of Interest in Items Under Consideration
2	Consent Agenda *2.1 Agenda February 29, 2024 *2.2 Minutes of January 18, 2024
3	Special Presentations and Delegations 3.1 2024 Police Officer Jana McGuinness and Civilian Professional of the Year, Ms. Leah Marlay
4	For Decision 4.1 Amended Provisional Budget
5	For Discussion *5.1 Public Safety Indicators Report Q1 (#2402P02)
6	Chief Constable's Update Chief Adam Palmer
7	For Information *7.1 Compliments Report *7.2 2023 Street check Audit Report
8	Opportunity for Enquiries from the Public
9	Other Business
	ADJOURNMENT of Regular Meeting



Regular Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 18, 2024 - 1:00pm-1:40pm

Location: 7th Floor Boardroom- 2120 Cambie St. Vancouver BC

Attendees		
Vancouver Police Board Members/Staff	Vancouver Police Department	Guests
Ken Sim (Chair)	Chief Constable Adam Palmer	Monique Brown, Deputy Commissioner of Baltimore Police Department
Faye Wightman (Vice Chair)	Deputy Chief DCC Howard Chow	Ralph Kaisers
Patricia Barnes	Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Wilson	
Allan Black	Deputy Chief Constable Steve Rai	
Comfort Fadugba	Inspector Trevor Burmachuck	
Frank Chong	Simon Demers	
Lorraine Lowe	Christine McLean	
Jason Kuzminski (Executive Director)	Darrin Hurwitz	
Alaleh Shah Ali	Director Nancy Eng	
Alysha Bortolussi	Sergeant Raj Jaswal	
	Constable Jacky Lam	

1. Introduction

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and began by acknowledging the meeting is being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. Directors and VPD executive were invited to introduce themselves. Directors were asked and did not identify any conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda.

2. *Adoption of:

*2.1 Agenda for January 18 2024, Regular Meeting

*2.2 Minutes of November 23, 2023 Regular Meeting

*2.3 Minutes for December 14, 2023, Special Meeting

On consent, the Board moved item 4.1 from "For Decision" to "For Discussion" and removed item 5.4 from the agenda. The vice chair asked that the November minutes be amended to reflect that the Board's approval of restructuring the order of meeting sessions be a pilot for 6 months beginning in January 2024.

Motions: To adopt the agenda and minutes as amended. Approved.

3. Special Presentations and Delegations

No presentations or delegations.

4. For Decision

*4.1 No items for decision.

5. For Discussion

*5.1 EDI Review Update for Year-End 2023 (#2401V10)

Simon Demers, Sgt. Raj Jaswal and Cst. Jacky Lam provided an update of EDI review from 2023. VPD is ensuring every community is engaged by the end of the project. They estimate it will be a few months before VPD can report back to the Board. The Board also inquired about proactive outreach and offered assistance to VPD if they needed reaching out to communities.

Action for future: EDI team will report back to Board on Community Engagements in April 2024.

*5.2 RPM Amendments for 2023 Q4 (#2401V09)

Simon Demers briefed the Board on the amendments incorporated into VPD's regulations and procedures manual. The summary was focused on the last quarter of 2023. Six policies were updated, two of which the Board has already reviewed including the Respectful Workplace and Body Worn Camera guidelines. The RPM 4.3.1 was approved by the Board in November and is in effect as of December 31, 2023 and is currently available online. The Board asked if the changes technical and were informed that the changes are minor and not substantive but help clarify and update the use of language to the VPD members and reiterate their responsibilities.

*5.3 Professional Standard Section Quarterly (#2401V05)

DDC Rai spoke to a downward trend in substantiated complaints from Q3 as well as the downward yearly trend. The Board asked about the outstanding number of files and reportable injuries.

Action for future: Supt. Horne and Insp. Burmachuck to provide a breakdown of reportable injuries to the Board.

*4.1 Amended Finance Committee Terms of Reference

The Chair of Finance Committee presented amendments to the Committee's terms of reference that are intended to address recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General in its report on Enterprise Risk Management, it was recommended by the Finance Committee to expand its mandate to include oversight of enterprise risks. After further consideration prior to this meeting, the Board formed a consensus that further work on the terms needs to be done and referred the terms of reference back to the Finance Committee.

6. Chief Constable's Update

Chief Palmer introduced Monique Brown, Deputy Commissioner of Baltimore Police Department who is visiting the VPD as part of the major city chiefs of police executive leadership institute program. The Board was informed that Insp. Randy Fincham has been seconded to Metro Vancouver Transit Police at their request, beginning February 1, 2024. Chief Palmer also congratulated Cst. Darren Ramdour and Comfort Sakoma-Fadugba who were recognized by the Nigerian-Canadian Association of British Columbia for their community work and leadership. VPD is planning a recruitment info session for 20-30 Nigerian Canadians who have expressed interest in policing. Overall recruitment has seen 130 officers hired in 2023. The department is offering incentives for experienced officers to apply to the VPD.

Chief Palmer recapped his media appearance on The Steele and Vance Show, where he spoke about the number of demonstrations in 2023 and the increase in antisemitism since October 7. The Board was briefed on the Body Worn Camera pilot rollout on January 4th in Districts 1, 2 and Traffic Unit. Currently 85 officers are deployed with the cameras and feedback so far has been positive. 24/7 support is available to address any type of technical issues. VPD Fleet-Vehicles are well-equipped to handle the changing seasons. A majority of the fleet is all-wheel drive with around 74 being hybrid and 59 fully electric.

7. For Information

*7.1 Compliments Report

8. Opportunities for Enquiries from the Public

N/A

9. Other Business

N/A

Motion: To Adjourn. Approved

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

TO BE APPROVED BY THE VANVOUVER POLICE BOARD On February 29, 2024



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

REPORT DATE: February 20, 2024
BOARD MEETING DATE: February 29, 2024
BOARD REPORT # 2402P02
Regular

TO: Vancouver Police Board

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

SUBJECT: Public Safety Indicators (PSI) Report – Year-End 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board (“Board”) receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Safety Indicators (PSI) report of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) covers the following trends: violent crimes, property crimes, 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 2023, the PSI report also provides additional details around violent crime victimization.

The PSI report makes two different comparisons:

1. Year-end: the full year-end data from the current calendar year is compared to the full year-end data from the previous year.
2. Year-over-year (YoY): the last completed quarter is compared to the same period of the previous year.

DISCUSSION:

The following is a year-end summary of the 2023 metrics. Noteworthy trends are presented as an overall summary:

- There were 240,270 calls for service in 2023. This was up 10.0% compared to 2022 (218,447). Abandoned calls on the non-emergency line were down 39.4% in 2023 (55,223) when compared to 2022 (91,193). While we have seen some improvements in 2023, the high number of abandoned calls at E-Comm remains a significant concern to police services in BC.
- Violent crimes were up slightly, with an increase of 1.9% in 2023. There were 6,134 violent crimes recorded in 2022 and 6,251 in 2023.

- Property crimes reported to the VPD increased by 8.7% in 2023 but remain below pre-pandemic levels. The reduction in abandoned calls on the non-emergency line likely contributed in increased property crime reporting.
- Follow-up analysis confirms that there has been a steady decline in unprovoked stranger assaults after 2021 with an uptick in the second half of 2023.

Table 1 provides an overview of public safety trends.

Table 1: Public Safety Trends

	2022 vs. 2023			Year-over-Year (YoY)		
	2022	2023	% Chg	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	% Chg
Violent Crimes	6,134	6,251	1.9% ▲	1,378	1,459	5.9% ▲
Property Crimes	31,069	33,774	8.7% ▲	7,394	7,865	6.4% ▲
Total Crimes*	42,674	46,254	8.4% ▲	10,020	10,881	8.6% ▲
<i>Mental Health Act**</i>	4,468	4,444	-0.5% ▼	1,163	1,085	-6.7% ▼
Traffic Fatalities	19	16	-15.8% ▼	4	5	25.0% ▲
Calls for Service	218,447	240,270	10.0% ▲	54,254	58,592	8.0% ▲
Average P1 Response Time	10:20	10:38	3.0% ▲	10:42	10:49	1.1% ▲

* Includes Other Criminal Code offences.

** Includes s. 28, Form 21 and Form 4 apprehensions.

REPORT SCHEDULE:

The VPD's crime statistics are publicly available at <https://vpd.ca/crime-statistics/>. The latest Public Safety Indicators (PSI) reports are also available publicly: [2022 Year-End](#) | [2023 Q1](#) | [2023 Q2](#) | [2023 Q3](#). The VPD is planning to provide four quarterly PSI reports to the Board scheduled for meetings in April 2024 (Q1), September 2024 (Q2 YTD), November 2024 (Q3 YTD), and February 2025 (year-end 2024).

Author: Correen Smitas

Date: January 15, 2024

Submitting Executive Member:

Deputy Chief Steve Rai

Date: January 15, 2024



Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Public Safety Indicators

Report for Year-End 2023

The PSI report of the VPD covers the following trends: violent crimes, property crimes, cybercrime, apprehensions under the *Mental Health Act* (MHA), calls for service, P1 response times, traffic incidents with injuries reported to the ICBC, and traffic fatalities. Starting in 2023, the PSI report also provides additional details around victimization.

This report provides two types of comparisons:

1. Year-end: the full year-end data from 2023 is compared to the full year-end data from 2022. Prior months and quarters are included in this comparison and have the potential to influence the comparison(s).
2. Year-over-year (YoY): the last quarter from 2023 is compared to the same period in 2022. This comparison does not take into account the earlier months of the year.

VIOLENT CRIMES

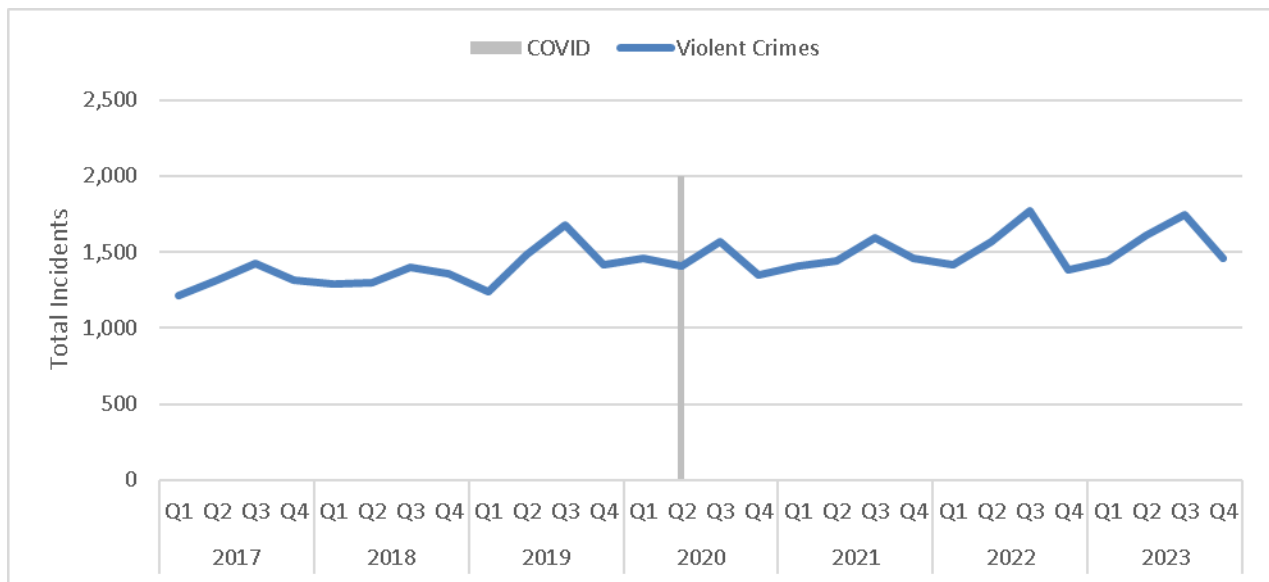
- Violent crimes were up slightly, with an increase of 1.9% in 2023. There were 6,134 violent crimes in 2022 and 6,251 in 2023.
- Vancouver had 13 culpable homicides in 2022 compared to 15 in 2023. There were 19 attempted murders in 2022 and 10 in 2023.
- Sexual offences increased by 10.5% from 641 incidents in 2022 to 708 in 2023.
- Robberies decreased by 8.2% from 669 incidents in 2022 to 614 in 2023.
- Violent shoplifters decreased by 4.2%, with 335 in 2022 and 321 in 2023.

Table 2: Violent Crimes

Criminal Offences	2022 vs. 2023			YoY		
	2022	2023	% Chg	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	% Chg
Violent Crimes	6,134	6,251	1.9% ▲	1,378	1,459	5.9% ▲
Culpable Homicide	13	15	15.4% ▲	3	3	0.0% ▲
Attempted Murder	19	10	-47.4% ▼	1	3	200.0% ▲
Sexual Offences	641	708	10.5% ▲	164	145	-11.6% ▼
Robbery	669	614	-8.2% ▼	152	168	10.5% ▲
Assaults	4,792	4,904	2.3% ▲	1,058	1,140	7.8% ▲
Level 1 - Common	2,767	2,890	4.4% ▲	620	680	9.7% ▲
Level 2 & 3 - Serious Assault	1,880	1,872	-0.4% ▼	406	413	1.7% ▲

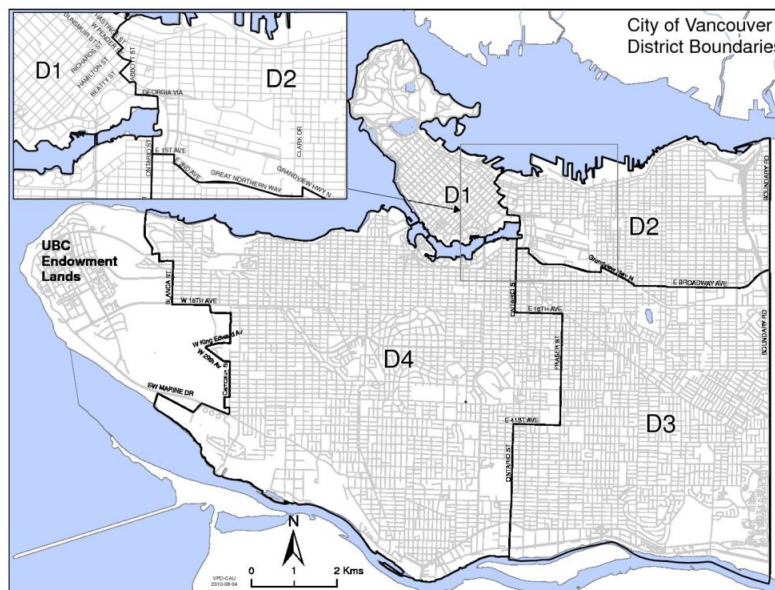
As shown by the following graph, the final quarter of 2023 (1,459) was higher than the corresponding quarter in 2022 (1,378) by 5.9%. However, it remained consistent with the historical average (1,446).

Figure 1: Violent Crimes by Quarter Since 2017



Violent crimes are also tracked by VPD patrol districts and by City of Vancouver (CoV) neighbourhoods. The following map shows how 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/).¹

Figure 2: Map of Vancouver Districts



¹ <https://vpd.ca/about-the-vpd/organizations-divisions/>

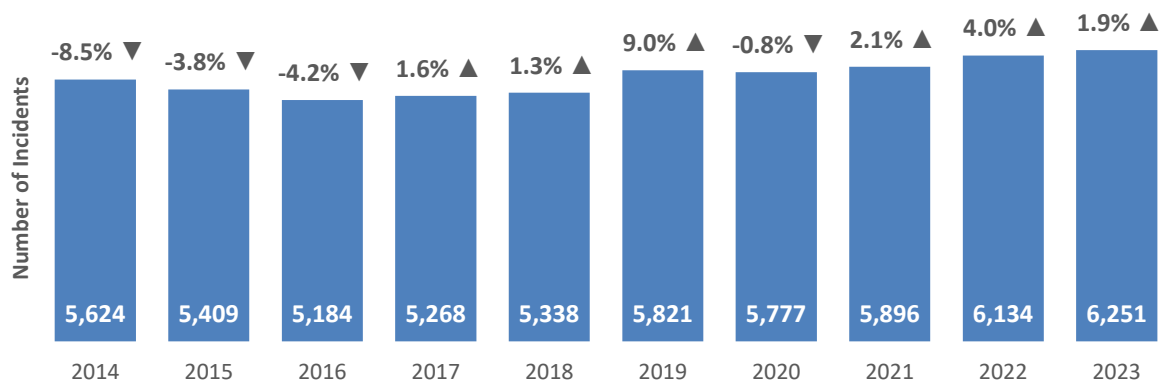
As shown in the following table, violent crimes have been trending up the most in District 4 but were down in District 1.

Table 3: Violent Crimes by District

Violent Crimes	2022 vs. 2023			YoY		
	2022	2023	% Chg	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	% Chg
District 1	1,985	1,911	-3.7% ▼	455	465	2.2% ▲
District 2	2,306	2,393	3.8% ▲	535	572	6.9% ▲
District 3	920	964	4.8% ▲	194	216	11.3% ▲
District 4	776	844	8.8% ▲	167	178	6.6% ▲
Location Undetermined	147	139	-5.4% ▼	27	28	3.7% ▲
Total	6,134	6,251	1.9% ▲	1,378	1,459	5.9% ▲

The following graph shows how violent crime has evolved over the past decade. In 2023, violent crime was up 11.1% relative to 2014. There has been a consistent increase in violent crime since 2021. However, the rate of increase in 2023 was smaller than the 2021 and 2022 increases.

Figure 3: 10-Year Trend for Violent Crime



VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS

Child Sexual Abuse Material

The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit investigates the global problem of child sexual abuse, as well as possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. 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.

Sextortion is becoming a significant and compounding crime trend. The Cybertip.ca website currently receives an average of 70 weekly sextortion reports involving youth.² As sextortion

² <https://www.cybertip.ca/en/online-harms/sextortion/>

cases increase among youth³, companies claiming they can delete intimate images for a fee are also increasing. These companies are known as recovery scammers. This recovery scam results in the youth and their families being victimized for a second time. Sextortion is also a vastly under-reported crime because victims fear stigma or humiliation.⁴

Cases involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM) increased 31.9% when comparing 2023 (538) with the same period in 2022 (408). This increase may be attributable to higher reporting rates overall in BC. This trend is being monitored closely by the VPD.

Elder Assaults

The Elder Abuse Unit carefully monitors elder abuse files involving people who are 65 and older. Assault files involving a victim over the age of 65 have remained stable, with 248 in 2023 and 243 in 2022. The Elder Abuse Unit provides further follow-up and support to victims that have been assaulted by someone they know and may be experiencing ongoing abuse.

Hate-Motivated Incidents

The VPD has two designated hate crime investigators and thoroughly investigates all reported incidents motivated by hate, prejudice or bias. Hate-motivated incidents increased from 202 in 2022 to 265 in 2023, a 31.2% increase. There was increased reporting from the 2SLGBTQ+, South Asian, and Jewish communities.

In 2023, there was an increase in hate-motivated incidents against 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, with 48 recorded incidents in 2023 compared to 30 in 2022. This equates to a 60.0% increase in hate crimes involving this group. The VPD has been actively engaging with the 2SLGBTQ+ community by establishing a community liaison committee to continue to address under-reporting in this community.

There was also an increase in anti-Semitic incidents, with 47 incidents reported in 2023 compared to 29 incidents in 2022. Prior to the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict on October 7, 2023, an average of one anti-Semitic incident was reported to the VPD every two weeks on average. There were 33 incidents reported between October 7 and December 31, 2023, which reflects an average rate of 2.7 incidents per week or more than a five-fold increase in anti-Semitic incidents. The VPD is actively working with community members and faith leaders to keep communities safe.

Sexual Offences

Reported sexual offences were up 10.5% in 2023, with 708 incidents reported in 2023 compared to 641 in 2022. Within the PSI report, crimes are typically counted based on the date they were *reported*, as opposed to when they actually *occurred*. This is consistent with Statistics Canada's crime reporting standards. For most crime types, the difference between the occurred date and reported date is immaterial. However, using the reported date impacts sexual offence trends because these incidents are often reported to the VPD long after they have occurred, sometimes after many years. For example, 15.5% of the sexual offences reported to the VPD in 2022 were

³ <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2022/rcmp-collaborates-new-zealand-global-online-child-sexual-exploitation-investigation-leads>

⁴ <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/fbi-warning-teens-sextortion-means-parents-need-take-steps-rcna62795>

historical as these occurred in previous years. By comparison, 98.3% of all property crimes, 99.0% of assaults, and 99.8% of all robberies reported in 2023 also occurred in 2023. Based on the occurred date, sexual offences in Vancouver increased by 1.6% in 2023 (575) compared to the same period in 2022 (566).

Shots Fired

There were 24 shots fired incidents in 2023 compared to 19 in 2022. The ongoing British Columbia Gang Conflict (BCGC) has resulted in multiple incidents of serious violence throughout the province, including several public shootings and targeted acts of violence. The VPD actively partners with regional and provincial policing partners to prioritize and coordinate enforcement efforts that target organized crime groups involved in the BCGC.

Unprovoked Stranger Assaults

Unprovoked stranger assaults are assaults where no pre-existing relationship exists and where the interaction between the suspect and victim was brief in nature (i.e. less than 15-20 seconds prior to the assault). Intimate partner assaults, violent shoplifting incidents, thefts, and robberies do not meet the definition of unprovoked stranger assault, nor would an assault of a police officer acting in the course of their duties such as apprehending an individual.

An analysis of a random sample of assault case files from 2019 to 2023 reveals a steady decline in unprovoked stranger assaults after the spike observed at the end of 2020 and throughout 2021 despite an increase in the second half of 2023. This trend is continuously monitored.

Unprovoked stranger assaults increased between 2020 Q3 and 2021 Q3 inclusively, averaging 4.2 incidents per day. In October 2021, media coverage increased public awareness around unprovoked stranger assaults.⁵ The enforcement project called Task Force Agility and the investigative project called Project Reclaim took place in 2022. These VPD projects resulted in a noticeable decrease in the rate of unprovoked stranger assaults. Unprovoked stranger assaults decreased approximately 75% between the first half of 2021 and the first half of 2023, as reported publicly earlier in 2023. In 2023 overall, it is estimated there was an average of 2.3 unprovoked stranger assaults per day.

Violent Victimization

The VPD actively addresses systemic inequities, as reflected in victimization trends, by developing targeted prevention strategies. The June 2023 edition of the *Police Chief* journal focused on policing vulnerable populations stating in their preamble: “Some persons are more susceptible than others to become a victim to a crime. Older adults, individuals with disabilities, and children, among other groups, are often targeted and victimized disproportionately due to their real or perceived vulnerability.”⁶

Table 4 displays victims of violent crimes by gender, age and ethnicity ($N = 6,132$). This table reflects a rolling average based on the past 12 months. The odds ratios in the total column include

⁵ [VPD tweet](#) | [CBC News](#) | [CTV News](#) | [Global News](#)

⁶ <https://www.policchiefmagazine.org/magazine-issues/june-2023-policing-with-vulnerable-populations/>

19 victims who have a non-binary gender expression. An odds ratio⁷ greater than 1.0 indicates that the group is over-represented as victims of violent crimes.

Table 4: Victimization in Last 12 Months by Gender and Age

	Female by Age Group				Male by Age Group				Total
	<35	35-64	65+	Total	<35	35-64	65+	Total	w/ Non-binary
Asian	0.29	0.19	0.50	0.24	0.21	0.20	0.29	0.21	0.22
Black	2.37	2.43	3.70	2.77	2.23	4.27	0.98	3.21	3.11
White	0.87	1.43	1.25	1.05	0.63	1.29	1.78	0.89	0.98
Hispanic	1.66	1.13	1.62	1.67	1.46	1.00	2.79	1.40	1.52
Indigenous	6.77	10.95	3.38	8.97	2.93	5.06	2.82	4.07	5.89
Middle Eastern	1.80	1.93	1.91	2.00	2.98	2.34	2.87	2.79	2.53
South Asian	1.91	1.05	2.15	1.69	4.45	1.28	1.12	3.07	2.56
Other	0.23	0.09	0.00	0.21	0.11	0.26	0.00	0.16	0.18
Age Group	1.69	1.04	0.16	0.61	1.35	1.12	0.29	1.61	1.00

Decreased Odds <1 Proportional to Population Increased Odds >1



Indigenous females 35-64 years old are the most over-represented (10.95), followed by Indigenous females under 35 (6.77). This victimization data is consistent with earlier research which showed that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than other women in Canada ([National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019](#)), and have a rate of violent victimization that is consistently double that of Indigenous males ([Victimization of Aboriginal people in Canada, 2014](#)) and significantly higher relative to the violent victimization rate of non-Indigenous women ([Statistics Canada, 2022](#)).

Violent and Repeat Shoplifters

The VPD carefully monitors incidents on a daily basis to detect trends of concern to the community and shifts in offending behaviour. Through this process, the VPD detected a rise in violent offending as part of the shoplifting *modus operandi*. A detailed review of shoplifting cases was completed and the VPD determined that repeat shoplifters were engaging in this violence. A proactive project was developed and implemented at the beginning of 2023 to address this disturbing trend. This is an issue actively monitored by the Retail Council of Canada.⁸

[Project Barcode](#) was a VPD initiative that took place in 2023. Cumulatively, as of December 20, 2023, the project yielded a total of 939 arrests, 94 weapons seized, \$291,000 in stolen goods recovered, and 122 arrest warrants executed by police.

Violent shoplifters decreased by 4.2%, with 335 in 2022 and 321 in 2023.

⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2938757/>

⁸ <https://globalnews.ca/video/9970212/retail-council-of-canada-receiving-daily-reports-of-violent-shoplifters>

Youth Violence

The Youth Services Section (YSS) promotes engagement with youth and works with agencies to identify children at-risk and to prevent youth from becoming involved in the criminal justice system. YSS is guided by diversion principles to divert youth away from the court system. The referrals and justice processes promoted by YSS are timely and effective at restoring youth back into a positive environment.

In 2022, the VPD identified a concerning trend of serious bear spray incidents involving youth. After conducting research and collaborating with CoV staff, the VPD developed a strategy and recommended that the City of Vancouver implement a bylaw to address this issue. The bylaw to restrict the sale and display of bear spray was passed unanimously on March 28, 2023.⁹

In the first six months of 2023, 47% of identified youth involved in bear spray incidents in Vancouver had listed addresses outside of the city of Vancouver. Due to the mobility between municipalities in Metro Vancouver, the VPD is liaising with other municipalities and the Province to regulate the sale and display of bear spray beyond Vancouver.

Subsequent to the implementation of the bylaw, there was a 25% reduction in youth violence offenses involving bear spray from August to December 2023, compared to the corresponding period in 2022. Likewise, there was a 24% decrease in such incidents involving adults during the same timeframe in 2023 compared to 2022.

⁹ <https://council.vancouver.ca/20230328/documents/r9.pdf>

PROPERTY CRIMES

Currently, property crimes in Vancouver are increasing back to historical baselines after experiencing a drop during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was predictable based on 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](#)).

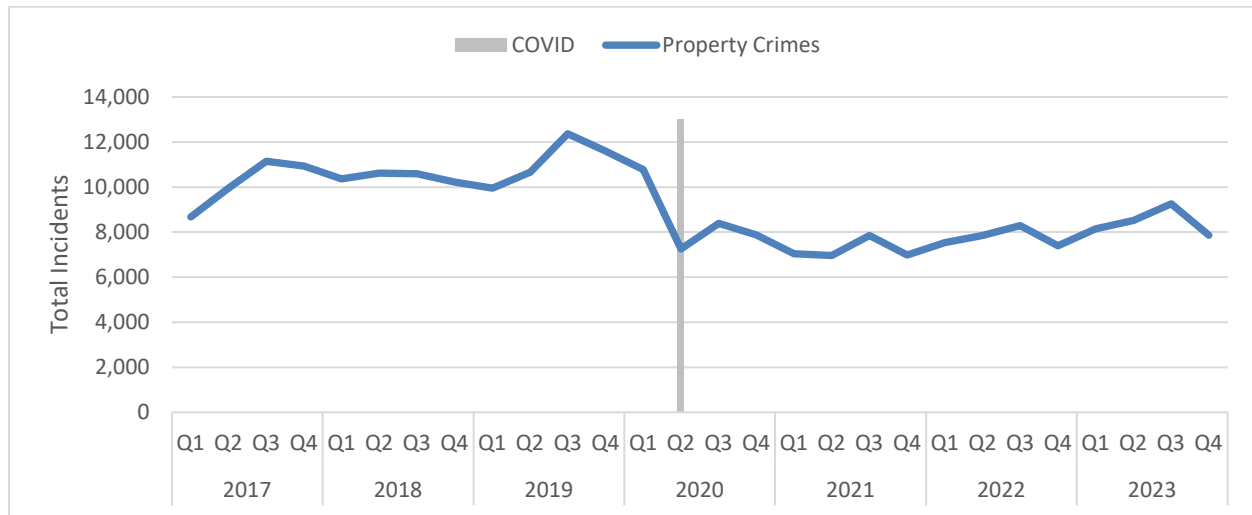
- Property crimes increased by 8.7% from 31,069 incidents in 2022 to 33,774 in 2023, a difference of 2,705 incidents.
- Property crimes increased in all four patrol districts and in 15 of the 24 Vancouver neighbourhoods (referred to as areas by CoV). In the Central Business District, they increased by 18.9%.
- Theft from auto (TFA) increased 1.5% from 7,068 incidents in 2022 to 7,172 in 2023. During the same period, motor vehicle theft decreased 17.8%, from 952 incidents in 2022 to 783 in 2023. Other types of theft, the most commonly reported property crime, was up 13.7%, from 11,048 incidents in 2022 to 12,566 in 2023.
- Break & enter (B&E) incidents reported to the VPD were down 6.9% from 3,187 incidents in 2022 to 2,968 in 2023.
- A reduction of 39.4% in abandoned calls likely contributed to increased property crime reporting. This is examined further on pages 18-19.

Table 5: Property Crimes

Criminal Offences	2022 vs. 2023			YoY		
	2022	2023	% Chg	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	% Chg
Property Crimes	31,069	33,774	8.7% ▲	7,394	7,865	6.4% ▲
B&E Total	3,187	2,968	-6.9% ▼	719	646	-10.2% ▼
B&E – Business	1,973	1,814	-8.1% ▼	420	387	-7.9% ▼
B&E – Residence	738	757	2.6% ▲	203	165	-18.7% ▼
B&E – Other	476	397	-16.6% ▼	96	94	-2.1% ▼
Theft of Motor Vehicle	952	783	-17.8% ▼	208	160	-23.1% ▼
Theft from Auto	7,068	7,172	1.5% ▲	1,601	1,623	1.4% ▲
Theft	11,048	12,566	13.7% ▲	2,648	3,007	13.6% ▲
Possession of Stolen Property	328	419	27.7% ▲	88	99	12.5% ▲
Fraud	3,099	3,573	15.3% ▲	834	848	1.7% ▲
Arson	340	345	1.5% ▲	90	57	-36.7% ▼
Mischief	5,047	5,948	17.9% ▲	1,206	1,425	18.2% ▲

There was a significant sustained decrease in property crimes after the pandemic was declared near the end of Q1 2020. When comparing Q4 2022 (7,394) to Q4 2023 (7,865), property crimes have increased 6.4%.

Figure 4: Property Crimes by Quarter Since 2017



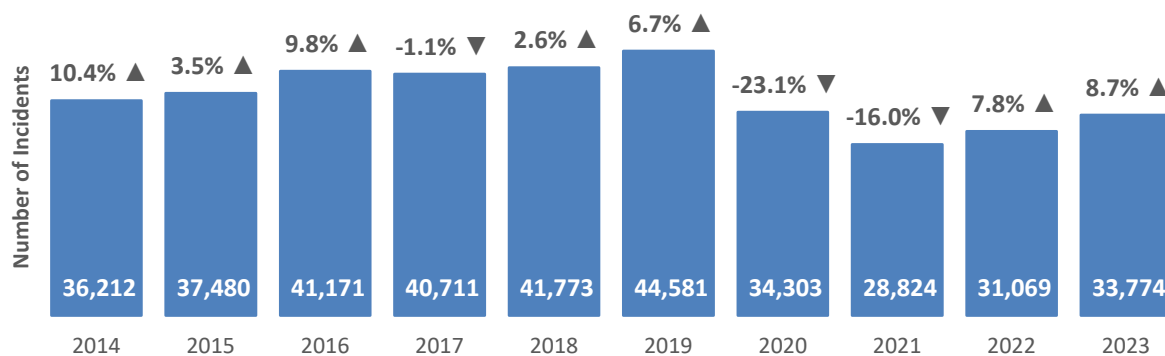
As shown in the following table, there was an increase in property crimes in all four patrol districts in 2023. District 2 experienced the largest increase (15.6%).

Table 6: Property Crimes by District

Property Crimes	2022 vs. 2023			YoY		
	2022	2023	% Chg	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	% Chg
District 1	9,133	10,503	15.0% ▲	2,232	2,458	10.1% ▲
District 2	6,429	7,429	15.6% ▲	1,591	1,716	7.9% ▲
District 3	7,278	7,528	3.4% ▲	1,760	1,837	4.4% ▲
District 4	7,227	7,476	3.4% ▲	1,544	1,725	11.7% ▲
Location Undetermined	1,002	838	-16.4% ▼	267	129	-51.7% ▼
Total	31,069	33,774	8.7% ▲	7,394	7,865	6.4% ▲

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

Figure 5: 10-Year Trend for Property Crime



PROPERTY CRIME TRENDS

Fraud

Fraud cases reported to the VPD increased by 15.3% in 2023 when compared to the same period in 2022. According to [Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada](#)¹⁰, younger Canadians are the largest cohort victimized by financial fraud. This is due to their financial exposure to banking and managing credit cards online. [TD Bank Group's](#) 2023 survey also found that 62% of Canadians are being targeted by financial fraudsters and 78% do not have confidence in their ability to identify scams.

Cybercrimes

Cybercrimes are committed online daily and represent persisting threats to personal privacy, financial security, and organizational reputation. The Cybercrime Unit is carefully monitoring the emergence of new AI technologies as they can have a significant impact on cybercrimes.

Prior to year-end 2023, there was a lack of clear and relevant legal framework for investigators to search and seize digital assets. In 2023, new provisions were added to the Criminal Code, Section 462.321, to allow for the seizure of digital assets, and in some cases, to return those assets to the victims of increasingly common crimes involving cryptocurrency.¹¹

Socially engineered phishing attacks are becoming increasingly difficult to detect due to AI technology creating convincing AI generated images, audio, and videos. Legal issues and its use in Canadian society continues to be monitored by VPD as well as the federal government.

Cybercrime incidents increased by 10.7% in 2023 (2,892) compared to 2022 (2,612). Vancouver victims of cybercrime reported total losses of \$48.20M in 2023. This is 74.6% higher than the \$27.61M in losses reported in 2022. Frauds involving cryptocurrencies and extortion accounted for \$8.93M in losses in 2023. This is 18.0% lower than the losses of \$10.89M reported in 2022.

Graffiti

Graffiti is often localized to certain neighbourhoods and impacts feelings of safety. People who commit graffiti mischief are prone to shoplifting to acquire spray paint needed to deface property.¹² Also, graffiti is an expensive offence to clean-up for both residential and business owners. Graffiti was up 29.6% in 2023 (1,251) compared to 2022 (965).

¹⁰ <https://www.cpacanada.ca/en/the-cpa-profession/about-cpa-canada/media-centre/2023/february/cpa-canada-fraud-survey-2023>

¹¹ <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/charte-charte/c47.html>

¹² <https://popcenter.asu.edu/content/graffiti-0>

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 other community service providers 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 Apprehensions (Emergency Procedures)

Under Section 28 of the MHA, “a police officer or constable may apprehend and immediately take a person to a physician or nurse practitioner for examination if satisfied from personal observations, or information received, that the person is acting in a manner likely to endanger that person’s own safety or the safety of others, and is apparently a person with a mental disorder.”¹³

Form 4 MHA Apprehensions (Section 22 Involuntary Admissions)

Under Section 22 of the MHA, a physician or nurse practitioner may complete a Form 4 medical certificate for involuntary admission. The medical certificate allows a person with a mental disorder 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 unless a second examination by another physician is completed which allows the designated facility to detain the person involuntarily for up to one month after date of admission, or longer if another reassessment is necessary.

Form 21 MHA Apprehensions (Section 41 Unauthorized Absences)

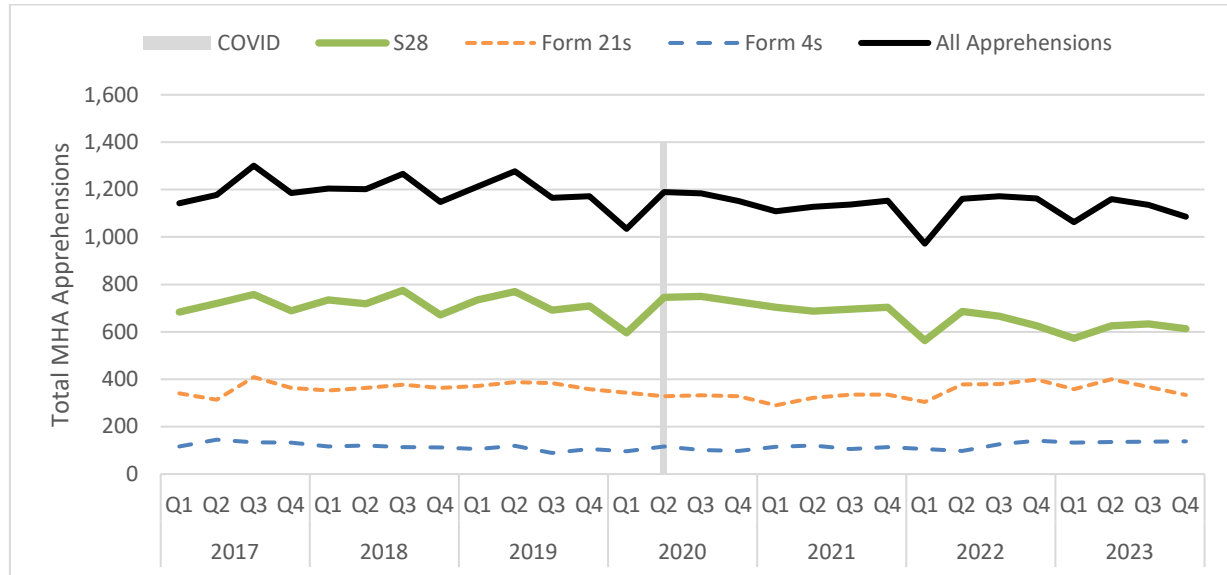
Under Section 41 of the MHA, a Form 21 Director’s Warrant allows a director or designate to recall a patient back to a designated facility. A recall would occur when a person who is on extended leave living in community under certain imposed conditions does not abide by the conditions (e.g., failing to take required medication). A Form 21 may also be issued if a patient leaves a designated facility without permission (e.g., absent without leave or AWOL).

¹³ https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96288_01

Trends

The following figure shows how Mental Health apprehensions fluctuated between 2017 and 2023.

Figure 6: Mental Health Act Apprehensions by Quarter Since 2017



Overall, Section 28 MHA apprehensions decreased by 3.8%, from 2,540 in 2022 to 2,443 in 2023. These incidents involved 1,866 unique individuals. As shown by the following table, 512 of these individuals, or 27.4%, have been apprehended more than once in the last four years.

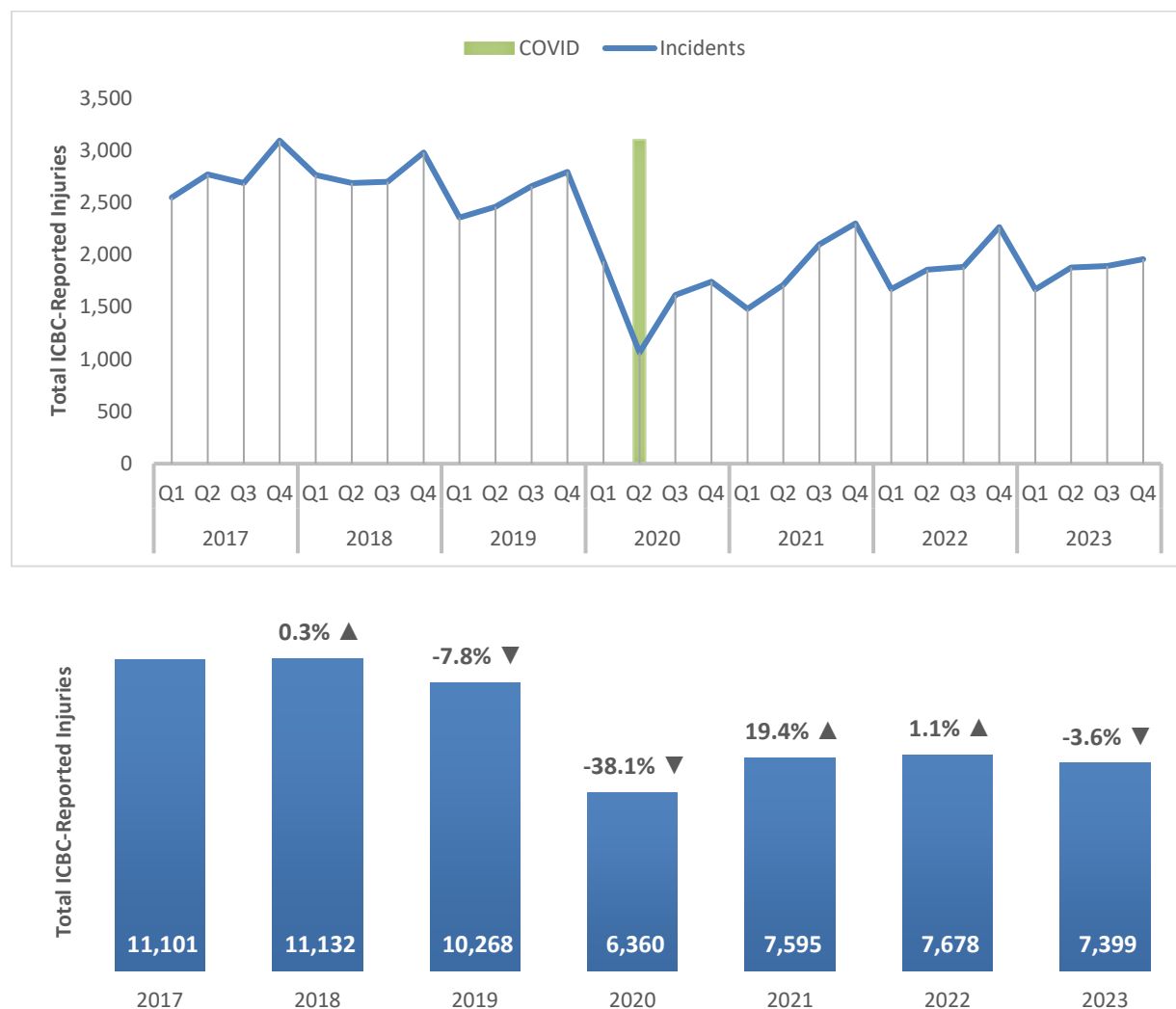
Table 7: MHA Section 28 Apprehensions

MHA Section 28 Apprehensions	2022	2023	% Change
# of apprehensions	2,540	2,443	-3.8% ▼
# of unique individuals apprehended	1,896	1,866	-1.6% ▼
# of individuals previously apprehended in the last 4 years	578	512	-11.4% ▼
% of individuals previously apprehended	30.5%	27.4%	-10.0% ▼

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. The most recent data shows that there were 7,399 ICBC reported motor vehicle incidents with injuries in 2023.¹⁴ This was down slightly relative to the same period in 2022 (7,678). There were 16 traffic fatalities in 2023 compared to 19 in 2022.

Figure 7: ICBC-Reported Motor Vehicle Incidents with Injuries by Quarter and Year Since 2017



¹⁴ ICBC updated their system to determine whether a pedestrian or cyclist was involved in a claim. As a result, crash data may be higher than previously reported. People have up to two years to submit a claim.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for service (CFS) include calls to 9-1-1 for emergency assistance, non-emergency calls for service, on-view incidents, and online crime reporting. E-Comm abandoned calls for service are calls from the public to the non-emergency line managed by E-Comm that were attempted but eventually were abandoned by the caller. E-Comm has implemented strategies to strengthen and improve their services, providing monthly updates to police and government partners. However, the public is still experiencing long delays and the undercounting of crime leads to an underestimation of the true demand for policing in Vancouver.

There were 240,270 calls for service in 2023. This was up 10.0% compared to 2022 (218,447). Abandoned calls on the non-emergency line are down 39.4% when comparing 2023 (55,223) to 2022 (91,193). This is illustrated by the following figure and accompanying table.

Figure 8: Calls for Service by Quarter Since 2014

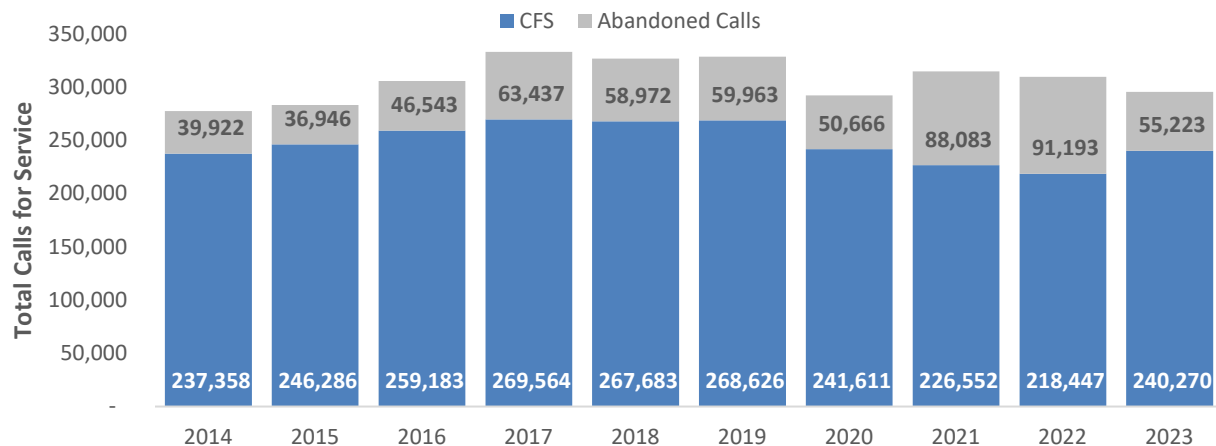


Table 8: Calls for Service

	2022	2023	% Chg
Total Calls for Service (CFS) and Abandoned Calls	309,640	295,493	-4.6% ▼
Abandoned Calls	91,193	55,223	-39.4% ▼
Calls for Service (CFS)	218,447	240,270	10.0% ▲
9-1-1	76,691	78,036	1.8% ▲
Non-emergency line	74,531	95,647	28.3% ▲
On-view by police	38,186	39,539	3.5% ▲
Online reporting	15,987	14,808	-7.4% ▼
Other*	13,052	12,240	-6.2% ▼

* Includes calls for service generated by VPD public service counter staff.

E-Comm Abandoned Calls for Service

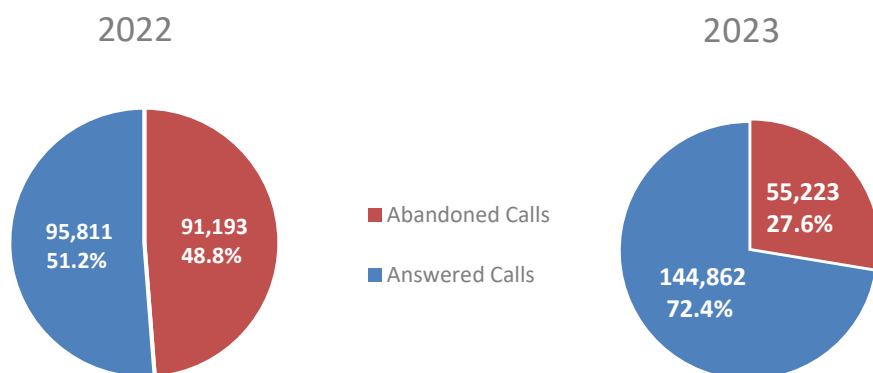
Abandoned non-emergency calls cause significant concerns as this has a negative impact on the public, and the reputation of affected police departments using E-Comm. Callers often do not distinguish E-Comm from the police department they are trying to reach. Abandoned calls also results in undercounting of crime leading to an underestimation of the true demand and need for policing in Vancouver.

In May 2023, E-Comm implemented a pilot project utilizing AI technology on the VPD non-emergency line where callers can interact with a digital agent. The digital agent interacts with callers in a conversational manner to gather or provide information, and route calls accordingly. This technology redirected many calls to other information resources, helping callers get faster answers and allowing call-takers to prioritize calls requiring a human response.

The VPD continues to be the test agency in BC for this AI technology and it is likely the technology will be expanded to other jurisdictions. This software quickly and seamlessly connects callers through various reporting mechanisms, and has the potential to increase recorded calls for service by reducing delays on the non-emergency line. E-Comm has also trained a specific team of non-emergency call-takers who are primarily working weekdays during the daytime.

The following figure breaks down the volume of calls to the non-emergency line managed by E-Comm in 2022 and 2023.

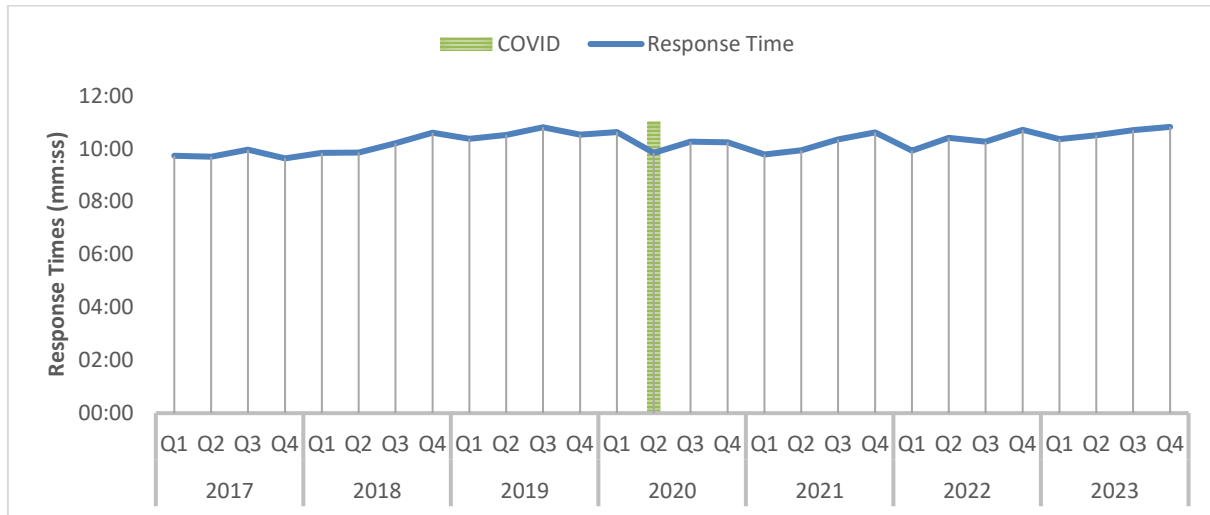
Figure 9: Calls to the Non-Emergency Line Managed by E-Comm



PRIORITY 1 RESPONSE TIMES

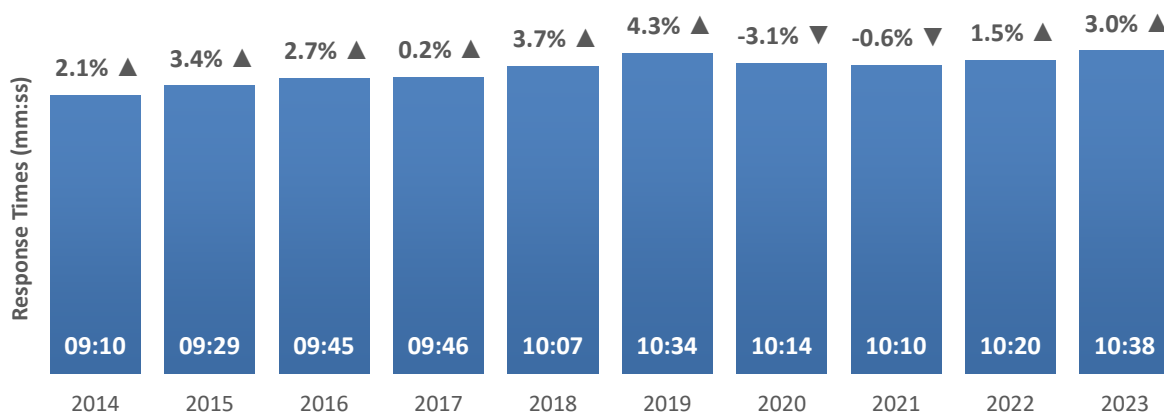
A priority 1 (P1) classification indicates that an incident or call for service requires an immediate police response. Empirical evidence shows that P1 response times are impacted by changes in traffic patterns throughout the day, including during rush hour traffic. They are also impacted by increased density and traffic congestion over time, as well as workload pressures on frontline officers.

Figure 10: Average P1 Response Time by Quarter Since 2017



With the exception of the first 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been consistent year-over-year increases in the average P1 response time. Vancouver's average P1 response time in 2023 (10:38) was 18 seconds (3.0%) slower than the same period in 2022 (10:20). Since 2014, the average P1 response time has increased by 16.0% as shown by the figure below.

Figure 11: 10-Year Trend for Response Times



Compliments Report (December 2023 - February 2024)				
Date	From	Member(s)	Synopsis	Excerpt from Letters
December 20, 2023	[citizen]	Cst. Kim Cst. Lloyd	Appreciative for transporting the author to St. Pauls Hospital when she broke her leg.	"You made a painful experience much less so because of your calm and caring support."
December 23, 2023	Co-Chair, VPD SOGI Committee	VPD Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Liaison Committee	Thankful for work on the VPD SOGI Committee in 2023.	"You are all very busy yet still make time to participate; this underscores your commitment to improving community-police relationships."
December 27, 2023	Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services	Chief Palmer	Thankful for the VPD's participation in the TASER 7 Working Group.	"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your police agency's participation in the Field Trial and associated Working Group."
December 29, 2023	[citizen]	Cst. Hauser	Impressed with Cst. Hauser's professionalism when he responded to a call for help involving the author's family member.	"Cst. Hauser was very professional and helpful. I hope that he will be rewarded for his excellence."
December 30, 2023	[citizen]	Chief Palmer	Appreciative of package received after her husband retired Inspector Kristjanson passed away.	"Thank you so much for sending the photos and his history with the VPD. It was very interesting to read and I'm sure my boys will treasure them forever."
January 02, 2024	[citizen]	VPD	Grateful for the work of all Vancouver Police Officers.	"You do an unimagineable job in the best of times but even more in this day and age and my heart goes out to you all!"
January 05, 2024	[citizen]	VPD	Appreciative of officers working in the DTES.	"It is a shame that more people do not make it known how important you are, you all deserve more credit. Lastly, your move to pilot body cameras on the officers is a great plus for us all, congratulations."
January 05, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Mardon Cst. Wong	Grateful for officers assisting the author's elderly father-in-law who was lost.	"A big thank you to Constable Wong and his partner who helped my father-in-law get home safely on New Year's Eve. You were both so patient and respectful!"
January 08, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Isaac	Impressed with how the officer handled a difficult individual at a JJ Bean.	"It was going to get out of hand and Roman (I did not get his badge number) was so compassionate and dealt with this volatile individual extremely well."
January 09, 2024	Bar Watch	Chief Palmer DCC Chow	Thankful for attendance at a recent Bar Watch meeting.	"Your messages were perfect and much appreciated."
January 10, 2024	Chief, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services	Cst. Mattison VPD	Grateful for support given to injured firefighter at 50 E Cordova St fire.	"I was on scene and Officer Mattison's actions and support to assist prior to BCEHS arrival and during the assessment when they did arrive greatly helped our team and especially our injured firefighter."
January 11, 2024	Loss Prevention Officer	VPD	Letter of appreciation to VPD as a Loss Prevention Officer.	"The one thing that has consistently got me through hard times and has boosted my faith in humanity is the munificent and resolute willingness and hard work that you and your colleagues have offered our communities."

Date	From	Member(s)	Synopsis	Excerpt from Letters
January 12, 2024	[citizen]	Ceremonial Unit Cst. Bennett Insp. Bernardin Sgt. Canning Retired Sgt. Donovan Retired Insp. Kajander Cst. Low Chaplain Turner	Grateful for the VPD's support after her father's passing and during the Celebration of Life.	"My family and I truly thank everyone who was such a key part in the day and I know my Dad was smiling down with pride that day."
January 15, 2024	[citizen]	Chief Palmer VPD	Thank you card to the VPD.	"Thank you so much for you and our Vancouver Police giving us a safe place for living."
January 19, 2024	Gastown Residents Association	VPD	Thankful for VPD's help with activists in Crab Park.	"We were very thankful to see the VPD and Park Rangers on-site to defuse and refuse the intentions of the activists. Thank you!"
January 22, 2024	Paramedic, BCEHS	Cst. Da Silva	Impressed with how the officer worked with paramedics to help a man experiencing a mental health crisis.	"He showed compassion, care and built a great relationship with the patient in a way that exemplifies what it means to protect and serve ones in the community."
January 22, 2024	[citizen]	Special Cst. Richardson	Impressed with the officer's friendly demeanor while working in Traffic Authority.	"For some people it's not what they do, but how they are. In the brief time I had with him, and in the area, he seemed quite welcoming and friendly to all those that passed by."
January 23, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Liu	Grateful for officer's help in returning the author's missing wallet.	"His actions not only alleviated my distress but have also showcased the exemplary dedication he brings to the role."
January 25, 2024	[citizen]	Unidentified D1 Officers	Thankful to officers who helped author get home after his scooter died.	"Unfortunately I don't know their names but I am very grateful for their assistance."
January 29, 2024	Executive Director, CACP Executive Director, BCACP	Chief Palmer	Impressed by BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) Leadership Conference.	"The BCACP/CACP Police Leadership Conference was a great success in no small part due to the calibre of our speakers."
January 30, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Prebushewski	Appreciative of officer's professionalism during interactions about a driving ticket.	"I want to honor him as a kind, caring and professional person who does his job well. I think you are lucky to have an officer like him as part of the VPD."
January 30, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Rankin Cst. Singh	Grateful for officers who stayed with son after a car accident.	"Both officers were genuinely concerned and very professional. I've had very few interactions with police over the years, but these two definitely went well above and beyond."
January 31, 2024	Insp. High	Cst. Kumar	Thankful for officer's response during a motor vehicle incident involving a student.	"Cst. Kumar was pivotal in gaining control of this incident and providing a sense of order for the school and the investigative process. I am thankful for his service."
January 31, 2024	CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver	Chief Palmer	Thank you for attendance at a event.	"Thank you once again for your unwavering support and compassion."
February 01, 2024	Vice President, Nigeria-Canada Association of BC	Chief Palmer	Appreciative for his attendance at their year end gala for the Nigerian Canadian community.	"The gala night was a tremendous success partly due to your presence as our honored guest at the event."

Date	From	Member(s)	Synopsis	Excerpt from Letters
February 02, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Addison Cst. Cavan	Grateful for officers conduct during a difficult situation in their apartment building.	"Our experience with them has changed our perception of the police as I personally have never witnessed two individuals so determined to spend time with us and understand our plight."
February 02, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Addison Cst. Cavan	Grateful for officers conduct during a difficult situation in their apartment building.	"We can't thank them enough as they have given us the peace of mind that we so wanted for the longest time."
February 03, 2024	[citizen]	Insp. Bernardin Retired Insp. Newman Sgt. Frame Sgt. Schellenberg Sgt. Taylor Sgt. Tuininga VPD Piper	Thankful for attendance at service for Grant "Tugger" Thompson.	"I wanted to take the time to express my appreciation for you and the VPD and especially for the following members and retired members as part of the Ceremonial Marching Unit for their attendance at the service in Langley today, they did a great job."
February 04, 2024	Nanaimo Fire Rescue	VPD	Appreciative of the VPD members who competed in our Harbour City Badge Battle in Nanaimo.	"They were all excellent VPD representatives and should be proud of their efforts. It would not have been the same event without their presence."
February 04, 2024	[citizen]	Sgt. McGuinness	Congratulations on being named VPD Officer of the Year.	"I wished to extend my congratulations to her... to be recognized is extra special."
February 05, 2024	Executive Director, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre	Chief Palmer VPD	Thank you for the VPD's support to the Jewish community.	"I cannot tell you how meaningful it was to arrive at our doors each day to see not only a squad car parked up front but often members of your team inside interacting with the community..."
February 06, 2024	[citizen]	VPD Richmond RCMP	Grateful for steps taken to keep the author's family safe.	"Truly, they have gone above and beyond to protect myself, my family, and the people in the community."
February 07, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Hall Cst. Cracknell	Impressed with Marine Unit officers who shared boating safety information during an interaction.	"They are very kind and professional. I learned the lesson and will remember all the safety tips and regulations that they told me."
February 07, 2024	Peer Support Worker, Downtown Eastside Womens Centre	Cst. MacAdam Cst. Tuininga	Impressed with officers who worked with the author to help a victim.	"I'm thoroughly impressed with the officers willingness to collaborate with myself, and their professionalism displayed to both our staff members and the youth."
February 11, 2024	[citizen]	Chief Palmer VPD	Thank you for VPD support of their organized rally.	"Just wanted to thank you & all your officers who worked very hard to make sure our rally was smooth & people were safe."
February 12, 2024	[citizen]	Cst. Wigglesworth	Appreciative for the great service provided during a check for well-being.	"Please accept my heartfelt thanks to the officer on site. Her professionalism and compassion made a significant impact during a time of concern for my family."
February 13, 2024	Moberly Elementary Strathcona Elementary Mount Pleasant Elementary Vancouver Technical Templeton Secondary	Vancouver Police Community Fund	Thank you for donations from the Vancouver Police Community Fund which schools used to purchase much needed supplies.	"Thank you so much for helping our school out, we are all so appreciative of the donation and it has made a big difference to all of us."

Date	From	Member(s)	Synopsis	Excerpt from Letters
February 13, 2024	A/Commander, RCMP E Division	VPD Gang Crime Unit	Grateful for collaboration with VPD Gang Crime Unit on a file.	"This is just one example of many that truly demonstrates our collaborative and collective approach towards creating safer communities."
February 14, 2024	Iran Democratic Association	Planning Assessment Team VPD	Thank you for VPD support of their organized rally.	"We appreciate your professionalism, valuable advice and patience during this entire ordeal."
February 14, 2024	Co-Founders of Foundation for a Path Forward	Chief Palmer Insp. Yung Diversity, Community & Indigenous Relations Section	Thank you for hosting a Muslim community meeting.	"Our community leaders appreciate the dialogue and value the continued partnership in addressing our safety concerns."



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

REPORT DATE: February 20, 2024
BOARD MEETING DATE: February 29, 2024
BOARD REPORT # 2402G06
Regular

TO: **Vancouver Police Board**
FROM: Simon Demers, Director, Planning, Research & Audit Section
SUBJECT: **2023 Street Checks Audit Report**

RECOMMENDATION:

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

SUMMARY:

As part of its governance and oversight responsibilities, the Board has committed to auditing street checks and annually releasing street check data that is broken down by gender and ethnicity. In addition, Provincial Policing Standards require police departments in British Columbia (BC) to conduct an annual audit of street checks.

In 2023, there were two proactive street checks involving one person each. A public safety purpose was articulated in one of the street checks but not the other.

POLICY:

BC Provincial Policing Standard (BCPPS) [6.2.1 Police Stops](#) ("Standard")
Regulations and Procedures Manual (RPM) Policy 1.6.53 *Street Checks* ("Policy")

BACKGROUND:

In September 2018, the Board committed to auditing street checks and annually releasing street check data that is broken down by gender and ethnicity. On January 15, 2020, the new Standard came into effect, along with RPM policy 1.6.53.

An inaugural Street Check Audit Report was presented to the Board in February 2021. Street check audit reports have been presented annually in February since then. This is the fourth audit report presented to the Board.

Policy

The Policy defines a street check as “any *voluntary* interaction between a police officer and a person that is more than a casual conversation and which impedes the person’s movement.” Street checks occur when officers observe people behaving in a manner that reasonably raises a public safety concern. For example, the person’s suspicious behaviour may be a precursor to an illegal activity or there might be a concern over the health or safety of the person. Where an interaction is initiated by a member of the public, as a call for service for example, the subsequent interaction would not generally be considered a street check.

This definition is consistent with the definition promoted by the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP in its [2021 Review of the RCMP’s Policies and Procedures regarding Street Checks Report](#): “street check means a voluntary interaction with the public, initiated by the police officer, where the police officer makes a request for personal identifying information to support a law enforcement purpose.”

Importantly, not all police stops are street checks. If the police have a lawful basis to demand personal identifying information, the interaction is not a street check. In such cases, members are authorized to request or demand, collect, and record a person’s identifying information. For example, the driver of a vehicle may be detained and must identify themselves when requested by a police officer under provincial traffic laws. Many provincial liquor or cannabis laws also require people to identify themselves in certain situations. In the case of a voluntary street check interaction, however, the person is not required to answer any questions, is not compelled to provide personal identifying information, and is free to leave.

Standard

The Standard requires police departments in BC to conduct an annual audit of street checks. This annual audit must address the following:

- (a) whether the scoring is appropriate to the circumstances of the interaction;
- (b) whether the reasons for the interaction and the request for identifying information have been articulated sufficiently;
- (c) whether the inclusion of identifying information in the record is justifiable;
- (d) provide direction to the officer if the interaction is not consistent with the RPM; and
- (e) ensure that any identifying information is removed if either the initial collection or ongoing retention of the record is not justifiable.

An important requirement of the Standard is to assess if each street check record is supported by an articulated public safety purpose. Public safety purposes include, but are not limited to: checking the well-being of a person, preventing property crime, preventing violent crime, investigating suspicious behaviour indicative of criminal activity, locating missing persons, ensuring public safety during large events, and protecting victims.

DISCUSSION:

In 2023, VPD officers conducted two proactive street checks involving one person each.

One street check was done to assess the wellbeing of an individual slumped in a doorway in a lane. The other street check required additional documentation and articulation to meet Provincial Standards. For clarity, the second street check was lawful and done in good faith but lacked some necessary administrative documentation. The officers who conducted the second street check were provided additional education and coaching regarding the Policy and Provincial Policing Standards regarding street checks.

The person checked for their wellbeing was an Indigenous male and the other was a white male.

In accordance with the VPD's retention policy for street checks, these two street check records will be retained for two years. They will then be purged permanently, unless a street check becomes a necessary record as part of an investigation and therefore potentially subject to disclosure.

Since the Policy came into effect in 2020, the number of street checks conducted by VPD members has decreased steadily – from 75 in 2020 to 11 in 2021, eight in 2022, and two in 2023.

Street Check Training

All sworn VPD staff have been trained to follow the Standard enacted by the Province in 2020 as well as the accompanying Policy. In January 2020, training was provided to all VPD sworn members regarding the new Policy. This training reflected the new Standard regarding police stops.

Also in January 2020, the new RPM policy itself was disseminated to all VPD sworn members via the PowerDMS platform. PowerDMS records when members have reviewed and electronically signed the messages, and allows the VPD to track when members received significant policy or training updates.

Experienced officers hired by VPD and new recruits are also trained on the Standard and Policy. This training is provided to experienced officers when they are hired. Recruits receive the training after graduation, along with other important training topics such as autism awareness, missing person investigations and handcuffing. This training occurs at the VPD, just after the recruits have graduated from the Police Academy at the JIBC but before they are deployed as patrol officers.

CONCLUSION:

The VPD Policy and Provincial Standard both prohibit randomly or arbitrarily conducted street checks. Lawfully conducted street checks are an important public safety tool and are authorized, provided they comply with policy and serve a specific public safety purpose.

This report is provided to the Board for information, as requested by the Board and as required by the Standard. This report reflects the shared commitment by the VPD and Board to release street check data annually and ensure that street checks are not conducted randomly or arbitrarily.

Author: Tim Szkopek-Szkopowski

Date: February 13, 2024

Submitting Executive Member:

Deputy Chief Howard Chow

Date: February 13, 2024