



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



Crime Severity Index - 2024

ISC: ☒ Unclassified ☐ Protected A ☐ Protected B

Date | 2025 08-20

Submitted for

☒ Information only ☐ Discussion ☐ Decision / Approval

Type of Meeting

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Executive Committee | ☒ Commission Regular Meeting |
| ☐ Finance, Audit, & Infrastructure Committee | ☒ Public Session |
| ☐ Police Personnel & Culture Committee | ☐ In-camera with CPS |
| ☐ Policing Services Committee | |
| ☐ Workplace Review Steering Committee | |

Reason for Report

- ☐ Obligation under the *Police Act* or *Police Service Regulation*
- ☐ Obligation under Commission Policy
- ☒ Report on program and/or update on progress
- ☐ Response to Motion or Commission Inquiry
- ☐ Other:

Recommendations

1. This report be received by the CPC for information.

Background / Analysis / Considerations / Next Steps

The Crime Severity Index (CSI) is a statistical measure released by Statistics Canada annually (July) to assess and compare crime levels across jurisdictions and over time. This index incorporates both the volume and severity of reported crimes, assigning weights based on sentencing data. For example, homicide carries a weight of 8,200, whereas theft is weighted at 29, reflecting the relative seriousness of these offences.

National Trends

In the most recent reporting period, the national CSI stands at 77.9, representing a 4% decrease from the previous year. This marks the first decline in four years and is attributed to decreases in homicides, break and enters, and auto thefts.

Calgary-Specific Insights

Calgary's CSI has declined for the second consecutive year, currently measured at 63.3. This represents an approximate 15% reduction from 2023, primarily driven by significant decreases in property crimes, notably break and enters and auto theft. Additionally, reductions in homicides, sexual offences, and robberies have contributed to the overall decline in the city's CSI. The CSI violence statistics do include domestic-related incidents however Statistics Canada only includes intimate partner violence. The Calgary Police Service has a much broader definition of domestic violence that includes parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and other extended family members. Calgary domestic violence statistics show a slight increase in both the count and rate – this increase can be attributed to a rise in the number of common assaults, uttering threats and harassing communication offences.

There have also been increases in thefts, specifically shoplifting – this trend mirrors the national trend where many jurisdictions have seen organized high-end retail shoplifting incidents with racks of items being stolen. Subsistence thefts or stealing to food and clothing items to meet the necessities of life is also believed to be a driver of thefts.

Calgary Hate Crime

Statistics Canada's official documentation indicates 211 hate crimes associated to the Calgary CMA, with 202 attributed to the city of Calgary resulting in a 42% increase over the previous year. This increase is not correct as it has been identified that there was a breakdown in processes where both hate crime and hate incidents have been reported. These files are being reviewed by the Hate Crimes Unit and final counts for actual hate crimes is forthcoming. It is anticipated that the count for Calgary will be like that of 2023 that stands at a 114 as the preliminary count for 2024 is 116. Once these are confirmed, Statistics Canada will be contacted, and numbers will be updated on all official jurisdictional tables. Hate crimes relating to race/ethnicity and religion account for the largest proportion of these incidents and are primarily reflective of the geopolitical unrest in the middle east.

Jurisdictional Comparisons

When compared to other major Canadian cities, Calgary's CSI remains below that of Edmonton and several other urban centres. Variations in CSI across jurisdictions may be attributed to a range of factors, including socio-demographic characteristics, unemployment rates, and differences in policing strategies and priorities.

Perception of Crime

Despite the decreases in the CSI, people increasingly report that they do not feel safe. Perceptions of safety are not directly correlated to crime statistics, rather they tend to be a reflection of personal experiences, traditional news coverage or social media, and social disorder, including loitering, disturbances, mental health incidents, and drug use, that

research shows are correlated with people's perception of safety. It is important that both crime statistics and perception of safety are addressed.

Importance of the CSI

The CSI is an important input to CPS' operational and strategic planning as it provides a gauge over time and allows us to compare to other jurisdictions. The CSI helps to identify our priorities and provides insight into how Calgary is changing in terms of the types of crime demands, and corresponding operational and investigative resourcing CPS requires now and points to trending for future planning, as well as insight into best practice for crime issues. It raises awareness of crime issues that might be specific to Calgary, where a localized response is required - or it may highlight national trends where broader strategies involve multi-jurisdictional task forces, legislation, or policy.

Attachments (if any)

Crime Severity Index PowerPoint

Approval signatures

AUTHOR signature:

Rebecca Davidson

2025-07-31

Rebecca Davidson, Manager

Date

Corporate Data & Analytics, Strategic
Services

REVIEWED BY signature:

Sandra Jacobi

2025-08-18

Sandra Jacobi, Director

Date

Strategic Services, Bureau of
Organizational Performance

EXECUTIVE SPONSOR signature:

Katherine Murphy

2025-08-21

Katherine Murphy, Chief Strategy Officer

Date

Bureau of Organizational Performance

CHIEF OF POLICE signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. N. De" or similar, written in a cursive style.

2025-08-26

Date