

Understanding the Reported Statistics

The Planning and Research Unit of the Saskatoon Police Service provides accurate statistics on this site. However, monthly summary statistics are subject to change or may differ slightly from the previous month's data due to a number of considerations.

Note: SPS reports on the number of “offences” – ie: one occurrence can include multiple offences.

The statistical data used for these reports are gathered from SIMS (Saskatoon Information Management System) records. As these systems are considered "live", the offences reported here can change on a daily basis. For example, an assault can become a homicide. Also, as these numbers are current as of a certain date, monthly totals may not add up to yearly totals. For example, a sexual assault can be reported months after it occurred. Crime reported are “founded” statistics only, and do not include “unfounded” incidents. An incident is “unfounded” if it has been determined through investigation that no violations of the law took place at that time or location.

The following data considerations must be taken into account when interpreting these statistics:

1. Ongoing Data Refinement

- periodic enhancements to our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system;
- late reporting of crime incidents;
- charges that have been investigated and reclassified as unfounded;
- reclassification of Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offences; or
- reclassification of an offence while an investigation is ongoing. For example, a vehicle may be reported as stolen but ended up being borrowed by a family member. Similarly, a report may be reclassified as “unfounded”.

Readers should exercise caution when making comparisons between historical data and current data (i.e. previous year to this year), as data for the historic period will include late reported offences, but data for the current period may not, at this time. Based on an historical view of Saskatoon Police Service data, using “rolling” statistics usually results in a 0.5% variance in crime. A “report run date” will be included on each report.

2. Comparing Crime Statistics

It is important to note that data collection and reporting differs from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. No independent validation or audit of data is conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) for participating agencies, therefore the completeness & accuracy of SPS coding vs. others may be different. This may result in differences when comparing Saskatoon crime statistics to other Police Agencies and Statistics Canada.

3. Changes to Statistics Canada Offence Codes

Statistics Canada redefined several offence codes in 2008, including crime within the Sexual Violations category. In this particular case, the result was additional crime being counted in the *Sexual Violations* category, and fewer crimes being counted in the *Other Criminal Code* category. Therefore, it is important that caution is taken when comparing 2009 statistics to previous years. These

considerations must be taken into account when comparing statistics presented, and account for inconsistencies that may be identified. The most recent data published will reflect these changes.

** Traffic Collisions include all reported except for non hit and run collisions reported at the Service Centre, as these did not require police attendance or are considered minor in nature.

4. Reports on Community Crime Statistics

Prior to January 2009, Community reports were generated for some, not all, Saskatoon neighbourhoods using an approach in which "quad" sections of Saskatoon (historically used in mapping by the Police Service and consisting of areas of several square blocks) were superimposed on city of Saskatoon neighbourhoods. This was the best approach prior to 2009 given the available technology. However, quad boundaries were not a precise match and, most often, overlapped actual neighbourhood boundaries. This meant that the community reports recorded more events than actually occurred within the strict boundaries of a neighbourhood.

Beginning in 2009, new technology has been introduced at the Police Service which allows reporting of all Saskatoon neighbourhoods, and which provides proper alignment with actual neighbourhood boundaries. Since there is no longer overlapping of boundaries as a result of the old "quad" system, the numbers of events recorded for any particular neighbourhood are far more accurate. Users should exercise caution when comparing historical (ie: pre 2009) data to current data for the reasons listed above.

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