



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

REPORT DATE: October 13, 2020
BOARD MEETING DATE: October 29, 2020
BOARD REPORT # 2010P01
Regular

TO: **Vancouver Police Board**

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

SUBJECT: Quarter 3, 2020 Year-to-Date Key Performance Indicators Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

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

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

DISCUSSION:

The following is a summary of the Quarter 3 (Q3) Year-to-Date (YTD) 2020 KPI Report (all results compare January 1 – September 30, 2020 with the results for the same period in 2019). Of note, 2020 marks a historical anomaly due to the global pandemic and, as a result, has statistically affected metrics such as crime and P1 response times. The pandemic has resulted in:

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

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

Violent Crime

In 2020, violent crime is on par with 2019 (declining marginally by one incident – 4,396 incidents in 2020 versus 4,397 incidents in 2019). Versus the previous five-year average (2015-2019), violent crime was 8.5% higher in 2020. The following provides more context and analysis:

Positive Results

- Sexual offences reported in 2020 decreased 5.2% versus 2019 (for offences that occurred in 2020 compared to those that occurred in 2019, sexual offences decreased by 14.1%).
- Robberies decreased by 6.1%.

Negative Results

- There were 14 incidents of culpable homicide in 2020 and nine in 2019. Of particular note is the fact that there were ten homicides between July 1 to September 30, and this is the most homicides in one quarter since the first quarter of 2009.
- Total assaults have increased by 1.8%, despite the fact that many bars in the Granville Entertainment District were closed or reduced their hours.
- The most serious types of assaults (i.e., “assault with a weapon or cause bodily harm” and “aggravated assault”) increased by 14.1%. Serious assaults against police officers have increased by 47%.
- Every VPD Patrol District experienced an increase in serious assaults, as did 19 of Vancouver’s 24 neighbourhoods.
- Neighbourhoods that have attracted significant public and media attention over the past five months have continued to see increases in serious assaults. The Central Business District, Strathcona, and the West End account for 67% of all reported serious assaults in Vancouver, and these three neighbourhoods have seen a combined increase of 9.2% (the West End has seen a 45.8% increase), while Chinatown has seen a 13.9% increase.
- Intimate Partner Violence is at an all-time high, 4.6% higher than 2019 (previous highest year). These files are very time-consuming for patrol officers, often consuming an entire shift.
- Hate crimes incidents increased 116%, including anti-Asian hate crime incidents that rose by 878%.

Property Crime

The number of total property crimes is 26,309 in 2020, down 20.2% from 2019 (32,977), and the following provides more context and analysis:

Positive Results

- Theft from automobile (TFA) incidents decreased by 37.0%, due to businesses being closed, less people driving during the initial months of the pandemic, and there being fewer vehicles to target for theft. TFAs are the single most frequent type of property crime, making up 30% of all types of property crime. As such, the decrease in TFAs greatly affected overall property crime results. In terms of workload, the decline in TFAs had little impact on the demand for VPD services, as TFAs are generally reported online and through E-Comm staff.

- Other thefts (e.g., shoplifting, etc.) decreased by 26.6%, due to many businesses being closed during the initial months of the pandemic. Such thefts comprise 27.6% of all property crime and, similar to TFAs, the decrease in other thefts affected overall property crime results.

Negative Results

- According to Statistics Canada's Crime Severity Index (CSI), the most serious categories of property crime are (in rank order) B&E, arson, and fraud.
- Total B&Es have increased by 15.0% and within that overall category, B&E to Business increased by 17.8%, due to businesses being partially or completely closed due to the pandemic.
- Arson incidents increased by 39.2%.
- Fraud incidents increased by 5.9%.

Crime in Neighbourhoods

Because the decrease to property crimes was a result of a decrease in TFAs and other thefts, and the subsequent effect that it has on skewing overall crime statistics, it is valuable to put such a decrease in context with overall trends across Vancouver. Also, as a reflection of public disorder issues across the city, there has been an increase in calls for service (CFS) related to street disorder (e.g., unwanted persons) of 8.0%, and the following breaks down notable issues experienced in various Vancouver neighbourhoods:

Three Block Radius around Strathcona Park – Encampment Location

- Street disorder CFS increased 51% (from 246 to 372)
- Total B&Es increased 36% (36 to 49)
- Total assaults increased 11% (35 to 39)
- Offensive weapons increased 140% (5 to 12)
- Arson increased 200% (2 to 6)
- Theft of automobile increased 19% (16 to 19)

Chinatown

- Street disorder CFS increased 9% (from 2,329 to 2,529)
- Serious assaults increased by 14% (72 to 82)
- B&E to Businesses increased 55% (51 to 79)
- Arson increased 41% (17 to 24)
- Mischief to property increased 24% (192 to 239)

Yaletown

- Street disorder CFS increased 9% (from 478 to 522)
- B&Es to Businesses increased 63% (30 to 49)
- Mischief to property increased 28% (36 to 46)
- Total assaults increased 14% (43 to 49)

Granville Street

- Arson increased 133% (from 12 to 28)
- Total B&Es increased 83% (84 to 154)
- Offensive weapons increased 100% (32 to 64)
- Mischief to property increased 23% (235 to 288)

Conclusion on Crime

As explained above, the decrease in overall crime in Vancouver is a result of a significant decrease in high frequency low-level property crimes – namely, TFAs and other thefts. These two categories comprise a combined 57% of all property crime and a combined 44% of all crime. It should be noted that theft is the second least serious type of property crime according to the CSI.

In contrast, it is noteworthy that the three most serious types of property crime – B&E, arson, and fraud – have all increased. While 16 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have seen a decrease in property crime due to the decline in TFAs and other thefts, the majority of neighbourhoods (16 of 24) have seen an increase in violent crime and an increase in offensive weapons incidents (13 of 24 neighbourhoods).

To address the observed increases in serious crime categories, the VPD has implemented a number of strategies to enhance public safety in Vancouver's neighbourhoods including:

- Reallocation of police resources
- Higher visibility of patrols (i.e., foot patrols, bicycle officers) in specific neighbourhoods
- Deployment of public safety cameras in high crime areas
- Patrol Division-based projects targeting problem locations and chronic offenders
- Investigation Division-based projects targeting organized crime and violent offenders
- Engaging community partners to enhance public safety awareness and prevention (i.e., with Business Improvement Associations, Community Policing Centres, and via social and mainstream media)
- Embedded Crime Analysts examining specific neighbourhood crime trends for better resource deployment

Many of these successful measures are still in progress and/or waiting court processes and, for operational reasons, have not been widely reported on previously.

Section 28 MHA Apprehensions

The number of section 28 MHA apprehensions decreased 4.9%, from 2,197 incidents in 2019 to 2,090 incidents in 2020.

Calls for Service

Comparing 2019 (200,693) to 2020 (173,668), there was a 13.5% decrease in the total number of CFS; however, P1 calls, which are the most serious and labour intensive calls for service, increased by 1.5%.

P1 Response Time

Vancouver has experienced its first Q3 decrease in P1 response times since 2011. The 2020 Q3 P1 response time (10:14) was 3.2% (or 20 seconds) faster when compared to the 2019 Q3 P1 response time (10:34).

A statistical examination revealed that the decrease is very likely a combination of pandemic related factors including less traffic congestion and road construction and an increase in patrol unit availability. The increase in patrol unit availability occurred due to a combination of courts being closed and training being deferred, which resulted in a 12% increase in patrol officers.

Traffic Injuries & Deaths

The most recent data for ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents shows that in Q3 2019, there were 7,439 reported incidents, and during the same time in 2020, there were 4,428 reported incidents (a decrease of 40.5%). VPD-attended motor vehicle incidents with injuries decreased in 2020 (444) versus 2019 (558). This represents a decrease of 20.4%. A reduction in vehicular traffic as a result of the pandemic is believed to be the primary reason for these decreases.

There were six fatal motor vehicle fatalities in 2020 versus ten fatalities in 2019.

REPORT SCHEDULE:

The VPD will provide the Vancouver Police Board with the last 2020 KPI report (year-end of 2020) in February 2021.

Author: Correen Smitas Telephone: 604-717-2689 Date: Oct.13, 2020

Submitting Executive Member (signature):

DCC Howard Chow

Date: October 19, 2020

VIOLENT CRIME

A summary of violent crime incidents reported city-wide shows there were 4,396 incidents in 2020. The number of violent crime incidents decreased by 1 when compared to 2019 (4,397). The table below shows that violent crime incidents in District 1 decreased by 6.0%, District 2 increased by 2.4%, District 3 increased by 3.4%, and District 4 increased by 0.7%. Also, 16 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have seen an increase in violent crime

Q3 Violent Crime Incidents: 2020 Compared to 2019

	2019	2020	% Change	
City-wide*	4,397	4,396	▼	0.0%
District 1	1,371	1,289	▼	-6.0%
District 2	1,741	1,782	▲	2.4%
District 3	641	663	▲	3.4%
District 4	567	571	▲	0.7%

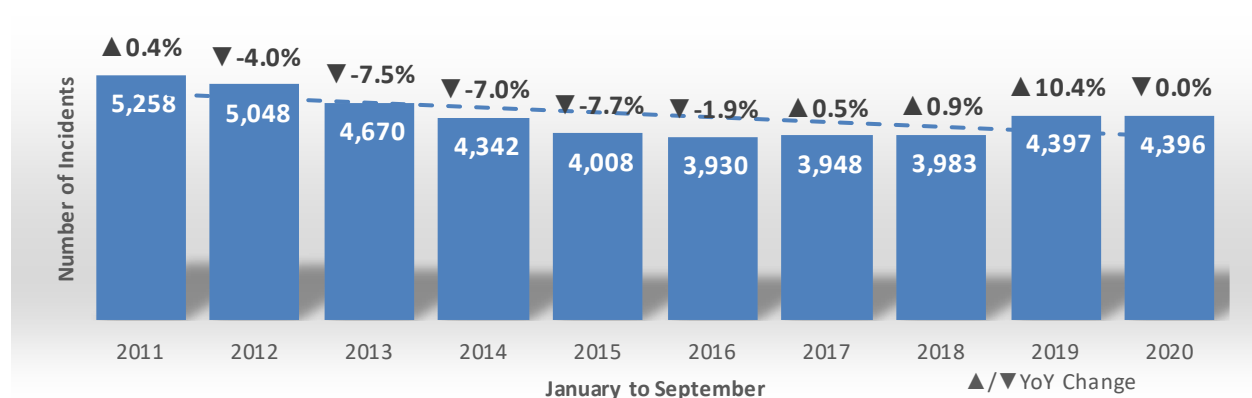
*City-wide total includes offences coded as location unknown

Assaults were the most prevalent form of violent crime, accounting for 79.0% of all violent crimes in 2020. Comparing 2019 (3,410) to 2020 (3,471), there were 61 more assaults (or 1.8%), despite the fact that many bars in the Granville Entertainment District were closed or reduced their hours.

It should be noted that the most serious types of assaults (i.e., “assault with a weapon or cause bodily harm” and “aggravated assault”) increased by 14.1%. Every VPD Patrol District experienced an increase as did 19 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods. The neighbourhoods of the Central Business District, Strathcona, and the West End account for 67% of all serious assaults in Vancouver, and these three neighbourhoods combined have seen a 9.2% increase (the West End has seen a 45.8% increase). Chinatown has seen a 13.9% increase and serious assaults against police officers have increased by 47%.

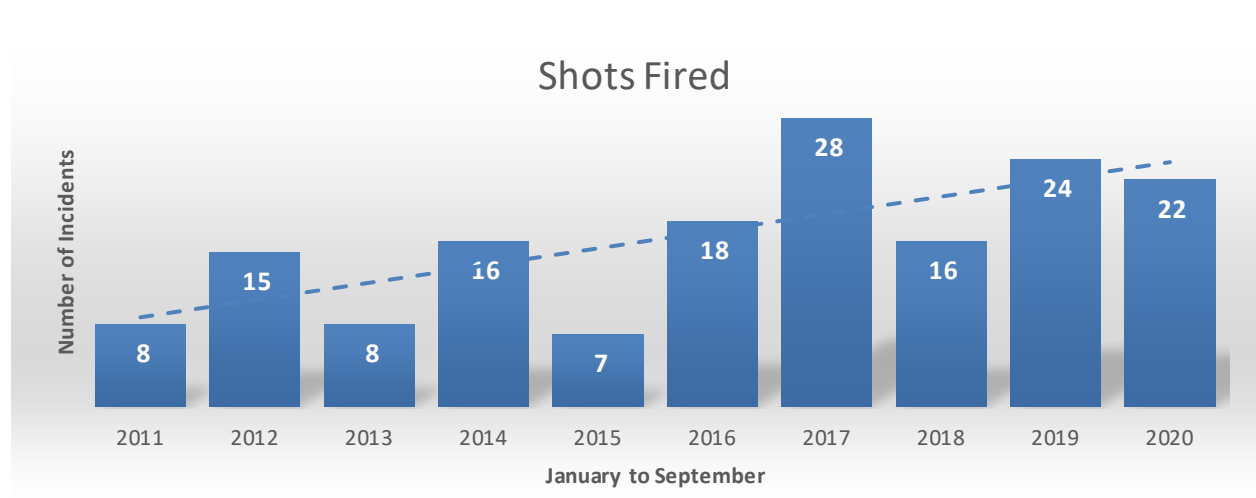
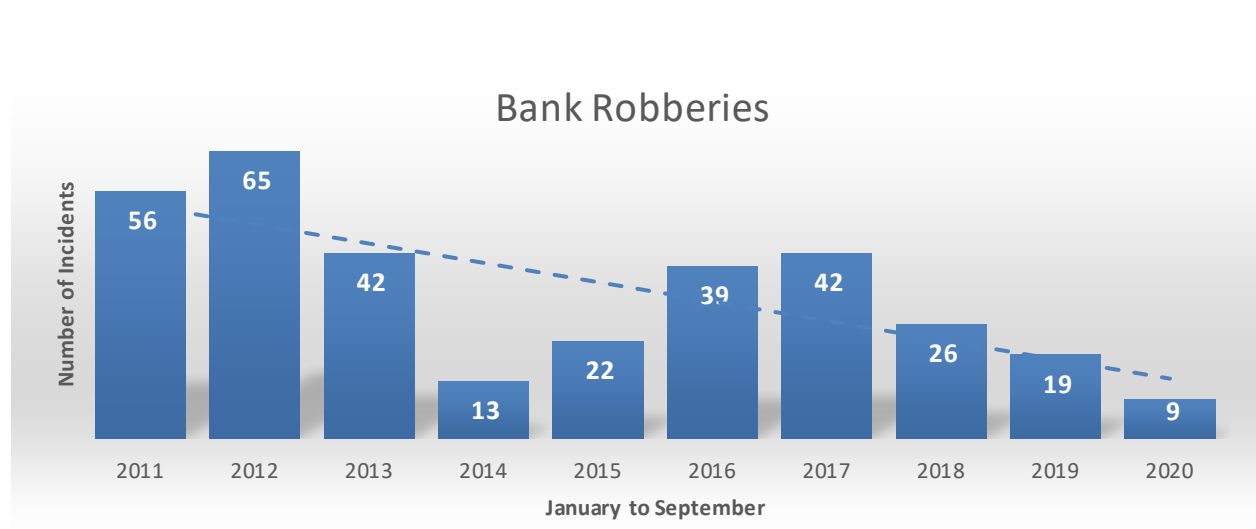
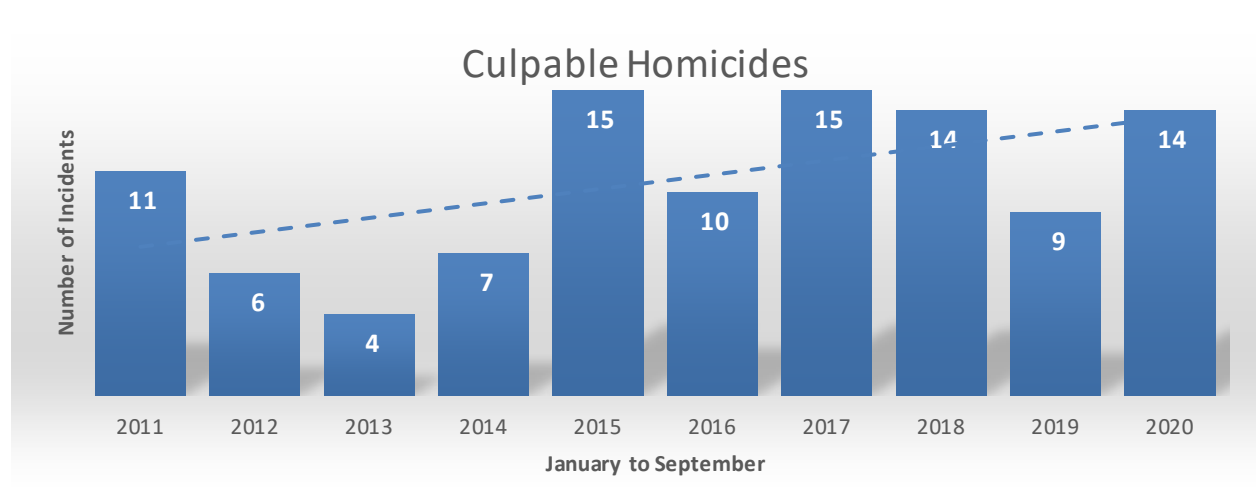
The following graph shows the total amount of violent crime incidents over the past decade for Q3 YTD. Violent crime incidents for Q3 YTD have increased by 11.9% since the low seen in 2016.

10-Year Trend for Q3 Violent Crime Incidents



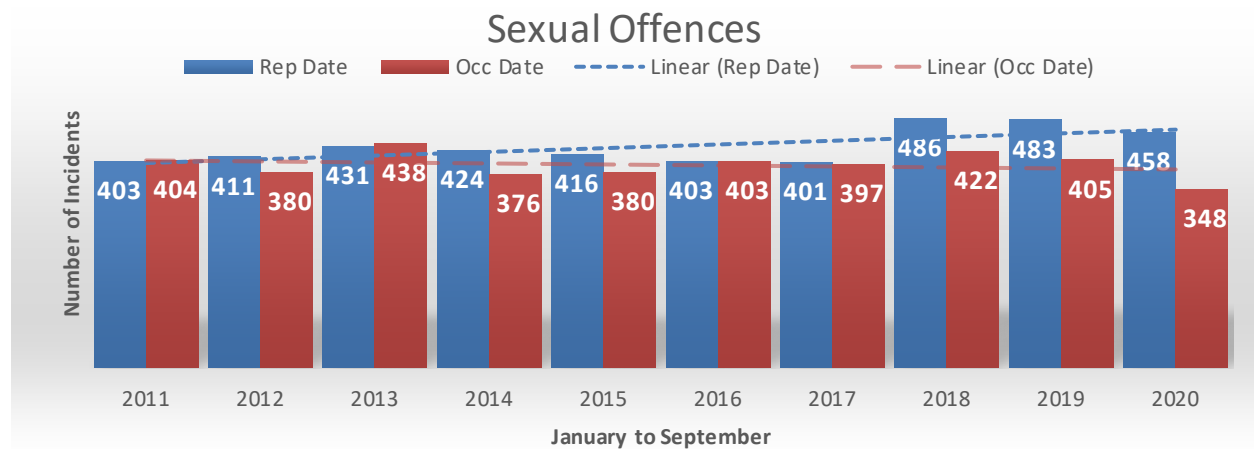
The following three graphs depict the 10-year trend for culpable homicide, bank robberies, and shots fired calls for service.

10-Year Trend for Q3 Select Violent Crime Incidents



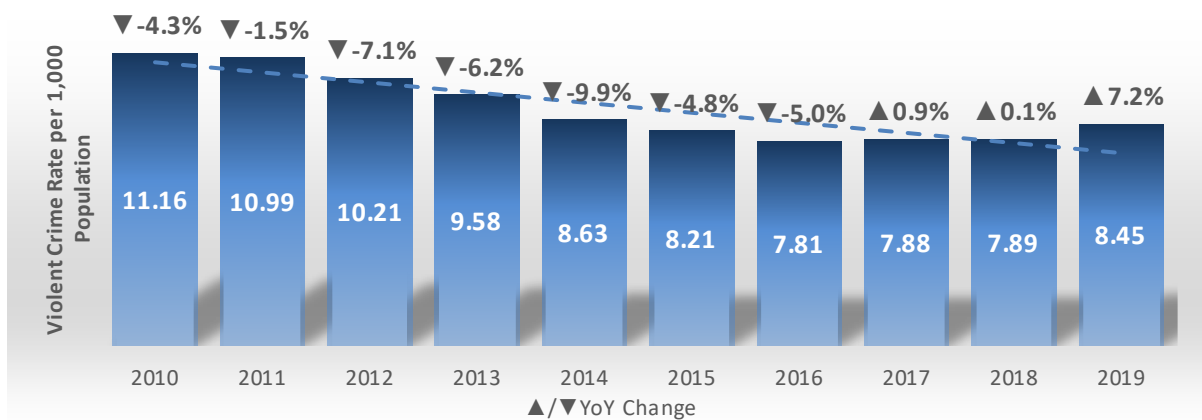
As previously mentioned, this report counts unfounded and founded incidents, and uses the reported date of the offence (as opposed to occurred date). These changes were made to ensure consistency with Statistics Canada crime reporting standards. The largest statistical effect resulting from these changes is seen in the reporting of sexual offences, where 22.6% of the sexual offences reported to the VPD in 2019 occurred in previous years. For comparison, 98.7% of all property crimes, 99.3% of assaults, and 100% of all robberies that were reported in 2019 also occurred in 2019.

Sexual offences are often reported historically, due to the traumatic and personal nature of these offences, which is reflected in the difference between the reported date and the occurred date. In order to provide an indication of non-historical reporting results, sexual offences have decreased by 14.1% (comparing 2020 to 2019 – see the following graph) when analyzed by the occurred date (the previous method used to count sexual offences).



The following shows changes to the violent crime rate (a metric that measures the complete year) between 2010 and 2019. From 2018 to 2019, the violent crime rate increased from 7.89 to 8.45 victims per 1,000 population. This is an increase of 7.2%.

10-Year Trend for Year-end Violent Crime Rate



PROPERTY CRIME

City-wide, there were 26,309 property crime incidents reported in 2020. This is 20.2% lower when compared with 2019 (32,977).

All districts experienced a decrease in Property Crime with District 1 experiencing the largest decrease (32.3%) when compared to the same time last year. Also, 16 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have seen a decrease in property crime

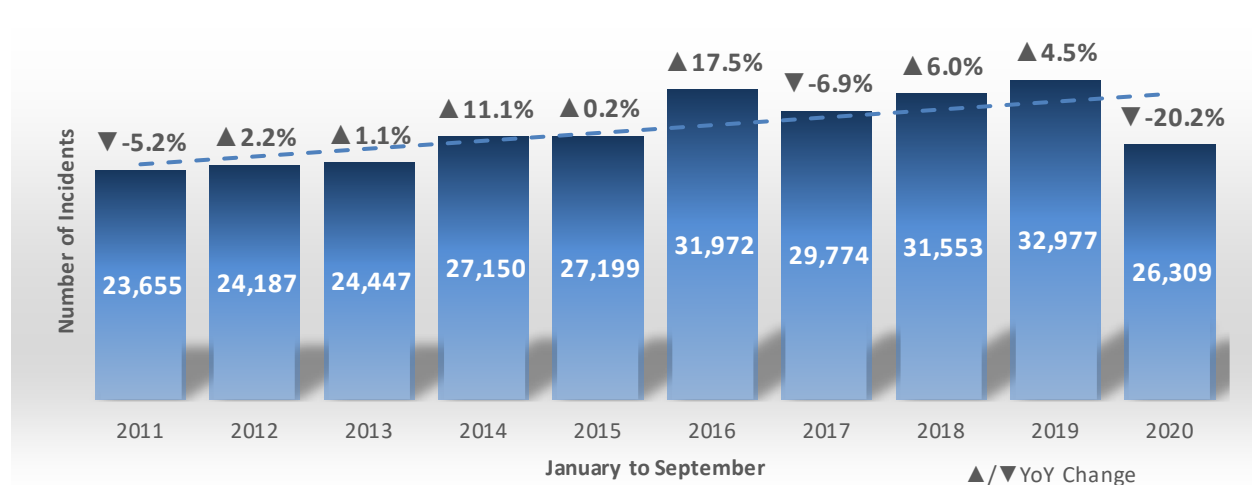
Q3 Property Crime Incidents: 2020 Compared to 2019

	2019	2020		% Change
City-wide*	32,977	26,309	▼	-20.2%
District 1	10,499	7,108	▼	-32.3%
District 2	8,190	7,000	▼	-14.5%
District 3	6,053	5,275	▼	-12.9%
District 4	8,003	7,226	▼	-9.7%

*City-wide total includes offences coded as location unknown

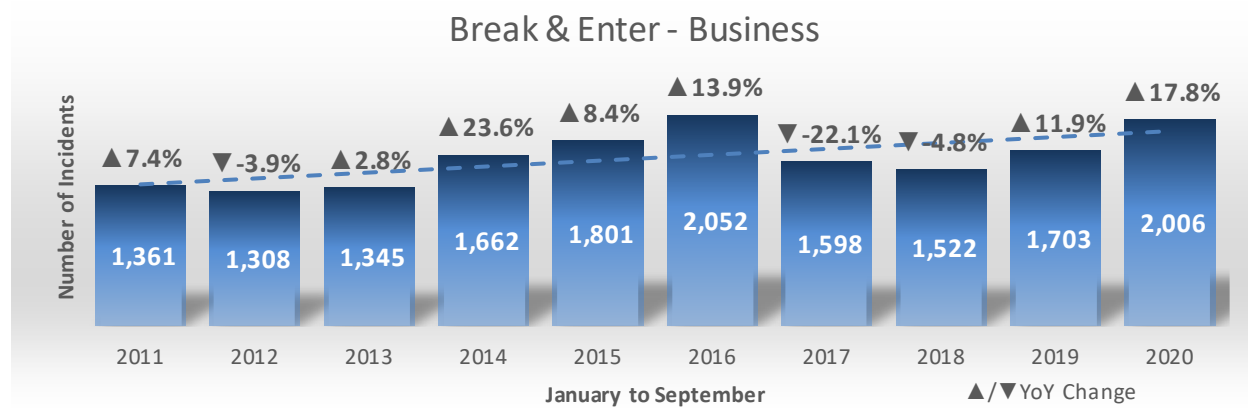
The following graph shows the total amount of property crime incidents over the past decade for Q3. Vancouver has experienced its first decrease in property crime since 2017 when reviewing Q3 statistics. It is important to note that TFAs are the most common type of property crime, and TFAs are down 4,575 incidents from last year, making this crime type the largest driver in 2020's property crime decrease.

10-Year Trend for Q3 Property Crime Incidents

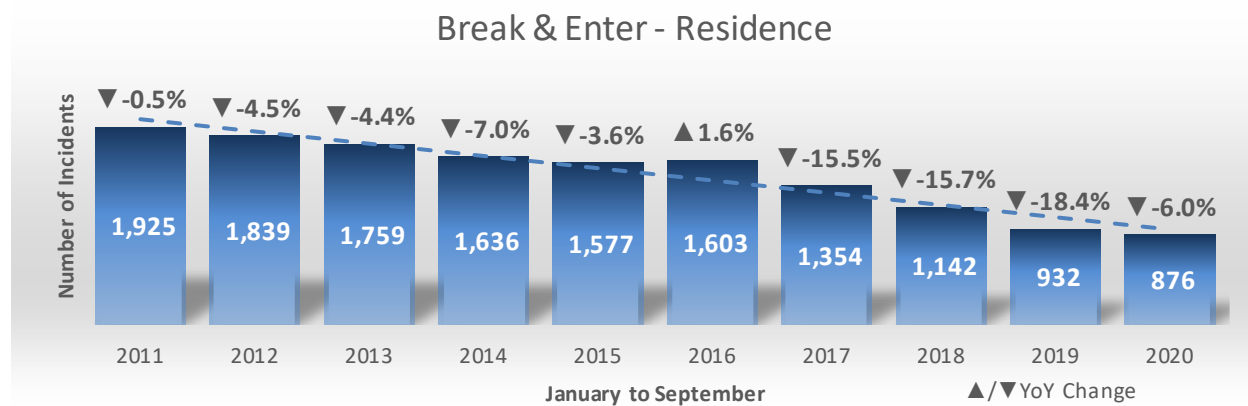


The following graphs display results for break & enters (B&E) into businesses and over the past 10 years for Q3. Q3 of 2020 experienced the second most B&Es to businesses of any other Q3 since 2011. The reason for this increase may be due to the fact that businesses are either partially opened, closed, or have their hours reduced due to the pandemic, making this a crime of opportunity for perpetrators.

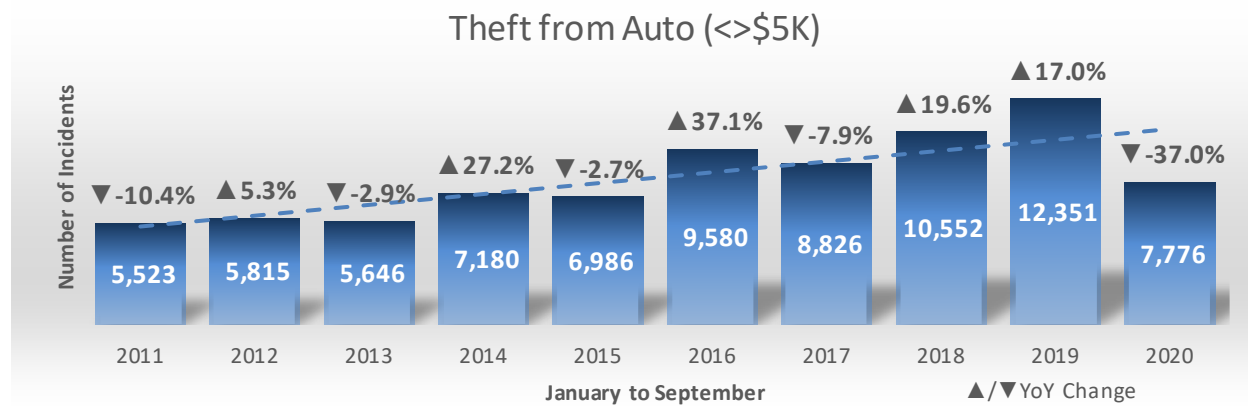
10-Year Trend for Q3 Select Property Crime Incidents



The following graph shows 6.0% fewer residential B&Es in Q3 2020 compared to Q3 2019.

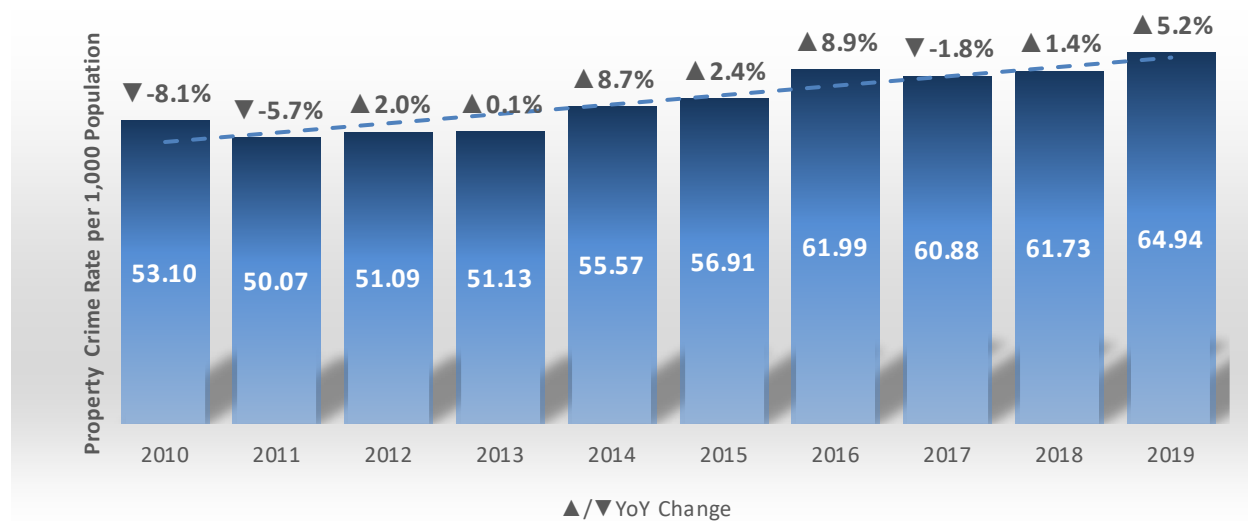


Theft from automobile (TFA) is the offence most often reported to the VPD. TFAs make up 29.6% of all Q3 2020 property crime incidents, making this crime type the largest driver of property crime. However, TFAs have decreased by 4,575 incidents (-37.0%) from the same period last year. This is believed to be due to less people driving during the initial months of the pandemic and there being fewer vehicles that could be targeted for theft.



Overall, between 2018 and 2019, the year-end property crime rate was up 5.2%, from 61.73 offences per 1,000 population in 2018 to 64.94 in 2019. The 2019 property crime rate is 22.3% higher than the 2010 property crime rate.

10-Year Trend for Year-end Property Crime Rate

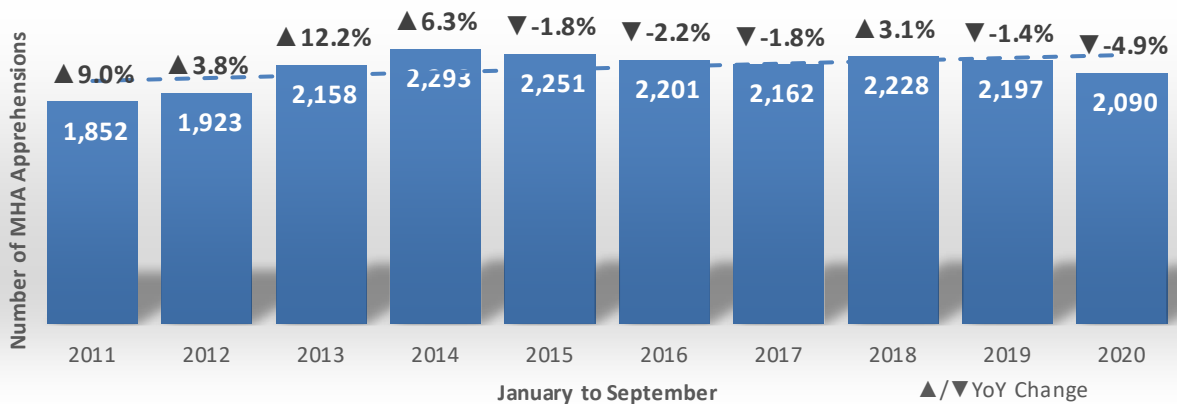


S. 28 MENTAL HEALTH ACT APPREHENSIONS

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

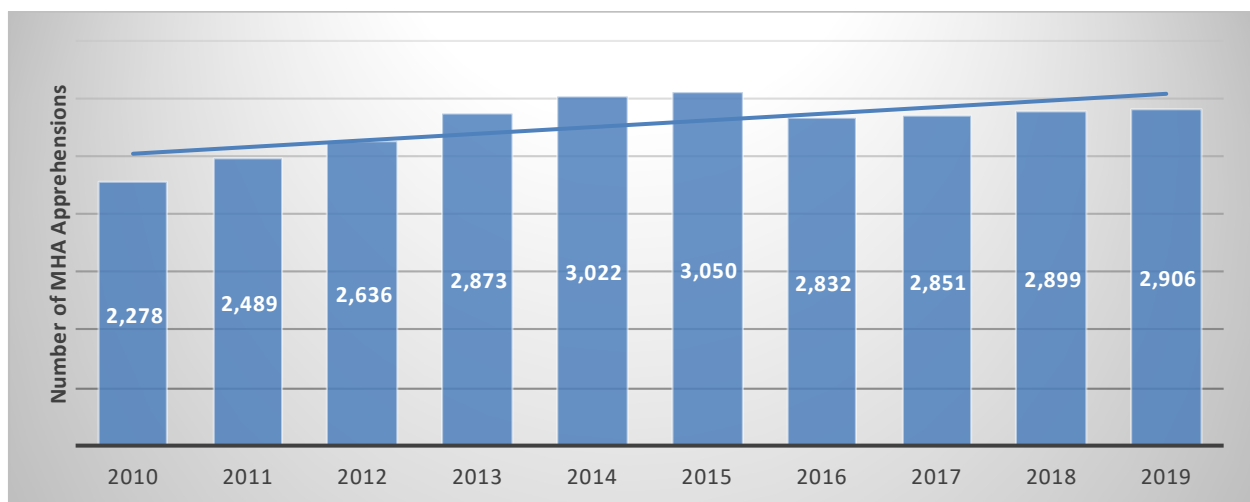
The number of Q3 section 28 MHA apprehensions have decreased by 107 incidents (or 4.9%) from 2,197 incidents in 2019 to 2,090 incidents in 2020. This is the third lowest number of MHA apprehensions in Q3 compared to previous Q3 MHA apprehensions since 2011.

10-Year Trend for Q3 Section 28 MHA Apprehensions



For complete years, from 2010 to 2015, MHA apprehensions increased each year (from 2,278 to 3,050). Although these apprehensions decreased in 2016 (2,832) they have since increased for three consecutive years. Comparing 2019 to 2010, apprehensions are up 27.6%. From 2018 to 2019, apprehensions are slightly up by 0.2%, which is a marginal increase of seven apprehensions. Overall, the total number of section 28 MHA apprehensions calls have remained relatively stable over the past four years.

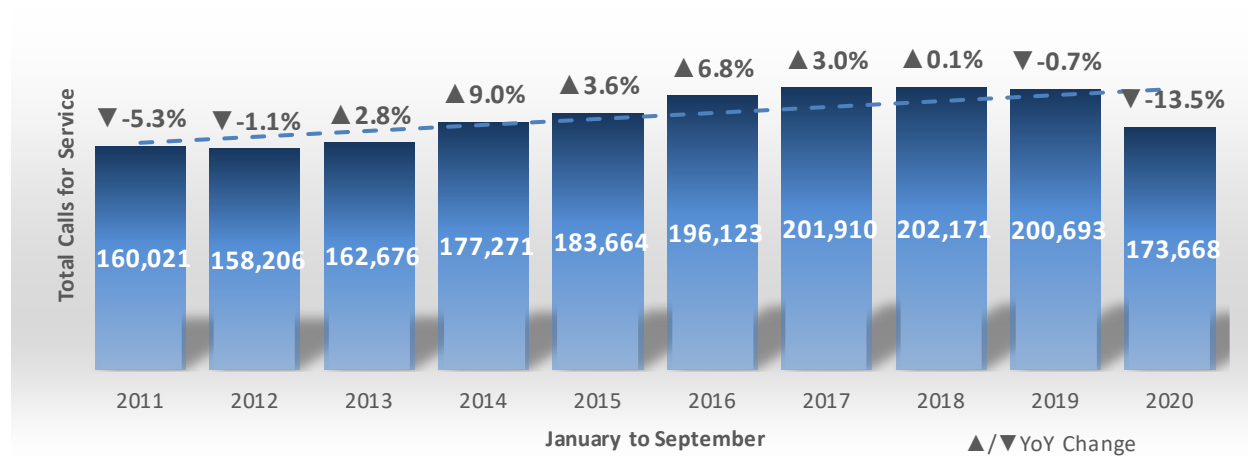
10-Year Trend for Year-end Section 28 MHA Apprehensions



CALLS FOR SERVICE

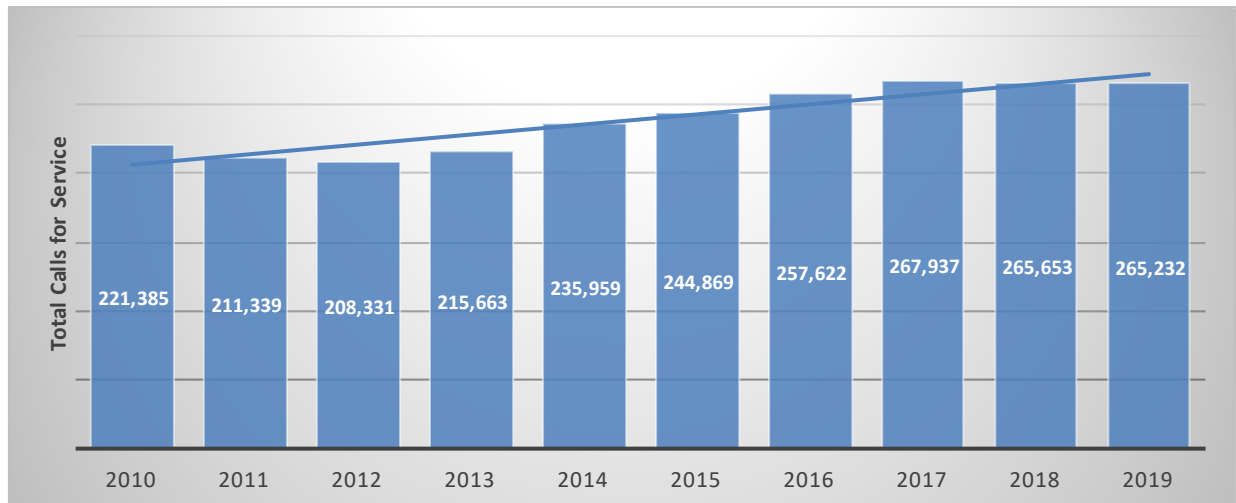
As shown below, comparing Q3 2019 (200,693) to Q3 2020 (173,668), there was a 13.5% decrease in the total number of Calls for service (CFS); however, it should be noted that P1 calls, which are the most serious and labour intensive calls for service, increased by 1.5%.

10-Year Trend for Q3 Calls for Service



For complete years, comparing 2018 (265,653) to 2019 (265,232), the graph below shows there was a marginal decrease of 0.2% (or 421 fewer) in the total number of CFS. Since 2011, CFS have increased 19.8% since 2010 (221,385) which is an increase in nearly 44,000 CFS.

10-Year Trend for Year-end Calls for Service

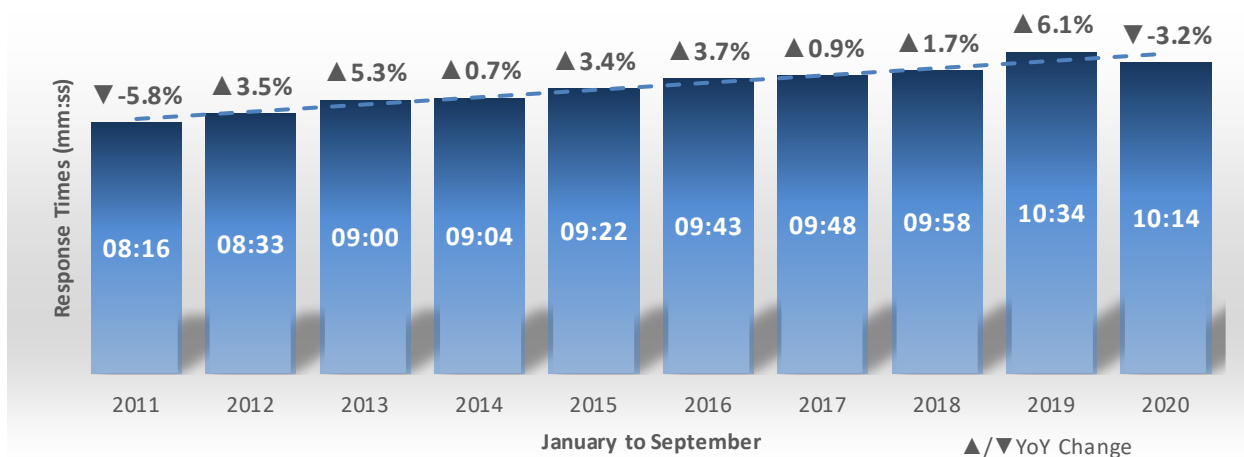


PRIORITY 1 RESPONSE TIMES

The following graph compares Q3 P1 response times between 2011 and 2020. Vancouver has experienced its first Q3 decrease in P1 response times since 2011. The 2020 Q3 P1 response time (10:14) was 3.2% (or 20 seconds) faster when compared to the 2019 Q3 P1 response time (10:34). In addition, the number of P1 CFS received in Q3 2020 (11,339) increased by 1.5% when compared to the same time last year (11,169).

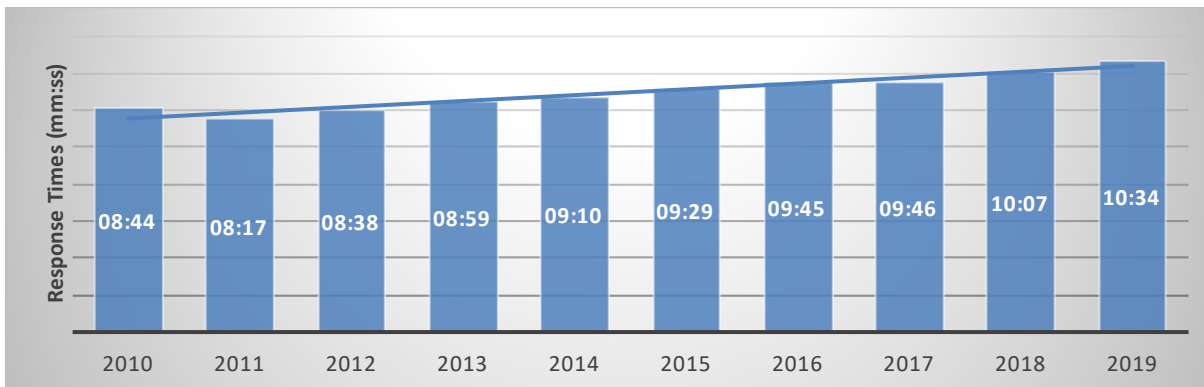
A further statistical examination revealed that the decrease is very likely a combination of pandemic specific factors - less traffic congestion and an increase in patrol unit availability. The increase in patrol unit availability occurred due to courts being closed and training being cancelled, which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

10-Year Trend for Q3 P1 Response Times



For complete years, the following graph compares P1 response times from 2010 to 2019. Vancouver's 2019 P1 response time (10:34) was 4.3%, or 27 seconds, slower when compared to 2018 (10:07). In fact, P1 response time increased in all Patrol Districts. It should be noted that the number of P1 CFS increased by 2.8% in 2019 compared to 2018. Since 2011, there have been consistent annual increases in P1 response time, with 2019 having the highest response time (10:34) recorded in the past 10 years.

10-Year Trend for Year-end P1 Response Times

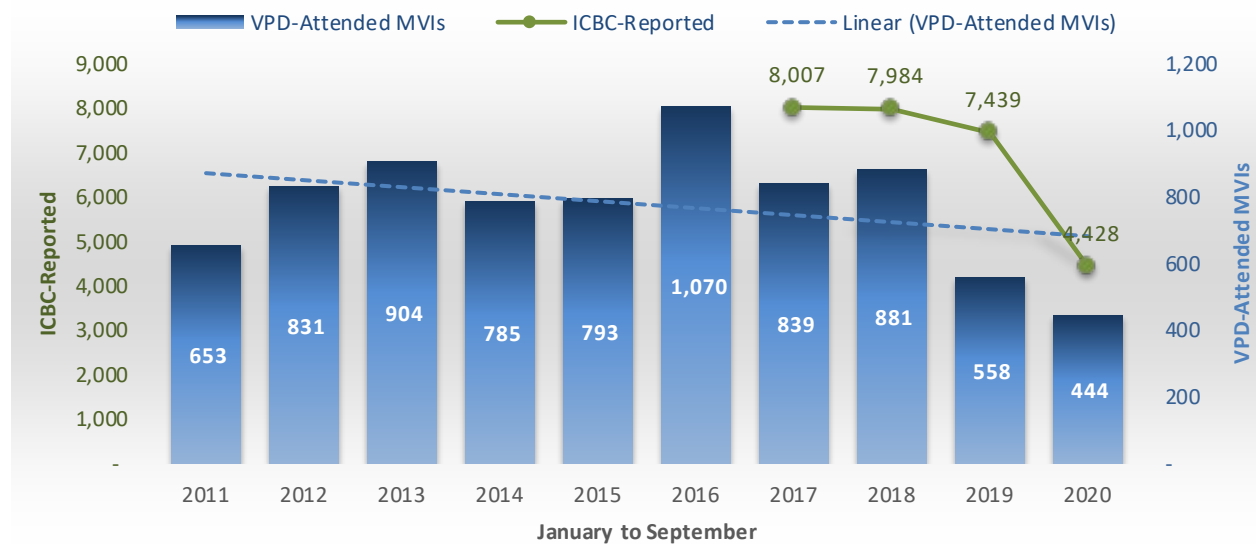


TRAFFIC RELATED INJURIES & DEATHS

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

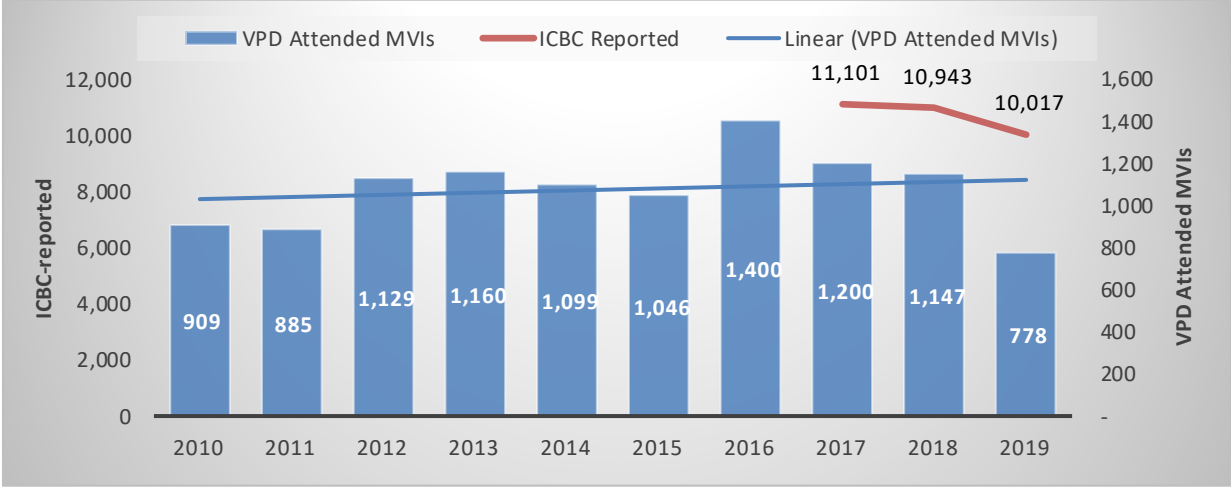
The most recent data for ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents shows that in Q3 2019, there were 7,439 reported incidents, and during the same time in 2020, there were 4,428 reported incidents (a decrease of 40.5% ICBC-reported claims). VPD-attended motor vehicle incidents with injuries (VPD-attended MVIs) decreased by 20.4%, from Q3 2019 (558) to Q3 2020 (444). A reduction in vehicular traffic as a result of the pandemic is believed to be the primary reason for these decreases.

4-Year Trend for Q3 ICBC-Reported and 10-Year Trend for Q3 VPD-Attended MVIs



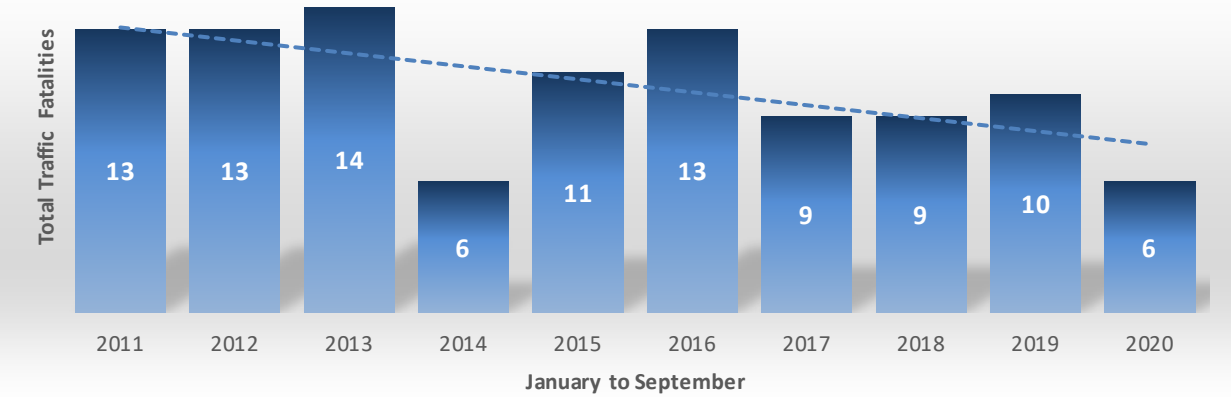
For complete years, the following graph shows the city of Vancouver experienced 8.5% fewer ICBC-reported motor vehicle incidents with injuries in 2019 (10,017) compared to 2018 (10,943). Whereas VPD-attended motor vehicle incidents with injuries have declined from 2016 (1,400) to 2019 (778), which is a 44.4% decrease. This figure also shows a decrease of 32.2% when compared to the 2018 figure (1,147) and a decrease of 14.4% when compared to 2010 (909).

10 Year Trend for Year-end ICBC-reported and VPD Attended MVIs



The following graph compares Q3 traffic fatalities over the past 10 years. There were six fatalities in 2020 compared to ten in 2019.

10-Year Trend for Q3 Traffic Fatalities



For complete years, the following graph shows there were a total of 14 fatal victims of motor vehicle related incidents in the city of Vancouver in 2019 and 13 in 2018. Since 2010, the average annual number of fatal traffic incidents is 14.

10-Year Trend for Year-end Traffic Fatalities

