



Calgary Police Service

Violent Crime involving Taxi Drivers 2012-2013



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Violent Crime against Taxi Drivers

Purpose of this report

This report provides an overview of specific violent crime types occurring in the premise of a taxi cab against taxi drivers between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013.

Methodology and Data

Data was obtained from the Police Information Management System (PIMS), a Calgary Police Service source, for the time period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2013. This information consists of permanent records of criminal code cases and non-criminal events where a more detailed record of an occurrence is required. This report uses an incident count. An incident can involve multiple offences. For this report only the most serious violation was counted for each incident. Due to data being retrieved in January 2014, late reporting in 2013 was not accounted for in this report. It would be expected that late reporting for the year would result in a marginal increase in volume and not have a dramatic impact on the analysis provided in this paper.

For the purposes of this project, a review of PIMS data relating to assault and robberies involving taxi cabs was conducted, using the premise MO of taxi. Incidents included in this report may have occurred in or surrounding the premise area and may not have directly involved the taxi driver. An example of this would be if a taxi was used as a get-away vehicle where the driver was not aware the incident was taking place or not an accomplice in the crime.

The data source is DataWarehouse January 2014.

Violent Crime

As police- reported crime rates overall continue to decline across Canada in both severity and volume, Calgary also continues to steadily report below average volume of crime in 2012 and 2013. Calgary remains well below the national average for both crime rate and severity with moderate reductions in violent crime categories¹.

Lower than average volumes of crime in Calgary have subsequently resulted in a steady decrease in crime incidents occurring in a premise of a taxi cab over the past several years. Between the dates of January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2013 there were 1325 incidents involving taxi cabs as the premise. Of the total incidents involving taxi cabs, 404 were considered violent crime. For the purposes of this report The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) Uniformed Crime Reporting Survey¹ definition of a violent incident was used and is defined as an incident that “involved offences that deal with the application, or threat of application, of force to a person. These include homicide, attempted murder, various forms of sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery and abduction (Statistics Canada, concepts and definitions)”. Of the 404 violent crime incidents, 385 (95%) consist of various types of assaults and robbery. Incidents occurring in these two main crime type categories between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013 will be the focus of analysis in this paper.

¹ Perreault, S. (2013). “Police-Reported crime statistics in Canada, 2012”. *Juristat article*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XWE. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11854-eng> (accessed Dec. 13 2013).

KEY FINDINGS

Between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2013 there were 1325 criminal incidents involving the premise of a taxi cab, 31% (n=404) were violent crime. This paper specifically focused on the various violent crime sub-categories of assault and robbery. The findings are as follows:

- Assaults and robbery incidents comprised 95% of all criminal incidents involving taxi as a premise over the 7-year period.
- Taxi drivers were victims in 72% of all assaults and robbery incidents in 2012-2013.
- Taxi drivers were listed as either an accused, suspect or offender not charged in 14% of assault and robbery incidents in 2012-2013. Of these, 69% were sexual assault incidents.
- In 2012-2013, physical force continued to be the weapon predominately used 74% of the time in all related assaults and robberies involving a taxi cab and 77% of the time when a taxi driver was listed as the victim on the incident.
- 63% of all assaults and robbery incidents (in 2012-2013) involving taxi/ taxi driver occurred on a Saturday and Sunday
- 56% of incidents occurred between the time periods of 0000-0529 hrs.
- Of note, Defraud person under \$5,000, Mischief to property, Theft Under and Transportation by fraud comprised 53% of all offenses involving the premise of a taxi cab during 2007-2013. Although these offenses were not analyzed for the purposes of this report, it may be a consideration for future reports.
- Intensity of customer offending behavior strongly correlated with level of substance use, group size of fare pick-up and approach deployed by the taxi driver (i.e. informed of pre-payment at time of pick-up or not, etc).

2012

In 2012, there were 187 crime incidents that occurred within the premise of a taxi cab, of which 30% (n=57) were considered violent crime. Of the 57 violent crime incidents, the majority (n=51) were a variation of assault or robbery. This was slightly below the expected violent crime volume for (9 fewer incidents, AVG= 60) for incidents with a premise of taxi cab when compared to the previous 5 years. This decline in the number of incidents was due to a decrease in person robbery that involved a taxi cab. Total

Assaults comprised 67% (38 of 57 crime incidents) of all violent crime involving a taxi cab in 2012 with the crime type of common assault making up the largest portion of all assaults. This is 1 fewer incident than anticipated when compared to the previous 5- year (2007-2011) average of 39 assaults annually. While incidents of person robbery decreased by 58% in 2012 (6 fewer incidents), sexual assault incidents rose marginally by 2 more incidents than the historical average (n= 9, AVG= 8).

Table 1. Assaults and Robberies involving taxis occurring between January 1, 2007- December 31, 2012

Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis between Jan 1, 2007- Dec 31, 2012										
Offence Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	AVG	DIFF from AVG	Grand Total	Sparkline Trend
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	
ASSAULT AGAINST PEACE OFFICER	1	1	0	4	1	0	1	-1	8	
ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY HARM	2	0	2	5	1	1	2	-1	12	
ASSAULT WITH WEAPON	10	5	3	7	4	4	6	-2	37	
ASSAULT/COMMON ASSAULT	30	31	32	28	30	32	30	2	210	
RESIST, OBSTRUCT, OMIT TO ASSIST A PUBLIC/PEACE OFFICER	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	-2	3	
Total Assault	45	38	37	45	36	38	40	-1	272	
ROBBERY - COMMERCIAL/OTHER ORGANIZATION	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	-1	5	
ROBBERY - ROLL JOB/PERSON	9	5	13	14	7	4	10	-6	56	
SEXUAL ASSAULT	5	9	6	7	9	9	7	2	52	
Grand Total	60	52	57	68	53	51	58	-7	385	

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. * Unassigned values are included in totals. Based on an incident count.

The taxi driver was directly involved in 86% of all incidents as either a victim or an offender (suspect/accused/offender not charged). The remaining 14% of the incidents either were when the taxi cab was used only as a mode of transportation during the commission of offence or where the driver was a witness to a crime with no active role in the offence such as in the case of a domestic dispute. As reported in previous years, taxi drivers were listed as the victim in the majority of assault and person robbery incidents (90%) and listed as an offender in over half (56%) of all sexual assault incidents.

While the number of violent crime incidents involving the use of taxi cabs declined in 2012, weapon use during these incidents remained steady. Physical force continued to remain high, occurring in over two thirds of all assaults and robbery incidents (69%) and 76% of all incidents in which the taxi driver was listed as a victim. It should be noted that other tangible weapons such as knife, bodily fluids (i.e. spit) and O/C spray were also commonly used as a weapon in a portion of offences. Physical force or weapon use appeared to increase when a pre-payment or partial payment was requested and cited by the driver as being a new bylaw. This request occurred at various stages of the fare pick- up and while en route to the requested destination. It was not indicated in the incidents if pre-payment policies/by-laws were clearly advertised and visible in the taxi cab or not. Elevated levels of substance use, pre-payment requests, group fare pick-ups and no method of payment by the offender strongly correlated with higher levels of weapon use against the taxi driver. In addition, substance consumption by taxi customers strongly

correlated with offending behavior in males and group fare pick-ups as well as victimization by taxi drivers in females.

In 2012, over half (55%) of all violent crime incidents involving a taxi occurred on a Saturday or Sunday. Crime incidents involving taxi cabs peaked between the time periods of 0000-0529 hours with 67% of incidents occurring during the given time frame. Customer demand at this time is greater, especially on the weekends as individuals pursue transportation leaving the various entertainment districts in the city.

It does not appear that any given month of the year or seasonality had an effect on the volume of assaults or robberies committed against taxi drivers in 2012. The months of August, November and December had the greatest volumes of the year with 6 incidents each and were responsible for 35% of all assaults and robberies for the year. However, there was no correlation to specific dates or events such as Calgary Stampede or Valentine’s Day (Appendix A- Table 3 & 4). Historically, the months of March, September and December have had the highest volumes of both total violent crime and crime types specific to assaults and robbery. 2012 reported average or below average activity in all of these months for both crime categories. It should be noted that June and August recorded elevated volume from average in total violent crime. These incidents appear to be comprised exclusively of assaults/robberies and consequently resulted in above average volume for these months in these respective crime types.

Table 2. Assault and Robberies involving Taxis by Time of Day/ Day of Week between January 1, - December 31, 2012

Assault and Robberies involving Taxis By Time of Day/ Day of Week Jan 1- Dec 31, 2012								
Time of Day	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Grand Total
0000-0529	10	1	4	2	3	3	11	34
0530-1100	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
1101-1600	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
1601-2359	2	2	3	0	1	2	2	12
Grand Total	14	3	7	2	6	5	14	51

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. *Data is specific to various assault and robbery crime types.

2013

Between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2012 there was an annual average of 199 crime incidents that occurred within the premise of a taxi cab. Of those, violent crime incidents typically accounted for 59 incidents of which 56 were specifically related to assaults & robbery incidents. In 2013, there were 166 crime incidents occurring within a taxi, of which 28% (n=46) consisted of violent crime. Of the violent crime incidents, only 2 were not related to some form of assault or robbery. In contrast to the previous 5 years, 2013 total crime incidents in taxi cabs dropped by 17% (33 fewer incidents, AVG=199) and incidents specific to assaults and

robberies declined by 21% (12 fewer incidents). All sub-categories of assault and robbery such as Assault with weapon, person robbery and sexual assault reported lower than usual levels of volume in 2013.

As in 2012, a taxi driver was listed as either a victim or an offender in 86% of all incidents in 2013. In 66% of incidents (n= 29) the driver was the victim and in 16% (n=7) of incidents the driver was listed as a suspect. Almost all (86%) of the incidents in which the driver was listed as a suspect were sexual assaults. It should be noted that although 2012 recorded higher numbers of sexual assaults occurring in the premise of a taxi cab but only 56% of incidents listed the taxi driver as a suspect.

Table 6. Assaults and Robberies involving taxis occurring between January 1, 2008- December 31, 2013

Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis between Jan 1, 2008- Dec 31, 2013										
ViolDesc	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	AVG	DIFF from AVG	Grand Total	Sparkline Trend
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
ASSAULT AGAINST PEACE OFFICER	1	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	6	
ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY HARM	0	2	5	1	1	1	2	-1	8	
ASSAULT WITH WEAPON	5	3	7	4	4	4	5	-1	19	
ASSAULT/COMMON ASSAULT	31	32	28	30	32	27	31	-4	121	
RESIST, OBSTRUCT, OMIT TO ASSIST A PUBLIC/PEACE OFFICER	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-5	2	
Total Assault	38	37	45	36	38	33	39	0	156	
ROBBERY - COMMERCIAL/OTHER ORGANIZATION	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	-1	4	
ROBBERY - ROLL JOB/PERSON	5	13	14	7	4	4	9	-5	39	
SEXUAL ASSAULT	9	6	7	9	9	7	8	-1	31	
Grand Total	52	57	68	53	51	44	56	-12	230	

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. * Unassigned values are included in totals. Based on an incident count.

Total violent crime as well as assaults and robberies occurring in the premise of a taxi cab reached a 6 year low in 2013. Although the year had lower volumes of activity involving taxis it would appear that the severity was greater than in the previous year with 91% of assault and robberies involving a weapon (compared to 69% in 2012). Physical force continued to be the main weapon used in 35 of 44 assault and robbery incidents (80%).

Table 7. Assault and Robberies involving Taxis by Time of Day/ Day of Week between January 1, - December 31, 2013

Assault and Robberies involving Taxis By Time of Day/ Day of Week Jan 1- Dec 31, 2013								
Time of Day	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Grand Total
0000-0529	10	3	1	0	1	2	9	26
0530-1100	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
1101-1600	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
1601-2359	0	2	0	1	1	4	2	10
Grand Total	12	7	2	1	3	6	13	44

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. *Data is specific to various assault and robbery crime types.

As expected, the weekend (Sat & Sun) continues to be the highest volume days of the week with 59% of activity occurring between 0000-0529 hours.

Most months in 2013 had average or below average volume of assaults and robberies that occurred in a taxi cab with only 3 months having exceeding their historical monthly averages (February, June, August). Although Calgary experienced severe flooding during the month of June resulting in displacement away from the more populous entertainment districts, this did not appear to decrease the number of assaults and robbery incidents occurring within the premise of a taxi cab. In fact in 2013, taxi cab incidents rose by 40% (4 more incidents) in the summer months (June- Aug) when compared to the historical average. This increase was comparable to the volume reported in 2012 during the same time frame.

APPENDIX A

Table 3. Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis by Season occurring between January 1, 2007- December 31, 2012

Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis By Season between Jan 1- Dec 31, 2012								
Time of Day	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Grand Total
Winter (Dec- Feb)	4	1	1	1	4	2	1	14
Spring (March - May)	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	9
Summer (June- Aug)	5	1	2	0	0	1	5	14
Fall (Sept- Nov)	2	1	2	0	2	2	5	14
Grand Total	14	3	7	2	6	5	14	51

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. *Data is specific to various assault and robbery crime types.

Table 4. Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis by Month occurring between January 1, 2007- December 31, 2012

Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis by Month and Year occurring between Jan 1, 2007- Dec 31, 2012									
Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	AVG	DIFF from AVG	Grand Total
January	8	6	7	5	4	4	6	-2	36
February	4	4	4	7	3	4	4	0	31
March	7	5	9	7	7	1	7	-6	42
April	4	6	4	3	5	4	4	0	30
May	5	4	3	6	5	4	5	-1	31
June	6	3	1	3	4	5	3	2	26
July	7	1	3	4	3	3	4	-1	24
August	2	1	6	4	3	6	3	3	29
September	6	10	5	6	3	3	6	-3	36
October	2	3	5	4	8	5	4	1	28
November	4	6	5	7	4	6	5	1	32
December	5	3	5	12	4	6	6	0	40
Grand Total	60	52	57	68	53	51	58	-7	385

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. *Data is specific to various assault and robbery crime types.

Table 5. Violent Crime involving Taxis by Month occurring between January 1, 2007- December 31, 2013

Violent Crime involving Taxis by Month and Year occurring between Jan 1, 2007- Dec 31, 2013								
Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Grand Total
January	9	6	7	6	4	5	2	39
February	4	4	4	7	3	4	5	31
March	7	5	9	7	7	2	6	43
April	5	6	4	3	6	5	5	34
May	5	5	3	6	6	4	4	33
June	6	3	1	3	4	6	5	28
July	7	1	3	4	3	4	3	25
August	2	1	6	4	3	6	7	29
September	6	10	5	6	4	3	3	37
October	2	3	5	5	9	5	1	30
November	4	7	5	7	4	6		33
December	5	4	5	12	4	7	5	42
Grand Total	62	55	57	70	57	57	46	404

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014.

APPENDIX B

Table 8. Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis by Season occurring between Jan 1, 2008- Dec 31, 2013

Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis By Season between Jan 1- Dec 31, 2013								
Time of Day	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Grand Total
Winter (Dec- Feb)	0	3	0	0	0	1	8	12
Spring (March - May)	5	1	1	1	1	3	2	14
Summer (June- Aug)	5	2	1	0	2	2	2	14
Fall (Sept- Nov)	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Grand Total	12	7	2	1	3	6	13	44

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. *Data is specific to various assault and robbery crime types.

Table 9. Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis by Month and Year occurring between Jan 1, 2008- Dec 31, 2013

Assaults and Robberies involving Taxis by Month and Year occurring between Jan 1, 2008- Dec 31, 2013									
Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	AVG	DIFF from AVG	Grand Total
January	6	7	5	4	4	2	5	-3	28
February	4	4	7	3	4	5	4	1	27
March	5	9	7	7	1	6	6	0	35
April	6	4	3	5	4	4	4	0	26
May	4	3	6	5	4	4	4	0	26
June	3	1	3	4	5	4	3	1	20
July	1	3	4	3	3	3	3	0	17
August	1	6	4	3	6	7	4	3	27
September	10	5	6	3	3	3	5	-2	30
October	3	5	4	8	5	1	5	-4	26
November	6	5	7	4	6		6	-6	28
December	3	5	12	4	6	5	6	-1	35
Grand Total	52	57	68	53	51	44	56	-12	325

Source: Datamart (PIMS) January 2014. * Data is specific to various assault and robbery crime types.