Statistics Canada is a federal government agency. It contains a unit called the **Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS)** which is the main producer of crime and justice statistics in Canada. CCJS gathers data every year from sources such as police departments, courts, and correctional facilities using surveys such as the **Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR)**. Every five years, it also conducts a crime victimization survey called the **General Social Survey (GSS)**. The most recent GSS Victimization survey was done in 2014.

Results from most of these surveys are compiled into **data tables**, which are published online. These tables are used to calculate things like the **crime rate** and the **Crime Severity Index**. Experts at the CCJS also analyze the results and write up **articles** which are published in the journal called **Juristat**, as well as other Statistics Canada reports. We’ll explore a few ways to find these sources on Statistics Canada’s website: [statcan.gc.ca](http://statcan.gc.ca).

### Try a Google search first

Statistics Canada’s website can be overwhelming. Google sometimes works better than Statistics Canada’s own search function. It’s worth a try!

For best results, use a trick from the **Google Advanced** search options, and **limit your Google search to the Statistics Canada website**. To do this, you need to include a special Google command (**site:**) and part of the Statistics Canada’s web address. 

![Google search](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

The first result is called **Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014**. It is an article from the **Juristat** journal.

### Key Source: Juristat

**Juristat** is a **journal** published by Statistics Canada. Its articles are written by crime data experts at the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. There are usually at least 15 articles per year on a variety of topics. All **Juristat** articles provide **highlights**, then go into a summary of crime the stats, with many **charts** showing **trends** over time, and **analysis** of what this means.

![Juristat article](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Note: another **Juristat** article that will be very useful for your report is: **Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2017** which looks at the latest data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.
Searching the Statistics Canada website using the main search box

There is a LOT of stuff on the Statistics Canada website. You can see from the menu bar at the top of the screen that you can explore the content in different ways, including by Subject, or by type of information, e.g. Data or Analysis (like the Juristat article). You can use the main search box at the top to search all of the latest content at once.

A search for CRIME RATE leads to a mixed set of over 200 results. The first match is a Data Table on the Crime Severity Index.

Practice: Digging into the “Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2014” Juristat article

3. Look at Table 1 in this Juristat article for the broad category that would include your specific offence.
   a. What was the 2014 number for Canada? ________________
   b. What was the 2014 rate for Canada? ________________
   c. Did this increase or decrease from the previous GSS Victimization survey? ________________

4. Look at Table 2 in this Juristat article for the broad category that would include your specific offence.
   a. What was the 2014 number for BC? ________________
   b. What was the 2014 rate for BC? ________________

5. Look in the article’s table of contents for a section called “Characteristics of violent victimization”. What page number(s) does this appear on in the PDF version of the report? [Note: You would need this info for an in-text citation if you quoted from this section.]
   ________________
Key Source: Data Tables

Data Tables only contain data. They do not include any analysis of what the data means, unlike the Juristat article. You can customize the tables to display just the pieces of information that you need. They often let you get more detailed statistics than you’ll find in the analytical articles and reports. These tables are updated on a regular basis, unless they say that they are “Archived”. You can usually view data over many years, and can choose how to display the data.

[Note: These used to be called CANSIM tables.]

At the bottom of the data table:

How to cite: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01_Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates

Note: this suggested citation is not in APA format, and you will need to change it!

Practice: Basic customization of a data table

Look at the Data Table for Crime Severity Index and Weighted Clearance Rates.

1. What was the Crime Severity Index for your type of crime in Canada in 2017? [Note: you will have to choose either Violent or Non-Violent CSI] __________
2. What was percentage change in this index from 2016? __________

Change the geographic area to British Columbia using the drop-down menu. [Hint: BC is toward the bottom of the list.]

1. What was the Crime Severity Index for your type of crime in BC in 2017? [Note: you will have to choose either Violent or Non-Violent CSI] __________
2. What was percentage change in this index from 2016? __________
Browsing the Statistics Canada site by subject

The Statistics Canada website can be overwhelming. One way to navigate through the mass of information is to browse the collection by Subject.

From the Statcan home page, click on the ‘Subjects’ menu tab at the top of the site, and then click on Crime and Justice. You should now see the screen shown below. Click on “Crimes and Offences”

You will see a page that lists over 300 sources on Crimes and Offences. These are a mix of data tables (“Data”), articles and reports such as Juristat (“Analysis”), and reference guides about the surveys.

You can search for a sources on a specific type of offence by using the “Filter results by keyword” search box. In this example, we are looking for BREAK AND ENTER.

Click on MORE to view more detailed description of what you will find in this table.
Data Tables

Basic data table display

The basic display for each data table shows broad categories of data from the last 5 years. It does not give you statistics on specific types of offences. In order to get this information, you will need to customize the table.

Customizing the data table display

You have a limited number of options on the basic display to customize your table. In this case, you can use the drop down menus to choose a different geographic area (one at a time), or change which specific violation is displayed.

To make any other changes, you need to click on the ‘Add/Remove data’ tab.

Use the check boxes under each tab to select the specific data you want to include in your table. Note: if there is an arrow beside an item, you can click on it to display more detailed options.

Once you have made all your customizations, click on Apply to change the table.
After you have made all of your selections, click on the Apply button to generate your customized table.
End result: Customized table

You can download your customized table and use Excel (or other software) to generate charts and graphs. Choose the “CSV: Download as displayed” option.

Practice: Advanced customization of a data table

Open the Incident-Based Crime Statistics, By Detailed Violations data table.

Follow the steps on page 6 to create a customized table for your specific offence.

Download your customized table to the desktop and email it to yourself.
How to cite Statistics Canada sources in APA style:

Juristat article

Juristat is an unusual journal. Most journals publish a fixed number of issues each year (with separate issue numbers), and each issue contains several articles. Juristat publishes individual articles, one at a time, online. Every article in a given year has the same volume and issue number. When you cite Juristat, you can treat it either like a journal or like a government report; it is both.


Customized data table


1 We know that this data was released on July 23, 2018. See screenshot on p. 4.

2 Because we have customized this table, we should indicate exactly what the table contains. We do this by creating a subtitle which contains the following information:

- the time period covered by our customized table
- the content that is included in the table: which violations and statistical measures.

We put this subtitle in square brackets because it did not appear on the original table. We created it

3 We indicate that we customized the table by saying “Adapted”. Because the data in this table changes regularly, we also give the date that we created our table.