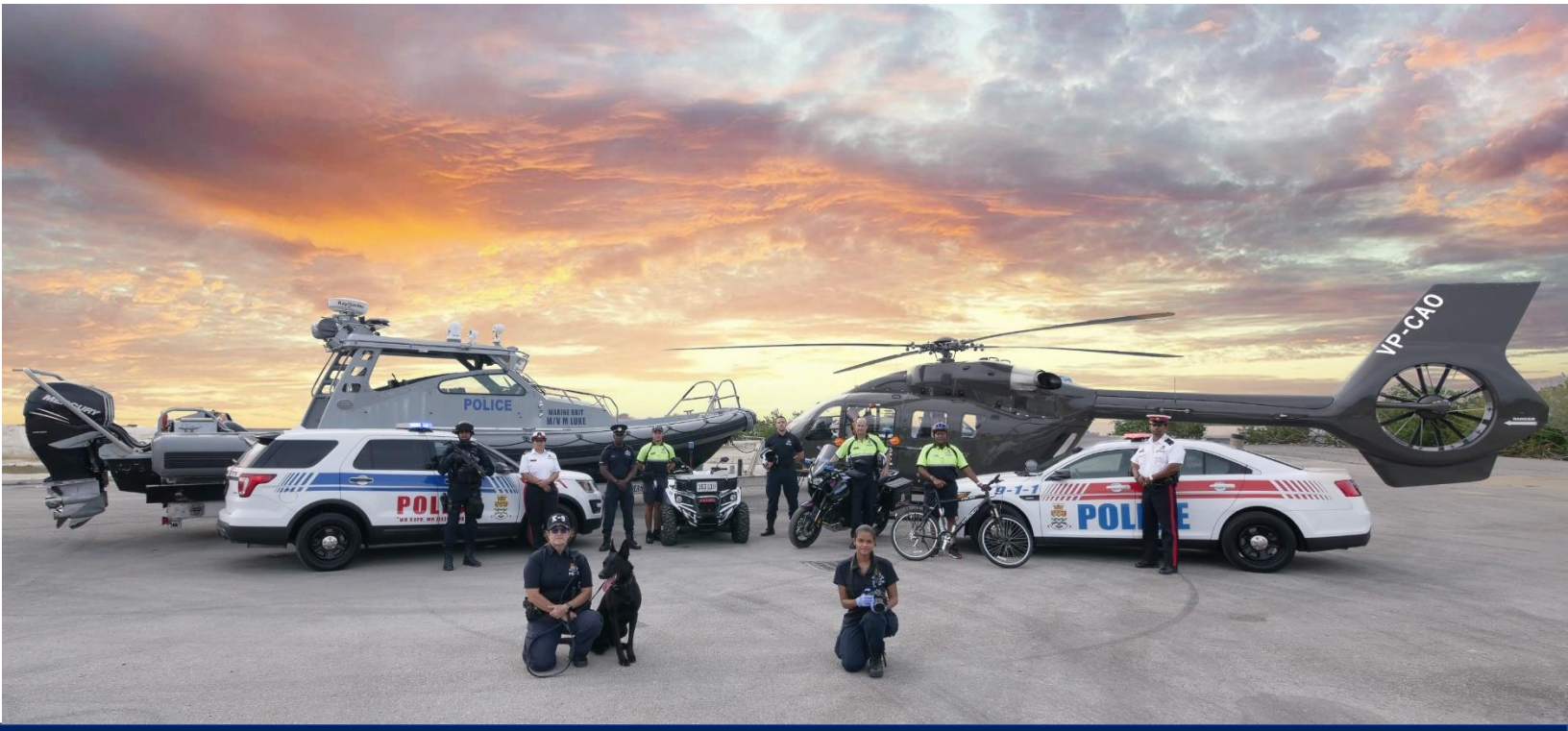


RCIPS ANNUAL CRIME AND TRAFFIC STATISTICAL REPORT

Executive Summary 2019

Our Vision	Making the Cayman Islands safer
Our Mission	Working with our communities, working for our communities
Our Value	Respect, Courtesy, Integrity, Professionalism, Service

FOREWORD



As Commissioner of Police for the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, I am pleased to present the annual statistical report for crime and traffic 2019. This report highlights the significant achievements in 2019 and identifies the emerging challenges we need to address going forward. At the end of 2019 the RCIPS implemented a new crime recording standard that will enable us to continue delivering accurate statistics aimed at nurturing public trust.

In 2019 serious crime commissions in the Cayman Islands decreased by 14% compared to the volumes recorded in 2018

The annual statistical report is a chance to reflect on our collective successes, not solely as a police service but as a community. The RCIPS continues to contribute significantly to maintaining the safety and well-being of the communities of the Cayman Islands.

In 2019 the overall levels of crime in the Cayman Islands remained stable and controlled. Total volumes of crime have increased by less than 1%.

This marginal increase in crime in 2019 is indicative of a growing willingness on behalf of victims to report and the commitment of the RCIPS to investigate crimes which in the past went unreported.

In 2019 there was a 28% increase in the number of domestic violence referrals and a 33% increase in child safeguarding referrals dealt with by RCIPS. This is in line with steady increases in recent years

The RCIPS continued to invest significant resources into addressing crimes that impact the most vulnerable in our communities.

In 2019 less than 3% of the most serious violent crimes involved an element of domestic violence, compared to 31% for 2018. This indicates that the RCIPS is increasingly able to intervene earlier to assist victims before levels of violence escalates."

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The RCIPS had ongoing success in reducing the most serious criminal offences, bringing offenders to justice and ensuring that the Cayman Islands remain a safe place to live, to work, to visit and to do business.

In 2019 there were substantial reductions in the crimes of Murder (-75%), Rape (-52%), Robbery (-37%) and Burglary (-34%) compared to the volumes recorded in 2018. The number of Murder, Rape, Robbery and Burglary crimes recorded in 2019 were at their lowest levels in the past 5 years.

These reductions have been achieved through a combination of factors; the identification and relentless pursuit of the offenders that pose the greatest threat, increasing the awareness of crime prevention through partnership work and the embedding of community policing at a local level.

The RCIPS, in partnership with other law enforcement agencies at local and international levels continued to target organised crime groups seeking to bring illegal commodities into the Cayman Islands.

In 2019, as a result of multiple investigations, RCIPS recovered 9 illegal firearms, a quantity of ammunition and drugs with an estimated street value of CI$4.2 million dollars. In addition, in intelligence led operations 4,102lbs of Ganja was seized at sea and prevented from reaching our islands.

As a result of listening to community concerns and in line with the key priority of improving safety for all road users in the Cayman Islands;

The RCIPS Roads Policing and Traffic Enforcement Department issued 3,094 tickets for speeding offences in 2019, an increase of 46% compared to the previous year.

Looking ahead in 2020, the RCIPS will seek to build on the successes achieved in 2019, listening to our communities and continuing to ensure that the Cayman Islands remain a safe place to live, work, visit and conduct business.

Derek Byrne.
Commissioner of Police.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document aims to provide an overview of the crime and traffic statistics for 2019 from Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS). The purpose it to provide communities and the government with meaningful and accurate information to allow for understanding and to assist in determining priorities for public safety so the Cayman Islands remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

2019 Crime Recording Review

The vision for the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) is to have the best possible crime recording system in the region. A recording system that is consistently applied to allow for the delivery of accurate statistics that further nurtures public trust, putting the needs of the victim at its core and consistency in application across all incidents. This clear, transparent and victim-led approach is in line with the RCIPS Code of Ethics.

At the end of 2019 a significant review was carried out in relation to crime recording within RCIPS. The application of these new crime recording standards resulted in a number of additional crimes being identified in 2019. To allow like for like comparison this crime recording standard was applied to the historic crime data for 2018. It should be stated that previously published RCIPS annual statistical reports were factually correct at the time of publication in terms of crime recorded on police systems.

Looking to the future RCIPS will record and report all criminal offences in line with the findings of the internal review using the UK crime recording standards as a benchmark, working towards the achievement of our four core strategic goals.

Calls for Service

The volume of calls for service has remained stable over the last 2 years at approximately 35,500 in 2018 and 2019. There has been a variation of less than 1% in the total volume over the 2 year period.

Total Recorded Crime

Approximately 12% of all calls for service in 2019 resulted in a recorded crime.
Levels of total recorded crime have remained stable over the last 2 years (increase of less than +1%).
There were 63 crimes per 1,000 population in 2019, compared to 62 per 1,000 population in 2018.

Violence against the Person

Overall levels of violent crime increased by 15% in 2019 compared to 2018. The majority of these crimes fall into the less serious violence category such as Assault ABH and Common Assault. This is mirrored in an increase in the number of recorded crimes involving domestic violence.

In 2019 57% of all crimes involving an act of violence incorporated an element of domestic violence. There has been increase in the number of Domestic Violence Referrals in 2019 compared to 2018. This increase of 28% in 2019 is in line with steady increase seen in recent years.

These increases could partially be attributable to improved recording and understanding of the issues involved on the part of the RCIPS, coupled with an increased willingness on the part of victims to report these crimes and the greater range of services available such as the Family Support Unit and M.A.S.H.

Only a very small proportion (less than 3%) of the crimes of serious violence (Murder, Manslaughter, GBH and Wounding) recorded in 2019 involved domestic violence.

Overall crimes of serious violence (Murder, Manslaughter, GBH and Wounding) decreased by 7% in 2019 compared to 2018.

Sexual Crimes

Overall levels of sexual crimes increased by 24 (29%) in 2019. However, there were substantial reductions in the number of Rapes recorded 11 (-52%). The increases are mainly seen in Indecent Assault on a Female, which has increased by 21 (84%) crimes in 2019 compared to 2018.

Increased reporting and awareness of sexual crimes allows better understanding of sexual crimes. Therefore increased recording is a positive for RCIPS to allow improved prevent and deter opportunities as well as to catch and convict offenders and support victims.

In 2019 there were slight increases in the number of crimes of Possession of an Indecent Image of a Child (+4) and Grooming (+5) compared to 2018.

Firearms

In 2019 the number of firearm crimes increased by 2. This includes the seizure of firearms from individual criminals and crime groups as part of law enforcement activity.

In 2019 RCIPS recovered a total of 9 firearms – 5 revolvers, 2 pistols, 1 shotgun and 1 assault rifle.

A firearms enabled crime is any crime that has been committed where a firearm including an imitation has been discharged or seen/threatened. In 2019 there were 29 crimes believed to involve a firearm. This includes crimes of Robbery (8), Threats to Kill (5), Aggravated Burglary (2), Attempt Murder (2) and Murder (1).

Drugs

In 2019 the number of drugs related crimes reduced by 38. The reduction is mainly due to the decrease in Possession of Ganja crimes.

Over the course of 2019 drugs were seized by RCIPS, including ganja with an estimated street value in excess of CI$ 4.2 million and cocaine estimated street value in excess of CI$ 28,000.

Acquisitive Crime

The crime types which fall within this area of crime are Burglary, Criminal Trespass, Robbery and Theft.

In 2019 there was an overall reduction -163 (-12%) in the number of Acquisitive Crimes recorded. The reductions are mainly due to the decreases in Burglary.

In 2019 there were 264 recorded Burglaries or attempts, compared to 400 for 2018. Put into context there were 4 burglary crimes per 1,000 population in 2019 compared to 6 per 1,000 population in 2018.

In 2019 there were 31 recorded Robberies or attempts, compared to 49 for 2018. This equates to a year on year reduction of -37% in the volumes of Robbery.

Public Order

Public Order crimes have increased by 91 (12%) in 2019 compared to 2018, this is mainly due to increases in Causing Fear or Provocation of Violence. Of the 878 Public Order crimes recorded in 2019, 309 (35%) were Domestic related and 93 (11%) occurred at a licensed premises.

Serious and Organised Crime

RCIPS is committed to proactively pursuing Organised Criminal Groups or Networks, responsible for the importation of drugs and firearms and other organised criminality.

There were 80 proactive investigations carried out in 2019, the types of crime include importation of drugs and firearms, threats to the economic wellbeing of the island through illegal gambling and illegal immigration, those concerned in burglary and the commission of firearms enabled violent crimes.

In 2019 the Financial Crimes Investigations Unit dealt with 111 disclosures from the Financial Reporting Authority. The Financial Crimes Investigations Unit also investigated 13 reports of counterfeit currency being uttered.

In the year 2019 the Financial Crimes Investigations Unit dealt with 136 incident reports as compared to 118 in 2018 an increase of 15%. Of the 136 incident reports, 28 were complex money laundering investigations.

In 2019 the Cyber Crime Investigations Unit assisted in the forensic analysis of 28 attempted cyber-crimes and 20 committed cybercrimes or cyber enabled crimes and supported 53 criminal investigations through the use of digital forensics.

Roads Policing

In 2019 7,850 traffic tickets were issued, compared to 7,525 in 2018.

Speeding

In 2019 there were 3,094 tickets issued in relation to speeding. In 2018 the total number of tickets issued for speeding was 2,124, so there has been a year on year increase of 970 tickets, or 45.7% in 2019 compared to the previous year.

In 2019 there were 88 tickets issued for speeds of 70 mph or greater. This includes two incidents on the Esterley Tibbetts Highway where speeds of 99 mph and 102 mph were recorded.

Driving Under the Influence

In 2019 there were 272 summons issued for driving a motor vehicle under the influence (DUI) of alcohol, compared to 321 for 2018. This is 49 fewer in 2019, equating to a 15.3% reduction.

Approximately 24% of DUI's in 2019 involved a suspect shown to be at least double the legal limit when breathalysed by officers. There were 5 DUI crimes where the reading was greater than 300 mg of alcohol, over 3 times the legal limit. These were located in Bodden Town (2), West Bay (2) and George Town (1).

Motor Vehicle Accident

In 2019 there were 2806 confirmed Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA), compared to 2409 for 2018, which represents an increase of 397 (16.4%).

In 2019 there were 8 MVA's which resulted in 9 fatalities. These fatalities were located on BT (4), GT (1), EE (1), WB (1) and CB (1).

In 2019, 21 persons were seriously injured and 438 persons slightly injured as a result of a MVA.

In 2019 there were 88 MVA's on Grand Cayman, 2 MVA's on the Sister Islands, 1 on each, where the driver of vehicle was found to be driving under the influence of alcohol.