STUDENT WORKSHEET

AN INTRODUCTION TO SEARCHING THE STATCAN WEBSITE www.statcan.ca

The STATCAN website contains a wealth of regularly updated information about Canadians. STATCAN publishes articles, reports, statistical data and other information on its website.

An effective search for information on the STATCAN website may be divided into two stages – a search for relevant articles and reports to identify overall trends and issues, followed by a search for relevant statistical data for further analysis.

Note: In the instructions below, **">"** means click on this ***hot link*.**

SEARCHING FOR ARTICLES AND REPORTS

1. Using the "Daily" - announcements and analysis of new data from StatCan issued every work day at 8:30 A.M.

a. From the Welcome or Home page **>The Daily >** a recent issue (do this if you have seen an article in the newspaper which refers to Statistics Canada data - reporters use this source)

b. At the top of the Daily page **> Search The Daily >** In the search dialogue box enter the phrase **crime rate**. How many hits did the search engine find for this phrase? _____

c. To widen the search we will click the button **any of these words**. How many hits did the search engine find for these particular words? _____

d. Click **sort by date**. Is this list by date more useful, or is the default list which sorts the Dailies by relevance more useful? _____

e. Click on one edition of the Daily that looks relevant to open it.

f. Scan the article and complete the following questions:

   i) Find a graph in the article and use it to summarize the major trends in crime rate in the space below.
   _____
   _____
   _____

   ii) CANSIM is the main database at Statistics Canada, containing a huge amount of data in the form of time series (data trends over time). Is there a CANSIM table mentioned which contains the detailed crime data? _____ If so, what are the CANSIM table numbers? _____ Later, you can use these table numbers for extracting detailed CANSIM data from E-STAT for your project.

iii) Who can you call or email at Statistics Canada if you have questions about the data? _____

g. In the box below, list 1 or 2 articles from *The Daily* that may be interesting to use for your project topic.

Notes

h. Once you have selected a topic for your project, you might want to subscribe to receive future Daily articles that relate to your project topic. To do this, from the **>**The Daily **> FREE subscription** (on the left side bar) **>** Subscribe now **>** select one or more subjects that relate to your project.

Note: *Once you subscribe, you will receive an email on the evening before any Daily article is released that relates to your selected subject(s). If you have trouble subscribing on-line, you can call 1-877-949-9492 weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time and speak to a StatCan employee who will sign you to receive The Daily for your selected subjects.*

2. Using "Internet Publications" on www.statcan.ca

a. From the Welcome or Home page click **> Publications >** and then **> Free internet publications >**

b. From the Free Internet Publications page, you can browse for information by subject. Hundreds of free publications are available here and the list continues to increase regularly.

c. To look for articles related to crime, select **Crime and Justice**.

d. How many catalogued publication titles are listed under this topic? _____

e. Some of these items in fact are multiple publications. **> Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics profile series**.

f. How many separate publications are listed under this one title in the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics profile series? _____

g. Open another title from this list which you may want to use for your topic.

h. How might you use this in a project?

_____

_____

i. Explore the free publications available under any topic you wish. In the box below, list some free internet publications at this location on the site that could relate to your project topic.

Notes

3. Using E-STAT Articles

a. From the Home page select **>Learning resources > E-STAT >** Accept and enter **> Articles > Justice**.

b. If you logon from home, you will need to use the user id: **GECDSB** and password: estat

c. Click on the **Preview and Articles** tab and you can browse for articles by subject. There are over 450 articles here, and new articles are regularly added. Several complete books that normally cost $ are also available here for free for educators and students.

d. Pick a topic and list how many free articles and publications are available for it: _____

e. Each *Juristat* magazine provides insight into one specific topic related to the main heading, such as Justice. Select one *Juristat* publication and open it. What is one interesting fact that you learned from this? _____

f. In the box below, list *E-STAT* articles that may relate to your specific project topic.

Notes

SEARCHING FOR STATISTICAL DATA

4. Using "Canadian Statistics" (a quick source of tabular data)

a. Return to the main or home page. Click on **> Summary Tables >** and type in a search topic. For example: **Crimes by type of offence**

b. Canadian Statistics tables are updated automatically as soon as Statistics Canada has new data from any of it more than 300 ongoing surveys and so the data does not get out of date, as textbooks often do. What is the most recent year for the data? _____

c. When was this table last updated? _____ (Hint: Look in the last row of the table)

d. How many years of data are provided for this table? _____

e. Note that the "**Source**" line (at the bottom of each table) indicates where to find more detailed information on this topic. For over half these tables, the source links to the table number on CANSIM, the time series database.

f. While the table only shows a few years of the most recent data, Statistics Canada often has the same data in the form of long time series going back 20 or more years. The time series data are stored in a large database called CANSIM. If the data in this table come from CANSIM, then the specific table numbers are listed in the second last row of the table. CANSIM (updated once per year) is also provided free of charge to schools within E-STAT. Does this table originate from CANSIM? _____ If yes, what are the corresponding CANSIM Table number(s)? _____

g. To see other related information, click **Find information related to this table** at the bottom of the screen. Then answer the questions below.
   i) How many issues of the Daily related to this table are listed? ___
   ii) How many publications listed related to this table are free and how many cost money? _____ _____
   iii) How many of the publications which are not free are available for free within E-STAT? _____
   (Hint: follow the steps described above in Part 3 of this worksheet)
   iv) Click on **Definitions, data sources, and methods** to learn about the survey that collected the data in this table. What is the name of the survey which collects the data in this table?
   _____
   What is the Effective date for the survey? _____.
   Can you find the actual questionnaire? ____
   If yes, how might this help you with a project? _____

h. In the box below, list *Canadian statistics tables* that appear to relate to your project topic.

Notes

5. Using CANSIM time series on E-STAT to find data tables and make graphs

There are over 2,000 tables and 25 million times series on CANSIM. Many of these tables are more detailed versions over a longer time period of the same data tables you worked with above in section 4, Canadian Statistics.

a. From the Welcome or Home page **> Learning Resources > E-STAT >** Accept and enter **> Data >** select a theme (e.g. **Justice**) **>** from the CANSIM Database, select a sub-theme (e.g. **Crimes and offences**)

b. Browse for relevant data – this data can be graphed in E-STAT, or imported and analyzed in Fathom, a spreadsheet, or TI-Interactive. (Output as "**CSV file, for database loading**," for use in *Fathom*)

c. To work with a specific table such as 252-0013 *(Crime, by detailed offences, annual)* as identified through our Daily or Canadian statistics searches above **> Search CANSIM** (on the left side bar) **> 252-0013 > Search**

d. For how many different types of offences are data provided within this single table? _____

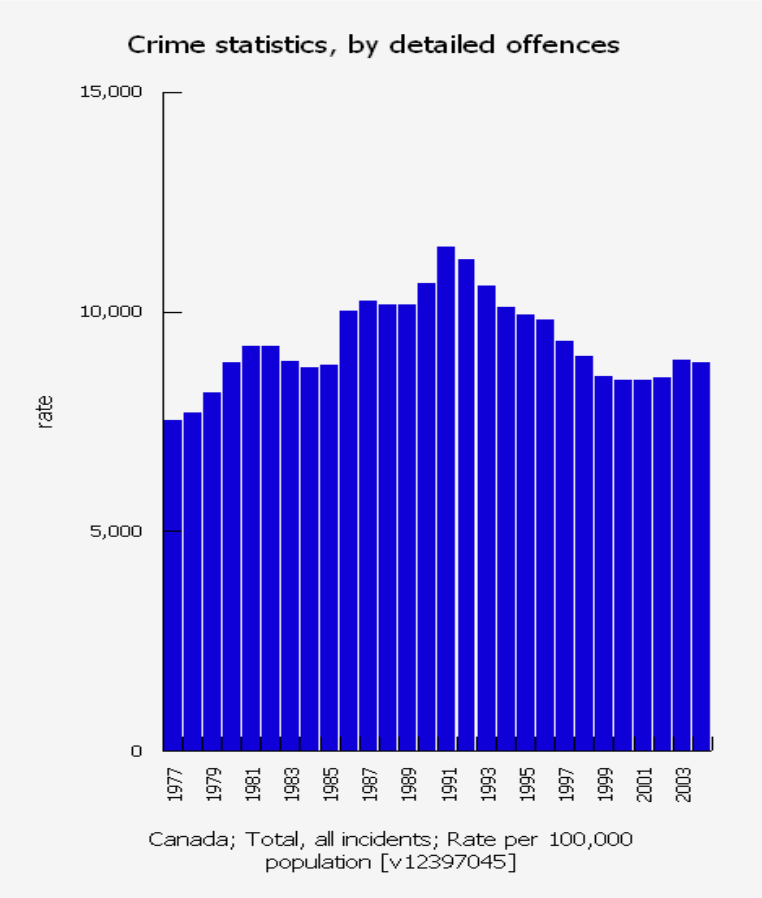
e. What is the earliest year for which the crime data are provided within this table? _____

f. Select the following data from this table.
   i) Under *Geography* **> Canada**
   ii) Under *Offences* **> Total, all incidents**
   iii) Under *Statistics* **> Rate per 100,000 population**
   iv) Under *From* **> the earliest year**

g. Click on **Retrieve as individual Time Series** at the bottom of the page.

h. Look at the list available under **Output format selection**. How many graphical output formats are available? _____

i. Output the data as a line graph (by clicking **Go** at the bottom of the screen) and then using the right-click feature, copy and paste into your word processor document. Next, click on **Modify Graphic**. Under **Type of graphic**, select *Vertical bar chart (max. 15 series)* and click **Replot**. You will then produce the graph shown on the next page.



i) In what year did the crime rate peak? _____ (Hint: placing your mouse on top of the highest bar will display the year and value in a mouse-over or pop-up)

ii) Describe the general trend shown in this graph.
_____
_____

iii) Give a possible explanation for this. _____

iv) Click **Modify Graphic** under the graph and try the different types of graphic. What type of graph gives the best representation for the data? _____

j. In the box below, *list CANSIM tables on E-STAT* that may be useful for your project topic.

Notes