

North Cowichan / Duncan RCMP

2022-04-08



Downtown Corridor and Area Jan to Mar 2022

Year to Date Comparison

REQUEST

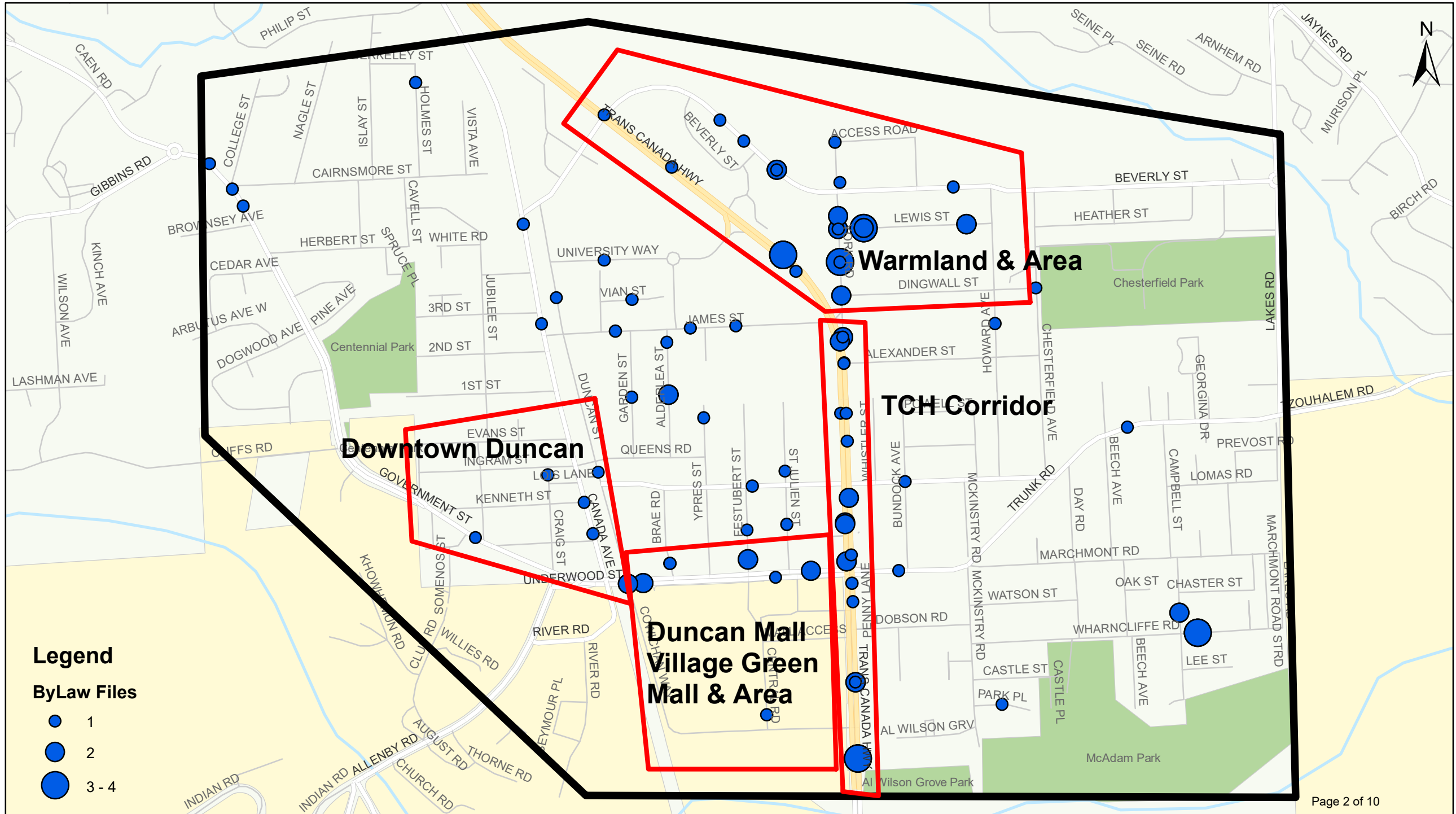
Provide a Jan to Mar 2022 review summary of the Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area. Include a map and identify data trends that may be of interest to City Councils and our partners in Bylaw departments.

DEFINITIONS & DATA CAVEATS

- General Occurrence “GO” data was used as the primary data set as opposed to Calls for Service “CFS” data. A small portion on CFS is included in this report to identify root drivers for a specific UCR code.
- To assist a reader from outside policing with this report please understand that a call for service is translated into a general occurrence which has a UCR (Uniform Crime Report) code. In this report these codes have been grouped ‘UCR Groups’ which are further grouped into ‘UCR Types’.
- For example UCR code (Break & Enter – Business) is grouped into UCR Group (Break & Enters) which is grouped into UCR Type (Property Crime). Some UCR groups may appear to have the same name (e.g. ‘sex offences’ and ‘weapons offences’) under different offence types. This is because some offences in these groups have victims (i.e. are violent crime types), while others do not. These groupings are made and named by E Div RCMP based on best practices on UCR reporting as mandated by Statistics Canada.
- A ‘most serious offence method’ was used so each incident only has one offence code/group/type reflecting the most serious thing that occurred in the incident. This is consistent with reporting standards as reported by Statistics Canada.
- Founded events only were included. Events deemed to be *unfounded, assistance, for information or preventative* were not included. It is for this reason mental health files were excluded from the report as they are deemed ‘assistance’ in nature and this is reported on separately in the quarterly report to mayors and council.
- Area definitions: The area examined (Downtown Duncan Corridor and Area) is defined by the **BLACK** polygon on the map on page 2. For the purposes of this report, it is referred to as the ‘*Downtown Corridor and Area*’. Anything that occurred outside the bounds of the black polygon is beyond the scope of this report.
- Within this area, 4 additional sub-areas are defined for the purposes of this report by the **RED** polygons on the map (page 2) where they are also named.
- Data was extracted on Apr 1, 2022 from Versadex and is presented as found at that time.



Downtown Corridor & Area - ByLaw Offences Jan - Mar, 2022



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Overall Police were called to the Downtown area 1% less in the first 3 months of 2022 than 2021.
- Top UCR codes:
 - The top 3 UCR codes were *Unspecified Assistance*, *Suspicious Activity*, and *Check Welling* which made up 33% of all the occurrences to the area. Of these 3 UCR codes only *Unspecified Assistance* increased (+26%).
- While overall the file count decreased 1%, changes did not occur uniformly across UCR Types:
 - **Criminal Code events** (Violent Crime + Property Crime + Other Criminal Code Occurrences) increased 12% (+67 incidents).
 - **Violent crime** fell 18% (-23 incidents). Within the Violent Crime Type:
 - *Assaults* fell 17% (-13 incidents)
 - *Utter threats* fell 39% (-12 incidents).
 - **Property Crime** increased 20% (+57 incidents). The increase was accounted for almost exclusively by:
 - *Mischief to Property* (group) was up 36% (+44 incidents). Within Mischief to Property UCR code: *Mischief – Loss of Enjoyment of Property* accounted for the majority of the increase, itself increasing 37 incidents.
 - In looking at CFS data – ‘*Unwanted Person*’ also increased +26% (92 incidents).
 - *Shopliftings* increased 17% (+9 incidents). Shoplifting activity has been very closely tied to COVID-19 restrictions, and is still well below pre-COVID numbers.
 - **Other Criminal Code Offences** increased 27% (+33 incidents). Primary drivers were increases in:
 - *Breach of Conditions* up 19 incidents (+68%).
 - *Cause a disturbance* up 17 incidents (23%).
 - **Other Offences** (non criminal) were only up 1%. Significant increases in this category were:
 - *Unspecified Assistance* up 69 incidents (+26%)
 - In looking at CFS data – ‘*Unwanted Person*’ also increased +26% (92 incidents).
 - *False Alarms* up 21 incidents (+38%).
 - There was not significantly more Bylaw offences calls to police in the first QTR of 2022, when compared to 2021 for the area overall.
 - **CDSA (Drug) Offences** (-59%), **Provincial Statue Offences** (-9%) and **Traffic Offences** (-39%) all decreased. The changes in the police reported incidents of these offence types may be more indicative of a change in police behaviour (such as decreased proactive policing time to detect these offences), rather than an actual decrease in the frequency of these offence types.
- Four sub areas are identified as micro-areas of activity or are of recurring interest to our community and various stakeholders. See page 3 for area definitions.
 - Warmland & Area (Increase in volume of 47%);
 - Trans Canada Hwy (TCH) Corridor (Increase in volume 16%);
 - Duncan Mall/Village Green mall and area (Increase in volume 13%);
 - Downtown Duncan (decrease in volume 9%)

DETAILED FINDINGS

GO By UCR Type

Changes in general occurrences in the Downtown Corridor and Area varied by type of incident as shown in the table below. Decreases occurred for Violent crime (-18%), CDSA Offences (-59%), Provincial Statute (-9%) and Traffic Offences (-39%). While Property Crime (+20%) and Other Criminal Code Offences (+27%) both increased. Changes in some Types such as CDSA and Traffic offences may be indicative of decreased proactive policing time being used to target these offences rather than an actual change in the real incidence of these types. Total Criminal Code incidents* rose by 67, or 12% for the QTR.

*CRIME = PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME +PROPERTY CRIME + OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES.

UCR Type	2021	2022	Difference (count)	% change
PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME	125	102	-23	-18%
PROPERTY CRIME	288	345	57	20%
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	124	157	33	27%
CDSA OFFENCES	112	46	-66	-59%
OTHER OCCURRENCES	1058	1069	11	1%
PROVINCIAL STATUTE OFFENCES	171	156	-15	-9%
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	33	20	-13	-39%
Grand Total	1911	1895	-16	-1%

GO By UCR Group

The Crime Types (above) are further broken down into 'Groups' below.

Note: N.C. indicates 'not calculable'. Some groups have multiple UCR codes within such as 'Municipal By Law' files contains 1.Bylaw-Noise, 2. Bylaw-Other and 3. Bylaw-Litter UCR codes, whereas others such as 'Unspecified Assistance' contain only that UCR code.

UCR by Type and Group	2021	2022	% change
CDSA OFFENCES	112	46	-59%
DRUG POSSESSION	106	38	-64%
DRUG PRODUCTION	0	1	N.C.
DRUG TRAFFICKING	6	7	17%
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	124	157	27%
BREACH OF CONDITIONS	28	47	68%
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	74	91	23%
COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY	1	0	-100%
OTHER GO	11	10	-9%
PUBLIC MISCHIEF	1	0	-100%
SEX OFFENCES	4	1	-75%
TRESPASS AT NIGHT	0	2	N.C.
WEAPONS OFFENCES	5	6	20%

OTHER OCCURRENCES	1058	1069	1%
911-FALSE/ABAND	28	28	0%
BREACH OF PEACE	2	15	650%
DANGEROUS OP MOTOR VEHICLE	2	0	-100%
FALSE ALARMS	56	77	38%
IMPAIRED OP MOTOR VEHICLE	4	8	100%
MISSING PERSONS	25	14	-44%
MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS	46	43	-7%
MUNICIPAL BYLAW	101	110	9%
OTHER GO	214	192	-10%
OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES	108	88	-19%
PROHIBITED DRIVING	10	3	-70%
SUSPICIOUS OCCURRENCES	193	152	-21%
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	269	338	26%
WEAPONS OFFENCES	0	1	N.C.
PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME	125	102	-18%
ASSAULTS	78	65	-17%
EXTORTION	0	2	N.C.
HARASSMENT	8	6	-25%
KIDNAPPING	1	1	0%
ROBBERY	3	5	67%
SEX OFFENCES	4	4	0%
UTTER THREATS	31	19	-39%
PROPERTY CRIME	288	345	20%
ARSON	4	7	75%
AUTO THEFT	5	4	-20%
BIKE THEFT	4	9	125%
BREAK & ENTER - BUS	10	15	50%
BREAK & ENTER - OTH	9	8	-11%
BREAK & ENTER - RES	4	4	0%
FRAUDS	17	21	24%
MISCHIEF TO PROPERTY	123	167	36%
OTHER THEFT O/5000	1	2	100%
OTHER THEFT U/5000	28	24	-14%
POSSESS STOLEN PROPERTY	9	1	-89%
SHOPLIFTING	53	62	17%
THEFT FROM MAIL	1	5	400%
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	20	15	-25%
THEFT UTILITIES	0	1	N.C.

PROVINCIAL STATUTE OFFENCES	171	156	-9%
CANNABIS CNTRL & DIST ACTS	3	6	100%
LIQUOR ACT	84	101	20%
OTHER GO	84	49	-42%
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	33	20	-39%
DANGEROUS OP MOTOR VEHICLE	2	0	-100%
IMPAIRED OP MOTOR VEHICLE	31	19	-39%
PROHIBITED DRIVING	0	1	N.C.
Grand Total	1911	1895	-1%

Most Frequent UCR codes

The table below shows top 20 UCR codes by frequency. UCR codes are the codes that are grouped and typed above. These 20 UCR codes make up 80% of the total occurrences to the area. Increases in 'Unspecified Assistance', 'Bylaw-Other', 'Cause A Disturbance', 'Mischief – Loss of Enjoyment of Property' and 'False Alarms' were drivers for increases overall to the area. Combined these files increased by 167 incidents or 32%. Unspecified Assistance UCR was up 26% from 2021 and 184% when compared to 2020 (data not shown in table for 2020).

Top 20 UCR Codes for Q1 2022:

Top 20 UCR Codes	2021	2022	Difference (count)	% Change
UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE	268	338	70	26%
SUSPICIOUS PERS/VEH/OCCURRENCE	193	152	-41	-21%
CHECK WELL-BEING	153	132	-21	-14%
BYLAW-OTHER	76	98	22	29%
CAUSE A DISTURBANCE	74	91	17	23%
MISCHIEF-LOSS ENJOYMENT PROP	51	88	37	73%
LIQUOR-INTOX IN PUBLIC PLACE	76	83	7	9%
FALSE ALARMS	56	77	21	38%
MISCHIEF \$5000 OR UNDER	72	76	4	6%
THEFT-SHOPLIFTING UNDER \$5000	52	61	9	17%
TRAFFIC-OTHER MOVING PROV	64	55	-9	-14%
ASSAULT-COMMON	63	50	-13	-21%
BREACH/BAIL VIOLATION	23	43	20	87%
TRESPASS ACT	58	32	-26	-45%
911-FALSE/ABANDONED CALLS	28	28	0	0%
THEFT-OTHER UNDER \$5000	28	24	-4	-14%
POSSESS-OTH SCHED I DRUGS/SUBS	53	23	-30	-57%
PROPERTY-LOST	18	23	5	28%
PROPERTY-FOUND	32	21	-11	-34%
UTTER THREATS AGAINST PERSON	31	19	-12	-39%
Sub Total (top 20)	1469	1514	45	3%

GOs By Location Type

Over half of all files (55%) occurred specifically outside (streets, parking lots, and open areas/parks) in 2021. This is unchanged from the previous corridor report. Note: this likely undercounts the volume of files actually occurring outside as almost every other location type could also actually be occurring in outside spaces around the locations. However PRIME currently lacks the detail to quantify this. There continues to be a concentration of activity occurring outdoors on the streets, parking lots and open areas.

General Occurrence Location Types sorted by Frequency:

Files changed disproportionately by location type. Change in location type by volume is shown in the table below. For simplicity values <10 were excluded. Noteworthy increases are highlighted in red. *Parking lots, other commercial/corporate places, homeless shelter, banks and schools during not supervised activity* all had the largest increases.

Location Type	2021	2022	% change
STREETS, ROADS, HIGHWAYS	534	494	-7%
PARKING LOTS	362	444	23%
OTHER COMMERCIAL/CORPORATE PLACES	221	261	18%
SINGLE HOME/TOWNHOUSE/DUPLEX (AND CONNECTED PROPERTY)	131	114	-13%
OPEN AREAS/PARKS/BODIES OF WATER	112	102	-9%
RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNIT (APARTMENT/CONDO/ROOMING HOUSE/DORM)	144	87	-40%
HOMELESS SHELTER/MISSION	49	64	31%
BAR, RESTAURANT	61	63	3%
OTHER NON COMMERCIAL/CORPORATE PLACES	85	63	-26%
GAS STATION	33	32	-3%
BANK AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	21	30	43%
SCHOOLS DURING NOT SUPERVISED ACTIVITY	10	24	140%
CONVENIENCE STORES	34	22	-35%
COMMERCIAL DWELLING UNIT (HOTEL/MOTEL/B&B ROOM)	37	15	-59%
UNKNOWN	12	15	25%
SCHOOLS DURING SUPERVISED ACTIVITY	12	10	-17%

Calls for Service

Calls for service (CFS) data can indicate the nature of the initial complaint. This can be valuable when looking at UCR codes such as 'unspecified assistance', which is by definition not specific. The difference between call data and General Occurrence (GO) data is beyond the scope of this report, but the reader should note CFS types do not always translate into the same General Occurrence UCR code. For example while there is an UNWANTED PERSON call type, no such category exists in UCR offence codes. Also while a call may be an ASSAULT in progress, the circumstances of the incident may not always mean the UCR offence code is ASSAULT. This is not an inaccuracy, just a reality of the data. Top 10 CFS types in Q1 2022 are displayed below. These ten call types make up 55% of all the CFS to the area.

Top 10 CFS Q1 2022 – Downtown Corridor & Area

Call Type	2021	2022	% change
UNWANTED PERSON	356	448	26%
CHECK WELLBEING	217	181	-17%
ASSIST POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE	104	109	5%
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	94	84	-11%
DISTURBANCE	78	97	24%
THEFT	73	70	-4%
TRAFFIC INCIDENT	70	61	-13%
DRUGS	78	32	-59%
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	65	35	-46%
ALARM FALSE	44	55	25%

Micro-Areas

Within the corridor & area there are 4 sub-areas that have some clustering of occurrences (see page 3). Approximately 70% of all incidents in Q1 2022 occurred within one of the following sub-areas. The TCH corridor, Warmland Area and Duncan Mall all had a significant increase in GOs, while Downtown Duncan had a slight decrease in volume of GOs.

Micro Areas GOs by Volume Q1 2022:

Micro-Area	2021	2022	% change
TCH Corridor	408	475	16%
Warmland & Area	249	366	47%
Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area	336	379	13%
Downtown Duncan	131	119	-9%

TCH Corridor

25% of all the occurrences in the downtown area occurred in the 'TCH corridor' (see map on pg 3). GOs increased 16% in this area when compared to last year. UCR codes *Unspecified assistance, Bylaw – Other, False Alarms and Disturbances* increased disproportionately in this area. Combined Bylaw files (noise, other and litter) increased 39% to this area (compared to 9% overall).

Top 10 UCR codes in Q1 2022 for "TCH Corridor":

UCR Code	2021	2022	% Change
UNSPEC ASSIST	77	92	19%
SUSP PER/VEH/OCC	32	33	3%
CHECK WELL-BEING	30	33	10%
TRF-OTH MOVE	27	17	-37%
LIQ-INTOX PUBLIC	22	21	-5%
BYLAW-OTH	18	23	28%
FALSE ALARMS	9	32	256%
MSCHF-5000 OR U	19	20	5%
CAUSE DISTURB	12	22	83%

Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area

20% off all GOs to the Downtown Area occurred in the Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area. Overall GOs to this area increased 13% for the QTR. UCR codes *Unspecified assistance*, *Shoplifting*, *Disturbances* and *Check Wellbeing* files increased significantly in this area. Combined Bylaw files (noise, other and litter) remained unchanged for the QTR when compared to 2021 for this area.

Top 10 UCR codes for “Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall & Area”:

UCR Code	2021	2022	% change
UNSPEC ASSIST	46	72	57%
THFT-SHOP U/5000	37	44	19%
LIQ-INTOX PUBLIC	19	29	53%
CHECK WELL-BEING	22	26	18%
SUSP PER/VEH/OCC	26	24	-8%
BRCH/BAIL VIOL	0	19	N.C.
CAUSE DISTURB	13	17	31%
MSCHF-ENJOY PROP	4	12	200%
BYLAW-OTH	9	11	22%
TRESPASS ACT	9	10	11%

Warmland & Area

The new OPS site moved to this area in November 2021. This area makes up 19% of all the GOs to the Downtown area. The Warmland area saw the largest increase in volume of GOs, increasing 47% (compared to 1% to the Downtown area overall). There was significant growth in GOs overall and specifically 9 out of the top 10 GOs in this area. Combined *Bylaw files (Noise, Litter, Other)* – increased from 15 to 33 (120%) in this area.

Top 10 UCR codes for Q1 2022 for “Warmland Area”:

UCR Codes	2021	2022	% change
UNSPEC ASSIST	31	69	123%
BYLAW-OTH	15	32	113%
SUSP PER/VEH/OCC	16	30	88%
MSCHF-ENJOY PROP	7	27	286%
CAUSE DISTURB	16	27	69%
CHECK WELL-BEING	20	25	25%
MSCHF-5000 OR U	10	15	50%
TRF-OTH MOVE	9	13	44%
LIQ-INTOX PUBLIC	15	12	-20%
BRCH/BAIL VIOL	2	8	300%

Downtown Duncan

This area makes up just 6% of the area total for Q1 2022 (by volume of occurrences). There was no significant change in any of the top 10 categories, mostly due to low numbers which can skew % changes.

Top 10 UCR codes for Q1 2022 for “Downtown Duncan”:

UCR Code	2021	2022	% change
FALSE ALARMS	21	20	-5%
UNSPEC ASSIST	14	14	0%
CHECK WELL-BEING	14	8	-43%
BYLAW-OTH	7	5	-29%
SUSP PER/VEH/OCC	7	4	-43%
TRF-OTH MOVE	4	7	75%
CAUSE DISTURB	5	5	0%
B&E-BUSINESS	3	6	100%
POSS-OTH SCH I	6	2	-67%
MSCHF-ENJOY PROP	2	6	200%

Conclusion:

Police attended occurrences in Q1 of 2022 in the downtown and area of Duncan showed some variability in frequency. Consistent with previous reports, the single greatest complaint was ‘Unwanted Person’ which made up 21% of all the CFS to the area.

Crime increased 12% overall. Increases in volume were attributable to increases in Mischief – Loss of Enjoyment of Property and Shoplifting. Mischief – loss of enjoyment of property was driven up by a 26% increase in Unwanted Persons calls. With respect to shoplifting the increase reflects a ‘trending toward normal’ after very low shoplifting numbers in recent years due to COVID related restrictions and financial benefits. While Crime increased overall in volume it became less serious, with violent crime decreasing 18%.

There was a significant growth in volume of activity in the Warmland Area which increased 47% (by volume). It is noteworthy that the Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) moved to this area in November 2021. The TCH corridor and Duncan Mall/Village Green Mall increased more modestly in volume (16% and 13%), while Downtown Duncan decreased 9%. The Warmland Area and TCH saw significant increases in police attended ByLaw related issues.

In terms of location type – ‘Schools during not supervised activity’ (i.e. school property, after school hours), had the single greatest increase in volume (by percent). Most of the schools in the Downtown Corridor and Area fall in the Warmland Area polygon. Activity in parking lots also increased significantly.