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Land Use & Crime: Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam

Exploring how violent, property, mischief and drug offences relate to land uses

Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam are two suburban cities that are currently undergoing rapid physical changes. In order to accommodate growing urban populations both within these locations, and in the wider surrounding region, Coquitlam Centre area has been designated as a Regional City Centre. It is intended to act as a downtown core for the neighbouring municipalities, and as such, is experiencing rapid redevelopment, focusing on mixed land uses and dense residential/commercial mixes. In an effort to understand and model the shifts in crime types and densities that may be associated with this redevelopment, ICURS has begun exploration of the relationship between land use and crime in Coquitlam in 2005, and will use this as a baseline. As new data becomes available, and new developments begin to emerge, the changing relationship between land use and crime within these dynamic locations will be further investigated. Table 1, below, provides an initial overview of the counts and percentages of specific land use parcels, alongside the counts and percentages of crime occurrences falling within each land use category for 2005. Crime types have been broken down into Violent, Property, Mischief and Drugs. The majority of all crime occurrences fall on parcels classified as residential; however, the vast majority of all lots fall in this category.

Table 1: Land Use and Crime, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, 2005

City	Land Uses	Parcels		Violent		Property		Mischief		Drugs	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Coquitlam	Residential Land Use	35468	95.17	517	48.14	2862	50.30	2283	55.13	290	59.92
	Farm Land Use	18	0.05	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.02	0	0.00
	Commercial Land Use	1017	2.73	248	23.09	2191	38.51	983	23.74	81	16.74
	Industrial Land Use	129	0.35	4	0.37	61	1.07	15	0.36	1	0.21
	Transportation, Communication, Utility	78	0.21	0	0.00	5	0.09	6	0.14	0	0.00
	Civic, Institutional and Recreational	559	1.50	305	28.40	571	10.04	853	20.60	112	23.14
	TOTAL	37269	100	1074	100	5690	100	4141	100	484	100
Port Coquitlam	Residential Land Use	16366	92.39	310	61.51	1958	56.33	1352	59.07	130	59.63
	Farm Land Use	82	0.46	2	0.40	9	0.26	17	0.74	1	0.46
	Commercial Land Use	817	4.61	126	25.00	1236	35.56	611	26.69	38	17.43
	Industrial Land Use	185	1.04	2	0.40	74	2.13	13	0.57	2	0.92
	Transportation, Communication, Utility	41	0.23	0	0.00	5	0.14	1	0.04	0	0.00
	Civic, Institutional and Recreational	223	1.26	64	12.70	194	5.58	295	12.89	47	21.56
	TOTAL	17714	100	504	100	3476	100	2289	100	218	100

Source: Crime data: RCMP E-Division PIRS Dataset; BCAA Land Use Dataset