Repeat offenders, who persistently commit crimes over time, constitute a major hazard to public safety and security and place a disproportionate burden on criminal justice resources and social services more generally. Cross-analysis of anonymized PRIME data for “E”-Division over the period 2007 through 2012 illustrates the magnitude of impact of prolific offending in British Columbia.

Examination of the separate criminal events for which individuals were charged shows that a relatively small number of individuals are responsible for a high proportion of all crimes cleared by charge. During this 6-year time period, the 67.5% of individuals who were charged on a single occasion accounted for about only 31.9% of all criminal events. In contrast, the prolific 5.7% of individual offenders who were charged on 6 or more occasions were responsible for 33.9% of all charges.

Footnote: It should be noted that estimates of prolific offenders would be greater if the longer criminal career of offenders was analyzed. Some of the persons with a small number of charges in the six year period were, in a trajectory sense, at the beginning or the end of longer sequence of repeat offending.

Data Source: RCMP E-Division PRIME Anonymized Dataset held in ICURS / Study Year: 2007-2012