

ViCLAS: Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System

WHAT IS ViCLAS?

ViCLAS is the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System. It is a national database for tracking violent offenders and the offenses they commit. More specifically, ViCLAS is an automated case linkage system designed to capture, collate and compare crimes of violence through the analysis of victimology, offender/suspect description, modus operandi, forensic and behavioural data.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in co-operation with other Police Services developed the ViCLAS system in 1991. In 1993, ViCLAS was implemented into the Ontario Provincial Police. In 1995, ViCLAS became a part of the Ontario Provincial Police's Behavioural Science Section. More information on the history of ViCLAS can be obtained through the [ViCLAS Web page](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/html/viclas-e.htm) (<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/html/viclas-e.htm>)

ViCLAS is an investigative aid specifically designed to assist police agencies in identifying violent crimes that may be serial in nature and permits the analysis and linkage of such cases based on the behaviour exhibited by the offender while he/she is with the victim. The ViCLAS Crime Analysis report is specifically designed to capture this behaviour. Through the Provincial ViCLAS Centre, comparisons can be made on a local, provincial or national basis. **ViCLAS tells police forces about similarities between crimes, particularly predatory crimes of sexual violence, and gives them the tools necessary to investigate and develop the links between offenses committed by the same serial predator.** The underlying premise of ViCLAS is that repeat offenders follow similar patterns and that homicidal and sexual offenders exhibit identifiable and often predictable characteristics and motivation.

It is very important to note that ViCLAS does not solve cases. Investigators are still and will be in the foreseeable future very much necessary to solve cases.

WHY DO WE NEED ViCLAS?

As a result of one of the key recommendations in the judicial report of Mr. Justice Archie Campbell - subsequent to the Paul Bernardo case - effective February 15, 1997 Regulation 550/96 of the Police Services Act of Ontario requires that "every police officer who is in charge of an investigation, complete and submit one or more ViCLAS Crime Analysis Reports, in the form prepared by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in accordance with the established standard of ViCLAS", for the following types of investigations:

- **All sexual assaults and attempts, solved or unsolved (including false allegations of sexual assault)**
- All homicides and attempts solved or unsolved.
- Non-parental abduction or attempted non-parental abduction
- Missing persons where the circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play and the person remains missing.

- Unidentified body or found human remains where the manner of death is known or suspected to be a homicide.
- A type of investigation that is added to the submission criteria of ViCLAS and is designated by the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services.

In addition, this Regulation also requires that every Chief of Police shall prepare and submit to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services an annual report setting out the number of ViCLAS Crime Analysis Reports submitted by the police service in the previous year.

In Ontario police services submit the ViCLAS Crime Analysis Reports to the Provincial ViCLAS Centre at Ontario Provincial Police Headquarters in Orillia, Ontario. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are the provincial coordinators in the remaining provinces, except for Quebec where the Quebec Provincial Police and Montreal City Police coordinate ViCLAS data entry and analysis.

At the Provincial ViCLAS Centre, the ViCLAS Crime Analysis Reports are received, quality controlled, all details data encoded and entered on the ViCLAS database, and analysed. Submissions instantly become searchable information on a national basis. It is important to note that submitted case are continually compared through analysis against all other cases entered into the system in an attempt to establish any potential case linkages existing with other cases entered across Canada.

ANONYMOUS THIRD PARTY REPORTS

The ViCLAS Unit also manages a program called "Anonymous Third Party Reports". This is a referral program designed for ADULT victims of sexual assault who do not wish to report the assault to the police. This program provides free ongoing counselling and medical attention to victims. At the same time, the victim has an opportunity to provide police with the details of their assault anonymously. This information is entered into a National database where it is continually being analyzed against all other sexual assaults. The information derived from this program allows police to gather information on potential serial or predatory type offenders.

SOURCE: <http://www.vaxxine.com/nrpsweb/viclas/default.eht>

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KWSASC staff and/or volunteers are able to support and accompany women through this process. The staff at the Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Treatment Centre are also available for consultation.

The direct Waterloo Region contact is through the Waterloo Regional Police

@ 570-3000 ext. 8724.