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CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 1998

by Sylvain Tremblay

Highlights

- Canada's police-reported crime rate decreased for the seventh year in a row in 1998, falling 4%. The 1998 rate was the lowest rate since 1979.
- With the exception of Newfoundland (+3%) and Saskatchewan (+2%), all provinces reported a decline in their crime rate. Newfoundland reported the lowest crime rate (5,803 incidents per 100,000 population), while Saskatchewan reported the highest (12,403).
- Of the 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents, 12% were violent crimes, 56% were property crimes, and the remaining 32% were other offences such as mischief, disturbing the peace, prostitution and arson.
- The rate of violent crime declined for the sixth consecutive year, down 2%. Despite these recent declines, the violent crime rate was still 12% higher than 10 years ago. All major categories of violent crime decreased in 1998, including homicide (-6%), sexual assault (-6%), assault (-1%), and robbery (-3%).
- There were 555 homicides in 1998, 31 fewer than in the previous year. The homicide rate has generally been falling since the mid-1970s. The 1998 rate of 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population is the lowest in 30 years.
- The property crime rate dropped 7%, continuing the general decline that began in 1991. All major categories of property crime decreased in 1998, including motor vehicle theft (-7%), breaking and entering (-7%), and other theft (-7%).
- Fuelled by an 8% drop in property crimes, the youth crime rate, as measured by the number of youths charged by police, declined 4% in 1998. This rate has generally been decreasing since 1991. The rate of youths charged with violent offences also decreased (-1%) for the third straight year.



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Introduction

Every year since 1962, Canada's police agencies have reported criminal incidents that come to their attention to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) by means of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. This report is an examination of the 1998 reported crime. Data are presented within the context of both short and long term trends.

Analyses in this report focus on trends in violent crime, property crime, impaired driving offences, drug offences and youth crime. Crime rates are examined at the national, provincial/territorial and major metropolitan levels. The trend in Canada's crime rate is put into perspective by comparing it with crime trends in some other industrialized countries. Detailed information on incidents, accused and victims is also presented when appropriate.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACFP) in making this report possible.

Interpreting police-reported crime data

Data on incidents that come to the attention of police are captured and forwarded to the CCJS according to a nationally-approved set of common scoring rules and definitions. The reader should note, however, that many factors could influence official crime statistics. These include: reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the CCJS; and, the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices.

Reporting to police

It can be argued that official crime statistics merely reflect Canadians' willingness to report criminal activity to police. There are many reasons why victims may not report these incidents to police: the feeling that police cannot help or that the incident is a personal matter (e.g., domestic violence or some assaults); the level of seriousness related to the incident; and, the fear of reprisals from the aggressor or of the possible negative consequences of criminal justice system intervention. However, the need for a police report to receive insurance compensation may also encourage people to report certain offences to police such as break and enter or thefts of motor vehicle.¹

Estimates of some unreported crimes are available from victimization surveys, such as the General Social Survey (GSS)² and the International Criminal Victimization Survey (ICVS).³ Mirroring the general trends in police-reported statistics, data from ICVS showed that victimization rates in Canada fell 11% between 1991 to 1995 compared to a 13% decrease in the police-reported crime rate. A third cycle of the GSS is being conducted in 1999 and results will be available in 2000.

While under-reporting to police can negatively affect official crime statistics, the opposite is also true: as the tolerance for certain crimes lowers, reporting to police will increase, driving crime statistics upward. For example, increased education in the areas of family violence, sexual assault and youth crime have lowered society's tolerance for these behaviours which, in turn, may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police.

Reporting by police to the CCJS

Crimes reported to the CCJS by police agencies are subjected to numerous quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at the CCJS. The CCJS

¹ See «Decision Making in the Criminal Justice System: Toward the Rational Exercise of Discretion» by Gottfredson and Gottfredson (1988), *Law, Society, and Policy*, Vol. 3, New-York: Prenum.

² The General Social Survey is conducted by Statistics Canada. See "Trends in Criminal Victimization, 1988-1993" by Rosemary Gartner and Anthony Doob, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 14, No. 13.

³ For further information, refer to "Criminal Victimization: An International Perspective" by Sandra Besserer, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 18, No. 6.

and police agencies work together on an on-going basis to detect and resolve any difficulties in the reporting or transmission of data.

In addition, concerns have been raised that tighter budgets are diminishing the ability of some police agencies to respond to, and document, all incidents reported to them, a situation that may also result in a decrease in UCR coverage. While it has been suggested that this may have contributed to the recent declines in the crime rate, the fact that serious crimes (those crimes which are more likely to be recorded by police) have been declining as much as less serious crimes, suggests that any change that may have occurred in reporting by police is not significant.

Moreover, a comparison of trends among police agencies across all provinces/territories shows that virtually all agencies have been experiencing decreases in reported crime in recent years.

Changes in legislation, policies and practices

Changes in legislation, policies and police enforcement practices may also have an impact on police-reported statistics. For instance, where an amendment to the *Criminal Code* creates a new offence or broadens the definition of an existing one, the number of incidents reported to police will likely increase.

For certain crimes, the rise and fall of statistics is driven largely by police enforcement. Crimes such as prostitution, drug offences and impaired driving are most often identified through police-enforcement activities, or “proactive” policing, and are rarely reported by the public. Therefore, police enforcement efforts, such as special operations to target these types of crime, will affect official crime statistics.

Some police services attribute recent declines in local crime rates to community-based policing or to new strategies initiated to reduce certain crimes. While community-based policing can have an impact on police-reported crime statistics, the direction and size of the impact are difficult to assess. Aside from community policing, some police agencies also attribute declines in certain crimes to improved case management and new approaches to resolving and preventing crime.

Key terminology and definitions

Throughout this report, the terms “crime” and “crime rate” refer to total police-reported *Criminal Code* “actual” incidents, excluding traffic crime, unless noted otherwise. “Actual” incidents are those which have been substantiated through police investigation.

It is also important to note that, **for incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted.** Unless otherwise stated, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime. Crime rates are based on 100,000 population (see Table 10 for population estimates used). Please refer to the Methodology section for further details on the UCR survey.

1998 Crime Trends

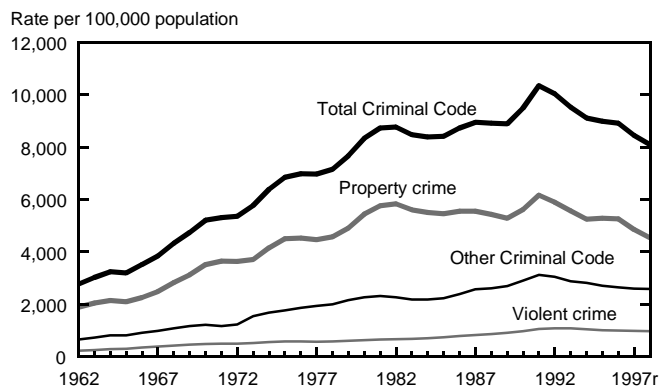
Lowest crime rate since 1979

Of the 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic incidents) reported in 1998, 12% were violent crimes, 56% were property crimes, and 32% were other *Criminal Code* crimes (e.g. mischief, prostitution, arson, bail violations, disturbing the peace). In addition, there were approximately 140,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (6 out of 10 were impaired driving offences), 71,000 drug incidents and 35,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Excise Act*, *Immigration Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*) reported. In total, there were 2.7 million federal statute incidents reported by the police.

After peaking in the early 1990s, Canada’s crime rate has been falling steadily. In 1998, the police-reported crime rate dropped for the seventh consecutive year (-4%) (Table 1). Over these seven years, the crime rate has decreased by 22%, making the 1998 rate the lowest since 1979 (Figure 1). Compared to twenty years ago, however, the 1998 crime rate is 13% higher, and it is up 87% from thirty years ago. Over the last few decades, amendments to Canada’s definition of criminal behaviour and changes in our tolerance for certain crimes may have influenced reporting to police as well as the nature of reported incidents.

Figure 1

Crime rates by major category, Canada, 1962-1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Crime rate is down in most provinces

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada. Historically, crime rates in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec have been lower than those in Ontario, which in turn have been lower than rates in the Western provinces. During the 1990s, however, this pattern has changed somewhat. Alberta has reported much lower crime rates than its neighbouring provinces and Nova Scotia has shown higher crime rates than Quebec and Ontario.

In 1998, provincial crime rates ranged from a low of 5,803 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland to 12,403

Nunavut: A similar crime profile to other territories

Crime rates in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon are usually higher than those in the provinces (Table 3). On April 1st, 1999, Nunavut, which comprises the eastern part of the old Northwest Territories, officially became a Canadian territory. It is possible to derive crime statistics for Nunavut and the new Northwest Territories previous to 1999. The table below shows those statistics for the period 1994 to 1998 according to the 1999 boundaries. Yukon is also included for comparison purposes. Although populations in the three territories are lower than 100,000, rates are based on this number for comparability purposes with provinces.

In general, crime rates reported in the region that now forms Nunavut are comparable to those of the two other territories. In 1998, Nunavut reported a violent crime rate higher than both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, while their property crime rate was lower. The overall crime rate in Nunavut has been declining since 1995, mainly due to a downward trend in property offences.

Crime Rates in Territories, Canada, 1994-1998

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% Change 1997-1998	% Change 1994-1998
							%
Violent Crime - Total							
Nunavut (Eastern Arctic)	6,531	5,636	5,591	5,662	5,879	4	-10
Northwest Territories (Western Arctic)	4,826	4,665	4,579	5,354	5,063	-5	5
Yukon	2,719	3,228	3,131	3,266	2,904	-11	7
Property Crime - Total							
Nunavut (Eastern Arctic)	7,000	7,616	6,973	5,604	4,977	-11	-29
Northwest Territories (Western Arctic)	7,373	7,576	7,533	6,727	7,022	4	-5
Yukon	8,503	8,939	8,188	8,139	6,982	-14	-18
Other Criminal Code Offences - Total							
Nunavut (Eastern Arctic)	9,980	11,240	9,813	9,488	9,660	2	-3
Northwest Territories (Western Arctic)	12,609	11,267	9,806	10,998	12,939	18	3
Yukon	7,934	7,557	8,410	9,396	8,139	-13	3
Criminal Code excluding Traffic - Total							
Nunavut (Eastern Arctic)	23,510	24,492	22,377	20,754	20,517	-1	-13
Northwest Territories (Western Arctic)	24,808	23,508	21,919	23,079	25,024	8	1
Yukon	19,157	19,724	19,729	20,801	18,025	-13	-6

* Rates are based on 100,000 population

per 100,000 in Saskatchewan, where the crime rate has been increasing since 1994 (Table 3). Except for Newfoundland (+3%) and Saskatchewan (+2%), all provinces followed the 1998 national trend of a declining crime rate. For a second consecutive year, Prince Edward Island reported the highest provincial drop (-8%). Ontario, which accounts for almost two-fifths of Canada's population, reported a drop of 6%.

Crime also down in a majority of census metropolitan area

Crime rates declined in each of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁴ in 1998 (Table 4). The largest drops were reported by Toronto (-11%), Québec (-9%) and Ottawa⁵ (-8%). Québec and Toronto also recorded the lowest crime rates among all 25 CMAs (Table 5). Both of their rates were less than half the rate of Vancouver which, despite a 5% decline, still displayed the second highest crime rate among all 25 CMAs. In 1998, the offences reported by these nine metropolitan areas accounted for almost half (46%) of all crimes reported by police in Canada.

Most of the other metropolitan areas, which had populations between 100,000 and 499,999, also reported decreases, the largest drops being reported by London (-10%), Hull (-10%) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (-10%) (Table 5). For a second consecutive year, Regina (14,785 per 100,000 population) showed the highest crime rate of all 25 CMAs, followed by Vancouver (12,142) and Saskatoon (11,777).

Crime is also falling in the U.S and in England & Wales

Other countries have also experienced recent declines in their crime rates. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that the 1998 preliminary indexed crime⁶ rate in the United States dropped for a seventh year in a row (-5%), including a 7% decrease in violent crime and a 5% decline in property crime. All crimes included in the index decreased in 1998, including murder (-8%), robbery (-11%), motor vehicle theft (-8%) and burglary (-3%). The reported crime in England and Wales has also fallen annually since 1992, including an 8% decrease in 1998.⁶ Violent crime was up 1%, while property crime was down 9%.

⁴ A CMA refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA.

⁵ "Ottawa" in this report refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

⁶ The U.S. Crime Index is composed of the violent crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault (not common assault), and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

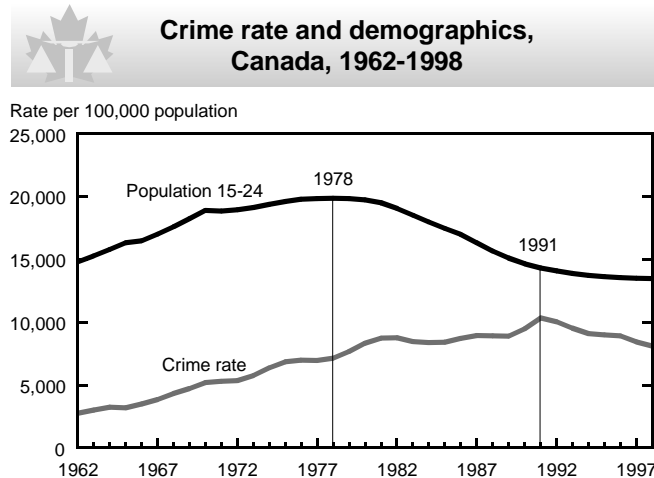
For more information on England and Wales statistics, see the report entitled *Notifiable Offences, England and Wales*, by D. Povey and J. Prime, Home Office, England, October 1998. The annual report is based on the time period from April 1997 to March 1998.

Changing demographics and the crime rate

The decline in crime rates since the early 1990s has coincided with the decreasing proportion of persons aged between 15 and 24 years old during this time period. This group is recognized as those who commit a large number of criminal offences (see Figures 14a & 14b). However, the relationship between their representation in the general population and trends in the crime rate is not so obvious.

Figure 2 shows the trend in the number of crimes and the number of 15 to 24 year-olds as rates per 100,000 population from 1962 to 1998. Between 1962 and 1978, both lines show a constant increase: the crime rate climbed 158%, while the rate of 15 to 24 year-olds increased by 34%. However, while crime continued to increase until peaking in 1991, the rate of 15 to 24 year-olds decreased by 27% over the same period (1978-1991). Since 1991, both trends have decreased: the crime rate by 22% and the population 15 to 24 by 6%. This seems to indicate that, while there is some relationship between the trend in the crime rate and the trend in the high-risk offender age group, there are clearly other factors that are influencing crime rates.

Figure 2



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS and Report on Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998.

It should also be noted that persons aged 55 and over, an age group characterized by very low involvement in crime, both as accused and as victims⁷, continues to increase in Canada. This group is gaining an average of 1.1% each year, and is projected to grow continuously from now until 2016.⁸

Violent Crime

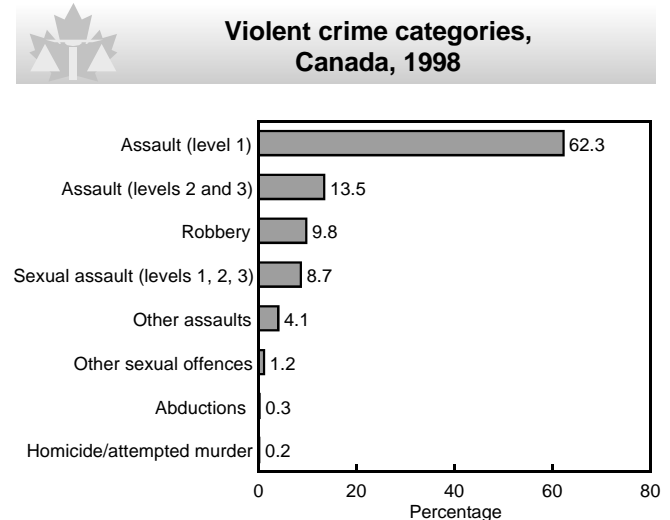
Violent crime continues to drop

Violent criminal incidents (295,369 in 1998) include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery. Violent crimes comprised

12% of *Criminal Code* offences in 1998, compared with 9% five years ago.

The violent crime rate declined for a sixth consecutive year in 1998 (-2%). Prior to these declines, the violent crime rate had increased for 15 straight years (Figure 1). Much of this increase is directly attributable to a large increase in the rate of common assaults (level 1), the least serious form of assault, which accounts for more than 6 in 10 violent crimes (Figure 3). Compared to 1988, the 1998 violent crime rate is 12% higher. If the category of common assault is excluded from total violent crime, the increase is only 4%.

Figure 3



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Although the national violent crime rate decreased in 1998, there were variations among the provinces. Increases were reported in Saskatchewan (+3%) and Quebec (+3%), while rates in New Brunswick, Alberta, Prince Edward Island and Ontario remained relatively stable. Among the provinces showing decreases, Nova Scotia (-11%) and Newfoundland (-8%) had the largest drops. Violent crime rates in the western provinces were much higher than those in the other provinces (Figure 4 and Table 3). Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia reported the highest rates, while Quebec and Prince Edward Island reported the lowest, a pattern consistent with previous years.

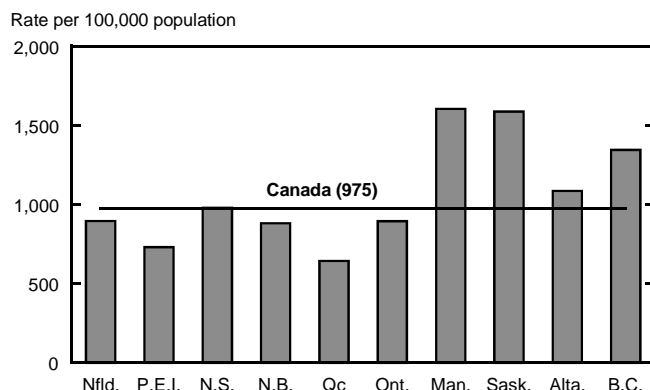
Among all CMAs, Thunder Bay (1,740 offences per 100,000 population) reported the highest violent crime rate for the eighth straight year (CMA data the farthest back available), followed by Regina (1,649) and Saskatoon (1,407) (Table 5). The high violent crime rate in Manitoba is a reflection of the high rate in Winnipeg, which accounts for 60% of the

⁷ The International Criminal Victimization Survey (1996) showed that the victimization rate for those 55 and over was 31 per 1,000 population, compared to 312 for those aged 15 to 24. The 1993 GSS showed similar findings.

⁸ Statistics Canada. *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016*. Catalogue No. 91-520, December 1994.

Figure 4

Violent crime, Canada and the provinces, 1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

provincial population. The lowest violent crime rates were reported in Sherbrooke (411), Québec (456) and Trois-Rivières (492).

Fifteen of the 25 CMAs recorded a drop in their violent crime rate in 1998, the largest being in Halifax (-12%), Québec (-11%) and Winnipeg (-11%). Windsor (+7%), Kitchener (+7%) and Montreal (+5%) reported the largest increases (Table 5).

Homicides continue to decline

Homicide includes first and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 1998, there were 555 homicides and 738 attempted murders (Table 2). Together these crimes continue to account for less than a half of one percent of reported violent incidents. The homicide rate (1.8 per 100,000 population) has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. In 1998, this trend continued with a 6% drop in the rate (31 fewer homicides than in 1997), and is at the lowest point since 1968. The rate of attempted murders (2.4) also fell in 1998 (-16%), generally following the trend in the rate of homicide (Figure 5).

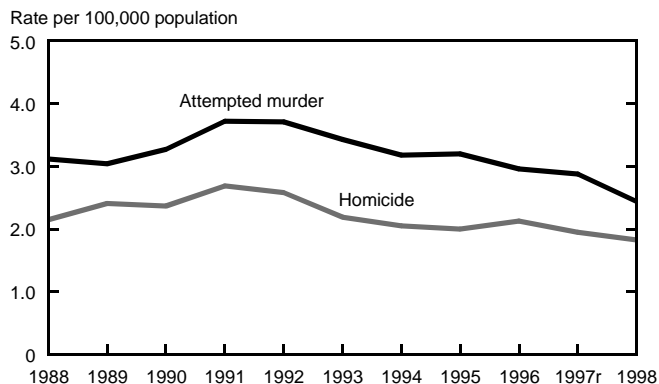
In 1998, the homicide rate dropped in half of the 25 CMAs. The rates were highest in Regina (4.0) and Halifax (3.4). No homicides were recorded by police services in Trois-Rivières and Saint John (New Brunswick).⁹

Sexual assaults drop for the fifth year

Sexual assaults accounted for less than 1 in 10 violent crimes in 1998. Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 sexual assault (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 sexual assault (with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and, level 3 aggravated sexual assault (wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers life of victim). In 1998, the vast majority (97%) of the 25,493 reported

Figure 5

Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1988-1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as level 1 (Table 2).

After reaching a peak in 1993, the rate of total sexual assaults declined for five consecutive years, including a 7% drop in 1998. All three levels of sexual assault were down compared to the previous year: aggravated sexual assault dropped by 19%, sexual assault with a weapon declined 13%, and sexual assaults (level 1) decreased 6%.

Rates of sexual assault increased in 9 of the 25 CMAs. The highest rates of sexual assault were reported in Saint John (New Brunswick) (194 incidents per 100,000 population) and St. John's (Newfoundland) (136). The lowest rates were in Sherbrooke (22) and Trois-Rivières (32).

Data from the Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR II) (see text box on next page) illustrate that the vast majority of victims of sexual assault were female (85%). Female victims were most frequently victimized by a casual acquaintance (33%), followed by a stranger (26%) and a family member (25%). Victims of sexual assault tended to be quite young, with almost 60% of victims younger than 18 years of age. The median¹⁰ age for females was 17 years. Male victims tended to be much younger (median age of 11 years) and were also most frequently victimized by a casual acquaintance (40%), a family member (30%) or a stranger (14%). Young girls (12 and under) had most frequently been sexually assaulted by a family member (46%) or a casual acquaintance (35%), while boys of the same age were most frequently abused by a family member (43%) or a casual acquaintance (38%).¹¹

⁹ For further information, see «Homicide in Canada, 1998» by Orest Federowycz, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002 (to be released in October, 1999).
¹⁰ The median value is the one in the middle when a set of values is arranged in order from highest to lowest.
¹¹ For further information, refer to «Children as Victims of Violent Crime», by Robin Fitzgerald in *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 17, No. 11 and «Sexual Offenders, 1997-1998», by Integration and Analysis Program, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No.3.

1998 UCR II - Incident-Based Data File

The revised UCR survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. The survey presently collects data from 169 police agencies in six provinces. These data represent 46% of the national volume of actual *Criminal Code* crimes.

The reader is cautioned that these data are not nationally representative: respondents from Quebec account for 41% of the sample and those from Ontario account for a further 35%. Outside of Quebec, these data are largely an urban sample. Please refer to the methodology section for more information. All calculations exclude records where the variable under study is reported as "unknown", unless otherwise mentioned.

Assaults relatively stable since 1995

The most frequently reported category of violent crime is assault. The *Criminal Code* defines several categories of assault: common assault (level 1), assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), aggravated assault (level 3), and other assaults (i.e., assault on peace officer, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge of firearm with intent and all other assaults).

In 1998, police recorded 223,260 incidents of assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (Table 2). The rate of assaults has remained virtually unchanged since 1995, decreasing by less than 1% in 1998. This slight decrease was mainly due to a small change in the rate of common assault (-1%), which accounts for almost 8 in 10 assaults and 6 in 10 reported violent incidents. This offence includes behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching, face-to-face verbal threats, and threats by an act or gesture.

While aggravated assault (level 3) fell for a seventh year in a row (-2%), assaults with weapons (level 2) remained stable.

The rate of assault (levels 1, 2, 3) dropped in 14 of the 25 CMAs. Thunder Bay continued to report the highest rate of assault (1,510 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Regina (1,277). Rates were lowest in Sherbrooke (279) and Trois-Rivières (298).

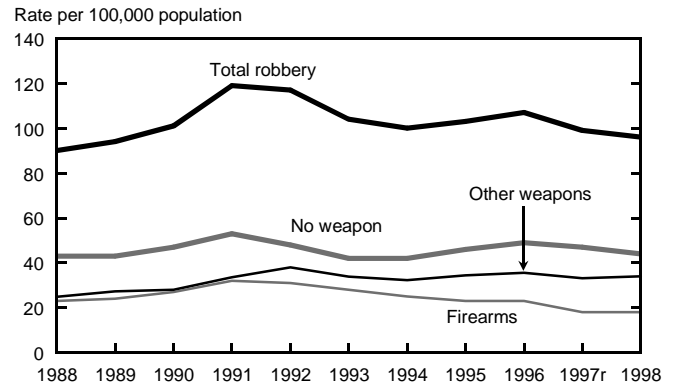
Data from the UCR II survey show that, unlike sexual assaults, victims of assault were as likely to be male as female (Table 6). Females represented the majority of victims of common assault (52%), while males represented two-thirds of victims of assault with a weapon and aggravated assault (67%). Overall, the median age of victims of assault was 28 years; males were somewhat younger than females (26 years compared to 29 years). Females had most often been assaulted by a spouse or ex-spouse (42%), a casual acquaintance (18%), or a close friend (12%). Among male victims, their assailants had most often been strangers (37%), followed by casual acquaintances (33%). Children under 18 years assaulted by parents accounted for 3% of all assault victims. However, the secrecy surrounding child abuse and the powerlessness of young children may result in these incidents often being unreported to police.

Robberies are down for a second year in a row

The 28,952 robberies in 1998 accounted for 1 in 10 violent crimes. The rate of robbery decreased for a second consecutive year in 1998, with a 3% decline (Table 2). Since peaking in 1991, the total rate of robbery has generally been declining (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Robbery incidents, Canada, 1988-1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Fewer robberies now involve firearms. The rate for this type of robbery has generally been falling since 1991, including a 4% decrease in 1998. Over these seven years, the rate has dropped by 44%. The proportion of robberies committed with a firearm accounted for 18% of all robberies reported in 1998, compared to 25% ten years ago and 37% twenty years ago. In contrast, robberies involving weapons other than firearms (e.g., knives or blunt objects) have shown the largest rate increases of the three categories in the last decade, including a 3% rise in 1998. However, the rates related to this type of offence have remained relatively stable since 1992. Robberies with no weapons decreased in 1998 (-7%) and are now almost equal to their level ten years ago.

The rate of robbery declined in 11 of the 25 CMAs. Similar to previous years, rates of robbery showed large differences among the CMAs. The highest levels were reported by Winnipeg (248 incidents per 100,000 population) and Vancouver (216), while the lowest levels were recorded in Saint John (New Brunswick) (24) and St. John's (Newfoundland) (28).

Compared to other violent crimes, robbery is more likely to involve youths. In 1998, 36% of persons charged with robbery were youths compared with only 16% of persons charged with all violent crimes (Table 7).

Presence of firearms in violent crimes declining

According to a sample of 94 police services who have been reporting data to the UCR II survey since 1994 (including Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver), one violent incident in five

involved one of the most common weapons (firearm, knife, blunt instrument or, other piercing or cutting object) in 1998. The presence of these weapons has constantly declined since 1994. The presence of firearms in violent crime has gradually declined from 6.0% in 1994 to 4.8% in 1998. Firearms were present in 34% of homicide incidents, 29% of attempted murders, 18% of robberies (from the aggregate UCR survey), 10% of aggravated assaults and in 9% of assaults with a weapon. The presence of knives declined for the second straight year, accounting for 7.0% of all violent incidents in 1998.¹²

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	%				
Firearms	6.5	6.0	6.1	5.2	4.8
Knives	8.0	7.9	8.2	7.6	7.0
Club/Blunt Instrument	7.8	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.2
Other Piercing/ Cutting Objects	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
Total Most Common Weapons	24.0	22.2	22.2	20.7	19.5

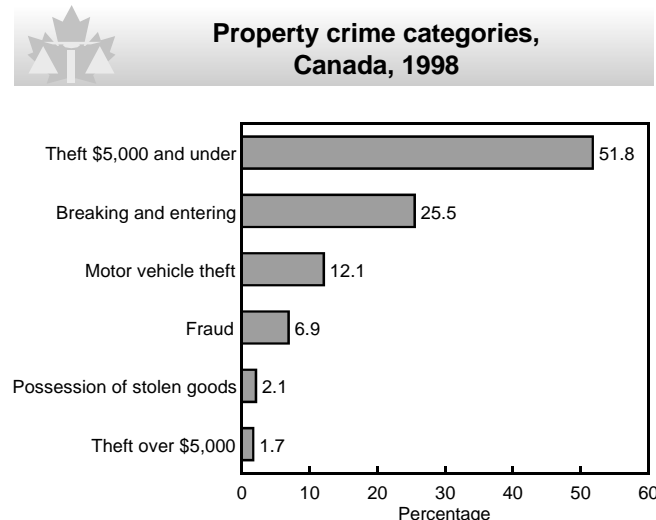
Source: Non-representative sample of 94 police services representing 35% of all volume of crime.

Property Crime

Property crime rate continues to drop

Property crime incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are examples of property crimes (Figure 7). In 1998, there were approximately 1.38 million property crime incidents. The rate for these crimes has generally been decreasing since 1991, including a 7% drop in 1998. The

Figure 7



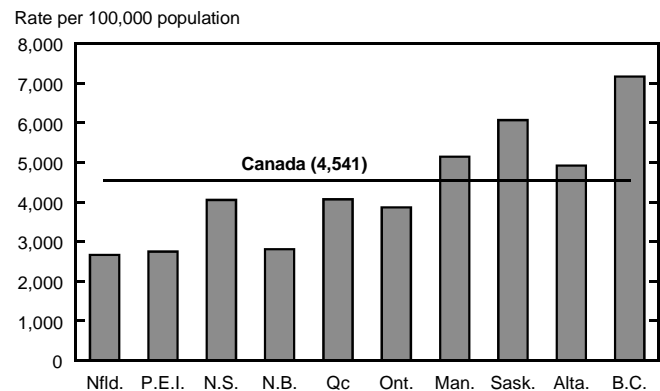
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

1998 rate was the lowest recorded by police services since 1977. It was also 19% lower than five years ago and 17% lower than ten years ago.

Except for Newfoundland (+3%), rates of property crime dropped in all provinces in 1998. Prince Edward Island (-14%), Ontario (-9%), British Columbia (-8%) and New Brunswick (-8%) experienced the largest declines (Table 3). These provinces (with the exception of New Brunswick) had also reported the largest drops in 1997. Despite the decrease in these offences over the last two years in British Columbia, this province continues to show the highest property crime rate (7,178 incidents per 100,000 population) (Figure 8). Following the general historical trend, Newfoundland reported the lowest rate (2,666), followed closely by Prince Edward Island (2,747).

Figure 8

Property crime, Canada and the provinces, 1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Most of the CMAs (21 out of 25) reported declines in their property crime rate. The largest drops were recorded in Toronto (-15%) and London (-14%) (Table 5). Fuelled by this latest drop, Toronto (3,354) now shows the lowest property crime rate, followed by Saint John (New Brunswick) (3,399). St. John's (Newfoundland) (+6%), Halifax (+5%) and Kitchener (+3%) showed the only considerable rises in property crime in 1998. Regina continued to report the highest property crime rate (8,950 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Vancouver (8,239) and Saskatoon (6,311).

Rate of breaking and entering continues to fall

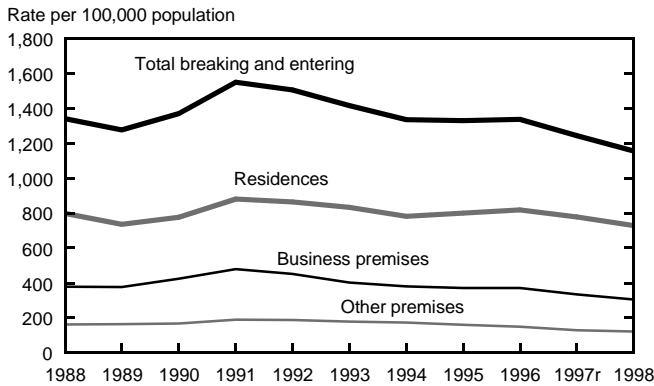
In total, there were 350,176 reported incidents of breaking and entering (B&E) in 1998, representing one-quarter of property crimes. The trend of B&E rates has generally been falling since 1991 (Figure 9), including a 7% decrease in both 1998 and 1997. Four in ten persons charged with this offence were youths (Table 7).¹³

¹² For further information, see «Weapons and Violent Crime», by Tracey Leestie, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.17, No.7.

¹³ For further information, see «Breaking and Entering in Canada, 1996», by Rebecca Kong, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.18, No. 5.

Figure 9

Breaking and entering incidents, by type, Canada, 1988-1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The majority of B&Es in 1998 occurred at private residences (63%). Businesses accounted for a further 26% of all B&Es, with the remaining 11% including other places such as sheds, storage facilities, etc. Decreases in all three categories contributed to the general decline of B&E rates: residential B&Es dropped 6% in 1998; commercial B&E declined 9%; and, "other" B&E decreased 6%.

The 1998 rate of B&E decreased in all CMAs except St. John's (Newfoundland) (+30%), Sherbrooke (+8%), Sudbury (+5%) and Kitchener (stable). The highest rates of B&Es were reported by Regina (2,571 incidents per 100,000 population), Vancouver (1,877) and Saskatoon (1,817), and the lowest rates were in Toronto (663) and Saint John (New Brunswick) (706).

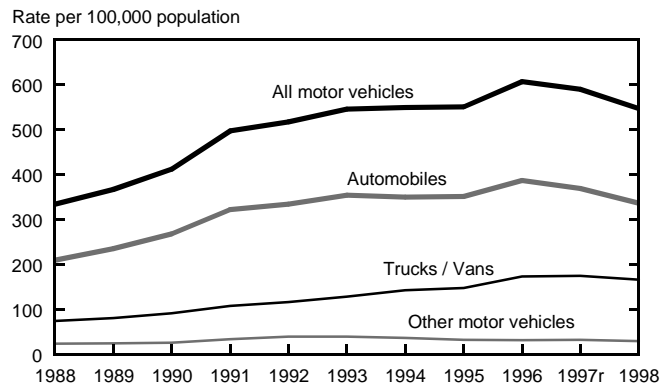
According to the Insurance Information Centre of Canada¹⁴, the average claim by home-owners and tenants for losses through B&E amounted to \$5,034 in 1996 (the most recent year for which data are available) and the average claim for commercial businesses amounted to \$5,162. In total, property losses associated with B&Es cost the insurance industry about \$398 million in 1996.

After a decade of growth, theft of motor vehicles declines for the second year in a row

Motor vehicle theft accounted for a little more than 1 in 10 property crimes in 1998 (165,799 incidents). After steady growth for over a decade, the rate of motor vehicle theft decreased for a second consecutive year in 1998 (-7%) (Figure 10). The current rate, however, is still much higher (+64%) than ten years ago.¹⁵ In particular, there has been a large increase in the number of "trucks" stolen in recent years, which includes mini-vans and sport-utility vehicles. This is not surprising given that the number of mini-vans and sport-utility vehicles on the road increased 59% between 1993 and 1997, while the total number of vehicles on the road grew by 9% over the same period.¹⁶ In 1998, however, the theft of trucks dropped for the first time in 15 years (-5%).

Figure 10

Motor vehicle theft, by type of vehicle, Canada, 1988-1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Along with the decrease recorded at the national level, the rate of motor vehicle thefts declined in most of the CMAs (17 out of 25). Regina reported the highest rate (1,611 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Winnipeg (1,270) and Vancouver (1,014). The lowest rates were reported by Saint John (New Brunswick) (164) and St. John's (Newfoundland) (182).

Theft of vehicles and their components cost the Canadian consumers approximately \$600 million per year in insurance premiums.¹⁷ In recent years, the average claim for theft was much higher in British Columbia than in the other provinces.

As with incidents of breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft is described as a crime associated with youth. In 1998, 42% of persons charged with motor vehicle theft were youths aged 12 to 17 years compared to only 22% of persons charged with all other *Criminal Code* offences (Table 7).

Thefts account for one-third of all crimes

In 1998, the 736,598 incidents of theft (excluding motor vehicle thefts and B&Es) accounted for one-third of all *Criminal Code* incidents and over one-half of property crimes. The 1998 theft rate was 7% lower than the previous year and has generally been declining since 1991.

Of all thefts, 39% were thefts from motor vehicles, 13% were shoplifting, 10% were bicycle thefts, and 38% were "other" types of theft. Decreases were reported for all types of theft in 1998. Relative to other offences, a high proportion of persons charged (30% of adults and 33% of youth) with "theft \$5,000 and under" were female, most of whom were charged with shoplifting (Table 7).

¹⁴ Members of the Insurance Information Centre of Canada represent about 80% of the total insurance industry.
¹⁵ For further information, see "Motor Vehicle Theft in Canada - 1996", by Julie Sauvé, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.18, No. 1.
¹⁶ Vehicle Information Centre of Canada. "How Cars Measure Up, 1996-1997" (published 1998).
¹⁷ Vehicle Information Centre of Canada (idem).

Drop in cheque frauds leading to a decrease of fraud in general

The rate of frauds declined for a seventh year in a row, with a 3% drop in 1998, primarily due to a decrease in the rate of cheque fraud. Within the last decade, the rate of cheque fraud has decreased 60%, reaching its lowest level in 1998. Cheque frauds now account for 35% of all frauds, compared to 59% in 1988.

Police statistics show that credit card frauds have grown over the last few years, including an 11% increase in 1998. Tele-marketing fraud constitutes a growing concern among Canadians. In the UCR survey, this type of fraud is grouped under the category of "other frauds" which also includes forgery, insurance fraud, as well as types of fraud committed through technology such as banking card and cellular phone frauds. Although this category of "other frauds" has declined for the previous three years, it still comprises the largest category of frauds reported by police agencies (45%) in 1998.¹⁸

Many factors contribute to the explanation of the declining number of frauds reported by police services. Some argue that the drop is real and is attributable to the fact that Canadians have increased their use of technological banking transaction methods such as credit cards, banking cards, optical wire network (by phone) and the Internet. Therefore, the use of cheques, which are easier to forge, is declining.

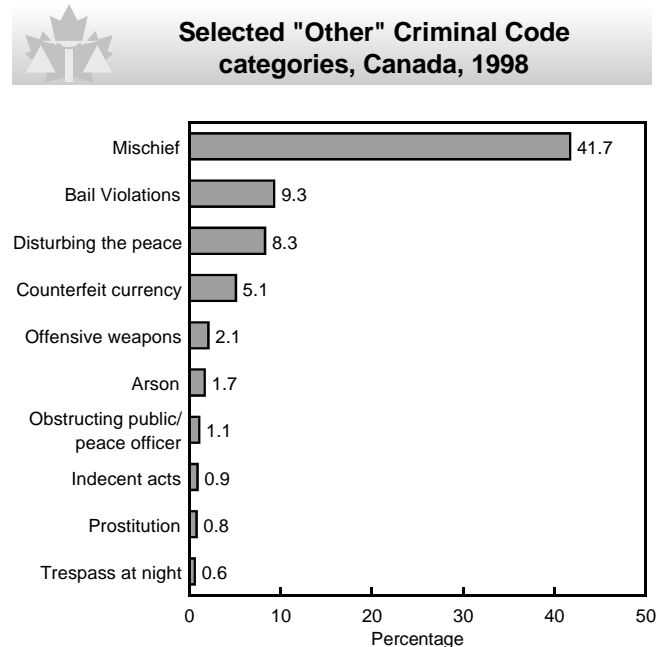
Others argue that the downward trend in fraud is artificial and is merely due to the fact that police services do not have the expertise or resources to handle complex, technological frauds. There appears to be a trend of private business hiring specialized fraud investigators or creating in-house security services that will deal with these large-scale frauds. The growth of in-house security agencies also impacts on crime statistics because they are less likely, for various reasons, to

report fraud incidents to police. The proponents of this perspective also argue that the use of electronic banking transactions is making the detection of some types of fraud more difficult.

Other Criminal Code Incidents

The 783,631 *Criminal Code* crimes that are not in the violent or property crime categories are reported under the category "Other *Criminal Code*". These crimes account for 3 in 10 *Criminal Code* incidents and include such crimes as mischief, weapons offences, prostitution, arson, bail violations and disturbing the peace (Figure 11).

Figure 11



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Offensive weapons crimes increase

Offensive weapons crimes include possession/use of prohibited and restricted weapons, possession of a weapon for the purpose of committing a crime, and careless use of a firearm. Prohibited weapons include spring-loaded knives, nunchaku sticks, fully-automatic firearms, and sawed-off shotguns or rifles ownership of which is prohibited. Restricted weapons, such as handguns, are strictly controlled and may only be owned under certain conditions (e.g., lawful use and registration with the police). Non-restricted weapons such as rifles and shotguns are also controlled and individuals are required to possess a valid licence to obtain such firearms.¹⁹ The key components of the new firearms legislation are briefly summarized in the text box on this page.

¹⁸ For further information, see «The Changing Nature of Fraud», by Derek Janhevich, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.18, No.4.

¹⁹ Please refer to the *Criminal Code* of Canada and the *Firearms Act* for exact definitions and conditions.

The New Firearms Legislation

The new *Firearms Legislation*, which stemmed from Bill C-68 adopted by Parliament in 1995, began its gradual introduction on December 1, 1998. The legislation created new offences for gun smuggling and trafficking, as well as prohibiting a number of different types of handguns, and introduced new mandatory penalties for those who use firearms during the commission of a crime.

The new law requires all firearm owners and users to obtain a firearm license before January 1, 2001 and to register all firearms (including rifles and shotguns) by January 1, 2003. The law aims at reducing the number of deaths and injuries attributable to firearms by encouraging safer usage and storage of firearms as well as facilitating the police investigations when incidents involve such weapons.

As a result of the new legislation, the UCR survey has undergone modifications to the statistical breakdowns related to offensive weapons and there has been a creation of a new general category entitled "*Firearms Act*" under "*Other Federal Statutes*". In 1999, the UCR survey will begin collecting data according to the new offences of illegal use of firearms, illegal possession of weapon, weapon trafficking and importation, and other offences related to weapons.

The 16,735 offensive weapons crimes reported by police in 1998 accounted for less than 1% of *Criminal Code* incidents. After decreasing for three consecutive years, the rate of offensive weapon incidents increased 3% in 1998 (Table 2), mainly due to an increase in the illegal use of explosive and prohibited weapons.

Arson has remained relatively stable over the last six years

Police reported 12,952 incidents of arson in 1998, a 1% increase over the 1997 rate (Table 2). From 1989 to 1992, the rate of arson jumped by 70%. Since then, the rate has remained relatively stable. It should be noted that the province of Manitoba recorded a very large increase in 1998, with a 63% jump, while most of the other provinces remained relatively constant. According to the UCR II survey, the most common targets for arson were motor vehicles (28%), residences (27%) and non-commercial enterprises (24%). Arson is also a type of crime frequently committed by youth: they accounted for 4 in 10 persons charged with arson (Table 7).

The rate of mischief offences continues to decline

In 1998, the 325,884 mischief incidents reported by police accounted for 13% of total *Criminal Code* crimes and over 4 in 10 of "other" *Criminal Code* incidents (Table 2). The general decline in the rate of mischief incidents continued in 1998 with a 6% drop. Data from the UCR II survey show that motor vehicles were the most common targets of mischief (63%). Consistent with previous years, youths aged 12 to 17 years comprised one-third of persons charged with this offence in 1998 (Table 7).

Prostitution-related incidents up slightly

Most prostitution-related crimes involve communicating with a person for the purpose of engaging in prostitution (including both prostitutes and clients) or stopping a vehicle for the same purpose. The rate of prostitution incidents reported by police climbed by 2% in 1998 (Table 2). The annual volume of prostitution incidents is highly sensitive to police law enforcement. The reader is cautioned that these practices may vary over time and across provinces and municipalities. Despite the small increase in 1998, the rate of prostitution incidents has generally been decreasing during the 1990s. However, offences related to bawdy houses have consistently increased since 1993, including considerable jumps of 19% in 1998 and 55% in 1997.

In 1998, 5,490 persons were charged with prostitution-related crimes, 53% of whom were female. Although some males charged were living from the avails of prostitution or were themselves prostitutes, it can be assumed that the majority of them were clients. Only 3% of persons charged by police in prostitution incidents in 1998 were youths. Child and youth prostitution is a serious concern for Canadians. Young people who come to the attention of police are often diverted to social services in lieu of being charged.²⁰ Therefore, it is important to note that UCR counts do not reflect the actual extent of child and youth prostitution.

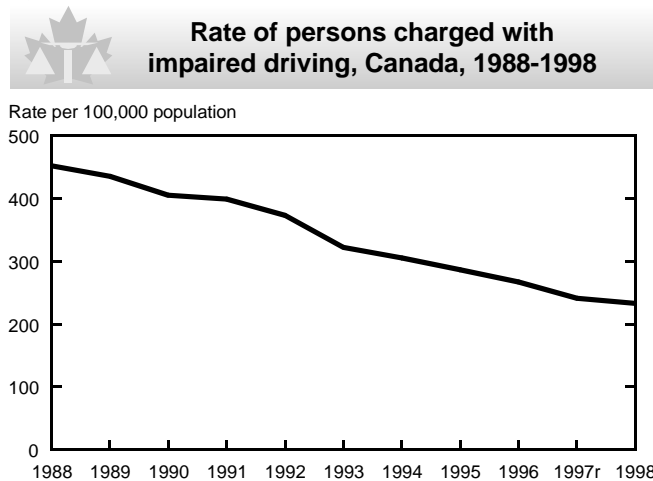
Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

Police reported 140,536 incidents involving *Criminal Code* traffic crimes in 1998, resulting in a rate 10% below that of 1997 (Table 2). Impaired driving accounted for 62% of these incidents in 1998, failure to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident accounted for 28%, and dangerous driving and driving while prohibited comprised the remaining 10%.

Impaired driving incidents still declining

Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg. of alcohol per 100 ml. of blood; and, failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. In 1998, police charged 70,587 persons with impaired driving, a decline of 3% below 1997, and a continuation of the long-term trend of declining rates (Figure 12). As with drug and prostitution offences, changes in statistics on impaired driving can be influenced by police enforcement, such as roadside checks.²¹

Figure 12



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Drugs

All major drug categories increased

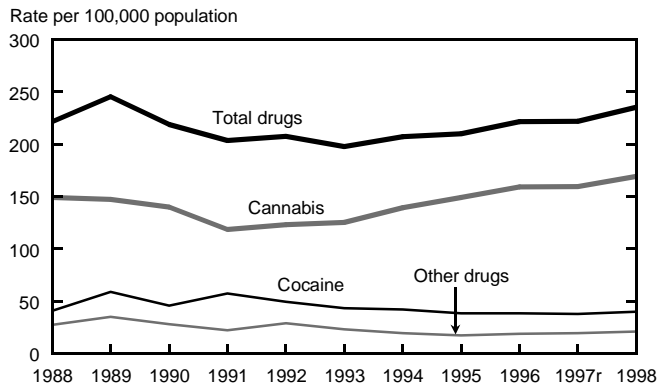
In 1998, a total of 71,293 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) were reported by Canadian police services. Cannabis offences accounted for 7 in 10 drug-related incidents reported in 1998: 68% were for possession, 15% for cultivation, 15% for trafficking, and 2% for importation. Almost 9 in 10 persons charged with drug offences were adults.

²⁰ For more information, see "Street Prostitution in Canada", by Doreen Duchesne, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 17, No. 2.

²¹ For further information, see "Impaired Driving in Canada, 1996", by Sylvain Tremblay, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 17, No. 12.

Fuelled by an increase in cannabis-related offences (+6%), the rate of drug offences increased 6% in 1998 (Table 2). This latest rise in drug incidents continues the upward trend which began in 1993 (Figure 13). Following a seven-year decline, the cocaine rate increased in 1998 (+5%). The heroin offence rate also rose 6% in 1998, negating the 5% decline recorded in 1997.²²

Figure 13
 **Drug incidents, by type of drug, Canada, 1988-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The rate of offences involving other drugs climbed for a second consecutive year (+8%). The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* distinguishes between two categories of "other drugs": 1) illicit drugs other than cannabis, cocaine and heroin as well as their derivatives (e.g. PCP [phencyclidine], LSD, and ecstasy), and 2) controlled drugs (e.g. amphetamines or steroids). As with prostitution and impaired driving, trends in drug-related crime are subject to police enforcement activities.

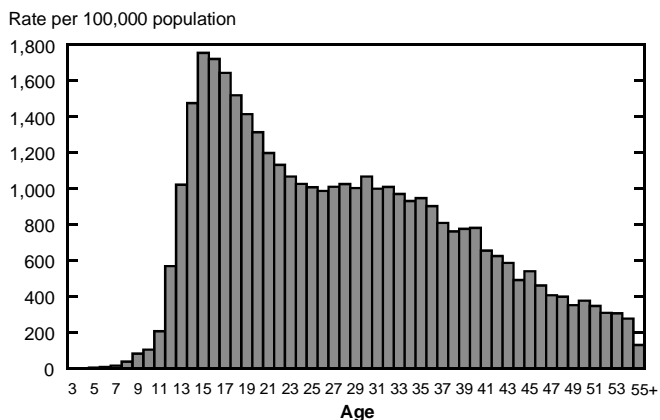
Persons accused of property crimes are younger than those accused of violent crime

"Age-specific crime rates"


In previous years, the age distribution of accused persons was based on the actual number of persons accused by police. This did not take into account the age distribution of the entire population. This year for the first time, "age-specific" crime rates have been calculated using the age distribution for all census sub-divisions pertaining to UCR II survey respondents (see Figures 14a and 14b).

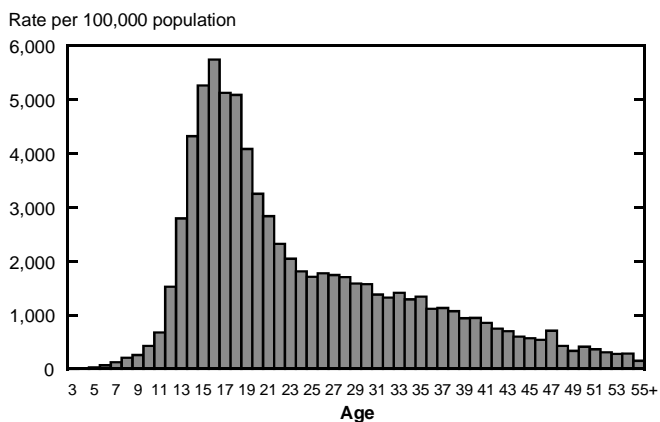
An analysis of age-specific crime rates indicates that 14 to 19 year-olds are the highest risk group for committing both property and violent offences (Figures 14a and 14b).

Figure 14a
 **Age specific rates of persons accused of violent crime, sample of 169 police agencies, 1998**



Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 14b
 **Age specific rates of persons accused of property crime, sample of 169 police agencies, 1998**



Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

More than 1 in 3 persons accused²³ of property crimes were aged 14 to 19 years, compared to nearly one-quarter of persons accused of violent crimes. However, after age 19, the rate drops more dramatically for property offences than for violent offences. This difference is illustrated by the fact that the median age of persons accused with property crimes was 22 years, compared to 29 years for those charged with violent offences.

²² For further information, see «Illicit Drugs and Crime», by Sylvain Tremblay, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.19, No.1.

²³ Persons accused refers to those involved in incidents "cleared by charge" and "cleared otherwise".

A greater proportion of females charged among youth population than among adult population

The involvement of females in crime remains relatively low compared to males – only 18% of all persons charged with a *Criminal Code* offence in 1998 were female. However, Table 7 shows that the proportion of females charged was higher among youths aged 12 to 17 (23%) than among adults (18%). This difference was primarily due to the much higher proportion of female youths in violent crime (26% of youths charged), compared to female adults (14% of adults charged).

There were no significant differences between female youths and adults in their proportion of persons charged with property crimes (22% and 23% respectively).

Youth Crime

Measuring youth crime

Young persons in conflict with the law may or may not be formally charged. The decision to proceed with the laying of a charge is influenced by many factors, one of which is the eligibility of the youth for an alternative measures program. As outlined in the *Young Offenders Act*, the objective of alternative measures (AM) is to avoid court proceedings for young persons, provided certain conditions are met. Generally, referrals to AM programs are made before charges are laid and are reserved for first time offenders.²⁴ In addition, when dealing with first-time offenders involved in minor incidents, police may choose to deal with a youth informally by giving them a warning or discussing the incident with the youth's parents.

As a result, charge rates are influenced by the extent to which AM is used, whether AM is used at the pre- or post-charge stage, and the extent to which youths are dealt with informally. Consequently, there are limitations to using the youth charge rate as an indicator of the prevalence of youth crime, particularly with respect to measuring relatively minor offences committed by first time offenders. Data on youths not charged (i.e., AM or dealt with informally) are available from many jurisdictions and show that the rate of youths *not* charged has also been declining since 1991. This suggests that the decrease in youths charged is not simply a reflection of increased use of alternative measures.

Youth crime rate drops for a seventh straight year

Fuelled by a decrease in charges for property crimes (-8%), the overall rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences dropped for a seventh consecutive year in 1998 (-4%) (Table 8). In total, youths aged 12 to 17 years were charged with *Criminal Code* offences at a rate of 4,363 per 100,000 youths, compared to 6,259 in 1991.

Youth crime is generally more property-oriented than crimes committed by adults. Property crimes accounted for half (51%) of youth crime, compared to only 37% of all adults charged. A further 20% of youths were charged with violent crime, compared to 29% of adults. The remaining youths were charged with other *Criminal Code* offences, such as mischief and offences against the administration of justice (e.g.: bail violations or escapes from custody). This distribution has changed from a decade ago when 68% of youths were

Crime Distribution for Youths and Adults Charged by Police Services, Selected Offences, Canada, 1998

	Youths Charged	Adults Charged
	%	
Total violent Crime	20	29
Assaults (level 1,2 & 3)	16	25
Robbery	3	2
Total property Crime	51	37
Theft \$5,000 and under & theft over \$5,000	23	18
Breaking and entering	15	6
Theft motor vehicle	6	2
Total other Criminal Code	29	34
Mischief	7	4
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE	100	100

charged with property crimes and 10% with violent crimes. Increases in youths charged with common assault (level 1) and decreases in charges for theft and breaking and entering account for much of this shift.

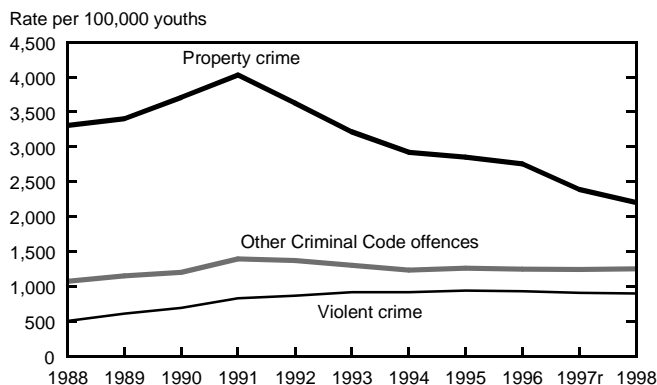
Rate of youths charged with violent crime declining

In 1998, the rate of youths charged with violent crime declined slightly (-1%) for the third year in a row (Figure 15). Despite these latest drops, the violent youth crime rate is still much higher than 10 years ago (+77%).

Among violent crimes committed by youth in 1998, the rate of robberies (-6%) and sexual assaults (-4%) showed decreases, while homicides (+3%) and assaults (+1%) increased. A total of 56 youths aged 12 to 17 years stood charged with homicide or 2 more than in 1997. Between 1988

Figure 15

Rate of youths charged, by major category, Canada, 1988-1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

²⁴ See "Alternative Measures for Youth in Canada", by Melanie Kowalski, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 8.

and 1998, the number of youths charged with homicide ranged from 36 in 1993 to a high of 68 in 1995, with an average of 51 youth each year (Table 8). The rate of youths charged with sexual assault decreased for the fifth year in a row, reaching its lowest level since 1988.

In recent years, concern has been raised about increasing violence among females, particularly young females. Over the last decade, the rate of female youths charged with violent crimes increased twice as fast (+127%) as for male youths (+65%). In 1998, the rate of male youths charged with violent crime dropped 1%, while the rate for female youths remained constant. However, the rate of female youths charged with violent crime (474 per 100,000 population) remained much lower than that for male youth (1,310).

Rate of youths charged with property crimes continues to fall

In terms of property crimes, the rate of youths charged continued its downward trend, which began seven years ago, with an 8% drop in 1998 (Table 8). The rate of youths charged dropped for all property offences including theft (-9%), breaking and entering (-7%) and, motor vehicle theft (-5%). The rate of youths charged with B&E has consistently declined since 1991.

Despite declines for offensive weapons (-2%) and mischief (-2%), the rate of youths charged with other *Criminal Code* offences increased 1% in 1998.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The aggregate UCR survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate-based UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences and the number of actual offences, the

number of offences cleared by charge, the number of persons charged by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident, (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code* of Canada). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. persons in a bank during a robbery). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the *most serious offence*) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Revised UCR Survey - (UCRII Incident-based data file)

The revised micro data survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and the incidents. In 1998, detailed data were collected from 169 departments in six provinces through the Revised UCR Survey. These data represent 46% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 1998 Data File are distributed as follows: 41% from Quebec, 35% from Ontario, 12% from Alberta, 8% from British Columbia, 3% from Saskatchewan, and 1% from New Brunswick. Other than Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not nationally representative. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

In this report, the crime rate excludes traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time. This volatility is the result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident).

Table 1

	Rates of Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1962 - 1998 ¹							
	Total Criminal Code ²		Violent crime		Property crime		Other Criminal Code	
	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*
		%		%		%		%
1998	8,102	-4.1	975	-1.5	4,541	-6.7	2,586	-0.3
1997 ^r	8,448	-5.2	990	-1.1	4,864	-7.6	2,594	-2.1
1996	8,914	-0.9	1,000	-0.7	5,264	-0.4	2,650	-1.9
1995	8,993	-1.3	1,007	-3.7	5,283	0.6	2,702	-4.1
1994	9,114	-4.4	1,046	-3.2	5,250	-5.8	2,817	-2.2
1993	9,531	-5.0	1,081	-0.3	5,571	-5.6	2,879	-5.6
1992	10,036	-3.0	1,084	2.3	5,902	-4.2	3,051	-2.3
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1990	9,484	6.7	973	6.8	5,611	6.1	2,900	7.8
1989	8,891	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.8	2,691	3.0
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.6	5,438	-2.1	2,612	1.5
1987	8,956	2.6	829	5.6	5,552	0.0	2,575	7.6
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.1
1974	6,387	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of June 1st: intercensal estimates from 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates from 1971 to 1990, final intercensal estimates from 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996, updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998.

² Excluding traffic offences.

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not applicable

^r Revised figures

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2

	1994		1995		1996		1997 ^r		1998		% change in rate* 1997-1998
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
Population	29,035,981		29,353,854		29,671,892		30,003,955		30,300,422		
Homicide	596	2.1	588	2.0	635	2.1	586	2.0	555	1.8	-6.2
Attempted murder	922	3.2	939	3.2	878	3.0	865	2.9	738	2.4	-15.5
Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	222,300	766	217,618	741	219,919	741	222,397	741	223,260	737	-0.6
Level 1	181,577	625	178,934	610	181,545	612	183,087	610	183,440	605	-0.8
Level 2-Weapon	37,725	130	35,921	122	35,626	120	36,665	122	37,209	123	0.5
Level 3-Aggravated	2,998	10.3	2,763	9.4	2,748	9.3	2,645	8.8	2,611	8.6	-2.3
Other assaults	14,264	49	13,462	46	12,171	41	11,807	39	12,090	40	1.4
Sexual assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	31,706	109	28,234	96	27,026	91	27,013	90	25,493	84	-6.6
Level 1	30,572	105	27,278	93	26,076	88	26,142	87	24,745	82	-6.3
Level 2-Weapon	769	2.6	659	2.2	653	2.2	602	2.0	529	1.7	-13.0
Level 3-Aggravated	365	1.3	297	1.0	297	1.0	269	0.9	219	0.7	-19.4
Other sexual offences	3,818	13	3,494	12	3,343	11	3,650	12	3,459	11	-6.2
Abduction	1,129	3.9	1,035	3.5	977	3.3	985	3.3	822	2.7	-17.4
Robbery - Total	29,010	100	30,332	103	31,797	107	29,587	99	28,952	96	-3.1
Firearms	7,361	25	6,692	23	6,737	23	5,486	18	5,348	18	-3.5
Other Weapons	9,386	32	10,127	34	10,543	36	9,945	33	10,318	34	2.7
No Weapons	12,263	42	13,513	46	14,517	49	14,156	47	13,286	44	-7.1
Violent crime - Total	303,745	1,046	295,702	1,007	296,746	1,000	296,890	990	295,369	975	-1.5
Break & enter - Total	387,867	1,336	390,784	1,331	397,057	1,338	373,316	1,244	350,176	1,156	-7.1
Business	110,480	380	108,749	370	110,196	371	100,696	336	92,368	305	-9.2
Residential	227,199	782	235,129	801	242,639	818	233,724	779	220,889	729	-6.4
Other	50,188	173	46,906	160	44,222	149	38,896	130	36,919	122	-6.0
Motor vehicle theft	159,469	549	161,696	551	180,123	607	177,130	590	165,799	547	-7.3
Theft over \$5,000 (\$1,000 prior to 1995)	116,396	401	42,080	143	27,075	91	24,035	80	23,834	79	-1.8
Theft \$5,000 and under (\$1,000 prior to 1995)	727,414	2,505	820,908	2,797	823,732	2,776	758,292	2,527	712,764	2,352	-6.9
Possession of stolen goods	30,130	104	31,293	107	31,772	107	29,799	99	28,733	95	-4.5
Fraud	103,243	356	103,964	354	102,052	344	96,964	323	94,575	312	-3.4
Property crime - Total	1,524,519	5,250	1,550,725	5,283	1,561,811	5,264	1,459,536	4,864	1,375,881	4,541	-6.7
Mischief	396,904	1,367	380,041	1,295	365,830	1,233	341,854	1,139	325,884	1,076	-5.6
Gaming and betting	421	1.4	568	1.9	766	2.6	423	1.4	443	1.5	3.7
Bail violation	65,952	227	66,939	228	68,949	232	70,367	235	72,451	239	2.0
Disturbing the peace	51,213	176	51,401	175	54,563	184	57,704	192	64,995	215	11.5
Offensive weapons	18,898	65	17,571	60	16,400	55	16,103	54	16,735	55	2.9
Prostitution	5,575	19	7,170	24	6,397	22	5,828	19	5,985	20	1.7
Arson	13,509	47	13,156	45	12,830	43	12,693	42	12,952	43	1.0
Other	265,473	914	256,381	873	260,601	878	273,368	911	284,186	938	2.9
Other Criminal Code - Total	817,945	2,817	793,227	2,702	786,336	2,650	778,340	2,594	783,631	2,586	-0.3
CRIMINAL CODE WITHOUT TRAFFIC - TOTAL	2,646,209	9,114	2,639,654	8,993	2,644,893	8,914	2,534,766	8,448	2,454,881	8,102	-4.1
Impaired driving ²	107,768	371	102,285	348	96,280	324	90,145	300	87,385	288	-4.0
Fail to stop/remain	60,138	207	54,180	185	49,896	168	49,781	166	39,085	129	-22.3
Other	18,529	64	17,419	59	16,286	55	15,302	51	14,066	46	-9.0
Criminal Code Traffic - Total	186,435	642	173,884	592	162,462	548	155,228	517	140,536	464	-10.4
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL	2,832,644	9,756	2,813,538	9,585	2,807,355	9,461	2,689,994	8,965	2,595,417	8,566	-4.5
DRUGS	60,153	207	61,613	210	65,729	222	66,593	222	71,293	235	6.0
OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES	40,525	140	36,121	123	34,274	116	35,204	117	34,981	115	-1.6
TOTAL FEDERAL STATUTES	2,933,322	10,102	2,911,272	9,918	2,907,358	9,798	2,791,791	9,305	2,701,691	8,916	-4.2

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final intercensal estimates for 1994 and 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996, updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998.

² Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r Revised figures

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3

	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
Population	544,400	136,388	934,587	752,999	7,333,283	11,411,547	1,138,872	1,024,387	2,914,918	4,009,922	31,651	67,468	30,300,422
Homicide													
number	7	-	24	5	137	155	33	32	64	90	3	5	555
rate	1.3	-	2.6	0.7	1.9	1.4	2.9	3.1	2.2	2.2	9.5	7.4	1.8
% change in rate*	1.8	-	0.0	-37.4	3.4	-14.1	6.3	27.7	2.1	-23.4	...	...	-6.2
Sexual Assault (1,2,3)													
number	610	156	951	866	3,236	9,012	1,287	1,505	2,911	4,391	107	461	25,493
rate	112	114	102	115	44	79	113	147	100	110	338	683	84
% change in rate*	-28.0	10.2	-20.1	-6.9	0.1	-1.4	-16.2	-11.7	-8.0	-6.4	-3.6	-20.5	-6.6
Assault (1,2,3)													
number	3,934	755	7,269	5,161	31,706	78,021	14,084	12,499	24,214	42,013	737	2,867	223,260
rate	723	554	778	685	432	684	1,237	1,220	831	1,048	2,329	4,249	737
% change in rate*	-2.9	-2.8	-11.2	2.5	4.3	-0.9	-5.5	5.6	2.0	-3.1	-9.9	4.0	-0.6
Robbery													
number	74	24	458	145	8,010	9,152	1,821	990	2,560	5,669	12	37	28,952
rate	14	18	49	19	109	80	160	97	88	141	38	55	96
% change in rate*	10.8	41.6	7.0	0.1	-2.7	-2.7	-14.9	1.4	6.8	-5.6	-54.7	-9.3	-3.1
Violent crime - Total													
number	4,864	994	9,155	6,632	47,146	101,959	18,295	16,265	31,605	53,901	919	3,634	295,369
rate	893	729	980	881	643	893	1,606	1,588	1,084	1,344	2,904	5,386	975
% change in rate*	-7.8	0.1	-11.0	1.8	2.6	-1.4	-6.7	2.9	1.0	-3.8	-11.1	-1.6	-1.5
Breaking & Entering													
number	4,479	700	9,118	5,574	97,774	101,126	16,023	17,813	29,861	65,457	608	1,643	350,176
rate	823	513	976	740	1,333	886	1,407	1,739	1,024	1,632	1,921	2,435	1,156
% change in rate*	17.9	-21.6	-1.9	-8.7	-6.2	-7.7	-5.0	-5.6	-6.7	-10.2	-19.9	0.2	-7.1
Motor Vehicle Theft													
number	644	181	2,816	1,299	47,244	50,372	10,539	7,263	15,519	29,318	213	391	165,799
rate	118	133	301	173	644	441	925	709	532	731	673	580	547
% change in rate*	29.6	-31.5	8.6	-14.8	-4.5	-11.1	-6.9	3.5	-2.0	-11.4	1.4	0.5	-7.3
Other Theft													
number	7,563	2,322	22,221	11,185	133,909	244,920	27,616	30,090	80,124	173,499	1,224	1,925	736,598
rate	1,389	1,702	2,378	1,485	1,826	2,146	2,425	2,937	2,749	4,327	3,867	2,853	2,431
% change in rate*	-6.1	-12.8	1.6	-7.6	-7.0	-10.0	-5.2	-1.1	-3.1	-6.0	-11.4	3.2	-6.8
Property crime - Total													
number	14,512	3,747	37,964	21,181	298,821	440,912	58,762	62,287	143,471	287,816	2,210	4,198	1,375,881
rate	2,666	2,747	4,062	2,813	4,075	3,864	5,160	6,080	4,922	7,178	6,982	6,222	4,541
% change in rate*	2.8	-13.7	-0.2	-8.0	-6.1	-9.2	-5.6	-2.3	-2.4	-7.6	-14.2	-1.2	-6.7
Offensive weapons													
number	126	37	489	221	997	7,112	1,070	860	1,945	3,697	41	140	16,735
rate	23	27	52	29	14	62	94	84	67	92	130	208	55
% change in rate*	-5.0	-42.9	2.1	-36.4	-3.8	9.1	-11.1	3.8	-6.8	9.9	-25.4	-19.6	2.9
Mischief													
number	4,723	1,414	11,942	6,561	54,649	106,538	21,339	17,255	38,601	58,378	785	3,699	325,884
rate	868	1,037	1,278	871	745	934	1,874	1,684	1,324	1,456	2,480	5,483	1,076
% change in rate*	1.8	-13.4	-8.2	3.3	-7.1	-6.2	-2.6	1.3	-3.4	-8.9	-20.4	9.6	-5.6
Other Criminal Code - Total													
number	12,218	3,820	28,956	18,845	125,095	258,252	43,828	48,504	88,528	145,144	2,576	7,865	783,631
rate	2,244	2,801	3,098	2,503	1,706	2,263	3,848	4,735	3,037	3,620	8,139	11,657	2,586
% change in rate*	7.5	-3.4	-5.2	6.4	-4.1	-1.0	1.0	8.5	-1.2	1.0	-13.4	11.9	-0.3
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - without traffic offences													
number	31,594	8,561	76,075	46,658	471,062	801,123	120,885	127,056	263,604	486,861	5,705	15,697	2,454,881
rate	5,803	6,277	8,140	6,196	6,424	7,020	10,614	12,403	9,043	12,141	18,025	23,266	8,102
% change in rate*	2.7	-7.9	-3.6	-1.3	-4.8	-5.8	-3.5	2.2	-1.6	-4.8	-13.3	4.9	-4.1

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998.

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not appropriate or applicable

- Nil or zero

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

	Toronto	Montréal	Vancouver	Edmonton	Calgary	Ottawa ³	Québec	Winnipeg	Hamilton
Population	4,594,880	3,428,304	1,995,927	917,536	907,112	801,555	687,155	676,432	658,618
Homicide									
number	76	65	45	22	19	4	15	18	6
rate	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.1	0.5	2.2	2.7	0.9
% change in rate*	-10.3	-12.6	-14.7	-23.1	103.3	-56.0	66.3	-14.1	-46.1
Sexual assault (1,2,3)									
number	2,579	1,497	1,482	817	613	558	302	477	599
rate	57	44	84	89	68	70	44	71	91
% change in rate*	0.3	-3.2	4.8	-14.9	0.0	-18.1	1.8	-12.1	0.8
Assault (1,2,3)									
number	28,618	18,274	16,825	6,412	5,759	5,202	2,115	6,049	5,542
rate	623	533	939	699	635	649	308	894	841
% change in rate*	-7.0	6.6	6.5	0.9	2.5	-1.5	-9.1	-11.5	-7.6
Robbery									
number	5,669	6,535	4,306	1,309	965	1,027	440	1,675	447
rate	123	191	216	143	106	128	64	248	68
% change in rate*	-6.2	2.0	-8.4	18.9	-9.6	0.3	-30.5	-15.9	-9.5
Violent crime - Total									
number	38,392	28,358	23,352	9,139	7,700	7,047	3,131	8,786	6,749
rate	836	827	1,170	996	849	879	456	1,299	1,025
% change in rate*	-2.2	4.9	-5.2	2.0	0.4	-2.6	-11.4	-10.8	-7.3
Break & enter									
number	30,470	50,545	37,461	9,909	9,841	8,143	7,845	9,391	6,114
rate	663	1,474	1,877	1,080	1,085	1,016	1,142	1,388	928
% change in rate*	-12.3	-5.2	-12.6	-11.0	-4.3	-20.2	-12.2	-6.5	-3.4
Motor vehicle theft									
number	18,701	31,489	20,237	4,441	6,827	6,106	2,436	8,590	5,037
rate	407	919	1,014	484	753	762	355	1,270	765
% change in rate*	-11.5	-5.0	-9.0	-9.0	0.0	-4.3	-13.4	-6.0	-19.3
Other theft									
number	89,482	75,505	98,886	25,177	26,735	20,263	12,404	18,339	13,401
rate	1,947	2,202	4,954	2,744	2,947	2,528	1,805	2,711	2,035
% change in rate*	-17.6	-9.3	-5.7	-6.0	-3.1	-7.4	-4.5	-3.5	-4.9
Property crime - Total									
number	154,126	168,746	164,446	45,733	47,659	36,815	24,123	38,672	26,067
rate	3,354	4,922	8,239	4,984	5,254	4,593	3,511	5,717	3,958
% change in rate*	-14.8	-6.8	-7.4	-5.5	-1.7	-11.0	-8.3	-4.3	-7.5
Offensive weapons									
number	1,692	384	1,672	512	291	448	55	430	231
rate	37	11	84	56	32	56	8	64	35
% change in rate *	2.8	-4.7	34.8	6.6	-3.4	4.9	-21.6	-15.5	7.2
Mischief									
number	29,105	27,155	23,930	11,088	9,052	8,156	5,503	11,690	5,429
rate	633	953	1,199	1,208	998	1,018	801	1,728	824
% change in rate*	-14.4	9.8	-7.7	-7.2	-7.4	-1.9	-6.6	-0.5	-3.1
Other Criminal Code - Total									
number	75,764	69,578	54,554	25,284	15,516	17,634	9,493	19,859	13,776
rate	1,649	2,030	2,733	2,756	1,710	2,200	1,381	2,936	2,092
% change in rate*	-6.7	-3.2	3.6	-4.5	-3.4	-3.0	-8.9	2.9	3.2
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - excluding Traffic									
number	268,282	266,682	242,352	80,156	70,875	61,496	36,747	67,317	46,592
rate	5,839	7,779	12,142	8,736	7,813	7,672	5,348	9,952	7,074
% change in rate*	-11.0	-4.8	-4.9	-4.4	-1.8	-7.9	-8.7	-3.2	-4.5

¹ Comparable data for all police services are available upon request.

² Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998. The intercensal estimates match the jurisdictional boundaries of the police department.

³ Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5


Crime Rates for Census Metropolitan Areas by Major Crime Category, Canada, 1998^{1,2}

	Population	Total CC Offences ³		Violent crime		Property crime	
		rate	% change in rate*	rate	% change in rate*	rate	% change in rate*
Regina	199,539	14,785	2.0	1,649	0.8	8,950	-1.9
Vancouver	1,995,927	12,142	-4.9	1,170	-5.2	8,239	-7.4
Saskatoon	229,302	11,777	-1.3	1,407	2.4	6,311	-7.6
Victoria	318,124	11,380	-1.3	1,340	-4.1	6,024	-3.9
Thunder Bay	128,607	10,379	-7.0	1,740	-3.3	4,858	-9.8
Winnipeg	676,432	9,952	-3.2	1,299	-10.8	5,717	-4.3
Halifax	347,984	9,628	0.0	996	-12.5	5,929	4.6
Edmonton	917,536	8,736	-4.4	996	2.0	4,984	-5.5
London	418,180	8,284	-10.3	895	1.8	4,918	-14.3
Windsor	296,726	7,892	-5.5	918	7.2	4,236	-10.0
Calgary	907,112	7,813	-1.8	849	0.4	5,254	-1.7
Montréal	3,428,304	7,779	-4.8	827	4.9	4,922	-6.8
Ottawa ⁴	801,555	7,672	-7.9	879	-2.6	4,593	-11.0
St. Catharines-Niagara ⁵	422,036	7,465	-3.4	641	-5.1	4,328	-6.9
St. John's	173,586	7,385	5.8	968	-3.6	4,251	6.1
Sudbury	163,313	7,102	-6.4	883	-1.9	4,276	-8.0
Saint John	127,280	7,080	0.6	1,116	1.5	3,399	-6.9
Hamilton	658,618	7,074	-4.5	1,025	-7.3	3,958	-7.5
Kitchener ⁵	433,354	6,849	3.5	797	6.8	4,295	3.1
Hull ⁶	255,193	6,715	-9.9	701	-6.5	4,089	-9.1
Trois-Rivières	142,448	6,374	-6.9	492	1.9	4,103	-5.6
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	146,691	6,311	-10.3	571	-5.1	4,309	-11.0
Sherbrooke	152,655	5,929	-0.7	411	-1.7	4,023	0.3
Toronto	4,594,880	5,839	-11.0	836	-2.2	3,354	-14.8
Québec	687,155	5,348	-8.7	456	-11.4	3,511	-8.3

¹ Comparable data for all police services are available upon request.

² Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998. The intercensal estimates match the jurisdictional boundaries of the police department. The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to methodological concerns with the matching of the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

³ Includes crimes other than violent and property, but excludes traffic.

⁴ Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

⁵ Populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

⁶ Hull represents the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

* Percent change based on non-rounded rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

Table 6



Victims of Violent Crime by Age Group and Gender, Selected Incidents, 1998


	Age Group by Gender						Total by Age Group		
	Adults		Youth (12-17 years)		Children (under 12 years)		Adults	Youths	Children
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females			
	%		%		%		%		
Homicide ¹	70	30	56	44	56	44	85	5	10
Attempted murder	75	25	77	23	45	55	91	6	2
Assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	49	51	61	39	66	34	79	15	5
Other assaults	81	19	65	35	69	31	95	4	2
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	8	92	13	87	30	70	44	31	25
Other sexual offences	19	81	20	80	31	69	14	36	50
Abduction	...	...	44	56	56	44	...	19	81
Robbery	56	44	83	17	81	19	77	21	2
Criminal harassment	21	79	21	79	38	62	91	7	1
Kidnapping/hostage taking	34	66	33	67	49	51	79	15	6

¹ These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

... Not applicable

Source: 1998 Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-based Data File - CCJS, non-representative sample of 169 police agencies accounting for 46% of the National Volume of Crime.

Table 7



Persons Charged by Age Group and Gender, Selected Incidents, 1998

	Age Group by Gender				Total by Age Group	
	Adults		Youth		Adults	Youth
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
	%		%		%	
Homicides ¹	87	13	96	4	88	12
Attempted murder	88	12	96	4	88	12
Assaults	85	15	70	30	85	15
Sexual assaults	98	2	97	3	85	15
Other sexual offences	97	3	97	3	86	14
Abduction	55	45	100	0	96	4
Robbery	91	9	85	15	64	36
Violent crime - Total	86	14	74	26	84	16
Break and enter	94	6	90	10	60	40
Motor vehicle theft	93	7	86	14	58	42
Fraud	70	30	67	33	93	7
Theft over \$5,000	79	21	83	17	81	19
Theft \$5,000 and under	70	30	67	33	73	27
Property crime - Total	77	23	78	22	72	28
Mischief	88	12	89	11	66	34
Arson	81	19	87	13	59	41
Prostitution	46	54	10	90	97	3
Offensive weapons	92	8	92	8	79	21
Criminal Code - Total (excluding traffic)	82	18	77	23	78	22
Impaired driving ^{2, 3}	90	10	88	12	99	1
Cocaine - Possession	82	18	68	32	95	5
Cocaine - Trafficking	84	16	72	28	95	5
Cannabis - Possession	90	10	89	11	83	17
Cannabis - Trafficking	84	16	89	11	85	15

¹ These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

² Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

³ These data on impaired driving come from the Revised Uniform Crime Survey.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

Table 8


Youths Charged in Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1988 - 1998¹

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 ^f	1998
Population (aged 12-17)	2,247,861	2,244,017	2,256,094	2,273,918	2,305,122	2,330,863	2,359,075	2,386,304	2,417,604	2,439,839	2,451,946
Homicide											
number	48	48	49	49	53	36	52	68	49	54	56
rate	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	1.5	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.2	2.3
% change in rate*	37.7	0.2	1.5	-0.8	6.7	-32.8	42.7	15.9	-28.9	9.2	3.2
Assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	7,679	9,245	10,797	12,815	13,584	14,981	15,363	15,898	15,945	15,612	15,830
rate	342	412	479	564	589	643	651	666	660	640	646
% change in rate*	11.9	20.6	16.2	17.8	4.6	9.1	1.3	2.3	-1.0	-3.0	0.9
Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	1,247	1,478	1,609	1,906	2,074	2,132	1,896	1,586	1,581	1,494	1,438
rate	55	66	71	84	90	91	80	66	65	61	59
% change in rate*	2.7	18.7	8.3	17.5	7.3	1.7	-12.1	-17.3	-1.6	-6.4	-4.2
Robbery											
number	1,544	1,950	2,055	2,746	2,966	2,996	3,006	3,535	3,741	3,792	3,569
rate	69	87	91	121	129	129	127	148	155	155	146
% change in rate*	28.8	26.5	4.8	32.6	6.5	-0.1	-0.9	16.3	4.5	0.4	-6.3
Violent Crime - Total											
number	11,437	13,780	15,690	18,919	20,028	21,477	21,629	22,441	22,521	22,172	22,145
rate	509	614	695	832	869	921	917	940	932	909	903
% change in rate*	13.0	20.7	13.3	19.6	4.4	6.1	-0.5	2.6	-0.9	-2.4	-0.6
Break and enter											
number	23,894	22,155	24,066	26,901	24,747	21,947	19,992	18,654	18,532	17,092	15,971
rate	1,063	987	1,067	1,183	1,074	942	847	782	767	701	651
% change in rate*	-5.2	-7.1	8.0	10.9	-9.3	-12.3	-10.0	-7.8	-1.9	-8.6	-7.0
Motor vehicle theft											
number	6,436	7,330	7,945	8,768	8,122	8,211	7,476	6,875	7,011	6,468	6,172
rate	286	327	352	386	352	352	317	288	290	265	252
% change in rate*	10.2	14.1	7.8	9.5	-8.6	0.0	-10.0	-9.1	0.7	-8.6	-5.0
Theft											
number	36,368	38,897	42,514	45,221	39,648	35,301	32,228	33,762	32,473	27,060	24,778
rate	1,618	1,733	1,884	1,989	1,720	1,515	1,366	1,415	1,343	1,109	1,011
% change in rate*	0.4	7.1	8.7	5.5	-13.5	-11.9	-9.8	3.6	-5.1	-17.4	-8.9
Property crime - Total											
number	74,316	76,317	83,741	91,656	83,603	74,981	68,907	68,105	66,702	58,340	54,047
rate	3,306	3,401	3,712	4,031	3,627	3,217	2,921	2,854	2,759	2,391	2,204
% change in rate*	-0.2	2.9	9.1	8.6	-10.0	-11.3	-9.2	-2.3	-3.3	-13.3	-7.8
Mischief											
number	8,643	8,491	8,647	9,725	9,066	8,214	7,687	7,745	7,695	7,005	6,868
rate	384	378	383	428	393	352	326	325	318	287	280
% change in rate*	10.8	-1.6	1.3	11.6	-8.0	-10.4	-7.5	-0.4	-1.9	-9.8	-2.4
Offensive weapons											
number	1,514	1,702	1,809	2,020	1,906	1,932	1,963	1,693	1,551	1,478	1,459
rate	67	76	80	89	83	83	83	71	64	61	60
% change in rate*	7.4	12.6	5.7	10.8	-6.9	0.2	0.4	-14.7	-9.6	-5.6	-1.8
Other Criminal Code - Total											
number	24,136	25,865	27,118	31,741	31,651	30,429	29,089	30,117	30,187	30,329	30,792
rate	1,074	1,153	1,202	1,396	1,373	1,305	1,233	1,262	1,249	1,243	1,256
% change in rate*	6.5	7.3	4.3	16.1	-1.6	-4.9	-5.5	2.4	-1.1	-0.4	1.0
Criminal Code - Total excluding traffic											
number	109,889	115,962	126,549	142,316	135,282	126,887	119,625	120,663	119,410	110,841	106,984
rate	4,889	5,168	5,609	6,259	5,869	5,444	5,071	5,056	4,939	4,543	4,363
% change in rate*	2.5	5.7	8.5	11.6	-6.2	-7.2	-6.9	-0.3	-2.3	-8.0	-4.0

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youths. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1988 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996, updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998.

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^f Revised figures

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 9

Selected Criminal Code Incidents Committed by Youth, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1998¹

	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
Population, 1998	49,576	12,105	75,401	61,812	562,937	906,498	97,334	96,609	261,015	318,687	3,009	6,963	2,451,946
Homicide													
number	3	-	4	1	8	14	4	5	11	5	-	1	56
rate	6.1	-	5.3	1.6	1.4	1.5	4.1	5.2	4.2	1.6	-	14.4	2.3
% change in rate*	...	-	...	...	104.3	52.8	-66.9	66.7	33.6	-70.9	...	...	3.2
Sexual Assault (1,2,3)													
number	23	8	45	37	152	580	85	93	171	213	7	24	1,438
rate	46	66	60	60	27	64	87	96	66	67	233	345	59
% change in rate*	-38.5	59.8	-34.6	1.5	-1.1	0.0	-1.8	-11.4	-13.0	-3.5	...	51.2	-4.2
Assault (1,2,3)													
number	271	44	424	387	1,977	7,039	965	891	1,665	2,049	29	89	15,830
rate	547	363	562	626	351	777	991	922	638	643	964	1,278	646
% change in rate*	-4.8	33.2	-18.7	16.9	13.1	1.3	-4.0	6.2	-9.5	-2.1	-39.6	28.2	0.9
Robbery													
number	22	7	81	23	639	1,273	331	226	444	517	2	4	3,569
rate	44	58	107	37	114	140	340	234	170	162	66	57	146
% change in rate*	108.6	74.8	80.6	55.7	-10.8	-5.8	-18.6	17.1	6.3	-20.4	-33.3	-55.2	-6.3
Violent crime - Total													
number	339	60	602	495	3,013	9,350	1,485	1,298	2,436	2,891	43	133	22,145
rate	684	496	798	801	535	1,031	1,526	1,344	933	907	1,429	1,910	903
% change in rate*	-1.2	30.3	-12.0	19.4	6.0	0.7	-8.6	4.0	-6.9	-6.9	-27.1	27.7	-0.6
Breaking & Entering													
number	625	30	699	381	2,497	4,371	1,176	1,890	1,932	1,949	97	324	15,971
rate	1,261	248	927	616	444	482	1,208	1,956	740	612	3,224	4,653	651
% change in rate*	27.3	-45.5	1.8	-10.5	-9.3	-10.5	-0.4	-4.1	-9.6	-9.2	11.5	-10.7	-7.0
Motor Vehicle Theft													
number	122	18	214	114	889	1,807	773	681	836	624	14	80	6,172
rate	246	149	284	184	158	199	794	705	320	196	465	1,149	252
% change in rate*	98.9	-30.8	4.7	-5.1	-6.3	-10.9	24.9	10.9	-12.3	-25.2	-17.6	-13.3	-5.0
Other Theft													
number	524	90	1,004	678	3,190	9,241	1,651	1,417	3,043	3,788	61	91	24,778
rate	1,057	743	1,332	1,097	567	1,019	1,696	1,467	1,166	1,189	2,027	1,307	1,011
% change in rate*	-4.8	-10.1	-27.8	2.9	-6.5	-9.9	-6.5	-5.8	2.5	-16.4	-6.1	27.4	-8.9
Property crime - Total													
number	1,359	158	2,022	1,285	7,000	18,755	3,874	4,733	6,952	7,207	190	512	54,047
rate	2,741	1,305	2,682	2,079	1,243	2,069	3,980	4,899	2,663	2,261	6,314	7,353	2,204
% change in rate*	15.9	-18.6	-15.4	-4.2	-8.3	-9.8	-1.6	-2.6	-2.5	-16.2	1.6	-5.3	-7.8
Offensive weapons													
number	6	1	36	13	67	710	123	83	230	185	-	5	1,459
rate	12	8	48	21	12	78	126	86	88	58	-	72	60
% change in rate*	-51.9	...	12.9	-37.2	16.0	8.0	-27.7	45.6	-17.2	-3.8	-	-54.2	-1.8
Mischief													
number	183	31	296	241	754	2,230	525	731	974	825	39	39	6,868
rate	369	256	393	390	134	246	539	757	373	259	1,296	560	280
% change in rate*	-2.6	-22.6	-22.1	9.2	-9.2	0.0	-23.6	23.5	4.5	-5.8	14.7	-12.6	-2.4
Other Criminal Code - Total													
number	688	68	1,113	1,067	2,742	11,910	2,093	3,856	4,286	2,689	103	177	30,792
rate	1,388	562	1,476	1,726	487	1,314	2,150	3,991	1,642	844	3,423	2,542	1,256
% change in rate*	8.7	-27.0	-9.2	13.9	-1.8	-1.1	-6.5	14.7	4.2	-5.5	-33.1	10.2	1.0
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - without traffic crime													
number	2,386	286	3,737	2,847	12,755	40,015	7,452	9,887	13,674	12,787	336	822	106,984
rate	4,813	2,363	4,956	4,606	2,266	4,414	7,656	10,234	5,239	4,012	11,167	11,805	4,363
% change in rate*	11.1	-14.2	-13.1	5.7	-3.9	-5.0	-4.5	4.4	-1.4	-12.1	-16.0	2.1	-4.0

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998.


* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not appropriate or applicable

- Nil or zero

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 10

 Population Estimates of Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1988 to 1998													
	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
Year	Thousands												
1988													
Total	575.0	129.3	897.4	730.4	6,839.6	9,843.8	1,102.1	1,028.1	2,454.7	3,115.7	26.6	55.7	26,798.3
Adult (18+)	401.5	93.6	668.4	535.9	5,200.5	7,440.6	811.2	734.4	1,772.2	2,364.7	18.9	34.9	20,076.9
Youth (12-17)	67.4	12.2	81.8	71.4	546.0	814.1	98.0	93.2	210.2	245.4	2.3	6.0	2,247.9
1989													
Total	576.4	130.1	903.9	735.2	6,929.5	10,109.8	1,103.5	1,019.3	2,495.8	3,198.5	27.1	57.0	27,286.2
Adult (18+)	407.3	94.4	676.7	542.8	5,282.9	7,666.8	813.4	729.0	1,804.0	2,433.0	19.4	35.9	20,505.3
Youth (12-17)	65.8	12.2	79.9	70.6	551.7	810.6	96.5	92.4	210.4	245.8	2.2	6.0	2,244.0
1990													
Total	578.1	130.5	909.7	740.1	7,004.4	10,299.6	1,105.6	1,007.1	2,547.6	3,291.4	27.8	58.9	27,700.9
Adult (18+)	412.9	94.9	683.1	549.2	5,341.3	7,814.7	814.8	720.4	1,840.8	2,504.3	19.8	37.2	20,833.4
Youth (12-17)	63.7	12.0	78.2	69.1	561.2	810.7	95.8	91.8	214.4	251.0	2.2	5.9	2,256.1
1991													
Total	579.5	130.3	915.1	745.5	7,064.7	10,427.6	1,109.6	1,002.7	2,592.6	3,373.4	28.9	60.9	28,030.9
Adult (18+)	418.7	95.0	689.3	556.3	5,385.3	7,913.1	818.1	717.9	1,873.1	2,567.8	20.7	38.4	21,093.5
Youth (12-17)	61.5	12.0	77.0	67.7	571.9	811.5	95.4	92.0	219.2	257.4	2.3	6.1	2,273.9
1992													
Total	580.2	130.9	919.4	748.5	7,112.8	10,570.5	1,113.1	1,004.0	2,634.4	3,470.3	30.2	62.4	28,376.6
Adult (18+)	423.2	95.7	694.4	561.3	5,419.0	8,010.2	821.2	720.0	1,903.4	2,641.5	21.6	39.1	21,350.7
Youth (12-17)	59.8	11.9	76.4	66.7	583.9	820.0	94.7	92.7	224.6	265.6	2.5	6.3	2,305.1
1993													
Total	580.2	132.3	923.7	749.5	7,165.2	10,690.4	1,118.4	1,006.9	2,670.7	3,571.5	30.6	63.5	28,703.1
Adult (18+)	427.2	97.1	699.9	565.0	5,465.8	8,099.7	826.2	723.5	1,933.4	2,721.4	22.0	39.9	21,621.0
Youth (12-17)	58.4	11.9	75.7	65.4	590.1	827.5	94.3	93.9	229.9	274.8	2.5	6.5	2,330.9
1994													
Total	574.8	133.7	926.3	750.9	7,207.3	10,827.5	1,123.9	1,009.7	2,704.9	3,681.8	30.0	65.2	29,036.0
Adult (18+)	427.0	98.3	704.1	568.8	5,508.3	8,204.2	831.0	726.9	1,964.8	2,810.1	21.6	41.0	21,906.2
Youth (12-17)	56.6	12.0	75.0	64.4	592.3	839.3	94.4	95.1	234.7	286.3	2.5	6.7	2,359.1
1995													
Total	568.0	134.8	927.7	751.8	7,241.4	10,964.9	1,129.8	1,014.2	2,739.9	3,784.0	30.9	66.6	29,353.9
Adult (18+)	425.3	99.5	706.8	572.1	5,549.8	8,310.4	835.7	732.6	1,997.1	2,894.8	22.2	42.0	22,188.2
Youth (12-17)	55.0	12.0	75.1	63.6	588.2	854.8	95.1	95.9	240.4	296.5	2.7	6.8	2,386.3
1996													
Total	560.6	136.2	931.2	753.0	7,274.0	11,100.9	1,134.3	1,019.5	2,780.6	3,882.0	31.9	67.6	29,671.9
Adult (18+)	423.3	100.8	711.1	575.6	5,588.7	8,410.7	840.0	738.7	2,034.4	2,977.2	23.1	42.7	22,466.3
Youth (12-17)	53.4	12.1	75.5	63.3	583.5	872.4	96.0	96.7	246.8	308.0	2.9	7.0	2,417.6
1997													
Total	554.4	136.8	934.8	754.0	7,307.6	11,260.4	1,136.8	1,022.2	2,837.8	3,959.3	32.2	67.8	30,004.0
Adult (18+)	422.4	101.8	716.5	579.1	5,636.3	8,543.0	843.1	743.9	2,084.5	3,044.2	23.4	42.9	22,781.1
Youth (12-17)	51.7	12.1	75.6	62.8	575.1	890.7	96.7	96.6	253.6	314.9	3.0	7.0	2,439.8
1998													
Total	544.4	136.4	934.6	753.0	7,333.3	11,411.5	1,138.9	1,024.4	2,914.9	4,009.9	31.7	67.5	30,300.4
Adult (18+)	418.5	101.9	719.2	581.6	5,685.4	8,675.2	846.1	748.9	2,151.2	3,092.5	23.1	42.7	23,086.4
Youth (12-17)	49.6	12.1	75.4	61.8	562.9	906.5	97.3	96.6	261.0	318.7	3.0	7.0	2,451.9

Source: Report entitled Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998, Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; revised intercensal estimates from 1988 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimate for 1996, updated postcensal estimates for 1997 and 1998.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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