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## BREAK AND ENTER, 1999

by *Melanie Kowalski*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Breaking and entering (B&E) is a serious property crime, often resulting in both financial and psychological consequences for victims. In 1999, there were 318,448 incidents of B&E reported to police, down substantially from the peak of 434,602 B&Es reported in 1991. The rate (1,044 B&Es per 100,000 population in 1999) has dropped 33% since 1991, and is at a 25-year low.
- Almost two-thirds (62%) of all B&Es were residential in 1999, with one-quarter (26%) being business and the remaining 12% representing all other types of properties, such as storage facilities, detached garages, and tool-sheds.
- Similar to the case for most property crimes, B&E rates are generally higher in the western provinces and lower in the east. For residential B&Es, police-reported data show Saskatchewan and Quebec as having the highest rates, while victimization data show British Columbia and Saskatchewan as highest.
- Among the nine largest metropolitan areas, Montréal had the highest police-reported rate of residential B&Es, and Toronto the lowest. Among the 15 smaller metropolitan areas, the highest rates were found in Regina and Saskatoon, and the lowest in Thunder Bay.
- As there is no *Criminal Code* offence of “home invasion”, this report examines residential robberies as an approximation of this type of crime. Data from a sample of 106 police services show that residential robberies have been declining over the past five years.
- Over half (58%) of all persons accused of committing a residential robbery were strangers to the victim. Victims of residential robberies are often terrorized by the crime, as 58% of these incidents involved a weapon being present, usually a firearm (22%) or a knife (21%). It appears that elderly victims are targeted in this type of crime. Of all victims of a residential robbery in 1999, 18% were aged 60 or over, compared with 3% of all violent crime victims.



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## INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of residential, business and ‘other’ break and enter (B&E) offences in Canada, including trends at the national, provincial and metropolitan area levels, as well as characteristics of B&E incidents, accused persons and victims. In addition the offence known as “home invasion” is also discussed. Data are examined from both the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization. Data from both youth and adult court are examined to look at the types of sentences being given to persons convicted of B&E offences.

Break and enter is considered to be a very serious crime. B&Es have many negative consequences for victims, both financial (loss of property, insurance deductibles, absence from work, purchase of home security devices, etc.) and psychological (feeling of violation of privacy, fear of possibly having come face-to-face with the offender, fear of further break-ins, loss of irreplaceable items). There is also the time involved in notifying police and insurance companies, evaluating and replacing stolen goods, and repairing damage to property.

Canada’s law against B&E is based on old English common law that narrowly defined the crime as an intrusion of a home during the night with the intent to commit a felony therein<sup>1</sup>. The Canadian *Criminal Code* also includes break and enters of homes at any time of day or night, as well as businesses and other properties. However, it still recognizes the seriousness of a residential B&E by having a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for those convicted of a B&E of a dwelling-house. The maximum penalty for other types of B&E is 10 years.

A “home invasion” is a relatively new term that generally refers to the forced entry into a home with the direct intention of confrontation to commit a robbery and/or terrorize the inhabitants. Research shows that “home invasion” victims often experience a profound sense of terror and helplessness while the offence is being committed. In many instances, persons who are the victims of “home invasions” never again feel safe because the sanctuary of their homes has been violated<sup>2</sup>.

While there is no specific offence in the *Criminal Code* called “home invasion”, the federal government introduced an omnibus bill in June 2000 with an amendment that would identify “home invasion” as an aggravating factor to be considered by a judge at the time of sentencing.

## Trends

### Break and enter rate at 25-year low

Breaking and entering is one of the most common and most serious property crimes in Canada. In 1999, there were 318,448 B&E incidents reported by police, accounting for one in four property crimes. Almost two-thirds (62%) of these B&Es were residential, one-quarter (26%) were business, and the remaining 12% represented all other types of properties (Table 1).

Expressed as a rate per 100,000 population to control for increases in population, the B&E rate increased during most of the 1960s and 70s, declined slightly in the 1980s, and then increased sharply during the early 1990s, peaking at a rate of 1,550 incidents per 100,000 population in 1991. Since that time, the B&E rate has dropped 33%, including a 22% decline between 1996 and 1999. The 1999 rate of 1,044 B&Es per 100,000 population was the lowest in 25 years (Figure 1).

The comparable offence to B&E in the United States is called “burglary”. Although not using the exact same definition of a B&E in Canada, the U.S. definition of burglary

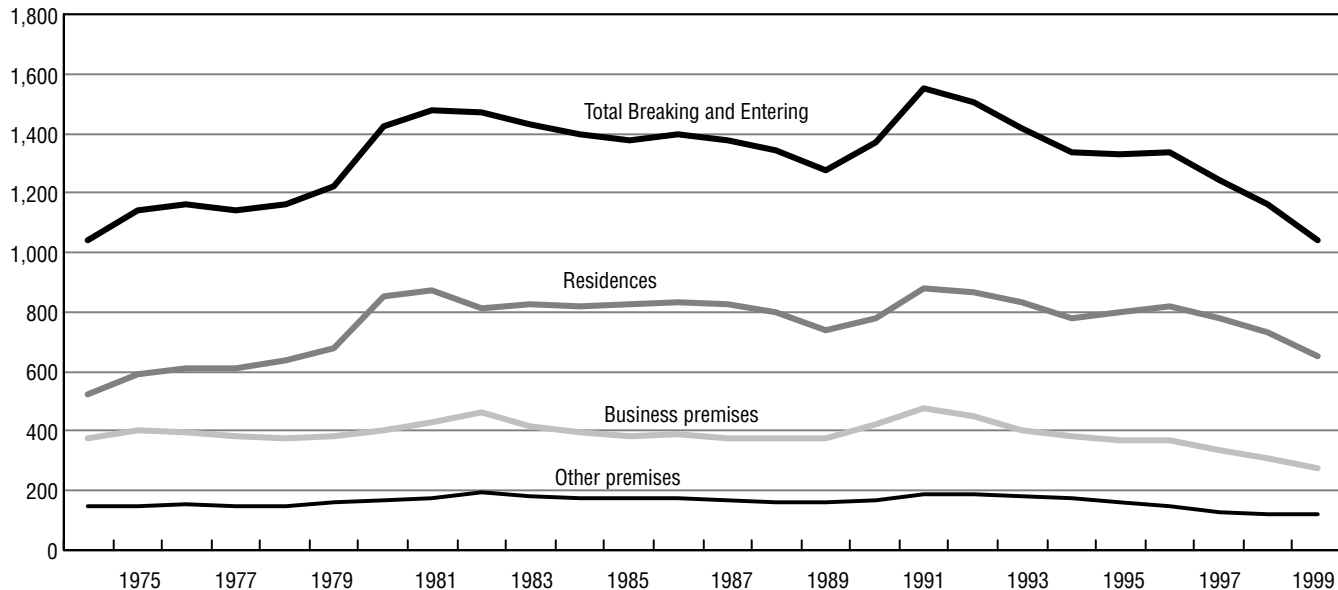
<sup>1</sup> *Yogis, John A., Q.C. (1990). Canadian Law Dictionary. Baron's: Toronto, p. 32.*  
<sup>2</sup> *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, Vol. 13, no. 4 (Nov. 1997).*

Figure 1



### Breaking and Entering in Canada 1974 to 1999

Rate Per 100,000 Population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

#### Categories of Break and Enters

**Residential** – includes private residences such as single homes (including attached garages), garden homes, apartments, cottages, mobile homes, etc.

**Business** – includes premises used for commercial purposes (e.g. retail stores, financial institutions) as well as public institutions (e.g. schools, churches).

**Other** – all other private structures that are not residential (e.g. detached garages, tool-sheds, storage and transportation facilities).

appears to be close enough that a valid comparison can be made with Canada's. In 1999, there were about 2.1 million burglaries reported by police in the U.S.A. for a rate of 770 per 100,000 population. This is 26% lower than Canada's rate. Similar to Canada, the burglary rate in the States has dropped 22% over the past 5 years.

As residential B&Es account for almost two-thirds of all B&Es, it is not surprising that the trend in residential is very similar to the overall trend. Residential B&Es also peaked in 1991 at just under 250,000 (a rate of 880 residential B&Es per 100,000 population). By 1999, the number of residential B&Es had fallen to just under 200,000, giving a rate of 649. This was the lowest rate since 1978. In 1999 alone, the residential B&E rate fell by 11% from the previous year.

Victimization data from the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) also indicate a drop in residential B&Es since 1993 (the previous cycle of the survey). These victim-reported data indicate a 6% drop over this time period compared to a 22% decline in police-reported data. Some of the differences between these two findings could be due to an increase in insurance deductibles in recent years, leading to fewer minor B&Es being reported to the police.

#### Comparing Victimization and Police-Reported Crime Data

The two primary sources of information on crime rates in Canada are victimization surveys such as the General Social Survey and police surveys such as the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey:** The UCR survey records crimes that are reported to the police. Many factors that can influence the police-reported crime rate include the willingness of the public to report crimes to the police; reporting by police to the UCR survey; and changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices.

**The General Social Survey (GSS):** The GSS asks a sample of the population about their personal crime experiences. The GSS is a good way of estimating the extent of unreported crime in that it captures information on crimes that have been reported to the police as well as those that have gone unreported. Some limitations of victimization surveys are that they rely on respondents to report events accurately and they address only certain crimes.

Business B&Es have also been declining since 1991. The 83,950 business B&Es (rate of 275 per 100,000 population) in 1999 represented a 43% drop in the rate since peaking in 1991 at 480. In particular, decreases of over 9% have been seen in each of the previous three years.

## Home Invasions

Recent high-profile incidents of “home invasion” have received significant exposure in the media, particularly those where the elderly have been targeted. Although no formal definition exists, a “home invasion” is generally thought to be different from a break and enter in that there is premeditated confrontation with the victim with the intent to rob and/or inflict violence on the occupants of the household. In this manner, a “home invasion” is actually closer to the definition of a robbery than to a break and enter (please refer to Box for definitions).

The judiciary is also taking “home invasion” crimes very seriously. For example, the Alberta Court of Appeal upheld a 10 year sentence and established an eight year starting point for sentencing “home invasion” related crimes. The court stated:

*“We are of the view that the “home invasion” robbery merits a higher starting point sentence than the armed robbery of a bank of commercial institution. While offences of violence are abhorrent wherever they occur, offences which strike at the right of members of the public to the security of their own homes and to freedom from intrusion therein, must be treated with the utmost seriousness. Individuals in their own homes have few of the security devices available to commercial institutions. They are often alone, with little hope that help will arrive. Such offences, whether they result in injuries or not, are almost always terrifying, traumatic experiences for the occupants of the residence often leaving them with a total loss of any sense of security<sup>3</sup>.”*

As there is no specific offence in the *Criminal Code* called “home invasion”, this type of crime is not captured directly by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. One of the biggest obstacles in measuring “home invasion” is the lack of an agreed-upon definition. While some incidents appear to be obvious, others are not so clear:

- a homeowner returns home unexpectedly while a break and enter is in progress and there is confrontation
- a person breaks into a home believing that no one is home and someone is, or believing that the occupants are all asleep and they wake up, and there is confrontation
- someone forcibly enters the home of a person known to them to “settle a score”

Despite the lack of a clear definition, there are some sources of data for this crime. First, some police services do record the number of “home invasions” in their jurisdiction, although definitions may differ from force to force. Second, it is possible to “derive” a count of police reported “home invasions” from the incident-based UCR2 survey (please refer to methodo-

### Break and Entering and Robbery as Defined by the Criminal Code

Section 348 (1) Breaking and entering with intent, committing offence or breaking out

Every one who

- (a) breaks and enters a place with the intent to commit an indictable offence therein,
- (b) breaks and enters a place and commits an indictable offence therein, or
- (c) breaks out of a place after
  - (i) committing an indictable offence therein, or
  - (ii) entering the place with intent to commit an indictable offence therein,

Section 343 Robbery

Every one who

- (a) steals, and for the purpose of extorting whatever is stolen or to prevent or overcome resistance to the stealing, uses violence or threats of violence to a person or property;
- (b) steals from any person and, at the time he steals or immediately before or immediately thereafter, wounds, beats, strikes or uses any personal violence to that person;
- (c) assaults any person with intent to steal from him; or
- (d) steals from any person while armed with an offensive weapon or imitation thereof.

Source: *Criminal Code of Canada R.S.C. 1985.*

logy) by examining more than one variable. For example, the number of robberies occurring in a residence may be a good measure of the number of “home invasions”. Third, it is also possible to derive the number of “home invasions” from the GSS. However, the number of “home invasions” reported to the GSS was too small to permit any analysis. Therefore, only the first two sources described above will be discussed below to help to shed some light on this issue.

### Data collected by police services

The following data and definitions of “home invasion” represent those police services who specifically capture data on “home invasions”.

Vancouver police define a “home invasion” as follows: “where the suspect(s) choose a residential premise in which they know a person or persons are present with the pre-formulated plan of confronting the occupant(s), attacking them, holding them or binding them thereby committing assault and unlawful confinement, then a theft is attempted or completed, thereby committing robbery”. Since Vancouver police began capturing this information in 1997, the number of incidents of “home invasion” has fluctuated, from 17 in 1997, to 61 in 1998, to 30 in 1999.

Toronto police define “home invasion” as a robbery committed in the living quarters of a residence<sup>4</sup>. Data from the Toronto

<sup>3</sup> *R.v. McLean (1997) M.J. No.9 (C.A.) and R.v. Matwiy, (1996) A.J. No. 134 (C.A.).*

<sup>4</sup> *Toronto had a specific code for home invasion put in place in late 1998. The statistics for the other years have been compiled using the robbery offence cases and premise codes. These figures include robberies at living quarters of hotels, hostels and other group residences.*

Police Service indicate that from 1994 to 1999 the number of “home invasions” decreased steadily from 401 in 1994 to 224 in 1999, a decline of 44%.

A “home invasion” in Calgary is defined as “when the culprit(s) enter a residence by force, threats, intimidation, or permission, either knowing or expecting the residence to be occupied. Or, culprit(s) break in to residence and wait for the residents to return. Culprit(s) must have pre-formulated intention of taking property, money or drugs, etc., and use force, threats, or intimidation towards any person in the residence to achieve their goal.” The number of “home invasions” reported by Calgary Police have fluctuated from 27 in 1996, to 15 in 1998, and back up to 23 in 1999.

**Data derived from the UCR2 survey**

As mentioned above, there are a number of ways to define “home invasion”. As such, data from the UCR2 Trend Database (please refer to methodology) will be examined using both a “narrow” and a “broad” definition. The “narrow” definition examines only incidents where police have reported a robbery occurring in a private residence. The “broad” definition includes robberies of a residence as well as any residential break and enter incidents where there was also a violent offence. The data show that only 1% of residential break and enter incidents involve a violent offence, usually an assault. (Note: any incidents including both a break and enter and a robbery are only counted once).

Both definitions show a decline in the number of “home invasions”. The number of robberies in a residence (the

narrow definition of “home invasion”) shows a 12% decline, from 1,313 in 1995 to 1,154 in 1999 (Figure 2). Similarly, the number of residential B&Es with a violent offence plus the number of robberies of a residence (the broad definition) also shows a decline (-2%), although somewhat smaller, between 1995 (2,504 “home invasions”) and 1999 (2,449). It should be noted that these numbers reflect data from a non-representative sample of 106 police forces representing 41% of the national volume of crime.

The UCR2 survey provides information on the characteristics of residential robberies. For example, in 1999, where the relationship between the victim and accused was known, over half (58%) of all accused were strangers, and a further 24% were casual acquaintances of the victim.

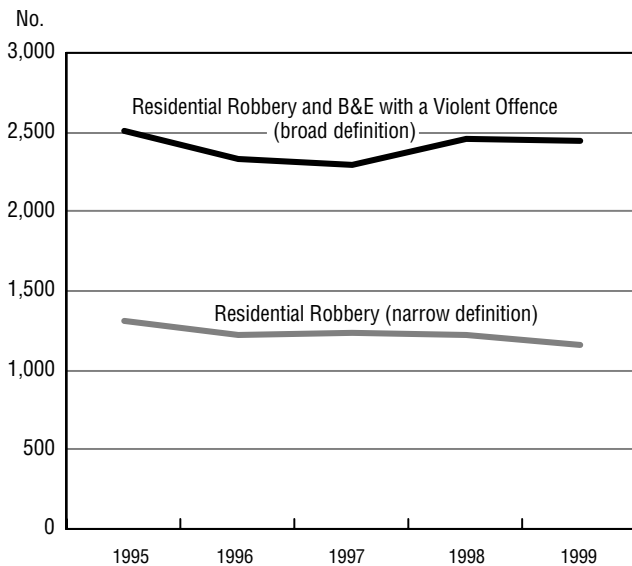
In terms of being a terrifying experience for the victim, data show that most (58%) robberies of a residence involved a weapon being present in the incident, most commonly a firearm (22%) or a knife or other cutting instrument (21%). Physical force or the threat of physical harm accounted for the remaining incidents.

It appears that elderly victims are targeted in this type of crime. Of all victims of a residential robbery in 1999, 18% were aged 60 or over, compared with 3% of all violent crime victims.

**Concluding remarks on “home invasion”**

Based on the analysis of available data, it appears as though the number of “home invasions” may actually have declined over the past five years. However, until such time as there is a uniform definition of a “home invasion” and more police services begin collecting these data, it is going to continue to be difficult to provide definitive information for this type of crime.

Figure 2



**Note:** Based on a non-representative sample of 106 police services representing 41% of the national volume of crime.  
**Source:** Incident-based UCR (UCR2) Survey Trend Database, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

**Break & Enters – Geographical Comparisons**

**Provincial/territorial**

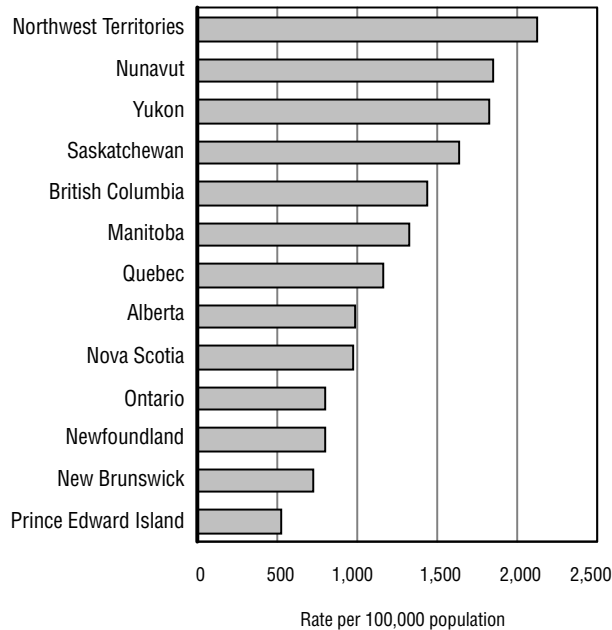
Similar to the pattern for most property crimes, total B&E rates were generally higher in the west and lower in the east according to police-reported UCR data. The three territories all had B&E rates higher than any of the provinces (Figure 3). In 1999, Saskatchewan reported the highest rate among the provinces (1,641 B&Es per 100,000 population), followed by British Columbia (1,422), Manitoba (1,330) and Quebec (1,157). The lowest rates were reported in Prince Edward Island (520), New Brunswick (725), Newfoundland (800) and Ontario (803).

All provinces and territories have shown decreases in their B&E rates over the past five years, except Newfoundland (+10%) and Nova Scotia (+3%). The largest drops have been seen in Prince Edward Island (-32%), Ontario (-27%), British Columbia (-26%) and Manitoba (-26%) (Table 2).

In terms of residential B&Es only, Saskatchewan was still the highest among the provinces (rate of 969 per 100,000 population); however, Quebec was second highest (856) in

Figure 3

 **Break and Enter by province/territory, 1999**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

1999 (Table 3). Similar to total B&Es, the lowest rates were found in Prince Edward Island (192) and New Brunswick (418). Although Yukon and the Northwest Territories had the highest residential B&E rates, Nunavut's rate (695) was actually lower than Saskatchewan (969), Quebec (856), British Columbia (820) and Manitoba (779).

According to data from the GSS in 1999, British Columbia had the highest rate of victimization for residential B&Es (71 per 1,000 households), followed by Saskatchewan (58). The lowest victimization rate was in Newfoundland (30).

For business B&Es, the pattern from police-reported data was very similar to that for total B&Es, with the exception that Prince Edward Island's rate was higher than the rest of the Atlantic provinces as well as that of Ontario.

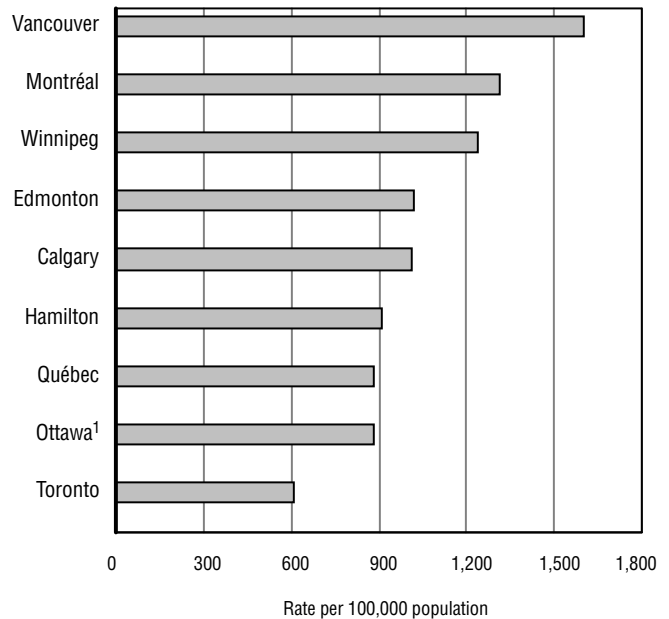
**Census Metropolitan Areas**

Among Canada's nine largest census metropolitan areas<sup>5</sup> (CMAs) with populations over 500,000 Vancouver reported the highest rate in 1999 with 1,601 total B&Es per 100,000 population, followed by Montréal (1,312) and Winnipeg (1,235). The lowest rates were reported in Toronto (612), Ottawa (883) and Québec (883) (Figure 4).

Total break and enters decreased in all nine of these areas between 1998 and 1999. Over the last five years the B&E

Figure 4

 **Breaking and Entering, Census Metropolitan Areas with Populations of 500,000 and over, 1999**



<sup>1</sup> Represents Ontario portion of Ottawa-Hull CMA.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

rate has also declined in all nine CMAs, ranging from a 4% decrease in Hamilton to a 40% decline in Ottawa (Table 4).

In terms of just residential B&Es, Montréal's rate was highest, with Toronto once again being the lowest. For business B&Es, Vancouver was highest, with Hamilton and Québec having the lowest rates.

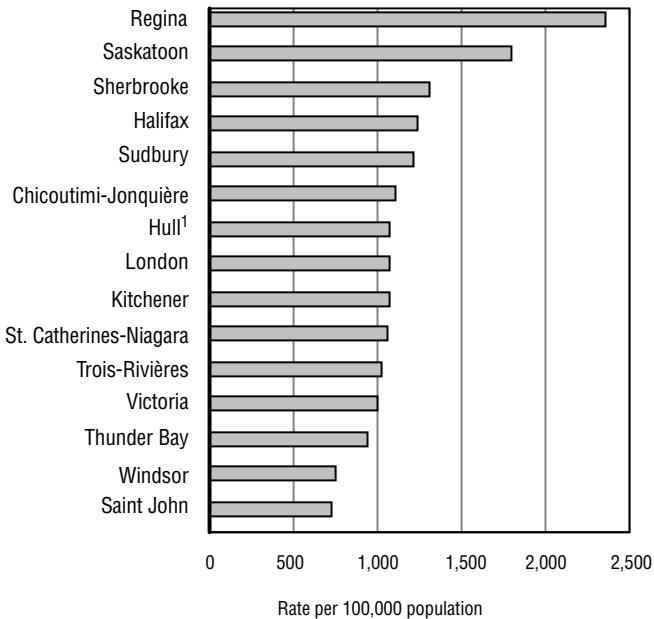
Among the remaining 15 CMAs with populations over 100,000 (data for St. John's was not available for 1999), Regina (2,361) and Saskatoon (1,799) had the highest total B&E rates, and Windsor (721) and Saint John (754) the lowest (Figure 5). This pattern was virtually the same for residential B&Es, with the exception of Thunder Bay having the lowest rate. For business B&Es, Hull reported the lowest rate.

All these CMAs reported a decrease in their total B&E rate in 1999 with the exception of a 7% increase in Saint John (Table 5). Over the last five years, the B&E rate has declined in 13 of these CMAs, with the largest declines seen in Thunder Bay (-48%), Sudbury (-34%), Sherbrooke (-34%) and Trois Rivières (-34%). The largest increase in recent years has been in St. John's, where the B&E rate has increased 44% between 1995 and 1998 (1999 data were not available).

<sup>5</sup> A CMA represents an area with a large urban core (over 100,000 population) plus adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

Figure 5

**Breaking and Entering, Census Metropolitan Areas with Populations of 100,000 to 500,000, 1999**



<sup>1</sup> Represents Québec portion of Ottawa-Hull CMA.  
**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Characteristics of B&E Incidents**

**Risk factors**

The GSS allows the identification of various risk factors associated with being the victim of a crime. In the case of B&Es, the survey found that households located in urban areas were much more likely to be victimized (rate of 52 per 1,000 homes) than households in rural areas (32 per 1,000 homes) in 1999.

Households with higher incomes were also at greater risk than those with lower incomes. In 1999, households with an income greater than \$60,000 reported the highest rates (58 B&Es per 1,000 homes) compared with rates of between 50 and 53 for all other income categories.

The type of household also influences the risk of B&E. For example, rates were highest for a semi-detached, row or duplex home (53 B&Es per 1,000 homes) compared to an apartment (51) or detached house (48). Rates were also higher for those who rented their home (60 B&Es per 1,000 homes) than for those who owned (44).

**Type of property stolen**

According to police-reported data, property was stolen in 82% of break-ins in 1999. In addition to stolen property, property

was also reported as being damaged in 80% of B&Es. According to the GSS, the median value of items stolen was \$800 and \$200 for property damaged. Most B&Es occurred in the summer months, possibly because many homeowners are away from their residence on vacation. The lowest period for B&Es was from January to May.

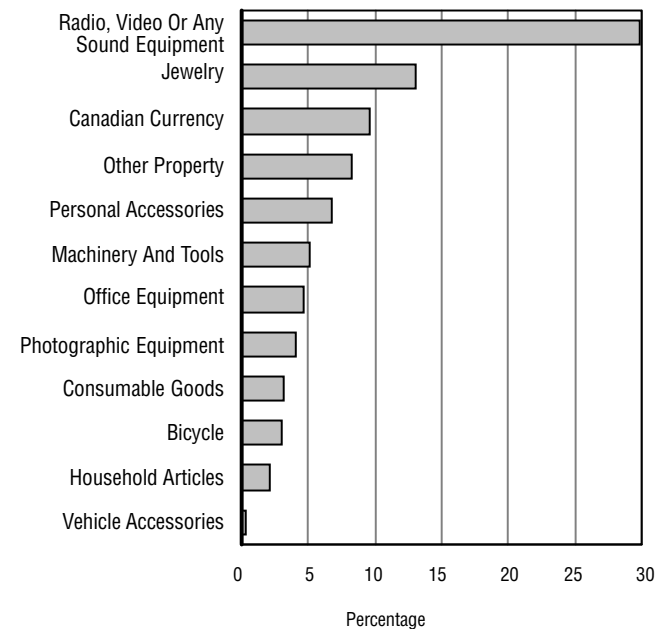
Data from both the UCR2 survey (police-reported) and the GSS (victim-reported) show that the most common type of property stolen from a residence was electronic equipment (eg. televisions, VCRs and stereos), followed by jewelry and cash (Figure 6a and 6b).

For businesses, consumable goods such as liquor and cigarettes were most frequently stolen, followed by cash, machinery and tools, and office equipment.

According to the Insurance Information Centre of Canada<sup>6</sup>, the average claim by home-owners and tenants for losses due to B&E amounted to \$4,364 in 1998-99. For business claims the average claim was slightly higher (\$4,456). In total, property losses associated with B&Es cost the insurance industry about \$366 million in 1998-99.

Figure 6a

**Type of Property Stolen, Residential Break and Enter, 1999**

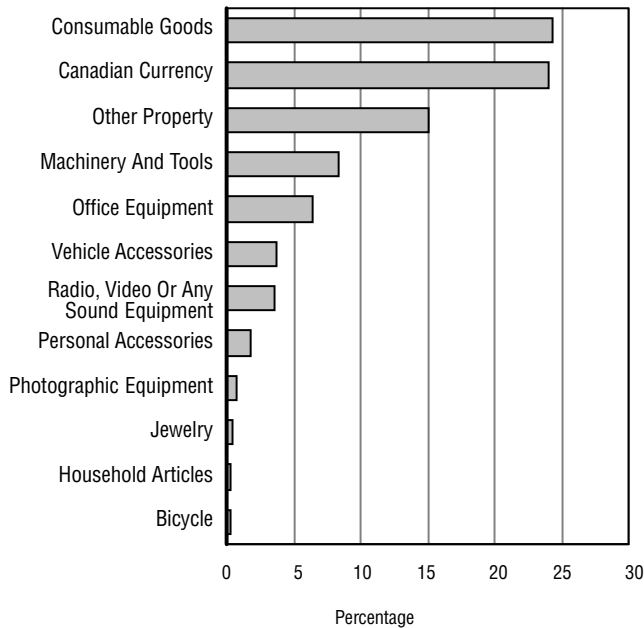


**Source:** Incident-based Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Non-representative sample of 164 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime.

<sup>6</sup> Members of the Insurance Information Centre of Canada represent about 80% of the total insurance industry. The data provided here are based on the fiscal year April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.

Figure 6b

**Type of Property Stolen, Business Break and Enter, 1999**



**Source:** Incident-based Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Non-representative sample of 164 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime.

**Reporting to police**

According to the 1999 GSS, 62% of B&E incidents were reported to police, the highest reporting rate of any of the eight offences measured by this survey. The next highest reporting rates were for motor vehicle/parts theft (60%) and robbery (46%). Of the B&E incidents that were reported to police, three-quarters were reported by the victim and one-quarter by other means, such as by a neighbour.

Of those victims who reported the incident to police, 83% did so because they felt it was their duty, 80% did so to catch and punish the offender, 52% did so to file an official report for insurance or compensation purposes, and 44% did so to “stop the incident” or “receive protection”.

Of those victims who did not report the incident to police, the most common reasons for not reporting were: the incident was not important enough (60%), the police couldn’t do anything (59%), and it was dealt with in another way (35%). One reason for the decline in reporting may be an increase in insurance deductible amounts. Insurance industry data indicate that in 1994, the deductible amount for the majority (52%) of homeowner policies was \$200. By 1998, the majority (53%) of homeowner policies had a deductible amount of \$500<sup>7</sup>.

Of the victims that reported the break-in to police, the majority (67%) were satisfied with the actions taken by the police: 36% were very satisfied and 31% were somewhat satisfied. B&E victims also reported that the police filed a report and/or conducted an investigation in 81% of the incidents that were reported.

**Impact of B&Es on victims**

According to the GSS, 25% of B&E victims reported that they found it difficult or impossible to carry out their main activity for all/most of the day as a result of the incident. Despite being a victim of a break-in, two-thirds of B&E victims were not worried at all when home alone in the evening.

Almost six in ten (59%) of B&E victims indicated an interest in victim-offender mediation programs, compared to 46% of robbery victims, 37% of assault victims, and 25% of sexual assault victims. These programs represent a non-traditional approach to criminal justice, as the victim and offender meet face-to-face with a skilled mediator in attendance to discuss an appropriate way to deal with the offender.

**Safety measures in the home**

Over the years, more and more Canadians have taken measures to secure their home, particularly in the installation of burglar alarms. The GSS asks respondents about precautionary measures that they take to make themselves feel safer at home. Over the past six years, the proportion of Canadians who have ever installed burglar alarms has doubled, from 15% in 1993 to 31% in 1999. This increase may have contributed to the decline in residential B&Es seen over this time period. The proportion who have ever installed new locks has remained about the same at around 33%.

**Police reaction to B&Es**

**Clearance rates**

As with most property offences, relatively few B&E incidents are solved by police through the identification of one or more accused persons. In 1999, 16% of B&Es were cleared by police (17% of residential B&Es, 16% of business), compared to 12% of motor vehicle thefts and 20% of other thefts. Of all B&E incidents cleared by police in 1999, almost two-thirds were cleared by a charge being laid. The remaining third were cleared “otherwise”, primarily due to the accused already being involved in other related crimes. Other reasons for an incident being cleared “otherwise” include the use of formal or informal diversion by police, the alleged offender being under 12 years of age, etc.

**Persons charged**

Youths tend to have a higher involvement in B&E incidents than in most other types of offences. In 1999, more than one

<sup>7</sup> This information was provided by the Insurance Information Centre of Canada (IICC). The IICC member companies represent approximately 64% of the industry.

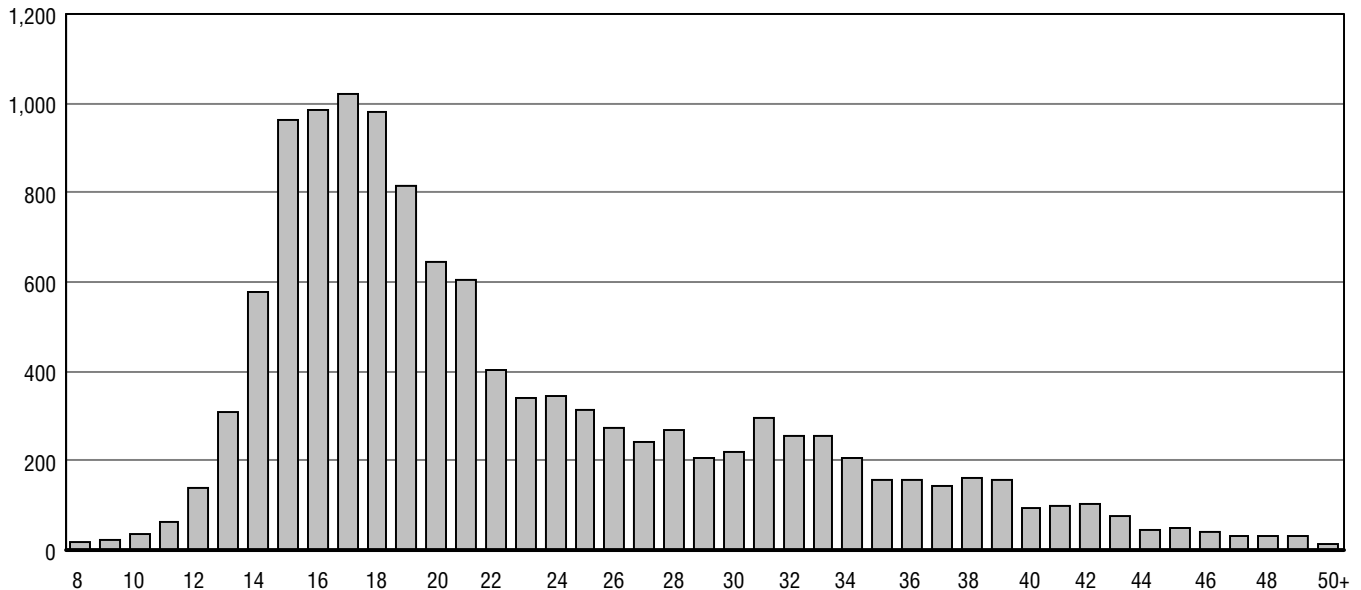


Figure 7



### Age Specific Rates of Persons Accused of Breaking and Entering, 1999

Rate Per 100,000



Source: Incident-based Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Non-representative sample of 164 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime.

in three (38%) persons charged with a B&E offence were youths aged 12-17. Of all major offences, only arson (45% of persons charged were youths) and motor vehicle theft (40%) had a larger proportion of youth involvement. By comparison, youths represented 16% of all persons charged with a violent offence in 1999, 27% of all property offences, and 21% of all *Criminal Code* offences, excluding traffic offences.

Figure 7 shows individual ages for persons accused (those charged as well as those cleared “otherwise” by police) of committing a B&E offence. This graph shows that 15-19 year-olds had the highest rates for committing B&Es in 1999.

Males represented 92% of all persons charged with B&E. A greater proportion of female youths were charged with a B&E offence than female adults. Of all youths aged 12-17 charged with a B&E offence in 1999, 10% were female, compared to 6% of all adults charged (Table 6).

#### Police initiatives to reduce B&E

Decreases in rates of break and enter offences in some cities may be the result of specific initiatives aimed at reducing break and enter. Police argue that it is usually a small number of offenders who are responsible for the majority of break and enter offences. Therefore, to reduce break and enter, some police services have set up initiatives to identify and target repeat offenders: the establishment of special response units; the use of technology to improve communication, crime

analysis and investigation; improved communication with victims and potential witnesses; and, changes in case management strategies.

#### Courts data

##### Youth court

Similar to the decline seen in police-reported crime data, the rate of break and enter cases per 10,000 youths brought to youth court has declined by 32% since 1992-93, the first year that all jurisdictions supplied data to the Youth Court Survey.

During fiscal year 1998-99, 11,613 cases were brought to youth court where a break and enter offence was the most serious charge, accounting for 11% of all cases. Three-quarters (78%) of these cases resulted in a finding of guilt. B&E cases were dealt with more harshly by the courts than most other property offences and even some violent offences. This may be the result of a large proportion of repeat offenders involved in break and enter offences. For example, of those found guilty of a B&E offence, 38% were sentenced to custody, compared to 31% of all property cases and 25% of those found guilty of assault. Just over half (55%) of B&E cases received probation as their most serious sentence (Table 7). The proportion of young offenders sentenced to custody for B&E has remained very stable during the 1990s at around 38%.

For the purposes of examining recidivism in youth court, “repeat offenders” are defined as those offenders having one or more prior convictions in youth court. A “persistent offender” is a sub-set of repeat offenders having three or more prior convictions. “Repeat” offenders accounted for almost half (43%) of B&E cases in youth court, and “persistent” offenders accounted for 13% of B&E cases. Not surprisingly, both persistent and repeat offenders were treated more harshly by youth courts than first-time offenders. While 80% of “persistent” offenders convicted of B&E received custody, so did 58% of “repeat” offenders, and 17% of first-time offenders.

The majority (6 in 10) of custodial sentences for B&E in youth court were for less than 3 months.

### Adult court

In 1998-99, data from adult criminal courts was available from seven provinces and two territories<sup>8</sup>, representing about 80% of the national caseload. B&E cases accounted for 4% of adult provincial court caseload. Of the almost 10,000 cases of break and enter resulting in a finding of guilt in 1998-99, 63% were sentenced to custody, a much higher proportion than for youths (Table 9). The use of prison for those convicted of B&E has decreased slightly from 68% in 1994-95.

The median sentence length for adults convicted of a B&E offence was 6 months. One in ten offenders received a sentence of two years or more.

### Public perceptions of sentencing

To assess public attitudes towards the use of prison and alternatives to incarceration, the GSS randomly assigned different crime-scenarios from which respondents were asked to choose a sentencing preference, either “prison” or “non-prison” (see Box for examples). These scenarios included a violent offence (assault) and a property offence (break and enter), both for first-time and for repeat offenders, and for youth and adult offenders.

The results indicate that, in general, Canadians prefer community-based sanctions for first-time offenders. For repeat offenders, non-prison is still preferred for young offenders, while prison is preferred for adult offenders. For example, the survey estimates that 68% of Canadians favour a prison sentence for an adult convicted of a repeat B&E, compared to 44% for a youth repeat offender. For those convicted of a B&E for the first time, 37% of Canadians favour a prison sentence for an adult offender, compared to 21% for a youth.

When these public preferences are compared with actual court dispositions for B&E cases, in general, the courts seem to be imposing sentences as harsh, or even slightly harsher, than the public’s preference. For adult offenders, just less than two-thirds (63%) of those convicted of B&E were sentenced to custody by the courts (which includes both first-time and repeat offenders), similar to the public’s preference for a repeat offender (68%), but much higher than the public’s preference for a first-time offender (37%).

For young offenders, 17% of first-time offenders received a custody sentence for B&E, similar to the public preference of 21%. For repeat offenders, 58% of youths were sentenced to custody for B&E, compared to the public preference of 44%.

**The following are hypothetical break and enter situations that were presented to GSS survey respondents:**

If an **adult offender** is found guilty of breaking and entering into a house when the owners are on vacation and taking goods worth \$400 and this is the offender’s **first offence** which sentence would you consider the most appropriate?...

If a **young offender** is found guilty of breaking and entering into a house when the owners are on vacation and taking goods worth \$400 and this is the offender’s **first offence** which sentence would you consider the most appropriate?...

If an **adult offender** is found guilty of breaking and entering into a house when the owners are on vacation and taking goods worth \$400 and **the offender was found guilty of a similar offence once before**, which sentence would you consider the most appropriate?...

If a **young offender** is found guilty of breaking and entering into a house when the owners are on vacation and taking goods worth \$400 and **the offender was found guilty of a similar offence once before**, which sentence would you consider the most appropriate?...

## Methodology

**Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Aggregate Survey** - The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, in co-operation with the policing community, collects police-reported crime statistics through the UCR Survey. The UCR survey produces a continuous historical record of crime and traffic statistics reported by every police agency in Canada since 1962. UCR data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Information collected by the survey includes the number of criminal incidents and information on persons charged. When an incident involves more than one offence, the incident is counted according to the most serious offence. For greater detail on survey methodology, please refer to the publication: Canadian Crime Statistics 85-205-XPE.

**Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Micro-data Survey** - In the late 1980s, the UCR survey was re-developed to expand the information collected. This new survey, called the UCR2 Survey, is a micro-data survey that allows detailed examinations of accused and victim characteristics, as well as characteristics of the incident itself. In 1999, detailed data were collected from 164 services in 7 provinces, representing 46% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* incidents. The incidents reported by these agencies are distributed as follows: 38% from Quebec, 35% from Ontario, 12% from Alberta, 7% from British Columbia, 6% from Saskatchewan, 1% from New Brunswick and 1% from Newfoundland. Other than Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national level.

<sup>8</sup> Data come from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). In 1998-99, this survey received information on cases disposed in the provincial/territorial courts of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories (including Nunavut).

**Uniform Crime Reporting Micro-data Trend (UCR2 Trend) Database** - This database represents a sub-set of the aforementioned UCR2 database, including only those respondents who have been reporting to the survey for the last five years. This permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of criminal incidents, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This file includes 106 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey continually since 1995. These respondents accounted for 41% of the national volume of crime in 1999. This group of respondents will remain unchanged in the Trend Database until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least five years of data to the UCR2 Survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database.

**The General Social Survey (GSS)** - In 1999, the victimization cycle of Statistics Canada's GSS was conducted for a third time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988 and 1993. Individuals 15 years of age and older were asked about their experiences with crime and their opinions concerning the justice system. The GSS measures victimization for eight types of crimes, according to *Criminal Code* definitions.

Households in the 10 provinces were selected using random digit dialing techniques. Once a household was chosen, any individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. Households were excluded from the survey when they had no telephone or when the chosen respondent could not speak English or French. Also excluded were individuals living in institutions. The sample size in 1999 was 25,876 persons, up significantly from 10,000 in the previous two cycles.

For more detailed information on this survey, refer to Juristat Catalogue No. 85-002-XIE Vol.20 No.10 "Criminal Victimization in Canada".

**Youth Court Survey (YCS)** - The survey includes *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences heard in youth court for youths aged 12 to 17 at the time of the offence. The unit of analysis used for the YCS is the "case", which is defined as one or more charges laid against a young person and presented in a youth court on the same date. Case counts are

categorized by the most serious charge, most serious decision and most serious disposition. Consequently, less serious charges, decisions and dispositions are under-represented.

Analysis on youth recidivism excludes data from Nova Scotia. The definition of a repeat offender in this report is a young person who was found guilty of B&E (most serious charge) during 1998-99 and had been previously convicted in a youth court since 1989-90 of at least one other federal statute charge. Cases were matched using the youth's identification code, sex, date of birth and province of conviction. It should be noted that previous convictions for violations under the Young Offenders Act and administrative offences under the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to appear, failure to comply with a probation order) are excluded from this analysis in order to focus the analysis on those instances where a young offender commits another offence independent of the administrative process.

These data on recidivism are a conservative estimate. Variations in youth court coding practices, the undetected use of aliases, and the movement of offenders among provinces and territories may have resulted in some cases of repeat offenders being captured as first-time offenders. As well, these data do not consider any previous participation in Alternative Measures or any other court diversion program.

For more detailed information on this survey, refer to Publication 85F0030XIE.

**Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS)** - The ACCS follows a similar pattern as the YCS in defining cases. Some limitations on survey coverage should be noted. First, three provinces (New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia) are not included in the survey at this time. Second, information from Quebec's 140 municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Finally, with the exception of Alberta, no data are provided from the Superior Courts.

For more detailed information on this survey, refer to Juristat Catalogue No. 85-002-XIE Vol.20 No.1.

Table 1


**Breaking and Entering in Canada, 1989-1999**

Year	Population <sup>1</sup>	Breaking and Entering											
		Total			Residential			Business			Other		
		Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Annual % change in rate <sup>3</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Annual % change in rate <sup>3</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Annual % change in rate <sup>3</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Annual % change in rate <sup>3</sup>
1989	27,286,239	348,430	1,277	-4.7	200,863	736	-7.9	102,886	377	-0.2	44,681	164	0.5
1990	27,700,856	379,364	1,370	7.2	215,284	777	5.6	117,399	424	12.4	46,681	169	2.9
1991	28,030,864	434,602	1,550	13.2	246,716	880	13.3	134,432	480	13.2	53,454	191	13.2
1992	28,376,550	427,153	1,505	-2.9	245,453	865	-1.7	128,514	453	-5.6	53,186	187	-1.7
1993	28,703,142	406,421	1,416	-5.9	239,322	834	-3.6	115,757	403	-11.0	51,342	179	-4.6
1994	29,035,981	387,867	1,336	-5.7	227,199	782	-6.2	110,480	380	-5.7	50,188	173	-3.4
1995	29,353,854	390,784	1,331	-0.3	235,129	801	2.4	108,749	370	-2.6	46,906	160	-7.6
1996	29,671,892	397,057	1,338	0.5	242,639	818	2.1	110,196	371	0.2	44,222	149	-6.7
1997	29,987,214	373,316	1,245	-7.0	233,724	779	-4.7	100,696	336	-9.6	38,896	130	-13.0
1998 <sup>r</sup>	30,246,891	350,774	1,160	-6.8	221,366	732	-6.1	92,590	306	-8.8	36,818	122	-6.2
1999	30,491,294	318,448	1,044	-9.9	197,781	649	-11.4	83,950	275	-10.1	36,717	120	-1.1

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>1</sup> Population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1989 to 1990, final intercensal estimates from 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996, updated postcensal estimates from 1997 to 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Rate of incidents per 100,000 population.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

		Breaking and Entering by Province/Territory, 1994-1999						
		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 <sup>r</sup>	1999	Percent change in rate 1994-1999 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Newfoundland</b>	number	4,185	3,924	4,223	3,867	4,479	4,328	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	728	691	753	698	821	800	9.9
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	number	1,023	1,094	1,094	895	700	717	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	765	812	803	654	511	520	-32.1
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	number	8,774	8,836	9,523	9,292	9,118	9,139	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	947	952	1,023	994	974	972	2.7
<b>New Brunswick</b>	number	6,485	6,696	6,886	6,111	5,886	5,475	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	864	891	914	810	781	725	-16.0
<b>Quebec</b>	number	103,326	102,874	106,524	103,866	98,065	84,972	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,434	1,421	1,464	1,422	1,339	1,157	-19.3
<b>Ontario</b>	number	118,417	123,195	120,824	108,096	101,028	92,485	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,094	1,124	1,088	961	887	803	-26.6
<b>Manitoba</b>	number	20,285	16,606	16,711	16,837	16,049	15,209	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,805	1,470	1,473	1,481	1,410	1,330	-26.3
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	number	17,324	18,114	18,442	18,821	17,781	16,869	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,716	1,786	1,809	1,842	1,734	1,641	-4.3
<b>Alberta</b>	number	33,781	31,003	31,467	31,166	29,960	29,287	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,249	1,132	1,132	1,098	1,031	988	-20.9
<b>British Columbia</b>	number	71,845	75,688	78,644	71,945	65,457	58,026	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,951	2,000	2,026	1,817	1,637	1,442	-26.1
<b>Yukon</b>	number	573	776	760	773	608	560	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,907	2,512	2,380	2,398	1,925	1,828	-4.1
<b>Northwest Territories<sup>2</sup></b>	number	1,849	1,978	1,959	1,647	1,643	882	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	2,838	2,971	2,899	2,432	2,434	2,120	-25.3
<b>Nunavut<sup>2</sup></b>	number	..	..	..	..	..	499	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	1,845	..
<b>Canada</b>	number	387,867	390,784	397,057	373,316	350,774	318,448	
	rate <sup>1</sup>	1,336	1,331	1,338	1,245	1,160	1,044	-21.8

.. Data not applicable.

<sup>r</sup> revised.


<sup>1</sup> Rates per 100,000 population. Population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

<sup>2</sup> Before 1999, the Northwest Territories included Nunavut.

<sup>3</sup> Percent changes based on non-rounded rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3



	Residential B&E				Business B&E			
	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Percent change in rate 1998-1999 <sup>2</sup>	Percent change in rate 1994-1999 <sup>2</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Percent change in rate 1998-1999 <sup>2</sup>	Percent change in rate 1994-1999 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Newfoundland</b>	2,539	469	-2.2	17.6	1,255	232	0.4	20.8
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	265	192	-30.7	-44.0	334	242	48.5	-23.4
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	5,436	578	-0.3	7.7	2,079	221	0.6	6.4
<b>New Brunswick</b>	3,156	418	-4.3	-11.1	1,456	193	-8.6	-17.6
<b>Quebec</b>	62,900	856	-14.9	-7.0	20,269	276	-9.2	-26.2
<b>Ontario</b>	56,180	488	-9.8	-22.4	25,584	222	-8.9	-35.2
<b>Manitoba</b>	8,907	779	-11.7	-23.6	3,830	335	2.4	-17.3
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	9,960	969	-9.3	-3.4	4,290	417	0.1	-2.0
<b>Alberta</b>	14,525	490	-2.4	-30.3	9,369	316	-12.5	-14.1
<b>British Columbia</b>	33,004	820	-13.1	-24.1	14,686	365	-18.9	-37.3
<b>Yukon</b>	311	1,015	-10.2	1.3	195	637	8.1	21.7
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	410	985	1.9	-22.9	352	846	-27.9	-24.9
<b>Nunavut</b>	188	695	..	..	251	928	..	..
<b>Canada</b>	197,781	649	-11.4	-17.1	83,950	275	-10.0	-27.5

.. Data not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Rates per 100,000 population. Population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

<sup>2</sup> Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4


**Break and Enter Offences by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), 1999<sup>1</sup>**

CMA	Population	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Percent change in rate 1998-1999*	Percent change in rate 1994-1999*
<b>Population 500,000 and over</b>					
Vancouver	2,016,643	32,282	1,601	-14.6	-30.7
Montréal	3,438,532	45,127	1,312	-11.1	-13.3
Winnipeg	677,625	8,372	1,235	-10.8	-38.1
Edmonton	929,145	9,456	1,018	-6.1	-22.0
Calgary	933,748	9,464	1,014	-7.0	-30.0
Hamilton	665,169	6,072	913	-1.8	-4.4
Québec	688,085	6,078	883	-22.7	-34.7
Ottawa <sup>3</sup>	809,034	7,144	883	-11.9	-40.1
Toronto	4,680,250	28,637	612	-7.9	-29.4
<b>Population 250,000 to 499,999</b>					
Halifax	352,594	4,353	1,235	-0.3	-1.3
Hull <sup>4</sup>	255,987	2,750	1,074	-20.7	-18.6
London	418,660	4,497	1,074	15.7	-15.4
St. Catharines-Niagara <sup>5</sup>	422,607	4,480	1,060	-9.1	-28.4
Kitchener <sup>5</sup>	439,107	4,517	1,029	-6.3	4.0
Victoria	316,195	3,169	1,002	-4.9	-25.7
Windsor	299,966	2,163	721	-18.8	-11.0
<b>Population 100,000 to 249,999</b>					
Regina	199,163	4,702	2,361	-7.7	-21.2
Saskatoon	231,403	4,162	1,799	-0.9	4.7
Sherbrooke	153,140	2,000	1,306	-10.5	-33.5
Sudbury	160,357	1,943	1,212	-15.1	-34.4
Chicoutimi-Jonquière <sup>5</sup>	147,021	1,627	1,107	-28.7	-25.5
Trois-Rivières	141,751	1,512	1,067	-17.6	-33.9
Thunder Bay	126,649	1,189	939	-18.3	-47.6
Saint John <sup>5</sup>	146,267	1,103	754	7.0	-22.0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>30,491,294</b>	<b>318,448</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>-9.9</b>	<b>-21.8</b>

\* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

<sup>1</sup> The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Data for St. John's CMA were not available for 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates are from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Demography Division, Statistics Canada. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Represents Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

<sup>4</sup> Represents Québec portion of Ottawa-Hull CMA.

<sup>5</sup> Populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

	Residential B&E				Business B&E			
	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Percent change in rate 1998-1999 <sup>3</sup>	Percent change in rate 1994-1999 <sup>3</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>	Percent change in rate 1998-1999 <sup>3</sup>	Percent change in rate 1994-1999 <sup>3</sup>
Population 500,000 and over								
Vancouver	18,259	905	-15.9	-29.8	8,338	413	-22.6	-40.9
Montréal	33,547	976	-12.8	-1.8	11,201	326	-5.0	-25.1
Winnipeg	5,266	777	-15.4	-32.9	1,925	284	-3.0	-27.0
Calgary	5,424	581	7.4	-16.9	2,969	318	-29.0	-34.0
Edmonton	4,333	466	-9.6	-49.1	2,740	295	-11.4	7.2
Hamilton	3,512	528	-6.4	-5.2	1,048	158	0.4	-26.7
Québec	4,530	658	-25.6	-21.3	1,234	179	-12.9	-49.6
Ottawa <sup>4</sup>	5,089	629	-9.9	-26.2	1,721	213	-22.6	-62.1
Toronto	17,355	371	-8.0	-23.7	10,214	218	-8.7	-37.5
Population 250,000 to 499,999								
Halifax	2,733	775	-4.3	1.9	1,060	301	8.9	13.0
Hull <sup>5</sup>	1,974	771	-19.8	-5.1	477	186	-16.8	-33.2
London	2,956	706	20.9	-12.5	1,161	277	7.1	-27.4
St.Catharines-Niagara <sup>6</sup>	2,271	537	-15.8	-36.6	1,526	361	0.6	-20.5
Kitchener <sup>6</sup>	2,675	609	-8.0	2.9	1,399	319	-11.5	2.8
Victoria	1,956	619	-2.9	-22.0	732	232	-22.1	-26.7
Windsor	1,409	470	-13.5	-3.5	640	213	-20.4	-1.7
Population 100,000 to 249,999								
Regina	3,171	1,592	-13.7	-22.0	1,063	534	10.3	-12.4
Saskatoon	2,441	1,055	-18.0	-6.4	1,070	462	21.0	30.3
Sherbrooke	1,486	970	-13.4	-28.1	496	324	2.5	-35.1
Sudbury	1,104	688	-10.4	-31.9	354	221	-25.2	-31.2
Chicoutimi-Jonquière <sup>6</sup>	1,215	826	-30.1	-13.6	389	265	-24.4	-21.7
Trois-Rivières	1,137	802	-13.9	-28.6	352	248	-28.4	-30.8
Thunder Bay	568	448	-25.9	-53.1	258	204	36.7	-37.3
Saint John <sup>6</sup>	713	487	8.3	-16.0	282	193	12.1	-30.4
<b>Canada</b>	<b>197,781</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>-11.4</b>	<b>-17.1</b>	<b>83,950</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>-10.1</b>	<b>-27.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Data for St. John's CMA were not available for 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates are from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Demography Division, Statistics Canada. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

<sup>4</sup> Represents Ontario portion of Ottawa-Hull CMA.


<sup>5</sup> Represents Québec portion of Ottawa-Hull CMA.

<sup>6</sup> Populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.



Table 6




**Persons charged with breaking and entering<sup>1</sup>, Canada, 1989-1999**

Year	Total Persons Charged	Adults (18 years and older)			Youths (12 to 17 years)			Males			Females		
		Number	% change	Percent of total	Number	% change	Percent of total	Number	% change	Percent of total	Number	% change	Percent of total
1989	55,297	33,142	-11.3	59.9	22,155	-7.3	40.1	52,340	-10.1	94.7	2,957	-2.6	5.3
1990	59,558	35,492	7.1	59.6	24,066	8.6	40.4	56,284	7.5	94.5	3,274	10.7	5.5
1991	66,120	39,219	10.5	59.3	26,901	11.8	40.7	62,622	11.3	94.7	3,498	6.8	5.3
1992	62,976	38,229	-2.5	60.7	24,747	-8.0	39.3	59,323	-5.3	94.2	3,653	4.4	5.8
1993	55,570	33,623	-12.0	60.5	21,947	-11.3	39.5	52,310	-11.8	94.1	3,260	-10.8	5.9
1994	50,099	30,107	-10.5	60.1	19,992	-8.9	39.9	46,921	-10.3	93.7	3,178	-2.5	6.3
1995	46,719	28,065	-6.8	60.1	18,654	-6.7	39.9	43,432	-7.4	93.0	3,287	3.4	7.0
1996	46,805	28,273	0.7	60.4	18,532	-0.7	39.6	43,484	0.1	92.9	3,321	1.0	7.1
1997	42,875	25,783	-8.8	60.1	17,092	-7.8	39.9	39,639	-8.8	92.5	3,236	-2.6	7.5
1998	40,541	24,534	-4.8	60.5	16,007	-6.3	39.5	37,505	-5.4	92.5	3,036	-6.2	7.5
1999	35,765	22,296	-9.1	62.3	13,469	-15.9	37.7	33,008	-12.0	92.3	2,757	-9.2	7.7

<sup>1</sup> Reflects the number of persons charged in incidents where the most serious offence was breaking and entering.  
**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7




**Number of youth court cases of breaking and entering<sup>1</sup>, by most significant disposition, 1994/95 to 1998/99**

	Total		Secure custody		Open custody		Probation		Fine		Community Service		Absolute discharge		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1994-1995	10,199	100	1,987	19.5	2,288	22.4	5,325	52.2	83	0.8	353	3.5	88	0.9	39	0.4
1995-1996	9,463	100	1,711	18.1	2,010	21.2	5,253	55.5	59	0.6	283	3.0	59	0.6	47	0.5
1996-1997	9,783	100	1,828	18.7	2,062	21.1	5,396	55.2	64	0.7	289	3.0	41	0.4	71	0.7
1997-1998	9,782	100	1,794	18.3	2,028	20.7	5,240	53.6	77	0.8	402	4.1	37	0.4	71	0.7
1998-1999	8,959	100	1,611	18.0	1,804	20.1	4,889	54.6	62	0.7	344	3.8	44	0.5	67	0.7

<sup>1</sup> most significant charge.  
**Source:** Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8



**Youth court cases with convictions in 1998-99 by most significant disposition, Canada**


		Cases of B&E <sup>1</sup>					Cases involving all other property crimes <sup>1</sup> (excluding B&E)				
		First-time offender	1 Prior	2 Prior	3+ Prior	Total with priors	First-time offender	1 Prior	2 Prior	3+ Prior	Total with priors
Secure custody	Number	268	274	239	488	1,001	348	382	326	857	1,565
	%	6.4	18.5	31.0	51.1	31.2	4.0	10.4	19.2	38.7	20.6
Open custody	Number	435	360	227	274	861	466	545	376	509	1,430
	%	10.4	24.3	29.5	28.7	26.9	5.3	14.8	22.1	23.0	18.8
Probation	Number	3,066	730	273	167	1,170	5,956	1,961	718	574	3,253
	%	73.3	49.3	35.5	17.5	36.5	67.8	53.3	42.2	25.9	42.8
Other	Number	414	117	31	26	174	2,011	792	280	273	1,345
	%	9.9	7.9	4.0	2.7	5.4	22.9	21.5	16.5	12.3	17.7
Total <sup>2</sup> cases	Number	4,183	1,481	770	955	3,206	8,781	3,680	1,700	2,213	7,593
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> Where this offence is the most serious charge in a case.

<sup>2</sup> The number of total cases involving repeat offenders is less than the total number of cases with previous convictions in Table 7 for three reasons: these data exclude data from Nova Scotia; these data include cases where previous convictions were offences against the administration of justice; and, these data are calculated based on the date of disposition and not the date of first appearance in court, meaning that charges in more than one case may have been disposed on the same day.

**Source:** Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9



**Number of adult court cases of breaking and entering<sup>1,2</sup>, by most significant dispositions, 1994/95 to 1998/99**

	Total		Prison		Probation		Fine		Restitution		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1994-1995	8,805	100	6,000	68.1	2,657	30.2	110	1.2	17	0.2	21	0.2
1995-1996	9,656	100	6,571	68.1	2,925	30.3	114	1.2	22	0.2	24	0.2
1996-1997	10,619	100	6,666	62.8	3,608	34.0	211	2.0	14	0.1	120	1.1
1997-1998	10,284	100	6,252	60.8	3,616	35.2	203	2.0	49	0.5	164	1.6
1998-1999	9,789	100	6,175	63.1	3,060	31.3	177	1.8	36	0.4	341	3.5

<sup>1</sup> most significant charge.

<sup>2</sup> Data include cases disposed in the provincial/territorial courts of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories (including Nunavut).

**Source:** Adult Criminal Courts Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

## Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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