

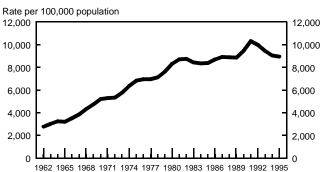
CANADIAN CRIME STATISTICS, 1995

Dianne Hendrick

Highlights

- The police-reported crime rate decreased for the fourth consecutive year in 1995, down 1.0%. Although the crime rate has dropped by 13.1% since 1991, it is still 6.8% higher than ten years ago.
- The violent crime rate decreased by 4.1%, the largest annual decline since the survey began in 1962, and the third consecutive annual decline. These decreases followed 15 consecutive years of increases in violent crime.
- Most categories of violent crime showed a rate decrease in 1995: homicides, assaults, sexual assaults, other sexual offences and abductions. The decline in the homicide rate in 1995 (-3.0%) followed a 25-year low reached the previous year. There was a notable decrease in the rate of sexual assaults (-12.1%). In contrast, the robbery rate increased (+3.1%).





- After three straight years of decline, the property crime rate stabilized in 1995. The rate of motor vehicle theft, which increased by 62.7% from 1988 to 1993, has now leveled off over the last two years. Although the rate for all break and enters (B&Es) decreased slightly (less than 1%) in 1995, residential B&Es increased by 2.7%.
- There appears to have been a general decline in firearm-related offences in 1995. The number of homicides committed with a firearm decreased by 10.2%. Although total robberies increased in 1995, robberies with firearms decreased by 9.0%. Offensive weapons offences, which primarily involve firearms, also declined (-7.0%).
- The youth charge rate remained stable in 1995, following three consecutive annual decreases. The rate of youths charged with violent crime increased by 2.4% and was more than twice the rate in 1986, the first full year of data after the implementation of uniform maximum age provisions of the *Young Offenders Act*. Of all youths charged, 19% were charged with violent crimes compared to 29% of all adults charged.







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Introduction

This Juristat focuses on crime data reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey by police agencies across the country. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canadian police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible. The 1995 UCR data are presented within the context of both short and long term trends for each of the following areas: violent crime, property crime, impaired driving, drugs, and youth crime, as well as detailed characteristics of violent crime incidents. Crime trends are examined from a national, provincial/territorial and major metropolitan area perspective.

The UCR survey measures criminal incidents which come to the attention of the police, and which are then captured and forwarded to the CCJS according to a nationally-approved set of common scoring rules and definitions. The reader should note that there are many factors which can influence official crime statistics, including:

- reporting by the public to the police
- reporting by police to the CCJS
- impact of new initiatives e.g. community-based policing, changing legislation

Reporting by the public. Not all crime is reported to the police.¹ Estimates of unreported crime are available from victimization surveys, such as the 1993 General Social Survey (GSS).² In addition, victimization surveys examine reasons why victims decide not to report a crime, the consequences of crime upon its victims, and public perceptions about the level of crime. A crime victim will consider a number of factors in the decision as to whether or not to report an incident, including: the seriousness of the crime, fear of retaliation, and the ability of the police to do anything about the crime. Insurance premium increases related to repeat claims, and policy deductibles may be factors as well, although these have not been major deterrents to date according to the 1993 GSS.

Reporting by police to the CCJS: Crimes reported to the CCJS by police agencies are subjected to extensive quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at the CCJS. Recently, however, concerns have been raised that budget restraint is diminishing the ability of some police agencies to respond to, and consequently document, crimes reported to them with a resulting loss of UCR coverage.

It has been suggested that this may be a contributing factor in the recent declines in the crime rates. While the extent to which this possible loss of coverage is unknown, it is possible to compare the trends in minor offences with those for more serious crimes (which are less prone to this type of problem), as well as to compare trends among police agencies. To date, the recent drops in crime apply equally to both serious and less serious crimes. As well, these decreases have been evident in police agencies right across the country. With declining resources in the policing sector, this situation will require further monitoring. At present, however, the data do not suggest any systematic decreases in coverage.

Community-based policing: Changes in police policies or resources can result in important changes in the number of police reported incidents. For example, in recent years many large urban police agencies have introduced programs or management practices referred to as community-based policing, involving "a philosophical, organizational, and operational approach to urban policing which emphasizes a police-community partnership to solve local crime and disorder problems". Community-based

See Statistic Canada 's Canadian Crime Statistics (catalogue no. 85-205-XPB), for more details on data coverage and quality.

² See "Trends in Criminal Victimization, 1988-1993" by Rosemary Gartner and Anthony Doob in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPB, vol. 14, no. 13).

Leighton, Barry, "Community Policing: Problems and Prospects", address to participants in Management Challenges in 21st Century Policing workshop, September, 1995.



policing is a formalized approach to policing which, some would argue, has always been part of an effective police agency. Others suggest, however, that the community-based approach is quite different from the traditional model of policing: it is a proactive response to the causes of crime rather than reactive to reported incidents, employs police officers who are generalists rather than specialists, and focuses on the local definition of problems, priorities and solutions for crime rather than looking at crime detection and enforcement from a global perspective.4

There are different schools of thought with regard to the impact of community-based policing initiatives on local crime rates. Some suggest that a departmental policy of proactive intervention and problem-solving rather than formal processing should result in a decrease in the number of incidents reported and persons charged in official police statistics, while clearance rates might improve as more time would be available with less paperwork required. The Edmonton Police Service, for example, attributes declining crime rates and increasing clearance rates to the department-wide implementation of the community-based policing philosophy.5

Others would point out that some police agencies which have implemented community-based policing now require a complainant to appear in person at the community police station to report certain minor offences (i.e. reports will not be taken over the phone). While critics suggest that this process would lower reporting rates since complainants are inconvenienced, others feel it fosters a sense of community between the police and its citizens, and encourages more people to come forward to report minor incidents. In summary, it is difficult to assess the impact, if any, of community-based policing initiatives on official police-reported crime statistics

Criminal Code incidents

Throughout this report, the terms "crime" and "crime rate" refer to total police-reported Criminal Code "actual" incidents, excluding traffic crime, unless noted otherwise. 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 incidents, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime. Crime rates are based on 100,000 population.

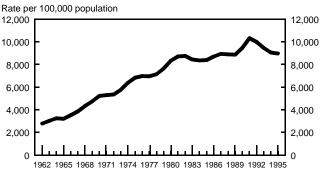
1995 Crime Trends

Crime rate declines for fourth consecutive year

Of the 2.7 million Criminal Code incidents (excluding traffic crime) reported in 1995, 11% were violent crimes, 58% were property crimes, and 30% were other Criminal Code crimes (e.g. prostitution, arson, mischief, possession of restricted weapons). In addition, there were approximately 172,000 Criminal Code traffic incidents, 62,000 drug incidents and 36,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. Excise Act, Immigration Act, Canada Shipping Act) reported. In total, there were 2.9 million federal statute crimes reported to police.

The police-reported crime rate fell for the fourth consecutive year in 1995 (down 1.0%). Although the crime rate has decreased by 13.1% over these four years, the 1995 rate was still 6.8% higher than in 1985 (Figure 1). The violent crime rate decreased by 4.1%, the largest annual decline since the survey began in 1962, and the third consecutive annual decline. These decreases followed 15 consecutive years of increases in violent crime.





The property crime rate remained unchanged in 1995, after decreasing between 1992 and 1994. The rate of other Criminal Code crimes also continued to drop in 1995 (-2.6%) (Figure 2). In contrast to the declines reported for most crimes between 1994 and 1995, rate increases were reported for robbery (+3.1%), residential breaking and entering (+2.7%), cannabis offences (+6.9%) and prostitution (+27.0%).

In 1995, crime rates in Canada and the United States declined.						
	Canada (Criminal Code rates)	U.S. (Index rates)				
Violent crime Property crime Total crime	-4% <1% -1%	-4% -1% -2%				

Other countries have also experienced recent declines in their crime rate. The 1995 preliminary data released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (May, 1996) showed decreases in the

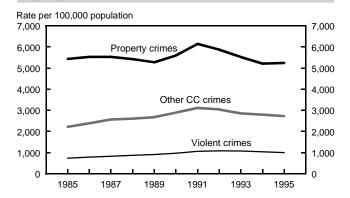
Hornick, Joseph, "Community Policing in Canada: Areas of Agreement", address to participants in Management Challenges in 21st Century Policing workshop, September, 1995.

Lindsay, John, "Managing Financial Restraint: Affording Community Base Policing on a Budget' address to participants in Management Challenges in 21st Century Policing workshop, September, 1995.



U.S. for total crime, violent crime, and property crime for the fourth year in a row; theft was the only "index" crime to increase (1%) in 1995. 6

Violent, property and other Criminal Code incidents, Canada, 1985-1995



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

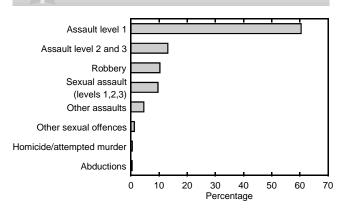
Violent Crime

Figure 3

Large decrease in violent crime

Violent criminal incidents (294,704 incidents in 1995) include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 3). The violent crime rate declined by 4.1% in 1995, the largest year-over-year decline in the history of the survey, which began in 1962. This

Violent crime categories, Canada, 1995



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 1

Rates of Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1985 - 1995¹											
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991²	1992²	1993	1994 ^r	1995
Population ('000)	25941.6	26203.8	26549.7	26894.8	27379.3	27790.6	28120.1	28542.2	28947.0	29251.3	29606.1
Violent crime rate	732	782	826	865	908	970	1056	1077	1072	1038	995
Year-to-year % change from previous year	4.9	6.9	5.7	4.7	5.0	6.8	8.9	2.0	-0.5	-3.1	-4.1
Property crime rate	5,430	5,528	5,531	5,419	5,271	5,593	6,141	5,868	5,524	5,212	5,237
Year-to-year % change from previous year	-0.9	1.8	0.1	-2.0	-2.7	6.1	9.8	-4.4	-5.9	-5.6	0.5
Other Criminal Code rate	2,219	2,382	2,565	2,603	2,682	2,891	3,113	3,033	2,855	2,796	2,722
Year-to-year % change from previous year	1.9	7.4	7.7	1.5	3.0	7.8	7.7	-2.6	-5.9	-2.1	-2.6
Total Criminal Code rate, excluding traffic infractions Year-to-year % change	8,381	8,692	8,923	8,887	8,860	9,454	10,309	9,978	9,450	9,046	8,954
from previous year	0.3	3.7	2.6	-0.4	-0.3	6.7	9.1	-3.2	-5.3	-4.3	-1.0

Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

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

Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1985 to 1990, final postcensal estimates for 1991 and 1992, updated postcensal estimates for 1993, 1994 and 1995.

² Due to a change in counting procedures for Metro Toronto as of 1992, caution should be used when calculating year-to-year changes between 1991 and 1992 for Canada. Ontario and Toronto.

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Table 2



Federal Statute Incidents Reported to Police, by Most Serious Offence, Canada, 1991-1995

	199	91¹	199	92¹	199	3	1994 ^r		1995	
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Population ('000)	28,120.1		28,542.2		28,947.0		29,251.3		29,606.1	
CRIMINAL CODE										
Homicide Attempted murder	753 1,044	3 4	732 1,054	3 4	630 984	2 3	596 922	2 3	586 932	2
Assaults - Total	226,552	806	232,910	816	238,503	824	236,564	809	230,167	777
Level 1 Level 2-Weapon	167,227 37,796	595 134	175,745 37,459	616 131	181,807 38,767	628 134	181,577 37,725	621 129	178,046 35,854	601 121
Level 3-Aggravated	3,884	134	3,551	12	3,180	11	2,998	129	2,771	9
Other	17,645	63	16,155	57	14,749	51	14,264	49	13,496	46
Sexual assaults	30,351	108	34,355	120	34,754	120	31,706	108	28,216	95
Level 1	28,916	103	33,022	116	33,536	116	30,572	105	27,257	92
Level 2-Weapon Level 3-Aggravated	971 464	3 2	935 398	3 1	860 358	3 1	769 365	3 1	659 300	2 1
Other sexual offences	3,931	14	4,040	14	4,171	14	3,818	13	3,490	12
Robbery - Total	33,236	118	33,201	116	29,955	103	29,010	99	30,273	102
Firearms	9,006	32	8,736	31	8,038	28	7,361	25	6,692	23
Other Weapons	9,436 14.794	34	10,793	38 48	9,720	34	9,386	32	10,136	34 45
Other Abduction	1.095	53 4	13,672 1,220	40	12,197 1.204	42 4	12,263 1.129	42 4	13,445 1.040	45
Violent crime - Total	296,962	1,056	307,512	1,077	310,201	1,072	303,745	1,038	294,704	995
Break & enter -Total	434,602	1,546	427,153	1,497	406,421	1,404	387,867	1,326	390,726	1,320
Business	134,432	478	128,514	450	115,757	400	110,480	378	108,201	365
Residential Other	246,716 53,454	877 190	245,453 53,186	860 186	239,322 51,342	827 177	227,199 50,188	777 172	236,211 46,314	798 156
Motor vehicle theft	139,345	496	146,801	514	156,685	541	159,469	545	163,293	552
Theft over \$1,000 (\$5,000 in 1995)	117,540	418	120,063	421	117,765	407	116,396	398	41,194	139
Theft \$1,000 and under (\$5,000 in 1995)	864,349	3,074	823,469	2,885	774,293	2,675	727,414	2,487	820,099	2,770
Have stolen goods Fraud	34,040 136.893	121 487	31,551 125.736	111 441	30,827 113.046	106 391	30,130 103,243	103 353	31,128 104,052	105 351
Property crime - Total	1,726,769	6,141	1,674,773	5,868	1,599,037	5,524	1,524,519	5,212	1,550,492	5,237
Mischief	465,045	1,654	453,547	1,589	415,508	1,435	396,904	1,357	379,878	1,283
Bail violation	59,608	212	65,466	229	66,271	229	65,952	225	66,395	224
Disturbing the peace	57,407	204	56,327	197	54,492	188	51,213	175	51,872	175
Offensive weapons Prostitution	19,687 10,567	70 38	17,704 10,137	62 36	18,584 8,517	64 29	18,898 5,575	65 19	17,502 7,165	59 24
Arson	12,389	44	13,146	46	12,470	43	13,509	46	13,228	45
Other	250,554	891	249,369	874	250,546	866	265,894	909	269,822	911
Other Criminal Code - Total	875,257	3,113	865,696	3,033	826,388	2,855	817,945	2,796	805,862	2,722
CRIMINAL CODE WITHOUT TRAFFIC - TOTAL	2,898,988	10,309	2,847,981	9,978	2,735,626	9,450	2,646,209	9,046	2,651,058	8,954
Impaired driving - Total ²	140,727	500	132,419	464	117,574	406	107,768	368	101,074	341
Fail to stop/remain Other	65,974 19,369	235 69	67,053 20,221	235 71	60,066	208 70	60,138 18,529	206	54,217	183 58
Criminal Code Traffic - TOTAL	226,070	804	20,221 219,693	77 0	20,185 197,825	683	186,435	63 637	17,146 172,437	582
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL	3,125,058	11,113	3,067,674	10,748	2,933,451	10,134	2,832,644	9,684	2,823,495	9,537
Drugs	57,093	203	58,881	206	56,817	196	60,153	206	61,660	208
Other Federal Statutes	36,626	130	44,671	157	48,282	167	40,525	139	36,033	122
TOTAL FEDERAL STATUTES	3,218,777	11,447	3,171,226	11,111	3,038,550	10,497	2,933,322	10,028	2,921,188	9,867

¹ Due to changes in counting procedures for Metro Toronto as of 1992, caution should be used when calculating year-to-year changes between 1991 and 1992 for Canada, Ontario and Toronto.

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

^{*} Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 1991 and 1992 and updated postcensal estimates for 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Revised.



decline, and those reported in 1994 (-3.1%) and 1993 (-0.5%), follow 15 years of annual increases in the violent crime rate. Despite these recent declines, the 1995 violent crime rate was still 36.0% higher than in 1985. Much of this increase was directly attributable to a large increase in the rate of common assaults (level 1), which account for 6 in 10 violent crimes. If this category is excluded from total violent crime, the increase in the violent crime rate from 1985 to 1995 drops from 36.0% to 15.1%.

Most categories of violent crime declined in 1995.					
	change in rate				
homicide	-3%				
sexual assault (levels 1-3)	-12%				
other sexual offences	-10%				
assault (levels 1-3)	-4%				
abduction	-9%				
robbery	+3%				
attempted murder	<1%				

It is difficult to determine what proportion of the increase in violent crime over the past decade is due to actual increases in the level of societal violence. As previously discussed, factors such as changes in reporting behaviour by the public, police charging practices, and policy and legislative changes may all have contributed to this increase.⁷

Lowest homicide rate since 1969

Homicide includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 1995, there were 586 homicides and 932 attempted murders. Together these crimes continue to account for less than 1% of reported violent incidents. Despite reaching a 25-year low in 1994, the homicide rate dropped again in 1995 (-3.0%), to a level of 1.98 homicides per 100,000 population. This is the fourth consecutive year of decrease, continuing the general downward trend that began in the mid-1970s. Although the attempted murder rate stabilized in 1995, the general trend for attempted murder has followed that of murder since 1990 (Figure 4).

The number of homicides committed with a firearm decreased by 10.2%. Firearms were used in 30% of homicides in 1995, slightly lower than the average over the previous ten years. Other common methods used to commit homicide in 1995 included stabbing (31%), beating (21%), strangulation/suffocation (12%), fire/arson (3%), and poisoning (1%).

Of the homicides where an accused was identified, 47% of the victims were killed by an acquaintance, 36% by a spouse or other family member, and 16% by a stranger. For a detailed analysis on homicide, refer to "Homicide in Canada, 1995" by Orest Fedorowycz in *Juristat* (catalogue 85-002-XPE, vol. 16, no. 11).

Robbery with firearms declining

Robbery accounted for 1 in 10 violent crimes in 1995. Police reported a total of 30,273 incidents of robbery, up 4.3% from the previous year. Although the robbery rate declined from 1992 to

Figure 4

Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1985-1995



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

1994, the rate for 1995 was still 16.6% higher than the rate in 1985. From 1985 to 1995, the largest rate increases were for robberies involving weapons other than firearms (59.2%), such as knifes (Figure 5).

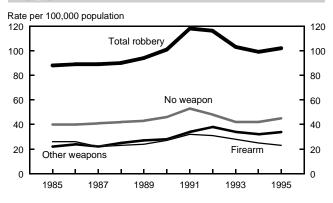
Firearms were present in fewer than one in for robberies in 1995.	our
Firearms Other offensive weapons Threat of violence/use of physical force	22% 34% 44%

Correspondingly, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of robberies with firearms over the last four years, from 9,006 in 1991 to 6,692 in 1995 (-25.7%), including a 9.1% decrease between 1994 and 1995.

While most violent crime victims knew their accused, the accused was a stranger to the victim for nine in ten victims of robbery (1995 UCR II Research File).

Figure 5

Robbery incidents, Canada, 1985-1995



For more information, see "Violent Crime in Canada", by Holly Johnson in Juristat (catalogue vol. 16, no. 6).



1995 UCR II (Incident-based) Research File

The revised UCR survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and the incidents. The survey presently collects data from 140 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. See the methodology section for more information. All calculations exclude records where the variable under study is reported as unknown, unless otherwise mentioned.

Sexual assaults decline notably for the second year in a row

Sexual assaults accounted for one in ten violent crimes in 1995. Sexual assault is assigned to 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).

There were 28,216 reported incidents of sexual assault in 1995, most of which (97%) were classified by police as level 1. The rate of level 1 sexual assault decreased for the second year in a row (-11.9%) in 1995. Despite this decline, the rate of level 1 sexual assault was still 35.5% higher than in 1985. Rates of sexual assault causing serious physical harm have been generally decreasing since 1985. Level 2 and level 3 sexual assault rates have each decreased by over 35% since 1991.

Approximately one-quarter of reported sexual assault victims were children under 12 years and a further one-third were youths aged 12 to 17 (1995 UCR II Research File). Children were more at risk of sexual abuse by family members while youths and young adults were more likely to be sexually assaulted by acquaintances. One-third of sexual assault victims under the age of 12 were boys.⁸

It is noteworthy that a large number of sexual assaults are not reported to the police: 90% of victims aged 15 and over failed to report the incident to police according to the 1993 GSS.⁹ Asked why these incidents were not reported, two-thirds stated that the incident was a personal matter. Thirty percent stated each of the following: fear of revenge; the police couldn't do anything about it; and, the incident was too minor to report.

The prevalence and nature of assault against women was further quantified by the Violence Against Women Survey, 1993, ¹⁰ which measured both sexual and physical assault. During the twelve months prior to being interviewed, 3% of women experienced violence by their spouse or ex-spouse, 2% by dates or boyfriends, 4% by acquaintances and 4% by strangers. The 1995 UCR II Research File suggests that a small proportion of female victims were sexually assaulted by their spouses/ex-spouse. However, 4 in 10 female victims of assault (levels 1, 2 and 3) were assaulted by their spouse/ex-spouse. That is, based on the non-random sample of police agencies representing 46% of the national volume of crime, approximately 18,000 female victims were assaulted by their spouse/ex-spouse.

Six in ten violent crimes are common assaults

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 other assaults). Common assault accounts for eight in ten assaults and six in ten reported violent incidents.

Children are most at risk of sexual abuse by family members.

	Children (age 1-11)		Youths (age 12-17)		Adults (age 18+)	
	sexual assault 1,2,3	other sexual offences	sexual assault 1,2,3	other sexual offences	sexual assault 1,2,3	other sexual offences
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)
Accused:	, ,	, ,	, ,	,	, ,	,
Parents	18%	15%	11%	12%	3%	6%
Other immediate family*	13%	15%	7%	10%	13%	9%
Extended Family	14%	12%	6%	7%	2%	3%
Close friend**	9%	6%	9%	8%	9%	2%
Casual acquaintance**	34%	34%	44%	38%	31%	24%
Business acquaintance**	2%	3%	5%	4%	10%	8%
Stranger	9%	15%	19%	21%	31%	48%

^{*} Includes spouse, ex-spouse and child.

For more information, see "Children and Youths as Victims of Violent Crimes" by Holly Johnson in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPB, vol. 15, no. 15).

[&]quot;Trends in Criminal Victimization: 1988-1993" by Rosemary Gartner and Anthony Doob in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPB, vol.14 no. 13).

For more information, see Dangerous Domains, Violence Against Women in Canada, by Holly Johnson, 1995.

^{*} Also includes friends/acquaintances of family.



Police recorded 178,046 level 1 assault incidents in 1995. Although the rate for these assaults declined for the second straight year in 1995 (-3.1%), it was still 54.5% higher than in 1985. Increases in level 1 assault incidents have strongly influenced the overall increases in violent crime since 1985.

In 1995, police recorded 35,854 incidents of level 2 assault, and 2,771 incidents of level 3 assault. Since 1985, the rate of level 2 assault incidents has not increased as rapidly as the rate for level 1 assaults. The rate of aggravated assault (level 3) incidents declined for the fourth year in a row .

In 1983, Bill C-127 gave police the right to make arrests without a warrant if there were reasonable and probable grounds to believe that an assault had taken place. Police no longer had to witness the assault or see evidence of physical injury in order to make an arrest. The intention of this Bill was to facilitate police action in cases of domestic violence. In fact, however, this amendment has made it easier for police to process all assaults.

For level 1 assault incidents, the cleared-by-charge rate increased steadily from 37% in 1985 to 50% in 1994, before declining slightly in 1995. It is likely that the introduction of Bill C-127 and subsequent changes in police charging practices have influenced the overall rate of assault and, consequently, the rate of reported violent incidents since 1983.

Most victims of assault (75%) knew their assailant: 19% were assaulted by a spouse, 6% by an ex-spouse, 10% by other family members, 8% by a close friend (including intimate and exintimate relationships), 6% by a business acquaintance, and 27% by a casual acquaintance; 25% of victims were assaulted by a stranger (1995 UCR II Research File).

Seven in ten violent crimes solved

A crime is solved by police when there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge against a suspect. The incident is referred to as cleared, either by charge or otherwise. Cleared-otherwise means that, for a variety of reasons, no charges are laid, although there is an identified suspect and sufficient evidence to lay a charge. Examples of the latter include cases where the alleged offender dies before being formally charged, where the accused is less than 12 years of age, or where a witness refuses to lay charges.

Consistent with past years, clearance rates for violent crimes were three times higher than for property crimes in 1995. Almost three-quarters of violent incidents were cleared (49% by charge and 24% cleared-otherwise), compared with slightly less than one-quarter for property crimes (15% by charge and 7% cleared-otherwise). Of all the violent crimes, robbery tends to have the lowest clearance rate (Table 3).

Table 3



Selected Incidents by clearance status, Canada, 1995

		Not Cleared		
	Cleared by charge %	Cleared otherwise %	Total %	%
Homicides ¹ Attempted murder Assaults Sexual assaults Other sexual offences Robbery Abduction Violent crime - Total	73 76 52 48 58 27 25 49	8 5 28 21 20 4 32 24	81 82 80 69 78 32 57	19 18 20 31 22 68 43 26
Break and enter Motor vehicle theft Fraud Theft over \$5,000 Theft \$5,000 and under Property crime - Total	11	5	16	84
	9	5	13	87
	45	19	64	36
	10	6	17	83
	13	7	20	80
	15	7	23	77
Mischief	7	8	15	85
Arson	11	9	20	80
Prostitution	96	2	98	2
Offensive weapons	55	23	78	22
Criminal Code without traffic offences - Total	22	12	34	66
Impaired driving ² Cocaine - Possession Cocaine - Trafficking Cannabis - Possession Cannabis - Trafficking	92	4	96	4
	82	10	92	8
	77	3	79	21
	63	28	91	9
	76	6	82	18

¹ Homicide Survey, CCJS.

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



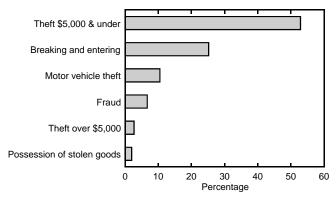
Property Crime

Property crime rate stablized in 1995

Property 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 6). After decreasing from 1992 to 1994, the property crime rate remained virtually unchanged in 1995. In 1995, there were 1.6 million property crime incidents. Crimes against property as a proportion of all Criminal Code incidents have generally been declining, from 65% in 1985 to 58% in 1995, primarily due to the rapid increase in the number of violent crimes during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Figure 6

Property crime categories, Canada, 1995



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Breaking and entering continues to decline

In 1995, there were 390,726 reported incidents of breaking and entering (B&E), representing one-quarter of property crimes. The rate of B&Es declined slightly in 1995, marking the fourth consecutive year of decline (Figure 7).

Residential B&Es have fluctuated over the past 10 years, and the rate increased slightly (+2.7%) in 1995, while the rates for business (-3.2%) and other types of B&E (-8.8%) declined.

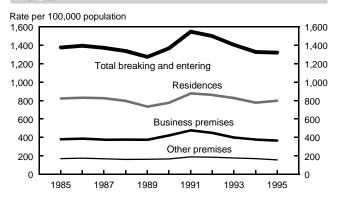
Majority of B&E's are residential.	
Residence	60%
Business premise	28%
Other premises	12%

Victimization survey results (GSS, 1993) suggest that urban dwellings are more likely to be targetted for residential B&Es than rural dwellings, and that semi-detached homes, row houses and duplexes were more likely targets than single, detached dwellings. Rented dwellings were a more likely target than owner-occupied dwellings.

Victims of B&E were also more likely to report this crime to the police than other types of crime; only one-third did not report

Figure 7

Breaking and entering incidents, Canada, 1985-1995



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

victimizations according to the 1993 GSS. Nearly one-half of those who did not report said the incident was too minor or could be dealt with another way.

Claims reported by the membership of the Insurance Bureau of Canada for 1994 for losses through thefts occurring in B&E incidents totalled \$267 million for home-owner insurance claims, \$63 million for tenant insurance claims and \$110 million for commercial claims. The membership of the Insurance Bureau of Canada accounts for 83% of the industry for personal property and 75% of the industry for commercial property.

Audio-visual equipment (televisions, VCRs, stereos) was the most common type of property stolen in residential B&Es (1995 UCR II Research File). In business B&Es, currency and office equipment were the most common property stolen. In other types of B&E (e.g. from sheds, open garages, storage containers), machinery and tools were the most common property stolen, followed by bicycles.

In approximately 2,000 incidents of B&E, a firearm was reported stolen (1995 UCR II Research File). 11 Of the types of stolen property, rifles accounted for 39%, shotguns for 29%, restricted weapons for 9% and other types for 23%. Additionally, in 2,500 incidents of theft, a firearm was reported stolen.

The research file also showed that the median age of persons charged with residential B&E was 19 years, compared to 21 years for business B&Es.

One-third of Criminal Code crimes are thefts

Canadians were more likely to have suffered from a theft than from any other type of crime. In 1995, the 861,293 incidents of theft, excluding motor vehicle theft and thefts perpetrated through B&E, accounted for one-third of all Criminal Code incidents and over one-half of property crimes. Although the 1995 theft rate was similar to the previous year, this rate has been generally declining since 1991.

¹¹ More than one type of firearm may be reported stolen in a single B&E.



The 1993 General Social Survey (GSS) found that incidents of theft were not being reported to police by 56% of victims of personal property theft and 57% of victims of household property theft. Of those who did not report the theft incident, 54% and 58% respectively felt that the incident was too minor to report.

In February 1995, the *Criminal Code* was amended to change the dollar cut-off for "theft under" and "theft over" to \$5,000 from \$1,000. The previous revision to the cut-offs had taken place in 1986 when the limit was increased from \$200 to \$1,000. Therefore, the reader is advised not to make historical comparisons in the "theft under/over" counts.

In 1995, there were 820,099 incidents of "theft under \$5,000" and 41,194 reported incidents of "theft \$5,000 and over". One in five "theft under" and "theft over" incidents were cleared by police. A relatively high proportion of persons charged with "theft under" are female (32%), largely for shoplifting (Table 4).

Although the number of shoplifting incidents reported to police represents a small proportion of thefts in comparison with thefts from motor vehicles, the financial loss to retailers is enormous. According to the 1996 Retail Council of Canada's annual survey of retail companies, customers stole almost \$6 million worth of goods per day in 1995. Shoplifting is a major concern among retailers as 52% of inventory losses is attributed to "shoptheft", 25% to employee theft, 18% to administrative errors, and 5% to vendor fraud. 12

Motor vehicle theft remains stable

Motor vehicle theft accounted for one in ten property crimes in 1995 (163,293 incidents). From 1988 to 1993, the rate of motor vehicle theft increased by 62.7%, levelling off in 1994 and 1995 (Figure 8). In recent years, the rise in popularity of minivans has resulted in an increase in the number of trucks stolen, which include minivans and jeeps.

Table 4



Persons Charged by Gender and Age, Selected Incidents, 1995

	Ge	Gender A		e Group		Median Age ¹		
	Males	Females	Adults (age 18+)	Youths (age 12-17)	Males	Females	Total	
	%	%	%	%				
Homicides ² Attempted murder Assaults Sexual assaults Other sexual offences Robbery Abduction Violent crime - Total	87 90 85 98 96 89 71 86	13 10 15 2 4 11 29 14	87 89 85 85 84 65 95	13 11 15 15 16 35 5	28 26 30 32 34 22 31	30 26 27 32 24 20 31 27	28 26 30 32 34 22 31 29	
Break and enter Motor vehicle theft Fraud Theft over \$5,000 Theft \$5,000 and under Property crime - Total	93 92 71 82 68 77	7 8 29 18 32 23	60 55 93 80 69 70	40 45 7 20 31 30	19 19 29 23 25 23	20 18 29 30 27 27	19 19 29 24 26 24	
Mischief Arson Prostitution Offensive weapons	89 86 46 92	11 14 54 8	68 56 97 79	32 44 3 21	22 19 33 26	27 33 27 26	23 20 29 26	
Criminal Code - Total	82	18	77	23	26	27	26	
Impaired driving ³ Cocaine - Possession	90 82	10 18	100 95		34 29	34 29	34	
Cocaine - Possession Cocaine - Trafficking	82 84	16	95 96	5 4	29 29	29 28	29 29	
Cannabis - Possession Cannabis - Trafficking	90 86	10 14	83 89	17 11	22 26	23 29	22 26	

¹ 1995 Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-based Research File - CCJS, representing 46% of the national volume of crime.

Retail Council of Canada, 1996 Crime and Prevention Report, Executive Summary.

² Homicide Survey, CCJS.

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

^{..} not available.



Theft of trucks accounts for over one in four motor vehicle thefts in 1995.

Auto theft	64%
Theft of trucks (includes jeeps, minivans)	27%
Theft of motorcyles	4%
Theft of other vehicles	6%

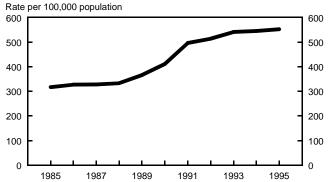
Although motor vehicle theft represented a relatively small proportion of theft incidents in 1995 (16%), the financial losses are enormous. Research suggests that the total dollar value of property stolen or damaged in motor vehicle crime approximated \$1.6 billion in 1993, whereas losses from credit card fraud and robberies totalled approximately \$77 million.¹³ In addition, 4 in 10 of property theft under and over incidents were from motor vehicles.

In 1995, 13% of motor vehicle theft incidents were cleared (9% by charge), consistent with recent years. Of the 15,442 persons charged, 92% were male. Motor vehicle theft is generally described as a youth crime: almost half of all persons charged with this crime were aged 12-17.

A 1994 study in British Columbia suggested that crime prevention strategies to curb the incidence of auto theft should consider not only the type of vehicle targetted, but also the motivation of the perpetrator.¹⁴ The researchers found that young offenders in B.C. who target older Japanese manufactured vehicles were responsible for a disproportionate amount of auto theft; there was little evidence to suggest that auto theft was a result of "organized, profit-motivated adult offenders". Joy-riding (autotheft for temporary use) was widespread and carried out by thrill-seeking youths.

Figure 8



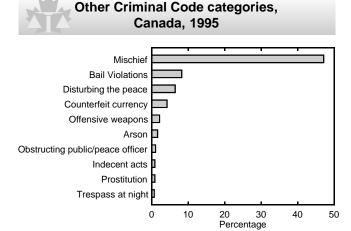


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Other Criminal Code Incidents

The over 800,000 Criminal Code crimes which are not in the violent or property crime categories are reported under the category "other Criminal Code" (Figure 9). These crimes account for 3 in 10 Criminal Code incidents and include such crimes as mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.

Figure 9



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Weapons offences decline

Offensive weapon 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 are those which are illegal to possess except by police officers/peace officers and members of the military. These weapons include spring-loaded knives, nunchaku sticks, rapid-fire firearms, and sawed-off shotguns or rifles. Restricted weapons, such as handguns, are those which may be owned under certain conditions. Though many firearms, such as rifles and shotguns, may be legally possessed, certain types may be prohibited or restricted.

Bill C-68, proclaimed on January 1, 1996, requires that all firearm owners must obtain a Firearms Licence by January, 2001. This licence replaces the Firearms Acquisition Certificate in use since 1977. Commencing January 1, 1998, each weapon must be registered within five years and a Registration Certificate will be issued. Bill C-68 also provides for tougher penalties for using a firearm while committing a crime.

In 1995, offensive weapons incidents accounted for less than 1% of Criminal Code incidents. The rate of offensive weapons incidents fluctuated after 1989, following years of stability. In 1995, however, these crimes decreased considerably (-8.5%).

Mischief accounts for one in seven Criminal Code incidents

In 1995, almost 380,000 mischief incidents were reported, accounting for one in seven Criminal Code crimes. The general

¹³ See "Motor Vehicle Crimes" by Peter Morrison and Rebecca Kong in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPB, vol.16, no. 2).

[&]quot;Exploring Auto Theft in British Columbia" by Zachery Fleming, Patricia Brantingham and Paul Brantingham, in <u>Crime Prevention Studies</u>, Ronald V. Clarke (ed.), 1994, Vol. 3.



decline in the rate of mischief incidents continued in 1995, with a 5.4% decrease. Clearance rates for mischief incidents are low, as perpetrators are not easily identified: 15% of mischief incidents were cleared in 1995 (7% by charge).

Prostitution-related incidents increase across the country

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 increased notably (+27.0%) in 1995, following a 49.3% decrease from 1991 to 1994. The reporting of prostitution incidents is highly sensitive to police enforcement practices. The reader is cautioned that these practices may vary over time and across provinces and municipalities.

In 1995, 7,646 persons were charged with prostitution-related crimes, 54% of whom were female. Although some males charged were living from the avails of prostitution or were themselves prostitutes, the majority of them were clients. Only 3% of persons charged in prostitution incidents in 1995 were youths. Although child prostitution is a serious concern for Canadians, the UCR counts may not reflect their actual numbers, as youths are often diverted to social services by police in lieu of being charged.

Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

Police reported 172,437 incidents involving Criminal Code traffic crimes in 1995, down 8.6% from 1994 rate. Impaired driving accounted for 59% of these incidents in 1995, failure to stop and remain at the scene of an accident accounted for 31%, and dangerous driving, and driving while prohibited comprised the remaining 10%.

Impaired driving incidents continue to decline

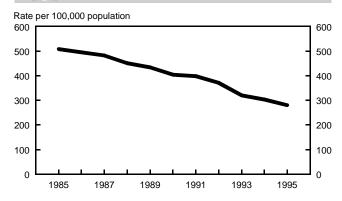
Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft, driving with over .08% alcohol in the bloodstream, and failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. In 1995, 82,792 persons were charged with impaired driving, down 7.7% from 1994 and consistent with the long-term trend of declining rates. Since 1985, the rate of persons charged with impaired driving has declined annually (Figure 10a), representing an average annual decline of 5.7%. In 1995, Ontario, Newfoundland, and British Columbia had the lowest charge rates and Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and Alberta had the highest charge rates (Figure 10b).

Contrary to popular belief, young persons were not largely responsible for the drinking and driving problem. Consistent with earlier UCR incident-based findings, ¹⁵ the 30-34 age group was the most likely to be charged with impaired driving in 1995. This age group accounted for 2 in 10 persons charged (1995 UCR II Research File).

This declining trend may reflect the success of anti-drinking and driving campaigns across Canada, which have contributed to making drinking and driving socially unacceptable. In addition, alcohol consumption has been gradually decreasing over the past decade. The rate of persons charged in impaired driving incidents is also affected by police enforcement practices. Roadside-testing and random checking of drivers by police act as deterrents to drinking and driving, but also increase the probability of detecting impaired drivers. A final factor to consider is the trend in the number of "roadside suspensions" handed out by police, although national data are currently not available. It should be noted that all these practices may vary over time and across provinces and municipalities.

Figure 10a

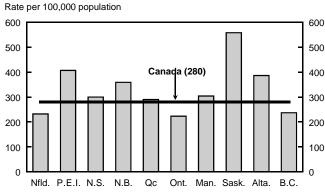
Persons charged with impaired driving, Canada, 1985-1995



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 10b

Persons charged with impaired driving, Canada and the Provinces, 1995



See "Impaired Driving - Canada, 1994" by Andy Birkenmayer in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPB, vol. 15, no. 14).



Drugs

Cannabis incidents up, cocaine down

Drug incidents involve offences under two federal statutes: the *Narcotics Control Act*, which deals with illicit drugs, (e.g. cannabis, cocaine and heroin) and the *Food and Drugs Act*, which deals with controlled and restricted drugs (e.g amphetamines and LSD). Cannabis offences accounted for 7 in 10 of the 61,660 drug-related incidents reported in 1995.

	Total Drugs (100%)	Possession (100%)	Trafficking (100%)	Importation (100%)
Cannabis Cocaine Other e.g.	71% 18%	79% 13%	49% 37%	56% 30%
heroin restricted/ controlled drugs	11%	9%	14%	14%
	Cultivation/ Other	Possession	Trafficking	Importation
Total Drugs (100%	%) 8%	63%	27%	2%

The rate of drug-related incidents has fluctuated in recent years. The 1995 rate was 1.3% higher than in 1994, largely due to an increase in cannabis incidents. The rate of cannabis incidents increased (+6.9%), while declines were reported in cocaine (-9.1%) and other drug incidents (-12.4%). The recent decline in cocaine incidents contrasts the sharp increases seen prior to 1992: the rate of cocaine incidents had more than tripled from 1985 to 1991 (Figure 11).

Historically, the majority of drug incidents involve "possession" (63% in 1995), although this proportion has gradually been declining since 1985. Most possession incidents involve cannabis. Trends in drug-related crimes are influenced by police enforcement activities, similar to those for prostitution and impaired driving.

Drug incidents, Canada, 1985-1995

Figure 11

Rate per 100,000 population 250 250 Total drugs 200 200 Cannabis 150 150 100 100 Cocaine 50 50 Other drugs 1987 1989 1993

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Selected Demographics of Crime

Most persons charged are male

Eight in ten persons charged with crimes in 1995 were male. There were some notable differences between the types of offences for which males and females were charged. Although females represented less than 20% of offenders overall, they were charged in 54% of prostitution, 29% of abduction, 32% of "theft under \$5,000" (mainly shoplifting), and 30% of fraud (Table 4).

Victims as likely to be female as male

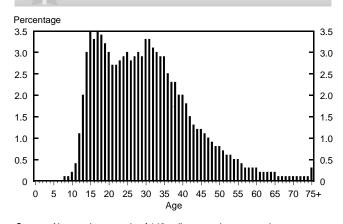
Half of violent crime victims in 1995 were female (1995 UCR II Research File). Females accounted for most sexual assault victims (85%), and more than half of level 1 assault victims (53%). Victims of robbery and level 2 and 3 assaults were more likely to be male (61%, 65% and 79% respectively). (Table 5)

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

Persons accused ¹⁶ of violent crimes tended to be older than persons accused of property crimes (1995 UCR II Research File) (Figure 12, Figure 13). Property crimes tended to involve youths or young adults aged 13 to 21 years. Persons aged 15 to 34 were implicated in a relatively high proportion of violent crimes. The involvement in violent crime of persons over the age of 30 gradually decreased with age. Of the accused who were charged with property crimes, a median age of 24 was reported compared with a median age of 29 for violent crimes (Table 4).

Figure 12

Persons accused in violent crimes, by age, 1995 UCR Research File



Source: Non-random sample of 140 police agencies, accounting for 46% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

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



Table 5



Victims of Selected Incidents by Gender and Age, 1995 UCR Research File

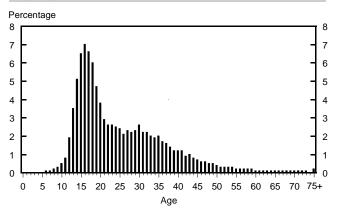
	Gender		Median Age		
	Male	Female	Males	Females	Total
	%	%			
Homicides ¹	67	33	34	35	34
Attempted murder	77	23	28	34	29
Assaults	53	47	26	28	27
Sexual assaults	15	85	11	17	16
Other sexual offences	23	77	11	13	12
Robbery	61	39	25	33	28
Abduction	41	59	5	6	5
Victims of violence - Total	50	50	26	27	26

¹ Homicide Survey, CCJS.

Source: 1995 Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-based Research File - CCJS, representing 46% of the national volume of crime.

Figure 13

Persons accused in property crimes, by age, 1995 UCR Research File



Source: Non-random sample of 140 police agencies, accounting for 46% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

Victims of violent crimes aged 14 to 32 years account for 55% of all victims (1995 UCR II Research File) (Figure 14). The median age of violent crime victims was 26 years. Victims of sexual assault tended to be slightly younger than victims of other types of violent crime. The UCR incident-based survey does not capture characteristics of victims of property crime.

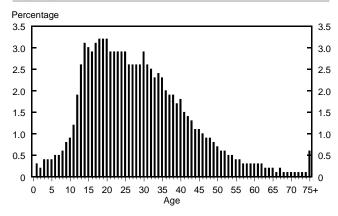
Youth Crime

Rate of youths charged stable

In total, 120,632 youths were charged with Criminal Code crimes in 1995. The youth charge rate remained stable in 1995, following three consecutive annual decreases. Six in ten youths charged in Criminal Code incidents in 1995 were charged with property crimes, while two in ten youths were charged with violent crimes.

Figure 14

Victims of violent crime, by age, 1995 UCR Research File



Source: Non-random sample of 140 police agencies, accounting for 46% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

	Youths charged (100%)	Adults charged (100%)
Total violent	19%	29%
assaults	14%	24%
robbery	3%	2%
Total property	56%	39%
theft over & under	28%	19%
breaking and entering	15%	7%
theft motor vehicle	6%	2%
Total other Criminal Code	25%	32%
mischief	6%	4%

Youths accounted for 4 in 10 persons charged with motor vehicle theft, breaking and entering, arson, and robbery (Table 4).

The rate of youths charged with violent crime increased (+2.4%) in 1995, after remaining stable in 1994, and remains more than



twice the rate in 1986, the first year following the implementation of the uniform maximum age provisions of the *Young Offenders Act.* By comparison, the rate of adults charged with violent crimes increased 46% between 1986 and 1993, and declined the following years.

The rate of youths charged with property crimes has been declining since 1991. Youths charged with other Criminal Code offences increased slightly (+2.5%) for the first time since 1991 (Table 6).

Young persons in conflict with the law may be charged or dealt with "otherwise", as mentioned earlier in the report. The decision to proceed with laying 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 YOA, 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 reserved for first time offenders. Charge rates are influenced by the extent to which AM is used, and the process established for AM. Consequently, the youth charge rate is not a perfect indicator of the prevalence of youth crime, particularly with respect to measuring relatively minor incidents committed by first time offenders.

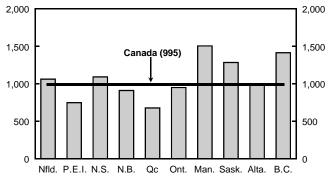
Provincial Comparisons

There is considerable regional variation in the distribution of reported crime across Canada. Crime rates in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec are generally lower than those in Ontario, which in turn are lower than rates in the Western provinces (Figure 15a,15b). Historically, crime rates in the Yukon and Northwest Territories have been higher than those in the provinces. Provincial crime rates in 1995 ranged from a low of 5,380 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland to 13,898 per 100,000 in British Columbia (Table 7).

Figure 15a

Violent crime, Canada and the provinces, 1995

Rate per 100,000 population

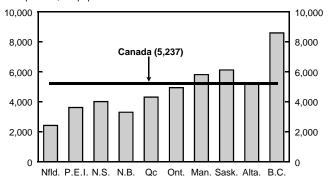


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 15b

Property crime, Canada and the provinces, 1995

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Five of the provinces followed the national decline in the crime rate in 1995, with the largest decreases reported in Manitoba (-5.8%), Newfoundland (-3.6%) and Alberta (-3.5%). Increases in the overall crime rate were reported in Saskatchewan (+5.1%) and Prince Edward Island (+2.0%) while the rate remained stable in New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario. Although the overall crime rate in PEI increased, it is still among the lowest in Canada.

While Canada's violent crime rate declined (-4.1%) in 1995, one province experienced an increase: Saskatchewan (+5.8%). Nova Scotia remained stable, while all other jurisdictions reported declines, with the most substantial being in Quebec (-7.5%), and Manitoba (-6.1%).

Five of the provinces experienced an increase in property crime. The largest increases were found in Prince Edward Island (+6.4%) and Saskatchewan (+4.9%), whereas the largest decreases were reported by Manitoba (-8.2%), Newfoundland (-5.6%) and Alberta (-4.0%).

Census Metropolitan Area Comparisons

In response to concerns over the comparability of crime rates among police forces which may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations and boundaries, this year's report uses the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) as the standard geographical unit. 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. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA. Although there are 25 CMAs in Canada, only the nine largest (over 500,000 population) are examined in this report (Figure 16a,16b). Data for the remaining 16 CMAs are available on request and will be analyzed in an upcoming Juristat to be released later this year.

¹⁷ See "National Summary of Alternative Measures Services for Young Persons" in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-205-XPB, vol. 10, no. 2).



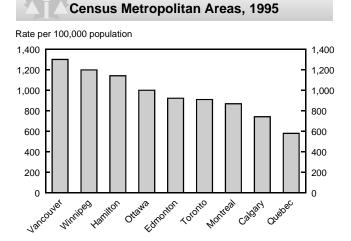
Table 6

XX	Youth	Youths Charged in Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1986 - 1995 ¹											
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994 ^r	1995			
Population (aged 12-17)	2,272,400	2,260,900	2,249,500	2,245,700	2,260,100	2,284,800	2,315,800	2,341,200	2,360,400	2,384,600			
Violent crime													
number	9,275	10,165	11,437	13,780	15,690	18,919	20,028	21,477	21,629	22,375			
rate % change in rate	408	450	508	614	694	828	865	917	916	938			
from previous year		10.2	13.1	20.7	13.1	19.3	4.4	6.1	-0.1	2.4			
Property crime													
number	78,862	74,769	74,316	76,317	83,741	91,656	83,603	74,981	68,907	68,138			
rate	3,470	3,307	3,304	3,398	3,705	4,012	3,610	3,203	2,919	2,857			
% change in rate	•	•	•			•			•				
from previous year		-4.7	-0.1	2.9	9.0	8.3	-10.0	-11.3	-8.8	-2.1			
Other Criminal Code													
number	20,869	22,764	24,136	25,865	27,118	31,741	31,651	30,429	29,089	30,119			
rate	918	1,007	1,073	1,152	1,200	1,389	1,367	1,300	1,232	1,263			
% change in rate													
from previous year		9.6	6.6	7.3	4.2	15.8	-1.6	-4.9	-5.2	2.5			
Total Criminal Code													
number	109,006	107,698	109,889	115,962	126,549	142,316	135,282	126,887	119,625	120,632			
rate % change in rate	4,797	4,764	4,885	5,164	5,599	6,229	5,842	5,420	5,068	5,059			
from previous year		-0.7	2.6	5.7	8.4	11.2	-6.2	-7.2	-6.5	-0.2			

Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youths. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 16a

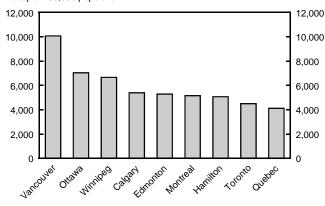


Violent crime for major

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Figure 16b





Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1985 to 1990, final postcensal estimates for 1991 and 1992, updated postcensal estimates for 1993, 1994 and 1995.

revised.

^{...} figures not appropriate.



Six of the nine largest metropolitan areas reported a drop in their overall crime rate in 1995, ranging from 1.0% in Hamilton to 8.7% in Winnipeg while the rate remained stable in Vancouver (-0.7%) and Ottawa (+0.2%)(Table 8). Vancouver reported the highest overall crime rate, 32% higher than the second highest metropolitan area, Ottawa. This was mainly due to significantly higher property crime rates. Quebec City reported the lowest crime rate, followed by Toronto and Montreal.

All major urban areas, except for Hamilton (+2.6%), showed declines in their 1995 violent crime rate, with large declines in Calgary (-11.0%), Montreal (-9.7%) and Winnipeg (-7.1%). Vancouver reported the highest violent crime rate, closely followed by Winnipeg and Hamilton. Quebec City was the lowest, with Calgary and Montreal second and third lowest, respectively. Quebec City was among the lowest in all major violent crime categories. Vancouver was highest for homicide, Hamilton for assault, Edmonton for sexual assault, and Winnipeg for robbery.

Only Vancouver (+6.2%), Ottawa (+3.3%), and Quebec City (+1.9%) reported increases in their property crime rate, with large decreases reported in Winnipeg (-9.7%), Calgary (-7.6%), and Edmonton (-5.4%). Vancouver's property crime rate was 43% higher than the next closest metropolitan area, Ottawa. For breaking and entering, Vancouver showed the highest rate and Toronto the lowest. For motor vehicle theft, Winnipeg was the highest and Quebec the lowest.

Methodology - 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 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:

- Aggregate UCR Survey The aggregate-based UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, the number of actual offences, those that are unfounded, 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.
- Revised UCR Survey (UCR II Incident-based Research File) - The incident-based survey captures detailed

information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and the incidents, based on data collected from 140 agencies in six provinces through the Revised UCR Survey. These data represent 46% of the national volume of actual Criminal Code crimes.

The 1995 research file contains approximately 1.3 million incident records, 500,000 accused records, and 130,000 victim records (victim information is only collected for violent crimes). The distribution of these incidents by province is as follows: 39% from Quebec, 37% from Ontario, 10% from Alberta, 8% from British Columbia, 5% from Saskatchewan, and 0.8% 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 aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident, (generally the offence which carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). 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 differently from other types of crime, with few exceptions. 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.

The total number of incidents recorded by the aggregate UCR survey is not a census of all violations of the law that come to the attention of police. Rather, the total number of incidents is equal to the number of victims of violent crimes (other than robberies) plus the number of separate occurrences of non-violent crimes (and robberies).

In this report, the crime rate excludes traffic violations as the data have proven to be volatile over time and these shifts could influence the overall crime rate if they were included. Such shifts are often a result of changes in police procedures for traffic violations which may be scored as either a provincial statute infraction or as a Criminal Code infraction (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident).



Table 7



Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1995¹

1,137,500 1,015,600 2,747,000 3,766,000 30,100 65,800 29,606,100 27 21 59 120 4 429 586 2.4 2.1 2.1 3.2 13.3 4.6 2.0 -7.5 -12.8 -11.7 3.5 31.6 -26.3 -3.0 1,365 1,563 3,116 4,940 125 429 28,216 120 154 113 131 415 652 95 -20.2 -1.2 -14.3 -9.1 18.6 -27.4 -12.1
2.4 2.1 2.1 3.2 13.3 4.6 2.0 -7.5 -12.8 -11.7 3.5 31.6 -26.3 -3.0 1,365 1,563 3,116 4,940 125 429 28,216 120 154 113 131 415 652 95
2.4 2.1 2.1 3.2 13.3 4.6 2.0 -7.5 -12.8 -11.7 3.5 31.6 -26.3 -3.0 1,365 1,563 3,116 4,940 125 429 28,216 120 154 113 131 415 652 95
-7.5 -12.8 -11.7 3.5 31.6 -26.3 -3.0 1,365 1,563 3,116 4,940 125 429 28,216 120 154 113 131 415 652 95
1,365 1,563 3,116 4,940 125 429 28,216 120 154 113 131 415 652 95
120 154 113 131 415 652 95
120 154 113 131 415 652 95
-20.2 -1.2 -14.3 -9.1 18.6 -27.4 -12.1
12,735 9,655 20,263 40,556 811 2,658 216,671 1,120 951 738 1,077 2,694 4,040 732
-6.4 6.4 -2.3 -3.4 24.1 -3.7 -3.7
0.1 0.1 2.0 0.1 2.11 0.1
1,973 664 2,120 5,999 17 42 30,273
173 65 77 159 56 64 102
7.5 25.3 -13.8 7.9 -11.7 14.7 3.1
17,122 13,047 27,450 53,300 997 3,345 294,704
1,505 1,285 999 1,415 3,312 5,084 995
-6.1 5.8 -4.8 -3.3 20.4 -7.7 -4.1
-13.2 4.2 -3.3 2.0 33.0 3.2 -0.3
9.538 5.272 14.195 29.532 219 470 163.293
839 519 517 784 728 714 552
-0.9 22.2 -12.7 9.9 -23.6 6.2 1.2
34.636 30.856 79.033 197.060 1.527 2.271 861.293
-4.4 3.1 -3.4 2.5 2.8 4.9 0.8
-0.2 4.5 -4.0 2.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
1,152 800 2,247 3,172 65 206 17,502
101 79 82 84 216 313 59
-3.9 12.1 -9.1 -12.7 -7.0 -6.2 -8.5
0.7 0.0 0.1 10.0 0.0 0.1 0.4
41.927 38.980 77.752 146.359 2.334 7.486 805.862
3,686 3,838 2,830 3,886 7,754 11,377 2,722
-1.6 5.3 -2.0 -8.8 -3.4 -2.9 -2.7
405 024 444 060 047 406 500 406 5 000 45 070 0 054 050
125,234 114,269 247,426 523,406 6,092 15,879 2,651,058 11,010 11,251 9,007 13,898 20,239 24,132 8,954
1,451 1,783 1,128 2,010 2,578 3,006 -19.2 4.2 -9.3 2.6 33.6 5.2 9,538 5,272 14,195 29,532 219 470 1 839 519 517 784 728 714 -0.9 22.2 -12.7 9.9 -23.6 6.2 34,636 30,856 79,033 197,060 1,527 2,271 8 3,045 3,038 2,877 5,233 5,073 3,451 -4.4 3.1 -3.4 2.5 2.8 4.9 66,185 62,242 142,224 323,747 2,761 5,048 1,5 5,818 6,129 5,177 8,597 9,173 7,672 -8.2 4.9 -4.0 2.6 6.6 5.3 1,152 800 2,247 3,172 65 206 101 79 82 84 216 313 -3.9 12.1 -9.1 -12.7 -7.0 -6.2 21,983

Excludes traffic crimes.

Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics,

Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1985 to 1990, final postcensal estimates for 1991 and 1992, updated postcensal estimates for 1993, 1994 and 1995.



Table 8



Selected Criminal Code Incidents for Major Census Metropolitan Areas, 1995¹

	Toronto	Montréal	Vancouver	Edmonton	Calgary	Ottawa	Québec	Winnipeg	Hamilton
Population, 1995	4,338,374	3,328,339	1,826,832	882,940	828,516	774,773	695,203	676,501	641,543
Homicide number rate % change from 1994 rate	74 1.7 -14.6	77 2.3 2.0	64 3.5 29.8	19 2.2 -21.0	17 2.1 -7.4	24 3.1 96.6	4 0.6 -63.9	16 2.4 -11.5	17 2.6 29.6
Sexual assault (1,2,3) number rate % change from 1994 rate	2,731 63 -10.6	1,537 46 -9.2	1,587 87 -12.4	983 111 -11.5	562 68 -15.9	695 90 -11.3	280 40 -16.1	420 62 -19.1	628 98 -1.9
Assault (1,2,3) number rate % change from 1994 rate	29,096 671 -8.0	17,930 539 12.6	16,782 919 -3.1	5,700 646 -1.2	4,310 520 -9.2	5,711 737 -2.1	2,736 394 1.3	5,336 789 -11.0	5,951 928 3.6
Robbery number rate % change from 1994 rate	6,029 139 21.2	7,332 220 -5.1	4,628 253 10.8	991 112 -5.2	860 104 -24.6	1,021 132 4.6	730 105 -20.9	1,850 273 6.9	522 81 7.1
Violent crime - Total number rate % change from 1994 rate	39,431 909 -5.5	28,870 867 -9.7	23,747 1,300 -1.5	8,132 921 -4.2	6,139 741 -11.0	7,750 1,000 -1.8	4,023 579 -3.8	8,104 1,198 -7.1	7,321 1,141 2.6
Break & enter number rate % change from 1994 rate	37,256 859 -1.0	50,169 1,507 -0.4	44,598 2,441 5.7	10,912 1,236 -5.3	9,690 1,170 -19.2	13,357 1,724 17.0	9,068 1,304 -3.6	10,380 1,534 -23.1	6,364 992 3.8
Motor vehicle theft number rate % change from 1994 rate	19,313 445 -3.1	27,692 832 -3.8	20,414 1,117 15.2	5,363 607 -6.9	5,269 636 -24.0	7,704 994 -11.2	3,038 437 12.5	8,003 1,183 0.4	6,235 972 11.1
Other theft number rate % change from 1994 rate	121,703 2,805 1.3	83,909 2,521 -4.2	110,898 6,071 6.6	25,115 2,844 -7.9	25,335 3,058 -3.7	29,985 3,870 1.5	14,722 2,118 4.0	24,248 3,584 -5.7	18,264 2,847 -2.3
Property crime - Total number rate % change from 1994 rate	195,184 4,499 0.1	171,664 5,158 -3.2	184,018 10,073 6.2	46,712 5,291 -5.4	44,715 5,397 -7.6	54,533 7,039 3.3	28,639 4,120 1.9	45,107 6,668 -9,7	32,536 5,072 -0.1
Offensive weapons number rate % change from 1994 rate	1,774 41 -19.9	571 17 -14.4	1,214 66 -17.5	470 53 -5.4	346 42 -22.5	362 47 -0.6	56 8 -14.6	397 59 -12.6	213 33 -16.6
Mischief - number rate % change from 1994 rate	44,106 1,017 -3.5	28,770 864 -4.3	34,684 1,899 -23.2	10,134 1,148 -8.4	8,787 1,061 1.8	12,386 1,599 -11.5	5,884 846 5.4	13,113 1,938 -4.4	7,589 1,183 -3.4
Other Criminel Code - Total / number rate % change from 1994 rate	88,692 2,044 -6.4	58,285 1,751 -2.6	57,425 3,143 -17.7	20,847 2,361 -4.8	14,504 1,751 -4.0	23,004 2,969 -5.9	9,623 1,384 5.8	18,110 2,677 -6.7	14,959 2,332 -4.5
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - excluding Traffic number rate % change from 1994 rate		258,819 7,776 -3.9	265,190 14,516 -0.7	75,691 8,573 -5.1	65,358 7,889 -7.2	85,287 11,008 0.2	42,285 6,082 2.2	71,321 10,543 -8.7	54,816 8,544 -1.0

Comparable data for all police services is available upon request. Rates are calculated based on 100,000 populations. The estimates are based on populations from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
The intercensal estimates match the jurisdictional boundaries of the police agency.



Table 9



Population Estimates of Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1985 to 1995

	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
Year							Thousands						
1985 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)*	580.9 392.6 72.0	128.1 91.8 12.9	887.7 652.1 86.0	726.1 523.8 73.5	6,690.3 5,034.7 554.5	9,334.4 6,998.5 825.9	1,084.6 794.5 99.7	1,028.8 731.9 96.2	2,411.1 1,733.1 215.5	2,990.0 2,249.7 254.7	24.6 17.1 2.3	55.0 34.2 6.4	25,941.6 19,252.8 2,299.3
1986 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	578.1 394.8 70.0	128.8 93.0 12.7	892.1 659.2 84.4	727.7 528.2 72.3	6,733.8 5,089.2 545.2	9,477.2 7,131.1 818.5	1,094.0 803.4 99.3	1,032.9 735.6 95.0	2,438.7 1,757.0 215.1	3,020.4 2,280.8 251.6	24.8 17.5 2.3	55.4 34.4 6.4	26,203.8 19,524.3 2,272.4
1987 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	576.5 398.2 68.3	129.0 93.7 12.4	896.3 664.8 83.3	730.5 533.2 72.0	6,805.9 5,161.5 545.3	9,684.9 7,304.0 818.0	1,100.5 809.0 98.8	1,036.4 739.0 94.0	2,443.5 1,762.2 212.3	3,064.6 2,320.3 248.0	26.0 18.5 2.3	55.7 35.1 6.2	26,549.7 19,838.8 2,260.9
1988 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	576.2 403.0 67.4	129.7 94.6 12.2	900.2 671.0 82.0	733.1 538.3 71.4	6,860.4 5,218.0 545.5	9,884.4 7,469.7 814.3	1,104.7 813.2 98.0	1,031.7 737.2 93.4	2,463.0 1,779.8 210.5	3,128.2 2,373.8 246.5	26.9 18.9 2.3	56.3 35.5 6.1	26,894.8 20,152.9 2,249.5
1989 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	577.4 408.4 65.7	130.6 95.1 12.1	906.7 678.8 79.9	738.0 544.8 70.6	6,948.0 5,297.3 551.2	10,151.0 7,694.0 811.1	1,106.2 815.5 96.6	1,023.0 731.9 92.7	2,504.3 1,812.1 210.6	3,209.2 2,440.9 247.0	27.4 19.5 2.3	57.5 36.1 6.0	27,379.3 20,574.1 2,245.7
1990 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	578.9 413.7 63.6	131.0 95.1 12.0	912.5 685.6 78.3	743.0 551.3 69.2	7,020.7 5,352.9 561.2	10,341.4 7,838.8 813.1	1,108.4 816.9 95.9	1,010.8 723.2 92.0	2,556.4 1,849.2 214.6	3,300.1 2,510.5 252.3	28.0 19.8 2.4	59.4 37.4 6.0	27,790.6 20,895.4 2,260.1
1991 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	580.3 419.2 61.4	130.8 95.4 11.9	917.9 691.8 77.2	748.5 558.4 67.9	7,080.6 5,395.7 573.4	10,471.5 7,935.7 817.8	1,112.5 820.4 95.5	1,006.3 721.0 92.1	2,601.3 1,882.1 219.4	3,379.8 2,572.0 259.5	29.1 20.9 2.4	61.3 38.4 6.2	28,120.1 21,151.2 2,284.8
1992 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	583.4 426.1 59.8	131.6 96.4 11.8	924.6 698.9 76.6	753.0 565.0 66.8	7,161.2 5,460.8 586.3	10,646.4 8,077.8 826.6	1,117.6 825.6 94.8	1,008.0 723.9 92.3	2,646.8 1,917.1 224.5	3,476.9 2,650.8 267.1	30.3 21.6 2.4	62.6 39.1 6.4	28,542.2 21,502.9 2,315.8
1993 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	584.2 431.3 58.1	133.2 97.9 11.8	930.4 705.8 76.0	755.5 570.2 65.4	7,238.6 5,531.2 593.2	10,815.5 8,212.4 836.4	1,124.1 832.3 94.3	1,010.8 727.8 92.9	2,686.0 1,950.0 229.7	3,574.6 2,730.4 274.6	30.4 21.8 2.5	63.7 17.6 6.5	28,947.0 21,851.0 2,341.2
1994 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	581.2 433.5 56.0	134.6 99.2 11.9	933.9 711.0 74.9	757.7 575.2 64.3	7,287.1 5,578.4 595.6	10,936.4 8,306.0 843.6	1,129.6 837.5 94.0	1,012.1 730.3 94.2	2,714.8 1,976.7 234.2	3,669.5 2,806.8 283.0	29.7 21.3 2.4	64.7 40.6 6.5	29,251.3 22,116.5 2,360.4
1995 Total Adult (18+) Youth (12-17)	575.4 432.8 54.3	136.1 100.8 12.0	937.8 715.9 75.2	760.1 579.7 63.3	7,334.2 5,631.9 590.9	11,100.3 8,435.8 859.0	1,137.5 844.1 94.7	1,015.6 734.5 94.2	2,747.0 2,007.5 239.7	3,766.0 2,885.3 291.8	30.1 21.6 2.6	65.8 41.4 6.7	29,606.1 22,431.3 2,384.6

^{*} All provinces did not implement common age definitions for youths, from 12 - 17 years of age, until 1985 pursuant to the Young Offenders Act.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division As July 1st 1993: Revised intercensal estimates for 1984 to 1990, final postcensal estimates for 1991 and 1992, updated postcensal estimates for 1993, 1994 and 1995.



Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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