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# Graphical Overview of the Criminal Justice Indicators

1999-2000



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# Graphical Overview of the Criminal Justice Indicators

1999-2000

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## Introduction

In order to improve the delivery of justice services to the public, many jurisdictions are currently developing “high-level” indicators on the state of the criminal justice system. Indicators are useful tools that can help identify problem areas, develop public policy, evaluate programs and generally monitor the overall “health” of the justice system. In 1997, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, along with input from provincial ministries with justice responsibility, drafted the document *Criminal Justice Indicators*, which sets out a methodology to establish a set of indicators to describe the functioning of the criminal justice system. Although some 75 indicators were identified as having many potential benefits, the report recommended the use of a smaller set of prime indicators that consisted of the more important workload and volume, performance, and environmental indicators.

*Workload and Volume Indicators* are sector-specific measures of the amount of activity or workload that takes place in various components of the justice system. Examples include the volume of crimes reported to the police, the number of cases dealt with in adult and youth court, and the number of admissions to federal and provincial institutions.

### I. Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

1. The number of calls to police for service and changes over time.
2. The number of criminal incidents known to the police and changes over time.
3. The number of persons charged and changes over time.
4. The number of people served by alternative measures, mediation, dispute resolution and diversionary programs and changes over time.
6. The number of cases dealt with in court and changes over time.
5. The number of admissions to correctional facilities and changes over time.
6. The number of admissions to community dispositions and changes over time.
7. The number of admissions to community dispositions and changes over time.

*Performance indicators* are measures of the efficiency and effectiveness of components of the justice system. Since performance measures are most useful when placed in the context of goals or outcomes of the criminal justice system, five commonly cited goals of the system have been identified and indicators identified for each one. These include (1) promoting public order and safety, (2) holding offenders accountable and responsible for their crimes and assisting in their rehabilitation, (3) fostering a high degree of public trust, confidence and respect for the justice system, (4) promoting social equity and access to the justice system for all citizens, and (5) responding to the needs of crime victims. Some examples of performance indicators are time elapsed between first court appearance and court disposition, the cost of administering the criminal justice system, public satisfaction with the various sectors of the justice system, and citizens' perceptions of their personal safety.

## **II. Prime Performance Indicators**

1. The number of incidents cleared by the laying of a charge and cleared otherwise and changes over time.
2. The number of criminal incidents reported to crime victim surveys and changes over time.
3. Canadians' perceptions of their personal safety in their neighbourhoods.
4. Rates of recidivism, including re-charging, re-conviction, and re-admission to correctional facilities.
5. Unduplicated count of convicted offenders.
6. The type and length of sentences ordered in court and changes over time.
7. Overall incarceration rate compared to other Western countries.
8. The number of applications for legal aid and approval rate.
9. Race or ethnicity of victims of crime, persons charged, persons appearing in court, and admitted to correctional programs.
10. The overall cost of administering the criminal justice system and changes over time.
11. Average case processing time from the time of first appearance through to court disposition.
12. Public satisfaction with the police, courts, correctional system, parole and the law.
13. Number of sentences involving restitution and compensation for victims and restraining orders for offenders.

*Environmental factors* are measures of the social conditions that have been identified by criminologists and other social and legal experts as influencing crime and victimization. They offer useful contextual information within which to analyze workload and performance indicators and to assess the connections to crime rates at the community or national level. Environmental factors range from conventional measures like poverty, unemployment and literacy to less conventional measures like housing cost and type, the extent of flexible work arrangements, behavioural problems of children at school, pre-natal care, and the availability of shelters for battered women.

### **III. Prime Environmental Factors**

1. The overall unemployment rate and the unemployment rate for young males.
2. The number of individuals, families and children with incomes below the low-income cut-off.
3. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
4. Rates of premature school leaving.
5. The divorce rate and the number of families headed by lone parents.
6. Rates of children born to single teenagers.
7. Number of out-of-home placements, and number of children in contact with child welfare authorities for abuse and neglect.
8. Rates of alcohol and drug abuse in the population.
9. Number of children with emotional and behavioural disorders.
10. Rates of population growth in major urban centres and population density.

This publication is designed to respond to the need identified by the JIC for a visual overview of the state of the criminal justice system, while also incorporating data on new and various focus issues.

This publication consists of two parts. The first section graphically presents prime criminal justice indicators at the Canada and Provincial/Territorial levels. The second part contains graphical highlights of various focus issues, which summarize recent Juristats, and other publications released by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

## The Criminal Justice Indicators Database

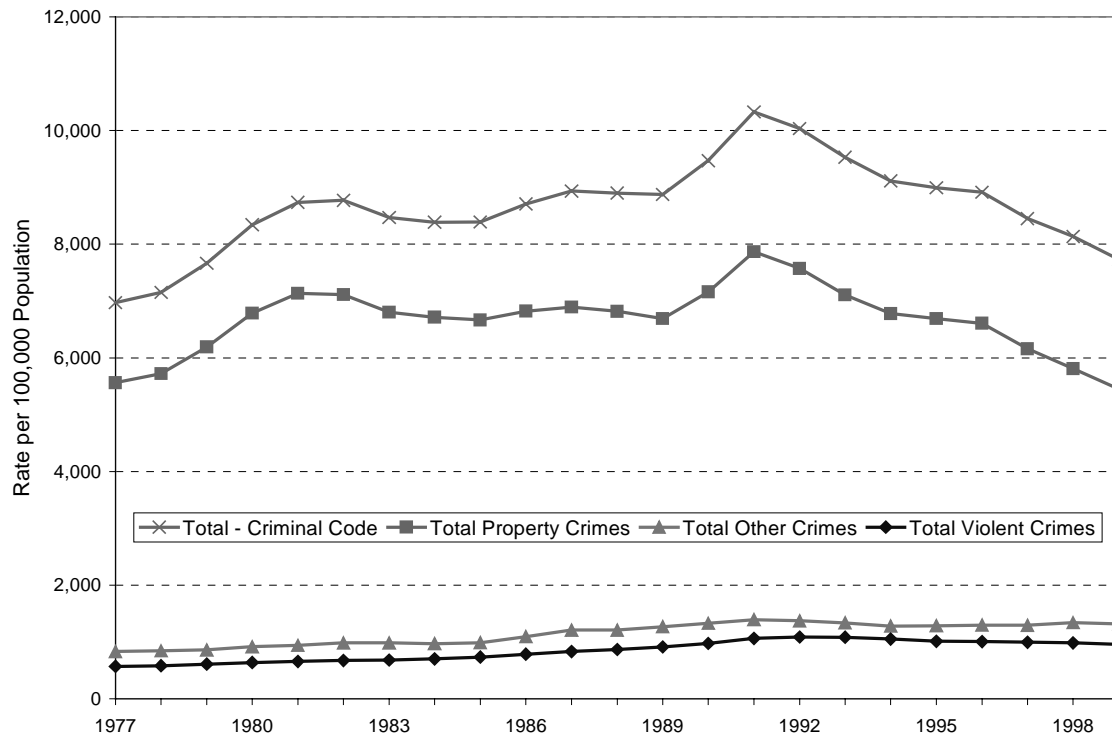
To support the development and the analysis of the Prime Criminal Justice Indicators, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics has developed a *Criminal Justice Indicators Database* with the objective of providing quick and easy access to justice and social data. This *Database* consists of some 50 electronic data tables containing a variety of justice data with relevant administrative, social, demographic and economic information.

Data reflecting workload, volume and performance indicators used in the database are drawn from CCJS surveys. The electronic data tables were created to reflect national, provincial, territorial and Census Metropolitan Area distributions as well as trends over time. Data for the environmental indicators were obtained from other sources at Statistics Canada, such as the Census and Labour Force Survey. Indicators that are currently unavailable are the subjects of ongoing discussions to improve availability.



# **Police-Reported Crime Statistics**

## Crime Rate, Canada, 1977 to 1999<sup>1</sup>



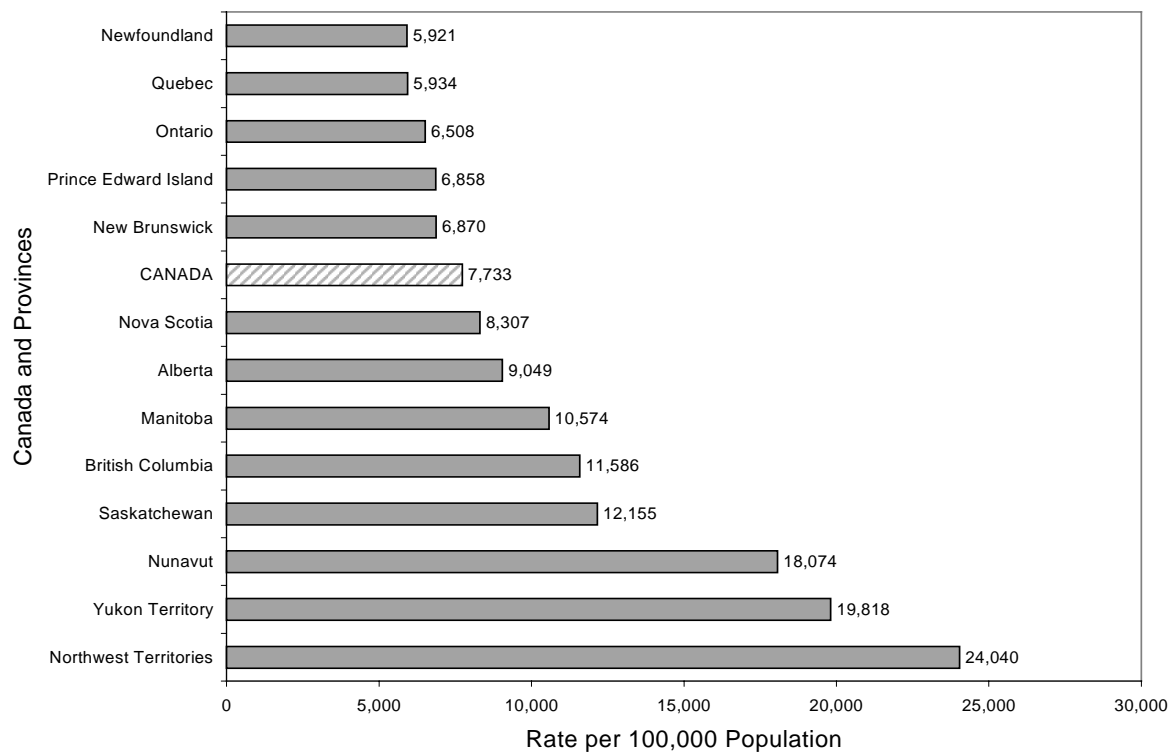
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- In 1999, the police-reported crime rate for Criminal Code offences decreased by 5%, compared to 1998.
- The 1999 violent crime rate declined by 2.3%, the seventh straight annual decrease, following 15 years of increase.
- The 1999 property crime rate fell 6.2% from the previous year, continuing the general downward trend since 1991.
- The rate of "other" Criminal Code incidents (e.g., mischief, prostitution, gaming and betting, arson, kidnapping etc.) decreased in 1999 by 1.6%, compared to 1998.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Crime Rate: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999<sup>1</sup>



Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

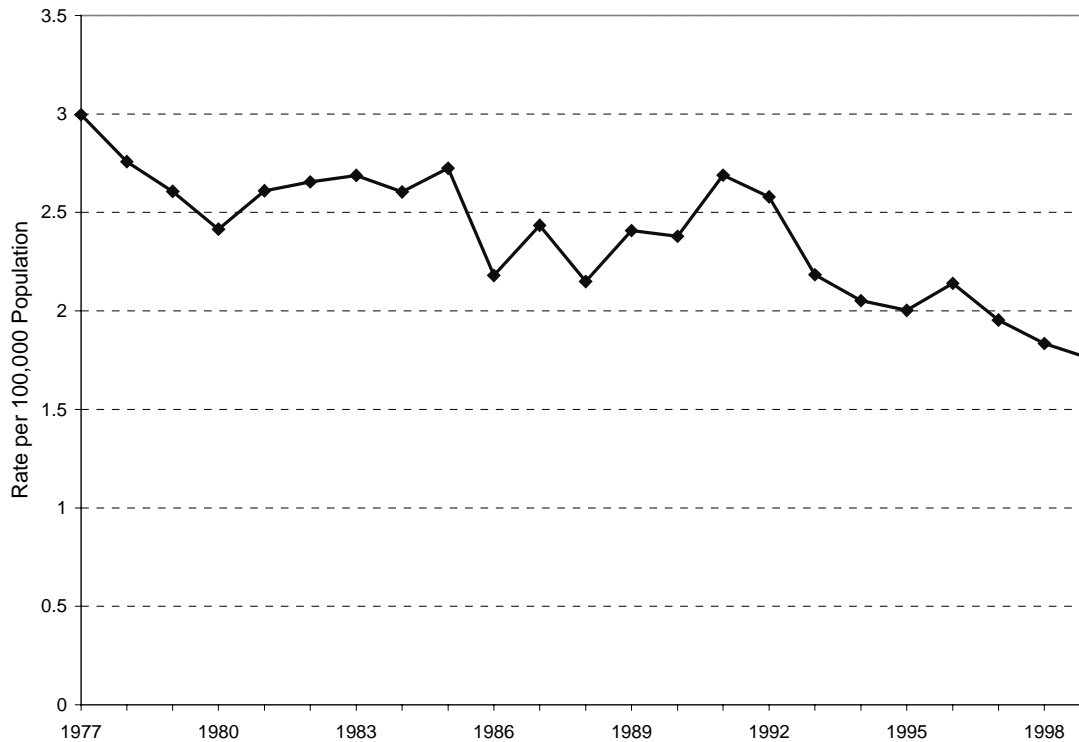
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- In 1999, provincial and territorial crime rates ranged from a low of 5,921 Criminal Code incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland to a rate of 24,040 in the Northwest Territories.
- Nova Scotia's crime rate is higher than its neighbouring provinces and Alberta's is lower, with both these provinces having crime rates similar to the national rate.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators



### Homicide Rate, Canada, 1977-1999<sup>1</sup>



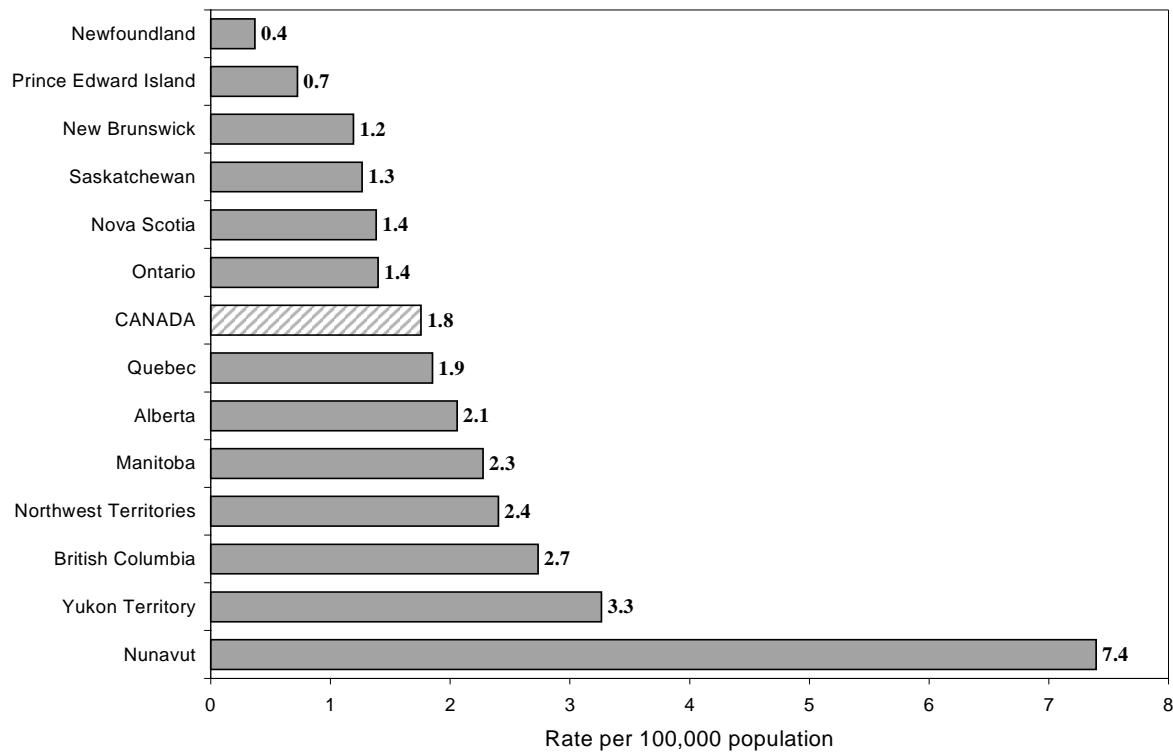
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 9, *Homicide in Canada, 1999*

- In 1999, there were 536 homicide offences reported in Canada, a decrease of 22 homicides (-3.9%) from 1998. The homicide rate is at the lowest point since 1977.
- Homicide includes first and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide.
- The number of homicides has generally been declining since 1991, when 754 homicide incidents were recorded.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Homicide Rate: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999<sup>1</sup>



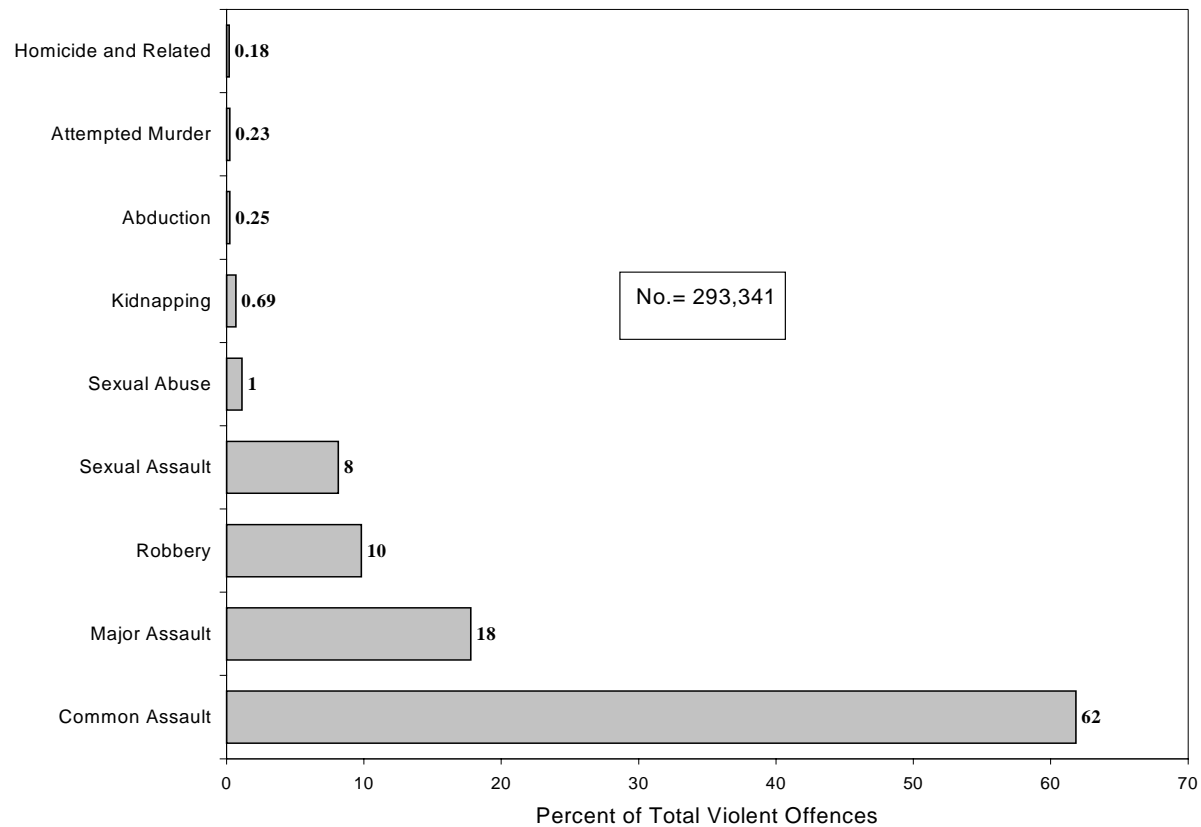
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 9, *Homicide in Canada, 1999*

- In 1999, Nunavut recorded the highest provincial homicide rate per 100,000 population, followed by the Yukon Territory.
- Following the historical trend, 1999 provincial homicide rates were generally higher in the west than in the east.
- Newfoundland had the lowest provincial rate in 1999, with Prince Edward Island's being slightly higher.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Violent Crime Offence Categories, Canada, 1999<sup>1</sup>



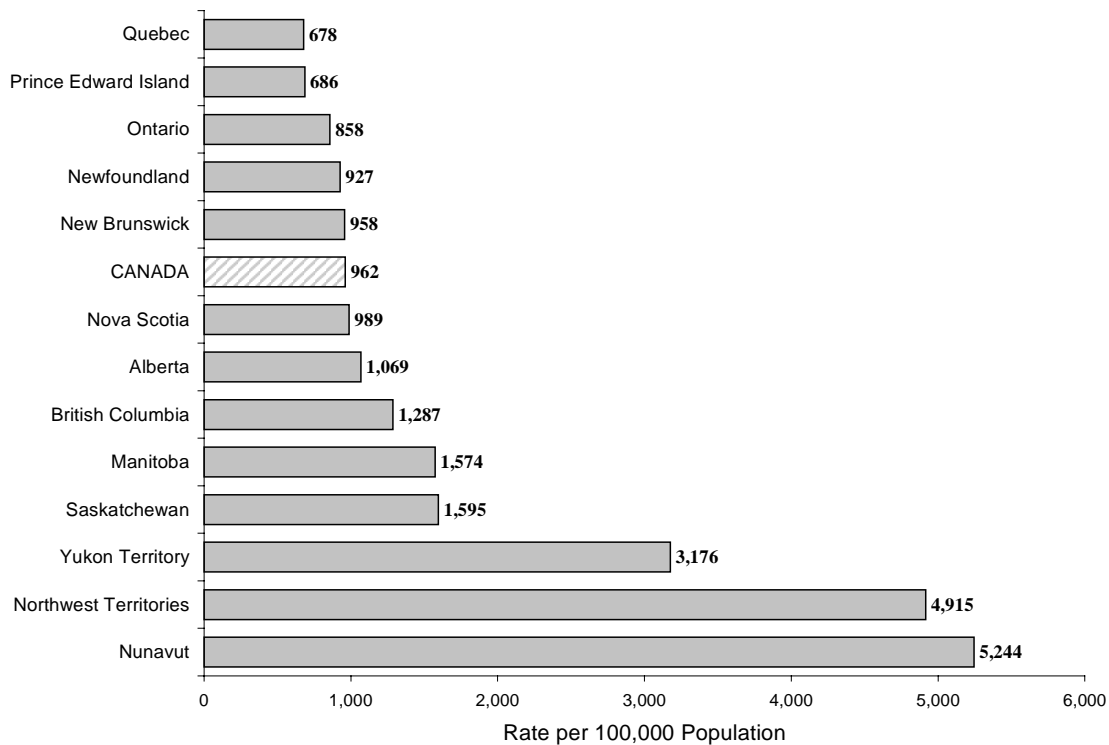
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- In 1983, Bill C-127 redefined the physical assault sections of the Criminal Code, establishing three levels of physical assault: level 1 (minor assault), level 2 (incidents involving a weapon or resulting in bodily harm), and level 3 (aggravated assault). In addition to redefining physical assault sections, this bill also created three similar levels of sexual assault.
- In 1999, 62 % of all violent offences were incidents of common or simple assault.
- There were 293,341 violent criminal incidents reported in 1999.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Violent Crime: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999<sup>1</sup>



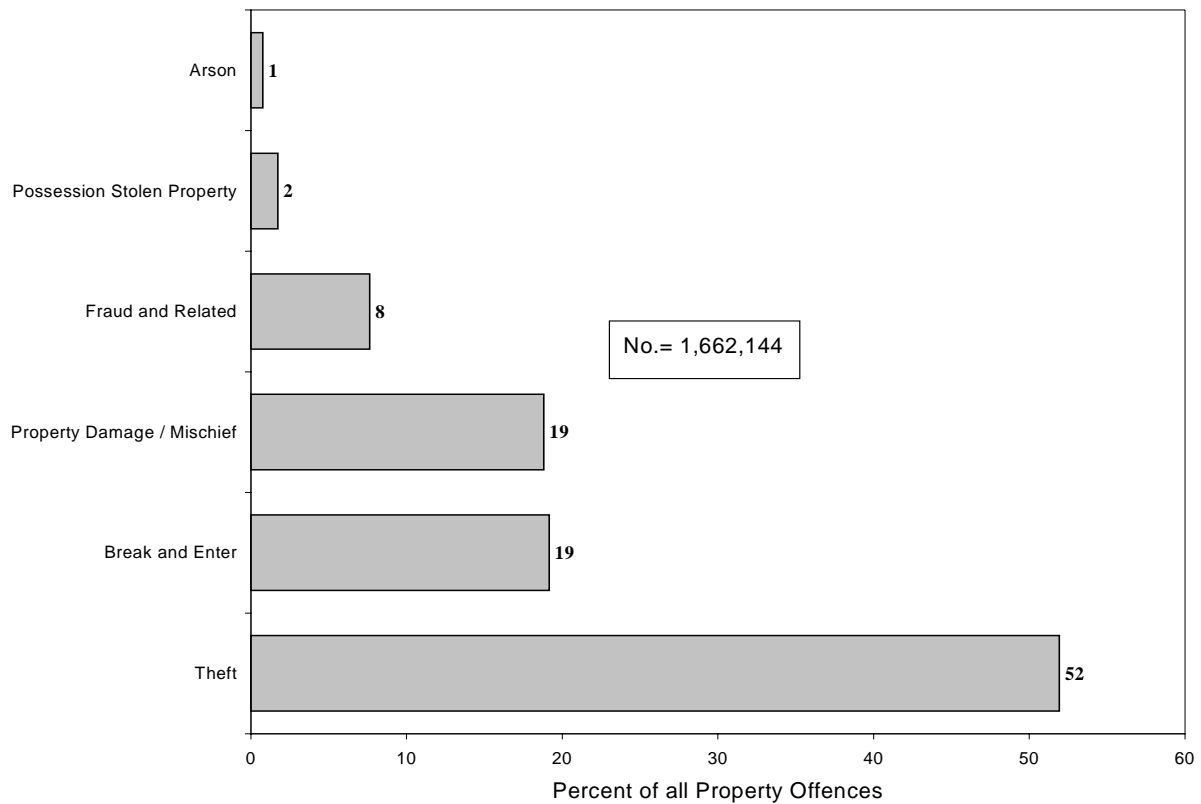
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- Among the provinces and territories, Nunavut (5,244) reported the highest violent crime rate per 100,000 population in 1999, while Quebec (678) reported the lowest rate.
- Violent crime rates were much higher in the west than in the rest of the country.
- Although the national violent crime rate decreased in 1999, there were variations among the provinces and territories, compared to 1998.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Property Offence Categories, Canada, 1999<sup>1</sup>



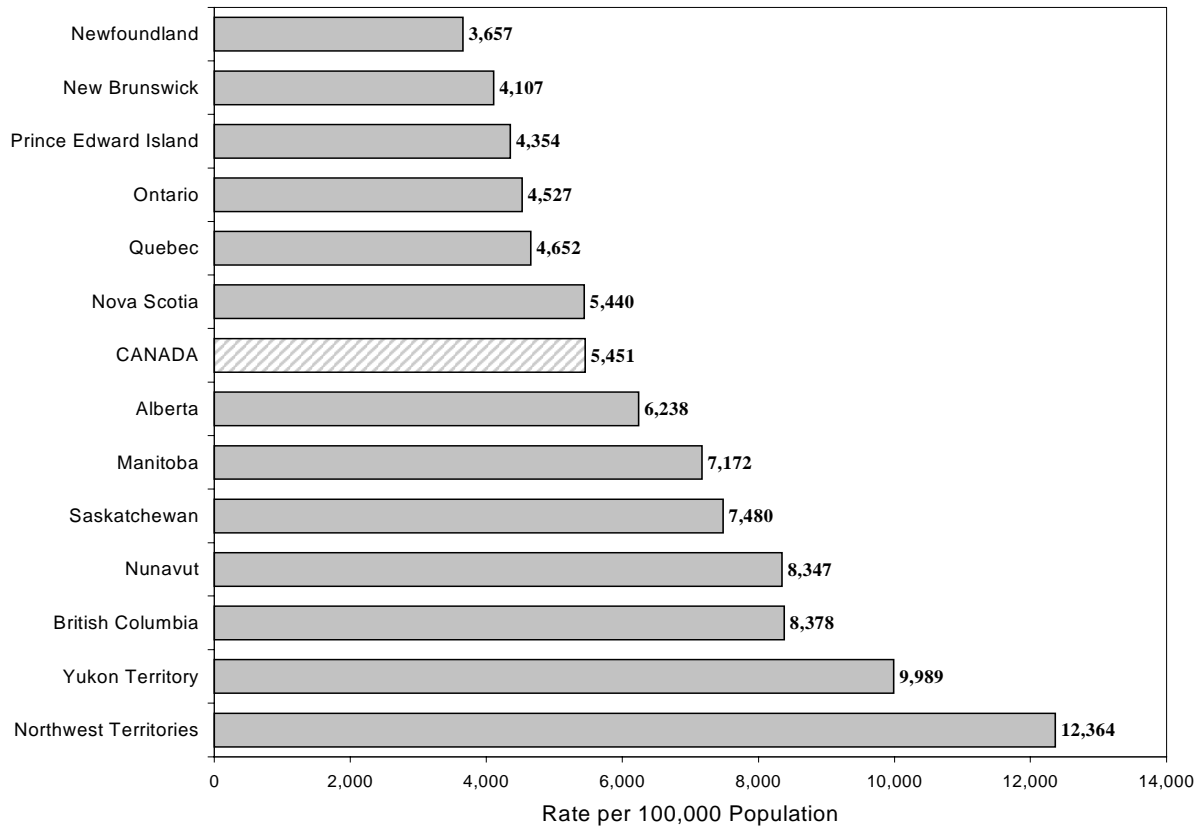
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- In 1999, just over half (52%) of all reported property crimes were incidents of theft, followed by break and enter, and property damage / mischief (both 19%). The remaining categories were fraud and related (8%), possession stolen property (2%), and arson (1%).
- There were 1,662,144 property offence incidents reported in 1999.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Property Crime: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999<sup>1</sup>



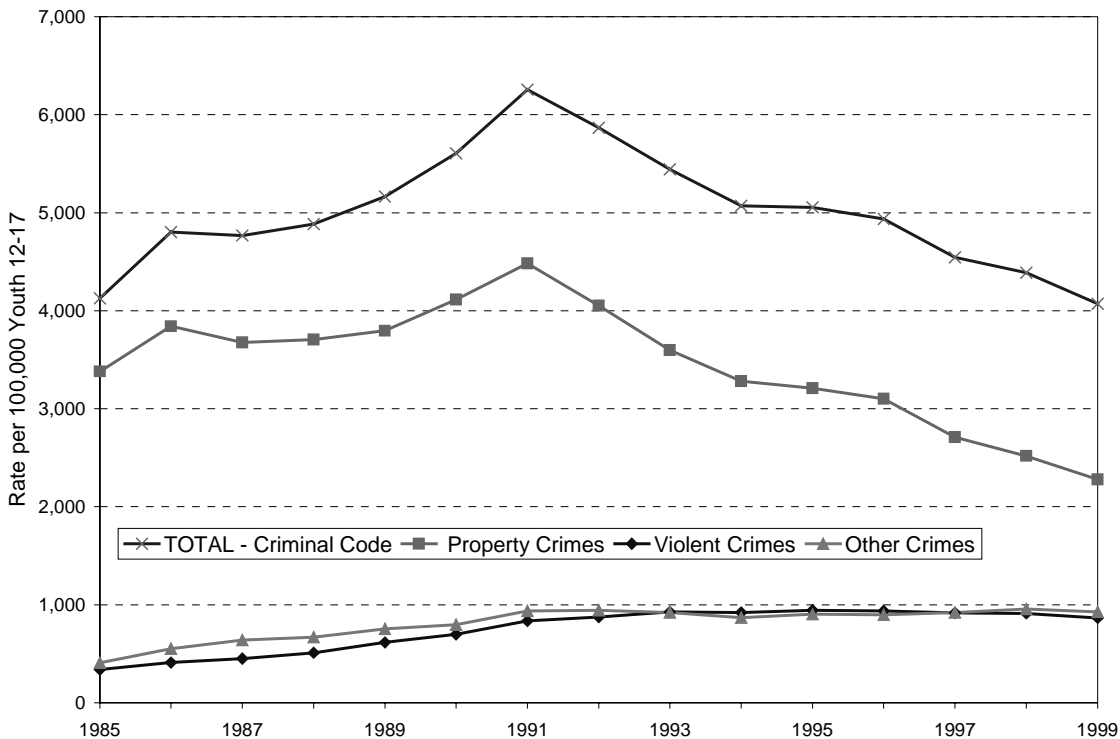
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- Among the provinces and territories, Northwest Territories (12,364) reported the highest property crime rate per 100,000 population in 1999, while Newfoundland (3,657) reported the lowest rate. Western provinces had higher incidents of property offences than did the eastern provinces.
- British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were the only provinces to show a higher rate than the national rate (5,451) in 1999.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Youth Charged by Major Crime Categories, Canada, 1985-1999<sup>1</sup>



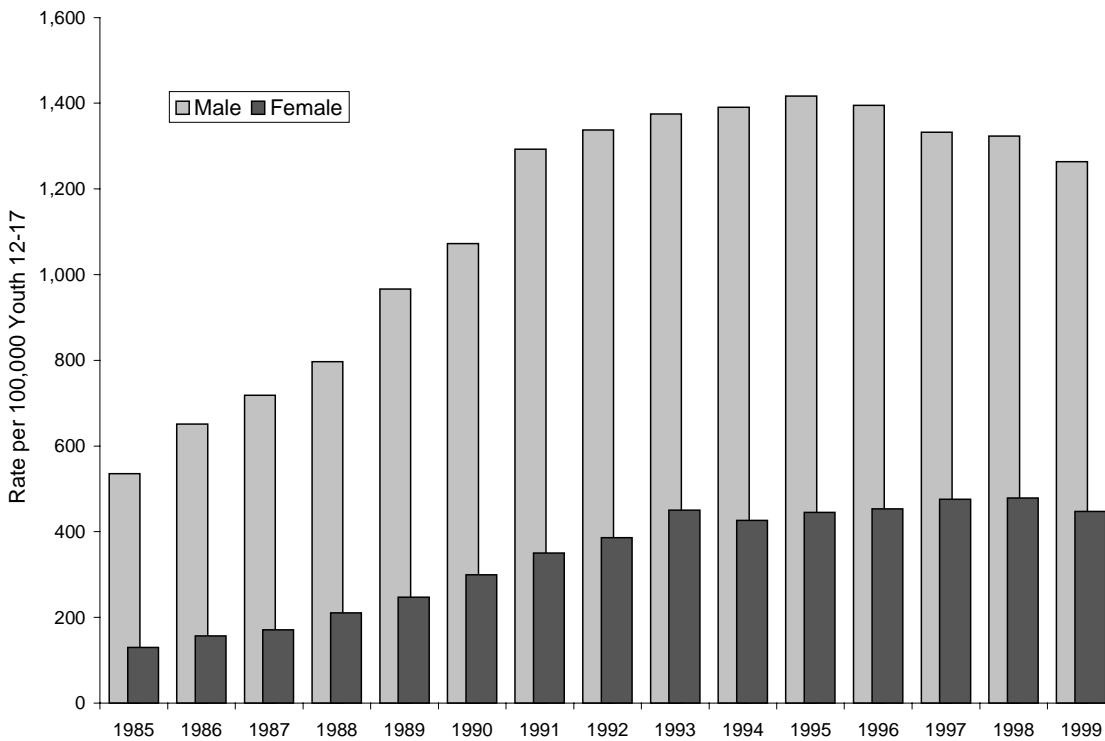
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- The uniform age provisions of the Young Offenders Act were enacted on April 1, 1984, therefore, 1985 marks the first full year with these provisions in place.
- The overall rate of youths charged with criminal code offences grew steadily between 1985 to 1991, and decreased steadily since 1991.
- The total rate was driven by property offences.
- In 1999, the rate of youths charged with property offences declined 11%, violent crime dropped 5% and other criminal code offences dropped 3%, compared to 1998.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators



## Youth Charged with Violent Offences by Sex, Canada, 1985-1999<sup>1</sup>

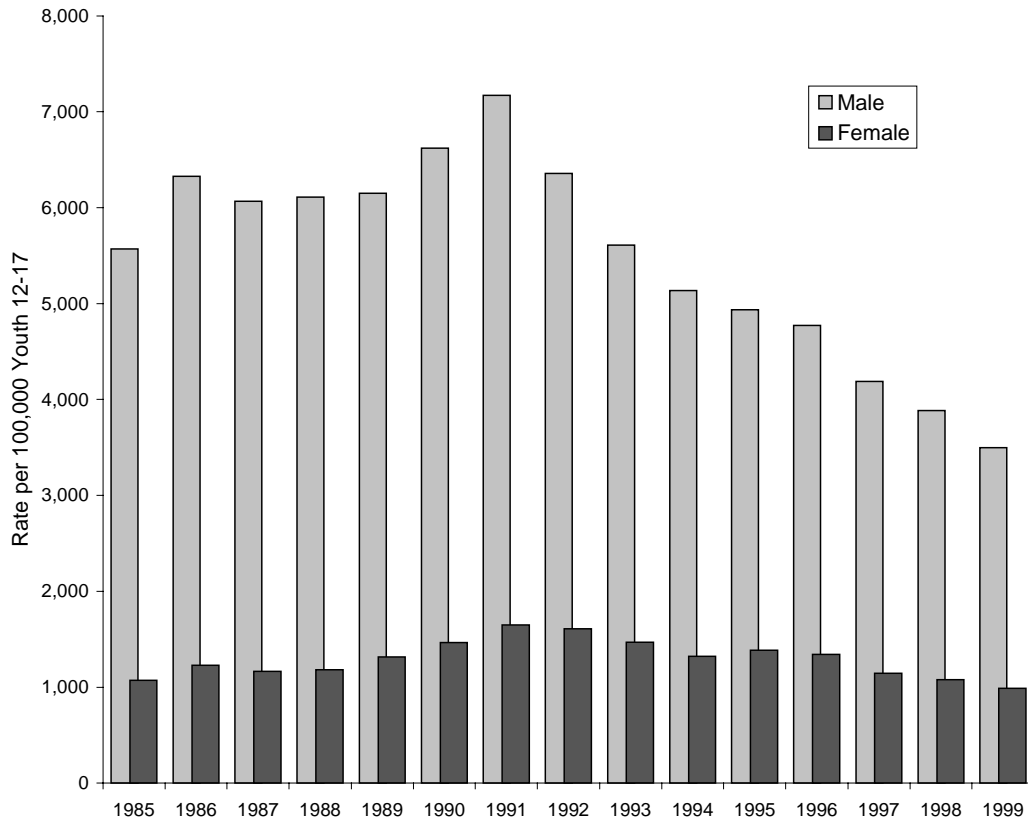


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- The violent crime rate for male youth began to decrease in 1996, with this trend continuing to 1999.
- In 1999, the violent crime rate dropped for both male youths (-5%) and for female youths (-6%), compared to 1998.
- In 1999, three quarters of violent offences were committed by males.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Youth Charged with Property Offences by Sex, Canada, 1985-1999<sup>1</sup>

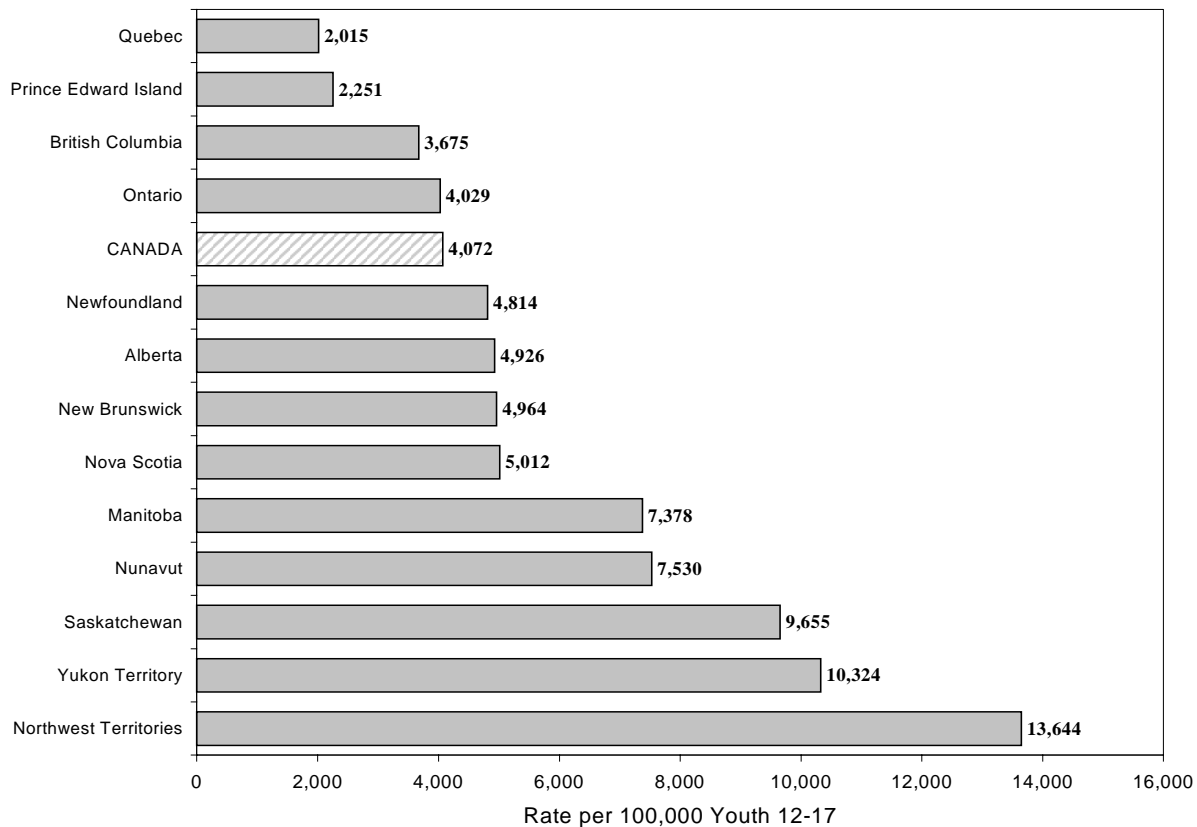


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- For both males and females the rate of involvement with property crime has decreased consistently since 1992.
- Between 1991 and 1998, the property crime rate decreased by 56% for males, and by 35% for females.
- In 1999, property crime rates for both male and female youths were at their lowest level in fifteen years.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Youth Charged by Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999<sup>1</sup>

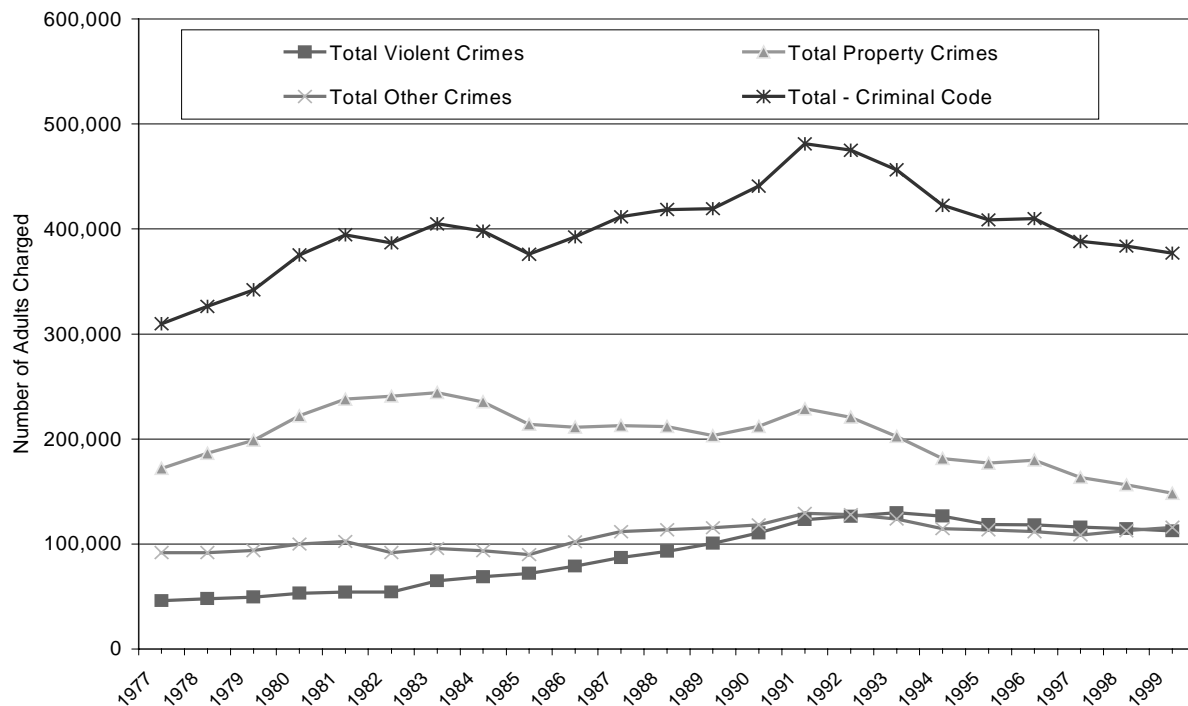


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- In 1999, youth crime rate varied among the jurisdictions, from 2,015 in Quebec to 13,644 in the Northwest Territories.
- Among the provinces, Saskatchewan recorded the highest youth crime rate (9,655), followed by Manitoba (7,378).
- British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces having youth crime rates lower than the national rate (4,072).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Adults Charged by Major Crime Categories, Canada, 1977-1999<sup>1</sup>



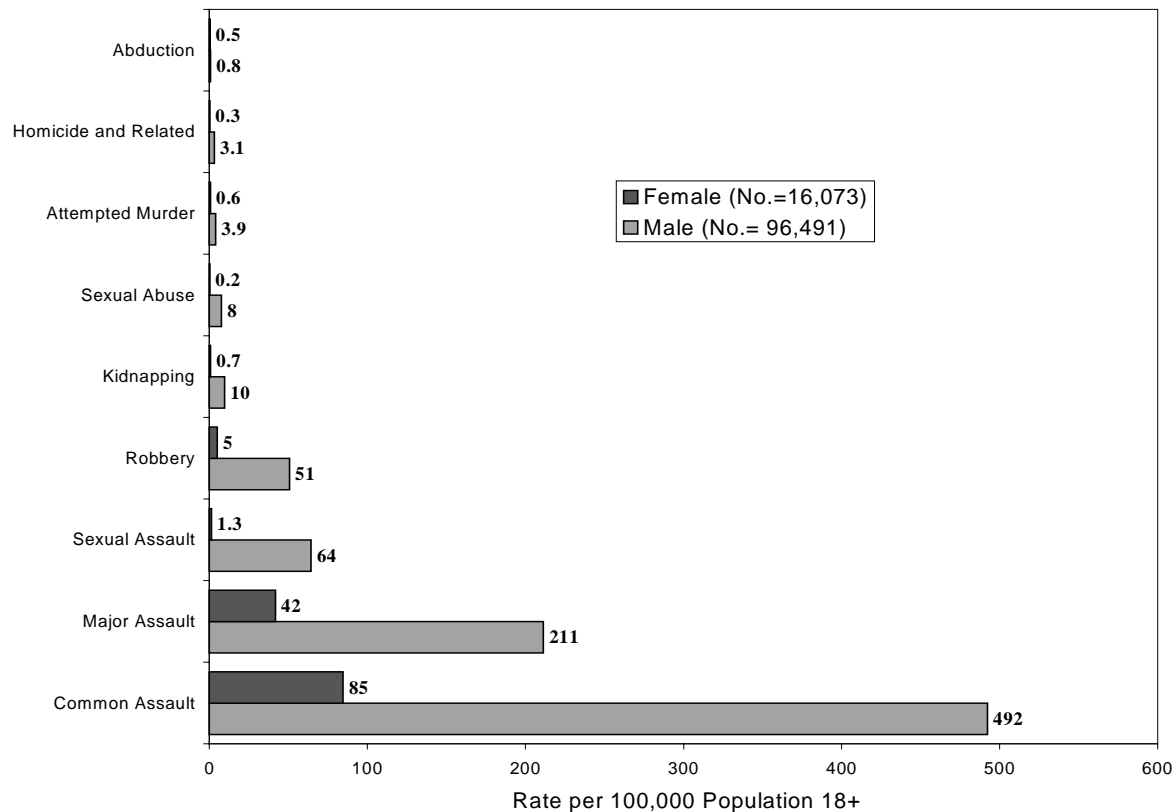
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- The overall number of adults charged with criminal code offences grew steadily between 1985 to 1991, and decreased steadily since 1991.
- In 1998-99, the number of adults charged with property offences declined 5%, violent crime dropped 2% and total other crimes increased by 3%, compared to 1998.
- The number of total criminal code offences was driven by property offences.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Adults Charged with Violent Offences by Sex, Canada, 1999<sup>1</sup>

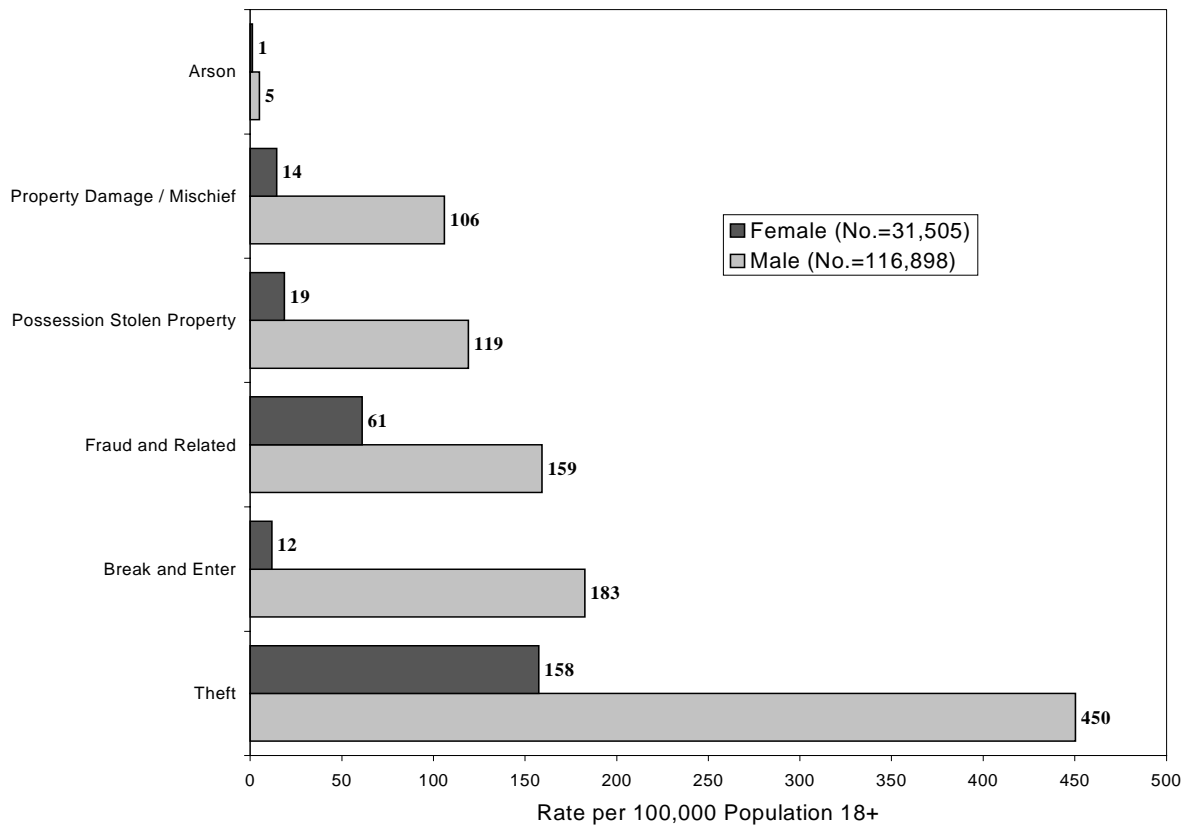


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- For all violent offences the rate for males was higher than the rate for females.
- In 1999, there were 96,491 adult males and 16,073 adult females charged with violent offences.
- Among adults charged with violent offences, common assault was the most frequent offence, followed by major assault.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Adults Charged with Property Offences by Sex, Canada, 1999<sup>1</sup>

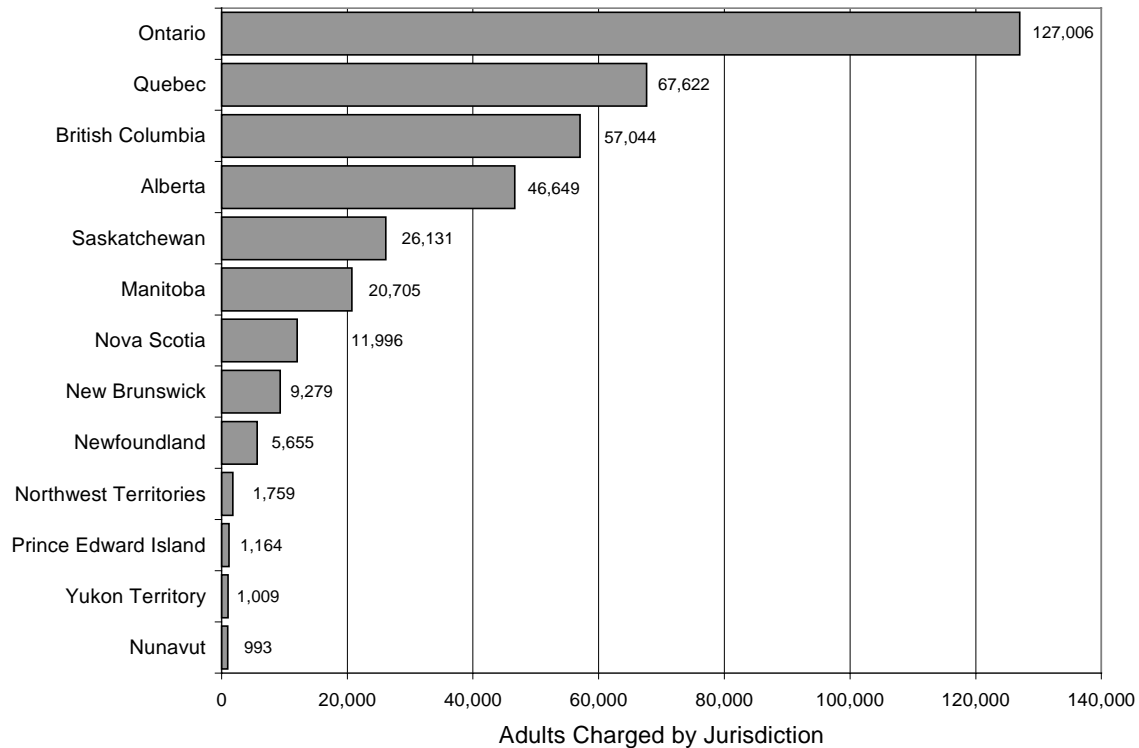


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- For all property offences the rate for males was higher than the rate for females.
- In 1999, there were 116,898 adult males and 31,505 adult females charged with property offences.
- Among adults charged with property offences, theft was the most frequent offence, followed by break and enter.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Number of Adults Charged by Jurisdiction, Canada, 1999<sup>1</sup>



Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

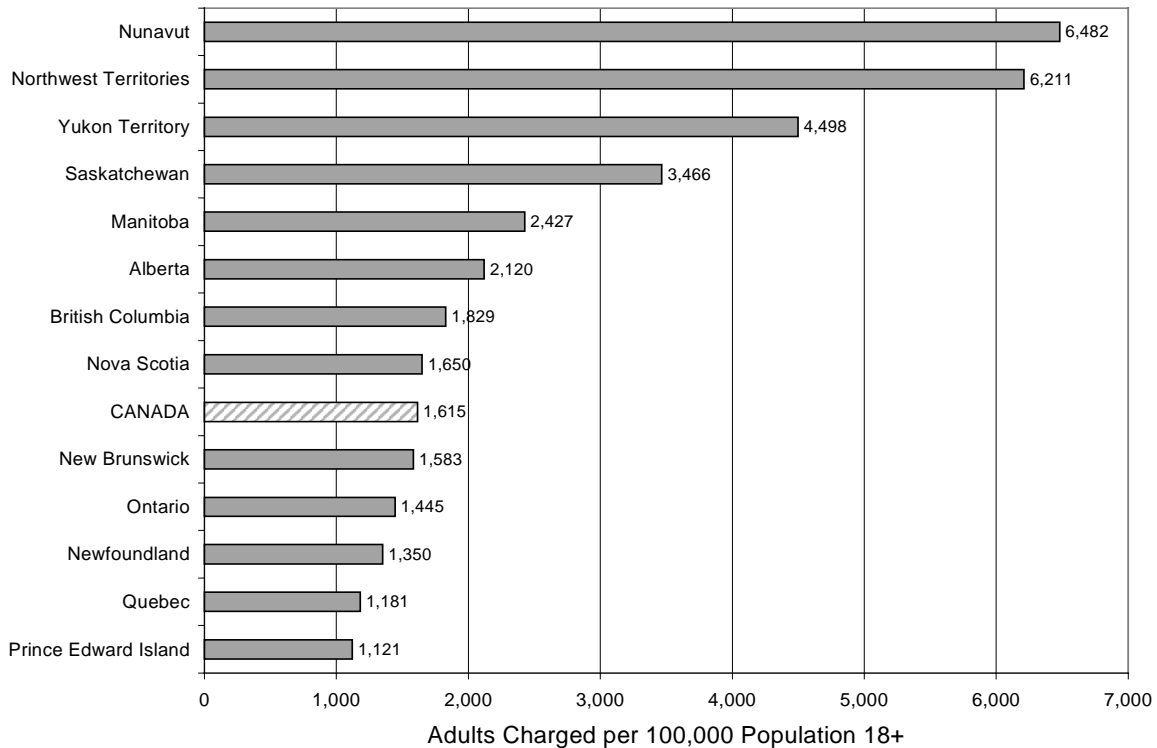
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- In 1998-99, the number of adults charged varied among jurisdictions, from 993 in Nunavut to 127,006 in Ontario.
- After Ontario, Quebec had the next highest number of adults charged (67,622), followed by British Columbia (57,044).
- Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island had the lowest number of adults charged (1,164).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators



## Rate of Adults Charged by Provinces and Territories, Canada, 1999<sup>1</sup>

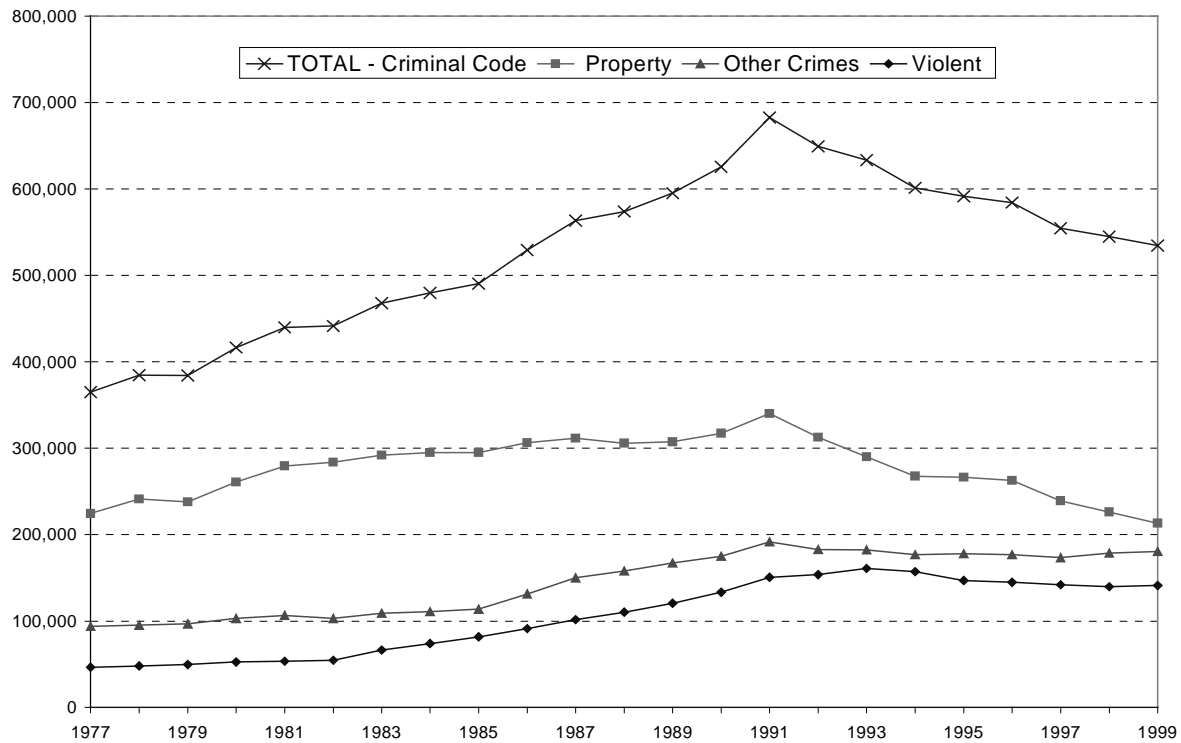


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- In 1998-99, the adult crime rate varied among the jurisdictions, from 1,121 in Prince Edward Island to 6,482 in Nunavut.
- Among the provinces, Saskatchewan recorded the highest adult crime rate (3,466), followed by Manitoba (2,427).
- Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland were the only provinces having adult crime rates lower than the national rate (1,615).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Offences Cleared by Laying a Charge, Canada, 1977-1999<sup>2</sup>



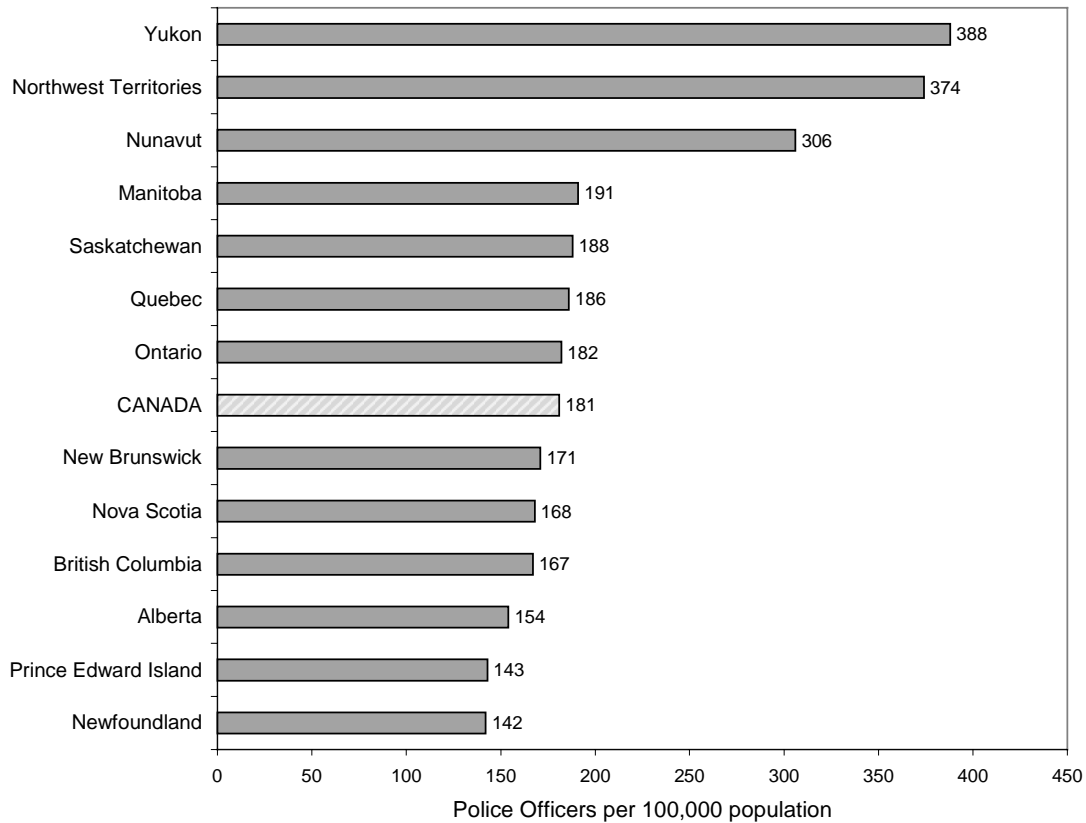
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. CrimePrv.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1999)

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002-XIE) Vol.20, No. 5, *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1999*

- The number of total criminal code offences cleared by laying a charge has decreased steadily since 1991, consistent with decreases in crime rates.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Police Administration Survey<sup>2</sup>



Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. PolAdmin.ivt (Common Offences Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1977-1998)

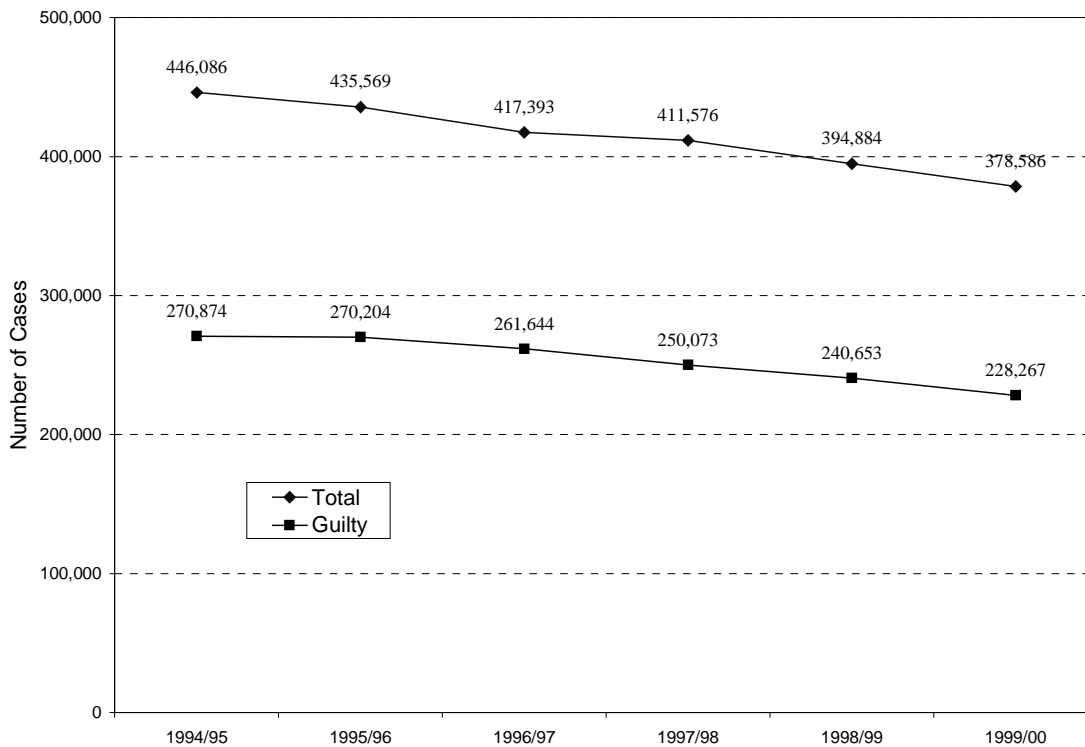
- Yukon (374) and the Northwest Territories (354) had the highest number of police officers per 100,000 population in 1998. Among the provinces, Manitoba (195) had the highest, while Newfoundland (143) and Prince Edward Island (149) had the lowest.
- The territories have always had higher per capita rates than the provinces due to their sparse populations over immense areas. Up until 1995, Quebec and Ontario have generally had the highest number of police officers per capita, among the provinces. Over the last few years, these provinces have experienced sharp declines while Saskatchewan and Manitoba have had minor increases.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators



# **Adult Provincial/Territorial Criminal Court Activity in Canada**

### Number of Cases Disposed of in Adult Provincial Courts, Canada, 1994/95 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

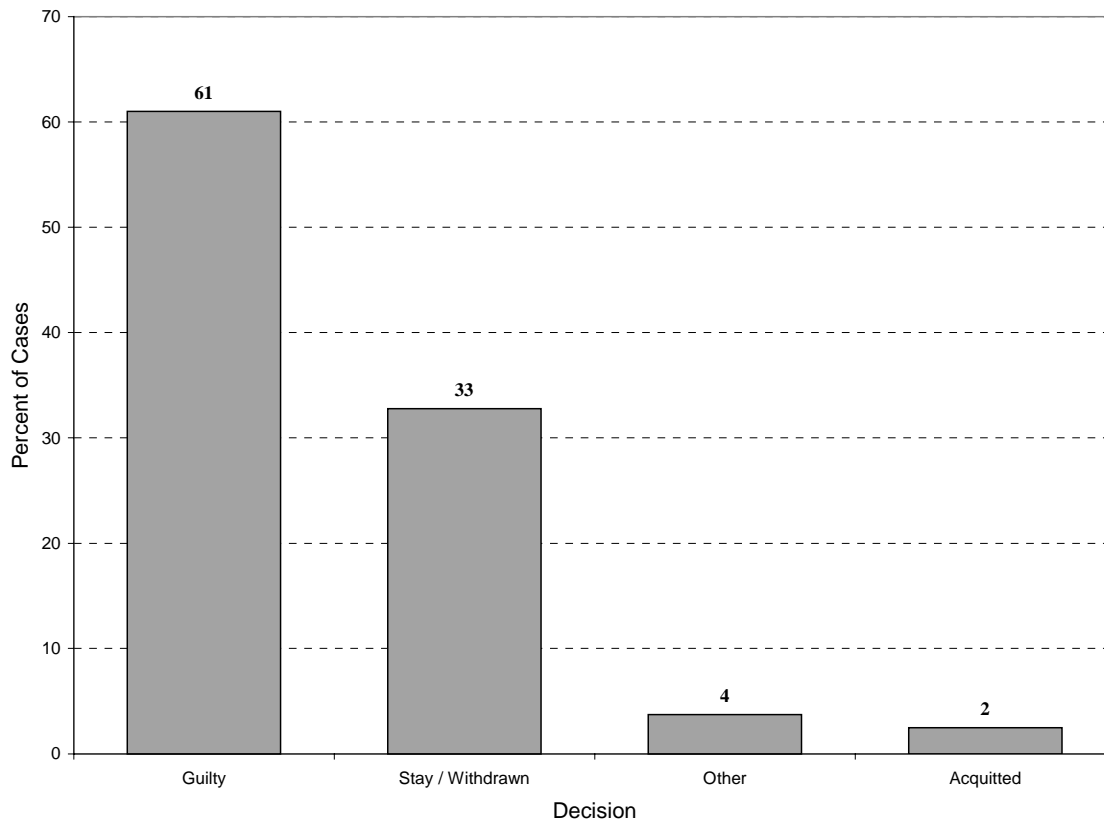


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmss.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999)  
Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In the fiscal year 1999/00, adult criminal courts in 9 provinces and territories (not including New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut) processed 378,586 cases, a 4% decrease from the previous year. Since 1994/95, total cases have declined by 15% in these jurisdictions.
- The proportion of cases with a finding of guilt has stayed constant over the reporting period.
- Over the period 1994 to 1999, there was a 12% decline in the number of charges laid by police in the same provinces and territories that report to the ACCS.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Adult Provincial Court Cases by Decision, Selected Jurisdictions, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



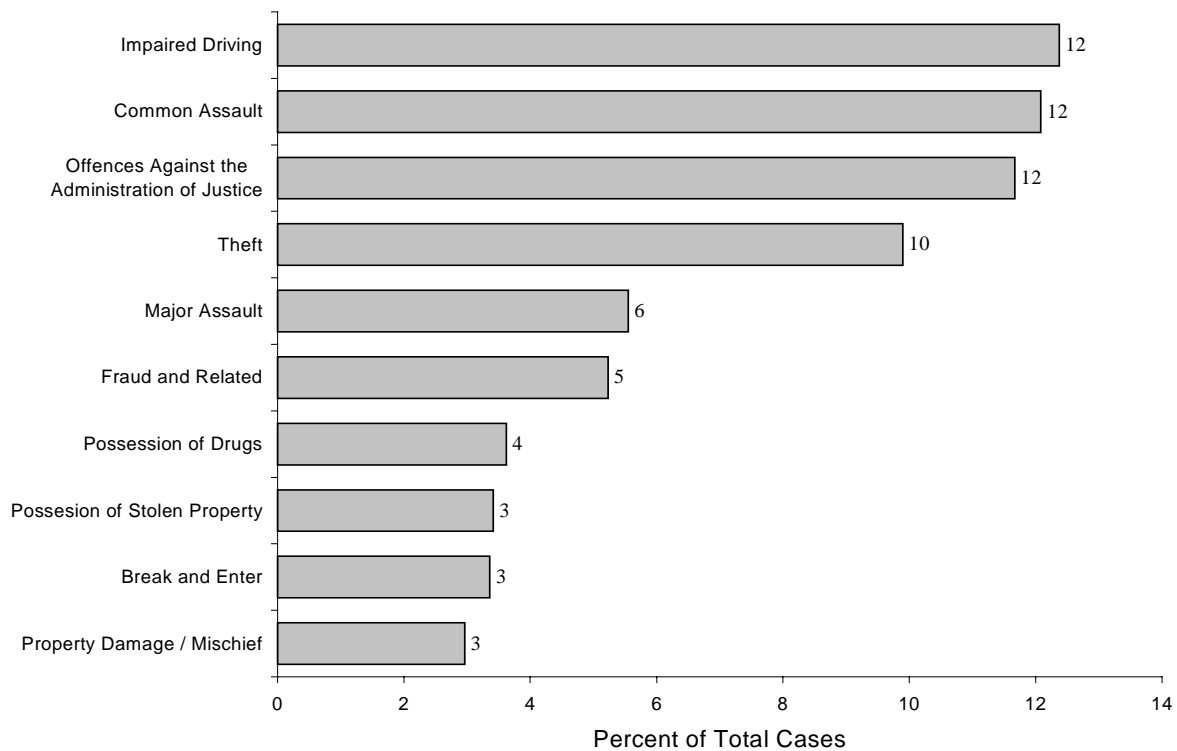
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSdisp.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Type of Court Decision and Conviction Rate, 1994/95 to 1999/00). Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, the conviction rate<sup>2</sup> in adult criminal courts was 61%, a rate that has remained relatively stable since 1994/95.
- The remaining cases in 1999/00 resulted in decisions of stayed or withdrawn (33%), other disposition (4%), and acquitted (2%).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

<sup>2</sup> The calculation of conviction rates excludes cases where the last available disposition is a change in court level (i.e., Committed for Trial in Superior Court, and Re-election to Provincial Court). Dispositions of this type indicate an incomplete criminal trial process, where the guilt or innocence of the accused has not been determined.

### Ten Most Frequent Offence Types Heard in Adult Provincial Court, Canada, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



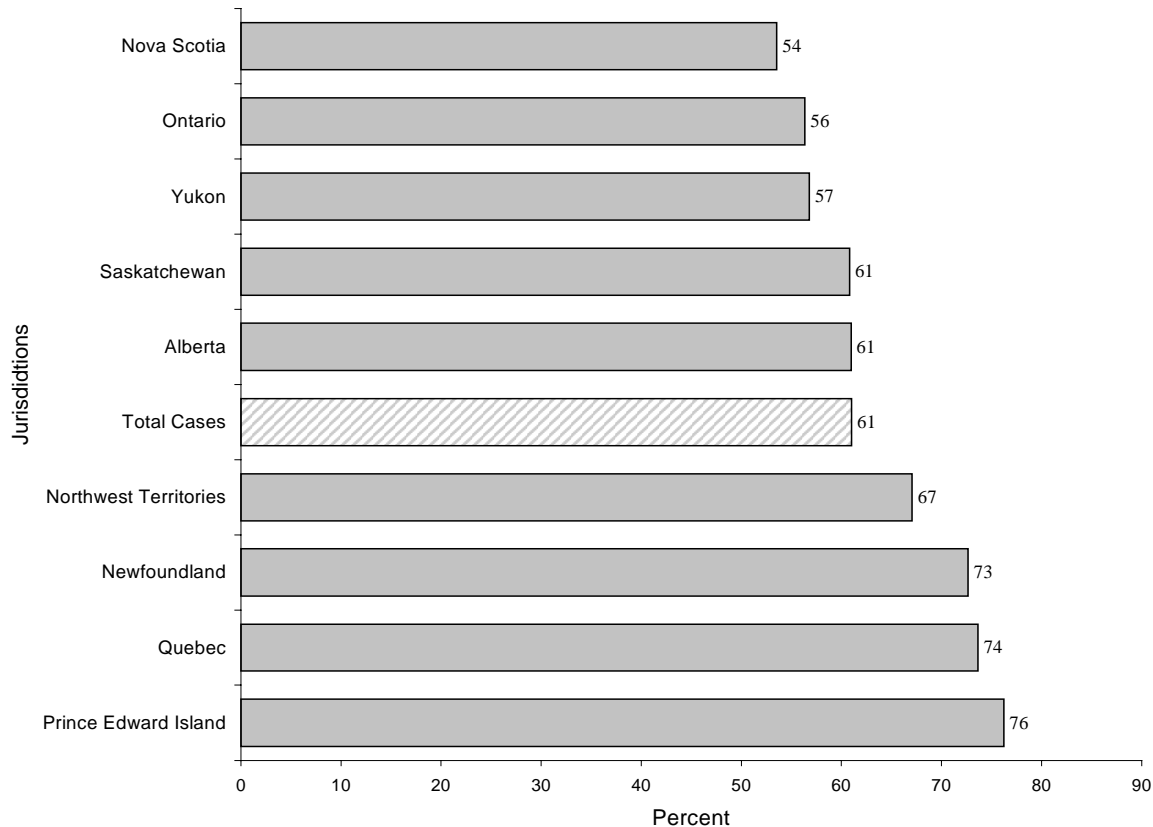
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmsi.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, the most frequently occurring offences were impaired driving and common assault (each accounting for 12% of cases).
- Administration of justice offences represented 11% of all cases, theft offences represented 10% of cases, while major assault comprised just under 6% of cases.
- Assault level 1 (common assault) was the most common violent offence representing 12% of all Federal Statute charges disposed of in provincial court. Theft was the most common property offence representing 10% of all Federal Statute charges.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators



### Percent of Cases Found Guilty by Jurisdiction, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



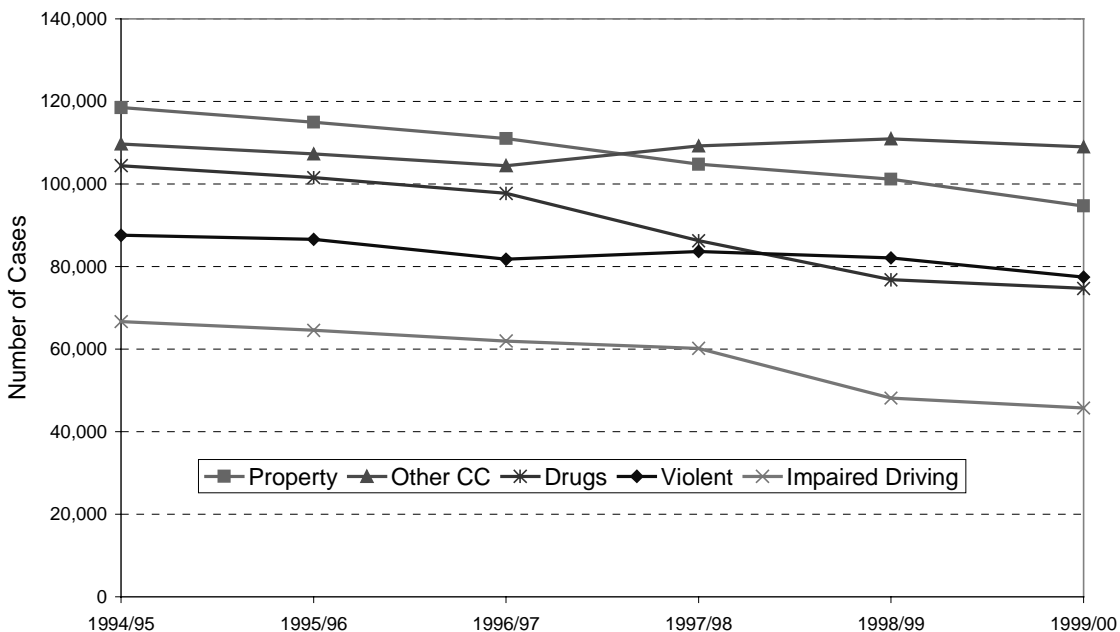
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSdisp (Adult Criminal Court - Type of Court Decision and Conviction Rate, 1994/95 to 1999/00). Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- A conviction<sup>2</sup> was recorded in 61% of the 378,586 cases heard in court.
- In 1999/00, the overall conviction rate was highest in Prince Edward Island (76%), Quebec (74%), and Newfoundland (73%), and significantly lower in Nova Scotia (54%), Ontario (56%) and the Yukon (57%).
- Ontario, Nova Scotia and the Yukon, were the only jurisdictions with conviction rates lower than the total rate (61%).

<sup>1</sup>Prime Workload and Volume Indicators.

<sup>2</sup>The calculation of conviction rates excludes cases where the last available disposition is a change in court level (i.e., Committed for Trial in Superior Court, and Re-election to Provincial Court). Dispositions of this type indicate an incomplete criminal trial process, where the guilt or innocence of the accused has not been determined.

### Cases Heard in Adult Provincial Court by Offence Type, Selected Jurisdictions, 1994/95 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

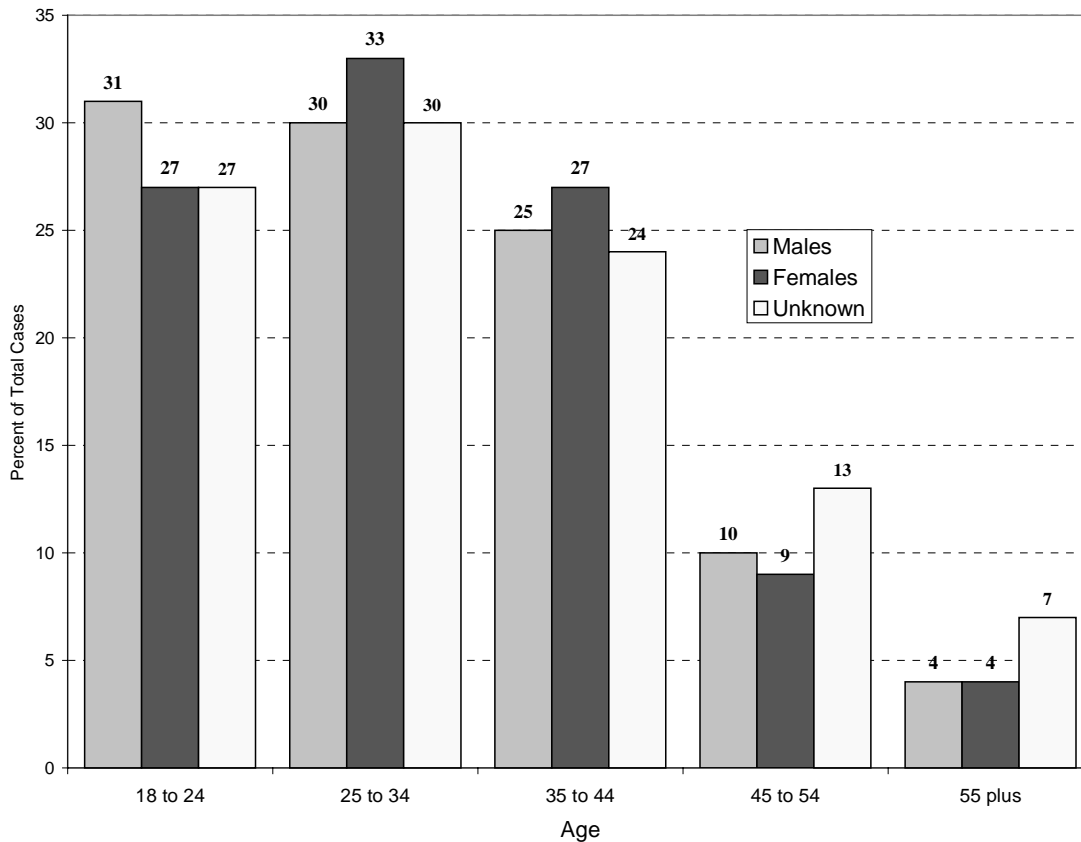


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmss.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999)  
Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, the number of cases involving property crimes (6%), drug offences (3%), violence (6%), and impaired driving (5%) has decreased.
- In 1999/00, the number of cases involving other Criminal Code offences has decreased slightly by 1.7%.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Cases Heard in Adult Provincial Criminal Courts by Age and Sex, Selected Jurisdictions, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

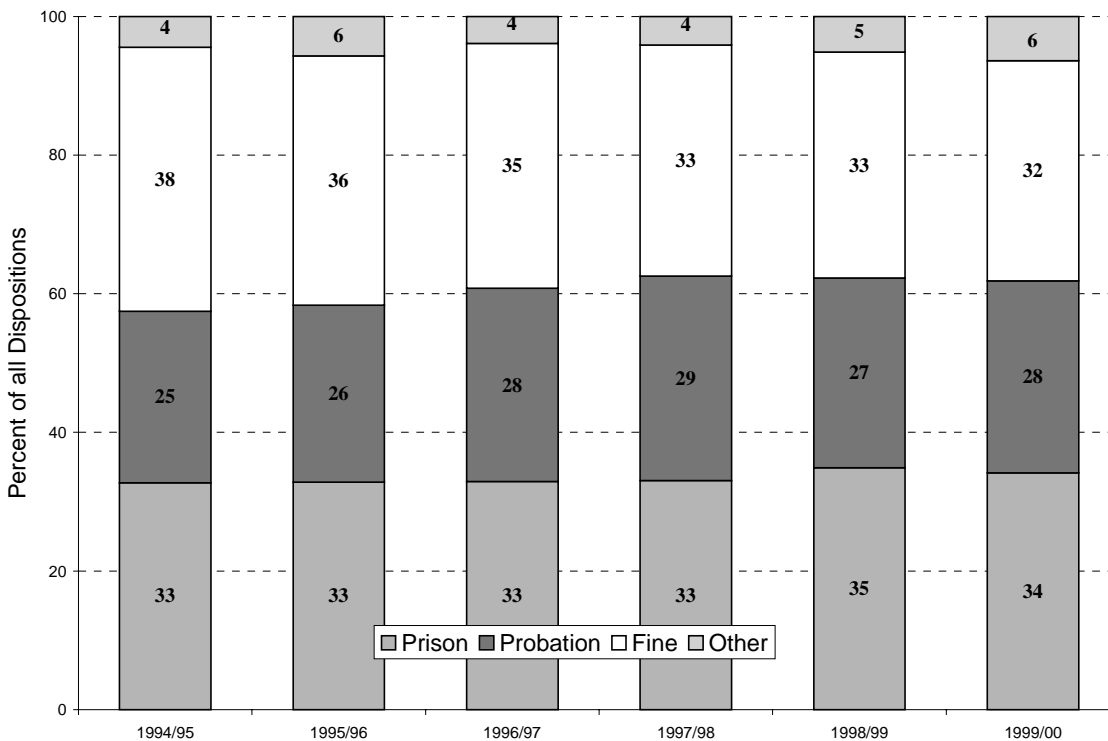


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmss.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- Younger adults were over represented in court when comparing the age distribution of the offender to the age distribution of the adult population. In 1999/00, 18 to 24 year olds comprised 12% of the adult population, but accounted for 30% of all cases in adult criminal court.
- Offenders under 45 years of age accounted for 86% of the total cases heard in adult criminal court and only 54% of the adult population.
- In contrast, persons over 55 represented 28% of the adult population, but accounted for less than 5% of adult criminal court cases.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Most Serious Sanction Imposed in Adult Provincial Courts, Selected Jurisdictions, 1994/95 to 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

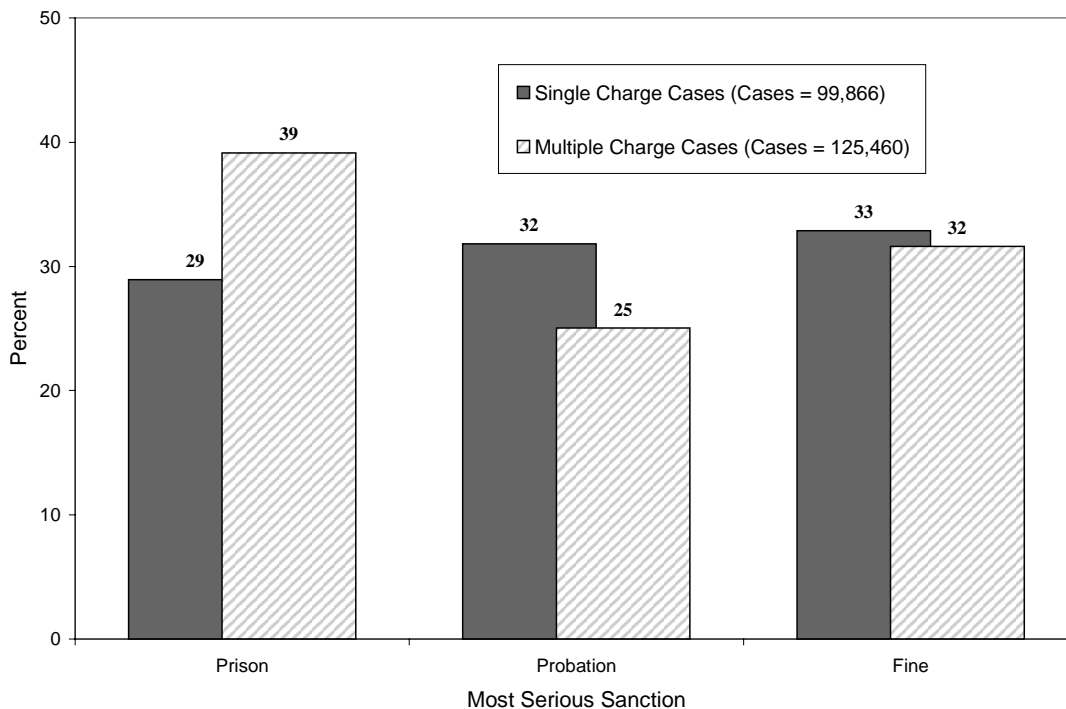


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmss.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999)  
Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- The Most Serious Sanction (MSS) received in Criminal Code cases is relatively evenly distributed between fine, prison, and probation. Restitution and other sentences are rarely the most serious sentence imposed.
- The use of the various sanctions has remained fairly consistent over time. The proportion of cases where prison was used as a sanction remained virtually unchanged, at 33% in 1994/95 and 34% in 1999/00.
- In 1999/00, prison was the most serious sanction imposed in 34% of convicted cases, followed by probation (28%), fines (32%), and other dispositions (6%).

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Most Serious Sanction by Number of Charges, Cases Convicted in Adult Provincial Court, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

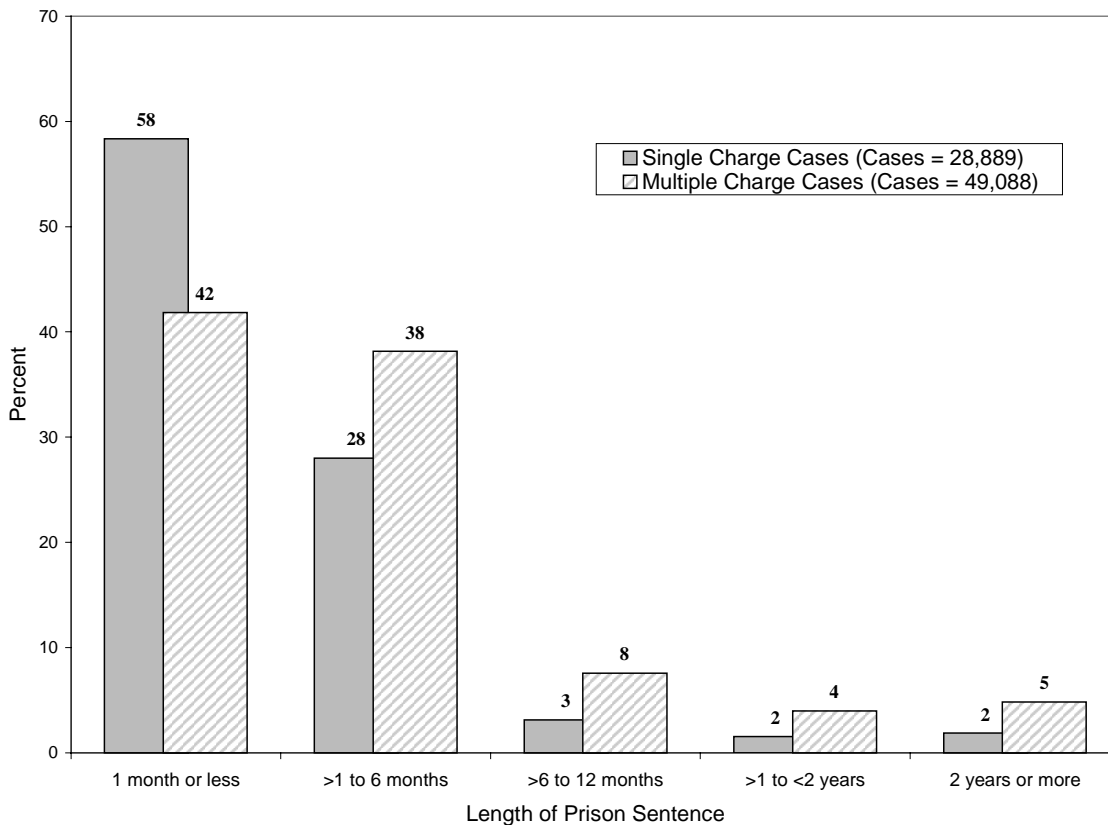


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmss.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- Offenders convicted of only one charge are less likely to get a prison sentence than offenders convicted of multiple charges.
- Cases with a single charge are more likely to receive a sentence of probation or fine than cases involving multiple charges.
- In 1999/00, 29% of convicted cases facing a single charge were sentenced to prison, with 39% of all cases involving multiple charges being sentenced to a term of custody.
- Of the remaining single charge cases, 32% received probation as the most serious sanction, with 33% imposing a fine. For multiple charge cases, 25% were sentenced to a term of probation, with 32% receiving a fine.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Cases Sentenced in Adult Provincial Court by Length of Prison Sentence, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

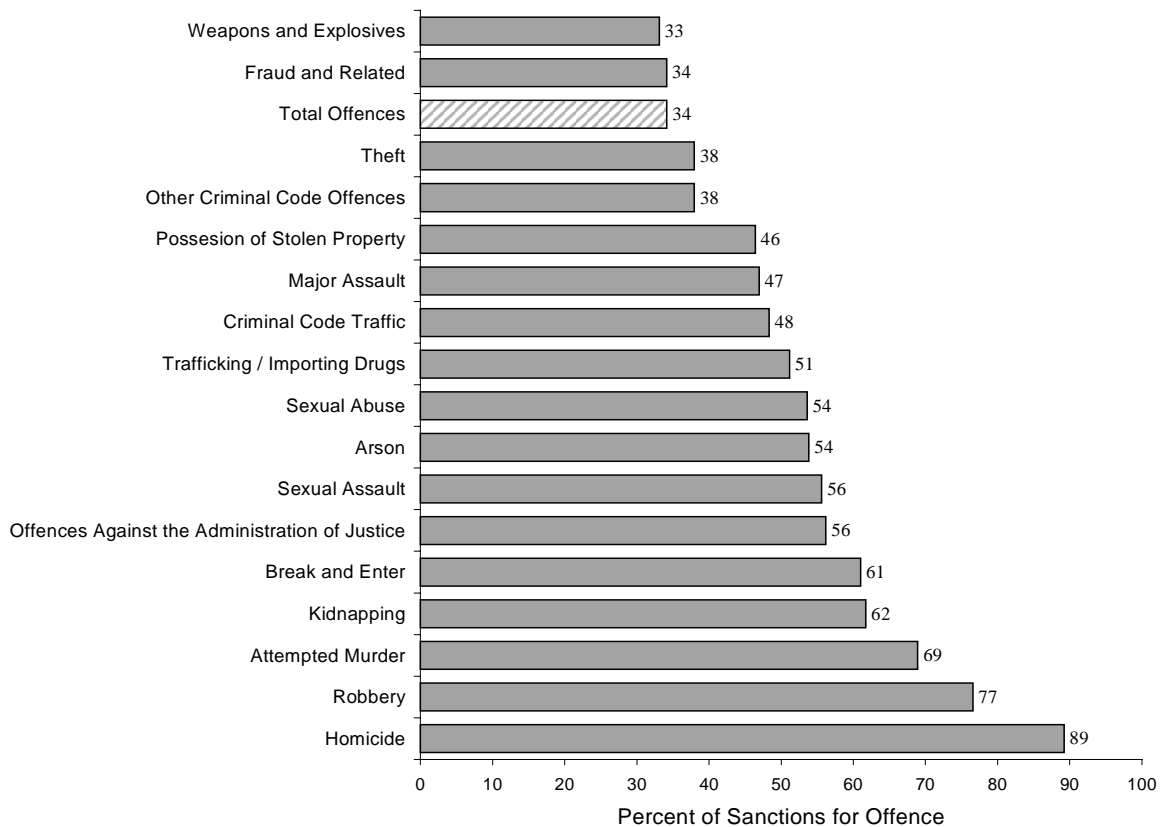


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSpris.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Length of Prison Sentence 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- Almost half (48%) of all custodial sentences imposed in 1999/00 were one month or less, while an additional 33-34% were for periods from one month to six months.
- The majority of offenders (58%) convicted of a single charge received a prison sentence of one month or less. The majority of offenders convicted of multiple charges received a prison sentence of over one month.
- The majority of all prison sentences were for less than six months (86% single charge; 80% multiple charge).
- Only some 4% of all prison sentences were for a term of two years or longer in 1999/00.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Offences for which a Prison Sentence was Often Imposed, Selected Jurisdictions, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

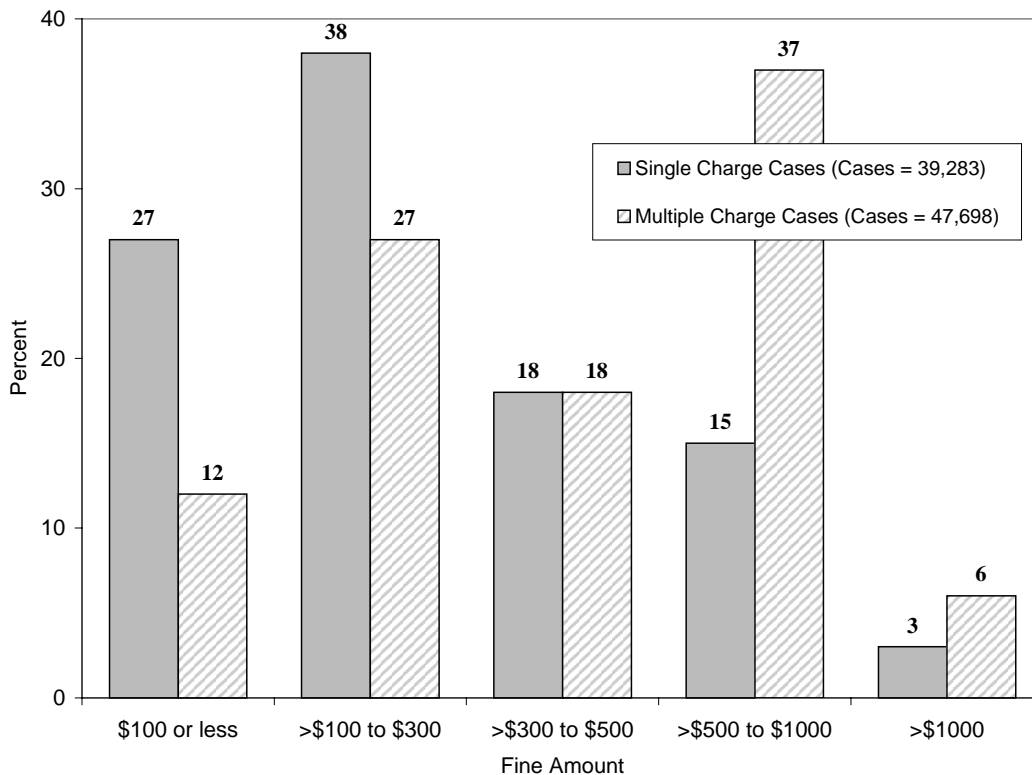


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSms.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, there were 10 offence categories for which at least 50% of the sanctions imposed were a prison sentence.
- Fully 89% of the offences related to homicide involve a prison sentence.
- Break and enter, and arson were the only property offences for which a prison sentence was the most common sanction.
- In 1999/00, the majority of cases (56%) involving administration of justice offences (e.g., failure to appear in court, and failure to comply with a probation order) were sentenced to prison.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Cases Sentenced in Adult Provincial Court by Fine Amount, Selected Jurisdictions, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>



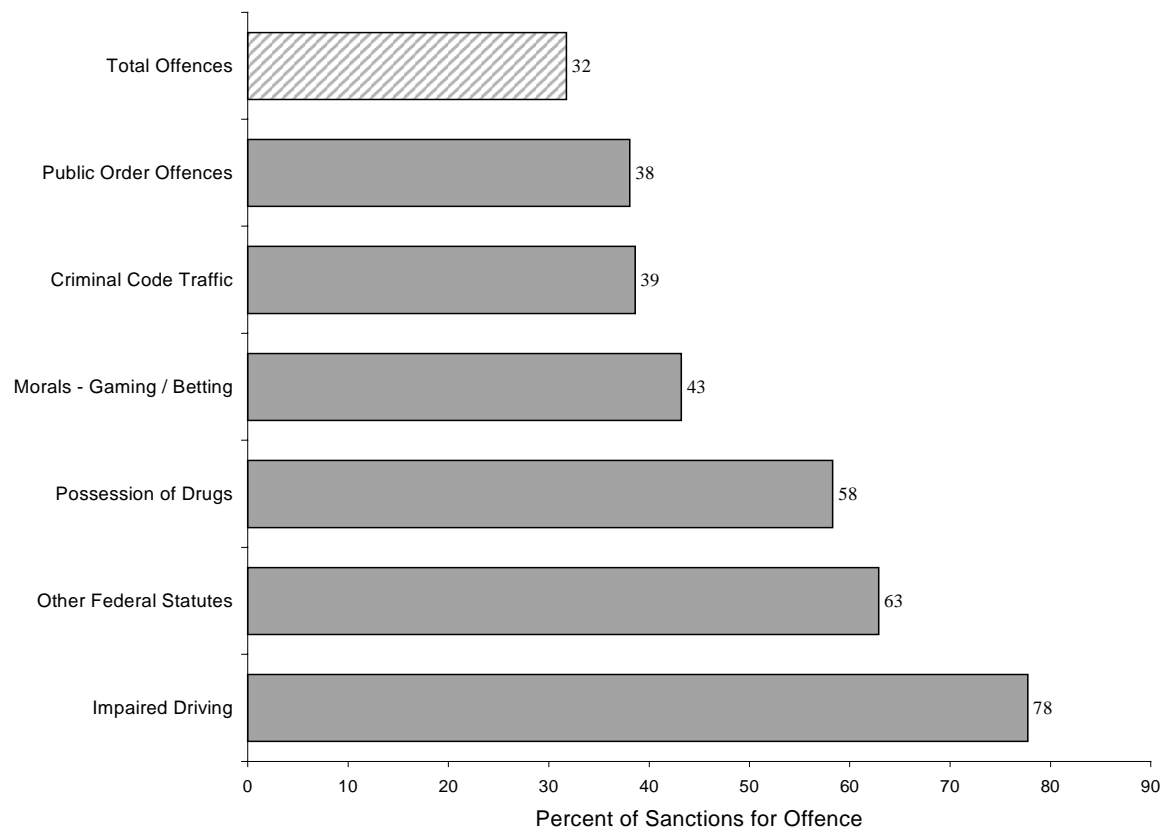
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSfine.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Amount of Fine 1994-1999)  
Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- Offenders convicted of one charge received smaller fines than did offenders convicted of two or more charges.
- The majority of single charge offenders (65%) received a fine of \$300 or less, whereas the majority of multiple offenders (61%) received a fine of over \$300.
- In 1999/00, 31% of all fines were for amounts over \$500, with only 5% of those cases receiving fines exceeding \$1000.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators



### Offences for which a Fine was Often Imposed, Selected Jurisdictions, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

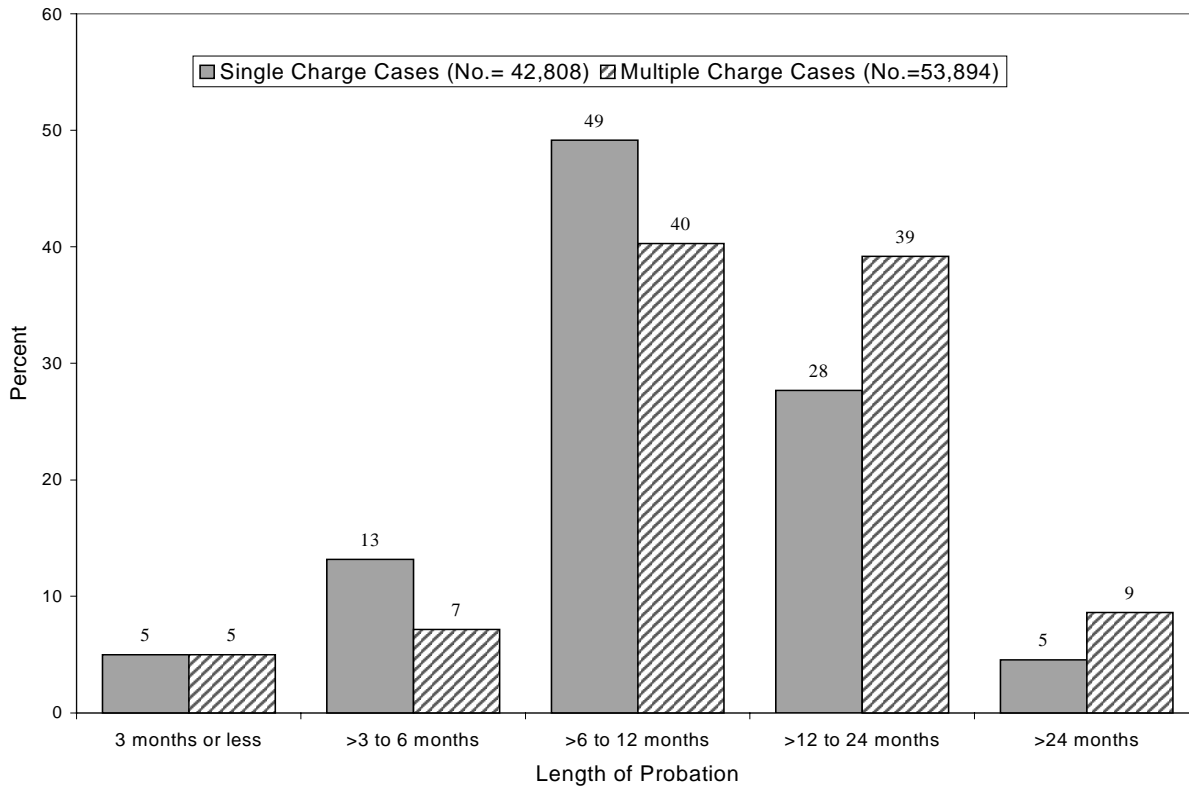


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmss.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, 32% of all the sanctions involved a fine.
- There were 6 offences for which a fine was used in more that 32% of the cases, with 3 of those offence categories for which at least 50% of the sanctions imposed were fines.
- Impaired Driving was the offence with the highest proportion of fines (78%), with public order offences recording the lowest proportion (38%).

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Cases Sentenced in Adult Provincial Court by Length of Probation Term, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

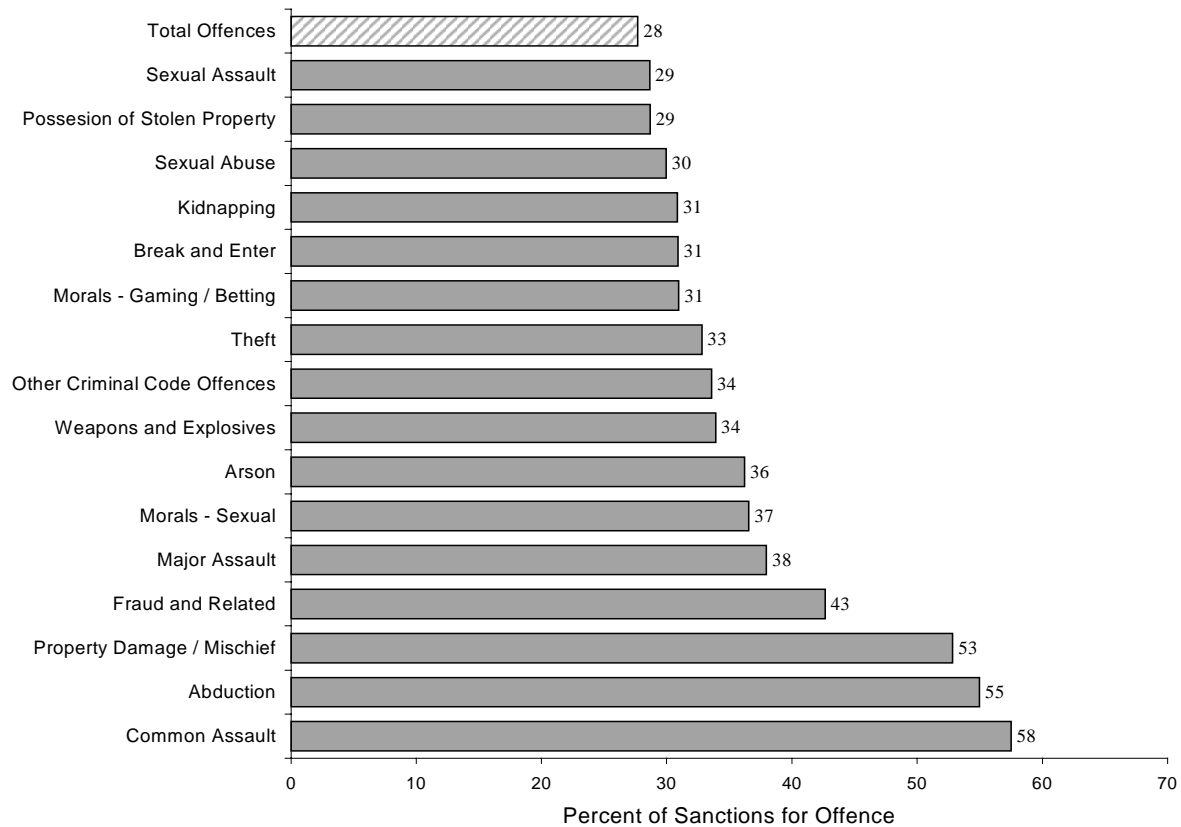


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSprob.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Length of Probation 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- Offenders convicted of only one charge were more likely to receive a probation term of 12 months or less. Offenders with multiple charges were more likely to get longer probation terms.
- More than 80% of all probation sentences were for terms exceeding 6 months. Terms of 6 to 12 months were the most common with 45% of probation sentences falling into this category.
- Convicted cases for all offence categories had a median length of probation sentence of approximately one year.
- In 1999/00, only 7% of all probation sentences were for terms of more than 24 months.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Offences for which a Term of Probation Was an Often Used Sanction, Selected Jurisdictions, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

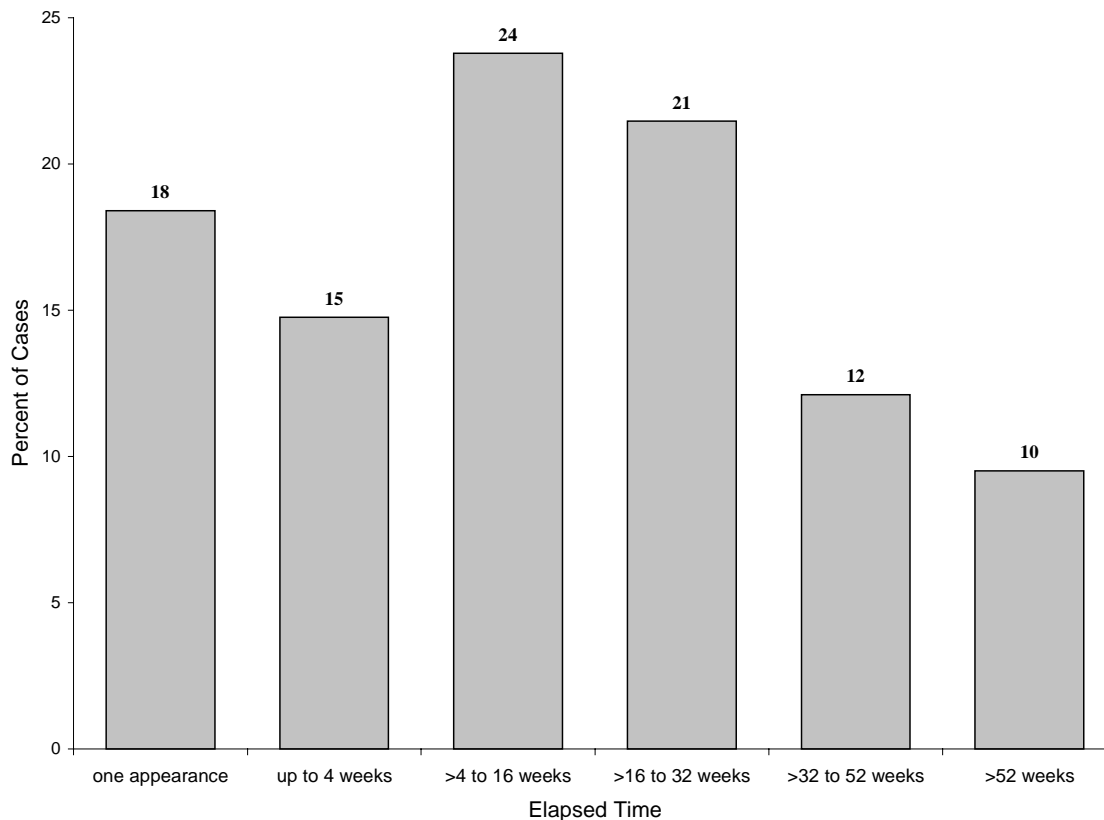


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCSmss.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Most Serious Sentence 1994-1999) Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, probation was the most serious sanction for 28% of the total offences.
- The only offence for which probation was the most commonly used sanction was Common Assault (58%).
- Among property crimes, property damage/mischief offences had the highest percentage of probation (53%) as the most serious sanction in 1999-00, followed by fraud and related offences (43%).

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Cases Disposed in Adult Provincial Court, Elapsed Time Required to Conclude Case, Canada, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

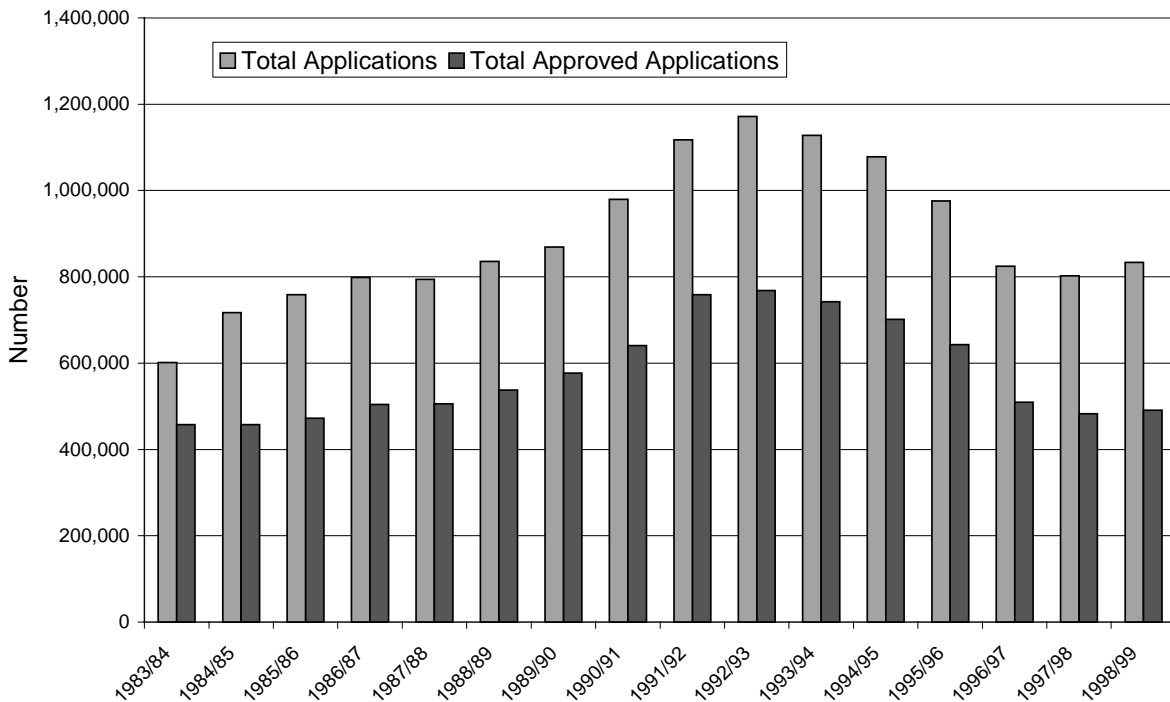


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACCStime.ivt (Adult Criminal Court - Elapsed Timer at Court 1994-1999)  
Reporting jurisdictions include: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. In addition, Alberta and the Yukon report Superior Court data to the ACCS. These jurisdictions represent approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 2, *Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, 18% of cases were dealt with at the first (and only) appearance.
- One third of cases were resolved within a month, and just less than half (45%) took more than one, but no more than eight months to complete in 1999-00.
- It took more than eight months and no more than twelve months to complete 12% of cases, and the elapsed time was more than one year in 10% of cases heard.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

## Legal Aid Applications, 1983/84 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



Source: Legal Aid Survey – Applications and Expenditures, 1983/84 to 1999/00

- The total number of legal aid applications peaked in 1992/93, along with the total number of approved legal aid applications.
- In 1999/00, there were a total of 833,441 legal aid applications, with a total of 490,842 being approved.
- The number of applications for legal aid has never seen a return to the low level recorded in 1983/84 (601,375).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

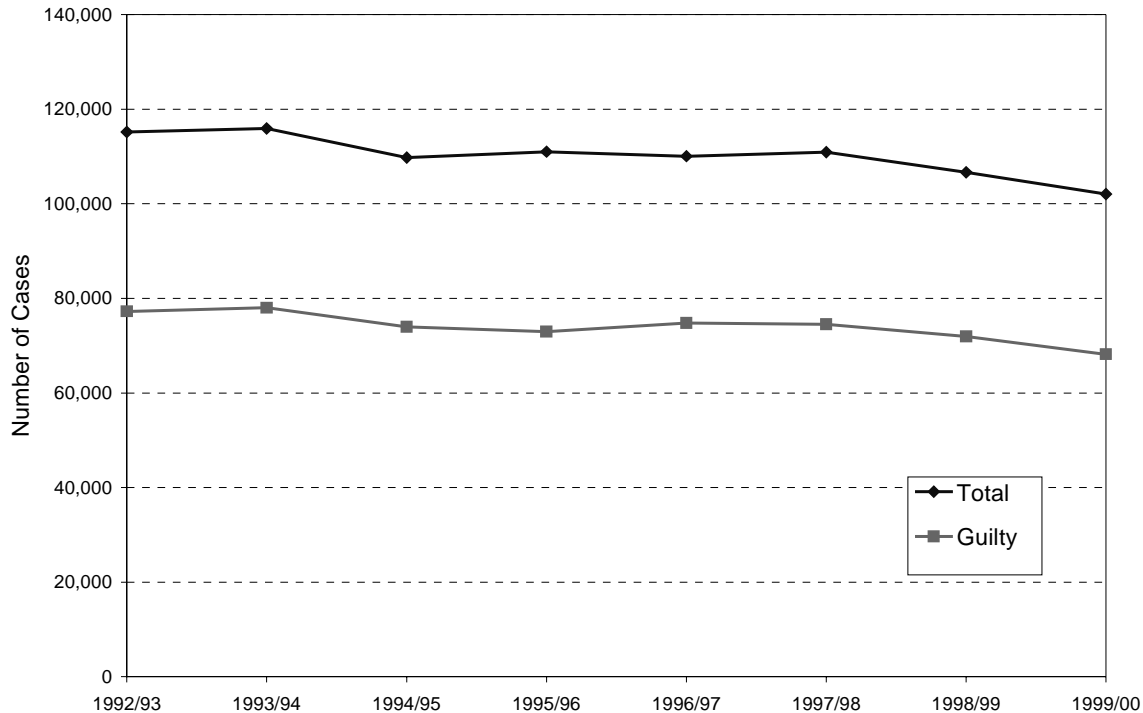
ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT  
**[www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)**





# Youth Court Activity In Canada

### Number of Cases Heard in Youth Court and the Number of Findings of Guilt, Canada, 1992/93 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



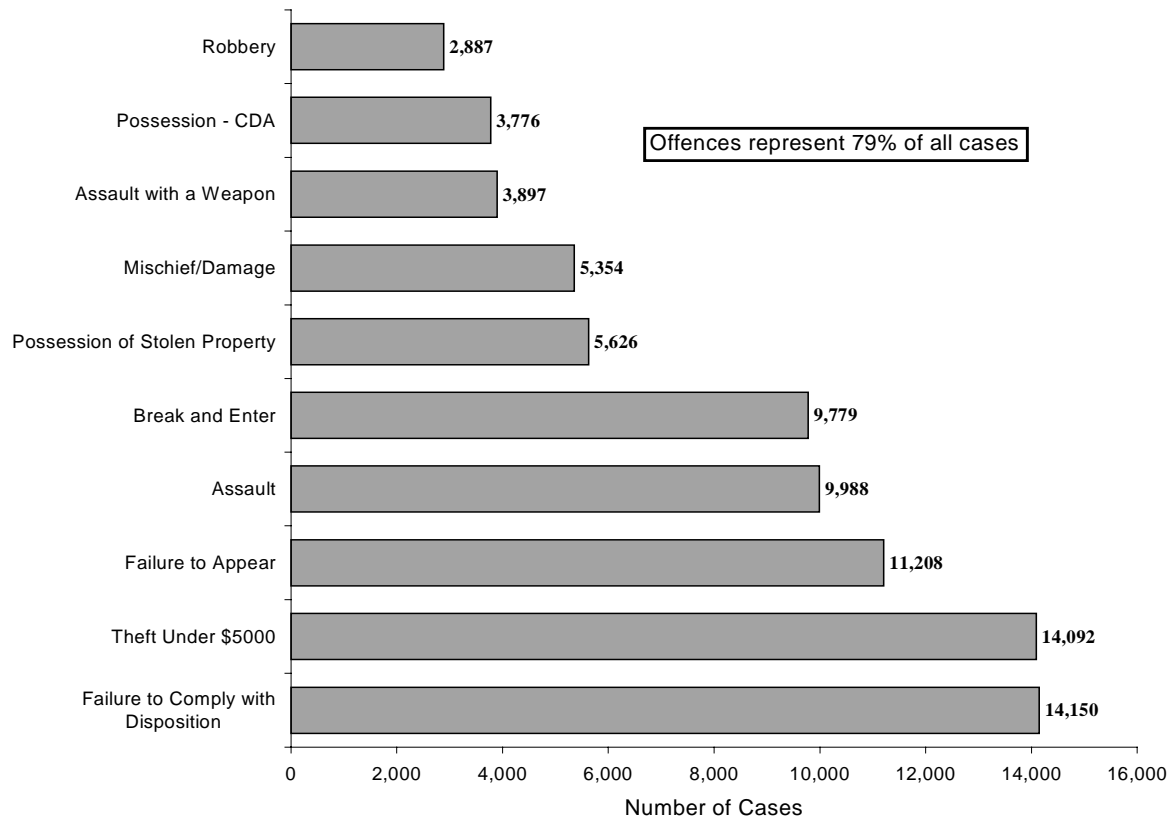
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSCase.ivt (YCS Caseload and Elapsed Time in Court, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- In the last eight years, the number of cases heard in youth courts has generally followed a downward trend; the 102,061 cases processed in 1999/00 represent a drop of 11% from 1992/93. In terms of the rate of youth court cases per 10,000 youths, the drop at the national level for the same period was more pronounced at 17%.
- Two-thirds of cases (67%) heard in youth court resulted in a conviction (a finding of guilt for at least one charge). This proportion has remained virtually unchanged since 1992/93.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators



## Ten Most Frequent Offences Dealt with in Youth Court, Canada, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

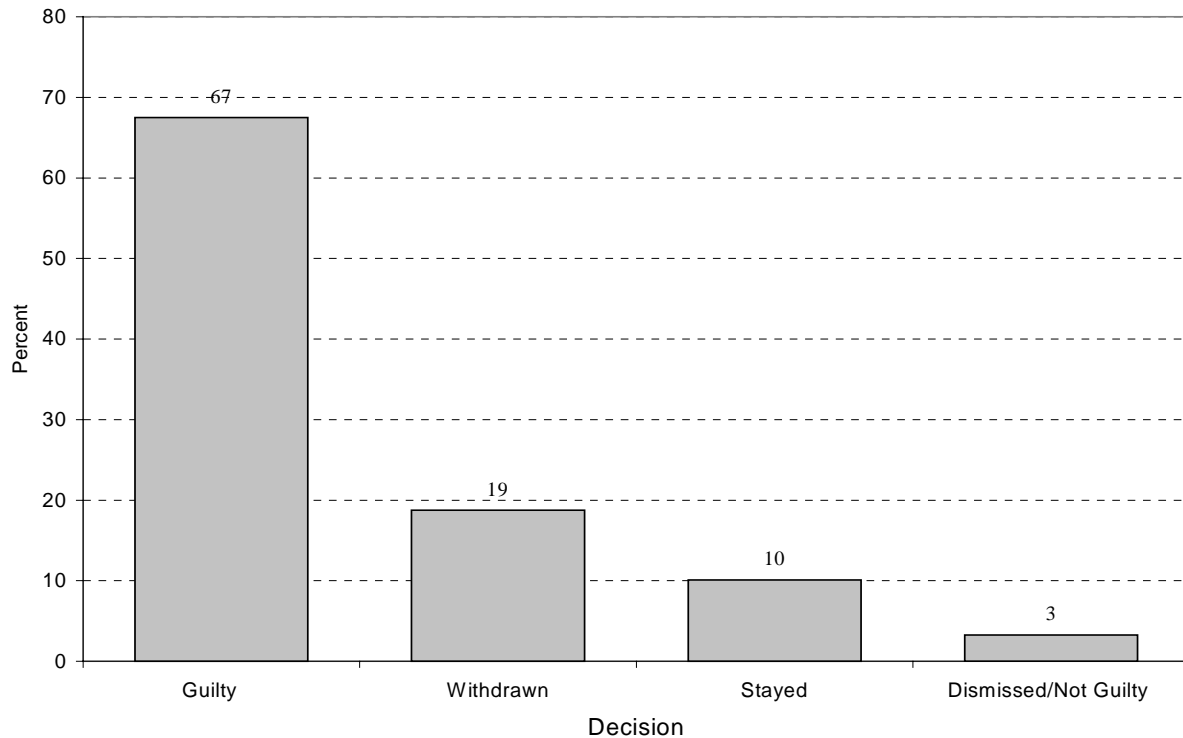


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSCase.ivt (YCS Caseload and Elapsed Time in Court, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- The majority of cases (79%) heard in Youth Court involved only 10 offences.
- Five offences accounted for a large proportion (58%) of the total caseload. These were failure to comply with a disposition under the Young Offenders Act (YOA), theft under, failure to appear, minor assault and breaking and entering.
- While cases involving property crimes accounted for the largest proportion of the caseload, only two of the top five most frequent offences belonged to that category: 'theft under \$5,000' accounted for 14% of the total caseload and 'breaking and entering' accounted for 10%.
- Of the ten most frequent offences dealt with in youth court, four were property offences, three were violent offences, two were Young Offenders Act related, and one was drug-related (Controlled Drugs and Substances Act).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Youth Court Cases by Decision, Canada, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

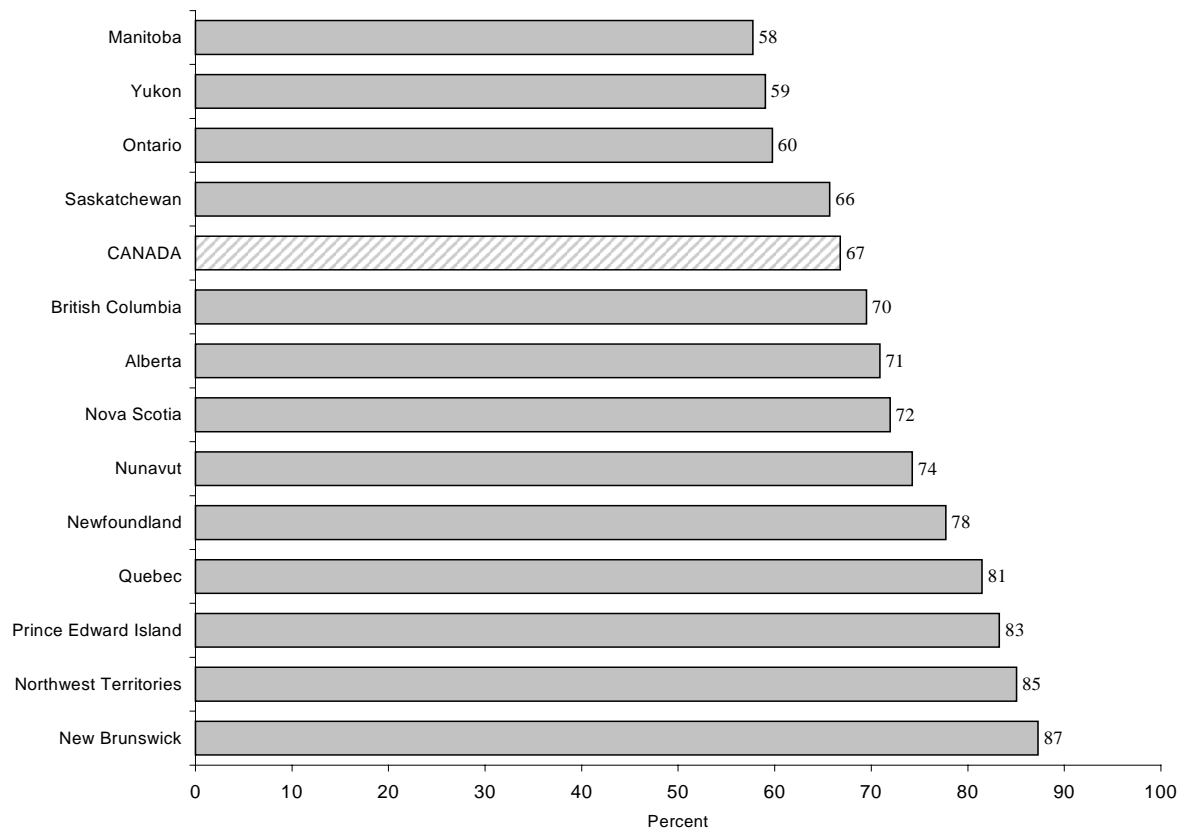


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCScase.ivt (YCS Caseload and Elapsed Time in Court, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- Cases that resulted in a conviction (a finding of guilt for at least one charge) accounted for 67% of cases disposed in youth court in 1999/00.
- In 19% of the cases, all charges were withdrawn. In another 10% of the cases the proceedings were stayed.
- In 1999/00, only 3% of all cases dealt with in youth court resulted in findings of not guilty or dismissed.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

## Proportion of Cases with a Finding of Guilt by Jurisdiction, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

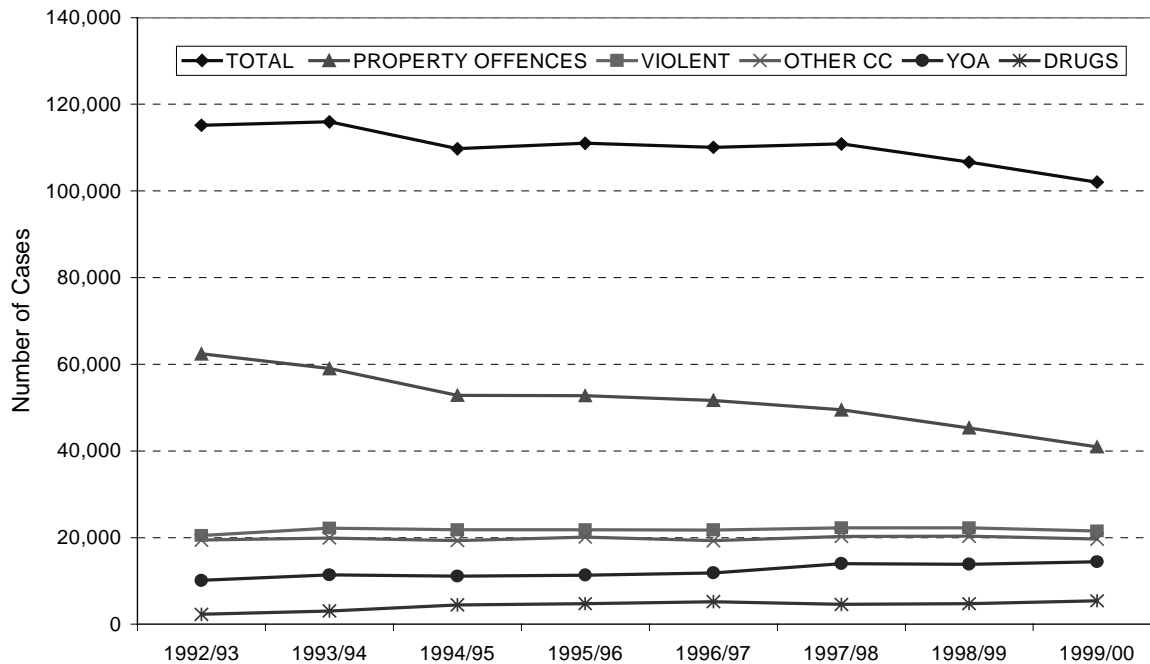


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCScase.ivt (YCS Caseload and Elapsed Time in Court, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction ranged from approximately 60% in Manitoba, Yukon, and Ontario, to 80% and over in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Northwest Territories and New Brunswick.
- Manitoba, Yukon, Ontario and Saskatchewan were the only jurisdictions with conviction rates lower than the nation rate (67%) in 1999/00.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

## Youth Court Cases by Offence Type, Canada, 1992/93 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

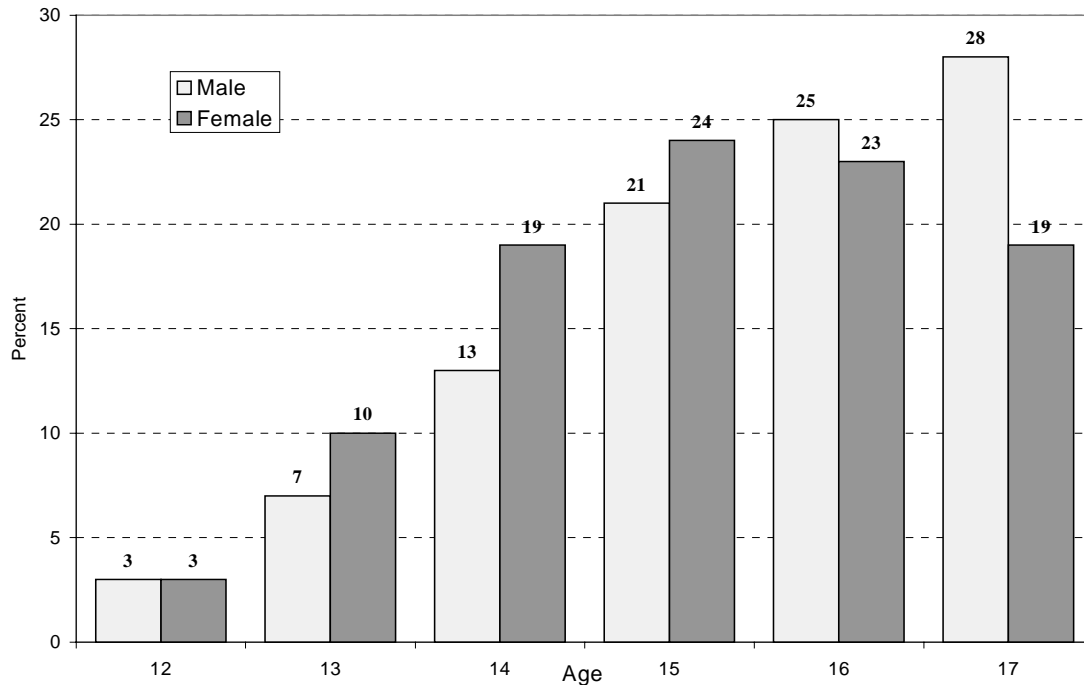


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSCase.ivt (YCS Caseload and Elapsed Time in Court, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- In the last eight years, the number of cases heard in youth courts has generally followed a downward trend; the 102,061 cases processed in 1999/00 represent a drop of 11% from 1992/93.
- The types of cases processed in youth courts most often involved property crimes (40%), violent crimes (22%) and other criminal code offences (18%), which include offences such as failure to appear in court and escaping custody.
- Less frequent were cases involving offences under the Young Offenders Act (13%) and drug-related offences (5%).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Sex and Age Distribution of Accused, Canada, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

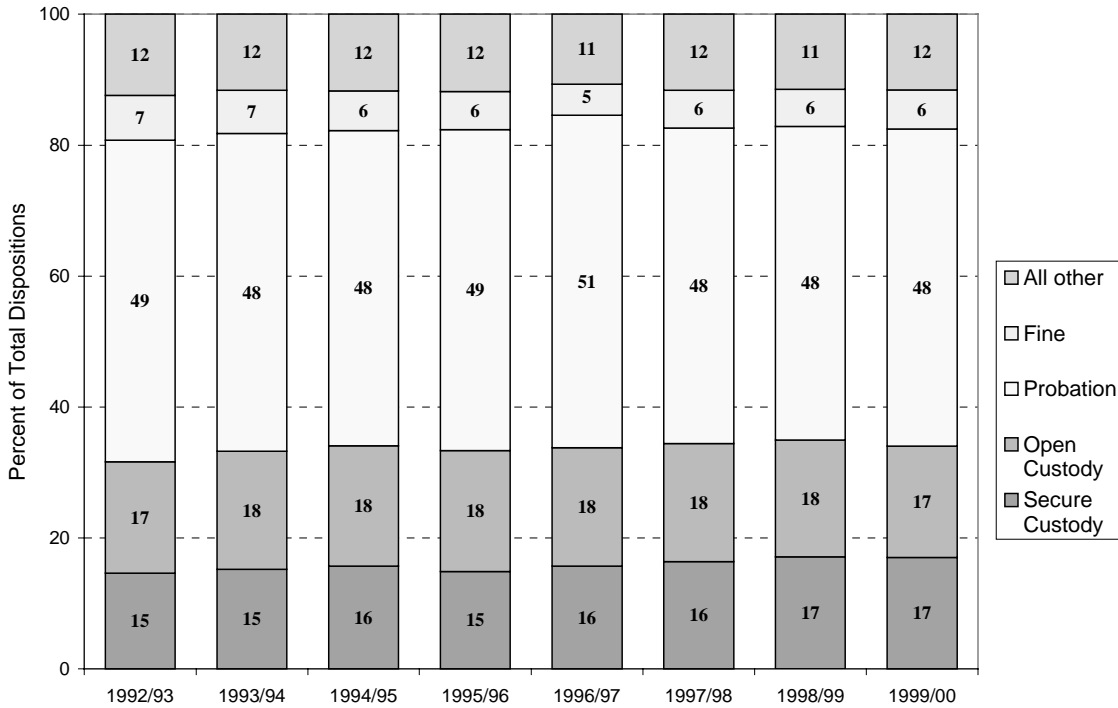


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSCase.ivt (YCS Caseload and Elapsed Time in Court, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- Males accounted for eight in ten youth court cases and they predominated in all age groups.
- The proportion of cases against males increased with age, while cases against 15 year old females accounted for the largest proportion of cases against females.
- Older youths, aged 16 to 17, were involved in the majority of cases before youth courts (51%). Youth aged 15 were involved in 21% of cases while younger adolescents aged 12 to 14 years accounted for the remaining 25%.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Most Serious Disposition Imposed in Youth Court, Canada, 1992/93 to 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

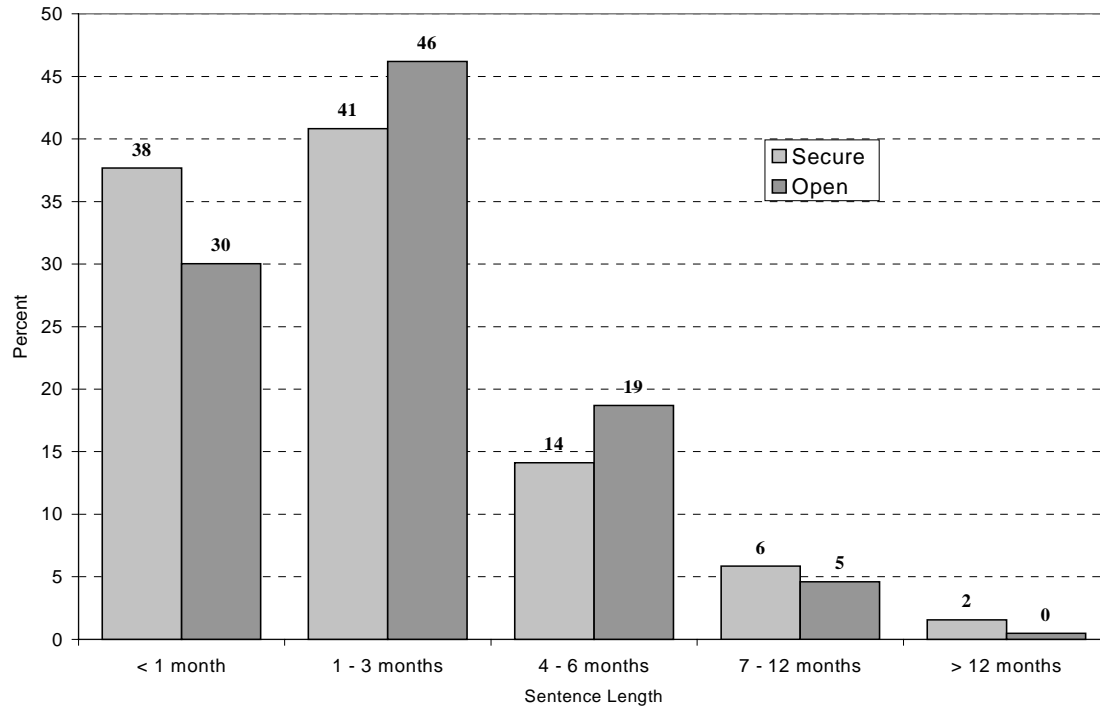


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSmsdsp.ivt (YCS Most Significant Sentence, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- In 1999/00, probation was the most significant sentence in almost one-half of cases with convictions (48%).
- Custody (34%) was the next most frequent sentence, comprising secure custody (17%), and open custody (17%).
- The distribution of most significant sentence types has varied little since 1992/93.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

## Length of Custodial Sentence Imposed by Custody Type, Canada, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

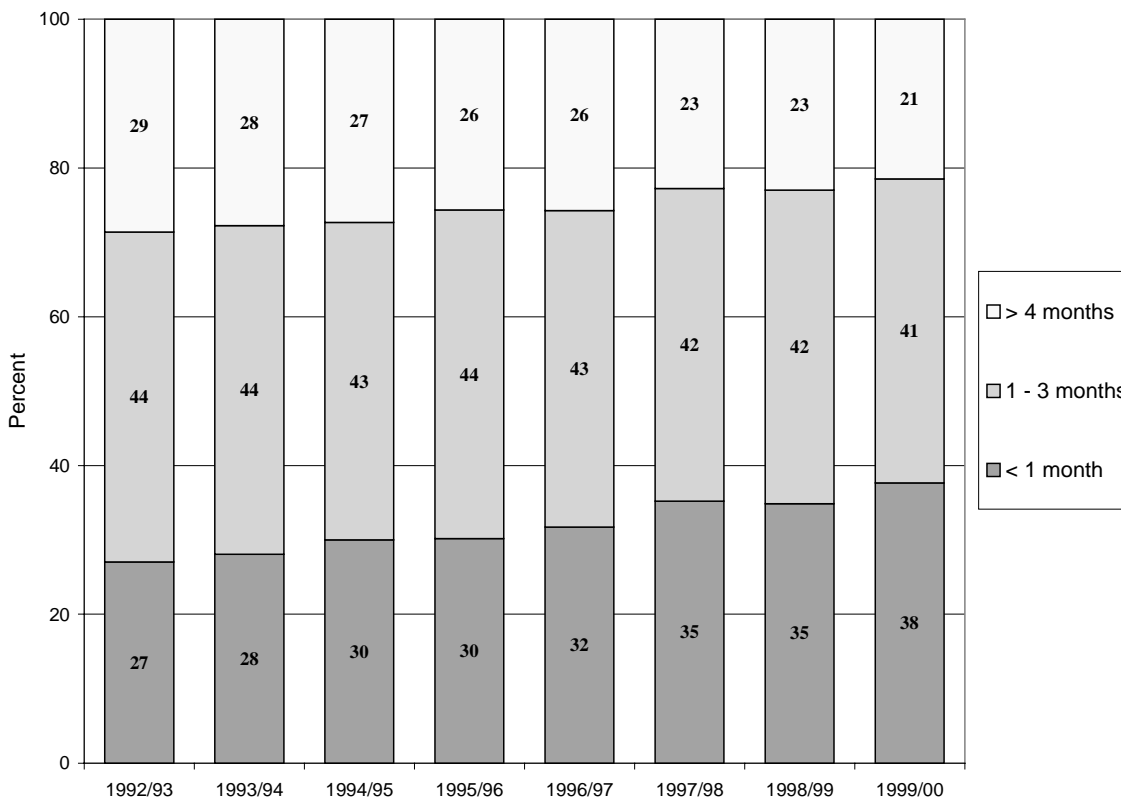


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCScust.ivt (YCS - Custody Secure and Open, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- Of the 23,215 cases resulting in a custodial sentence (open and secure) in 1999/00, 33% were for terms of less than one month, 44% were for 1 to 3 months, 16% from 4 to 6 months, and 6% were for more than 6 months.
- In 1999/00, the median sentence length for cases resulting in custody was 1 month. For secure custody alone, it was 1 month, while for open custody, it was slightly longer, at 45 days.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Secure Custody, Length of Sentence, Canada, 1992/93 to 1999/00<sup>2</sup>



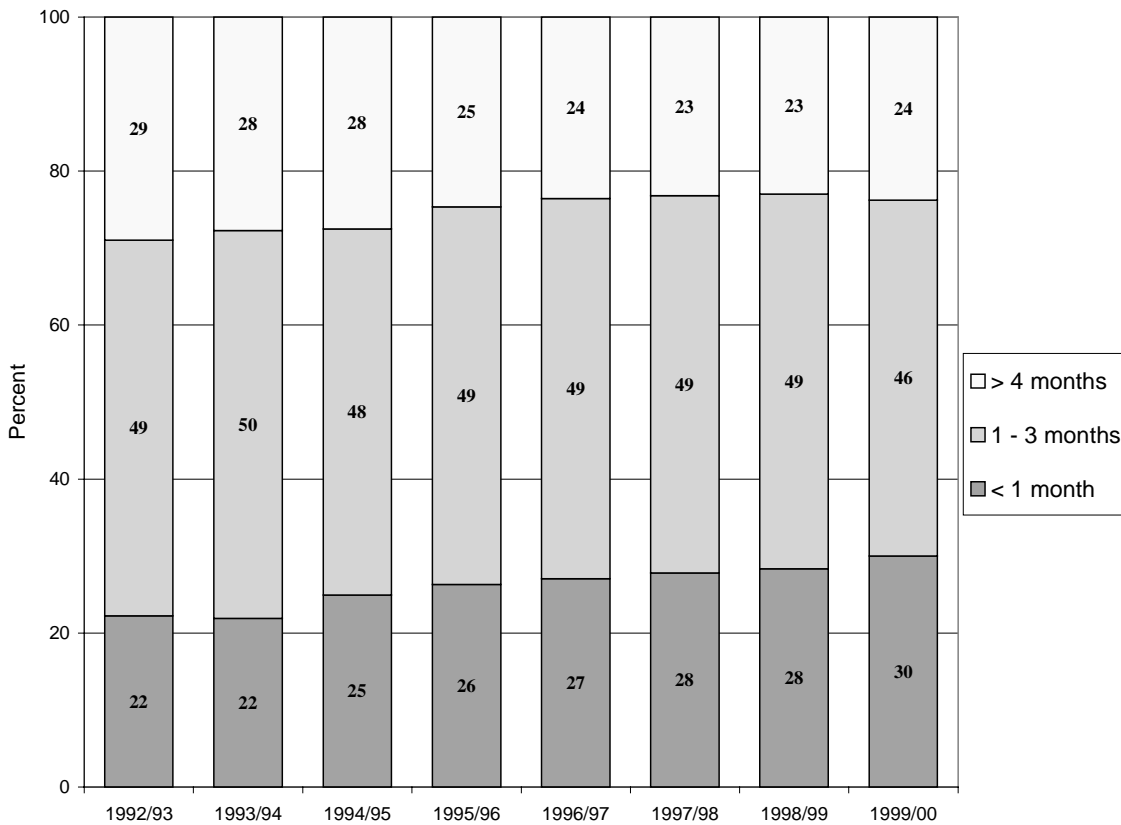
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCScust.ivt (YCS - Custody Secure and Open, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- The proportion of cases with shorter secure custody sentences has increased since 1992/93.
- Of the total cases ordered to secure custody in 1992/93, 27% were for terms of less than one month, compared to 38% in 1999/00.
- For all cases ordered to secure custody in 1992/93, 29% were for terms of more than 4 months, compared to 21% in 1999/00.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators



## Open Custody, Length of Sentence, Canada, 1992/93 to 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

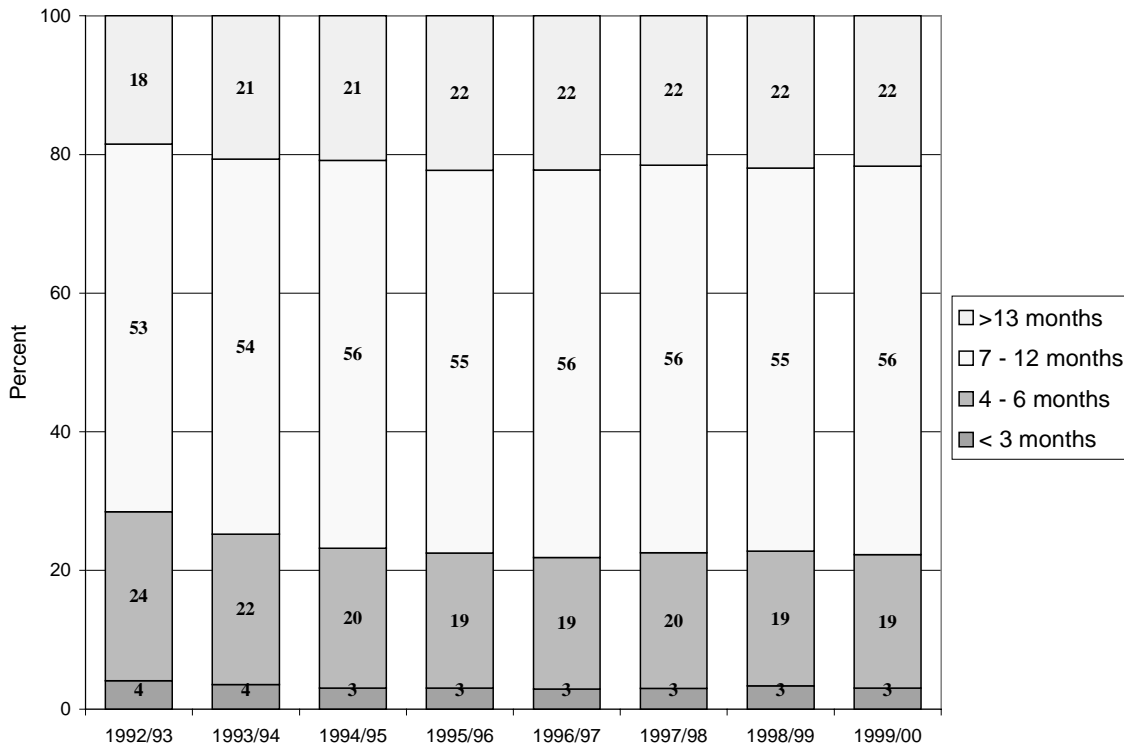


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCScust.ivt (YCS - Custody Secure and Open, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- The proportion of cases with shorter open custody sentences has increased since 1992/93.
- Of the total cases ordered to open custody in 1992/93, 22% were for terms of less than one month, compared to 30% in 1999/00.
- For all cases ordered to open custody in 1992/93, 29% were for terms of more than 4 months, compared to 24% in 1999/00.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Probation, Length of Sentence, Canada, 1992/93 to 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

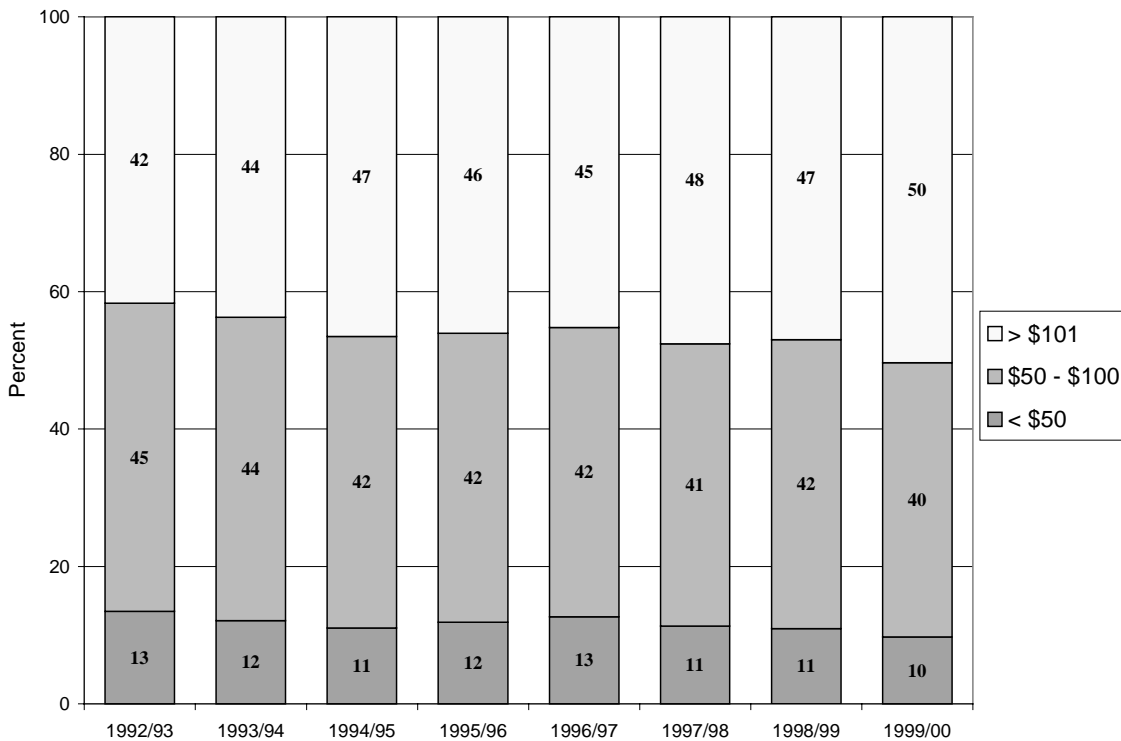


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSprob.ivt (YCS - Length of Probation, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- In 1999/00, the sentence length for a probation sentence was just under 1 year.
- For all cases ordered to probation in 1992/93, 71% were for terms of more than 6 months, compared to 78% in 1999/00.
- Of the 33,028 cases resulting in a term of probation as the most significant sentence, 22% were for a period of 6 months or less, 56% ranged from 7 to 12 months, and 22% were for more than 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

## Fine Amounts, Canada, 1992/93 to 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

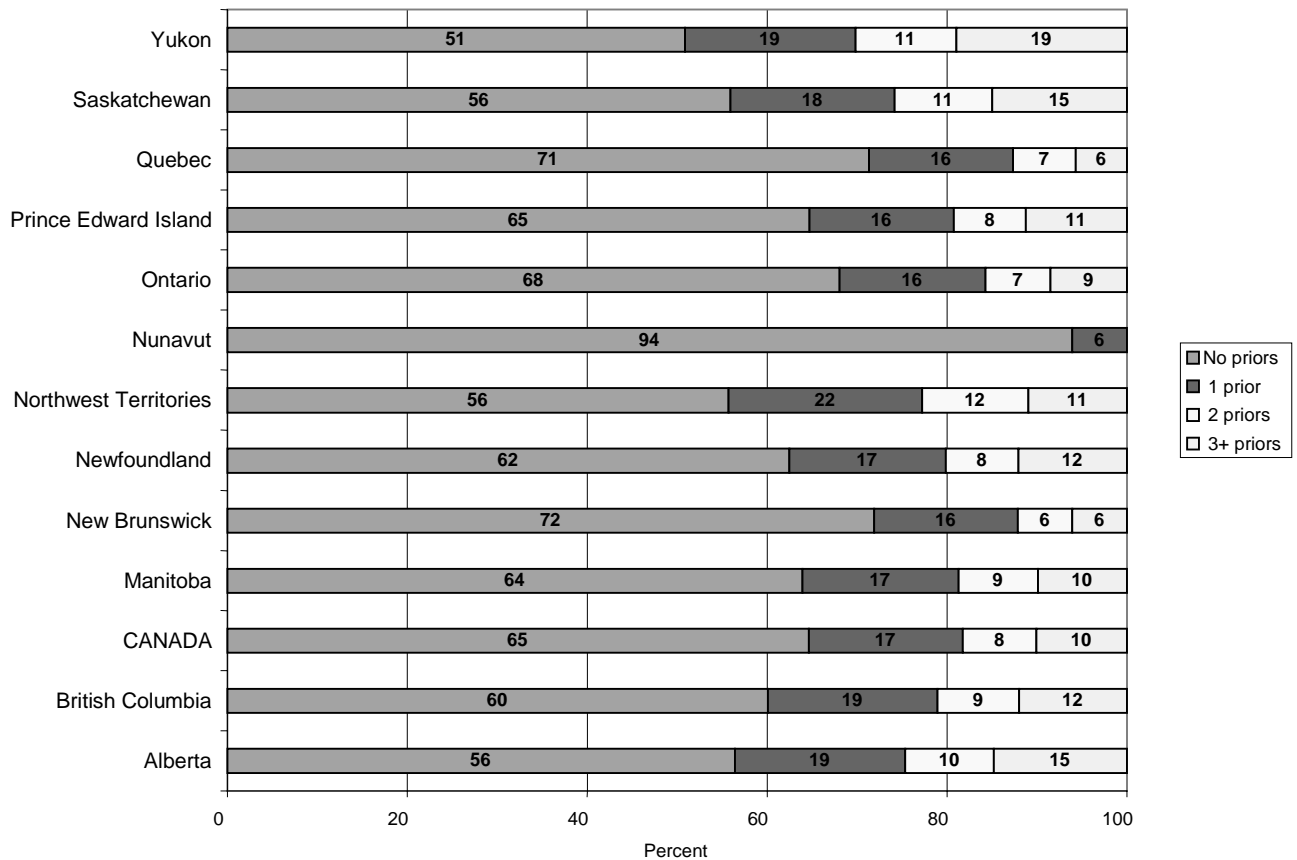


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSfines.ivt (YCS - Amount of fine, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- The proportion of cases with higher fine amounts in youth court has increased since 1992/93.
- Of the total cases with fine amounts imposed in 1992/93, 42% were for fines more than \$100, compared to 50% in 1999/00.
- Of the cases resulting with a fine as the most significant sentence in 1999/00, 10% were for less than \$50, 40% were more than \$50 to \$100, and 50% were more than \$100.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

## History of Prior Convictions: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>

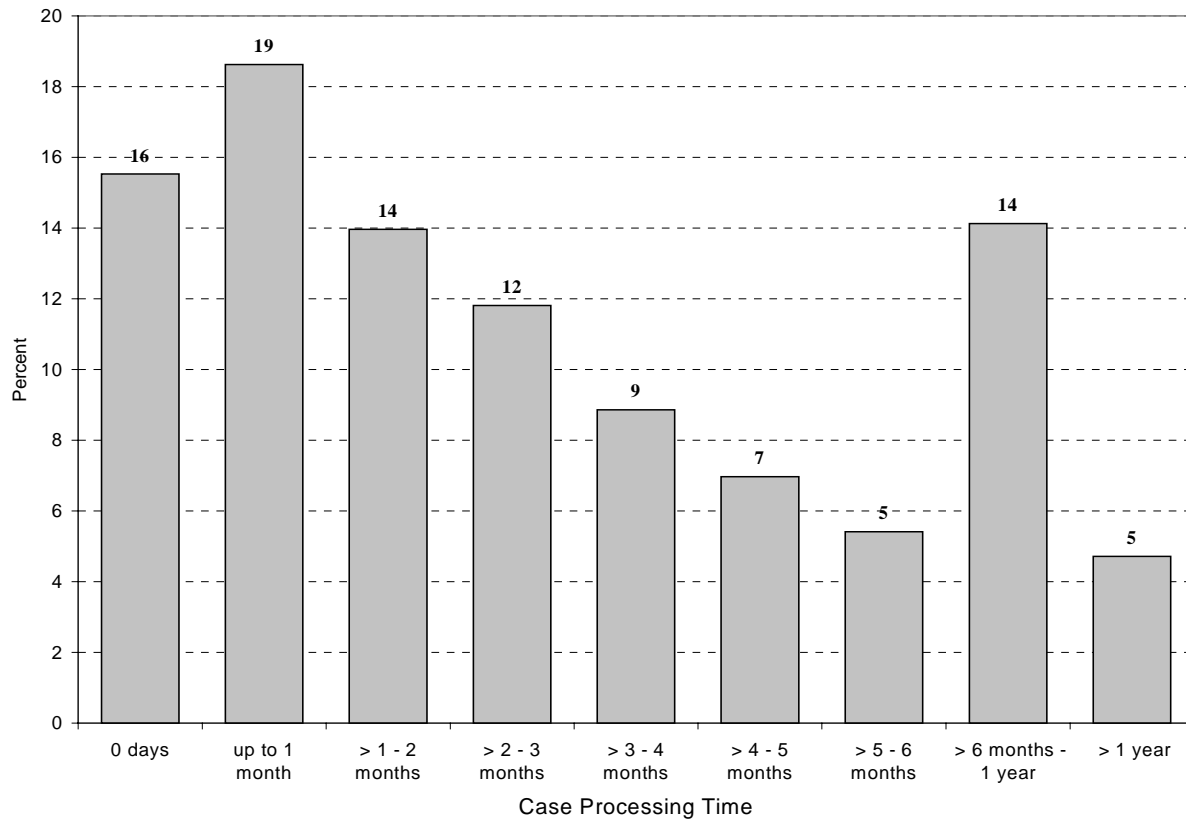


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCSrecid.ivt (YCS - recidivism data from, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- In 1998/99, approximately 42% of cases with convictions involved repeat offenders.
- The proportion of cases in which the offender had no prior court activity varied among the jurisdictions; from a high of 67% in Quebec to a low of 48% in the Yukon.
- In Alberta, 19% of the cases involved offenders with 3 or more prior convictions, compared to 6% in Quebec. The national level for these types of cases was 12%.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

### Case Processing Time in Youth Court, Canada, 1999/00<sup>2</sup>



Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. YCScase.ivt (YCS Caseload and Elapsed Time in Court, 1991/92 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XPE) Vol. 21 no. 3, *Youth Court Statistics, 1999/00 Highlights*

- In 1999/00, almost one-half of all cases (48%) were processed in two months or less (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing), with only 19% of cases taking longer than six months.
- In fact, 16% of cases were completed at the first court appearance.
- In 1999/00, the elapsed time for all cases was 63 days.

<sup>2</sup> Prime Performance Indicators

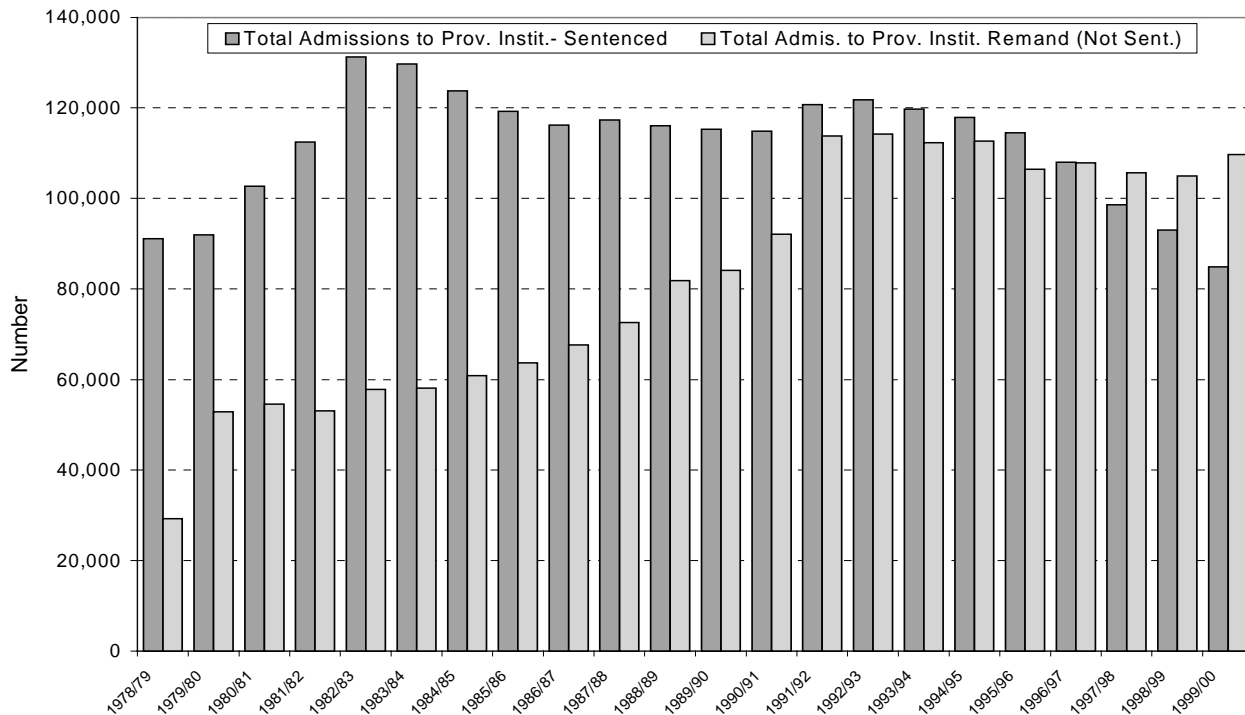
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**[www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)**





# **Adult Correctional Population in Canada**

### Admission to Provincial Institutions by Admission Status, Canada, 1978/79 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



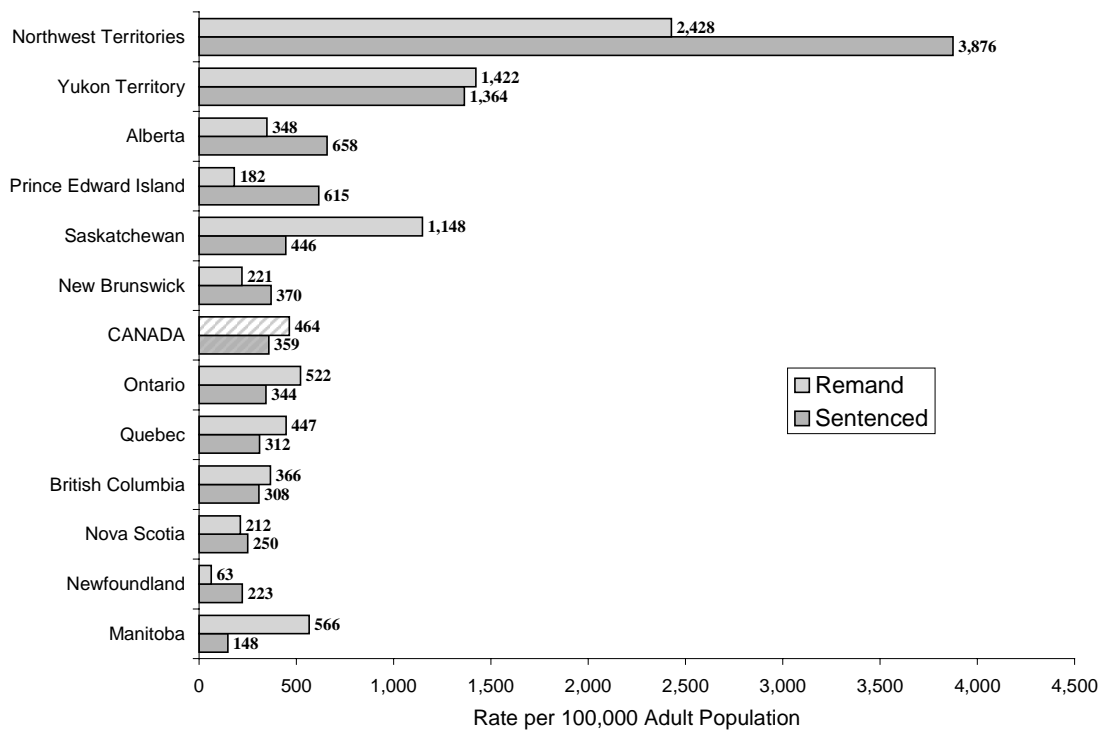
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSadm.ivt (ACS Survey, Admission Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- Since 1978/79, the number of remand admissions has increased dramatically, almost tripling to reach a peak in 1992/93.
- The number of sentenced admissions peaked in 1982/83, but the 1999/00 level was a near return to the lower number of admissions reported in 1978/79.
- In 1999/00, the number of remand admissions (109,685) exceeded the number of sentenced admissions (84,869).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators



### Rate of Admissions to Provincial Institutions by Admission Status, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

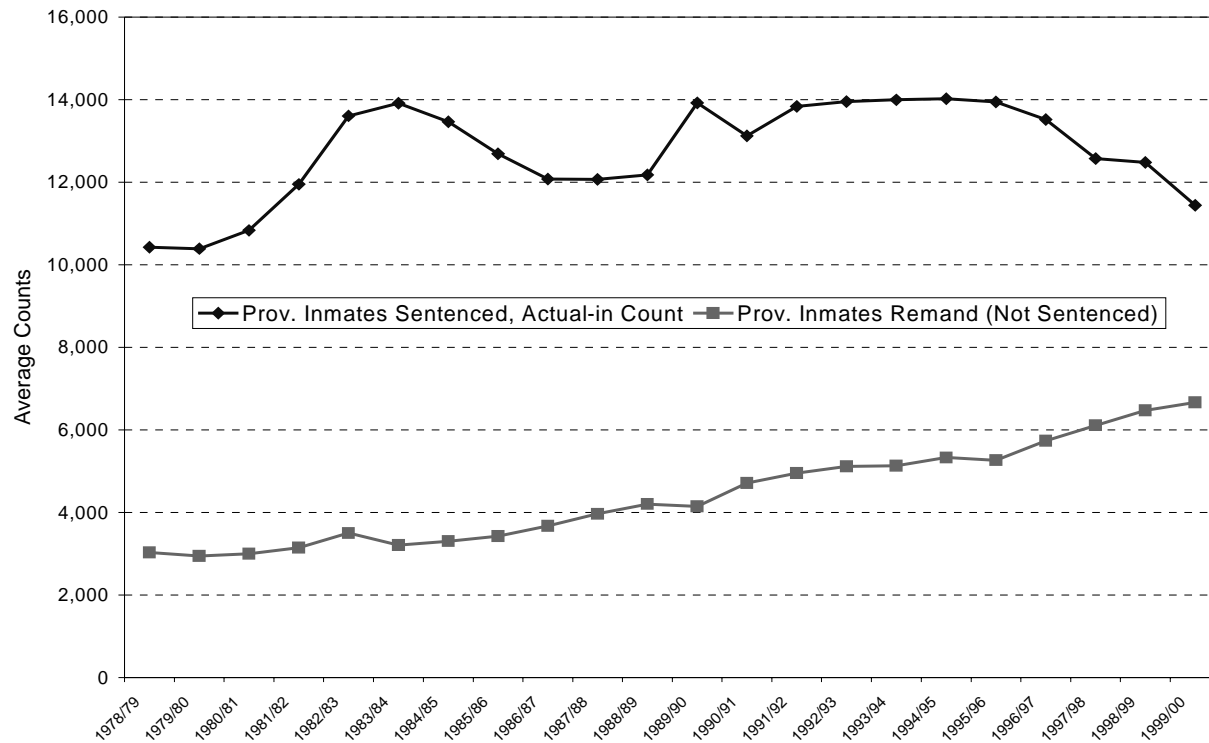


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSadm.ivt (ACS Survey, Admission Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, both the rate of remand and the rate of sentenced admissions varied among the jurisdictions.
- Among the provinces, the sentenced admission rate varied from 148 per 100,000 adults 18 and over in Manitoba to 615 in Prince Edward Island.
- The remand admission rate varied from 63 in Newfoundland to 1,148 in Saskatchewan.
- There were six jurisdictions (Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and the Yukon) where the remand rate exceeded the sentenced admissions rate.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Average Counts in Provincial Institutions, Canada, 1978/79 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

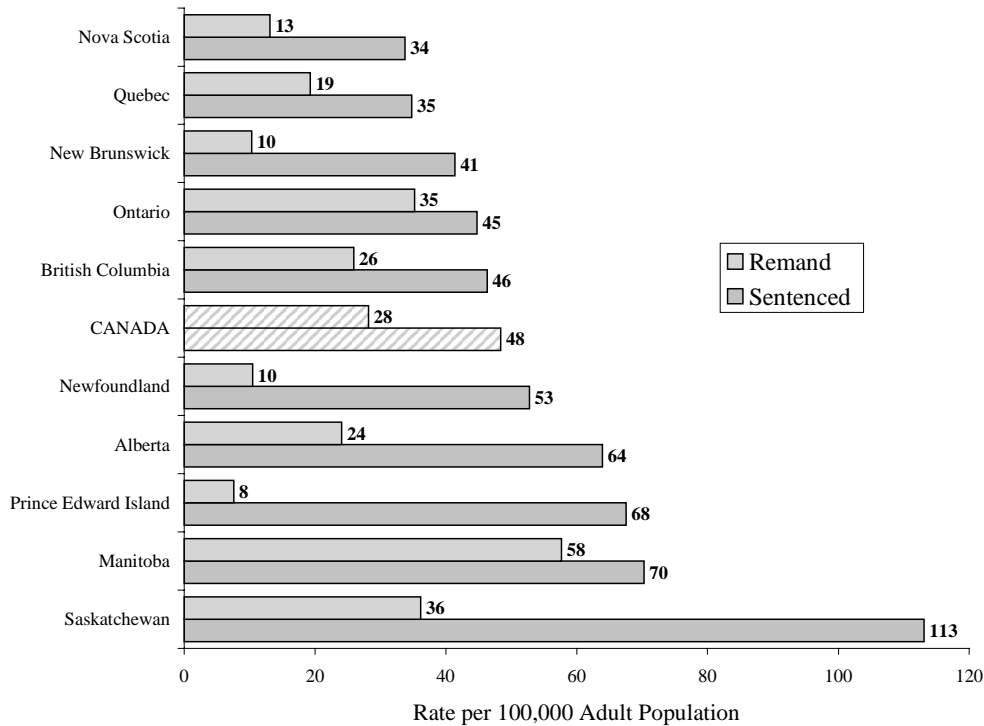


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSavg.ivt (ACS Survey, Average Count Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, there was an average of 18,103 persons incarcerated in provincial institutions. Of that total 11,438 were sentenced offenders and 6,665 were remanded offenders.
- Between 1978/79 and 1999/00, the counts of remanded offenders more than doubled.
- The counts of sentenced offenders decreased around the time of the introduction of YOA, but returned to previous levels by 1989/90.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Average Counts in Provincial Institutions, Canada and the Provinces, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

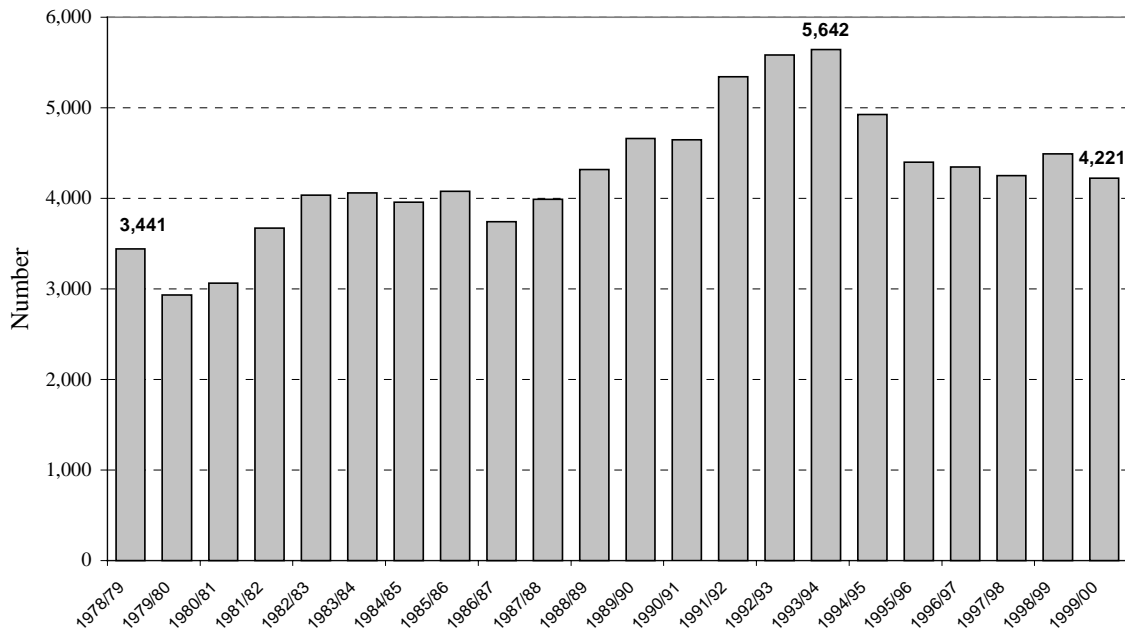


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSavg.ivt (ACS Survey, Average Count Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, there was considerable variation in incarceration rates among the jurisdictions.
- The rate of sentenced offenders varied from 34 per 100,000 adults in Nova-Scotia to 113 in Saskatchewan.
- The remand rate varied from 8 per 100,000 adults in Prince Edwards Island to 58 in Manitoba.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Warrant of Committal Admissions to Federal Custody, Canada, 1978/79 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

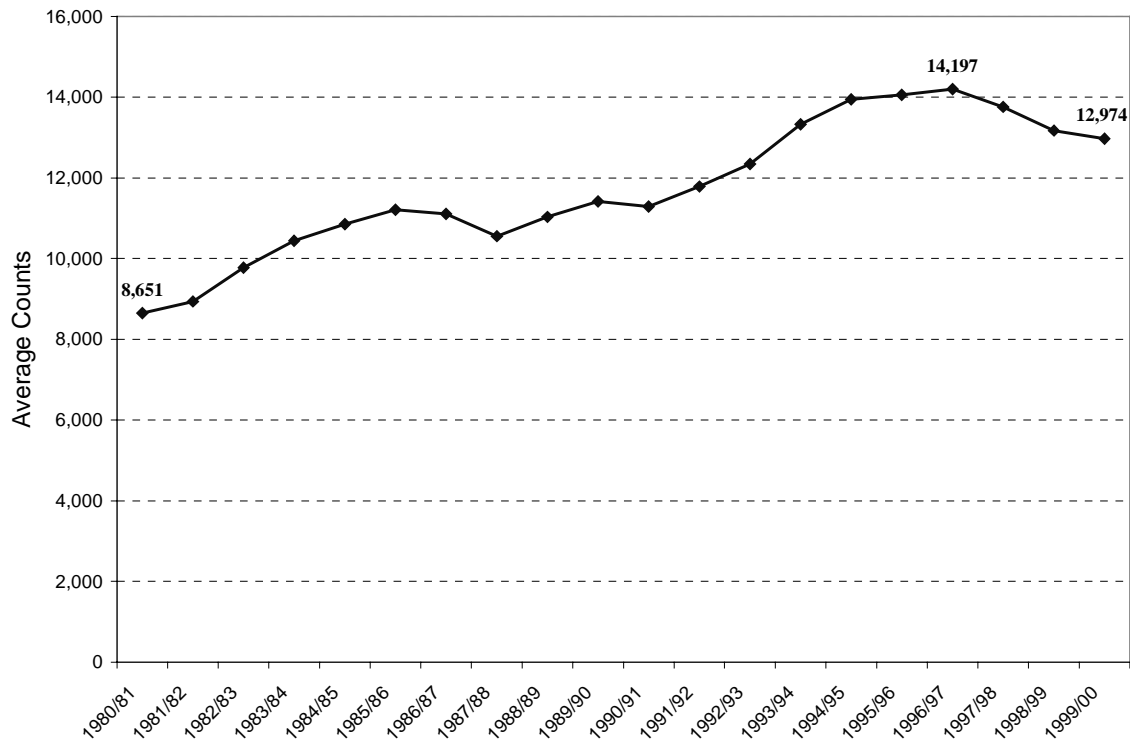


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSadm.ivt (ACS Survey, Admission Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, there was 4,221 warrant of committal admissions to federal custody, an increase of 54% since 1978/79. The 1999/00 admissions represent a 6% decrease over 1998/99.
- Admissions to federal facilities peaked at 5,642 in 1993/94, a 64% increase over the 3,441 federal admissions in 1978/79. Since 1994/95, the average number of admissions to federal institutions has declined, dropping to 4,412 in 1997/98, a near return to the lower federal admissions of late 1988/89.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Average Counts of 'Actual-in' Federal Inmates, Canada, 1980/81 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

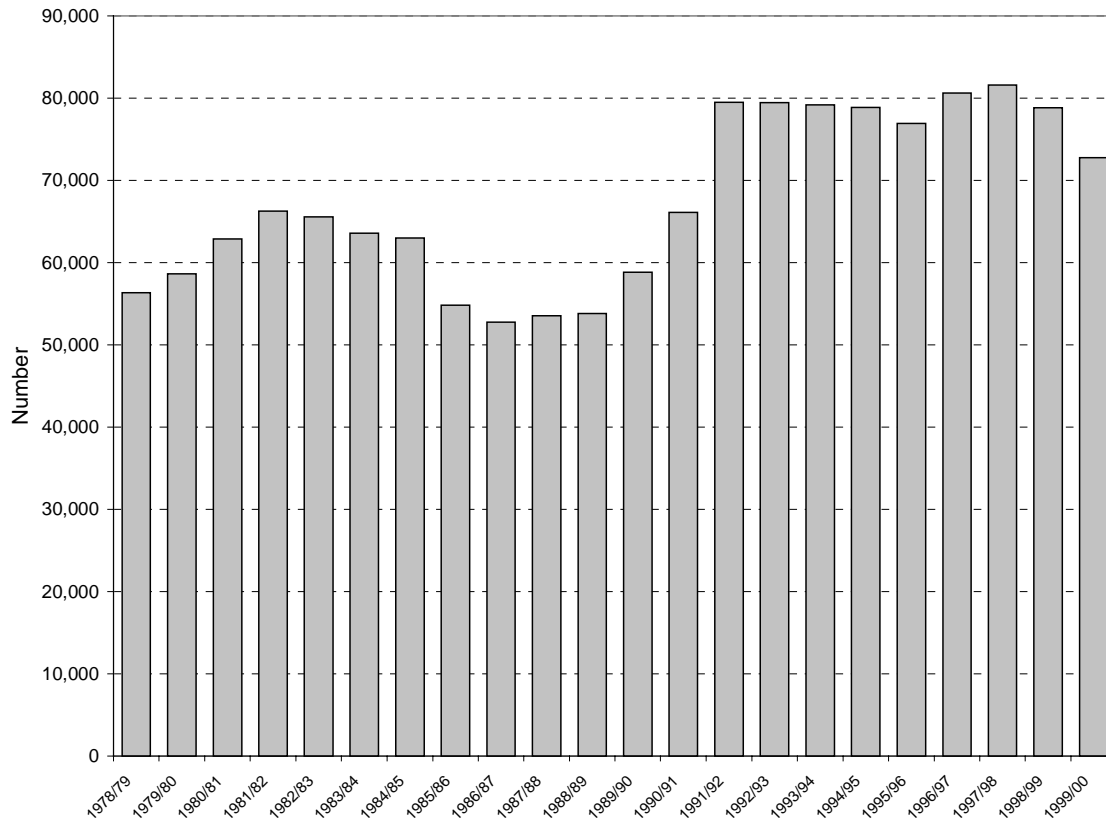


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSavg.ivt (ACS Survey, Average Count Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- On average in 1999/00, there were 12,974 inmates 'actually in' federal penitentiaries. This represented a 2% decrease from the previous year.
- The average count federal inmates gradually increased between 1980/81 and 1996/97, peaking at 14,197 inmates, a 64% increase over 1980/81. Federal incarceration rates saw slight declines in 1996/97 and 1997/98, with the latest year averaging 60 inmates per 100,000 adult population, still 9% above the 10-year low in 1988/89.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

### Total Probation Intakes, Canada, 1978/79 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

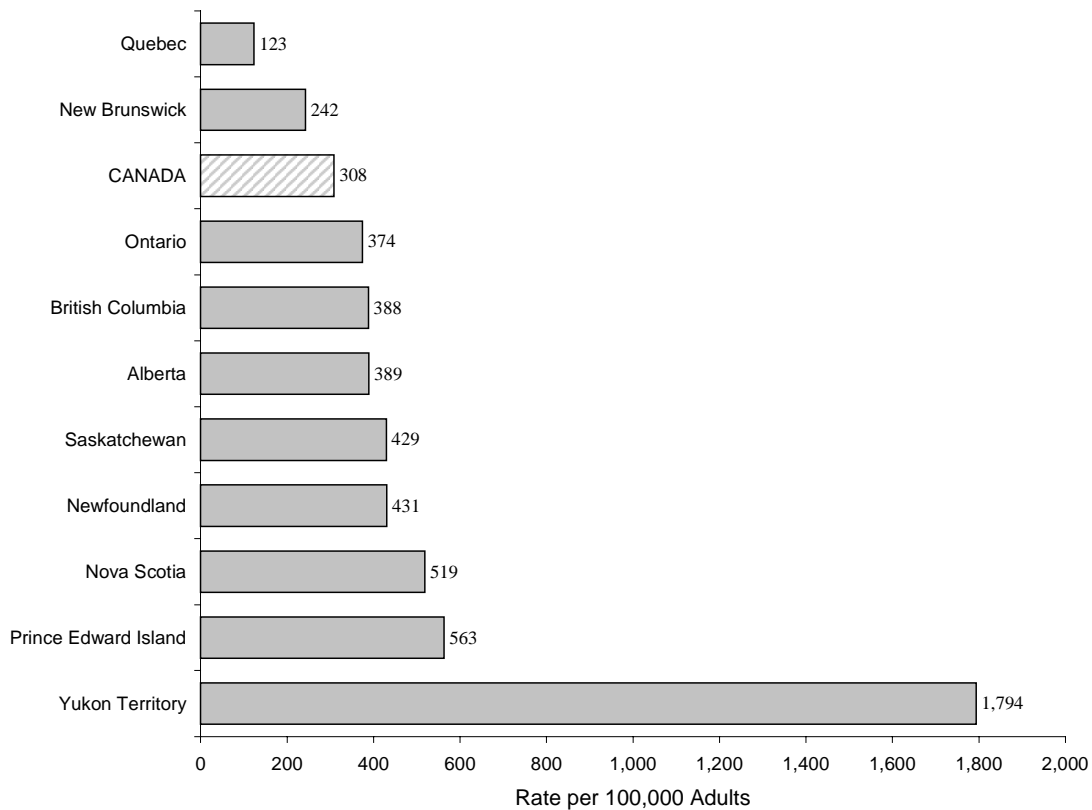


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSadm.ivt (ACS Survey, Admission Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, the number of admissions to probation totalled 72,789, a 8% decrease from 1997/98.
- The most significant increase in probation admissions occurred in 1991/92 (an increase of 20% over the previous year).
- Since 1991/92, the number of probation admissions have fluctuated slightly from year to year.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Intake of Probationers: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>

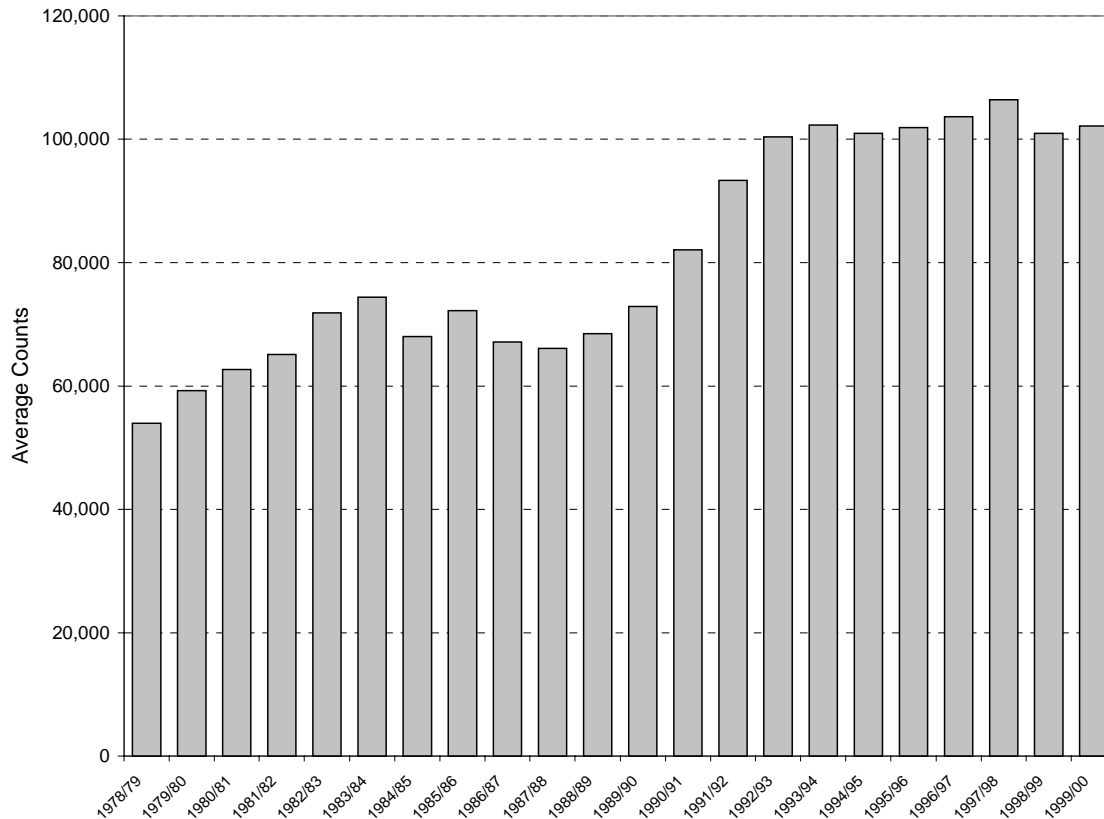


Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSadm.ivt (ACS Survey, Admission Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
 For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, there was considerable variation among the provinces in the use of probation. The rate of probation intakes varied from 123 per 100,000 adults in Quebec to a rate of 563 in Prince Edward Island.
- New Brunswick and Quebec were the only provinces with probation intake rates lower than the Canada rate (308) in 1999/00.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

## Probation Counts, Canada, 1978/79 to 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



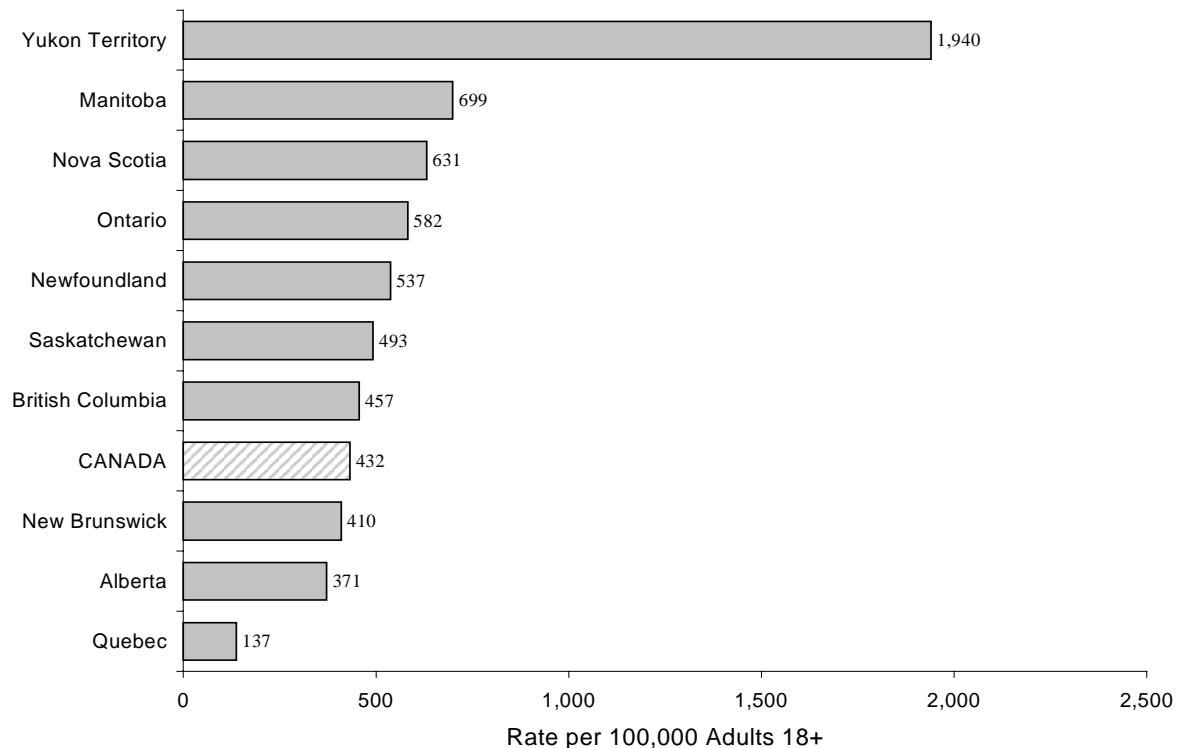
Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSavg.ivt (ACS Survey, Average Count Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- In 1999/00, there was a average of 102,147 probationers under the supervision of Provincial probation services. This was a 1% increase from the previous year. (Average probation counts represent the monthly average number of offenders being supervised on probation in the community.)
- Probation counts seemed to have peaked in 1997/98 at 106,405. From 1978/79 to 1999/00, probation counts have increased by 89%. Between 1989/90 and 1992/93, probation counts increased steadily, but the average probation count has been fairly stable since 1993/94.

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators



## Rate of Probationers: Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1999/00<sup>1</sup>



Source: Criminal Justice Indicators Database 2000. ACSavg.ivt (ACS Survey, Average Count Data, 1978/79 to 1999/00), PopYouth.ivt (Youth Population (12 to 17, 18+), By Provinces, 1977 to 1999)  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002-XIE) Vol. 21 no. 5, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1999/00*

- On average in 1999/00, there were 102,147 adults on probation, or 432 probationers per 100,000 adults (excluding Northwest Territories And Prince Edward Island where data on probation are not available).
- Yukon showed the greatest probation rate averaging 1,940 probationers per 100,000 adults.
- Among the provinces, Manitoba averaged the largest number of probationers with 699 per 100,000 adults. This was followed by Nova Scotia where the rate was 631 probationers per 100,000 adult population.
- Quebec showed the lowest probation rate (137 probationers per 100,000 adults), less than half that of Alberta, the next lowest (371 per 100,000 adults).

<sup>1</sup> Prime Workload and Volume Indicators

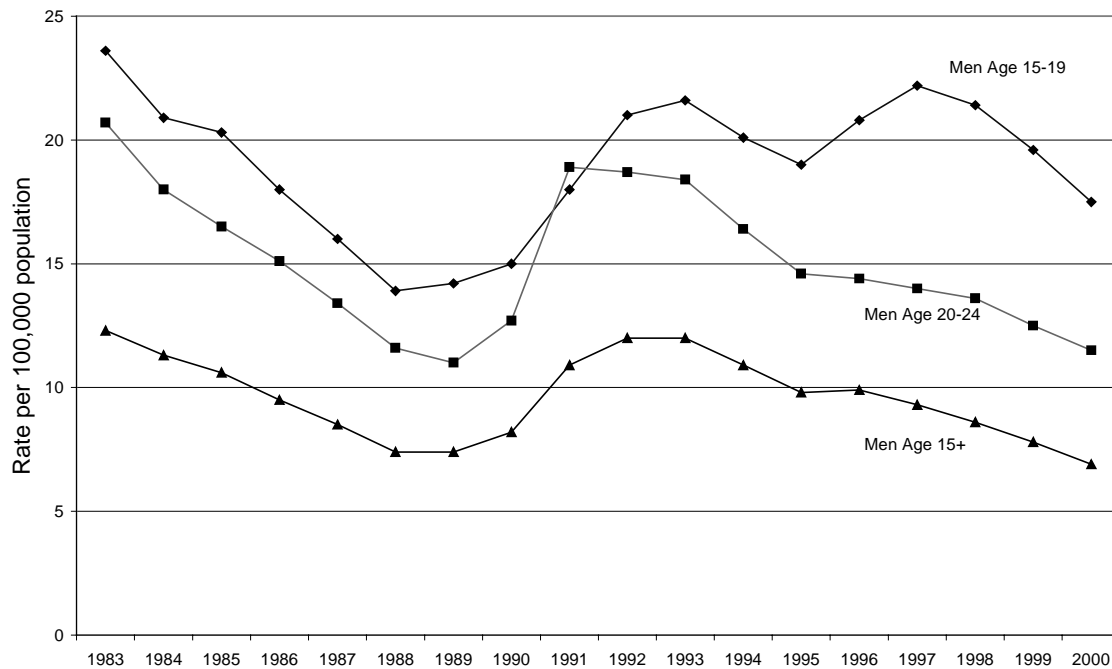
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# Environmental Factors

### Unemployment Rates for Men\*, Canada, 1983-2000<sup>3</sup>



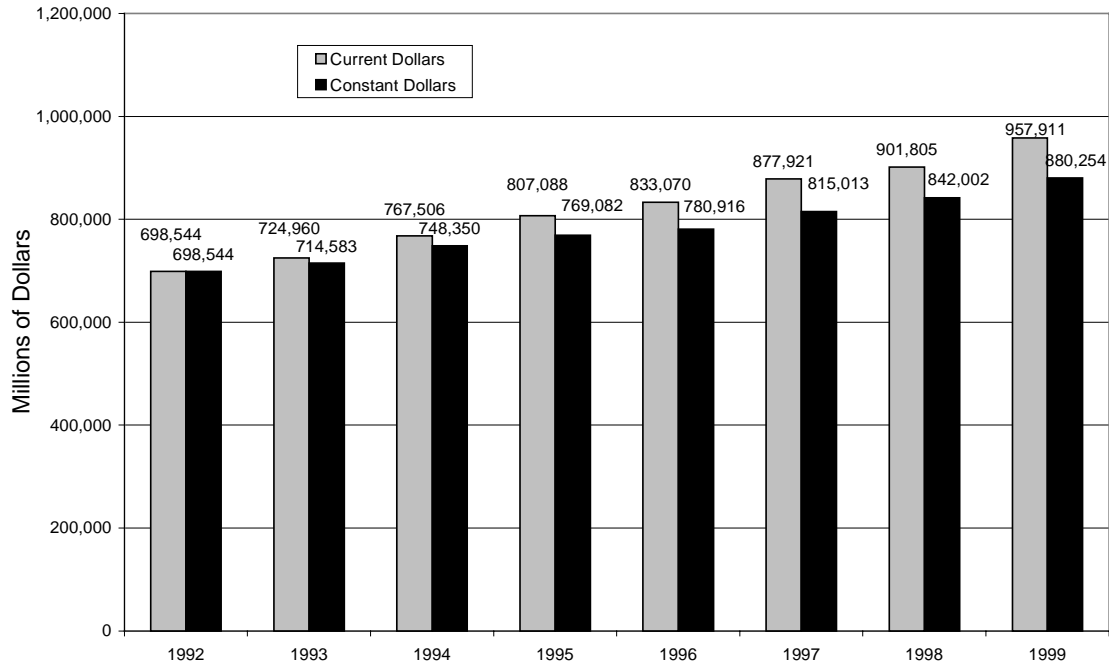
Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada. UnemProv.ivt (LFS – Unemployment Rates (Men), By Provinces, 1983 – 1998)

\* Annual averages of persons aged 15 and over. The unemployment rate is an estimate of the percentage of the labour force not employed and seeking work. The measure does not include those who report that they would like work, but who have stopped searching because they believe no work is available.

- Unemployment is a factor that is linked to many others, such as low education, poor literacy, and low income. For young people, it also means more idle time and detachment from the community. These factors are all linked to risk of criminal involvement.
- The recession that began in 1990 greatly affected the unemployment rate in Canada. This rate reached a nine-year high (the same as the 1984 rate) of 11.3% in 1992. After increasing slightly from 1995 to 1996, the unemployment rate dropped by 0.5% in 1997. Overall, the unemployment rate for men and women was the same (9.2%) in 1997.
- Younger Canadians, particularly those with limited education, were especially affected by the recession. The unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 24 years rose from 11.2% in 1989 to 17.8% in 1992. By 1995, the unemployment rate for this age category had decreased to a five-year low of 15.6%, only to increase to 16.1% in 1996 and 16.7% in 1997. In 1997, the unemployment rate of those 15 to 24 years was higher among men (17.5%) than women (15.7%).

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators

## Gross Domestic Product, Canada, 1992-1999<sup>3</sup>

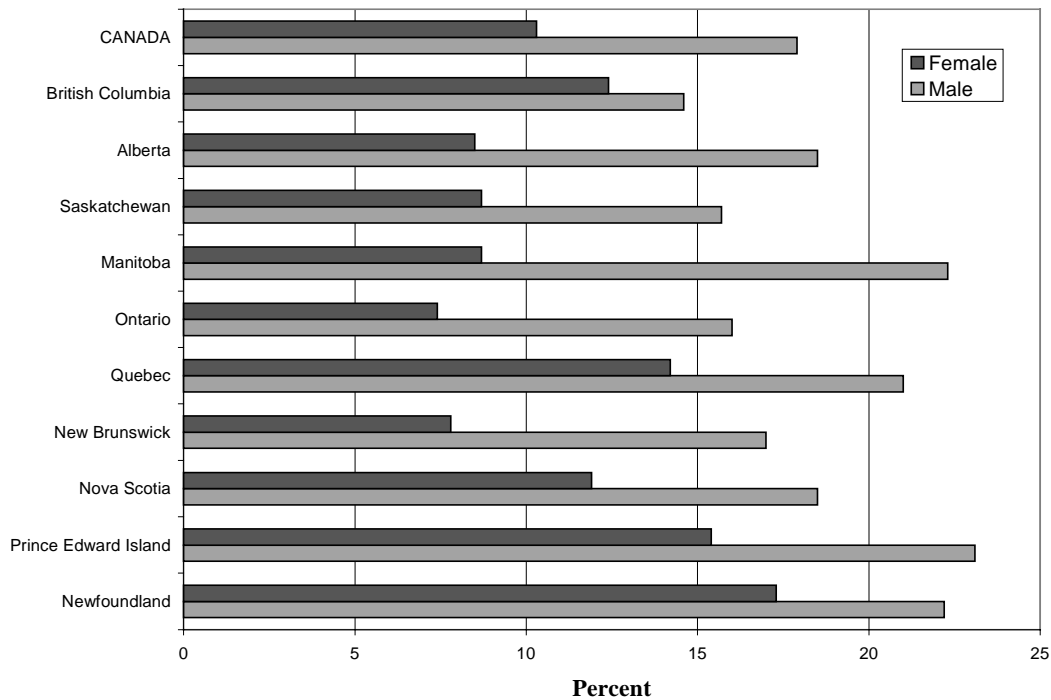


Source: National economic and financial accounts, Statistics Canada. GDP.ivt (GDP – Expenditure Base, By Provinces, 1992 – 1999)

- The graph of gross domestic product indicates economic booms and recessions, both of which can effect various types of offending.
- The Gross Domestic Product in constant dollars has been increasing steadily for the last 8 years.
- From 1998 to 1999, the GDP increased by 6.2% in current dollars, while for the same period, it increased by 4.5% in constant dollars.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators

### Rates of Premature School Leaving, Canada and Provinces, 1995<sup>3</sup>

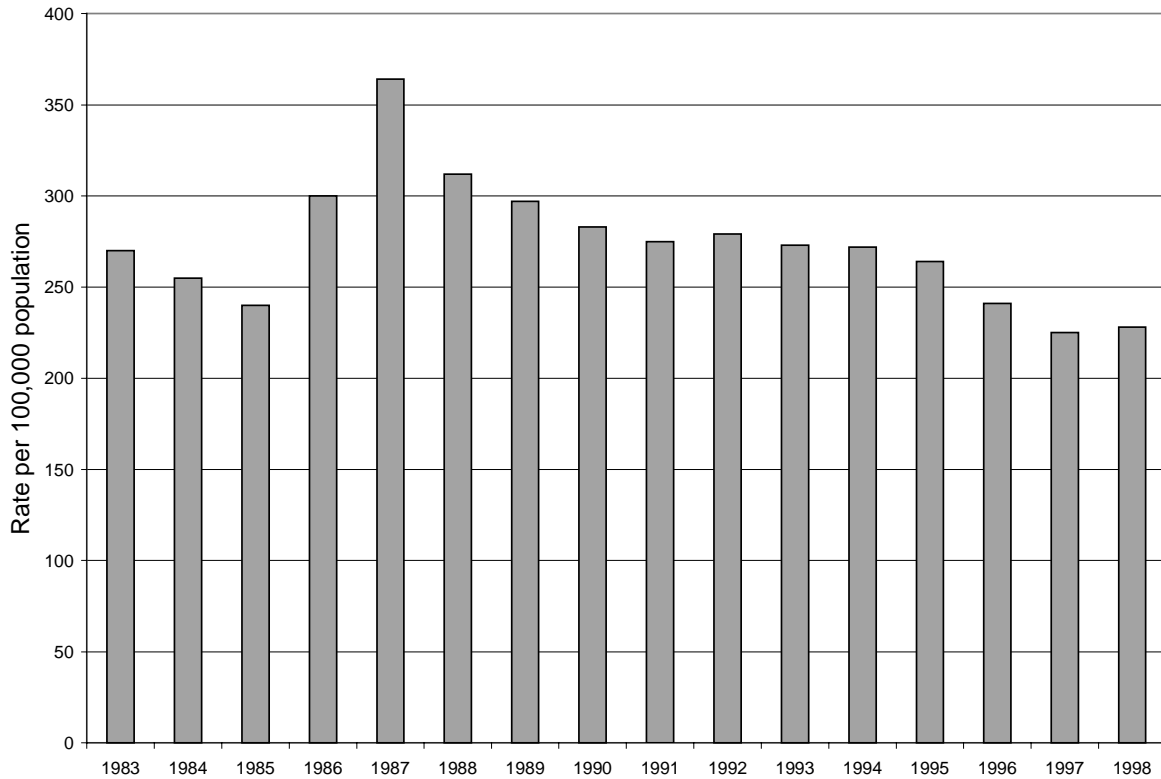


Source: School Leavers Follow-up Survey, 1995, Culture, Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- Poor school performance and non-completion are predictors of unemployment, poor attachment to community, attachment to delinquent peers, low economic status, all of which predict criminal involvement.
- The male premature school leaver proportion among those 22 to 24 years of age in 1995 was 18% for Canada.
- For males six provinces exceeded the national percentage : Newfoundland (22%), Prince Edward Island (23%), Nova Scotia (19%), Quebec (21%), Manitoba (22%), and Alberta (19%).
- The Canada female premature school leaver rate was much lower at 10%. The female rate was lower than the male rate in every province.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators

### Divorce Rate, Canada, 1983-1998<sup>3</sup>



Source: Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada. Data originate with the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings of the federal Department of Justice.

- The crude divorce rate refers to the number of divorces per 100,000 population, i.e., the crude rate is not adjusted for sex and age. Of available rates, it is the easiest to understand. The crude divorce rate reached a peak in 1987 at 362. This involved 96,200 divorces in that year.
- The number of divorces (69,088) increased by 1.6% in 1998, compared to 1997.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators

### Rates of Children Born to Teenagers, Canada, 1986-1987 to 1996-1997<sup>3</sup>



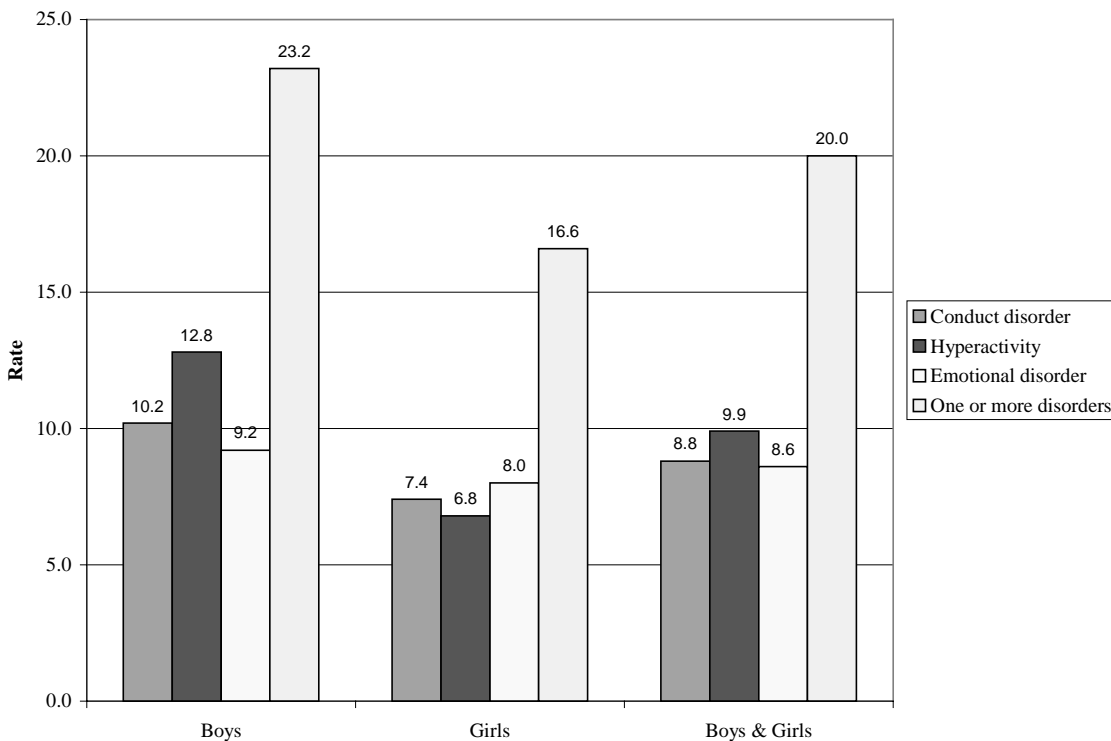
Source: Vital statistics registrations, Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

- Children of teenagers are at risk of abuse from immature mothers, and male friends of mothers, and at risk of being raised in low-income households.
- In 1996-97, the rate of children born to teenagers dropped by 7.7% from 1995-96.
- Since 1991-92, the rate of children born to teenagers has been constantly decreasing, passing from 26% in 1991-92 to 22% in 1996-97.
- The 1996-97 rate of children born to teenagers (22.3%) was the lowest in the time period covered; i.e., since 1986-87.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators



## Emotional & Behavioural Disorders in Children Aged 4-11, Canada, 1996<sup>3</sup>

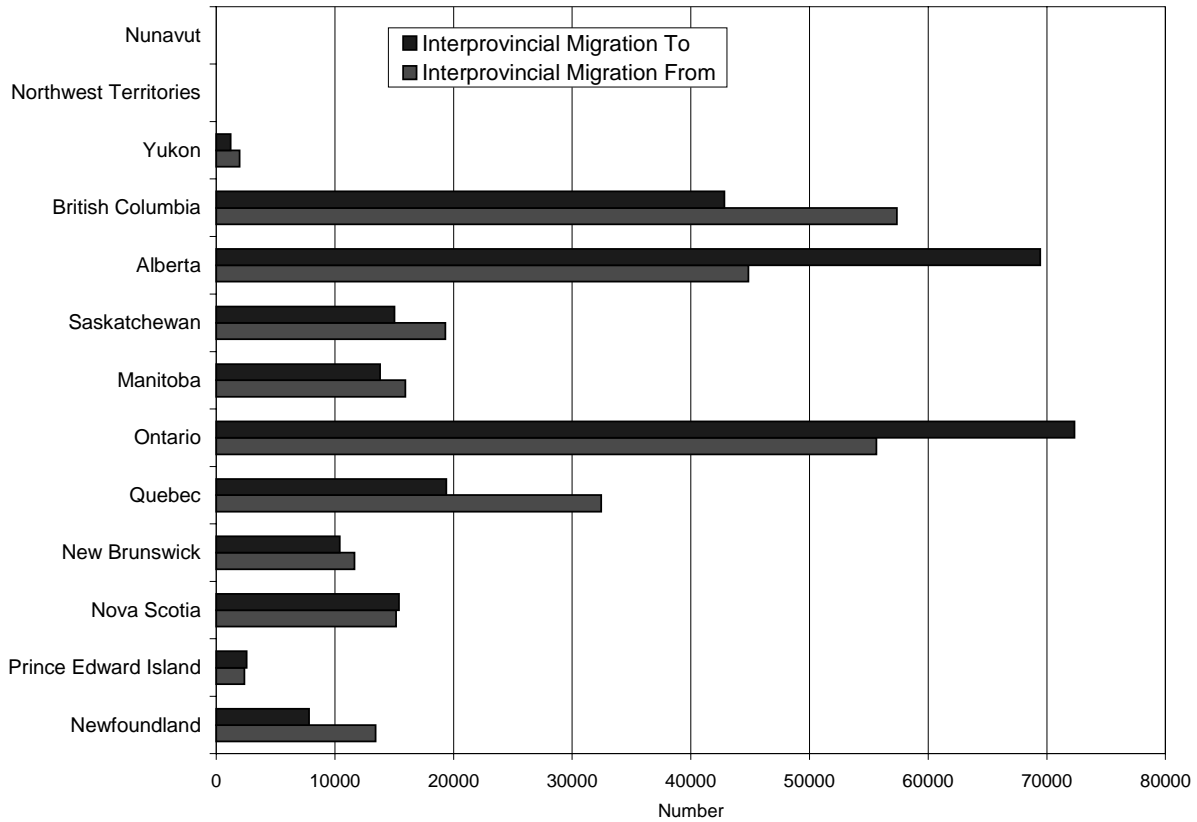


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Statistics Canada. BEHV.ivt (NLSCY – Emotional and Behavioural Problems, Cycle 2, 1996)

- Emotional and behavioral disorders in children can affect the child's relationships to parents, teachers and peers, and can be linked to dropping out, poor employment prospects, and delinquency.
- 20% of boys and girls age 4 to 11 suffer from one or more emotional or behavioral disorders.
- Levels are higher overall among boys (23%) than girls (17%).
- The highest percentage among boys is for hyperactivity (13%).
- For girls the highest percentage (8%) is for emotional disorders.
- It should be noted that the cut-off points defining these disorders have not been clinically validated, i.e., the definition of each disorder was a convenient statistical grouping (the highest 10% of the distribution) which has not been shown to correspond to any actual level of dysfunction in the children.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators

### Interprovincial Migrants, by Province or Territory of Origin and Destination, Annual (Persons)<sup>3</sup>, 1999

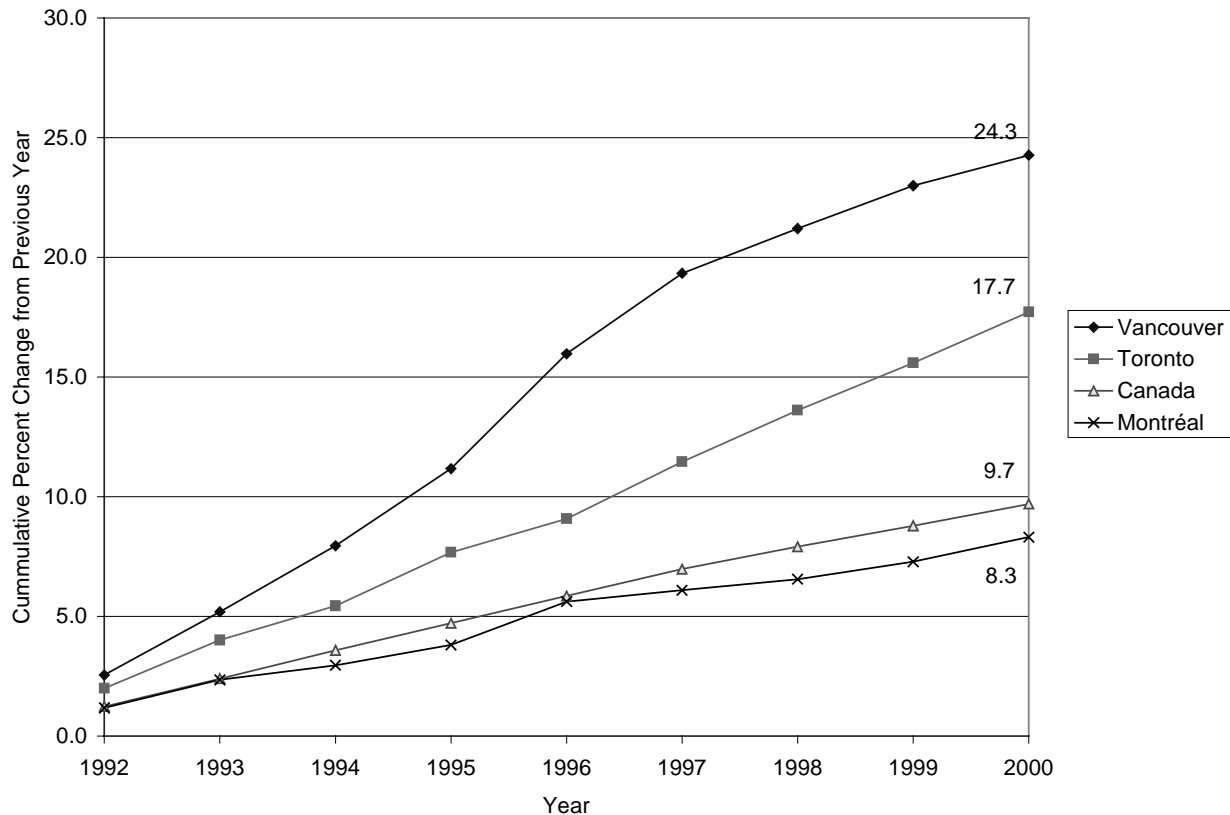


Source: Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999

- 27% of persons migrating out of a province or territory did so from Ontario.
- Ontario and British Columbia each had 21% of migrators move to their province.
- Only 1% of the population moved into Prince Edward Island and only 1% moved away from the Island.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators

### Population Growth in Major Urban Centres, 1992 to 2000<sup>3</sup>



Source: Census of the Population, Statistics Canada.

- In densely populated urban areas, especially those with rapid population growth, friendship and family ties and other informal social controls may be weakened.
- Since the 1991 census, the population of Toronto and Vancouver has grown more rapidly than the population of Canada as a whole. The rate of growth in Montreal was below that of Canada.
- All three major census metropolitan areas, Vancouver (24.3%), Toronto (17.7%) and Montreal (8.3%), experienced population increases since the 1991 census.

<sup>3</sup> Prime Environmental Indicators

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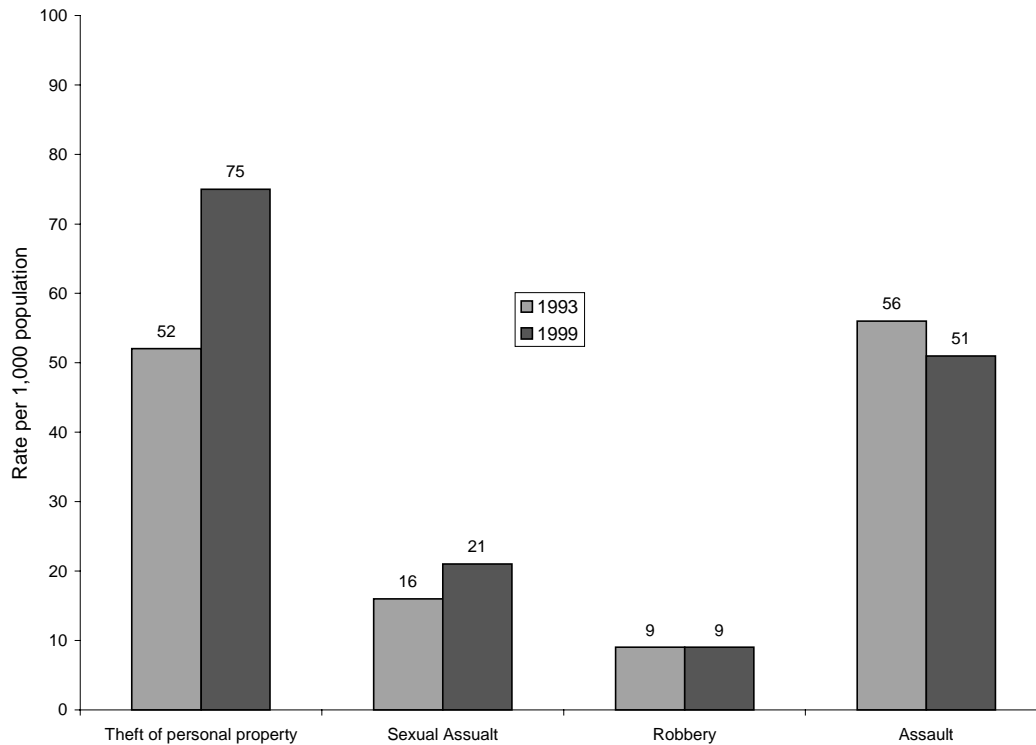




# Focus Issues

## Criminal Victimization in Canada

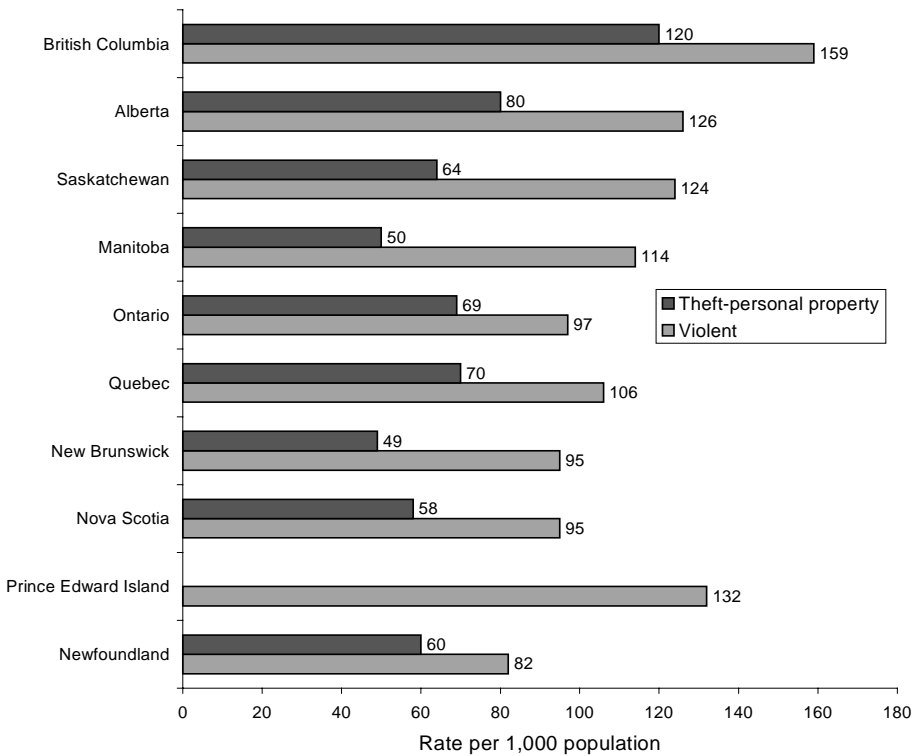
### Violent Crime Rates Virtually Unchanged in 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993, 1999.

- A total of 8.3 million victimization incidents were reported in 1999. Of those reported, half involved a personal crime. The proportion of incidents involving household crimes was 35%, while the remaining 15% of incidents could not be classified as either a personal or household crime.
- The 1999 personal victimization rate, 157 incidents per 1,000 population, was up 17% from the comparable figure for 1993.
- This increase was due in large part to a 44% increase in the rate for personal property theft, from 52 incidents per 1,000 in 1993 to 75 incidents per 1,000 in 1999.

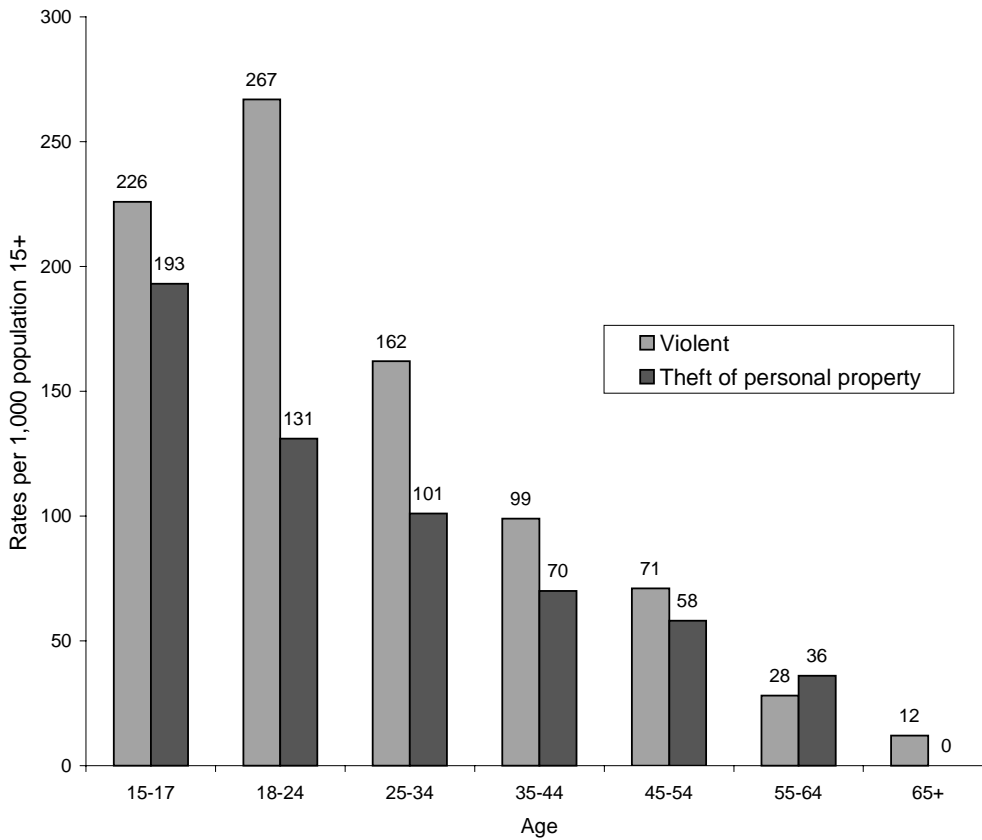
## British Columbia Has the Highest Rate of Personal Victimization, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- British Columbia had the highest rates of personal victimization, due partly to the higher rates for theft of personal property.
- Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had the lowest rates of personal victimization.

### Young Adults Most Likely to Become Victims of Violent Crime, 1999

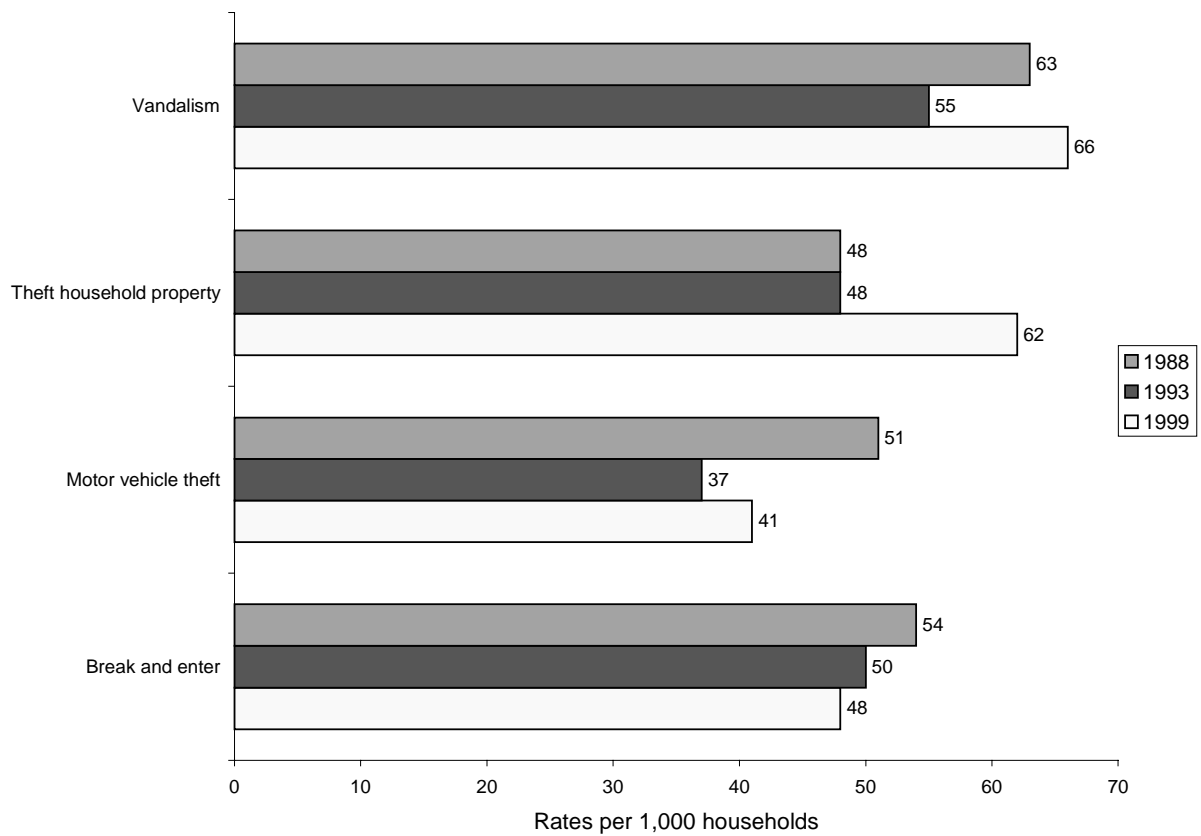


Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- The risk of personal victimization decreases as people get older.
- People aged 15 to 24 were 21 times more likely to be victims of violent crime and nine times more likely to be victims of personal property theft than were people in the 65+ age group.



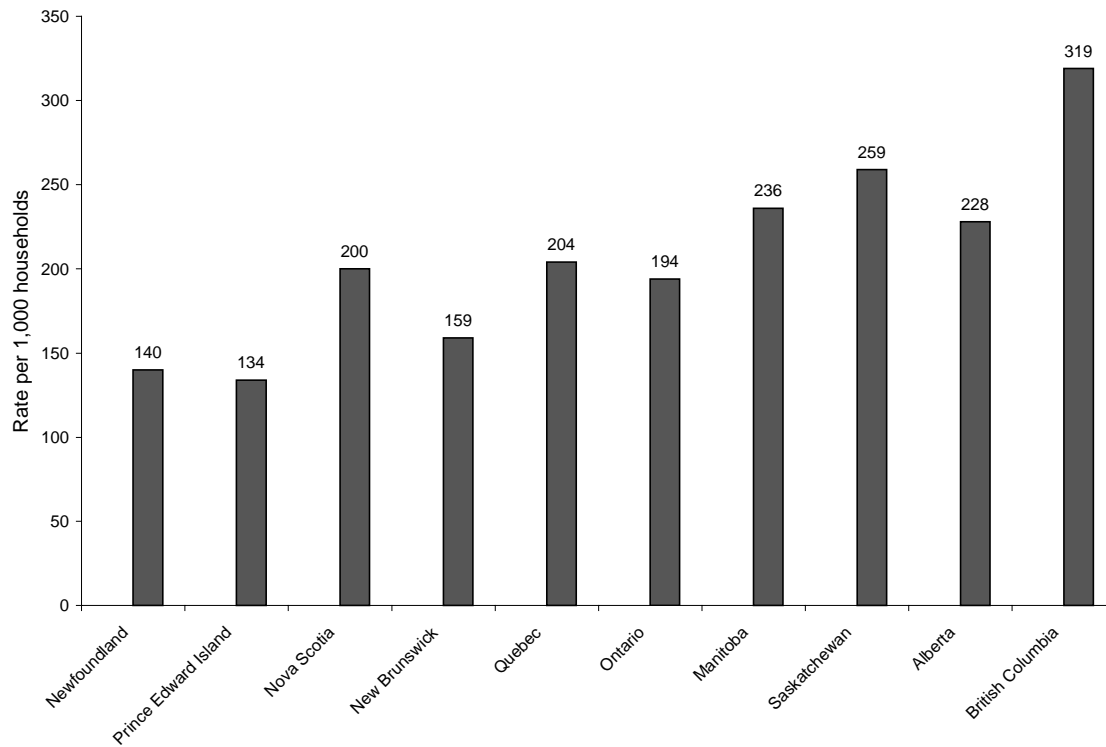
### Rates of Break and Enter Virtually Unchanged by Year



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988, 1993 and 1999

- The rates for break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft and vandalism did not change significantly between 1993 and 1999.
- Increased rates for theft of household property were observed. This was due largely to an increase in incidents where the value of property taken was less than \$500.

### Rates of Household Victimization Increase from East to West, 1999

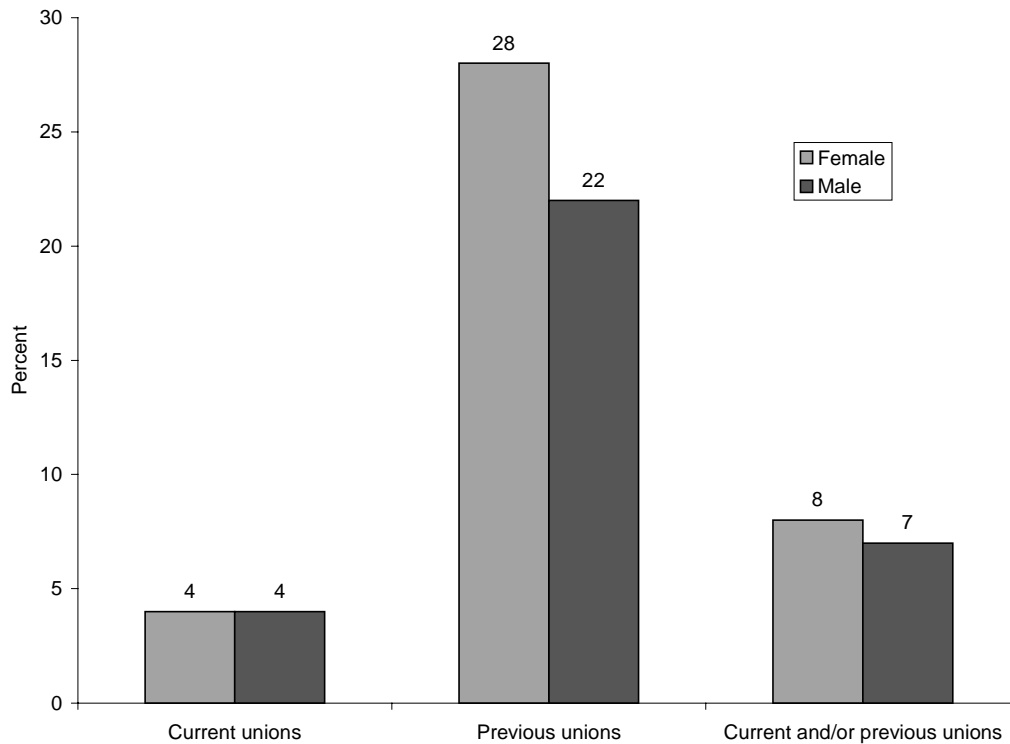


Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- Household victimization rates are highest in British Columbia (319 per 1,000 households). This is due in part to the high rates of household property thefts.
- The lowest rate of household victimization belonged to Prince Edward Island at 134 incidents per 1,000 households.

## Family Violence, 1999

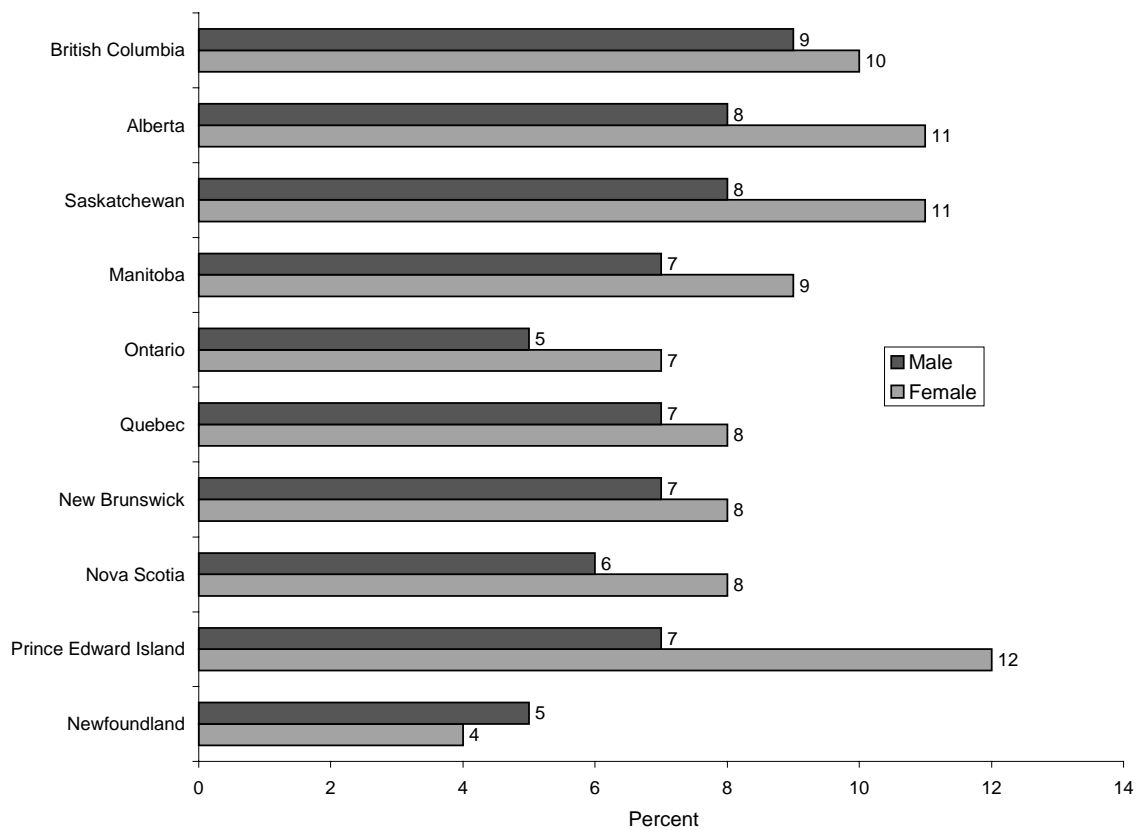
### Rates of Spousal Violence Similar for Women and Men, Past 5 years



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999 .

- According to the 1999 General Social Survey, it is estimated that, in Canada, 7% of people who were married or living in a common law relationship experienced some type of violence by a partner during the previous five years.
- The 5-year rate of violence was similar for women (8%) and men (7%). Overall, this amounts to approximately 690,000 women and 549,000 men who had a current or former partner in the past five years and reported experiencing at least one incident of violence.

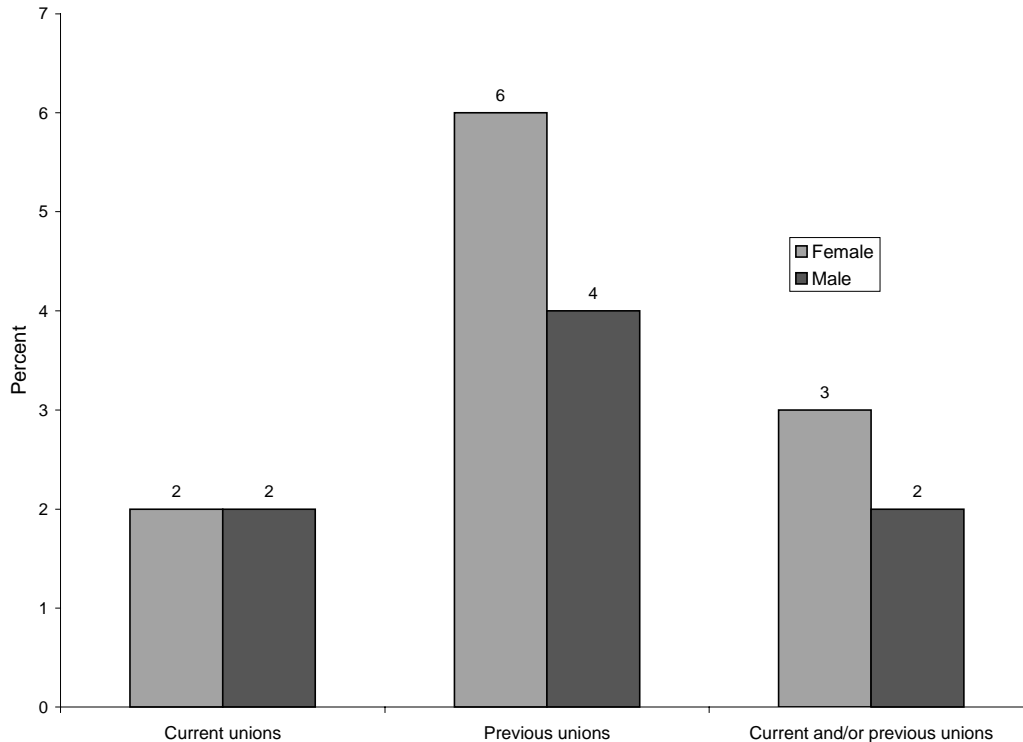
## Women More Likely Than Men to Experience Spousal Violence in Most Provinces, Past 5 years



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- Estimated provincial rates of spousal violence for women ranged from 4% to 12%. For men the range was from 5% to 9%.
- Women living in Prince Edward Island (12%), Alberta (11%), Saskatchewan (11%) and British Columbia (10%) reported the highest 5-year rates of spousal violence.
- Men living in British Columbia (9%), Alberta (8%), and Saskatchewan (8%) reported the highest rates of spousal violence.
- Other than in Ontario, the differences in provincial rates of violence between women and men were not statistically significant.

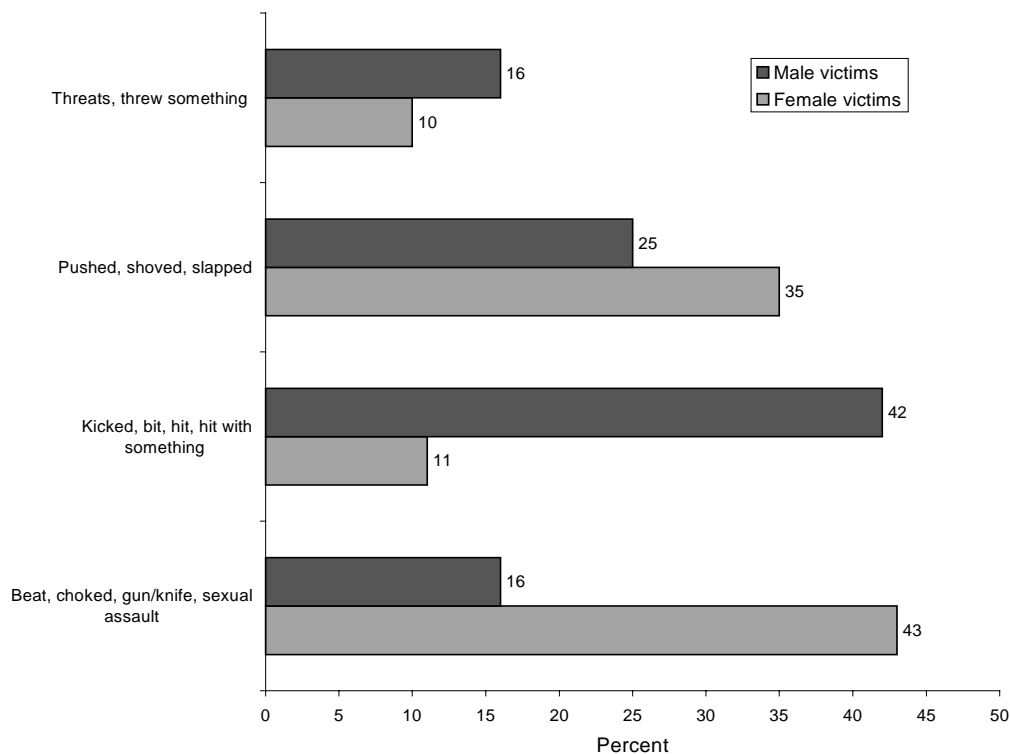
### Spousal Violence Most Likely to be Reported in Unions that Have Ended, Past 12 Months



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- Rates of violence for women and men who have current partners are the same (2% for women and 2% for men). It is only with respect to previous partners, the difference between female and male rates of violence is evident.
- In the 12 months prior to the survey interview, 6% of women and 4% of men with previous partners experienced some form of violence within these relationships.

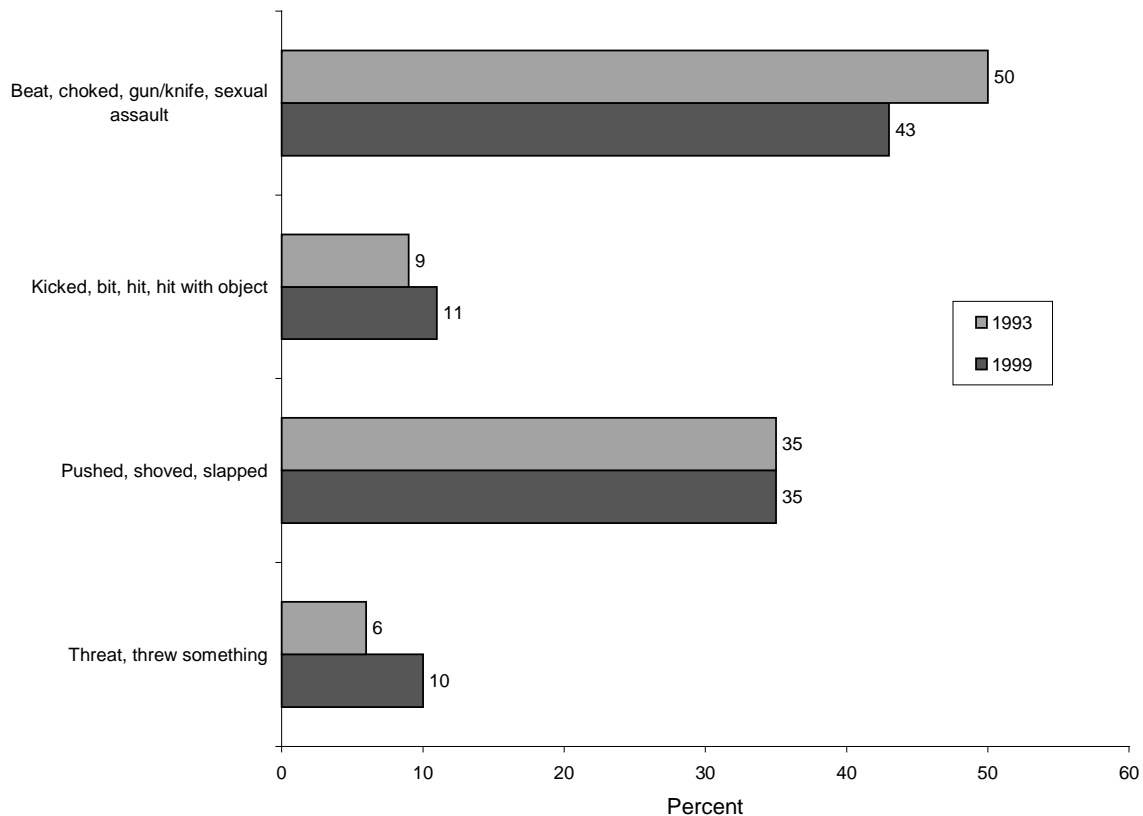
## Women Experience More Serious Types of Violence Than Men, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- Women in violent relationships were more likely than men in violent relationships to report what could be considered more severe forms of violence.
- Women were more than twice as likely as men to report being beaten (25% versus 10%), five times more likely to report being choked (20% versus 4%) and almost twice as likely to report being threatened by, or having a gun or knife used against them (13% versus 7%).
- Men were more likely than women to report being slapped (57% versus 44%), having something thrown at them (56% versus 44%) and being kicked, bit or hit (51% versus 33%).

## Slight Decline in the Most Serious Forms of Violence against Wives



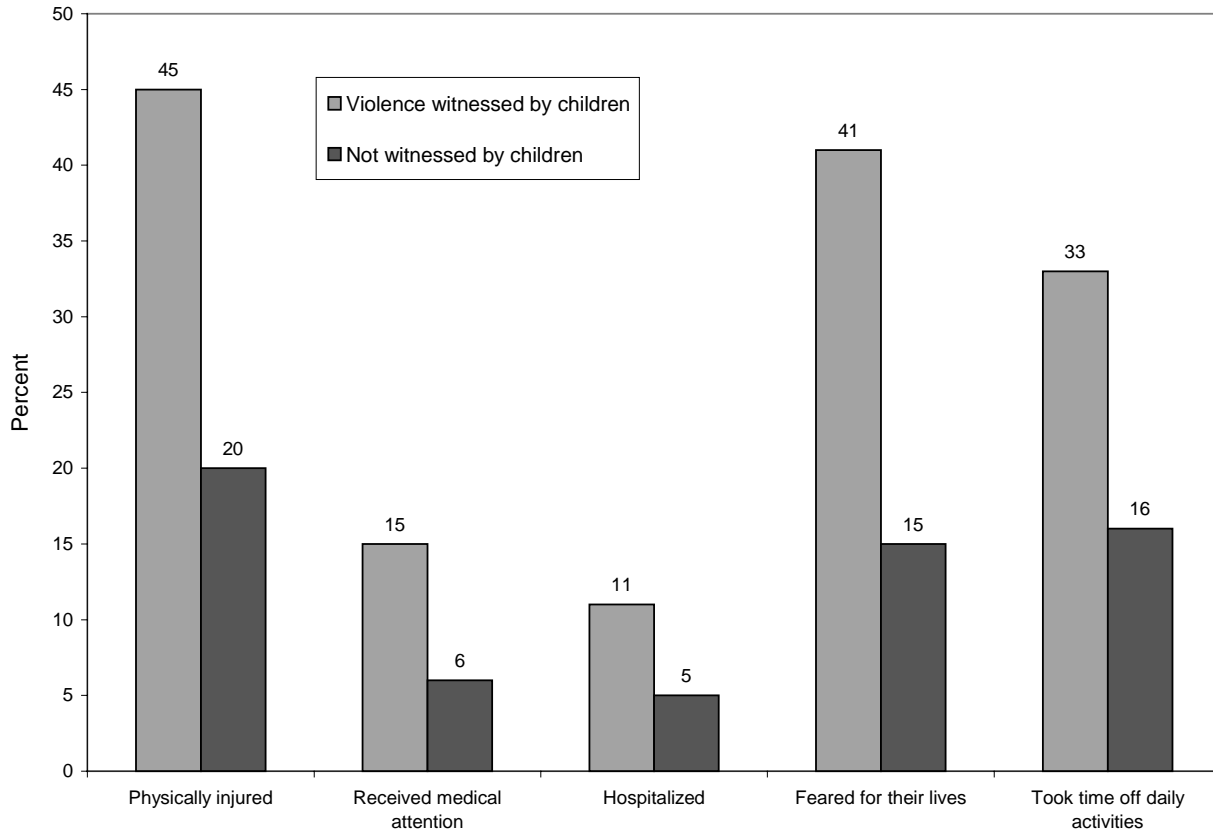
1. Includes common-law partners

2. Counts each victim once according to the most serious type of violence during the five years preceding the survey.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999 and Violence Against Women Survey 1993.

- Five-year rates of violence against women declined from 12% in 1993 to 8% in 1999, a drop which is statistically significant.
- The proportion of women reporting the more serious forms of violence, including being beaten up, choked, threatened with a gun or knife, or sexually assaulted, was lower in 1999 than in 1993 (43% compared to 50%, a slight but significant decline).
- Assaults occurred less frequently, were less likely to result in injury, and were less likely to require medical attention. But victims of more recent cases were slightly more likely to fear that their lives were in danger from a violent spouse.

### Spousal Violence Cases Witnessed by Children Tend to be More Serious, 1999

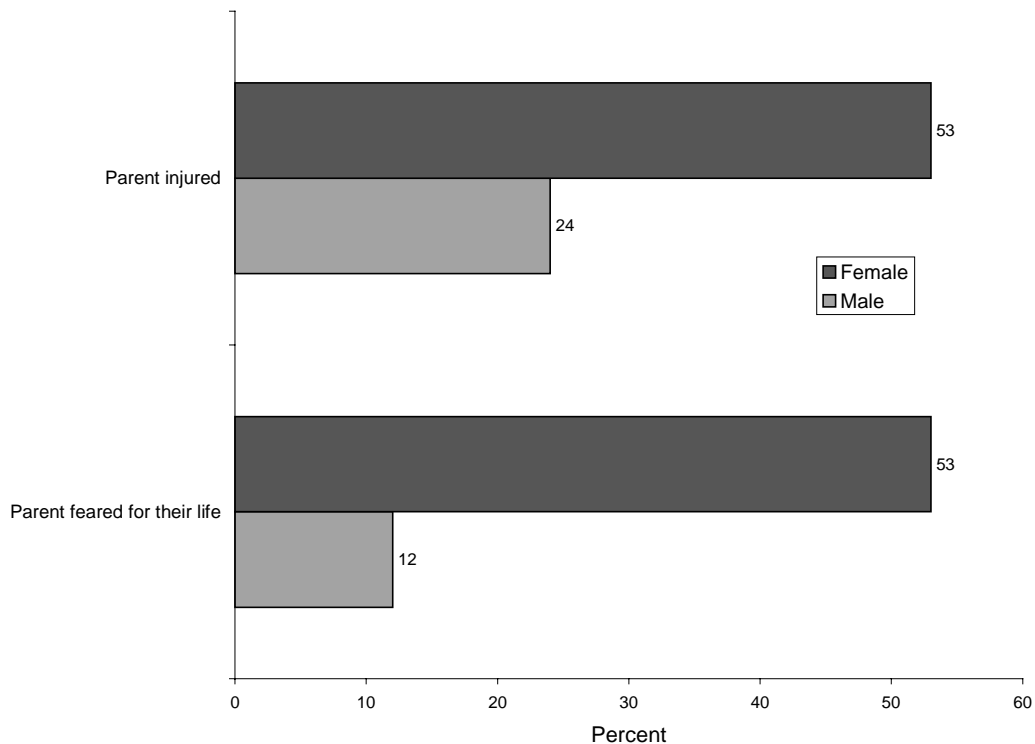


Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- Over a 5-year period, 37% of spousal violence victims reported that children had heard or seen violence in the home. This amounts to approximately half a million children.
- In 45% of all cases of spousal violence witnessed by children, women and men assaulted were physically injured and 41% feared for their lives.



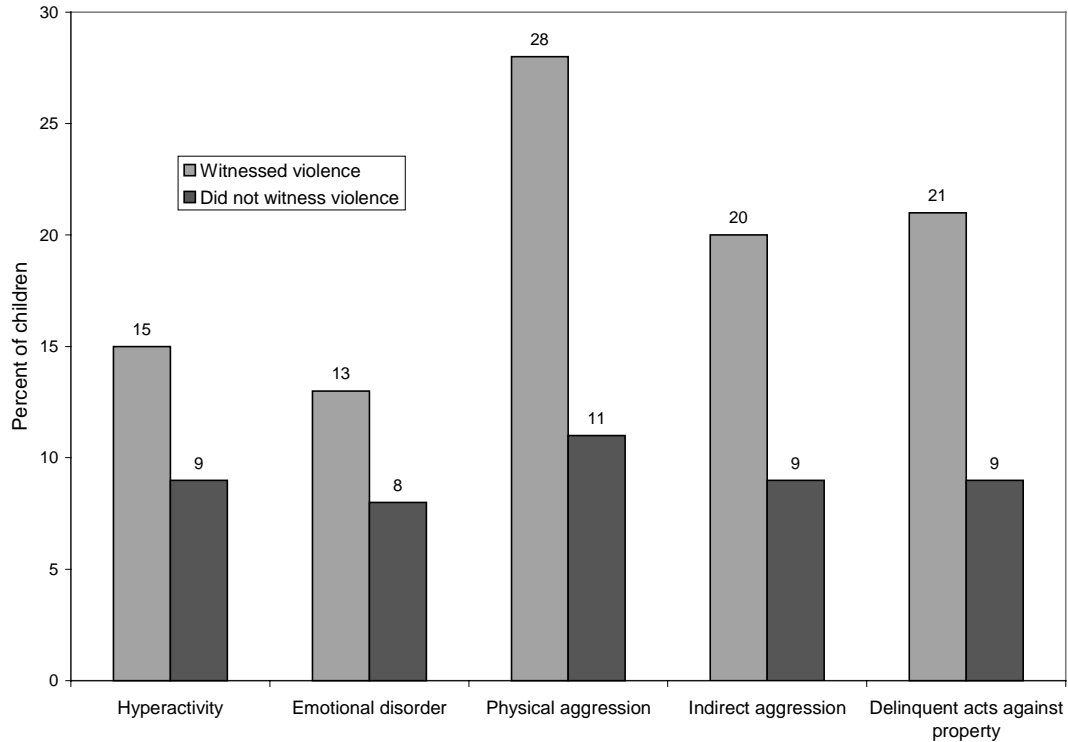
## Violence Witnessed Against Mothers More Serious



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- Children were more likely to witness violence against their mothers (47%) than against fathers (25%).
- In addition, children were most likely to see or hear serious assaults on their mother. In 53% cases where a child heard or saw a violent incident against their mother, the women had, at some point in the last five years, feared for her life because of the violence.
- Children were also more than twice as likely to see or hear violence in a home in which their mothers had been physically injured than when their father had been injured.

### Children Who Witnessed Violence in Their Homes More Likely to Exhibit Behaviour Difficulties<sup>1</sup>, 1998-1999

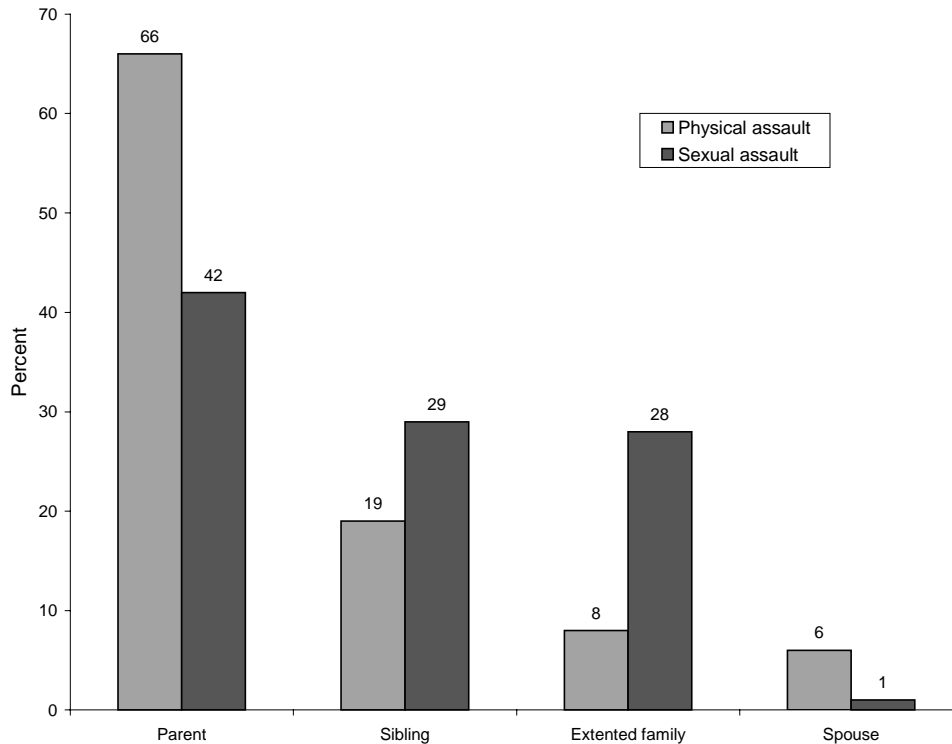


<sup>1</sup> Those who fell within the bottom 10% of the scales were considered to have behavioural problems.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 1998 - 1999.

- Children that witnessed violence were more than twice likely to be physically aggressive, to commit delinquent acts against property, and to display indirect aggression.

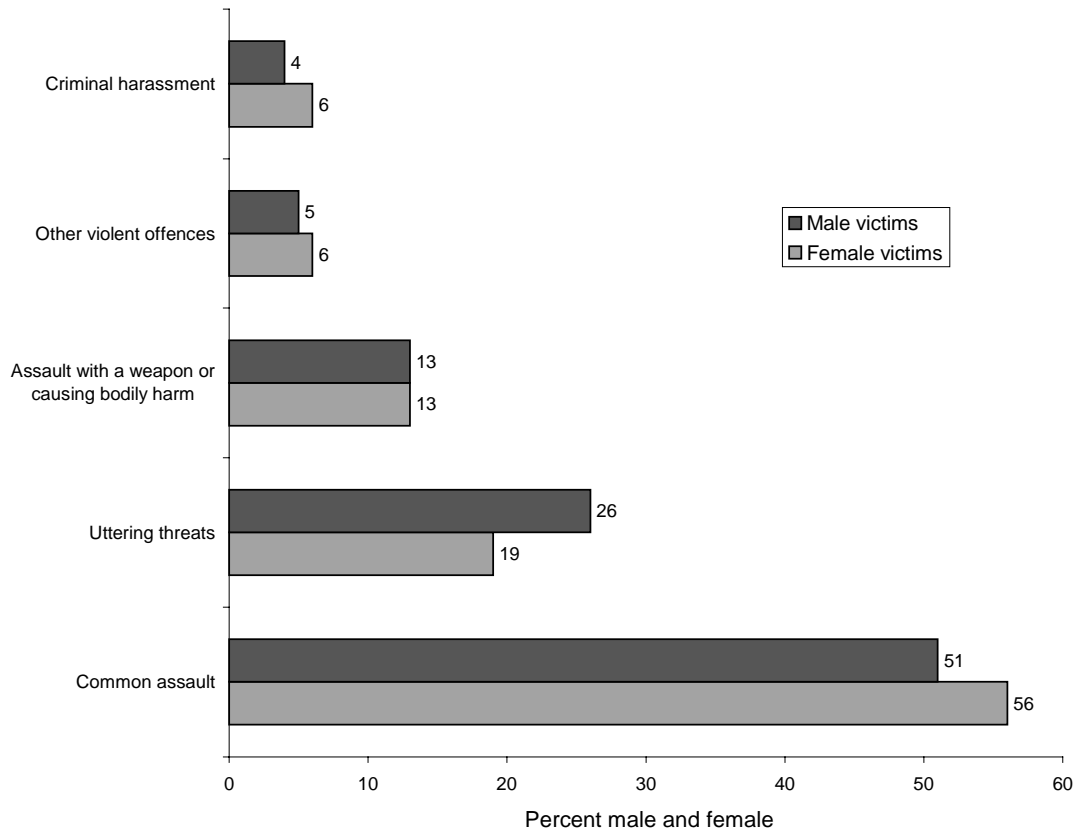
### Parents Most Frequently Accused in Assaults Against Children and Youth Committed by a Family Member, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Center for Justice Statistics Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

- Within the family, parents posed the greatest threat to children and youth, particularly in the case of physical assault. Parents represented 66% of family member's accused of physically assaulting children and youth and 42% of those accused of sexual assault.

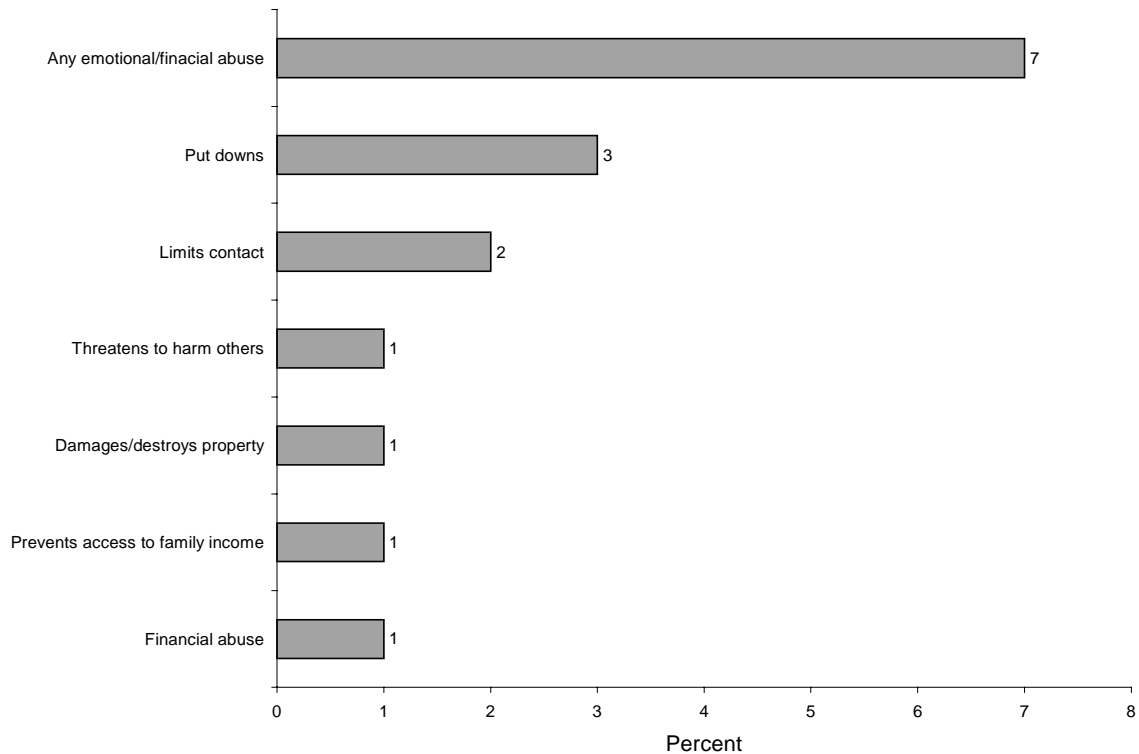
### Common Assault Most Frequent Offence by Family Members Against Older Adults, 1999



Source: 1999 Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Incident based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

- According to police reported statistics, the majority of older adults who were victimized by family members were the victims of common assault, followed by uttering threats and assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm. This was the case regardless of whether the victim was female or male.

## Victims of Senior Abuse more Likely to Report Emotional Abuse, 1999

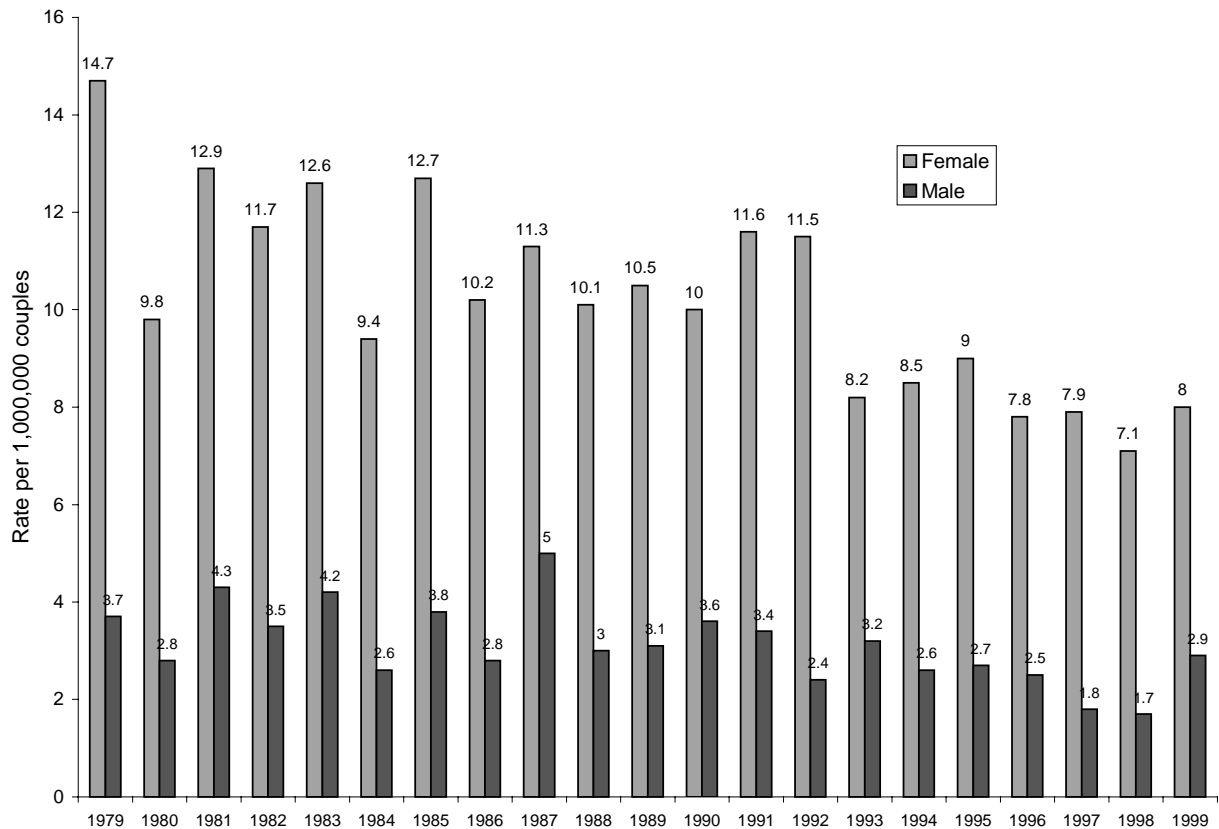


Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- According to the General Social Survey on Victimization, those aged 65 years and older are more likely to experience emotional abuse (7%), than financial abuse (1%).
- The most common form of emotional abuse reported by older adults was being put down or called names (3%) followed by limiting contact with family and friends (2%).
- The vast majority of abuse to older victims comes from their spouse.

## Family Homicides, 1999

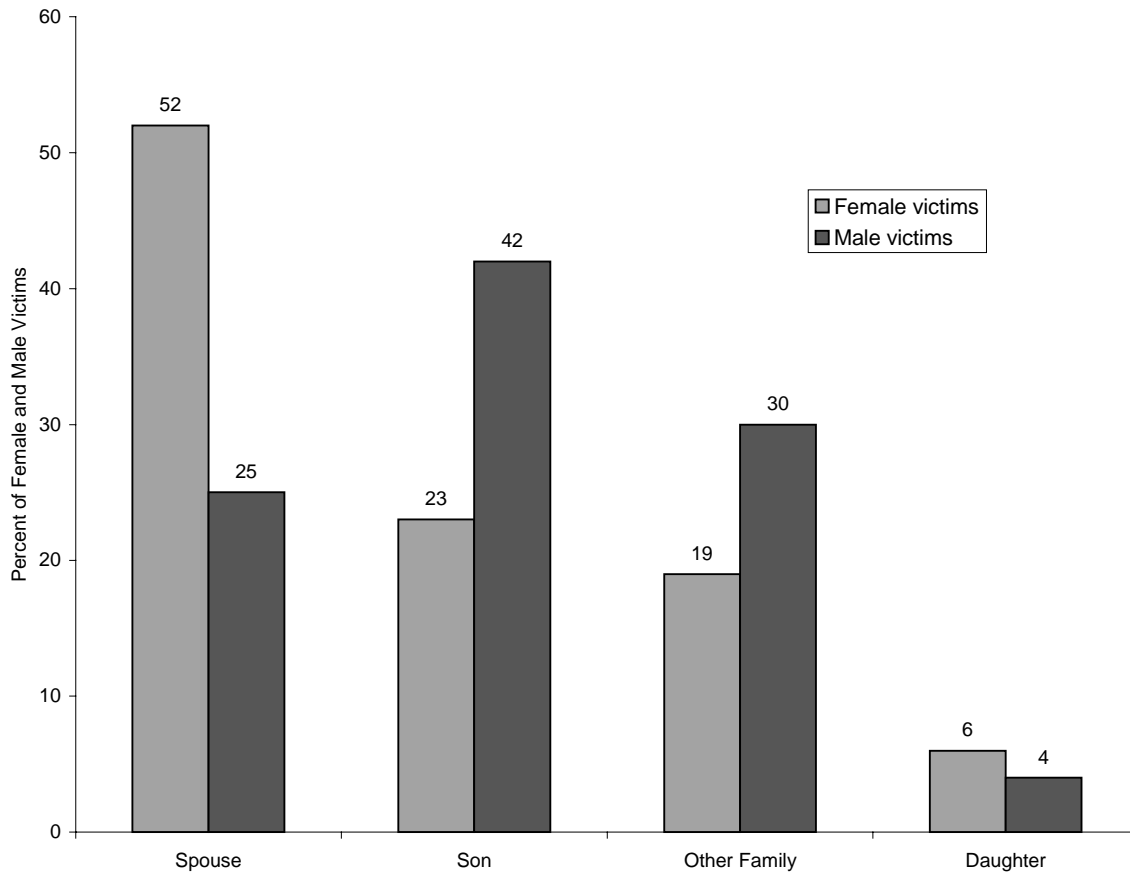
### Spousal Homicide Lowest in 1998 for both Women and Men, 1974-1999



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey

- The rate of spousal homicide has declined gradually over the past two decades, particularly wife killings.
- The homicide rate has declined by 52% for wives, from 15 per million couples in 1979 to 7 per million couples in 1998. For husbands the rate has dropped from a high of 5 per million couples in 1987 to 2 per million in 1998.
- Over the past two decades, more than three times as many wives as husbands were killed by their spouse.

### Older Women Killed by Spouse, Older Men Killed by Sons, Canada, 1974-1999

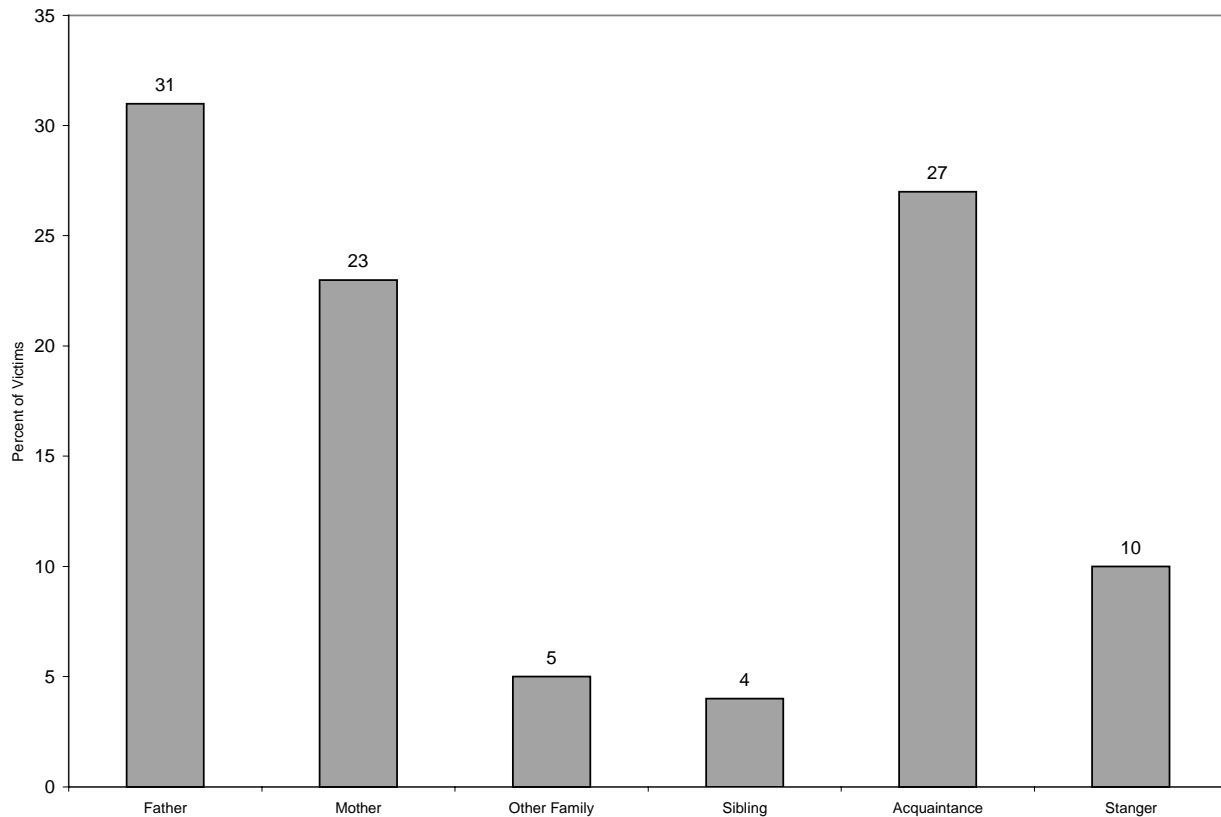


1. Includes older Canadians over age 65, where victim sex and accused-victim relationship are known

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey

- Female victims of homicide aged 65 years and older are twice as likely to be killed by their spouse than are their male counterparts.
- Men 65 years of age and older have a higher rate of homicide by both sons and other family members than do their female counterparts.
- The rate of homicides against male victims aged 65 years and over, has been consistently higher than female victims of the same age.

### Children Most Likely to be Killed by Parents, Canada, 1974-1999



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Center for Justice Statistics, 1999 Homicide Survey

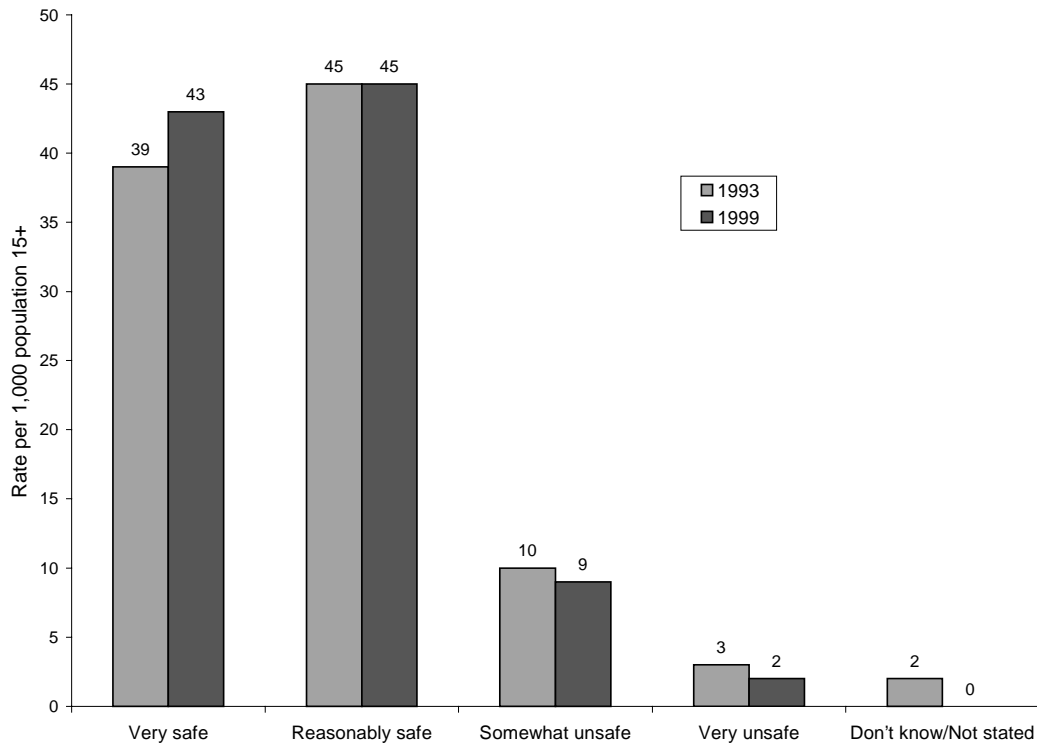
Figures represent the average number of victims between 1988 and 1997.

- There was an average of 84 solved homicides against children and youth under the age of 18 each year between 1974 and 1999. In 1999, there were 58 homicides against children and youth. This represented 11% of all homicides in Canada that year.
- Fathers were the most common accused in child and youth homicides, 31% of the total between 1974 and 1999. Next most common were family acquaintances (27%) and mothers (23%). Only 10% of solved homicides over this period involved strangers.



## Fear and Perceptions of Crime, 1999

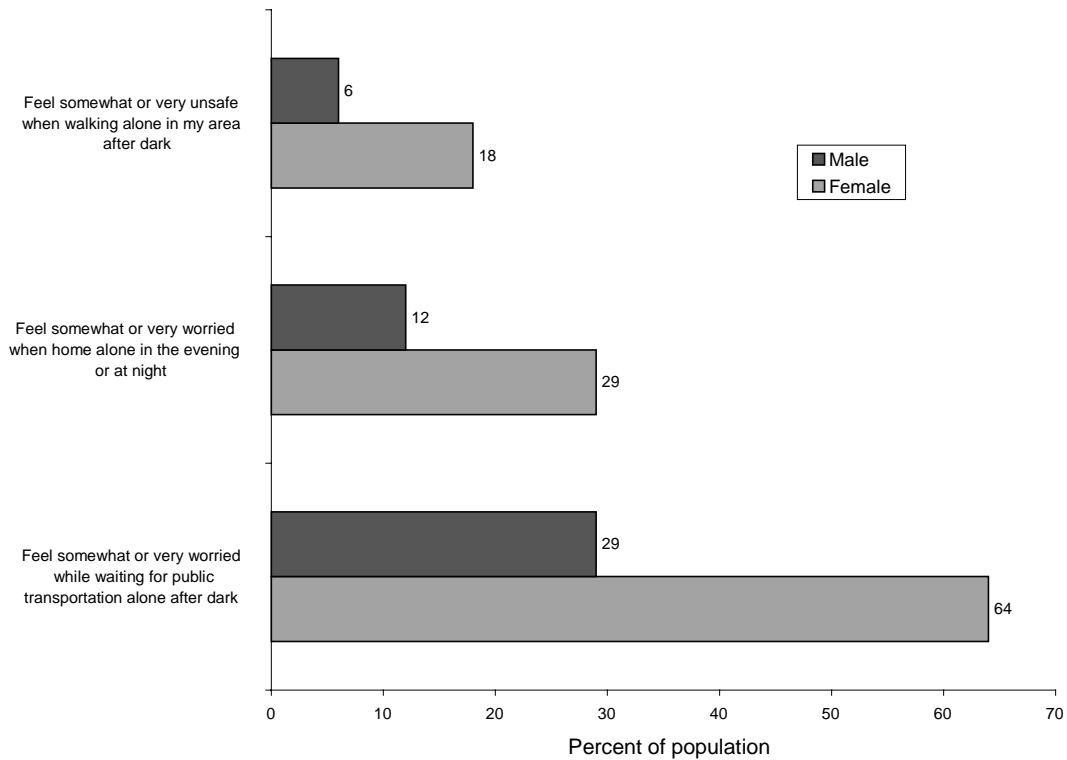
### Majority of Canadians Feel Safe Walking in their Neighborhood After Dark, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993 and 1999.

- The vast majority (88%) of respondents felt “very or reasonably safe” walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, up slightly from 84% in 1993.
- About four in ten people reported that they would walk alone more often if they felt safer.

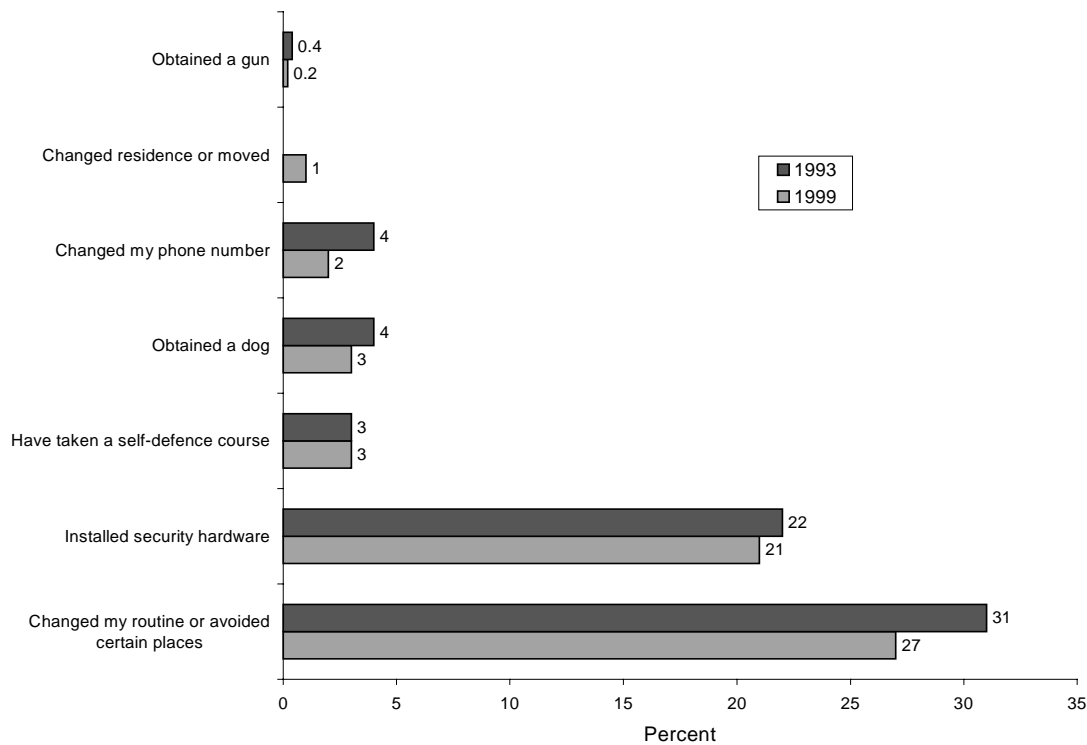
## Women More Fearful Than Men in Certain Situations, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of women felt somewhat or very worried while waiting for or using public transportation alone after dark, more than double the figure of 29% for men.
- When home alone in the evening, 29% of women and 12% of men reported being somewhat or very worried.
- Nearly one in five women (18%) felt somewhat or very unsafe when walking alone in their area after dark compared with 6% of men.

## About One in Four Canadians Change their Routine or Avoid Certain Places to Protect Themselves from Crime

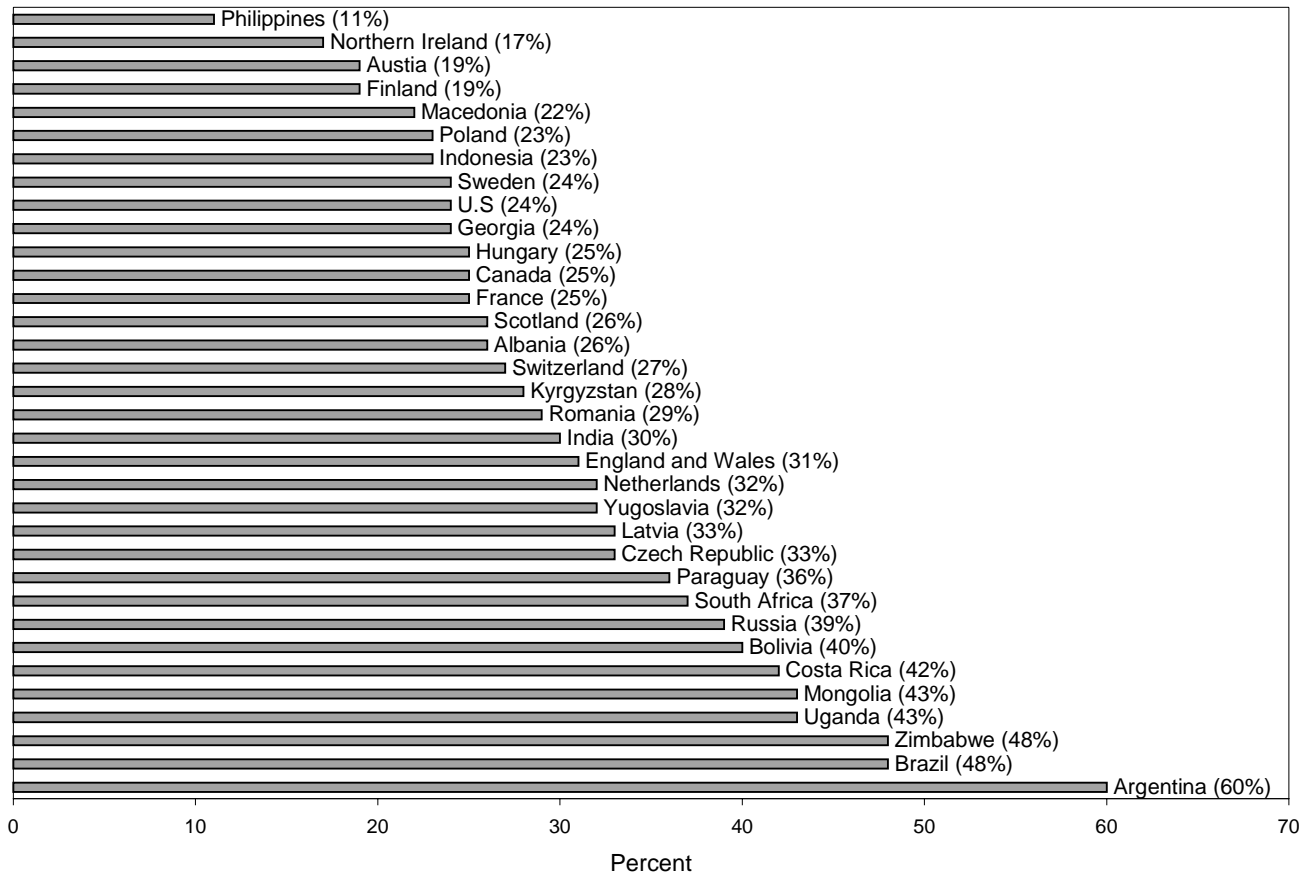


Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993 and 1999

- Canadians are most likely to indicate that they changed their routine or avoided certain places during the previous 12 months to protect themselves from crime.
- Fewer than 1% obtained a gun during the previous 12 months to protect themselves from crime.

## International Victimization

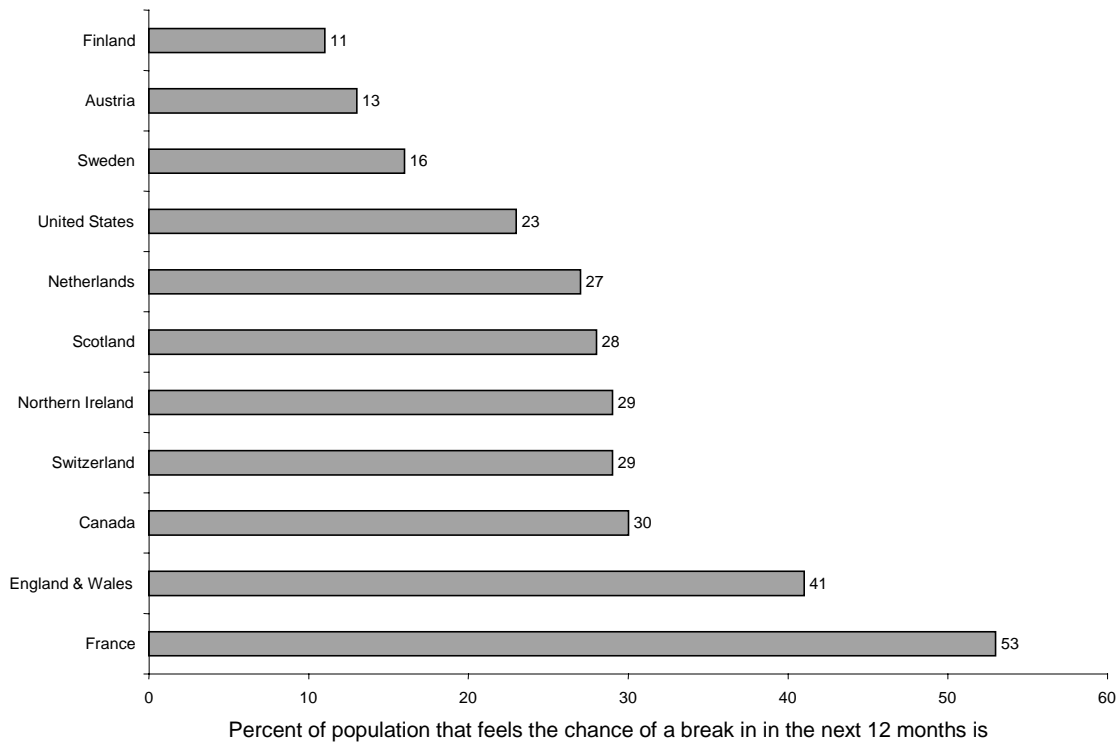
### Lower Victimization Rates in the Western Industrialized Countries



Source: International Crime Victimization Rates, 1996.

- Of the 34 countries examined, an average of 31% of the population reported being victimized in the year preceding the survey.
- Victimization rates varied from 11% in the Philippines to 60% in Argentina. Canada's rate (25%) was in the lower third of the group of 34 countries.
- The victimization rate in the western industrialized countries was much lower on average with 24% of the population being victimized.

### Among 11 Countries, France had the Highest Fear of Break and Enter

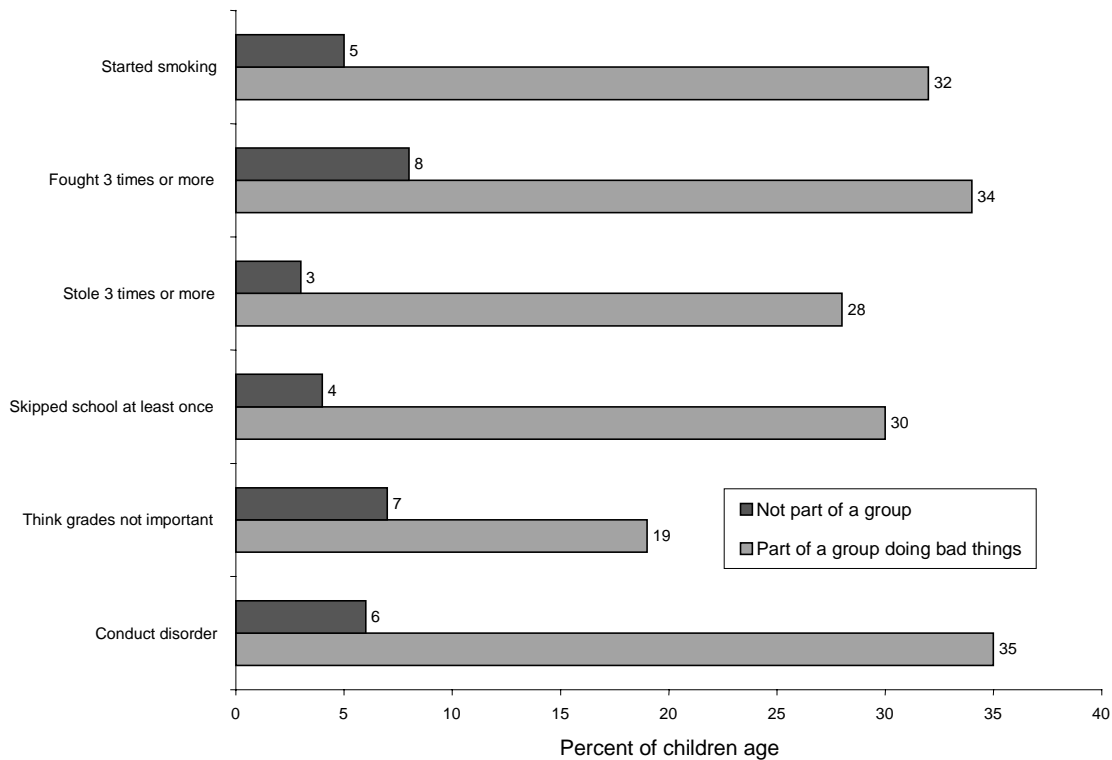


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Crime Victimization Survey, 1996.

- The percent of the population that felt that it was 'very likely' or 'likely' that their home would be broken into ranged from 11% in Finland up to 53% in France.
- The figure for Canada (30%) was third highest.
- In all 11 countries, fear of break and enters was higher among previous burglary victims. Overall, 47% of burglary victims felt the chances of a break and enter was very likely or likely.

## Selected Criminal Justice Issues, 1999

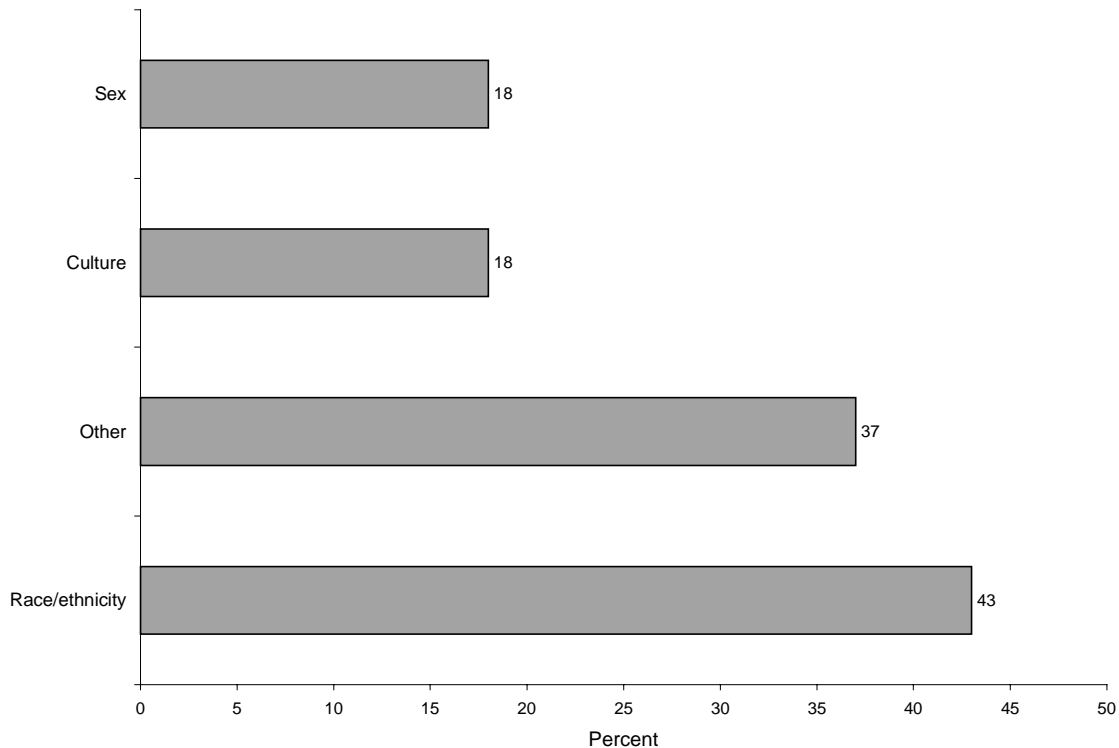
### Children Belonging to a Group are More Likely to Report Risk-Taking Behavior



Source: Statistics Canada, 1996-1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)

- About one adolescent (aged 12-13) in seven reported belonging to a group that “did risky things”. Girls were as likely as boys to be a part of such a group.
- Adolescents (aged 12-13) who reported being part of such group were 6 times more likely to report a conduct disorder. They were 7 times more likely to skip school, and 9 times more likely to have stolen something from a parent, store or school in the last 12 months.
- Those (aged 12-13) reported belonging to a group that did risky things were also 4 times more likely to have fought, 6 times more likely to have started smoking, and more than twice as likely to think grades are not important.

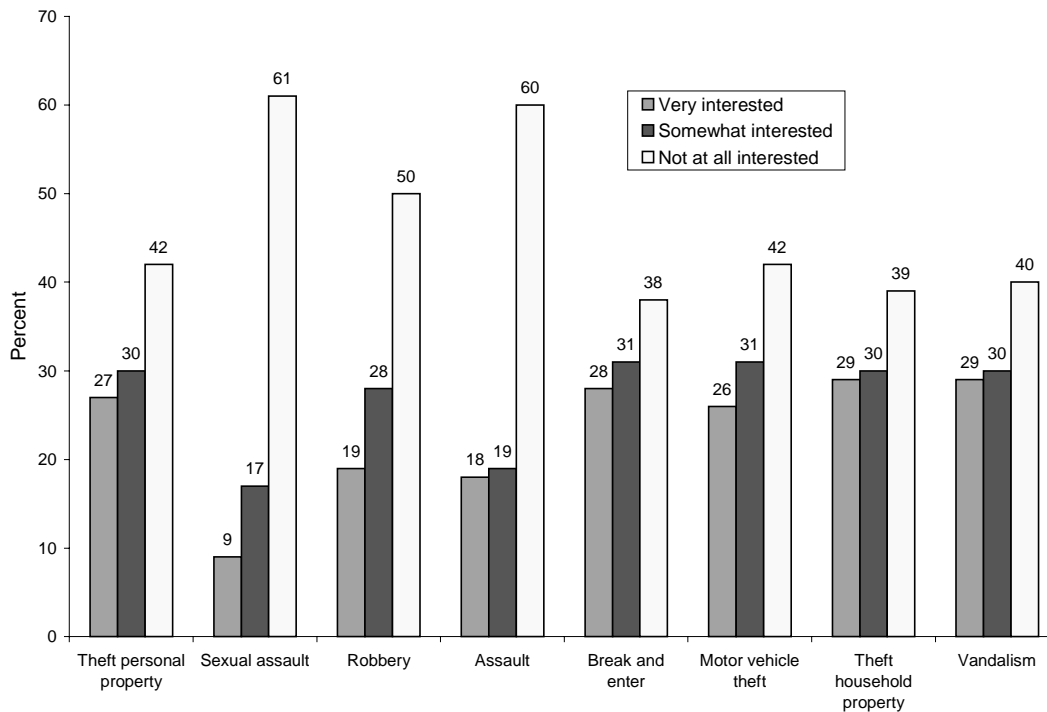
## Race and Ethnicity is the Most Common Reason Motivating Hate Crime, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- According to the General Social Survey, race and ethnicity (43%) is the most common reason why the victim believed that a hate crime was committed against them.
- Since some of the hate crime categories did not generate responses that fell within a sufficient coefficient of variation, many had to collapse into the category “other”. It is for that reason that “other” makes up the second most common type of hate crime motivation (37%) which includes: age, sexual orientation, religion, other similar factors, language and disability.
- Culture (18%) and sex (18%) make up the rest of the categories.

### Victims of More Serious Crimes are Less Likely to be Interested in Mediation Programs, 1999

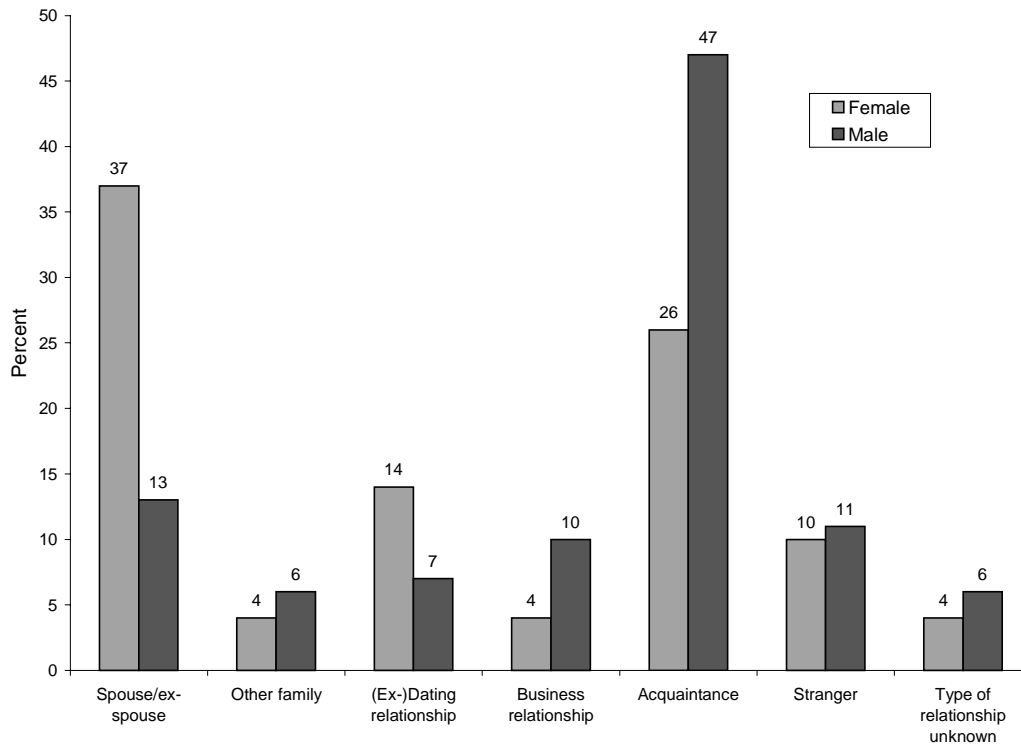


Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

- The majority of victims of personal property crimes and household crimes indicated that they would have been interested in participating in victim-offender mediation programs.
- Victims of sexual assault, assault and robbery were less likely to be interested in participating in victim-offender mediation programs.



## Women Most Likely to be Harassed by Spouse/Ex-Spouse, While Men Most Likely to be Harassed by an Acquaintance, 1999



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

- Women represented the greatest portion of victims (78%) of criminal harassment and men accounted for the majority of person's accused of criminal harassment.
- Female victims were most frequently criminally harassed by a current or former partner, followed by an acquaintance, and ex-boyfriend.
- In one-quarter of incidents, an accused was identified but not charged by police, primarily because the victim did not want to pursue the laying of charges.

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## Glossary of Terms

**Absolute or conditional discharge:** Where an accused pleads guilty to or is found guilty of an offence, other than one which carries a minimum punishment prescribed by law or is punishable by imprisonment for 14 years or life, the court may, instead of convicting the accused, direct that the accused be discharged absolutely or upon the conditions prescribed in a probation order. Although there must be a determination of guilt before a discharge may be imposed, the recipient of a discharge is shielded from the stigmatizing consequences of a criminal record.

**Acquittal:** The release or judicial discharge from an accusation of suspicion of guilt. An individual is acquitted by a court either when a verdict of not guilty has been rendered at the close of a trial or when an appellate court decision has absolved him or her of the charges that were the bases of the action.

**Accused:** A person who has been identified by police as an offender in an incident and against whom a charge may be laid in connection with that incident. Does not include suspects.

**Admissions:** An indicator of the utilization of correctional facilities. Admissions are the number of persons entering a correctional facility in a given time period. The Adult Corrections Survey collects the following information on those admitted to custody: sentence disposition/length; age and sex of the offender; ethnicity of the offender (i.e. native/non-native); and, offence for which the offender was convicted.

**Adults:** Adults consist of all persons 18 years of age and over. As opposed to youths, the target group here falls under the delegation of the adult justice system.

**Alternative measures:** Actions other than judicial proceedings used to deal with a young person alleged to have committed an offence. These measures are not the responsibility of the police service but rather specific programs developed pursuant to section 4 of the *Young Offenders Act*. Young persons participating in Alternative Measures may or may not have been charged by police. The existence of such programs is one factor among many that are likely to explain the divergence between UCR and Courts data. In addition, youths may be diverted from the court system with a referral to an informal diversion program sponsored by the police service. These youths are not charged for the offence.

**Appearance (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A court event recorded by the type of hearing for an accused appearing in court in relation to one or more charges, where all charges were first presented in the same court on the same date.

**Average counts:** An indicator of the utilization of correctional facilities. Counts describe the number of inmates in the institutions at a given instant and provide the average daily population in correctional institutions. The only other data collected by

the Adult Corrections Survey in conjunction with the counts are the status of the inmates (remand/sentenced).

**Case (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** An accused person or corporation having one or more charges where the charges are first presented in the same court on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of court location, accused identifier and date of first court appearance.

**Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA):** An urbanized core with at least 100,000 population.

**Cleared by charge:** When a police investigation leads to the identification of at least one suspect, an "information" is laid against that person (i.e., the person is formally charged with at least one offence). From a statistical point of view, the laying of an information means that at least one actual incident can be "cleared by charge". An incident can be cleared by charge even if the police have not apprehended the accused person, provided that person has been identified and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge.

**Conditional release:** The planned and gradual release of inmates into the community through release mechanisms such as day parole, full parole, temporary absences, and statutory release.

**Constant Dollars:** Dollar amounts calculated on a one-year base which adjusts for inflation making the yearly amount directly comparable.

**Crime Rate:** Refers to total police-reported Criminal Code actual incidents, excluding traffic. All crime rates are based on 100,000 population unless otherwise stated.

**Criminal Code Incidents:** An accumulation of violent, property and other criminal code incidents (e.g. arson, prostitution, mischief).

**Criminal Code Traffic incidents:** These incidents involve offences such as impaired driving, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, and failing to stop or remain at the scene of an accident. Incidents related to impaired driving account for over one-half of the incidents in this category.

**Drug incidents:** These incidents involve offences under the federal *Food and Drugs Act* and the *Narcotic Control Act*. These offences comprise possession, trafficking, importation or cultivation of various illicit, controlled and restricted drugs.

**Elapsed Time From First Appearance to Disposition (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** The time taken to dispose of all charges for a case.

**Federal correctional facility:** Correctional facilities for adult offenders run by the Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) which is part of the federal Ministry of the

Solicitor General. Offenders who are sentenced to an aggregate term of imprisonment of two years or more are the responsibility of CSC and are housed in federal correctional facilities. Federally sentenced offenders are first admitted to provincial correctional facilities to allow the offender to exercise their right to appeal (normally takes place within 30 days). Federally sentenced offenders who waive their right are then transferred to a federal correctional facility (penitentiary).

**Homicide:** Homicide incidents include first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

**Median:** The median refers to the middle value when data are ranged in order of magnitude.

**Mischief - Bill C-18:** Bill C-18 changed the way mischief offences are categorized. Before 1986, mischief offences were distinguished between damage to public property and damage to private property. Since the amendment, mischief has been categorized according to the value of property damage: mischief with property damage over \$1,000, and mischief with property damage \$1000 and under. In 1994, Bill C-42 was proclaimed raising the property damage (mischief) to \$5,000.

**Most Serious Disposition (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A rule that applies in the event that a case contains more than one charge. Dispositions are ordered from most to least serious as follows: found guilty as charged or guilty of a lesser or included offence; committed for trial in Superior Court; other (acquitted on account of insanity, waived in/out of province or territory, other); stay of proceedings; acquitted, withdrawn, dismissed, discharged at preliminary hearing; unknown.

**Most Serious Sentence (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A rule that applies in the event that more than one sentence is associated with a charge or the most serious conviction for a case. Sentences are ordered from most to least serious as follows: prison; probation; fine; restitution/compensation; other (absolute discharge, conditional discharge, suspended sentence; payment of legal costs, other suspension of driver's license).

**Most Significant Charge (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious charge from the perspective of the final outcome of the case upon adjudication or disposition. Where a person or case has only one charge, it is defined as the most significant. Where more than one charge is linked to a person or case, three criteria are used to select one charge as the most significant: (1) the decision of the court; (2) the nature of the offence; (3) the disposition of the charge. Decisions are ordered from most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings, charges withdrawn, or transfer to other jurisdiction; not guilty or charges dismissed. Where two or more charges have the highest priority decision, the charge with the most serious offence is selected as the most significant. Violent charges are given first priority in the selection process, followed by drug and narcotic offences, property offences, other Criminal Code offences, offences under the Young

Offenders Act, and other federal statute offences. Offences are prioritized within these offence categories. Where two or more charges are tied at this level, the charge with the most significant disposition is selected.

**Most Significant Decision (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious decision rendered for a person or case. Decisions are ordered from the most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings, charges withdrawn, or transfer to other jurisdiction; not guilty or charges dismissed.

**Most Significant Disposition (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious disposition for a person or case. The seriousness of the disposition is determined by the effect it has on the young person. Dispositions are ordered from the most to the least serious as follows: secure custody; detention for treatment; open custody; probation; fine; compensation; pay purchaser; compensation in kind; community service order; restitution; prohibition, seizure or forfeiture; other disposition; absolute discharge. If the disposition with the highest priority is a fine, compensate or pay purchaser, and there is a combination of these, the disposition with the largest dollar value is selected as the most significant. In the event that multiple charges result in multiple custody orders, the highest priority is assigned to the longest custody order. The same situation applies in the case of multiple probation orders.

**Other Criminal Code incidents:** These incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences that are not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences). Examples are mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.

**Open custody:** Custodial facilities for young offenders may be designed as either "open" or "secure". Open custody facilities closely monitor the actions and whereabouts of young offenders, but the residents are allowed to leave the facility for reasons such as attending school. Group homes are an example of an open custody facility.

**Other Federal Statute offences:** These incidents include violations under federal statutes other than the *Criminal Code*, the *Narcotics Control Act* and the *Food and Drug Act*. About one-half of the incidents in this category fall under the *Canada Shipping Act*, the *Immigration Act*, the *Customs Act*, the *Excise Act*, and the *Bankruptcy Act*.

**Persons charged:** The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey(UCR) records the number of persons charged in association with cleared incidents. For incidents cleared, the UCR survey collects the number of adults charged (male and female) as well as the number of youths charged (male and female). The "persons charged" category includes the number of people charged or recommended for charges by police, *not* the number of charges laid or recommended against those people.

**Probation:** Probation orders are dispositions imposed by the Court that are a non-custodial sentence. They are the release of an offender into the community under the

supervision of a probation officer. The release is conditional on the offender acting in a manner stipulated by his or her probation officer.

**Property incidents:** These incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence against an individual. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are examples of property crimes.

**Provincial/territorial correctional facility:** Correctional facilities that are run by the provincial or territorial correctional services. Offenders who are sentenced to an aggregate term of imprisonment which is less than two years are the exclusive responsibility of provincial/territorial correctional services and are housed in provincial/territorial correctional facilities. Federal offenders sentenced to two years or more are first admitted to provincial correctional facilities to allow the offender to exercise their right to appeal (normally takes place within 30 days). Federally sentenced offenders who waive their right are then transferred to a federal correctional facility (penitentiary).

**Rate per 100,000 population:** "Rate per 100,000 population" refers to the total number of incidents divided by the total population and multiplied by 100,000. A "rate" is an approximation of the relative risk of being victimized by a criminal act. Rates may be calculated per other standard populations. For instance, the General Social Survey calculates criminal victimization incidents per 1,000 population.

**Remand:** Typically, a person is remanded into custody pending the arrangement of Judicial Interim Release, or to ensure that the accused appears in court, or to protect society from the accused.

**Reported incidents:** When a crime is reported to the police by a citizen, the incident is recorded as a "reported" incident. Police then conduct a preliminary investigation to determine the validity of the report. In addition, "reported" incidents include those which are uncovered by the police themselves.

**Restitution/compensation:** The act of paying the crime victim for any loss, damage or injury through monetary payment or through the performance of specified services for the victim.

**Secure custody:** Custodial facilities for young offenders may be designed as either "open" or "secure". Secure custody facilities are often called Youth Detention Centres and the premises are secured and the movement of young offenders is strictly monitored.

**Stay of proceedings:** A halt by the Crown in the judicial proceedings where the court will not take further action until the occurrence of some event. A stay can be temporary or permanent. The effect is to suspend the proceedings rather than to terminate them altogether

**Suspended sentence:** Where an accused pleads guilty or is found guilty of an offence, other than one which carries a minimum sentence or is punishable by 14 years or life imprisonment, a sentencing court may suspend the passing of sentence and direct that the offender be released upon the conditions prescribed in a probation order. This sentencing option allows the court to later impose any sentence that could have been imposed if the passing of sentence had not been suspended, a decision which may be taken if the offender violates his/her probation order.

**Violent incidents:** These incidents, as collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, involve offences that may result in physical injury to a person. These include homicide, attempted murder, various forms of sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery and abduction. Traffic incidents that result in death or bodily harm are included under *Criminal Code* traffic incidents.

**Young Offenders Act (YOA):** The YOA came into effect in 1984, replacing the Juvenile Delinquents Act (JDA). At that time, 12 became the minimum age requirement for criminal responsibility under the YOA. However, it was not until 1985 that the maximum age of 17 (up to the 18th birthday) was established in all provinces and territories.

**Youths:** Youths, as defined in this publication, refer to those aged 12 to 17 (inclusive). This definition applies to the target group that falls under the delegation of the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA). In this publication, rates of accused youths are represented only by those aged 12 to 17 (inclusive). The number of YOA incidents reported to police are included in the category "Other federal statute offences".