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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

JUDICIAL STATISTICS BRANCH

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

JULY 1925

Major and Minor delinquency for the principal
cities of Canada - 1922 - 1923 - 1924

Delinquency by provinces - 1924

Major delinquencies classified - 1923 - 1924

Repeaters, Dispositions, Birth Place, Religion,
age, sex and school grades, 1924

Minor offences, - 1924

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
OTTAWA, CANADA.

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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The total number of Juvenile delinquents as shown by returns for 1924 is 7,962, being 7,332 boys and 630 girls. These are classified as Major offences, 4,469 boys and 253 girls; and minor offences, 2,863 boys and 377 girls. In addition to these there were 267 boys and 13 girls charged with major offences but were dismissed.

In classifying the offences into Major and Minor, a more or less arbitrary line had to be drawn.

The indictable and non indictable offences as prescribed by the Criminal code form the basis of the classification used, but instead of dividing certain classes of offences, such as assaults, damage to property and theft, etc., which in some cases are defined as indictable and in some cases not, by the Criminal code, all are taken as major offences with regard to Juveniles.

Respecting major offences details of delinquents are compiled concerning: number of previous delinquencies proven; Birth place, Religion and Occupation of delinquents and parents; age, sex and school grade of delinquent, together with the nature of the offence and the disposition of the case.

As to minor offences the sex, nature of the offences and disposition of the case is all that is shown in the tables.

The returns from the principal cities for last three years show the following results:-

Juvenile Delinquency of the Principal Cities in Canada, by Class of Offences, and by Sexes for 1922, 1923 and 1924.

		Major Offences		Minor Offences		Total	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Calgary, Alta.	1922	52	3	2	-	54	3
	1923	98	3	7	1	105	4
	1924	67	3	12	-	79	3
Charlottetown, P.E.I.	1922	5	-	-	-	5	-
	1923	10	-	-	-	10	-
	1924	30	-	-	-	30	-
Edmonton, Alta.	1922	101	3	11	-	112	3
	1923	73	2	27	-	100	2
	1924	61	-	13	1	74	1

Juvenile Delinquency of the Principal Cities in Canada by Class of Offences, and by Sexes for 1922, 1923 and 1924. (concluded)

		Major Offences		Minor Offences		Total	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Halifax, N.S.	1922	78	3	59	-	137	3
	1923	152	-	30	1	182	1
	1924	130	1	66	7	196	8
Hamilton, Ont.	1922	64	-	40	7	104	7
	1923	168	7	35	2	203	9
	1924	92	-	41	3	133	2
Montreal, Que.	1922	537	30	496	126	1,033	156
	1923	784	19	515	108	1,299	127
	1924	660	55	582	135	1,242	190
Ottawa, Ont.	1922	134	10	104	9	238	19
	1923	96	4	161	14	257	18
	1924	183	10	195	9	378	19
Regina, Sask.	1922	40	8	3	-	43	8
	1923	81	6	2	3	83	9
	1924	112	5	23	1	140	6
St. John, N.B.	1922	21	-	2	-	23	-
	1923	36	-	-	-	36	-
	1924	22	-	21	-	43	-
Toronto, Ont.	1922	979	13	618	63	1,597	81
	1923	714	17	627	66	1,341	83
	1924	1,042	55	795	85	1,837	140
Vancouver, B.C.	1922	203	11	33	26	236	37
	1923	200	12	32	14	232	26
	1924	142	9	35	9	177	18
Victoria, B.C.	1922	22	1	5	-	27	1
	1923	26	-	42	3	68	3
	1924	53	2	34	1	87	3
Winnipeg, Man.	1922	543	37	450	34	993	71
	1923	528	31	427	67	955	98
	1924	639	63	696	93	1,335	156
Totals of the thirteen cities	1922	2,779	124	1,823	265	4,602	389
	1923	2,966	101	1,905	279	4,871	380
	1924	3,233	203	2,518	344	5,751	547
		P.C.	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.
Increase 1924 over 1922		16.2	53.7	39.3	29.9	24.9	40.6

It is revealed by the foregoing table that with respect to major offences the girls increased more than did the boys, but with respect to minor offences the reverse is the case. On the whole, however, the increase in girls is the greater.

Major Offences

The major offences of which juveniles were convicted, classified into the six classes similarly to adult offenders, are shown as follows for 1923 and 1924.

	Numbers Convicted	
	1923	1924
Class I - Offences against the person		
Muder	1	-
Rape and attempted rape	-	2
Carnal knowledge	12	7
Assault aggravated	40	20
" common	65	101
" indecent	27	29
" on females	2	2
" with intent to rob	-	1
Shooting, stabbing and wounding	5	8
Endangering life by obstructing railway	25	51
Other offences against the person	2	-
Totals of Class I	179	221
Class II - Offences against property with violence		
Burglary-shop and house breaking	707	758
Warehouse and freight car breaking	45	54
Robbery	2	5
Highway robbery	1	1
Totals of Class II	755	818
Class III - Offences against property without violence		
False pretences	9	8
Receiving stolen money	5	7
Receiving stolen goods	51	55
Horse stealing	7	9
Theft, undefined	2,505	2,308
" of automobile	17	99
" of bicycles	96	187
" of money	-	63
" of mail	8	6
" from the person	4	1
" of fruit, vegetables	17	35
" other petty	12	12
Various other offences against property	9	1
Totals of Class III	2,740	2,791
Class IV - Wilful damage to property		
Arson	28	19
Other damage to property	436	767
Totals of Class IV	464	786
Class V - Forgery and uttering	9	10
Class VI - Miscellaneous offences		
Attempt to commit suicide	2	2
Immorality	6	81
Sodomy and gross indecency	4	6
Escape from custody	6	7
Totals of Class VI	18	96
TOTALS	4,165	4,722

Dispositions

The dispositions of Juveniles convicted of major offences for 1923 and 1924, are as follows:-

	1923	1924
Reprimanded	177	418
On probation		
Made wards of Court	1,754	1,633
Returned to parents	220	321
Ordered to make restitution	273	555
Fined or paid costs	291	329
Detained indefinitely	91	100
Sent to Industrial School	339	453
Sentence suspended	956	747
Otherwise disposed of	# 64	X 66
Totals	4,165	4,622

= 13 and X = 40 Received corporal punishment.

Repeaters

The court records of these delinquents for 1923 and 1924 are as follows:

Number of times in Court	1923		1924	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
First offence	2,970	94	3,423	233
Second offence	467	21	536	14
Third offence	275	7	229	4
Fourth offence	166	2	145	1
Fifth offence and more	162	1	136	1
Totals	4,040	125	4,469	253

Juvenile Delinquents By Provinces for 1924.

Provinces	Major Offences		Minor Offences		Totals	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Prince Edward Island	31	-	-	-	31	-
Nova Scotia	246	5	136	8	382	13
New Brunswick	58	1	21	1	79	2
Quebec	722	60	590	135	1,312	195
Ontario	1,963	81	1,261	122	3,224	203
Manitoba	682	63	708	98	1,390	166
Saskatchewan	338	24	46	1	384	25
Alberta	189	3	30	1	219	4
British Columbia	240	11	71	11	311	22
Yukon	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA	4,469	253	2,863	377	7,332	630

According to Birth place of delinquents and their parents the returns show that of the 4,722 convicted of major offences 3,839 were born in Canada, 625 were born out of Canada and in 253 cases the birth place was not given.

Of the 3,839 native born children 2,164 were born of native born parents; 505 were native born of parents British born out of Canada; 330 were native of foreign born parents. Delinquents numbering 290 had one parent native born and one born out of Canada.

Of the 625 delinquents born out of Canada 325 were born within the Empire and 300 were born in foreign countries. The following table shows the country of birth in detail.

Country of Birth of Delinquents and
of Parents for 1923 and 1924.

Country of Birth	Population by country of Birth	Native Born Delinquents				British and foreign born delinquents	
		Both parents born in country	One parent born in Canada and one in country named				
		1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924
Canada	6,832,747	1,275	2,154	-	-	-	-
England	586,663	219	322	90	100	179	185
Wales	13,779	-	5	-	3	-	7
Scotland	226,483	72	108	22	41	87	102
Ireland	93,301	44	45	20	41	24	20
Newfoundland	23,107	5	19	3	3	9	3
Other British	21,468	2	6	3	2	10	8
Total British	1,064,801	342	505	138	190	309	325
Austria	57,535	127	117	2	2	40	31
Belgium	13,276	4	3	-	2	3	2
Czecho Slovakia	4,322	74	111	-	-	8	1
Denmark	7,132	2	3	2	-	1	-
Finland	12,156	4	6	-	-	1	3
France	19,240	-	10	3	4	3	2
Galicia	36,025	40	12	2	-	9	5
Germany	25,256	27	43	5	5	9	6
Holland	5,828	1	3	-	-	-	-
Hungary	7,493	8	20	-	-	4	4
Iceland	6,776	1	4	-	1	1	-
Italy	35,531	56	113	14	2	47	22
Jugo Slavia	1,946	1	4	-	-	1	2
Norway	23,127	8	5	2	3	3	2
Poland	29,279	103	136	4	-	33	41
Roumania	22,779	31	26	-	1	6	5
Russia	101,055	115	157	5	7	68	52
Sweden	27,700	12	12	1	1	1	1
Ukrania	11,357	10	32	-	-	2	5
Other European	11,436	5	4	-	2	5	5
Total Europe	459,328	629	821	40	30	245	189
China	36,924	1	-	-	-	6	4
Japan	11,650	-	1	-	1	-	-
Syria	3,879	3	1	-	-	-	1
Turkey	401	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Countries	4,076	-	1	-	-	1	-
United States	374,024	56	56	52	65	84	106
Total Foreign	890,282	689	380	92	96	337	300
At Sea	653	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not Given	-	975	258	6	4	2	-
Totals	8,788,483	3,281	3,807	236	290	648	625

The Principal Religions of delinquents of major offences for 1923 and 1924 are shown as follows.

Religions	Total Religions 1921 Census	No. of Delinquents 1923	No. of Delinquents 1924	Rate of 1924 Delinquents per 100,000 of population
Anglicans	1,407,959	492	585	41.5
Baptists	421,730	128	159	37.7
Greek Church	169,822	76	225	132.5
Jews	125,190	130	164	132.6
Lutherans	287,484	96	95	3.3
Methodists	1,158,744	41	400	34.5
Presbyterians	1,408,812	383	572	40.6
Roman Catholics	3,383,663	1,716	1,772	52.3
Salvation Army	24,763	30	55	222.1
Various other sects	480,965	368	412	25.0
No Religion	-	-	19	-
Not given	19,351	405	264	-
Total	8,738,483	4,165	4,722	53.7

Occupations of fathers of delinquents and of those delinquents recorded as working, for 1924.

Class of Occupation of father		Number of Delinquents recorded as working
Agricultural	215	15
Fishing	9	-
Finance	2	-
Construction	215	1
Logging	14	-
Mining	57	-
Manufacturing	251	8
Professional	19	-
Service	190	20
Trade	190	2
Transportation	249	1
Labourers	959	21
Deceased	267	-
Not given	2,055	7
Totals	4,722	75

It might be pointed out that, disregarding those "not given", labourers together with deceased fathers form 46 p.c. indicating that more delinquents are found among the poorer classes than among those of higher walks of life.

The ages and school grades are shown in the following tables by sexes. On account of the grading in the Roman Catholic schools of the province of Quebec differing from that of the other provinces, a summary of the whole of Canada is impracticable, therefore separate tables are shown as follows:

AGE AND SCHOOL GRADE

Totals of Canada less the Roman Catholic Schools of the Province of Quebec.

M a l e s

Age	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Secondary	Reads, Writes Grades F.G.	Illit- erate	Degree of edu- cation	Total
7	22	23	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	4	60
8	26	46	25	7	2	1	-	-	-	7	-	7	121
9	14	49	79	42	14	2	1	-	-	20	1	20	242
10	11	44	93	70	52	11	2	2	-	26	1	21	333
11	3	19	90	92	82	43	8	2	-	71	3	30	443
12	8	21	67	101	121	106	39	22	3	61	3	33	585
13	2	7	28	74	85	107	95	55	12	53	-	35	553
14	2	8	23	55	55	79	103	93	45	128	1	65	658
15	2	8	10	26	36	70	74	83	93	191	1	89	688
N.G.	-	-	6	5	5	2	3	1	4	32	-	112	168
TOTAL	90	225	425	473	452	421	325	258	157	593	11	416	3,851
Females													
7	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
8	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	8
9	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
10	-	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13
11	-	-	6	6	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	23
12	-	-	2	4	6	9	4	-	-	-	-	2	27
13	-	1	3	8	4	-	3	3	-	-	-	4	23
14	-	-	1	2	2	1	-	2	4	6	-	10	27
15	-	-	3	2	4	7	4	8	3	12	-	16	58
N.G.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	9
TOTAL	3	9	24	25	21	19	11	14	7	25	1	40	197

Quebec Roman Catholic Schools

Male a

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Average (median) grade of 2,831 boy delinquents convicted of major offences in 1924 compared with the average (median) grade of 627,602 boys in publicly controlled and private elementary and secondary schools in Canada.

Age	Average Grade	
	Boy Delinquents	Boys in ordinary schools
7 years	2.1	1.3
8 years	2.5	2.4
9 years	3.5	3.3
10 years	3.9	4.2
11 years	4.6	5.1
12 years	5.4	6.0
13 years	6.3	6.9
14 years	7.0	7.7
15 years	7.7	8.4

The above table represents about two-thirds of the total number of boys attending public and private elementary and secondary schools in Canada and also about two-thirds of the boy juvenile delinquents convicted of major offences in Canada in 1924. These proportions are consequently large enough to justify the belief that the school standing indicated represents actual conditions.

The data of only one year may not be sufficient as a basis for scientific deduction but points brought up by the above comparison between the school standing of the two classes of boys may be interesting and worthy of further investigation.

It is seen that up to the age of nine the juvenile delinquents show a higher standing than the normal boys, but from the age of ten up the latter outstrip the delinquents at an increasing pace. Among the points for investigation suggested by the phenomenon are the following:

1. Are there indications of significant differences between the types of offenders and the nature of the offences shown (on the average) by boys at the ages of nine and under and those shown by older delinquents? It is probable that the delinquencies shown by the younger group can be associated solely with psychological traits characteristic of their age and not with permanent vicious tendencies? If so, it is possible to explain the educational status of delinquents under ten by the fact that they are more difficult to control at the earlier ages in the case of the element; hence arise escapades which assume the proportions of the law. This point implies that the juvenile delinquents are a different class from those at ten and over.

2. As an alternative to (1) is the difference necessarily revealed by the difference between delinquents and normal children. The background of the delinquents may be due mainly to want of home care, truancy, etc. and more to distaste of prolonged application than the individuals at nine and under and over, and that the progressive delinquency is due not so much to mental deficiency as to misplacement of energy.