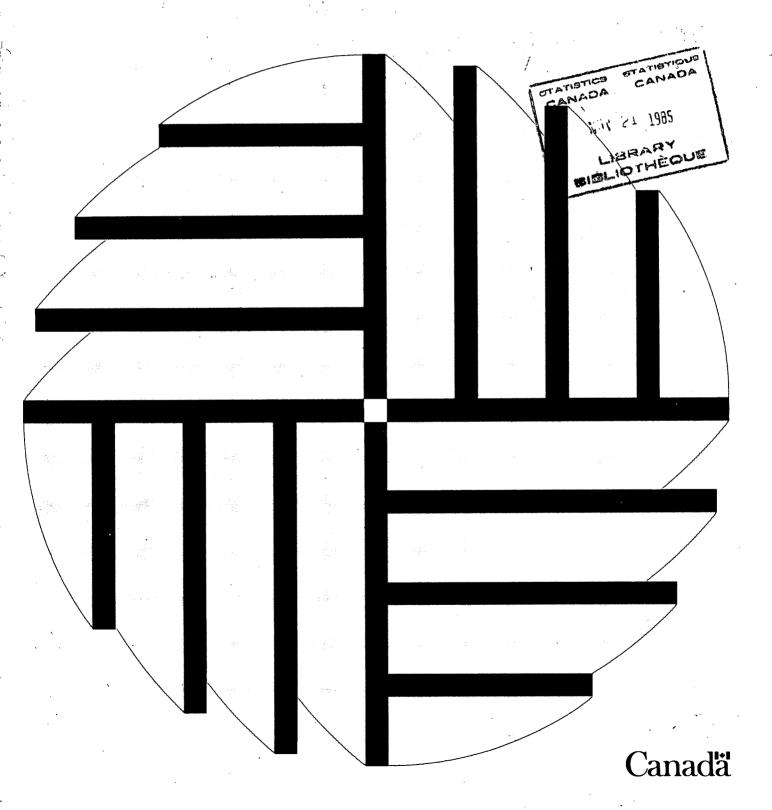
# Juvenile Court Statistics 1982 and 1983



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# Juvenile Court Statistics 1982 and 1983

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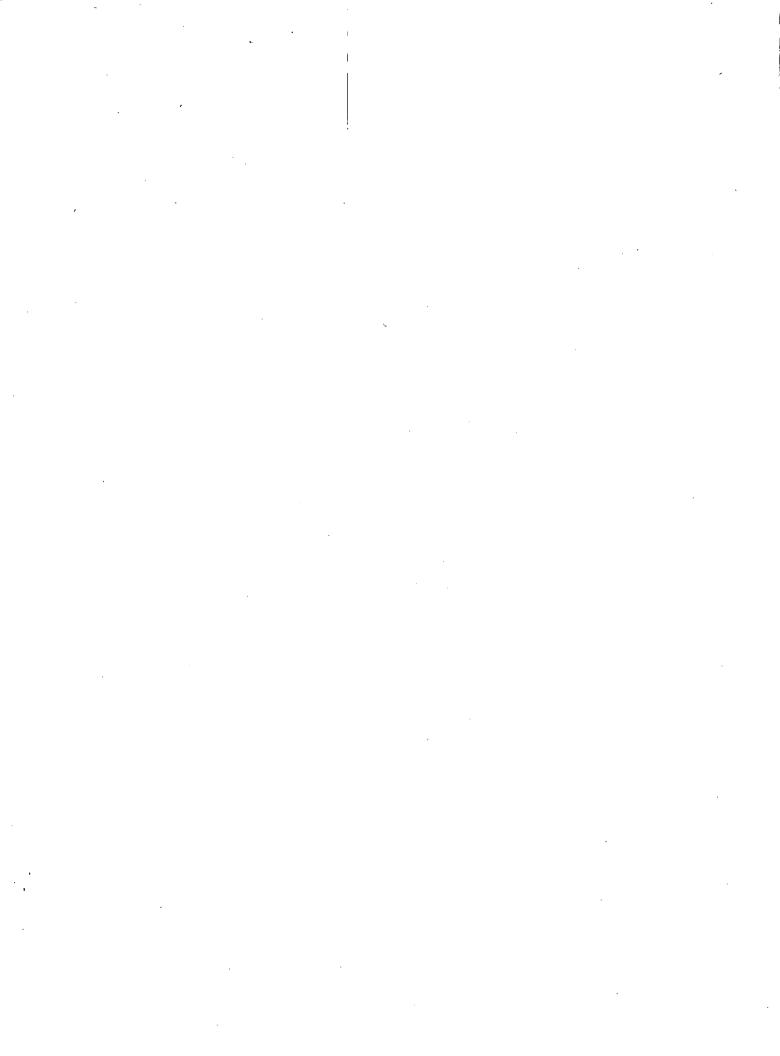
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#### **PREFACE**

This publication is divided into two parts. Part I provides an analysis of the juvenile court data for 1983. This analysis is a companion to the one national and twelve jurisdictional reports published in the fall of 1984 by the Juvenile Justice Program.

Part II contains a separate analysis of the juvenile court data for 1982. Although the analysis was conducted at an earlier point in time, it has been included in this publication for the convenience of the reader. The 1982 analysis is companion to the 1982 national and jurisdictional "Juvenile Delinquents" reports.

The titles and catalogue numbers for the national and jurisdictional reports are as follows:

85-X-202	Juvenile Delinquents, 1983 (or 1982)
85-X-212	Newfoundland Juvenile Delinquents, 1983 (or 1982)
85-X-211	Prince Edward Island Juvenile Delinquents, 1983 (or 1982)
85-X-210	Nova Scotia Juvenile Delinquents, 1983 (or 1982)
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85-X-214	Yukon Juvenile Delinquents, 1983 (or 1982)
85-X-213	Northwest Territories Juvenile Delinquents, 1983 (or 1982)

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#### PART I

#### INTRODUCTION

This report provides an analytical summary of the 1983 survey data on Canadian juvenile courts collected by the Juvenile Justice Program of the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The report will focus on interprovincial comparisons of overall counts and rates of delinquency charges adjudicated by the courts.

The Juvenile Court Survey is a census of those courts in Canada empowered to hear charges laid under the Juvenile Delinquents Act or its equivalent provincial legislation. The Centre receives information from these courts on each charge that is heard under the Act<sup>1</sup>. Data on the types of charges, the nature of the adjudications, and the dispositions or sentences given by the juvenile courts are compiled.

1983 was the last calendar year for which data under the Juvenile Delinquents Act or equivalent provincial legislation were collected. On April 2, 1984, the new Young Offenders Act replaced the 76 year old Juvenile Delinquents Act. The Young Offenders Act encompasses a shift in philosophy regarding young people who break the law. More emphasis is placed on young persons to bear responsibility for their illegal behaviour. The new Act concerns itself only with federal statute offences and standardizes, on a nation-wide basis, the age for which a person is deemed to be a "young offender" ie. 12–17 years old inclusive. The standard age provision is in effect as of April 1, 1985.

In 1983, the age limits by which an individual was defined a "juvenile" for purposes of applying the delinquency legislation varied from province to province. It was 7 to 15 years of age inclusive in all provinces and territories except the following: it was 7 to 16 years inclusive in Newfoundland and British Columbia; 7 to 17 years inclusive in Manitoba; and 14 to 17 years inclusive in Quebec. The variation in age jurisdictions which was in effect at this time complicates interprovincial comparisons of the data received from the juvenile courts.

On a national level, 49,575 juveniles were brought before the Canadian courts in 1983. Of these, 82% were found delinquent and were given various dispositions ranging from reprimands to referrals to juvenile institutions. The following pages will provide an overview of the activities of juvenile courts in Canada and will detail the types of charges, adjudications and dispositions received by the juveniles appearing before them.

It should be noted that the survey data discussed in this report pertain only to charges handled by the juvenile courts. The information does not include data on provincial pre-court diversion programs nor police/crown charging practices. Therefore, any interprovincial comparisons made are purely with respect to juvenile court proceedings and do not necessarily reflect the relative incidence of delinquent activity in the provinces/territories.

Although Part I of this report focuses its analysis on the data for 1983, references will also be made to the juvenile court statistics for the years 1982 and 1981. Readers interested in a detailed analysis of specific 1982 data are invited to consult Part II.

<sup>1</sup> Some underreporting of charges by the courts may occur.

#### **OVERALL CHARGES**

In 1983 there were 115,915 charges<sup>2</sup> brought before the juvenile courts of Canada. This figure represents a 5.2% decrease over the 1982 charge count which in turn showed a 0.4% decrease over the 1981 figures (refer to Part II, page 22). Figure 1 indicates the number of charges reported by each province and the charge rate i.e. the number of charges adjudicated per 1,000 juveniles for each jurisdiction.

Half the provinces showed a decline in the number of charges reported in their jurisdiction between 1982 and 1983. Ontario, British Columbia and New Brunswick, in particular, showed notable declines. For the jurisdictions of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Yukon and the Northwest Territories an increase in the number of reported charges was observed.

Figure 2 illustrates how these charges are distributed by type of statute violated. Overall, 1983 charges showed a decrease over the 1982 figures in each of the statute categories. It can be seen that Criminal Code and other Federal Statutes account for 78.4% of all charges brought before the juvenile courts.

Although provincial statute offences represent 20.6% of the Canada total, the two provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia alone contributed 15,870 or 66.4% of all such charges reported. The disproportionately large number of provincial statute charges contributed by these provinces is primarily the result of provincial traffic and liquor offences. The majority of these offences were attributed to 16 year olds in British Columbia and 16 and 17 year olds in Manitoba. The number and proportion of charges which are Criminal Code, other federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal by-law violations, for each province, are listed in Table 1.

The remainder of this report will deal only with Criminal Code and other federal statute offences henceforth referred to as "federal statute offences".

N.W.T. Yukon Nfld. 3,619 584 (30.7)244 (63.5)(73.9)Que. 33,797 P.E.I. (83.5)B.C. Alta. Sask. Man. Ont. 243 (12.8)18,690 9,824 2,267 21,721 21,433 (46.8)(30.7)(15.9)(120.6)(18.4)N.S. N.B. 2,252 (18.2)1,241

Canada Total = 115,915

 $(38.7)^2$ 

(11.4)

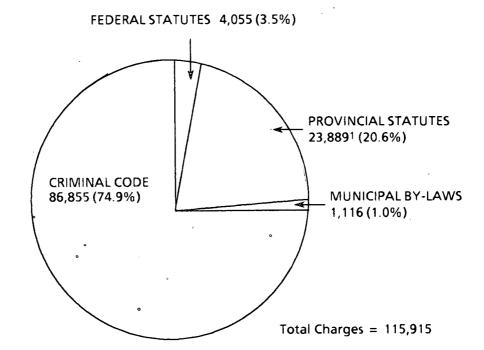
FIGURE 1 Number and Rate<sup>1</sup> of Charges Adjudicated in Each Province/Territory, 1983

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Number of charges adjudicated per 1,000 juveniles.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures in curved brackets indicate the charge rate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This number includes charges against adults and companies (totalling 878).

FIGURE 2 Charges Adjudicated in Canada by Class of Charge, 1983



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Includes two charges of unknown type.

TABLE 1 Distribution of Charges by Class of Charge and Province/Territory, 1983

Province/Territory	Criminal Code	Other Federal Statute	Provincial Statute	Municipal By-Laws	TOTAL	
ATLANTIC		ļ				
Newfoundland	2,618 (72.3%) <sup>1</sup>	90 (2.5%)	905 (25.0%)	6 (0.2%)	3,619	
Prince Edward Island	233 (95.9%)	8 (3.3%)	(0.8%)	_	243	
Nova Scotia	1,706 (75.8%)	283 (12.6%)	262 <sup>2</sup> (11.6%)	1 (0.0%)	2,252	
New Brunswick	1,125 (90.7%)	19 (1.5%)	95 (7.7%)	2 (0.2%)	1,241	
Quebec	28,098 (83.1%)	1,099 (3.3%)	3,666 (10.8%)	934 (2.8%)	33,797	
Ontario	18,843 (87.9%)	596 (2.8%)	1,959 (9.1%)	35 (0.2%)	21,433	
PRAIRIES						
Manitoba	10,517 (48.4%)	534 (2.5%)	10,566 (48.6%)	104 (0.5%)	21,721	
Saskatchewan	2,223 (98.1%)	24 (1.1%)	20 (0.9%)	-	2,267	
Alberta	8,638 (87.9%)	101 (1.0%)	1,066 (10.9%)	19 (0.2%)	9,824	
British Columbia	12,086 (64.7%)	1,285 (6.9%)	5,304 (28.4%)	15 (0.1%)	18,690	
NORTH					•	
Yukon	213 (87.3%)	10 (4.1%)	21 (8.6%)	-	244	
Northwest Territories	555 (95.0%)	6 (1.0%)	23 (3.9%)	-	584	
CANADA	86,855 (74.9%)	4,055 (3.5%)	23,889 <sup>2</sup> (20.6%)	1,116 (1.0%)	115,915	

 $<sup>^{1}\,</sup>$  Figures in curved brackets are percentages of row totals.  $^{2}\,$  Includes two charges of unknown type.

#### FEDERAL STATUTE OFFENCES

In 1983 there were 90,910 federal statute charges adjudicated in Canada. This was a slight decrease (-2.9%) over the number of federal statute charges reported in 1982. The provinces of Quebec and Ontario have by far the highest number of charges, respectively accounting for one-third and one-fifth of the national total. British Columbia, Manitoba and Alberta contribute 15%, 12% and 10% respectively while the Atlantic provinces, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories account for the remaining 10%.

In comparing these percentages with the 1982 figures, it can be seen that most jurisdictions remained relatively stable although Quebec evidenced a slight increase (+2.5%) and Ontario showed a slight decrease (-3.0%).

#### **Charge Rates**

Given that the provinces vary in their age jurisdictions and that the size of provincial juvenile populations differs across the country, a better basis for comparison can be provided by considering age-specific charge rates. These are defined as the number of federal statute charges adjudicated per 1,000 population at that age in the province. These rates are based only on the total population falling within the age jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. Table 2 gives the distribution of the number of charges reported by the courts of each province for each age group included in their jurisdictional parameters. The charge rate is presented and an "overall rate" for each province is provided in the table as well. The populations on which these rates are based are found in Appendix A.

When the age ceilings are examined on a province by province basis, it is evident that the highest charge rate consistently occurs in the older age groups for each province. This rate is always several times higher than that for the younger age groups.

The rate of delinquency charges per 1,000 juveniles shows a wide variation across the provinces. The overall rates range from a high of 70.4 in Quebec to a low of 10.5 in New Brunswick. The high overall rate for Quebec may be explained by the differences in age jurisdiction ie. the courts are dealing with 14-17 year olds.

Of all jurisdictions, the Yukon has the highest charge rate for any of its given age groups. It must be kept in mind, however, that this jurisdiction has such a small population that in many cases the charge rate is actually higher than the number of charges adjudicated for the age group. Of note are the charge rates for Manitoba vis-à-vis its 12 year old and above age groups. The rates in Manitoba for the 12-15 year olds are among the highest in the country and its charge rates for the 16-17 year olds exceed the other provinces.

In comparing the 1983 national charge rates with those for 1982, a small decline occurred in the overall rate (-1.0%) and in four of the age groups. There was an increase, however, in the charge rate for the 16 and 17 year old groups as well as a minor increase for the 13 year old age group (+7.7%, +16.8%) and +1.7% respectively).

## Sex of the Offender

Of the 90,910 federal statute charges adjudicated in Canada in 1983, 81,035 were against males while 9,875 were against females. In other words, males still account for nine out of every ten charges adjudicated by the courts. This pattern is similar in the adult system in that females constitute a small percentage of all offenders<sup>3</sup>.

Provincially, the proportion of federal statute charges involving females varied from 3.6% in Quebec to 16.6% in Alberta. Figure 3 illustrates, by province, the proportion of male and female offenders involved in federal statute charges.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1982-83, and Canadian Crime Statistics, 1983, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

TABLE 2 Number of Federal Statute Charges Adjudicated<sup>1</sup> and Charge Rates<sup>2</sup> by Age and by Province/Territory, 1983

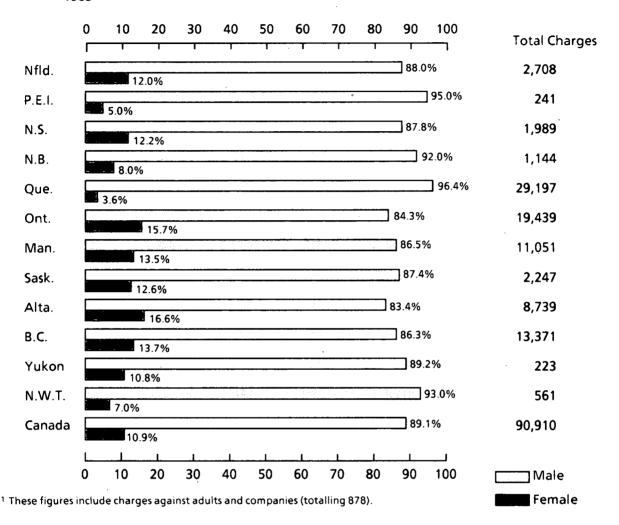
	. Age						
7-11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total <sup>4</sup>
108	143	318	457	730	889		2,700
(1.9) 3	(11.7)	(26.3)	(37.8)	(59.3)	(72.3)		(22.9)
24	28	62	53	74			241
(2.4)	(12.7)	(28.2)	(24.1)	(33.6)			(12.7)
96	146	310	557	693	;		1,924
(1.4)	(9.9)	(21.7)	(39.8)	(48.1)			(15.5)
47	68	135	234	454			1,140
(0.8)	(5.4)	(11.0)	(19.5)	(36.6)			(10.5)
	,		2 222	5 902	9 701	10.034	28,484
			(34.5)	(61.0)	(85.7)	(89.8)	(70.4)
1016	4.634	2.40	5 220	7 004			
1	(11.8)	1		1			19,339 (16.6)
					ļ		
		1	1	1	I		11,044 (61.3)
					,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	,	
90		B.	i			İ	2,247 (15.8)
(1.2)	(3.3)	(23.3)	(41.5)	(37.0)			(13.6)
168	757	1,704	2,500	3,390			8,739
(1.0)	(20.5)	(47.1)	(70.6)	(93.6)			(27.3)
132	489	1,524	2,788	3,632	4,412		13,212
(0.7)	(11.5)	(35./)	(66.4)	(88.8)	(106.6)		(33.1)
7	25	68	42	68			223
(3.9)	(62.5)	(170.0)	(105.0)	(226.7)			(67. <b>6</b> )
8	20	89	80	112			561
(1.6)	(18.2)	(80.9)	(80.0)	(112.0)			(61.0)
						Ì	·
1,783	3,794 (12.9)	8,596 (29.5)	17,351 (45.8)	25,912 (67.7)	16,863	13,364	89,854 <sup>5</sup> (30.0)
	108 (1.9) 3 24 (2.4) 96 (1.4) 47 (0.8)  1,016 (1.6) 87 (1.1) 90 (1.2) 168 (1.0) 132 (0.7) 7 (3.9) 8 (1.6)	108	108	108	108       143       318       457       730         (1.9) 3       (11.7)       (26.3)       (37.8)       (59.3)         24       28       62       53       74         (2.4)       (12.7)       (28.2)       (24.1)       (33.6)         96       146       310       557       693         (1.4)       (9.9)       (21.7)       (39.8)       (48.1)         47       68       135       234       454         (0.8)       (5.4)       (11.0)       (19.5)       (36.6)         3,233       5,903       (34.5)       (61.0)         1,016       (1,621       3,148       5,320       7,981         (1.6)       (11.8)       (22.9)       (39.9)       (59.5)         87       348       833       1,416       1,963         (1.1)       (20.6)       (50.2)       (86.9)       (120.4)         90       149       405       671       912         (1.2)       (9.3)       (25.3)       (41.7)       (57.0)         168       757       1,704       2,500       3,390         (1.0)       (20.5)       (47.1)       (70.6)       (93.	108       143       318       457       730       889         (1.9) 3       (11.7)       (26.3)       (37.8)       (59.3)       (72.3)         24       28       62       53       74         (2.4)       (12.7)       (28.2)       (24.1)       (33.6)         96       146       310       557       693         (1.4)       (9.9)       (21.7)       (39.8)       (48.1)         47       68       135       234       454         (0.8)       (5.4)       (11.0)       (19.5)       (36.6)         3,233       5,903       8,791         (1.6)       (11.8)       (22.9)       (39.9)       (59.5)         87       348       833       1,416       1,963       2,771         (1.1)       (20.6)       (50.2)       (86.9)       (120.4)       (166.9)         90       149       405       671       912         (1.2)       (9.3)       (25.3)       (41.7)       (57.0)         168       757       1,704       2,500       3,390         (1.0)       (20.5)       (47.1)       (70.6)       (93.6)         132       489 <td>108</td>	108

These figures exclude charges against adults and companies (totalling 878).
 Number of charges adjudicated per 1,000 juveniles.
 Figures in curved brackets indicate the charge rate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Totals include charges against juveniles of unknown age.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This table excludes the charges against offenders under the age of 14 years in Quebec (totalling 178).

FIGURE 3 Distribution of Federal Statute Charges by Sex of the Offender for each Province/Territory, 1983



In terms of charge rates, there are also significant differences between male and female juvenile offenders. Although the national overall charge rate for both sexes is cited as 30.0, this is broken down as 52.2 for males and 6.7 for females. As might be expected, the charge rate for males in each age category is much higher than that for females. It is also apparent that the charge rate increases more markedly for males with age. Similar observations were made in the 1981 and 1982 analyses. Thus while individual figures may change, the overall patterns have remained the same.

Compared with the 1982 data, males showed an increased charge rate for 16 and 17 year olds (+8.1% and +17.0%), and females showed an increased charge rate in the 13, 16 and 17 year old age groups (+36.5%, +2.9% and +15.0% respectively). The 1983 increase in charge rate for 16 and 17 year old males and females continues the rise in rate evidenced by these groups in 1982.

#### Offence Type

When we examine the charges adjudicated by offence type, we see that property-related offences constitute the vast majority of charges (81.7%) brought before the courts. (See also Figure 2.1, page 41). Figure 4 presents the distribution of charges by type of offence for males and females. It can be seen that the five most frequently adjudicated charges are all property-related. The ranking of the charges illustrated in the figure has remained essentially the same since 1981.

When the sex of the offender is considered, some variation in the prevalence of certain offences for males versus females is discernible. The following illustrates the most frequent charges by offence type for males and females in descending order:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Break and Enter	Theft Under \$200
2.	Theft Under \$200	Break and Enter
3.	Possession of Stolen Goods	Possession of Stolen Goods
4.	Mischief	Forgery
5.	Theft Over \$200	Mischief

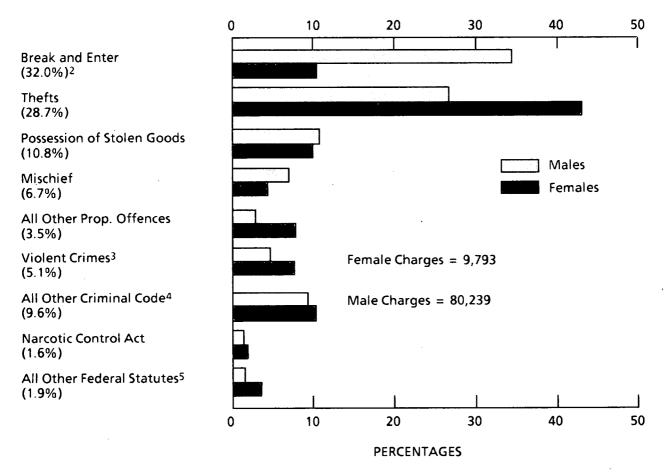
For both sexes, offenders who are 13 years old and above predominate in all offence categories.

In the area of violent offences, assaults and robberies are the two offence types that constitute the majority of violence-related charges for both sexes. Violent offences, on the whole, comprised 5.1% of all federal statute charges adjudicated in 1983. Female offenders showed a slightly higher proportion of charges involving violence than did male offenders (7.7% versus 4.8%). Nationally, the number of charges adjudicated involving violence in 1983 decreased somewhat (-4.5%) over the previous year. Manitoba, Ontario and New Brunswick had the highest proportion of violent offence charges: 7.1%, 6.4% and 5.8% respectively. The proportion of violent offence charges for each of the other jurisdictions was less than 5%.

Narcotic Control offences constitute a very small percentage (1.6%) of all juvenile charges. Few offenders under the age of 14 years old appeared in court on charges of this nature. Offences under this statute evidenced a substantial decrease (-21.1%) over the 1982 figures.

An examination of the charges laid under the Juvenile Delinquents Act reveals that Return to Court charges comprise the largest proportion of charges (68.2%) in this category. Contributing and Immorality, Vice charges represent the remaining 27% and 4.8% of the total. Adults are responsible for 89% of the Contributing offences. The number of charges in this offence group, however, has decreased each year since 1981. Conversely, Return to Court and Immorality, Vice charges have shown an increase during this period. (There were 1,590 Return to Court charges in 1983 versus 972 charges in 1981 and 111 Immorality, Vice charges in 1983 versus 74 charges for 1981). Although the level of female participation in the other two offence groups has remained relatively low, female participation in Immorality, Vice offences has risen substantially (from 40.5% in 1981 to 54% in 1983). In total, the offences under the Juvenile Delinquents Act consitute a small proportion (2.6%) of all federal statute charges adjudicated against juveniles.

FIGURE 4 Percentage Distribution of Federal Statute Charges¹ by Type of Offence and Sex of Offender, Canada, 1983



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These figures exclude charges against adults and companies (totalling 878).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures in curved brackets indicate percentage of all federal statute charges.

<sup>3</sup> Includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, assaults, robbery and sexual offences.

<sup>4</sup> Includes 25 categories of offences including over 230 sections of the Criminal Code.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Includes the Food and Drug Act, the Juvenile Delinquents Act (sections 2, 20(3), 33 and 34) and other federal statutes.

## **ADJUDICATIONS**

In the juvenile court process, a judge has a number of options from which to choose for the adjudication of a juvenile offender. In addition to finding an offender Delinquent or Not Delinquent, a judge may render an indefinite decision which would include adjournments sine die as well as stays of proceedings. The judge can also transfer the offender to adult court under certain circumstances. "Other" adjudications may also be rendered which would include findings of Unfit to Stand Trial and Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, as well as repatriation of the juvenile to another jurisdiction or other adjudications. These latter categories represent a very small proportion of all adjudications.

On a national level, 71.4% of all the federal statute charges adjudicated in Canada's juvenile courts in 1983 resulted in findings of delinquency. (Figures for 1982 adjudications are presented on page 48). Table 3 presents the conviction rate by jurisdiction for selected federal statute categories. It can be seen that there is a wide diversity amongst the provinces in their conviction rates, ranging from a high of 91.8% in the Northwest Territories to a low of 54.1% for Manitoba. It must be kept in mind of course that there are large variations in the volume of charges that individual provinces deal with in their courts and this may have some effect on the number of charges that result in convictions.

The overall national conviction rate, however, is affected somewhat by two provinces which have particularly low conviction rates: namely, Ontario (62.7%) and Manitoba (54.1%). The conviction rate for each of the remaining jurisdictions exceeds 72% and in many cases is in the 80% + range.

In terms of offence categories, conviction rate levels are generally the highest for Narcotic offences (81.9%) followed by Property offences (72.7%) while Violent offences (66.5%) usually have the lowest conviction rates. Although some exceptions do exist, this pattern holds true for the majority of jurisdictions in the country.

The national conviction rate for Narcotic Control charges showed an increase in 1982 (+ 1.8%) and 1983 (+ 3.5%) over the previous years' figures. Other offence categories remained relatively stable or showed a slight decline over the preceding year.

When comparing female conviction rates to male conviction rates for total federal statute charges, the jurisdictions can be separated into three distinct groups. There is a compatability of rates for the sexes in Newfoundland, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon. In these jurisdictions, conviction rates exceed 72% and there is little difference between the sexes. Lower female conviction rates are evident in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. In this group, conviction rates for females are 6-22% lower than those for males. Higher female conviction rates appear in New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. Here, the conviction rates for females are 94.5% and 97.4% respectively while for males they are 82.2% and 91.4% respectively.

In most provinces, the conviction rate for charges associated with juveniles aged 7-11 years old is typically lower than the conviction rate for the older age categories. There are no set patterns observed, however, vis-à-vis conviction rates for the other age groups. It does appear, though, that in several provinces (Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Yukon) the highest conviction rate occurs in the 14 year old age group.

TABLE 3 Number of Federal Statute Charges<sup>1</sup> by Nature of Adjudication by Province/Territory, 1983

		,	Natu	re of Adjudication	า	
Province/Territory	Total	Found Delinquent	Found Not Delinquent	No Definite Finding	Transfer to Adult Court	Other
Newfoundland	2,700	2,446 (90.6%) <sup>2</sup>	137 (5.1%)	17 (0.6%)	90 . (3.3%)	10 (0.4%)
Prince Edward Island	241	211 (87.6%)	. 17 · (7.1%)	13 (5.4%)	-	-
Nova Scotia	1,924	1,549 (80.5%)	364 (18.9%)	7 (0.4%)	-	4 (0.2%)
New Brunswick	1,140	1,022 (89.6%)	86 (7.5%)	26 (2.3%)	1 (0.1%)	5 (0.4%)
Quebec	28,662	21,092 (73.6%)	5,479 (19.1%)	1,281 (4.5%)	624 (2.2%)	186 (0:6%)
Ontario	19,339	12,128 (62.7%)	4,445 (23.0%)	2,139 (11.1%)	-	627 (3.2%)
Manitoba	11,044	5,977 (54.1%)	135 (1.2%)	4,316 (39.1%)	562 (5.1%)	54 (0.5%)
Saskatchewan	2,247	1,977 (88.0%)	219 (9.7%)	42 (1.9%)	-	9 (0.4%)
Alberta	8,739	7,679 (87.9%)	944 (10.8%)	45 (0.5%)	56 (0.6%)	15 (0.2%)
British Columbia	13,212	9,529 (72.1%)	594 (4.5%)	2,916 (22.1%)	-	173 (1.3%)
Yukon	223	176 (78.9%)	32 (14.3%)	6 (2.7%)	-	9 (4.0%)
Northwest Territories	561	515 (91.8%)	32 (5.7%)	12 (2.1%)	-	2 (0.4%)
CANADA	90,032	64,301 (71.4%)	12,484 (13.9%)	10,820 (12.0%)	1,333 (1.5%)	1,094 (1.2%)

These figures exclude charges against adults and companies (totalling 878).
 Figures in curved brackets are percentages of row totals.

#### DISPOSITIONS

Section 20 of the Juvenile Delinquents Act<sup>4</sup> specifies the types of dispositions that may be given to juveniles who have been found delinquent. These dispositions range from a "suspension of the final disposition" to a "committal to a provincially approved juvenile institution".

Individual provincial policies and respective legislation governing child welfare, as well as the availability within a community of various types of resources or programs for the care and treatment of juvenile offenders, will affect the range of dispositions actually available to any given juvenile court. Thus there may be variations in the type and frequency of dispositions not only from province to province but from court to court. These factors should be considered when reviewing the survey data pertaining to dispositions.

It should also be noted that because of the great number of possible combinations of dispositions that can be given in any one case, only the most serious disposition reported for any one charge is used to determine frequency in the information presented here. Dispositions have been ranked based on the effect they will have on the living situation of the child. Therefore, a committal to an institution is considered to be one of the more serious because it means removing the child from his/her home. Probation is considered more serious than a fine which, in turn, is ranked more serious than a reprimand. (See page 57 for a more detailed ranking of the dispositions).

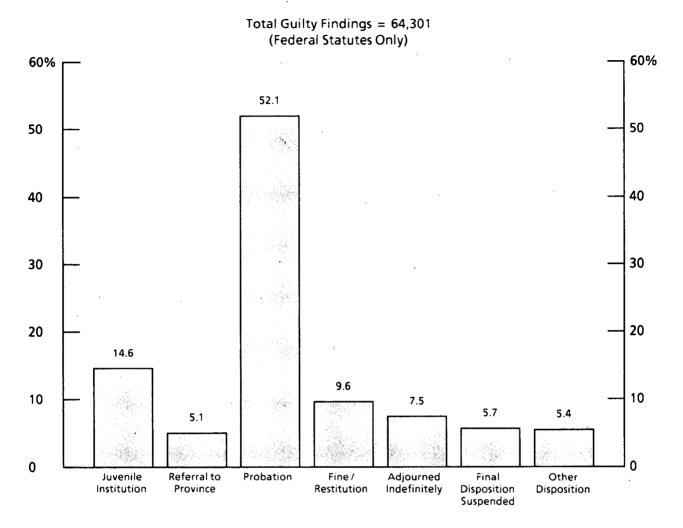
As was true for 1981 and 1982 (see Figure 4.1, page 53), the disposition that juveniles receive most frequently, on a national level, is probation/supervision. As Figure 5 illustrates, probation/supervision accounted for just over half of all juvenile court dispositions in 1983. Provincially, this disposition also represents the highest proportion of sentences in each jurisdiction across the country. There are, however, some variations amongst the provinces in the comparative percentage distribution for this sentence (see Table 4). British Columbia has the highest proportion of sentences resulting in probation/supervision at 77.7% while Newfoundland has the lowest with 38%. Although the overall charge count and the number of charges resulting in probation/supervision declined in 1983, the percentage of charges which resulted in probation/ supervision showed an increase over the previous two years.

Committals to juvenile institutions are the second most frequent disposition followed by fines/restitution. Here again, there are differences between the provinces in the percentage of charges that result in juvenile incarceration although the actual proportion is less than 30% for each jurisdiction. Quebec has the highest proportion (29.1% of its provincial total) as well as the greatest number (6,143) of guilty findings leading to institutional committals. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick also show relatively high proportions of guilty findings resulting in committals to juvenile institutions (18.1% and 23.3% respectively). In Manitoba, the percentage of guilty charges resulting in commitals to juvenile institutions in 1983 was twice that for 1982 (from 7.4% to 14.7%).

For the most part, the disposition of juvenile institution is used more frequently for male offenders than female offenders (15.6% versus 5.9%). It is also interesting to note that the overall percentage of charges resulting in committals to juvenile institutions has increased during the past two years (from 12.8% in 1981 to 13.4% in 1982 to 14.6% in 1983). If specific age groups are considered, it is seen that the percentage of charges resulting in institutional committals for 16-17 year olds has shown a greater increase than that for the 12-15 year old group (+3.5% and +0.6% respectively for the period 1981-83).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In Newfoundland, juveniles adjudged delinquent under the Welfare of Children Act are given dispositions similar to those provided for in the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

FIGURE 5 Percentage Distribution for Each Type of Disposition<sup>1</sup>, Canada, 1983<sup>2</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If a combination of dispositions was given for a single charge, that which was counted for purposes of this distribution was the most "serious".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> These figures exclude charges against adults and companies (totalling 878).

TABLE 4 Number of Charges<sup>1</sup> Resulting in Findings of Delinquency by Nature of Disposition<sup>2</sup>, by Province/Territory, 1983 (Federal Statutes Only)

	Nature of Disposition									
Province/ Territory	Total	Juvenile Institution	Referral to Province	Probation/ Supervision	Fine/ Restitution	Adjourned Indefinitely	.Final Disposition Suspended	Other		
Newfoundland	2,446	15 (0.6%) <sup>3</sup>	538 (22.0%)	929 (38.0%)	376 (15.4%)	22 (0.9%) '	477 (19.5%)	89 (3.6%)		
Prince Edward Island	211	15 (7.1%)	49 (23.2%)	128 (60.7%)	8 (3.8%)	4 (1.9%)	2 (0.9%)	5 (2.4%)		
Nova Scotia	1,549	280 (18.1%)	14 (0.9%)	771 (49.8%)	169 (10.9%)	120 (7.7%)	25 (1.6%)	170 (11.0%)		
New Brunswick	1,022	238 (23.3%)	(0.2%)	432 (42.3%)	49 (4.8%)	161 (15.8%)	124 (12.1%)	16 (1.6%)		
Quebec	21,092	6,143 (29.1%)	258 (1.2%)	8,309 (39.4%)	2,603 (12.3%)	1,924 (9.1%)	1,232 (5.8%)	623 (3.0%)		
Ontario	12,128	987 (8.1%)	485 (4.0%)	7,083 (58.4%)	785 (6.5%)	1,367 (11.3%)	988 (8.1%)	433 (3.6%)		
Manitoba ·	5,977	880 (14.7%)	122 (2.0%)	3,085 (51.6%)	1,123 (18.8%)	113 (1.9%)	16 (0.3%)	638 (10.7%)		
Saskatchewan	1,977	-	369 (18.7%)	956 <sub>.</sub> (48.4%)	93 (4.7%)	38 (1.9%)	419 (21.2%)	102 (5.2%)		
Alberta	7,679	5 (0.1%)	1,372 (17.9%)	3,950 (51.4%)	560 (7.3%)	714 (9.3%)	122 <sub>.</sub> (1.6%)	956 (12.4%)		
British Columbia	9,529	842 (8.8%)	69 (0.7%)	7,408 (77.7%)	368 (3.9%)	287 (3.0%)	205 (2.2%)	350 (3.7%)		
Yukon	176	1 (0.6%)	6 (3.4%)	124 (70.5%)	5 (2.8%)	26 (14.8%)	13 (7.4%)	1 (0.6%)		
Northwest Territories	515	-	17 (3.3%)	323 (62.7%)	23 (4.5%)	19 (3.7%)	19 (3.7%)	114 (22.1%)		
CANADA	64,301	9,406 (14.6%)	3,301 (5.1%)	33,498 (52.1%)	6,162 (9.6%)	4,795 (7.5%)	3,642 (5.7%)	3,497 (5.4%)		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These figures exclude charges against adults and companies (totalling 878).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The disposition counted for each charge is that which is considered to be most serious.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Figures in curved brackets are percentages of row totals.

Several jurisdictions show very few or no guilty findings resulting in committals to juvenile institutions. Yet, these provinces/territories tend to have relatively high proportions of their dispositions in the "referral to care of province" category. "Referral to care of province" means that the court refers juvenile offenders to an appropriate provincial official who is authorized to determine the specific form of action or custody warranted. Thus, it can be inferred that some proportion of the committals to "care of the province" would, in fact, have resulted in placement of the juvenile in some type of secure facility.

The maximum fine that can be imposed under the Juvenile Delinquents Act is \$25.00. On a national level, the use of fines/restitution as a disposition has declined somewhat over the past two years. In 1981 fines/restitution represented 12.2% of all dispositions while in 1983 this figure had decreased to 9.6%. Fines are generally used more frequently for the older age categories (ie. 14 years old and above) than for the younger age groups. In the majority of provinces, fines/restitution account for less than 10% of the total dispositions. The most notable exception is Manitoba which reports the highest percentage of charges leading to fines/restitution at 18.8%.

In most jurisdictions, the category of Final Disposition Suspended was seldom used. Two provinces, however, showed a significant percentage of their dispositions in this category. Both Saskatchewan and Newfoundland reported one-fifth of their dispositions as Final Disposition Suspended.

#### **PERSONS**

The information that has been presented in the preceding sections has focused on counts of the *number of charges* adjudicated by the juvenile courts in each jurisdiction. It is also advantageous, however, to consider the *number of juveniles* actually involved in the court process.

In order to obtain an estimate of the person count, all the charges that are reported by the courts for each individual during the current calendar year are linked together. Since the linkage process is highly dependent on the consistency and accuracy of the information provided on the submitted records, it is subject to error. Consequently, the person count may be less accurate than the charge count from which it is derived. There may be some tendency to overestimate the number of juveniles involved in the charges reported. The following data, therefore, should only be considered an estimate. It should also be noted that 1983 is the first year that all provinces/territories have participated in providing information for the person count.

Consistent with the charge count, the overall number of persons charged with federal statute violations in 1983 showed a slight decrease. This year, there were 33,908 juveniles appearing before Canadian courts on federal statute charges. Of this number, 27,117 were found delinquent of the charged offences. The actual percentage of female offenders appearing in court is slightly higher than their percentage representation in the charge count. That is to say that, while female offenders comprise 14% of all offenders, they are only responsible for 10% of the charges.

Table 5 presents the person rate by age for each province/territory. The same general trends that were observed for charge rates are apparent for the person count *i.e.*, numbers of persons and rates tend to increase as the age of the juveniles increases.

The offence pattersn for the overall person count do not show any significant deviations from those cited for charges. In other words, Property offences account for the highest number of persons followed by Violent crimes and Narcotic Control offences.

Nearly six out of every ten juveniles have been charged with only one offence during the current year (see Figure 6). The four Atlantic provinces show the highest percentage of juveniles appearing on one charge (over 68% for each province). Quebec and Saskatchewan have the lowest percentage of offenders facing a singular charge at 46.5% and 48.5% respectively. Please note that this information applies to all charges and not just federal statute offences.

When types of dispositions are considered on a national level, it is seen that 55% of all delinquent offenders receive probation/supervision. Without exception, probation/supervision is the disposition used most often in every jurisdiction across the country (see Table 6).

Nationally, less than 9% of the offenders who are found delinquent are referred to a juvenile institution or care of the province. On a province by province basis, Quebec shows the highest percentage (22.5%) as well as the greatest number (1,137) of offenders being committed to a juvenile institution. As cited above, this may be explained in part by the fact that Quebec has the highest percentage of offenders appearing on multiple charges as well as a high proportion of offenders in the older age groups.

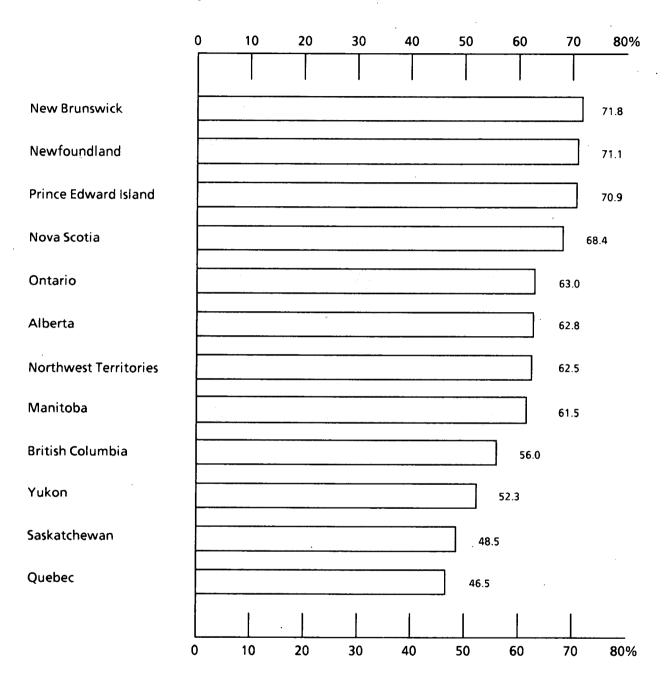
TABLE 5 Estimated Number of Juveniles Appearing on Federal Statute Charges<sup>1</sup> and Person Rates by Age and by Province/Territory, 1983

				Age					
Province/ Territory	7-11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total <sup>3</sup>	
Newfoundland	57	79	182	280	368	467		1,476	
	(1.0) <sup>2</sup>	(6.5)	(15.0)	(23.1)	(29.9)	(38.0)		(12.5)	
Prince Edward Island	10	18	21	25	41	İ		- 115	
	(1.0)	(8.2)	(9.5)	′(11.4)	(18.6)			(6.1)	
Nova Scotia	71	92	163	252	330			996	
	(1.1)	(6.2)	(11.4)	(18.0)	(22.9)			(8.0)	
New Brunswick	28	47	81	136	237			690	
	(0.5)	(3.7)	(6.6)	(11.3)	(19.1)	İ	-	(6.4)	
Quebec				619	1,044	1,681	2,234	5,658	,
440000				(6.6)	(10.8)	(16.4)	(20.0)	(14.0)	
Ontario	625	887	1,688	2,746	4,063			10,174	
	(1.0)	(6.4)	(12.3)	(20.6)	(30.3)			(8.7)	
Manitoba	46	156	349	551	715	923	1,172	4,077	
	(0.6)	(9.2)	(21.0)	(33.8)	(43.9)	(55.6)	(65.1)	(22.6)	
Saskatchewan	41	79	140	279	369			920	
	(0.5)	(4.9)	(8.8)	(17.3)	(23.1)			(6.5)	
Alberta	78	388	866	1,248	1,636			4,352	
	(0.4)	(10.5)	(23.9)	(35.3)	(45.2)			(13.6)	
British Columbia	73	202	523	967	1,313	1,826		5,018	
	(0.4)	(4.8)	(12.2)	(23.0)	(32.1)	(44.1)		(12.6)	
Yukon	4	10	26	18	34			101	
	(2.2)	(25.0)	(65.0)	(45.0)	(113.3)			(30.6)	
Northwest Territories	6	12	38	37	53			285	
	(1.2)	(10.9)	(34.5)	(37.0)	(53.0)			(31.0)	
CANADA	1,039 (0.8)	1,970 (6.7)	4,077 (14.0)	7,158 (18.9)	10,203 (26.7)	4,897 (28.3)	3,406 (26.3)	33,862 (11.3)	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These figures exclude the adults and companies that were charged in 1983 (totalling 434) and those under the age of 14 years

Figures in curved brackets indicate person charge rates per 1,000 juveniles.
 Totals include juveniles of unknown age.

FIGURE 6 Percentage of Juveniles' Having Only One Charge Adjudicated in 1983 by Province/Territory<sup>2</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These figures include the adults and companies that were charged in 1983 (totalling 434).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Please note that this information applies to all charges and not just federal statute offences.

TABLE 6 Number of Persons<sup>1</sup> Found Delinquent by Nature of Most Serious Disposition<sup>2</sup>, by Province/Territory, 1983 (Federal Statutes Only)

	Nature of Disposition										
Province/ Territory	Total	Juvenile Institution	Referral to Province	Probation/ Supervision	Fine/ Restitution	Adjourned Indefinitely	Final Disposition Suspended	Other			
Newfoundland	1,381	6 (0.4%) <sup>3</sup>	234 (16.9%)	559 (40.5%)	244 (17.7%)	14 (1.0%)	279 (20.2%)	45 (3.3%)			
Prince Edward Island	96	2 (2.1%)	9 (9.4%)	69 (71.9%)	7 (7.3%)	(3.1%)	1 (1.0%)	5 (5.2%)			
Nova Scotia .	894	121 (13.5%)	9 (1.0%)	542 (60.6%)	59 (6.6%)	48 (5.4%)	10 (1.1%)	105 (11.7%)			
New Brunswick	625	106 (17.0%)	(0.3%)	275 (44.0%)	29 (4.6%)	128 (20.5%)	72 (11.5%)	13 (2.1%)			
Quebec	5,061	1,137 (22.5%)	44 (0.9%)	1,876 (37.1%)	1,058 (20.9%)	478 (9.4%)	317 (6.3%)	151 (3.0%)			
Ontario	6,995	460 (6.6%)	295 (4.2%)	4,185 (59.8%)	517 (7.4%)	674 (9.6%)	548 (7.8%)	316 (4.5%)			
Manitoba	2,766	204 (7.4%)	50 (1.8%)	1,421 (51.4%)	688 (24.9%)	73 (2.6%)	6 (0.2%)	324 (11.7%)			
Saskatchewan	860	_	116 (13.5%)	440 (51.2%)	58 (6.7%)	11 (1.3%)	191 (22.2%)	44 (5.1%)			
Alberta	4,079	(0.1%)	532 (13.0%)	1,990 (48.8%)	423 (10.4%)	407 (10.0%)	92 (2.3%)	631 (15.5%)			
British Columbia	4,016	256 (6.4%)	26 (0.6%)	3,321 (82.7%)	177 (4.4%)	76 (1.9%)	82 (2.0%)	78 (1.9%)			
Yukon	86	(1.2%)	(3.5%)	57 (66.3%)	3 (3.5%)	17 (19.8%)	(4.7%)	1 (1.2%)			
Northwest Territories	258	_	9 (3.5%)	177 (68.6%)	12 (4.7%)	9 (3.5%)	(5.8%)	36 (14.0%)			
CANADA	27,117	2,297 (8.5%)	1,329 (4.9%)	14,912 (55.0%)	3,275 (12.1%)	1,938 (7.1%)	1,617 (6.0%)	1,749 (6.4%)			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These figures exclude the adults and companies that were charged in 1983 (totalling 434).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The disposition counted for each charge is that which is considered to be most serious.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Figures in curved brackets are percentages of row totals.

#### SUMMARY

In general, the 1983 survey data on juvenile courts was found to be fairly consistent with the statistical data that was analyzed for 1981 and 1982. The following outlines the salient highlights of the 1983 analytical report.

1983 evidenced a decrease in the number of charges brought before the juvenile courts in Canada (5.2% decrease over 1982). Of the 115,915 charges adjudicated, 78.4% were Criminal Code and other Federal Statutes.

In Canada, the overall rate of charges per 1,000 juveniles was 30.0. On a provincial basis, however, there was considerable variation in the overall charge rates which ranged from a high of 70.4 in Quebec to a low of 10.5 in New Brunswick. Differences in age jurisdictions contribute to the variations in overall rates.

When charge rates based on age are considered, most provinces showed an increase in rate with the increasing age of the juveniles charged.

Nine out of every ten charges adjudicated by the courts were attributed to male offenders.

At the national level, property-related offences constituted 81.7% of all federal statute charges brought before the courts. Offences involving violence accounted for 5.1% of the federal statute count. Offences under the Juvenile Delinquents Act represented a very small proportion of the total count as did Narcotic Control offences (less than 2%).

Nationally, 71.4% of all federal statute charges adjudicated in 1983 resulted in findings of delinquency. This proportion varied considerably at the provincial level ranging from a low of 54.1% in Manitoba to highs of 90.6% in Newfoundland and 91.8% in the Northwest Territories.

The most frequent disposition for charges resulting in a finding of delinquency is probation/supervision. Overall, probation/supervision accounted for 52.1% of all juvenile court sentences. Provincially, British Columbia showed the most frequent use of probation in court dispositions (77.7%) while Newfoundland evidenced the least frequent use (38%).

Committals to juvenile institutions and referrals to care of province represented 14.6% and 5.1% respectively of all dispositions. There are marked differences amongst the provinces in their use of the various dispositions available under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

In most provinces, 60% or more of all juveniles came before the courts on only one charge during the current year.

Appendix A

Population Figures: 1983 Preliminary Postcensal Estimates<sup>1</sup>

Province/Territory	7-11	12	13	14	15	16	17	TOTAL
Newfoundland	56,800	12,200	12,100	12,100	12,300	12,300		117,900
Prince Edward Island	10,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200			19,000
Nova Scotia	66,400	14,800	14,300	14,000	14,400	:		123,900
New Brunswick	59,000	12,600	12,300	12,000	12,400			108,400
Quebec				93,600	96,800	102,600	111,700	404,700
Ontario	621,700	137,000	137,200	133,300	134,100			1,164,300
Manitoba	79,400	16,900	16,600	16,300	16,300	16,600	18,000	180,100
Saskatchewan	78,200	16,100	16,000	16,100	16,000			142,400
Alberta	175,600	36,900	36,200	35,400	36,200			320,300
British Columbia	190,000	42,400	42,700	42,000	40,900	41,400		399,500
Yukon	1,800	400	400	400	300			3,300
Northwest Territories	5,000	1,100	1,100	1,000	1,000			9,200
CANADA	1,344,200	293,500	291,200	378,600	382,800	172,900	129,700	2,992,900

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Preliminary Postcensal Population Estimates, June 1, 1983, Population Estimates Section, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

## PART II Analysis of 1982 Data

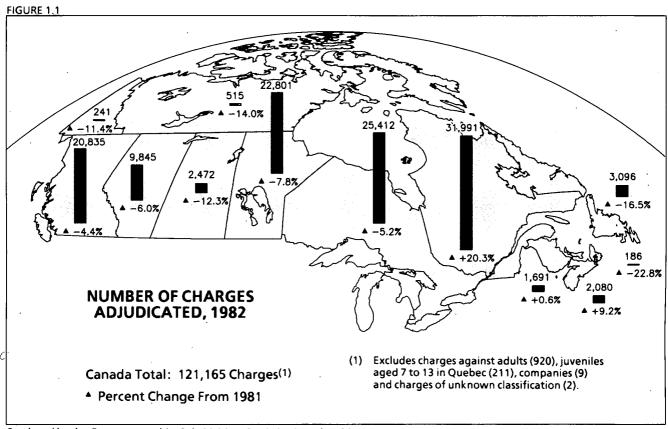
# 1 Charge Counts and Rates

#### 1.1 Overall

A total of 121,165 charges<sup>1</sup> of delinquency were reported in Canada in 1982. This represents a marginal decline of less than one percent from the 121,571 charges recorded in 1981. Figure 1.1 indicates the number of charges reported for each province in 1982 and the percentage change from 1981.

The number of reported charges declined in most jurisdictions between 1981 and 1982, the exceptions being Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. Of particular note were the marked declines observed in Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. Manitoba recorded a decline in provincial statute charges to 11,176 from the 12,380 charges of this class reported in 1981 (-9.7%). Similarly, provincial statute offences declined by 1,091 or 13.0% to 7,308 charges in British Columbia between 1981 and 1982.

Equally evident was the marked increase in charges in Quebec between 1981 and 1982. In that province, the charge count increased by 20.3% to 31,991, the largest absolute change (+5,393) in total charges in any jurisdiction. Increases were observed for all classes of charges, the most significant being in the Criminal Code category (+2,653 or +11.2%), and the class of provincial statute offences (+2,181 or +116.8%). As a result, Quebec accounted for 26.4% of all charges recorded in Canada in 1982 (cf. 21.9% in 1981).



Produced by the Geocartographics Sub-Division, Statistics Canada, 1984.

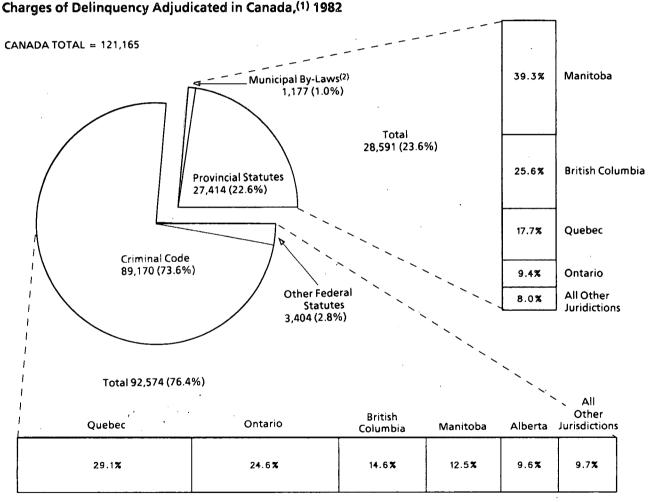
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For both 1981 and 1982, charges against adults and companies for contributing to delinquency and against adults returned to court under subsection 20(3) of the Juvenile Delinquents Act have been excluded. As well, two charges of unknown type and 211 charges against juveniles aged 7 to 13 in Quebec have been excluded from the 1982 total.

The annual variations in provincial statute charge counts should be regarded cautiously. They may reflect changes in the level of participation in the survey with respect to these types of offences rather than real fluctuations in the number of charges handled. In the case of Quebec, for example, an effort was made to improve the survey's coverage of provincial statute offences in 1982 and this likely accounts for part of the increase.

## 1.2 Classification of Charges

Figure 1.2 displays the distribution of charges by class of charge. Combined, provincial statute offences and municipal by-law violations account for 23.6% of all charges in Canada (cf. 22.9% in 1981). Excluding Manitoba and British Columbia, which have disproportionately large numbers of provincial statute offences (64.9% of all charges of this classification), provincial statute offences and municipal by-law violations comprise only 12.9% of the total count for the remaining provinces.

FIGURE 1.2



- 1) Charges against adults (920), companies (9), charges of unknown classification (2), and 211 charges against juveniles 7 to 13 years of age in Quebec are excluded.
- 2) Quebec reported 1023 or 86.9% of the total 1,177 municip0al by-law offences.

The number and proportion of charges which are Criminal Code, other federal statute, provincial statute and municipal by-law offences in each province/territory are given in Table 1.1.

TABLE 1.1 Distribution of Charges by Class of Charge and by Province/Territory<sup>1</sup>, 1982

		CLASS OF CHA	RGE			
Province/Territory	Criminal Code	Other Federal Statute	Provincial Statute	Municipal By-Law	TOTAL	
Newfoundland	2,308	114	667	7	3,096	
	(74.6) <sup>3</sup>	(3.7)	(21.5)	(-)	[2.6] 4	
Prince Edward Island	179	2	5	0	186	
	(96.2)	(1.1)	(2.7)	(-)	[0.2]	
Nova Scotia	1,605	120	354	1 1	2.080	
1014 30014	(77.1)	(5.8)	(17.0)	(-)	[1.7]	
New Brunswick	1,506	28	153	4	1,691	
	(89.1)	(1.7)	(9.1)	(-)	[1.4]	
Ouebec <sup>2</sup>	26,288	631	4.049	1,023	31,991	
44000-	(82.2)	(2.0)	(12.7)	(3.2)	[26.4]	
Ontario	21,849	883	2,636	44	25,412	
	(86.0)	(3.5)	(10.4)	(0.2)	[21.0]	
Manitoba	11,097	475	11,176	53	22,801	
	(48.7)	(2.1)	(49.0)	(0.2)	[18.8]	
Saskatchewan	2,398	38	35	1	2,472	
•	(97.0)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(-)	[2.0]	
Alberta	8,659	192	973	21	9,845	
	(88.0)	(2.0)	(9.9)	(0.2)	[8.1]	
British Columbia	12,591	913	7,308	23	20,835	
	(60.4)	(4.4)	(35.1)	(0.1)	[17.2]	
Yukon	209	3	29	0	241	
	(86.7)	(1.2)	(12.0)	(-)	[0.2]	
Northwest Territories	481	5	29	0	515	
	(93.4)	(1.0)	(5.6)	(-)	[0.4]	
CANADA	89,170	3,404	27,414	1,177	121,165	
	(73.6)	(2.8)	(22.6)	(1.0)	[100]	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Total charge count excludes charges against adults (920), companies (9) and two charges of unknown classification, but includes charges against persons of unknown age.

The remainder of this report will deal only with Criminal Code and other federal statute offences, henceforth referred to as "federal statute offences", involving juveniles 12 years of age and over in each province/territory, with the exception of Quebec in which the minimum age of the juvenile jurisdiction is 14 in accordance with the provincial Youth Protection Act. By province, the distribution of charges against juveniles 7 to 11 years of age is sufficiently different from the distribution for those 12 and over as to warrant their exclusion from the analysis. Appendix I (p. 55) displays the total number of federal statute charges adjudicated against juveniles under the age of 12 (less than 14 years of age in Quebec). Of note is the fact that Ontario accounts for 1,347 or 51.2% of the total 2,629 federal statute charges adjudicated against juveniles in this age category.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Quebec total excludes 211 charges against persons aged 7-13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Figures in curved brackets are row percentages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Figures in square brackets are percentages of the total count for Canada.

#### 1.3 Federal Statute Offences

## 1.3.1 Charges

Given the exclusions noted previously, in 1982, there were 88,2482 federal statute charges adjudicated in Canada (see Table 1.2) This is very similar to the comparable count of 88,743 charges adjudicated in 1981. In order, Quebec and Ontario reported the highest number of federal statute charges, followed by British Columbia, Manitoba and Alberta. Combined, the Atlantic provinces, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories account for less than 10 percent of the total.

TABLE 1.2 Number of Federal Statute Charges Adjudicated and Charge Rates by Age and by Province/Territory, 1982 (Both Sexes Included)

<del></del>		0.00							
		Age						-	Percentage
Province/ Territory	12	13	14	15	14-15 Combined	16	17	Total <sup>1</sup>	of Grand Total
Newfoundland	152 (12.6) <sup>2</sup>	260 (21.5)	441 (35.9)	632 (51.0)	1,073 (43.4)	768 (58.6)		2,253	2.6
Prince Edward Island	14 (6.4)	27 (12.3)	42 (19.1)	90 (40.9)	132 (30.0)			173	0.2
Nova Scotia	134 (9.4)	275 (19.6)	443 (30.8)	745 (50.0)	1,188 (40.7)			1,597	1.8
New Brunswick	99 (8.1)	246 (20.5)	387 (31.2)	634 (49.5)	1,021 (40.5)			1,366	1.5
Québec			2,675 (27.6)	5,857 (56.9)	8,532 (42.7)	8,471 (75.6)	9,340 (75.3)	26,343 <sup>3</sup>	29.9
Ontario	1,656 (12.1)	3,329 (25.1)	6,499 (48.6)	9,639 (69.7)	16,138 (59.3)			21,123	23.9
Manitoba	410 (24.7)	1,034 (63.8)	1,464 (89.8)	2,305 (139.7)	3,769 (114.9)	2,798 (156:3)	3,306 (171.3)	11,317	12.8
Saskatchewan	143 (9.0)	339 (21.2)	901 (56.7)	945 (58.7)	1,846 (57.5)			2,328	2.6
Alberta	741 (20.3)	1,473 (41.6)	2,588 (72.3)	3,462 (94.1)	6,050 (83.3)			8,264	9.4
British Columbia	369 (8.7)	1,149 (27.4)	2,537 (62.2)	4,053 (97.9)	6,590 (80.2)	4,877 (111.9)		12,985	. 14.7
Yukon	26 (65.0)	42 (105.0)	45 (112.5)	65 (162.5)	110 (137.5)			178	0.2
Northwest Territories	27 (24.5)	76 (76.0)	104 (104.0)	114 (114.0)	218 (109.0)			. 321	0.4
CANADA4	3,771 (13.0)	8,250 (29.0)	18,126 (47.4)	28,541 (72.1)	46,667 (60.0)	16,914 (90.6)	12,646 (88.2)	88,248	100.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Totals are for the age groups shown for each province. Charges against adults, juveniles aged 7 to 11 or of unknown age are excluded from this table.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures in curved brackets are charge rates per 1,000 obtained by dividing the number of charges occuring in each age by the population of that age in each jurisdiction (see Appendix II for population estimates).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Quebec total excludes 211 charges against juveniles aged 7 to 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Rates for Canada are based only on the total population falling within the age jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. Thus, the national rate for 12 year olds, for example, excludes the population of 12 year olds in Quebec.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This total of 88,248 federal statute charges excludes charges against adults (920), companies (9), persons of unknown age (1,877), and 2,629 charges against juveniles less than 12 years of age (less than 14 years of age in Quebec).

Compared with 1981 totals, Ontario, Manitoba and Newfoundland recorded declines in federal statute charges of 964 (-4.4%), 709 (-5.9%) and 673 (-23.0%) respectively. To a large extent, these declines represented reductions in the number of charges against 15 year olds in each province as well as against 16 year olds in Newfoundland. In contrast, Quebec and Nova Scotia reported increases of 2,334 (+9.7%) and 183 (+12.9%) respectively, over 1981 charge counts. The increase in Nova Scotia occurred in every age cohort while the majority of the observed increase in Quebec was concentrated among 16 and 17 year olds.

# 1.3.2 Age-Specific Charge Rates

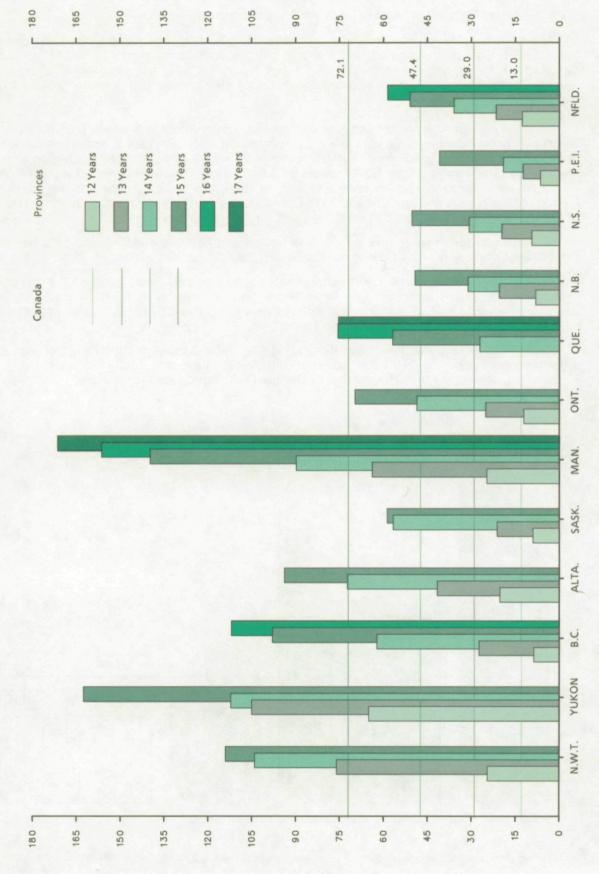
Table 1.2 presents the age-specific charge rates i.e., the number of charges adjudicated per 1000 juveniles, in each age cohort, for the ages 12 to the upper age limit of the juvenile jurisdiction, in each province. The populations on which these rates are based are given in Appendix II (p. 56).

In general, charge rates increase markedly with age in each province with the exceptions of Quebec, in which rates for 16 and 17 year olds are nearly identical, and in Saskatchewan, where the 58.7 charges per thousand juveniles aged 15 only slightly exceeds the rate for those aged 14 (56.7). For Canada, the charge rate for 16 year olds (90.6) is roughly seven times that observed for 12 year olds (13.0). However, as only 4 provinces constitute the "Canadian" total for 16 year olds, (those provinces which include this age in their juvenile jurisdictions), the relatively high charge rate associated with 16 year olds in Manitoba exerts a disproportionately large influence on the "Canadian" rate.

From Figure 1.3, it is apparent that differences between provinces in age-specific charge rates are more evident in the older ages of the juvenile jurisdiction. Amongst the provinces, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have the highest and lowest charge rates respectively, for the ages 12 through 15. Age-specific charge rates in Manitoba are roughly twice the Canadian rate in each age, while those in Prince Edward Island are about half.

Age-Specific Charge Rates<sup>(1)</sup> for Juveniles Aged 12 to the Upper Age Limit of the Juvenile Jurisdiction in Each Province/Territory, 1982. (Both Sexes Included)

FIGURE 1.3



Charge

1) A charge rate is defined as the number of federal statute charges adjudicated per 1000 populationof that age in the province.

#### 1.3.3 Charge Rates for Ages 14 and 15 Combined

As a basis for making interprovincial comparisons, it is advantageous to look at the charge rates for 14 and 15 year olds combined, as these are the only ages common to all juvenile jurisdictions in Canada (see the shaded column in Table 1.2 and Figure 1.4). For Canada, 46,667 charges against juveniles aged 14 and 15 were reported, producing a charge rate for this age group of 60.0 per thousand.

From the charge rates for this age group in the various provinces, it is possible to discern a general pattern of increasing rates from east to west; the comparatively high rate in Manitoba being the only major exception to this gradient. The Atlantic provinces and Quebec constitute a region of relatively low charge rates, ranging from 30.0 charges adjudicated per thousand juveniles aged 14 and 15 in Prince Edward Island, to 43.4 in Newfoundland. In total, this region contains more than one-third (36.4%) of the population aged 14 and 15 in Canada, but contributes only about one-quarter (25.6%) of the total charges adjudicated in juvenile courts for this age group.

Charge rates for this age group in Saskatchewan and Ontario are 57.5 and 59.3 per thousand respectively, or roughly equivalent to the Canadian rate.

Alberta and British Columbia, with charge rates of 83.3 and 80.2 per thousand for this age group respectively, represent a region with rates above the national level. With 20% of the Canadian population aged 14 and 15, Alberta and British Columbia accounted for 27.1% of the total charges adjudicated involving juveniles in this age group.

Finally, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Manitoba display relatively high charge rates for juveniles aged 14 and 15 – 115.1 per thousand collectively. The exceptionally high rate of 137.5 in the Yukon is actually higher than the number of charges (110) adjudicated for the age group.

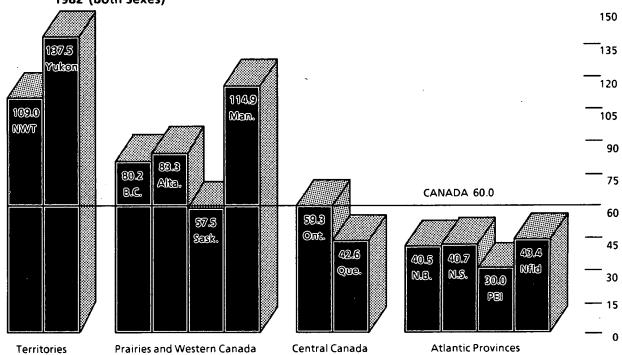


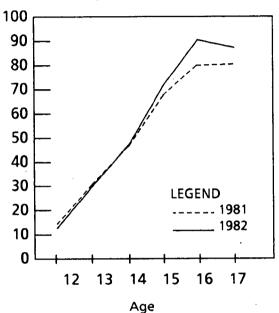
FIGURE 1.4 Charge Rates<sup>1</sup> for Juveniles Aged 14 and 15 Combined, for Each Province/ Territory, 1982 (Both Sexes)

<sup>1</sup> A charge rate is defined here as the number of federal statute charges adjudicated per 1,000 population aged 14 or 15.

#### 1.3.4 Charge Rates: 1981-1982

Excluding juveniles less than 12 years of age, charge rates in most jurisdictions declined between 1981 and 1982. The charge rates, as well as the juvenile populations 12 years of age or more and the charge totals associated with these ages, are presented in the accompanying Figures 1.5.1 through 1.5.13.

Figure 1.5.1 Canada
Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)



1981	1982	<u>%</u> ▲
88,743 1,738.8	88,248 1,682.6	-0.6 -3.2
51.0	52.4	+ 2.7
	88,743 1,738.8	88,743 88,248 1,738.8 1,682.6

For Canada as a whole in 1982, age-specific charge rates for juveniles aged 12 to 15 did not change much from 1981 (Figure 1.5.1). However, rates for 16 and 17 year olds increased from 80.1 to 90.6 and from 81.5 to 88.2, respectively. These increases were largely the result of higher rates among 16 year olds in Quebec and British Columbia and among those aged 17 in Quebec. In sum, the decline in the number of charges adjudicated against juveniles 12 years of age or more (- 0.6%) was proportionally smaller than the decline in the population in this age category (-3.2%) causing the overall charge rate to increase marginally.

Quebec	<u>1981</u>	<u> 1982</u>	<u>%</u> ▲
Charac	24.000	26.242	
Charges	24,009	26,343	+ 9.7
Population ('000)	467.1	436.1	-6.6
Overall	51.4	60.4	+ 17.5
Charge Rate			

Between 1981 and 1982, Quebec experienced the largest absolute decline in the juvenile population (-31,000)-6.6%). Concomitantly, the number of charges reported in Quebec increased by 2,334 or + 9.7% to 26,343 (see Figure 1.5.2). As a result, charge rates were notably higher in each age in 1982. The most marked rate increase was observed among older juveniles, those aged 16 and 17. Age-specific charge rates for these ages increased from 60.2 to 75.6 and from 67.3 to 75.3, respectively.

Figure 1.5.2 **Quebec** Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)

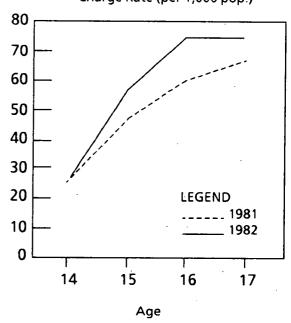
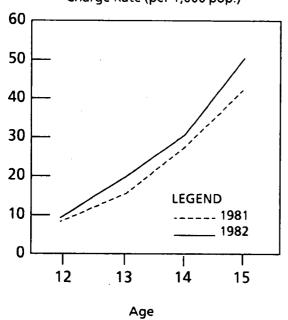


Figure 1.5.3 Nova Scotia
Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)



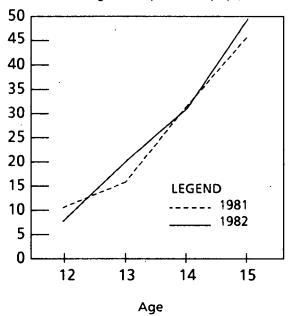
Nova Scotia	1981	1982	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges Population ('000)	1,414 59.1	1,597 57.5	+ 12.9 -2.7
Overall Charge Rate	23.9	27.8	+ 16.3

Nova Scotia experienced a pattern of charge and population changes similar to that observed in Quebec, if less pronounced. Age-specific charge rates were higher in each age in 1982. The combined effect on the rates of an increase in the number of charges adjudicated (+ 183 or 12.9%), and a decrease in the juvenile population at risk (-1,600 or -2.7%), is apparent in Figure 1.5.3. In sum, charges of this nature caused the overall charge rates to increase by 17.5 percent in Quebec and 16.3 percent in Nova Scotia, between 1981 and 1982.

Figure 1.5.4 New Brunswick

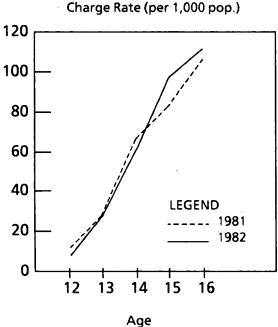
Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)

New Brunswick	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges	1,365	1,366	
Charges Population ('000)	51.2	49.4	-3.5
Overall Charge Rate	26.7	27.7	+ 3.7



Unlike Quebec and Nova Scotia, in which increases in the number of charges adjudicated coincide with a decline in the juvenile population at risk in each province, New Brunswick and British Columbia experienced little change in their charge totals between 1981 and 1982. However, overall charge rates did increase in these provinces as they experienced declines in their juvenile populations 12 years of age and over (see Figures 1.5.4 and 1.5.5). In the case of New Brunswick, age-specific charge rates increased among 15 year olds from 45.8 to 49.5 charges per thousand, and among 13 year olds from 15.9 to 20.5.

Figure 1.5.5 British Columbia



British Columbia	<u>1981</u>	1982	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges Population ('000)	12,977 214.0	12,985 210.3	+ 0.1 -1.7
Overall Charge Rate	60.6	61.7	+ 1.8

In British Columbia, increases in agespecific charge rates were concentrated among 15 and 16 year olds. The rate for 15 year olds increased from 83.3 per thousand to 97.9 as the number of charges adjudicated against this age increased by 448 (+12.4%) and the number of juveniles this age decreased by about 1900 (approximately -4.4%). The increase in the charge rate from 106.3 to 111.9 among 16 year olds was caused by a proportionately larger decline in the number of juveniles relative to the reduction in the number of charges adjudicated against this age.

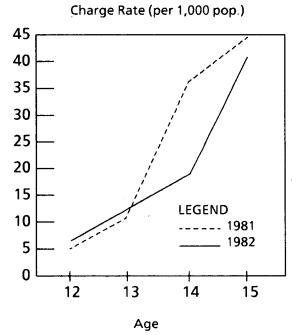
Figure 1.5.6 **Newfoundland** Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)

70	<del></del>
60	
50	
40	H //
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20	LEGEND 1981
10	1982
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	12 13 14 15 16
	Age

Newfoundland	<u>1981</u>	1982	<u>%</u> 🛦
Charges Population ('000)	2,926 64.1	2,253 62.0	-23.0 -3.3
Overall Charge Rate	<b>45.6</b>	36.3	-20.4

In Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, significant declines in the number of federal statute charges adjudicated, and only modest reductions in the juvenile populations, caused marked declines in overall jurisdictional charge rates between 1981 and 1982 (see Figures 1.5.6-1.5.8). Age-Specific charge rates decreased in every age in Newfoundland but most notably among 14 year olds, declining from 45.4 to 35.9, among 15 year olds, decreasing from 68.4 to 51.0, and from 68.2 to 58.6 per thousand for those aged 16.

Figure 1.5.7 Prince Edward Island



Prince Edward Island	<u>1981</u>	1982	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges Population ('000)	222 9.0	173 8.8	-22.1 -2.2
Overall Charge Rate	24.7	19.7	-20.2

Though the small juvenile population in Prince Edward Island causes age-specific charge rates to be overly "sensitive" to relatively minor fluctuations in the numbers of charges adjudicated, the observed decline in the rate for 14 year olds from 36.4 to 19.1 is significant. This decrease is attributable to a reduction in the number of charges adjudicated against this age cohort from 80 to 42 with no attendant decrease in the number of 14 year olds in the jurisdiction.

Saskatchewan <u> 1981</u> 1982 **%** ▲ -12.8 2,670 2,328 Charges 64.0 -2.6 Population 65.7 ('000)-10.3 Overall 40.6 36.4 Charge Rate

In Saskatchewan, the observed reduction in age-specific charge rates for 13 year olds, from 27.2 to 21.2, and for 15 year olds, from 65.2 to 58.7, was the result of a sharp decline in the number of charges adjudicated against juveniles of these ages.

Figure 1.5.8 Saskatchewan

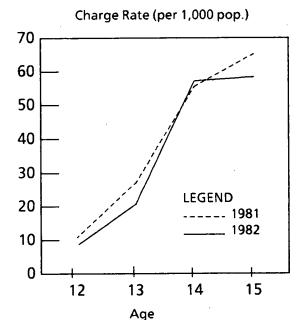
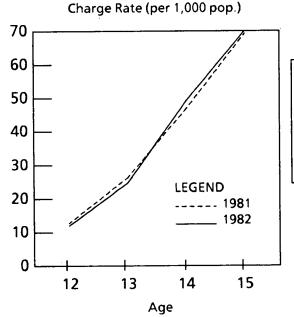


Figure 1.5.9 Ontario



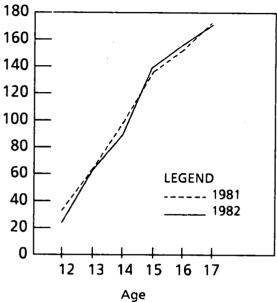
Ontario	1981	1982	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges Population ('000)	22,087 553.4	21,123 541.5	-4.4 -2.2
Overall Charge Rate	39.9	39.0	-2.3

Between 1981 and 1982, the jurisdictions of Ontario and Manitoba experienced declines in the numbers of charges adjudicated against juveniles, 12 years of age and over, of 4.4% and 5.9% respectively. From Figures 1.5.9 and 1.5.10 it is also apparent that the juvenile populations at risk decreased, though less appreciably. As a result, overall charge rates slightly decreased in both jurisdictions.

Age-specific charge rates in Ontario remained relatively stable as there were either negligible or proportional changes in the numbers of charges and the population in each age category.

Figure 1.5.10 Manitoba

Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)



Manitoba	1981	1982	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges Population ('000)	12,026 105.9	11,317 102.8	-5.9 -2.9
Overall Charge Rate	113.6	110.1	-3.1

In Manitoba, age-specific charge rates decreased markedly in ages 12 and 14 (from 33.7 to 24.7 and from 99.5 to 89.8, respectively), in accordance with decreases in the number of charges adjudicated for these age cohorts.

Alberta	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges Population ('000)	8,526 143.7	8,264 144.5	-3.1 + 0.6
Overall Charge Rate	59.3	57.2	-3.5

Figure 1.5.11 displays the age-specific charge rates in Alberta for 1981 and 1982. The rate for 13 year olds showed the most change declining from 49.4 to 41.6. Alberta was the only jurisdiction in Canada to experience growth in the juvenile population at risk (+800 or + 0.6%).

Figure 1.5.11 Alberta Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)

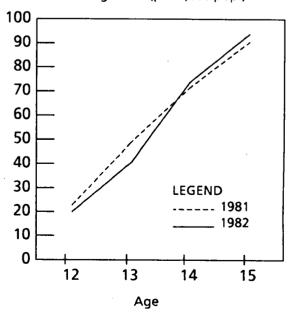
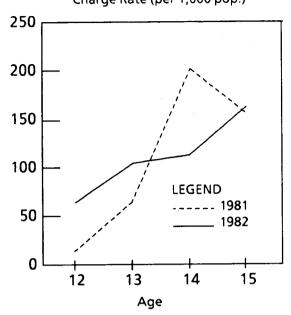


Figure 1.5.12 Yukon
Charge Rate (per 1,000 pop.)



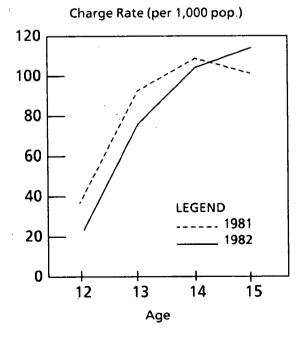
Yukon	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>%</u> ▲
Charges Population ('000)	176 1.6	178 1.6	+ 1.1
Overall Charge Rate	110.0	111.3	+ 1.2

As noted in the discussion of age-specific charge rates in Prince Edward Island, charge rates in the Yukon and Northwest Territories are susceptible to relatively minor changes in the number of charges adjudicated due to their small juvenile populations. In the Yukon, for example, an increase of 10 in the number of charges adjudicated in any age will result in a corresponding change of 25 per 1,000 in the charge rate for that age (see Figure 1.5.12). The marked decline in the rate for 14 year olds, from 202.5 to 112.5, was the result of a reduction of just 36 charges.

<u>%</u> Northwest <u>1981</u> 1982 **Territories** 321 -7.0 345 Charges Population : 4.1 4.2 + 2.4 ('000) -9.2 Overall 84.1 76.4 **Charge Rate** 

The decline in age-specific rates in each age, other than for 15 year olds, in the Northwest Territories can be seen in Figure 1.5.13. As a result, the overall charge rate declined by nearly 10 percent.

Figure 1.5.13 Northwest Territories



# 1.3.5 Charges and Age-Specific Charge Rates by Sex of Offender

Of the 90,1253 federal statute charges adjudicated in Canada involving juveniles 12 years of age and older (minimum 14 years of age in Quebec), 80,445 or 89.3% were against males (cf. 89.9% in 1981). Table 1.3 displays the federal statute charge totals by sex for the various jurisdictions.

By province, the proportion of federal statute charges involving females varied from 3.9% in Quebec to 15.4% in Ontario. Thus, while Quebec accounts for nearly one-third (32.2%) of all federal statute charges against males in Canada, only 10.7% of all charges of similar classification involving females were reported in Quebec. In contrast, Ontario contributes 22.5% of the total charge count against males but roughly 34.0% of the total against females in Canada. Interestingly, comparing the number of charges by sex of offender for the two provinces indicates that though Quebec reported 43% more charges against males than did Ontario, (25,881 in the former versus 18,096 in the latter), it also reported 68.4% fewer charges against females, (1,038 versus 3,289 respectively).

Combined, the Maritime provinces, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories account for 943 charges or 9.7% of all federal statute charges against females and 7,608 or 9.5% of all those against males in Canada. Figure 1.6 illustrates the variance between jurisdictions in the proportions of charges which involve female juveniles.

From the charge rates shown in Figures 1.7, it is apparent that rates for males are not only much higher than those for females in each age category, but also that the rate of ascent in charge rates associated with increasing age is more pronounced for males than for females. For example, the rate for 15 year old males (123.7) is more than five times (519%) higher than that observed for 12 year olds (20.0), whereas the rate for 15 year old females is only about three and one-half times (362%) higher than the rate for 12 year olds (18.0 versus 3.9, respectively). Charge rates for 16 and 17 year olds are not presented as there are only four and two provinces, respectively, which include these ages in the juvenile jurisdiction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Excludes charges against adults (920), companies (9) and those against juveniles 7 to 11 years of age (7 to 13 in Quebec) (2,736). Charge total includes charges against juveniles of unknown age.

TABLE 1.3 Distribution of Federal Statute Charges<sup>1</sup> by Sex of Offender and by Province/Territory, 1982

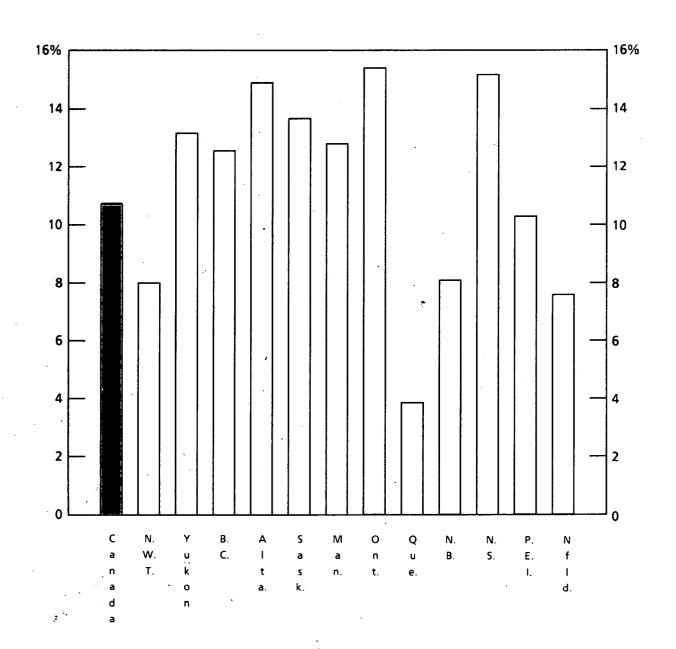
Province/		Male			Female		Tot	tal
Territory	Charges	% of Male Total	% of Prov Total	Charges	% of Female Total	% of Prov. Total <sup>2</sup>	Charges	% of Canada Total
Newfoundland	12,132	2.7	92.4	176	1.8	7.6	2,308	2.6
Prince Edward Island	156	0.2	89.7	18	0.2	10.3	174	0.2
Nova Scotia	1,382	1.7	84.8	247	2.6	15.2	1,629	1.8
New Brunswick	1,321	1.6	91.9	117	· 1.2	8.1	1,438	1.6
Quebec	25,881	32.2	96.1	1,038	10.7	3.9	26,919	29.9
Ontario	18,096	22.5	84.6	3,289	34.0	15.4	21,385	23.7
Manitoba	10,001	12.4	87.2	1,465	15.1	12.8	11,466	12.7
Saskatchewan	2,028	2.5	86.3	323	3.3	13.7	2,351	2.6
Alberta	7,237	9.0	85.1	1,266	13.1	14.9	8,503	9.4
British Columbia	11,622	14.4	87.4	1,679	17.3	12.6	13,301	14.8
Yukon	164	0.2	86.8	25	0.3	13.2	189	0.2
Northwest Territories	425	0.5	92.0	3,7	0.4	8.0	462	0.5
CANADA	80,445	100.0	89.3	9,680	100.0	10.7	90,125 <sup>3</sup>	100.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excludes charges against adults (920), companies (9), and those against juveniles 7 to 11 years of age (7 to 13 in Quebec) (2,736). Charge totals include charges against juveniles of unknown age.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See also Figure 1.6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In this table, the total for Canada (90,125) exceeds the total in Table 1.2 (88,248) due to the inclusion of 1,877 federal statute charges against persons of unknown age.

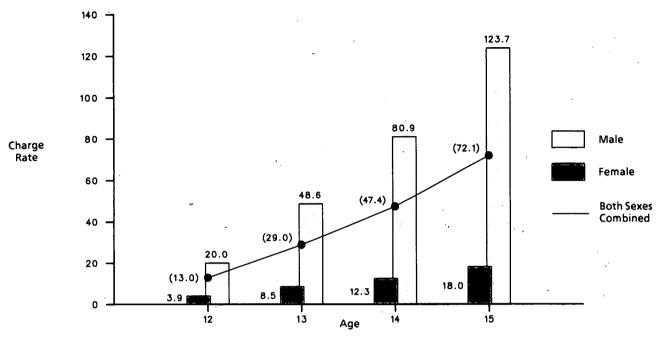
FIGURE 1.6 Percentage of Federal Statute Charges Adjudicated in Each Jurisdiction Which Involved Female Offenders, 1982



CANADA	(N = 9.680)
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N.W.T.	(N = 37)	Ont.	(N = 3,289)
Yukon	(N = 25)	Que.	(N = 1,038)
B.C.	(N = 1,679)	N.B.	(N = 117)
Alta.	(N = 1,266)	N.S.	(N = 247)
Sask.	(N = 323)	P.E.I.	(N = 18)
Man.	(N = 1,465)	Nfld.	(N = 176)

Age-specific Charge Rate<sup>(1)</sup>, Federal Statute Charges for Males, Females and Both Sexes, Ages 12 to 15<sup>(2)</sup>, Canada, 1982



- 1) A charge rate is defined here as the number of federal statute charges adjudicated per 1000 juveniles of that age.
- 2) The population at risk, on which these rates are based, excludes juveniles less than 14 years of age, in Quebec.

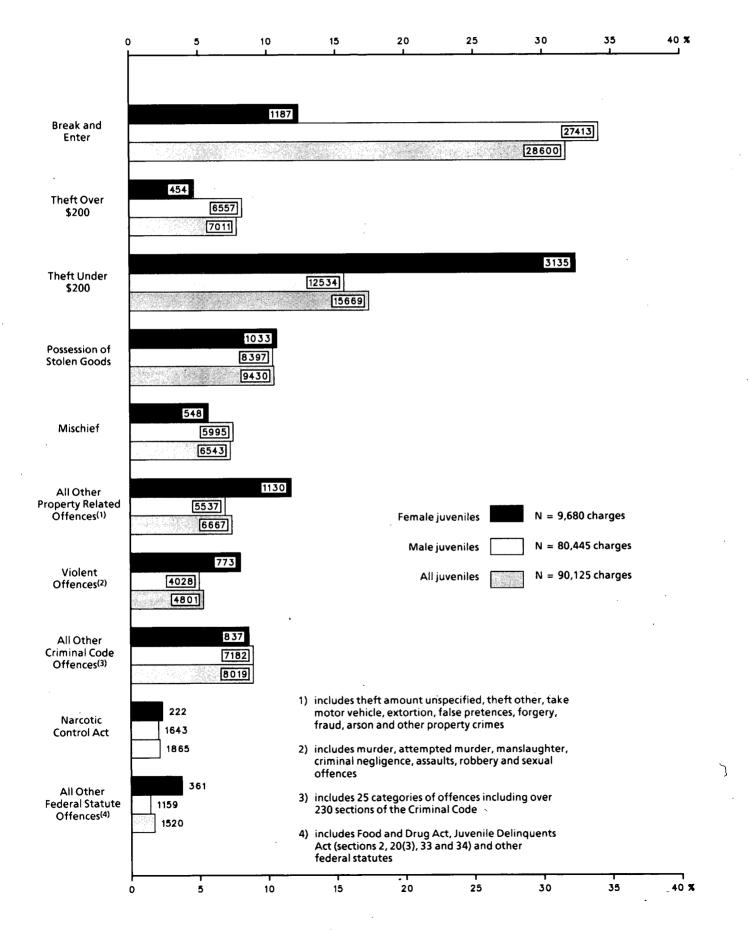
### 2 Types of Federal Statute Charges Adjudicated

### 2.1 Federal Statute Offences by Type of Charge and Sex of Offender

Having considered the distribution of charges by classification of charge and outlined the counts and rates of federal statute charges adjudicated in the various jurisdictions, we may now look more closely at the nature of offences committed by juveniles. Figure 2.1 illustrates the distribution of federal statute charges (on a percentage basis) by type of charge, for male, female and all juveniles. The first six types of charges are all "property-related" offences and cumulatively account for 66,433 charges or 82.6% of all charges adjudicated against males, 7,487 or 77.3% of those against females, and 73,920 charges or 82.0% for all juveniles 12 years of age or older (aged 14 or over in Quebec).

The charge most frequently adjudicated against males is break and enter (34.1%), followed by theft under \$200 (15.6%), and possession of stolen goods (10.4%). In comparison, break and enter accounts for only 12.3% of all federal statute charges against females, while theft under \$200, the most frequently adjudicated charge against females, accounts for 32.4%. In general, though the majority of charges adjudicated against juveniles in each age of the juvenile jurisdiction involve property-related offences, the proportion of all charges these represent diminishes with age as other types of offences become more common. Further, the proportion of charges of lesser seriousness (ie. theft under \$200 and mischief), within the category of property-related offences, is higher among younger juveniles – 12 and 13 years of age – than among juveniles 14 years of age and older.

Percent Distribution of Federal Statute Charges by Type of Offence and Sex of Offender, Juveniles 12 Years of Age and Over, Canada, 1982



Though females commit markedly fewer offences overall and fewer offences involving violence, the distribution of charges by type of charge differs by sex. Female juveniles have a slightly higher proportion of charges involving violence (773 charges or 8.0% of the total female charge count) than do male juveniles (4,028 charges or 5.0% of the total male charge count).

Among the charges involving violence, assault is the most frequent charge adjudicated for both male and female juveniles, (1,922 charges or 47.7% and 607 charges or 78.5%, respectively). Conversely, robbery accounts for a larger proportion of the charges adjudicated against male juveniles which involved violence (1,534 or 38.1%) than is the case for females (151 or 19.1%). Combined, assaults and robberies account for 85.8% of the charges involving violence adjudicated against males and 98.1% of those against females. Table 2.1 displays the distribution of charges adjudicated in each age, by type of offence, for males and females 12 years of age or older.

Additional insight into the distribution of charges, by type of charge and age and sex of the accused, is gained by considering age-specific male to female charge ratios (see Note 1, Figure 2.2). From Figure 2.2, it is apparent this ratio increases with age. This can be attributed to the fact that overall, the rate of increase in the number of charges adjudicated against females is surpassed by that observed for male offenders (see Table 2.1 for the number of charges adjudicated in each for both sexes). The overall association between male:female charge ratios and age is primarily a reflection of the increasing predominance of male juvenile involvement in the charge category of break and enter.

TABLE 2.1 Federal Statute Offences by Type of Charge and Age and Sex of Offender<sup>1</sup>, 1982

Type of			А	ge				
Offence	12	13	14	15	16	17	Unknown Age	Total
Break and Enter	1,004 <sup>2</sup> 63	- <b>2,256</b> 163	<b>5,486</b> 296	<b>8,803</b> 358	<b>5,245</b> 170	<b>3,938</b> 10	<b>681</b> 29	<b>27,413</b> 1,187
Theft over \$200	<b>201</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>852</b>	102	<b>6,557</b>
	34	50	127	150	54	35	4	454
Theft under	<b>972</b>	1, <b>858</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>3,989</b> 1,105	<b>1,594</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>12,534</b>
\$200	268	498	809		321	103	31	3,135
Possession of	<b>293</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>1,626</b> 282	<b>2,695</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>8,397</b>
Stolen Goods	68	136		366	109	62	10	1,033
Mischief	<b>320</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>1,265</b>	1, <b>622</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>5,995</b>
	41	70	107	204	80	30	16	548
All Other Property	<b>131</b> 21	<b>342</b>	1,018	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,351</b>	1,053	116	<b>5,537</b>
Related Offences <sup>3</sup>		60	223	434	179	191	22	1,130
Violent	<b>139</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>643</b>	1,196	<b>811</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4,028</b>
Offences <sup>4</sup>	32	100	196	298	76	47	24	773
All Other Criminal	<b>125</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,859</b>	108	<b>7,182</b>
Code Offences <sup>5</sup>	18	61	146	317	155	129	11	837
Narcotic	2 -	<b>41</b>	181	<b>582</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>356</b>	13	<b>1,643</b>
Control Act		4	36	85	59	32	6	222
All Other Federal	<b>31</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>258</b>	89	<b>78</b>	<b>1,159</b>
Statute Offences <sup>6</sup>	8	37	75	152	61	11	17	361
Total	<b>3,218</b> 553	<b>7,071</b> 1,179	<b>15,829</b> 2,297	<b>25,072</b> 3,469	<b>15,650</b> 1,264	<b>1,898</b> 748	<b>1,707</b> 170	<b>80,445</b> 9,680

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excludes charges against adults (920) companies (9) juveniles less than 12 years of age (less than 14 in Quebec) (2,736).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In each cell, the bold figure is the male charge count, the lower figure is the female charge count.

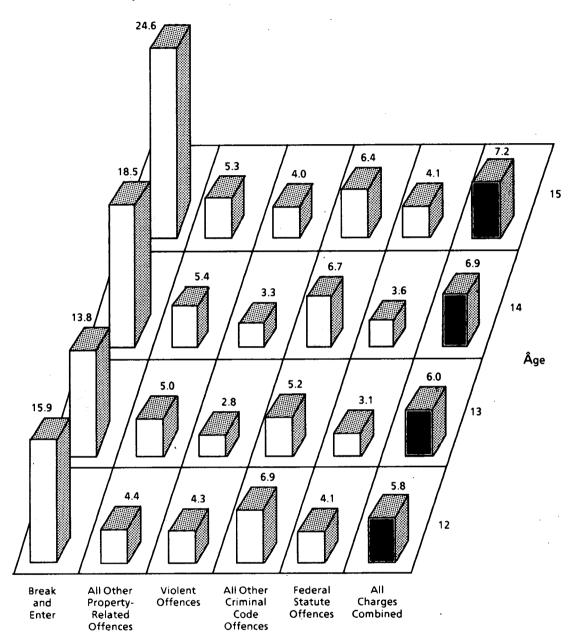
<sup>3</sup> Includes theft amount unspecified, theft other, take motor vehicle, extortion, false pretences, forgery, fraud, arson and other property crimes.

<sup>4</sup> includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, criminal negligence, assaults, robbery and sexual offences.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Includes 25 categories of offences including over 230 sections of the Criminal Code.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Includes Food and Drugs Act, Juvenile Delinquents Act (sections 2, 20(3), 33 and 34) and other federal statutes.

FIGURE 2.2 Male: Female Charge Ratios , Juveniles Aged 12 to 15, Canada<sup>2</sup>, Federal Statute Offences Only



<sup>1</sup> Male: Female charge ratios are defined as the number of charges adjudicated involving male juveniles of a specific age per 1 charge adjudicated against females of the same age, i.e., among juveniles aged 12 and the category of break and enter, there were 15.9 charges adjudicated against males for every charge against females.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ratios for ages 12 and 13 exclude Quebec.

### 2.2 Age-Specific Charge Rates for Property-Related and Violent Offences

Figure 2.3 presents the age-specific charge rates for the offence most frequently adjudicated against males (break and enter) and against females (theft under \$200), and for all other property related and violent offences for each sex. Charge rates for the property-related offences tend to level off as the upper age limit is approached. For males, the rates peak at age 16 (54.9 for break and enter and 74.5 for all other property-related offences), whereas rates for females peak at age 15 (5.7 for theft under \$200 and 7.8 for all other property-related offences). Similarly, charge rates for violent offences, for females, peak at age 15 (1.5) then decline to under 1.0 for 16 and 17 year olds. However, charge rates for violent offences, for males, increase sharply with increasing age reaching 11.8 at age 17.

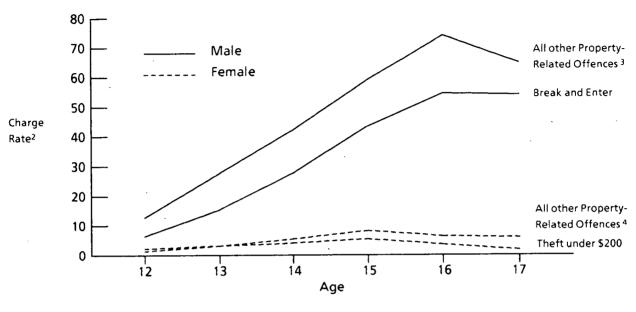
### 2.3 Type of Federal Statute Charge by Province/Territory

Overall, property-related offences accounted for 82.0% of all federal statute charges adjudicated in Canada in 1982 (see Table 2.2). Excluding the three smallest jurisdictions, Prince Edward Island, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, which had the highest proportions of property-related offences (90.2%, 93.1% and 88.7% respectively), this percentage ranged from 79.0% in Manitoba to 87.1% in Alberta. Quebec and Ontario together accounted for 53.3% of the total number of property-related offences in Canada.

Violent offences accounted for 5.3% of all federal statute charges adjudicated (cf. 5.0% in 1981). Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba had relatively high proportions of recorded violent offences: 6.0%, 6.1% and 5.5% respectively. Combined, these three jurisdictions accounted for nearly three-quarters (73.7%) of the total number of charges involving violent offences in Canada.

FIGURE 2.3 Age-Specific Charge Rates 1 for Property-Related and Violent Offences, Canada, 1982

Property-Related Offences







<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The population on which these rates are based excludes juveniles less than 14 years of age in Quebec. Only Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia include 16 year olds, and only Quebec and Manitoba include 17 year olds in the juvenile jurisdiction.

<sup>2</sup> A charge rate is defined here as the number of charges adjudicated per 1,000 juveniles at risk in each age group.

<sup>4</sup> Includes thefts (except under \$200), break and enter, possession of stolen goods, mischief, take motor vehicle, extortion, false pretences, forgery, fraud, arson and other property crimes.

5 Includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, criminal negligence, assaults, robbery and sexual offences.

<sup>3</sup> Includes thefts, possession of stolen goods, mischief, take motor vehicle, extortion, false pretences, forgery, fraud, arson and other property crimes.

TABLE 2.2 Distribution of Property-Related Offences, Violent Offences and All Federal Statute Offences<sup>1</sup> by Province/Territory, 1982 (Both Sexes Included)

	1 Prope	rty-Related C	Offences?	V	iolent Offence	,ç3		al Federal te Offences
Province/ . Territory	Number	Percent of Total Federal Offences In Jurisdiction	Percent of Total Property Offences in Canada	Number	Percent of Total Federal Offences in Jurisdiction	Percent of Total Violent Offences in Canada	Number	Percent of Canada Total
Newfoundland	1,952	84.6	2.6	91	3.9	1.9	2,308	2.6
Prince Edward Island	157	90.2	0.2	3	1.7	0.1	174	0.2
Nova Scotia	1,349	82.8	1.8	73	4.5	1.5	1,629	1.8
New Brunswick	1,243	86.4	1.7	63	4.4	1.3	1,438	1.6
Quebec	21,783	80.9	29.5	1,613	6.0	33.6	26,919	29.9
Ontario	17,585	82.2	23.8	1,294	6.1	27.0	21,385	23.7
Manitoba	9,061	79.0	12.3	630	5.5	13.1	11,466	12.7
Saskatchewan	2,020	85.9	2.7	111	4.7	2.3	2,351	2.6
Alberta	7,403	87.1	10.0	338	4.0	7.0	8,503	9.4
British Columbia	10,781	81.1	14.6	552	4.2	11.5	13,301	14.8
Yukon	176	93.1	0.2	8	4.2	0.2	189	0.2
Northwest Territories	410	88.7	0.6	25	5.4	0.5	462	0.5
CANADA	73,920	82.0	100.0	4,801	5.3	100.0	90,125	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Excludes charges against adults, companies and juveniles less than 12 years of age (less than 14 in Quebec).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Includes break and enter, all thefts, possession of stolen goods, mischief, take motor vehicle, extortion, false pretences, forgery, fraud, arson and other property offences.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, criminal negligence, assaults, robbery and sexual offences.

### 3 Adjudications

### 3.1 Adjudication by Jurisdiction

Overall, 74.4% of all federal statute charges against juveniles 12 years of age or older, (14 years of age or older in Quebec), adjudicated in 1982, resulted in findings of delinquency (see Table 3.1). This overall conviction rate<sup>4</sup> is depressed by those jurisdictions, (Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia), which have high charge counts, combined accounting for 46,152 charges or 51.2% of the total for Canada, and relatively low conviction rates. Specifically, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia have conviction rates of 64.7%, 56.2% and 70.5%, respectively, (see shaded areas Table 3.1). The conviction rate for all other jurisdictions excluding these three provinces is 85.2%.

In Manitoba, the relatively low proportion of charges which result in guilty findings is noteworthy given the high age-specific charge rates, (the highest charge rates in each age of the juvenile jurisdiction in Canada, excluding the Territories). This may be indicative of a policy which relies principally on the juvenile court to dispose of charges of delinquency, rather than on preliminary screening mechanisms and alternative measures.

Table 3.1 presents the distributions of charges by nature of court decision for each jurisdiction. Findings of not delinquent, or withdrawal or dismissal of charges, are classified as "Not Found Delinquent" and can be considered to clear the juvenile of the charge. Court decisions classified as "No Definite Finding" (adjournments sine die and stays of proceedings) are outcomes for which further court action is possible.

In Ontario, the most frequent adjudications, after guilty findings, were those classified as "Not Found Delinquent" (22.7%) and "No Definite Finding" (10.8%). Ontario accounted for nearly one-half (48.6%) of the total charges in Canada (10,000) which resulted in "Not Found Delinquent" decisions.

In Manitoba, juveniles were rarely cleared of the charge (1.3% Not Found Delinquent) while 38.4% of the charges did not result in a definite finding. Similar to the pattern observed in Manitoba, the most common adjudications in British Columbia after guilty findings were found in the category of "No Definite Finding" (22.8%), followed by "Not Found Delinquent" (5.6%).

Quebec and Manitoba had relatively high proportions of charges transferred to adult court (2.3% and 3.3% respectively). Combined they accounted for 87.4% of the 1,133 charges transferred (cf. 1,397 in 1981). Newfoundland, with 86, represented the only other province which had a noticeable proportion of charges transferred (3.7%).

The minimum age of liability for transfer to adult court is 14, thus it is not surprising that the jurisdictions which include 16 year olds, as in the case of Newfoundland, or 16 and 17 (Quebec and Manitoba), accounted for the majority of charges transferred. For example, 73 or 84.9% of the charges transferred in Newfoundland involved 16 year olds. In Quebec and Manitoba, charges against 16 and 17 year olds accounted for 91.5% and 89.1% of the charges transferred respectively.

In the late 1960's, the Attorney General's Department in British Columbia established that the application for transfer was to be made only under exceptional circumstances<sup>5</sup>. Ostensibly, this policy has remained in effect, (British Columbia reported just 3 transfers in 1982), thus explaining the infrequency of transfers even though 16 year olds are within the juvenile jurisdiction.

<sup>4</sup> The conviction rate is defined as the number of charges resulting in convictions (ie. findings of delinquency), expressed as a percentage of the total number of charges adjudicated.
5 See Peterson, L.R. 1970. "Experiments in the Administration of Justice". Canadian Journal of Corrections. 12:448.

TABLE 3.1 Number of Charges<sup>1</sup> by Nature of Adjudication and by Province/Territory, 1982 (Criminal **Code and Other Federal Statute Offences)** 

Province/ Territory	Found Delinquent	Not Found Delinquent <sup>2</sup>	No Definite Finding <sup>3</sup>	Transfer to Adult Court	Other⁴	Total
Newfoundland	2,035	131	43	86	13	2,308
	(88.2) <sup>5</sup>	(5.7)	(1.9)	(3.7)	(0.6)	(100)
Prince Edward	153	7	6	1	7	17 <b>4</b>
Island	(87.9)	(4.0)	(3.4)	(0.6)	(4.0)	(100)
Nova Scotia	1,419	173	13	-	24	1,629
	(87.1)	(10.6)	(0.8)	( <del>-</del> )	(1.5)	(100)
New Brunswick	1,270	91	71	-	6	1,438
	(88.3)	(6.3)	(4.9)	( <del>-</del> )	(0.4)	(100)
Quebec*	22,539	2,566	1,041	614	159	26,919
	(83.7)	(9.5)	(3.9)	(2.3)	(0.6)	(100)
Ontario	13,827	4,856	2,299	7	396	21,385
	(64.7)	(22.7)	(10.8)	( <del>-</del> )	(1.9)	(100)
Manitoba	6,442	144	4,408	376	96	11,466
	(56.2)	(1.3)	(38.4)	(3.3)	(0.8)	(100)
Saskatchewan	2,046	280	12	5	8	2,351
	(87.0)	(11.9)	(0.5)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(100)
Alberta	7,441	944	62	37	19	8,503
	(87.5)	(11.1)	(0.7)	(0.4)	(0.2)	(100)
British	9,372	744	3,037	3	145	13,301
Columbia	(70.5)	(5.6)	(22.8)	( <del>-</del> )	(1.1)	(100)
Yukon	142	32	10	2	3	189
	(75.1)	(16.9)	(5.3)	(1.1)	(1.6)	(100)
Northwest	404	32	17	2	7	462
Territories	(87.4)	(6.9)	(3.7)	(0.4)	(1.5) ·	(100)
CANADA	67,090	10,000	11,019	1,133	883	90,125
	(74.4)	(11.1)	(12.2)	(1.3)	(1.0)	(100)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Charge totals exclude: charges against adults and companies; charges of unknown classification; one charge against a 17 year old female in Alberta; charges against juveniles less than 12 years of age in all jurisdictions; and charges against juveniles aged 12 or 13 in Quebec. Totals include charges against juveniles of unknown age.

This includes findings of "not delinquent", withdrawal or dismissal of charges, and "no action".
 This category includes adjournments sine die and stays of proceedings.

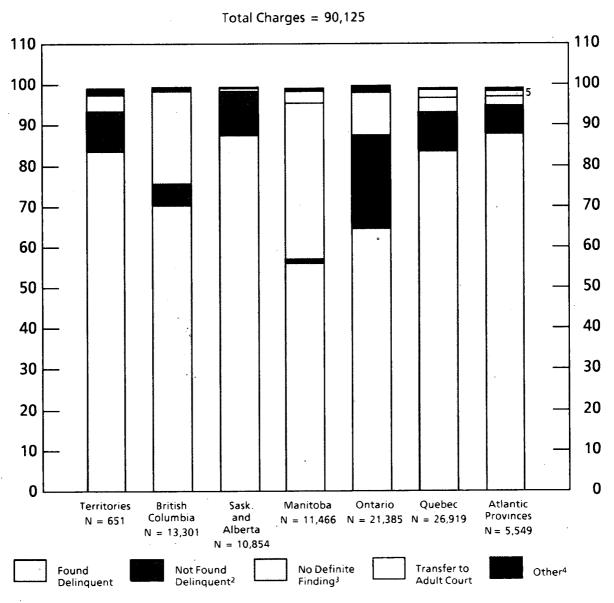
<sup>4</sup> This includes findings of unfit to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, repatriation of accused, and other and unknown adjudications.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Figures in curved brackets are percentages of row totals.

Overall 1,116 or 98.5% of the 1,133 charges transferred to adult court involved male juveniles, 972 or 85.5% involved juveniles aged 16 or 17, and 845 or 74.5% involved charges for property-related offences.

The distinctiveness of the pattern of adjudications in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia is clearly evident in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1 Percentage Distribution of Federal Statute Charges<sup>1</sup> by Nature of Adjudication, 1982 (Both Sexes Combined)



<sup>1</sup> Excludes charges against adults and companies; charges of unknown classification; charges against juveniles less than 12 years of age in all jurisdictions and charges against 12 and 13 year olds in Quebec.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Also includes charges withdrawn and dismissed, and no action taken.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes charges adjourned sine die and stay of proceedings.

<sup>4</sup> Includes findings of unfit to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, repatriation, other and unknown adjudication.

<sup>5 86</sup> of the 87 charges transferred to adult court in the Atlantic provinces were recorded in Newfoundland.

### 3.2 Adjudication by Age and Sex of Offender

For Canada as a whole, there appears to be a gender bias in the rate of conviction. The conviction rate for charges adjudicated involving male juveniles is about three-quarters (75.4%) while only two-thirds (66.6%) of the charges against female juveniles resulted in findings of delinquency. There exists, however, considerable variation in conviction rates by sex of accused among the jurisdictions

In general, the 12 jurisdictions can be separated into three distinct groups according to the relative conviction rates of male and female juveniles. Specifically, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Alberta and the Northwest Territories exhibit high conviction rates overall, exceeding 83%, and virtually no difference between the sexes (see Figure 3.2). A second pattern is represented by Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and the Yukon, in which the conviction rates for both sexes combined is also high (88.2%, 87.9%, 88.3% and 75.1% respectively), but the conviction rate for charges against females was higher than the rate for charges against male juveniles. And thirdly, as was noted in the discussion of adjudications by jurisdictions for both sexes combined, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia displayed low rates of conviction. These jurisdictions also exhibited markedly lower conviction rates for charges against female juveniles than for males (less than half (47.6%) of the charges against females in Manitoba resulted in findings of delinquency). A similar bias was observed in the conviction rates for male and female juveniles in Saskatchewan, but at higher levels (87.9% and 81.7% respectively).

The pattern of conviction rates by age of the accused also varied among the jurisdictions. In Newfoundland and Quebec, the conviction rate declines as the age of the juvenile increases. This inverse relationship is partially explained by a concomitant increase in the proportion of charges transferred to adult court among older juveniles (transfers are discussed in section 3.1).

There was no substantial differential by age observed in the conviction rates in Ontario. In all ages the conviction rate was less than two-thirds. Similarly, conviction rates in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territorries do not vary significantly with age. However, conviction rates exceed 83% in all ages in these jurisdictions.

Rates of conviction in New Brunswick and British Columbia increase with the age of the accused. In both jurisdictions, there is an attendant decline with age in the proportion of charges resulting in no definite finding.

In Manitoba, slightly more than half of the charges adjudicated against juveniles in each age category, except those aged 12, resulted in convictions. The conviction rate for charges involving 12 year olds was less than 40 percent.

## 3.3 Adjudication by Category of Offence: Property Versus Violent Offences

Conviction rates also tended to vary by category of offence. In general, charges for property-related offences more often resulted in convictions than did charges involving violent offences. For Canada the rates of conviction were 75.5% and 68.9% respectively. Although the magnitude of this differential varies among the jurisdictions, especially among those which record few charges involving violence (Prince Edward Island, the Yukon and Northwest Territories), this pattern was regularly observed.

Notable exceptions to this trend were New Brunswick, for which no differential was observed, and British Columbia, in which the 71.7% conviction rate for charges involving violence slightly exceeded the 70.2% rate for property-related charges.

FIGURE 3.2 Number and Percentage of Charges Resulting in Findings of Delinquency, By Sex of Offender, and By Jurisdiction

Province/ Territory  Newfoundland  Prince Edward Island  Nova Scotia	Resulting in Convictions  1,870 <sup>2</sup> 165  136 17	2,132 <sup>2</sup> 176 156 18
Prince Edward Island	165 136 17	176 <b>156</b>
island	17	
Nova Scotia	4 202	18
	<b>1,202</b> 217	<b>1,382</b> 247
New Brunswick	<b>1,163</b> 107	<b>1,321</b> 117
Quebec	<b>21,685</b> 854	<b>25,881</b> 1,038
Ontario	<b>11,960</b> 1,867	<b>18,096</b> 3,289
Manitoba	<b>5,744</b> 698	<b>10,001</b> 1,465
Saskatchewan	<b>1,782</b> 264	<b>2,028</b> 323
Alberta	<b>6,329</b> 1,112	7 <b>,237</b> 1,266
British Columbia	<b>8,283</b> 1,089	<b>11,622</b> 1,679
Yukon	<b>121</b> 21	<b>164</b> 25
Northwest Territories	<b>372</b> 32	<b>425</b> 37
CANADA	<b>60,647</b> 6,443	<b>80,445</b> 9,680
	Quebec Ontario Manitoba Saskatchewan Alberta British Columbia Yukon Northwest Territories	107  Quebec 21,685 854  Ontario 11,960 1,867  Manitoba 5,744 698  Saskatchewan 1,782 264  Alberta 6,329 1,112  British 8,283 Columbia 1,089  Yukon 121 21  Northwest 372 Territories 32  CANADA 60,647

Male Conviction Rate (%)

Female Conviction Rate (%)

 <sup>1</sup> The conviction rate is defined as the number of charges resulting in convictions (i.e. findings of delinquency), expressed as a percentage of the total number of charges adjudicated.
 2 Upper figures in boldface are male charge counts, lower figures are female charge counts.

#### 4. Dispositions

Juvenile offenders found delinquent are given dispositions under section 20 of the Juvenile Delinquents Act in all jurisdictions except Newfoundland, in which the provincial Welfare of Children's Act (R.S.N. 1970, c. 190), applies. Section 20(1) of the Juvenile Delinquents Act allows the court to take one or more of the following types of actions:

- a) suspension of the final disposition;
- b) adjournment of the hearing or disposition for a definite or indefinite period of time;
- c) imposition of a fine not exceeding \$25;
- d) placement of the juvenile on probation;
- e) allow the juvenile to remain in his/her home, subject to the required contact with a probation officer and the court;
- f) placement of the juvenile in a foster home subject to the supervision of a probation officer and the court;
- q) imposition of such further or other conditions as may be deemed advisable;
- h) committal of the juvenile to the children's aid society or other provincially approved organization; and,
- i) committal to a provincially approved juvenile institution, e.g., an industrial/training school.

If a combination of dispositions was given for a single charge, that which was counted in the tabulations was the disposition considered to be most serious. Appendix III (p. 57) ranks the dispositions in order of seriousness based on the relative effect each disposition has on the living situation of the juvenile. Thus, a committal to an institution is considered more serious than probation which, in turn, is considered more serious than a fine. In effect, the distribution of charges by type of disposition represents the frequency with which each type of disposition occurred as the most serious disposition associated with a charge. As a result, the frequency of a disposition such as fine or restitution appearing in Table 4.1 is reduced to the extent that this type of disposition is given in conjunction with a more serious sentence such as probation.

A deficiency of using charge-based data to examine dispositions results from instances where a single disposition is given for the several charges adjudicated within the same court appearance for a juvenile. For example, consider a single court appearance in which a juvenile is found guilty of break and enter, theft, and possession of stolen goods and is committed to a juvenile institution. Three charges, each linked to a referral to an institution, result in a count of three institutional referrals in charge-based tabulations.

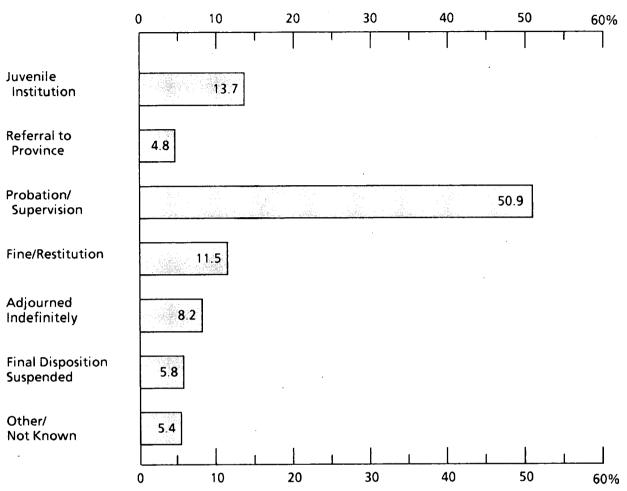
#### 4.1 Disposition by Jurisdiction

In light of the fact that provincial legislation and policies governing the treatment of juveniles vary by province, and with the knowledge that the availability of facilities and juvenile programs is, as well, not uniform across jurisdictions, one should expect to observe variations in the distribution of charges by type of disposition across jurisdictions.

As was the case in 1981 for Canada as a whole, the disposition most frequently given to juveniles adjudged delinquent of federal statute offences was probation or supervision. Slightly more than half (50.9%), of all charges of this class resulted in this sentence as the most serious disposition (see Figure 4.1). Committal to juvenile institutions (13.7%) followed by fine or restitution orders (11.5%) were the next most frequent types of dispositions rendered.

FIGURE 4.1 Percent of Findings of Delinquency Leading to Each Type of Disposition<sup>1</sup>, Canada, 1982

N = 67,090 Guilty Findings



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Appendix III for grouping of dispositions.

The variation amongst the provinces in the distribution of charges by type of disposition is apparent from Table 4.1. The proportion of sentences accounted for by probation or supervision ranges from a high of 80.4% in British Columbia to about one-third (33.6%) of all sentences in New Brunswick. Quebec has the highest proportion (27.3% of the provincial total) as well as the greatest number (6,147) of guilty findings resulting in committal to juvenile institutions. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick also show relatively high proportions of guilty findings resulting in institutional referrals (17.7% and 25.6%, respectively).

Several jurisdictions (Newfoundland, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, and Northwest Territories) reported few or no guilty findings resulting in institutional referrals. These jurisdictions tend also to have relatively high proportions of their dispositions in the category referral to province. It can be inferred that some proportion of the committals to the care of the province would, in fact, have resulted in placement of the juvenile in some form of institution after referral to a provincial official with the authority to determine the specific form of custody warranted.

It is worth noting that about one-quarter (24.8%) of the guilty findings in Manitoba resulted in fine or restitution orders. Similarly, nearly one-quarter (23.9%) of the guilty findings in Saskatchewan resulted in a suspension of final disposition as the most serious disposition.

TABLE 4.1 Number of Charges Resulting in Findings of Delinquency by Nature of Disposition, by Province/Territory<sup>1</sup>, 1982 (Criminal Code and Other Federal Statute Offences)

			ľ	Nature of Dispe	osition <sup>2</sup>			
Province/ Territory	Juvenile Institution	Referral to Province	Probation/ Supervision	Fine/ Restitution	Adjourned Indefinitely	Final Disposition Suspended	Other <sup>3</sup> Not Known	Total
Newfoundland	22 (1.1) 4	427 (21.0)	775 (38.1)	433 (21.3)	17 (0.8)	317 (15.6)	44 (2.2)	2,035
Prince Edward Island	11 (7.2)	13 (8.5)	121 (79.1)	5 (3.3)	3 (2.0)		-	153
Nova Scotia	251 (17.7)	10 (0.7)	761 (53.6)	112 (7.9)	121 (8.5)	39 (2.7)	125 (8.8)	1,419
New Brunswick	325 (25.6)	16 (1.3)	427 (33.6)	106 (8.3)	230 (18.1)	156 (12.3)	10 (0.8)	1,270
Quebec	6,147 (27.3)	188 (0.8)	8,544 (37.9)	3,454 (15.3)	2,483 (11.0)	1,164 (5.2)	559 (2.5)	22,539
Ontario	1,179 (8.5)	542 (3.9)	7,533 (54.5)	1,078 (7.8)	1,776 (12.8)	1,044 (7.6)	675 (4.9)	13,827
Manitoba	479 (7.4)	98 (1.5)	3,335 (51.8)	1,597 (24.8)	92 (1.4)	83 · (1.3)	758 (11.8)	6,442
Saskatchewan		433 (21.2)	810 (39.6)	101 (4.9)	43 (2.1)	489 (23.9)	170 (8.3)	2,046
Alberta	57 (0.8)	1,293 (17.4)	3,951 (53.1)	508 (6.8)	614 (8.3)	121 (1.6)	897 (12.1)	7,441
British Columbia	688 (7.3)	95 (1.0)	7,537 (80.4)	300 (3.2)	117 (1.2)	308 (3.3)	327 (3.5)	9,372
Yukon	-	10 (7.4)	104 (73.2)	8 (5.6)	14 (9.9)	(2.1)	(2.1)	142
Northwest Territories	, - -	72 (17.8)	237 (58.7)	19 (4.7)	20 (5.0)	14 (3.5)	42 (10.4)	404
CANADA	9,159 (13.7)	3,197 (4.8)	34,135 (50.9)	7,721 (11.5)	5,530 (8.2)	3,738 (5.80	3,610 (5.4)	67,090

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This table excludes charges against adults and companies; charges against juveniles less than 12 years of age in all provinces/territories; and charges against juveniles aged 12 and 13 in Quebec. Charges against juveniles of unknown age are included.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The disposition counted for each charge is that which is considered to be most serious. See Appendix III for groupings of dispositions and their relative seriousness.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The "other" category includes several dispositions which are serious, but which occur infrequently, i.e., committal to mental hospital.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Figures in curved brackets are percentages of row totals.

Number of Federal Statute Charges Adjudicated Involving Juveniles Under the Age of 12 (Less than 14 years of Age in Quebec), by Province/Territory, 1982

APPENDIX I

				Age				
Province/Territory	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Newfoundland	-	. 4	13	34	63			114
Prince Edward Island	-	-	-	-	7			7
Nova Scotia	1	4	17	28	46			96
New Brunswick	1	1	4	26	64			96
Quebec	-	-	-	<b>-</b>	5	14	161	180
Ontario	22	55	168	338	764			1,347
Manitoba	_	4	-	20	82			106
Saskatchewan	-	1	6	22	56			85
Alberta	-	6	16	105	221			348
British Columbia	1	-	6	40 <sup>-</sup>	156 .			203
Yukon	-	-	4	3	16		·	23
Northwest Territories	-	-	-	11	13			24
CANADA	25	75	234	627	1,493	14	161	2,629

#### APPENDIX II

#### Juvenile Population ('000) at Risk of Appearing in Juvenile Court in Canada, by Province/ Territory and by Age, 1982<sup>1</sup> (Males, Females and Both Sexes Combined)

	1,3	68.7	29	0.5	28	4.1	38	2.2	39	5.8	186	7	14	3.3	3,0	51.3
CANADA <sup>5</sup>	702.6	666.1	149.2	141.4	145.7	138.4	195.6	186.6	202.7	193.1	95.5	91.2	73.3	70.0	1,564.5	1,486.8
Northwest Territories	2.6	2.5 5.1	0.6	.1	0.5	.0	0.5 1	.0	0.5	.0					4.8	4.5 0.3
	<b>†</b>	2.0		.4		.4		.4		.4 [						3.6 T
Yukon	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2					1.9	1.7
Columbia	19	4.6	4.	2.6	;42	2.0	40	).8	41	.4	43	6			40	15.0
British Columbia	99.6	95.0	21.9	20.7	21.5	20.4	20.9	20.0	21.2	20.2	22.2	21.3			207.4	197.6
	17	7.1	30	5.5	35	5.4	35	5.8	36	5.8					32	21.6
Alberta	90.9	86.2	18.6	17.9	18 1	17.3	18.4	17.4	18.9	17.9					164.9	156.7
	7	7.9	1:	5.9	16	5.0	15	5.9	16	5.1					14	11.9
Saskatchewan	39.8	38.0	8.2	7.7	8.2	7.8	8.2	7.7	8.3	7.8					72.8	69.1
		0.3	<u> </u>	6.6		5.2		5.3		i.5	17	.9	19	9.3		33.1
Manitoba	41.1	39.2	8.5	8.1	8.3	7.9	8.4	7.9	8.4	8.2	9.1	8.8	9.9	9.4	93.5	89.5
		6.0		6.7		2.8		3.7		8.3				!		77.4
Ontario	327.0	309.0	70.2	66.5	68.0	64.8	68.6	65.1	70.9	67.5	<b>-</b>				604.6	572.8
Quenec				3		7.0		2.9	112			4.0	<b>.</b>	36.1		
Quebec	<del> </del>	J./			1.		49.4	47.7	52.8	50.2	57.5	54.6	63.4	60.5	223.1	213.0
New Brunswick	30.6	29.2 9.7	6.3	5.9 2.2	6.2	5.8	6.4	6.0 2.4	6.5	6.3	<del>                                     </del>	l		<u>.                                    </u>	56.0	53.1
Alan Dang metals	<del>                                     </del>	8.0		4.3		4.0		1.4	<del></del>	1.9	<b></b> -				<del></del>	25.4
Nova Scotia	34.9	33.1	7.3	6.9	7.2	6.8	7.3	7.0	7.7	7.2		<u> </u>			64.5	60.9
	+	0.3		.2		.2		.2		.2		<u> </u>				9.1
Prince Edward Island	5.4	4.9	1.1	1.1	1,1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,1	ļ			Ĺ	9.9	9.2
	<del> </del> -	7.8		2.1		2.1		2.3	<del></del>	2.4	13	.1 I		I.		19.9
Newfoundland	29.7	28.1	6.2	5.8	6.3	5.9	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.6	6.5		2	61.3	58.5
	Т	otal	To	otal	Тс	tal	To	tal	То	tal	То	tal	Тс	otal	T	otal
	М	F.	м	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	м	F	м	F	М	F
Province/ Territory	. 7	-11		12		13	1	14		5	1	6		17		al <sup>4</sup> in diction
	1								Age							

Note: M = Male; F = Female

Population figures are final postcensal estimates af of June 1, 1982, supplied courtesy of the Population Estimates Section, Demography Division, Statistics Canada. Estimates are presented in thousands and are independently rounded to the nearest hundred.

<sup>2</sup> An empty cell indicates that the age group is not included in the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts in the province.

With the implementation of the Youth Protection Act (provincial legislation, 1979) in Quebec, the age jurisdictions of the juvenile couts has been 14 to 17 years of age inclusive.

<sup>4</sup> Totals are for the ages shown for each province.

<sup>5</sup> Totals for Canada in each age are for those provinces which include that age in the juvenile jurisdiction.

### APPENDIX III

## GROUPING OF DISPOSITIONS RANKED FROM MOST TO LEAST SERIOUS

Description of group	Dispositions Included
Juvenile Institution	Reformatory Training School Industrial School Indefinite Detention Other Juvenile Institution
Charge of Province or Referral to Province	Referred to Director of Child Welfare. Charge of Administrator Commit to Minister Commit to CAS Foster Home
Probation/Supervision	Probation - Court Probation - Parent Supervision Rehabilitation Program Community Work Order
Fine/Restitution	Fine and/or Restitution Fine Restitution Fine and/or Costs
Adjourned Indefinitely	Adjourned Sine Die Adjourned: Follow-up possible
Final Disposition Suspended	Final Disposition Suspended
Other	Mental Hospital Penitentiary Imprisonment Conditional Discharge Absolute Discharge Forbidden to Drive Other Not known Assessment of Points for Licence Probation Terminated Reprimanded

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