

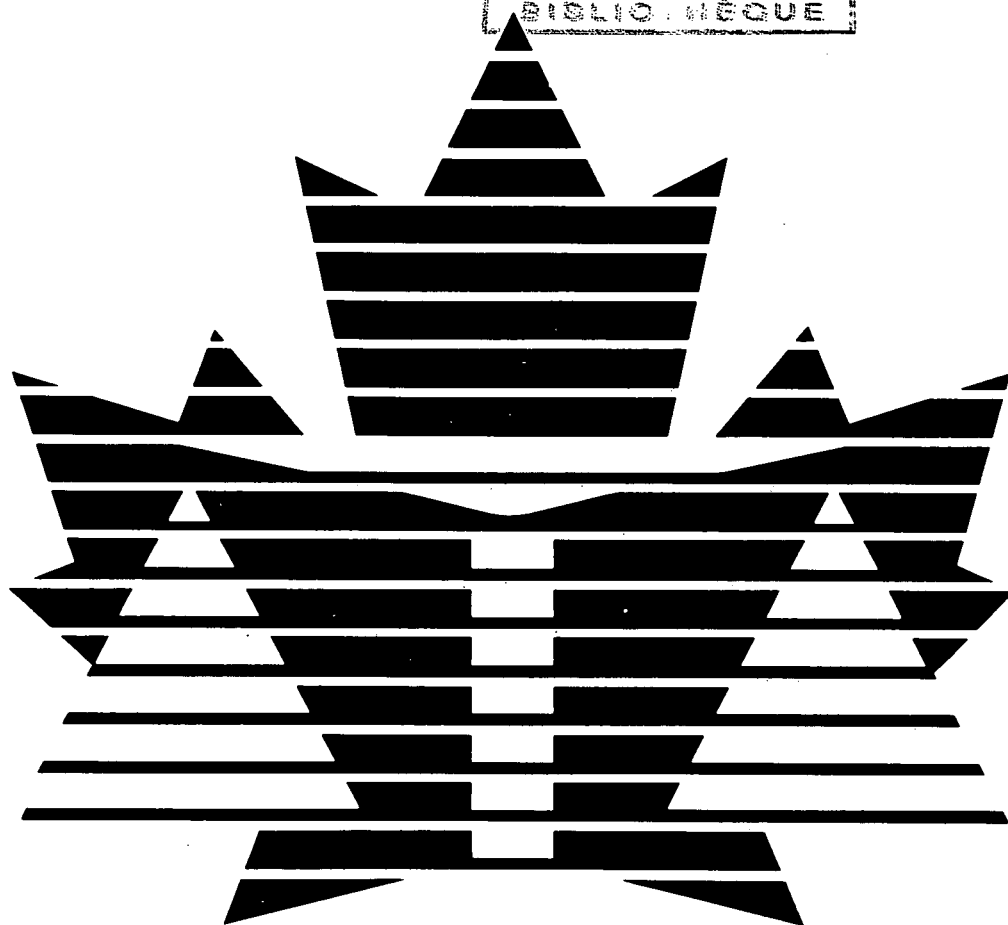
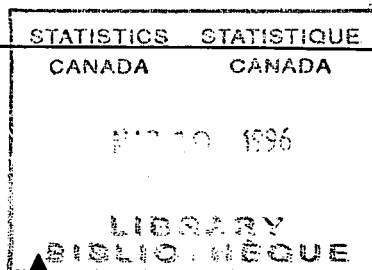


Police-Reported Aboriginal Crime in Calgary, Regina and Saskatoon



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Excellence d'excellence

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



Police-Reported Aboriginal Crime in Calgary, Regina and Saskatoon

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Integration and Analysis Program
Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Aussi disponible en français

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- .. figures not available.
- ... figures not appropriate or not applicable.
- nil or zero.
- amount too small to be expressed.
- p preliminary figures.
- r revised figures.
- x confidential to meet secrecy requirements of the Statistics Act.

Preface

This study was identified as a priority topic for a special study by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in conjunction with the National Justice Statistics Initiative's strategic planning process. The mandate of the Initiative is "to provide information to the justice community and the public on the nature and extent of crime and the administration of civil and criminal justice in Canada". The governing body of the Initiative is the Justice Information Council (JIC). The JIC is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice Canada, and consists of the Chief Statistician and the federal and provincial deputy ministers who have responsibility for the administration of justice in Canada. The operational arm of the Initiative is the CCJS. With guidance from the Liaison Officers Committee (LOC) which is a network of federal-provincial representatives, the CCJS develops and implements statistical surveys, and provides information products and services to both the Partners in the Initiative and to the public.

It has long been recognized that there is disproportionate involvement of aboriginal persons in the criminal justice system. Statistical evidence suggests that the situation is not improving. This may be partially explained by demographic data which indicate a unique profile for aboriginal people whereby, in contrast to the general population, population increases are high, particularly for the highest "at risk" age categories for involvement in crime (i.e., 15-24 years of age). The topic of disproportionate involvement has been given emphasis through a series of high profile inquiries and investigations which have significantly increased public awareness of the issue (Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba, 1991; Saskatchewan Indian Justice Review Committee, 1992; Saskatchewan Métis Justice Review Committee, 1992; Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991). These inquiries have also increased political pressures to respond with policy and legislative reform.

In 1990, the LOC recommended that the CCJS determine the feasibility of collecting crime data on aboriginal persons for the five major urban centres in the Prairie provinces: Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. The CCJS subsequently met with representatives from each of the five municipal police departments to determine: (1) potential data sources; (2) the type and quality of information collected; (3) local applications of the results; (4) accessibility of data, including technical feasibility and political sensitivity; and, (5) resource implications, time involvement and other dependencies related to their participation in the study. These discussions concluded that three of the five departments collect enough information of sufficient quality to warrant active participation in such a study: Calgary, Regina, and Saskatoon.

This report compares these three cities on demographic and socio-economic characteristics, as well as on their overall crime trends. However, since it was unknown how compatible the databases were, full comparisons of the crime data among cities did not appear feasible and only general comparisons were made. Therefore, using the data available, the report examines aboriginal and non-aboriginal crime in detail for each of these cities separately.

Acknowledgements

The crime data for this report were provided by the Calgary, Regina and Saskatoon Police Services. Appreciation is expressed for their cooperation, without which this study would not be possible.

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List of Abbreviations

CCJS	Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics
CMA	Census Metropolitan Area
CSD	Census Subdivision
INAC	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
LOC	Liaison Officers Committee
PIMS	Police Information Management System (Calgary Police Service)
SIMS	Saskatoon Information Management System (Saskatoon Police Service)
UCR	Uniform Crime Reporting (CCJS)

Highlights

The data on race contained in this report are compilations of self-reported (Census) and observational (crime) data. This information provides an indication of the nature and extent of aboriginal involvement in urban crime, but should not be considered an absolute measure of this phenomenon. It should also be kept in mind that variations in such things as policing practices and disclosures may affect the findings.

Due to differences in the databases used for the cities in question, the compatibility among the three databases was unknown. Therefore, full comparisons of aboriginal and non-aboriginal crime data among the cities did not appear feasible. Some general comparisons are made below, however, caution should be used in interpreting them.

- Based on 1986 Census data, aboriginal persons in Calgary, Regina and Saskatoon tended to be younger, have lower educational levels, higher levels of unemployment and substantially lower average incomes than non-aboriginal persons.
- In 1990, the national police-reported crime rate for criminal code and drug-related offences was 10,133 per 100,000 population. Calgary's crime rate (10,454) was similar to the national rate, while the crime rates in Saskatoon and Regina were higher (12,855 and 15,014, respectively).
- Approximately two-thirds of the police-reported crimes in all three cities were property offences. A further one-quarter were other criminal code offences (e.g., mischief, bail violations), fewer than 10% were violent offences and 1-2% were drug-related offences.
- For all three cities, of those offences with an identified accused, the police-reported crime rate per 100,000 population was substantially larger for aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons.
- There was a substantial difference in the male-female ratio of aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused for all three cities. That is, although the majority of all those accused were male there was a greater proportion of aboriginal, than non-aboriginal, female accused.
- In the two cities where victim data were available (Calgary and Regina), there were a greater proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal victims of violent crime compared to their proportion in the overall population. This was particularly true among aboriginal females.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

The disproportionate involvement of aboriginal persons in the criminal justice system has been recognized for a long time. According to a Solicitor General of Canada (1988) report, although aboriginal people represent only 2% of Canada's population, they represent 10% of the nation's federal penitentiary population. Statistical evidence also suggests that the situation is not improving (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1980; Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991). This appears to be particularly evident in the Prairie provinces where aboriginal persons represent higher proportions of the provincial populations. Further, demographic data indicate a unique profile for aboriginal people whereby, in contrast to the general population, growth rates are high, particularly for the highest "at risk" age categories for involvement in the justice system (i.e., 15-24 years of age). Finally, a series of high profile inquiries and investigations have significantly increased public awareness of the issue and have also increased political pressures to respond with policy and legislative reform (Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba, 1991; Saskatchewan Indian Justice Review Committee, 1992; Saskatchewan Métis Justice Review Committee, 1992; Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991).

The purpose of this study was to examine the circumstances associated with police-reported aboriginal crime in the prairie cities of Calgary, Regina and Saskatoon. Crime rates for aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were compared to determine if there were a disproportionate number of aboriginal persons accused of criminal offences. In addition, accused profiles were examined in order to determine whether differences existed between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons. In Calgary and Regina, profiles of victims of violent crime were examined to see if there was an over-representation of aboriginal victims. Urban centres within the Prairie provinces were chosen for study because it has been estimated that approximately one-third of aboriginal people reside in urban areas (Brown & Bushignani, 1991) and that these numbers are increasing.

Demographic and socio-economic conditions were also examined. Previous reports have established a link between criminality and variables such as unemployment, poverty, and alcoholism (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990a; Solicitor General of Canada, 1988). These reports have also identified a larger proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons living under these conditions. It is important to identify the extent of aboriginal involvement in the criminal justice system, particularly in urban areas where the problem is most evident, while at the same time examining demographic and socio-economic variables which may contribute to criminality. In this way, appropriate programs and services may be developed for aboriginal offenders and victims.

This report begins with a description of the nature of each database, including coverage and database contents. It then discusses measurement issues and limitations of the study. Chapter 2 provides a population overview of the cities and describes various demographic and socio-economic indicators for aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons. Chapter 2 ends with an examination of the police-reported crime profiles for each city in 1990. Chapters 3 through 5 are devoted to a discussion of crime profiles for each city, with a focus on differences between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons. Appendix A contains tables of crime and Census data, a glossary is contained in Appendix B, Appendix C provides a description of the calculations used for aboriginal population estimates, and references are attached as Appendix D.

For the purposes of this study, the term "aboriginal person" refers to any individual of aboriginal ancestry, including North American Indian, Métis, Inuit, mixed aboriginal ancestry, or aboriginal and non-aboriginal ancestry. Ethnic origin is self-reported in the Census data whereas, in the crime data, self-reporting and/or police observation are used.

Part 1. Coverage

Census Subdivisions (CSDs) refer to municipalities, Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories which are covered by the Census. The geographic boundaries for the study include the CSD for each city in question. Demographic and socio-economic indicators are based on these boundaries. Crime data are based on police boundaries of each city, which are similar to the CSD boundaries.

Crime and Census data were primarily presented at the CSD level. For Calgary and Saskatoon, some crime data were presented at lower levels (i.e., police districts or zones); however, corresponding Census comparisons were not made. Analyses were not conducted at lower levels of aggregation for two reasons. First, reliable information regarding aboriginal persons is not available at the lower levels of aggregation. Secondly, there is geographic incompatibility at this level between the police and Census boundaries. Data were not presented at higher levels of aggregation, such as Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), because reliable data on aboriginal peoples were not available from the reserves within the CMA. Geographic terminology is defined in the glossary (Appendix B).

Part 2. Database Contents

2.1 Population Data

Aboriginal population estimates for 1990 were calculated for each city using projections from the provincial off-reserve regular registered Indian population (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990b). Appendix C describes how aboriginal population estimates were calculated. It should be noted that aboriginal population growth within the city may differ from the growth anticipated for the off-reserve regular registered Indian population. Non-aboriginal population estimates were calculated by subtracting the aboriginal population estimate from the total population estimate.

Since the population estimates do not provide profile data on the residents of the cities, demographic and socio-economic profiles for each city was obtained from the most recent available (1986) Canadian Census of Population (Statistics Canada, 1990). Seven major categories of information were included – aboriginal population, gender, age, educational level, labour force participation, employment rate, and average income level. Census terminology is defined in the glossary (Appendix B).

In order to obtain more detailed information on aboriginal persons, it was necessary to use the 20% sample data from the 1986 Census, which do not include institutional residents. Since institutional residents account for approximately 1% of the total population in a city, population counts in this report will be about 1% lower than the actual counts.

2.2 Crime Data

In order to compare overall police-reported crime rates among the three cities, data from the aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey were used. In order to examine police-reported aboriginal and non-aboriginal crime, however, other data sources were required since the aggregate UCR survey does not provide adequate person characteristics. These data were obtained from various sources and the amount and type of information available differs for each city. Since it was unknown how compatible the databases were, detailed comparisons of the crime data among cities did not appear feasible and only general comparisons were made. The following describes the databases used for each city.

Calgary

Aboriginal crime, and accused and victim profiles were examined using data from the Police Information Management System (PIMS) from the Calgary Police Service. The aggregate UCR survey is based on the same police reports as the PIMS and the crime rates obtained from the two databases match. Therefore, these two sources of information appear to be comparable.

The PIMS has been used to collect data since the early 1980's. On the day an occurrence is reported, a police officer completes a report which provides information on the entire incident, including the victim and the accused. This information, as well as any subsequent updates, is then stored on the PIMS. The PIMS supplied data which produced accused-specific and victim-specific files for 1990 for the city of Calgary. Data are provided on violent, property, drug-related and other criminal code offences.

For the purposes of this study, crime data were separated into "victim" and "accused" databases. The databases provided characteristics such as gender, age, race, marital status, etc. Only information on victims of violent crime were used because it provided more reliable victim information. Each accused was counted only once, whether or not he/she was involved in more than one offence. By examining the accused database by incident rather than by accused, it provided information on the number and type of offences with an "identified" accused. In this way, police-reported crime rates for aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were compared.

Regina

Accused and victim profiles were examined using data from the incident-based UCR survey. The data included incident, accused-specific and victim-specific files for one year, from May 1990 to May 1991, for the city of Regina. Data are provided on violent, property, drug-related and other criminal code offences.

The "incident" database provided information on the number and types of police-reported criminal incidents that occurred during the 12 month period. The victim and accused databases provided characteristics such as gender, age, race, etc. The victim database, however, only provided information on victims of violent crime. By examining the accused database by incident rather than by person, it provided information on the number and type of offences with an "identified" accused. In this way, crime rates for aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were compared.

Saskatoon

Aboriginal crime and accused profiles were examined using data from the Saskatoon Information Management System (SIMS) from the Saskatoon Police Service. The aggregate UCR survey is based on the same police reports as the SIMS and the crime rates obtained from the two databases match, therefore, these two sources of information appear to be comparable. Victim profiles were not examined since race is not reliably collected for victims.

Data for the SIMS is obtained in a manner similar to that described for the Calgary PIMS. On the day an occurrence is reported, a police officer completes a report which provides information on the entire incident, including the accused and victim. This information, as well as any subsequent updates, is then input into the SIMS. The SIMS supplied data which produced accused-specific and incident-specific files for 1990 for the city of Saskatoon. Data are provided on violent, property, drug-related and other criminal code offences.

The "accused" database provided characteristics of each accused, such as gender, age, race, marital status, etc. Each accused was counted only once, whether or not he/she was involved in more than one offence. Examining the accused database by incident rather than by accused provided information on the number and type of offences with an "identified" accused. In this way, crime rates for aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were compared.

Part 3. Study Limitations and Measurement Issues

There are several general measurement issues related to the data used in this report. The following outlines these issues and should be kept in mind when interpreting the study findings.

3.1 Population Data

This report used population figures based on the 1986 Census of Population, which was the most recent information available. Overall city population estimates for 1990 were based on Statistics Canada projections used by the UCR survey. Aboriginal population estimates for 1990 were calculated using projections similar to those used by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (1990b) for provinces. Finally, non-aboriginal population estimates were simply the overall city population estimate minus the aboriginal population estimate for the city. It should be kept in mind that these estimates are based on projections rather than on formal surveys and, since various methods were used to calculate the different population estimates, these estimates may be somewhat inaccurate.

The differences between aboriginal and non-aboriginal crime rates in the cities examined may, in part, be due to an undercounting of the aboriginal populations. The aboriginal crime rates were calculated using a medium growth scenario. Although the medium growth scenario produced a substantial increase in the aboriginal populations for all three cities between 1986 and 1990, a high growth scenario would have produced an even larger increase. Therefore, a high growth scenario would have generated a lower aboriginal crime rate than the medium growth scenario generated. Further, aboriginal populations were calculated using projections from the regular registered Indian population (see Appendix C). If the total registered Indian population were used (including Bill C-31 Indians), the crime rates would be lower. However, since Census data are based on self identification of ethnic origin, Bill C-31 Indians are most likely included. Therefore, the most appropriate population projections appear to be based on the regular registered Indian population. It is possible, however, that there is an under-reporting of aboriginal ancestry in the Census data since the information is self-reported.

Population figures usually reflect the "residents" of an area, rather than the number of people who spend some part of the day in the area. Therefore, this number may be unreliable since there will be a variable influx of the commuter and transient population on any given day. In addition, aboriginal persons who live on reserves near the city have not been counted in the population figures. These individuals may inflate the number of crimes committed by aboriginal persons in the city, without being included in the population count. An examination of accused postal codes from the Calgary data was inconclusive in this respect. Although less than 1% of the postal codes were from outside Calgary, 67% of the postal codes were unknown. Therefore, it is unclear whether most individuals accused of committing a crime in Calgary were residents of Calgary. Postal code information was not available from the other two cities.

Although crime rates were based on population estimates for 1990, demographic and socio-economic indicators were based on the 1986 Census data. The extent to which the characteristics of the city's population may have changed since 1986 is not known. Also, calculation of standardized crime rates based on age was not possible since these figures were not available for 1990. Crime data which compare aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons were based on cross-sectional rather than longitudinal data. Therefore, the extent to which the results from one year reflect long-standing patterns is not known.

3.2 Crime Data

It is important to keep in mind that the crime data were based on official police reports and do not include unreported crimes. In fact, a victimization survey conducted in 1988 found that only 40% of the criminal incidents revealed by the survey were reported to the police (Sacco & Johnson, 1990). Therefore, the data represent a subset of all crimes committed in the city and may not be representative of all crimes committed. It has been stated that differences exist between those who report offences and those who do not report. A report by the Solicitor General of Canada and the Attorney General of Alberta (1991) stated that aboriginal persons are less likely to report the commission of a crime than are non-aboriginals. Since data on unreported crime were not available for this study, this issue cannot be addressed. Furthermore, in order to examine differences between aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused, only cleared offences (where an accused has been identified) could be used. Since this represents a subset of the offences that are reported, it may not be representative of all reported crime.

Where multiple offences occurred within one incident, the most serious offence was the only offence used. This was done in order to categorize offenders so that differences in offender profiles could be examined. However, it should be noted that differences may exist in secondary offences committed.

Aboriginal and non-aboriginal crime rates were calculated by examining the number of incidents where there was at least one "aboriginal accused" or one "non-aboriginal accused". Since these categories were not mutually exclusive, a single incident could be counted twice if there were accused with more than one race. Furthermore, aboriginal and non-aboriginal crime rates were based only on incidents where an accused had been identified. It is unclear whether the race of these identified accused is an accurate representation of the race of all individuals who commit criminal offences. Previous reports have argued that the police treat aboriginal people differently than non-aboriginal people, which would result in more charges being laid against them (Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991). An example of this would be if the police stopped aboriginal persons for no other reason than to see if they have been drinking, but did not do the same to non-aboriginal persons.

It should also be noted that the accused profiles do not provide characteristics of convicted offenders, but refer to individuals who are charged with an offence. It is possible that the characteristics of accused individuals are quite different from those of convicted offenders.

Although an important aspect of aboriginal crime, the issue of whether aboriginal persons are victimized by other aboriginal persons was not able to be examined in this report. Victim data were not available for the Saskatoon database and no data links could be established between the accused and victim files from the Calgary database. For the Regina database, the issue of multiple accused and victims having different races precluded a valid analysis of this question.

3.3 Definition of Aboriginal

This report combines all individuals of aboriginal ancestry, including North American Indians, Métis, Inuit, mixed aboriginal ancestry, and aboriginal and non-aboriginal ancestry. However, since the aboriginal community in Canada is by no means homogeneous, some relevant differences between aboriginal persons may be missed. It has, therefore, been suggested that aboriginal persons should not be grouped as such, but instead the category should be broken down further by band or some other such breakdown.

There are several problems associated with examining aboriginal peoples at lower levels of aggregation. Firstly, due to differences within the police forces in their categorizing of aboriginal persons, it is not always possible to further break down aboriginal origin. In addition, even if categories of aboriginal individuals were available, these categories often differ among the various police forces. Secondly, since police observation is often the source of determining and capturing race, the reliability of further breakdowns is questionable.

There are also serious definitional problems in determining aboriginal ancestry to begin with. These problems are first sourced in the changing legislation which defines an aboriginal person (e.g., Bill C-31 amendments to the Indian Act which have recently changed the law for registration of women and children), and subsequently complicated by the activities of certain bands who permit registration as a band member for reasons other than genealogy. The definitional problems are exacerbated further in making distinctions between those aboriginal persons with or without "status". Further complications arise in the area of mixed ethnicity. The Métis, for example, represent a community defined in part by their mixed ethnicity, none of whom have a registered "status".

3.4 Collection of Race Data

The race variable which is used to derive aboriginal-specific information is collected through police observation or by eliciting self-reported information from the subject (i.e., victim or accused). Which of the two practices is used, however, is not standard across police forces and may not even be standard within the same force. In addition, both ways of collecting the information are problematic. If police observation is used the difficulty is that there are no straightforward visible criteria by which race can be determined. Police officers,

therefore, are left with options which are inherently problematic in determining race. The first is to use visible criteria despite the difficulties and inaccuracies associated with doing so. The second option is to elicit from the subject information regarding their race. If self-report information is used, race information is hampered by the question of the reliability of the response. Criminal justice procedures are by their nature adversarial and the cooperation of those against whom actions are being taken is not assured. The high probability of no response or an inaccurate response from the accused regarding their race and, for that matter, other aspects of their lives, is a fact which seriously undermines the self-reporting approach. Although the reporting of this data element may not be completely accurate, it is believed that it is capable of providing general indicators of the nature and extent of aboriginal involvement in urban crime.

Chapter 2 – City Comparisons

Part 1. Population Profiles

1.1 Total Populations

Based on 1990 population projections, the Calgary population was the largest of the three cities examined. The population estimate for Calgary was 685,956, followed by Saskatoon at 175,824 and Regina at 173,349. These estimates represent fairly substantial population increases from 1986 for Calgary (9%), whereas Saskatoon and Regina were projected as having no increase from 1986 (Table 2-1).

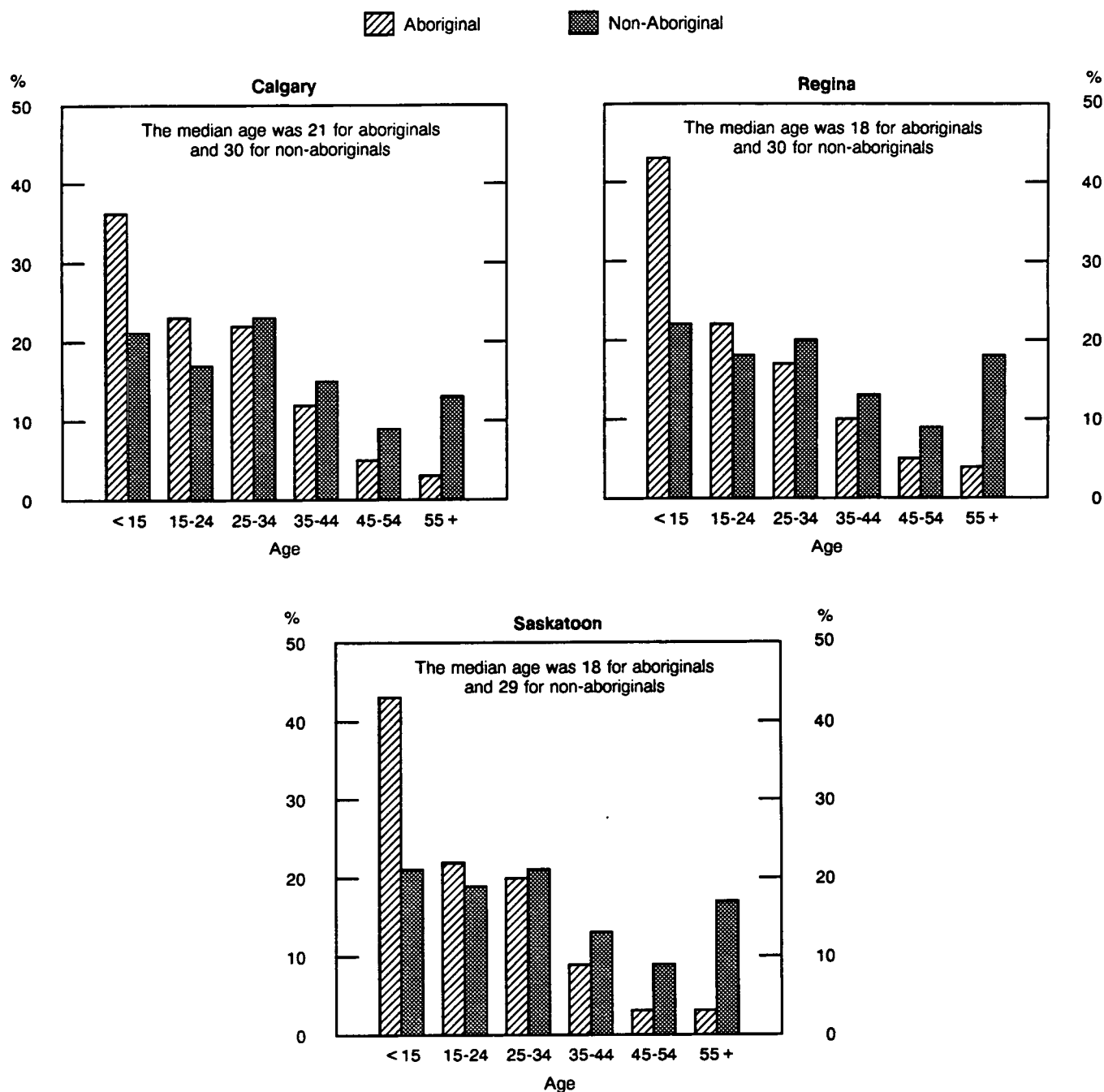
As further shown in Table 2-1, it has been projected that the aboriginal populations of all three cities increased considerably during this time period. The aboriginal populations were estimated to increase 12% in Calgary and 14% in Regina and Saskatoon. In 1990, aboriginal persons represented 2% of the Calgary population, 5% of the Regina population and 6% of the Saskatoon population. The percentages for Regina and Saskatoon are substantially higher than their 2% proportion at the national level (Solicitor General of Canada, 1988) while the percentage for Calgary matches the national level.

1.2 Demographic and Socio-Economic Indicators

In 1986, all three cities had slightly higher ratios of aboriginal females to males than non-aboriginal females to males (Table 2-2). The median age for aboriginal persons was also lower than for non-aboriginal persons. For Calgary, a 9 year difference existed (21 versus 30 years of age); for Saskatoon there was an 11 year difference (18 versus 29); and for Regina there was a 12 year difference (18 versus 30). For Calgary, this age difference was consistent among both males and females, however, for Regina and Saskatoon this age difference was even more striking among males. This finding supports a study conducted by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (1989a) which found the median age for off-reserve Indians to be 10 years less than the Canadian population in 1981 (20 versus 30 years of age). As illustrated in Figure 2-1, the differences in median age can be attributed to the large percentage of aboriginal people who were under fifteen years of age and the relatively small percentage who were over 55. The differences in age found between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons support findings from other reports, and may be attributable to the higher birth rate (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1980; Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991), as well as shorter life expectancies (Brown & Bushignani, 1991; Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1989b) for aboriginal people.

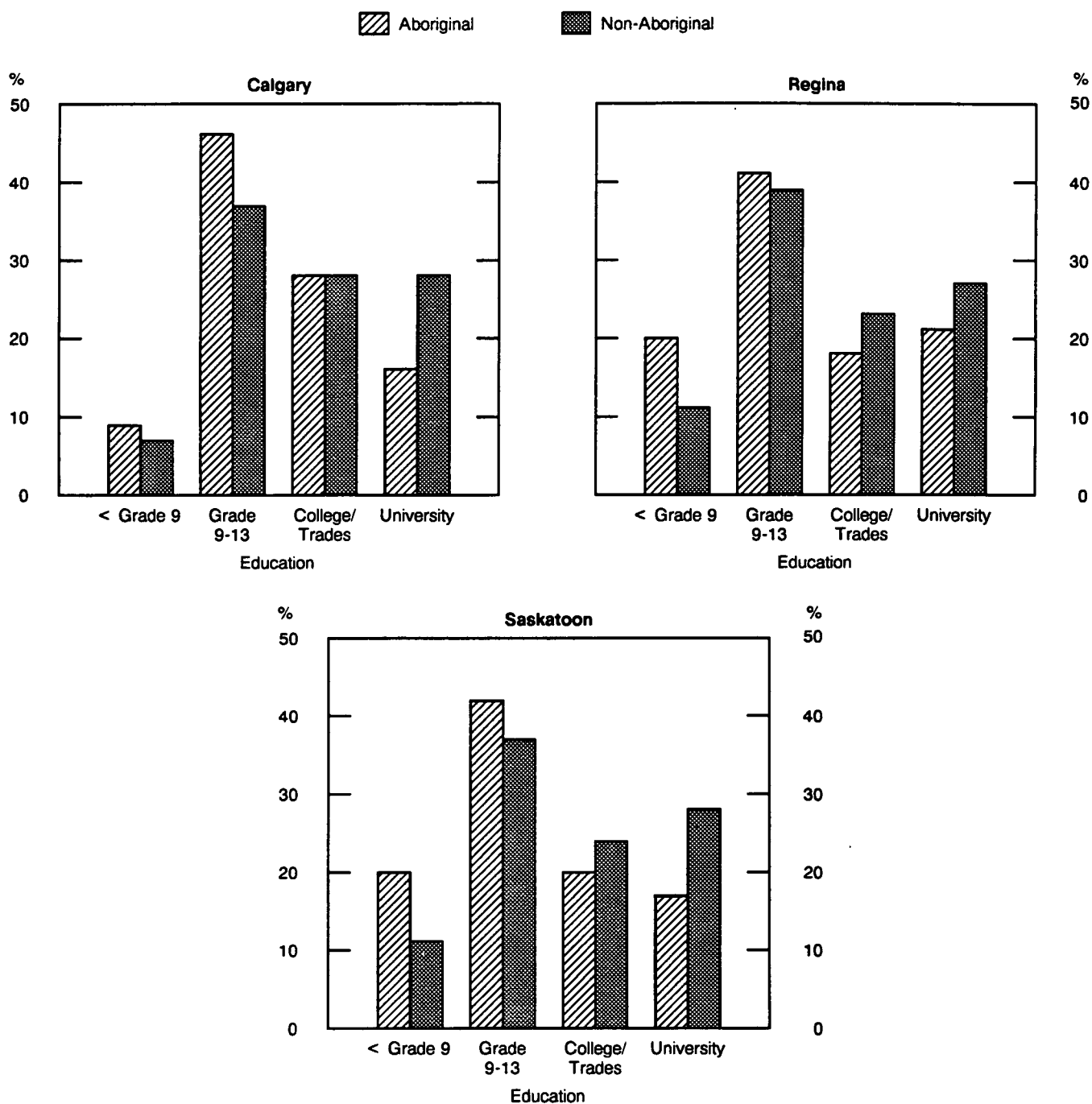
As Figure 2-2 illustrates, some educational differences existed between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons. Overall, aboriginal persons tended to have lower educational levels than non-aboriginal persons. A larger proportion of aboriginal persons had a grade 13 education or less compared to non-aboriginal persons, and substantially fewer had any university. In addition, in all cities except Calgary, fewer aboriginal persons had college/trade certificates. Since aboriginal persons tended to be younger than non-aboriginals, age may be a factor in these differences. The largest age variation between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons occurred with those under 15 years of age and individuals under 15 were excluded from the educational data. However, there were also a larger percentage of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons between 15 and 24 years of age, which could be a contributing factor to the differences in education.

Figure 2-1
Age Distributions, 1986



Source: 1986 Census of Population, 20% Sample, Statistics Canada.

Figure 2-2
Educational Levels of Achievement, 1986



Source: 1986 Census of Population, 20% Sample, Statistics Canada.

The above-noted educational differences are not as large as have been reported previously. However, this report focuses on aboriginal people who reside in urban centres and, as a report by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (1989c) found, off-reserve aboriginal persons tend to have higher educational levels than on-reserve aboriginal persons. This may be because aboriginal people living off-reserve have more educational opportunities than those on-reserve and, in fact, these individuals may have entered the city in order to seek an education (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1980; Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991).

As further shown in Table 2-2, the percentage of individuals 15 years of age and over who were in the labour force (including employed and unemployed) in 1986 was similar for aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons in Calgary, but differed for the other two cities. In Regina, only 60% of the aboriginal people were in the labour force compared to 70% of the non-aboriginals and in Saskatoon only 54% of the aboriginal people were in the labour force compared to 68% of the non-aboriginals. In addition, the unemployment rates for aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons differed substantially within all three cities. The unemployment rate for aboriginal people in the labour force was almost twice that of non-aboriginal people in Calgary and more than three times that of non-aboriginal people in Regina and Saskatoon. These high rates of unemployment among aboriginal persons have been documented previously (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990a; Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta, 1991), particularly for off-reserve aboriginal persons (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1989c).

Variations in reported income levels between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons were also pronounced (Table 2-3). Aboriginal males earned approximately two-thirds the average income of all males who reported income in Calgary and Saskatoon and three-quarters the average income of all males reporting income in Regina in 1986. Aboriginal females earned approximately three-quarters the average income of all females who reported income in Calgary and Saskatoon and less than two-thirds the average income of all females reporting income in Regina in 1986. This difference in income is comparable to figures reported by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (1989c) and is most likely due to the high percentage of aboriginal people who were unemployed. It should also be noted that average income is based only on individuals who reported receiving some income in the year in question. Since, in Regina and Saskatoon, a larger proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons were not in the labour force they would not report any income. Therefore, the economic situation for aboriginal persons is probably even worse than is presented here.

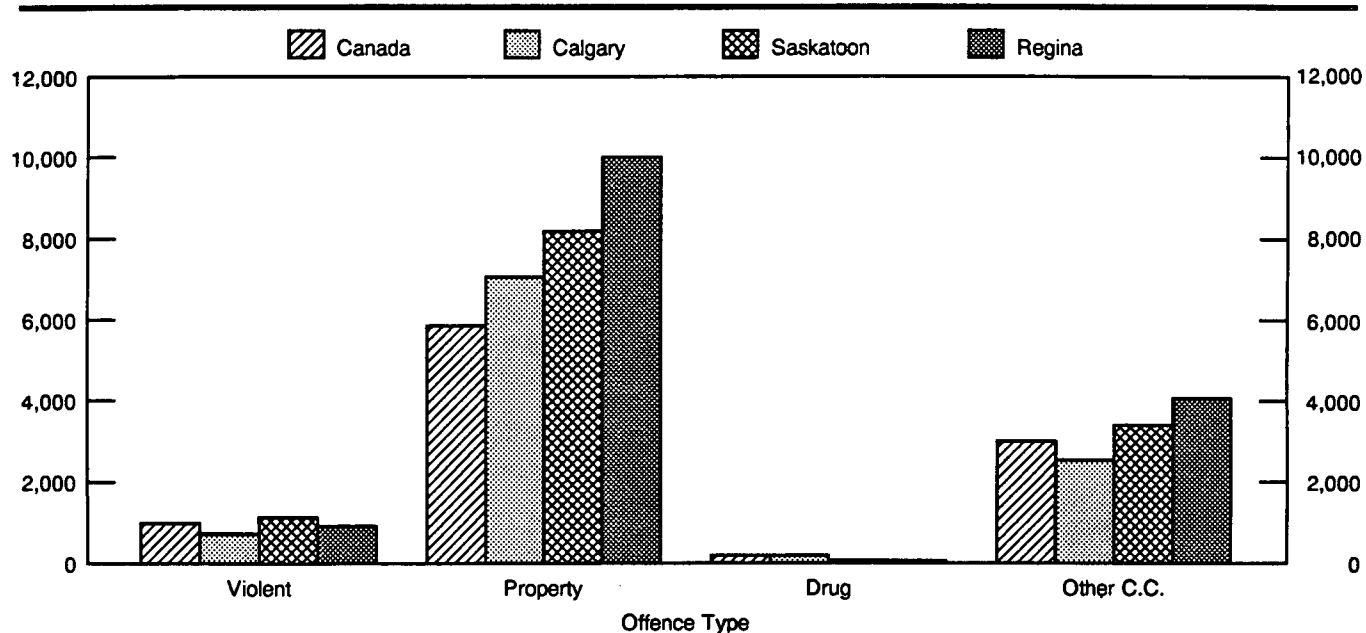
Part 2. Crime Profiles (1990)

Using data from the aggregate UCR survey, reported criminal code and drug-related crime rates¹ were examined for 1990. As Table 2-4 shows, in 1990, Regina had the highest overall crime rate of all three cities (15,014 per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatoon (12,855). Calgary's crime rate of 10,454 was the lowest of the three cities and was similar to the national crime rate of 10,133.

For all three cities, the highest crime rates were found for property crimes. In 1990, approximately two-thirds of the offences were property offences and one-quarter were other criminal code offences. Less than 10% were violent offences and less than 2% were drug-related offences. As illustrated in Figure 2-3, there were slight differences in the percentages of various crime categories for the three cities. Regina had a substantially larger property crime rate than the other two cities and the national rate. Nearly 10,000 property offences occurred in Regina per 100,000 persons in the population. In contrast, Saskatoon had 8,000, Calgary had 7,000 and the national property crime rate was almost 6,000. Regina also had the highest crime rate of the other two cities for "other" criminal code offences. Saskatoon had the highest violent crime rate (1,106) and Calgary had the highest drug crime rate (176).

¹ Crime rates are calculated using the number of "actual" offences per 100,000 population.

Figure 2-3
Crime Rates by Offence Type, 1990



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

Chapter 3 – Calgary

Part 1. Data Limitations

The Calgary PIMS supplied data which produced accused-specific and victim-specific files for 1990. For analytical purposes, the criminal offences were grouped into violent, property, drug and "other criminal code" offence categories (see Appendix B for a description of categories). Traffic offences were not included in the databases and, therefore, differences between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons on traffic offences could not be examined in Calgary. Furthermore, other federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal by-laws were not examined.

Regarding the accused database, when exact information was not available concerning an individual's date of birth, age ranges were used (e.g., 15-20 years old). For analytical purposes, the youngest age range was used. It should be kept in mind that the ages in this chapter may be slightly lower than they may in reality be, however, this was not a concern since this occurred in less than 1% of the cases.

Although victim information was available for all offence types, the level of reporting for the race variable was not very high. Forty-two percent of the victims' race were reported as unknown. Therefore, the victim data were limited to including only violent offences where only 13% of the victims' race were reported as unknown.

Part 2. Aboriginal Crime (1990)

In 1990 in Calgary, 19,103 criminal code incidents² had at least one accused identified. Property offences accounted for about one-half of these (54%), followed by other criminal code offences (26%), violent offences (14%) and drug-related offences (6%).

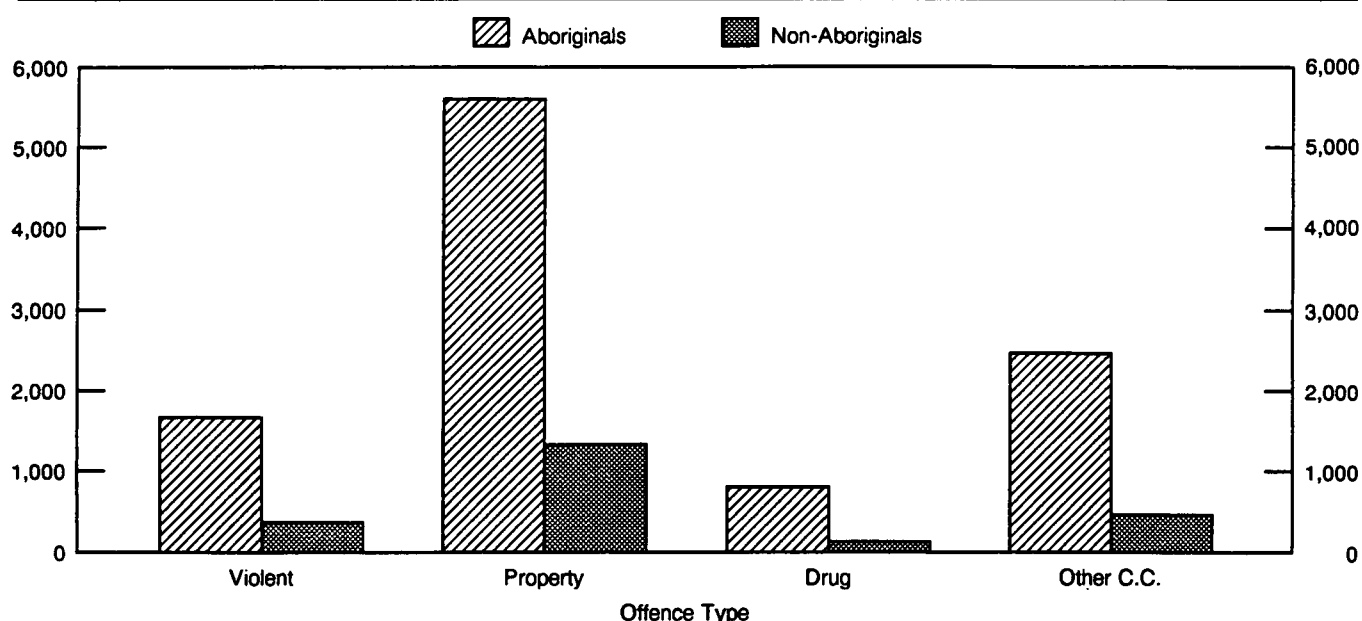
Nine percent (1,686) of the incidents with an identified accused involved at least one aboriginal person, while 80% (15,379) involved at least one non-aboriginal person³. Based on the 1990 population estimates, the crime rate for offences with at least one aboriginal accused was 10,494 per 100,000 population of aboriginal persons compared to 2,296 per 100,000 population of non-aboriginal persons for those offences with at least one non-aboriginal accused. The crime rate for aboriginal persons was over four and one-half times that of non-aboriginals.

An even larger disparity occurred between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons for drug-related and other criminal code offences (Figure 3-1). The aboriginal accused crime rate for these types of offences was almost five and one-half times that for non-aboriginal accused.

² Based on "actual" offences.

³ Categories for incidents involving at least one aboriginal or one non-aboriginal accused are not mutually exclusive since some incidents include more than one accused and their races differ.

Figure 3-1
Crime Rates by Offence Type*, Calgary, 1990



* Based on Actual Offences.

Source: Accused Database, Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

2.1 Accused Profiles

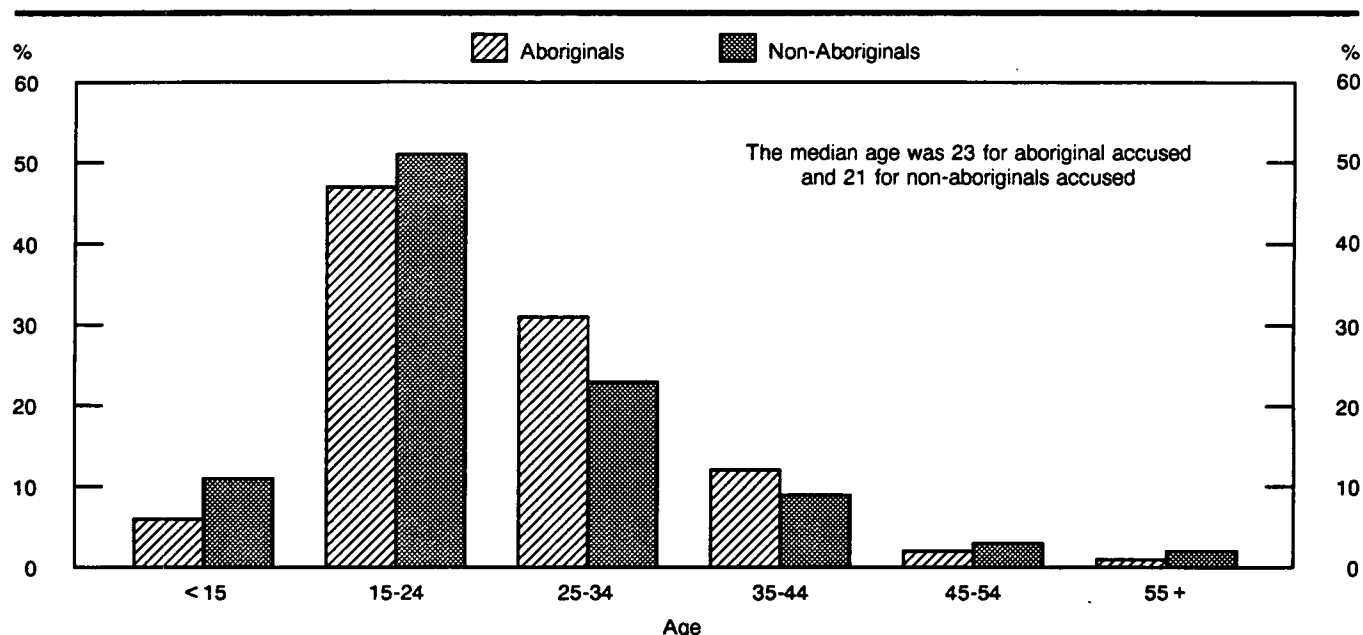
In 1990, 23,593 individuals were charged with the commission of criminal code or drug-related offences in Calgary. Nine percent of the accused had no reported race⁴. Of those with a known race, 1,878 (9%) were aboriginal persons and 19,517 (91%) were non-aboriginal persons (Table 3-1). The proportion of aboriginal accused is larger than their 2% proportion in the Calgary population. The proportion of aboriginal persons charged varied slightly, however, depending on the type of offence. Eight percent of those accused of committing property offences were aboriginal persons, while this was the case for 10% of those accused of committing violent and drug-related offences and 11% of those accused of committing other criminal code offences.

As shown in Table 3-2, although the majority of all those accused were male, there was a greater proportion of aboriginal, than non-aboriginal, females. Whereas females accounted for only 20% of non-aboriginal accused, they accounted for 30% of aboriginal accused. Although the Calgary aboriginal population favoured females (female-male ratio of 53:47) and the non-aboriginal population did not (female-male ratio of 50:50), this does not account for the 10 percentage point difference found between aboriginal and non-aboriginal female accused. This finding supports a Solicitor General of Canada (1988) study, which reported a higher percentage of aboriginal females in the federal female inmate population than the total percentage of aboriginal accused in penitentiaries. Males were predominant among those accused of drug-related and violent crimes. Males comprised 87% of the aboriginal, and 89% of the non-aboriginal persons accused of drug-related crimes. Furthermore, they comprised 76% of the aboriginal, and 90% of the non-aboriginal persons accused of committing violent offences.

As depicted in Figure 3-2, approximately one-half of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were between the ages of 15 and 24 (47% and 51%, respectively). However, aboriginal accused tended to be slightly older than non-aboriginal accused. The median age was 23 for aboriginal accused compared to 21 for non-aboriginal accused.

⁴ This was primarily the case for "other criminal code" offences (28% unknown), rather than for violent, property or drug-related offences (3%, 4% and 5% unknown, respectively).

Figure 3-2
Age of Accused, Calgary, 1990



Source: Accused Database, Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

It is interesting to note that, although the largest proportion of all individuals accused of committing offences were between 15 and 24 years of age, for violent offences a larger proportion of aboriginal persons were in the age range 25 to 34 (43%) (Table 3-3). In addition, for property offences, there was a larger proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons in the 25 to 34 year age range (28% versus 18%). For drug offences, however, the opposite was true, with 62% of all aboriginal persons in the 15 to 24 year age group.

Aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused did not differ substantially in their relationship to their victims. As shown in Table 3-4, the most common reported relationship between an accused and his/her victim was "none indicated" (88%). This variable, however, includes both "strangers" and "relationship unknown" as acceptable responses. A further 8% of all accused were acquainted with their victims, 2% lived within the same household as the victim, and 2% were the spouses of the victim.

More of a relationship emerged between accused and victim for violent offences. Twenty-six percent of those accused of violent incidents were acquainted with their victims. A further 12% were spouses and 5% lived within the same household. Less of a relationship was found between the accused and victim for property offences (only 6% had a known relationship with their victims).

2.2 Victim Profiles

In 1990, there were 5,294 persons who were reported to be victims of violent crime in Calgary. The race for 13% of these victims was reported as unknown. Of those with a known race, 94% (4,348) were non-aboriginal persons and 6% (276) were aboriginal persons.

Aboriginal and non-aboriginal victims of violent crime differed with respect to gender. As shown in Table 3-5, more than two-thirds of aboriginal victims were female, while there were similar percentages of male and female non-aboriginal victims. As the table further shows, although the largest proportion of aboriginal victims were between 25 and 34 years of age (39%) and the largest proportion of non-aboriginal victims were between 15 and 24 (35%), the median age for non-aboriginal victims was older than for aboriginal victims. The median

age for non-aboriginal victims was 31 compared to 28 for aboriginal victims. The proportion of aboriginal victims in the age range 25 to 34 is substantially higher than their proportion within the Calgary population (22%) while the proportion of non-aboriginal victims in this age range is similar to their proportion within the Calgary population (23%). Further, in comparison to their percentage in the general population, there was an under-representation of aboriginal child victims. Whereas individuals under 15 comprised 36% of the Calgary aboriginal population, only 13% of the victims were in this age group. For non-aboriginal victims, the proportion of child victims was similar to the proportion of children in the general population (18% compared to 21%).

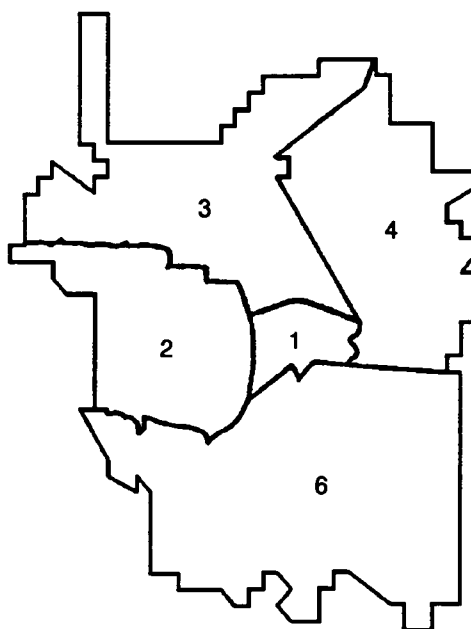
The majority of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal victims of violent crime (50% and 59%, respectively) were single.

2.3 Offence Characteristics

2.3.1 Location of Incident

The greatest proportion of aboriginal victims were found in Calgary's city core (District 1, 42%), followed by District 2 (26%) (see Figure 3-3 for Police Districts). Non-aboriginal victims, on the other hand, tended to be more evenly distributed, with the largest percentage found in District 4 (26%) (Table 3-6). As Table 3-7 shows, by far the largest number of incidents involving at least one aboriginal accused occurred in the city core (District 1) (41%). Although the largest percentage of incidents involving non-aboriginal accused also occurred in District 1 (27%), offences were more evenly dispersed among all areas of the city. It is possible that a greater proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons live within the city core, which would make it more likely that they would be involved both as victims and accused in that area.

Figure 3-3
Police Districts, Calgary, 1990



Source: Calgary Police Service.

2.3.2 Use of Weapons

Weapons were encountered by 23% of all victims of violent crime. Similar proportions of aboriginal and non-aboriginal victims encountered weapons (26% and 22%, respectively). Knives were the weapon most frequently encountered by aboriginal victims whereas non-aboriginal victims encountered "other" weapons most often (Table 3-8).

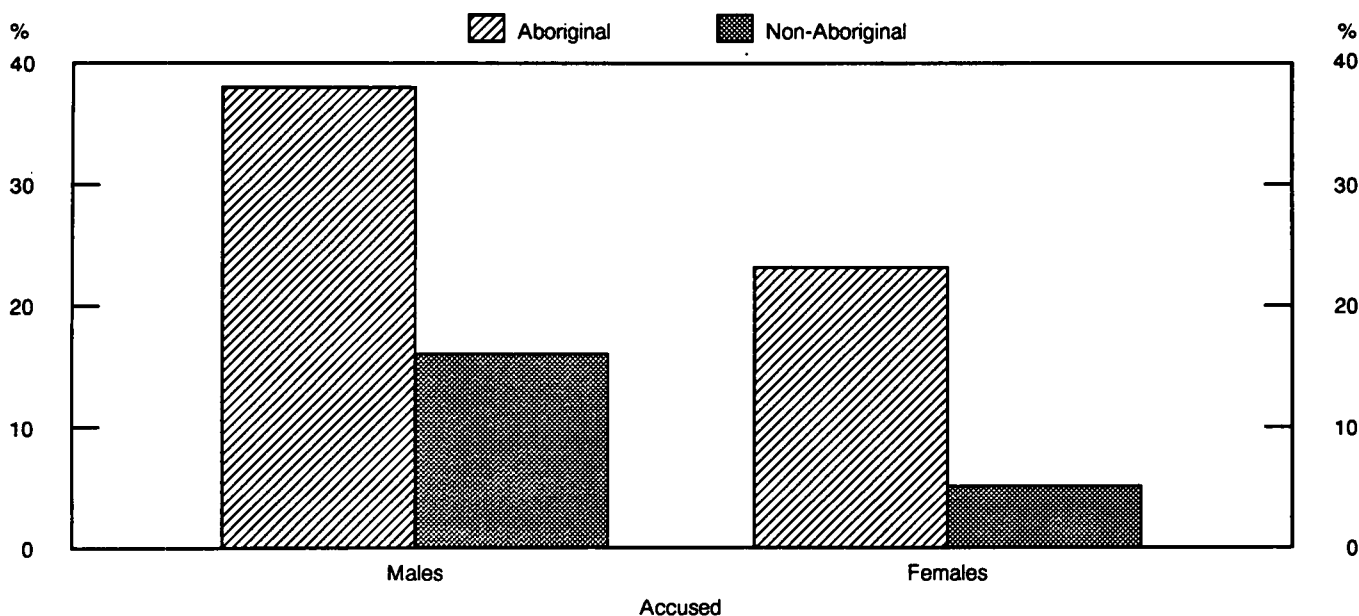
2.3.3 Involvement of Alcohol/Drugs

Consistent with other reports (Solicitor General of Canada, 1988; Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991), a higher proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal accused were reported to have been impaired through alcohol and/or drugs (Table 3-9). Thirty-four percent of the aboriginal accused were reported as impaired, compared to only 14% of the non-aboriginals. The use of alcohol and/or drugs also appears to be related to the type of offence committed. A greater percentage of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons were reported to be impaired for violent offences (47% and 29%, respectively).

The differences between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons in alcohol or drug use was more obvious when gender was taken into account. As Figure 3-4 illustrates, 38% of the aboriginal male accused were reported as being impaired compared to 16% of the non-aboriginal male accused. Further, 23% of the aboriginal female accused and only 5% of the non-aboriginal female accused were reported to be impaired.

Similar to the accused findings, a larger proportion of aboriginal victims of violent crime were reported to have used alcohol and/or drugs at the time the offence occurred. Forty-three percent of the aboriginal victims were reported to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time the offence occurred, in comparison to only 14% of the non-aboriginal victims (Table 3-10).

Figure 3-4
Accused Alcohol/Drug Use by Gender, Calgary, 1990



Source: Accused Database, Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Part 3. Discussion

The findings of this report indicate that, in 1990, aboriginal persons comprised a substantially larger proportion of the accused in Calgary than was warranted by their proportion in the overall Calgary population. That is, while aboriginal persons comprised only 2% of the total Calgary population, they made up 9% of those accused of criminal offences. Another measurement used to assess aboriginal and non-aboriginal differences produced similar results. The crime rate for aboriginal persons was over four and one-half times that of non-aboriginal persons. This finding supports previous reports which have found higher proportions of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons within the criminal justice system (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990a; Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta, 1991; Statistics Canada, 1991a).

The differences in crime rates between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons may be attributed to several socio-demographic variables. For instance, aboriginal people in Calgary are younger than non-aboriginal people and there is a larger percentage between the ages of 15 and 34, the ages which criminology research has found to be more at risk of involvement in criminal behaviour (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990a). Chapter 2 also revealed that, in Calgary, aboriginal persons had lower educational levels than non-aboriginals, almost double the unemployment of non-aboriginals, and substantially lower average incomes. These differences may be associated with age, however, they have also been associated with criminal behaviour (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1980; Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta, 1991).

The findings also indicate that aboriginal persons were over-represented among the victims of violent crime. While aboriginal persons comprised 2% of the Calgary population in 1990, they comprised 6% of the victims of violent crime.

Alcohol and substance abuse appears to be a problem among aboriginal persons. This report found that more than twice as many aboriginal as non-aboriginal accused were reported as being impaired at the time the offence was committed. In addition, more than three times as many aboriginal victims as non-aboriginal victims of violent crime were reported as being impaired. This is consistent with other reports, such as a Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta report (1991) which found that in most aboriginal communities at least 80% of the people had alcohol problems.

Chapter 4 – Regina

Part 1. Data Limitations

Data from the incident-based UCR survey were extracted for the city of Regina in order to examine accused and victim profiles. For analysis purposes, the criminal offences were grouped into violent, property, drug and "other criminal code" offence categories. Traffic offences, other federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal by-laws were not examined. Therefore, differences between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons on these offences could not be examined.

It should be noted that, for race of the accused, the level of reporting was not very high. Race was reported as unknown in 21% of all accused records. This was predominantly the case for "other criminal code" offences (62% unknown), rather than for violent, property or drug-related offences (where 4% or less were unknown). Therefore, caution should be used when interpreting aboriginal and non-aboriginal differences among those accused of other criminal code offences. In addition, victim data were only available for victims of violent offences.

Part 2. Aboriginal Crime (1990/91)

In the twelve month period between May 1990 and May 1991, 8,292 drug-related or criminal code incidents⁵ had at least one accused identified. Property offences accounted for one-half of these offences, other criminal code offences for 35%, violent offences for 13%, and drug-related offences for 2%.

Thirty-two percent (2,721) of the incidents with an identified accused involved at least one aboriginal accused, while 44% (3,735) involved at least one non-aboriginal accused⁶. Based on the 1990 population figures, the crime rate for offences with at least one aboriginal accused was 28,791 per 100,000 population of aboriginal persons compared to 2,279 per 100,000 population of non-aboriginal persons for those offences with at least one non-aboriginal accused. The crime rate for aboriginal persons was more than twelve times that of non-aboriginal persons.

Although still substantially higher, less of a disparity occurred between aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused for drug-related offences (Figure 4-1). The aboriginal crime rate for this offence was approximately eight times that for non-aboriginals (593 versus 76 per 100,000 population). For violent offences the aboriginal crime rate was fifteen times the non-aboriginal crime rate (5,037 versus 344).

2.1 Accused Profiles

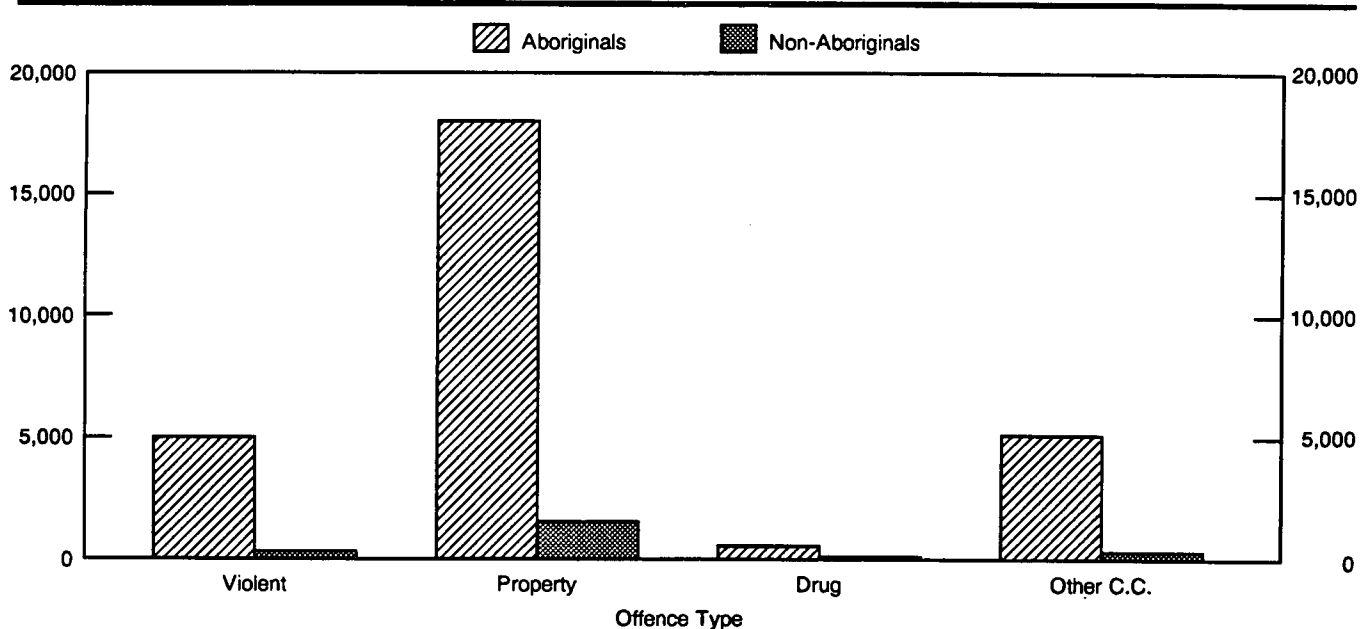
In 1990/91, 10,159 individuals were accused of committing criminal code or drug-related offences in Regina. Race was not reported for 21% of all accused in this database⁷. Of those with a known race, 43% (3,448) were aboriginal persons and 57% (4,590) were non-aboriginal persons (Table 4-1). The proportion of aboriginal accused is considerably larger than their 5% proportion in the Regina population. The proportion of aboriginal persons charged varied, however, depending on the type of offence. Forty-seven percent of those accused of committing violent offences were aboriginal persons, while this was the case for only 30% of those accused of committing drug-related offences.

⁵ Based on "actual" offences.

⁶ Categories for incidents involving at least one aboriginal or one non-aboriginal accused are not mutually exclusive since some incidents include more than one accused and their races differ.

⁷ This was primarily the case for "other criminal code" offences (62% unknown), rather than for violent, property or drug-related offences (4%, 4% and 1% unknown, respectively).

Figure 4-1
Crime Rates by Offence*, Regina, 1990/91



* Based on Actual Offences.

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

As shown in Table 4-2, although the majority of all accused were male, there was a greater proportion of aboriginal, than non-aboriginal, female accused. Whereas females accounted for only 18% of all non-aboriginal accused, they accounted for 27% of all aboriginal accused. Although the Regina aboriginal population favoured females (female-male ratio of 55:45) and the non-aboriginal population did not (female-male ratio of 51:49), this does not account for the 9 percentage point difference found between aboriginal and non-aboriginal female accused. This finding supports other studies which reported a higher percentage of aboriginal females in the federal female inmate population than the total percentage of aboriginal accused in penitentiaries (Solicitor General of Canada, 1988; Statistics Canada, 1991b).

In comparison with all offences, a larger proportion of aboriginal females were accused of other criminal code offences (38%). On the other hand, in comparison with all offences, males comprised an even larger proportion of all aboriginal persons accused of involvement in violent offences (79%).

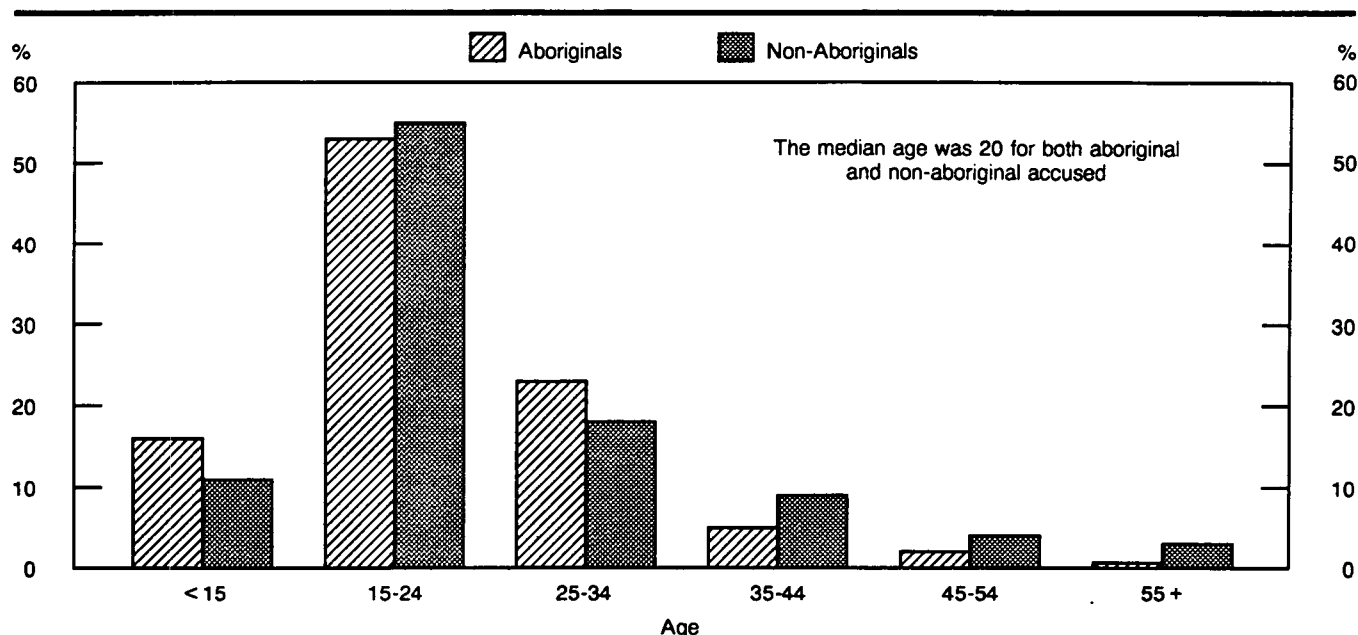
As is evident from Figure 4-2, over one-half of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were between the ages of 15 and 24 (53% and 55%, respectively). In addition, both aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused had a median age of 20.

Approximately two-thirds of all drug offences were committed by those between the ages of 15 and 24 (Table 4-3). It is interesting to note that, although the largest proportion of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons accused of committing violent crimes were between 15 and 24 years of age, this was true to a lesser extent for non-aboriginal accused (47% for aboriginals and 39% for non-aboriginals).

2.2 Victim Profiles

The incident-based UCR survey only captures information on victims of violent crime. In the 12 month period between May 1990 and May 1991, 1,664 persons were reported to be victims of violent crime in Regina. The race for 2% of these victims was reported as unknown. Of those with a known race, 67% (1,122) were non-aboriginal persons. Although aboriginal persons comprised only 5% of the Regina population in 1990, they comprised 31% (508) of the victims of violent crime in 1990/91.

Figure 4-2
Age of Accused, Regina, 1990/91



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

Aboriginal and non-aboriginal victims of violent crime differed with respect to gender. As shown in Table 4-4, there were similar male to female ratios among non-aboriginal victims (52:48). However, 68% of the aboriginal victims were female.

Aboriginal and non-aboriginal victims did not differ substantially in age. The largest proportion of all victims were in the 15-24 year age group, with 37% of the non-aboriginal victims, and 35% of the aboriginal victims within this age group. The median age for aboriginal victims was 22 and for non-aboriginal victims it was 21. A further 27% of aboriginal victims were between 25 and 34 years of age, whereas this was the case for only 18% of non-aboriginal victims. The proportion of victims was substantially higher in the 15 to 24 year age range than in the general population, particularly for non-aboriginal victims. Although 15 to 24 year olds represented 18% of the non-aboriginal general population, they represented 37% of all non-aboriginal violent crime victims. Aboriginal victims, on the other hand, were more highly represented in the 25 to 34 year old age group than in the general population (27% versus 17%).

As further illustrated in Table 4-4, aboriginal and non-aboriginal victims of violent crime also differed in the relationship they had with their accused. While the largest proportion of non-aboriginal victims were strangers to the accused (35%), the largest proportion of aboriginal victims were spouses or ex-spouses (24%). The next most common relationship for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal victims to accused was acquaintances (22% and 23%, respectively). Further, 28% of all aboriginal victims were living with the accused compared to only 15% of the non-aboriginal victims.

2.3 Offence Characteristics

2.3.1 Location of Incident

As Table 4-5 demonstrates, more than two-thirds of the incidents involving aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused occurred in non-residential areas. The most common non-residential location was the street. Not surprisingly, however, for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused more than one-half of the violent offences occurred in private or commercial residences.

2.3.2 Use of Weapons

Use of a weapon is only captured for violent violations. Although physical force or threats were the most common weapon used by both aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused, this was less often the case for aboriginals. Thirty percent of aboriginals accused of violent offences used weapons other than physical force or threats compared to 20% of non-aboriginal accused (Table 4-6). In examining weapons other than physical force or threats, it appears that aboriginal persons were more often involved in incidents where a sharp instrument was used than were non-aboriginal persons (18% versus 9%).

Ninety-five percent of all violent crime victims were reported to have encountered some form of weapon which caused injury (including physical force). Of those who encountered a weapon, 82% encountered physical force and 17% encountered an actual weapon, the most common of which was a sharp instrument. As shown in Table 4-7, aboriginal victims encountered weapons more often than non-aboriginal victims (27% versus 17%), in particular sharp instruments. Furthermore, 69% of aboriginal victims sustained some form of injury compared to 53% of non-aboriginals (Table 4-8). Aboriginal victims also sustained more major injuries than non-aboriginals (17% versus 6%).

2.3.3 Involvement of Alcohol/Drugs

Consistent with other reports (Solicitor General of Canada, 1988; Solicitor General of Canada & Attorney General of Alberta, 1991), a higher proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal accused involved in violent violations were reported to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time the offence was committed (Table 4-9). Thirty-eight percent of the aboriginal accused were reported to have used alcohol and/or drugs compared to 23% of the non-aboriginals.

As reported in Table 4-10, as was found for those accused of violent offences, a larger percentage of aboriginal than non-aboriginal victims of violent crime were reported to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence. Thirty percent of aboriginal victims used alcohol and/or drugs compared to 11% of non-aboriginal victims.

Part 3. Discussion

The findings of this report indicate that there is a substantially larger proportion of aboriginal accused than is represented in the population. That is, while aboriginal persons comprised only 5% of the total Regina population in 1990, they comprised 43% of those accused of criminal offences in 1990/91. Further, the crime rate for aboriginal persons was found to be more than twelve times that of non-aboriginal persons. These findings support previous reports which have found higher proportions of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons within the criminal justice system (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990a; Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta, 1991; Statistics Canada, 1991a).

The differences in crime rates between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons may be attributed to several socio-demographic variables. For instance, aboriginal persons in Regina are, on average, younger than non-aboriginal persons. Chapter 2 also revealed that, in Regina, aboriginal persons had lower educational levels than non-aboriginals, more than three times the unemployment of non-aboriginals, and substantially lower average incomes. These differences may be associated with age, however, they have also been associated with criminal behaviour (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1980; Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta, 1991).

Aboriginal persons also appear to be over-represented among the victims of violent crime in Regina. Although aboriginal persons comprised 5% of the Regina population in 1990, they comprised 31% of the victims of violent crime during 1990/91.

For violent offences, weapons (such as firearms, sharp instruments or blunt instruments) were used more often by aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons. Thirty percent of the aboriginals accused of violent offences used weapons other than physical force on their victims compared to 20% of the non-aboriginal accused. Furthermore, weapons were encountered by a larger proportion of aboriginal than non-aboriginal victims (27% versus 17%).

Alcohol and substance abuse appears to be a problem among aboriginal accused in Regina. This report found that 38% of the aboriginal persons who were accused of violent offences were reported as having consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time the offence was committed compared to 23% of non-aboriginal accused. In addition, 30% of the aboriginal victims of violent crime were reported to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time the offence was committed, compared to only 11% of the non-aboriginal victims. These findings are consistent with a Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta report (1991) that found in most aboriginal communities at least 80% of the people had alcohol problems.

Chapter 5 – Saskatoon

Part 1. Data Limitations

The Saskatoon SIMS supplied data which produced accused-specific and incident-specific files for 1990. For analysis purposes, the criminal offences were grouped into violent, property, drug and "other criminal code" offence categories. Traffic offences, other federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal by-laws were not examined. Therefore, differences between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons on these offences could not be examined.

No information was available regarding alcohol and/or drug use by the accused. Therefore, this data element could not be examined for Saskatoon. Further, marital status was reported as unknown for 23% of the accused and, therefore, caution should be used when examining this data element.

Victim data were not examined for Saskatoon because victim's race was not reliably completed. Greater than 80% of the victim's race were reported as unknown.

Part 2. Aboriginal Crime (1990)

Of the total number of drug-related and criminal code offences committed in Saskatoon in 1990, 4,827 of the incidents⁸ had an identified accused. Property and "other" criminal code offences accounted for the largest portion of these offences (43% each), followed by violent (13%), and drug-related (1%) offences.

Thirty-six percent of the incidents with an identified accused involved at least one aboriginal accused, while 52% involved at least one non-aboriginal accused⁹. Based on the 1990 population estimates, the crime rate for offences with at least one aboriginal accused was 16,667 per 100,000 population of aboriginal persons, compared to 1,583 per 100,000 population of non-aboriginal persons for those offences with at least one non-aboriginal accused. The crime rate for aboriginal persons was ten and one-half times that of non-aboriginals.

As illustrated in Figure 5-1, an even larger difference emerged for "other" criminal code offences. The aboriginal crime rate was approximately seventeen times the non-aboriginal crime rate (8,804 versus 509). This difference appears to be primarily due to the large proportion of bail violation incidents which involved at least one aboriginal accused.

2.1 Accused Profiles

In 1990, 3,378 individuals were accused of committing drug-related or criminal code offences in Saskatoon¹⁰. Race was not reported for 14% of all accused in this database¹¹. Of those with a known race, 37% (1,072) were aboriginal persons and 63% (1,827) were non-aboriginal persons (Table 5-1). The proportion of aboriginal accused is substantially larger than their 6% proportion in the Saskatoon population. The proportion of aboriginal persons charged varied, however, depending on the type of offence. Forty-nine percent

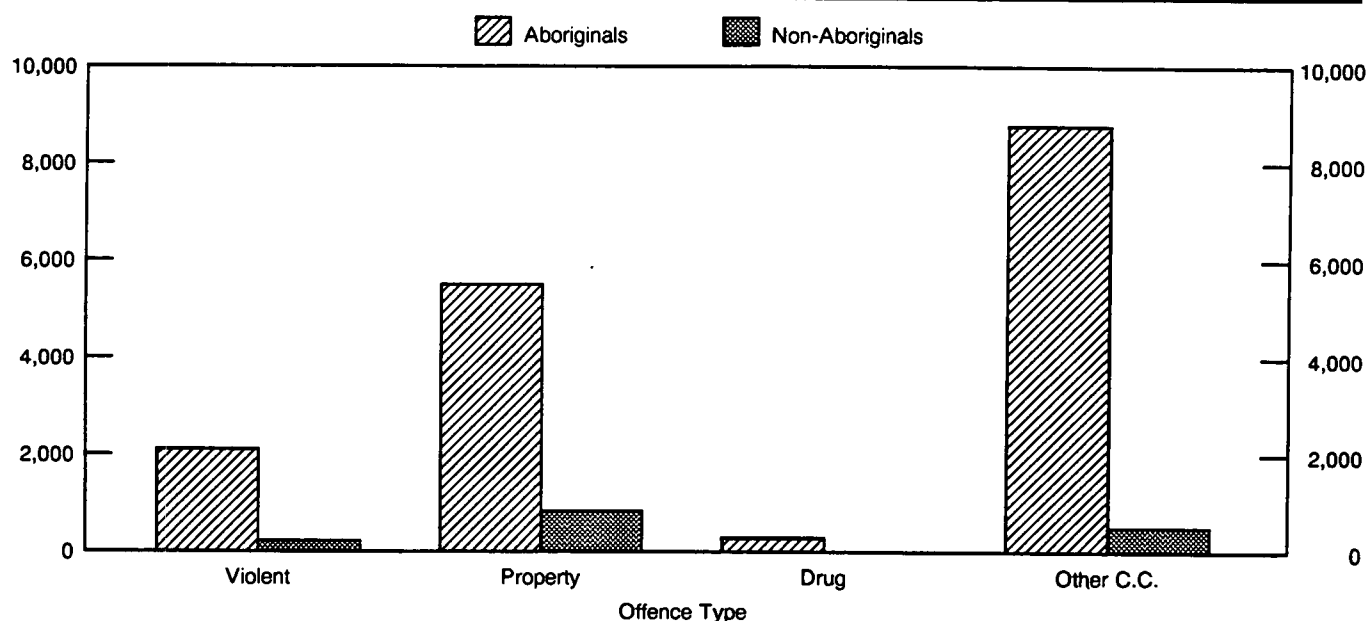
⁸ Based on "actual" offences.

⁹ Categories for incidents involving at least one aboriginal or one non-aboriginal accused are not mutually exclusive since some incidents include more than one accused and their races differ.

¹⁰ Since data from the three cities were obtained from different sources, variations in definitions may occur (e.g., definition of accused). Therefore, comparisons between cities should not be made.

¹¹ This was primarily the case for "other criminal code" offences (21% unknown), rather than for violent, property or drug-related offences (11%, 10% and 6% unknown, respectively).

Figure 5-1
Crime Rates by Offence*, Saskatoon, 1990



* Based on Actual Offences.

Source: Accused Database, Saskatoon Information Management System, Saskatoon Police Service.

of those accused of committing other criminal code offences were aboriginal persons, while this was the case for only 29% of those accused of committing property offences and 31% of those accused of committing drug-related offences. As was found with incidents involving aboriginal accused, aboriginal accused charged with bail violations comprised the largest proportion of the other criminal code offences.

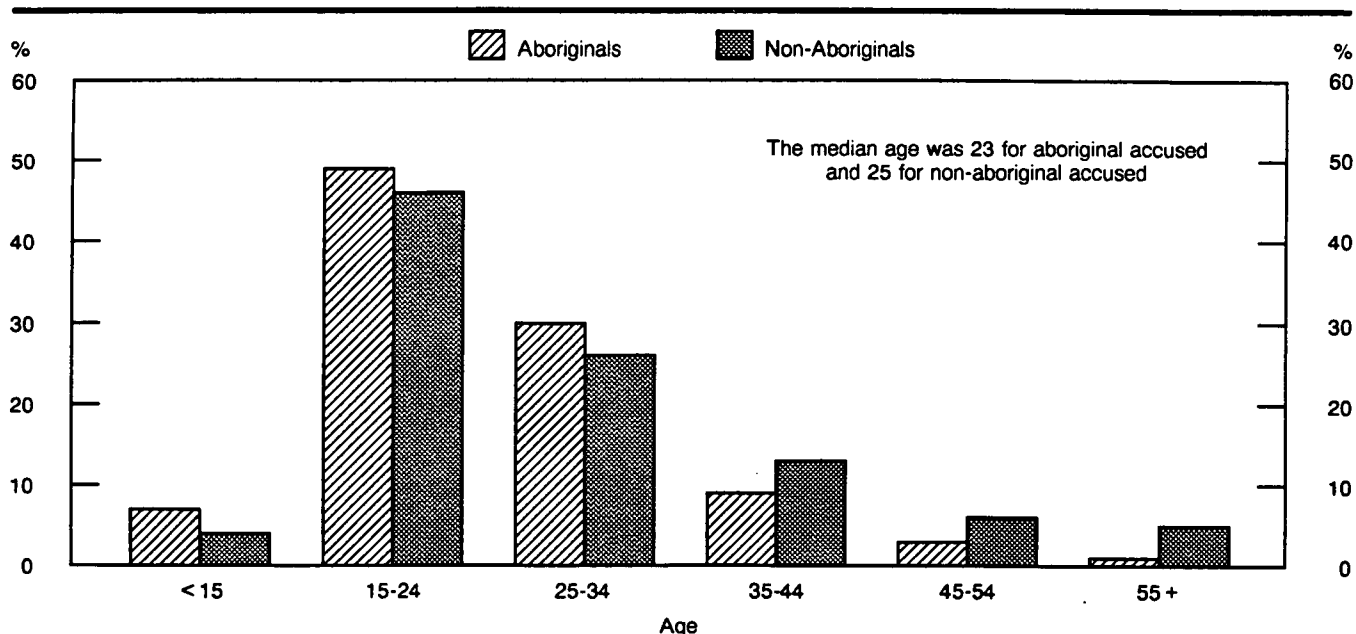
As shown in Table 5-2, although the majority of all accused were male, there was a greater proportion of aboriginal, than non-aboriginal, female accused. Whereas females accounted for only 23% of all non-aboriginal accused, they accounted for 34% of all aboriginal accused. Although the Saskatoon aboriginal population favoured females (female-male ratio of 53:47) and the non-aboriginal population did not (female-male ratio of 51:49), this does not account for the 11 percentage point difference found between aboriginal and non-aboriginal female accused. This finding supports other studies which reported a higher percentage of aboriginal females in the federal female inmate population than the total percentage of aboriginal accused in penitentiaries (Solicitor General of Canada, 1988; Statistics Canada, 1991b).

As further shown in Table 5-2, in comparison to other offences, females were accused of committing more property offences. Females comprised 37% of the aboriginal, and 31% of the non-aboriginal, persons accused of committing property crimes. Aboriginal females were also accused of committing a larger percentage of other criminal code offences (36%).

As is evident from Figure 5-2, approximately one-half of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were between the ages of 15 and 24 (49% and 46%, respectively). However, aboriginal accused tended to be slightly younger than non-aboriginal accused. A greater percentage of aboriginal persons were less than 15 years of age (7% versus 4%), while more non-aboriginal persons were 35 years of age or over (24% versus 13%). Further, the median age for aboriginal persons was slightly lower than that for non-aboriginals (23 for aboriginal and 25 for non-aboriginal persons).

Approximately one-half of the property and other criminal code offences were committed by individuals between the ages of 15 and 24. Aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were similar in this respect (Table 5-3).

Figure 5-2
Age of Accused, Saskatoon, 1990



Source: Accused Database, Saskatoon Information Management System, Saskatoon Police Service.

Aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused did not differ substantially in their marital status. As shown in Table 5-4, the majority of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal accused were single (59% and 56%, respectively). A further 23% of aboriginal, and 26% of non-aboriginal, persons were married or living in a common-law relationship.

2.2 Offence Characteristics

2.2.1 Location of Incident

The city of Saskatoon is divided up into 163 police zones. Basically, these zones are similar sized square areas which intersect the city. The area where criminal incidents occurred was fairly evenly distributed within Saskatoon, with the exception of what is the city's core. Thirty-four percent of the criminal incidents occurred in this zone, as compared to less than 5% in each of the other zones.

The largest number of incidents involving at least one aboriginal accused occurred in the city core (43%), followed by the zone directly to the west of it (8%). Although the largest number of incidents involving non-aboriginal accused also occurred in the city core (26%), offences were a bit more evenly dispersed among other zones. As discussed in Chapter 3 regarding the location of aboriginal crime in Calgary, a larger proportion of aboriginal crime may occur in the city core because more aboriginal than non-aboriginal people may live in the city core.

Part 3. Discussion

The findings of this report indicate that there is a substantially larger proportion of aboriginal persons accused of crimes than are in the population. That is, while aboriginal persons comprised only 6% of the total Saskatoon population in 1990, they made up 37% of those accused of drug-related or criminal code offences. Further, the crime rate for aboriginal persons was ten and one-half times higher than for non-aboriginal persons. This finding supports previous reports which have found higher proportions of aboriginal than non-aboriginal persons within the criminal justice system (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990a; Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta, 1991; Statistics Canada, 1991a).

The differences in crime rates between aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons may be attributed to several socio-demographic variables. For instance, aboriginal people in Saskatoon are younger than non-aboriginal people. Chapter 2 also revealed that, in Saskatoon, aboriginal people had lower educational levels than non-aboriginal people, more than three times the unemployment of non-aboriginal persons, and substantially lower average incomes. These differences may be associated with age, however, they have also been associated with criminal behaviour (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1980; Solicitor General of Canada and Attorney General of Alberta, 1991).

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Table 2-1
Estimated Populations by City, 1986 and 1990

City	1986	1990	% Change
Calgary			
Total Population	630,855	685,956	9
Aboriginal Population	14,345	16,066	12
Regina			
Total Population	173,095	173,349	-
Aboriginal Population	8,290	9,451	14
Saskatoon			
Total Population	175,465	175,824	-
Aboriginal Population	9,405	10,722	14

Sources: 1986 Census of Population, Statistics Canada.
 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (1990b).

Table 2-2
Selected Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics* of Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals, 1986

Characteristics	Calgary				Regina				Saskatoon			
	Total		Aboriginal		Total		Aboriginal		Total		Aboriginal	
	No.	Col. %	No.	Col. %	No.	Col. %	No.	Col. %	No.	Col. %	No.	Col. %
Population	630,855	14,345	100	100	173,095	8,290	100	100	175,465	9,405	100	100
Sex												
Male	315,455	6,720	47	308,735	50	84,510	3,745	45	85,170	4,395	47	80,775
Female	315,400	7,630	53	307,770	50	88,585	4,540	55	90,300	5,015	53	85,285
Total	630,855	14,350	100	616,505	100	173,095	8,285	100	175,470	9,410	100	166,060
Age												
< 15	136,015	5,115	36	130,900	21	40,270	3,550	43	39,550	4,010	43	35,540
15-24	108,785	3,255	23	105,530	17	31,420	1,795	22	34,215	2,105	22	32,110
25-34	147,530	3,130	22	144,400	23	33,690	1,395	17	36,520	1,885	20	34,635
35-44	94,810	1,665	12	93,145	15	22,330	825	10	21,940	815	9	21,125
45-54	58,180	715	5	57,465	9	15,710	405	5	14,780	280	3	14,500
55 +	85,540	460	3	85,080	14	29,680	320	4	28,465	315	3	28,150
Total	630,860	14,340	100	616,520	100	173,100	8,290	100	175,470	9,410	100	166,060
Education¹												
< Grade 9	35,215	825	9	34,390	7	15,240	940	20	15,480	1,060	20	14,420
Grade 9-13	183,075	4,255	46	178,820	37	52,385	1,965	41	50,440	2,295	43	48,145
Trades/College	139,505	2,605	28	136,900	28	30,450	860	18	32,545	1,095	20	31,450
University	137,050	1,550	17	135,500	28	34,740	975	21	37,440	940	17	36,500
Total	494,845	9,235	100	485,610	100	132,815	4,740	100	135,905	5,390	100	130,515
Labour Force Participation¹												
Males	206,280	3,440	83	202,840	84	51,520	1,495	75	52,505	1,660	70	50,845
Females	165,860	3,330	66	162,530	67	43,645	1,345	49	43,235	1,270	42	41,965
Total	372,140	6,770	73	365,370	75	95,165	2,840	60	95,740	2,930	54	92,810
Unemployed¹												
Males	21,360	705	20	20,655	10	4,220	440	29	4,785	485	29	4,300
Females	16,260	580	17	15,680	10	3,530	350	26	4,785	330	26	4,455
Total	37,620	1,285	19	36,335	10	7,750	790	28	9,570	815	28	8,755

* Refers to non-institutional data only.

** Due to missing data and rounding, not all totals will match total population.

1 Refers to those 15 years of age and over only.

Source: 1986 Census of Population, 20% Sample, Statistics Canada.

Table 2-3
Average Incomes for Aboriginals and Total Population by Gender and City, 1986

Average Income	City		
	Calgary	Regina	Saskatoon
Males			
Total	\$27,893	\$25,196	\$23,912
Aboriginal	\$18,746	\$18,945	\$14,808
% of Total	67	75	62
Females			
Total	\$15,091	\$14,202	\$12,982
Aboriginal	\$12,260	\$8,646	\$9,501
% of Total	81	61	73

Source: 1986 Census of Population, Statistics Canada.

Table 2-4
Crime Rates* by Offence Type, Canada and Cities, 1990

Location	Pop.	Total		Violent		Property		Drug		Other C.C.	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Canada	26,602,600	2,695,649	10,133	269,440	1,013	1,561,465	5,870	60,039	226	804,705	3,025
Calgary	692,900	72,435	10,454	4,931	712	48,756	7,037	1,217	176	17,531	2,530
Regina	175,100	26,289	15,014	1,576	900	17,456	9,969	150	86	7,107	4,059
Saskatoon	177,600	22,830	12,855	1,964	1,106	14,611	8,227	175	99	6,080	3,423

* Based on actual offences - rates per 100,000 population.

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

Table 3-1
Proportion of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Calgary, 1990

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
		No.	%	No.	%
Violent	3,172	316	10	2,856	90
Property	13,043	1,028	8	12,015	92
Drugs	1,344	129	10	1,215	90
Other C.C.	3,836	405	11	3,431	89
Total	21,395	1,878	9	19,517	91

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (9%).

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-2**Gender of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Calgary, 1990**

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal		Total	Non-Aboriginal	
		Males	Females		Males	Females
		%	%		%	%
Violent	316	76	24	2,854	90	10
Property	1,028	68	32	12,010	76	24
Drugs	129	87	13	1,211	89	11
Other C.C.	405	65	35	3,428	82	18
Total	1,878	70	30	19,503	80	20

* Excludes cases where race and gender are unknown (9%).

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-3**Age of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Calgary, 1990**

Offence Type	Total	< 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 +
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Violent							
Aboriginal	316	5	36	43	12	--	--
Non-Aboriginal	2,847	6	41	31	15	5	2
Subtotal	3,163	6	40	32	15	5	2
Property							
Aboriginal	1,026	8	48	28	13	2	1
Non-Aboriginal	11,993	16	54	18	8	3	2
Subtotal	13,019	15	53	19	8	3	2
Drugs							
Aboriginal	128	--	62	28	--	--	--
Non-Aboriginal	1,211	1	50	39	8	2	--
Subtotal	1,339	1	51	38	8	2	--
Other C.C.							
Aboriginal	405	3	51	32	10	3	--
Non-Aboriginal	3,423	5	50	30	11	3	1
Subtotal	3,828	5	50	30	11	3	1
Total	21,349	11	51	24	10	3	2

* Excludes cases where race and age are unknown (10%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-4

Relationship of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused to Victims by Offence Type*, Calgary, 1990

Offence Type	Total	Spouse	Household	Acquaintance	None Indicated **
		%	%	%	%
Violent					
Aboriginal	316	12	6	27	55
Non-Aboriginal	2,856	12	5	26	56
Subtotal	3,172	12	5	26	56
Property					
Aboriginal	1,028	--	--	5	95
Non-Aboriginal	12,015	--	1	5	94
Subtotal	13,043	--	1	5	94
Drugs					
Aboriginal	129	--	--	--	100
Non-Aboriginal	1,215	--	--	--	100
Subtotal	1,344	--	--	--	100
Other C.C.					
Aboriginal	405	--	--	5	92
Non-Aboriginal	3,431	1	1	10	88
Subtotal	3,836	1	1	9	89
Total	21,395	2	2	8	88

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (9%).

** The category "none indicated" includes strangers.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-5

Selected Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victim Characteristics*, Calgary, 1990

Characteristics	Total	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
		No.	Col. %	No.	Col. %
Total Population	4,624	276	100	4,348	100
Sex					
Male	2,389	85	31	2,304	53
Female	2,235	191	69	2,044	47
Total	4,624	276	100	4,348	100
Age					
< 15	833	37	13	796	18
15-24	1,619	85	31	1,534	35
25-34	1,259	108	39	1,151	26
35-44	557	33	12	524	12
45-54	219	--	--	210	5
55 +	137	--	--	133	3
Total	4,624	276	100	4,348	100
Marital Status					
Married	1,009	34	12	975	22
Common-law	280	47	17	233	5
Single	2,704	139	50	2,565	59
Divorced	120	--	--	114	3
Widowed	28	--	--	28	1
Unknown	483	50	18	433	10
Total	4,624	276	100	4,348	100

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (13%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-6**Location of Occurrence for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victims of Violent Crime*, Calgary, 1990**

Race	Total	District				
		1	2	3	4	6
		%	%	%	%	%
Aboriginal	270	42	26	10	14	8
Non-Aboriginal	4,317	23	15	18	26	18
Total	4,587	24	16	17	26	17

* Excludes cases where race and district are unknown (13%).

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-7**Location of Occurrence for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused*, Calgary, 1990**

Race	Total	District				
		1	2	3	4	6
		%	%	%	%	%
Aboriginal**	1,684	41	15	13	19	12
Non-Aboriginal	15,315	27	14	17	23	19
Total	16,999	29	14	17	23	18

* Excludes cases where race and district are unknown (11%).

** Based on incidents where there was at least one aboriginal or one non-aboriginal accused. These categories are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-8**Weapons Encountered by Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victims of Violent Crime*, Calgary, 1990**

Race	Total	Firearm	Knife	Other Weapon	No Weapon
		%	%	%	%
Aboriginal	276	--	14	11	75
Non-Aboriginal	4,348	3	8	11	77
Total	4,624	3	8	11	77

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (13%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-9**Alcohol/Drug Use of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Calgary, 1990**

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal			Total	Non-Aboriginal		
		Used	Not Used	Unknown		Used	Not Used	Unknown
		%	%	%		%	%	%
Violent	316	47	27	26	2,856	29	51	20
Property	1,028	30	50	20	12,015	7	67	26
Drugs	129	21	51	28	1,215	17	52	31
Other C.C.	405	37	44	19	3,431	23	59	18
Total	1,878	34	45	21	19,517	14	62	24

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (9%).

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 3-10**Alcohol/Drug Use of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victims of Violent Crime*, Calgary, 1990**

Race	Total	Used	Not Used	Unknown
		%	%	%
Aboriginal	276	43	47	10
Non-Aboriginal	4,348	14	78	8
Total	4,624	15	77	8

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (13%).

Source: Police Information Management System, Calgary Police Service.

Table 4-1**Proportion of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Regina, 1990/91**

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
		No.	%	No.	%
Violent	1,165	550	47	615	53
Property	5,531	2,326	42	3,205	58
Drugs	215	64	30	151	70
Other C.C.	1,127	508	45	619	55
Total	8,038	3,448	43	4,590	57

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (21%).

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

Table 4-2**Gender of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type* Regina, 1990/91**

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal		Total	Non-Aboriginal	
		Males	Females		Males	Females
		%	%		%	%
Violent	550	79	21	615	89	11
Property	2,326	75	25	3,205	81	19
Drugs	64	73	27	151	85	15
Other C.C.	508	62	38	619	81	19
Total	3,448	73	27	4,590	82	18

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (21%).

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

Table 4-3**Age of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type* Regina, 1990/91**

Offence Type	Total	< 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 +
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Violent							
Aboriginal	548	9	47	32	8	3	--
Non-Aboriginal	611	9	39	29	15	5	4
Subtotal	1,159	9	43	30	12	4	2
Property							
Aboriginal	2,319	19	54	20	5	1	1
Non-Aboriginal	3,199	13	60	14	7	4	2
Subtotal	5,518	16	57	17	6	3	2
Drugs							
Aboriginal	64	--	64	30	--	--	--
Non-Aboriginal	148	--	65	30	--	--	--
Subtotal	212	--	65	30	5	--	--
Other C.C.							
Aboriginal	508	13	55	25	6	--	--
Non-Aboriginal	619	4	45	27	14	7	3
Subtotal	1,127	8	49	26	10	4	2
Total	8,016	13	54	20	8	3	2

* Excludes cases where race and age are unknown (21%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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

Table 4-4
Selected Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victim Characteristics*, Regina, 1990/91

Characteristics	Total	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
		No.	Col. %	No.	Col. %
Total Population	1,630	508	100	1,122	100
Sex					
Male	749	165	32	584	52
Female	881	343	68	538	48
Total	1,630	508	100	1,122	100
Age					
< 15	359	119	23	240	21
15-24	595	180	35	415	37
25-34	345	138	27	207	18
35-44	172	45	9	127	11
45-54	69	12	2	57	5
55 +	87	12	2	75	7
Unknown	3	--	--	--	--
Total	1,630	508	100	1,122	100
Relationship to Accused					
Spouse/Ex-Spouse	273	124	24	149	13
Other Immediate Family	159	72	14	87	8
Extended Family	58	34	7	24	2
Friend/Business Relation	149	32	6	117	10
Casual Acquaintance	374	114	22	260	23
Stranger	454	61	12	393	35
Unknown	163	71	14	92	8
Total	1,630	508	100	1,122	100
Living with Accused					
Yes	311	140	28	171	15
No	1,199	301	59	898	80
Unknown	120	67	13	53	5
Total	1,630	508	100	1,122	100

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (2%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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

Table 4-5
Location of Incident for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Regina, 1990/91

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal		Total	Non-Aboriginal	
		Private/ Commercial	Non- Residential		Private/ Commercial	Non- Residential
		%	%		%	%
Violent	469	54	46	560	55	45
Property	1,663	29	71	2,411	22	78
Drugs	54	33	67	123	50	50
Other C.C.	467	25	75	557	39	61
Total	2,653	33	67	3,651	31	69

* Excludes cases where race and location are unknown (26%). These categories are not mutually exclusive.

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

Table 4-6**Most Serious Weapon Used in Violent Incidents by Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused*, Regina, 1990/91**

Race	Total	Firearm	Sharp Instrument	Blunt Instrument	Other Weapon	Physical Force	No Weapon
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Aboriginal	540	--	18	8	4	68	--
Non-Aboriginal	593	3	9	5	3	79	--
Total	1,133	3	13	7	3	74	--

* Excludes cases where race and weapon are unknown (6%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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

Table 4-7**Type of Weapon Encountered by Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victims of Violent Crime*, Regina, 1990/91**

Race	Total	Firearm	Sharp Instrument	Blunt Instrument	Other Weapon	Physical Force
		%	%	%	%	%
Aboriginal	456	--	13	8	6	72
Non-Aboriginal	1,060	2	8	4	3	84
Total	1,516	2	9	5	4	80

* Excludes cases where race and weapon are unknown (4%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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

Table 4-8**Injury Sustained by Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victims of Violent Crime*, Regina, 1990/91**

Race	Total	Physical Injury			
		None	Minor	Major	Fatal
		%	%	%	%
Aboriginal	473	31	52	17	--
Non-Aboriginal	1,058	47	46	6	--
Total	1,531	42	48	9	--

* Excludes cases where race and injury are unknown (8%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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

Table 4-9**Alcohol/Drug Use of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused Charged with Violent Offences*, Regina, 1990/91**

Race	Total	Used	Not Used	Unknown
		%	%	%
Aboriginal	550	38	53	9
Non-Aboriginal	615	23	67	9
Total	1,165	30	60	9

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (4%).

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

Table 4-10**Alcohol/Drug Use of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Victims of Violent Crime*, Regina, 1990/91**

Race	Total	Used	Not Used	Unknown
		%	%	%
Aboriginal	508	30	59	11
Non-Aboriginal	1,122	11	80	9
Total	1,630	17	73	9

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (2%).

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

Table 5-1**Proportion of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Saskatoon, 1990**

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
		No.	%	No.	%
Violent	496	180	36	316	64
Property	1,355	394	29	961	71
Drugs	59	18	31	41	69
Other C.C.	989	480	49	509	51
Total	2,899	1,072	37	1,827	63

* Excludes cases where race is unknown (14%).

Source: Saskatoon Information Management System, Saskatoon Police Service.

Table 5-2**Gender of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Saskatoon, 1990**

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal		Total	Non-Aboriginal	
		Males	Females		Males	Females
		%	%		%	%
Violent	179	75	25	314	84	16
Property	391	63	37	952	69	31
Drugs	18	72	--	41	85	--
Other C.C.	477	64	36	506	87	13
Total	1,065	66	34	1,813	77	23

* Excludes cases where race and gender are unknown (15%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Saskatoon Information Management System, Saskatoon Police Service.

Table 5-3**Age of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Saskatoon, 1990**

Offence Type	Total	< 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 +
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Violent							
Aboriginal	180	--	39	42	8	--	--
Non-Aboriginal	316	6	36	34	13	8	--
Subtotal	496	6	37	37	11	6	2
Property							
Aboriginal	394	9	49	26	10	3	--
Non-Aboriginal	960	4	48	21	14	7	6
Subtotal	1,354	5	48	23	13	6	5
Drugs							
Aboriginal	18	--	--	--	--	--	--
Non-Aboriginal	41	--	44	49	--	--	--
Subtotal	59	--	44	46	--	--	--
Other C.C.							
Aboriginal	480	5	53	29	9	3	--
Non-Aboriginal	509	--	50	28	11	5	3
Subtotal	989	4	51	29	10	4	2
Total	2,898	5	47	28	12	5	3

* Excludes cases where race and age are unknown (14%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Saskatoon Information Management System, Saskatoon Police Service.

Table 5-4

Marital Status of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Accused by Offence Type*, Saskatoon, 1990

Offence Type	Total	Aboriginal				Total	Non-Aboriginal			
		Divorced	Married/ Common-law	Single	Child/ Youth		Divorced	Married/ Common-law	Single	Child/ Youth
		%	%	%	%		%	%	%	%
Violent	89	--	37	51	--	107	--	36	46	12
Property	213	--	19	58	21	366	3	26	53	18
Drugs	6	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	65	--
Other C.C.	245	--	22	62	13	213	--	19	66	12
Total	553	2	23	59	16	706	3	26	56	15

* Excludes cases with unknown race and marital status. (37%).

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Saskatoon Information Management System, Saskatoon Police Service.

Appendix B – Glossary

Geographic Terminology

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) refers to a very large urbanized core, together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. The main labour market area of an urban area of at least 100,000 population.

Census Subdivision (CSD) is a general term applying to municipalities, Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories.

Urban areas refer to all areas that are policed by a full-time municipal police force.

Crime Terminology

Aboriginal refers to whether the victim or accused is aboriginal, non-aboriginal or unknown. This variable is based on the race of the victim or accused as derived through self report or police observation. The categories include: Calgary – Native Indian; Regina – Aboriginal Peoples; Saskatoon – North American Aboriginal. Although the category descriptions used by the three police forces differ, in operational terms these categories are similar in that they encompass all aboriginal persons, including North American Indian, Métis, Inuit, mixed aboriginal ancestry, or aboriginal and non-aboriginal ancestry.

Age refers to information reported by the police regarding the date of birth (year, month, day) of the accused and the victim. If exact information was not available, apparent age (e.g., 30 years old) was recorded. The Calgary PIMS data also included age ranges (e.g., 15-20 years old). For analysis purposes, the youngest age from the age range was used. From these data, individuals were classified into age groups, consisting of < 15, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55 + and unknown categories.

Alcohol/drug use refers to the ingestion of alcohol and/or drugs to the extent of being impaired. In Regina, this variable was captured only for victims of violent crime and accused involved in violent crime whereas in Calgary this variable was captured for victims violent crime and all accused. This variable was not available for the Saskatoon database.

Crime rate was based on the number of offences per 100,000 estimated total population.

Gender includes male, female and unknown gender.

Location of Incident refers to the location in the city where the offence occurred for the Calgary and Saskatoon databases. In Calgary this refers to the five police districts (1 through 4 and 6); whereas in Saskatoon this refers to the police zones. In Regina, this refers to the type of place where the incident occurred and includes:

1. **private/commercial residences** – all structures owned or rented where overnight accommodation is the main purpose of the structure, such as single homes, dwelling units, and commercial dwelling units; and
2. **non-residential properties** – all places and/or properties where the public has general access to the structure or property, such as commercial/corporate places, parking lots, schools, public institutions, public transportation and connected facilities, streets, and open areas.

Marital status: based on the relationship that the accused had with the victim at the time the offence occurred. For the Calgary database this includes common-law, divorced, married, single, widowed and unknown. For the Saskatoon database this includes all of the above except widowed, but also includes child/youth. This variable was not available for the Regina database. A similar variable is available, however (see relationship).

Offences include:

1. **Violent offences** – includes homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, sexual offences (non-assault), abduction, and robbery. With the exception of robbery, the number of offences which are recorded is equal to the number of victims in the incident. This means that if an individual commits a violent offence against two different individuals then two offences are recorded, but if two individuals commit a violent offence against one person only one offence is recorded. In the case of robbery, the incident is counted rather than the victim;
2. **Property offences** – includes breaking and entering, theft over \$1,000, theft \$1,000 and under, have stolen goods, and fraud, where the number of offences recorded equals the number of separate incidents;
3. **Drug offences** – includes heroin, cocaine, cannabis, other drugs, controlled drugs, restricted drugs, where the number of offences recorded equals the number of separate incidents; and
4. **Other criminal code offences** – includes prostitution, gaming and betting, offensive weapons, disturbing the peace, bail violations, failure to appear and other criminal code offences, where the number of offences recorded equals the number of separate incidents.

In this report all offences refer to **actual offences** which are obtained when "unfounded" offences are subtracted from the number of reported offences. **Identified accused offences** refer to offences where an accused has been identified or charged with an offence and are based on "actual" offences.

When more than one offence is reported for a single incident, the **most serious offence** was used in this report. For instance, if a violent offence and a property offence occur within the same incident, only the violent offence is used. Similarly, if a break and enter offence and a theft offence occurred within the same incident, only the break and enter offence was used.

Relationship refers to the nature of the relationship between a victim and an accused. For the Calgary database, this included spouse (including common-law relationships), member of household and acquaintances. Member of household means the individuals reside under the same roof, being a relative is irrelevant. If there is no relationship or if the relationship is unknown, "no identified relationship" was coded. For the Regina database, this includes:

1. **Spouse/ex-spouse** – accused is the husband or wife (or former) of the victim through marriage or common-law;
2. **Parent** – accused is natural father or mother of the victim, or the legal guardian with legal custody and care of the child;
3. **Child** – accused is the natural offspring of the victim or the victim has the legal care and custody of the child;
4. **Other family** – accused is other immediate family (such as the natural brother or sister of the victim or step, half, foster or adopted brother or sister) or extended family (all others related to the victim either by blood or by marriage);
5. **Friend** – accused has a long-term or close (or intimate) relationship with the victim;
6. **Business relationship** – accused has a relationship with the victim in which the workplace or business involved is the primary source of contact;
7. **Casual acquaintance** – social relationship between the accused and victim is neither long-term nor close;
8. **Stranger** – accused is not known to the victim in any way but has been observed; and,
9. **Unknown** – the identity of the accused is not known or the relationship cannot be established.

A second field of this data element in the Regina database is whether or not the accused and victim are "presently living together".

This variable was not available for the Saskatoon and Calgary databases. A similar variable is available, however (see marital status).

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey includes:

1. **Aggregate UCR survey** – aggregate-based survey that records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences and the number of actual offences (excluding unfounded), the number of offences cleared by charge, and gender and age of persons charged. It does not provide victim characteristics; and,
2. **Incident-based UCR survey** – incident-based microdata survey that captures information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents.

Weapon refers to anything used or intended for use in causing or threatening death or injury, whether designed for such purposes or not. For the Regina database, only the **weapon causing injury** during the commission of a criminal incident involving a violent offence was recorded. This element includes:

1. **Firearms** – includes fully automatic firearms, sawed-off rifles and shotguns, handguns, hunting rifles and shotguns, and "other" firearms (e.g., starters pistol, BB gun);
2. **Sharp Instruments** – includes knives (e.g., kitchen knives, pocket knives, switchblades) and any article other than a knife whose action would cut or pierce flesh (e.g., hatchet, razor blade, bow and arrow, sword, crossbow);
3. **Blunt Instruments** – includes any tool or article that is used to cause physical injury or death by hitting or bludgeoning (e.g., baseball bat, fireplace poker, brick);
4. **"Other"** – includes any object used as a weapon which is not stated above (e.g., poison, motor vehicle); and,
5. **Physical Force** – includes the use of one's own body strength and/or any action that is intended to cause bodily injury or death (e.g., choking, pushing, punching).

This particular data element was not available for the Saskatoon database.

Census Terminology

Aboriginal origin refers to those individuals that indicated that they were of aboriginal ancestry. Major categories include North American Indian, Métis, Inuit, mixed aboriginal ancestry, or aboriginal and non-aboriginal ancestry. This information was collected from 20% of all private households in Canada. Institutional and foreign residents are not included in this sample.

Age refers to the age at last birthday (as of the census reference data, June 3, 1986). This variable was derived from the date of birth question which asks day, month and year of birth. Persons who were unable to give the exact date of birth were asked to give the best possible estimate.

Average employment income refers to the weighted mean total income of individuals 15 years of age and over who reported employment income for 1985. Average employment income is calculated from unrounded data by dividing the aggregate employment income of a specified group of individuals (e.g., males, 45-54 years of age) by the number of individuals with employment income in that group.

Education refers to the highest grade or year of elementary or secondary school attended, or the highest year of university or other non-university completed. Only reported for the population 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

Gender refers to the sex of the respondent.

Institutional resident refers to a resident of an "institutional" collective dwelling, other than staff members and their families. Institutional collective dwellings include orphanages, and children's homes, special care homes and institutions for the elderly and chronically ill, hospitals, psychiatric institutions, treatment centres and institutions for the physically handicapped, correctional and penal institutions, young offenders facilities and jails. Institutional data are not included in the reported data.

Labour force participation rate refers to the total labour force (persons who were either employed or unemployed during the week prior to enumeration) as a percentage of total population 15 years and over (excluding institutional residents). Unemployed persons refers to persons who, during the week prior to enumeration: a) were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; or, b) had been on lay-off and expected to return to their jobs; or c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

Sample data (Form 2B) refers to the 20% sample used in the 1986 Census. Data were collected either on a 100% basis (i.e., for all households) or on a sample basis (i.e., from a random sample of households) with data weighted to provide estimates of the entire population. The information in this report was collected *on a 20% sample* basis and weighted up to compensate for sampling. Note that institutional residents are not included in the 20% sample.

Unemployment rate refers to the unemployed labour force (in the reference week of the 1986 Census of Population) expressed as a percentage of the total labour force. Data are available for persons 15 years of age and over, excluding institutional residents.

Appendix C – Calculation of Aboriginal Population Estimates

Aboriginal population estimates for 1990 were calculated for the three cities in question using projections from their provincial off-reserve regular registered Indian population. This was accomplished by using provincial projections from the report entitled Population Projections of Registered Indians: 1986-2011 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990b). These estimates refer to increases in the off-reserve regular registered Indian population only, not to projected increases in the Bill C-31 Indian population. The term "regular Indian" refers to any person who is considered an Indian under the 1951 Indian Act and whose name is recorded in the Register maintained by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The term "Bill C-31 Indian" refers to any person who had Indian status and membership rights restored due to Bill C-31. In June 1985, amendments to the Indian Act (or Bill C-31) were passed by Parliament restoring Indian status and membership rights to individuals (and their children) who had lost them because of discriminatory clauses in the Indian Act. Increases due to Bill C-31 Indians were not used in these estimates because it was assumed that most Bill C-31 Indians would already have self identified themselves as aboriginal in the Census of the Population. Therefore, the projected increases refer to the extent that each city's aboriginal population would increase between 1986 and 1990.

Projections from the INAC report were developed by a component approach, using mainly data on population, births and deaths from the Indian Register, which provides the historical and most up-to-date demographic data on registered Indians. Projections were based on the estimated population, as of December 31, 1986 (adjusted for the late reporting of vital events). In the current report, only 1990 population projections were used.

The estimates assume a medium growth scenario for the city wherein mortality decreases at a moderate pace and fertility declines slowly. It also assumes that interregional migration will have a negligible effect upon population estimates. In addition, estimates for the cities are based on increases expected for the provinces. These projections represent the future trend that this population is likely to follow if the underlying assumptions on population growth, namely fertility, mortality and migration, and those on on and off-reserve proportions, prove to be correct. It should also be noted that aboriginal population growth within the city may differ from the growth anticipated for the off-reserve registered Indian population.

The following calculations were used to calculate the 1990 aboriginal population for Regina and Saskatoon:

Year	Saskatchewan	% Increase	Regina	Saskatoon
1986	20,379	---	8,290	9,405
1987	21,066	3.4	8,572	9,725
1988	21,772	3.4	8,863	10,055
1989	22,499	3.3	9,156	10,387
1990	23,248	3.3	9,451	10,722

The following calculations were used to calculate the 1990 aboriginal population for Calgary:

Year	Alberta	% Increase	Calgary
1986	11,780	---	14,345
1987	12,120	2.9	14,761
1988	12,471	2.9	15,189
1989	12,829	2.9	15,630
1990	13,191	2.8	16,066

The accuracy of any projection depends on the reliability of the data on the base population, the time series on births, deaths and migration, and the degree to which the underlying assumptions on each component represent the actual trends. The population size of the geographic area and the length of the projections have also direct bearing on the reliability of the projections. The quality of the Indian projections presented is affected by the twin problems of poor quality data and small size of the population.

If the total off-reserve registered Indian population for each province was used instead of the off-reserve regular registered Indian population, the aboriginal populations for each city would have been considerably higher and consequently the crime rates would have been lower. Rather than a 14% increase in the aboriginal population between 1986 and 1990 for Regina and Saskatoon, if the total off-reserve registered Indian population increase were used, the aboriginal population would have increased 44%. In Calgary, rather than a 12% increase, the aboriginal population would have increased 79%. Although aboriginal crime rates would still be significantly higher than non-aboriginal rates, the difference between the two would have been less. It was felt, however, that the off-reserve regular registered Indian population increases more accurately reflected the growth experienced between 1986 and 1990 of aboriginal persons in these three cities.

Since the data taken from the Register were not initially collected for statistical purposes, they are subject to various limitations such as late reporting and under-reporting of events, coding and editing errors, misclassifications, etc. Of these, the most serious were the late reporting and the possible under-reporting of vital events. The limitations of the data on births and deaths due to these factors will have an impact on the time series used for developing the component assumptions, and the base population by age and sex. The data were adjusted to remove, as much as possible, the bias caused by late reporting and under-reporting. Even after adjustment, the data showed some anomalies which could not be corrected in the absence of any additional supporting information. There is also an implicit assumption that the level and pattern of late reporting and under-reporting of vital events observed in the past will prevail over the projection period which may, or may not, be true.

In addition to births, deaths and migration, the Indian population universe is subject to inflows and outflows due to events such as inter-ethnic marriages, enfranchisements, adoptions and recoveries of status, some of which decrease the population while others add to it. Not all of these movements could be taken into account in the adjustment of the base data, nor in the development of the assumptions.

The application of the projection model and the development of assumptions on each component involved many related parameters and assumptions. These include assumptions on the mean and modal ages of fertility, the total fertility rate, life expectancy, the convergency between Indian fertility and mortality trends and those for the total Canadian population and the on and off-reserve proportions.

The projections for on and off-reserve population are less reliable than national or regional projections. They are prepared by a ratio method. For the regular Indians, it was assumed that the ratios of the population of the smaller area to that of the corresponding larger area would remain constant for the projection period. Because of the arbitrary nature of the "constant ratio" assumption and the uncertainty about the intention of the Bill C-31 population to live on reserve, these projections should be used with caution.

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