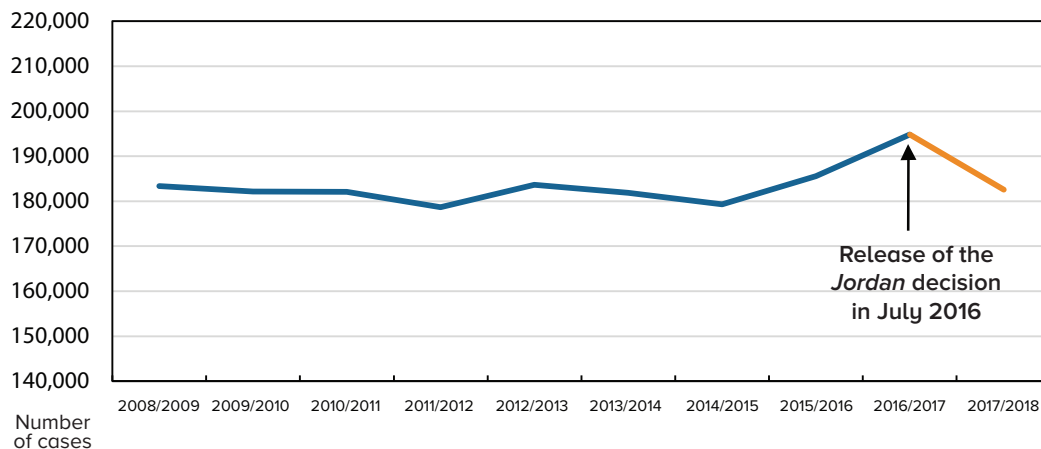




# ADULT CRIMINAL COURTS IN CANADA:

## Workload and case processing indicators

**Caseload** in adult criminal courts has **decreased** since the *Jordan*<sup>1</sup> decision



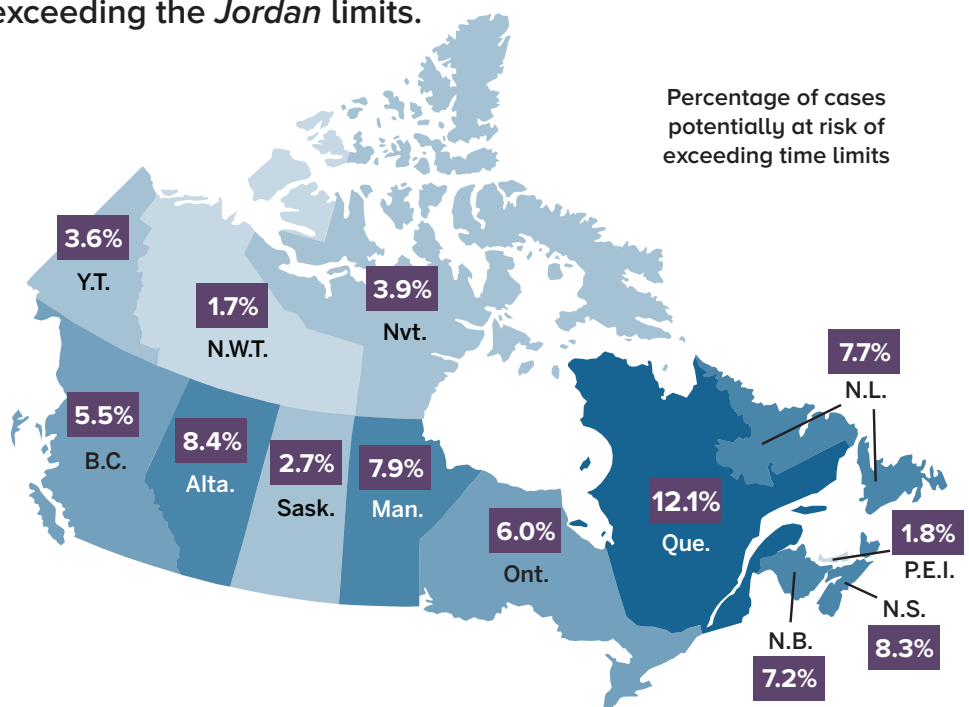
In 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada set out new time limits for completing court cases in the *Jordan* decision.

In 2017/2018, **84%** of cases were less than one year old, well below *Jordan* time limits.

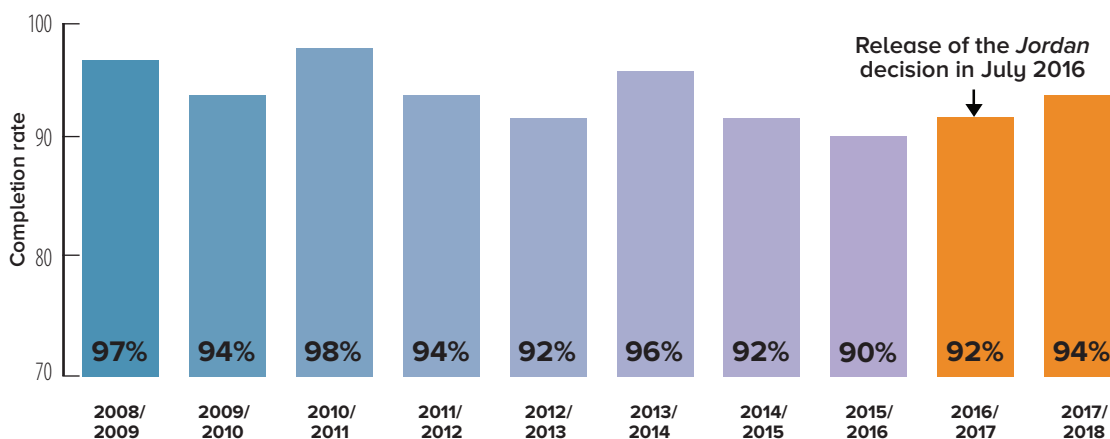
In 2017/2018, the median time to complete an adult criminal case was **121 days**, and 6.4% of cases were at risk of exceeding the *Jordan* limits.

Cases involving **homicide** took the most time to complete while cases of **disturbing the peace** took the least.

Category	Days
Homicide	286 days
Disturbing the peace	63 days



**Case completion** rates **increased** following the *Jordan* decision



The **Backlog Index** helps measure a court's ability to keep up with its incoming caseload. Court **backlog** peaked in 2015/2016 and began to **fall** after the *Jordan* decision.

1. In July 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) released the *R. v. Jordan* decision. Under the new *Jordan* framework, the Supreme Court set out a presumptive ceiling beyond which delays are presumed to be unreasonable. This ceiling- between the date of charge and the actual or anticipated end of trial- is 18 months for cases tried in provincial court, and 30 months for cases tried in superior court. The 30 month ceiling also applies to cases tried in provincial court after a preliminary inquiry. Cases that exceed the presumptive ceiling are considered unreasonable, and a stay of proceedings may result. Stays are a specific type of stoppage to court proceedings directed by either the Crown or a judge.

**Note:** Canada excluding Quebec. Data for Quebec are not available on the Integrated Criminal Court Survey Workload Time Series Database until the 2015/2016 reference period.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey Workload Time Series Database, 2017/2018.

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