



State of the Criminal Justice System: A Focus on Youth

2024 | Research and Statistics Division



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

Canada

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State of the Criminal Justice System

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Minister's Message

I am very pleased to present the 4th State of the Criminal Justice System Report (2024). These reports are a key part of our ongoing commitment to review and inform the public on the performance of Canada's criminal justice system. They also ensure that any changes to our justice system are informed by evidence to better serve all Canadians.

This year's State of the Criminal Justice System Report focuses on the youth criminal justice system, a distinct justice system governed by the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA). The YCJA recognizes that youth are still maturing, and therefore have unique needs, rights and vulnerabilities.

April 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the YCJA. Over the past two decades under this Act, we have seen a significant decrease in the police-reported youth crime rate, an increased use of diversion and community-based responses, and a reduction in the use of detention and custody for youth. We've made important investments, including in Budget 2021, when we increased the ongoing funding available to the provinces and territories through the Youth Justice Services Funding Program from \$142 million to \$185 million annually.

Youth also come into contact with the youth criminal justice system as victims, not just as offenders. These young people, like all victims and survivors of crime, deserve to feel empowered and protected throughout the justice process. As part of this, we have tabled the *Online Harms Act*, which will create stronger protections for kids online.

We know that not all youth have benefited from the positive changes brought about by the YCJA; this is clear in the ongoing unfair treatment of Indigenous and Black youth in Canada. That is why the Government of Canada remains committed to addressing systemic racism within the adult and youth criminal justice systems. Our efforts include the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action as well as the National Action Plan in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice. We passed Bill C-5, which amended the *Criminal Code* and repealed some mandatory minimum penalties and will help racialized youth stay out of the criminal justice system. What's more, we are working in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous and provincial and territorial partners to develop an Indigenous Justice Strategy. We are also working with Black communities across the country to develop Canada's Black Justice Strategy.

Youth interact with other social systems, such as child welfare, which can affect their experiences with the youth criminal justice system. When it comes to protecting children and youth in Canada and improving their life outcomes, we need a whole-of-society approach. This includes the collective efforts of federal, provincial and territorial partners and stakeholders, in coordination with various social systems.



Change is overdue. We have more work to do to transform our justice systems to better meet the needs of all Canadians. That is why we continue to monitor their performance. We need to know if Canada's youth and adult criminal justice systems are achieving their objectives and where we can improve. These efforts are vital to maintaining strong, equitable and effective justice systems that are people-centred, compassionate, and accessible to everyone.

The Honourable Arif Virani

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Acknowledgements

The Department of Justice Canada would like to thank its federal government partners whose data inform the State of the Criminal Justice System Initiative, including the Correctional Service of Canada, the Office of the Correctional Investigator, the Parole Board of Canada, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics at Statistics Canada and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Restorative Justice. Special thanks to various Justice Canada colleagues who also supported this project through continued data contributions.

Appreciation is given to all partners who shared their expertise and guidance by reviewing this report and other related materials, including the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat at Employment and Social Development Canada, the Youth Secretariat at Canadian Heritage, the Correctional Service of Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Public Safety Canada, Statistics Canada, the Coordinated Committee of Senior Officials–Youth Justice, Justice colleagues, as well as a number of subject matter experts.

Key Findings

The State of the Criminal Justice System (SOCJS) is a national performance monitoring framework for Canada's criminal justice system (CJS). The data from the framework are analysed and reported periodically in a SOCJS report to provide an assessment of the CJS' performance across key indicators. This edition of the SOCJS report focuses on analyzing the performance of the youth criminal justice system and its impact on youth victims, survivors, accused and offenders, from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.

According to the State of the Criminal Justice System's [Youth-Adapted Framework](#), the youth criminal justice system (CJS) is showing improvement in 7 of the 32 indicators, while 5 indicators remained stable and 3 indicators showed signs of decline. For the remaining 17 indicators, the data were too limited to establish a trend (e.g., only one year of data was available during the time period covering the report, or data are not comparable across years).

Below is a summary of the performance of the CJS by each of the nine expected outcomes in the Youth-Adapted Framework. Note that the reporting timeframe for each indicator varies based on availability of data, with some indicators having less than five years of data. For this reason, specific timeframes are indicated for each indicator.

Expected outcome 1: Canadian youth are safe and feel safe.

- In 2019, most Canadian youth were satisfied with their personal safety from crime.
- Up until 2021, police-reported youth crime had been consistently decreasing since 2006 (shortly after the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*), primarily due to the large decrease in [property crime](#). In 2022, the police-reported youth crime rate saw an increase. Despite this increase, the police-reported youth crime rate remains lower than pre-pandemic levels.
- In 2019, self-reported violent victimization was higher among youth aged 15 to 17 years old compared with those aged 35 to 39 years old, but similar to other age groups. Prevalence of victimization, especially violent victimization, was also higher among female youth than male youth.
- In 2019, over two in five Canadians aged 15 and older self-reported childhood maltreatment, such as having witnessed family violence and experienced physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15. These experiences are consistently linked to increased risks of subsequent victimization.

Expected outcome 2: The youth criminal justice system is fair and accessible.

- In 2022, half of Canadians were moderately confident or confident that the youth CJS is fair to all people. Certain groups reported lower confidence when compared with others, including women when compared with men, Indigenous peoples when compared with White people.
- Close to two-thirds of Canadians reported being moderately confident or confident that the youth CJS is accessible to all people. Indigenous peoples and Black persons reported less confidence that the youth CJS is accessible to all people compared with White people. Women also reported less confidence in this indicator compared with men. Younger Canadians (aged 18 to 44 years) reported lower confidence compared with those aged 45 and older.

- Of all youth held in provincial and territorial detention between 2017/2018 and 2021/2022, over half were held in [pre-trial detention](#). The number of youth admitted to pre-trial detention generally decreased over the five-year period, while their percentage of all youth in detention (including sentenced custody) generally remained stable, with the exception of a small increase in 2021/2022.
- The number of youth clients served by the Indigenous Courtwork Program¹ decreased from 2017/2018 to 2019/2020.
- The percentage of approved youth criminal legal aid applications has remained high over the five-year period as a result of broad eligibility criteria.

Expected outcome 3: Canadians understand the role of and express confidence in the youth criminal justice system.

- In 2022, Canadians, irrespective of gender, expressed a lack of awareness of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* — the legislation that governs the youth CJS. This however, varied across identity group. Compared with White people:
 - Indigenous peoples and Black persons were more likely to report being aware of the YCJA.
 - Latinx groups were more likely to report being not aware of the YCJA.
- In 2019, the majority of youth aged 15 to 17 expressed confidence in the police and the courts. Nevertheless, the vast majority of those who reported being victims did not report the incident to the police. A higher percentage of female youth reported low confidence in the criminal courts when compared with male youth.
- When asked whether the prison system is doing a good job at helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens, a large percentage of youth reported being unaware.

Expected outcome 4: The youth criminal justice system operates efficiently.

- From 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, criminal court cases took increasingly longer to complete. Male youth cases took approximately three weeks longer to complete than female youth cases, with the exception of cases involving [administration of justice offences](#) (AOJO), where female youth cases generally took longer to complete.
- Over this same time period, the number of cases in youth courts in which the most serious offence in the case was an AOJO decreased. However, the percentage made up by these cases (of all cases in youth courts) remained stable during this time.

Expected outcome 5: The youth criminal justice system promotes and supports diversion to community-based resolutions.

- The youth incarceration rate consistently decreased nearly by half from 2017/2018 and 2021/2022.
- When looking at all youth court cases sentenced, the percentage of youth court cases receiving a non-custodial sentence increased during the same period.
- The number of youth referrals to an Indigenous justice program slightly increased between 2017/2018 and 2019/2020.

- Data on the annual number of referrals and participants to restorative justice programs are now available for a first year in 2019. An assessment of trends will be possible when further data are reported.

Expected outcome 6: The youth criminal justice system provides youth in the correctional system with services and supports to rehabilitate them and integrate them back into the community.

- The use of community supervision increased from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.
- Over the same period, the Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision (IRCS) program² continued to successfully fund treatment for all eligible cases.

Expected outcome 7: The youth criminal justice system respects victims' and survivors' rights and addresses their needs.

- Data on youth victims and survivors' satisfaction are too unreliable to report. Looking at a broader cohort of people aged 15 to 34 years old, over half reported being satisfied with the actions taken by police.

Expected outcome 8: Reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the youth criminal justice system.

- Indigenous youth continued to be overrepresented in the CJS as victims and survivors of crime, victims and accused of homicide, and within the correctional system.
- Data on violent victimization rates of Indigenous youth are too unreliable to publish. Looking at a broader age group, Indigenous people aged 15 to 34 reported a similar rate of violent victimization as non-Indigenous people in the same age group in 2019.
- In 2022, Indigenous youth were overrepresented as victims and accused of police-reported homicide, making up 2 and 6 times their representation in the Canadian youth population, respectively.
- The percentage of Indigenous youth among the correctional services population remained rather stable over the five-year period, but continues to be 5 times higher than that in the Canadian youth population. When looking specifically at youth admitted to custody, the percentage of Indigenous youth is 6 times higher than that of the Canadian youth population.
- Between 2017/2018 and 2021/2022, the overrepresentation of Indigenous girls in correctional services continued to be more pronounced than that of Indigenous boys (approximately 6 and 5 times their respective representation in the Canadian youth population), and even more so among custodial admissions (7 and 5.5 times their respective representation in the Canadian youth population).

Expected outcome 9: Reducing the overrepresentation of Black people in the youth criminal justice system.

- Data are too limited to assess national trends in the overrepresentation of Black youth in the criminal justice system, including their self-reported experiences of violent victimization.
- Available data for three provincial jurisdictions show that the overrepresentation of Black youth among the provincial/territorial correctional population has remained stable between 2019/2020

and 2021/2022 (about 2 times their representation in the Canadian youth population); levels of overrepresentation are more pronounced among Black male youth than Black female youth, and more pronounced among those admitted to custody than those admitted to community supervision.

1 Introduction

The year 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA). This Act governs Canada's youth criminal justice system (CJS) and applies to youth, aged 12 to 17, who have, or are alleged to have committed a criminal offence. The Act reinforces the fundamental differences between the youth CJS and the adult CJS, both in terms of principles and processes. The youth CJS considers youth's lower level of maturity and provides enhanced procedural protections. It also places a greater emphasis on diversion and out-of-court responses, where appropriate, to allow early and effective intervention and to provide community-based responses to youth crime, while avoiding the negative effects of custody. Since coming into force, the YCJA has provided a framework for a fairer and more effective treatment for youth involved in the system, such as increased out-of-court responses and lower youth incarceration rates.

Using the [State of the Criminal Justice System \(SOCJS\) Youth-Adapted Framework](#), this edition of the SOCJS report focuses on the performance of the youth CJS from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.³ It provides a trend-analysis of available data for all 32 performance indicators across 9 youth-adapted expected outcomes. For information on the YCJA and the various experiences of youth with the CJS, see the [SOCJS Dashboard page on Evolution of Canada's YCJA](#).

1.1 Background

In 2019, Justice Canada launched the first national performance monitoring framework for Canada's criminal justice system (CJS). The State of the Criminal Justice System Framework ("the Framework"), which was developed through extensive research and consultation,⁴ identifies nine goals (i.e., expected outcomes) for the Canadian CJS, measured by key performance indicators that draw upon data from various CJS partners and stakeholders (click [here](#) for more details). The information from the Framework is presented through a State of the Criminal Justice System (SOCJS) [report](#)⁵ and an online [Dashboard](#).

At the time, most Framework indicators were reflective of the experiences of adults in the police, court and correctional systems, and were based on legislation relevant to the adult population. The youth CJS is fundamentally different from the adult system, both in terms of population group and process. As a result, the Framework did not comprehensively reflect the impact of the CJS on youth.

To address this gap, the Research and Statistics Division at Justice Canada adapted the SOCJS Framework to a youth-specific context (i.e., individuals between the ages of 12 to 17 years). The adapted Framework was informed by consultations with experts from Justice Canada and other federal departments such as the Correctional Service of Canada, the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat and the Youth Secretariat at Canadian Heritage, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Statistics Canada, as well as provincial and territorial governments through the Coordinated Committee of Senior Officials – Youth Justice.⁶ Section 2 below provides an overview of the Framework, listing all nine adapted expected outcomes and associated indicators. To complement the SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework, a [population-based theme on Youth on the SOCJS Dashboard](#) was developed, which provides an overview of youth experiences with the CJS as victims, survivors, accused and offenders.

1.2 Limitations

Canada's youth and adult CJS are designed to ensure public safety by protecting Canadians from those who violate the law, and by holding these individuals accountable while also providing them support for rehabilitation. The CJS consists of several interrelated systems designed to work along a continuum; police, courts and corrections work together within a broader social system with the goal of delivering fair and equitable justice and balance the needs of victims, survivors, accused, offenders, and communities. While the laws regulating the CJS are the same across Canada, the administration of the systems differs across the provinces and territories. The purpose of the Framework is to provide a national portrait of Canada's CJS (where possible), and these indicators may not reflect some of the differences in processes and practices across the country. In addition, for some indicators, such as those with information on Indigenous and [racialized](#) identity, data may only be available for certain jurisdictions (i.e., national estimates are not available).

While the focus of this report is on youth aged 12 to 17, some indicators, such as those capturing self-reported experiences of victimization, only present data on the experiences of youth aged 15 to 17 years old. This data gap is intrinsically linked with the challenges of surveying a vulnerable population such as youth. Where counts are too low, indicators may include young adults up to the age of 34.

The report assesses the performance of the CJS based on the indicators included in the Framework. There exist other relevant indicators that can provide further information on the performance of the system. Where appropriate, additional contextual information is included in the report. Further, where available, new indicators are considered for inclusion in the Framework.⁷

When interpreting the information presented in this report, it is important to consider the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the CJS and the people in contact with it. For example, in 2019/2020, public health measures were put in place, which temporarily closed, postponed and/or restricted Canadian court proceedings. In 2021/2022, the courts continued to face pandemic-related challenges, along with increasing court backlog and delays.⁸ The pandemic also had an impact on trends in criminal activities, including the number and types of crimes reported, and brought temporary changes to incarceration practices.⁹ For an in-depth analysis of the performance of the CJS during the first two years of the pandemic, see the [State of the Criminal Justice System's Impact of COVID-19 on the Criminal Justice System](#).

Finally, it is important to understand that many factors contribute to the experiences of youth within the CJS, such as their age, [gender](#),¹⁰ [sexual orientation](#), Indigenous identity, [ethno-cultural background](#), family type and living arrangements, family socio-economic status, immigrant status, disability, geography, mental health, and contact with other social systems like the child welfare system. These different characteristics intersect and overlap to create unique and different lived experiences. [Structural inequalities](#) and [systemic discrimination](#) also play a role in shaping the experiences and treatment of youth within the CJS. Where feasible, intersectional data analyses are presented. However, some information may not be collected or may not be available due to the low counts of youth involved in the CJS.¹¹ For more information, see the SOCJS Dashboard's [Gender-Based Analysis Plus page](#) and [Youth Theme](#), including the pages on [Indigenous Youth](#) and [Black Youth](#).

2 SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework

An overview of the SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework's expected outcomes and indicators are outlined below. For more detailed information on the indicators and for additional disaggregated data, please see the [SOCJS Dashboard's Youth Theme](#). For an overview of the SOCJS Adult Framework's expected outcomes and indicators, see [Annex IV](#) or the [SOCJS Dashboard](#).

Expected outcome 1: Canadian youth are safe and feel safe.

Indicators:

- Police-reported youth crime
- Police-reported youth crime severity
- Self-reported victimization among youth
- Self-reported physical and sexual abuse during childhood
- Witnessing family violence during childhood
- Satisfaction with personal safety from crime among youth

Expected outcome 2: The youth criminal justice system is fair and accessible.

Indicators:

- Public perception that the youth criminal justice system is fair to all people
- Public perception that the youth criminal justice system is accessible to all people
- Approved youth criminal legal aid applications
- Youth clients served by the Indigenous Courtwork Program
- Pre-trial detention

Expected outcome 3: Canadians understand the role of and express confidence in the youth criminal justice system.

Indicators:

- Public awareness of the role of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
- Youth confidence in the police
- Youth confidence in the criminal courts
- Youth perception of the prison system
- Youth victimization incidents reported to the police

Expected outcome 4: The youth criminal justice system operates efficiently.

Indicators:

- Administration of justice offences in youth courts
- Youth case completion time

Expected outcome 5: The youth criminal justice system promotes and supports diversion to community-based resolutions.

Indicators:

- Youth incarceration rate
- Youth court cases that received a custodial sentence
- Referrals to a restorative justice program
- Victims and offenders accepted into a restorative justice process
- Youth referrals to an Indigenous Justice Program

Expected outcome 6: The youth criminal justice system provides youth in the correctional system with services and supports to rehabilitate them and integrate them back into the community.

Indicators:

- Admissions of youth to provincial and territorial community supervision
- Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision youth cases receiving specialized treatment

Expected outcome 7: The youth criminal justice system respects victims' and survivors' rights and addresses their needs.

Indicators:

- Youth victim satisfaction with the actions taken by police

Expected outcome 8: Reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the youth criminal justice system.

Indicators:

- Self-reported violent victimization among Indigenous youth
- Children and youth police-reported homicide victims identified as Indigenous
- Youth police-reported homicide accused identified as Indigenous
- Admissions of Indigenous youth to provincial/territorial correctional services

Expected outcome 9: Reducing the overrepresentation of Black people in the youth criminal justice system.

Indicators:

- Self-reported violent victimization among Black youth
- Admissions of Black youth to provincial/territorial correctional services

3 Results by Expected Outcome

The following section presents the performance of the youth CJS based on the indicators identified in the [SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework](#) (hereafter referred to as Framework data) and looks at five-year trends, when possible, between 2017/2018 and 2021/2022. For longer historical trends, see [Annex III](#). For a list of definitions, see [Annex II](#).

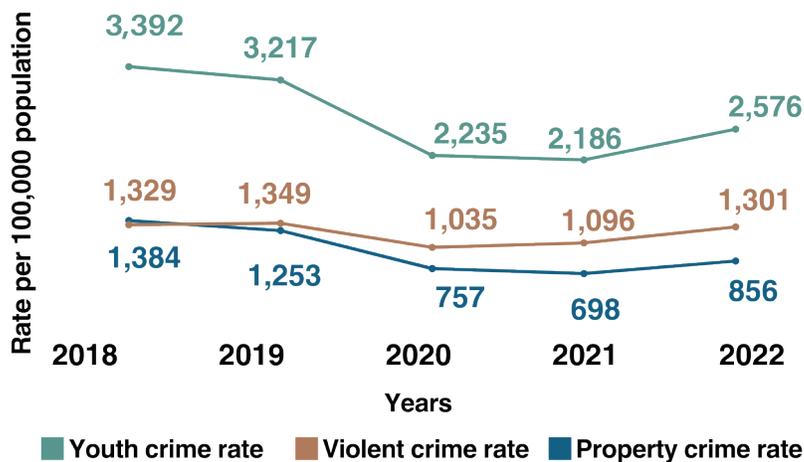
Expected Outcome 1: Safe Communities

Expected outcome 1 of the Framework monitors the performance of the youth criminal justice system (CJS) in ensuring youth, families and communities in Canada are and feel safe.



Police-reported youth crime (2018 to 2022) ¹²

In 2022, youth crime reported to police increased by 18% compared to 2021, but remained 24% lower than in 2018.



Violent Crime

Decreased by 22% from 2018 to 2020, then increased by 6% in 2021 and 19% in 2022.

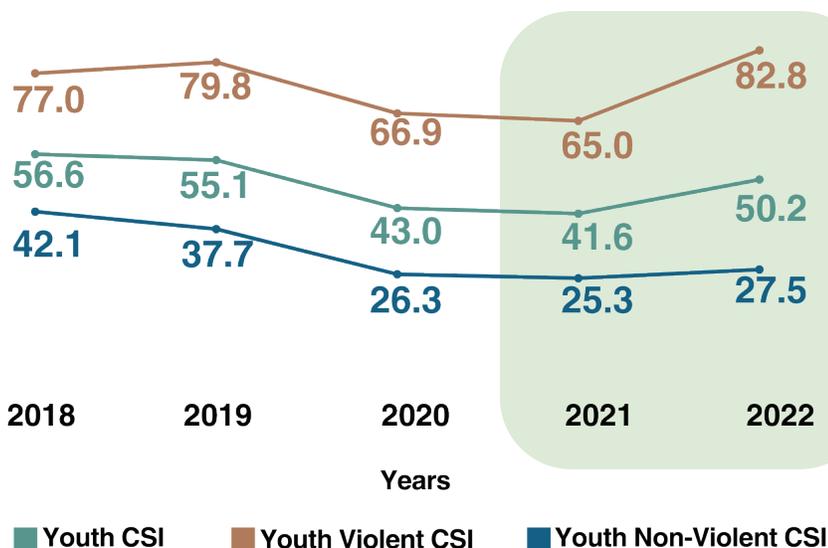
Property Crime

Decreased by 50% from 2018 to 2021, then increased by 23% in 2022.

For historical trends, see Annex III.

Youth crime severity (CSI) (2018 to 2022) ¹³

From 2018 to 2022, the Youth CSI decreased by 11%. This was mainly driven by the Youth Non-violent CSI, which decreased by 35% over this time period, while the Youth Violent CSI saw an increase of 7%.



The youth violent CSI saw a marked increase from 2021 to 2022. This was attributed to increases in assaults, sexual assault (level 1), robbery and uttering threats.

For historical trends, see Annex III.

Expected Outcome 1: Safe Communities

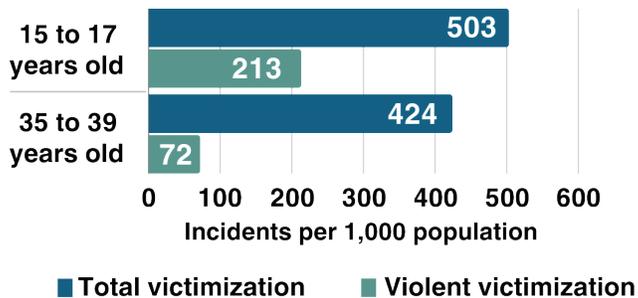
Youth victimization

Adverse childhood experiences like physical and sexual abuse, harsh parenting, or neglect and witnessing family violence have all been linked with subsequent experiences of victimization and criminal behaviour in adulthood.¹⁴

Self-reported victimization (2019)¹⁵

Research has found that young people, aged 15 to 24, are more likely to experience victimization than individuals over the age of 25, with a sharper decline seen in those aged 35 and older.¹⁶

In 2019, youth aged 15 to 17 had statistically similar total victimization rates to other age groups but higher rates of violent victimization compared to those 35 to 39.



Satisfaction with personal safety from crime among youth (2019)¹⁷

In 2019, more than three-quarters of Canadian youth were satisfied with their personal safety from crime. Those who were satisfied were less likely to have been a victim of violent or household crime in the past year than those who were dissatisfied with their safety.

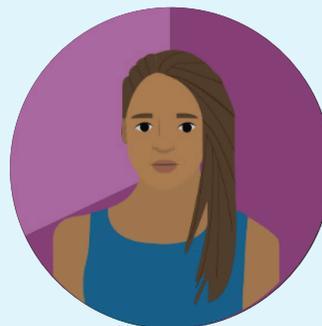


Gender differences:

Female youth aged 15 to 17 had higher self-reported victimization rates than male youth of the same age group. This difference was more pronounced when looking specifically at violent victimization.



A lower percentage of female youth reported being satisfied with their personal safety from crime compared with male youth.



Female youth



Male youth

^E = the number should be used with caution

Expected Outcome 1: Safe Communities

Self-reported physical and sexual abuse during childhood (2018) ¹⁸

In 2018, about one in seven youth aged 15 to 17 and over one in four adults reported physical abuse during childhood, meaning before the age of 15.



Youth aged 15 to 17

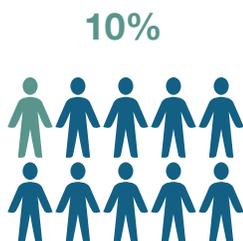


Adults aged 18 and older

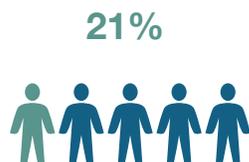
Although sexual abuse during childhood was reportedly less common than physical abuse, it was found to increase the odds of any subsequent victimization.¹⁹

Witnessing family violence during childhood (2019) ²⁰

In 2019, one in ten youth aged 15 to 17 and approximately one in five adults reported witnessing family violence during their childhood.



Youth aged 15 to 17

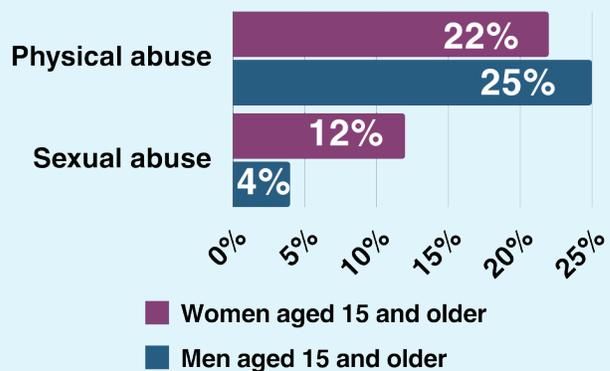


Adults aged 18 and older

Gender differences

Male (15%) and **female youth (15%)** were equally likely to report abuse during their childhood.

Data on the type of abuse (i.e., physical and sexual) experienced by youth cannot reliably be disaggregated by gender. However, when looking at all Canadians aged 15 and older, data show that **men were more likely to report physical abuse** than women, while **women were more likely to report sexual abuse during** their childhood than men.



Gender differences

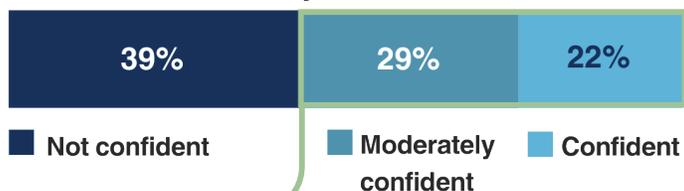
No gender differences were found among youth. Among adults, **women (23%)** were more likely than **men (19%)** to report witnessing family violence during their childhood.

Expected Outcome 2: Fair and Accessible

Expected outcome 2 of the Framework monitors the extent to which the youth criminal justice system (CJS) is fair and accessible to all people.

Public perception that the youth criminal justice system is fair and accessible to all people ⁽²⁰²²⁾²¹

Confidence that the youth CJS is fair



51% of Canadians were moderately confident or confident that the youth CJS is fair to all people.

Confidence that the youth CJS is accessible



63% of Canadians were moderately confident or confident that the youth CJS is accessible to all people.

Confidence levels varied by respondent characteristics

Gender differences:

Women were more likely than men to report not being confident that the youth CJS is fair and accessible to all people.

Age variations:

Respondents aged 45 and over were more likely than those aged 18 to 44 to report being confident that the youth CJS is fair and accessible to all people.

Indigenous identity:

Indigenous people were more likely than White people to report being not confident that the youth CJS is fair and accessible to all people.

Black identity:

Black people were more likely than White people to report being not confident that the youth CJS is accessible to all people.



Confidence that the youth CJS is fair

Confidence that the youth CJS is accessible

Characteristic	Not confident	Moderately confident	Confident	Not confident	Moderately confident	Confident
White people	40%	30%	21%	28%	32%	32%
Indigenous people	53%	23%	16%	40%	24%	28%
Black people ²²	46%	27%	19%	35%	27%	28%
Men	35%	28%	27%	23%	31%	37%
Women	43%	30%	18%	33%	31%	27%

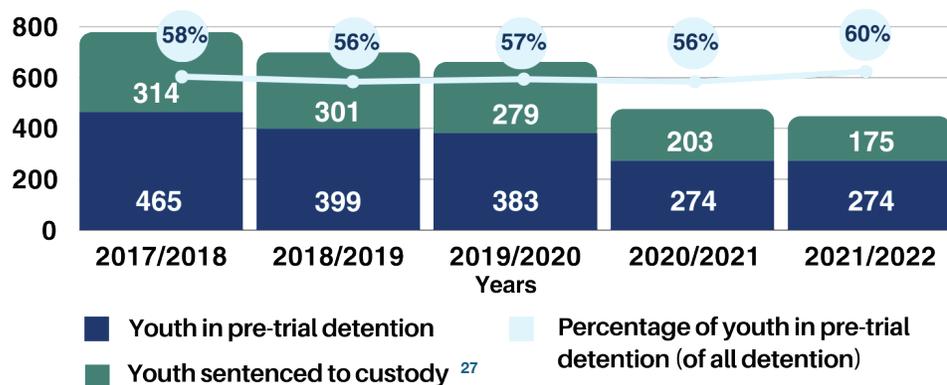
■ Not confident ■ Moderately confident ■ Confident

Expected Outcome 2: Fair and Accessible

Pre-trial detention²³ (2017/2018 to 2021/2022)²⁴

Pre-trial detention occurs when a young person accused of a crime is temporarily held before trial or sentencing. While this plays a role in the protection of society and the administration of justice, pre-trial detention can lead to certain issues pertaining to human rights (such as poor conditions), as well as access to justice challenges, such as unfair treatment and the lack or limited contact with supports and services.²⁵

Number and percentage of youth in pre-trial detention vs sentenced to custody²⁶



For historical trends, see Annex III.

Between 2017/2018 and 2021/2022, youth in pre-trial detention accounted for over half of all youth held in provincial and territorial detentions.

While the number of youth in pre-trial detention generally decreased or remained stable, there was an increase in their percentage of all youth in detention in 2021/2022.

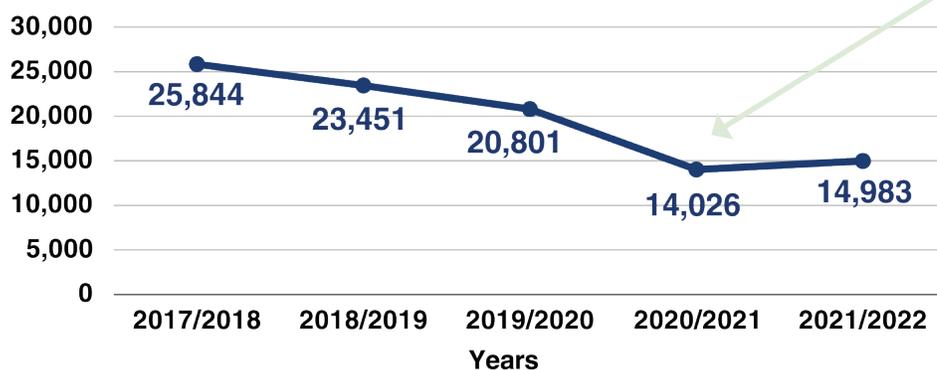
Supports and services provided through federal funding initiatives, such as legal assistance and the Indigenous Courtwork Program

Youth criminal legal aid (2017/2018 to 2021/2022)²⁸

Legal aid supports justice access for the economically disadvantaged, ensuring fairness, relevance, accessibility in the justice system, and maintaining public confidence.

Number of youth criminal legal aid applications

Applications²⁹ for youth criminal legal aid decreased by 42% from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, partly due to declining youth crime rates (see Expected outcome 1).



Impact of COVID-19:

The largest decrease occurred in 2020/2021, possibly due to pandemic-related factors like court closures and reduced legal aid availability.³⁰

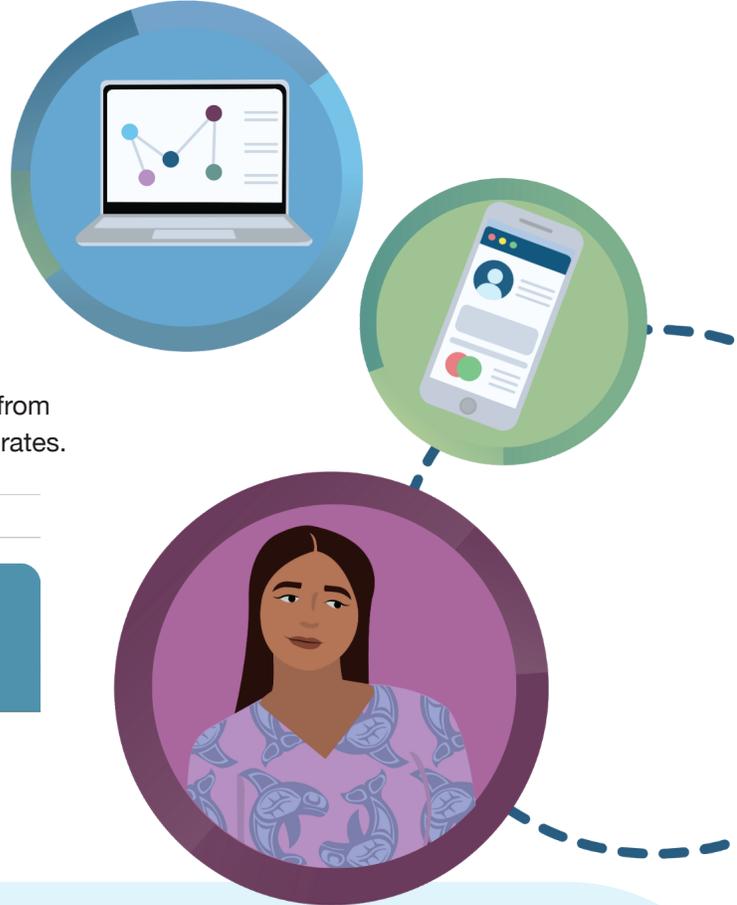
Approval rate:

The percentage of applications that were **approved remained high** over the five-year period (ranging from 96% to 99%).

Expected Outcome 2: Fair and Accessible

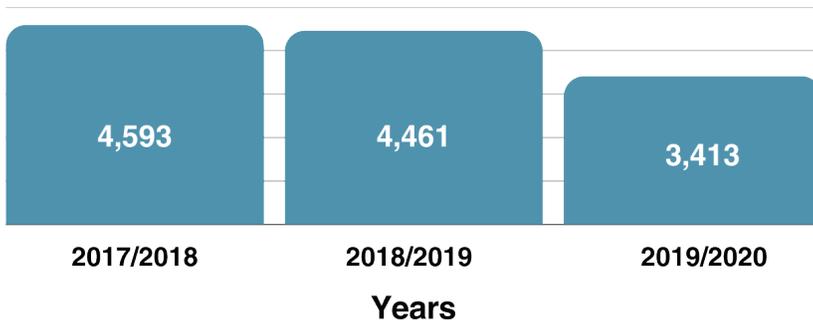
The Indigenous Courtwork Program (ICW) (2017/2018 to 2019/2020) ³¹

Established in 1978 to address discrimination and reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous individuals in the justice system, the ICW aims to ensure fair, just, and culturally relevant treatment for Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system. It offers information, referrals, assistance to victims and survivors, advocacy, and promotes community-based justice initiatives.



Number of youth clients served

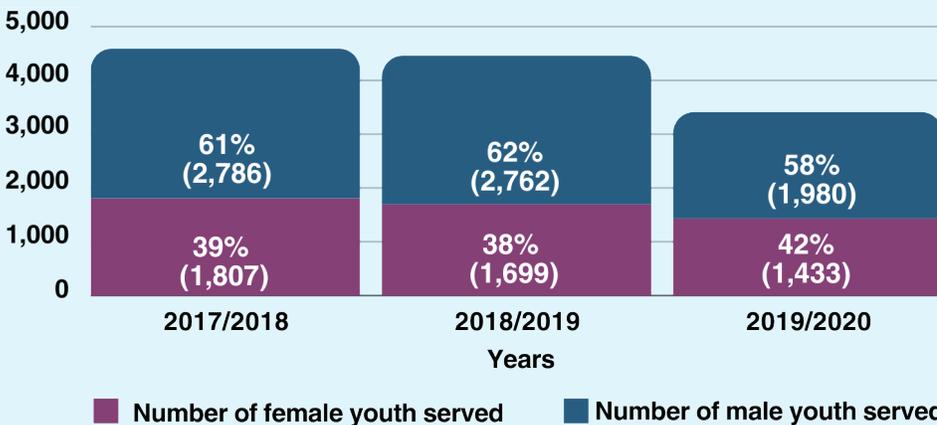
The number of youth clients served by the ICW decreased by 26% from 2017/2018 to 2019/2020, likely influenced by declining youth crime rates.



Number of youth clients served

Male clients experienced a more significant decrease in numbers (-29%) than **female clients (-21%)**. This resulted in female youth making up an increasingly higher percentage of clients over the three-year period, while the percentage of male youth clients decreased.

Number and percentage of youth ICW clients, by gender



Expected Outcome 3: Confidence

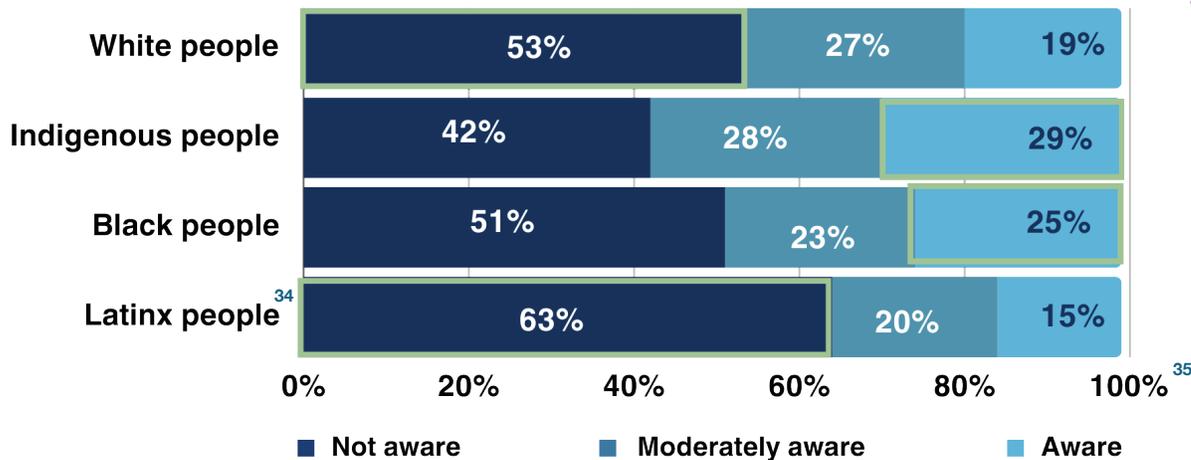
Expected outcome 3 of the Framework monitors whether Canadians understand the role of and express confidence in the youth criminal justice system.

Public awareness of the role of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (2022)³²



In 2022, more than half of Canadians were not aware of the role of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).³³

Compared with White people, Indigenous and Black people were more likely to report being aware of the YCJA, while Latinx people were more likely to report being not aware of it.



Awareness levels were generally similar regardless of gender.

Youth victimization incidents reported to the police (2019)³⁶

Many incidents of victimization, including violent and non-violent ones, go unreported to the police, possibly due to low confidence in them and the criminal justice system.

12%^E of youth victims of crime reported the incident to the police in 2019.

E = the number should be used with caution



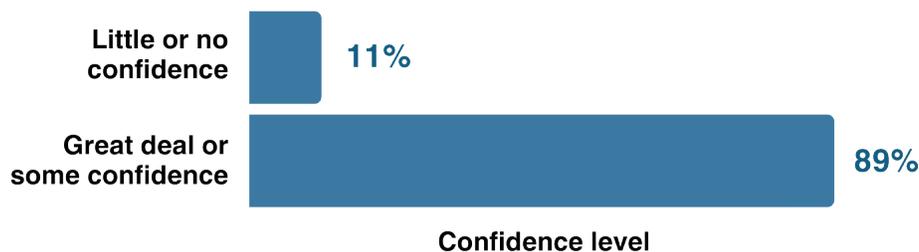
Expected Outcome 3: Confidence

Confidence in the criminal justice system ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾³⁷

Youth confidence in the police

Confidence in the police is influenced by factors such as previous contact with them.³⁸ Youth who had contact with police due to emotional issues, mental health, substance use, or crime, reported lower levels of confidence.³⁹

In 2019, most youth aged 15 to 17 reported confidence with the police.



Youth confidence in the criminal courts

In 2019, almost two-thirds of youth reported confidence in the criminal courts.



Gender differences

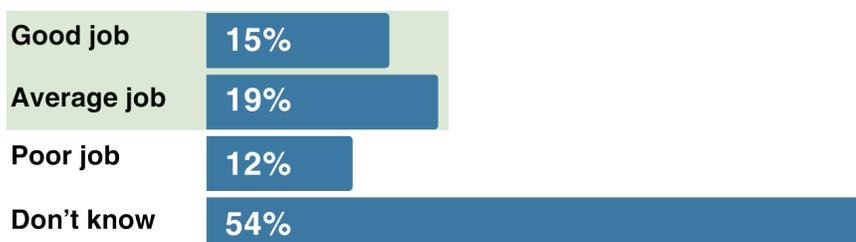
Female youth (18%)^E were more likely to report low confidence in the criminal courts than **male youth (3%)^E**.

E = the number should be used with caution

Youth perception of the prison system

In 2019, about one-third of youth felt the prison system was doing a good or average job in helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens, while over half reported not knowing how the prisons system was performing.⁴⁰

Perception of work



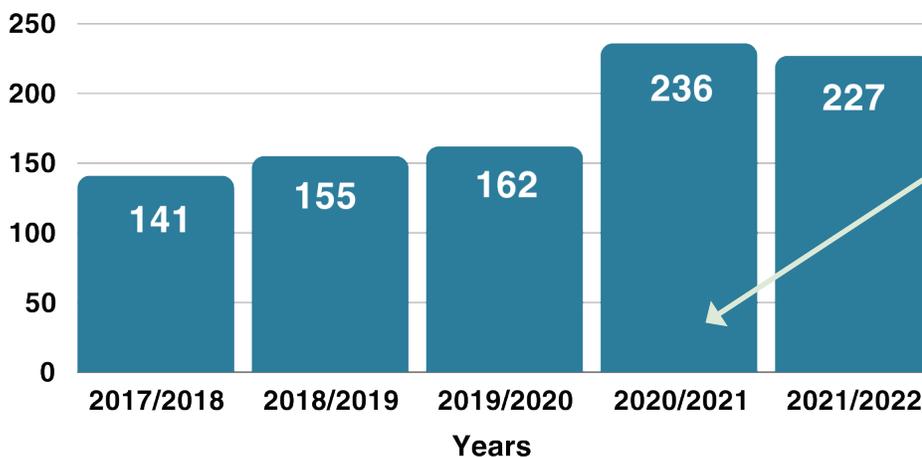
Expected Outcome 4: Operation of the Youth Criminal Justice System

Expected outcome 4 of the Framework monitors whether the youth criminal justice system operates efficiently and promptly.

Youth case completion time (2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁴¹

Median number of days for a youth case to be completed

The median time to complete a youth court case increased by 61% from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.



Impact of COVID-19:

Youth case completion time spiked in 2020/2021, in part due to COVID-19 court case backlogs.⁴²

In 2021/2022, cases involving crimes against the person had the longest median completion time, followed by other Criminal Code offences and crimes against property. Cases involving administration of justice offences (AOJOs) had the shortest completion time.

Median number of days to complete cases by offence type (2021/2022)

Crimes against the person	267 days
Other Criminal Code offences ⁴³	216 days
Crimes against property	206 days
Criminal Code traffic offences	180 days
Other federal statutes ⁴⁴	137 days
AOJOs	121 days

Gender differences:

From 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, **male youth cases took on average 21 days longer to complete than female youth cases, except for AOJO cases (10 days longer for female youth cases).**

For historical trends, see Annex III.

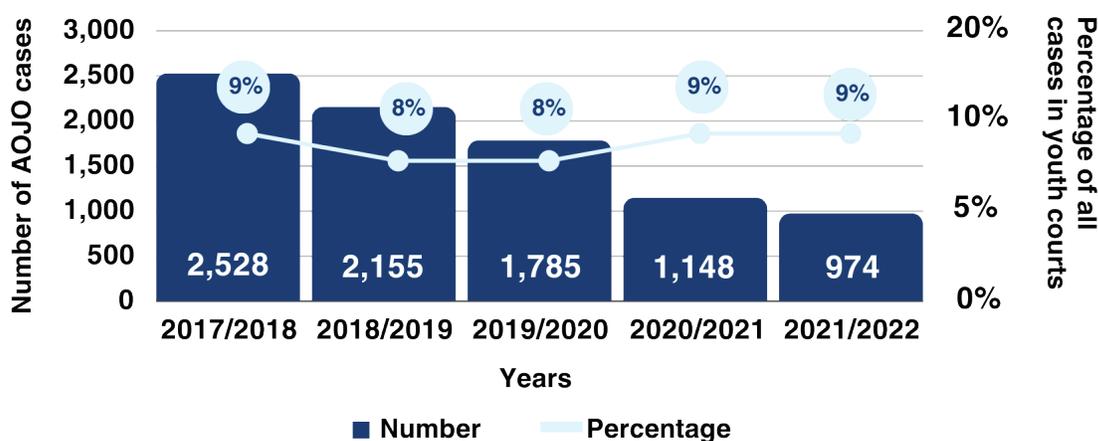
Expected Outcome 4: Operation of the Youth Criminal Justice System

Administration of justice offences in youth courts (2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁴⁵

Offences committed against the integrity of the criminal justice system, such as failure to appear, failure to comply with an order or breach of probation, also known as AOJOs, have been identified in the literature as a contributor to justice system delays.⁴⁶

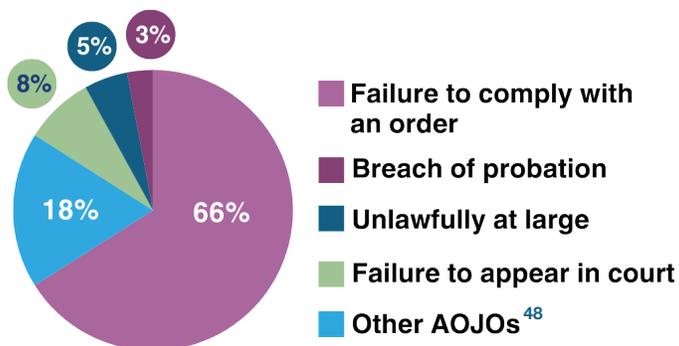
Number and percentage of AOJO cases in youth courts

From 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, the number of AOJO cases ⁴⁷ in youth courts decreased by 61%, while their percentage of all youth cases remained stable at 9%.



For historical trends, see Annex III.

Types of AOJOs in youth courts, 2021/2022



The most common type of AOJO was the failure to comply with an order.

Gender differences

Between 2017/2018 and 2021/2022, most (61%) completed AOJO cases involved **male youth** accused, while 24% involved **female youth** accused.



-61%

Female youth



-65%

Male youth

Both female and male youth accused experienced a decrease in AOJO cases during this time.

Expected Outcome 5: Resolution Mechanisms

Expected outcome 5 of the Framework monitors whether the criminal justice system provides youth victims, survivors, accused, offenders, and families with various community-based and culturally based options to address crime.

Youth incarceration rate (2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁴⁹

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) prioritizes community-based responses to youth crime to minimize the harmful impact of custody on the development of youth. A lower youth incarceration rate may show a justice system favouring non-custodial options like diversion, restorative justice, or community-based Indigenous justice programs when suitable. ⁵⁰

The youth incarceration rate decreased by 44% from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.

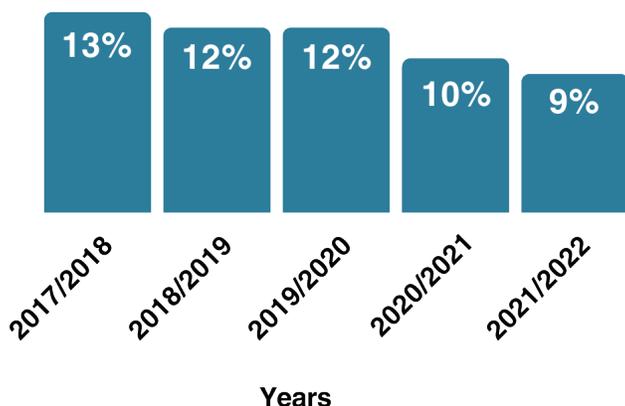


For historical trends, see Annex III.

Youth court cases receiving a custodial sentence as the most serious sentence (2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁵¹

While the youth incarceration rate monitors the average number of youth in custody (both temporary detention and sentenced custody), this indicator monitors the percentage of youth cases receiving custodial versus non-custodial sentences.

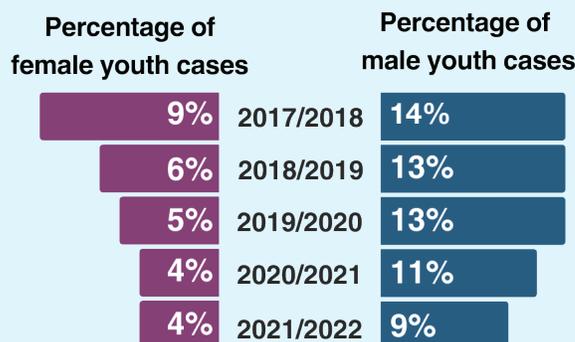
The percentage of guilty youth court cases receiving a custodial sentence as the most serious sentence decreased by 4 percentage points from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.



For historical trends, see Annex III.

Gender differences

Custodial sentences were more common for **male youth cases**, but a similar decrease was found for both **male** and **female** youth over time.



Expected Outcome 5: Resolution Mechanisms

Restorative justice (youth and adults) (2018/2019) ⁵²

Restorative justice focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime while holding the offender accountable for their actions, by providing an opportunity for the parties affected by crime — victims, offenders and communities — to communicate about and address their needs following a crime. It supports meaningful engagement and accountability and provides an opportunity for healing, reintegration, the prevention of future harm, and reparation, where possible. Many Indigenous Justice Programs may also use restorative justice processes.⁵³

In 2018/2019, provincial, territorial, or Indigenous Justice Programs received **30,658** referrals to a restorative justice program or process.



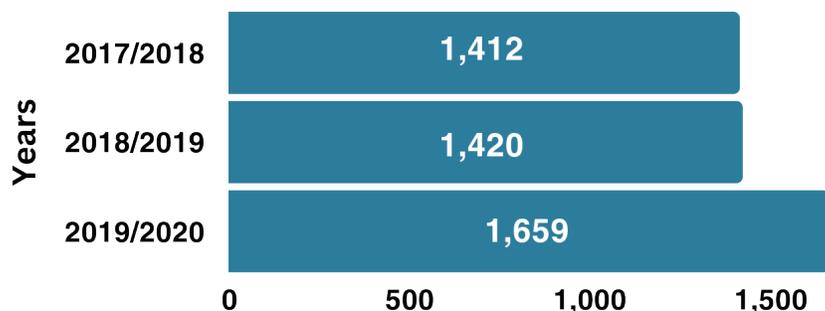
Indigenous Justice Program referrals (2017/2018 to 2019/2020) ⁵⁵

The Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) supports Indigenous community-based justice programs, providing culturally relevant alternatives to mainstream justice processes when suitable, aiming to:

- empower Indigenous communities in justice administration;
- integrate Indigenous values into the justice system; and,
- reduce victimization, crime, and incarceration rates among Indigenous peoples.⁵⁶

Number of youth referrals to an IJP

The number of youth referrals to an IJP increased by 17% between 2017/2018 and 2019/2020.



Improvement in this indicator may be the result of changes in data collection. More data are needed for a better assessment of progress in this area.



Gender differences

Overall, **male youth (60%)** made up a larger percentage of referrals to an IJP than **female youth (40%)**.



Expected Outcome 6: Correctional Supervision

Expected outcome 6 of the Framework monitors whether the criminal justice system provides youth in the correctional system with services and supports to rehabilitate them and integrate them back into the community.

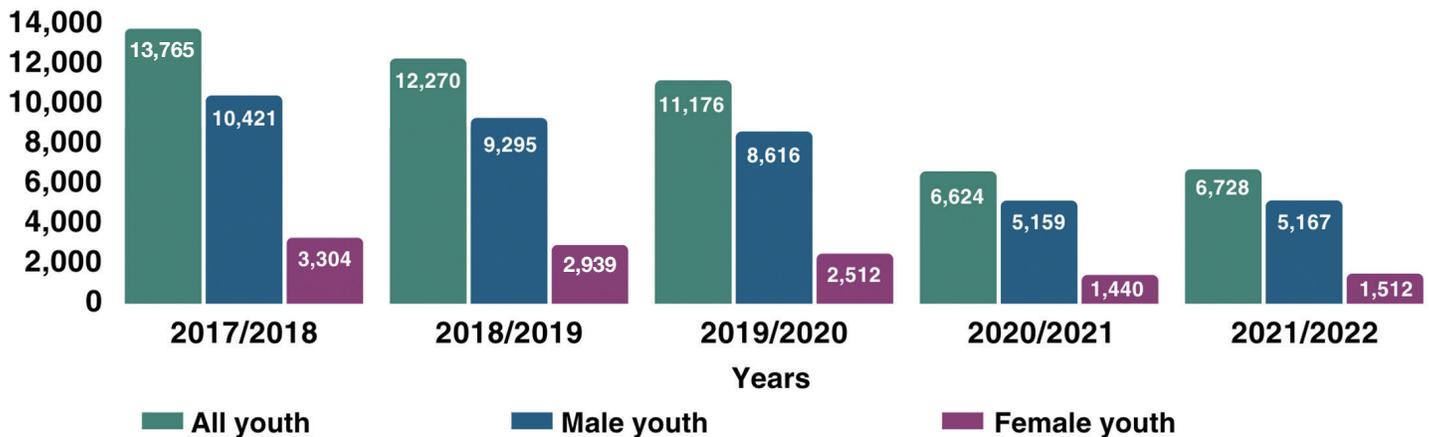
Youth under provincial and territorial community supervision

(2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁵⁷

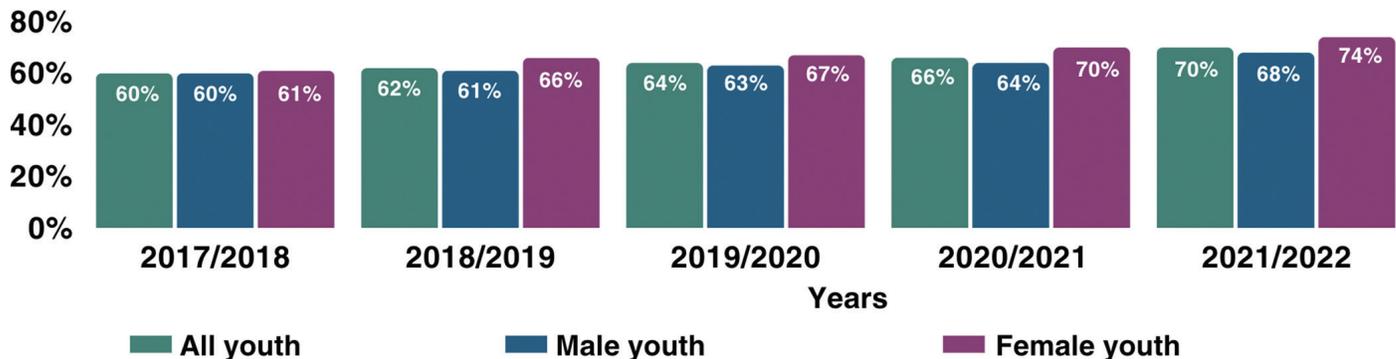
While the number of youth admissions to community supervision decreased by 51% from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, their percentage of all admissions to youth correctional services increased 20 percentage points.

For historical trends, see Annex III.

Number of youth admissions to community supervision



Percentage of youth admissions to community supervision



Gender differences

The percentage increase was more pronounced among **female youth (+13% points)** than **male youth (+8% points)**.

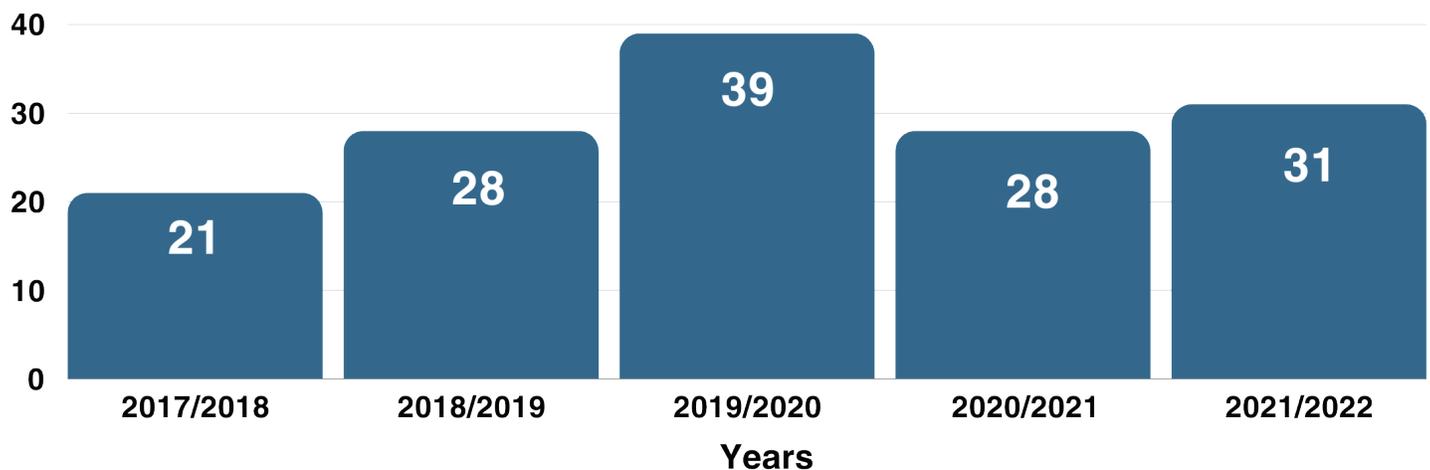
Expected Outcome 6: Correctional Supervision

Cases of youth under Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision receiving specialized treatment (2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁵⁸

The federal Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision Program (IRCS) is a contribution program with provinces and territories to provide specialized therapeutic programs and services for youth with mental health needs convicted of a serious violent offence.⁵⁹

Number of new IRCS youth cases

The number of new IRCS youth cases receiving specialized treatment **varied** between **21 and 39** from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.



Funding rate:

IRCS maintained a **100% success rate** in providing funding to all newly submitted cases over the five-year period.

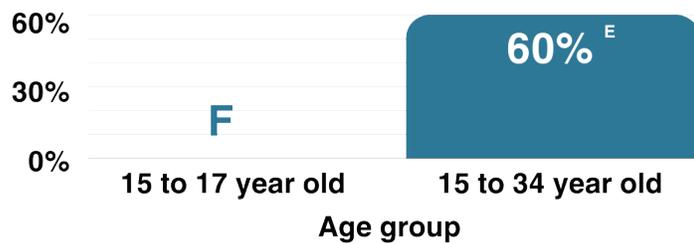


Expected Outcome 7: Victims and Survivors

Expected outcome 7 of the Framework monitors the extent to which the criminal justice system (CJS) contributes to respecting youth victims' and survivors' rights and addressing their needs.

Youth victim satisfaction with actions taken by police (2019)⁶⁰

Data on the satisfaction of youth (ages 15 to 17) with police actions are not reliable enough to report. But, for those aged 15 to 34, data show that in 2019, over half were satisfied with police actions. This is consistent with Expected Outcome 3's findings, where most youth aged 15 to 17 report being confident in the police.⁶¹



F = the number is too unreliable to publish
E = the number should be used with caution

The unreliability of these data and their status as the only indicator for this outcome highlight the need for better data collection and reporting on the rights and needs of young victims and survivors.

Victims' roles and rights in the youth CJS

Crime victims, including those of youth crime, have specific rights in Canada, detailed in the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* (CVBR):



The Right to Information: Victims can request and receive details about the criminal justice system (CJS), their role in it, available services, and updates on their case, including investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of the offender.



The Right to Seek Restitution: Victims can ask courts to order offenders to pay for financial losses due to the crime and enforce unpaid amounts through civil court.



The Right to File a Complaint: If victims feel their rights have been ignored or violated by federal bodies, they can file a complaint with the appropriate department or agency, like the RCMP, National Office for Victims, or Correctional Services Canada.



The Right to Protection and Privacy: Victims' security and privacy must be considered, with measures to protect them from intimidation. Those under 18 have their identity and information kept private automatically. Young victims also have the right to support like testimonial aids when testifying.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) declares that victims deserve to be treated with courtesy, compassion, and respect for their dignity and privacy, facing minimal inconvenience while involved with the criminal justice system (CJS).

To learn more, check out [Victims of crime - Canada.ca](https://www.victims.gc.ca/)



Expected Outcome 8: Indigenous Youth⁶²

Expected outcome 8 of the Framework monitors the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system (CJS) by comparing their representation (i.e., percentage) among victims/survivors and accused/offenders to their representation in the Canadian population, as well as monitoring the extent to which they disproportionately experience certain negative outcomes in the CJS.

Canada's colonial history has caused profound harm to Indigenous peoples⁶³ through systemic discrimination,⁶⁴ economic hardship, child welfare issues, loss of culture and community, and exposure to social determinants of crime, causing trauma across generations. These issues contribute to the high presence of Indigenous youth and adults in the CJS, both as victims and accused.⁶⁵ This phenomenon is complex and will take time to see improvements in reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in CJS data.

For more information on the context of Indigenous people's lives in Canada, see the [SOCJS Dashboard's page on Indigenous Youth](#).

Indigenous people make up a larger percentage of Canada's youth population than adult population

In 2021, Indigenous people represented

4% of the Canadian adult population

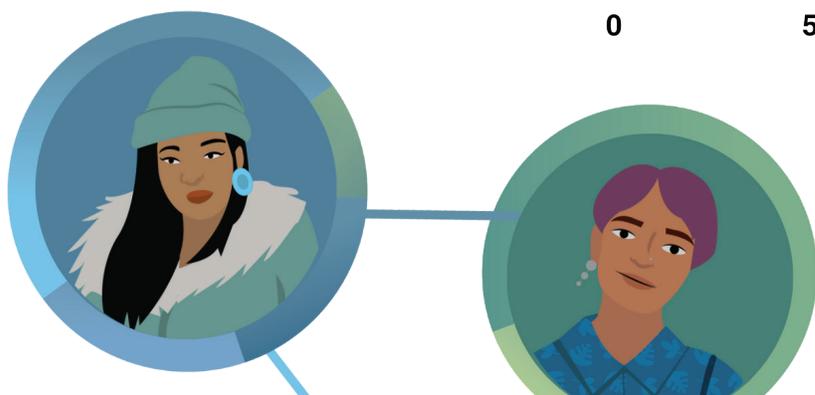
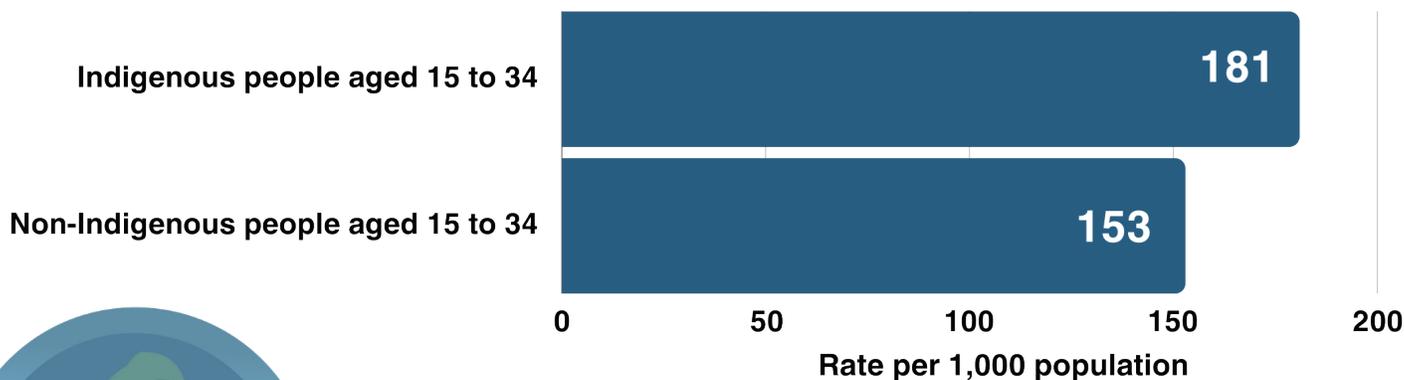


while Indigenous youth represented

8% of the Canadian youth population aged 12 to 17.⁶⁶

Self-reported violent victimization among Indigenous youth (2019)⁶⁷

Data on Indigenous youth aged 15 to 17 are too unreliable to report. But, for those aged 15 to 34, Indigenous people report violent victimization at a rate statistically similar to non-Indigenous people in the same age group.



Expected Outcome 8: Indigenous Youth

Homicide (2018/2022) ⁶⁸

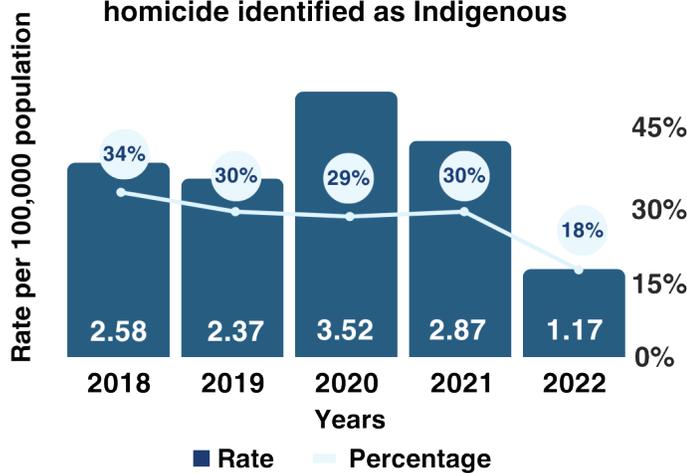
From 2018 to 2022, the rate of Indigenous children and youth who were victims of police-reported homicide generally decreased.

Their representation (percentage) among all victims of homicide decreased over this period, but remains higher than that in the Canadian youth population.

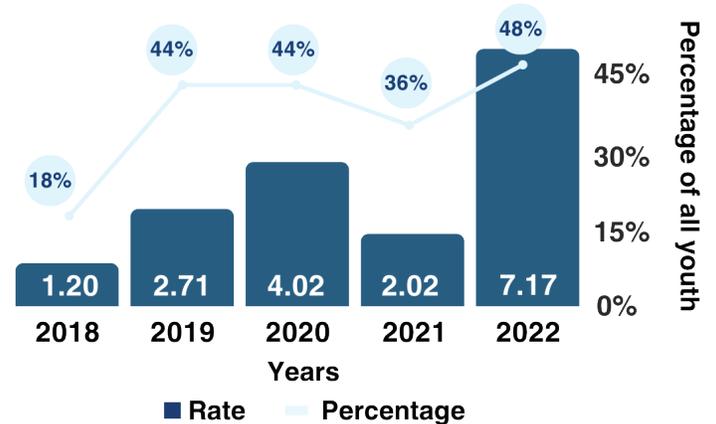
From 2018 to 2022, the rate of Indigenous youth accused of homicide by police generally increased.

Their representation (percentage) among all accused of homicide increased over this period, higher than their representation in the Canadian youth population.

Children and youth victims of police-reported homicide identified as Indigenous



Youth accused of police-reported homicide identified as Indigenous

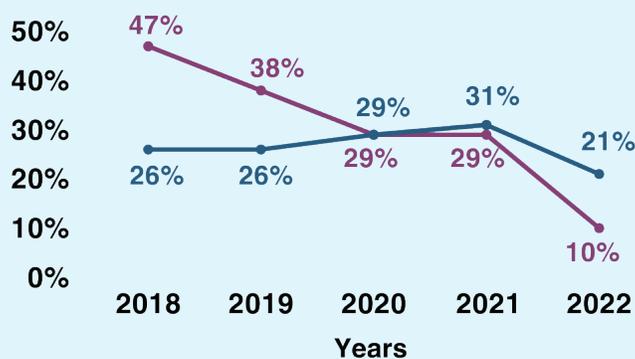


Gender differences

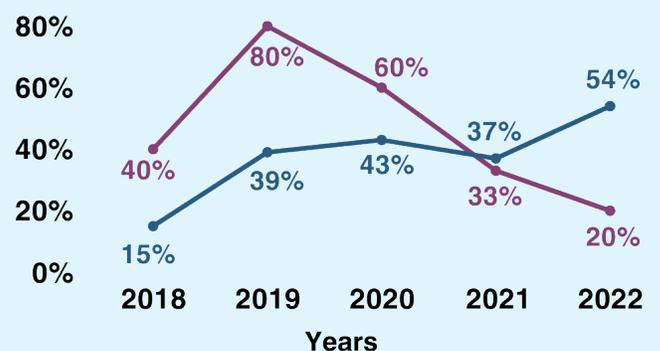
The representation (percentage) of **Indigenous female children and youth** among victims of police-reported homicide showed a larger decrease over time than **male children and youth**.⁶⁹

The representation (percentage) of Indigenous **male youth** among those accused of police-reported homicide **increased** over time while that of **female youth decreased**.

Percentage among children and youth victims of police-reported homicide



Percentage among youth accused of police-reported homicide

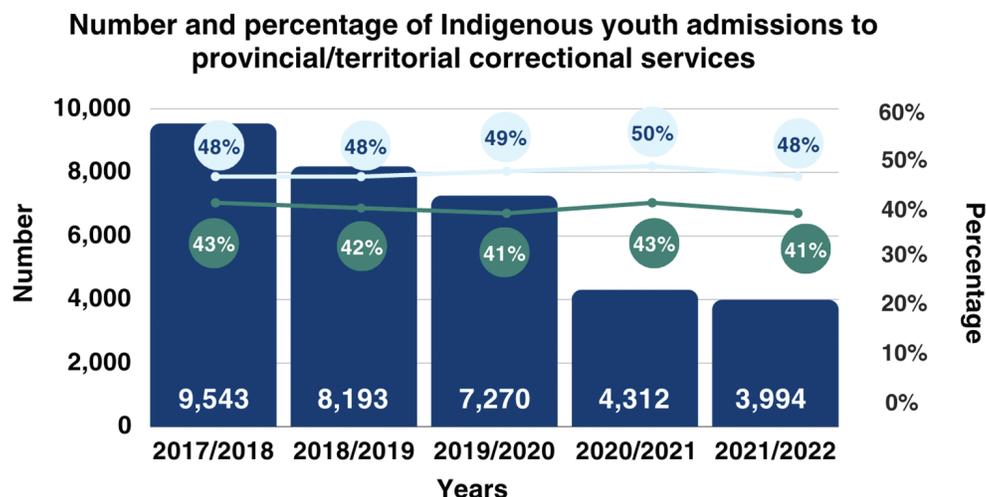


— Percentage among female youth — Percentage among male youth

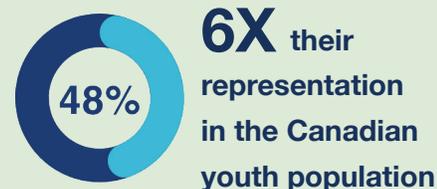
Expected Outcome 8: Indigenous Youth

Admissions of Indigenous youth to provincial/territorial correctional services (2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁷⁰

The number of Indigenous youth admissions to correctional services (custody and community supervision) generally decreased between 2017/2018 and 2021/2022. Despite this, their representation among all youth admissions stayed about the same, roughly **5X** their representation in the Canadian youth population.



Overrepresentation was more pronounced in custody admissions.



- Number of Indigenous youth admissions to correctional services (community supervision and custody)
- Percentage of all youth admissions to correctional services (community supervision and custody)
- Percentage of all youth admissions to custody

For historical trends, see Annex III.

Gender differences

The overrepresentation of Indigenous youth admissions in correctional services was higher for **females** than **males**, particularly among admissions to custody. In 2021/2022:

Indigenous female youth were

7X their representation in the Canadian youth population.

Indigenous male youth were

5.5X their representation in the Canadian youth population.

Percentage of youth admissions to custody



For more information on Indigenous youth and the CJS, see the report [Indigenous Youth Roundtables: Overrepresentation of Indigenous Youth in Canada's Criminal Justice System](#).

To address the systemic discrimination that leads to the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in Canada's CJS, the Government of Canada is teaming up with Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners to development Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy. For more information, see [Indigenous Justice Strategy](#).

Expected Outcome 9: Black Youth

Expected outcome 9 of the Framework monitors the overrepresentation of Black youth in the criminal justice system (CJS) by comparing their representation (i.e., percentage) among victims/survivors and accused/offenders to their representation in the Canadian population, as well as monitoring the extent to which they disproportionately experience certain negative outcomes in the CJS.

Canada's Black communities have enriched the country for many years,⁷¹ but they've also faced a long history of systemic anti-Black racism, from colonialism and slavery to segregation and strict immigration rules. This past shapes the lives of Black Canadians and newcomers today,⁷² who still encounter systemic racism and discrimination. This affects jobs, health, education, and child welfare for Black individuals, sometimes leading to their higher involvement with the criminal justice system (CJS).⁷³

For more information on the context of Black people's lives in Canada, see [SOCJS Dashboard's page on Black Youth](#).

Black people make up a larger percentage of Canada's youth population than adult population

In 2021, Black people represented

4% of the Canadian adult population



while Black youth represented

7% of the Canadian youth population aged 12 to 17.

Self-reported violent victimization among Black youth

Data on violence against Black youth (aged 15-17) are too unreliable to report, but past studies consistently show:

Young people, aged 15 to 24, are more likely to experience violent victimization

Black people are overrepresented as victims in the CJS⁷⁴



Expected Outcome 9: Black Youth

Admissions of Black youth to provincial/territorial correctional services

(2017/2018 to 2021/2022) ⁷⁵

The number of Black youth admissions to correctional services (custody and community supervision) in three reporting provinces (Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia) dropped by 46% between 2019/2020 and 2021/2022. Custody admissions saw a larger decrease (54%) than community admissions (41%).

Despite this decrease, Black youth continued to be overrepresented among admissions to correctional services in these three reporting jurisdictions during this period:



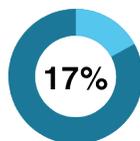
of youth admissions to correctional services

2X their representation in this combined provincial youth population (4%) ⁷⁶



of all youth admissions to community supervision

1.8 x their representation in this combined provincial youth population



of all youth admissions to custody

4x their representation in this combined provincial youth population

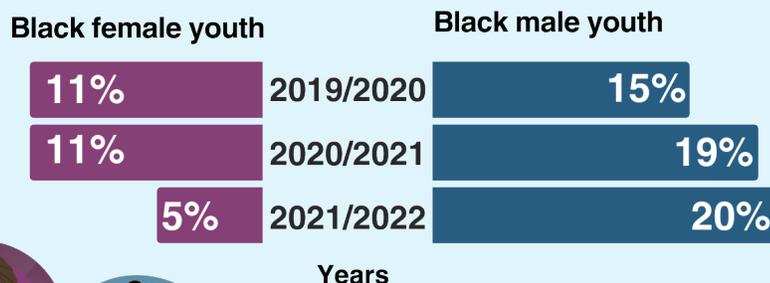
Note: Currently, data for this indicator come only from Nova Scotia, Alberta, and British Columbia. The information does not reflect the whole of Canada and should not be applied nationwide. ⁷⁷

Gender differences

Black male youth were more overrepresented than **Black female youth**, particularly among admissions to custody.

The representation (percentage) of **Black male youth** among custody admissions increased over the three years, while that of **Black female youth** decreased.

Percentage of youth admissions to custody



More data are needed to better understand Black youth experiences with the criminal justice system and to monitor their overrepresentation in it. For more information, see the report [Black Youth and the Criminal Justice System: Summary Report of an Engagement Process in Canada](#).

To address anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination causing the overrepresentation of Black youth and adults in Canada's CJS, the Government of Canada is collaborating with Black communities to create Canada's Black Justice Strategy. For more information, see [Canada's Black Justice Strategy](#).

4 Discussion

The CJS is a complex system that strives to achieve multiple goals critical to the safety, well-being, and productivity of Canadians. Like most social systems, the CJS must ensure that it operates in a way that is fair, accessible, and efficient, all while addressing challenges, such as systemic discrimination and racism, which perpetuate unequal CJS outcomes for certain groups and leads to their overrepresentation in the system. The SOCJS Framework is a useful tool that helps monitor how the CJS is performing in all of these key areas.

Using the [Youth-Adapted Framework](#) data presented in this report, this section provides a high-level assessment of the performance of the youth CJS by answering the following questions:

- How have police-reported youth crime rates evolved in Canada?
- How is the youth CJS performing with respect to its fairness, accessibility, and efficiency?
- How is the youth CJS performing with respect to its use of resolution mechanisms and non-custodial processes?
- What are the gender differences with respect to the performance of the youth CJS?
- How is the CJS performing in reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the system?
- How is the CJS performing in reducing the overrepresentation of Black youth in the system?

4.1 How have police reported youth crime rates evolved in Canada?

Maintaining the safety of all those living in Canada is a key expected outcome of the CJS. Examining crime trends is important to understand the frequency and nature of crime as well as to monitor how many people come into contact with the CJS as victims, accused and offenders.

Police-reported youth crime rates have generally been decreasing since 2004, shortly after the enactment of the YCJA.⁷⁸ Decreases in police-reported youth crime over the last two decades were primarily due to the large decreases in [property crime](#), including theft of \$5,000 or under, breaking and entering, theft of a motor vehicle, possession of stolen property, fraud, arson, mischief, as well as drug offences.⁷⁹ Notable year-over-year decreases in police-reported youth crime rates were seen between 2012 and 2013 (-15%; coinciding with amendments made to the YCJA as a result of the enactment of the *Safe Streets and Communities Act*), and between 2019 and 2020 (-31%; coinciding with the enactment of the *Cannabis Act* and the COVID-19 pandemic). In 2022, an increase (+18% from 2021) in police-reported youth crime was observed for the first time since 2006. Despite this increase, the police-reported youth crime rate remains lower than pre-pandemic levels. This may indicate that youth crime rates are returning to usual levels after the large decrease in crime during the years following the

COVID-19 pandemic, when the commission and reporting of crime may have been affected by lockdowns, parents working from home and various other factors.⁸⁰

Looking at crime rates only tells us about trends in the volume of crime, not the severity. The Youth Crime Severity Index (CSI) addresses this gap by measuring both the volume and severity of police-reported crime in Canada. The Youth CSI has fluctuated over the years. Since 2018, the Youth CSI generally showed a downward trend before increasing in 2022 (+21% from 2021), the first increase since 2017 (+5% from 2016).⁸¹ The 2022 increase was largely attributed to the increase in the Youth Violent CSI, for example because of increases in robbery and homicide incidents. In comparison, the overall CSI, which measures adult and youth crime severity, showed a downward trend from 2004 to 2014, but it has since recorded year-to-year increases, except for 2020.⁸² The increases in the overall CSI since 2015 have mostly been driven by increases in violent crimes, such as homicide, level 1 sexual assault, extortion, robbery and other property related crime. Other notable increases in types of crimes have included hate crimes, and firearm-related crime.

It is difficult to identify the cause of increases in volume and severity of crime, for youth more recently, and adults over the past few years. These may be the result of various factors such as social contexts, events, and movements that may have impacted the number and types of crime being committed and/or reported to police. For example, the MeToo/Time's up movement, in 2017, may have contributed to enhancing reporting of sexual assault by victims.⁸³ The Black Lives Matter movement, which reached new heights in 2020 with the murder of George Floyd, may have contributed to increased occurrence and/or reporting of hate crimes, particularly those targeting Black people.⁸⁴ There was also the pandemic, which led to the temporary decrease in certain types of crime and changes in offending pattern, likely due to people spending more time at home and online.⁸⁵

Finally, when looking at trends in police-reported crime, it is critical to understand that these data only include incidents that come to the attention of police. In fact, a low proportion of incidents are reported to police, with certain types of crimes (e.g., sexual assault) being chronically underreported. To get a better picture of the full extent of crime, it is important to also consider self-reported experiences of victimization (i.e., incidents that may or may not have been reported to police). These data show that victimization, particularly violent victimization, continues to be present in communities across Canada, and even more so among younger individuals, especially females.⁸⁶ Self-reported data on experiences of physical and sexual abuse during childhood, as well as witnessing family violence, also provide a measure of the prevalence of violence and [adverse childhood experiences](#) among children and youth, which is linked to risks of poor life outcomes, such as subsequent experiences of victimization and offending.⁸⁷ Crime and victimization data highlights the importance of early intervention such as crime prevention efforts and collaboration across social systems, for example the education, health and child welfare systems.

4.2 How is the youth CJS performing with respect to its fairness, accessibility, and efficiency?

Ensuring that the CJS is accessible and operates fairly and efficiently are key expected outcomes of the CJS. National public opinion data suggest that there is some public confidence that the youth CJS is fair and accessible, with certain groups reporting lower confidence than others (e.g., younger people, women, Indigenous people, Black people).⁸⁸ Additionally, data from the General Social Survey show the majority of Canadians, of all ages, reported having a great deal or some confidence in the police and the criminal court system.⁸⁹ However, when looking at the prison system, many youth (15 to 17 years) and adults both appeared to be unaware of its performance in helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens. This overall lack of confidence or uncertainty in the prison system may be partially explained by the low levels of awareness of the role of corrections reported by Canadians.⁹⁰ More generally, a previous study has shown a correlation between public confidence in the CJS and awareness levels.⁹¹ Canadians also reported a lack of awareness in the YCJA, the legislation governing the youth CJS.⁹² Indigenous and Black people were both more likely to report being aware of the YCJA than White people.⁹³ This may be indicative of their increased likelihood of contact with the CJS as a result of systemic discrimination and racism, which perpetuate negative outcomes for these groups.

Data also suggest possible issues with respect to the efficient operations of the youth and adult justice systems, as criminal court cases are taking longer to complete. In fact, case completion time for youth court cases started surpassing the case completion time for adult criminal court cases in 2017/2018.⁹⁴ Though cases involving administration of justice offences (AOJOs) as the most serious offence in the case have previously been documented as a contributor to CJS delays,⁹⁵ these represent a lesser percentage of cases in youth courts than in adult criminal courts.⁹⁶ The causes for criminal justice delays are complex;⁹⁷ these can partly be explained by the increasing complexity of police investigations (particularly crimes involving technology such as online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and cyberbullying⁹⁸), judicial case flow management, and limited resources in the CJS.⁹⁹ Given the period of time covered in this report, it is important to also consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operation of the CJS, which temporarily resulted in partial or full halt of court procedures. This was paired with efforts to adapt to new circumstances, such as for example, the rapid implementation of new technologies as well as updated and digitized processes, the increased use of virtual hearings, and enhanced safety measures for in-person appearances.¹⁰⁰

To improve the overall efficiency of operations and the accessibility of the justice system, a range of supports, services and programs are provided. This includes legal aid support through the number of approved applications, which has generally remained stable over time as a result of broad eligibility criteria, and the Indigenous Courtwork Program, which saw a decrease in the number participants in 2019/2020 alongside the decrease in the rate of police-reported youth crime.¹⁰¹

4.3 How is the youth CJS performing with the respect to its use of resolution mechanisms and non-custodial processes?

Ensuring that the CJS promotes and supports diversion to community-based options for resolving incidents, when appropriate, is a key expected outcome of the CJS. This is particularly important within the youth context as they are still maturing and being held in custody can lead to negative effects on their development and life outcomes.

The youth incarceration rate has consistently decreased over the five-year period; a decrease more pronounced (-44%) than that observed in the adult system (-20%).¹⁰² Data on incarceration rates, however, include not only sentenced individuals, but also those being held in pre-trial detention/remand and any other type of temporary detention. For this reason, it is also important to monitor trends in custodial sentences.¹⁰³ The majority of youth court cases found guilty received a non-custodial sentence during the period covering this report;¹⁰⁴ a percentage higher than that of corresponding adult cases.¹⁰⁵ The percentage of youth cases that received a custodial sentence saw a small, but consistent decrease over the years. This trend appears to be continuing after the removal of pandemic-related restrictions in 2021/2022.¹⁰⁶ Alongside the decrease in the percentage of youth admitted to custody, the percentage of youth admitted to community sentences has increased.¹⁰⁷

With respect to community-based justice programs, it is important to note that the administration of justice, including the delivery of youth justice programs and services, is a provincial and territorial government responsibility. For this reason, the capacity to produce national-level data on the use of community-based youth justice programs is limited. Despite this limitation, data on the use of restorative justice and Indigenous Justice Programs are available and show ongoing demand for such options for youth. These programs aim to support meaningful engagement and accountability, while also providing an opportunity for healing, reparation, reintegration, and the prevention of future harm. A recent program evaluation found that community-based justice programs operate efficiently and provide cost savings to the justice system. Other examples of important benefits include a reduction in reoffending and overall transformational changes in the lives of victims and offenders (e.g., repairing harm, helping offenders understand the impact of their actions on victims).¹⁰⁸ However, several capacity issues remain to be addressed such as the lack of resources and support, as well as insufficient awareness of, and access to the programs.¹⁰⁹

4.4 How does the performance of the CJS differ between female and male youth victims, survivors, accused, and offenders?

Examining the performance of the CJS through a gender-based lens is critical for understanding how gender can shape individuals' experiences with the system. For example, data show that female youth¹¹⁰ are more likely to experience victimization than male youth,¹¹¹ a gap that further increases when looking at violent victimization.¹¹² Female youth also report lower satisfaction with personal safety from crime.¹¹³ Further, female youth report lower confidence in the courts compared with male youth, but statistically similar levels of confidence in the police and prison system.¹¹⁴ Looking at youth supervised by correctional services, data show that, similar to adults, girls are incarcerated at a lower rate than boys and that they have been more impacted by the increasing use of community-based sentences when compared with male youth.¹¹⁵

From an operational perspective, data show youth court cases involving girls on average take a shorter amount of time to complete (approximately 3 weeks less) than male youth cases.¹¹⁶ However, cases involving AOJOs on average take longer (a little over one week) to complete for female youth cases in comparison to male youth cases.¹¹⁷ This disparity may be explained by the gendered differences in the types of offences committed; a higher percentage of male youth commit violent offences and these cases often take longer to complete than other offences.¹¹⁸

Gender-based analyses can also be applied to the experiences of Indigenous and Black youth within the system: see [4.5 How is the CJS performing in reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the system?](#) and [4.6 How is the CJS performing in reducing the overrepresentation of Black youth in the system?](#)

For more information on the experiences of women and girls with the CJS, see [the SOCJS Dashboard's Women Theme](#) and [Youth Theme](#), as well as the [State of the Criminal Justice System Report: A focus on women \(2020\)](#).

4.5 How is the CJS performing in reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the system?

Addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the CJS is a key expected outcome of the CJS, as identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 30th Call to Action, to monitor, evaluate, and report on the progress made in this area. Despite ongoing efforts to reduce the involvement of Indigenous people in the CJS, data show that Indigenous youth continue to be overrepresented in Canada's CJS, as victims, survivors, accused and offenders.

The ongoing overrepresentation of Indigenous youth as victims is evidenced through their disproportionate representation among homicide victims. This is despite these data underestimating the actual number of Indigenous victims as they do not account for the disproportionate number of unresolved Indigenous homicide and missing person cases.¹¹⁹ Research has also found that overall victimization rates tend to be highest among Indigenous people when compared to non-Indigenous people.¹²⁰ Though this is the case for Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults aged 35 to 54, self-reported data collected in 2019 show that younger Indigenous, aged 15 to 34, report similar rates of violent victimization as non-Indigenous people in the same age group.¹²¹

Data on the Indigenous identity of people accused of crime are limited. Available data highlight the ongoing overrepresentation of Indigenous youth as accused of homicide.¹²² Further, a recent study providing the first national estimates of Indigenous people in criminal courts in Canada found that in 2015/2016, Indigenous youth and adults were overrepresented among accused, and Indigenous youth experienced disproportionate court outcomes when compared with White youth, including being more likely to receive a custodial sentence.¹²³

The overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the CJS is most notably observed through correctional data. Despite the data showing overall decreases in the number of Indigenous youth admissions to correctional services, their percentage among all youth admissions, and thus level of overrepresentation, has remained somewhat stable over time. A similar but more pronounced trend can also be observed when looking specifically at Indigenous youth admissions to custody. Further, the level of overrepresentation continues to be more pronounced for Indigenous girls than Indigenous boys (approximately 6 and 5 times their representation in the general population, respectively), a trend again more pronounced among custodial admissions (7 and 5.5 times their representation in the general population, respectively).¹²⁴ Though still of significant concern, the level of overrepresentation of Indigenous people among admissions to correctional services is less pronounced in the youth system than in the adult system.¹²⁵

The SOCJS is a tool that allows for the ongoing monitoring of the state of overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the system, based on available data. Efforts are currently underway to improve disaggregated data collection,¹²⁶ which will help inform ways to address the systemic discrimination that exists within the system, namely through Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy.

4.6 How is the CJS performing in reducing the overrepresentation of Black youth in the system?

Addressing the overrepresentation of Black people in the CJS is a key expected outcome of the CJS. Despite current efforts to reduce the involvement of Black people in the CJS, data show that Black youth continue to be [overrepresented](#) in Canada's CJS as victims, survivors, accused and offenders. Although data on the racialized identity of those involved in the CJS are currently limited, a recent study providing the first national estimates of Black people in criminal courts in Canada found that in 2015/2016, Black youth and adults were overrepresented among accused, and Black youth experienced different and disproportionate court outcomes when compared with White youth, including being more likely to be sentenced to custody.¹²⁷

Available correctional data representing three Canadian jurisdictions, show that the overrepresentation of Black youth among the provincial/territorial correctional population has remained stable between 2019/2020 and 2021/2022 (about 2 times their representation in the Canadian youth population). However, the level of overrepresentation was more pronounced among those admitted to custody than those admitted to community supervision. The overrepresentation was also more pronounced among Black male youth than Black female youth, particularly in custody.¹²⁸

The SOCJS is a tool that allows for the ongoing monitoring and high-level assessment of the state of the overrepresentation of Black youth in the system, based on available data. Efforts are underway to improve disaggregated data collection.¹²⁹ [Canada's Black Justice Strategy](#) is being developed to address anti-Black racism and [systemic discrimination](#), which has contributed to the overrepresentation of Black people within the system.

5 Conclusion

Justice Canada's SOCJS is a performance monitoring tool developed to help understand how Canada's youth and adult CJS are doing. It does so by monitoring whether and to what extent the systems are achieving their objectives, as well as identifying trends, strengths, gaps and areas for improvement. Regular data collection, analysis and reporting increases accountability and transparency of the system, and helps improve the government's ability to make evidence-based decisions that can have a positive effect on the lives of Canadians. It also supports Open Government by making information about the CJS easier to access. This iteration of Justice Canada's SOCJS Report uses the [SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework](#) to explore the performance of the youth CJS from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, when possible, with respect to: its fairness, accessibility and operation; its use of resolution mechanisms and non-custodial processes, when appropriate; and finally, in reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth and Black youth in contact with it. For more information on the experiences of youth with Canada's CJS, see the SOCJS Dashboard's [Youth Theme](#).

Data from the SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework indicate that the youth CJS is improving in 7 of the 32 indicators (see [Annex V](#) for a tally of all framework indicators). Improvements with respect to enhancing the safety of communities include substantial decreases in the police-reported youth crime rate and the youth crime severity index over time. Though significant decreases were observed between 2018 and 2022, both measures increased in 2022. Various social contexts, events and movements may provide some insights into these trends in youth crime, but ongoing research and performance monitoring are essential to better understanding these results.

Data also show consistent improvements in the use of non-custodial processes, with decreases in youth custodial sentences and youth incarceration rates.^{130, 131} Data from the SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework also show that the percentage of youth admitted to community supervision has increased, as well as the number and percentage of Indigenous children and youth homicide victims have decreased.

Although the youth CJS has improved in some areas over the years, Framework data highlight areas not showing signs of improvement. Overall, the youth CJS showed a decline in 3 of the 32 indicators. For example, youth case completion time increased significantly over the years.¹³² Data also show that Indigenous and Black youth continue to be [overrepresented](#) in the CJS, particularly as admissions to correctional services, and even more so as admissions to custody. Indigenous youth also continue to be overrepresented as accused of police-reported homicide.

Some areas of the youth CJS are showing stability, for example with respect to a previously identified operational issue with [AOJOs](#)—where youth who violate their bail conditions may be required to return to court on new AOJO charges, creating a revolving door within the youth CJS.¹³³ In recent years, the number of AOJOs cases in youth courts declined. The percentage of AOJOs of all cases in youth court, however, remained stable over the years, and a less prominent issue than in adult courts. Further, the IRCS program continued to successfully fund treatment for all eligible cases, and approved youth criminal legal aid applications also remained high over the five-year period.

Assessment of performance was not possible for 17 indicators in the Framework because the data were too limited to establish a trend (e.g., only one year of data available during the time period covering the report, or data are not comparable across years).¹³⁴

The Framework further highlights key data gaps on the experiences of youth in Canada, including more disaggregated data by Indigenous identity and Black identity. This would allow for a more comprehensive analysis of the performance of the youth CJS. There is also a need to further examine the use of [extrajudicial measures](#) in the youth CJS, given that the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* encourages the use of these measures instead of custody and formal court processes. This report also highlights the need for additional data on the experiences of youth and adult victims of crime in the CJS. Lastly, more information is needed on the interactions of justice-involved youth with other social systems such as the education, child welfare, health and mental health systems.

Justice Canada will continue to monitor the performance of the youth and adult criminal justice systems in effort to improve our understanding of how the systems are performing and the experiences of individuals in contact with them, and make policy and/or legislative decisions informed by the latest data and research. Justice Canada will continue to consult with partners and data holders to find ways to fill data gaps. See the [SOCJS Dashboard's page on data development](#) for more information about data gaps.

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Annex I – Abbreviations

AOJO	Administration of justice offence
CJS	Criminal justice system
CSI	Crime Severity Index
ICW	Indigenous Courtwork Program
IRCS	Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision Program
SOCJS	State of the Criminal Justice System
UCR	Uniform Crime Reporting Survey
YCJA	Youth Criminal Justice Act

Annex II – Definitions

Accessible: Having equal access to the information and assistance that is needed to help prevent legal issues and help resolve such issues efficiently, affordably, and fairly.

Administration of justice offences: Offences committed against the integrity of the criminal justice system. They include the following *Criminal Code* violations: fail to comply with order, escape or help to escape from lawful custody, prisoner unlawfully at large, fail to appear, breach of probation, misleading or lying to a justice official under oath, and public mischief.

Adverse childhood experiences: Negative, stressful and traumatic events experienced during childhood, such as sexual, physical or emotional abuse and/or neglect. Adverse childhood experiences can also include witnessing violence in the family household, experiencing a death in the family, having an incarcerated household member, experiencing parental separation or divorce, or having at least one parent with substance use or mental health problems.

Anti-Black racism: Prejudice, attitudes, beliefs, stereotyping and discrimination that are directed at people of African descent and are rooted in their unique history and experience of enslavement and its legacy. Anti-Black racism is deeply entrenched in Canadian institutions, policies and practices, to the extent that it is either functionally normalized or rendered invisible to the larger White society. It is manifested in the current social, economic, and political marginalization of African Canadians, which results in unequal opportunities, lower socio-economic status, higher unemployment, significant poverty rates, and overrepresentation in the criminal justice system.

Colonialism: The policy of taking political and economic control over one group or nation by another, underpinned by racist doctrines of superiority.

Crimes against the person: Includes force or threat of force against someone, for example murder, sexual assault and harassment.

Distinction-based approach: An approach that recognizes the unique rights, interests and circumstances of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis as distinct groups.

E: Use with caution. As with any household survey, the results are based on a sample of the population and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed.

Ethno-cultural background: An individual's characteristics that are unique to, and recognized by, a certain community or group. This includes characteristics such as cultural traditions, ancestry, language, national identity, country of origin and/or physical traits.

Extrajudicial measures: A way to hold youth accountable for less serious offences without traditional court processing. Some examples of these measures include formal/informal warnings, cautions, or referrals. They also include traditional diversion programs such as community service, compensation to the victim, or counselling.

F: Too unreliable to publish. As with any household survey, the results are based on a sample of the population and are therefore subject to sampling errors. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed.

Fair: Being treated according to the rule of law, without discrimination, while also having the circumstances of the crime as well as the individual characteristics of the victim (e.g., the impact on the harm) or the accused (e.g., age, past behaviours, lived experiences, history of victimization, mental health and substance abuse issues) considered throughout the process.

Gender: Socially-constructed roles, behaviours, expressions and identities of girls/women, boys/men and gender-diverse people. It influences how people perceive themselves and each other, how they act and interact, the distribution of power and resources in society, and people's social, health and economic outcomes.

Gender identity: How people perceive themselves with respect to their gender. Gender identity is not confined to a binary (girl/woman, boy/man) nor is it static; it exists along a continuum and can change over time. There is considerable diversity in how individuals and groups understand, experience and express gender through the roles they take on, the expectations placed on them, relations with others and the complex ways that gender is institutionalized in society.

Other *Criminal Code* offences: Crimes that fall outside of the crimes against the person or property, including for example drug offences.

Overrepresented: Disproportionate representation of a group within a subpopulation compared with their representation in the population as a whole; for example, a group that makes up a larger percentage of the prison population than of the general population is overrepresented in prison.

Pre-trial detention: When a young person accused of a crime is held in custody prior to their trial or bail hearing.

Property crime: Unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person. These can include offences such as theft, breaking and entering, burglary, auto theft, arson and vandalism.

Race: A term used to classify people into groups based principally on physical traits (phenotypes) such as skin colour. Racial categories are not based on science or biology but on differences that society has created (i.e., they are “socially constructed”), with significant consequences for people's lives. Racial categories may vary over time and place and can overlap with ethnic, cultural or religious groupings.

Racialization: The process through which groups come to be socially constructed as races, based on characteristics such as physical traits, historical and political factors, as well as geographic, historical, political, economic, social and cultural factors.

Racialized: Individuals grouped as a result of racialization (see the definition of racialization for more information).

Restitution: An order that requires an offender to pay the victim for specific financial losses they suffered because of the offender's crime.

Sexual orientation: Romantic and sexual attraction for people of the same or another sex or gender.

Structural inequalities: Conditions where one category of people have an unequal status in relation to other categories of people. This refers specifically to inequalities that are rooted in normal operations of dominant social institutions and can be divided into categories such as residential segregation or healthcare, employment, and educational discrimination.

Systemic discrimination: Patterns of behaviour, as well as policies and practices, that create or continue disadvantages for a group of people with common characteristics, such as racialized identity.

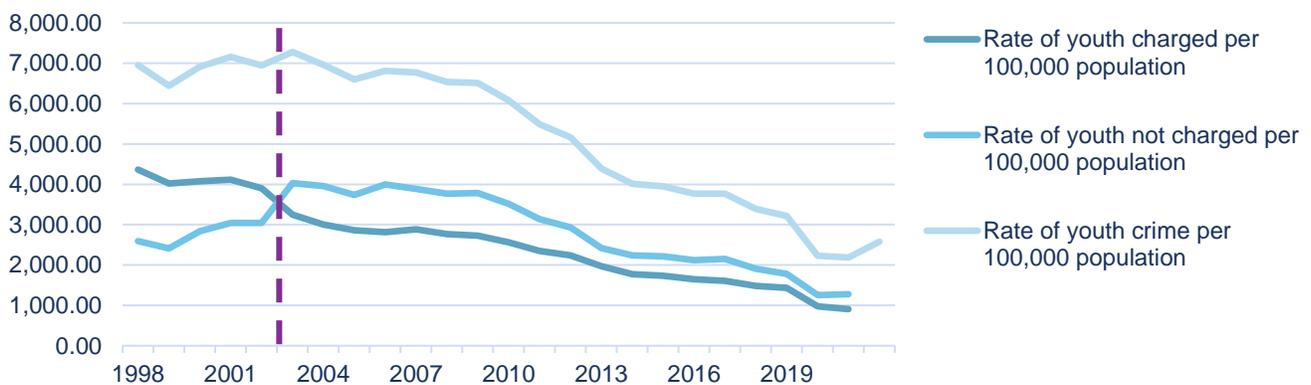
Annex III – Historical Trends

Longer historical trends are explored for indicators where data are available (i.e., for 10 of the 32 youth indicators). Historical trends are not possible for indicators under the expected outcomes on Canadians’ understanding of the role of and confidence with the youth criminal justice system (CJS) (Expected outcome 3), youth victims’ and survivors’ involvement with the CJS (Expected outcome 7), and the overrepresentation of Black youth in the CJS (Expected outcome 9).

A. Police-reported youth crime rate, 1998 to 2022, Canada

Police-reported youth Crime Rate, 25-year Trend

With the exception of five small increases in 2000, 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2022, the police-reported youth crime rate consistently declined over the years. Overall, the police-reported youth crime rate decreased by 63%, from 6,957 per 100,000 youth in 1998 to 2,576 in 2022. While the rate of youth charged saw a decrease of 75% over the years, the rate of youth not charged varied over the years; the rate increased until 2003 before progressively declining.



Notes: The police-reported youth crime rate includes all *Criminal Code* violations, excluding traffic violations. The rates are calculated per 100,000 population aged 12 to 17 years. Data on youth charged and youth not charged may include a small number of people under the age of 12. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) data are not available for all respondents. In order to report this level of detail for police services still reporting to the Aggregate UCR, a process of imputation was applied to derive counts for violations that do not exist on their own in the aggregate survey. For approximately 80% of the aggregate offence codes, there is a 1:1 mapping with a new incident-based violation code.

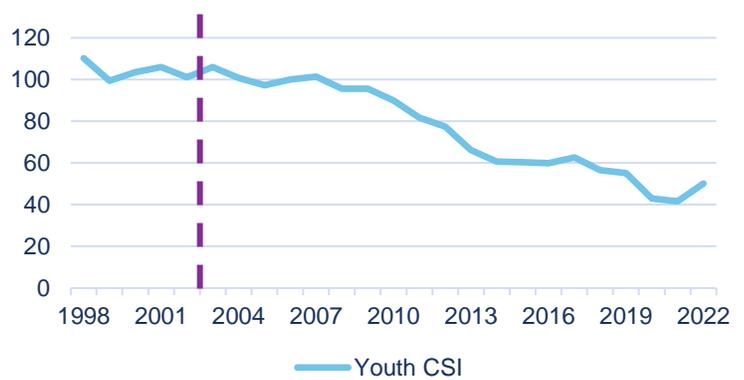
Source: Statistics Canada. n.d.-a. Table 35-10-0077-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police.

Legend									
Positive decrease		Positive Increase		Negative Increase		Stable		Year the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> came into force	

B. Youth crime severity, 1998 to 2022, Canada

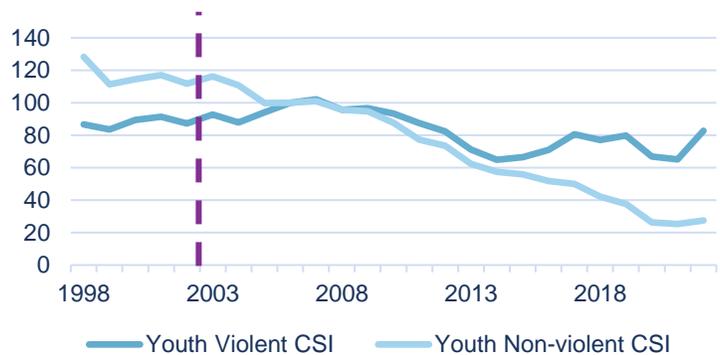
Youth Crime Severity Index, 25-year Trend

The Youth Crime Severity Index (CSI) was at its highest recorded in 1998 at 110.2. Following the enactment of the YCJA, the Youth CSI has gradually decreased by 53%. In 2022, the Youth CSI increased by 21% from 41.6 in 2021 to 50.2 in 2022, primarily due to large increases in extortion, shoplifting, theft of a motor vehicle, theft over \$5,000, and robbery.



Violent and Non-Violent Crime Severity Indexes, 25-year Trend

While the Youth Violent CSI and the Youth Non-violent CSI both declined between 1998 and 2022, the decline was more pronounced with the Non-violent CSI, which decreased by 79%. Between 2021 and 2022, increases were recorded for the Youth Violent CSI (+27%) and the Youth Non-violent CSI (+9%).



Notes: The Youth Crime Severity Index (CSI) is based on the number of youth aged 12 to 17 who were either charged (or recommended for charging) by police or diverted from the formal CJS through the use of warnings, cautions, referrals to community programs, etc. The Youth CSI reflects the relative seriousness of different offences but uses the number of youth accused instead of an incident count. The Youth Violent CSI includes all Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) violent violations, such as uttering threats, criminal harassment and forcible confinement. The Youth Non-violent CSI includes all non-violent *Criminal Code* violations including traffic, as well as drug violations and all Federal Statutes.

Source: Statistics Canada. n.d.-b. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas; Statistics Canada. 2023. "Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2022." The Daily.

Legend									
Positive decrease		Positive Increase		Negative Increase		Stable		Year the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> came into force	

C. Youth case completion time, 1997/1998 to 2021/2022, Canada

Youth Case Completion Time, 25-year Trend

The median number of days for a youth case to be completed increased by 244% from 66 days in 1997/1998 to 227 in 2021/2022. The largest increase was reported between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, where the median number of days for a youth case to be completed rose by 46%; this can largely be attributed to the court closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Notes: Elapsed times are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths. Excludes cases in which the case length was unknown. Cases are counted according to the fiscal year in which they are completed. These counts do not include cases that were pending a final decision at the end of the reference period. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company, which were processed by the courts at the same time (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, or date of decision/sentencing), and received a final decision. The individuals involved are persons aged 12 to 17 years at the time of the offence. Data for 2021/2022 may be incomplete as there is no data from Quebec.

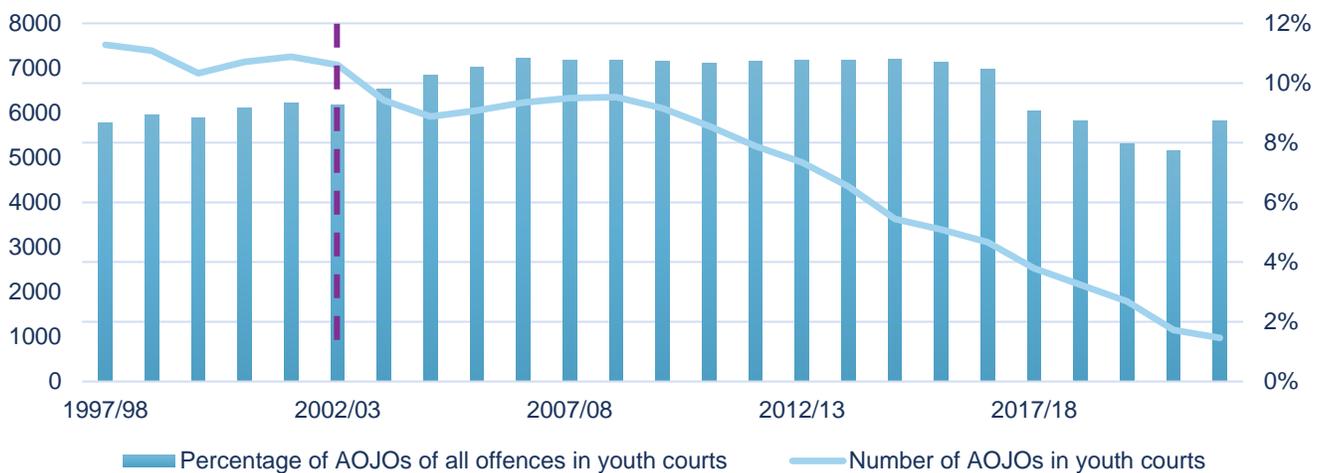
Source: Statistics Canada. n.d.-e. Table 35-10-0040-01 Youth courts, cases by median elapsed time in days.

Legend									
Positive decrease		Positive Increase		Negative Increase		Stable		Year the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> came into force	

D. Administration of justice offences (AOJOs) in youth courts, 1997/1998 to 2021/2022, Canada

AOJOs as the Most Serious Offence in the Case in Youth Courts, 25-year Trend

The number of AOJO cases in youth courts declined significantly over the years (-87%), while the percentage of AOJO cases (of all cases in youth courts) ranged between 8% and 11%. In the 1990s and 2000s, the percentage of AOJO cases increased from 9% in 1997/1998 to 11% in 2005/2006, where it remained steady until 2016/2017 when the percentage of AOJO cases in youth courts began to decrease. The lowest percentage (8%) was recorded in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. In 2021/2022, this percentage was similar to 1997/1998 levels, representing 9% of all youth offences.



Notes: A case that has more than one charge is represented by the charge with the most serious offence. The charge with the most serious offence is selected according to an offence seriousness scale, based on actual sentences handed down by courts in Canada. Cases are counted according to the fiscal year in which they are completed. These counts do not include cases that were pending a final decision at the end of the reference period. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company, which were processed by the courts at the same time (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, or date of decision/sentencing), and received a final decision. The individuals involved are persons aged 12 to 17 years at the time of the offence. Data for a given year may be incomplete due to missing data for one or more jurisdictions. There are missing data from the following jurisdictions due to the unavailability of data: Quebec (2021/2022) and the Northwest Territories (2020/2021 and 2021/2022).

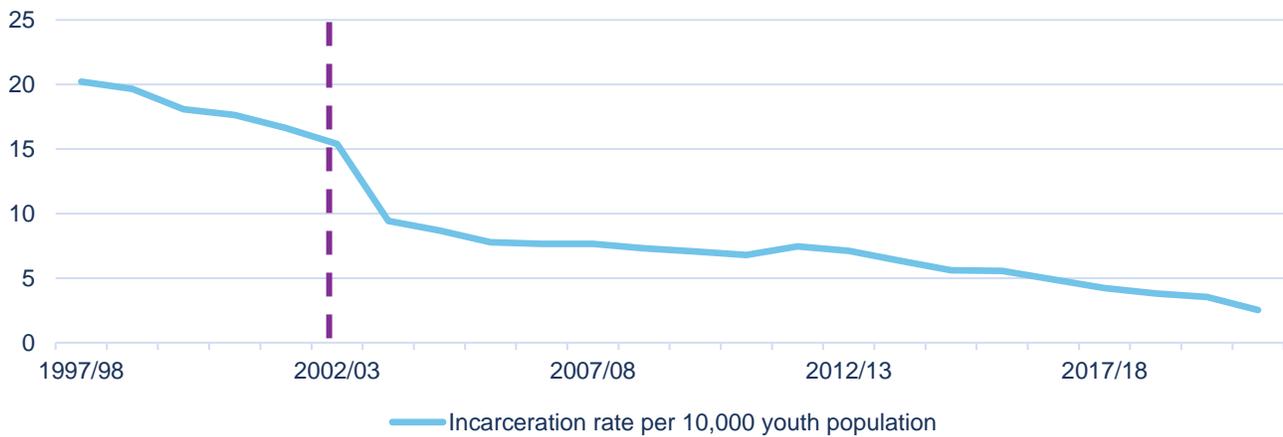
Source: Statistics Canada. n.d.-f. Table 35-10-0038-01 Youth courts, number of cases and charges by type of decision.

Legend									
Positive decrease	⬇️	Positive Increase	⬆️	Negative Increase	⬆️	Stable	—	Year the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> came into force	- - -

E. Youth incarceration rate, 1997/1998 to 2021/2022, Canada

Youth Incarceration Rate, 25-year Trend

The youth incarceration rate declined by 88% from 20.22 per 10,000 youth population in 1997/1998 to 2.37 in 2021/2022. The largest year-over-year decrease was reported in 2003/2004, when the incarceration rate dropped by 39%. This decrease can be explained in part by the enactment of the YCJA, which included explicit language on the consideration and application of extrajudicial measures instead of custody.



Notes: Incarceration rates are based on total actual-in counts, as well as population estimates provided by the Centre for Demography of Statistics Canada. The youth population refers to youth aged 12 to 17 years old. It should be noted that some youth in custody may be up to 20 years of age if they were less than 18 years of age when the offence was committed, but have since reached the age of a legal adult. Rates are calculated per 10,000 youth population. Data represent the total for all reporting jurisdictions. Data for a given year may be incomplete due to missing data for one or more jurisdictions. There are missing data from the following jurisdictions due to the unavailability of data: Quebec (2011/2012 to 2021/2022), Ontario (1997/1998 to 2002/2003), Alberta (2013/2014), and Nunavut (1999/2000 to 2000/2001). Comparison between years at the national level should be made with caution.

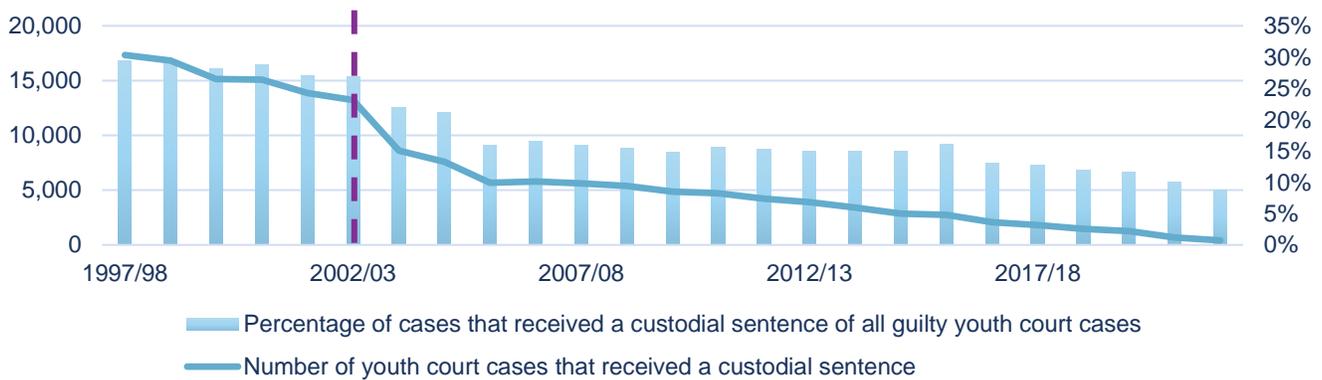
Source: Statistics Canada. n.d.-d. Table 35-10-0003-01 Average counts of young persons in provincial and territorial correctional services.

Legend									
Positive decrease		Positive Increase		Negative Increase		Stable		Year the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> came into force	

F. Guilty youth court cases sentenced to custody, 1997/1998 to 2021/2022, Canada

Guilty Youth Court Cases Sentenced to Custody, 25-year Trend

The number of youth court cases that received a custodial sentence as the most serious sentence in the case decreased by 98% between 1997/1998 and 2021/2022. The percentage of youth court cases that received a custodial sentence also declined, from 29% of all youth court cases in 1997/1998 to 9% in 2021/2022. Aside from the two most recent years, where large drops were recorded as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the third largest year-over-year decrease in the number of youth court cases receiving a custodial sentence was reported in 2003/2004 following the enactment of the YCJA.



Notes: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company, which were processed by the courts at the same time (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, or date of decision/sentencing), and received a final decision. Cases are counted according to the fiscal year in which they are completed. Data on youth represent individuals aged 12 to 17 at the time of the offence. Guilty findings include guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed. It is possible to receive more than one sentence type in relation to a guilty charge in a case. Only the most serious sentence in the case is represented. Sentence types are ranked from most to least serious as follows: Intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision; custody and supervision – presumptive, murder; custody and supervision – presumptive, excluding murder; custody and supervision; custody (supervision type) not specified, youth custodial sentence under the *Youth Offenders Act*, or adult custody; conditional sentence, deferred custody and supervision; Intensive support and supervision; probation; prohibition, seizure, forfeiture; community service; personal service/compensation in kind; pay purchaser; restitution; compensation; fine; conditional discharge; absolute discharge; reprimand; and other. Note that since 2004/2005 for the Northwest Territories, the number of custody orders have been under-reported and the number of probation orders have been over-reported by unknown amounts due to clerical procedures. The majority of custody orders were captured as probation. Data for 2021/2022 may be incomplete as there is no data from Quebec.

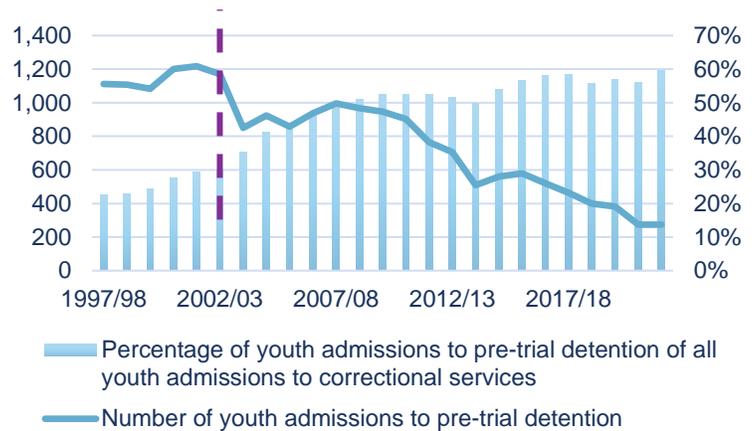
Source: Statistics Canada. n.d.-g. Table 35-10-0042-01 Youth courts, guilty cases by most serious sentence.

Legend									
Positive decrease	⬇️	Positive Increase	⬆️	Negative Increase	⬆️	Stable	—	Year the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> came into force	- - -

G. Youth admissions to provincial/territorial correctional services, 1997/1998 to 2021/2022, Canada

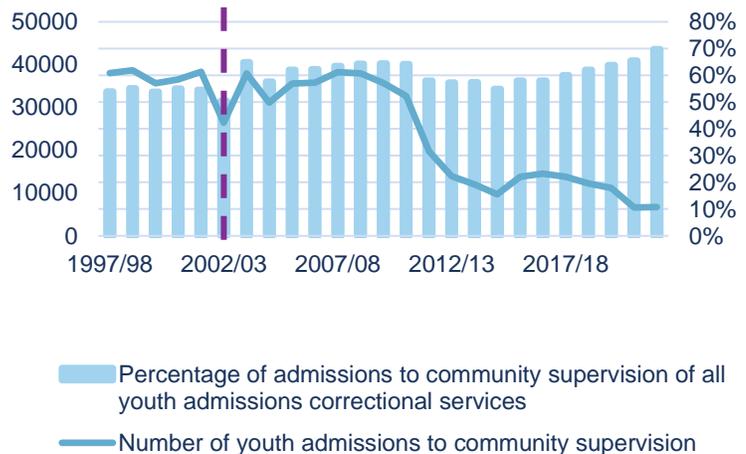
Youth Admissions to Pre-Trial Detention, 25-year Trend

The number of youth admissions to pre-trial detention has declined over the years, from 1,112 in 1997/1998 to 274 in 2021/2022. Despite the decrease in the number of youth admissions to pre-trial detention, their percentage of all youth admissions to correctional services increased significantly over the years, from 23% 1997/1998 to 60% in 2021/2022.



Youth Admissions to Community Supervision, 25-year Trend

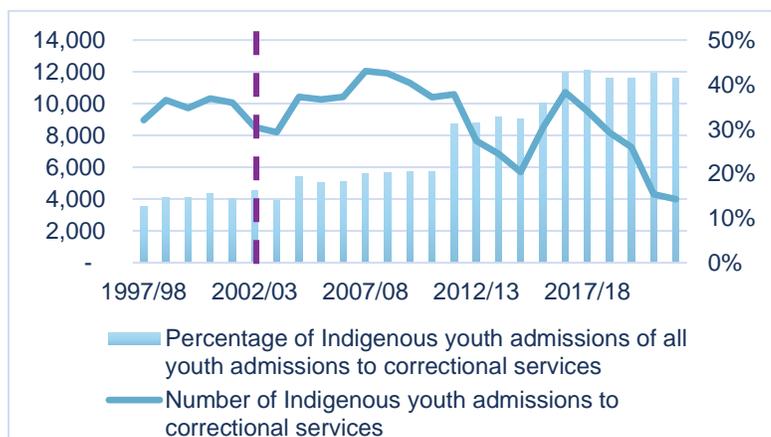
After the enactment of the YCJA, the percentage of youth admissions to community supervision (of all admissions to correctional services) increased; the largest increase of 15 percentage points was reported between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. In 2011/2012, the percentage of youth admissions to community supervision decreased slowly before increasing again in 2015/2016 and has been increasing ever since.



The highest percentage of youth admissions to community supervision was observed in 2021/2022, representing 70% of any provincial/territorial correctional services.

Indigenous Youth Admissions to Correctional Services, 25-year Trend

While the number of Indigenous youth admissions to provincial/territorial correctional services generally declined over the years, their percentage of all youth admissions increased significantly from 13% in 1997/1998 to 41% in 2021/2022. This trend was observed for both Indigenous girls and boys.



Notes: An admission is counted each time a person begins any type of custody or community supervision program. The same person may be included several times in the admission counts where they move from one correctional program to another (e.g., from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enter the system later in the same year. Correctional services include pre-trial detention, provincial director remand, and open and secure custody. Pre-trial detention includes only those young persons detained in custody who are awaiting a further court appearance, and are not presently serving any type of sentence, unless stated otherwise. Unless otherwise specified, counts for pre-trial detention and sentenced custody may include provincial director remand in some jurisdictions. Community sentences includes the community portion of custody supervision, intensive support and supervision, deferred custody and supervision, supervised probation and other community sentences. The total does not necessarily represent all provinces and territories, as there are variations in the availability of data for certain jurisdictions and years. Comparison among years at the national level should be made with caution. Data are not available for Ontario (1997/1998 to 2003/2004), Prince Edward Island (2004/2005 to 2008/2009), Nova Scotia (2009/2010 to 2016/2017), Quebec (2011/2012 to 2021/2022), Saskatchewan (1997/1998, and 2009/2010 to 2015/2016), Alberta (2012/2013 to 2018/2019), and Nunavut (1999/2000 to 2000/2001). Data on youth admissions for Saskatchewan were added in 2016/2017, which would account for some of the increase year-over-year. Data on youth admissions to community services in Manitoba were not available from 1997/1998 to 1999/2000, and in the Northwest Territories from 1999/2000 to 2002/2003. Prior to 2003/2004, data on intensive support and supervision, deferred custody and supervision and other community sentences were unavailable and, prior to 2001/2002, data on the community portion of custody supervision were unavailable. Percentages exclude a small percentage of cases where Indigenous identity was unknown.

Sources: Statistics Canada. n.d.-d. Table 35-10-0003-01 Average counts of young persons in provincial and territorial correctional services. Statistics Canada. n.d.-h. Table 35-10-0006-01 Youth admissions to correctional services, age and sex. Statistics Canada. n.d.-k. Table 35-10-0007-01 Youth admissions to correctional services, by Indigenous identity and sex.

Legend									
Positive decrease		Positive Increase		Negative Increase		Stable		Year the <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> came into force	

Annex IV – SOCJS Framework

Expected outcome 1: Canadians are safe and individuals and families feel safe.

Indicators:

- Police-reported crime
- Crime severity
- Self-reported victimization
- Satisfaction with personal safety from crime

Expected outcome 2: The criminal justice system is fair and accessible.

Indicators:

- Public perception that the criminal justice system is fair to all people
- Public perception that the criminal justice system is accessible to all people
- Approved adult criminal legal aid applications
- Adults in remand
- Office of the Correctional Investigator complainants
- Adult clients served by the Indigenous Courtwork Program

Expected outcome 3: Canadians understand the role of and express confidence in the criminal justice system.

Indicators:

- Public awareness of the role of the criminal justice system
- Public confidence in the police
- Public confidence in the Canadian criminal courts
- Public perception of the prison system
- Victimization incidents reported to the police

Expected outcome 4: The criminal justice system operates efficiently.

Indicators:

- Offence clearance rate
- Administration of justice offences in adult criminal courts
- Case completion time in adult criminal courts

Expected outcome 5: The criminal justice system promotes and supports diversion to community-based resolutions.

Indicators:

- Criminal incidents (youth and adults) cleared by referral to a diversionary program
- Incarceration rate
- Adult criminal court cases that received a custodial sentence
- Referrals to a restorative justice program
- Victims and offenders accepted into a restorative justice process
- Adult referrals to an Indigenous Justice Program

Expected outcome 6: The criminal justice system provides persons in the correctional system with services and supports to rehabilitate them and integrate them back into the community.

Indicators:

- Adults under federal correctional supervision granted parole
- Mental health services in federal corrections
- Correctional programs in federal corrections
- Educational programs in federal corrections
- Adults under federal correctional supervision who secure employment before their sentence ends
- Community release plan for Indigenous adults in federal custody
- Successful completion of statutory release without revocation in federal corrections

Expected outcome 7: The criminal justice system respects victims' and survivors' rights and addresses their needs.

Indicators:

- Individuals registered as a victim to receive information about an individual who harmed them
- Victim satisfaction with the actions taken by police

Expected outcome 8: Reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system.

Indicators:

- Self-reported victimization among Indigenous people
- Adult police-reported homicide victims identified as Indigenous
- Adult police-reported homicide accused identified as Indigenous
- Admissions of Indigenous adults to provincial/territorial correctional services
- Admissions of Indigenous adults to federal correctional services
- Indigenous adults among the total federal offender population
- Indigenous adults designated as Dangerous Offenders
- Indigenous adults in federal custody involved in use of force incidents

Expected outcome 9: Reducing the overrepresentation of Black people in the criminal justice system.

Indicators:

- Self-reported violent victimization among Black people
- Adult police-reported homicide victims identified as Black
- Adult police-reported homicide accused identified as Black
- Admissions of Black adults to provincial/territorial correctional services
- Black adults among the total federal offender population
- Black adults designated as Dangerous Offenders
- Black adults in federal custody involved in use of force incidents

Annex V – SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework Indicator Tally

Positive improvement	Negative improvement	Stable/maintenance	Data limitations that prevent the establishment of a trend
7 out of 32	3 out of 32	5 out of 32	17 out of 32

Positive improvement

1. Youth incarceration rate (positive decrease)
2. Youth criminal court cases that received a custodial sentence (positive decrease)
3. Admissions of youth to provincial and territorial community supervision (positive increase)
4. Children and youth police-reported homicide victims identified as Indigenous (positive decrease)
5. Police-reported youth crime (positive decrease)
6. Police-reported youth crime severity (positive decrease)
7. Youth referrals to an Indigenous Justice Program (positive increase)

Negative improvement

1. Pre-trial detention (negative increase)
2. Youth case completion time (negative increase)
3. Youth police-reported homicide accused identified as Indigenous (negative increase)

Stable/maintenance

1. Youth administration of justice offences (percentage stable)
2. Approved youth criminal legal aid applications (maintenance of approval rate)
3. Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision youth cases receiving specialized treatment (maintenance of success rate)
4. Admissions of Indigenous youth to provincial/territorial correctional services (percentage stable)
5. Admissions of Black youth to provincial/territorial correctional services (percentage stable)

Data limitations that prevent the establishment of a trend

1. Self-reported victimization among youth (one year of data)
2. Self-reported physical and sexual abuse during childhood (one year of data)
3. Witnessing family violence during childhood (one year of data)

4. Satisfaction with personal safety from crime among youth (one year of data)
5. Public perception that the youth criminal justice system is fair to all people (one year of data)
6. Public perception that the youth criminal justice system is accessible to all people (one year of data)
7. Youth clients served by the Indigenous Courtwork Program (inconclusive. While the number of referrals decreased, this aligns with the overall decrease in youth crime)
8. Public awareness of the role of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (one year of data)
9. Youth confidence in the police (one year of data)
10. Youth confidence in the criminal courts (one year of data)
11. Youth perception of the prison system (one year of data)
12. Youth victimization incidents reported to the police (one year of data)
13. Referrals to a restorative justice program (one year of data)
14. Victims and offenders accepted into a restorative justice process (one year of data)
15. Youth victim satisfaction with police actions (one year of data)
16. Self-reported violent victimization among Indigenous youth (data unavailable)
17. Self-reported violent victimization among Black youth (data unavailable)

Annex VI - Endnotes

- ¹ The Indigenous Courtwork Program aims to ensure fair, just, and culturally relevant treatment for Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system by offering information, referrals, assistance to victims and survivors, advocacy, and promotes community-based justice initiatives.
- ² The federal IRCS program is a contribution program with provinces and territories for the delivery of specialized therapeutic programs and services for youth with mental health needs who are convicted of a serious violent offence.
- ³ Note that the reporting timeframe for each indicator varies based on availability of data, with some indicators having less than five years of data. For this reason, specific timeframes are indicated for each indicator. For some indicators, data from 2016/2017 may be included if more recent data are not yet available.
- ⁴ This was developed in consultation with key federal, provincial, and territorial government partners, community organizations, academics, Canadians, CJS stakeholders, as well as experts in the areas of: criminal justice policy; performance measurement; Indigenous justice; and Indigenous legal traditions. See the [State of the Criminal Justice System Methodology Report](#) for more information on the methods used to develop Canada's national performance monitoring Framework for the CJS.
- ⁵ See the inaugural [2019 State of the Criminal Justice System Report](#), the first assessment of the performance of the Canadian CJS.
- ⁶ It is important to note that the goal was not to deviate from the SOCJS Framework, but rather to apply a youth-lens to current indicators and add key national youth-specific indicators, where appropriate and relevant.
- ⁷ See the [Data Development section](#) on the SOCJS Dashboard.
- ⁸ Action Committee on Court Operations in Response to COVID-19 2022.
- ⁹ Department of Justice 2022a.
- ¹⁰ Traditionally, national statistical offices, including Statistics Canada, have collected and disaggregated data by sex assigned at birth (male and female), and this data continues to be used as the basis for a large part of gender-based analysis. However, the Western concept of [gender](#) has evolved to recognize that gender exists on a continuum with individuals identifying as women, men, neither, both or other gender identities. In response to evolving social contexts and data needs, statistical offices around the world have begun altering the way they collect information on sex and gender to be more inclusive of gender diversity. For example, Statistics Canada has begun including a gender question in some surveys to better capture gender diversity in the population. This report uses the terms “female youth” and “male youth”; it does not present data on other gender identities due to data availability and low counts. At times, the terms “women” and “men” are also used in the place of “female adults” and “male adults.” Please refer to the original data source for more information.
- ¹¹ For example, while the General Social Survey collects data from Indigenous people, the counts are too low to report for some indicators, such as witnessing family violence during childhood.
- ¹² Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Military Police, Statistics Canada n.d.-a.
- ¹³ Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, Statistics Canada n.d.-b.
- ¹⁴ Baglivio et al. 2014; Burczycka 2017; Cotter 2021; Strom 2020; Van Wert 2015; Widom et al. 2008. For more information, see the SOCJS Dashboard's page on Understanding Youth Experiences with the Criminal Justice System as Victims and Survivors (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/socjs-esjp/en/Youth/vs>).
- ¹⁵ 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada, n.d.-c.
- ¹⁶ Cotter 2021
- ¹⁷ 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada, n.d.-c.
- ¹⁸ It is important to note the data capture victimization incidents that occurred in the past—in this case, anytime before the age of 15—and not in the year reported; results should be used with caution.
- ¹⁹ See for example Heidinger 2022.
- ²⁰ See footnote 18. 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada, n.d.-c.
- ²¹ 2022 National Justice Survey, Department of Justice Canada, n.d.-a. For all National Justice Survey data, only statistically significant differences are identified as key findings. For the statistical significance tests, White people were used as the reference group.
- ²² Black includes African/African descent, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latinx, for example.
- ²³ The Youth Criminal Justice Act specifies conditions under which an individual can be detained in pre-trial detention, such as to ensure attendance in court, protect the public, including victims and witnesses, and maintain public confidence in the justice system.
- ²⁴ Table 35-10-0003-01 Average counts of young persons in provincial and territorial correctional services, Statistics Canada, n.d.-d. Note that the data excludes Quebec.
- ²⁵ See for example: Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Education Trust 2014; Euvrard and Leclerc 2017; Webster 2015.
- ²⁶ The number of youth represents the average daily count of youth in pre-trial detention.

²⁷ Either through secure or open custody. Sentenced custody includes all young persons serving a sentence in secure or open custody as well as those who have been sentenced on one charge but who are awaiting the completion of court hearings on another charge. It also includes youth who have completed the custodial portion of their sentence and have been returned to secure custody following a breach of conditions. A facility is considered secure when youth are detained by security devices and/or where youth are under constant observation. Open custody facilities include community residential centres, group homes, childcare institutions, or forest or wilderness camps or any like place or facility.

²⁸ Legal Aid Survey, Department of Justice Canada, n.d.-b.

²⁹ Not all legal aid plans use traditional application processes and as a result, this number may not represent all legal aid services provided to youth.

³⁰ Department of Justice Canada 2022a.

³¹ Indigenous Courtwork Program, Department of Justice Canada, n.d.-c.

³² 2022 National Justice Survey, Department of Justice Canada, n.d.-a. For all National Justice Survey data, only statistically significant differences are identified as key findings. For the statistical significance tests, White people were used as the reference group.

³³ Awareness of the YCJA was measured on a 5-point scale, from (1) “not aware at all” to (5) “very aware.” Respondents who were “aware” of the YCJA selected four or five on the 5-point scale.

³⁴ Latino/Latina/Latinx refers to, for example, those who identify as Latin American descent; see: Currie 2022.

³⁵ The percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

³⁶ 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada, n.d.-c.

³⁷ 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada, n.d.-c.

³⁸ Ibrahim 2020.

³⁹ Low confidence was reported regardless of whether the contact was for their own problems or the problems of a family member. See: Ibrahim 2020.

⁴⁰ While the prison system has a number of responsibilities and priorities (e.g., maintain public safety, supervising and managing prisoners), the SOCJS Youth-Adapted Framework focuses on its performance with respect to the provision of services and supports to rehabilitate and reintegrate youth into the community (see Expected Outcome 6 on Correctional Supervision).

⁴¹ Table 35-10-0040-01 Youth courts, cases by median elapsed time in days, Statistics Canada, n.d.-e. Data for Quebec were not available for 2021/2022.

⁴² See Department of Justice Canada 2022a.

⁴³ Includes crimes that fall outside of the crimes against the person or property, for example drug offences.

⁴⁴ Includes, for example, drug possession, drug trafficking, and failure to comply with a sentence or disposition.

⁴⁵ Table 35-10-0038-01 Youth courts, number of cases and charges by type of decision, Statistics Canada, n.d.-f. Data for Quebec were not available for 2021/2022.

⁴⁶ Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs 2017

⁴⁷ Data on youth administration of justice offences include only *Criminal Code* offences; violations under the Youth Criminal Justice Act are not counted as AOJOs in the Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

⁴⁸ Include, for example, perjury, corruption, disobedience, and misleading justice.

⁴⁹ Table 35-10-0003-01 Average counts of young persons in provincial and territorial correctional services, Statistics Canada, n.d.-d.

⁵⁰ The youth incarceration rate represents the average number of youth in custody per day for every 10,000 individuals in the youth population (i.e., aged 12 to 17) in the provinces and territories. It includes youth in sentenced custody, youth in Provincial Director Remand being held following the breach of a community supervision condition, youth in pre-trial detention awaiting trial or sentencing, and youth in other temporary detention. Figures exclude Quebec.

⁵¹ Table 35-10-0042-01 Youth courts, guilty cases by most serious sentence, Statistics Canada, n.d.-h. Data for Quebec were not available for 2021/2022.

⁵² It is currently not possible to disaggregate by age group (youth and adults). See: Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Restorative Justice 2021.

⁵³ Only Indigenous Justice Programs that use restorative justice processes are included in this indicator.

⁵⁴ “Accepted” cases refer to cases that were accepted as eligible under a restorative justice program as well as cases where the victims agreed to/chose to participate in a process.

⁵⁵ Indigenous Justice Program, Department of Justice Canada n.d.-d.

⁵⁶ Prior to 2019, referrals to IJPs may have included referrals for non diversion programming, such as self-referrals and family mediation. IJPs that use restorative justice processes may also be counted under the restorative justice indicators.

⁵⁷ Table 35-10-0006-01 Youth admissions to correctional services, by age and sex, Statistics Canada, n.d.-i. Note that Alberta started reporting on youth admissions to correctional services starting in 2019/2020, accounting for much of the increase seen in that year. The data also excludes Quebec.

⁵⁸ Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision Program, Department of Justice Canada, n.d.-e.

⁵⁹ With the exception of Quebec.

⁶⁰ 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians’ Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada, n.d.-c.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Please note that the data on First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth presented in this section are combined due to a lack of available distinction-based information. However, it is important to remember that Indigenous youth are members of distinct nations with different histories, cultures, languages, knowledge, worldviews and experiences. While data on Indigenous peoples and Black and racialized people are limited, Statistics Canada is making efforts to collect more disaggregated data on these population groups. See: Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics 2023.

⁶³ See the SOCJS Dashboard's page on Indigenous youth and the Indigenous Peoples Theme for more information.

⁶⁴ While individual trauma refers to trauma experienced by one individual in their lifetime, intergenerational trauma is a type of trauma that has been passed down for generations, meaning trauma experienced by parents is passed onto their children.

⁶⁵ Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015; Rudin 2005

⁶⁶ 2021 Census of Population, Statistics Canada, n.d.-j.

⁶⁷ 2019 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada, n.d.-c.; Perreault 2022.

⁶⁸ Homicide Survey, Statistics Canada, n.d.-k.

⁶⁹ Due to data limitations, it is likely that other cases may have been misidentified as non-Indigenous so the number of Indigenous cases could be higher; see: National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report 2019.

⁷⁰ Table 35-10-0007-01 Youth admissions to correctional services, by Indigenous identity and sex, Statistics Canada, n.d.-l. Note that Alberta started reporting on these youth data starting in 2019/2020, accounting for much of the increase seen in that year. The data also excludes Quebec.

⁷¹ In Canada, the Black population is diverse in terms of ethnic backgrounds, languages, immigration status, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, and countries of origin. These characteristics intersect and overlap, creating different lived experiences. However, disaggregated data by these factors are not currently available. For more information on the diverse socio-demographic characteristics of Canada's Black population, see: Maheux and Do 2019; Do 2020.

⁷² For information on the history of Black people in Canada, see: Canadian Heritage 2022.

⁷³ Canadian Heritage 2019; Commission on Systemic Racism in the Ontario Criminal Justice System 1995; James 2010; Nova Scotia 2019; Ontario Human Rights Commission 2018; Owusu-Bempah and Gabbidon 2020; Owusu-Bempah and Jeffers 2022; Wortley 2019.

⁷⁴ For instance, Black people are overrepresented as homicide victims and disproportionately experience at least one incident of physical or sexual assault during their childhood. See: Department of Justice Canada 2022b.

⁷⁵ Canadian Correctional Services Survey, Statistics Canada, n.d.-m.

⁷⁶ While data on Indigenous people and Black and racialized people are limited, Statistics Canada is making efforts to collect more disaggregated data on these population groups. See: Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics 2023.

⁷⁷ Black youth represent 5.53% of the youth population in Nova Scotia, 6.02% in Alberta and 2.33% in British Columbia. 2021 Census of Population, Statistics Canada, n.d.-j.

⁷⁸ While overall crime measures are based on criminal incidents reported to police regardless of whether or not an accused was identified, measures of police-reported youth crime are based on youth, aged 12 to 17, accused in a criminal incident by police, regardless of whether the youth was charged or not; therefore, both measures cannot be compared.

⁷⁹ Statistics Canada n.d.-a.

⁸⁰ Moreau 2020; Statistics Canada 2023

⁸¹ Statistics Canada n.d.-b.

⁸² Year-to-year percent change increases in CSI ranged from 1% to 5%, with the exception of 2020 which saw a 7% decrease from the previous year (2021).

⁸³ Rotenberg and Cotter 2018

⁸⁴ Wang and Moreau 2022

⁸⁵ See for example Department of Justice Canada 2022a.

⁸⁶ See for example Cotter 2021.

⁸⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2019; Craig et al. 2020.

⁸⁸ Via the Department of Justice Canada's (n.d.-a.) National Justice Survey, an annual public opinion survey exploring Canadians' perceptions and knowledge of justice-related issues. For more information, see [the National Justice Survey](#).

⁸⁹ Statistics Canada n.d.-c.

⁹⁰ Department of Justice Canada n.d.-a.

⁹¹ See for example Latimer and Desjardins 2007.

⁹² Department of Justice Canada n.d.-a.

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ Statistics Canada n.d.-; Statistics Canada n.d.-m.

⁹⁵ See for example Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs 2017.

⁹⁶ Statistics Canada n.d.-f.; Statistics Canada n.d.-n.

⁹⁷ In 2019, former Bill C-75, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, came into force, which sought to make the CJS more efficient, accessible and effective by, for example, adding provisions around AOJOs, preliminary inquiries and judicial case management.

⁹⁸ For more information about these online criminal offences, see SOCJS Dashboard's page [on the Experiences of Youth with the CJS as Victims and Survivors](#).

⁹⁹ Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs 2017.

¹⁰⁰ For more information, see the report on the [State of the Criminal Justice System's Impact of COVID-19 on the Criminal Justice System](#).

¹⁰¹ Department of Justice Canada n.d.-b.; Statistics Canada n.d.-a.

¹⁰² Statistics Canada n.d.-d.; Statistics Canada n.d.-o.

¹⁰³ Non-custodial sentences include probation, conditional sentences, fines and other types of non-custodial sentences. For youth, this includes conditional sentences, deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision, probation, attending a non-residential program, fines, community service orders, and reprimand among others. For adults, other non-custodial sentences include restitution, absolute and conditional discharge, suspended sentence, community service orders and prohibition orders, among others.

¹⁰⁴ The number of youth court cases that received non-custodial sentences may be slightly undercounted because a case can have more than one sentence. If a case received custodial and non-custodial sentences, the case will be counted under custodial sentences as it's the most serious sentence.

¹⁰⁵ Statistics Canada n.d.-n; Statistics Canada n.d.-g.

¹⁰⁶ Statistics Canada n.d.-n.

¹⁰⁷ Statistics Canada n.d.-k.

¹⁰⁸ For the findings from the 2021 evaluation, see: Department of Justice Canada 2021.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ This report uses the terms "female youth" and "male youth" in line with the original data source. At times, the terms "women" and "men" are also used in the place of "female adults" and "male adults". Please refer to footnote 10 for more information.

¹¹¹ Cotter 2021

¹¹² Statistics Canada n.d.-c.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ Statistics Canada n.d.-h.; n.d.-i.

¹¹⁶ Statistics Canada. n.d.-e.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ Miladinovic 2016; Statistics Canada. n.d.-e.; Statistics Canada n.d.-f.

¹¹⁹ In the unsolved missing persons cases, Indigenous girls are reported as missing due to "unknown" circumstances or suspected foul play. See: Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2014.

¹²⁰ See, for example, Cotter 2021

¹²¹ Perreault 2022

¹²² Homicide Survey, Statistics Canada, n.d.-j.

¹²³ Saghbini and Paquin-Marseille 2023

¹²⁴ Their [overrepresentation](#) is also more pronounced among Indigenous girls. For example, Indigenous girls represented on average 50% of all girls admitted to provincial/territorial correctional services from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, whereas Indigenous boys represented 40% of all boys admitted to provincial/territorial correctional services. (Statistics Canada n.d.-k.).

¹²⁵ For example, in 2021/2022, Indigenous youth represented 41% of all admissions to provincial/territorial correctional services and 48% of all youth admitted to custody, 5 and 6 times their representation in the general population (8%), respectively. In comparison, Indigenous adults represented 30% of all admissions to provincial/territorial correctional services and 34% of all adults admitted to custody, 7.5 and 8.5 times representation in the general population (4%), respectively.

¹²⁶ See for example: Statistics Canada 2021; 2023b.

¹²⁷ Saghbini and Paquin-Marseille 2023

¹²⁸ For example, in 2021/2022, Black youth represented 9% of admissions to correctional services, and 17% of those admitted to custody in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia, 2 and 4 times their representation in the general population of Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia (4%), respectively. In comparison, Black adults represented 8% of admissions to provincial/territorial correctional services, and 10% of those admitted to custody, 2 times their representation in the general population (4%); see Statistics Canada n.d.-i.

¹²⁹ See for example: Statistics Canada 2021; 2023b.

¹³⁰ The youth incarceration rate includes youth in any type of detention, such as those in sentenced custody, in Provincial Director Remand, in [pre-trial detention](#), and other types of temporary custody.

¹³¹ Of note, since finalizing the report, new correctional data from 2022/2023 were released which indicate an increase in the number of youth in detention and custody that year. Ongoing monitoring of these data will be needed to determine if this is indicative of a new emerging trend in youth justice.

¹³² However, a slight decrease was observed between 2020/2021 to 2021/2022.

¹³³ See the section on [the "Revolving Door" of Youth Justice](#) for more information. Also, see: Smandych and Corrado 2018; Burczykca and Munch 2016.

¹³⁴ These include: self-reported victimization among youth (Expected outcome 1); self-reported physical and sexual abuse during childhood (Expected outcome 1); witnessing family violence during childhood (Expected outcome 1); satisfaction with personal safety from crime among youth (Expected outcome 1); public perception that the youth criminal justice system is fair and accessible to all people (Expected outcome 2); youth served by the Indigenous Courtwork Program (Expected outcome 2); public awareness of the role of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Expected outcome 3); youth confidence in the police and the criminal courts (Expected outcome 3); youth perception of the prison system (Expected outcome 3); youth victimization incidents reported to the police (Expected outcome 3); referrals to a restorative justice system (Expected outcome 5); victims and offenders accepted into a restorative justice process (Expected outcome 5); youth referrals to an Indigenous Justice Program (Expected outcome 5); youth victim satisfaction with the actions taken by police (Expected outcome 7); self-reported violent victimization among Indigenous youth (Expected outcome 8); and self-reported violent victimization among Black youth (Expected outcome 9).